

Nhan Dan Assessment of DRV During 1953

Feb 6-10, 1954

"THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE YEAR 1953 AND THE TASKS WHICH WE SHALL HAVE TO FULFILL IN 1954"

(Editorial of the Vietnam Workers' Party Newspaper, Nhan Dan, No. 164 for the week February 6-10, 1954.)

When compared with the previous annual programs, the accent put on political indoctrination in every field is remarkable. Its effects should not be underestimated. -- B.B.F.]

A. Summary of the work accomplished in 1953

In 1953 our long-term resistance has shown notable progress. Numerous realizations have illustrated the general upswing of our national movement. The following achievements have been made:

1. Military reorganization and particularly politico-military action, which has permitted our soldiers to make rapid progress and to accomplish numerous feats of arms.

2. Political instruction has been a great success in 1953. It has raised morale, the political level of education, the spirit of responsibility of the organization of discipline of the cadres. It has had an excellent influence upon the application of government directives and in the accomplishment of missions.

3. Mass mobilization to obtain the effective reduction of land rent has been the principal mission of 1953...

4. In the field of economics and finance, an important task has been accomplished in 1953, a task which had been set in 1951: the increase of the receipts and the decrease of expenditures...

Important works have been carried out concerning roads and bridges. There has been progress in the transport of supplies destined to the front lines. Commercial exchanges with China have taken an upswing.

5. The struggle in the enemy rear areas has been strongly developed, guerilla warfare has been strongly intensified... The propaganda against enemy troops has been developed.

The military reorganization has permitted our army to develop from every point of view. Political instruction guarantees the implementation of the policy of the government and the accomplishment of all missions of resistance...

B. Action Program for 1954

In his report on the situation of the missions for accomplishment in connection with agrarian reform, President Ho has indicated the principal tasks to be accomplished this year: to exterminate the enemy and to implement the agrarian reforms... Upon the basis of the instructions given by President Ho, one can trace the following picture of the tasks to be accomplished in 1954:

In the military field.

Intensify our action tending to overthrow enemy maneuvers and win more victories. Consolidate and develop the popular troops in every facet of their action.

Mobilization of the masses so as to implement the agrarian reforms.

In 1954 the mass mobilization for the nation-wide decrease of land rents and for the implementation of agrarian reform in the regions where this is possible must be continued.

The Central Executive Bureau is in charge of directing agrarian reform and shall centralize the information furnished by the zones and provinces which control the rational decrease of the land rent. In the zones and provinces one must organize the mass mobilization so as to achieve that decrease. The overall direction of the movement must be enforced. The provinces must know the role of the Central Executive Bureau: it is in charge of unifying the general action of the cadres so that the mass mobilization can be carried out in an orderly fashion, rapidly, thoroughly and upon a solid basis, so as to save time while carrying out the task assigned by the government.

Economy and finances.

The methods to apply and the tasks to be accomplished are the following: Cooperation with the mass movement... Development of agricultural production and of family artisan enterprise... Forestry products, small industry, and production of foodstuffs. Accomplishment of missions concerning the construction of roads and bridges so as to facilitate the supply of the front lines... Intensify internal commerce, respect the forms of commerce as carried out in the regions populated by ethnic minorities...

Social culture.

As far as propaganda and political structures are concerned, one must carry out two principles: conduct educational propaganda in favor of national union for resistance, reconquest of real independence, and the safeguard of world peace; spread education on agrarian policy so that production is accelerated.

As far as cultural education is concerned, one must: put through a rational increase of educational levels where the mass mobilization for land rent reduction and for the application of agrarian reform has been initiated; give the masses useful objectives in the extension of culture and in the bettering of the quality of same.

Public health.

Practice "patriotic hygiene" to avoid illnesses. Destroy parasites. Watch the health of the population and particularly that of our compatriots living in enemy rear areas.

The $\sqrt{\text{National Union}}$ Front and the propaganda among the population.

Consolidate and develop the National Union Front in the struggle against Imperialism; concentrate all anti-feudal forces; develop solidarity between

various [ethnic] populations and the sects of various religions.

Actively propagandize among the population; positively help the young people and women particularly.

The Friendship Associations "Vietnam-Soviet Union" and "Vietnam-China" must do their best to consolidate and to develop feelings of friendship for the peoples of the friendly countries.

Organization of the Party.

Implant cadres in the nationalized industries.

Educate for mass mobilization, form and build up cadres, strengthen their direction, better them in all fields...

On the subject of guidance:

Insure the implementation of all the tasks named above and particularly watch the following points:

In directing positions, all echelons, even the secondary echelon, must fully execute their tasks;

In relations with the masses, with the cadres, and with higher echelons, one must energetically oppose functionaire-ism and bureaucratism;

In the utilization of popular forces and of national property, one must absolutely oppose waste and bribery;

In the organization of forces and of popular initiative in the army and cadres, it is necessary to guide, to encourage and to follow in an efficient manner the popular and related movements.

The successes which we have realized during the last year in every field, as well as the international democratic and peace movement which supports our resistance, constitute the guarantee for our people, who may expect numerous additional successes for this year.

[In the present Decree, the Viet-Minh Government arbitrarily determines the social status of the Vietnamese according to their land ownership. It is interesting to note that such a social classification, once given, is considered almost like a racial characteristic (Articles 11 and 12). The whole law constitutes nothing less than an attempt at creating a caste system along Marxist lines. Sections marked *** were inaudible in transmission.]

B.B.F.

Government Decree No. 239/B.TLP

Whereas the Council of Ministers of 1st and 2nd of March 1953 has resolved; and Whereas the Permanent Commission of the National Assembly has given its advice; The President of the Government promulgates the following Decree tending to classify the rural population.

Determination of the various categories

Section A. Principles underlying the present classification.

This classification is necessary. It is of real importance to distinguish our compatriots, separate our friends from our enemies, permit the unification and direct the struggle in the sense we want.

The essential principle to apply in the determination of the constituting elements of the rural class is that of each individual, of each family:

- have they, or not, any means of production?
- if so, how many have they?
- what are those, and how do they use them?
- do they cultivate their land themselves, or do they use hired labor, or do they rent their land?

Such details will allow to judiciously categorize the elements of the rural class according to whether those elements do their own exploiting or exploit for someone else, or exploit to insure their own subsistence.

Having recourse to such considerations as the composition of the family or its living standard is NOT necessary. It matters only in the case where the essential principle is not sufficient per se to arrive at the sought-for classification.

In order to arrive at an exact classification, it is necessary to base oneself upon the mass of the people. Once the latter *** and thanks to a strict application of rules, it will be easy to proceed to the application of categories in the rural mass. In case of difficulties, the people shall be consulted and will decide.

Section B. Categories of the Rural Class.

1. The landlords

Those are the owners of the land and rice paddies, whether they work them themselves, or rent them to others, but who, in any case, draw the principal means of subsistence from agricultural exploitation.