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Politics

PRES. THIEU PRESIDES OVER VIETNAMESE NAVY DAY

Saigon, September 21--President Nguyen Van Thieu Sunday morning presided over the ceremony commemorating the death anniversary of Marshal Tran Hung Dao, Patron Saint of the Vietnamese Navy, held at Me Linh Square, Bach Dang Quay, Saigon.

On this occasion, President Thieu pinned the unit citation streamer having the colors of the Gallantry Cross on the Vietnamese Navy flag and the Gallantry Cross with palm plus unit citation badge on Rear Admiral Tran Van Chon, Vietnamese Navy Commander. Besides, 20 other outstanding navymen received medals at the same ceremony.

Addressing Navymen at the event, President Thieu praised the tremendous efforts of the Vietnamese Navy in the defense of river and coastal areas, especially the recent achievements in the support for Cambodian operations as well as in the transportation of over 150,000 repatriated Vietnamese refugees.

Dealing with the merits of Marshal Tran Hung Dao, a great national hero venerated as the Patron Saint of the Vietnamese Navy, President Thieu stressed the Marshal's patriotism and indomitable spirit as well as the determination and unity of the entire people in the fight against aggression for independence, freedom and peace. The Chief Executive also appealed to the Armed Forces to follow the brilliant example of Marshal Tran in the present struggle for the prosperity of the nation.

President Thieu emphasized that we are not a warlike people but a peace-loving people. Therefore, he added we are determined to fight against anyone who attempts to sabotage peace.

However, he said, those who advocate unconditional peace or peace in coalition and neutrality are henchmen of the Communists.

President Thieu then dealt with the realization of just and guaranteed peace.

He said we have fought off the enemy regular forces to the jungled and border areas, we are destroying their regional units and guerrillas in rural areas, we have

nearly completed our pacification program and brought about security for 98 per cent of the entire population. Now we have only a short segment of the road to reach peace, that is why we have to make greater efforts to eliminate all the remaining enemy infrastructure cadres at the rear areas.

President Thieu stressed that is a systematically and gradually way to put an end to the war and restore peace to the country.

The Chief Executive affirmed that the present war will be ended with our strong position within two or three years even if the Communists persist in refusing to sign an agreement with us.

President Thieu finally appealed to the navymen to follow the example of Marshal Tran Hung Dao, to make all out efforts in eliminating the aggressive Communists as well as to actively support the Pacification Development program, in order to help restore an early peace for the nation.

Also present at the event were Prime Minister Tran Thien Khiem, Cabinet members, representatives of the diplomatic corps, general officers and guests.

REP. DUC'S PROCLAMATION REGARDED AS BETRAYAL TO NATIONAL STAND

Saigon, September 22--Mr. Hoang Duc Nha, Press Secretary at the President's Office Tuesday morning told newsmen that President Nguyen Van Thieu considered the arguments in the proclamation on peace of Rep. Ngo Cong Duc's group as a betrayal to the national stand.

The Presidential Press Secretary made known that the proclamation which dealt with the prolonged and murderous war in Vietnam without condemning the Communist aggressors and, in addition, advocated the formation of a provisional government was not different from the arguments of the Communists.

Furthermore, said Nha, Rep. Duc's group made public its proclamation at the same time with Nguyen Thi Binh's introduction of her 8-point initiative in Paris. This fact would not permit us to think that it was a casual coincidence.

According to Mr. Nha, it was not the first time that a number of Representatives and the so-called politicians outside the government set forth these arguments. Hence, President Thieu was of the opinion that the entire people especially anti-communist nationalist organizations, must pay attention to this fact and keep vigilant.

As for the Representatives called Rep. Duc's group, the Lower House before anyone else should have voiced out its opinion toward this group's proclamation since its statement was against the stand of the nation and the National Assembly.

REP. DUC'S SUGGESTION FOR 5TH DELEGATION
AT PARIS TALKS BLASTED

Saigon, September 23--Sen Hoang Xuan Tuu, 1st Deputy Chairman of the Senate Wednesday criticized Rep. Ngo Cong Duc's proposal for the presence of a fifth delegation at the Paris peace talks on Vietnam.

At a meeting with VP, Sen. Tuu asserted that the RVN, being a nation, has sent a delegation to the peace talks for the past two years. If at present, in accordance with Rep. Duc's proposal, one more delegation (called the fifth delegation) is dispatched to the talks it would indirectly mean that the RVN is partitioned into two different nations.

