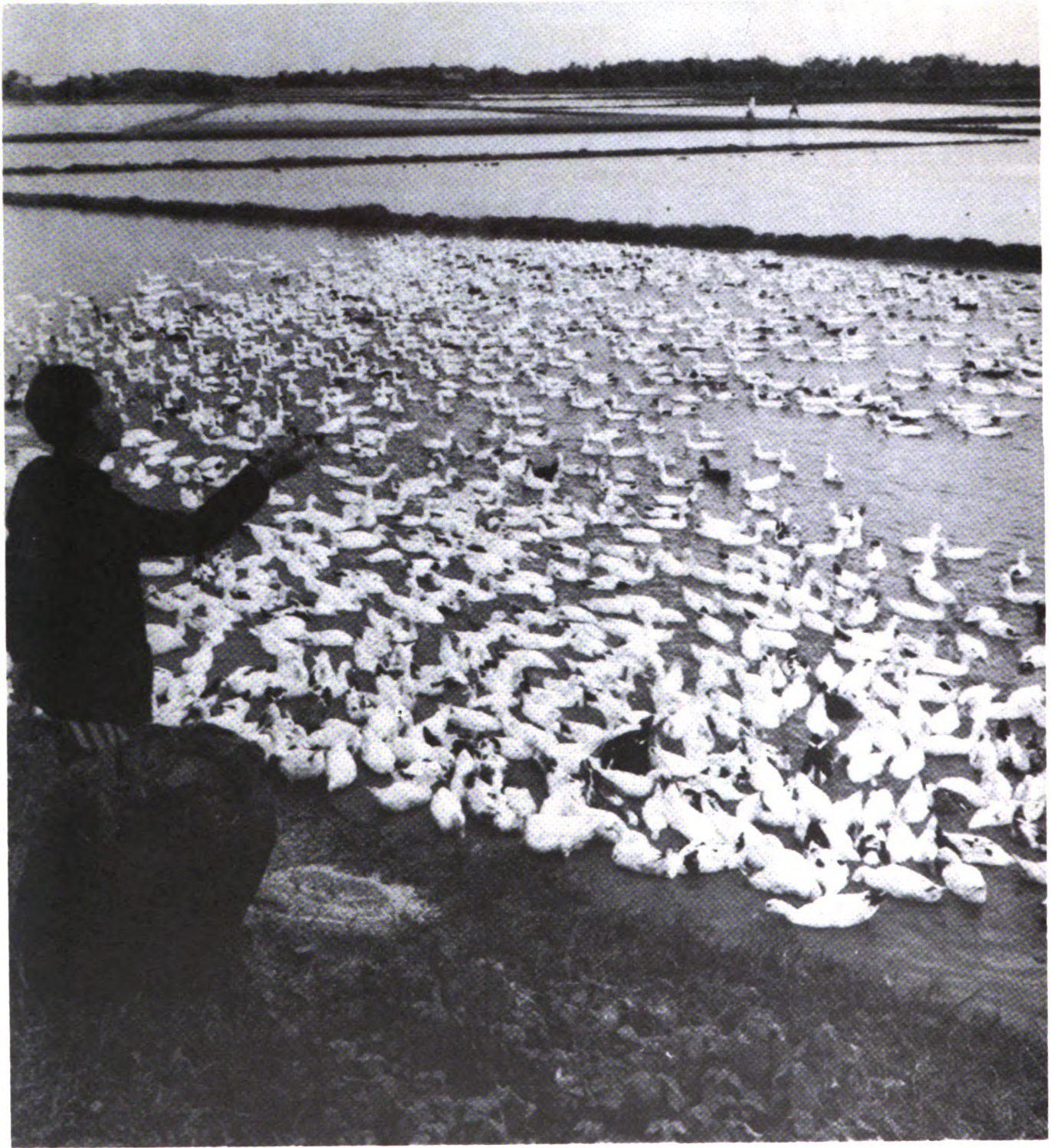


Vietnam

Lights and Build





Duck rearing

Vietnam

Fights and Builds

The News Magazine

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OUR FRONT COVER

By Nguyen Ngoc Hanh



People-Army understandings
and joy after victory

Letter from the Editors

SAIGON, March, 1965

Dear Readers,

Recently in Saigon, the special attention of urban observers has been drawn upon a new term of Vietnamese locution very often heard and used in the Capital.

It sounds as follows in a sweet Saigonese tune : «BON NGUOI DAM SAU LUNG », i.e. : the back-stabbers.

We would like to give you a good information by explaining it here now.

As vocable, the term, quite ordinary and simple, derives from the age-old Vietnamese vocabulary stockpile.

As meaning, it indicates a general group of men who are so vile and base, so awkward and mean-spirited, that they happen to poniard clandestinely on the back, not of their adversaries, but of their friends proper, killing them together with their comrades-in arms of the same front when these are all busy fighting a common enemy.

The expression, for the time being, hints especially at a certain number, really existing in Saigon city, of traitorous pro-Communist fellows who keep trying to make people believe that they are friends, but meanwhile, smuggling in «peace» ! — by promoting and advocating a laying down arms for «peace» and for «charity» according to some general religious principles, a stopping of legitimate defense, a ceasing of all war activities, not by aggressors who went South from beyond the 17th parallel, but by our terrorized free citizens and our assailed Armed Forces men in the South with a Communist-inspired funny slogan saying that Vietnamese (non-Communist) must not kill the Vietnamese (Communist) !...

If not impeded timely by Saigon Central authorities, those false prophets would have launched strikes and sown disorders, tempests and hurricanes everywhere very seriously in the recently last few days.

It is to remember that so far — since eleven years after the Geneva Agreements, and particularly, since after the 1rst November coup till now — the same «peace-makers» never voiced any slightest formula in protest of unnumberable crimes and terrorist activities perpetrated by the infiltrated North Vietcong aggressors on South.

— Why did they act so wisely ? you ask.

— Because they infallibly know that, anyhow, the day of today is different from that of yesterday, no matter how unsafely the day of tomorrow is unknown and unforeseeable while, in fact, their Hanoi Red master-employers are now suffering much enough, and that their relatives and deep jungle friends are just now fated, seemingly, to pocket many hardships from sensational, aerial, acrobatic games performed by our joint Vietnamese-American Armed Forces, and that, equally, if this situation, very unhappy to them, continues growing harder day in and day out, their North Red Paradise will be for sure deprived of all its starving dwellers !

To call those sly dogs by their proper name, our South Vietnam's peace-hungry citizens have identified them as back-stabbers and made them responsible for all the internal set-backs so far endured by our war-torn, well-beloved country.

To sum up, beware of those miserable hypocrites and back-stabbers! dear Readers, and please be sure they will fall down heavily soon, for good and all, as a consequence of their precious treason. (L)

The Editors

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No

PEACE

with

AGGRESSORS

According to the proclamation of the Government of the Republic of Vietnam issued on March 1, 1965 at the first press conference by Prime Minister Phan Huy Quat, serious warning is given that the present Government of the Republic of Vietnam will protest any solution, even international, of Vietnamese problems that lacks the agreement of the government and the people of Vietnam.

This reaffirmation of position by the Government has been occasioned by a movement of international opinion about the problem of negotiations in view of ending the war in Vietnam. The emphasis is placed on the fact that to South Vietnam this is a purely defensive war imposed on freedom-fighters in the South by Communist North Vietnam.

Given this spirit of the proclamation, no proposal for peace are acceptable to the government that may betray the country and the people of Vietnam or that may enslave it for the benefit and at the hands of the Communists. The present Vietnamese Government's stand implies the reality of a strong and resolute leadership of the Saigon Central authorities as well as the existence of deep mutual understanding between leaders and people with regard to vigilance against Machiavellian maneuvers of the infiltrated Red-Chinese backed-Vietcong's emissaries in Saigon.

The latter are now more than ever attempting to paralyze all anti-Communist fighting efforts. Camouflaged under the mask of friendly groups, they try to deprive the legal government of the necessary support of the people.

The peace they wish to impose on the government of Vietnam is any peace that favors Communist schemes. No alert government could agree with any such proposal. The peace we aim at now is, on the contrary, that fought for and not that begged for. It is not a peace of defeat and surrender camouflaged by the Vietcong henchmen under any label of peace protection movement or front, especially after they have tasted recent heavy damage inflicted by our retaliatory air-strikes on their Red masters in North Vietnam. Only a camouflaged « peace » could originate with Vietcong cadres hidden under the label of friendly groups that are ready to sow disturbances and divisions at any time by street demonstrations in the Capital.

The « peace » they clamor for is dangerously deceptive. We hope that the Government realizes that the ideas of such people and of those misled by them are not to be the deciding factors in accepting or rejecting solutions that will affect many generations of Vietnamese. Peace at any cost is not what we want, nor what we have fought for. What we wish now is a peace with the simple victory of having ordinary freedom within the Free World and not a « peace » with defeat in surrender to Communist imperialism.

The Government's position, so clearly proclaimed by the Prime Minister, is based on principles of human right as well as on bitter experience of Communist techniques.

The people of Vietnam want peace and security but not the « peace » and « security » of the Communist prison-world. They cannot accept any invitation to ride in a vehicle headed for that prison-world, no matter how brightly that vehicle is painted and no matter what garb the driver wears.

L.

PEACE OR WAR ?



The peace we aim at now is that fought for and not that begged for !

TO END THE WAR IN VIETNAM

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

Recently, international opinion has raised the problem of negotiations in view of ending the war in Vietnam.

In the course of their history, the people of Vietnam have never ceased to demonstrate their love for peace but, at the same time, they have always fiercely fought to defend their right to live as free men and the independence of the Nation.

The Communists, though they themselves have provoked the present war, seek to exploit the sufferings of the people and slyly maneuver for a false peace in their dark design to undermine the fighting effort and the will to win of the Vietnamese people.

Once again, the Government considers it necessary to confirm its position and that of the people of Vietnam.

1°) The struggle of the Republic of Vietnam is obviously a case of self-defence and is aimed solely at opposing Communist aggression in order to safeguard the freedom of the people and the independence of the nation as well as to provide the country with a true peace.

2°) The Republic of Vietnam does not see peace as a « mere truce » which the Communists could exploit to perfect their subversive organization and carry out their Machiavellian maneuvers for the takeover of the entire territory of Vietnam.

3°) For the Republic of Vietnam, a true peace requires :

a) that the Communists immediately end the war they have provoked ; that they stop their infiltration as well as all subversive attempts and acts of sabotage against the authorities and the people of Vietnam,

b) that the liberty and the security of the Republic of Vietnam be effectively guaranteed by concrete, efficient and appropriate means.

4°) The Republic of Vietnam rejects any international solution which has not received the agreement of the Government and the people of Vietnam.

5°) The Government is determined to take all necessary measures to smash the fallacious propaganda maneuvers that the Communists are staging with a view to deceive public opinion, sow confusion among the population and take advantage of the credulous.

Saigon, March 1st, 1965



Part of the huge Viet Cong arms stockpile found near a cove in Cap Varella, Phu Yen province

VUNG RO BAY, SOUTH VIET-NAM

THE SITE WHERE AN ARMED, OCEAN-GOING NORTH VIETNAMESE
VESSEL WAS SUNK ON FEBRUARY 16, 1965



JOINT GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM/AMERICAN MISSION ANNOUNCEMENT

Republic of Vietnam and United States aircraft today took further action against two military installations in the southern part of North Vietnam. These installations are being used by Hanoi to support its aggression against the people and territory of South Vietnam.

Conclusive new evidence of Hanoi's aggression was revealed by the discovery on February 16 of an armed, ocean-going North Vietnamese vessel in Vung Ro Bay, South Vietnam. The vessel had carried large quantities of communist bloc arms, including rifles, machine guns, mortar shells and more than one million rounds of ammunition. Substantial quantities of arms and ammunition were uncovered in dumps on the shore nearby. These supplies came from Hanoi. This is established beyond question by written records, photographs, nautical charts and packing lists. All this evidence has been presented to the International Control Commission and to the world press.

The discovery confirms that North Vietnam is in a major operation to send arms into South Vietnam by sea as well as by land.

Under the direction and control of Hanoi, the Viet Cong is using the weapons and ammunition supplied by North Vietnam in continuation of the aggression against South Vietnam and in acts of terror against the South Vietnamese people and their institutions of government. This campaign of violence continues on a day-to-day basis.

Two examples of recent terrorism are cited from the long list :

Over the period of the past two weeks, the Viet Cong have entered hamlets and kidnapped a total of 139 civilians, including twenty civilians kidnapped in Thua Thien on February 21 and twentyfive civilians kidnapped in Kontum on February 22 ; also on February 22, the Viet Cong attacked a civilian bus in Binh Dinh province with an anti-tank rocket and small arms fire, resulting in the death of all nine adult passengers aboard.

The Governments of the Republic of Vietnam and of the United States wish to avoid widening the conflict, but they are compelled to make clear to Hanoi that North Vietnam will be held fully accountable for continuing aggression against South Vietnam.

Saigon, March 2nd, 1965



Viet Cong arms and ammunition were uncovered in dumps on the shore of Vung Ro Bay

National legislative Council explodes communists

Saigon (VP) March 2

The 20-member National Legislative Council yesterday charged the Communists with having launched a phony peace campaign, and called on the entire Vietnamese people to crush these dark schemes.

