

VIET-NAM BULLETIN

A WEEKLY PUBLICATION OF THE EMBASSY OF VIET-NAM
2251 "R" Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008 (Telephone: 234-4860)

October 26, 1970

Politics

PRES. THIEU DENIES DIVERGENCES OF VIEWS BETWEEN THE RVN AND US GOVERNMENTS ON PEACE PROPOSAL

Saigon, October 17. - President Nguyen Van Thieu Friday morning denied a hearsay alleging that there was some "coldness" and divergence of views between the RVN and US governments in the peace proposal put forth last October 10.

President Thieu explained that any decision relating to the Vietnam War was always made after full consultation and discussion between governments of the two countries.

Moreover, all peace initiatives lie within the scope of common agreements between President Nguyen Van Thieu and President Richard Nixon, reached during meetings in MIDWAY and in SAIGON last year.

President Thieu also denied a newsreport alleging that former Foreign Minister Tran Chanh Thanh was recently entrusted with a new responsibility.

The Chief Executive made known that he had given Vice President Nguyen Cao Ky a letter to be presented to Pope Paul VI inviting the Pontiff to visit the RVN.

President Thieu made these statements when presiding over the dedication ceremony of 480 housing units at Minh Mang community dwelling on Su Van Hanh street.

F.M. COMMUNIQUE ON REJECTION OF RVN AND US PEACE PROPOSALS BY THE COMMUNISTS

Saigon, October 16. - Following is a communique issued by the RVN Foreign Ministry on Thursday afternoon :

On the rejection by North Vietnam and its proxy the so-called Provisional Government, of the five-point peace proposals of the United States and the Republic of Vietnam, the Foreign Ministry pointed out that the communists were merely repeating their shopworn fallacies.

Once again they have thrown away a sincere offer to bring about peace and reconciliation in Vietnam.

Once again they have convinced world opinion that they are bent on imposing their dictatorial rule and ideology on the peoples of Indochina.

Therefore they must be held responsible for the continuing destruction and suffering in this area of the world.

The people and government of the Republic of Vietnam refuse to surrender to their demands in order not to betray the ideals of freedom and democracy for which the Vietnamese and Allies have fallen for so many years.

NATIONWIDE CAMPAIGN ON TAXATION CONTROL TO BE LAUNCHED

Saigon, October 17. - Finance Minister Nguyen Bich Hue, at the opening ceremony of the seminar on taxation control at the National Institute for Administration, Friday morning announced that a "nationwide campaign on taxation control" will be launched in a very near future.

The purpose of the campaign, he said, is to help taxation agencies have sufficient data to thoroughly re-examine the taxation system and collect taxes for the National Budget.

According to Minister Hue, the campaign makes major part of the reorganization of the tax-collecting system applied by the Finance Ministry.

The Finance Minister said that besides ten taxation draft laws which were submitted to the National Assembly, his Ministry will complete another bill to change the entire income tax code in force.

The new code aims at simplifying the method to fix tax tariffs and at encouraging savings and investments, he added.

Besides, in order to put an end to the failure in taxes collection, the Finance Ministry recently set up special taxation committees to discover all the cases of tax evasions.

After over a month of operation, he said, these committees succeeded in retrieving for the 1970 National Budget nearly 1,800 million piasters of income tax as compared with 202 million piasters in 1969.

Later, Prime Minister Tran Thien Khiem, who presided over the ceremony, emphasized the policy of self sufficiency which according to him, is one of the three objectives the RVN government and people must reach next year, the two other objectives being self defence and self reliance.

P.M. Khiem also urged ministries particularly the Information Ministry to set much time for helping the population better understand the purpose to step up the taxes collection within the framework of social justice of this campaign.

The two-day seminar was participated by officials from the Interior, Information, and Finance Ministries and the pacification development coordinating center and representatives of the capital city and provinces and cities throughout the country.

