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Conference of the province chiefs -

Saigon - On Tuesday, May 22, a conference of the province chiefs was held at the Department of the Interior under the chairmanship of ad interim Secretary Nguyen Huu Chau and in the presence of the Government Delegate for South Vietnam Ho Bao Loc, the Administrative Adviser to the Presidency Duong Tan Tai, and several other leading government officials.

The conference studied the ways and means to set up adequate security all over the country, particularly in the far-flung villages in order to protect the farmers against the remnant elements of rebellion and piracy.

(Tieng Chuong and 3 others)

The shortage of lodgings is still prevalent -

Saigon - During the years of hostilities, hundreds of thousands of persons came to Saigon-Cholon for security reasons, which caused a critical shortage of houses in the city. Now that the hostilities are over and large numbers of foreigners have left Saigon, people are wondering why the housing shortage is as acute as before. Some attribute this to the arrival of refugees -- Vietnamese as well as Chinese -- from North Vietnam.

We put this question to the authorities to answer, to let the population know if there is any plan to solve the problem, since those who came from the provinces and have no fixed profession in Saigon, could return to their native villages when security conditions are assured there.

(Le Song)

Army auto racketeers discovered -

Saigon - On evidence that people have used fraudulent means to buy materials from the military auto park in Tan Son Nhat, the Mobile Brigade of the Security service searched the house of Le Van Thai in Saigon and found many auto and radio parts. On Thai's declaration, the brigade arrested Lam Giang Tuan, a refugee, in Chuong Duong waterfront, who was denounced as the owner of these materials. At the house of Tuan a motor barge with accessories was found.

Both men have been detained by the Security for inquiry.

(Saigon Moi & Troi Nam)
Teenager attempts murder to steal money -

Saigon - Le van Chuyen, 17, refugee student from North Vietnam and informer for the Security service, promised a barman at TanSonNhat Le Duc Thuong, he would find work for him. Last September 6, he went with Thuong to Phu Nghuan, where he was supposed to introduce Thuong to his chief. On Eyriaud des Vergnes street, Chuyen pretended to stop at the house of an acquaintance for business, and when they passed by a well, he pushed Thuong into it, and left him to drown. But Thuong succeeded in getting out of the well. The next morning when Chuyen came to collect money from Thuong's wife for him to transmit to Thuong, "now working at the security office", he was arrested.

Convicted of murder, Chuyen was sentenced by the criminal court to 5 years hard labor and 5 years banishment from Saigon.

(Tieng Chuong and 3 others)

Labor news -

One thousand and six hundred workers of plantation Gallia strike -

Baria - On May 22, some 1,600 workers of the Plantation Gallia in Baria started a strike to back their demands for:

1. Higher pay (57.5 piasters a day);
2. Repair for their houses;
3. No unexplained discharge of workers;
4. Payment of Tet (New Year) bonus.

On hearing of the strike the management hurried to the plantation to attempt a settlement.

(Troi Nam & 3 others)

Brewery, alcohol factory, cigarette factory workers' demands -

Saigon - On May 1, workers of the Brasseries et Glacieres de l'Indochine (brewery), the M.I.T.A.C. cigarette factory and the Binh Tay alcohol factory sent their managements the following demands: 1- a probation period of 6 months only; 2- Saturday afternoon off; 3- compensation for accident victims; 4- payment for over-time work; 5- annual leave.

As the managements of these concerns have not complied with the demands, the workers have demanded the intervention of the Labor Inspection.

(Saigon Moi and 3 others)
Good news for merchants -

Saigon - On May 23, the Popular Administrative Committee held a meeting in the Saigon City-Hall to discuss the social problems of the city. The Committee recognized that, at present, there are not enough spaces for roving merchants to operate -- and they have been heavily fined when found at other than the authorized places. The committee decided to enlarge these operating spots and police are instructed to be more lenient.

On the afternoon of May 22, the Prefect of Saigon-Cholon came himself to inspect the living conditions of the people in Nga Bay market and decided to remove this market to a larger area in order to give more space to the people living in the quarter. He also decided to open a clinic and a school in the area.

On the other hand, merchants around the Hoa Hung market addressed a collective demand to the Prefect asking for the authorization to set up shelters (of canvas or sheet iron) to protect their stalls during the raining season. Their demand is under examination.