The council pointed to Hanoi as the source supplying military personnel and equipment to the « so-called Liberation Front to wage a war of aggression and sabotage against the Republic of Viet Nam. »

« If the Communists really want to show their earnestness for peace, » the Council said, « they must withdraw all their military personnel and armed organization out of the Republic of Viet Nam. »

Full VP translation of the NLC communique follows :

While our people and Armed Forces are facing up to the danger of Communist aggression on all fronts, once again, in

line with the international Communist strategy, the Viet Cong have played the card of peace.

The National Legislative Council recognizes that peace is something every free people earnestly longs for, particularly the Vietnamese people after more than 20 years of war. The Communists have exploited that aspiration to present a « paper peace » with the deliberate intention to sap the fighting strength of the nationalist ranks.

But there are many kinds of peace — there is peace in freedom and independence, and peace in slavery and suffering. Our Armed Forces and people are fighting only for a peace in freedom and independence, and are determined never to accept any false peace under the Communist yoke.

Faced with the determination of the Vietnamese people and Armed Forces, and the clearcut attitude of the friendly countries which have been firmly helping the Republic of Viet Nam protect its independence, the Communist Viet Cong have come to realize they cannot take over this country by force, so they have

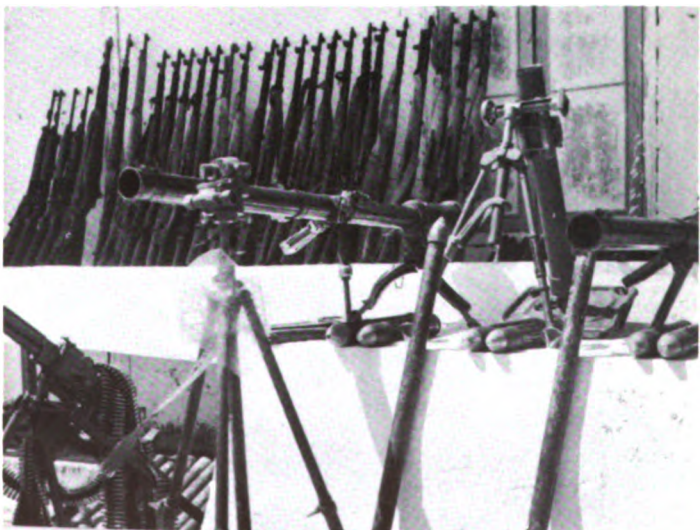
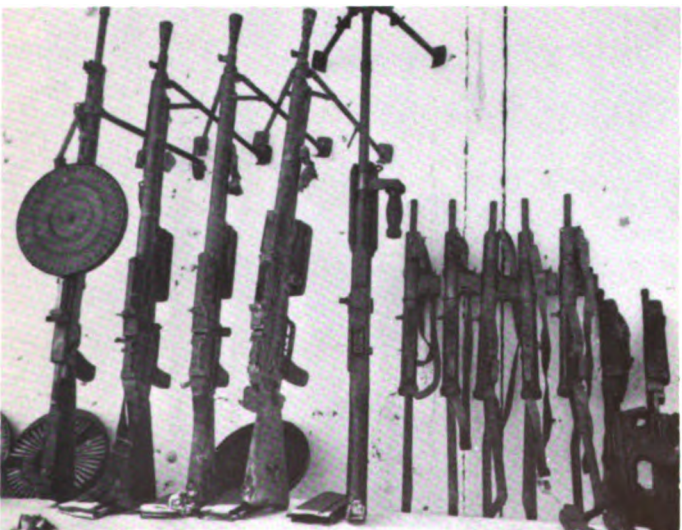
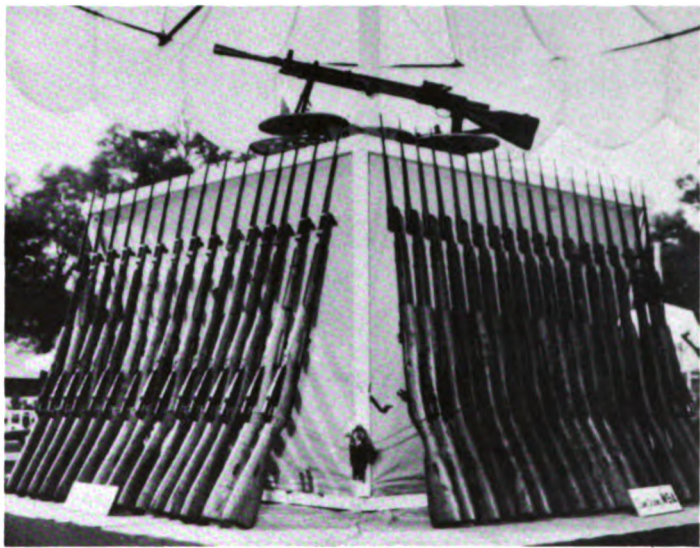
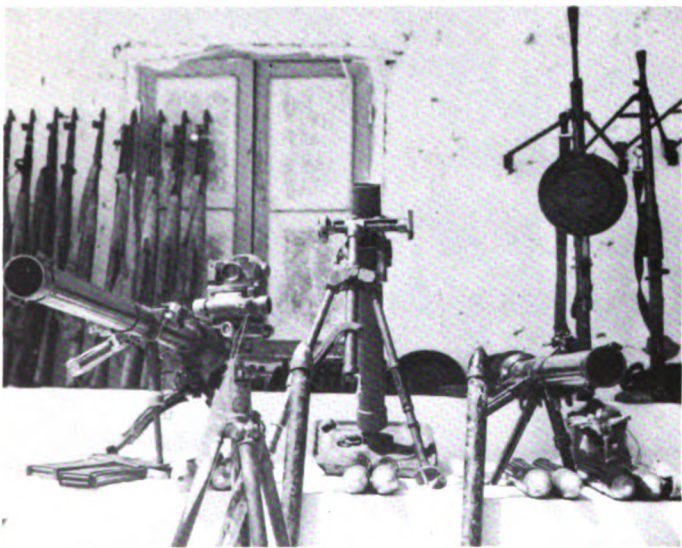
baited their trap with peace on order to tempt gullible people.

To the Republic of Viet Nam, the Communists are the aggressors. It is Hanoi which has sent military personnel and arms to the so-called Liberation Front to wage a war of aggression and sabotage against the Republic of Viet Nam. Not one single patriotic nationalist combatant agrees to negotiation and making peace with the invaders. If the Communists really want to show their earnestness for peace, they must withdraw all their military personnel and armed organizations out of the Republic of Viet Nam.

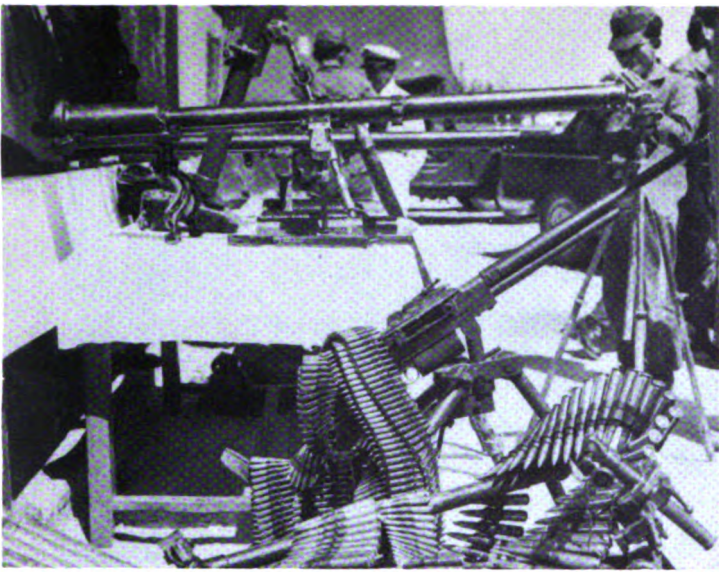
The Vietnamese people have chosen the path of glory — peace in freedom and independence. Our entire population is determined to realize that peace, and we will not let ourselves duped by Communist plots.

In actively crushing the dark Communists' schemes under the phony peace label, we thus wisely serve true peace.

Signed :
NLC Chairman,
Maj. Gen. Pham Xuan Chieu



Some of the Viet Cong weapons seized in Vung Ro Bay



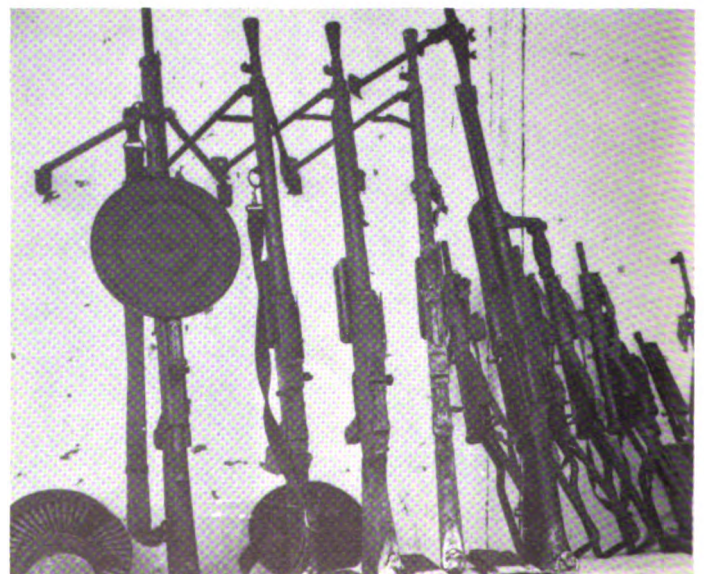
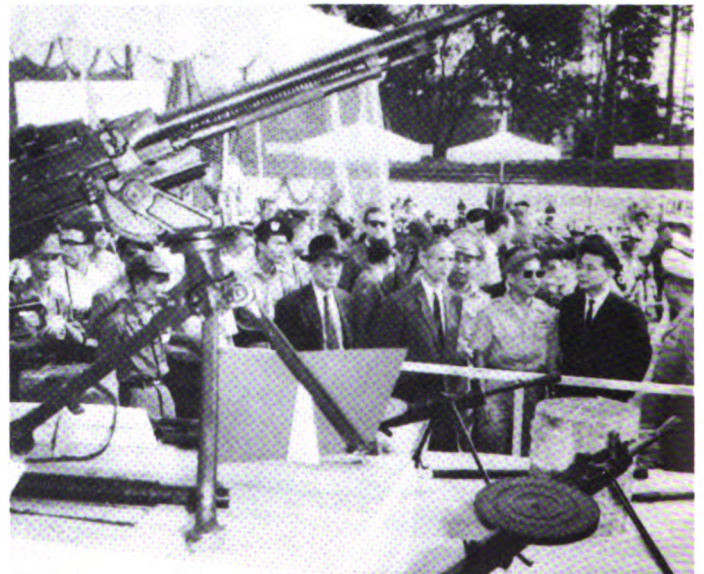
WHO SOWED DIVISION?

AND CAUSED FRATRICIDAL WAR
IN SOUTH VIETNAM?

WHO FORCED US TO STAND

THIS DEFENSIVE WAR?

*They are Communist and Colonialist — backed
Hanoi rebels and henchmen or the latest fashion
of the «Liberation and Peace-Mongers» in Free
South Vietnam.*



- IS IT TRUE THAT COMMUNIST HANOI BROUGHT ARMS, AMMUNITION AND MEN TO SOUTH VIETNAM IN ORDER TO «LIBERATE» US WHO NOW ENJOY FREEDOM AND HAPPINESS ?
- NO ! IN FACT, THEY KILLED INNOCENT PEOPLE SHAMELESSLY.
- FOLLOWING ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF THEIR SAVAGE «LIBERATION».



OUR UNFORTUNATE PEASANTS ARE A PREY TO THE VIET CONG SAVAGERY



What kind of «Liberation» does the Viet Cong Front mean ?

— Biggest lie ! Communist North Vietnam attempts to prepare the way to South for their 700 million Red Chinese masters who will rob us of our fatherland and rice and assimilate our future generations.



Quit strikes...

VN-US Air strikes destroy two North Vietnam Base

Saigon (VP) March 3

More than 160 USAF and VNAF planes yesterday afternoon carried out new punitive bombing strikes against Communist North Viet Nam, attacking a naval base and a supply depot, American Military sources said.

They were the latest in a series of air strikes on North Viet Nam from air bases in the Republic of Viet Nam.

The first strike was made by 20 Vietnamese AIE Skyraiders, escorted by American Air Force F-100 jet bombers. They attacked the North Vietnamese Navy base at Quang Khe, 20 miles north of Dong Hoi, in a 15 minute raid that began about 3:45 p.m.

The American escorting fighters did not participate in the strike at Quang Khe.

The second air raid on Xom Bang — a supply depot about 10 miles north of the 17th parallel and about 15 miles inland from the Laotian border — was an all-American show, with B-57 Canberra bombers taking part in strike against North Viet Nam for the first time. F-100 and F-105 jet fighters also participated in the raid at Xom Bang.

The attacks were announced jointly by the Government of the Republic of Viet Nam and the U.S. Embassy in Saigon.

The joint statement said « Republic of Viet Nam and United States aircraft today took further action against two military installations in the southern part of North Viet Nam. These installations are being used by Hanoi to support its aggression against the people and territory of South Viet Nam. »

According to a U.S. military spokesman, both strikes were highly successful. He said that the targets suffered extensive damage and « were pretty well beaten up. »

The spokesman said that the target at Quang Khe is believed to be « an administrative and supply center used on support of Communist North Viet Nam's naval activities » and that, like objects of previous attacks, 70 to 80 per cent of the installations were destroyed.

