

EMBASSY OF VIET NAM

Press and Information Service

AD4 - 3301

2200 Kalorama Road N.W.

Washington D.C.

VOL. 1 NO. 2

March 11, 1955

CONTENTS

1. National Affairs

President Ngo dinh Diem receives delegation
of Buddhist Socialist Party...

Ba Long incidents...

High official escapes assassination.. reports
indicate that Viet Nam dissidents about to
split...

National Faculty of Arts inaugurated...

Arrival of 700,000th refugee in Saigon...

Jaycee of Japan and Thailand participate in
"Operation Brotherhood"...

Chinese Refugees

Transfer of Royal Domain

Viet Minh taxes cause famine in North Viet Nam...

2. Foreign Relations

Viet Nam will participate in the work of the
Asian Consultative Commission of I.L.O.
in Geneva...

Foreign personalities visit Saigon...

Franco-Vietnamese cultural relations...

Mr. Dulles Reports...

Ambassador tours the West Coast...

3. Feature

The Truth About the Viet Minh Regime

PRESIDENT NGO DINH DIEM RECEIVES DELEGATION OF BUDDHIST -
SOCIALIST PARTY OF VIET NAM

SAIGON:

President Ngo Dinh Diem received a delegation of twenty members headed by Mr. Doan Trung Con at the Palais de l'Independance representing the Buddhist Socialist Movement of Viet Nam.

This delegation included representatives from the different buddhist sectors of South, Central, and North Viet Nam. Two representatives were sent by the refugees. Among the twenty members, there were eight women (three Buddhist nuns) and twelve men (four Buddhist priests). The members of the delegation made their requests known to the President

"For nine years", the head of the delegation stated, "we have been misled by political parties who wanted to gain our complete sympathy. But it is never too late to change. Our movement promises to do its best to develop social action to relieve the greatest amount of suffering and to rouse religious fervor."

BA LONG INCIDENTS

The Ba Long incident started in January, 1955 when a governmental commission was assigned to investigate the exact strength and number of the provincial militia of Quang Tri. In effect, according to the information gathered by the regional authorities of Central Viet Nam, of the eleven Bao Chinh Doan companies in the province, two appear on the payroll and exist on paper only.

Those responsible for these irregularities fled to Ba Long dragging with them 600 men who were led to believe that this was just a simple operation to reoccupy the spot recently evacuated by the Viet Minh.

A few officers of the former Civilian Administrative Groups 33 and 34 then transferred to batallion 610 were involved in numerous abuses committed previously, and came to rejoin the agitators of Ba Long hoping to escape justice.

A police operation was launched by the commander of the second military region to establish a line of troops around Ba Long in order to facilitate the return of those guards who were deceived by the agitators.

One hundred and fifty men have already returned to Quang Tri with their armaments.

HIGH OFFICIAL OF VIET NAM ESCAPES ASSASSINATION...REPORTS
INDICATE THAT VIET NAM DISSIDENTS ABOUT TO SPLIT...

SAIGON:

Failure of the attempted assassination of Premier Ngo Dinh Diem's top official Tran van Lam, Chief Administrator for South Viet Nam as reported from Saigon on March 14th, has sharpened focus on dissident elements in the Government. Two hand grenades thrown into the Chief Administrator's car completely demolished the vehicle, but only after Mr. Tran van Lam and his chauffeur had leaped to safety.

One explanation for opposition to the Premier is found in the fact that he has initiated a plan to eliminate private armies of the religious sects and the Binh Xuyen. Since these forces are no longer paid by the French Army as auxiliaries, they must look to the treasury of Viet Nam for support. Part of the armies of these three groups will probably be demobilized and the remaining taken into the national army. The Premier has already won the personal loyalty of the chiefs of some of these groups and the troops involved have been merged with the army.

It has also been reported from Saigon on March 15th, that loyal troops of Premier Diem's regime pushed deeper into areas controlled by the dissident political-religious sects. The seemingly united front of 40,000 men representing the Cao Dai, Binh Xuyen and the Hoa Hao groups appeared to be disintegrating. The largest of these groups, the Cao Dai, is expected to join the government forces.

The Chief of State Bao Dai's refusal to arbitrate in favor of the sects has reinforced the Premier's position in his fight to survive the factional struggles in Viet Nam.

NATIONAL FACULTY OF ARTS INAUGURATED

SAIGON:

The national faculty of arts was inaugurated by the Minister of Education at the Petrus Ky lycee, Saigon.

