

VIETNAM

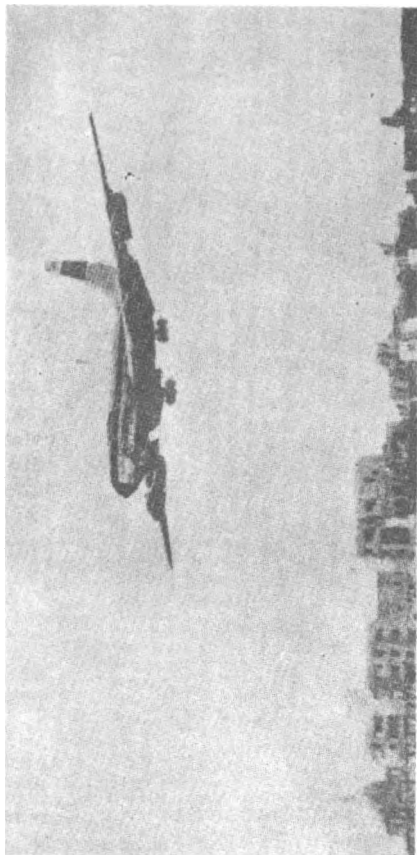
Magazine

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Vol. IV. No.11, 1971



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FROM OUR READERS

Please accept and convey to the Board of Directors, my heartfelt thanks for the kind invitation of the Council which made a trip to your courageous country possible.

My stay there and participation in the program organized for us enabled me to acquire a first-hand knowledge of the many fascinating sectors of the Vietnamese way of life including its art, theater, handicrafts, cultural traditions, contemporary contributions and its economic progress.

My sincerest wishes for the continued successful efforts of your organization's outstanding program which is a most needed contribution to a true understanding of today's Vietnam — its virtually decisive neutralization of the Communist threat and its significant progress in both the political and economic fields.

ELISA KOUNTOURIS
Eleftheros Kosmos
86 Panepistiriou St.
Athens 148
Greece

The endless war, death and terrorism are the usual news we get in our metropolitan dailies in Manila and even over radio and television.

The **Vietnam Magazine** and all the other publications sent to us present another picture. It is not all war and killing but a relentless effort to construct a strong Vietnam.

Keep up the good fight. A strong determination conquers all odds.

PAUL MA. DE VERA
San Beda College Library
Manila, Philippines

It is very interesting to read about a country which has been going through a war for eight years. I pray to God that He give your people a satisfactory and bright future and put an end to the war.

DONIAS MARTINS
Caixa Postal 89
86.360 Bandeirantes
Parana, Brazil

An American friend of mine gave me your **Vietnam Magazine** and other information materials about the war in your country. I found these magazines very interesting and would like to learn more about that country, especially the endless war.

It is always our prayer that peace will come to your country so that the children can enjoy their land like others do elsewhere in the world.

SAMMY WONTO
Liberian National Coast Guard
Monrovia, Liberia

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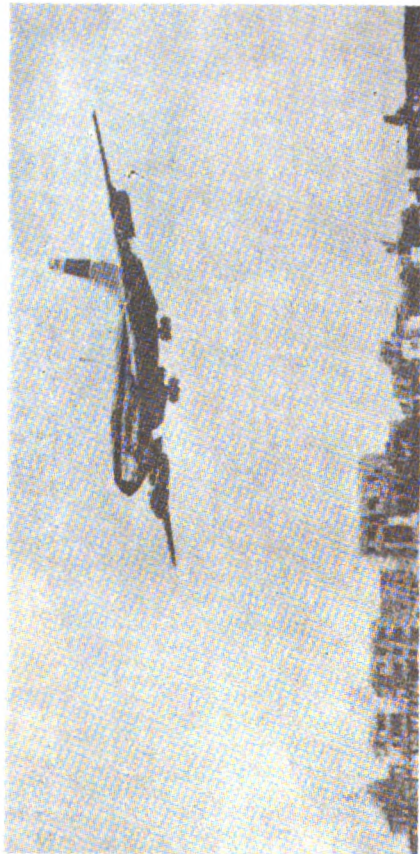
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Cover photo : Nguyen Kim Thanh has long experience as an executive secretary with many business concerns in Saigon. Well-versed in the travel agency business, she goes in for sports and looks forward to making trips abroad.

I have long been interested in your country, your history and your culture. After a party organized in support of South Vietnam in February, 1968, I became a member of the Asian and Far Eastern Studies Center.

I have interviewed Ambassador Pham Dang Lam, head of the delegation of Vietnam to the Paris talks and it was published in the *Nouvelliste et Feuille d'Avis du Valais*, the only daily of this canton of French Switzerland.

I intend to come to Vietnam soon to meet the Vietnamese friends I knew in Geneva while I was a student.

I also wish to congratulate you for the excellent presentation of **Vietnam Magazine**. What a contrast with the boring, narrow-minded tone full of hatred of the North Vietnamese propaganda papers that are sometimes disseminated in Geneva!

PETER SCHIFFERLI
44 Bd. des Tranchees
1206 Geneva
Switzerland

I have been receiving and going through the **Vietnam Magazine** and the **Vietnam Newsletter**.

I am really impressed very much with the progress of Vietnam, which seems going ahead on the path to all-round social and economic development. The efforts and spirit of your brave countrymen are commendable.

KULDIT BUATIA
Editor, The Daily Tarjman
Pindi Street, Ludhiana 1, India

Thank you very much for sending us several issues of **Vietnam Magazine**. These are very useful to the Library of the Supreme Court of Justice of our country.

DR. LUIS DORANTES TAMAYO
Director of the Library
Mexico City

My wife and I wish to express our appreciation for the informative article titled, "VNAF Sprouts Strong Wings" which was in your Vol. IV, No. 4 issue of **Vietnam Magazine**. We have been quite interested in the progress of the helicopter squadrons particularly, as we know many of the men who have trained at Fort Wolters. Our prayers are with them as they return home to Vietnam.

The **Vietnam Magazine** might be interested in publishing an article concerning the sponsorship program many American families are participating in presently with the Vietnamese servicemen training in the United States. If so, I could easily submit one, as my two years in Vietnam were partially spent in photo-journalism.


JAMES I. RIDGEWAY
2135 — 17th Avenue South
Birmingham, Alabama, USA

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If you would like to learn more about our activities, we indeed would be pleased to hear from you.



President
TRAN VAN LAM

I owe your name and address to the kindness of one of my best friends. I now have the honor to request your kindness to place me on your mailing list for **Vietnam Magazine** which, I believe, will enrich our knowledge of your beloved country for which I always wish happiness and prosperity.

SALAH BENSEGHIR
4 Rue Maymil, Bourgogne
Casablanca, Maroc.

Thanking you very much for sending **Vietnam Magazine** to our Club. All our members find it beautiful and appreciate interesting information on Vietnam which they find very useful. We shall be very happy to receive all your publications.

S. D. ARWADE
Lions Club of Sangli
813 Ganapati Peth
Sangli, India

Would it be possible to place the name of our library on your mailing list to receive **Vietnam Magazine**? Our students are preparing for careers in international commerce, and this publication would be most helpful.

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Walk through history:

The National Museum

By NGOC MAI

Each week thousands of visitors receive an exciting lesson in the history of South Vietnam. The place is the Vietnamese National Museum in Saigon.

For forty-two years the National Museum has served to remind both Vietnamese and foreign visitors of the ancient civilizations upon which present-day Indochina was built. The museum has seen hard times, but it has remained a monument to the land and people of Vietnam. A walk through its halls is a walk through history.

The earliest civilization represented in the museum's glass display cases is the bronze-age culture called "Dong-sonian" for the Dong Son area in Thanh Hoa province of North Vietnam where its traces were first discovered. Artifacts from this culture show evidence of both Indonesian and Chinese influence. This illustrates the enigma of Vietnamese ethnic origins — many scholars believe the Vietnamese are related to the island peoples to the south — and to those of China.

Among the items discovered in the Dong Son tombs are relics of the Han dynasty of China (206-220 A.D.), mirrors, paintings, bottles, brass coins, axes and brass drums. Many of the articles, incidentally, now on display in Saigon were returned in 1957 from American museums.

While Dong Son man was being eclipsed by Chinese and Vietnamese settlers from the north, another civilization, at the far end of the peninsula, was beginning to prosper. The Kingdom of Funan, or Phu Nam as the Vietnamese call it, was a major terminal of maritime trade at the end of the 1st century A.D. At that time the soil deposited by the Mekong River network had not yet expanded outward and the city of Oc Eo, located

then halfway between the towns of Long Xuyen and Rach Gia in the Mekong Delta, was only a short distance from the Gulf of Siam.

Excavations by the French archaeologist Malleret in 1942 to 1944 showed that Oc Eo was the eastern anchor of a great trading empire dominated by India. Spun glass, precious stones, carved seals, pearls, axes, clay whetstones and other locally produced items were unearthed. Also discovered were statues, amulets and iron jewelry settings.

Roman Coins

More complex jewelry and some statues found at the digging sites are believed to have come from India. Among these are a brass bust of the Lord Buddha and rings carved in the form of the Indian god Nandin. Chinese antiquities were also uncovered, but most striking, however, were the Roman coins found at Oc Eo, including one with a portrait of Marcus Aurelius indicating the extent of the vast trading network in which Funan participated stretching from China to Europe.

Around 600 A.D. the Funan civilization seems to have dissolved and it is generally believed that the Khmer civilization evolved from its remains.

By the end of the first millennium of the Christian era the Vietnamese people had begun to move south from the Red River delta along the coast of the South China Sea. Relics from this era, when the Vietnamese were just beginning their period of independence from China, have been found all along the coast from Hue northward. They consist of glazed green pottery, brass drums, weapons, and jars decorated with paintings of red flowers on their yellow

enamel surfaces. These Vietnamese objects differ only slightly from the contemporary Chinese works of the Ly dynasty (1100-1225).

As the Vietnamese moved southward they encountered a maritime kingdom which has been compared to the Viking settlements of Europe. The Kingdom of Champa dominated the rocky coast from Vinh to Phan Thiet, at its high point around 1200 A.D. The Cham people, who lived by fishing, trading, extracting tribute from inland tribal peoples and raiding settlements, were heavily influenced by Hindu civilization. Clay sculpture and carvings of the Cham featured figures of the Hindu god Siva, with three eyes, or Siva's child who had the body of a man and the head of an elephant and of Garuda, the mythical bird. Other Cham sculptures featured women praying and dancing, and were delicately carved and well proportioned.

Like the civilization of Funan, the Cham kingdom serves as a reminder that the name "Indochina" has a very real meaning. On this peninsula the influences of China and India meet. The Khmer, or Cambodians are an example of Hindu-influenced civilization.

The Khmer civilization which is embodied in the world-famous Angkor complex in Cambodia evolved from Funanese culture as its people migrated farther north and west. Accordingly, the story of that evolution is to be found across the Mekong Delta of South Vietnam.

Pre-Angkorean art works, consisting of statues of Indian gods, have been found in An Giang and Kien Giang provinces and brought to the museum for study and display. The statues, which grew more and more refined with the passing centuries, were housed in ever more lavish temples for worship. Along the border between Vietnam and Cambodia samples of such statuary can still be found.

The most modern of the cultures represented in the National Museum is Vietnamese. While other civilizations reached their peaks of development centuries ago, Vietnamese culture began to develop in its own right only in the past two centuries.



This "Standing Buddha" of Cham period dates back to between 400-600 A.D.

The last major Chinese attempt to subjugate Vietnam corresponds closely to the founding of the last great Vietnamese dynasty — that of the Nguyen family. Although much of the art of the Nguyen capital, Hue, was strongly Chinese in influence, it was about this time, (1802-1819 was the reign of the first Nguyen king, Gia Long) that Vietnamese art became independent. No longer did artists strive slavishly to copy the styles of the Celestial Court.

From this period the museum has acquired three of the lavish beds used by the Emperor Gia Long and his successor Tu Duc, as well as many decorated dishes, vases, tea-pots and urns. The most characteristic relic of this era was pottery with blue decorations on a white background. Samples of virtually all aspects of Vietnamese life from this time onward are on display.

In addition to its own collection of antiquities, the Saigon museum currently displays several outstanding items brought from other Vietnamese cities. Remarkable is the "Standing Buddha," a large bronze statue of the Cham civilization. This work of art dates from between the fourth and sixth centuries A.D. and is probably the

most famous find of the region. Found in Quang Nam province, the statue was brought to Saigon in 1954. It has since been on tour to the United States and many other nations.

The camp-bed which Emperor Gia Long used in the field during the military expansion of his kingdom is also on display. The ivory-encrusted teak wood bed was brought from Hanoi in 1954.

