

# NEWS RELEASE

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STATEMENT BY

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President MARCOS,  
President PARK,  
President JOHNSON,  
Prime Minister KITTIKACHORN,  
Prime Minister HOLT,  
Prime Minister HOLYOAKE,  
Excellencies,  
Gentlemen,

1. General CAO VAN VIEN, our chief of JGS has just presented to you a picture on the bright military performances achieved by the Free World in Vietnam during the past months. But in a counter-insurgency war, our progress cannot be simply measured by mere figures relating to casualties and loss of weapons on both sides. So that is only an aspect of the present war in which we have to simultaneously destroy and construct, attack the enemy armed forces, and make an offensive against subversion, terrorism, illiteracy, disease, starvation and poverty. Therefore, parallel to the military efforts, the reconstruction of villages is also a chief concern of our government, to bring security and happiness to the rural population. These must be the real goal of our war efforts. For your understanding of this reconstruction, let me say now something about our Revolutionary Development achievements in 1966, and our Policy for 1967.

2. In the first 9 months of 1966, the Revolutionary Development Plan encompass 8 main programs: Cadre Program, Hamlet Construction Program, Self-Help Program, Education Program, Public Works Program, Agriculture Program, Open-Arms Program and Program for the Refugees fleeing Communism.

a. The first program or cadre progress aims at educating and training a certain number of young persons who volunteer to be Revolutionary Development Cadre determined to live side by side, hand-in-hand with the people in order to completely eliminate the VC underground structures and replace them by truly free and democratic institutions.

The total number of ~~cadres~~ has been increased from 17,000 to 26,000 and ~~may~~ reach 30,000 toward the end of 1966.

Two training sessions attended by 9,500 students have been organized at the Training Center and at present, 5,900 students are undergoing the third training session which will be closed late in January 1967.

b. The purpose of the second program or Hamlet Construction Program is to expand the control of the Republic of Vietnam which involves the construction and consolidation of ~~hamlets~~ and the improvement of the standard of living of the local population.

The ~~cadres~~ have provided assistance in the construction of 304 new hamlets and consolidation of 545 old ones, representing 6% of the whole population of the country. The 1966 program planned to control 13% more of the national population. Thus, the ~~cadres~~ have achieved about 46% of the program for the whole year. This is slow, hard work. But 1966 has seen a good beginning.

c. The third program or Self-Help Program aims at coordinating the means of the government and the efforts of the people in order to carry out various projects which are useful for the general public.

1,305 self-help projects out of 2,779 i.e. 47% of the projects planned for the whole year, have been implemented.

d. The fourth program or Education Program covers the construction of schools and the recruitment of teachers for the children living in various hamlets.

1,469 classrooms, out of 2,251 i.e. 65% of the planned projects, have been constructed. 3,066 teachers have been recruited and trained.

Thanks to this program, we can receive an additional number of about 81,000 school children at the beginning of the term of this year.

e. The purpose of the fifth program or Public Works Program is to develop the communication lines network at villages, hamlets, and districts in order to facilitate the moving of farmers and the agricultural development.

437 kilometers of roads, out of 913 km i.e. 47% of the planned projects have been constructed and repaired.

f. The sixth program or Agriculture Program aims at providing support to farmers in the field of : Seeds, breeding livestock, farming tools, modern technique and irrigation.

The irrigation program has accomplished 183% of its planned goals. We have dug or dredged 219 km of canals, out of 119 km planned for the whole year.

We have constructed 8 dams and dykes which cost more than 1 million piastres each, and 29 smaller dams or dykes. These irrigation achievements will support 80,000 hectares of rice fields. Concerning agriculture, fisheries and animal husbandry, 34,000 farmers and fishermen have been trained in modern farming and fishing techniques; are distributed or given

out for a profit-sharing 10 million piastres of selected fruit trees, 23 million piastres of breeding livestock and 6 million piastres of fishing gear. Finally, 759 markets and fishing ponds have already been constructed.

g. The seventh program or Open-Arms Program tries to encourage the return of Viet Cong cadres to serve the national just cause and to fight side by side with the people for the elimination of the Communists, the salvation and the building of the country.

Based on our records 36,000 Viet Cong political and military cadres have come back, 18 Open-Arms hamlets where live 1,000 families of returnees have been put up.

h. The last program or Program for refugees fleeing Communism aims at supporting those who are compelled to leave their hamlets being under the Communist control.

