



Teacher keeps her young charges spellbound --
a familiar scene in Vietnam today.



Vietnam **BULLETIN**

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Dear Readers,

In an effort to provide you with a wide variety of information about Viet-Nam, starting this month our regular publications will include:

- VIET-NAM BULLETIN, formerly a weekly publication, shall henceforth be issued on the 1st and the 16th of each month,
- VIET-NAM INFO-SERIES will appear periodically in the 2nd and the 4th week of each month,
- TIN QUE-HUONG continues to be published weekly in Vietnamese.

We sincerely hope to have your continued interest and support.

Office of Information
Embassy of Viet-Nam



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A typical class-room in Viet-Nam

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political & military news

Presidential Election Bill

Saigon, June 3, (VP). - The Lower House Thursday noon rejected the whole text of the Senate's reconsideration on the Presidential election bill.

One hundred and one out of 122 Representatives present at the session stood up in a vote against the viewpoint of the Upper House and thus the stand of the Lower House on the bill remained de facto unchanged.

According to article ten, paragraph seven of the bill endorsed by the Lower House, a candidate for the Presidency and Vice Presidency must be recommended by 40 Senators and Representatives or 100 city and provincial councillors.

Article ten, paragraph seven providing the introduction of Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates was one of the most important points in the Senate's reconsideration of the bill.

The Senate demanded that this article be reconsidered in an effort to respect the right to freedom democracy of the entire people provided by article 51 of the constitution.

In its viewpoint, the Lower House Interior Committee said in the legal aspect, article ten, paragraph seven was not against the provisions of the Constitution which does not prohibit the principle of introduction.

The article, according to the Interior Committee, also helps check the inflation of candidates, while encouraging a process toward a two party system and liquidating Communist elements hiding under the nationalist label.

Therefore, according to the Committee's suggestion, the Lower House at 1 p.m. voted the abolition of the whole reconsideration of the Senate.

Only 13 POWs Prefer to Return to North VN

Saigon, June 2, (VP) - Only 13 North Vietnam prisoners of war out of 660, the Republic of Vietnam Government decided to return to North Vietnam preferred to be repatriated to the North. This was announced in a communique issued Wednesday by the Foreign Affairs Ministry.

Full text of the communique read as follows:

Following its April 29, 1971 decision to proceed with the release of the sick and wounded North Vietnamese prisoners of war, to which North Vietnam responded on May 13, 1971, by proposing a number of technical modalities relating to their repatriation, the Government of the Republic of Vietnam on May 26, 1971, gave its agreement to the terms proposed by Hanoi.

In accordance with article 109 of the Geneva Convention of August 12, 1949, concerning the treatment of POWs, the Government of the Republic of Vietnam has requested the International Committee of the Red Cross to cooperate in the selection of prisoners, so that none of them may be repatriated to the North against his will.

On May 29, 1971, the International Committee of the Red Cross interviewed each of the 660 North Vietnamese sick and wounded POWs outside the presence of any RVN government representative. As a result, only 13 POWs volunteered to be repatriated to North Vietnam, the remaining others refusing to return home.

The results have been duly recorded by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Thus, 98% of the POWs dread returning to the North for fear of reprisals by the Hanoi authorities and chose accordingly to stay in the South, where they have enjoyed and will enjoy better treatment and greater security.

It is out of question that the Republic of Vietnam should force them to return to North Vietnam against their will.

The Government of the RVN decides to go ahead with its humanitarian policy regarding POWs, sparing no efforts to improve their condition regardless of the side where they are being detained.

Anti Narcotics Campaign

Saigon, May 24 (VP) - Justice Minister Le Van Thu, Chairman of the Smuggling and Narcotics Eradication Committee Friday morning told newsmen that over 25 kilos of heroin and about 12 kilos of opium were seized in the first five months of this year.

At a press conference held at the conference hall of the Information Ministry, Minister Thu said that by virtue of the mission order dated April 10, 1971 and subsequent documents, an Inter-Ministerial Committee for Smuggling Eradication and Control of Import, Circulation, Storage and Using of Narcotics on the Smuggling and Narcotics Eradication Committee was set up with the Justice Minister as Chairman, the Finance Minister as Vice-Chairman, the Foreign, Defense, Social Welfare, Health, Information Ministers and the Interior, Education Vice Ministers as members.

Similar Committee headed by Province Chiefs or City Mayors were formed in va-

rious cities and provinces all over the country with the participation of representatives of the above-mentioned Ministries in the localities.

