

VIET-NAM BULLETIN

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September 7, 1970

Politics

PRES. THIEU PRESIDES OVER VILLAGE OFFICIALS GRADUATION CEREMONY IN VUNG TAU

Saigon, August 25, 1970--President Nguyen Van Thieu Tuesday presided over the graduation ceremony for the 5/70 village and hamlet officials training course at the Vung Tau National Cadres' Training Center, the Press Secretary at the President's Office reported.

The course graduated 1148 village and hamlet officials, 630 militia cadres and 875 chief of Rural Development groups and teams.

On this occasion, President Thieu named the course the "5/70 New Rural Area".

In his talk to the graduates, the President dealt with the present national situation.

According to President Thieu, the implementation of the Special Pacification Development Plan which was started in July and will be accomplished by October this year is aimed at strengthening the security in villages and hamlets, completing development projects left unfinished in 1969 and the 1970 first semester, and at the same time preparing for the 1970 Development plan.

The implementation of the Special Pacification-Development Plan was started early last July since the military situation has turned out satisfactory said President Thieu. Moreover, after the ousting of Sihanouk's pro-Communist regime in Cambodia, the RVN forces with the agreement of the Lon Nol government, had destroyed Communist sanctuaries on the Khmer territory and inflicted on them heavy setbacks.

Hence, President Thieu added, the Communist fighting potential has weakened day by day and at present they are no longer able to initiate big offensives on the South Viet-Nam battleground.

President Thieu expressed the confidence that thanks to the brilliant victories of our people and armed forces security has been restored in villages and hamlets and this situation will be more satisfactory by the end of this year.

He made known that we have attained two thirds of the path in the development of democracy and administrative machinery at grass-root level. Therefore the current problem is how to create a sense of unity and community development among the village and hamlet inhabitants.

Once the villages and hamlets have become prosperous, said the President, the country will be able to achieve self-support and self-sufficiency.

The Chief Executive went on: The National development program is a long-term one which requires the active participation of everyone. We are receiving the support of many Free World countries including the United States which plays the most important role. However, we cannot rely on their aid forever, we must build the country ourselves, we must ourselves assume the task of safeguarding our independence. Therefore, we have agreed to gradually replace the U.S. troops in the fighting and we have requested the U.S. government to help us organize a strong Civil Self-Defense force armed with modern weapons. We also asked the U.S. to increase its economic aid to Viet-Nam so that we can effectively cope with Communist aggression whenever the U.S. troops return to their homeland.

President Thieu stressed we are strong and the Communists are weakening. We must continue to eradicate all the Communist underground cadres in rural areas. When this task is completed, we will have peace, a peace based on the strength of our people and soldiers, a peace in security and prosperity.

Although the stubborn Communists are not willing to negotiate peace, the war will end in two or three years.

We are not warmongers. We have always shown our peace goodwill, we have suggested that the other side participate in a general election with us, we are ready to receive those of the other side who want to rally the great national family.

However we are ready to eliminate all those stubborn elements who still tie themselves to subversive action.

We will never accept a peace imposed on us. We have to struggle for our own peace and that peace has been materialized through the prosperity in rural areas.

Those who asked for an immediate peace, a peace in neutrality, a peace in coalition are just naive or demagogues or henchmen of the underground Communists. Bitter experiences in North Viet-Nam, Laos and recently in Cambodia indicated that the Communists will never give up their scheme of aggression of the South.

For this reason, Pres. Thieu added, we must be vigilant and make all-out efforts to defend the countryside to maintain our present strength.

He stressed that he advocates the strengthening of villages and hamlets administration through self-governing process. And when their villages are well-developed the villagers will be of course willing to contribute to the national development.

And to help popular-elected organizations know well the present national situation and requirements, the President will invite newly elected councilmen to meet him at Independence Palace in early September. The President at the meeting will give briefings to the councilmen on the national situation and requirements, especially the Development requirements.

