

MODERN VIETNAMESE DIPLOMACY IN THE PERIOD OF INTERGRATION

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Cultural diplomacy has always been an element of diplomacy. It is a form of diplomacy to establish, maintain and develop external relations of a nation for the ultimate objectives of security and development and higher international position. For Vietnam, cultural diplomacy is tolerance, reconciliation through such activities as fighting while negotiating, sending envoys for reconciliation, winning the hearts of the people etc. Ho Chi Minh set an example of Vietnam's diplomatic activities. This manifests in his thoughts on reconciliatory diplomacy, gaining friends and lessen enemies, international solidarity, using the invariables to deal with the variable etc. At the moment, cultural diplomacy has become a pillar together with political and economic diplomacy. This would be carried out in the following ways: (1) cultural diplomacy would help open relations with other countries; (2) cultural diplomacy would act as a catalyst and a glue for economic and political diplomacy; (3) cultural diplomacy aims at promoting Vietnam; (4) cultural diplomacy campaigns for recognition by UNESCO of tangible and non-tangible cultural heritages; (5) cultural diplomacy helps enrich the country's cultural store. In the year of cultural diplomacy, the following activities will be undertaken: (1) promoting Vietnam through paying tribute to such personalities of culture as Nguyen Trai, Nguyen Dzu, Ho Xuan Huong and Ho Chi Minh in particular; (2) incorporating thoughts and programmes by UNESCO into national programmes, the "learning society", "the information society" and "education for all"; (3) combining cultural diplomacy with activities relating to overseas Vietnamese. Through cultural diplomacy we can promote the country, absorb the quintessentials of world culture to establish and foster close and friendly relations with other countries, contributing to improving the material and spiritual life of our people and building a beautiful Vietnam on par with powers of the world.

CULTURAL DIPLOMACY: STARTING FROM THE CONCEPT

Hoang Vinh Thanh

Though variously defined, cultural diplomacy can be considered one of the three pillars of diplomacy (the others being political and economic diplomacy). It helps to achieve objectives of a country's foreign policy, especially in building the national image and improving understanding and friendly relations with other countries. It can also serve as a bridge for a country to absorb the quintessentials of other cultures to enrich its own culture. The notion can also be differently included in other notions such as cultural interactions, public diplomacy, soft power and smart power. With the development of science and technology, increased communication among nations, cultural interaction has gained in depth and breadth. Cultural relations provide useful forum for non-formal political relations, opened venues for negotiations impossible within the political framework etc. It may also foster alliances based on cultural similarity.

HO CHI MINH'S DIPLOMATIC STYLE

Vu Duong Huan, Asso. Prof.

Ho Chi Minh was a revolutionary, a politician and a national leader with 60 years of activities. He had his own style of thoughts on foreign policy, diplomatic methods and arts. These are exhibited in: (1) being determined and persevering in strategic matters, principles yet being flexible in tactics; (2) being adaptable and responsive but resolute; (3) being active; (4) being honest, simple and accommodationary; (5) being independent, creative in thoughtful. These also serve as lessons for Vietnamese diplomats and they take on even greater significance in the time of integration. They are also considered cultural ways of life by some social scientists, however, it is not easy to observe.

CULTURE IN MODERN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Duong Quoc Thanh, MA.

Culture has become an important factor in explaining basic causes of war, peace, cooperation and development etc. Culture regulates interests or defines and creates interests. Culture encourages players in international relations to act toward the same goal. Through identity and norms, culture helps explain basic problems in international relations. The norms play an important role in forming national identity. Moreover, differences in national identity or changes in it would affect security interest and policies of different nations. That also affect relations of the nation through international mechanism or security community. Culture is also the root cause of security community. Culture, according to many political scientists, is the breeding ground of conflicts in the post-cold war period. The author differentiates three different forms of ideas: world view, principled beliefs and causal belief. World view is of the greatest importance.

