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EDUCATION ABOUT RESPONSIBILITY FOR STUDENTS TOWARDS THE SACRED SOVEREIGNTY OF ISLANDS IN VIETNAM

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ABSTRACT

The sea and islands of Vietnam are a sacred part of the homeland. Through thousands of years of history, the sea and islands in the mind of the Vietnamese people are the country, the life in which many generations and ancients poured blood and sacrifice their lives to build, preserve and develop. In recent years, the East Sea issue is under very complicated disputes that directly affect the sovereignty of the sea and islands of Vietnam. Communist Party and the State of Vietnam consistently affirmed: Vietnam is a sovereign, territorial integrity country, including the sea and islands, is sacred and inviolable. The protection of sovereignty over the sea and islands is a key task, which is the responsibility of the entire Party, the entire citizens, and the entire army; among all residents, young generation and students are important forces. Therefore, we need to promote the solidarity strength of the entire nation including the political system, and the young generation is the core force in the defense of sea and island sovereignty of the country.

KEY WORDS

Sea islands; Responsibility; Student; Consciousness education; Vietnam.



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1. Vietnam's sea and islands and the current problems

Vietnam is a coastal country located on the west coast of the East Sea, with very advantageous geopolitics and geoeconomics that not any other country has. With a coastline of over 3,260 km stretching from North to South, Vietnam has ranked 27th among 157 coastal countries, island countries and territories in the world. The index of the length of coastline on the land area of our country is approximately 0.01 (that means 1km of coastline for every 100 km² of land). Of the 63 provinces and cities of the country, 28 of them have seas and nearly half of the population lives in coastal provinces and cities. In the history of thousands of years of building and defending the nation's country, sea and islands have always been associated with the process of construction and development of the country and people of Vietnam.

The maritime zones of Vietnam include the territorial sea, exclusive economic zone, and continental shelf.

According to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea 1982, Vietnam has an area of over 1 million square kilometers, three times the land area, accounting for nearly 30 percent of the East Sea (the East Sea is nearly 3.5 million. km²). The maritime zones of Vietnam have about 3,000 islands, large and small, fairly evenly distributed along the length of the country's coastline, with a particularly important position as a front-line defense to protect the eastern slopes of the country. Some coastal islands also have important positions and are used as national landmarks on the sea to establish the baseline of the Vietnamese continental coast, thereby determining the internal waters, territorial waters, and contiguous regions sea, exclusive economic zone, and continental shelf serving as a legal basis to protect national sovereignty over the seas.

Under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea 1982, coastal states have five maritime zones, including Internal waters are within the baseline; the territorial sea with the breadth of about 12 nautical miles, measured from baselines; the exclusive economic zone and the continental shelf with a width of 200 nautical miles from the baseline; in particular, the continental shelf can extend up to 350 nautical miles. The Socialist Republic of Vietnam declares the sovereignty, sovereignty right, and national jurisdiction over the seas of Vietnam:

- **Internal waters:** means the waters on the landward side of the the baseline of The Socialist Republic of Vietnam; the internal waters are considered as territorial territory, under the full and absolute sovereignty of Vietnam.

Baseline: means the inner boundary of the territorial sea and the outer boundary of the internal water, defined by a coastal state or archipelagic state in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea 1982 as a standard to determine the extent of territorial waters under national jurisdiction and sovereignty. Is the line used as a basis for calculating the width of territorial sea and other seas. There are 2 types of baselines:

Conventional baseline: A road using the lowest tidal water line along the coast or islands.

Straight Baseline: A line connecting the most protruding points or islands of the mainland coast or islands. A straight baseline applies when the coastal national coastline is split or has an attached chain of islands running along the coast.

- **Territorial sea:** The territorial sea of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam is 12 nautical miles wide (01 nautical mile is equivalent to 1,852m), outside the baseline. The outer boundary of the territorial sea is the border of the coastal state. The Socialist Republic of Vietnam exercises full and complete sovereignty over its territorial sea as well as over the airspace, seabed, and subsoil of its territorial sea. According to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea 1982, sovereignty over territorial sea is not absolute like internal waters, ships of other countries are allowed to "pass without harm" in the territorial sea. The coastal states have the right to fix routes, to regulate the division of traffic flows for foreign ships passing through the territorial sea to ensure their sovereignty, national security, and interests.

