

Public Administration Bulletin USAID-Vietnam



April 1, 1968

No. 43

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COVER PICTURE: The Ministry of Interior Building on
Tu Do (Liberty) Street, just off Kennedy Square.

The Office of Public Administration of USAID Vietnam publishes the Public Administration Bulletin monthly (with occasional special issues and occasional lapses into two months intervals when more urgent business intervenes).

Your opinions and contributions are welcome.

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STATE OF THE NATION MESSAGE OF

PRESIDENT NGUYEN VAN THIEU

To The Joint Session Of The National Assembly

25-1-1968

Mr. President of the Senate,
Mr. President of the House,
Distinguished Senators and Representatives,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Since the day the Constitution was proclaimed, on April 1, 1967, our country has gone through almost one year in time, and though it had many difficulties and challenges, it also gathered many encouraging results. From a Constitution proclaimed as a legislative act on principles, we have gradually materialized those principles into reality. From the temporary executive and legislative organisms, we have moved to the constitutional ones, and today marks the first formal and direct meeting between the Executive and Legislative powers in a joint session of the National Assembly.

As Chief of the Executive, duly elected by the People, I sincerely welcome you, Representatives of the Nation's Legislative power, and I hope that the relations between the Executive and Legislative will be fostered in order to better serve our Nation and People's interests.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Due to the pressing situation of the country, the day I have been waiting for has come, for the two Houses have already finished preparing their status and elected their official secretariats as well as the special committees in order to operate efficiently.

For this reason, I come here today to present to you the actual situation of our country, our national policy, the Government's program of actions and the proposed budget for 1968.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Three years ago, the Communists opened large-scale operations throughout and inside our territory, from the provinces of the southern I Corps, the central Coastal Zone, the central Highlands, to the Southwestern and Southeastern provinces. In 1965 alone, there was a time when the enemy wanted to divide our country into many isolated zones so as to surround and destroy us.

However, from mid-1966 to this date, our Armed Forces and our Allies have repeatedly defeated the enemy in all battlefields. The southern part of the DMZ, as well as the bases along the Central Coastal Zone and the famous safe-havens in the South-East and South-West were gradually either cleaned up or occupied.

Toward the end of 1967, with the cessation of important but costly battles taking place in the past few months from the South of the 17th parallel to Dakto, Phuoc Qua, Loc Ninh, Bo Duc... we have seen that from the big operations in preparation for its general offensive war in 1965, the enemy was gradually forced to a holding position in 1966, and to a defensive one today. The majority of the units from the Division to the Regiment level were wiped out of their strong base camps, and especially in the last months of 1967, despite the fact that the enemy was still able to conduct some large battles, they all took place along the frontiers and the DMZ, and there was not any important battle deep inside our territory.

Two years ago, the enemy was thinking of dividing our country in order to destroy us, but they were gradually pushed to the point from where they could not launch any important offensives without relying on bases beyond our frontiers.

In the last three months of 1967 alone, enemy's casualties were up to 22,500, and around 9,000 weapons of all kinds were seized.

In 1967 especially, the enemy lost around 96,000 soldiers (an increase of 52% over 1966) and 32,785 weapons (an increase of 66% over 1965).

Compared to ours, the enemy's casualties are increasing everyday. The ratio of friendly to enemy forces killed in 1965 was 1/2, in 1966 it was 1/5, and in the first months of 1967 it was 1/6. The ratio for weapons seized has changed from 1/3 to 1/1.5, and to 1/4. There were also 26,157 V.C. returnees in 1967, a record number until now. The enemy's recruiting capacity in the South has decreased by 50% in 1967, thus forcing them to draft youngsters 14 to 16 years of age, to use women to replace the guerillas, to try to attack jails and release the prisoners in order to strengthen the number of their units.

Their total strength has decreased despite their efforts to infiltrate from the North in order to make up for their depleted units and their difficulty in recruiting in the South. The number of fighting men in their various units has also decreased.

Throughout the past two years, the enemy tried desperately to force a victory at any cost, first aiming at the U.S. Forces, in order to attract the world's attention and stir the U.S. public opinion, and last hoping to use the victory on the battlefield as a bargain at the negotiation table.

The enemy also tried but failed to create political instability in the rear, thus preventing us from building a legal Government and Democracy.

Through various Winter-Spring, Fall-Winter campaigns the enemy's hopes to end the war by a military victory were completely crushed.

In the plains, the enemy no longer has the ability to launch an all-out offensive against the chief towns and district towns, thus they are forced to use mortar attacks and terrorism. Their tactic was aimed at shaking public's

confidence and discrediting the Government, but on the military viewpoint, it demonstrated a weakness rather than strength. When the regional forces can no longer support the guerillas efficiently, and when the main-core units are isolated from the regional forces, then their mutual support can no longer exist, consequently, their general offensive can no longer be realized.

Their rear bases in the North being destroyed, their direct infiltration network being harassed, and although North Vietnam has used many new infiltration routes and safe-havens, the replacement strength of the North is no longer in abundance for production and self-defense purposes as well as for infiltration, as was the case in the past. The question of feeding an expeditionary force having lost the support of the regional forces has become an unsolvable problem for North Vietnam.

The North Vietnamese high-ranking officials certainly understood more than anybody else that they cannot achieve a total victory, but with their remaining capability they still nurture a last hope for victory.

This year being an election year in our most important allied country, namely the United States, the Communists take advantage of the occasion and fully utilize all propaganda and political maneuvers; they launch a false peace offensive along with their military efforts which at the present time take place with vehemence in the area south of the DMZ and some places of the Highlands. They also increase their sabotage, shelling, and terror campaigns in the Delta provinces. Furthermore, there is a propaganda movement for a coalition government. All the above mentioned efforts aim at consolidating the morale of the people, the army, the cadres in the North as well as in the South before their total collapse.

With regard to national security, mention should be made of many important successes in 1967, namely:

- control has been regained on 95% of the rice cultivated and heavily populated areas in the II Corps;

- better security conditions on roads and waterways were observed in 1967 as compared to 1966;
- the length of secure roads increased by 660km;
- the length of roads where armed escort was required decreased by 500km;
- by the end of 1967, traffic on National Route No. 1, from Saigon to Ben Hai, was reestablished;
- in addition, 209km of railway were restored, thus increasing the total operation network to 519km.

If North Vietnam stubbornly avoids a peace talk because they had neither a military nor a political victory, then, with its rate of increasing defeats it will not be long before North Vietnam must decide to end the war gradually.

But as I have also presented, until North Vietnam has to bow totally to decide either to negotiate or stop the war, they still are able to increase their military and sabotage efforts, at least in the course of this year. Along with their military offensives and sabotage actions we should expect many more propaganda campaigns and efforts to stir up the population in our towns and cities; thus, in this respect we should be vigilant, and strongly oppose them.

The above mentioned facts do not permit us to be too optimistic and believe that peace will soon come as a miracle. On the contrary, we must know to exploit the actual Communists' failures as well as our victories in view of shortening the war and establishing peace under the most favorable conditions for our side, thus bringing us a guaranteed and durable peace upon which we can rebuild and develop our nation on a strong and lasting basis.

Moreover, it is a common knowledge that we are fighting for our self-defense, and the Vietnamese are a peace-loving people; therefore, we will always welcome peace initiatives; provided that peace is a just peace which guarantees our Independence, Freedom, and Democracy, and suppresses the

sufferings long endured by the Vietnamese of both the North and the South.

However, when we talk about Peace, in other words the end of the war, it is necessary for us to mention that the purpose of the present struggle of the Republic of Vietnam is simply a self-defense war against the aggression of the Communist North.

Immediately after the signature of the 1954 Geneva Agreement, North Vietnam has violated it by leaving behind hundreds of arms caches scattered everywhere and numerous disguised cadres in the South.

Later, Communist NVN infiltrated into SVN in ever increasing numbers of cadres, weapons and large military units. Captured North Vietnamese soldiers as well as captured documents have amply proven this aggression, aimed at the destruction of SVN and the overthrow by force of the Government of the RVN.

The ICC, in its Special Report of June 2, 1962, has clearly testified to this aggression.

The bombing of NVN, as well as the presence of allied troops in SVN, which followed by many years the start of Communist aggression, are the only measures in response to Communist aggression. Therefore, any solution toward peace should begin by the cessation of Communist infiltration and aggressive activities. To ask us to stop our defensive measures before the aggression stops, is to ask us to surrender to the enemy. The RVN and the other freedom-loving countries will never accept this condition.

The bombing of NVN is the response to the whole apparatus of Communist aggressive activities, including Communist infiltration across the borders, as well as guerilla attacks, subversion, sabotage, and terrorism...in SVN. Therefore, the bombing of NVN can be stopped only after NVN has stopped all their aggressive activities mentioned above.

The cessation of infiltration by itself is not sufficient,

because infiltration is only a part in the Communist system of aggression.

Besides, it is the part whose cessation is the most difficult to control in view of the lengthy borderline across vast areas covered by jungles and mountains, especially on the frontiers between North and South Vietnam, and between Vietnam - Laos - Cambodia.

We should also try to avoid falling into the stratagem of NVN which strives to separate artificially the war in the North from the war in the South. In fact, these are only two battle fields of the same war, as illustrated by the two following reasons:

1. The battlefield above the 17th parallel is caused by the NVN aggression in SVN.
2. Communist NVN directs and organizes the war of aggression against the RVN. To stop the bombing of NVN alone will not bring back peace to Vietnam.

The scheme of NVN is to require our cessation of bombing in the North and then to bring pressure on us to negotiate with and to recognize the so-called "NLF" leading to a "Coalition Government" with the Communists. NVN hopes, by that detour, to conquer the RVN by political means, through a solution by which the communist elements constitute a fifth column inside our administrative machinery and even at the high level of our Government itself. This, we can never accept.

If the Communists reduce infiltration altogether with other aggressive and subversive activities in SVN, the bombing of NVN can also be reduced in the same proportion. Since the bombing of NVN is only a defensive measure, it cannot be stopped until the aggression itself has completely stopped.

The defensive character of the bombing of NVN needs to be better understood by public opinion in our country and abroad.

In the past two years, at each bombing pause, the Communists

took advantage of it to increase their infiltration and prepare greater assaults against our installations.

The bombing of NVN constitutes a measure of dissuasion for NVN to stop its aggression. If the Communists maintain their aggressive ambitions, we shall have to increase our pressure in order to bring peace nearer, and shorten the sufferings of the entire vietnamese population.

The Communists are fully aware of the effectiveness of our response. Therefore, they concentrate all their political and propaganda efforts to bring pressure on us to stop our most efficient method of defense. They have, to a certain extent, succeeded in confusing public opinion on this issue, because while the international press focussed their attention on, and gave full publicity to the isolated cases in which our bombings created casualties among the civilian population, they have not sufficiently brought to public attention the numerous cases of brutal murders, assassinations, and shellings committed by the VC against women, children, the innocent civilian population as well as local officials in the districts, villages and hamlets in SVN. The question therefore has been often placed in an unbalanced perspective, creating emotional reaction in the wrong direction.

In summary, for the RVN the purpose of our present struggle is simply the defense of our national independence, and the preservation for our people of the freedom to choose their way of life, and their system of Government.

The RVN has made many sacrifices in this struggle to defend these ideals, and we are longing for the reestablishment of peace, to put an end to the destruction and sufferings, and to be able to devote all our human and natural resources to the reconstruction and development of this country. But peace should be made with honour, and in conditions which can preserve Freedom, Independence, and Democracy, otherwise, so many soldiers of this nation and allied countries who fought to defend these ideals, would have died in vain, and stability as well as a durable peace in the world would be seriously jeopardized.

The position of the RVN with regard to the restoration of peace has been solemnly stated at the Manila Summit Conference on October 25, 1966. The RVN will maintain that position which can be summed up in these following six points:

1. Communist aggression under all its forms should stop;
2. The territorial integrity of the RVN must be guaranteed;
3. The reunification of Vietnam should be decided by the free choice of the entire population of Vietnam;
4. The RVN puts into effect the National Reconciliation program, to welcome into the National Community all the elements of the population, in the framework of the Constitution adopted by the elected representatives of the Nation;
5. The RVN will request allied troops to withdraw from Vietnam, after the military and subversive units of NVN will have stopped their infiltration and aggressive activities, and withdrawn from SVN;
6. The people of Vietnam require effective international guarantees for the implementation of the above mentioned points.

We are fighting for self-defense, and to preserve freedom. We are anxious for an early restoration of peace but we have to be vigilant.

As I have stated in my inauguration speech of October 31, 1967, I shall not overlook any opportunity which may bring to us peace with honour and freedom, and I have already actively explored the avenues which may lead to a fruitful negotiation with the North Vietnamese authorities. I believe strongly that the war in Vietnam logically should be discussed, in the first place, among the leaders of both North and South Vietnam.

Recently, with regard to the reestablishment of peace in Vietnam, mention has been made of the convening of an international conference on the basis of the 1954 Geneva Conference.

On this question, when the convening of an international conference appears indicated, in my view it can only begin after a complete cessation of hostilities; in other words, together with the cessation of bombing in NVN, all aggressive activities of NVN in SVN should be stopped.

As you remember, during the Korean war, the Communists dragged the negotiations for two years, and killed more allied soldiers during the negotiation than before.

In Vietnam, the Communists can in addition take advantage of the negotiations to increase their infiltrations, and strengthen their guerillas bases, while making pressure to require our cessation of defensive bombing.

In other respect, concerning the composition of a future conference on Vietnam, from a logical and realistic standpoint it seems to me that such a conference should naturally include only the Governments of the countries closely involved in the war. In this regard, not only is the nature of the present war completely different from the war previously waged by the French in Indochina, but the countries participating in the two wars are also very different. I conceive therefore that the countries having an active role in this war, in particular the countries whose sons are fighting in the present conflict, and the countries participating in the maintenance of peace and security in this area, are qualified to participate in a conference on Vietnam.

Another point which needs to be clarified is the fact that the 1954 Geneva Agreements were basically only an Armistice Agreement concluded between the French and the Viet Minh High Commands, to establish the modalities of ceasefire and regrouping of belligerent forces. There were no legal clauses with regard to Vietnamese political problems in the 1954 Geneva Agreements.

The Vietnamese political problems naturally fall within the sovereign jurisdiction of Vietnam, and normally are to be solved by agreements between the leaders of North and South Vietnam.

Furthermore, the question of guarantees for faithful implementation of an agreement is also very important. As it is well known, the Viet Minh violated the 1954 Geneva Agreements as soon as these Agreements were signed, by leaving behind them in SVN, arms caches and cadres, and obstructing a large number of our fellow countrymen in the North who chose freedom and wishes to go South.

Another example is the violation by the Communists of the 1962 Geneva Agreements on Laos, according to which the Communists were required to withdraw their troops from Laos. Instead, the Communist NVN troops, mingled with the Pathet-Laos, continue to occupy Laotian territory, to use it both as a base for infiltration into SVN, and a military position to threaten, on a permanent basis, the independence of Laos.

Therefore, we should not assume that an international conference will necessarily lead to a peace agreement. Furthermore, on the basis of past experiences, we should not assume that, once we have a peace agreement, we shall necessarily have a genuine and durable peace.

Although we have actively explored all means to end the war through negotiations, but if the Communists are still stubborn or try to use tricks to lure us, then we should intensify our pressure to force the Communists to end their aggression soon. The Communists NVN made no secret of their strategy of attrition, in which they count on our weariness in this struggle. They also rely on the fact that, after a period of time, the Chinese Communists will have a better arsenal of nuclear weapons and missiles, to provide a more powerful support to their expansion in South-East Asia.

Therefore, we should always keep in mind that, to have peace, a genuine and long lasting peace for Vietnam and South East Asia, we should make greater efforts and sacrifices in order to avoid the danger of slavery for ourselves and also for the generations to come.

In the present struggle, the United States is our principal

ally, because the two nations share the same ideals on freedom and democracy, as well as common aspirations for a world in which frontiers cannot be unilaterally changed by the force of arms.

The American Government has also recognized that if communist expansion is not checked on time, security of other free nations will be sooner or later jeopardized.

The role of the US in VN today is not different from its role in Europe in the two World Wars. Communist NVN with the support of communist China, and their aggressive strategy for conquest based on infiltration, subversion, sabotage, and terrorism, constitute to South-East Asia a threat no less serious than the one posed to the security of Europe by Nazi Germany during World War II. Likewise, if the Communists succeed in taking over all of Vietnam, and expanding over South-East Asia, the balance of power will be seriously disrupted and will gravely affect the chance for international security and a durable peace in the world.

Therefore, the RVN is fully justified in requesting the assistance and receiving the help of the US and other freedom loving countries, in resisting communist aggression.

In their devious propaganda, the Communists naturally try to picture us as lacking independence vis-a-vis the US. This propaganda is not without regrettable effects on international public opinion.

Conversely, in some friendly countries, a certain number of people, without prior examination has over-dramatized the differences, real or imaginary, between the Vietnamese and American Governments, and seem to expect all the viewpoints and approaches of the Vietnamese Government to be always identical to those of the American Government. These expectations are not realistic because they do not conform to the actual situation; furthermore, they are harmful to our common cause, because the Communists exploit these manifestations to push their propaganda line, in which they pretend to be the standard bearers of the "liberation" of the South.

In our search for a peaceful solution, although the RVN has encouraged and requested friendly Governments and even neutral Governments, to make parallel efforts with us to explore the possibility which may lead to peace with honour, the RVN maintains the position that in all official proposals relating to the future of the VN people, the Vietnamese Government should have the principal role, otherwise the prestige of our common cause will be harmed, and we will give ammunition to communist propaganda.

In fact, as I have mentioned above, the RVN shares the same ideals and the same basic purposes with the friendly countries which are fighting side by side with us in VN. However, in the approaches toward the achievement of these purposes, the emphasis to give to each question may not be identical in all circumstances. That is why, in addition to the regular diplomatic relations, which are very close and naturally very friendly between us and the Allied Governments, there are Summit Meetings and Meetings at the level of Foreign Ministers, so that Allied Governments can exchange views, and iron out differences when they exist.

Concerning the question of peace negotiations, the American Government has pledged, and on January 15, 1968, Secretary of State Dean Rusk has renewed the pledge, that there could be no decisions by the American Government on negotiations without prior full consultations with us. and that the US upholds the basic principles that the SVN people must determine their own future without external interference.

Besides, the position of President Johnson on peace negotiations as stated in his San Antonio speech last September and his State of the Union Message to the US Congress on January 17, 1968, seems to me very realistic in requesting solid guarantees before the bombing of North Vietnam could stop.

In the common efforts to resist communist aggression, unity is indispensable to final success, and we should be careful not to fall into the communist stratagem of fostering division between us and our Allies.

Together with our Allies, we are devoting all our efforts to achieve a durable peace in freedom and justice, and to

build an international community based on mutual respect, and friendly cooperation for common security and prosperity.

On this occasion, I would like to express again the heartfelt gratitude of the Republic of Vietnam for the selfless assistance of friendly countries at this crucial period of history which will determine the future of Vietnam and South East Asia.

To face the treacherous and stubborn attitude of the Communists, naturally we ought to put up a continuous fight and also increase our forces so that an early victory can be attained. In the meantime, our efforts toward peace will be increased.

Spurred by the successive victories in 1967, the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces, with a modernization program in armaments, in equipments, and in logistics, will increase its activities in a two-pronged program: support for the pacification program and pursuit of the enemy through the search and destroy operations.

Regional Forces, Popular Forces, Revolutionary Development Cadres and Combat Youth will be reinforced and with their efficiency improved, they will play an important role in holding and controlling the territory gained, and this will give our Regular Forces a free hand in sweeping off the enemy regulars. Our Armed Forces will then be able to replace gradually the Allied Forces.

To keep the soldiers' morale high, the Government will coordinate the efforts to better the lot of the soldiers and to better the living conditions of the soldiers and their families. 12,000 houses will be built for married soldiers, and at the same time 1,420 other houses will be built in the Army Community villages in Saigon, Dalat, and Danang. 47 retail stores selling foodstuffs will be created and managed by the Army Office of Supply, 20 other Support Farms will also be created to supply fresh foods at low price to the Army units, and to distribute them free to the soldiers.

Besides, the Psy-War activities dealing with the political

indoctrination, the Army Social Welfare, the campaigns against the enemy proselyting efforts will be continued and developed. Especially the campaign against corruption will receive an impetus stronger than ever.

The training program of soldiers will be changed drastically to fit the new needs. The National Defense College will be inaugurated very soon. The training program and the plan to merge the Popular Forces, the Militia and the RD cadres into an unique Military-Civilian Force will be realized.

Finally, the partial mobilization program will be carried out to increase the fighting potential of our forces.

With regard to this subject, I want to explain clearly that the new mobilization policy is aimed mainly at the reinforcement and the beefing up of the Armed Forces, but the new policy will not affect much all other activities in the country, nor will it perturb other factors of our National Potential. The new policy will be carried out absolutely in a strict and just manner, so that all our young men can contribute to the struggle against the communist aggression, and thus will help bring an early peace to the country, so that all can join in the Reconstruction and Building of the Nation.

The salient points in the mobilization policy are:

- An intelligent and well-coordinated use of the human resources to beef up the Armed Forces enabling them to face favorably the Communists in the fields.
- In the rear, our young men, who still are able to go to school, will be allowed to continue to study until the day of their graduation. Then they will relieve those who had fulfilled their military service to allow the latter to go back to civilian life.

The war we are fighting is a special kind of war, with special characters. We have to fight and at the same time we have in our hand a reconstruction job. Thus, the forces fighting in the front should be solid and the forces in the rear should be in a state of readiness. Besides, the formation of cadres,

experts, officials in the administrative, economic and social branches should be continued so that, once peace is restored, we will have enough talented and efficient cadres to rebuild the country.

Thus, those students who have been successful in their work will be deferred. They will be allowed to continue to study until graduation. However, to prepare for a reserve force to be committed in an emergency, all students will receive their basic preparatory military training while they are still in school.

This basic preparatory military training is aimed at giving the students the necessary military skills similar to that of a soldier trained in a regular Army Training Center. The, after graduation, the students will be called to serve as reservists.

Besides, to allow those who are beyond the age of conscription to participate in the National Defense efforts, a military training program, a refresher military course which will be offered to the Civil Servants over 33 years of age. will be considered. The Civil Servants will be responsible for the security of the agencies where they work. They will relieve the soldiers assigned there; this will allow the latter to be transferred to the units fighting in the field.

REVOLUTIONARY DEVELOPMENT

Due to the continuing efforts by the soldiers and cadres, the Revolutionary Development program had made significant progress. In 1966, and the six first months of 1967, we have succeeded in:

- the building of 787 New Life Hamlets and recuperating 977.774 people under our control;
- the reinforcement of 846 New Life Hamlets previously set up, involving over a million people;
- the development of 3,235 already pacified New Life Hamlets, involving over 5 millions people.

Thus, the number of the population under the control of the Government has increased to almost 10 millions (as a matter of fact, the figure is 9,827,064), including over 2 millions living in the Capital. The total ratio of the controlled population is 70%.

Within the Revolutionary Development program, about 15 millions seedlings of all sorts, and 13 million fishing devices were distributed to the population and 2,116 classrooms (with 3,322 teachers recruited) were opened in the hamlets.

This year, our efforts will be directed towards the substantial increase of the controlled area, by the building of New Life Hamlets, Pacification Hamlets, and by the reinforcement of the completed New Life Hamlets to prevent them from slipping back into the hands of the enemy. At the same time, for each province, we will fix a long-range program for at least 3 years whose aim is directed at the long sought security and the New Life Development.

We will train more cadres and recruit many other Military-Civilian units, to serve in the building program of 2,400 other Hamlets involving another 2 million people.

