

Vietnam

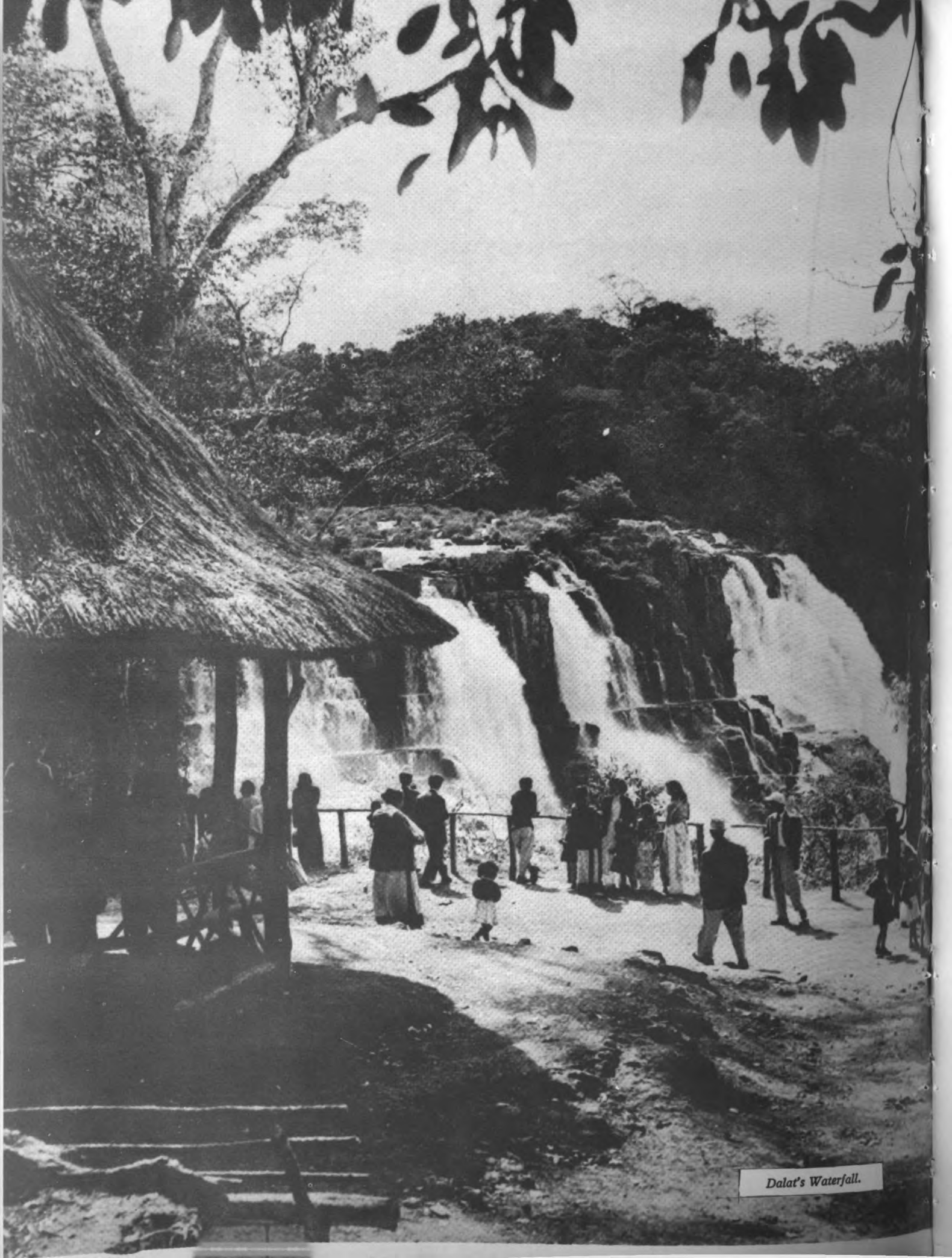
Lights and Builds



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(By Hong Tho VAX)

White heron near a fish-pond under yellow bamboo trees.



Dalat's Waterfall.

Vietnam

Fights and Builds

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Editorial

THE HEAVEN'S WILL IS AGAINST THE VIET CONG

We give reason to those who say about the Vietnam's war that army is fish and people are water.

It is established that in the fight against the Viet Cong rebels by Free South Vietnam, fish and water meet together. Here military and spiritual leaders throughout the homeland are speaking out the voice of the whole people, as they represent, in final analysis, all disparate strata of now struggling Vietnamese societies including patriotic political parties' heads, members and sympathizers. All presently are conscious of the necessity of repelling the danger of Communist invasion and domination.

As a fact, to save their fellow-countrymen, they accept that all national resources and means found available must be focussed towards that salutary target and that no defection can be admitted among them. They feel that they take in hands the responsibility and the reins of the national front fighting against red invasion for the salvation of their people.

Indeed, through the efforts and activities of Free South Vietnam during these past few years, impartial observers can discover the firm and precise volition of the whole nation. While troops are fighting on battlefields and Viet Cong atrocities are raging in the rear, frequent religious services are held at pagodas, churches and temples throughout Vietnam to pray for national peace and security. At the same time, additional contingents of freedom-fighters moving from identical people sources, get supported, encouraged and sent up to the frontline. Viet Cong terroristic acts are also denounced by mass-rallies.

In the light of such events, no one can stultify the evidence of those palpable facts reflecting the general anti-Viet Cong unanimity of Vietnamese communities. On the contrary, one may anticipate that similar tendency resulting from any future national referendum freely organized the country over in order to know the exact will of the people, can be expected as certain and even spectacular by Vietnam's sympathetic caretakers.

For today, one need not go further in search of what one now has already before one's eyes, since till now no religious nor military communities have been forced to look as anti-Viet Cong as they are. Often in the past, through so many sorrowful — and even bloody — happenings, the intimate will of people and army here has been manifested steadily unchanged and the core of which in any case, after final challenges, got exteriorized by ultimate decisions of combined spiritual and military leaders of the nation.



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The reason of that strange factual simplicity consists in it that all blocs of Vietnamese citizens whether they are armed heroes commanding or combatting at the frontline or pacific civilians silently struggling in the rear within political parties and religious sects, come from and return to common people who, in turn, belong since times of their ancestors to one or another of many existing religious communities in Vietnam. Entering them at peace or trouble period, political explorers from outside will find out all colors and figures shaking hands between them under the same mysterious fraternal roof of man-heart worshipping the same Supreme Being and the same Ancestors.

As brothers, they are always ready to carry out their traditional motto that reads : « Better to die altogether on the same stack than to live alone ». These natural understandings between them are true especially in times of difficulty when people from high-ranking to most simple and less learned ones spontaneously make a delicate return to their respective central spiritual bloc, taking their practical conclusive resolutions, drawing their strenght and inspiration before they go on acts. Likewise in normal days, whether people in rural areas from well-to-do to needy classes waver or remain decided in the face of the Viet Cong subversive manœuvres, support or criticize legal authorities, participate or deny to take part in the sabotaging activities campaign launched by rebels and mecontents, all it mainly depends on the attitude of their respective central spiritual leaders who naturally have or, at least, are believed by them to have a high anti-Communist spirit.

Thus, if people's will is God's will, one can conclude that anti-Communist efforts and activities of South Vietnam's communities, as demonstrated above, betoken the volition of Heaven. This affords to indicate that the defeat of the enemy who are the Viet Cong and their henchmen is ensured. Should their challenges be high and obstinate, the victory of the Vietnam's Free Front will be more brilliant and immensely valuable.

Local small divergences of view and tactics in domestic affairs, sometimes inevitable, especially between individuals, can be unfallibly considered as strong seasonings found on a dinner-table when they can in no way hamper or suppress the anti-Communist dinner of Vietnam's freedom-fighters.

The high sign is given. Vietnamese eternal children will no longer let themselves be misled by leaders of equivocal spirit if there be. Obviously the trend of Heaven's will is prejudicial to the Viet Cong, and the Free Vietnam's victory is certain.

L.



Vietnamese freedom-fighters



Most important April 3, 1966 press conference held at Tan Son Nhut Military High Command Headquarters by National Leadership Committee about the critical situation of Vietnam.



The National Political Congress opened in Saigon on April 12, 1966 with 115 NPC delegates. Dr Phan Quang Dan was elected chairman of the NPC presidium. The NPC resulted in an official promulgation of the April 14, 66 Decree-Law on the establishment and election of a Constituent Assembly. Above photo shows National Leadership Committee Chairman, members and War Cabinet members attending the NPC.

HONOLULU CONFERENCE SPIRIT DEFINED TO SERVICEMEN BY DIRECTORY CHAIRMAN

— National Directory Chairman Maj. Gen. Nguyen Van Thieu, in a nation-wide address to the servicemen of all levels throughout the country over Radio Saigon and VNTV (Television VN) on Friday night, Feb. 20, described the Feb. 7-9 Honolulu Conference as the impetus to the final victory in the Vietnam war and as the forerunner of the social revolution in this war-torn country.

Following is an unofficial translation of Chairman Thieu's address.



Comrades-of-arms of all levels,

Last Feb. 10, upon returning home from the Honolulu Conference I had made firsthand report of the Conference goals and success to our compatriots at the Tan Son Nhat airport.

Today, I would like to have another talk on this Conference and on the overall national situation with the servicemen of all levels, and of all arms throughout the country.

Comrades-of-arms, you still remember that in several occasions I had told the people and the Armed Forces that 1966 will be the decisive year for our victory in every fields and we have to make greater efforts in the three vital objectives. The military general offensive, the development of the Pacification and Rural reconstruction projects, and the building of democracy.

From this viewpoint, the War Cabinet has outlined a program of action for 1966 and 1967. This program was approved by the 2nd Armed Forces Congress and was made public last Jan. 15.

From the superstructural level, the National Directory has also set out concrete objectives concerning the national policy.

— Defeating the communist aggressors and restoring a genuine and well-guaranteed peace throughout the Nation.

— Carrying out a social revolution able to improve the Vietnamese people's living conditions, and

— Building up the national governmental structures through really democratic elections.

The Directory's policy as well as the government's action program has been welcomed and vigorously supported by our allies, among them the United States, who is contributing the largest part of assistance to the Republic of Vietnam.

In fact, the Feb. 7-9 Honolulu Conference was an opportunity for the leaders and senior government officials of Vietnam and the United States to be in direct contact with each other for mutual exchange of view-points and close discussions on the positive and realistic alternatives susceptible of a more effective support by the United States to our action program in every fields. Thanks to such a direct contact, both parties of the Conference will securely gather the desirable achievements.

The working procedures between the US and Vietnamese agencies will also be improved so that the mutual cooperation will be more successful and that the cooperation means will be largely developed to get better results.

Every solution to the three vital problems of our people's daily life in an under-developed country victim of Communist aggression, such as health, agriculture and education have been carefully studied for a rapid and efficient implementation. In addition, the plan to normalize the living conditions of some 700,000 anti-Red refugees constitutes another major concern of the two governments.

— After the conference has ended and all projects in the abovementioned fields were approved by the two governments, both governments considered them a commitment to the Vietnamese and American people and agreed to carry them out immediately. Therefore President Johnson enthusiastically sent Vice-President Humphrey and several Department Secretaries and experts to Vietnam for an on-the-spot study of the works to ensure a successful implementation of the projects. Furthermore, in order to promote the programs steadily or amend them in time, the two governments agree to meet each other every three or four months to discuss and review the results.

— The U.S. government's help in developing our education, health and agriculture which I have just mentioned above only aims to push forward our rural pacification and reconstruction programs for this year and the succeeding years in order, not only to rebuild what the Vietcong have destroyed, especially in rural areas, but also to provide what is in need and modernise what is still obsolete by setting up more educational facilities and furnishing them with more teachers and books, by constructing more hospitals, dispensaries maternities and equipped them with more doctors, medical assistants and midwives, by supplying peasants with more farming implements, seeds and fertilizers, by raising the living standard of anti-Communist refugees and providing education for their children so as to help them gradually start their lives anew.

— Besides, the two governments also studied all measures and plans aimed at stabilizing the economy and goods prices in Vietnam, establishing more supply centers and cooperatives, in order to meet the population demands in first necessities. Economic aid funds were also planned to be doubled compared with last year's.

— Apart from problems concerning the development of social welfare and the improvement of the people's living standard, the American and Vietnamese leaders also reviewed, at the Honolulu conference, the situation in Vietnam and the international situation affecting our present anti-Communist fight and the defense of freedom and maintenance of security in Southeast Asia.

— Regarding our most important problem of War and Peace, all of you must have heard our affirmation to world opinion and to our allies who are assisting us and fighting at our side, as well as our repeated warnings to the aggressor. We have shown the whole world, and everybody has clearly seen that :

Primo : This war is a war caused by the Communists it has been planned with several phases and started from the guerilla warfare since 1954. It becomes now a systematic and open aggression from the North, directly controlled by the Hanoi government and enjoys the open and full support of the Communist bloc.

Secundo : The 1954 Geneva agreement was signed by the Communist Vietminh in connivance with the French colonialists to divide the national territory, then immediately after signing it the Communists violated the agreement by leaving Communist cadres and weapons in the South by disseminating propaganda to weaken our national ranks, by sabotage and murder, by setting up guerilla units which grew into regular units and preparing for the aggression from the North since 1958.

Tertio : Everyone sees that the so-called « South Vietnam Liberation Front » which the Communist Vietminh consider as representing the South Vietnamese people is only a group of faithful lackeys serving their political and military leaders in the Southern Central Command and in the Communist Party's organisation from North to South. It is in fact a most contemptible deceitful maneuver. After six years of sabotage, terrorism, killing and impoverishing the population, the Communist Vietminh created the South Vietnam « Liberation Front in 1960 to give themselves a « trademark » as liberators. To us, the South Vietnam Liberation Front is an organization of the Communists who are betraying the Fatherland. The South Vietnam Liberation Front, its Hanoi masters are merely Red China's henchmen no more no less. They only want to enslave our nation and make it a Red Chinese province and a tool of their ideology.

Quarto : With all the peaceful good will from the world, Red China and Hanoi are still stubborn and continue their aggression against South Vietnam and South East Asia without any thought for the misery of the North Vietnamese people or the misery of the South Vietnamese people for the last ten years.

— Therefore our stand is very clear and is always the same :

- 1) The Communists must end their aggressive and subversive war under any form whatsoever ;
- 2) A Communist party under any disguise cannot exist in our national political life and a Communist under any disguise does not have the right to live among.

3) The peace that comes to us must be a guaranteed peace which our people will enjoy security, freedom, democracy : a peace in which social revolution and reconstruction will be realized in a fully independent nation with territorial control and sovereignty so as to contribute to the peace and prosperity of mankind and the world.

4) Our territory must be unified and independent ; our people must live in freedom, democracy and happiness.

— And with our people united with our Armed Forces, we will strive to realise the above goals with the unswerving stand, I just presented because these goals and stand are national ones. The peace and freedom loving world also recognises these goals are legitimate ones. The world recognises that our fight is a legitimate one, that our stand is to protect Freedom and Peace of the world and mankind. That is why 95 nations have recognised us and 39 are at our side and giving assistance to the Republic of Vietnam.

— Furthermore, we have let it be known to the whole world that we are not waging a war because we are bellicose but for self-defense and out of our determination to defend peace not only for ourselves but for the whole Southeast Asia and the rest of the world, and out of our determination to crush down aggression in Vietnam with a view to save mankind from the danger of aggression and of a more cruel war. What's more, while the communist aggressors are demonstrating bellicosity, we are working toward peace, while the communists are intensifying destruction, terrorism, murder and seeking to impoverish the people, we are striving to rebuild the countryside, to promote rally and implement social justice and develop a new life at hamlets and villages, bring prosperity to the homeland and build up national democratic institutions

Comrades in arms,

So you can clearly realise that the objectives of the Honolulu conference are :

- To defeat the communist aggressors and saboteurs
- To achieve social revolution.
- To build a stable democracy.
- To improve the lot of the people.

