

# VIET-NAM BULLETIN

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## Politics

### ALLIES PROPOSE SECRET TALKS

Paris, November 4--Mr. Nguyen Trieu Dan, spokesman of the Republic of Viet-Nam's delegation at the Paris meetings said that the new allied proposal for secret and limited meetings between the two sides scheduled for Tuesday, November 4, made by Ambassador Cabot Lodge at the 40th session was designed to provide an outlet for the peace talks which have been in deadlock for the past nine months.

According to Mr. Dan, during this period the Communists have misused the negotiation table for propaganda purposes.

The RVN spokesman said that to date, everybody, including newsmen, have been fed up with the one-sided propaganda arguments of the Communists, hence the allied side proposed the holding of secret talks to be started Tuesday.

Mr. Dan added that Amb. Lodge's proposal was concrete. The U.S. Ambassador made it clear that at this limited meeting at the Majestic International Conference Hall, the principal spokesman of both sides will attend with no more than three advisors for each of them.

This formula, said Mr. Dan, was intended to end the propaganda, the main obstacle of the peace talks. After the meeting there will be no press conference. However, both sides will agree to inform the public of the meeting's main points.

This new proposal did not reject anyone except the Red propaganda campaign. Neither will it change the situation of both sides at the peace talks at present. It is still a two-sided meeting in which each side has two principal spokesmen, Mr. Dan stressed.

The RVN spokesman went on, "However, the Communists had rejected this new proposal as they had successively put aside our previous initiatives. This fact showed that the Communists arrived in Paris not to discuss an end to the war but to prolong it. They have used the negotiation table to propagandize their war goals."

Mr. Dan expressed the hope that next Thursday the Communists will accept the new formula proposed by the allied side.

"We do not ask them to give an immediate reply but expect them to think over our proposal and answer only after a serious examination of it," Mr. Dan said.

Asked whether the RVN Government was informed of President Nixon's November 3rd speech, Mr. Dan said that he had nothing to say about this matter.

### F.M. LAM DISCLOSES RVN EFFORTS TO MEET WITH COMMUNISTS

Saigon, November 8--No achievement was attained in the Republic of Viet-Nam's efforts in contacting the Communists who kept evading these meetings. So the RVN Government did not make public these endeavors, said Foreign Minister Tran Van Lam at a press conference at which the White Book of the RVN was introduced.

Foreign Minister Lam stressed that the RVN has never intended to withdraw from the Paris meetings since this is the first step likely to lead to a peace solution for Viet-Nam.

According to him, history reveals that all negotiations with the Communists are usually long.

To a question on the participation of more allies in the Paris talks, Minister Lam said that he did not believe that such an action would bring in more results since experience has shown that the negotiation would turn out best with fewer sides participating in it.

The problem of internationalizing the peace talks would be raised exclusively whenever there is an international supervision for implementation of conditions at the talk.

As to the role played by Archbishop Nguyen Van Binh at the Paris meetings, Foreign Minister Lam said that he received a telegram from the RVN negotiating delegation announcing Archbishop Nguyen Van Binh and Bishop Pham Ngoc Chi's meetings with the participants of the peace talks.

The RVN warmly welcomed this initiative, especially the proposals for peace of spiritual leaders, he added.

Minister Lam made known that this was also the initiative and private action of the Archbishop and the Government knew nothing about it.

Concerning Gen. Duong Van Minh's viewpoint on the Vietnamization of the Paris meetings, the Foreign Minister said that the General's proposal should be sent to Hanoi since the Communists have rejected the RVN suggestion for private talks with both North Viet-Nam and South Viet-Nam National Liberation Front.

On this occasion, the Foreign Minister stated that the RVN six-point stand made public by President Thieu last July remains unchanged.

According to Minister Lam, there has been so far no sign of change in North Viet-Nam's attitude after Ho Chi Minh's death. And the war activities which apparently decreased in the rainy season have become fiercer in the past few days at the coming of the dry season.

He also stated that it was not unconstitutional for the RVN to meet with the Communists since these meetings do not propagandize for nor bring any benefits to the Communists.

### 1969 WHITE BOOK DENOUNCES COMMUNIST AGGRESSIVE POLICY

Saigon, November 8--Foreign Minister Tran Van Lam Friday morning made public the 1969 White Book of the RVN Foreign Ministry which denounces the intransigence of the Communists and their aggressive policy which violates the Geneva Agreements on Viet-Nam.

The White Book also dealt with the peace negotiations and Communist aggression against South Viet-Nam under the topics: "Who wants peace? Who is in favor of war?"

According to the White Book, while the RVN is making efforts to restore an early peace to prevent bloodshed for the people, the Communists have built up their terrorist and sabotage acts perpetrated against the innocent civilians, hospitals, schools, and private dwellings.