The primary education program and the campaign against illiteracy in the rural areas will be strengthened with provisions for 2,700 classrooms (and 3500 teachers) and 890 classes to teach oldsters how to write and read.

The Public Health program in the hamlets will call for the creation of 198 maternity wards and the recruitment of needed personnel.

The Government will increase efforts to provide better facilities such as the construction of 500km of new roads, the repair of 200 other kilometers, the construction of 150 ferry landings, 42 market-places, the dredging of 120km of canals and the construction of 92 dams, dikes, culverts and irrigation channels to reinforce the hydraulic facilities serving an area covering some 200,000 acres.

To implement expeditiously and efficiently the above program, a National Congress for Revolutionary Development will be convened to set the proper and efficient measures for each area.

OPEN ARMS

The Government is concentrating its efforts in the development of the National Cause so as to offer those who are still with the Communists a honorably way out.

The brilliant successes of the Open Arms program depleted the enemy forces as well as their morale.

Currently, 75,000 people had left the ranks and file of the Communists to return to the National Cause. With 47 Open-Arms Centers in the whole territory and a Central Open-Arm Center in Saigon, we still need many other centers to receive the returnees whose number grows larger and larger.

64,000 out of 75,000 returnees were given a chance to go back to normal civilian life. More than 1,700 families now live in Open-Arm villages. 16 returnees were successful in the popular hamlet and village elections. 3,000 others now serve in the Government agencies, and some have been chosen to hold high and important offices. 3,000 have volunteered to serve in the Armed Propaganda Units.

In 1967, 47 Armed Propaganda Companies have successfully talked 3,000 Communists out of their units and killed 808 V.C., and captured 98 others and an important number of arms and ammunition.

To dampen the above governmental successes, the Communists had, on one hand, found all necessary proselyting measures to keep a tight control of their soldiers and cadres, and on the other hand, made many efforts to terrorize the Open-Arms cadres and the returnees. During the last year, 131 Open-Arms cadres and returnees were murdered by the V.C.

To face the subversive efforts of the Communists, the Open-

Arms program, planned for 1967, will be developed.

22 Armed Propaganda Companies will be formed, and 10 of them will be trained and committed in the first few months. These companies, along with the available cadres, will push the national Open Arms efforts, in trying to rally the V.C. cadres and soldiers to quit their ranks and files.

With the current development, the number of returnees anticipated for 1968 will reach 45,000 (27,000 in 1967). To cope with the needs, 118 temporary camps will be built all over the country.

With 100 instructors recently trained, the Government will start other training sessions and standardize the training program and revise the published materials.

50 returnees villages are being built and 8 others will be constructed. Self-help projects and cooperatives will be approved for the existing villages. Vocational Training Centers will be built and at the same time the Government Agencies and the Army increase their efforts in the recruitment and the use of the returnees. Besides, some of them are sent to receive training in the Training Centers managed by the Ministry of Labor and the Ministry of Education, and they will surely find a suitable job which fits their capability and desire.

As a special measure, the Government will orient the reconciled POW'S into returnees and will prepare a bill which will define the constitutional rights of the returnees.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

In Foreign Affairs, we have to face a difficult situation, but we have pulled all our efforts to cope with the needs of the Country.

At the present time; we have 19 Embassies in 37 countries, 8 General Consulates, one United Nations observer and one Representative at the International Specialized Organizations in Geneva.

Within the Ministry, there is a progressive reform program leading to a better organization and to an efficient activity. Last year, a Training Center in Foreign Affairs was created to train the Ministry's officials. The personnel will be increased. The length of their duty tour abroad and the length of their stay at the Ministry will be revised so that the Foreign Ministry's officials will get to know better the situation in the country and abroad.

Nevertheless, the above efforts could not fill the current needs. As a matter of fact, the Ministry now lacks an adequate budget and a sufficient number of personnel to open other services and enlarge its sphere of activities.

First of all, is the overseas information. This activity includes the effort to make known the National Cause and to expose the aggression scheme of the Communists. Then, the next effort is aimed at working with the friendly governments urging them to increase their aid to Vietnam, and finally the last effort consists of helping the Vietnamese living or travelling abroad.

To attain the above objectives, the Government will install a few other Embassies in South America and Africa and will try to reestablish diplomatic relations with Indonesia. The question of cumulative representation of many countries by one Ambassador, especially in Africa, will be revised. The Government will organize roving diplomatic missions in Europe, in America, especially in South America and in Africa. The information bulletin about the Government policy sent to the Embassies will be upgraded. The personnel will be increased to fit the needs of the Ministry. Some 20 Attaches will be recruited this year.

We have just reviewed the problems dealing directly with the War and the Restoration of Peace.

But, the problems we have to face these days do not consist only of the pure military problems. We still have another problem: the Nation Building.

Thus, along with the military efforts, the National Policy also aims at the building of Democracy and the installation of Social Reforms. The above three points are what I consider as guidelines.

The building of Democracy is directed at the creation of the organisms prescribed by the Constitution in a record time and the creation of a favorable atmosphere for the development of political activities.

The rights and responsibilities of the citizens will be carefully explained, propagated, so the population can exercise their rights and defend their interests properly. At the same time, the administrative reforms will be implemented so that the administrative machine will be a smooth operating machine designed to serve efficiently the public.

Finally, the Government will reserve the rights fully deserved and the opportunities for the ethnic minorities to participate in the building of the Nation, in a real democratic atmosphere.

With the creation of the Second Republic and with the regular, solid, and well planned creation of the various institutions set forth by the Constitution, we have already taken a first step forward, we have built a solid base for the Nation-building.

The building of a democratic regime in our country is at the beginning stage. The framework is completed, but a real democratic regime cannot be fulfilled by its bare framework. Democracy consists of complicated political activities of many facets.

Thus, the creation of such a regime requires a long period of time, possibly a couple of decades; it demands fundamental changes in the organization, the basic laws as in the political and social customs.

As stated above, on the long road for the building of democracy, we have just completed the framework. The basic

institutions for the Executive and Legislative branches were installed recently. The Legislative branch, the Inspectorate, and other Consultative Committees are not yet created, but they are all planned for in the Constitution. We need some time to prepare and promulgate the basic organizational documents, as well as the organization of the afore mentioned organisms. We shall strive to cut short the lead time as much as possible, so that the activities in the Nation can be regulated.

The relations between the Executive and Legislative branches are at an experimental stage. Both branches were created recently and the relationship between them was not well developed, but through some recent contacts and through this Joint Session of the National Assembly, I certainly feel that we have made a very good start.

To help building up the Second Republic, we will have to think about revising, redefining and amending the Codes.

The task is complicated, and its accomplishment will surely be considered as a brilliant record for the Legislative term of office.

With regard to the mass activities, I am glad to recognize that the activities of the mass have well developed, since the 1963 Revolution, and reached a high degree in the large cities and especially in Saigon.

Under the Diem Regime, the political activities were prohibited, and nowadays a certain number of them have emerged officially and some unofficially. There are numerous organizations, political, social, professional, cultural as well as religious, which are now active.

They used to operate underground, and now they emerge in public. Thus, at the beginning, their activities were either very cautious, or very excessive, later, through their experiences and their potential for development, I firmly believe that the groups and mass activities will be better and progressively organized.

In 1964, a couple of months after the Revolution, we had a new tide of organizations emerging rapidly, with a proclamation, program of actions and so forth. They all asked for official recognition and their development and activities were not coordinated.

Their activities simmered down. The inefficient organizations were eliminated, the profiteering organizations died out. Those with a solid and sound organization recovered and reorganized their ranks and files, revised their program and activities accordingly.

The smooth transition period was very fruitful, and I certainly think it is not only good but also necessary. Surely after a tumultuous development, there should be a calm period for reorganization. Those which are good and efficient will emerge; those which are not, will be rejected.

During the past few years, I believe that the political groups have enough time to reaffirm their ranks and files; they should be able to regroup to form larger political parties deeply rooted in the population, well organized so that they can subsist through the political turmoils to develop themselves and to contribute efficiently to the development of the Country.

Our Country needs the presence of strong, coherent political parties. Our regime is a democracy. Our Constitution approves and encourages a two-party system. If both the Government and the Opposition are not backed by the aforementioned parties, we cannot build a regime, as stipulated by the Constitution.

Today, the strong political parties needed to back the Government and the Opposition are not available, but I believe they will be formed right within your ranks, distinguished Senators and Representatives, many of you under the banner of some organizations, some groups, have been elected. From your unofficial and often secret activities, to your official and public activities in the Assembly, as well as other form of public activities, you have covered a long way.

I believe the parties and groups will fulfill their duties in this new period of our History.

In the judiciary field, and independent justice was instituted with the purpose of modernizing and unifying the law. Since 1966, the Law Study Committee has undertaken the study of appropriate measures to reform the national laws and organize the judiciary organs. In this connection, many tribunals were reorganized and established.

However, we must admit that during the last few years our laws were not upheld and respected. In order to overcome this difficult situation and to restore the national discipline, the Ministry of Justice will implement and appropriate program and urgent actions.

Consequently, the Ministry's activities will be carried out to support efficiently the establishment of an upright and impartial justice.

To reach the objective of unifying and modernizing the law, the Ministry will give priority to the drafting of the laws pertaining to the organization of constitutional institutions, the Ministry will concurrently amend the 5 following codes: The Civil Code, the Civil Procedures Code, the Penal Code, the Criminal Procedures Code, and the Commercial Code.

The judiciary machinery will at the same time be reorganized so as to adapt to the establishment of the Supreme Court. The competence of a certain number of tribunals will be extended, and a certain number of Justices of Peace will also be established in such a manner that each district can have one.

Lastly and also most importantly, the Ministry will focus all efforts on heightening the people's sense of respect of the law, therefore, the mobile courts will gradually be brought to the population, from the districts to the villages and new-life hamlets, concurrently with the dissemination of common laws among the masses.

A few urgent actions will be accomplished before July 1968.

Along with a drafting of the laws concerning the organization of the constitutional institutions such as the Supreme Court, the Council of Magistrates, the Status of the Presiding Judges, the Status of the Prosecuting Judges, the 3 following Codes will be completed: the Civil Code, the Penal Code and the Criminal Procedures Code.

In the field of administration, the administrative reform has often been mentioned because we conceive it as a pressing need to put an end to the evil habits in which the people are the victims. People often do not hesitate to accuse the administrative machinery of hindering the progress of the Nation, and they regard the civil servants as people who fulfill their tasks superficially and who specialize in embezzling public funds.

Such an observation, even if it is partly correct, is only a hasty and inadequate one. I believe that the administrative machinery is, in the final analysis, a tool for the Government to use in the implementation of its policy.

The good or bad results thus obtained depend not only on whether the tool is sharp or not, but also on whether the man who handles the tool has a concrete policy or not and knows how to handle it.

In saying so I do not mean that we do not need to raise the problem of improving the administrative machinery. An unskilled worker cannot produce anything even if he has a delicate tool. Conversely, a clever worker with an old and primitive tool cannot do better.

The need for an administrative reform requires us to possess a sharp tool; however, we inherited an antiquated administrative system from the past regimes, and which was adversely affected by many political turmoils, social instability and economic difficulties.

I do not think that these turmoils, instability and difficulties have caused the administrative machinery to be irretrievably useless. In the past years, the administrative machinery has considerably contributed to the building of the nation and recently to the setting of the Democratic foundation for the era of the second Republic.

However, if we objectively analyze the situation, we must realize that, at the central as well as the local level, the administrative system is still cumbersome, complex and slow, lacks coordination, and still suffers from corrupt practices, injustice and bribery; in short it has not met the requirements of a nation which wants to free itself from the state of under-development.

In the field of local administration, in other words, at the level closest to the people, a certain number of administrative documents whose legal validity is in doubt has distorted the concept of separation and decentralization of power of the local administration, such as what concerns the authority and jurisdiction of the Government Delegates, the role and the position of the Province Chiefs vis-a-vis the central government as well as the various ministerial agencies in the provinces.

The delienation of authority between the province chief and his Deputy, between the District chief and his Deputy, has not been clarified and unified.

With regard to personnel, we must frankly admit that we lack a rational program to train and utilize the cadres, a sound personnel rotation plan, a clear-cut and just reward and punishment policy.

Art. 70 of the Constitution stipulates that a law will determine the organization and the operation of the local administration. We should not wait until the promulgation of this law before we start functioning because the circumstances do not permit us to do so. We must conceive the administrative reform as a continuous process made up of many stages. Moreover, article 114 of the Constitution concerning the assignment of the province chiefs during the first presidential term of the Republic does not allow us to prescribe now a permanent administrative formula to be applied later.

Our problem is to seek a formula to improve the administrative machinery, which enables us to implement efficiently

the policy of the central Government in accordance with the main trend of the Constituent Assembly in order to prepare for the future. This is clearly mentioned in Art. 70 of the Constitution which reads: "The principle of local separation of power is recognized for legal regional entities: villages, provinces, cities, and the Capital." Thus, according to the Constitution, the power-decentralization tendency prevails over the power-centralization tendency, as illustrated by the provision for the election of prefects and mayors, and starting from 1971, the election of province chiefs.

People have often criticized Ordinance No. 57-a, dated Oct. 24, 1966 fixing the organization of the local administration as a document which is unrealistic and which is inconsistent with the country's requirements.

I think that what should be criticized is not the Ordinance 57-a itself, but the incorrect way of implementing it. Ordinance 57-a has prescribed an appreciably flexible formula for organizing the administrative machinery which, not only is consistent with the local power decentralization principle, but also broadly harmonized with this principle.

Within the temporary framework of this legal document, the reform of the administrative system will be simultaneously conducted in two domains: organization and personnel. Although they seem to be different, these two domains are in fact closely related.

With regard to Organization:

At the Central Level - Central agencies such as: the Ministry of Interior, the Directorate General of Civil Services, the Directorate General of the Budget, the National Institute of Administration, and others should coordinate their activities within the scope of a Committee for Administrative Improvement. The composition and jurisdiction of this Committee will be properly determined so that the Committee is fully able to fulfill its tasks, which is to work out plans, carry out Government policies,

promote civil servants, etc..., the purpose is therefore aimed at avoiding the old path of previous Interministerial Committees which were considered as a graveyard for countless fine projects which were never completed.

- At the Delegates of the Central Government Level

I advocate a readjustment in the authority of all Delegates of the Central Government which are to be considered as power-separation agencies of the Central Level. I also advocate a revision in the jurisdiction and competence of the Government Delegates so that the inspection and supervision program can be more rational and effective.

- At the Prefectural, Municipal and Provincial Level

I conceive that this level is the basic support of the local administration. The constitutional principle of a local separation of power will be enforced especially at this level: increasing power and means to the prefects, provinces chiefs and mayors, at the same time, the control of Central Government upon these levels should parallelly be increased.

In order to make this level become the real delegate of the Central Government, it is needed to determine clearly and rationally the relationship between prefects, province chiefs, Mayors and the Central Government, as well as other local bureaus and offices, the role of the Ministry of Interior vis-a-vis other Ministries, and the competence of these Ministries toward the local bureaus and offices. Moreover, it is necessary to clearly define the authority and responsibilities of prefects, province chiefs, mayors, deputy prefects, deputy province chiefs, and deputy mayors.

- At the District Level

It is necessary to define the powers of the district chiefs, and deputy district chiefs, so that they can correctly fulfill their role and tasks assigned by the province chiefs and exercise their supervision over the cadres at the village and hamlet levels.

- At the Village Level

It is necessary to continue the reorganization program of the village administration which has already started last year. The purpose is aimed at realizing effectively the traditional autonomy of the villages. It is also necessary to readjust the administration at the villages situated nearby the city in order to satisfy the needs of their people and to help them to catch up with the development at the city.

With regard to Personnel

- Forming and Training Civil Servants

There will be a long-term program of forming and training civil servants effectively in quality as well as quantity. This program will be carried at all levels: central, provincial, as well as for all ranks and all branches.

Training courses and seminars will be opened for civil servants to have opportunities to exchange their experiences and to improve their efficiency thus making the administrative machinery operate smoothly and efficiently.

- Using the right man at the right place

Eliminate the cliquish and biased spirit in the appointment of chiefs. All appointments and transfers should be based upon qualifications and virtues. Eliminate also corruption and bribery.

Exercise a just reward and punishment policy through an impartial and effective inspection system in order to create a firm belief among civil servants and enhancing the competition efforts to serve people.

- Helping Civil Servants

In the face of a hike in prices, the Government will seek all means to help civil servants through the following ways: providing needed goods, selling houses on the basis of

installments, and so forth. In the above mentioned administration reformation, a great number of problems will be solved in the first six months of 1968.

On the Ethnic Development Field

The democratic spirit has been manifested through the promulgation of a separate administrative system for ethnic peoples and the establishment of 7 courts applying the traditions of the Montagnards and the Decree-law on the citizenship and landownership of the ethnic peoples. In addition, another program will be realized aiming at providing favorable conditions for the Minorities to develop in the cultural, social and economic fields.

Especially, in the first six months of 1968, the establishment of the Ethnic Council will be carried on at the same time with the census of ethnic peoples and establishment of Ethnic Development Bureau at Phuoc Tuy and Chau Doc provinces. Meanwhile, the Government will call upon the dissident Minorities to return to cooperate with the Government, and there will be a proposal Decree related to land survey and the training of ethnic compatriots for this work.

On the cultural and social aspects, the ethnic language texts books of the elementary level will be printed, along with the building of boarding schools and boarding houses. To protect and improve the lives of the ethnic groups in their villages, the Ministry of Ethnic Development will cooperate with the Ministry of Defense in reorganizing the training and use of the military forces, including ethnic youths on the Highlands.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have just reviewed the problems of ending the war and building Democracy.

They are only necessary, but not sufficient, steps to attain the final objective, that is a New, Just and Progressive Society.

In the task of reforming the society, the Government will try to create equal opportunities for every citizen so that he may benefit from the progress of mankind, promote his ability and personality and contribute efficiently in the general development.

But under the present conditions of the society, the majority of the people are leading an unstable life, deprived of comfort and lacking education; they should be particularly assisted. For this reason, in the social and economic field, the main objective of the Government is the welfare policy.

In the economic field, the Government will mobilize every effort to achieve an economy based on mass capitalism. Favorable opportunities must be given to the tiller without land, the unskilled worker, the soldier, the junior civil servant in order for them to gradually reach a prosperous life with sufficient savings to assure their future.

The realization of this economy of mass capitalism should not be viewed as a mere subsidy of the Government but as a material aid to help the citizens themselves better their lives. To realize mass capitalism is to help the lower class of the society acquire property, organize the direct participation of the majority of the people in the economic life, harmonize the individual right of free enterprise with the interest of the community. Nevertheless, to achieve mass capitalism, we must first stabilize the prices and develop the Nation's economy. In this task, the Government will utilize all the resources and potentialities of the country instead of relying totally on the valuable help of friendly Nations. The Vietnamese should play a major role in the stabilization and development of the Vietnamese economy. For this reason, the Government will ask the whole population and adequate contribution in the above effort. And at the same time, to avoid any waste, we should fully utilize all the Nation's resources so as to have the maximum efficiency.

In the field of Education, the policy of the Republic of Vietnam is to realize practical education for the mass.

This educational system does not privilege any class of citizens; instead, it aims at the majority of the people. In this spirit, the Government will try to create equal opportunities for every citizen to have at least a basic education. For this reason, the Government will enforce compulsory and free education for the children through elementary schools, and at the same time, develop the popular education to eradicate illiteracy and increase the general knowledge of the people. Education for adult people should also be considered, in order for them to have the opportunity to further their study and advance in their profession.

Besides, in order to meet the requirements of the country on the road of progress, the national education should be practical. To achieve this goal, the Government will promote community-oriented schools to enable students to adapt themselves to the community and to better serve their region later.

Our next objective is to opt for vocational rather than academic education. We should view education as a giant investment. In this context, the education should meet the demands of the society and the Nation's economy. Consequently, in addition to the basic knowledge, our education should give the youngsters professional skills right at the secondary level so that upon graduation they can fully utilize their knowledge to serve the nation more efficiently.

- In the field of Culture, the policy of the Government is to assist activities aiming at the promotion of national culture; and the Government will censor films, theater plays and novels which violate the national morals and customs.

In the field of Social Activities, the government's policy is to intensify the relief and welfare program, especially for the refugees, war victims..., to help and develop the charity agencies to enable them to operate more efficiently. However, our most pressing need is to eradicate our social plagues, to build a healthy society and lastly to create a social security system as provided by the Constitution.

In the field of Health, we need to develop public health, particularly public hygiene and preventive medicine to protect the people's health. Medical treatment should also be intensified so that even the remote areas can also benefit.

In the field of Youth, the Government will try to build a strong and healthy young generation dedicated to the Nation. The physical education and sport programs, the youth-serving-nation movements will be strongly promoted, and the Government will give basic military training to the young people to prepare for their future civic obligations.

Lastly, with regard to the Labor Class, the policy of the Government is to assist them, help them acquire property, create equal opportunities for them to advance in their profession, and establish compulsory insurance to assure their safety.

Besides, the Government must also create mutual understanding between the employers and the employees, and try to reconcile the interests of both parties in order to avoid regrettable conflicts.

Within the framework of the policy I have just outlined, we must review the economic situation in order to clearly draw and appropriate program of action.

The present economic situation stems from the past years continuing events caused by the communist aggression. Our resulting military efforts together with the presence of large numbers of Allied Forces have tilted the national balance of supply and demand.

The strong measures taken by the Government in the middle of 1966 have gradually stabilized the economic situation. In the past year, the increase of the consumer price index in Saigon was 31%, compared with 62% in 1966 and 35% in 1965, due mainly to the price increase of locally produced foods and the difficulty in transport caused by communist sabotage.

The abundant import of commodities during 1967 has been one of the most decisive factors contributing to the price stabilization. This volume of imported goods has permitted the absorption of a large part of the purchasing power, consequently, the money supply has decreased to 28% during 1967, compared with 37% during 1966 and 74% during 1965.

The export sector, on the contrary, sharply decreased. Export of rice was completely suspended, and simultaneously the value of 1967 rubber export has decreased by 50%, compared with 1966. In agriculture, the war has created many difficulties in the implementation of the Government's programs. In the past three years, more than a million people were forced to abandon their lands and seek refuge in resettlement centers and new life hamlets. Consequently, up to the end of 1967, there was a decrease of 300,000 ha. in the rice growing areas. In the period from 1964 to 1966, the rice production has decreased by 17%, and Vietnam has had to import more than 700,000 metric tons of rice in 1967.

However, despite the reduction in the size of cultivated areas, thanks to relentless efforts of the Government to induce the farmers into increasing their production by providing them with fertilizers, farm machinery, new seeds, ..., the 1967-68 crop is estimated to increase by 3% over the 1966-67 crop.

In order to provide farmers with operating funds, the Agricultural Development Bank has loaned more than 1.5 billion piasters to 100,000 farmers, up to the end of 1967.

In the field of land reform, progress was not satisfactory. Out of a total of over 1,000,000 hectares of various lands to be distributed, only 270,000 hectares have actually been distributed to the peasants, which is only 23%. Especially out of a total over 200,000 hectares of land bought from French, only 4,000 have been distributed, that is less than 2% of the total.

Industry and craft have obtained more encouraging results than Agriculture. The volume of manufactured goods has increased by 40% from 1964 to 1967. This is in part due to the considerably growing investments. In 1967, 43 enterprises with a total capital of 7, 1 billion piasters were granted investment privileges, compared with 24 firms with a total investment of 0.9 billion in 1966, an increase of more than 7 times in one year.

In the field of Public Works and Communications, the war has caused a great number of people to leave the countryside and to resettle in the cities, thus creating many unsolvable problems such as housing, roads, water, electricity and other public facilities. The supply of the Capital and the cities encountered many difficulties due to the sabotage of the roads. The air transport sector therefore had to develop rapidly.