During the seminar the Finance Ministry, the Taxation Directorate General, the Information and Interior Ministries will successively give lectures on the themes "The nationwide campaign of taxation control", "Information campaign for supporting the tax control" and "The problem of control and adjustment of house addresses".

Attending the ceremony were Ministers of State Nguyen Tien Hy, Vu Quoc Thuc, Open Arms Minister Ho Van Cham, Vice Interior Minister Le Cong Chat and Vice Education Minister Nguyen Danh Dan.

P.M. SIGNS DECREE PRESCRIBING CITY AND PROVINCIAL COUNCILS' COMPETENCE

Saigon, October 19. - Prime Minister Tran Thien Khiem last Wednesday signed a decree prescribing the interests, duties and competence of the city and provincial councilmen.

The newly signed decree amended a number of articles of decrees number 67,68 and 69-NV dated April 9 relating to the setting up of the above said councils.

According to the new decree, each city and provincial councillor is allowed a monthly pay of 20,000 piasters.

Besides, those councillors who are members of the permanent office of each provincial and city council are still granted a special allowance in accordance with their functions. Specially each council chairman is permitted to enjoy the public relations allowance.

While on duty, councillors will enjoy the interests of a grade a civil servant.

City and provincial councils have the duty to fix the general policy and programs of action at the localities in line with the government general policy.

The decree also described a number of problems to be solved by city and provincial councils, such as the assessment of expenditures for the local budget, the fixing of additional taxes, the use of various local resources, and the local development programs etc. All these issues, the decree said must be discussed and endorsed by the councils before being carried out.

City and provincial councils also have the right to control and give recommendations on the implementation of the government policies and programs at the localities. All these councils are also given the right to control the carrying out of the reconstruction projects and development programs at the localities, as well as the behaviour of local cadres in the service of the local inhabitants.

According to the decree, the Saigon Prefect, the Provinces Chiefs and the City mayors have the duty to instruct their subordinate agencies to provide the councils with necessary documents useful for the councils' responsibilities.

The decree added the Saigon Prefect, the Province Chiefs and the City Mayors must implement the councils' decisions in 15 days at the latest since the day they receive the councils' decisions, except for those problems which must be submitted to the Prime Minister for approval.

In case of disagreement, the Saigon Prefect, the Province Chiefs and the City mayors may return the decisions involved to the councils within a 15 day period with justificative reasons.

All the decisions that require the approval of the Prime Minister will be considered as obviously approved by the Premier after a 60 day period.

In the event, the government needs a longer period of time than 60 days for consideration, the local authorities concerned will be informed in time of it.

PRES. THIEU DEDICATES 480 HOUSING UNITS COMPLETED
WITH U.S. ASSISTANCE

Saigon, October 17. - President Nguyen Van Thieu Friday presided over the ceremony dedicating 480 housing units at Minh Mang community dwelling which were recently completed with the financial assistance of the U.S. government and people.

On this occasion, President Thieu expressed his gladness when receiving a meaningful work of assistance which highlights the co-operation spirit between the two nations.

The President also said such a construction work is a concrete evidence helping smash out rumors that the allies of the Republic of Vietnam will force the Vietnamese people to accept a peace contrary to the progress of mankind.

President Thieu added the communists must look at these newly built housing units to recognize their failure which results from their so-called general offensive against innocent people two years ago in an effort to look for a military victory for their negotiating stance.

The Republic of Vietnam, he said, is determined to get at a peace which helps develop welfare in independence and freedom not a peace conducive to enslavement which the Communists are attempting to impose over the Southern half.

Earlier, Engineer Duong Kick Nhuong, Public Works Minister, and Mr. Ellsworth Bunker, U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam gave briefings on the construction of the community dwelling, and the contribution of the American people to the partial reconstruction of the ruins caused by the war.

On this occasion a war victims' representative who is one of the occupants of the newly built community dwelling expressed his gratitude to the American government and people for helping them have comfortable habitations.

