

# Vietnam COURIER



VOLUME 16  
A MONTHLY REVIEW

● POLITICS

● ECONOMICS

● CULTURE

● SOCIETY



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# Vietnamese Women

CLOCKWISE:



- Dang Thi Thang, a weaver at the Nam Dinh Textile Mill. She has reached the target of the five-year plan (1976-1980) 185 days ahead of schedule.
- Beside peach blossom at Tet (the Lunar New Year Festival).
- In the face of Chinese threats, militiawomen of Yen My State Farm in Thanh Hoa province undergo military training.
- Lace making for export at Dong Thang Cooperative in Thai Binh province.

*Photo: TRAN PHAC*

*Photo: NGUYEN TAN*

*Photo: CAO XUAN CAU*

*Photo: NGUYEN DAN*

# OUR MONTHLY COMMENT

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### Front Cover:

*Inside Sao Sang (Bright Star) nursery school in Hanoi.*

*Photo: XUAN LIEU*

**T**OGETHER with other countries, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam has asked the 35th Session of the UN General Assembly to include in its agenda the problem of peace, stability and co-operation in Southeast Asia.

As is known to everybody, Southeast Asia includes three Indochinese countries - Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea - and five Asean countries - Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and the Philippines - and Burma. This is an area rich in rubber, tin, oil, rice, palm-oil, coconut, spices. Lying on the trade routes from the Pacific Ocean to the Indian Ocean, Southeast Asia has an important strategic geographic position.

This explains why the area is constantly coveted or occupied by big powers outside the area with imperialist or expansionist ambitions. After many centuries of colonial rule, during and immediately after the Second World War, the peoples of Southeast Asia rose up and wrested back their political independence, as a first step towards economic independence. However, the forces of repression outside the area did not simply sit back and watch. Throughout the past 40 years, Southeast Asia has been engulfed in a series of wars. Britain, France and the Netherlands tried to re-impose their domination on their former colonies. Then the USA took the place of the French defeated at Dien Bien Phu, thus kindling a second Indochina war.

Civil wars and riots repeatedly broke out in Burma, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, mainly owing to the emergence of a new big power outside Southeast Asia - China under Mao Zedong, the heir to the hegemonistic and expansionist ambitions of the various Chinese dynasties. Having seized power in China and subjugated many non-Han peoples, Mao wanted to conquer Southeast Asia, including the East Sea. Since 1950, Chinese maps have shown the southern border of China 12 miles off the coasts of Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines, regardless of their exclusive economic zones and continental shelves. In 1963, talking with the leaders of the Vietnam Workers' Party (now the Communist Party of Vietnam) in Wuhan Mao blatantly stated: "I will be the Chairman of 500 million poor peasants marching into Southeast Asia."

**Vietnam  
COURIER**

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# THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF

*At a large meeting held on 1 September 1986 in Hanoi to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the August Revolution (19 August 1945) and National Day (2 September 1945) Prime Minister Pham Van Dong delivered an important speech.*

*In Part I of the speech entitled "The August Revolution and the New Era in the History of Vietnam," the Prime Minister analyses the significance of the August Revolution and the victories of the two wars of resistance against the French colonialists and the US imperialists.*

*In Part II, the Prime Minister deals with the founding of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the present situation and tasks. We reproduce below Part II of the Prime Minister's speech - Ed.*



**A**FTER the Spring 1975 victory, within only a short period of time, we have recorded great successes. We have achieved national reunification and proclaimed the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, convened the Fourth National Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam which laid down the line for the socialist revolution in the whole country. We have fought and defeated the Beijing expansionists at the South-western border and in the Northern part of our country. We have further strengthened the mi-

lignant solidarity between the three Indochinese peoples and built it into a force to defend peace and stability in Southeast Asia against all expansionist and aggressive schemes of the Chinese rulers and US imperialists. We have deployed our diplomatic activities aimed at strengthening our relations with the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries, and with all countries far and near for peace and friendship among nations.

At present, our people are confronted with difficult, complex situation and tasks. But never before in our age-old history has our country and nation been so strong in all fields as it is now.

The Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the fruit of a persevering and indomitable struggle during thousands of years, is a medium-sized country. But what matters for a country is not its size, but the creativeness, courage and intelligence of its people; and in this respect, we can take pride in the unlimited abilities of our nation and our people. This is a proven truth, now as in the past and all the more so in the future.

Another very important question is our country's natural resources which are undoubtedly abundant and diversified but of which we know precious little up to now. Moreover, our country lies in an advantageous geo-political position at the crossroads from East to West, from North to South. In our relations with the world, our country and the neighbouring Laos and Kampuchea are uniting more and more closely and struggling for

the common objectives: shoulder to shoulder to safeguard national independence and help each other build a new and socialist life. Our country is maintaining all-round cooperative relations with the Soviet Union and the other fraternal socialist countries and broadening relations with many other countries. We are resolved to do all we can to bring into full play the benefits of this cooperation. In short, our beloved Socialist Republic of Vietnam has great possibilities and prospects to fulfil our imposing tasks: to build socialism successfully and defend firmly our socialist Fatherland. At this historic juncture, let every Vietnamese realize fully and profoundly the strength and advantages of our country, and advance with enthusiasm.

In the present situation of our country, we should, of course, also be fully aware of the difficulties. What are those difficulties and where do they come from? First of all, there are difficulties caused by enemies, in the past and at present; there are difficulties left behind by thirty years of war and half a century of colonial rule (mainly in the South). We should not forget that our enemy once wanted, with a devastating war, to bring our country back to the Stone Age! And nowadays, the Chinese expansionists—our new enemies, acting hand in glove with US imperialism and other reactionary forces of all kinds—are entertaining schemes to conquer our country. They are daily sabotaging our economy and causing us countless difficulties which cannot be fully evaluated.

# VIETNAM: SITUATION AND TASKS

Added to these difficulties is our backward economy which was held back by the colonial and feudal regime, and could develop only on a limited scale during the two wars of resistance, and moreover was heavily mauled in the wars launched by our enemies.

Mention should also be made of the serious consequences of the natural disasters which repeatedly occurred in all parts of our country over the past years, the most recent being the typhoon in the North.

In recalling the above difficulties and their origins, I also want to stress here, comrades and compatriots, the weaknesses and shortcomings of the organs responsible for the management of our national economy. That is actually to say that we practise self-criticism before you, comrades and compatriots, for our responsibility. At the same time, we urge everyone of us to make self-criticism and criticism for the lack of responsibility and discipline, for inefficient work, low productivity, corruption, illegal dealings and transactions, authoritarianism, etc.

We must realize fully the difficulties in order to overcome them; and to overcome these difficulties, we must realize fully all our advantages, namely, our great revolutionary cause, that of building and defending the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the revolutionary enthusiasm and the determination to fight and win of our people. Of course, the revolutionary enthusiasm, revolutionary will and the victorious revolutionary struggle of our people are results of leadership, the political, military, economic and diplomatic policies of our Party, which has brought into full play the revolutionary heroism of the masses and brought into bloom the flowers of the socialist regime, a regime in which the labouring people are masters of all the affairs of the country and society. This is the most fundamental factor which determined the success of the August Revolution and of national construction and defence over the past 35 years. It will also determine the victory of our revolutionary cause at present and in the future.

In this spirit, we are striving to build the Socialist Republic of

Vietnam in all fields: political, economic and national defence, with a modern agro-industrial economy, an advanced science and technology, and a civilized and happy life for the people. In order to fulfil the above-mentioned tasks, we must know how to apply creatively the general line for socialist construction laid down by the 4th Party Congress.

"To hold firmly to proletarian dictatorship, to promote the working people's right to collective mastery, simultaneously carry out three revolutions: the revolution in the relations of production, the scientific and technological revolution, and the ideological and cultural revolution, with the scientific and technological revolution as the kingpin; step up socialist industrialization, which is the central task of the period of transition to socialism; build the system of socialist collective mastery, build large-scale socialist production, develop a new culture, mould new socialist people, abolish the regime of exploitation of man by man, do away with poverty and backwardness; unceasingly uphold vigilance, and consolidate national defence, maintain political security and social order; successfully build the Vietnamese motherland into a peaceful, independent, unified and socialist country; actively contribute to the struggle of the people of the world for peace, national independence, democracy and socialism."

Now that the whole of our country has entered the period of transition to socialism, it is important and most imperative that we simultaneously carry out socialist construction and socialist transformation of the national economy. This is a revolutionary struggle conducted under the power of proletarian dictatorship, an uncompromising struggle which combines administrative, economic and ideological measures to consolidate and expand the socialist sector, restricting and narrowing down the sectors of private capitalist business in all forms, especially in the sphere of commerce. In the South, we still allow the existence and operation of certain private capitalist industrial businesses and services which are still beneficial

to the national economy. We must firmly carry out this complicated revolutionary struggle and be determined to win final victory for socialism. We must attach particular importance to the socialist transformation of agriculture in the South and resolve to take agriculture and the countryside in the South onto the cooperative path, the path to socialism.

Transformation and construction are closely related to the development of the socialist economy by giving priority to the rational development of heavy industry on the basis of developing agriculture and light industry. This is a problem for the agro-industrial structure, an essential component of the national economy at the central as well as grassroots levels, right from the beginning of the process of taking small production towards large-scale socialist production as well as throughout the process of socialist industrialization and of building the material and technical basis of socialism.

Along with socialist construction, we must make great efforts to increase our defence potential in order to firmly safeguard our socialist Fatherland. Our entire nation must be fully aware and deeply conscious of the ambitions of great-nation expansionism and hegemony nurtured by the Chinese rulers against our country and other countries in this region, hence to enhance our determination to reinforce our national defence capacity in all respects, in all directions and all places in order to resolutely defeat the aggressors no matter where they may come from and when they may come. We must make the most effective use of the capabilities of our nation and our country in order to organize well our national defence. We should sum up the valuable experiences from our people's struggle for national defence since remote times with a view to combating more effectively and winning more glorious victories over the Chinese aggressors if they recklessly invade our country.

We desire peace and friendship with the Chinese people, we want to normalize relations with the People's Republic of China. We

want to concentrate all forces of the country and people on building a new, socialist life. But in face of the hostile policy of the reactionaries in the Beijing ruling circles, we must sharpen our vigilance and always remain prepared for any eventuality.

Successfully building socialism and firmly defending our socialist fatherland are the two tasks of historical significance to be assumed by the Vietnamese nation throughout the current period and the period to come. We must look far ahead both in time and space in order to ponder and calculate what we have to do to perform the above-mentioned tasks. In the immediate future, we have to sum up the experiences in the implementation of the 5-year State plan (1976-1980) and draw the most worthy lessons therefrom in order to actively and firmly work out the 1981-1985 State plan. The forthcoming five-year plan will be of great importance in that it will bring about stability and a new development of the national economy which will serve as a basis for a vigorous development later on.

In spite of the great difficulties we are facing, we must also realize our bright prospects. Everyone must improve their ideological and political standard, their level and capability, particularly in the field of economic management, and enlarge their range of view to the dimension of the tasks entrusted. We must mobilize all the active forces, multiply the good examples, foster more "good people and good deeds" in accordance with Uncle Ho's teaching. We have such valuable nuclei everywhere which should be promptly discovered and multiplied. This is the best way to combat the negative aspects which have given concern to all of us. We should set great store in and effectively use the youth, the enthusiastic and able men and women, who have been forged in struggle, are capable of maturing quickly and keeping pace with the requirements of the current situation and tasks. Throughout its long history, the Vietnamese nation has always looked forward to new horizons in forging ahead with steady strides, enthusiasm and confidence. In our turn, our

generations must demonstrate more clearly this inevitable trend.

\* \* \*

Now I would like to deal with some tasks to be performed in the immediate future.

We are nearing the end of the five-year State plan (1976-1980). In order to create favourable conditions for the forthcoming five-year plan, great efforts must be made first of all to boost production, particularly the production of food, foodstuffs and consumer goods.

The recent typhoon No. 4 (JOE) followed by heavy rains caused serious difficulties to *agricultural production* in the North and directly affected the autumn rice crop. Therefore, we must make greater efforts to attain the set targets regarding the area, yield and output of the summer crop while making urgent preparations right now for the coming winter and spring crops. It should be stressed here once again that we must attach importance to the subsidiary crops in view of their great contribution in food processed for human consumption and in animal feeds. Each locality, from provincial to grassroots levels, must mobilize all its potentialities in land, workforce and material means for this production drive and achieve the highest possible food output in order to meet the local needs and also to contribute more food to the State.

While doing our utmost to boost production, we should pay appropriate attention to *forestry and fishery* which go together in the diverse socialist agriculture.

The organs directly responsible for agricultural production must know how to carry out the three revolutions in production. They must focus on the grassroots while striving to build and perfect the district level. The overall plan of the district must be realistically worked out on the basis of a firm knowledge of the capacities in land, manpower, equipment with a view to these targets: food, foodstuff, industrial crops and export goods.

Agricultural production is closely linked with cooperation in the

countryside. For the North, this means to continue perfecting the organization and management of the agricultural cooperatives. For the South, this means to carry out agricultural cooperation. These two tasks are also closely related to the building of a socialist countryside in our country. In this regard we have recorded encouraging achievements in the organization of a new material and cultural life in the countryside.

The *production of consumer goods* is related in many ways with agriculture and directly serves the people's life. At present, when the people's needs for consumer goods and the requirements for export are increasing continually, the position of consumer goods industries has become all the more important. In this spirit, the localities, with full assistance from related services at the central level, should make the best use of their on-the-spot manpower and raw material resources to promote the production of consumer goods from the provincial level down to the districts and cooperatives in keeping with the common plan.

As regards *heavy industries*, urgent efforts must be made to overcome the state of slow and unsteady development of such branches as electricity, coal, mechanical engineering, chemicals, building materials, etc.

Regarding *electricity*, we should strive to increase the power sources. First importance should be given to a proportional supply of raw materials to the electric power industry and improve its management in order to make the fullest use of the existing stations and ensure stable supply of power to essential establishments.

Regarding the *coal industry*, we must achieve, by every possible means, the planned target for coal output so as to have enough coal for the immediate needs and some reserve for the railway service, the power stations and export. The coal industry must urgently readjust its guidance and management, hence to increase economic efficiency of the investments and increase work productivity and coal output.

*Mechanical engineering*, an industry of great importance for both immediate and long-term needs of the national economy, is facing many difficulties in terms of energy and raw materials. In face of such a situation, production plans must be so arranged to make use of the existing capacity to meet the essential requirements of the national economy. At the same time, we must create favourable conditions for a vigorous development of this industry in the years to come.

As regards *metallurgy, chemicals, and building materials*, we will continue our present efforts to progressively give them an ever increasing role in the building of our socialist economy.

At present, it is an extremely important and urgent task of ours to strive to improve our work in the field of *distribution and circulation* with a view to stepping up production, thus progressively stabilizing and improving the living conditions of the people.