In a move towards a genuine and lasting peace for our homeland as a totally independent, free and prosperous nation, that

— The spirit of the Honolulu conference is a spirit of equality and friendship between the Vietnamese and American peoples, a spirit of closer cooperation and mutual reliance based on the confidence in a brighter future for the Fatherland to be achieved with the help of a loyal nation, and that

— The result of the Honolulu conference is an increase in the US aid in all respects aimed at a more positive and efficient realisation of the national objectives.

On the other hand, the conference was a confirmation before the whole world of the determination of the American and Vietnamese people to unite themselves to defeat aggression directed against this country and at the same time to demonstrate to the Communist aggressors that they could not win because of the unyielding spirit of our people and of all the allied countries present here to support us.

— With regard to the internal situation, owing to the political stability prevailing during these last months, the Government has made strenuous efforts in all fields to realise parts of the adopted program and considering this pace of realisation, the 1966 program will be steadily pushed forwards with the use of all national availabilities as well as the positive assistance from the friendly countries, so that by the end of the year, we could boast of greater achievements.

In the military field, following staggering defeats during the 1965 monsoon which frustrated the enemy of their pipe dream of seizing more territory and provoking debacle in our political internal situation, our forces, in one month period of time starting from the Tet — alone, killed and captured 5,468 Vietcong and put out of action about 4,000 others, seized from the enemy 857 weapons, seized or destroyed 512 tons of paddy and 122 tons of rice, many enemy health stations, medical equipment helped, Phu Yen farmers harvest 29,232 tons of paddy during the same season. In addition there were 1,218 Vietcong military and political cadres rallied to the national cause.

— All this concurred to clearly demonstrate that the Communist aggression forces will face crushing defeat in the present war.

Dear comrades,

Today before all of you I reminded you that in the present phase of this decisive struggle for the survival of our national territory and our people, the Armed Forces are the pivot of the country and wherever his position may be, the combatant is the confidence of the people because we cannot win any victory on any field if we do not win over the enemy first at the frontline.

The Armed Forces' stand is a patriotic one and they are practically fighting for the whole people. The duty of the combatant is the one of a patriot and his action is the one of a government cadre in the national reconstruction works.

The most important task to save the country is to realize solidarity among the Armed Forces with the motto « Nation—Honor—Responsibility » and carry out the unity of mind among the people and the Armed Forces with the determination to win the final victory.

Our combatants should make every effort to deserve our people's sacrifices and our people should behave accordingly as descendants of heroic ancestors. Only with these conditions are we deserving the support of the whole world which is helping us in this struggle. And only with these conditions can we win over the Communists.



An interview granted by P.M. Air Vice Marshal Nguyen Cao Ky to a delegation of the Saigon Student Council headed by Student TO LAI CHANH Chairman of the Saigon Student Executive Committee, at Tan Son Nhut General Staff Headquarters on April 4, 1966.



April 22, 1966 : Australian Prime Minister Harold Holt (left) paying a courtesy call on P.M. Air Vice Marshal Nguyen Cao Ky (middle) accompanied by Lt Gen. Sir John Wilton (right) Chief of the Australian General Staff.



Australian Prime Minister Harold Holt on his four-day visit to the Republic of Vietnam. He arrived in Saigon at 11.45 a.m. of April 26, 1966 aboard a Special Royal Australian Air Force plane and was welcomed with 19 gun salute.



P.M. KY at the inaugural ceremony of the Long Yen new-life-hamlet in Tay Ninh province on March 15, 1966.

NEWS AND FACTS IN REVIEW

Binh Thuan women condemn VC formation of female guerrillas

PHAN THIET, Feb. 14 — Over 1,000 women residing in Thien Khanh village of Hai Long district, Binh Thuan province, held a meeting to denounce the VC coercion on local women to join their guerrilla teams, a local VP report said. representatives of the demonstrators urged all local women to unite themselves to smash down this dark scheme of the VC to use women as cannon fodder in their aggression war.

The meeting attendants also sent a resolution to the National Directory Chairman, Lt. Gen. Nguyen Van Thieu, denouncing the VC plot before public opinion at home and abroad.

Hoa Hao Buddhists greet Honolulu conference success

SAIGON (VP) Feb. 20 — The Chau Doc's Hoa Hao Buddhist Congregation Monday messaged congratulations to the Directory Chairman, rejoicing — at the success of the Feb. 7-9 Honolulu conference.

The message read in part :

• The Hoa Hao Buddhist Congregation feels very proud of the complete success of the Honolulu Conference. The Vietnamese delegation led by you, Excellency, and by the Prime Minister had carried out its missions and the reached success had adequately reflects the wishes of the people. The Hoa Hao Buddhist Congregation pledged on the purpose its ready cooperation with the government in the fields of national reconstruction and public service. •

On the same day, the Chau Doc's Hoa Hao Buddhist Congregation also sent messages to the Vatican Apostolic Delegate and to the Saigon Bishop, sharing its grievance to the murder of Moc Hoa parish priest R.F. Phan Khac Dau, by the V.C. terrorists late last month.

'New society day' solemnly celebrated

SAIGON, Feb. 22 (VP) — 'Whether our nation would remain for ever or would be lost entirely depends on ourselves. All the good will, materiel and men the allied nations are providing us are merely spiritual and material means to help us succeed ourselves.

That is why, only when we are fully aware of the supreme interests of the Nation, when we have goodwill, confidence and solidarity, can we attain the main goals set forth by the national government. •

The Directory Chairman Lt. Gen. Nguyen Van Thieu made this statement at a gathering of approximately 6,000 persons at the Independence Palace's Park yesterday afternoon in celebration of the 'New Society Day.' The participants in the ceremony included notables, youths, workers and representatives of political and religious groups.

After stressing the achievements made by the RVN government at the recent Honolulu Conference, the Directory Chairman said that while North Vietnam and the so-called South Vietnam Liberation Front' are serving Red China and trying to enslave South Vietnam, we only fight to defend ourselves and to protect our independence.

Speaking next, Prime Minister Nguyen Cao Ky recognized that after 80 years under the French domination and 20 years of war of sufferings under a dictatorial regime 'our society is a crumbling one full of injustices, a society that favors a minority of well-to-do people. •

Furthermore, the Prime Minister added, this society has to cope with the dangerous Communists who are always waiting for its fall. A social revolution and a genuinely democratic regime are therefore needed to defeat the enemy. P.M. Ky said.

Repeating what he had said yesterday morning at the Press Conference at Dien Hong Hall, Prime Minister Ky again pledged that by November this year there will be a Constitution. The government is also determined to reform the society by eliminating corrupt officials and dishonest businessmen.

In a near future, he said strong measures are going to be adopted to totally wipe them out of our society. The Prime Minister also said that there will be more imported goods and the Saigon harbour will be enlarged so that plenty of consumers' goods will be supplied to the population.

Concluding his address P.M. Ky again repeated what he had earlier said in the Press Conference that he never wants to cling to power because of privileges and advantages nor does he think power is his ideal in life.

Speaking next, Mr. Nguyen Van Tuc, chairman of the Petrol and Chemical Workers Unions hoped to see the government's commitment fulfilled and pledged to support the government in its task of raising the people living standard and building the nation.

A Saigon City Council member, Mr. Phan Ngo then addressed the gathering and said he concurred with what the U.S. President had said according to which : if the Vietnamese generals keep their promises and carry out social revolution, then they would be genuine revolutionaries in Asia. •

Present at the New Society Day celebrations yesterday were Lt. Gen. Pham Xuan Chieu, Directory Secretary General, Lt. Gen. Nguyen Huu Co, Deputy Prime Minister. Lt. Gen. Cao Van Vien, Armed Forces General Chief of Staff ; Maj. Gen. Le Nguyen Khang, Capital Area Military Commander, Maj. Gen. Nguyen Bao Tri, Third Corps Area Commander and all the War Cabinet's members.

Special court to try bribery, economic speculations to be set up

SAIGON, Feb. 22 — By decree-law 003-66 signed by Director Chairman Lt. Gen. Nguyen Van Thieu on Feb. 15, 1966, a special Court to try profiteers and cases of corruption and bribery is to be set up for operation during the state of war period and with jurisdiction extended to both the civilians and military.

Falling within the court's competence are the following offenses :

— Economic speculation, illegal transfer of money, smuggle violation of customs regulations, involving property or assets worth over VN\$50,00 ;

— Bribery, corruption and misappropriation of public fund involving property or assets worth over VN\$50,00.

The Special Court with powers extended to the whole nation territory will have its main courtroom in Saigon but could organise local hearing sessions to try cases in the provinces.

The Special Court will comprise :

— A Presiding Judge to be appointed by Directory's decree on recommendation of the government ;

— Two assessors to be appointed by Governmental decree ;

A Prosecutor and one or many Assistant Prosecutors to be appointed by governmental orders, on recommendation of the Justice Ministry.

Hearing procedures, to be applied at the Special Court will be the same as for Military Field Courts.

Defendants will be brought to the Court by warrants issued by the Prime Minister without preliminary investigation.

Directory chairman entertains reshuffled cabinet

SAIGON, Feb. 23 (VP) — Directory chairman Lt. Gen. Nguyen Van Thieu, yesterday evening gave a reception at his residence in honor of the enlarged and reshuffled War Cabinet.

Attending the reception were the Directory's members, Prime Minister Nguyen Cao Ky, Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Huu Co all members of the reshuffled Cabinet and representatives of the Diplomatic corps.



PAUL NUR Special Commissioner for Montagnard Affairs.

Vietnamese Women Day observed

SAIGON, Feb. 25 (VP) — « At a time when the Vietnamese people are courageously fighting against Communist aggression and striving to build up a New Society, the celebration of the Trung Sisters' Day provides us with the valuable opportunity to send incense and perfume back to the very source of Vietnamese nationalism from which we can derive renewed energy for the realisation of our present ideals. »

This was the gist of a statement made by Deputy Prime Minister Lt. Gen. Nguyen Huu Co, at the ceremony commemorating Trung Sisters' Day held at Tao Dan Park, this morning.

The celebration began at 9 a.m. with Cultural and Social Affairs Minister and Secretary of Satte for Education Tran Ngoc Ninh delivering a speech in which he reminded of the Trung Sisters' spoch-making feasts of heroism and achievements.

A Women Auxiliary Corps' member succeeded the Minister on the floor to give an account of the heroins' biographic data.

Addressing the representatives of the various organizations and the hundreds of girl students attending the celebration, Deputy Prime Minister Co who represented the Prime Minister said among the other things, that the most important legacy left to us by the Trung Sisters is the love of our fellow-citizens and the indomitable spirit of struggle for freedom and self-determination against aggression and injustice.

This legacy, he added, is being applied in the present resistance of our people against aggression and their strenuous efforts to rebuild the country.

Dealing with the role of women in today's world the Deputy Prime Minister remarked it has extended beyond the limits of family to the social area. On the other hand, equality between the men and women has been realised. The present state of war has further contributed to the expansion of the scope of activities for the women.

The traditional incense-burning ritual was performed after the addresses, before the Trung Sisters' altars erected in the middle of the celebration site. Songs dedicated to the heroines were sang by the girl students before the ceremony ended at 10 a. m.

Attending the celebration were also Mrs. Nguyen Cao Ky, many Cabinet members and representatives of the Diplomatic Corps.

Montagnard affairs special commissioner call for solidarity among highlanders

SAIGON, March 1 (VP) — « Racial equality and solidarity, the respect for the Montagnard ways and customs and special help to enable the Montagnards catch up with the national pace of progress are the elements of the present government policy towards the Montagnards, based on the principle of « racial harmony and common development. »

The Special Commissioner for Montagnard Affairs, Mr. Paul Nur so told the Highlanders in a broadcast message to his fellow-citizens last Saturday noon.

The first Montagnard raised to the status of top government official, Mr. Nur said his new position testifies to the response of the government to the Montagnard aspirations.

The Special Commissioner listed the main points of the program the War Cabinet decided to realize for the advancement of the Montagnards' interests :

- Creation of a Training Center in Pleiku to form Montagnard cadres ;
- Creation of school for the Montagnard combatants' children in Pleiku ;
- Reactivation of the Highlands Customs Court, and a great range of more or less major projects for the betterment of the Montagnard people's living conditions.

It was to step up the implementation of these projects, Mr. Nur said, that the Special Commissariate for Montagnard Affairs has been created headed by a Montagnard. This adds to the ground for the Highlanders to have firmer confidence in their future which is built-in in the Government program.

Mr. Nur appealed to his fellow-citizens to forge closer unity with the lowland people, and to give up any suspicion in order to help realise a new Vietnamese society, in which racial groups will merge into a single national entity, the Vietnamese people.

He especially appealed to the dissident Montagnards to rally to the greater national family and fully cooperate for the triumph of the national cause.

« In the struggle for the Montagnards' interests, he said, you were the victims of the Communist deceitful tricks. Now that you are aware of the role of traitor of the Communists, please rally to the people's side. »

Prime Minister in Hue

SAIGON, March 5 (VP) — Continuing his inspection tour of the I Corps Area provinces, Prime Minister Air Vice Marshal Nguyen Cao Ky and party boarded a helicopter from Danang to Hue, yesterday morning.

The Prime Minister spent Thursday visiting Quang Tri and Thua Thien.

In the once imperial capital, the Prime Minister had upon arrival contact with representatives of the Hue City Council and local notables at the Government Delegate's Office.

He later called at Tu Dam Pagoda where he was greeted by the Venerable Thich Don Hau, the Chairman of the Church's Van Hanh (Central Vietnam) chapter, and the Ven. Thich Thien Minh, Buddhist Youth Affairs Commissioner at the Church's Institute for the Execution of the Dharma, and representatives of local Buddhist groups and members of the ten families of the 1963 Buddha Anniversary dead victims.

The Prime Minister handed over VN\$ 1,660,000 to the Ven. Thich Don Hau for distribution to the above families.

Anti-communist refugees new total 868,712

SAIGON, March 5 (VP) — The number of anti-Communist refugees throughout the country now reached 868,712 as of February 27 and the Social Welfare Department has sent so far a total of VN\$187,570,721 to assist them, authoritative sources reported today.

3,462 VC defectors 2 months

SAIGON, March 5 (VP) — Responding to the « Come Back Home » campaign a total of 3,462 Viet Cong rallied to the national cause throughout the nation in the Dec. 23, 1965-Feb. 20 1966 period, it was reported.

The returnees included, 3,263 military and 931 political cadres, 59 liaison agents, 75 civilians and 34 draft-dodgers and deserters. They turned in to local authorities one light machinegun, 15 sub-machineguns, 69 carbines, four pistols, 151 rifles, six shotguns, 16 mines, 448 grenades, 151 magazines and 6,045 cartridges.

In the above campaign, the Open-Arms Department and local Open Arms Services have so far distributed 170,000,000 leaflets, 350,000 posters and 13,669 banners as well as given many mobile film shows, talks and broadcasts.

The struggle in Viet Nam is of particular significance. The peace and security of the whole Free World is based on the full independence and integrity of Viet Nam.

Vietnam Fights and Builds

Mass rallies in provinces condemn VC atrocities

SAIGON, March 7 (VP) — Various religious groups, notable, people from all social strata and students in various provinces throughout the Republic last week held demonstration to condemn the Viet Cong atrocities perpetrated against innocent civilians such as arson and murder.

Many resolutions and letters were adopted at the meetings to be sent to the National Directory Chairman and the Prime Minister.

