

TRUNG TÂM QUỐC - GIA BẢO - CHÍ

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Ladies and Gentlemen :

Phạm Hồ Văn Bửu, 39 years old, born in Châu-thành district Biên-Hòa province.

I was graduated Engineer of Agriculture in 1957 in Franco, and repatriated in 1958 for serving at the Department General for Agriculture from 1960 to 1963. In 1964, I worked at the Ministry of Agriculture and, in 1965, I was Director of Technical Aid at the VN Rubber Research Institute.

In 1967, Ba Trà, a Vietcong intellectual propaganda cadre for Saigon - Gia dinh area, invited me to join him in his activities. Then he was arrested, and after his declaration, the Directorate General of National Police kept me under custody from June 1967 to April 1968.

After my being released, Mr. Trinh dinh Thao sent a man with a letter inviting me to come to see him. By early September 1968, I came to the Headquarters of the Alliance for People's Democracy and Peace located near the Vietnamese - Cambodian borders.

- In November 1968, I was appointed Standing member of the Vietnam Alliance for People's Democracy and Peace for Saigon-Giadinh area.

- In May 1969, I was appointed a member of the Revolutionary People's Committee for Saigon-Cholon area.

- In June 1969, I attended the People's Congress for the setting up of the VC Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam.

During more than 12 months at the Headquarters, I realized that our People's and Democracy Alliance group was almost living in a state of half-custody within a remote area of the jungle. As for me, being somehow independent by nature, I have often asked for technical assignments, but I gradually lost their sympathy and was

remarks. That is the main reason which induced me to seek all means to return to Saigon.

From July 1969, most people of our Alliance group have been sent by the VC to other places, and I was staying there with 5 others. Control measures became less strict, I took the opportunity to make acquaintance of young guards for inquiring about roads, defence structures, etc... and I could induce a younger in charge of cooking duty at the base to go away with me. We left the base in the evening of January 15, 1970 in the direction to Cambodia. We were travelling by night and hiding ourselves by ~~4444~~ day and reported to Cambodian authorities in the morning of January 18, 1970. Until February 5, 1970, we were brought to Phnom-penh.

I asked for political asylum at Embassies of Free-World countries, but I was denied such a right by Cambodian authorities, who compelled me to be sent over to the territory of Laos, or to be returned to the VC. Finally, I made a request for being transferred to Laos, and was led by Cambodian Police to Stung-treng province on March 20, 1970. The Police of the Stung-treng province used a car to take me to Laos. I then reported to the local authority of Sithandone province at 5 p.m. of March 20, 1970. I was taken to Vientiane on April 2, 1970. The Embassy of the Republic of Vietnam in Vientiane brought me to Saigon in early May, 1970.

Today, I am very glad to present to you, Ladies and Gentlemen, my report on "the Activities of VN Alliance of People's Democracy and Peace Forces."

SUMMARY REPORT ON:
ACTIVITIES OF THE VN ALLIANCE OF PEOPLE,
DEMOCRACY AND PEACE FORCES:

1/ ORGANIZATION AND DUTIES:

At first, the Alliance of Hue was set up during the Lunar Tet offensive in 1968 and you have certainly heard of such Alliance as :

- The Central Alliance of which TRINH DINH THAO is President.
- The Alliance for Saigon-Gia Dinh area of which LE VAN GIAP is President.
- Other Alliances in Da-nang, Qui-nhon, Nha-trang, Dalat, My-tho, and Can-tho.

The Central Alliance and our Saigon-Gia Dinh Alliance are under " loose custody " in an area at the base called Administration Department of the Central Committee of People's Liberation Front. As far as I know, local Alliances are composed of 2 or 3 members selected by the Provincial Commissioner, and whose names have been announced by Radio and Press communiqués.

Though being called President of the Central Alliance, TRINH DINH THAO had no leading power, no control over the Saigon-Gia Dinh Alliance or other city and provincial Alliances. Even the Central Alliance was under the direct leadership of the Central Committee of People's Liberation Front, which sometimes caused THAO to become angry and discouraged. He said : " I am an old man; let anyone do anything he wants.

I tend to have an order for the Front to do anything by itself. In every month, the Alliance was meeting only once for hearing the President need a report on the political and military situation at home and abroad. This report had been prepared by the Deputy Secretary General. Usually there was nothing to do but play cards and "Tu-lo-kho" for recreation purposes.

2/ MORALE AND THOUGHTS OF THE ALLIANCE'S MEMBERS.

