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NHAN DAN'S HOANG TUNG INTERVIEWED BY BUDAPEST TV

LD052342 Budapest Domestic Television Service in Hungarian 1730 GMT 4 Mar 82

[Interview by unidentified reporter with Hoang Tung, editor of NHAN DAN; date and place not given; recorded -- Tung's remarks in Vietnamese with superimposed Hungarian translation]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted on introduction of Hoang Tung and description of his work]
[Hoang Tung] The Vietnamese bourgeoisie and the Western bourgeois press willingly spread the saying regarding our land that Vietnam won the war, but it is losing peace; it is losing a battle in a time of peace. They judge us to be simply incapable of peaceful building work. These analyses, spread by our enemies, suggest that we cannot manage our economy, and all this leads to failure. At least, this is what our enemies hope.

In fact, we have shortfalls in these spheres, even weaknesses. The directing organization of our economic life, and generally the functioning of our economic mechanism were formed during the 30-year war, in accordance with the requirements which were demanded from us by the state of war. All this, naturally, hinders the normal functioning of our economy, and causes many problems in our economic work.

This is why we are now trying to change the system of economic direction. So we can say that in the present period of our development, we must work on introducing a reform, and furthermore a fundamental reform. If we do not introduce this reform, then via the previous style, the opportunities for economic development can be lost. Clearly, we also must fight against bureaucracy: we must declare war on the present illnesses which paralyze economic management. In our planning, we must enforce decentralization; that is, we must regroup planning work. In this sphere, we must create three-stage planning, at a central level, the level of rural units and at the base level.

[Question] Excuse me for interrupting. Clearly, the essence of the economic reform is the strengthening of individual interest and material incentive. How do you envisage this?

[Answer] Obviously, we must pay greater attention to the interests of the workers. This means that we profess, with faith; we must portion out and coordinate these three interests to a greater extent and more thriftily, that is, the interests of the workers, the interests of the communities -- cooperatives and factories -- as well as the interests of the state. However, individual interests must have first place in our method of approach. Our economic policy is directed toward this now. Only in this way can we achieve growth in production throughout the country and a development of producing forces in Vietnam.

A natural interest of workers, of all Vietnamese workers, is connected with our ensuring that they have adequate material circumstances and opportunities for a life worthy of man. And not only for them, but for their family members too. If we do not satisfy the needs of the Vietnamese families, then it simply will be impossible to further increase production at the proper pace.

[Question] It seems that this type of interest is being discovered nowadays in Vietnam; that is, you are beginning to introduce it now.

[Answer] This would have been difficult earlier, because for over 30 years we were constantly compelled to fight an armed battle with our enemies. We managed to mobilize millions and millions of our people to various front of the battle.

In such circumstances it is impossible to believe that we could have paid more attention to the living conditions of the people and the direct interests of the people. The main responsibility of every family, every village, and every person was to contribute to our common cause. In this period, it was natural for us that the most important factor in our life was taking risks and self-sacrifice.

[Question] Six years have passed since your contry was reunified. The SRV has gone through a very important period since this time, since the reunification. How would you describe the most important events of this time?

[Answer] We have achieved significant successes during these years, first of all in the sphere of full reunification of the two parts of the country -- the SRV was founded. We began the economic rebuilding of Vietnam.

However, the greatest victory of our people during this period was the triumph over the Chinese intruders. The talks between our countries did not lead to success, and these talks were prolonged and became unfruitful because of the great power, hegemonist and chauvinist stand of the Chinese side. Beijing is increasing tension. [word indistinct] The atmosphere is tense at the talks too. The Chinese belittle, denigrate us. They have brought together more than half a million soldiers on our borders, and this is only the number of people of the centrally directed troops. The local forces of border districts must be added onto this. (?Six) army corps were concentrated on our borders, with three to four divisions per army corps. That is, on the northern border of Vietnam there are constantly stationed at least 12 centrally directed Chinese divisions. The provocations (come from here). They bombard our territory, their units penetrate Vietnam, they kill peaceful civilian inhabitants, workers.

