

VIETNAM

Magazine

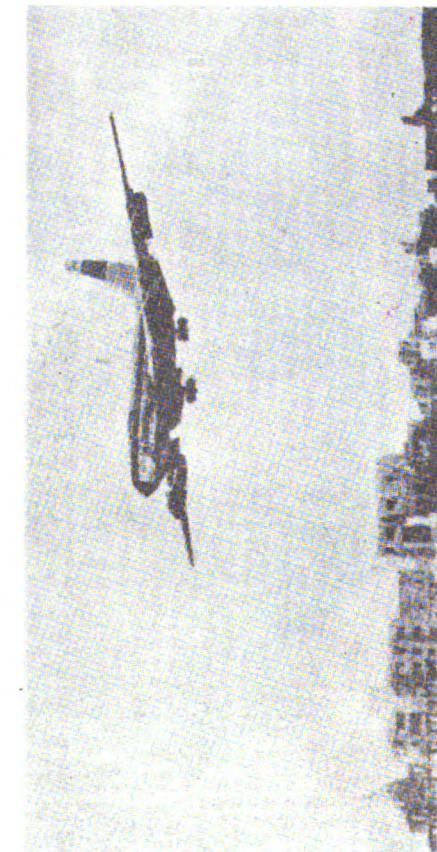
Published by The Vietnam Council on Foreign Relations
Vol. IV. No. 9, 1971



Indiana University
Library
FEB 27 1973

We fly the world in Boeings, with stewardesses of 13 different nations serving delicacies from everywhere.

So what makes us 'the German Airline'?



Every 2 minutes a Lufthansa plane takes off or lands, somewhere in 53 countries. Our planes fly over 1,230,000 miles every week. That means experience to an airline, for our captains, crews, engineers. For our entire 18,019 employees all over the world. In Hong Kong as well as in Lima, in Singapore, New York, Athens, Nairobi, Sydney and elsewhere. Punctuality is measured by minutes, technical reliability by millimeters. And the quality of service by a frown. Going into every single detail, we even check the checkers.

Is it then surprising that 4,300,000 passengers flew the German Airline in 1967? They knew the difference. Experience, reliability, intercontinental network, world-wide care and superb service

ASK YOUR TRAVEL AGENT FOR FULL DETAILS OF LUFTHANSA FLIGHTS.



Lufthansa
The German Airline

FROM OUR READERS

I am a French student and I have always been interested in your civilization, your people and your country. Your Consulate General in Paris has advised me to read *Vietnam Magazine* to better know Vietnam.

A French student feels so lonely when he loves your people as I do, for most of those who affirm their admiration for the Vietnamese people who resist so valiantly against Communist aggression are sometimes treated as "fascist," even as "nazi."

I am sad to see only very few names in your column "From Our Readers." I would like to subscribe to *Vietnam Magazine* (French edition) and would be obliged to you to let me know the subscription rates.

I hope that you will also inform me of the other French publications of the Vietnam Council on Foreign Relations.

We wish to participate in your struggle when we see many Communist students brandish the NLF flags and insignias. Is it possible to obtain South Vietnam flags and insignias?

LUC A. BATIGNE
4 Rue de Montsaulnière
72 Le Mans, France

Being safe back home in Sweden, I would like to express my deepest gratitude for the extraordinary hospitality and kindness extended me by your organization during my stay in the Republic of Vietnam.

All four members of our group were very happy for the opportunity given us to study one of the world's problems on the spot and they were very interesting weeks, the time during we toured your beautiful country. I have no complaints whatsoever and certainly would have been pleased to stay longer as we were taken care of so well. I hope that I will have the opportunity to return to Vietnam in peace some day.

As a result of our visit to Southeast Asia, all four of us have been engaged in debates and lectures and leading study groups on the Vietnam problem. It has been very stimulating to be able to use our new first-hand knowledge in these ways. Even though we are no experts and can offer no solutions to the problems, I think we understand a little more of the reasons behind them than we did before and that is what I try to discuss with people when I am out on a lecture.

Thanks once again for all my new experience and give my best regards and appreciation to all my friends among your staff.

JOHAN BENGT PAHLSSON
S Promenaden 59
211, 38 Malmo, Sweden

VIETNAM *Magazine*

Board of Directors of THE VIETNAM COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Editorial Address:

P. O. Box 932
SAIGON, VIETNAM

Officers

Tran Van Lam, *President*
Nguyen Duy Tai, *Vice President*
Nguyen Ngoc Linh, *Secretary General*
Vuong Van Bac, *Assistant Secretary General*
Mrs. Tang Thi Thanh Trai, *Treasurer*

Directors

Lai Bao
Wang Tsio Yong
Ngo Khac Tinh
Pham Quy
Dao Trinh Binh
Gobind Daswani
Mrs. Huynh Ngoc Anh

Editor-in-Chief
Nguyen Ngoc Linh

CONTENTS

Vol. IV, No. 9, 1971

FROM OUR READERS	1
FROM OUR PRESIDENT	2
HONOR ROLL	3
PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAM	4
NEW VISTAS FOR LABOR	12
THE SONG OF NGUYEN ANH 9	16
MEMORIES OF OLD VIETNAM	18
WOMEN OF VIETNAM	23
CRADLE-SNATCHING	24
HELPING ORPHANS	25
SAIGON BELTWAY	26

Cover: Nguyen Thi Kim Anh, 24, finished her high school education in a Catholic institution in Dalat and now works in a business firm in Saigon. She goes for tennis and swimming and hopes to travel abroad someday.

I have read with great interest **Vietnam Magazine** and several publications of your Council for I am impressed with the heroic struggle of the small but valiant Republic of Vietnam against Communism.

I have become a member of the "France-Vietnam" Association after the publication of an article in **Le Monde** deploring a deterioration in the relations between Paris and Saigon and giving me the address of that association.

Is it possible for me to receive **Vietnam Magazine** every month. It gives sound and objective information, free of corruption and Communist propaganda. If a subscription is necessary, please let me know. I would also like to receive previous issues of **Vietnam Magazine**, **Courrier du Vietnam**, and other publications of your Council. Besides French, I understand English and Spanish. I only have a list of your selected publications on the cover of your pamphlet "L'Indochine à l'Ordre du Jour" (Ref. No. 7014F) and I would like a complete list of your publications to make an order.

Please also send me a detailed map of the Indochina peninsula, the address of a 17 year-old Vietnamese pen friend, and those of the SEATO, ECAFE, and organizations like yours in Thailand, Laos and Cambodia, if any.

May I also ask you to send me the emblem of your Council, three small South Vietnamese flags and advise me how to procure posters on President Thieu, Vice President Ky, General Lam, and other famous Vietnamese personalities? May I send financial help to South Vietnam for its development and defense program?

LOUCHEZ ERIC
112 Bd. du Prince Albert
Boulogne sur mer
62 France

I have completed my journey around the world and I am back home, haunted by questions about a nation's struggle to live the way it wants to live. Vietnam was for me, an unforgettable experience.

I came to Saigon with no clear picture of what Vietnam was or what the whole issue was about; or rather I had now and again gleaned facts from some international magazines, but then, for me, no clear picture still had emerged.

Your Council gave me the chance to see things for myself. First let me say that the Council, and I'm not saying this in flattery, is a superb example of what broad-minded and far-sighted people should do to promote international understanding. My impression is that you are doing a marvelous job. There is no attempt on your part to "propagandize"; you state the facts as they are through your publication, through your activities.

I came for a general background picture and was able to get a cross-section of views on many issues. The Pacification, "Open Arms" program is impressive in its scope, and a necessary adjunct to eventual political settlement.

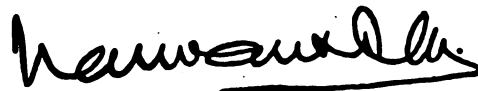
I left your country with a clearer idea of the struggle. As the Foreign Minister said, the situation

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Would you be willing to be a Patron? Your support will assist the Vietnam Council on Foreign Relations in attaining its various objectives, including the publication of **Vietnam Magazine**.

If you decide to participate as a Grand Patron or an Honor Patron you will receive a special scroll, as well as be included in our Honor Roll. To be an Honor Patron a minimum payment of US\$850.00 (or equivalent) required; to be a Grand Patron a minimum payment of US\$425.00 (or equivalent) is required.

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



President
TRAN VAN LAM

is much misunderstood by the outside world. The war is more than a domestic problem. It is a clash of principles on how people should live and govern themselves; these are international principles.

RALPH OPARA
Nigeria Broadcasting Corp.
(Television)
Victoria Island
Lagos, Nigeria

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

I want to express the value of **Vietnam Magazine** to me and all my high school students for information about the varied conditions in your country.

Your article "Women Vietnamese Doctors" is really marvelous as is "Secondary Education in Vietnam." Truly all the articles have great value.

SADAY DE GUELL
Costa Rican Social
Security Office
San Jose, Costa Rica



HONOR PATRONS

THE COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL BANK OF VIETNAM

TRANS WORLD AIRLINES

CONTINENTAL AIRLINES

LUFTHANSA GERMAN AIRLINES

NGUYEN NGOC LINH ENGLISH SCHOOL

CIVIL AIR TRANSPORT

SAIGON PRINTING COMPANY

MEKONG INSURANCE AND REINSURANCE Co.

NORTHWEST ORIENT AIRLINES

FAR EAST ENTERPRISES

ANONYMOUS

(Indian Businessman residing in Vietnam)

ASIAN AMERICAN TRANSPORTATION, S.A.R.L.

FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

VIETNAM TOURIST BUREAU

COGEMA



GRAND PATRONS

PAN AMERICAN WORLD AIRWAYS

CONTINENTAL HOTEL

KIM LAI PRINTING COMPANY

NGUYEN HOANG COMPANY

TOAN PHAT COMPANY

THANH HIEP COMPANY

COGIVINA



A pharmacist-medical technician in a rural maternity clinic and dispensary near Saigon assures a proud young mother that her baby is a fine specimen.

of Defense, military and civilian health facilities are being used jointly. By the end of 1970 the program had been extended to 26 provincial hospitals and 192 district health services. The number of Vietnamese physicians staffing the 26 participating hospitals increased from 40 in 1969 to 137 in 1970. A total of 3,700 medical personnel from the Ministry of Defense were assigned to provincial hospitals and district health services, almost doubling the number of medical personnel available for civilian care.

In 1971 the benefits of joint utilization are being extended to the provinces not originally participating. Vietnamese military facilities in these areas now are treating civilian patients as required.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Health explained the advantages of the joint utilization program this way: "Of the estimated 1,600 physicians in Vietnam, more than 1,000 are in the military. We had the facilities; the military had most of the doctors. Under the joint utilization program, military patients are treated in MOH hospitals where military facilities are not available. But civilian patients are the greatest beneficiaries. By so greatly increasing the number of medical personnel available in

Public Health Program

Medical care in South Vietnam has improved so much in the past decade that the Ministry of Health this year has been able to give more attention to preventive medicine and other aspects of public health. Although the grave medical problems of Vietnam are far from solved, the upgrading of facilities and the increase in professional personnel have contributed greatly to improved medical care for the growing population.

With increased security throughout the nation in 1970 the medical care program was able to reach a greater number of patients than

ever before. Admissions to all Ministry of Health (MOH) hospitals increased from 526,000 in 1969 to more than 570,000 in 1970. At the same time, civilian war-related casualty admissions dropped as a direct result of the increased security from an average of 4,935 a month in 1969 to 4,132 in 1970.

The most significant factor in easing the critical shortage of medical personnel available to treat Vietnam's civilian population is the "joint utilization program" begun in July 1969. Under this program, coordinated by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry

the understaffed provincial hospitals, the care of civilian patients has improved immeasurably."

The program was carried out in two phases. During the first phase, completed in December 1969, the staffs of 13 provincial hospitals that had adequate facilities were integrated with military medical personnel. During the second phase, completed in June 1970, ward construction added more than 1,000 beds to 13 more provincial hospitals and the joint utilization program was extended to them. In the future, even more personnel from the Ministry of Defense will

Medical care for people takes big strides

be assigned to civilian medical facilities at province and district levels. Over the next four years, 200 additional military physicians will be transferred to the MOH.