Three to five small enemy vessels were also reported destroyed while docked at their riverside wharf near the sea.

The Xom Bang target of the U.S. wing of the attack suffered substantially the same damage as Quang Khe.

Xom Bang is a supply point and storage depot for the Viet Cong.

The spokesman pointed out that conventional type weapons were used in the attack. The total destructive explosive dumped on the enemy was estimated at about 200 tons: the U.S. used 120 tons and the Vietnamese Air Force from 60 to 70 tons.

It was said that the Viet Cong anti-aircraft resistance was light and there was no enemy air activity. (PS.6)

Quang Khe strike: Strange planes attempt to attack Skyraiders

Saigon (VP) March 3

Three « unidentified » aircraft yesterday made a timid attempt to attack VNAF Skyraiders returning from their highly successful strike on the North Viet Nam naval base at Quang Khe, 100kms above the 17th parallel.

The Air Force Command today revealed that the VNAF pilots spotted the three strange planes coming from the east, obviously intending to head off the Skyraiders. However, the AF Command said, our larger numbers apparently frightened them off.

This was the first report of « unidentified » or enemy aircraft reacting to the four recent air strikes into North Viet Nam. The report did not specify whether the strange craft were jets or conventional prop-driven planes.

In a follow up report on the strike, the AF Command said 19 of the 20 VNAF Skyraiders returned safely to their base at five p.m.

One aircraft had been hit by ground fire. The pilot, 3rd Lt. Phu of Squadron 516, bailed out and was fished from the sea one hour later.

Aerial photographs taken during the raid showed the Communist naval base had been heavily hit. First assessments set enemy losses as six barracks and a dock totally destroyed; a major structure collapsed and many barracks south of Quang Khe were burned.

It was also reported that during the raid, two Communist warships entered the Gianh River estuary, where the base is located, and directed heavy fire at the attacking Skyraiders. (DL-d)



Our Patrolling men, the terror of the Viet Cong

Against Communist North

General Ky's 'Strange' plane were US Navy

Saigon (VP) March 4

Air Force Commander Brig. Gen. Nguyen Cao Ky yesterday explained that the three 'unidentified' aircraft spotted by VNAF Skyraiders following Tuesday's strike in North Viet Nam were actually U.S. Navy aircraft.

The Air Force leader made the statement last night during a dinner party at Tan Son Nhut Air base during which the pilots who participated in Tuesday's strike were awarded Gallantry Medal Oak Leaf Clusters.

In a follow-up report on the strike, the Air Force Command yesterday had said three unidentified aircraft were seen coming from the east, obviously intending to head off the Skyraiders, 'but our larger numbers apparently frightened them off.'

Among those receiving the awards were Col. Nguyen Ngoc Loan, Air Force Deputy Commander, Major Nguyen Quy Chan, Capts. Nguyen Van Le, Nguyen Tan Sy and Vo Thanh Quang. Two U.S. advisers, Col. R.E. Dawson of the Bien Hoa Airbase and Capt. Bill Leitch of Special Group 83, also received the same decoration.

Also last night, the new statute and by-laws of the Armed Forces Council were disclosed.

Gen. Ky warned that if ever the Communists attacked either the Bien Hoa or Tan Son Nhut airbases, 'we will hit back hard.' He also disclosed that the Communists do not have aircraft in the southern part of North Viet Nam. He said the Red planes are only based at Vinh Yen, north of Hanoi.

North No Sanctuary

Gen. Ky said the recent air strikes against North Vietnamese military installations proved that the North is no longer an inviolable sanctuary which the Communists can use as a staging area for their aggression against South Viet Nam.

These raids, he added, also showed the world how determined the Vietnamese people are in crushing all Communist aggression.

The Air Force Commander said the Armed Forces Council has 'held talks with and provided counsel to the government' on problems related to the attacks against North Viet Nam and to measures to be taken in the political field.

Gen. Ky added: 'It is our view that to defeat the Communists, we must give the South Vietnamese people evidence of the fact that nationalism is better than Communist dictatorship. To that end, South Viet Nam's administration must be a revolutionary one. All injustices, corrupt practices and graft must disappear. Only then would the people like the administration and not heed Communist propaganda. And only then would they leave Red ranks to return to our community.'

Gen. Ky said that a just regime in the South would have an effective impact on the North Vietnamese people,

who one day might rise up to crush the cruel Communist regime.

The objective of our present struggle is Communism, and the dictatorial regime, Gen. Ky went on. Therefore we must have a democratic and just administration.

In talking to newsmen at the party, Gen. Ky also redefined his position in regard to the 'peace movements'. For the past 20 years, he said, the military have suffered thousands of hardships. As they have shed their blood, the 'question now is that there should be peace in freedom, not peace in slavery.'

The release of the Armed Forces Council statute was made by Gen. Ky, who hosted the party, Brig. Gens. Linh Quang Vien, Pham Van Dong and Huynh Van Cao.

It was read out by Brig. Gen. Cao, head of the Political Warfare Committee of the Armed Forces High Command.

Also present at last night's event were the Navy Commander, Rear Admiral Chung Tan Cang; Marines Commander Brig. Gen. Le Nguyen Khang; the Deputy Commander of the Capital Special Zone, Sub-Brig. Gen. Phan Xuan Nhuan; Armor Commander Col. Lam Quang Tho, and National Police Director General Lt. Col. Pham Van Lieu. Many local foreign newsmen also attended. (DL-d)

COMMUNIQUE OF THE OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

On Thursday night, March 4, 1965, the American Television Network 'National Broadcasting Company' (N.B.C.) broadcast a news story asserting that 'The South Vietnamese leadership is seeking a negotiated settlement of its difficulties with Communist forces in the North.'

In his broadcast, the correspondent of this Company, Robert Goralski, added:

'A top ranking member of Premier Quat's Government says the administration (South Vietnamese) is basically in accord with General de Gualle's position.'

This statement is totally false.

The Office of the Prime Minister wishes to reaffirm that the sole position of the government toward the peace problem has been clearly defined in the 'Proclamation of the Government' on March 1st, 1965.

Moreover, Prime Minister Phan Huy Quat does not sponsor or endorse — directly or indirectly — any peace movement set up by groups or individuals.

Saigon, March 6, 1965

Quit strikes...

Communique

In view of the continued infiltration and other acts of aggression against South Vietnam by the Communist authorities in Hanoi, the South Vietnamese Air force supported by U.S. Air Force aircraft, today attacked military targets in the southern part of North Vietnam. The attacks were carried out against military installations in North Vietnam directly associated with Communist aggression against South Vietnam and in furtherance of the right of the Government of Vietnam to avail itself of legitimate measures of self defense.

Saigon, March 15, 1965

Press communique

This afternoon 24 aircraft of the Republic of Vietnam Air Force personally led by Air Vice Marshall Nguyen Cao Ky, Commander of the Vietnamese Air Force, crossed the 17th parallel and attacked Ho Dao (Tiger Island), an important Vietcong military installation 18 miles North East of Ho Xa.

At 1400 hrs. sharp all 24 aircraft were over Ho Dao and began to bomb and strafe the assigned targets. Vietcong ground fire was heavy but did no damage.

Ho Dao is a naval base within the 4th Vietcong Naval Group Area and is a center for the grouping of supply ships infiltrating into South Vietnam. On the island there are 49 automatic gun positions, 12 coastal defense positions, a control reconnaissance center and many depots and barracks occupied by military personnel. During the past month, the Vietcong have forbidden fishing boats to approach the island within a ten mile radius.

By 1450 hrs. all 24 planes had returned safely to base. According to the pilots the Vietcong installations on Ho Dao have been totally destroyed.



Our pilots back from air-strikes against Communist North

ANOTHER AIR ASSAULT ON NORTH VIET NAM 90% OF TARGETS KNOCKED DOWN

Saigon, (VP) March 19

The United States Air Force and Navy aircraft again struck at important military targets in North Viet Nam this afternoon — the seventh air assault across the 17th parallel since February 7 last.

According to U.S. military sources, sixty USAF jets attacked at 1:00p.m. the Phu Van ammunition depot, about 110 miles north of the demilitarized zone, 25 to 30 miles northwest of Vinh, between the 18th and 19 parallels.

Major-General Joseph H. Moore, commanding officer of the 2nd ADVON, said that the air strike was very successful and 90 per cent of the targets were knocked down.

All the aircraft returned to their bases without any damage. During the attack, they used the normal type of ordnance, bombs and rockets.

The USAF strike, which lasted more than an hour was followed by another assault by sixty or seventy aircraft of the U.S. Navy, including jets, on Phu Van and Vinh Son supply depots, located in the same area as that covered in the earlier raid.

Joint communique of the Governments of the Republic of VN and of the U.S.

Saigon, VP March 15.

Following is the fulltext of a joint communique issued today by the governments of the Republic of Viet Nam and of the United States.

U.S. aircraft today attacked military installations in the Southern part of North Vietnam directly associated with the current aggression against South Vietnam. These attacks were carried out in view of the continued acts of aggression perpetrated at Hanoi's direction against South Vietnamese people and their political and economic institutions.

In the past month, the Vietcong carried out for example, the destruction of 82 bridges, 214 other acts of sabotage against the road and rail system in South Vietnam, and the murder or kidnapping of 41 villages or provincial officials.

The governments of the Republic of Vietnam and of the United States reiterate their desire to avoid widening the conflict but, at the same time, emphasize their determination to hold the Hanoi regime fully accountable for the continuing aggression.

All the aircraft went back to their carriers safely. The results of the second strike, however, were not yet available.

According to General Moore, this was an « all-American show. » He said that, during the raids, no enemy aircraft had been sighted.

General Moore added that today's targets were of the same size as those of Phu Qui, the area attacked by American aircraft last Monday.

A communique issued by the Prime Minister's Office earlier this evening said:

« United States aircraft attacked selected military installations in North Viet Nam again today. As in the past, these attacks were ordered as measures of legitimate self-defense for the Republic of Viet Nam in response to the pattern of continuing aggression against it by the Hanoi authorities.

« Today's attacks on North Vietnam military installations underscore the determination of the Governments of the Republic of Viet Nam and of the United States to maintain South Viet Nam's independence and territorial integrity. »

WHY DON'T WE ACCEPT NEUTRALISM ?

PART I NOTIONS ABOUT NEUTRALISM

1 - Origins and Definition of Neutralism :

Before the First World War, neutrality in the classic sense, or « passive neutrality », as was the case with Switzerland, was considered a legal statute recognized by international law. According to this statute, a neutral state would not participate in any war, nor declare war, and would remain non-aligned in any conflict between neighboring states. This neutrality was a respected juridical statute. Any state declaring itself neutral was bound by prerogatives as well as obligations clearly stipulated in international agreements.

Now, the world is clearly divided into two blocs : democratic and communist. Their politics and lines of conduct are quite different. The communists, headed by Russia and China, have never given up plotting the communization of the whole world. The Free World, as the name implies, lives in freedom and is determined to break down the communist attempt at conquest. This has been the main (cause of) a tense international political atmosphere for decades.

In this situation, leaders of some nations, partly to defend the interests of their own countries, partly moved with the will to build peace in the world, have stood for neutralism (for example, India). They thought neutrality might help reconcile conflicts between other nations.

Neutralism is a political act, a product of post-war crises, and quite different from ordinary neutrality. Neutralizations can have diplomatic relations with any state, in whatever bloc. Neutralism has only a tactical character it is not a doctrine.

Following are some classical definitions :

— Grotius (17th century Dutch jurist) gave a psychological definition : In case of war, some nations remained out of the conflict, avoiding complications. Grotius didn't mention the role and obligations of neutral states.

— Classical theory (Agreement of The Hague) : Neutralism is a voluntary act, a juridical statute implying the prerogatives and the obligations of a neutral state. This definition is not complete, for there exist some nations which have been constrained to be neutral.

2 - Different Forms of Neutralism :

So, we can say that in the present world there exists no state which is neutral in the classic sense — that is, really neutral — but only states which adopt varying tendencies of neutralism. Even Switzerland has an army of 500,000 men and is not unconcerned with international events.

Actually, given varying internal problems, neutralism takes different forms in different nations. Yugoslav neutralism is different from that of Egypt, and Indonesian neutralism is not like India's.

As to form, we can distinguish between :

a) Conventional Neutrality :

Set up by an international agreement between a small nation and other powers ; these powers agree not to violate the territory of the neutral state.

Although called conventional, an agreement of neutrality cannot be considered a contract of civil law. For if so considered, the result would be that if one of the contracting states broke the contract, the others may declare the agreement nullified and would not be bound by the obligation to not interfere. So peace in the neutral state would not be guaranteed.

b) Voluntary Neutrality :

c) Traditional Neutrality :

An example of which was practiced by the United States before the First World War. In case of war, the neutral state issues a declaration of neutrality. The state may, however, later abandon its neutral status.

d) De facto Neutrality :

Neutrality without a formal declaration.

As to content, we can distinguish between :

a) Passive Neutrality :

A passively neutral state would not accept aid from any foreign country, and its neutrality is stipulated in its constitution. Example : Switzerland.

b) Active Neutrality :

Examples : India and Burma. Leaders of these nations consider themselves arbiters between Russia and the United States. Nations practicing active neutrality may receive aid from any foreign country, and may also participate actively in international politics.