This faculty, which, at the beginning included about one hundred students, constitutes the first nucleus of the national university whose foundation was set for the beginning of the 1955 term.

With this foundation in mind, the government of President Ngo Dinh Diem recently asked the French government for the anticipated transfer of the former joint university in order "to help Viet Nam in its policy to achieve independence."

SAIGON:ARRIVAL OF 700,000th REFUGEE IN SAIGON...

The 700,000th refugee arrived in Saigon today by the air-transport route recently opened between Haiphong and the capital of South Viet Nam.

Besides the well-known Dakotas, this route is served by a squadron of twin-engines "North 2500's" which were sent to Indo-China in May, 1954, and which did not have time to intervene in the battle of Dien Bien Phu.

These French constructed planes can transport from thirty to forty refugees--baggage and all.

Thanks to the air-transport evacuating 300 persons daily and to the arrival of the new American transport "Marine Ader" twice as large as the "Marine Serpent", which has been in service for several months, the rate of evacuation is now more than 10,000 weekly.

JUNIOR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE INTERNATIONAL OF JAPAN AND THAILAND PARTICIPATE IN "OPERATION BROTHERHOOD" VIET NAM..SAIGON:

A ton and a half of medical supplies and miscellaneous products worth a million yen (about \$350,000) dollars destined for "Operation Brotherhood" arrived at the port of Saigon addressed to the Jaycee in Viet Nam. This was the result of a collection made by 64 sections of Jaycee in Japan answering an appeal made by the Jaycee, Viet Nam.

There were antibiotics and 330 other pharmaceutical preparations among these products.

Thousands of toys for Vietnamese orphans also arrived at the port of Saigon.

In another connection, the Jaycees at Bangkok ordered cotton shirts worth 3,000 Hong Kong dollars at Hong Kong for the population of Camau. These gifts will be distributed at Camau in accordance with "Operation Brotherhood.."

DR. PHAM VAN HUYEN REMITS A CHECK FOR TWO MILLION PIASTRES TO THE VICE-CONSUL OF CHINA TO BE USED FOR CHINESE REFUGEES...SAIGON:

At the welcoming center for Chinese refugees, Phu Lam, a ceremony took place during which Dr. Pham Van Huyen, General Commissioner for refugees remitted a check for two million piastres to Mr. Shen, Chinese Vice-consul at Saigon and president of the Chinese refugee welcoming committee.

This is aid that the General Commissioner for refugees is offering the Chinese who fled the communist regime of North Viet Nam---the same kind of aid granted our own nationals, without discrimination of nationality, race, or religion.

TRANSFER OF ROYAL DOMAIN

In accordance with the Chief of State's decision to transfer the royal domain in South and Central Viet Nam to the Vietnamese government, the ceremony of transfer from royal cabinet deputy director, Le Tai Truong, to government delegate Ton That Hoi, has been held in Dalat on March 15th.

VIET NAM WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE WORK OF THE ASIAN CONSULTATIVE COMMISSION OF I. L. O. WHICH WILL MEET IN GENEVA ON MARCH 7th. .

SAIGON:

A delegation of the Ministry of Labor and of Youth took a plane for Geneva. This delegation is going to participate in the work of the Asian Consultative Commission of the I. L. O. which will meet in the Swiss capital on March 7th and 8th.

It is recalled that at the time of the annual meeting of the I. L. O. in 1954, in which a Vietnamese delegation participated, the governmental group, part of our delegation, was elected to sit with the Asian Consultative Commission in charge of preparing recommendations which will be submitted to the next I. L. O. Asian Regional Conference.

Viet Nam's participation in the Asian Consultative Commission is particularly important because it is the first time that Viet Nam is called upon to sit with an administrative body of I. L. O.

The Agenda of the Asian Consultative Commission includes the following questions:

1. study of methods likely to increase productivity in the countries of Asia and diffusion of these methods.
2. contribution of I. L. O. to the solution of problems concerning agrarian reform in the countries of Asia.

According to the sectors close to the Vietnamese delegation, Mr. Le van Dong will take advantage of his stay abroad early in the Commission's meeting to made an information tour among the various I. L. O. agencies in Switzerland and in France.

AFTER THE BANGKOK CONFERENCE, MANY FOREIGN PERSONALITIES WENT TO SAIGON:

SAIGON:

After the Bangkok Conference, many foreign personalities arrived in Saigon at the invitation of President Ngo Dinh Diem.

