

VIET-NAM



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President Ngo Dinh Diem proclaims the establishment of the Republic of Viet-Nam, 26 October, 1955.

“Democracy is not a group of texts and laws to be read and applied. It is essentially a state of mind, a way of living with the utmost respect toward every human being, ourselves as well as our neighbors. It requires constant self-education, careful practice, flexible and patient attention, in order to achieve a harmonious balance between the desirably diverse conceptions of men and the inevitable complexity of reality. Democracy demands from each of us, then, infinitely greater efforts, understanding and goodwill than any other form of government . . .”

President NGO DINH DIEM

Foreword

A few weeks after the fall of Dien Bien Phu and before the disastrous Geneva Armistice, Ngo dinh Diem at long last was called upon to form a new government for an apparently doomed Viet-Nam. He formed it on July 7, 1954, in the midst of military and political collapse.

Although President Ngo was given full power to meet the emergency, the difficulties ahead were so crushing that he was expected to last only a few months. He has lasted two years and is building a new Viet-Nam!

This man, without any armed troops, managed to defeat all his powerful opponents by merely doing what the Vietnamese people wanted.

Given the choice between near disarmament and colonial protection, he chose and achieved genuine national independence, thus following the will of his people and gaining their respect and support. This strong popular support enabled him to transform the army, to do away with the former corrupt chiefs of the police, to defeat or to rally to his side the private armies of the feudal sects, to re-establish internal security, and even to rally tens of thousands of the communist cadres that the Viet Minh had left behind to prepare for communist subversion.



The Vietnamese people acknowledged those achievements on October 23, 1955, by electing President Ngo to be their Chief of State. He immediately proclaimed the country to be a republic and convened a Constituent Assembly to work out a democratic constitution, thus following once more the people's will and gaining more popular support for what remains to be done.

This booklet is not intended to give an account of what President Ngo has achieved in these last two crucial years, but rather to introduce the country which his leadership and United States help have enabled the people of Viet-Nam to save for themselves and for the Free World.

—Tran van Chuong,
*Vietnamese Ambassador
to the United States*

VIET-NAM



This is the story — in facts, figures and photographs — of two years of progress in the newest republic in Asia — the Republic of Viet-Nam. More than that, it is the story of the Vietnamese people who, under the leadership of President Ngo dinh Diem, are building a new nation.



AREA

Total: 127,000 square miles; North of the 17th parallel: 62,000 square miles; South of the 17th parallel: 65,000 square miles.

POPULATION

Total: (estimated, 1955) 25,000,000; North of the 17th parallel: 13 million; South of the 17th parallel: 12 million.

GEOGRAPHY

Viet-Nam is located on the eastern flank of the Southeast Asian Peninsula, bordered on the north by China, on the west by Laos and Cambodia, and on the east and south by the China Sea.

Viet-Nam has often been described as “a carrying pole with two rice baskets hanging from its ends.” In fact, this image is almost true, for a single mountain chain, the Annamite Cordil-

lera, follows Viet-Nam's western borders from north to south, with the Red River rice bowl near its northern end, and the more important Mekong Delta rice bowl near its southern tip. Smaller mountain ranges cover Viet-Nam's northern border, in the Tonkin highlands and midlands, and a vast plateau—inhabited by a great number of aboriginal tribes—covers much of southern Central Viet-Nam. This plateau is fertile but has hardly been cultivated because

the necessary effort has not been made to improve sanitary conditions and encourage Vietnamese implantation.

Almost all Vietnamese agriculture is concentrated in the fertile deltas. Nearly 90 per cent of all Vietnamese live in those low-lands. The mountain tribes (Thai, Tho Muong, in the North; Rhade, Roglai, Jarai, Bahner, etc., in the South) prefer to live in the areas above 600 feet.



STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE

Viet-Nam has often been described as the “gateway to Southeast Asia,” and is the most important of the three Indochinese States. It has 25 million inhabitants whereas Cambodia has 5 million and Laos, one million and a half. Indeed, modern jet planes stationed on the excellent airfield of Saigon are within a thousand miles of the important Western bases of Manila and Singapore. It would be easy to see the importance to the Communists of the occupation of all

of Viet-Nam. With South Viet-Nam in their hands, all traffic in the South China Sea would be at their mercy. During World War II, the Prince of Wales and the Repulse were sunk by Japanese planes based in Viet-Nam and the Japanese used it as a springboard for their conquest of Malaya and Burma. In the words of President Eisenhower (April 7, 1954) “If Indochina goes, the rest of Southeast Asia will go like a set of dominoes.”





Past History

Viet-Nam has a long and glorious history as an independent nation. The first Vietnamese independent state existed as early as 400 B.C. It was subjugated by overwhelming Chinese forces in 111 B.C. but, after several unsuccessful rebellions, regained its independence in 938 A.D.

