



Research Article

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Support of Socialist Countries during Vietnam War: Training Officers of Soviet Union for Vietnam, 1954-1975

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Abstract

The victory of the Vietnamese people in the war is inseparable from the great support of the international community and the peacekeeping force worldwide. Not only receiving material support, but more importantly, Vietnam also received the support on intellectual resources from international friends through the training of officers in all fields. The Soviet Union's role as the leader of the socialist bloc held the most important position in that immense help. Based on archived sources that are diplomatic documents between the two countries, as well as the latest research achievements, the article analyzes the support of The Soviet Union for Vietnam in the field of officer training in many aspects. The results confirm the great contributions of The Soviet Union to the Vietnam war against the United States to build and protect the independence of Vietnamese people, and at the same time contribute to explain the effects of the "Soviet model" in Vietnam in the past as well as nowadays.

Keywords: Soviet Union, Vietnam, officer training, Vietnam War, Aid, Socialist countries, Vietnamese student

1. Introduction

The Vietnam War was considered an event of great international importance and had a profound impact in the twentieth century (Đảng Cộng sản Việt Nam, 2000). Vietnam's victory in this war was associated with the great support of international friends and peace-loving people around the world. During this war, the Soviet Union, as the leader of socialist bloc, and leading the development of science and technology always paid special attention to Vietnam in training human resources. The Soviet Union supporting to Vietnam in training officers was considered invaluable and incomparable by the Communist Party and the people of Vietnam (Đảng Cộng sản Việt Nam, 2000).

After the victory of Dien Bien Phu, on July 21, 1954, the Geneva Agreement on Indochina was signed, ending French domination of Vietnam (Smith, 1987); (Watt, 1967); (Bộ Ngoại giao Việt Nam, 2008). The North of Vietnam was liberated, declared the national revolution; the people's democracy was completed, entered the period of building socialism. In the South, with the support of the United States, a new government headed by Ngo Dinh Diem was established with the plot to split the North and the South of Vietnam (Duiker, 1994); (Watt, 1967); (Bernard, 1964). This situation led to the Northern and Southern regions of Vietnam to perform two different tasks. The North entered the period of economic recovery, healed the wounds of war and entered the construction of socialism; The South continued the national revolution and the people's democracy. During that time, Vietnam had to carry out both strategic tasks at the same time, which was a very difficult problem, requiring a large number of technical and scientific officers. In order to meet this requirement, besides domestic training, Vietnam assigned officers and students to study and research in socialist countries (Ban Khoa giáo Trung ương, 1983). Among the countries which offered training officers for Vietnam, the Soviet Union always took an important role. The Soviet Union's support in training Vietnamese human resources was decisively significant for both the North and the South of Vietnam (Moskos, 1975); (Buzzanco, 1986); (Logan, 1995). Human resources trained in the Soviet Union participated in the construction of socialism in the North of Vietnam and the war in the South played a decisive role in the success, failure and the form of war in Vietnam (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 1985); (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 1982).

2. Literature Review

The contribution of the socialist countries, especially the assistance of the Soviet Union in the Vietnam War, has been evaluated by historians as a reason contributing to the country's victory in another war against the US. The Soviet Union supported Vietnam in many ways, of which the training of staff was crucial for building up Vietnamese forces during the war. This topic has become the concern of Vietnamese and foreign historians.

Vietnamese historians appreciated the help of the Soviet Union which is the country in the socialist bloc that supported Vietnam the most in the Vietnam War. Therefore, the first and important studies on Soviet assistance in staff training were analyzed in the works on the overall relationship between Vietnam and the Soviet Union (Pham Quang Minh, 2009); (Nguyen Thi Mai Hoa, 2018). National studies are also concerned about the Soviet Union's support in specific areas. The fields of military, military engineering, military experts were paid attention to the most among the Soviet aids to Vietnam. The support in staff training is also a content presented in these works (Pham Quang Minh, 2009) (Nguyen Thi Hoai, 2013); (Le Van Thinh, 2012); (Nguyen Thi Mai Hoa, 2012); (Le Van Thinh, 2009), (Luong Thi Hong, 2017). Although the studies quite richly focus on the relationship between Vietnam and the Soviet Union, and the Soviet assistance for Vietnam during the war, the above works are only accessible in one stage, or in one specific field of this support. There has been limited studies on the Soviet assistance in training cadres for Vietnam.