Hundreds of other items, from Vietnamese coins to silver bracelets of the Cham civilization, have been transferred to the National Museum in Saigon. Even an original copy of a poem carved by the Vietnamese king Minh Mang on an 80-centimeter (two and one half foot) wooden screen is on display.

Many artifacts in the museum's possession, however, are not shown. These include objects which have a commercial value — such as those with jewel settings. To display such items would invite theft, and the National Museum cannot presently afford adequate burglary protection devices. Anti-theft devices are not the only things the museum lacks. In a country at war, there is little money available for the pursuit of archaeology, even less for the

display of accumulated relics of the past.

Under the leadership of Professor Nguyen Ba Lang, director of the Archaeology Institute, however, the Vietnam National Museum is being re-vitalized. Construction of a new, larger museum building is planned to begin later this year, and teams led by museum curator Mr. Nghiem Tam are once again going on archaeological field trips. Cataloging and research concerning the relics already discovered is being conducted by a group of scholars headed by Father Henri Fontaine, a French Catholic priest.

The new museum building will be erected near the present one, inside the Saigon Zoo. It has been designed to provide twice as much space for storage and display, and to feature exhibit cases equipped with security devices. The projected cost is 81 million Vietnamese piasters.

Budget Increase

Meanwhile, the museum has been allocated a small budget increase. The modest increase in available funds will be distributed thinly over several areas. First, more excavations will be sponsored and more privately-owned relics will be purchased for the museum. Also, the meager salaries of the institution's staff will be increased and funds will be set aside for purchases to facilitate the cataloging and research activities they perform.

As the gateway to Indochina, Saigon is the right place for a museum of the area's history. It was near Saigon that the ancestors of the Cambodian people first emerged. A short distance to the northeast was the southern anchor of the Kingdom of Champa. In Cholon — the western part of Saigon — the Chinese established a remote trading settlement more than three centuries ago. And Saigon itself, coming under Vietnamese control around 1700, marked the end of the Vietnamese people's great southward march and the beginning of their true independence from Chinese dominance.

History of VN Buddhism

Introduced from India by sea, China by land

Buddhism came to Vietnam by the maritime route from India and from China by land. Those who first carried this religion to Vietnam seem to have been refugees from persecution in China and religious pilgrims from India.

The noted Vietnamese scholar, Tran Van Giap insists that Buddhism could be found in Tonkin (North Vietnam) in the second century A.D. North Vietnam was the cradle of the ethnic Vietnamese culture as it was not until 1802 that the southern area, including the delta, was conquered and consolidated into the approximate area of Vietnam today.

Mou Po (in Chinese; Mau Bac in Vietnamese) is credited with bringing Buddhism to Vietnam. He was a native of Wu-chou, born between 165-170 A.D., who accepted Buddhism in place of his Taoism about 190 A.D. Because Confucianism was opposing Buddhism in China then, he came to Tonkin and propagated Buddhism by winning converts about 194-195 A.D.

Another figure of Vietnamese Buddhist history is Kang Seng-huei (Khang Tang Hoi) who with his father left India for trading purposes. He was converted to Buddhism in Tonkin and was later ordained as a monk. Before his death in 280 A.D. his fame as a translator of Buddhist sacred writings from Sanskrit into Chinese enabled him to win the King of Wu, Suen Kuian, to Buddhism.

A third figure was Marajivaka, also known as Jivaka, who arrived at Lo-yank after coming by ship to Funan and to Tonkin by 294 A.D. Others, like Ksudra, formerly a Brahman of western India, traveled, taught and won converts in North Vietnam so that Tonkin served as an intermediary for religion, trade and diplomatic exchanges between China and India.

Because Tonkin was on the direct sea route between China and India, it became a center for the propagation of Buddhism and the translation of Buddhist sacred scriptures. While Buddhism in Vietnam was started by pilgrims and refugees; diplomatic envoys, merchants, and immigrants promoted and spread it. Their activities resulted in many pagodas and monasteries being evident in Tonkin, according to Giap. Popular Buddhism with lay-adherents did not establish itself until later. The founding of a dhyana (meditation) school of Buddhism dates from about the close of the sixth century. Dhyana translates as *chan* in Chinese, *zen* in Japanese and *thien* in Vietnamese.

By the seventh century the Chinese governor of Tonkin, Liou Fang, was reporting that "One sees in Giao-Chau (North Vietnam) numerous eminent

priests spreading Buddhism among all the people and also pilgrims flocking from all parts of Asia." The Chinese dynasty of Sui encouraged Buddhism by granting financial aid, requiring stupas (memorial towers often containing sacred relics of noted persons) to be built, while the Tang dynasty continued to show favoritism to Buddhism.

The independence of Vietnam from China in 939 caused a slowdown or even a temporary setback for Buddhism in Vietnam. But with the rise of Dinh Tien Hoang (969-980) the policy of supporting Buddhism was officially practiced. The basic reasons that Vietnamese rulers sought the support of Buddhist bonzes and aided Buddhism were (a) the pagodas were almost the sole repositories of culture in both writings and personalities; (b) the scholars of Confucianism were exiled from political life as it was felt that their Chinese education might make them of questionable loyalty.

The Vietnamese ruler granted titles to various Buddhist clergy. The ruler also decreed the establishment of a Buddhist hierarchy that closely resembled the levels of civil government. He raised the bonze Ngo Chan Tuy to the rank of Imperial Counselor and gave him the title **Khuong Viet Thai su** (Great Master and Supporter of the Viets) while titles were bestowed upon other bonzes also.

This royal policy of support was continued by the Le dynasty. The ruler, Le Dai Hanh, used monks as political, social, economic advisors and consultants in military matters. The bonzes were the official representatives of the ruler and of the State on state occasions both at home and abroad from time to time. When this occurred at Tonkin, formal visits by dignitaries to such pagodas as that of Sach Giang were included on the official agenda.

The Ly dynasty (1009-1225) practiced a similar policy and formed the high-water mark of official support for Buddhism until the present time. Khoi states that the Ly dynasty gained their ascension to the throne by the support of the Buddhist clergy. Throughout their reign the throne and clergy were closely linked together with at least 95 pagodas being erected by Emperor Ly Thai Ton (1028-1054). He caused restoration to numerous Buddha statues in other temples. It was in accord with a dream of his that the One Column Pagoda of Hanoi was constructed standing in a water pond like a blooming lotus. It was Ly Thanh Ton who first called himself Emperor of Dai-Viet (Greater Viet) in 1069 with his title continuing until 1832 when Gia Long subdued the Champa Kingdom and united what is currently the two Vietnams.



Central image at Xa Loi pagoda in Saigon is this Buddha.

The later years of Thanh Ton's reign like the rule of Le Nhan Tong gave official favor to Confucianism. Mandarins who were scholars highly trained in Confucianism and Chinese classics became government officials. Before this the monks had presented candidates from which the government would choose the officials. Now it became possible to secure government positions without clergy approval. However, in many cases, the monks continued their leading roles. They were active in both the religious and political life of the kingdom as Kho Dau was named in 1088 Master of the

Kingdom (Quoc-su) and served as Imperial Counselor.

As Buddhism increased its number among the Vietnamese laity, it also gained the appearance of a bureaucracy. In 1169 the Emperor Le Anh Ton (1138-1175) established a school (**Thi Tam Giao**) for the study of the three religions, Confucianism, Taoism, and Buddhism. The same ruler gave recognition as the official state religion to Buddhism, and granted it high privileges.

The Buddhist clergy were placed under the Master of the Kingdom while retaining the hierarchy established by Dinh Tien Hoang.

They were given tax and military exemptions by passing an examination which gave an official certificate of authorization to their status. Occasionally they would receive pagodas with attached domains as princely gifts or as alms. The Master of the Kingdom would assist the Emperor in his prayers for the prosperity of the kingdom and serve as a counselor of State secrets. The Buddhist bonzes were such involved in Vietnamese politics during those years.

Royal support included money, power, and gifts of pagodas as the reigning monarchs continued the securing and copying of various Buddhist sacred writings. In 1018, Le Thai Ton sent an official mission to China to secure and copy the texts of the **Tripitka** (**Tam Tang**: the three parts of Sacred Buddhist Scripture) and housed them at Dia Hung. When the Sung Court in 1034 sent other copies of major canons as gifts, the royal court marked the arrival with a solemn reception.

Mixed Doctrines

Buddhism began its major Vietnamese adulteration about this time as its purer doctrines were mixed with philosophies such as Taoism, etc. Some monks turned to the study of the elixir of immortality while others engaged in the study of Taoist magic. Some bonzes became doctors of fame and some were credited with supernatural powers.

By the close of the eleventh century, Buddhism had planted its roots so deeply into Vietnamese culture that it was no longer considered as an imported religion. It has been introduced and utilized as a court religion; now it had filtered down to the villages and hamlets. Here mixed with Confucianism and Taoism, it became an indigenous part of the popular beliefs of the common people.

The mixture of spirits and deities into the pantheon of Buddhists and Bodhisattavas created little difficulty because of its apparently flexible format. The various elements appear to have provided a ritual which satisfied the formalistic and spiritual demands of the Vietnamese peasantry generally. Having become deeply ingrained



No comprehensive understanding of the Vietnamese can be gained without an awareness of Buddhism's influence.

in Vietnamese thought and life, its eradication would be difficult, if not impossible, short of such tactics as the Communists employ.

During the Tran dynasty (1225-1400) two writings, **Viet-Dien U-Linh Tap** (Collection of the Invisible Powers of the Country of Viet) by Le Te Xuyen in 1329 and **Thien-Uyen Tap - Anh Ngu-Luc** (Chronicle of the Eminent Monks of the garden of Dhyana) are important. The latter book contains the biographies of famous monks in Vietnam from the dynasty of Tang through that of Tran. The first book seems to stress animism and Taoism while the second argued for Buddhism.

As the Tran dynasty continued, native animistic beliefs and Taoism affected the concepts of Buddhism held by the Vietnamese even

among the higher echelons of its society. Magic and sorcery became the accepted practices among some Buddhist bonzes. As the apparent decay of Buddhism and a unifying ritualistic structure increased, the processes of adaption speeded up.

The Tibetan Phags-Pa had introduced Lamaism (Mantrayana) from Tibet into the Chinese court. From there it quickly moved to Vietnam and added to the ever increasing adulteration of Buddhism. The funeral processions and mourning rites of ethnic Vietnamese are a reflection of that Mantrayana (one of the major forms of Buddhism formerly found in Tibet) introduced in bygone centuries.

Even as the introduction of philosophies continued to almost drown Buddhism in Vietnam, some

beholders accused the Songha (Buddhist order of clergy) as being anti-civic, anti-social, etc. This was due to the accumulated wealth of the pagodas, monasteries and convents.

The indigenous forces of animism and the strength of Taoism so changed Buddhism that by the end of the 14th century, it gave way to Confucianism as the primary religion of the government. Confucianism remained the court religion and practice until the impact of the western world in the 19th century took effect. However, Buddhism is such an inherent force in the culture of Vietnam that irrespective of its actual numbers, no comprehensive valid understanding of the people can be gained without awareness of its origin, development or influence.

