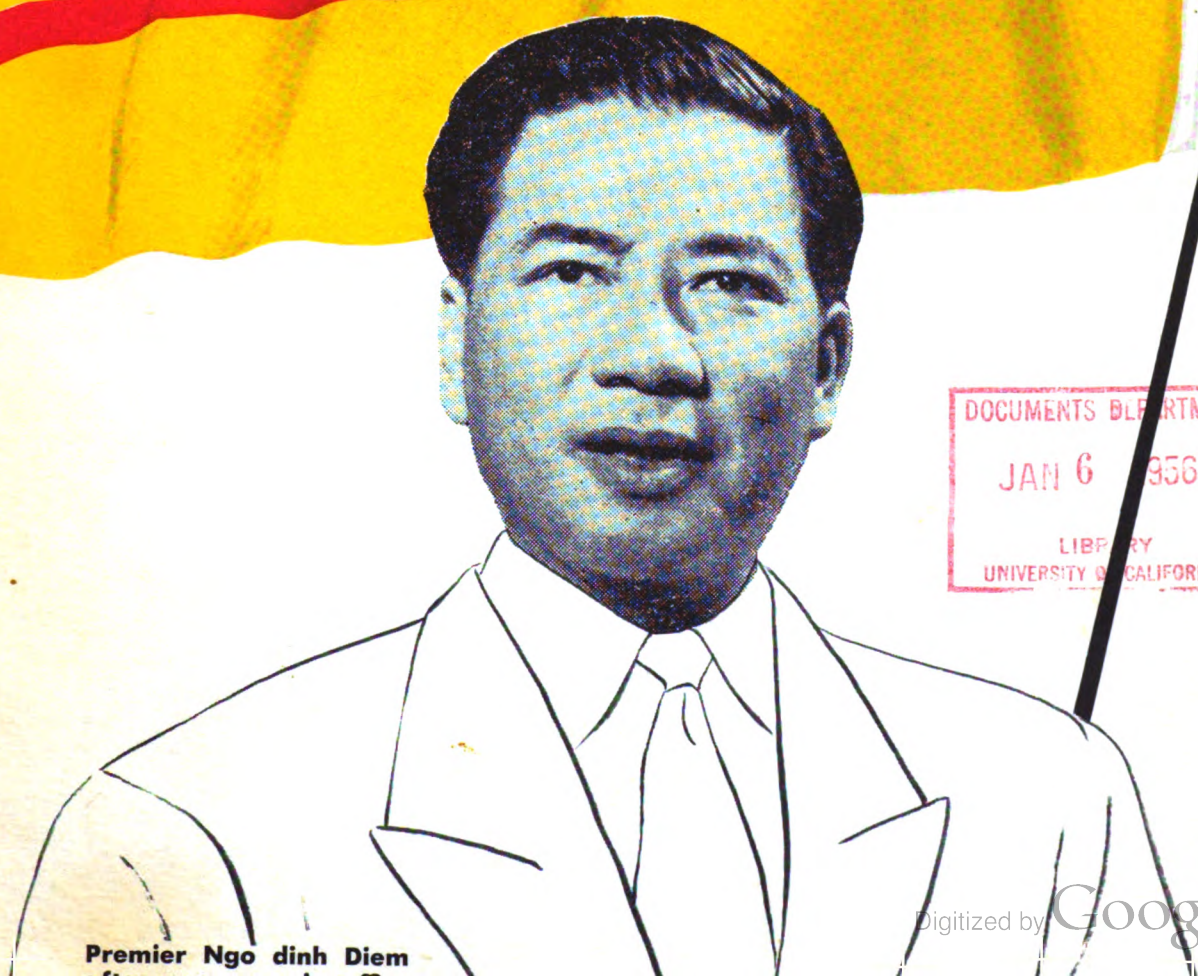


Viet Nam, Embassy, Washington

# VIETNAM

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Premier Ngo dinh Diem



# VIET NAM

## Premier Ngo Dinh Diem's Career

Mr. Ngo Dinh Diem comes from one of the greatest catholic families in Viet Nam. He was born in 1901 at Quang Binh (Central Viet Nam) and has devoted his entire life to the service of his country.

He is the third son of the late Ngo Dinh Kha, minister and advisor of Emperor Thanh Thai, who is the originator of a new type of teaching based on a synthesis of two cultures—oriental and occidental—a teaching which was tried for the first time at the National University Quoc Hoc which he established and directed. His eldest brother Ngo Dinh Khai, a nationalist leader, was arrested and killed by the Viet Minh in August 1945 as soon as they took over the government. Another brother is Bishop Ngo Dinh Thuc.

He made an exceptionally brilliant record and rapid advance as administrator and provincial governor in Central Viet Nam and, at an early age, was appointed president of the commission in charge of investigating cases of corruption of officials in high posts.

