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Democratic Republic of Vietnam

Achievements of the Year 1953 and
Tasks which We Shall Have to Fulfill in 1954
February 1954

A. Summary of the works 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. The 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. The mass mobilization so as 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 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, guerrilla warfare has been strongly intensified.... The propaganda against enemy troops has been developed.

The military reorganization has permitted our army to develop in every point of view. Political instruction shall guarantee 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 to accomplish in connection with the agrarian reform, President Ho has indicated the principal tasks to be accomplished this year: to exterminate the enemy and

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to implement the agrarian reform.... 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 many victories. Consolidate and develop the popular troops in every facet of their action.

Mobilization of the masses so as to implement the agrarian reform:

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

The Central Executive Bureau is in charge of directing the 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 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 accomplish are the following: cooperation with the mass movement.... Development of agricultural production and of family artisanal enterprise.... Forestry products, small industry, and production of foodstuffs; accomplishing 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: make educational propaganda in favor of national union for resistance, reconquest of real independence, and safeguard world peace; spreading the education on agrarian policy so that production be accelerated. As far as cultural education is concerned, one must:

Put through the rational increase of educational levels where the mass mobilization for land rent reduction and for the application of the 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 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 the various populations and the sects of various religions.

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

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

Organization of the Party:

1. Implant cadres in the nationalized industries;
2. Education of 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 functionalism 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 of our people which may expect numerous additional successes for this year.

5. Comments by Foreign Minister of Democratic Republic
of Vietnam* Immediately after Conclusion of Geneva Agreements
July 21, 1954

The Geneva Conference is concluded with the signing of the agreement which put an end to the hostilities in Indochina.

This is a great victory for the people of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and the people of other Indochinese countries, for the people of France and all the peoples of Asia, a great victory for all peace-loving people.

It is a great victory for peace....

The signing of peace in Indochina on the basis of the recognition of the national rights of the Indochinese peoples is a victory for all oppressed people who raise high the banner of struggle for national independence and democratic liberties.

On behalf of the people and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, the delegation of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam expresses its thanks to all the powers participating in this conference, and all the peace-loving peoples and governments far or near who have contributed to the achievement of peace for which our people have struggled with heroism for 8 years.

A big step has been taken. More steps remain to be taken. We have to build up a stable and lasting peace in Indochina by settling the political questions, of which the most important is the achievement of the national unification of our people by means of elections, that is to say, by peaceful and democratic means.

At the same time, we have to build up our country, which has been ravaged by prolonged war, continue and intensify the carrying out of democratic liberties, including freedom of opinion and belief, develop the country's economy and culture in order to raise the standard of the material and spiritual life of our people.

To accomplish these tasks, which already present themselves, we shall need the sympathy, support, and assistance of our friends. We shall need the cooperation of peoples of Southeast Asia and all the rest of Asia on the basis of mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, non-aggression and non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit, peaceful coexistence, and we shall need good relations with all countries of the world.

With France in particular, a country famous for its glorious tradition of liberty, the Democratic Republic of Vietnam ardently desires to form ties of confidence and friendship, which are indispensable to the restoration of peace in Indochina and the settlement of all related questions. We stand for the establishment of economic and cultural relations with France on the basis of equality and mutual benefit.

*The Minister's name was Pham Van Dong.