It is of decisive importance that the State must control the supply of goods. The State-run industrial enterprises and the cooperatives that manufacture on contractual terms with the State must deliver the goods to the State according to strict regulations and schedules. In agriculture, the cooperatives, production collectives and individual peasant households must expedite their obligation of paying taxes and selling their products to the State. The State must provide them with fertilizers, insecticide and petrol. This is a two-way relationship between the State and the peasants — a concrete manifestation of the worker-peasant alliance in the socialist regime. We take this opportunity to commend the localities, collectives and individuals who have satisfactorily fulfilled their obligations and at the same time we severely criticize those who have not and actually caused avoidable difficulties to our work.

In order to stabilize our *finances* we must attach great importance to increasing revenue, particularly through industrial, commercial and agricultural taxes. We must combat tax evasion and under-

payment. At the same time we must strictly observe economy in spending.

We must increase our *control over the markets* and are determined to combat all actions and attempts to cause market disturbances, all attempts to evade State control and inspection, all acts of contraband, speculation and price hike. We must set up a system of inventory and control by the State over all business activities, particularly private businesses. All these efforts are aimed at building and consolidating the socialist market. In the present situation of our national economy, we should encourage those services and trades that are still beneficial to the national economy. At the same time we strictly demand that everyone abide by the legislation and regulations concerning business registration, tax, price control and accounts at the State banks.

The life of the working people, particularly office and factory workers in the cities and industrial centres, is meeting many difficulties. On the basis of stepping up production and controlling commodities sources, the State will do its best to ensure the rationing of the vital necessities such as food and foodstuffs, and at the same time, to gradually stabilize the price of various commodities, with a view to ensuring the real salaries of office and factory workers. It is necessary to apply, wherever possible, the system of payment according to the quantity of products or the amount of work done. It is necessary to make the best use of the locally available materials to produce goods of value and develop side-line family economy so as to increase the people's income and improve their living conditions. All of us should be fully aware that the key to the settlement of the problem is to step up production and increase productivity with a view to meeting in a rational manner the interests of the individual producer, the collective and the society.

In the field of *capital construction*, it is necessary to concentrate efforts on completing definitely the building of the most important projects belonging to various branches like agriculture, industry and communications and transport as have

been set down in order of priority in the State plan.

This year, we have started cooperation with the Soviet Union in the field of *oil and gas*. It is a new and difficult but also very promising enterprise. We are determined to make the best preparations in order to carry out smoothly this work, so important for the development of our national economy.

Attention must be paid to the *construction of dwelling houses*, first of all, in Hanoi and in various industrial centres, to the extent of our capacity in building materials, equipment, etc.

Compared to the diversified and growing demands of the national economy, the *communications and transport service* is inefficient in many respects which is a problem requiring prompt solution. It demands great efforts to strengthen the material and scientific basis and the managerial capacity of the service. It requires tangible changes in the days to come, particularly in the loading and unloading of ships and in combating the negative features at Haiphong and other ports.

In the immediate future and for many years to come, we must make full use of the capacity of rail and river transport, develop marine transport, readjust the forces of road transport, and increase transport by rudimentary means in order to meet local transport demands.

Ours being a tropical country endowed with abundant natural resources and manpower, we are fully capable of producing an ever growing amount of *goods for export* of value to meet the demand of the world market. Relying on the existing favourable conditions, we will increase cooperation with the Soviet Union and the other countries in the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance and with other countries on the principles of mutual benefit. In this spirit, all branches and localities must boldly expand the establishments producing goods for export with due attention paid to those production lines where

(Continued on page 28)



*Welcoming the President of the Republic of the Seychelles at Chi Linh Square in Hanoi.*

*Photo: KIM HUNG - THE TRUNG*

## THE VISIT TO VIETNAM OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE SEYCHELLES

**A**T the invitation of SRV Acting-President Nguyen Huu Tho and Prime Minister Pham Van Dong, the President of the Republic of the Seychelles and President of the Seychelles People's Progressive Front, France Albert René, paid an official friendship visit to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. During his stay in Vietnam, President France Albert René and his delegation were received by Le Duan, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam.

SRV Acting-President Nguyen Huu Tho and Prime Minister Pham Van Dong held talks with President F.A. René. A Vietnam - Seychelles joint communiqué was signed on 27 September 1980 in Hanoi. In the communiqué, the two sides stressed "the consolidation and strengthening of the militant solidarity, friendship and cooperation between the two countries" and discussed "international issues of mutual concern."

The two sides exchanged views on the present international situation and noted that: "Imperialism and old and new colonialism are trying by all means available to join hands with international reaction in launching counter-attacks and sowing division with the aim of weakening the revolutionary forces, yet they cannot reverse the overall trend of our times. On the contrary, they will weaken their position and will eventually sustain humiliating defeats."

The two sides "welcome and support the initiatives of the socialist and other progressive countries to

promote détente and consolidate peace and international security."

The two sides reaffirmed "their determination to join with other countries of the Non-Aligned Movement in maintaining the correct objectives and unity of the movement, and in opposing all schemes of imperialism and international reaction to sow division and to take over the movement against the interests of national independence and social progress."

On the situation in the Indochinese countries the two sides "warmly welcome the splendid victories of the Lao people in building a peaceful, independent, democratic, unified and socialist Laos and resolutely support the revolutionary cause of the Lao people to defend their national independence and territorial integrity" and "warmly hail the historic victory of 7 January 1979 by the Kampuchean people which overthrew the genocidal Pol Pot - Ieng Sary regime and founded the People's Republic of Kampuchea". The two sides "highly appreciate the important achievements which the Kampuchean people, under the leadership of the People's Revolutionary Council, have recorded in the building and defence of their homeland during the past year and more". The two sides reaffirmed that "the situation in Kampuchea is irreversible and demand the restoration of Kampuchea's seat at the United Nations and other international organizations to the People's Revolutionary Council of Kampuchea, the sole legitimate and genuine representative of the Kampuchean people"



# THE FIRST

# LATIN

# AMERICAN

# COSMONAUT



*Cosmonauts M. Romanenko and Tamayo (left).*

*Photo: TASS and Prensa Latina.*

**A**T 10: 11 p.m. on 18 September 1980 (Moscow time) the Soviet Union launched the Soyuz 38 spaceship with its international crew including pilot cosmonaut Colonel Yuri Victorovich Romanenko, hero of the Soviet Union, commander of the ship, and cosmonaut-researcher Lieutenant-Colonel Arnaldo Tamayo Méndez, citizen of the Republic of Cuba.

The flight programme of this spaceship involved docking with

the Salyut 6 - Soyuz 37 orbital complex, and joining the Soviet cosmonauts L. Popov and V. Ryumin who have been working in the complex since 9 April 1980 in a series of scientific studies and experiments prepared by the two countries.

After successfully completing their schedule in space, the Soviet and Cuban cosmonauts returned safely to earth on 26 September aboard the Soyuz 38 spaceship.

This space flight is the seventh of the Intercosmos Programme.

The flight of the first Latin American in space marked an important victory of the people of socialist Cuba. It was the outcome of continual efforts by scientists, technicians and the youth educated by the revolutionary regime. This is also a new and significant advance in the history of the Cuban revolution over the past 20 years.

## 1981: GENERAL ELECTIONS IN KAMPUCHEA

According to the Kampuchean News Agency SPK, the Central Committee of the National United Front for the Salvation of Kampuchea and the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Council have decided that general elections will be held in early 1981 throughout the country.

# THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE VIETNAMESE AND THE CHINESE REVOLUTION

## I — DURING THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC REVOLUTION

During the years when the Communist Parties were founded in each country, Vietnam and China had the common characteristics of colonial and semi-feudal Far-eastern countries: a very small working class (about 0.5% of the population in China in 1921, over 1% in Vietnam in 1930); the Communist Party in each country had to work in a sea of individualistic backward peasants.

*The fundamental problem was which class led the revolution — the working class or the peasantry — and on which position the Party should stand to carry out the revolution — on the working class or on the peasantry.*

Since its foundation the Communist Party in Vietnam asserted itself as the political party of the working class in order to lead the revolution; it has remained true to the principles of Marxism-Leninism on proletarian revolution in the period of imperialism, following the slogan "Proletarians of the world and oppressed peoples, unite!"

The Party has resolutely upheld the banners of national independence and socialism, has stood closely united with the proletarian movement and the oppressed nations throughout the world, has been guided in all its actions by Marxism-Leninism, has drawn the lessons of the experiences of the various proletarian movements in the world, especially the Great October Socialist Revolution so as to gradually take the Vietnamese revolution to complete victory.

On the contrary, the Chinese Communist Party, since it had been submitted to Maoist leadership, has promoted the peasantry and petty-bourgeois positions to lead the revolution, gradually separating itself from the international communist and workers' movement and finally opposing it.

Mao Zedong wrote in his book "On New Democracy": "The politics of new democracy is essentially handing power to the peasants", and "the peasant force is the main force in the Chinese revolution" (1). In Vietnam the Communists clearly understood that it was necessary for Party members coming from petty bourgeois or intellectual backgrounds, etc., to steep themselves in the life of the proletariat if they wanted to train properly. This meant taking part in manual labour and living with industrial workers, in a word, to become industrial workers. The leaders of the revolutionary movement in China, on the other hand, always held that cadres should "xia feng", that is to go to the country to mix with poor and landless peasants and learn from them and to become, not workers, but peasants in order to lead the proletarian revolution.

It is precisely owing to this erroneous view of the role of the masses and of the motive forces of the revolution that in 1927 when fiercely attacked by Jiang Jieshi (Chiang Kai-shek), they failed to build

their forces on the spot within the masses, including the urban and rural population, both workers and peasants. Instead they had to carry out the Long March and take flight in search of a new base. This was an epic experience but at the same time a bitter historical defeat. They left with 300,000, but only 30,000 remained at the end of the long march. And this was due to the fact that they had failed to take the path of the masses drawn by Marxism-Leninism, they had failed to rely on the working class, to organize and educate the peasants under proletarian leadership.

In Vietnam, the repression exercised by the French colonialists was many times fiercer than that of the Jiang Jieshi clique. However, thanks to a correct working class line, the Party managed to mobilize the workers and peasants to fight side by side. Thus the Party led the workers at Truong Thi, Ben Thuy (Nghé Tinh province) to join the struggle, it created a solid worker-peasant alliance placed under the leadership of the working class. That is why when the revolutionary tide was at its lowest ebb, the Party was able to survive and fight in the very midst of the local population. During the hard period of white terror (1931-32) the Party held firmly to the aims of national independence and socialism. It never wavered or shifted to the peasant position, never gave up the ultimate goal—socialism. The Party's programme of action was drawn up in June 1932 when the Party was going through its hardest times. The programme still stressed: "The Indochinese workers and peasants, under the guidance of the Communist Party, will take up arms in insurrection to carry out the future tasks of the anti-imperialist and agrarian revolutions, and together will advance resolutely towards socialism."

Although subjected to colonialist terror, the party of the Vietnamese working class did not seek refuge by conducting a long march. Instead, it had faith in the masses and restored the revolutionary bases among the masses, which resulted in a speedy recovery of the movement and a new revolutionary upsurge.

In the course of the armed struggle the Chinese revolutionary line consisted in extolling the role of armed violence, while overlooking the political struggle, and considering that revolutionary power is *born from the barrel of a gun*, and not from the revolutionary movement of the masses. They attributed all revolutionary gains to the armed struggle, considered the armed struggle as all-powerful. In organizing the fighting forces, they also took the "peasant road", i.e. they relied on the countryside, and used the countryside to encircle the cities. Mao Zedong considered this to be an original revolutionary initiative in the new situation (2).

In carrying out their revolution the Vietnamese have learned from the experiences of the Chinese in the war of liberation, but our road was different. We built our armed forces from the mass movement

organized by the Party. The *red self-defence units* born in 1930 were the offspring of the masses' revolutionary organizations, such as the Red Trade Unions, the Red Peasants' Association, the Communist Youth League, etc. They were the tools used by the Party to seize power, but revolutionary power was seized by the mass movement itself, under the leadership of the Party, through political and armed violence; it was by no means born from the barrel and a gun.

The development of the armed forces and the building of revolutionary power during the August Revolution in Vietnam were carried out in the following way. Out of the organizations making up the Viet Minh Front, the Party selected the armed forces. The Party led the masses in co-ordinating the political struggle with the armed struggle to seize power. Revolutionary power, as built by the working class, in return makes use of the armed forces as an instrument of violence to consolidate itself.

In our fight we attach great importance not only to the armed struggle but also to political struggle: *co-ordination between political struggle and armed struggle*. As soon as the first revolutionary organisation — the Vietnam Propaganda Liberation Detachment — was set up, President Ho Chi Minh said: Its name is the Vietnam Propaganda Liberation Detachment, its primary purpose is *to concentrate on political struggle rather than on armed struggle* and then *to co-ordinate political struggle and armed struggle*. Although the revolutionary army consisted mainly of peasants, its political ideology, military style and military discipline had to conform to those of a proletarian army. In this way it could avoid adventurism, liberalism, indiscipline which are rampant in an army of peasants.

Concerning the revolutionary war, we did not simply rely on the countryside and use the countryside to encircle the cities, but agitated for both the cities and the countryside to rise up together. As a concrete example we can cite Viet Bac as a large base area of the August revolution. We also had a security zone on the outskirts of Hanoi and the town of Ha Dong, a combat zone in the mining areas such as the Dong Trieu Fourth Combat Zone (Quang Ninh) and in the plains such as the Quynh Luu Combat Zone (Ninh Binh). The Vietnamese revolution evolved in the following way: *to go from partial insurrection to revolutionary war, to co-ordinate revolutionary war and partial insurrection leading to a general offensive and concerted uprisings*. Uprisings can be carried out wherever conditions permit, and it is not necessary to use the countryside to encircle the cities, or to rely on the peasants to liberate the workers as Chinese leaders think.

In proceeding from partial insurrections to a general uprising we brought into play the initiatives, the creativeness of the people throughout the country. This experience shed light on the path to follow in our recent struggle against US imperialism. While the Chinese leaders advised us to wage a *protracted war*, we opted for *concerted uprisings*. And when we had risen up and won initial victories they were frightened and advised us not to hit too hard because, in their opinion, US imperialism was stronger than us. They also said we should only use forces the size of a platoon or smaller to attack the enemy. But we had our own way to fight the enemy, and won the war.

Because we attached great importance to both political struggle and armed struggle, to the workers and the peasants, because we knew how to bring into play the three strategic zones (the cities and the country-

side, the plains and mountain areas), we were able to carry out the strategy of *revolutionary offensive*, of attacking the enemy right from the outset.

When the US imperialists were defeated in their special war and sent their forces *en masse* into South Vietnam, and started a local war, the Chinese leaders advised us to adopt an adventurist military line: to draw the Americans to the North to defeat them. But we insisted on fighting and defeating the Americans in the South itself through revolutionary offensives. We did not simply start an armed struggle but also made use of all three "offensive spearheads": political struggle, armed struggle and agitation in the ranks of the enemy. We were able to mobilize not only workers and peasants but also intellectuals, college and school students. The women, in particular, the "long-haired army" as they were also called, dealt deadly political blows to the enemy.

The differences in the line and methods of struggle between Vietnam and China led to differences in building the forces of the revolutionary masses, in building the *National United Front*. The Chinese leaders overestimated the strength of the sea of peasants and overlooked the political struggle, and so did not see the need to build a *long-term* national united front. It should be recalled that the period of the National United Front between the Chinese Communist Party and the Kuomintang was a very short one.