However, in Beijing they accuse us of attacking them, of increasing the tension. Precisely the Chinese leaders called on their people to modernize the army at any cost, and they oppose Vietnam, or as they put it, the hegemonist power of the Indochinese region. The Chinese leaders, for instance (?Deng Xiaoping) and [name indistinct] constantly threaten that they will give a further lesson to Vietnam. In such circumstances, our people and army undoubtedly must stand in readiness. High-level alertness must be evidenced. This is exactly why we continue to keep general mobilization in force. Our army and people stand in readiness for (?battle). As I mentioned, Vietnam does not want war. We endeavor for peace. We do not want conflict, but friendship with the Chinese people. (?But) if they attack us, we undoubtedly will strike back. They will suffer a much more painful defeat than during the most recent war. It cannot be known yet who will give a lesson to whom, but on the basis of all this, it is my opinion that the threat of war is very real.

And taking place at the same time as all this, which I consider very important to emphasize, was that in cooperation with the Kampuchean people, with joint strength, we managed to bring an end to the rule of the genocidal Cambodian regime.

Regarding the building of socialism in Vietnam itself, we could enter significant successes in our books in this sphere too.

[Question] What do you consider to be the gravest problems in economic development?

[Answer] Our main goal is to boost agricultural production. Only then can we resolve the most urgent, pressing everyday material problems. This is our most important task and goal. The other important aspect is that we continue the country's industrialization program, that we progress in economic activity directed at laying the foundations of socialism.

Our third goal is that we complete the socialist restructuring of our economic life, and here I am thinking mainly of the southern part of our country, south Vietnam. Finally, our fourth goal is that we strengthen our defenses. These are now our most important goals.

[Question] How do you consider it feasible that food production keeps in step with the pace of population increase?

[Answer] This is a very important problem, awaiting a solution, which our people faces. During the past 7 years, our grain production grew yearly by 3.5 percent. However, the increase in population reached 2.3 percent. Our agricultural production still is unable to satisfy the population's needs. It cannot catch up with the continued quick growth in the number of births, but nevertheless it is a considerable result that in 1981 the scale of production growth surpassed the results of the previous year by 6 percent. For this reason, we greatly hope our economy is able to catch up with the growth in the rhythm of births. We are making significant endeavors in the interest of spreading family planning. Thus, our population should increase by 2 percent yearly. In the agriculture branch, we want to make it lasting that production grows by 3 or even 4 percent.

[Question] What do you think could be the best method of overcoming the demographic explosion?

[Answer] In the first place, every person must be taught, every family. This is one of our most important tasks. That is, work of informing. Apart from this, we must spread the necessary tools, such as contraceptive pills. It seems very important, mainly in the country, that we should convince men and women of this. This is a big problem of ours, since we must face deep-rooted feudal traditions.

[Question] How do you see the problem of unemployment in socialist Vietnam at present?

[Answer] I am sure that you understand what we have been right ever since the liberation of south Vietnam. A large proportion of the urban inhabitants of south Vietnam, particularly the young people are unemployed. The reason for this is that before, millions and millions had lived on the war, on the army, on being lackeys. During the past 6 years, work opportunities changed a great deal; we have created work opportunities for more than 5 million people. However, despite this, there are still unemployed, particularly in the cities and among the young.

[Question] Why only in the cities?

[Answer] Naturally, people seek work in the rural areas as well, but there we have various possibilities for providing work for those living in the villages, particularly the young people. In our villages, agriculture, animal husbandry and handicraft industry are developing. If I am right, in recent years very many young girls and boys have joined the party.

[Question] How many members does the Vietnamese Communist Party [VCP] have at present?

[Answer] The party has 1.6 million members at present. We published this figure at the Fourth VCP Congress in 1976. In the meantime we investigated the membership of 100,000-150,000 people in the course of the control work of the party and I must tell you that approximately 300,000 left the party.

[Question] Why?

[Answer] Because they lacked the will and the ability to understand the new revolution and the requirements of the new stage. However, it is at least as important, and I must mention it, that half a million young people, who are more suited to the tasks of the socialist revolution, have joined the party.