(Cach Mang Quoc Gia)

Notice to importers -

Saigon - Importers who have declared their businesses with the Direction General for Trade may get their official numbers for statistics from May 5 to June 2, according to the alphabetical order of their firm names. Those who sent in declarations after May 1 can get their number beginning June 6.

This number must be written on all licence applications. As of July 1, any application without number will not be taken into consideration.

(Saigon Moi & 6 other papers)

U.S. Under-Secretary of Defense in Saigon -

Saigon - Mr. Reuben Robertson, U.S. Under-Secretary of Defense arrived in Saigon on the afternoon of May 22, and was met by General Williams, Chief of MAAG and TRIM, and other American personalities. On the morning of the following day Mr. Robertson paid a courtesy visit to Secretary Tran trung Dung, Assistant to the Defense Department.

The American official will stay three days in the capital, leaving Saigon on May 24.

(Thoi Cuoc & 5 other papers)
Outcome of mopping-up operations in Western provinces -

Long Xuyen - The operation launched by the Republican troops in the area of Vinh Thanh, 10 kms. southwest of ChauDoc province, is reported to have ended with the confiscation of a small quantity of armaments.

In Phong Thanh province, all communication arteries have been placed under tight control of national units and methodical searches are being undertaken there.

In the region of U Minh Thuong, CaMau province, some thirty well-equipped rebels, among them several Communist agents, were arrested on May 20, with an important number of documents.

In LongXuyen and Can Tho provinces, over 200 followers of Ba Cut, most of them belonging to the rebel Le Loi regiment, have surrendered to the national authorities.

In the whole operation, the record from May 15 through 21 is as follows: 4 rebels killed, 75 taken prisoner, 237 surrendered. Booty includes 204 arms of all kinds, 5 radio sets, 4,100 cartridges of all calibers, an important quantity of 60 mm. mortar shells, 340 meters of material, and 17 tons of rice.

(Tin Dien and 6 other papers)

A Vietnamese delegation to attend Buddhist ceremony in Pakistan -

Saigon - A Vietnamese delegation headed by Bikkhu Hoa Khac Loi, Chairman of the administrative council of the South Vietnam Sangha and headmaster of the Buddhist School of South Vietnam, left here on May 22 for Chittagong, East Pakistan, to attend the 2,500th anniversary of Buddha's sanctification to be celebrated from May 23 to 25.

Bikkhu Nguyen Mat Hien, Superior Bonze of Truc Mau pagoda of Hue and chairman of the Bonze Association of Thua Thien province, is also a member of the Vietnamese delegation.

(Thoi Luan & Dan Chu)

Free consultation of law -

Saigon - The Bar of Lawyers will organize free law consultations every Monday beginning May 28, from 8 to 11:30 a.m., and from 3 to 5:30 p.m. for the public who have matters of law at the Saigon Court. The lawyers will in turn receive those persons needing advice on law free of charge. The Bar puts emphasis on the fact that no intermediary is allowed in the consultations with lawyers and no lawyer is permitted to make propaganda by any means such as articles in newspapers.

(Thoi Cuoc and 2 other papers)
Suggestions for the national flag -

- Yellow and red background. Green triangle as big as the flag with white star in the middle of the triangle. Yellow and red indicate the earnest struggle of the Vietnamese nation. The green triangle means peace in the three parts of the country. The white star means union of the intellectual, rural, artisan, commercial, and military peoples.

- Three-stripe background: red, yellow, red. Three red stars on yellow stripe. It means that Free Vietnam has made many sacrifices and will make more sacrifices to win unity of the country.

- Thirteen-stripe background along the length: 7 red, 6 yellow. In the upper corner a white square containing a deep green wheel with a paddy sheaf in its middle. The stripes indicate the successive fights of the nation. The white square indicates purity, the wheel, progress and the sheaf, prosperity.

- Background: alternate white and red stripes. In the upper corner a yellow square with a red star. The stripes indicate the successive fights. The yellow square is the national color and the red star the union of the five circles of the people.

(Thoi Cuoc)

Study meeting at Information Department -

Saigon - At 16:30 on May 22, a Study meeting was held at the Information Department under the chairmanship of Secretary Tran chanh Thanh, and in the presence of Messrs. Le khai Trach, Cabinet Director, Tran thuc Linh, Secretary General, Thai manh Tien, Director General of Youth and Sports (recently elected deputy of the National Assembly) and all the personnel of the Department.