Tin Sang daily (publisher and editor: Rep. Ngo Cong Duc) in its Wednesday issue said that at his recent press conference in Paris, Rep. Duc asked for the sending to the Paris talks of a fifth delegation which he termed as representative of the "silent majority" of the RVN.

Rep. Duc was previously subject to severe criticism for his suggestion of the formation of a provisional government in South Vietnam.

On this occasion, Sen. Tuu stressed that while the RVN is holding the initiative in the military field, a number of opportunists set forth suggestions favorable for the Communists instead of seeking all available means to help the people and armed forces overcome the last challenge to proceed to total victory.

The Senator also severely condemned these elements, adding that the Vietnamese people, although longing earnestly for peace, will never beg for peace but will always fight for peace, a peace in freedom without the Communists.

F.M. LAM: RVN ABLE TO DEFEND ITSELF
AGAINST ANY COMMUNIST ATTACKS

Saigon, September 19--Foreign Affairs Minister Tran Van Lam, in an interview Thursday with correspondent Philip Plarke of the Mutual Broadcasting System (MBS) in New York said that we should always keep the Communists guessing and no deadline for the withdrawal of Allied troops from Vietnam should be suggested.

Minister Lam also expressed his firm confidence that South Vietnam will be able to defend itself against any Communist attacks from the North if the RVN Armed Forces receive adequate supplies and assistance in training. The Communists, he added, are now lying low and South Vietnam is making steady progress in every field, he said.

However, he would not overlook the fact that the Communists are always intent to take over South Vietnam by force and they will still be very active in many ways.

According to the Foreign Minister, the operations launched by the Allies against the Communist sanctuaries in Cambodia have brought about a better situation in South Vietnam, particularly in the Mekong Delta. The Communists have to realize that the RVN has now over one million well-armed troops. As the enemy refuses to accept the reality of the field, the war will fade away and South Vietnam will have more progress in military security and democracy building.

He added, the RVN has already made many positive proposals in Paris and the time now is for the Communists to negotiate seriously. He stressed that even though South Vietnam is strong militarily, the RVN government has no intention to invade the North.

Dealing with the economic situation, Minister Lam confirmed that South Vietnam is having economic problems; but if the government is given in time special economic powers, the country will be able to overcome these difficulties.

North Vietnam, he added, is in deep trouble, of course. Since General Giap already lost more than half-a-million men in the South, North VN is having many difficulties to redress its economy. Women are being employed in heavy industries and other hard labors.

Denouncing the international communists, Foreign Minister Lam felt that Hanoi would accept to leave South Vietnam alone, had the Russians and the Communist Chinese left Hanoi alone.

Peking is behind every Hanoi scheme , he said.

Minister Lam also forecast that the Cambodian government will defeat the Communist aggressors because Prime Minister Lon Nol is receiving the support of students, intellectuals, monks and peasants.

Cambodia will triumph, he said, especially when friendly nations have decided to help it defend its independence and neutrality.

The Communist bold move in Cambodia is a threat to the security of Thailand and the Republic of Vietnam, Minister Lam said.

SENATE RENAMES, ENDORSES PROGRAM-BILL

Saigon, September 18--The Senate Friday morning endorsed the program bill after amending and renaming it "Bill on Establishment of Limited Parallel Foreign Exchange Market".

The Program bill passed by the Lower House last June 27 was originally a recapitulation of the "National Economy and Finance Adjustment" Bill drafted by the Executive and the "National Economy and Finance Restoration" Bill introduced by a number of Representatives, members of the Social Bloc.

Some Senators suggested to postpone the debate of the bill to the October regular session when the newly-elected Senators will be present after taking oath. However, Senate Chairman Nguyen Van Huyen explained that the draft-law was to be discussed

according to emergency procedures.

At the suggestion of Sen. Pham Van Ba, the Senate agreed to amend the Program Bill and rename it the "Limited Parallel Foreign Exchange Market" Bill.

Full text of the Bill is as follows:

Article I: Along with an official Foreign exchange market, a limited parallel foreign exchange market is now established. The official exchange rate of the piaster remains unchanged.

The limited parallel foreign exchange market will not be applicable for a number of indispensable services especially:

- a-fund transfer for overseas students
- b-fund transfer for the government

Article II: Necessary procedures for the organization and functioning of the limited parallel foreign exchange market said in article I will be fixed by a decree.

