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PARTY ACTIVITIES AND GOVERNMENT

NHAN DAN CONGRATUALTES | HOANG QUOC VIET

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[Text] Hanoi VNA 28 May--"Congratualtions to Comrade Hoang Quoc Viet," is the title of an article appearing [in] the party paper NHAN DAN today on the occasion of the award of the Gold Star Order by the Vietnamese State Council to Hoang Quoc Viet, honorary president of the Vietnam Fatherland Front, on his 80th birthday.

"Ha Ba Cang is Comrade Hoang Quoc Viet's true name. He belongs to the young generation of the early decades of this century who came under the direct influence of the anti-french resistance movements led by revolutionaries like Phan Boi Chau, Phan Chu Trinh and Nguyen Ai Quoc (Ho Chi Minh)."

"His legs were injured right in the first torture sessions at the french prison in Haiphong in 1930. Later he was deported to the prison on Con Dao Island (Poilo Condor) from which he was released in 1936 on the advent of the 'popular front' government in France. For the next 15 years he travelled widely in the country to organize the working masses under the Indochinese Communist Party's program in preparation for the August Revolution in 1945.

"Comrade Ha Ba Cang took part as a leading cadre in all the three major revolutionary campaigns in French-occupied Vietnam. In the 1930-31 'Nghe Tinh Soviet' movement he was arrested before the insurgence broke out. In the 1936-39 period of the 'democratic movement' he was a key figure in the publication of the party's legal press in Hanoi. In the 1941-45 preinsurrection period, he was secretary of the party committee in North Vietnam and member of the Executive Committee of the party Central Committee with Truong Chinh as general secretary.

"After the success of the August revolution and the anti-French resistance, he started a new fight, this time to build the socialist society on the liberated half of the country.

"As president of the Vietnam Federation of Trade Unions, he spared no effort to contribute to building and safeguarding the internationalist solidarity among the world working people.

"In his state function, Comrade Hoang Quoc Viet was entrusted with organizing the system of people's organs of control and was himself the first president of the supreme people's organ of control. He has made a decisive contribution to defining the role and position of this new organization in the state apparatus from the centre to the localities. Hoang Quoc Viet is among the oldest

party members. His party seniority includes several years prior to the party's official foundation. During 60 years of revolutionary activities, he has always impressed all who have worked with him with a high sense of dedication to public interests, honesty, principledness and generosity. His eldest son is a fighter pilot who has made outstanding achievements."

In his newly published memoirs entitled "the burning path," he wrote: "What an honour to be a Vietnamese in this 20th century, to witness and participate in the earth-shaking events of history, to see the great changes of the country and society in all its complicated developments. I would say that I've nearly emptied this cup of happiness."

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