A campaign with the same aim, kicked off off last April 15, has scored many encouraging achievements.

According to Minister Thu, within the scope of this campaign, the Information Ministry, in cooperation with the Health Ministry, has exerted all mass media to point out to the people the disastrous consequences of drug addiction.

The Customs Directorate General has worked closely with the National Police Command and Military Security Force in halting the flow of drugs from other countries into South Vietnam.

Minister Thu requested the entire people, especially the press circle, to lend the government a hand in the anti-narcotics campaign by informing responsible agents of any users, hoarders or smugglers of narcotics.

RVN-Khmer Agreement

On Smuggling Eradication

Saigon, May 23 (VP). - The Republic of Vietnam and the Khmer Republic have reached an agreement on the eradication of smuggling through the common border areas of the two countries, the RVN Finance Ministry announced Friday.

Besides, the Khmer Republic will also be authorized to move her latex processing installations in Vietnam.

According to the Finance Ministry, such an authorization will help the Khmer Republic resume its production rubber even in war time and at the same time provide further employment to the Vietnamese workers.

Laotian Assessment

May 27, 1971 (VN) - Nearly two months after the South Vietnamese attempt to cut through the Ho Chi Minh trail came to an end, top military commanders in the Saigon area appear to be considering the controversial Laotian campaign as a success of major proportions. Indeed, Lieutenant General Nguyen Van Minh, who had just opened a new front in neighboring Cambodia while having to ensure the security of the ultra-sensitive region made up of the 11 provinces around Saigon, was quite positive about the impact of the Laotian campaign on Southern battlefields.

According to Gen. Minh, "Communist reinforcements and supplies have been choked off so much that the Communists could not launch a major offensive in the South before the next Presidential election in the fall." Speaking to journalists at Tay Ninh forward command post, Gen. Minh also revealed that the three Communist divisions operating in Cambodia "have been instructed to find 50 percent of your food requirements locally" in a recently captured note originating with the Central Office for South Vietnam (COSVN).

These rather optimistic statements appeared last week to be in line with the absence of major war developments in the recent weeks but the view from the highlands seemed to be in direct contradiction with them. Indeed, it was learned early last week that Maj. Gen. Ngo Dzu, the top government commander there, had launched two multi-regimental operations to reduce Communist presence in the province of Kontum, Pleiku and Quang Duc.

Although the triborder area has remained relatively quiet since the end of the Battle for Firebase No.6 last month, the occupation of the last Royalist-held city of Pak Song on the Bolovens Plateau in Laos was viewed as an attempt by the enemy to "secure a safe rear in preparation of an allout assault on South Vietnamese positions in this area," according to top military sources in Gen. Dzu's headquarters.

Advisors in VC Ranks

May 27, 1971 (VN). - A North Vietnamese Army (NVA) physician told the Press last week that he had seen of his own eyes "Four or five groups of foreign strategists" advising Viet Cong commanders "deep inside South Vietnamese territory." The revelations of Dr. Dang Tan, a Communist Party member for 23 years until his surrender to Government forces three weeks after the death of Ho Chi Minh, were the first such reports from a high-ranking NVA officer and they confirmed the longstanding suspicions in Saigon that a small but important foreign contingent is fighting on Hanoi's side.

According to Dr. Tan, he had seen Russian, Communist Chinese, Cuban, North Korean, and French citizens chatting among themselves "in their own tongues" in the highlands of South Vietnam. Like other guerilla bands, they wore black pyjamas and were heavily armed but "wherever they went, NVA commanders made it a point of having them heavily escorted." Dr. Tan also said he first came across these "foreigners" on his long trek down the Ho Chi Minh trail in 1967. And "during my two

years in highlands, I have seen four or five groups of foreign strategists deep inside South Vietnamese territory."

Before Tan met with the Press, there had been off and on reports of foreigners in Viet Cong ranks. Not long ago, Communist spokesmen in Paris even claimed some U.S. deserters were fighting with them and South Vietnam Foreign Minister Tran Van Lam also told the Press in the French capital of the presence of Chinese communist troops on Indochinese battlefields. But most conclusive evidence of this is the existence of some tapes in which South Korean troops in Binh Dinh province had been able to record North Korean voices, urging them to shift side with a distinct Pyong-yang accent.

