

It will also urge the government to allow Korean and Chinese firms to deal directly.

"We will seek a cautious yet gradual improvement in its commercial ties with China. As it stands now, sudden breakthrough in the relations with the Communist country is unlikely," a KFTA official said.

The Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) recently signed a business cooperation arrangement with the Hungarian Chamber of Commerce, the first with an East-bloc country.

Encouraged by the agreement, KCCI will try to cement private-level trade links with China.

It plans to reorganize a task force at its International Trade Department to research trade with China, and will also strengthen research on China through the Korea Economic Research Center.

The Korea Commercial Arbitration Board (KCAB) has begun studying the commercial arbitration system of China to prepare for trade disputes in the future.

The Korea Trade Promotion Corp. (KOTRA) will soon reorganize its special-region trade section into an independent body to focus on Chinese affairs.

It will publish a booklet on the Chinese economic system next month to help domestic traders.

The nation's big-name conglomerates are in high gear to prepare for direct trade with China.

Samsung Co. has upgraded its Hong Kong-based branch office into a locally incorporated body in a "warming-up" gesture.

It has also begun Chinese-language courses for its staff.

Hyundai, Lucky-Goldstar, and Sunkyong will set up new bodies responsible for China and expand existing organizations.

The most promising Korean export items to China include color TV sets, refrigerators, sundry goods, tires, machinery products, steel and fertilizers.

Among the likely import items from China are coal, grains and other raw materials.

In a recent report, the Korea Institute for Economics and Technology (KIET) said Korean and Chinese concerns need to sign private trade agreements to expand two-way trade.

A joint-venture with a third country will also help Korean concerns enter China, it said.

KIET said Chinese imports from the West expanded at an average annual rate of 16.9 percent between 1978 and 1985, and exports at a rate of 17.7 percent.

The Chinese government projects its gross national product (GNP) to grow 5.5 percent annually between now and 2000 to \$800.

It is planning to expand its infrastructure, which could provide Korean contractors an opportunity to advance into China, the report said.

However, the KIET report is skeptical that trade with China will expand rapidly in the foreseeable future.

Beijing remains fearful of the Soviet Union and is expected to avoid any move that risks making north Korea a second Vietnam—a pro-Soviet state in China's traditional sphere of influence.

China is a lucrative and promising market for Korea. However, it should be approached in a practical and cautious manner, the report said.

Government Ends Ban on Import of Bloc Music
SK220251 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
22 Jan 88 p 1

[Text] The Culture-Information Ministry has decided to allow the import of records produced by Soviet-bloc countries in an effort to expedite cultural exchange with those nations before the Seoul Olympics.

Ministry officials said the local reproduction of disks carrying music pieces produced after the Bolshevik Revolution in 1917 would become possible through due licensing.

They said reproduction of other than the "pure" music-for-music works, however, would still remain under ban. So far, records of classical music which were written before the Russian revolution have been legally copied in the country.

Under the ministerial decision, the officials said, local record manufacturers may set up license contracts directly with East European countries for the reproduction of records without using agents in third countries.

They said the government was ready to introduce the culture and art of the Soviet-bloc countries amid the latter's move to participate in the Seoul Olympic Games this summer.

Assembly Focuses on Beef Imports, Trade
SK210307 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
21 Jan 88 p 1

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister-Economic Planning Minister Chong In-yong said yesterday that it was "inescapable" to bring in U.S. beef for hotel use due to long-standing pressure.

In a testimony before parliament, he said, "We are persuading Americans to assuage their mounting pressure on the ground that Korea's cattle prices are very low. But it is inescapable to import beef only for hotel use."

When he cited as the cause for the beef imports the facts that the country is hosting the Olympics and is the 12th largest trader, lawmakers booed him, some shouting for his dismissal as the chief economic policy-maker.

His remarks immediately brought about the suspension of the plenary session.

Prior to the lull, he disclosed that the government would finance the setup of a labor research institute under the cosponsorship of the private business sector to map out preventive steps for labor-management disputes.

Turning to the prospect of South Korea's trade ties with China, he said Seoul is pushing the establishment of a trade office in Beijing for direct trade with the populous country.

Trade between the two nations, which have no official links, is under way on an indirect basis, mainly through Hong Kong.

Prime Minister Kim Chong-yol foresaw that trade with the Soviet Union, China and other Communist states would grow "remarkably" after the Summer Olympics. He said that indirect trade with the East Bloc has been on a steady gain since an open-door policy in June 1973.

Both ruling and opposition lawmakers focused their interpellations on government countersteps on trade conflict with the United States, rising prices and huge debts incurred by farmers and fishermen.

Six Assemblymen took the podium to inquire economic issues which also included expansion of trade with China and other East bloc nations.

Kim Chong-in of the ruling Democratic Justice Party urged the administration to devise effective means to prevent labor strikes around the coming spring.

The professor-turned legislator, now an economic aide to No Tae-u, called for "fundamental solutions" to trade problems involving the United States and other developed countries rather than sticking to current issues.

"A fundamental shift in the way of thinking and behavior is necessary for us to run the economy as the world's 12th largest trading nation," he said.

Yi Yong-chun of the Reunification Democratic Party accented the need to unveil all financial scandals involving government officials and "unreasonable" bankruptcy of several business groups during the present administration.

Attributing inflation to "money offensive" by the ruling camp during the presidential election campaigns, he claimed that the government should be held responsible.

He maintained that the imports of American beef, "aimed to benefit U.S. cattle-raisers," would starve Korean farmers indebted up to their neck.

He renewed a most popular demand during any Assembly sessions on economic matters for the slash in enormous deficits in trade with Japan.

Choe Myong-hun of the DJP hoped for the establishment of joint ventures with China and Korean firms' subsidiaries in the Communist giant as well as an information center in Seoul.

He recommended that the government develop the country's continental shelves and overseas reserves as part of securing inevitable energy sources and strategic materials.

Song Hyon-sop of the Party for Peace and Democracy argued that at least 3 billion won (approximately \$3,750 million) was distributed for campaigns of the presidential candidates.

"The corrupt electioneering pushed the growth rate of currency to a monthly high of 29.5 percent in December," he noted.

Yun Yong-tak of the RDP said that economic policies should be reoriented for the substantial welfare of the people, pointing out that the Korean economy has so far pursued only "quantitative expansion."

He demanded the independence of the central bank. "The Bank of Korea chalked a deficit of 87 billion won in its balance sheet last year. There are only two countries on the globe whose central banks go red."

Discusses Pak Chong-chol Case
SK220215 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
22 Jan 88 pp 1, 5

[Text] Prime Minister Kim Chong-yol yesterday said the government will take all possible steps to prevent a repeat of the "Pak Chong-chol" case.

Testifying before a plenary National Assembly session, Kim said questioning of former police chief Kang Min-chang will produce the whole truth of the cover-up involving Pak's torture-death a year ago.

Kang, director of the National Police Headquarters at the time of Pak's death, was arrested last week after he was found to have had a role in the cover-up.

The premier denied opposition law-makers' allegations that several top government officials secretly met right after Pak's death to conspire to hide the true cause of his death.

He made these and other points in responding to questions from seven lawmakers on the third and last days of cabinet interpellation.

Minister of Culture and Information Yi Wung-hui said the government did not interfere with the TV coverage of the presidential election last year.

The government will permit new dailies to be created when they meet legal requirements, he said.

It is too early to assess the impact of trade unions on the promotion of freedom of the press because they came into existence very recently, he said.

Minister of Labor Affairs Yi Hon-ki said about 1,200 labor unions have been created since labor disputes last summer.

Although labor and management are expected to have disputes in the process of establishing their new relations, Yi said, the government will not offer guidelines for wage increases.

The government will encourage them to settle their disputes in a peaceful manner, he said.

As economic growth is expected to slow down to 8 percent this year, he said, the nation's unemployment rate is expected to increase to 3.7 percent from last year's 3.3 percent.

Taking the floor first, Rep. Pak Sil of the Party for Peace and Democracy [PPH] claimed there are "hidden criminals" in the controversial "Pak case."

He urged the government to identify the high-ranking government officials who, he said, secretly met to plot a cover-up right after his death.

He also asked what was discussed and what instructions were given to the police.

The PPD lawmaker also claimed the outcome of the Dec. 16 presidential election was manipulated by computer so that the ruling party candidate won.

He demanded a thorough probe by a government auditing agency into computer-tabulating of the election returns.

Pak also called on the government to identify the people who, he said, stayed at Seoul's Tower Hotel during the campaign to direct a smear campaign against the opposition candidates.

He urged the government to prevent police abuses such as detaining suspects without arrest warrants.

He proposed a public security council be set up to ensure the police's political neutrality.

Rep. Yu Sang-ho of the Democratic Justice Party demanded a trial and punishment for Kim Hyon-hui, who blew up KAL Flight 858 last November.

He said the opinions of the general public and bereaved families should be respected.

Any special leniency, such as her release without trial, will neither benefit the country nor help relieve the sorrows of the bereaved families, he said.

Rep. Kim Chong-su of RDP claimed that prosecutors failed to conduct a thorough investigation into the Pak torture case because of "outside pressure."

On the outcome of prosecution's recent re-investigation into the cover-up scandal, Kim charged the government with hiding the truth instead of trying to bring it to light.

He demanded invocation of a "parliamentary right" to look into the cover-up of the torture-death of the Seoul National University student.

Rep. Kim Hyon-cha of DJP called for a crackdown on child-kidnapping, murders, rapes and other inhumane crimes, which she said terrify people.

Rep. Yi Chae-ok of the RDP protested widespread oppression of the labor movement, which he said resumed last October.

The opposition lawmaker said labor unions should be promoted to solve chronic labor-management conflicts.

He asked if the government has prepared steps to cope with anticipated massive anti-U.S. protests because of mounting trade pressure on Korea.

Rep. Hong U-chun of the DJP questioned security at the nations' international airports in connection with the KAL bombing.

He noted that Kim Sung-il, key partner in the incident, visited Seoul in September 1984 using a forged passport.

Rep. Cho Yong-chik of the New Democratic Republican Party questioned the possibility of the police and the prosecution plotting to cover up the "Kwon In-suk scandal" as they did the Pak case.

Chon Speaks on Reunification, Reconciliation

*SK220743 Seoul YONHAP in English
0726 GMT 22 Jan 88*

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 22 (YONHAP)—South Korean President Chon Tu-hwan predicted Friday that the divided Korean peninsula may achieve peaceful reunification around the end of this century, underscoring what he termed as the waves of changes flowing slowly along the bottom of the recent inter-Korean dialogues.

He said that while the inter-Korean dialogue remains suspended, North Korea's brutal maneuvers aimed at disrupting the Seoul Olympic games have now created serious tension on the Korean peninsula.

However, Chon stressed, the ever-growing aspirations of the Korean people for reunification and the remarkable growth of South Korea's national strength will be a driving force to shatter the wall of artificial division and build a reunified democratic state.

Addressing a rally for national reconciliation and democratic reunification, Chon called on the nation to move forward and put an end to the decades of tension, disbelief, and confrontation and open a new era of peace, reconciliation and reunification on the basis of firm conviction.

Chon, denouncing North Korea's bombing last November of a South Korean airliner with 115 people aboard as a heinous atrocity unprecedented in the history of humanity, promised his utmost efforts to censure the North's recklessness and punish them in the most efficient way during the remainder of his tenure.

Chon is to step down on Feb. 24 after a single seven-year term marking the first peaceful change of government in the country's 40-year constitutional history.

Chon stressed that South Korea has consolidated its practical capabilities and foundation for its leading role in achieving national reunification. We will find ourselves on the shortcut toward a reunified democratic state after completing the national tasks of the peaceful change of government and the successful hosting of the Olympic games, he added.

Addresses Counterespionage Council

*SK220239 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
22 Jan 88 p 2*

[Text] President Chon Tu-hwan yesterday urged the establishment of a combined regional defense system, joined by civilians and military personnel, to effectively cope with the growing danger of armed North Korean provocations in the face of the Olympics.

Speaking to an annual session of the counter-espionage operations council at Chonwadae, President Chon stressed "All people must be fully prepared to smash any North Korean provocations aimed at disrupting the Seoul Olympics."

"North Korea has been isolated from the international society for its uncompromising and anachronistic line appealing to force of arms for solution of conflicts. Therefore, its adventurism may be further intensified in the days ahead," Chon said.

Yesterday's session was attended by Prime Minister Kim Chong-yol, relevant Cabinet members, and about 200 security-related officials and military commanders.

In an address President Chon called for the training of specialized manpower to protect major athletic facilities and public establishments from possible sabotages by the North Korean Communists around the time of the Seoul Olympics.

The President said that all people should combine efforts to smash attempts by leftist elements to disrupt the liberal democratic system, capitalizing on the transition of government."

He assured that the country would join the ranks of economically advanced nations if it successfully completes summer Olympics after the peaceful change of government.

President Chon noted that political and social instability was a major ingredient undermining the national security, which in turn was a good temptation to North Korean provocations.

RDP Leaders Disagree on Opposition Merger

*SK210319 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
21 Jan 88 p 2*

[Text] Moves for opposition integration have been thrown into confusion as the two major opposition parties and minor groups stuck to their different formulas.

Some senior members of the opposition Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD] yesterday called for an "unconditional" merger with its rival Reunification Democratic Party before the parliamentary elections.

They include former PPD vice president Yang Sun-chik and Yu Chi-yon, and Reps. Chang Ki-uk, Kim Hyong-su and Kim Song-sik.

They invited three other former PPD vice presidents Yi Chung-chae, No Song-hwan and Yi Yong-hui to a breakfast meeting at a downtown hotel yesterday. They exchanged views on the party's position on the opposition merger.

The three former vice presidents are in charge of negotiating with dissident figures for their entry into the party.

In the meeting, the five members told the invited party colleagues that PPD head Kim Tae-chung's proposal for a merger among the PPD, the RDP and the dissident forces on an equal basis was an unrealistic approach.

They claimed that the two parties led by the two Kims should unite "unconditionally" and then accept the dissident forces into a unified opposition party, thus to ensure an opposition victory in the upcoming general elections.

"An outline for the opposition merger should be decided on by the end of this month," they said.

Otherwise, they will leave the opposition PPD to positively continue their efforts for the opposition integration as independents, they threatened.

The future course of political action of the five senior PPD members from neutral Kyonggi and Chungchong provinces are attracting attention from political circles as they have been offered by the RDP to return to it.

Kim Yong-sam's RDP, rejecting the PPD leader's proposal for a three-way merger, has repeatedly called for "individual re-entry" of PPD members to the RDP.

The RDP president said that a considerable number of PPD lawmakers will return to the party "sooner or later."

Meanwhile, Rep. Yi Chol, spokesman for the five independent lawmakers promoting opposition unity, yesterday called for a joint meeting between the two parties and themselves to discuss the opposition integration.

In a statement, Rep. Yi said, "The two parties should immediately accept our proposal for a joint meeting if they really intend to realize opposition integration."

But the call was ignored by the RDP, which the five junior lawmakers once belonged to.

They are moving to form their own party and run for the National Assembly in Seoul in case the opposition fails to achieve unity before the general elections.

In a related development, 53 dissident figures, including Prof. Yi Mun-yong, Rev. Mun Tong-hwan and lawyer Yi Tong-myong, who are also seeking an opposition alliance, called for sincere efforts of the two major opposition parties for unification.

RDP, PPD Relationship 'Further Soured'

SK220243 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
22 Jan 88 p 2

[Text] Reunification Democratic Party president Kim Yong-sam yesterday told his deputies to be cautious in making remarks on the question of an opposition integration.

The call was made in a meeting with key post holders yesterday at the head office of the party.

In a background briefing, RDP spokesman Kim Tae-yong said, "The party president issued the 'shut-your-mouth' guideline to the party members in order not to project to the people an image of the opposition in disarray.

The spokesman reiterated, however, that the Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD], which broke away previously from the RDP, must be disbanded and that all PPD members must return to the RDP.

There was a bitter exchange of criticism between senior members of the two major opposition parties over the issue of opposition unification early this week.

PPD president Kim Tae-chung criticized the RDP for reversing its official position on the medium-size constituency system from the small, one-lawmaker-per constituency system.

He lambasted the RDP for "colluding with the ruling camp" to isolate and divide his PPD.

An RDP vice president had leaked to the press that "several PPD lawmakers" will soon bolt the PPD to rejoin the RDP.

The press information further soured the relationship between the RDP and PPD.

Rival Parties at Odds Over Scandal Cover-up

SK220153 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
22 Jan 88 p 1

[Text] Rough sailing is expected for the current National Assembly extraordinary session as the main opposition party decided to boycott the standing committee forum and the partisan talk on the revision of the general elections law.

The decision came when the ruling party turned down a tenacious call by the Reunification Democratic Party for the invocation of a parliamentary right to investigate a cover-up in the controversial torture-killing of a college student.

Whether or not the decision will take effect depends on the outcome of another round of meetings between the floor leaders of the two rival parties today.

In two rounds of talks with Yi Tae-sun of the DJP yesterday, RDP's Kim Hyon-hyu called for the parliamentary action, maintaining that repeated probes by the prosecution have not been effective in clearing up "public suspicion."

He said he was convinced that "higher government officials" were involved in the cover-up of police brutality, along with the police chief.

Ex-national police director Kang Min-chang was arrested last week for his alleged role following the confession by a coroner that the chief of police directed him to conceal his findings of torture.

Despite denial by the prosecution, opposition legislators charged in yesterday's interpellation of the administration that senior officials from the Agency for National Security Planning, prosecution and other government agencies should be held responsible for their alleged "conspiracy" in the scandal.

In separate moves, Kim Yong-sam's RDP and archrival Kim Tae-chung's party for Peace and Democracy [PPD] motioned for the invocation of the parliamentary rights, as stipulated in the Constitution but never effectuated as yet.

The PPD, however, will take issue with the "typical immoral incident" of the incumbent government during standing committee sessions rather than sabotage the House panels.

Yet it excluded the Judiciary Committee from the seven sessions which it plans to attend in an effort to interrupt the review of a DJP-proposed bill on the treatment of former heads of state, particularly outgoing President Chon Tu-hwan.

Oddly enough, both the RDP and the PPD joined hands with each other in presenting separate resolutions in the names of 51 RDP and 28 PPD member parliamentarians, calling for the formation of a special probe squad.

The resolutions urged the Assembly to organize a combined ad hoc body with the same number of members from the ruling and the opposition camps to drown any "lingering suspicions."

Terming the torture-death of collegian Pak Chong-chol as an "inhumane incident, engineered by the government authorities, and seldom found in a civilized society, they emphasized the urgent necessity to relieve the general public of further suspicion.

In the meantime, the government party accused the RDP of neglecting the "pressing need" to tackle various pending issues including the revision of the Parliamentary Elections Law.

DJP spokesman Yi Min-sop said in a statement, "The RDP should no longer capitalize on the Pak case for the sake of party interests in the face of the upcoming parliamentary elections."

Kim Tae-chung Attacks RDP Constituency Plan
SK210137 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
21 Jan 88 p 2

[Text] Kim Tae-chung, president of the Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD], yesterday attacked the Reunification Democratic Party for its formula of a medium constituency system regarding the coming National Assembly election.

"The RDP is cooperating with the ruling party to permanently remain the first party," said Kim. The PPD is insisting on a small constituency system, while the RDP proposes that two to four lawmakers be picked in each constituency.

Meanwhile, PPD spokesman An Tong-son rejected RDP leader Kim Yong-sam's suggestion for a meeting between the two Kims to discuss the merger of the two parties.

Instead, An proposed a three-way meeting involving the two Kims and leaders of out-of-parliament groups.

He also rebuffed the RDP's proposal that the PPD be disbanded and its lawmakers return to the RDP.

The PPD was inaugurated last December when Kim Tae-chung and his deputies bolted from the Kim Yong-sam-led RDP.

Kim Tae-chung Considering PPD Convention
SK210909 Seoul YONHAP in English
0856 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 21 (YONHAP)—Kim Tae-chung, president of the opposition Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD], is considering a plan to convene a national party convention early next month in a bid to re-establish the future direction of the party and seek its unity, a source close to the opposition leader said Thursday.

The convention will follow Kim's recruiting of a number of people outside the political system as party members with the work expected to be completed by the end of this month, the source added. Kim has strong support among political dissidents.

Kim's plan for the party convention, during which PPD delegates are expected to determine whether Kim should stay in the party leadership, follows a statement issued Wednesday by five ranking PPD lawmakers calling for a merger of the opposition camps. PPD Vice President Yang Sun-chik was among the five lawmakers who said

they would either leave the party, join another opposition party or retire from politics unless there is some possibility of a unified opposition.

It is understood that Kim Tae-chung is willing to take a back seat if his party delegates at the national convention desire for him to step aside, the source said, adding that the PPD president appears to have no intention of running for a seat in the general elections. The opposition parties maintain that the elections should be held in March or April while the ruling camp favors February.

Kim Tae-chung, who garnered 27 percent of the vote in the presidential election last December, placed third behind rival opposition candidate Kim Yong-sam, president of the Reunification Democratic Party, who won 28 percent. The two Kims faced sharp criticism after the Dec. 16 presidential election for splitting the opposition vote against No Tae-u of the ruling party who won the election with 37 percent of the vote.

The source also referred to the possibility that the projected meeting of party delegates will discuss the issue of reunifying the opposition camps, a move currently being sought by a group of PPD lawmakers. Besides the five, a committee for the promotion of the unified opposition has also been formed by some PPD lawmakers.

The source added, however, that the dominant view among PPD members is that the party needs to be strengthened and streamlined by allowing dissidents to join the party so that it will be fully prepared for the parliamentary elections.

Meanwhile, high-level PPD officials reportedly plan to persuade the five lawmakers who are calling for efforts to unify the opposition parties not to bolt from the party.

DJP To Screen Candidates for Elections
SK210121 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
21 Jan 88 p 20

[Text] The ruling Democratic Justice Party is considering starting a review of its candidates for the coming parliamentary elections from next week.

Party chairman Chae Mun-sik indicated yesterday that his party will start nomination works soon, without regard to the ongoing negotiations on the National Assembly Election Law.

He said, "The work of selecting DJP candidates for the election shouldn't be delayed indefinitely."

The DJP originally had planned to choose its candidates for the 13th term Assembly after negotiations have been finished on revising the Assembly Election Law.

However, the negotiations have made little progress so far because of the conflicting interests among the rival political parties.

The ruling DJP accepted open applications for the candidacy early this month.

Meanwhile, Chae remarked that a review commission will be made up of people "who are well qualified in every respect."

Home Affairs Ministry Gives New Year's Policy
SK210133 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
21 Jan 88 p 2

[Text] The Ministry of Home Affairs yesterday announced it intends to implement local self-government in cities, counties and wards during the first half of this year and will delegate much of its administrative power to the local governments.

The ministry also said it plans to set up a 13,000-member Olympic security corps in April to protect for Olympic-related installations.

In a briefing to President Chon Tu-hwan, Minister Yi Sang-hui said his agency will organize a nationwide campaign for street order and will make streets and roads clean in anticipation of an influx of foreigners during the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

The ministry will also push ahead with plans to implement local self-government in basic administrative units by June this year, Yi said.

But the action will be delayed, probably until after the Olympics, if parliamentary elections are held in late March of April, a ministry spokesman said.

Currently, the ruling party wants to conduct national Assembly elections next month, while the opposition insists they be held in April.

Earlier, the ruling Democratic Justice Party had said elections to form local councils would be held in 236 areas during the first half of this year.

In preparation for the implementation of local autonomy, Minister Yi said administrative power in 550 categories will be delegated to local agencies by the central government.

A new tax may be created to finance ward-level councils.

As to the Olympics Games, the ministry said an Olympic security corps of 13,000 policemen will be set up April 1.

The corps will guard some 280 Olympic-related facilities, including 12 competition sites, athletes and press villages and tourist hotels.

The ministry also announced plans to speed up efforts to transform the semi-official Saemaul (New Community) Movement into a purely civic organization in the interests of rural inhabitants.

