MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between
The Government of The Socialist Republic of Vietnam
and
The Government of the Kingdom of Norway
concerning
Development Co-operation

1. With a view to further strengthening and developing the relations between the two countries, based on friendship and mutual respect, Norway intends to provide assistance to Vietnam in its development efforts.

2. The Norwegian assistance will be directed at reinforcing Vietnam's own endeavours towards a sustainable economic and social development and strengthening of democratic institutions. The two Governments have agreed upon the following objectives for this assistance to:

- contribute to economic and social development in Vietnam,
- assist Vietnam in the development of a sustainable use of its natural resources,
- assist Vietnam to strengthen its human resources and public institutions, and
- contribute to democratisation and popular participation in the development process.

3. Vietnam will be eligible for Norwegian assistance through mechanisms such as:

a) a bilateral allocation under the Norwegian regional fund for Asia,

b) a global allocation for environment, and

c) other mechanisms and channels for Norwegian Government funding;
   - multilateral organisations,
   - Non-Governmental Organisations, particularly to social and health related activities,
   -Commercial support arrangements including parallel financing, mixed credits and other concessional financial flows,
   -financial schemes for investment support to income generating activities within the private sector.

4. The bilateral programme financed from the Norwegian regional fund for Asia will focus on the following project- and programme areas:

-Economic Development

In view of the need for technical and financial assistance in various economic sectors in Vietnam, Norway will be ready to consider assistance in the development of i.a. the energy sector including hydropower, natural gas and petroleum, the fisheries sector and the private sector in order to evolve and sustain a functioning market economy.

-Environment and natural resource management

Norway is ready to support capacity building and institutional development in the field of environment and management of natural resources.

- Human Resources Development and Institutional support

Assistance to the strengthening of government administration and public institutions as well as support to civil service reform programmes will be important elements of the Norwegian development cooperation programme. Assistance and co-operation between Norwegian and Vietnamese institutions approved by the competent authorities of the two countries, will be rendered as an integral part of the cooperation within the above mentioned areas. Special emphasis will be paid to gender issues and issues of special concern for children.

- Strengthening of Democratic institutions

Norway is ready to support Vietnam's continued efforts of strengthening democratic institutions such as the Legislature, the Judiciary, Government on local, regional and national level and grass-root organisations, and the strengthening of human rights, the rule of law and civil society.

5. Roles and responsibilities

Both Norway and Vietnam bear a responsibility for the successful achievement of the objectives selected for development cooperation between the two countries as well as for ensuring the maximum effectiveness in utilizing the funds made available. An open dialogue and close cooperation between the parties concerned are envisaged.

Hanoi, 9th October 1996

For the Government of
the Socialist Republic of Vietnam

For the Government of
the Kingdom of Norway

BỘ NGOẠI GIAO

Số : 74 /LPQT

SAO Y BẢN CHÍNH

"Để báo cáo,
Để thực hiện".

Hà Nội, ngày 15 tháng 10 năm 1996

TL. BỘ TRƯỞNG BỘ NGOẠI GIAO
Vụ trưởng Vụ Luật pháp và Điều ước quốc tế



Nguyễn Quý Bính

Nơi gửi:

- VPCP,
- Bộ Kế hoạch - ĐT,
- Bộ Nông nghiệp - PTNT,
- Bộ Công nghiệp,
- Bộ Thủy sản,
- Bộ Khoa học, CN-MT,
- Bộ Lao động, TB-XH,
- Bộ Tư pháp,
- Ban Tổ chức CP,
- UB BV-CS trẻ em VN,
- ĐSQ VN tại Thụy điển,
- Vụ Tây Bắc Âu,
- Vụ LPQT,
- LT (14b)