MR. GARCIA, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

Mr. Carlos Garcia, Vice President of the Republic, and head of the Philippine delegation at the Bangkok Conference, arrived at the Tan Son Nhut airport aboard a "Philippine Air Line" plane. The Philippine Minister of Foreign Affairs was accompanied by Mrs. Garcia, General Vargas, chief of general staff of the Philippine armed forces, General Pelagio Cruz, commander of the air force, as well as several Philippine civil and military personalities and a press delegation. During their stay in Saigon, the Philippine newspapermen intend to study the present problems concerning diplomatic, cultural and economic relations between Viet Nam and the Philippines; they will then go to Hong Kong.

Mr. Carlos Garcia and his retinue were dinner guests of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Mrs. Tran van Do.

This morning, at 10:45, the Vice President of the Philippines came to greet President Ngo Dinh Diem at the "Palais de l'Independance". The meeting was cordial and talks related to general problems concerning Viet Nam-Philippine relations.

FRANCO-VIETNAMESE CULTURAL RELATIONSPARIS:

Mr. Pham Duy Khiem, High Commissioner of Viet Nam in France spoke with Mr. Bayen, former rector of the University of Hanoi, director of the office of universities and assistant director-general of Higher Education in the French Ministry of National Education.

Mr. Bayen is to accompany Mr. Jean Berthoin, French Minister of National Education on a trip he is to make to Viet Nam, Cambodia, and Laos.

During his trip, the French Minister of National Education will discuss the question of the maintenance of French cultural establishments with the governments of these countries and a provision for technical assistance on the part of France for cultural affairs.

At Saigon, Mr. Berthoin will speak to his colleague, the Vietnamese Minister of National Education about the anticipated transfer of the joint Franco-Vietnamese University to the Vietnamese National Authority. It is known that the transfer date has been previously set for December 31, 1955.

The Government of Viet Nam recently expressed a desire to continue talks of a cultural nature which were started in Paris in 1954, in order to conclude a cultural convention between France and Viet Nam.

It is specified that if the French government would accept the transfer of the joint Franco-Vietnamese University, then the government of Viet Nam would pledge itself to maintain the French teaching personnel as well as the study program and exams for the present year. The Vietnamese hope that the subsidy hitherto offered to the University by the French government will continue until the end of the present scholastic year.

For its part, the Viet Nam government is particularly anxious to discuss the new lines of action of Franco-Vietnamese cultural cooperation with due account taken of the present statutes in Viet Nam and of the maintenance of French culture in Viet Nam.

MR. DULLES REPORTS

After attending the Bangkok Conference, and after the two weeks tour in Southeast Asia as well as in the West Pacific; after visiting seven Asian and Pacific countries, the Secretary of State, John Foster Dulles returned to Washington and reported to President Eisenhower.

Here is a part of his text of an address broadcast March 8th relating to what he saw in Viet Nam:

"The greatest problems confront the free Government of Viet Nam. It has the task of developing an efficient government of its own in substitution for French rule. This task, difficult enough under any conditions, is now complicated by three abnormal problems.

There is the problem of absorbing and resettling the refugees from the North. As always, when international Communism moves in, those who love liberty move out, if they can. So far, about 600,000 persons have fled from Northern Viet Nam, and, before the exodus is over, the number of refugees will probably approach 1 million. It is not easy for Southern Viet Nam to absorb these new peoples. They are destitute and penniless persons with only such possessions as they could carry on their backs. They need help.

One dramatic response is Operation Brotherhood. That is privately sponsored by the Philippine Junior Chamber of Commerce. It provides Philippine doctors and nurses who work on a 24-hour-a-day basis at the refugee centers. It is inspiring to see the Philippine people, who only lately achieved their own independence, now turning to help the most recent addition to the ranks of free nations.

A second problem faced by the free Government of Viet Nam is created by the fact that various religious groups, known as the "sects," have heretofore had virtual autonomy, maintaining their own police forces, collecting their own taxes and acting largely independently of a central government.

If Viet Nam is to maintain its independence and the religious freedom desired by all, including the sects, there needs to be increasing allegiance to the central Government. Reports indicate this allegiance is still not being granted by the sects to the free Government of Viet Nam. I hope that motives of patriotism will inspire all groups in Free Viet Nam to join together. Only as a united people will they be able to meet the threat of Communism.

The third and greatest problem is, of course, that presented by the Communists in the North. Under the Armistice they should have removed their forces from the South. Instead, many of their soldiers there merely put on civilian clothes and faded into the local community as a source of future trouble. Communist propaganda is ripe, and in addition the free people of the South are subjected to the terrorizing threat of armed aggression from the north. As against this, local forces are being trained. But the principal reliance is the Manila Pact and its deterrent power.

