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**Translation from Vietnamese's article**

## **Concept of 'Freedom, Independence and Happiness' -----§-----**

Independence, Freedom and Happiness are the three sacred words closely related to the establishment of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

This article describes the feelings of a religious deputy towards these three sacred words.

### **I- Objective knowledge of the existing entities**

A being is the result of the combination of many conditions, many circumstances, many experiences. No being is created by him/herself, by chance, or as a result of any one and single condition.

An existing entity naturally has characteristics different from any others. Entity is at the same time independent and interdependent. If dependence or interdependence is disturbed then the entity is disturbed. It is identical for the human being. Man is created from the combined energies of the parents and other non visible elements during the incubation period of the mother. The foetus develops thanks to nutrition provided by his/her mother via the circulatory system. The child is nourished from the mother's milk; He grows, develops and exists thanks to food, nutrition, environment and love; other life forms develop similarly from a combination of other foods under the influence of the environment and sunlight. If the physical or mental of the individual is disturbed, then its life and its development are also disturbed, which will act on the family chain, the community, and the environment. If the environment or the family's aid is contrary to the direction of the individual; its development and its life are hindered or curtailed.

The existence and the development of a Nation, in the same way, requires the favourable moment and opportunities to foster stability, independence and the interdependence in the Region as well as in the World.

### **II- The cultural character and the Independence Vietnamese Culture in the past and at present**

During 100 years under French colonization, the Vietnamese people lived in misery. The patriotic movement blossomed across the country at the beginning of XX century; the movement of exodus towards the West was stopped. At that time, the young boy Nguyễn Sinh Cung, concerned about the country, opened a way through the sufferings to find a solution for his invaded country and to understand the spirit of the revolution of 1789 from the

intellectuals and the French people and to deepen his thought in this revolutionary spirit which could reverse a conservative regime, unjust, dictator, and strongly influenced by the Roman Catholic Church: it is there where the humanity spirit and pure independence take source in the Free Mason.

The documents on the CRN site (<http://www.cercledereflexion.org>) are published:

*" the young man Nguyễn Sinh Cung arrives to Paris and joined the Frank masonry in 1919 and affiliates himself with the Benjamin Franklin lodge in Switzerland."* According to the documents, it is a democratic association "with the research of ultimate reality" against any principle of invasion, exploitation and dictatorship.

The documents also specify:

*"Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels were members of a branch of the ` Illuminates of Bavière', known under the name of ` Line of right Man'".* They are also the authors of the statement of Communism in 1948.

The Free-masonry stresses the importance of the behaviour of Justice and Virtue (the harmony of the spirit, engagement and humility). The democratic institutions of France and of the United States have all of the inspired contents of democratic spirit of the Free-masonry against invader, injustice, oppression and dictatorship. The majority of the content and spirit comes from the misery of victims under the Inquisitor courts: burning sharp, hanging, exposing the head of the victim (Judaism) during thousand years or of hundreds of years (Rebels to the religion - Protestantism).

This spirit of culture of humanity deeply marked the psychic of the young Vietnamese Nguyen Sinh Cung, and nourished his knowledge for an extraordinary prospective vision of the future.

Deliberated, the Constitution of Vietnam recorded in 1946:

- "All the citizens are equal on the political, economic and cultural levels" (article 6)
- "All the citizens are equal in front of the law and can take part in the governments and the building of the country according to their talent and virtue suitable for each one" (article 7)
- "the gender Man- Woman is equilibrium on all fields" (article 9)
- "the Vietnamese citizens have the right of: - Freedom of speeches, Freedom of press, Freedom of meeting and gathering, Freedom of belief, Freedom of residence, Freedom to move inside or outside the country "(article 10)

In the introduction of the Constitution, certain paragraphs underlined include:

*"with the spirit of solidarity, the experience of noble sacrifice of the entire people, under the imposing democratic republic, the Vietnam independent and sovereign advance on the way of glory and happiness in the trend the world progressive tendencies and the vows of peace for humanity "*

These whole qualities are condensed in the three sacred, very sacred words, ` Independence, Freedom and Happiness', closely related to the national devise, very intelligent at the Vietnamese fashion, and not copying any constitution of a country. The only concept of `Happiness' (only and unique) already opens cultural, academic contents full of wealth of Vietnam for the present and for the next centuries.