In these resolutions and letters, the demonstrators strongly denounced before public opinion at home and abroad the belligerent acts of the Red Chinese imperialists and their accomplice, the Viet Cong. After strongly condemning the Viet Cong terroristic and sabotage activities the ralliers promised to cooperate closely to a the Armed Forces to fight against the communist aggressors, in order to bring freedom, peace and unification to the country and prosperity to the people.

The mass rallies took place at Quang Duc, Binh Tuy, Long An, Bac Lieu, An Giang and Vung Tau city.

Special court gives death sentence to speculator

SAIGON, March 8 (VP) — The Special Court to try corruption, bribery and economic crimes handed down a death sentence and a verdict of not-guilty at yesterday afternoon session, the final one for a first case.

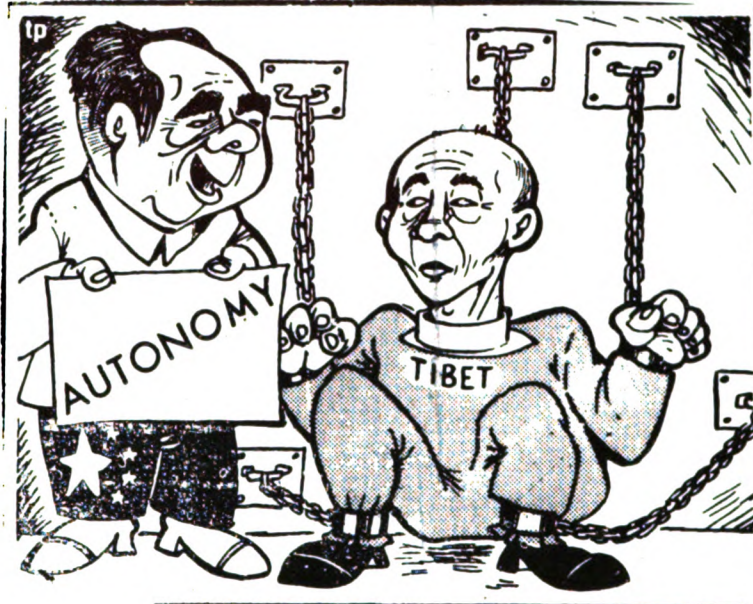
The court was inaugurated yesterday morning and sit for the trial of defendants Ta Vinh and Vuong Gia Ky, all businessmen.

Ta Vinh was sentenced to death for « bribery, overpricing and illegal speculation » and to have all his property confiscated and his trading company Sui Hing on Ham Nghi Boulevard and its branches elsewhere shut down.

Vuong Gia Ky was acquitted from the charges of « complicity in bribery and illegal transfer of money. »

The Court which resumed session at 3 p.m. after a noon recess first heard the witnesses.

Staff Sergeant Nguyen Van Luu and Sergeant Nguyen Van Nhan testified in the « bribery » charge. Ta Vinh attempted



Mao Tse Toung looks like saying to Vietnam also : You will be free thanks to this autonomy !



Vietnamese sleeping angels ? Yes! they are victims of the Viet-Cong mine against a civilian public transportation bus in Phu-Yen province killing 46 civilian passengers.

to bribe them when then latter showed up at his trading firm on Feb. 25, 1966 to take him to Security Agency for an affair concerning him. The two sergeants gave a feigned agreement and with their superiors arranged a trap. Later, at a cafe, the defendant was caught by the police in the act of handing over a sum of VN\$ 150,000 to Nhan.

Witness Tran Minh Tai testified he had bought from Ta Vinh cloth material for a total of VN\$80,000, that was VN\$ 5,000, over the legal price.

Witness (Miss) Huyhn Bich Trich declared she had purchased from Ta Vinh 2,000 meters of fabric far above the legal price.

Witnesses Duong Toan and Nguyen Kim Cuong, both economic comptrollers gave evidence in support of the 'over-pricing' charge.

Two members of the Security Service also testified against Vinh,

The role played by defendant Vuong Gia Ky in the bribery affair was to hand over the parcel of banknotes the sergeant.

In his indictment, the Prosecutor confirmed that Ta Vinh was guilty of all the charges raised against him and which was a grave case of price speculation. The Prosecutor then asked for death penalty against the defendant. He also recommended a maximum penalty against Vuong Gia Ky.

Attorneys Nguyen Tan Thanh and Lam Le Trinh assumed the defense of Ta Vinh. They both sought to save the defendant by evoking certain unsettled points in the whole story.

Attorney Le Van Mao who defended Vuong Gia Ky pleaded irresponsibility for the defendant — who was, he said, but an employee of Ta Vinh acting on the latter's order — and asked for his acquittal.

After over an hour of closed-door deliberation, the Court condemned Ta Vinh to death and discharged Vuong Gia Ky.

Ta Vinh has 24 hours to appeal for clemency.

Ta Vinh's appeal for clemency turned down

SAIGON, March 12 (VT) — According to information from an authoritative source, the Directory Chairman was reported to have turned down yesterday afternoon the appeal for clemency of Ta Vinh, the convict under a death verdict.

Ta Vinh, was tried and sentenced for bribery, economic speculation and over-pricing by the Special Court Monday.

Directory confirms confidence in Prime Minister Ky's leadership

SAIGON, March 11 (VP) — The Directory held a special meeting yesterday

morning to discuss problems related to the military, political and economic situation in the country, authoritative sources disclosed.

On that occasion, these sources said the Directory confirmed its confidence in Prime Minister Nguyen Cao Ky's leadership for the pursuit of the national policy, especially the efforts to fight the Communists, crack down on profiteers and, corrupt elements and build a new society.

All military chiefs, members of the Directory, attended the meeting. Meanwhile, security measures have been reinforced in the Special Capital Zone, according to the same sources.

Lt. Gen. Nguyen Chanh Thi, I Corps Area commander took the occasion to ask the Directory for a leave for health reason. The Directory has agreed to the request and named Maj. Gen. Nguyen Van Chuan I Division commander as acting commander of the I Corps Area during Gen. Thi's leave.

Directory Chairman visits Information and Chieu Hoi Department, Chieu Hoi Center

SAIGON, March 11 (VP) — Directory Chairman, Lt. Gen. Nguyen Van Thieu visited the Information and Chieu Hoi (Open Arms) Department, on Phan Dinh Phung street and the Thi Nghe Chieu Hoi Center, in suburban Thi Nghe, this morning.

At the Information and Chieu Hoi Department, the Directory Chairman was briefed by Secretary Dinh Trinh Chinh on the Department's achievements. He had informal talks with the Department's leading officials.

At 11:15 a.m. the Directory Chairman arrived at the Thi Nghe Chieu Hoi Center. There, he heard Mr. Dinh Thach Bich, Assistant Director of the Chieu Hoi Authority reporting on the Center's activities, and was shown around the Center's facilities.

Addressing the returnees, and Chieu Hoi cadres, Gen. Thieu said his presence at the Center was not a political gesture but was motivated by the desire to collect the returnees' aspirations and assess the progress of the government's Chieu Hoi policy.

Accompanying the Directory Chairman were Maj. Gen. Huynh Van Cao, Political Warfare Director General, and Col. Vo Van Quan, Psywar Director.

Snack-bar have to show clear price list

SAIGON, March 11 (VP) — In a recent announcement made public on Wednesday the City Hall requested owners of snack bars to show a clear price list of goods sold to customers. This to avoid-complaints made by foreign customers on excessive. prices

Within ten days starting March 9 all snack bars owners should submit to the City-Hall the price list of everything sold in their bars, from a glass of water to a sandwich. These prices should include all other charges (waiters, hostesses etc...)

Snack bar owners will also have to post a price list in Vietnamese and English well in sight of customers in the bar. Ever

Any violation will be severely punished, the announce said.

Armed Forces Congress holds emergency meeting

SAIGON, March 12 (VP) — The Vietnamese Armed Forces Congress at 9:00 a.m. today convened at the General Staff Headquarters and emergency attended by 36 generals and commanders of the various Corps, arms services and large units of the Vietnamese Armed Forces.

The Congress reviewed the overall situation in the country and especially discussed measures of increasing military efforts in the pacification works and programs aiming at pushing forward the social revolution.

On this occasion, Lt. Gen. Nguyen Van Thieu, the Directory Chairman, briefed the Congress on the leave requested by Lt. Gen. Nguyen Chanh Thi and the Directory's decision to appoint Maj. Gen. Nguyen Van Chuan acting commander of the I Corps Area. The Congress then held a secret vote on the Directory's decision. Of the total 36 ballots cast, 32 approve the decision and the remainder were blank.

The Congress also decided to appoint Brig. Gen. Phan Xuan Nhuan Commander of the 1st Division, replacing Maj. Gen. Nguyen Van Chuan. Gen. Nhuan was previously the Ranger Commander. The meeting ended at 11:30 a.m.

Ven. Tam Chau beres Buddhist stand at press conference

SAIGON, March 12 (VP) — A press-conference was given at 5 p.m. yesterday afternoon by the Vien Hoa Dao (Institute for the Execution of the Dharma) at its headquarters on Tran Quoc Toan street here.

Representatives of local and foreign press, and a large number of Buddhists attended the press-conference which was presided over by Venerable Thich Tam Chau, chairman of the Vien Hoa Dao in the presence of Ven. Phap Tri, deputy chairman and Venerables Thien Minh, Quang Lien, Minh Chau and Tu Nhon.

Opening the conference, Ven. Tam Chau told newsmen that the Vien Tang Thong (Institute for Clerical Affairs) and the Vien Hoa Dao of the Vietnamese Unified Buddhist Church met yesterday morning to assert their stand in the present national juncture.

Directory reaffirms army unity

SAIGON, March 19 (VP) — The Directory held a meeting at Gia Long Palace under the presidency of Lt. General Nguyen Van Thieu, the Directory Chairman, yesterday morning, a communique from the Office of the Directory's Secretary General reported.

The purpose of this meeting was to review the domestic situation and the international developments related to the Republic of Viet Nam.

At the meeting, Lt. Gen. Pham Xuan Chieu, Directory Secretary General, Prime Minister Air Vice Marshal Nguyen Cao Ky, Lt. Gen. Nguyen Huu Co, Deputy Prime Minister, Lt. Gen. Cao Van Vien, Chief of Joint General Staff, all the Tactical Zones and the Capital Region Commanders as well as Maj. Gen. Huynh Van Cao, Director General of the Political Warfare Department have, in turn, reported on various achievements in the implementation of the Government policy and programs, in every field, among the population and in the Army.

At the meeting, the Directory also reaffirmed the unity within the Army and the solidarity between the Army and the population in the determination to carry out the proposed resolutions:

- To win over the Communist aggressors,
 - To realize the social revolution work, to improve the living conditions of the population,
 - And to build Democracy.
- The meeting ended at 11:30 a.m.

Anti-Communist mass rallies held in provinces

SAIGON, March 21 (VP) — Villagers of Gia Dinh, Vinh Long and Kien Giang provinces demonstrated during the last few days to condemn the Viet Cong atrocities against innocent civilians.

More than 500 people at Binh Truong hamlet Gia Dinh province last Saturday gathered at the Giong Ong To primary school to denounce the Communist murderous act the day before, when the VC tossed a grenade into a crowd attending a variety show in the Thu Duc Information Hall. The grenade injured 27 persons most of them women and children.

The population of Binh Thanh Dong and Binh Thanh Trung villages in Lap Vo district, Vinh Long province also demonstrated last Friday against another VC terrorist act. Just a day earlier the VC broke into the home of a farmer Binh Thanh Dong village, shot to death 10 civilians and injured four others.

Meanwhile the inhabitants of An Binh village in Kien Giang province also held an anti-Communist mass rally last Thursday. The VC had earlier fired at a coal truck heading from Kien Luong to Ha Tien and killed the driver.

At the meetings, after the villagers,

representatives had denounced the Viet Cong barbarous terrorist activities, the demonstrators adopted resolutions to be sent to the Chairman of the International Control Commission condemning the Viet Cong crimes against innocent people.

The demonstrators also requested the government to severely deal with terrorist VC to ensure security for the population.

Buddhist leader urges formation of elected government

SAIGON, March 21 (VP) — In an address to thousands of Buddhists last Saturday evening at the Vietnamese Unified Buddhist Church's Institute for the Execution of the Dharma, Ven. Thich Tam Chau head of the Vien Hoa Dao called for unity and for the establishment of basic democratic structures so as to prepare for the installment of an elected government.

After stressing that the nation is going through a critical phase Ven. Chau urged the government to quickly realize basic democratic structures so as to pave the way for an elected government no matter whether it will be a civilian or a military one.

Dealing with the struggle of the Buddhists Ven. Chau said that throughout its history, Vietnamese Buddhism had always come but to speak for the people whenever the nation was going through a critical phase.

Ven. Chau also added that during his recent meeting with Directory Chairman Lt. Gen. Nguyen Van Thieu and Prime Minister Air Vice Marshal Nguyen Cao Ky, both statemen asserted that the aspirations of the Vietnamese Unified Buddhist Church are also the ones the government is striving to achieve.

Concerning the interview of Prime Minister Nguyen Cao Ky

SAIGON, March 23 (VP) — In the interview of Prime Minister Air Vice Marshal Nguyen Cao Ky on the occasion of the cornerstone laying ceremony at Thu Duc Reformatory Center, published in the VP bulletin of March 22 (evening edition page 1-A).

The Prime Minister availed himself of the occasion to reassert that he had never thought the Buddhist wishes were illogical and unpatriotic...

Political parties can use Saigon council's conference room

SAIGON, March 24 (VP) — The City Hall has decided to let the legal political parties meet in the City Council's conference room when it is available.

To facilitate the arrangements, the concerned parties are requested to contact the Prefect's office at least seven days in advance.

Constructive criticism and discussions are allowed but are definitely prohibited

all criticisms against individuals, discussions aiming at sabotaging purposes, and propaganda in favor of the Communists and neutralists.

Quach Thi Trang's murderer sentenced to three-year prison

SAIGON, March 24 (VP) — A former deputy police station chief was sentenced to three-year prison by the Court yesterday afternoon for a deliberate assault causing the death of the victim.

He was further condemned to pay VN\$200,000 in damages to the victim's family.

The convict is Nguyen Van Khanh, former deputy chief of the Le Van Ken police station, in downtown Saigon. The victim was a girl student whose name is well-remembered, Quach Thi Trang.

This occurred in 1963 a few months before the tragic overthrow of the dictatorial Ngo Dinh Diem regime by Nov. 1, 1963 Revolution.

As a protest against the persecution of the Buddhists, the girl students staged a demonstration on Dien Hong Square, in front of the Saigon Market. Quach Thi Trang was one the two girl students bearing a banner leading the demonstrators. The Diem police charged the demonstrators. A pistol shot was fired, killing one girl.

Five months after the incident, and in the wake of the Nov. 1 revolution, an investigation was conducted, resulting in identifying the murdered, Nguyen Van Khanh and the victim, Quach Thi Trang.

During the investigation, testimonies by a former police Chief (and District), the former Le Van Ken police station chief and three other policemen all confirmed the murder charge against Khanh.

Before the Court, the defendant denied the charge and the policemen who testified against him, also went back on their past statements.

Girl students Hoang Thi Cam Yen and Ha Thi Yen, the victim's friends, however confirmed that Khanh was the policeman who shot Trang to death.

Prosecution counsel, Lawyer Bui Son Huy demonstrated that there could be no doubt in the murder of Quach Thi Trang by the defendant. He asked for severe penalty against Khanh and the payment of VN\$500,000, in damages to the victim's family.

In his indictment, the Prosecutor who also sought to demonstrate Khanh's culpability, asked the court to condemn him for a deliberate assault causing the death of the victim.

Defense counsel, lawyer Phan Tho Hoa raised the question of doubt and so did lawyer Nguyen Van Sang.

The three-year prison verdict was returned by the Court after closed-door deliberation.

