

VIET-NAM BULLETIN

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Politics

PRES. THIEU ATTENDS 21st INF. DIVISION'S 11th FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY

Saigon, June 2, 1970--"As a result of our military operations in Cambodia, the Communists have lost all their rear bases in Cambodia, except a few regiments isolated in this cis-Bassac area. The 21st Infantry Division must avail itself of this opportunity to destroy the enemy four regiments prior to this year end."

President Nguyen Van Thieu made the statement Monday when he toured the 21st Inf. Div. Command Post in the IV CTZ on the occasion of the 11th founding anniversary of this large unit. He promoted to the next higher ranks a number of officers and decorated several others of the 21st Inf. Division.

Addressing the combatants of the Division, the President particularly praised their outstanding achievements during the past eleven years. He said the 21st Inf. Division has succeeded in restoring security and prosperity to the cis-Bassac population.

Such an outcome, the President said, made proof of the unquestionable anti-Communist determination of our people as a whole.

From a really weak posture three years ago, we have reached a strong position, the President said, adding, "our growing strength in the face of a weakening enemy will help restore peace sooner in this part of the world."

Dealing with the national political situation, President Thieu urged the combatants not to believe that all the Saigon students took down to the street as newspapers reported. "Just an insignificant number took part in sporadic demonstrations" he said, emphasizing that "these dailies, due to commercial reasons, have exaggerated the facts."

The President said he understood the war disabled's problems. It is the government's deep concern over the settlement of war disabled's problems but the government cannot settle all priorities at one time", the President added.

The government according to the President, "is making use of the large part of American aid to put into effect the Military Supply Agency distribution system so that necessary items will easily reach the combatants' families." The construction of more combatants' dependents' housing areas has been also pushed ahead, the President said.

The President made known that a "very progressive" bill prescribing the rights of war disabled and war widows and orphans was recently forwarded by the government to the National Assembly, and it will be promulgated in the near future.

The President advised the war disabled to be patient "because we cannot meet all aspirations overnight."

After touring the 21st Inf. Division Command Hqs. and attending a briefing here, the President visited Khanh Binh Dong village which was pacified in October 1969.

To the local population, the President told that the government "will abandon not an inch of the fatherland soil and concede not a single inhabitant to the Communists." He urged the local population to be vigilant against the Communists' deceitful propaganda.

On this occasion, the President granted a token resettlement subsidy to the villagers including \$7,500 VNP in cash and ten corrugated iron sheets.

He also presented the 2nd battalion of Inf. Reg. 32, Inf. Div. 21 with 50,000 VNP. The Inf. battalion is securing the protection mission at Khanh Binh Dong village.

Later, the President boarded a motorized junk to proceed to Song Ong Doc district town. He toured the administrative and military structures of the district town and chatted with local inhabitants.

Accompanying the President in his tour were Prime Minister Tran Thien Khiem and several Cabinet members and general officers. President Thieu and his party returned to the Capital at 5:30 p.m. the same day.

VICE PRES. KY VISITS KAMPUCHEA

Saigon, June 5, 1970--Vice President Nguyen Cao Ky Thursday morning led a government delegation on an official visit to Kampuchea.

Accompanying the Vice President were Foreign Minister Tran Van Lam, Lt. Gen. Nguyen Van Vy, Defense Minister, Dr. Tran Nguon Phieu, Minister of Social Welfare, Maj. Gen. Tran Van Minh, Air Forces Commander, Commodore Tran Van Chon, Navy Commander, and a number of ranking government officials and military officers.

During his stay in Kampuchea the Vice President will observe on-the-spot various problems relating to Vietnamese nationals in Kampuchea according to the agreements recently signed between the RVN and the Kampuchea governments.

On hand to see the delegation off at Tan Son Nhat Airport were Prime Minister Tran Thien Khiem, Gen. Cao Van Vien, Chief of the RVNAF Joint General Staff, Cabinet members

and representatives of the diplomatic corps.

Mrs. Nguyen Cao Ky also accompanied the Vice President in his visit to Kampuchea.

MIN. SAMBAUR: V.N. NATIONALS
WILL RECEIVE ADEQUATE REPARATIONS

Saigon, May 28, 1970--Cambodian Foreign Minister Yem Sambaur Wednesday afternoon stated that the Phnom Penh government has agreed to pay adequate reparations for Vietnamese nationals' properties confiscated in Cambodia, but refused to elaborate.

Minister Yem Sambaur made the statement at a press conference at which a RVN-Cambodia joint communique was released.

