

A USOM
PUBLICATION

32, ĐƯỜNG NGŨ-THỜI-NHIỆM
(EX - RUE JAUREGUIBERRY)



SAIGON DAILY
NEWS ROUND-UP



MAY 21, 1956

N° 110

C O N T E N T S

DOMESTIC NEWS

1. Increase of telegram fees to foreign countries.
2. A Tilapia stall opened in Central Market.
3. On the change of the Vietnamese national flag and hymn.
4. The Agriculture Encouragement Service distributes breed pigs to resettlers in Gia Kiem (Bien Hoa).
5. Another squeeze of Refugee funds with "ghost" records.
6. Speculators continue to hoard canned milk.
7. Proposal to reserve 60% of foreign currencies to Vietnamese importers.
8. A trade-union and cooperative movement must be encouraged.
9. Regulations on transportation of goods between Vietnam and Cambodia.
10. Traffic regulations on marked crossroads.
11. Labor news - Satisfaction given to Eiffel's strikers.
Demands of Franco-Chinoise Bank's employees.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

1. The U.S. plans to reduce its armed forces by 5%.
2. Japan will help Free Vietnam to set up ship-building yards, airplane and automobile repairing plants.
3. France agrees with Russia on the postponement of general elections in Vietnam.
4. French people oppose transportation of troops to Algeria.
5. U.S. senators worry about recognition of Red China by Egypt.
6. On U.S. aid to foreign countries trading with Communist states.

-*****-

Increase of telegram fees to foreign countries -

Saigon - The Post Office announces that as of June 1, 1956, fees for telegrams to foreign countries, other than the French Union, Cambodia, and Laos, will be increased to the following rates:

- Ordinary telegrams: increase of 1.725 piasters per word;
- Fast telegrams: 3.45 piasters per word;
- Press telegrams: 0.575 piaster per word;
- Official telegrams: 1.725 piasters per word.

(Tin Dien)

A Tilapia stall opened in Central Market -

Saigon - On May 20, Cao thien Buu, Director of Inland Fisheries inaugurated the first stall selling Tilapia at the Saigon market. This stall, located at the North entrance of the market, is owned by the Tilapia cooperative of Binh-Trieu. Present at the inauguration ceremony were representatives of the Agriculture and related services, Mr. Timmis, USOM fisheries expert, and Nguyen van Thien, Chairman of the Binh Trieu cooperative.

Director Cao thien Buu remarked that, far from giving leprosy, as some propaganda said, the Tilapia flesh is a sought-after food. The Tilapia is as nutritive as the best local breeds. He announced that Tilapia breeding has reached the productivity state, and that more stalls will be set up in other markets.

After being shown the stall which occupies 27 sq.m. with water basins and aquariums, the guests tried several dishes of Tilapia with nuoc mam.

(Saigon Moi and La Gazette)

On the change of the Vietnamese national flag and hymn -

Saigon - The Assembly's Constitution Committee has received numerous suggestions from the population on the choice of the new national flag and anthem. With regard to the national anthem, the public may give its opinion on already published or on unpublished compositions. The Assembly is entitled alone to decide on the choice of new national symbols and suggestions on the change may be sent to the Constitution Committee until May 31.

(All Papers)

The Agriculture Encouragement Service distributes breed pigs to resettlers in Gia Kiem (Bien Hoa) -

Bien Hoa - The distribution of 200 breeding pigs bought by the veterinary service was carried out on May 19 at Gia Kiem resettlement center in the presence of the Director for the Encouragement of Agriculture, one American and two Vietnamese technicians on pig breeding and a representative of Comigal.

As there are not enough pigs for all the refugees, distribution was made of one breeding pig for 5 families. Subsequent piglets will be distributed among the refugees of the center and it is forecast that within one year, each family will have a pig.

(Tin Dien)

Another squeeze of Refugee funds with "ghost" records -

Saigon - The Comigal service on May 14 uncovered an organization which had been forging false papers to receive refugee allowances.

Chairman of the Cholon resettlement center, Do kim Bang, with his secretary Tran dinh Nguyen, and Tran Thang, had already received 300,000 piasters, and were discovered when they tried to make a second attempt. Bang is at present still in hiding, but his two accomplices have been arrested.

(Cach Mang Quoc Gia & 2 others)

Speculators continue to hoard canned milk -

Saigon - Though heavy penalties have been applied against speculators on milk, speculation continues. Shortage of canned milk has become severe, no milk being found in town except a few cans sold here and there in the streets at exorbitant prices. People coming from the provinces say the shortage of milk there is still worse. People in Bac Lieu have to go to Cantho or Soctrang to get milk to feed their babies. Most babies are being fed on the liquid resulting from cooking rice.

In this situation the authorities are requested to increase their control. Though the Commerce Service has announced important arrivals of canned milk, and regular distribution, the population never sees it. This proves that big speculators still operate in contempt of laws. The authorities had better assume direct distribution to the sick and to children.