An unanticipated side benefit of the joint utilization program was revealed in a report released in February 1971: the number of cases requiring medical evacuation from one province to another for adequate medical care was cut nearly 45 per cent. In 1969, 970 patients were "medevac-ed" — evacuated by helicopter for medical reasons. The total for 1970 fell to 550. There are two advantages resulting from this reduction. As U.S. troops continue to withdraw from Vietnam, the number of helicopters available for medevac missions is decreasing. And by keeping the patients in their native provinces, the workload on the hospital staffs is reduced. In Vietnam a patient is traditionally cared for by a member of the family who stays with the patient in the hospital. In cases where the patients are in distant hospitals, the short-handed staffs must take over the family role.

U.S. Hospitals

Medical care for the civilian population has also improved with the development of a referral system for the admittance of civilian war-wounded patients to U.S. military hospitals in Vietnam. Because the U.S. hospitals are well-equipped and staffed, they have been able to provide sophisticated surgical care for the seriously wounded that might otherwise not have been available. At U.S. military hospitals throughout Vietnam, 1,100 beds are authorized for use of Vietnamese civilians, primarily those with war-related injuries.

The Saigon government has requested that some U.S. medical facilities be turned over to the MOH when they are no longer needed by the U.S. military. So far such excess facilities have been turned over to the ARVN (Army of the Republic of Vietnam) to meet military requirements. There



At Cho Ray Hospital in Saigon young nurses take part in graduation rites.

are efforts being made to transfer some of the hospitals to the MOH in the future. The Agency for International Development (U. S. AID) is helping with the negotiations. "Great care must be taken to insure that any property thus acquired by the MOH can indeed be utilized. For instance, U.S. military facilities are often located far from the larger urban centers where a majority of the population needing health services lives. In addition, the structures are not normally of a permanent type. Because of their construction and their location, they usually require air-conditioning and often their own electric power system, greatly increasing the cost of their operation."

By Western standards, most Vietnamese hospitals would be rated from poor to fair from a functional and physical standpoint. The MOH does not have the resources now to change this greatly, but long-range improvement programs have been started.

With the aid of the United States and other free world countries, new hospitals have been built and existing facilities have been expanded.

Under the "impact hospital" project, eight hospitals have been constructed in outlying regions that previously had inadequate hospitals or none at all. The latest such hospital, completed in November 1970, is situated in Gia Nghia in the remote Central Highlands province of Quang Duc. Gia Nghia's old hospital was destroyed by Viet Cong guerrillas in January 1969. Since that time the staff had been operating from temporary quarters, first in tents, later in makeshift wooden buildings. Patients requiring major treatment had to be evacuated by air to Ban Me Thuot, 100 kilometers to the north. This is no longer necessary because complete facilities are now available at the new hospital.

The other new provincial hospitals already completed are located in the provinces of Lam Dong.

Phu Bon, Binh Tuy, Chau Doc, Binh Dinh, Chuong Thien and Kien Phong. The eight hospitals range in capacity from 80 to 140 beds, with an average of 100 beds. All are single-story, cement-block buildings on concrete foundations with composition tile roofs, connected to subsidiary structures by covered breezeways. The simple design of the hospitals will facilitate later expansion if necessary. Only one of Vietnam's 44 provinces, Hau Nghia, now lacks a major hospital and Hau Nghia has several large dispensaries and easy access to Saigon's metropolitan hospitals 40 kilometers from the province capital.

Almost all of the districts and many of the villages in Vietnam now have medical dispensaries and maternity clinics. They provide a minimum of medical care; serious cases are sent to the provincial hospitals. With an allocation of 57,060,000 piasters¹ in 1970, an additional 23 district maternity centers and 43 village maternity centers throughout the country have been completed or are under construction.

Training Physicians

In the overall program to improve medical care, upgrading facilities is only one phase. The most pressing problem faced in providing medical care to the civilian population is the shortage of adequate manpower. The joint utilization program helped to alleviate this, but it is a problem far from being solved. According to an MOH spokesman, Vietnam has one physician for every 10,000 people. The goal over the next 10 years is to provide one for every 5,000 people. (In comparison, the ratio in the United States is one to 800.) Vietnam is still ranked among the lowest of the developing countries in the number of trained medical personnel relative to the total population, but the future looks promising.

The University of Saigon Faculty of Medicine is by international standards a very large medical school, enrolling 1,400 students. Its graduating class (226 in 1970) is one of the largest in the world.

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



Civilian patient wounded in Viet Cong attack on village arrives at Da Nang Medical Center by helicopter for treatment by military, civilian experts.

Hue University meanwhile has been graduating 25 to 30 new physicians annually for the past two years. The graduation of more than 250 physicians annually from these two medical schools is resulting in a 12.5 per cent increase in Vietnam's physician strength each year. Graduates of Saigon University's Faculty of Dentistry are also increasing: from three in 1960 to 37 in 1970. In both dental and medical education, particular emphasis is being placed on upgrading the quality of teaching and patient care and the development of a modern curriculum. The in-country training programs have reduced the time and funds necessary for overseas study.

Since 1966 consultants from 14 leading American universities, under a program coordinated by the American Medical and American Dental Associations, have been providing technical advice to the Faculties of Medicine and Dentistry at Saigon University. During 1970, 29 American professional and 12 technical personnel provided assistance in the basic and clinical sciences at the Faculty of Medicine. Five Vietnamese faculty members visited the American medical schools with which they have counterpart relationships to observe U.S. teaching methods. American military doctors and other medical personnel also help augment the staff of more than

Medical schools producing more graduates

200 by teaching classes at the Faculty of Medicine on a voluntary basis.

Other improvements are strengthening the quality of medical and dental education. The medical science library has been expanded considerably over the last two years. At the beginning of 1968 the library contained approximately 4,000 French volumes and 1,500 English volumes. By the end of 1970 the library had 7,302 English volumes, 4,547 French volumes and 32 Vietnamese volumes. A bookstore has been established that during the 1969-70 school year sold 6,350 books to medical students and 1,786 to dental students.

There has been a steady increase in the number of medical personnel in other fields. Eleven schools of nursing have been opened, nine of them with U.S. AID assistance, and in 1970 they graduated a total of 598 nurse technicians and assistant nurses. (The nurse technician course is three years; the nurse assistant course is one year.) A significant improvement in patient care at MOH hospitals began with implementation of 24-hour wakeful nursing care instead of only guard-duty nursing at night. Nurses are also being released from other than patient care responsibilities such as laboratory technology and pharmacy duties. Assistant technicians, graduates of a one-year course, are taking over many of these assignments. Although nursing care is still below Western standards, the groundwork has been laid for continued improvement.

In 1970 there were 542 graduates of the University of Saigon Faculty of Pharmacy, an increase of 235 over the 1969 total. This would be more than an adequate number to staff all hospital pharmacy services. However, many graduates were drafted, and others chose the more lucrative fields of retail sale, manufacturing and import of pharmaceuticals. Efforts are underway to upgrade the civil service status of pharmacists so positions with hospital pharmacy services will be more attractive.

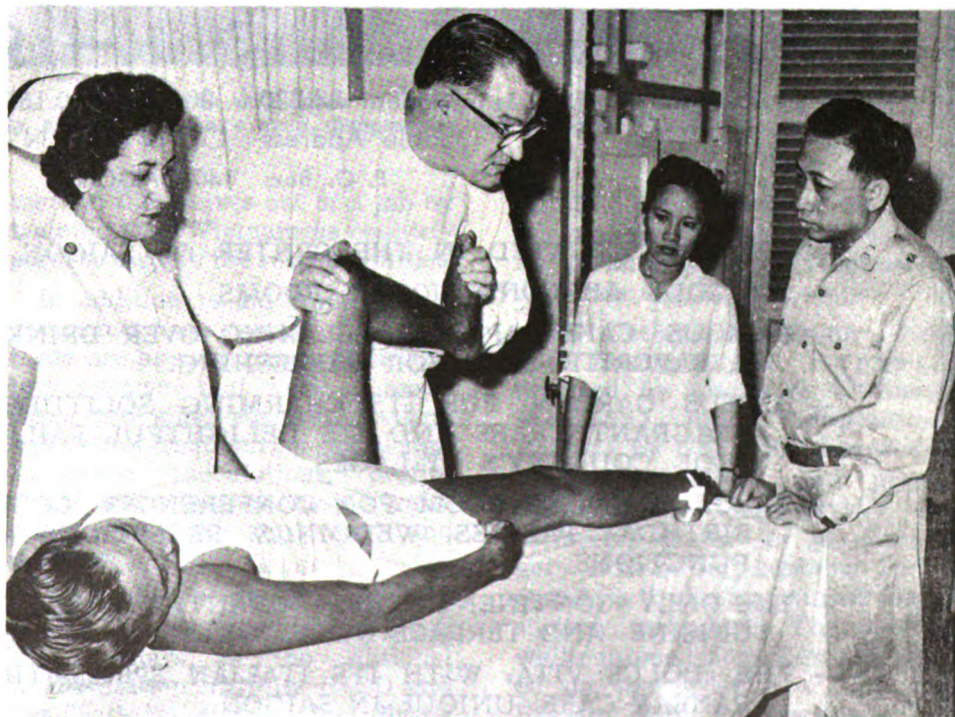
Foreign Medicos

As a result of the increased capabilities of the Vietnamese in the field of medical care, it has been possible to reduce the number of foreign medical personnel. Those who remain in Vietnam still provide invaluable medical and humanitarian aid, but in many cases they are taking more of an advisory role except in specialties such as surgery, where the need cannot be filled from available manpower sources. Many countries have contributed not only personnel but materials and financial aid for hospital construction and improvement. This aid has come from Canada, Germany, China, Japan, Korea, Australia, France, England, New Zealand, the United States and other free world countries.

An American health adviser recently summed up the changes in the medical assistance program this way: "The early employment of AID personnel was in an advisory role. With the rapid buildup of U.S. forces and the intensifica-

tion of hostile activity, it was realized that the emphasis must change from a purely advisory role to an operational one. Depleted GVN government of Vietnam) medical capabilities required direct assistance in caring for the large number of civilian war casualties and refugees generated by increased hostilities. Consequently, wholly or in part under AID sponsorship, free world countries were invited to send in medical teams to care for civilians in provincial hospitals. Similarly, the U.S. Department of Defense assigned MILPHAP teams to U.S. AID to be located at provincial hospital to treat civilians. With the successful implementation of the joint utilization program, however, and the gradual lessening of hostilities, the need for operational involvement is decreasing."

It was possible in the 18 months prior to December 1970 to reduce U.S. Military Provincial Health Assistance Program (MILPHAP) teams from 359 to 175, a 48-per cent reduction. The remaining teams are tailored to meet the



At National Rehabilitation Institute in Saigon, a foreign consultant tells Vietnamese colleagues this young patient will regain use of paralyzed leg.

needs of the particular hospitals to which they are assigned. During the same 18-month period, the number of personnel in the Korean and Republic of China medical teams was reduced from 137 to 116.

One of the many U.S. medical assistance programs is the American Medical Association-coordinated Volunteer Physicians for Vietnam, which began in July 1966. Since that time, according to Dr. John Erben, the program's Saigon director, "the equivalent of 750 man-years have been put into the program, with approximately 800 volunteers working from one end of Vietnam to the other in the last six years." Each of these volunteer physicians, specialists from many fields, spends a minimum of two months in Vietnam, almost all of them working at provincial hospitals.

More than 50 of the physicians have returned for second or even third tours. Some have been so influenced by their experience that they have returned permanently with other agencies. But a few, working under less than desirable conditions, have indicated no de-

sire to return even if they could afford to leave their private practices again. One of the more disillusioned doctors commented that he felt his work accomplished no more than "putting a finger in the dike." But Dr. Charles Bowers, who returned for three tours as a volunteer surgeon, has seen much improvement. After completing his last tour in Can Tho in July 1970, he said, "The staff surgeons there are assuming more of a teaching role now and are much more obviously aware of their responsibilities to the externes (fifth- and sixth-year medical students). Great improvement in their surgical techniques as well as in their pre- and post-operative care is evident over the past several years. In some areas, these improvements are striking."

Medical Teams

In addition to the Chinese and Korean medical teams under direct U.S. AID support, according to Dr. Nguyen Kien Ngoc, the chief of planning for foreign aid at the Ministry of Health, the following countries currently maintain me-

dical teams at hospitals in Vietnam :

* Australia has sponsored a surgical team in Bien Hoa since January 1966. Teams in Long Xuyen and Vung Tau have now been phased out. The Australian government has agreed to rebuild the Bien Hoa provincial hospital at a cost of US\$1 million. Construction of the first phase, including a maternity building, is now getting underway ;

* Germany has operated the 3,000-ton, 150-bed hospital ship **Helgoland** in Vietnamese waters since September 1966, first docked in Saigon and now in Da Nang. Construction will be finished soon on a 170-bed hospital in Da Nang to replace the ship before it returns to Germany ;

* Iran, under the sponsorship of the Red Lion and Sun Society, has had a medical team in Vietnam since January 1966. The nine-man team is now working in Vung Tau ;

* Japan has a team at the neurological surgical ward, which was built by the Japanese government, at Cho Ray Hospital in Saigon.