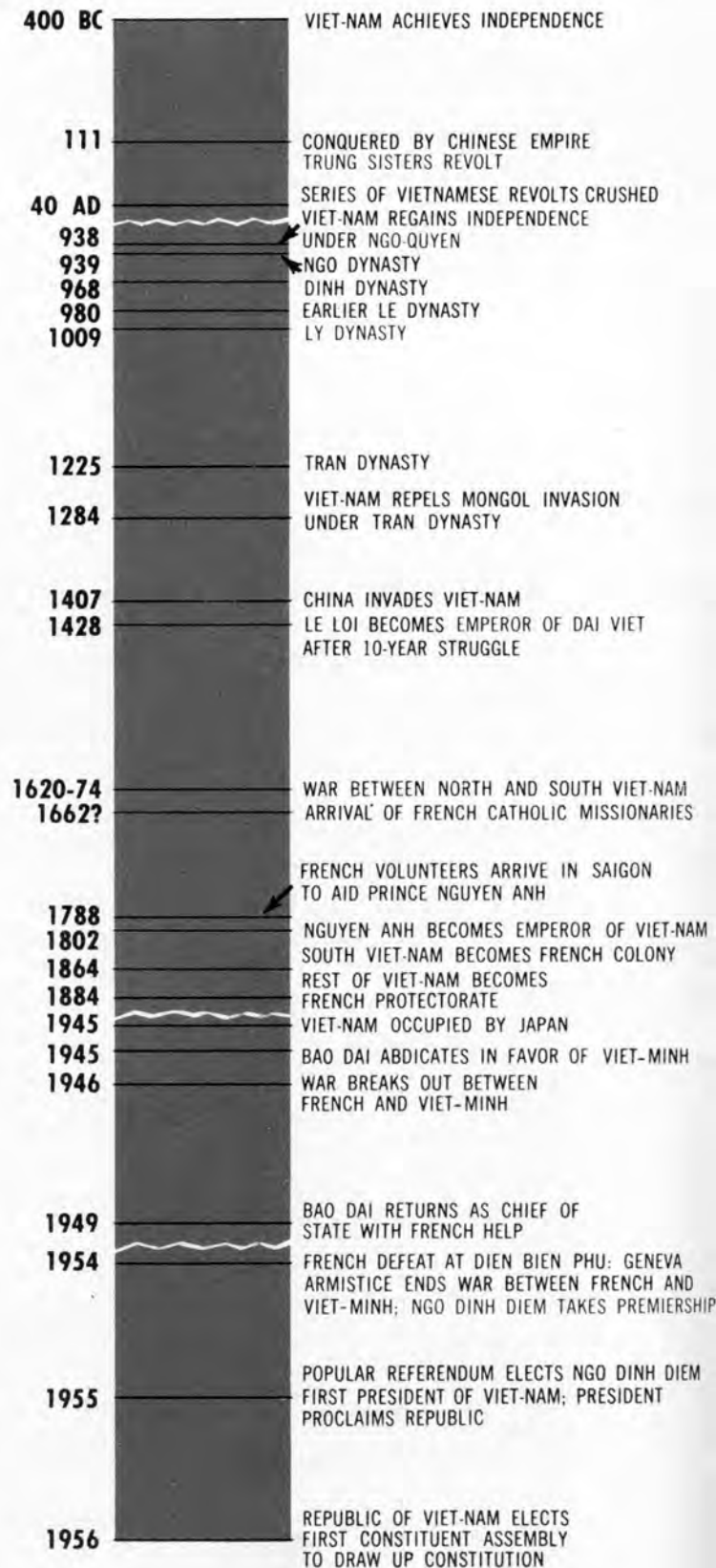
Vietnamese armed forces under Marshall Tran Hung Dao defeated the Mongolian hordes of Kublai Khan in 1284 and thus saved Southeast Asia from a Mongol invasion.

After centuries of patient struggle, Viet-Nam was finally unified in its present form under Emperor Gia-Long in 1802. The whole country, from Cao-Bang in the North, to Ha Tien in the South, was governed by a unified administration under the same set of laws. There were schools in most villages, and foreign trade was carried on through settlements of Dutch, Portuguese, French and Japanese merchants, which existed in several Vietnamese towns.

As with the rest of Asia, however, Viet-Nam remained cut off from the scientific revolution which gave power and material strength to the West. Viet-Nam was conquered by the French in the 19th century. Cochinchina, or South-Viet-Nam, became a French colony in 1864, and the rest of Viet-Nam a French protectorate in 1884. Vietnamese resistance did not stop until 1896.

As with all other colonized peoples, the Vietnamese wanted national independence above all.

