



NLF WOMEN AT MY THO

In January 1963, after the Tet festival (Lunar New Year's Day), thousands of women came to demonstrate at the provincial capital of My Tho. Long before dawn, they were already on the march, coming by small groups, supposedly to the town market. At 4 a.m. there were 1,000 of them, and at 7 a.m. 5,000. They foiled all attempts by the police to stop them. On an order, the 5,000 stood in compact ranks, shouting to the soldiers and policemen sent out to disperse them:

"Americans have spread chemicals on our villages, we are coming to ask the government to intervene in our favour!"

"Americans have been raining chemicals to massacre the population. Soldiers, you are also our brothers. come and help us!"

The women brandished before the soldiers' eyes withered banana leaves, desiccated fruit, poultry killed by poison and containers dropped by planes, which bore U.S. markings. Then came four stretchers carrying women and children, the victims of U.S. poisonous chemicals. A wave of anger ran through the assembled crowd.