CONTINENTAL PALACE HOTEL

132, Tu-Do Street — Saigon

Phone: 22.520 - 90.155 - 90.157

Cable Address: CONTINENT

P. O. Box: 140 SAIGON

- IDEALLY SITUATED IN THE CENTER OF SAIGON.
- SPACIOUS AIR-CONDITIONED ROOMS.
- FAMOUS «CAFE BAR» FOR RELAXING OVER DRINKS IN THE EVENING AND A FAVORITE SPOT FOR REFRESHING.
- «LOTUS GARDEN» FOR ITS CHARMING SOLITUDE IN THE SHADOWS OF FRAGRANT TREES AND ITS DELIGHTFUL PAILLOTE, REMINDER OF THE «MOI» COUNTRY'S VILLAGES.
- LARGE BANQUET ROOM FOR CONFERENCES, COCKTAILS, ANNIVERSARIES, BIRTHDAY PARTIES, WEDDINGS, RECEPTIONS AND OTHER IMPORTANT FUNCTIONS.
- THE ONLY «CONTINENTAL RESTAURANT» WITH CLASSICAL REFINED «FRENCH CUISINE» AND TERRACE OVERLOOKING TU DO STREET.
- THE «DOLCE VITA» WITH ITS ITALIAN SPECIALTIES SERVED IN MEDITERRANEAN CAFE, UNIQUE IN SAIGON.



In a rural dispensary south of Saigon, a village nurse puts drops in the eyes of an aged farmer suffering from "pink-eye." All districts and nearly all villages have such dispensaries. RVN has 43 provincial hospitals.

There is also a team at Saigon Hospital;

- * New Zealand sponsors medical teams in Binh Dinh and Qui Nhon. The team in Binh Dinh will leave this year;

- * Philippine Military Assistance Teams, averaging 20 medical personnel each, are working in Tay Ninh, Hau Nghia, My Tho and Binh Duong;

- * Spain has had a military assistance team in Go Cong for four years.

Other teams, such as the former Swiss team at the pediatric ward in the Da Nang provincial hospital and the former British team at Children's Hospital in Saigon,

worked themselves out of a job by training their Vietnamese counterparts to assume the responsibilities.

In addition to aid from foreign government-sponsored teams, there are approximately 35 voluntary agencies that work in medicine,³ providing surgical, medical and dental treatment, hospital staff assistance, inoculations, professional counseling, on-the-job training or medical equipment and supplies.

In the field of physical rehabilitation, Vietnam's needs are great. Two centers — the National Rehabilitation Institute (NRI) and the National Center for Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery — have made considerable progress,

but the backlog caused by many years of war is so great that it will be at least five years before all demands can be met.

The National Center for Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, financed by grants to Children's Medical Relief International (CMRI) by U.S. AID, the government of Vietnam and private donations, is the world's first children's center for plastic surgery. It is the only center in Southeast Asia to teach advanced plastic surgery techniques. The modern, well-equipped, 50-bed center, located on the grounds of Cho Ray Hospital in Saigon, opened in July 1968. Since that time 2,780 patients, most of them children, have been

treated. Expert care is provided free of charge to any Vietnamese child suffering from crippling disease, war wounds, domestic accidents or birth defects. Plastic surgeons from around the world have volunteered to participate in the program.

Since the center opened an intensive program has been underway to train the Vietnamese professional staff to assume complete responsibility for the unit by June 1972. Four plastic surgeons, a pediatrician and an anesthesiologist are now in training. The nursing staff has already assumed a majority of the responsibility. According to Mrs. Elizabeth Ferrer, CMRI's administrator, there are now nine Western nurses and 26 Vietnamese nurses; one year ago there were 18 Western nurses and 13 Vietnamese. About 90 per cent of the surgery is now being performed by Vietnamese surgeons.

Rehabilitation Institute

The National Rehabilitation Institute, under the Ministry of Veterans Affairs, was designed primarily to serve military veterans, but now from 60 to 70 per cent of those treated are civilians. According to available statistics, there are some 35,000 amputees and 31,000 blind persons in Vietnam, as well as those afflicted by various other physical disabilities. With the assistance of the World Rehabilitation Fund, the NRI has expanded the Saigon center through the establishment of vocational placement and medical rehabilitation facilities and opened regional rehabilitation centers in Da Nang, Can Tho and Qui Nhon. Every year the Saigon institute and its branch centers treat about 15,000 handicapped persons in a rehabilitation effort that begins with therapy, then counseling, extends through job training and frequently results in employment.

NRI's Saigon center has wards for physical therapy where amputees learn how to walk again, classrooms where the blind are "reoriented," vocational training classes that teach patients trades as varied as shoemaking and auto mechanics, and workshops where artificial limbs are made. In 1970 more than 8,000 patients were fitted with prosthetic devices

manufactured by NRI. Since its establishment in 1966, the institute has become the largest producer of artificial limbs in the world, with craftsmen completing about 400 legs, 60 arms and 150 braces each month.

American and Canadian therapists and a Chinese surgical team currently are working at NRI in rehabilitation programs and in a training program for Vietnamese. Under the training program, assisted by the World Rehabilitation Fund, 24 physical therapy aides have completed an eight-month course and are at work in rehabilitation centers, while 17 more Vietnamese are attending a one-year course that will enable them to become licensed physical therapists.

The NRI in Saigon and the CMRI often work together. In one example, last October a 13-year-old boy suffering severe burns and an above-the-knee amputation came to the NRI for the fitting of a prosthesis. Following the fitting and three weeks of training to use his new limb in the physical therapy section, the boy was taken by a social worker to CMRI's surgery unit where he was admitted for plastic reconstructive surgery for his burns. Today the boy is able to lead a normal life.

Public Health

With the medical care and rehabilitation programs well established, the MOH is increasing the emphasis on public health programs. The new National Institute of Public Health in Saigon developed rapidly in its first year of operation, graduating 120 district health workers, 37 hospital medical records clerks and 20 midwifery supervisors during 1970. But the most significant accomplishment was the graduation of 36 public health assistants who will eventually be the primary agents working at the district level tying together the various programs for sanitation, communicable disease control, maternal child health and health education. In 1971, 190 students are scheduled to complete two-month courses and 220 students are enrolled in a one-year course. The institute will eventually train all public health workers in Vietnam.

Since 1966 considerable progress has been made in the control of communicable diseases in Vietnam. There are about 100 diseases in Vietnam that are considered infectious, many of them unknown outside of Southeast Asia. Diseases endemic to Vietnam, such as smallpox, cholera and plague, have been spread because of the war and its large-scale refugee relocations and troop movements, both enemy and friendly. With increased security in the countryside last year, immunization services were able to reach a greater number of rural people. In 1970, 7,200,000 doses of cholera vaccine were administered, plus 4,567,000 doses of plague vaccine and more than 4,000,000 doses of smallpox vaccine. Regular immunization service was made available in each district with the installation last year of refrigerators at district dispensaries, enabling them to keep a supply of vaccine on hand at all times. Although plague continues to be a problem, the national plague control program, started in June 1968 by the MOH, is reducing its incidence in endemic areas.

Major Problem

Tuberculosis is a major problem, and estimates of the percentage of the population afflicted vary widely. Health officials are concerned at the rising mortality rate. Tuberculosis control programs aimed at locating and treating persons afflicted with the disease are being expanded. Major tuberculosis centers are now in operation in Hue, Da Nang, Can Tho and Saigon, with centers planned eventually for each province.

Between 1963 and 1969, only 300,000 children under 12 received anti-TB inoculations. But on April 21, 1971, the lower house in Saigon approved a bill making parents responsible for insuring that their children are vaccinated against tuberculosis, diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough before the age of 12. Penalty fines were authorized by the bill, which said that "recidivists will be sentenced to three days of prison." The MOH must supply vaccine, and schools as well as maternity services will

Sanitary hamlet program produces results

be expected to share responsibility with parents.

A national control program is keeping the malaria rate at as low a level as possible. Potential major epidemics were averted in 1970 by the quick action of field teams when more than 190,000 refugees from Cambodia migrated to Vietnam in May and June. All new refugee housing was sprayed with insecticide and mass blood surveys were initiated to find and treat those infected with the disease.

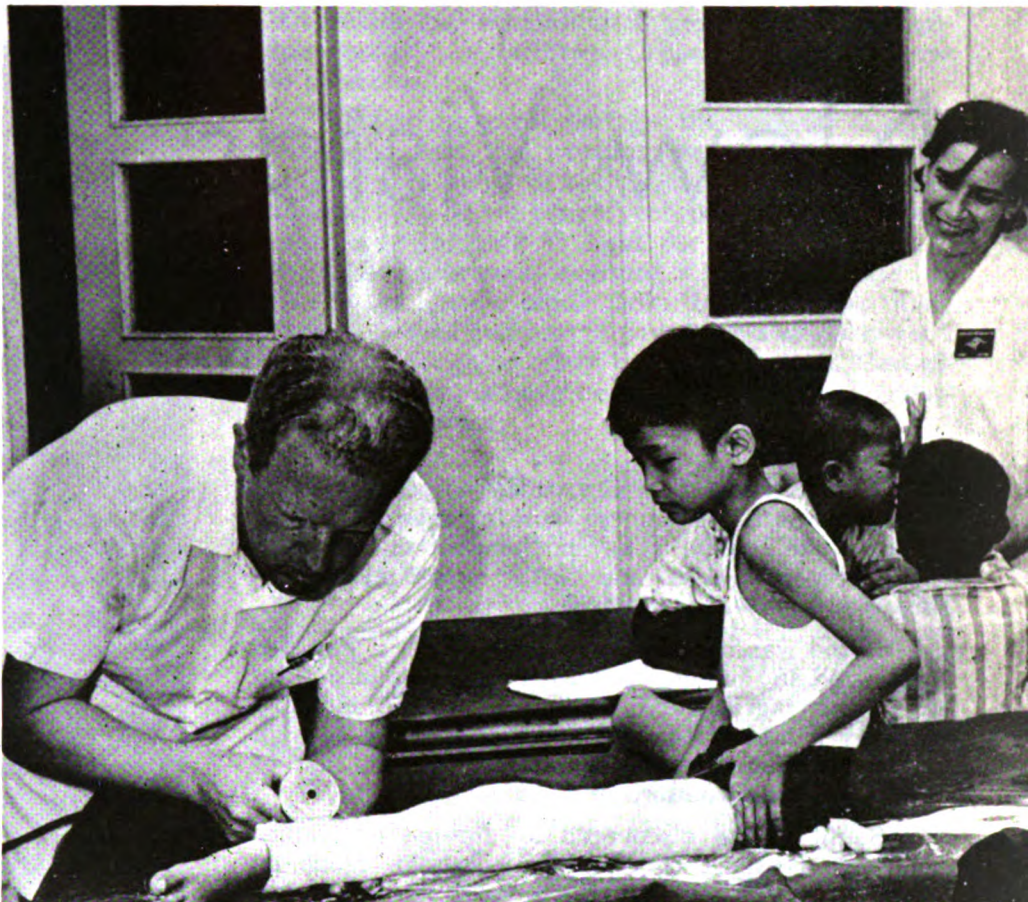
Education Programs

With public health goes public education. For several years campaigns have been underway to encourage people to clean up their hamlets. A U.S. Army physician working with a MILPHAP team in Phan Rang, on the coast of central Vietnam, took part in one project. Later he reported: "Vietnamese and U.S. medics went to a village and initiated a program of improving public health facilities. This included educating the villagers in personal and public sanitation areas such as disposal of trash, human waste and garbage, in addition to starting a program of immunizations. Once the hamlet was brought up to contemporary standards, the public health officers began to invite hamlet chiefs from neighboring villages in to visit. There are now several hamlets which have made drastic improvements and the ideas are spreading to other hamlets. Once something like this starts snowballing, effective public health becomes a reality."

Sanitary Hamlet

Because programs such as this have been so successful, a national Sanitary Hamlet program was started this year. By the end of the year each province is scheduled to have three hamlets participating.