- **The contiguous zone:** The contiguous area of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam is the contiguous sea area outside the territorial sea of Vietnam with a width of 12 nautical miles, merging with the territorial sea into a wide area of 24 seas from the baseline which is used to calculate the territorial sea width of Vietnam. The Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam exercises necessary control in its contiguous territory to protect the interests of customs, taxes, and to ensure respect for medical regulations, migration, immigration policies on the territory or within the territorial sea of Vietnam

- **Exclusive economic zone:** The exclusive economic zone of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam is adjacent to the territorial sea and merges with the territorial sea into a sea area of 200 nautical miles from the baseline used to calculate the width of the territorial sea of Vietnam. The Socialist Republic of Vietnam has complete sovereignty over the exploration, exploitation, protection, and management of all natural, biological, and non-living resources in the waters, on the seabed, and the ground on the seabed of Vietnam's exclusive economic zone. Vietnam also has particular powers of other activities in service of exploration and exploitation of exclusive economic zones for economic purposes; has a major authority for scientific research in Vietnam's exclusive economic zone as well as be competent in environmental protection and anti-pollution in Vietnam's exclusive economic zone.

- **Continental shelf:** The continental shelf of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam includes the seabed and the subsoil under the seabed belonging to the natural extension of the continent extending beyond the territorial sea of Vietnam to the outer shore of the the continental edge; where the outer edge of the continental edge is less than 200 nautical miles from the baseline used to calculate the width of the Vietnamese territorial sea, the continental shelf there shall extend to 200 nautical miles from that baseline. According to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea 1982, any country whose natural continental shelf is too wide, the continental shelf can extend to no more than 350 nautical miles from the baseline. The Socialist Republic of Vietnam has complete sovereignty in terms of exploration, exploitation, protection and management of all natural resources in the Vietnamese continental shelf including mineral resources, non-natural resources, organisms and biological resources belonging to the type of settlement in the Vietnamese continental shelf.

Recognizing the geostrategic position of politics, economy, national defense, and security of our country's sea and islands in the cause of building and defending the Fatherland, the Party and State soon paid attention to management to protect territorial sovereignty, settle disputes at sea and develop marine economy. Right after the peace was restored (1954), our Party and State concentrated all resources to protect the sovereignty of seas and islands and exploit marine resources. Evaluating

the position and role of the sea and islands, President Ho Chi Minh taught: "Our seas are very rich and beautiful, we must preserve it".

2. Some solutions to protect the sovereignty of Vietnam's sea and islands

2.1. To further step up the propaganda on sea and islands.

Recently, after foreign acts of aggression and infringement of Vietnam's sovereignty in the continental shelf and exclusive economic zone, the propaganda of sea and islands has been strengthened, the media said repeatedly, clearly, specifically, about this problem; stated correctly the nature of the issue in the East Sea disputes. At the same time, through which press agencies and major news agencies in the world reported a lot on this issue, making the international public understand more about the legal basis, history, and stance of Vietnam in resolving disputes in the East Sea.

To bring into play the achieved results, in the coming time, the propaganda on the sea and islands should involve the participation and close coordination between ministries, branches, localities and mass media, which are under direct control are centralized and unified leadership from central authorities. In particular, it is necessary to provide timely, transparent and accurate information so that all domestic people, overseas Vietnamese and the world people understand legal basis, historical basis and actual possession of Vietnam in the seas and islands; from there, building the trust and determination of the community of ethnic groups in Vietnam, taking advantage of the consent of the international community to firmly protect the sovereignty of the sea, islands and marine economic activities.

2.2. To persistently settle the sea and island disputes by peaceful means, on the basis of international law.

As a member of the Charter of the United Nations, Vietnam always abides by the provisions of international law, perseveres in the way of resolving problems arising by peaceful means, on the basis of equality and mutual respect together; in which, the main measure is through negotiation in order to find basic, long-term solutions to meet the legitimate interests of all parties involved, for independence, sovereignty and integrity the territory of the country, and for peace, stability in the region and internationally. With this solution, the issues are still in disagreement, bilateral disputes will be resolved in the bilateral direction; while disputes related to many parties are resolved multilaterally and must be very open and transparent between the countries concerned.

Given foreign ambitions to control most of the East Sea, Vietnam needs to take appropriate measures at different levels: bilateral, regional and global. On the one hand, Vietnam has persistently pursued peaceful measures, consistent with international law, on the other hand, attached great importance to the effective use of global and regional mechanisms, through UN and ASEAN fora so that these organizations have a proclaim and a clear view on the violation of the sovereignty of a member state.

2.3. To concentrate efforts on building a strong force for sea and island management and protection.

In the context of the current instability in the sea areas of the Fatherland, the focus of efforts to build forces to manage and protect the sea, islands, and marine economic activities is necessary.

