

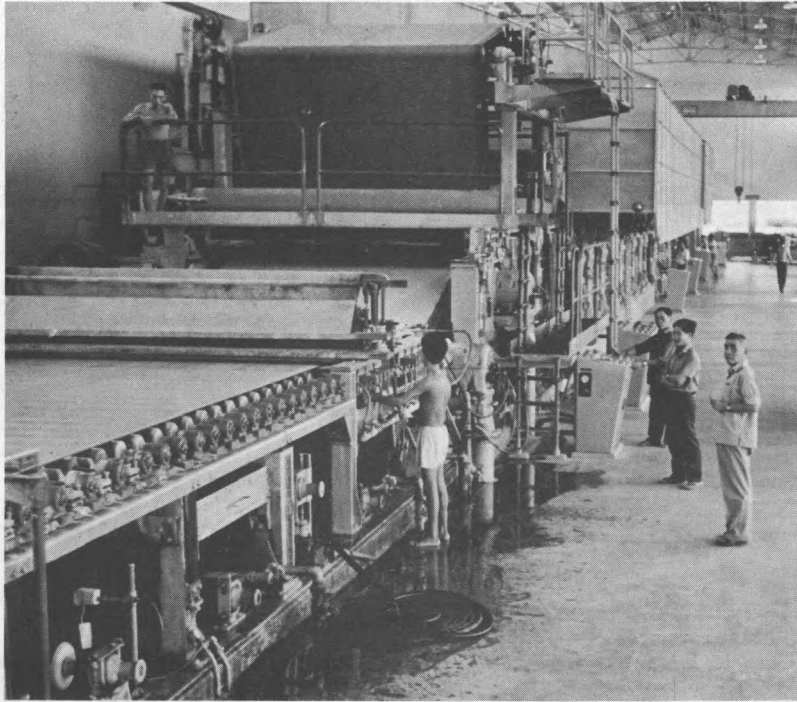
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*Address by
Charles A. Mann
on the American program of
Economic Assistance*

U.S. AID TO VIETNAM

*Past
Present and
Future*



"And now this nation is stronger than ever supported by both the economic and military resources of the United States." Left: Modern paper mill at Tan Mai. Right: Arrival of American troops in Cam Ranh Bay.

**Address by Charles A. Mann,
Director of the United States Agency for International Development to Vietnam
Monday, October 25, 1965, Lions Club, Saigon**

I take both personal and professional pride in being with you tonight. Personal, because Vietnam has figured strongly in my own life; professional, because I am pleased to have this opportunity to discuss the American program of economic assistance and its importance to Vietnamese stability and growth.

I say this sincerely : It is good to be back.

I served in Vietnam from 1951 through 1956. I met and married my wife here. Our daughter was born in Saigon. And for Vietnam as well as for individuals such as myself this, too, was a time of beginnings, of hopes, of great expectations.

Now, on my return, almost ten years later I find a great many things to hearten me.

I find a people, fighting a war that has cost thousands of lives, millions of dollars and piasters and one that has lasted longer than any other in modern world history, determined to resist and defeat once and for all communist aggression. And

now this nation is stronger than ever supported by both the economic and military resources of the United States. Today, there are over 120,000* American soldiers, sailors, and marines fighting shoulder to shoulder with their valiant Vietnamese comrades who have fought so long and so well.

