



Front View of the National Assembly Building

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RVN Statement on Pres. Nixon's Visit to Peking

IN THIS ISSUE

Front Cover:

National Assembly Building

Political and Military News

RVN Statement on Pres. Nixon's
Visit to China.....2

RVN Declaration on Paracels
and Spratley Islands.....3

Election News-

-Lower House Candidates.....2

-Electoral News Center.....4

-617 Voting Booths.....4

-Schedule of Events in the

Presidential Election.....4

ASPAC Notes RVN Efforts in
Building Democracy.....5

Decisive Battle.....8

First Plane Made in VN.....8

Refugee Population.....8

365 Reds Rally in Week.....8

Photo Review

Armed Forces Day in Saigon.....6

Economic News

Concession Rights on Petroleum
Exploration.....9

Commercial Bank Deposits.....9

Planning and National
Development Ministry.....9

Fable

The Watermelon.....10

The Government of the Republic of Viet-Nam considers the acceptance by the President of the US to visit communist China before May 1972 as an expression of the good will of the US to broaden and normalize its relations with all nations, irrespective of their political and social systems, in an effort to consolidate world peace.

The Republic of Viet-Nam hopes that the Peking authorities will take advantage of this opportunity to show their willingness to contribute to world peace by refraining from committing aggression and from instigating and supporting their satellites, especially North Viet-Nam in its aggression against the Republic of Viet-Nam the Kingdom of Laos and the Khmer Republic.

Lasting peace in South East Asia will be restored if communist China sincerely gives up her designs of direct or indirect aggression, respects the independence and freedom of her neighboring countries and pledges to uphold peace on these fundamental bases.

Saigon, July 16, 1971

Election News

Lower House Candidates

Saigon, Aug. 5, 1971 (V.N.- The Central Electoral Council (CEC) met for two days last week to consider the protests of some 100 candidates in the coming House elections, whose applications to run had been rejected by various local electoral councils. Meeting under the chairmanship of Chief Justice Tran Van Linh, the council includes besides Mr. Linh himself six members, including a representative from each of the two Houses of Congress, two high-ranking officials from the Justice Department, and Interior Secretary Le Cong Chat. Representating the Upper House was Senator Tran Quang Thuan, an Opposition leader allied with the militant Buddhist Church.

After meeting for two full days, the Central Electoral Council rejected 52 protests, reducing the number of candidates in the coming House Elections to 1,352. The candidates will compete for 152 seats in the August 29 Election.

(Cont'd on page 4)



political & military news

RVN Declaration on Paracels and Spratley Islands

SAIGON, July 15--The following is the full text of a declaration issued today by the Foreign Ministry concerning the RVN sovereignty of the archipelagos of Paracels and Spratley:

The Government of the Republic of Viet-Nam solemnly reaffirms once again its sovereignty over the archipelagos of Spratley and Paracels.

In fact, the sovereignty of the Republic of Viet-Nam over the Spratley and Paracels islands has been historically and juridically established since many centuries back.

As far back as in 1802, Emperor Gia-Long had created a "Doi Hoang Sa" (company of the Paracels) to supervise the exploitation of these islands. In 1834, under Emperor Minh Mang, the "Truong Sa" (Spratley) islands already figured as part of the Vietnamese territory on the first maps published by the Kingdom.

The occupation of these archipelagos by the Kings of Viet-Nam was also reported in the "Dai Nam Nhut Thong Chi" (Annals of Viet-Nam).

In 1930 and 1933, acting on behalf of the Vietnamese Empire, the French Government officially took possession of the Spratley islands and notification thereof was made to foreign powers by a notice dated September 25th, 1933. No protest had been registered except that of the Japanese Government who claimed that Japanese subjects, with the support of the Japanese imperial Government, had occupied the islands in 1917.

However, during the San Francisco Peace Conference, in 1951, Japan had to renounce all the territories she had occupied by force during the second world war, including the Spratley and Paracels islands. On that occasion, the leader of the Vietnamese delegation to the Conference publicly affirmed the Vietnamese sovereignty over the Spratley and Paracels which have been parts of the Vietnamese territory from time immemorial. The statement aroused no objections on the part of the 51 powers attending the Peace Conference.

