DOMESTIC NEWS

Plans to decongest traffic -

Saigon - In order to alleviate the traffic problem caused by the ever-increasing number of vehicles in Saigon, the Prefecture has decided to enlarge all the main roads leading out to suburbs and provinces.

Already trees lining the roads have been cut down and the pavements enlarged. The plan calls for the broadening of more than 20 streets crisscrossing the city in both directions. To cut down on traffic accidents, the Prefecture has decided to ban timber transport vehicles from circulating in the city between 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.; to prohibit parking on the streets at night; to withdraw temporarily or permanently the driving licences of traffic violators.

The Prefecture envisages a special traffic budget amounting to more than 50 million piasters for a 5-year traffic improvement plan.

(Ngon Luan)

Money transfer for students simplified -

Saigon - On April 10, the President of the Republic signed a new decree concerning money transfer to Vietnamese students abroad. According to the new decree, the Department of National Education and the National Exchange Office will fix the modalities of transfer to students or the families of students living in foreign countries with them.

During the school-year 1955-56 those who have a transfer book may continue their transfer until September 30, 1956, without providing a complementary file as previously required. For the school-year 1956-57, a new file must be given to the National Exchange Office.

(All Papers)
Half-pay for women workers during childbirth -

Saigon - In a speech at a Labor Day party at the town hall, Labor Secretary Huynh huu Nghia announced that labor regulations in a recent presidential decree, entitle women workers during childbirth to half-pay, regardless of their length of stay with their employer. Previously, pay was granted only to those women workers who had been 2 years with the same employer.

U.S. Navy officials visit Vietnam -

Saigon - Three high-ranking U.S. Navy officials arrived in Saigon on May 1st to inspect the progress of the MAAG group in training naval units of the Vietnam National Armed Forces.

During their three-day stay in Vietnam, the officials visited the Vietnamese naval installations in Saigon and the navy school at Nha Trang and paid a courtesy call on the senior commander of French naval forces in this area and conferred with Vietnamese naval commanders and U.S. officials.

This group which was led by under-secretary Thomas S. Gates will leave Vietnam on Thursday for Bangkok.

Military prisoners protest -

Saigon - During the night of May 1, several dozen soldiers being detained in the Chi Hoa prison started shouting in protest against being held without trial. The prison warden persuaded the prisoners to come to order, and calm was restored. Some of the detainees were injured when they refused to join in with the demonstration.

A million piasters for Ba Cut's capturers -

Saigon - The Department of Defense has sent a check for one million piasters to the Commander of "Operation Nguyen Hue". This is the amount of reward promised by the government to those who captured Ba Cut, Hao Hao rebel leader.

First anniversary of late General Trinh minh The -

Saigon - A ceremony commemorating the first anniversary of the death of Major General Trinh minh The, Commander of the Caodaist Allied Resistants will take place at Tay Ninh on May 3rd.

General The fell on the battlefield of Tan Thuan when commanding his troops against the Binh Xuyen rebels.
Chinese paper claims ban on foreign-held property -

Saigon - A Chinese newspaper in Cholon (D.H.), alleges that the Republican government of Vietnam decided on April 23, 1956 that no foreign residents living in Vietnam could purchase real estate or property.

This decision touched a majority of the French and Chinese business firms who have owned and developed real estate.

The paper went on to say that resale of property owned by foreigners could be made only to Vietnamese.

Due to this decree, it is alleged that a sharp fall in competition and in prices on property has been witnessed.

(Troi Nam)

Council for film censorship -

Saigon - The Committee for film censorship communicates:

In view of the sharp reactions of some newspapers to the film "Tinh-Han" which is being shown in Saigon, the film censorship committee has explained its organization and function.

According to an ordinance dated July 30, 1952, a censorship council was set up, composed of a representative of the Information Department, a representative of the public, religious representatives, and a representative of the department concerned (Social action, Education, Defense, etc.) according to the subject of the film.

Authorization is issued on agreement of this council. If one of its members does not agree, the film must be submitted to the Council of appeal.

If a film has been authorized by the Council, yet receives bad notices from the press, administrative organizations, or political and religious circles, the Committee for Review will revise the decision.

This Council is composed of: a representative of the Information Department, a judge representing the Justice Department, and a representative of the Interior Department. If one of these does not give his accord, the film is not authorized for showing.

In view of the organization described and respect for the opinions of the members of the councils, it is recalled that the Information Department has only one vote in any decision, like the other members.

(Thoi Luan)
A constructive furrow -

Bien Hoa - Gia-Kiem and Vo-Dong, two resettlement centers on the Saigon-Dalat road, are thick forest lands used for the last nine years, as hideouts of the Vietcong. But now, thanks to the work of 20,000 refugees from the southern provinces of North Vietnam, and the allout effort of the Agricultural Extension Service, Gia-Kiem has been transformed into the most productive resettlement center in Free Vietnam.

To help the refugees reclaim the land, the Agricultural Extension Service has cooperated with Comigal to distribute seeds, good breeding swine and poultry to farmers. Agricultural cadres and "Pilot Youth" cadres have also been moved in to give the refugees good advice on farming, husbandry and organization of rural life. Pilot plantations will soon be set up by the Agricultural Extension Service to increase production.

A partial distribution of seeds was made on April 27 by a delegation comprising the Director of the Agricultural Extension Service, a representative of Comigal and an agriculture advisor from USOM.

The Vietnamese believe that the constructive furrows of Gia-Kiem will assure thousands of refugees a peaceful, easy life.

(Troi Nam)

Indian cultural delegation solemnly welcomed in Vietnam -

Saigon - The Indian cultural delegation has received a warm welcome from the Vietnamese authorities and people. The delegation was received by President Ngo dinh Diem on April 29 and by the Secretaries of State for Information and Youth and for National Education the following day.