The far the movement has heavily relied on financial assistance from the government.

The ministry said that in keeping with the democratization of the nation it will take steps to improve the rights of criminals and abolish police abuse.

National police have been heavily criticized for numerous abuses of the rights of suspects in recent months. The top police agency, national Police Headquarters, comes under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Other highlights of the ministry's policy for the new year follow:

—Motorists will be obliged to wear seat belts on all roads. Currently, seat belts are required only on expressways and car-only roads.

—Taejon City will be placed under the central government, instead of the Chungchongnam-do government.

Chon Orders Crackdown on Stockpiling Goods

SK210243 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
21 Jan 88 p 2

[Text] President Chon Tu-hwan yesterday instructed the Home Ministry to launch a crackdown on the cornering of goods and production of substandard food, liable to be prevalent around the Lunar New Year holiday season.

The President also told the Home Ministry officials to be more faithful in conducting their duties for the orderly change of government and the successful staging of the September Olympics.

While receiving a joint briefing on this year's policy business programs from the Ministry of Home Affairs and Education at Chongwadae, President Chon stressed that all ministries should further strengthen cooperation among them so as to ensure the smooth transition of government, scheduled for next month.

Government Seeks Support Measures for Farmers

SK220247 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
22 Jan 88 p 1

[Text] The government is seeking measures to support domestic livestock and tobacco farmers against probable damages resulting from the wider opening of local markets to U.S. beef and cigarettes.

A government source said yesterday that the government will buy all the beef cattle farmers hope to sell if prices fall due to the import of U.S. beef and keep the price at the level prior to import liberalization.

Now beef cattle is priced at 1,080,000 won per 400-kilogram head.

Fifty billion won will be initially put aside for a cattle purchase fund from the livestock promotion fund.

The government will collect profits from the importation of beef and taxes on the export of automobiles, electronic goods and other manufactured goods mainly sold on U.S. markets as additional fund to compensate for the damages to livestock and tobacco farmers.

Value-added tax imposed on importation of feed grains will be abolished to help livestock farmers save feeding costs and the government will pour more budget into the formation of grassland.

Tobacco farmers will be encouraged to convert from tobacco farming to other crops, providing loans carrying low interest rates to those who make the change.

The Korean Monopoly Corp. will actively seek the exportation of tobacco leaves to keep the purchase volume of leaves from farmers to the current level even if sales of imported cigarettes increase.

Decision To Abolish Artistic Censorship Laws

SK210223 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
21 Jan 88 p 2

[Text] The government and the ruling Democratic Justice Party yesterday decided to do away with the censorship on scenarios of performing arts.

The decision was made at a policy consultation meeting between the administration and the DJP held at the party headquarters, with Culture-Information Minister Yi Wung-Hui attending.

To this end, they will abolish the current laws governing performance arts, filming and disc production during the National Assembly session.

The laws will be replaced by new statutes.

During the meeting, they agreed to positively consider lifting the ban on the works of writers who were abducted to North Korea during the Korean War.

The government has recently released poems by Chong Chi-yong from the three decade-old ban.

Cambodia

Hun Sen-Sihanouk Second Round of Talks End

Sihanouk Proposes Interim Government

OW220833 Tokyo KYODO in English 0826 GMT
22 Jan 88

[Text] Paris, Jan. 21 KYODO—Kampuchean resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk proposed Thursday to form an interim coalition government with Phnom Penh to end nine years of civil war in the second round of talks with Prime Minister Hun Sen of the Vietnam-backed government in Phnom Penh.

For his part, Hun Sen set forth a new timetable for withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea within 24 months after a political agreement is reached instead of initially proposed 30 months.

The two leaders promised to consider new proposals made by both sides until their next meeting to be held in North Korean capital of Pyongyang in April.

The proposals were revealed after two-day talks held in the Paris suburb of Saint Germain-en-Laye.

According to sources close to Hun Sen, Sihanouk expressed his readiness to form an interim government with Vietnam-installed Phnom Penh regime if a definite timetable for early withdrawal of the estimated 140,000 Vietnamese troops in Kampuchea is presented.

Sihanouk, however, demanded the dissolution of the Heng Samrin government as a precondition for a possible coalition government, sources said.

This was the first time that Sihanouk, head of a three-party resistance movement, hinted his separate move from the Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge and followers of the noncommunist Son Sann.

Hun Sen rejected dissolution of the Heng Samrin government but promised he will give his answer to the proposal for the coalition government at the next talks.

Meanwhile, Hun Sen proposed a new 24-month timetable for withdrawal of Vietnamese troops in three stages from Kampuchea on condition that the Khmer Rouge be excluded from the three-party resistance coalition, according to an aide close to Sihanouk.

Hun Sen previously suggested a 30-month time frame for withdrawal.

Sihanouk promised to think over Hun Sen's plan for withdrawal of Vietnamese troops, saying it was difficult to exclude Khmer Rouge from his coalition, the aide said.

The Khmer Rouge, the largest group of the three-party coalition, is responsible for a three-year reign of terror in Kampuchea, which led to the Vietnamese military intrusion in December 1978.

The latest Sihanouk-Hun Sen talks followed three days of discussions held in Paris in December.

Sihanouk plans to leave Paris for talks with Chinese leaders in Beijing next week.

Hun Sen, leaving here in a few days, will meet with Soviet and Vietnamese leaders in Moscow and Hanoi, respectively, on his way home to Phnom Penh.

Future of Khmer Rouge Discussed

PM221110 Paris LE MONDE in French
22 Jan 88 p 5

[Jean-Claude Pomonti report: "Prince Sihanouk Proposes to Hun Sen the Formation of a Government Without the Khmer Rouge"]

[Text] Prince Sihanouk and Phnom Penh Prime Minister Hun Sen had their second and final day of talks on Thursday, 21 January in Henri IV lodge in Saint-Germain-en-Laye. They made plans to meet again in North Korea in April. At Prince Sihanouk's suggestion, more sessions are planned later in France and then in India.

Who will rid Cambodia of the Khmer Rouge? Equipped by China, the perpetrators of the genocide still have a guerrilla force of some 30,000 men which does not hit the headlines because it cannot match up to the 100,000 Vietnamese and also because it has devoted more energy—since the start of dialogue between the prince and Phnom Penh—to political penetration than to laying ambushes.

In 8 years, the Vietnamese Army has failed to eliminate them. And there is no reason why it should succeed in doing so by 1990—the date by which Hanoi has pledged to withdraw all its troops from Cambodia. What is more, if there is a unilateral Vietnamese withdrawal without securing anything in return, the Khmer Rouge would probably make short work of the Phnom Penh army.

Mr Hun Sen virtually admitted this on Wednesday during his first meeting with Prince Sihanouk, linking the establishment of a timetable for the Vietnamese withdrawal to "the elimination of the Khmer Rouge as a military force," according to Prince Rannarit, Norodom Sihanouk's spokesman and son.

"Hun Sen has even asked my father to eliminate the Khmer Rouge. How can Prince Sihanouk be expected to succeed where 140,000 Vietnamese have failed? That is what my father told him," Prince Rannarit added. In other words, during difficult discussions that promise to

be lengthy, Prince Sihanouk and Hun Sen still primarily have to find an agreement likely to satisfy Beijing, to ensure that the Chinese stop all aid to their proteges.

Hun Sen did not put forth any new offer on Wednesday. He proposed that a political solution be followed by a Vietnamese withdrawal spread over 30 months, which is virtually the same as the timetable promised by the Vietnamese for several years, because we are now in January 1988. He called for the formation of a coalition government after elections held in the framework of the "Democratic Republic" of Cambodia [title as published]—the current Phnom Penh regime.

According to his son, Prince Sihanouk replied that he still demands the "dismantling" of that democratic republic and that he wants the formation of a "government of national unity" before elections are held. He was "categorical" on two points, Prince Rannarit emphasized. But it was at this stage in the conversation that Norodom Sihanouk produced a card which should have a considerable influence on the coming negotiations.

First, he said that if the Phnom Penh "People's Republic" is "dissolved," he "would leave" the Democratic Republic of which he is president, which is recognized by the United Nations and which groups Mr Son Sann's front and the Khmer Rouge, in addition to Sihanouk's supporters. Along the same lines, he said that he was prepared to form a two-party "provisional government" with Hun Sen if the other two factions (Son Sann and the Khmer Rouge) continue to refuse to join them. "I do not intend to ask the other two parties to participate. It is up to them to join us if they so desire," he apparently said.

This is the first time that Prince Sihanouk has clearly advocated a two-party rather than a four-party settlement. This new fact places the ball back in the Hun Sen-Vietnamese court, because it seems that Prince Sihanouk does not rule out taking the existing Phnom Penh administration as a basis for government. This proposal for a "two-party provisional government" with the task of organizing internationally monitored elections, dominated Wednesday's working session. Thursday's meeting will show whether Hun Sen already has answers. And it will show what those answers are.

Hun Sen Proposes Withdrawal Period

AU211603 Paris AFP in English 1537 GMT
21 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Saint-Germain-en-Laye, France, Jan 21 (AFP)—Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen said Thursday he had proposed the withdrawal of Vietnamese forces from his country within two years during talks here with former Cambodian monarch Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

Mr Hun Sen told reporters that on Wednesday he had first proposed a 30-month deadline, before offering early Thursday to draw up a withdrawal schedule of 24-months.

He added that his government still demanded the dismantling of the Khmer Rouge armed forces so that the Khmer people could have "solid guarantees" for their safety after the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops. [passage omitted]

Hun Sen Holds News Conference About Talks

BK220723 Hanoi VNA in English 0718 GMT
22 Jan 88

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 22—On the afternoon of Jan. 21, Chairman of the Kampuchean Council of Ministers Hun Sen held in Saint-Germain-en-Laye a press conference following his second meeting with Prince Sihanouk. Dealing with the results of the two-day talks, Chairman Hun Sen said:

"My second meeting with Prince Sihanouk has concluded. There is no communique this time but this does not mean that no progress has been made. Instead we have made big headway. We discussed concrete questions, many of which could not be settled within a few hours. We shall continue to discuss the remaining differences.

In the past two days we discussed five questions:

1. The timetable for the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea;
2. The establishment of a coalition government;
3. The future political system in Kampuchea;
4. The principles for an independent, neutral and non-aligned Kampuchea; and
5. International guarantee and control.

Of the above five questions, we have reached agreement on the 3rd, 4th and 5th which are fundamental issues, contributing to the settlement of the other pending questions namely:

A. The timetable for the troop withdrawal: At the meeting yesterday I suggested it would be effected in 30 months. This morning I reduced the time to 24 months after an agreement has been reached between the Kampuchean sides. You may ask why it would take so long. But we are concerned about the danger posed by the Khmer Rouge, so we are for the elimination of the Pol Pot military forces because only then can there be a real guarantee for the Kampuchean people after the Vietnamese withdrawal.

On the timetable of the troop withdrawal there needs more discussion.

B. On a coalition government, it can be said that the two sides agreed on the need to set up a coalition government and to have different political parties in Kampuchea. Our viewpoint is that the coalition government is to be

appointed after the general election in which all political parties will be allowed to take part. The general election will take place under international supervision.

The side of Prince Sihanouk, for its part, holds that the coalition government is to be set up before the general election. For our part, we hold that to demand the 'dismantlement' of the People's Republic of Kampuchea is not fair and reasonable. Here, there are two basic problems. Firstly, so long as the Khmer Rouge is still poised for a return to power, to 'dismantle' the People's Republic of Kampuchea will create opportunity for them to come back, to say nothing of the accompanying social unrest. Secondly, for us to 'dismantle' the P.R.K. is not different from committing suicide or letting others ride roughshod over us. In such conditions, how can we talk of a political solution which implies mutual concession from both sides. The People's Republic of Kampuchea now is controlling all the Kampuchean territory. As for the Khmer Rouge, they have not been able to gain an inch of land on our territory. Now, if we dismantle our administration and accept a coalition administration, the other side will seize on the opportunity to bring the whole of its military and political organization back to Phnom Penh. We cannot accept a situation in which we who have everything will have to relinquish everything.

We have put forward a fair and reasonable formula, that is to retain the status quo of the forces of all sides, and the armed forces of each side will stay where they are, to set up an electoral committee to organise the general election under international supervision. The national assembly issued from this election will draft a constitution of the Kampuchean state.

For our part, we shall continue considering Prince Sihanouk's ideas about a coalition government. If the other two parties refuse to take part, we shall have to see what we should do for a provisional coalition government. This issue will also be brought up for discussion in Pyongyang".

Asked about the Khmer Rouge, Chairman Hun Sen said:

"We are prepared to accept the political role of the Khmer Rouge, excluding the ringleaders of the Pol Pot clique. We are for 'dismantling' not 'abolishing' its military organization".

"To eliminate the Khmer Rouge force, there must be combined measures of all who have fears about the Pol Pot clique, and the combined forces of the people and the international community who abhor the crimes of the Pol Pot clique. It is regrettable that we have been the only one, with Vietnam's assistance to fight against the Pol Pot clique, while those who have expressed fear about Pol Pot have done nothing. If they really do not want their return, they should cooperate with us. The ironical thing is that they hate Pol Pot and they also hate us and condemn our fight against him".

Koy Buntha Sends Greeting to Lao Counterpart

*BK220216 Phnom Penh Domestic Service
in Cambodian 1200 GMT 20 Jan 88*

[Text] Comrade Koy Buntha, PRK defense minister, has sent a greetings message to Comrade General Khamtai Siphandon, LPDR defense minister, on the occasion of the 39th founding anniversary of the Lao People's Army. The message noted:

On the occasion of the 39th founding anniversary of the Lao People's Army, on behalf of cadres and combatants of the KPRAF and in my own name, I would like to extend warmest greetings and best wishes to you and, through you, to cadres and combatants of the fraternal LPA. May you enjoy good health, powerful strength, and victories in carrying out all tasks.

We warmly hail and commend all the brilliant feats and victories scored by the Lao people and army during the past 12 years of national defense and construction.

The entire KPRAF resolutely join with the Lao people and the LPA in condemning the recent barbarous acts of aggression committed by the Thai authorities against Lao territory, particularly in the Boten region.

Also on this auspicious occasion, we wish the relations of militant solidarity, special friendship, and all-round cooperation between our two armies and peoples of Cambodia and Laos to firmly strengthen, further flourish, and remain immortal forever.

May the comrade minister enjoy good health and greater victories in your noble tasks assigned by the LPRP's Fourth Congress.

Please, comrade minister, accept my highest regards.

Hun Sen Receives UNHCR Commissioner

*BK211229 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1144 GMT
21 Jan 88*

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK January 21—Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister for foreign affairs of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, received in Paris Tuesday Jean Pierre Hocke, UN high commissioner for refugees.

During the talks, the two sides dealt with the voluntary repatriation of Kampuchean refugees now living in refugee camps in Thailand.

Chairman Hun Sen informed Jean Pierre Hocke of the PRK's great concern over these Kampuchean refugees and its preparedness to receive them in an organizational and orderly manner.

The high commissioner for refugees welcomed the PRK's good-will attitude toward the settlement of the refugee issue and committed himself to extend necessary help including financial assistance for the repatriation of Kampuchean refugees from Thailand.

Chea Sim Receives Greetings From GDR Front

*BK200338 Phnom Penh Domestic Service
in Cambodian 1300 GMT 19 Jan 88*

[Text] On the ninth anniversary of the PRK's 7 January national day, Comrade Chea Sim, member of the Party Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the National Assembly and the KUFNCD National Council, received a congratulatory message from Comrade Dr Prof Lothar Kolditz, president of the GDR National Front Presidium. The message says:

Under the KPRP's leadership, in the past 9 years the Cambodian people have scored great victories in restoring national economic bases and developing a political and cultural life as well as in defending and strengthening the country.

The GDR National Front appreciates the people's efforts in implementing the party resolutions of the Fifth KPRP Congress. This implementation is in accordance with the great attention, sympathy, and efforts of the party, government, KUFNCD, and entire people inside and outside the country to unite and cooperate in achieving national reconciliation along a progressive path.

On the occasion of your country's national day, I would like to reaffirm the inseparable bonds of friendship and active solidarity of the movement of socialist people in the GDR. I am convinced that the close relations between the GDR National Front and the KUFNCD will be further strengthened based on the treaty signed in 1985

4,377 Returnees Report to Authorities

*BK201525 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1146 GMT
20 Jan 88*

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK January 20—Last year, 4,377 people, led astray by the enemy propaganda, broke with the enemy rank and reported themselves to the revolutionary authorities, bringing with them 2,956 assorted guns and a quantity of ammunition and some documents.

Among those ralliers, who came in individuals and in 290 groups from two to 37 people, nine were battalion commanders or deputy-commanders of the Pol Potists, Sonsannians or Sihanoukists, 23 company commanders or deputy-commanders, 29 platoon commanders or deputy-commanders and 16 squad leaders.

It is worthy of note that in May alone, right after the promulgation of the party's and state's policy on additional rewards for misled people who return to the revolution, 536 strays with 293 guns in hands came to the nation's fold.

Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province received the largest number of ralliers totaling 1,831 people and 1,438 guns. Follow-ups were the provinces of Battambang and Kompong Thom, which received 1,266 people with 757 guns and 807 people with 274 guns respectively.

In 1986, nearly 5,000 misled people reported themselves to the revolutionary authorities bringing along 2,683 fire arms.

Briefs

Bulgarian Delegation Arrives

Phnom Penh, 16 Jan (SPK)—A delegation of the Bulgarian Justice Ministry led by its minister Svetla Daskalova arrived in Phnom Penh on 15 January for a friendship visit in Cambodia. It was greeted upon arrival by Uk Bunchhoeun, Cambodian justice minister, and Leon Yossifov Beraha, Bulgarian ambassador to Cambodia. [Text] *[Phnom Penh SPK French 0408 GMT 16 Jan 88 BK]*

GDR Association Visits

Phnom Penh SPK January 15—A delegation of the G.D.R. Democratic Women's League (DWL) headed by Sieglinde Scheel, president of the Neubrandenbourg D.W.L. Committee, left here Thursday after its ten-day visit to Kampuchea. While here, the delegation was received by Mrs. Mean Sam-An, member of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea Central Committee and president of the Association of Revolutionary Women of Kampuchea, during which Sieglinde Scheel expressed her country's support for the P.R.K. Government's policy of the national reconciliation, and said that the meeting between Premier Hun Sen and Prince Norodom Sihanouk in Paris recently was a new step toward the political solution to the Kampuchean conflict. It also organized talks on the G.D.R. women's activities in building a developed socialist society in their country, in the provinces of Prey Veng and Kompong Speu and the city of Phnom Penh, and visited the "April 17" hospital and different cultural establishments in Phnom Penh and Ta Prum Temple in Takeo Province. [Text] *[Phnom Penh SPK in English 0433 GMT 16 Jan 88 BK]*

Dry Season Rice Cultivation

According to the Agriculture Ministry's statistics, by 7 January 1988, 42,515 hectares of dry season rice, or 26.6% of the plan, had been transplanted and broadcast. The provinces focussed on growing the high-yield IR rice strain; 17,000 hectares were planted. This year's dry season rice cultivation is similar to that of the previous

year with Kandal Province planting 8,400 hectares and Takeo Province 9,100 hectares while Pursat and Kampot Provinces had planted only about 20 hectares. By early January, 460 hectares of corn, 1,600 hectares of cassava and potato, 2,300 hectares of vegetables, 2,340 hectares of beans, and 450 hectares of tobacco had been planted throughout the country. [Text] *[Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 15 Jan 88 BK]*

Returnees in Kompong Chhnang

In the month of December, Kompong Chhnang Province received 29 misled persons who deserted the Pol Pot enemy ranks to be with society and the revolution. These returnees brought along 28 assorted weapons, a field radio, a radio set, and some war materiel. [Excerpt] *[Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 12 Jan 88 BK]*

Indonesia

PNG Premier Comments Before Departure

BK220401 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0321 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] Jakarta, Jan 21 (ANTARA/OANA)—Papua New Guinean Prime Minister Pias Wingti said he was satisfied with his four-day visit to Indonesia as it has further strengthened the economic and political ties between the two countries.

Speaking to the press at the Sukarno-Hatta airport here shortly before leaving the country Thursday [21 January] afternoon, Wingti said his talks with President Suharto and several cabinet ministers had been very fruitful so that the cooperation between the two countries would grow closer in the years to come.

He also hoped for an increase in the exchange of visits by the authorities of the two countries, and a high official who will come to Jakarta soon might be the PNG Armed Forces commander.

The Indonesian Government has given its guarantee not to harm other countries, and on the other hand expressed resolve to create a stable Southeast Asia and the Pacific as stability constituted an important condition for the promotion of the life of peoples.

Indonesia and the other member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations were determined to make Southeast Asia and the Pacific a region of peace, "and that remains in our thoughts," Wingti said.

The other countries that served the purpose of a yardstick for measuring the success of PNG's foreign policy included Australia, Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands, he said.

Referring to the problem of bordercrossers, Wingti said in 1984 the problem had seriously affected the relations between the two countries, but since the signing of the Agreement on Mutual Respect, Amity and Peace in October 1986, the tension considerably eased and normal relations were restored.

Wingti, flanked by Indonesian Minister of Tourism, Post and Telecommunication Akhmad Tahir, told the press further that in cooperation in tourism, the two sides will be studying possibilities of direct air links between Port Moresby and Jakarta and between the PNG capital and Denpasar.

In their meeting they also touched upon the possibility of the PNG using the Palapa satellite.

The PNG guests arrived here Monday and had visited a number of regions in the country to see industrial and agricultural centres.

Second Sihanouk-Hun Sen Meeting Previewed

BK201430 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 1200 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] Saint-Germain-en-Laye, a densely populated area located west of Paris has been selected by CGDK President Prince Norodom Sihanouk as the venue for his talks with the Phnom Penh government's Prime Minister Hun Sen today as a follow-up to their meeting early last month at Fere-en-Tardenois, an area north of the French capital.

During the meeting at Fere-en-Tardenois, the two leaders issued a statement stressing the need to find a political solution to the Cambodian problem without mentioning a timetable for the withdrawal of all Vietnamese troops from Cambodia. For this reason, the outcome of the first meeting was unacceptable to Sihanouk's coalition partners, namely the Khieu Samphan-led Khmer Rouge and the Son Sann-led KPNLF. The two partners will endorse the outcome of Sihanouk-Hun Sen meeting only if a withdrawal timetable is explicitly mentioned.

The outcome of the first meeting also explains why the PRC has rejected the Soviet Union's call for a summit meeting between the two communist giants. As is known, the Soviet Union's call for the summit meeting was made by CPSU Secretary General Mikhail Gorbachev in an interview last 11 January with LIAOWANG, a PRC weekly magazine. The PRC rejected the Soviet call because Gorbachev's comments during the interview put aside Beijing's three preconditions for improving of bilateral relations: namely the withdrawal of Soviet troops from the PRC border, which stretches from

Central Asia to the Eastern Sea coast; the withdrawal from Afghanistan, which the Soviet Union has occupied since 1979; and the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Cambodia.

Beijing's rejection of the Soviet call can also be interpreted as its rejection of the outcome of the first meeting between Sihanouk and Hun Sen at Fere-en-Tardenois. Therefore, the second meeting at Saint-Germain-en-Laye will also discuss the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Cambodia. Observers in Paris believe that Hun Sen, who arrived in Paris from Moscow last Sunday, may be ready to discuss the withdrawal timetable as long as the Phnom Penh government is given an assurance that the Vietnamese troop withdrawal will not be used by the Khmer Rouge forces to strengthen their position.

Space Agency To Launch Two Rockets in March

*BK200333 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0303 GMT
20 Jan 88*

[Text] Jakarta, January 19 (ANTARA/OANA)—Indonesia will launch two-story rockets in March after it successfully put into orbit its experimental rocket last November, sources at the National Space and Aviation Agency (Lapan) said Tuesday.

