

VIET-NAM BULLETIN

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Politics

ORPHANS MASSACRE IN DA NANG PROTESTED

Saigon, September 5, 1970--In a note sent to the ICSC headquarters in Saigon on September 3, 1970, the Vietnamese Mission in charge of relations with the ICSC strongly protested against the savage attacks launched by the North Vietnamese sappers on An Hoa orphanage in the early morning of August 30, 1970.

According to the note, this orphanage located within the perimeter of a buddhist pagoda in Duc Duc district about 35 km Southeast of Da Nang, was run by Venerable Tri Nguyen, a buddhist monk. After firing at least 50 rounds of mortars into the orphanage and a nearby hospital, about 30 NVN troops stormed the target, smashing its wards with grenades and TNT charges and massacring the orphans. They dragged out Venerable Tri Nguyen, tied his hands and executed him in cold blood in the courtyard. The half hour of carnage left 15 persons killed and 45 wounded. Two thirds of the wounded were orphans and the rest were nurses and staff workers.

Moreover, before retreating into the hills where they came from they had stolen all of the orphanage's money, all of its chicken and three of its pigs.

The note observed that the extreme barbarity with which the Communist sappers attacked the defenceless orphans, the savage murder of Venerable Tri Nguyen and the systematic pillage of the An Hoa orphanage, demonstrated once again that the NVN Communists have spared no one and used any means to spread terror over the territory of the Republic of Viet-Nam.

The Vietnamese Mission indignantly protested against these acts of terrorism and banditry perpetrated by NVN troops without regard to the most elementary principles of humanity, in violation of the 1954 Geneva Agreements.

The ICSC was urged to immediately consider the afore-mentioned case and to formally condemn the Hanoi rulers who are responsible for these barbarous crimes.

PRES. THIEU PRESIDES OVER MUNICIPAL AND PROVINCIAL COUNCILS CONVENTION

Saigon, September 10, 1970--President Nguyen Van Thieu Wednesday morning presided over the opening ceremony of the 1970 municipal and provincial councillors convention held at the conference hall of Independence Palace.

Attending the convention were Vice-President Nguyen Cao Ky, Prime Minister Tran Thien Khiem, Cabinet members, a number of senators, representatives and 575 councillors throughout the country.

In his opening speech, President Thieu said the day long convention provided for popularly elected officials from various localities an opportunity to discuss together national problems and demonstrated the sense of cooperation between these people's representatives and the executive.

The councillors successively heard Wednesday morning briefings of the representatives of the Pacification and Development Coordination Center, the RVNAF Joint General Staff Command and the Economy Ministry on relating problems.

LAWYER TUYEN APPROVES UNITY OF NATIONALIST PARTIES

Saigon, September 7, 1970--Lawyer Tran Van Tuyen, a ranking official in the Viet-Nam Nationalist (Koumingtang) Party Monday told Viet-Nam Press that he will support all efforts to unite nationalist parties.

However, he added, this unity must be attained with sincerity among parties having in common a basic and concrete political stand.

According to Mr. Tuyen, political parties, once unified must set for themselves disciplinary rules. Meanwhile the government must adopt a clear-cut policy on political parties and provide them with necessary means for their activities.

He remarked that once the political parties in South Viet-Nam are strengthened they will become a strong support to the regime.

3RD LAND REFORM CADRE TRAINING COURSE ENDS IN VUNG TAU

Vung Tau, September 8, 1970--Mr. Cao Van Than, Minister of Land Reform, Agriculture and Fisheries Development, last Saturday presided over a ceremony closing the 3rd Land Reform and Agriculture commissioners training course at the National training center in Vung Tau.

The course graduated 312 trainees who were reported to take charge of the land-to-the-tiller program in rural areas.

Accompanying Minister Than were Dr. Woodruff, Rector of Hartford University in the U.S., and Mr. S.K. Shen, Director of the Land Reform Research and Training Center in Taipei.

The two are being on a seven-day tour of Viet-Nam to make an on-the-spot observation of the land reform program.

Military

GEN. LAM ON I MILITARY REGION SITUATION

Saigon, September 9, 1970--Lt. Gen. Hoang Xuan Lam, Commander of the First Corps and First Military Region recently affirmed that the Communists failed in their attempt to occupy O'Reilly and other RVNAF bases in the vicinity.

Lt. Gen. Lam disclosed that two large NVN units - the 304th divisions - recently concentrated South of the Khe Sanh area to initiate the attempt but they could not.