612,000 men have left the Communist areas for the national zones. This brings the total of refugees to 1,400,000.

34 vocational classes have been organized and half a million of men permanently resettled by our government.

Both the Viet Cong returnees and the refugees from Communist areas can be said to be people who "voted with their feet." That is, they fled away from the Communists. In the first 9 months of 1966, returnees and refugees totalled 648,000 people - nearly two-thirds of a million people who chose freedom!

In brief, 46% of the hamlet construction program planned for the whole year have been implemented and about 60% of the New Life Development program, such as education, public works and agriculture have also been achieved.

A few recent pictures on revolutionary developments

October 1966 by my Ministry, the revolutionary development policy in 1967 can be based on the four following basic concepts:

a. The cadre will form a bridge of understanding between the government and the people.

As the first and most important fact, the revolutionary development problem consists in winning over the people's heart.

This means a true and wide understanding should be created between the government and the people. To do it, we should have in hand very dedicated and truly revolutionary cadre teams.

These teams are the people's cadre teams i.e. once back in hamlets, they know how to get along with the people in matter of thoughts, attitudes, speech as well as actions.

These cadres are revolutionary cadres i.e. they serve a sacred ideal, that of "Destructing the gloomy old life and constructing a better one in rural areas".

In brief, the construction of hamlets does not mean a construction of schools, an opening of roads or a building of markets, but mainly the construction of a new social structure particularly a new spirit, a spirit of self-defense, self-reliance for the whole local population. To support the people, money, materials and specialists are secondary, and only the revolutionary development cadres are of primary necessity.

B. The population acts, the cadre prepare and the government supports.

The Revolutionary Development activities are those which can only be carried out through the truly joint efforts of the people, the military, the cadre and the government. The most important factor which determines the success at villages and hamlets is neither the government nor the cadre and the armed forces, but it is the people. The mission of the military, the

cadre and the government at villages and hamlets consists only in providing assistance and guidance to the population so that the latter may perceive the necessity and the importance of the revolutionary development activities. They will then accomplish by ~~themselves~~ those activities which they consider as their own, and which are useful to them.

c. The cadre should take the government policy and the people's aspirations as their guide for action.

The revolutionary development policy of the government must be implemented through practical programs, widespread and well understood by the people and the cadre. When these programs are out into execution, the cadre must listen to the sincere desires of the population so that projects initiated by the cadre can be implemented not only in compliance with the government policy, but also in providing complete satisfaction to the sincere and legitimate aspirations of the population.

d. The rural population is determined to stand up to destroy the old gloomy life and build a brighter and better one.

This concept is the most important. We are determined to carry out a social revolution in rural areas, aimed at the destruction of the old gloomy life and replacing it by a brighter one.

The Construction of the better and brighter life is based on the eleven following criteria:

(1) Elimination of the Communist underground.

The elimination of the Communist underground consists in destroying the VC infrastructure and separating the VC elements from the people and is an opportunity to win over the Communists and put an end to the war.

(2) Elimination of tyrannical officials.

The elimination of tyrannical officials means to clear and render more effective the military and administrative infrastructure in villages and hamlets. We do not recommend a mechanical and blind execution of the two above criteria. We try first to convince them to change sides with an "open-arms" policy and will only punish the stubborn ruthlessly. We should also alert everybody to avoid traps set by the Communist in which they try to liquidate the loyal anti-Communist elements by using deceit.

(3) No retention of old hatreds but the creation of a new spirit.

Hatred among the population of the same hamlet should be forgotten so that a new spirit may be built up: a spirit of love and solidarity which will bring hamlet communities together, a spirit of an open-heart, insuring all basic human freedoms, a moral, traditional and scientific spirit protecting the noble manners and customs, banning superstitions, eliminating the vile and base habits, a spirit of responsibility which urges the population of a hamlet to love their country as well as their village, respect laws and be really good citizens.

(4) Establishment of the people's democratic and administrative organizations:

The population should be organized into truly democratic associations for the purpose of reconstructing villages, destroying the old gloomy life and building up a new bright one.

The administrative institutions, such as the hamlet boards, the administrative committees and councils, will be selected by the villagers themselves through free, honest and legal elections.

