

VIET-NAM BULLETIN

Vol IV, No. 4

A WEEKLY PUBLICATION OF THE EMBASSY OF VIET-NAM
2251 "R" Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008 (Telephone: 234-4860)
Week of March 29 - April 4, 1970

Politics

SUPREME COURT CONSIDERS CHAU'S APPEAL

Saigon, March 24, 1970--An extraordinary session was held Tuesday morning by the Supreme Court to consider an appeal made by Rep. Chau against the Lower House and the Executive.

Chau, recently sentenced to 10 years at hard labor for "having connections with those whose actions were detrimental to the National security" had taken an action against what he termed as "unconstitutional" a Lower House petition bearing 102 Representatives signatures which authorized the Executive to prosecute him before the III CTZ Field Court.

Lawyer Vu Van Huyen, pleading for Rep. Chau asked for a postponement of the trial, pending the transfer of the defendant's dossier from the III CTZ Field Court.

Acting on behalf of the Lower House, Lawyer Thai Manh Tien asked for the rejection of the appeal, because "Chau was tried for having been caught red-handed violating national laws."

After deliberations, the Supreme Court handed down a sentence of "initial case" and will reconsider the appeal on its next session to be held April 28, 1970.

Also at its extraordinary session, the Supreme Court considered the appeal made by Mr. Ho Dac Khoung, ex-government representative at Central Viet-Nam against the Prime Minister of the former War Cabinet, (The case was returned to the State Council) and accepted Mrs. Ly To Nga desistance in her suit against the Justice Ministry.

The Supreme Court session was presided over by Mr. Tran Minh Tiet, Supreme Court President.

PRES. THIEU PRESIDES OVER MEETING AT INDEPENDENCE PALACE

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Saigon, March 20, 1970--The President's office Friday announced:

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President Nguyen Van Thieu Thursday afternoon presided over a meeting at Independence Palace attended by Vice-President Nguyen Cao Ky, Prime Minister Tran Thien Khiem, Defense Minister Lt. Gen. Nguyen Van Vy, ARVN Chief of Joint Staff Gen. Cao Van Vien, and a number of General officers.

The purpose of the meeting was to review the achievements of:

(1) The program of ARVN development and its capability to replace Allied units;
(2) The logistics program and the program of assistance for servicemen and their families, in the fields of foodstuffs and living quarters.

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JAPANESE EMBASSY IN PHNOM PENH ASKED TO
PROTECT VIETNAMESE IN CAMBODIA

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Saigon, March 21, 1970--Prime Minister Tran Thien Khiem has requested, on behalf of the RVN Government, the Japanese government through the intermediary of the Japanese Embassy in Phnom Penh to protect Vietnamese nationals in Cambodia, follow up and inform the RVN government of the development of the situation concerning the Vietnamese residents in Cambodia.

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The Prime Minister made the request at a meeting Saturday morning with Mr. Yani, Charge d'Affaires at the Japanese Embassy in Viet-Nam.

Fore

Mr. Yani presented to Prime Minister Khiem the situation of the Vietnamese living in Cambodia in the recent past and especially in the past few days.

Present at the 45-minute meeting was Minister of State Phan Quang Dan.

NATIONAL POLICE DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE

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day

Saigon, March 21, 1970--The Directorate General of National Police Saturday morning held a press conference presided over by Colonel Tran Van Hai, National Police Director-General, to present the uncovering of Red clandestine organizations since early February.

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On this occasion, Lt. Col. Nguyen Mau, assistant to the Director-General in charge of Special Police said, the Police arrested 14 members of the Communist V3 Intelligence Group, including Bui Van Sac, head of the Group, and captured an amount of important documents. The Group operated within the Saigon area.

Lt. Col. Mau later presented to newsmen a female Red special agent by the name of Trang Cuc Hoa and disclosed that two other clandestine organizations, including the A.70 Group and the C5 Special Action Team were also uncovered.

Mr. Trang Si Tan, Director of Saigon Police made known that Huynh Tan Mam, acting Chairman of the Saigon Students Union, belonged to the Red Liberation Students Group.

SUPREME COURT GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETS

Saigon, March 25, 1970--The Supreme Court's General Assembly at its Wednesday afternoon session decided that the approval of two-thirds of the Representatives or Senators as prescribed by clause 2, article 37 of the Constitution must be the result of an open debate and vote at the plenary public session of the related House of the National Assembly.

The Supreme Court gave the above judgment while considering the request of 45 Representatives for its explanations of article 37, clause 2 of the Constitution.

Meanwhile the Court postponed till April 28 the case of citizen Nguyen Van Chuc who sued the RVN government on the austerity tax issue.

