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FOREWORD

Over the course of thousand-year history, Vietnamese people have attached great importance to preserving internal stability together with promoting friendship with other nations for national construction and development. Whenever facing foreign invasions, the whole nation rises up against the aggressors to protect their territorial sovereignty, independence and freedom. Inheriting and bringing into full play the glorious tradition, under the leadership of the Communist Party of Viet Nam (CPV) and management of the State, Vietnamese people, with the Viet Nam People's Army (VPA) at the core, have built a strong all-people national defence, promoting international defence integration aimed at preventing the danger of war and safeguarding the Homeland from afar, protecting sustainable peace and realising the goal of a prosperous people and a strong, democratic, equitable and advanced country while maintaining a sufficient defence capability to fight and win any forms of aggressive war.

The VPA has been undergoing reforms, restructuring its organisation, upgrading weapons and equipment, tapping its military art for an enhanced overall power and a higher combat readiness, truly meeting its mandate as an army of the people, a political force, a loyal and reliable fighting force of the CPV, State and people, and the determinant of Homeland protection in the new situation.

In the coming years, the world, region, and country are to continue witnessing unforeseeable and complex developments. Many new destabilising factors arising in the political, security, and economic environment will have rapid, strong and sudden impacts. National defence and construction, besides presenting many opportunities and advantages, are also placed before a myriad of difficulties and challenges. Defined by this context, Viet Nam's National Defence

Strategy is set to closely attach national peace and interests to regional and global peace, security, and stability. In addition to the goals of firmly protecting independence, sovereignty, territorial unity and integrity, peace, national interests, the CPV, the State, and people, Viet Nam actively and proactively participates in preserving peace and stability in the region and the world.

After the 2009 National Defence White Paper, Viet Nam releases the 2019 National Defence White Paper to continually affirm and elucidate the fundamental nature of peace and self-defence of Viet Nam's national defence. It also specifies challenges of Viet Nam's national defence and adjustments to its national defence policy and defence leadership and management mechanisms, structure of the Ministry of National Defence, force structure and future directions for the development of the VPA and Militia and Self-Defence Force as well as the build-up of defence capability while making it transparent as part of Viet Nam's national defence policy and capability.

The 2019 Viet Nam National Defence White Paper seeks to promote better understanding and confidence building between Viet Nam and other countries in the international community. It is an important document to raise Vietnamese citizens' awareness of national defence and facilitate better understanding among agencies, units, and social organisations about their rights and responsibilities to consolidate national defence for Homeland construction and protection, for the sake of people's happiness, for the peace, friendship, cooperation, and development of humankind.

Minister of National Defence
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PART ONE

STRATEGIC CONTEXT AND NATIONAL DEFENCE POLICY

1. STRATEGIC CONTEXT

1.1. The World and the Region

Peace, national independence, democracy, cooperation, and development remain major trends in the world. These are also aspirations and goals of the international community. However, since the early 21st century, global politics, economy, and security have been characterised by unforeseeable and complex developments. Incidents of national sovereignty violations, disputes over territories and resources, ethnic and religious conflicts, subversive interference, terrorism, local wars, cyberwarfare, and non-traditional security challenges are found in many regions with emerging charateristics.

The global situation is evolving more rapidly in a multipolar, multi-centre direction. Countries around the world, especially the major powers, adjust strategies to prioritise their national interests above all values. Force mobilisation, alignment, and competition for interests among countries become more intense, which entails both opportunities and challenges, especially for small and medium-sized countries. Manifestations of extreme nationalism, power politics, pragmatism, and protectionism are on the rise in international relations.

Globalisation, international integration, cooperation, competition, and interdependence among countries,

particularly between major powers, are on the increase. Global security issues, ranging from finance, energy, water and food to climate change, natural calamities, and epidemics are unfolding with complicated developments. The international community has to struggle against traditional and non-traditional security challenges, especially international terrorism, cyber security, and emerging forms of war.

The global economy is likely to confront new difficulties and challenges. Competition for economy, trade, resources, markets, technologies, and high-quality human resources becomes increasingly fiercer. Financial, monetary instability and public debts continue to have adverse effects on the global economy. The economic power parity among countries and regions is shifting dramatically. Most countries in the world are undergoing economic restructure and harnessing scientific and technological advances for production. Additionally, many new economic models, regional and international financial institutions and new-generation bilateral and multilateral free trade agreements come into being.

The Fourth Industrial Revolution is exerting dramatic impacts on all aspects of social life on a global scale. The advent of modern weapons and equipment has basically transformed military organisations and ways of warfighting. Cyberspace has become the fifth operational domain, along with land, air, sea, and space, profoundly affecting national defence and security of individual countries, the region and the world at large.

Asia-Pacific, including Southeast Asia, continues to be a centre for dynamic development and occupies an increasingly

important geo-economic, geo-political, and geo-strategic location. Recently, the Asia-Pacific region has witnessed drastic changes characterised by dialogues for peace, exerting a positive influence on stability and development in the region. Some new initiatives such as the "Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy", "Belt and Road Initiative", and "Act East Policy" capture the attention of many countries. Against this backdrop, the region still remains the ground for major powers' rivalry and influence intensification, harbouring destabilising elements, traditionally and non-traditionally alike. Disputes over territorial sovereignty are likely to become more complex, potentially leading to conflicts, threatening regional stability, peace, and prosperity, and triggering a regional arms race. Non-traditional security issues, as seen in cyberspace, terrorism, energy, food, climate change, natural disasters, epidemics, drug trafficking, people smuggling, illegal migration, transnational crime, and maritime piracy, are posing acute challenges to peace, security, stability, and cooperation for development in the region.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has proved its vital role in promoting economic growth, social progress, cultural development, mutual understanding and trust. It has secured an increasingly comprehensive and close cooperation on the basis of the ASEAN Charter, which emphasises the principles of dialogue, consensus, and non-interference in the internal affairs and assurance of peace, security, cooperation, and development in Southeast Asia and Asia-Pacific. As its prestige grows, ASEAN has become an important partner of many countries in the world, further

affirming its central role in the Asia-Pacific security architecture, in which the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) and the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) serve as the two important and practical cooperation mechanisms.

ASEAN is playing an increasingly essential role in maintaining peace, stability, maritime security and safety, and freedom of navigation and overflight in the East Sea (also known as the South China Sea). It is committed to a full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC). ASEAN and China have adopted a framework for a Code of Conduct (COC) in the South China Sea and are actively working on COC contents with a view to institutionalising commitments of parties to peace and stability in the East Sea, facilitating the management and resolution of disputes through peaceful means on the basis of international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (1982 UNCLOS), advocating non-militarisation, and opposing the threat or use of force.

1.2. Viet Nam

Viet Nam is situated in an important geo-strategic location in the region and the world, serving as a bridge between Asia and Southeast Asia. Viet Nam straddles vital sea lines of communication (SLOCs) connecting the Pacific Ocean and Indian Ocean, and is a gateway to trade for regional and global economies.

Over 30 years of renovation (*doi moi*) and international integration, Viet Nam has recorded great achievements of

historic importance. As a result, its position, force, and overall power have been enhanced. Foreign relations are increasingly broadened and deepened. Viet Nam's international prestige has been heightened, creating fundamental premises for national defence and construction.

Viet Nam has successfully attained its socio-economic development goals, striving to become a middle-income country with a vibrant economy, macroeconomic stability, and developed socialist-oriented market economic institutions. Many important cultural and social achievements have been recorded. Political and social stability is maintained while social security and people's lives are greatly improved. Democracy, human rights, and freedom of belief and religion are respected. The great national unity is ceaselessly strengthened.

The all-people national defence and people's security continue to be enhanced in all fields. The VPA is built to become a revolutionary, regular, highly-skilled, and gradually modernised force with some services and arms advancing straight to modernity. The Militia and Self-Defence Force is built in the direction of "robustness and extensiveness". Together with the VPA, it is able to meet the increasingly high demands of national defence and construction, contributing to the maintenance of peace in the region and the world.

Viet Nam actively and proactively integrates into the world with a deeper and wider engagement, considering this a crucial factor to establish a peaceful and stable environment conducive to its development. Cooperative relations between Viet Nam and its neighbouring countries, regional countries, major powers, and traditional partners continue to be solidified,

developed, and broadened[1]. Viet Nam has established defence ties with various countries and international organisations[2].

Viet Nam advocates strengthening and deepening relations with partners, especially those of strategic importance. It seeks to concretise and bring established relations into depth and substance to intertwine interests between Viet Nam and other countries.

Viet Nam actively contributes its effort to resolving global issues with the international community. Viet Nam successfully fulfilled its role as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council in the 2008-2009 term and will continue this role for the 2020-2021 term. It also takes part in United Nations (UN) peacekeeping operations. Viet Nam is a prestigious, responsible member of regional institutions, effectively contributing to the building of a strong, united, cooperative, and resilient ASEAN Community. It seeks to ceaselessly broaden, deepen, and improve the effectiveness of external relations of the CPV, State's diplomacy, and people's external relations. The aforementioned achievements have demonstrated Viet Nam's foreign policy of independence, self-reliance, peace, cooperation, development, diversification and

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1. Viet Nam has established strategic partnerships with 16 countries, comprehensive partnerships with 11 countries, and special strategic relationships with Laos and Cambodia.

2. Viet Nam has established defence ties with over 80 countries and international organisations. It has also set up defence attaché offices in 37 countries and to the United Nations by 2019. Forty nine countries have set up their defence, military attaché offices in Viet Nam.

multilateralisation of international relations, and proactive and active integration into the world in an endeavour to firmly maintain an environment conducive to national construction and development and heighten prestige and status of Viet Nam in the international arena[1].

Viet Nam's government and people have invested a great deal of effort in cooperating with countries and international organisations in order to overcome the aftermath of war, including issues of unexploded bombs, mines, ordnance, and toxic chemicals with the aim of providing relief to victims of war, contributing to protecting the environment and people's health and ensuring safety for socio-economic development. Viet Nam has also actively participated in joint training exercises on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR), Search and Rescue (SAR), effectively handling non-traditional security situations.

Viet Nam has proactively and actively promoted talks and negotiations with its neighbouring countries to settle disputes and issues regarding the delimitation of national land and maritime boundaries. So far, Viet Nam has mostly completed land border demarcation and border marker planting with its neighbouring countries, working towards a complete legal system governing the building, management, and protection of national borders.

Viet Nam and China have accomplished land border demarcation and border marker planting in the field. Both countries are committed to strictly implementing legal

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1. Communist Party of Viet Nam, *Documents of the XIIth Party Congress*, National Political Publishing House, Ha Noi, 2016, p. 313.

documents governing land borders and augmenting security and safety control in border areas, which serves to build a shared land border of peace, friendship, and long-term stability conducive to socio-economic development, national defence, security, cultural and social interaction, etc., in the border areas between the two countries. Viet Nam and China have signed the Agreement on Maritime Boundary Delimitation in the Gulf of Tonkin, the Agreement on Fishery Cooperation in the Gulf of Tonkin, and the Agreement on the Basic Principles Guiding the Settlement of Sea-Related Issues between the two countries. These lay a solid foundation for promoting cooperation in protecting maritime environment and security.

Divergences between Viet Nam and China regarding sovereignty in the East Sea are of historical existence, which need to be settled with precaution, avoiding negative impacts on general peace, friendship, and cooperation for development between the two countries. The resolution of disputes in the East Sea is a long-term, difficult and complex process, involving multiple countries and parties. The two countries should continue negotiations and consultations to find peaceful solutions on the basis of international law. While waiting for a fundamental, long-term solution to the East Sea issue, Viet Nam and China need to put more effort into maintaining stability in the East Sea, complying with international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS to which both countries are signatories, seriously implementing the DOC, and striving to achieve a COC between ASEAN and China. Viet Nam and China are committed to upholding the Agreement on the Basic Principles Guiding the Settlement of Sea-Related Issues

between the two countries. Viet Nam supports and respects the right of innocent passage as well as the security and safety of navigation and overflight on the East Sea, taking no actions that would complicate the situation or expand disputes, at the same time, avoiding militarisation, threat or use of force.

Viet Nam and Laos have completed the increase and upgrade of border markers and signed the Protocol on the Borderline and National Border Markers, the Agreement on Regulations of Managing the Borderline and Border Gates on Land, and legal documents relating to the building of a shared land border of peace, friendship, and cooperation between the two countries to create favourable conditions for border management and protection. Both sides have expanded cooperation in trade and tourism, investment, people-to-people interactions, cultural exchange, and national defence and security of each country.

Viet Nam and Cambodia have signed the Treaty on the Delimitation of National Boundaries, the Supplementary Treaty on the Delimitation of National Boundaries, and the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on land border adjustment in remaining areas[1]. The two countries are committed to putting more effort into the settlement of existing issues and accomplishment of demarcation and border marker planting on land, seriously implementing the 1982 Viet Nam - Cambodia Agreement on Historic Waters, and building a shared border of peace, friendship, and cooperation for mutual

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1. As of October 2019, Viet Nam and Cambodia have demarcated around 1,045 km of the border line, built 315 main border markers, 1,511 auxiliary border markers, and 221 border posts, accounting for 84% of workload.

development, which satisfies the demands for sovereignty protection of each country.

Viet Nam has entered into negotiations to delimitate maritime boundaries with relevant ASEAN Member States, opening up new cooperation opportunities for development, environmental protection, security, and safety at sea.

Beside achievements, Viet Nam still faces a number of difficulties and challenges. The economy is still at risk of lagging behind other countries and unsustainable development. Labour productivity, quality, effectiveness, and competitive capacity remain low while there exist many limitations in scientific and technological achievements and qualified human resources. Protectionism, economic and trade competition between major powers, and the reduced role of multilateral institutions have multifaceted effects on Viet Nam's economy. The Fourth Industrial Revolution gives rise to new requirements for manufacturing, trade, and social security.

National defence and security are facing many challenges. The hostile forces who conspire with reactionaries and political opportunists inside the country have not given up their plots against the Vietnamese revolution. They focus on destroying political, ideological foundation with a view to eliminating the leading role of the CPV and the socialist regime in Viet Nam, "depoliticising" the VPA, sowing division in the entire nation's great unity, and driving a wedge between the people and the CPV and the VPA.

Despite some recent positive developments in the East Sea situation, factors that potentially cause instability and tension still exist and evolve in a complex manner. This reality is posing new challenges to the protection of sovereignty,

territory, peace, and stability of Viet Nam. New developments in the East Sea, including unilateral actions, power-based coercion, violations of international law, militarisation, change in the status quo, and infringement upon Viet Nam's sovereignty, sovereign rights, and jurisdiction as provided in international law, have undermined the interests of nations concerned and threatened peace, stability, security, safety, and freedom of navigation and overflight in the region. Additionally, strategic rivalries between major powers have become increasingly acute, sometimes turning the East Sea into a "flash point", potentially leading to conflict.

The hostile forces take full advantage of scientific and technological advances, especially information and communications technology, to stage information warfare and cyberwarfare against the Vietnamese revolution. Gathering of national secrets and intelligence, disinformation, and cyber attacks have seriously threatened national sovereignty in cyberspace, intensely affecting the political stability, socio-economic development, national defence and security of Viet Nam.

Non-traditional security issues such as terrorism, arms trafficking, drug trafficking, maritime piracy, transnational organised crime, illegal migration, environmental disasters, climate change, epidemics, natural disasters, among others, also pose perpetual challenges to the national defence and security of Viet Nam. Shifts in water currents in cross-border rivers, which are triggered by humans, also have adverse effects on Viet Nam, affecting water, food, environmental security, and the lives of millions of people in various localities.

Viet Nam has suffered from heavy consequences of past wars. Many fallen officers and soldiers of the armed forces have not yet been identified. Agent Orange/Dioxin has caused long-lasting health effects to millions of people, destroyed over half of the natural forest area, and severely contaminated the environment in many localities. Thousands of Vietnamese people have been facing with dangers of bombs, mines, and unexploded ordnance left over from the wars.

2. NATIONAL DEFENCE POLICY

2.1. Strategy to Safeguard the Homeland, Viet Nam's National Defence Strategy, Viet Nam's Military Strategy

The Strategy to Safeguard the Homeland is a national stratagem to identify goals, assemble forces, and consider feasible solutions to generate overall power to firmly defend the Homeland. It is an overarching national strategy that plays a decisive role and provides a solid foundation for conducting research and planning of national defence strategy, military strategy, national security strategy, diplomatic strategy, and other sectorial strategies.

The Strategy to Safeguard the Homeland aims to firmly defend independence, sovereignty, territorial unity and integrity, protect the Party, State, people, and the cause of renovation, industrialisation, and modernisation, safeguard national interests, ensure political security, social order and safety, and culture, and maintain political stability and a

peaceful environment for socialist-oriented national construction and development.