Finally, the President told the graduates he used to talk to trainees of all courses at the Center because he believed that village and hamlet officials who know well the national situation will be determined to realize what the people are wanting, and that village and hamlet officials will be members of the strongest party in the country at present. This is the party of those who are fighting against the Communists to protect the nation, this is the party of those civil-servants and cadres who are contributing to the improvement of the people's living standard, this is also the party of village, hamlet officials, Popular Force combatants and Civil Self-Defense members who are protecting and developing the rural areas.

President Thieu stressed that his belief helps him be more zealous to lead the country to the final victory.

Following the talk, President Thieu presented a number of gifts to outstanding graduates.

Accompanying the President were Prime Minister Tran Thien Khiem, the Ministers of Rural Development, Information and several other Cabinet members.

The delegation returned to Saigon at 12:30 a.m. the same day.

"LOTUS" SLATE ADVOCATES PEACE FREE FROM COMMUNIST COERCION

Saigon, August 22, 1970--"Hoa Sen" (Lotus) slate running for the August 20 senatorial re-election "ties itself to the restoration of peace within the framework of independence, freedom and progress".

Professor Vu Van Mau, head of slate II with the Lotus as emblem made the statement at a press conference held Friday afternoon at No. 171 Truong Minh Giang Street.

Professor Mau spelled out that his slate "advocates a peace free from Communist coercion".

"This also constitutes the most subtle anti-Communist formula which is ten times better than that pleaded devoid of sense", he said.

The head of slate II insisted on saying that "social reforms are the vital factor to deprive Communists of operating ground".

Portraying his slate's peace stand in a much more flourishing language, Professor Mau said insofar as the Viet-Nam war results in the ideological conflict between the super power blocs, the two parts of Viet-Nam had better disengage themselves from the ideological quagmire and resort to the "National peace" as the only preferred overture to survival.

Professor Mau called such a disengagement from the ideological conflict "the spiritual self-liberation" which, he said, once approved by the super power blocs, could help restore peace in this war torn part of the world.

Touching on the coalition issue, Prof. Mau said in a genuine democracy, political parties should not resort to arms as competition for survival but to political activities. In such a spirit, he added no other elements than the military can turn to arms for help and the militarymen should stand aloof from the politics.

Consequently, Prof. Mau said "there is no question of coalition or non-coalition but the problem of political struggle".

To a question on how to disarm the "National Liberation Front" (NLF) the head of slate II made it known that what he is concerned with "is how to get at the spiritual self-liberation at home". He said he did not appreciate the fact that political parties be equipped with arms. The Professor quoted President Thieu as saying that "if the Viet Cong lay down their weapons, they will be authorized to take part in the elections" to illustrate his point.

Dealing with the peace motivation by the An Quang Buddhist Bloc, Prof. Mau said any such motivations deserve to be welcomed because all such efforts constitute "cornerstones of peace".

"Further", Prof. Mau said, "The An Quang's peace motivation only centers on the consultation of public opinion within the country, the formula of which still remains unknown thus far".

Professor Mau also affirmed the Viet-Nam Unified Buddhist Church (An Quang) did not delegate any slates of its own. The "Hoa Sen" slate only consists of a number of Buddhist followers having the same line of action, he said.

The head of slate II vowed that despite their disapproval of the government general policy the slate's ten members "have decided to join in for the contribution to the salvation of the Fatherland".

Answering a newsman's question on the present custody regime, Prof. Mau said his slate will work for the improvement of it, once elected.

On this occasion, Dr. Nguyen Duy Tai a member of slate II, present at the press conference said "Hoa Sen" slate will demand for general amnesty for all those who have been jailed, lack of guilty evidences.

On the scholastic military training issue, ex-Lt. General Ton That Dinh who is a member of "Hoa Sen" slate made known that the issue could easily be settled if it is viewed as pertaining to the autonomy status of Universities.

Seven of the ten members of Slate II were present at the Friday press conference. They were: Messrs. Vu Van Mau, Ton That Dinh, Nguyen Duy Tai, Ton That Niem, Bui Tuong Huan, Tran Duy Don and Ton Ai Lieng.