The Supreme Court's General Assembly met four hours under the chairmanship of Mr. Tran Minh Tiet, Supreme Court President, and in the presence of Mr. Vu Tien Tuan, Prosecutor General at the Supreme Court.

Foreign Relations

MIN. LAM PRESIDES OVER CONFERENCE OF RVN CHIEFS OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS

Saigon, March 26, 1970--Foreign Minister Tran Van Lam when presiding over a conference of RVN Chiefs of diplomatic missions in Europe and Africa held in Geneva Tuesday delivered a speech on the foreign policy of the RVN government.

Foreign Minister Lam briefed the audience on the RVN government's policies and its programs of action, especially the land reform program and the "Land-to-the-Tiller" law.

Regarding the RVN foreign policy Minister Lam said the basic principle of this policy is to increase diplomatic relations with foreign countries.

In the coming months, the Foreign Ministry's main tasks will be to follow up and support the Paris peace talks, to expand the presence of the RVN at many other foreign countries, and strengthen overseas information activities.

Minister Lam also urged the entire diplomatic personnel to increase their activities so as to fulfill the missions entrusted to them by the RVN government and people.

MIN. LAM: RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FRANCE, RVN PROGRESSING STEADILY

Saigon, March 24, 1970--Relationship between France and the Republic of Viet-Nam is progressing steadily, Foreign Minister Tran Van Lam told AFP and VP correspondents in Paris last Saturday following a meeting with French Foreign Minister R. Schumann.

Minister Lam also made known that during the meeting the general situation of the two countries had been discussed.

Answering a VP correspondent in Paris, he said, at the present juncture the resumption of diplomatic relations between the two countries is not yet raised. However he added relationship between the two countries is progressing steadily.

To an AFP correspondent's question, Foreign Minister Lam said he and Mr. Schuman had talked on the technical assistance provided by France to the RVN and the cultural exchange between the two countries, as well as experiences drawn from the recent conference of French-speaking nations in Niamey, Niger.

According to Min. Lam the Niamey Convention had gathered satisfactory results. Countries of different cultures had the opportunity to better understand each other.

F.M. LAM ON NIAMEY CONFERENCE SUCCESS

Saigon, March 24, 1970--Foreign Minister Tran Van Lam said, at the closing ceremony of the French-speaking nations conference at Niamey, capital of Niger last March 20, that the RVN had participated in the formation and functioning of the Agency for Cultural and Technical Cooperation which envisaged the amalgamation of many different cultures.

Such an agency, he added, will help promote better mutual understanding among member countries and, at the same time, enhance development in linguistic, economic and social fields.

Minister Lam's remarks were warmly applauded by all 22 delegations participating in the second conference of French-speaking nations.

Observers said the Conference was a success. Niger's President Diori Hamani presided over the ending ceremony of the conference at which the formation of the Agency for Cultural and Technical Cooperation was formally announced.

The RVN delegation was elected to the Vice-Presidency of the Secretariat of the Conference and was also member of the Planning Committee.

made cordial contacts with the Diplomatic Corps in Niger, especially with
as of North, Central and West Africa.

ican delegations expressed the desire to strengthen their diplomatic ties
blic of Viet-Nam.

OPEN-ARMS MINISTER GIVES TALK ON CHIEU HOI POLICY

on, March 24, 1970--Open Arms Minister Dr. Ho Van Cham Monday night said we
and render assistance to the returnees because "they had been misled into
unism."

address delivered in the presence of 150 guests at a party organized by
Lions Club, Saigon at Van Canh Restaurant to present the newly-founded Thi
Club, Dr. Cham said since 1945 most of the Vietnamese incited by their in-
fighting spirit were involved in the anti-French resistance, and their patriotic
exploited by a Communist minority.

ster Cham added, from 1954 downward historic events have clearly shown the
cause, but part of the Vietnamese people still deceived by Communist cunning
continued to serve Communism, while thinking that they actually serve the
interests.

er, he pointed out, these wayward elements from the other side, realizing
mistakes have rallied the national cause.

due, the Minister continued, partly to the combined efforts of Psywar,
and Pacification, and partly to the Communist leaders' mistakes and crimes.

sequently, he stressed, our mission was to welcome those misled elements with
and at the same time to create for them favorable conditions to rebuild
yes.

Cham, on this occasion, said the Chieu Hoi policy laid stress on "prosely-
unist cadres helping them better understand the true nature of Communism,
persuade them to return to the National fold and join in the rebuilding of
and. The newly founded "Thi Nghe" Lions Club - the 16th of its kind in Viet-
resided over by Engineer Buu Hap and its standing committee headed by Mr.
Tuan.

the guests were Minister of State Phan Quang Dan, Information Minister Ngo
and Interior Vice Minister Le Cong Chat, and representatives of the Diplo-

Press

1970 PRESS CONVENTION OPENS

Saigon, March 23, 1970--The 1970 Vietnamese Press Convention gathering representatives of over 100 dailies and periodicals in the Capital opened Sunday morning at Majestic Hotel with Information Minister Ngo Khac Tinh presiding.