In Vietnam, as early as 1930 the Communist Party, in accordance with the Comintern's policy of anti-imperialist front, decided to build the Indochinese anti-imperialist Alliance, whose aim it was to "unite all the revolutionary anti-imperialist forces to overthrow imperialist rule, to win back complete independence for the Indochinese countries and support the liberation movement in the colonies and semi-colonies" (3). Subsequently, other forms of national united front came into being in conformity with each revolutionary period: such as the Democratic Front in 1936-39, the Viet Minh Front in 1941-51, the Lien Viet Front in 1946-54, the Fatherland Front as from 1955, etc. Our fundamental line still consisted in basing ourselves on *worker-peasant alliance exclusively led by the working class* to rally all the patriotic forces in order to win back national independence and freedom. The policy of unity advocated by the Vietnamese Party is a lasting one, a consistent one, it conforms to both reason and sentiment, it is a policy of unity based on struggle, love and a sincere desire to transform human beings.

Such a proletarian line in building of our forces and in organising the struggle has helped us achieve a position of strength from which to make *continuous attacks*, to fight back the enemy step by step, to defeat him little by little until we achieve complete national liberation. During the war of resistance against the French colonialists we made continued attacks, combined national revolution with democratic revolution, in order to win victory in both. In the war of resistance against the US imperialists, we did not advocate waiting for the liberation of South Vietnam to build socialism throughout the country but held that "under all circumstances the North should be consolidated and advance toward socialism" (4).

The Chinese revolution was victorious thanks to the favourable conditions created by the socialist camp which had become a world system. In those conditions any struggle for national salvation which can win the

assistance of the world revolutionary movement, which can arouse the masses whose majority is composed of peasants, which can form the spearhead of an attack on the main enemy — the imperialists and their henchmen — is likely to achieve victory. The Chinese leaders were mistaken in relying too much on the peasants and overlooking the workers. But in the national democratic revolution such a blunder was not too serious since during that period the peasants made up the main force and were inspired by the land reform to take an active part in the anti-imperialist revolutionary struggle. Not until the socialist revolution did it have serious consequences

## II — DURING THE SOCIALIST REVOLUTION

In Vietnam, when the war for national liberation ended victoriously in 1954 in the North and in 1975 in the South, we relied on the workers to take over the factories in the cities.

In China, the liberation army was composed overwhelmingly of peasants armed with Mao Zedong's thoughts on the role of the peasantry, was entrusted with the task of controlling the cities. A military control was set up, and as a result the armed forces of peasants were used to control the workers in the cities. In 1958 Mao Zedong said: "We should propagate rural style and guerilla habits in the cities."

Chinese workers do not account for a high proportion of the Communist Party's membership. According to a French document at the 8th Congress of the Chinese Communist Party (September 1956), out of 10,734,385 Party members there were only 1,502,814 workers, 1,253,223 intellectuals (in the broad sense); 7,414,459 were of peasant stock. The number of workers in the country increased fairly fast in the first years (1949: 3 million, and after the period of economic development 1949-57 it reached 25.6 million in 1958). And they were mostly workers of large-scale factories. However, in 1961-62 the Chinese leaders moved nearly 30 million urban inhabitants into the country with the aim of concentrating the work force, materials and money into agriculture, which they viewed as the most important branches of the national economy. The number of workers and government officials then decreased from 44 million in 1960 to 30 or 31 million in 1962 (factory workers from 22 million to 14.5 million, building workers from 6 million to 2 million). In 1966 the number of workers decreased again to 12 or 13 million.

The Chinese leaders hold that one can rely on the peasants to do everything, and pretend they "have surpassed Marx". They even view that Marxism is a "European phenomenon", that one should learn

from its technique and analytical method and then "de-Europeanize it" and "sinify it". Mao said at the 6th Congress of the Chinese Communist Party (October 1938): "There is no abstract concept of Marxism, there is only concrete Marxism having a national form. To "sinify Marxism" — so to speak — means that in all its manifestations it must start from the characteristics of China and be applied in conformity with those characteristics." At the Beidaihe Congress in summer 1958 Mao again said that "in the management of the State we should combine Marx and Qin Shi Huangdi (a Chinese emperor who ran the country by means of a barbarous dictatorship).

In Lenin's view, the more backward a country is, the more historical detours it has to go through, the more difficulties it will meet in the transition from the capitalist relations to socialist relations. For besides the task of destroying the old regime, there is the more difficult task of organizing the new one. But the Chinese leaders hold (that the more backward the economy, the easier the transition from capitalism to socialism is, because "the poorer they are, the more attached the people are to the revolution."

They put forward adventurist policies, such as *building people's communes*, which was to be the shortest and easiest way to communism. In fact, they were a form of rudimentary egalitarianism and ascetic socialism. They abolished rationing on daily necessities and adopted a system of free supplies in order to impose an austere way of life. At the Beidaihe Conference Mao stated: "To adopt a system of free supplies, to put into practice a communist way of life means to oppose the Marxist way to the capitalist way." The Chinese leaders approved the initiative of abolishing payment of salary according to work done and bonuses, and considered that stressing material benefits was short-sighted individualism. This policy resulted in a reduction of production.

This petty-bourgeois adventurist line also manifested itself in the Great Leap Forward, the Steel and Iron Produced by All Movements. In 1958 two million rudimentary and Martin blast furnaces were built, at the cost of 3.8 million *renminbi* (Chinese currency.) 80 million *tonnes* of coal were used to produce steel and pig iron (up to December 1958). However the 9 or 10 million *tonnes* of pig iron and over 4 million *tonnes* of steel produced were not usable.

Each one of the "three red banners" (general line, great leap forward and people's communes) was a hard blow dealt to the working class, the peasant-worker alliance and undermined social production. At the Lushan Conference in 1959 Mao admitted:

"I've made two mistakes: first, to appeal for massive production of steel and pig iron, second, to

papeal for the building of people's communes. It seems that I am responsible for that." At the 9th plenum of the Party Central Committee (8th legislature) held in January 1961, Mao again admitted: "We were impatient with the transition period."

The failure of that policy led to deep rifts within the ranks of the Beijing ruling circles. Mao started the *cultural revolution* through which he extolled ascetic socialism, criticized the relatively easy life of those who relied on their labour to earn their living considering these people as having followed the capitalist path.

On 16 July 1966 Mao swam in the Yang-tse river. On 26 July 1966 Renmin Ribao urged the youth "to master the rules of the revolution in the storm of class struggle, to learn how to swim in class struggle." On 18 August 1966 a million red guards demonstrated. The number of red guards rapidly increased: 11 million college and school students and 50 million youth rose up to carry out the cultural revolution. It was in fact a move to overthrow Liu Shaoqi and consolidate Mao's position. This was a large-scale purge disguised under the theory of "continuing the revolution under the proletarian dictatorship." The period of "Great Chaos" lasted from 11 January 1966 to September 1967, but the consequences of the Cultural Revolution lasted longer. The damage done to China was enormous.

In Vietnam things were quite different. The Vietnamese revolution continued to advance steadily. It always stood firm on the proletarian position, holding high the banners of national independence and socialism.

In 1954 the country was divided into two, the North was exhausted because of the war, but the Party was resolved to take it to socialism, on the basis of a Marxist analysis of problems and advantages. It applied objective laws creatively and guided the entire society to advance step by step without burning stages.

The three years from 1955 through 1957 were devoted to restoring and developing the economy and developing our culture, with the aim of reaching the 1939 level. In the rehabilitation of the economy we paid attention to the consolidation of the worker-peasant alliance, pressing for the recovery of both industry and agriculture. We never failed to strengthen the working class both in quality and in numbers. During those three years the number of factories increased from 31 (in 1955) to 150 (in 1957), the number of workers and public servants increased from 170,000 to 250,000. We emphasized ideological education, raised the cultural and technical level and upheld the role of the workers in State management. On 14 September 1957 the Law on Trade Unions was adopted by the National Assembly.

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Once the economy had recovered, we started to solve the contradictions between the advanced revolutionary power on the one hand and the backward social and production relations on the other: the three-year plan (1958-1960) was drawn up. It was a plan aimed at transforming and developing the economy, developing culture, in order to transform in a socialist way all the elements of the national economy, the central task being the transformation of agriculture. In 1960, 85.8 per cent of peasant households, accounting for 68.1 per cent of the land joined the agricultural cooperatives, 218,000 artisans out of 305,000 joined the handicrafts cooperatives and became engaged in collective production. All the bourgeois households in industry and trade entered the joint State-private enterprises, cooperatives or cooperative enterprises. The number of workers continued to grow. The number of enterprises increased from 150 in 1957 to 1,012 in 1960, the number of workers from 250,000 to 480,000. We opposed the ideas of "waiting for the South" and of "allowing capitalism a period of development in order to create the material and technical premises for socialism", etc. We did not allow subjectivism, voluntarism and rightist errors to slow down the advance of the revolution.

Subsequently, we solved the contradictions between the advanced relations of production and the backward material and technical basis. The first Five-year-plan (1961-65) was aimed at industrialisation. While in China the order of precedence in the branches of the economy was: agriculture, light industry, heavy industry, we regarded industry as the basis for the development of the national economy, and followed the policy of "prioritizing the rational development of heavy industry on the basis of the development of agriculture and light industry".

We consider the *scientific and technological revolution to be the linchpin* in solving the above-mentioned contradiction. Unlike the Chinese leaders who underestimate the role of intellectuals, we pay much attention to enlarging the body of scientific workers, technicians and skilled workers.

Taking the 1960 levels as units:

	1965	1969	1973
Scientific workers and technicians	5.5	9.5	15.5
- Graduates and post-graduates	5.4	10.7	20.6
- Secondary vocational education level	5.6	9.1	13.9
- Skilled workers	2.5	3.1	4.5

(Year-book of Statistics, 1974, p.80)

Parallel to the revolution in relations of production and the scientific and technological revolution

we are carrying out an *ideological and cultural revolution, building the new social system, the new economy, the new culture, and the new people.* Our cultural revolution consists in building a popular, national, scientific, socialist culture, a culture of the people, for the people, with the aim of helping them to become their own collective masters with all the qualities of a socialist people, to inherit the fine traditions of the nation and stand united in mutual love and fidelity.

This is diametrically opposed to China's cultural revolution. In China the cultural revolution and even "the criticize Lin Biao, criticize Confucius campaign" failed to wipe out the vestiges of Confucianism. Conversely, they consolidated bureaucratism, dictatorship, paternalism, which are the essence of Confucianism. In Vietnam, collective mastery means eradicating the vestiges of Confucianism, especially the "gang chang" theory (old-style social relations in which the King, the father and the husband reign supreme respectively over their subjects, children and wives).

So far as *foreign relations* are concerned the difference between Vietnam and China is even more obvious.

Vietnam consistently upholds the principles of proletarian internationalism, maintains a policy of independence, sovereignty and international solidarity. We regard the socialist camp as the centre for unity and have contributed to stepping up the three currents of the world revolution: socialist revolution, the movement for national liberation, and the movement of struggle for democracy and peace in the capitalist countries.

China is carrying out a policy of great-power expansionism. The Beijing leaders hold that Leninism has fulfilled the historic mission of Marxism in the period of imperialism and that now Mao Zedong's thought is Marxism-Leninism in the period of total collapse of imperialism. They deem that the centre of world revolution is shifting to the world of ex-colonies, to China.

In the relations between socialist countries they stress equality in order to compete with the Soviet Union. In 1965, they stated that they had the right to oppose the common resolutions of the 1957 and 1960 conferences of the Communist and Workers' Parties which they had adopted. It has become increasingly clear that Mao's statement "the East Wind Prevails over the West Wind" at the 1957 Conference of Communist and Workers' Parties implied that the Chinese wind had prevailed over the Soviet wind, and not that socialism had prevailed over imperialism. When they said they opposed Soviet revisionism, they aimed at hegemonism among the socialist countries and the third world. In 1962 they held that there were only 5 socialist countries: China, Vietnam, Korea, Romania, and Albania. Between these 5 countries and the two super-powers, namely the Soviet Union and the United States, there were two buffer zones: the third world and the second world (Japan and Western Europe).

This is the source of the "three-worlds theory". This theory was expressed by Deng Xiaoping in the two speeches he made at the United Nations General Assembly on 15 October 1971 and 10 April 1974: "The socialist camp continued to exist for some time after the Second World War, and no longer exists" and

"the US and the Soviet Union make up the first world. The developing countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America and a number of other zones belong to the third world. Those developed countries which stand between the two above-mentioned worlds make up the second."

The aim of the "three-worlds theory" is to erase socialism as a factor of world politics, a factor which determines the positioning of the main opposing camps in the world.

China has gone out of its way to court the United States and Japan, and volunteered its services as a counter-revolutionary shock force. It has made a volte-face in its relations with Vietnam; it has invaded Vietnam, then raised a hue and cry about "great hegemonism" and "small hegemonism", and put an end to the treaty of mutual assistance signed with the Soviet Union.

What is particularly dangerous is that the Chinese are trying their best to make war propaganda, while Vietnam perseveres in its stand for peace. We would only resort to just wars to oppose unjust ones in order to defend our independence and preserve peace. The Chinese leaders say that war is "a normal phenomenon in the relations between two worlds, and that each generation must have its own war." To them war is a means of carrying out their expansionist and hegemonistic designs.

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The correct, just and creative policy followed by Vietnam, her absolute loyalty to Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism is a mirror reflecting the road of betrayal followed by the Chinese ruling circle over the past few decades. This genuinely revolutionary line is also the fundamental guarantee of the Vietnamese people's certain victory over the Chinese reactionaries if they recklessly start another war of aggression against Vietnam.

(After an article by Van Tao, published in the journal *Nghien Cuu Lich Su-Historical Studies*-No. 1 and 3, 1980).

1. *Mao Zedong's Selected Works, Volume 11, Beijing Foreign Languages Publishing House, 1968, p. 546. (Translated from the Vietnamese).*
2. *Hongqi Review, 1977, No. 17, p. 26.*
3. *Party Documents (1950-75) Volume 1, Hanoi, 1977, p. 143 (in Vietnamese).*
4. *Political Report at the 8th Plenum of the Party's Central Committee (August 1955).*



## **35 Years of Educational Develop- ment**

Interview with Mrs Nghiem Chuong Chau, Director of the Educational Service in Hanoi.

**V**IETNAM COURIER — *This year, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam commemorates the 35th year of the declaration of independence. Could you kindly let us know what are the outstanding achievements recorded by the educational system in Vietnam in general and the Hanoi educational service in particular over this period?*

**MRS NGHIEM CHUONG CHAU** — After the August 1945 Revolution, education in Vietnam has never ceased to develop though it suffered the aftermaths of three fierce wars waged by the French colonialists (1945-1954), the American imperialists (1960-1975) and recently the Chinese expansionists against our country.

