

VIET-NAM BULLETIN

Vol IV, No. 1

A WEEKLY PUBLICATION OF THE EMBASSY OF VIET-NAM
2251 "R" Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008 (Telephone: 234-4860)
Week of March 8-14, 1970

Politics

HUE LIBERATION 3RD ANNIVERSARY HELD

Saigon, March 3--A prayer service to the memory of victims of the Communist Mau Than Tet offensive took place Monday morning at Phu Van Lau Square with the participation of thousands of people of the ancient imperial capital of Hue and Thua Thien province.

The service marked the third anniversary of the liberation of Hue from Red troops three-week occupation.

On March 2, 1968, the government forces wiped out the Red remnants from the city and a flag raising ceremony was held at the Phu Van Lau Square.

At the ceremony, Information Minister Ngo Khac Tinh, on behalf of the Prime Minister, laid a wreath to the memory of the Red victims.

Addressing the audience the Minister said, "the image of deaths and miseries of Hue dark days in early 1968 will never fade away from our memory. However, while recalling this tragic event, we also review our past achievements and make greater efforts in the future so as to realize our mission and to deserve our compatriots' supreme sacrifices."

The Minister defined this mission as "the continuation of our efforts to rebuild our country and to fight the totalitarian Communists so as to bring about a just peace for the homeland."

The Minister on this occasion, alongside with the guests, offered incenses at the altar of the victims to the accompaniment of drums and gongs.

Earlier, Col. Le Van Than, Thua Thien province chief concurrently Hue Mayor, dressed in traditional costume, recalled the past experiences of the Red offensive and called on everybody present to participate more actively in the defense of our beloved land and prevent the recurrence of Mau Than-type offensives.

Within the framework of the ceremony, a representative of Hue and Thua Thien population denounced the atrocities committed by the Communists against innocent civilians.

Recalling the glorious pages of the nation's history, he appealed to all Vietnamese citizens to be determined in the struggle for the national cause.

Following the ceremony, Min. Tinh cut the traditional ribbon dedicating the newly-restored Hue information hall.

NATIONAL ASPIRATIONS

Saigon, March 5--Taking part in a seminar last week at the National War College, President Nguyen Van Thieu spoke extensively to some 24 students of the current class of what he called 'national aspirations and national policies.' The President, on this occasion, insisted that national salvation at present depends on four basic principles and whether they are to be upheld or not. According to the Chief Executive, they are 'territorial integrity, opposition to solutions conducive to the formation of a pro-Communist regime in South Viet-Nam, self-reliance and self-sufficiency, and military reorganization.'

Although the President did not elaborate on the subject of Army re-organization, sources said that a military re-shuffle is to be ordered sometime this year when the number of U.S. troops redeployed from Viet-Nam has reached such a point as to make the adoption of a new strategy a prerequisite for continuing the struggle against the Communists. The sources also said by then regular troops will be redeployed to border areas to fight against the North Vietnamese while security of populous areas will be made the responsibility of territorial forces.

Foreign Affairs

P.M. KHIEM WILL VISIT THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Saigon, March 10--All the Sino-language newspapers reported today that Vietnamese Prime Minister Tran Thien Khiem will visit Republic of China this month or early next month. The newspapers reported according to an official source that Prime Minister is invited by the government for a seven day visit in China.

The date of his visit will be announced by the Governments of the Republic of China and the Republic of Viet-Nam.

NEW COMMANDER OF AUSTRALIAN FORCES ARRIVES IN VIET-NAM

Saigon, March 4--Major General Colin A.E. Fraser, new Commander of Australian Forces in Viet-Nam arrived in Saigon Tuesday morning.

Major General Fraser will officially take over his post Thursday in replacement of Major General Robert A. Hay who has completed his tour of duty in Viet-Nam.

Born in 1918 at Nairobi (Kenya), Major General Fraser was graduated from the Australian Royal Military College at the age of 20 and attended a Staff College at Camberley.

He was successively appointed Deputy Commander of the I Commonwealth Division in Korea, Commanding Officer of the Royal Australian Regiment's 2nd Battalion and Commandant of the Royal Military College.

F.M. LAM GIVES TALK AT NDC

Saigon, March 4--Foreign Minister Tran Van Lam said Tuesday the RVN diplomacy must be based on the "more friends, less' foes policy, it must also protect the nation's sovereignty and promote national prestige."

The Foreign Minister made the statement in a talk on the RVN foreign policy delivered at the National Defense College (NDC).

Minister Lam said, in order to realize this policy, the Foreign Ministry has to concentrate its efforts on the following objectives:

1. Consolidation of national sovereignty, defense of territorial integrity, building up of the regime and efforts toward self-reliance.
2. Blocking of any expansion of influence from Communist North Viet-Nam and its auxiliary forces in the international scene.
3. Improvement of the future cease-fire control commission's effectiveness and obtainment of self-defense right of the RVN within the framework of the Southeast Asia collective defense.
4. Expansion of international cooperation and contribution to the realization of post-war economy.