On April 28, 1971, the Minister of Health, Dr. Tran Ninh Tung, cut a ribbon dedicating Binh Long province's model sanitation hamlet. The 525 residents of Thanh



At provincial hospital in An Giang, Australian doctor removes cast from a boy's leg while nurse, also from Melbourne, calms fears of other patients.

Mau hamlet in Tan Lao Phu village had just completed a project in which they worked together to dig four community and 59 private water wells, construct 68 latrines, set up 12 garbage dumps and recondition 33 animal breeding sheds. All villagers were immunized against cholera and smallpox.

Because South Vietnam has an estimated 3.2 per cent of population increase per year, a rate higher than most Southeast Asian countries, the MOH has established 16 family planning centers at government hospitals throughout the country. Rural health workers are introducing the concept of family planning in the hamlets and villages. Although birth control is still illegal under a 1933 law, contraceptive pills are sold in most drugstores. The government's family planning services are available

to married women who have their husbands' consent and four living children each, or, in lieu of these, to women who have a medical referral. Legislation has been introduced to amend the 1933 law because many officials have become aware of the direct relationship between population control and national development.

It will be years before Vietnam's public health care is at the highest level possible, but health officials are confident that progress will continue. As an American adviser who has worked closely with the MOH for several years points out: "That any nation engaged in an armed conflict on its own soil for as many years as South Vietnam can at the same time show improvement in services provided the civilian population is of itself a remarkable achievement."

treated. Expert care is provided free of charge to any Vietnamese child suffering from crippling disease, war wounds, domestic accidents or birth defects. Plastic surgeons from around the world have volunteered to participate in the program.

Since the center opened an intensive program has been underway to train the Vietnamese professional staff to assume complete responsibility for the unit by June 1972. Four plastic surgeons, a pediatrician and an anesthesiologist are now in training. The nursing staff has already assumed a majority of the responsibility. According to Mrs. Elizabeth Ferrer, CMRI's administrator, there are now nine Western nurses and 26 Vietnamese nurses; one year ago there were 18 Western nurses and 13 Vietnamese. About 90 per cent of the surgery is now being performed by Vietnamese surgeons.

Rehabilitation Institute

The National Rehabilitation Institute, under the Ministry of Veterans Affairs, was designed primarily to serve military veterans, but now from 60 to 70 per cent of those treated are civilians. According to available statistics, there are some 35,000 amputees and 31,000 blind persons in Vietnam, as well as those afflicted by various other physical disabilities. With the assistance of the World Rehabilitation Fund, the NRI has expanded the Saigon center through the establishment of vocational placement and medical rehabilitation facilities and opened regional rehabilitation centers in Da Nang, Can Tho and Qui Nhon. Every year the Saigon institute and its branch centers treat about 15,000 handicapped persons in a rehabilitation effort that begins with therapy, then counseling, extends through job training and frequently results in employment.

NRI's Saigon center has wards for physical therapy where amputees learn how to walk again, classrooms where the blind are "reoriented," vocational training classes that teach patients trades as varied as shoemaking and auto mechanics, and workshops where artificial limbs are made. In 1970 more than 8,000 patients were fitted with prosthetic devices

manufactured by NRI. Since its establishment in 1966, the institute has become the largest producer of artificial limbs in the world, with craftsmen completing about 400 legs, 60 arms and 150 braces each month.

American and Canadian therapists and a Chinese surgical team currently are working at NRI in rehabilitation programs and in a training program for Vietnamese. Under the training program, assisted by the World Rehabilitation Fund, 24 physical therapy aides have completed an eight-month course and are at work in rehabilitation centers, while 17 more Vietnamese are attending a one-year course that will enable them to become licensed physical therapists.

The NRI in Saigon and the CMRI often work together. In one example, last October a 13-year-old boy suffering severe burns and an above-the-knee amputation came to the NRI for the fitting of a prosthesis. Following the fitting and three weeks of training to use his new limb in the physical therapy section, the boy was taken by a social worker to CMRI's surgery unit where he was admitted for plastic reconstructive surgery for his burns. Today the boy is able to lead a normal life.

Public Health

With the medical care and rehabilitation programs well established, the MOH is increasing the emphasis on public health programs. The new National Institute of Public Health in Saigon developed rapidly in its first year of operation, graduating 120 district health workers, 37 hospital medical records clerks and 20 midwifery supervisors during 1970. But the most significant accomplishment was the graduation of 36 public health assistants who will eventually be the primary agents working at the district level tying together the various programs for sanitation, communicable disease control, maternal child health and health education. In 1971, 190 students are scheduled to complete two-month courses and 220 students are enrolled in a one-year course. The institute will eventually train all public health workers in Vietnam.

Since 1966 considerable progress has been made in the control of communicable diseases in Vietnam. There are about 100 diseases in Vietnam that are considered infectious, many of them unknown outside of Southeast Asia. Diseases endemic to Vietnam, such as smallpox, cholera and plague, have been spread because of the war and its large-scale refugee relocations and troop movements, both enemy and friendly. With increased security in the countryside last year, immunization services were able to reach a greater number of rural people. In 1970, 7,200,000 doses of cholera vaccine were administered, plus 4,567,000 doses of plague vaccine and more than 4,000,000 doses of smallpox vaccine. Regular immunization service was made available in each district with the installation last year of refrigerators at district dispensaries, enabling them to keep a supply of vaccine on hand at all times. Although plague continues to be a problem, the national plague control program, started in June 1968 by the MOH, is reducing its incidence in endemic areas.

Major Problem

Tuberculosis is a major problem, and estimates of the percentage of the population afflicted vary widely. Health officials are concerned at the rising mortality rate. Tuberculosis control programs aimed at locating and treating persons afflicted with the disease are being expanded. Major tuberculosis centers are now in operation in Hue, Da Nang, Can Tho and Saigon, with centers planned eventually for each province.

Between 1963 and 1969, only 300,000 children under 12 received anti-TB inoculations. But on April 21, 1971, the lower house in Saigon approved a bill making parents responsible for insuring that their children are vaccinated against tuberculosis, diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough before the age of 12. Penalty fines were authorized by the bill, which said that "recidivists will be sentenced to three days of prison." The MOH must supply vaccine, and schools as well as maternity services will

Sanitary hamlet program produces results

be expected to share responsibility with parents.

A national control program is keeping the malaria rate at as low a level as possible. Potential major epidemics were averted in 1970 by the quick action of field teams when more than 190,000 refugees from Cambodia migrated to Vietnam in May and June. All new refugee housing was sprayed with insecticide and mass blood surveys were initiated to find and treat those infected with the disease.

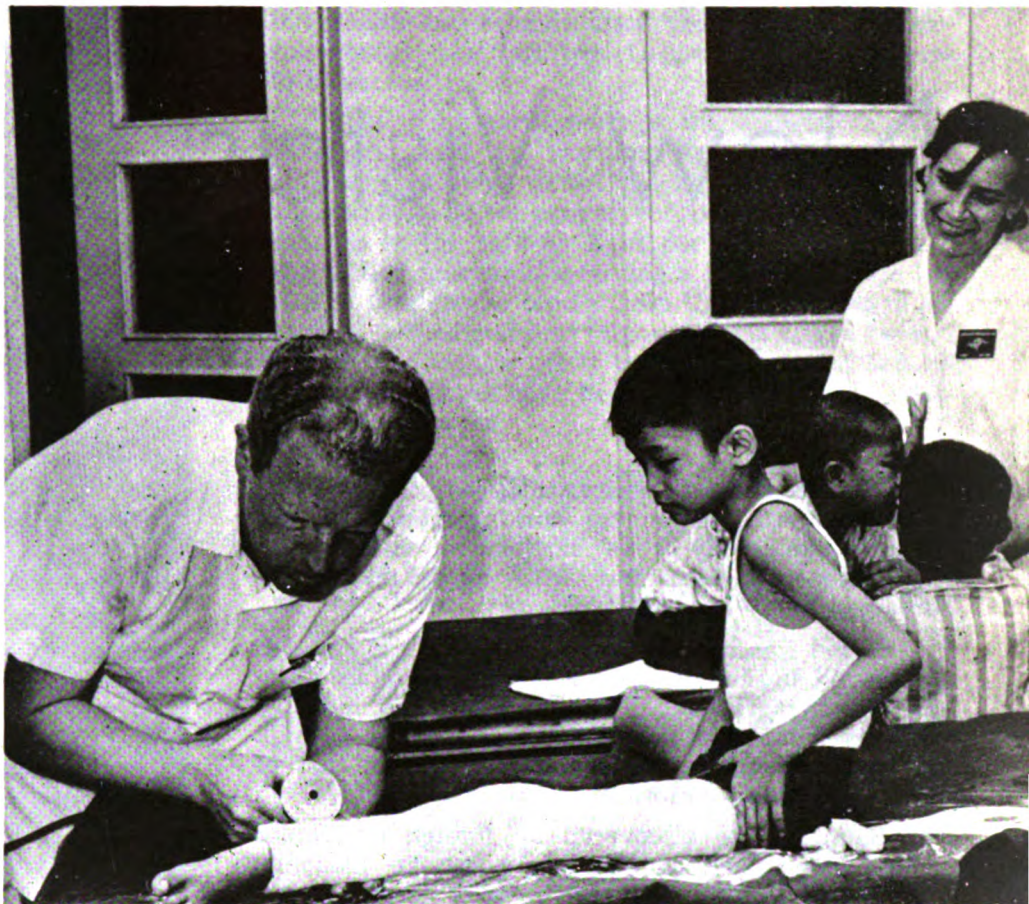
Education Programs

With public health goes public education. For several years campaigns have been underway to encourage people to clean up their hamlets. A U.S. Army physician working with a MILPHAP team in Phan Rang, on the coast of central Vietnam, took part in one project. Later he reported: "Vietnamese and U.S. medics went to a village and initiated a program of improving public health facilities. This included educating the villagers in personal and public sanitation areas such as disposal of trash, human waste and garbage, in addition to starting a program of immunizations. Once the hamlet was brought up to contemporary standards, the public health officers began to invite hamlet chiefs from neighboring villages in to visit. There are now several hamlets which have made drastic improvements and the ideas are spreading to other hamlets. Once something like this starts snowballing, effective public health becomes a reality."

Sanitary Hamlet

Because programs such as this have been so successful, a national Sanitary Hamlet program was started this year. By the end of the year each province is scheduled to have three hamlets participating.

On April 28, 1971, the Minister of Health, Dr. Tran Ninh Tung, cut a ribbon dedicating Binh Long province's model sanitation hamlet. The 525 residents of Thanh



At provincial hospital in An Giang, Australian doctor removes cast from a boy's leg while nurse, also from Melbourne, calms fears of other patients.

Mau hamlet in Tan Lao Phu village had just completed a project in which they worked together to dig four community and 59 private water wells, construct 68 latrines, set up 12 garbage dumps and recondition 33 animal breeding sheds. All villagers were immunized against cholera and smallpox.

Because South Vietnam has an estimated 3.2 per cent of population increase per year, a rate higher than most Southeast Asian countries, the MOH has established 16 family planning centers at government hospitals throughout the country. Rural health workers are introducing the concept of family planning in the hamlets and villages. Although birth control is still illegal under a 1933 law, contraceptive pills are sold in most drugstores. The government's family planning services are available

to married women who have their husbands' consent and four living children each, or, in lieu of these, to women who have a medical referral. Legislation has been introduced to amend the 1933 law because many officials have become aware of the direct relationship between population control and national development.

It will be years before Vietnam's public health care is at the highest level possible, but health officials are confident that progress will continue. As an American adviser who has worked closely with the MOH for several years points out: "That any nation engaged in an armed conflict on its own soil for as many years as South Vietnam can at the same time show improvement in services provided the civilian population is of itself a remarkable achievement."

Undreamed of by ancestors

New Vistas For Labor

By MINH TAM

A virtual serf in a rice paddy only a few years ago, the South Vietnamese working man, rural and urban alike, today is an independent citizen with new responsibilities and with opportunities undreamed of by his ancestors.

If the war has disrupted his old life, it has also urbanized and motorized his country, introduced him to modern agriculture, transportation and industry and given him a standard of living already as high as any in Southeast Asia and higher than that of most developing nations.

Should oil be discovered by foreign companies about to prospect off the long coast, an economic boom even greater than the present could quickly ensue. The continental shelf has been characterized by experts as a "good oil risk."