Article III: All provisions contrary to this law are abolished.

All provisions contrary to decrees to be promulgated for the implementation of this law will be also abolished starting the promulgation date of these decrees.

Article IV: This law will be promulgated with emergency procedures and published in the RVN official Journal.

Senate Chairman Nguyen Van Huyen presided over the session with 44 Senators in attendance.

Foreign Relations

RVN PROVIDES CAMBODIA WITH 5879 ASSORTED WEAPONS

Saigon, September 20--In order to promote the friendly ties between the Republic of Vietnam and Cambodia, President Nguyen Van Thieu recently decided to provide Cambodia for the 1st phase with 5,879 assorted weapons including 300 crew served weapons, and with 25 tons of ammunitions, sources from the President's Office said Sunday.

These weapons and ammunitions made part of the enemy war gears seized by the ARVN troops in the Cambodian front.

Besides, the RVN President decided to provide Cambodia with six helicopters to help increase the neighbouring country's operational capability.

The hand-over ceremony took place last Friday at Phnom Penh stadium.

On this occasion, Maj. Gen. Srey Saman, Cambodian Chief of Joint Staff representing the Cambodian Prime Minister, received the donated war gears from Mr. Tran Van Phuoc, RVN Ambassador to Cambodia.

Also present at the event were Lt. Gen. Nguyen Van Manh, Chief of Staff of the RVNAF Joint General Staff Command and a number of Vietnamese ranking officers.

INDONESIAN SOLON URGES OUSTER OF NLF REPRESENTATION FROM DJAKARTA

Saigon, September 19--"We do not recognize any government in exile and the representatives of the National Liberation Front (NLF) should be told to go home, and in line with our free and active foreign policy we should immediately restore diplomatic relations between the Republic of Indonesia and the Republic of Vietnam."

Indonesian Lower House representative J. Naro made the statement which was published on the Nusantara's Sept. 12th issue, a VP correspondent in Djakarta reported.

The Indonesian solon's statement partly referred to President Suharto's viewpoint at Lusaka conference.

The Indonesian President had called on the Lusaka Conference not to accept the Viet Cong Provisional Revolutionary Government as participant of the Conference.

Indonesian newspapers widely published President Suharto's view at the Conference which largely centered on explaining Indonesia's opposition to aggression through subversion and war of liberation the same source said.

According to the VP correspondent in Djakarta, representative J. Naro said that Indonesian President Suharto had acted wisely when he opposed the presence of the Provisional Revolutionary Government (PRG) at Lusaka conference.

Besides, sources from the Indonesian Foreign Ministry disclosed that the National Liberation Front representatives were angry about the above-said statement of President Suharto at Lusaka Conference. Pres. Suharto did not support a war of liberation although the NLF representatives are still permitted to stay in Djakarta.

Until now, the Indonesian government has not recognized the so-called Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Communists.

The Republic of Vietnam recently set up in Djakarta a permanent commercial mission which was reported being the first step for the normalization of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

JAPAN STUDIES CONSTRUCTION OF ORPHANAGE IN SAIGON

Saigon, September 23--A five-member Japanese delegation led by Rep. Takechiyo Matsuda arrived in Saigon Tuesday afternoon to study the building of an orphanage and vocational training school for Vietnamese orphans.

On hand to greet the Japanese delegation at the airport were Dr. Vu Ngoc Oanh, Social Welfare Minister's Assistant and Maj. Nguyen Phuc Buu Tap, cabinet chief at the Social Welfare Ministry.

The delegation will stay in Vietnam four days to make visits to many social installations.

The War

RED TERRORISM SABOTAGE ACTS PROTESTED TO ICSC

Saigon, September 23--The Vietnamese Mission in charge of relations with the International Control and Supervisory Commission (ICSC), in a protest note sent to the ICSC Secretariat General in Saigon on September 19, 1970, severely condemned the acts of terrorism and sabotage committed by the North Vietnamese infiltrated troops on the territory of the Republic of Vietnam in August 1970.

According to the note, the communists deliberately perpetrated last month 165 criminal attacks including: 40 assassinations; 18 abductions; 103 blasts of handgrenades, mines, TNT charges; and 4 cases of harassment of mining passenger buses. As a result, 148 civilians were reported killed, 471 injured and 164 kidnapped.

Fourteen typical incidents were singled out in the note to enlighten the ICSC on the barbarous and bloodthirsty acts of the North Vietnamese aggressors which denoted on the part of the communist authorities of Hanoi and obvious intention to prolong a state of war in South Vietnam.