PRES. THIEU MESSAGES CONGRATULATIONS
TO PROVINCIAL, CITY COUNCILS

Saigon, August 24, 1970--President Nguyen Van Thieu over the last weekend expressed thanks to those outgoing provincial and city councils which had made proof of close cooperation with local administrations and secured outstanding achievements in the anti-Communist struggle for the survival of the nation.

The Chief Executive's thanks were contained in a cable sent to provincial and city councils throughout the country on the occasion of the taking over ceremonies of new people's elected councils at provincial and city levels.

Hailing the newly-elected councillors, the Chief Executive expressed his belief that the people's representatives at provincial and city administrations, as having thoroughly get abreast of their vital role in the national democracy building, will successfully instill political impact among the masses favorable to the strengthening and development of the national stature.

Part of the cable reads as follows:

"Particularly in the critical phase which decides the destiny of the Nation, I place my strong belief in your sense of duty and struggling efforts which will help strengthen the people's ranks and the national stand and restore genuine peace in the Fatherland".

The Chief Executive on this occasion proposed the nationwide provincial and city councils convention to be held in early September 1970 "so that, all of you have the opportunity to know one another and to better get abreast of the national situation and that the government could expound the organization and operation of the local administrative machinery, as well as consult your viewpoints".

MAJOR APPOINTMENTS WITHIN RVNAF

Saigon, August 21, 1970--The President's Office Thursday announced some major appointments at Corps and Division Commands as follows:

- Lt. Gen. Lu Lan, Inspector General of the RVNAF.
- Maj. Gen. Ngo Dzu, new II Corps and II Military Region Commander.
- Maj. Gen. Ngo Quang Truong, new IV Corps and IV Military Region Commander, and
- Brig. Gen. Pham Van Phu new Commander of the 1st Infantry Division.

In addition, President Thieu also ordered the study of rapid promotion to the next higher rank for those Captain-graded officers who are assuming the post of district chiefs and commanders of Infantry Battalions, and equivalent units of other arms and services.

The decision was designed to rejuvenate the Army commanding positions and to encourage the young commanding officers in their function as territorial or combat unit commanders, according to the same sources.

P.M. KHIEM CASTS BALLOT IN THE SENATE ELECTION

Saigon, August 31, 1970--Prime Minister Tran Thien Khiem who cast his ballot in the Half-the-Senate re-election at the Saigon Prefecture at 10:30 a.m. Sunday said this election suitable to the people's will has boosted the maturity of the RVN regime in the political aspect.

The Prime Minister expressed the belief that all the voters after three years of experiences about the Senators activities, would make careful consideration before choosing 30 new members for the Senate.

In an interview with the press on this occasion, Prime Minister Khiem declined to answer a question about a Cabinet reshuffle.

Concerning the statement made recently by a Senator about the works of a number of Cabinet members, Prime Minister Khiem said Ministers and Secretaries of State only try their best to serve the government and leave the comment and judgement on their works to the people or lawmakers.

Prime Minister and Madame Khiem cast ballots at the voting booth at the right wing of the Prefecture Building where half an hour earlier President Thieu of the Republic and Madame Thieu had chosen new members for the Senate.

Saigon Prefect Col. Do Kien Nhieu was present on this occasion to guide the Prime Minister and his wife to the voting booth.

Foreign Affairs

LECTURE ON RVN DIPLOMATIC POLICY HELD AT FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTRY

Saigon, August 23, 1970--Mr. Nguyen Qui Anh, Cabinet Director at the Foreign Affairs Ministry Saturday morning held a lecture on the RVN diplomatic policy for the National Defense College students at the Foreign Affairs Ministry's conference hall.

In his lecture, Cabinet Director Anh laid stress on the fact that the RVN diplomatic policy "centers on seeking more friends than foes for better defending the national sovereignty and upholding the national prestige".

