

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

PRELIMINARY REPORT
ON
THE ACHIEVEMENTS
OF
THE WAR CABINET



From June 19, 1965 to September 29, 1965

PRELIMINARY REPORT

ON

THE ACHIEVEMENTS

OF

THE WAR CABINET

SPEECH

by

Air Vice-Marshal NGUYEN CAO KY

Prime Minister of the Republic of Viet Nam

October 1, 1965

My fellow Vietnamese,

My comrades-in-arms,

The June 11, 1965 Declaration of the Armed Forces clearly stated the reasons why the Armed Forces had to accept once again the responsibility of leading the nation.

Together, the declaration said, we will renovate this society and build a new Viet Nam. Together, we will lead the people towards progress in all fields to keep the pace with the progress of mankind. We have the duty of bequeathing to the future generations glorious pages of history and solid institutions, based on freedom, justice and brotherhood love.

Today, to mark our three-month leadership tenure, with the agreement of the Directorate, as the Commissioner in charge of the Executive I present to our fellow Vietnamese and comrades-in-arms a report on the general policy of the government concerning the current problems facing our nation.

My fellow Vietnamese,

My Comrades-in-arms,

On November 1, 1963, the Armed Forces of the Republic of Vietnam overthrew the Ngo Dinh Diem regime, starting a revolution which the entire people have been longing for. The collapse of the Ngo Dinh Diem regime, was the inevitable consequence of the long treason of a regime deeply engaged in the path of dictatorship, corruption and brutality. The Armed Forces could not tolerate the Diem regime the more so because this regime was deliberately using, while already on the decline, the Armed Forces as a tool not to protect national freedom and independence against foreign invasion but only to suppress the people's just aspirations.

The revolution sparked on November 1, 1963 was a spontaneous revolution. This revolution was ignited not by any individual or group or representatives of any political doctrine social class or economic force. It was a revolution of the people of which the Armed forces are the vanguard elements.

The whole people rose up to start the revolution, in order to oust a reactionary regime, in the hope of building a new regime capable of preserving and developing the innate rights of human beings the rights to live to be free and to enjoy happiness. These rights are the very force that motivated the November 1, 1963 Revolution and drove the Vietnamese people to fight against the communist aggressors.

Because the Nov. 1, 1963 Revolution was a self-sparkling one, it had the advantage of tolerating no other dictatorial trend to thrive and inherit the Ngo Dinh Diem regime. It neither tolerated the opportunist elements, who were self-styled 'revolutionists' and wanted to usurp high-ranking positions in the government to only enjoy privileges. It is also because the Nov. 1, 1963 Revolution was a self-sparkling one, that it entailed a bad consequence, that was the creation of a state of laxity quickly turned into a state of confusion interfering in all branches of national activities. Those who were in power in the wake of the revolution could not live up to their responsibilities. What is worse, most of them dared not assume responsibilities because of the moral handicap resulting from their 'close connections with the ousted regime'. Instead of guiding the mass towards order to help stabilise the situation, they indulged in demagoguery and promptly surrendered to pressure from the masses.

The result was that not only the dictator was overthrown along with the elimination of all of his close assistants, but the entire administrative machinery from the central government down to the regional administration was shaken and a number of agencies dislocated. Even the Armed Forces — an organization bound by the strongest discipline — would have been dislocated had the general officers commanding the different Armed Services, Corps and large units not shown a strong will or made extraordinary efforts to preserve its integrity.

In the ensuing protracted disorder, the subsequent government were overthrown by the people although some of these governments were headed by statesmen with goodwill and who enjoyed the confidence of people from one group or another.

In the face of this internal situation of the Republic of Vietnam, how the Red imperialists and their lackeys in Hanoi regarded us? What maneuvers did they carry out in an attempt to conquer this free land?

My fellow Vietnamese, Comrades-in-arms, be calm while I tell you the assessments made by the lackeys of the Red imperialists in Hanoi on our situation and their maneuvers to exploit this situation.