The 304th division, for having sustained heavy casualties, escaped to the Laotian Vietnamese border area.

Meanwhile, the enemy division 324-B only launched insignificant shelling attacks on the above said allied and RVNAF military bases.

Deeper in the Southern part of the First Military Region, after some fierce engagements with the RVN 2nd Infantry Division and the Quang Da Special Sector Forces at Hiep Duc and Thuong Duc, the Communists also withdrew to the Western mountainous areas for re-organization.

According to Lt. Gen. Lam, about 15 NVN regular regiments were spotted in the First MR waiting for opportunities to advance into the coastal area, from their concentrating points in the mountains.

Dealing with the ARVN activities, Lt. Gen. Lam said that the 2nd Infantry Division has been tirelessly launching pursuit operations along the Laotian Vietnamese border

area especially in Kham Duc and A Ro valleys and has thus far succeeded in destroying many Communist logistics facilities.

Last Saturday, the 2nd Infantry Division seized a Red arms cache in Quang Ngai containing about 50 tons of ammunition, the First Corps and First MR Commander said.

He also predicted that, the Communists will step up their terrorist actions to bolster their lowering prestige.

However, he added, the enemy could not aspire to their black schemes. Even in Da Nang, he said, in the past two months, about 45 Communist infrastructure cadres and terrorist agents were captured.

According to the First Corps Commander, the Communists are in low fighting spirit since they have been continuously defeated on all battlefields.

Moreover, owing to the shortage of foods, medicines people's support, the enemy combat efficiency is being growingly affected.

The First Corps and First MR Commander also disclosed that many Communist cadres preferred to be captured by the RVNAF better than to rally the RVN government side for fear of reprisals by their leaders who condemned defections.

A recently captured document of the enemy indicated that a high-ranking officer of the Communist 5th division asserted that the fighting spirit of several subordinate combat units "is going downhill".

On this occasion, Lt. Gen. Lam made it known that in order to reinforce their strength in the First MR an estimated force of three North Vietnamese divisions were believed having crossed the Ben Hai River in small groups.

However, according to the First MR Commander all those enemy groups which succeeded in crossing the 17th parallel, have been annihilated by air bombings and tactical air strikes upon their entrance in Quang Tri territory and only a few reached the Southern border area.

Foreign Relations

RVN PERMANENT COMMERCIAL MISSION SET UP IN DJAKARTA

Saigon, September 8, 1970--The Republic of Viet-Nam government recently set up a permanent commercial mission in Djakarta with its main office at 22 Prof-Moh. Yamin Street, sources from the Foreign Affairs Ministry announced.

This is the first installation of such a RVN mission in Djakarta in six years since the RVN broke up relations with Indonesia in 1964 following the unilateral raising of the NVN Consulate General in Djakarta to the level of an Embassy by the late President Sukarno.

Mr. Do Quang Nang, former counselor at the RVN Embassy in Bangkok was appointed Chief of the Mission, having the rank of a Consul General.

The Chief of the RVN permanent commercial mission presented his credentials to Indonesian Foreign Affairs Minister Adam Malik on August 31, 1970.

At the meeting, Foreign Minister Adam Malik and Mr. Do Quang Nang discussed the competence of the RVN commercial mission and other issues dealing with the relations procedures between the two countries and between the RVN mission and the Djakarta government and local private run agencies and organizations as well.

The setting-up of the RVN permanent commercial mission in Djakarta was reported aimed at resuming the commercial and economic ties between the two countries thus paving the way for the reestablishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries in the near future.

The Republic of Viet-Nam at present imports meat, canned food, vegetables, fruits and kerosene from Indonesia.

South Viet-Nam may export to Indonesia dried fish, lacquers, and in the future rice to Java Island as before 1964.

JAPANESE LAWMAKER VISITS VIET-NAM

Saigon, September 4, 1970--Representative Wada Kosaku, Chairman of the Japanese Lower House Defense Committee arrived in Saigon Friday afternoon for a week-long visit to the Republic.

He was accompanied on his tour by his wife and daughter.

Mrs. Wada Kosaku was the four millionth guest of the RVN pavilion at Osaka Expo '70.

Rep. Wada Kosaku is scheduled to call at a pacified hamlet in Bien Hoa, today.

He also planned to make an observation tour of the Bien Hoa industrial complex, the Dalat University, and some military training centers. "The couple will also tour the old Imperial City of Hue, calling at some local government agencies and the mass grave of the Mau Than Tet offensive's victims."

