

# Vietnam *BULLETIN*

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EMBASSY OF VIETNAM  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

# Vietnam BULLETIN

Volume VI, No.1

June 1, 1971

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Dear Readers,

*In an effort to provide you with a wide variety of information about Viet-Nam, starting this month our regular publications will include:*

- VIET-NAM BULLETIN, formerly a weekly publication, shall henceforth be issued on the 1st and the 16th of each month,

- VIET-NAM INFO-SERIES will appear periodically in the 2nd and the 4th week of each month,

- TIN QUE-HUONG continues to be published weekly in Vietnamese.

*We sincerely hope to have your continued interest and support.*

Office of Information  
Embassy of Viet-Nam



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An aerial view of Saigon

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# political news

## **SENATE ENDORSES BILL ON ELECTION**

Saigon May 7 (VP), The Senate Friday afternoon endorsed the whole text of the draft law on the Lower House election for 1971-1975 term.

Thirty-one out of 36 Senators present at the session voted for the Bill.

The Senate fixed the Lower House election day on Sunday August 29 and the 1971-1975 term for the new RVN Lower House Representatives will start from October 4.

According to the Bill, each province and city is a constituency except for Gia Dinh which has two, Saigon has three such constituencies.

In principle, at each constituency, every 50,000 voters will elect a Representative and any surplus over 25,000 will elect one more Representative.

The new Lower House will have six Representatives of Khmer descent Vietnamese, eight of montagnard-born Vietnamese, two of Cham-born Vietnamese and two of North Vietnam ethnic minority descent.

The electoral campaign for the Lower House will start on August 14 till 1200 hours August 28.

Lists of candidates will be posted for the first time on July 8 and the second time on August 4 at the latest at the Central Election Council Office and at the Saigon Prefecture, and on August 7 at the latest in provinces and cities.

Voters of the Lower House election must have at least 18 of age up to December 1970.

Those voters who are caught red handed taking one or several voting cards out of the voting booths will be fined from VN \$ 1,000 to 5,000 or be sentence from one day to seven days of imprisonment.

According the Bill, candidates for the L.H. election must have at least 25 years of age up to the election day, hold Vietnamese nationality since their birth-day or acquire Vietnamese nationality for at least seven years and enjoy citizenship and be in draft legal status.

Political convicts who received their sentences before and after 1963 and have enjoyed amnesty are entitled to run for the election.

Meanwhile, a number of ranking officials namely Province Chiefs, Mayors, Prefects, District Chiefs, Vice District Chiefs as well as commanding officers in the National Police and Military Security branches will not be allowed to run for the election at their office localities or after having been released from their offices not over six months as of the election day.

Each candidate must deposit VN \$ 50,000 as estimated expense for the electoral campaign.

However candidates introduced by legalized political parties or alliances are exempted for the deposit.

Any candidates who fail to get ten per cent of the total ballots cast will forfeit the deposit money and refund to the national budget the differential on the expense for the campaign if it exceeds VN \$ 50,000.

In the same case, candidates nominated by political parties must refund totally the expense for the electoral campaign.

The Bill also prescribed the prohibition of running for the Lower House election to those who got a penalty of more than five years' imprisonment or less than five years' imprisonment but exceeding the three-month mark or who once evaded the draft order or are taken for pro-Communist elements.

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## **THIEU LAUDS RED CROSS**

## **CRACKDOWN ON SMUGGLERS**

Saigon, May 20. - President Nguyen Van Thieu last week said the International Red Cross organization had been at the service of the highest ideals and contributed substantially to the peace-building process in the land of Vietnam. The statement was contained in a Presidential speech read by Prime Minister Tran Thien Khiem at a ceremony commemorating Red Cross Day in Saigon.

The South Vietnamese leader on this occasion reiterated that Peace should be pursued at all times, but was of the view that it should only come to Vietnam when all Communists are expelled from this "Land of the Free". Also, praising the theme of this year's celebration -- Working Around the Clock -- President Thieu stressed the importance and the need for human protection and care.