To another question concerning dismissed Vietnamese civil servants working for the Cambodian government, Minister Sambaur said his government will consider this problem in a spirit of cooperation between the two countries.

Asked whether he had suggested to President Nguyen Van Thieu the problem of ARVN advisors to the Cambodian Army, the Cambodian Foreign Minister said, it is relevant to military affairs, and therefore "it is hard to answer such a question."

On this occasion, Mr. Sambaur asserted that thanks to the U.S.-ARVN military intervention a large number of important Red weapons and ammunition caches were uncovered in Cambodia, and this had led to the control of territory by the Cambodian Army.

He also denied the presence of concentration camps for Vietnamese nationals in Cambodia. He affirmed however that temporary resettlement camps had been established for those Vietnamese waiting to be repatriated, and security measures had been applied for their protection in Viet Cong-invested areas. Elsewhere, he continued, other Vietnamese nationals are living their normal life.

Replying to a newsman, the RVN Foreign Minister declared that the joint communique is a victory for both countries engaged in a common anti-Communist struggle.

Cambodian Foreign Minister Sambaur expressed his thanks for the warm welcome extended to his delegation and for the news coverage by Vietnamese and foreign newsmen of his delegation's activities.

The Cambodian government delegation left Saigon for home at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday.

P.M. OFFICE ISSUES COMMUNIQUE ON CURRENCY SMUGGLING CASE

Saigon, May 28, 1970--Prime Minister Tran Thien Khiem's office Wednesday issued a communique on the currency smuggling case uncovered last April 11 at Tan Son Nhat airport.

According to the communique, the following findings were reached by an Inter-Ministerial Investigation Committee led by the Justice Minister:

1) The smuggling ring led by two Chinese, one in Cholon and the other in Hongkong involved a number of accomplices in Viet-Nam, the United States and India. It purchased Vietnamese and American currency to be shipped by air to Hongkong, and the smuggled bank notes, escorted from Saigon downtown to the airport by a VNAF Major, passed through the customs barrier with the connivance of a Customs sergeant.

2) In addition to a number of traveller's checks bearing no identity of the owners, there were 468 persons of various nationalities - U.S., Filipino, V.N., Korean, Chinese and Indian who were guilty of selling to this ring cheques ranging in value from \$25 U.S. to \$2,000 U.S.

By order of the Prosecutor of the Saigon Court of 1st instance dated May 26, eight persons were charged with foreign and VN currency smuggling harmful to the national economic and financial situation, and 2 others charged as accomplices. Another number of defendants were under the jurisdiction of the Customs Directorate General.

A Special Customs detachment last April 11, apprehended at Tan Son Nhat airport a Hongkong-bound Chinese with four suitcases filled with \$49,250,000 VNP in \$500-bank notes and \$182,044.63 in bank notes and traveller's checks.

INFO. MIN: SOCIAL REFORMS CONSTITUTE MAIN INITIATIVE TO SETTLE WAR

Saigon, May 30, 1970--"Social disturbances, if taken for the consequences of a protracted war also reflect the conflicts among social strata, and social reforms constitute the main initiative to settle the war and other major problems."

Information Minister Ngo Khac Tinh made the above statement Saturday morning when he addressed the first annual convention of Lions VN sector 311 at the Majestic Hotel.

He expected that thanks to the Lions Club unselfish lines of action, the members will succeed in levelling social injustices, thus improving the human position within the national community in accordance with the full meaning of the word "human being."

Minister Tinh also conceived that any social reform based on the equal reparation of properties within the framework of absolute respect of national law and order constitutes the first fundamental steps for the happy conciliation of the Western-Eastern civilizations.

Earlier, Mr. Nguyen Ngoc Linh in the capacity of President on the Convention Organizing Committee, introduced the Chairmen panel and participants to the Convention. Some ten hundred members from 20 sub-sectors throughout the country attended the convention.

On this occasion, President Nguyen Van Thieu, Vice President Nguyen Cao Ky and Prime Minister Tran Thien Khiem messaged congratulations and best wishes to the first annual Convention of Lions VN Sector 311.

The Convention will last for two days to elect the new executive committee of Sector 311, and to review the past activities of the Sector as well as to draw experience from friendly Lions Clubs achievements.

Lions in Viet-Nam was previously affiliated with Thailand-Vietnam Sector. It now groups enough members to be separately formed with the approval of Lions International.