Present at the ceremony were Lower House Speaker Nguyen Ba Luong, Inspectorate President Ngo Xuan Tich, Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Luu Vien, Cabinets members and Ambassadors of the friendly countries.

Following the dedication ceremony, the President visited families living at Minh Mang community dwelling and then called at Nguyen Van Thoai community dwelling.

Economics

JAPANESE ECONOMIC DELEGATION FAVORABLE TO RVN PROJECTS

Saigon, October 16. - The Japanese economic delegation has given favorable consideration to and will submit a final report to the Japanese government on various projects concerning the social welfare and educational aid programs and the construction of infrastructure facilities for the RVN with an estimated cost of US \$140 million.

Amb. Isao Abe, head of the Japanese economic delegation made the above statement at a joint press conference held by the RVN and Japanese economic delegations at Hoan My hotel Thursday morning.

Vice Economic Minister Pham Minh Duong, head of the RVN economic delegation on this occasion, said that the Vietnamese delegation had suggested the Japanese government to center its aid programs on the social, educational fields and on the infrastructural facilities building.

In the field of social welfare, the RVN delegation asked Japan to build more hospitals, maternities and orphanages. Suggestions were also made on the setting up of an educational television system for Vietnamese universities, and more educational facilities as well as the granting of more scholarships to help Vietnamese students further their studies in Japan.

Besides, the RVN proposed Japan to help construct bridges, sewerages roads and industrial facilities as well as to invest in industrial projects in Vietnam.

According to Amb. Isao Abe, his delegation has the duty to make a first hand study of the overall situation and the economic capabilities of the RVN and to receive new proposals from the RVN government on the Japanese economic aid programs.

To a question whether Japan will replace the US in economic aid for the RVN in the future, Mr. Abe said Japan has no intention to compete with any other countries in this field. It has always welcomed the assistance the developed countries reserved for other countries such as Vietnam for development motivation he added.

The Japanese delegation's head, on this occasion, said that Japanese businessmen are ready to invest in industrial projects in Vietnam after the RVN completes a law on investment.

The Japanese II member delegation arrived in Saigon on October 6 and then was guided by Vice Minister Pham Minh Duong on a tour of Can Tho and Long Xuyen for a study of the economic development ability of the Mekong river delta area.

During its stay in Vietnam, the delegation also toured the Bien Hoa industrial complex, Danang and Cam Ranh cities.

RVN AND JAPAN SIGN AGREEMENT ON AID

Saigon, October 19. - Foreign Minister Tran Van Lam, representing the Republic of Vietnam, and Ambassador Hideo Kitahara, representing the Japanese government, Saturday morning signed an agreement involving 300 million yens worth of Japanese aid. The amount will be used for the repair of the Danhim hydroelectric system.

When the repair work is completed, the Danhim power plant will provide electricity not only for Phan Rang, Tuyen Duc and Saigon but also for the Bien Hoa industrial complex.

Danhim Dam was set up in 1962 with the assistance of Japanese experts. However, because of the Communist sabotage, the Danhim power plant has not been operated for these past few years.

According to Foreign Minister Tran Van Lam due to the improvement of the security situation, the Japanese government recently approved the above said amount for the repair of the Danhim hydroelectric system.

Also present at the ceremony in which the agreement was signed were Messrs. Buu Don, assistant to the Public Works Minister, Diep Quang Hong, Secretary General at the Foreign Ministry, Ho Tan Phat, Director General of the Vietnam Electricity Company, Ngo Khac Thieu, Director of Finance, Economy and Social welfare at the Foreign Ministry, Ho Quang Phuoc, Director of Press and Information at the Foreign Ministry and ranking officials of the Japanese Embassy in Vietnam.

NORWEGIAN TV EXPERT PRAISES RVN EFFORTS IN ECONOMY STABILIZATION

Saigon, October 13. - The Chief of the Norwegian Television delegation Mr. Per Oyvind Heradstveit, recently praised the RVN government efforts in stabilizing the national economy which he said, would lead to new prospects of prosperity and democracy in South Vietnam.

