

DEVELOPMENT OF THEORETICAL UNDERSTANDING OF NATIONAL DEFENSE, SECURITY AND FOREIGN RELATIONS IN THE DOCUMENTS OF THE 14TH NATIONAL CONGRESS OF THE PARTY***Dr. Nguyen Thanh Minh**

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Abstract

Throughout the process of building, protecting, and developing the country, national defense, security, and foreign relations have always been crucial and ongoing tasks of the Party, the State, and the entire people; in which the People's Army and the People's Public Security Force are identified by our Party as the core forces. Therefore, in the political documents presented to the 14th National Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam, the Party has made extremely important assessments and evaluations on national defense, security, and foreign relations, providing a scientific basis for supplementing and developing new thinking on military affairs, national defense, security, and foreign relations to protect the Fatherland in the new situation.

Keywords: Theory, National defense, Security, 14th National Congress.

INTRODUCTION

The emphasis here is that, while the documents of the 13th National Congress of the Party presented the task of strengthening national defense and security to firmly protect the socialist Fatherland of Vietnam, this time, the political documents presented to the 14th National Congress of the Party express this content more specifically, more rigorously, and more innovatively than the 13th Congress. It clearly points out the urgent need to build a revolutionary, regular, elite, and modern people's army and people's police force to meet the increasingly demanding requirements in the context of deep integration into the international community; and to proactively and actively participate in globalization and the development of a knowledge-based economy. Developing a socialist-oriented market economy, etc. The political document presented to the 14th National Congress of the Party affirms: "Strengthening national defense and security; building a revolutionary, regular, elite, and modern people's army and people's police; firmly protecting the socialist Fatherland of Vietnam." Here, the phrase "building a revolutionary, regular, elite, and modern people's army and people's police" is added to highlight the current political and military relevance, especially in the context of continuing to build a lean, efficient, and strong people's army, upholding and promoting the noble traditions and qualities of "Uncle Ho's soldiers." Along with that, it emphasizes continuing to improve the organizational structure of the People's Police in the direction of "a lean central ministry, strong provincial forces, and grassroots-based commune forces," upholding and promoting the traditions and qualities of the People's Police, "For the nation, sacrificing oneself; for the people, serving," and meeting the requirements of the new situation. In assessing the global and domestic situation, particularly its impact on the organization and structure of the military, the political document presented to the 14th National Congress of the Party emphasized: "The emergence of modern weapons, combat technologies,

and military equipment has fundamentally changed the organization of the military, the form and methods of conducting war, and external intervention. Regional wars continue to break out, causing global security instability."

Firstly, developing the Party's theoretical understanding of national defense and the absolute and direct leadership of the Party in all aspects of national defense, security, and the armed forces.

In the context of the new situation, the Party, State, and People of Vietnam emphasize: "The goal and task of national defense is to firmly protect the independence, sovereignty, unity, and territorial integrity of the Fatherland; to protect the Party, State, People, and the socialist regime; to protect the reform process; to ensure the highest national interests; to protect the national culture; to maintain a peaceful environment, political stability, national security, social order and safety; and to actively contribute to maintaining regional and world peace." This requires ensuring the highest national interests; placing national interests in the top position; and affirming the resolute and persistent will to fight to maintain the sacred sovereignty of the Fatherland's seas and islands. We must not allow the country to be caught off guard or surprised, nor lose land, islands, or people. In defending the socialist Fatherland of Vietnam, we have deeply understood the dialectical relationship between national construction and defense as "two strategic tasks, dialectically related and mutually supportive, inseparable"; we have closely linked the protection of independence, sovereignty, unity, and territorial integrity with the protection of the Party, the State, the People, and the socialist regime; we have closely linked maintaining political and social stability with protecting a peaceful and stable environment so that the people can confidently engage in production, economic development, and legitimate wealth creation. At the same time, we have closely combined economic development, national defense, security, and foreign relations with the building and development of human resources, culture, education and training, science, technology, etc. This is the solid basis and foundation for our Party, State,

and people to successfully carry out the two strategic tasks. Proactively prevent, detect early, and eliminate factors causing instability, especially factors of "self-evolution" and "self-transformation" occurring within our ranks, or factors that arise suddenly and unfavorably. The political documents presented to the 14th National Congress of the Party emphasized that "theoretical understanding of national security and the protection of national security has progressed," from the understanding that national security is primarily an internal issue to a comprehensive, holistic security encompassing: political security, economic security, cultural and ideological security, information security, security in the fields of religion and ethnicity, rural and urban security, security in strategic regions, and territorial security.

One of the key points affirmed in the political documents presented to the 14th National Congress of the Party is: "The perspective on partners and adversaries is a breakthrough in the Party's understanding of national defense and security." In practice, over the past years, our understanding of partners and adversaries has become increasingly profound and clear. We deeply understand that those who respect independence and sovereignty, and establish and expand friendly, cooperative, equal, and mutually beneficial relations with Vietnam, are our partners. Conversely, whoever or whatever force plots and acts to disrupt, oppose, or hinder the renewal, construction, and protection of the socialist Vietnamese Fatherland, they are the targets of our struggle. This is a matter of principle. The immutable here is that peace, independence, and the national interests of Vietnam cannot change. We will not allow anyone to infringe upon the national interests of Vietnam. The variable aspect in the relationship between partners and adversaries lies in clearly recognizing the impact and transformation between partners and adversaries in a flexible and adaptable manner. Because, in some cases, they may be targets of struggle, but there are still aspects we need to exploit and cooperate with; they may be partners in economic relations.

