

The United States and a proposed diplomatic strategy with the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV)

Dao, Tang Duc

Attorney at Law

On August 26, 2021, contemporaneously with the US withdrawal from the Afghan theater of war, US Vice- President Kamala Harris visited Vietnam after a prior visit to the island nation of Singapore.

Many commentators consider this to be a strategic shift of the US foreign policy initiatives, from the Middle East, a battlefield where the US and Allies cannot prevail, to East Asia and Southeast Asia, where the US and Allies hope to consolidate their position, control the rise of Chinese Hegemony, and stabilize the South China Sea as a strategic economic waterway for the entire world.

Looking back at history, we immediately observe that, although the United States and Western Europe have overwhelming economic and military power, they have misjudged many adversaries and made strategic, catastrophic mistakes, bringing about disastrous consequences for other nations involved and for their own national interests.

Indeed, during World War II in Europe, they misjudged the relative gravity of the dangers posed by Hitler's Nazi Germany and Stalin's Soviet Union. Such errors of judgement led to their fatal decision to aid Stalin to fend off Hitler's attacks and then, to side with Stalin in order to attack and defeat Hitler on two fronts. This strategy helped the Soviet Union and Stalin enslave all Eastern European nations.

In fact, Stalin's Soviet Union was far more dangerous than Hitler's Nazi Germany and a more considered strategy would be to let Hitler annihilate or

seriously wound Stalin first. Then the US and allies would step in subsequently and eliminate both Hitler and Stalin in one swipe.

Also during World War II, in Asia, in the final years of the war, the Empire of Japan was exhausted economically and in terms of manpower. Their surrender was only a matter of time. However, in the conflict for hegemony over the Chinese mainland between the Republic of China (ROC) army under Chiang Kai-shek and the Red Army under Mao Zedong, it was Mao Zedong and the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) that were greater threat to world peace. Not the Empire of Japan.

The United States and its allies did not have enough foresight to realize this and the two atomic bombs dropped on the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki should have been dropped on the headquarters of Mao Zedong's Red Army and the CCP at that time. The Red Army was only renamed the Chinese People's Liberation Army in 1947.

Had the ROC's army defeated Mao Zedong's Red Army, then Ho Chi Minh's Communist Party would have lost its shelter. The anti-French nationalist parties such as Vietnam Nationalist Party, Dai Viet ... would have prevailed over the Communist Party of Vietnam. Democracy would have come to our nation in the 40s, and our economy would have achieved levels comparable to South Korea and Taiwan today.

The Free World's mistakes, from Europe to Asia, led to unprecedented disasters for a number of Eastern European and Central Asian countries crushed under the boots of the Soviet Red Army. These mistakes also led to the destruction of the nation of Tibet, the loss of North Korea to communism and the fall of South Vietnam to the communist North.

Today, the rise of China's hegemony is almost irreversible and the United States abandons the Middle East to return to Asia with its strategy of encircling and containing the menaces of this red dragon.

Vice-president Kamala Harris's visit to Vietnam is part of this US new pivoting strategy. In the eyes of US strategists, Vietnam, with a population of 100 million, sharing its northern border with and harboring conflicting national interests in the South China Sea with China, has the potential to be an important strategic ally.

The purpose of the United States to appease the Communists of Vietnam is relatively apparent through the following measures, most of which are continuing the policies of previous Presidents:

1. Unconditional aid of millions of doses of Vaccine against the Wuhan Pandemic to win over the hearts of the Vietnamese people
2. Aid in the forms of 3 patrol boats and navy weapons for Vietnam so that the Vietnamese Communists could confront the CCP in the South China Sea
3. Expanding the US market for goods imported from Vietnam
4. Creating conditions for US capital to invest in Vietnam.

While Vice-president Kamala Harris discussed human rights and civil society issues, these issues were not the focus of the visit.

The Communist Party of Vietnam has never been and will never be a strategic ally of the United States in its plan to contain Beijing Hegemony.

In the aftermath of this trip, on the one hand, the Communist Party of Vietnam will continue to pursue its policy of four “negations” (Vietnam shall not join military alliances; shall not to associate with one country to fight another country; shall not to allow foreign countries to set up military bases on its soil and use Vietnamese territory against other countries; shall not use force or threaten to use force in international relations). The CPV shall not confront China in the South China Sea, shall continue to imprison dissidents. On the other hand, the CPV shall make the most of the economic concessions made by the United States to strengthen the regime.

The reasons can be summarized as follows:

1. The Communist Party of Vietnam has explicitly put the interests of the party above the national interests. For them, the survival of the Party prevails over the survival of the nation.

2. Since the early years of Ho Chi Minh in China, the Communist Party of Vietnam has been infiltrated by the Chinese Communist Party from the grass root to the Central Committee and Politburo and now has lost most of its right to self-determination.

In contrast to the Communist Party of Vietnam, since the fall of Saigon in 1975, and then thanks to the information revolution of the 90s, the Vietnamese people have opened their eyes and are aware of the communist threat. Thus, the Vietnamese people for a long time, from the north to the south, at home and abroad, have become in unison, a true strategic ally of the United States.

So what should the United States do?

The United States must overcome conventional prejudices, take break-through steps and adopt the following measures:

1. Officially make Vietnam's export of goods to the US or the amount of US capital investments to Vietnam conditional upon specific reforms and measurable objectives relative to the building and development of civil society and human rights in Vietnam.

2. The United States shall explicitly politically and financially support political organizations in opposition to the Communist Party of Vietnam at home and abroad, as long as these organizations advocate nonviolent struggle and within the scope of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

3. The United States shall also encourage the formation of political alliances in opposition to the Communist Party of Vietnam at home and abroad.

The Communist Party of Vietnam will resolutely and loudly protest. However, the above-mentioned policies are within the scope of the concept of democracy based upon constitutionalism, the rule of law and pluralism prevailing in the

free world and are completely consistent with the parameters of international law.

With the level of Vietnam's economic dependence on the US in recent decades, the US has become Vietnam's top trading partner, surpassing China. The Vietnamese Communists will not dare to react recklessly to the new tough strategy of the United States.

The strategic objectives of the United States should not be to help the Communists in economic development in the pie in the sky hope that the Vietnamese communists will transform and become an ally of the United States. In its very core, the communists are the eternal ideological enemies of the free world.

The real and rightful strategic objectives of the United States must be to use economic pressure and force the Vietnamese Communists to make concessions in the fields of human rights and civil society, along with a parallel effort to support and encourage the growth of opposition political organizations to the Communist Party of Vietnam in order to build democracy on the bases of constitutionalism, the rule of law and pluralism for the Vietnamese people.

Once their right of self-determination has been snatched back from the tyranny of the CPV, the Vietnamese people will be a true ally of the United States to curb Chinese hegemony and contribute to world peace in the 21st century.

In addition, in this legendary "Lips and teeth strategic relationship" between Vietnam and China, jointly enunciated by Ho Chi Minh and Mao Zedong during their lifetime, the collapse of the Communist Party of Vietnam will create a historic shock, severely weakening and possibly leading to the collapse of the CCP. Smaller communist parties such as those in North Korea, Cuba and Laos will face the prospect of annihilation. These upheavals will usher in a universal true golden age for all of humanity.