

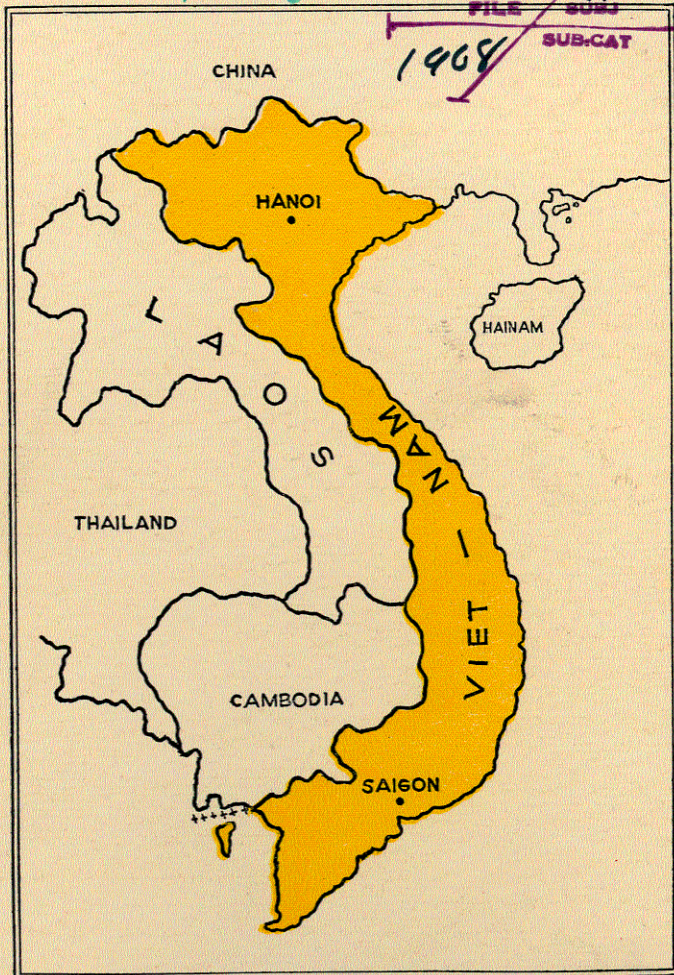
REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

SPECIAL ISSUE ON THE NATIONAL DAY

1968

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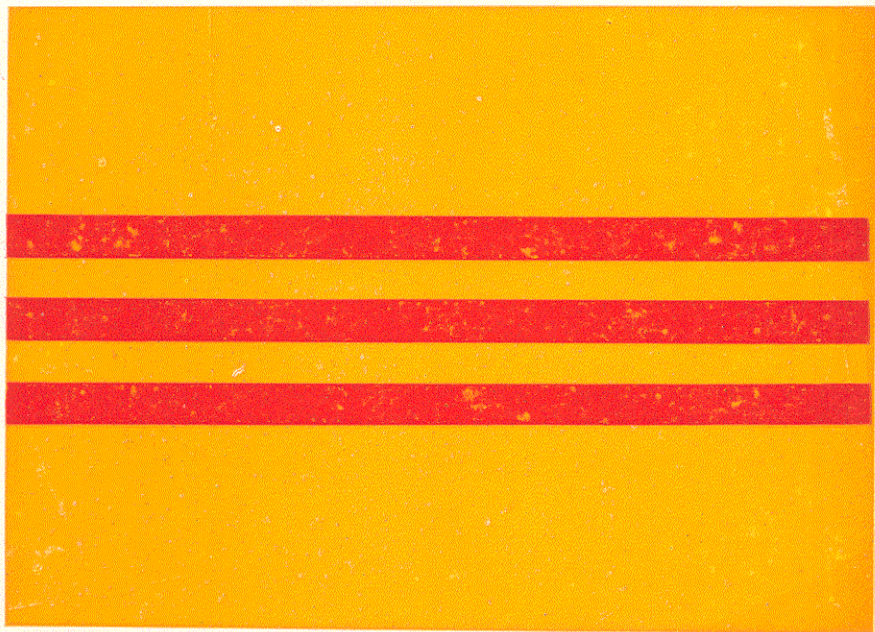
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**THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC
OF VIETNAM IN HONG KONG**

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NATIONAL FLAG
OF THE
REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM



NGUYEN VAN THIEU
PRESIDENT



TRAN VAN HUONG
PRIME MINISTER



TRAN CHANH THANH
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

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National Day
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STATEMENT ON THE OCCASION OF THE
NATIONAL DAY OF THE
REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

The first day of November is the National Day of the Republic of Vietnam. This year, it is also the 1st Anniversary of our Constitutional Government.

