PRESIDENT DIME'S STATEMENT TO PRESS SEPTEMBER 24, 1954

I have the honor to announce to you, that the Ministers and the Secretaries of State, members of the government I formed on July 7, 1954, have resigned in order to facilitate the reorganization of the government which the present situation has made necessary.

I sincerely thank the ministers, the Secretaries of State, who have devoted themselves to the service of the fatherland, and given to me their entire cooperation during the last few months in order to save an extremely critical situation.

Today, I introduce to the people the new government.

Nearly three months ago, accepting the mission which His Majesty, the Chief of State, had entrusted to me, I came back to form the government.

At that time, the situation was most critical and confronted with the projected partition of the national territory decided at Geneva, I had to form immediately a fighting government in order to cope with the situation.

That government had to face the grave problems which resulted from the partition of our nation. Thousands and thousands of people, thirsty for freedom, have decided to leave their birthplaces, their homes and their properties and move southward. It is the duty of the government to help our refugee-countrymen who number at present 400,000. In this important task, the government expresses its thanks to the friendly nations, especially France and the United States of America, which have given us their entire support. The sacrifices consented by private organizations, functionaries and soldiers to help our refugee-countrymen are also worthy of admiration.
The second task of the past government was to achieve the independence of our nation. After the negotiations with the French government and its representatives in Vietnam, our government has gradually recovered all powers remaining in French hands.

The other tasks of the government were to stamp our corruption, to do away with the shameful
reform the regional order for the removal of theatched houses. With respect to the national army, the government at the same time ordered the regrouping of its armed forces below the 17th parallel, and care of the evacuation of soldiers' families and decided to raise their salaries in accordance with the present cost of living.

These are the main achievements of the government which has just resigned.

But one of my aims has always been to make all classes of people participate in the exercise of government.

This aim has begun to materialize today. I have initiated an extensive consultation with all the representatives of political groups and leaders. All personalities in the country, whether they have agreed to participate in the new government or whether they are helping the government in important missions, all have contributed to me many ideas and approved my intention to form a strong government, including the representatives of political parties and professional groups.

The new government will advance with determination on the road of national revolution, an overall political, economic, social, and cultural revolution, which I have long proposed.
First of all, the government will convene a council of political advisors, so that the leaders of different groups could contribute their enlightened opinion to the solutions of important and difficult problems.

Next, the government will convene a provisional national assembly where political parties and professional groups will be represented and will participate in state affairs.

The government will form a National Defense Committee in order to study and discuss all plans for national defense.

The government must continue to evacuate and resettle our refugee-countrymen, build houses, find jobs for our countrymen who have courageously opted for freedom and endured many sufferings.

The government will continue the campaign against corruption until its completely extinct.

The government will push forward the realization of an economic and social program aimed at the bottomment of the material and spiritual hope of all the people and the establishment of a powerful and prosperous nation.

The following are the main points in the program of national reconstruction that the new government will endeavor to realize with the help of France and the United States:

--- agrarian reform to help the land tenants become land-owners;

--- improvement of the living standard of labor masses in urban areas;

--- establishment of credit agencies for the farmers, small businessmen and handcrafters so as to increase their productivity;

--- repairing of railroads, national highways and telegraphic communications south of the 17th parallel.

--- development of public health facilities in rural areas; popularization of education, increase of secondary schools, building of a University and a university city, broadening the program of the existing school of administration so as to transform it into a training center of public servants in all fields,

--- abolition of all wartime regulations;

--- lowering the cost of living, raising the living standard of labor classes in urban and rural areas.
Countrymen,

I appeal to all my countrymen, regardless of political/religious affiliations and origins, so that together, hand and hand, we may realize the political, economic and social program I just mentioned.

Countrymen, let us unite our minds and forces to form a unique body to consolidate our national independence, preserve peace and reconstruct our country.

Countrymen, let's beware of those who by their intrigues, plan to divide us and destroy our newly gained independence and the reconstruction of our war-torn nation.