In the context of the war, the economic development although heavily hindered had shown many signs of progress in the past years. Economic aid from more than 40 nations of the Free World has greatly helped us in building our Nation. From 1964 to 1967, total aid was estimated at 1,829 million US dollars, of which 1,778 were from the United States. This valuable aid coupled with the efforts of our people have brought to our real gross national product an increase of 11% from 1964 to 1966, and possibly an increase of 4% in 1967. The living standard of the Vietnamese people, in general, though not high, is comparable to that of other underdeveloped countries in South East-Asia.

The actual annual per capita income is estimated at 15,500 piasters (130 US Dollars).

In a society perturbed by war, the distribution of income is indeed not equitable. The majority of the people living on agriculture in the countryside, has suffered many prejudices on account of communist sabotage, while a minority pertaining to the service producing sector in cities and towns enjoyed prosperity. This has brought about a clear-cut disparity between the affluent life in the city and the austere life in the rural areas.

However, the war cannot last indefinitely. The Government not only is actively implementing a program to revive the agricultural sector but also is currently setting up long range development programs. In that connection, the Post-war Planning Group created in February of 1967 has recommended to the Government preliminary programs to develop the National Economy and to stabilize the Society in the postwar years.

Though the results obtained during last year have been encouraging, the Government foresees a difficult economic situation for 1968.

According to our preliminary estimates, the inflationary gap for 1968 will be about 27 billion piasters, increasing by 50%, compared with last year. Thus, after being temporarily curbed, the inflation will continue its growing trend this year.

In brief, the actual economy still faces many problems created by the war and the state of underdevelopment, but we will be able to overcome them if we understand the problem clearly and are determined to accept the required discipline to mobilize and fully use all the nation's potentialities. Only then, can we hope to stop the inflation which is ruining our nation's financial resources, and to soon bring our national economy out of its state of underdevelopment.

In order to cope with the economic problems listed above, the Government's program of action in 1968 will be aimed at regularizing the supply, controlling the inflation pressure to preserve the people's living standard, and concurrently realize the required investments to set up the foundation for the postwar economic development.

In this program, the Ministry of Economy will allow to import all kinds of goods without restriction in order to meet the demand, increase its control to stop all profiteering, regularize the trade between the rural areas and the cities and update the distribution of the staple products. Besides, long-range industrial planning will be carried out along with the guidance of the existing investment projects; priority ~~is~~ for industries which support the agriculture or which utilize the resources available in the country. Priority will be given in the first six months of this year for the completion of the following urgent tasks:

- simplify regulations and procedures of the import operations and profession;
- complete the census system of staple products in stock and regulate to economic information;
- abolish the unnecessary economic control checkpoints so as to speed the flow of goods;

- perfect the Cooperatives laws, and reform the management of cooperatives;
- review the operation of the General Supply Office;
- establishment the investment policy;
- coordinate the management of governmental and mixed companies;
- complete the sale to the private sector of the following governmental companies stocks, with priority given to their personnel:
 - Vietnam Sugar Company;
 - Vietnam Textile Company (SICOVINA);
 - Companies seized by the Government.

The Ministry of Agriculture will push ahead the food production with its program to increase the cultivated areas and the productivity, to provide agricultural inputs, to simplify investment and credit procedures, to assure the revenue for the farmers. As for the land reform program, the Ministry will continue to distribute all the lands which remain to be distributed, such as expropriated lands, lands acquired from the French owners, Government owned lands, and lands of the Lands Development Centers.

To begin the above program, priority will be given to the realization of the following tasks for the first six months of 1968

- plant 40,000 hectares with "Miracle Rice", a new seed which has an average yield 3 times the yield of ordinary seeds;
- import 330,000 metric tons of fertilizers, and 60,000 metric tons of corn for animal husbandry;
- produce 11 million vaccines to prevent and cure animal diseases;
- reform the role of the Agricultural Development Bank to help the tenants increase their productivity;

- undertake immediately the tasks fixed by the National Seminar on Land Reform of January 18th, 1968; especially distribute all the remaining expropriated lands, to write up decrees for distribution of 30,000 hectares of expropriated lands, to distribute the lands being cultivated by the refugees, and to distribute 40% of the total lands bought from the French.

In 1968, the Ministry of Public Works will implement a program to modernize and repair roads and bridges, to reinforce the My Thuan ferry, to reequip the zones which lack public facilities, build low-cost houses, increase the water and electricity supply to the people in the cities, carry out the rural electrification program and particularly continue the work on the My-Thuan bridge project.

The following urgent tasks will be completed by the end of July 1968:

- modernize 20km. of roads in the Gia Dinh chief town;
- complete the construction of the Binh Dien bridge, and 4 other bridges on NR No. 1 near Cam Ranh;
- increase the power production in the Capital of Saigon and in Chuong Thien, Long Khanh, Phuoc Le, Binh Tuy provinces and supply power to the Bien Hoa industrial zone;
- install water-plants in Phuoc Le and Truc Giang provinces and water supply system in the 4th and 8th precincts of Saigon;
- equip the deep wells at Vung Tau and Bao Loc to increase the drinking water supply;
- repair and maintain the Long Xuyen airport;
- build a civilian sector for Pleiku airport and a warehouse for Tan son Nhut airport.

The Ministry of Communication and Transportation will implement the following program for 1968:

- carry out the training program for all the people to use highways and respect the traffic code;
- increase public transportation facilities;
- reinforce and modernize the civil aviation installation, meteorological centers, reorganize postal delivery system, telephone network.

The emergency program of the Ministry of Communication and Transportation for the first six months of 1968 is the following:

- satisfy 100% of the requirements for air transportation, with regard to existing flights;
- inaugurate the flight between Saigon and Ba Xuyen;
- establish 3 additional postal stations, 20km. of telephone cable, distribute 7,000 telephone numbers to the population.

In 1968, the Ministry of Finance will increase its efforts to fight inflation by fully collecting all the existing taxes, increasing the revenues of the administrative agencies, and concurrently will encourage the people to cut their spendings and increase their saving.

In the first six months of 1968, the Ministry of Finance will carry out the following urgent tasks:

- amend the laws pertaining to Customs, income tax, business license tax, and registration tax;
- determine the status of Foreign PX, clubs and foreign contractors operating in Vietnam;
- control the real estate tax, income tax, traffic tax, and super-rent tax;
- put an end to the sale of smuggled goods and collect the major back taxes;
- improve accounting and financial management of the public and mixed companies;

- increase interest rate in order to encourage the savings deposited at the various banks and treasury branches;
- establish the procedure for selling to private interests the stocks of the public and mixed companies.

In the area of Culture and Education, the activities have not yet attained the desirable standard. The shortage of teachers of schools and equipment still creates difficulties, meanwhile the number of students increases constantly every year.

In higher education, every university teacher has to look after two hundred students, compared to ten or twenty students in the other modern countries.

The governmental high schools can accommodate 145,000 students, a very small number among the present estimated two million elementary school boys and girls.

At the elementary level, only the supply of 30,000 more classrooms and 35,000 more teachers can fulfill the demand of nearly 3 million school age children.

While the nation needs a great number of technicians, the technical and vocational school only occupies a very modest position.

Another great weakness roots from the lack of organization and guidance in school children and students' activities.

In order to improve the above situation, the Ministry of Education in 1968 will concentrate its efforts in developing and building more schools, in training urgently more teachers in order to fulfill the requirement of the 1968-1969 school year. The 1968 program of the Ministry of Education also consists in transferring a great number of universities out of the Capital, in building an experimental farm for the agricultural educational branch, in creating 4 new technical schools to increase the present technical students from 11,000 to 15,000. Other teacher's schools as well as secondary and elementary schools and class-rooms will be built and completed.

As for the activities from now until the end of July 1968, the urgent following tasks will be carried out:

- A large site in Thu Duc will be purchased for the Construction of new buildings for the University of Saigon.
- Major repairs and up-graded maintenance will be effected in the University of Hue.
- New buildings will be completed at the University of Can Tho.
- An experimental farm for the agricultural educational branch will be built at the Thu Duc Campus.
- The noon-classes in the congested districts of the Capital such as Ban Co, Phan dinh Phung, Tran hung Dao, will be suppressed.
- 219 classrooms for the refugee children as well as a great number of classrooms now in different New Life Hamlets will be completed.
- A special training course for 500 junior high school teachers will be organized.

In the field of Youth, besides the school children and young students, the reminder is not without importance. These youngsters lead a very individual life, having no guidance, no constructive activities. That is the reason why the Directorate of Youth is greatly concerned about channelling the energies of young people into constructive nation building activities and instituting a program of developing competitive athletic leagues in order to turn out a young, strong, disciplined, and responsible generation. In addition, the Directorate of Youth will also train a great number of instructors in Physical Education and athletic competitions in order to support and coordinate the efforts of the School and Youth Activities office.

Especially from now until the end of July the Directorate of Youth will carry out the following tasks:

- building an international swimming pool in the capital.
- establishing a Youth Guidance Activities Center at Saigon and Hue.
- establishing a camping center at Vung Tau, Dalat, Hue.
- developing youth clubs throughout 14 provinces.
- building gymnasiums at 4 secondary schools in the Capital.

In the field of Social Welfare, the most important problem is that of Refugees. By the end of 1967, the number of the refugees exceeds 2 million. Out of this number, more than 1 million have been resettled, 800,000 are temporarily sheltered.

Besides the refugees, there are also the war victims and the victims of natural disasters who need the help of the Government.

In order to solve these problems, the Ministry of Refugees and Social Welfare will institute the following program for 1968:

As for the Refugee program, the Government will provide aid for the resettlement of 30,000 families who are now temporarily sheltered, will create new refugee hamlets and continue to develop the actual refugees' hamlets, will push on the special programs at the refugees' centers such as propaganda, information and recreation program, health and education program.

As for the social assistance, the Government will improve its assistance program for the war victims and the victims of natural disasters for the poor, the old and the disabled persons, will create and subsidize social agencies such as orphanages, kindergarten, homes for the aged, low-cost restaurants.

To improve the living standard and to eradicate the social plagues, the Government will start a campaign for community

health, will establish a community development program, build new low-cost housing for the poor people in those provinces most affected by the destruction of war. The government will also plan the building of low renting-rate apartments for the poor people working in the Capital.

Besides, the Ministry of Social Welfare will also strive to suppress the social plagues such as mendicity, juvenile delinquency, prostitution, particularly in the Capital. Especially from now until the end of July, the urgent following tasks will be carried out:

- 100 refugees' centers will be built.
- Public utilities will be provided for 350 existing centers and 100 new centers.

In the area of Health, in spite of the Government's efforts, the ratio is not yet 2 beds for every thousand inhabitants. The total number of doctors is 250, which means one doctor for 64,000 inhabitants. While there are still very few health technicians and the national demand is increasing constantly, the supply of trained personnel is slow and very insufficient.

The medical supply is barely sufficient, thanks to the generous aid of our allied countries, but our means of evacuation of the wounded war victims are not adequate. The general level of Public Health is not very optimistic because of the lack of technicians in this area, lack of security in the rural regions and also because of the rather new aspects of this branch.

In order to cope with the above situation, the government plan for 1968 is:

- Hospital improvement program by repairing and providing more construction commodities and facilities in the too small and too old hospitals, by building a new medical training center with 600 beds at the site of the former Nguyen van Hoc Hospital, by completing the construction of a 500-bed-hospital at Danang.

- Expansion of preventive medicine by establishing an National Institute for Public Health, by concentrating special efforts on different projects for controlling communicable diseases.

As for the rural medicine, the Ministry will practice the "oil spread" policy by increasing "mobile health teams" first in the secure regions, then in the less secure ones, then right in the embattled areas.

These teams will also be backed by new waves of district trainees, by the improved system of medical supply, by the construction of new commodities at different districts and hamlets.

From the various projects of the 1968 program, the following tasks will be carried out and fulfilled in six months:

- Construction and putting in operation 4 "T.B." (Tuberculosis) hospitals at Saigon and Khanh Hoi.
- Reorganization of 22 hospitals in the Capital and provinces.
- Expansion of the immunization campaigns against the communicable and infectious diseases.
- Establishing the National Institute for Public Health.

The war veterans, including the discharged soldiers, the war invalids, their dependents such as wives, children, parents, constitute a real problem to the Government. Most of them are not well-to-do or highly educated and have no special profession to earn their own living. From 1961 until now the number of dead soldiers exceeds 60,000. As a result, 25,000 widows and more than 100,000 orphans are in need.

In addition, more than 30,000 soldiers have been discharged, among them 18,000 are receiving disabled's allowance, 10,000 are receiving retirement pension or discharge pay from 1964 to 1967.

Although the Government has from 1964 to 1967 thrice increased the retirement pension and compensation benefits, the amount of the allowance cannot keep up with the present cost of living.

In order to improve the above situation, the Ministry will focus its attention on:

- promptly providing retirement pension and compensation benefits.
- educating the orphans of our dead soldiers.
- expanding the vocational training and rehabilitation program.
- establishing two orthopedic centers in Danang, Qui Nhon, renovating the Cantho center, and creating a Physical Rehabilitation Center, a Blind Rehabilitation Center in Saigon.

Besides, the Ministry for Veterans Affairs will plan to build the Wards of the Nation School at Danang, to expand the Vocational Training Program at the Wards of the Nation School in Saigon, to create more classrooms at different schools in Hue, Can Tho and Da Nang. In the goal of vocational training for war veterans, the Ministry will renovate the Vocational Training Center at Cat Lai with 500 trainees in each session. The Ministry will at the same time improve the job placement service and coordinate with our allied organizations in order to establish other Vocational Training classes outside the above mentioned centers.

Especially in the first six months, the following tasks will be carried out:

- Study the various measures aiming at increasing the amount of retirement pension and compensation benefits in accordance with the present cost of living, and thus raising the living standard of the war veterans.
- Begin to pay the retirement pension to the Regional Forces

and other compensation benefits to the Popular Forces and the Revolutionary Development Cadres.

- Expand the vocational training classes for the discharged veterans.
- Improve their production agencies and establish an Institute for the Wards of the Nation.

The last important problem is Labor. The rapid expansion of the labor unions has caused some draw backs in their organization and management. Since there is not yet a sincere cooperation between the employers and employees, the labor conflicts are not always easily settled in the spirit of the respect of Law.

The war not only causes the lack of skilled labor but it also brings about an increased number of foreign workers. To cope with this situation, the Government program will aim at training more labor union cadres, at training the workers in their profession to improve their skill, at increasing the control of factories on matters of hygiene, health, work safety, and at completing and making public the labor laws.

Especially during the first 6 months of 1968, the following urgent tasks will be performed:

- follow up the establishment of a health record program and the physical examination before recruitment and periodically thereafter for every worker.
- study the creation of Health and Work Safety Committees in the factories employing 50 or more workers.
- complete the election of over 3,000 workers' delegates, organize seminars and training courses on industrial management relations, assisting employers and employees, help the employers and employees write up industrial contracts.
- create 2 more placement offices in Da Nang and Bien Hoa and some mobile placement services, organize 14 vocational training courses in Saigon and in 10 other provinces,

setting up an office of foreign workers aimed at controlling and limiting the number of foreign workers in order to protect the interest of the Vietnamese workers.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have just presented to you the actual situation in Vietnam, the national policy and the program of action for 1968 as well as the urgent tasks in the first half of the year.

I shall now explain the proposed budget for fiscal year 1968* required for the implementation of the above mentioned programs.

The preparation of this budget was urged by two contradictory considerations:

The first one is the pressure of the war. The ever increasing expenditures for Defense and Pacification have seriously perturbed the economy of the country. On one hand, the Government must intensify its war efforts and efforts to preserve the national security, on the other, it must draft manpower and resources from other areas to support the above efforts and concurrently to fight the inflationary pressures caused by the war. The 1968 budget has been prepared in accordance with the anti-inflation program begun since the devaluation of the piaster on June 18, 1966.

The second consideration is the need for economic development. We cannot just focus on the present with its fierce war raging on, and not have in mind the reconstruction and development of the Nation once peace is restored.

* The GVN fiscal year begins 1 January and ends December 31.

Considering the above, I shall successively point out the highlights of the estimated expenditures and revenues of the proposed budget.

The total estimated expenditures for 1968 is 95 billion piasters. Compared with 83 billions in 1967, there is an increase of 12 billions. The rate of increase of the estimated 1968 expenditures is 14%, compared to 51% in 1967.

To point out the relative importance of our Nation's programs at the present time, the expenditures can be classified as follows:

- Expenditures related to the war, such as Defense, Security...
- Expenditures reserved for Cultural, Economic and Social programs.
- Expenditures for the various reconstruction and development programs.

The expenditures related to the War increase by 14 billions or 28%.

These allocations take up 66% of the total estimated expenditures of the 1968 budget, compared with 58% in 1967. This increase aims at strengthening the Armed Forces of the Republic of Vietnam with an additional 68,000 soldiers and about 3,000 civilian employees. Besides, all training, logistics, psychological warfare programs will be strongly carried out to create favorable conditions for the efforts to preserve national security and restore Peace.

The 1968 estimated Cultural, Economic and Social Expenditures increase by 3.8 billions or 26%. They take up 20% of the total expenditures of the 1968 budget, compared with 18% in 1967.

In this domain, we have first to consider the Cultural and Education, and the Health branches. Our main objective is to develop agencies, train more technicians and cadres of all levels to broaden our activities in the cities as well as in the rural areas, especially those concerning technical education, popular education, and rural health.

Next, are the economic and financial programs. Their importance does not reflect in the funds allocated to the concerned ministries but in the investment or development projects undertaken with private capital, and under the guidance of these Ministries.

The credits allocated to the various Reconstruction and Development programs increase by 2 billions, or 25%, as compared with the 1967 figures.

The expenditures take up 10% of the total estimated expenditures in 1968, as was the case in 1967.

The allocations for this year's Revolutionary Development program increase by 76% over 1967. The main objectives of this program are to continue to gather the people and build hamlets. 800 additional New Life Hamlets and 1,600 pacified Hamlets will be completed in 1968.

The continuing war raises many urgent social problems which are solved through various urgent or long-range programs of the Ministry of Refugees and Social Welfare. The increase in spending mostly concerns the Government's projects to resettle permanently about 400,000 refugees in the coming year. Besides, there are the programs, both political and social, of the Ministries of Open-Arms and Ethnic Development. All these programs aim at restoring a normal life in the national community for ethnic minorities and returnees. Through the 1968 estimated military and civilian expenditures, the Government shows its determination to:

- Strengthen the fighting efforts of the whole people.
- Reduce to the minimum all administrative operating expenditures.
- Set up the foundation for the reconstruction and development programs in the postwar years.

I shall hereafter present the estimated revenues of the proposed Budget.

Total revenues for 1968 are estimated at 70 billion piasters; compared with 66 billion in 1967 there is an increase of 4 billion. The rate of increase of the 1968 estimated revenues is 6%, a very small increase compared with the 73% increase of 1967.

These estimated revenues consist of 44 billion, from the National resources and 26 billions from the Counterpart Funds.

With regard to the National resources, compared with the 36 billion piasters revenues in 1967, the estimated 1968 revenues increase by 8%.

The majority of these revenues are brought about by imports: custom duties added with perequation taxes amount to 22 billion piasters, that is 50% of the total revenues from the National resources. Progress in the collection of other taxes is not satisfactory.

As for Revenues from the Counterpart Funds, the Commercial Import Program will bring to the Counterpart Funds an estimated revenue of 26 billion piasters. This figure has decreased by 4 billion compared with 1967, because in fiscal year 1968 the imports under American Aid program tend to decrease while the imports with GVN dollars are increasing.

It is worth mentioning that this is the first time since 1962 that the estimated revenues from the national resources, with a record ratio of 63%, exceeds the revenues from the Counterpart Funds which represent only 37% of the total budget revenues.

To sum up, with the total estimated expenditures at 95 billion piasters and the total estimated revenues at 70 billion piasters, the net deficit of the 1968 national budget will be 25 billion piasters.

Compared with the 17 billion piasters gap of 1967, this year's budget deficit is too high. This recalls the 1965 gap of 26.7 billion piasters which caused a serious inflation in the first months of 1966 and which forced the Government to decide the devaluation of the piaster.

Under the actual circumstances, the Government cannot cut any spendings which will lessen the war efforts; all other expenditures have already been reduced to the minimum level.

As for Budget Revenues, despite all the Government efforts to fully collect the existing taxes, the revenues from the National Resources do not even make up half of the total Budget expenditures.

All of us must accept still more sacrifices and contribute more to our national expenditures in order to gradually reestablish the Budget equilibrium.

During this fiscal year, the Government will probably have to submit to the National Assembly to vote on a certain number of measures aiming at increasing Budget Revenues to cope with the heavy inflationary pressures in order to avoid the necessity of resorting to the extreme solution of devaluating the piaster once more.

I am convinced that you are all well aware of the general economic and financial situation, and that you will, without delay, pass the entire Budget I have just presented in order to enable the Government to implement immediately its program of action. Furthermore, I also wish that you would respond to the Government's proposals and explain clearly to your constituents that the task of stabilizing the economy is not the sole responsibility of the Government but also a common duty of all the people to safeguard the national economy.

Mr. President of the Senate,
Mr. President of the House,
Distinguished Senators and Representatives,

I have made a frank and factual report on the problems related to the actual situation of the country, the National Policy, the Government's program of actions, and the proposed budget for 1968 as well as its explanation. In order to strictly implement this program of action so as

to deal with the difficult situation of our country, the Government must have the means, and the most urgent and vital one is the budget. Therefore, I ask the National Assembly to approve the proposed budget for fiscal year 1968 in a short period of time in order for the Government to carry out immediately its planned programs.

The Government is fully aware of the national situation; it is also conscious of its responsibility as well as the dangers and results of inflation when it submits the Budget. The first draft has shown 113 billion for the expenditures. The Executive power has had to reduce sharply the expenditures to arrive at the actual figure. With such a strict proposal, any further cut will make it impossible for us to avoid the disastrous influences on the nation's activities.

Furthermore, because of the war, the economic and social situation of the country is still experiencing many difficulties and challenges, thus requiring timely and efficient measures. Depending on the circumstances, the Government will likely ask the National Assembly to approve a certain number of proposals aiming at reforming the fiscal system, the objective of which is to guarantee the economic and social stabilization and development.

Concerning the problem of ending the war, the Government urges the National Assembly to respond favorably to the efforts in mobilizing financial and human resources so as to soon restore peace to the nation.

Finally, to materialize the aspirations for a truly democratic life of the whole population, the Government asks the National Assembly to lend a hand to the Executive power in achieving the democratic institutions as prescribed by the Constitution. In that spirit, the Government will draft the bills concerning the status of political parties, the status of the press to forward to the National Assembly in the days to come. Bills concerning the Supreme Court, the Inspectorate, the Council of Magistrates, the Council of Economic and Social Affairs, the Council of Cultural and Educational Affairs, the Council of Ethnic Minorities will also successively be sent to the National Assembly.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The success or failure of the national objectives do not depend entirely on the Government or the Executive power, but also on you as representatives of the Legislative, as well as the entire population.

I believe in your strong patriotism, and I eagerly expect a close cooperation between the Legislative and Executive in order for us to gather more strength and reduce difficulties in our first steps toward building Democracy. I strongly urge the understanding and the sense of duty of all groups and classes, the Army, the People, the Cadres, the Government so as to soon achieve our task to safeguard and rebuild the nation. I earnestly call upon the understanding and the support of all the people in the Free World to share the sufferings and sacrifices that we have to endure for our Independence and Freedom. Furthermore, I ask them to give us full support and help us in our Mission to assure the survival of Vietnam and to contribute to the consolidation of world peace.

