

GEN GIAP, DELEGATION WATCH SRV-USSR SPACE LAUNCH

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[Text] Hanoi VNA July 24--A delegation of the Communist Party of Vietnam and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam yesterday afternoon arrived in Baykonur city to visit the Baykonur cosmodrome and attend the launching of the "Soyuz-37" spaceship with the Vietnam-Soviet international crew on board.

The delegation, led by General Vo Nguyen Giap, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam and vice premier, includes Xuan Thuy, secretary of the party Central Committee, vice chairman of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly and president of the Vietnam-USSR Friendship Association; Major General Vu Xuan Chiem, vice minister of national defence; Tran Dai Nghia, director of the Vietnam Institute of Sciences and president of the Vietnam Space Research Commission.

The delegates were welcomed at the airport by representatives of the local party and administrative authorities, the command of the Baykonur Cosmodrome, Lieutenant General V.A. Shatalov and Major General A.A. Leonov in charge of the training of Soviet cosmonauts, and many specialists in cosmic science and technology. Thousands of representatives of the local population lined the streets, waving flags and flowers to welcome the delegation. The delegates cordially chatted with the cosmonauts at the cosmonaut training complex and planted souvenir trees in the cosmonauts' garden.

Lieutenant General V.A. Shatalov showed the delegation round the various establishments and facilities at the complex. The delegation visited the assembly complex for booster-rockets and spaceships, the launching pad and the memorial about the first man-made earth satellite launched in October 1957 from this launching pad. The delegation also visited the modest houses of Yuriy Gagarin, the pioneer of manned space flight, and of S.P. Korolov, the designer who had made many big contributions to the building of Soviet rockets and spaceships, and later visited the museum at the Baykonur cosmodrome.

The delegation saw the Vietnamese and Soviet cosmonauts donning their spacesuits and took part in the send-off before they left for the launching pad. The two cosmonauts reported to the representatives of the two countries that they were ready, and pledged to fulfil the noble mission assigned them. From inside the spaceship they read their statements to the world. Then the delegation witnessed the launching of the "Soyuz-37" spaceship with V.V. Gorbatko and Pham Tuan on board.

NHAN DAN Editorial

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[Text] Hanoi VNA July 24--NHAN DAN's editorial today hails the launching of spaceship "Soyuz-37" with the first Vietnamese cosmonaut, Pham Tuan, and Soviet Cosmonaut V.V. Gorbatko aboard. The paper says, "For the Vietnamese people, this is an historic event of political, scientific and economic importance taking place in the year of the 50th anniversary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, the 35th Vietnamese National Day, and the 90th birthday of beloved President Ho Chi Minh."

NHAN DAN continues: "Before the August revolution in 1945, we were slaves, and the overwhelming majority of the population were illiterate. However, we have vigorously grown up through an heroic struggle under the leadership of the VCP against imperialist aggression. We have successively defeated all the aggressors and have become masters of our country and destinies...." "Today, we are flying in the space together with our dearest teacher and comrade."

The paper points out: "The joint Soviet-Vietnamese flight, by V.V. Gorbatko and Pham Tuan, is a wonderful symbol of Vietnamese-Soviet cooperation. The glorious success of the Vietnamese-Soviet solidarity and of the whole socialist community is a constituent part of the great strength of our times, which determines the course of history. Oppressed nations, by uniting with the Soviet Union and enjoying Soviet support, can defeat brutal aggressive forces and advance directly to socialism by passing the stage of capitalist development. The Vietnamese people, with the great assistance of the Soviet Union and the socialist community as a whole and the international communist movement, can speedily industrialize their country, develop science and culture, and reach the peaks of development."

The joint Vietnamese-Soviet spaceflight is a concrete way to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the August revolution and the 25th anniversary of the Soviet-Vietnamese economic cooperation, the paper notes. It says that the flight, while carrying out a space research program, will help solve scientific-technological problems directly beneficial to the re-construction of Vietnam.

"We sincerely thank for the assistance of the Communist Party, the government and the people of the Soviet Union, and of the Soviet scientists, technicians and workers connected with the flight. We also thank the scientists of other fraternal countries for cooperating with us and assisting us in our research", NHAN DAN concludes.

LE THANH NGHI MEETS SNLF LEADERS, CASTRO IN MANAGUA

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[Text] Hanoi VNA July 23--The leadership of the Sandinista National Liberation Front of Nicaragua on Sunday received Vice Premier Le Thanh Nghi, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam, and his delegation to the celebrations of the first anniversary of the victory of the Nicaraguan revolution.

On behalf of the front and the Nicaraguan people, the interior minister, Tomas Borge, expressed esteem and respect for President Ho Chi Minh and the Vietnamese people and conveyed greetings to the Vietnamese party and state leaders. Tomas Borge said: "For us, Vietnam is the point of reference by which we determine who is friend and who is foe; Vietnam's friends are also Nicaragua's friends, and Vietnam's enemy is also Nicaragua's enemy."

Also on July 20, the Vietnamese delegation called on the governing Council for National Reconstruction of Nicaragua and was received by Daniel Ortega and Sergio Ramirez, members of the council.