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MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

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"VERY URGENT"

MESSAGE

- TO: Directors of Directorates
- Information Representatives at Military Regions
 - Chief, Prefectural Information Service
 - Chiefs, Province Information Services
 - Chief, Phu Quoc District Information Service

SUBJECT: Exploitation of the speech delivered by the President of the Republic of Vietnam while presiding over the closing ceremonies of the Village and Hamlet Officials training course, No. 5/70, at Vung Tau.

On August 25, 1970, the President of the Republic arrived at the Vung Tau National Cadres Training Center to preside over the closing ceremonies of the Village and Hamlet Officials training course, No. 5/70. This training course was attended by 2,563 trainees, including 1,148 village and hamlet officials, among them were 10 females, and 630 Popular Forces Cadres, 875 Rural Development team and group leaders.

On this occasion, the President named this course the New Countryside Course.

In his speech to the graduating trainees, the President talked about the present situation of the nation (Vietnam Press News Bulletin No. 7104 dated 26 August 1970).

It is requested that you make extensive dissemination of the speech in accordance with the following directions with your available Information facilities and means:

I. VILLAGE AND HAMLET DEVELOPMENT IS THE PRIMARY CONDITION TO DEVELOP THE COUNTRY AND ACHIEVE SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND SELF-RELIANCE.

1. The Government carried out the Rural Development and Pacification Plan.

The President said: "We are carrying out a special Pacification and Development Plan from July to the end of October this year, aiming at strengthening security in villages and hamlets and completing development projects that still remain to be accomplished from 1969

and during the first six months of 1970, and at the same time preparing for the 1971 Development program."

The President reported: "The reason that we initiated this plan early last July was because the military situation in the Republic of Vietnam had become very favorable. After the overthrow of the pro-Communist government of Prince Sihanouk in Kampuchea, our Armed Forces destroyed Communist secret base camps on Kampuchean territories and inflicted heavy losses.

Consequently, the Communist combat potentials have been deteriorating, and today they no longer have the capabilities to launch major attacks on the battlefields of South Vietnam."

2. Rural Development to attain a developed national economy:

The President said: "Thanks to the glorious military victories of our people and Army, security conditions in villages and hamlets have been improved, and at the end of this year the situation will be much better."

The President continued: "With improved security conditions, we must look toward the development of the countryside as a step in the development of the national economy. At present, the development of democracy and administrative institutions in villages and hamlets has obtained successful results, and we can say that we have walked two-thirds of the road. The problem now is to create a spirit of unity among the masses in villages and hamlets, a spirit of communal development so that the people in villages and hamlets can develop their own local communities. To develop their communities, the people must first develop the productivity of every individual person, every family, and make every family self-sufficient."

The President believed: "Only then will the people think of the development of their villages and hamlets. If all our villages and hamlets are developed and prosperous, our nation also would be developing and prosperous, and only thus can we achieve self-sufficiency and self-reliance."

3. The President appealed/the whole people to participate/development of the national economy:

The President said: "Developing the nation is a long-range task, requiring the positive participation of everybody in every walk of life. We are still relying on the assistance of many nations in the Free World, with the United States playing the most important role. Of

course, we cannot rely on them forever. We ourselves must build our own nation, we ourselves must take the responsibility of defending our own independence. Therefore, we have agreed to gradually replace the American troops, and we have asked the United States to help us develop a powerful civil self defense force equipped with modern weapons. And we also have asked the United States to increase economic aid so that we can effectively counter the Communist aggression when the Americans have gone home."

The President stressed: "We must be patient and continue our efforts. From a situation tantamount to complete defeat during the years of 1965 and 1966, our nation today has risen and our people and Army have picked up and put back into the bowl almost all the grains of sand that we spilt during the years of 1965 and 1966."

II. WE MUST HEIGHTEN VIGILANCE AND CONTINUE CONSOLIDATING THE COUNTRYSIDE TO MAINTAIN OUR SUPERIOR POSTURE:

1. All underground Communist agents must be destroyed:

The President said: "We are strong, while the Communists are getting weak. We must continue weeding out Communist cadres who are still stealthily sabotaging our villages and hamlets. When we have completely destroyed all these underground cadres, then we can enjoy genuine peace, a peace achieved by the force of our Army and people, a peace in security and prosperity of our villages and hamlets."

2. The Communists are warlike and stubbornly refuse to accept any peace proposal:

The President once again reascertained to public opinions: "In spite of the Communists' stubborn refusal to sign any peace settlement, the war will end anyway in the next 2 or 3 years. We are not a warlike people; we always show our peaceful goodwill. We have proposed the other side to join us in an election. We also are ready to receive with national compassions elements who want to come back to the great family of the nation. However, we also are prepared to destroy any elements who still stubbornly try to cause us trouble."

3. Peace will come, as a result of our whole people and Army's effort:

The President said: "We ourselves must bring about our own peace. We should never accept a peace that is given to us. Our peace must be achieved by the effort of our Army and whole people."

And this peace is now looming through the prosperity in our countryside."

The President continued: "All those who ask for immediate peace, peace through neutrality, peace through coalition, are either foolish or wooing the people, or could be henchmen of the underground Communists. The tragic experiences of North Vietnam, Laos, and most recently of our neighboring country Kampuchea, have convinced us that the Communists never give up trying to conquer our country.

Therefore, we must heighten our vigilance and continue consolidating the countryside to maintain our superior posture.

4. The President intends to develop powerful village and hamlet communities.

The President continued: "The President intends to build villages and hamlets into powerful communities by letting the villages and hamlets decide their own development problems in the local areas and administer their own way of life. And when villages and hamlets have developed favorably, the people will think of contributing to the common development of the nation."

To help all organizations elected by the people understand fully the situation and requirements of the nation today, the President will personally invite members of the Prefecture, Province and City Councils in the country recently elected to meet the President at the Independence Palace in early September. On this occasion, the President will present to the Council members the situation and requirements of the nation, especially the development requirements.

III. THE PRESIDENT BELIEVED THAT VILLAGE AND HAMLET CADRES ARE MEMBERS OF A MOST POWERFUL PARTY:

Finally the President told the graduating trainees that the reason the President talked to them at the Training Center was because he has faith in them, believes that they thoroughly understand the national situation, believes that they will determinedly carry out what the people want, and believes that all these village and hamlet cadres and officials are members of a most powerful party in our country today.

That is the party of people holding arms to destroy the Communists and defend the country; that is the party of public servants and cadres contributing their services and efforts to bring about a better life for the people; that is the party of village and hamlet officials, of Popular Forces and Civil Self Defense members who are defending and developing the countryside.

The President stressed that it is this faith that has inspired the President's enthusiasm in leading the nation to final victory. The President also said that he placed complete confidence in the works of cadres in the countryside today.

Request your organizations carry out properly this message.

SAIGON, 5 September 1970

Assistant to Minister
(Signed and sealed)

CHUNG DUC MAI

Copies to:

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- Office of the Information Minister
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- Central Departments and Ministries
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