In an effort to put into effect such a diplomatic policy, according to Cabinet Director Anh, the Foreign Affairs Ministry must focus its activities on these four objectives: strengthening the national sovereignty and ensuring the territorial security and building the national regime through self-sufficiency and self-reliance, blocking the expansion of the influence of the NVN Communists and their auxiliary forces; improving the efficiency of future armistice control agencies; and promoting the RVN right of legitimate self-defense within the framework of common self-defense

of Southeast Asia while developing the international relations and laying the ground-work for the development of post-war economy.

Director Anh also pointed out five approaches to the implementation of the above said objectives: expanding the RVN representations abroad, competing for a better stand in international political field to better defend the national sovereignty and uphold the national prestige; following up, and supporting the Paris peace talks, improving the information activities abroad and promoting private-run activities in the diplomatic field.

Anyhow, Director Anh, said that the RVN diplomatic policy should be flexibly carried out so that it could successfully fit the international changes under any circumstances.

Earlier, Foreign Affairs Ministry Counselor Le Dinh Hy briefed the audience on the organization of the Foreign Affairs Ministry and its diplomatic missions abroad.

BILL ON ROK-VN ECONOMIC, TECHNICAL COOPERATION SENT TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Saigon, August 23, 1970--President Nguyen Van Thieu Saturday sent to the National Assembly a bill authorizing the June 4, 1970 covenant on the economic and technical cooperation between the Republic of Viet-Nam and the Republic of Korea, signed in Seoul.

Sources from the President's Office said Saturday that under the clauses of this covenant, the Republic of Viet-Nam will receive from the ROK significant assistance in the fields of health and agriculture development besides the strengthening of mutual cooperation between the two countries.

Immediately after the endorsement of the bill by the RVN National Assembly, the same sources aid, the government of the Republic of Korea will provide the RVN for the 1st phase with a 250-bed hospital at the estimated cost of 2,445,000 U.S. dollars and will send a group of Korean technicians to Go Cong province for the development of irrigation at the locality.

AMERICAN WOMAN PRESENTS RVN NATIONAL LIBRARY WITH 25,000 BOOKS

Saigon, August 25, 1970--The Viet-Nam National Library will receive 25,000 books of all kinds as a donation from Mrs. Rodney Smith, an American citizen from Virginia, U.S.A.

Sources from the Foreign Affairs Ministry said the books were shipped to Saigon to be handed over to the National Library authorities.

Mrs. Smith decided to present this considerable quantity of books to Viet-Nam

after her meeting with Foreign Affairs Minister Tran Van Lam when the latter was on a mission in the United States.

In her letter sent to Minister Lam last month, Mrs. R. Smith said that she was very happy to do a good thing for the Vietnamese people who, she said, "are very studious but lack training facilities due to the war".

"COMMITTEE FOR LASTING PEACE IN VIET-NAM"
SET UP IN CALIFORNIA

Saigon, August 25, 1970--An American organization called "The National Committee for Lasting Peace in Viet-Nam" was set up in San Diego, California early this month, sources from the RVN Foreign Affairs Ministry reported.

The objectives of the Committee center on the struggle for peace in victory and on the support of President Nixon's policy and the gallant anti-Communist struggle of the RVN people for a lasting and genuine peace.

The Committee started its operations last August 4 with the sending of representatives to give talks through the NBC television program urging the American people to strengthen their support to President Nixon's policy. They suggested the launching of a campaign for writing letters asking for the re-bombing of North Viet-Nam to soon end their war of aggression.

INVITATION OF RED-LED PRG TO NON-ALIGNED
COUNTRIES CONFAB PROTESTED

Saigon, August 25, 1970--Sources from the Foreign Affairs Ministry said, on August 21, 1970, Mr. Nguyen Ngoc Linh, Secretary General of the Viet-Nam Council on Foreign Relations, sent a telegram to the India Viet-Nam Humanitarian League, the Ceylon-South Viet-Nam Association, the Swedish-Vietnamese Society and the Viet-Nam Council in Tokyo, to protest the proposal to invite the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the VC to attend the Conference of the Heads of States of various non-aligned countries which will be held in Lusaka, Zambia, on September 8, 1970.

