

Statement on the murder of Nguyen Thai Binh, on the occasion of his memorial July 14, 1972, by a Vietnamese Sister and fellow student in the U.S.

Binh's death is heroic. This heroism has been the main source of strength which made the Vietnamese revolution undefeatable. It has been manifested, not only in individual cases, but in millions of the Vietnamese people--young, old, man, woman--who love and strongly determine to fight to the end for the independence and freedom of their country. It is the ultimate weapon of the Vietnamese people which no one else can claim to have, which for the past ten years has paralyzed the effects of the U.S. bombings, which made fruitless millions of U.S. dollar aid to the South Vietnamese regime, and which the American government can never defeat.

What was so significant about Binh's death is that it showed the growth of this heroism in the Vietnamese people's struggle, which not just exists among the people under the liberation forces but also in those who live under Saigon control, and above all, in those who live in the U.S., receive U.S. scholarship to pursue a U.S. education. Binh's death is the ideal-typical explanation for this growing strength of the Vietnamese heroic struggle. To me, Binh's death is the logical result of the U.S. war policies in Vietnam and also the most obvious signal of the inevitable doom to failure of these policies. The Vietnamese struggle now takes place not only in the battlefields between the liberation forces and the puppet troops, in the liberated areas and in the Saigon-controlled space, but also right in the heart of the American power--the Pan American Jumbo Jet, the essential symbol of the American corporations' power. Binh's death is the climax of this enlarged struggle front.

This enlargement of the Vietnamese struggle can be explained from two sides. First, from the Saigon world, the U.S. war policies by its inner logic has created in the South of Vietnam a world in which:

- 5% of Saigon war profiteers live on the sufferings of 95% of the war-torn peasants.
- 5 out of 17 millions of the population become refugees and live at the mercy of the U.S. aid.
- young boys shoeshine to survive.
- young girls sell their bodies to afford their living.
- one half of the land laid bare under the B 52 bombings and chemical defoliants.
- and above all, the source of life of the 12 million Vietnamese in the Red River Delta was seriously threatened by the constant bombing of the dikes.

This is the world of moral depravation and physical destruction.

This Saigon world has been burning the minds and squeezing the hearts of the Vietnamese patriots among whom Binh was one. However, if this is the only world in Vietnam, Vietnam as a nation would cease to exist long ago, and Binh would not step beyond the

the state of being angry and resentful to offer his heart and mind to the people. Binh chose to die because there is another world which is stronger and stronger everyday and full of love and constructive activities, created by the Vietnamese people. This is the world in which all people--young men and girls, old men and women--are mobilized to fight the American troops in the battlefields, to study under heavy bombings, to produce in the ricefields, to protect the towns and to guard the villages--i.e., the world of the PEOPLE'S WAR. It is the world in which the socialist North reconstructs war damages caused by the U.S. day and night to support the heroic South. It is the world which inherits from the heroic deeds of the great leader Ho Chi Minh who fought until his death for the freedom and independence of the country against the French and the Americans. Binh drew his strength from this world to undermine the shameful world created by the U.S. war policies.

In 1865 the French aggressors landed in Vietnam at the seaport of Danang. In 1954 they were forced to leave with humiliation at the battle of Dien Bien Phu. Exactly a hundred years later, ^{in 1965} the U.S. marines landed in the same seaport, Danang. But fortunately the American Empire had been more shortlived than the French one even though it was well guarded with more than half million U.S. troops, more than 50 air bases, and fully aided Saigon regime. In 1972 the U.S. troops were forced down to 90,000. Saigon is agonizing over its economic depression, and as a consequence, madly applies its repressive police machine against the urban protesters, i.e., the students, veterans, women committee for the right to live, intellectuals. This lesson of Vietnam again affirms the inevitable failure of the U.S. war policies. The bombing of the dikes may delay the war process. The Vietnamese people may lose more NGUYEN THAI BINH's. But Nixon cannot reverse the logical process of the war. That is to say, the liberated Vietnam is triumphing over the depraved Saigon world; the Vietnamese people's war is winning over the war of the American imperialistic corporations.

The Vietnamese people are fighting against the U.S. government, not against the U.S. people. In fact, my people and yours have the same purpose--STOPPING NIXON FROM DESTROYING THE INDOCHINESE PEOPLES. I would like to express my people's deep gratitude toward you, progressive Americans, wholeheartedly cooperate with you in our common struggle for world peace and social justice, and sincerely share with you tonight our admiration and love to our brother, Nguyen Thai Binh, who heroically gave his life to the victory of his heroic people--the VIETNAMESE.