DR. DAN RECEIVES U.N. OFFICIAL ON REFUGEES

Saigon, June 1, 1970--Dr. Phan Quang Dan, Minister of State concurrently Chairman of the Central Relief Committee for Vietnamese Repatriated from Cambodia, Saturday received Mr. Gilbert Jaeger, Director of the African and Asian Division of the U.N. office of the High Commissioner of Refugees.

Accompanying Mr. Jaeger was Mr. D'Astugues, United Nations representative to Viet-Nam.

The hour-long meeting dealt with the assistance to Vietnamese nationals in Cambodia.

Meanwhile, sources from the Central Relief Committee reported that UNICEF made known Saturday it had ordered 2,000 cases of milk in Bangkok for distribution to the refugees' children.

Foreign Relations

RVN AND CAMBODIA TO EXCHANGE AMBASSADORS

Saigon, May 30, 1970--By virtue of an agreement signed last May 27 between F.M. Tran Van Lam and Cambodia's F.M. Yem Sambaur, the RVN and Cambodia are determined to resume their diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level, sources from the F.M. said.

The agreement also prescribed for an exchange of ambassadors between the two countries.

The same sources said, during the three-day visit to the Republic, Cambodia's F.M.

Yem Sambaur on behalf of his government, signed 3 agreements with his Vietnamese counterpart. In addition to the agreement concerning the resumption of diplomatic relations between the two countries, the two diplomats signed two other agreements concerning a RVN-Cambodia economic and financial cooperation and the issue of the Vietnamese nationals in Cambodia.

Concerning the cooperation between the RVN and Cambodia in the economy and finance field, the two governments concurred that a solution must be reached in a short period on various problems including the signing of agreement on civilian aviation, the use of the Mekong River, the customs tariff and the anti-smuggling effort.

Negotiations on the economic and financial cooperation will begin next June, the same sources added.

V.N. BOOKS, MUSIC EXHIBIT TO BE HELD IN PARIS

Saigon, May 27, 1970--The Office of the Minister of State in charge of Cultural Affairs will organize an exhibit of Vietnamese books and music to be held at the France-Viet-Nam Institute, 269 St. Jacques, Paris, June 5-12, 1970.

A RVN delegation led by Minister of State Mai Tho Truyen is scheduled to leave Saigon for France Wednesday.

Sources from the Office said, over 700 literary works will be on display at the exhibit alongside with hundreds of records, tapes, and music books of all kinds.

On this occasion, cultural film shows will be held, and a number of theatrical performances will also be presented.

Mobile exhibits will also be envisaged by the organizing committee, the same sources added.

NEW ZEALAND OFFERS 25 COLOMBO PLAN SCHOLARSHIPS TO VIET-NAM

Sagion, May 27, 1970--The New Zealand government this week offered 25 scholarships to the RVN government for university and other advanced study commencing in 1971. All 25 scholarships are financed under the New Zealand Colombo Plan Aid Program, sources from the New Zealand Embassy in Saigon said.

Fifteen scholarships are for university degree courses, either at the graduate or post-graduate level. Courses can be taken in almost any subject taught at any of New Zealand's seven universities. Six scholarships are for one year's advanced training in the English language for Vietnamese secondary school teachers. This course is held at the English Language Institute in Wellington. Four of the scholarships are for two years training in dental nursing. The selection of candidates for these scho-

larships will be carried out by the RVN Education Ministry later this year.

There are at present some eighty-five Vietnamese students on scholarships at New Zealand universities, the same sources added.

LONDON RECEPTION MARKS RVN LAND REFORM LAW PROMULGATION

Saigon, May 28, 1970--The RVN Embassy in the United Kingdom last week held a reception marking the promulgation of the Land-to-the-Tiller Law in Viet-Nam.

About 150 guests attended the reception. Most of them were diplomats, newsmen, radio and television reporters and Vietnamese nationals.

Sources from Britain reported that the RVN Ambassador displayed on this occasion pictures and plans on the land reform in Viet-Nam.

He also explained to the guests the main points of the Land-to-the-Tiller Law which is aimed at providing ownership to the land tenants in South Viet-Nam.

The War

DALAT SITUATION RETURNS TO NORMAL

Saigon, May 31, 1970--The situation in Dalat became normal Sunday morning and remaining Red special action elements were swept out of Dalat University, the Dalat Church and a Catholic seminary.

The Dalat airfield also resumed its activities and local residents' life returned to normal.

The curfew in Dalat remains unchanged (from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.).