P.M. Ky pledges readiness to return power to people

SAIGON, March 26 (VP) — Readiness to hand over the power to the people at any moment and to return to his place in the Air Force was pledged by Prime Minister Nguyen Cao Ky, yesterday afternoon.

Presiding at the closing ceremony of the 2nd National Administrative Convention, at Dien Hong Hall, the Prime Minister further said how he conceives a National Assembly.

A genuine legislative body, he warned, must be immune from infiltration by crypto-communists and corrupt elements. In his present position, he said, he could have used all the means available to set up a communist type or a Ngo Dinh Diem type National Assembly, but never would he willing to act this way.

The Prime Minister also expressed hope that the military situation get improved and the rural construction activities yield better success so as to pave the way for the election of a National Assembly before schedule.

Earlier, in his opening speech, Interior Secretary Tran Minh Tiet reported on the decisions reached at the Convention. The main ones are to maintain the separation of powers between the villages people's councils and the village adminis-

trative committees and to step up efforts to help better administrative activities on village and hamlet levels.

Revolutionary Development Secretary, Maj. Gen. Nguyen Duc Thang, reported on the discussions on pacification and rural Reconstruction.

He said one of the major decisions taken by the discussion panel was to ban the practice of forcibly gathering the population chiefs and the use of police or Military Police cars to escort these officials. These honors, he said, are being reserved for the Chief of State or the Prime Minister alone.

The convention, he reported, also decided to welcome the participation of provincial and city councils in the rural reconstruction programming and work.

Superintendent General Ngo Trong Anh reported on the use of the administrative personnel.

The three-day 2nd National Administrative Convention formally ended yesterday with a set of resolutions to be submitted to the Prime Minister for final approval.

Deputy Prime Minister, and War and Revolutionary Development Minister, Lt. Gen. Nguyen Hu uCo, Foreign Minister Tran Van Do and the other members of the Cabinet were present at the closing ceremony.

Buddhist leader appeals for calm

SAIGON, March 27 (VP) — The Ven. Thich Tam Chau, Chairman of the Viet Nam Unified Buddhist Church's Institute for the Execution of the Dharma, in a communique issued this morning, March 27, 1966, exhorted the Buddhist fellow-countrymen to remain calm to show that the Buddhist are always serving the cause of the people in a constructive way.

Full text of the Communique (VP translation) follows :

• On March 12, 1966, the Church issued a communique assessing the national situation and suggesting criterions for national construction, realisation of democracy and preservation of national sovereignty and honor. The Church had taken note of the pledges made to it during subsequent official meetings between its representatives and the Government. In the meantime and up to now, the Church has not yet ordered whatever form of struggle.

• Yesterday, March 26, 1966, the Institute Council reached the decision to appeal to the people and Buddhists, in view of the interests of both the Nation and Religion, to remain calm and wait for the realisation of the promises made by the Government. •

• The Church, therefore, ask the people and the Buddhists to strictly observe this appeal in order to show to everyone, that the Vietnamese Buddhists are always serving the just cause of the nation in a constructive way. •



Major General Nguyen Van Thieu visiting the Thi Nghe Open-Arms Center on March 11, 1966 and talking with returnees.



Major General Nguyen Van Thieu, National Leadership Committee Chairman (right) visiting the Information and Open Arms Ministry on March 11, 1966 and Lawyer Dinh Trinh Chinh (left) secretary of State for Information and Open Arms.

P. M. KY'S MARCH 26 MESSAGE TO THE NATION

— Prime Minister Air Vice Marshal Nguyen Cao Ky, in a message to the Nation over Saigon Radio at 1 p.m. March 26 denied rumors spreading in the capital in recent days, and asserted that « there is no gap between the government and the people. »

An unofficial translation of the Prime Minister's message follows :

Compatriots,

I understand your anxiety before the developments of the national situation in the past few days. I sincerely regret that, after nine months of stability you have again to be concerned with some unrest caused by some misunderstandings. I say misunderstandings because, in fact, there is no gap between the government and the people, and at the same time, from the basis of every important problem relating to the Nation's destiny, the government has always been pursuing, along with the people, common aims and aspirations.

This is not a groundless affirmation. If one looks back into the activities of the government during the past nine months, one cannot deny, however partial one may be, that every effort of the government has been aiming at the five main goals which are :

- First, in the military domain, to take back the initiative of action on the battlefields and launch a general counter-offensive ;
- Second, in the social welfare domain, to bring justice to the people and create equal opportunities for everyone to help develop his capabilities ;
- Third, in the rural reconstruction domain, to enlarge the scope of pacification operations, restore security, create and consolidate the infrastructure in areas under enemy pressure ;
- Fourth, in future institutions, to realize a genuine democratic regime ;
- Fifth, in the economic domain, to move forward to a lasting economic stability and secure a decent living standard for the population.

It is quite true that the people themselves have never asked for anything else other than these objectives, which are considered necessary conditions to win over the Communists and build a new society. If we talk about achievements, there still are programs which have not been implemented or have just started, but there were concrete acts proving sound improvements.

One can notice that the enemy have been weakened on the battlefields, and the government units have taken their initiative in all actions. The area controlled by the government forces has been enlarged and the number of local inhabitants leaving the enemy zones has been increasing day by day. One can note that several decree-laws have been promulgated, with the aim of ensuring a decent living standard for the mass, and tens of thousands of peasants and laborers have become owners of their land-plots or their vehicles.

One can also remark that combatants who had devotedly served the homeland are not forgotten. Conversely, they have received particular solicitude and help from the government. Besides, the government has energetically dealt with corrupt officials and dishonest businessmen. The creation of the Special Court as well as its two death sentences are the most concrete proofs of this policy.

In the economic domain, although the market price stabilization has not yet been realized — because it depends on many other measures which require some time to be achieved, — the problem of food shortage has been settled. In the domain of foreign relations and national sovereignty, the government has effectively safeguarded the national stand of determinedly fighting and defeating the Communists, and agreeing to sit at the conference table only after the Communists have withdrawn their troops to the other side of the 17th parallel.

This stand has been confirmed many times at various conferences with leaders of friendly countries. It became clearer with the recent government decisions on the monetary problems and the concentration of entertainment places in special areas although these decisions affect the Allied troops here. A program with precise phases on the building of democracy through concrete actions has been drafted and made public at home and abroad.

Compatriots,

Thus, the viewpoints of the people and the government are not different and their aspirations are same. Consequently, one does not want to adopt various forms of struggle which would only create disturbances to the national life and bring about an unstable and dangerous situation.

I always think that, in the anti-Communist struggle, the maintenance of a stable social situation is necessary. I am not saying it today as head of the government with the intention of using this as a pretext to conserve my position.

I told you this when I was not yet entrusted with the task of leading the country, on Sept. 13, 1964 and Feb. 19, 1966 Those who are calmly thinking of the aggressive policy of the Communists would certainly agree with me on this viewpoint.

Moreover, past experiences have shown that every period of instability during the past two years has led the country to dangerous consequences on both the military and the social life aspects.

In the military field, this was a good opportunity for the Viet Cong to consolidate their ranks and strengthen their infiltration tempo.

According to the Defense Department figures, during the past two months, a total of 5,000 men of the VC Regiment 95 and battalion 8,2 had infiltrated into the Thua Thien and Quang Tri areas. Especially in recent weeks, they did not infiltrate through the Laos territory but they managed to go through the Demilitarized Zone in Ben Hai river.

The second danger of a troubled situation is that it would paralyse the people's life, especially that of the underprivileged. Strikes at factories and markets would strongly affect the supply of commodities and the market price. Due to the shortage of goods, foodstuffs' price would rise again and those who suffer most would be the poor and those who have a fixed salary.

As for the Central Area, with its small seaport of Danang, and its limited means of transportation, the daily supply has already met with many difficulties. If there should be disturbances, we certainly cannot avoid delays of goods supply, and speculation, and corruption would reappear soon.

At the present, food security stocks in Hue are already very low, should the unstable situation continue ; famine could not be avoided. Another important fact worth mentioning is that the strikes have slowed down the supply of fuels and weapons to the military installations. What would the people think when the life of our combatants should be sacrificed only because of delays in fuel and ammunition supplies.

And how great would be the grief of those frontline combatants when they see the sufferings of their beloved ones in such disturbances.

In the meantime other heart-breaking scenes may occur : children and sick people without timely care can lose their lives because all dispensaries and drugstores go on strike.

Besides, in such troubled waters, the VC will certainly not miss the opportunity to take advantage of the circumstances and exploit them in other fields such as provoking dissatisfactions and disseminate false rumors to sow confusion among the population and weaken the combatant's fighting spirit. The morale, once low, cannot always be easily raised.

With all these dangers in prospect, I think it is necessary to let you know that the present administrative machinery just cannot tolerate any trouble if we really want a rapid progress. In order to remedy to the shortcoming of its organizational structures, to improve the personnel situation and to progress, we must have long-term and large-scale basic reform programs. Hence, unrest will spoil all programs and plans and once stabilization is restored the government would have to reexamine the whole set of programs and start with nothing. That is why trouble-making forms of struggle which are believed to rapidly reach the objectives, usually have to wait much longer for their realization.

Another important aspect is the active assistance of friendly countries in our present struggle. To get assistance is not an easy thing. East and West histories have proven it. The Allies are assisting us for the same ideal that is safeguarding the security of the Free World ; but above all, because they believe we have the capabilities, the will and the opportunity to win. Should internal problems make the Allies loose confidence, and possibly cut off their assistance, I think it would be a great harm to the nation.

Compatriots,

In the capacity of someone responsible for the administrative affairs, I think it is my duty to inform you of those facts, I am confident in your judgement. On the same occasion, I also want to confirm once again the attitude of these military representing the Armed Forces presently in charge of heading the government.

We came to powers in a special situation, while the nation is threatened by the Communist invasion and the people is suffering of the war, social corruption, dictatorship and oligarchy. We naturally have the responsibility to resurrect this prostrate situation. Our only wish is to be able someday to tell you « Dear Compatriots, our duty is achieved, we are returning to the military position of a combatant. » This will occur when the battlefield is strongly consolidated, the Social Revolution steadily in progress, democratic structures set up, and an elected Government established.

In my opinion, our present situation postulates a preparatory and transitional period for the building of a true democratic institution. If this government is accused of having delayed the establishment of democracy, it is not true because a few months or one or two years do not satisfy the greed power if greed there is. We cannot aim at building democracy on a tree-top, without giving it a root. That is why I have recently decided to ask provincial and city councils to collaborate with the Constitution Drafting Council in order to complete the drafting of the constitution in the shortest time possible. Then we can prepare for a general election. Those are the quickest and essential steps in the establishment of a true democratic institution. I have also appealed to those councils to cooperate with the government in revolutionary development activities so as to soon bring security and the minimum conveniences to countryfolk. Otherwise our future democracy will only be an illusion.

We are in a very dangerous situation because the Communists always take advantage of our imprudence to take over our beloved land. True patriots never avail themselves of the term « Communism » to check the nation's progress but they conceive that democracy building demands the efforts of all in an orderly not in a disorderly fashion as is the case in some parts of our country, since disorder is beneficial to the Communists but harmful to the poor people. Nevertheless I wish that the time to prepare for the elections will be as short as possible. But this can only be achieved if our proposed plans proceed smoothly, that is to say if the present stability is firmly maintained.

It is because of the necessity of a stable situation that I appeal to you to be calm and clear-minded and to a suitable attitude. Fundamentally, the view-points and aspirations of all patriots are almost the same. So there is no reason why we cannot meet at the conference table to work out a solution to our few different opinions. That is why the government always tries to comprehend opposing opinions and is always ready to accept discussion with all people of good will. If this concept is admitted, unavoidably the opportunists and Communist saboteurs will appear in their true guise and this will facilitate our coping with them. Here I want to reaffirm the government's attitude which is to get ahead of opponents and to deal resolutely with the enemy.

Dear Compatriots,

After nearly two years of trouble, since July 1965, we now have achieved a period of stability, regained some national energy and have scored many victories on the battlefields and started many programs which will decisively effect the future of the nation. We are in a most favorable situation. To maintain it and to cope with the present Viet Cong infiltration at the Northern frontier I call for the unity of mind and purpose of the entire population.

With the cleasightedness of our compatriots, with the spirit of responsibility of all public servants in national agencies from the central down to local levels, with the cooperation from civic organisations and political parties, the military programs, the social revolution, the economic recovery and the building of democracy will surely be realized and all the aspirations of the people will be fulfilled.

I would like to take this opportunity to address the combatants in the Armed Forces.

Dear comrades in arms, nine months ago on behalf of you all, and as your representative I took on the responsibility to head the government. After assuming this responsibility I told you at the First Armed Forces Congress that « I wear the dress of a combatant and I believe the success or failure of our combatant will affect the honor of everyone in the entire unit. Therefore I have fulfilled my duty in the spirit of common responsibility of all the armed forces with the sincere trust in your support and with the sole purpose of achieving our common goal, which is to defeat the communists, save the nation and build a just and democratic society... »

During the past nine months, in such a spirit, a disinterested spirit of public service, a pride in the military uniform, we have achieved many encouraging improvement. The prospect of a bright future is present. This future and the stability of the past days are truly the result of your efforts, the efforts of those who have made their supreme sacrifice on the battlefields as well as those who are proudly fighting at the outposts.

I well understand that you do not ask that these efforts be recognized but I know you would not approve of any act that would nullify the sacrifices of the heroic men who had died for the homeland.

With such a determined and courageous spirit and with the spirit of team responsibility, no matter how difficult the situation, and how numerous the dangers may be, I strongly believe we shall overcome them in order to fulfill our historic mission.



Mr Au Truong Thanh Minister of Economy and Finance concurrently Secretary of State for Economy.



Gate of Marshal LE VAN DUYET temple in Gia Dinh Town.



Saigon Le Loi Boulevard.



Major General CAO VAN VIEN Commander of the Vietnamese Armed Forces General Staff.



Coco-tress-sided road in the Vietnamese countryside.



Mr Truong Van Thuan Secretary of State for Communication and Transportation.



April 3, 1966 press conference by NLC at Tan Son Nhut General Staff Headquarters.



Mr Tran Do Cung Supply Director General



Mr Nguyen Phuc Que Special Commissioner for Anti-Communist Refugees.

P. M. Ky renews pledge to meet people's aspirations.

SAIGON, March 30 (VP) — As recently as last Sunday afternoon, Prime Minister Nguyen Cao Ky had a new contact with three prominent Buddhist leaders: the Venerables Thich Tam Chau, Thich Ho Giac and Thich Thien Minh on the problem of democratic institutions.

The Prime Minister revealed this at a meeting with a group of foreign newsmen-including Brazilian — yesterday morning, at which he aired some ticklish political issues of the moment.

The contact with the Buddhist leaders he revealed in reply to a question about the Buddhist claims, showed, the Prime Minister added: « that the government is always seeking to meet the legitimate aspirations of any strata of the people. »

Premier Ky was particular about stating that between the government and the Buddhist circles as well as any other community, there is no difference as to objectives. There is instead unanimous agreement on the necessity of building up a genuine and solid democracy for the country. What is prevailing, he said, are minor differences about how to attain the common objectives and what matters most is to seek the proper and effective way to attain them in keeping with our present national juncture.

A newsmen asked whether the Communists were involved in the recent demonstrations in Central Vietnam. The Prime Minister said as the communists are always taking advantage of any state of confusion or unrest, they naturally could not miss these opportunities. It is why, he added, if this state reaches a certain phase, the government would be compelled to take strong measures to crush the enemy's schemes.

Asked to comment on the fact that a number of military had taken part in the above demonstrations, the Prime Minister said these military represented a minority of some seven or eight company-grade officers. All of them have been reassigned elsewhere because the government could not tolerate the fact that the military be involved in such actions.

