



E-ASIA
university of oregon libraries

<http://e-asia.uoregon.edu>

HO CHI MINH DIES OF HEART ATTACK

The initial announcement that DRV leader Ho Chi Minh was seriously ill came on 3 September 1969, when the following Hanoi broadcast was heard in the early morning hours:

Here is a communique on President Ho Chi Minh's health: Over the past few weeks, President Ho Chi Minh has not been well. Our party and state have been concentrating all capabilities and means to care for him. A collective of professors and medical doctors have been attending him day and night. We hereby inform our compatriots of the President's condition. Hanoi, 4:00 a.m. 3 September 1969. The Central Committee of the Vietnam Workers Party, the Standing Committee of the National Assembly of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, and the Council of Ministers of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

Shortly thereafter, the radio announced that Ho had taken a turn for the worse. The news that the DRV leader had died in mid-morning on 3 September was not made public until early on 4 September. At that time Hanoi radio was monitored saying that he had suffered a "sudden, very severe heart attack." The radio stated:

. . . The Central Committee of the Vietnam Workers Party, the Standing Committee of the National Assembly of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, the Council of Ministers of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, and the Presidium of the Central Committee of the Vietnam Fatherland Front feel boundless grief in informing our entire party and our entire Vietnamese people that Comrade Ho Chi Minh, president of the Central Committee of the Vietnam Workers Party and president of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, passed away at 9:47 on 3 September 1969 after a sudden, very severe heart attack, at the age of 79.

All through President Ho Chi Minh's illness, the comrade leaders of our party and state had attended him day and night, and had entrusted a collective of qualified and well-equipped professors and doctors with seeking by all means to cure him. Everybody had

done his best, determined to cure the president at all costs, but due to his advanced age and serious ailment, President Ho Chi Minh has departed from us. . . .

In these days of grief, the Central Committee of the Vietnam Workers Party, the Standing Committee of the National Assembly, the Council of Ministers, and the Presidium of the Vietnam Fatherland Front appeal to all our party, armed forces and people to translate sorrow into revolutionary acts, strengthen solidarity, and channel all our will and forces into the great cause of fighting and defeating the U.S. aggressors, liberating the south of our country, and successfully building socialism in the north, thus materializing the lofty aspiration cherished by President Ho Chi Minh—the building of a peaceful, unified, independent, democratic, prosperous, and powerful Vietnam.

The name and spirit of the great President Ho Chi Minh will live forever in our hearts! His revolutionary cause will certainly be carried forward and completed victoriously.