French colonialism left 95% of illiterates; in the last school-year of the colonial regime (1943-1944) there were only 0.3 people going to school for every thousand inhabitants. The whole country had 58 public primary and secondary schools run by 1,450 teachers. There was only one primary

school for every thousand villages. Hanoi, the administrative capital of French Indochina (Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia) had but one secondary school and two senior high schools for girls for the whole of the North. Most of the pupils belonged to the upper classes—families of well-off people, mandarins and high-ranking officials. Children of working people could at most finish elementary education as they had to earn a living early in life. Under the old regime, education, aimed at forming the colonialists' servants, was in French with a French curriculum but more burdensome to discourage the people. As a result it was very hybrid, backward and reactionary.

In this situation, complicated by the difficulties created by the war, the Communist Party of Vietnam and the State have built up a progressive education having a national character, while the Constitution guarantees the right to study to working people. This is staunchly supported by the Vietnamese people who are very attached to study.

At present, everywhere in the country, children from three months to seventeen years old are cared for by the educational system, regardless of their nationality and the social position of their families. Every commune or city quarter has a comprehensive educational network including crèches, nursery schools, general education schools from elementary to secondary level, served by a numerous staff from crèche-attendants to general education teachers.

The right to study is also guaranteed to adults. Compulsory first-level general education (four years) is basically completed in the North. After liberation of the South in 1975, illiteracy was eliminated in 1978 and first-level general education will become compulsory in 1985. A network of complementary schools has been built in all provinces and towns to provide education for workers, peasants and other working people, and to help them raise their cultural standards so that they possess the necessary knowledge to carry out their duties and increase the quality and efficiency of their work. In Hanoi, before the August 1945 Revolution, most workers were illiterate. Only

a few of them knew how to read and write. At present, out of 1.5 million inhabitants in the city, 79,000 attend complementary classes (of whom 47,000 study in secondary schools). These classes are organized in various forms: evening courses, regular classes, day-release classes, study-and-work schools. Students pay no fees and get their monthly salaries as usual.

Today, one out of three Vietnamese goes to school. In a developing country like ours, ravaged by wars, this proportion speaks volumes for the great efforts made by the Party and Government and the enthusiasm and attachment to study of the people. Before the revolution, the mother tongue was not used even in primary schools; today it is the medium used from elementary education to higher education and post-graduate education; it is continually being enriched and is capable of conveying advanced science and technology to children and grown-ups alike. The curriculum has completely changed as it bears a national and scientific character and, in the past 35 years, has greatly contributed to the formation of a young generation loving the country and socialism, courageous and intelligent in productive labour and combat.

The Vietnamese who have been living abroad for a few decades who still have in their mind the picture of a desolate countryside peopled with ignorant peasants, would be astonished to see immense ricefields separated by straight dikes, roomy houses and green gardens belonging to the young people, their offspring, who possess primary or secondary education and tend their fields according to modern techniques. This is the outcome of the development of education in Vietnam in the past thirty-five years.

While building up a progressive educational system Vietnam has contributed educational experience to the world, particularly to developing countries. Its achievements in the elimination of illiteracy and in complementary education have won it two UNESCO prizes: in 1978, Cam Binh commune in Nghe Tinh province received the Krupskaya international prize for being the first commune in the country to have wiped out illiteracy and set

a pattern in the development of complementary education in the countryside in the present economic conditions of Vietnam. Four years after liberation, in 1979 Cat Hinh commune in Nghia Binh province (South Vietnam) won the Krupskaya prize for eliminating illiteracy, making primary education compulsory to adults and sending all school-age children to school. In April 1980, the UNESCO section for Asia and Oceania held in Ho Chi Minh City a symposium on the elimination of illiteracy. The meeting highly appreciated the achievements recorded and experiences gained by the Vietnamese educational system in this field.

Looking back to the path we have travelled, we are sure that with the policy of the Communist Party of Vietnam and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, staunchly supported by the population, we shall win even greater success in the new stage of development of our country.

**VIETNAM COURIER**—*What are the tasks ahead facing the educational system in this new stage of development? There are contending opinions about the quality of education. Please let us know your appreciation of this problem. How can we solve the contradictions existing in the formation of the future Vietnamese when the country is still poor and underdeveloped?*

**MRS NGHIEM CHUONG CHAU** — The achievements we have obtained in the past 35 years are the result of the efforts made by the State, the people and everyone of us, teachers and pupils, to overcome our great difficulties.

Thirty-five years of incessant wars have wrought havoc in our country: 3,000 schools in the North were destroyed by American bombs; the material basis left behind by the French colonialists was scanty. The construction of

schools by the State and the contribution made by the population does not meet the educational needs of the inhabitants, whose number keeps increasing. In this school year (1980-1981), Hanoi finds it difficult to supply stationery and text-books to 700,000 children of primary and secondary schools. As many as three pupils share the same text-book. The schools in the six provinces along the northern frontier were destroyed by the Chinese aggressors; the JOE typhoon has caused heavy damage to the schools in many provinces in the Red River delta such as Thai Binh, Ha Nam Ninh, Hai Hung, Vinh Phu and the cities of Hanoi and Haiphong. Classrooms, furniture and teaching aids are lacking.

This situation is aggravated by the fact that we cannot work in peace as we have to make preparations to cope with a possible aggression of the Chinese expansionists. To replenish the armed forces we have sent to the front courageous youths possessing sufficient knowledge to assimilate modern military science and trained men capable of mastering new techniques. It can be said that few countries in the world have an educational system fraught with such tremendous difficulties as ours. This is our major shortcoming which greatly influences the quality of our education.

In many respects our education does not keep pace with the development of society and science and technology, and falls short of meeting the requirements of the socialist revolution in Vietnam.

Our present educational system is not in a position to initiate the pupils to large-scale production and a socialist lifestyle. In so far as knowledge, ethics, physical conditions and aesthetics are concerned, after finishing general education, they are not quite properly educated to become the masters of the country. Education in school is not yet improved by

modern techniques. It sets little store by practice and productive work and therefore does not contribute much to the development of the intelligence and creative initiative of the children.

The quality of education is a problem we must solve. What is the contribution of the school to the scientific and technological revolution, the main factor of development of Vietnamese society? How can education be combined with labour to form fully developed citizens? What does our schooling do to prepare people for the 21st century in conditions where Vietnam is still poor and underdeveloped?

Basing itself on the experience gained in the development of the country in the last decades of the 20th century, in 1979 the Communist Party of Vietnam initiated a large-scale educational reform (1). It is a thorough-going reform affecting the whole structure, system and method of management of education. It marks a new period of educational development closely related to the development of the country.

In this school year, we are beginning to implement this reform in the whole of reunified Vietnam for the benefit of 15 million pupils and 500,000 teachers. Difficulties still crop up. Nevertheless the wholehearted assistance of the socialist and friendly countries, particularly the close cooperation with the Soviet Union, and the efforts made by the State departments concerned will make it possible for us to carry through our task, that is to solve the contradictions arising in our training work in the present conditions of our country. The example of Hero Pham Tuan, an ex-pupil of a Vietnamese general education school, who is now a cosmonaut, is for us a source of confidence and hope.

**VIETNAM COURIER**—*We are aware that 35 years ago, you were a school girl in Hanoi. You left*



*school to join the nationwide resistance movement and have become an educator in the socialist regime. What do you think of present-day pupils compared with 35 years ago?*

**MRS NGHIEM CHUONG CHAU**

Before the August 1945 Revolution I was a pupil of a high school, the only one reserved for young girls in the North. Today it is named Trung Vuong School, one of a dozen secondary schools in Hanoi. At that time our school had only four classes. Now Trung Vuong School has become a twelve-year general education school in which experiments in educational reforms

are conducted. It now has 52 classes and over 2,000 pupils from the first to the 12th form.

Formerly class-sizes at this school were 40 pupils. However this number decreased gradually from the first year to the fourth year (corresponding to the 7th form at present). The girls left school either because of poverty or because of coercion by their parents who wanted them to get married. I often witnessed scenes when a school girl came to say good-bye to her teacher and classmates, with tears running down her cheeks and a lump in her throat. This is a memory I have always

powerful Vietnam along socialist lines. We long to work in peace for this goal. Many of our pupils have become scientific workers, professors, doctors; others have joined the army, serving as tank operators or airmen. All of them have fulfilled their duty. In this new stage of the revolution we are doing our best to meet the requirements of the country and are helped in our work by friends throughout the world.

Vietnam is poor but our pupils are carefully attended to and the proper conditions are created for them to complete their studies. Their future is very bright, chiefly as far as young girls are concerned. At present 47 per cent of the 15 million school-goers are girls. They study in the same conditions as boys and have proved to be intelligent and resourceful. Many of my students are now outstanding technical workers and have efficiently contributed to the construction and defence of the country. The national liberation revolution has also liberated women, particularly in the cultural, scientific and technological fields: it has freed the brain of Vietnamese women hamstrung by thousands of years of feudalism and nearly one century of colonialism. What we dreamt for our pupils has come true.

Our thoughts turn to school children throughout the world, chiefly the third world. Surely they are like those of Vietnam, intelligent, straightforward and enthusiastic at work, and cherish great hopes for themselves and their country. If carefully looked after, children of a poor country can also make their dreams come true. On this occasion, on behalf of the teachers of Hanoi I wish to send my cordial greetings to colleagues and pupils in all the capitals throughout the world.

(1) See *Vietnam Courier* No. 10-1979.



*The new school-year (1980-1981) - the 10th form of Tran Phu third-level general education school in Hanoi.*

Photo: NGUYEN CHINH

kept of the days when the country was under foreign domination. We joyfully welcomed the liberation of the country as it was followed by the liberation of education. That is why when the French came back to invade our country again, the youth at the time of the August 1945 Revolution joined, with the rest of the people in the fight

for national independence and the future of Vietnamese education.

Our teachers and pupils have been tempered in the crucible of the three wars waged over the past 35 years. Though we still lack school materials and teaching aids, we are the masters of our schools and are eager to teach and study the ways to build a rich and



## A CONVERSATION WITH A WOMAN SCIENTIST

A medical student at the Viet Bac resistance base in 1950, Vu Thi Phan was stricken by malaria like all the other members of the resistance. Besides, she witnessed the death of one of her friends after a bad fever. She is now director of the Institute of Malariology, Parasitology and Entomology. She never forgets the acute pain she suffered at the resistance base and the atrocious death of her friend. Her longing is to see no more malarial patients. Twenty-four years after she left the Medical College in 1956, she has been working zealously for this under the guidance of Professor Dang Van Ngu (1).

I met her in her house. She said: "From 1966 to 1970, in the thick of the fight against the American aggressors, I worked at the Quang Binh-Vinh Linh front."

At that time, a voluntary youth unit at construction site 12-A in Quang Binh was afflicted by an epidemic of malaria, 70% of the unit members fell ill. Many of them became feverish. Vu Thi Phan and a team of the Institute were sent to make an on-the-spot investigation. Arriving at Thanh Hoa, their convoy was attacked by American aircraft. A vehicle took fire, but the passengers were safe. While stranded there she and her colleagues discovered a new species of malaria vector mosquito infesting the thick jungle and region of stagnant water, the *A. Balabacensis*, which differs from the *A. Minimus*, a malaria carrier swarming in mountainous areas and near flowing water.

"Is the differentiation of this mosquito from the others difficult?" I asked her. "To the uninitiated, all mosquitoes look alike."

"This is our business," she told me with a smile. "We recognize the mosquito at the first sight. An *A. Balabacensis* has spotted white legs whereas an *A. Minimus* has black spots. To exterminate the *A. Balabacensis* is more complex as it lives outside the house. We have followed its flight, alighting, eating and sleeping to work out appropriate measures to annihilate it."

After six months of treatment by the team, the 12-A youth unit had no more feverish members and the number of malarial patients dropped noticeably.

However, Quynh Thang (Quynh Luu district, Nghe Tinh province) was hit by an epidemic of malaria, requiring the presence of Vu Thi Phan. At that time, in her capacity as Vice-Director of the Institute, she headed a medical team which worked in very difficult technical conditions from 1968 to 1974. Finally the epidemic was stamped out. The conclusions drawn from this campaign have contributed to the elaboration of measures for the liquidation of malaria in the southern provinces which have the same climatic conditions.

Regarding the research work of the Institute, she told me: "All scientific study in our Institute is carried out collectively. In my work I have received wholehearted assistance from my colleagues. With their efficient cooperation, I was able to complete a number of tasks and to solve delicate technical problems arising in the fight against malaria in a tropical country torn by a long war. These problems concern drug-resistant malarial parasites, the measures taken to extinguish the hot-beds of malaria, the chart followed for the treatment of high fever and the vector role played by *A. Balabacensis* in the propagation of malaria in Vietnam."

"Your Institute is located in Hanoi. What services does it provide for the city?" I asked.

"Besides studying malaria, our Institute works in parasitology and entomology to help the Hanoi medical service in the study of ascariis, hook worms, amoebic dysentery, tape-worms in the liver, dengue-fever carriers and

encephalitis... We took part in the campaign against dengue-fever in 1969. Together with the medical service of Dong Da city district we are studying the means to destroy larvae as a preventive measure. The method is very simple: we urge the inhabitants to put two or three goldfish in their water tanks to eat the larvae and cover them with a lid to prevent mosquitoes from spawning."

We are informed by Vu Thi Phan that the percentage of malarial parasite-bearing patients is 0.39‰ in the North and 5.19‰ in the South. The task of the organs concerned is to bring the percentage in the South to the level of the North and to lower the percentage in the North to below 0.39‰ (0.39‰ is 14 times less than in 1958).

"In the South," she adds, "our Institute cooperates with the Cho Ray Hospital in Ho Chi Minh City to set up a malaria research section with 50 beds. There we are studying methods to reduce the death-rate caused by high fever and the problem of drug-resistant malarial parasites, which constitutes a major obstacle in our work of eliminating malaria in the South."

Every year Vu Thi Phan goes to Ho Chi Minh City, the Central Highlands, Nghia Binh, Song Be and Tien Giang provinces to supervise anti-malarial work.

At present Vu Thi Phan is entrusted by the Ministry of Public Health with the task of directing the "programme of study of the characteristic features of malaria in Vietnam and the method to liquidate it". Besides, she studies four subjects in cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO) and two subjects in cooperation with the Soviet Union. Since 1978 she has served as a WHO malaria expert and has just been promoted associate professor by the Vietnamese Government.

THANH NHAN

(1) A labour hero, he died on mission in the war against the American aggressors.



## VIETNAMESE LITERATURE SINCE THE AUGUST 1945 REVOLUTION

VIETNAM before 1945 – during French rule – had its own literature. But it was a shabby, limited literature which consisted in variations on the spiritual life of the metropolis. Its influence was confined to a few towns and cities which had come into existence with the colonial State. And one often found in it sweet lullabies, sighs of despair or desire for social changes. However, the most salient feature of this literature was the feeling of hopelessness and despair emanating from it. Alongside this literature there was also revolutionary literature which contained some elements of democracy and progress. However, it was prohibited.

Since the August 1945 Revolution Vietnamese literature has undergone a complete change and literary life has taken a new direction.

First of all, it is a literature tightly knitted to the life of the nation, a literature which affirms life, and moreover, has turned into an instrument to educate the masses. A literature which strives to help fulfil the major tasks of the country – to liberate the nation and build a new society, a socialist society.

Soon after the revolution almost all the well-known writers and poets in the country raised their voices to acclaim it. There was no longer the dull atmosphere of the old days, the new literature now focused on life and was more related to the life of the nation.