Let us pray for an independent, unified, democratic, progressive, and ever lasting Vietnam fatherland.

Thank you.

ADDRESS OF PRESIDENT NGUYEN VAN THIEU
BEFORE THE JOINT SESSION OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
9 February 1968

Mr. President of the Senate;
Mr. President of the House;
Distinguished Senators and Representatives;
Ladies and Gentlemen;

I am very pleased to come here today once again to present to you the situation of our country in the past few days.

I have always liked to present the truth, to put forward all my findings with a full sense of responsibility, and honestly propose to you what I consider as useful for the nation and for me to fulfill my mission. On the other hand, I shall always frankly and cooperatively welcome any recommendations to the Government from the National Assembly.

I have always thought that, whether we are the Executive or Legislative powers, we both are the organisms of a unique Republic of Vietnam. Whether Executive or Legislative, we are carrying the mandate of the Nation, and we are also responsible for the survival of the Nation in this critical stage of our history. All of us should be brave to accept our responsibility and actively support each other in order to fulfill our mission.

I should remark here that on February 3, the Presidents of the Senate and the House cooperated with us to review the situation and decide on very urgent measures to cope effectively with the situation. And in the following days, the Secretariats of the two Houses along with the Senators and Representatives as individuals leaders of political groups, chairmen of committees, have shown a strong understanding and cooperation with the Executive branch. They have strongly condemned the Communist activities, warmly supported our efforts and the anti-communist spirit of the people, encouraged the soldiers; and made many constructive and useful recommendations. I sincerely praise your actions. I think that you have contributed much in the big and decisive victories that our Armed Forces and our people have gained and shall continue to gain in the future. I shall present to you now, all the events in the past few days, the measures that the Executive branch have implemented and the actions being carried out so that you and the people can be fully aware.

Mess. Presidents,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

In my State of the Nation message before the National Assembly on January 25, 1968 I made the following remark concerning the general situation:

"When the Regional Forces cannot support efficiently the guerillas and when the main core units are isolated from the Regional Forces their mutual

support no longer exists, thus their general offensive can no longer be realized.

But I also warned you of a final effort of the Communists to use all their propaganda means, and along with the military efforts which had taken place in the first days of Tet south of the Demilitarized Zone and some places in the Highlands, they have increased their mortar attacks at the utmost in many places throughout the territory.

I also remarked that:

"Until North Vietnam has to bow totally to decide whether to negotiate or end the war, they still are able to increase their Military and sabotage efforts, at least in the course of this year."

There are two reasons for the Communists' actions, one is that they can no longer achieve a total military and political victory, and the other is that they are forced to the point where they should end the war. Thus, the problem is that they do not want to end the war in total defeat, but they must have at least some victories to use as bargains at the negotiation table.

For this reason the Communists decided to launch a general offensive leading to a general uprising at a time they thought as most favorable.

Before launching the "general offensive" during the Tet truce, the enemy has initiated the battle at the Demilitarized Zone by marshalling several NVA Divisions, threatening the Khe-Sanh and Quang-Tri area, and determining to obtain a military victory in this area.

After returning from my visit to this region, I have presented that situation in my Tet address to the Vietnamese People.

- In only one day, January 29, the Communists have violated 37 times the truce they themselves proposed.

- At the same time, evidence showed that the NVA had really prepared to attack the provinces south of the Demilitarized Zone, especially the area around Khe-Sanh and the Laotian border; they also reinforced their supply to support the attack.

- So, the Government of Vietnam and its allies decided effective January 29, not to observe the Tet truce in I Corps Area and the territory south of the city of Vinh.

- In fact, the Communists launched their "general offensive" in I and II Corps Areas during the night of January 29, and in the Capital City, the III and IV Corps Areas during the night of January 30, aiming primarily at seizing power at the local level, and then seizing power throughout South Vietnam.

Following is the development of the situation in various Corps since January 29: During the night of January 29, the aggressors shelled and attacked simultaneously a number of our provincial chief towns and airports in I and II Corps Areas.

They have infiltrated into, and attacked, the cities of Kontum, Qui-Nhon, Pleiku, Nha-Trang, Darlac, Hoi-An, and at the same time shelled the airport of Da-Nang, the 23rd Division Hqs. at Ban-Me-Thuot, the 24th Special Sector Hqs. at Kontum.

The above facts have shown that the Communists have violated the Tet truce, with premeditation and preparation. After the Communists' attack against the civilian population, the Government of Vietnam and its allies were forced to cancel completely the truce, effective 3 p.m. January 30 throughout the territory.

In conjunction with their activities in I and II Corps Areas during the night of January 30, the enemy began to infiltrate into and attacked the Capital City, the Chief towns in III and IV Corps Areas.

At about 2 a.m. January 30, the enemy simultaneously infiltrated into, attacked, and shelled a number of civilian and military installations, such as the Tan Son Nhut Air Base, the Joint General Staff Hqs., the Navy Hqs., the Artillery camp at Go-Vap, Quang-Trung Training Center, the Armor Camp, the Saigon Radio Station, the Independence Palace, the U.S. Embassy, etc...

In the III Corps Area, the enemy has shelled the 3rd Corps Hqs. at Bien Hoa, the Bien Hoa Air Base, the Long Binh Camp, the 25th Division Hqs. at Hau Nghia, the Trang Bang District. They also infiltrated into the provincial chief towns of Binh Duong and Phuoc Tuy.

In the IV Corps Area, the enemy has shelled, attacked, or infiltrated into the provincial chief towns of My Tho, Rach Gia, Soc Trang, Can Tho, An Xuyen, Vinh Long, Kien Hoa, Vinh Binh and Chau Doc.

While the enemy deployed their efforts in the Capital City, the III Corps and IV Corps Areas, they also attacked and shelled, in the I Corps Area, the Duy Xuyen District (Quang Nam), the 1st Division Hqs. at Hue, the Dong Da Training Center at Phu Bai, the 7th Armor Regiment at An Gue, the 3rd Infantry Regiment located at North of Hue, the Non Nuoc Airport (Quang Nam), the outpost at the Hai Van Pass, Quang Ngai City, the Tam Ky District, the 6th Infantry Regiment Hqs, the Sub-Sectors of Quang Tri, Darlac, Kontum and Pleiku.

On February 1, the enemy attacked the provincial chief towns of Binh Duong, Ba Ria, and maintained their pressures on Pleiku, Kontum, Chau Doc, Thua Thien and Darlac.

This has been the development of the enemy's major activities during the first 3 days of the Communist's "general offensive".

During the days which followed, the enemy's activities decreased and were no longer impetuous and coordinated as seen in the first 3 days.

However, the enemy tried to maintain their pressures on Hue; they desperately defended the area inside the "Citadelle", burned the POL depot, occupied the city jail, released 2000 prisoners and destroyed one span of the Truong Tien Bridge. At the same time, the Communists increased their shelling and harassing in the IV Corps Area where Route No. 4 was damaged in several locations.

On February 5, the Khe Sanh Camp was again under enemy attack.

On February 7, the Communists utilized, for the first time, armored vehicles originating from the Laotian territory and attacked the CIDG Camp at Lang Vei on route No. 9, near the Khe Sanh Camp. In the afternoon of February 7, the Lang Vei Camp was lost to the enemy.

As of this morning, in several areas of the territory, the enemy still continued their shelling on a certain number of our installations.

In Hue, our armed forces and our allies have reoccupied most of the important installations; the enemy's activities were reported to be sporadic and only in the outskirts of the city.

In Saigon, the mop-up operations are continuing successfully.

In summary, the enemy's "general offensive" plan has completely been broken by our armed forces and our people, due to the quick and effective reaction of our friendly and allied forces and also due to the valuable cooperation of the population. Our friendly and allied forces continually launched their operations to sweep, pursue and destroy the enemy, inflicting heavy casualties to them in all fields and pushing them out of towns and cities.

However, because of their military defeat, the enemy dispersed themselves into small groups; concealed in populated areas to shell us and to continue their sniper fire; destroyed public facilities such as bridges, power plants, hospitals; burned the population's houses in the cities and in the refugees' camps, in order to cause maximum damage to the civilian population before their withdrawal.

The cumulative casualty figures for the period January 29 - February 9 are as follows:

Friendly forces.

	<u>ARVN and National Police</u>	<u>Allied</u>	<u>Total</u>
Killed	1609	741	2350
Wounded	4987	3883	8870
Missing	128	3	131
Weapons lost	404		404

Enemy forces.

Killed	25.436
Detained	5.911
Returnees	16
Weapons lost	6.944

If we analyze the enemy's activities during the past days, we observe that their "general offensive" plan had been prepared a long time ago, aiming at the following military and political objectives:

The main military objective of the Communists was to achieve a "general offensive" leading to a "general uprising".

But since their main military objective was not obtained, they are now aiming at their secondary objective which is to support the guerilla organizations in the areas surrounding the cities, and to use the guerillas to pin down our forces.

Their military objective was also to expand their controlled areas, to diminish ours, in order to collect more resources for their war needs on one hand, and to blockade the economy in the cities, on the other.

The main political objective of the Communists is an uprising of the population, aiming at overthrowing our constitutional Government in order to establish a so-called "revolutionary" government which advocated the withdrawal from South Vietnam of U.S. and Free World Forces, and the negotiation with the NLF to impose the total domination of Communist Hanoi on South Vietnam. This "revolutionary" government is hidden behind a "Unified Front for the People for Democracy and Peace" that the Communists had begun to establish at Hue and Saigon immediately after the Tet truce aggression.

The enemy's plan consists of two phases:

Phase 1: To use Commando groups, sabotage groups, in combination with the militia, to attack and occupy secretly and surprisingly our strategic administrative and military headquarters and our radio stations, if they exist.

Phase 2: To use radio broadcasting and armed propaganda groups in order to instigate the population for mass manifestations whose scheme is peace, coalition and overthrow of the government while their main regular and regional forces complete the military objectives. The Communists also advocated the arming of the population in the cities in order that their "general offensive" had the nature of an uprising movement of the population against the government. The Communists also aimed primarily at attacking the GVN and ARVN, and only had the intention to pin down our allied forces in their actual positions by shelling and harassing actions.

The Communist Plan has been carried out by the enemy who adopted the following strategy and tactics:

Strategy: Employ all available forces to attack at all places, in the view of:

- Forcing the friendly forces to defend Saigon and the provincial chief towns.
- Seizing the power in some localities, if possible, to create conditions of negotiation.
- Annihilating our Revolutionary Development program.

Tactics:

- Secretly infiltrate weapons and ammunitions into Saigon and provincial chief towns on the occasion of Tet.
- Commando and sabotage units, dispersed into small groups, infiltrated by all means into the marshalling areas where they received weapons and immediately attacked the assigned targets.
- Occupy the above targets by raids or strong attacks. Defend and wait for reinforcement, then attack again.
- If the Communists fail in both phases 1 and 2, they shell and commit sabotage to withdraw.

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The Communist's error in the "general offensive".

The Communists have misjudged that the actual situation is "riper than ever" for them to launch a "general offensive" and incite a "general

uprising" of the population.

The reason for this is, on one hand, the Communists thought that the population was ready to listen to their propaganda and, on the other hand, they have miscalculated our fighting potential. Because of those serious and basic errors, the Communists have failed badly in their general offensive scheme. The facts have shown that our armed forces have courageously fought and broken the back of their general offensive and at the same time the population has demonstrated their anti-communist spirit and their non-cooperation with the enemy; instead, the population has closely cooperated with the government and the armed forces.

In brief, defeated in their scheme of a general offensive and a general uprising, the enemy is now forced to withdraw its main forces from the cities. But they will unfold their conspiracy to support, organize, and arm the guerillas in order to pin down our main forces. They might maintain a number of units to help the guerillas harass the cities and shrink our controlled areas, and blockade our economy.

The enemy main forces might repeat their attacks in order to forge advantageous positions whereby they reserve the initiative. At the same time, they will pin down and gradually destroy our forces, secure and widen their controlled areas, block our pincer strategy, namely the search-and-destroy operations and the Revolutionary Development Program.

In conjunction with the above activities, the enemy might launch an armed insurgency in the rural areas. The guerillas, with the help of their local forces, will simultaneously attack the districts, hamlets, and New Life Hamlets. This "point" - and - "faces" strategy will be carried out by Communists in a selected number of weak provinces or vital bases.

In summary, after the failure of their general offensive, the enemy will:

First, maintain guerillas around the cities, so as to continue their shelling, harassing, and propaganda, and also to pin down a number of our units. At the same time they will try at the utmost to destroy the communication links to create difficulties to our supply system and our economy.

Second, launch some all-out battles, possibly in the Demilitarized Zone, the Highlands, in order to obtain some important military victories which might be used as political pressure. If they can not succeed, they will at least be able to pin down a sizeable number of our units and allied forces in the areas far from the populated delta, forcing us to abandon other places, and creating difficulties for our Revolutionary Development Program.

Third, try to reoccupy a part of the rural areas which they have lost to our Revolutionary Development Program in the past few years, in order to have resources and manpower to replace their combat losses and to continue

the fighting.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

During the recent general offensive of the Communists the population have suffered heavy casualties.

The inhumane aim of the Communists was to invade the populated areas, herd the population and use them as shield for their attacks or their retreat, fight from house to house in order to cause the destruction of the population's properties and raise difficulties for the Government.

Our Armed Forces were particularly cautious in preserving the lives and properties of the population and kept a slow pace of progression in order to avoid unnecessary and excessive destruction.

However, to counter the inhumane destruction of the Communists who set fire to the houses and took advantage of the confusion to retreat, or opened fire onto the population, our Armed Forces had to resort to drastic measures to expel them out of the populated areas in order to protect the lives of the soldiers and the population.

As of the afternoon of February 8, the interim record of civilian casualties in 31 provinces and the Capital is:

- 3,071 dead
- 7,945 wounded
- 189,650 refugees
- 21,089 houses heavily damaged
- 1,500 houses lightly damaged.

The casualties figures for the Saigon-Gia Dinh area stand at 129,008 refugees, 9,000 houses heavily damaged. The most heavily hit areas are: Pham The Hien (8th Precinct), Rach Lo Gom (7th Precinct), Binh Thien (6th Precinct).

So far, Kien Hoa province has suffered the most. However, we cannot yet assess the damages of Thua Thien and Hue.

Besides the above civilian casualties, the soldiers' families living in dependents quarters in the Saigon-Gia Dinh area (Xom Moi - Go Vap) and the other cities have been mercilessly murdered by the Communists.

As examples of the blood-thirsty Communists' barbarism we can cite the case of two armor officers and their families:

- Lieutenant-Colonel Huynh Ngoc Diép, his old mother, wife, and two children;

- Lieutenant-Colonel Nguyen Tuan, his wife and six children, have been assassinated to the last without regards to innocent children.

- Moreover, the interim record shows 360 military dependents dead and 400 wounded, over 1,000 military houses burned. In most places the destruction was total.

Following are the measures that the Government had taken in order to protect the lives and properties of the population:

a/ Martial Law has been promulgated over the whole territory of the Republic of Vietnam.

b/ The Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces and police together with the Allied Forces have strongly and successfully counter-attacked in the Capital and the cities under Communist attack. At the present time the Republic of Vietnam and Allied Forces are in control of the situation everywhere.

c/ There still are a number of Communists scattered in the populated areas keeping on terrorizing, assassinating, indoctrinating the population and burning houses; our forces must therefore carefully clear every block, every hamlet in order to gradually bring back order and reduce as much as possible the damages to the population.

d/ The population in the fighting zones have been evacuated to secure areas with the active help of the civilian organizations such as the Red Cross, the religious, civic action, popular, youth, students groups.

e/ Providing the refugees with shelter, medical assistance and supply.

f/ Shortening the curfew hours progressively in order to bring back a normal life to the cities.

g/ Restricting traffic by day and night, and in the areas where the Communists are still hiding:

- Control traffic and pedestrians.

- Prohibit any gatherings and strikes.

- Close the public recreation facilities.

- In Gia Dinh alone except for the center of town, the 24 hour curfew is still in effect.

- Thanks to the strict control measures and the discipline of the population, security and order have been quickly restored.

h/ Moreover, with the support and cooperation of the population, the Armed Forces and police have arrested an important number of hiding communists and seized many weapons.

Using the Open Arms policy, the Government has exhorted through propaganda leaflets the Communists to come back to the National side.

i/ Security measures being enforced:

- Restrict the traffic from outside into the Capital, control the people in the streets;
- Continue the search and clear operations and police operations in the areas where suspected Communists are still hiding.
- Continue the military operations to relieve the enemy pressure on the Capital and cities under Communist attack (Hue - Dalat).

j/ Measures in order to preserve security:

On account of the situation, the military authorities have been given the power to enforce the necessary measures to protect public security and order. Therefore, there are many restrictions on traffic, gathering, public recreation and the freedom of the press. Civilians must turn all weapons and ammunitions into the Authorities, infringements of national order and security will be dealt with by the Military Courts under emergency procedure. However, thanks to the gradual restoration of security, the curfew hours have been shortened depending on the areas. If the population cooperates in soon restoring total security, the Government will progressively lift the above restrictions and end the Martial Law enforced on the whole country.

Committee for the Relief of War Victims.

On February 3, 1968 I have signed a decree establishing the Committees for the Relief of War Victims on the central as well as the regional level, and the Vice-President has been appointed to organize and direct those Committees.

In the Corps areas, the Capital, the provinces and cities, upon necessity, a local Committee will be formed.

The assignments of these Committees are:

- immediate relief for the war victims;
- help them back to a normal life;
- solve the supply problem;

- reinforce the self-defense system of the population.

As of February 9, 1968, 31 out of the 48 provinces and cities (except the Capital) have formed local Committees, and started operation.

War victims relief and refugee operations:

As of yesterday afternoon, the refugees figures are:

- 63,954 in 52 temporary shelters for the Saigon area;
- 65,554 in 24 temporary shelters in Gia Dinh;

In every temporary shelter, there are RD, Civic Action, Medical, Information and Psy-War cadres living right with the refugees to assist them.

In the future more refugee camps will be created depending on the needs. As of yesterday afternoon the total of funds and materials provided by the relief and Social Welfare Ministry to the relief centers in the whole country, amounts to:

- 46,000,000 piasters;
- 2,004 tons of rice;
- 27,158 mats;
- 7,450 blankets;
- 24,967 condensed milk cans;
- 34,483 cans of fish;
- 8,000 cans of meat;
- 7,348 liters of nuoc-mam;
- 3,224 cooking sets;

The official and private organizations in response to the Government appeal have sent to the Relief and Social Welfare Ministry 1,495,195 piasters and goods such as rice, cloth, used garments.

To the population of the Capital, water is an essential daily need and the Government has succeeded in maintaining the water supply.

With regards to the food supply, the stocks of staple products such as

rice, sugar, meat, will last 2 to 3 months.

With regards to public health, in the Saigon - Gia Dinh area, the medical organisations have vaccinated over 10,000 people, sprayed DDT at the refugees' temporary shelter, purified drinking water for the Capital.

The Information and Psy-War efforts have been pushed at a fast pace; 25,000,000 leaflets of all sorts have been dropped including proselyting leaflets for enemies and civilians. 105 arial information broadcast sorties were made.

Although the National Broadcasting Center had been heavily damaged by the Communist attack and is under repair, the radio broadcast all over the country is being assured through the National and Armed Forces Network and the population all over the country is regularly informed.

The few local radio stations which had momentarily ceased broadcasting in the first days have now resumed operations.

Mess. Presidents,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have just presented to you the Communist activities and conspiracies as well as our measures to cope with them. Throughout this presentation you have realized that in the actual challenge we are in full control of the situation. Here also you can realize that the Communists have used up all their available capability and unfold all their cruel plans with the hope to force advantageous positions in the military and political fields.

To cope with such an impetuous and fierce enemy, we should use up all our energy and enforce all measures considered as essential to assure success.

With regard to our efforts, we have gained good results in the past few days. As for spirit, the Executive and Legislative powers, the whole population, the Government and the Army, all have shown a unanimous and closed solidarity. Concerning our capability, all groups and classes of the society have contributed all their energy in the common effort of the nation, from destroying the enemy by weapons to encouraging and assisting the victims of war.

Concerning the measures which were enforced, you have realized that the Government had to strongly implement all the measures considered as essential but, also the Government had to restrain itself into applying only the measures considered as indispensable in dealing with the enemy.

As I have told you and the people many times, our situation is extremely critical. We have to fight the Communists to safeguard Independence and

Freedom but we also have to build at any cost a truly democratic regime. Though they are related, the two duties mentioned above differ in many points. Our anticommunist movement will be useless if we cannot build a free and truly democratic regime. On the other hand, if we let ourselves be tied by the perspective of Democracy and Freedom, if we dare not implement the appropriate measures, then the Communists will exploit it as a useful means for them to expand their aggression and terror campaigns, thus bringing the danger of a Communist dictatorship nearer to us and rendering impossible a true Democracy and Freedom.

The Government itself had fully realized those difficulties, and for that reason, it had both to be energetic and to restrain itself. However, I am deeply encouraged when I realize that the Senators and Representatives are fully aware of that critical situation. In the heavy task of dealing with the actual critical situation, I am very confident due to your understanding, support, and frank cooperation in the first minutes and throughout the past few days. Until now, all the Communists' efforts have failed in all places. However, the result of this offensive can still be felt for a long time. As I have pointed out, the Communists are still able to repeat their conspiracy in 1968. In the face of this situation, I believe that the understanding and cooperation of all the powers and groups of the Nation, particularly between the Executive and Legislative powers, need to be consolidated and developed so as to be increasingly lasting and strong. I strongly urge all of us to contribute the most of our efforts in consolidating and developing this spirit of understanding and cooperation.

I sincerely expect the cooperation between the Executive and Legislative powers, first as a moral support in principle and last materialized into legislative acts, with a decisive and direct influence on the situation.

The cruel and reckless attacks of the Communists have shown us more clearly the immediate dangers which need to be solved; and they also show us the demands we should fulfill.

For this reason, the Government had to decide immediately on a number of Security measures aiming at dealing energetically and directly with the situation, preventing the disaster from spreading, and also at protecting the people effectively and safeguarding the national order and security.

Those measures are a strict minimum for a war time; they were not fully enforced in the past because the situation did not necessitate a strict enforcement.

Apparently, they somewhat violate the rights of Freedom and Democracy. However, the reality of the past days makes us realize that if we do not have those measures, the situation will become so critical that it will

be hard to reassert our control.

All of us strongly believe and actively fight for Freedom and Democracy, but, above all, we need to safeguard this Nation, and to maintain our constitutional regime. If we cannot safeguard the Nation or maintain our constitutional regime, and if we let the Communists unfold their conspiracy, then all the proclamations on Freedom and Democracy will simply be useless.

As I have presented, the Government will strongly enforce every necessary measure, but it also will strictly restrain itself applying the essential measures to a sufficient degree in dealing with the situation. It is in that spirit that the measures mentioned above have been decided upon.

And I am once more deeply encouraged by the unanimous approval of the Senate and the House.

I am fully aware that we have a Constitution; the minimum measures necessary to cope with a critical situation of the Nation do not mean that the Constitution is no longer in use.

On the contrary, those measures are indispensable to the Government in stabilizing the situation, the confidence of the people so as to restore as soon as possible normal life for the people and to protect and enforce the Constitution.

With regards to Defense, in order for us to deal effectively and in a timely manner with the situation, it is natural to increase the number of our soldiers as planned earlier, but now we have to proceed rapidly in order to meet the demand of the war. For this reason, the Ministry of Defense will have to strictly enforce the Partial Mobilization Law, promptly carry out the draft call so as to fulfill our plan ahead of schedule.