The note also pointed out that during the last eight months, 2609 civilians were killed, 7115 injured and 1513 kidnapped in 1478 terror acts engendered by the North Vietnamese communists.

Having lost all hope of a military victory, the North Vietnamese communists have particularly intensified their terrorist activities against the innocent population of the South. In addition, they made desperate efforts to spread terror among the civil population in order to sabotage the August 30 partial senatorial re-election.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Vietnam, the Vietnamese Mission charged that the North Vietnamese authorities have not respected the life and property of the people of the Republic of Vietnam in serious violation of the 1954 Geneva Agreements.

The mission earnestly requested the Commission to undertake urgent investigations on the afore-mentioned violations and to denounce before international opinion the North Vietnamese aggressors' inhuman acts.

Miscellaneous

GEN. WHEELER AWARDED RVN NATIONAL ORDER 2nd CLASS

Saigon, September 24--Gen. Karl G. Wheeler, Former Chairman of the U.S. Armed Forces Joint Staff last week was awarded the RVN National Order Medal, 2nd class and the Gallantry Cross with Palm.

Mr. Bui Diem, Ambassador to the U.S., on behalf of President Nguyen Van Thieu, presented the medal to Gen. Wheeler at a ceremony held last Sept. 10 at the Vietnamese Embassy in Washington, D.C.

Attending the ceremony were American statesmen and general officers and many ambassadors of Allied countries, including U.S. Armed Forces Joint Staff Chairman Fleet Admiral Moorer, U.S. Army Chief of Staff Gen. William Westmoreland and Under Secretary of State Sullivan. Senator Do Quang Giai, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee, was also present.

Amb. Diem, on this occasion, stressed the maturity of the RVN Armed Forces in the past few years and thanked the U.S. government for its military assistance to Vietnam.

In reply, Gen. Wheeler thanked the RVN President for the decoration and praised the gallantry spirit of Vietnamese people and Armed Forces.

Gen. Wheeler also expressed the belief that the Communists will give up their dream of conquering South Vietnam and the Vietnamese people will enjoy peace in freedom, thanks to their capability and determination to fight for a just cause.

The ceremony ended with a lunch with about 200 guests in attendance.

Cultural Feature

CHU DONG-TU AND PRINCESS TIEN DUNG

A Vietnamese Legend

Adapted by George F. Schultz

The legend that follows is one of the oldest of Viet Nam, reputedly going back to the early years of the semilegendary Hong Bang dynasty. It is probably of Taoist inspiration and affirms a belief in genii and immortals.

The third King Hung Vuong had a beautiful daughter named Tien Dung (Divine Beauty), who, although of fairylike loveliness, was endowed with a whimsical nature. Despite her father's entreaties, she rejected every offer of marriage, preferring, as she said, to remain single in order to satisfy her passion for visiting the many beautiful sites of her father's kingdom, known as Van Lang. As the king loved his daughter tenderly, he tried to please her in every way possible, even placing at her disposal a number of vessels including the royal barge, so that she could navigate the rivers of the realm.

At that time, in the village of Chu Xa (Hung Yen province), lived Chu Cu-Van and his son Chu Dong-Tu (Marsh Boy). They were poor fishermen whose home had been ruined by fire. They had lost all their clothing except a single loincloth, which they took turns wearing. When Chu Cu-Van fell seriously ill and felt death approaching, he called his son to the side of his mat.

"After my death," he said, "keep this loincloth for thyself."

But Chu Dong-Tu was a pious son and could not let his old father be buried without shroud. He attended the funeral in borrowed clothes and then found himself without a garment of any kind. The poor young fisherman was obliged to do his fishing at night. During the day he would attempt to sell his catch to the people in the boats passing along the river, remaining immersed in the water up to his waist.

One day, Princess Tien Dung, then in her twentieth year, accompanied by a brilliant suite, happened to approach the very place where Chu Dong-Tu was standing in the water. When the young fisherman heard the sound of gongs and bells and perceived the wonderful array of parasols and banners, he became frightened and took cover behind some bulrushes. Then he quickly dug a hole in the sand and covered himself so completely that only his nose was exposed.

Taking a liking to the picturesque surroundings, the princess expressed a desire to bathe there. A tent was set up on the shore. The princess entered, disrobed, and began to pour water over her head and shoulders. As the water trickled to the ground, it washed away some of the sand, exposing Chu Dong-Tu in all his nakedness.