The Strategy to Safeguard the Homeland enunciates the following views: to secure the leading role of the CPV, to promote the effectiveness of state management in the cause of Homeland protection; to determinedly uphold the goal of national independence and socialism, maintaining a peaceful, stable environment for socio-economic development of the country; to closely combine the two strategic tasks of national defence and construction; to take internal strength as the decisive factor, economic development as the centre, Party-building as the key, culture as the spiritual foundation of the society, and strengthening of national defence and security as the crucial and regular task; to build overall power in politics, ideology, economy, culture, society, national defence, security, and diplomacy; to pursue the line of independence and self-reliance while proactively and actively integrating into the world; and to consistently implement a foreign policy of openness, multilateralisation and diversification of international relations[1].

Viet Nam's National Defence Strategy is a national defensive strategy to protect the country from afar and to prepare to win wars of foreign invasion. The strategy is peaceful and self-defensive in nature expressed by the guideline of combining overall national power with power of the times. It takes sound political guidelines as decisive factors,

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1. See Communist Party of Viet Nam, *Documents of the XIIth Party Congress, Ibid*.

national defence power as the key, military power as the core, directly originating from combat power of the armed forces with the VPA playing the central role. Viet Nam's National Defence Strategy seeks to establish and strengthen relations and strategic trust with countries, particularly strategic partners, with a view to forming the position for safeguarding the Homeland and being ready to defeat any forms of wars of foreign invasion should they occur.

Viet Nam's National Defence Strategy is the backbone, realising the Strategy to Safeguard the Homeland in the new situation aimed at firmly defending independence, sovereignty, territorial unity and integrity of the country, safeguarding national interests both inside and outside the territory, preserving sustainable peace of the country, protecting the Party, State, and people, actively contributing to the maintenance of peace and stability in the region and the world, and securing political stability and a peaceful environment for national construction and development.

Viet Nam's Military Strategy is a key component of Viet Nam's National Defence Strategy and the art of employing the State's military might to defend the Homeland. It serves to proactively prevent and repulse enemies' forms of war and facilitates the conduct of the comprehensive, all-people war to be ready to win in all operational environments and critical areas. The strategy requires close combination between military struggle and struggle in politics, economy, society, security, and diplomacy, between fighting and strengthening of forces and constructing the country. It promotes self-reliance, resilience, and mobilisation of the entire nation's overall power

in association with international support and assistance in order to break the enemies' invasive ambitions, to end wars under favourable conditions, and to reconstruct the country.

Viet Nam's Military Strategy aims to win wars to safeguard the Homeland and to sustainably build the all-people national defence force and posture in combination with the people's security force and posture in peacetime, satisfying the demands for national defence and mobilisation of the overall power of the people's war to win any forms of war if they are to occur.

2.2. Viet Nam's National Defence Policy

Viet Nam builds its national defence power on the basis of the overall strength of the whole nation, of the great solidarity of the masses, and of the whole political system under the leadership of the CPV and the unified management of the State of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, consolidating and strengthening the great national unity.

Viet Nam's national defence policy is peaceful and self-defensive in nature. Viet Nam resolutely and consistently settles all disputes and divergences through peaceful means on the basis of international law, actively and proactively prevents and repulses the risks of war, realises the motto of defending the Homeland from afar, and is prepared to fight against wars of aggression.

Viet Nam consistently advocates neither joining any military alliances, siding with one country against another, giving any other countries permission to set up military bases or use its territory to carry out military activities against other countries nor using force or threatening to use force in

international relations. Viet Nam also promotes defence cooperation with countries to improve its capabilities to protect the country and address common security challenges. Depending on circumstances and specific conditions, Viet Nam will consider developing necessary, appropriate defence and military relations with other countries on the basis of respecting each other's independence, sovereignty, territorial unity and integrity as well as fundamental principles of international law, cooperation for mutual benefits and common interests of the region and international community.

Viet Nam is consistent in its strategic goals and principles, applies stratagems in a flexible manner, and actively defeats the hostile forces' schemes and responds to complex developments of the situation. Those who respect independence and sovereignty, establish and promote friendly relations, and work together on an equal footing for mutual benefit with Viet Nam are its partners. Any forces who hatch plots and do deliberate damage to Viet Nam's goals of national defence and construction, attempt to overthrow the socialist regime, and infringe upon the independence, sovereignty, and national interests of Viet Nam are its objects of struggle.

Viet Nam opposes arms races and at the same time seeks to make the VPA strong in politics, ideology and organisation, absolutely loyal to the Party, the Homeland and people, with an integrated strength and increased combat power, an adept, compact, strong, mobile, highly flexible and efficient, and synchronous organisational structure, which could be adequately adjusted and developed in terms of force posture so as to ensure its readiness to meet the demands of combat

missions. Viet Nam is determined to build the Reserve, the Militia and Self-Defence Force, which are robust, extensive, of high quality, expedient, effective and suitable for local conditions and forms of socio-economic organisations.

As a responsible member of the international community, Viet Nam is keen on fulfilling its duties while actively cooperating with other nations to address emerging security issues, contributing to the protection of peace and stability in the region and the world. Viet Nam appreciates the role of the UN in peacekeeping operations and prevention of conflict and war. Viet Nam upholds standards and norms of international relations set forth in the Charter of the United Nations.

Prompted by the policy of proactively supporting and contributing to the common efforts of the international community for peace, security, and disarmament, Viet Nam is committed to seriously fulfilling obligations of a member state of conventions, agreements, protocols on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapons-Free Zone (SEANWFZ), and other international conventions on disarmament. It is actively considering and making necessary preparations for further participating in international conventions and treaties on national defence and security. Viet Nam welcomes initiatives to prevent development, manufacture, storage, and use of WMD.

Viet Nam prioritises its defence cooperation with countries in the region and the world in dealing with non-traditional security issues, thereby broadening and improving the quality of cooperation, bilaterally and multilaterally, effectively preventing and responding to non-traditional security challenges, and overcoming the aftermath of wars.

2.3. International Integration and Defence Diplomacy

Implementing the International Integration and Defence Diplomacy Strategy under the guidance of the CPV is an important mission and a stratagem to defend the country from afar by peaceful means. It also serves to establish and consolidate conviction in the protection of national interests, to ensure equality and mutual benefits, to preserve a peaceful, stable environment for national development, and to combine national power with power of the times to generate aggregated strength, improve the country's international status, and solidify its independence and self-reliance.

Viet Nam accelerates international integration and defence diplomacy under the motto "activeness, proactiveness, solidity, flexibility, effectiveness" with the aim of bringing into full play its overall power, preserving a peaceful, stable environment, and making the most of international support and assistance. Besides, it strives to promote strategic trust, maintain a peaceful environment and cooperation for mutual development, and strengthen the national defence and security postures for national defence and construction. This is a process of struggle along with cooperation, in which cooperation is prioritised on the basis of firmly safeguarding territorial sovereignty, independence, self-determination, self-reliance, and national interests.

Viet Nam advocates developing defence relations with all nations, especially its neighbouring ones, strategic partners, comprehensive partners, building confidence, and garnering international support and assistance to preclude and respond

to the risk of wars of aggression. It is willing to help other countries when requested within its capacity on the basis of its Constitution, law, and national interests and in accordance with the UN Charter and international law. Viet Nam is ready to expand defence relations and cooperation regardless of differences in political regimes and levels of development. Viet Nam does not accept defence cooperation relations under pressure or any coercive conditions.

Viet Nam promotes multilateral defence cooperation with a view to contributing to ensuring national defence, security, and national sovereignty. Viet Nam actively and proactively joins hands with ASEAN Member States to build a strong ASEAN Community, implements the ASEAN Political-Security Community Blueprint 2025 effectively, takes part in establishing and implementing ASEAN's norms and principles, proposes initiatives aimed at maintaining regional peace and stability, and participates in and contributes to shaping multilateral security and defence mechanisms to which it is a member, first and foremost ASEAN-led mechanisms such as ADMM, ADMM-Plus, and ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF).

Viet Nam continues to make substantive contributions and broadens its participation in UN peacekeeping operations[1]. It also continues to participate in joint training exercises on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR), Search

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1. By 2019, Viet Nam has sent 37 officers to UN peacekeeping missions in the Central African Republic and South Sudan and deployed two Level-2 Field Hospitals (63 personnel each) to the missions in South Sudan. It is actively preparing an Engineering Company for deployment to UN peacekeeping missions.

and Rescue (SAR), cooperates with other countries and international organisations in overcoming the consequences of wars, and actively contributes its effort to non-proliferation of WMD. In addition, Viet Nam considers participating in other multilateral security and defence cooperation mechanisms and international legal bodies on the basis of respect for independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, and non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries.

Cooperation in border protection and border friendship exchange is one of the priorities of Viet Nam's defence diplomacy. Viet Nam advocates increasing joint patrols and experience exchange activities with its bordering countries on the issues of national border management and protection, and counterterrorism, transnational crime, illegal migration and immigration, search and rescue, and disaster relief in border areas. Viet Nam strictly implements agreements signed with other countries, promotes the establishment and maintenance of hotlines between Viet Nam's Ministry of National Defence and those of other countries, and strengthens cooperative relations with other navies and maritime law enforcement forces with the aim of enhancing confidence building, preventing conflicts, and dealing with common security challenges. Viet Nam is willing to welcome vessels of navies, coast guards, border guards, and international organisations to make courtesy or ordinary port visits or stop over in its ports to repair, replenish logistic and technical supplies or take refuge from natural disasters.

Viet Nam welcomes cooperation with other countries and international organisations in experience sharing and provision

of resources that help Viet Nam to deal with the aftermath of wars. This effort should concentrate on assisting victims of Agent Orange/Dioxin, treating land and waters contaminated by chemicals, bombs and mines, and resolving the issue of military personnel still listed as missing in action.

Viet Nam is ready to participate in security and defence cooperation mechanisms suitable to its capabilities and interests, including security and defence mechanisms in the Indo-Pacific region as well as those of the European Union and the United Nations. Viet Nam advocates expanding cooperation between ASEAN with external partners within the ASEAN-led multilateral security mechanisms on the basis of respecting fundamental principles, standards and norms of ASEAN.

2.4. National Defence Struggle

Viet Nam respects other countries' independence, sovereignty, territorial unity and integrity, and national interests as provided in international law. At the same time, Viet Nam demands that its independence, sovereignty, territorial unity and integrity, Constitution, and law must be respected by other countries.

Viet Nam resolutely and consistently struggles to settle all disputes and differences through peaceful means on the basis of international law and practices. Viet Nam is to resort to any necessary measures to defend its sovereignty, territory, and national interests when they are encroached upon.

Viet Nam advocates building the all-people national defence posture in close combination with the people's security

posture, bringing into full play the overall power of the whole people and political system, in which the armed forces play the key role in national defence struggle, including unarmed and armed struggle, combining military struggle with struggle in politics, diplomacy, economy, and culture, not allowing foreign countries to exploit and bargain with each other or with the hostile forces to compromise Viet Nam's independence, sovereignty, and national interests, and responding flexibly and effectively to specific situations.

Actively and proactively preventing and repulsing the danger of wars are among essential tasks of Viet Nam's national defence in peacetime in order to implement the national defence strategy to its optimal effectiveness which necessitates the protection of national sovereignty, territorial unity and integrity, and interests without resorting to warfighting. National defence is implemented through a wide variety of political, economic, diplomatic, sociocultural and military activities according to a unified strategy in order to eliminate factors leading to armed conflict and war, at the same time preparing every aspect carefully and synchronously in peacetime so as to win any forms of aggressive war.

Borders of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam are sacred and inviolable. Protection of borders means firm protection of independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of the country. It also encompasses protecting the solemnity and national symbols at the borders and border gates, and securing national interests, natural resources, ecological environment, and political security. Protection of borders means preservation of social order and safety and firm defence of border areas.

Viet Nam has sufficient historical evidence and legal foundation to prove its undeniable sovereignty over the Paracel and the Spratly Islands and sovereign rights in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and continental shelf in the East Sea. Viet Nam resolutely and consistently protects sovereignty, sovereign rights, and jurisdiction over its waters as provided in international law. Viet Nam upholds the "Agreement on the Basic Principles Guiding the Settlement of Sea-Related Issues" between Viet Nam and China. It continues to implement the DOC comprehensively and effectively. Viet Nam and ASEAN strive for an early conclusion of the COC with China. Viet Nam appeals to the parties concerned to keep disputes under control and take no actions that complicate the situation or expand disputes so as to preserve peace and stability in the East Sea.

Viet Nam and Cambodia continue to negotiate for the resolution of issues with regard to land and maritime boundaries in the spirit of friendship, cooperation, and strict compliance with commitments and in conformity with international law and practices. Viet Nam opposes acts of interference and division of the bilateral relationship. While the sea border between the two countries has not been delimitated, Viet Nam strictly observes the 1982 Viet Nam-Cambodia Agreement on Historic Waters. It also enhances cooperation in the management, protection, and preservation of security and order in land and sea border areas.

As a maritime nation, Viet Nam always pays special attention to maritime security, ensuring that Viet Nam's seas are safe, friendly, and strictly controlled. Viet Nam always observes international law and supports the protection of

free trade, freedom of navigation and overflight, and peaceful economic activities at sea.

Viet Nam opposes any acts that violate its sovereignty and national interests in cyberspace, or abuse cyberspace to spread distorted information to divide the great national unity. Viet Nam is ready to use all measures conforming to international law to deter and prevent cyber sabotage in order to safeguard its sovereignty and national interests in cyberspace.

Viet Nam promotes cooperation with countries inside and outside the region to address common security challenges. Prevention and response to global climate change is one of Viet Nam's national strategic goals. Viet Nam prioritises the use of clean energy, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and mitigation of sea-level rise impacts. Additionally, it endorses efforts of the Mekong River Commission and effective management and use of Mekong's water resources according to the rules of international law that govern interstate relations over transboundary rivers.

Viet Nam resolutely condemns and opposes acts of terrorism, financing of terrorism, and terrorism sponsorship in all forms. It also opposes taking advantage of counterterrorism activities to intervene in other countries' internal affairs. Viet Nam endorses international cooperative efforts in preventing terrorism and terrorism sponsorship in all forms, which should be carried out in accordance with fundamental principles of the UN Charter and international law as well as the Constitution, law, and conditions of Viet Nam.

PART TWO

BUILDING THE ALL-PEOPLE NATIONAL DEFENCE

All-people national defence, being the national defence power of the country, is built on the political, spiritual, human, material, and financial foundations, characterised by the all-people approach, comprehensiveness, independence, self-reliance, resilience and progressive modernity. The all-people national defence comprises the full spectrum of activities carried out by the CPV, State, and people, covering political, economic, diplomatic, military, cultural, and scientific aspects to generate a synchronous, balanced and comprehensive power specified by military power with the armed forces at the core, serving to prevent and push back the risks of war as well as to ensure victories in warfighting. This will contribute to firmly safeguarding independence, sovereignty, territorial unity and integrity, and sustainable peace of the country, protecting the CPV, State, people, and socialist regime in the new situation. Building the all-people national defence is the building of national defence potential, national defence forces, and all-people national defence posture.

1. BUILDING NATIONAL DEFENCE POTENTIAL

National defence potential is defined as the human, material, financial and spiritual resources that can be mobilised both at home and abroad to accomplish national defence missions.

1.1. Building Political Potential

Political potential is the fundamental component of national defence potential, measured by the nature and quality of human resources, historical traditions, national culture, and political system, manifested by the capability to turn politics into power to realise national defence missions. Building political potential determines the ability to mobilise other components of national defence potential.

The political potential is found in awareness, willpower, conviction, psychology, sentiments, and responsibilities of the people and armed forces for national defence missions. It is the combination of national power and power of the times, the fruit of a long process under the CPV's leadership, and the continuation of the thousand-year historic traditions of Vietnamese people in founding and defending the nation.

Creatively and innovatively applying the principle of "men before arms", which considers humans the centre of national defence, Viet Nam attaches importance to developing high-quality human resources imbued with patriotism, compassion for people, knowledge, political consciousness and steadfastness, thought of revolutionary offensive, loyalty to the revolutionary cause of the CPV, and dedication to national defence.

Building political potential, first and foremost, requires building confidence and consensus of all strata of people about the leadership of the CPV and the success of national defence and construction. It is important to cultivate revolutionary virtue, patriotism, and national pride while ceaselessly improving people's material and spiritual lives.

Building political potential must ensure comprehensiveness that includes ideological awareness, psychology, sentiments, belief, and political attitude and responsibilities to the Homeland and people. Building political potential requires education to raise national defence awareness for all people, particularly the young generation, pupils, and students, and foster defence and security knowledge for key cadres of all levels and sectors.