As the Soviet Union is the country among the socialist countries of Eastern Europe giving the greatest support, its assistance is a major topic in the studies on the help of the socialist countries in Viet Nam's war. Studying this issue, a number of works have approached the Soviet Union's assistance for Vietnam in relation to the struggles against the influence with China (Olsen, 2007); (Prybyla, 1966). In particular, the Soviet Union's aids to Vietnam in terms of economy, experts, military, and personnel training in the period 1962-1965 and since 1965 were considered as part of competition to balance the role of the Soviet Union with that of China in the Vietnam War (Olsen, 2007). Some works have mentioned the Soviet Union's support for Vietnam as part of the research on the Soviet Union's assistance for the third world countries such as India, Cuba, Mongolia (Thakur, 1992); (Theriot & Matheson, 1985). The Soviet help in specific fields such as military, economy, and education is also the result of a number of scientific papers or a part of monographs as an element for the evaluation of the Soviet intervention in the Vietnam War (Sutton, 1973); (Prybyla, 1966); (Pribbenow II, 2014). In addition, the support of the Soviet Union in training staff is listed in the range of raw data in the reports or analytical descriptions of

these reports (Parry, 1967); (Central Intelligence Agency, 1971). However, like in Vietnam, the above studies have not focused on the issue of Soviet assistance in training Vietnamese cadres.

With the above approach, overseas researchers have mainly accessed the assistance of Eastern European countries during the Vietnam War with a focus on the assistance from the Soviet Union and that of some Eastern European countries in the diplomatic aspect. In each work, assistance from Eastern European countries is mentioned to a certain extent. However, a work on comprehensive assistance of Eastern European countries for Vietnam has not been previously studied by foreign researchers.

3. Methods

The paper aims to study the Soviet assistance in training cadres for Vietnam in the Vietnam War from 1954 to 1975. To accomplish this objective, the paper uses historical and interdisciplinary scientific methods to analyze the issues of the research topic. In addition, the paper also uses statistical methods to gather data related to the number of staff and staff training results of the Soviet Union. The quantitative statistics will contribute to clarify the impact of staff training of the Soviet Union on the Vietnam War.

4. Findings and Discussion

In order to create a favorable legal basis for cooperation and support to Vietnam in the field of human resource training, the Soviet Union and Vietnam signed many state-level bilateral cooperation documents. The first one is the Agreement between the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and the Government of the Republics of the Soviet Union on the learning issues of citizens of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam at the middle and high schools issued in the Soviet Union was signed in Moscow on August 27, 1955 (Bộ Ngoại giao Việt Nam & Bộ Ngoại giao Liên Xô, 1983). On that basis, the two countries continued to sign 5 agreements on training, culture and science and technology, which were signed in 1957, 1959, 1961, 1973 and 1974 (Table 1). These are the highest legally valid international cooperation documents serving as the basis for the two countries to implement plans and measures to realize their commitments in human resource training.

Table 1: Cooperation documents in the field of officer training between Vietnam and the Soviet Union, 1954 – 1975

No.	Content	Time	Place
1	The Agreement between the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and the Government of the Republics of the Soviet Union on the study of citizens of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam citizens at the middle and high schools in Lien Shove	27/8/1955	Moscow
2	Agreement on scientific cooperation between the Committee for Science of the State of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and the Academy of Sciences of the Republics of the Soviet Union	26/5/1961	Moscow
3	Agreement on cultural cooperation between the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and the Union of Socialist Republics	15/2/1957	Hanoi
4	Protocol of the 5th meeting of Vietnam-Soviet Scientific and Technical Cooperation Committee between the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and the Republics of the Soviet Union	03/4/1963	Hanoi
5	Agreement on scientific and technical cooperation between the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and the Republics of the Soviet Union	07/3/1959	Hanoi
6	Agreement between the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republic on helping the Democratic Republic of Vietnam in training skilled workers	25/7/1973	Moscow
7	Agreement on cultural and scientific cooperation between the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and the Government of the Republics of the Soviet Union	11/11/1974	Moscow