Brother of Hanoi Diplomat Rallied the Government

Saigon, June 7 - A ranking cadre in the Communist rear services who rallied the Government, Mai Van So, said today a Communist defeat is inevitable. At a press conference Mai Van So said that the Communist started losing the war with the advent of the Tet Offensive (1968). This Communist attack was the worst blunder the Communist could have made, costing the lives of tens of thousands of their cadres and soldiers.

Mai Van So is the twin brother of Mai Van Bo who was North Vietnamese General representative in Paris from 1961 until December 1970. So, a 53 year old Southerner, was captured in Hau Nghia Province in 1969 by the Allied Forces but his capture had been kept in secret since then. Mr. So disclosed that he had been very discouraged with the terrorism used by the Communists and intended to defect, which is why the Allied Forces captured him so easily.

Mr. So had been in the "National Liberation Front" for almost 9 years and his last position in VC ranks was deputy battalion commander.

Open Arms Settlement

Saigon, May 29 (VP). - Up to late 1971, the Open Arms Ministry completed Chieu Hoi villages for 17,280 returned and relatives who are owners of 3,865 housing units.

The villages also have 84 classes for 3,118 students.

Thus far, 18 of these villages have been provided with electricity.

At present, three other such villages are under construction and will be completed in two months.

Returnees Employment

Saigon, May 29, (VP). - A total of 34,337 returnees are being now employed by Vietnamese and allied agencies sources from the Open Arms Ministry said.

Of the figure, 20,863 returnees are serving in the RVN Armed Forces, 3,695 others in the Allied Forces as scout or reconnaissance elements and 2,520 at various administrative agencies of the government.

Besides, 7,309 other returnees are enrolling as Armed Propaganda cadres at various Open Arms agencies throughout the country.

254 Reds Rally in a Week

Saigon, June 2 (VP). - During the week ending May 25, Open Arms Services throughout the country welcomed 254 Communist cadres who rallied the national cause.

Since early this year 9,671 Communist cadres have joined the national ranks bringing to 182,735 the number of returnees since the promulgation of the Open Arms policy in February 1963.

economic news

VN-Korean Aid Agreement

VN Economic Report, June 1971. - President Nguyen Van Thieu promulgated April 15, 1971 Law 003/71, which ratifies the Economic and Technical Cooperation Agreement between the Republic of Vietnam and the Republic of Korea, signed on the 4th of June, 1970 in Seoul and recently approved by the National Assembly.

The Agreement provides for closer cooperation between the two countries and allows the Republic of Vietnam to receive from the Republic of Korea substantial assistance to develop agriculture and public health facilities.

According to the President's Office, immediately after the Agreement is ratified, the Republic of Korea will start the first implementation phase by giving the Republic of Vietnam a 250-bed hospital valued at US \$ 2.4 million; also, a team of technicians will be dispatched to Vietnam to help in the implementation of a major irrigation project in Go Cong Province. Technical cooperation in other fields is expected to be agreed upon in the immediate future.

Concession Rights for Petroleum Exploration

Saigon, June 9, 1971. - South Vietnam will grant concession rights for petroleum exploration on the continental shelf in the South China Sea in open bids to be taken late this year.

Economy Minister Pham Kim Ngoc told a news conference here today that only oil companies that comply with government requirements based on international standards will be allowed to submit bids.

Industrial Development

Bank

May 27, 1971 (VN) - Prime Minister Tran Thien Khiem on May 3, 1971 signed Decree 045/SL/KT establishing the Industrial Development Bank of Vietnam (IDBVN). The said decree provides for the dissolution of the existing Industrial Development Center (IDC) and the transfer of all personnel, properties, assets and liabilities of the IDC to the newly created IDBVN.

The IDBVN will have an authorized capital of VN \$ 400,000,000 also to be transferred from the capital accounts of the IDC. It will have head office in Saigon and branches in the provinces.

This new credit institution, whose objective is to "vigorously stimulate industrial development in Vietnam", will have a much wider scope of operations than the IDC. In addition to providing loans, advances, it is also authorized to subscribe, underwrite and/or guarantee debentures of corporations, borrow capital from foreign sources, and carry out all other operations necessary for the development of industries in the country. It may call on capital participation by the private sector provided that such participation does not exceed 49 percent of its capital.

The IDBVN will be governed by a Board of Directors whose Chairman is the incumbent Minister of Economy. The board will include from 4 to 6 directors. The General Manager will be appointed by the Prime Minister upon recommendation of the Board, and the controller General will be appointed by the Minister of Economy. A government Commissioner to be appointed by the Prime Minister and reporting to the Minister of Finance will work closely with the board.