The launching of the two rockets coded RX-250/250 and RX-250/150 is a follow up of November's launching of the RX-250 rocket and will be an early step for another launching of RX-350 and RX-500 rockets, the sources added.

Describing the launching of the two rockets as a gift for Lapan's 24th anniversary, the sources said: "If we are able to launch the RX-500, we will put our own satellite into a low orbit, notably around 350km above the earth."

The launching of the RX-250 last November is meant to test its [word indistinct] and stability, and was also an engineering test of the payload made by the Lapan especially on the tracking, telemetry and command system at the payload.

The sources said the more varied the versions of rockets developed by the Lapan, the more alternatives it will give to choose the most ideal one for investigation.

Laos

More Thai Attacks Reported in Boten 21 January

*BK220458 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao
0430 GMT 22 Jan 88*

[Text] According to a local news report from Boten District, from 1500 to 1800 yesterday [21 January], the Thai ultrarightist reactionary troops continuously fired at various positions of the regional armed forces of Boten

District, Sayaboury Province, with 105-mm and 155-mm artillery. Further reports also said that the Thai ultrarightist reactionary group has deployed some five battalions of rangers together with helicopters in preparation for launching more attacks against the positions of our Lao regional armed forces.

This demonstrates that they have not yet given up the implementation of the plot to attack and annex our Lao territory.

Follow-up Reports

*BK221255 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao
1200 GMT 22 Jan 88*

[Text] Additional reports from Boten District said that beginning at 1800 yesterday, the Thai ultrarightist reactionaries deployed their troops to launch four attacks against the positions of Lao regional forces at various hills in Na Banoi canton, Boten District, Sayaboury Province. But they met with stiff resistance and were forced to retreat after suffering heavy casualties. On the same day, they also fired more than a hundred 130-mm, 105-mm, 155-mm artillery shells and 106-mm mortar shells at the area west of Na Banoi canton. The reports went on to say that yesterday the Thai side sent aircraft to fly four reconnaissance sorties some 4 km deep into Lao airspace over Ban Mai, Ban Kang, and Ban Savang villages.

Bolikhamsai Rally Denounces Thai 'Attacks'

BK220418 [Editorial Report] Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao at 1200 GMT on 20 January carries a 6-minute report read by an announcer, with portions recorded, on a mass rally "solemnly" held in Bolikhamsai Province on the morning of 18 January to "denounce the acts of the ultrarightist reactionaries in the Thai ruling circles in mobilizing troops to launch attacks to arrogantly and openly annex Lao territory in Na Banoi canton, Boten District, Sayaboury Province." The rally is attended, the announcer says, "by more than 10,000 residents of Bolikhamsai Province, comprising cadres, soldiers, policemen, students, Buddhist monks, and people."

The announcer says that "at the rally, representatives of various organizations, such as the Lao Front for National Construction, and representatives of the people, workers and laboring people, youths and students, women, officials, businessmen, monks, Overseas Chinese, and Vietnamese residents in the province took turns delivering speeches concerning acts of the Thai ultrarightist reactionaries in invading and annexing Lao territory and acts violating Laos' sovereignty and undermining time-honored Lao-Thai fraternal relations."

In his speech, (Kong-gnot Sisouvannakham), chairman of the Lao Front for National Construction of Bolikhamsai Province, notes that "the fine and safest way for both sides is not the use of force against each other, but talks."

He demands Thailand halt the use of military force and the withdrawal of its troops from Lao soil "unconditionally", and the resumption of talks with the Lao side "on the basis of the respect of each other's independence and sovereignty, equality, and sincerity" to settle the problem through peaceful means in accordance with the Lao-Thai and Thai-Lao joint statements of 1979.

Next to speak is (Somsavat Lovansai), representative of the workers and laboring people from throughout the province. In his recorded speech, after denouncing the Thai "ultrarightist reactionaries" for launching the "armed aggression" against Laos, he demands that "the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand promptly hold talks with the Lao Government without any precondition."

Also included in the report are recorded speeches by (Chetsani Khampho), representative of youths and students, (Inta), representative of women, and an unidentified senior Buddhist monk representing the Bolikhamsai provincial branch of the Lao Unified Buddhist Organization. They express determination to fight shoulder to shoulder with the people of Boten District to oppose the "aggression" of the Thai troops from the 3d Army Region. They also demand that the Thai side withdraw all troops from Lao territory in Na Banoi canton, Boten District, and turn to holding talks in Vientiane and Bangkok without delay "on the basis of equality and without any precondition".

Thailand Said Insincere in Pursuing Talks

*BK201530 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao
0000 GMT 20 Jan 88*

[Unattributed commentary: "Who Is Actually Insincere in Avoiding Negotiations?"]

[Text] To mislead the Thai and world public into thinking that black is white and right is wrong, that the occupation of Lao territory is legitimate, and that the insincerity in holding talks is justified, on 19 January the radio station of the Public Relations Department of Thailand carried an article throwing the blame on Laos by accusing it of being insincere in holding negotiations and demanding that Laos withdraw troops from the disputed area before Thailand can sit down to hold negotiations.

Who is actually insincere in holding talks?

Is it Laos that is sincere in wanting to hold talks with Thailand or vice versa?

To answer these questions, one needs to look back at the past developments to determine what is right or wrong.

In the past, Laos has always made clear its good intentions toward settling problems in Lao-Thai relations through negotiations. When the three Lao villages were

seized by the Thai forces, Laos repeatedly proposed that talks be held. However, the Thai side tried to avoid holding such talks and evaded taking responsibility for the incident.

In 1987, two rounds of talks were held. Some aspects of the outcome of the talks have just materialized. But the Lao side still sees that certain fundamental problems remain in Lao-Thai relations, such as the cessation of the aggression against, and of the use of force to threaten each other and the acknowledgement by the Thai side of its occupation of the three Lao villages; these still need to be resolved. However, the Thai side has tried to avoid holding talks on these issues. At present, seeing that an untoward incident in Lao-Thai relations was looming, the Lao side immediately proposed to the Thai side to hold talks to end the conflict at the beginning. However, the Thai side advanced many preconditions for holding talks. For example, it demanded that Laos withdraw troops from its own territory and that any negotiations held must not be considered as the third round of Thai-Lao talks. It also rejected the appointment of the head of the Lao delegation and proposed that a third country be used as the negotiating site. Nevertheless, they later selected Vientiane and Udon Thani as the talks sites. It accused the Lao delegation of using the talks as a forum to attack the Thai side.

While trying to avoid holding negotiations, the Thai side claimed that Thailand has taken action to which Laos should be grateful, that is, it has reduced the number of so-called strategic goods that are prohibited from being exported to Laos, purchased electricity from the Nam Ngum hydroelectric project as a gesture to help Laos, and opened border points to send Thai rice as relief aid to drought-stricken Lao people. More serious still, it has even slandered a third country without any justification by accusing Vietnam of manipulating Laos and instigating rifts between Thailand and Laos. It has accused Vietnam of perpetrating all untoward incidents in Lao-Thai relations. All this is aimed at misleading public opinion on Vietnam and Laos so that it can accuse the two countries of being the perpetrators of all undesirable developments at present. All this is a slanderous accusation against the two countries. In fact, it is the Thai side that is not sincere in holding talks. The Thai side claims that it is always a good guy.

The truth is that since Sitthi Sawetsila became Thai foreign minister, he has never paid any attention to solving the problems in Thai-Lao relations, despite the fact that international conditions are extremely favorable and that conditions in Lao-Thai relations are very conducive. The Thai people of all strata aspire to coexist peacefully with the Lao people. They support the settlement of any problems between the two brotherly countries through negotiation, not through the use of force. Any misunderstandings between the two sides must be thoroughly discussed so that they can be mutually settled. Sitthi Sawetsila deserves the criticism of a prominent Thai politician who said that the Thai foreign

minister is a conservative person who only says no to everything and that such a minister should quit. Sitthi Sawetsila and the Thai ultrarightist reactionary circles fully realize that the occupation of the Lao territory at Na Banoi canton, Boten District, Sayaboury Province, by Thai troops and the Thai side's demand for Laos to withdraw troops from its own territory are unacceptable. But why has the Thai side repeated such a demand over and over? This is the nature of a wrongdoer who refuses to admit his own wrongdoing but only wants to impose its chauvinistic will on a small country. It threatens Laos to concede its own territory which has been clearly delineated by the French-Siamese treaty.

Even Laos, a small country with only 3 million people, fully understands the current trend in the world and fully realizes the adverse effects of a war. But how come the Thai side has accused Laos of being a warmonger and refusing to peacefully coexist with Thailand? Only Sitthi Sawetsila and his colleagues are warmongering. The question of whether the negotiation can take place does not depend on the Lao side. It depends on the Thai side. The ball is in Sitthi Sawetsila's court. The decision to kick that ball or not must be decided by him. If he does not kick but holds on to it, negotiations between Laos and Thailand will undoubtedly not materialize.

Paper Alleges Government Sanctions Drug Trade
BK220242 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
22 Jan 88 p 4

[Article by Alan Dawson: "The Kaysone Connection"]

[Text] Laos has given sanctuary to heroin warlord Khun Sa as part of an increasing programme of narcotics sales which anti-drug authorities are virtually helpless to prevent.

Government-supported growing and marketing of illicit drugs and marijuana have become a major source of income to the struggling communist nation, according to officials charged with shutting off the supply.

"Marijuana is the leading Lao export to the United States," said one official. He estimated the annual crop as "thousands of tons" and said acreage is growing quickly.

Khun Sa, expelled from Thailand and under pressure from the Burmese army, has set up between 10 and 12 heroin refineries in the Laotian province of Sayaboury. The refineries, and the drug kingpin himself, are under government protection.

Officials interviewed by the POST also claimed they have evidence that Vietnam is involved in the constantly increasing drug exports by Laos.

The newest smuggling route, according to these officials, sends heroin to Da Nang through Kampuchea, and from there to small islands off Hong Kong. After further refining, it then is moved to the West.

Although some diplomats continue to give the Laotian regime the benefit of the doubt, informed anti-narcotics and intelligence sources say there is little question that the drug peddling is a policy of the government and communist party, both headed by Kaysone Phomvihane.

As early as 1978, for example, narcotics informants confirmed the presence of a heroin refinery in the compound reserved for high-ranking Party members—including Kaysone—near Vientiane.

The Laotian drug-dealing is commonly called "the Kaysone Connection" by many anti-narcotics officials.

There are two, largely separate, facets of the dealing, officials believe. The first, established by 1977, concerns opium and heroin. The second encourages the growing and illegal sales of marijuana, and is a more recent phenomenon.

In both cases, profits are enormous. A kilogramme of marijuana purchased by the Laotian government from a farmer costs 250 baht, but brings 25,000 baht in the United States. Heroin profits are even more stunning.

The drug-dealing is officially denied by Laos.

But even the normally placid United Nations begs to differ. The 1986 report of the UN's International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) said it could get virtually no information from Laos, but said baldly that "illicit opium production has taken place" in the country.

As late as the early 1980s, opium production in Laos was around 50 tons. But last year's crop was estimated at 200 tons.

Opium growing was legalised in a change of communist policy in Laos following the 1975 takeover. The government claims it sells and barter opium legally for use in pharmaceuticals. But it has refused to provide any figures on the trade.

Thai officials have said openly that Laos is involved in the Marijuana trade. A designated government committee provides seed and fertiliser to farmers to grow the crop, and then buys the output at prices far higher than peasants could get for rice.

Laotian officials have defended the marijuana fields on the basis that many citizens use the crops as a soup ingredient.

"But three million Laotians couldn't eat enough soup in 20 years to use up last year's crop," said a Bangkok-based anti-drug official.

Laos grows "some of the best marijuana in the world," with plants reaching a height of five metres, said another official. The provinces of Vientiane, Khammouane, Savannakhet and Sayaboury have been pinpointed as the major sources of the crop. All border Thailand. This is significant because much of the Laotian government smuggling is "laundered" through this country, with Thailand then taking the brunt of the blame as a source for the illicit trade.

At least three major shipments of marijuana seized in Thailand in the past year were traced back to Laos, anti-narcotics sources said.

"We have a hell of a hard time shutting down drug-running in a country like Thailand, where it's against the law and the government opposes it," said a frustrated drug enforcement agent. [sentence as published]

"What do you think we can do to shut off drugs that are being moved as a matter of government policy?"

The policy, according to one investigator, stems from a communist party Central Committee decision known as "Resolution Number Seven." Although this document has not been seen outside the party, it is believed to sanction illicit drug sales as an economic necessity.

Laos is one of the world's 10 poorest countries, and has few legal exports.

The new alliance with Khun Sa appears to ensure a continuing flow of heroin out of the Golden Triangle despite all efforts of Thailand and Burma to shut it down.

The Burmese-Chinese warlord, also known as Chang Chi-fu, controls an estimated 75 per cent of the manufacture and sales of heroin from the area.

The Laos sanctuary also means that he does not have to spend resources in battling Thai and Burmese military and police efforts to close down his operation. With a free hand, he can concentrate on producing more heroin for export to Thailand and abroad.

Phoun Sipaseut Receives New UN Representative
BK201145 Vientiane KPL in English
0902 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] Vientiane, January 20 (KPL)—Carrol Carter Long, the new residential representative of UNDP [United Nations Development Program] to Laos, yesterday presented credentials to Phoun Sipaseut, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and foreign minister of the Lao PDR.

The discussion between the host and his guest centered on the good cooperation between this international organization and the Lao Government, which the Lao leader highly valued.

Greetings, Activities Honoring LPA Day

Military Attaches' Greetings

BK210950 Vientiane KPL in English 0910 GMT
21 Jan 88

[Text] Vientiane, January 21 (KPL)—Military attaches of socialist countries in Laos, on the occasion of the Lao People's Army's 39th founding day (Jan. 20, 1949), yesterday paid a call on and extended best wishes to the Lao People's Army leaders.

The well-wishers included the military attaches of Vietnam, Kampuchea, the Soviet Union, Cuba, the GDR, Bulgaria, and Hungary. The Indian military attache here was also present on the occasion.

The military attaches were received by Lieutenant-General Osakan Thammatheva, member of the LPRP CC, deputy-defence minister and head of the LPA's General Political Department.

Nguyen Dinh Chan, Vietnamese military attache, acting on behalf of the group, delivered a speech hailing the LPA's achievements in the past and present struggle against the aggressors. He also wished the LPA new and greater successes in its national defence and building tasks.

In return, Lt-Gen O. Thammatheva thanked the well-wishers. He also briefed them about the situation of Thai aggression against Lao Boten District, Sayaboury Province.

Senior Officers Lay Wreaths

BK210954 Vientiane KPL in English
0914 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Vientiane, January 21 (KPL)—Senior officers representing the Lao People's Army led by Lieutenant-General Choummali Sai-gnason, alternate Politburo member, secretary of the LPRP CC, and first deputy-defence minister, yesterday laid a wreath at the fallen revolutionary combatant memorial in commemoration of the LPA's 39th founding day (January 20, 1949-88).

The representatives of mass organizations of the trade unions, women's union and the youth union, then took turns to lay wreaths at the memorial to pay homage to the fallen revolutionaries.

Also on the same occasion, Major General Bounheng Bansalit, deputy-head of the LPA General Political Department, headed another team of senior army officers to pay a visit to the military hospital No 103. Gifts were presented to patients hospitalized there.

In the afternoon of the same day, sport events were held at the LPA's stadium at km-5. Particularly, football, volleyball and sepak takraw [a game played with rattan ball] games drew a large crowd of spectators.

Earlier, in anticipation of the LPA day, lectures recalling the heroic tradition of the LPA were organized at different state institutions and mass-organizations. The lecturers pointed out the ever growing strength of the LPA, its involvement in the national defence and construction.

SRV's Le Duc Anh Sends Greetings

*BK210945 Vientiane KPL in English
0906 GMT 21 Jan 88*

[Text] Vientiane, Jan 21 (KPL)—Gen Khamtai Siphandon, minister of defence, on January 20 received a telegramme of greetings from his Vietnamese counterpart Le Duc Anh. The telegramme was sent on the occasion of the 39th anniversary of the founding of the Lao People's Army.

Having expressed his militant solidarity and best wishes to the Lao minister and the army rank-and-file, the telegramme says:

"In the course of the past 39 years, the Lao People's Army and the people in the country scored tremendous victories in fighting against all aggressions until the task of national democratic revolution was eventually fulfilled. At present, they are endeavouring themselves in leading the nation to a new era of peace, independence, unity and socialism.

"The LPA is doing its best to build and equip itself to become an all-round strong force, and all along it has continually raised its militant force and vigilance. Backed by the Lao people, the LPA stands firm to safeguard the revolutionary fruits so as to build Laos into a prosperous and beautiful country. In itself, this has positively contributed to the defense of peace in South-east Asia and the world over."

Referring to the Laos-Vietnam relations, the telegramme writes that the armies and peoples of the two countries, in the past decades, stood shoulder-to-shoulder to fight against the common enemies, and in so doing they strengthened even more the sanctity of the militant solidarity between the two countries.

"On this occasion, I would like to wish the LPA and the fraternal Lao people more successes in building and safeguarding the country as well as in materialising the resolution of the 4th party congress.

"May the special militant solidarity, and friendship as well as comprehensive cooperation between our armies and peoples be further developed and strengthened."

Choummali Sai-gnason Address

*BK220431 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao
0430 GMT 21 Jan 88*

[Text] On the occasion of the celebration of the LPA's 39th founding anniversary on the afternoon of 20 January, Comrade Major General Choummali Sai-gnason,

alternate Political Bureau member, LPRP Central Committee secretary, and first deputy minister of national defense, had the honor of addressing more than 200 military officers from the National Defense Ministry. In his address, Comrade Maj Gen Choummali Sai-gnason pointed to the heroic tradition of the LPA in the past national salvation struggle to achieve complete independence from the imperialist aggressors as well as in the present period of struggle to defend the country and build socialism.

He said: During the past 39 years of struggle, our Army has been developed daily and matured and become ever stronger. Many combat units have been equipped with modern weapons. They have served as the firm pillars of our beloved country.

Comrade Maj Gen Choummali Sai-gnason also discussed the present situation in Boten District, Sayaboury Province, in which the Thai ultrarightist reactionaries have mobilized military forces to launch nibbling attacks to annex Lao territory. He said the attacks—launched in coordination with artillery and bombings by jets, and with the use of chemical weapons as well as weapons containing phosphorus—have shown the brutality and inhumanity of the Thai ultrarightist reactionaries. He also called on all officers to heighten vigilance and be prepared to quickly counter and defeat all enemy acts.

Editorial Praises LPA

*BK211450 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao
0430 GMT 20 Jan 88*

["Editorial": "The Army That Deserves the Party's Trust and the People's Affection and Confidence"]

[Text] We are marking the 39th anniversary of the 20 January founding anniversary of the LPA at a time when our entire party, Army, and people are striving to implement and translate into reality the resolutions adopted at the fourth party congress, such as the five economic and national defense construction programs outlined by the party. Numerous successes have been scored in this direction thus far. Our Army has gradually developed along a modern pattern set forth by the party. Its combat capability has been further heightened. It fights gallantly and has scored numerous glorious victories in fulfilling the cause of national defense and socialist construction.

Developing from small armed units and carrying out mass revolutionary movement under the party's leadership, our Army united with the entire masses to carry out the protracted revolutionary struggle for nearly 30 years to destroy the administrative yoke of the French colonialists and the U.S. imperialists. It eventually scored complete victory for the cause of national liberation and national unification.

In carrying out the struggle to safeguard the revolutionary fruits and to defend our socialist nation, our army has united with the people of all tribes to smash all

notorious schemes of the imperialists, the international reactionaries, and their henchmen against our new regime. In the past 39 years, our Army has consistently displayed itself to be the revolutionary army which has commanded the trust of the party, workers, and the laboring people. Our entire Army has firmly adhered to the motto: be faithful to the nation, wholeheartedly serve the people, further enhance the true revolutionary nature and tradition, fulfill all obligations, and act as the firm pillar for national defense work among the entire masses and for the boundless field posture of our people's war.

Entering the new period of the revolution and faced with numerous difficulties and complexities as well as heavy tasks entrusted by our party, our army has never ceased to further enhance the true revolutionary nature and traditions of winning over the trust of the party and people. It has highly and unconditionally upheld the spirit of fighting for and serving the people, thus scoring numerous glorious achievements. It always acts as an exemplary model in following a civilized style of life and in maintaining strict discipline.

Commanding the party's trust and the people's affection and confidence, our Army has fully realized that all achievements scored by the army during the past two resistance periods as well as during the period of defending our socialist country at present are closely linked to the party's leadership and the people's support and nurture, to the achievements in the national construction, and to the consolidated strength of the entire proletariat dictatorship.

With a sense of trying to effect new changes and correctly evaluating the decisions of the fourth party congress, even though it has made numerous appropriate contributions to the great victories of the common revolutionary cause, our army must still continue to uphold the spirit of self-criticism and mutual criticism, to remain honest and bold in analyzing its own weak points and shortcomings which must be overcome, and to train itself to nurture the qualifications expected of a model modern revolutionary army. In particular, cadres in charge of command duties at each level must remain alert to pinpoint any elements who fail to strictly obey discipline and to maintain sound internal unity and unity between the Army and people. They must be diligent in carrying out this responsibility in any units where the living conditions of combatants are not yet properly taken care of. It is the responsibility of all cadres to redress such shortcomings.

To translate into reality the decisions of the fourth party congress, our people's armed forces must consistently uphold the combat strength and maintain a high level of combat preparedness to securely defend our beloved country, to maintain political tranquillity in the country, and to make appropriate contributions to the socialist construction, thus fulfilling all tasks. First of all, each unit must be strong politically, maintain a high level of

combat perseverance, have strict discipline and regulations, and maintain close internal unity and unity between the Army and people. Each unit must be well-versed in military affairs, skillful in technology, and tactically knowledgeable. First of all, cadres must possess sound capabilities in command and management aspects. Each unit must be peaceful and must strive to gradually improve its own material and moral life.

A resolution adopted at the fourth party congress said: Our Army must be further built and strengthened on a firm socioeconomic basis. That is the close coordination between the economy and national defense and vice versa. That is the (?duty) of the army in the rear to ensure consistent support to the front so that the Army's requirements will be promptly met.

The entire masses and army must carry out together the tasks of national defense and construction. This is the coordination and enhancement of the traditions of national defense simultaneously with the national construction. It vividly displays the coordination between the economy and national defense and vice versa. Each service and each locality must not take this task lightly in carrying out its own economic, cultural, and social development work. It must pay attention to building the national defense work, building the people's armed forces, consolidating the rear of the Army, building the field posture of the people's war, and seriously pursuing the policy of providing favorable conditions for the front.

The people's armed forces must never at any time relax their sense of revolutionary vigilance. They must maintain a high level of combat readiness and must fight well. At the same time, they must be prepared to actively participate in economic, cultural, and social construction. They must be diligent in engaging in production work so as to contribute to improving their own living conditions.

Being the reliable tools of the party and the country and the main forces for the people's war and national defense work among the entire masses, let our army uphold its glorious traditions and nature and further enhance its aggressive role in carrying out all tasks. The most significant of all at present is to appreciate and to exert efforts in implementing the resolutions adopted at the fourth party congress. Our army must join hands with the people to resolutely build the new revolutionary movement—aimed at triumphantly fulfilling the second 5-year state plan from now to the year 1990 during which many historical anniversaries will be marked, including the 40th anniversary of our army's founding—so as to score great achievements for the revolution and our beloved country.

Rice Production Falls Short of Target

*BK201139 Vientiane KPL in English 0907 GMT
20 Jan 88*

[Text] Vientiane, January 20 (KPL)—The average rice yield in the country this year only reached 79.8 percent

of the annual production target of 1.2 million [metric] tons, according to the initial statistics of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Irrigation and Cooperatives.

