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CONTENTS

NATIONAL AFFAIRS
Premier Ngo dinh Diem Appeals to the People
Support for the Premier
Political High Council
The Situation at Haiphong
Air-Viet Nam Presents DC-6 for Saigon-Paris Run
Viet Nam Red Cross Aids Mindanao Disaster Victims
Grants for Study Abroad

ECONOMIC REPORT
Commercial Agreements Between Viet Nam and Italy
Franco-Vietnamese Monetary Relations

FOREIGN AFFAIRS
Asian-African Conference at Bandung
Conference on U. S. Asian Aid Plan

REVIEW OF SAIGON PRESS

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SAIGON:

An appeal was made to the people of Viet Nam by Premier Ngo Dinh Diem on April 4th. The Premier again warns the rebels of their misdeeds.

"Dear Compatriots:

Following the events on the nights of the 29th and 30th of March at Saigon which were provoked by leaders of the Binh Xuyen Commandos who caused losses in human lives and property, I understand very well the indignation felt by the people and the National Army.

"I have received many letters, telegrams, and resolutions from Compatriots in the capital and throughout the country asking me to be strong and firm towards those who abuse the name of the public security forces to disturb public order.

"These very people dared to fire on passers-by last night. During the past few days they have threatened to prohibit our compatriots from bringing goods to market. They have deprived them of their means of livelihood and caused a rise in prices at the expense of the population of Saigon and Cholon.

"The Government does not show any weakness.

"You know that even in the ranks of Binh Xuyen police forces and fighters, the majority does not agree with the rebels.

"Toward the people, as well as toward those who sincerely recognize their misdeeds, the government will be lenient. On the other hand, for those who continue to engage in reprehensible acts, the government will take strong action.

"The Government has prepared adequate measures to smash all attempts at illegal or criminal acts. The National Army has sufficient strength to ensure protection of the population.

"Therefore, my compatriots, please remain calm."

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SUPPORT FOR PREMIER NGO DINH DIEM

The provisional executive committee of Thua Thien province which is at the same time the regional committee of Central Viet Nam for the Revolutionary Nationalist Movement, addressed the following motion to Premier Ngo Dinh Diem:

1) We approve without reservation Premier Ngo Dinh Diem's point of view on the unification of the National Army and the Administration.

2) We will reinforce the organization behind the head of the government so that he can fulfill his program for national revolution to restore unity, independence, and democracy.

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From the province of Quang Tri the provincial committee voted on this motion addressed to the Premier:

1) We firmly support Premier Ngo Dinh Diem in his efforts to unify the
Administration and the Army.

2) We resist all movements tending to sabotage the National Union and all political claims supported by armed force.

3) We have absolute confidence in Premier Ngo dình Diem and in his objective of restoring the happiness of the people and the prosperity of the country. We acclaim his courage in thwarting separation and sabotage manoeuvres.

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Twelve thousand members of this revolutionary nationalist movement at Quang Nam voted unanimously for the following:

1) We firmly support Premier Ngo dình Diem in relation to the unification of the National Army.

2) We are united behind the government led by Premier Ngo dình Diem who fights for the National cause.

Civil Forces of Phu Yen

After hearing the proclamation of Premier Ngo dình Diem, company commanders and section heads of the Civil Forces of Phu Yen (Central Viet Nam) unanimously voted for a motion supporting the Premier.

"We unanimously declare:

1) Firm support for the government of Ngo dình Diem which is trying to unify the National Army.

2) Request of Premier Ngo dình Diem to bring about this unification

3) Fight all attempts to form private armies apart from the National Army."

Thousands Gather at Nhatrang to Reaffirm Support of Premier

Following a decision taken during a meeting on March 30th of more than 700 representatives of all social classes a demonstration organized by the population and the army administration took place at Nhatrang. Thousands of people participated in this demonstration protesting the manoeuvring of special groups undermining National Unity and to witness their loyalty to the government.

All the activities of the city ceased during this meeting which ended in a big parade during which demonstrators proclaimed indignation for those instigating the trouble and acclaimed cooperation of the Caodaists.

At the end of the meeting, demonstrators approved the Premier’s program of action and voted for a motion of support for a great national leader, Ngo dình Diem.

At Dalat 23 Binh Xuyen Rally to The National Army

Saigon, April 4:

Yesterday morning at 7:00 o'clock, twenty three Binh Xuyen commandos presented themselves at the military sector at Dalat. They were cordially welcomed by the military authorities.