Mr. Heradstveit who ended his five-day tour of the Republic last Saturday, also expressed his impressions on the Vietnam educational system which "has scored achievements under difficult circumstances."

The Chief of the visiting delegation was also impressed by the land reform program which, he said, proved that the RVN government "really wants to help the masses of Vietnam".

"I have noticed that conditions in South Vietnam are quite different from what I thought before coming here" Mr. Heradstveit said, adding that, he was chocked to see how false many of the reports in the international press have been.

According to him the situation in the RVN is almost pacific and normal and throughout the country the people are living under normal conditions.

Especially he remarked that the RVN government has won the people's support.

Mr. Heradstveit led a Norwegian Television delegation to Vietnam to realize a program on the RVN educational system and land reform.

As a Norwegian he deplored that the Scandinavian countries do not have close contacts with the Republic of Vietnam, in the diplomatic and other fields, so as to help the Scandinavian public opinion be better informed of what is going on in South Vietnam.

The Norwegian Television delegation arrived in Saigon last October 4. During its stay in Vietnam it visited several western provinces.

The Norwegian Television delegation left Saigon last Saturday.

Foreign Relations

RVN GOVERNMENT AGREES NEW JAPANESE AMBASSADOR APPOINTMENT

Saigon, October 17. - The RVN government has accepted of the Japanese government's appointment of Mr. Fumihiko Toga as Japanese Ambassador to Vietnam in replacement of Mr. Hideo Kitahara whose term of duty will be expired by the end of this month.

Ambassador Fumihiko Togo, 55 was graduated from the Tokyo Faculty of Law in 1939.

He later joined the Japanese diplomatic branch and assumed several important positions as : Consul General to India (1961) and to New York (1963-1967).

Before his appointment as Ambassador to Vietnam, Mr. Togo assumed the post of Director General at the Japanese Foreign Affairs Ministry.

NO VIETNAMESE NATIONALS IN THAILAND RECEIVE ILL TREATMENT

Saigon, October 14. - The Foreign Ministry Tuesday affirmed that none of Vietnamese national in Thailand was ill-treated by Thai government and that the RVN Embassy in Bangkok receives the close co-operation of the Thai government.

In a communique issued on the purpose , the Foreign Ministry also made known that the Thailand North Vietnamese Red Cross Associations recently discussed the sending of an additional number of Vietnamese nationals in Thailand to North Vietnam, since most of them who seeked asylum in Thailand as a result of the outbreak of the Indochina war in 1946 are natives of provinces north of the 17th parallel and the remainder including those who were first resettled in Laos and later went to Thailand to make their living.

The Foreign Ministry, insisted on the fact that such Vietnamese nationals volunteered to return to North Vietnam because their relatives are living in the North.

This was the reason why, the Foreign Ministry said, the Thai Red Cross Association had asked the International Red Cross to intervene with the North Vietnamese government to permit these Vietnamese nationals to repatriate, and as a result, an agreement had been signed between the Thai and North Vietnamese Red Cross Associations on August 14, 1959.

The repatriation was temporarily interrupted for the first time in June, 1962. And as North Vietnam was being subjected to allied air raids since 1965, the North Vietnamese Red Cross stopped the repatriation of these Vietnamese nationals.

The Foreign Ministry also said during the past years, the RVN government did its best to inform the Vietnamese nationals in Thailand of the Communist oppression and exploitation policy, and to help them acquire legal residence in Thailand as well as to assist them materially.

Besides, the government has been always ready to help those Vietnamese nationals who volunteer to return to South Vietnam.

According to the Foreign Ministry, letters of the Vietnamese nationals repatriated to North Vietnam from Thailand sent to their relatives in Thailand have given the latter better knowledge of the true nature of the Hanoi regime.