He was only thirty two when, because of his ability and integrity, he was appointed Minister of the Interior. He vigorously protested the infringement policy practiced by the "French Protectorate" and asked for reforms for the modernization of the country and for true popular participation in the management of public affairs.

Since his views were not accepted, he resigned and led a quiet life devoted to the study of political and social problems in close contact with the leaders of various patriotic movements.

After the Japanese surrendered and the Viet Minh came to power, the patriotic organizations of Southern Viet Nam authorized him to go to Hanoi to represent them within the revolutionary movement. As soon as he arrived in Phan Thiet he was arrested by the Viet Minh and sent to the unhealthy forests of North Viet Nam in spite of protests on the part of the Southern Revolutionary Committee insistently demanding his return to Saigon. He was released in January 1946 when the Viet Minh posed as a "national" government after having dissolved—on paper only—the Communist Party.

From 1949 to 1954 he was many times offered the opportunity to form the government, but he refused because Viet Nam had not been given genuine independence and there was no possibility for true nationalists to organize themselves to defeat the Viet Minh or to realize a true national program in Viet Nam.

For the same reason he lived abroad in Asia, America and Europe, but chiefly in the United States and France where he tried to make the Vietnamese problem better understood.

In 1954, while the Geneva Conference was in session, he accepted the task of forming a new government to meet the critical situation. He realized the gravity of the situation his countrymen faced, and was determined to shoulder the responsibility of guiding his country through the political storm.

From then on, his life has been a daily struggle to face all the dreadful results of military defeat and of partition.

The enthusiastic welcome given him in January 1955 by the population on his tour throughout Viet Nam, particularly in areas newly liberated from the Communists, proves the confidence, the gratitude and the affection of the Vietnamese people for this great patriot.

Vietnamese people acclaim their leader.

"I urged all patriots to set aside party, religion, sect or class distinctions to help save our country from injustice, oppression, division, and all forms of slavery."

July, 1954







VIET NAM

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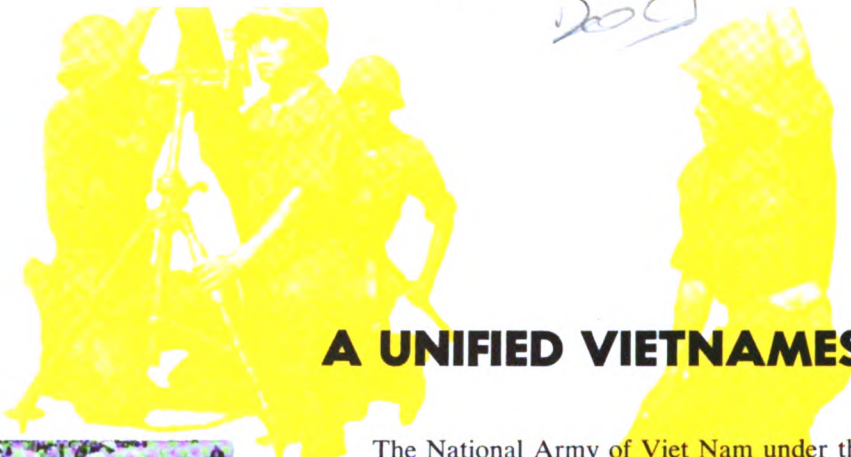
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## Principal Accomplishments of Ngo dinh Diem Government . . .

- International Field:** The transfer of civilian authority from France.  
New accords for the liquidation of the four power authority and setting up of relations with Cambodia, France and Laos.  
Guarantees obtained by Viet Nam at the SEATO conference.  
Installation of a Vietnamese Embassy in Tokyo for strengthening ties between Viet Nam and Japan.  
Diplomatic recognition of Viet Nam by Pakistan.  
Diplomatic recognition of Viet Nam by The Philippines.  
Admission of Viet Nam to ECAFE (*Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East*).  
Admission of Viet Nam to ICAO, (*International Civil Aviation Organization*).  
Increasing sympathy and aid from the Free World.
- National Field:** Re-organization of the provincial structure of the Government of Viet Nam.  
Clean-up campaign and firm struggle against bribery.  
Establishment and rapid development of ministries—(Social Action, Information, Public Health, etc.).  
Inclusion of former royal territories into national territory and their reorganization.  
Closer integration of tribal clans into national life.
- Defense:** Transfer of military authority from France.  
Integration of religious sects' military forces into the National Army.  
Re-occupation of territories recently liberated.  
Re-organization of Armed Forces' Inspection General.
- Social Field:** Organization of the exodus and resettlement of 800,000 North Vietnamese refugees.  
Revision of labor laws with a view to raising the standard of living of the laboring class (new working regulations for plantations and enterprises, re-adjustment of minimum salaries . . . ).
- Agricultural Field:** Land reforms . . . re-adjustment of relations between land-tenants and owners.  
Compulsory recultivation of abandoned lands.  
Encouragement of cooperatives.
- Economic and Financial Field:** Establishment of the Vietnamese National Bank.  
Establishment of the National Office of Exchange.  
Establishment of a two year plan for reconstruction.  
Establishment of a National Investment Fund.  
Institute for economic reconstruction.  
Lifting of restrictions on transportation of goods for the purpose of increasing exchanges between various regions of the country.  
Creation of a Vietnamese Chamber of Commerce.  
Exploitation of new lands.
- Public Works:** Re-opening of railroads and highways (Saigon-Nha Trang rail line).  
Restoration of works of art destroyed by hostilities.
- Education:** Renovation of secondary and primary teaching programs for the '55-'56 school year.  
Establishment of Arts Schools in Saigon.  
Construction of a special High School center in Phu Tho.  
Transfer and re-organization of the Vietnamese University.  
Development of technical and popular education.  
Agricultural Training Center at Tan An.

