



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTÉ



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TWENTY-NINTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

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Agenda item 3.14.4

SPECIAL ASSISTANCE TO CAMBODIA,
THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIET-NAM,
THE LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC AND
THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH VIET-NAM

The President of the Twenty-ninth World Health Assembly and the Director-General have the honour to transmit to the Health Assembly, for information, the text of a letter received from the Chief of the Delegations of the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam and the Republic of South Viet-Nam.

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Mr President of the Assembly,
Mr Director-General,

Owing to the pressure of work that their members are under at Ha Nội the Delegations of Viet-Nam will be unable, to their great regret, to attend the Assembly before the close of its deliberations.

We should be obliged if the President of the Assembly and the Director-General would circulate this letter, which we have the honour to address to all delegations with a view to drawing their attention to the implementation of resolution WHA28.79 adopted by the Twenty-eighth Assembly in 1975.

After the annual meeting of the countries of the Western Pacific Region held at Manilla in September 1975, active steps were taken to prepare a plan of aid for the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam and the Republic of South Viet-Nam. From October 1975 to February 1976 the WHO headquarters and regional authorities worked intensively in close collaboration with the Ministries of Health of the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam and the Republic of South Viet-Nam to produce a complete document on emergency aid to Viet-Nam during the first years after the restoration of peace. This document comprises different programmes to be carried out as a matter of urgency to speed up the work of post-war rehabilitation.

Following the preliminary work a special meeting of the Member countries of the Western Pacific Region was convened by the Director-General. This was held on 30 and 31 March 1976. The practical results achieved are only at their early stages, compared with what has been envisaged.

Accepting with deep gratitude resolution WHA28.79, which testifies to a spirit of profound humanism on the part of WHO and to a spirit of international solidarity and collaboration characteristic of the medical profession, the Ministries of Health of the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam and the Republic of South Viet-Nam proceed from the following considerations:

1. During the last 30 years the people of Viet-Nam, struggling for its independence and freedom, has been fighting at the same time to safeguard human dignity and human value, and the liberty of peoples. The ravages of war in Viet-Nam have thus confronted justice- and peace-loving mankind with a problem of conscience.

2. International aid to the people of Viet-Nam can do a great deal to speed up the work of post-war rehabilitation and to mitigate the abominable sufferings which our people have been unjustly made to undergo.

3. International aid on however large a scale only in part meets our needs, which are enormous. Undoubtedly we must do everything we can to build up our health service ourselves, by the sweat of our citizens' brows, and for many years to come. Yet we highly prize this valuable unconditional international aid; it is a great consolation to us, and we shall endeavour to make the best possible use of it to promote our peoples' well-being.

4. Having worked for 30 years outside WHO, and profoundly damaged as it is by the ravages of war, the Vietnamese Health Service has not yet had an opportunity to take part directly in the Organization's joint labours and to make its own modest contribution of the gigantic task set out in the Organization's Constitution.

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It is in this spirit and against this background that the Delegations of the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam and the Republic of South Viet-Nam would be obliged if all delegations would kindly study attentively the practical project for aid to Viet-Nam (document 232¹ with the summary records contained therein) and discuss practical ways and means of helping to set up an actual fund which is commensurate with what has been envisaged.

The Delegations of the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam and the Republic of South Viet-Nam have the honour once again to convey to all delegations, in anticipation, their gratitude for all they are doing to bring their labours to a successful conclusion.

I have the honour to be, Mr President of the Assembly and Mr Director-General,

Your obedient servant,

Professor HOANG DINH CAU
Chief of the Delegations of the Democratic
Republic of Viet-Nam and the Republic of
South Viet-Nam

¹ WHO Official Records, No. 232, 1976, pp. 124, 374-376.