

W
FILE SUBJ.
DATE SUB-CAT.
11/20

ARTICLE ON 'SECRET AGENT' IN TRADE UNIONS ORGANIZATIONS

Liberation Radio (Clandestine) in Vietnamese to South Vietnam 0500 GMT 2 Nov 70 S

[First of a series of articles by Ngoc Phu: "Tran Quoc Bui, a secret agent in the trade unions organizations"]

[Text] Even at the time of Ngo Dinh Diem and Ngo Dinh Nhu, Tran Quoc Bui was called a tyrant of the workers, and for the past 15 years he has been called the secret agent number 1 in the trade unions organizations in the south. Since the end of June this year, following the general strike of the Saigon-Gia Dinh workers, the compatriots have ever more severely cursed Tran Quoc Bui. At that time, the anger of the workers and laborers was so high that a number of leaders of the Saigon-Gia Dinh Federation of Trade Unions agreed to split from Tran Quoc Bui's General Confederation of Trade Unions.

In the meantime, a number of Saigon papers have continued to publish articles denouncing the ugly acts of Tran Bui against the workers and laborers, although one must also admit that the writers of some of these articles have sympathized with the leaders of the Saigon-Gia Dinh Federation of Trade Unions or have acquired political tendencies opposite to those of Tran Quoc Bui. However most compatriots affirm the correct attitude of the writers in denouncing Tran Quoc Bui. According to union cadres, many union members have bought newspapers that criticize Tran Quoc Bui. According to the compatriots, these papers have only dealt with the little crimes committed by Tran Quoc Bui, such as acts of cheating, or abuse of his union functions in order to do business and gain profits, and none of them has thoroughly dealt with the serious crimes perpetrated by Tran Quoc Bui against the laboring compatriots.

Indeed, Tran Quoc Bui has collaborated with the U.S.-puppet clique to threaten, oppress, and terrorize the workers and undermine the workers' struggle movement. Moreover, he has taken advantage of the union confederation to carry out political acts in compliance with the designs of the U.S.-puppet clique and against the interests of the workers.

The laboring compatriots are dissatisfied with these press articles because they fail to disclose the true nature of Tran Quoc Buu or to point out the main crimes of this man. These main crimes of Tran Quoc Buu are being strongly criticized by the laboring compatriots and trade unions cadres. Here are a few examples published by the laboring compatriots and trade unions cadres to disclose the true nature of Tran Quoc Buu, the secret agent in the trade unions organizations and an agent of the CIA organization.

The matter which the compatriots have discussed most frequently is that Tran Quoc Buu had actively tried to undermine the struggle movement of the Saigon Bus Company's workers and the general strike launched by the Saigon-Gia Dinh workers early in January this year. In fact, in autumn 1969, the workers of the Saigon Bus Company waged a struggle movement against the discharge of workers and for wage increases. This struggle movement was severely opposed and intimidated by the Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique. Then on 11 December 1969, the workers of the Saigon Bus Company held a meeting and decided to take to the streets.

Tran Quoc Buu intervened and promised the workers that he would talk the Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique into meeting the demands of the workers. Being aware of the enemy's wicked schemes, and resolved not to let themselves be fooled, the workers waged a sit-in strike at the headquarters of the General Confederation of Trade Unions, while awaiting the results of Buu's negotiations. Scores of days elapsed, and Buu was unable to do anything good for the workers. In the meantime Buu rushed to the United States and returned in 4 days. On his return to our country, he pretended to ignore the workers' sit-in-strike and their extreme poverty.

On 26 December 1969, that is, after 20 days of a fruitless sit-in strike, the workers took to the streets demanding that the Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique solve their demands. Faced with the great anger and prompt action of the workers, Buu was unable to prevent the workers' demonstration. He then resorted to another trick, asking the workers to be calm and to avoid sacrifices. By so doing Buu wanted to threaten the workers that he would not intervene should the Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique resort to repressive measures. Being aware of the stubborn attitude of Tran Quoc Buu, on the next day, more than 70 representatives of other trade unions in the prefecture immediately held a meeting to decide on a strike in support of the struggle of the Saigon Bus Company's workers and to demand that Tran Quoc Buu defend, on behalf of the General Confederation of Trade Unions, the interests of the Saigon Bus Company's workers.