Pagodas, writings destroyed after invasion

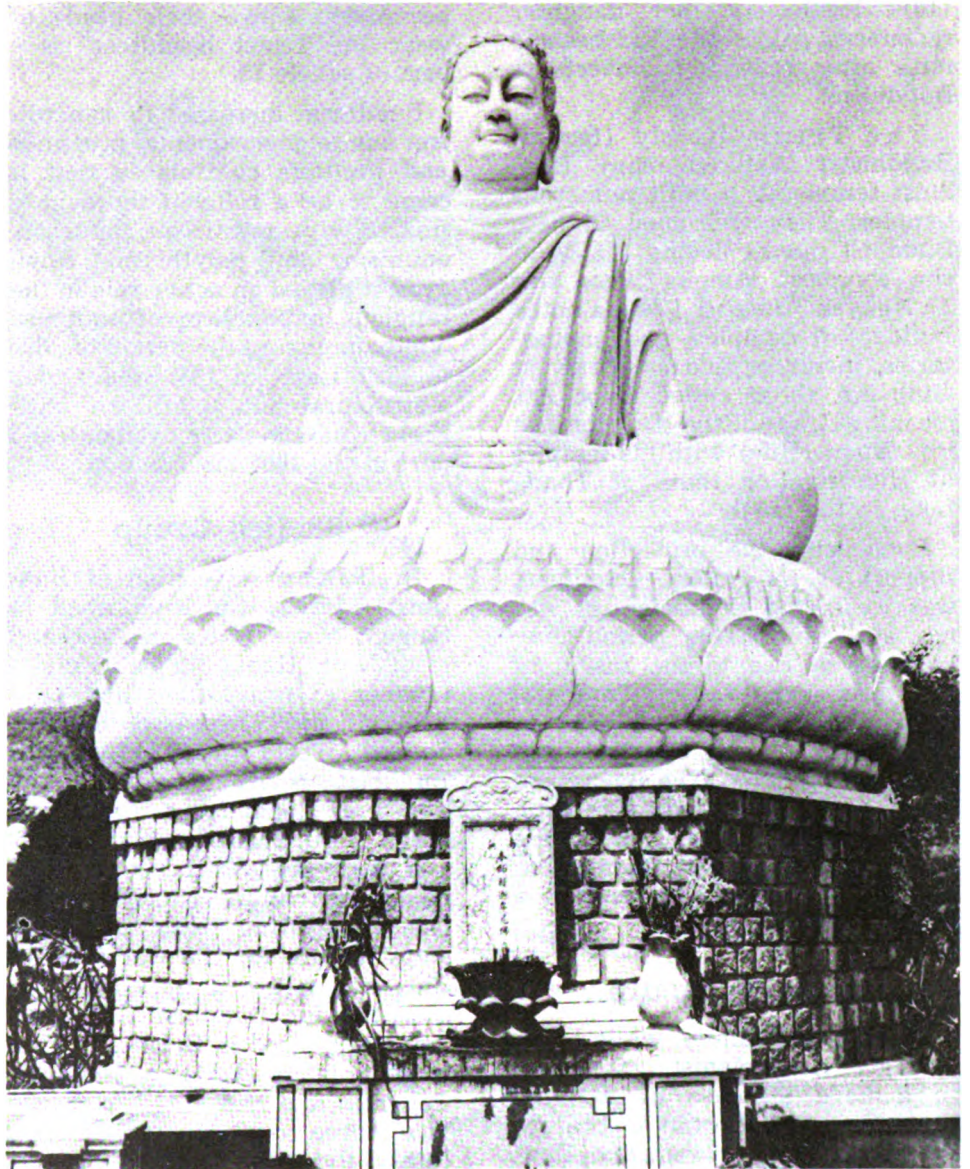
The Chinese invasion of 1414 also brought many Confucian writings. During their short stay, the invading Chinese ordered the destruction of many pagodas and the confiscation of Buddhist sacred writings. When the Vietnamese regained their independence 14 years later in 1428, the Ly dynasty continued in favor of Confucianism with persecution of Buddhism, according to Buddhist sources. The Emperor Le Thai To (1428-1433) in 1429 instituted competitive examinations for all Buddhist and Taoist monks with failure requiring a return to lay life. No new temples of Buddhism could be erected without authorization and all monks were subject to surveillance.

Led Uprisings

Most monks of this time were very poorly educated, and had little understanding of the doctrines of Buddhism now so greatly affected by Taoist, Tantric and snimist elements. It is recorded that from time to time the Taoist or Buddhist monks would lead peasant uprisings against the government.

Jean Chesneaux writes in *Contribution a l'Histoire de la Nation Vietnamienne*: "Faced with official Confucianism, guardian of the established order, doctrine of the feudatories and mandarins, these two religions, Buddhism and Taoism, in their most popular context served as a vehicle for social discontent."

Chesneaux says that in 1442, the monk Than Loi tried to become king by self-proclamation, even as earlier in 1391 a band of peasants under the leadership of the monk Su On had attacked the capital city Hanoi. In 1516 at Hanoi in Hai Duong province, the monk Tran Cao tried to pass himself off as a reincarnation of Buddha while leading a revolt against the Emperor. In doing so he required his soldiers to have shaven heads and wear black clothing. Even though such events did not basically cause any extended changes, they are



At seaside resort of Vung Tau this Buddha dominates hilltop scene.

indicative of the political and military involvement of Buddhist leaders. Understanding these factors aid to evaluate the current religio-political-military struggles in Vietnam.

During the civil war of the 16th century, both the Nguyen rulers of the south and the Trinh dynasty of the north sought to claim the loyalty of their people by identifying themselves with Buddhism. Thus used as a political strategy, Buddhism began a limited recovery.

The rigidity of Confucianism tended to reduce scholastic train-

ing to rhetorical exercises and philosophical speculation so that new schools of Buddhism coming from China were almost eagerly accepted by the courts. Such seems evident as Trinh Tac in 1662 issued a decree in Tonkin which banned all books on Taoism, Buddhism, and the "false doctrine" (Christianity).

He urged all to remember and adhere to their traditional values, but new Buddhist schools were established anyway. So effective were some of these schools that the Empress Dieu Vien (Trinh Thi Ngoc Hanh), wife of Le Than Ton

Trinh dynasty restored, built many temples

(1619-1643), and her daughter renounced palace life and became nuns after becoming converts to Buddhism.

The Trinh dynasty (fervent Buddhists) restored many Buddhist temples and built numerous temples. They welcomed Chinese Buddhist monks fleeing the Manchu conquest. Among these was Ta Nguyen Thieu (d. 1728), a noted builder of temples and monasteries, including monastery at Vinh An (later called Quoc An, meaning Grace of the Kingdom) at Phu Xuan (Hue) with his temples at Hue rivaling those of Thang Long in the north.

Even with the protection and support of the rulers, Buddhism was weak and Confucianism was not aggressive. This period may have given rise to the fusion of the three religions of Confucianism, Taoism, and Buddhism, as the various scholars changed from religion to religion. The syncretism of this time formulated the religion of many contemporary Vietnamese by the absorption and modification of many beliefs and rites into a common folk-religion.

Nguyen Family

The Nguyen family, while being strongly Confucianist, attempted to achieve a sense of national unity, and was hostile to the popular beliefs of Taoism and Buddhism. The monks were reduced to temple guardians and masters of ceremony. The spirit of Buddhism seemed lost by the discipline of the monastery being relaxed while Buddha was given offerings for favors granted and worshipped as a God.

While Gia Long, a strong adherent and advocate of Confucianism and ancestral cult (1902-1919) reigned, he disapproved of Buddhism and forbade any favors to its monks. His code expresses this in article 143 as it prescribed "forty blows of the cane to officials who permit their wives or daughters to go to the temple of Buddha, Dao or of geni...", while "eighty blows of the *truong* to those who without

permission shave their heads or wear the Taoist headdress" is a part of article 75.

Buddhism increased its syncretism due to governmental pressures and multiple controls so that it came to be a religion thoroughly mixed with mysticism, tantrism, animism, and polytheism. However, it played an active role in the religious nationalism of southern Vietnam during the period of 1860 to 1880. Later in 1885 it provided a structural unity for the anti-French nationalist movement and part in the 1885 insurrection.

Studies Group

In 1931 an association of Buddhist Studies was established in Saigon; a year later in Hue, and in 1934 in Hanoi. Immediately a number of translations and publications were prepared, but the Second World War halted this Buddhist revival. In 1948 the monks of Hanoi reorganized their order of Buddhist clergy (Sangha) and their lay association as they established an orphanage, a college, a printing press, and took steps to care for the war victims. This was followed by a new Association for Buddhist Studies being organized in Saigon. In Hue a year later (1951) a Buddhist Congress met and voted to merge the three regional associations, codify the rituals, develop adult religious education, organize a Buddhist youth group, and join the World Buddhist Organization. Again this was disrupted as the terms of the 1954 Geneva Agreement divided the country. The General Buddhist Association of Vietnam was formed in 1956, composed of three monk committees and three lay associations with the former being the Association of Buddhist Studies in South Vietnam, the Buddhist Association of Central Vietnam, and the Vietnamese Buddhist Association. As this was organized in Saigon, the Vietnamese United Buddhist Association was formed at the Fourth Buddhist Congress in 1958 (Hanoi) with the stated aim of uniting all

branches and sects of Buddhism and more effectively continuing the plans established in the 1930's.

Since this organization must have the permission of Hanoi to exist and operate, and since the Communists are opposed to religion, there is some question to just how much freedom a religious organization may have there.

While there are at least 16 members of the United Buddhist Association, the five significant ones are:

(1) Ethnic Cambodian Theravadists: primarily found in the 10 delta provinces with 400,000 to 500,000 people. Their Buddhist customs are very similar to those of Cambodia and Thailand. With the histories of Wats (temples and temple grounds) totalling less than 75 years, it is believed that these Theravadists have been in Vietnam less than a hundred years. This group may have up to 20,000 monks, but no nuns although some women seem to aspire to this office. Being generally non-political, it has been largely ignored by the government until now.

(2) Ethnic Vietnamese Theravada: A very small group with perhaps 50 monks with discipline and learning processes not too well organized yet. Its adherents, while few in number, are found in a half-dozen or more provinces as well as in Saigon and Da Nang.

(3) Ethnic Chinese Mahayana: This group has nine temples in the Saigon-Cholon area with some five associations based in the provinces where in the larger cities the Chinese are found as rice merchants. Like the Chinese in general throughout much of the Asian scene, they do not take a noticeably active part in political activity, but are members of the Chinese Buddhist Association and the World Fellowship of Buddhists.

(4) Vietnamese Mahayana: This is the major group of Buddhists found in Vietnam. They are almost everywhere except in the trival areas where few wish to linger. It



An Quang pagoda in Saigon was severely damaged during Communist Tet offensive in 1968. Below: Buddhist novice.

has some 12,000 monks and about 4,000 pagodas or wats. Its leaders are the vocal spokesmen of Buddhism in Vietnam today with some apparently being more radical than others. As a religious faith, its doctrines are much the same as that of the Japanese Mahayana Buddhism, but its practice is modified by the same cultural patterns and influences which affect other Vietnamese.

(5) Hoa Hao (pronounced "Wah How"): This reform Buddhist group has doctrines which stress simplicity of basic Buddhist precepts and was founded by Huynh Phu So in 1939. As "puritan" Buddhism, physical symbols, hierarchy and ritual are not stressed so that elaborate pagodas, expensive bonze clergy and large offerings are not needed.



5-Year Plan

Agricultural Program Sets 3 Main Goals

The Ministry of Land Reform, Agriculture and Fishery Development in Saigon has worked out a new agricultural development plan designed to boost the rural economy's output by 13 per cent annually for each of the next five years.

Announced on the first National Farmers' Day March 26, the plan aims "to increase the production value of the agricultural, forestry and fisheries sector by more than 80 per cent over five years time."¹ Proclaimed as national goals were the plan's three objectives:

- * to increase production to meet consumer demands,
- * to increase the rural people's living standards while increasing the gross national income, and
- * to decrease imports while increasing exports.

Potential Tremendous

Significantly, the five-year plan was announced on the first anniversary of the promulgation of the Land to the Tiller Law, the sweeping land reform program that is enabling farmers to become owners of the land they work. During 1970 some 210,000 hectares were distributed to landless peasants, surpassing the goal for the first year of the three-year program. The productivity of these new land owners is expected to give stimulus to the five-year agricultural development plan.

In a country favored by sunshine, water and rich soil, where about 11 million of its 18 million people depend on agriculture for their livelihood, the importance of agrarian reform is evident. Vietnam already is a relatively prosperous farming nation, but under the stimulus of agrarian reform its potential for the future is tremendous. About three million hectares of land are now being cultivated. The total cultivable land is almost six million hectares, or 35 per cent of the republic's land area. Varying soil and climatic

¹ If the value of farm output increases 13 per cent each year for five years, the overall increase during the 1971-1975 period would be 84 per cent.



"Miracle" rice planting in a field in the Mekong Delta.

conditions from one end of the country to the other make possible the growing of many types of crops. The rich paddy land of the Mekong Delta has traditionally been one of Asia's biggest rice producers. The tropical climate and fertile soil in the Delta and in the area around Saigon are also ideal for sugar cane, rubber, pineapple, bananas and other fruits. In the more temperate climate of the highlands area near Dalat, tea and coffee plantations as well as vegetable farms abound. The rolling hills in other parts of the highlands could be used for cattle grazing, according to long-range-planning reports. The vast hardwood forests along the Cambodian border are just now beginning to be exploited.

For many years the war has prevented Vietnam from realizing its potential and in many cases has drastically reduced agricultural production, but rapidly growing security in almost all parts of the country has given the green light to major development efforts. Rice, the dietary staple of all Asians, has had to be imported to Vietnam since 1964. But now, with normal conditions reviving and with the growing use of high-yield "miracle" rice strains, Vietnam is again nearing self-sufficiency in rice production, having harvested a record 5,715,500 metric tons in 1970. The production of other agricultural products is increasing at a rate faster than population growth. But there remains a considerable gap between production and demand — a gap that probably will be closed between 1978 and 1982 despite a rapidly increasing population and the growing

Technology, efficiency stressed

urbanization of South Vietnam. Prior to 1965 some 85 per cent of the people lived in rural areas. As the war escalated, thousands of families fled to the cities. It is estimated that only 60 to 65 per cent of the people now are left on the farms.