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## A UNIFIED VIETNAMESE ARMY



Vietnamese soldiers parade in campaign uniforms.



Vietnamese regiment decorated for bravery and skill in action against rebel armies.



Vietnamese people befriend soldiers of the National Army.

The National Army of Viet Nam under the inspired leadership of Premier Ngo dinh Diem has at last emerged as an effective and unified force capable of defending the country. It is an Army that is now fully aware of the nature of the struggle to protect the national sovereignty of Viet Nam.

A true Vietnamese army did not exist before the government of Premier Ngo dinh Diem, because what was created under that name in 1951 had nothing of the character of a true national army, because it was not given a genuine national independence to fight for. Its command was divided into four parts: South Viet Nam, Central Viet Nam, North Viet Nam and the mountain regions of the South. Each region was commanded by a general or senior officer assisted by a staff and held a semi-autonomous status. The General Staff of this army was, of course, quartered in Saigon and the army operated under the orders of a Vietnamese Chief of Staff but was in fact controlled by the French High Command and dependent on French logistics, artillery and air power.

In January of 1952 a Vietnamese Air Force and Navy came into existence. A training school for pilots and mechanics was created at Nha Trang in Central Viet Nam and a naval training center was also established in the same area for the purpose of training sailors and non-commissioned officers. The problem of training officers and specialists for a rapidly growing army was a serious one, but by August 1953, 2600 officers had passed through Vietnamese training schools and taken their places in the Army. These officers came either from the "Ecole Militaire Interarmes" at Dalat, which schools active army officers in an eight month course, or from the Reserve Officers Training School at Thu Duc, which has courses of six months for infantry officers and eight months in specialized branches for soldiers showing special promise.

At the present time additional specialized training for Vietnamese soldiers is under the direction of General John W. O'Daniel, head of the American Military Assistance Mission to Viet Nam. General O'Daniel and his experienced staff bring to Free Viet Nam an invaluable knowledge gleaned from experience in fighting communist aggression in Korea. The units now being trained are those already in existence and training is carried on by American and French instructors. However, as the Vietnamese army completes its training the number of American and French instructors is being automatically reduced. Now that the Vietnamese have demonstrated their ability in the present struggle in the western area of South Viet Nam it can be said that for the first time in the history of Viet Nam, Vietnamese officers have





Vietnamese soldiers demonstrate modern weapons at training center.

planned and carried out air, land and sea operations entirely on their own initiative.

When military action was determined by a French Expeditionary Corps a National Army with supplemental and autonomous units could be explained as necessary in light of the ties and circumstances then prevailing. Now however, in an independent Viet Nam, no matter who is chief of the government in power, it is imperative that every armed group existing in the country be welded into a unified National Army, directed by a single command and acting as a single unit. This Premier Ngo dinh Diem has resolutely endeavored to do.

The Premier has been largely successful in achieving the integration of the various armed units of the Vietnamese army which formerly held an autonomous position. While recognizing that these politi-



Newly promoted officers of the Vietnamese Army pledge allegiance to their country.

cal-military groups faced great difficulties when the French High Command ceased payments to their so-called auxiliary forces, the Premier is the first political figure not to bow before the apparent power of the various armed groups. An austere and just man, Premier Ngo dinh Diem has established his government on a solid and incorruptible basis and his reliance on the strength of the true national spirit of the Vietnamese people has been justified many times over.

Unification of the National Army has not been solely a military matter. Support by the people of Viet Nam given to the Army in pursuit of a common cause has been as much responsible for the success of unification as any one factor. The speedy manner, for instance, in which units of the National Army sped to the defense of the population in the recent disturbances in the Saigon-Cholon area and in the outlying provinces made it possible for every citizen of Viet Nam to see that the Army was there to protect their interests and defend the sovereignty of the nation.