Along with those laws, the Ministry of Defense will have to enforce the following measures:

- Delay the discharge of military personel of all ranks except those discharged on grounds of health;
- Strengthen in every aspect the defense forces by immediately recalling the veterans with less than 5 years of service and still in the mobilization are brackets;
- Draft all young men under the partial mobilization age brackets sooner than originally scheduled.

Besides, the following 2 programs of urgent actions will also be carried out: they are the military training program for students and civil servants:

- All civil servants from 45 years of age down will receive a special military training and will be armed to help the Army in order to protect their offices, or they will be civil defense cadres at their residing places so as to guide the people, secure their safe-being in their respective wards in case of natural disaster and political turmoil, and to be able to command a civilian fighting force, thus protecting the life and fortunes of the citizens.

- All schoolboys, students from 17 years of age up will receive a military training program in conjunction with their academic curriculum so that, when the circumstances require they will be ready to fight with the soldiers; and in the future, upon graduation, they will become reserve officers of the Army.

All the programs I have mentioned above have been outlined in the Government's program of actions which I have submitted to you earlier in my State of the Nation on January 25, 1968.

Now, on account of the situation and the urgent demand I sincerely hope that you will approve those measures in order for the Government to thoroughly implement them.

Concerning the implementation of the National Policy and the Government's program of actions which I submitted before the National Assembly in my address of January 25, I want to confirm again today the decision of the Government to continue the strict implementation of the program in all aspects: Building of Democracy - Solving the war, and Reforming the Society-despite the critical condition which our nation is undergoing. However, I need your total support in order to solve the actual difficulties created by the political turmoil, as well as the major difficulties we will have to face in the beginning of this decisive year. Thus, your prompt approval of the budget for fiscal year 1968 is highly needed so as to give the Government the necessary means to carry out the urgent programs and solve immediately the existing problems.

I wish to fix the end of February as the deadline for you to pass the proposed budget for 1968.

Besides, due to the special situation in this decisive year and in addition to the problems created today as well as in the near future by the determined and maximum efforts put forth by the enemy to strive toward the final victory, the urgent and special needs to increase our war potential in every field will arise and could be met if and only if the Government has all the means, ready and sufficient, to deal with those problems in an efficient manner.

Thus, I would like to request the National Assembly to especially empower the Executive to decide and promulgate by Decree - Laws all the economic and financial measures considered indispensable, for a period of one year.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I had carefully explained this point in the part dealing with the Budget appropriations, in my State of the Nation Message of January 25. Then, I had called upon your understanding to approve the 1968 Budget in a short time. At the same time, I had also warned you that, on account of the war, the social and economic situation of the country will require efficient and urgent measures and therefore, the Government will likely request the National Assembly to approve a certain number of fiscal measures, in order to ensure the stability and the development of the National Economy and Society.

Furthermore, I am sure that the current situation and the difficulties which will arise in the months to come are strong arguments in favor of my special requests mentioned above.

Even though these special powers are vested upon the Executive branch by the National Assembly, I always believe in the mutual understanding and close cooperation between the Executive and Legislative branches. My policy is to maintain consultations between the Executive and Legislative branches prior to the promulgation of any measures.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have just made a sincere and factual report on the situation of the country and concurrently. I also have proposed some measures which I sincerely hope will receive your earnest and wholehearted support.

To my fellow country men, especially to those living in the areas which were under the Communist attacks, I would like to take this opportunity to convey to you all my sincere condolence.

I pray for those innocent war victims and sincerely wish to share the burden with those who have suffered, and those who were separated from their loved ones.

The Communists often claim that they are fighting for the welfare of the population. Their propaganda could not convince anyone and their actions during the last few days incriminated themselves. They have shown their true color. The Communists did not care for the traditional Tet ceremony. While everyone, every family long for a reunion, the Communists did not hesitate to destroy the cities, the populated areas, and to murder the population. They have used the promise for a truce during Tet to fit their scheme to work toward a surprise victory.

They disregarded their promise and did not care about their moral responsibility. Moreover, after they have failed in their attacks, with none of the military and political objectives attained, they had killed without reserve, set fire and destroyed all they could, and they did not care

about the interest of the population. This is another proof that the Government and the Army are not the only enemies of the Communists. The population is also considered by them as their enemy.

The treacherous actions by the Communists are to be incriminated and objected. The high morale and discipline of our population are to be commended. Everywhere, the population have disregarded all temptations and plots offered or forced upon them by the Communists; they have behaved admirably; they have well observed discipline and they have not once cooperated with the enemy, and have given a hand to the Government and the Army in their mission of eradicating the enemy. In many places, especially in Saigon, the population organized into groups to serve as Civil Defense. That great spirit is to be commended and encouraged to develop.

I urgently call upon the population to cooperate closely with the Authority and the Armed Forces, to observe the strict discipline measures, so that we can make a forward stride toward our victory, so that the Communists' plots will not occur again. Then, the population will not have to bear again the hardships caused by the treacherous Communists.

Throughout the recent events, besides the mutual understanding and close cooperation between the Executive and Legislative branches, between the Government and the Population, I also would like to commend various religious, social, political organizations and personalities of all social strata. With their differences left aside, the above organizations and personalities have either proclaimed their condemnation or actually contributed their efforts in the close cooperation with the officials, they have helped in trying to solve the current and urgent problems which have arisen, especially the problem of helping the war victims.

The Government sincerely wishes to remember those generous acts and calls upon the population to work toward the important national efforts.

Our Nation belongs to us, all of us, and in the difficult time ahead, we have no right to waste our resources, especially, we should not, for a minor difference, stand aside and wait. We should contribute to the best of our ability to the service of the Nation and the Population.

To the Allied Forces and civilian organizations which have helped efficiently the Government and the RVNAF in their efforts to destroy the enemy as well as to help our people during the last few days, I would like to express the gratitude of the Nation and my own.

One of the Communist propaganda themes was that the U.S. Army had helped the Communists in trying to force the formation of a Coalition Government. That theme is an often used, malicious tactic which aims to break the monolithic bloc formed by our forces and those of our Allies.

To the Allies who have sent their troops to fight in Vietnam, I would like to convey my deepest gratitude for their understanding and their solid and staunch support in helping us to preserve our independence and our democratic regime. I certainly hope that the recent Communists' actions will help our Allies as well as other Nations, the world over, to recognize the actual nature and the objectives of the Communists.

The more they get to know the nature and the objectives of the Communists, the more our Allies and other freedom loving countries will understand and approve the firm and resolute position of our country. We have to deal firmly with the enemy not because we are belligerent, but because the Communists are a stubborn and malicious enemy. For them what they have been calling as Peace is a trump card in their war strategy. An example is the recent Tet truce. They have transformed it into the bloodiest campaign ever.

I wish to call upon the Allies and other freedom loving Nations to size up the difficulties our Nation is encountering and to understand the position of the Republic of Vietnam. I hope that they all will support whole-heartedly our position in any situation which may come up.

The Government of the Republic of Vietnam wishes to assert its staunch and solid position. I have requested a few governments and some important personalities to find the most efficient way to transmit to Hanoi my standpoints. They are:

1. As a leader elected by the people of the South I call upon the moral responsibility of the North Vietnam government to cease its aggression, to put an end to the long sufferance of the Vietnamese nation, in the South as well as in the North.

2. The Vietnam problem ought to be solved by the North and South government themselves.

3. I stand ready to meet the Hanoi government to discuss the peace restoration whenever Hanoi gives some indication of its goodwill.

Up to this day, there is no result whatsoever.

However, through their ever blatant and increasingly overt aggression and their treacherous attempts during the Tet truce all over South Vietnam, the Communists from the North have shown that they still nurture the hope for a total victory, military as well as well political in South Vietnam or at least for a few military successes to use them as a bargain at a conference table in exchange for some political concessions.

As long as the Communists do not change their mind and their treacherous practices, I feel that the Allies:

1. Should not trust the peace declarations of the Communists.
2. Should not fall into the Communists' trap which is to stop our self defense actions, especially to stop the bombing in the North, then to suffer heavier casualties and drag the war further instead of moving toward peace.
3. Should, on the contrary, keep on punishing the stubborn aggressors to open their eyes.
4. Should keep on showing our good will for peace, keep on opening the door for peace, for the Communists will not move toward a frank and honest peace until they realize that they can no longer win militarily and their forces are totally depleted.

Finally, to help the numerous war victims during the recent communists attacks, I also wish to call upon the various organizations all over the world, for their intense help, to relieve the hardship borne by the population. I would like to call attention to the fact that the Republic of Vietnam has been supporting a heavy load in the preservation of world peace. What we are fighting in Vietnam, we are fighting not only to preserve our Nation from falling into the Communists' hands, we are also fighting for the interest of Democracy to prevent the Communists' expansion in the World.

Mr. President of the Senate,
Mr. President of the House,
Distinguished Senators and Representatives,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the history of our long and arduous struggle against the war supported and directed by the North Viets, the first few days of the new lunar year which we have endured can be counted as the most decisive and glorious days ever.

By decisive, I mean this: It is the first time that the Communists have committed all their full armed forces in their general offensive all over the country. The attacks are daring, foolhardy and they are characterized by a last surge of efforts, without regard for casualties.

By glorious, I mean this: In this decisive and strenuous challenge, we have, on one hand, blunted the enemy military spearheads, destroyed the great part of the enemy main forces. On the other hand, we have developed within the Population, the Army, an unified and solid spirit of cooperation which is aimed at fighting against the common enemy and to preserve the Nation.

The military victories and successes since January 30, 1968 are tremendous. Nevertheless, the political achievements are also important, by all means. In this challenge, all of us, the Executive and the Legislative Branches, the Government and the Population, the Soldiers and the Civilians, we have shown our solidarity, our unyielding, unshaken spirit and determination. We all know how to concentrate all our efforts, we are ready to accept our

responsibilities and if needed even sacrifice our lives. All of our efforts are concentrated toward the destruction of the enemy, and the protection of the Second Republic.

The close cooperation between the Executive and the Legislative branches, between the Population the Government and the Army, during the decisive recent fights is an encouraging sign to be based upon to guide our future efforts. That sign also indicates that the cause of our struggle is clearer than ever. This also indicates that the young and growing Second Republic is strong enough to withstand and to overcome victoriously the attacks in all fields.

In that spirit, I would like to ask you to pray with me for the solidarity of the whole population on their road toward an early and total victory over the Communists' aggression.

Thank you.

Arrete No. 261-ND/Th.T/CS of March 5, 1968,
determining organization and functions
of the Directorate General of Civil Service

THE PRIME MINISTER,

Considering the Constitution of April 1st, 1967;

Considering Decree No. 5-a/TT/SL dated November 9, 1967
defining the composition of the Government;

Considering Decree No. 6-SL/Th.T/VP dated November 17,
1967 establishing the Directorate General of Civil Service;

A R R E T E S:

Art. 1 - The organization and functions of the Directorate
General of Civil Service are determined as follows:

Art. 2 - The Directorate General of Civil Service is in
charge of all matters concerning Personnel Administration
and Legislation for public agencies throughout the country:

- studying and submitting to the Prime Minister proposals
on personnel policy, measures for Civil Service improve-
ment relating to personnel management and any method to
increase employees' productivity;
- making survey and proposals on principles and basic
regulations of personnel management;
- giving agreement to Ministries in the organization of
cadres;
- administering common cadres personnel, technical cadres
of category A and cadres attached to the Prime Minister's
Office;

- following-up and controlling the personnel management in all ministries to secure conformity in the application of law and regulations;
- planning and submitting personnel training programs; organizing general training Courses for personnel of all categories and specific training courses for administrative employees;
- encouraging technical agencies in the training field;
- making survey on relations among offices, between public agencies with the people, and submitting proposed improvement measures to the Prime Minister;
- keeping personnel files and establishing statistics on all personnel throughout the country .

Art. 3 - The Director General for Civil Service is assisted by a Deputy General who will replace him in his absence.

Art. 4 - The Directorate General of Civil Service is composed of the following:

- Private Secretary Bureau
- Administrative and Accounting Service
- Research and Legislation Directorate
- Personnel Administration Directorate
- Training and Public Relations Directorate
- Records and Statistics Service.

I. Private Secretary Bureau:

Art. 5 - The Private Secretary Bureau is headed by a chief of Bureau and has the following functions:

- receiving and dispatching confidential correspondence,
- examining particular matters,
- centralizing and submitting confidential correspondence for signature,
- keeping classified records.

II. Administrative and Accounting Service:

Art. 6 - The Administrative and Accounting Service headed

by a Chief of Service, is composed of 3 Bureaus and a typing Pool, with these functions:

Correspondence Bureau:

- receives, dispatches ordinary correspondence,
- gives information to the public,

Administrative Bureau:

- performs all general administrative operations relating to the Directorate General
- assures internal security
- centralizes and submits ordinary correspondence for signature
- makes arrangements for and follows-up the publication of basic texts prepared by the Directorate General after they have been approved or signed
- reviews newspapers and gets in touch with other Directorates and Services to answer all inquiries relating to the Directorate General
- makes reports on the activities of the Directorate General
- serves as liaison between the Directorate General and other agencies.

Personnel and Accounting Bureau:

- administers the Directorate General's Employees and keeps their personnel records
- provides all the usual administrative services such as budgeting, salary, material, inventory, properties and vehicles, supply and social works.

Typing Pool:

- attached to the Chief of Service, is in charge of typing

and mimeographing all drafts of the Directorate General.

III. Research and Legislation Directorate:

Art. 7 - The Research and Legislation Directorate is headed by a Director, classified as a Director in charge of several Services.

It involves a number of specialists, assistant specialists and a library manager with these tasks:

- studying civil service policy, drafting programs and plans for policy implementation,
- collecting and studying civil service system data of foreign countries to implement the best points into the Vietnamese Civil Service System,
- drafting, revising interpreting laws and rules applied to all career and non-career personnel, including war veterans, their children or widows, war handicapped persons, and members of recognized ethnic minority groups,
- cooperating with government lawyers or with the agency delegated to plead legal matters concerning the direct administered personnel of the Directorate General; examining appeals and grievances relating to Civil Service,
- organizing and managing the Directorate General's Library.

Art. 8 - The library is run by a librarian having the position of a Bureau Chief.

IV. Personnel Administration Directorate:

Art. 9 - The Personnel Administration Directorate administers common cadres, technical cadres of category A and special cadres attached to the Prime Minister's Office; controls the management of technical cadres personnel from category B1 down and non-career personnel assumed by Ministries.

This Directorate headed by a Director, is composed of 3 Services with these functions:

Art. 10 - Common cadres Service

This Service is divided into three Bureaus:

Bureaus 1 and 2: administer common cadres personnel (except disciplinary actions and promotions).

Bureau 3: assumes disciplinary actions and promotions for all common cadres personnel:

- organizes competitive examinations to recruit common cadres employees.

Art. 11 - Technical cadres Service:

- administers technical cadres personnel of category A and cadres attached to the Prime Minister's Office.

This Service is divided into 2 Bureaus: Bureaus 4 and 5.

Art. 12 - Control Service:

- follows-up and controls personnel management performed by Ministries to assure conformity in the application of personnel management regulations.

This service is divided into 3 Bureaus:

Bureau 6: recruitment and appointments.

Bureau 7: admittance into cadre, conversion of rank, of cadre, leaves and transfers,

Bureau 8: promotions, disciplinary actions, compensation, resignation, retirement and maintenance in Service.

V. Training and Public Relations Directorate:

Art. 13 - This Directorate is headed by a Director, classified as a Director in charge of several services, and

assisted by a number of specialists and assistant specialists with these functions:

a. Pre-entry and In-Service Training:

- Planning employee training programs to meet immediate and future needs;
- Organizing general training courses for civil servants and specific training courses for common cadres personnel;
- Keeping liaison with University Faculties and Professional Institutions to recommend them to teach subjects necessary to students who want to enter the civil service, cooperating with the National Institute of Administration to insure the maximum utilization of facilities to meet training requirements of Ministries;
- Assisting Ministries in determining their training needs, and establishing training programs responsive to these needs;
- Keeping coordination with the Directorate General of Planning to follow-up the utilization of Foreign Aid facilities in the training field;
- Collaborating with the Culture and Education Ministry for employees training in foreign countries.

b. Public Relations:

- studying policy and measures to improve relations among agencies, and between public offices with the public;
- in charge of all matters concerning Union or Associations of employees;
- making surveys in helping government employees substantially: supply, housing, mutual credits, loans, health protection, social activities, sound recreation, etc...

Art. 14 - The number of specialists and assistant specialists mentioned in Articles 7 and 13 above is fixed at 5 specialists and 5 assistants for the Research and Legislation Directorate, 4 specialists and 4 assistants for the training and Public Relations Directorate.

This number can be increased if required by Civil Service needs.

Art. 15 - Specialists will get the position allowances of Service Chief; assistant specialists will get the position allowances of Bureau Chiefs as in the Prime Minister's Office.

VI. Records and Statistics Service:

Art. 16 - The Records and Statistics Service is responsible for keeping personnel files of all employees throughout the country, establishing statistics on all personnel, keeping archives. It is directed by a Chief of Service and divided into 2 Bureaus:

1. Bureau of Records: keeps personnel files of all employees and keeps up-to-date these files; keeps all records of the Directorate General.
2. Bureau of Statistics: maintains personnel fiches of all employees; establishes statistics and makes reports every three months as to the total number of employees, categories and other necessary details.

Art. 17 - Ministers, Secretaries of State, Under Secretaries and the Director General for Civil Service are in charge of the execution of this Arrete, as far as their respective duties are concerned.

Saigon, March 5, 1968

s/ Nguyen van Loc

BIODATA

THE CABINET

Government of Vietnam

January 1968

PRIME MINISTER

Lawyer NGUYEN VAN LOC

Pseudonym: Son Khanh - Nguyen Tu Viet

Profession: Lawyer

Date and place of birth: August 24, 1922 in Long Chau, Vinh Long Province (South Vietnam)

Education:

- Licentiate of Law, Montpellier, 1954
- Graduated from Institute of Administration and Finance, Montpellier, 1955
- Diploma of Advanced Studies in Criminal Law, Paris, 1964

Marital status: Married, 2 sons

Former positions:

- Lawyer at Saigon Court of Appeal, since 1955
- Lecturer at National Institute of Administration, since 1955
- Chairman of Army-People Council, November 1966
- Vice Chairman of Committee for Drafting Electoral Laws, May 1966
- Commissioner for Information, Political Affairs Committee of the Army-People Council, since July 1966

Associations, Clubs, Unions:

- Board member of the Saigon Bar Association
- Chief of Information Section of War Victims Relief Committee (Vietnam Red Cross)
- Advisor of the Union for Human and Civil Rights of Vietnam
- Secretary General of the Inter-School Association

Publications:

- Giai Cap (Social Classes), novel, Song Chung, Saigon, 1948
- Tan Binh (Remnants), novel, Saigon, 1948
- Loan (Rebellion), novel, Saigon, 1949
- Bong Ngay Xanh (Youthful Days), collected poems, Saigon, 1960
- Dien Dan Tu Do (Free Tribune), collected poems, 1966

CHAIRMAN, PRIME MINISTER'S COMMITTEE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM

and

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ADMINISTRATION RECTOR

Dr. NGUYEN VAN BONG

Profession: University Professor

Date and place of birth: June 2, 1929, Go Cong (South Vietnam)

Religion: Buddhist

Education:

- Doctor of Law, Paris, 1960
- Agregé in Public Law, Paris, 1962

Marital status: Married, 3 children

Other current positions:

- Assistant Dean, Faculty of Law, Saigon University, 1962
- Member, Council of Notables, 1964

Publications:

- Doctoral dissertation: Khai niem Quyet Dinh Hanh Chanh (The Concept of Administrative Decision), Paris, 1960
- Luat Hien Phap va Chinh Tri Hoc (Constitutional Law and Political Science), Saigon, 1967
- Frequent newspaper and magazine articles on Government reform.

SECRETARY OF STATE

IN CHARGE OF RELATIONS WITH THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Professor NGUYEN VAN TUONG

Profession: University Professor

Date and place of birth: May 5, 1931, Sadec (South Vietnam)

Education:

- Doctor of Law, Saigon University, 1965

Marital status: Married, 3 children

Former positions:

- Officer, RVNAF, 1951-1958
- Executive Officer, National Assembly, 1958-1963
- General Manager, Council of Notables, 1963-1964
- Director of Cabinet, Prime Minister's Office, 1964-1965
- Deputy Commissioner General of Interior, 1965-1966
- Professor of Political and Administrative Sciences, National Institute of Administration, Saigon 1966-1967
- Special Commissioner for Administrative Affairs, July 1966 to November 9, 1967

Decorations:

- Chuong My Boi Tinh (Merit Medal) 1st Class

Publications:

- Doctoral dissertation La Democratie en Asie

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Dr. TRAN VAN DO

Profession: Doctor of Medicine

Date and place of birth: November 15, 1903, Phu Ly (North Vietnam)

Education:

- Doctor of Medicine, Paris University, France, 1931

Marital status: Married, 1 child

Former positions:

- Director, Military Medical Corps, 1951-1954
- Leader of Viet Nam Delegation to Geneva Conference, 1954
- Minister of Foreign Affairs in the Ngo dinh Diem Government, 1954-1955
- Deputy Prime Minister in the Phan huy Quat Government, 1965

Present position:

- Minister of Foreign Affairs in the Nguyen cao Ky government, June 1965; consecutively in the Nguyen van Loc Government, 9 November 1966

Associations, Clubs, Unions:

- President, Anti Tuberculosis League, since 1956
- President, Vietnamese Medical Association, since 1957
- President, Association for Assistance to Flood Victims in Central Vietnam, 1964
- Honorary Chairman, Vietnam Veterans Association
- Honorary Chairman, Association for the Protection of Orphans

DEFENSE

Lt General NGUYEN VAN VY

Profession: Military Officer

Date and place of birth: January 16, 1916 at Hanoi

Religion: Buddhist

Education :

- Baccalaureate, II Part, Hanoi 1938
- Studies of Economy and Social Welfare, Hanoi University, 1940
- Graduated Chief of Staff, Paris, 1951

Marital status: Married, 6 children

Former positions:

- Chief of Military Cabinet for Chief of State Bao Dai
- Commander of Coastal Regions
- Concurrently General Inspector of Military Expenses and Chief of the General Joint Staff, ARVN
- Political exile in France 1954-1963
- Chief of Quang Trung Training Center
- Chief of the Central Training Center
- Chief of General Joint Staff ARVN

INTERIOR

Lt General LINH QUANG VIEN

Profession: Military Officer (Lieutenant General) RVNAF

Date and place of birth: November 11, 1918, Cao Bang (North Vietnam)

Religion: Buddhist

Education:

- Baccalaureate, II Part, Albert Sarraut High School, Hanoi
- Graduate, Tong Officers School, North Vietnam, 1940
- Graduate, Higher School of Staff, Paris, 1953
- Graduate, Staff and Command College, Fort Leavenworth, USA, 1958

Marital status: Married, 6 children

Former positions:

- Commander, IV Military District - 1955-1958
- Chief of Staff, Special Military Staff, Defense Ministry, 1959-1960
- Deputy Chief of Joint General Staff for Logistics Affairs, 1961-62
- Commander, 22nd Infantry Division, 1963-1964
- Director, Directorate of Military Security - 1965
- Minister of Information and Psychological Warfare in the Phan Huy Quat Government, from February to June 1965
- Chief of Staff, RVNAF, 1965-1966
- Commissioner General of National Security in Nguyen Cao Ky Government April 1966-November 1967

Decorations:

- Commander of National Order of Vietnam, 1955
- Knight of National Order of Vietnam, 1952
- Officer of National Order of Vietnam, 1955
- Grand Officer of the National Order of Vietnam, 1964
- Army Distinguished Service Order, 1st class
- Chuong My (Merit), 1st class, 1964
- 4 Citations, Armed Forces level
- 1 Citation, Corps level with Gallantry Cross

Special Remarks:

- new Ministry combines National Police and local government affairs
- announced program places equal emphasis on security and provincial administrative reform.