However, the new characteristics and orientations were clearly seen only in the beginning of the first war of resistance (1946–1954), when writers, poets, as well as other patriotic citizens, volunteered to go to the jungle. They lived in the fighting zones and quietly fulfilled their daily tasks to serve the resistance. Strange enough, literary life was maintained during those years of hardship. In 1948 the Association of Literary and Arts Workers came into being and rallied around it the most typical authors of the period. Printed on *zo* paper – a kind of paper hand-produced – the first issues of the “Journal of Literature and Arts” made their appearance, and continued to publish moving sketches of the fight against the enemy. They contained also poems extolling the fighting spirit of the whole people and translated poems from other countries, mostly from French.

The war of resistance against the French which lasted eight years, ended with the resounding victory of Dien Bien Phu (1954). But since 1960 the Vietnamese people have had to wage another war of

liberation. The movement of concerted uprisings in the southern provinces which started in 1960 developed into a nation-wide anti-US struggle. After 1975 the Vietnamese people had to continue the fight to defend their border in the South-west and in the North. In this country patriotism means daring to endure all kinds of hardships to oppose foreign invaders, to build socialism, and to organize the society properly in order to fight the invaders. Naturally, literature became a front in that common struggle. The question is how can literature serve the struggle to the utmost, most directly and – in the view of the contemporaries – most effectively: this question has been posed time and again by writers and poets. And it has determined the evolution of the new literature.

Thus our writers and poets have tried their best to go to the fighting and production bases. A few of them, their rucksacks on their backs, went to the front and fought as soldiers.

Poems, short stories, essays and sometimes novels appeared after military campaigns.

The main characters in those works, be they soldiers, mothers or children, bear the qualities of heroes. But they are ordinary people who are always directing their actions towards the common, lofty cause – the fight to liberate the country and build a new society.

Works such as *To Quoc* (The Homeland), *Vung Troi* (The Sky), *Gio long* (The Wind of the Sea), *Dat nuoc dung len* (The Country Rises up), *Vao Lua* (At the Frontline), *Mat tran tren cao* (The Battle for the Sky), *Bien goi* (The Call of the Sea), *Chien si* (The Fighters) (1), etc., some of which are fairly well known, speak partly of the content of literature during the years of war.

To put it in a nutshell, the feelings that literature aims to awake in the readers, those which help build up the relationship between the literary works and the revolutionary masses, are lofty feelings: the love of one's comrades, our fellow-countrymen, yearning for a just cause, self-sacrifice for the sake of the common interest, etc.

And the people who carry with them those feelings are asserted as socialist men and women. As we all know, the fighting in Vietnam was carried out in the name of the nation and also in the name of socialism.

As early as 1954, one could find in a few works quite a lively picture of the new life: joining the co-ops, the fight to boost production in some construction sites or factories, the fight against superstitions... Despite temporary tribulations, the people described in those literary works are mostly optimistic, straightforward and imbued with love of life. They are not introspective, but outward-looking and their hearts are open to the collective.

The fact is that while the settings and mentalities are profoundly imbued with national characteristics, socialist elements have nevertheless taken root in this literature. The socialist character of this literature does not emanate only from the fact that it deals with socialist construction, but also from the organization and structure of literature. Literary associations in our country are organized from the central to the provincial levels. They are financed by the State and writers, like other cadres, are paid by the State. Apart from their salaries, writers are entitled to royalties. Creative work is encouraged. But it never fully meets the people's demands. For literature has volunteered to assume an important task – to contribute to the common cause of the revolution. The 1945 August revolution liberated both

the nation and its citizens. In more concrete terms, it brought back freedom to the depths of the old society. To eradicate analphabetism was an event of great significance for literature, because it vastly increased the demand and the number of readers. For literature describes the masses and also serves the masses. Appreciation and criticism of literary works by the masses is being promoted.

We must also add that, for a population of over 50 million, the circulation of each literary work is usually from 7,000 to 8,000 copies, sometimes over 10,000 copies, even 100,000 copies for the more popular books. Books are quite cheap and are available in public libraries. This is something any developing nation can be proud of.

Although they are linked with the present life of the nation, modern Vietnamese literary works are not all up to the mark and have not met the requirements of the authors or the readers at large. They deal mainly with the war, but most of them fail to reach the required level of generalization. Works written about socialist construction still lack depth and are not really convincing.

Besides creative work during the past few decades we have registered some achievements in developing a new literature.

Compared to the pre-revolutionary period, the present Vietnamese literature has developed new genres. Poetry has made considerable headway, both in quantity, form and style. Prose (including film scripts) accounts for a large proportion of the whole. Literary criticism now enjoys a position it has never experienced in the history of our national literature. With the opening of the faculty of letters in a number of universities and the founding of the Institute of Literature attached to the Committee for Social Sciences, research work on literature has been greatly boosted. In the meantime, newspapers and magazines, especially those dealing with literature and arts publish articles introducing and criticizing new literary works. When there is a need for them heated discussions are held on ideological matters, and on literature and arts.

With the aim of building a literature with a national and modern character we have focused our activities on conducting research work on ancient literature. Most important of all has been the compilation and publication of a series of works by great authors during the last 10 centuries. There appeared in the early 60s an "Anthology of Vietnamese Prose and Poetry", in 6 volumes containing nearly 4,000 pages, including a volume on popular literature, one on the literature of national minorities, 20,000 copies of all six volumes were published. Now research workers have begun to compile an even more enormous series, composed of 40 volumes, entitled "Collected Works of Literature" stretching over ten centuries of literature. In 1980 the first volumes of the "Collected Works" have reached the readers.

Translating and popularizing foreign literary works has been speeded up. There have been some delays due to war conditions, shortage of printing paper, but that work has never been neglected.

Whereas in many countries of Asia and Africa there are still many problems with writing in the mother tongue, in Vietnam the Vietnamese language has become a unified language for the whole country. The work of popularizing the language has been made easier by the fact that the Vietnamese has been latinized. The Vietnamese language is both a literary language and the unique official language used as a medium of instruction in general education

schools and colleges. The popularization of the old literary heritage, the translation of classical and modern literary works into foreign languages have made a considerable contribution to the perfection of the Vietnamese language. Looking at the present state of Vietnamese literature one feels that the Vietnamese language is in a state of flux and change. It is growing richer and richer every day and has made great progress regarding abstract expression so as to adapt itself to the current scientific and technical revolution and to modern ways of thinking.

We only made reference above to the unified language in the whole country, the Vietnamese language. There are in all 54 ethnic groups in Vietnam. The perfection of the Vietnamese language has not in the least impeded the development of the languages of the national minorities; on the contrary it has created favourable conditions for their development. Under the auspices of the revolutionary power, a number of nationalities have developed their own scripts for the first time ever, for example, the Tay-Nung, the Hmong (Meo)... Writers from these ethnic minorities write in their own languages, then have their works translated into Vietnamese. Sometimes they do it themselves.

Whatever the script in which it is written, literary language is finding its way into the people's life. This is a striking feature never seen before 1945. It is something to be firmly preserved by Vietnamese writers and poets of the present and future generations, just as they have contributed to the achievements outlined above.

Speaking of modern Vietnamese literature one often refers to at least three generations. Some writers and poets were writing before 1945. This is just the case with poets such as Tu Mo, Xuan Dieu, Huy Can, Che Lan Vien and such writers as Nguyen Cong Hoan, To Hoai, Bui Hien... Meanwhile Nguyen Dinh Thi, Nguyen Ngoc, Nguyen Khai, Hoang Trung Thong are the most outstanding representatives of those writers and poets who have matured in the fire of the first resistance and in the period of the people's democratic revolution. Nguyen Khoa Diem, Pham Tien Duat, Do Chu, Bang Viet, Xuan Quynh belong to the generation of poets who have grown up with the second war of resistance and the building of socialism in the North since 1954.

While in other countries problems between different generations of writers commonly arise, one trying to overshadow the other, this has not been the case for modern Vietnamese literature. Here, generations succeed one another without conflicting. They are at one in their loyalty to the Communist Party of Vietnam, the party which has been leading the Vietnamese revolution for the last five decades.

In the last two generations many writers and poets belong to the national minorities in Vietnam. This is a fact often referred to with pride in studying the emergence and training of new literary forces since 1945.

In general, in a country continually at war, where people always have had to endure hardships, to organize and train such a large rank of literary workers is really a considerable achievement. This has met with success thanks to our Party leaders, namely Ho Chi Minh, Truong Chinh, Le Duc Tho, Vo Nguyen Giap, To Huu, Xuan Thuy who are themselves poets and essayists of note and whose works are widely known. Special mention should be made of the poems by Ho Chi Minh and To Huu which are highly appreciated by the public. We should not forget to mention the large number of workers, fighters, engineers, teachers, co-op members,



# SOME DATA ON DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM OVER THE PAST 35 YEARS.

## Agriculture

Description	Unit	1944	1955	1965	1975	1979
Total of households joining agricultural cooperatives (before 1 July 1970)						
<i>in the North</i>	%			90.1	95.6	96.6
<i>in the South</i>						21.2
<i>in the whole country</i>						64.5
<b>Farming</b>						
<i>Rice yield</i>	100 kg/ha	10.7	14.3	19.4	21.3	19.6
<i>Rice output</i>	Million tons (1)	4.9	6.1	9.4	10.5	10.7
<i>Output of ground nuts</i>	1,000 tons	21.2	31.6	80.9	68.6	81.7
— <i>jute</i>	—	7.5	1.2	22.7	24.6	26.1
— <i>soya beans</i>	—	12.4	11.1	15.2	15.1	20.4
— <i>tea</i>	—	8.0	5.2	10.6	18.0	21.0
— <i>sugar cane</i>	—	822	860	1,725	1,638	3,446
— <i>tobacco</i>	—	9.9	7.7	13.2	13.3	15.6
— <i>coffee</i>	—	3.3	3.2	7.5	6.8	5.4
<b>Animal husbandry</b>						
<i>Buffaloes</i>	Million heads	1.4	1.3	2.3	2.2	2.3
<i>Cows</i>	—	1.0	1.2	1.9	1.5	1.6
<i>Pigs</i>	—	2.7	4.6	8.3	8.8	9.4

(1) Throughout, ton stands for metric ton (1,000 kg)

## Industry

Description	Unit	1939	1955	1965	1975	1979
<b>Value of G.N.P.</b>	1939 level	1	0.4	3.6	7.1	8.9
<i>Including: group A</i>	—	1	0.4	4.6	9.2	11.1
<i>group B</i>	—	1	0.4	3.1	6.2	8.0
<b>Output of electricity</b>	Million kwh	86	250	1,219	2,428	3,867
— <i>coal</i>	Million tons	2.6	0.7	4.2	5.2	5.5
— <i>cement</i>	1,000 tons	306	262	768	527	705
— <i>timber</i>	1,000 m <sup>3</sup>	675	780	1,408	1,252	1,780
— <i>fabrics</i>	Million metres	—	29	297	240	287
— <i>paper and cardboard</i>	1,000 tons	—	1.9	41.0	42.7	54.0
— <i>raw sugar</i>	1,000 tons	—	13	143	46	94
— <i>salt</i>	—	—	—	—	—	—
— <i>fish sauce</i>	Million litres	214	142	310	377	514
— <i>alcohol</i>	—	—	22.0	82.0	83.2	91.4
— <i>cigarette</i>	Million packets	42.9	14.9	20.4	23.2	30.7
— <i>soap</i>	1,000 tons	153	287	472	544	352
		4.4	2.9	10.4	21.7	20.1

(Continued on page 22)

children who have been encouraged in their creative work. In a poetry competition organized by the Weekly "Literature and Arts" (1979) the number of participants reached 2,500 with 13,000 poems. This constitutes a replenishing source for the rank of professional literary workers.

Those who are acquainted with Vietnamese literature of the past know that it exhibits a strong national character. This spirit has also permeated modern Vietnamese literature. This explains why, in the life of our people throughout the last few decades although our literature has not yet produced the master-pieces one would have wished, it has nevertheless taken a prominent position—Vietnamese

writers can consider themselves as having fulfilled their sacred task in the common struggle. Party and State leaders always take care of literature and the masses always love it. Everybody looks upon it as a common achievement. Ours is a literature produced by the people, and destined to serve the people. This feature must be constantly stressed, and it can confidently be said that it constitutes the most important characteristic of modern Vietnamese literature.

VUONG TRI NHAN

(1) Titles of novels, poems or plays in Vietnamese, some of which have already been translated into foreign languages both at home and abroad.



# SOME REMARKS CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT OF MATHEMATICS IN VIETNAM

Doctor NGUYEN XUAN LOC  
*Institute of Computer Science  
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*Doctor Nguyen Xuan Loc is a well-known Vietnamese probabilist. Specialist of the "Theory of Markov processes and potentials", he was visiting professor at many universities in the FRG, in France, in Finland, in Denmark and other countries. He and his wife returned definitively from France to the country in the Fall of 1979 and are now working at the Institute of Computer Science and Cybernetics (ICSC) of the Centre for Scientific Researches of Vietnam.*

*At the moment he is leading a team of young probabilists and statisticians, using computers as an instrument of statistical data analysis — Ed.*

**M**ATHEMATICS is an abstract and fundamental science. Any advanced industry and agriculture has to build for itself a firm mathematical basis to solve its key theoretical problems. In other words, the existence and particularities of the mathematics of a country completely depends on the industry and agriculture that have begotten it. On the other hand, modern mathematics, including computer science and information science, is no longer a pure science associated with the familiar image of a blackboard and chalk, but has become an essential science in service of production, requiring an important industry producing computing equipment (computers and equipments for the information science) (1). Since World War II some industrialized countries, thanks to a full-fledged development of the mathematical sciences, have achieved a revolution in the information science and hence have made great qualitative and quantitative progress both in production, economic management, social management as well as in basic research.

After thirty years of socialist construction in science and technology under the correct leadership of our Party and State and with the great efforts of our experienced scientists such as Professor Le Van Thiem... we can say with some pride that our mathematics is already relatively comprehensive and balanced. It is relatively comprehensive because we have trained a fairly large contingent of mathematicians and have broadened our scope of research to almost all spheres of pure as well as applied mathematics. Nevertheless, except for some results in the areas of logics, operations research and differential equations, we have not yet charted a clear path for our research in almost other specialities. We still lack centres where several teams could conduct regular research around advanced

seminars, setting out and solving major problems as is done in those countries where different mathematical schools have taken shape.

Our contingent of mathematicians has grown very quickly during the past twenty years (2). Today it includes many young and able mathematicians, among them some outstanding figures who may well become mathematicians of international repute. However, this contingent remains patchy and still needs adequate guidance because we are still lacking high-level specialists. During his recent visit to the Institute of Mathematics, the Institute of Computer Science and Cybernetics and the Institute of Mechanics, Premier Pham Van Dong earnestly called on the personnel of these three institutes, for the benefits of the revolution and the happiness of the people, to concentrate their efforts on solving practical questions posed by production, and to intensify their research along this direction. In order to solve the momentous problems that mathematics will face in our scientific and technological revolution, as well as to meet its own development and consolidation requirements, I think that we should strive to train within the next decade at least forty doctors of mathematics for all branches of mathematics from the present number of candidate doctors (3). Some of our mathematicians in the country as well as abroad have attained international standards, and some of their work is highly appreciated by world scientists, all the more so since it was achieved in the incredibly hard conditions of our patriotic war. However, we must at the same time recognize that the number of such mathematicians remains insufficient, and its progression still falls behind the rate of growth of the country's mathematical community. On the other hand, the age of our mathematicians of renown in the country is usually much higher than the average of the present generation of leading mathematicians in the world, which stands somewhere between 30 and 40.