In general, almost all personalities of the Alliance were frustrated because they were being retained at the base without any contact with people outside. Their attitude, however, might be different according to the extent of frustration of each individual and his future plan :

- TRINH DINH THẢO and his wife, LÂM VAN TẾT, THANH NGHI, NGUYỄN VAN KIẾT, HUYNH VAN NGHI, TRƯƠNG NHƯ TẮNG, CAO VAN BÓN, TÔN THẮT DƯƠNG KY seemed frustrated and discouraged, but were still believing in the front's ultimate victory (June 1969).

- Whereas NGUYỄN VAN BỬU, VŨ NGỌC THÀNH, LÊ VAN GIÁP, NGUYỄN HỮU KHƯƠNG, PHẠM NGỌC HÙNG, TRẦN THIÊN TỬ, NGUYỄN THANH QUANG, were discouraged and no longer confident in the Front's success. They were only waiting for the first opportunity to escape from the base and return to Saigon. By early 1969, NGUYỄN HỮU KHƯƠNG and NGUYỄN VAN BỬU were planning together to report to Vietnamese Authorities as "returnees", but thereupon KHƯƠNG disclosed their plan through drinking with other people, so

that they were all more strictly controlled by the VC. I did not see, however, the VC apply any disciplinary measure against these men.

- As for LÊ HIẾU ĐĂNG, DƯƠNG QUYNH HOA, LÊ QUANG LỘC, LỮ PHƯƠNG and HỒ HỮU NHỰT, they were still working positively.

3/ ATTITUDE OF THE "CENTRAL OFFICE" AND "NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT" TOWARDS THE ALLIANCE, AND VICE-VERSA.

The Central Office for South-Vietnam (COSVN) was not apparently in direct relations with the Alliance. Even HUYNH TẤN PHÁT, the man in permanent contact with the Alliance, was showing discretion by not mentioning the Central Office which he only described as representatives of the Central Committee of the NLF. Other personalities of the Front, such as NGUYỄN HỮU THỌ were showing respect for the Alliance's members, but were taking decision for everything. They were most reserved during all interviews; what they seemed to be most afraid of was to disclose their Communist face to the Alliance. The lack of friendship and open-minded relations was partly owing to too much reservation on the Front's side, and on the other hand, the same attitude of opposition was shown by the Alliance towards denying them all freedom.

4/ DISAGREEMENTS WITHIN THE ALLIANCE.

Even in the beginning when the Alliance was set up, TRỊNH ĐÌNH THẢO and LÂM VĂN TẾT were not on good terms with each other,

but only when the so-called "Revolutionary Government" was born in May, 1969, all such disputes and disagreements broke out in the open.

- Presently, the Alliance force is divided into two parties:
- The party of TRINH DINH THAO including THAO and his wife, KIET, GIAP and CUONG (alias PHU HUU);
 - The party of LAM VAN TET including THANH NGHI, VO NGOC THANH and NGUYEN VAN BUU.
 - There is also a third party standing mid-way and including all others.

The main cause of such disputes is that TRINH DINH THAO and his party don't agree for LAM VAN TET to be Vice-President of the "Council of Provisional Revolutionary Government" of which THAO hopes to be President. As he is already President of the Alliance, belonging to intellectual groups endowed with prestige. But LAM VAN TET and his party hope for TET to hold the position of Vice-President of the Government Council, by which he would be allowed to appoint his fellows to important Government posts.

The party of LAM VAN TET further includes THANH NGHI and NGUYEN VAN BUU often in disagreement with each other. BUU is blaming NGHI in as much as the latter, a writer, who cannot have a work of his creation, but is occupying himself to pick-up ready-made terms and fit them together into a dictionary. As for NGHI, he is despising BUU as belonging to a class of militant people, provide with strong muscles, but understanding nothing else.

PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES:

For subsistence, every individual is paid 15 riels a day, whereas a front cadre receives only 10 riels. Monthly allowances for every individual is 450 riels, whereas they are only 150 riels for a front cadre. In fact, we have learned about such differences in pay rates from statements by Front cadres themselves. For THANH GIHI and NGUYEN VAN BUU, they were usually complaining about such inadequate subsidies so as to make it difficult for them to live. As for TRINH DINH THAO and DUONG QUYNH HOA, as they were able to get along with it thanks to much money they had taken with them before^{so} they did not show any complaint. Lodging, clothing and medical facilities are supplied by the Front. The Alliance does not have its own fund, so when there is a need for themselves or other comrades, TRINH DINH THAO had to get in touch with HUYNH TAN PHAT, representing the Front, for decision.