U.S. ENGINEER UNIT HELPS REFUGEES CLEAR LAND IN THUA THIEN

Saigon, May 30, 1970--A company of the U.S. 18th Engineer Group has begun the clearance of a four sq-mile area west of Thua Thien often referred to as "the street without joy" area to be used as rice-field for the local anti-Communist refugees.

Thua Thien Province Chief Col. Le Van Than revealed that the program, envisaged the resettlement of 5,000 refugees but to date, the number of refugees at the locality has reached the 10,000-mark.

According to the province chief, the refugees can harvest the first rice crop in August on this cleared area left fallow for the past five years.

President Nguyen Van Thien recently visited the area where he talked with local residents on the exploitation of their land.

U.S. CIVIC ACTION AGENCY TRANSFERS RICE TO REFUGEES

Saigon, June 4, 1970--The U.S. Civic Action Agency recently transferred 112 tons of rice seized from Reds food caches in Kampuchea to two supply warehouses in Saigon for redistribution to refugees.

Two thirds of the rice went to the supply warehouse on Tran Hung Dao Street and the remainder, to the warehouse of the Capital Military Advisory Group Command on Le Van Duyet Street, Saigon.

The above quantity of rice, seized by the RVN and U.S. troops at Communist food hide-outs in Kampuchea, was in good condition.

716 REDS RALLY IN WEEK

Saigon, June 6, 1970--The Vietnamese Open Arms Service throughout the country in the May 24-30 period welcomed 716 more Communists who rallied the national cause including 406 military agents, 196 political cadres and 114 other elements.

The 4th CTZ topped the list with 400 ralliers.

Since early this year 13,926 Communists returned to the government side bringing to 154,326 the total number of returnees since the promulgation of the Chieu Hoi (Open Arms) Policy in February 1963.

Miscellaneous

CURRENCY SMUGGLING UNCOVERED

Saigon, June 4, 1970--The Directorate General of Customs Saturday uncovered an illegal transfer of 6,300,000 piasters and 6,000 U.S. dollars under the form of postal parcels at the General Post Office in Saigon, sources from the Finance Ministry said.

Personnel of the Customs Control Service found the packages of Vietnamese and American currency an hour before they were transported to Tan Son Nhat airport along with the other postal parcels to be sent to Hong Kong.

All customs, post and police personnel involved in the case were arrested for investigation.

Special Feature

VIETNAM-CAMBODIA RELATIONS IN A
CHANGING SOUTHEAST ASIA

by Do Van Ly

Saigon (MF)--Vietnamese, engaged in a struggle for survival, found it rather difficult to observe with an objective and detached view the policies of a neighbouring nation which claimed to be neutral, yet maintained full diplomatic relations with Communist North Viet-Nam after severing ties with the Saigon government seven years ago. In addition, Prince Sihanouk's policy of giving aid and shelter to Hanoi's troops was an added irritant-to put it mildly.

And yet, looking at the problem from Prince Sihanouk's point of view, one could comprehend his dilemma with a certain degree of compassion. Obviously, his goal was to keep Cambodia out of the turmoil brought about by Hanoi's aggression against South Viet-Nam. Like Winston Churchill who once said that he was prepared to make a pact with the devil if it would bring about the down-fall of Nazi Germany, Prince Sihanouk thought likewise. In fact, he did make a pact with the devil. Unfortunately for him - being no Churchill - he lost. Royalty has never fared well at the hands of Communists - even friendly Communists - and the chances are that the Prince will - in due course - be relegated to the dustbin of history.

In Cambodia, we have now come through a period of crisis and confusion during which many Vietnamese and long-time residents were wantonly killed in a situation of utter chaos. Viet Cong, North Vietnamese troops, pro and anti-Sihanouk Cambodian factions clashed and fought each other, and many unfortunate innocents perished. The problem threatened to get out of hand with the danger of repercussions in Viet-Nam and waves of protests in Saigon while Hanoi did its best to encourage turmoil all around. Through it all, the Saigon government acted with admirable restraint and common sense.

Today, the presence of Vietnamese troops and their American allies on Cambodian soil has stabilized the situation somewhat. A resumption of normal diplomatic relations between the two countries is now in the process of being worked out. From all accounts, South Vietnamese soldiers assisting the government of Premier Lon Nol, are doing a magnificent job. They conduct themselves in a disciplined way and are fighting exceedingly well. The nation is proud of them and proud of their commanders. For the first time in Viet-Nam's tortuous history as a modern independent nation, it is now in a position to assist another Southeast Asian country in eliminating a cancer which has affected Viet-Nam for over a quarter of a century. The Vietnamese received support from American, Korean, Thai and British Commonwealth fighting men. Therefore, it is a source of pride and achievement to the nation that today it helps another Asian country which now faces the same foe.