However, the case of India has demonstrated that communists don't respect neutrality whenever they so decide ; after the 1955 Bandung conference Premier Nehru, espousing the five principles of coexistence, declared India neutral. In 1960, the Chinese communists attacked India.

c) Positive Neutrality :

A term used by UAR President Nasser in 1957 after the Suez Canal incident. Positive neutrality is not very different from active neutrality. It can be called « pro-communist neutralism » or « anti-communist neutralism » according to its politics at any given moment. Cambodia's positive neutrality is similar.

d) Communist Neutrality :

The only example here is that of Yugoslavia, which stays out of the cold war as well as from under the political leadership of Russia, but is nonetheless communist.

Why don't we?...

PART II COMMUNIST CONCEPTION AND STRATEGY REGARDING NEUTRALISM

For communists, neutralism is an illusion. During World War I, Lenin convinced Swiss workers to oppose their country's neutrality. He stated in the 1916 communist program for action: «The insignificant efforts of small countries to stand apart, the insignificant wills of the bourgeoisie to keep out of the great struggle in world history are reactionary and based on illusions».

Communists firmly oppose neutralism (e.g., the cases of Hungary and Switzerland). They distinguish between neutralism useful to their politics, and that which is not.

Russia signed neutrality agreements with Poland, Finland, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia; and later tore them up.

At present, communists appear to encourage neutralism among nations not in the communist world; this, however, is only part of their long-range plan to communize the world.

Mikoyan stated clearly in 1956 at the Congress of the Chinese Communist Party. «We have been wrong in letting nations out of the socialist (communist) bloc get together and we have pushed them into the capitalist bloc.»

Communists think it necessary to be very clever with newly-independent Afro-Asian nations. Neutralism in these countries may serve their purposes. But neutralism is inconceivable for them within the communist world.

Communists see two advantages in neutralization of a nation not in their camp:

1 — That nation will not be anti-communist and possibly isolated from the anti-communist fight.

2 — That nation will not be in the Free world.

For communists, neutralization is but one of many processes by which they hope to realize the integration of a nation into their bloc. Whenever neutralism does not work in this sense, they do not hesitate to violate it.

The communist concept of neutralism may be summed up in these terse words by Mao Tse Tung in 1949:

«Neutralism is but a bad joke. There is no third way.»

PART III THE NEUTRALIZATION PLOT IN SOUTH VIETNAM

1 — The Communist Plot:

a) Why are Communists Plotting Neutralization of South Vietnam:

After the 1954 Geneva Agreements, Vietnamese communists resorted to myriad methods to destroy and invade South Viet Nam, militarily and politically.

What is called the «Front of the Fatherland» or «Front for the Liberation of South Viet Nam» is nothing more than a communist instrument to enslave the Vietnamese people. This scheme is doubly dangerous because, on the

one hand, Vietnamese communists serve as a vanguard for Chinese invaders and, on the other hand, are plotting to neutralize South Viet Nam. If they succeeded, communization of South Viet Nam would be realized through such classic means as fake coalition governments, rigged elections and the like.

Neutralization of South Viet Nam became a goal of the Vietnamese communists only after they realized military invasion alone would not achieve their desired results.

b) The Real Meaning and Aim of the Communist Plot for Neutralization of South Vietnam:

Neutralization of South Viet Nam is one step in the long process of integrating Southeast Asia into the communist bloc.

Here is the communist process:

1 — To isolate the Republic of Viet Nam by asking for withdrawal of friendly foreigners, in particular Americans, so as to put South Viet Nam under communist pressure.

2 — To legalize the communist organization called the «Popular Front for the Liberation of South Viet Nam» by setting up a «neutralist coalition government» which would include delegates from the front. Then the communists would legally topple the «neutralist government» and integrate South Viet Nam into the communist bloc by political means.

The communist aim is first to disturb the nationalist ranks, then take the initiative in the struggle in South Viet Nam.

c) The Communist Argument about the Neutralization of South Vietnam:

In 1960 Vietnamese communists first put forward the problem of neutralization of South Viet Nam in the manifesto of their «Popular Front for the Liberation of South Viet Nam.» They took advantage of the Vietnamese people's eagerness for peace to introduce a false political solution to the war. Neutralism is a word communists use to generate defeatism among Vietnamese nationalists and paralyze our people's anti-communism.

To attain this aim, communists resort to the following propaganda themes.

1 — They say to neutralize South Viet Nam is to end the war, for this war is fostered by the Americans. They want withdrawal of Americans from South Viet Nam and suspension of American aid, so Viet Nam would be isolated and faced with their own pressure. In fact, it is well known the war was created and is kept alive by Vietnamese communists. This has been noted and acknowledged by the International Control Commission in Indochina. Indeed, the presence of Americans foreign aid would be drastically reduced, and eventually eliminated, once communists gave up their invasion of South Viet Nam.

2 — The communists claim: «Neutralism is tantamount to peace.» In truth, many instances have demon-



trated the opposite and, furthermore, neutralism has never been respected by communists.

3 — They argue : « A neutral country would receive aid from both camps (democratic and communist). » But fence-sitting in international politics is not wise ; the large Free World nations would be suspicious and aid from communist powers would only be symbolic.

4 — Vietnamese communists pretend : « Neutralism is democracy which accepts coexistence of different political tendencies. » In fact, South Viet Nam is surely more democratic than communist North Viet Nam. So why don't they neutralize North Viet Nam in order to democratize their regime ? The truth would become clear in an answer to this question.

All communist arguments are contrary to their deeds. While speaking of peace and neutralism, they are in fact working for the desintegration of South Viet Nam, so as to impose communist rule on our people.

2 — The French Argument and Plot for the Neutralization of South Vietnam :

a) Why do French Leaders put forward Neutralism as a Solution ?

Being unable to take over South Viet Nam by military action, the Vietnamese communists resort to the political idea of neutralism to achieve their conquest. This idea of neutralism would have been abandoned had French leader Gen. Charles de Gaulle not supported it because of his care for French economic and cultural interests in Indochina. France has done this once in Laos, by supporting Prince Souvanna Phouma, whom it considers the representative of the third force in that country. A coalition government has been set up there, but the conflict has not ceased.

b) The real Meaning and Aim De Gaulle in the Neutralization of South Vietnam :

Along with recognition of Red China, De Gaulle extolls neutralization of South Viet Nam. This is a colonialist plot to :

— Allow France to return to her former economic position in Indochina, to recover lost monopolies or to share these interests with the communists.

— Woo Communist China to obtain more markets on the Chinese mainland.

De Gaulle has been moved by pressure from French capitalists, by his own megalomania and especially by jealousy of the United States.

c) Colonialist Plans and Arguments :

De Gaulle forecasts three phases for implementation of his policy in Viet Nam :

1 — Cessation of hostilities.

2 — Suspension of all foreign interference.

3 — Progress toward reunification by re-establishment of postal relations between North and South Viet Nam,

then communications and trade relations, and at last political union.

De Gaulle's plan is similar to the communist proposal, with the first phase legalizing the communists' henchmen in South Viet Nam, isolating the Republic in its struggle, and with the final and unavoidable result of communizing this part of the world.

De Gaulle explains his policy by pretending a political solution to the Viet Nam problem is necessary to satisfy the Vietnamese people's longing for peace, and neutralism is the way to stability for Southeast Asia.

But what do the French leaders really think ? And what is the real problem in South Vietnam ?

1 — The war in Viet Nam is a subversive war by communist invaders. Communists are violating the Geneva Agreement signed by France and the Vietnamese communists. The people of South Viet Nam are doing no more than defending themselves. So there is only one logical way to end this war : withdrawal of communist subversive forces from South Viet Nam. It was the same with the Algerian war which ended not with neutralization of Algeria but withdrawal of French colonialists.

France is a signatory to the Geneva Agreements. It can appeal to Vietnamese communists to respect these agreements. It has not adopted this simple and logical position out of fear of losing the opportunity to return to Viet Nam, as it returned to Cambodia, and at the same time losing the mainland Chinese market.

2 — Neutralism cannot bring real peace to Viet Nam, as it did not to Laos. This is known by all, France included. Communists have only one goal : to communize the world, by civil war or subversion. In this context, neutralism is meaningless.

PART IV

VIETNAM DOES NOT ACCEPT NEUTRALISM

I — Why doesn't the Republic of Vietnam Accept Neutralism ?

a) Neutralism is Tantamount to Defeat :

In short, Vietnamese interests do not enter into French speculations. French colonialists are only concerned with their own interests in Southeast Asia.

Communists are in a military stalemate in South Viet Nam. They are therefore resorting to different forms of political warfare, in particular neutralist propaganda. Their aim is to keep South Viet Nam the only battlefield, while the north remains out of the fighting. Through neutralist propaganda, communists want to increase their infiltration into nationalist ranks and then destroy the nationalist movement from within. So to accept neutralism is to fall into the communist trap and to surrender to communism at the very moment they are unable to win by military actions.

Continued on page 22

Pro-Red 'Peace Men'

sent across the 17th parallel;
Gen. Thi said they're no
more Free Vietnam
citizens

Ben Hai (VP) March 19

Three pro-Communist « peace men » from Saigon were ceremoniously expelled to the other side of the 17th parallel here at 11:30 a.m. today, deprived of their citizenship of Free Viet Nam.

The peace sponsors — veterinary Pham Van Huyen, school teacher Ton That Duong Ky and journalist Cao Minh Chiem — were escorted across the Hien Luong bridge over the Ben Hai river. They showed no sign of opposition or resentment, walked along meekly to the other side, carrying their luggage with them.

According to eye-witnesses of the scene, the Communist security force, who seemed to be awaiting the deportees at the other side of the bridge, accepted them without any incident.

Before leaving, the deportees were allowed to meet their families, who were brought here from Saigon at Government expense.

The expulsion scene was, however, highlighted by the presence of a large crowd of inhabitants from the Hien Luong and Dong Ha areas who gathered at the place to witness the trio's departure and demonstrate their indignation against the Communists and their henchmen, like the pro-Communist « peace-men. »

Brig. Gen. Nguyen Chanh Thi, I Corps Commander and Government Delegate for the Central Area, also took the occasion to deliver a statement, proclaiming that « from this very moment, the concerned persons are no longer citizens of Free Viet Nam. »

After the statement, he ordered the security force to carry out the expulsion.

Brig. Gen. Thi disclosed to newsmen on that occasion that during their custody in Hue, the three men had written many letters to the Government saying they were « nationalist, not Communist. » Gen. Thi promised to show to the press documents testifying that they were crypto-Communists living on Free Viet Nam territory.



As for the crowd that witnessed the expulsion scene, they acclaimed the Government's decision to expel « these pro-Communist and opportunist intellectuals. »

At the same time, they condemned Communism and the pro-communist « peace movement » whose plot was to pave the way for a Communist take-over of the South. They also acclaimed air strikes on North Viet Nam bases from where the Communists launched their aggression war against the South, killing innocent fellow-countrymen.

The crowd dispersed after the expulsion was over.

The newsmen who witnessed the expulsion scene were later briefed by Gen. Thi on the recent success of

1,2,5: Wives of the 3 «Peace Men» brought there at Government expense to meet their husband

3, 6 : Brig. Gen. Thi ordered the expulsion and briefed the newsmen

4 : «Peace men» (middle) conducted by security force agents

7, 8 : « Hien-Luong » bridge over the Ben Hai river

the 1st Infantry Division at the Cua Viet area, 25 kms from the Ben Hai River. The newsmen returned to Saigon along with the members of the deportees' families.



Saigon March 12. The Prime Minister of the Republic of Vietnam, Dr. Phan Huy Quat, presented the plan of action of his government to the National Legislative Council today before a plenary session of the Council.

Afterwards Dr. Quat met informally with the local press in his office to explain the basic points of his program. In his talk with the press the Prime Minister emphasized that, in view of the present period of national emergency, the program has to satisfy the aspiration of the people, answer the urgent needs of the country, and be speedily realizable with the limited means at our disposal and in the present state of war.

Some people, Dr. Quat said, may think that the program is not revolutionary enough, but whether or not it is revolutionary depends on the way the program is carried out rather than on utopic goals and grandiloquent words.

The Prime Minister also announced some measures that have been taken by the government within the framework of the new program, such as the convening for the coming week of a congress of representatives from the provinces. These people will have an opportunity to inform the central government on their local problems and make necessary recommendations. They will also have a chance to set their localities within the context of the entire nation.

Other recent measures include the improvement of the work of press relations to assist newsmen more efficiently, the elimination of a number of miscellaneous taxes, the disbanding of noon classes to preserve the health of the children...

Other measures will be announced regularly as they are taken.

I — MILITARY

- More justice in the application of policies regarding mobilization, demobilization, calling up to reserves, «cleaning up» of government agencies.
- Reinforcement of the City police and shock police forces to have more security in the cities and in the countryside.
- Consolidation of security in the countryside :
 - a) Perfecting the organization of the Combat Youth Forces.
 - b) Perfecting the Radio Communications network.
- Immediate revision of the policy regarding the employment, assignment and promotion of personnel in the Armed Forces to make it just and rational and thus increase efficiency.

