

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

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January 2, 1957 - Session

The chairman declares the opening of the session and says that this session is an irregular one.

Question: Why is it irregular?

Answer : Whenever there is some important question, the Secretariat of the Assembly or the President or the Majority of the Assembly will decide an irregular session to settle the question.

This irregular session hors been decided by the Secretariat of the Assembly and it will last from January 1, 1957 to January 4, 1957.

We have to draft the fiscal 58 for the 4 chapters 10, 11, 12, 13 successively known as:

Chapter 10: Direction general of Administration and Finance
Inspection
Chapter 11 Direction general of Civil Service (Fonction
Publique)
Chapter 12 Direction general of Plan
Chapter 13 National institute of Administration

Some figures in those chapters

Chapter 10 Direction general of Administration and finance ins-
pection

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|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1) <u>Personnel</u> | 1958 : 1.322.300\$ |
| | 1957 : 1.842.400\$ |
| | <hr/> |
| | 520.100\$ |
| 2) <u>Materials</u> : | 1958 : 180.200\$ |
| | 1957 : 146.700\$ |
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| | 34.500\$ |
| 3) Total : | 1958 : 1.502.500\$ |
| | 1957 : 1.989.100\$ |

Explanations : More expenditures to manitain public buildings
-To supply the drivers with uniforms

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CHAPTER 11 : Direction general of Civil Service

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| 1) <u>Personnel</u> : | 1958 | 15.849.600\$ |
| | 1957 | <u>15.918.900\$</u> |
| | | 69.300\$ |
| 2) <u>Materials</u> : | 1958 | 601.700\$ |
| | 1957 | <u>587.500\$</u> |
| | | 14.200\$ |
| 3) <u>Total</u> | 1958 | 16.451.300\$ |
| | 1957 | <u>16.506.400\$</u> |
| | | 55.100\$ |

Explanations: Personnel reduction in this Direction

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CHAPTER 12 : Difection general of Plan

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|-----------------------|------|--------------------|
| 1) <u>Personnel</u> : | 1958 | 1.136.900 |
| | 1957 | <u>5.807.900</u> |
| | | 1.329.000 |
| 2) <u>Materials</u> : | 1958 | 2.655.200\$ |
| | 1957 | <u>3.470.600\$</u> |
| | | 815.400\$ |
| 3) <u>Total</u> : | 1958 | 9.792.100\$ |
| | 1957 | <u>9.278.500\$</u> |
| | | 513.600\$ |

Explanations

- 1) Reduction of Expenditures
- 2) Payment to the foreign experts

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CHAPTER 13 : National Institute of Administration

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|----|---------------------|------|---|---------------------|
| 1) | <u>Personnel</u> | 1958 | : | 5.670.100\$ |
| | | 1957 | ? | <u>5.715.400\$</u> |
| | | | | 45.300\$ |
| 2) | <u>Materials</u> | 1958 | : | 755.800\$ |
| | | 1957 | | <u>597.700\$</u> |
| | | | | 158.100\$ |
| 3) | <u>Special</u> | 1958 | : | 13.164.700\$ |
| | <u>Expenditures</u> | 1957 | : | <u>13.781.600</u> |
| | | | | 616.900\$ |
| 4) | <u>Total</u> | 1958 | : | 18.987.600\$ |
| | | 1957 | : | <u>20.094.700\$</u> |
| | | | | 1.107.100\$ |

QUESTIONS RAISED BY DEPUTIES

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- 1) What are the short termed programs of the Direction general of Plan?
- 2) Why do we have to vote 4 chapters altogether?
- 3) Does the Direction General of Administration and Finance Inspection make any close inspection of the materials purchased in various biddings by different government agencies.
- 4) Hows the Direction general of Civil Service think about the following situation: Some official of the government having returned from abroad, after a period of technical training have not been properly used or even forsaken.
- 5) Water shortage in some Saigon quarters and in some provinces.
- 6) Why too much money (more than 1 million of piasters) in the Direction general of Plan to rent houses.
- 7) About allowances to students in the N.I.A:

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|--------|---------------------|
| 1958 : | 13.729.600\$ |
| 1957 : | <u>13.152.700\$</u> |
| | 616.900\$ |

Does the N.I.A. have the same number of students each year?
If so, why is there a difference between those above amounts of money?