Our National Day commemorates the 1st November, 1963, when our Armed Forces and our people overthrew the dictatorial Ngo Dinh Diem Regime. But, due to the lack of leadership, the situation was not settled. Until mid-June, 1965, the Armed Forces entrusted the power to the military Government led by General Nguyen Van Thieu. Thus they gradually have led our country into Democracy and established the Constitution.

In September, 1967, the President of the Republic of Vietnam, Vice President, Senate and House Representatives were elected by the people according to the Constitution. A Constitutional Government was finally established on 1st November, 1967, making Vietnam a true Democratic Nation.

During the year, we have made great efforts and achieved big successes.

Militarily, Our people are full of admiration for the fighting spirit of our troops. They join the Armed Forces enthusiastically. On the other hand, our forces are well trained and equipped and are becoming stronger and will be able to take over more responsibilities. We have inflicted on the enemy very heavy casualties in both the New Year and May offensives and this made them hardly able to fill the gaps. The recent victories of our armies demonstrate their superior ability and the increasing weakness of the enemies.

Politically, we are a legal and duly constituted government and are recognised by more than 60 nations over the world. The Constitutional Democratic System formed by the people is highly supported by them.

Psychologically, our people who have suffered by the Vietcong indiscriminate

shellings are increasingly turning against the Communists and joining the Anti-Communist Works. The figure of the North Viet Nameese surrendering is also increasing. On the other hand, international opinion is turning against the Communists due to the continuous attack and infiltration into South Vietnam after US Partial Bombing Halt and the opening of the Paris Talks.

Economically, we have succeeded in stabilizing the market, regularizing the supply systems throughout the country, setting up security stocks of rice and stopping the inflation.

Socially, the two offensives of Viet Cong have made over 700,000 refugees. Our Government assisted them to rebuild themselves. We also received international social and humanitarian assistance from some 24 countries and four international entities, totalling an estimated sum of US \$6,260,720 in March. Hong Kong itself had

donated a total of HK \$ 95,882.69 in cash and over another HK \$300,000 in kinds (drugs,foods,clothes.....) These will certainly help the 700,000 refugees to settle their lives.

The above are the successes of the work of our Constitutional Government last year. Here, in commemorating our National Day this year, we wish to re-stress our conditions for an honourable peace !

1. The Hanoi Regime has to acknowledge its aggression and accept an end to that aggression.
2. Hanoi has to acknowledge that our Constitutional Government elected by the free choice of the people, is the only authentic representative of the Vietnamese.
3. Hanoi has to accept to enter into negotiating with our Government for restoration of Peace.

All Vietnamese People are supporting the leadership of President Thieu. Further progress is to be expected and will lead our people to a victory, peace, democracy and Prosperity.

CONSULATE GENERAL
OF THE
REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM
HONG KONG

CABINETS OF REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

Prime Minister Concurrently
of Minister of Revolut-
ionary DevelopmentTran Van Huong
Minister of State concurrently
Minister of Open-Arms..Nguyen Ngoc An
Minister of State concurrently
Inspector General.....Mai Tho Truyen
Minister of State.....Vu Quoc Thuc
Minister of Foreign Affairs..Tran Chanh Thanh
Minister of Interior.....Tran Thien Khiem
Minister of Defense & ..
Veterans Affairs.....Nguyen Van Vy
Minister of Justice.....Le Van Thu
Minister of Education, Youth
& Cultural Affairs.....Lam Minh Tri
Minister of Health, Relief
& Social Welfare.....Tran Lu Y
Minister of Economy.....Au Ngoc Ho
Minister of Finance.....Luu Van Tinh
Minister of InformationTon That Thien
Minister of Land Reform
& Agriculture.....Truong Thai Ton

