

**THE VIET-NAM COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS**

HIỆP HỘI VIỆT NAM PHÁT TRIỂN BANG GIAO QUỐC TẾ

gọi tắt là  
**HỘI BANG GIAO QUỐC TẾ**

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**By LAWS**



**INDOCHINA ARCHIVE**

**Douglas Pike, Ed  
Washington, D.C.**

**SAIGON ÁN - QUÁN**

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SAIGON ÁN - QUÁN

# The Việt-Nam Council on Foreign Relations

*(Hiệp Hội Việt-Nam phát triển Bang Giao Quốc Tế  
gọi tắt là Hội Bang Giao Quốc Tế)*

## **By LAWS**

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### SECTION I

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#### **Name — Purposes — Activities**

##### ARTICLE 1

It is established between the undersigned and those who may join in hereafter an Association called THE VIET-NAM COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS (hereinafter called in abbreviation The Council) which shall be governed by Ordinance No. 10 of August 6, 1950 and the present By-Laws.

##### ARTICLE 2

The purpose of the Council is to develop an international understanding about the Republic of Vietnam, her accomplishments and potentialities.

In order to achieve the above aims, the Council will pursue the following activities :

- A. To promote contacts between the Council Members and people having a similar good will in other countries.
- B. To maintain a liaison with influential people in the World so as to find more friends for Vietnam.
- C. To extend invitation and assistance to individuals having some influence in the field of public opinions and policies in other countries, to visit Vietnam, thus to help them to have a first hand information about Vietnam.
- D. To welcome and assist visitors by guiding and introducing them to important personalities, providing them with necessary information, organizing discussions, lectures and seminars, so as to provide appropriate opportunities for these visitors to contact our people.
- E. To provide facts and truthful information about Vietnam to World opinion.

- F. To positively deny all misleading information and erroneous opinion and distorting propaganda about Vietnam.
- G. To inform the World about the meaning and scope of importance of the struggle of the Vietnamese people.
- H. To carry out all social, cultural, and educational activities which may directly or indirectly relate to the purposes of the Council.

### ARTICLE 3

The Council is a non-profit organization, and will not have any activity of any religious or political nature whatsoever.

### SECTION II

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#### **Duration -- Head Office**

### ARTICLE 4

The Council will start operating from the date its establishment is officially authorized as is provided in Or-

dinance No. 10 of October 6, 1950 and will last for an indefinite duration.

The head office may be transferred to any other location within the city of Saigon by decision of the Board of Directors, and to other place outside the boundaries of the city of Saigon by a collective decision of the members of the Council meeting in General Assembly.

### SECTION III

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#### **Members — Membership — Termination**

##### ARTICLE 5

Any legal entity (corporation) and physical person approving the purposes of the Council and the by-laws thereof, may join in as a member. However, anyone who desires to join the Council must be introduced by two members and his application for membership must be approved by the Board.

When the application is approved, the prospective member must pay an entrance fee of VN \$ 5,000.00.

## ARTICLE 6

Any member may have the right to renounce his membership at any time, but will have no right to claim for reimbursement of his monthly dues already paid to the Council.

Termination of membership may be pronounced against any member for grave fault if his act and deed is found to be prejudicial to the good standing of the Council. Any decision for termination must be taken with an absolute majority of the General Assembly.

## SECTION IV

### **The Council's Property**

## ARTICLE 7

The Council's property includes yearly dues contributed by the members and any monies that the Council may receive within the scope of the laws in force.

The rate of yearly dues will be fixed by the General Assembly.

The Council's property will only be to cover any expenses required for the operations of the Council and the accomplishment of its purposes.

Any expense greater than VN\$ 50,000.00 must be approved by the Board.

The Treasurer will only be authorized to keep in hand a cash amount not greater than 10,000 VN\$ for petty cash expenses ; all balances thereof must be deposited in a bank account opened in the name of the Council.

The Treasurer will keep a complete accountancy of all receipts and expenses of the Council. Any member will have the right to audit the books of the Council.

## SECTION V

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### **Administration of the Council**

#### ARTICLE 8

The Council is administered by a Board of Directors which will include not less than 5 but not more than 12

members, all of them to be elected in General Assembly by secret ballot.