ANSWERS BY THE REPORTER GENERAL

- 1) The short termed programs are those decided by the President and are exacted in a short period of time.
- 2) The National Assembly has decided that:
Whenever there are some unimportant chapters to be discussed, we can vote those chapters altogether.
- 3) No answer.
- 4) No answer
- 5) No answer
- 6) There are 30 foreign experts to be housed.
- 7) There is no difference as to the number of students each year but in 1958 there will be more students who are not civil servants so we have not to pay them as costly as to those who have been civil servants

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Vote for the 4 chapters altogether: 18.

4. Assembly discusses national budget -

Saigon - On February 11 the National Assembly began to examine the project of the 1957 national budget.

Mr. Ha nhu Chi of the Budget Committee presented a report on the major features of the budget and on the government budget policy if the budget is passed by the Assembly. After stressing that it is the first time Vietnam has had a budget program to be followed by the government and also the first time the people's representatives could examine and vote on the revenue and the expenditure of the country, Chi announced that the budget income will equal the expenditures (14,159,890,000 piasters). The first includes 12 sections divided into 48 chapters, and the second 13 sections divided into 298 chapters.

Speaking of income items Chi called attention to a new tax (production tax) which will bring in about 2 billion 150,000 piasters. It will replace the long-resented business tax popularly called 4% tax. Enforced on every business transaction this tax was not only difficult to control, but contributed to raising the price of commodities, which after several resales often rise by 20% to 30%.

The production tax has two parts: 1) tax on imports; b) tax on local products. The imports are divided into several categories: a) indispensable items (milk, flour, sugar, machines, fertilizer, etc.) to be subjected to a 15% tax; b) luxury articles like cars, wines cosmetics, 35%; c) other articles, 25%. As for local products, the general tax is 6% with exemption for handicraftmen whose workshops do not employ more than 6 workers and whose capital is not over 500,000 piasters.

Concerning expenditures, Chi said that there will be a notable reduction on government personnel and supplies with emphasis on constructions which can bring in a profit. Another important point is that this year each province and city will control its own revenues. However, the central administration will contribute 1,133 million to their support, which is a small sum in comparison with the 8 billion provided for civil expenses.

Winding up his speech Ha nhu Chi asked that the deputies vote the budget section by section to save time. Deputy Can said that this would not get to the bottom of each item and proposed a voting for each article separately. To conciliate the two opinions Deputy Toan offered a compromise: a vote for each chapter.

Upon that the Assembly was suspended.

(All papers)

2. Appeal for help to fire victims in Sau Leo quarter -

Saigon - As has been announced, a fire last Saturday night destroyed about 500 houses in the Sau Leo quarter between Bui Vien and Pham Ngu Lao streets making 3,000 people homeless.

Not later than the next day the more fortunate people in the quarter whose houses were spared by the disaster organized aid for their unfortunate neighbors. One old woman's house has been turned into a canteen and people have brought whatever foodstuffs they can spare. Some 3,000 rations have been distributed every day at the canteen.

In spite of this, the fire victims are waiting for more substantial aid from the government, the Assembly, and the Prefecture Council. A huge banderole reads in English: "Give us some help, please." With it the victims hope to enlist the sympathy of generous friends who have been helping Vietnam in its reconstruction phase.

Most pitiful was the situation of the victims during the last two rains which flooded all the quarters.

(Dan Chu & 5 others)

3. President Diem signs 1957 budget law bill -

Saigon - In accordance with the decision of the Legislative Assembly, the President, on March 4, signed bill N° 8-57 relative to the 1957 national budget which amounts to 14,159,990,000 piasters in public expenditures and 14,159,990,000 piasters in revenues.

(All Papers)

4. Public Health communique on poisonous plant -

Saigon - Recently a rumor spread that some people who had gone on a pilgrimage to Dien-Ba pagoda in TayNinh suddenly died due to a poisonous plant they brought home as a medicinal herb.

To ease public apprehension on the rumor, the Public Health Department ordered doctors of Nam-Viet Hospital to investigate and report on the subject. After examination of a woman, named Nguyen thi Tien, 47 years of age, whose death was believed to be caused by a certain kind of poisonous plant, it was found that her blood contained a large quantity of "Gametes and Shizontes of Plasmodium Falciparum" germs which caused pernicious bouts of fever.

The Public Health Department advises those people who suffer of similar sickness to consult doctors but not to believe in quack remedies.

(Buoi Sang & 2 others)