According to the ministry's initial data, the country will, this year, face a shortage of about 112,682 tons of paddy on the basis of the calculation that each citizen needs 350 kg of paddy. It has been disclosed that eleven provinces are not self-sufficient in rice production. Luang Prabang, for example, is estimated to have rice enough for 6 months.

The decrease in rice production was due to devastating drought last year.

To ease rice shortage, the ministry has launched successive campaigns for an extensive cultivation of short-term rice and subsidiary crops. Irrigation network is being repaired and upgraded by both local and central efforts.

Briefs

Trade Delegation to Hanoi

Vientiane, January 20 (KPL)—A delegation of the Trade Ministry led by its Deputy Minister Chanpheng Bounnaphon left here yesterday for Vietnam. The delegation is to attend, as observer, the 20th Conference of the CMEA [CEMA] scheduled to be held in Hanoi from January 20 to 25. [Text] [*Vientiane KPL in English 0911 GMT 20 Jan 88 BK*]

French Drought Relief Aid

Vientiane, January 22 (KPL)—The French Agency for Cultural and Technical Cooperation granted a 500,000 franc-aid to the Lao Government. The relief is provided to lessen last year's effects of drought-stricken northern provinces of Laos. In this connection, Khamphai Boupha, first deputy-foreign minister, sent a message of thanks to the French co-operation agency. [Text] [*Vientiane KPL in English 0909 GMT 22 Jan 88 BK*]

Red Army Day Function

Vientiane, January 22 (KPL)—A function was organized here by the Soviet military attache to mark the 70th anniversary of the founding of the Soviet Red Army. The meeting was attended by high ranking officials from the Ministry of National Defence. Addressing the meeting, a representative of the Soviet military attache to Laos spoke of the development and courageous struggle of the Soviet Red Army and the good relations of the two countries' armies which are being constantly developed. A film on the courageous struggle of the Soviet Army and people was also screened on this occasion. [Text] [*Vientiane KPL in English 0911 GMT 22 Jan 88 BK*]

Philippines

Aquino Says Property To Fall Under Land Bill

HK220708 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0555 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] In a meeting with the board of officers of the presidential agrarian reform committee, President Aquino said that the Tarlac Development Corporation, which is in charge of the operations of Hacienda Luisita, her family property, will be placed under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program [CARP]. According to the president, if she says that only Hacienda Luisita will be covered by CARP, she may not sound very credible. The Tarlac Development Corporation has announced that it is already prepared to place the entire area of 6,100 hectares and with 7,000 farm workers under CARP. She added that the Tarlac Development Corporation's board of officers has complied with Executive Order No 229, in accordance with the requirements of the Department of Agrarian Reform for the implementation of CARP. The president explained that the entire cabinet supports the move and that the Department of Agrarian Reform is capable of successfully carrying out the program. She stressed that the administration is concerned about the welfare and future of the citizens, and that it is acting in consort. Here is the president:

[Begin Aquino recording in English] [Passage indistinct] to come under the coverage of CARP. And so today, I would like to reiterate, that the Tarlac Development Corporation, the owner of Hacienda Luisita, expresses its readiness to turn the hacienda, which has a total area of 6,100 hectares and is under cultivation by about 7,000 farm workers, under the operation of the CARP. Hacienda Luisita, will, I repeat, comply with the requirements for registration of all agricultural lands pursuant to Executive Order No 229. [end recording]

Vows Reform Success

HK220813 Hong Kong AFP in English 0801 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Manila, Jan 22 (AFP)—President Corazon Aquino announced Friday that her family's vast sugar estate would be subdivided among tenants as the nation marked the first anniversary of a massacre of 13 landless farmers.

The placing of the 6,100-hectare (15,000-acre) Hacienda Luisita under land reform was made in a surprise television broadcast hours before a protest march by survivors of the January 22, 1987 killings near the presidential palace. [passage omitted]

"I am aware that people are saying: what about Hacienda Luisita?" Mrs Aquino, who belongs to the wealthy Cojuangco clan in Tarlac Province north of here, said in her television address, reading from a prepared statement.

"I will be the first to admit that my pronouncements on land reform would sound hollow if I cannot get Luisita to come under the coverage of CARP"—the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program she declared six months ago.

An administration CARP bill is pending in Congress, whose leaders have promised to give it priority when the legislature opens Monday for the first time this year.

Mrs Aquino said the estate, which has 7,000 farm workers, will be formally registered by the family-owned Tarlac Development Corp as part of land reform, and called on other landowners to do the same. [passage omitted]

"Agrarian reform is the key to lasting peace and certain progress in our country. I am therefore appealing to all our countrymen to give the program all their support and encouragement," Mrs Aquino said in her address.

The thirst for land of their own has driven peasants to join the 23,000-strong communist New People's Army (NPA), which is spearheading a communist insurgency that began in Mrs Aquino's home region 19 years ago.

She told fellow owners to view land reform as "an opportunity for the wider partnership of all our people towards progress and peace."

Alluding to the delay in Congress passage of the CARP bill, she said "clearly, the executive is doing its part to make the dream of land, productivity, welfare and dignity for the tillers come true."

"Much has been accomplished when you consider the obstacles, but much remains to be done by this administration, and it will be done by this administration," she said. "We shall persevere and we shall succeed."

Farmers Mark 'Mendiola Massacre' Anniversary
HK221200 Hong Kong AFP in English 1152 GMT
22 Jan 88

[Text] Manila, Jan 22 (AFP)—Thousands of angry farmers marched on President Corazon Aquino's palace Friday and torched her effigy despite a pledge to carve up her sugar estate.

The pledge and the march came on the first anniversary of the killing by troops of 13 landless peasants demonstrating for land reform.

The 6,100-hectare (15,000-acre) Hacienda Luisita which belongs to her family will be included in a land reform programme, Mrs Aquino said in a television broadcast hours before some 10,000 farmers retraced the January 22, 1987 march which ended in a bloodbath near the presidential palace.

"Agrarian reform is the key to lasting peace and certain progress in our country. I am therefore appealing to all our countrymen to give the program all their support and encouragement," the 54-year-old president said.

Mrs Aquino Friday also promoted Brigadier General Ramon Montano, who was in charge of soldiers and police who opened fire on thousands of peasants and sympathizers demanding land of their own in last year's march, to the post of chief of the paramilitary Constabulary.

Jaime Tadeo, who led the protest that was broken up with a hail of bullets that killed 13 people on Mendiola Bridge last year, said at the repeat demonstration Friday that Mrs Aquino's announcement was a "deception".

He said the bill being debated in Congress would exempt from physical subdivision corporate estates like Hacienda Luisita—owned by the Cojuangco family to which Mrs Aquino belongs—and its 7,000 tenants would only get shares of stock.

The marchers went ahead with their protest Friday despite Mrs Aquino's pledge and set alight effigies of Mrs Aquino, U.S. President Ronald Reagan, and representations of Uncle Sam, a landlord, a soldier and an anti-communist vigilante at the foot of Mendiola Bridge, eyewitnesses said.

Leaflets signed by the communist underground were distributed at the protest. One statement vowed to "make the U.S.-Aquino regime pay for the lives lost."

About 150 police blocked demonstrators from reaching the palace, and the protesters dispersed peacefully, witnesses said.

The so-called "Mendiola massacre" was remembered Friday in newspaper commentaries.

"The government should not permit the support of the peasantry to be lost by default to the rebels. It should implement genuine land reform now," the newspaper MALAYA said in a commentary.

The yearning for land in this country, where 70 percent of the 57 million population are of peasant stock, has driven thousands to join the communist New People's Army, whose 19-year-old guerrilla campaign has spread nationwide.

Some 60 percent of the country's population are officially estimated to be living in poverty, most of them in the countryside.

Observers said the Aquino announcement was timed to ease tensions on the anniversary of the massacre and encourage landlords to beat a February 8 deadline to register their holdings with the Agrarian Reform Department.

The landed rural gentry who control grassroots politics in this country are opposing land reform. Mrs Aquino had relied on these families to deliver the votes when her allies won the majority of seats in Monday's local elections.

Mrs Aquino relaxed registration requirements, saying owners only need to declare the size of their holdings and their fair market value by February 8.

But she warned that if they fail to do so, their lands will be forcibly bought by the state at a lower officially assessed value.

Some landowners have voted to ignore the deadline, and a few have even threatened to keep their farms through force. Armed groups of landlords have been formed in the sugar-producing central islands of Negros and Panay.

Suit Filed Against Government

*HK210801 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog
0400 GMT 21 Jan 88*

[Text] The Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas [KMP—Peasants Movement of the Philippines] has filed a P7-million civil suit against the government due to its failure to compensate the relatives of the Mendiola massacre victims. The incident occurred on 22 January 1987. The farmers also criticized the government's failure to punish those who were involved in the shooting of 18 peasants and the wounding of 100 others. The bloody incident took place during a rally headed by KMP Chairman Jaime Tadeo at Malacanang. The KMP is also asking for the withdrawal of the sedition case filed against Tadeo.

AFP Views Land Reform Legislation Delay

*HK210245 Hong Kong AFP in English 0224 GMT
21 Jan 88*

[Text] Manila, Jan 21 (AFP)—One year ago Friday, blood drenched the pavement near President Corazon Aquino's palace in a brutal reminder of one of the major causes of unrest in Philippine society.

Concertina wires still occasionally bar the traffic-choked span known as Mendiola Bridge, but it bears no traces of the muggy afternoon when troops guarding Malacanang Palace opened fire on thousands of unarmed farmers demanding land of their own.

Mrs. Aquino declared all government and privately-owned agricultural land subject to agrarian reform five months after the shooting, which left 13 people dead and 72 wounded. But she left the reform's implementation to Congress.

Two land reform bills are pending in the Senate and the House of Representatives but are meeting stiff opposition from the landed gentry, whose government representatives have controlled Philippine politics for decades.

Mrs. Aquino herself comes from the landed aristocracy. Her family owns a 6,000 hectare (14,800 acre) sugar plantation and mill north of here.

House Speaker Ramon Mitra, who promised a land reform law within 30 days after Congress opened in July, said Tuesday he would cut debates on the bill when House sessions resume next week.

"Enough time has been given and I think it's time we take a vote," he said.

The country's arable lands are estimated at 10 million hectares (25 million acres). Senator Ernesto Maceda estimates that the government would need up to 800 billion pesos (38.4 billion dollars) to fully implement and sustain the programme over a 10-year period.

Some farmers are getting impatient.

"One year's wait is too long," said Teresita Arjona, widow of one of the victims of what is now known as the "Mendiola massacre".

The colleagues of the slain marchers say the bills have been pre-empted by landless peasants, who have taken over more than 70,000 hectares (175,000 acres) of idle, government and privately-owned lands across the country.

Land is an emotional issue in this largely agricultural country, where the average peasant family subsists on rice and fish and where "sacadas", migrant workers in sugar plantations in the central Philippines, sometimes earn as little as 10 pcsos (48 U.S. cents) a day.

Some young peasants with no hope of job advancement and owning no land take to the hills and join the communist New People's Army, which has been waging a 19-year-old guerrilla campaign.

Jaime Tadeo, leader of the left-wing Peasant Movement of the Philippines (KMP), which organised last year's fatal march, says the bills in Congress have been watered down to the point of "inutility".

The House bill, under which retention limits would be from seven to 14 hectares (17.5 to 35 acres), does not prevent landowners from transferring titles to their relatives to get around the proposed law's provisions.

Mr. Tadeo alleges that landlords are now diffusing ownership of their land to their relatives and other representatives and says that before the 10-year implementation period were through "there would be no land left to reform".

He said the Senate bill, which exempts land devoted to agri-business ventures, would exclude 7.5 million hectares (18.75 million acres) of agricultural plantations partly owned by foreign firms.

The Mendiola massacre prompted Mrs. Aquino to create a probe board, which recommended sanctions against security officials and sedition charges against Mr. Tadeo for allegedly inciting the peasants.

One year later, the commander of the security forces on Mendiola, Brigadier General Ramon Montano, has been promoted to security chief of Manila and its suburbs, while the charges against Mr. Tadeo are pending in court.

Aquino Appoints Vice Chief of Staff, PC Chief
HK221047 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog
1000 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] President Aquino today appointed Major General Eduardo Ermita as new vice chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and Brigadier General Ramon Montano as PC chief. The position of vice chief of staff was vacated following the appointment of Lieutenant General Renato de Villa as Armed Forces chief when General Ramos took over the defense portfolio.

The extensive reorganization in the leadership of the Armed Forces of the Philippines is the result of Rafael Ilto's resignation as defense secretary.

Meanwhile, Gen Ramos and Lt Gen Renato de Villa will be sworn into office at Malacanang tomorrow.

Ilto Discusses Resignation With Reporters
BK220645 Manila PNA in English 0631 GMT
22 Jan 88

[Text] Manila, Jan. 22 (PNA-OANA)—Resigned Defense Secretary Rafael M. Ilto has admitted that the Philippine military establishment has "some flaws," but refused to elaborate, saying "it's long story to tell."

In talks with reporters after he quit the defense portfolio Thursday, Ilto deplored that while the military's counter-insurgency operation was going very well, it "was not to the level I expect."

"Maybe we have not concentrated on it. Our actions had been too diversified, looking at so many things instead of concentrating on the main problem," he said.

Ilto, whose resignation was accepted by President Corazon Aquino, was succeeded by Armed Forces chief Gen. Fidel V. Ramos.

Military vice chief of staff Lt. Gen. Renato S. de Villa replaced Ramos as the country's top military officer.

When asked if there was anything wrong in the military leadership under General Ramos, Ilto said: "No I would not say that. I think we have a very good composition within the leadership of the military."

But he added there are defects in the military organizational structure and operational aspects in the handling of the counter-insurgency operations.

"The counter-insurgency operations are going along very fine, but not to the level I expect," he told defense reporters.

In his resignation letter to President Aquino last Jan. 14, Ilto noted that his proposals to reorganize the 159,000-strong military organization had not been acted upon and felt it was time for him to go.

Ilto replaced then Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile in November last year after he was sacked by Aquino for alleged plot to topple her in a coup.

Ramos Vows To Defend Aquino Government
HK220905 Hong Kong AFP in English 0844 GMT
22 Jan 88

[Text] Manila, Jan 22 (AFP)—New Defense Secretary General Fidel Ramos Friday vowed to continue defending the constitutional government as a military revamp continued with the appointment of two more senior officials.

The overhaul was sparked Thursday by the resignation of Defense Secretary Rafael Ilto, 67, who said his policies were being ignored and was widely rumored to be the loser in a quiet power struggle with Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Ramos.

Gen. Ramos, 59, scheduled to retire from the military once he takes his oath of office as defense secretary, possibly this weekend, read a prepared statement to journalists Friday but declined to answer any questions.

"Upholding our fundamental law and helping to enhance the stability of our country against all threats shall be my constant day-to-day endeavor," he said, wearing his regular khaki uniform and smoking a trademark Manila cigar.

"My duty has always been the safeguarding of the gains of our new-won democracy as now enshrined by our people in the new constitution," he said, referring to the February 1986 revolt that toppled the Ferdinand Marcos regime and installed Mrs. Aquino in power.

Gen. Ramos has since crushed five coup attempts against Mrs. Aquino.

He avoided any mention Friday of differences with Mr. Ileta, a co-leader of the 1986 revolt, describing him as "my mentor, my elder brother, my friend and my superior" and saying he was a "hard act to follow."

Sources said Gen. Ramos and Mr. Ileta, a retired Army major-general and diplomat, differed in their approach to the 19-year-old communist insurgency.

Gen. Ramos was replaced as armed forces chief of staff by his protege Lieutenant General Renato de Villa in what analysts saw as a unification of the chain of command and a positive development in forging a coordinated security program.

Mrs. Aquino Friday announced the appointment of two more senior officials, Major General Eduardo Ermita as vice chief of staff and Brigadier General Ramon Montano as head of the Constabulary, the main peacekeeping force.

Brig. Gen. Montano, Manila's security chief, is regarded as another protege of Gen. Ramos, who once headed the Constabulary.

The president, as Armed Forces commander-in-chief, is followed in the chain of command by the defense secretary, the chief of staff, the vice chief of staff, the deputy chief of staff, and the chiefs of the Constabulary, Army, Navy and Air Force.

Maj. Gen. Ermita, one of the leaders of the February 1986 revolt, was deputy chief of staff before his appointment Thursday.

All the appointments are subject to congressional approval but both the Senate and House of Representatives are dominated by Aquino allies.

Promises Stability

*HK221245 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog
1200 GMT 22 Jan 88*

[Text] Newly appointed Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos has promised to do his best to stabilize the country's situation, especially now, with rightist and leftist groups posing grave threats. This was Ramos' first official statement after he was given the defense portfolio following the resignation of Secretary Rafael Ileta. He said great responsibility and many challenges come with the job.

Ramos, former Armed Forces of the Philippines chief, has promised to put all his efforts, strength, and dedication into his new job. He added that his principle is to guard our country's democracy, which has been enshrined by our people in the ratification of the new constitution.

Communists Term Ramos Approach 'Militaristic' *HK211257 Hong Kong AFP in English 1233 GMT 21 Jan 88*

[Text] Manila, Jan 21 (AFP)—Communist guerrillas said Thursday the government would assume a "militarist approach" after President Corazon Aquino named Armed Forces chief General Fidel Ramos to replace Defense Secretary Rafael Ileta.

Mr. Ileta announced Thursday he was quitting the cabinet over the way the communist insurgency was being handled by the government.

"With the appointment of Ramos in a civilian position, it is expected that a more militarist approach will be applied in solving the people's problems," said Arnel Sandoval, a communist spokesman in Manila.

"As a result of this, violent attacks on people's organizations will escalate to surpass the record of the hated (Ferdinand) Marcos dictatorship," he told reporters in a clandestine interview.

Mr. Sandoval speaks for the Alex Boncayao Brigade, an urban assassination squad of the communist New People's Army (NPA) which the military says was responsible for the murder of more than 100 soldiers, policemen and civilians in Manila last year.

The rebel described Mr. Ileta as an "ineffective implementor" of what he called a U.S.-designed counter-insurgency program. While noting that Mr. Ileta triumphed in the campaign against communist "Huk" insurgents in the 1950's, his approach was "obsolete and does not apply to the present time."

Gen. Ramos "is an expert in counter-insurgency operations and his approach is more militaristic," Mr. Sandoval added.

He described Gen. Ramos' appointed successor, Lieutenant General Renato de Villa, as a "Ramos boy."

Meanwhile, a Philippine Air Force lieutenant and an NPA rebel were killed in an ambush near the U.S. Clark Air Base north of Manila before dawn Thursday, military spokesmen said in the nearby town of San Fernando.

Lieutenant Napoleon Sabalbaro was killed when his patrol was ambushed near Porac town, some 10 kilometers (six miles) from Clark. The soldiers returned fire, killing one of the rebels, they added.

NPA rebels shot dead two U.S. servicemen, an American civilian and a Filipino in simultaneous attacks outside Clark last October.

The insurgents said the killings were a warning for Washington to stop supporting Mrs. Aquino's war against the NPA.

Poll Returns Destroyed in Cotabato Fire
HK211150 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog
1000 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Unidentified men burned the municipal hall of Magpet, Cotabato a few hours after the winning candidate in the town was proclaimed. Here is May Leoncito of DXMD-Kidapawan:

[Begin recording] Magpet town is a few kilometers from Kidapawan, the capital of Cotabato Province. According to reports reaching this station, the entire municipal hall building, which housed the Comelec office, police station, and other government agencies, was bombed.

Earlier reports said that fire first broke out in the Comelec office and consumed elections returns from the municipal level. However, the winners had been proclaimed an hour before the fire broke out. Elections returns at the provincial level were not damaged as they had already been sent to the provincial board of canvassers.

The fire spread rapidly to other parts of the building. [passage indistinct] Police investigations are going on. Authorities suspect arson due to the rapid spread of the fire and due to the fact the fire started in the Comelec office. [end recording]

Cavite City Hall Under Tight Security
HK220939 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog
0900 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] Cavite City Hall was placed under tight security due to reports of plans to burn the building. Troops from the PC provincial command and the Philippine Navy stationed at Sangley Point were sent there to help the police secure the area.

The situation in Cavite became tense when supporters of the losing candidate forced their way into the building and destroyed the tally boards. The protesters questioned the victory of former Mayor Julian Medina. In addition, another candidate, Natividad Nazareno, petitioned Comelec to suspend proclaiming Medina the victor, accusing him of cheating.

Coalition Candidates Said Leading Nationwide
HK211413 Quezon City MALAYA in English
21 Jan 88 pp 1, 6

[Text] Pro-administration candidates are leading opposition and independent aspirants 60-40 in the provinces in Monday's elections that saw the toppling in some places of political dynasties that had been in power since

the commonwealth and in others the bouncing back of old politicians who had been out of the limelight since President Aquino came to power.

In Metro Manila, meanwhile, early leaders maintained their leads with a probable 50-50 division of the four cities and 13 towns in the metropolis between candidates of the ruling coalition and independent or opposition candidates.

In Batangas, Unido [United Nationalist Democratic Organizations] gubernatorial candidate Benjamin Laurel, nephew of Vice President Salvador Laurel, was trailing administration candidate Vicente Mayo. Observers said it would be the first time that a Laurel would lose an election in Batangas.

In Rizal, administration candidate Vic Sumulong, scion of a family that has political roots as deep in Rizal as those of the Laurels in Batangas, was losing to Liberal Party candidate Rey San Juan.

In Isabela, septuagenarian Faustino Dy of the KBL was drubbing administration candidate Manuel Siquian Jr., while in Olongapo City, young Richard Gordon, also an opposition candidate, was heading for a landslide win over Geronimo Lipumano.

In the Ilocos region, politicians identified with the deposed President Marcos were leading by big margins, but in Central Luzon, administration candidates were heading for a sweep as expected.

In the Bicol region, the gubernatorial races were evenly divided between ruling coalition candidates and opposition or independent candidates. The trend also held true in the Visayas and Mindanao.

In Manila, winning mayoral candidate Gemiliano Lopez Jr. yesterday paid a call on Lito Atienza, Liberal Party bet, as a gesture of reconciliation and enjoined Atienza to support his program of government.

Atienza, who had conceded the race, acceded to his rival's request.

Lopez's program of government emphasizes renewal, education and health, business development, creation of jobs and public works.

All Move Makati candidates except for its standard bearer, Augusto "Boboy" Syjuco who had congratulated his winning rival Jejomar Binay, yesterday pledged to continue with their "vigilance to protect the sanctity of the ballot."

Vice mayoral candidate Leroy Salvador and 12 council aspirants, in a joint statement, said the results of the counting do not warrant them to concede defeat but call for vigilance.

Aside from Salvador, the other signatories to the statement were Johnny Wilson, Cecil Acasio, Jose Alamis, Jay Francisco, Ven Loque, Elena Maccay, Chiquito Pangan, Ric Nepomuceno, Tony Manalili, Bobby Brillante, Jun de Vera, and Elias Tolentino.

Salonga Comments on Aquino Relatives' Defeat
HK211152 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog
1000 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Senator Jovito Salonga stressed that the defeat of most of President Aquino's relatives in the just concluded local elections was not the result of the Liberal Party's campaign activities, but rather a decision of the people.

Salonga made the announcement following the defeat of most of the president's relatives in the local elections.

[Begin Salonga recording in English] On the issue of political dynasty, we are not claiming the credit. It is the credit of the Filipino people in the province of Rizal. I understand that this is not happening only in Rizal but also in Quezon City and in other provinces in Luzon and Mindanao. In a sense, this is a positive development, because we are against concentration of power. We are not against any personalities. We have no personal score to settle, but we are against the monopoly and the concentration of political and economic power. [end recording]

Laurels Headed for 'Humiliating Defeat'
HK211417 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE
in English 21 Jan 88 pp 1, 5

[By staff member Wilson Bailon]

[Text] Another member of a political dynasty—the Laurels in Batangas—yesterday appeared headed for a humiliating defeat.

Benjamin "Benjie" Laurel, nephew of Vice President Salvador Laurel, was trailing Vicente Mayo in the gubernatorial in Batangas based on partial unofficial returns.