Fifty Seven Communists Rally to Nationalist Authorities in Quang Tri Province

Saigon:

On the 23rd of March at Kim Giao (the Hai Lang district of Quang Tri Province) a meeting of more than 5,000 inhabitants of the three townships of An Nhon, An Hai and Kim Long was held.
At this meeting the head of the district delivered an address in which he exposed the administrative organization of the district. The head of the province, taking the floor, made inquiries as to the living conditions of the people, showing the government's concern for the people. He then demonstrated the results obtained by the government of Ngo dinh Diem on national and international levels.

Two delegates representing fifty seven former communist partisans went to the rostrum to state that they pledged to break with the communist Viet Minh. After reaffirming their loyalty to the national government, the former communist partisans tore the Viet Minh colors and addressed a motion to the government denouncing the crimes of the Viet Minh communists against the people and expressed their unswerving support of Premier Ngo dinh Diem's government.

THE PREMIER PROPOSES TO ESTABLISH POLITICAL HIGH COUNCIL

Saigon, April:

The Premier's office published a communiqué on the establishment of a political High Council.

"For the purpose of encouraging a broader participation of various strata of the population in the management of the affairs of state, the Premier proposes to establish a political High Council composed of advisors chosen from among qualified representatives of political groups and popular organizations as well as from among personalities having no party affiliations.

"The objectives of the High Council will be:

1) To prepare general policy lines and plans for action for submission to the Premier.

2) To advise the Government on questions of public interest and make appropriate suggestions."

The Premier is now holding extensive consultation with leaders of political and popular organizations and with important personalities for the purpose of forming the political High Council. Most of the leaders and personalities who have been contacted have responded to Premier Ngo dinh Diem's appeal. They met on April 9th at the Independence Palace to exchange points of view.

Representatives of all political parties will appear in the political High Council and all opinions will be defended. In the interest of religions, the religious bodies should not mix in active politics, for it would lead to division in their own organization. Thus, neither catholicism nor buddhism will be taken into consideration in political councils.

The sects will not be a part of the political High Council as religious organizations. However, partisans of the sects have created political groups and these political groups will be represented the same as other political parties.

THE SITUATION AT HAIPHONG

Saigon:

Military authorities have taken over one quarter of the mail, telephone, and telegraph services. Radio communications with Saigon have been suppressed. The telegraph functions with many restrictions and only ordinary letters are dispatched.

At Haiphong, news of events at Saigon does not affect the morale of the refugees who continue to embark at the normal rate. The "Marine Adder" left Haiphong
March 30th with 1978 refugees aboard and the S.S. "Djiring" left on March 31st with 490 refugees.

AIR-VIET NAM PRESENTS DC-6 FOR SAIGON-PARIS RUN

Saigon:

Leaders of AIR-VIET NAM presented Mr. Tran van Bach, Minister of Public Works and Communications a DC-6 that Air-Viet Nam will fly between Saigon and Paris. On his arrival the Minister was greeted by Mr. Nghiem van Tri, former minister and president of the administrative council for Air-Viet Nam. He was accompanied by Mr. Ly cong Tring, Director General.

Under the guidance of Mr. Nghiem van Tri, Mr. Tran van Bach inspected the large plane thoroughly. Beginning the first of April, the National Society of Air Transport for Viet Nam will be able to ensure regular communication between Saigon and Paris.

Mr. Chemidlin, technical director for the organization declared that putting a DC-6 into service between Saigon and Paris for the first time is because of the constant efforts of the leaders of Air-Viet Nam. They did not give up in spite of many problems in order that Vietnamese wings might flash around the world.

AID FOR THE LABORING CLASS

Saigon:

A communication of the government for the South states that a commission met on March 29th to study the establishment of a public credit union to make loans on wages at minimum rates. The aim is to help the working class and keep them away from lending houses demanding exorbitant rates.

VIETNAMESE RED CROSS AIDS MINDANAO DISASTER VICTIMS

Saigon:

The Vietnamese Red Cross has made the sum of 20,000 piastres available to the Vietnamese Jaycees for the purchase of five tons of rice to be used for the victims of the Mindanao earthquake disaster.

STUDY GRANTS AWARDED MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Saigon:

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been awarded thirty two grants for study abroad. The study grants are allotted to the various sections as follows: economic section, two; international conferences, two; information and documentation, two; information and propaganda, two; chancery clerks, two; decoders, five; interpreters and translators, fifteen (English, Spanish, Chinese, Japanese and Russian.)

COMMERCIAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN VIET NAM AND ITALY SIGNED AT SAIGON

Saigon:

A commercial agreement with a foreign country has been signed on Vietnamese territory for the first time. It is a protocol on a commercial agreement between Viet Nam and Italy which is an extension of an agreement signed November 14, 1953.
The protocol was signed for Viet Nam by Mr. Tran van Do, Minister of Foreign Affairs, assisted by Mr. Tran huu Phuong, Minister of Finance, Mr. Luong trong Tuong, Minister of National Economy and Mr. Nguyen tan Trung, Director General of Customs and taxes. His Excellency, Vitale Gallina, Minister Plenipotentiary at Saigon, assisted by Mr. Raffaele, commercial attache of the Italian legation, signed for Italy.

FRANCO-VIETNAMESE MONETARY RELATIONS

Saigon:

In the economic life of a modern country, the monetary question is a primary consideration of the government. Money constitutes a thermometer registering the prosperity of the country. Its stability is zealously watched and governments consent to any sacrifice to maintain it.

Viet Nam, an old nation and a young state, is a new member of the family of nations and does not escape this rule. It therefore negotiated with the French government to define its own currency, the piastre, and to ensure a stable rate for it on international markets.

Viet Nam defined its currency on the basis of the franc because for more than eighty years the major part of its trade has been with France.

Mr. Nguyen van Thoai, Minister of Planning and Reconstruction who negotiated the monetary agreements as replacement for the Pau convention, commented as follows on the problem of Franco-Vietnamese monetary relations:

"According to the general convention, the text of which has just appeared in the Vietnamese "Official Journal", Viet Nam is free to define its currency as it sees fit. It defined the piastre in terms of the franc. Notice should be taken of the fact that this definition would have been just as valid if any other foreign currency were taken for a basis—the dollar, the pound, etc.

"This definition in relation to the franc permits the piastre a specific value in relation to other currency; the value of the franc being known in relation to these other currencies.

"Should Viet Nam wish to re-evaluate its currency tomorrow, it would be free to ask France to negotiate a new piastre-franc parity.

"On the other hand, if the franc were devaluated, the piastre could either acquire a new rate in relation to the franc or keep its former parity.

"In any event, the parity of the piastre is guaranteed and the Vietnamese have no reason to become alarmed over the stability of their currency.

The Piastre on the Foreign Market

The Minister continued by pointing out what will happen to the piastre on the foreign market when it is well defined: (1) The franc assets of Viet Nam come from expenditures of the French expeditionary corps, which amounts to approximately 80 billion francs a year, and Vietnamese exports to the franc zone—those will serve as payment of Vietnamese imports coming from the franc zone. (2) For settlement of imports coming from other countries of Europe having commercial relations with Viet Nam such as West Germany, Italy, etc., article three of the convention provided that France is to furnish the necessary currency for payments to these countries against the franc assets of Viet Nam.
In exchange for these facilities granted by France, article seven stipulates that Viet Nam pledges to deposit all its foreign exchange stock in the French fund for stabilization of exchange. This clause covers: (1) foreign currency coming from loans from abroad, or from foreign aid. Viet Nam has a deposit account in the French fund for stabilization of exchange and is free to withdraw from it at will whatever sums may be needed. (2) Foreign exchange coming from Vietnamese exportations... Viet Nam sells the foreign currency to the fund at the rate of exchange of the day and France resells it to Viet Nam on first request at the rate at which it was bought.

For this year, Viet Nam has two principal sources of franc assets: (1) expenditures of the French Expeditionary Corps which amounts to approximately 80 billion francs; (2) dollars from American aid.

ASIAN-AFRICAN CONFERENCE

The assembling of delegations from thirty nations of Asia and Africa at Bandung, the capital of West Java (Indonesia) on the 18th of April will be the largest international conference ever held in Asia. The Minister of Planning and Reconstruction, Mr. Nguyen van Thoai, is expected to lead the delegation of South Viet Nam at Bandung.

CONFERENCE ON NEW U. S. ASIAN AID PLAN CALLED

It has been reported that India has called for a conference of the eleven countries concerned with the regional use of new United States economic aid destined for Asian countries. The conference is to be held at Simla. The countries invited by India besides South Viet Nam, are Ceylon, Pakistan, Indonesia, Nepal, Malaya, Burma, Thailand, Cambodia, and Laos.

REVIEW OF SAIGON PRESS

ANH SANG(The Sun), speaking of the need for union, wrote: "What is more grievous, or more painful for a fighter than a fratricidal war? On the other side of the line of demarcation the communists make fun of us. What would happen if they took advantage of an opportunity to launch a rapid attack?"