In view of its abstract character mathematics may well evolve into an ivory-tower science, and a mathematician may become famous while remaining cut off from the realities of production in his country. On the contrary, a mathematical science which is directed at solving only practical problems may neglect or even relinquish its sharpest weapons and most remarkable quality, which is its abstraction and generalisation, and hence may land to an impasse.

How to strike a balance between the development of applied and pure mathematics, therefore, appears to be one of the most delicate problems for the mathematics of a developing country. In an advanced industrial country, social and economic management and modern technology always poses new problems for mathematics and the interaction between applied and pure mathematics has become a long-standing scientific tradition. Things are not so simple in the developing countries, some of which have achieved quite impressive results in mathematics but often in an imbalanced way, with emphasis placed on applied mathematics. Here in Vietnam we can take pride in the relatively balanced development of mathematics. In fact, almost all branches of the modern applied mathematics like control theory, probability theory, mathematical statistics and computer science, have been provided with a firm basis and are developing vigorously both in their practical applications and theoretically. Meanwhile, we have not neglected the key branches of pure mathematics like algebra, the theory of complex analysis and singularities, differential and partial differential equations, etc., undertaken by a fairly large body of young and able mathematicians. The deep-rooted reason for this achievement may be traced back to the clear-sighted leadership of the Party and Government as I said above. But I think it cannot be thought of separately from Soviet mathematics, which is extremely diversified and balanced and which has exerted a profound influence on the whole process of mathematical development in our country.

Throughout my years of research and teaching in many European countries I focused on the "theory of Markov processes and potentials", a branch of mathematics which is studied mainly in the Soviet Union, the United States, Japan and France. My mathematical inspiration and style in this speciality have their roots in the following joke of the American mathematician Doob, who told me in 1970: "As a probabilist you work really on a probability theory when you argue on the orbits of stochastic processes. The rest is nothing else than real and complex analysis." I studied the theory of stochastic processes with professor K. Ito (Japan), the theory of potentials with Professors H. Bauer (West Germany) and B. Fuglede (Denmark) and prepared my doctoral thesis under the guidance of the latter two.

From 1975 until I returned to the country, I also studied the theories of complex stochastic integrals and applied statistics, and published some works on these two subjects. To be more precise, after my first visit to the country in 1975 I made up my mind to devote my time to the study of the computer as an instrument for statistical data analysis in the hope of applying these methods in the domains of production and economic management in our country.

Happy and proud as we are of living in our beloved country, in the midst of my heroic people, and of being able to serve socialism, my wife and I could not but worry that after long years of living abroad in relatively comfortable material conditions we might not be able to adapt easily to the still difficult material life at home. Would we have the opportunity of putting our knowledge to the service of building modern science and technology in our country? After less than a year working at the Institute of Computer Science and Cybernetics I have come to realize that, even given the still serious shortages of documentation and the lack of powerful computers, we have been able, under the guidance of Professor Phan Dinh Dieu, to chart out within a

few years a concrete and suitable direction for research and for applications in production and have trained a fairly large contingent of young and able mathematicians. Is it not one of the countless changes that are acting like so many undercurrents in various domains of our scientific and technological activity? Is it not the overall result of good leadership, of constant encouragement and care from the leading officials in the Party and Government with regard to our young but very promising computer science and cybernetics, of the silent but enormous efforts and sacrifices on the part of our young socialist scientists?

For our part, thanks to living and working in conditions which may be described as both revolutionary and affectionate we have been able to outline the direction of our research for the five and even ten years to come. In my view, one of the main and most urgent problems facing science and technology in our country in general and mathematics in particular consists in discovering suitable laws for the scientific and technological revolution in the specific conditions of our country. It is true that we are benefiting from the valuable experiences of the fraternal socialist countries and receiving the unreserved encouragement from our friends in all countries. But the fact remains that our low level of production and the small-scale production style of management have contributed in no small measure to slowing down the development of the mathematical sciences in our country. During his visit to the Institute of Computer Science and Cybernetics in early 1980 Vice-Premier Vo Nguyen Giap cordially urged everyone of us to strive for substantial results in our research in order to help effect deep changes in the levels of production in our country. I think that the prerequisite for obtaining results in our research of the kind we have been aiming for, actually consists, like in the industrialized countries, in establishing rational management and in working out a suitable policy of investment in manpower and materials in the areas of pure and applied mathematics and computer science, which have achieved notable results so far.

Looking back at the development of mathematics in our country over the past 35 years, and on the strength of the experience I have gained during my practical work in the past year, I am firmly confident of the bright prospects and the great contribution of our mathematical sciences in the scientific and technological revolution of socialist Vietnam. This, to be sure, will be an arduous but challenging path to travel but also is the only one compatible with the development of Vietnamese mathematics.

#### Notes by the author

(1) In the advanced industrial countries, yearly investment in the computer industries and the industries producing equipment may account for 20% of the total industrial investment.

(2) From a few dozens in the 60's the number of Vietnamese mathematicians participating in the 2nd mathematics conference in 1977 has almost reached the 500 mark.

(3) The grade "Candidate Doctor" in Vietnam as in the Soviet Union is equivalent to the "Ph. D." grade in the US or to the grade "Dr RER. NAT." in West Germany. On the other hand the title "Dr Sc" in Vietnam is equivalent to that in the Soviet Union or to the title "Dr RER. NAT. HABIL." in West Germany.

## SOME DATA ON DEVELOPMENTS...

(Continued from page 19)

### Capital Construction

Description	Unit	1955	1965	1976	1979
Total capital investment in construction <i>in the North</i>	Million dong			2,050	
<i>in the whole country</i>	—	142		2,979	3,648
Including: investment in construction for production <i>in the North</i>	—			1,782	
<i>in the whole country</i>	—			2,564	3,251

### Transport and communications

Description	Unit	1955	1960	1975	1976	1979
Amount of goods in circulation <i>in the North</i>	1960 level		1	3.2		
<i>in the whole country</i>	1976 level				1	1.22
Number of passengers <i>in the North</i>	1955 level	1		11.7		
<i>in the whole country</i>	1976 level				1	1.08

### Education

Description	School Year	Unit	1943 - 1944	1955 - 1956	1964 - 1965	1975 - 1976	1978 - 1979
Total number of pupils (of 1st, 2nd and 3rd level of general education schools)		1,000 pupils per 10,000 population	721	1,976	5,333	10,320	11,804
Students in vocational training		—	1.4	2.8	14.6	13.4	32.3
Students in higher education		—		1.4	15.5	18.7	30.5

### Public Health

Description	Unit	1943	1955	1965	1975	1979
Total of hospital beds	1,000 beds per 10,000 population	13.9	26.2	105.7	141.6	205.7
Assistant-doctors and doctors	—	0.3	0.4	3.0	7.0	8.1

### Sciences

Description	Unit	1955	1965	1975	1979
Total of cadres of graduate and post- graduate levels <i>in the North</i>	per 10,000 population	0.6	11.8		
<i>in the whole country</i>	—			29	43

### Culture

Description	Unit	1955	1965	1975	1976	1979
Books published <i>in the North</i>	Million copies					
<i>in the whole country</i>	—	7.0	23.0	42.5	68.7	90.3
Number of cinema goers <i>in the North</i>	Million visits	21	65	120		
<i>in the whole country</i>	—				190	250
Number of theatre goers <i>in the whole country</i>	—				94	124





## THE PAINTER TRAN VAN CAN

**T**HE painter Tran Van Can was born in 1910 at Kien An in the suburbs of Hai Phong, from a family of poor intellectuals. He graduated from the College of Arts of Indochina in 1936. After the revolution, he was the head of the College of Arts of Vietnam and a member of the National Assembly. At present, he is the General Secretary of the Association of Art Workers of Vietnam, and a member of the Communist Party of Vietnam.



*Hair Washing (Colour wood print, 1944).*

Before the August Revolution, when still newly-graduated, together with three other students he opposed the French College director's disdain for and restrictions on Vietnamese art. As a result he was shadowed and hampered in his activities by the colonial authorities. Resigning from his assignment the painter earned out a living by his art.

In the days preceding the insurrection, he was won over to the revolution and worked for the Association of Cultural Workers for National Salvation.

When the August Revolution triumphed in 1945, the painter and his art had already matured. Under the new regime, he acquired a new vitality. Since then, for 35 years—half his life—through three wars of resistance against the French, American and Chinese aggressions and during socialist construction, he has brought into full play his revolutionary zeal and artistic creativeness, assuming many posts for the Association and the State while still reserving much of his time for artistic creation.

While travelling abroad in the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, the Democratic Republic of Germany, Cuba, India and Algeria, the painter provided many insights into the development of Vietnamese plastic arts and socialist realism while attending artistic conferences or exhibitions. Thanks to this, his artistic achievements of 35 years have been linked to the revolutionary struggle of our people, becoming familiar to the public at home and abroad, thus establishing his status and prestige.

With creative talent in various artistic genres and materials: lacquer painting, oil-painting, wood engraving, silk-painting, and with Vietnamese lacquer as his choice material, the painter has evolved a very distinctive personal artistic style, and a readily recognizable one. The use of natural, fresh and very lyrical colours reflect the painter's optimism and zest for life, his refined manner and bright visual perception.

Tran Van Can's plastic art is unaffected but does not lack strong moods. In his paintings people are gentle and gracious, but also firm, lively and true to life. A child or an old woman, a peasant or a worker, a soldier or a young girl... each one of them has their own unique character but all show a common Vietnamese nature.

Tran Van Can is one of the few painters experimenting with lacquer techniques, and his work heralds their evolution from applied art to painting, while enriching the heritage of Vietnamese lacquer painting.

He has perfectly mastered the plastic element of Vietnamese art, particularly the sensitive power of folk art, and has effectively assimilated the essence of modern plastic art without falling prey to eccentric or to antiquated styles.

Though well advanced in age, he still has a fresh and lively artistic creativeness.

On the 70th anniversary of the painter's birth an exhibition is being held in Hanoi. On show is a selection of 138 works, covering a variety of genres: paintings, drawings, book illustrations, sketches, decorated earthenware, etc.

This exhibition portrays Tran Van Can's artistic features and achievements over nearly half a century, 35 years of which have been highlighted by the revolution.

# A PROJECT OF DETERMINATION AND FRIENDSHIP

FROM Hanoi we went west, along Highway 6 which had been broadened and redrawn. Eighty kilometres further on we were in the town of Hoa Binh on the Da River.

In 1952, almost thirty years ago, a big battle was fought by the Vietnam People's Army on the other side of the river to liberate the entire province of Hoa Binh. Now, most of the hamlets that were rebuilt after liberation have been moved away to make place for a vast construction site—the Hoa Binh hydro-electric project.

Our guide was an engineer named Nguyen Nam. He told us about the Red River, the greatest waterway in northern Vietnam, about the alluvium it deposits on fields along its reaches, fields which feed more than ten million people. But, Nguyen Nam said, the river is also a great threat in its spate season from May to September every year. The dykes built along the river as early as the eleventh century have been strengthened year after year, but there have been times, as in 1971, when they collapsed.

Nguyen Nam recalled how in 1955, a year after the liberation of northern Vietnam, the Government decided to tame the Red River once for all. It was then established that some 58 billion cubic metres of water were fed into the Red River every year by the Da River. That is the equivalent of the amount carried by the Red River itself and by its smaller tributaries. The Da River was responsible for the 42 floods in the past 60 years and, therefore, must be harnessed. To do this two dams will be erected across its course, one at the town of Hoa Binh, the other at Ta Bu, 200 kilometres upstream. Each dam will also be a huge source of hydro-electricity, which is only natural since Vietnam is expected to produce 80 kw/square kilometre, or more than three times the world average of 25kw/sq.km.

It was decided that the first dam would be built at Hoa Binh, which is near enough to Hanoi to easily get equipment from the port city of Hai Phong, and is within reach of a major industrial centre.

\* \* \*

At the administrative centre we were told that Pham Ngoc Tuong, Vice-Minister of Construction in charge of the company responsible for the project, was expected. Tuong, we were told, studied at the Industrial School in Hue before the revolution. He joined the resistance in the South and came to the North in 1954. His first job in hydro-electricity was to restore a 1000 kw station at Ta Sa on Na Ngao River in 1958. He moved on to the Thac Ba hydro-electric station and helped to complete it in 1973. Thac Ba's capacity is 120,000kw, but the present project will be about 17 times more powerful, with an output of 1,920,000 kw. His next project will be Ta Bu, designed to generate up to 4,000,000 kw.

Tuong is in his early fifties. He held a pointer in one hand and a sheaf of blue-prints in the other. He said, showing us a model of the Hoa Binh project: "Surveying began in 1960 with the assistance of the Soviet Union, and was stepped up in 1970, when about 30 Soviet experts arrived and helped form a 1,000-strong survey group. By 7 November 1970, the anniversary of the Great October Revolution, the group had bored 500 holes totalling 40,000 metres. Other auxiliary projects had been built including roads, administrative offices and living quarters, a mechanical engineering workshop, a wood processing factory, a brick-making factory, and a pre-fab concrete factory."

The dam is to be built between two foothills, to a height of 128 metres. It will be clay inside—clay for instant filling of leaks—and rock outside. One main difficulty, we were told, are the foundations, formed by a thick layer of alluvium and which will have to be reinforced by cement and chemical substances.

A lake will thus be formed upstream and, to prevent leakage through the rock, an embankment will be built along the hills. This will require hundreds of thousands of metric tons of concrete.

A special feature of the project, Tuong told us, will be to install the turbines inside a mountain to prevent enemy sabotage, especially air raids. Tunnels nearly ten metres in diameter will be built through the rock to feed water to the turbines.

According to Tuong, seven research institutes, four universities and seven design institutes of the Soviet Union had cooperated with Vietnamese institutions in drawing up plans for the project, and quite a



*Partial view of the construction site of Da hydro-electric power plant.*

*Photo : NGUYEN TAN*

number of the Soviet experts had taken part in building big hydro-electric projects in the Soviet Union. Some have even worked on the Aswan Dam in Egypt.

What benefits will this project provide? The reservoir, with a capacity of eight billion cubic metres, will drastically reduce the flow in flood season. Hanoi will no longer have to worry about grade 2 or grade 3 alerts when the Red River rises up to 13 metres. In the dry season, when half a million hectares of paddy fields in the northern plains run short of water, the lake will make it possible for crops to grow normally. Thanks to good irrigation, at least two main crops will be reaped a year.

The eight turbines each with an output of 240,000 kw, will generate 8.2 billion kwh a year (it would take four million tons of coal to produce the same amount). A dispenser station will be built, and power will be carried as far as Da Nang on 110 kv lines, or even to Ho Chi Minh City, if 500 kv lines can be laid.