Political potential is built by means of making the CPV and the State pure and strong and consolidating the great national solidarity. It is also developed through the implementation of policies on religious freedom and ethnic equality and the practice of broad democracy under the motto "the people know, the people discuss, the people do, and the people inspect". It is important to resolutely combat corruption and achieve the goals of a prosperous people and a strong, democratic, equitable and advanced country. Building political potential requires Viet Nam to ensure social security and enact preferential policies for socio-economic development, hunger eradication, and poverty reduction in hinterland, remote, border, sea, and island areas, with an aim to bring about sustainable development, strengthening political potential for the cause of national defence and construction.

1.2. Building Economic and Sociocultural Potential

Viet Nam intends to organise and expedite the building of a prosperous country in close combination with the building of a strong all-people national defence in a synchronous and uniform manner, which is ensured by guidelines and policies and enacted by specific measures from the Central to local governments. Viet Nam has plans to invest in sustaining and

enhancing its economic autonomy and resiliency, closely combining socio-economic and cultural development with strengthening national defence and security, adjusting master plans of strategic regions in alignment with national defence and security, meanwhile developing maritime economy along with protecting sea and island sovereignty.

Viet Nam is determined to develop socialist-oriented economic potential of the all-people national defence and accelerate industrialisation and modernisation of the country. Viet Nam seeks to maintain independence and self-reliance while broadening economic cooperation. It advocates sustainable, rapid economic development and higher national reserves. Economic development is associated with ensuring social progress and justice and improving quality of education and training and human resources, which are made ready for mobilisation for national defence. Viet Nam actively and proactively integrates into the world economy. It seeks to multilateralise and diversify international economic relations to avoid dependence on a certain market or partner. Viet Nam takes initiative in preparation for effectively dealing with adverse impacts as well as external economic pressure.

On the basis of its socio-economic growth rate, Viet Nam determines its national defence budget in order to meet the demands of strengthening national defence potential for safeguarding the Homeland while ensuring neither falling into an arms race nor making the defence budget an economic burden[1].

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1. Viet Nam's GDP for defence budget in 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018 was 2.23, 2.82, 2.88, 2.69, 2.69, 2.72, 2.64, 2.51, and 2.36 per cent respectively.

Viet Nam is determined to develop its defence industry to meet national defence requirements and missions in the new situation, step-by-step becoming part of the national industry. Viet Nam makes selective investment in several advanced defence industrial establishments to move toward the formation of self-control, high-tech, and dual-use defence industrial groups or complexes. It also promotes international cooperation to meet the requirements of national defence and construction in the new situation.

The VPA participates in economic development in connection with national defence, promotes defence trade cooperation and increases investment to generate resources for building the VPA. It also carries out major programmes and projects, and improves the quality of human resources and technical infrastructure. The VPA advocates research and application of advanced science and technologies and mastery of technologies in manufacturing some modern weapons and equipment, advancing towards designing and manufacturing some cutting-edge weapons, platforms and equipment.

Viet Nam advocates building an advanced culture deeply imbued with national identity, in which the people are ensured all-round development to be able to meet the demands and missions of accelerating industrialisation and modernisation, developing the country sustainably, and defending the Homeland. In addition, Viet Nam takes measures to preserve and bring into full play fine customs and habits of national culture while selectively acquiring the quintessence of human culture. It is determined to assist Vietnamese communities abroad in preserving and protecting

national cultural identity. Viet Nam resolves to deter cultural invasion and cultural tendencies that go against its fine customs and habits. It seeks to organise and closely manage information and media to satisfy the demands of national defence and construction in the new context.

It is important to educate the whole Party, people, and military to raise awareness of fine traditions, such as "national construction must go together with national defence", as well as patriotism, national pride, indomitable will, and the wit and wisdom of ancestors in fighting enemies to protect the country. The unwavering loyalty to the CPV, Homeland, people, and socialist regime should also be cultivated along with political steadfastness, the will of "being determined to fight and determined to win", the bravery and willingness to sacrifice their lives for national independence and freedom and people's happiness, the firm belief in the victory of renovation process and the path to socialism as well as the overall power of the country, and the great national solidarity. Importantly, it is to vigorously mobilise material and spiritual resources, both at home and abroad, with the first and foremost attention paid to tapping patriotism, independence, self-reliance, creativity, and noble humanity of the people for the acceleration of industrialisation and modernisation, striving to soon become fundamentally an industrialised country towards modernity[1].

As dictated by realities, military culture needs to be highly cohesive and deeply instilled into the whole social life

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1. See Communist Party of Viet Nam, *Documents of the XIIth Party Congress, Ibid*, p. 9.

of people. It becomes a solid spiritual foundation and vital internal strength for developing and bringing into full play the values of Vietnamese military art. It is important to thoroughly grasp the goals, standpoints, guiding principles, missions, and solutions of the Strategy to Safeguard the Homeland in the new situation, Viet Nam's National Defence Strategy, and Viet Nam's Military Strategy, thus arousing pride, creative potential, honour, and responsibility for preserving, applying, and bringing into full play the values of the nation's traditional military art.

1.3. Building Scientific-Technological Potential

Scientific-technological potential is an increasingly important component of national defence potential, which has a direct influence on scientific-technological development in military and national defence aspects as well as the organisational structure, management and operation of the armed forces. The core elements of scientific-technological potential include the talent and qualification, quantity and quality of human resources as well as material infrastructure used for scientific-technological research and development, dissemination and application.

Viet Nam aims to build the scientific-technological potential of the all-people national defence as an integral part of the scientific-technological development of the country. Scientific-technological development, together with the development of education and training, is regarded as the leading national policy, a cornerstone and driver of socio-economic development and national industrialisation and modernisation, and a necessary condition for building a

strong, prosperous nation and firmly preserving national independence.

Viet Nam pays special attention to building a corps of cadres, scientists, and human resources of high-quality and creating material and technical bases in order to meet the requirements for scientific-technological research and development to serve key projects in the process of national industrialisation and modernisation. This is to provide scientific bases for the government's policies on economic development and consolidation of national defence and security. Viet Nam seeks to increase investment in training and improving the quality of its scientific cadres and develop proper policies to encourage leading scientists and technological experts to participate in military and national defence missions.

Viet Nam adopts measures to gradually establish a scientific-technological market and seeks to increase investment in scientific-technological development from various sources. It also attaches importance to applying scientific-technological achievements to boost production and develop the defence industry. Viet Nam advocates expanding international cooperation in scientific-technological education and training, and dissemination of scientific-technological knowledge for people.

1.4. Building Military Potential

Military potential is manifested in the competency and combat power of the VPA and Militia and Self-Defence Force and the capacity to mobilise human and material resources to meet the requirements of military and defence missions. It is

the core component of national defence potential, which is built on the basis of political-spiritual, economic, cultural, social, and scientific-technological potential. Military potential consists of the two basic elements of manpower and weaponry, of which manpower is the decisive factor.

Military potential is shown not only in the ability to maintain, perfect, and ceaselessly develop combat power and readiness of the armed forces but also in reserves of manpower and material for accomplishing military and defence tasks. Military potential is also seen in the ability to mobilise resources from industry, agriculture, science and technology, transportation, and other service sectors for military and defence missions, satisfying demands of the new situation.

Viet Nam builds its military potential according to a unified strategy as required by the tasks of national defence and construction. The combat competency and readiness of the armed forces are expressed in their organisation, structure, weaponry, logistical and technical support, military art, and science and technology, which are usually maintained, improved, and developed to meet the requirements of the people's war for safeguarding the Homeland.

Viet Nam pays due attention to developing its human resources with political steadfastness and absolute faithfulness to the CPV, Homeland, people, and the State of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam. They are also required to practice virtues of dignity, diligence, thrift, integrity, uprightness, public spirit, and selflessness, to promote democracy and stricly observe military discipline, to respect

and stand in solidarity with people, and to have professional expertise suitable for mission requirements.

Viet Nam promulgates preferential policies to ensure sufficient income for military officers, soldiers, professional servicemen and women, defence employees and workers. It seeks to improve the quality of permanent forces, secure the quantity and quality of the Reserve, and readily supplement high-quality human resources to satisfy combat and readiness requirements.

The buliding of military potential is closely linked to national industrialisation and modernisation. Viet Nam develops policies and mechanisms with the aim of bringing into full play economic, scientific-technological, cultural and social achievements to build the armed forces, develop military art and science, military social sciences and humanities, and military technological science.

Viet Nam advocates building its military potential on the basis of combining national power with power of the times through promoting international integration and cooperation, and defence diplomacy. It seeks to bring into full play the role of defence diplomacy potential in defending the Homeland from afar and preserving a stable, peaceful environment for national construction and development, which contributes to maintaining a peaceful environment in the region and the world.

It is important to improve the system of bodies and units in charge of defence diplomacy from the strategic to grass-roots echelons in the VPA. It is necessary to continue improving the legal system governing defence diplomacy, including documents relating to Viet Nam's participation in UN

peacekeeping operations. The VPA continues investing in building facilities used for foreign relations activities and enhancing operational effectiveness of defence attaché offices overseas. The VPA attaches importance to education and communication to raise its officers and soldiers' awareness of international integration and defence diplomacy. Due attention is paid to training and nominating the VPA's personnel for leadership and management positions in international organisations. It prioritises consolidation of organisations and training to improve the quality of human resources for international integration and defence diplomacy. The VPA is determined to innovate contents and forms of cooperation and promote the effectiveness of foreign relations information, generating uninamous consensus of the whole Party, people, military, and overseas Vietnamese communities on Viet Nam's national defence policy of peace, friendship, cooperation, and development.

2. BUILDING THE NATIONAL DEFENCE FORCES

The national defence of Viet Nam is based on the comprehensive, all-people strength of resources and is composed of the all-people force and the people's armed forces.

2.1. Building the All-People Force

The all-people force consists of sectors, levels, and the masses. It is the most timely, rapid, numerous force and the strongest backbone of national defence. Viet Nam advocates building the national defence forces of the people, by the

people, and for the people. It seeks to promote overall power of the whole people to build the national defence forces through consolidating the political system, which includes the CPV, the State, the Vietnamese Fatherland Front, and public mass organisations. The political system is the nucleus of the national defence forces, playing a decisive role in mobilising and enhancing defence might of the country. The building, consolidation, and enhancement of operational effectiveness of mass organisations are of great significance in gathering and mobilising the people to carry out defence and security tasks and to directly defend their own localities and units, contributing to maintaining political stability and social order and safety.

Building the all-people force consists of building the full-time forces, the part-time forces, and the mass forces in all branches and sectors in conformity with the socialist-oriented market economic mechanisms as well as forms of socio-economic organisations and conditions of specific regions. Regular education and communication activities are needed to raise the people's awareness and responsibility, and enhance their capacity to undertake the national defence mission.

2.2. Building the Viet Nam People's Army, Militia and Self-Defence Force

Viet Nam advocates building three categories of the armed forces, who are absolutely loyal to the Homeland, people, the CPV, and the State and tasked with safeguarding independence, sovereignty, territorial unity and integrity, national security, social order and safety, the CPV, the State, and people.

The three categories of the armed forces consist of the Main Force, Local Force, and Militia and Self-Defence Force, primarily responsible for building the all-people national defence. They possess political steadfastness and consistency in the targets of national independence and socialism, endeavour to gain high competency and combat power, and are organised in an adept, compact, strong, mobile, highly flexible and efficient direction. They also have an appropriate, synchronous organisational structure guided by the line of all-people national defence and people's war, and are ready to expand forces to meet the requirements of wars.

The Main Force is organised to be an elite force, equipped with strong firepower and means of rapid manoeuvre, and able to conduct independent and combined operations. Priorities are given to developing commandos.

The Local Force is organised on the basis of characteristics and defence and security missions specific to local areas and regions, including borders, seas and islands. They are armed appropriately to bring into full play their effectiveness in defence zones.

Viet Nam builds an extensive and robust Reserve, sufficient in quantity and quality, with high political steadfastness, proper structure, and good military expertise, laying the foundation for the development of the VPA when needed. The VPA's Reserve is well managed and trained to readily supplement the permanent force.

The Militia and Self-Defence Force is organised in an extensive, robust manner. It has high quality and is well suited for different localities, economic sectors, business enterprises, and administrative units.

3. BUILDING THE ALL-PEOPLE NATIONAL DEFENCE POSTURE

Building the all-people national defence posture is to organise, deploy and position national defence forces and allocate potential throughout the territory with a unified strategic intent to ensure victory over the hostile forces' plots and acts against independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, and interests of Viet Nam, and to allow a shift to the posture of people's war to safeguard the Homeland. Building the all-people national defence posture is elaborated as follows:

3.1. Building a Strong "People's Hearts and Minds Posture"

A strong "people's hearts and minds posture" determines victory of Viet Nam's national defence, aimed at protecting the CPV, State, people, and socialist regime, maintaining a stable, peaceful environment for national construction and development, and safeguarding independence, sovereignty, unity, and territorial integrity. Building a strong "people's hearts and minds posture" is a regular, vital task of the CPV and the whole political system.

The all-people national defence is built on the "people's hearts and minds posture" base, which is reflected in the boundless faithfulness to the Homeland, people, and socialist regime and in the patriotism, national pride, and people's unanimous support and absolute belief in the leadership of the CPV, the State's management, the success of renovation process and socialist regime in Viet Nam, the capabilities and

overall power of the country, and invincible might of people and the great national unity.

It is important to respect and bring into full play people's mastery, pay due attention to people's legitimate aspirations, and timely address urgent issues that arise, creating social consensus and contributing to the building of a strong "people's hearts and minds posture", encourage the whole people to participate in the building of national defence and security, heighten the self-protection and defence of national interests, and strive for the goal of building and firmly defending the Homeland.

The VPA is the core force to build the "people's hearts and minds posture", actively participating in the development of political grassroots and assisting people with production, hunger eradication and poverty reduction, construction of new-style rural areas, and disaster preparedness and response. The VPA carries out the struggle to defeat any plots and acts of sabotage by the hostile forces, especially in the national defence and security areas of strategic importance in national defence and security. Also, it promotes the fine traditions and qualities of "Uncle Ho's Soldiers", cements the strong civil-military bonds, and boosts people's confidence in the CPV, the State, the VPA, and socialist regime.

3.2. Combining National Defence and Security with Economy and Society and vice versa

The combination of national defence and security with economy and society and vice versa requires the incorporation of national defence and security into every socio-economic branches, industries and sectors under the consistent

management of the State, helping to consolidate and enhance national defence and security and promote national socio-economic development.

It is determined that resources should be focused on socio-economic development, simultaneously spared to strengthen national defence and security according to the socio-economic development projects, programmes, and plans, not only for the country but also for regions, strategic areas, each and every locality, the socio-economic development strategy, and the strategy to safeguard the Homeland in the new situation.

Master plans for populating areas are to be developed to meet the demands of socio-economic development and defence and security consolidation, to combine socio-economic development with the strengthening of defence potential, forces, and posture, to develop human resources training policies and plans for defence missions both in peacetime and wartime, and to allocate adequate budgets for defence missions as stipulated in the Law on State Budget.

It is important to establish economic-defence zones and defence-economic zones in strategic areas, hinterland, remote areas, border, sea, and island areas, and areas of extreme poverty. Projects are to be launched to build the nearshore island chain into economic, scientific, technological and defence centres following multifunctional models which are partially self-financing, and combine economic activities with national defence at sea, especially in offshore waters and islands. Further investment shall be made in constructing border patrol roads to facilitate socio-economic development and defence and security consolidation.

Defence enterprises and military units, which are tasked with participating in socio-economic and cultural development, must operate in line with their defence missions, must not engage in only economic activities, and must abide by law. They should bring into full play self-reliance and resilience and practice close economic-defence combination, contributing to strengthening national defence potential and posture and accomplishing the cause of renovation, national defence and construction. It is necessary to integrate defence industrial establishments with civil industries in service of socio-economic development and defence missions. Activities of production, business, investment, research and application of science and technology are required to meet the need of combining socio-economic development with defence and security consolidation and to be ready for national defence mobilisation when necessary.

3.3. Building Comprehensively Strong Military Regions in an Integrated National Defence System

Military region defence, which is an integral part of national defence, requires the building of real capacity, national defence potential, all-people national defence posture, and defence zones to successfully carry out defence missions in the military regions.

It is important to have synchronous plans for the preparation and defence of military regions in both peacetime and wartime. Units and bodies of military regions are to be built into comprehensively strong organisations with high combat capabilities. Militia and Self-Defence Force is to be made robust, extensive, and capable of undertaking

defence missions in military regions' areas of responsibility. Defence zones are to be constructed in a firm, interconnected, all-round layout. The all-people national defence and its posture are integrated with the people's security and its posture in the military regions. The combination of socio-economic development with national defence, security, diplomacy and vice versa should be made to establish and administer economic-defence zones of military regions, to conduct defence and security education and dissemination of law on defence, and to carry out national defence mobilisation, policies regarding welfare of military families and preferential treatment of people with meritorious service to the country in the military regions.