"The rural-urban population spread has been fundamentally altered by the war, and proportionately fewer people in the countryside now have to feed proportionately more of their countrymen in the cities," says a U.S. AID farm adviser in Saigon. "Furthermore, consumer tastes have changed. Because of increased per capita income, greater demands exist today for a wider variety of meats, fruits and vegetables to supplement the basic rice diet, and the demand for manufactured or processed consumer goods, most of which have to be imported at present, has skyrocketed. Meeting urban demands for a more varied diet while producing surpluses

for export will require the reduced farmer population to do more than just return to traditional farming practices. Vietnam's agricultural resources must be exploited with the newer technology and with greater efficiency than ever before."

Land Reform

The farmers in Vietnam have far better reason today to increase the productivity of the land, because in increasing numbers the peasants own the land they till and directly reap the benefits of increased production. Before the Land to the Tiller program began, South Vietnam had one of the highest rates of tenancy farming in the world. Tenants worked 60 per cent of the 2,200,000 hectares of riceland, paying landlords an average of 25 to 35 per cent of the crop yield. In good years the farmer



Fish products are Vietnam's second most important food item. Bank loans have helped modernize fishing industry.

was fortunate to make enough money to purchase his next crop's seed and still have enough left over to support his family. But in the event of a crop failure the farmer was still liable for the rent, and if he wanted to borrow, the village loan shark charged interest rates ranging from 60 to 120 per cent.

Today's new land owners, the ex-tenants, no longer are subsisting from year to year. The money they formerly paid in rent to the absentee landlords can now be used to improve their land. Because of their new tenure, guaranteed by legislation, they have greater incentive to try new farming methods and to invest in modern equipment. Now they are working for themselves.

Key Provisions

As spelled out in the Land to the Tiller Law, the land reform program is the most sweeping yet attempted in noncommunist Asia. Key provisions of the law include:

- * No retention by landlords of tenant-farmed land except for limited categories such as graves and ancestral worship plots. Landlords, however, can retain up to 15 hectares each if they are cultivating this land personally or with wage earning farm hands.

- * No payment. Tenant farmers are given the riceland they actually farm themselves, up to a limit of three hectares in the Delta and one hectare in Central Vietnam. Former landlords are paid 20 per cent of the value of the land in cash, with the balance in eight-year, government-guaranteed bonds bearing 10 per cent interest. They are compensated at a rate of two and a half times the value of the average annual yield.

- * Recognition of the present farmer. By providing that the land will be transferred to the present cultivator, the law for the first time recognizes the rights of squatters as well as the rights of farmers who received land from the Viet Cong. (In order of priority, those eligible to receive land after the needs of the present tillers are met include: disabled war veterans; parents, spouses or children of war dead; discharged

Farmer given greater



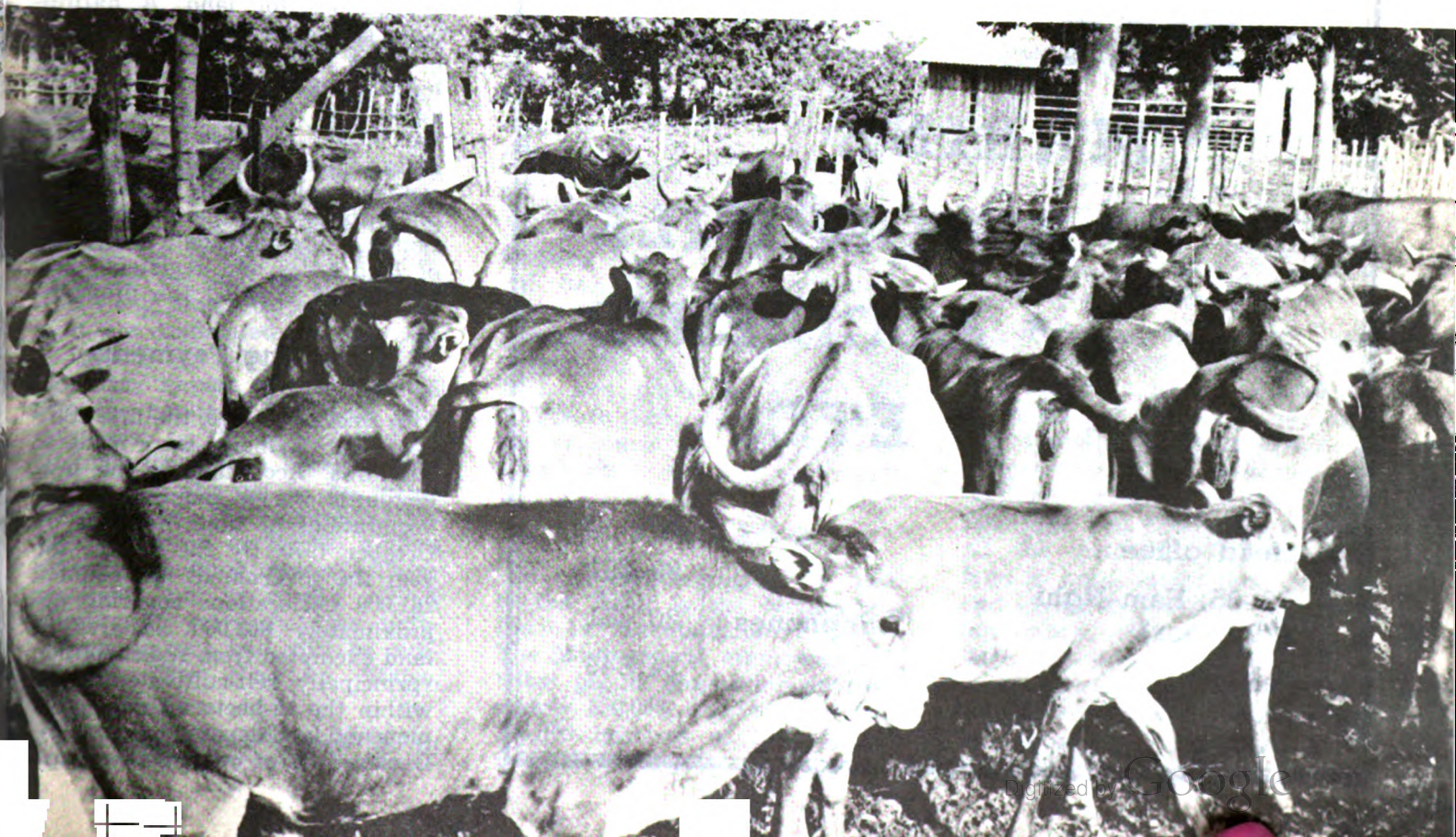
Farmer Pham Van Dieu (center, above) was among 50,000 farmers given titles to land they worked during first year of land reform program. He was given three hectares of rice land he tilled for absentee landlord. By mid-1973 some 800,000 landless peasants will be given one million hectares. Below: The end of this year should see a 15 per cent increase in poultry stocks.



incentive to work



Helping boost South Vietnam's agricultural production is more widespread use of fertilizer. Low-cost farm credit enables peasants to band into co-ops for the purchase of versatile machine (left). National Institute of Bacteriology produces enough vaccine to protect cattle stocks.





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or retired soldiers and civil servants; cadres and civil servants who had to abandon riceland cultivation because of the war; and farm hands.)

The Land to the Tiller program will enable more than 800,000 tenant farm families to become owners of one million hectares of land before 1973. The official distribution targets, in addition to the 210,000 hectares distributed in the program's first year, are 400,000 hectares in 1971 and nearly 400,000 hectares again in 1972. About 80 per cent of the land earmarked for distribution is in the 16 provinces of the Delta. Ten per cent is in Military Region (MR) III, the provinces around Saigon, and the remaining riceland is scattered in MR I and MR II farther north.

The initial progress of land distribution has surpassed expectations. The first titles were presented to farmers in August 1970. Distribution stepped up rapidly after that. By October nearly 4,000 village land registrars, village agricultural commissioners and rural development (RD) cadres had completed two weeks of training at the National Training Center in Vung Tau and had returned to their villages to begin processing applications for land. A nationwide campaign conducted by the Ministry of Information made the tenants aware that they could apply for land ownership, and the public response was strong. Streamlined administrative procedures, including the use of aerial photography for land identification and automated data processing of land titles and registers, simplified and speeded the program.

Financing Payments

In December 1970, the first compensation payments were made to landlords. According to the law, landlords were required to file declarations of their holdings by October 1970. By the end of the year the government had counted 261,000 declarations covering approximately 602,000 hectares of land exempted from redistribution (principally self-cultivated land within the 15-hectare limit, grave plots and land devoted to worship). Declarations of ownership of land



Mekong Delta and area around Saigon are suitable for sugar cane fields.

eligible for expropriation and compensation totaled 48,225 involving about 753,000 hectares. The one million hectares slated to be distributed before 1973 will be taken from this pool of 753,000 hectares plus lands earmarked but never distributed under previous land reform programs. (Past agrarian land reform programs resulted in distribution of only about 412,000 hectares to 178,200 farmers. In the first year of the Land to the Tiller program, more than 50,000 farmers became the owners of the land they worked.)

A major problem tackled by the land reform planners was devising a payment formula that would provide the land owner with fair value for his land (in contrast to Viet Cong programs in which the land was confiscated without compensation) yet hold down the inflationary impact of cash pouring into the hands of landlords. The total cost to the government of Vietnam (the GVN), based on land prices and acreage to be transferred, will be approximately 190,000 million to 200,000 million piasters, including interest.² These payments will be spread over a number of years, but the inflationary impact will still be substantial. The United States,

through the Agency for International Development (U.S. AID), has offered dollar commodity support to help offset the impact. Coinciding with the first landlord-compensation payments, US\$5 million of an initial \$10 million pledged by the U.S. was released via the Commodity Import Program (CIP) administered by U.S. AID. This means that Vietnamese importers may import an additional \$5 million worth of U.S. goods, depositing the equivalent of the value in piasters with the government bank. By using these importers' piasters to pay former landlords rather than expanding the currency in circulation by printing new piasters, the GVN will be lessening the inflationary pressures. Additionally, the U.S. government obligated another \$15 million for this purpose in April 1971, and plans to obligate \$15 million in fiscal year 1972 via specific agreements tied to progress in land transfer and compensation.

In Tribal Areas

A companion program to Land to the Tiller is the Montagnard Hamlet Identification Program. The Montagnards, ethnic-minority tribal people numbering approximately 850,000, cultivate some 360,000 hectares of land in the Central Highlands. A primary

cause of Montagnard alienation from previous Veitnamese governments had been encroachment on their traditional lands, which the Vietnamese governments historically had considered public lands. During the French regime the government controlled the transfer of Montagnard lands. As recently as 1959 the government of President Ngo Dinh Diem stated that the Montagnards had the right only to the land's produce, but could not own the land. A decision in 1964 allowed them to become title holders, but only by applying in the role of squatters.

It was not until 1967 that the GVN recognized the validity of the Montagnards' claim to their lands. Two decrees passed in August 1967 outlined Montagnard rights and confirmed ownership of individual holdings of cultivated land. In November 1970, promulgation of Decree 138 established the legal basis for the hamlet identification program. Identification is a necessary preliminary to land transfer because ownership among the tribes takes two forms: village communal land, and individually owned plots. Both kinds must be identified and measured.

Five-Year Job

Identifying the land and distributing the titles are expected to take five years. Last year, 13,891 Montagnards got approved ownership of 38,569 hectares, about 10 per cent of the amount that ultimately will be deeded to individuals. By the end of 1972 an estimated 1,500,000 hectares will be identified as village-owned land.

The potential impact of the Land to the Tiller and the Montagnard land reform programs cannot be overestimated. The high percentage of land tenancy has often been cited as one of the causes of unrest and insurgency in rural Vietnam. The Viet Cong fully exploited the potential, redistributing land in areas under their control and posing as the party of agrarian reform. Now the Viet Cong have lost their last big drawing card and are attacking the GVN's land reform program with an all-out propaganda campaign. With title applications continuing to

² The accommodation exchange rate set in October 1970 is US\$1 per 275 piasters.

pour in at a rate of nearly one thousand a day, it seems evident their campaign is failing.

The New Plan

Coupled with Land to the Tiller, the new five-year agricultural development plan should have far-reaching consequences for Vietnam's future economy. Inauguration of the plan was preceded by a survey of the situation that took the Agriculture Ministry a year to complete. From it came a plan that includes a detailed nationwide summary, plus blueprints for 25 projects in such fields as crops, livestock, farmer associations, farm credit, research and extension work, plus specific programs for each of the 44 provinces and four of the major cities. To reach the goal of an 80-per cent-plus increase in the production value of the agricultural, forestry and fisheries sector within five years, the plan stresses three policies: agricultural diversification, agricultural intensification (such as multiple cropping) and modernization. "While admittedly weak in some respects," says a U.S. AID adviser, "the new plan nevertheless represents a formidable attempt to lend scope, direction and purpose to the government's efforts to develop the rural economy."