A system of locks will enable ships from 1,000 to 2,000 tons to move up Da River to Ta Bu, thus providing river transport to the whole of Son La

province. The energy produced and the river traffic from Hoa Binh will also render possible the construction of the Ta Bu hydro-electric plant in the future.

The reservoir will have beneficial effects on the local climate, and rest-houses will be built around it for holiday makers from Hanoi. Also, tens of thousands of tons of fish are expected to be caught from the reservoir every year.

We took leave of Pham Ngoc Tuong and visited the place where preparations were being made for the dam.

Huge yellow EKG excavators, each capable of lifting up 40 tons of rock at a time, were filling 27-ton Bela trucks. The sultry tropical afternoon was shattered by the roar of engines. In groups, Soviet experts and Vietnamese technicians were working on the plans. By some of the machines, young workers were learning from old hands, Soviet experts included.

During a break, we talked with some of the people present and were told about problems concerning manpower.

"I moved from one project to another, and my previous job was at Thac Ba," said Nguyen Ly Trong, a graduate of the first course at Hanoi Polytechnic. "My son, who has completed the 10th form, has never seen a brick school building in all the years he has been with me. The classes he attended were all held in makeshift rooms at work or in remote mountain regions. I have very little time for him, as I have to see to the education of the workers and secondary technicians in my group. Fortunately there's my wife. As she's a teacher she can look after the boy in my place."

The workforce, which is expected to increase to 50,000, totalled 14,000 (80 per cent of them young people) at the time of our visit. The first to come were 3,000 young workers from Thac Ba and 1,000 others who had been trained in the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. The Thac Ba group also provided most of the leading cadres, engineers and technicians, who are now in charge of the stone quarry, and of concrete and mechanical jobs.

Such a workforce is insufficient for a project of such a scale. Tunneling, for instance, requires 500 workers, but only 200 are available so far. More critical is the shortage of excavator operators and truck drivers. At least 1,000 will be needed, while less than 20 of the present number are fully qualified. All told, about 20,000 specialized workers must be trained in the near future.

Training must be conducted quickly and in many forms. Light truck drivers must be trained for heavy-duty trucks, and tractor drivers must become excavator operators. Evening courses are also open for other specialities including concrete, carpentry and masonry. Complementary education is given to workers to complete their second-level general education (7 years) and their third-level general education (10 years). Specialized workers and technicians study Russian among other subjects.

In this way more and more people are acquiring higher and higher qualifications.

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Nguyen Ly Trong told us of the important part played by Soviet experts in professional training.

"They spend three evenings a week teaching Russian. During midday breaks they explain technical matters to Vietnamese workers", he said.

The experts' devotion, however, is best illustrated by their own work.

"Engineer Paninovitch over there," Trong told us, "is one of the most dedicated. His speciality is drilling, and he has already completed a tour of duty in Vietnam. He has improvised a great many parts to replace unavailable components."

Trong also said that quite a number of Soviet engineers had turned down better paid jobs in other countries, in Latin America for instance, in favour of Vietnam, despite the tough climate and poor living conditions.

We learned that the Soviet experts and Vietnamese workers had entered a joint emulation drive, and that they would meet every 10 days to review achievements.

There was also a special emulation drive between members of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union and those of the Komsomol, and both had been awarded emulation banners by the local HCMCYU Committee.

"That's Levitan," said Le Van Bich, a worker who was conversing with us, pointing to a young Soviet expert who was passing by, his shirt damp with perspiration. "He's well liked by everybody. He's in the field all day long, taking his lunch along. Asked why he preferred just some cold sandwiches to a regular meal at the hotel he said that it was more than sufficient for him. He recalled how in 1944 when work was started on a big dam on the Neva in Leningrad the ration was only 400 grams of bread a day."

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This is how a large hydro-electric scheme, one of the largest in Southeast Asia, is being built amid great difficulties, not only in manpower, but also in materials, fuel, equipment and supplies.

Yet, our visit has filled us with optimism, and we believe that the Vietnamese-Soviet friendship and the determination of both the Soviet experts and Vietnamese workers will combine to bring about the desired result — a sharp increase in electricity supply to pave the way for Vietnam's industrialization.

NGUYEN HOANG

VIETNAM COURIER



*A scene from the film.*

*Photo: FAFIM*

## A FEATURE FILM ABOUT THE VIETNAMESE REVOLUTION

**T**HE Feature Film Studio of Vietnam has just produced its 100th film, entitled: "That Day by the Lam river". It is the first Vietnamese colour feature film, marking a new advance of the Vietnamese film industry. Also for the first time, a large number of people (15,000) took part in the making of the film to portray great struggles of the Nghe Tinh Soviet Movement (1930-1931).

Based on a script written by Dao Xuan Tung and poet Tran Huu Thung, the film relates the establishment of a Soviet in a small village named Yen Dung in the course of the heroic revolutionary struggle of the Nghe Tinh people in 1930-1931, which constituted the

opening stages of the Vietnamese revolution under the leadership of the Communist Party.

In order to portray this famous event, despite the present lack of equipment, the group of film-makers including director Nguyen Ngoc Trung, cameraman Nguyen Dang Bay, designer Pham Quang Vinh travelled to many places across the country to find scenery and settings suitable for an uprising involving such a large number of people. Amidst the ruins of the Cham Tower railway station, they found an old locomotive made in 1920, and together with other documents and relics, they were able to recreate the colonialist and feudal system of exploitation and re-enact the struggle of the

masses during that period. The group spent a lot of time studying and discussing the contents, expression and filming techniques best suited to rendering the powerful atmosphere of an uprising by the revolutionary masses led by the newly-founded Communist Party. The actors and actresses who actively contributed to the success of the film were among the 2nd batch (1973-1977) of graduates of the Cinematographic School: Dieu Thuan, Thanh Hien, Bui Cuong, Quoc Bao, Dung Nhi and others.

Producing this film has given Vietnamese film-makers a new confidence in their ability to make historical films on such an impressive scale.

## THE SOCIALIST ...

(Continued from page 5)

we are most capable such as tropical farm products, marine products, medicinal herbs, minerals and traditional handicrafts, etc., so as to meet the very big and pressing demands of export. The Ministry of Foreign Trade has the duty to support and assist all branches and localities to take the initiative in producing more goods for export, and help them in their business transactions with foreign export and import organizations.

Since the birth of the new Vietnam, we have considered *culture, education, public health, mother and child care, sports, etc.*, as extremely important fields of activity in the socialist revolution and the ideological and cultural revolution, and made great efforts to develop them. Today, we greatly rejoice at the achievements we have recorded in these fields which have further enriched the cultural life of our people, in the countryside in particular. We should continue to promote the activities of those important services, strive to overcome the difficulties of these important services, to overcome the difficulties caused by an underdeveloped economy, to bring into full play the revolutionary zeal and creative energy of our cadres and people with a view to still greater successes, so as to demonstrate the superiority of the socialist regime.

As regards *science and technology*, our Party has affirmed the great importance of the scientific and technological revolution for the whole cause of socialist construction, especially for developing the national economy and carrying out socialist industrialization. Therefore, science and technology in our country must be developed in the same direction and at the same tempo as the development of our socialist economy. We have been deploying our scientific and technological activities with the firm confidence that in this important sphere we will make promising advances. This is because alongside other favourable conditions for scientific and technological development we have a contingent of young scientists and technicians who are motivated by love for the country and socialism, with great capabilities and a high determination to work for the great cause of our fatherland.

In order to successfully carry out the above-mentioned extremely important tasks, we must know how to organize and how to manage. All our successes in the implementation of the revolutionary and economic lines of the Party depend on the quality of our organizational and managerial work.

In this connection, the reality in recent years has shown that firstly the system of responsibility and discipline in the organizational structure of the State should be strengthened, and the directives and resolutions from higher levels should be seriously and effectively observed by lower levels. To this end, we must make a critical review of the managerial mechanism at all levels and put morally and professionally qualified cadres in charge of difficult tasks at the present stage. Responsibility of every unit and individual in the managerial system of the State, from central to local level, must be clearly determined so that every unit and everybody clearly understands and energetically discharges their responsibility and exercises their power. Work regulations with well determined responsibilities in each case of error and failing must be worked out. In short, we must enforce the system of responsibility, discipline and the regulations concerning the protection of public property and the service to the people.

Another urgent task in economic management at present is to work out managerial policies and measures so as to encourage everyone to work enthusiastically, with high productivity and efficiency. These are policies and measures providing for proper material and moral incentives, embodying the principles of remuneration according to the amount and quality of work done. Managerial organs at all levels must find good examples, set reasonable quotas, broaden the various systems of piece work to encourage good workers and labourers working with high productivity and efficiency. At the same time, they must work out and enforce proper policies and measures to encourage production while preventing and punishing all acts of embezzlement, illegal dealings, authoritarianism, etc.

We must always bear in mind that our State is a State of prole-

tarian dictatorship. Under the leadership of the Party, bringing into full play the right to socialist collective mastery of the working people, the State administers socialist transformation and construction. That's why we must pay due attention to studying, enacting, enforcing, and popularizing laws. By this I mean that we attach great importance to our socialist legislation.

Our socialist revolution requires that we care daily and hourly for the political security of our country as well as for social order and security. In this spirit, we warmly welcome the 35th anniversary of the Vietnam People's Security Force and are deeply convinced that this celebration marks another stride forward of the Vietnam People's Security Force and wish it to remain unblemished and strong, to thoroughly grasp the revolutionary line of the Party, completely devote itself to the fatherland and people, and fulfil all its important and glorious tasks.

At present, the most important aspect in the international situation is that the balance of forces between the forces of national independence, socialism and peace on the one hand and imperialism and other reactionary and bellicose forces on the other has increasingly developed in favour of the people's just cause—peace, national independence, democracy and socialism.

Everybody knows how this trend has developed in the last decades with the irresistible growth of the three revolutionary currents, particularly the all-round growth of the Soviet Union, the bastion of world peace and the mainstay of world revolution.

We should pay special attention to a very important event: "The collusion between imperialism and Beijing hegemonism which represents a new danger in world politics, a danger to the whole of mankind, including the American and Chinese people" (1). This collusion has increasingly demonstrated the weakening and losing position of the imperialists and international reaction and the strong and winning position of the

forces of revolution and peace which are capable of maintaining détente and defending peace on a world scale as well as in Southeast Asia.

Proceeding from these basic favourable conditions in the international situation, our Party and State's foreign policy is aimed at strengthening the friendship, militant solidarity and all-round cooperation with the Soviet Union, the two friendly neighbouring countries on the Indochinese peninsula and the other countries in the socialist system, on the basis of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism, developing many-sided relations with the countries of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Third World, first of all with the Southeast Asian and South Asian countries, at the same time broadening our relations with other countries the world over, for national independence and social progress, for peace and friendship among nations.

Persisting in its policy of preserving peace and opposing the expansionist and great-nation hegemonistic ambitions of the Beijing authorities in collusion with the US imperialists and other reactionary forces, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam together with the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the People's Republic of Kampuchea constitute positive factors for national independence and stability in this important region of the world. The Indochinese people's struggle is a just one, and with the support and assistance from the peoples of the world it will certainly win victory in the end.

The Vietnamese people and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam enjoy great prestige in the world. This is actually the fine and very precious feeling and support granted by the peoples of the world to the heroic struggle and glorious victories of the Vietnamese people during the past 35 years. That struggle is continuing and the international prestige of the Vietnamese people and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam will resound ever more deeply in the hearts of the peoples of the world in spite of desperate sabotage by the enemy.

Ours is a revolutionary epoch. Our cause is a revolutionary one. The building of socialism and the defence of our socialist Fatherland is a great struggle, full of hard-

ship, but also full of bright prospects. All of us must arm ourselves with the great thoughts of the revolution so as to become undaunted fighters on the front of socialist construction and national defence. In this new stage, the fatherland and socialism are the invincible standards raised by our people and the peoples the world over. However, a section of our people still has not fully and deeply realized what the revolutionary struggle requires of us and why it is necessary for us to forge ahead and improve our work in many respects so as to fulfil step by step our historic tasks and international obligations. They see only the trees, not the forest, only the bad, not the good side of things, only the immediate difficulties, not the bright prospects of the future... Together with our efforts and achievements in the political, economic, military and diplomatic fronts, we must better the ideological work in order to enhance the revolutionary zeal and determination and overcome the negative aspects of society.

Having experienced 50 years of revolutionary struggle under the leadership of our Party, the Vietnamese people have become undaunted revolutionaries completely devoted to the building of a prosperous Socialist Republic of Vietnam with a civilized and happy life, making its worthy contribution to the just cause of the peoples of the world. All people in authority in the leading organs of the Party, in the State mechanisms, in the People's Armed Forces, in the mass organizations... should prove by their deeds, their assimilation of the teaching of beloved President Ho Chi Minh: a leader should be a truly faithful servant of the people. Only by understanding and acting in this way can we gradually and effectively put into practice the right to socialist collective mastery of the working people, to effectively assure us of good results in all fields of our great revolutionary work. And only when people have taken command of their own work, can there be an enthusiastic and ever growing emulation movement that would bring about still unpredictably good results in all fields of work.

Those responsible comrades in all services and at all levels should carefully study and correctly apply the viewpoint of great significance, set forth at the Party's Fourth Congress, about the leadership of

the Party, the right to mastery of the working people and the managerial function of the State. The new constitution of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to be discussed and adopted by the National Assembly will give a clear expression to this viewpoint.

This year, our people together with the peoples of many countries celebrate the 60th birthday of Nguyen Trai. About Nguyen Trai, first mention should be made of his famous "Proclamation of Victory over the Wu", the greatest proclamation in the history of the Vietnamese nation's struggle against the Chinese feudalists. It embodies heroism and the iron belief in the inevitable victory of justice and also the noble leniency of a civilized nation toward an extremely brutal enemy! From the Hung kings, the Trung sisters, Ly Thuong Kiet, Tran Hung Dao, Nguyen Trai, Quang Trung, to Ho Chi Minh, our country's history has been a stormy one, but the bigger the wave, the bigger the nation's ship, and the steadier the helmsman. This ship has always been steered toward the noble and cherished goals of the Fatherland, the nation and the people, and since the Party came into existence, it has taken the direction of national independence and socialism, the radiant goals of our epoch.

The history of the Vietnamese nation, propelled by the patriotic traditions of the nation and the democratic sense of the people, has logically led to the glorious era of Ho Chi Minh.

Let all of us do our best to be worthy of the past, to make our best contribution to the great tasks of the present, and to prepare for a most beautiful future.

Our entire Vietnamese people, united around the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam headed by respected Comrade Secretary-General Le Duan, are determined to persist in our revolutionary struggle, to bring into full play all the victories recorded and the heroic traditions of the nation, and advance towards new and ever bigger victories, worthy of such a noble cause.

(1) Excerpt from "The Resolution of the Plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union on the International Situation and the Foreign Policy of the Soviet Union" (23 June 1980).