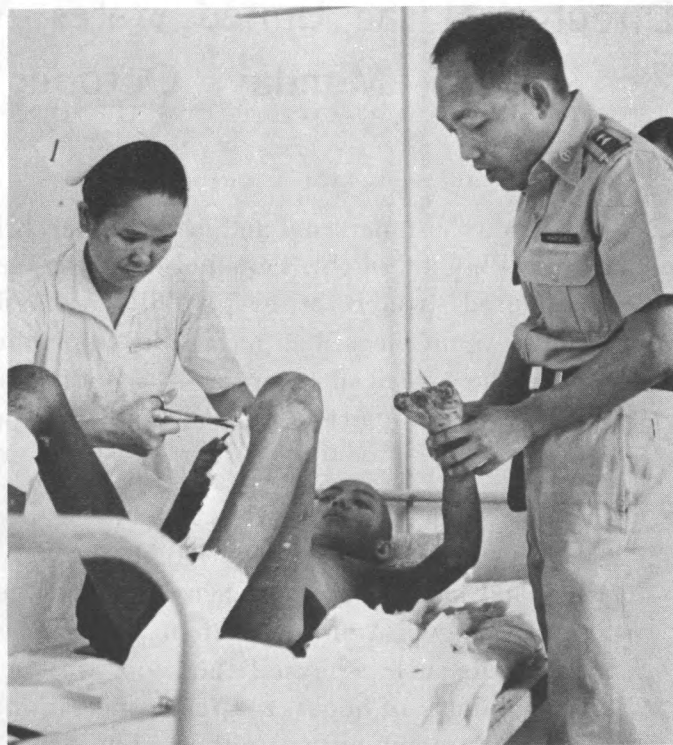
But along with determination to meet and master the enemy militarily, I see accomplishment and progress in many of the projects, begun when I was here a decade ago, that will mean a fuller life for the Vietnamese people. I see clearly continuity and progress in spite of everything—from natural disasters to continuing communist efforts to disrupt the economy. There has been, for example, a number of achievements in the economic and social areas of nation-building since I left here in 1956.

I want to talk with you tonight about some of them, and the joint Vietnamese and American

* *The number had increased to more than 200,000 by February 1966.*



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"We see the efforts of 34 nations pledged to assist this country." Left: New Zealand troops in Bien Hoa. Above: Filipino doctor in Tay-Ninh hospital.

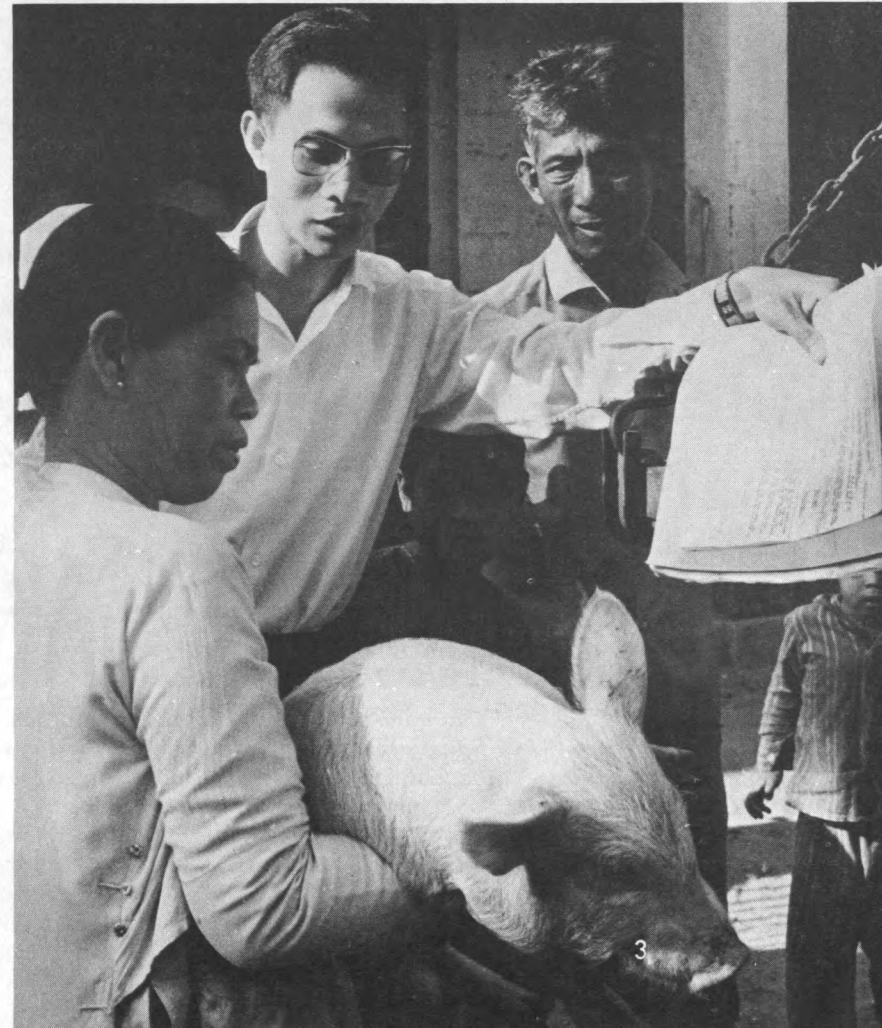
cooperation and efforts which have brought them about. But first, I would like to talk with you a moment about aid itself, and the American concept of helping other peoples to help themselves.

