

April 8, 1965

Discussion between Liu Shaoqi and Le Duan

Citation:

"Discussion between Liu Shaoqi and Le Duan", April 8, 1965, Wilson Center Digital Archive, CWIHP Working Paper 22, "77 Conversations."
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Summary:

China offers military services to Vietnam, on the condition that Vietnam invites them first; Vietnam accepts.

Original Language:

Chinese

Contents:

Translation - English

LIU SHAOQI AND LE DUAN

Beijing, 8 April 1965^[1]

Le Duan: We want some volunteer pilots, volunteers soldiers...and other volunteers, including road and bridge engineering units.

Liu Shaoqi: It is our policy that we will do our best to support you. We will offer whatever you are in need of and we are in a position to offer...If you do not invite us, we will not come; and if you invite one unit of our troops, we will send that unit to you. The initiative will be completely yours.

Le Duan: We want the Chinese volunteer pilots to play a role in four respects: (1) to restrict American bombing to areas south of the 20th or 19th parallels; (2) to defend the safety of Hanoi; (3) to defend several main transportation lines; and (4) to raise the morale of the Vietnamese people.

^[1] The same day as the DRV issued its four point peace formula in response to President Johnson's declared readiness for "unconditional discussions."