## OUR MONTHLY COMMENT

(Continued from page 1)

By availing itself of the Maoist organizations and Chinese residents as a tool to carry out its strategy in this area, China harbours designs over a number of important countries in Southeast Asia in order to establish a spring-board to swoop upon others. In the past, it was Indonesia, a big country with a population of over 100 million: in 1965 China attempted to stage a coup there but failed. Subsequently it turned to Vietnam, a neighbouring country with much political prestige, which relied on it to resist US aggression. However, when it realized that it could neither draw Vietnam into its orbit nor prevent it from achieving a decisive victory, China then turned against Vietnam, beginning with the occupation of Vietnam's Hoang Sa Archipelago in 1974.

Since then, Beijing has switched its attention to the Pol Pot clique in Kampuchea, attempting to make this country a base for expansion into Southeast Asia, primarily to oppose Vietnam and bring pressure to bear upon Laos.

Thus the unstable situation in Southeast Asia, which would have considerably improved after the US defeat in Indochina, remains tense owing to China's activities. Here we see that Beijing works hand in glove with Washington, helps the latter "remain" in Southeast Asia, while Washington in its turn helps Beijing oppose Vietnam and the other Indochinese countries as well as the genuine interests of other Southeast Asian countries.

When the Pol Pot regime which once attacked Vietnam fell, China did not hesitate to attack the latter, then made use of Thailand to restore the remnants of Pol Pot's troops hiding along the Kampuchea-Thailand border in an attempt to sabotage the Kampuchean revolution.

True to its motto "sitting on the mountain watching tigers fight", and inciting others to fight to the last breath so as to get the spoils, Beijing slanders Vietnam as a "small hegemonist" at the service of the Soviet Union, the "great hegemonist", just as in the past when French and then US imperialism slandered Vietnam as a flunkey of the Soviet Union and China! According to Beijing, Vietnam covets Thailand, but this is a trick to pit Thailand against Vietnam and the five ASEAN countries against the three Indochinese ones. China's aim is not to defend Thailand, but to reverse the situation in Kampuchea and set up a pro-Beijing regime there hostile to Vietnam.

It is regrettable that some people in the Bangkok leadership are falling unaware into China's trap. So long as they do not realize the truth, their words and deeds simply bring grist to China and the USA's mill by prolonging the unstable situation in Southeast Asia.

We would like to remind Thailand that in the course of history, Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea have never sent troops against Thailand. However, Laos and Kampuchea have often fallen victim to Thai aggression, while Vietnam has been invaded three times by Thai troops, not to mention that Thailand has let the enemies of the Indochinese countries use its territory as a starting base against them.

It is not the first time that Vietnamese troops are stationed in Kampuchea. In the wars of resistance against the French colonialists and the US imperialists, Vietnamese troops were based there with the support and help of China itself. Vietnamese troops in Kampuchea have never extended the war outside the borders into Thailand.

At present, Vietnamese troops are also present in Laos, and, as in Kampuchea, they help the armies of these fraternal countries defeat China's threats to them and to Vietnam. Thailand does not raise a hue and cry about Vietnam's threat from Laos. Could this be because Laos is not yet a "hot spot" like Kampuchea on China's strategic chessboard?

We would like to say the following to Thailand, ASEAN and the other Southeast Asian countries: our area has long been a victim of big powers from outside. They have exploited, oppressed and killed our people through direct or proxy wars. They are exerting all-out efforts to disunite us to their own advantage. The unstable situation in Southeast Asia originated from their plotting, and at present mainly from Beijing.

In order to enjoy peace and stability, and secure conditions for the Southeast Asian countries to cooperate with one another in the interests of the Southeast Asian peoples, as the 26 August 1980 Memorandum of the Vietnamese Ministry of Foreign Affairs points out, the crucial problem is to stop China's policy of using military force, threats of aggression and subversive activities against the three Indochinese countries, and indulging in subversive activities against the other Southeast Asian countries through the agency of Maoist rebels with the aim of expansion and hegemony in Southeast Asia; one must respect the national rights of the peoples in this region, particularly the right of the Kampuchean people to get rid of the genocidal Pol Pot regime — an agent of Beijing's expansionism — and to build their country, Kampuchea, in accordance with their aspirations.

Between the ASEAN and Indochinese countries, differences must be brushed aside and ties of lasting friendly cooperation established on the basis of respect for each other's legitimate interests, peaceful co-existence and non-interference in each other's affairs.

25 September 1980



**RURAL TRANSPORT**

**AND**

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**IN DAC LAC**

**PROVINCE**



*Transporting salt by elephants.*

*Photo CAO MINH*

**B**EFORE liberation, there were 386 kilometres of highway, 278 kilometres of inter-provincial roads and 209 kilometres of provincial roads in Dac Lac province. A total of 152 kilometres of asphalted roads were in good repair; the rest had been damaged to some extent by the war or by lack of maintenance; and almost all the provincial roads were in a bad state. The rural road network linked up most of the otherwise out-of-the-way villages; meanwhile goods transport among the minority people was mainly by baskets on their backs on mountain tracks. There were hardly any means of transport serving agriculture, however rudimentary.

The People's Committee of Dac Lac province realized the necessity of building and improving the rural road system. But the work progressed unevenly in different parts of the province, due to the tension caused by the war along the southwestern frontier, to acts of sabotage by the local reactionaries, and to lack of manpower, which is taken up by agricultural work in this thinly populated province. Another reason was the inability of the district and commune authorities to act on the importance of rural transport.

Nevertheless, by early 1979, Chu Kty commune (Krong Pac) in Dac Lac had a relatively comprehensive transport and communication system; Thong Nhat commune (Krong Buc) had complete though rudimentary transport network and Dien Ban co-operative near Buon Me Thuot became well-known for its successful combination of road building and irrigation work.

Using these communes as examples, the province started a campaign for the development of rural communications: the work was done chiefly by the inhabitants, who themselves provided materials to build bridges as well as rudimentary means of transport. Since the beginning of this year, the province has built 438 kilometres of commune roads linking hamlets and has repaired 1,035 kilometres of existing roads. This work has been coordinated with irrigation projects, it has built 2,492 kilometres of roads running across the fields, built 272 wooden bridges, totalling 1,807 metres in length, and repaired 75 old bridges, totalling 476 metres. The inhabitants of E Poc commune (Krong Pac) relied entirely on their own efforts in building a 42-metre long wooden bridge which

links two villages and can stand the weight of a 7-ton lorry. This commune had just completed the construction of a total 42 kilometres of road network over their fields. It has also set up a committee in charge of communications as well as a youth shock team specializing in road-building and irrigation work. The elders in this commune also take an active part in the construction and maintenance of the communication system. The number of rudimentary and improved means of transport in the province has rapidly increased with the addition of 1,807 new ox-carts, 2,177 carts of different kinds, and 141 wooden boats. 483 elephants are used in transport. In 1979 the volume of goods transported by rural roads totalled 6.6 million tons kilometre, an increase of 1.7 million tons over 1978. Commune arrangements differ widely: Cuoc Dang commune (Krong Buc) boasts a transport team with 22 ox-carts and 500 pack-bicycles, and Chu Kty commune (Krong Pac) makes use of elephants, not only for transportation, but also for tilling and packing road beds.

*LE THAU*

# CHRONOLOGY

(16 August - 15 September 1980)

## August

16. A meeting to mark the 35th founding anniversary of the People's Public Security Force of Vietnam and the conferment of the Gold Star Order on it is held in Hanoi.

- Signing in Bucharest of the minutes of the 6th session of the Joint Vietnamese - Romanian Governmental Committee for Economic, Scientific and Technological Co-operation.

17. Prime Minister Pham Van Dong receives Lao Vice-Premier and Minister of Foreign Affairs Phoun Sipaseuth.

18. Signing in Phnom Penh of an agreement on Vietnam's non-refundable economic aid to Kampuchea for 1980.

20. Kampuchean News Agency (SPK): The Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Council has just formed a Constitution Drafting Committee headed by President Heng Samrin and Vice-President Penn Sovan.

21. The spokesman of the SRV Ministry of Foreign Affairs issues a statement on the Chinese authorities' threats in an interview granted to the Japanese News Agency *Kyodo* on 20 August 1980 in Beijing: "China reserves itself the right to attack Vietnam again."

22. The spokesman of the SRV Ministry of Foreign Affairs issues a statement protesting against the US impudent decision to annex the Panama Canal to US territory.

- *VNA*: Representatives of the UN Disaster Relief Organization (UNDRO) arrive in Vietnam to assess the damage caused by typhoon number 4 (JOE).

23. The Political Bureau of the Swedish Workers' Communist Party calls on all its organizations to help Vietnam overcome the damage caused by the recent typhoon and flood.

- Prime Minister Pham Van Dong receives the delegation of the All-India Peace and Solidarity Organization (AIPSO) led by its President Chandrajit Yadav.

- Signing in Managua of an agreement on co-operation and exchange of information, photographs and professional and technical experiences between the Vietnam News Agency and the Nicaraguan News Agency.

26. The SRV decides to establish diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level with Jordan.

- The SRV Ministry of Foreign Affairs publishes a memorandum on the tense situation in Southeast Asia and states that the appropriate way to ease it is through peaceful negotiations.

- The spokesman of the Vietnamese Ministry of Foreign Affairs issues a statement fully supporting the just stand of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan as expressed in its statement of 19 August which condemned all criminal actions of the US imperialists, the Chinese expansionists and other reactionary forces against the Afghan people and firmly demanding them to stop these criminal actions immediately.

28. Hun Sen, Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, states that Kampuchea completely supports the correct stand of the 26 August 1980 Memorandum of the SRV Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

- Prime Minister Pham Van Dong receives the Cuban Government trade delegation led by Minister of Foreign Trade Ricardo Cabrisas which had come for talks on the signing of a trade agreement and an agreement on goods exchange for 1981-1985 between the two countries.

- On the 35th National Day of Vietnam, the *Su That* (Truth) Publishing House published Truong Chinh's works: "President Ho Chi Minh, his great cause and eternal example."

29. A delegation of the Kampuchean Propaganda and Training Commission of the National United Front for the Salvation of Kampuchea led by its President Boun Thong arrives for a visit to Vietnam.

31. The hydraulic engineering factory No. 276 of Ho Chi Minh City helped the People's Republic of Kampuchea build seven irrigation projects in the provinces of Battambang, Kompong Speu, Takeo and Pursat.

## September

1. A grand meeting to mark the 35th anniversary of the August Revolution and Vietnam's National Day (2 September) is held in Hanoi. Prime Minister Pham Van Dong delivers an important speech.

- The spokesman of the Vietnamese Ministry of Foreign Affairs issues a statement demanding the US to dismantle its military bases and withdraw its armed forces out of the Arabian Sea, the Horn of Africa and the Indian Ocean.

3. A meeting of the countries providing aid within the programme of humanitarian aid for the Kampuchean people held in New York highly praises the effective aid of Vietnam, the Soviet Union and other socialist countries.

4. The SRV decides to confer the title of Labour Hero of Vietnam and the Ho Chi Minh Order, First Class on Soviet Air Force Lieutenant-General V.A. Shatalov, Deputy Commander of the Soviet Air Force, in charge of cosmonaut training; the Ho Chi Minh Order, Second Class on Bui Thanh Liem, major, member of the Soviet-Vietnam stand-in flight team.

5. Nearly 15 million nursery and general education school pupils throughout the country begin the 1980-1981 school year.

- *Nhan Dan*: The SRV Government decides to set up an organization committee for the celebration of the 1,300th founding anniversary of the Bulgarian State.

6. Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach leaves Hanoi for an official friendship visit to the USSR and other countries.

8. Acting-President Nguyen Huu Tho receives Lao Industry and Trade delegation led by Acting-Minister Vanthong Lisomphou.

9. A delegation of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine led by Abu Ali Moustafa, Political Bureau member and Deputy General Secretary, arrives in Vietnam on a friendship visit.

10. Signing in Hanoi of an agreement on increasing the transit of Lao imports and exports through Vietnam.

11. *VNA*: The Hungarian Red Cross Society decides to give the Vietnamese victims in storm- and flood-stricken areas relief goods of food, clothes and medicines worth 1.5 million forints.

12. *VNA*: The publishing house of the Communist Party of India has just published President Ho Chi Minh's "Prison Diary".

- The Vietnamese Ministry of Foreign Affairs sends a note to the Chinese Foreign Ministry suggesting a 3rd round of Vietnam-China talks.

13. The spokesman of the Vietnamese Ministry of Foreign Affairs issues a statement rejecting Thai Premier Prem Tinsulanond's slanders against Vietnam on 10 September 1980.

15. Signing in New Delhi of a protocol on the Indian Government's grant of an interest-free food loan to Vietnam.



## EDUCATION IN VIETNAM



— Inside a third-level general education school in Chau Doc provincial town (South Vietnam) during a chemistry lesson.

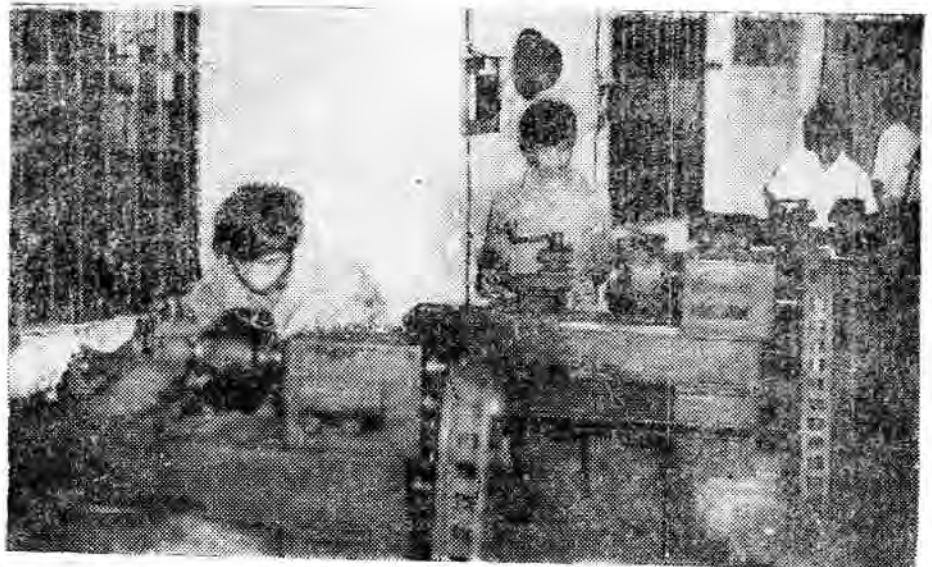
*Photo: TU HAI*

— A geography lesson.

*Photo: NHAT TUONG*

— Inside a workshop of Doan Ket third-level general education school in Hai Phong.

*Photo: THU HOAI*



# EDUCATION IN VIETNAM

- A drawing lesson.

*Photo: THU HOAI*

- Children learning to sing at Mam Non  
(Young Bud) Nursery School in Hanoi.

*Photo: NGOC QUAN*



Vietnam  
Courier

Вьетнам  
Курьер

Le Courrier  
du Vietnam

El Correo  
de Vietnam

Báo đối ngoại

**TIN VIỆT NAM**

Ra hàng tháng bằng các ngữ Anh, Pháp, Ngc. Tây ban nha

Tòa soạn : 46 TRẦN HƯNG ĐẠO, HÀ NỘI

**DÂY NÓI : 53998**

In tại Hà Nội

Chi số : 12462