In the face of this situation, the RVN has to call for the support of the free world to her anti-Communist struggle. In response to this appeal, the allied nations have given their active assistance in financial as well as manpower resources. However this is merely a provisional situation and the presence of allied forces in Viet-Nam only aims at checking the Communist aggression.

The 1969 White Book of the Foreign Ministry was printed in English and French with an appendix containing pictures of victims of Red terrorism and mass funerals in Hue.

### PRES. THIEU PRAISES PRES. NIXON'S NOV. 3 MESSAGE

Saigon, November 5--The office of the Presidential press secretary Tuesday reported that when asked about his general impression of President Nixon's address to the American people on November 3, President Nguyen Van Thieu replied that:

First: This was one of the best messages of a U.S. President.

Secondly: I deem that the policy which President Nixon reiterated in this message to end the war and restore a just peace in Viet-Nam is a correct policy.

This policy is the very one which both of us have entirely agreed upon.

Thirdly: The Vietnamese people want nothing other than to gradually assume the defense of their own independence and freedom with the efficient assistance of allied nations especially of the American people in line with the self-sufficiency and self-support that I have asserted many times.

Fourthly: With the efforts for peace that President Nixon disclosed today, certainly the American people, as well as the whole world, have realized that the Communist aggressors themselves are blocking the restoration of peace in Viet-Nam.

#### VEN. THIEN MINH RELEASED

Saigon, October 31--Ven. Thich Thien Minh alias Do Xuan Hang, was released Thursday morning along with 3 others who were given amnesty by President Nguyen Van Thieu on the occasion of the National Day, November 1.

Meeting newsmen at Le Van Duyet Military Camp. Ven. Thien Minh said that he was informed of his release Wednesday evening and that during his detention here he was well treated.

He also denied rumours alleging that he had taken poison and was sent to Cong Hoa Hospital for treatment.

The venerable said that he was suffering from bad health and needed a period of rest.

Ven. Thien Minh was invited at 11:30 a.m. to meet with Maj.-Gen. Nguyen Van Minh, Commander of the Capital Special Zone, before leaving Le Van Duyet Camp.

#### "COMMUNIST INTELLIGENCE RING" BROUGHT TO TRIAL

Saigon, November 29--Mr. Huynh Van Trong, Assistant to the President for International Political Affairs, and 42 other members of the "Communist Intelligence Ring" were brought before the Capital Special Zone's mobile field court Friday morning for trial on charges of "high treason."

The session took place at Court No. 3A Bach Dang Quay, with Lt. Col. Trieu Khac Huynh as presiding judge and Maj. Nguyen Dinh Tri, prosecutor.

According to the indictment, 12 among the 43 defendants were accused of "high treason" with eight as accomplices, five accused of "liaison with elements whose actions are detrimental to the national defense" and the remaining 18 of "rebellion."

## Education

### ALMOST 40,000 ENROLLED AT UNIVERSITIES IN 1968-69

Saigon, November 15--The Education Ministry reported Friday that the total enrollment at various universities throughout the country in the 1968-69 academic year was 37,887 including 10,406 girl students.

Saigon University headed the list with 27,404 students, followed by Hue University with 3,297 students, Dalat University with 2,718, Van Hanh University with 2,519 and Can Tho University with 1,949.

Most of the students were enrolled at the law faculties: 11,509 including 3,983 girls.

### MORE SCHOOLS FOR ETHNIC MINORITIES URGED

Saigon, November 27--The Senate's Budget, Finance and Taxation Interior Inter-Committee Monday recommended that the Ethnic Development Ministry open more primary schools and map out a compulsory education program for children of the ethnic minorities.

The Inter-Committee also urged the Open Arms Ministry to logically make the best use of returnees' abilities.

The recommendation was made by the Inter-Committee at a meeting to hear the delegation of the Ethnic Development and Open Arms Ministries explain the 1970 estimated budgets of these two Ministries.

On this occasion the senatorial Inter-Committee also advised the Ethnic Development Ministry to help the ethnic minorities improve techniques of cultivation and animal raising and to establish social welfare facilities for them.

Meanwhile the Open Arms Ministry was cautioned to implement the austerity policy to economize its budget.

According to the Inter-Committee, open arms villages should be built in secure areas with favorable conditions for returnees to earn their livings.

Sen. Le Phat Dat and Sen. Bui Van Giai, respectively Chairmen of the Budget Finance and Interior Committees, presided over the meeting at which Ethnic Development Minister Paul Nur and Open Arms Vice Minister Nguyen Van Canh presented the

Ethnic Development and Open Arms Policies and dealt with the 1970 budgets of their Ministries.