President Nguyen Van Thieu has recently signed an order, bidding "all concerned government agencies" to mount "a general offensive on smuggling organizations, especially those involved in the traffic and sale of dangerous drugs," according to a government source last week. In disclosing this, the source went on revealing that the Government loses an average of VN \$ 40 billion per year in customs duties because of smuggling practices. "And this is only a rough estimate," he also cautioned.

In the course of a meeting with top economic Police officials, according to the same source, the South Vietnamese President was also quoted as demanding "a full scale campaign" to curb these malpractices. This may start soon with "the trial of all cases now pending in court."

Of these, the most important involves an international ring found last year to have smuggled VN \$ 70 million to Hong Kong. Since the Vietnamese currency is only in demand on markets accessible to Viet Cong agents, it has been said the enemy was on the receiving end of this channel.

A few days after this reported meeting with economic police officials, Prime Minister Tran Thien Khiem had a communique issued, stating that "starting April 14, a nationwide anti-drug campaign has been in full swing, which seeks the complete eradication of the illegal traffic of these poisonous drugs." The Prime Minister also said the campaign "has so far resulted in most encouraging results."

## **ROK TO REDEPLOY PARTIAL STRENGTH From SVN**

Saigon May 20 (VP), The overall situation in Vietnam is "very satisfactory" and as a result, aside from the intensification of North Korea's attempt in the Republic

of Korea, the ROK government has decided to redeploy part of its combat forces from Vietnam, Lieutenant General Lee Sae Ho, Commander of the ROK Armed Forces in Vietnam told Vietnam Press Thursday morning when he presided over the ceremony dedicating the completion of the Capital City defense perimeter, North of Saigon.

General Ho affirmed that the RVN Armed Forces "are now able to shoulder the combat burden and to keep the initiative in all fronts, and this was what was evidenced in the ARVN border crossing operations".

However, the Commander of ROK Armed Forces in Vietnam did not disclose the strength and date of such a scheduled redeployment.

Such details will be fixed by the governments of Korea and South Vietnam when a bilateral agreement is reached on the issue, he said.

## **COMMUNIQUE ON POW ISSUE**

Saigon April 30 (VP), The Foreign Ministry Friday issued a communique on the problem of prisoners-of-war, which read as follows (unofficial translation):

Continuing its humanitarian policy regarding the prisoners of war issue, the Republic of Vietnam government Thursday gave instructions to Amb. Pham Dang Lam, Chief of the RVN delegation at the Paris meetings on Vietnam to put forth once again at the 111th session its Jan. 23 and April 8 proposals.

The proposal initiated on Jan. 26, 1971 by the RVN government dealt with the release of all incurable-disease stricken and disabled prisoners-of-war by both sides and requested the other side to clearly show their will to receiving their men.

The April 6, 1971 proposal suggested negotiations between the two sides with a view to detain in a neutral country all able-bodied prisoners of war who have been detained for a long period of time.

Although the Communist side has failed to respond to these proposals with any similar goodwill, the RVN government once again declared that it is unilaterally disposed to:

1 - liberate 570 incurable disease-stricken and invalid North Vietnamese prisoners of war, and simply ask the Communist side to propose necessary security measures for the repatriation and reception of these prisoners of war.

2 - entrust a neutral nation with the internment of 1,200 North Vietnamese prisoners-of-war detained for the past four years or longer and demand the other side to propose a neutral nation so that both sides can agree on such a choice.

Besides, in the same humanitarian spirit, the Republic of Vietnam Government has approved and supported a proposal of the U.S. Government aimed at a common designation by both sides any humanitarian organizations or third governments to act as protector agencies for the prisoners-of-war held by both sides, with the task of ensuring a humane treatment of these prisoners of war by the concerned nations.

This proposal was put forth at the 111th session of the Paris peace talks by Amb. David K. Bruce, Chief of the U.S. delegation.

The decision now rests with the other side which can evoke no reason to elude a response to these purely humanitarian proposals.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### RETURNEES RECORD

Saigon, May 3 (VP) - Since early this year 8,542 Communists have returned to the government side over the country bringing to 181,606 the total number of returnees since the promulgation of Chieu Hoi policy on February 1963.

# cultural news

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## **CONTRIBUTION TO FRONT SUPPORT FUND**

Saigon May 8 (VP), Students of primary and high schools in the capital city recently contributed VN \$ 229,509 to the Capital Front Support Fund.