Viet-Nam's History at a Glance



This explains why, at the close of World War II, they threw themselves into the arms of the communist-led Viet-Minh, who pretended to be a league for Viet-Nam's independence and who received small amounts of both money and arms from the Allies during the war to organize a network of resistance against the Japanese. Although they had not seriously fought the Japanese, they were the only group with any arms among a Vietnamese population otherwise completely disarmed. The Viet-Minh, therefore, appeared to have gained the favor of the all-powerful victorious Allies and, as a result, to be the best advocates for Vietnamese independence.

As soon as they had seized power, however, the Viet-Minh discarded their nationalist masks, purged and killed most of their potential opponents, and organized Viet-Nam as a communist state.



Aboriginal tribes dot the highland regions of Viet-Nam. Since time immemorial they have remained aloof from the flow of history. When President Ngo proclaimed Viet-Nam's independence, these and many other tribal leaders journeyed long distances to declare their loyalty to the new government, and to begin to participate in Vietnamese national life.



Photograph by Dixie REESE

For centuries Vietnamese have tilled their rice paddies in the same arduous manner. Their lot had been both hard and hopeless until they became imbued with the desire for change. Viet-Nam's independence means a better life for every Vietnamese.

Nevertheless, the non-Communist Vietnamese could not fight them wholeheartedly because they had to face, at the same time, the French attempt to reconquer their country or to establish there a regime of false independence. Most of the nationalists even preferred to side with their communist countrymen to fight a colonial army, rather than to side with a colonial army to fight their countrymen. This was the basic reason for the Viet-Minh's successes during the Indo-chinese War, even before 1949, when they were inadequately armed and had not as yet received any Chinese or Russian help.

In the ensuing Geneva cease-fire agreement of July 21, 1954, Viet-Nam was partitioned and about half of it, all of the territory north of the 17th parallel, was abandoned to the Viet-Minh, "pending the general election which will bring about the unification of Viet-Nam." Evacuation of French and non-communist troops from the

North and of Viet-Minh troops from the South was to be completed within 300 days, in May 1955. Free choice of residence was to be left within the same period to the Vietnamese who wanted to go North or South; and both North and South were prohibited from receiving any troop or arms reinforcements, from establishing any new military base, or any military base under the control of a foreign State, and from adhering to any military alliance.

This truce agreement was signed only by the Viet-Minh High-Command and the French High-Command at the end of the Geneva Conference, in which the representatives of Cambodia, the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam (the Viet-Minh), France, Laos, the People's Republic of China (Communist China), the State of Viet-Nam (Non-Communist Viet-Nam), the U.S.S.R., the United Kingdom, and the United States of America took part.



These are some of the more than 850,000 Vietnamese who voluntarily chose freedom by fleeing from the Communist-controlled North to Free South Viet-Nam between July, 1954, and May, 1955. Almost all were forced to abandon their homes, farms, and property—in many cases even their loved ones—in their flight from oppression. No one knows how many thousands of others would have fled South if the Communists had permitted them true freedom of movement and residence.



The warm friendship between the people of Viet-Nam and the United States is exemplified by the increasing number of Americans who visit Viet-Nam each year. Above, U. S. Supreme Court Associate Justice William A. Douglas chats informally with Vietnamese students.

The American delegation, however, did not adhere to this truce agreement. It only made a separate declaration promising that the United States would refrain from the threat or the use of force to disturb the truce and would view with grave concern any violent breach of it.

As for the delegation of the State of Viet-Nam, it refused to sign this truce agreement. It vainly protested against the partition of the country and against the principle of general elections being agreed upon when more than half the voters were being abandoned north of the 17th parallel to communist rule! It vainly asked that the whole territory and population be placed instead under the control of the United Nations until the re-establishment of peace and security would permit the holding of really free general elections.

There was, however, a bright spot in this sad story. After the fall of Dien bien Phu, a true patriot, Ngo dinh Diem, was asked to form a new government. Unequivocal recognition of full Vietnamese independence was made in articles 10, 11 and 12 of the final declaration of the Geneva Conference and in a letter addressed to the Vietnamese Foreign Minister, Tran van Do, by the French Premier, Mendes-France, on July 20, 1954.

Thus the foundation was laid for a solid non-communist Viet-Nam. President Ngo dinh Diem courageously took advantage of this to build a new free nation. As far back as September, 1954, he asked for the gradual withdrawal of the French Expeditionary Corps and this withdrawal is now complete.



Independence, and the quest for it, have brought to the Vietnamese people a new spirit—a feeling of national pride and a desire for fuller participation in the growth of the new Republic. Here, thousands of peasants on the Jongs Plains demonstrate their exuberance for their new President and Republic.

As far back as January, 1955, he also asked for and obtained complete economic independence for Viet-Nam.

He reorganized the administration and the national army.