JUSTICE

Judge HUYNH DUC BUU

Profession: Lawyer

Date and place of birth: April 15, 1917, in Quang Tri,
Central Vietnam

Religion: Catholic

Education:

- Licentiate in Law, Hanoi, 1952

Marital status: Married, 6 children

Former positions:

- Director of Tay Ho Private School, Da Nang, 1952-1954
- Da Nang City Counsellor, 1953-1954
- Chief of Cabinet, Ministry of Interior, 1954
- Director of Political Affairs, Ministry of Interior, 1955
- Judge in Pleiku, Kontum, Central Vietnam, 1955-1960
- Substitute Presiding Judge, Tribunal of the First Instance, Saigon, 1960-1965
- Vice Chairman of the People/Military Council, 1966-1967
- Chairman of the Committee for Drafting Electoral Laws, 1967.

ECONOMY

Engineer TRUONG THAI TON

Profession: Agromist

Date and place of birth: November 30, 1925, Saigon

Education:

- Degree Agronomy Engineer, Toulouse, France - 1956

Religion: Buddhist

Marital status: Married, 5 children

Former positions:

- Specialist at the Directorate General of Planning, 1956-1959
- Specialist at the Directorate General for Budget and Foreign Aid, 1959
- Technical Director, Sugar Companies of Binh Duong, Tuy Hoa, Quang Ngai - 1959-1961
- Director of Program, Directorate General of Budget and Foreign Aid, 1962-1963
- Assistant to the Minister of Finance, concurrently, Chairman Sugar Companies Binh Duong, Tuy Hoa, Quang Ngai, 1964
- Commissioner General of Economy and Finance, 1965
- Senior Advisor to the Prime Minister, 1966.

FINANCE

Mr. LUU VAN TINH

Profession: Public Administrator

Date and place of birth: April 14, 1915, Go Cong, South
Vietnam

Religion: Confucian

Marital status: Married, 2 children

Former positions:

- Customs Clerk, 1940-1945
- Senior Clerk, Residence of France in Cambodia, 1945-1948
- Assistant Administrator, Government of Vietnam, Saigon, 1948-61
- Administrator, Super Class - Director General for Budget and Foreign Aid, 1961-1963
- Commissioner of Finance, 1963-1964
- Director General of Budget and Foreign Aid, 1965-1967

Special Remarks:

- serves concurrently as Director General of Budget and Foreign Aid, in which capacity he reports directly to the President.

EDUCATION AND CULTURE

Dr. TANG KIM DONG

Profession: Lawyer

Date and place of birth: March 16, 1930 at Long Xuyen,
South Vietnam

Religion: Confucian

Education:

- Degree - Doctor of Law, Paris
- Advanced Studies on Sciences/Economics/Social Sciences,
Paris, 1958

Marital status: Married, 1 child

Former positions:

- Specialist, National Bank of Vietnam
- Professor, Faculty of Law, Saigon
- Professor, NIA, Saigon
- Dean of Faculty of Law and Social Sciences, Can Tho University
- Member of the Board, National Bank of Vietnam

REVOLUTIONARY DEVELOPMENT

Lt. General NGUYEN BAO TRI

Profession: Military Officer

Date and place of birth: Born 1929 in Hanoi

Religion: Catholic

Marital status: Married, 2 children

Former positions:

- Private Schools, 1940-1950
- Military Training Course (Session I, in Nam Dinh), 1951
- Director of Vietnam Military Academy and Editor of the Military Review, 1952-1965
- Commissioner General of Information and Open Arms, 1965-1967

Publications:

- Mien Cao Nguyen: Cac Sac Toc Thuong (The Highlands - The Ethnic Minorities)
- Vai Tro Quan Doi o Cac Nuoc A Phi (The Role of the Army in the Asian-African Nations)
- Canh Tan Trong Lien Tuc Lich Su (The Renovation in the Continuity of History)

OPEN ARMS

Mr. NGUYEN XUAN PHONG

Profession: Public Administrator

Date and place of birth: February 4, 1936, Ben Tre, South
Vietnam

Education:

- Graduate of Oxford (London) in Political Sciences

Marital status: Bachelor

Former positions:

- Esso Technician
- Commissioner of Labor in Ky Government
- Special Assistant to Prime Minister Ky
- Commissioner of Social Welfare in the Ky Government.

PUBLIC WORKS

Engineer BUU DON

Profession: Civil Engineer

Date and place of birth: December 23, 1935 at Hue, Central
Vietnam

Religion: Buddhist

Education:

- Government Civil Engineer (Ponts & Chaussees), Paris,
1958
- Engineer, School of Petroleum Refinery and Motors,
Paris, 1958

Marital status: Married, 1 child

Former positions:

- Chief of Service, Ministry of Public Works, 1960-1963
- Chief of Service, in charge of Oil Refinery, Ministry
of Economy, 1963
- Assistant Director General of Planning, 1964-1965
- Director General of Highways, Ministry of Public Works,
1966-1967

COMMUNICATION AND TRANSPORTATION

Engineer LUONG THE SIEU

Profession: Civil Engineer

Date and place of birth: March 3, 1934, Bentre (Kien Hoa)
South Vietnam

Education:

- Government Civil Engineer - Ingenieur des Ponts-et-Chaussees, Paris, 1960

Religion: Confucian

Marital status: Single

Former positions:

- Engineer, An Hoa-Nong Son Industrial Complex, 1961-1966
- Technical Director, An Hoa Nong Son Industrial Complex, 1966-1967

VETERANS AFFAIRS

Dr. NGUYEN TAN HONG

Profession: Doctor of Medicine

Date and place of birth: January 13, 1922, Ha Dong
(North Vietnam)

Religion: Buddhist

Education:

- Doctor of Medicine, Hanoi University, 1951
- Attended the Flight Surgeon Course at Randolph Air Force Base Texas, 1956

Former positions:

- Army Medical Corps (1st Lieutenant), 1951
- Senior Doctor, 20th Battalion, 1951
- Senior Doctor, 75th Battalion, 1953
- Physician (Captain) concurrently Assistant to Senior Surgeon Vo Tanh Military Hospital, 1953-1954
- Physician, Chi Lang Military Hospital, 1954-1955
- Senior Surgeon, Nguyen Hue and Gia Phong Operations, 1955
- Senior Surgeon, Air Force Hospital, 1956
- Senior Surgeon, Flight Personnel Medical Center, 1957
- Senior Surgeon (Major) RVN Air Force, 1959
- Lieutenant Colonel, September 1964
- Commissioner for Youth and Sports in the Phan Huy Quat Government, February 1965
- Commissioner for Veterans Affairs in the Nguyen Cao Ky Government, March 1, 1966-November 1967

Decorations, Awards:

- Knight of the National Order of Vietnam
- Air Force Distinguished Service Order, 2nd Class
- Gallantry Cross with Golden Star
- Gallantry Cross with Silver Star
- Armed Forces Honor Medal
- Staff Service Honor Medal, 1st Class
- Technical Service Honor Medal
- Good Conduct Medal
- Vietnam Campaign Medal (1949-1954 and 1960)
- Armed Forces Service Medal

Dr. Hong

Decorations, Awards (continued)

- Air Service Medal
- Chuong My (Merit) Medal, 1st Class
- Police Honor Medal
- Labor Medal
- Van Phi Medal (Republic of China)

Associations, Clubs:

- Charter Member, Hoi Hoa Si Tre Vietnam (Vietnam Association of Young Painters), 1966
- Honorary President, Hoi Gio Khoi (Outdoors Association), 1967
- Counselor, Hoi Huong Dao Vietnam (Vietnam Boy Scouts Association)
- Member, Selection Committee for Leadership Scholarships, 1967

PUBLIC HEALTH

Dr. TRAN LU Y

Profession: Doctor of Medicine

Date and place of birth: April 4, 1926, Sadec, South Vietnam

Religion: Catholic

Education:

- Local Baccalaureate, Saigon, 1946
- Non-Resident Doctor of Hospitals, 1946-1951
- Hospital Clinic at Saigon Hospital
- Lt. Medicine, 1st Battalion of Parachutists of Vietnam, 1952-1954
- Assistant to Professor Marbureau at Saigon Faculty of Medicine
- Training at the Faculty of Medicine of Paris
- Medical Resident of Paris Hospitals
- Graduate in Hematology
- Lecturer at Saigon Faculty of Medicine

Marital status: Married, 2 children

Former positions:

- Chief of Medical Clinic Service, Saigon
- Commissioner for Health, in the Nguyen Cao Ky government, 1966-1967

SOCIAL WELFARE AND REFUGEES

Dr. NGUYEN PHUC QUE

Profession: Doctor of Medicine

Date and place of birth: June 9, 1929, Hanoi, North Vietnam

Religion: Catholic

Education:

- Degree Medicine Doctor, Naval Health, Bordeaux, France
1956, Specialist - Tropical Medicine

Former position:

- Doctor of Medicine, ARVN, 1957-1966
- Commissioner for Anti-Communist Refugees in Nguyen cao Ky
Government, 1966-1967

ETHNIC DEVELOPMENT

Mr. PAUL NUR

Profession: Teacher

Date and place of birth: July 7, 1925, Kontum, Central
Vietnam

Education :

- High School Diploma, 1945

Marital status: Married, 8 children

Former positions:

- School teacher, 1943-1948
- Director of Elementary School of Kontum, 1948-1963
- Deputy Province Chief, Kontum, 1963-1965
- Special Commissioner for Montagnards Affairs in the
Ky Government

Publication s:

- Various brochures and newspaper articles on the
Montagnards

LABOR

Professor PHO BA LONG

Profession: Professor

Date and place of birth: April 25, 1922 in Hanoi

Religion: Catholic

Education:

- Military Pharmacist, Hanoi University, 1946-1950
- MBA - Business Administration, Harvard University, 1954-1956

Marital status: Married, 4 children

Former position:

- Professor of Business Administration, Dalat University

EXECUTIVE AFFAIRS

DR. DOAN BA CANG

Profession: Lawyer and Foreign Service Officer

Date and place of birth: August 18, 1928 - Ben Tre,
South Vietnam

Religion: Confucian

Education:

- Licentiate in Law
- Advanced Studies in Private Law (Doctorate)
- Advanced Studies in Public Law (Doctorate)

Marital status: Married, 3 children

Former positions:

- Counselor, Vietnamese Embassy, Tokyo
- Other posts in Foreign Service

AGRICULTURE AND LAND REFORM

Engineer TON THAT TRINH

Profession: Agronomist

Date and place of birth: September 27, 1931 at Hue

Religion: Buddhist

Education:

- Agronomy Engineer, Institute National Agronomique, Paris, 1954
- Engineer of Tropical Agronomy, Nogent-sur-Marne, Paris, 1955

Marital status: Married, 3 children

Former positions:

- Chief, Botanic Division - Center of Scientific Research Department of National Education, 1955
- Deputy Director, Center of Scientific Research, Department of National Education, 1956
- Technical Director, General Commissariat for Land Development, 1957
- Secretary General, Rural Department, 1962
- Foreign Aid Director, Directorate General of Budget and Foreign Aid, 1963
- Director Higher School of Agriculture, Forestry and Animal Husbandry, Saigon, 1964
- Assistant to the Economy and Finance Minister, 1966
- Assistant to the Senior Advisor to the Prime Minister Ky, 1967
- Professor, Higher School of Agriculture, Forest and Animal Husbandry, Saigon, 1967

Publications:

- Canh tac ve to soi (Fiber Crops Cultivation), 1959
- Nong hoc dai cuong (An Outline of Agronomy), National Education Department, 1957

Republic of Vietnam
Office of the
Prime Minister

20-SL-TC

PRIME MINISTER,

- Considering the Constitution promulgated on 1 April, 1967;
- Considering Decree No. 005-TT/SL of 9 November 1967 governing the establishment of the Government;
- Considering Decree No. 188-TC of 18 September 1965 fixing the organization of the Ministry of Finance;
- Considering Decree Law No. 019/SLU of 3 September 1966 fixing the statute of finance and national accounting and local administration communities;
- Considering the recommendation of the Minister for Finance.

DECREES:

Art. 1 - This hereby establishes the Central Accounting Office placed under the direct jurisdiction of the Ministry for Finance.

Art. 2 - The Central Accounting Office is placed under the direction of a Director General and is responsible for implementing all provisions defined in Chapter 12 of Article 47 in Decree-law No. 019/SLU issued on 3 September 1966.

Art. 3 - The Director General of the Central Accounting Office is appointed by decree of the Prime Minister upon recommendation of the Minister for Finance.

Art. 4 - The organization and operations of the Central Accounting Office will be defined subsequently by an arrete of the Minister for Finance.

Art. 5 - The Minister for Finance, and the Secretary of State at the Prime Minister's Office are charged, each as to that which concerns him, with the execution of this decree.

This decree will be published in the Official Journal of the V.N. Republic.

Saigon, 28 February 1968

s/ Lawyer Nguyen van Loc

THE NOTARY IN VIET NAM...

In the Republic of Viet Nam there are presently four confirmed and three probationary notaries, and a staff of forty-five clerks. They are appointed and supervised by the Minister of Justice.

There are two Notary offices: one in Saigon (which also functions for the residents of Cholon) and one in Can Tho. The latter is conducted by clerks under the direction of a Notary in Saigon who goes there once a month to sign documents as necessary. This is the only provincial office, although it has been planned to establish one at Dalat. In all areas other than Saigon/Cholon and Can Tho, the responsibilities of the Notary are performed by the Village Chief.

Notaries are authorized to certify to contracts of sale, powers of attorney, wills, the establishment of companies, and adoptions.

It is common practice for Notaries to give advice on the form of documents certified.

The fixed salaries of confirmed notaries are based on an index of 1,000, plus an emolument of 3% of the income of the office in excess of VN\$1,000,000 monthly. This emolument averages VN\$13,000 monthly for each confirmed notary. Probationary notaries' salaries are based on an index of 430. The Notary Director, in addition to his salary, receives VN\$1,000 monthly.

Republic of Viet-Nam
Ministry of Defense
No. 1010/AP/NC/3

Saigon, February 21, 1968

Director of Cabinet

To: Directors of Cabinet of the President, Vice President, Prime Minister's Office and all Ministries.

Sirs:

The Ministry of Defense is taking charge of military training and arming all civil servants, from 45 years old downwards with the view that:

- Civil servants will themselves provide security for their offices.
- They are ready to participate in the Civil Defense organization of their residences, as well as to assist the government in disturbances and disasters.

This program of activity is projected as follows:

a. Training

- We will begin the training of civil servants, especially in Saigon, on March 4, 1968. In provinces, the training will begin at a later date.
- The training program will be divided into two phases: 50% of all civil servants will be trained in each phase. Trainees will be away from their offices for seven consecutive days.
- Grouping of trainees: In order to facilitate training and weapons firing practice, trainees will be grouped into units of 150 men.
- Every unit will be in charge of a group of military trainers. Training location will be fixed by the Ministries, possibly on the office grounds or any convenient place.

b. Armament

- Civil servants will be armed by the Ministry of Interior with a ratio of one weapon for three people.

In order that this program will be realized within the time projected, we request you to establish and convey to our office before February 27, 1968:

- a. A list of civil servants under 45 years of age who are designed to attend the training in the two phases (50% for each phase). If the number of trainees is more than 150, it should be grouped into units as mentioned above, and into groups if less than 150.
- b. Place of training chosen by your office.
- c. The number of civil servants under 45 years old for the armament.

These documents should be sent to the Ministry of Interior, with copies to the Ministry of Defense and the General Staff for information.

Signed,

Huynh Van Dao

Office of the Prime Minister

Decree No. 20-SL/NV fixing the general organization of the Ministry of Interior.

The Prime Minister,

.....
.....

DECREES:

Art. 1 - The Ministry of Interior placed under the direct supervision of the Minister of Interior, is composed of the following agencies:

1. Central agencies

- Office of the Minister
- Planning Bloc
- Administration Bloc
- Inspection Bloc
- Consultant Section

2. Dependent agencies

- The Directorate General of National Police
- The Directorate of Rehabilitation
- The Directorate of Telecommunications

Art. 2 - The Office of the Minister is placed under the supervision of a Director of Cabinet who is assisted by a Chief of Cabinet, 4 charges de Mission, 4 attaches de Cabinet, and 1 private secretary. The Special Office is under the direction of a chief of Cabinet.

The Director of Cabinet assists the Minister in the direction of the Ministry of Interior.

Art. 3 - The Planning Bloc is placed under the supervision of a Secretary General. It includes 5 Services:

- Political Service
- Control Service
- Planning Service
- Research Service
- Entrance, Exit and Immigration Service

Art. 4 - The Administration Bloc is placed under the supervision of a Director assisted by a Deputy Director. It includes 4 Services:

- Training Service
- Personnel Service
- Accounting and Budget Service
- Administration Service

Art. 5 - The Inspection Bloc is placed under the supervision of a Chief Inspector assisted by a deputy Chief Inspector. It includes 6 Inspectors and 15 Controllers. The Chief Inspector has the rank of a Director of a large size Directorate, the deputy Chief Inspection and the Inspectors have the rank of a Director of a small size Directorate and Controllers have the rank of Chief of Service.

Art. 6 - The Consultant Section includes 3 to five consultants placed under the supervision of a chief of Consultant Section who has the rank of a Director of a large size Directorate. The Consultant member - if he is a government official - has the rank of a Director of a small size Directorate, and - if he is a non-government official - his salary will be fixed in the contract.

Art. 7 - The Directorate of Rehabilitation is placed under the supervision of a Director assisted by a deputy Director. It includes the following services:

- Main office
- Administration Service
- Welfare Service
- Rehabilitation Service
- Technical Service
- Inspection Team (5 controllers). Controllers have the rank of Chief of Service.

Art. 8 - The Minister of Interior will issue an Arrete determining the details of organization and functions of central agencies of the Ministry and the Directorate of Rehabilitation.

Art. 9 - Provisionally, the organization and functions of the Directorate General of National Police and the Directorate of Telecommunications previously defined in separate texts, remain unchanged.

Art. 10 - Any provisions contrary to this Decree are repealed.

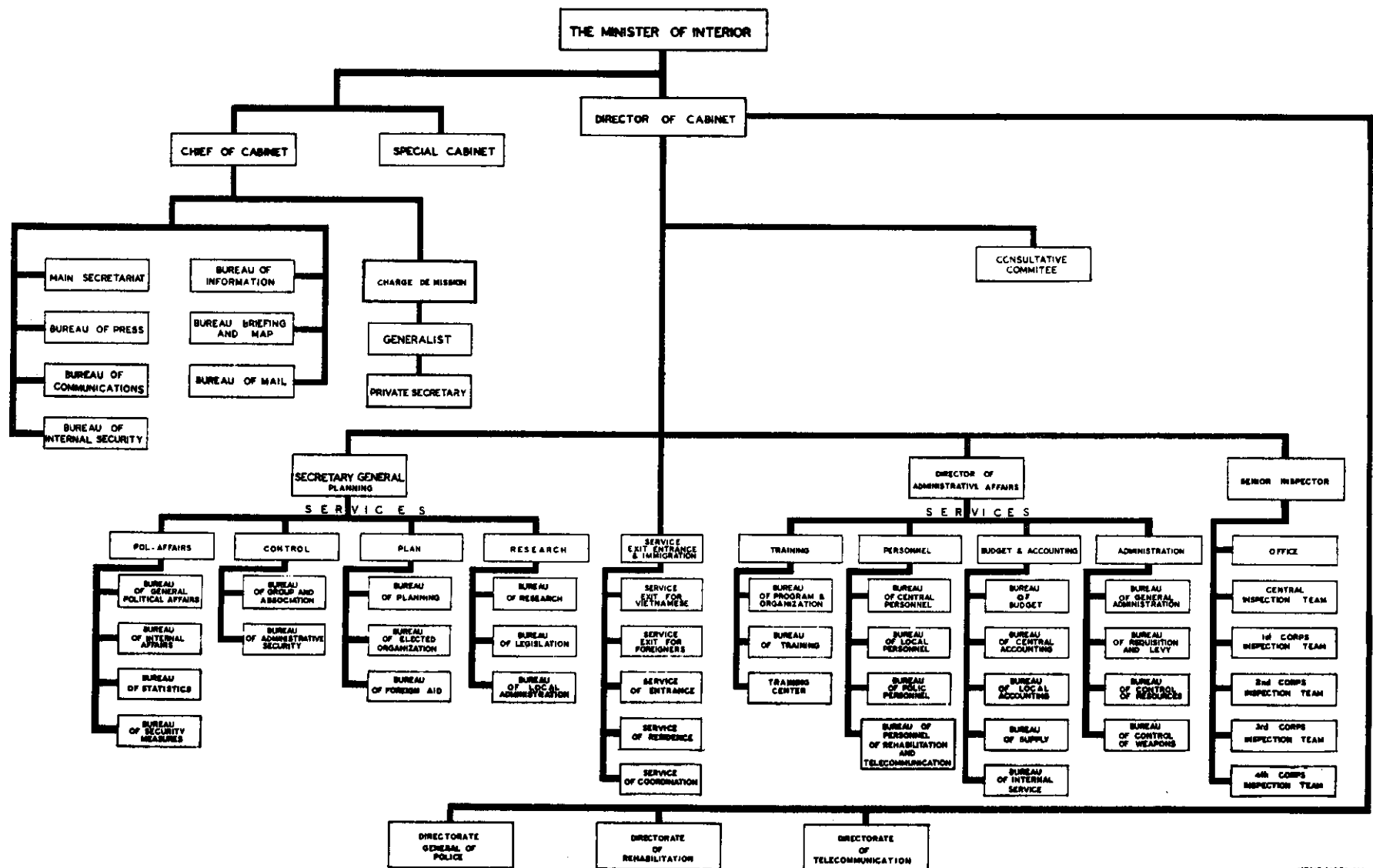
Art. 11 - All ministers, Secretaries of State, Deputy Secretaries of State and the Secretary of State at the Prime Minister's office are charged respectively with the execution of this decree.

Saigon, 22 Nov. 1967

s/ Lawyer Nguyen van Loc

THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

THE ORGANIZATION OF THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR



Republic of Viet Nam

Office of the Prime Minister

Decree No. 19-SL/NV dated 22 November 1967 defining the functions of the Minister for the Interior.

The Prime Minister,

- Considering the Constitution of the Republic of Vietnam of April 1, 1967,
- Considering decree No. 005-a/TT/SL of 9 Nov. 1967 fixing the composition of the government,

.....
.....

DECREES:

Art. 1 - This hereby defines the functions of the Minister for the Interior:

A. Security

- coordinate with the National Security Council and the interested Ministries about the implementation of policy and lines of action of the President and the Government relative to security and internal administration; apply necessary measures to maintain order, to strengthen security throughout the country;
- compile and explore information and data relative to internal security;
- exterminate the enemy infrastructure, cooperate with interested Ministries to achieve pacification operation and rural construction;
- work out and execute general policy on entrance and exit of Vietnam territory, control the immigration of aliens and their activities, the use, import and export of various types of weapons, the activities of political parties, organizations and associations;

- organize, administer, direct and supervise national police forces.

