

# **EMPEROR BAO DAI TO CHARLES DE GAULLE**

**(August 18, 1945)**

I address myself to the people of France, to the country of my youth. I address myself as well to the nation's leader and liberator and I wish to speak as a friend rather than as Head of State.

You have suffered too much during four deadly years not to understand that the Vietnamese people, who have a history of twenty centuries and an often glorious past, no longer wish, can no longer support any foreign domination or foreign administration.

You could understand even better if you were able to see what is happening here, if you were able to sense this **desire for independence which has been smoldering in the bottom of all hearts and which no human force can any longer hold back**. Even if you were able to arrive to re-establish a French administration here, it would no longer be obeyed; **each village would be a nest of resistance, every former friend an enemy**, and your officials and colonists themselves would ask to depart from this unbearable atmosphere.

I beg you to understand that the only way to safeguard French interests and the spiritual influence of France in Indochina is to **recognize frankly the independence of Vietnam and to renounce any idea of re-establishing French sovereignty or administration here in whatever form it may be**.

You would be able to listen to us so easily and become our friends if you would **stop aspiring to become our masters again**.

Making this appeal to the well recognized idealism of the French people and the great wisdom of their leader, we hope that peace and the joy which has rung for all the people of the world will be guaranteed equally to all people who live in Indochina, native as well as foreign.