It is difficult to find the precise moment when it all began. We sent the first American agricultural technicians abroad in 1947. When millions in Europe starved after World War I, we gave them famine relief. And a landmark was President Truman's crucial decision to protect Turkey and Greece from communism shortly after the end of World War II.

American economic assistance to others has moved forward from that time to this, under various names and in various forms: the Marshall Plan, Point Four, ECA, TCA, ICA and today we know it as AID, the Agency for International Development. Since the end of World War II, ninety four nations have received over \$110 billion in economic and technical assistance from the United States. Now, many of them have reached the point where such aid is no longer essential to their development. In Europe the job of rebuilding has been completed. In Asia, the last AID technician left Japan in 1961, and the program in Taiwan ended last June.

Aid programs continue around the world, building stronger economics and making social

"There has been radical improvement in the past decade in pig production. The number of animals has doubled and is now approaching four million. At the same time, the breed has been improved through introduction of better stock and new techniques and methods."





Above: "This season, 2811 hectares of kenaf were planted in five provinces, and the total production is expected to equal total imports of the fiber just two years ago." Far right: Today there are over 1.2 million elementary students; 14 million text books are being printed and six million have already been distributed.

stability an attainable goal for the people of those nations which, in the words of the late President Kennedy, have «rising expectations.» Even in the United States today, there are programs to achieve President Johnson's goal of «The Great Society».

American aid programs are not charity nor mere handouts. They represent a genuine partnership between the two countries, a sharing of ideas, technical skills and mutual resources. In each country where there is an American aid program, that program is a coordinated effort, carefully planned both by the host country and the United States. The objectives must be realistic: the host country must demonstrate by its own «self-help» contributions and efforts that it is firmly committed to its own development and growth.

All of these points find basis in fact here in Vietnam. We see the efforts of thirty-four nations, pledged to assist this country. And twenty-seven of these nations were or still are recipients of American aid themselves. It is very likely that without such assistance, their own efforts to aid Vietnam would be less effective. I believe what is being done by these nations today will go on long after the immediate, military need has subsided. For this is a long-term program with long-term objectives.