Minister of Public Works,
 Transports & Communications
 Communications.....Luong The Sieu
Minister of Labour.....Dam Sy Hien
Minister of Ethnic.....
 Development.....Paul Nur
Minister at the Office of...
 the Prime Minister...Huynh Van Dao
Deputy Minister for Revolut-
 ionary Development...Hoang Van Lac

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF

: PRESIDENT NGUYEN VAN THIEU

- 1923 - Born at Ninh Thuan, Central Vietnam.
- 1948 - Graduated from Vietnam National Military Academy.
- 1949 - Graduated from Infantry School, Coetquidan, France.
- 1952 - Graduated from Hanoi Staff School
- 1957 - Graduated from Command and Staff School, Leavenworth, U.S.A.
- 1959 - Graduated from Allied Planning and Command Mixed School, Okinawa, Japan.
- 1960 - Graduated from Course on Modern Weapons, Fort Bliss, U.S.A.
- 1954/55 - Assistant Commander of Military Zone II, concurrently Commander of 2nd Infantry Division.
- 1955/59 - Commander -in -Chief of Dalat Military Academy.
- 1959/60 - Acting Chief of Staff of the Operational Command.
- 1961 - Commander of First Infantry Division, concurrently Commander of 11th Tractic Area.

- 1962 - Commander of 5th Infantry Division, concurrently Commander of 32nd Tactic Area.
- 1963 - Chief of Staff of Inter-Armies, Vice Minister of National Defense, Secretary General of Armed Forces Council.
- 1964 - Commander of 4th Army Corps and Tactic Zone IV.
- 1965 - Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defense.
- 1965/67 - Chairman of National Leadership Committee (Chief of State).
- 1967 - President of the Republic of Vietnam.

BIOGRAPHY OF THE PRIME MINISTER

Mr. Tran Van Huong, Prime Minister of the Republic of Vietnam, 65 years old, was born of a poor Confucianist family at Long Chau, Vinh Long, in 1903.

He was granted a scholarship to attend the High School of Pedagogy in Hanoi in 1923 and was graduated in 1926.

From September 1926 to October 1937, he taught at Mytho High School and became Primary Education Inspector in Tay Ninh province from 1937 to November, 1945.

He continued to hold the same post after the Revolution of August, 1945, and was elected Chairman of the Tay Ninh Administrative Committee by local popular organizations. On November 8, 1945, when the French entered Tay Ninh with the British troops, he joined the resistance.

On December 5, 1945, while his troops were stationed at Ben Cau, a member of the

"Viet Minh" informed him that he was elected Deputy at the National Assembly and invited him to go to Hanoi, but he refused.

On June 25, 1954, Mr. Ngo Dinh Diem returned to Vietnam to form the government.

Mr. Tran Van Huong and some of his friends were invited to participate in the Cabinet on July 4, 1954, but they declined.

Later, invited to assume the position of Government Delegate of South Vietnam, Mr. Huong also refused.

By the end of October, he agreed to become Saigon Prefect but resigned five months later for having political difference with Prime Minister Ngo Dinh Diem.

In June, 1956, he served as Secretary General for the Vietnam Red Cross of which he was an active member since 1952.

After the November 11, 1960, attempted overthrow of Diem, he was arrested along with some friends and was detained five

months before being temporarily released.

However, he was acquitted by the military tribunal on July 12, 1963.

He accepted membership in the Council of Notables in January, 1964 and was elected Chairman of the Political Affairs Committee. Then he was appointed Saigon Prefect and Prime Minister.

His government was overthrown by the Armed Forces Council on January 27, 1965. He took refuge at the residence of the British Ambassador for a week, then became the "Guest of Honour" of the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces Council, at the invitation of the latter, and went to reside in Vung Tau in a villa named Santa Maria.

He ran for the Presidency in Sept., 1967.

Mr. Tran Van Huong has been considered as an integral personality, and he used to ride a bike to go to work when

he was the Saigon Prefect.