Mr. Linh asked the above-mentioned organizations, through various communication media, to point out that the Government of the Republic of Viet-Nam is the only legally constituted government of South Viet-Nam and to recommend against the admittance of the Viet Cong government to the said Conference.

JAPAN CONSIDERS AID TO VIET-NAM

Saigon, August 27, 1970--The Japanese government is now regarding the aid to the Republic of Viet-Nam as an urgent undertaking especially in the fields of reconstruction, development and social reform. Hence any proposals of the RVN concerning aid plans will be quickly considered.

Prof. Nguyen Nhu Cuong, Cabinet Director at the Office of the Minister of State for Reconstruction and Development made the above statement to a Viet-Nam Press reporter Tuesday morning.

According to Mr. Cuong, this was an important achievement the RVN government has scored after the official visit of Prime Minister Tran Thien Khiem to Japan early this month.

He also disclosed that within next month a delegation of Japanese experts will arrive in Viet-Nam to make a first-hand survey of the local situation and discuss with the RVN officials about aid plans.

Meanwhile, the Japanese government has promised to support the RVN reconstruction and development activities at a higher rate than ever before and simultaneously encouraged financial organizations in Japan to help Viet-Nam establish firms especially in the agricultural and fishery industries.

Besides, the government of Japan will speed up the utilization of a \$9,100,000 credit allocation, one half of which will be used for electrification in rural areas in Viet-Nam.

According to Prof. Cuong, the investment of businessmen from Japan as well as from other countries has met many difficulties including the security situation and investment laws in Viet-Nam.

Education

SSU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE PRESENTED

Saigon, August 24, 1970--The ceremony presenting the new executive committee of the Saigon Students Union (SSU) for 1969-1970 was held Saturday evening at the National Agricultural Center on Cuong De Street, Saigon.

Prof. Tran Quang De, Rector of Saigon University, when presiding over the ceremony said the youths especially students are those who will assume the task of building the nation in the coming days.

He expressed the hope that the students will realize the importance of their role so as to steadily help in the development of the university education.

On this occasion, Prof. De appealed to the students to use every means to put an end to division which may develop among the student ranks.

Earlier, student Huynh Tan Mam, Chairman of the SSU executive committee expressed the students' gratitude to the government for having granted the SSU an office at 207 Hong Bang Street.

On this occasion, student Mam remarked that youth activities have given so far no encouragement and pledged that the students are determined to fight against all forms of depraved culture and to protect the self-determination right of the people.

The SSU new executive committee includes student Huynh Tan Mam (Chairman), Pham Trong Ham (Vice Chairman in charge of Internal Affairs), Tran Van Duong (Vice Chairman in charge of External Affairs), Luu Van Tan, (Vice Chairman in charge of Planning), Nguyen Hoang Truc (Secretary General), Nguyen Van Thang (Deputy Secretary General), and Miss Nguyen Thi Yen (Treasurer).

Present at the ceremony were Prof. Tran Van Tan, Deputy Rector of Saigon University, student representatives of Saigon, Hue, Dalat, Can Tho, and Van Hanh Universities, a number of religious dignitaries, Lower House Deputies and representative of trade unions.

MINH DUC UNIVERSITY SET UP IN SAIGON

Saigon, August 21, 1970--"Minh Duc" University with Rev. Buu Duong as Rector was recently set up in Saigon by a number of professors.

Authoritative sources said Minh Duc University will have nine faculties: Economy, Commerce, Agricultural Technology, Practical Sciences, Occidental and Oriental Medicines, Ancient Literature and Languages, Sociology, Philosophy and Theology.

Faculties of Philosophy and Theology will open on September 8. All students irrespective of sex and religious origin can send in applications.

Land Reform

SOUTH VIET-NAM FEELS IMPACT OF LAND REFORM

My Tho, August 26, 1970--The aim of South Viet-Nam's "Land-to-the-Tiller" law, passed earlier this year, is to ensure that virtually all cultivated riceland in the country is owned by the men who actually farm it.

With at least 60 per cent of Viet-Nam's riceland now worked by tenant farmers, this entails nothing less than social revolution in the countryside.