Since its independence, the Government of the Republic of Viet-Nam has regularly despatched reconnaissance and inspection naval patrols to these islands. Besides, a decree dated October 22nd, 1956, of the President of the Republic of Viet-Nam placed the Spratley islands under the administration of the province of Ba Ria.

Thus, the Republic of Viet-Nam remains the only power to possess the most legitimate rights of sovereignty over the archipelagos of Spratley and Paracels because it has fulfilled the conditions required by the Convention of 1885 concerning the establishment of territorial competency.

The Government of the Republic of Viet-Nam declares that it has full sovereignty over the Spratley and Paracels and therefore rejects any claims from any foreign power over those islands.

Election News

Electoral News Center

SAIGON, July 29 (VN)-- The South Vietnamese Government has just allocated VN \$40,000,000 for the reconditioning of a building in downtown Saigon, which is to serve as the Electoral News Center (ENC), according to President Nguyen Van Thieu. Once called "Saigon Departo" it was one of the biggest department stores in the capital. The building will be equipped with the best communication facilities to help journalists from foreign lands follow "electoral developments throughout the Republic", Thieu also said.

According to the Chief Executive, a top-notch team of information officers will also stand guard on a 24-hour basis to "help observers from everywhere in the minutest details during their stay in Vietnam". These men will also have the task of assisting foreign journalists in their movements as well as supplying them with whatever background information they may wish to know to have better knowledge of the issues at stake and the current political situation in South Vietnam.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

1971 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

- August 4: (60 days before election day)
- Filing deadline for candidacies (filed at Supreme Court)
- Lists of voters posted for the first time at local administrative offices
- August 5: First posting in Saigon of lists of candidates
- August 9: Deadline for posting lists of candidates in cities, provinces, districts and villages
- August 13: Deadline for filing complaints on qualifications of candidates
- August 20: Deadline for Supreme Court to announce its decision on complaints
- August 24: (40 days before election day)
- Deadline for second posting of lists of candidates, after which candidacies cannot be withdrawn

On this occasion, President Thieu also disclosed that his Press Secretary, Mr. Hoang Duc Nha, had been to the United States, where he tried to probe journalistic circles for the number of American reporters that wish to cover the coming crucial elections. "We welcome anybody wishing to come and see for himself how honest and authentic the coming elections will be", the President also said.

617 Voting Booths for Lower House Elections in Saigon

SAIGON, July 6 (VP)--Saigon Prefect Col. Do Kien Nhieu made known that 617 voting booths will be established in the Capital's 11 precincts for 631,000 voters in the Aug. 29 Lower House election.

At a meeting with the press at the Saigon City Hall, Col. Nhieu said the issuance of voters' cards has been carried out perfectly this year, due to the installation of an IBM system.

The number of registered voters has shown an increase over the half-the-Senate and City Council elections last year.

- August 27: Deadline for convening Central Election Campaign Committee (representatives of each state)
- September 2: Election campaign begins
- September 13: Deadline for second posting of lists of voters
- September 30: Deadline for announcing location of polling stations
- October 2 (12 noon): Electoral campaign period ends
- October 3: Voting from 0700 to 1700
- October 6: Deadline for filing complaints with local court or with Supreme Court
- October 8: Deadline for submitting results to Supreme Court
(Within 24 hours of receipt of all results, Supreme Court must hold a plenary session to add them up)
- October 26: Deadline for Supreme Court to take a final vote on validity of the elections and final election returns

ASPAC Notes RVN Efforts in Building Democratic System

MANILA, July 16-- The Sixth Ministerial Meeting of the Asian and Pacific Council, comprised of Australia, the Republic of China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Republic of the Philippines, Thailand, and the Republic of Vietnam was convened in Manila, Philippines, on July 14 until July 16, 1971. Representatives from the Khmer Republic and the Kingdom of Laos participated as observers at all sessions of the meeting. Indonesia was present at the opening and closing sessions as a special guest of the host Government.