Sources: (Bộ Ngoại giao Việt Nam & Bộ Ngoại giao Liên Xô, 1983); (Ủy ban Kế hoạch Nhà nước, 1961b); (Ủy ban Kế hoạch Nhà nước, 1963a); (Ủy ban Kế hoạch Nhà nước, 1971); (Báo Nhân dân, 1976); (Ủy ban Kế hoạch Nhà nước, 1965); (Ủy ban Kế hoạch Nhà nước, 1969); (Ủy ban Kế hoạch Nhà nước, 1966b); (Ủy ban Kế hoạch Nhà nước, 1966a); (Ủy ban Kế hoạch Nhà nước, 1958), (Vụ Trao đổi Văn hóa với nước ngoài, 1959)

Among the above mentioned documents is the Agreement on the Learning of the Citizens of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam at the Middle and High Schools in the Soviet Union in 1955 and Agreement on cultural and scientific cooperation between the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and the Government of the Republics of the Soviet Union that was signed in Moscow in 1974. The agreement signed between the two countries in 1955 mainly contained the Soviet Union agreeing to accept Vietnamese citizens to study in middle schools and high schools in the Soviet Union, stipulating the terms and conditions of study, the rules for scholarship reimbursement. It is noteworthy that this agreement has been granted to Vietnamese students, many preferential regimes such as students who do not have to pass the admission exam, are granted dormitories on the same terms as Soviet students, are paid all costs related to study by the Soviet Union, pre-scholarships for scholarships and granted permission letter for accommodation and resting (Bộ Ngoại giao Việt Nam & Bộ Ngoại giao Liên Xô, 1983). Meanwhile, the 1974 agreement included specific agreements related to the development and further consolidation of cooperation in the fields of science, education, health and culture, etc. In the fields of education, higher education, vocational training, this agreement encourages cooperation and exchange of experience in the field of education of the two countries on educational issues of socialism for students, training and improving the career level for teachers and the planning and management of education; the exchange of lecturers and scientific officers to improve their qualifications, impart experience, lecture presentation, conduct tutoring, joint research projects, exchange of college students, professional secondary schools to study, to practice production, to participate in discussions, lectures (Bộ Ngoại giao Việt Nam & Bộ Ngoại giao Liên Xô, 1983). This document has a great significance for the development of Vietnam's culture and education not only during the anti-American resistance war but also for many years after the war. For a low-starting, post-graduate higher education system built on a modern model, these agreements will help Vietnam's higher education system develop rapidly and quickly access to the world's advanced education.

In order to effectively implement these bilateral agreements, during the period of 1954-1975, the two countries signed a number of specific annual cultural and scientific cooperation plans (Table 2). The content of specific commitments and measures on cooperation in training is agreed in each cooperation plan, the two governments agreed to exchange students, students, research students and interns to learn practice and complementary training; the number of dispatchers, majors and duration of students learning abroad are specified according to the agreement of the two parties and concretizing the cooperation between universities in the higher education system, College of the two States. Regarding the number of training, the Soviet Union agreed to accept hundreds of Vietnamese students, graduate students and interns every year to study and research, the number of years is often higher than the previous year to match the needs of officers in the new situation of the country.

Table 2: Cooperation plans in the field of officer training between Vietnam and the Soviet Union, 1954 – 1975

No.	Name of cooperation plan	Year
1	Cultural cooperation plan and the situation of implementing the cooperation plan between Vietnam and the Soviet Union in 1958	1958
2	Planning and implementation of cultural and scientific cooperation with the Soviet Union in 1959	1959
3	Scientific and cultural cooperation plan with the Soviet Union in 1965	1965
4	Scientific and cultural cooperation plan between Vietnam and the Soviet Union in 1966	1966
5	Plans for training officers and technical workers abroad and reporting on the situation of interns, students learning abroad and post-graduate students to socialist countries in 1966-1969 of the State Planning Committee	1966
6	Plan of cultural cooperation in 1969 with the Soviet Union	1969
7	Plan of cultural, scientific and technical cooperation in 1971 with the Soviet Union	1971

Sources: (Bộ Ngoại giao Việt Nam & Bộ Ngoại giao Liên Xô, 1983); (Ủy ban Kế hoạch Nhà nước, 1961b); (Ủy ban Kế hoạch Nhà nước, 1963a); (Ủy ban Kế hoạch Nhà nước, 1971); (Báo Nhân dân, 1976); (Ủy ban Kế hoạch Nhà nước, 1965); (Ủy ban Kế hoạch Nhà nước, 1969); (Ủy ban Kế hoạch Nhà nước, 1966b); (Ủy ban Kế hoạch Nhà nước, 1966a); (Ủy ban Kế hoạch Nhà nước, 1958), (Vụ Trao đổi Văn hóa với nước ngoài, 1959).