Each of the province plans outlines the present situation, the potential, the objectives for the next five years and how they will be achieved, and an estimate of the results. As an example, the plan for Binh Duong province, north of Saigon in MR III, explains that it is the center of the pottery and lacquerware industries. Because the soil is mixed with clay and sand, it is ideal for making such handicraft items, but it is not particularly fertile, and only two per cent of the total 203,488 hectares are now cultivated. But 40 per cent of the population of 244,893 make their living wholly from agriculture. Most of the farmers grow rice, but some fruit trees and vegetables also are raised. The water table is fortunately close to the surface, so farmers can dig wells for a fresh-water supply. Pig and poultry production has been increasing steadily and a livestock feed processing factory in the pro-

vince produces enough feed to meet present and future needs.

From that summary of the current situation the province plan goes on to map what should be done to increase agricultural production so it meets local needs and feeds supplies to the nearby Saigon market. A great deal, say the planners, will depend on increased security (part of the land now cannot be cultivated because it is a free-fire zone), reconstruction of highways and the establishment of a water control system. Increased rice production is the first objective. Under the plan, farmers will be encouraged to plant more of their land to "miracle" rice: 6,000 hectares this year and 9,000 hectares in the 1972-1973 season. Combining this with the acreage planted to local rice varieties, farmers should have an output of 48,000 tons this year and 72,000 tons next year — enough so that rice no longer would have to be imported into Binh Duong. Soil and climate are suitable for the production of sugar cane, peanuts, sorghum, corn and fruit trees, and farmers will be taught new techniques to bring the level of production up. Nearly 30,000 hectares of rubber tree plantations within the province were abandoned because of the war, but as security grows more and more plantation owners can be expected to return to their land and resume production.

More Technicians

Because objectives of the plan include not only production increases but a rising living standard for the farmer, the program calls for the encouragement of farmers' associations and cooperatives, an increase in the budget of the Agricultural Development Bank and continued distribution of land under the Land to the Tiller program. But to carry out the plan nationwide it is recognized that more technicians will be needed so that agricultural offices can be established at the district level. Cooperation from other ministries and private organizations also is recognized as essential to the plan's success. And the Agriculture Ministry's own budget will have to be increased from 4.550 million piasters in 1971 to 7,146 million piasters in 1975, say the planners.

Although it is too early to estimate results of the plan, Ministry officials are optimistic. As one U.S. AID technician from the field put it, "Even if the production goals are not met, this plan, which was worked out almost totally by Vietnamese, is an important step in the long-range planning so necessary to post-war development."

Rice Crops

Many of the programs incorporated into the agricultural development plan have already been underway for several years. The most important of these is the accelerated rice production program, which began in 1967. Planners realized then that even if farmers could produce rice at the pre-war level, the increase in population and the shift of population to the cities made it impossible for Vietnam to achieve self-sufficiency if only the local rice varieties were planted. Local varieties yield about two tons of paddy per hectare. New rice strains, developed by the International Rice Research Institute in the Philippines, were introduced into Vietnam in 1968. The first high-yielding "miracle" rice strains, IR-8 and IR-5, were planted in pilot projects on 44,000 hectares. Their adaptability to Vietnam's soil and climate was proved by bumper yields. In the 1970-71 season the yields from these hybrid rice plots averaged 4.57 metric tons per hectares nationwide and reached seven tons of paddy per hectare in Ba Xuyen province.³

The use of hybrid strains, called **Than Nong** by the Vietnamese farmers, has rapidly increased. About 83 per cent of all cultivated land is planted in rice, but only about 25 to 30 per cent, mostly in the Delta, is suitable for the cultivation of the new types. More than 70 per cent of Vietnam's total rice crop is produced in the Delta, where farmers are less tradition-

3. Ba Xuyen produced 122,528 tons of miracle rice on 17,504 hectares in 1970-71 and plans to plant 28,300 hectares this year. Long An led last year's production with more than 233,000 tons, with Dinh Tuong close behind (225,000 tons). Six other provinces, five of them in the Delta, reported 100,000 tons or more. Binh Dinh, in MR II, produced 162,000 tons. Yields on a regional basis were 2.96 tons per hectare for MR I, 4.33 tons for MR II, 4.86 for MR III and 4.74 tons for MR IV.

mindful than those in Central Vietnam. Delta farmers planted **Than Nong** in plots adjacent to their plantings of local rice (such as "floating" or indigo rice), and even the most skeptical of villagers were impressed when they saw two and three times the usual harvest being reaped from the **Than Nong** plots. Because the new strains are faster growing than traditional varieties, farmers willing to work harder for additional income have started growing two and occasionally three crops a year.

In the 1969-70 crop year, official figures show that 202,000 hectares were planted in **Than Nong**. In the 1970-71 crop year, which ended in May, 2,295,898 metric tons of IR-8

ed to the new strains, and the yield from all riceland should make Vietnam self-sufficient in rice. Indications are that 1971 will be the last year that rice will have to be imported; from 1972 on Vietnam should be able to rely on its own production.

This year the emphasis will be placed on encouraging greater utilization of even newer varieties, such as TN-20 and TN-22, which have greater consumer acceptance, higher milling qualities and greater resistance to disease and insects. Planting goals for TN-20 and TN-22 production this year include 135,000 hectares for the first crop and 115,000 hectares for the second crop. U.S. AID experts call

cally since 1964. There is a small market for specialty rices, but it is not expected that there will be any extensive foreign market for Vietnam's surplus "kitchen-type" rice. To prevent an overproduction of rice in the future and to provide the Vietnamese with a more varied diet, a crop diversification program is well underway. Farmers are being encouraged to step up production of feed grains, vegetables, sugar cane and fruits.

The two feed grains, corn and sorghum, are getting particular emphasis. Because sorghum is a new crop to Vietnam, there was no established market and farmers were hesitant to experiment with it. But feed grain demonstrations were organized and efforts made to familiarize millers with the crop. A local seed company is now packaging dried sorghum seed in vapor-proof packages and there are 30 mills throughout the country to process the feed. As farmer acceptance increases, the production of sorghum is expected to rise from 9,430 tons in 1970 to 37,000 tons in 1971, and corn from 36,000 tons to 47,600 tons.

Livestock Production

Another important program to be accelerated under the five-year agricultural development plan is aimed at increasing livestock production to meet Vietnam's growing protein requirements. The main sources of protein in the Vietnamese diet are pork, fish, poultry and eggs. During the mid-1960s, the number of pigs decreased about 20 per cent while poultry remained about the same. As the population, the demand and the cost of living rose, the prices of these items skyrocketed. In November 1968 the government of Vietnam, with U.S. AID assistance, began a program to increase the poultry stock by 15 per cent and swine by 10 per cent before the end of 1971. So far the program has surpassed annual production goals, although the prices for pork, chicken and eggs rose somewhat during 1970 because of continuing inflation.

The swine project is aimed at improving the genetic quality of stocks and paving the way for education in modern swine man-



For crop diversification, this rice field is now planted with peanut.

and IR-5 paddy were produced on 501-940 hectares. This brought the total harvest, including local varieties, to 5,715,500 tons, a 10.5 per cent increase over the previous year's. The harvest surpassed the previous record year, 1964-65, when 5,185,030 tons were produced, but acreage planted to rice fell slightly short of that year's total: 2,510,000 hectares planted in 1970-1971 compared with 2,556,800 hectares in 1964-65.⁴

This year — the 1971-72 crop year — between 650,000 and 700,000 hectares are expected to be devoted

to these goals "realistic" but warn that expeditious delivery of seed is necessary if they are to be achieved. Sufficient seed is available, and the GVN has established a fund to lend money to provinces which desire to purchase TN-20 and TN-22 seed for resale to farmers.

A return to self-sufficiency in rice production will not necessarily mean that Vietnam will immediately resume its traditional role as a rice exporter. The world market for rice has changed drasti-

⁴ See Statistical Appendix, Table 1 .

pour in at a rate of nearly one thousand a day, it seems evident their campaign is failing.

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Each of the province plans outlines the present situation, the potential, the objectives for the next five years and how they will be achieved, and an estimate of the results. As an example, the plan for Binh Duong province, north of Saigon in MR III, explains that it is the center of the pottery and lacquerware industries. Because the soil is mixed with clay and sand, it is ideal for making such handicraft items, but it is not particularly fertile, and only two per cent of the total 203,488 hectares are now cultivated. But 40 per cent of the population of 244,893 make their living wholly from agriculture. Most of the farmers grow rice, but some fruit trees and vegetables also are raised. The water table is fortunately close to the surface, so farmers can dig wells for a fresh-water supply. Pig and poultry production has been increasing steadily and a livestock feed processing factory in the pro-

vince produces enough feed to meet present and future needs.

From that summary of the current situation the province plan goes on to map what should be done to increase agricultural production so it meets local needs and feeds supplies to the nearby Saigon market. A great deal, say the planners, will depend on increased security (part of the land now cannot be cultivated because it is a free-fire zone), reconstruction of highways and the establishment of a water control system. Increased rice production is the first objective. Under the plan, farmers will be encouraged to plant more of their land to "miracle" rice: 6,000 hectares this year and 9,000 hectares in the 1972-1973 season. Combining this with the acreage planted to local rice varieties, farmers should have an output of 48,000 tons this year and 72,000 tons next year — enough so that rice no longer would have to be imported into Binh Duong. Soil and climate are suitable for the production of sugar cane, peanuts, sorghum, corn and fruit trees, and farmers will be taught new techniques to bring the level of production up. Nearly 30,000 hectares of rubber tree plantations within the province were abandoned because of the war, but as security grows more and more plantation owners can be expected to return to their land and resume production.

More Technicians

Because objectives of the plan include not only production increases but a rising living standard for the farmer, the program calls for the encouragement of farmers' associations and cooperatives, an increase in the budget of the Agricultural Development Bank and continued distribution of land under the Land to the Tiller program. But to carry out the plan nationwide it is recognized that more technicians will be needed so that agricultural offices can be established at the district level. Cooperation from other ministries and private organizations also is recognized as essential to the plan's success. And the Agriculture Ministry's own budget will have to be increased from 4.550 million piasters in 1971 to 7,146 million piasters in 1975, say the planners.

Although it is too early to estimate results of the plan, Ministry officials are optimistic. As one U.S. AID technician from the field put it, "Even if the production goals are not met, this plan, which was worked out almost totally by Vietnamese, is an important step in the long-range planning so necessary to post-war development."

Rice Crops

Many of the programs incorporated into the agricultural development plan have already been underway for several years. The most important of these is the accelerated rice production program, which began in 1967. Planners realized then that even if farmers could produce rice at the pre-war level, the increase in population and the shift of population to the cities made it impossible for Vietnam to achieve self-sufficiency if only the local rice varieties were planted. Local varieties yield about two tons of paddy per hectare. New rice strains, developed by the International Rice Research Institute in the Philippines, were introduced into Vietnam in 1968. The first high-yielding "miracle" rice strains, IR-8 and IR-5, were planted in pilot projects on 44,000 hectares. Their adaptability to Vietnam's soil and climate was proved by bumper yields. In the 1970-71 season the yields from these hybrid rice plots averaged 4.57 metric tons per hectares nationwide and reached seven tons of paddy per hectare in Ba Xuyen province.³

The use of hybrid strains, called **Than Nong** by the Vietnamese farmers, has rapidly increased. About 83 per cent of all cultivated land is planted in rice, but only about 25 to 30 per cent, mostly in the Delta, is suitable for the cultivation of the new types. More than 70 per cent of Vietnam's total rice crop is produced in the Delta, where farmers are less tradition-

3. Ba Xuyen produced 122,528 tons of miracle rice on 17,504 hectares in 1970-71 and plans to plant 28,300 hectares this year. Long An led last year's production with more than 233,000 tons, with Dinh Tuong close behind (225,000 tons). Six other provinces, five of them in the Delta, reported 100,000 tons or more. Binh Dinh, in MR II, produced 162,000 tons. Yields on a regional basis were 2.96 tons per hectare for MR I, 4.33 tons for MR II, 4.86 for MR III and 4.74 tons for MR IV.

minded than those in Central Vietnam. Delta farmers planted **Than Nong** in plots adjacent to their plantings of local rice (such as "floating" or indigo rice), and even the most skeptical of villagers were impressed when they saw two and three times the usual harvest being reaped from the **Than Nong** plots. Because the new strains are faster growing than traditional varieties, farmers willing to work harder for additional income have started growing two and occasionally three crops a year.