He rallied some of the politico-religious sects that had been armed against the Viet-Minh during the Indochina War and allowed to live on the population in a manner of middle age feudalism. The army wiped out those that did not rally to the side of the Government, thus delivering the country from a feudal anarchy which would have paved the way for the Communists.

This honest nationalist policy received warm response and strong support from the population.

After the Geneva Armistice, more than 850,000 Northern Vietnamese abandoned all their properties and even risked their lives to flee south. They are only a small part of all those who would



Mrs. Richard Nixon is warmly greeted by Vietnamese school children during a recent trip with the Vice-President.

have done the same if the Communists had not repeatedly violated their commitment to give the population free choice of residence at least until May, 1955. In two recent elections, the Vietnamese have shown that whenever and wherever they are free and can freely express their will, they are strongly anti-Communist. They showed it:

1. On October 23, 1955, when an overwhelming majority of 98% elected as Chief-of-State President Ngo dinh Diem whose anti-communism is known all over the world and who immediately proclaimed Viet-Nam to be a Republic;

2. On March 4, 1956, when an entirely anti-communist Constituent Assembly was elected for the new Republic.

These two elections have transformed Free Viet-Nam, in less than six months, from an absolute monarchy into a fully democratic nation.

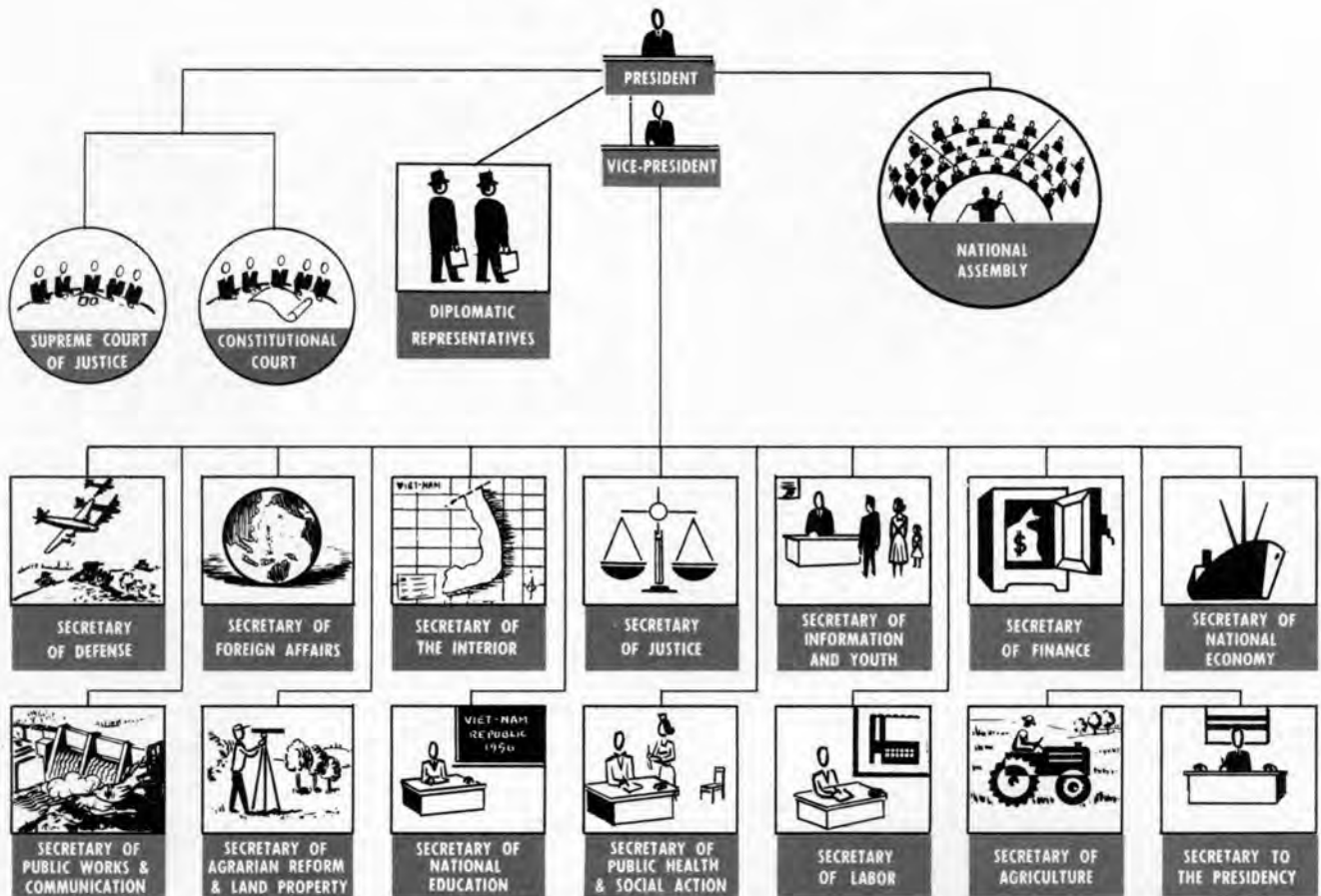


As part of the process of expanding true democracy in the Republic of Viet-Nam, two national elections were held within six months. Here, Vietnamese go to the polls to choose delegates for the first Constituent Assembly in their history. All balloting was done secretly.