The Constitution provides for separate but coordinate legislative and executive bodies. Above, President Thieu (left) before the National Assembly.

4th anniversary

DOCUMENT OF FAITH

By TRONG NHAN

Last April first, the Constitution of the Republic of Vietnam marked its fourth anniversary. Despite trials and tribulations, it has proved a stabilizing influence in the nation's political scene and put an end to the political crises which plagued the country from 1964 to 1966, a period which brought South Vietnam perilously close to total collapse. At home, some political scandals have shaken the Constitution to its very foundations while abroad the enemy has put forth an international propaganda campaign, especially in America, by insisting on the overthrow of the present administration in favour of a coalition government with Communist participation.

Later this year, the strength of the Constitution will again be tested in the coming elections for the Lower House in August and the presidential elections two months later. The enemy will no doubt make a strong bid to create chaos and confusion and push their candidates, disguised as nationalists, in the hope of getting a foothold in Vietnam's parliamentary structure.

Among the more memorable events during the past four years, was the case of Deputy Tran Ngoc Chau. He was tried and convicted to ten years in jail for having secretly communicated with the enemy while a member of the

Lower House. Defenders of Deputy Chau said the Constitution had not been violated since under the law a deputy can be arrested only when caught in the act. Mr. Chau's relations with the enemy, they claimed, was not a crime committed in *flagrante delicto*. However, they lost their case.

Another test of the Constitution's strength was the «austerity tax case» of 1960. The administration had levied a series of heavy taxes as part of a new austerity program. The Supreme Court declared the new taxes unconstitutional since they were said to have transgressed Article 39 of the Constitution which states that only the Legislative can decide on tax matters. The decision was held and the new taxes were canceled.

Parliamentary proceedings have always been a prime target for enemy infiltration since through democratic processes totalitarianism often gains by peaceful means what it cannot conquer by force. Deputies Ngo Cong Duc and Nguyen The Truc openly favored Hanoi's demand for a coalition government in which the Communists would participate. This stand

was a direct violation of the Constitution which states that the Republic of Vietnam is opposed to Communism and prohibits any activity in favor of it. Although Deputy Truc fled the country, Deputy Duc remains in office, continues his opposition to the government and support Hanoi's cause through his own newspaper. Deputy Truc who fled Saigon, obviously expected Hanoi's standards of justice to be applied to him by the Saigon regime, in which case he would have been executed within 24 hours.

Some political and religious factions in the country refused to accept the results of the 1967 presidential elections. They demanded the formation of a provisional government with Communist par-

ticipation i.e. a coalition government. The most influential of these groups is the An Quang militant Buddhist section. However, last year, this faction decided to participate in the Senatorial elections and scored a significant victory. Once again, democracy and the Constitution survived another hurdle.

Early this year the government demanded that all publishers in the country submit names and biographies of their employees. The Saigon press considered this demand as restricting the freedom of the press as promulgated by the Constitution and vigorously opposed it. The press won its case.

The most recent constitutional dispute concerned a new presidential election law presented by the government which required that presidential candidates must have the backing of 40 deputies and senators, or 100 elected members of the prefectural, provincial or city councils. The objective of this new law is to cut down the large number of presidential candidates and narrow the number down to those with substantial following. Although the Lower House approved this change, it was thrown out by the Senate as contrary to the spirit of the Constitution.

Abroad, the international Communist propaganda apparatus exerted enormous pressures through riots, demonstrations, mass rallies, and protest marches to overthrow the Saigon regime and replace it with a Communist-led coalition government. Hanoi widely proclaimed that a cease-fire could only result from the establishment of a coalition government, and banked heavily on the assumption that the war-weary people of South Vietnam would accede to Hanoi's demand. For example, South Vietnamese Deputy Ho Huu Tuong proposed changes in the Constitution which would facilitate the formation of a coalition government. Unarmed Communists, he claims, should be permitted to carry out their activities. The government of South Vietnam put this proposition to a test and offered the Viet Cong to participate in a free general election. The Communists refused, proving once again that Hanoi dares not com-



The voices of dissent, expressed through lawful means must be heard, according to the Constitution. Here, students strike to focus their gripes.

pete in a free democratic election contest.