(Tieng Chuong)

Proposal to reserve 60% of foreign currencies to Vietnamese importers -

Saigon - A meeting of Vietnamese industrialists and businessmen took place on May 19 at the Department of Economy in the presence of representatives of the Departments of Finance, Economy and Justice, the Trade Direction, the Administrative board of the merchants' and industrialists' union and of the two labor federations. The agenda included a proposal to reserve 60% of foreign currency for members of the union and a proposal to support Vietnamese industries, especially the sugar industry.

The representative of the Finance Department promised to give further information on the first point of the agenda after study. With regard to the second point, he stated that even the Secretary himself cannot decide on this problem owing to its being consistent with the general policy of the government. The latter's basic support for the development of local sugar industries is in its reduction of tax on the local product and increase of tax on imported sugar.

Besides the above discussion, the meeting also dealt with measures to put restrictions on luxury articles. Representatives of the labor federations stated that they saw much difficulty in the implementation of the industrialists' union monopoly on importation & exportation of goods, as it is illogical and unjust, and susceptible would bring profit to a minority and to the disadvantage of a great number of merchants who are not members of the union.

(Cach Mang Q.Gia)

Trade-union and cooperative movement must be encouraged - (Suggestion of a businessman)

In his Labor Day appeal to the nation, President Ngo dinh Diem stated: "This year is the year of rebuilding the national economy." He so stated because he understood the emergency of the problem. A country which is not economically independent is weak.

After a century of foreign domination, all the economic resources of the country are in foreign hands. If we don't fight to restore our economic independence, there is no way to improve the living standard of the people. To fully exploit the colonized people, the colonials created the intermediary class to trade with the natives. Before reaching the consumers, the goods had to pass from the importers or producers through a series of intermediary hands: compradores, wholesalers, distributors and small retailers. Although the colonial rule is over, the influence of the intermediary class is still prevalent. This is why every time the intermediaries hoard goods, the cost of living rises rapidly all over the country. As long as the distribution system is not re-organized, the living standard will remain low, no matter how large local production or foreign aid is.

..... One of the most efficient ways to improve the national economy is to promote and encourage the trade-union and cooperative movement. Far from working as effectively as the labor unions, the unions of Vietnamese businessmen are still "loose" and lack government support. At present the timber business in Saigon and the provinces is entirely in the hands of foreigners who have large capital which Vietnamese firms lack. In Cambodia this business is protected and strictly reserved for native people.

Besides the unions we should at once set up cooperatives for consumers as well as for producers.

We should suppress the intermediaries -- who are englobing every branch of activity in this country -- if we really want to give the people an adequate living. Cooperatives must be set up on the regional, provincial, district and village levels. We should not leave a vacant place to be filled up by the "third-man-octopus".

In this unequal struggle -- in which the natives lack capital while foreigners have unlimited financial means -- the native businessmen must receive help from the government in order to be able to wage this war for the right to live of a nation. This help may be given in the following forms:

1. To encourage the people to unite into unions and cooperatives.
2. To propogandize for the utility of setting up unions and cooperatives among producers and consumers. If possible, to issue a weekly or monthly bulletin indicating the names of producers of current goods and their prices.
3. To loan money to businessmen who are competing with foreigners.
4. To restrict the activity of foreign business firms in handling vital professions (rice mills, saw mills, sugar refineries, etc...).
5. To ban foreigners from exercising certain business activities such as timber, salt marshes, etc... as is done in Cambodia.

This path is full of obstacles, but with government help and a good share of goodwill, we are sure to achieve concrete results.

(Thoi Cuoc)

Regulations on transportation of goods between Vietnam and Cambodia -

PhnomPenh - A May 16 circular from the Cambodian Customs Service states that tariffs applied on goods entering Cambodia prior to the closing of the Cambodian-Vietnamese border on March 26 are still in force.

As for guaranties for cars with Cambodian or Vietnamese licence entering or leaving Cambodia, their validity will be three months as of March 26. Each guaranty is good for one or more trips and must be checked by the Customs Service before every trip. The regulation concerning cars of people working for the Cambodian army, French army, and French High Commissariat in Saigon, are unchanged.

A telegram on May 17 from the Cambodian Customs Service to provincial customs offices states that:

1. goods not under customs control can be transported freely no matter what their weight.
2. goods under control are of two kinds:
 - a) goods having no commercial character can be transported freely,
 - b) commercial goods. If the amount of these goods weighs less than one ton, the border customs delivers a transport licence to the merchant (if he has a trade licence) on condition that this operation does not occur more than once a week per person. Goods weighing one ton or more are subject to current tax legislation on import and export.

Circulation of Vietnamese newspapers in Cambodia has been authorized since May 18.

(Buoi Sang & 7 other papers)

Traffic regulations on marked crossroads -

Saigon - The Prefecture of Saigon-Cholon has issued the following explanation of the lines painted on Thong Nhut, Tran Hung Dao, and Nguyen Thai Hoc boulevards:

Crossing of Tran Hung Dao-Nguyen Thai Hoc boulevards

1. White line from sidewalk to middle of pavement indicates extreme limit for cars stopped during red light.
2. Two white lines across the pavement: crosswalk for pedestrians.
3. Double white line along the pavement indicates that cars must not cross this line under any circumstance. Pedestrians can seek refuge on it.
4. Yellow arrow with crossing lines of same color: indicates safety zone for pedestrians. Cars must not cross over it.