For the first time in Viet-Nam's history, the nation's leader has travelled freely throughout the country—as a matter of policy—to talk to the people. As with this visit to Central Viet-Nam, wherever President Ngo goes he is greeted by large demonstrations of popular support.

REPUBLIC OF VIET-NAM



Political Organization

Free Viet Nam is a Republic with a President elected by the people and Secretaries appointed by the President. (See chart above).

It is divided into 33 provinces. According to a recent administrative reform, each group of provinces is administered by a higher administrator.

Local government is in the hands of locally elected notables, and, in larger towns, of municipal councils and mayors.

Civil servants are recruited by examination and are trained in a School of National Administration, at present under contract with Michigan State University, which prepares Vietnamese civil servants along modern American methods.

The Legislative branch is elected by the peo-

ple. There is one representative for every 60,000 inhabitants, a total of 123 Deputies.

The Judiciary is independent from the executive and legislative branches, and is composed of fully-trained judges using up-to-date procedures and codes.

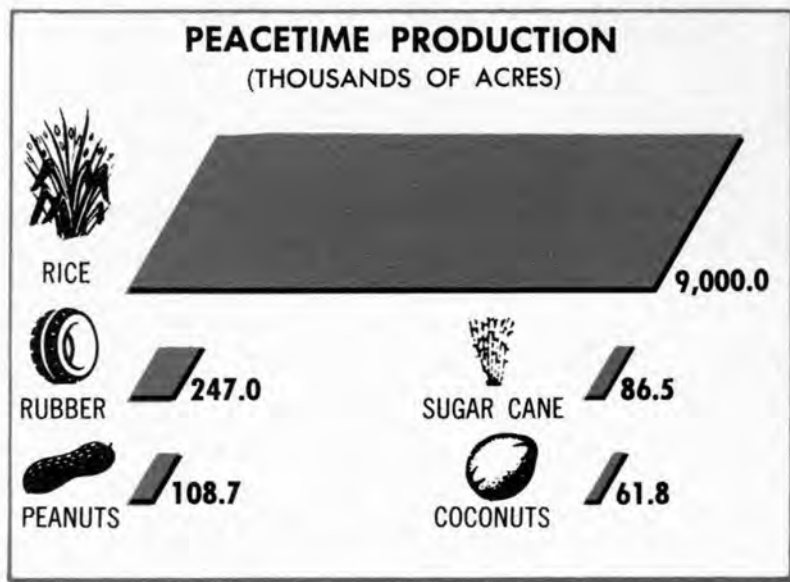
The Armed Forces are under the command of a Vietnamese general and general staff, controlling also the Air Force and Navy components of the Vietnamese Armed Forces.

There are about 150,000 men at present in the Vietnamese Armed Forces (not including special police and Civil Guard units). They are trained by a Franco-American Military Advisory Mission under the command of Lieutenant General John W. O'Daniel from April 1954 to November 1955 and, afterwards, of Lieutenant General Sam Williams, U. S. Army. Vietnamese pilots and specialists are being trained in the United States at special school and training centers.

The Economy of the Republic of Viet-Nam

Some 90 percent of the people of Viet-Nam derive their livelihood from agriculture, mainly rice growing and rubber tapping. Smaller numbers are engaged in fishing and forestry, but rice growing comprises more than three-fifths of all agricultural activity. Thus, the Republic of Viet-Nam is one of the rare countries in Asia that is self-sufficient with regard to foodstuffs. In fact, in normal times, Viet-Nam exports large quantities of rice, corn, and other agricultural products to various Asian and European countries.

Southern Viet-Nam is the major ricebasket of the Republic, with its vast and fertile plains and many irrigation canals. Many of the latter were destroyed during the recent hostilities by both the communists and the sect rebels, but the re-



AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

cent pacification operations of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Viet-Nam have brought vast tracts of new farmland in the Camau Peninsula and the Plaine des Joncs under control of the Government. These new reclaimed lands are now being distributed for cultivation to resettled refugee farmers from North Viet-Nam, as part of the Republic's Three-Year Agricultural Plan.