On this occasion, Foreign Minister Lam also pointed to the five guidelines necessary for the attainment of the above-mentioned objectives. They were:

- a) to expand the presence of the RVN at more countries and exert a deeper penetration into their people

b) to hold initiative in the international arena to protect the nation's interests and promote national prestige

c) to follow up, and support the Paris peace conference

d) to strengthen the overseas information

e) to supplement government activities with actions from individuals in the field of diplomacy.

To conclude, the Foreign Minister stressed that it takes time to draft a foreign policy which must be implemented with flexibility, in conformity with the circumstances.

The talk was warmly applauded by NDC faculty members and students. Present at the talk were Lt. Gen. Vinh Loc, NDC Commandant and Maj. Gen. Pham Quoc Thuan, Thu Duc Infantry School Commandant.

Following the talk a number of questions raised by students were solved satisfactorily by the orator.

Administration

MEETING HELD ON ADMINISTRATION IMPROVEMENT

Saigon , March 9 --President Nguyen Van Thieu Saturday morning presided over a meeting on the administrative improvement at Independence Palace, the Press Secretary at the President's office reported Monday.

Attending the meeting were Prime Minister Tran Thien Khiem and related cabinet members.

At the meeting, President Thieu reviewed the progress and fixed the duration of the administrative improvement according to which all judicial documents regarding this task must be completed in 1970.

Starting early next July the government will implement the administrative improvement at provincial and district levels. This task must be accomplished within a three-month period.

Simultaneously, in the 2nd semester of this year, the government will carry-out the administrative improvement in ministries and central agencies.

NEW ACCOUNTING PLAN FOR VIET-NAM

Saigon, March 9--The International Office of Studies and Economic and Technique Missions at 4 p.m. Friday held a seminar on "the new accounting plan for Viet-Nam" at 225 Hai Ba Trung, Saigon.

The lecturer was Professor Le Xuan Thuy.

The seminar sponsored by the University and Industry Action Center was presided over by Prof. Hoang Ngoc Can, the Center's Director.

Present at the seminar were representatives of the Executive, the Legislative, banks and industrialists, craftsmen and businessmen.

After three hours of discussion, the participants agreed that the new accounting plan can help unify and simplify problems relating to accounting at public and private firms.

Economy & Finance

TAX REFORM IN 1970

Saigon, March 5--The Finance Ministry expects an additional two billion piasters in tax collection in 1970 if the National Assembly should approve a tax reform suggested by the government, sources at the Economy Ministry disclosed last week.

According to a press release of the Economy Ministry, the tax reform proposal, comprising ten bills which President Nguyen Van Thieu sent to the National Assembly last December 15 for approval, aims 'not only at raising receipts for the national budget but also at improving tax administration and control.'

The ten bills provide for some modification of eight taxes, the introduction of a new tax on services, and the abolition of three taxes. The new tax is to be imposed on services such as those provided by banks, commercial intermediaries, stevedores, air and sea transport enterprises, labor contractors, and the liberal professions. However, in order not to raise the costs of education and medical treatment, the term 'liberal professions' is exclusive of teachers, cultural establishments, and physicians.

Another bill suggested the abolition of three taxes: the paddy tax, levied at the rate of 3 VNP per 100 kilos of paddy transformed at rice mills; the slaughter house tax, and the tax on film hiring.

Land Reform

FARMERS' ASSOCIATION WELCOMES "LAND-TO-THE-TILLER" BILL

Saigon, March 3--Mr. Vo Van Giao, Chairman of the Farmers' Association Monday said the Association's members warmly welcomed the government's "Land to-the-Tiller" bill.

The Farmers' Association (affiliated with the Viet-Nam Confederation of Labor) counts over 150,000 members throughout the country.

On this occasion, Mr. Giao said within the 1970 program of action, the Association will center its activities on the development of installations in the Central Highlands and the distribution of fertilizer, rice seeds and ploughing machines to its members.

SENATE ENDORSES "LAND-TO-THE-TILLERS" BILL

Saigon, March 9--The Senate of the Republic of Viet-Nam has endorsed the "Land-to-the-Tiller" bill sought by President Nguyen Van Thieu.

According to the bill, a draft law aimed at granting land to peasants, military-men, and war dead dependents, the government will expropriate and distribute any rice-fields which are left uncultivated by the owners. The owners of expropriated land will receive adequate reparations.

Each grantee will be granted at most three hectares of land in South Viet-Nam and one hectare in Central Viet-Nam. And the grantees must till their land for a 15-year period starting from the date they received the land ownership certificates.