But Mayo, 55, the Lakas ng Bansa [Power of the Nation] bet and protege of Rep. Hernando Perez, insisted the trend was "irreversible." He claimed he would win by no less than 80,000 votes.

The other prominent victims of the dynasty issue in the just-concluded local elections were the President's cousin, Victor Sumulong and sister-in-law Mila Aquino-Albert.

Sumulong was losing in the Rizal gubernatorial fight and Albert placed a dismal third in the Quezon City mayoral race.

Based on unofficial returns from 14 towns, Mayo as of yesterday, garnered 170,035 votes while Laurel had 98,612, a difference of 71,423 votes.

These returns were from Sta. Teresita, Balete, San Nicolas, Alitagtag, Calatagan, Taal, Lcmery, Lian, Balayan, Tuy and Padre Garcia.

In Batangas City, Mayo said he was leading by 28,000 votes in the 254 precincts so far canvassed. Only 42 precincts remained unaccounted for, he added.

Mayo also clobbered Laurel in Lipa City, the former's hometown, 36,125 to 12,141 as of yesterday. In Tanauan, Laurel's bailiwick, Mayo lost by some 12,000 votes.

Mayo said he expects to win in 22 out of the 32 towns in the province.

His running mate, Nelson Collantes, a nephew of former Minister Manuel Collantes, is also leading Laurel's vice gubernatorial bet, Luz Torio.

Nine of Mayo's 10 provincial board members are also winning.

In the mayoral races, Lakas ng Bansa bet Eduardo Dimacuha edged out Unido's [United Nationalist Democratic Organizations] Jose Atienza, the former OIC [officer-in-charge], in Batangas City.

In Lipa City, Ruben Umali, who bolted the Unido in the middle of the campaign, is winning the mayoral contest.

In a long distance telephone interview, Mayo told the CHRONICLE his impending victory "is an upset because my opponent belongs to a well-placed political clan." He added, "they had all the OICs."

The former OIC vice government [as published] said he felt he would win after seeing and feeling the crowd's response to his call to end the Laurel dynasty in Batangas.

"I know the people were against them. Sawa ng ang tao sa kanila dahil wala naman silang nagagawa. Gusto lang nilang makamkam ang lahat sa Batangas [The people are tired of them because they did nothing anyway. They just want to have all of Batangas.]

The Laurels have been in politics in the last 80 years, Mayo said. Aside from the vice president, the other Laurel family members still active in politics include Sotero, a senator and brother of the vice president, and Rep. Lally Laurel-Trinidad, daughter of former Speaker Jose B. Laurel.

Benjie Laurel, 36, was former provincial administrator when his elder brother, Jose Laurel V or Joey, who refused to run for reelection, was governor.

Mayo is a distant relative of the late Sen. Claro Mayo Recto. He topped the provincial board elections in 1980 when he ran under the ticket of Joey Laurel.

Mayo was put up by Perez to run after the representative bolted the Unido shortly before the May congressional elections. Perez was called an "ingrate" by the Laurels.

Comelec To Decide on Delayed Polls Soon
HK220316 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog
0100 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] The Comelec will announce in a day or two whether elections in 11 provinces will be carried out in accordance with the revised schedule. The Comelec said there is no change in the peace-and-order situation in those provinces despite the commission's efforts to ease political tension. Tony Valencia has the details:

[Begin recording] The Comelec yesterday placed its full authority behind 11 provinces to ensure clean and peaceful elections in those areas which it said were likely to cause problems on 18 January. Comelec Chairman Ramon Felipe Jr said the decision to go ahead with the election will be based on the assessment of the supervisory team headed by Commissioner Anacleto Badoy. The team is in Mindanao at present to carry out a high-level assessment of the peace-and-order situation there. They are also conferring with military authorities and Comelec field officials regarding security plans and the deployment of troops in the places where the polls will be held. On 1 February elections will be held in Lanao del Norte, including Iligan City, and Lanao del Sur, including Marawi City. On 8 February elections will be held in Tawitawi. Meanwhile, Comelec called for a new voters' registration in Siasi, Sulu, to ensure that a credible election will be held on 15 February. [end recording]

Aquino To Reorganize Administration Parties
HK220935 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog
0900 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] President Aquino will reorganize the Lakas ng Bansa [Power of the Nation] and PDP [Pilipino Democratic Party]-Laban [Lakas ng Bayan—Nation's Strength] leadership. These two parties are the leading groups in the administration's coalition. According to Senator Aquilino Pimentel, Jr, the reasons for the reshuffle are wide-ranging misunderstandings between the parties in the just concluded election. The changes must be implemented to avoid the breakdown of the coalition.

Thailand

Rangers Killed in Laotian Border Ambush
BK220059 Bangkok THE NATION in English
22 Jan 88 p 1

[Text] Laotian soldiers ambushed a Thai road construction team in the disputed border area of Phitsanulok Wednesday [20 January] killing eight army-trained rangers and wounding more than 10 others, army sources in the northern province reported yesterday.

[Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English in a similar 22 January report on page 1 provides different casualty figures: "Pathet Lao troops killed 11 Thai soldiers and wounded seven in an ambush near Hill 1428 in Phitsanulok on Wednesday, a military source said last night."]

The sources said the ambush sparked an hours-long battle between Thai and Laotian soldiers who have been fighting for control of the strategic hill which Thailand says is in Ban Romklao of Chat Trakarn District, about 500 km from Bangkok.

The ambush took place only two days before Premier Prem Tinsulanon's visit to the border area.

THE NATION's reporters yesterday saw soldiers transporting bodies of the eight slain Rangers to a local temple in Lom Sak District of neighbouring Phetchabun.

It could not be immediately confirmed whether the eight rangers were among the 30 Thai soldiers a regional army chief said were killed in the protracted border fight since December.

Lt Gen Siri Thiwaphan, commander of the 3rd Army Region, told reporters in Bangkok yesterday that 30 Thai soldiers died and another 70 were wounded in the weeks-long battle. He estimated that at least 80 Laotian soldiers were also killed.

The army sources said one of the rangers killed Wednesday was Capt Pinyo Sinochai, commander of 3404th Company of the Phetchabun-based 34th Ranger Regiment.

They said 24 rangers were escorting a soldier engineer unit constructing a dirt road when they came under fire. The site was recently recaptured by Thai forces from Laotian intruders.

One source said Laotian troops used rocket-propelled grenades in the ambush which reportedly took place at around 8 am.

He said a battle then ensued, lasting until noon. Laotian casualties were not known.

The other seven rangers who died in the ambush were identified as Prachak Khrongkaeo, Won Tan Phromma, Chalio Saensichan, Somchit Ma-on, Ayutthaya Chua-bunchan, Phitsanu Patimak and Cha-ngon Taonit.

Their bodies were sent to Wat Simongkhon in Lom Sak District of neighbouring Phetchabun for religious rites yesterday.

Lt Gen Siri said yesterday that Thai soldiers have so far found 15 bodies of Laotian soldiers but none of the bodies were identified as Vietnamese.

Thai army has charged that Vietnamese soldiers in Laos and members of a pro-Soviet Thai communist movement had aided the Laotians in the border fight at Hill 1428.

Thailand has accused Laotian soldiers of intruding into the disputed area and launched an operation in early December to dislodge them.

Lt Gen Siri said around 150-200 Laotians were still entrenched on the hill which Vientiane claims is in its territory.

The general said Thai forces had on Tuesday overrun a Laotian position.

He said the army would need "little more time" to push out the remaining Laotians. h

"We don't want to take a drastic action. Our policy is to avoid escalating the battle," he said.

Siri said the army does not want the dispute to turn into a conflict of bigger magnitude.

Premier Prem is scheduled to visit the disputed area today. Siri said tight security was prepared for the visit.

Laos Accused of Forcing Hmong Across Border

*BK220329 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
22 Jan 88 p 3*

[Text] Ban Winai, Loei—Laos has been forcing Hmong hilltribes into Thailand, Deputy Governor Somchit Chulaphong said yesterday.

Briefing Interior Minister Prachuap Suntharangun who was visiting the Pak Chom District refugee camp, Sub-Lt Somchit said Laos was also denying entry to any Hmong wishing to return.

Vientiane had done nothing to prevent the tribesmen from escaping to Thailand, he said.

The Hmong population in Ban Winai at the last count was 40,264, he said, and the birth rate was an alarming five per cent.

Compounding the problems resulting from Vientiane's policy were Laotian and Thai racketeers who were boosting the influx by smuggling Hmong across the Mekong River to Ban Winai, he said.

Sub-Lt Somchit said about 30 Hmong in Ban Winai were suspected of smuggling their people from Laos into the camp for fees ranging from 4,000-8,000 a head.

The money was usually mailed to privately-held post office boxes near the camp and paid to the racketeers by relatives of the refugees who are abroad, he said.

The deputy governor said he was seeking Interior Ministry approval to send the 30 suspects to a camp in Nakhon Ratchasima.

Last year, 26 Thais, including a policeman and a defence volunteer, were charged with involvement in the smuggling rackets. In addition, 189 Hmong illegal immigrants were prosecuted and 580 were forcibly sent back on their arrival in Thailand.

In an effort to stem the human tide, the official has proposed that the ministry erect barricades around the camp and ban the teaching of the Thai language among Hmong. Refugees in the camp who offer the illegal immigrants assistance should also be deported, he suggested.

Pak Chom District officer Amphon Muthitacharoen told Gen Prachuap at a checkpoint about 20km from the camp that about 90 local villagers were suspected of involvement in the smuggling of Hmong into the camp for 4,000-7,000 baht per head.

Gen Prachuap said he would consider Sub-Lt Somchit's proposals but he doubted that barricades would stem the influx.

While maintaining Thailand's policy of giving temporary refuge to political refugees from Laos, Gen Prachuap said third countries must accept more for resettlement otherwise the camp here would be inundated, creating a burden for the Government.

This month, about 1,200 Hmong have been accepted for resettlement in the United States and 9,000 are likely to be resettled this year, said Phon Penphak, ministry information director.

The US, he said, has pledged to accept no less than 9,000 Hmong from Thailand next year. "At this rate, we believe the problem will be eased considerably," he added.

Interior Minister Tours Refugee Camp

*BK220740 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai
0000 GMT 22 Jan 88*

[Text] Interior Minister General Prachuap Suntharangun reported to newsmen on his visit yesterday to the refugee camp in Pak Chom District, Loei Province. He said that the refugee center and the province complained to him about the increasing number of the refugees, mainly of the Hmong hilltribe, from the LPDR. There are at present over 40,000 refugees at the center. The new arrivals are mostly those sneaking into the camp illegally either by means of smuggling or by making their way into the camp by themselves. This posed a serious problem for control.

The interior minister said the province and refugee officials proposed to the ministry several measures to take, including turning the camp into a closed center, improving educational facilities for the refugees who wish to leave for a third country, negotiating with Laos for repatriation, and taking strict action through law enforcement to arrest and punish those who help the Hmong people into the center.

Administration Center Being Scaled Down

*BK170717 Bangkok MATICHON in Thai
17 Jan 88 p 2*

[Text] According to Prasong Sunsiri, secretary to the Prime Minister, Prime Minister General Prem Tinsulanon has instructed him to consider scaling down the Center for Administration of Southern Border Provinces because as the situation in the south has already improved considerably, it would be wasteful to maintain the center's large structure.

Prasong said he consulted Suwit Suthanukun, National Security Council secretary general, on the matter and agreed on the center gradually reducing its role to normal level within 3-4 years. A reduction of the center's personnel has already begun because the situation in the south has improved markedly.

The center was established in 1978 with the major objective of coordinating the various agencies in solving problems in the southern border provinces, preventing and suppressing terrorism, improving efficiency of the bureaucracy, and developing social and economic structures in the area. Civilian, police and military agencies worked with the center.

Indonesian Technology Minister Calls on Prem

*BK220935 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai
1300 GMT 21 Jan 88*

[Text] Indonesian minister of state for research and technology, Dr B.Y. Habibie, and his delegation, accompanied by Indonesian Ambassador to Thailand Air Marshal Aried Riyadi, paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister General Prem Tinsulanon at Government House at 1100 today during their 20-24 January visit to Thailand.

The Indonesian minister of state for research and technology said that the purpose of his visit to Thailand is to present a letter from Indonesian President Suharto to the Thai prime minister. He is assigned by the Indonesian Government to explain to Thai leaders Indonesia's advancement in science and technology. He said that now Indonesia can produce sufficient aircraft for domestic use and also for export. Dr Habibie said that Indonesia had sold five aircraft for the Agriculture and Cooperatives Ministry of Thailand for rain-making operations, and that the Thai Government is interested in

buying three more aircraft from Indonesia. The Indonesian Government wants to suggest that the purchase can be made by barter. In addition, he also praised Thailand for its progress, saying that the country is clean and beautiful.

On the occasion, the prime minister pointed out that Indonesia is quite advanced in technology. As for the aircraft deal, he will assign the Agriculture and Cooperatives Ministry to study the feasibility of the conditions offered by the Indonesian Government.

Columnist on State's Sigur Cambodia Statement

*BK211420 Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai
20 Jan 88 p 9*

[M.R. Khukrit Pramot's "Soi Suan Phlu" column]

[Text] "Pa is not involved in the royal decoration issue." That was a banner headline in KHAO SOT newspaper. What I would like to know is: When is Pa involved in the affairs of the country?

In fact, I do not wish to write about Khun Prem today—well, any day—because I do not see any point in writing about him since he refuses to be involved in, committed to, or know about anything.

I will write about something which has nothing to do with Khun Prem. I will write about Cambodia where fighting is going on and we don't know who is fighting against whom. Later on Thailand may be the same way, that is, we will not know who is fighting against whom, although Pa will always remain uninvolved in whatever may happen.

The U.S. Government does not think the Khmer Rouge will return to power once a political settlement is reached among the various factions in Cambodia.

This was stated, on behalf of the U.S. Government, by Gaston Sigur who met with Prime Minister Prem during his visit to Thailand. The two must have discussed a number of noncommittal issues before taking up the Cambodian problem for conversation.

Sigur said he does not think the Khmer Rouge would come to power again because there are signs of movement that the United States believes will happen. There was a misunderstanding that the United States had discussed this matter with the Soviet Union.

The second reason is: the United States does not think the Cambodian people want the Khmer Rouge back in power.

The first reason is a reason given by a half-crazy man. He based his reasoning on his own projection of something in the future. The second reason, meanwhile, is that of a

really crazy man. The United States, Thailand, and the whole world know that no one in Cambodia wants the Khmer Rouge as a government.

If ever the Khmer Rouge got back in power, the Cambodian people would be persecuted and millions of them would be killed. What happened once was very evident. When the Khmer Rouge was in power, those who did not like the Khmer Rouge did not fight because they were not organized and did not have weapons. They only argued or refused to follow the orders of those crazy people. Yet, the result is that all of them were killed by the Khmer Rouge.

If the Khmer Rouge came back to power, we would see Cambodians fleeing their country again. Where to? To Thailand. The United States, which once pledged to resettle them, is taking fewer and fewer. There are hundreds of thousands of refugees in Thailand at present. The refugee camps have become tourist attractions for VIPs visiting Thailand. Foreign kings, dignitaries, presidents, prime ministers, ministers, and leading world figures who visit Thailand are always taken to see the refugee camps.

This is sad. It is like showing to our foreign guests the animals we have trapped.

Human rights that we have heard about and talked about do not exist anymore.

There are three factions in Cambodia fighting against the Vietnamese at present. There is the faction of Prince Sihanouk, who is assuming the role of head of state. The faction of Son Sann seems to be second in rank. And the Khmer Rouge apparently ranks third because it realizes that it is unpopular in the eyes of the world. Prince Sihanouk still commands worldwide respect, and everyone has agreed to him as head of the Cambodian state. However, from the point of view of organization and weapons, the prince is far weaker than the Khmer Rouge.

Son Sann himself is an intelligent leader and has a large number of followers—enough to set up an army. Yet, the strength of Prince Sihanouk and Son Sann when combined still is much less than that of the Khmer Rouge. They will never be able to overcome the Khmer Rouge, but will have to succumb to it over the control of the country.

I therefore do not believe in the signs of movement which the United States believes is building up which will prevent the Khmer Rouge from assuming power. It is one of the most nonsensical things to which Khun Prem has to listen.

Vietnam

Hanoi Cites ASEAN Reaction to U.S. Statement *BK211515 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese* 1100 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] According to foreign sources, speaking in Singapore on 21 January, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Gaston Sigur expressed concern over public opinion in Southeast Asia demanding that this region be turned into a nuclear-free zone of peace. He complained that ASEAN's viewpoint is hurting the U.S. policy of deterrence, a policy which is only aimed at ensuring the security of countries in the region.

Public opinion in some ASEAN countries has strongly criticized Gaston Sigur's statement and considered it a manifestation of Washington's scheme to maintain U.S. military bases in Southeast Asia, in particular the Clark Air Base and the Subic naval base in the Philippines. Public opinion in Malaysia holds that almost all ASEAN countries support the transformation of Southeast Asia into a nuclear-free zone because this is the surest way to guarantee regional peace and security.

U.S. Agrees on Plan To Resettle Amerasians *BK211559 Hong Kong AFP in English 1535 GMT* 21 Jan 88

[Text] Hanoi, Jan 21 (AFP)—Vietnam and Washington have agreed on a two-year plan to resettle some 30,000 Vietnamese Amerasians and their families in the United States, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said here Thursday.

The resettlement plan was suggested by U.S. Democrat Congressman Robert Mrazek during his visit here January 15-18, spokesman Ho The Lan said, adding that it will take effect from March.

Hanoi and Washington made concrete progress on resolving the issue of Amerasian children—born of U.S. servicemen and Vietnamese mothers during the Vietnam war—following a visit here in August by U.S. presidential envoy, General John Vessey.

According to U.S. statistics, more than 3,500 Amerasians left for the United States between 1979 and 1986 and around 10,000 still live in Vietnam.

Of the recent visits here by three U.S. congressional delegations, Mrs. Lan said Democrat Congressman Francis McCloskey had proposed a student exchange programme and scholarships for Vietnamese students.

Hanoi told the congressmen that there were no Americans still held in Vietnam, saying that such reports were "groundless," Mrs. Lan said.

She said discussions with the congressmen had dealt with "regional problems including Cambodia," adding that Hanoi believed Washington should have a role in finding a solution to the Cambodian conflict.

The two sides also discussed ways of "resolving humanitarian issues concerning the two countries," thus establishing a link between the issue of U.S. soldiers missing in action (MIA's) and Vietnam's humanitarian problems, Mrs. Lan said.

The U.S. congressmen promised to ask "U.S. private organizations" to participate in solving Vietnam's humanitarian questions, she added.

The spokeswoman said that 8,667 Vietnamese joined their families in the United States in 1987, as part of the U.N.-sponsored orderly departure program (ODP), but added that U.S. authorities should further simplify immigration procedures.

Three U.S. congressional delegations visited Hanoi this year for talks on MIA's, Amerasians and Vietnam's humanitarian questions.

Report on Hun Sen's News Conference
BK221437 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
1100 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] Dear friends: According to reports from Paris, the second round of talks between Chairman Hun Sen and Prince Sihanouk at Saint Germain-en-Laye concluded on 21 January 1988. The talks took place in a friendly and fraternal atmosphere. Following the talks, Chairman Hun Sen held a news conference with a large number of French and foreign journalists.

At the news conference, Chairman Hun Sen said that the agenda of the talks was as follows:

1. The timetable for the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Cambodia;
2. The establishment of a Cambodian coalition government;
3. The future political system of Cambodia;
4. The principles for independence, neutrality, and non-alignment; and
5. International guarantee and control.

Chairman Hun Sen affirmed that the two sides had reached an agreement on the third, fourth, and fifth questions which are considered by both sides as fundamental issues contributing toward the settlement of other questions.

On the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops, Chairman Hun Sen suggested a 24-month deadline as part of an agreement linked to the elimination of the military forces belonging to the Pol Pot clique and to the termination of foreign intervention against Cambodia. This timetable is

a real guarantee for the Cambodian people's security following the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops. The two sides also agreed to continue discussion on this question at the next meeting.

The two sides agreed on the establishment of a Cambodian coalition government at a suitable time with the participation of different political parties.

Chairman Hun Sen declared: We agreed on the establishment of a coalition government based on the results of an election to be held by the Cambodian people. He added that it is necessary to organize an election with the participation of all parties and under international supervision.

Answering newsmen's questions about Cambodia's future political system, Chairman Hun Sen pointed out it is the Cambodian people who will decide this future political system.

Chairman Hun Sen further disclosed that the two sides had agreed to hold the third meeting at Pyongyang in April 1988, the fourth meeting in Paris at the end of this year, and the fifth meeting in New Delhi.

Dear friends, during his previous meeting with Chairman Hun Sen in December 1987, Prince Sihanouk asked Chairman Hun Sen to convey his kind regards to Comrades Pham Van Dong, Souphanouvong, and Phoumi Vongvichit. To return Prince Sihanouk's goodwill, Comrade Pham Van Dong has asked Comrade Hun Sen to forward a thank-you letter he wrote in his personal capacity, to Prince Sihanouk. The text of the letter follows:

Hanoi, 6 January 1988

To Samdech Norodom Sihanouk

Dear Samdech, returning from Paris, His Excellency Hun Sen conveyed your kind regards and those of Princess Monique to me and my friends. On behalf of my friends and on my own behalf, I profoundly thank Samdech for your kind regards, for I always cherish and rejoice over our mutual feelings of friendship and respect.

From the bottom of my heart, I wish the meetings between Samdech and His Excellency Hun Sen splendid success. For my part, I have welcomed and will warmly welcome all agreements reached between Samdech and His Excellency Hun Sen.

Last but not least, I sincerely wish Samdech, Princess Monique, and your family good health and happiness.

Cordially yours,

[Signed] Pham Van Dong

Comrades Souphanouvong and Phoumi Vongvichit have also asked Comrade Hun Sen to forward their letters of thanks to Prince Sihanouk for his kind regards.

Foreign Ministry Briefing

*BK211535 Hanoi VNA in English 1450 GMT
21 Jan 88*

[Quotation marks as received]

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 21—A spokeswoman for the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry called a regular press briefing today.

On questions regarding Kampuchea, Ms. Ho The Lan, deputy chief of the Foreign Ministry's Press and Information Department, said: "The joint four-point communique reached between Chairman Hun Sen and Prince Sihanouk is an initial step of prime importance. It has defined the framework, measures and goal for a political solution to the Kampuchea issue, and made it clear that the Kampuchea question must be resolved among the Kampuchean parties themselves, which will be guaranteed by an international conference. This fully conforms with the policy of national reconciliation and the five-point political solution of the People's Republic of Kampuchea and the position of the three Indochinese countries. It also has genuinely reflected the real situation in Kampuchea and Prince Sihanouk's efforts in seeking a political solution to the Kampuchea issue."

About the Vietnam-U.S. relationship, she said: "Since January this year, three delegations of U.S. Congressmen have visited Vietnam: One led by McCloskey from Jan. 8-13, another by Atkins from Jan. 12-15, and the third by Mrazek from Jan. 15-18. They were briefed on the situation in Vietnam and on issues regarding bilateral relations. Apart from its working agenda with the Foreign Ministry, they also had working sessions with the Ministries of Labour, War Disabled and Social Welfare, Public Health, Justice, and Vocational and Higher Education and Job-Training, and toured places of interest. McCloskey's delegation also had discussions with the ambassador of the People's Republic of Kampuchea in Hanoi.

Beside the main topics which are humanitarian issues of both sides they discussed several issues of mutual concern such as the situation in Southeast Asia including the Kampuchean issue. The U.S. senators expressed their support for the recent meeting between Chairman Hun Sen and Prince Sihanouk."