In 1953-54 and 1954-55, southern Viet-Nam produced about 2,000,000 tons of rice. The 1955-56 crop, thanks to the improvement of agri-





Photograph by Dixie REESE

Perhaps no other scene is more typical of rural Viet-Nam than this farmer and his water buffalo cultivating a rice paddy. Water buffalo are the "tractors" of Viet-Nam. Thousands of these beasts of burden were killed during the long years of war in Viet-Nam but the Government is spurring a program to increase their numbers and quality.

cultural methods as well as of the security situation, is expected to rise to about 2,400,000 tons. North Viet-Nam, in contrast, produces enough rice for its population only when there is neither flood nor drought.

Rubber is grown exclusively in South Viet-

Nam and some small areas of southern Central Viet-Nam. About 90 percent of all rubber in Viet-Nam is produced on large plantations, covering a total of 160,000 acres. Viet-Nam's rubber production amounted to approximately 66,000 tons in 1955. It is the foremost dollar earner, with the United States the major rubber customer,

accounting for more than 60 percent of total rubber exports.

Kapok production has fallen off in recent years, but will soon become one of Viet-Nam's export items once more. Current production is about 500 tons. *Tobacco* is grown in the cooler climate of the Mountain Plateaux of southern Central Viet-Nam, but the annual yield of 6,500,000 tons is insufficient to cover Viet-Nam's needs, which are supplemented by imports of American and other foreign tobaccos. *Copra* is also a specifically southern Vietnamese product. There are several large plantations in South Viet-Nam producing at present 16,000 tons of copra a year.

Spices, such as pepper, in addition to tea and coffee, are grown on plantations of the Mountain Plateaux, along with jute, oilseeds, quinine, nux vomica, soybeans, anise, betelnut, cola nuts, opium, indigo, and other tropical vegetables.

The Republic of Viet-Nam now has launched extensive programs to expand *tea* and *coffee* production in the highlands, with the help of the refugees who have been resettled there.

Water buffalo are the most important draft animals in the Vietnamese economy, since there are few tractors. *Cattle* and *pork hides* are used—along with those of lizards and crocodiles—as raw materials for an extensive handicraft industry producing shoes, handbags, and other leather articles.

Fish is a major item of the Vietnamese diet and is very abundant in South Viet-Nam's rivers and canals and along the sea coast. Thus, fishing and the processing of fish in various forms, either dried or in the form of a high vitamin content fish sauce known as *nuoc mam*, are an important branch of the Vietnamese economy. Thanks to American economic aid, the Vietnamese fishing



Photograph by Dixie REESE

These traditional fish nets are a familiar Vietnamese scene. Fish are a major source of protein in the Vietnamese diet and fish production is being expanded significantly.



Viet-Nam's timber production—large as it now is—is greatly limited by the ancient methods still used to fell and transport the huge logs. Elephants remain an important source of power in timber production.

LIVESTOCK IN VIET-NAM PREWAR FIGURES

	Buffaloes	Oxen	Swine
North Viet-Nam	650,000	200,000	1,500,000
Central Viet-Nam	400,000	500,000	950,000
South Viet-Nam	300,000	150,000	700,000

industry is being rapidly modernized. Modern Japanese-built fishing boats are being delivered to Viet-Nam under the American aid program.

Forestry is another major item of Viet-Nam's agricultural economy. Nearly one-half of Viet-Nam is covered by forests, much of it excellent lumber. About 800,000 cubic yards of lumber are felled every year, most of it in South and Central Viet-Nam. Resins, pine oil, turpentine and pitch are produced locally. Small quantities of lac and turpentine are exported, and Vietnamese lacquerware enjoys a worldwide reputation.

NASCENT INDUSTRY

Encouraged by the industrial investment programs of the Government of President Ngo dinh Diem, more and more Vietnamese firms have entered the field of industrial production. For

example, a plant to assemble Swiss watches in Viet-Nam will soon open its doors in Saigon. Negotiations are under way to open an automobile assembly plant of the "Renault" factory in South Viet-Nam, which, staffed entirely by Vietnamese personnel, is expected to produce 5,000 vehicles in 1957-58, and to increase its capacity in later years. A new assembly plant of "Lambretta" will produce at the end of September 1956 some 1000 motorized bicycles, scooters and commercial tricycles every three months.

In Saigon are factories producing automobile tires, bicycle tires and inner tubes, as well as an important chemical industry which already satisfies Viet-Nam's basic needs for such products as acetylene, carbon dioxide, oxygen and carbonated water.

In addition, phosphatic fertilizers, vegetable oils, paints and varnishes are produced in small quantities in the Saigon-Cholon indus-

Photograph by Dixie REESE





Contrasting the ancient with the modern are these vessels in Saigon harbor. About ninety five percent of all Vietnamese foreign trade is carried over water.

Photograph by Dixie REES

trial area. Alcohol distilling from rice had a 1955 production of about 10 million gallons. All of Viet-Nam's beer and soft drinks are produced locally, with a total production of 17 million gallons of beer and 7 million gallons of carbonated drinks annually. Saigon has a soft-drink plant equipped completely with modern automatic bottling machinery.