Since the U.S. stopped bombing North Vietnam the Thai Red Cross has requested the North Vietnam Red Cross to continue the repatriation of those Vietnamese nationals in Thailand who want to return to their native towns in NVN, so that Thailand would not be threatened by North Vietnamese Communists infiltration into its soil.

That was the reason why the North Vietnam Red Cross Association recently sent a delegation to Thailand, the communique said.

Military

RIVER PATROL INTER GROUP 8TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATED

Saigon, October 17. - Rear Admiral Tran Van Chon, the RVN Navy Commander Friday morning presided over the ceremony commemorating the 8th founding anniversary of the River Patrol inter group held in Thi Nghe.

On this occasion, Rear Admiral Tran Van Chon praised achievements scored by the River Patrol group during the past eight years.

The RVN Navy commander said the most significant achievements of the River Patrol inter group rest on the successful ensurance of security, the prevention from use by the enemy of water ways, and the active support for the pacification development program in the localities.

Rear Admiral Tran Van Chon on this occasion presented three gallantry crosses with silver star, four with bronze star, a training service honor medal, first class, four staff service honor medals, second class, three technical service honor medals, second class and six certificates of satisfactory achievements to outstanding officers and NCO's

of the River Patrol group.

The citation said the awardees had distinguished themselves in technical missions and had participated in almost all operations in the third and fourth military regions.

The 11th company of An Xuyen provincial Patrol group and the 3rd company of Phong Dinh provincial Patrol group were presented with certificates of commendation for their performance of duty during the June 15 - September 15 period.

On October 16, 1962 a number of River Patrol Units were set up in Phong Dinh to assume the mission of eliminating the communists, and restoring security on water ways throughout the third and fourth military regions.

Education

EDUCATION MINISTER VISITS U.S.

Saigon, October 19--Dr. Nguyen Luu Vien, Deputy Prime Minister concurrently Education Minister Sunday headed a RVN delegation to a five day seminar on advanced education, held by Wisconsin University on October 20 at Stevens Points, USA.

Following the seminar, the RVN delegation will make an observation tour of US education and business installations in New York, Washington, D.C. and Illinois from October 25 to 31.

The RVN delegation besides Dr. Vien included the rectors of Saigon, Hue, Cantho, Dalat and Van Hanh Universities.

Special Feature

THE EMERGENCE OF THE OPPOSITION IN THE VIETNAM SENATE

Saigon, October 1st, (M.F.)--The recent election to the Vietnam Senate of the "Lotus Slate", said to be closely aligned with the anti-government "An Quang" militant Buddhist faction, has created considerable political speculation in the nation's capital.

This particular Buddhist group has been politically active for several years and has consistently opposed virtually every government within the past decade. Yet, it has refused to participate directly in any elections. Its major objective of so-called "instant peace" has been the subject of intense controversy with many accusing this Buddhist group of being merely a tool of the Hanoi communist regime.

For a post-election clarification of the political aims and objectives of the "Lotus Slate" candidates, MEKONG FEATURES called on Dr. Vu Van Mau, its leader and a prominent lawyer in town. Dr. Mau was foreign minister in the cabinet of the late President Diem and resigned before the 1963 November revolution in protest against Diem's "anti-Buddhist policies." After the fall of Diem, he represented Vietnam in Great Britain and returned to Saigon in 1966 to actively enter the political arena.

Dr. Mau merely shrugged his shoulders and smiled when asked if he sympathized with the aims of the communists in the south. "I am from North Vietnam" he said, "I fled Hanoi to take refuge in South Vietnam. My political philosophy is that of a democratic form of government in the true meaning of the word "democracy". It implies one is entitled to one's own political opinions which do not necessarily conform to the policies of the government. However, political parties should not control armed forces, and the same applies to communist elements in South Vietnam and the "National Liberation Front".

He is convinced that in a free democratic society, communism, in the form of a legal, recognized political party, would attract but a minority of the populace.