Implementation will be complex, laborious - and expensive. Reimbursement of current landlords eventually will cost an estimated 400 million dollars, of which the United States has agreed to pay 10 million during the first year of implementation and at least an additional 30 million later.

To offset inflationary trends, the U.S. also has agreed to increase its program of underwriting dollar-funded imports of consumer commodities, farm and industrial machinery and other goods to reinforce South Viet-Nam's economic infrastructure.

In the fertile rice lands of the Mekong Delta, however, the major land reform program - probably the most ambitious ever undertaken in the free world - is beginning to assume form and substance.

Armed with enlarged aerial photograph of the land, trained Vietnamese officials are walking among the fields, helping villagers fill out their claim forms and identify the land they farm.

The southern province of Dinh Tuong, for example, launched its program in late July and early August in seven key villages, one in each of its seven districts. Earlier, village land officials had attended a two-week training course to learn the rudiments of photo map reading and to familiarize themselves with procedures. Land officials from nearby villages come to observe the process.

Landlords have until September 15 to declare their lands. They can retain up to 15 hectares (37.5 acres), if they cultivate it themselves.

Simultaneously with the landlord declarations, tenant tillers are staking claim to land they have been farming.

Nationwide, the goal is to distribute 200,000 hectares (500,000 acres) this year, and 900,000 hectares (2,250,000 acres) within three years. Eventually, the program may affect as many as one million farm families - more than five million persons.

Though the program is long-range, its impact is already being felt. When the "Land-to-the-Tiller" law was passed last March, President Thieu declared all affected land to be expropriated as of that date, thereby officially ending all rent payments. Vietnamese farmers in secure areas had been paying an average 25 to 35 per cent of their crops in rent.

The significance of this change can be seen in Tan Hoi Dong village, Ben Tranh district. In two days in mid-August, land officials and villagers identified 115 hectares (287.5 acres) which will be distributed to 42 farmer tenant farm families. Early identification can be made even before the end of the landlord declaration period in areas where accurate land records already exist.

For Nguyen Van Van, it had been a long wait. Throughout his 70 years he has farmed the land and paid rent. Since March, he has had to pay no rent, and now the field check has verified that the 1.2 hectares (3 acres) he farms will be his.

The story is being repeated throughout the delta, where approximately 30 per cent of the land to be transferred is located. Under the law, each tiller can claim up to three hectares in the delta, and one hectare elsewhere in Viet-Nam, where land is much scarcer and the pattern is smaller land plots.

Since the field program began in late July, more than 3,000 land plot claims have been filed, on more than four thousand hectares (more than 10,000 acres).

There have been earlier land reform programs in Viet-Nam, which met with limited success. The current law contains several features new to land reform in Viet-Nam including:

- No payment by farmers. The farmers will receive the land free of charge, with the landlords to be paid by the government.

- No rental lands. Past laws permitted landlords to keep some ricelands to rental purposes. Now they will be able to retain only land they actually farm, plus 5 hectares (12.5 acres) ancestral worship land, which can in some cases be rented.

- Recognition of present farmer by transferring the land to whoever is farming it, the law recognizes the rights of squatters and Viet Cong appointed farmers in areas later retaken by the government.

Basic to the program's success is its decentralization. Most of the work is being done in the villages, by the land reform officials and the people themselves. Higher-level government units later will process claims and issue titles.

Landlords will be paid 20 per cent in cash and the balance in government bonds. Predictably, some of them are reluctant, or refuse, to cooperate. The law, however, contains stiff penalties for non-compliance, and President Thieu has made implementation of the "Land-to-the-Tiller" law one of the top priorities of the Pacification Program.

Over the years one of the Viet Cong's most effective tactics for gaining rural support was to promise land to the people. When they delivered on the promise, it was usually by acts of terrorism against the landlords. Villagers who thus received land were forced to pay a Viet Cong tax of 30 to 40 per cent of crop yield.

In September the Vietnamese government will officially issue the first titles under the "Land-to-the-Tiller" program, recipients will pay no land tax the first year. Thereafter, they will pay taxes based on land value.