(5) Organization of the population in the struggle against the VC:

Popular and democratic associations should be trained so that they can resist the VC by a non-cooperation when VC come back to their villages, that is to say how to lead a struggle against the Communists, openly or covertly, positively or negatively and politically or militarily.

(6) Eradication of illiteracy:

We want to create at villages and hamlets a new spirit. This new spirit will survive and grow if the villagers understand what the cadre has told them, read the documents given to them by the latter and write down what they have in their minds. So eradication of illiteracy is the **first** step to be achieved by our civiceducation activities.

(7) Eradication of disease:

Our desire in this field is to see our farmers live in compliance with the rules for proper health and sanitation. When they're sick, they know to resort to physicians and to drugs. Sanitation is respected in public places and every village has maternity dispensaries, hospitals, where medical attendants are permanently present and drugs are abundant. The communication lines network will be developed so that threewheeled cars can day and night carry the <sup>wounded</sup> to district towns or province towns.

(8) Land reform:

The existing laws governing the land reform should be improved to attain two objectives: improving the land tenant's status and reasonable re-distribution of lands. In the meantime, the revolutionary development cadre should cooperate closely with various administrative organizations, technical cadre and popular associations so that the existing laws can be enforced fairly.

(9) Development of agriculture and handicrafts:

The agricultural development aims at increasing farm production, i.e the income of each family of **farmers**. Thanks to this, the standard of living of the population living in villages and hamlets will be improved and their life will become more comfortable and much better.

We promote the organization of farmers into associations and the government will support them through these associations. Therefore, the creation of democratic associations should be the first step in the agricultural development activities, contributing to actually increases the income of each family of farmers.

Besides, the introduction of handicrafts to rural areas deserve also to be encouraged. Electrification is an effective means to serve this purpose.

(10) Development of communication lines:

Communication lines at villages and hamlets should be repaired and improved in priority because in this way, the government will truly serve the interests of the population and indirectly tie the community closer together. This means it will create a wider understanding among villagers.

(11) Deserving treatment for fighters:

The word "fighters" here means everyone, people, servicemen, cadres, and civilian servants who have directly taken part in the destruction of the old gloomy life and in the construction of the better one. We should have deserving treatment for these fighters and their families both at the time they are actively fighting or when they unfortunately become disabled.

To summarize, the four basic principles to guide the revolutionary development activities in 1967 are:

First - The cadre will form a bridge of understanding between the government and the people.

Second - The people acts, the cadre prepares and the government supports.

Third - The cadre will take the government policy and the people's aspirations as their guide for action.

Fourth - The rural population is determined to destroy the old gloomy life and to build a better one defined on the basis of the 11 criteria which I have just stated.

Excellencies,  
Gentlemen,

The revolutionary development policy for 1967 has been set forth based on the experiences obtained in 1966. We hope that this policy will be more realistic, i.e. more suitable to the true rural situation and to the true abilities of our cadres and at the same time, will give satisfaction to the legitimate aspirations of the local population.

In the new policy, much consideration has been given to quality more than to quantity. This means that our progress will be slow, but firm, and at each stage of progress, a continuous action will be deployed to maintain it. This policy will open the way for an actual social revolution in Vietnam, a revolution consisting in destroying the old gloomy life and creating a new brighter one, in eliminating the Communists, subversion, terrorism and under-development.

In order to lay a firm foundation for our policy for 1967, 5 following problems are under serious study:

First - Problem of Administrative reform to create a sound truly democratic and effective village and hamlet administration where the people rule themselves.

Second - Problem of land reform to simplify the existing procedures and speed up the present operations.

Third - Problem of establishing at hamlet level a farmer's association to support farmers on developing rural economy.

Fourth - Problem of organizing the people living in the hamlet into truly democratic association so they can defend themselves and actively develop the community.

Fifth - Problem of military support to revolutionary development activities to avoid next year the serious deficiencies of this year on that field.

The four first problems have been submitted by my ministry to our Army-People Council for detailed consideration. The last one is now under discussion at our JGS.

I would like to stress that revolutionary development activities will only be led to success if they are supported directly, actively and continuously by the Armed-Forces of the Republic of Vietnam, with the assistance of the allied forces, like General Cao-van-Vien has just stated to you.

If these things do happen, 1967 will see us take a great step toward victory, a victory necessary for the construction of a lasting peace which all our people and armed forces have longed for eagerly,

Thank you very much for your attention.

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