According to, Professor Jean Luc Perez (French's origin and American nationality, free mason in New-York , founder of the UNCR becoming CRN) wrote on the site of the CRN

*" Do not forget that the United States of America, born from the Free-mason and considered as a model of the democracy in the World, functions nearly in the same way; In these countries, there exists only two principal parties with so such similar ideologies that nobody is able to distinguish their differences today. Moreover, at the origin, they had the same name with the party ' Republican Democracy', founded in 1793 by Thomas Jefferson.*

*Thomas Jefferson has some doubts of the democracy without control, since he declared, in 1801, at the time of nomination as the third President of the United States : "Although the majority will must always prevail, it must remain reasonable"*

*1854- the current two-party system was born. The two parties coexist still today, rather centrists, with the preserving wings and reformists. The voter thus does not have a choice. All the other ideologies not in conformity are proscribed definitively"*

The name of the nation "Republic Democratic of Vietnam" or "Republic Socialist of Vietnam" has both the contents of Democracy and Republic; Republic in the national content of "Republic Socialist of Vietnam" does not highlight, in any case the duality: Republic is not in opposition with Democratic (like Conservator and Reformist), and the Republic Democratic of Viet Nam' carries the heart of the substance of "Independence, Freedom and Happiness". These sacred words are full of democratic meanings and humanism concerning independence and its interdependence. The characteristic of the independence of the nation is independence; and the interdependence of the nation vis a vis of the Region and the World, is the co-operation.

Today, Vietnam is carrying out `equality of the socialism', with the real application of the legislative power, executive power, legal power and of that of the press (as a whole, non independent in the meanings of duality) under the total responsibility of the Vietnamese Communist Party. The responsibility voice ruling the system is the voice of the people intelligence; It is not the greedy voice of individual capacity, a group of people, a dynasty or a region.

### **III Concept of " Independence , Freedom and Happiness"**

#### **1-Independence (Indépendance)**

It should be noted that the term written `Independence ' is similar in French and in English. The term `Independence ' has the meaning that which does not depend, which is not slave of; who has particular characteristics, such as the plants or the animals; Each species of plants is different from others, each species of animal is different from others.

The independence of a nation is that of the culture, the sovereignty, the unity and the territorial integrity. If an individual loses his independent character, he loses freedom, and to lose the personal freedom is to lose it several responsibilities. Without any responsibility implies that the law does not have a place to exert. The life of the individual will be thus hyper disturbed.

If the individual loses his interdependent character, it does not have any more relationships with the family, the group, the community, the environment; he does not have any more conditions to survive.

These are natural laws: to exist consist of following these laws, otherwise existing matters disappear. The interdependent character of a nation is the union with the region, with the world; It is the stability of the international relations. If these relations are disturbed, they have impacts on the development; if these relations are positive they create favourable conditions for the cultural, educational, economic and commercial development. This is the natural law that the society must respect.

## **II- Freedom (Liberté)**

It should be noted that the written term is different in French and English. Freedom is expressed as the behaviour according to the individual's desire. In the standpoint of social aspects, freedom is within the framework of the law of each nation (balance between personal freedom, the safety of state and the right of governance of each country). On the psychological level and individual will, freedom is limited by depth of knowledge, covetousness, anger, hatred and greed.

Real freedom has the meaning of detachment of the sufferings and true happiness (for that the way of Buddhism, philosophy indicates liberation (Liberate/Liberated)) the top of detachment unveils when the individual has knowledge to observe the world without a spirit attached to covetousness, anger, hatred and greed. For this reason, the personal freedom is placed on a high level focusing on happiness, the detachment of the negative spirit (destruction of oneself, others and of both) and the development of our ego.

For a Nation, freedom can be known when its sovereignty is preserved. This sovereignty must be reflected through the culture, education, the society, the economy, the trade, the safety and the defence. If the economy and trade are not yet controlled, the other fields of the nation are also disturbed, and the independence and the freedom of the nation are in a state of partial oppression. This means that the freedom of the nation is not yet firmly stabilized.

The freedom of the nation as well as the presence of the other nations which is established and remains stable, depends on one hand stability and development of the interior richness (characteristic of Independence) and on the other hand, on the skilful and delicate strategy (interdependent) carried out with harmonious balance. Is it that which Mr. Jacques Coudy (a Grand Master of the Free mason, an important personality behind the French and European political scene) wrote on the site of the CRN

*"Vietnam must find her balance between these three blocks - China, the USA, and Europe - not only her economic equilibrium, but also her specific ideological balance".*

## **3- Happiness (Bonheur)**

It should be noted that the written term is different in French and in English.

