

Paris Agreements on Viet Nam (1973)

The parties participating in the Paris Conference on Viet Nam,

With a view to ending and restoring peace in Viet Nam on the basis of respect for the Vietnamese people's fundamental national rights and the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination, and to contributing to the consolidation of peace in Asia and the world,

Have agreed on the following provisions and undertake to respect and to implement them:

. . . *Article 1.* – The United States and all other countries respect the independence, sovereignty, unity, and territorial integrity of Viet Nam as recognized by the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam.

. . . *Article 2.* – A ceasefire shall be observed through South Vietnam as of twenty-four hours G.M.T. on this twenty-seventh day of January, [1973].

At the same hour, **the United States will stop all its military activities against the territory of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam by ground, air and naval forces**, wherever they may be based, and end the mining of the territorial waters, ports, harbours, and waterways of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. The United States will remove, permanently deactivate or destroy all the mines in the territorial waters, ports, harbours, and waterways of North Viet Nam as soon as this Agreement goes into effect.

The complete cessation of hostilities mentioned in this Article shall be durable and without time limit.

. . . **(b) The armed forces of the two South Vietnamese parties shall remain in place.**

. . . -- All acts of force on the ground, in the air, and on the sea shall be prohibited.

-- All hostile acts, terrorism, and reprisals by both sides will be banned.

***Article 4.* – The United States will not continue its military involvement or intervene in the internal affairs of South Vietnam.**

Article 5. – Within sixty days of the signing of this Agreement, there will be total withdrawal from South Vietnam of troops, military advisers, and military personnel, including technical military personnel and military personnel associated with the pacification programme, armaments, munitions, and war material of the United States

Article 6. – The dismantlement of all military bases in South Viet Nam of the United States . . . shall be completed within sixty days of the signing of this Agreement.

Article 7. -- . . . the two South Vietnamese parties shall not accept the introduction of troops, military advisers, and military personnel

[They] shall be permitted to make periodic replacement of armaments, munitions and war material which have been destroyed, damaged, worn out or used-up after the ceasefire, on the basis of piece-for-piece

***Article 8.* – (a) the return of captured military personnel and foreign civilians of the parties shall be carried out simultaneously with and completed not later than the same day as the troop withdrawal**

Article 9. – [The United States and North Vietnam] undertake to respect the following principles for the exercise of the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination:

(a) The South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination is sacred, inalienable, and shall be respected by all countries.

(b) The South Vietnamese people shall decide themselves the political future of South Vietnam through genuinely free and democratic general elections under international supervision.

(c) Foreign countries shall not impose any political tendency or personality on the South Vietnamese people.

Article 11. – Immediately after the ceasefire, **the two South Vietnamese parties** will:

■ Achieve national reconciliation and concord, end hatred and enmity, prohibit all acts of reprisal and discrimination against individuals or organizations that have collaborated with one side of the other;

- Ensure the democratic liberties of the people: personal freedom, freedom of speech, freedom of the press

Article 12. – (a) Immediately after the ceasefire, **the two South Vietnams parties** shall hold consultations in a spirit of national reconciliation and concord, mutual respect, and mutual non-elimination to **set up a National Council of National Reconciliation and Concord** of three equal segments

(b) the National Council of National Reconciliation and concord shall have the task of promoting the two South Vietnamese parties' implementation of this Agreement [It] will organize the free and democratic general elections

***Article 13.* – The question of Vietnamese armed forces in South Viet Nam shall be settled by the two South Vietnamese parties in a spirit of national reconciliation and concord . . . without foreign interference, in accordance with the postwar situation. . . .**

Article 14. – South Viet Nam shall pursue a foreign policy of peace and independence. . . .

Article 15. – The reunification of Viet Nam shall be carried out step by step through peaceful means on the basis of discussions and agreements between North and South Viet Nam, without coercion or annexation by either party, and without foreign interference. . . .

Pending reunification:

(a) the military demarcation line between the two zones at the 17th parallel is only provisional and not a political or territorial boundary, as provided for . . . [at] Geneva Conference. . . .

(d) North and South Viet Nam shall not join any military alliance or military bloc and shall not allow foreign powers to maintain military bases, troops, military advisers, and military personnel on their respective territories, as stipulated . . . [at] Geneva Conference.

Article 21. -- . . . the United States will contribute to healing the wounds of war and to postwar reconstruction of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and throughout Indochina. . . .