"Who are you?" asked the princess. "What are you doing here?"

"Your Royal Highness," replied the frightened youth, not daring to raise his eyes, "I am only a poor fisherman. Having no garment with which to clothe myself, I was forced to hide in the sand at the approach of the royal barge. Will you not pardon my error?"

Princess Tien Dung dressed in haste and threw a remnant of cloth to the young man so that he could cover himself. Then she questioned him in great detail about his past life. Hardship had not marred Chu Dong-Tu's handsome features, and the princess was not displeased with his demeanor. After some deliberation, she reached a decision.

"I had not expected to marry," she said with a sigh, "but Heaven has ordained this meeting. I cannot oppose Heaven's Will."

She immediately ordered all her officers and ladies to come forward. When they had assembled, she told them of the extraordinary adventure that had just befallen her. Then she announced that it was her intention to marry the young man.

"But Your Royal Highness," cried Chu Dong-Tu on hearing these words, "how can I, a penniless fisherman, be the husband of a royal princess?"

"It has been predestined," replied the young woman; "therefore, there can be no reservations about the matter."

"Long live Their Royal Highnesses." cried the officers and ladies in chorus.

Chu Dong-Tu was properly clothed and groomed and the royal wedding took place that same evening with great pomp. But when King Hung-Vuong learned of it, he became furious and shouted angrily at his courtiers.

"In marrying a vagabond," he said, "Tien Dung has dishonored her rank of royal princess. She is to be disinherited and forever banned from my court."

The princess had no desire to face her father's wrath. In order to provide for her husband and herself, she decided to go into business. She sold her junks and her jewels, bought some land at a crossroads near the village of Chu Xa, and established a trading post. Visited by merchant vessels from the entire kingdom of Van Lang and from countries overseas as well, the village prospered and in time became a great emporium.

One day, a foreign merchant advised the princess to send an agent across the sea to purchase some rare merchandise that could then be sold at a tenfold profit. Chu Dong-Tu was charged with this mission and together with the foreign merchant left by sea. On reaching the island of Quynh Vien, they met a Taoist priest who immediately recognized the sign of immortality on Chu Dong-Tu's forehead. The former fisherman then entrusted his gold to the foreign merchant and remained on the island for one year in order to be initiated into the secrets of the Way (Dao).

On the day of Chu Dong-Tu's departure, the priest gave his disciple a pilgrim's staff and a conical hat made of palm leaves. He advised him never to be without them.

"This staff will give you support," he said, "but it is worth much more. The hat will protect you from the rain and also from harm. Both have supernatural power."

On returning to Chu Xa, Chu Dong-Tu converted his wife to Taoism. They repented their earthly sins, abandoned their possessions, and left in search of a deserted place, where they would be able to devote themselves entirely to a study of the True Doctrine.

All day they stumbled on through the wilds and at last fell to the earth exhausted. But before lying down to sleep, Chu Dong-Tu planted his staff in the ground and on it hung the conical hat.

The couple had been asleep only a few moments before being awakened by a crash of thunder. They sat up between flashes of lightning and saw a magic citadel suddenly rise from the earth. It was complete with jade-and-emerald palaces, public buildings, and houses for the inhabitants. Mandarin, both civil and military, courtiers, soldiers, and servants came forward to welcome them to the city, begging them to rule over the new kingdom. Chu Dong-Tu and his wife entered their palace and began a reign of peace and prosperity.

When King Hung-Vuong learned of the existence of the magic citadel, he thought that his daughter had rebelled against his authority and was desirous of founding a new dynasty. He assembled an army and ordered his generals to destroy the rival kingdom. The people of the citadel urged the princess to give them weapons so that they might defend her territory.

"No," she said, "I do not intend to defend this citadel by force of arms. Heaven created it and Heaven has sent my father's army against it. In any case, how can a daughter oppose her father's will? I must submit to the inevitable."

That evening King Hung-Vuong's army camped on the bank of the river opposite the magic citadel. His generals planned to attack the following morning. But at midnight a terrible storm arose and the entire citadel with all its inhabitants was seen to rise into the air and disappear. The next morning the royal army found only a marshy pond and a sandy beach at its former sight. The pond received the name of *Dam Nhat Da*, which means "Pond Formed in One Night", the beach was called "Spontaneous Beach", or *Bai Tu-Nhien*.

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