In his report made early this year on the situation in the South, Nguyen Van Vinh, an honorary brigadier general of the North Vietnamese Armed Forces who holds the aggression against the South, assessed our military and political situations as follows:

About the military situation, Nguyen Van Vinh reported that our rear 'shrunk in proportion with the dislocation of thousands of strategic hamlets and outposts'; our military strength became 'more and more insufficient, the morale of our troops

• lower and lower • ; we had to disperse our troops but at the same time we had to use about 45 per cent of our regular troops to defend Saigon and Cholon • ; our strategic reserve forces are • almost insignificant, and for this reason their defensive as well as offensive potentials are hardly used. In his conclusion, the Chairman of the aggressive committee against the South affirmed that (I quote his words) : • Unavoidably there will be a wretched collapse of the morale and of the organization of the South Vietnamese Armed Forces when the striking force of our troops (Communist aggressors) becomes more aggressive •.

About our political situation, the Chairman of the aggressive committee reported that the November 1, 1963 Revolution was but a • trick • and, • internal conflict in the South ore spreading fast and developing in a very intricate way •. The report reads : • In the political field, the tricky democratic revolution of the enemy (the North Vietnamese Communists consider our entire Armed Forces and people as their enemy) after the overthrow of Ngo Dinh Diem had to end briefly after the replacement of Minh by Khanh. Faced with our fighting strength and their own internal conflicts, several coups d'etat succeeded. This situation reflects itself in the division of the various groups in the South into • indifferent • and most extremist groups. The latter group is represented by the young generals. Furthermore this situation also showed discord in questions about personal interests and positions, about parties, religions, Buddhism, Catholicism, about regions of the country, the North, the Center and the South and about personal hatred. •

With such an assessment of our situation it is obvious that the Red Imperialists and their lackeys in Hanoi had to order the Viet Cong in the South to strive to exploit this situation. In fact, during the past two years and till now, the Red Imperialists have been sending troops from the North into the South to help the Viet Cong to move from guerrilla warfare to mobile warfare in order to carry out large scale attacks. The Communist Imperialists had been and are striving to make use of all wicked maneuvers to sow dissension among us and to aggravate this dissension.

Along with military offensive waves, and political up-settings the Communist imperialists also conducted severe sabotage against our economy. They ordered their henchmen to destroy bridges, cut off roads and lay mines to prevent the transport of supplies from the cities to rural areas, and to strive to grab agricultural products from the tillers, and steal from farmers and fishermen money derived from the sales of fowl and fish. The ultimate aim of the Communist imperialists was to use every means to lift the price of rice in Saigon in the middle of this year from VNS700 to VNS5,000 a quintal, to make the cost of living in the cities to soar five-fold, even ten-fold. They hoped that with the soar of the cost of living, the anger of the people, especially of the poor, at the government would increase tragically thus leading the society to the • awful disintegrating state • such as they have always longed for.

Simultaneously with their offensive waves against the Republic of Viet Nam in the military, political and economic fields inside our national territory, the Communist

imperialists also attacked us on the international scene through their propaganda. Propaganda machineries from 81 Communist parties throughout the world, along with thousands of their agencies, doubled their venomous efforts with the hope of severing the Republic of Viet Nam from its allies, and misrepresenting our struggle for the safeguard of freedom and national independence. Their propaganda offensive on the international scene against the Republic of Viet Nam has achieved a certain influence in a small number of countries which are under the pressure of Communist imperialism. But this Communist offensive was indeed also a powerful stimulation for the civilized world, which help us to be more determined than ever to assist our country.

Facing the danger that the Republic of Viet Nam could be engulfed by the Communist imperialist aggressive machinery, all the friendly countries together increased their aid for us, both morally and materially. At the request of the Republic of Viet Nam, the governments of the U.S., the Republic of Korea, Australia and New Zealand have sent their military units to help us. Following a legitimate self-defense plan, and very moderately, the Viet Nam Air Force and the U.S. Air Force have successfully bombed enemy military bases, staging areas, army barracks and supply depots in North Viet Nam.

Until the middle of this year, the presence of military units from friendly countries, along with the bombing of a number of military bases and logistical means of the Communists on both sides of the demarcation line, have not enabled us to drive off the Red imperialists' aggression yet. The strikes, however, prevented the Communists — despite large units from the North equipped with great firepower — from changing the balance of forces.

Since last June, the situation would have been more consolidated if the Republic of Viet Nam had not, once again, met with internal difficulties. On June 11, politicians, temporarily in charge of administering national institutions, were unable to find appropriate measures to solve their differences. So, they handed their powers to the Armed Forces. In accepting these responsibilities, the Armed Forces clearly defined the reasons and objectives of the military government which were the organization of the struggle against the Communist aggression until final victory and the implementation of a social revolution.