The following is an excerpt from the final communiqué dealing with the democratic system in the Republic of Vietnam and the war in Indo-China:

"... The Ministers noted with satisfaction the efforts of the Republic of Vietnam to continue the normal processes of its democratic system, as evidenced by its scheduled elections in the midst of trying circumstances. They expressed

their concern over the situation existing in the Khmer Republic and the Kingdom of Laos. They reaffirmed their sympathy for the efforts of the Khmer Republic, the Kingdom of Laos, and the Republic of Vietnam to preserve their freedom, independence, and territorial integrity. They also expressed the hope that the efforts for a just and lasting peace in Vietnam, as well as in the whole of Indo-China, would result in a ceasefire, under international supervision, and put an end to the war.

Vietnamese Delegation at ASPAC Meeting





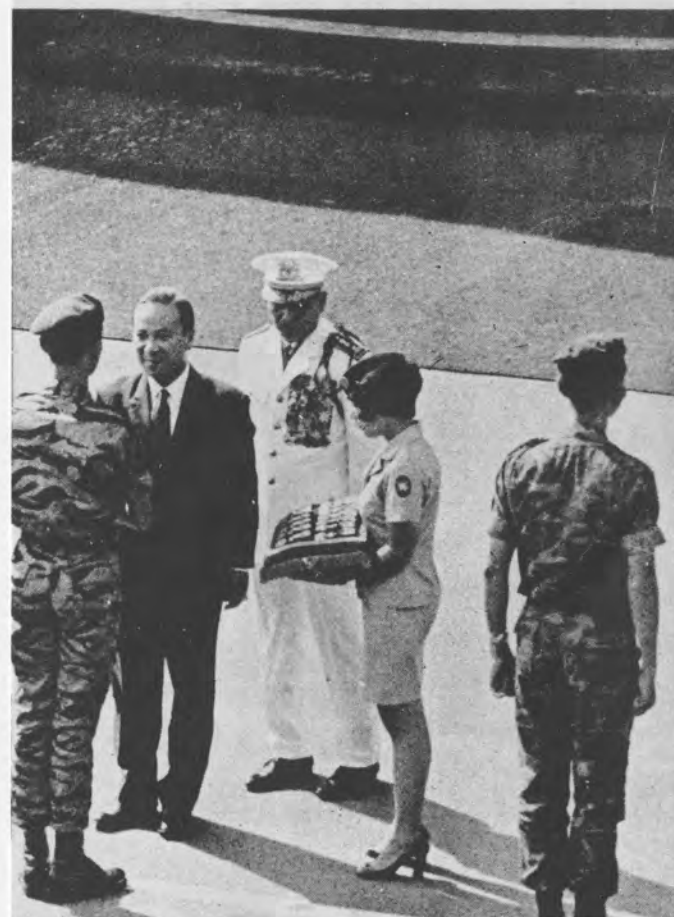
Armed Forces Day Parade in Saigon

South Vietnam had not had anything like it in more than three years: the massive military parade which was held in Saigon last June 19. It was a celebration to mark the Armed Forces Day and an occasion to pay tribute to outstanding servicemen from all over the Republic of Vietnam.