Especially for borderlands security, Vietnam Coast Guard, militia and self-defense sea and Fisheries Resources forces, it is an urgent requirement that these forces need supporting to capable of successfully completing the tasks of the assigned function. The Vietnam People's Navy is a specialized force operating at sea - playing a core role and taking on heavy responsibility in performing the task of protecting the waters and islands of the country, should be prioritized for investment such as build in a modern direction and have satisfactory remuneration policies, especially for the forces that regularly patrol the sea and keep offshore islands. It is necessary to strive so that in the near future, our Navy has enough forces: surface ships, submarines, Navy Air Force, Marine Navy and artillery - coastal missiles and so on that help Vietnam capable of protecting sovereignty, protecting natural resources, protection of our people working in sea production, ready to prevent and defeat all invading enemies from the direction of the sea. The Vietnam Coast Guard is a force in charge of managing and maintaining law enforcement in the territorial waters of the country, so government should continue to consolidate and improve the staffing organization, enhance modern equipment to able to complete immediate tasks and respond to future development. The Border Guard forces should be invested in sufficient technical equipments, means of weapons, mobility and so on to meet the requirements of maintaining security and order, rescue, fight smuggling and social evils in assigned waters.

2.4. To formulate and implement a strategy for comprehensive marine economic development with national defense and security assurance and international cooperation.

For the marine economy to be commensurate with the position and potential of our country's sea and associate the development of the marine economy with the assurance of national defense, security and sovereignty protection of the sea area, it is necessary to strongly develop offshore fishing support for fishermen to borrow capital and develop the state force. Vietnam needs to apply destructive methods to combat pollution of the marine, river, lake and lake environment and strictly prohibit the exploitation of aquatic and marine products. It is important to develop the system of seaports, sea transportation, oil and gas exploitation and processing, marine products and sea services; to speed up the shipbuilding industry and the seafood exploitation and processing industry, in which, focusing on strategic key areas and sensitive areas on the land and sea borders.

It is necessary to rapidly develop several coastal economic zones and industrial parks, with priority given to the development of energy industries, marine industry, shipbuilding, aquaculture, high-quality seafood exploitation and processing and so on. The urbanization rate, forming strong marine economic centers, creating a position toward the sea, associated with the diversified development of service industries should be speeded up, especially those with high added value such as export services, import, tourism, fishing services, oil and gas services, sea transportation. The economy of islands has to be advanced in line with the positions, potentials and advantages of each island and archipelago. Vietnam must maintain independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity, ensure political security and social order and safety; as well as expand foreign relations, proactively integrate, and raise Vietnam's position in the international arena.

2.5. To build a strong force to protect the sovereignty of sea and islands to meet the requirements of managing, exploiting and protecting the sovereignty of Vietnamese sea and islands in the recent situation.

It is necessary to promote the combined strength of the entire people, in which direct and on-site forces are the core to perform this important task well. Therefore, both in the short term and in the long run, we need to pay more attention to activities of building forces directly in charge of protecting the sovereignty of the sea and islands such as the Navy, Borders, Coast Guard, Militia and Self-Defense Force. The forces need to be made sure that they are strong enough, with reasonable quantity, high-quality synthesis, taking political quality as the basis. Improving the technical skills, tactics, and combat contracts between forces should be emphasized; besides, the forces should be ensured seizing the ability to flexibly and effectively handle situations that may occur at sea and paid due attention to the task of providing weapons, technical equipment for key forces such as the Navy and Coast Guard in accordance with the development trend in the region and the mission requirements of each unit. It is important to combine the strength of the main army with the ability to handle situations quickly and directly by military and civil forces in coastal localities, practicing the above combat contract options. In addition, the traditional art of warfare of the nation and high-tech weapon uses should be teamed up properly in handling possible situations. The strength of the great national unity bloc have to be promoted in building a force to manage, exploit and protect sovereignty over the sea and islands of Vietnam, especially the role of socio-political organizations in localities having seas.

3. Some methods to educate the sense of responsibility to protect the sovereignty of sacred islands for students.

The current reality of the country requires students to constantly cultivate, practice, improve their responsibilities, have a strong determination to maintain independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of the country. Thoroughly grasp the viewpoints and objectives: *“Strongly bring into play the synergy of the entire nation, the entire political system ... firmly defend independence, sovereignty, unity, territorial integrity; to maintain the sovereignty of sea and islands, borders, airspace ...”*¹, it is necessary to promote the student's role in protecting the sovereignty of sea and islands of the country with the following solutions:

Firstly, to regularly educate and raise awareness for students about the roles and responsibilities for the task of protecting the sovereignty of sea and islands.

This is the first basic issue to help students raise awareness and clearly define their roles and responsibilities for the task of building and defending the Fatherland, especially the protection of sovereignty over seas and islands. Content of education and fostering awareness-raising for students should be comprehensive; in which, focusing firmly on the Party's basic viewpoint on the protection of the Fatherland, directly protecting the maritime sovereignty. Thereby, helping students to realize the importance of sea and islands, deeply aware of their role, responsibility and great obligations in protecting the sovereignty of sea and islands of the Fatherland. At the same time, educating students to raise revolutionary vigilance, recognize right and wrong, do not let hostile forces take the name of defending Truong Sa and Hoang Sa to take advantage of manipulating major insecure activities governance, social order and safety, and undermining relationships with neighboring countries.