Most of the larger textile spinning plants were located in the North. However, the majority of the skilled workers fled to South Viet-Nam in 1954, and there are many skilled artisans in South Viet-Nam producing much-prized rugs, prints and hand-woven and hand-dyed silks. Three sugar refineries of South Viet-Nam make white and brown sugar and molasses, as well as rum and molasses alcohol.

Active trade within the country and with the outside world would be impossible without adequate communication and transportation facilities. Saigon, the capital, is at the same time the largest seaport of the country, handling more than 1,500,000 tons of cargo a year and capable of accommodating large ocean-going ships in a port that is completely sheltered from heavy seas. The importance of shipping can best be gauged by the fact that 95 percent of all goods and tonnage imported or exported by Viet-Nam are carried in ships.

While Saigon is by far the most active Vietnamese port, Nha Trang and Qui Nhon have a certain regional importance. Da Nang (Tourane), primarily a military port, is now being expanded to receive an increasing amount of commercial traffic. Camranh can be used as a deep water port of great strategic importance.

Viet-Nam's railroad system has suffered severely from the war, but it is being restored rapidly to normal use. At present it already is possible once more to travel by train from Saigon to Da Nang and other major centers. Rolling stock also has been renewed and improved by imports.

There are more than 8,000 miles of motor roads in southern Viet-Nam, connecting all major cities and villages with the capital. Daily bus lines operate throughout the country and larger cities

have their own municipal bus systems.

However, it is in the field of air communications that the Republic of Viet-Nam has made its most spectacular progress. "Air Viet-Nam," the Vietnamese national airline, now services 11 Vietnamese cities, in addition to regular flights to Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Hong Kong and Paris. More than ten international airlines call at Saigon's modern airport of Tan Son Nhut, where a new 7,500 foot runway was inaugurated on May 30, 1956.

Viet-Nam carries on an active trade with many countries of the Free World, including the United States, Great Britain, France and Japan, exporting rubber, agricultural and handicraft products and importing machinery and manufactured products.

The Vietnamese currency, commonly referred to as the "piaster," is worth 1/35 U.S. dollar. It is backed by the foreign exchange resources of the National Bank of Viet-Nam which, under the policy of national independence of President Ngo dinh Diem, achieved full control of Viet-Nam's currency on January 1, 1955. A decree by President Ngo dinh Diem created an official market for foreign exchange in Saigon as of January 1, 1956.

Summary

In short, South Viet Nam is a fertile agricultural country which can easily be helped to recovery, strength and self-sufficiency.

Its economy has been shattered by twelve years of foreign military occupation, war and insecurity, but it has everything needed to solve all its economic problems.

As an agricultural country, it has always produced more food than its population can consume and is much more favored by nature than North Viet-Nam, Japan, China or India. It has easily absorbed about 860,000 refugees from the North and could receive two million more if the communists had not closed the borders. Large fertile lands are still available in the high plateaux, in the Jones Plain, and even in the Mekong delta.

South Viet-Nam has as yet very few industries



The bulk of Vietnamese manufacturing is done by hand, as illustrated by this Vietnamese pottery maker. The lacquerware and pottery of Viet-Nam are world renowned.

because it was exploited until 1954 exclusively as a colony and as a provider of raw materials; but it can easily be helped to produce at a rapid rate enough manufactured goods for its population because it has skilled and industrious labor, natural resources and untapped water power.

Its commercial deficit amounted to 195 million dollars in 1955. This excess of imports over exports arises from the counter-inflationary imports necessitated by the influx of American military aid worth about two hundred million dollars a year. Therefore, Free Viet-Nam could easily become self-sufficient and do away almost overnight with both foreign aid and commercial defi-

cit merely by sending part of its soldiers back to their homes and by accepting "peaceful coexistence" and "patriotic unity" with the communists who are ruling North Viet-Nam.

This explains why "peaceful coexistence" is so appealing to some countries that are not directly threatened by the Communists and have not yet lived under their rule. But the Vietnamese have!

This also demonstrates that foreign aid is not a gift, but a necessary common burden for a common cause, a burden that is sometimes heavier to those who receive than to those who give.



Viet-Nam as a Tourist Center

To the student of human behavior, the variety of tribal civilizations in Viet-Nam, some of which have barely been studied and many of which have kept their old traditions intact, provide a rich field of study and research.

Viet-Nam is one of the countries which is most likely to appeal to the tourist who seeks relaxation and quiet comfort in an exotic atmosphere. The Vietnamese landscape, with its rich plains, its jungle covered mountains, the beaches of Nha Trang and the Cap Saint Jacques, is certain to have some appeal for everyone. There is plenty of good tiger and elephant hunting on the southern mountain plateaux, and the admirer of the arts will find Viet-Nam's historical treasures an unending source of interest.