About his plans to cope with the situation in Central Vietnam Prime Ministers said the most urgent measure being considered is to help the people best understand what has happened and have a right assessment of the events. This because, he added, a majority of people still do not understand the efforts being displayed by the government towards the settlement of the claims put forward. It is therefore necessary to give them appropriate information and to appeal to the people to remain calm and clearheaded so as not to act as the instrument of the sabotage schemes of the communists who fish in trouble waters.

About Lt. Gen. Nguyen Chanh Thi, the Prime Minister stated that the former I Corps Area commander is still in Central Vietnam for a rest and is expected to return to Saigon soon for reassignment.

To a newsmen desirous to know when elections would take place in anticipation of the constitution of a National Assembly, Premier Ky made it clear that plans are to complete the drafting of a constitution within this year 1966 while the elections are tentatively scheduled for October 1967 at the latest. However, he stressed, the government is presently stepping up the pacification drive in the hope that the elections could be organized sooner. say in early 1967.

Pacification success and military success, the Prime Minister pointed out, are the two main factors to enable the organization of elections. In term of pacification, success is ensured only when the government could extend its control to 68 per cent of the entire population. By control, the Prime Minister said he means guarantee for the people against terrorism, threat and armed pressure on the part of the communists.

The Prime Minister told newsmen in conclusion that the government is always seeking to know the people's aspirations and meet them, that the government is always ready to discuss problems with all good will people on how to help realize these aspirations in the most rational and rapid way.

He added: « The government is determined to crack down on any for of the people to preserve not the interests of the government but that of the Fatherland and to ensure the survival of the Vietnamese people in the present historical juncture. »

After reviewing the general national situation, the Directory decided :

1.— In the realization of a democratic regime, to push forward the setting up of a Constitution drafting agency in charge of drafting a Constitution and submitting it to a referendum.

2.— To adopt adequate disciplinary measures against all military and civil servants of all ranks who continue to participate in actions susceptible to harm the national security and order, weaken the fighting potentiality of the Armed Forces and affect the implementation of the government program, those actions which only benefit the Communists to the detriment of the needy people.

Communique of Saigon archdiocese liaison office

SAIGON, March 31 (VP) — In a communique issued yesterday, the Liaison Office near the Archdiocese of Saigon said that those in office have no doubt shown good will when they pledged themselves to the establishment of a democratic regime but it noted « with regret » that this pledge « was not kept in time and hoped that the government will take the necessary measures to fulfil soon the just expectations of the Nation. »

The communique continued :

« Under the actual circumstances the country has a great need of stabilization any upheaval can but aggravate a situation already very confused. However stabilization should not mean stangation, immobilism. When a nation is learning how to practice democracy, all strat of the population have the right and the duty to expose their views concerning the great problems common to all. They all have the right to strive, respecting the established order, towards the realization of their aspirations.

« For the government stabilization cannot constitute an aim in itself but only a necessary condition for the study and the application of effective measures towards the solution of the grave and urgent problems the country is facing.

The Liaison Office near the Archdiocese of Saigon finally emphasized the necessity of normalizing the political life, improving effectively the social conditions, soften censorship, encouraging the formation and the development of new political forces and establishing democratic structures in view of the creation of a government rally representative of the majority of the people of South Vietnam ».

Vietnam has 1,560,000 catholics

SAIGON, March 30 (VP) — Sources from the Vietnamese Catholic Central Information Office disclosed that the total number of Catholic followers throughout the Republic reached 1,560,000, or 10.5% of the population (14,760,000)

According to the same sources South Vietnam has 13 dioceses, 1,771, priests 4,826 nuns and 685 seminarists. The catholics include 1,300, university students, 163,000 high school students and 265,000 pupils.

The South Vietnam catholic church also runs 26 hospitals, seven leprosariums, 55 orphanages and 19 rest houses for the aged.

Directory holds extraordinary meeting

SAIGON, March 31 (VP) — The Directory held an extraordinary meeting yesterday morning March 30, 1966 at Gia Long Palace, with Lt. Gen. Nguye n Van Thieu, the Directory Chairman, presiding.

Deepest thanks are due to Free South Vietnam loyal comrads' support, whatsoever it may be, coming from the Free world Countries. We are aware of the fact that the just cause of Freedom in Vietnam when backed by international aids, must be defended also by international helping countries to ensure its victory.

Vietnam Fights and Builds



Viet Cong blast at Victoria building on Tran Hung Dao street in Saigon at 5:20 a.m. April 1, 1966.



March 7, 1966 TA VINH before the Special Court tried and sentenced to death for bribery, overpricing and illegal speculation.



Dang Cao Sach, former Dalat Treasury Service Chief accused of public fund embezzlement of over VNS 7 million before the Special Court on March 14, 1966.

« Things done in a hurry will never last » Gen. Thieu

SAIGON, April 1 (VP) — « Democracy cannot be built in one day we need time to draft a Constitution, to educate the people, to organize a referendum, to prepare a general election for the National Assembly and to set up a civilian government. « Things done in a hurry will never last ».

So said Lt. Gen. Nguyen Van Thieu, Chairman of the Directory, in an interview granted to two Brazilian publishers at his private residence yesterday afternoon.

General Thieu stated that the Armed Forces do not want to hang on to power and that the present government, headed by Prime Minister Nguyen Cao Ky and himself plans to transfer the power, as soon as possible to a civilian government because « we have plans to push ahead the present social revolution and to restore peace to the country. We need time to carry out these plans ».

The Directory Chairman added that at present, the people need other things than a premature election. « What the people really want, the Chairman said, are security, a better life and more schools for their children. In fact, the villagers never asked me « when will we have elections ? » General Thieu went on, asking his visitors : « have you seen any country holding free elections at war time, particularly in a subversive war ? »

Dealing with the situation in Central Vietnam, General Thieu said he believed that such anti-government demonstrations are only injurious to the already impoverished people in a war-torn region such as Central Vietnam.

To a question General Thieu said if there are any protests against him as an individual, he would not mind because it is part of his job as a Chief of State.

Replying another question, General Thieu said he is in favor of a presidential system with a prime minister rather than a parliamentary one since Vietnam has too many parties but none of them is strong enough to lead the country.

VC blast at Victoria Building kill 6, wounded 67

SAIGON, April 1 (VP) — VC terrorists at 5.10 a.m. today set off an explosive charge in front of Victoria building on Tran Hung Dao St., an American officers billet in downtown Saigon.

According to initial reports of the National Police Directorate General, one Vietnamese policemen and an American

MP were killed in the explosion and a number of other wounded Vietnamese were taken to the Saigon Hospital.

US military sources later confirmed that six Americans were killed and 67 Americans and Vietnamese injured in the blast.

The building was seriously damaged.

**Saturday demonstration not planned by V.H.D....
Thich Tam Chau**

SAIGON, April 4 (VP) — The Ven. Thich Tam Chau, Chairman of the Vien Hoa Dao, yesterday morning said that last Saturday night's demonstration was not the intention of the Vien Hoa Dao when he attended the cornerstone-laying ceremony for the Pali Buddhist Secondary Institute on Truong Minh Giang St. here.

Ven. Tam Chau added « The Unified Buddhist Church has been struggling but it always advocates moderation. » Asked by some journalists about the future constituent Assembly, Ven. Tam Chau said, « The government is going to hold by-elections for a number of member of provincial and city councils so I hope Viet Nam would have a National Assembly within three months. » He added that it was better to have a National Assembly before a constitution. Asked whether the present situation would cause difficulties to the elections, Ven. Tam Chau said, « It can be achieved in any kind of situation if everybody does it whole-heartedly. » Asked by one journalist to give his own solution to the present situation, Ven. Tam Chau replied, « It is everybody's duty, especially of the government. »

P. M. Ky announces firm government measures at press conference

SAIGON, (VP) April 4 — « As a man responsible for the executive branch of the nation, for the future of the fatherland, and for the happiness of the people, I deem it impossible to let the present state of unstability continue to exist. »

Prime Minister Air Vice Marshal Nguyen Cao Ky said this in his appeal to the Nation yesterday at a press conference held at the RVNAF General Headquarters.

P.M. Ky added :

I hope that you have seen the goodwill of the government during the past period and now allow the government to make use of all its authority to protect the very existence of the people. However, in all circumstances, I do once more confirm that vis-a-vis the genuine nationalist elements, the governments is always ready to meet and discuss with them on any problem related to the destiny of the nation, while vis-a-vis the subversive communists, the government is determi-

ned to exterminate them. As for the movements which are instigating disturbances and disorder, the government is not yielding to their pressure, otherwise it would be to play into the hands of the communists. Concerning the legitimate aspirations of the various political groups and religious communities, the government is always abiding by its promise to help realize them. In regard especially to the claim for an elected government, the government will push ahead with plans to realize it, the sooner the better. And in regard to this claim, I made a point to restate that it is also an aspiration of the military who are presently assuming the national leadership.

Recalling the decisions made by the Congress of the Armed Forces, the Prime Minister said : being the Executive branch, has the duty to carry out strictly and with determination. But I deem it necessary to recall that this does not mean repression. Never have the Directory and the government agreed to use repression.

Earlier the Prime Minister briefed the conference on problems related to the national situation and dealt with a government program leading to the election of a national Assembly.

Speaking of the recent strikes and disturbances in Hue and Danang and demonstrations in Dalat, Ban Me Thuot and Saigon, Premier Ky said : « the demands of the recent demonstrations have changed and are much different from those put forward at the beginning three weeks ago.

Premier Ky expressed his grief before the dangerous influences of the supply suspension created by the disturbances. He said such grief has incited me to decide to resign from the premiership if such resignation could help restore stability to the nation and dissipate all the present disturbances.

In conclusion, Premier Ky appealed to entire people to all parties and organization to cooperate with the Government in the task of stabilizing the situation and building democracy.

Earlier, at his address opening the press conference, Lt. Gen. Nguyen Van Thieu, Directory chairman reviewed the overall situation of the country during in the past three weeks and reported on meeting of the Congress of the Armed Forces. Sunday morning Maj. Gen. Linh Quang Vien chief of the Joint Staff then read the decision reached at the Armed Forces Congress' emergency meeting.

Before closing the press conference, Gen. Thieu asked the local and foreign press to publish accurate informations on the present situation of Vietnam.

Present at yesterday's press conference were the General Officers, Commanders of the Corps aread, Commanders of the Armed Forces branches and Cabinet members.

Some News and Facts in Review

Directory chairman, Prime Minister answers newsmen

SAIGON, April 4 (VP) — Answering newsmen in yesterday's press conference the Prime Minister said the government considers Danang as being occupied by the Communists and Government forces will launch a military operation to liberate this city and Prime Minister Ky added that troublemakers will be severely punished. These trouble making elements should be divided into three categories :

1. Communist elements : these will be shot.
2. Public servants and military personnel who had been threatened and forced to join anti-government demonstration : the government will give them enough time so that they could repent and return to the national family. The Government will forgive them, provided they will not repeat their offenses.
3. Troublemakers who fish in troubled water will be punished according to the laws in force.

Mesures to stabilise the situation

Answering the Xay Dung daily, Prime Minister Ky said the Government recognized the fact that the population can demonstrate against the government but it cannot tolerate public servants who participate in such demonstrations. Such an act is a reactionary and traitorous one.

The small number of military personnel who had taken part in recent disturbances dishonor the Armed Forces, the Prime Minister continued, adding that a soldier must have two clear attitudes either to faithfully serve the people and Armed Forces, or to wage a revolution and overthrow the government by staging a coup d'etat if he thinks the government is not deserving to represent the nation. But in any case he cannot join any demonstration. These military should repent and return to the Armed Forces' family.

The Prime Minister informed that the Mayor of Danang had used the national budget to pay trouble-making elements to demonstrate against the government. No country would accept such a thing, Prime Minister Ky said.

There are only two solutions for this case, either making the Danang Mayor Prime Minister or shoot him, the Prime Minister said, stressing that his government will not fall and the Mayor of Danang will face a firing squad. However, the Prime Minister added there is little hope

for capturing him because when hearing this news he would flee away to the Communist zone.

« We consider Danang as having been occupied by the Communists and government forces will launch a military operation to liberate the city », the Prime Minister said.

Military and civilian flights have been stopped

Answering Chinh Luan on the future assignment of Gen. Nguyen Chanh Thi, P.M. Ky said Gen. Thi is on sick leave in Hue and the Defense Department and the Armed Forces will decide about his future assignment.

To a question from Quyet Tien, PM Ky said no one died in the demonstration in front of the Radio station Saturday night.

To another question on whether the order to forbid Buddhist monks to take off from Saigon airport is true, the Prime Minister said no such order has been issued by the government but all military and civilian flights were suspended Sunday, so as to use all aircraft for the transportation of troops to troubled areas in case of emergency.

To a question by Tu Do asking whether it is possible to give the names of some trouble-makers who are behind the demonstrations in Saigon, the Prime Minister said these will be brought before the tribunal and then their names will be published.

The Prime Minister also said the National Political convention will be convened within one week.

Question : The two commanders of the First and Second Corps Areas are not present at the press conference. Do they agree with the decisions of the Armed Forces Congress ?

Answer by the Prime Minister — They both agree to these decisions, even myself in my capacity of Prime Minister, I have to obey to the decisions made by the Armed Forces Congress.

Question — Had Major Gen. Nguyen Van Chuan, Commander of the First Corps Area been invited to attend the meeting of the Armed Forces Congress ?

Answer — We told him to stay in his area to follow the situation, we have daily contacts with him.

Question — Is the city of Hue considered as being occupied by the Communists ?

Answer — The situation in Hue is far different from that in Danang. Local authorities are still controlling the situation in the former imperial city.

Question — Why did Gen. Vinh Loc the II Corps Area Commander leave in the middle of the press conference ?

Answer — General Vinh Loc has to leave so as to direct a military operation.

There is no pleasure for the generals when they have to come to Saigon because they have to delay their work in their own areas. Gen. Pham Xuan Chieu is not present because he is ill.

Question — When will Danang be liberated and will the government forces have any measure against the US Marines ?

Answer — The operation to liberate Danang is a military secret, it is a Vietnamese problem and will not involve the US Marines.

The Directory Chairman, Gen. Nguyen Van Thieu then began to answer the foreign press on the national political convention.

According to Gen. Thieu the National Political Convention will group representatives of different parties and organizations. After the Convention a Constitution drafting body will be set up, Gen. Thieu concluded the press conference by urging the press to report all events accurately and to comment the situation with a straight forward and impartial spirit.



Vietnamese freedom-fighters.



DIRECTORY CHAIRMAN'S APPEAL

Directory Chairman, Major General Nguyen Van Thieu issued a broadcast appeal to the people and Armed Forces, at 8 p. m. April 4, 1966
Full text of the appeal reads as follows :

Fellow-countrymen,

Members of the Armed Forces,

The country is passing through a state of confusion and disorder.

— In some provinces in Central Vietnam, the Communists have infiltrated into the ranks of the people involved in political demonstrations over the past three weeks and taking advantage of the situation, turned these demonstrations into real attempts to seize the power. In Danang, this fact was obvious.

— In Hue, Dalat, Nha Trang, Banmethuot, they seized the radio stations some days ago and had burned down the Dalat Radio Station and threatened to burn down that of Nha Trang if the government attempts to reoccupy it.

— In Saigon, last Saturday, they attempted to destroy the Prime Minister's Office and seize the Radio Station, in a move towards seizing the power. To date, the movement of strike and violent demonstration instigated by the Communists who have recourse to both propaganda and violence to bring pressure to bear on the working people, civil servants, shopkeepers, market vendors, the women, the children and the students to make them follow the Reds orders, are still continuing in a number of provinces in Central Vietnam and may take place again in the Capital and it is feared that the Communist-instigated movement would spread all over the country, according to Communist plans.