In July of this year, conversations are scheduled to begin between South and North looking toward elections in 1956 to unify Viet Nam. Under the terms of the Armistice, these elections are to be held under conditions of freedom. There can be little doubt but what most of the people of Viet Nam will want to unite under a genuinely independent and democratic government. In the North there is great discontent with Communist despotism. For each one of the many who have actually fled South to find freedom, there are many more who want freedom. Also, economic conditions in the North are deplorable and in many localities there is near starvation.

It will, however, be hard to create in the North conditions which allow genuine freedom of choice.

In Northern Korea and in Eastern Germany the Communists stubbornly refuse to permit the free elections which would bring unification. We hope this pattern will not be repeated by the Communist Vietminh.

I was much impressed by Prime Minister Diem. He is a true patriot, dedicated to independence and to the enjoyment by his people of political and religious freedoms. He now has a program for agricultural reform. If it is effectively executed, it will both assist in the resettlement of the refugees and provide his country with a sounder agricultural system. I am convinced that his Government deserves the support which the United States is giving to help to create an efficient, loyal military force and sounder economic conditions.

.....I come back from Asia greatly impressed by the spirit and the purpose of the governments and peoples with whom I had contact. They want to preserve their freedom and independence. However, patriotism alone is not enough. Small nations cannot easily be self-confident when they are next door to Communist China. Its almost unlimited manpower would easily dominate, and could quickly engulf, the entire area were it not restrained by the mutual-security structure which has been erected. But that structure will not hold if it be words alone. Essential ingredients are the deterrent power of the United States and our willingness to use that power in response to a military challenge."

AMBASSADOR TOURS THE WEST COAST...

On the 11th of March, after taking part in a symposium on "Understanding Asia" organized by Sweet Briar College in Virginia, Ambassador Tran van Chuong flew to Seattle where he gave a press conference the next morning, and spoke on Viet Nam the same day at a dinner given in his honor by Mr. Hulford and Mr. Griffith Way, Chairman of the Committee and President of the Washington State Fourth International Trade Fair.

In the afternoon, Ambassador Tran van Chuong was asked to stand on the receiving line at a reception given by Governor Langlie on the occasion of the opening of the Fair.

On Monday, March 14th, the Ambassador held four interviews: one in English; another in French for a newsreel; the third, at the radio station; and the fourth at the local television studio. He made a speech and replied to questions at a one hundred and seventy plate luncheon organized by the World Affairs Council of Seattle; lectured at the University of Washington; and gave a reception at the Rainier Club where he commented on two films that were shown on the Vietnamese refugees, the army, and on the recent tour of President Ngo Dinh Diem in the newly liberated areas of South Viet Nam.

The two following days, Ambassador Chuong was invited to speak in San Francisco at a reception organized by the World Affairs Council of San Francisco, at the Asian Foundation directed by Mr. Robert Blum, former head of the Economic Cooperation Administration in Indo-China, and at the University of California.

VIET MINH TAXES CAUSE FAMINE IN NORTH VIET NAMSAIGON:

Living on this side of the 17th Parallel, rich or poor, we all have enough food to live. But we do not know that on the other side of the parallel there is a horrible famine in Thanh Hoa, Nghe An, and Ha Tinh. The number of people who die of starvation grows while the Vietnamese Communists continue to collect grains for their Chinese comrades.

Crops have spoiled during the past three years. Then drought and flood occurred. But the collection of agricultural tax never stopped. To please the empty stomach of the people, the Vietnamese Communists persecuted rich and middle class peasants.

To this date, in Nong Cong district, 837 persons have died of famine; Lac Hien district, 356 died; in Lai Thieu district, 257, and in Co Dinh, 87 died. The figures for Nghe An and Ha Tinh are worse. Two thousand and 1,975 respectively, died.

Robbers, burglars, and beggars exist in large numbers side by side with hundreds of corpses. The Vietnamese Communists repressed these ill-fated people as well as those who rose and demanded migration to South Viet Nam. To cover up this tragic situation, the Viet Minh have played the farce of distributing rice they call "rice relief from China." But this is the lowest kind of propaganda to fool those who do not know that China is the greatest famine country in the world.

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE VIET MINH REGIMESAIGON:

Our readers will find here revelations made by a Can-Bo(Viet Minh Party member) presently united with the national cause on methods used by the Viet Minh.