A provisional Convention, establishing basic structures for the national organization, was promulgated by the National Leadership Committee.

Entrusted with the task of organizing the administrative machinery and implementing the policy of the NLC, the government immediately after the setting up of the War Cabinet, announced program including 26 points on urgent tasks covering all fields : war and politics, economy and finance, social welfare, education and culture, foreign affairs.

The war and revolutionary policies of the National Leadership Committee and the program of the government are basically correct. That is why they brought forth a

great enthusiasm among the entire population. During the past 100 days, the implementation of the policy and the implementation of the program have progressed and recorded a number of tangible results.

In the military domain, we have warded off the VC monsoon offensive, in simpler words, we have smashed all offensive attempts which the Viet Cong had carefully prepared long in advance, with the hope of launching them on their commemorative days in August and September.

The Viet Cong, hidden in their most solid dens from Ba Long in Quang Tri province, through the Zone - D -, to the Duoc forest in Ca Mau, have thoroughly been swept out by our forces. Meantime, nearly 2 Communist battalions, mostly infiltrated from the North, and lying near Chu Lai in Quang Tin province left behind over 600 bodies following attacks by units of the Vietnamese and U.S. forces.

Last week, the Communist invasion troops mobilized a division sized force for a new attack in Binh Dinh province with the hope of rebuilding their pressure in the region. However, the Government forces, with the courageous cooperation of local population, launched an operation that killed 1,350 of them.

With the gallant cooperation of navy, army, air, artillery and engineer units of the U.S., Republic of Korea, Australia and New Zealand, not only have we preserved all important bases along the coast of Central Viet Nam, extended government-controlled areas, guarded our frontier-defense network within which Duc Co is an isolated outpost ; not only we launch many attacks to destroy the enemy strongholds, and retake initiative in every battlefield, we also cleared many strategic communications axes which were closed for many years. All these decisive victories emphasize the outstanding efforts of the Armed Forces and have turned the tide of the war in a very short time. What is this driving power that has enabled us to score such lightning military feats ?

My dear fellow countrymen and Comrades-in-arms, it is the new incentive of the Revolution spirit which is burning in the hearts of our people and of our Armed Forces, which are backed by the entire Free World.

In the economic and financial fields, a number of measures have been carried out in the framework of an urgent action program. These measures aimed at laying foundations for a real social revolution which includes :

- the extermination of dishonest businessmen,
- the stabilization of market prices,
- the supply of food and goods from rural areas to the cities and vice-versa, so as to supply the villagers with prime necessity goods in their daily life,
- the setting up of security stocks to prevent shortage of foodstuffs,
- the establishment of agencies responsible for the purchase, storage and distribution of rice,

— the implementation of the housing policy, to improve the housing situation of the needy,

— the construction of 1,000 low-cost houses, each house costing VNĐ20,000 and to be distributed to the working class,

— the purchase of vacant plots of land for resale to the needy people who will themselves build their houses, after providing such basic structures as roads, sewers, water and electricity,

— the promulgation of the right to stay and priority to purchase house and land,

— the import of 100 cars, 200 tri-lambrettas, other kinds of vehicles and spare-parts for taxicabs in order to make owners a number of taxi drivers and at the same time give them appropriate means for the exercise of their profession,

— the interruption of export of some products necessary for consumption needs of the population at home,

— the improvement of education, by building more schools and abolition of noon shifts in primary schools to protect the pupils' health,

— the improvement of wage status by increasing the salary of low-income employees, including the troops, and reducing that of a number of other government employees, with the view of mitigating somehow the differences among peoples of various social strata,

— the setting up of military dependent quarters, etc...

Concerning the promulgating of a new customs tariff, the government aims at levying heavy taxes on luxury goods to increase the national income, thus enabling the government to carry out social welfare programs to help the poor, and at the same time avoiding all shortages of goods for other classes having great consumption abilities.

Along with the above-mentioned objective, the life of the rural population also receives particular attention from the government which has decided to :

— push forward the improvement of living standards in rural areas,

— modify the status of farmers' associations,

— improve the land policy by amending the agrarian reform decree-law, aiming at assisting farmers and making owners of their land.