The sum donated by students of Pham Dinh Ho, Doan Thi Diem, Lu Gia, Truong Minh Giang, Minh Phung, Hoang Thuy Nam, Chi Hoa, Xom Cui, Binh Tay, Nguyen Thien Thuat, and Phan Van Tri schools will be forwarded to the ARVN Psywar Agency for distribution to front-line combatants.

## **SEC Permanent Office Meets**

Saigon May 8 (VP), Vice President Nguyen Cao Ky, Chairman of the Social-Economic (SEC) Council Friday morning presided over a meeting of the SEC Permanent Office and Committee Chairman to map out the agenda for the II/1971 regular session.

The two-week session which will open next June 7 will discuss social vices, labor market, the improvement of income tax system and the election of the Permanent Office and Committee Chairmen for the 1971-1972 term.

Besides, Vice President Ky approved on a SEC tour to Cam Ranh (Khanh Hoa), Qui Nhon and Da Nang to study the local economic development ability and manpower project.

## **PEASANT WORKER**

## **STUDENTS UNION**

Saigon May 7 (VP), The Vietnamese Peasant-Workers Students' Union Thursday presented its Executive Board for the 1971-1972 term at No 14 Le Van Duyet, Saigon.

The 25-member Executive Board headed by Mr. Nguyen Van Chinh, a student of the National Institute for Administration was elected recently at the nation-wide convention of peasant-worker students.

The Board's activities cover the educational, cultural, sports, artistic, training, international, home relations and press information fields.

Besides, the Union also formed a Commissioner Council in charge of inter-faculty affairs operating at Saigon, Van Hanh and Minh Duc universities and an Inter-University Council responsible for liaison with all universities throughout the country.

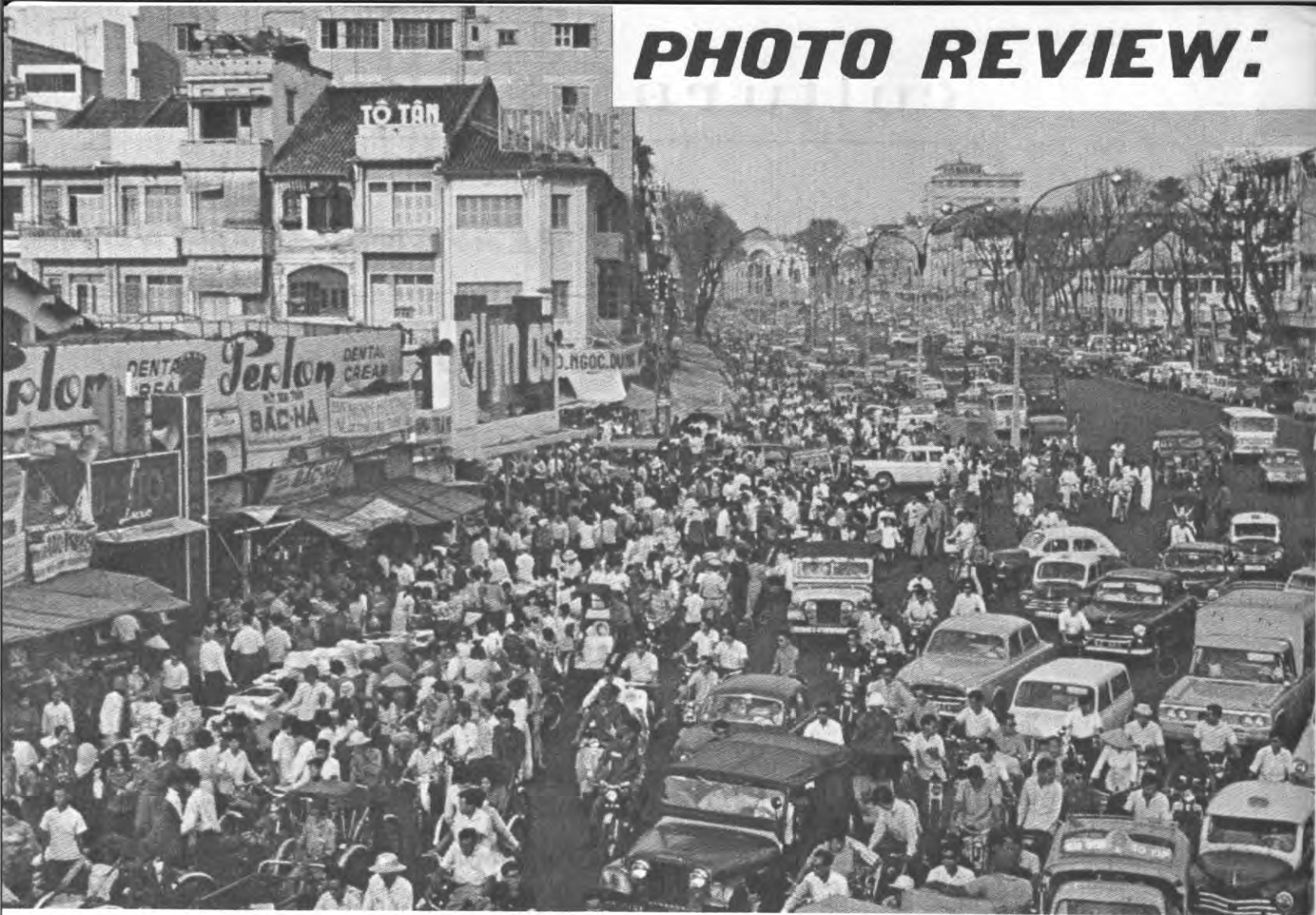
Affiliated with the Vietnamese Peasants-Workers Party's Youth Department, the Union has "worked closely with the Vietnamese Confederation of Labor since the November 1963 revolution", and officially operated since 1969.