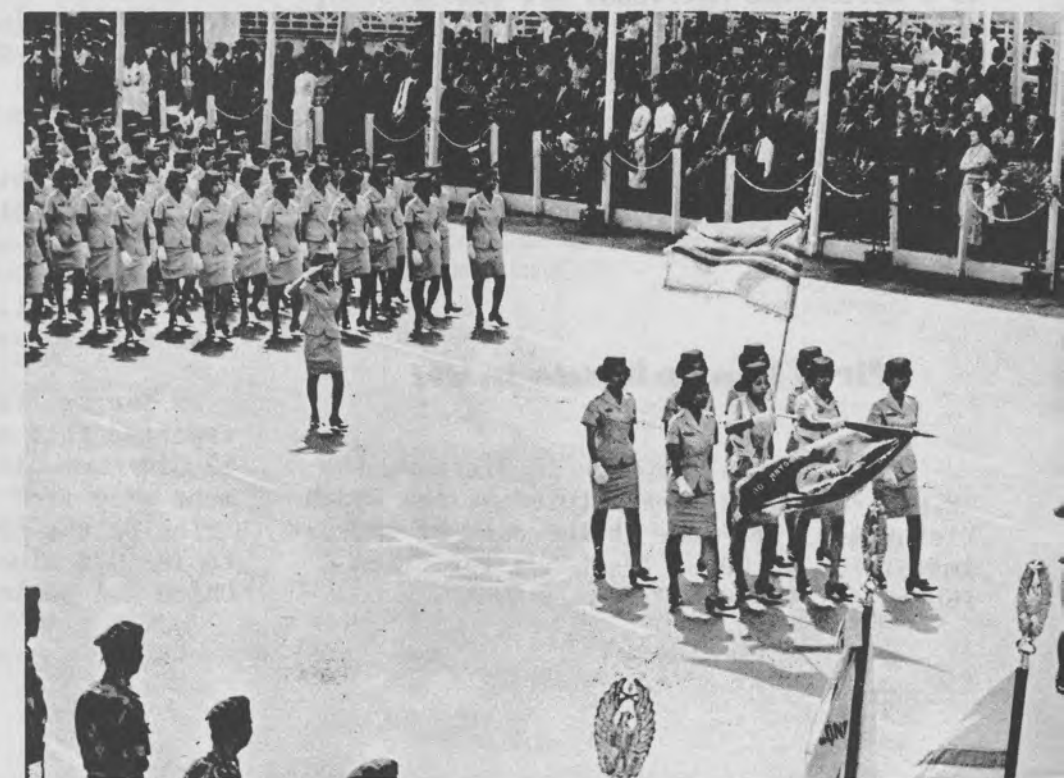
President Nguyen Van Thieu, other Vietnamese officials, members of the diplomatic corps and foreign military representatives watched as South Vietnamese and Allied forces passed in review down Thong Nhut Avenue that leads to Independence Palace.

ARVN, Airborne, Marine, Ranger, Air Force, and militia units represented South Vietnam. Participating Allied forces included Korean, Thailand, Australian, New Zealand, and United States units.

Young and old loved it all as they lined the parade route watching a display of military might with Vietnamese Air Force planes streaming colored smoke flying overhead.



President Thieu, Vice President Ky, Lt. Gen. Cao Van Vien, and Defense Minister Nguyen Van Vy at attention while national anthem is played (top, opposite page). Thieu (photo below, page 6) presents awards to outstanding soldiers. Above is ARVN infantry unit. Left: ARVN armor. WACs, below.



Decisive Battle

SAIGON, July 8 (VN)-- President Nguyen Van Thieu last week predicted a big and decisive battle between the armies of North and South Vietnam in the two provinces just south of the demilitarized zone in "late 1972 or early 1973". The Presidential prediction was made at a graduation ceremony at the National War College in Saigon.

Speaking to an audience of top-ranking officials, the South Vietnamese President declared he did not believe the enemy to be ready for a negotiated settlement until after the next U.S. Presidential race. "Only until after the allied troops stop taking part in the actual fighting--by late 1972 or early 1973--would a big decisive battle develop between the armies of North and South Vietnam", President Thieu said, "and the result of this battle would either be serious negotiations for a peace settlement or a tacit acceptance of the Communists of their defeat".

President Thieu was of the opinion that the North Vietnamese still had the capability of mounting "localized offensive campaigns of some intensity, which they would stage at politically propitious moments".

The South Vietnamese leader had some advice for "peace" elements in South Vietnam: "We cannot ape the Americans in everything. As a nation the Americans are like a super-man whose constitution makes it possible for him to swallow a large amount of poison. Ours will not survive even a much smaller dose". Earlier, he also warned the nation not to "sleep on our laurels for the enemy can still strike us forcefully in some sections of the Republic".