- Development of New-Life Hamlets.
- Construction of housing quarters and social action agencies in sufficient number for the benefit of the military dependents in every army unit.
- Special attention given to the war wounded and disabled veterans ; revision of measures now in force concerning these men.
- Simplification of formalities regulating the payment of allowances to families of dead military personnel, aiming at prompt payment to the bereaved families.

II — FOREIGN AFFAIRS

- Convening of conferences of diplomatic mission heads.
- Completing the personnel of diplomatic posts.
- Dispatching diplomatic missions.
- Creation of a training center for foreign affairs personnel.

III — POLITICAL REORGANIZATION AND BUILDING OF DEMOCRACY

- To launch campaigns against subversive moves aiming at a Peace conference designed to neutralize Vietnam.
- To campaign among the population in South Vietnam as well as in North Vietnam to explain the government's programme.
- To dispatch inspection teams to the countryside to contact the local people and to seek to understand their conditions and eliminate abuses.
- To examine the cases of all the detainees who have not been formally prosecuted.
- To seek to win over able people of good-will and to encourage them to take part in the struggle and the building of the country.
- To consult with the National Legislative Council on the problem of the National Congress provided for by Proclamation N° 4 of the Armed Forces Council.
- To organize elections of City, municipal and provincial councils.
- To implement plans for the development of the Highlands, priority to be given to administration and justice.
- To reinstall customs court for the Montagnards.
- To reorganize rationally the governmental structure to make it efficient.
- To apply a just policy in matters of punishment and rewards.

- To revise the administrative machinery to eliminate red tape and to meet all urgent needs.
- To build and improve village and district administrative services.
- To eliminate feudalistic elements, specially among the executives. To give responsibilities to young and forwardlooking elements.
- To set up law counselling offices to help the population.
- To convene general information and psywar conferences to review local information policies.
- To call a general press convention to work out press regulations and define newsmen's status.
- To reorganize the Press Liaison Center.
- To establish Information Centers abroad
- To seek employment for and give professional training to those who have rallied to the national cause.

IV — ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

- To study urgent supply and control measures to be taken when communications are severed.
- To review Government security reserve storage depots and stores in Saigon and in provincial towns in Central Vietnam.
- To regularize the supply and distribution to prevent increase in commodity prices, specially the price of basic necessity goods.
- To punish speculators.
- To set rice prices to insure a minimum profit for farmers and to prevent unfavorable effects on the consumers.
- To guarantee domestic and foreign markets for Vietnamese agricultural products, to prevent stockpiling and price falls.
- To supervise distribution of farming tools and equipment, seeds, fertilizers, etc... so as to ensure equity in assistance to farmers.
- To regularize supplies of raw materials to various fields of economic activities of the country to insure a steady industrial production.
- To solve organizational and operational problems in Government enterprises.
- To assist all combat youth organizations, rural youth and farmers associations, to establish farming centers with vegetable gardens, cattle

- and poultry breeding facilities, agricultural centers, etc...
- To train agricultural and animal husbandry cadres at lower levels. The trainees are to be selected from the rural population so that after training they may serve in the same area.
- To spread information and educate the rural population on practical and technical experiences in order to increase production and develop family economy.
- To use the Ngo family assets for social and cultural activities.
- To abolish a number of miscellaneous taxes which are trivial but troublesome for the taxpayers.
- To review a number of taxes to make them more equitable.
- To continue to investigate and prosecute fraudulent tax cases.
- To improve the system and methods of collecting taxes to increase revenue and prevent tax frauds and tax evasion.
- To make the allocation of official residences and the management of public building more rational.
- To increase the distribution of electricity and water in the capital and to step up similar works in provincial capitals.
- To distribute water to areas needing it.
- To carry out a great number of public works so as to solve the problem of unemployment.
- To build more low cost dwellings in order to relieve the crowded districts in the capital.
- To simplify construction regulations.
- To improve public transport in the capital.
- To establish more docks and develop the existing seaports to send supplies to Central Vietnam more efficiently.
- To reorganize the railway network.
- To accelerate the reconstruction of the flooded areas in Central Vietnam.
- To develop nurseries for needy children or orphans in the flooded areas.
- To implement the workers' ownership policy.
- To develop vocational training and the organizations for vocational guidance.
- To help and train paper boys and shoe shine boys.
- To eliminate destitution.
- To open restaurants for students.
- To help develop the social facilities of private organizations.
- To organize social action teams which will care for the inhabitants of low-income districts.

- To supply and store medicines in constantly sufficient quantities.
- To create more mobile sanitary teams and increase their activities.
- To increase the number of medical installations and improve service for out-patient treatment.
- To improve the management of the hospitals.
- To increase the sanitary control and health education to limit social and contagious diseases.
- To expand immediately the existing health installations.
- To provide the hospitals with mobile libraries.

V — EDUCATION AND YOUTH

- To convene the National Education Council and to step up its activities in order to carry out reforms at the

- beginning of the coming school year.
- To disband the noon classes.
- To print more text-books for primary school student
- To build a National Library.
- To accelerate the construction of the University campus in Thu Duc.
- To guide the young, especially the university and high school students, toward social action projects.
- To establish more youth and sport facilities in large cities and the provinces ; specially to beign the building of a Youth Center.
- To reorganize gymnastics and sport training in school.
- To organize a National Commission for Youth and Sport.
- To examine the plan for the organization of the Southeast Asian Games to 1967



Our marines are reputed to be the nightmare and terror of the Communist Aggressors

EXPLANATORY NOTES OF THE PRIME MINISTER on the plan of action of the Government

The plan of action of the government should have been made public without delay right after the statement of general policy contained in the proclamation of February 17, 1965. However, the important events of February 19 made it necessary for the newly-formed government to concentrate its efforts and solve a number of pressing problems to stabilize the situation.

In addition, we needed time to study the state of affairs in the different fields of activity after three successive changes of government, in order if necessary to adjust our projects to the needs of the nation and the actual requirements of governmental agencies. That is why only today can we present our plan in detail, including the goals to be reached, the various emphases to be put in the different areas of endeavor, and the good will of the government in conceiving and carrying out this plan.

The plan of action of a government which really wants to serve the people in this emergency should, first of all :

- conform to the aspirations of the people.
- fulfill the first-priority needs of the nation.
- and be formulated in such a way that it be carried out in the shortest possible time with our limited means and in the present state of war.

After yeras of miseries, oppression, and domination, all of us sincerely want peace and freedom so that together we may build a society blessed with justice and prosperity. The longer the destructive war continues the more heart-felt our longing becomes..

However, all our miseries have been traced back to the Communists and their henchmen and therefore, to fulfill the aspirations of the people, we must first of all put an end to the destructive work of the Communists. In fact, there is no other way to stop them but to concentrate all our efforts toward defeating them.

But to achieve victory, we must improve our fighting capacity and spirit, the military service must be rational, the promotion system must be just, the soldiers' families must be helped, ... At the same time, security in the rear must be solidly maintained. The people well know that these measures are indispensable, and many a politician has mentioned them. They are not new. However, these oft-mentioned measures have never been put into effect, and this government still feels obliged to take them into consideration in order to apply them speedily or to devise more appropriate measures.

At present, the Vietcongs are trying to increase their work of sabotage thanks to the assistance of several communist countries, and especially Red China : the weapons we have captured are strong evidences of this blatant connivance. In the face of such a situation, we have to make an urgent request the Free World to help us more positively and more appropriately. The diplomatic campaign, included in Part II of our plan, has been started. A conference of all the diplomatic mission heads has been called for no other purpose than the urgent one mentioned above. This conference will certainly bear fruitful results very soon. In case the war increases in intensity, we are certain that we shall not have to fight alone because our just cause is understood in the world.

Anyway, as it has often been said, to obtain help one must first help oneself. The fight to preserve the independence and freedom of our country can only be won soon if every citizen enthusiastically puts in his own. This participation unfortunately been hampered by reactionary policies, and by feudalistic and dictatorial regimes that claimed to be fighting against feudalism and dictatorship. The citizens will only contribute their efforts if the government is open minded, has the courage to do away with injustice and corruption, and especially encourages the good will of different organizations and individuals. This is the attitude that this government is determined to adopt so as to bring a new wind to the various governmental agencies and to the people : campaigns, elections, inspection tours, improvement measures for the mountaineers, etc..., as mentioned in Part III of our plan, all aim at guaranteeing the rights of the citizens and at promoting unity for the common fight.

Our struggle is total and therefore must be pursued in the fields of economy and social action. The government has the duty to defend and protect the people, and thus it has to assure the stability of the people's life, even in the face of difficulties.

Naturally, we cannot as yet develop long-range development programs to ans-

**Down with the deceptive
propaganda campaign for
"Peace" by the Vietcong
emissaries !**

**Down with Colonialist
and Communist "Peace"
counterfeiters !**

wer the permanent needs of the nation and at times, these programs must temporarily yield the right of way to the more urgent problems mentioned in Part IV of our plan of action. However, the government is striving to continue the work that must be accomplished, such as for example the construction of an economic substructure. Such activities are not included in the program of action because they are considered as part of the regular duties of the ministries concerned. Only included in the Plan are those activities that are of an urgent nature (e.g., reconstruction of the flooded provinces in Central Vietnam) or directly interest the people (e.g., water supply, guaranteed price of farm products, use of confiscated properties of the Ngo family).

This does not mean that we are interested only in immediate problems, and neglect the future. No matter how long a government lasts, it is always responsible to the country. The education of the young cannot be stopped even though we are in a state of war. The government is to help students as much as it can. In short, education and guidance of youth is our special interest. That is why, instead of including the problems related to youth in the social action part of the plan, we have put them in Part V of the Plan.

The Plan as prepared surely has a number of shortcomings.

Being sincere with the people, the government has temporarily put aside grandiose projects which cannot possibly be accomplished at this time.

We are determined to keep our promises to the people, and therefore only mention those activities which can be carried out in the near future, or which were initiated before this plan was made public (e.g., the conference of diplomatic mission heads, the abolition of some miscellaneous taxes, the elimination of noon classes, the National Congress, etc...).

At any rate, this plan is flexible, that is, it can be adjusted to suit the changing situation even though it is still faithful to the general policy ; it can also be completed with suggestions from the people, or with the initiatives that the government is demanding from its responsible officials.

Some people may say that the plan is not revolutionary enough. But to be or not to be revolutionary depends, in these circumstances, on the methods of execution of the plan rather than on idealistic goals or grandiose words.

This government was formed in an unstable and critical situation, and it has the first obligation to stabilize the situation, to fight and clear the way for a brighter future.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND POPULAR CONGRESS 1965

SAIGON MARCH 15



The opening ceremony of the Administrative and Popular Congress was solemnly held at 9.00 a.m., at Saigon Town-Hall, under the chairmanship of Dr. Phan Huy Quat, Prime Minister of the Government.

At the ceremony were seen the Vice-Prime Ministers, Ministers, the Chairman and members of the National Council for Legislature, the representatives of various diplomatic corps, popular groups and Press in the Capital.

The Minister of Interior emphasized upon the aim of the Congress and its importance in his opening speech. Then, the Prime Minister asked the Congress for a minute of silence in memory of the military, popular and administrative combatants who died for the nation and the people.

After the opening ceremony, the Congress began working under the direction of Lawyer Trần Văn Tuyên, Vice Prime Minister for Planning who represented the Central Government — with the concurrence of the board of chairmen composed of three popular representatives : Dr. La Cẩm Tuyên (Vung Tàu Delegation) ; Mr. Tou-Prong-Hiu (representative of Highlanders, Tuyen Duc — Dalat Delegation) ; Father Huu Du (Tây Ninh Delegation) and one Administrative representative General Lê Văn Tấn, Province chief of Tây Ninh ; they all were elected by the Congress.

Vice Prime Minister Trần Văn Tuyên said :

« The Government needs to know the truth ; the Government want to know all essential aspirations of the whole people in order to satisfy them ; the Government fears not the truth ; the truth is not our enemy !

He then invited the popular representatives each one by his own turn to expose the situations of their provinces and present the aspirations of the people.

Seething with excitement and eardest with the aspirations of the people and the destiny of the nation, the provincial representatives have many a time declared :

« We should win over the Communists !

« We should not negotiate with the Communists !

The Government should immediately prohibit all maneuverings for false peace by any organization. We want peace, we are thirsty for peace, yes, but peace in triumph and glory...! »

The Prime Minister came back during the session at 11.20 a.m. to listen to the representatives.

oOo

The Congress was composed of 217 representatives : 53 administrative and 164 popular, among whom were seen 21 highlanders.

Why don't we ?...

Continued from page 15

b) Neutralism means Concession to the Colonialist Will :

After squandering thousands of French citizens and billions of francs on Vietnamese soil for a nasty war, French colonialists were forced to withdraw from Viet Nam.