### NEW EDUCATIONAL TV TO BEGIN OPERATION

Saigon, November 6--The Education Ministry is speeding up the establishment of an educational television network which is expected to begin operation in eight months.

Sources from the Education Ministry said that the TV station will be built by the Vietnamese Government with the technical assistance of the Japanese Government.

At a meeting on November 3, between the Japanese Government's representatives and the Education Ministry, agreements were reached on several basic principles concerning the educational TV station.

The programs will be realized at the instructional materials center of the Education Ministry and the broadcast would be assumed by the Vietnamese television station.

After the completion of the station, high and primary schools in Saigon will be equipped with televisions.

### Budget

### LOWER HOUSE PASSES 1970 BUDGET

Saigon, November 25--Sixty six out of a total number of 85 representatives present Monday morning approved in principle the draft budget for the 1970 fiscal year.

The whole national budget for 1970 is estimated at 182,275 billion piasters including 112 billion piasters earmarked for military expenditures and 70,275 billion piasters for those of civilian nature.

Thus, the 1970 budget has an increase of 52,282 billion piasters as compared to the original 1969 national budget of 129,992 billion piasters.

As for funds reserved for the National Assembly, the Lower House endorsed a cutting of 34,356 million piasters out of a total estimated figure of 529,376 million piasters.

The Lower House also approved a fund of 479,454 million piasters for institutes and councils as compared to the original estimated figure of 676,846 million piasters meaning a cutting of 97.39 million piasters.

The institutes and councils include the Special Court, Inspectorate, National Security Council, Armed Forces Council, Education and Culture Council, Social Economic Council, Ethnic Minorities Council, Supreme Court, Ordinary Courts, Courts for Montagnard Customs and Magistrates Council.

The Lower House will discuss Tuesday morning budgets for the offices of the President, Vice President, Prime Minister and various Ministries.

#### Economy & Finance

### ANOTHER RURAL BANK ESTABLISHED

Bien Hoa, October 31--The Duc Tu Rural Bank in Bien Hoa established by private individuals with a capital of 3,100,000 piasters was inaugurated Thursday morning.

Economy Minister Phan Kim Ngoc presided over the dedication ceremony which was attended by R. Nguyen Van Dong, Governor of the National Bank, Mr. Nguyen An Hao, Director General of the Agricultural Development Bank, local authorities and a number of Vietnamese and foreign guests.

The first of its kind set up in the eastern provinces, the Duc Tu Rural Bank will render services aimed at promoting the development of the rural economy and commercial credits with a view to diminish the difference between the city and countryside.

Mr. Dao Cao Thanh, head of the Bank's executive board said that the bank was set up with half of its capital contributed by the government.

On this occasion, Minister Ngoc made known that the establishment of rural banks is a revolution, a step forward to the development of the national economy.

The Duc Tu Rural Bank is located at Tam Hiep Village, Duc Tu District. The first two banks are Cunoï in Cho Moi Thot District and Thot Not in An Giang Province.

After the dedication ceremony, a number of guests opened their accounts at the bank and within an hour the money deposited amounted to over one million piasters.

## Judiciary

### SUPREME COURT ELECTS NEW PRESIDENT

Saigon, November 25--Justice Tran Minh Tiet was elected President of the RVN Supreme Court last November 21st.

In the election of the new office for the Supreme Court, Mr. Tiet won the post with five votes while his first runner up, Mr. Nguyen Van Si got four ballots.

Mr. Si is the dean of the Supreme Court.

Mr. Tran Van Linh, the First President of the Court in the 1968-69 term did not seek re-election.

The new office of the Supreme Court includes:

Mr. Nguyen Van Si: 1st Deputy President in charge of the Constitution-Protection Committee.

Mr. Mai Van An: Justice in charge of Justice Administration concurrently Chief Judge of the 2nd Civil Affairs office.

Mr. Nguyen Van Binh: 2nd Deputy President in charge of the Cassation Committee concurrently Chief Judge of the 1st Civil Affairs Office.

- Mr. Nguyen An Thong: Justice in Charge of Internal Affairs.
- Mr. Nguyen Mong Bich: Justice in Charge of External Affairs.
- Mr. Tran Van Linh: Justice in Charge of Laws Study.
- Mr. Trinh Xuan Ngan: Chief Judge in Charge of the Penal Affairs Office.
- Mr. Tran Van Liem: Chief Judge in Charge of the Administration Office.

## The War

### HANOI DIRECTS LAUNCHING OF NEW WAVE OF ATTACKS

Saigon, November 20--Hanoi authorities have directed the South Viet-Nam Central Office to launch a new wave of military activities starting November, 1969, according to documents and confessions of prisoners-of-war and returnees.