There are good hotels in most major cities of Viet-Nam, but particularly at Saigon, Dalat (the Mountain resort), Cap Saint Jacques and Nha Trang, and communications are good throughout the country. American cars can be rented, and there are good air connections, via "Air Viet-Nam" and foreign airlines, to all points of the globe. All major cities of Viet-Nam are also connected with Saigon by a railroad and good motor roads.



Photograph by Peter WHITE

Cam-Ly falls in Dalat, one of Viet-Nam's finest tourist centers. Dalat's mild climate and high altitude make it one of the country's favorite vacation spots. Surrounding Dalat is a large hunting region, with tiger and wild buffalo the favorite game.

The Outlook for Viet-Nam



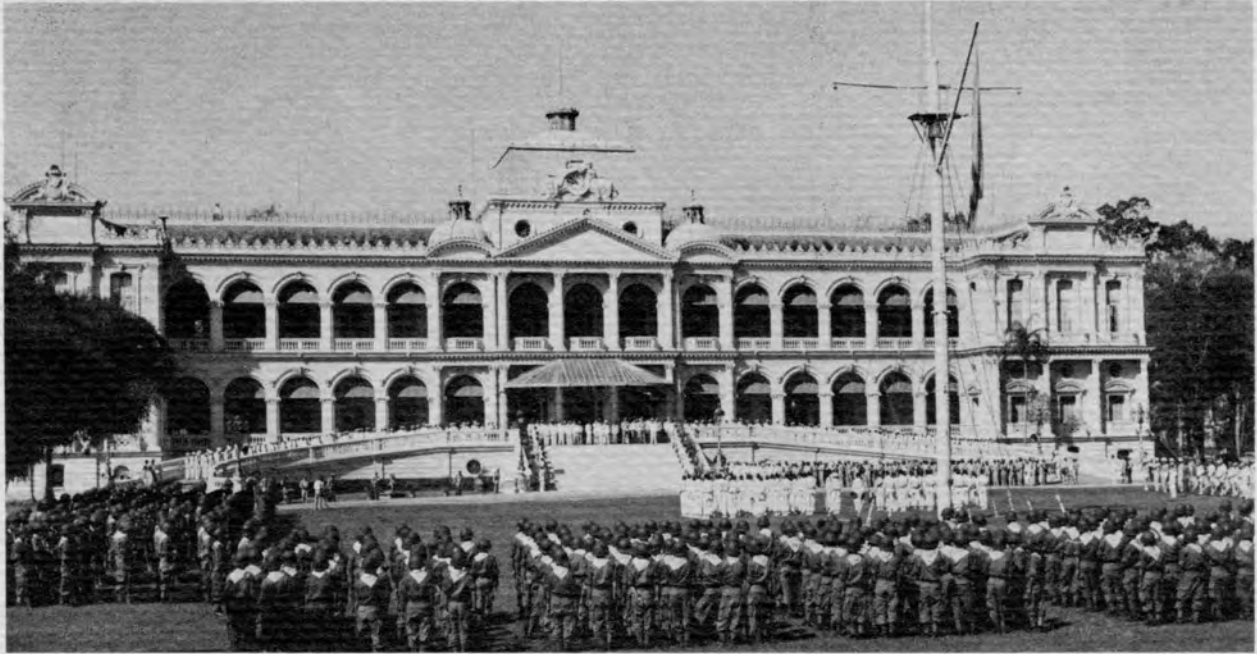
After nearly ten years of struggle against Communism and colonialism, in which wide stretches of the country were ravaged and nearly a million Vietnamese killed, Viet-Nam is now an independent Republic with a President and an Assembly elected by the people. It is a free country, recognized by forty-seven nations of the Free World and a member of most United Nations Specialized Agencies, including: the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East; the International Civil Aviation Organization; the United Nations International Children's Fund; the World Health Organization; the Food and Agriculture Organization; the International Labor Organization; the International Trade Organization; and the Universal Postal Union. Its admission to the United Nations itself was blocked by the Soviet Union. Viet-Nam is also a member of the Colombo Plan and participated in the Conference of Afro-Asian Nations at Bandung.

Having successfully weathered the social and political upheavals of the past years, Viet-Nam's economy is now consolidating internally and expanding its relations with the markets of the Free World. The Vietnamese currency, now entirely in the hands of the Vietnamese Government, is internationally recognized and accepted.

Thanks to the social and administrative reforms achieved under the leadership of President Ngo dinh Diem, order has returned and Viet-Nam now strides rapidly forward along the way of progress and democracy.



Designed by Pictograph Corporation



Before the Palace of Independence—once the symbol of French rule in Saigon but today Viet-Nam's "White House"—Vietnamese Marines and members of the civilian guard participate in a ceremony.