First Plane Made in VN

The first plane made in Vietnam, the TP.001, has been manufactured by the South Vietnamese Air Force at the cost of approximately US \$5,000. TP stands for "Tien Phong" or "Vanguard".

Entirely manufactured in Vietnam, except for its engine, a four-cylinder Lycoming engine, the small plane can reach the speed of 240 kilometers per hour and fly for nearly five hours. As an observation plane, "it can compare with anything produced by more advanced countries of Asia", an observer said.

Refugee Population

The number of war refugees in South Vietnam has decreased to just over a quarter of a million, according to top officials at the Ministry of Social Welfare, which has control over all refugee camps throughout the nation.

According to the same source, as of last April 30th, only 253,808 persons were living in refugee camps after 1,778,561 persons had returned to their villages and another 1,798,717 had been resettled. During the past few years, also according to these officials, 3,831,086 persons had been recorded as war refugees.

The largest number of war refugees was recorded in 1970, when 750,906 persons had to seek refuge in government-controlled areas or request government assistance for various periods of time. The smallest number--300,085--was recorded last year.

365 Reds Rally in Week

SAIGON, July 21 (VP)-- Open Arms agencies throughout the country received 365 Communists last week within the framework of Nguyen Trai 4 campaign.

Out of this number, 185 were military-men, 133 political agents, and 47 other elements.

The IV Military Region topped the list with 300 returnees.

Sources from the Open Arms Ministry reported that since early this year, 12,014 Communists returned to the government side from all over the country, bringing the total number of returnees to 185,078 since the promulgation of the Chieu Hoi policy on February, 1963.

economic news

Concession Rights for Petroleum Exploration

SAIGON, June 10 (VP)-- The Government of the Republic of Vietnam has officially announced today that it intends to grant concession rights for petroleum exploration and exploitation on part of the continental shelf of the Republic of Vietnam.

The area open for exploration and exploitation is about 400,000 square kilometers, or about 160,000 square miles. It is an offshore area that lies off the coast of southern South Vietnam and extends from the South China Sea to the Gulf of Thailand.

In a press conference this morning at the Ministry of Economy, the Minister of Economy, Mr. Pham Kim Ngoc said that the announcement Order No. 249-BKT-VP-UBQGDH was signed yesterday. The announcement is the result of several months of examination and consultation with the National Petroleum Board and with a number of foreign experts.

Even before the Government made the announcement, it was known that more than 300 international oil companies had shown a desire to bid for the concession rights.

The Minister of Economy also announced that in several months to come the Government will carry out steps toward granting concessions according to international practices.

Planning and National Development Ministry

Decree No. 64/SL. PTQG dated June 28, 1971 and signed by Prime Minister Tran Thien Khiem stipulates the duties of the newly appointed Minister of Planning and National Development as follows:

- To cooperate with other government agencies concerned with the control and use of national resources;

- To map out national development plans to be submitted to the government for approval and to disseminate the approved plans among agencies concerned with implementation;

- To keep track of and to promote the implementation of national development plans, including investment programs;

- To study and disseminate scientific and technological progress to serve the national interest;

- To supervise the conduct of national statistical activities;

The newly appointed Minister of Planning and National Development is Mr. Le Tuan Anh who was formerly "Administer General" of public enterprises.

COMMERCIAL BANK DEPOSITS

The following table shows the position of Vietnamese banks compared to their foreign counterparts in terms of deposits as of December 31, 1970. (All figures in million piasters).

Nationality of Banks	Number of Banks	Demand deposits	Savings & Time deposits	Total deposits
Vietnamese	15	21,531.2	22,461.4	43,992.6
French	3	7,998.6	5,929.7	13,928.3
Chinese	3	3,902.8	3,089.6	6,992.4
American	2	2,260.3	1,492.6	3,752.9
British	2	1,939.0	917.6	2,856.6
Thai	1	1,001.0	610.4	1,611.4
Japanese	1	377.1	484.5	861.6
Korean	1	100.5	225.4	325.9
Total	28	39,110.5	35,211.2	74,321.7

The following table shows deposits of the Vietnamese "Big Five" as of December 31, 1970: (All figures in million VN\$).