Because of this dangerous situation the Fatherland is facing, the Armed Forces Congress and the Government yesterday took a series of decisions :

I.— To continue efforts to seek political solutions to political problems by convening, in the immediate future, a National Political Convention with a view to finding out solutions based on extended consultations with the people, solutions in accord with the present national situation, consistent with the aspirations of the entire people and the higher interests of the Fatherland, that is to ensure victory over the invading Communists, bring about freedom and happiness for the people and build up genuine democracy for the nation. The convening of the above-mentioned National Political Convention is also in accord with the aims the National Directory and the Government have reached following contacts with the various faiths and political groups.

II.— To apply every necessary measures with a view to urgently restoring public order and protecting the security of the people.

I let you, fellow-countrymen, to be informed today that :

The state of war promulgated all over the national territory by Du N° 1 of the Directory since June 24, 1965, still remains in force. And as from this day, to properly enforce the measures dictated by the state of war for the restoration of security and public order, the Directory and the Government have instructed the government agencies all over the country to strictly apply all the directives from the government and have instructed all branches of the Armed Forces all over the country to strictly carry out the orders from the superior authorities.

Furthermore, in order to facilitate the task of restoring and preserving security and order, the Government had taken the decision to temporarily close all the schools all over the country.

Fellow-countrymen,

Comrades-in-arms,

For these nine months, the Armed Forces have been entrusted with the responsibility of assuming national leadership. This means that the Armed Forces have accepted responsibility towards the people and for the survival of the fatherland. And for the survival of the fatherland, besides the duty of carrying out the fight against the enemy on the frontline, there is also the duty of eliminating from the nationalist ranks and from the areas where security was established, all the Communist infiltrators now indulged in subversion and sabotage activity, inciting the people and harming security and order. It is worth noticing that at this moment, especially, the Communists who have suffered continuous defeats on all the battlefronts, are making more strenuous efforts to intensify all forms of political struggle with a view to overthrowing the nationalist government and replacing it by a Communist-led government.

Therefore on behalf of the National Directory and the government I urge all our compatriots to be clearminded and not let the communists take advantage of our form of political struggle and make it serve their political aims.

I urge all the religious and popular groups, all the truly nationalist political organisations to try to solve our national problems on the conference table through open discussions with a patriotic and constructive spirit on their part and with the spirit of good will on the part of the government. I urge all the civil servants and military to clearly decide on their stand and explain to the population what is right and what is wrong because their duty is to take part in the national responsibility towards the population.

I urge the student parents especially the parents of young students to cooperate with the government and the armed forces by explaining to their children and preventing them from being deceived by propaganda or forced into demonstrations which the communists called political struggle in which ironically were participating children of 15 to 13 year old down.

I urge the students and the youths to be clear-minded in assessing their proper role in the national affairs which is to support the fighting spirit of their comrades who are day and night enduring hardships on battlefields.

In this critical situation when the survival of our country does not depend on the frontline but on the rear where you may be unconsciously taken into the Communists's cunning tricks, the Armed Forces, either they are leaders of the nation or the instrument of the government, always remain yours and are responsible for defending you and our beloved land. Therefore, in my opinion if the Armed Forces cannot achieve this task and even if we had an elected government, our country would be lost to the Communists who are massing on the frontline and infecting the rear.

Therefore, I earnestly appeal to you to cooperate with the government and to support the Armed Forces in their task of saving and building the nation.

NEWS AND FACTS IN REVIEW ★ NEWS AND FACTS IN REVIEW

Saigon students urge bombing of Red China

SAIGON, April 5 (VP) — « Only by bombing Red China can the war here be stopped because Red China is masterminding this war. » This was the view point of Saigon University Students' representatives in their meeting last Sunday with a delegation of US students.

The Saigon Student's representatives also informed the three-member delegation of US students' representatives that the special motion on Vietnam drafted by the US National Students Association contained several erroneous points because the American students do not thoroughly understand the situation in Vietnam.

To a question, a representative of the Faculty of Sciences said students here are longing for an elected government but do not agree with those means of struggle that make a poverty-stricken people become even more miserable. »

On the presence of Allied forces, a representative of the National Institute of Administration said Vietnam is grateful for their sacrifices but frictions between Allied soldiers, especially the US soldiers with the local population cannot be avoided because of the differences in national customs and ways of life.

On the war in Vietnam a representative of the Faculty of Letters told the visiting US students that the Vietnamese people loves peace and they are not the warmakers. Everybody knows that the Communist Chinese are the principal aggressors. So why not bomb Red China ?

After one hour of discussion the chairman of the Saigon University Students Union, Mr. To Kai Chanh, presented the US students with a SUSU banner as a souvenir.

The delegation of US students included : Mr. Phillip Sharbune president of the US National Students General Association, Mr. Malcolm Goldmark in charge of

foreign affairs and Mr. Greg Deline in charge of Asian affairs.

The delegation left Saigon yesterday afternoon after a two-week visit to Vietnam.

Saigon police disperse youth demonstrations

SAIGON, April 5 (VP) — About 500 youngsters last night gathered in small groups in an attempt to hold demonstration at various places in the capital but were all dispersed in time by the police.

A group, gathered in front of the USAID office, Le Van Duyet St., at 8:00 p.m. was dispersed by tear gas grenades. The group then headed to the Information and Open Arms department, Phan Dinh Phung St., and later ran to the Cultural House and tried to hang up banners. But at each place, the demonstrators were dispersed by the security forces immediately.

Another group, gathered in front of the Dien Hong Square at about 9:00 p.m., was also dispersed by the city police. Earlier, at 5:30 p.m. yesterday over 100 youngsters met at the Dan Chu Square, at the corner of Tran Quoc Toan and Hien Vuong street. Policemen also arrived in time and succeeded to break up the demonstration.

P.M. Ky flies to Danang

SAIGON, April 5 (VP) — According to authoritative sources, Prime Minister Air Vice Marshal Nguyen Cao Ky flew to Da Nang this morning to inspect the local situation.

The sources did not say how long Prime Minister Ky would stay in Danang.

Now curfew hours for Saigon area

SAIGON, April 5 (VP) — In his communique N° 11 issued today the Military Governor of Saigon-Gia Dinh announced that the curfew in Saigon and Gia Dinh province capital is re-set from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. starting Tuesday, April 5, 1966.

The communique said the new curfew hours are imposed to ensure security and to crush any attempt of the Viet Cong to infiltrate into the capital.

The Armed Forces and other government agencies have been ordered to open fire to all those who move about or gather illegally during the curfew hours, the communique added.

Fanatic demonstrators burn down U.S. Jeep

SAIGON, April 5 (VP) — The following is a communiqué (translation) from the Saigon City Hall :

In the night of April 4, 1966, a group of fanatic demonstrators turned over a U.S. Jeep on the sidewalk of Cao Thang St. near the corner of Hong Thap Tu St.

They set fire to the vehicle and destroyed it.

Danang has new Mayor

SAIGON, April 5 (VP) — The Prime Minister has signed order 548-ND-NV dated March 4, 1966, appointing Lt. Col. Ma Sanh Nhon as new Mayor of Danang.

Lt. Col. Nhon who was Chief of Phuoc Long province until his new assignment, replaces Dr. Nguyen Van Man.

Dalat radio-station recaptured

SAIGON, April 5 (VP) — Dalat's security forces yesterday noon recaptured the city broadcasting station which had been occupied by a group of demonstrators since last Friday. Before withdrawing the demonstrators smashed and set the station ablaze but all its personnel were safe.

Since their occupation, the demonstrators could only use the medium wave of the station to broadcast their information. The station, founded in 1949, is located on the third floor of the Hotel du Parc and broadcast on two frequencies of 208 and 49 meters.

Vinh Long students condemn anti-government demonstrations

VINH LONG, April 6 (VP) — About 3,000 students from the Vinh Long high school and the Technical and Pedagogy schools last Saturday held a meeting at the province capital to support the government and condemn the recent disturbances caused by trouble making elements.

The students paraded from Le Thai To St. to the Phan Thanh Gian square then dispersed in an orderly manner.

Buddhist church advises non-violence

SAIGON, April 6 (VP) — The Buddhist Church demands the establishment of a Constituent Assembly and other basic democratic institutions and guarantees for the sovereignty of Viet Nam.

The Church is not bent on overthrowing the government but asks for the realisation of the claims of the entire Vietnamese people. Only should these claims fail to be realised, the Buddhist Church would engage in the struggle until the end.

This stand of the Vietnamese Unified Buddhist Church was clearly stated by the Ven. Thich Tam Chau, Chairman of the Church's Institute for the Execution of the Dharma, last night.

Addressing the thousands of followers gathered at the National Buddhist Shrine to hear him deliver a sermon, the Ven. Tam Chau however solemnly confirmed that the Buddhists are observing a spirit of non-violence and exhorted the followers to abide by this spirit.

In reference to the events in Central Vietnam, especially in Hue and Da Nang, the Institute chairman said the purpose of the struggle being upheld by the population there is consistent with the Buddhist Church's stand.

Critical of the strong measures on the part of the government the Buddhist leader said that the struggle in Central Vietnam provinces is a 'struggle for the realisation of ideals' and pledged the Church's support for this struggle.

The Ven. Tam Chau then read a communique on the result of March 5 meeting of his Institute and the Tang Thong (Clerical Affairs) Institute. The communique acknowledged that the situation in the country is very tense and expressed the hope that the government promptly meet the people's claims.

Only when the claims for the Institution of a Constituent Assembly is met, the Ven. Tam Chau concluded, would stability be restored.

Buddhist responsibility in disturbances denied

SAIGON, April 6 (VP) — It was not the Buddhist Church that has initiated the recent violent demonstrations in Saigon.

The denial came from the Ven. Thich Tam Giac, the Director of the Buddhist Chaplaincy, at a religious ceremony, in Can Tho, yesterday morning.

Addressing the Buddhist servicemen

participating in the 'grass cutting' ceremony at the Military Cemetery, the Ven. Thich Tam Giac urged them not to let anyone take advantage of the present troubled situation.

Lt. Gen. Dang Van Quang, IV Corps Commander, who was also present at the event, expressed his solicitude for the well-being of the combatants and the hope for closer unity of mind and action among the spiritual leaders.

Maj. Gen. Huynh Van Cao, Political Warfare Director General also attended the ceremony.

School closing : A temporary preventive measure

SAIGON, April 6 (VP) — Following the decision of the Directory to temporarily close the schools all over the country as from March 5, 1966, the Cultural and Social Affairs Minister yesterday issued a circular urging strict observance of the order and explaining the reason behind the Directory's decision.

The above decision, the circular said, is but a temporary measure aimed at restoring and preserving security and order. Although discipline is being observed in the majority of the schools, the authorities deem it necessary to take a preventive measure in anticipation of possible further disturbances adding to the present state of confusion.

The circular added that the closing order is being applied to all public or private primary, secondary, technical schools and University faculties, including those run by foreign cultural mission.

Prefecture urges strict observance of curfew regulations

SAIGON, April 6 (VP) — The Saigon Prefecture yesterday issued a communique urging the capital population to strictly observe the new curfew regulations, effective March 5, 1966.

The new curfew time from runs 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. compared with that from midnight to 4 a.m. in force previously.

The communique advises residents to stay and compel their children to stay at home during the curfew hours, avoid gatherings outdoor and observe legal regulations in case of emergency outing.

Non-compliance to the curfew regulations, the communique warns, would compel the security forces to make use of their fire-arms.

VC. kill 20 civilians

In Vinh Long

SAIGON, April 6 (VP) — The VC killed 20 civil captives when the latter tried to escape from an emporionment camp, in Vinh Long's Tan Phu village, military sources reported today.

The sources said 23 civilians had been captured by the VC and detained at the Tan Phu area. Upon leading that, the 9th Infantry division was conducting an operation nearby, the prisoners tried to evade. But the VC opened fire killed 20 of them and wounded two others.

One 'prisoner' succeeded to escape and joined the operational unit.

Demonstrations dispersed in Saigon

SAIGON, April 6 (VP) — Many demonstrations took place yesterday afternoon at various places in the city.

A group of about 500 demonstrators at 4:15 p.m. yesterday urging along Tran Quoc Toan street gathered at the Dan Chu Square where they were dispersed by the police. Twenty-five minutes after they gathered once again the above square and stoned at the security forces before dispersing at 4:50 p.m.

Another group of about 2,000 demonstrators returned to Dan Chu square at 6:05 p.m. and continued to stone at the security forces injuring some of them. Troops were sent into drive off the demonstrators by tear gas grenades at 7 p.m.

Twenty five minutes later, a mob emerging from Cao Thang St. moved to Nga Bay square and then came back to Tran Quoc Toan St. At 8:05 p.m. about 2,000 people moved along Tran Quoc Toan St. towards Dan Chu square but were repulsed by government troops. Forty minutes later, the above mob paraded along Tran Quoc Toan, Cao Thang and Phan Dinh Phung streets but was dispersed at the corner of Le Van Duyet and Hong Thap Tu.

A group of demonstrators reassembled in front of Ky Vien Tu pagoda on Phan Dinh Phung at 9:30 p.m. and was broken up at five past ten.

Security forces said they did not use tear-gas grenades to disperse a demonstration Monday evening in front of the Information and Open-Arms Department.

Demonstrators wreck Song newspaper's office

SAIGON, April 7 (VP) — A group of demonstrators yesterday afternoon attacked and burned the Office of the Song daily in downtown Saigon.

Nearly 1,000 persons surging at 6 p.m. yesterday from Tran Quoc Toan St. with many banners and a national flag, paraded through Le Van Duyet, Hong Thap Tu, Huyen Tran Cong Chua, Thu Khoa Huan and Gia Long Streets.

Arrived in front of the Song daily office in Gia Long street, the demonstrators rushed into the office and began ransacking the place. They piled up newsprints in front of the office and burned them along with one scotter, three motorbikes and a bicycle.

The demonstrators then went on parading through Quach Thi Trang square and Pham Hong Thai St. They also stoned the office of Dan Chu daily in the same street.

The demonstrators later dispersed to their homes at 7:45 p.m. at Dan Chu Square.

Vien Hoa Dao's office temporarily closed

SAIGON, April 7 (PV) — A circular posted at the entrance gate of the Vien Hoa Dao (Institute for the Execution of the Dharma) since yesterday afternoon, announced that the Institute had decided to temporarily close its office, effective April 6, 1966.

The circular signed by the Ven. Thich Tam Chau, the Institute Chairman, says that during the closing period, the Office only attends to urgent problems concerning the Faith exclusively and invites the monks, nuns and followers gathering in front the Institute to return home.

Buddhist leader urges ending of police operations against demonstrations in I Corps

SAIGON, April 7 (VP) — Venerable Thich Tam Chau Director of the Vien Hoa Dao (Institute for the Execution of the Dharma) yesterday sent a message to Prime Minister Nguyen Cao Ky urging the government to stop police operations against demonstrations in the cities of Hue, Danang and other province capitals in the I Corps area.

In his message the Buddhist leader also said the problem can never be solved by force; only reconciliation can bring about good results.

Buddhist church urges temporary ending of struggle movements

SAIGON, April 8 (VP) — The Institute for the Execution of the Dharma yesterday invited the Buddhists to temporarily end any form of political struggle, observe vigilance and discipline and maintain close unity in their ranks in waiting for the realization of the claims the government has pledged to meet.

The appeal, issued yesterday, revealed that Prime Minister Nguyen Cao Ky, in a letter to the Institute dated April 6, 1966, confirmed that the country will have a Constituent Assembly in six months or even in four at the earliest.

The communique also said the Buddhist Church will send a delegation to Central Vietnam to contact the Buddhists and those engaged in the recent struggle movement there to explain the Church's position.