In the 1969-70 crop year, official figures show that 202,000 hectares were planted in **Than Nong**. In the 1970-71 crop year, which ended in May, 2,295,898 metric tons of IR-8

ed to the new strains, and the yield from all riceland should make Vietnam self-sufficient in rice. Indications are that 1971 will be the last year that rice will have to be imported; from 1972 on Vietnam should be able to rely on its own production.

This year the emphasis will be placed on encouraging greater utilization of even newer varieties, such as TN-20 and TN-22, which have greater consumer acceptance, higher milling qualities and greater resistance to disease and insects. Planting goals for TN-20 and TN-22 production this year include 135,000 hectares for the first crop and 115,000 hectares for the second crop. U.S. AID experts call

cally since 1964. There is a small market for specialty rices, but it is not expected that there will be any extensive foreign market for Vietnam's surplus "kitchen-type" rice. To prevent an overproduction of rice in the future and to provide the Vietnamese with a more varied diet, a crop diversification program is well underway. Farmers are being encouraged to step up production of feed grains, vegetables, sugar cane and fruits.

The two feed grains, corn and sorghum, are getting particular emphasis. Because sorghum is a new crop to Vietnam, there was no established market and farmers were hesitant to experiment with it. But feed grain demonstrations were organized and efforts made to familiarize millers with the crop. A local seed company is now packaging dried sorghum seed in vapor-proof packages and there are 30 mills throughout the country to process the feed. As farmer acceptance increases, the production of sorghum is expected to rise from 9,430 tons in 1970 to 37,000 tons in 1971, and corn from 36,000 tons to 47,600 tons.

Livestock Production

Another important program to be accelerated under the five-year agricultural development plan is aimed at increasing livestock production to meet Vietnam's growing protein requirements. The main sources of protein in the Vietnamese diet are pork, fish, poultry and eggs. During the mid-1960s, the number of pigs decreased about 20 per cent while poultry remained about the same. As the population, the demand and the cost of living rose, the prices of these items skyrocketed. In November 1968 the government of Vietnam, with U.S. AID assistance, began a program to increase the poultry stock by 15 per cent and swine by 10 per cent before the end of 1971. So far the program has surpassed annual production goals, although the prices for pork, chicken and eggs rose somewhat during 1970 because of continuing inflation.

The swine project is aimed at improving the genetic quality of stocks and paving the way for education in modern swine man-



For crop diversification, this rice field is now planted with peanut.

and IR-5 paddy were produced on 501-940 hectares. This brought the total harvest, including local varieties, to 5,715,500 tons, a 10.5 per cent increase over the previous year's. The harvest surpassed the previous record year, 1964-65, when 5,185,030 tons were produced, but acreage planted to rice fell slightly short of that year's total: 2,510,000 hectares planted in 1970-1971 compared with 2,556,800 hectares in 1964-65.⁴

This year — the 1971-72 crop year — between 650,000 and 700,000 hectares are expected to be devoted

to these goals "realistic" but warn that expeditious delivery of seed is necessary if they are to be achieved. Sufficient seed is available, and the GVN has established a fund to lend money to provinces which desire to purchase TN-20 and TN-22 seed for resale to farmers.

A return to self-sufficiency in rice production will not necessarily mean that Vietnam will immediately resume its traditional role as a rice exporter. The world market for rice has changed drasti-

4. See Statistical Appendix, Table 1.

agement. American swine, noted for their fast weight gains, were imported in 1970. Five hundred were sold to farmers at cost through Central Farmers Association demonstration centers. The imported swine went to 50 cooperating farmers throughout Vietnam and are now producing litters that will form the basis of high-quality stock in the future.

In developing a modern poultry industry, the first step was to increase the number of commercial hatcheries. There are now 50 hatcheries producing 250,000 day-old chicks per week. Local chickens grow more slowly than many hybrids and they are relatively poor producers of meat and eggs, so hybrid chickens from the United States, the Philippines and Japan were imported. Millions of them are now hatched and sold in Vietnam. Laying flocks for commercial egg production increased by more than 600,000 hens during 1970, and current egg production is estimated at 2,500,000 eggs a week.

Animal health is a major factor in protein production. The need for a national animal disease prevention and control plan had long been obvious. Before 1967 half of the chickens, 25 per cent of the swine and 10 per cent of the cattle and buffalo died of diseases that were 70-per cent preventable by vaccination. Production of animal vaccine began in August 1967 at the National Institute of Bacteriology. By 1969 the lab was making 10 million doses of vaccine and in 1971 it will produce 26 million, more than enough to meet the demand. Eventually 60 to 70 per cent of the vaccine will be manufactured by private companies, with the Institute testing the vaccine for quality control. Mobile teams were created in each of the four military regions during 1970 to conduct training courses at district level and to control sudden outbreaks of animal diseases.

Farm Credit

The progress that has been made in agricultural development in the past several years would not have been possible if the farmers had not been able to get credit to invest in modern equipment, fertilizer, hybrid livestock and new



Duc Tu rural bank is among eight in South Vietnam helping farmers.

seed. The principal source of farm credit is the Agricultural Development Bank. In 1970 the government-run ADB and its branch offices in all 44 provinces granted loans totaling 6,715,128,780 piasters to more than 116,000 farming and fishing families.

The government has long been conscious of the need for rural credit facilities. In 1957 it founded NACO — the National Agricultural Credit Organization — but NACO suffered from inadequate capital, too strict adherence to traditional banking methods and a lack of trained personnel. It was terminated in April 1967 and the Agricultural Development Bank was formed the next month with an initial capitalization of 200 million piasters. The ADB was assigned the two-fold task of promoting agricultural development and financing farm rehabilitation. It was recognized that the exigencies of the war would require unusual flexibility in loan policies and operating methods, flexibility NACO had not had.

Since its inception the ADB has extended short-, medium- and long-term loans, with or without collateral, to private individuals, tenant organizations, farmers associations and cooperatives. The government has entrusted funds to the ADB for special programs to help small

farmers. These include agricultural mechanization, poultry and hog raising, miracle rice, rural development credit, and land reform support projects. These loans are made according to criteria not usually accepted by commercial banks — a farmer's good reputation may serve as collateral. But the bank's own capital, which includes people's savings and other deposits, is used for loans to agricultural businesses and commercial farmers, these loans usually are made according to traditional banking methods.

The ADB's funds come primarily from the GVN and from the counterpart fund that is controlled jointly by the GVN and U.S. AID. Most counterpart fund deposits are piasters generated by U.S. imports under the Commercial Import Program, such as importers' piasters to be used in making initial payments to former landlords under the Land to the Tiller program. In addition, funds have come to the ADB via a loan from the West German government.

The amount and number of ADB loans to farmers and farm organizations have increased steadily, and the repayment rate has been good. The interest rates charged on loans range from 12 to 24 per cent. To encourage deposits, interest paid by the bank on savings

accounts was raised from four to 10 per cent for demand deposits and from 12 to 20 per cent on time deposits. Recently the ADB was authorized to accept deposits from all sources instead of catering only to farmers and fishermen.

In an effort to reach a greater number of farm families, the ADB has started several programs, including:

* "Master borrower" loans. These involve an informal group arrangement. Ten or more farmers join in selecting a leader who negotiates a loan with the ADB to purchase equipment. The members pool their funds to meet the down-payment requirements. The leader is responsible for equipment rental and repair and for loan repayment.

* Group loans. These differ from the "master borrower" loans in that each member of the group is responsible to the ADB for a portion of the total loan. For example, 10 fishermen may need two million piasters to modernize a fishing boat. Each would sign a note with the ADB for 200,000 piasters and the boat would serve as collateral until the entire loan is repaid.

* Supervised credit. This involves the furnishing of technical and credit assistance to farmers so they can increase production by increasing their technical knowledge. The ADB is currently supplying this service in several villages where the volume is great enough to justify the full-time assignment of a technician. The shortage of trained personnel is the biggest obstacle to enlarging the program.

* Loans to cooperatives. In 1970 the three national farm organizations received import loans of 1,831,776,820 piasters and 11 small cooperatives received loans totaling 67,021,746 piasters. Most of the money went for fertilizer, tractors and other small farm machinery.

Credit Systems

The development of agriculture can be achieved more rapidly, Saigon planners agree, if sufficient credit is made available to commercial farmers, plantation owners and manufacturers supporting the fields of agriculture, fisheries and forestry. But until recently 90 per cent of the ADB's customers were

small farmers borrowing less than 50,000 piasters each. This is the bank's main purpose, so little of its capital is left over for long-range loans. To help meet this need two new credit systems were established in 1970.

Village credit committees were formed to screen applications for loans under 50,000 piasters and to be responsible for collecting them. To date 1,094 village committees have been organized and 955 of these now have members who have received credit training from the ADB. The committees are composed of village officials and respected members of the community. Some 2,100 villages have been certified to participate in this program, which is geared in with the government's Village Self-Development (VSD) program. The 1971 program under VSD includes the development of a rural credit program to spur the launching of community income-producing projects. Placing income-producing projects on a loans basis, instead of the grant basis still used for so-called "public use projects," is another step toward the government's goal of self-reliance at the grassroots. To get this phase of the program started, all villages will be given an initial fund of 400,000 piasters, larger villages getting proportionately more. All of these funds may be used for public use projects, such as the construction of a school. But at the discretion of the village council, up to half of these funds may be utilized in income-producing projects, such as the purchase or construction of a rice mill. Since all such income-producing projects now are to be

financed on a loan basis, the projects must be cleared through the village's credit committee.

A private rural bank system also was established that will be supplying credit to 60,000 farmers annually within five years. Eight banks so far are in operation. Eventually 200 of Vietnam's 240 districts will have private rural banks, including an additional 21 by the end of 1971. The stockholders of the banks are generally merchants in the community. Each bank's deposit and loan functions are limited to its own district. On August 18, 1970, an agreement was signed between the GVN and U.S. AID to establish the Rural Banking Development Fund, with an initial capitalization of 300 million piasters, to support the system. The capital of each rural bank is provided half by the GVN and half by local sponsors. The banks receive technical supervision from the Agricultural Development Bank. Credit goes to small farmers, fishermen and other small producers operating less than 10 hectares, small merchants and traders whose assets are less than 4,200 piasters, and small industries, including producers of handicrafts, whose total assets do not exceed 8,400 piasters.

The availability of credit is just one factor that is dramatically improving the life of the farmer. As a result of the land reform program, improved agricultural techniques and the use of modern machinery, Vietnam for the future will have a pool of thousands of small land owners with a vested interest in making the country politically and economically viable.