And so, despite political crisis of various dimensions, the Constitution of the Republic of Vietnam remains in force. The coming elections this autumn will prove to be the next hurdle to overcome. Many political analysts in Saigon fear that Hanoi will attempt to enter a number of sympathizers, skillfully playing their role as nationalists, as candidates for the Lower House.

The present Constitution of the Republic of Vietnam is the second in the history of the Republic. The first, promulgated in 1956, was abolished after the November First Revolution of 1963 which overthrew the late President Ngo Dinh Diem. During the four years which followed the fall of Diem, the people of this nation witnessed

numerous coups, violent political, religious and student demonstrations in which many of the leaders genuinely considered themselves the spokesmen for the majority of the people. Pseudo-political parties were formed with the aim to overthrow the government and «strengthen» democracy and the hand of Hanoi was often found manipulating the strings of students, religious and political groups.

The 1967 Constitution has managed to stabilize the political life of South Vietnam to a considerable degree and what's more, many politically conscious Vietnamese now appreciate the value of a document which legally prescribes the limitations of power of elected government institutions and also the limitations of power of those who may wish to eliminate democracy from the land.

The Role of Education in VietNam's Development

By Le Ba Kong

Saigon, (MF). - Nowhere in the Pacific Area has a nation undergone so many changes as Vietnam. To mention but briefly, we had the cultural influence of our neighbor, China, and continuous contacts with other surrounding nations such as Burma, Thailand, Cambodia and Laos, followed by the eighty-year French domination. I wish to stress particularly the period from 1940 to 1970, that is from the time of the Japanese troops in Vietnam to the present.

Sixteen academic syllabuses have been promulgated during this short lapse of time. It shows how concerned or overconcerned our various ministers of education have been during these past years while the nation faced war, revolutions, coups d'etats, starvation, floods, typhoons and epidemics. The war on

illiteracy has been tackled whole-heartedly and relentlessly, while Vietnam has made exceptional efforts to improve her educational system, so as to turn out better citizens to reconstruct the war-torn country.

Vietnam is less fortunate than most of her neighbouring friendly nations, for she has to serve as the bulwark against the red wave that may engulf other areas should this foremost barrier collapse first. Our Ministry of Education has done a great job in implementing new and effective programs throughout the country, but our national budget as yet has not allowed the ministry to put into effect all its projects. But even with only 6% of the budget for education, the Government has achieved outstanding results: 65% of elementary school children are provided with free education and 30% of secondary school children have the benefit of free public schools. The remaining school children are under the tutorial care of the private sector in which the Catholic-run schools play the most predominant role, followed by a relatively newly established Buddhist-run school system (since 1963). At the college level, there is an acute shortage of school space for the thousands of senior high school graduates, and this may become a serious problem in the not-too-distant future.



Girl Students in Saigon, eager and deeply involved in the future of Vietnam.

Asian countries, with the exception of a few, are developing countries. We are young nations, having won our independence only a decade or two ago. We are of diverse racial origin, of different religions, and various ancient cultures. This diversity teaches us to be tolerant and fair; this diversity makes us conscious of the need to strive and work for greater unity and goodwill. We all want to live in peace and wish nothing better than to be left alone to pursue our political, economic, social, cultural and educational developments. We are dedicated to the development of our country and to raise the standard of living of our people. Education will play a great and vital part.

But in establishing a good educational system for the younger generation, is it not the question of training that is the crucial problem? Do we see in the country a sufficient number of well-trained teachers for our children? What is the value of all projects, methods and innovations to promote the expansion of education if teachers themselves are not adequately trained? We fail to attract the best people to the profession, because teachers are not well paid. We want to see our children offered education of high quality. Then we must pay our teachers sufficiently so that they can devote their best to the job.

In the field of social equity, the principle of equal opportunities for education and training for all is a long way from our goals. 600 million people in the world are still illiterate in spite of the tremendous effort to eradicate illiteracy. In recent years, we all have seen an explosion of educational issues. Everywhere teachers and parents are conscious of these problems and show increasing concern. Everywhere in the world, national budgets for education are increasing. It used to be believed that 16% of the budget would be adequate to implement the educational projects of a nation. Such an estimate is of course today insufficient when we consider the constantly increasing school-going population. Education is expensive and will become more expensive in the coming years.

Vietnam wants to accelerate economic and industrial development. After years of war there is a yearning for prosperity and welfare for the nation. The task of national development is closely related to the development of our educational system, a challenge we all share, officials, teachers, parents and students alike.



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