On this occasion, Minister Tinh said the convention marked the realization of the democratic way of life in the press field, according to which the press must have its say besides the government on problems concerning the press circle.

According to the Information Minister the Convention's role must be played within the scope of the free press governed by the law.

The 1970 Press Convention was organized by the Information Ministry according to article 41 of Law No. 19 dated December 30, 1969 which envisaged the establishment of a Press Council.

Also present at the opening ceremony were Messrs. Tran Tan Quoc, Vietnamese Publishers Associations' Chairman, Thanh Thuong Hoang, Vietnamese Journalists Union's Chairman, Nguyen Kien Giang, South Viet-Nam Journalists Union's Chairman and Viet Nhan, Vietnamese Journalist's Friendship Association's Chairman.

PRESS CONVENTION DISCUSSES PARTICIPANTS' QUALIFICATIONS

Saigon, March 23, 1970--The 1970 Vietnamese Press Convention Sunday morning after a two-hour discussion decided to only accept the participation of representatives of newspapers under publication and to postpone its meeting to Monday morning.

The convention also decided that the publisher himself must attend the convention along with a journalist representing the paper, and no third party will be accepted, even with duly procuration.

Besides, the convention rejected the participation of members of the 1965 Provisional Press Council as well as representatives of papers temporarily suspended.

PRESS CONVENTION ELECTS PACT DRAFTING COMMITTEE

Saigon, March 23, 1970--The Vietnamese Press Convention at its Monday morning session elected a Pact Drafting Committee after accepting the participants' qualifications.

Mr. Dang Van Nham, publisher of Tien daily, dealt with the situation of a number of magazines which he called "pell-mell" and requested their exclusion from the convention's participating elements.

However, the convention based on article 3 of law 19-69 prescribing the meaning of newspapers to accept the qualifications of these magazines to the convention. Hence a total of 25 newspapers and 69 magazines were qualified to attend the 1970 Vietnamese Press Convention.

The Convention later elected a 5-member presidium including Messrs. Tran Tan Quoc, (Duoc Nha Nam daily) Nguyen Kien Giang (Thoi Dai Moi), Viet Nhan (Tin Dien), Thanh Thuong Hoang (Chinh Luan), and Dang Van Be (Phu Nu Moi weekly).

The Pact Drafting Committee will speed up its works and the Convention will then hold a plenary session to vote the press pact and elect the Vietnamese Press Council.

This Council, according to article 39 of Law 19-69, is officially a representative of the press circle, executes its pact, sets up relations and cooperates with the government and press organizations on press problems.

The Committee included Messrs. Huynh Thanh Vi (Dong Nai), Nguyen Van Thai (Thoi Nay), Le Hien (Cong Luan), Ho Duc Minh (Lien A), Ly Trieu Dan (Chinese Language dailies), Viet Nhan (Tin Dien), Nguyen Kien Giang (Thoi Dai Moi), Thanh Thuong Hoang (Chinh Luan), and Dang Van Be (Phu Nu Moi).

ASIAN NEWSMEN VISIT HUE

Saigon, March 22, 1970--The delegation of Asian newsmen Saturday morning visited Hue imperial city.

Arriving in the former Capital at 10:30 a.m. the newsmen paid a courtesy visit to Mr. Le Thanh Minh Chau, Rector of Hue University and called at the mass graves of victims of Communist Mau Than offensive in Ba Don.

At Tu Duc King's tomb, the Asian newsmen delegation had lunch with I CTZ Commander Lt. Gen. Hoang Xuan Lam.

On this occasion, Thua Thien province chief Col. Le Van Than briefed the delegation on the over-all situation in Central Viet-Nam.

Present at the meeting were Major General Ngo Quang Truong, 1st Division Commander and ranking U.S. officers.

The delegation later boarded helicopters to visit a number of villages and hamlets in the "Street Without Joy" area (as called by late newsman Bernard Fall) which was pacified in Thua Thien province.

The newsmen returned to Saigon in the afternoon of the same day.

Miscellaneous

SWEDISH YOUTH VOLUNTEERS TO SERVE IN VNAF

Saigon, March 24, 1970--Bill Rohdin, a Swedish youth, recently expressed the desire to join the VNAF.

In a letter dated March 13, sent to the Information Center of the Viet-Nam Council on Foreign Relations, Stockholm, Rohdin gave an account of his flight experience, and his personnel data, and also his desiderata.