— grant full ownership to the farmers immediately after the distribution of plots instead of provisional certificates as previously.

Besides, farmers are exempted from land tax during the whole period they have to pay for the purchase of their ricefield — within a maxima period of 12 years — and at the same time, authorized to postpone the payment of their first instalment for one year.

More than that, public land and ricefields will be from now on distributed directly to farmers instead of renting them as previously.

Ricefields bought from French proprietors according to the September 10, 1958 agreement, totalling about 224,647 hectares, and scattering in 27 provinces, will be sold to farmers with the same procedure.

Other intellectuals and experts and even some statesmen — either those who had learned bitter experiences in the political arena or those who had long waited for occasions to cooperate with the government — have given sign of impatience. The attitude of these intellectuals, experts and statesmen has more or less influenced the mass that had, in the past, recourse to pressure. I deem it necessary to tell the entire people and my comrades-in-arms that the National Leadership Committee although being busy with many problems has always paid appropriate attention to all diverging views, either moderate or violent. I also deem it necessary to make it clear once again that state affairs are not the monopoly of any individual or group and that the destiny of the nation needs the moral and material contribution of all people actively engaged in struggle and constructive works.

In brief, the general situation has been greatly improved. Three months ago, while accepting the power we had said we envisioned a new dawn for the People. We, at that time, only expressed a feeling. Now, in reviewing the obstacles we have surmounted, certainly our compatriots and comrades-in-arms agree with us that this brighter dawn for our people is not a mere utopia but a reality awaiting us. All the past difficulties are not liquidated, and more serious new ones may appear, because the nearer it is approaching final defeat, the more dangerous the enemy prove to be. However, we are confident that our compatriots, military and civilian, have all the necessary energy and determination to overcome these difficulties and will be able to conduct step by step our People towards this Dawn.

In the land reform policy, the legalisation of the ownership rights on the lands put under cultivation and the distribution of ownership certificates to the peasants in accordance with the policy of making the laborers the owners of the lands they till, have been achieved. The above certificates have been distributed for the first time in Lac Nghiep (Tuyen Duc) on Sept. 18, 1965 to 340 families of lowland and montagnard peasants and in Dau Bong (Tay Ninh) to 200 other families. Other certificates will be distributed in the future.

It is worth recalling that the land reform policy is being extended to all ethnic minorities living on the national territory and there is no discrimination between the lowland people and the tribesmen.

With regard to the ethnic minorities, the government will continue to promulgate many measures and implement a policy based on justice, and reason, and aimed at achieving the objective of national union and collective social progress.

All the aforesaid measures and decisions certainly are not routine administrative ones.

Furthermore, they will not be demagogic measures.

The fact that the War Cabinet has decided to take social revolution as the objective of the struggle, and has realized that the people in both urban and rural areas have equal responsibilities and are entitled to equal privileges, proves that the above mentioned decisions and measures are consistent with the overall national policy.

Of course, we need time to assess the results of those measures and to see whether they will be useful to the social revolution which constitutes the very objective of our struggle.

Nevertheless, if we commonly realize that these are things that should be done, to lay lasting foundations to the social revolution, we must first be animated with confidence and faith.

In the political field, the implementation of our action program has yielded clear results in the rural areas. In many Western provinces in the Southern Area, the working people now can easily move from an area to another even in nighttime. In I Corps Area provinces, people who, a year ago were forced by the Vietcong terrorism and oppression to abandon all their properties and move elsewhere for security, are now actively planning a back-home movement to liberate their own village from the Vietcong and rebuild them. The "Return to village" campaign instigated by the anti-communist refugees gathered in Quang Ngai has about 400 cadres and fighters in the first formation stage and has begun action since late August. In other areas, especially in the valley of the Mekong, the people are nurturing the same aspiration and are ready to launch similar campaigns.

All told, the results harvested in the political field, are still of a limited scale because of the too cautious and unbalanced way of implementing the program. The major institutions planned in the Provisional Charter such as the Economic and Social Council, and the High Magistrate Council, have not been set up yet. This has caused a number of intellectuals in the cities to conceive deep concern and the suspicion that the Armed Forces wanted to establish a military dictatorship. Another segment of people may have been induced to think that the military administration contented itself with trumpeting over revolution without seeking to materialise it or with realizing it only in part.