The Union focuses its activities on the struggle for goals set forth by Peasants-Workers Party and on the promotion of the solidarity among university students in the task of national reconstruction and service of the masses.





# PHOTO REVIEW:



Saigon has become a safe city to live in, according to many studies on the security conditions in the largest city of war-torn South Vietnam. In the words of Sir Robert Thompson, the British counter-insurgency expert now advising President Richard Nixon on Vietnamese affairs, "Saigon is safer at night than any American city and many other cities around the world... Other than the usual snatch merchants, you have nothing to fear now in Saigon. You aren't going to get mugged."

In agreement with Sir Robert is the U.S. Military Police in Saigon. Speaking to journalists last week, the head of the U.S. Military Police, Colonel George S. Black, spoke of Saigon as "a very safe city." Some cities in the United States, added Col. Black, "have more acts of terrorism than Saigon." But for the U.S. Provost Marshal in Saigon, there appears to be no easing in the usual big city crime rate. However, "this involves a small group of people, mostly local cowboys (hoodlums)."

Although Viet Cong terrorism seems to have disappeared from Saigon, it is still very much in evidence in the rest of South Vietnam. Official records show 2,356 incidents during the first three months of this year, which the Government attributes to terrorism and sabotage by the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese. In this period of time, 1,205 civilians were assassinated or killed, 2,227 wounded, and 1,458 abducted. In the corresponding period of last year, there were 2,402 terrorist incidents in which 1,116 persons were killed, 2,466 wounded, and 1,797 kidnapped.





# saigon



TU DO Street  
One of Saigon main streets



SAIGON by night



Marshall LE VAN DUYET Temple  
named after the first Governor  
of Saigon Area

# economic news

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## 1971 Budget

Saigon, May 20. - The Government has submitted to the National Assembly a Budget Amendment Bill to request an increase of VN \$ 32 billion (about US \$ 120 million) in expenditures for the 1971 Budget. Two major items of expenditures to be increased are VN \$ 28 billion for "general expenditures" and over VN \$ 3 billion to strengthen the Police Forces which are to be boosted up to 124,050 men or an increase of 14,050. If the bill is passed, the 1971 Budget will stand at VN \$ 267 billion (about US \$ 1 billion). The deficit, however, would remain at the previously estimated level, i.e. VN \$ 35 billion, because it is expected that the new expenditures will be balanced out by collections of newly increased perequation tax (about VN \$ 20 billion) and by revenues resulting from the parallel exchange market (about VN \$ 12). Total fiscal revenues for the year 1971 originally forecasted at VN \$ 192 billion may actually reach VN \$ 239 billion.

