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REMARKS

by

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Deputy Prime Minister

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Mr Khoo Boon Hui, President of INTERPOL;

Mr Ronald Noble, Secretary General of INTERPOL;

Members of the Executive Committee of INTERPOL;

Heads of the Delegations of INTERPOL member countries and representatives of international organizations;

Distinguished guests and delegates;

Ladies and gentlemen;

On behalf of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, I warmly welcome all of you to the 80th INTERPOL General Assembly in Hanoi, Vietnam – a City for Peace.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Governments and peoples around the world for their strong support of Vietnam's national construction and development, and in the fight against transnational crimes over the last decades.

Ladies and gentlemen;

Since the economic reform, or Doi Moi, and international integration in 1986, Vietnam has taken many opportunities and overcome challenges, especially those presented by the financial crises in the region and in the world. Vietnam has lifted itself out of backwardness, and become a middle income country. The averaged economic growth stands at seven per cent in the last five years (2005-2010), with the achievement of nearly all Millennium Development Goals by 2010, along with political and social stability, law and order.

The steady growth of agricultural production has ensured national food security. The economy and lives of people in rural areas have been improved. Over the last five years, Vietnam has exported over 26.7 million tons of rice, generating USD 10.5 billion. Industrial products have been diversified and improved in terms of quality and competitiveness, meeting the domestic demands, and contributing to the expansion of export markets. The development of new industries and high technology has been invested. The service sector has been growing, especially in 2010, when Vietnam received five million international tourists, up 37 per cent from 2009. The business and investment climate has been strengthened with the development of a wide range of markets. The economic structure is moving towards industrialization and modernization. Vietnam strives to become an industrialized country by 2020.

Vietnam has expanded its international relations with countries, territories and regional and international organizations as Vietnam wants to be a friend and a reliable partner in the international community, striving for peace, independence and development. Vietnam has acted as an active and responsible member in regional and international forums; successfully fulfilled its role as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council; contributed to the development of ASEAN Charter and Community; and satisfactorily completed its presidency of ASEAN and ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA).

Furthermore, Vietnam is working closely with other countries as part of ASEM, ASEAN, ASEAN + 3 and other international organizations such as UNODC and INTERPOL. The country has signed and implemented a wide range of agreements on the fight against

terrorism and transnational crimes, focusing on narcotic drugs, fraud, internationally wanted individuals, money laundering, trafficking in human beings, cybercrimes and other organized crimes. Vietnam has engaged itself in the Anti-Corruption Action Plan for Asia and the Pacific, ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crimes (AMMTC) and more. Since the late 1990s, the Government has implemented the National Crime Prevention Strategy which consists of three national target programs on organized crime prevention, drug and human trafficking prevention, and resource allocation to the elimination of root causes of crime. At the same time, the country also has taken stronger action against crimes and criminals, suppressing crimes and maintaining social law and order.

Ladies and gentlemen;

Located in the central region of Asia and the Pacific, Vietnam is directly affected by the complicated crimes that originate from countries in the region and in the world. We are aware that transnational crime prevention requires concerted efforts among countries in the world today. Over the past years, Vietnam has stepped up international cooperation in crime prevention and suppression within bilateral and multilateral frameworks, including INTERPOL.

The Government of Vietnam attaches special importance to the role of INTERPOL in crime prevention. Twenty years ago today, the Government allowed Vietnam's police to become an official member of INTERPOL. The Government strongly supports INTERPOL, and facilitates Vietnam's police to actively integrate and participate in this organization. Vietnam's police have implemented well many Resolutions from the INTERPOL General Assemblies, and assisted the police services of other member countries in combating transnational crimes at home and abroad.

The Government of Vietnam would like to thank the INTERPOL General Assembly, the Secretariat and other National Central Bureaus for the close coordination and effective assistance in combating transnational crimes over the past years.

Ladies and gentlemen;

Although the trend towards peace, cooperation and development prevails, in the next decades ethnic and religious conflicts, territorial and resource disputes, terrorism, poverty, epidemics, climate change, natural disasters and transnational crimes will become complicated and increase in number. It requires each country to have its own strategy and coordinated action. Global police cooperation needs to be strengthened through INTERPOL to better fight against transnational crimes.

Ladies and gentlemen;

INTERPOL General Assemblies have brought the police services around the world together to recognize the importance of international police cooperation, agree on the way forward for INTERPOL and improve coordination among member countries to combat transnational crimes more effectively. I am strongly convinced that the 80th INTERPOL General Assembly in Vietnam will be a great success and take international police cooperation to a higher level. On behalf of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, I would like to recommend that the police services of the member countries should work more closely together to make INTERPOL a stronger organization. We welcome and highly appreciate the initiative of INTERPOL and the Government of Singapore to develop the INTERPOL Global Complex in Asia. I am sure that INTERPOL will absolutely contribute to securing peace, stability and development around the world.

On behalf of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, I would like to declare the 80th INTERPOL General Assembly open, and wish all of you good health and happiness. I hope you will keep fond memories of our country and people during your pleasant stay here in Hanoi.

Thank you for your kind attention.