After reviewing the situation I now present our policies for waging the revolutionary struggle and for building peace.

We must ask ourselves, what the real character of the peace is which we are fighting to achieve, what kind of a society we must build. We must have a clear conception of the future of our country and not merely worry about the coming hundred days. We have to think about the thousand days ahead.

During the next one thousand days this land will have to be completely controlled by free men. We want to decide everything ourselves, to have friendly relations with neighbouring countries, to live peacefully in the country which we have inherited from our fathers, in a nation where there is justice, on a land which is governed by men of integrity whose only ambition is to serve the people honestly and efficiently.

The revolution which we are determined to carry out is a social revolution. Therefore in the next one thousand days we have to create a big change in every field of activity of the people. We have to create a new life in the countryside, a new life in the cities, a promising new life.

Many multi-story buildings have been built not only in the capital, but also in Can Tho, Nha Trang, Da Nang, and are being built in many other cities. In the capital, Le Loi Boulevard is filled with cars. But not far from the big buildings, there are still many slums, there are still thousands of homes where parents and children are crowded into a dark and damp area of barely ten square meters. And further away, outside the cities, there are tens of thousands of families who all year long labor in the black mud and yet have as their only shelter a run-down hut to protect them from rain and sun. They do not have enough to eat, they have no decent clothing and neither doctor nor medicines when they are sick. On top of all that, these people are afraid of the big bullies on our side and also of the communist enemy.

We have the duty not to allow the children who are today without clothes, who are today illiterate, to grow up and continue to live for ever a dark life, in misery, in oppression, in injustice. That is why, within the big framework of the social revolution, we have to start first with the realization of the Living Standard Revolution.

Unlike the communists whose policy is to bring all those having unequal living standards down to the lowest level, we are striving to carry out a social revolution which never stops aiming at raising the living standard of all the people, starting with the poorest. Looking at reality, even if we accept as the standard wage the minimum guaranteed salary of the worker recently fixed by the War Cabinet at 1,070 piasters per month for areas where the cost of living is lowest, there are still millions of people living under that standard. These are the peasants who do not have enough land to till and would not have enough to eat if they sold part of their produce to buy clothes or medicine. These are also the ambulant merchants on the pavements of the cities and towns.

It was within the framework of the Living Standard Revolution that the War Cabinet raised the pay in family allowance for the soldiers. We are reviewing the pay scale of all those who are serving in other branches of activities. We have yet to review the price of farm products. We also have to adequately provide for the housing, health and educational needs of all, especially those living in the cities. In short, if we begin to carry out the Living Standard Revolution today, with concrete projects and step-by-step preparation, one thousand days from today, we shall certainly be able to create a big change for the better on this land.

That is why I believe that every one hundred days we pause to take stock of ourselves, list our achieved goals, discern our mistakes and proceed to further achievements.

As of today, I put stress on the governmental activities to stamp out corruption and revive the good Vietnamese traditions of government based on moral foundations, in respect of the law and justice. First of all in the coming one hundred days I shall

personally look for people whose experiences and integrity are beyond reproach to form a central corps of inspectors in charge of investigating all complaints of injustices so as to help the government take timely corrective measures. I solemnly promise that, as of today, those who are responsible for serving the people will have to pay for their crimes if they commit the crime of betraying the confidence of the people. For a long time, on this land, the honest little man has been oppressed by those in authority. A nation cannot exist if there is no justice for everyone.

For a long time, no consideration has been given to the aspirations of the peasants who make up the backbone of the country. Our peasants have always lived in insecurity because they have been exploited, terrorized. Our peasants have to live utter misery because they are the first victims of the deplorably unequal distribution of wealth, of profiteering and inflation. The peasants lack all the basic necessities of a worthy life. The war has disturbed their peaceful life, and their labor has not been adequately rewarded. The war and its instigators — the Viet Cong — have upset the moral norms, have destroyed the law and justice. Many people in the countryside have lost faith in the government and lost faith in themselves. I prescribe that this government has the responsibility to regain the people's confidence and support.

As I have made clear earlier, at present the Armed Forces, with the limitless assistance of friendly countries, have realized important changes in the military field. We are destroying the aggressive machinery of the communists on this and the other side of the parallel. Continuing to take advantage of these successes, we shall destroy the entire apparatus of aggression of the Communists. Victory is on our side. Military, we shall certainly have victory in a not distant future.

