



Vietnam

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1 Afghanistan

Currently, there are no diplomatic relations between Vietnam and Afghanistan (not during the Republic era either) however during Afghanistan's spell as a communist state the two countries did have embassies in each other's respective countries. A Vietnamese embassy was opened in Kabul in 1978 under the Afghan regime following the Saur Revolution. Both the Vietnamese and Afghan republics were communist states and allies of the Soviet Union. Vietnam also supported the Soviet Intervention in Afghanistan in 1980. The two countries signed a diplomatic visa exemption agreement in 1987. After 1992 when the socialist government in Afghanistan collapsed, Vietnam closed its embassy in that country. The Afghanistan's embassy in Vietnam closed in June 1993. Vietnam recognized the Afghan government of Hamid Karzai in December 2001 and thereafter provided humanitarian assistance in the form of goods. So in short, Vietnam is kind of what the USSR wanted Afghanistan to become as well, however that was not meant to be. Also, Vietnam is often used as an analogy to the US intervention in Afghanistan as well. There are indeed many parallels and could serve as a position that western interventionism does more harm than good, as Vietnam's own history shows.

However, what is Vietnam's position on the Afghanistan conflict now? As a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, Viet Nam calls on all relevant parties to refrain from the use of force, ensure security and order, protect essential infrastructure and the lives and properties of the Afghan people and foreigners, especially women and children, and ensure the access to humanitarian assistance when necessary. With the historic victory in the Spring of 1975, the army and people of Vietnam had triumphed in their courageous and enduring resistance war, fully liberating the South of Vietnam and achieving national reunification. "This victory opened up a new chapter for the Vietnamese nation, ushering in an era of independence, freedom and peace, wherein each and every Vietnamese citizen can partake in national construction and development," said the President of the National Assembly Vuong Dinh Hue.

In August 2021, in response to a question on Viet Nam's reaction to the terrorist attack at Hamid Karzai International Airport in the capital of Kabul, Afghanistan on 26 August 2021, Ms. Le Thi Thu Hang, Spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, stated that: "Viet Nam condemns all forms of terrorist attack, including the one that caused severe casualties at Hamid Karzai International Airport on 26 August 2021. We wish to extend our deepest condolences to the families of the victims." The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has instructed the Vietnamese Embassy in Pakistan, concurrently accredited to Afghanistan, to continue monitoring the situation and conduct citizen protection work. According to our information, to date, there has been no Vietnamese citizen affected by the above mentioned attacks. Viet Nam urges all relevant parties in Afghanistan to ensure the security and safety of Afghan citizens and foreign nationals currently stuck in this country, including Vietnamese citizens.



Fig. 1: Vietnamese Flag

2 Turkey - Greece relations:

Greece hosts the Vietnamese embassy in Athens, and Vietnam hosts its Greek counterpart in Hanoi. Greek Australians formed a part of the Australian Defence Force and fought against North Vietnam on the side of the South. Two-way trade has posted an average annual growth of more than 20 percent in the past 5 years and Greece has pushed for the ratification of the EU-Vietnam Free Trade Agreement.

Turkey has an embassy in Hanoi and Vietnam has an embassy in Ankara, a consulate in Istanbul. Turkey, as an exception among NATO member states, did not send troops to assist South Vietnam in the Vietnam War in the 1960s, only non-military assistance like medicine and provisions. Turkey and Vietnam are highly rising profile economies, being parts of Next Eleven and CIVETS, which earns them reputation, larger trade and investment. There are more than 2000 Vietnamese people living in Turkey. Ankara and Hanoi became sister cities in 2011!

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