Premier Ngo dinh Diem decorates heroic soldiers.



## THE REFUGEE PROBLEM

The Ngo dinh Diem Government faced a tremendous task immediately after its formation in the resettlement of 800,000 refugees who fled communist control in the North, leaving their homes and all earthly possessions to seek freedom in the South.

Why did they flee to freedom? They fled because they realized that they could no longer live a decent life under the tyranny of communism. They would no longer have freedom to speak, to work or to travel. They saw their homes, towns and provinces fall under the cloak of a new type of colonialism—a ruthless police state in which the individual loses all semblance of self respect and initiative.

The partitioning of Viet Nam into two zones is the result of the signing of a truce agreement in Geneva between the French High Command and the Viet Minh. These agreements provide for elections to be held in July 1956 for the determination of Viet Nam's future. Although the Government of Viet Nam accepts the principle of elections on the condition that they are absolutely free, it does not consider itself bound by the Geneva accord which it did not sign and which is a violation of the principle of self determination of peoples and a violation of article 13 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: "Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state. Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country." Yet in actual fact "elections" have already been carried out, for the Vietnamese from the North "voted with their feet." Eight hundred thousand Northerners succeeded in fleeing South in order to be able to practice their faith and to live in freedom. They are only a small part of those who would also have chosen freedom had they not been prevented from doing so by the Viet Minh.

A recent unanimous report of the International Control Commission responsible for supervision of the truce agreements has established that in violation of Article 14d. of the Geneva cease-fire agreements, the Viet Minh have used every means from gentle persuasion to brute force to hinder the flow of freedom seekers. Nevertheless over eight hundred thousand of them reached their destination, and the success of their flight is a gain for the side of freedom and proves that these people prefer independence under the National Government rather than the slavery which they know would be in store for them under the Viet Minh regime. No more eloquent testimony of faith in the Free World can be found than in the story of these Vietnamese people who have left their homes, their land, and in many cases their families in order to live under the free government of South Viet Nam.

Premier Ngo dinh Diem's government has been acutely aware of its responsibilities toward the refugees and has dedicated itself to providing them with an opportunity to rebuild a new and abundant life endowed with the blessings of freedom and justice. To meet its responsibilities the Government is resettling the refugees on new or reclaimed land and is helping in the construction of new homes and is supplying food, until they may again be self sufficient. To provide the fertile rice fields necessary to accommodate the thousands of refugees massive agrarian reform projects have been launched by the government.

One of the most striking and effective features of the assistance now being given the refugees is the spontaneous and generous participation of the governments of the United States, France, the Netherlands, the Philippines and other countries of the Free World. Private voluntary relief organizations from a score of free nations are also giving direct assistance for the rehabilitation of these people who have cast their lot with the Free World.





# VIET NAM



U. S. sailors help "small fry" refugees disembark at Saigon, the last phase of their journey to freedom.



Red Cross aid pouring into Saigon for distribution.



Refugees from the North wait on the beaches for small boats that will take them to the American naval vessels anchored off shore.



Refugees working tirelessly at the Phu Tho reception center erect the more than 300 tents furnished by American aid.



Distribution of food parcels to refugees from the North.



A new village rises for a new life in South Viet Nam.



Red Cross aid arrives at Saigon for distribution.



## YOUTH

The Government of Viet Nam while concentrating its effort in the field of education does not forget that a healthy youth is a primary factor in the vitalization of the country. For this reason much attention is being directed towards the integration and development of youth organizations and to physical education.

A variety of youth movements are active in Viet Nam at the present time such as scout organizations and highly specialized group movements of christian and buddhist youth. The Government respects the individual character of these varied groups but supports their efforts towards centralization in a coordinated "National Federation of Youth Movements." In September of 1954 a National Youth Council was established to serve as liaison with the government and the youth movements.

Youth organizations are actually developing at a greatly accelerated pace but the problem of trained personnel for guiding the new organizations is a serious one. With the end of hostilities, the government was able to speed up a training program for this purpose and by April of 1955 there were four groups of young men and women graduated from special four month training courses.

The new trainees have undertaken vigorous social action programs. A certain number are assigned to primary schools where they have organized student groups and started physical education programs. Others were immediately occupied with welcoming incoming refugees, helping disaster victims rebuild their homes, roads, bridges and in making heavily populated areas more sanitary. Still others play an important part in the struggle against illiteracy, and all of them work towards popular education and the widest possible dissemination of the basic notions of public hygiene.