Let me give an example: I remember well the

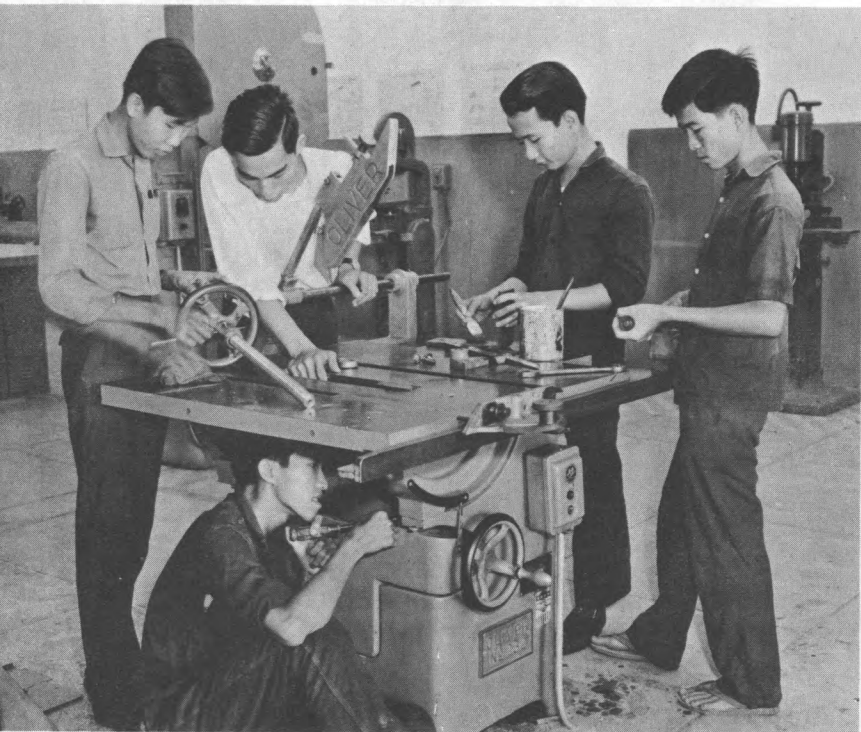


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"In 1955, there were only 700 students in vocational and technical schools. Today there are over 5000. And construction of 16 new rural trade schools will be completed this year." Left: Students at Phu Tho Technical Center. Right: Saigon girls wire terminal blocks for the Tan Son Nhut central telephone system.

*"We have ...
strengthened
our efforts
to assist with
the refugee
relief program..."*
Right: A Viet-
namese Govern-
ment Refugee
Center.



first steps to improve the National Institute of Administration from my earlier days in Vietnam. Then it was just beginning to function effectively; today it has turned out over 650 graduates and it operates on a modern new campus. Because of this institution, the level of public administration in this country is rising.

In 1957, under the Land Development program, commercial production of kenaf as a source of income for the farmer was introduced. By 1958 a total of 337 hectares was planted in this fiber. This season, 2,811 hectares were planted in five provinces, and the total production is expected to equal total imports of the fiber just two years ago. This, in a word, is progress.

There has been radical improvement in the past decade in pig production. The number of animals has doubled and is now approaching four million. At the same time, the breed has been improved through introduction of better stock and new techniques and methods.

When I worked with the American assistance program in Vietnam, we began a concerted effort to improve the nation-wide system of education at every level. Today I can see strong evidence of satisfactory results.

In 1955, there were only 700 students in vocational and technical schools. Today, there are over

5,000. And construction of 16 new rural trade schools will be completed this year.

In 1955, there were only 330,000 students in elementary education. Today there are over 1.2 million.

In 1955 there were 52,000 students in secondary education. Today there are almost six times that number : 293,000.

In 1955 again only a few crude textbooks in Vietnamese language existed outside the major cities. Today 14 million are being printed; six million have already been distributed.

These are just some of things that hearten and cheer me as, I'm sure, they do you. They are solid examples of progress toward national goals in spite of the agonizing war that has been for so long a part of Vietnam's life. These achievements in education, agriculture and administration to mention but a few would be inspiring in a nation at peace. That they have been attained in a country at war for more than a generation is nothing short of miraculous.

But let me not dwell on what has been done. There is much being done, and still in the planning stage, that is highly encouraging. These programs of the present and near future will be measured in terms of progress by someone else who returns to this country ten years from now.

A classroom training session



"... a vastly improved national police system, with all posts linked by a modern communications network and manned by well trained men equipped with modern weapons and the ability to use them."



"... an economy which has been permitted to grow through a commercial import program supplying items the Vietnamese foreign exchange balance could never have acquired without external assistance."

What will that man see in the year 1975 ?
He will hopefully see a country at peace, free and independent.

He will see great changes in the field of education, as the concerted effort to improve intellectual horizons spreads throughout the hamlets, where nearly 3,000 classrooms have been added since 1963.

He will see a considerably enriched agriculture with better strains of animals, better hybrid crops, more sophisticated water control and systematic irrigation practices, and with agricultural extension workers active in all forty-three provinces.

He will see a vastly improved national police system; with all posts linked by a modern communications network and manned by well-trained men equipped with modern weapons and the ability to use them.

He will see broadscale industrial development under a program which has added over 90,000 new jobs and 700 new factories in the past five years.

And possibly most important of all, he will see the results of an economy which has been permitted to grow through a commercial import program supplying items the Vietnamese foreign exchange balance could never have acquired without external assistance.

Let me discuss this last point in some detail,

because it includes what probably is the most misunderstood program of the entire American aid effort. Simply stated, it is a means by which the country can import what it needs to sustain itself and grow, but which the country cannot procure for itself on the world market because its exports do not produce the necessary foreign exchange.