As it is, the life of the worker has vastly improved in this land so desperately in need of employes, a million men being in uniform and hundreds of thousands more working for the government. There are pockets of poverty, especially in the cities, but largely the working man is enjoying historic well-being and freedom.

Land Reform Program

Since two-thirds of the country's labor force of seven million are in agriculture, the government has instituted a sweeping land reform program eliminating the old tenancy serfdom. The program is expected to lure hundreds of thousands of refugees away from the crowded cities back to the farm. By the end of this year more than half a million will have become owner-cultivators. Discovery of a new strain of higher-yielding rice, the nation's chief product, and the growing substitution of tractors for water buffaloes are among factors presaging a new prosperity on the land.

In the nation's cities, swollen with more than 30 per cent of the country's 18 million inhabitants, hundreds of new industries have sprung up. Existing factories have expanded. High wages and fringe

benefits have become common. To relieve a housing shortage, the Labor Ministry has directed the construction of hundreds of low-cost units to be paid for in easy installments.

Though most industry still consists of small enterprises, great industrial complexes have been built at the Bien Hoa Industrial Estates and at the Saigon shipyard of the Vietnamese Navy. The Bien Hoa complex with dozens of different industries already operating will eventually include housing for thousands of workers as well as schools, a hospital and a social center. Similar industrial parks are planned.

Free Training Programs

If foreign investment capital materializes after the war as is expected, there will be a continued growth in the nation's new steel and cement industries, in textiles, building materials and the production of a host of goods ranging from soft drinks to glass and pharmaceuticals.

Since the most crucial manpower shortages are now in construction, fishing and expanding industries requiring skills, free training programs run both by the Labor Ministry and by some of the larger firms are available and are increasing in size and number. The biggest foreign contractor alone has trained more than 150,000 in heavy construction and engineering trades. Even disabled war veterans are learning to be electricians, plumbers, welders, auto mechanics and machinists. Opportunities for them and others steadily improve as some 50,000 foreign workers, mostly Korean, Thai and Philippine, gradually return home as their work permits expire.

The working man, meanwhile, has become politically aware under his democratic government. He has been elected to office in his village, for example, and he has been trained to handle his new freedoms. Thousands of new village councilmen are small farmers, businessmen, civil servants and other members of the working class.



Worker in hard hat is old hand in building construction.

Half a million Vietnamese have also joined unions to insure benefits and jobs. By so doing they have already created a labor movement powerful enough to become a national party. The largest union, as befits an agricultural country, consists of farmers.

And the working man is watching with approval as his government revamps the educational system so that his children will have more practical training than he enjoyed and be better equipped to make a contribution in a newly mechanized nation. The thousands of new schools built across the country are becoming community focal points. There, academic rote has given way to pragmatic, problem-solving instruction. Classroom discussions are as much concerned with nutrition, sanitation and social welfare as with anything. An entire new era has dawned in South Vietnam for the man who makes his living with his hands.

Paramount among the concerns of the South Vietnamese working man are inflation, which has eroded his buying power, and the possibility of losing his job as the war ends.

A related and equally serious problem is the country's rapidly increasing population. By 1973 it is expected that the national census may leap from the present 18 million to 20 million. Starvation is almost unknown in this tropical, productive climate, but health and rehabilitation problems are vast despite many new facilities. Urban housing continues to be scarce.

Though he earns perhaps the highest wages in Southeast Asia, the working man suffers from the shrinking in value of the piaster. Living costs have zoomed 30 to 50 per cent a year, prices going up some months at the rate of eight per cent, so that even the skilled mechanic receiving a top hourly rate has had to tighten the family belt. Usually he has many mouths to feed and rent to pay and his wages haven't gone up enough to offset the rise in prices. Cost-of-living allowances have been made but only in relatively minor areas.

Anti-inflationary Measures

Last fall Saigon took stringent and unpopular measures to halt inflation and succeeded in slowing it. The piaster was devalued, the official exchange rate being hiked from 118 to 275 per U.S. dollar, and savings interest rates were jumped from 7 to 17 per cent to keep money in banks from losing more value and at the same time to attract more money away from the market place.

The government also gave soldiers and civil servants a 17 per cent pay raise. They had been the principal victims of inflation because of their fixed incomes. Another increase is anticipated before October's presidential elections.

Aiming at reducing the inflationary rate to about 15 per cent a year, the government has also tightened tax collections, increasing them as much as 50 per cent in 1970. Civil servants, the military and employes of big concerns have been paying a disproportionate share because their pay is easily taxed. In other sectors of the economy there was widespread evasion.

Giant Relocation Projects

Because the working man is largely dependent on the war for his employment, speculation is rife about what will happen when the Americans finally leave. Some families have lost their jobs as U.S. troops have been withdrawn. This trend is expected to increase.

However, the government has giant relocation projects for settling soldiers and others on land. Foreign investment interests are eyeing the nation's budding industrial potential, particularly steel, cement, textiles and many other products. And, should oil be discovered off the coast, a post-war boom should likely occur. Production of both petroleum and its by-products, especially fertilizer which is so vital to modern agriculture, would require many workers. Wildcat drilling will start later this year.

Trade union movement assured rapid growth

Meanwhile, as the Allies leave the country, more Vietnamese are expected to be taken into the military to ease unemployment pressures, and many more jobs are expected to be opened in the government's developmental programs and as a result of its plans to add thousands both to the civil service and the national police force.

The working man also can look forward to Saigon plans to utilize

Even the South Vietnam working man who is not a union member has his rights vigorously protected and his welfare zealously guarded by the Confederation Vietnamienne du Travail, the country's major labor organization.

Consisting of half a million members in some 500 unions — the largest made up of tenant farmers — the growing CVT is not only labor's principal watchdog over the equitable distribution of

Under the direction of its president, Tran Quoc Buu, a socially concerned former Viet Minh resistance fighter against the French and an acknowledged world labor leader, the CVT not only represents the working man. It also operates welfare programs, credit unions and helps refugee families. Throughout the nation, refugees are housed and fed in centers operated by the CVT.

Social welfare activities in city slums are carried on for unorganized workers as well as for members. Financed by its own welfare fund and by contributions from unions in other free nations, a program providing free education, medical care and vocational training has been thriving for the last ten years.

Because it is nonsectarian, non-political and actively concerned about all South Vietnamese, the CVT continues to attract workers from the nation's entire economic spectrum — from farmers and petroleum, plantation, fishery and transportation employees down to the Swallow Nest Gatherers, the smallest unit.

Struggle for Progress

Fiercely patriotic and anti-Communist, the organization has had much to do with shaping the government's enlightened labor policies. As President Buu put it, "We struggle for progress, for the people's welfare and for the forging of a balanced and mature nation." Such concepts are rarely expressed by Asian leaders.

But the CVT is not the only labor organization in South Vietnam. Tens of thousands of working men belong to other prominent federations, apart from the CVT but without its power and helpful and humanitarian programs. And there are many independent unions unaffiliated with any federation. The new Vietnamese Confederation of Industrial and Agricultural Workers, for instance, has 35,000 members in Saigon and the Mekong Delta, and the Vietnamese Confederation of Trade Unions claims 50,000 members.



Tran Quoc Buu, president of the Confederation Vietnamienne du Travail.

more fully the tremendous forestry resources and the rich farm areas, some abandoned during the fighting, others never improved.

Forecasts are that more than 80 per cent of the population will earn a living from agriculture and related enterprises for several years after the war, even with the discovery of oil and the pouring in of industrial capital from outside. For many this will mean moving out of the city back to the rich countryside to raise rice, rubber, tea, coffee and perhaps new crops in demand on world markets.

the national wealth, but also a powerful force for the betterment of the general human conditions.

Typically the federation gained the respect, confidence and support of tenant farmers as long ago as 1952 when it launched a drive that was largely instrumental in lowering land rents from 60 to 25 per cent of the yield. Again, in 1967, it helped an affiliate by selling thousands of tons of fertilizer at a fair market price to growers throughout the nation. No one had to join in order to take advantage of the low prices.



Nearly two-thirds of the country's labor force of seven million are in agriculture and related enterprises. Below : longshoremen load tar, used for road surfacing, at the Newport facility.

Two of the independent unions have set praiseworthy examples in the field of collective bargaining. The Bank Workers Union and the Petroleum Workers Union of an American oil company used collective bargaining to obtain progressive contracts for their members.

Though the right to strike is guaranteed by the nation's constitution, the working man has seldom employed the tactic which has been outlawed by Saigon during the war. Instead disputes have largely been resolved at the bargaining table.

Between 1965 and 1968, for example, there were 1,650 recorded labor squabbles in the country but only 241 strikes. There are no tame "company unions" among the federations, but labor leaders have found that mediation, negotiation and compromise accomplish more than picket lines. And in a nation at war, as one Saigon organizer observed, "it would be self-destructive for labor to attempt to disrupt vital industry."

That organized labor will continue to expand in South Vietnam is a foregone conclusion. Trade unionism is already strong enough to found a national labor party, and in a democracy the working man's vote is as effective as anyone's.



The Song of Nguyen Anh 9

Note: Daniel Cameron is an American freelance writer who has reported on the war in Vietnam, including the fighting in Cambodia and along the Laotian border. He is best known in Saigon for a column, «SAIGON NOTES», which appears three times weekly in *The Saigon Post*, an English-language daily. His lively, often controversial column reports and comments on the social, cultural, political, intellectual and business scenes, including the activities of the international press corps. Whether praised or damned, he is read and is symptomatic of the press freedom prevailing in South Vietnam today.

Mr. Cameron is also a songwriter in his spare time. He composed a full-length musical play on guitar while living in London in 1967.

By DANIEL CAMERON

“Khong” turned out to be the kind of popular song that comes across on the very first hearing. I found the slow but powerful beat of the opening lines original and convincing.

“Khong! Khong! Toi khong con you anh nua...”

The composer admits to a certain French influence. Maybe this is why the ballad evokes a Vietnamese feeling and yet is instantly acceptable to Western ears that have heard it in nightclubs here.

As a songwriter who has returned to the craft after a lay-off of four years when a musical play went unproduced, I was intrigued — if not flabbergasted — by two other things: (1) Although “Khong” represents the work of a new artist who has not yet reached the top rank of Vietnamese composers, it’s the first song he ever wrote and (2) There’s a possibility it will become the first popular Vietnamese song to gain a real international acceptance — partly because many Vietnamese songs are still waiting to be translated. And this possibility is quite all right with the composer.

“I want my song to go around the world,” says Nguyen Anh 9.

The “9”, by the way, is not a typographical error. The man who wrote one of the most popular songs in Vietnam during the past year attributes his success to “9” and to his “lucky baby,” Quang Anh, a son born in 1970. The “9”, considered a lucky number in Vietnam, became part of his name a year ago.

“A lady who is my friend gave me the number. When I am sad, she consoles me.”

The lady seems to know her numbers. Anh, who is both a corporal in the Army and a nightclub pianist (himself born on a January 1) explains:

“Before, I had no luck. In Vietnam they listen only to singers, not the musicians. Nobody understands. I thought about not playing anymore. Then my lady friend said don’t be sad, try to continue — one day everybody will know you. She gave me number 9.”

So Anh heeded the lady and continued. In 1970 he played piano at the Queen Bee, a downtown nightclub in Saigon. There he met songstrees Khanh Ly who is known throughout much of Asia. She liked Anh’s piano accompaniment.

“Khanh Ly says I am the only pianist who can play for her.”



MEKONG

Switch to

**MEKONG
INSURANCE
CO.**

**FOR SAFETY AND BETTER SERVICE
ALL RISKS COVERED**

- FIRE
- MARINE
- AUTOMOBILE
- ACCIDENTS
- ETC.

Head office:

63-65, Ham-Nghi

(7th floor)

Saigon

99.291

Tel Nos: 20.481

24.849



"I want my song to go around the world," says Anh.

He thanks both Khanh Ly and another well-known Vietnamese chanteuse, Thai Thanh, for "introducing me to the public."

Khanh Ly also introduced him to former Minister of Information, Ngo Khac Tinh. This led to a trip to Japan where he played for Khanh Ly at Osaka in the Vietnamese pavillon at Expo' 70. He commuted daily to his hotel in Tokyo. Anh wrote "Khong" in Tokyo during August of that year.

The song is about a girl who leaves her boy for the world of brighter lights and money.

"Many friends say why don't you sell the song. But I was known as a piano player, not a composer."

Khanh Ly recorded "Khong." In Vietnam, tapes dominate sales of recorded music, but Khanh Ly's record still sold 10,000 copies. In sheet music, the song has sold 120,000 copies and is still selling.