Special Feature

AUSTRALIAN EDITOR RESOLVES 'GREAT DOUBTS'
ON VIETNAMIZATION

Canberra, August 22, 1970--An Australian journalist who went to South Viet-Nam with 'grave doubts' as to the wisdom of American policy in Viet-Nam and the viability of Vietnamization has returned from a three-week visit to the country reporting many of his doubts resolved.

He said he is favorably impressed by the government's Pacification and Rural Development programs and believes that the U.S. troop withdrawal program can be accelerated.

In a series of three lengthy articles, Canberra Times editor John Allan addressed himself to military and political developments in South Viet-Nam, drawing his conclusions not only from official statements and briefings, but also from interviews with private citizens and personal observations at the village and hamlet levels.

He is convinced, he wrote, that the United States not only could, but should withdraw most combat elements from Viet-Nam within a year, and that the last (main force units) should leave within 18 months to two years.

"This opinion", Mr. Allan wrote, "is based on frank discussions with South Vietnamese soldiers ranging up to three-star generals, with American military and civil advisors, and with Australian officers and advisors. As well, I saw considerable visible evidence of the progress of Vietnamization from one end of the country to the other".

The Mekong Delta, which Mr. Allan described as "certainly the prime physical objective of the North Vietnamese", is completely "Vietnamized" he noted. And, thanks largely to the military success of the Allied Cambodian operation, the area virtually is free of enemy main-force units; enjoying peace for the first time in decades, he wrote.

In many areas, however, he pointed out, the peace is "a sort of peace" because there are still Viet Cong elements "and one Viet Cong with one grenade can play merry hell with a village's nerves".

Increased effectiveness of regular South Vietnamese forces, coupled with increasingly effective Regional, Popular and local Militia Forces, he said, is forcing the Communists to avoid major engagements and to revert to their former emphasis on guerrilla and terrorist tactics.

Mr. Allan acknowledged "a great change in Viet-Nam in the past two years", citing the Communist 1968 "Tet" offensive as the turning point.

He cited seven factors in the changed military situation:

- The (Tet) offensive was launched on the premise that the people of South Viet-Nam would rise and overthrow the regime. They did not.

- Most South Vietnamese families suffered one way or another from the Communists' 1969 offensives. "Suddenly a large section of South Viet-Nam's approximately 17 million people came down off the fence and joined the government side - if for no other reason than that it was fighting the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese. However, successful in political terms the Tet offensive was abroad, it was a psychological and strategic catastrophe for the Communists".

- The Communists sought out South Vietnamese Regular forces because they believed they would break, but they did not. "Further it was discovered that both the North Vietnamese and the Viet Cong could be thrashed. Since then most of the main-line enemy forces in the South have been broken up".

- The Tet offensive led to the South Vietnamese general mobilization decree of June, 1969.

- President Nixon's announcement of planned troop withdrawal stiffened both the military and political leadership of South Viet-Nam.

- Rearming of the South Vietnamese Forces with modern automatic weapons gave them at least comparable firepower to the enemy.

- The success of the Cambodian operation put the South Vietnamese Armed Forces on the crest of another wave: "once again the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong were the pursued".

To speed American disengagement and further stimulate nation-building efforts of the South Vietnamese, Mr. Allan advocates that the United States establish a definite withdrawal time-table and privately inform Saigon of it.

The validity of his conclusions regarding the United States withdrawal schedule, Mr. Allan notes, is based on a number of presumptions:

-That the strategic position will remain unchanged, with North Viet-Nam the major enemy and that entry of its forces into the South continue to be restricted to the northern borders.

-That the United States will retain some of its air, artillery and logistical capability in Viet-Nam.

-That the United States will continue to supply material.

-That the South Vietnamese government will remain stable.

-That the United States will not allow the badly balanced South Vietnamese economy to collapse.

-That the will of the South Vietnamese people will remain firm.

"If these premises are correct". Mr. Allan wrote, "I see no real reason why all but a handful of foreign troops should not be out of South Viet-Nam 18 months from now".

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