## FERTILIZER *Project*

Three technicians of the U.S. National Fertilizer Center, Tennessee Valley Authority, are presently in Saigon "to help promote the setting up of a fertilizer factory."

The projected factory is expected to produce 350,000 metric tons of fertilizer in the first phase, and in the second phase, the factory will be expanded to produce 300,000 more tons of combined NPK 16-16-8 fertilizer. The same sources said South Vietnam now imports US \$ 50 million's worth of fertilizer each year and "this is enough for the construction of a factory with a production capacity of 350,000 tons per year."

## OIL TO EASE TENSION

AN ECONOMIC REPORT

By Phu Si

Japan's firm intention to join in the South Vietnamese oil venture may eventually prove one thing: that in this era of international accommodation, trade does not necessarily have to be preceded by the flag. It should also help to clear the suspicion recently voiced in the U.S. Congress that American involvement in Vietnam may be closely linked to U.S. oil interests in this part of the world. Paradoxical as it sounds, the prospect of finding oil in the South Vietnamese continental shelf may some day bring about international cooperation and an end to turmoil in South-East Asia.

Japan, having virtually no industrial energy resources, presently imports about ninety (90) per cent of its petroleum from the Middle-East. But with the potentially volatile politics of the Middle-East and China's keeping a keen eye on the Arab world, it is understandable that South Vietnam's oil deposits should deeply affect Japanese foreign policy in the long run.

In practical terms crude oil from the South Vietnamese continental shelf means a dramatic cut in shipping cost for Japan. Presently only tankers of up to 200,000 DWTs can go through the shallow depths of the Malacca Straits. During the next 15 years Japan anticipates a five-fold increase in oil imports. Giant 500,000-ton tankers now being designed to be put into service within this decade will have to bypass the Malacca Straits and cruise around Sumatra Island, through the Lombok Straits, off Bali, which means three more days and another 1,200 statute miles added

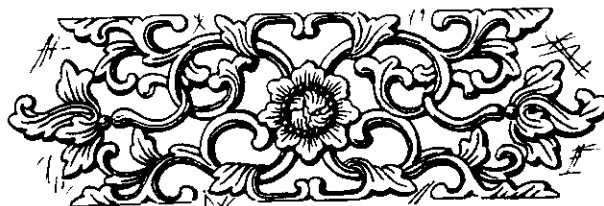
to the already costly 7,500 statute mile voyage from the Arabian oil sources to Japan. In September last year, the Japanese Ministry of International Trade and Industry submitted to the Government of Thailand a proposal to build a 150-kilometer (94 miles) pipeline and pumping relay stations across the Isthmus of Kra which would help reduce shipping costs for both Thailand and Japan. This project which is going to cost US \$ 100 million-plus would probably have to be reviewed in the light of South Vietnamese off-shore oil prospects.

In the meantime, the Government of the Republic of Vietnam and the international oil concerns continue to move forward to the day when the 18 oil concessionary zones off the Mekong Delta can be awarded to successful bidders for exploitation. Technical assistance has been obtained from Iran. A team of three Iranian experts will assist the South Vietnamese National Petroleum Committee in issuing international tender, processing bids and negotiating contracts. Last March, nine major Japanese oil firms established a new company to participate jointly with the U.S. Gulf Oil Corporation in the international tender planned by the Government of Vietnam. The nine Japanese firms are: Japan Petroleum Development Corporation, Mitsubishi Shoji Kaisha Ltd., Marubeni-Lida Co., Nissho Iwai, Alaskan Petroleum Development Co., Toyota Motor Sales Co., and Idemitsu Kosan KK. The new company known as Kaiyo Sekiyu is capitalized at 230 million yen. The Japan Petroleum Development Corporation provided half of the capital, Idemitsu Kosan contributed 10 million yen and the other seven companies 15 million yen each. The new company reportedly will put up 30 percent of the costs involved in the petroleum resource development in South

Vietnam and is expected to receive the same percentage of crude oil although details still remain to be worked out. Its relationship with U.S. Gulf Oil Corporation is also to be negotiated. An unidentified international oilman with some 20 years of experience in South East Asia has recently been quoted by UPI as having predicted that work will get underway at once unhindered by the war, after the South Vietnamese Government awards the concessions for the off-shore oil rights. Also according to the same source, the South Vietnamese could earn US \$ 910,000 per day concession fees or about US \$ 270 million per year. This is amply sufficient to strike a balance in South Vietnam's peace time foreign trade situation. The estimate is said to be based on Indonesia as an example of the formula of payment the companies may use, and assuming yield reaches one million barrels per day.