The military regions set up plans and give instructions to their subordinate organisations and units. They collaborate and coordinate with relevant units under the Ministry of National Defence, local authorities, and agencies to execute state management of national borders, preserve security and social order and safety in border areas, border gates, islands, waters, and airspace of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam in the military regions and carry out defence diplomacy tasks. Together with relevant local agencies, organisations, and units, they instruct their subordinates to participate in building the political system, the great unity of the whole people, and comprehensively strong grassroots. The military regions realise their civil defence, take measures to fight against information warfare and cyberwarfare, ensure social order and safety, and prevent and combat crime in the regions.

3.4. Building Provinces and Cities into Strong Defence Zones

It is important to build provincial and municipal defence zones in every aspect, including potential, force, posture, politics, ideology, economy, culture, society, defence, security, and diplomacy. The local armed forces are made comprehensively strong with high combat capabilities, playing the core role in executing defence, military and security missions. Preventive measures are taken to defeat all plots and sabotage activities of hostile forces, protecting national security, preserving social order and safety, and preventing and combating crime, creating an environment conducive to socio-economic and cultural development, successfully defending the localities, and readily providing other localities with manpower and materials. Provinces and cities carry out civil defence activities and make preparations in every aspect to promptly respond to defence, security emergencies, armed conflicts and wars, conduct total defence mobilisation to meet the demands of long-term combat and combat support, and be ready to arm all people.

3.5. Building the All-People National Defence Posture in Association with the People's Security Posture

Viet Nam advocates establishing comprehensively strong defence and security postures and bringing into full play advantages of the VPA and Public Security as the core elements of national overall power. This is both a mission and an objective requirement of national defence and construction. It is also the responsibility of the whole political

system and people, under the leadership of the CPV, with the VPA and Public Security playing the key role. It is important to closely combine the building of national defence posture with that of the people's security posture in the strong all-people national defence and security. Cadres, the CPV's members and people of all strata should be provided with high-quality education on national defence and security. Further investment is made in building facilities and developing weapons and equipment for national defence and security.

4. LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE

4.1. Leadership of the Communist Party of Viet Nam over the National Defence

The CPV exercises the absolute, direct and all-round leadership over the national defence to safeguard the Homeland. The leadership of the CPV is a decisive factor of the revolutionary, all-people, and comprehensive nature of national defence, determining victories in the cause of national defence to safeguard the Homeland. It is a must to resolutely uphold and protect the leadership of the CPV, and defend the State and people in all circumstances and contexts.

The CPV exercises its national defence leadership through its political platforms, guidelines, strategies and directions for policies on national defence. This leadership is institutionalised via the legal system with relevant legal

documents. The CPV's national defence leadership is achieved through the system of the CPV's organisations and members. The CPV sets forth and implements leadership mechanisms of national defence, stipulating functions and mandates of the Party committees of all levels, from the Central to the grassroots, and exercises the leadership over the Party and political work in the building and operation of the all-people national defence.

4.2. Leadership of the Communist Party of Viet Nam over the Viet Nam People's Army

The CPV exercises the absolute, direct and all-round leadership over the VPA. The CPV's leadership of the VPA is centrally uniform on the Party Central Committee, and constantly and directly under the Politburo and Secretariat through a system of Party organisations, command organisations and political organisations and political cadres at various levels, and public mass organisations in the military grass-roots units.

The system of Party organisations in the VPA is organised from the Central Military Commission (CMC) to grass-roots organisations and works in the line of the political platform, Party Regulation, resolutions and instructions, and the State's laws. The CMC is appointed by the Politburo, including some members of the Party Central Committee within the VPA and others outside the VPA. The General Secretary of the Party Central Committee is the Chairman of the CMC. Party committees (from the CMC's Party organisations to grass-roots Party cells) are elected by their corresponding Party congresses.

The CMC makes recommendations to the Party Central Committee, the Politburo and Secretariat on military and national defence guidelines and tasks, exercises all-round leadership over the VPA in all areas and coordinates and instructs Party committees directly under the Party Central Committee to implement the CPV's lines, the State's laws and policies, the CMC's military and national defence resolutions and instructions. The CMC executes the direct leadership over the building of the VPA and all-people national defence, and the improvement of quality and efficiency of the Party and political work to maintain and promote the CPV's leadership over the VPA. The CMC complies with the mechanism of collective decisions on major issues, namely guidelines, programmes, and implementation plans of the CPV's directives, resolutions, and measures to build the military as well as personnel work. The CMC leads the General Political Department and through the General Political Department to exercise its leadership over Party committees and the system of political organisations, political commissars and junior political commissars at all levels with regard to the Party and political work in order to make the VPA strong in politics, ideology and organisation, capable of fulfilling all assigned tasks.

The system of political organisations in the VPA is composed of the General Political Department and its subordinate political units. The General Political Department takes charge of the Party and political work in the VPA, operating under the leadership of the Party Central Committee's Secretariat, particularly under the direct and constant leadership of the CMC. Based on resolutions and

directives of the Party Central Committee, Politburo, Party Central Committee's Secretariat and guidance and instructions of the Central commissions, the General Political Department searches for and recommends the CMC for the decisions on guidelines and execution of the Party and political work in the VPA. Guided by resolutions of the CMC and orders of the Minister of National Defence, the General Political Department determines action plans for the Party and political work to direct, instruct and inspect all the VPA's units for their performance of that work.

The General Political Department directs, instructs and inspects all units in the VPA to conduct the work of Party building, personnel, political propaganda and ideological education, military security, policy and mass mobilisation in the VPA. It also coordinates with functional military and non-military bodies to seek and make recommendations to the CPV and State on the policies regarding the VPA, the Militia and Self-Defence Force and welfare policies for military families. The General Political Department directs and instructs to build and consolidate organisation and operation of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union, Trade Union, Women's Union, coordinating with the Party and Central organisations and State functional bodies for an effective direction and instruction of the Party and political work carried out by localities, ministries and Central commissions in the realisation of defence and military missions, as well as the building of the Militia and Self-Defence Force and the Reserve. The General Political Department coordinates with related branches to check, inspect and supervise the implementation of the investigation and judicial work in the military. It also directs

and participates in theoretical research and performance reviews of the Party and political work in the VPA and the Militia and Self-Defence Force. The General Political Department conducts research and development of military social sciences and humanities, and participates in research on Vietnamese military art and science.

Political organisations in the VPA take charge of conducting the cultivation and education of the CPV's guidelines and directions, the State's laws and policies, directing and instructing units to build pure and sound Party organisations and cells as well as carrying out anti-psychological warfare measures on the ideological and political front to denounce vice and false ideological expressions and allegations of hostile forces. They coordinate with local Party committees, authorities and public mass organisations in educating and mobilising people to fulfil their duties of defending the Homeland.

There are political commissars and political units from regiment to military region level and their equivalents. Units from company to battalion level and their equivalents have junior political commissars. The political commissars and junior political commissars are responsible to their superiors and Party committees for the entire Party and political work of their units, for directly guiding, organising and executing the Party and political work as regulated, and for participating in the development and implementation of their units' work plans.

Commanders, political commissars and junior political commissars are assigned by the CPV, State and the VPA certain authority and responsibilities within concerned areas

and are held accountable before law, the Party committees, commanders, political units, their political commissars and junior political commissars at higher levels and their Party committees for all the activities of their units according to the assigned areas of responsibility and tasks, strictly obeying their Party committees' leadership.

Commanders are responsible for complying with and seriously implementing the superiors' orders and instructions, as well as resolutions of their units' Party committees on all activities of their units. In the implementation of their tasks, the commanders have to report to their Party committees on the tasks assigned and propose the guidelines and measures of leadership for the Party committee to discuss and make decisions. When an emergency situation arises, the commanders determine and make timely decisions to fulfil the task, and then report and stand accountable before their superiors and Party committees.

The relations between political commissars (junior political commissars) and commanders are relationships of work coordination. Political commissars (junior political commissars) and commanders must proactively and closely work together in the spirit of solidarity, unity, reliability, respect, and mutual assistance for task accomplishment. Together they must give their mind to the building of pure and sound Party organisations and comprehensively strong units. They have to timely inform and discuss with each other on the resolutions, orders and instructions assigned by their superiors, make joint assessment of situation and propose guidelines and measures of leadership for the Party committees or standing Party committees to make decisions.

They also have to build action plans and delegate work and responsibilities for implementing and inspecting the execution of resolutions of Party organisations and units.

4.3. State Management of National Defence

The State of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam realises its national defence management as defined by its Constitution and laws. The basic contents of the State's national defence management consist of promulgating and conducting the implementation of a system of statutory documents on national defence, developing and implementing strategies and policies on national defence, building the all-people's national defence and plans for the defence of the country, national defence mobilisation and support activities. It organises and guides the implementation of national defence tasks and international defence cooperation, and other necessary measures to defend the Homeland.

The State builds a revolutionary, regular, highly-skilled, and gradually modernised VPA, which has an appropriate permanent force, a large and powerful Reserve, and a strong and extensive Militia and Self-Defence Force, playing the core role in performing national defence tasks. The State educates the entire people in national defence and security, develops the national defence industry, ensures the provision of proper equipment for the people's armed forces, combines national defence and security with economic, cultural and social activities and vice versa, implements policies regarding welfare of military families, and secures the material and spiritual lives of the officers, soldiers, defence employees and workers suitable to the activities of the VPA.

The National Assembly is the supreme organ of State authority of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, the sole body with the right to promulgate laws concerning fundamental domestic and foreign policies, the country's socio-economic, national defence and security tasks, make decisions on the matters of war and peace, define the state of emergency and other special measures so as to ensure the national defence and security, and determine the building of the armed forces. The National Assembly exercises its supreme supervision over the State's national defence activities.

The National Defence and Security Council is composed of the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Members. The list of members of the National Defence and Security Council shall be submitted by the State President to the National Assembly for approval. The National Defence and Security Council shall propose the National Assembly or, when the National Assembly cannot meet, the Standing Committee of the National Assembly to decide on a state of war, mobilise all forces and national recourses to defend the Homeland, execute special tasks and authority assigned by the National Assembly in case of war and decide the participation of the people's armed forces in UN peacekeeping operations in the region and around the world.

The State President has overall command of the people's armed forces and holds the office as Chairperson of the National Defence and Security Council, decides the award, promotion, demotion or deprivation of the ranks of general, admiral, vice admiral and rear admiral, and appoints, relieves from duty or dismisses the Chief of the General Staff, the Chief of the General Political Department of the VPA.

Based on resolutions of the National Assembly or the Standing Committee of the National Assembly, the State President promulgates or annuls decisions to declare a state of war, and on the basis of resolutions of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly, issues an order on general mobilisation or partial mobilisation, declares or cancels a state of emergency or, in case the Standing Committee of the National Assembly cannot meet, declares or cancels a state of emergency nationwide or in a particular locality and decides to send the armed forces to participate in UN peacekeeping operations.

The Government is the highest state administrative body of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam. The Government promulgates decrees and resolutions to specify the implementation of national defence laws and ordinances. It also makes policies on the consolidation of national defence and building of the armed forces, maps out the master and specific plans for defence mobilisation, organises and directs the implementation of national defence tasks and necessary measures to safeguard the Homeland. As delegated, ministries, branches and local authorities issue a system of statutory documents to fulfil tasks on national defence in accordance with the law and undertake national defence education and international cooperation in certain aspects related to national defence, ensure the material life for the armed forces, implement welfare policies for military families, and inspect the fulfilment of national defence tasks.

The Ministry of National Defence is the advisory organ for the Party and State to consult on matters of national defence and military guidelines and duties in safeguarding

the Homeland, stands accountable before the Government on national defence state management, organises the implementation of building, management and command of the VPA, the Militia and Self-Defence Force, and administers public services as stipulated by law. The Minister of National Defence is the highest commander of the VPA and the Militia and Self-Defence Force, a Member of the National Defence and Security Council, Deputy Secretary of the CMC and Member of the government in charge of directing the execution of the State management functions on national defence and military affairs as defined by law and presides over the planning and organises the implementation of the National Defence Strategy. Assisting the Minister of National Defence are Deputy Ministers of National Defence, the General Staff, the General Political Department, four general departments, Ha Noi Capital High Command and seven military regions, two services (Navy and Air Defence-Air Force), Border Guard High Command, six arms, four army corps, Viet Nam Coast Guard Command, Cyber Command and the Ministry of National Defence affiliated units.

The General Staff commands and operates the VPA and the Militia and Self-Defence Force, and organises and directs the development of the VPA and the Militia and Self-Defence Force, at the same time exercises the command of military operations. The General Staff is led by the Chief of General Staff, who is assisted by the vice chiefs. The General Staff is composed of functional departments of operations, combat training, manpower and so forth. The Chief of General Staff, concurrently the Deputy Minister of National Defence, takes the role of the Minister of National Defence in the latter's

absence. The Chief of General Staff directs offices and units directly under the General Staff to formulate the military strategies, the master and specific plans for defending the country, presides over coordinating, instructing, inspecting and motivating other ministries, ministerial-level agencies, and the people's committees at all levels to implement legal regulations on national defence, and inspects and urges the VPA units to abide by the military discipline, the State laws and the orders of the Minister of National Defence.

The General Political Department takes charge of the Party and political work in the military and operates under the leadership of the Secretariat, constantly and directly under the CMC. It has the Chief and Vice Chiefs, functional departments responsible for the Party organisation, personnel work, political propaganda and ideological education, military security, policy work and mass mobilisation.

The functional organisations at the general department level of the Ministry of National Defence include the General Department of Logistics, the General Department of Technology, the General Department of Defence Industry and the General Department of Defence Intelligence. Each general department has the director and deputy directors (the General Department of Defence Intelligence has the Commander and Deputy Commanders), the political commissar and deputy political commissar, the staff office, the political department, and other functional departments and subordinate units with specific responsibilities and duties.

The General Department of Logistics is the organ under the Ministry of National Defence which has the functions to advise, direct, and organise such logistical activities as

material supplies, daily necessity support, medical care, and transportation for the military. It has functional departments responsible for logistics consultation, military ordnance, military medicine, stationing facilities, fuel, transportation and other subordinate agencies and units.

The General Department of Technology is the organ under the Ministry of National Defence which has the functions to advise the CMC and the Ministry of National Defence to direct and instruct the technical support in the VPA and the Militia and Self-Defence Force, assists the Minister of National Defence to conduct the state management functions on the technical support, directs the technical branch in the VPA and the Militia and Self-Defence Force on the matters concerned, and manages and directs its subordinate units.

The General Department of Defence Industry is the organ under the Ministry of National Defence which has the functions to advise the CMC to direct the building and development of defence industry in the VPA, assists the Minister of National Defence to conduct the state management functions on defence industry in the whole country. It is in charge of commanding and managing its subordinate units composed of functional departments and divisions, manages and directes the establishments manufacturing and maintaining military weapons and equipment, research institutions, vocational schools, and subordinate units.

The General Department of Defence Intelligence assists the Minister of National Defence to conduct the state management functions on defence and military intelligence. It directly carries out intelligence activities at the strategic level. At the same time, it is the advisory organ for the Minister of

National Defence and the VPA's Chief of General Staff to consult on the force organisation and intelligence operations. It is the lead department directly responsible for directing and commanding the military intelligence and reconnaissance network in terms of intelligence professionalism.

The Foreign Relations Department is the state management organ on the VPA's international defence relations and international integration, functioning as the advisory organ for the Standing CMC and the Minister of National Defence to consult on the guidelines, directions and measures to international defence relations and international integration, instructing and managing international defence relations activities, and planning and organising those activities in assigned domains. It represents the Ministry of National Defence in working with foreign defence attachés, diplomatic representatives, international and regional organisations in defence matters.

The Office of the Ministry of National Defence, concurrently the Office of the CMC, and other functional bodies play the role of a consultative organ and provide assistance to the Ministry of National Defence. Besides, the Minister of National Defence is assigned to manage certain Government agencies.

The Government Cryptographic Agency is a national cryptography office, in charge of cryptographic management, assisting the Minister of National Defence to provide recommendations for the CPV and the State on cryptographic work and carry out the task of the state management of cryptography, contributing to ensuring timely and absolutely accurate, secure and secret information for the leadership of

the CPV, the management of the State, the operation of the Government, the command and guidance of the commander of the people's armed forces in any situations. It proactively protects and participates in the struggle against cryptanalysis activities harmful to national security, the State's interests, and legitimate rights and interests of other organisations and individuals.

