

The speech of Dr. Lê-Kỳ-Văn, Chief of Health Service at BaXuyen province on the occasion of the " Tenth International Day of the leprous "Organized at Lazaret Pavillion (Khanh-Hung).

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have a great honor to welcome you with your charity to this organisation of " The tenth International Day of the leprous"

Your presence proves your enthusiasm, your good-will and charitable activities which will relieve human suffering.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the early days, leprosy was regarded as the most dangerous and repugnant disease. The leprous were regarded so dangerous as to be set aside. Their personality is not respected. Contempt, hate, insult lie heavy upon these unfortunates' soul.

In this meserable situation, a great saviour appeared and saved the leprous from this gloomy hell, bringing them promising prospects, hope and reason to live : He is Mr. Raoul Follereau, a charitable man, who initiated the organisation of the "leprous International Day" in which you are participating, in the aim at showing the suffering image haunting the leprous all their life, appealing love and charity from all people to wipe out their prejudice to help the leprous.

"Help the leprous", this appeal from Mr. Raoul Follereau is resounding all over the world, moving even the heart of those who are the most indifferent before man's suffering.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The leprous are the most unhappy. They are victims as the others from various disease, but only the leprous are ill-treated and suffer much from other people's insult.

Ladies and Gentlemen, love them and console them as much as you can. Your gifts will be a source of relief for them. Your friendly and frequent visits will remove them from loneliness and sadness.

"The Leprous' friend association" has been recently established whose honorable chairman is President Ngô-Dinh-Diêm, and is at its busiest.

On the occasion of the New year's Day, the association has visited the patient and distributed gifts to console them on these days.

On this busiest "Day of the leprous", your heart should widely open. We sincerely appeal your charity to push up a long movement to help the leprous and to restore their personality.

This is not only the grace to the leprous but also to the Vietnamese people and human kind.

May good bless all the Leprous, give them faith in a bright day.

Good-bye and thank you all.-