In August 1969, he completed a ground school course on Douglas DC-7 held by H.J. Hansson, head instructor of mechanic division in Scandinavian Airlines System.

In September the same year he finished a one and a half year-long flight training course held by Bromma Flygskola, the leading flight school of Sweden.

The training resulted in Commercial Pilots licence with Instrument Rating Radio Telephony Licence and written examination for Airline Transport Licence. His total amount of flight time was approximately 350 hours.

Bill Rohdin said he was looking for an opening with the VNAF, preferably with the transport or reconnaissance division.

Later on, he will try to get a job with a civilian airline.

He concluded the letter by expressing the hope that his aspirations will be fulfilled.

Manpower

U.S. CONSTRUCTION GROUP HELPS VIETNAMESE ACQUIRE NEW SKILLS

Saigon, March 2, 1970--More than 200,000 South Vietnamese now are expert at just about any heavy-construction or engineering job.

They have learned all phases of construction work: Operating heavy-duty equipment; crafts of the trade such as welding and mechanics; repair and maintenance, as well as clerical and administrative chores.

For these men and women, their newly-acquired skills give them the opportunity for better-paying jobs and the leadership ability to participate in their country's reconstruction now and in the future.

Their formal training courses are conducted by RMK-BRJ, an American construction firm which since 1962 has built numerous large-scale engineering facilities throughout the Republic, under contract to the U.S. Navy Officer in Charge of Construction, Viet-Nam.

As the trainees become proficient, they are put to work at RMK-BRJ construction projects. Many are brought from outlying areas for instruction at the company's big training center in Saigon. Others receive their training on job sites -- in Da Nang, Qui Nhon, Cam Ranh, Song Cau in Phu Yen Province, and other localities where the skilled work force is limited.

Their wage scale is set by the GVN Ministry of Labor in order to avoid unfair competition with civilians outside the company who work at similar jobs. A heavy-duty truck driver or crane operator, for instance, may start at 51 VNP (U.S. .43) per hour, while the starting wage for a journeyman craftsman is 46 VNP (.38 U.S.) per hour.

RMK-BRJ has had various training programs over the last six years, but perhaps the most unique is a tradition-smashing one teaching the slight, slender Vietnamese women to do heavy-duty work once considered strictly man's domain in this country. According to American advisors, the women take to "men's work" with ease and enthusiasm. At nearly every job-site, observers may see diminutive Vietnamese women driving 35-ton trucks, operating cranes or outsize front-end loaders. Others are welders, electricians, mechanics, machinists; in short, approximately 242 women are helping to fill a need created when national mobilization began syphoning off skilled male laborers.

In the past eight months, RMK-BRJ has begun replacing American instructors with Vietnamese -- including two women -- in the operation of heavy-duty equipment. Eventually it hopes to have mostly Vietnamese teachers with only American advisors.

Special Feature

S.V.N. ELECTIONS TO TEST STRENGTH OF SELF-RULE

Saigon, March 22, 1970--South Viet-Nam voters are going to the polls this year in what officials regard as a crucial test of the Government's pacification and self-development program.

They hope the voter turn-out and results will reflect a continuing interest in restoring self-rule to the villages and hamlets and thus demonstrate the confidence of the people in democratic processes.

Throughout the year, elections are being held for 1,118 village council members and 4,462 hamlet chiefs and deputy hamlet chiefs. Village councils, ranging from six to 12 members, select a village chief from among themselves.

Although some areas have held elections this year, the bulk are scheduled for the remainder of March, April and May.

The majority of the ballots will be cast for positions filled in the elections of April, 1967 -- the first round under a government decree designed to return the countryside to its tradition of village self-government. Those posts open to candidates are for three-year terms.

Other balloting is in areas formerly controlled by the enemy which now are secure enough to hold elections.

The Ministry of the Interior, which supervises the voting, says that now 94 per cent of the nation's 2,151 villages have elected officials. Hamlet chiefs and deputy chiefs also have been elected in 9,680 of the estimated 10,522 hamlets.

The government hopes that the experience with the electoral process in the last three years will produce high-quality candidates who can lead their communities in active, educational campaigns.

According to the Ministry, last year the Viet Cong assassinated 22 elected village council members, 46 administration committee members, who were appointed by the council and 71 hamlet officials, some elected and some appointed.

As the election machinery began to roll, the government launched programs to prepare local officials for their increasing political, economic and administrative responsibilities.

Last year nearly 70,000 village and hamlet officials received training in pacification and village development techniques, budgets, taxation systems and other administrative skills.

The government now is working on other election reforms which it hopes will improve self-rule even more.

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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VIET-NAM BULLETIN

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

BULK RATE

Vol IV, No. 4
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