Viet Nam Coast Guard is an element of the people's armed forces which plays a role as a specialised force of the State and exercises its core roles of law enforcement and protection of national security, order and safety at sea. It provides recommendations to the Minister of National Defence or makes proposals to the CPV and the State to issue policies and laws on the protection of national security, order and safety at sea, protecting national sovereignty, sovereign rights and jurisdiction over the sea waters of Viet Nam. It exercises the functions to control maritime security, order, and safety, and conduct law enforcement activities as stipulated by Viet Nam's laws and relevant international conventions and agreements signed or participated in by the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam. Viet Nam Coast Guard has four Coast Guard zones (1, 2, 3, 4). Each has a Coast Guard Command and subordinate units. Viet Nam Coast Guard is equipped with vessels, aircraft, weapons, explosives, support instruments and other specialised equipment to carry out its functions, missions and rights in the sea waters of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and the sea waters beyond the Vietnamese sea waters stipulated by Vietnamese law and related international conventions and agreements of which Viet Nam is a signatory.

The Department of Search and Rescue is the organ under the General Staff of the VPA, which functions as the lead organ to advise the CMC, the Ministry of National Defence, and the General Staff to direct military units to conduct the task of disaster prevention and relief, search and rescue. It also functions as the Standing Office of the National Committee for Search and Rescue, assisting the Government to direct and coordinate both military and non-military forces in search and rescue operations, and disaster relief.

The Standing Office of the National Steering Committee on the Settlement of Post-war Unexploded Ordnance and Toxic Chemical Consequences (also known as Office 701 based under the Department of Military Science) is in charge of providing recommendations for building and implementing the work plans and programmes of the Standing Office and the Steering Committee. It coordinates with Viet Nam National Mine Action Center (VNMAC) under Engineering Command and the National Action Center for Overcoming Toxic Chemical and Environment Consequences (NACCEC) under the Chemical Command. These are the two governmental agencies responsible for conducting propaganda and cooperation programmes and appealing for domestic and international donations and assistance to overcome post-war unexploded ordnance and toxic chemical consequences.

PART THREE

THE VIET NAM PEOPLE'S ARMY AND THE MILITIA AND SELF-DEFENCE FORCE

1. THE VIET NAM PEOPLE'S ARMY

1.1. The Vietnamese Military History Tradition

The thousand-year history of the foundation and development of the Vietnamese nation is crystallised in special and invaluable traditions of defence and military. The military history of Viet Nam was traced back to the beginning of the making of the nation and has been developed constantly. Throughout the history, the Vietnamese nation has always heightened the spirit of undauntedness, self-reliance, resilience, intelligence and the art of war to build a unique military history tradition. In each period of history, the Vietnamese nation has always worked creatively and achieved glorious victories and exploits in the cause of fighting against foreign invaders for national defence. The Vietnamese nation has always followed the traditions of "building the country must go with defending the country", "defending the country when it is still in peace", defending the country with all-people unbeatable strength and closely combining politics, economics, culture, military and diplomacy to create the nation's overall power to defeat any foreign invaders. Since the CPV was founded and led the revolution, the nation's military history tradition has been inherited and developed to a new height,

contributing to firmly defending the socialist Vietnamese Homeland.

1.2. History of the Foundation and Development of the Viet Nam People's Army

From the 6th Plenum of the Party Central Committee (November 1939), and the 7th Plenum (November 1940), especially the 8th Plenum (May 1941), chaired by Nguyen Ai Quoc, the CPV (under the name the Indochina Communist Party) decided to shift its revolutionary activities with a focus on national liberation, and to begin building revolutionary bases and preparing for taking up arms to seize power. Under the directive of President Ho Chi Minh and the command of comrade Vo Nguyen Giap, the Viet Nam Propaganda Unit of the Liberation Army, the forerunner of the VPA, was founded on the basis of revolutionary armed teams in Viet Bac on 22 December 1944 in Nguyen Binh district, Cao Bang province.

At the time of foundation, the Viet Nam Propaganda Unit of the Liberation Army, with only 34 cadres and soldiers, soon showcased the tradition of fighting against foreign invaders and the military art of the nation. Implementing President Ho Chi Minh's directive "The first battle must be won"[1], two days after its formation, with a surprise, brave and ingenious way of fighting, the Propaganda Unit of the

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1. Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics - The Institute of Ho Chi Minh and the Party's Leaders, *Biography of Ho Chi Minh*, National Political Publishing House, Ha Noi, 2016, Vol. 2, p.194.

Liberation Army won the two first battles of Phai Khat and Na Ngan, heralding the VPA's tradition of destroying the enemy, assuredness of victory and determination to win from the first battle. On 15 May 1945, the Viet Nam Propaganda Unit of Liberation Army was merged with the National Salvation Army and renamed the Liberation Army of Viet Nam, becoming the main military force of the Front of Viet Nam Independence League during the General Uprising to seize power in the August Revolution in 1945.

After the success of the 1945 August Revolution and the foundation of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, the VPA together with the entire people and Party strived to build and defend the young state, foil the riot plots of reactionary forces, maintain security and order, firmly protect the newly established revolutionary government, promote the build-up of force and prepare for the long-term resistance war.

The nationwide resistance war against the French aggression broke out. Facing a professional military, equipped with modern weapons, the VPA thoroughly grasped the guidelines of fighting a long, comprehensive and all-people resistance war, relying on its own strength, inheriting and developing the ancestors' military art, firmly relying on people, and finding appropriate ways of fighting. It defeated the French colonialists' "attack fast, win fast" strategy, forcing the enemy to fight a long war, exploiting its weaknesses, and worsening the enemy's contradictions of concentration and dispersal of force to become more serious. The more reinforcements they sent, the longer they fought, the heavier losses they suffered.

From a "bare head and bare feet" army and paramilitary teams, the VPA has constantly grown, developing from guerrilla warfare to maneuver warfare and to fortification and siege warfare, from small-scale attacks to a large-scale ones, from guerrilla warfare to conventional warfare, complementing and developing military art while fighting.

Through a nine-year resistance war full of hardships and sacrifices, the VPA and Vietnamese people defeated the enemy military strategies one after another. With the victory of the 1953-1954 Winter Spring Offensive which culminated in the victory of Dien Bien Phu, the VPA and Vietnamese people compelled the French Government to sign the Geneva Accords on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Indochina, successfully ending the resistance war against the French aggressors, liberating the North of Viet Nam and setting a shining example for national liberation movement around the world. For the first time in history, a small military in a colonial country, equipped with rudimentary weapons, had defeated a professional colonialist military.

Since peace was restored in the North of Viet Nam, "the building of a strong VPA, step by step advancing toward regularity and modernity" was promoted. Thanks to the correct anticipation of the imperialist strategic intention and the imminent confrontation with the US military, which was the most powerful military in the world, the VPA took initiative in building forces with an increased might and combat capability. With the concerted efforts of the whole people and military along with significant assistance of the socialist countries, the VPA made great leaps in all aspects

and became the backbone in the struggle to defend the North, liberate the South and unify the country. In this historical confrontation, under the leadership of the CPV and President Ho Chi Minh, Viet Nam was proven to not only dare to fight and determine to fight, but also know how to win. The more fighting the VPA experienced, the stronger it became, gradually neutralising the enemy's strength, making their superiority in modern weapons and equipment meaningless, forcing them to be stretched over the battlefield. The longer the war lasted, the more the enemy suffered an "impasse".

Through combat practice, the VPA's strategies, tactics and fighting art were increasingly sharpened and became more effective, defeating the enemy's "air mobility" and "carrier-borne" warfare strategies. Together with the people and troops in the South, the people and troops in Northern Viet Nam continuously defeated the massive waves of attack launched by the US Navy and Air Force. The Vietnamese artillery, missile and air force units had achieved an ever higher rate of combat efficiency in the history of warfighting, destroying numerous modern aircraft and warships of the enemy.

Great victories of the people and armed forces both in the North and the South, especially the victory of the North over the 12-day-and-night strategic bombardment by B-52 strategic bombers over Ha Noi (codenamed by the US "Operation Linebacker II") in December 1972, forced the US Government to sign the Paris Peace Accords to end the war and restore peace in Viet Nam, recognising the independence, sovereignty, unity, and territorial integrity of the Democratic Republic of

Viet Nam. This created favourable conditions for the Vietnamese people and troops to launch the "Ho Chi Minh Campaign" to liberate the entire South of Viet Nam, bringing the whole country aboard the path to socialism and ushering in a new era for the nation.

The VPA also stood shoulder to shoulder with Lao and Cambodian people to fight against common enemies for each country's freedom and independence. Implementing President Ho Chi Minh's teaching "Helping people of friendly countries is helping ourselves"[1], the VPA fought side by side with Lao and Cambodian revolutionary forces in the entire Indochina theatre in 30 years' resistance wars against the French colonialists and the US imperialists. The image of the Vietnamese volunteer soldiers full of hardships in the difficult years of resistance wars will never fade in the hearts and minds of millions of Lao and Cambodian people.

Following the victory in the anti-American resistance war for national salvation, the VPA embarked upon a new long march, fighting to win in the wars to safeguard the Homeland at the Northern and Southwestern borders, as well as fulfilling the international tasks to help Lao people to firmly protect the revolutionary achievements and to save Cambodian people from genocide and bring about the restoration of the Cambodian nation.

Entering the period of renovation, facing complex changes in international and domestic situations, bringing into full

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1. Ho Chi Minh, *Completed Collection*, National Political Publishing House, Ha Noi, 2011, Vol. 8, p. 105.

play the tradition of absolute loyalty to the CPV and nation's revolutionary cause, the VPA, under absolute and direct leadership in all aspects of the CPV, persistently continued with the goal of national independence and socialism decided by the CPV, President Ho Chi Minh, and Vietnamese people. The traditional nature of "Uncle Ho's Soldiers", tempered in the two resistance wars and the war to safeguard the Homeland, will forever shine in the cause of building and safeguarding the socialist Vietnamese Homeland.

Implementing the CPV's guidelines, the VPA has actively participated in economic development, enhancing and consolidating defence, improving combat capability, contributing to the entire people's effort to firmly safeguard the Homeland. Defence enterprises carry out defence tasks while participating in socio-economic development activities. The VPA actively and proactively launches activities of gratitude and appreciation, post-war consequence mitigation and recovery, disaster preparedness and response, search and rescue, and so forth.

Over the past 75 years, the VPA has become more mature and powerful. Together with the whole people, it has overcome difficulties and challenges and achieved glorious victories, defeating the aggressors, making great contributions to the struggle for national liberation, national defence and construction, deserving President Ho Chi Minh's appraisals "Our military, loyal to the Party, pious to the people and ready to fight and sacrifice their lives for independence and

freedom of the Homeland and socialism, will accomplish any tasks, overcome any difficulties and defeat any enemies"[1]. The history of the VPA is the glorious combat history of the revolutionary military which bears a working class nature, comes from the people and fights for the people.

1.3. Functions and Missions of the Viet Nam People's Army

The CPV and President Ho Chi Minh defined that the VPA is a revolutionary army, and "an army ready for combat, an army ready for work and an army ready for production"[2]. The fundamental functions of the VPA have been affirmed and promoted over the past 75 years.

Functioning as "an army ready for combat", the VPA has been built in the direction of a revolutionary, regular, highly-skilled, gradually modernised army, with some forces advancing straight to modernity. It is an army strong in politics, ideology, organisation, and absolutely loyal to the CPV, Homeland and people. The VPA is to be built into an adept, compact, strong, mobile, highly flexible and efficient army equipped with modern weaponry. The VPA is to promote research and development of the Vietnamese military art and regularly conduct training exercises to improve comprehensive quality, combat strength and combat

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1. Ho Chi Minh, *Completed Collection, Ibid*, Vol. 14, p. 435.

2. Communist Party of Viet Nam, *Complete Party Documents,* National Political Publishing House, Ha Noi, 2003, Vol. 24, p. 847.

readiness. The VPA plays a core role in building the all-people national defence, successfully deals with defence situations, and is always ready to defeat all types of aggressive war, and to firmly defend independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Homeland, contributing to maintaining a peaceful and stable environment for the building and development of the country.

Functioning as "an army ready for work", the VPA has always maintained its close ties with the people. Being one of the core forces participating in mass mobilisation and grass-roots political system construction, the VPA's units are to continue to actively conduct mass-related work, take the lead in socio-economic development in remote and secluded areas, borders, seas and islands, actively take part in disaster preparedness and response, search and rescue, and contribute to the protection of the environment. The VPA units continue to closely coordinate with local authorities, and actively participate in hunger elimination and poverty reduction, contributing to the improvement of the people's material and spiritual life. The work of international defence relations has gained a number of important achievements, contributing to maintaining a peaceful and stable environment for national construction and development, and increasing the position and reputation of the country and the VPA in the international arena, such as participating in UN peacekeeping operations, joint training exercises of Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR), Search and Rescue (SAR), and international cooperation in overcoming the legacy of war, and so forth.

Functioning as "an army ready for production", VPA's economic-defence units have always maintained a steady growth rate, providing jobs for hundreds of thousands of people. They also have fulfilled financial duties to the State budget and produced dual-use and high-value technological products, contributing to national economic growth and accomplishing the task of combining socio-economic development with defence consolidation.

1.4. Organisation of the Viet Nam People's Army

The VPA comprises the Main Force and Local Force, military regions, services, the Border Guard, army corps and arms, a system of logistical support units, technical support units, military academies, officer training schools, research institutes, and economic-defence units.

1.4.1. Ground Forces

The Ground Forces consist of seven military regions (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, and 9) and Ha Noi Capital High Command, six arms (Commando, Artillery, Tank and Armour, Engineering, Signal, and Chemical) and four army corps (1, 2, 3, and 4). Each military region, army corps and arm has a Commander and Political Commissar, Deputy Commanders and Deputy Political Commissar, functional agencies responsible for staff, political work, logistical and technical affairs and other subordinate units.

The military regions are organised to defend strategic directions and areas. Each military region consists of affiliated regular divisions, brigades, regiments and subordinate units. A military region commands its affiliated units, provincial and

district military units and the Militia and Self-Defence Force within the region.

An army corps is the largest mobile unit of the Ground Forces, responsible for defending the nation's critical, strategic areas. An army corps is composed of divisions, brigades, regiments and other affiliated units.

The arms are tasked with participating in combined operations as assigned and also exercise the function of technical support and professional training of officers and technical personnel for the whole VPA. Each arm has its own combat units, officer training colleges and professional technical schools.

The Ground Forces of Viet Nam are equipped in the modern direction so as to achieve the capabilities of high mobility, strong offensive capabilities and firepower, and fighting in various terrains, in all weathers in conformity with the art of modern people's war. At present, Viet Nam has produced and put into service a number of relatively modern infantry weapons.

Having undergone the wars for national liberation and defence, the Ground Forces have gradually matured and excellently fulfilled their duties. Many units have been awarded the title of Hero of the People's Armed Forces and other noble awards.

1.4.2. Air Defence-Air Force

Established on 22 October 1963, the Air Defence-Air Force assumes the responsibilities for both national air defence and air force. It is the core force responsible for the control and defence of the airspace, protection of the nation's critical

facilities and the people, and participates in safeguarding seas and islands of the Homeland. The service plays the role of a consultative organ for the Ministry of National Defence on matters concerning the building of the air defence of the Ground Forces and other service and arms air forces. The Air Defence-Air Force is able to independently perform its missions, or to participate in combined operations. The military Air Transportation, in addition to combat support and combat readiness, takes part in natural disaster relief operations and economic development activities.

The Air Defence-Air Force is organised into the Service Command, combat units, combat support units, economic-defence units and education and training institutions. The Service Command has the Commander and Political Commissar, Deputy Commanders and Deputy Political Commissar. It also consists of functional agencies responsible for staff, political work, technical and logistical affairs, people's air defence, and other affiliated units. The main combat units of the Service include air force divisions, air defence divisions, and affiliated air units.

The Air Defence-Air Force is currently equipped with Su-30 MK2 multirole fighters, Su-27 fighters and Su-22 fighter bombers, C-295 tactical military transport aircraft, MiG-21 supersonic jet fighters and interceptors, S-300PMU1 air defence missile systems, Spyder short and medium range mobile air defence systems, 36D6M1-2 mobile 3D airspace surveillance radar systems and various types of anti-aircraft guns. The Service has also researched and manufactured some weapons and equipment, upgraded and modernised some radar and air defence missile systems and so forth.

During the liberation wars, the Air Defence-Air Force performed its duties with excellence, defeated the two wars of sabotage of the U.S. Air Force and Navy in the North, protected the transportation lines of supplies from the North to the South, making worthy contributions to the defence of the North, liberation of the South, and national reunification. The Air Defence-Air Force have been awarded the title of Hero of the People's Armed Forces and other noble awards.