"If the people," he continued, "in a free election were to decide to elect a communist government, I would abide by their choice. If the communists abandon their policy of armed aggression and decide to legally participate in free, democratic elections in South Vietnam, I will also abide by the choice of a coalition government if this proves to be the will of the people."

A devout Buddhist, Dr. Mau did not however confirm nor deny that his "Lotus Slate" is independent of the An Quang Buddhist group. He claimed that neither he nor his followers represent this faction and said : "There is no such block named An Quang. There is only the Vietnam Buddhist Church."

Dr. Mau believes the success of his slate at the recent polls is partially due to the fact that eight of a total of ten candidates are Buddhists. After all, he said, the majority of people in this country are Buddhists. Yet, he clarified this statement by explaining that his backers constitute only a "relative majority" in Vietnam considering that the two other victorious non-Buddhist slates attracted almost double the number of votes.

Asked whether he believes he can muster a majority in the Senate, Dr. Mau replied that this is too early to predict. Similarly, he declined to speculate on whether or not he may enter the race for the presidential elections scheduled for next year. The political platform of Dr. Mau's slate is simple, clear and to the point: "Peace for our people, independence for our nation and justice for our society. We are opposed to the war, yet, we are equally opposed to totalitarianism".

The people of Vietnam will follow Dr. Mau's career in the Senate with great interest for no nation on earth today desires peace more than this country. But while on the one hand there is "peace for our people, independence for our nation and justice for our society" as advocated by Dr. Mau and his followers - there is also the kind of peace, independence and justice as practised by the Hanoi regime - the peace of the grave!

It is an awesome responsibility for both Dr. Mau and his fellow candidates to successfully implement the noble standards of their platform - for if they fail and the nation fails, they will be haunted to eternity by ghosts of untold tens of thousands of our young military and civilian men, women and children who paid with their lives for the kind of peace the Hanoi regime persists in trying to impose upon Vietnam.

By Phu Si.

VIET-NAM BULLETIN is a weekly publication of the Embassy of Viet-Nam, provided free of charge to all persons and organizations interested in VN. All inquiries and requests should be directed to VIET-NAM BULLETIN, Embassy of Viet-Nam, 2251 "R" Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008. Tel: 234-4860.

In addition to VIET-NAM BULLETIN, the Embassy of Viet-Nam also publishes a Vietnamese-language weekly called TIN QUÊ HƯƠNG. Readers who are interested in receiving this publication are kindly advised to fill in the opposite mailing form reserved for TIN QUÊ HƯƠNG.

VIET-NAM BULLETIN

Vol. IV, No. 34
October 26, 1970

In this issue :

Pres. Thieu denies divergences of views between the RVN and US governments on peace proposal.....	I
F.M. communique on rejection of RVN and US peace proposals by the communists..	I
Nationwide campaign on taxation control to be launched.....	2
P.M. signs decree prescribing city and provincial councils' competence.....	3
Pres. Thieu dedicates 480 housing units completed with U.S. assistance.....	4
Japanese economic delegation favorable to RVN projects.....	5
RVN and Japan sign agreement on aid.....	6
Norwegian TV expert praises RVN efforts in economy stabilization.....	6
RVN government agrees new Japanese Ambassador appointment.....	7
No Vietnamese nationals in Thailand receive ill treatment.....	7
River Patrol inter group 8th anniversary celebrated.....	8
Education Minister visits U.S.....	9
The emergence of the opposition in Vietnam Senate.....	9

VIET-NAM BULLETIN

Name of person (or friend) or organization wishing to receive the Bulletin:

MR
MISS
MRS

Address:

Is it a new one? YES ☐ NO ☐

STREET NO.

APT

CITY

STATE

ZIP

Anticipated duration of stay at this address:

Permanent ☐

Until

VIET-NAM BULLETIN

A weekly publication of the Embassy of Viet-Nam
2251 "R" Street, Washington D.C. 20008
Telephone: 234-4860

U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Washington, DC
Permit No. 41866

BULK RATE

Vol. IV, No. 34
October 26, 1970