With regard to the orderly departure program (O.D.P.), the spokeswoman said that the 8,667 Vietnamese left for the United States within the ODP in 1987. She further said that the Vietnamese side had called on the recipient countries, particularly the United States, to simplify the procedures involving interviews, medical checks, etc. so as not to cause delays in the ODP and the family reunion programs as was the case in the past.

Asked if there has been any progress in the Vietnam-China relation Mrs Ho The Lan said:

"If you understand progress to be something different from the past, yes we may say there has been progress because, acting in the spirit of the Sixth Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam, we have continued to demonstrate our goodwill and have refrained from any criticism of China. The Vietnamese mass media have shown great restraint in the recent past. In 1987, many Vietnamese delegations went to China to take part in international conferences. Chinese boats and vessels in distress in the Vietnamese sea were quickly rescued and were promptly returned to the Chinese side together with their crews.

The situation along the Vietnam-China border area has been quiet, generally speaking. The Chinese side has continued its artillery shelling on Vi Xuyen area and its intrusions across the border, but on a lesser scale than in the past."

Proceedings of Journalists Conference

Nguyen Van Linh Address

*BK211610 Hanoi VNA in English 1500 GMT
21 Jan 88*

[Text] Hanoi VNA January 21—Party General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh today addressed the round-table of Asian-Pacific journalists which wound up in Ho Chi Minh City today.

Following is the full text of his address:

On behalf of the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam and of the Vietnam state, I would like first of all to warmly welcome all participants in this round-table of Asian-Pacific journalists held in the historic Ho Chi Minh City.

The participation in this undertaking of representatives of press organizations from over twenty countries in the Asian-Pacific region and representatives of international press organizations shows the deep concern of press circles in Asia-Pacific about this strategically important region, the most densely populated in the world.

The addresses you made in the past 2 days were valuable contributions to the normalization of the situation in this region as well as to the promotion of professional relations among Asian-Pacific journalists.

Before an exchange of views on concrete matters of your concern, I wish to express my views on some common problems. We meet at a place that 13 years ago witnessed the complete liberation of our beloved South Vietnam and the reunification of Vietnam, our beloved country. The 1975 victory opened up a new period in Vietnam's history and provided our people with favourable conditions for building a new life. So far, we have succeeded in

initially overcoming the sequels of war, and now we are step by step building the material and technical basis of socialism with a view to bringing to our people a life of plenty and happiness. Over the past ten years and more, the Vietnamese people have been striving valiantly to overcome all difficulties and obstacles, and have recorded important achievements in the construction and defence of their socialist motherland.

The sixth national congress of our party in December 1986 set us a big, pressing task, i.e. to carry out a deep-going and comprehensive renovation.

This renovation is to be started in the domain of thinking, firstly in economic thinking; renovation is also to be effected in organization, in personnel, in leadership style, and in work style. Basing ourselves on the new thinking, we are now carrying out three important tasks in economic construction:

1. To rearrange the economic structure and the structure of investments, to concentrate human and material resources on the implementation of the three major economic programmes, namely the production of food, the production of consumer goods, and the production of goods for export.

2. To renovate the mechanism of economic management so as to liberate the production force; to create a strong motive force for the development of production; to abolish the system of centralized bureaucratic subsidization by the state and to shift to a mechanism of cost-accounting in socialist business.

3. To remove irrational restrictions for a development of all the five economic sectors, giving the leading role to the state-managed economy while encouraging investments and development of production by the private and individual economies.

Along with the implementation of these tasks of renovation, we constantly pay great attention to democratization, bringing into full play the people's right to mastership, in line with the slogan: "Known to the people, discussed by the people, done by the people, and controlled by the people".

In the present socioeconomic conditions of our country, numerous difficulties are still to be overcome, but many encouraging new factors have already appeared in all aspects of social life. Most noteworthy is that an atmosphere of openness, democratization and publicity has begun. The press and other mass media have become more active and more dynamic in their work, thus contributing effectively to the cause of renovation.

Only one year has elapsed since our sixth party congress, and we cannot yet bring about fundamental changes. But the new factors I have mentioned constitute a starting point and necessary conditions for us to steadily advance in the years to come.

On the occasion of this conference, we would like to invite you to visit some of our economic and cultural establishments; we hope that you will know better how our major policies have begun to be turned into realities.

Vietnam is a country of Southeast Asia, lying on the shore of the Pacific. Our people's life is closely linked to developments in the region and in the world. From this forum, Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach has given a fairly complete account of our views on peace, security, cooperation and good neighbourly relations among Asian-Pacific countries. I would like to add a few words. The Asian-Pacific region, one may say, has been a region of tension over the past 40 years. The great and repeated victories won by Asian nations in their struggle for independence and social progress, and the growth of the forces of peace and progress have led to a change in the Asian-Pacific conjuncture and have promoted a trend for peaceful coexistence and cooperation in the region.

At present, Asia-Pacific remains a hotbed of tension due to the policies of certain forces that are bent on pushing up the arms race and perpetuating tension in an attempt to turn Asia-Pacific into an arena for political and military confrontation, thus threatening the sovereignty of the nations in the region.

We hold that the time has come for all Asian-Pacific countries to enter into dialogue with a constructive motivation so as to solve regional issues on the basis of respect for one another's independence and sovereignty. This, in our opinion, is the practical basis for preserving peace and security for all nations in Asia-Pacific as well as in the world. It will create great possibilities for the countries in the region to push up mutually beneficial relations in economy, trade, science and technology.

Prompted by its stance of upholding peace and security, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam makes it a policy to correctly settle existing conflicts by political means, to make wholesome the political climate in Southeast Asia, and to develop friendly relations with ASEAN member-states and other countries in the region.

Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea are resolved to take the path of solving the Kampuchean problem by political means on the basis of national concord and respect for the realities prevailing in the region. Together with other peace-loving forces in Southeast Asia and in the world, the Vietnamese people welcome the initial result of the meeting between Chairman of the Council of Ministers Hun Sen and Prince Norodom Sihanouk. This first meeting and the coming meetings between them are the beginning of political dialogues among the Kampuchean parties. They set in motion a process of favourably solving the Kampuchean problem in accordance with the common trend in the region as well as in the world, for the benefit of the Kampuchean people, and for the sake of peace and stability in Southeast Asia and in the world.

A Southeast Asian country, Vietnam consistently wishes to establish and maintain good-neighborly relations with all other countries in this region, it is ready to negotiate with the ASEAN countries for a satisfactory solution to problems of peace and stability in Southeast Asia, including the Kampuchean problem. To reach a political solution to Kampuchea, the parties concerned must be motivated by goodwill and impartiality. Such a solution must respect the positions of both sides. Last year saw good changes in the relations between Vietnam and many ASEAN countries, which proves that the trend for confrontation is being repelled, and replaced by the trend for dialogue. Relations between Vietnam and Indonesia have developed in a heartening way.

At the Sixth Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam, we reaffirmed our desire to normalize relations with the People's Republic of China. The people of Vietnam consistently treasure their long-standing friendship with the Chinese people. Setting great store by the long-term interests of the two nations, we once again reaffirm our readiness to hold talks with China at any place, any time, and any level, paving the way for a normalization of relations with the People's Republic of China in the interests of the two peoples and of peace and security in Asia-Pacific and the world.

In our era, the elimination of nuclear weapons and the renunciation of force in relations among countries is an imperative of life. While maintaining their independence, all countries in the world are interdependent. This era allows just one course, that of peaceful coexistence among countries of different social systems. The latest Soviet-American summit and the results it has yielded make it amply clear that in the world today there is no dispute in the relations between countries that cannot be settled through negotiations. The communist party, the government, and the people of Vietnam welcome the fine success that crowned the Soviet-American summit in December 1987.

Of late, Vietnam and the United States have had talks to settle pending problems between the two countries; these, in essence, are problems left behind by the former U.S. war of aggression in Vietnam. We are ready to overlook what happened in the past between the two countries.

A socialist country and member of the Non-Aligned Movement, Vietnam highly values economic cooperation and trade with the socialist community, first of all with the Soviet Union, Laos and Kampuchea; we are very interested in promoting economic and trade relations with other non-aligned countries while being ready to broaden similar relations with other countries on the basis of mutual respect, equality, and mutual benefit. India is an important partner of ours, and cooperation between Vietnam and India in many fields, especially in economy, developed to a new stage last year. Also on the

increase is the volume of our trade with various European and Scandinavian countries, with Japan, Australia and some ASEAN countries.

Recently, a law on foreign investments was passed by the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. This law is applicable to all organizations and all individuals in all foreign countries wishing to make investments in Vietnam. It guarantees profits for all parties, ensures the economic efficiency of transfers of technology, and makes secure both the capitals and profits of investors. Many fields are open for investments, and encouragement is given to investments in the production of goods for export and for the replacement of imports, in high-tech applications, in the utilization of labour, raw materials and other available resources, and in foreign currency-paid services. Guarantees to investments are formulated in principles and clauses which you will be informed of in studying the text of the law or through discussions with concerned people on our side.

We are for a greater scope and a higher efficiency in our economic cooperation with all countries. In this world of inter-dependency, a broad cooperation will benefit everyone. In this spirit, we welcome economic cooperation between western countries and Vietnam.

In the world and in Asia-Pacific today, newspapers and other mass media play a growing important political and ideological role. Reading newspapers and listening to the radio every day for information about the developments at home and abroad, I clearly realize the effect of mass media on guiding public opinion and can see that our society is really an information society.

I therefore earnestly hope and strongly believe that mass media in Asia-Pacific will greatly contribute to bringing to normal the situation in the whole of our region, and that they will help strengthen mutual understanding and further advance the quest for peace, stability, security, cooperation, prosperity, good-neighborliness and a nuclear free zone.

Nguyen Van Linh Meets Journalists

*BK220921 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
0500 GMT 22 Jan 88*

[Text] As reported, on the morning of 21 January, Comrade Nguyen Van Linh, CPV Central Committee general secretary, visited and held a cordial talk with participants in the round-table conference of journalists in Asia and the Pacific. In our program at 1800 hours this evening, we will carry the text of this address by the comrade general secretary.

Following his important address, the comrade general secretary answered newsmen's questions. Answering a question raised by reporters of THE WASHINGTON POST and THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR concerning the normalization of relations between Vietnam and the United States, Comrade Nguyen Van Linh

pointed out: The Americans waged a cruel war against Vietnam and caused untold suffering to our people. Nevertheless, we stand ready to turn our back on the past and look forward to normalizing relations between the two countries on the principle of equality. The Vietnamese people have very good feelings about and are grateful to Americans, including many U.S. intellectuals, writers, and artists who resolutely opposed the war of aggression waged by the U.S. Administration against Vietnam.

The remains of many Vietnamese cadres, combatants, and civilians killed by U.S. bombs and shells have not yet been recovered. Nevertheless, we stand ready to cooperate with the U.S. side in the search for the remains of U.S. soldiers killed in Vietnam. Since Amerasian children have the mixed blood of their American fathers and Vietnamese mothers in their veins, they also deserve our love and responsibility. We are prepared to create every condition for them to leave for the United States. Regarding those having connections with the U.S. Administration in the past, we also stand ready to grant them exit permits. However, difficulties arise from the countries of asylum, especially the United States.

Answering questions raised by a number of newsmen concerning the withdrawal of Vietnamese Army volunteers from Cambodia and the stance of Vietnam on the issue of peace and stability in Southeast Asia, Comrade Nguyen Van Linh said: The Vietnamese people have gone through 40 years of destruction caused by the war of aggression. Therefore, more than anybody else, they have long yearned for peace, friendship, and cooperation with fraternal countries. Nevertheless, soon after we achieved peace and national unification, the Pol Pot clique, instigated by foreign countries, conducted grabbing operations against the southwestern border area and committed barbarous massacres against our people. Next, since 1979, Chinese troops have continuously caused tension in the six northern border provinces, forcing us to exert our right of self-defense. The rebirth of Cambodia and strong development of the Cambodian Administration and people's armed forces have enabled us to withdraw part of our Vietnamese Army volunteers from Cambodia and, as agreed upon by the two countries, Vietnamese Army volunteers will be completely withdrawn from Cambodia in 1990, or sooner if we can reach a solution to the Cambodian issue.

Like Laos and Cambodia, Vietnam has advanced many initiatives aimed at reaching a solution that would help restore peace and stability in the region, and has also acclaimed the ASEAN countries' desire for peace to be restored soon in Cambodia in the spirit of national reconciliation.

Comrade Nguyen Van Linh hoped that in their function as reflectors of the truth, journalists would give the world public a true picture of the Cambodian issue. He also answered questions concerning our people's renovation

undertaking, efforts to overcome the consequences of the war, and the development of cultural and artistic activities in our country since liberation.

The meeting lasted for more than 3 hours. Though a good number of newsmen wanted to raise more issues, the very concrete, straightforward, and convincing answers of the comrade general secretary made everyone feel very satisfied and comfortable.

AFP Reports on Meeting

BK211310 Hong Kong AFP in English 1246 GMT
21 Jan 88

[By Jacques Michel Tondre]

[Text] Ho Chi Minh City, Jan 21 (AFP)—The Hanoi government hopes for an agreement under which disarmed Khmer Rouge forces will "return to civilian life" before a planned 1990 pullout of Vietnamese forces from Cambodia, Vietnamese leader Nguyen Van Linh said here Thursday.

He also indicated that Vietnam wanted to improve its ties with the United States and planned to soon release all the prisoners it still holds in re-education camps.

The general secretary of the Vietnamese Communist Party rejected any preconditions for the 140,000-strong Vietnamese occupation forces' withdrawal from Cambodia.

He added, however: "We have declared on many occasions that our troops will be completely withdrawn by the year 1990, whether or not there is an agreement between the Cambodian parties."

But he indicated that he hoped for an accord under which "Pol Pot forces may return to citizen life but not carry arms with them" before the withdrawal.

Pol Pot is the leader of the Khmer Rouge, which Vietnamese forces toppled when they invaded Cambodia in 1979. The Beijing-backed Khmer Rouge is the main armed group now resisting the Vietnamese presence in Cambodia.

Mr Linh said he did not believe the Cambodian resistance was capable of toppling the Vietnamese-backed Phnom Penh government which, he said, had considerably strengthened its position after nearly a decade in power.

He was addressing about 60 foreign newsmen here for an Asia-Pacific journalists' conference, seen as a major public relations exercise planned to coincide with the current second round of peace talks in Paris between Cambodian Premier Hun Sen and resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

Questioned on Vietnam's re-education camps, often denounced by Western human rights organizations, Mr Linh said that all prisoners still held there would be released soon.

"We have made the decision recently to release all of them," he said, but gave no specific date, nor any further details.

Vietnam announced in September that it had ordered the release of 6,685 political prisoners—including military and civilian officials of the now-defunct U.S.-backed South Vietnamese Government—and reduced the terms of another 5,320.

Mr Linh was also conciliatory vis-a-vis the United States.

"Vietnam wants to forget the past," he said.

On the fate of Vietnam's Amerasian children—born of American serviceman fathers and Vietnamese mothers during the Vietnam war—Mr Linh said: "We want to return all of them to the United States, where they will have a better future."

He also spoke of Vietnam's determination to rebuild its economy and complained about what he termed the country's "budget-eating" bureaucratic excesses.

He also hinted at a possible reorganization of the Vietnamese cabinet, saying: "We have too many vice-premiers." There are now nine of them, he said.

The two-day journalists' conference was inaugurated Tuesday by Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach, and participants will be taken to Phnom Penh Friday for a 48-hour visit to Cambodia before returning here Saturday.

Conference Closes 21 January

*BK211600 Hanoi VNA in English 1535 GMT
21 Jan 88*

[Text] Hanoi VNA January 21—The three-day roundtable of Asian-Pacific journalists was closed in Ho Chi Minh City this afternoon.

Twenty-six speeches at the conference underlined the aspiration of the mass media to maintain peace and stability, step up dialogues, broaden cooperation, and support and consolidate initial joint constructive activities in Asia and the Pacific.

At the conference, Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach and Kampuchean Assistant to Minister of Foreign Affairs Long Visalo spoke about the issues of peace and cooperation in the region.

Vo Dong Giang, chairman of the State Commission for External Economic Relations, expounded the Vietnamese Government's law on foreign investment.

Particularly, the speech by Party General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh helped foreign journalists understand more about the situation in Vietnam and in the region.

Many participants proposed to continued live up the spirit of cooperation beginning from this conference by increasing view exchanges and contacts among journalists in such forms as holding teach-ins, exchanging information, newspapers and journalists.

On behalf of the Vietnam Journalists' Association [VJA] Dao Tung, vice president and general secretary of the VJA, expressed thanks to the journalists for their presence at the conference which, he said, expressed their desire for peace, stability, cooperation, and their goodwill and high sense of responsibility.

This evening, the party committee and the people's committee of the city gave a reception in honour of the participants.

Article on Alleged U.S. Postwar Plan

First Installment

BK191015 Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 1 Dec 87, p 4

[First Installment of article by Do Quang: "To Understand Further the Postwar Plan of the United States as Seen Through the Trial of the Hoang Co Minh-Led Organization of Exile Counterrevolutionaries"]

[Text] I. Fostered by the United States, Effectively Supported by Thailand [subhead]

Three years ago, the group of Beijing lackey spies led by Le Quoc Tuy, Mai Van Hanh, and Tran Van Ba infiltrated into our country with effective support from Thailand. They were all arrested and publicly tried in Ho Chi Minh City. This time, another organization of counterrevolutionaries in exile who were led by Hoang Co Minh and fostered and guided by the United States and Thailand to infiltrate Vietnam, were also eradicated and almost wholly captured. This was a new armed exploit of public security force members who had worthily cooperated with the volunteer Vietnamese combatants and border defense units and maintained close combat coordination with the armed forces of fraternal Laos and Cambodia to wipe out an organization of counterrevolutionaries living in exile and serving as henchmen of the enemies of the country and people.

Although these captives were brought before the law today, the case actually began on 30 April 1980.

Implementing the postwar plan when the defeated Americans had to roll up their flag and get out of southern Vietnam on 30 April, the CIA, together with other

imperialist forces, sought by every measure to muster some of the puppet troops' general and field grade officers—who had committed many crimes against the country and people—and some of the Vietnamese quislings fleeing the country to establish reactionary organizations in order to frenziedly oppose and sabotage the SRV. This time, a group of spies fostered by the United States, and aided and abetted by Thailand, organized an infiltration into Vietnam to contact reactionaries inside the country in order to disrupt security, stir up riots, organize antirevolutionary bases and, in the long run, take up arms to overthrow the people's administration. Leading this group of spies was Hoang Co Minh, 53 years old, a native of Dong Ngac Village, Hoai Duc District of former Ha Dong Province now Tu Liem District in the suburb of Hanoi. Before fleeing to the United States, he lived at No 43 on the former Doan Thi Diem Street, now Truong Dinh Street, in the 3d Precinct, Ho Chi Minh City. He served in the puppet navy for more than 20 years, from the age of 19. He was once commanding general of the marine force and in 1974 became rear admiral of the puppet navy. Hoang Co Minh was thoroughly trained by the United States and had committed bloody crimes against the people. He had actively participated in, and supported many bloody campaigns against the revolution such as the Dinh Tien Hoang 1, Dinh Tien Hoang 2, Co Gia Rung Sat, New Nguon Song, U Minh Thuong, Chuong Thien, Ho Nai, Bien Hoa campaigns. He was awarded nearly 20 assorted decorations. Four days prior to the liberation of Saigon, Hoang Co Minh fled to the United States. The CIA had used this admiral to muster some of the Vietnamese counterrevolutionaries fleeing the country—mostly puppet army officers—namely former parachutist Lieutenant Colonel Dang Quoc Hien, infantry Lieutenant Colonel Doang Van Tu, air force Major Nguyen Kim, navy First Lieutenant Tran Thien Khanh, Major Nguyen Huy of the J7 office of the puppet army joint general staff, and some others.

To deceive public opinion in the western world and rally Vietnamese nationals abroad, on 30 April 1980, the day on which the entire country commemorated the fifth anniversary of the great spring victory that wiped out all, Hoang Co Minh and these people brought into existence the so-called "National United Front for the Liberation of Vietnam" and set up the "National Resistance Council" in Southern California, United States. Those who were captured testified that this "National Resistance Council" is mainly responsible for defining policies and carrying out various activities in support of what they called the struggle for national liberation. The National Resistance Council also has its chairman, vice chairmen, ministers in charge of domestic and overseas affairs, resistance armed forces commander, and members responsible for economic and financial work and planning. On 30 April 1980, Hoang Co Minh also declared the founding of the "Vietnam Revolutionary Renovation Party," or Viet Tan Party for short, to serve as a nucleus in their various organizations. Hoang Co Minh named himself chairman of the "National United Front

for the Liberation of Vietnam," chairman of the "National Resistance Council," and leader of the Viet Tan Party. Meanwhile, he named Dang Quoc Hien a lieutenant general and commander in chief and Duong Van Tu a major general and deputy commander in chief of the "Resistance Armed Forces" respectively; Nguyen Kim, minister in charge of overseas affairs; Truong Tien Loc, minister in charge of domestic affairs; and Nguyen Huy, special assistant to the front chairman and concurrently member of the National Resistance Council. Hoang Co Minh's "front" also has its own political program, insignia, and national anthem and uses the flag with three red stripes on a yellow background of the fallen Saigon puppet regime as its pennant and the flag with a white six-petal apricot blossom on a blue background as the Viet Tan Party's banner.

No sooner had this odious organization emerged in Southern California with a handful of members than it was given material and moral assistance by the United States. Hoang Co Minh and his accomplices were also able to issue a "charter" with deceitful and flattering words clearly revealing that the nature and objectives of the "front" were to rally former puppet military and administrative personnel and other elements opposing the socialist regime in Vietnam, both at home and abroad, to carry out sabotage activities and work toward toppling the people's administration throughout the country in order to reestablish the U.S. lackey regime.

Hoang Co Minh and his accomplices planned to divide their operation into five stages to realize these insane and visionary ambitions.

Many of the documents seized and commanders of resolve groups [quyeets dqoanf], people groups [daan dqoanf], and entire groups [toanf dqoanf] in charge of special task units who were captured or who gave themselves up clearly declared that they had carried out the first stage from 30 April 1975 to 1980. That was the stage in which a policy was implemented to rally puppet officers who had fled to the United States and some other countries such as Australia, Japan, Canada, France...to form the nucleus of "the front" and to work out a line of struggle against the revolution. Implemented from 1980 to 1983 was the "March East" stage for the purpose of stirring up hatred and penetrating the population to launch by all means a mass movement against the revolution. In this stage, efforts were also made to select and train a number of cadres who are competent, loyal, ready to make sacrifices, and capable of assuming these difficult tasks both inside Vietnam and abroad. Between 1983 and 1986 was the stage devoted to building the infrastructure (this stage was later readjusted to last from 1984 to 1987). Scheduled to take place between 1986 and 1990 was the stage of building a "temporary liberated area." According to the confessions of the captured counterrevolutionaries, they had planned to seize at all costs some villages and hamlets or to paralyze or neutralize their administrations, thus establishing a foothold and a base area from which to expand their

activities and to receive "resistance fighters" returning from overseas. And the year 1992 would herald the stage of overthrowing the revolutionary administration and seizing power....

Fostered and directed by the United States and Thailand, for 7 years and more they worked feverishly against the revolution and deceived world opinion and Vietnamese in America and some other Western countries. As early as 1981 the Thai authorities had allowed Hoang Co Minh to establish a base area on Thai soil, near the Thai-Lao border, in Buntharik District, Ubon Province. There, in a densely forested area of approximately 20 square kilometers, they built 4 bases named 81, 83, 84, and 27 which were surrounded by 14 outposts. These were the places the Hoang Co Minh clique has for a long time claimed to be its "resistance bases inside the country." Hoang Co Minh set up there a command under his direct supervision. These bases also served as training centers. From this lair on Thai soil, Hoang Co Minh organized and sent back to Vietnam several groups of infiltrators via Cambodia and Laos to carry out sabotage activities and to build counterrevolutionary bases inside the country.