Meanwhile, the communique added, the Church has asked the government to release all the youths arrested during the recent troubles, withdraw the troops dispatched to Central Vietnam and officially confirm by Directory decree the Government commitment to have a Constituent Assembly set up soon.

Buddhist church assumes direct leadership of Buddhist movement

SAIGON, April 10, (VP) — The

Vietnamese Unified Buddhist Church has decided to assume direct leadership of the Buddhist movement in the country, the Church's Institute for the Execution of the Dharma, (Vien Hoa Dao) announced in a communique yesterday.

The communique, signed by the Ven. Thich Tam Chau, the Institute chairman asked all the chapters and organisations of the Church to urge the followers to stop scattered and independent activities and to contact, instead the Church's authorities (for instructions).

A Buddhist Forces Leadership Committee, the communique revealed, has been set up, headed by the Ven. Thich Thien Minh and Thich Ho Giac, to take on direct leadership of any action by the followers and only directives and instructions from the Committee are valid.

The Committee headquarters at the National Buddhist Shrine would notify by communiques, the date and password in case any meeting or demonstration is to be organised.

Explaining the reason of the Church's decision to assume the leadership, the communique said that Church represents the followers in dealing with the government authorities about the claim for a Constituent Assembly. However at a moment when the difficulties interfering with the realisation of this claim still remain unremoved, the scattered activities on the part of the followers may cause the goals of the Church be misinterpreted and make the Church's action unefficient.

Red agents instructed to exploit disturbances

SAIGON, April 10 (VP) — The Viet Cong, taking advantage of recent disturbances in the country, are trying to launch a general war and instigate the population to topple the government, an intelligence source reported.

The source disclosed that in an order dated March 12 1966 sent by the VC Central Committee in the South to the Liberation Front of the East Zone, the Special Commissariat in Saigon-Gia Dinh and the Committee for Buddhism Defense of the East Zone, the Viet Cong estimated that the internal disorder could soon attain its climax, which would be favorable to the launching of a general war on all fronts, political, economic and social and particularly on the political front by instigating the population to topple the government. The VC activities should be concentrated on the following five points:

— Deepen the misunderstanding and antagonism between the Institute for the Execution of the Dharma and the government, so as to incite the Institute to lead anti-government demonstrations,

— Launch a propaganda campaign to disorientate and divide the Armed Forces which will harm their fighting spirit.

— Launch a propaganda campaign among journalists so as to incite them to raise problems discrediting the government and benefiting the Viet Cong.

— Launch a whispering propaganda campaign among workers union cadres.

— Incite Buddhists and workers to take part in demonstrations. As for the VC cadres, they should join any struggle, from any religion or political party, provided that their claims benefit the V.C.

Besides, in Thua Thien, the provincial VC Commissariat also gave directives to its agents to exploit the local disturbances, and incite the population to resort to violence in case the government sends troops there to restore public order.

Catholic students condemn riots.

SAIGON, April 11 (AP) — Representatives of the Catholic students at a press conference yesterday morning said that they demanded the setting up of a democratic regime as soon as possible but they protested against riots that created chaos in the country, paralyzed the national institutions and harmed the people's lives and properties.

Dealing with the presence of Allied Forces in Viet Nam, Mr. Pham Huu Giao; representative of the Faculty of letters catholic students, affirmed the gratitude of the Vietnamese people towards the allied troops and recognized that their presence here is necessary for assisting Vietnam in its fight against Communism.

To a question on their attitude towards the recent demonstrations in Saigon, the Catholic students representatives said that « every citizen has the right to express his opinion but this should be done in such a way suitable to the national interests ».

Political developments cause no hindrance to revolutionary development works...

Gen. Thang said :

SAIGON, April 11 (VP) — In an interview granted to Vietnam Press. this morning, Maj. Gen. Nguyen Duc Thang, Revolutionary Development Secretary said that the present political developments in the Republic of Viet Nam are an internal affair among free Vietnamese people; and the War and Revolutionary Development works constitute the resistance of the free Vietnamese people against the Communists.

The General expressed the hope that the revolutionary development works will be actively carried out in every locality as usual. Gen. Thang informed that these works are being regularly conducted in the fourth, third, and parts of the second and first Corps Areas.

Gen. Thang added that the problem of bringing security, freedom, democracy and happiness to the rural population in this present situation does not allow us

to make even one step backward or to rest for a day.

Asked about the most recent orders sent to the localities, Gen. Thang said that the Revolutionary Development Department had asked the provinces to achieve their missions; and reminded them of a decision of the second National Administrative Convention.

The decision says that : « ... The objective of all the revolutionary works is to serve the people, not to report achievements to the government... ».

Gen. Thang also made known that the provinces have sent about 5,000 cadres to be trained at the Revolutionary Development Training Center.

French intellectuals support Vietnam Anti-Communist struggle

SAIGON, April 11 (VP) — Sources from the Foreign Affairs Ministry last Friday said that thousands of French intellectuals, on behalf of their organizations or in their own names had signed a proclamation supporting the anti-Communist fight of the South Vietnamese people. The proclamation has been circulating throughout France, the sources added.

The signatories stated that the guerrilla war in South Vietnam is not an uprising of the Vietnamese people, it is in fact a war waged, directed and maintained by the Communists.

The proclamation also stressed that the Republic of Vietnam only received military assistance from Free World countries after invaded by the Communists. The French intellectuals also considered that the « neutralisation » of South Vietnam would only give the Communists an opportunity to take over the country and other free nations of Southeast Asia.

They expressed their warm sympathy for the people of Vietnam and their allied for courageously stopping the dictatorial Communist expansionism.

The proclamation emphasized that the Free World should support the Vietnamese people and their allies in the heavy task of holding back the Red aggression.

In conclusion, the French intellectuals wished an early restoration peace in freedom for the Vietnamese people.

Among thousands of those who signed the proclamation were : writer (Mrs. Suzanne Labin, senator Andre Cornu, Julien Tardieu, former deputy, Max Richard, director of La Federation Re-

search Institute, Maurice Deixonne, former deputy, Professor O. Abtin of the Faculty of Medicine in Marseilles, Mr. Roger Aubert, industrialist, General Chassin, of the French Veteran Association, Mr. Marcel Naegelen, former Minister' Father Louis Vatine, George Merz, Editor in Chief of the Weekly La Revue Francaise.

Great solidarity force calls for Restoration of public order

SAIGON, April 11 (VP) — The Great Solidarity Force yesterday morning urged the government to restore public security and order in troubled spots, to shorten the curfew hours, re-open the schools, in order to avoid prices spiralling and above all, the Communist infiltration.

During a special meeting of the GSF, at its headquarters, N° 437 Vo Di Nguy St., Phu Nhuan, this political organization stated that disturbances occurred in the past few weeks have provided good opportunities for the Communists to increase their subversive activities.

The GSF denounced the instigators of these disturbances and requested that these activities should end immediately. The resolution also asked the government to take urgent measures leading to the setting up of a civilian government as requested by the people, it also urged the government to strictly apply national laws and severely punish those traitors who had resorted to violence to disturb the public security and order.

The GSF headed by Chairman Nguyen Gia Hien has been legally in activities since March 1965.

Also at yesterday's meeting the Force adopted a declaration saying that the government should not delay the extermination of corrupt officials and dishonest businessmen.

The declaration also urged the liberation of rural areas from the Communist yoke, the elections in secured areas and the formation of an elected government.

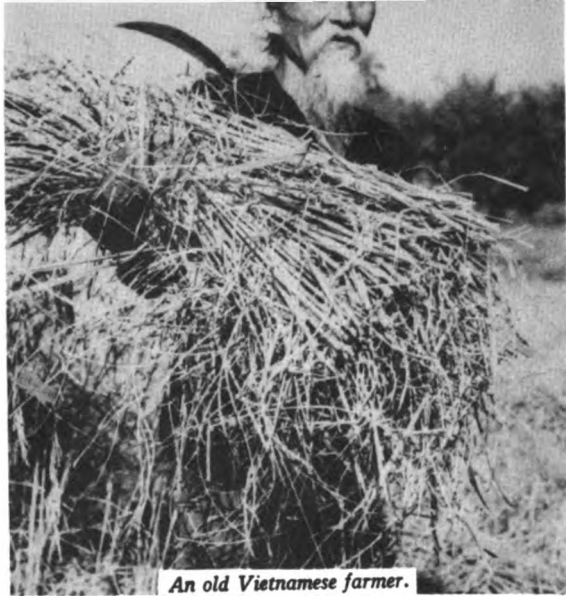
Kindergartens, primary schools reopened in Saigon, Giadinh

SAIGON, April 11 (VP) — All public, semi-public and private kindergartens and primary schools in the Saigon-Cholon Area and Gia Dinh province will reopen, April 11, a communique from the Education Department said yesterday afternoon.

The decision was made by the Education Department following consultations with various agencies in charge of security and order in the Saigon-Cholon and Gia Dinh area, the communique added.



Vung Tau mountain and seashore.



An old Vietnamese farmer.

COMMUNIST DOUBLE-TALKERS AT HAVANA USE WORDS AS WEAPONS

By JUAN GONZALES

«But you can't make a word mean just what you want it to mean,» was Alice's complaint to Humpty Dumpty in the famous children's book entitled «Through The Looking Glass.»

Humpty Dumpty's answer went like this: «Oh Yes I can. The question is, who's to be master, that's all.»

The Communists share Humpty Dumpty's view. They seek mastery not only over words, but through them, over their fellow men. Language, said the Soviet dictator Stalin, is «an instrument of struggle.»

Take the tri-continent conference in Havana, for example. There you hear Communist double-talk at its loudest, as Red spokesmen put Stalin's dictum into action. They take words, ignore their normal definitions, and use them to promote their power by trying to make their listeners believe they support what they're actually against, and vice versa.

The average person, like Alice, would define Imperialism as any action that seeks to place a country under the domination of a foreign power. Not so the Communists. To them, Imperialism is confined solely to actions on non-Communist powers.

Communist nations, according to the Communists, are not guilty of imperialism, even though they have conquered or annexed 22 states and territories during the past 25 years — ranging from the Soviet Union's seizure of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania to Peking's takeover of Tibet.

The non-Communist world, on the other hand, is imperialist, say the Communist double-talkers, even though close to 60 nations have achieved their independence in that world since 1940 — ranging from Lebanon in 1943 to Singapore in 1965.

By twisting the meaning of the word «Imperialism» — in true Humpty Dumpty fashion — the Communists hope to pose as the opponents of imperialism while actually promoting imperialism — their own.

Another item for discussion at the tri-continent conference is «support for national liberation.»

To the man in the street, this phrase means helping peoples work for the independence and sovereignty of their countries. But here again, the Communist debases definitions to suit himself. He does not include in the above category

any revolt against Communist domination, such as occurred in Hungary in 1956 and in Tibet in 1959.

Hence, when the Communist orates about «national liberation,» in reality he refers only to efforts to overthrow a non-Communist government by internal or external force. By this abuse of words, he hopes to lull his hearers into overlooking the fact that his real motive is to place all the world's people under Communist control.

At the Havana meeting, the Communists say they are against «aggression» — but they define the word as meaning any act by a non-Communist government in defense of rights threatened by Communist actions. They say they are for «Democracy» — but by this they mean the dictatorial rule of a small minority of Communists over the majority of the people. They say they are for «Peace» — but this word, in the Communist Lexicon, means simply, the domination of the world by Communists.

A Czech Communist leader, for example, was once so carried away by these definitions-in-reverse that he declared he would «batter the warmongers to death with peace.»

The Communists exploit the word «Peace» as a formula for making pacifists out of those who would oppose them. This type of semantics, they hope, will soften resistance to their imperialist ambitions.

Alice and Humpty Dumpty were literary characters who lived in a surrealistic looking-glass world where everything was backwards. To hear the Communists speak at a propaganda meeting such as the tri-continent conference, you would think they too, came from similarly topsy-turvy surroundings.

But the Communist spokesmen are not imaginary, and they are not at all confused. They use words backwards with the deliberate intent of moving forward with their plan for world conquest.

Those that are fooled by this kind of doubletalk only open themselves to Communist control. That is the lesson of the tri-continent conference in Havana.

From JUSPAO

THE COUNTRY OF VIETNAM ★ THE COUNTRY OF VIETNAM



Life in the Vietnamese countryside.



Animal rearing.



Small animal rearing



Corn harvest.

NORTH VIETNAMESE OFFICER CHOOSES FREEDOM

By FRANKLIN SAWYER

Saigon (USIS) — Lieutenant Lai Van Cu of the North Vietnamese Army wasn't one of more than two thousand Communist troops killed in the campaign at Plei Me — but something died in him during the fight, so he gave up on Communism and surrendered.

Refuting the Ho Chi Minh inspired picture of comrades marching in a fervid phalanx toward the promised land, Lieutenant Cu decided to break step. One day, when South Vietnamese planes showered safe conduct passes over his unit, he pocketed one, and at Pleim: he used it to leave his post.

He wasn't the only one, and he won't be the last. His decision was a long time in the making, rather than a desperate gesture born of defeat on the battlefield.

When interviewed last week the 24-year-old soldier said he had entertained doubts about communism for many years. The land reform program of the regime calling itself the « People's Republic » took away the 15 acres (six hectares) held by his family, which it then classified as « middle peasant » in the social structure.

Because he was from this middle peasant class, Cu said, he was not eligible for officer candidate school when he was drafted into the army five years ago. He gained officer rank by a field promotion.

Cu said his loss of belief in Communism grew out of his doubts its system of agricultural development, based on mandatory co-operatives, production quotas, fixed prices and similar doctrinaire intrusions on the normal rural scene.

All of these achieved little toward insuring a full rice bowl. Cu described life in North Viet Nam as punning a grinding gamut from hard to grim, especially harsh for peasants and laborers.

Almost everything is rationed, he said, all meats are scarce, particularly pork, the most popular part of the Vietnamese diet. Beef is, in effect, non-existent. A farmer must get specific permission from his village Council before he may slaughter swine, and beef slaughter is absolutely forbidden.

A one day's supply of rice, adequate for one person, sells for five piasters, he said. For comparison, Cu's salary as an army officer was 55 piasters for a simple suit, 50 piasters for a locally made watch and 115 for one from Russia. A Japanese transistor radio, a luxury hard to come by, costs from 250 to 600 piasters.

Cu, who has ten brothers and sisters, told how the state involves itself in child raising. Pre-school children are taken to special nurseries, so their mothers can labor for the regime. Since the children are fed in separate cafeterias, they take few meals with their parents. There is only small place in the sterile Communist life for the warmth of the family group.

Cu was head of a 33-man unit of the 121st regiment of the 325th North Vietnamese division, which made the arduous three-month infiltration trek to the South through the jungles and mountains of the eastern panhandle of Laos.

Supplies were brought down by porters, on elephant back, and in

sampans on the occasional waterways. These supply lines have been continual targets of allied South Vietnamese and United States aircraft.

Disease, especially malaria, has also contributed to weakening some Communist invaders on their mission which, Cu said, was drummed into them in daily discussion sessions as to fight « American imperialism. »

« For years, » he said, « we have been told that the people of the South live in misery and hunger, victims of military oppression, and that the United States seeks to make South Vietnam into a colony for exploitative purposes. »

But, he added, from what he heard in villages he passed through in the South, and from fellow soldiers in undirected discussion, he became convinced that life there was more attractive and held better prospects than in the North.

Cu said he was especially impressed by United States military prowess, and the zeal of its fighting men. He and his troops came to realize that the conditions of oppression and hunger they had been told about did not prevail, and it was hard for them to see how victory could be achieved against the powerful allied forces. Thus, morale plummeted.