\* \* \* \* \*

Youth leaders have made a real contribution to the development of physical education in the schools. In 1954, the General Board of Youth and Sports awarded more than four thousand sport certificates, a thousand more than in 1953. In January of 1955, the board organized a contest to confer a similar certificate on women and several hundred women students participated in Saigon. The board has also



Enthusiastic youth greets Premier Ngo dinh Diem.



University students give a performance of popular songs.



A young virtuoso of the piano forte.



# VIET NAM

succeeded in popularizing physical education through daily radio broadcasts and by means of an information campaign carried on with mobile teams.

\* \* \* \*

In 1952 and 1954 Viet Nam sent delegations to the Olympic games at Helsinki and Manila. At international sporting events where Viet Nam has been represented the Vietnamese football and ping pong teams have made a very good showing. In 1954 there were 305 athletic associations functioning in Viet Nam with approximately 61,000 members as compared to only 104 in 1947. As a result of the work by youth leaders school and university associations have been added and in 1955 a national athletic championship competition was organized at Saigon.

Some of the authorized associations are the National Sports Committee, the National Olympic Committee, the National Office of School and University Sports. Sports federations and leagues for football, swimming, cycling, ping pong, basketball, shooting, fencing, and volleyball have been established.

The action of the National Government is not geared merely towards urban youth and schools but also towards rural and working groups, all constituting the hope of Free Viet Nam.



Vietnamese students from the north continue their studies at a temporary resettlement camp at Saigon.





## EDUCATION

Viet Nam has continuously developed and extended its educational program during recent years despite the war which raged over most of the country until July, 1954.

Before the partition of Viet Nam the University of Hanoi was under mixed Vietnamese and French administration and there were branches of each faculty in Saigon. Following the partition a majority (70%) of the students and professors from Hanoi went to Saigon. Complete control of the University was given to the Government of Viet Nam in May of 1954, well before the established deadline of December 1955. There are over 2,500 university students gathered in Saigon. Approximately 700 of these are students of law, a thousand are students of medicine and 600 are studying in the sciences.

A significant number of Vietnamese students are enrolled in various universities abroad. In France, 1,923; in Great Britain, 150, and in the United States nearly 200 in various parts of the country. The National Government itself has established scholarships for government workers to include refresher and training courses for study in Europe and America.

The fight against illiteracy was launched in January 1952 and pursued vigorously by the government with an ordinance which made it compulsory for all Vietnamese between the ages of thirteen and fifty to read and write the Vietnamese language.

The Government of Premier Ngo dinh Diem is especially concerned with popular education in all aspects of its development and the revision of methods. The formula now in effect is based on two principles which are designed first, to provide students with a sound working knowledge of agricultural activity in their region which will enable them to renew a vigorous regional life, and second, to promote close cooperation between the people of the region and those of the school so that the school becomes a mutual learning center where the people of the region may guide the students in the experience they have acquired through the generations. There are two such schools presently functioning in Central and South Viet Nam, and adult education courses are given everywhere with special attention to the areas recently liberated from communism.