After the usual ceremonials, Mr. Le Dung, chief of formation of cadres, gave an account of first course. Begun in August last year, the study movement obtained excellent results. Study group and sub-groups have been organized with a total number of 634 students. Concerning the subjects treated during these studies, Le Dung spoke of methods that have been used and the results obtained.
Secretary Tran chánh Thanh made recommendations and stressed the rapid advance of the studies prior to the election of the Constituent Assembly. Noting the difficulties they met, Secretary Thanh declared: "We have overcome all difficulties. Those who doubted our success now admit it. They thought that the study movement was a Communist proceeding which would not be successful. Our success proves that these methods do not belong to anybody, and give results in the hands of those who know how to use them." 

He compared the studies of the Vietcong and those of Free Vietnam and set forth a five-point working program. After Secretary Thanh, Le khai Trach explained the program of studies and after an exchange of views with the audience, the meeting ended at 18:00.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

French political party backs resumption of relations with Free Vietnam -

Paris - During its annual congress, the MRP (Popular Republican Movement) party has adopted a resolution, directing their deputies to intervene with the government to encourage continuation of the talks aimed at resuming normal economic and cultural relations with the Republic of Vietnam.

Also during this congress, the MRP drafted another resolution stating that after the failure of various experiences undertaken during the last ten years with the USSR, the congress believes that the recent visits of Soviet officials and the change of tone of Soviet speeches do not constitute sufficient proof of the Soviet goodwill to change the basic Communist aims.

(Thoi Cuoc & Cach Mang Quoc Gia)

Dispute between the three U.S. arms -

Washington - U.S. Defense Secretary Charles Wilson and chairman of the Joint Staff Admiral Radford just have had a talk with President Eisenhower.

After the conversations, Mr. Wilson declared that President Eisenhower is "exceedingly sorry" about the conflict prevailing at present between the three branches of U.S. armed forces. Well-informed circles speculated that the U.S. President, the Defense Secretary and Admiral Radford would have recourse to parliamemtarian investigations to put an end to this controversy.

(Thoi Luan)
Britain sets up relations with Morocco and Tunisia -

London - An authoritative source has disclosed that the British government has decided to establish relations with Morocco and Tunisia by next month.

(Thoi Luan)

U.S. confident of nuclear weapons -

Paris - The Washington correspondent of the French magazine Les Temps de Paris cabled the following information to its home office:

"The recent Bikini nuclear tests confirmed the efficacy of the atom bombs and brought better results than previously expected. The H bomb test brought additional faith in the maintenance of peace through nuclear weapons and has made U.S. atom experts propose a reduction of armed forces in the countries recipient of American Aid, such as Korea, Vietnam, Pakistan and Turkey. They believe that U.S. forces will be sufficient to guarantee the whole free world against any aggression of the Korean type."

(Dan Chu and Ngon Luan)

FRENCH NEWSPAPER

Meeting on Korea issue -

Washington - Representatives of the 16 nations which fought in Korea will meet again next Friday in Washington to put the final touches to their collective reply rejecting the Red Chinese proposal for a conference for the reunification of Korea.

The meeting will also study an American proposal tending to restrict the activities of the Truce Commission to the demilitarized zone which separates the two Koreas.

(J.E.O.)

Resignation of Mendes-France -

Paris - It was officially announced yesterday that Pierre Mendes-France, leader of the French Radical party, offered his resignation from the post of Vice-President of the French Council of Ministers. Mendes-France's resignation was motivated uniquely by the different viewpoints between Premier Guy Mollet, the French Minister to North Africa, Pierre Lacostte, and himself, on the Algerian issue.

(J.E.O.)
Anglo-Soviet talks on Laos -

London - The Anglo-Soviet talks on the Laotian situation were resumed yesterday between Lord Reading and the Soviet Ambassador to Britain, Jacob Malik.

Well-informed British circles feel that it will be more difficult for the representatives of the co-chairmen of the Geneva 1954 conference to come to a practical agreement on Laos. In the case of Laos, it is a challenge of the Communist Pathet Lao to the signatory powers of the Geneva accords and to the international control commission. By the fact of the Pathet Lao occupation of the two provinces of Phong Saly and Sam Neua, there exists a division in the administration of Laos, which was not dealt with in the Geneva accords.

(J.E.O.)

THE END