For many of his fellow soldiers, none of this matters any more, since the equivalent of a regiment died on the Pleime plateau. But for Lai Van Cu, there is still hope that he will return to his home in the Red River delta. Before that day, there likely will be more decimated Communist regiments. Lt. Cu was lucky, he saw the light early.



Vegetables irrigation..



Vietnamese women replanting rice-seedlings.



Vietnamese girl-musicians.



Parading Vietnamese Army Auxiliary Corps women.



Vietnamese young girl-farmer.



Conical hat dance.



Rice-farmer at harvest

DO THE NORTH VIETNAMESE PEOPLE WANT TO CONTINUE THE WAR ?

By BENJAMIN WEST
(Washington, Dec. 9, 1965)

One of the most difficult things to measure is the state of public opinion in a totalitarian country. That is why we hear so little about how the people of North Viet Nam have reacted to the war being waged by their government against South Viet Nam. Since there is only one political party in the North — the Lao - Dong, or Communist Party, which controls radio and press and suppresses dissenting opinion — all we learn officially from Hanoi is what the Communist regime wants the world to hear.

But despite strict censorship, enough information has emerged to indicate widespread discontent, both in North Viet Nam itself and among its VC cadres in the South. This information comes from many sources — official North Viet Nam statements addressed to the people and not intended for outside ears : reporters representing Japanese, British and French newspapers ; and VC defectors.

Thus a very revealing item appeared in June in «Nhan Dan», Hanoi's official Communist Party daily. The newspaper reported that women made up 80 percent of the work force in one district, 90 percent in another. The report confirmed the forcible drafting of women into civilian work to replace the men being increasingly impressed into the Armed Force.

Although Hanoi's leaders have spoken of North Viet Nam as «the firm base for the southern revolution,» they have not admitted the extent of their military involvement. They have even at times claimed that the rebellion in South Viet Nam was being conducted exclusively by discontented South Vietnamese.

However, in the October issue of «Hoc Tap» the theoretical organ of the North Vietnamese Communist Party, the Minister of Heavy Industry stated : «because of the demands of the fighting, tens of thousands of youths in the agri-

cultural sectors have been taken into the army... the number of people not engaged in production has increased greatly. That situation has caused the labor situation to become urgent.»

«Nhan Dan» regularly exhorts the North Vietnamese people to work harder «to overcome difficulties and shortages.» Rice, the national staple, is strictly rationed, as are salt, oil and what little pork is available. Consumer goods are not only scarce but, «Nhan Dan» admits, «poor in quality and high in price.»

To these admissions may be added the revelations of non-Communist correspondents who can report freely once they have left North Viet Nam. From them we learn of popular demonstration against government policies. These violent flare-ups, wrote George Chafard of l'Express, «were put down quickly, but they showed that tightened police controls and increased deprivations imposed by the shadow of war have been poorly received.» We learn, too, that the labor unions in North Viet Nam, instead of protecting the workers' interests, serve as instruments of the government in pushing speed-ups.

But the most miserable North Vietnamese are those who serve in the Viet Cong forces in South Viet Nam. A letter found on a dead Viet Cong last month was addressed to his mother in North Viet Nam. «we are a little low in spirit,» It went, «because of the difficulties and the terrible conditions of hunger. Half of our group is sick. Drugs are low. We work without sleeping or washing because there is no water in the ground. The rice is so bad it gets sour after it is brought to us.»

The number of Viet Cong who have defected to the South Vietnamese side has risen from approximately 300 in February to more than 1,000 a month since the Summer. The North Vietnamese

among them complain not only of physical hardships but also of having been received and betrayed by the Communist officials in the North, who told them victory was near and the South Vietnamese people were pro-Viet-Cong.

In reality, the defectors reported, the Viet Cong were highly unpopular with the South Vietnamese villagers. One reason was the high taxes imposed by the Viet Cong on rice crops, ten times higher than those levied by the South Vietnamese government. Another was the drafting of boys barely 14 years old into the Viet Cong army and their use in the front lines as expendable buffers.

Still another reason for the Viet Cong's unpopularity was their practice of assassinating village leaders and teachers who refused to collaborate. There have been some 20,000 such victims in the past five years.

Clearly, the North Vietnamese invasion of South Viet Nam is not widely popular with the miserable Viet Cong soldiers or with the North Vietnamese people — and certainly not with the people of South Viet Nam. It is questionable whether even most North Vietnamese officials believe wholeheartedly in a war that is draining their economy and destroying their young and able-bodied men.

The most enthusiastic supporters of North Viet Nam's aggression are to be found in Peking. It was there that Communist China's Defense Minister Lin Piao recently pronounced the doctrine of «uninterrupted revolution,» a program for encouraging subversion and turmoil in the developing nations of Asia, Africa, and Latin America to attain Peking's goal of world domination. It is the rulers of Communist China who most violently denounce every effort to end the war through negotiations.

The men in Peking appear to be willing to fight to the last North Vietnamese. But the evidence at hand suggests that the North Vietnamese people do not relish the role of expendable victims in Communist China's expansionist crusade.



« Dear Compatriots ! as you love me and I love you, I will tell you my political stand... ! But now that I am in trouble... ! »



Peaceful highland of Central Vietnam.



Vegetables growing land.



Prenn waterfall, a Dalat touristic sight, in Tuyen Duc province.

THE COUNTRY OF VIETNAM ● THE COUNTRY OF VIETNAM



Dalat city aerial picture.



Entering the compound of the Emperor TU DUC tomb in Hue, Central Vietnam, one is captivated by the picturesque scenery of the pavillon built on piles where Emperor TU DUC (second son of THIEU TRI) used to come for relaxation.



Nguyen Hoang Bridge in Hue.

THE COUNTRY OF VIETNAM ❀ THE COUNTRY OF VIETNAM



Dalat PANGOUR waterfall.



FRENN waterfall in Dalat.

Intimacy of father and son. They are at work by an old traditional irrigating method.



A civil guard unit ready to combat in deep jungles.

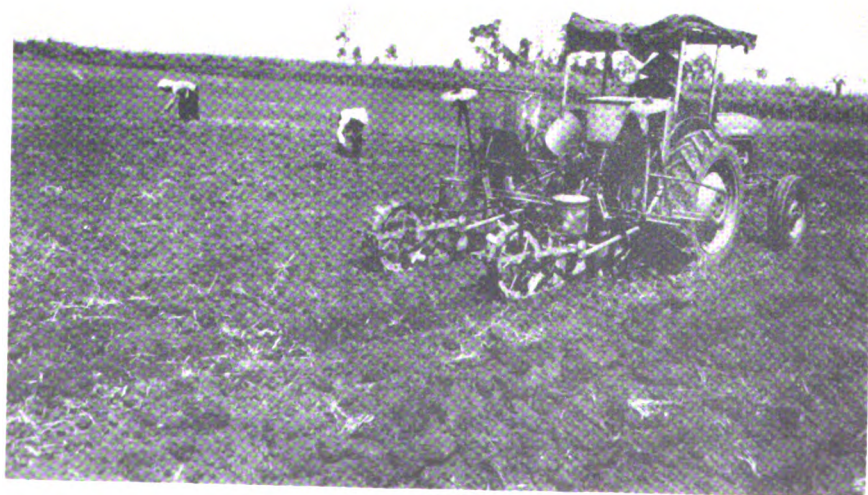




Typical tea-plantations in highland of Central Vietnam.



Peaceful highland region where vegetables are grown.



Land preparation is going.

THE COUNTRY OF VIETNAM





DALAT peaceful sight.



Peaceful Vietnamese highland.



VUNG TAU peaceful corner.



Peaceful landscape of Vietnam's highland.

THE COUNTRY OF VIETNAM



WHEN THE FINAL VICTORY ?

A slight minority of our Vietnamese compatriots more or less instructed in cultural and political domain particularly those in remote rural areas, still appear retained by or enticed into the deceptive propaganda of the Vietcong about national independence, freedom and democracy.

It is not because they fear violence of the well-known enemy of freedom that our releavable fellow-countrymen keep on showing us a passionless attitude of non-engagement which, for more cases, grows and degenerates into pro-Vietcong activities. They are too well aware of the fact the Vietcong are ruined militarily alongwith an economical exhaustion they endure. Nevertheless they persist in their velleity wavering between the conflicting policies of both sides Communist and non-Communist, about independence, freedom and democracy despite their past dolorful experiences and their present sufferings. They know it well that later they will be betrayed anew as former French-colonialism retistants had been by present Hanoi's rulers. Meamwhile, on the other hand, a great majority of the above skittish number have more or less tighteued relations of skin or profession with those who live in urban areas, serving in various governmental agencies or, at least, in the army of the Republic of Vietnam. The latter when being unable to persuade them to side with the government and avoid apparent anti-governmental, sometimes pro-Vietcong attitude, do not at all hate them, but, on the contrary, assist them very generously without any discrimination.

Such people mentality and habit are motivated by their innate mutual love of men as compatriots of the same fatherland.

This fact when it is undeniable. becomes traditional through prolonged atrocious sufferings of a nation that continually fights and builds and rebuilds.

The Vietcong, meanwhile do not fail to exploit this situation utilizing demagogic methods of fallacious propaganda which, after all, engenders unlimitably fatal consequences among the mob.

This condition of affairs, however, once cleared and unmasked, can easily turn out into our advantage.

But the question here and now we intend to arrive at is that to know when that lugubrious scenery will disappear so that the above-mentioned blocs of pacifistic hesitating souls get rid of their wavering stand as well as their aquivocal habit and begin to side with us willingly.

— When ?...

— Still long ! the first answer is if our regime and policy proclaimed by the Government does not yet gain the entire confidence of those doubting people who for years in the past, had been betrayed and oppressed so pilitessly and so often that they had acquired the habit of, so to say, poor innocent maltreated children who are at any time inclined to instinctively raise their trembling arms before their forehead in a gesture of parrying blows real or non real.



This timidity rather merits our pity than receives our reproach, for it is human.

What is human is natural and necessary. We have no objection to it.

— When ? ...

— Very soon ! another answer is if those pacifistic doubtful people could be convinced of the sincerity of our national Free Front leaders who, by adequate acts, manifest their good will and determination to realize a true national independence, freedom and democracy or, in other brief word, a new people society as it has been loyally conceived and proclaimed by the Government.

The second answer, to our opinion, may prevail attracting our particular attention, for the present political prospects of Free Vietnam are very advantageously promising, chiefly after the February Honolulu Conference. Since this date a wider and wider campaign takes place here in Vietnam to create most favorable conditions for the implementation of Government activity programs on social problems, in which an overwhelming sincerity and good-will have been demonstrated frankly and neatly, in reiteration, by the National Leadership Committee and the war Cabinet. The campaign is getting success, resulting sometimes in arousing fanatical patriotic feelings among leftists. This is a fact. But this may be also the mind of the Honolulu Conference for the cause of Freedom.

Within the framework of that campaign, a large movement of New Society has been equally launched intended to convincing the common man of it that the Government is always serious about laying the foundation for a better society — one in which the individual will have personal dignity accompanied by personal security through an overall pacification program. Actual steady steps towards freedom and democracy of the Government of the Republic of Vietnam on military, economical, social and cultural fields, are delicately designed to prove the reality of governmental sincerity inherent to those administrative guidelines which aim at contributing to the carrying out of that overvall pacification program defined by the Central Executive Committee of Vietnam.

It is noteworthy also that the pacification program launched so far by the Government has obtained a most striking success in recent months. The number of refugees and « come-back-home people » is still increasing day by day to such an extent that subversive manoevers of the Vietcong becoming hotter and hotter in towns and provinces, can prove that our common enemy acknowledge the superiority in policy of the Government and that the political war of Free South Vietnam against them is more important and more dreadfully considerable to them than the military one.

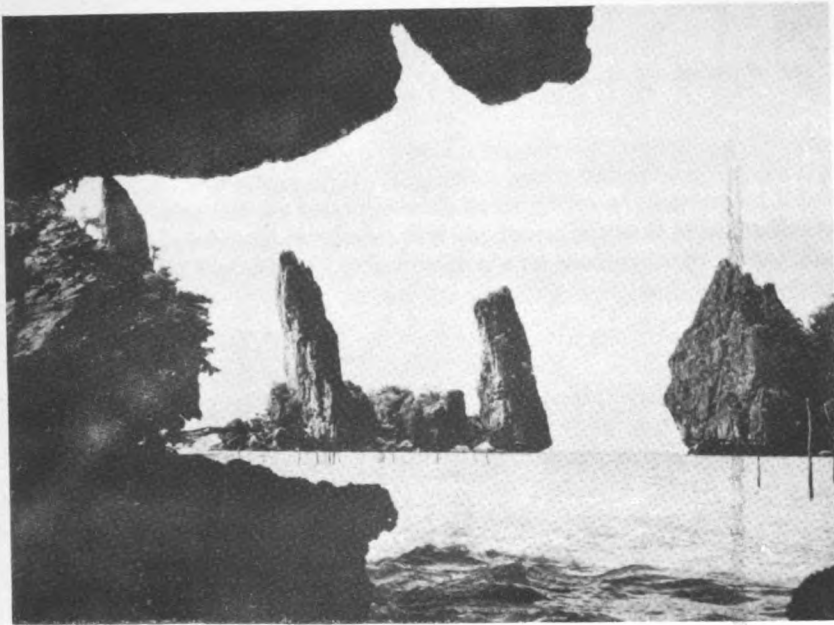
Therefore, as politics are prevailing here in Vietnam, we can conclude that, with the continuing state of affairs, Free Vietnam will soon and surely win the final battle and that waverers and velleitaries will be no more as soon as they are convinced of the obvious sincerity of the government as to implementing a clearcut policy towards that so hoped ideal of freedom and democracy of Vietnam.

L.

The Vietnamese people suffered much and have been patient. They have been involved in war for more than 20 years. But through the trials of war and the uncertainties of political change, they have remained staunch and steadfast on the basic issue, they are continuing to fight for their Independence

Vietnam Fights and Builds

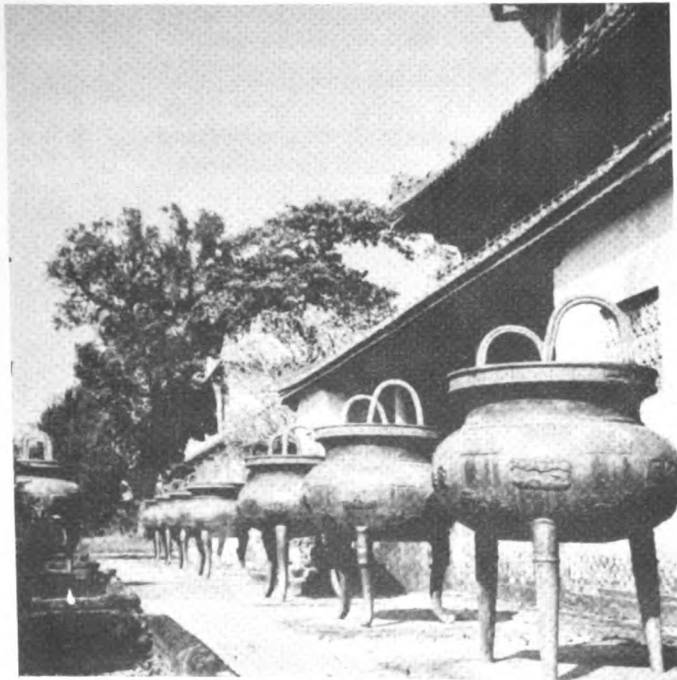




« Father and Son Rocks » in HATIEU bay.



Saigon Museum.



CUU DINH (NINE DYNASTIC URNS) in imperial Hue, Central Vietnam. Each of them has a name and represents one of the Dynasty's Emperor during the 19th century.



Peaceful Vietnamese fishermen at relaxation



Vietnamese farmers at work in the rainy season with their buffaloes.



Dalat Atomic Center.