AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

AND

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF THAILAND

ON

**MUTUAL EXEMPTION OF VISAS FOR HOLDERS
OF DIPLOMATIC AND OFFICIAL PASSPORTS
AND VISAS FACILITATION FOR ORDINARY PASSPORTS**

The Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand, hereinafter referred to as the "Parties",

Desiring to further promoting friendly relations between the two countries and facilitating exchange of visits by nationals from either country,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

Nationals of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam who are holders of valid diplomatic or official passports of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and nationals of the Kingdom of Thailand who are holders of valid diplomatic or official passports of the Kingdom of Thailand, shall be exempted from visa requirements for entry into, exit from or transit through each other's territory for a period not exceeding thirty days.

Article 2

Nationals of either Party referred to in Article 1 of this Agreement, shall enter into, exit from or transit through ports open to international travellers of the other Party and go through necessary formalities in

accordance with the relevant regulations of the latter's competent authorities.

Article 3

A national of either Party, who is in possession of a valid diplomatic or official passport and is assigned as a member of the diplomatic or consular mission in the territory of the other Party, including his spouse and minor children, shall be required to obtain an appropriate visa from the competent authorities of the receiving Party.

Article 4

Nationals of either Party shall abide by the laws and regulations in force of the other Party during their stay in the latter's territory.

Article 5

This Agreement does not curtail the right of either Party to deny entry to or shorten the stay of nationals of the other Party considered undesirable without citing reasons therefor.

Article 6

1. Either Party may temporarily suspend this Agreement partially or wholly on grounds of public order, state security and public health. However, it shall notify the other Party in advance of its intention to suspend the Agreement and to subsequently cancel the suspension through diplomatic channels.

2. Additional clauses or amendments to the Agreement may be made by means of exchange of notes by the Parties after consultation.

Article 7

1. The Parties shall exchange, through diplomatic channels, samples of passports referred to in Article 1 within thirty days after the signing of this Agreement.

2. During the period of validity of this Agreement, either Party shall inform the other Party of any change to the form of the above-mentioned

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passports through diplomatic channels thirty days before its introduction and furnish the latter with samples of new passports.

Article 8

Holders of valid ordinary passports of either Party who propose to enter and stay in the territory of the other Party not exceeding 15 days for social visits, attending seminars, undertaking market survey, investment, trade, implementation of projects or contracts on tourism in group of five or more persons organized by the receiving Party's travel agency, are to be given entry visa within 2 working days.

Article 9

This Agreement shall enter into force on the sixtieth day from the date of its signature. If either Party wishes to terminate this Agreement, it shall notify the other Party of its intention in writing through diplomatic channels, and this Agreement shall cease to be effective on the ninetieth day after the date of notification.

Done in Hanoi, on 12 March 1997 in duplicate in Vietnamese, Thai and English languages. The Vietnamese and Thai texts are equally authoritative. In case of divergences in interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF
VIETNAM

FOR THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE KINGDOM OF
THAILAND

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Minister of Foreign Affairs

PRACHUAB CHAIYASAN
Minister of Foreign Affairs