Under the Commercial Import Program—sometimes referred to as CIP—commodities are purchased by various Vietnamese importers under licenses issued by the Vietnamese government. These goods are purchased with United States dollars, but the importer pays for them in piasters. The piasters are put into a special fund utilized by agreement between the two governments for such important activities as defense, rural reconstruction, and other economic development projects.

Because of this program, you can see the familiar «clasped hands» symbol everywhere in this country. In the marketplace, the small shop, on the cans of cottonseed oil or the handtools or the automotive parts, this symbol shows that the item marked has been imported through the Commercial Import Program. These items are not gifts, or merchandise for sale through black-market activities. Instead, they are evidence of two-country cooperation in a vital economic area. Today they permit the normal commercial world of Vietnam to exist. If there were no such program and Vietnam

could not supply the foreign exchange from treasury resources, commerce would wither, industrial growth would stop, and there could be no real development.

More than seventy percent of all assistance from America to Vietnam in recent years has gone into this program, and I am confident enough in the wisdom and the need for such a program to announce tonight that my government has approved additional \$35 million for imports during the months of October, November and December. During the first quarter, from July through September, a total of 86 million was made available. Further allotments to meet requirements obviously will be made on the most timely basis.

I have talked about the past and the future in economic terms, the dreams that have already become realities, and those other dreams we hope to give flesh and substance to in the next decade. But the sounds in the night outside this room, in the sky and on the street, remind us all that first and foremost there is a war. That effort is taking prime resources in men and material from both of our countries and allied countries that could otherwise be used for development.

It takes away the village Vietnamese youth to fight with the Vietnamese armed forces just as it takes away the American farm boy to fight with the U.S. Marines, for example, at Chu Lai. It demons-

trates unequivocally the determination of Vietnam and the United States to fight communism and repel aggression. It substantiates beyond the slightest doubt the total commitment of my government and yours to secure this land for those who have the right to be secure. As President Johnson has said, «As long as it takes, as much as it takes.»

I submit to you that the purpose of all the aid we have given and will continue to give is to assist the Government to win for its people the right to be strong and free.

Finally, I would like to underscore a point I have touched on in almost everything I have said tonight. As Americans, we are here to assist the people of Vietnam in every way we can. Our interest is not confined to the economic and the military. We have in recent days strengthened our efforts to assist with the refugee relief program and within the USOM there is now a special task force dealing solely with this vital problem. We have initiated an airlift which will move almost 400,000 blankets from America to Vietnam for distribution at refugee centers. A large number of these blankets have already arrived. President Johnson recently sent a team of seven American voluntary agency leaders to look at the refugee situation. This group left here last Saturday and will be reporting to President Johnson its recommendations on further assistance. We believe they will seek to broaden American voluntary efforts

to help the homeless and war-torn in Vietnam. I very much hope that the American Lions, who have a long tradition of service in the cause of mankind, will be among those to respond.

Also we are honored by the presence in this country today of two United States Senators and two Representatives—Senators Kennedy from Massachusetts and Tydings from Maryland and Congressmen Tunney from California and Culver from Iowa—all members of the United States Congress, who have come to observe the situation at first hand, to learn what the Vietnamese are doing to win the war on all fronts and what America is doing to assist.

For it is a Vietnamese effort with American and allied assistance. It is the Vietnamese people who will build this nation and live in it—not Americans. It is the Vietnamese people who will become economically strong through the best of all aid programs, that of self-help. Our help is and must be secondary to the total effort of the Vietnamese.

The United States has promised its assistance in this effort, I am proud that the record during these troubled years will prove that we kept that promise. We believe in the strength of the people of Vietnam to win the battle for survival. The record of Vietnam during this decade demonstrates clearly this belief has been well founded. And their inspiring endeavor will bring the reward all men seek — freedom.

Thank you very much. ●



"We believe in the strength of the people of Vietnam to win the battle for survival. The record of Vietnam during this decade demonstrates clearly this belief has been well founded. And their inspiring endeavor will bring the reward all men seek -- freedom."



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