On the basis of such cooperation agreements, Vietnam has annually sent hundreds of students learning abroad, interns and research students to study in the Soviet Union. Based on the specific data of each year in the Report of Ministry of Higher Education and Professional secondary education of Vietnam on the situation of overseas training (undergraduate and graduate), from 1955 to 1964, there were 1988 Vietnamese students learning abroad in the Soviet Union (Bộ Giáo dục Đại học và Trung học Chuyên nghiệp, 1972).

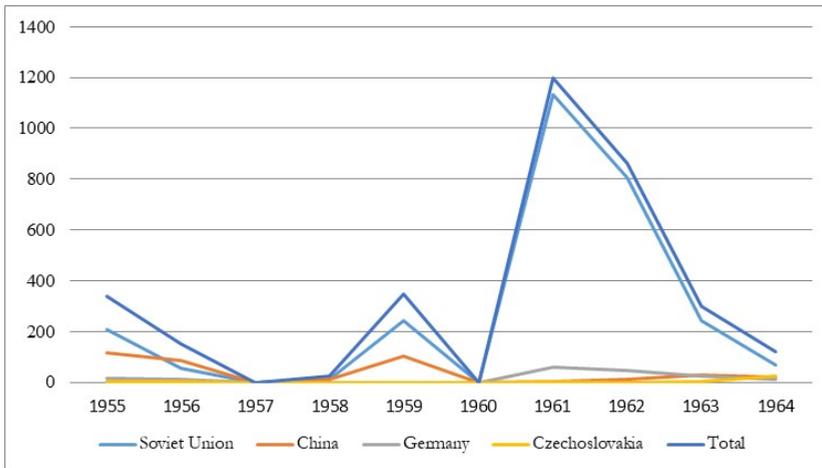


Chart 1: Number of Vietnamese students learning abroad in the Soviet Union, 1955 - 1964

Source: Bộ Giáo dục Đại học và Trung học Chuyên nghiệp, 1972

The above figures show that the total number of Vietnamese students learning abroad and the number of students sent to study in the Soviet Union every year during 1955-1964 are many times higher than the number of Vietnamese students learning abroad in other Socialist countries. Other sources also confirmed that the number of Vietnamese students sent to study in the Soviet Union always accounted for the highest proportion of the total number of foreign students sent to study abroad. A specific proof is that in the academic year 1957-1958, the Prime Minister agreed to send 81 foreign students to foreign countries from education, justice, banking and diplomacy, of which 42 students went to the Soviet Union and 39 students went to China (Đảng bộ Bộ Giáo dục và Đào tạo, 1958). In 1963 alone, the Government of Vietnam sent students learning abroad to attend 507 students, of which 311 students went to the Soviet Union, including 250 students and 37 graduate students and 18 interns. Also in that year, the number of Vietnamese students graduating from the Soviet Union returning to the country was 167 out of the 375 Vietnamese students graduating from other countries (Bộ Giáo dục Đại học và Trung học Chuyên nghiệp, 1963).

