

**DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC
OF VIETNAM**

1945 - 1960

IMPRESSIONS OF FOREIGNERS

FOREIGN LANGUAGES PUBLISHING HOUSE



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VIET NAM — THE LOVELY LAND

I saw the brave Vietnamese people, who have an indomitable spirit, whose valour knows no bounds. Tireless and indefatigable, the peasants, with the dirt covering their feet and their hands work with a new spirit and enjoyment in their own fields, which were distributed to them after the land reform.

Behind them I saw Vietnamese womanhood, the great patriotism and practical deeds of Viet Nam's valiant daughters.

They not only sacrificed their own lives but also presented to their fatherland brave sons and daughters who gave their lives heroically.

To me, and to many others in Ceylon, Viet Nam was a country which has known war. But after coming to Viet Nam, witnessing their theatres, the archeological preservations in Hanoi, the industrial development in the factories and many other such things, I was amazed and astonished. The bitter war and the rain of bombardments of the brutal inhuman enemies have not prevented the brave Vietnamese nation from building its land.

My visit to the National Minorities' College was an unforgettable experience. I went during the

occasion of a visit of the Northern Minorities representatives to the college. The unity and brotherly feeling which prevailed among them was a mark of strength to advancing people's Viet Nam. The people's government provides help and assistance to improve their living standard, cultural tradition, education, etc. and the endeavour of the government to bring about close unity among the minorities and the majority, as well as unity among the minorities themselves is a noteworthy factor to be praised.

I came to this lovely land alone. But I am returning to my motherland not as lonely as I came, but with so many compatriots around me. They are the inspiring spirits of the great martyrs of Mother Viet Nam. The noble common cause for which they lived and laid down their lives will ever guide and lead us in all our struggles in the future.

H. M. P. MOHIDEEN

Member of the Association of Cingalese Writers
Editor of **The Patriot** — 1957

THEY EMBODY MAGNITUDE AND STRENGTH

One of the youngest democratic republics, Viet Nam is a wonderful country. It is not only the beauty of her mountains and valleys, her marvellous Halong bay, her villages, her green ricefields and bamboo jungles that captivate you, but her grandeur and vigour which make a deep impression. A small people, kind-hearted, magnificently beautiful and always in good humour, they embody magnitude and strength.

Technically backward, Viet Nam, which had been a prey to the armed-to-the-teeth French colonialists,

emerged victorious in the end. After the bloody war, we have seen its towns and cities with their war-shattered houses and hospitals and at present, in the course of only a year or two bamboo and palm-leaf houses are built with an incredible strength.

The ancient and modern techniques are employed together to build the future. We realize that these people who were able to overcome all the difficulties arising from their struggle for freedom, will surmount the obstacles on their road to happiness, peaceful socialism and national reunification.

The wishes of the people will succeed at last. Viet Nam has the strength born of a great conviction.

IMRE PATKO MIKLOS Rev.
Hungarian journalist — 1960

THE VIETNAMESE THAT I KNOW

The Vietnamese that I know, patient, unshakable, generous and modest, and especially fearless, is the product of the unceasing struggle against the hostile sea which sends destructive storms against the land, of the fight against the climate, the cause of alternating and sometimes disastrous droughts and floods...

Following with confidence the Lao Dong Party which has led her to the great victory in the liberation struggle, she is heading towards greater successes. Four years ago, there was in the heart only hope. Today the dream has become a reality...

EMIL MIRONESCU
Rumanian journalist — 1958

NO LONGER A MERE GEOGRAPHICAL TERM

The first thing which impresses a stranger in Viet Nam is the high amiability of the people, the friendly attitude and tactful interest they show towards any visitor from far away countries. They offer you the most beautiful flowers, the most scented tea, invite you to sweets and pieces of dried cocoanut...

Today's Viet Nam has a great and real significance and is no longer a mere geographical term.

Fervour and optimism, that is the unforgettable prevalent impression we have after a sojourn of 21 days in Viet Nam.

CARLO MEANA
A visit to Viet Nam
Czechoslovakia — 1956

AN ACTIVE, SKILFUL AND HEROIC PEOPLE

The deepest impressions which first strike the mind of the strangers who visit the various parts of Viet Nam are that, with the riches of her subsoil, that beautiful country reflects faithfully what its long generations have done patiently and indefatigably. It is the work of an active, skilful and heroic people.

Today in north Viet Nam, such achievements can be seen everywhere. This gifted and painstaking people are now advancing toward new victories with a strong will and unshakable faith.

The NEPHADSEREG
Hungary — 1959

STRAIGHT-FORWARDNESS AND SIMPLICITY

The great ardour of all the strata of the Vietnamese people in pushing forward the socialist construction of their economy, especially agriculture and industry, is an unforgettable fact. As I have observed, all the people to whom I have talked, show a firm will to place their best mental and physical forces at the service of this construction work. The second impression I shall not forget is the warm friendliness of the leading figures in the political and scientific circles with whom we have made acquaintance in Hanoi. The cordial personal relations we have managed to establish in the course of our rather short visit are not only due to the fact that the economic interests of our two socialist states remarkably complement each other, but first and foremost to the straight-forwardness and simplicity of our hosts. This particularly applies to the venerable personality of the Chief of State, Ho Chi Minh, whose natural charm in playing host to us at the Presidential Palace has fascinated the members of our delegation during our stay in Hanoi.

MANFRED VON ARDENNE

Laureate of the National Prize,

Laureate of the Stalin Prize,

Professor and Doctor h. c.,

Dresden (German Democratic Republic) — 1960

BEAUTIFUL WOMEN WHO LOOK DAINTY AND FRAGILE, YET...

We have been very privileged and honoured to meet some of those women who fought through long years in the forests, in the jungles. I think we have been

especially impressed, including the menfolk of our delegation to see how these beautiful women who look so dainty and fragile that the wind could blow them over, yet can tell us stories of fortitude and heroism which are almost past belief because of the endurance and the suffering which they have been through. And for their sake particularly we all feel that Viet Nam deserves a happy, easier future.

LENA JEGEA, MP. Labour Party
Great Britain — 1957

PEACE-LOVING PEOPLE

The Vietnamese people are peace-loving, rich in sentiment. An atmosphere of peace and friendship prevails wherever we go.

LIN TSIANG
Chinese journalist residing in Thailand — 1958

The image imprinted in my memory on the occasion of my visit to the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam is: peace, friendship and victory of Viet Nam's heroic people.

SUCHIN ACKHARAXAMIT
Thai journalist — 1958

The absolute majority of the Vietnamese people are rustic and simple peasants. They are of course peace-lovers. Past experiences have taught them that