At the urging of friends, Anh has written a "Khong II". In this song the girl leaves the world of glitter and returns to the boy, but he is now wary of her and he is the one who sings "No." I heard "Khong II" at the Van Canh, a Saigon nightclub where Anh was playing. He feels that "II" is better than "I." On first hearing I found it not as gutty as "I," but the pastel-shaded harmonics are very pretty. The general effect is more sophisticated, in a sort of French-Vietnamese-mid-Beatles manner.

Anh, who has now written eight other songs besides the "Khong" duo, was born, "like President Thieu," in Phan Rang, a town on Vietnam's central coast. His brother, Nguyen-Dinh-Hiep, is a painter

(continued on page 18)

KHÔNG!

NGUYỄN ANH 9

Slow Rock



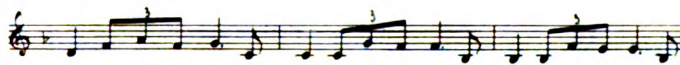
Không! Không! Tôi không còn yêu anh nữa



Không! Không! Tôi không còn yêu anh nữa Không! Không! Tôi không



còn Tôi không còn yêu anh nữa anh đi Tỉnh



đi thay trắng đổi đen Tỉnh đi còn làm bạn bạn Tỉnh đi còn làm đằm mê, nên



tỉnh còn làm ở chỗ. Tỉnh mình có nghĩa gì đâu Tỉnh mình đã làm thương đau Tỉnh



mình gian dối cho nhau Thời đánh hơn lại kiếp sau. Không! Không! Tôi không



còn Tôi không còn yêu anh nữa Không! Không! Tôi không còn Tôi không còn yêu anh nữa



Không! Không! Tôi không còn Tôi không còn yêu anh nữa anh đi!!!

and tap dancer. His wife is a traditional dancer in a psywar cultural group of South Vietnam's Army (Biet Doan Van Nghe Trung Uong.)

Anh's song may go around the world after all. He says :

"Chinese and American singers who visit Vietnam are taking "Khong" to Hong Kong and Japan where they sing it now. And Ted Dutton says that if he goes to America, he will sing it there."

Ted Dutton is an American singer who was born in Vietnam. He has sung "Khong" in Vietnamese at Maxim's, a Saigon night spot.

Many of Vietnam's most popular songs remain untranslated. I decided to do a little bit about this by attempting an English translation of "Khong." Generally, of course, a word-for-word translation is impossible, especially in poetry and song. The translator has to be, in part, a creator. His attempts are hazardous and challenging. So, after completing my attempt, I was happy to hear Nguyen Anh say, "You have captured my idea!" He plans to have singers do this English version in several nightclubs here. (It's printed below, along with the original Vietnamese).

When asked about his future plans, Anh, who has performed in France with Khanh Ly, says :

"My only wish now is to visit the United States and other parts of the world and hear music. But I want to live here. Vietnam is the most beautiful country for me."

Khong (No) — English Version.

No! No!
It's not love anymore
No! No!
It's not love anymore
No! No!
I can't stay
One more day
In your arms
My dear

Love changed from what it meant
Love left its peaceful tent
Love looked for other dreams
And lost itself in schemes
Our cup held happiness
It now holds loneliness
My love became a lie
So I must say goodbye

No! No!
It's not love anymore
No! No!
It's not love anymore
No! No!
This is my
Sad goodbye
While I'm cry —
in so

(English translation of "Khong" copyright 1971 by Daniel Cameron. It may not be reprinted without the express consent of the translator).

MEMORIES OF OLD VIETNAM

By ERIC GLASGOW

On the whole, the territories of the former Indo-China which now comprise South Vietnam have not attracted very many British visitors, the reason for that being not only their geographical aloofness, relatives to the British interests in S.E. Asia, but also the long period of the French control, over the language and the culture, as well as the politics, of the region from the Mekong Delta to Annam, and even Tonking, in the far North.

Even today, indeed, there is a tendency for the average Briton, immersed in more local and personal concerns, to forget about the more basic problem and struggles of that part of the world — unless they do embroil him or her, uncomfortably and uncongenially, through the selective and vivid media of television films. Yet, it is useful and important, I think, to attempt to discover, amongst the torn tissues of South Vietnam, the more stable and abiding features of that older, composite unit which, a generation ago, was always known to us as "Indo-China."

The spate of the contemporary books, which is available in English about Vietnam, always suffers from the shortcomings of being too close to the urgencies of the issues which it seeks to elucidate: it tends, almost invariably, to be too partisan, shrill, and even explosive, in its discernments and its diagnosis, and it tends, too, to neglect the findings of those — usually British or French — who could write about Annam or Cochin-China, in other and perhaps less disturbed periods of history, and in more placid and perhaps more fundamental terms.

So, at any rate after our staple British diet of war books and films, about Vietnam — not a few of which invite the suspicion of playing for sensation or scandal, rather than setting forth the truth — it is a good change to discover, in the peace of a large British public library, the resources of the older



A view of the Port of Saigon in 1868. (Photos on this page courtesy of Societe des Etudes Indochinoises).

books, as these are still available, in English or French, about European visitors to South Vietnam, long before that country's present and painful phase of "trial by ordeal."

The number, of those works, can be surprisingly large; so that it must be sufficient for me, in this article, to select only a few of the available books, confining myself, in this first instance, to those which have British authors, and which offer some special appeal for men other people, even fellow-Britons, might well make different choices, and have different discernments.

George Finlayson

The oldest of the books which I study today is "The Mission to Siam and Hue," by George Finlayson (London: John Murray, Albemarle Street, 1826). In many respects, it is typical of the nature and the aims, of the British "Imperial Mission" in the Far East, throughout the nineteenth century.

George Finlayson (1790-1823) was a Scotsman, born at Thurso in Caithness, who went out to India, as an assistant in the Army Medical Service. His trip to Indo-China came almost as a side-product of his interests as a naturalist: he made it, at great cost to his health, in the years 1821-23, and the journal of his tour was edited, with an appreciative introduction, by the great Sir Stamford Raffles (1781-1826), the conqueror of Java (1811) and the founder of Singapore (1819).

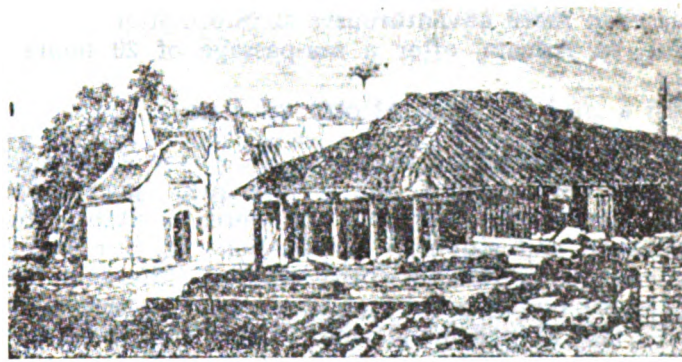
Saigon Described

The result is a book of absorbing antiquarian interest, which devotes some considerable sections to the territories of South Vietnam, as they were at that time. It describes, for example, the location of Saigon: "As we approached the town, we were surprised to find it of such extent. It is built chiefly on the right bank of the river. We had already passed a distance of several miles, and were still in the midst of it. The houses are large, very wide, and

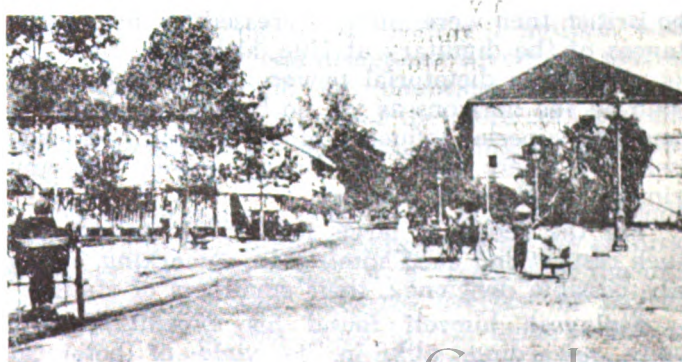
for the climate, very comfortable. The roof is tiled, and supported on handsome large pillars, of a heavy, durable, black wood, called Sao" (op. cit., page 304).

The book continues on Saigon, "The plan of the streets is superior to that of many European capitals" (page 305); and it alludes, too, to the comely behaviour, and the apparent comfort, of the inhabitants, who crowded out to meet the unaccustomed visitors.

Officially, there was some suspicion, regarding the purposes of the British expedition; but that was quickly dispelled on the production of a letter



Pagoda and houses on Rue Catinat (now Tu Do street) in Saigon in 1899. Below: View of Catinat street in 1920.



British authors tell of charms

addressed to the King of Cochin-China. After that, plenty of food was provided for the visitors: "a living pig, ducks, fowls, eggs, sugar, plantains, and rice."

Finlayson himself was permitted to wander at will amongst the animation of the Saigon Market, where he noticed the good manners and the handsome faces of the people, and also the most complete absence of articles of European manufacture, in contrast to the commercial conditions in India, at that time.

Later, he visited many other parts of Saigon, and he was everywhere received with great civility and hospitality. "We were absolute strangers, who had come to pass a few hours only in the town; yet in almost every street we were invited by the more wealthy Chinese to enter their houses, and to partake of refreshments" (op. cit., pages 315-316). The climax of the entertainment provided for the visitors was the spectacle of a fight, between a tiger and an elephant, arranged by the Governor of Saigon: the tiger won, because the elephant, taking terror, ran away.

Outside Saigon itself, the visitors toured the coasts of Cochin-China ("singularly bold and picturesque"), and noted the abundance of the population. Landing by boat, from time to time, Finlayson added many valuable and unusual plants to his collection; and he evidently awakened, amongst the inhabitants, as much surprise and curiosity as he himself was experiencing. But his encounters in Cochin-China were, even then, scarcely more than a prelude to his even more adventurous and informative visit to Hue, in Annam, after a sea-passage of 20 hours.

Fortifications of Hue

The intervening coastline, as he saw it, seemed to be "bold, rugged, and picturesque" (page 339); but what chiefly impressed him were, inevitably, the immense and stubborn fortifications of Hue itself, where the architecture was mainly Chinese in its style, although he did find there, even at that early date, two French mandarins "dressed in silk robes."

The ensuing discussions, with the reigning King of Cochin-China, were both amicable and fruitful; since no objection was raised against the possibility of British trade, entering any of the ports. Evidently the British then were much impressed by the circumstances of the dignitary at Hue, although critical of his apparently dictatorial powers; but already, as a cloud on the horizons as yet no bigger than a man's hand, the superior influence of the French had made itself felt there, and the British never had any primacy of place or prestige.

For the people at large, the British visitors had much respect and even admiration, remarking, as the only possible deficiency, their smallness of stature.

Finlayson himself found his expedition very richly rewarding, alike in its yield of botanical

and anthropological information. Its rigours, and its diversities, did however, greatly exhaust him; so that he was only just able to return to Calcutta, and he had to leave, for posthumous publication, the literary harvest of his long trek, into the little-known recesses of Indo-China.

Nevertheless, the book of his journey remains, even today, as a very noteworthy testimony to the early British penetration into that region, and the first British appreciation of the intrinsic peculiarities of its culture, language, and architecture.

J. Thomson

Another book, with bearings upon the theme of South Vietnam, as its territories were, long ago, is J. Thomson's "The Straits of Malacca, Indo-china and China" (London, 1875). It contains, as the usual concomitant of an old travel book about the Far East, a useful and detailed chapter about Saigon (pages 164-178).



Ships anchored in Saigon harbor in 1862.

"Saigon, in French Cochin-China, is approached by an offshoot of the great Mekong river, narrow and tortuous indeed, but nevertheless navigable for vessels of the heaviest tonnage. The town itself has a gay look about it, or had, at least, during the time of my visit; but it has somewhat straggling appearance." Its harbour, even then, accommodated many "square-rigged ships awaiting cargoes of rice, the chief product of the vast alluvial plains of southern Cochin-China."

"Along the banks run a long low line of cafes and mercantile or government offices, surmounted by the flags of the different consulates, while by far the most conspicuous building was an hotel in progress of erection, which promised to become a very imposing edifice."