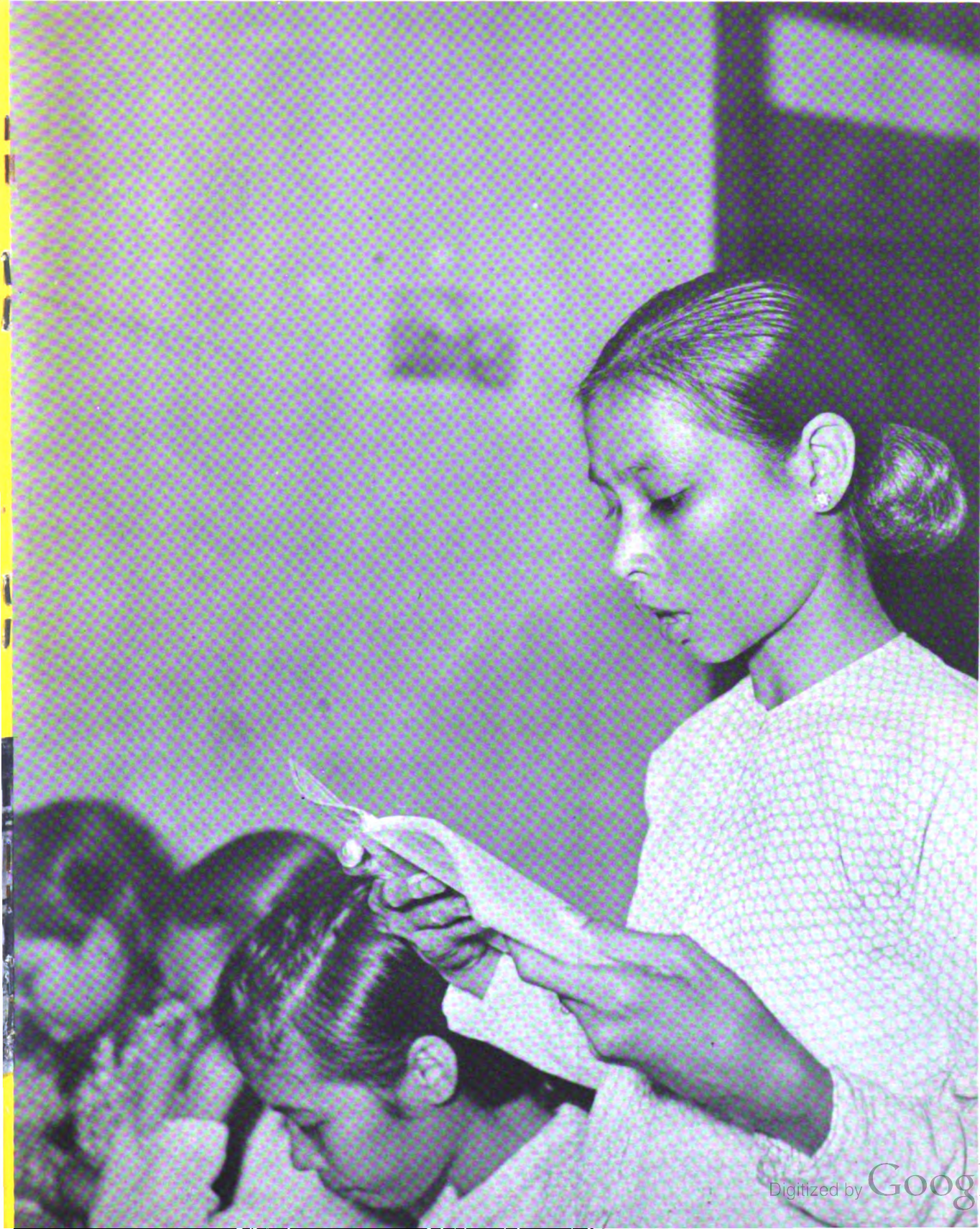
Refugee students meet to discuss their problems.



Refugee students from North Viet Nam pledge loyalty to Premier Ngo dinh Diem.

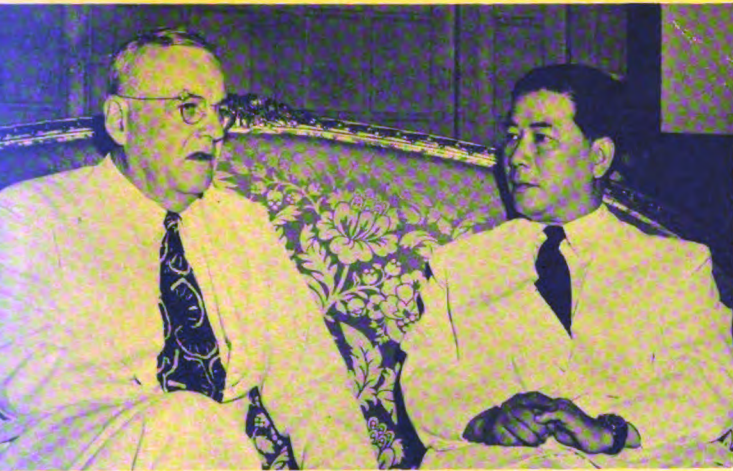


A lesson in reading in the struggle against illiteracy.





# VIET NAM



Premier Ngo dinh Diem receives the United States' Secretary of State, The Honorable John Foster Dulles.

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

South Viet Nam has been recognized by 38 nations. Since 1949 in spite of internal difficulties, Viet Nam has developed its relations with the Free World. Embassies are maintained at Washington, London and Tokyo; legations at Rome, Bangkok, and Madrid; consulates at Hong Kong and Singapore. A High Commissioner represents Viet Nam in Paris.

Following prolonged negotiations France has returned to Viet Nam complete civilian power and military command. Relations with France have been re-established on the principle of complete equality.

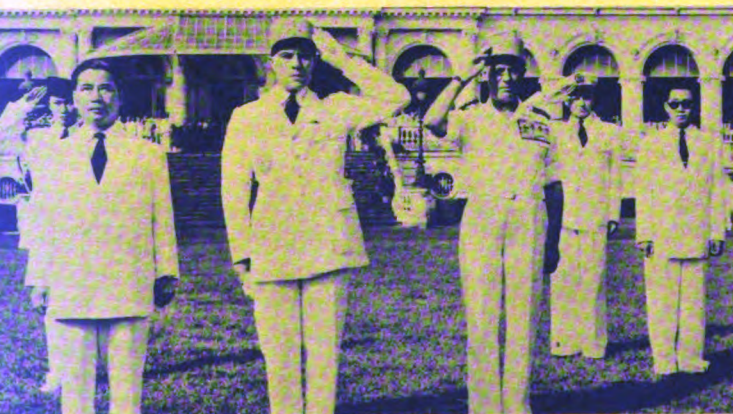
Relations with the United States of America have never been better, and American aid is now given directly to South Viet Nam instead of through French intermediaries.