But it is not enough to defeat the Communists military. We must so strive that on this land the Communists be alienated by and from the people, especially those in the countryside. This is the task of pacification and rural reconstruction. To sum up the importance of this task in short : the countryside is the decisive factor in the entire effort.

Consequently I mobilize all the existing cadres to serve in the pacification and rural reconstruction programs. These cadres will go to the countryside and together with the peasants they will fight to defend the villages, they will help the peasants to till the land and increase production, improve agricultural techniques, raise the living standard of the peasant in every way. They will help the peasants to reorganize the village administration, to realize a democratic way of life at the village level and lay the solid foundations for a free and democratic regime in the future. The pacification and rural reconstruction not only require many facilities and many cadres. It also demands that those cadres have determination and ability. I truthfully say that in the existing administration there are not yet such cadres in sufficient numbers. That is why I earnestly hope that all the fighters in all the patriotic movements who are rich in experience will actively participate in this big and meaningful task. Pacification and rural reconstruction which bring a new organized life to eighty percent of our

people, should in my opinion be the responsibility of all the particular revolutionary fighters. And now you have the favorable conditions, the facilities that are more abundant than ever before, to carry out this responsibility successfully.

The biggest national asset of our country at present is the youth. The young are tempered with an enthusiasm which no force can extinguish. The young people demand that there be an end to the dark days that a future be realized in which everyone would enjoy justice, equal opportunities in order to make full use of present day knowledge. Our sacred goal is to encourage this enthusiasm of the young people, to strengthen this determination, and to use this source of capabilities. At the same time we have the responsibility to guide the young, to help to put to use the national heritage, so that the precious knowledge and experiences of our fathers shall not be forgotten.

The responsibility of the authorities is to guarantee those among the youth who have the ability and the will to study, good education. In order to accomplish that theory of Education, as a first step, the Government will grant 2,500 scholarships a year to high school students. As a result a high school student in each city of the country will be granted a scholarship until he finishes his studies.

The granting of scholarships is based on the capacity, the will and the need of the selected student. The family situation, or power cannot have any influence.

Also in the field of Education, we still have a lot of works to achieve. We need more teachers, schools, textbooks, especially those which tell about the true national spirit. The above achievements require important funds, but we can succeed, with the help of the allied countries of the free world.

During the French colonization, a lot of people had got a wrong opinion about the success of an examination ; as soon as they have a seat in an office, they think they are superior to their fellow countrymen. That kind of spirit must be eliminated. From now on, the capacity will be the principal element which can influence the choice of a personnel. The conscientious ones will be hired, on the contrary, those who just care about their own will be fired.

If we refer to the honor the authorities have given to those who sacrificed their lives for the nation, we realize it still is not enough.

We have to admit that we are not doing our best for the widows and orphans of the soldiers who had given their lives to the Nation, as for the crippled ones.

To remedy, the government will give special care to it, in order to bring justice to those who have fought with all their heart for the independence of the Nation and the Freedom of the people. Furthermore, the Government has to enable the veterans to fight again, with an importance according to their capacity, if it is not to say with the same dangers.

Meanwhile, the Government has in mind another program of another kind, a program aiming to restore the citizenship to those who took the wrong direction, considering their own self more important than the nation. I will give them a certain time so they

can get rid of the responsibility which they realize is not worth while. After self criticism, they will be employed according to their capacity.

As I used to say, we, Vietnamese people, tend to forgive those who went the wrong way, give them the opportunity to become new human beings. On the contrary, to those who refuse this opportunity, I pity them, because, to me, they are mentally deranged by birth, but I cannot let them go on forming obstacles to the development of the nation.

During my visits to rural areas, I was heart-rending to see that my compatriots there became victims of the increasing cost of living and were suffering from being in short of the first necessities. If this situation was created by goods hoarders, the government will bring the convicts before the Court which surely will punish them severely. Besides, the shortage of goods will undoubtedly be solved satisfactorily, thanks to government efforts and timely assistance from friendly countries. The government will find out efficient means to stabilize the market prices, the most important of them is the method of uniting producers and consumers into relationship benefiting to both of them. In the transportation field, the government is always ready to provide necessary means, and if this still cannot meet the needs, it will request assistance from allied countries at a proper time. In brief, all necessary steps for the normalization of supplies so that people throughout the country could buy food and goods at reasonable prices, have always been a great concern for the the government.