..... On Thong Nhut Boulevard

1. White line from sidewalk to middle of pavement (word "stop" to be added): all cars stop here to wait for passage of cars coming from the right.
2. Double white line along the pavement indicates: cars must not cross it under any circumstance. Pedestrians can seek refuge on this line.
3. Four dotted lines dividing the pavement in 6 rows: two rows adjoining the sidewalks for vehicles other than autos, the four other rows for autos. But traffic must be kept in between the lines, crossing never over them.
4. Yellow triangle at corners: all vehicles forbidden to cross it.

(Tieng Chuong & 4 other papers)

Labor news -

Satisfaction given to Eiffel's strikers -

Saigon - After 8 attempts at settlement by the Labor Inspection, the strike at Eiffel Co ends today. The following agreement has been reached: Besides their regular pays, the workers will share 80% of the profits made by the foreman in any work he contracts. The remaining 20% will go to him. On this condition the workers dropped their demand that the management discharge foreman Loi.

Banque Franco-Chinoise employees' demands -

Saigon - On May 19 the employees of the Banque Franco-Chinoise met to decide on a motion to be sent to the management. They demanded:

- to be paid an allocation for high living cost;
- to be paid for overtime work;
- to receive an allocation for sickness;
- to receive an allocation for seniority.

They stated that if they do not obtain satisfaction next week they will go on strike.

(Dan Chu and 2 other papers)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

The U.S. plans to reduce its armed forces by 5% -

Washington - "The U.S. Army strength will be cut about 5% during the coming fiscal year," Major General William Lawton, Chief of the Supply Control Service declared in a report to the Senate Appropriations subcommittee. Due to this reduction, the U.S. ground forces will number about 1,034,000 next year.

(Ngon Luan and 3 others)

Japan will help Free Vietnam to set up ship-building yards, airplane and automobile repairing plants -

London - The paper "Financial Times" reveals that Japanese industrialists, aided by their government, are planning a "free trade offensive" in Southeast Asia.

An investigation committee, headed by former Commerce Minister Heitaro Inagahi, has been sent to the Middle-East, and other groups will be sent to Free Vietnam, Burma, Pakistan and Thailand.

Vietnam may accept Japan's aid to build repair plants for planes and autos, and dry docks. Cambodia may be interested in having railroads and port constructions built, and Pakistan is interested in sugar and cement factories.

(Thoi Luan and 4 others)

France agrees with Russia on the postponement of general elections in Vietnam -

Paris - Commenting on the recent Franco-Soviet talks in Moscow, the French daily l'Aurore writes: "Agreement on Indochina was easy. The French delegation affirmed their agreement with the recent British-Soviet declaration on the problem of general elections in Vietnam."

On the other hand, the Figaro's correspondent cabled from Moscow as follows: "The third item of the Moscow talks concerned Far-eastern problems, especially the fate of Indochina. Everybody agreed on the decision taken in London by the former co-chairmen of the 1954 Geneva Conference relative to the organization of all-Vietnam elections."

Thus France has agreed with Russia on the maintenance of the status quo in Vietnam by putting off the reunification elections in this country.

(Ngon Luan and 2 others)

French people oppose transportation of troops to Algeria -

Grenoble - Manifestations against the projected calling up of reservists for Algeria to start May 18, took a serious turn last night. To prevent departure of the train transporting the troops, more than 300 demonstrators rushed into the station and unriveted the railways. The train which was scheduled to leave for Chambery was compelled to return to Grenoble.

Five persons among the demonstrators were wounded. Manifestations continued throughout the evening, and extended from the Grenoble station to the outskirts of the city.

(Saigon Moi and 6 others)

U.S. senators worry about recognition of Red China by Egypt -

Washington - Two influential American senators just told the press their worries about the recognition of Communist China by Egypt.

Senator John Sparkman (Democrat) declared that the "U.S. is preparing itself for a hard time" unless it acts rapidly to counter this new attack, adding, "The gesture of Egypt shows that Communist influence is really set up in the Middle-East."

On his side, Senator Mike Mansfield (Democrat) affirmed that he would not be surprised to see other Arab League states follow the example of Egypt and recognize the Communist Chinese government unless the U.S. acts urgently to "improve its position".

(Thoi Luan and 2 others)

On U.S. aid to foreign countries trading with Communist states -

Washington - The Foreign Affairs Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives last Friday rejected a decision adopted by itself on the foreign aid program presented by President Eisenhower.

The Committee decided to cut off all aid to those countries which supply goods to Communist states. Mr. James Richards (Democrat from South Carolina) told the press of the reversal of decision, but did not comment on it.

(Ngon Luan and 2 others)

-- THE END --