1.4.3. Navy

Established on 7 May 1955, the Viet Nam People's Navy is the core service in protecting sovereignty, sovereign rights, territorial unity and integrity of Viet Nam's seas and islands and building the national defence posture at sea. The Navy has responsibility to manage and firmly defend the sea waters and islands under Viet Nam's sovereignty, ready for combating independently or participating in combined operations to defeat any aggression at sea. It is also responsible for maintaining security, countering any acts of violating sovereignty, sovereign rights, jurisdiction and national interests of Viet Nam at sea, and participating in disaster prevention and relief, and search and rescue, securing economic production and other normal activities in Viet Nam's sea waters and islands in conformity with Vietnamese and international laws.

The Navy is organised into the Service Command and subordinate units. The Service Command has the Commander and Political Commissar, Deputy Commanders and Deputy Political Commissar. It also consists of functional agencies

responsible for staff, political work, logistical and technical affairs. The Navy affiliated units comprises five naval region commands (1, 2, 3, 4, and 5), naval brigades, academy and schools, technical research institute and economic-defence units. Each naval region is organised into the naval region command and affiliated units such as naval centres, brigades and other support and service units.

The Navy has been built and developed in the "revolutionary, regular, highly-skilled and modernised" direction with five arms components: surface ships and submarines, naval air force, coastal artillery and land-to-sea missiles, marines, and naval commandos. Besides, there are support and service units such as signal, radar, electronic warfare, engineering, chemical, and so forth. These forces have been equipped with a number of modern weapons and equipment such as SSK Kilo-class (Type 636) submarines, Gepard 3.9 class frigates, project 12418 class missile corvettes, TT-400TP gunboats, project 10412 class patrol boats, Bastion mobile coastal defence missile systems, EC-225, DHC-6 aircraft, and SCORE-3000 radar systems. The Viet Nam People's Navy has been trained to master weapons and technical equipment, thus enhancing combat power and readiness, meeting the requirements to defend the country's sovereignty over the seas and islands.

Having undergone the combat, building and maturing process, the Viet Nam People's Navy has been awarded the title of Hero of the People’s Armed Forces twice and many other noble awards.

1.4.4. Border Guard

Established on 3 March 1959, the Border Guard is the people's armed force of the CPV and the State of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, constitutes part of the VPA, and plays a core and specialised role in managing and protecting the sovereignty, territorial integrity, security and order of the national borders on land, seas, islands and border gates according to its tasks prescribed by law. It is also a force component in the border provincial and district defence zones.

The Border Guard exercises its functions in accordance with the laws of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and international conventions, of which the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam is a signatory, related to sovereignty, security of the national borders on land, seas, islands and border gates.

The Border Guard is tasked with managing and protecting the national borderline and the system of national border markers, fighting against and preventing all acts of encroaching upon the border territory, illegal border crossings on land and at sea, illegal immigration and residence in the country, illegal exploitation of natural resources and other acts of infringing upon the national sovereignty, interests, security and order, which may cause harms to the border environment. The Border Guard also takes the lead role in working with concerned branches and localities to effectively manage and protect the national border and maintain security, order and social safety of the national borders on land, seas, islands and border gates.

The Border Guard is consistently organised and commanded from the Ministry of National Defence to grass-roots units,

including the Border Guard High Command, provincial (municipal) border guard commands, maritime border guard brigades, and border guard posts, maritime border guard detachments. The Border Guard High Command has the Commander and Political Commissar, Deputy Commanders and Deputy Political Commissar. It also consists of agencies responsible for staff, political work, technical and logistical affairs, border reconnaissance, drugs and criminal prevention, border gates, academy and schools and other affiliated units. The Border Guard has become increasingly stronger, professionally competent, and expert in Viet Nam's laws, as well as international laws and practices. It is equipped with professional means and devices and increasingly modern weapons to accomplish its tasks.

Having undergone the combat, building and development process, the Border Guard has achieved numerous feats of arms and glorious victories and been awarded the title of Hero of the People's Armed Forces twice and many other noble awards.

1.4.5. Cyber Command

Established on 15 August 2017, the Cyber Command is a combat component of the VPA. It plays a core role in defending national sovereignty in cyberspace, countering information warfare, cyberwarfare and safeguarding the Homeland in cyberspace. It is also an important force which participates in protecting national critical information systems, ensuring information network safety, protecting national network security and countering "peaceful evolution" in

cyberspace, contributing to the entire Party, people and military's effort to firmly defend the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of the Homeland.

The Cyber Command comprises the Command Headquaters, brigades and centres. The Cyber Command has the Commander and Political Commissar, Deputy Commanders and Deputy Political Commissar and agencies responsible for staff, political work, technical and logistical affairs, professional operations and affiliated units.

1.4.6. Viet Nam Peacekeeping Department

Established on 27 May 2014, Viet Nam Peacekeeping Department (previously known as Viet Nam Peacekeeping Centre) is under the direct leadership of the Ministry of National Defence. It is the advisory organ for the CMC, Minister of National Defence, and the Steering Board of the Ministry of National Defence on the leadership, command, and operation of the VPA's forces participating in the UN peacekeeping operations. It also takes charge of the management, command and operation of the whole process of preparation and participation in the UN peacekeeping operations and assists the Minister of National Defence in performing the state management of the VPA's UN peacekeeping operations.

1.4.7. Local Force

Established on 7 April 1949, the Local Force is a component of the people's three-category armed forces and is organised in provinces, cities, towns and districts. It is a core force in the local people's war, a mobile force engaging in operations

mainly in the designated local area, coordinating and working with the Militia and Self-Defence Force, people's public security force in operations, and maintaining the local political security in peacetime. The Local Force is organised to suit specific situational conditions, defence and security tasks of a particular locality and territorial areas such as border, coastal areas, seas and islands. It is equipped with appropriate types of weapons for combat operations in defence zones.

The Local Force is under the direct command of the local military commands and under the leadership and guidance of the local Party committees and governments. It is regularly trained for its vigilance, military, political, technical, logistical competencies, the readiness for combat, coordination and collaboration with the Militia and Self-Defence Force in operations to protect the local people and governments. The Local Force also works closely with the Militia and Self-Defence Force to maintain order and security within their own localities, render assistance to the Militia and Self-Defence Force in training, and contribute to the fulfilment of training tasks for the Reserve.

1.4.8. Reserve

The Reserve is a component of the VPA and an important force, contributing to the building of the all-people national defence and the people's war posture. It is ready to supplement the active force when required, meeting the demands of building and safeguarding the socialist Vietnamese Homeland in the new situation.

Viet Nam advocates making the Reserve powerful, with sufficient quantity, high quality, right composition, good

military knowledge and professional skills and ready for the expansion of force when needed. The Reserve includes reserve military personnel and technical means of national economy which are earmarked and planned to readily supplement the active force of the VPA. The Reserve is organised on the basis of the same table of organisation and equipment of the VPA with its components corresponding to the active forces of the services and arms of the Main Force and Local Force.

The Reserve is selected from military personnel who have finished their military service and civilians trained as regulated by law. Annually, the reserve units are summoned for mobilisation readiness checks and trained according to a common training curriculum. Reservists are selectively appointed to commanding posts of the reserve units and get allowances as regulated. The Ministry of National Defence instructs, directs, inspects and urges localities and units to build and mobilise the Reserve in conformity with the laws, and directly administers the training arrangement of the reserve units. Ministries, branches, and provincial and municipal people's committees, in consultation with the VPA's active units, coordinate the allocation of military reservists and technical equipment to reserve units on the basis of mobilisation quotas assigned by the Government.

1.4.9. Academies, Colleges and Schools

The VPA has a complete system of academies, colleges and schools to meet the demands for training officers and

non-commissioned officers as well as technicians at all levels for the VPA, postgraduates and civilian technicians. Those institutions also conduct scientific and technological research in the VPA, foster all kinds of learners on defence and security knowledge, educate and further advance political theoretical knowledge.

The Ministry of National Defence directly administers the National Defence Academy, Political Academy, Army Academy, Logistics Academy, Military Technology Academy, the 1st Army Officer Training College, the 2nd Army Officer Training College, and the Political Officer Training College.

The National Defence Academy is the education and training centre for the Party and State's high-ranking cadres. It is tasked with training and qualifying learners for advanced political theoretical knowledge, training the VPA's operational and strategic-level officers, fostering defence and security knowledge development for key executive cadres of ministries, agencies, branches from the Central to local levels, conducting scientific research, providing military master's and doctoral programmes, and undertaking international cooperation in defence and security training for military officers and civilians.

The Army Academy is tasked with training and conducting scientific research, qualifying learners for advanced political theoretical knowledge, providing military master's and doctoral programmes, training infantry regiment and division command and staff officers, arms brigade command and staff officers, infantry division reconnaissance commanding officers,

command and staff officers of the district military commands and equivalents, providing short courses for the completion of command and staff training for officers of infantry regiments and local military commands, as well as for tactics lecturers at regimental and divisional level.

The Political Academy is tasked with training and qualifying learners for advanced political theoretical knowledge, training regiment and division-level political officers and lecturers of military social sciences and humanities, improving political theory, providing military master's and doctoral programmes in military social sciences and humanities, offering courses on the Party and political work and defence and security.

The Logistics Academy is tasked with providing tertiary education and training for junior logistics officers, training tactical and operational-level logistics officers, providing master's and doctoral programmes in military logistics and finance, and training logistics technicians.

The Military Technology Academy is tasked with providing undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate education and training programmes in military technology, technical command and staff, project management, conducting research and development of military science and technology, and participating in economic development.

The Military Medical Academy is tasked with training doctors, pharmacists, physicians and providing undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate education courses. It is also a military medical research centre.

The 1st and 2nd Army Officer Training Colleges are tasked with training junior infantry command officers (from platoon, company to battalion levels), providing military master's and doctoral programmes, offering military courses at undergraduate (including college-level courses) and graduate levels, and training military, defence and security lecturers.

The Political Officer Training College is tasked with providing tertiary education and training for political officers, training lecturers of military social sciences and humanities and teachers and lecturers of defence and security education, qualifying junior officers and graduates for some majors.

The remaining military academies, colleges and schools are under the management of general departments, services and arms. They are tasked with training junior command officers and providing them with university education, training tactical and operational level command and staff officers, providing military master's programmes and participating in scientific research.

1.4.10. Major Research Institutes

The Institute for Defence Strategy is a research institution on defence and military issues. It plays the role of a consultative organ on issues related to national defence, military and defence diplomacy, conducting research on international, regional and domestic situations, analysing and forecasting potential threats to Viet Nam's national defence, conducting research on issues of military ideology, guidelines and doctrines, the art of war, modes of warfare, economic-

national defence issues, proposing the directions for the organisation and construction of the armed forces, the VPA's leadership and command system, providing strategic recommendations on defence diplomacy, and participating in defence diplomacy as assigned by the Ministry of National Defence.

The Institute of Military Social Sciences and Humanities is tasked with conducting research on the development and application of social sciences and humanities knowledge to the military, as well as theoretical and practical issues of defending the Homeland, and building the all-people national defence and the Vietnamese people's armed forces.

The Institute for Military Science and Technology is a research institution on military science and technology that conducts research on and develops equipment and weapons for the VPA to meet the requirements of modern warfare, simultaneously doing research on sciences, techniques and technologies for civilian use.

Viet Nam Institute for Military History is a historical research institution of the VPA in charge of doing research on the military history of Viet Nam and the world in order to draw lessons and experience that serve the tasks of the Homeland's construction and protection at present and in the future.

The Institute for Defence International Relations is a strategic research institution, which is tasked with conducting research on foreign defence relations and policies, simultaneously providing policy recommendations, participating in defence and security external relations activities both multilaterally and

bilaterally as well as bilateral dialogues, building, consolidating and expanding relations with international and domestic research institutions for academic exchanges and issues of common interest.

1.4.11. Major Economic-Defence Units

Economic-defence units of the VPA are the leading force in combining economic development with national defence and security consolidation. The VPA's groups, corporations and economic-defence corps have made considerable contributions to the cause of industrialisation and modernisation of the country, playing the role of a key force in the most difficult regions, participating in local socio-economic development, thus creating strong and stable national defence posture in the vital areas of the Homeland.

The economic-defence corps have performed well the fundamental goal of combining economic, cultural and social development with the consolidation of national defence and security, contributing to maintaining political stability, consolidating great national solidarity, and building the "people's hearts and minds posture" and the all-people national defence posture in the vital areas of the country. The economic-defence corps' effectiveness has been manifested in their performance of socio-economic development, contributing to the improvement of the material and spiritual life of the people and the preservation of national defence and security in remote and secluded areas, border regions and islands. The economic-defence corps take part in the relocation of inhabitants in accordance with socio-economic

development plans, forming groups of villages and communes in the border regions corresponding to the all-people national defence posture for the protection of the Homeland. The economic-defence corps have closely cooperated with local governments, socio-political organisations and other forces in the areas to educate and mobilise people to carry out the Party's guidelines and the State's laws and policies. They have contributed to developing culture, medical care and education and helped improve and train the cadre contingents for localities. In the past years, the economic-defence corps have participated in building new-style rural areas, taken part in resettlement programmes, built hundreds of groups of new mountainous villages, sponsored and organised the permanent agriculture and settlement for tens of thousands of households, and generated jobs for ethnic minority people.

1.5. Guidelines for Building the Viet Nam People's Army

Viet Nam advocates building the revolutionary, regular, highly-skilled, gradually modernised VPA with some forces advancing straight to modernity and gradually formulating the Army as an independent Service, meeting requirements of safeguarding the Homeland and responding to hi-tech wars. On the basis of the country's conditions and potentialities, Viet Nam strives, from 2030 onward, to build the VPA into a modern military both in personnel, organisation and equipment, unceasingly improving military and political knowledge and professional skills, the military art, modes of warfare, weapons and technical equipment and support

work. Viet Nam focuses on building the VPA strong in politics, laying a solid foundation for improving comprehensive quality, strength and combat readiness as well as completing the construction of the modes and mechanisms to enhance the comprehensive leadership and combat strength of the Military Party Committee.

The VPA is to adjust its organisation, structure and equipment in conformity with the military art and weaponry, meeting the requirements of combat readiness and combat in any situations. Priority is given to providing sufficient manpower for combat units in vital areas, borders, seas and islands. The VPA plans to reorganise the military academy and school system in the direction of reducing the number of subordinate units, renovating training contents, programmes and training facilities, promoting the application of information technology, improving the education and training quality in close combination with higher combat readiness and practical experiences.

1.5.1. Building Political-Spiritual Strength

Making the VPA strong in politics and spirit is a matter of principle of the VPA's organisation and operation, manifesting the viewpoint of regarding humans as the determinant factor in the battlefield and is aimed at strengthening the CPV’s leadership and the state management effectiveness and maintaining the working class nature, the national and people’s characteristics of the VPA.

The VPA shall be made strong in politics, ideology and organisation, unwaveringly loyal to the CPV, the Homeland

and the people, and absolutely confident in the CPV's leadership and the state management, the renovation cause and the path to the socialism in Viet Nam. At the same time, the VPA is to raise the sense of vigilance to defeat the "peaceful evolution" and riot and subversion activities and plot of "depoliticising the military" of the hostile forces. It is also strongly attached to the people and ready to sacrifice for the independence and freedom of the Homeland, and for the happiness of the people.

The VPA is determined to build and bring into full play the role of political units and political officers at all levels, innovate and raise the quality and effectiveness of the Party and political work, pay due attention to officer development, especially those at operational and strategic levels. It shall regularly perform well the work of protection of internal politics, inspection and supervision work, preventing hostile forces from penetrating, infiltrating, sabotaging and stealing military secrets.

1.5.2. Organisational Structure, Equipment, and Human Resource Development

The VPA shall be organised and built in accordance with the CPV's viewpoints and the guidelines of the all-people national defence and the people's war, ensuring a synchronous balance between the Main Force, Local Force and Militia and Self-Defence Force, between Active Force and the Reserve, between combat force and combat support force, between Ground Forces and other services and arms, and between the total strength and the inventories of weapons and equipment.

The VPA shall ensure the invesment of resources to achieve the goal of building the military, critical programmes and projects, improving the quality of human resources and technical infrastructures, conducting research and application of advanced science and technology, mastering technologies to manufacture some modern weapons and equipment for the Ground Forces, services and arms, and moving toward designing and manufacturing some strategic weapons and equipment.

1.5.3. Education, Training and Drilling

In parallel with political-spiritual work, the VPA always pays special attention to education, training and conducting exercises. Therefore, the VPA shall regularly and comprehensively renovate education, training and drilling, consonant with the organisational structure, equipment, and the development of Vietnamese military art.

Great importance is attached to training and fostering leaders and commanders with political steadfastness, good virtues, thoroughly grasping the military art, including that of services and arms, the Main Force's army corps and the local people's warfare (operations of provincial and municipal defence zones) in all types of operation in the war to safeguard the Homeland. The VPA is to develop comprehensive capability of leadership, command, management, education, and performance of the Party and political work, arming its forces with essential knowledge of military science and

technology, information technology, foreign languages, and legal and social matters so as to meet specific requirements at various levels.