Besides his political activities, Mr. Tran Van Huong is also a poet. He is the author of two books of poems entitled "Lao Truong Lanh Van" and "Bo Hoa Cuo Mua". He has also explained a play of the classical theater, "Kim Thack Ky Duyen" of Bui Huu Nghia.

BIOGRAPHY OF THE MINISTER OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Born in 1917 in Qui Nhon, Mr. Tran Chanh Thanh, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Vietnam, is a lawyer and professor at the Faculty of Political Science, Dalat University. In early manhood, he was active in student activities and was elected Chairman of the Qui Nhon Student Union.

Cultural activities

- Contributor to several Vietnamese and French newspapers and periodicals.
- Author of many critical studies in law, politics and information.

Political activities

- Chief of Cabinet at the Justice Ministry in the Tran Trong Kim administration (1945)
- Participant in the struggle for independence as nationalist without party bias. Public Prosecutor of the Hue Appellate Court.

-Justice Director, advocating a separate judiciary independent of administrative committees.

Professional activities and participation
in Nationalist Government

- Resigned as Justice Director to teach after the Vietnamese struggle for independence fell under Communist Chinese influence in late 1949.
- Lawyer in Saigon from 1953 to 1954.
- Represented Central Vietnam in the Greater Solidarity Force in Saigon (1953-54).
- Specialist, Adviser of the Vietnamese Nationalist Delegation to the 1953 Paris Conference on National sovereignty.
- Minister of State at the Prime Minister's Office and then Minister of Information and Youth Affairs from 1954 till 1960.
- Chairman of the National Revolutionary Movement (1955-57).
- Deputy from Dong Xuan constituency (1956) of the first Constituent Assembly, then elected Chairman of the Constitution

Drafting Committee.

- Senator in September 1967, then Chairman of the By-Law Drafting Committee and of the Senate Information and Foreign Affairs Committee.

Foreign Affairs' Activities

- Ambassador and Acting Chief of the Vietnamese Delegation to Geneva in 1962.
- Ambassador to Tunisia (1962-63)
- Ambassador, Special Correspondent to Washington, Cambodia and Liberia after the November '63 Revolution.
- Professor at Dalat University Faculty of Political Science.

PRIME MINISTER HUONG'S POLICY

Mr. Tran Van Huong assumed the post of Prime Minister on May 27th May. He then formed the Cabinet and announced his policy the next day.

Restoration of National Authority

To present, the policy of his government, he said, "will base on reality of the whole national policy promulgated by President Thieu." He then pointed out, "the continuous troubles which occur during a total and frontless war have caused disorder in the Vietnamese society: the laws are despised by power, and justice must surrender to pressure. Such a situation has made the authorities powerless, discouraged the people of good will, frightened the weak and the selfish and nurtured favoritism." Therefore, he stressed the people to keep laws and said, "From now on, I am determined to do evrything to reestablish national authority and make every body respect the Constitution, have the law strictly applied to everyone without any discrimination."

Eradication of Corruption

Prime Minister Huong sternly condemned corrupted practices and presented the three basic principles of his government. He said, " 1. Leading officials must set the example of honesty for their subordinates. 2. Civil Servants have to be well-defined on division of duties in order to impute responsibilities, eliminate dishonest elements and encourage honest people. 3. Rewards and punishments must be equitable and applied to everybody."

Stabilization of the People's Life

Referring to the stabilization of the people's life, Prime Minister Huong said, "For the stabilization of the people's life, relief activities must be carried out at the same time as stabilizing prices, rendering goods distribution agencies more efficient, helping, the poor to have employment and to encourage investment."

Initiative Search For Peace

On the problem of Peace, Prime Minister Huong said, "My Government is determined to hold the initiative in the search for peace in accordance with the aspirations of the majority of the people in South Vietnam, peace with honour and guarantee for the future generations. Our country always place the survival of the people above all, but it will fight until the end if the enemy think that their shellings, arsons and murders towards innocent people can be used as a pressure to bring them victory."



PRESIDENT THIEU VISITS THE FARMERS OF CHUONG THIEN



PRIME MINISTER HUONG DELIVERS A LAND DEED TO A FARMER

AN INTRODUCTION TO VIETNAM

Vietnam is located in the heart of Southeast Asia.