International Mission of Moral Rearmament received by Premier Ngo dinh Diem.



General O'Daniel decorated by Premier Ngo for his services to Viet Nam in the training of troops of the Vietnamese armed forces.



Premier Ngo dinh Diem and General Ely, French High Commissioner attending ceremony on the return of Independence Palace to Viet Nam.

Although Viet Nam has not yet been accepted as a member of the United Nations because of a veto by the U.S.S.R., it has participated actively in many of the specialized agencies of the United Nations such as:

UNESCO (*United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization*), ECAFE (*Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East*), ICAO (*International Civil Aviation Organization*), UNICEF (*United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund*), WHO (*World Health Organization*), FAO (*Food and Agriculture Organization*), ILO (*International Labor Organization*), ITU (*International Telecommunications Union*), UPU (*Universal Postal Union*).

Viet Nam has also participated in the Colombo Plan. The tenth anniversary of the United Nations Organization was celebrated in Saigon as a day of hope and faith in the future of mankind.



## **Premier Ngo Dinh Diem Addresses the Vietnamese People on United Nations Day:**

On the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Organization, Premier Ngo Dinh Diem addressed the Vietnamese people. He said:

“I recall having stated in 1954 on the occasion of United Nations day that the UN constitutes an unlimited source of hope for young states who desire to strengthen the independence they have recently attained and to raise the standard of living of their population. Since this time, my faith in the United Nations has not wavered and continues to grow.

“Ten years have gone by since the memorable day when the United Nations held its first meeting at San Francisco. This date marked a new stage in the history of humanity for during this period the work that the United Nations accomplished strengthened the confidence the small nations placed in it.

“On the military side, intervention of the United Nations stopped the invasion of South Korea. At the same time, international organizations such as WHO, UNESCO, ILO, and FAO which include Viet Nam and which stem from the United Nations, have tried to raise the standard of living of the peoples of Asia.

“These international organizations symbolize a spirit of responsibility common to all nations. Viet Nam has received substantial aid from these organizations, in particular for the evacuation, rehabilitation, and reorientation of nearly a million of our compatriots who left the North to go to South Viet Nam in search of freedom and new incentives. The United Nations Organization is based on the Declaration of Human Rights which recognizes for all people the right to choose the regime best suited to them and for each individual to live decently and to enjoy freedom of opinion and religion.

“Thus the noble and humanitarian aim of the United Nations is in accord with the legitimate aspirations of the Vietnamese people. We earnestly hope that the peoples who have just reached independence as well as the countries that are still economically weak will be helped even more.

“To strengthen the front of freedom and democracy it is important to reinforce the most sensitive points that may lead to disturbances.”

United Nations' Day





## SOCIAL REFORMS

Social reform has been one of the essential elements of the policy of Premier Ngo dinh Diem. From the time he assumed office he concentrated on relief for the working classes and the destitute. He was not satisfied with merely remedying immediate suffering. He has tried with a great measure of success to reform the entire social structure.

Agrarian reform was given a new impetus, for Premier Ngo believed that in Viet Nam this reform was necessary and urgent. It is not only economic in nature, it falls within the framework based on the idea that those who work the land should reap the benefits.

Premier Ngo did not forget the social problems of the urban groups. Associations have been established to help the victims of fate both morally and materially. These associations act within the framework of the program which has been drawn up by the head of the government. The program includes the establishment of an orphanage and old-age homes in all large cities of the country.

The working classes also receive special attention from Premier Ngo. From the time he assumed power, he carefully studied their problems and immediately sought means to improve conditions. Two concrete measures were taken in this respect. First, in general terms, a complete revision of the existing "Labor Code" was made. On February 8th, 1955 a new "Labor Code" was published which proved to be superior to that of 1952. Working conditions were strictly regulated, especially for employment and the position or status of workers within the business.

The second measure was the release of salaries. On October 13, 1954, Premier Ngo called a commission to study the possibility of increasing salaries which for more than a year had remained at the same level. Following this the same commission undertook the problem of minimum salaries. As a result the worker was guaranteed a decent life for himself and for his family.

Premier visits school for orphans of Vietnamese soldiers.





## ECONOMIC REALIZATIONS

Until January 1955, the Pau accords of 1950 regulated the economic, financial and commercial life of Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia. These agreements obliged the Indochinese states to reach with France a unanimous decision to leave all important matters at the status quo, thus giving France power to oppose any change. The three Indochinese states were thus obliged to go on applying French regulations.