Besides, those who sell land distributed by the government within the Land Reform Program will not be granted land for the second time. The peasants who fail to till the land will also be expropriated without any reparations.

The bill including six chapters and 22 articles was passed by the Senate at a meeting last Friday. The Lower House passed the bill on September 9th last year which was sent to the congress by the executive including eight chapters and 31 articles.

The War

COMMUNIST TERRORISM REPORTED BY NATIONAL POLICE

Saigon, March 9--A mass kidnapping of 21 civilians from three adjoining hamlets, an explosive detonation in a theater and the grenading of a hamlet official's home were among incidents of Communist terrorism reported by National Police March 5th.

The mass kidnapping occurred late at night March 1, police reported, when Communist elements entered the hamlets of Nho Lam, Dai Binh and Hanh Lam, Phu Yen Province and abducted local residents.

In Khanh Hoa Province, on March 4, an unknown number of terrorists entered the hamlet of Phu Thanh and, while they were distributing propaganda leaflets, threw a grenade and fired automatic weapons into the home of the Deputy Hamlet Chief who was entertaining guests. The hamlet official and two of his guests were killed and others were wounded.

The theater blast, which occurred in Tam Ky City, Quang Tin Province March 3, wounded two regional forces personnel and two children.

Meanwhile, Communist terrorist attacks throughout the Republic declined during the week ending February 26, sources from the National Police and the combined information center reported.

Police said that there had been 42 cases of civilian assassinations by terrorists as compared with 74 during the preceding week, among the victims were five hamlet chiefs and officials.

In a total of 101 incidents reported to police during the period there were 88 civilians wounded and 115 kidnappings, bring the total reported since the first of the year to 691 killed, 1,384 wounded and 751 kidnaped, the same source added.

2,009 REDS KILLED IN WEEK

Saigon, March 5--During the week ending last Saturday 2,009 enemy were reported killed of which 996 by RVNAF and 218 captured, of which 208 by RVNAF, Vietnamese military sources said.

In addition, 105 crew-served and 860 individual weapons were seized including 76 crew-served and 501 individual weapons were seized by RVNAF.

Meanwhile RVN Armed Forces suffered 333 soldiers killed, 1000 wounded and 9 missing in action. RVNAF lost 71 individual weapons.

Special Feature

EXPO '70 AND THE PRESENCE OF THE RVN

By Nguyen Viet Khanh -- VP Managing Editor

Sagion, March 6, 1970--A city of the future, an ultra-modern world of marvels and wonders has sprung up from the heart of Japan, just outside the industrial city of Osaka. That is the World Exposition 1970.

This international fair now in its final phase of completion, will be officially inaugurated next March 14.

But right now, you can already see what it looks like. Just take a few steps inside this wonderful land and you'll have the strange impression of being transported in time. You have leapt from the present to the 21st century or further in the future. In fact the whole Expo's site offers the most spectacular view ever imagined by man.

It is splendid and imposing. Man can be proud of what he has achieved.

MODERN TIME AND ANCIENT TREASURES

The Expo '70 is the first world fair held in Asia, but it may be the greatest and the most magnificent. More than 78 nations and territories will participate in the Exposition with the finest of their arts and history, not including international organizations and private enterprises.

This grandiose event not only honors the Asian Continent, but also augures the raising of Asia in the world community during the last decades of this century.

WHY HAS OSAKA BECOME THE SITE OF THE WORLD EXPOSITION?

First, it is an industrial city with an over 3-million population ranking next only to Tokyo. Secondly it is located in the heart of Japan, the Kansai district, cradle of Japanese culture for more than a thousand years, and the nearby cities such as Kyoto and Nara which was chosen as Capital some centuries ago.

Perhaps, Japanese leaders when deciding to choose Osaka as the site of Expo '70 wanted to set forth the great difference between ancient Japanese treasures and technical advances achieved by a modern and booming Japan. The significance of this parallel show is that a modern and westernized Japan still retains what is the best of its traditional culture.

The fair ground is located about 15 miles from the center of Osaka, on the Senri Hill, between Osaka and Kyoto, and not far from Kobe Harbor. The Exposition site is connected with Osaka, Kyoto and Kobe by both railways and expressways (plus a subway line from downtown Osaka), and also by expressway from Nara, famous for its ancient pagodas and historic sites.

The Senri Hills area were leveled up and since 1967 works have been underway to build one of the world's most splendid cities.

The international fair ground covers in total 815 acres and includes a number of sections such as International Exhibition area (for foreign governments and international organizations), Japanese government and private enterprises exhibition area, symbol area, entertainment area, Japanese garden, Expoland and Plaza, and Administration area.

