

Vietnam on border issue

ON February 5 the Socialist Republic of Vietnam issued a statement calling for negotiations on the border dispute with Cambodia:

'The Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the Vietnamese people once again reaffirm that their unswerving principled position is to resolutely defend the independence, freedom, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Vietnam and at the same time to constantly respect the independence, freedom, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Kampuchea (Cambodia) as well as other countries and to uphold the solidarity with the Kampuchean people, to make ceaseless efforts to rapidly settle problems concerning the relations between the two countries through negotiations.

'Vietnam and Kampuchea are

two neighbouring countries; the two peoples have long been together in the struggle against the common enemy - imperialist aggressors - to secure independence and freedom. Now they share the earnest aspirations to strengthen their solidarity, long-term cooperation and mutual assistance in building their respective countries into prosperous ones in keeping with the specific conditions of each country...'

The 1962 border agreement between the People's Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam and the then ruler of Kampuchea Prince Sihanouk, worked very well all through the years of war against US imperialism. We hope the two fraternal socialist countries will be able to sit around the conference table and agree on such a border settlement now.

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