The Thai authorities also permitted Hoang Co Minh to establish an office in Bangkok to serve as a liaison center to maintain his base area's contact with the Thai administration, with Cambodian and Lao reactionaries, with various western countries, and with his acolytes working in these countries. Thai intelligence organized a special apparatus to provide the Hoang Co Minh clique with logistical support, giving it weapons and ammunition and special equipment for commando and espionage operations. On (27) December 1983, with U.S. dollars and Thai technical assistance, Hoang Co Minh set up at Base 83 a radio station and placed it under the control of Hoang Nhat who had just returned from Japan. They called the station "Radio Vietnam Resistance" and claimed that it was located inside Vietnam.

After establishing a "liberated area inside the country" in Thailand, Hoang Co Minh and his clique tried by all means to deceive public opinion and persuade credulous overseas Vietnamese to give them dollars and gold and help them with personnel recruitment. The CIA gave Hoang Co Minh a helping hand and also organized the show. Along with allowing the Overseas Affairs General Department to have its headquarters in the United States, thus facilitating Nguyen Kim's operations and contacts with exiled Vietnamese traitors in Australia, New Zealand, France, Canada, and Denmark, the CIA made arrangements for a number of reporters and even representatives of overseas Vietnamese to visit a "liberated area inside the country." News reports, press articles, film shows, pictures, and interviews were then carried by the U.S. and Western television networks for propaganda purposes. The United States provided funds for the publication of the paper KHANG CHIEN [RESISTANCE] in California so Hoang Co Minh could use it as a mouthpiece for psychological warfare. A

Congress dubbed "the just cause congress" was organized in the United States on 8 March 1982 by Hoang Co Minh to make public the front's platform in an attempt to introduce his country-betraying and reactionary organization to the public. A ceremony was organized on this occasion to welcome a three-stripe flag which, in his boastful words, had been brought from the "liberated area inside the country." Decoys posing as "liberation fighters" and battlefield reporters recounted "battlefield" stories in an attempt to deceive the public. Arrangements were made for Hoang Co Minh, Nguyen Kim, Nguyen Huy, and Truong Tan Loc to go to Japan, West Germany, Australia, South Korea, and various American states to meet with exiled reactionaries and Vietnamese refugees and persuade them to participate in, or support their country-betraying activities. Wherever he went, this cunning rear admiral, wearing a gray or black blouse, a striped scarf, and a pair of rubber tire sandals, repeatedly boasted that, backed by a more than 10,000-strong army, the "united national front for the liberation of Vietnam" had raised its flag and had as many as 36 resistance organizations inside the country rallying behind Hoang Co Minh. He called on each family to feed a liberation fighter and to help provide the front with a weapon. However, it is worth noting that if people happened to criticize the "front" or doubt its existence, Hoang Co Minh then would have members of K-9, an organization comprised of hooligans well versed in the handling of weapons and killing techniques, resort to death threats and terrorism against the former in an attempt to force them to give dollars or gold and to speak in favor of the "front." In addition, they established "resistance support funds" aimed at deceiving overseas Vietnamese and forcing them to make monetary contributions.

Second Installment

BK191345 Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 2 Dec 87, p 4

[Second Installment of an article by Do Quang: "To Understand Further the Postwar Plan of the United States as Seen Through the Trial of the Hoang Co Minh-Led Organization of Exile Counterrevolutionaries"]

Text] II. In the Counterrevolutionaries' Den [subhead]

Of the 19 defendants, nearly all 18 of the accused standing before the judge were identified as among the commanding ranks in the armed forces and the cadre contingent of Hoang Co Minh's Viet Tan Party. Dinh Van Be, alias Pham Tuan, 27 years old, resided at No 218, Thoi Thuan hamlet, Phuoc Thoi village, O Mon District, Hau Giang Province. He was commander of Resolve Group 7684 and party chapter secretary. Tran Van De, alias Det, 31 years old, resided in Tai Sum A hamlet, Dai Tam village, My Xuyen District, Hau Giang Province. He was commander of Resolve Group 7686 and member of the Viet Tan Party's executive committee. Le Bao, alias Le Dinh Bay, 34 years old, resided at 79/4b in Dong Ba hamlet, Phu Nhuan District, Ho Chi Minh City. He

was commander of Resolve Group 7687. Nguyen Van Binh, alias Hanh, 25 years old, resided in Phu Cuong Ward, Thu Dau Mot Town, Song Be Province. He was commander of an entire group of Resolve Group 7685. Tran Huu Cong, alias Due, alias Dinh Van Tiep, alias Hue, 33 years old, resided in the 5th Ward, 10th Precinct, Ho Chi Minh City. He was commander of People's Group 861. Nguyen Tan Khoe, alias Huong, resided in Tan Thuan hamlet, Nha Be District, Ho Chi Minh City; he was deputy commander of a special people's group in charge of protecting Hoang Co Minh.

They declared: Hoang Co Minh's armed forces units were organized and designated in accordance with the slogan "Entire people resolve and volunteer to resist and battle" using each word to determine the level of each unit such as: entire group, people's group, resolve group, volunteer group...and structuring units' staff organizations as follows: Entire Group is the primary level and is composed of 4 men. Three entire groups form a people's group of 15 men. Three people's groups form a resolve group of 40-50 men. Three resolve groups form a volunteer group, three volunteer groups form a resist group, and three resist groups form a battle group. In fact, over the past 7 years, there were only four resolve groups—7684, 7685, 7686, and 7687—had been formed. The personnel strength of each resolve group is equivalent to that of a company. As for the volunteer, resist, and battle groups, although their commanders were nominated, there were not enough soldiers to organize the units.

Although Dang Quoc Hien was armed forces commander, since 1984 Duong Van Tu had controlled the forces in lieu of Hien who died of a disease.

With four resolve groups of about 200 men, Hoang Co Minh and his close underlings had to work really intensively for 5 years despite effective support from Thai intelligence. Their forces included such indiscriminately picked "recruits" as 63-year-old men, 14 year-old children, and even sick and infirm people.

Such were the forces of Hoang Co Minh: But Hoang Co Minh himself, his resistance paper and radio, the U.S. television station and press, and the radios of some Western countries loudly claimed that the armed forces of "National United Front for the Liberation of Vietnam" led by Hoang Co Minh had already up to 10,000 men or more who were fighting day and night and operating effectively in Vietnam. Through the international postal service from the United States and Canada, and even through the sea cargo service to Vietnam's ports they had sent documents, books, magazines, and recorded propaganda tapes to these reactionary organizations and to many home addresses in the southern provinces and cities to deceive and instigate the people to riot.

Le Bao is one of the five that discussed and formulated the "March East" plan. He was a capable assistant to Hoang Co Minh. He and his accomplices clearly testified

that these four resolve groups were equipped by Thailand with guns and ammunition, mines, explosives, portable and man-pack radio sets, and other communications equipment necessary for commando groups. Besides conventional infantry rifles, hand grenades, mines, and C-4 explosives, they also provided Hoang Co Minh with Chinese-made M-26 rockets, U.S.-made anesthetics, grain, foods, medicine, camouflage clothing, and other items. They also provided the "resistance force" with recorders, long-range cameras, magnifying lenses, nylon thread, fish hooks, dry-cell batteries, and anti-mountain leech medicine. They also produced for Hoang Co Minh rubber and wooden seals of the Viet Tan Party Central Committee, the National Resistance Council, and the office of the chairman... and bundles of the party's blue flag with the white six-petal apricot blossom, flags with three red stripes on a yellow background, and documents on the political platform and so forth.

All the items carried by the rebels were confiscated by combatants of the Lao and Vietnamese Armies and public security forces. These items were also put on display at the court trial today. Noteworthy is the "March East" videotape by Hoang Co Minh which was screened at the court trial. Le Bao, head of a resolve group, testified that many copies of this videotape had been produced for distribution by the Foreign Affairs General Department to almost 20 regions where overseas Vietnamese are living in Australia, Canada, France, Japan, the United States, Denmark, and West Germany...with the intention of deceiving public opinion and collecting contributions from Vietnamese overseas in gold and dollars. Watching the videotape, one will see a large group of soldiers, but there are few "resistance troops" in the foreground, while in the background are bandit groups of Kham Pheua and Boukham who were hired to act in the film.

During his retreat from a foiled attempt to infiltrate into Vietnam, Phung Tan Hiep (a former soldier of the 23d Infantry Division of the puppet regime) stepped on a mine. Hoang Co Minh later organized a ceremony to confer "Hero of the March East" title to Phung Tan Hiep to boost the morale of his accomplices in order to continue deceiving public opinion and collecting money from overseas Vietnamese. In his confession, Dang Quoc Hung said the reason he joined the reactionary organization was due to the influence he received from reading "resistance paper" and watching a series of videotapes on psychological warfare similar to the deceitful "March East" videotape by Hoang Co Minh. They declared: Unlike previous times when well-covered military trucks, which were easily identified by the public, were used to transport weapons, ammunition, and food into the Tu Thang secret base to supply the Le Quoc Tuy and Mai Van Ganh clique, this time, only luxury Toyota cars were used, driven by Thai people to carry out the supply mission according to the idea that "little by little ants fill up their nest". The supplies were transported to a designated place near the base area and then transferred to trucks from their den. Each base has an 8 or 9-bed

health station provided with adequate medicines. Only serious cases of disease would be treated in the Thai hospitals in Ubon Province. Ly Ho alias Ly Thanh Tam, 47 years old, an advanced nurse of the former puppet army and a bloodthirsty guy who had killed some of his "comrades in arms" by injection on Hoang Co Minh's order, was charged with training first aid medics to serve in health stations and units infiltrated into Vietnamese territory.

Excluding those members of the "front" central command such as Dang Quoc Hien, Truong Tien Loc, Tran Khanh, Nguyen Duy, and Nguyen Quang Phuc who were former puppet army officers fleeing to the United States before and after 30 April 1975, and now returned to join reactionary organizations, nearly all the "resistance troops" were recruited by Hoang Co Minh from among the Vietnamese refugees' concentration camps. Their primary targets were former puppet army officers and soldiers, villains and robbers, prison and reeducation evaders, those who were dissatisfied with our regime, and youths fond of a hedonistic lifestyle. They took all these people to the 84th base for training before infiltrating back into Vietnam. This base, close to Na Noi Village, had been built earlier and was larger than other bases. Thai intelligence officers were usually present here to screen and select recruits. The base also served as a transit center to transfer Thai food and ammunition to other bases. Houses, barracks, and camps here were made of bamboo, wood, or palm. Political indoctrination rooms, training areas, and tactical operation drill areas were available. Duong Van Tu, was a former infantry lieutenant colonel and deputy commander of Dinh Tuong Sector in the time of the U.S.-puppet regime. He was known for his cruelty and crimes against the people. He trained the recruits in using weapons, laying mines, destroying bridges, kidnapping and assassinating our cadres, breaking through encirclement, maneuvering, ambushing, and countering ambushes. Hoang Co Minh and Nguyen Quang Phuc trained the men in the method of "evading dangers to survive", in tricks to collect intelligence information and start conversations with each type of social target in order to collect documents and organize agents, and even in the method of stopping passenger buses for terroristic purposes. After concluding a political indoctrination or military training course, Hoang Co Minh, Duong Van Tu, Dang Quoc Hien, and Truong Tien Loc always promised to their "comrades in arms" that once the administration was overthrown and the front victoriously returned, all the "resistance troops" would own houses, cars, and a lot of money, and would hold great positions. These demons further invented a selection list naming those who would be nominated generals, province chiefs, and chairmen with a view to deceiving and stimulating the zeal of the "resistance troops". Do Bach Tho, 23 years old, leader of the People's Group 843 of Resolve Group 7684 and secretary of a Viet Tan Party chapter, was promoted by Hoang Co Minh to "Chairman of the Resistance Administration Committee" of Lam Dong Province before he set out for an operation

through the Lao jungle to go back to Vietnam. Tho stated: If he succeeded in his mission, with such a position, he would have the duty of receiving those of the organization who returned to plant agents, develop forces, and build secret zones.

Pitifully enough, when asked about their educational background, the "liberation fighters," including those standing in court on trial or under detention, said a good number of them were first or second graders while others were illiterate. Though young in age, many of them had bad records resulting from theft, fraud, smuggling, drug addiction, or debauchery. In Tho's words, the motive behind their joining the reactionary organization was the desire to enjoy an exceptionally happy life. Now, their dreams have been shattered and their lives smashed... After they finally reached Thailand after risking their lives on the high seas or in jungles, they thought they were but a short way from paradise. Surprisingly enough, they were captured by Pol Pot troops and immediately sent to concentration camps, which were nothing but disguised prisons where everyone was malnourished and subject to hard labor and ill-treatment.

According to infiltrators who were captured or surrendered, life in Hoang Co Minh's "liberated area inside the country" was worse than that in the concentration camps because of sickness, chronic malaria, the hard work in building bases and outposts, and the very harsh training. After completing "basic training" for "liberation fighters," everybody came to realize the bitter truth and feared for one's life because of the very cruel deeds of the ringleaders. There was absolutely no way out for those who mistakenly got into this lair. "Liberation fighters" were prohibited from leaving their bases. Now that they were there, they had to undergo training to turn themselves into spies and commandos who would be sent back to undermine the revolution. The daily code of conduct was "hear nothing, know nothing, see nothing, no questions asked, and unquestionable obedience to upper echelons." Violators were subject to the death sentence, which would then be carried out immediately. In such a tense situation and realizing the bitter truth that sooner or later disaster would fall upon them, a good number of people tried to escape from the den. Those who failed in their escape attempts had to face painful deaths by lynching, strangulation with a nylon rope, having one's head smashed with a hammer—similar to what the Pol Pot clique did to its victims—being buried alive, or shooting after being tied up to a tree.

Searching through the documents captured from the bandits, we found the names, dates of birth, and dates of admission of the 18 victims of Hoang Co Minh's execution order with 15 cases of desertion, one case of mental disorder, and one case of disobedience to orders from upper echelons. The case of disobedience involved Nguyen Huu Nhieu, an Army physician and captain under the puppet regime. He was the only physician at the base to take care of the health of Hoang Co Minh and other front and Viet Tan Party leaders. Nhieu was a very

reliable and close physician to them. Nevertheless, upon learning of Nhieu's escape attempt, Hoang Co Minh ordered his subordinates to shoot him for his disobedience to orders from upper echelons. They set up a pole right in the middle of the base, tied him up to it, read the death sentence, and then shot him right in the presence of other troops in an attempt to intimidate them.

Third Installment

*BK200557 Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese
3 Dec 87, P 4*

[Third and last installment of an article by Do Quang: "To Understand Further the Postwar Plan of the United States as Seen Through the Trial of the Hoang Co Minh-Led Organization of Exile Counterrevolutionaries"]

[Text] III. Eastward Operations and the Fate of Crazy, Ambition Mongers [subhead]

During the period from 15 May 1986 to 8 July 1987, after several years of recruiting by force, training, and dispatching reconnaissance teams to Laos, Hoang Co Minh launched three armed operations from the base area in Thai territory to infiltrate Laos and enter Vietnam.

On 15 May 1986, Hoang Co Minh launched the first operation. This infiltration operation, which was of some importance in terms of "paving the way to send the troops forward," was personally commanded by "Brigadier General Commanding the Resistance Armed Forces" Duong Van Tu. His group was composed of 51 men, including one aide to Duong Van Tu and Resolve Group 7685 commanded by Huynh Trong Ha, a native of Ninh Hoa District, Phu Khanh Province, and a former puppet army captain. The deputy commanders of the Resolve Group were Lam Quoc Thai, a native of Soc Trang town, Hau Giang Province, and a former puppet army second lieutenant; and Tran Van Lam, a native of Hoc Mon District, Ho Chi Minh City. Before leaving the base, Resolve Group 7685 was redesignated Group 7773. This group was armed with AK and M16 rifles, M79 grenade launchers, B40 and B41 launchers, grenades, mines, cartridges of various calibers, foodstuffs, gold, and U.S. dollars.

To boost the morale of the troops before they left, Hoang Co Minh and many other leaders organized a send-off ceremony that was videotaped and photographed along with an interview with the "resistance troops". A Buddhist chaplain was asked to bless the troops so that they might have a safe infiltration and presented Hoang Co Minh with a talisman to protect his life. Hoang Co Minh entrusted Duong Van Tu and Resolve Group 7773 with the mission of infiltrating Gia Lai-Kontum to establish a secret zone in that province. Then, after the secret zone was secure, forces would be sent out to get in touch with former puppet soldiers who still refused to undergo

reeducation and to win those soldiers over to the antirevolutionary "front". Our cadres would be assassinated and kidnapped; border outposts, troop barracks, farms, and forest sites would be attacked; trucks along the Central Highland roads would be intercepted; bridges, warehouses, and railways would be mined.

Hoang Co Minh gave Duong Van Tu and the other three leaders of the Resolve Group a large amount of gold and U.S. dollars to be used in setting up the secret zone and organizing other activities.

Nguyen Van Binh and Tran Khanh Linh, who were involved in this infiltration operation and who were arrested by the combatants of border outpost 637, declared the following before the court:

On 15 May 1986, the 51-men commando group departed from base 27 in Thailand in cars driven by civilian-clad Thai officers to the border area. The men were then led by Lao bandits commanded by Khamphoun and Bokham across the Thai-Lao border into the Lao Province of Champassak. On 1 June they crossed the Mekong River and went through the Cambodian Province of Stung Treng. In July 1986, they again crossed the Mekong River to go deep into the Lao Province of Attopeu. In mid-August 1986, they stopped in the Cambodian Province of Rattanakiri and then entered the three-frontier area. On 12 September 1986, some of the men, including Tran Khanh Linh, crossed the border into Moray village of Satay District, Gia Lai-Kontum Province. They were attacked and captured by the combatants of border outpost 637 before they could do anything. In the meantime, Lao and Cambodian combatants across the border captured five more of them. The remaining members of the infiltration group were tracked down and completely eradicated on 19 September 1986. Duong Van Tu and the other three leaders of the Resolve Group were shot dead and killed during the action. Those who were captured confessed that during the 4-month march, they had covered no more than 300 km of jungle. Having neither guides, nor the people's support, nor local bases, the group was driven into an extremely difficult and confused situation. Along the way, the group was often spotted by villagers and intercepted, attacked, tracked down, and encircled by Lao, Cambodian, and Vietnamese troops. Some of the group members died of hunger, others of disease, and some were gunned down. Unable to move on after having exhausted themselves or having been wounded, a number of them lay dying in the middle of the jungle. Some killed one another for gold or dollars and, subsequently, tried to desert the group. They killed one another in a very cruel manner, either by stabbing, garroting, smashing the head.... While pillaging rice from a village, Duong Van Tu was shot dead by Lao guerrillas. During the 4 months on the infiltration route, this group of commandos raided 14 Lao villages for provisions. They set houses on fire, beat up villagers, and fatally shot many of

them before leaving, perpetrating innumerable crimes against the Lao and Cambodian people living in the areas they were passing through.

Worthy of note is that Resolve Group 7773—which was considered by Hoang Co Minh as a “big red brother” unit, and which had been painstakingly organized and carefully trained for years in the hope that it could accomplish his scheme—allowing him to continue deceiving public opinion and overseas Vietnamese—was promptly destroyed by the armed forces and peoples of Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam before it could reach its planned destination. Although the entire resolve group had been completely written off, Hoang Co Minh at his base on Thai soil kept loudly boasting to his fellow “resistance fighters” that the group had reached its destination safely and was operating very effectively. Swallowing his bitterness, Hoang Co Minh—it is not known whether he had received any information about the fate of Duong Van Tu’s group or not—ordered his remaining forces at the base to make active preparations for subsequent infiltration trips into Vietnam in accordance with the prearranged plan of coordination. Nguyen Huy, member of the Military Council and concurrently special adviser to Hoang Co Minh, was entrusted with the job of working out a military operational plan. On 29 November 1986, Hoang Co Minh held a departure ceremony at Base 27. On 1 December 1986, he ordered the start of a military operation code-named Dong Tien 2, lumping together the three remaining units—Resolve Groups 7684, 7686, and 7687—for a new infiltration drive under the command of Nguyen Huy. In particular, his radio station—which, together with those working there, had earlier been moved deep into Thai soil for continued operation—now concentrated on releasing propaganda themes in support of the Dong Tien 2 Operation. The rebels dreamt about the success of their infiltration drive, at the time of which the resistance radio station would broadcast their ready-made political platform and counterrevolutionary appeal. Hoang Co Minh, together with a special people’s group whose members served as his bodyguards, also took part in the Dong Tien 2 Operation, accompanying Resolve Group 7687.

At the trial, some members of the special people’s group who had been selected to act as bodyguards for Hoang Co Minh testified: On orders from ultrarightist reactionaries within the Thai ruling circles, all the “resistance fighters” belonging to the forces participating in this infiltration operation were taken by cars and accompanied by Thai intelligence officers in plainclothes to the Thai-Lao border where they were subsequently guided by some dozens of Lao bandits led by (Kham Phoeuan) and (Boua Kham) to enter Laos. After having marched for 4 days due southeast, they reached the Mekong River in Laos. While preparing to cross the river, they came under fierce gunfire by Lao troops and Vietnamese Army volunteers and had to flee back to the Hong Linh Forward Outpost of Base 81. Afterward, they moved back to an area just outside Base 27, biding their time for

another chance to start anew their infiltration into Vietnam. While waiting, Hoang Co Minh and Nguyen Huy organized training activities for their men, having them repeat political and military drills; and mulled over the failure of their abortive infiltration attempt.

Not until 7 July 1987, more than 7 months later, did Hoang Co Minh decide to launch the Dong Tien 2 [Second Eastward] Operation. Involved in this operation were—besides the 150 men who had departed last time—some new men introduced into the command staff of Hoang Co Minh and Nguyen Huy. They were Tran Khanh, alias “Phan Thiet”, in charge of political affairs, a former puppet navy first lieutenant; Nguyen Quang Phuc, alias Nguyen Quang Hai, a volunteer group leader code number 250, a former parachutist captain; Truong Ngoc Ny, a resolve group leader and operation assistant—Ny was a major of the former Saigon commando force who had been sent twice to Malaysia for jungle combat training and had participated in the 719 Lam Son campaigns in lower Laos during the years of war—and Le Bao, leader of Resolve Group 7687.

Setting out this time, Hoang Co Minh carried code number 234 and code name “Hanoi”. He said the Central Highlands remained the target of infiltration where they were to meet up with the Duong Van Tu column and establish a foothold in the area. Then, from there, forces would be sent out to other areas to operate in a concentric advance manner. When departing, besides weapons, ammunition, daggers, bayonets, mines, medicines and grenades, each of them was equipped with a tent, a hammock, two black uniforms, one striped fatigue set, and a Vietnamese army uniform with complete headgear, star, and military insignias.... medicines, 5 kilos of rice, 65 packs of instant noodle, salt, monosodium glutamate, and 4,000 Thai baht. Each resolve group was given 40 ounces of gold kept by leaders of people’s group or higher ranks. Each of them kept 6.5 ounces as operating funds once they could return to the country. Each of the resolve group deputy leaders was also equipped with one cassette radio with cassette recordings of Hoang Co Minh’s appeal to the people to riot. Each resolve group had a set of walkie-talkies to communicate with the operation command post.

In the four days from 7 to 10 July 1987 each Resolve Group was transported in cars driven by Thai intelligence officers to the staging area near the base of Lao bandits. From there, the group walked with 30 Lao bandits as guides. When reaching the Mekong river, Volunteer Group Leader Nguyen Quang Phuc suddenly fell sick and had to return to the base with six other men. During the whole night of 11 July 1987, Thai reactionaries used motor and row boats to help the resolve group members gradually cross the river. After then, team by team they moved toward the East and Northeast and shifted to the Southeast to cross the Sedon River (Laos). On 28 August 1987, these bandit troops were already again close to the Mekong river.