In the Exhibition quarters which occupy most of the fairground, a wonderful scene offers to the visitor's view: towering buildings, colored saucers and globes, silvering roofs and carapaces. Perhaps all the best of architectural brains in the world are gathering here to make marvelous structures out of steel, aluminum and glass.

The Symbol Area in the center of the fair is covered by the world largest transparent roof. In addition to the national pavilions, Japanese and foreign private enterprises compete to offer to the Exposition the best of their sciences and arts.

The total expenditures for the Expo '70 are estimated at about 2 billion U.S. dollars and the number of nations attending the fair reaches the highest record in world fair history.

PROGRESS AND HARMONY FOR MANKIND

Like the Expositions held in Brussels (1964) and in Montreal (1967), world Expo '70 in Osaka has its central theme: "Progress and Harmony for mankind."

The entire Exposition is designed to expand on this central theme through subjects such as :

- toward a fuller enjoyment of life
- toward more bountiful fruits from nature
- toward fuller engineering of our environment
- and toward better understanding of each other.

Today, progress is a miraculous word. All human beings are craving for "progress." World Exhibitions aimed at displaying latest achievements scored by man or those he hopes to realize in the future.

However, scientific and technical progress has no meaning, if it is not dedicated to serve man and human life. We can launch satellites or explore outer space, but we have also to solve many problems such as conflicts, environment, poverty and diseases.

On the other hand, progress must be made for all, especially on a shrinking world such as ours. If nations recognize now that they cannot live isolatedly from each other, they -- and mostly the technically advanced countries -- must also be aware of the fact that they cannot achieve progress alone and let other peoples behind them.

Inequality in evolution and progress between nations in general is one of the main causes of instability and disturbances. And how progress could be achieved in an unstable and chaotic world?

It is necessary therefore to have harmony in progress and that is the central theme of the Expo '70. All exhibitions which last from March 14th to September 13th are aiming at expanding this meaning.

RVN PRESENCE

Amid those most daring architectural designs and those latest inventions and creations, what has the RVN to do?

We are a poor country and we have been suffering from the war for more than a quarter of a century. Moreover we are now engaged in a fierce struggle for our own survival, we cannot afford the luxury of giant building and whimsical architectural designs. And we cannot exhibit spectacular economic development as any country that enjoys peace can reasonably hope to realize.

However, this does not mean that we should not participate in the Expo '70 in Osaka. On the contrary we must and need to be represented there, for our presence has a clear objective: to let the world know more about us and our situation.

We must be there even if it is only for answering a question that has been often risen by many foreigners: Why the Vietnamese society is not dislocated and why the Vietnamese people still preserve their national values, while the war is going on for years on its soil? The answer is our moral strength, the very spirit which helps us stand firm till today in spite of past and present aggressions.

By presenting our heroic fight -- a fight we don't want but is imposed on us by our enemy -- we will tell the world how a peaceful nation like ours can be threatened by a foreign ideology and why we are fighting with all our force and energy to protect our right of self-determination. "We don't like to be forced to accept a proletarian dictatorship.

This exhibition is also a kind of warning for those nations which do not understand or do not want to understand us. As long as the world community recognizes the theme "Progress and Harmony for mankind", it cannot remain indifferent to the fate of a nation which is fighting day and night for stability on this part of the world.

How can mankind progress in harmony when the Communists still attack and threaten other nations by force? And when they talk about "harmony", people throughout the world have to remember that the great danger is still there and that a small nation with the help of allied countries is bearing now all the burden of the war in order to ensure the necessary stability for their progress.

But the significance of our presence in world fair is not only for the past and the present. It aims also at the future. We will exhibit, in parallel with the indomitable spirit of the Vietnamese people, the skills and laborious characters of our workers, and above all, an almost endless variety of natural resources from the Vietnamese soil. In one word, we will recall our past, our traditional culture, to show the world that this people will never be subjugated under any circumstances.

We will also let the world know about our situation, only to remind other nations that what we are doing now is in fact to create the conditions that permit them to make progress.

And then we will let them have a glimpse of our promising future, a post-war economy that, we hope, shall contribute to the harmonious progress of mankind.

The Vietnamese pavilion at the Osaka Exposition may be small and modest. But its significance is not so trivial.

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.

In addition to VIET-NAM BULLETIN, the Embassy of Viet-Nam also publishes a Vietnamese-language monthly called TROI NAM. Readers who are interested in receiving this publication are kindly advised to fill in the opposite mailing form reserved for TROI NAM.

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A weekly publication of the Embassy of Viet-Nam
2251 "R" Street, Washington D.C. 20008
Telephone: 234-4860

U. S. POSTAGE PAID Washington, DC Permit No.41866
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BULK RATE

Vol IV, No. 1
March 8-14, 1970