Since 1965, the political situation in southern Vietnam has changed a lot. The failure of the special war strategy in the South led to the United States carrying out a new war called the local war strategy. With this strategy, the United States expanded the war to the whole of North Vietnam, aiming to reduce the North's support to South Vietnam in the war against the United States (Clarke, 1988). Bringing the activities of the North in a peaceful situation to the war, but still steadfastly implementing its goals under any circumstances, the North of Vietnam must also advance to Socialism to firmly support for The struggle to unify the North and the South of Vietnam was a very difficult task (Đảng Cộng sản Việt Nam, 2000), requiring not only high determination but also creativity in combat, production labor and training and retraining of professional officers. Facing that new requirement, the Communist Party of Vietnam approved that the training of officers should not decrease, on the

contrary, it needs to be promoted more strongly to prepare more officers for long-term needs and to serve urgent needs (Đảng Cộng sản Việt Nam, 2000). Resolution No. 142 - NQ/ TW dated June 26, 1966 of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam continued to affirm to take advantage of a relatively short time, to build a large and strong contingent of scientific, technical and economic management officials who are qualified and professional (Đảng Cộng sản Việt Nam, 2000). Realizing that goal, the Government of Vietnam continued to set new directions for sending students learning abroad to other countries. In June 1965, a report of the State Planning Committee submitted to the Government stated that a large concentration should be focused on basic science, basic investigations, industrial engineering, construction and information liaison, economic engineer. Admission standards must be rigorous in terms of politics, ideology, culture, health, prioritizing the selection of people who have experienced production, work and battle (Ủy ban Kế hoạch Nhà nước, 1966c). This policy of the Communist Party of Vietnam created a driving force for the increase in the number of students learning abroad after 1965, mostly in the Soviet Union. This was confirmed in a report by the Ministry of Higher Education and Professional secondary education. The report recorded that, during 8 years, from 1965 to 1973, the plan for training officers in the country and abroad had changed dramatically. Particularly for abroad training, in 8 years, we sent students to 19,092 universities. Students learning abroad were sent the most to the Soviet Union (Ủy ban Kế hoạch Nhà nước, 1961a). From the statistics of chart 2 also, there were 7,525 students learning abroad in the Soviet Union in the period of 1965 - 1973, 7 times higher than the period of 1955 - 1964.



Chart 2: Number of Vietnamese students learning abroad in the Soviet Union, 1965 – 1973

Source: Ủy ban Kế hoạch Nhà nước, 1961a

When Vietnam sent students to study, the Soviet Union also created very favorable conditions for Vietnamese students. One of the great advantages was that the Soviet Union had a rich and diverse training industries, almost all of the industries that Vietnam was in need. On the other hand, the Soviet Union was ready to train Vietnamese students in all the recommended professions. The Soviet Union accepted Vietnamese students easily, as many as possible, arranged in any major, except for subjects of national secrets (Ban Tổ chức Trung ương, 1958). As early as 1965, the Soviet Union sent the *List of university major of the Soviet Union in 1965* (5-year training mode) to Vietnam. From the archived records, there are 335 majors in 24 major disciplines in the Soviet university system received training by the Soviet Union for Vietnam. These include geology, minerals, energy, metallurgy, machine and instrument manufacturing, electronics and automation, construction, measurement, meteorology, economics, agriculture. ... and the narrow specializations of the General University, the Soviet Union include Russian, Political Economics, Philosophy, Psychology, Mathematics, Mechanics, Astronomy, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Zoology And Botany, Anthropology and Geography (Ủy ban Kế hoạch Nhà

nước, 1961b). The support and assistance for Vietnamese students was expressed through the Soviet Union sending students learning abroad to prestigious educational institutions, the quality of training as well as at the request of Vietnam (Bộ Giáo dục Đại học và Trung học Chuyên nghiệp, 1963). There were many types of scholarships of Vietnamese students, one of which was funded by the aid fund, the other is from Vietnam and the Soviet Union grants scholarships from other sources (Ban Tổ chức Trung ương, 1958). During the training process, the Soviet Union also provided support on language, motivation and environment for Vietnamese students to get the best results. For poor students, the Soviet Union also organized tutoring, especially helping students with poor foreign languages. The Soviet Union helped good students learning abroad to become a research student or for a doctorate exam. During the internship, the organizers selected a number of excellent students to study modern subjects. The Soviet Union enthusiastically helped our students to graduate thesis. In material terms, the Soviet Union held a very thoughtful reception, paying special attention to the issue of fostering the health of Vietnamese students learning abroad (Ban Tổ chức Trung ương, 1958). Regarding accommodation and studying conditions, there was almost no distinction between Vietnamese students and Soviet students (Bộ Ngoại giao Việt Nam & Bộ Ngoại giao Liên Xô, 1983).