B. Administration

- study, establish, administer, improve, strengthen and control local administrative structures from village level up in line with the promotion of democratic and organizational innovations,
- provide support to local administrative structures in the field of communications, people's organization control of resources,
- carry out laws and regulations concerning elections and maintain liaison with elected bodies from central down to Village level,
- modify the boundaries of local administrative units,
- administer facilities (personnel, budget, materials) of the Ministry and its dependent agencies and local administrative structures, payment authorizing officer by delegation in the National Budget with respect to expenditures chargeable to the Ministry budget,
- make regular inspection tours to control, supervise, assist and clean up the rank of local administrative personnel, eliminate corrupt practices among the rank of administrative officials,
- train and organize training courses for administrative cadres to increase efficiency,
- exercise the right of establishing statutes and the internal organization of the Ministry, exercise the right of surveillance over administrative communities with respect to the right to enter into contract and to institute legal proceedings in the name of the ministry,
- apply legal procedures relative to expropriation of properties to help governmental agencies to realize programs of public utility or military interest.

Art. 2 - Former agencies

1. The Ministry of Security, excluding the Directorate of Research and the National Committee for Coordination of Intelligence Service,
2. and the Special Commission for Administration, is transferred to the Ministry of Interior with its entire personnel, office

(No. 41 Thong Nhat Avenue, No. 2 Nguyen Hue and 164 Tu Do Street) budget, vehicles, materials and relevant documents.

Art. 3 - The Directorate of Research and the National Committee for coordination of Intelligence Service are placed under the Central Commission for Intelligence.

Art. 4 - Any provisions contrary to this decree, in particular the decree No. 66-NV dated 8 February 1952 fixing the functions of the Ministry of Interior, are repealed.

Art. 5 - All Ministers, Secretaries of State, Deputy Secretaries of State, and Secretary of State at the Office of the Prime Minister are charged, each as to that which concerns him, with the execution of this decree.

This decree will be published in the Journal Official of the Republic of Viet Nam.

Saigon, 22 October 1967

s/ Nguyen van Loc

Republic of Viet Nam
The Ministry of Interior

Arrete No. 8/BNV/ND dated November 25, 1967 governing the organization of the Interior Ministry

The Minister of Interior,

- Considering the Constitution of the Republic of Viet Nam dated April 1, 1967;
- Considering Decree No. 5a/TT/SL dated November 9, 1967 fixing the composition of the government;
- Considering Decree No. 19-SL/NV dated November 28 fixing duty of the Minister of Interior;
- Considering Decree No. 20-SL/NV dated November 22, 1967 governing the general organization of the Ministry of Interior;
- Considering Decree No. 175-NV dated May 23, 1955 modified by preceeding documents fixing salary in kind and in cash for government officials;
- Considering official business requirements;

ARRETE:

Art. 1 - The Ministry of Interior is directed by the Minister of Interior and consists of the following agencies:

I. Central agencies

- The Cabinet of the Minister
- The Directorate of Planning
- The Directorate of Administrative Affairs
- The Directorate of Inspection
- The consultative Committee

II. Subordinate agencies

- The Directorate General of National Police
- The Directorate of Rehabilitation
- The Directorate of Telecommunication.

COLUMN I

The Cabinet of the Minister

Art. 2 - The Cabinet of the Minister is directed by a Director of Cabinet who is assisted by a Chief of Cabinet, four Charges of Mission, four Cabinet Attaches and private Secretary. The special Cabinet is directed by a Chief of Cabinet.

The Director of Cabinet assists the Minister of Interior in all problems concerning the direction of the Ministry.

The Cabinet of the Minister is composed of seven (7) Bureaus, each directed by a chief of Bureau:

- Main Secretariat
- Bureau of Press
- Bureau of Communication
- Bureau of Internal Security
- Bureau of Information
- Bureau of Map and Briefing
- Bureau of Mail.

COLUMN II

The Directorate of Planning

Art. 3 - The Directorate of Planning is directed by a Secretary General and consists of five Services as follows:

- Service of Political affairs
- Service of Control
- Service of Planning
- Service of Research
- Service of Exit-Entrance and Immigration

Art. 4 - The Service of Political affairs is directed by a chief of Service and consists of four Bureaus, each of them is directed by a chief of Bureau.

- Bureau of General Political Affairs
- Bureau of Internal affairs
- Bureau of Synthesis and Statistics
- Bureau of Security Measures.

Art. 5 - The Service of Control is directed by a chief of Service and consists of the two following Bureaus, each directed by a chief of Bureau.

- Bureau of People's Groups and Associations
- Bureau of administrative security

Art. 6 - The Service of Planning is directed by a chief of Service and consists of three Bureaus, each directed by a chief of Bureau.

- Bureau of Planning
- Bureau of Elected Bodies
- Bureau of Foreign Aid.

Art. 7 - The Service of Research is directed by a chief of Service and consists of three Bureaus, each of them is directed by a chief of Bureau.

- Bureau of Research
- Bureau of Legislation
- Bureau of Regional administrative affairs.

Art. 8 - The Service of Exit-Entrance and Immigration is directed by a chief of Service and consists of five Bureaus, each directed by a chief of Bureau.

- Bureau of Exit for Vietnamese
- Bureau of Exist for Aliens
- Bureau of Entrance
- Bureau of Immigration
- Bureau of Coordination.

COLUMN III

The Directorate of Administration

Art. 9 - The Directorate of Administration is directed by a Director and a Deputy Director who enjoys same privileges granted to a Director of a small size Directorate. It is composed of four following Services:

- Service of Training
- Service of Personnel
- Service of Budget and Accounting
- Service of Coordination.

Art. 10 - The Service of Training is directed by a chief of Service and composed of two Bureaus, each directed by a chief of Bureau.

- Bureau of Program and organization
- Bureau of Training.

In addition, the Service of Training consists of a training Center directed by the chief of Service of Training.

Art. 11 - The Service of Personnel is directed by a chief of Service and composed of four Bureaus, each directed by a chief of Bureau.

- Bureau of Central Personnel
- Bureau of Local Personnel
- Bureau of Police Personnel
- Bureau of Personnel in the Directorates of Telecommunication and Rehabilitation.

Art. 12 - The Service of Budget and Accounting is directed by a chief of Service and composed of five Bureaus, each directed by a chief of Bureau.

- Bureau of Authorization of Expenditure
- Bureau of Central Accounting
- Bureau of Regional Accounting
- Bureau of Supply
- Bureau of Internal Affairs

Art. 13 - The Service of Administration is directed by a chief of Service and composed of four Bureaus, each directed by a chief of Bureau:

- Bureau of General Administration
- Bureau of Requisition and Confiscation
- Bureau of Resources Control.
- Bureau of Weapons Control.

COLUMN IV

The Directorate of Inspection

Art. 14 - The Directorate of Inspection is headed by a Senior Inspector who is assisted by a Deputy Inspector. It consists of six inspectors and fifteen controllers. Its office is directed by a chief of office and divided as follows:

- Central Inspection team, consisting of one inspector and three controllers.
- 1st Corps Inspection team, consisting of one inspector and three controllers.
- 2nd Corps Inspection team, consisting of two inspectors and three controllers.
- 3rd Corps Inspection team, consisting of one inspector and three controllers.
- 4th Corps Inspection team, consisting of one inspector and three controllers.

Inspectors and controllers will alternate in carrying on the above-mentioned duty each quarter.

The Senior Inspector enjoys same privileges granted to a Director of a large size Directorate; Deputy inspector and inspectors enjoy same privileges granted to a Director of a small size Directorate; controllers enjoy that of a chief of Service.

COLUMN V

The Consultative Committee

Art. 15 - The Consultative is headed by a Chairman and composed of three to five consultants. The Chairman of the Consultative Committee enjoys same privileges granted to a Director of a large size Directorate. Government officials serving as consultants enjoy privileges granted to a Director of a small size Directorate; Civilian Chairman and consultants enjoy salary fixed in the contracts.

General Article

Art. 16 - An Arrete from the Minister of Interior will fix detailed duties of the above-mentioned agencies.

Art. 17 - The organization and duty of the Directorates of National Police and Telecommunications is temporarily unchanged. The organization and duty of the Directorate of Rehabilitation will be fixed in another Arrete.

Art. 18 - Other articles and items that are not in accordance with that of this Arrete are abolished.

Art. 19 - The Director of Cabinet and the Secretary General of the Ministry of Interior take charge of carrying out this Arrete as far as their duties are concerned.

Saigon, November 25, 1967

s/ Linh quang Vien

Annex:

The Director of Cabinet

s/ Chu ngoc Lien

Copy:

The Director of Administration

s/ Bui huu Kien

Decree No. 10/BNV/ND dated November 27, 1967 fixing the duty of agencies under the Jurisdiction of the Ministry of Interior.

The Minister of Interior,

- considering the Constitution of the Republic of Vietnam dated April 1, 1967,
- considering Decree No. 5a/TT/SL dated November 9, 1967 fixing the composition of the government,
- considering Decree No. 19/SL/NV dated November 22, 1967 fixing the function of the Minister of Interior,
- considering Decree No. 20-SL/NV dated November 22, 1967 governing generally the organization of the Ministry of Interior,
- considering Arrête No. 8/BNV/ND dated November 25, 1967 fixing the organization of agencies under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Interior,
- considering Decree No. 175/NV dated May 23, 1955, modified by succeeding documents fixing the salary in kind and in cash for government officials,
- considering the requirement of official affairs,

ARRETE:

Art. 1 - The Ministry of Interior is composed of the following agencies:

I. Central Agencies:

- The Cabinet of the Minister
- Directorate of Planning
- Directorate of Administration
- Directorate of Inspection
- Committee for Consultation

II. Subordinate Agencies

- Directorate General of National Police
- Directorate of Rehabilitation
- Directorate of Telecommunication.

Art. 2 - The above-mentioned agencies' responsibility is assigned as follows:

Art. 3 - The Cabinet of the Minister:

Bureau 1: Main Secretariat

- Prepare and distribute general directives of the Minister,
- Keep Ministerial Council's, Government Council's and other high rank Council's files,
- Explore and keep meeting records,
- Follow up the execution of the Ministerial Council's, the government council's and other high rank council's decision,
- Award decoration and letter of commendation to outstanding officials,
- Official mission and visiting tour,
- Celebration and reception,
- Keep top secret in and out official correspondence and code,
- Give consideration to individual's requests and complaints,
- Keep files and archives,
- Keep records on change over of the Ministry's central agencies,
- Handle internal problems concerning social welfare, women, co-operatives and health,
- Send employees to attend ceremonies,
- Administer the Ministry's internal library.

Bureau 2. Press

- Scan daily newspaper
- Prepare press conferences
- Explore news from information bulletins from home and foreign newspapers and magazines concerning the Ministry of Interior,
- Maintain liaison with domestic press broadcasting stations, television stations, news agency, motion picture centers to distribute information concerning the Ministry's activities,
- Handle deposit of duty copies of book and magazines.

Bureau 3. Communication

- Receive and dispatch the Ministry's messages
- Operate radio and telegraph communication system between the Ministry and provinces,
- Operate teletype system.

From the technical and personnel management point of view, the Bureau of Communication is placed under the jurisdiction of the Directorate of Telecommunication.

Bureau 4. Internal Security

- Administer guard duty for the Ministry headquarters and the Minister's residence,
- Provide escort and body guard to the Minister,
- Take preventive measure against leakage or abstraction of secret information,
- Make reports on daily situation.

Bureau 5. Information

- Receive the people coming to the Ministry,
- Receive applications, requests and dossiers submitted by the people and transmit them to the Ministry's Services or agencies under the jurisdiction of the Ministry,
- Instruct the people coming to the Ministry on procedures necessary to obtain papers from the Ministry, assist them effectively in making requests,
- Get in touch with the Ministry's agencies to solve the people's problems effectively and rapidly.
- Introduce the interested parties to other Ministry and agencies being under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Interior if their requests fall within the competence of these agencies.

Bureau 6. Maps and Briefing

- Compile and update maps concerning political activities,
- Explore and make use of statistical statements concerning political and security activities,
- Prepare speeches and consolidate briefings of the Minister,
- Organize meetings at the Ministry with the coordination of concerned agencies.

Bureau 7. Official Correspondence

- Receive, submit, and distribute incoming classified and unclassified official correspondence,
- Submit for signature, give number, keep records of and send outgoing classified and unclassified official correspondence,

- Keep record of documents issued by the government,
- General official business (establish guard duty, on-duty lists, type and mimeograph official correspondence...)

Art. 4 - Directorate of Planning

1. Service of Political Affairs

Bureau 8. General Political Affairs

- General political affairs concerning the Ministry of Interior,
- Problems concerning the International Control Commission (ICC),
- Treaty and international conference,
- Political problems concerning neighboring countries,
- International political problems concerning domestic activities and security,
- The demilitarized zone,
- Release of prisoner of war,
- Political refugee,
- Special state: state of emergency, curfew and state of war...
- Contribute political ideas on drafting of standing operation documents,
- Contribute ideas on political activities of political groups.

Bureau 9. Internal Political Affairs

- Follow up political activities of political groups, religious sects, unions, associations student groups and ethnic minorities,
- Study and formulate government's policy governing political groups,
- Keep liaison with political groups,
- Study supply of means of activity to political groups,
- Political activities concerning foreigners,
- Vietnamese political groups in foreign countries,
- Set up personal files of individuals considered as remarkable in the field of politic,

- Follow up the government's political organizations' activities,
- Pay attention to activities of press and magazines,
- Handle matters concerning press and magazines,
- Gather news from information bulletins from home and foreign newspapers and magazine concerning the political state inside the country,
- Censor books, and films.

Bureau 10. Synthesis and Statistics

- Gathering daily reports on war situation to follow up the enemy's and the Allies' activities throughout the country,
- Gathering and exploring periodic reports from other agencies for the examination of local political situation,
- Publishing periodic or special synthesized statements for studying the domestic political condition,
- Following up results of pacification activities,
- Handling prisoners of war and defectors,
- Making general statistics of political and security problems,
- Preparing, showing and updating maps of the original inhabitants and religions (coordinate with the Bureau of Maps),
- Studying the enemy's policy, plan and program of action, then working out counter-measures,
- Working out measures to destroy the enemy's infrastructure,
- Examine good-points and shortcomings of anti-communist programs so that we can improve them in time.

Bureau 11. Security measures

- Security committee,
- Handle matters concerning operation of rehabilitation centers,
- Execute deportation sentences,
- Prohibit illegal residence,
- Anti hooligan campaign,
- Handle matters concerning administrative and judiciary police,
- Infringements of laws such as: smuggling, unauthorized transfer of funds...

2. Service of Control:

Bureau 12. Groups and Associations

- Issue basic documents concerning unions, religious sects, associations, civil groups...
- Follow up activities of the mentioned groups,
- Control activities of the horse racing association,
- Establish cards and documents of associations unions and connected persons,
- Report of activities of unions and associations.

Bureau 13. Administrative Security

- Study and apply measures to preserve national secrecy,
- Study security measures for State-run enterprises, mixed ownership enterprises and other key installations of the nation,
- Study and apply measures of anti-sabotage, anti-terrorism and anti-material and psychological sabotage in governmental agencies,
- Train and instruct civil servants, cadres, and personnel of all levels to be aware of their responsibilities in secrecy preservation and in proper application of these measures,
- Conduct administrative investigation,
- Provide security to state guests, statesmen, and very important persons.

3. Service of Planning

Bureau 14. Planning

- Makes study of programs and lines of action for the Ministry of Interior according to the government's policy,
- Prepares plans for implementation of the Ministry's programs of action and follows up such implementation so that necessary measures for improvement may be initiated,
- Provides general coordination of all activities of the Ministry's component agencies,
- Works out statutes governing religions and political groups,
- Makes plans to eliminate corruption and to improve working method,
- Prepares periodic reports on the activities of the Ministry.

Bureau 15. Elected Bodies

- Carries out electoral laws and regulations and organizes elections and referendums,
- Keeps liaison with and follows up activities of elected bodies: National assembly, local councils, etc...
- Assigns personnel to supervise election booths,

Bureau 16. Foreign Aid

- Studies, implements and controls foreign aid programs with a view to support local administrative structure,
- Keeps liaison with Foreign agencies.

4. Service of Research

Bureau 17. Research

- Studies plans to improve organizations and general operating methods of the Ministry's headquarters, component agencies and other administrative establishments.

Bureau 18. Legislation

- makes studies of legislative documents and administrative regulations;
- handles problems of administrative disputed claims.

Bureau 19. Local Administration

- makes studies of general problems relative to local administration for efficiency and simplification purpose,
- studies and sets up local administrative structures: the capital, cities, provinces, district, canton, village and hamlet,
- sets up and modifies the boundaries of the capital, cities, provinces, district, canton, village, and hamlet,
- updates maps and bibliographies of administrative units,
- follows up, urges and controls activities of regional administrative structures,
- exercises the right of surveillance over local administrative groups,
- calls periodic meetings of province chiefs.

5. Service of Entrance and Exit and Immigration

This Service is placed under the Minister's jurisdiction.

Bureau 20. Exit of Vietnamese

- Administers exit of Vietnamese people,

Bureau 21. Exit of Aliens

- Administers exit of Aliens.

Bureau 22. Entrance

- Administers entrance of aliens into Vietnam,
- Administers entrance of Vietnamese from abroad,
- Administers security clearance for students going abroad,

Bureau 23. Immigration

- Administers aliens' immigration,
- Controls Aliens' activities,
- Deportation and extradition,
- Administers naturalization of local-born Chinese.

Bureau 24. Coordination

- Studies, prepares, follows-up and revises basic documents and regulations governing aliens' nationality, exit, entrance and immigration,
- Controls, coordinates, and harmonizes activities of dependent sections of the Services of Exit-Entrance and Immigration,
- Handles correspondence of records of the Services of Exit-Entrance and Immigration.

Art. 5 - Directorate of Administrative Affairs

1. Service of Training

Bureau 25. Program and Organization

- makes plans for training and in-service training of administrative personnel of all levels: central province, district, village and hamlet,

- organizes administrative seminars,
- sets up and controls local training centers and in-service training centers,
- researches, prepares and distributes training documents and refresher documents,
- translates documents,
- use audio-visual equipment in conducting training courses,
- organizes competitive examinations and graduate ceremonies.

Bureau 26. Training

- testing and practicing,
- studies and consolidates reports on training activities from central and local training centers,
- follows up students' study and living condition during the training period,
- prepares and distributes training magazines,
- handles problems concerning overseas in-service training, observation tours, attending international conferences,
- conducts indoctrination course for officials and cadres.

Training Center

- central training center is stationed in Saigon and directed by the chief of Service of Training,
- local training centers directed by Directors who enjoys same privileges granted to a chief of service takes charge of training cadres of district, village and hamlet levels.

2. Service of Personnel

Bureau 27. Central Personnel

- Manages administrative-personnel of the Ministry of Interior (regular and non-regular personnel),
- Controls the above-mentioned personnel on the problems of: appointment, transfer, promotion, disciplinary action, dismissal, leave, retirement and posthumous allowances...
- Drafts arretes, decisions, hiring contracts and recruitment sheet concerning the above mentioned personnel,
- Retirement allowances,
- Keeps personal files of the above mentioned personnel.

Bureau 28. Local Personnel

- appoints Prefect, Province Chiefs, Mayors, Prefecture Secretary General, Deputy Prefect, Deputy Province Chiefs, Deputy Mayors, District Chiefs and Deputy District Chiefs,
- administers administrative personnel of the Saigon prefect, cities, provinces, and districts on the problem of: transfer, disciplinary action, leave, efficiency reports, check list...
- keeps the above mentioned personnel's personal files.

Bureau 29. Police Personnel

- administers regular and non-regular personnel of National Police,
- recruits, transfers and admits personnel into career,
- handles personal rating, promotion and personnel classification,
- administers personnel's resignation, career-returning, and detachment,
- handles annual leave, retirement and leave without pay,
- approves retirement pay, posthumous allowances and other allowances,
- keeps personal files of personnel of the mentioned branch.

Bureau 30. Rehabilitation and telecommunication personnel

- Controls personnel of the Directorates of Rehabilitation and Telecommunications: appointment, transfer, promotion, punishment, dismissal, leave, retirement, posthumous allowances...
- Checks and receives drafts of arretes, decisions, hiring contracts, recruitment sheets concerning the above-mentioned personnel,
- Keeps the above-mentioned personnel's files.

3. Service of Budget and Accounting

Bureau 31. Budget and Expenditure Authorization

- Prepares and implements the Ministry's budget,
- Follows up implementation of budget of the dependent agencies,
- Sets up procedures conferring authorization for expenditures and receipts,
- Designates liquidating officers for the Ministry's budget chapters,

- Approves documents necessitating expenditures supported by the national budget, other subsidiary budgets and foreign aid budgets,
- Provides financial supports to elections,
- Follows up implementation of foreign aid programs.

Bureau 32. Central Accounting

- Effects payment for personnel, materials, internal equipment, affairs and operating expenses of the Ministry of Interior,
- Issues travelling warrant, transportation authorization, hospitalization authorization to the Ministry's personnel,
- Sets up, controls and gives discharge of advance funds.

Bureau 33. Local Accounting

- Delegates funds concerning local administrative programs to local administrative structures,
- Takes charge of accounting for local structures on implementation of foreign aid programs,
- Visas travel orders, issues transportation and hospitalization authorizations to local personnel,
- Provides financial supports and liquidation of expenses to Con Son Administrative Organization.

Bureau 34. Supply

- Purchases and administers materials used by the central headquarters,
- Certifies inventory of property and makes records of disposal materials,
- Coordinates and harmonizes activities between central and local structures.

Bureau 35. Internal Affairs

- Handles internal affairs and vehicles of the central headquarters.

4. Service of Administration

Bureau 36. General Administration

- Issues plastic-covered identity cards family,

- Controls the inhabitants records, change of residence, organization of inter-families,
- Performs census of population,
- Takes charge of public developments,
- Takes care of civil status and nationality,
- Handles military service and transportation of military use items,
- Issues authorization for organizing lottery, fair, funds rising and horse race,
- Administers popular mortgage houses,
- Administers registration of motorcycles below 50cc,
- Manages property of Asian residents' sectors.

Bureau 37. Confiscation and Requisition

- Effects requisition of personal and real property for government use,
- Effects confiscation for public interest,
- Administer problems concerning land and houses,
- Takes charge of administrative problems concerning social welfare (refugee, social plague, natural disaster victims...),
- Detains mind defective people and administers their property,
- Implements slum clearance program and assists public officials in execution of justice court's sentences,
- Handles problems concerning the inter-Ministerial land-house Committee and Compensations for damages of the people.

Bureau 38. Control

- Performs organization and control of manpowers and other national resources assigned to the Ministry of Interior,
- Makes study of national resources mobilization,
- Coordinates with other Ministry's Service in organizing the people,
- Controls of national resources and encircles the enemy's economic activities,
- Controls of military use items.

Bureau 39. Weapons Control

- Permits and controls importation, exportation, transportation trade and use of administrative personnel's, private

individuals, Aliens, and travellers' weapon (it is not classified as weapon of war),

- Conduct technical control of these weapons,
- Permits, and controls trade and use of radio, sending and receiving wireless and related items,
- Permits and controls trade of Radio and Television.

Art. 6 - Directorate of inspection. It is composed of:

1. The office. It takes charge of:

- Receiving, distributing, and dispatching official correspondence,
- Organizing meetings of the Directorate of inspection,
- Analyzing inspection reports and distributing results to agencies concerned,
- Administering documents necessary of inspectors and auditors on operation.