PUBLIC DIPLOMACY IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Vu Le Thai Hoang, PhD.

After September 11, public diplomacy has drawn greater attention of the US public opinion and Government. However, the idea of public diplomacy dates back to the time of the Roman Empire when the King taught neighbouring princes. Differing from State-to-State diplomacy, public diplomacy involves the ways a state interacts with the people, the public and other non-state actors. Public diplomacy is characterized by the followings: (1) playing a supporting role, (2) playing an indirect and unofficial role, (3) being of strategic and long-term nature, (4) being of cooperative nature.

In its diplomatic activities, Vietnam has undertaken activities related to public diplomacy such as people-to-people diplomacy, cultural diplomacy and media diplomacy. In conclusion the author points out the imperative tasks for the Vietnamese diplomatic service in the field of public diplomacy.

THE ROLE OF THE PRESS IN DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION OVERSEAS

Duong Van Quang, Asso. Prof.

In the globalizing world, the most effective way to reach the public is the press. However, maximize the role of the press, one need to understand the functions of the press, the role of the journalists and the public as receivers of information. The press gives information to the public. With a diversity of readers, the press should be able to meet all their needs. The press should also set the trends for the public. Diplomats should understand this role so that they can say indirectly through the press what they cannot say directly. The journalists always try to sell their stories by incorporating in their writings an ideology though each newspaper adopts its own attitude thing what happened in the world. Contacts with journalist would then serve a purpose. The public is on the receiving end. In the dissemination of information overseas, one should understand these functions and maximize them to one's advantage or to the advantage of the nations that one serves.

CULTURAL DIPLOMACY AND EXTERNAL DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION IN THE CONTEXT OF INTERNATIONAL INTEGRATION

Dang Thi Thu Huong, PhD.

Cultural diplomacy can be defined as the interaction and exchanges of thoughts, information, arts and other cultural areas between countries

and peoples. It is a collective of activities undertaken by the Government to project its image abroad. As countries become more interdependent, cultural interactions gain a firmer footing. Vietnam has also undertaken activities in cultural diplomacy, holding Vietnam's cultural days overseas and festivals in the country. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has also decided that 2009 is the year of cultural diplomacy.

Information dissemination is an important component of each nation's foreign policy. With this comes the national brand name, the projection that we want foreigners to perceive. Politically, we have been able to project an image of Vietnam growing fast economically, maintaining political stability etc. In tourism, we have Vietnam the hidden charm. However, because of different factors our dissemination of information has not been timely, attractive and suitable to different target groups. The drafting of the Strategy for Information Dissemination and the establishment of the Department of Dissemination of Information Overseas lay important foundation for the work in the future.

LEGAL SOLUTION TO LAND BORDER BETWEEN VIETNAM AND CHINA

Nguyen Hong Thao, PhD.

Vietnam and China share a 1.400-kilometre-long border. However, the borderline was not clearly defined with border markers. Therefore, it is necessary to demarcate the borderline and plant border markers to avoid disputes that could harm the friendship between the two countries. In the process of demarcation of the border, the following legal principles are observed: inheritance of international treaties, (2) agreement to define new border sections. China and Vietnam agreed on the principles of resolving differences through peaceful negotiation and equality and rationalism. They also agreed to respect the 1887 and 1985 Conventions. In planting border markers, they agreed to base themselves on texts and

maps of the 1999 Treaty signed by the two countries, taking into account each other's interests. The land-border demarcation this time round is the first border lined defined clearly between the two countries, laying the foundation for the building of a border of peace, friendship; long-term stability, cooperation and development. This also shows to the world that the two parties and state can resolve any issues in their relations through peaceful means. On the international level, it constitutes a contribution to peace, stability and development in the region and the rest of the world.