It has a total area of about 128,000 square miles, almost the size of Germany. The Geneva Agreements of July 20, 1954 divided the nation at the 17th parallel. South of this line, the Republic of Vietnam extends over 65,000 square miles. It is almost double the size of South Korea.

South Vietnam has been considered a granary of Southeast Asia. Its Mekong Delta is dominated by a bewildering labyrinth of waterways. Immense rice fields in the Delta constitute one of the richest rice growing areas of the World. In Central Vietnam, the highlands and their surroundings are covered by scenic woods and rubber plantations.

The mineral wealth of Vietnam lies mostly in the north - in the hilly region to the Red River - with iron, zinc,

tin, wolfram, managanese and sizable coal deposits.

The population is approximately 32 million. South of the 17th Parellel, the Republic of Vietnam has a population of about 14.5 million.

Vietnam has been called the "Balcony of the Pacific," because of its strategic position commanding the juncture between the South China Sea and the Indian Ocean.

During World War II, the Japanese Armed Forces moved into Vietnam. From bases there, Japanese planes sank the British battleships Repulse and Prince of Wales off Singapore. From other Vietnamese bases, the Japanese launched their conquests of Burma, Thailand, Malaya and the Philippines, initiating their military success throughout the Far East.

Today, the Republic of Vietnam has become an outpost of freedom in Southeast Asia against the tides of Communist expansion.

A GLIMPSE OF VIETNAM'S HISTORY

Vietnam came into being in 2879 B.C. with the founding of the Hong Bang Dynasty which, according to legends, descended from dragons and fairy spirits.

The long history of Vietnam has been marked by two major trends: the struggle against China, its vast neighbor to the north which has attempted many times to conquer and absorb Vietnam, and the continuous march South of the Vietnamese nation which, gradually through the centuries, extended the national boundaries from the gates of China to Ca Mau Point, stretching over 1500 miles from the South China Sea to the Gulf of Siam.

In One Hundred Eleven, B.C. Vietnam was invaded by China. She occupied the country for a thousand years. During that period the Vietnamese people became intimately acquainted with Chinese Culture. In 939, the Chinese were expelled after a war of independence which ended

with the victory of Ngo Quyen at the battle of Bach Dang Giang.

Since that time, the Chinese have made other attempts to conquer Vietnam, all unsuccessful, even though they did succeed from time to time in occupying the country for short periods.

In the 13th Century, the Mongols under both Genghis Khan and Kublai Khan over-ran China and conquered Eastern Europe. But, their attempts to absorb Southeast Asia into their vast empire failed after their armies were decisively defeated in Vietnam on three successive expeditions. They met final disaster at the hands of the Vietnamese Marshall Tran Hung Dao in another famous battle at Bach Dang Giang.

In 1883, in the wake of colonialist expansion in Asia, Vietnam became a French protectorate. After World War II, following a long war for national independence and the French defeat at Dien Bien Phu in May, 1954, the Geneva Agreements were concluded. In July of the same year, Vietnam was partitioned into a Communist North above the 17th

parallel and, the Republic of Vietnam
in the South.

The Communist started to invade us
in 1959. The war was then started to de-
fend ourself and to against the aggres-
sion.

In 1

In 1967, we established our Constit-
ution. A Constitutional Government was
then established on 1st November, 1967,
making Republic of Vietnam a true Democ-
ratic Nation.

VC LAVISHLY KILLED INNOCENT

VN PEOPLE

Communists are using their horrible way to kill lavishly our civil servants, village chiefs, teachers, reporters, and the workers. From 1957 to June, this year they had killed more than 18,000 people, about 35,000 being disabled. Another 50,000 were kidnapped, a part of them were forced to be guerilla or to join the labour service, but most of them disappeared ever since.

The cruel methods used by the Viet Congs in their horrid activities are aimed to intimidate and control the people. They are:-

1. The Vietcongs kill political and religious leaders and also government officers with their horrid ways purposely in front of their families or colleagues.
2. They kidnap families of soldiers as hostage to blackmail the armies to surrender or work for them secretly.
3. They capture the whole village and forced the villagers to be their

workers. Most of them died on the hard services.