¹Communist Party of Vietnam, Document of the XII National Party Congress, National Political Publishing House of Vietnam, 2015, page.1243.

In the process of fostering and raising awareness, it is necessary to diversify forms and methods to suit the characteristics of each locality and each object and regularly supplement and develop to meet the practical task of protecting the owner's right to sea and islands. It is necessary to promote the role of organizations, unions, especially the youth union, in order to create a synergy in propaganda and closely link with learning and following Ho Chi Minh's moral example to educate the students. To improve the effectiveness of education and increase the attractiveness to students, the organizes should diversify the forms, such as traditional education, lessons learned and examples of heroes in the resistance against aggression and so on. It is creative to draw students' attention through the youth's campaigns and action programs with practical ways, such as: "Youth protect the country", "The year for socio-economic development and national defense", "Meaning of gratitude borders, islands "," For the beloved Truong Sa "," Contribute stones to build Truong Sa "," Accompany young fishermen to the sea "," Youth towards the sea and islands of the country ".

Secondly, reinforcing the belief, attitude, motivation in the students to protect the sovereignty of the sea and islands of the Fatherland.

Trust, attitude, motivation and willpower are the inner qualities of each student, which are essential and indispensable to help them perform their assigned tasks. Otherwise, without those, it is impossible to do anything or defend the Fatherland. Therefore, it is necessary to guide students to have belief, attitude, motivation and will to sustainably protect the sovereignty of the sea and islands of the country.

To consolidate students' beliefs, attitudes, motives and wills, propaganda must be strengthened so that they can see the strength and capacity to protect our homeland; grasp the Party's ideology and guiding motto to solve problems on sea and islands. Thereby, it helps students to have correct awareness and absolute confidence in the leadership of the Party in solving issues related to national sovereignty, especially issues of sea and islands, reinforcing their beliefs and ideas, righteous thoughts, feelings, attitudes and motives at a young age in performing the task of protecting the sovereignty of sea and islands of the Fatherland.

It is necessary to help students eliminate inappropriate cognitive habits, attitudes and motives to create new qualities that are increasingly stable in their minds and ideas, step by step creating the good qualities in their beliefs, attitudes and motives of students for the mission to protect the sovereignty of sea and islands of the Fatherland, so that they are a great and solid force in the cause of construction and protection in national defense.

Thirdly, focus on building high determination, practical action orientation among students for the task of protecting the sovereignty of the sea and islands of the country.

This is the goal, the goal towards the process of promoting the role of students in protecting the sovereignty of the sea and islands of the country. On the basis of recognizing roles and responsibilities and reinforcing beliefs, attitudes, motives, and strong will, students must bring into full play their roles and responsibilities through the realization of prices. That rule becomes determination and concrete and practical action in protecting the sovereignty over the sea and islands of the Fatherland. To build determination for students, it is necessary to make them see the difficulties and hardships facing dangers, the complexity and severity of activities on the sea, islands . That

requires students to be brave, cunning, creative initiative, self-reliant, ready to sacrifice blood and blood, resolutely stand up to defend its independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity.

Imbued with the teachings of President Ho Chi Minh when he visited the Navy Army (1961): "Today we have days, heaven, sea. Our sea is long, beautiful, we must appreciate and preserve it". Since then, attention must be paid to building determination and direction of action for the youth, especially the forces directly working day and night to operate, guard and protect the sovereignty of the sea and islands of the country. At the same time, fostering methods to handle sensitive situations on the sea and islands in accordance with the guiding ideology, ensuring flexibility, creativity, sharpness, acumen, perseverance, caution to not fall to the "trap" of the enemy, to maintain a peaceful and stable environment, but also to be ready to fight in all situations, firmly defend independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity.

4. Conclusion:

The sea and islands of Vietnam are part of the territory of the country; Sea and islands are becoming more and more important to the development of the country. The view of our Party on building and defending the Socialist Republic of Vietnam has clearly stated: "Vietnam has become a strong sea country with sustainable development, solid, prosperous, secure, safe; the marine economy makes an important contribution to the national economy, contributing to building our country into a modern, industrialized country in the socialist orientation participate proactively and responsibly in solving international and regional issues on sea and ocean", and *"Building a strong Vietnamese nation on the sea and developing the marine economy into a key part of the economy. The national economy is a strategic goal and at the same time an urgent task, which is placing our nation in the face of a great challenge in the East Sea"*. In the current period, overcoming challenges and controlling the East Sea problem is the historic responsibility of all generations of Vietnamese people, including the great responsibility of Special Education units, namely National Defense - Security Education.

³Resolution No. 36-NQ / TW on Vietnam's Strategy for Sustainable Marine Economic Development to 2030, with a Vision to 2045

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