It was easier said than done. They estimated that they would walk for 20 days, but after nearly two months they only reached the banks of the Mekong River. During movement, Hoang Co Minh's forces were intercepted and attacked 23 times by Lao guerrillas in Saravan and Sekong Provinces. This frustrated all their operational plans. They were out of food though they had gold and U.S. dollars. They went into Lao villages to loot rice, manioc, chicken, and pigs from the people. When they could not loot anything, they ate grass, fruits in the jungle, and grilled worms and snakes. Many of them tried to flee. Some died of malaria and dysentery. Nearly 70 of them surrendered themselves with weapons or were arrested.

More than 40 bandits were shot dead by Lao combatants and Vietnamese Army volunteers stationed in Laos. Fourteen others who could not continue on the "March East" operation because of exhaustion, injuries, and malaria were executed in an extremely barbarous manner on the orders of Hoang Co Minh and other gangleaders, their heads smashed with hoes and rifle butts, their bodies pierced with knives, and their necks strangled with ropes. More cruel still, Hoang Co Minh himself ordered Nurse Ly Ho to kill Tran Trong Thao, Vo Hong Dyuc, and even Resolve Group Commander Truong Ngoc Ny by injecting a high dose of alcohol and iodine into their bodies after they had been wounded. The five witnesses appearing before the court—among them Nguyen Van Ngoc, who was saved at the last minute by our troops after he had been hanged on a tree by his comrades—charged that during their incursion, Hoang Co Minh had ordered the liquidation of several men whom he had often called "comrades in arms." One of them was Vo Hong Duc who, after being injected with iodine by Ly Ho, turned pale and writhed in pain on his hammock, his mouth foaming, but still refused to die. Hoang Co Minh himself then ordered him buried alive....

An entry in the operation logbook kept by Vo Hoang—alias Vo Si Hung who used to write anticommunist press articles under the U.S.-puppet regime and who joined the incursion to write "military history" for Hoang Co Minh—said: "The more we marched on, the more elusive our destination became." Vo Hoang was later shot dead on the bank of the Xedone River. Hoang Co Minh

himself was injured in a firefight on 18 July 1987. Yet, the remaining masters and lackeys of the bandit group still strove to help one another hide themselves themselves in the jungle.

On 26 August 1987, realizing that they had been trapped, that their advance was barred by mountains and their retreat cut off by rivers, and that they were at their last gasp, Hoang Co Minh gathered his remaining last men—less than 20 of them—for a meeting to plan a breakthrough and withdrawal to Thailand. However, it was already too late, they had been completely surrounded.

On 28 August, Hoang Co Minh, Nguyen Huy, and Tran Khanh were annihilated along with the command of the "March East" operation. Some of their "resistance fighters" were shot dead or captured, others threw down their weapons and surrendered.... A few stubborn ones who furrowed deeper into the jungle were all rounded up a few days later....

In the space of 2 years (1986-87), the Hoang Co Minh reactionary clique of exiles was smashed to smithereens during the course of three wildly ambitious "March East" operations. One hundred of the bandits were killed and more than 70 captured or surrendered. With hundreds of assorted weapons, dozens of kilograms of gold bullion, and countless amounts of military uniforms and equipment, the reactionaries had finally found out that "the more they marched on, the more elusive their destination became."

Obviously, over the past 7 years the U.S. imperialist warmongers have devoted untold efforts and resources to fostering the reactionary Hoang Co Minh organization while the ultrarightist reactionaries among the Thai ruling circles have given it effective assistance in an attempt to oppose and undermine the revolution in Vietnam and in the three Indochinese countries as a whole. Their scheme, however, has gone up in smoke in just a short period of time. This pitiful defeat should be a lesson in many ways for the imperialist and international reactionaries, warning them against nurturing pipe dreams. It should also be a sobering eye-opener for Vietnamese traitors at home and abroad who are still bent on opposing and undermining the revolution and betraying the fatherland, the nation, and the people.

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At the February meeting of the council, Japan is expected to accept a GATT ruling that Japan's import quotas on 10 agricultural products, a major source of Japan-U.S. trade tensions, were illegal.

MITI, Importers 'Squabble' Over Iranian Oil
OW220607 Tokyo THE JAPAN TIMES
in English 21 Jan 88 p 10—FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[Text] Government officials and oil importers are squabbling over whether the proposed restraint on imports of Iranian crude oil is a product of purely commercial decisions or of politically motivated "administrative guidance."

The split surfaced after Hoseyn Kazempur-Ardabili, Iran's vice oil minister, met with Makoto Kuroda, vice minister for international affairs of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, in Tokyo last week.

Hoseyn expressed concern over news reports that MITI has issued "administrative guidance" ordering domestic oil importers to cut import contracts with Iran, a concerted action apparently taken in response to the U.S. trade embargo on Tehran.

Kuroda dismissed the charge, however, and told Hoseyn that MITI had done nothing more than urge importers of Iranian oil to be cautious about causing a disruption in world oil markets in the wake of the U.S. action.

But Kuroda's remarks drew immediate rebuttals from domestic oil importers, who claimed that MITI has either directly or indirectly ordered a 30 percent cut in import contracts with Iran for the January-March period.

The 30 percent cut means that Japan will import 200,000 barrels per day (BPD) of Iranian crude during the period.

This may not be so significant a cut in real terms, though, since Japan imported just 240,000 BPD in 1987 despite import contracts for 300,000 BPD.

Despite repeated government denials, it is widely believed that MITI has indeed ordered a cut in import contracts for Iranian oil, whether directly or indirectly, to help soothe Japan-U.S. trade tensions, though MITI can not officially admit it.

Japan ignored a U.S. call last October to join in trade sanctions against Iran because of its diplomatic stance of neutrality in the protracted Iran-Iraq war.

But at the same time, Japan pledged that it would not do anything that might hamper the effectiveness of the U.S. measure, including rushing to buy surplus Iranian oil.

During last week's meeting, Hoseyn called for an immediate end to market intervention by the Japanese Government if any had actually occurred.

Kuroda claimed that cuts in imports of Iranian oil were based on purely commercial decisions by individual importers.

Trading Firm Barbers for Soviet Union
OW220613 Tokyo THE JAPAN TIMES
in English 21 Jan 88 p 1—FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[Text] The Soviet Union has been expanding its imports of farm products from Australia and New Zealand by bartering through a Japanese trading house, an arrangement that allows it to cover domestic food shortages without expending precious foreign reserves, business sources disclosed Wednesday.

Under the contract made last December between the Soviets and the Japanese firm, which seeks anonymity out of fear of domestic rightwing retaliation, the Japanese firm buys meat, dairy goods and other farm products from the South Pacific nations, destined for the Soviets.

Australia and New Zealand reportedly have strong desires to expand their exports and diversify the foreign markets for their products.

In return, the Soviets export crabs, cod, lumber, coal and other primary industrial products to Japan through the trading house, but they do not receive payment for the exports, the sources said.

Japan, whose fishing industry has been shut out of other countries' 200-mile exclusive fishery zones, badly needs the supplies of seafoods.

Under the "barter trade" contract, the trading house will receive its first shipment of 3,800 tons of mutton, valued at about \$2.7 million, from Australia near the end of the month.

New Zealand will also soon ship butter and other dairy goods to the Soviets using the same trade formula, the sources said, adding the Japanese trading house is capitalized at Y420 million with annual sales totaling approximately Y70 billion.

The Far East Trade Public Corporation, the trading firm's Soviet partner, is one of six corporations recently established on the Soviet East Coast to expand trade with Asian and Pacific nations in line with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's "perestroyka" reforms to encourage domestic organizations to expand exchanges with non-communist countries.

The sources predicted that other Japanese trading houses will follow suit and join in barter trade between the Soviet Union and third countries, and eventually change the traditional Japan-Soviet trade structure.

Defense Plan To Give Ground Forces Priority
OW212307 Tokyo THE DAILY YOMIURI
in English 20 Jan 88 p 1—FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[Text] Unlike the current midterm defense buildup plan, which concentrates on the Maritime and Air Self-Defense Forces, the next program will focus on upgrading equipment for the Ground Self-Defense Force [GSDF], it was learned Monday.

The new midterm defense buildup plan will start in fiscal 1991, which begins April 1.

According to a draft of a land defense plan obtained by the YOMIURI SHIMBUN, the new program changes the GSDF strategy from "counterattack and defense of hinterland" to "defense of the coastline and thwarting the enemy before it establishes a beachhead."

A Defense Agency official said this change has been made possible due to an improvement in firepower, accuracy and range of an artillery, as well as in command capability and better communications and intelligence.

The agency plans to equip the GSDF with the SSMI ground-to-ship guided missile and multiple-launch rocket systems, capable of launching more than 10 long-range rockets simultaneously. The SSMI, which has a range of 150 kilometers, will be the first cruise missile made in Japan.

The SSMI missiles will be deployed from 1991.

Under the plan, the GSDF will be reorganized into divisions based on functions, such as armored cars, aerial mobile forces, tanks, and maintenance. Up to now the GSDF has been organized on the basis of regional divisions.

The agency also plans to introduce aerial refueling and airborne warning and control systems (AWACS), even though these systems may be perceived as exceeding the limits of Japan's purely defensive military policy.

Despite the shift in emphasis to the GSDF, the Defense Agency still plans to continue its effort to defend Japan's sea-lanes and upgrade its air defense on the high seas.

Work on the next midterm defense buildup plan will formally begin in or after summer. However, an informal study on the plan began among officers of the Ground, Maritime, and Air Staff offices in the middle of last year.

Police Reveal Red Army Struggle Plans

OW212313 Tokyo THE JAPAN TIMES
in English 20 Jan 88 p 3—FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[Text] The Japanese Red Army sent their No. 2 leader to Japan to establish an underground network of terrorists that could initiate an "armed struggle" that would topple the government, a special team of investigators for the Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department [MPD] has concluded.

MPD sources said Tuesday the terrorist group created a central organization in Japan five years ago called the Anti-War Democratic Front [ADF], which police at first thought was an international organization.

However, documents confiscated from Osamu Maruoka, 37, reportedly the No. 2 leader of the Japanese Red Army, indicate that the group has been engaged in clandestine operations with Japan as its sole target.

Maruoka was arrested in Tokyo on Nov. 21 last year when he returned from a trip to Hong Kong using an illegally obtained Japanese passport.

Police have searched more than 100 places in connection with Maruoka's arrest. Maruoka's partially coded notebook and other documents were analyzed, leading to the discovery that the objective of the ADF was to unify leftist groups in Japan and create a mass movement against the government.

The Japanese Red Army intended to inspire an armed uprising in Japan using the ADF as headquarters. At the same time, the terrorist group planned to launch an "international armed struggle" elsewhere in the world cooperating with foreign terrorist groups. Together the groups were to be called the "Anti-Imperialism International Brigade," police said.

The ADF has yet to achieve its original goal of creating a nationwide network, but it has managed a set up liaisons with supporters of leftist radical Masashi Daidoji, who engineered a series of bomb attacks on the offices of major Japanese business firms and was sentenced to death last March, according to police.

Police have been investigating further to determine the identity of the ADF's members. Maruoka is being questioned to determine whether his entry into Japan had anything to do with a terrorist operation to "rescue" Daidoji, police said.

Rocket Bombs Fired at Narita Airport

OW212329 Tokyo MAINICHI DAILY NEWS
in English 20 Jan 88 p 12—FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[Text] Narita, Chiba—Police started a full-scale investigation Tuesday into an attack in which rocket bombs were fired into New Tokyo International Airport at Narita Monday night.

Five rocket bombs were fired toward the airport from a truck parked at an empty lot in Narita at around 10.30 p.m. Monday and one of them exploded in a parking bay 2.5 kilometers away after passing over the runway, police said. No damage was reported.

Launching equipment found on the abandoned truck consisted of five one-meter-long steel pipes with a diameter of 10 centimeters, police said.

Police suspect an anti-airport group fired the rocket bombs and was aiming at a central building at the airport.

Police are searching for the four other bombs.

South Korea

ROK President Chon To Meet Nakasone in Feb
OW151524 Tokyo THE DAILY YOMIURI
in English 14 Jan 88 p 1—FOR OFFICIAL USE
ONLY

[By correspondent Kunihiko Yamaoka]

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 13—South Korean President Chon Tu-hwan concurred on former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone's request to visit Seoul in mid-February to discuss the improvement of Seoul-Beijing relations.

Chon's approval came after Liberal Democratic Party Policy Research Council Chairman Michio Watanabe conveyed Nakasone's message to Chon saying that Nakasone wishes to visit Seoul in mid-February to discuss with Chon ways to improve relations between South Korea and China.

Chon, welcoming Nakasone's plan, replied that he personally respects Nakasone and is looking forward to seeing him in mid-February, LDP officials accompanying Watanabe said.

Watanabe met with Chon for 50 minutes at the Blue House presidential mansion.

As to the normalization of Seoul-Beijing ties listed by president-elect No Tae-u as a political platform during his election campaign, Chon would not disclose any concrete political schedule to achieve that goal.

Instead, Chon asked Watanabe whether he has a good idea about needs to be done. In pushing for the improvement of Seoul-Beijing ties, it will be necessary to take into consideration the effect on neighboring countries and at the same time to enlist their support, Chon was quoted as saying.

As to the revision of the election law, Chon said a revision bill is expected to pass through the National Assembly by the end of February or by mid-March.

Watanabe said it might be desirable for the law to be revised before Chon's term expires. Chon responded by saying he has the same idea, the official said.

Chon did not respond when Watanabe inquired about his view on North Korea's announcement Tuesday not to take part in the Seoul Olympics if the games are hosted solely by South Korea.

Watanabe is scheduled to meet with No Thursday. He will return home Friday night.

pointed out: The Americans waged a cruel war against Vietnam and caused untold suffering to our people. Nevertheless, we stand ready to turn our back on the past and look forward to normalizing relations between the two countries on the principle of equality. The Vietnamese people have very good feelings about and are grateful to Americans, including many U.S. intellectuals, writers, and artists who resolutely opposed the war of aggression waged by the U.S. Administration against Vietnam.

The remains of many Vietnamese cadres, combatants, and civilians killed by U.S. bombs and shells have not yet been recovered. Nevertheless, we stand ready to cooperate with the U.S. side in the search for the remains of U.S. soldiers killed in Vietnam. Since Amerasian children have the mixed blood of their American fathers and Vietnamese mothers in their veins, they also deserve our love and responsibility. We are prepared to create every condition for them to leave for the United States. Regarding those having connections with the U.S. Administration in the past, we also stand ready to grant them exit permits. However, difficulties arise from the countries of asylum, especially the United States.

Answering questions raised by a number of newsmen concerning the withdrawal of Vietnamese Army volunteers from Cambodia and the stance of Vietnam on the issue of peace and stability in Southeast Asia. Comrade Nguyen Van Linh said: The Vietnamese people have gone through 40 years of destruction caused by the war of aggression. Therefore, more than anybody else, they have long yearned for peace, friendship, and cooperation with fraternal countries. Nevertheless, soon after we achieved peace and national unification, the Pol Pot clique, instigated by foreign countries, conducted grabbing operations against the southwestern border area and committed barbarous massacres against our people. Next, since 1979, Chinese troops have continuously caused tension in the six northern border provinces, forcing us to exert our right of self-defense. The rebirth of Cambodia and strong development of the Cambodian Administration and people's armed forces have enabled us to withdraw part of our Vietnamese Army volunteers from Cambodia and, as agreed upon by the two countries, Vietnamese Army volunteers will be completely withdrawn from Cambodia in 1990, or sooner if we can reach a solution to the Cambodian issue.

Like Laos and Cambodia, Vietnam has advanced many initiatives aimed at reaching a solution that would help restore peace and stability in the region, and has also acclaimed the ASEAN countries' desire for peace to be restored soon in Cambodia in the spirit of national reconciliation.

Comrade Nguyen Van Linh hoped that in their function as reflectors of the truth, journalists would give the world public a true picture of the Cambodian issue. He also answered questions concerning our people's renovation

undertaking, efforts to overcome the consequences of the war, and the development of cultural and artistic activities in our country since liberation.

The meeting lasted for more than 3 hours. Though a good number of newsmen wanted to raise more issues, the very concrete, straightforward, and convincing answers of the comrade general secretary made everyone feel very satisfied and comfortable.

AFP Reports on Meeting

*BK211310 Hong Kong AFP in English 1246 GMT
21 Jan 88*

[By Jacques Michel Tondre]

[Text] Ho Chi Minh City, Jan 21 (AFP)—The Hanoi government hopes for an agreement under which disarmed Khmer Rouge forces will "return to civilian life" before a planned 1990 pullout of Vietnamese forces from Cambodia. Vietnamese leader Nguyen Van Linh said here Thursday.

He also indicated that Vietnam wanted to improve its ties with the United States and planned to soon release all the prisoners it still holds in re-education camps.

The general secretary of the Vietnamese Communist Party rejected any preconditions for the 140,000-strong Vietnamese occupation forces' withdrawal from Cambodia.

He added, however: "We have declared on many occasions that our troops will be completely withdrawn by the year 1990, whether or not there is an agreement between the Cambodian parties."

But he indicated that he hoped for an accord under which "Pol Pot forces may return to citizen life but not carry arms with them" before the withdrawal.

Pol Pot is the leader of the Khmer Rouge, which Vietnamese forces toppled when they invaded Cambodia in 1979. The Beijing-backed Khmer Rouge is the main armed group now resisting the Vietnamese presence in Cambodia.

Mr Linh said he did not believe the Cambodian resistance was capable of toppling the Vietnamese-backed Phnom Penh government which, he said, had considerably strengthened its position after nearly a decade in power.

He was addressing about 60 foreign newsmen here for an Asia-Pacific journalists' conference, seen as a major public relations exercise planned to coincide with the current second round of peace talks in Paris between Cambodian Premier Hun Sen and resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

Questioned on Vietnam's re-education camps, often denounced by Western human rights organizations, Mr Linh said that all prisoners still held there would be released soon.

"We have made the decision recently to release all of them," he said, but gave no specific date, nor any further details.

Vietnam announced in September that it had ordered the release of 6,685 political prisoners—including military and civilian officials of the now-defunct U.S.-backed South Vietnamese Government—and reduced the terms of another 5,320.

Mr Linh was also conciliatory vis-a-vis the United States.

"Vietnam wants to forget the past," he said.

On the fate of Vietnam's Amerasian children—born of American serviceman fathers and Vietnamese mothers during the Vietnam war—Mr Linh said: "We want to return all of them to the United States, where they will have a better future."

He also spoke of Vietnam's determination to rebuild its economy and complained about what he termed the country's "budget-eating" bureaucratic excesses.

He also hinted at a possible reorganization of the Vietnamese cabinet, saying: "We have too many vice-premiers." There are now nine of them, he said.

The two-day journalists' conference was inaugurated Tuesday by Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach, and participants will be taken to Phnom Penh Friday for a 48-hour visit to Cambodia before returning here Saturday.

Conference Closes 21 January

*BK211600 Hanoi VNA in English 1535 GMT
21 Jan 88*

[Text] Hanoi VNA January 21—The three-day round-table of Asian-Pacific journalists was closed in Ho Chi Minh City this afternoon.

Twenty-six speeches at the conference underlined the aspiration of the mass media to maintain peace and stability, step up dialogues, broaden cooperation, and support and consolidate initial joint constructive activities in Asia and the Pacific.

At the conference, Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach and Kampuchean Assistant to Minister of Foreign Affairs Long Visalo spoke about the issues of peace and cooperation in the region.

Vo Dong Giang, chairman of the State Commission for External Economic Relations, expounded the Vietnamese Government's law on foreign investment.

Particularly, the speech by Party General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh helped foreign journalists understand more about the situation in Vietnam and in the region.

Many participants proposed to continued live up the spirit of cooperation beginning from this conference by increasing view exchanges and contacts among journalists in such forms as holding teach-ins, exchanging information, newspapers and journalists.

On behalf of the Vietnam Journalists' Association [VJA] Dao Tung, vice president and general secretary of the VJA, expressed thanks to the journalists for their presence at the conference which, he said, expressed their desire for peace, stability, cooperation, and their goodwill and high sense of responsibility.

This evening, the party committee and the people's committee of the city gave a reception in honour of the participants.

Article on Alleged U.S. Postwar Plan

First Installment

BK191015 Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 1 Dec 87, p 4

[First Installment of article by Do Quang: "To Understand Further the Postwar Plan of the United States as Seen Through the Trial of the Hoang Co Minh-Led Organization of Exile Counterrevolutionaries"]

[Text] I. Fostered by the United States, Effectively Supported by Thailand [subhead]

Three years ago, the group of Beijing lackey spies led by Le Quoc Tuy, Mai Van Hanh, and Tran Van Ba infiltrated into our country with effective support from Thailand. They were all arrested and publicly tried in Ho Chi Minh City. This time, another organization of counterrevolutionaries in exile who were led by Hoang Co Minh and fostered and guided by the United States and Thailand to infiltrate Vietnam, were also eradicated and almost wholly captured. This was a new armed exploit of public security force members who had worthily cooperated with the volunteer Vietnamese combatants and border defense units and maintained close combat coordination with the armed forces of fraternal Laos and Cambodia to wipe out an organization of counterrevolutionaries living in exile and serving as henchmen of the enemies of the country and people.

Although these captives were brought before the law today, the case actually began on 30 April 1980.

Implementing the postwar plan when the defeated Americans had to roll up their flag and get out of southern Vietnam on 30 April, the CIA, together with other

Repatriated Army Volunteers Welcomed in Pleiku

*BK2412014288 Hanoi VNA in English 1512 GMT
23 Dec 88*

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec 23—More than 10,000 army men and people of Gia Lai-Kontum Province, Central Highlands, gathered in a solemn meeting at Pleiku provincial town this morning to welcome Divisions 315 and 207 of the Vietnamese Volunteer Army, which has returned from Kampuchea after fulfilling their internationalist duty there.

Addressing the meeting, Nguyen Van Sy, member of the party Central Committee and secretary of the provincial party committee, highly praised repatriated army men for their great achievements in helping the Kampuchean people overthrow the genocidal Pol Pot regime, then rebuild and defend their country.

Accredited by the State Council, Lieutenant General Phan Hoan, commander of the 5th Military Zone, pinned the Military Order, First Class, on the banners of Divisions 315 and 307.

Committee for Amendment of Constitution Set Up

*BK2612160088 Hanoi VNA in English 1522 GMT
26 Dec 88*

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 26—A committee to draft amendments and modifications to a number of articles of the Constitution has been set up. The committee, established in accordance with a resolution passed by the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam at closing session on Dec. 22, includes 16 members with Vo Chi Cong as chairman.

Resolution Passed

*BK2712062688 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
1430 GMT 26 Dec 88*

[“The Fourth Session of the Eighth SRV National Assembly’s 13-22 December 1988 resolution on setting up a committee to draft amendments and modifications to a number of articles of the SRV Constitution”]

[Text] By virtue of Articles 83 and 147 of the SRV Constitution and considering the Council of State’s proposal for modifying and amending a number of articles of the 1980 Constitution, the SRV National Assembly has reached the following decisions:

—Setting up a committee to draft amendments and modifications to a number of articles of the SRV Constitution.

—The composition of the committee to draft amendments and modifications to a number of articles of the SRV Constitution is as follows:

1. Vo Chi Cong, chairman;
2. Phan Anh, member;
3. Nguyen Viet Dung, member;
4. Le Quang Dao, member;
5. Nguyen Thi Dinh, member;
6. Phan Hien, member;
7. Pham Hung, member;
8. Nguyen Khanh, member;
9. Vu Mao, member;
10. Do Muoi, member;
11. Nguyen Quyet, member;
12. Tran Quyet, member;
13. Nguyen Huu Tho, member;
14. Dam Quang Trung, member;
15. Phung Van Tuu, member; and
16. Pham Thi Thanh Van also known as Mrs Ngo Ba Thanh, member.

This resolution was passed by the Eighth SRV National Assembly’s Fourth Session on 22 December 1988.

[Signed] Le Quang Dao, chairman of the National Assembly.