The Board will elect, among its members :

- a) A President
- b) A Vice President, if necessary
- c) A Secretary General
- d) A Vice-Secretary General, if necessary
- e) A Treasurer

The President, Vice-President, Secretary General, Vice-Secretary General and Treasurer are the officers of the Council and constitute the Executive Committee whose function is to carry out normal operations concerning the Council.

The members of the Board of Directors will remain in office for 2 years.

The members of the Executive Committee will remain in office for one year.

They are re-eligible.

Any member of the Board absent during 3 consecutive meetings of the Board without reason, shall be considered as voluntarily resigning from his functions. In this case as well as in case of regular resignation, death or missing, or termination of a member of the Board, the Board will call for a General Extraordinary Assembly to proceed with the election of his replacement.

#### ARTICLE 9

Within the scope of the laws in force, the Board of Directors has the extended powers to act in the name and on behalf of the Council.

The President will preside over all meetings of the Board, of the Executive Committee and of any annual and General Extraordinary assemblies. The President will represent the Council before any legislative and administrative authorities.

Every year, the President will inform the competent authorities of the activities of the Council as is required by article 13 of Ordinance No. 10 of August 6, 1960.

In case of absence or impediment whatsoever of the President, the Vice President will replace him.

The Secretary General will convene the assemblies ; call for the meetings of the Board and the Executive Committee ; keep record of the minutes of meetings ; take care of the Council's correspondence and mails and documents ; and especially the register prescribed by article 12 of Ordinance No. 10 referred to above.

The Vice Secretary will assist the Secretary General in the above responsibilities.

The Treasurer will take care of the Council's finance. He will collect all dues and monies provided in articles 5 and 7 above, settle all normal expenses and extraordinary ones which have been approved by the Board.

#### ARTICLE 10

The Board will meet at least once per month upon the convocation of the Secretary General.

The Board may meet in extraordinary assembly to examine special problems whenever requested by at least 2 members of the Board.

The Board can only transact business regularly when more than one half of its members are present at the meeting.

The decisions of the Bord taken in assembly will only be valid when passed by the majority of the members present or duly represented. In case of even votes, the vote of the President will prevail.

Each member can only represent one of his colleagues and must be provided with a proxy in writing.

## SECTION VI

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### General Assembly

#### ARTICLE 11

Every year the President will convene a General Assembly within the first quarter of the year so that the Board of Directors may report to the Assembly on the activities and the accounts of the Council during the previous year, and also to plan for the activities of the coming year.

The General Assembly will elect a new Board of Directors when the term of office of the existing one comes to expiration.

Notice of meeting will be prepared by the Secretary General, in which there will be included the agenda of the meeting, and mailed to each member at least 7 days prior to the date of meeting.

The General Assembly may approve the Interior Regulations, amend the By-Laws, and determine any such activities which may require the approval of the Assembly before they can be implemented by the Board.

The General Assembly will only be validly convened when attended by more than one half of the members. Each member can only represent one of his colleagues and must be provided with a proxy in writing. If no quorum is present at the first meeting, a second meeting will be convened one week thereafter, and this second Assembly will validly meet regardless of the number of members attending the meeting.

The decisions of the General Assembly will only be valid when taken by more than one half of the members present or represented.

Besides, a General Extraordinary Assembly may be convened by the Board or upon the request of at least 1/3 of the members.

The General Extraordinary Assembly will discuss and transact businesses which have been entered to agenda by the convening body.

## SECTION VII

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### **Dissolution — Liquidation**

#### ARTICLE 12

The General Assembly will have the right to amend any clause of the present By-Laws.

#### ARTICLE 13

The General Assembly will have the right to dissolve the Council. The dissolution can only be pronounced by a decision taken by absolute majority of the members present or duly represented, and with an attendance of at least 3/4 of the Council members.

#### ARTICLE 14

In case of dissolution, the assets of the Council after settlement of all liabilities, will be donated, if there is

any surplus, to some charity organization or to any association having a purpose similar to that of the Council, upon recommendation of the General Assembly.

In the event no General Assembly can be convened for any reason whatsoever, the Board of Directors may request the Court of the Place to pronounce the dissolution of the Council and order the liquidation thereof.

The present By-Laws will enter into effect when approved by the competent authorities.

Made in Saigon this 12th day of April, 1968.

(Government authorization :

No. 282-BNV/KS/12

dated 16 April 1968)

Saigon, 16 April 1968

/s/

General LINH-QUANG-VIEN

Minister of Interior

Government of the Republic of Vietnam