Despite this action, Buu still remained inactive. Taking advantage of this situation, the Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique maintained its stubborn attitude toward the workers' demands. Two days later that is on 29 December 1969, Tran Thien Khiem, in a televised talk, criticized the struggle movement of the Saigon Bus Company's workers.

Being aware of the stubborn attitude of the Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique and of Tran Quoc Buu, the workers of the various trade unions in the prefecture wanted to wage a general strike in Saigon-Gia Dinh. In the first week of January 1970, Tran Quoc Buu constantly resorted to intimidation measures to prevent the general strike from occurring. However, faced with the firm fighting spirit of the laboring compatriots of Saigon-Gia Dinh, on the morning of 7 January the federation of trade unions of the prefecture ordered a general strike in the area, to support the struggle of the Saigon Bus Company's workers.

On the next day, panic stricken, Tran Thien Khiem had to invite the workers' representatives to talk with him but during the talk Tran Thien Khiem clearly resorted to delaying tactics. On the same day 8 January, Buu met the leaders of the Federation of Trade Unions of Saigon-Cholon, during which he overtly stated that if the workers prolonged their general strike the students and other people's strata would take advantage of the situation to step up their struggle to overthrow the Thieu-Ky-Khiem regime, and that was a situation that had to be avoided. Tran Quoc Buu added that he had talked directly with Thieu by telephone and that Thieu had agreed with his view and that, therefore, it was necessary to end the general strike in order to solve the workers' demands through concrete negotiations. Thus the general strike was ended through Tran Quoc Buu's pressure.

As the general strike was ended before negotiations could be undertaken, the workers were oppressed by the Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique. Concerning the workers' struggle against employee discharges, the Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique agreed in principle that the discharged workers would be reinstated when the Saigon Bus Company expanded its activities, but refused the immediate rehiring of the unemployed workers. Concerning the workers' demand for wage increases, the Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique refused to give the workers a monthly increase of 1,000 piasters, as it had done for the workers of other government agencies, but agreed to give them 2,000 piasters as terminal compensation. Thus after several months of struggle, and with the wholehearted support of 118 trade unions in the prefecture, the workers of the Saigon Bus Company were able to win only very little because of Tran Quoc Buu's objections. As a result, the Saigon Bus Company workers' struggle against discharges and for wage increases could not be solved in accordance with the expectations of the workers. While hundreds of workers remained without employment, others had to be satisfied with their low salaries at a time when the cost of living had soared.

In examining Tran Quoc Buu's role in that recent struggle movement of the workers, one can clearly realize that during these 6 weeks of struggle Tran Quoc Buu had ignored the miserable situation of the workers and had tried on three occasions to halt the workers' strike. Dealing with this matter, an elderly bus driver stated: "I think that in the struggle of the bus company workers Buu should have raised his voice on behalf of the General Confederation of Trade Unions to defend the workers' interests. By so doing, he could force Thieu to quickly meet the worker's requests. The first crime committed by Tran Quoc Buu was that he did not raise his voice as chairman of the General Confederation of Trade Unions to defend the workers' interests. His second crime was that he had taken advantage of his role as chairman of the Confederation of Trade Unions to work for the good of the Thieu clique and to act against the workers' interests. Tran Quoc Buu is really a secret agent in the trade unions organizations." This opinion of this elderly bus driver is shared by everyone.

Why did Tran Quoc Buu undermine the worker's struggle? On 8 January, while undermining the general strike, Tran Quoc Buu stated: "If we let the general strike continue, other people's strata will arise to struggle to topple the Thieu-Ky-Khiem regime." Thus Buu clearly expressed fear concerning the overthrow of the Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique, and thus clearly showed his intention of supporting the Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique in power.