In Saigon, Mr. Kosaku and his wife will visit some health and social welfare installations such as An Lac orphanage and the Rehabilitation Center.

MIN. LAM RECEIVES GREEK AMBASSADOR

Saigon, September 8, 1970--Foreign Minister Tran Van Lam Tuesday morning received Mr. John Yannakakis, new Greek Ambassador to the Republic.

At the meeting Ambassador Yannakakis presented to Minister Lam the copy of his credentials.

Earlier, Amb. Yanakakis paid a courtesy visit to the Protocol Director at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Amb. John Yannakakis, 51, a native of Athens is a seasoned diplomat of Greece. He has assumed various important positions in Greece as well as at Greek Embassies abroad.

Economics

AGREEMENT SIGNED FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF FARM MACHINERY FACTORY

Saigon, September 8, 1970--The agreement on the establishment of a factory for the Farm Machinery Associated Industry was signed Monday afternoon at a ceremony at the headquarters of the Vietnamese Confederation of Labor (VCL) 14 Le Van Duyet St., Saigon.

The signatories included Mr. Tran Quoc Buu, VCL Chairman, Mr. Vo Van Giao, Chairman of the Vietnamese Farmers' Federation, Mr. Cao Trieu Man, Chairman of the Nationwide Agriculture Associations Alliance, Mr. Matsushita, Director of Tan Dai Nam Co., Mr. Takata, Director of Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, and Mr. F. Joshinari, Commercial Director of Mitsubishi Shoji Kaisha.

The farm machinery factory will be built on a two-hectare landplot near the Thu Duc University village along Bien Hoa highway, with an initial capital of 200 million VNP.

Viet-Nam has 51 per cent of the shares while the remaining 49 per cent come from Japan.

According to schedule, the construction of the factory will be completed by 1971. In the first year the factory will be able to assemble 1,200 hand ploughing machines. This figure will be raised to 3,600 in the fifth year.

On this occasion Mr. Buu said that it was the first time in Viet-Nam that a labor organization has signed an agreement for the building of an industrial factory.

According to Mr. Buu the signing of this agreement, meaning the investment of Japan has proved that the RVN will have a bright future and that the Vietnamese labor circle is always making efforts in the task of national reconstruction.

Present at the ceremony were Labor Minister Dam Sy Hien, and a number of senators, and representatives.

Education

PRES. THIEU ATTENDS OPENING CEREMONY OF
MINH DUC UNIVERSITY

Gia Dinh, September 8, 1970--President Nguyen Van Thieu Tuesday morning attended a mass opening of the 1970-1971 academic year of Minh Duc University in Gia Dinh.

The service was officiated by Msgr. Nguyen Van Binh, Saigon Arch-bishop.

After signing on the souvenir book of Minh Duc University, Pres. Thieu praised the establishment of the university as a great success of an outstanding private run educational project and presented the university 10 million VNP.

Minh Duc Catholic University, set up by Father Buu Duong, Chairman of the Superior Priests Association at present counts 2,000 registered students.

Also attending the ceremony were Foreign Minister Tran Van Lam, Ven. Thich Minh Chau, Van Hanh University Rector and a number of senators, representatives, professors and catholic priests.

Press

COMMUNIST NVN ORDERS MURDER OF FOREIGN
NEWSMEN IN CAMBODIA

Saigon, September 4, 1970--Reliable sources recently said the Ha Noi government itself ordered the detention and murder of foreign newsmen in Cambodian territory with the sole purpose of preventing the disclosure of the involvement of Communist North Viet-Nam and the so-called "South Viet-Nam National Liberation Front" in the war in Cambodia.

According to the RVN Foreign Affairs Ministry, the French Communists, fearing anti-Communist propaganda consequences on the world public opinion following the murder of journalists Meyer and Puisesseau, made underhanded moves among leftist and progres-sit elements of the French Radio Station and Television network so that the death of these two international newsmen was only reported at the result of an accident or a mishap.

Henceforth, the Hanoi regime repeatedly denied the U.S. and RVN denunciations of the NVN participation in the war in Laos and Cambodia.

However, neutral reporters have illustrated the presence of North Vietnamese troops in these two countries through pictures and films and asserted that the Communists were aggressors in Laos and Cambodia.

Special Feature

THE LESSONS OF AUGUST 30

(Viet-Nam Council on Foreign Relations), September 10, 1970

For the first time in the stormy history of South Vietnamese democracy, an election has just taken place which did not result in vitriolic and irreducible charges of fraudulent practices.