4. They burn or bomb the village or lavishly kill the villagers as a revenge to the people who refuse their cooperation.
5. They place subterraneans on the road to blast any possible vehicle. Many innocent people are hurt.
6. They hide bombs on the busy roads. A lot of people are killed.
7. They throw bombs in front of the theatres or through the windows of the restaurants. These kill innocent people.
8. They bomb hospitals and kill the sicked people.

COMMUNICATIONS & RECONSTRUCTIONS
IN VIETNAM

North Vietnam has been governed by the Communists since 1954. Nothing was built there. Moreover, the Communists do not even decorate the buildings. This makes cities of North Vietnam to look poor and old. Road surfaces are bumpy and make communication difficult. Transport is poor. People have to walk or to ride bicycles. These look like the olden times.

But, in South Vietnam, the situation is different from North Vietnam. The Government has paid special attention to both communication and reconstruction works and is obtaining fruitful successess. High buildings and modern buildings have been built and are crowded there in most of the cities. Population in the cities is increasing, yet, all of them can have their own houses. For the communications, the Government had perfect roads before. But all of them were completely damaged by the war. No doubt, it is a difficult task to rebuild, but the government is attending to the problem and has already improved

the situation considerably.

The communication system in South Vietnam was started early in the time of the Emperor Vua Gia Long (about 150 years ago). Wide roads were built in Hue. Later, roads were extended in most of the cities. By the end of the 19th century, the roads in Saigon were World Famous. And of course, all of these have been damaged by the war.

The Government decided to improve the roads. Under the aid of the US Development Centre, a modern highway which connected all the cities was built on the expense of US \$2,000,000.

For the villages, an up to date highway road is supposed to be finished by the end of this year.

A number of the roads which had once been captured and damaged by the Vietcong are being rebuilt. Up to date, about 70% of the main roads have already

rebuilt and are in used for communication. Last year, about 900 miles of roads were rebuilt and another 200 miles were also finished by July this year.

We assume that the other 30 of the damaged roads will soon be settled and we do believe that they will soon be well reconstructed.



THE 1st OPENING CEREMONY OF THE SENATE



PRESIDENT THIEU & PRIME MINISTER HUONG INSPECT THE REVOLUTIONARY DEVELOPING TROOPS

EXTRACTS FROM

PRESIDENT THIEU'S SPEECHS

"Our people must increase its combat potential to win the final victory and make the communists give up their dream of aggression."

(addressed on T.V. and Radio on the occasion of the Labour Day)

"We will never have a coalition with the communists under any form, we will not recognize the so-called NLF as an official political party either."

(addressed in the Celebration of the Labour Day dated 1/5)

"The so-called NLF endangered the properties and lives of our people and our military personnel, we would not hesitate to open fire at them..... All civil servants must get used to eat and sleep in their offices and to work over 24 hours when if need be."

(addressed on T.V. and Radio dated 9/5)

"I am determined to serve you with all patriotism and my absolute spirit of sacrifice."

(addressed on T.V. and Radio dated 18/5)

"We must fight to defeat Communism and build democracy to reform the society..... All of us are longing for peace in justice freedom, democracy and progress. To this purpose, we must try our best in our fighting.....The General Mobilization Law will enable the country to solve the fundamental problem in building the Armed Forces."

(addressed on the Armed Forces Day dated 19/5)

"We must and have the duty to come to a greater, more stable, better organized and better disciplined organization in order to face the Communists, otherwise, we would either have a theoretical democracy, or a disorderly democracy which will certainly lead to a collapse."

(addressed to the representatives of the political parties and groups of the Nation dated 29/6)

"The so-called NLF would never be considered as equal to the Republic of Viet Nam because it is only a tool of aggression of North Vietnam."

(answered the press dated 11/7)

"We will not accept a solution betraying our Nation's interests and our allies will not force us to accept such a solution. We are winning the Communists and increasing our efforts to defeat them and restore peace sooner."

(addressed on T.V. and Radio before leaving Saigon for the Honolulu Meeting dated 18/7)

"The Communists in Vietnam have been seriously weakened by the vigorous action of the Republic of Vietnam and its allies."