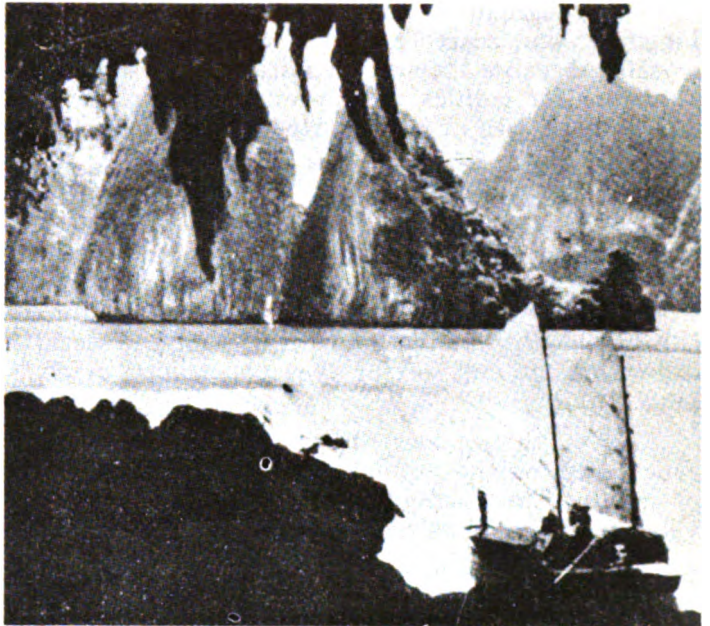
Saigon, in the 1860's and 1870's, had many French houses and French merchants; although much of its



The "Ngo Mon" Gate at the Citadel in Hue.

Not all of them, either, were primitive or superstitious — not even unsophisticated, in the European sense: this book records one Cochinese Christian who was a Professor of his own language at the "Collège des Interprètes" in Saigon: he had been educated at a Roman Catholic College at Penang, and he spoke perfect English, as well as French, and had a good knowledge, also, of Spanish, Portuguese, and Italian.

He was very interested in rare books and manuscripts, and at the time of his British visitor, he was working on "A Comparative Analysis of the Languages of the World :—" it was a formidable array of



Grottoes along the Bay of Ha Long.

commerce was in British or German hands. It was thriving; and it already had, as its native quarter, the busy and adjacent settlement of Cholon, with its lumbering bullock-carts, whose wheels creaked "hideously around their dry wooden axles."

In Cholon, everything seemed to be Chinese; and the place was a hive of somewhat discordant activity. But the people everywhere, whatever their racial or cultural origins, were very friendly and hospitable;; so that the British visitor was able to see much of the interiors of their varied dwellings and was introduced to their very curious burial and religious customs.

learning, from so remote a part of S.E. Asia, a full century ago; and almost the last encounter, too, for the author of this travel book, before he left Cochinese China for Hong Kong.

Alan Houghton Brodrick

Alan Houghton Brodrick's "Little China" (London, 1942) represents a much more modern and thorough assessment of the lands of Indo-China, almost as they were on the eve of the massive and dramatic upheavals of the Second World War. I first read it when I was a student, in the calm detachment of England's Cambridge; but recently I noticed, with some regret, that it had disappeared from the shelves of my local public library: doubtless, squashed out by the mounting pressures of the more controversial and ephemeral new books, purporting to solve the problems of Vietnam.

Nevertheless, it is always a good book to consult, for a careful and sensitive appraisal of the cultural legacy of that part of S.E. Asia, freed from the present, concealing and corrosive overlay, of politics and strife. It is very good for its history, and in general, it indicates the patient interpretations of a



Road from Langson to Nam Quan (Gate to China).

genuine artist, about the whole of the national heritage of Vietnam.

It offers, too, some perceptive and delightful descriptions of such places as Tourane, near Hue; the hill-station of Da Lat; Qui Nhon on the Annamese coast, after the twisting, hazardous roads from Faifo and Quang Ngai; and so, still keeping to the coast, the villages of Phan Rang and Phan Thiet, leading on to the eventuality of Cape St. Jacques, and all the gushing affluence of the Mekong Delta.

We have, from Alan Houghton Brodrick (Devon-born and London-sited, and a holder of the Order of the Dragon of Annam), a very different book from the two others, already included here: deeper and more thorough, in its assessments alike of culture and language, and scarcely, either, to be disdeigned or rejected, because its covers embrace, with some nine contempt for politics, an unprejudiced consideration of the territories of both North and South Vietnam.

Admittedly, "Little China" has now become politically dated; and, in any case, its contents are somewhat discursive and subjective in their arrangement and their selection. Despite that, however, it remains a work of solid worth and interest, for all who seek to discover the distinctive and ultimate cultural identity of the lands of Annam and Cochin-China, against any sort of alien penetration or challenge.

Nor, I think, does "Little China" need to be superseded, on the grounds that the abrasive effects of politics have caught up with, or displaced, the validity or the relevance of its cultural conclusions.

Norman Lewis

Norman Lewis is a British author whose travel books already range from "Sand and Sea in Arabia" (1938) to "Golden Earth" (1952) and "The Volcanoes Above Us" (1957). But he has also written a very brilliant and engaging book about Indo-China, called "A Dragon Apparent" (1951), which should not be missed.

Although it deals, inevitably, with the whole, varied panorama of the components of Indo-China, as they were before the explosions of the Vietnam War, and it is already twenty years old, its pages still present descriptions, of sections of South Vietnam, which are, quite remarkably, vivid and relevant.

These include, for instance, the first chapter, on "Saigon and the Vietnamese," although that may, perhaps, exaggerate the present Frenchness of that city; also, the story of an excursion to Da Lat, beset by language problems, with further trips, into Central Annam, at Mang-Yang, Pleiku, and Ban Me Thuot, and a somewhat deeper exploration, of the labyrinthine tentacles of Saigon; to Cholon, Go-Cong, Tanan, and My Tho.

The text is, consistently, an original and detailed one, which contrives to present, very vividly, a country which is always outstandingly vital and colourful, in its essential genius and appeal. There are, moreover, some very good illustrations, including a street scene in Saigon, the Saigon waterfront, paddy-

fields in the Mekong Delta, and native life in the remote Pleiku: age has not withered, therefore, the value of this book, and it is still a useful and illuminating accompaniment for even our current and necessary understandings of Vietnam and the Vietnamese.

So far, I have included four books, ranging in their dates from 1826 to 1951, in this brief consideration of some writings, in English, about the territories of Cochin-China and Annam, as they were in the past. All of them have had British authors, and their contents have varied greatly, in their documentary value, and their present importance.

Their common link, however, has been their evident accessibility, and their relevance, if the more sustained links between Vietnam and its European visitors, and the more enduring features of Vietnam's past and culture, are not to be ignored or undermined.

British Encounters Overlooked

Of course, the British visitors to South Vietnam — even those who have left their marks in tangible literary forms — must take their places amongst other Europeans — the French, in particular, and the Germans, to a lesser extent. Only, in this article, I have preferred to keep to the writings of my own compatriots, reserving, perhaps, those of other European nationalities, for my later and separate consideration.

In any case, it seems to be peculiarly appropriate that I should emphasize here, the encounters between Britons and the lands and peoples of South Vietnam; for these have a wider historical spread than is generally realized, and yet, they are easily, and even habitually, overlooked.

However — almost by an accident of one day's selection of books — I cannot conclude this article, without mentioning also the splendid, peaceful photographs, of many items and aspects of South Vietnam, by the German photographer, Martin Hurlimann, in his volume, entitled "Burma, Ceylon, Indo-China" (New York, 1930).

These include some superbly-expressive photographs of Hue, Annamese people, the grottoes of the "Marble Hills" near Tourane, and some of the primitive "Moi" people, of West Annam: altogether, they add a full quota, of very immediate and visual instruction, to what is to be learnt from the dated texts of the older books; and that, surely, is not a benefit which can be disregarded, at least in relation to the important preoccupation with the images of South Vietnam, as they are offered and sustained, in the countries of Western Europe, during the present, crucial and controversial years.

South Vietnam, given peace and order, might well, even now, draw closer again, to the realities of Martin Hurlimann's haunting images of forty years ago: as a land of beauty, culture, honest labour, and humane endeavour. The artist may see resources of character and promise which become lost and confused, amidst the rival materialisms of politics and strife.

Women of Vietnam



Miss Khanh Ly is considered by many connoisseurs in Saigon as the leading exponent of modern Vietnamese singing. Among the highest paid professionals in the field, she was recently invited by the RVN Embassy in the United States to perform in Washington where she drew praises. She has also performed in Japan, France, Switzerland, Germany, Belgium, and England.

Mrs. Vu Ba Hung is president of the "Poor Students Relief Society" which helps underprivileged Vietnamese students to continue with their schooling. She has been in social welfare work for 12 years.

Cradle-Snatching

By TRONG NHAN

Hanoi's acute manpower problems have brought an upsurge of cradle-snatching "recruitment" in some areas of South Vietnam. Children of both sexes between the ages of 10 and 15 are being lured from their parents and sent north on the pretext of getting a "free" education.

The education consists of intense political indoctrination mixed with large doses of military training. Many are also assigned to agricultural duties and to light industrial jobs to free able-bodied men for military duty.

The Communists have been seizing such youngsters for several years as a matter of policy; the current difference is the significant expansion of this tactic recently in village areas and the change in the kind of youngsters being caught.

Heretofore, the routine was to select children of senior party members and Viet Cong cadre for training in the north. Now, according to captured North Vietnamese prisoners, "they are taking any child they can get their hands on."

Ultimately, of course, most of the "recruits" wind up carrying a gun in local militias as Viet Cong guerrillas or as North Vietnamese regulars.

The Xat Lao newspaper in Laos reported recently that most of the current crop of combat prisoners range in age from 15 to 17 years old, reflecting both the manpower shortages in the north, and the upsurge of child "recruitment".

The South Vietnamese Government has periodically documented this inhuman policy in a series of formal protests to the International Control Commission. Such forcible recruitment of children dates back to 1969 and earlier. But new victims are still to be seen, according to a succession of recent prisoner reports, on forced

marches along the Ho Chi Minh Trail.

Not long ago the New China News Agency (NCNA) provided left-handed confirmation of the general policy in a commentary about a 22-year-old soldier named Luong Cong Chien.

Describing his military career, NCNA said: "... at 13 he joined the revolution together with his brothers and in 1965 he became a fighter of the main body of liberation forces."

Lately, the Liberation Radio — voice of the Viet Cong — has been stressing the importance of recruiting from a wide variety of sources — even including the South Vietnamese Army itself!

But the VC's Current Affairs Section in Ba Long Province spelled out more details: attempts must be made, said one of their documents "to convince resettled groups that their interests are also those of the National Liberation Front — to persuade them to fight on NLF terms."

Captured regular soldiers, VC elements and Communist documents provide abundant confirmation that recruitment has been stepped up among local populations in VC infiltrated areas.

One document outlines in detail "how cadres of the propaganda, cultural and indoctrination sections of Hanoi's Central Office for South Vietnam (COSVN) are assigned to recruit these children who are trained in COSVN areas until they are 15 and then sent to North Vietnam where they learn to publicize the revolutionary way of thinking."

Hanoi hopes, of course, that they will provide a future hard core of Viet Cong leaders.

Huynh Thanh Van, who was Deputy Chairman of the Tuy Hoa District Peoples Revolutionary Committee until his capture last

year, told Saigon interrogators that Hanoi's interests are not exclusively confined to the very young. The North, he said, is also especially interested in Southerners between 15 and 30 with some formal education who have also contributed at least three years of service to the VC.

According to Van, these older cadres with good VC service records are sent to North Vietnam as a "reward" while sick and wounded go north for medical treatment and convalescence.

One VC political officer who surrendered last year reports that many of the wounded political cadres are refusing directives to go north for treatment fearing they will never be allowed to return, as was the case with thousands of southerners who were regrouped to the North after the 1954 Geneva Agreements.

A major reason for Hanoi's new emphasis on getting the children while they're young is the need to rebuild shattered guerrilla morale. In the last year, the number of weapons-bearing VC throughout the South has been cut in half — from 60,000 to 30,000.

Hanoi's efforts to fill some of these manpower gaps in the South with North Vietnamese regulars have created serious morale problems. There is increasing hostility between the local Viet Cong and the North Vietnamese who regard their guerrilla counter-parts with some contempt as "second class citizens." Shortages of food and medical supplies also drive a wedge between the Northerners and the southern Viet Cong who feel they are getting an unfair share of what little is available. Also, the Hanoi troops get off with little or no punishment for major rules infractions — unlike their Viet Cong cohorts who sometimes are executed on the spot. Small wonder, in the face of so much insensitivity to human emotions, that recruitment of VC cadres has literally fallen 50 to 75 per cent below last year's drives.