[Question] It was originally planned to hold the Fifth VCP Congress at the end of last year. Why was the party congress postponed until March?

[Answer] It was our intention that the various draft programs of the party should receive serious discussion at every level. Well, this is why it was necessary to postpone the congress by 3 months. We have to think matters through again. Practical work is the determining factor here.

[Question] Perhaps you could be more specific. What sort of social and political issues influenced the postponement of the congress?

[Answer] It had no political or social reason. A 3-month postponement? This is a short time. Actually, that is all. In 1980, or, more precisely, at the beginning of 1981, we still believed that the preparation work could be finished by September. However, besides our other important tasks, urgent work, we were unable to fully complete the drafts. This is why we had to allocate an additional 3 months for this work. Of course, this is a question of purely practical significance.

[Question] When we last met in Budapest, you told me that you saw a need for rejuvenation, including the rejuvenation of the leadership. What do you expect from the fifth congress in this sphere?

[Answer] First of all, it is necessary to reduce the number of people over 60 years old, those who are as old as we are. People of 45-50 must be brought into the VCP Central Committee.

[Question] But if you were to realize this idea, it would bring about very serious changes in the Politburo.

[Answer] Naturally, we rejuvenate the Politburo only gradually and slowly.

SOVIET ARMY SOCCER TEAM ARRIVES IN HANOI

OWO61641 Hanoi VNA in English 1459 GMT 6 Mar 82

[Text] Hanoi, VNA, March 6 -- The Smolensk soccer team of the Soviet Armed Forces headed by Major Evgeniy Anstolyevich Mironik arrived here today at the invitation of the Vietnamese Ministry of National Defence.

It was welcomed at the airport by Lieutenant-Colonel Vu Nhu Y, representative of the host ministry's combat training department, and other officials.

AUSTRALIAFRASER DELIVERS STATE OF NATION ADDRESS 9 MAR

BK090921 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0830 GMT 9 Mar 82

[Text] In an optimistic speech on the state of the nation, the prime minister, Mr Fraser, today said Australia had made great economic advances in recent years. Mr Fraser told Parliament that government policies had led to higher living standards and laid a strong foundation for the country's future. He said Australia had prospered despite the slackness in world trade and it was now in a position of comparative strength. The prime minister added that only excessive wage rises and damaging strikes could place the nation's economic progress at serious risk.

In reply, the opposition leader, Mr Hayden, questioned the prime minister's message in delivering his address only a few days before a federal byelection. Mr Hayden said that rather than a state of the nation message, Mr Fraser's speech had been a pathetic exercise in personal survival by a prime minister facing a crisis of confidence within his government.

GOVERNMENT DENIES REPORTS ON ANTARCTIC STATION

BK080934 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0830 GMT 8 Mar 82

[Text] The Federal Government has denied reports that one of its Antarctic bases may be closed. The minister for science and technology, Mr Thomson, said that unless Australia maintains a strong presence in the Antarctic over the next 9 years there would be international pressure to reduce the size of its Antarctic territory. The treaty under which Australia has control of three sevenths of Antarctica will be renegotiated in 1991.

The denial follows reports that one of the Australian stations in the Antarctic -- Casey -- could be forced to close because of government cost-cutting. The minister said Antarctica was of strategic natural resource, environmental and scientific importance to Australia. He said the government was spending more than \$50 million rebuilding the bases over a 10-year period and was considering the replacement of present Antarctic supply ships.

HAYDEN FAVORS BARRING NZ FROM COMMONWEALTH GAMES

BK090927 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0830 GMT 9 Mar 82

[Text] The federal opposition leader, Mr Hayden, says New Zealand should be barred from the Commonwealth Games in Brisbane this year if its presence would threaten the participation of black African countries. Mr Hayden told Parliament it would be tragic if African countries were to withdraw from the games because of what he terms the political opportunism of the New Zealand Government. He said that without the African countries, the Brisbane games would suffer lower standards and great financial losses.

The opposition leader was responding to a Commonwealth Day message by the prime minister, Mr Fraser, who had said he was confident the Brisbane games would reinforce the favorable standing of Australia within the Commonwealth.