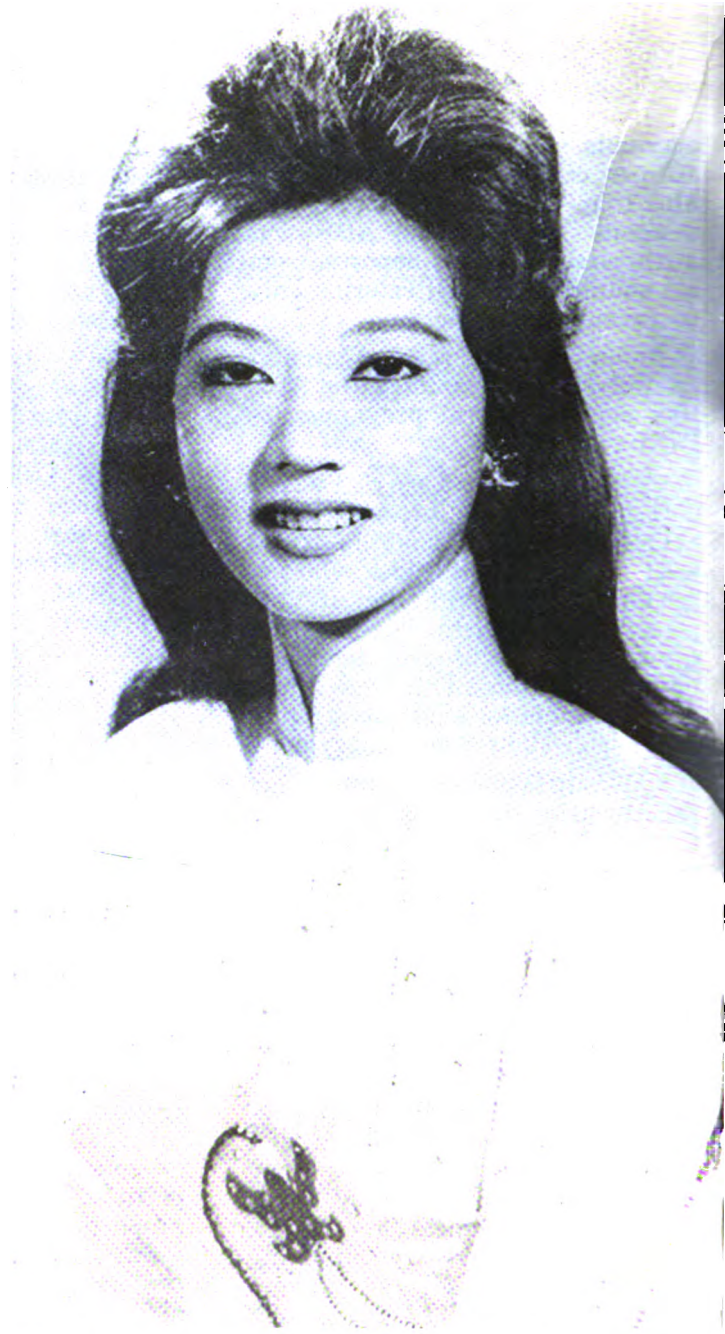
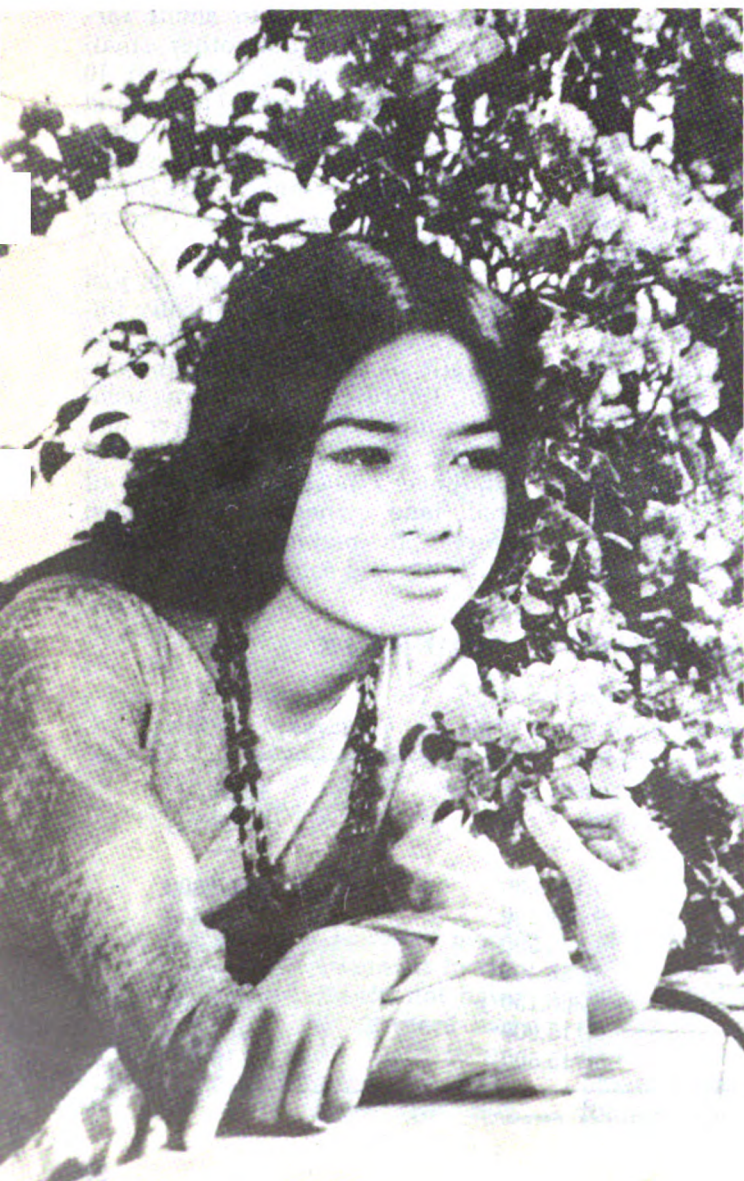
STATISTICAL APPENDIX

TABLE I
Rice Production in South Vietnam, 1964-1971

Crop year	Production (metric tons)	Planted (hectares)
1964-1965	5,185,030	2,556,800
1965-1966	4,821,600	2,428,640
1966-1967	4,336,390	2,294,780
1967-1968	4,688,400	2,295,800
1968-1969	4,366,150	2,393,800
1969-1970	5,115,000	2,430,000
1970-1971	5,715,500	2,510,000

SOURCE: GVN Agricultural Statistics Service.

Women of Vietnam



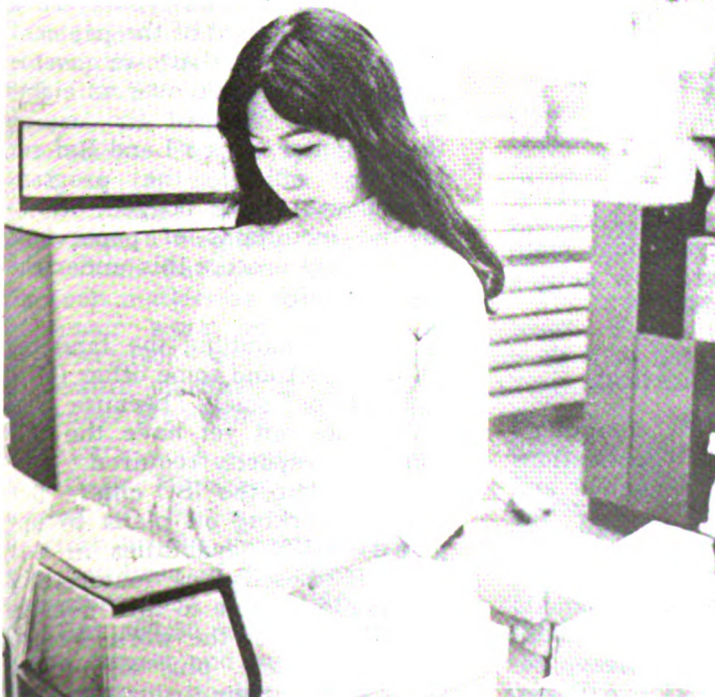
Film star Thanh Nga, long a favorite star of the modern Vietnamese theater, is counted today as one of Saigon's top film performers. Three of her recent films of which she was the leading lady have won acclaim across nation.

Screen star Anh Minh, 21, is in her second year of study at famed Buddhist Van Hanh University in Saigon. She is majoring in economics. Acting is her hobby and she shows she is very good at it indeed. Leading lady in the Vietnamese film "Farewell to Darkness", she is also principal actress in the Korean movie "The Fighter on the Bridge."



At Finance Ministry data processing center is one of more than 50 sophisticated computers at work in RVN.

COMPUTERS IN VIETNAM



A card reader at the Finance Ministry's computer center.

South Vietnam is a lush, green country of paddies, forested mountains, plantations and high-plateau vegetable gardens, a country where the man behind the plow and his water buffalo are essential to the economy. But it is also a country where modern technology is taking a firm hold. That symbol of 20th-century modernity, the electronic computer, has come to Vietnam. Throughout the republic more than 50 computers are being used by government agencies, military commands and industrial firms.

Computers keep track of cargo in transit, tally votes, assess progress in pacifying the countryside, rate the efficiency of military units, and provide data helping to determine the pace of U.S. withdrawal from Vietnam. They prepare tax bills, speed the land reform program, estimate the demand for electricity and sugar, draft budgets, and track down black market currency speculators.

They inventory materiel, determine the popularity of radio and television programs, compile personnel statistics, and map battle actions. They store historic records, survey production, regulate imports and perform countless other tasks that once had to be done — if they could be done at all — by the "wet-thumb method" of leafing endlessly through report papers.

When a big tabulating job comes along — such as last year's Saigon City Council elections, when computers tallied votes for the first time in Vietnamese history — the government of Vietnam (GVN) has eight sophisticated computers of its own it can call upon. It has US\$700,000 worth of equipment operating in the Finance Ministry's Computer Center, in the National Bank and in the Directorate General of the Budget and Foreign Aid.

Government Firms

It also has computers in government-controlled firms: Air Vietnam, the Electric Power Company and the Vietnam Sugar Company. And it has computers at the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces (RVNAF) headquarters as well as at the Joint General Staff. All of these normally program their own applications, but can be put to work on a single project, such as tabulating votes, with the operation being coordinated by a 21-man interdepartmental committee in the Office of the Prime Minister.

In addition, various GVN offices are assisted in some of their tabulation work — but not vote-counting — by two systems operated by the U.S. military and the Agency for International Development (U.S. AID). More computers are on order for GVN agencies and for private industry.

Personnel to operate them are being trained by the Labor Ministry and a number of other agencies, including the Office in Charge of Construction (OICC), U.S. Naval Facilities Engineering Command, and the OICC's prime contractor, RMK-BRJ. Much work is done for RMK-BRJ and other large contractors in Vietnam by CDC equipment as well as other types of computers.

Military Computers

U.S. military commands have 21 computers in Vietnam, including three at MACV, the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam. Some of the RVNAF's work is done at MACV's Data Management Agency (DMA). But soon it should no longer be necessary to depend so much on the MACV computers

because the RVNAF will have new systems in full operation at its two computer centers in Saigon.

The RVNAF Central Logistics Command has been working with a limited capacity IBM 360/20 computer at its Logistics Data Processing Center (LDPC) and just recently installed a large-scale 360/40 computer. When fully programmed, the two computers at the LDPC will constitute a very sophisticated system capable of handling the RVNAF's logistical requirements.

The other RVNAF computer system is at the Joint General Staff Support Center at JGS headquarters on Saigon's outskirts. In operation since 1966, the center has a staff of 360. It was established to maintain military personnel records, but now has the responsibility of keeping records not only of the regular forces, but of all territorial and paramilitary forces as well — a total of some 1,100,000 persons.

The largest civilian computer agency in Vietnam is U.S. AID's Information Systems Center (ISC). In operation since January 1968, it is housed in a converted villa behind U.S. AID's main offices on Le Van Duyet street in downtown Saigon. The center uses an IBM 360/40 computer that puts out reports in both English and Vietnamese (the latter including the diacritical marks) for more than 60 users.

Seventy of the 90 staff members are Vietnamese, all trained at the center. The 32 Vietnamese programmers, highly qualified, were selected from among 3,000 applicants. The shift supervisors are Vietnamese, and additional management trainees are now getting on-the-job instruction.

Many Applications

A number of the ISC computer's jobs are "in house" applications that keep track of personnel and logistical requirements for the world's largest U.S. AID mission. These include, among many other applications, a constantly updated personnel locator list, warehouse inventories, payroll and leave records. Jobs done for U.S. AID and GVN offices give an indication of

the program's scope. The ISC computer produces regular reports on such matters as

- * an accounting of import licenses issued to Vietnamese businessmen ;
- * a medical logistics catalogue and an inventory of Health Ministry medical supplies ;
- * an index of the prices of farm goods ;
- * a survey of the cost of rice production ;
- * forecasts of the future economic situation in Vietnam, and
- * an accounting of goods arriving under the Commercial Import Program.

The ISC computer's most important job now, one taking a third of its time, is the issuance of titles under the Land to the Tiller program, the sweeping land reform legislation that will enable tenant farmers to become owners of more than one million hectares of riceland by the end of 1972. As applications for land deeds pour in from the provinces, the ISC is kept busy turning out an average of 30,000 titles a month.

The computer also handles the processing of compensation payments to former landlords, who are paid for their expropriated land at a rate of two and half times its annual yield. They receive 20 per cent of the payment in cash and the balance in government bonds payable over an eight-year period. Without the use of the computer, says a Land Reform Ministry official, the program "could well have bogged down" in the mountains of paperwork required to process this undertaking manually.

"We are handling the land reform project and some other GVN applications solely because the GVN does not yet have the full computer capacity required," says John Pruden, the ISC chief, "but we are working on plans to upgrade GVN capabilities in this area. If these plans materialize, we should be able to turn over to the GVN all of the work we are doing for them, plus all of the GVN systems being run at MACV under CORDS sponsorship. At

that point our computer center can be disbanded.”