Happiness is the principal goal of the human being.

Man was born for happiness and not to live in concern, sadness and suffering. Being the heart of culture and education, man built and institutionalized the culture and education in the hope of happiness. In other words, the objective of all the values must be the happiness which is the heart of culture, of education and of humanity (peace, love of the neighbour, individual happiness and collective well-being).

For this reason, the sacred word 'Happiness' closely related to the nation **devise** is the image of the cultural character and the optimal democracy.

Concerning the experiments of the 'Happiness', the Grand thinkers of Humanity considered that Happiness is Morality and Charity. Aristotle (Aristotle), a grand philosopher of the VI century of old Egypt before J.C., described in 'the story of Philosophy' de Will Lasting:

"Aristotle absolutely accepted that 'the life objective' is not the joy, the beauty but the happiness. Aristotle insisted on the fact that human beings seek the richness, the reputation, the joy because they think that that all these will lead them to 'Happiness'. However it is necessary to know what is Happiness and the way to 'Happiness'?"

Aristotle answered this question by raising the characteristics which differentiate the man from the animals. He concluded that 'Happiness' is the perfectly complete development of all the necessary qualities. The condition of 'Happiness' is the development of thoughts and narration. Morality depends on the exactitude of the thoughts, the mental control, and the balance of the desire. The way which carries out to the objective is the way of the medium.

(Translated: Buu lich, 1971, p 91-92)

According to Buddhism, Buddha taught "I spoke only about the suffering and the way which bring to the suspension of the suffering"; this shows that Buddhism focuses on how to put an end to the suffering and to advance step by step towards happiness. Thus Buddhism is a way, the real way, the moral and spiritual life; the culture of Buddhism is the heart of the culture, education and democracy.

Happiness manifested in life appears through feelings and favourable conditions: they are the feelings through the five organs: the eyes, the ears, the nose, the tongue, the body and feelings through the thought and the heart; when the body is in contact with the components colour, form, sound, smell, taste, touch, conceptions and images. The feeling of the 'Happiness' relating to the conditions, changing, modifying, is dispersed and leaves a print and disturbed vibration of weaker suffering. For this reason, the feeling of 'Happiness' is always accompanied by that of the suffering. This duality creates on the human being, the doubt and the absence of the absolute 'Happiness'.

Absolute Happiness is the detached feeling of causes and conditions; it is present in the liberated spirit. Where this liberated spirit is present, happiness is. If this released spirit is present, the visible world is a world of happiness. The Absolute Happiness is apart from the desire and the conceptions purely materialism.

The relative 'Happiness' depends on the subjective feelings that each one receives differently according to its behaviours and its specific environment (a scratch on a rich person is equivalent to an intestinal wound in the beggar). It is difficult to establish references for the

exchange and the discussion on this definition. For this reason, nobody, no state has the right to establish the bases of Happiness, culture or the bases of democracy (because Happiness underlines the democratic character, the clearly component of summon culture). Through historical analysis, the passed and the present culture of China and of Vietnam , Professor of law Jean Luc Perez, concluded on CRN website: " China and Vietnam do not have lesson to receive on the Democracy."

#### **IV- Independence, Freedom, Happiness and the Vietnam Constitution**

This chapter is the conclusion of the concept of `Independence , Freedom, Happiness'. Under the objective and serene glance; the contents of the ` Independence, Freedom, Happiness' are that most brilliant of the existing political system.

The constitution of Vietnam since 1946, and the various complementary constitutions in 1959, 1980, 1992 and 2003, reflect completely the contents of the sacred words related to the national devise as described previously. It is not at all amazing from researchers that knowing Humanity voice, the deepest one is irradiated from the spirit devoted to save their people is the voice of President Ho and his leader successors.

This is the product of the spirit of Vietnam.

It is certain that there are great men, great empathic minds in Asia, Africa and in the world carrying the voice of the whole Humanity and the most faithful to this spirit, the voice of the Free masons and the voice of the man who incarnates the culture of the humanity of today: President Hô.

Is it here, the culminating target of the hope of all the people and men building the constitution of Vietnam?.

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