Special attention is paid to the training of individual combat skills, combined operations and making the best use of existing weapons and equipment through the application of Vietnamese military art along the "basic, practical, and solid" motto. The VPA seeks to innovate training contents, programmes and methods in conformity with the organisational structure, equipment and practical conditions of each unit, meeting the requirement of combat readiness for defending the country in the new situation.

Regular military exercises are conducted to train commanders and organisations comprehensively in leadership, command and control over forces, improving the ability to organise, command, coordinate combat operations, and settle strategic scenarios, and perfect operational plans, meeting the demands of the new situation.

Viet Nam advocates participating in exercises and training activities with foreign partners to respond to non-traditional security challenges and search and rescue requirements, as well as those of Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) on the basis of respecting each other's independence, territorial sovereignty, and mutual national interests in conformity with international law and Viet Nam's laws, conditions and capabilities, serving to promote cooperation and contributing to peace and stability in the region and the world.

1.5.4. Scientific Research

The VPA's scientific research activities cover military art, military social sciences and humanities, military logistics and military technology.

The VPA attaches importance to consolidating and raising awareness of Marxism-Leninism, President Ho Chi Minh's Thought, and the CPV's viewpoints and guidelines. It advances the education of its forces for the loyalty to the Party, State and people, fostering the readiness to sacrifice for the independence and freedom of the Homeland.

The VPA advocates promoting the research and development of the Vietnamese military art and the theory of the people's war in the new conditions so as to win any new forms of warfare. The VPA also pays due attention to research on the organisation and preparation for conducting war, guiding lines of thought, principles, and art of conducting war and strategic art, as well as the building of the armed forces. It seeks to mobilise and make the best use of the nation's resources and potentialities to win wars. Research efforts are invested in theories and practice for preparation and conduct of campaigns (battles) in the war to safeguard the Homeland.

The VPA shall focus efforts on specialised theoretical and practical research, mobilising potential, improving mobility, transportation, daily necessities, medical and fuel support, to name just a few. Research is also focused on the application of information technology, automation, exploitation and mastery of high technologies and modern weapons and

equipment, overhauling, upgrading and manufacturing military weapons and equipment to win hi-tech wars, and improving the combat readiness and combat capability to ensure the victory in any conditions, meeting the demands of safeguarding the Homeland in the new situation.

1.5.5. Weapons, Technical and Logistical Equipment

Weapons, technical and logistical equipment play a very important role in modern wars. Despite being a developing country with a limited level of science and technology, the State of Viet Nam attaches special importance to providing the VPA with weapons and technical equipment necessary for safeguarding the Homeland.

The VPA, therefore, shall promote the practice of good preservation, maintenance and selective upgrade of existing weapon inventories. Sufficient investments shall be made in self-production of some weapons and equipment corresponding to the indigenous technology, and at the same time, acquisition of some advanced weapons and technical equipment to meet the demands of strengthening the VPA's combat power. It shall continue the organisational reforms and the improvement of logistics and technical support modes, with a view to developing a chain of key regional logistics supply centres in combination with logistics outsourcing. It is committed to effectively using and focusing investment resources on developing defence potential and actively participating in economic development of the country.

1.5.6. National Defence Industry

Viet Nam's national defence industry is a component of the national industry, which is built and developed in the direction of gradual integration into the national industry, contributing to the national industrial development. Viet Nam advocates building and developing the national defence industry to achieve modern and advanced scientific and technical levels, contributing to the VPA's modernisation process, serving to improve the VPA's combat readiness and combat power, meeting the demands of strengthening the national defence and security potential. Viet Nam's national defence industry is geared to the application of advanced scientific and technological achievements, especially those of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, to improve the capabilities of research, design, manufacture, maintenance, upgrading and modernising weapons and technical equipment with high specifications.

Viet Nam advocates building and developing the national defence industry with consonant organisation, scale and management system to ensure the centrality and unity of the state management, bringing into full play the role and self-reliance of the national defence industry establishments and the active and efficient participation of other national economic elements. Viet Nam also advocates promoting the national defence industry development in the direction of dual use so as to make it a key national industry. Viet Nam's national defence industry works to have international

competitive capacity and deeply join the global value chain by 2030. The national defence industry's key establishments in the Northern, Central and Southern regions will be properly rearranged to suit the defense posture of the country. Viet Nam promotes international cooperation on education and training, research, manufacture and market for defence products. Viet Nam advocates multilateralising and diversifying the cooperation and acquisition of military weapons and equipment, meeting the criteria of quality and cost and technology mastery, so as to ensure the combat readiness and way of fighting in all forms of warfare to safeguard the Homeland.

1.5.7. Building and Developing Military Technology

Coupled with the development of military science, the military technology branch is also bringing into full play the tradition of "proactiveness, creativeness, self-reliance and resilience" in the research, development and application of new technologies. It aims to advance the application of information technology, automation, the exploitation and mastery of high technologies and modern weapons and equipment to ensure the effectiveness and final victory, meeting the demands of conducting the people's war to safeguard the Homeland when the enemy uses high-tech weaponry. Viet Nam will focus investment and resources on fulfilling the goal of building a revolutionary, regular, highly-skilled, and gradually modernised VPA.

2. MILITIA AND SELF-DEFENCE FORCE

2.1. History of the Foundation and Development of the Militia and Self-Defence Force

On 28 March 1935, the 1st National Congress of the Indochina Communist Party issued "the Resolution on Self-Defence Teams", marking the foundation of Viet Nam's Militia and Self-Defence Force. Over the past 80 years, the development history of the Militia and Self-Defence Force has been closely linked to the struggle for national independence, and the Homeland's construction and protection. From 1935 to 1945, self-defence teams in both rural and urban areas came into being, becoming core elements for the masses to conduct armed uprisings and guerrilla warfare, contributing to the building and expansion of revolutionary bases. In August 1945, the Militia and Self-Defence Force together with the whole people successfully carried out the General Uprising to seize power. After 2 September 1945, the Militia and Self-Defence Force, one of the people's three-category armed forces, was organised nationwide, truly becoming an instrument to protect the fledgling revolutionary government and the revolutionary achievements.

In the resistance war against the French colonialists, the Militia and Self-Defence Force was gradually restructured to become organisationally unified under the guidance and command of communal militia command boards and district and provincial military commands, and placed under direct

leadership of the CPV's committees at various levels. Being equipped only with rudimentary, improvised weapons, facing the expeditionary forces armed with modern weapons, the Militia and Self-Defence Force together with the people formed combat villages, steadfastly held the ground, and stuck fast to the people to stage the war of attrition, destroying the puppet regime, eliminating traitors, and actively cooperating with regular troops to counter the enemy's "cordon and search" and besieging operations. By conducting various ingenious, flexible and creative ways of fighting, the Militia and Self-Defence Force caused many enemies to surrender and withdraw their military posts, expanded the guerrilla bases, and contained and stretched enemy forces, compelling them to disperse for response, facilitating and joining the Main Force in successfully conducting many major campaigns, culminating in the historic Dien Bien Phu victory.

In the national salvation war against American aggressors, the North Viet Nam's Militia and Self-Defence Force was developed extensively, reaching every hamlet, commune, construction site, state-run farm, factory, and enterprise. It was then equipped with relatively modern weapons, forming an anti-aircraft network against enemy's low flying airplanes, which shot down many enemy aircraft, capturing alive many US pilots, wiping out tens of enemy commando groups, and sinking and damaging many enemy warships. The Militia and Self-Defence Force also performed well the task of people's air-defence at the grassroots, built a variety of air-raid shelters, dealt with damage caused by enemy's

air-raids, cleared unexploded bombs and mines, and broke naval blockades. Tens of millions of people were mobilised for transportation and combat service, helping evacuate people and overcome the consequences of war, and effectively reinforcing manpower and materials for the Southern front.

The Militia and Guerrilla Forces in South Viet Nam bravely fought against the enemy with all kinds of available weapons, using various and creative ways of fighting throughout three strategic regions, closely combining political with armed struggles, holding on resiliently, creating an interlocked pattern between our forces and the enemy's, compelling them to stretch their forces. In the 1975 Spring General Offensive, the Militia and Self-Defence Force together with the Main Force, Local Force, and the entire people in South Viet Nam launched simultaneous offensives and uprisings, liberating the whole of South Viet Nam and achieving the national reunification.

After the great victory in the spring of 1975, the Militia and Self-Defence Force was mobilised to take part in the construction of the border defence line, directly engaging in combat and combat service in the wars to safeguard the Homeland in Northern and Southwestern borders. A number of Militia and Self-Defence Force units achieved excellent feat of arms, decimating the enemy troops, protecting people in villages, construction sites, state-run farms, and enterprises, closely coordinating with the VPA to steadfastly fight and defeat the enemy attacks, making important contributions to the success of the wars to safeguard the Homeland.

Nowadays, the Militia and Self-Defence Force has developed in quality, quantity, organisational structure, and equipment with appropriate organisation and strength. The Militia and Self-Defence Force's comprehensive quality has been improved to meet the demands of building and safeguarding the Homeland in the new situation. The Militia and Self-Defence Force continues to be the cornerstone for the people in localities to overcome the consequences of war, actively collaborating with other forces for the clearance of unexploded ordnances to return millions of hectares of cultivated land for production.

Over 80 years of construction, combat and development, generations of cadres and members of the Militia and Self-Defence Force have shown absolute loyalty to the Homeland, the people, and the revolutionary cause of the CPV, combating resiliently, ingeniously and bravely, labouring, studying and working effectively and creatively, and gaining great achievements for which it was awarded the Gold Star Order. Many Militia and Self-Defence Force units and individuals have been awarded the title of Hero of the People's Armed Forces.

2.2. Functions and Missions of the Militia and Self-Defence Force

The Militia and Self-Defence Force, a component of the people's armed forces of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, is the mass armed force not detached from production and work, protecting local CPV's organisations, authorities, lives and property of people and public property, standing ready

to fight, fighting and providing combat support, and playing the role as the core force together with the entire people in fighting against the enemies in their localities and workplaces when a war breaks out.

The Militia and Self-Defence Force is a core force in production activities and work, and a vanguard force in protecting production activities, preventing and overcoming the aftermaths of natural disasters, epidemics; fulfilling the task of search and rescue, protecting forest and preventing forest fire, and preserving the environment; participating in building the all-people national defence, defence zones, and civil defence; protecting national security, ensuring social order and safety, and preventing and fighting crime.

In peacetime, the Militia and Self-Defence Force shall closely collaborate with the VPA to build a strong and stable national defence posture and with the people's public security and other forces to maintain political security, social order and safety in designated areas. It shall also coordinate with the Border Guard, the Navy and Viet Nam Coast Guard to firmly protect sovereignty, territorial integrity and border security of the country.

In wartime, the Militia and Self-Defence Force becomes the strategic force in carrying out people's war, acting as the core force in the movement of fighting the enemy by the whole people, directly participating in combat and combat service, coordinating with other forces to protect the locality pursuant to the operational plan of the defence zone.

2.3. Organisation of the Militia and Self-Defence Force

Militia units are organised in communes, wards or district towns (commonly referred to as communes). Self-Defence units are organised in political, socio-political bodies, State offices, civil services and economic organisations (commonly referred to as offices and organisations). The Militia and Self-Defence Force is composed of the core force and the broad force. The core one is composed of relevant forces in infantry, air-defence, artillery, engineering, reconnaissance, signal, chemical protection, medical care, and maritime Militia and Self-Defence Force. The mobile, on-the-spot and permanent forces of the Militia and Self-Defence Force are organised into squads (batteries), platoons, companies (squadrons), battalions (flotillas), and equipped with appropriate weapons. The Militia and Self-Defence Force is provided with regulated programmes of political education and military training.

The organisation, command and operation of the Militia and Self-Defence Force must abide by the Constitution and the laws. The Militia and Self-Defence Force relies on the people and promotes the overall power of the entire people and the political system to perform their tasks. The Minister of National Defence and chiefs of military commands at various levels exercise command over the Militia and Self-Defence Force as stipulated by the Law on National Defence. Activities of the Militia and Self-Defence Force are carried out according to the plans of commune-level military commanders and militia command boards, military command boards of offices and

organisations, under the direct leadership and guidance of relevant CPV's committees and administrative authorities at the grass-roots level.

2.4. Guidelines for Building the Militia and Self-Defence Force

The Militia and Self-Defence Force shall be built in the direction of "robustness and extensiveness", with appropriate quantity, high overall quality, political steadfastness, consistent in the goal of national independence and socialism. It is organised in an adept, compact, cohesive direction and equipped with increasingly advanced weapons and equipment. The Militia and Self-Defence Force shall unceasingly improve the training quality of military communal commanders, providing continuous education and training for its cadres and members. Simultaneously, it shall strengthen the role of leadership and guidance of local CPV's committees and administrative authorities, heads of agencies and organisations in charge of the Militia and Self-Defence Force affairs in conformity with the laws, ensuring that this force is capable of fulfilling successfully its tasks and playing a pivotal role in the protection of the CPV, State and people.

CONCLUSION

Viet Nam's 2019 National Defence White Paper expresses the viewpoints, assessments and predictions of the global, regional and domestic situations relating to Viet Nam's defence challenges. It elaborates on fundamental issues of Viet Nam’s national defence policy and the changes in organisation and equipment of the VPA and the Militia and Self-Defence Force. The information provided in the Paper shows the CPV and State of Viet Nam's advocacy of transparency of the national defence policy, aimed at promoting mutual understanding and confidence-building between the VPA, and Vietnamese people and militaries and people around the world, facilitating the improvement of effectiveness of international integration and defence cooperation between Viet Nam and other countries as well as regional and international organisations to deal with emerging security issues for the sake of peace, stability, cooperation, and development.

In the unpredictable and complicated security situation in the region and the world, which has far-reaching effects on Viet Nam's national defence and security, Viet Nam's 2019 National Defence White Paper clearly shows the CPV and State of Viet Nam's determination to continue pursuing a

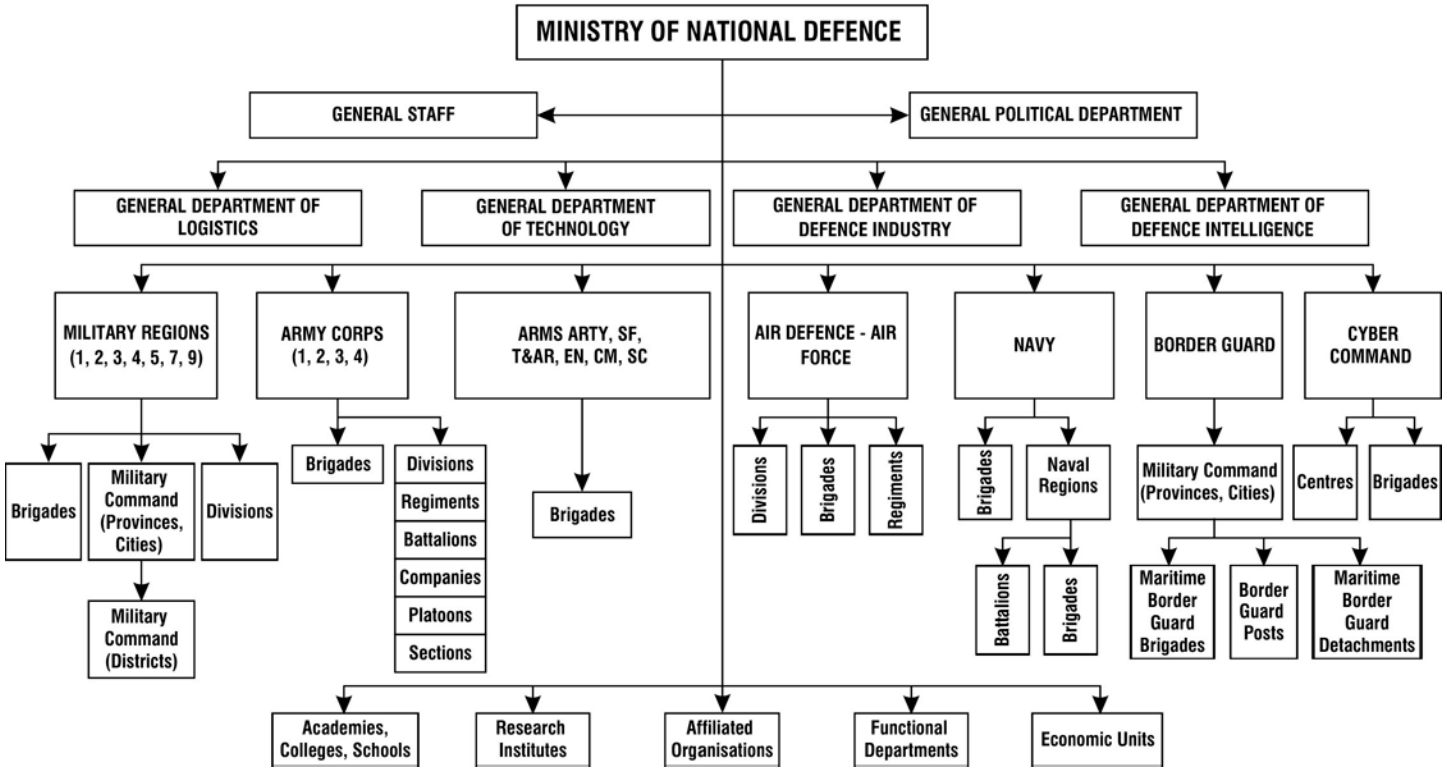
national defence policy of peace and self-defence. Viet Nam is resolute and consistent in settling disputes and differences with other countries through peaceful means on the basis of international law. At the same time, Viet Nam advocates the consolidation and enhancement of the national defence strength of which the military strength plays a core part, ensuring sufficient capabilities for deterrence and defeating any acts of aggression and war. In the future, the VPA will be invested with necessary resources to continue playing the central role in the all-people national defence, being made strong enough to protect independence, sovereignty, territorial unity and integrity, national interests, and the socialist regime. Viet Nam accelerates international integration and defence diplomacy, seeking long-term solutions to settle disputes and differences through peaceful means, and contributing to maintaining peace, stability and prosperity in the region and the world.

