

**They have enforced inhuman laws; they have set up three distinct political regimes in the North, the Center, and the South of Viet-Nam in order to wreck our national unity and prevent our people from being united.**

**They have built more prisons than schools. They have mercilessly slain our patriots; they have drowned our uprisings in rivers of blood.**

**They have fettered public opinion; they have practiced obscurantism against our people.**

**To weaken our race they have forced us to use opium and alcohol.**

**In the field of economics, they have fleeced us to the backbone, impoverished our people and devastated our land.**

**They have robbed us of our rice fields, our mines, our forests, and our raw materials. They have monopolized the issuing of bank notes and the export trade.**

**They have invited numerous unjustifiable taxes and reduced our people, especially our peasantry, to a state of extreme poverty.**

**They have hampered the prospering of our national bourgeoisie; they have mercilessly exploited our workers.**

**(Declaration of Independence, September 1945)**