"The national cause would no longer be mere words, but reality. The national interest would come before any group or individual. It is the fault of our domestic organization that we have been led where we are. Who are those responsible?"

"Let the government and the people be the one, for only then can we hope to fight against communism with a chance of success."

NGON LUAN (Debate), writing on "Religion and Politics" said: "In face of the present grave situation in Viet Nam, we think it is necessary to apply the maxim, 'Render unto Caesar that which is Caesars and to God that which is God's'. Our people do not belong to a single religion, but to several different religions. A political grouping does not necessarily include members of the same religion. Thus, citizens who are neither Caodaists or Catholics, support the Caodai or Catholic policy. Whatever the political party, members of different religions should be equal... temporal life and eternal life must not be confused."
Writing editorially under the title "The National Cause an Effective Instrument for the Recovery of Peace", this same paper stated: "After the exodus of nearly one million of our compatriots from the North we all realize that our principal enemy is communism as well as any other attempt to dominate and enslave our people."

"In order to face this enemy, national union is more necessary today than ever before. No Vietnamese, no group fighting for the people can permit themselves to attack this union. Without this union, we cannot hope to defeat our enemy, any more than we could hope to defeat our enemy by placing our personal interests above the higher interests of the country.

"Since the National cause is a unique instrument in the present phase of our struggle, why not make full use of it since it has proved its worth many times in the course of our history?

"At the present time, to play along with our opponents is to weaken our forces and to provoke collective suicide."

"May the communists not rejoice too soon" NGON LUAN had this to say:

"The newly independent state of Viet Nam still faces many obstacles and trials. In these trials, as always, we catch a glimpse of the communist hand as the instigator of trouble, and the sower of colonialist division. Whatever the case may be, these incessant trials have permitted us to witness the valor of the National Army and the self-control of the population. This valor, may be explained by the fact that the National Army is conscious of its mission to ensure order and security and protect the population. The self-control of our compatriots may be explained by the fact that they understand the necessity of these trials for the consolidation of our new independence. This unanimity, this union between army and people, stands as a warning for communists as well as other opponents of the free Vietnamese.

"May the communists not rejoice too soon!"

TU DO (Freedom) commented on the request made by the twenty six members of the Movement for the Defense of Peace and attempting to influence their return to the National zone. "The "monstrous" demonstrations of the intellectuals of Hanoi in acclamining the 26 members of the Movement for the Defense of peace is still remembered. The Viet Minh presented them as courageous and loyal soldiers having agreed to remain in the national zone to continue their activities within the "very heart of the opponent."

"The Viet Minh are mistaken. These twenty six intellectuals undoubtedly had some sympathy for the Viet Minh. But, they were primarily of the propertied class and as such, could not from one day to the next have abandoned their way of life for an ideology as extreme as that of communism. As long as they remained in their capitalist society, they could afford to look kindly toward the other side, but as soon as they came in contact with the regime, it did not take them long to learn the truth.

"It was during their stay in Haiphong that they came to realize the deep motivation for the mass exodus of their compatriots who preferred to leave everything behind in order to flee this regime. They could chat with men of their own kind, intellectuals who told of Viet Minh behavior toward them. This gave them food for thought and
they ended by observing that the choice of a political regime was more complicated than they had supposed. For, to accept communism had been for them merely to leave an old way of life for an adventure. It is actually a matter of too great an effort for these intellectuals who have their family, their position, and their property in the free zone.

"This explains their request to return to the South where they will be sure of leading a life free of risks and hazards. It will be interesting to know the Viet Minh reaction to this unequivocal position."

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ANTI-COLONIALISM AND ANTI-COMMUNISM NOURISH NATIONALISM

An editorial entitled "Period of Effort" appeared as follows in the DUOC VIET (Vietnamese Torch): "We are living in troubled times. In the face of communist disturbances to the north of the seventeenth parallel, and in face of international unrest, South Viet Nam is surviving a "period of effort" in order to keep abreast of events.

"There are troubles because of the effort. We do not know what future developments will be, but one thing is certain, the nation will continue to demand a wholly Vietnamese organization.

"Anti-communist work is absolutely necessary to guarantee the existence of the nation. If we are unable to place a strong national organization in power, we will perish in the hands of the communists. All the strength of the nation must unite in the struggle against communism. A decisive moment has arrived. More than ever, the anti-colonialist and anti-communist position becomes clear for us.

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