CONFIDENCE IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND ORIENTATIONS OF VIETNAM'S CONFIDENCE-BUILDING STRATEGY

Dang Dinh Quy and Nguyen Vu Tung

With measures to build confidence, Vietnam has become a friend and partner of many countries in the world and a member of major regional and international organizations. However, we need to better understand confidence building, especially confidence building measures. With confidence, we can find it easier to further cooperation with other countries. We also need to know what stand in the way of building confidence. These are differences in interests, history and culture; suspicion on the part of partners involved, asymmetry of gains. Confidence building involves narrowing difference between what we teach and what we practice; strengthening cooperation and exchanges to improve understanding and create and setting up control and compliance mechanism. The author also list various confidence building measures in deepening relations, building profiles on national behaviour, building

framework and mechanism for relations etc. The two authors concluded by giving recommendations for Vietnam in this field.

FORECASTING IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Ha Anh Tuan, MA.

Forecasting is a difficult task. That is why almost all major events in 2008 were not forecast correctly. In international relations, forecasting takes on special significance. However, there are problems involved in forecasting. Forecasting can sometimes be guessing on the basis of one's belief. Another problem is the time. Long term forecasting is for 5 to 20 years and even longer. It can only give you the outlines of the main political tendencies. However, short-term forecasting would identify sensitive problems and moments for policy choices. Forecasting also needs to identify the levels of analysis, the personal level, social group level, and the national level. Forecasting is a main task of international studies. It should take into account cause and effect relations; the various methods involved such as deductive and inductive reasoning, analysis of laws, computer modelling etc. We can employ those methods to draw a sketch of the world situation from now to 2020 with the emergence of countries like China, Russia, Brazil and India and the use of "smart power" or "soft power", the shift to knowledge-based economy as well the increased and irreversible interdependence of nations.

ON THE FUTURE OF US POSITION AND STRENGTH: HAS THE UNILATERAL MOMENT ENDED

Nguyen Tung Duong

Like all powers, the British Empire fell with the Boer war. People have tended to compare the Iraq war to the Boer war. The US power is now in decline economically and militarily. This has come with the rise of China and India, the assertive role played by the EU and the re-emergence of Russia. Many political scientists predicted that the US

would be able to maintain its current position for 10 -15 years, however, its power would decline. In any case, many others hold that there has been no single power that could collect all elements to challenge the US. The US could continue its position as a result of its superiority in scientific and technological development and in education. Militarily, the US is the only country that could deploy forces across the globe with spending accounting for 50% that of the world total. Internationally the US is still the only nation to influence other power centres. In a globalising world, US position and strength would decline relatively. With the emergence of other players in international relations, the influence of the nation-state would decline. With this decline of power, the US has used more and more diplomacy. This would continue into the Obama administration. The question remains whether the US unipolarity has passed?

THEORIES AND PRACTICAL ISSUES OF GROWTH TRIANGLES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA: FOOD FOR THOUGHT FOR THE "ONE AXIS AND TWO WINGS" GROWTH TRIANGLE

Dang Dinh Quy

Growth triangles were first referred to by former Prime Minister of Singapore in 1989 to refer to a growth area covering Johore state of Malaysia, Riau province of Indonesia and Singapore. It was then later used to refer to other growth areas in East Asia. Compared with other regional cooperation mechanisms such as free trade areas or customs union, growth triangles are more flexible: the scope of cooperation is flexible covering all or parts of a country; cooperation is often project-based, non-rule-based and extending to many sectors. The author listed elements for success of growth triangles as active participation by member countries, the presence of a locomotive for growth, the complementary characteristics of production structure, certain connectiveness of infrastructure and transport, active participation on the part of enterprises and last but not least political determination and commitment. The proposed growth triangles would cover: (1) the extended Bac Bo Gulf Economic Cooperation area, (2) The Namning-Singapore Economic Corridor (the axis), (3) the Greater Mekong

Subregion. It is a cooperation initiative between China and ASEAN, covering cooperation both on land and at sea, leading to possible connectiveness between China's Southern provinces and ASEAN countries interested. It needs political determination by leaders of countries interested to realize this proposal.