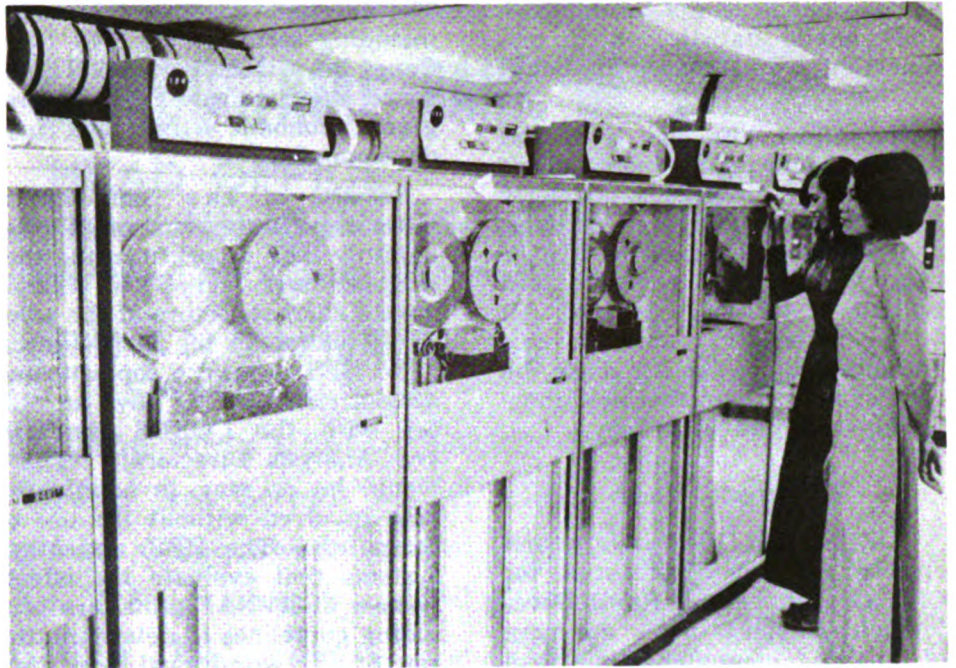
Meanwhile, a computer system under development at the Health Ministry's Directorate of Logistics is 50 per cent completed. The design phase is finished, and the first of two programming phases is half finished. U.S. AID programmers are assisting contract personnel (from the URS Systems Corporation) in programming the system, which is designed to provide up-to-date management information on stocks, issues and procurement of medical supplies used in support of all Health Ministry programs, including the program entailing joint use of Health Ministry and Defense Ministry hospital facilities and medical personnel.

War Weapon

The computer has been a valuable weapon in the U.S. military's arsenal. In the past several years, computer speed in digesting and analyzing information has given military planners “real time” data in minutes or hours that would take days or months to process manually. As the war winds down, more and more computer time is being utilized for analyzing data on the pacification and Vietnamization programs.

The U.S. military remains the largest computer user in Vietnam. In addition to MACV's three computers, the 7th Air Force has 11 and USARV (the United States Army in the Republic of Vietnam) has seven. Simple systems are used as far down as battalion level. USARV has a number of NCR-500s, a magnetic ledger system which battalion officers use for such matters as keeping track of repair work on vehicles. A UNIVAC-1005, which is a card-processing machine, is used as a personnel accounting system.

MACV's main computer center, the Data Management Agency, located in the command headquarters on the outskirts of Saigon, has been in operation, since December 1967. The DMA leases an IBM 360/50 which at present is the largest and most sophisticated system in the country. It uses a multiprogramming operat-



This IBM 2401 tape unit at U.S. AID's Information Systems Center reads and writes at rate of 60,000 bits per second in English and Vietnamese.

ing system with 512,000 characters of core storage, eight magnetic drives and dual printers. The computer works around the clock on more than 130 applications.

Curbing Black Market

One application is the Currency and Black Market Control system, nicknamed CABOTS. When U.S. military or civilian personnel enter Vietnam, they are issued a plastic card imprinted with name and social security number. Every time such an individual makes a currency transaction — cashing a check at a military bank or purchasing a money order — he must present his currency control card. A copy of the transaction is sent to the DMA, where it is entered on the individual's tape file.

The computer processes some 20,000 transactions a day from more than 500 sources throughout Vietnam. The computer pinpoints those who might be suspected of currency violations, and the transaction cards can be used as evidence if investigation warrants prosecution. While CABOTS has not eliminated the currency black market, it has made money manipulation much more difficult.

Another important money-saving system is the Military Assistance Command Automated

Movement Management System, or MACAMM, which controls all sea-going cargo between the United States and Vietnam and between ports within Vietnam. MACAMM automatically determines the criticality of every piece of cargo that moves by water, selects routes for ships, and assigns cargoes to particular vessels. Queries can halt the wasteful cross-shipping of the same cargo.

In addition to MACAMM, a dozen other DMA systems keep the vast logistical supply network running smoothly. Everything from paper clips to Armored Personnel Carriers are inventoried somewhere in the computer's memory bank. The computer keeps track of people, too: where MACV personnel are assigned, awards and medals issued to them etc. On the lighter side, it puts out the results of audience polls that evaluate the programming on AFVN (American Forces Vietnam) radio and television.

Although the U.S. combat role is waning, systems that compile strategic information are still valuable against the enemy. Various systems tabulate and analyze all ground combat operations, rate the effectiveness of units and of different kinds of psychological operations — such

as propaganda leaflet dropping — and compile statistics on all prisoners of war interned in South Vietnam.

The DMA also has a special historical information management system that provides a quarterly listing of all documents, studies and letters maintained as MACV history. They can be referenced by subject for easy retrieval. All of the information stored in this and other computers has made the conflict in Vietnam the most thoroughly recorded in history.

Biggest User

CORDS, the U.S. military and civilian advisory organization for Civil Operations and Rural Development Support, takes up more of the DMA computer's time than any other user with its many pacification program applications. The largest of these is the Hamlet Evaluation System (HES), the report that assesses GVN control of hamlets throughout Vietnam. The HES report is submitted monthly by district advisers. It consists of 165 questions; 25 are answered monthly, the remainder quarterly.

The questions cover a wide range, including security, the VCI (Viet Cong infrastructure), GVN presence, effectiveness of GVN programs, economic activity and rural development.

Because of the computer, it takes only 10 days to compile the monthly HES report, insuring that U.S. advisers and GVN officials have a current picture of the security situation in the 44 provinces. "The HES is a very sophisticated system statistically," says an officer with the CORDS Research and Analysis Directorate. "There would be no way to handle the data involved without the use of computers." The HES, and other systems that evaluate the effectiveness of RVNAF units, are providing guidelines to determine the rate of U.S. withdrawal from Vietnam.

Vietnamese Employees

As the Vietnamization program continues, maintenance and modification of many of these computer programs are being turned over to Vietnamese technicians. In July, Vietnamese HES reporters took

over in 38 of the 250-odd districts in Vietnam and are completely responsible for submitting HES data, which are cleared through five-man provincial committees. The turnover is expected to be gradual, and remain initially at the field level, although four GVN officials recently started long-term training as Military Region HES analysts.

At the DMA, Vietnamese key-punch operators and programmers are taking over nonclassified programs. In July 1969 there were 122 U.S. employees and 30 Vietnamese. Now there are 63 U.S. employees and 60 Vietnamese including 21 key-punch operators and 18 programmers. They attend formal classes for six months followed by another six months on-the-job training.

Computers should play just as important a role in Vietnam postwar development as they did in the years of military conflict. With the number of trained computer personnel steadily increasing, and with additional computer centers in the planning stages, Vietnam should be ready to meet the demand.

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as propaganda leaflet dropping — and compile statistics on all prisoners of war interned in South Vietnam.

The DMA also has a special historical information management system that provides a quarterly listing of all documents, studies and letters maintained as MACV history. They can be referenced by subject for easy retrieval. All of the information stored in this and other computers has made the conflict in Vietnam the most thoroughly recorded in history.

Biggest User

CORDS, the U.S. military and civilian advisory organization for Civil Operations and Rural Development Support, takes up more of the DMA computer's time than any other user with its many pacification program applications. The largest of these is the Hamlet Evaluation System (HES), the report that assesses GVN control of hamlets throughout Vietnam. The HES report is submitted monthly by district advisers. It consists of 165 questions; 25 are answered monthly, the remainder quarterly.

The questions cover a wide range, including security, the VCI (Viet Cong infrastructure), GVN presence, effectiveness of GVN programs, economic activity and rural development.

Because of the computer, it takes only 10 days to compile the monthly HES report, insuring that U.S. advisers and GVN officials have a current picture of the security situation in the 44 provinces. "The HES is a very sophisticated system statistically," says an officer with the CORDS Research and Analysis Directorate. "There would be no way to handle the data involved without the use of computers." The HES, and other systems that evaluate the effectiveness of RVNAF units, are providing guidelines to determine the rate of U.S. withdrawal from Vietnam.

Vietnamese Employees

As the Vietnamization program continues, maintenance and modification of many of these computer programs are being turned over to Vietnamese technicians. In July, Vietnamese HES reporters took

over in 38 of the 250-odd districts in Vietnam and are completely responsible for submitting HES data, which are cleared through five-man provincial committees. The turnover is expected to be gradual, and remain initially at the field level, although four GVN officials recently started long-term training as Military Region HES analysts.

At the DMA, Vietnamese key-punch operators and programmers are taking over nonclassified programs. In July 1969 there were 122 U.S. employees and 30 Vietnamese. Now there are 63 U.S. employees and 60 Vietnamese, including 21 key-punch operators and 18 programmers. They attend formal classes for six months, followed by another six months of on-the-job training.

Computers should play just as important a role in Vietnam's postwar development as they played in the years of military conflict. With the number of trained computer personnel steadily increasing, and with additional computer centers in the planning stages, Vietnam should be ready to meet the demand.

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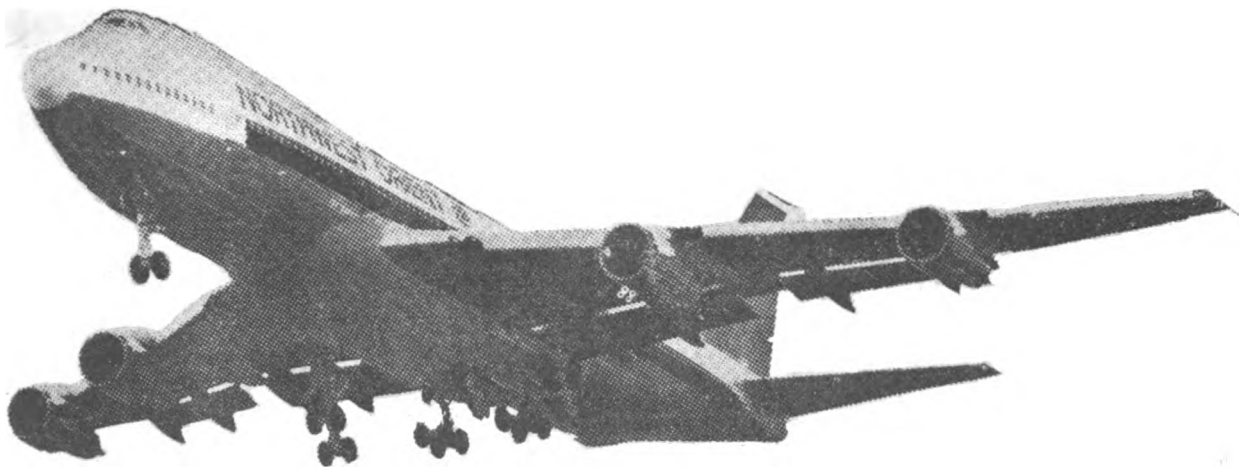
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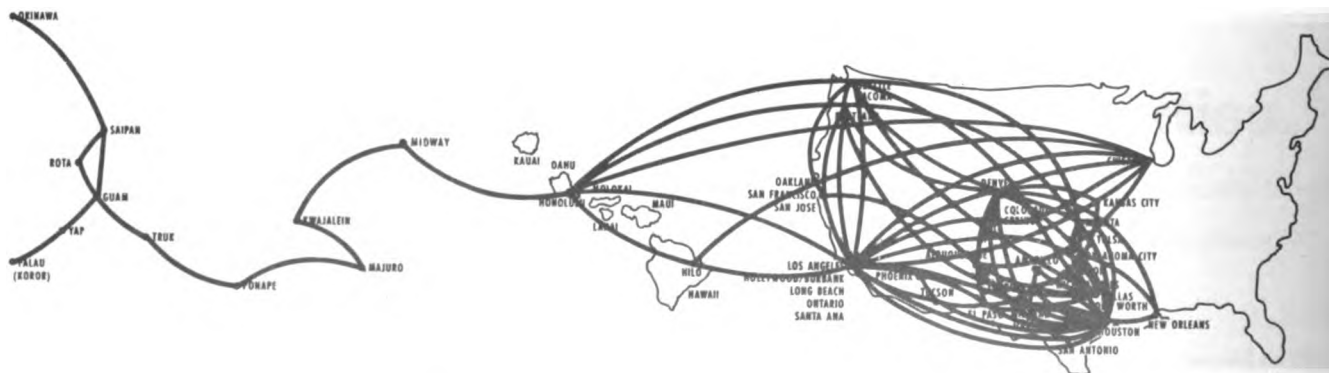
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