To regain its lost prestige, France is endeavoring to play a middle role in the dispute between the United States and the communist world. France's advocacy for neutralism in Viet Nam must be understood in this context. French explanations of its neutralist policy in Southeast Asia are but pretexts covering a nostalgia for its interests in Indochina and for its lost golden days in the world. In that perspective, for the Vietnamese people to accept neutralism is to concede to the colonialist will and interests, and to submit to the kind of bondage they shed at the price of bloodshed and sacrifice.

c) Neutralism means Loss of Independence :

The Vietnamese people are facing a double danger : communist invasion and a colonialist plot. In this situation, accepting neutralism means nothing less than admitting the legal presence of these two enemies. Communists would continue their subversive activities to take over the government in South Viet Nam and colonialists would strengthen their economic, cultural and political influences and interests once more. That is why we consider neutralism a renunciation of national independence, the very independence for which we have long been fighting and dying.

d) Accepting Neutralism is Tantamount to Treason with Regard to the People's Anti-Communism :

Since Vietnamese communists are really henchmen of Chinese communists, the Vietnamese people are against them. All Vietnamese nationalist parties and forces share an anti-communist stand. « We must realize national solidarity to win over communism and save our fatherland. » (Appeal by Gen. Truong Luong Thien, Chairman of the « Nationalist Resistance Front. ») The Vietnamese Democratic Socialist Party expressed the same will in its manifesto of September 24, 1964 : « We struggle against communism and neutralism as well as against all forms of dictatorship. »

Another force of sound anti-communism is based on the various religions in South Viet Nam. It is deeply rooted in the Vietnamese soul and embodied in such movements as the « Religious Solidarity Movement to Crush Communism » and the « Anti-Communist Religious Commission. » Leaders of every sect and religious group in South Viet Nam have been clear in their firm opposition to communism and neutralism. This popular firmness was once again demonstrated July 20, 1964 — anniversary of the Geneva Agreements — when delegates of various religious groups, political parties and associations condemned in their joint manifesto the communist-colonialist plot to neutralize South Viet Nam.

One can then see that accepting neutralization of South Viet Nam would be the worst form of betrayal of the Vietnamese will.

II — What Must we do to Discard Neutralism ?

a) The only Political Position of the Vietnamese People Regarding Communism : Crush the Communists and Reunify the Fatherland :

The Vietnamese people completely distrust whatever communists say about peace, nationalism and independence,

for we know their words are only lies and deceit. For instance, why do they want to neutralize South Viet Nam without neutralizing North Viet Nam ? Why should South Viet Nam refuse Free World aid while the North receives thousands of Chinese cadres and « counsellors ? » Why do they talk about neutralization of the South while thousands of people in North Viet Nam wanting to go south are detained by communist authorities ? Why do they dispatch troops at battalion level to disturb the peace in South Vietnam ? To such questions, there has never been a correct communist answer !

So the Vietnamese people have only one position with regard to the communist aggressors : fight until victory or death.

b) The Vietnamese People are Unified in their Traditional Fighting Spirit against Aggression :

Vietnamese history is filled with struggles against invaders and for national independence. Today's communism is nothing less than a new form of invasion and imperialism. Aware of this new danger, the Vietnamese people are standing side by side, in spite of certain differences on details. This was proven July 20, 1964 in Saigon when about 100,000 people demonstrated against the communist-colonialist plot. Their will is one : to crush communist aggressors and discard any form of communist-inspired maneuvers for neutralization.

c) The Vietnamese People are Determined to Build up Democracy and Live in Freedom :

The past struggles for freedom of the Vietnamese people have been too costly to permit any new enslavement. Equality, justice and freedom form the real basis on which we shall firmly fight for national honor and independence.

CONCLUSION

Neutralism today in many cases has no more its ancient meaning of impartiality and objectiveness, with regard to either the western world or the communist bloc. Most of the « neutral » or « non-aligned » nations, in their international political relations, have veered either toward or into the communist sphere (Indonesia, Cambodia) or the Free World (India). They cannot, in the complex political realities of today, remain genuinely neutral, for they need some international backing to resolve local problems (for example, the Malaysian-Indonesian dispute, the Red Chinese-Indian conflict), and also because their interests are rarely really neutral.

In fact, neutralism today is on its way to failure. In the particular case of South Viet Nam, where the struggle against communism is not only fierce but has been approved and endorsed by a large segment of international opinion, why should we adopt a policy which doesn't really exist in its true form anywhere in the world ?

The Vietnamese people don't accept neutralism because it only means surrender to the communists, under whatever disguise. Communists of course are already present in South Viet Nam ; we cannot afford to play the dangerous and absurd game of neutralism which would isolate us internationally and facilitate communist designs against our country. The only way to return peace to South Viet Nam is to crush communist invaders and struggle for withdrawal of Chinese and Vietnamese communist forces from South Vietnam.

The war in South Vietnam results from their presence ; peace would result from their absence.



AO DAI VERSUS NEW WAVE

EVER-CHANGING FASHIONS ARE SAIGON'S MOST CHARACTERISTIC ASPECTS

by Doan Bich

Young girls with Lolo and B.B. hairdos and clad in tight blue-jeans, short skirts or provocative Chinese «cheongsams», flock in dance studios, snack bars and night clubs: that's the picture of Saigon fashions today.

The traditional «ao dai» — once praised as the most beautiful dress for women on earth for being simpler than the Japanese kimono, slighter than the Indian sari and more graceful than the European skirt — seems in danger of becoming extinct in the new generation.

The replacement of world-famed Vietnamese wooden clogs by Italian-style stiletto shoes among the fair sex, the mustach-growing campaign and «leave-me alone» philosophy among young men are other components that make up the «new wave» in Saigon.

Meanwhile snack bars, tea-houses and especially «dance studios» spring up everywhere like mushrooms, where one can enjoy hot music and suggestive dances at any time of the day. The broken-English with affected «hellos» and «bye-byes» overheard now and then in the streets give another touch to the ever-changing mode of bustling Saigon.

«Beehive» hairdo and «bow-net» skirt

The things most people notice about women are hairdos and skirts. There seems to be a connection between the two.

Not long ago the pony-tail and full skirt fad was all the rage here, maybe because it made everyone look like a teenager.

It was followed by tighter skirts and various hairdos imitating movie-stars Gina Lollobrigida, Brigitte Bardot and Audrey Hepburn. The most controversial hairdos in Saigon now are the tangled style often dubbed a «beehive» — or a «louse-nest» by sharp tongues — and the «building» fashion which makes a girl look like a unicorn.

Another style favored by teenagers is a fillet, a band matching their dress, which binds the hair across their forehead, making their faces more oval and nicer.

Western skirts, however, are spreading among the middleclass, to the

detriment of the «ao dai». Tourists used to praise the beauty of this traditional dress which, they said, characterized the discreet charm of the Vietnamese woman. Its elegant high collar, hour-glass waist and graceful flaps «borne like a zephyr on the breeze» had given the «ao dai» an indisputable position until the recent past.

But now it is fighting a rearguard action against the Western skirt vogue. Arguing that this kind of long dress is unfit for many kinds of activities in modern life, many women prefer Western garments.

The height of fashion in Saigon now is the so-called «English» tight skirt (duyp Ang Le) which is particularly made to show off the woman's shape. Another fancied skirt very suitable for active girls is the «bow-net» (vay nom) — because it looks exactly like a bow-net used by country people to catch fish.

It goes without saying that tight and sporty blue-jeans are much worn by girls with attractive legs.

Another new fashion which cannot be overlooked is in shoes. Though Vietnamese wooden clogs are prized the world over for their elegance and low cost, Saigon women seem to be getting tired of them. Perhaps because of the high heels that often make them look taller than their husbands or boy friends. Consequently, whether wearing a traditional «ao dai» or a Western dress, Saigon girls generally wear a kind of simple shoe called pumps with sharp or square points.

Dance Studios and Snack Bars

People often say women create everything. This may be particularly true about fashion here. In their race for new modes, the Saigon women have brought everlasting spring to the capital.

All new buildings — no matter large or small — are giving up their stately, serene lines of the past in favor of a cubistic concept which says that no two windows should be of the same size, while straight lines and 90° angles are «square».

In many crowded quarters are «rows of match box» houses no more than three meters wide that differ from each other not only by shape and lines but also by their multicolored walls and windows. The traditional yellow has completely disappeared to cede place to brighter tints.

This new architecture is making Saigon dwellings more attractive, along with the «movement» of snack-bars

which grows at a tremendous speed throughout the capital.

The inside of these entertainment places usually suits its American facade by its air-conditioned atmosphere filled with hot music, dim light and nice girls.

As far as music is concerned, while the «slow rock» is appreciated everywhere, «bolero» and «twist» count a large number of fans among youngsters.

«Leave-me alone» philosophy

Some years ago, Vietnamese liberal arts seemed to be under the influence of Saigon fashions. A group of writers and journalists created what they called «Today's arts and literature» which was nothing but a «rebellion» against classic and sensible ideas. In many novels and feature stories carried by newspapers, they entirely gave up the common style of thinking and writing.

Instead of ordinary people, they created extravagant heroes who posed new, complicated problems about human life, which became often incomprehensible. In addition, they put in their stories lots of phrases and expressions borrowed from the underworld, calling it a realistic style.

Meanwhile, local hoodlums known as Vietnamese «cowboys» who filled up bars and tea-houses every night, were always ready to start trouble.

But this fashion, once widespread throughout the capital, has ended in the recent past.

Multicolored shirts and stovepipe pants disappeared gradually, and most youngsters now look older than their age with long sleeve shirts and even ties.

In milk-bars and tea-houses today, there are less brawls among «tough» customers, and the atmosphere has become easier to breathe. Furthermore, a new philosophy — «leave-me alone» — is spreading among Saigon youngsters, some sociologists have affirmed. What are other people doing? They don't care. What do people think about them? It doesn't interest them. These youngsters only want to live for themselves, not for anyone else.

Commenting on this new phenomenon, a well-known educator says «may be it is the consequence of the war which has devastated this country for more than 20 years, or maybe a result of the frequent bloody riots in Saigon since last year...»

Anyhow, if it goes contrary to the majority, it will disappear quickly to give place to other fashions that Saigon never fails to create in accordance with its bustling life.

SAIGON AND CHOLON

SAIGON

(Pearl of the Orient)

The Capital of the Free Republic of Viet Nam, with its sister city of Cholon, is a metropolis of two million inhabitants converging an area of 51 square miles laid on the west bank of the Saigon River. It dates back to 200 years, when it was originally a fishermen's village of thatched huts, some of which are still found on the right bank. Visitors will be amazed by its physiomy, a happy combination of old Oriental civilization and blooming modernism.

Saigon's attractiveness is enhanced by its boulevards shaded by tall exotic trees and its public parks. Its busy river front is picturesque, and ocean-liners travel 40 miles up river to reach the docks.

You will find here the warm hospitality of the Vietnamese people, the charm of Vietnamese girls in their gorgeous traditional tunic, the « ao

dai », a graceful flowing costume of silk pantaloons under a long tunic split on both sides, and the excitement of life bustling along with innumerable bicycles, pousses or pedicabs, and cars and busses of every size and description.

Duong Tu Do, or Liberty Street, is Saigon's main street and on which is found fashionable shops as well as several important Government buildings.

Attractive Salons de The, such as La Pagode and Cafe Imperial, are situated along the street and invite the sightseer to stop for tea, coffee, liquor, French pastries or ice cream.

CHOLON

(Twin City of Saigon)

For an even more lively picture and taste of the blending of civilizations you must visit the Chinese quarter of Saigon, Cholon, often called the twin city of Saigon.

Things are really lively at night out at Cholon. When all shops have closed

for the day, the hour sounds for Cholon's night clubs to take over. Reached in about 15 minutes by taxi, this crowded, busy center offers a wide choice for wining, dining, and nocturnal relaxation. You should really make the rounds to savor the different flavor and atmosphere of each restaurant. To name just a few, these are the Arc-en-Ciel, Dai Kim Do, Palais de Jade, Dong Khanh, A Dong...

CLIMAT

Although situated in the Deep South of Vietnam, Saigon is in the maritime zone and rarely becomes exceedingly hot, but usually the evening are cool. April the warmest month, average temperatures in the 90's. In the Saigon area, winter is practically non-existent: December has an average of about 74 degrees. If you come during the months of June through September, however, bring your umbrella, for that is the rainy season with sudden showers alternating with sunshine.