The publication of the 2019 National Defence White Paper expresses Viet Nam's desire and determination for the development of friendship, cooperation, and equal relations with all countries on the basis of mutual respect for the sake of peace, national independence, democracy, and social progress.

APPENDIX

Appendix 1

ORGANISATION AND STRUCTURE OF THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENCE



Appendix 2

BORDER AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM AND ITS NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

I. Viet Nam-China Land Border Agreements

1. Temporary Agreement on the Settlement of Border Affairs between the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and the Government of the People's Republic of China, signed on 7 November 1991.

2. Agreement on Fundamental Principles Governing the Solution of Border and Territorial Issues between the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and the Government of the People's Republic of China, signed on 19 October 1993.

3. Land Border Treaty between the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and the People's Republic of China, signed on 30 December 1999, which has officially come into force as of 6 July 2000.

4. Viet Nam-China Protocol on Border Demarcation and Marker Planting; Agreement on Viet Nam-China Border Management; Viet Nam-China Agreement on Border Gates and Border Gate Management, 19 November 2009 (three Viet Nam-China land border documents for short, which have officially come into force as of 14 July 2010).

5. Agreement on Free Travel of Ships at the Bac Luan/Beilun River Estuary between the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and the Government of the People's Republic of China, signed on 5 November 2015, which has officially come into force as of 16 June 2016.

6. Agreement on Cooperation in the Protection and Exploitation of Tourist Potential around the Ban Gioc/Detian Waterfall between the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and the Government of the People's Republic of China, signed on 5 November 2015, which has officially come into force as of June 2016.

II. Viet Nam-Laos Land Border Agreements

1. Treaty on National Border Demarcation between the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and the Lao People's Democratic Republic, signed on 18 July 1977.

2. Supplementary Treaty to Treaty of National Boundary Delimitation; Protocol on Border Demarcation on Field and Border Marker Planting between the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and the Lao People's Democratic Republic, signed on 24 January 1986.

3. Supplementary Protocol to Protocol between the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and the Lao People's Democratic Republic on Border Demarcation on Field and Border Marker Planting, signed on 24 January 1986.

4. Agreement on National Border between the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and the Lao People's Democratic Republic, signed on 1 March 1990.

5. Amended and Supplementary Protocol to the Agreement on National Border between the Socialist Republic

of Viet Nam and the Lao People's Democratic Republic, signed 31 August 1997.

6. Supplementary Treaty to Border Delimitation Treaty between the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and the Lao People's Democratic Republic regarding the Revision of the Starting Point of the Two Countries' Boundary Line, signed on 16 November 2007.

7. Treaty on the Determination of Intersection Point of Land Border between the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, and the Lao People's Democratic Republic, signed on 26 August 2008.

8. Protocol on Boundary Line and Border Markers between the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and the Lao People's Democratic Republic, signed on 16 March 2016, which has officially come into force as of 5 September 2017.

9. Agreement between the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic on Land Border and Land Border Gate Management, signed on 16 March 2016.

III. Viet Nam-Cambodia Land Border Agreements

1. Treaty of Peace, Friendship, and Cooperation between the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and the Kingdom of Cambodia, signed on 18 February 1979.

2. Treaty on Principles Governing the Settlement of Border Issues; Agreement on Border between the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and the Kingdom of Cambodia, signed on 20 July 1983.

3. Treaty on Border Delimitation between the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and the Kingdom of Cambodia, signed on 27 December 1985.

4. Supplementary Treaty to Viet Nam-Cambodia Treaty of Border Delimitation, signed on 10 October 2005.

5. Memorandum of Understanding on Land Border Adjustment in Remaining Areas between the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and the Royal Government of Cambodia, signed on 23 April 2011.

IV. Viet Nam-Laos-China Land Border Agreement

Treaty on the Determination of Intersection Point of Land Border between the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and the People's Republic of China, signed on 10 October 2006.

V. Viet Nam-Laos-Cambodia Land Border Agreement

Treaty on the Determination of Intersection Point of Land Border between the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, and the Lao People's Democratic Republic, signed on 26 August 2008.

VI. Maritime Border Agreements

1. Agreement on the Historic Waters between the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and the People's Republic of Cambodia, signed on 7 July 1982.

2. Agreement on Joint Exploration and Exploitation in the Vietnamese-Malaysian overlapping area, signed on 5 June 1992.

3. Viet Nam-Philippines Agreement on Principles of Conduct in the Spratlys, signed in November 1995.

4. Agreement on the Delimitation of Maritime Boundaries between the Government of the Socialist Republic of

Viet Nam and the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand, signed on 9 August 1997.

5. Seismic Survey Agreement in the Spratlys between the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, the People's Republic of China, and the Republic of the Philippines, signed on 14 March 2005.

6. Vietnamese-Malaysian Memorandum of Understanding on the Creation of a Joint Submission according to Article 76 of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and Joint Survey, signed on 27 February 2009.

7. Agreement on the Delimitation of the Territorial Seas, the Exclusive Economic Zones and Continental Shelves in Bac Bo Gulf/Beibu Bay between the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and the People's Republic of China signed on 25 December 2000;

8. Agreement on Fishing Cooperation in Bac Bo Gulf/Beibu Bay between the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and the Government of the People's Republic of China, signed on 25 December 2000.

9. Agreement on Fundamental Principles Governing the Settlement of Sea Related Issues between the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and the People's Republic of China, signed on 11 October 2011.

10. Agreement on the Delimitation of the Continental Shelf between the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and the Government of Republic of Indonesia, signed on 26 June 2003.

Appendix 3

INTERNATIONAL TREATIES REGARDING NATIONAL DEFENCE RATIFIED BY VIET NAM

No.	Conventions
1	Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare (in 1925)
2	Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft (in 1963)
3	Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (in 1968)
4	Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft (in 1970)
5	Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation (in 1971)
6	Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Sea-bed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof (in 1971)
7	Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction (in 1972)
8	Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents (in 1973)

No.	Conventions
9	Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (in 1979)
10	International Convention Against the Taking of Hostages (in 1979)
11	Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to have Indiscriminate Effects (in 1980)
12	Protocol on the Suppression of Unlawful Acts of Violence at Airports Serving International Civil Aviation (in 1988)
13	Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms located on the Continental Shelf (in 1988)
14	Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction (in 1993)
15	Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (in 1996)
16	International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings (in 1997)
17	International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism (in 1999)
18	Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts of Violence against the Safety of Maritime Navigation (in 2005)
19	ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism (in 2007)
20	Convention on Nuclear Safety (in 1994)

Appendix 4

TRADITIONAL DAYS OF MAJOR AGENCIES AND UNITS

No.	Unit	Traditional Day
1	Viet Nam People's Army	22 December 1944
2	General Staff	7 September 1945
3	General Political Department	22 December 1944
4	General Department of Logistics	11 July 1950
5	General Department of Technology	10 September 1974
6	General Department of Defence Industry	15 September 1945
7	General Department of Defence Intelligence	25 October 1945
8	1st Military Region	16 October 1945
9	2nd Military Region	19 October 1946
10	3rd Military Region	31 October 1945
11	4th Military Region	15 October 1945
12	5th Military Region	16 October 1945
13	7th Military Region	10 December 1945
14	9th Military Region	10 December 1945

15	Hanoi Capital High Command	19 August 1945
16	Air Defence-Air Force	22 October 1963
17	Navy	7 May 1955
18	Border Guard	3 March 1959
19	Coast Guard	28 August 1998
20	1st Army Corps	24 October 1973
21	2nd Army Corps	17 May 1974
22	3rd Army Corps	26 March 1975
23	4th Army Corps	20 July 1974
24	Engineering	25 March 1946
25	Commando	19 March 1967
26	Chemical	19 April 1958
27	Artillery	29 June 1946
28	Tank-Armour	5 October 1959
29	Signal	9 September 1945
30	Cyber Command	15 August 2017
31	Foreign Relations Department	28 May 1964
32	Viet Nam's Peacekeeping Department	27 May 2014

Appendix 5

LIST OF ECONOMIC-DEFENCE ZONES AND ECONOMIC-DEFENCE CORPS

No.	Economic-Defence Zones	Economic-Defence Corps
1	Mau Son Economic-Defence Zone, Lang Son Province	338th Economic-Defence Corps
2	Bao Lac - Bao Lam Economic-Defence Zone, Cao Bang Province	799th Economic-Defence Corps
3	Thong Nong - Ha Quang Economic-Defence Zone, Cao Bang Province	799th Economic-Defence Corps
4	Vi Xuyen Economic-Defence Zone, Ha Giang Province	313rd Economic-Defence Corps
5	Xin Man Economic-Defence Zone, Ha Giang Province	313rd Economic-Defence Corps
6	Bat Xat Economic-Defence Zone, Lao Cai Province	345th Economic-Defence Corps
7	Phong Tho Economic-Defence Zone, Lai Chau Province	356th Economic-Defence Corps
8	Muong Cha Economic-Defence Zone, Dien Bien Province	379th Economic-Defence Corps
9	Song Ma Economic-Defence Zone, Son La Province	326th Economic-Defence Corps

No.	Economic-Defence Zones	Economic-Defence Corps
10	Bac Hai Son Economic-Defence Zone, Quang Ninh Province	42nd Economic-Defence Corps
11	Binh Lieu - Quang Ha - Mong Cai Economic-Defence Zone, Quang Ninh Province	327th Economic-Defence Corps
12	Group of North East Islands Economic-Defence Zone, Quang Ninh Province	327th Economic-Defence Corps
13	Muong Lat Economic-Defence Zone, Thanh Hoa Province	5th Economic-Defence Corps
14	Ky Son - Que Phong Economic-Defence Zone, Nghe An Province	4th Economic-Defence Corps
15	Khe Sanh Economic-Defence Zone, Quang Tri Province	337th Economic-Defence Corps
16	Aso - Aluoi Economic-Defence Zone, Thua Thien - Hue Province	92nd Economic-Defence Corps
17	Tay Giang - Nam Giang Economic-Defence Zone, Quang Nam Province	207th Economic-Defence Corps
18	Cumga Economic-Defence Zone, Dak Nong Province	15th Coffee Company
19	Quang Son Economic-Defence Zone, Dak Nong Province	Quang Son Economic-Defence Corps

No.	Economic-Defence Zones	Economic-Defence Corps
20	5th Military Region's Coastal Area Economic-Defence Zone, Provinces of Quang Nam, Quang Ngai, Binh Dinh	516th Economic-Defence Corps
21	Ea Sup Economic-Defence Zone, Dak Lak Province	737th Economic-Defence Corps
22	Bu Gia Phuc - Bu Gia Map Economic-Defence Zone, Binh Phuoc Province	778th Economic-Defence Corps
23	North Lam Dong Economic-Defence Zone, Lam Dong Province	Lam Dong Economic-Defence Corps
24	Tan Hong Economic-Defence Zone, Dong Thap Province	959th Economic-Defence Corps
25	Long Xuyen Rectangle Economic-Defence Zone, Kien Giang Province	915th Economic-Defence Corps
26	15th Army Corps Economic-Defence Zone (15th Corporation)	15th Corps
27	South Quang Binh Economic-Defence Zone, Quang Binh Province	79th Economic-Defence Corps
28	16th Army Corps Economic-Defence Zone (16th Corporation)	16th Corps

Appendix 6

MULTILATERAL DEFENCE DIPLOMACY ACTIVITIES

1. ASEAN Defence Track (ADMM/ADMM-Plus)

No.	Activity	Participation Level
I. ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM)		
1	ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) and ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Retreat	Ministerial
2	ASEAN Defence Senior Officials' Meeting (ADSOM)	Senior Official
3	ASEAN Defence Senior Officials' Meeting Working Group (ADSOM WG)	Institute for Defence International Relations
4	ASEAN Defence Industry Collaboration	General Department of Defence Industry
5	Peacekeeping Centers Network	Viet Nam's Peacekeeping Department
6	ASEAN Defence Establishments and Civil Society Organisations on Non-Traditional Security	Institute for Defence Strategy

No.	Activity	Participation Level
7	Track II Network of ASEAN Defence and Security Institutions (NADI)	Institute for Defence Strategy
8	ASEAN Logistics Support Framework	General Department of Logistics
9	ASEAN Direct Communications Infrastructure	Signal
10	ASEAN Defence Interaction Programme (ADIP)	Foreign Relations Department, MND of Viet Nam
11	ASEAN Militaries Ready Group on HADR	Department of Search and Rescue, the General Staff
12	ASEAN Center of Military Medicine	Department of Military Medicine, General Department of Logistics
II. ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus)		
1	ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus)	Ministerial
2	ASEAN Defence Senior Officials' Meeting-Plus (ADSOM+)	Senior Official
3	ASEAN Defence Senior Officials' Meeting Working Group Plus (ADSOM WG)	Institute for Defence International Relations

No.	Activity	Participation Level
4	ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Group on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief	Department of Search and Rescue, the General Staff
5	ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Group on Military Medicine	Department of Military Medicine, General Department of Logistics
6	ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Group on Maritime Security	Navy
7	ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Group on Counter-Terrorism	Commando
8	ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Group on Peacekeeping	Viet Nam's Peacekeeping Department
9	ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Group on Humanitarian Mine Action	Engineering
10	ASEAN-Japan Deputy Defence Ministers' Meeting	Senior Official
11	Unofficial ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (United States, China, Japan and so on)	Ministerial

2. ASEAN Military Cooperation Track

No.	Activity	Participation Level
1	ASEAN Chiefs of Defence Forces' Informal Meeting (ACDFIM)	Chief of General Staff
2	ASEAN Chief of Armies Multilateral Meeting (ACAMM)	Deputy Chief of General Staff
3	ASEAN Military Intelligence Informal Meeting (AMIIM)	Commander General, General Department of Defence Intelligence
4	ASEAN Navy Chiefs' Meeting (ANCM)	Navy Commander
5	ASEAN Air Chiefs Conference (AACC)	Air Defence-Air Force Commander
6	ASEAN Military Operations Informal Meeting (AMOIM)	Director of Operations Department
7	ASEAN Chiefs of Military Medicine Conference (ACMMC)	Director of Department of Military Medicine
8	ASEAN Armies Rifle Meet (AARM)	Department of Military Training
9	ASEAN Officers' Meeting	1st Army Officer College

3. Defence Cooperation Under the ARF Framework

No.	Activity	Participation level/Agency
1	Inter-Sessional Group Meeting on Confidence Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy (ISG-CBM&PD)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
2	Inter-Sessional Meeting on Disaster Relief (ISM-DR)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
3	Inter-Sessional Meeting on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime (ISM-CTTC)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
4	Inter-Sessional Meeting on Maritime Security (ISM-MS)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
5	Inter-Sessional Meeting on Nonproliferation and Disarmament (ISM-NPD&D)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
6	ARF Defence Officials' Dialogue (ARF-DOD)	Foreign Relations Department, MND of Viet Nam
8	ARF Security Policy Conference (ASPC)	Senior Official
9	ARF Heads of Defense Universities/Colleges/Institutions	National Defence Academy

4. Other Multilateral Forums

No.	Activity	Participation level/Agency
1	Asian Security Summit	Minister of National Defence
2	Moscow Conference on International Security	Senior Official
3	Xiangshan Forum	Senior Official
4	Seoul Defense Dialogue	Senior Official
5	Munich Security Conference	Senior Official
6	Raisina Dialogue	Senior Official

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