On May 1st, the artists performed for the public at the Norodom Theater under the sponsorship of the Information and Education Secretaries and representatives of the Foreign Affairs Department. The spectators showed enthusiastic appreciation of the performance of the Indian artists.

On the invitation of the Vietnamese Artists' Association, five representatives of the delegation visited the headquarters of the Association where a meeting took place in an atmosphere of warm friendship. The Indian delegation expressed a wish to attend a theatrical performance by Vietnamese artists and to participe in a relief night with the Vietnamese artists when they return to Saigon from Cambodia on May 10.

The Indian delegation left Saigon on May 2 for PhnomPenh.

(Tieng Chuong)
ROK minister arrives in Saigon -

Saigon - General Choi Duk Shin, minister of ROK to Vietnam, arrived in Saigon Tuesday afternoon. He was greeted by representatives of the Foreign Affairs Department and of the Korean residents in Saigon.  

(Cach Mang Quoc Gia & La Gazette)

On-the-spot collection of fines -

Saigon - The South Vietnam Government Delegation just issued a communique granting authorization to policemen to collect on-the-spot fines for violation of traffic, public hygiene, and trade regulations in the Saigon-Cholon prefecture. This measure is aimed at saving the time of violators who would otherwise have to come to the police station to pay their fines.  

(Tieng Chuong)

Workers of the French Army receive allowances -

Saigon - The Workers' Union announces that following a meeting between representatives of the local authorities, the French Army and Vietnamese workers at Cap Saint Jacques, the French Army has agreed to pay 2 million piasters worth of allowances to 1,000 workers. Most of the workers received payment by April 30, which was the Union deadline.  

(Le Song)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

French military mission in Cambodia -

PhnomPenh - The AFP announces that a French Military Mission has been opened in PhnomPenh, Cambodia, which aims to help the Cambodian government draft its annual military program, designate its budget and set up a military documentary service. The mission is working under a committee headed by the Cambodian Defense Minister and in conformity with the France-Cambodian military assistance agreement.  

(Dan Chu)

Sharp increase in Cambodian rice -

PhnomPenh - Following government authorization for the exportation of 30,000 tons of rice, the price of rice in Cambodia went up sharply. Financial and economic circles said that the decision to export was taken very suddenly and did not allow enough time for rice mills to produce enough to meet the needs for exportation and local consumption at the same time. It is a serious situation for consumers.  

(Dan Chu)
Kwangchowan, Red Chinese nearest base to Vietnam -

Taipei - According to the Chinese Associated Press, Red China has just built a military base in Kwangchowan, a territory on the southern tip of the China coast recently restored to Red China by the French. This is the nearest Communist base to Vietnam, a base to which Soviet ships used to come to load minerals and unload arms and ammunitions.

(Troi Nam)

Riots in Siberia -

Vienna - According to an Austrian prisoner of war recently escaped from a Siberian concentration major riots have occurred in Soviet camps during which more than 200 prisoners were shot to death by Soviet security police. He claims that since the proclamation of the new Soviet policy, (abolition of Stalinism) hundreds of thousands of prisoners detained in camps have daily asked for their release, but so far, none has been released.

(Ngon Luan & Troi Nam)

The Palestinian question -

The Jordanian problem remains the only stumbling-block to a general cease-fire on Israel's borders. Two weeks ago, Tel Aviv proposed an unconditional agreement and Syria, supported by Lebanon and Jordan, attempted to add a supplementary clause stating that work on the Jordan dam should not be resumed.

Mr. Dag Hammarskjold therefore changed his plans, which were to leave for Rome yesterday, after conclusion of the Egyptian-Israeli agreement. Instead he went to Damascus and thence to Jerusalem, to try to conciliate both camps.

Additional trouble has arisen over the Dutch airplane rented to Egypt, which was forced to land Tuesday at Lydda and, was then allowed to leave Israel but minus its Egyptian pilot. Now Cairo opposes landing of the plane in Egypt without the Egyptian pilot. Therefore the plane has not yet left Israel.

A solution is under consideration to allow the plane to land in another country.

(Thoi Luan)
U.S. Army Secretary to visit Vietnam -

HongKong - Mr. Frank Higgins, Secretary of the Army, arrived in Hongkong, en route to Vietnam, accompanied by 12 collaborators.

At his arrival in the British colony, Secretary Higgins stated that he is making an inspection tour of U.S. armed forces in the Far East, and that he will confer with the U.S. military representatives in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos.

(J.E.O.)

EDITORIAL COMMENTARY

NATO to be economic alliance also -

A new policy is developing in Washington, favoring strong economic links between the peoples of the Atlantic zone in addition to their military alliance.

Last Sunday in London, Mr. Harold Stassen, Special Assistant to President Eisenhower on Disarmament, suggested a settlement of all important litigious political issues between East and West as the first step to an eventual agreement on disarmament, and U.S. Secretary of State John Foster Dulles announced an enlargement of NATO's aims.

This important evolution in American thinking seems to be due largely to efforts of Charles Bohlen, U.S. Ambassador to Moscow recently called to the U.S. for consultations.

The reasoning of Mr. Dulles, as it appeared in his press conference of April 23, is that the USSR has temporarily put aside the tactics of violence to weaken the West and is employing an economic offensive to attain the same aim: final domination of the world.

In the face to this new Soviet tactic, the Western world must readjust its policy. NATO, which was created for the collective defense of the Western World, contains in its article 2 a clause envisaging economic and social cooperation among the signatory countries.

Mr. Dulles now wants to put this clause into application.

He envisages a political and economic cooperation among the NATO partners which will not only solve their common problems, but which will extend to supplying under-developed countries with economic and social aid through the medium of NATO.

(J.E.O.)

THE END