Saigon — Caravelle Hotel



PETRUS TRUONG VINH KY

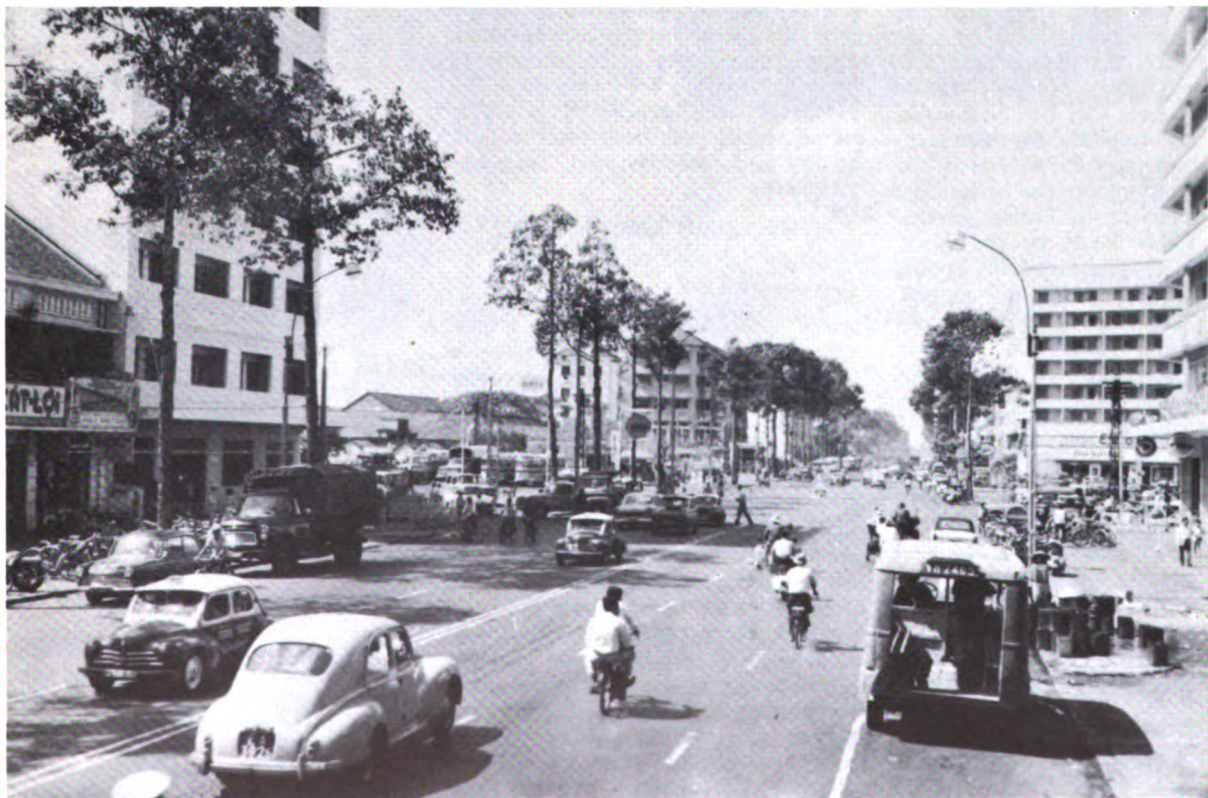
better known as **PETRUS KY** (1837-1898)
The scholar who bridged East and West

To commemorate one of her greatest sons, Viet Nam erected a bronze statue of him in the park in front of the Foreign Affairs Ministry in Saigon.

The largest high school for boys in Saigon and one of the longest avenues in the capital also bear the name of this world-famed scholar, Petrus Ky.



John F. Kennedy square (ex-Peace square)



Saigon — Tran Hung Dao Boulevard

The Vietnamese CIVIL SERVICE SYSTEM

INTRODUCTION

The Vietnamese Civil Service System is a direct descendent of the French system. It dates from the Bao Dai regime which came to power in 1949, the statute establishing the Vietnamese Civil Service System being promulgated a year later, which is still the basis for the present system.

The organizing of a new government, the gaining of independence and the departure of the French personnel from Vietnam over the past eleven years has placed a tremendous strain on the civil service system. One of the most difficult jobs was the filling of the vacuum left by the departure of the French administrative personnel. They had not trained and promoted Vietnamese civil servants to the higher level administrative positions except in the field where they had little actual authority or responsibility commensurate with their positions. Rarely did a Vietnamese employee rise to the chief of bureau level in the central government agencies. Thus, in the newly independent Government of Vietnam, officials took over these positions with little, if any, experience which would qualify them for high level administrative responsibilities. At the same time, it was necessary that the Government expand into areas which had previously been exclusively reserved to French administration, such as the conduct of diplomatic relations with foreign countries, participation in international organizations and the operation of the more technical institutions within the country. Examples of the latter include the Pasteur Institute, the Institute of Oceanography, hospitals and airports. This situation was further complicated by the great strides in technological advance in other countries during the same period, which ushered in the nuclear energy, jet, missile and outer space ages.

As an indication of the scope of the activities of the Government in this relatively short period of time, it has staffed diplomatic posts in 29 foreign countries and memberships in 41 international and regional organizations. It was host to the Colombo

Plan Conference in 1958 and was one of the important initiators in organizing the Eastern Regional Organization for Public Administration, for which the preliminary planning conference was held in Saigon, and the Research Center for which is located there. Not only have the former French institutions been taken over, but an Atomic Energy Commission has been established and the Saigon Airport is accommodating jet planes. All of this has been established and the Saigon Airport is accommodating jet planes. All of this has been accomplished in addition to the settling of nearly one million refugees from North Vietnam, and in a security situation which has not only required considerable attention from the Government, but has caused more than a negligible attrition of local government key personnel. The personnel demands on the available supply, which was inadequate in both quality and quantity, have been tremendous.

THE SCOPE AND NATURE OF THE SYSTEM

Scope

The national government civil service system embraces only those agencies which are supported by the national budget plus the cadres for the prefect of Saigon, for canton chiefs and for highlands personnel. Before the abolition of the regional levels of government, and before the establishment of Vietnamese national cadres there were two major levels in the civil service, i.e., national and regional. Regional cadre personnel have been absorbed by the national cadres and the Directorate General of Civil Service has assumed jurisdiction over the local cadres mentioned above. The cadres for the personnel of the other autonomous municipalities and of the provinces (supported by local budgets) have remained under the jurisdiction of those levels of government.

The Directorate General of Civil Service does not have jurisdiction over autonomous agencies nor government corporations. In general, however, their personnel systems as well as those of local governments are similar to the

national civil service system because they were established according to the same principles by a previous government.

Employee Classification

The civil service system is based on an employee classification concept. This concept embraces a system of cadres, each cadre of employees representing a particular occupational group. When a career employee is hired he becomes a member of a particular cadre and is assigned a wage rate according to his educational level. This is, of course, an over-simplification of the process since in some instances, but not many, outstanding experience or specific standing in a lower cadre or in non-career employment is accepted in lieu of the educational requirements. Also, cadre members, except those who hold certain specified diplomas, must take entry examinations; almost invariably they must serve a probationary period, and according to the general statute may be required to take another examination before being given full permanent career status, but very few cadre statutes so require.

Once an employee obtains career status, he may be promoted every two or three years through a series of classes within his cadre (promotion is not correlated with level of position). By the time he reaches the top rank, he has usually served the required number of years for retirement. Again, this is an over-simplification in that promotion is not fully automatic; it is based on seniority and merit — employees are rated each year. Formerly, promotion was more or less automatic as employees acquired the prescribed number of years of seniority, but in recent years merit has been stressed.

For the most part, employees enter government service as generalists and then are assigned particular types of work. There are no specific standards for making job assignments. Except for supervisory positions and a few other positions, there are only very general guides on job assignments. For supervisory positions, and a few others, cadre statutes specify certain employee

Cholon, TWIN CITY OF SAIGON



» U » or « Binh Tay » Bridge



« Tong Doc Phung » square



« Dong Khanh » Boulevard



« An Dong » Bus station



« A Dong » Restaurant

classification levels to be assigned to various organizationally designated positions, e.g., chiefs of bureaus and chiefs of services. However, there is no standardization of the organizationally designated positions, and hence, no standardization of the relative levels of these positions with respect to duties and responsibilities. Even these guides have not been adhered to in the past. For other employees, job assignments are entirely up to administrative authority. General guidelines for the assignment of personnel have been distributed to all agencies and are

discussed in more detail in the section entitled job Assignments. As a result of the lack of adequate standards and competent personnel in the past, employees have been assigned to jobs somewhat indiscriminately.

The same concept is applied to non-career employees, of which there are several types. They are classified into categories, primarily on the basis of educational levels, to which pay rates have been assigned. The demands for personnel have been so great that non-career employees have been just as

indiscriminately assigned to various jobs as have career employees.

The resulting situation is that there is no clear-cut pattern in job assignments. Many cadre members are serving outside the jurisdiction of their cadres ; member of one class (rank) may be supervising members in a higher class, or non-career employees may be supervising career employees who have many years of service. More or less out of necessity, expediency rather than regulation has governed job assignments.

(To be continued)

SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS

in Ancient Vietnam

Traditional social organizations play an important role in Vietnamese villages in rural areas where 80 per cent of the country's total population lives. Most of them have existed unchanged for several hundred years in the welfare, mutual aid, religious and professional fields.

1 — Religious : Hoi Chu Ba or Buddhist old Women's Association.

If almost every village in Viet Nam has at least one pagoda, it also has a Buddhist old Women's Association called the Hoi Chu Ba. As its name implies, it is an organization for women fifty or older. However fortyish widows are also welcomed.

Members of the Hoi Chu Ba are called Ba Vai or Chu Ba. Being old, they are usually being supported by their children and thus are free of worldly cares and can join the association to learn Buddhism and pray for the salvation of their souls. So it is not surprising that most of village's old women belong to this association, which was the sole Buddhist association for the village laity until recent times.

The first step to become member of the Hoi Chu Ba is to go to the village pagoda bearing offerings to Buddha and the monk there. Guided by one or several Ba Vais, the candidate kneels before the altar and asks the monk to accept her as a new member of the Hoi Chu Ba.

Then she is urged to come to the pagoda every evening to learn prayers and Buddhist doctrine. Her religious education is given by a monk or sometimes by an experienced Ba Vai.

Besides she has to contribute some rice or cash every month toward the pagoda's religious fund.

Ba Vai who cannot go to the pagoda every evening can say their prayers at home. But she must make an effort to attend the religious ceremonies at the pagoda every 1st and 15th day of the lunar month.

Usually the association elects a member to live at the pagoda permanently. Such Ba Vai is called the Vai Thu Ho.

If the Hoi Chu Ba does not much engage in welfare and charitable activities, it is always present at the home of a dead person to pray for him and accompany the funeral procession to the grave.

And last, the association provides idle old women in the village a more meaningful, a busier and thus happier life. Maybe it is one of the major reasons why the association has continued to exist throughout centuries.

2 — Professional : Hoi Bach Ngho.

The Vietnamese village is a relatively independent economic unit. Most foods, building material and furniture are local products, so every village has its own carpenters, masons, blacksmiths and painters. Each trade has its own guild.

Such guilds not only aim at improving skill but also promote mutual friendship and assistance. Gifts and cash are given to members at such times as childbirth, marriage and death. Needy or large families are helped regularly.

The guild has an executive committee — a chairman, a secretary and a treasurer — elected every one three years.

Each association has a patron saint, usually the legendary founder of the trade — either the inventor of the profession or one who had learned it abroad and taught it to the Vietnamese. There are many well-known stories of members of Vietnamese royal delegations to China in the old days who posed as Chinese to learn a new craft in order to bring it back to Viet Nam.

The patron saint's anniversary is celebrated yearly with a big feast. A cow or more likely a pig is slain.

The association fund built up by dues is invested and every year part of the interest is distributed to members. But very few associations require members to pay monthly or yearly dues. The funds are contributed by wealthy members when the guild is set up.

3 — Mutual aid : Hoi Tu Cap.

There are many small mutual aid associations to help the members for burial expenses, building, weddings and new year celebrations. All of them are fairly similar, so our example is a burial association.

Just as its name implies, its only objective is to help its members pay funeral expenses.

A member having a death in his family must formally notify the chairman of the association, who then tells all other members and collects from each the sum of money specified by the association's regulations.

If needed, members also gladly come to the bereaved house to give a helping hand. A delegation from the association visits the house to express their condolences on behalf of all the members. They bow three times before the home altar. All the members put on mourning and accompany the burial party to the cemetery.



« DA BIA » battle, near « VUNG RO » Bay.



Victory of « DA BIA ».



Viet Cong weapons seized after DA BIA victory.

4 — Social welfare : The Nghia Suong or Relief Fund.

Since time immemorial, the Nghia Suong relief funds have been set up in most villages of the North Viet Nam low lands, where floods often cause famine in the summer. But exactly one hundred years ago Emperor Tu Duc (1847-1883) of the Nguyen Dynasty ordered that the Nghia Suong be set up in every village throughout the land.

In accordance with the tradition that « The King's word must bow to village custom, » the royal order only broadly suggested how to organize a Nghia Suong. So to unders and the Nghia Suong it is best to study the Nghia Suong regulations of one village — De Cau village in the Delta of North Viet Nam. With a population of several thousands, De Cau consists of four hamlets. Its Nghia Suong regulations were revised early this century in a meeting of all villagers under the guidance of the village council of notables.

5 — Social institution.

Once a year the collection of « Nghia Suong paddy » begins when the main harvest is over. The rate is 10 kilos of paddy for every hectare of ricefield. The Nghia Suong paddy is distributed to needy people when floods or plagues bring starvation. (Article 1).

The six-member Nghia Suong administrative committee is elected every two years by all male adults (over 18). The committee includes a chairman, a fund keeper and four commissioners, one for each hamlet. (Article 2)

The paddy from one hamlet is collected by its commissioner and brought to the fund keeper. The maximum quantity of paddy kept by the fund keeper is eight tons. By permission of a village meeting, the fund keeper sells the surplus paddy ; the money thus obtained is kept in a bank or the provincial treasury (Article 3).

The administrative committee can freely dispose of up to 200 kilos of Nghia Suong paddy. To sell more than that, it must seek written permission from the village meeting. (Article 4)

Twice a year two representatives named at the annual village meeting make a surprise check of the records and the quantity of Nghia Suong paddy kept by the fund keeper... Investment and all other matters concerning the Nghia Suong paddy are discussed at the annual meeting of the villagers. There all decisions are by relative majority vote. (Article 5)

The regulations deal at length with the necessary qualifications of members of the administrative committee. They also specify that at the Lunar New Year a delegation of villagers visits the Nghia Suong officials to thank them and give each of them a gift of paddy : 60 kilos for the chairman and 40 kilos each of the five other members.