A cautionary note, however, has been sounded by the Japanese Mainichi Daily News. This paper opined in a recent editorial that "with the war in Indochina still far from being settled, the Japanese oil industry must exercise the utmost discretion in embarking upon the exploration project. Before proceeding too far, Japan should exert every effort to ease tension in the area." The Mainichi Daily News pointed out that the Soviet Union is also eagerly exploring oil resources of the world and that recently a team of Russian geologists discovered oil fields along the northwestern coast of Ceylon.

With international power politics involved, the South Vietnamese have good reasons to hope that the discovery of petroleum off their shore may mean not only unprecedented prosperity, but also a just and lasting peace.



# THE ORIGIN OF THE WATER BUFFALO

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A VIETNAMESE MYTH

Adapted By

George F. Schultz

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*Vietnamese Flokllore has many etiological myths or origin stories in which the creation of the first of the species is assigned to some fanciful or supernatural cause; in addition to the water buffalo, there are stories explaining the origin of the watermelon, the areca nut, the betel leaf, the mimosa, the narcissus, the orchid, the lizard, the do quyen bird, the kitchen gods (Tao Quan), and the banh day and banh chung cakes, to name a few.*

*In the story that follows, the designation of Ngoc Hoang, the Jade Emperor, supreme divinity of the Taoists, as the Creator tells us that it is probably of Taoist inspiration.*

*Although a moral is a rare feature of origin stories, one is included here: "Never undertake a task that is beyond your strength or intelligence just to satisfy your vanity."*

*In addition to the origin of the water buffalo himself, we are also informed of the origin of his powerful, curved horns.*

\* \* \* \* \*

In the beginning, Ngoc Hoang (Jade Emperor) created the continents and the oceans, the mountains and the valleys, and the rivers and many other streams as well. Animals bestirred themselves on the surface of the Earth and men lived there, too, wherever they could find a suitable place. But when the Creation had been completed and Ngoc Hoang looked down on his work, he saw that there was too little food and that neither men or animals would be able to obtain proper nourishment. He then decided to create five varieties of grain for the use of mankind and some additional plants and grasses for the animals; moreover, he decreed that in the future men would be permitted to eat the flesh of animals.

But from among the many gods and goddesses, which one would be willing to descend to the cold, inhospitable Earth, to sow the seeds for new grains and plants? Ngoc Hoang looked expectantly at the members of his celestial council but none seemed ready to volunteer for the assignment. Finally, Kim Quang (Golden Light) announced that he would accept the mission, thinking it would be a simple matter to scatter a few seeds and watch them sprout up by themselves. Ngoc Hoang was not too pleased with his volunteer for Kim Quang was known as a vain, mischievous fellow who had taken a pretentious name for himself, to which, however, his abilities and his intelligence did not in the least correspond; nevertheless, the Celestial Emperor entrusted him with ten seeds, two for each variety of cereal grain, and a number of other seeds for plants and grasses.

"Do not think that this is an easy mission," he cautioned Kim Quang. "You must be sure to throw out the seeds for the cereal grains first; when they strike the ground, they will open; from them will fall thousands of new seeds, and from the thousands, tens of thousands. A vast growth and propagation will take place on the Earth; man will therefore have sufficient rice and other cereals for his nourishment. The seeds for the plants and grasses are to be scattered only when you see that the grains are growing well; moreover, they will be sowed only in the open spaces between the fields of grain. Both men and animals will then have enough food to live without hunger. Be certain that everything is done in accordance with my wishes."