(addressed in the 1st Session of the Honolulu Meeting dated 19/7)

"A coalition government will never exist in Saigon and that the Americans will never use any guise to force us to accept a coalition or talks with the so

called NLF.....The war must end, but it must come to an end under a certain form, not by Communist domination over our country."

(addressed the VN Nationals in Honolulu dated 20/7)

"We must win the war. This would not be pure military means but by militarily action combined with pacification programs, rural development, strengthening of the democratic system and the economy and bringing about active and healthy political participation by the people."

(answered the reporter of the "US News and Reports) in the plane on his return to Saigon dated 21/7)

"The President of the United States and I agreed that we would not allow the Communists to take advantage of their policy of fighting while negotiation..... We should be one of the main negotiators at any final peace talksI have presented the following views of peace at the various meetings with President Johnson : 1.Re-establish the 17th parellel as

the demarcation line between North and South VN pending a decision on the territorial reunification by means of a free choice by all Vietnamese citizens. 2. Respect the territorial integrity of the RVN. 3. Respect the principle of non-intervention in internal affairs between North and South VN. 4. Withdrawal all North Vietnamese armed and subversive forces from South VN. 5. Stop Communist aggression and achieve a cease-fire throughout the territory of VN. 6. Establish an efficient international control and ensure the implementation of these control measures."

(addressed the press on his return from Honolulu dated 22/7)

"We are not ashamed of receiving financial assistance and donations from friendly countries, but we will be ashamed if we rely on the bloody sacrifices of the friendly nation's youths when many Vietnamese young men achieve nothing for the Nation."

(addressed to the Capital Civil Self Defense Members dated 11/8)

"I encourage you, I press you, to have more drive, to make more efforts, to attack more in order to weaken militarily the enemy. Thus, weak military, the enemy will not be able to launch their offensives and at that moment, they might desire for peace..... Negotiations in Paris are a trick to make us in the wrong direction..... Victory must be won on the ground..... Then peace will come forever."

(addressed on the 11th Founding Anniversary of the 1st Corps dated 15/8)

"The four essential conditions on peace:

1. re-establish the 17th parallel as the demarcation line between North and South VN, pending the determination by the free choice of all Vietnamese on reunification.
 2. respect for the territorial integrity of RVN.
 3. complete cessation of hostilities and subversion, and withdrawal from RVN of Communist military and subversive forces to the North.
 4. effective international supervision and guarantees.....
- If the enemy can lay down their weapons, renounce violence, and abide our law, they will have the full rights of citizenship. They will enjoy exactly the same civil and political rights.....

rights The Russian Invasion in Czechoslovakia is a good example of the fact that Communists in the name of liberation, use invasion by force. It can show to the people of America, Vietnam and World to understand why we have to fight in South VN. What has happened in Czechoslovakia will make them understand that the coalition with Communists can have the same result."

(addressed on T.V. and Radio dated 23/8)

"If the enemy continues to invade us, we are determined to fight for our position at any price.....We will be ready to talk to them, but the only position on peace is to have a justice with guaranteed freedom, sovereignty and self-determination."

(addressed the Navy dated 16/9)

"I will never accept a peace which sells the country at cheap price and is unsuitable to the just stand and put forth..... The objective of our present struggle is to safeguard independence, sovereignty, democracy and freedom so as to build a strong VN..... If the enemy is still prolonging the war in an attempt to realize

a Communist regime in the South, we will determine to defend this stand at any price."

(addressed the 17th officier class
dated 18/9)

"North Vietnam should refrain from taking advantage of the Paris Talks to intensify its offensives and to increase its infiltration of Troops in South Vietnam, as it has been doing..... Toward the establishment of peace, the Hanoi Regime has to acknowledge its aggression against South Vietnam and to accept to end that aggression. Hanoi has to acknowledge that, in South Vietnam, our constitutional Government, elected by the free choice of the people, is the only authentic representative of the people of South Vietnam, and it has to accept to enter into negotiations with the Government of the Republic of Vietnam for the restoration of peace."

(addressed in the National Assembly
dated 7/10)

