

Taussig, H.C.D.

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Hanoi, VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY, in English Morse to Southeast Asia,
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(Text)

Hanoi, June 11--"From what I have seen in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, and particularly from my long discussion with President Ho Chi Minh, of whose sincerity and energetic determination to improve the over-all conditions of his country I have no doubt, I believe that it will overcome its remaining difficulties, and that it will be self-sufficient and well run within 2 or 3 years * * *."

This conviction of well-known British journalist H.C.D. Taussig, who has visited both parts of Vietnam, is expressed in the March issue of EASTERN WORLD.

Dealing with the general situation in North Vietnam, particularly the question of national unity, Taussig said:

"The division of Vietnam into two parts north and south of the 17th Parallel was meant, according to the Geneva Agreements of 1954, to be a temporary measure until general and free elections could be held on both sides of the demarcation line. It was only under those conditions that the victorious Vietnamese agreed to discontinue their military operations after Dien Bien Phu.

"As is known, South Vietnam, with the aid of American monetary and military aid, is repudiating the implementation of the Geneva Agreements under the excuse that she was not party to that covenant and that free elections would, in any case, be impossible under the present regime in the North.

"After having visited the South Vietnamese part of the country some months ago, I was curious to see the Northern Republic. This visit was the more interesting one insofar as, according to the Vietnamese nationalists living in the South, the North is the real, actual part of Vietnam which won the victory over the French and which represents the national feelings of all Vietnamese.

"It is, of course, true that the North is receiving aid not only from the Soviet Union, but also from the whole Soviet bloc. There are, however, a number of important differences between that aid and the American assistance to the South * * *. It (North Vietnam--VNA) is internally quite master of its own affairs and problems.

"Its most precious asset is its leadership in the person of President Ho Chi Minh, the national hero of all Vietnamese, whose legendary fame is also, albeit not always openly, inspiring the hopes of the patriots in the South."