

SRI LANKA CP LEADER CONGRATULATES LE DUAN ON SPACE FLIGHT

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[Text] Hanoi, VNA, July 31--S. Sa. Wickremasinghe, chairman and secretary-general of the Communist Party of Sri Lanka, has congratulated VCP General Secretary Le Duan on the current Soviet-Vietnamese space flight. He says that the flight is a striking expression of the firm, profound and close fraternal relations between the Soviet Union and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. "We regard this great effort as a source of encouragement, strength and confidence to all people struggling for peace, freedom, social progress and international cooperation", the Sri Lankan party leader says. A message from the People's Liberation Front of Sri Lanka says that this cosmic venture marks a turning point in the building of socialism and development of science in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

COSMONAUT ADDRESSES VIETNAMESE PEOPLE FROM SPACE

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[Text] Hanoi, VNA, July 31--At 20 hrs 10 minutes (Hanoi time) on July 29, Cosmonaut Pham Tuan addressed Vietnamese TV audiences from the Salyut 6-Soyuz 36-Soyuz 37 orbital complex.

He said: "I was deeply moved each time I flew over Vietnam, and saw our beautiful homeland. From outer space I wish to send my greetings to our beloved motherland and to thank Vietnam and the Communist Party of Vietnam for having trained me and given me wings to fly into space.

"From outer space, I saw that our planet is very beautiful. I wish that all nations on our planet will be able to live in peace, happiness and equality, and that our children may live under a clear sky never again obscured by the clouds of war.

"Our people have gone through so many years of hard struggle for national independence and reunification. And we have won great victories. Yet, so far, the Vietnamese people have not been able to enjoy genuine peace due to the war threats made by the U.S. imperialists and the Chinese expansionists against the peoples of Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea....

"The Vietnamese revolution has always enjoyed the great assistance of the Soviet Union. At this moment, I am flying over the Soviet Union on board a Soviet spaceship. I would like to convey my heartfelt thanks to the Soviet people including scientists, engineers, workers and all those who have taken part in the preparation for our flight. I would like to thank the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Soviet people for giving me--a Vietnamese citizen--a chance to fly into space. From outer space I wish the Soviet people, under the leadership of the [words indistinct] Brezhnev, a great friend of the Vietnamese people, great success in their emulation movement in honour of the forthcoming 26th Congress of the CPSU".

Pham Tuan also expressed his thanks to all those who have followed the space flight. He pledged to do his best, together with his ship commander, to fulfill the set program.

From the ship's cabin he introduced to the TV audiences a model of the Salyut 6-Soyuz 36-Soyuz 37 orbital complex. Soviet cosmonauts on board the orbital complex L. Popov, V. Ryumin and V. Gorbatko, who regretted they could not speak Vietnamese, asked Pham Tuan to convey (?their greetings) and best wishes to the Vietnamese people.