Banks	Demand deposits	Savings & Time deposits	Total deposits
1. Vietnam Commercial Credit Bank	3,585.9	10,618.0	19,203.9
2. Tin Nghia Bank	2,434.8	1,471.7	3,906.5
3. Saigon Bank	2,042.6	1,481.9	3,524.5
4. Vietnam Bank	1,110.4	1,948.1	3,058.5
5. The Commercial & Industrial Bank of Vietnam	1,589.2	1,367.6	2,956.8
Total	15,762.9	16,887.3	32,650.2



The Origin of the Watermelon

A Vietnamese Fable

Adapted by George F. Schultz

This is one of the oldest legends of Viet-Nam, purportedly going back to the period when the eighteenth (and last) King Hung Vuong of the Hong Bang dynasty was ruling in the kingdom of Van Lang.

If we can accept the legend as the basis for some truth, it would seem to indicate that traders arriving from the South Sea islands may have brought the first watermelon seeds to Southeast Asia as an article of trade. The ancestors of the Vietnamese may have been in communication with these peoples as early as the third century B.C.

* * *

When Cu Con was only a little boy, he loved to watch the royal procession as King Hung Vuong XVIII would pass through the streets of the capital. One day, the king noticed the boy's handsome face and bought him from his parents. Cu Con was taken to the royal palace, educated, and given the name of Mai Yen; however, everyone preferred to call An Tiem.

The lad learned his lessons well and in a short time proved himself as proficient in the rhymes of poetry as in the profession of arms. As the king's adopted son, An Tiem received many favors and at the age of nineteen was married to a beautiful young woman named Nang Ba. As a wedding present the young couple were given a magnificent castle. They were very well matched and were expected to lead a happy life together for many years to come.

An Tiem was very clever in every kind of business enterprise and with the king's friendly approval soon accumulated a large fortune; indeed, he became the wealthiest man in Van Lang. At the same time, however, he made enemies who were constantly seeking ways to do him harm.

One day, a visitor to the capital happened to praise An Tiem's success. The latter thoughtlessly remarked that it was due entirely to his own efforts. These words were of course reported to the king, who interpreted them to mean that An Tiem and his wife were ungrateful for the royal kindnesses that they had received.

King Hung Vuong then decided that it would be necessary to punish them for their show of ingratitude. They were ordered banished to a small, deserted island off the coast of Thanh Hoa.

"We shall see how well An Tiem can succeed on his own," thought the monarch.

An Tiem, Nang Ba, and their children were permitted to take with them only a small supply of food, some seeds, and a few ordinary tools. As soon as they arrived on the island, An Tiem set about clearing the swamps and tilling the soil so that he would be able to provide for his family. He felt certain that Heaven would reward his efforts.

One day, a flock of birds flew over the island and dropped a number

of small, black seeds. An Tiem planted them carefully in the sandy soil and in a few weeks vines began to appear and on them some long, green melons. When cut, the melons were found to have a delicious, red pulp in their center. An Tiem and his family ate some of the fruit and replanted their black seeds in the soil. Melons were soon growing everywhere on the island.

When a ship was wrecked off An Tiem's island, the sailors found their way ashore and bought some of the melons. On reaching the mainland they told stories of the delicious fruit found on the island. The news spread rapidly and traders went there in great numbers, eager to buy the wonderful, new product. In a short time, An Tiem became as wealthy as before.

When King Hung Vuong learned of his adopted son's success, he began to regret having banished him. He had never ceased loving and therefore invited him and his family to return to the capital. An Tiem was reinstated at the court and all his former possessions were returned to him. It is needless to say that in the future he was more careful when speaking of his success.

Since the birds that had dropped the first seeds on the island had flown in from the west, An Tiem named his discovery tay qua, "the western fruit." But when the Chinese tried the melon and found it very tasty, they said "hau hau (very delicious)," and the name adopted by the Vietnamese became dua hau (dua, melon; hau, delicious).

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