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VO VAN KIET REPORTS TO HO CHI MINH CITY VCP CONGRESS

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[Text] Hanoi VNA April 21--In the 2 years since liberation, Ho Chi Minh City has undergone "profound and all-round revolutionary changes," says the report of the Communist Party organization in the city to its first congress (second round) which began on April 19.

HISTORY OF THE VIETNAM WAR ON MICROFILM

The report was delivered by Vo Van Kiet, alternate Political Bureau member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam, and secretary of the party committee for Ho Chi Minh City.

The report recalls the difficult and complex problems facing the new administration after the liberation of South Vietnam--puppet troops, functionaries and reactionary political organizations had not renounced their schemes of sabotaging the success of the revolution, the false economic prosperity completely dependent on foreign countries, heavy damage to agriculture in the suburban areas, 1 million jobless persons out of a 4-million population, the debauched, reactionary and neo-colonialist culture, and rampant social evils. "When fleeing South Vietnam, the U.S. imperialists thought Saigon would succumb to famine and chaos, but they were wrong. The city has stood firm and is on the road of development," the report says.

The revolutionary administration was set up at all levels and was quickly consolidated. Millions of people on April 25, 1976 took part in the general elections to the common National Assembly and are now preparing to elect people's councils at all levels. Tens of thousands of suggestions were contributed to the fourth party congress last December and more suggestions have been made to the current congress of the city's party organization.

Revolutionary mass organizations have drawn more than 1 million members. The people of numerous circles have discussed problems of public concern within their own mass organizations, have undertaken mass activities and supervised the work of state instrumentalities.

Concerning the economy and the people's living conditions--considered the most difficult, complicated and urgent concern of the administration--reality has shown that though difficulties remain, the situation is stable and progress has been made in many domains. The report says: "More than 400 state-run enterprises and 14,000 small industrial and handicraft establishments have resumed operation. Total industrial output value in 1976 was approximately 1.8 billion dong. Many plants have overfulfilled the state plan.

"Immediately after liberation the peasantry bravely removed unexploded mines and shells and, together with youth brigades and city people in various precincts, reclaimed land, overcame shortages of fertilizer, gasoline and draught power, and made great efforts to build irrigation projects for intensive cultivation and crop multiplication. "The results have been very encouraging. The cultivated area on the city's outskirts in 1976 reached 88,000 hectares, up 32 percent compared with pre-liberation days. Paddy output rose to 160,000 tons, almost double the pre-liberation figure. More than 6 million cubic metres of earth were moved for irrigation works.

"As well as restoring and developing industrial and agricultural production, an initial step has been taken to redeploy the work force. Seven hundred thousand people were helped to return to their native places, or to sparsely populated areas around the city and elsewhere to build new economic zones. This has provided jobs for half of the 500,000 unemployed left by the old regime and also solved some social problems.

"In culture and ideology, the overwhelming majority of the people are confidently marching forward under the leadership of the party and the revolutionary administration. The socialist ideology has gradually gained supremacy in social life.

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Hundreds of thousands of city dwellers have volunteered to build new economic zones. The sanitation movement has become a routine in the life of the masses.

The cultural and spiritual life of the people, especially the working people, has been substantially improved. In 1976, almost 22 million attendances were recorded at meetings, teach-ins and talks about the party's policies. Almost 1 million students received free education at 636 general schools, and 559 infant schools. The city has basically eradicated illiteracy with almost 92,600 persons or 94.32 percent of former illiterates having learned to read and write. Hundreds of complimentary education classes have been opened for the new literates.

The medical network has been expanded to the grassroots level. On an average there is now one medical worker for every 350 people, one assistant doctor or doctor for every 5,000 people and 20 hospital beds for every 10,000 people.

Cultural, artistic, physical culture and sports activities have become regular hobbies of the masses.

The war invalids and social welfare service has taken initial steps to solve a number of burning problems relating to the life of war invalids, families of fallen heroes, and retired cadres.

Besides, the city administration has given medical care to many drug addicts and prostitutes left by the old regime and provided them with every opportunity to rebuild their lives.