Secondly, we must develop the Party's theoretical understanding of national defense early, from afar, and before the country is in danger.

The concept of "protecting the Fatherland early and from afar" was first put forward by the Party in Resolution No. 08-NQ/TW of the Politburo of the 8th Party Congress on the National Security Strategy: "Alongside building and protecting the Fatherland, we must thoroughly implement the concept of protecting the Fatherland early and from afar." Based on this foundation, the concept of protecting the Fatherland early and from afar, even before the country is in danger, has been developed and perfected by the Party through successive Party Congresses. In particular, the 8th Plenum of the 13th Central Committee, based on a summary of 10 years of implementing the 8th Plenum of the 11th Central Committee on the strategy for national defense in the new situation, clearly outlined the direction for national defense as follows: "Closely combine the two strategic tasks of national construction and national defense. Increase appropriate investment in building a national defense system, a people's security system, and the people's armed forces, meeting the requirements of national defense from early on and from afar; defending the country before it is in danger; absolutely avoiding passivity and surprise in all situations." This viewpoint was further concretized and clarified in terms of: objectives, guiding ideology, forces for national defense from early on and from afar; time; space;

methods, with the foundation being to promote proactiveness and initiative; strengthening the great national unity; strengthening economic and defense potential; continuously consolidating political and social stability; and building a regular and modern armed force. This perspective has become a crucial and fundamental guiding principle for national defense and security work in the new context.

Thirdly, developing the Party's theoretical understanding of building a national defense system based on the participation of the entire population and a people's security system; building a national defense posture based on the participation of the entire population and a people's security posture linked to building a solid foundation of people's support.

By the time the political document presented to the 14th Party Congress was released, the theoretical understanding had become increasingly complete, more comprehensive, and more complete, with many new additions regarding the goals, viewpoints, content, methods, solutions, and the relationship between building a national defense system based on the participation of the entire population and a people's security system. The political document affirmed: "The national defense system based on the participation of the entire population and the people's security system is the strength of the country's defense and security, built on a foundation of politics, spirit, human resources, material resources, and finance, with a people-centered, comprehensive, independent, self-reliant, self-strengthening, and progressively modern nature." Along with this, the building of a people's security posture based on the participation of the entire population and a solid foundation of people's support has made steady progress. A remarkable and commendable achievement is the maintenance of national security, social order, and safety. We have always proactively prevented and prepared well all possible scenarios to successfully respond to any situation, especially in key hotspots and strategic areas of national security, social order, and safety. The connection between building a national defense posture and building a people's security posture has become increasingly close, practical, and effective. As a result, our national defense and security potential has been steadily strengthened, gaining the trust, support, and assistance of the people. This is a solid foundation for us to firmly protect the socialist Fatherland of Vietnam in the new situation.

Fourth, developing the Party's theoretical understanding of foreign affairs.

The documents presented to the 14th Party Congress affirmed and emphasized a deeper understanding of the present era, recognizing the complex nature of the modern world, and affirming the requirement for peaceful coexistence, cooperation, and struggle, for the benefit of the nation. "The most significant shift in the Party's understanding is the perspective of "partnership" and "objection," the "bamboo" school of diplomacy. Regarding foreign policy principles and orientations, there has been a crucial shift towards "being ready to be a friend," a reliable partner, and a "responsible member" of the international community. In international integration, our Party has always emphasized the relationship between maintaining independence and self-reliance and comprehensive, deep international integration; the necessity of strengthening internal strength to ensure successful integration. Along with the process of renewing our understanding of the

era, the world, the region, and other aspects of foreign policy, our Party has clearly recognized the need to build a comprehensive and modern diplomacy, promoting the pioneering role of foreign affairs in creating and maintaining a peaceful and stable environment, mobilizing external resources for national development, and enhancing the country's position and prestige in the international arena.

In short, the development of theoretical understanding of foreign affairs." Defense, security, and foreign affairs in the documents submitted to the 14th National Congress of the Party are the most solid basis and foundation for cadres and soldiers of the armed forces to play a core role in building a national defense system, a people's security system, and a people's defense posture to protect the Fatherland and excellently fulfill all tasks entrusted by the Party, State, and People.

In particular, the development of the theory of national defense, security, and foreign affairs of Vietnam, realized from the political documents of the 14th National Congress of the Party, will make positive contributions to peace in the region and the world, in the context of complex changes, the emergence of many hotspots, and rapid divisions. Vietnam's national defense, security, and foreign affairs policy is a continuation of the humane, righteous, and peaceful traditions of thousands of years of nation-building and national defense. Tensions in international relations require peaceful diplomatic measures based on international law, especially the United Nations Charter.

REFERENCES

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