Kim Quang bowed respectfully to his master; for the first time, he realized the great importance of the task that lay ahead of him. Before setting out, he put on his best garments, including a beautiful hat with two flaps that resembled the wings of butterflies; he hoped that this fine raiment would bring a measure of dignity to his rather awkward figure. In his left hand, Kim Quang held the ten seeds for the cereal grains and in his right, the seeds for the other plants and grasses.

As the god approached the Earth, he peered through the clouds in order to get his bearings and then let himself down on the Earth's highest peak. Below him, extending in all directions, lay the land created by the Master Artisan. All at once, Kim Quang felt proud to have been chosen to continue and complete the Creator's handiwork. Already he envisioned the rich fields of grain waving in the fields and the granaries of mankind being filled during the harvest season.

Kim Quang stretched out his hand and scattered the seeds given him by Ngoc Hoang. But in his presumptuous pride, he had emptied his right hand; in terror, he saw the seeds for plants and grasses falling towards the Earth, where they multiplied with astonishing rapidity until they had covered almost every nook and cranny of the surface.

The god trembled as he looked into his left hand and saw the ten seeds for the cereal grains -- the ones that should have been scattered first -- resting there. In an effort to undo his careless mistake, he quickly tossed out the seeds for rice and maize and watched as they floated down into the valleys and began to grow in the tiny plots that had remained free of plants and grasses; unfortunately he could find no space for the seeds of the other three cereal grains. Already foreign plants and weeds were invading the fields of rice and maize as if to hinder their growth.

From his celestial throne, Ngoc Hoang looked down at the Earth and could hardly believe his eyes. He saw vast, level plains covered with weeds and grasses but only a few small, bright-green plots in which rice and maize were growing. What could have happened to have thus distorted his masterwork so carefully planned?

When Kim Quang, broken in body and soul, finally returned to Heaven, he trembled on seeing the scornful glances on the faces of the other gods and goddesses with whom he had once emptied many a glass and enjoyed many a joke. How could he bear to face Ngoc Hoang's glaring eyes and receive the punishment that surely awaited him? If he had only jumped into the sea and ended it all!

With trembling knees and lowered eyes, Kim Quang approached the celestial throne. There he remorsefully fell to his knees and bowed low to the Emperor; but Ngoc Hoang's eyes remained hard.

"Kim Quang," he said, "You are no longer worthy of dwelling among the gods. You undertook a task that was clearly beyond your strength and your intelligence, not to be of service, but rather to win some frivolous renown for yourself. There is no longer a place for you at my side. You are hereby condemned to live with men and to be their servant forever and ever. You will be recreated in the shape of a beast that will be useful to men, one that will help them sow and reap. You will have to drag the plow and labor in the glowing heat of day and during the heavy rains. I will give you strength for all that and will also give you a virtue that you did not have in Heaven: submission. In Heaven you would listen to no one, but on Earth even a child will be able to guide you without so much as the use of a stick. As food, you will have to eat all the grass and weeds that you have sowed so abundantly and even during your hours of rest, you will have to chew and chew. To remind you of your vanity, you will be provided with two big, powerful horns that will resemble the wings of your hat."

In this manner, then, Ngoc Hoang created the water buffalo.

#### EPILOGUE

For thousands of years, the water buffalo has served mankind, never tiring, ever plodding. From dawn till dusk, he draws the plow or drags the harrow without the least sound of complaint. In winter, beneath the cold rains, he wallows up to his belly in the mud of the ricefields and in summer pushes along under the burning sun. In this manner, he digs furrow after furrow and watches with pride as the green fields conquer the weeds and nature. In order to help men in their struggle for food, he eats only the grass of the meadows or the plants growing up at the edges of the paths and ricefields. He is docilely directed by a small boy sitting on his back. Having fulfilled his duty in the fields, he returns to the village in the evening, full of dignity and importance. But if he sees a muddy pond, he never fails to wallow in it and to gaze at the reflection of his curved horns in the water. When he reaches his stall, he patiently rechews all the weeds and grass that he has uprooted during the day. Sometimes he will raise his gentle eyes towards Heaven, where he once lived; perhaps he then thinks of the words of his Creator: "Never undertake a task that is beyond your strength or intelligence just to satisfy your vanity."





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