Cambodia and Viet-Nam are ancient neighbours. Historically, they have been closely interwoven for centuries. Until 1954 there was no dividing border between the two peoples. Vietnamese and Cambodians migrated freely and settled on each other's territory. They developed a close cultural relationship in their day-to-day activities in which - among other things - religion was a common factor. Close to one million Vietnamese settled in Cambodia while about two million Cambodians are now living in Viet-Nam. Understandably, the governments in Phnom Penh and Saigon are therefore intimately involved in the problems of both peoples. Now faced with a common enemy, present cooperation may hopefully lead to an "entente cordiale" between the two capitals - especially since Hanoi and Peking will do their utmost to drive a wedge between the two nations. There are indications the same may happen to the relations between Bangkok and Phnom Penh which are now being restored to normal.

Much has already been said and written in this part of the world about the necessity of developing a Southeast Asian common market - a Southeast Asian entente of a Southeast Asian block. Everybody supports the idea of some sort of Southeast Asian union, it's akin to mother love, one really can't be against it. Yet, such developments are slow to come about due to historical trends, ancient traditions and time-encrusted customs and memories. Even Europe, of which many Southeast Asians have such intimate knowledge, has yet to project an image of a true European. They have gone far in breaking down the barriers of narrow, parochial nationalism and today, most Europeans know Europe far better than Southeast Asians know each other's countries. Nevertheless, the future does look bright for basically there is more to unite Southeast Asians than to divide them. Modern ideas of regional cooperation and interdependence are now commonplace in the capitals of Southeast Asia. The nations of the Indo-China peninsula are a tragic example today of what happens if they don't hang together. If it had not been for the aid of allies, American and others, South Viet-Nam would have been the first to hang separately. Joint direction by the leaders of Laos, Cambodia and South Viet-Nam may prevent further enemy inroads. No Southeast Asian can lean back, relax and say "It can't happen here."

And what for the future? Geographically, Cambodia and Viet-Nam are the joint recipients of the annual bounty of the Mekong River. The Mekong River Project, sponsored by the United Nations, promises a future wealth of irrigation, power and agricultural developments which could easily raise the standards of living of the peoples of the Indo-China peninsula to among the highest in Asia. Various international organizations like the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank, the U.N. affiliate bodies like the ECAFE and the Asian and Pacific Council are prepared to help boost the productivity of Southeast Asia and to release the enormous potential waiting to yield its riches. But none of this is going to happen unless this part of the world is free from turmoil. The funds expended on war and destruction in South Viet-Nam could easily

provide each family in Laos, Cambodia and both North and South Viet-Nam with a decent house, an automobile, a gleaming refrigerator, a television set, an electric rice cooker plus a sizeable bank account. The Hanoi regime, this "champion of the proletariat", only has to give the signal for the guns to fall silent and then leave its neighbours in peace.

When talking of a Southeast Asian Regional block, consider a Southeast Asia geographically situated between two giants, a Southeast Asia small, weak but rich and conscious of its political and economic capabilities in the area.

In short, a Southeast Asia firmly believing in the principle of inter-dependence of nations. A Southeast Asia which, unsatisfied with all the present "isms" in the world, may it be parliamentary democracy, socialism, marxism, etc... will search deep in its intellect, soul, heart, wisdom and cultures, for a worthwhile contribution to mankind's quest for peace. As we have seen there has been no victory, nor defeat in this world bi-polarization. Let this region not become stale because of intellectual stagnation, a Southeast Asia of empty words but no concrete solutions.

Last but not least, Southeast Asia should remember that what is happening in Laos, Cambodia and South Viet-Nam today, could not and would not happen other countries in the region tomorrow. Political luxury, as seen in Cambodia before, can be afforded only when the conditions, means and ways to afford such luxury are there. Talking about political luxury while lacking the conditions to enforce it is suicidal. Only close cooperation between the nations of Southeast Asia can prevent further encroachments from the enemy.

Perhaps a Southeast Asian block may be a utopian dream but what is happening today in Phnom Penh and Saigon, and what is happening in Djakarta by way of the recent Asia and Pacific Conference may be the start of a foundation for a regional partnership inaugurating a new chapter of concorde, friendship, peace and progress between Viet-Nam and Cambodia and in the other nations of Southeast Asia.

Let us hope that Cambodia and Viet-Nam can lead the way.

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