The government of Premier Ngo dinh Diem saw all the defects of this system. Complete independence in all fields was the fundamental principle of all new negotiations. This feeling was shared in Laos and Cambodia. The States wanted to be complete masters of their destiny. Questions of common interest were to be discussed and treated among parties concerned.

After long and difficult negotiations, the States were able to arrive at the December 29th, 1954 agreements which are the charter of the new relations.

Viet Nam is entirely independent:

*Economically:*

The customs union between the Indochinese States has been abolished. Henceforth, commercial relations are regulated through treaties concluded between the States.

Viet Nam will determine its own economic policy.

American aid will be given directly to Viet Nam. The latter thus sees its purchasing possibilities increase abroad. The useful products of Japan, the United States, and Germany are beginning to arrive in large quantities.

The port of Saigon has become an entirely Vietnamese port again, and, Viet Nam offers facilities to Cambodia and Laos.

The Franco-Vietnamese Chamber of Commerce has been replaced by an entirely Vietnamese Chamber.

*Financially:*

Viet Nam is master of its currency and foreign exchange.

Viet Nam has its National Bank since the "Institut d'Emission des Etats du Viet Nam, Laos, et du Cambodge" has been abolished.

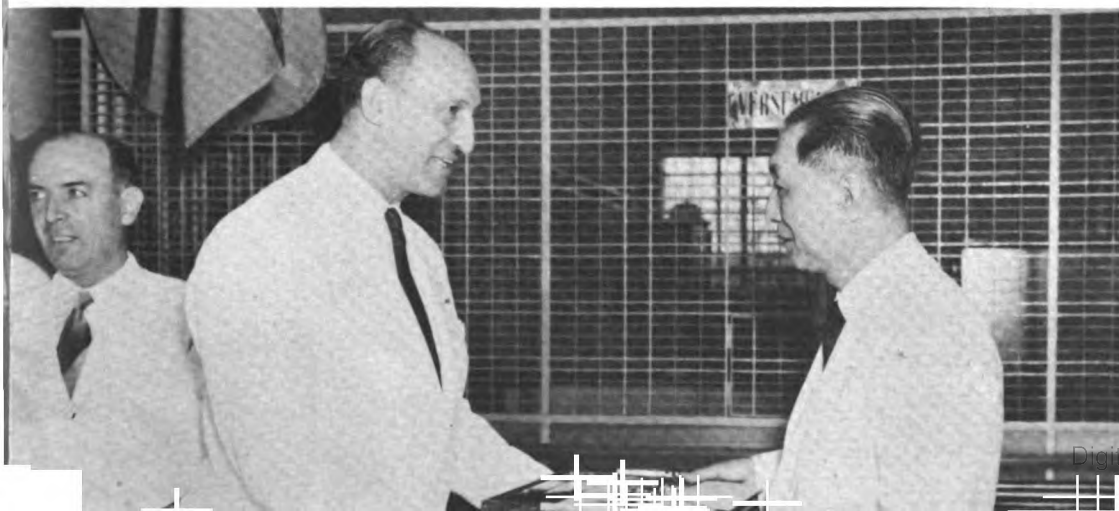
The Office of Exchange is Vietnamese and no longer a four-party body.

*Agriculturally:*

With agrarian reform, the government established popular agricultural credit—(ordinance of April 24, 1955).

In the South, rice accounts for 2,200,000 acres and plantations cover 100,000 acres.

The wealth of Viet Nam will enable its newly reorganized economy to meet its needs as it resumes its traditional role of agricultural exporter for Southeast Asia.



Ceremony marks transfer of the office of Foreign Exchange to Vietnamese authorities.



# VIET NAM

## HIGHLANDS OF SOUTH VIET NAM CELEBRATE





## UNIFICATION WITH THE REST OF SOUTH VIET NAM

Premier Ngo dinh Diem's government recently placed the tribal regions of the central highlands of South Viet Nam on the same administrative level as the densely populated lowlands of South Viet Nam.

With the abolishment of a separate regime for these primitive lands, thousands of tribal representatives flocked to Ban me Thuot to join in a colorful celebration. Premier Ngo dinh Diem and many other government officials as well as members of foreign diplomatic

community flew one hundred and sixty miles from Saigon to participate in the events.

The ceremonies included an oath of allegiance to the South Vietnamese Government on the part of the 600,000 tribesmen of the area, and brought the Rhades, Mois, Lolos, Mans, Chams Thais, Sedangs, Nungs, Bhnars, Djarais and a number of other primitive mountain peoples into direct and equal relationship with the Vietnamese.





# VIET NAM