The particular social organizations discussed above were selected chiefly because they are most popular. And as it was said earlier they are all existed since time immemorial. Since Viet Nam came in direct contact with Western culture over a hundred years ago through the French colonialists, various new social structures answering the needs of modern society have been set up. However the traditional social organizations still remain strong and unchangeable.

TRUONG CHI and Mi Nuong or

"THE LEGEND OF THE CRYSTAL OF LOVE"

(VIETNAMESE LEGEND)



In our country, when a poor man is in love with a girl of perfect beauty and of a rich family, and cannot marry her, he might compare his unhappy love to that of the poor fisherman Truong Chi and the beautiful lady Mi Nuong. If you wish to hear the story, here is how it goes :

Once upon a time, in the Western room of a pointed-roofed Palace surrounded by a willow-patterned garden, there lived a beautiful young lady, Mi Nuong, beloved daughter of a great and wealthy mandarin.

She was fair and slender. Her skin was transparently fine, and from behind the long dark lashes, sparkled a pair of large black eyes. She was so charming and lovely that whenever she appeared at her moon-shaped window, the sun would shine full upon her face, the breeze would bring her the nicest gusts from the blossoming trees, the dewdrops would glitter like diamonds in the green grass to please her, and the birds would pour their sweetest songs into her ears. Around her, there were many young maidens ready to wait upon her and to keep her company. Her parents loved her dearly and would not refuse her anything she wanted. She seemed to have everything in life to be happy and gay.

Yet the beautiful Mi Nuong was not happy, for she was love-sick. Day and night she dreamt of the charming voice of a mysterious stranger who used to row his craft along the river, down there, beyond the big garden, singing wonderful songs. How beautiful these songs

were ! He could sing as though he knew all the sweetest melodies on earth. He seemed to have caught the soft murmurs of the wind, the the rippling of clear brooks and streams, the joyful carols of birds, and put them into his songs. He sang the glory of the sunbeams, the beauty and the freshness of the green buds, the greenness of the ricefields and the sweet fragrance of the flowers. He marvelled at the miracle of ever-changing and varying hues, the virgin purity of the clouds, the loftiness and transparency of the sky, as well as the brightness and splendour of the moon and the stars. He sang his love for living, his love for nature and mankind, and whenever he expressed his thanks to Heaven for all these blessings his voice was so enchanting and ethereal that no other human voice could match it.

Mi-Nuong ached to see him, and was very unhappy for like all other young ladies of her time, she lived in seclusion and was not supposed to see men except those in her family.

As she grew sad, the sun beams would say : « Cheer up, sweet lady, and be happy, for life and youth are a blessing from Nature. » But cheer up she would not, and she would not care for food or the beautiful jewels her mother gave her. Sometimes, the moon, her dearest friend, would peep through the bamboo-leaves, smile at her and say : « What a pretty young lady you are ! Don't be sad any more and smile back at me ! »

But smile, she would not, and she felt more unhappy than ever.

« Oh ! that the mysterious stranger were here », sighed the young lady, « the I should be able to see his handsome face and his manly manners — for he must be a noble prince and a learned scholar. And he would marvel at my beauty, and fall immediately in love with me. He would sing sweet songs to express his love for me and praise my charms. And when he looks deep in my eyes, I would look down and bend my head modestly, just as other ladies do ! » She had no pleasure in the sunshine, the songs of birds or the sweet smell of flowers.

In the evening, when the ground was covered with the golden moonlight, the mysterious stranger would row his craft along the silvery river, singing again his songs of love and happiness. And then, how miserable Mi Nuong felt !

« Oh ! if I could behold his face for a moment, and hear his songs closer ! » thought the lady. « That is the only thing in the world that I am longing for ! »

Then she grew thinner and thinner and became seriously ill.

When they saw her big eyes growing as sad as ever in her thin pale face, her parents shuddered with fear. Doctors were called for, but the more medicine she took the weaker she became.



What could her sickness be ? Or would some powerful Spirit or gods, jealous of her beauty, plan to take her away from this earth ? Her parents wished very much to know, so they gathered the maidens-in-waiting and asked them whether they knew anything about the origin of her sickness.

Some knew nothing. But the youngest and the cleverest of the maids looked thoughtful, then nodded her head and said : « Yes, I believe I know it. Our young lady was so happy and carefree three moons ago, but became thoughtful and sad when a certain stranger came and sang wonderful songs on the river yonder. His songs were sweet, so very sweet, I assure you ! »

Then the mandarin said : « Let the stranger be brought here, and let him marry my beloved daughter, if such is her wish. »

Then two smartly-dressed servants went to fetch the stranger, a very poor fisherman called Truong Chi who lived in a shabby hut on the edge of the city. Truong Chi followed the servants, and was taken to the richly-decorated western room of the Palace. There were silken sofas, carved chairs and tables, large Chinese vases with dragons on the lids and other ornaments in gold and jade. He did not know in whose room he was. He only realized that in all his hard life he had never seen anything so beautiful. But most beautiful of all, was the young fairy-like lady who lay on the bed, as sweet and as delicate as a flower. The very moment their eyes met, he fell desperately in love with her.

« How lovely she looks ! » thought Truong Chi. « She is charming, charming beyond anything. Am I awake or am I dreaming ? Is she real, or is she a fairy ? Oh ! how I long for her to smile at me. Then, I can sing love songs for her, the best that I can ever compose. And then — yes then, something wonderful might happen, else why should they send for me ? It must be that something still more exciting, still more splendid will happen — such as a wedding, for example. Oh ! I wish that I could stop my heart



Where does this young Vietnamese go so quietly ? He goes searching for a true friend who loves him together with his Fatherland.

throbbing. I know not what it is that makes it ache. »

But Mi Nuong, seeing his plain face and ragged clothes, recalled the picture of a charming prince she had imagined of him, and burst out laughing. And with that laugh, her love sickness was cured for ever.

Truong Chi grew very sad and melancholy when he was taken back to his hut.

« Sing the glory of your youth and the depth of your love ! » said the sunshine.

But sing he would not. He grew sadder and thinner every day. Day after day, he lay there in his miserable hut, thinking and despairing. He ached to see Mi Nuong again and to tell her how much he adored her but he knew it was hopeless. The pain which grew in his heart was so sharp that he felt weak and faint. He knew he would never see her again in this life, nor the willows and flowers that flourished in her garden, perhaps not even the sunlight.

Truong Chi sighed : « It was so pleasant when I was free and happy, singing and enjoying life. Now it is all past. However, I am the luckiest of the mortals, for I have seen the most wonderful creature on earth. And I shall carry a sweet remembrance of my first and last meeting with her in my grave, when I die. »

One morning, people found him dead in his miserable hut.

They buried him, and the dew wept tears on his grave. The wind bewailed and whispered the sad story of his unhappy love to the flowers and the tress which sighed and bent their heads in sorrow.

Years passed by, and one day, they dug his grave to remove his ashes to another place. All who were present saw that his heart had been crystallized into a magnificent gem, and knowing his sad love, took it to the Palace and offered it to the mandarin. It was carved into a lovely tea-cup, and whenever tea was poured into it, the image of Truong Chi appeared in the amber liquid.

When Mi Nuong saw the sad face of Truong Chi in the tea-cup, memories of the past came flooding. She remembered the unhappy story — the story of unrequited love. It was she who had pined for him and him brought to her, and it was she who had sent him to his doom. A tear of remorse rolled down her cheeks and fell into the cup, which suddenly vanished.

It was thought that even a tear from his beloved was sufficient to calm for ever the restless spirit of Truong Chi, for now that the « debt of love » was paid, the « crystal of love » could at last disappear.

END



Be careful, dear little people ! You are building your future...

Pen Pals



Dear Mr. Jean,

It was my pleasure to have received a letter from you.

As to me, among various healthy amusements, writing, is well worth mentioning. Therefore, I am ready to answer you about your subject « the advantages and disadvantages of book reading ».

As far as I see, after the invention of printing all human know-ledge in every walk of life was recorded into books. Nowadays books have become an intellectual food in our daily life.

Reading give us many advantages, provided we choose the right kind of books. Reading will bring us into close contact with the minds and souls of the cultured men who wrote them. In our daily life we keep in touch with many men who may be good friends and can do many ordinary things, but cannot give us high thoughts and sufficient knowledge to solve our intellectual difficult problems .Therefore we need books in every field of instruction :sience, philosophy, literature and art etc... We can often use them as a helpful guide or a permanent teacher. By reading, we can discover many aspects of the word, mysteries of nature, the evolution of science etc... and fellow Socrate, Spencer, Descartes, Confucius guide us towards the eminent thinkings of humanity. Shakespeare, Wordsworth, Victor Hugo etc... supply us with mental foods by the beauty of their languages. Einstein shows us his atomic inventions.

In addition, reading also gives us wholesome pleasure to fill our leisure times and to avoid the feeling of boredom. Some books we read simply fore amusement good novels. When we are tired or the brain is heavy with serious study, it is very enjoyable to read fiction stories according to our taste.

Nevertheless we must be ware some dangers of reading. One can acquire good thinkings and clear judgement only when he reads well chosen books. It is not the number of books one reads that counts. If the reader uses them with no mind, he will waste time and gain no profit. Another disadvantage of reading is exessive reading. People are absorbed so much time in books that they neglect other necessary work.

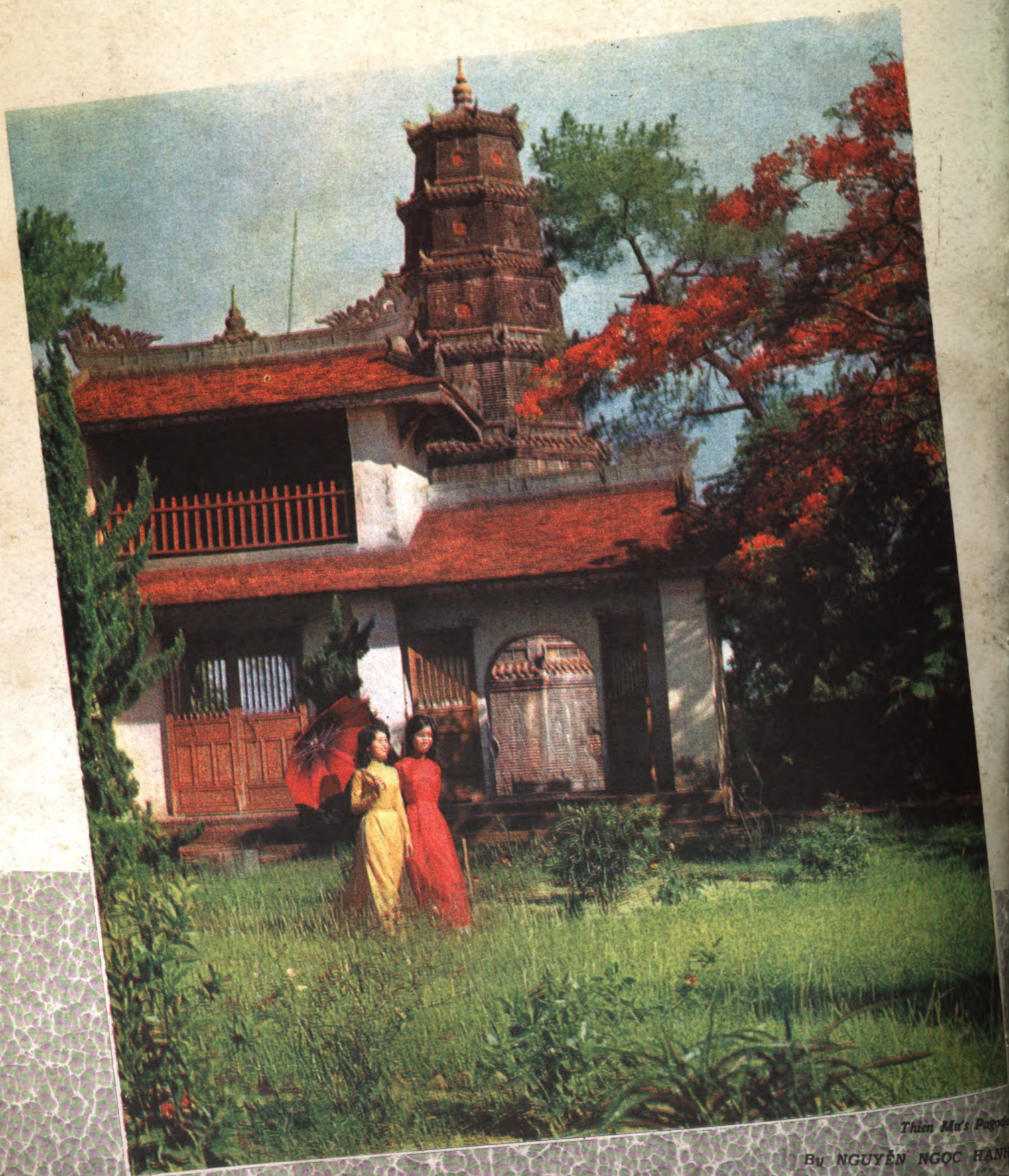
Whether reading has advantage or disadvantage depends upon the intelligent use of the reader. Moreover life is sometimes different from books.

May I stop writing here and let me hear from you soon.

*Sincerely your
Duong Dam Thuy*



Father's affection in war-time



Thien Mu's Pagoda
By NGUYEN NGOC HANH