2. Central inspection team, takes charge of inspection in the central agencies of the Ministry of Interior,

3. 1st corps inspection team, takes charge of inspection in provinces and towns of the 1st corps,

4. 2nd corps inspection team, take charge of inspection in provinces and towns of the 2nd corps,

5. 3rd corps inspection team, takes charge of inspection in provinces and towns of the 3rd corps,

6. 4th corps inspection team, takes charge of inspection in provinces and towns of the 4th corps.

a. Senior inspector is assigned the duty of:

1. Follow-up, control and direct general activities of central and local administrative agencies,
2. Direct and appoint job to inspectors and auditors,
3. Carry out regular inspection problems and take charge of special investigation under the order of the Minister of Interior.

b. Inspectors and auditors' duty is defined as follows:

1. Regular duty

- Control, direct and report to the Minister of Interior implementation of policy, programs and decision of the government assigned to the Ministry of Interior,
- Control, direct and report to the Minister of Interior the operation of administrative agencies under the Ministry and method of working and efficiency of supervisors concerned in every field of activity under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Interior,
- Follow-up the general situation in the responsible area, find out what people need and what they want to be able to propose suitable improving measures in administration,
- Control implementation of the national, regional and foreign aid budget on the part of the Ministry of Interior,
- Evaluate organization and method of working applied in the above mentioned agencies and initiate recommendations for improvement.

2. Special duty

- Verify, investigate and make an on-the-spot study of special problems assigned by the Minister of Interior,
- Auditors work under the direction and instruction of Inspectors,

Inspectors and auditors may be assigned the duty outside the responsible area if it is necessary.

Inspectors and auditors have to assemble at least once a month to exchange ideas and experiences of inspection affairs and study, prepare and submit to the Minister of Interior recommendations of necessary measures for improving organization and operation of the Ministry's agencies.

Art. 7 - Consultative Committee

The Consultative committee has the duty of:

- Working out the Ministry's policy,
- Studying political problems concerning the Ministry of Interior and making plans of implementation.

Art. 8 - This Arrete is distributed internally and only to Services level.

Art. 9 - The Director of Cabinet and the Secretary General of the Ministry of Interior takes charge of carrying out this Arrete as far as his duties are concerned.

Saigon, November 27, 1967

s/ Linh quang Vien

Duplicate:

Director of Cabinet
s/ Chu ngoc Lien

Copy:

Director of Administrative Affairs
s/ Bui huu Kien

Ministry of Interior

Arrete No. 9-BNV-MD dated 25/11/67 governing the organization of the Directorate for Rehabilitation.

The Minister of Interior,

.....

.....

ENACTS:

Art. 1 - The Directorate for Rehabilitation is placed under the direction of a Director who is assisted by a Deputy Director. The Deputy Director has the same rank as a Director of a small size Directorate.

Art. 2 - The Directorate for Rehabilitation is composed of:

- main office
- administrative service
- technical service
- * rehabilitation service
- rearing service
- control team

Art. 3 - The main office, headed by a Chief of Service is in charge of:

- special and confidential affairs
- receipt of classified documents,
- scanning newspapers,
- preparation of visits, mission tours, receptions,
- organizing conferences,
- receipt and dispatch unclassified correspondence,
- gathering and submitting official correspondence to the Director for signature,

- controlling the execution of the Director's decisions,
- keeping record of official correspondence,
- maintaining library, archives.

Art. 4 - Administrative Service headed by a Chief of Service, is composed of 4 bureaus:

a. Personnel Bureau: headed by a Chief of Bureau:

- applies civil service regulations,
- administers Rehabilitation Personnel - chief supervisor, Rehabilitation Supervisors, Rehabilitation workers, recruitment, appointment, transfer, promotion, punishment, dismissal, leave, retirement, death compensation,
- follows up status of administrative personnel of all categories from the Directorate of Rehabilitation,
- maintains personal files of all personnel of the Directorate,
- issues authorizations for medical examination for personnel.

b. Bureau of Budget and Accounting, headed by a Chief of Bureau:

- prepares and implements the Directorate's budget,
- allocates funds to Rehabilitation centers,
- effects payment of salaries and allowances,
- provides expenditures, under rehabilitation chapter and foreign aid budget,
- advances funds to rehabilitation centers,
- sets up monthly list of approved expenditures,
- sets up general monthly report of accounting situation of all Rehabilitation Centers,
- issues and verifies travel orders, issues transportation and hospitalization authorization to personnel of the Directorate.

c. Bureau of materials, headed by a Chief of Bureau

- purchases materials and office supplies,
- administers the construction of rehabilitation centers,
- handles calls for bid,
- sets up inventory of properties and prepares report of disposal materials,
- administers internal services and vehicles,
- regulates transport between the Directorate and Rehabilitation Centers,
- provides supplies to Con Son Rehabilitation Center.

d. Bureau of Administration, Legislation, headed by a Chief of Bureau

- organizes rehabilitation centers,
- gathers and studies statutory documents relative to rehabilitation centers,
- studies all matters from the legal standpoint, before turning them over to different services for execution,
- handles general administrative affairs and administrative lawsuits.

Art. 5 - Technical Service, headed by a Chief of Service is composed of 3 bureaus:

a. Bureau of culprits, under the supervision of a Chief of bureau:

- maintains the rolls, files and personal cards of culprits,
- classification of culprits,
- considers the release of culprits,
- considers the transfer of culprits,
- resolves the status of culprits: deportation, prolongation of sentence, pardon, mitigation of sentence, etc...

b. Bureau of research and planning, headed by a Chief of Bureau:

- consolidates monthly reports from all centers and from controllers,
- explores above reports,
- prepares monthly reports and submits them to higher authorities,
- studies general program of action in all centers,
- studies and prepares statistical data on cases of perpetration of crimes, repetition of offences.

c. Bureau of Security, under the direction of a Chief of Bureau, studies and controls measures to insure security and order in the centers.

Art. 6 - Service of Rehabilitation, under the direction of a Chief of Service is composed of 3 bureaus:

a. Bureau of Rehabilitation headed by a Chief of Bureau:

- works out rehabilitation plans,
- organizes rehabilitation sections for the centers,
- coordinates with the Personnel Bureau in the assignment and transfer of rehabilitation workers according to the needs of the centers,
- follows up the management of rehabilitation activities in the centers,
- prepares a recapitulative report of rehabilitation activities in the centers,
- prepares a recapitulative report of experience in rehabilitation and study specific rehabilitation programs,
- follows up, controls the implementation of all instructions concerning rehabilitation.

b. Vocational Bureau, headed by a Chief of Bureau:

- studies vocational programs in the centers,
- organizes vocational training,
- follows up vocational activities,
- studies the consumption of products manufactured by the centers,
- controls the execution of the vocational budget in the centers.

c. Bureau of Training, headed by a Chief of Bureau:

- studies programs and training plans for rehabilitation workers and supervisors at the centers,
- organizes and administers training courses for cadres,
- prepares uniform instructional materials for all centers,
- organizes seminars,
- organizes training courses for Rehabilitation workers and typing courses,
- musical performance,
- printing,
- prepares instructional materials for the training courses.

Art. 7 - Welfare Service headed by a Chief of Service is composed of 2 bureaus:

a. Bureau of Social Assistance, headed by a Chief of Bureau:

Public Health:

- organizes Health bureau, dispensaries, hospitals in the rehabilitation centers, provides equipment to personnel, public health equipment and drugs,
- considers and follows the case of patients who receive treatment outside rehabilitation centers,
- maintains liaison with health, welfare agencies, to request them to provide medicine and medical equipment for rehabilitation centers,
- supervises the health bureau at the Directorate for Rehabilitation.

Social Welfare:

- studies to create conditions aimed at satisfying requirements of faith, moral education, physical education,
- establishes welfare bureaus in the rehabilitation centers,
- organizes visit tours to culprits,
- intercedes with friendly organizations to provide material and spiritual aid to culprits,
- organizes mutual benefit and aid among the personnel of rehabilitation branch.

b. Bureau of post-training patronage, headed by a Chief of service:

- provides ex-convicts with moral and material assistance in order that they may adapt themselves to normal living conditions,
- establishes program of post-training patronage for welfare bureaus in the rehabilitation centers and follows up the execution of these programs,
- intercedes with agencies, factories, handicraft and industrial firms to give job to ex-culprits throughout the country,
- appeals to welfare organizations to cooperate in the relief of ex-culprits or encourage private individuals to establish Post-Training patronage society.

Art. 8 - The Inspection Team composed of 5 controllers:

- controls the operations of all centers from the viewpoint of organization, accounting, administration and security,
- examines the rehabilitation in all centers,
- prepares reports after each inspection tour and makes appropriate measures for improvement,
- examines the files of political prisoners,

Art. 9 - Any provisions contrary to this Arrete are repealed.

Art. 10 - The Director of Cabinet of the Ministry of Interior, and the Director of Rehabilitation Directorate are charged; each as to that which concern him, with the execution of this Arrete.

Saigon, 25 November 1967

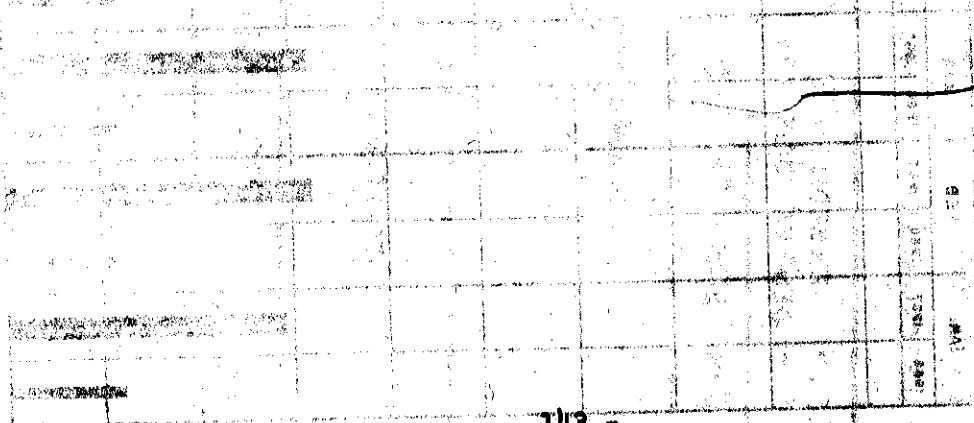
s/ Gen. Linh quang Vien

COMPARISON OF COLLECTIONS OF WITHHOLDING TAX IN 1967

AND THE 1966 SALARY TAX

The chart on the following page compares monthly Salary and General Income Tax collections of 1966 with 1967, the year the withholding tax system was installed. Total tax withheld in 1967 was 612 million piasters, an increase of more than 400% over the 140 million collected in 1966.

For the year 1968, it is estimated withholding tax will be lower than for 1967. The destruction of large plants of some major employers and the general reduction in many business activities because of the shortened workday and other conditions brought about by the Viet Cong Tet aggression will result in reduced total payrolls. Many of the other areas of revenue are expected to be similarly affected.



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DIRECTOR GENERAL OF TAXATION

COMPARISON OF COLLECTIONS

OF

WITHHOLDING TAX IN 1967

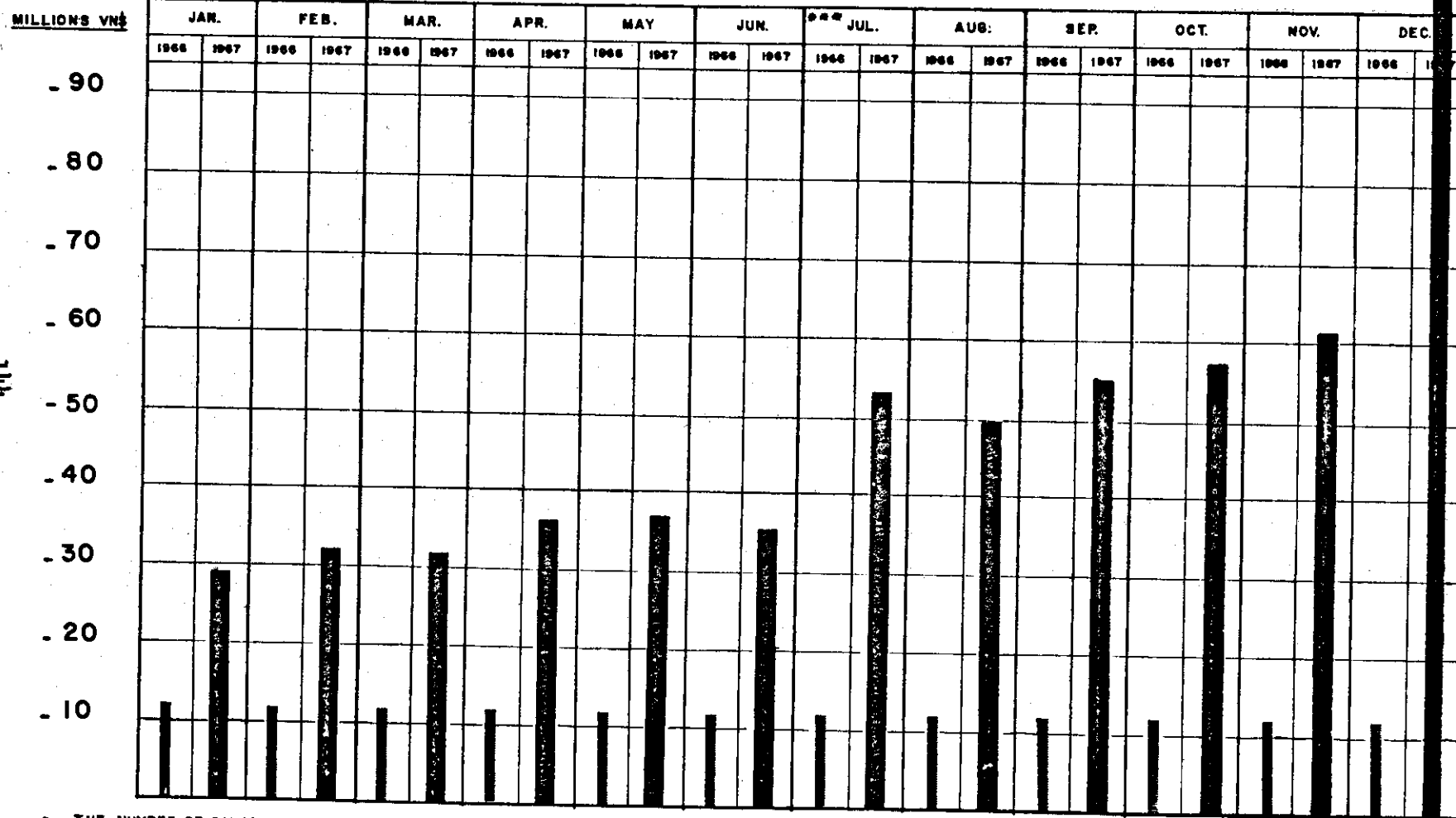
SALARY TAX THRU DECLARATION IN 1966

TOTAL :

612 Million VN\$

140 Million VN\$

132 Million



* THE NUMBER OF SALARY TAXPAYERS THUS FAR IN 1967 EXCEEDS 60 000 COMPARED TO 14 000 IN 1966. THIS INCREASE HAS TAKEN PLACE DESPITE THE FACT THAT MANY SALARY TAXPAYERS WERE ELIMINATED BY A SUBSTANTIAL PERSONAL EXEMPTION INCREASE.

* * TOTAL 1966 SALARY TAX COLLECTIONS WHICH WERE APPROXIMATELY 140 MILLION VN\$ IS SHOWN AS 12 MILLION VN\$ MONTHLY AVERAGE.

* * * MARKS THE START OF WITHHOLDING BY U.S. PRIVATE CONTRACTORS AND U.S. GOVERNMENT CIVILIAN AND MILITARY AGENCIES

USAID/IRS-FTAS

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM
OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT

VICE - PRESIDENT

SPECIAL ASSISTANTS

SPECIALISTS

CHIEF OF THE SPECIAL
CABINET

PRIVATE SECRETARY

AIDE - DE - CAMP

MAIL BUREAU

DIRECTOR OF CABINET

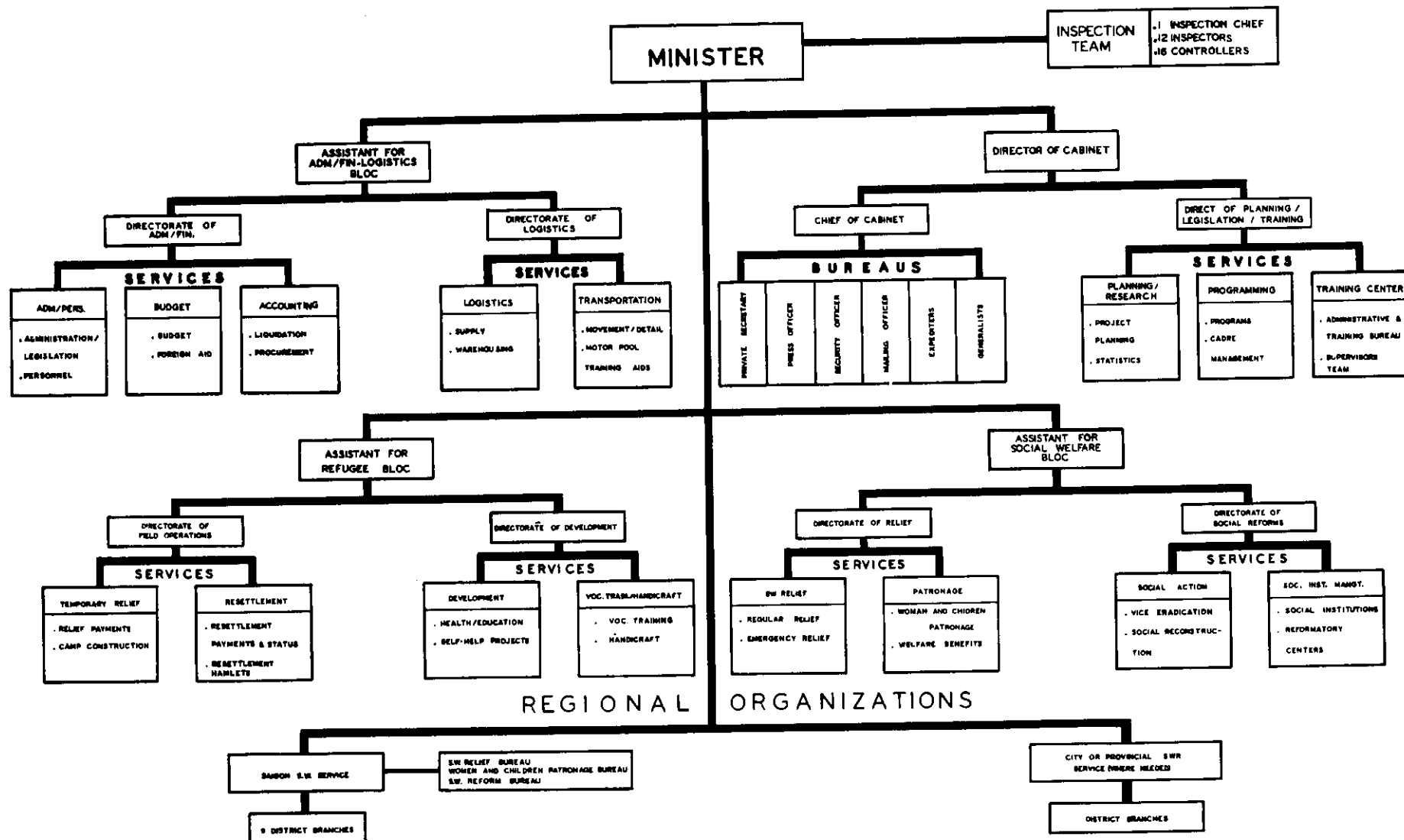
- DEPUTY DIRECTOR
- EXPEDITERS

- DIRECTORATE OF PRESS
- DIRECTORATE OF PROTOCOL
- SERVICE OF PERSONEL & ACCOUNTING
- SERVICE OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS
- SERVICE OF MILITARY AFFAIRS

SECRETARY GENERAL

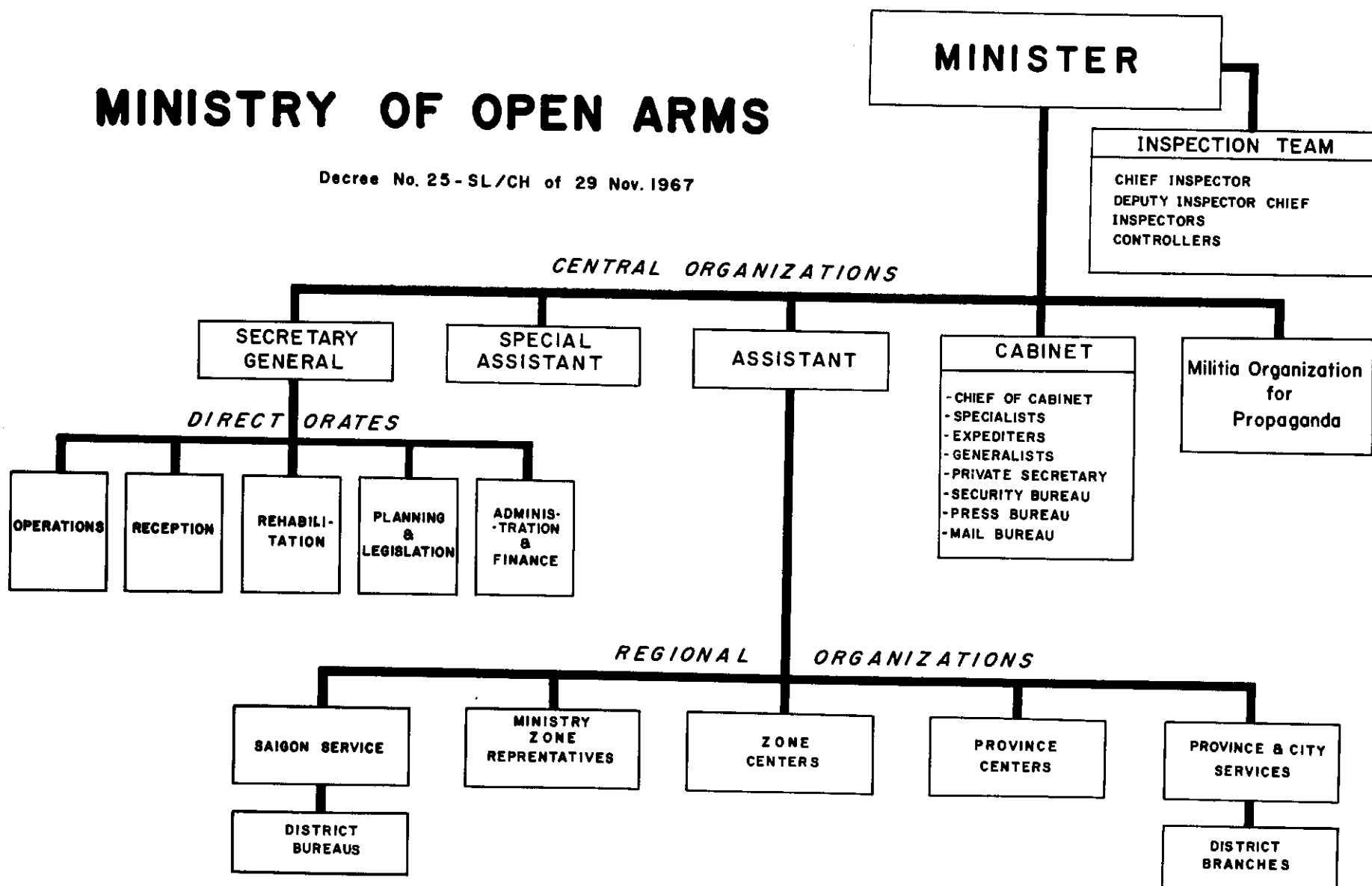
- SERVICE OF EDUCATIONAL & CULTURAL
AFFAIRS
- SERVICE OF ECONOMY & FINANCE
- SERVICE OF ETHNIC MINORITIES

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL WELFARE - REFUGEES



MINISTRY OF OPEN ARMS

Decree No. 25 - SL/CH of 29 Nov. 1967



AD P A / US AID VIETNAM, MAR. 1968