With the enthusiastic help of the Soviet Union, the training of Vietnamese officers during this period achieved many good results. From 1955 to 1975, 18516 students learning abroad returned to serve the country (Chart 3). In particular, in the period 1965 - 1973, there were 3111 students learning abroad in the Soviet Union who returned home, mainly training at the university level (Ủy ban Kế hoạch Nhà nước, 1961a). Comparing the qualifications of Vietnamese students graduating from other countries, the Ministry of Education of Vietnam in this period stated that the Soviet Union was a country that taught reasoning skills better than other countries (Ban Tổ chức Trung ương, 1958). After returning from Vietnam, students learning abroad played an active role in fighting, producing, teaching and conducting scientific research, supplementing professions and improving the qualifications of scientific and technical officers. Many of them later became senior Party and State leaders, leading scientists, experts, and managers in many fields in Vietnam. To be more specifically, As General Secretary of the Party, during the struggle for independence (1930 - 1945), there were 3/5 General Secretary of the Party, namely Tran Phu, Le Hong Phong and Ha Huy Tap. In the renovation period from 1986 until now, there are 2/5 General Party's wallets including Nong Duc Manh and Nguyen Phu Trong have had time to study, research and study in the Soviet Union. As Chairman of the National Assembly in the renovation period, from 1986 until now, there are 3/6 presidents such as Nong Duc Manh, Nguyen Van An and Nguyen Phu Trong had also time to research and study in the Soviet Union.

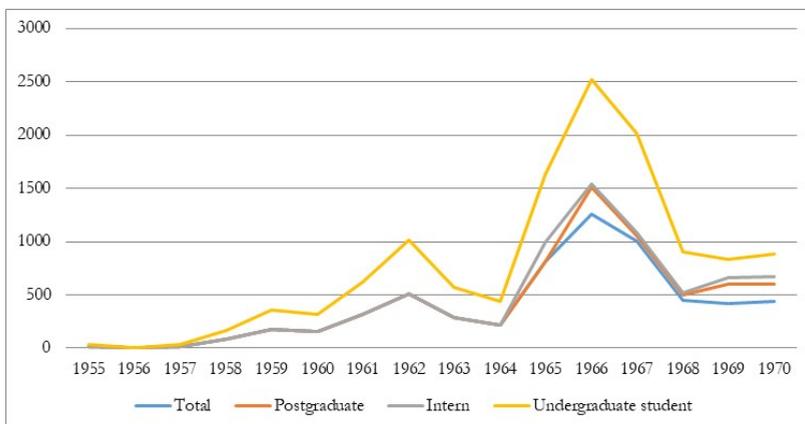


Chart 3: Number of Vietnamese students learning abroad who graduated and returned
Source: (Bộ Giáo dục Đại học và Trung học Chuyên nghiệp, 1976)

In addition to training Vietnamese students in the Soviet Union, the Soviet government also sent professional delegations to train on-site officers for Vietnam in many essential fields such as education and health care, but the most was the military field. At the beginning of the war, when Viet Nam's anti-aircraft missile defenses were weak, both their capability and qualification, American planes flew to bomb cities and military targets with a dense formation, without any accompanying means, not using jamming measures. In such simple conditions, US aerial attack vehicles achieved great victories. Consequently, cities, battlegrounds, bridges, roads, ports were destroyed, causing great loss of life and economy. Facing this fact, at the request of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, the political leadership of the Soviet Union and the General Officer took urgent measures to help Vietnam against the actions of the United States. On July 6, 1965, the Council of Ministers of the Republics of the Soviet Union issued Decision No. 525-200 on the establishment of the Soviet Military Experts Delegation in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (Okorokov, 2008). This decision clearly stated that the mission of the expert mission is to, in the shortest time, teach and train the Vietnam Air-Defense Forces to be capable of combat (Okorokov, 2008). The preparation for sending military experts to Vietnam has been urgently carried out by the Soviet State and the Ministry of Defense of the Soviet Union. Military experts must meet the high requirements of professional qualifications, ethical qualities, political bravery and health. Candidates who became the commanding positions were strictly selected and forced to pass through the strict "gates" of the General Department 10, the General Officer Department and then the interview - evaluation of the Chief of Officer Soviet armed forces (Okorokov, 2008). Most of the experts were officers and non-commissioned officers who participated in the Great Patriotic War and the Korean War in 1953, trained, seasoned, combat experience, high technical - military level and precious capital of the Soviet armed forces.