According to these sources, the Communists have initiated two "high points" which they call "Ro".

"Ro 1" was launched from November 2 to November 15 and its climax was realized under the form of battles in Quang Duc Province in Bu Prang and Duc Lap areas along



with sporadic clashes in Tri Ton (Chau Doc) and U Minh Thuong area.

"Ro 2" began on November 18 and will last till November 25.

Communist casualties in "Ro 1" totalled 5,331 killed by body count, 341 captured and 1,676 assorted weapons seized by the government troops.

During the same period of time the RVNAF suffered 64 killed, 2334 wounded and 26 missing in action.

### RVNAF WILL BE SELF-SUFFICIENT IN TWO YEARS

Saigon, November 26--At a recent press conference in Malaysia, Major General Cao Hao Hon, Director of the Pacification and Revolutionary Development Coordination Center, said that the RVNAF will be able to assume themselves the defense of Viet-Nam in two years.

Major General Cao Hao Hon led a delegation of the Center including Saigon Prefect Colonel Do Kien Nhieu and Mr. Cao Van Tich, the Center's administration director, on a visit to Malaysia during the November 17-19 period.

The visit aimed at studying the rural development activities in Malaysia.

Concerning the anti-Communist struggle in the RVN, Major General Hon said not only does the RVN Government have to fight Communist aggressors for self-defense it also pays attention to the security standards of the rural people.

### COMMUNISTS CONTINUE ACTS OF TERRORISM

Fourteen typical incidents were detailed in a note to enlighten the ICC on the barbarity of the North Vietnamese aggressors in their acts of terrorism and sabotage. The Vietnamese mission also called the ICC's attention to 2043 terrorist actions committed by North Viet-Nam infiltrators in South Viet-Nam in the first ten months of 1969, resulting in 4004 civilians killed, 12,448 injured and 1,703 abducted.

On behalf of the RVN Government, the Vietnamese mission energetically denounced the above coldblooded and warlike acts of the Communist aggressors. The North Vietnamese Communists were charged with having injured the life and property of the South Vietnamese people in serious violation of Art. 15-D provided by the 1954 Geneva Agreement on Viet-Nam. The ICC was once more requested to examine the above violations committed by the North Vietnamese Communists against the South Vietnamese people and to take expedient measures to prevent their reoccurrence.

Miscellaneous

SMUGGLERS OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE TO BE SEVERELY PUNISHED

Saigon, November 27--In a recent communique, Deputy Interior Minister Le Cong Chat concurrently Chairman of the "Committee for the Eradication of Foreign Exchange Smuggling and U.S. PX Goods Trading" said persons involved in the smuggling of foreign exchange and trading of U.S. PX items will be prosecuted according to the laws in force. Violators of regulations concerning the foreign exchange such as illegal trade of foreign currency and MPCS, illegal transfers, will be sentenced to from one month to five years of imprisonment and fined from 5,000 to 10,000 piasters.

The prison term and the fines may increase according to the amount of foreign currency confiscated, in accordance with Decree No. 017/SLU dated September 3, 1966.

Informants who help the authorities confiscate smuggled foreign currency will be rewarded 15 per cent of the seized amount.

Besides, a campaign for the eradication of the trading of U.S. PX items was also launched in the scope of the economy stabilization program.

"PEOPLE WANT TO KNOW" PROGRAM INFORMS PUBLIC

Saigon --Each Friday evening a prominent South Vietnamese Government official faces the television cameras and radio microphones while a trio of newsmen ply him with questions concerning both domestic and foreign policy matters.

"People Want to Know" was inaugurated September 19, with President Nguyen Van Thieu in the responder's seat. Subsequent programs have featured the Ministers of Foreign Affairs Tran Van Lam, Defense Nguyen Van Vy, Information Ngo Khac Tinh, Revolutionary Development Tran Thanh Phong, and Economy Pham Kim Ngoc. Facing the press November 21 was the Minister of Finance Nguyen Bich Hue.

The panel of newsmen changes each week. The more than 40 newspapers and periodicals in the Saigon area, in alphabetical rotation, are invited to participate and may designate any member of their staff to the panel.

Putting "People Want to Know" on the air, said a South Vietnamese Government spokesman, reflects the government's belief that the people have a right to know the government's willingness to publicly face its domestic critics.

VIET-NAM BULLETIN is a weekly publication of the Embassy of Viet-Nam, provided free of charge to all persons and organizations interested in VN. All inquiries and requests should be directed to VIET-NAM BULLETIN, Embassy of Viet-Nam, 2251 "R" Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008. Tel: 234-4860.

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