Yet these facts should come as no surprise to anyone who has noted the historic cruel indifference of Hanoi to the welfare of its soldiers generally and its own prisoners of war in particular.



Victims of the war are these waifs in a Saigon orphanage.

Social Welfare Students

HELPING ORPHANS

By NGOC MAI

Long years of war in Vietnam have created thousands of innocent victims, many of them children. Most of these homeless youngsters live in overcrowded orphanages throughout the country. Today, something is being done about their sad plight by high school and university girl-students, who volunteer to bring some love into the orphans' lives. On Sundays, for example the normally quiet Dieu Quang Buddhist Orphanage bustles with activity. Groups of teenage girls visit the orphanage each week where they tell stories, teach the children to sing and dance, and just hold babies who usually get little affection during the week.

Miss Ton Nu Hoai An, a senior at the Saigon University School of Pharmacy, has been involved in social welfare work since her high school days. She spends every Sunday at the orphanage on the outskirts of Saigon and is adored by the children there. "I love these children and try to cuddle them as much as possible to compensate for the loss of the love of their parents," she explains, "The infants and toddlers like to be carried and fed. We teach the older children standard school subjects and how to sew, sing, and dance."

Miss An also spends time doing social welfare work in several slum areas of Saigon. "It makes

me feel good to help others, and I will continue to do so after I graduate. I want to do as much as I can now, because after I'm married, I will be busy taking care of my family and household," she continued.

All public and private high schools in Saigon have organized social welfare teams, usually headed by a teacher and one student. The volunteers collect small monthly contributions from fellow students and visit orphanages in the area. Some of the young coeds work at Caritas, a worldwide Catholic charity organization, where they help care for orphaned infants. Others attend the Hiep Nhat Center, an inter-school organization in Saigon, where they learn trades such as hair dressing and tailoring. The students then organize classes in poor neighborhoods to teach their newly acquired skills.

Summer Work

During summer vacations, many girls spend several days a week working at orphanages and resettlement camps. Others do their charitable work at home by sorting out donated clothing and translating English and French books into Vietnamese for orphanage libraries.

Soldiers in the field get attention from these volunteers also. The girls write to them and send boxes of small gifts. Although they do not know the soldiers they are writing to, they write as "little sisters" showing individual concern. To raise money for these varied activities, groups of high school girls organize theater performances which are well attended and popular.

All of these young high school and college volunteers give their time freely with little recognition or glory. The reason was summed up by a 17-year old high school senior, Miss Dinh Phi Oanh, who said, "Doing charitable work not only benefits others but ourselves as well. By directing our activities to others, we get used to coping with problems we rarely encounter in our family lives. Doing this work helps me to better understand people."

Prosperity for the suburbs

SAIGON BELTWAY

By VAN NGAN

In a nation at war, a new highway represents a revolutionary change. Along with transportation it brings security, and with security comes prosperity. The Saigon Beltway recently completed by Korean engineer troops brings new life to the outlying areas of Saigon and to the northern and western suburbs of South Vietnam's capital.

Dedicated on May 20, 1971, the beltway as a by-pass for commercial vehicles traveling from the rice-rich Mekong Delta areas to the Central Highlands of Vietnam.

Improves Security

In addition to speeding the flow of goods between north and south and relieving Saigon of the added congestion of through-traffic, the highway also serves the needs of the Saigon area. For example, it greatly improves security. Before it was necessary to inspect cross-city traffic at highway checkpoints before it entered the capital. A really thorough check for enemy weapons and supplies often backed up traffic for many kilometers so usually only superficial checks of cargo were made. Now it is only necessary to check those vehicles actually entering Saigon, and detailed inspections are now far more frequent.

Also the new highway cuts across two customary enemy infiltration routes to Saigon. Phu Lam to the west and Go Vap to the North were twice devastated in the enemy offensives of January and May of 1968. The highway now provides a medium for effective motorized patrols by government forces. The spacious parking



Korean engineering troops charting new Saigon beltway through plantation.

areas constructed at each end of the beltway even provide ready-made landing zones for helicopters, should there ever again be a need to rapidly muster reinforcements in the area.

Through the highway, metropolitan Saigon is rapidly expanding. One region, Thu Thiem, is now linked with Saigon by land for the first time in its history. Before the highway — with a new bridge — was built, a ferry was the community's only access to the capital. In addition, the highway helps lessen the overcrowded conditions in Saigon, while making it easier for residents of outlying areas to visit the city. Before, refugees fleeing to Saigon were forced to remain within the confines of the city for security. Now they are moving to the suburbs and still have easy access to the center of the city. The relatively cheap land along this new transportation artery will doubtless soon be

dotted with shops, factories and eventually new communities.

It was not until the Republic of Korea decided to undertake the task that the beltway became a reality. Construction of a modern highway over ricelands requires more manpower, equipment and money than the wartaxed South Vietnamese government could afford. The 127th Engineer Battalion of the Republic of Korea began the job in June of 1969. The 20-kilometer stretch, 18 meters wide, includes a 400 meter bridge and required 118,260 cubic meters of fill and the work of 19,439 men using 8,500 vehicles for its completion. On May 2, 1971 it was ready for surfacing.

The Saigon Beltway represents the first highway construction by an allied nation other than the United States in Vietnam. It is a symbol of the friendship between the Republic of Vietnam and the Republic of Korea.



Northwest. The only 747^s to Seattle-Chicago- New York.

Leave Tokyo daily.

Come to Tokyo any day. From there, you'll fly all the way to the U.S. on the same plane —a magnificent 747.

It's the plane with wider seats, 8-foot ceilings, 12 powder rooms, stereo and inflight movies*, and, in first class, a spiral staircase to a red carpeted lounge. Plus, food and beverage service as magnificent as the 747 itself!

Northwest 747s fly direct to more U.S. cities. We'll fly you to and through the U.S. —including 747 flights between Seattle, Chicago, New York, Minneapolis/St. Paul, and, in December, Miami.

To enjoy this new dimension in air travel comfort to the U.S., call your travel agent, travel officer or, Northwest Orient at 22 Nguyenhue Boulevard, Phone 91.507/98.493 or at our new ticket office at the Continental Palace Hotel, Phone 22.520.

Also at Tanson Nhut International Terminal,

*\$2.50 charge on international flights.
Schedules subject to change.



NORTHWEST ORIENT 747

THE COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL BANK OF VIETNAM

HEAD OFFICE

93-95, Boulevard Hàm-Nghi – SAIGON

Tel.: 91.558 91.559 – Cable Address: VIETNAMBANK

BRANCHES

SAIGON

209-213, Bd. Trần Hưng Đạo – Tel.: 23.262

6, Nguyễn Trung Trục Street – Tel.: 92.627

217, Trương Minh Giảng Street – Tel.: 40.925

402-404, Bd. Đồng Khánh – Tel.: 37.481

170, Trịnh Minh Thế Street – Tel.: 91.915

ĐÀ-NẴNG

71, Bd. Độc Lập – Tel.: 2.255

MỸ-THO

91, Trưng Trác Street – Tel.: 2.112

FULL BANK SERVICE

You may be interested in

DOING BUSINESS IN VIETNAM

by

**TANG THI THANH TRAI
SESTO E. VECCHI**

**TA VAN TAI
LEONARD A. CHINITZ**

This 118-page book deals with every aspect of business in Vietnam (establishment, investment, privileges, taxation, repatriation of earnings, etc...) and other subjects of special interest to foreign investors.

The price is US \$ 2.50 or equivalent.

Send cheque or money order to the
Vietnam Council on Foreign Relations,
P. O. Box 932, Saigon, Vietnam.



TWA gets great girls because we fly to the world's greatest cities.

TWA is keenly aware of that old adage, to get a good woman, you must be able to offer her something

And what we offer a single beautiful girl is a chance to see all the great capitals of the world.

After spending five weeks at our multi-million dollar hostess school in Kansas City, she emerges most impressively.

She has become a skillful expert in making our passengers feel comfortable, wanted, important. She

has become the very embodiment of your airline.

God bless our route structure.



Somehow you feel more important on TWA.

Daily flights each way from Asia to 40 United States cities and 28 cities in Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

Digitized by Google

FROM **SAIGON CROSSROADS**

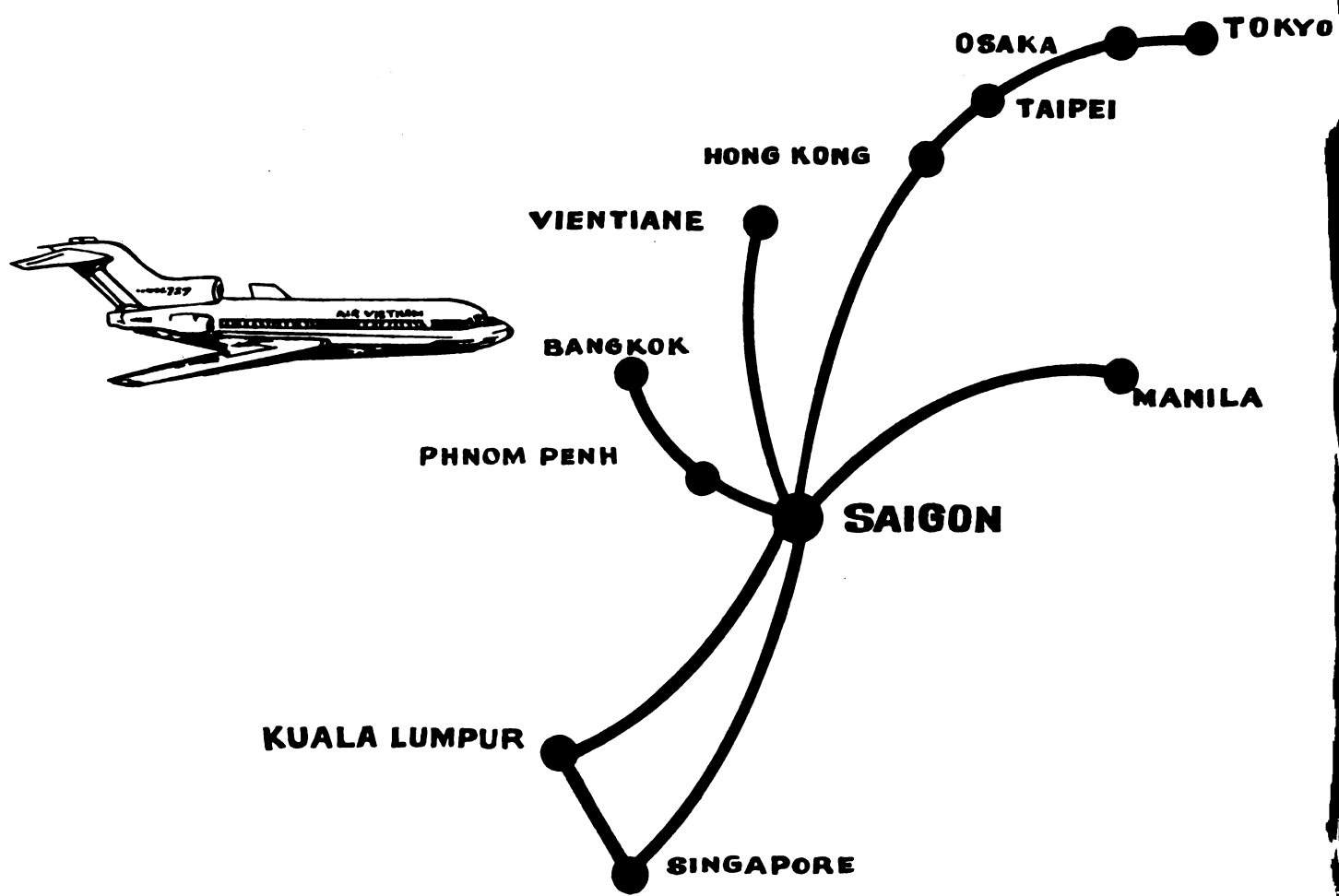
WITH ITS REGULAR SERVICES

AIR VIETNAM

BOEING

Fan jet 727

LINKS ALL THE KEY CITIES OF THE **FAR EAST**



AIR VIETNAM

THE AIRLINE WITH THE CHARMING TRADITIONS

116 NGUYỄN-HUỆ - SAIGON * TEL: 91.624 - 25 - 26 * 92.118 * 90.370 - 71