In April 1965, the first Union of Soviet military experts with a number of 100, under the command of Colonel A.M. Duza came to Vietnam on a mission to quickly train and put into action two regiments of the Vietnam People's Army Air Defense (Okorokov, 2008). A military training center under the command of Colonel M. Tsygankov was also present in Vietnam in April 1965; on that basis, there were two military training centers No. 1 and 2. According to statistics, from April 1965 to May 1966 there were 2,266 Soviet Air Defense experts to Vietnam (Gromov, 2003). Each Soviet military expert received the task of training a group of Vietnamese practitioners. They develop training programs, outline the schedule of each class. In teaching, Soviet experts thoroughly used illustrations, diagrams, focused on training rocket firing techniques, commanding and tactical coordination skills at battalion, regimental and regimental groups. When Vietnamese soldiers learned and mastered the technique, Soviet experts turned to the role of on-the-spot adviser and trained new class of soldiers with always improved and improved techniques at the Research and Design Institutes in the Soviet Union. In addition to technical training, military experts also conducted interpretation training for Vietnam. This was a new and very difficult field for Vietnamese soldiers, because they know the language, the use of new weapons and weapons is mature and effective. According to the recollection of former Soviet military experts, firstly it was the maturity of the rocket experts of the Vietnam People's Army. As their proficiency increased, there was a reduction in the number of Soviet experts in these battalions. At first, the Vietnamese soldiers sat behind the joysticks to directly operate the machine to closely follow the target, then it was the officers' control of the Vietnamese missiles (Nikolay, 2005).

With the help of Soviet military experts, Vietnam built a modern, powerful air-defense system, contributing to the victory of "Dien Bien Phu in the air" (1972) in the sky of Hai Phong, Hanoi, broke the plan to expand the war to the North of Vietnam of the United States, forcing the United States to accept negotiations, and on January 23, 1973, signing the Paris Agreement, accepting the complete defeat of the US on the Vietnam battlefield (Nguyễn, 2008).

5. Conclusion

It can be affirmed that the help of the training of Vietnamese officers of the Soviet Union in this period contributed to the decision to form a team of revolutionary intellectuals - an important factor helping

the Vietnamese people to win the national liberation struggle and eliminating the slavery of colonialism, building and defending independence and national unity. General Secretary Le Duan in a speech delivered at the reception of the Party Central Committee, the Supreme Soviet Presidium and the Soviet Government on July 10, 1973, emphasized that strong and great support, along with numerous helps of the Soviet Union, has strengthened Vietnamese people, strongly encouraged the spirit of the countrymen and soldiers all over the country to win great victories, to a final glorious victory. That support and assistance is a brilliant expression of the solidarity of fighting between the socialist countries, having the same goals and ideals.

Soviet political, economic, cultural, scientific and military strategy, along with the great support, was also introduced into Vietnam, contributing to the formation of new officers in all fields and increasing the attractiveness of the “Soviet model” in Vietnam. Thousands of students, interns and research students who had been systematically educated from Soviet educational institutions became the core force in the country's construction and renovation process of Vietnam. That intellectual force had made significant contributions to the development of Vietnam's science and technology and was a solid bridge for the friendship between the two peoples in the past as well as the context of international integration.

However, along with increasing the influence of the “Soviet model” in Vietnam, the limitations of this model also had a significant impact on the socio-economic life of Vietnam with common manifestations such as in the political system, administration - a heavy, less dynamic administration; in economic and social management - a centralized management mechanism, subsidized and inefficient bureaucracy; in scientific research, especially social science, it was not criticism, constructing and providing scientific arguments for political policy, but tended to illustrate political policy (Lê, 2017). Along with the country's comprehensive renovation process, the above limitations had been gradually identified and overcome by the Party and State of Vietnam through the policy of renewing the political system to integrate into the world for the sake of the strong and prosperous people and the society and civilization and democracy, in order to continue asserting the human values of the October Revolution and making the “Soviet path” in Vietnam more realistic.

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