Since 1950, Mr. Nguyen-Thu has been a member of the Communist Party and a partisan in the VietMinh ranks. His youth and his dynamic character made him an excellent "Can Bo". But, several years of communist activity did not succeed in hiding his sincere love for his country and his human feelings for his compatriots.

The partition of the country following the Geneva agreements, the bloody and inhuman persecutions of the Viet Minh, finally opened his eyes to the true mentality of these people, enslaved by Red imperialism. Mr. Nguyen-Thu then decided "to choose freedom."

FIRST CONTACTS WITH COMMUNISM:

"I was born in 1932 in Nam Dinh. I come from a family of small landowners. The events of 1946 forced me to leave my studies, and with my family, I then followed the Viet Minh "to the jungle." After experiencing all the suffering of the vagabond life of evacuees, we reached Nam Dinh again in September, 1948. Since I left school when very young and had become accustomed to an exciting life at an early age, I was not successful in rehabilitating myself to a normal existence. I felt lost among people of my own age. Lured by a friend of mine--Viet Minh sympathizer, I left Nam Dinh toward the end of 1949, and requested permission to take a course given by the Viet Minh to become an army medical orderly. After I graduated, I worked in a health center of the People's army. My youth and my good appearance attracted the attention of my superiors. They hastened to dangle before my eyes, the exciting and appealing aspect of the communist partisan. They also made it a point to make me understand that only members of the party would have any opportunity to reach high posts.

Naturally, I succumbed. Three months later, I was promoted to Chief Medical Orderly. And within the party, my title was District Commissioner.

In this managerial position, I practically did the impossible to merit the confidence of my superiors.

Taking over the management of an inter-district military hospital, I set the example--working without respite, and carrying out the orders of the party to the letter. My zeal, which was noticed by my superiors, and my untiring activity as a soldier, helped me bypass all stopping-places and facilitated my climb up the party echelon. I quickly reached the most desirable post in that region--that of Regional Secretary.

I was unable to forget my bourgeois origins. It was thus that I married the daughter of a rich landlord of the village of Trung-Lap (Tho-Xuan, Thanh-Hoa district)

Once I was married, I continued to work intensively--thus amazing my immediate supervisors. I was nominated for a study seminar organized by the Politburo. Two months later, I became an instructor in the political training center for party officials.

Towards the end of 1952, Chinese interference became more and more evident. The Viet Minh initiated an accusation campaign, destined to discredit and suppress landlords.

Early in 1953, because of certain denouncing information on the part of a rival--jealous of my soar, I was called before the provincial commissioner of Thanh-Hoa. He accused me of being related to a family of landowners. After having experienced several meetings of "self-accusation" and "self-criticism" I had to promise to sever all relations with my in-laws and to leave my wife. Party discipline obliged me to abandon my wife, just at a time when she was expecting a baby and needed my protection.

There then followed a two-week seminar on the methods to be used to incite the people against landowners termed oppressors. My leaders exercised their Machia vellism to the point where they appointed me to ensure the leadership of the denunciation movement in my wife's very village.

There, I began to catch a glimpse of the contemptible aspect of communism. My conscience tormented, and my physical strength exhausted for more than two years--my health suffered. I became ill before accomplishing the mission that was assigned to me. Someone was appointed to replace me, and the campaign began.

My father-in-law, victim of slanderous denunciation, tortured physically and morally, poisoned himself. It was then that my wife, only child, had to pay in place of her father. I remember that day, May 1st 1954. My wife, unsteady in her walk because of her advanced state, hands tied behind her back, was dragged before the people's court to answer for crimes whose author and time still remain a mystery.

For several nights, she had to endure indescribable and countless humiliations. Five days later, she had a mis-carriage. I rushed to help her, and I was immediately brought before the Party court.

Accused, I answered that I was only acting humanly toward a sick and helpless woman. I was condemned to expulsion from the party and deprived of all my duties. From that time on, constantly surveilled by the party, I had to earn a living for myself and my wife. Two months later, my wife died from the aftermath of her premature confinement and from the bad treatment she had received at the hands of the communists.

Along came the Geneva agreements and the partition of the country. I returned to Nam Dinh only to learn that two of my uncles had also been victims of the communist vengeance policy.

From that time on, I felt a growing repulsion within towards those who persecuted my family and my country. The partition of the country, resulting from the Geneva agreements, finally unveiled the true mentality of the Viet Minh. Thus, I decided to place myself under the protection of the national government, and I left for the South.

I chose freedom, hoping that I could continue my fight."