As the results of the recent senatorial contest were provisionally announced by the Central Electoral Council (CEC) last Thursday, candidates and observers alike took them as a genuine reflection of the popular will.

Moreover, unlike post-electoral days of yore, voices of approval this time have practically drowned out the protesting noises, reducing these to exceptions that confirm the general feeling that the August 30 election was an honest affair.

Even Mr. Truong Vinh Le, who failed in his bid to enter the Upper House by a few thousand votes, came out definitely in praise of the way the voting duty was performed by the citizen and vote-counting done by officials.

But that an honest election can be organized in Viet-Nam is not the only conclusion to be drawn from the recent popular consultation.

DECISIVE FACTORS: The results published by CEC probably also indicate that a working democracy might be emerging from the seemingly endless troubles that at times have looked so hopelessly insoluble as to prevent the democratic process from taking root in this land.

Until this month, indeed, one of the most generally accepted criticisms of the Vietnamese body politic was its fragmentation into so many factions that electoral success is a matter of luck rather than anything else.

The victory of the slates of Messrs. Huynh Van Cao, Vu Van Mau, and Nguyen Van Huyen last week can be said to be an eloquent rebuff of the charge. For not in any way can it be traced to luck only.

For Mr. Cao and his friends, the top winners, it was a matter of political line-up based on a careful dosage of regional allegiances. In other words, Mr. Cao only came up with a campaign formula acceptable to the many active factions in local politics.

For Professor Mau and his alliance, it was an attempt at representing the anti-Establishment forces led by the military Buddhist church. In an unhappy country torn by war and an unprecedented economic crisis, this was to secure Mau quite a big portion of the mass of protest votes.

For Mr. Huyen, it was a conscious endeavor based on nothing but the immense popularity of some of his friends, including former Prime Minister Tran Van Huoug.

In making up their slates the way they were organized, the successful senators have at least proven their awareness of the decisive factors in present-day politics in South Viet-Nam.

POLITICAL PARTIES: Of course, in the ever altering mood of the South Vietnamese electorate, these factors may change in the very near future. But the failure of political parties, including the hard-working National Progressive Movement (NPM), makes it quite evident that religious and personal ties still are more important than political tenets.

If this trend should be maintained for some more years, it may become detrimental to South Vietnamese democracy in the long run. But as things are now, when what the South Vietnamese may need is a law-making body with a predictable line of behavior, the three main voting tendencies noted a week ago may be what is exactly needed.

Indeed, it is this column's reckoning that when Congress is to be reconvened next month, there will be a realignment of the nation's 60 senators along the trend set up by the recent contest.

There probably will be three blocs in the Upper House, one supporting the Government, one trying to oppose it along the Buddhist line, and one attempting to steer an independent course. The thirty senators elected in 1967, probably after some hesitation, will seek adherence to these formations, thereby breaking up factionalism in the Upper House.

If such is to be the situation in the Senate, the next elections will see political parties drop their traditional stands. They will by necessity merge and coalesce around these three main tendencies. It will be the end of political parties as we have known them.

THE MOST IMPORTANT LESSON: But probably the most important lesson to be derived from the August 30 contest is the relatively insignificant role played by the Administration in the next voting games.

Even for a young democratic nation such as South Vietnam, the voter's privilege has been proven a right that individual voters cannot be deprived of. Government pressure, if any, has proven inefficient when the citizen is left alone in the voting booth faced with the task of picking his representatives.

The Government and the man at present at its helm, President Nguyen Van Thieu, apparently have learnt this lesson. For all the pre-election suspicions, no serious charges have surfaced that may be interpreted as a conscious effort to steer the vote in one direction or another.

sified elements as supporters of Ngo Dinh Diem and their foes of yore, the Buddhists.

CONCLUSION: If this trend should be maintained, the Vietnamese body politic may soon become acceptable to the shooting foe, especially one constantly weakened by a rate of attrition brought about by his evergrowing involvement in Indochina.

In that context, the August 30 election is not only a victory for Messrs. Cao, Mau and Huyen and their friends and supporters. In a sense, it also is a victory for the Vietnamese nation and the cause of Peace through Reconciliation which a great majority in this strifetorn land has been demanding for many years.

"A Vietnamese solution to the Vietnamese problem" might have grown more visible on the horizon.

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Mr. & Mrs. Burnett Potaski VN 5