

APPENDIX O

PROPOSALS MADE BY PHẠM CÔNG TẮC TO THE UNITED NATIONS
REGARDING VIỆT NAM¹

Phnom Penh, 26 March 1956

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Tây Ninh. Copy courtesy Lê Quang Tân, Assistant to the
Rector of Cao Đài University, Tây Ninh, 1974.

PROPOSALS made by His Holiness the Pope PHẠM-CÔNG-TẮC, Superior of Cao Daiism, addressed the United Nations, to different Powers of two Blocks and to Governments of Zones North and South Viet-Nam.

ESSENTIAL POINTS:

- I. To unify the territory and the Mass of Việt-Nam People by pacific means.
- II. To avoid all foreign interference in internal affairs of Việt-Nam.
- III. To build up Peace, Happiness and Democratic Liberties for the Việt-Nam People.

I. TO UNIFY THE TERRITORY AND THE MASS OF VIETNAM PEOPLE BY PACIFIC MEANS:

A. First stage:

1. To leave temporarily the two local Governments in their respective position in both sides of the 17th parallel, as far as internal administrative autonomy is concerned.
2. To create a National Conciliation Committee composed of neutral elements and of Delegates in equal numbers from two Regimes in order to search for all common points and to co-ordinate them in view of a rapprochement of two zones.
3. To set up Việt-Nam in neutral Federative State composed of two confederal parts (North and South) like the Swiss Nation in order to harmonize the national economy and to represent the so-unified Việt-Nam before the World and the United Nations.
4. To remove the 17th parallel barrier and insure the free moving of the inhabitants on the whole territory of Việt-Nam, thus permitting everyone to compare and to choose the Regimes that suits to his convenience and to take up his residence where he likes to.

The 17th parallel remains purely and simply an administrative boundary separating the two existing Powers (or Regimes), but the People of Việt-Nam remains always a unique neutral and free block.

B. Second stage:

1. To awaken the national sentiment and bring it to a sufficient degree of maturity for managing the affairs of the Country in accordance with the world development within the limit of freedom and democracy.
2. Once the People become major and the national sentiment unified, the whole Nation of Viêt-Nam will decide itself to choose the definite Regime in conformity with the "People Self-determination" and then proceed to General Elections, taking into account the spirit of the Geneva Convention of 1954, in view of the institution of a unique National Assembly for the Country as a whole. These General Elections will be organized under the control and responsibility of the United Nations in order to prevent all pressure on the population.
3. This National Assembly will establish the final Constitution of Viêt-Nam and form the Central Government having sovereign powers for the whole Country.

II. TO AVOID ALL FOREIGN INTERFERENCE
IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF VIETNAM

1. To assert the Independence acquired by each zone and recognized by two blocks (Government of Ho Chi Minh from the North and Government of Ngo Dinh Diem from the South).
2. To lean on neutral States such as Cambodia, India, Burma, France etc. . . . for the opening of a third way called "Popular Way" founded on the Popular Mass and used as intermediary for the co-ordination and the conciliation of the two Regimes.
3. To avoid all leading, influence or intervention from either of the two antagonistic blocks (U.S.A. and U.S.S.R.) which form the source of a fratricide conflict that may give rise to a World War 3.

Joining in one of two blocks (U.S.A. or U.S.S.R.) means to accept the vassalage and to declare enemy of the other block. Then, the policy of "Peace and Coexistence" cannot be realized as the case of Germany, China, Korea and Viêt-Nam in actual state.

III. TO BUILD UP PEACE, HAPPINESS AND DEMOCRATIC LIBERTIES
FOR THE VIETNAM PEOPLE

1. To excite and induce the "competition for charity and fidelity" between the North and the South for the realisation of Happiness to the population in the field of Peace founded on the principles of Fraternity, Justice and Humanity.
2. To apply and execute the United Nations, Declaration of Human Rights, to realize liberty, Democracy on the whole territory of Viêt-Nam.
3. To collect all suggestions emanating from traditional wisdom of the Nation and consign them to the United Nations for conciliation and execution for the commonweal of the People.
4. To unify, by all means, the national spirit to build up Happiness together with the Beautiful and the Weal on the basis of Sacrifice and Service.
5. To suppress loyally, on both sides, all reciprocal demagogic propagande of disparagement and to place the Nation in face of the reality of facts to lead it progressively towards the Unification of Opinions.
6. The realisation of this program of PEACE AND COEXISTENCE will be done under the permanent auspices the U.N. jointly with neutral elements inside and outside of the Country to prevent all pressure from dictatorship of the Regional Governments and or insinuation of Foreign Powers.

Done in Phnom-Penh on the twenty sixty day of
March, one thousand nine hundred and fifty six.

His Holiness PHẠM CÔNG-TÁC