Finally, we must affirm once again the struggle of our people against the Communist aggressors. My dear compatriots and comrades-in-arms are certainly aware that if this country falls under the Communist yoke, our nation would be annihilated. The Viet Cong, like any other Communist group, are acting on the International Communist Organization's orders which, in fact, envisages the most fearful imperialism in human history.

Communist Imperialism disseminates a doctrine using hatred as driving power to foment dissension inside a government as well as inside every family. The most important aspect of Communism is that it is unnatural and atheistic.

That is why I appeal to my compatriots of all faiths to unite closely and, along with the whole people and Armed Forces, fight against that foreign sophism which destroys the family and exterminates the nation at the same time with the most sacred confidence of our people.

The sooner the entire population is united, the sooner we restore peace in this land, and the more closely we unite, the stronger our national force will be.

United, we will create a lasting bulwark ensuring justice for the society, freedom for the people and democracy throughout the country.

My best regards to you all, my dear compatriots and comrades-in-arms.

CONTENTS

I.— Introduction

II.— Ministry of War

- A. Department of National Defense
- B. Department of Psychological Warfare
- C. Department of Rural Reconstruction
- D. Department of Interior
- E. Department of Youth

III.— Ministry of Economy and Finance

- A. Department of National Economy
- B. Department of Finance
- C. Department of Communication and Public Works
- D. Department of Agriculture

IV.— Ministry of Culture and Social Welfare

- A. Department of Education
- B. Department of Health
- C. Department of Social Welfare
- D. Department of Labor

V.— Ministry of Foreign Affairs

VI.— Ministry of Justice

VII.— Conclusion

I. — INTRODUCTION

On June 12, 1965, the civilian government faced with troubled situation handed back the task of national leadership to the Armed Forces.

In view of the really critical situation of the Fatherland, and of its responsibility before History, the Armed Forces had no right to refuse this task. So, at the request of the members of the civilian government, the Armed Forces once again had to take the responsibility of leading the nation.

On June 14, 1965, the Directory created by the Armed Forces and headed by Major General Nguyen Van Thieu, began to assume its responsibility.

The Chairman of the Directory solemnly declared before the Nation :

• We have no dictatorial, militaristic ambitions, we always respect the basic human rights and the rights of the citizens. •

Practically speaking, to fulfill all commitments, the first and essential task for the Armed Forces is to defeat the Communists. And in order to defeat the Communists, there must be a strong rear, a strong government which dares to accept its responsibility, a government which does not betray the people.

That is why the Chairman of the Directory frankly stated, • We do not use demagogy as a motto but our policy aims at peace and welfare for the people. •

PEACE AND WELFARE FOR THE PEOPLE AND NOT DEMAGOGY

Such is the policy of the Directory which places the right to life of the people above all.

In the same revolutionary spirit the Directory established the War Cabinet, the direction of which was entrusted with Air Vice Marshal Nguyen Cao Ky as Prime Minister.

During the presentation ceremony of the War Cabinet at Dien Hong Palace on June 19, 1965, Air Vice Marshal Nguyen Cao Ky made public a 26-point program of action as follows :

A. In the Military and Political Fields

1. To launch a nationwide campaign in which all the people will enthusiastically fight the Communists in the rear to relieve the heavy burden of the Armed Forces at the front.
2. To train all those who are able bodied to have the ability and the morale to fight the Communists.
3. To create favorable conditions for people of all classes to volunteer and serve at the front or at the rear to realize the social revolution.
4. To strictly carry out all measures promulgated during the state of war.
5. To promote greater solidarity and unity among the people.

B. In the Economic Field

(To put into practice the slogan "An austere government and an economy-minded people within the framework of a wageeared economy").

6. Totally eliminate the profiteers.
7. Guarantee the supply line of food stuffs from the countryside to the cities.
8. Urgently survey the stocks of basic necessary goods and raw materials needed by the population.
Establish a reserve stock to prevent any shortage of foods.
9. Create an office that will buy, store and distribute rice.
10. Demand a worthier contribution from wealthy people.
11. More efficiently collect taxes to increase the national budget.
12. Make full use of the U.S. aid.
13. Economise the earned foreign exchange.
14. Immediately establish an economic coordination office.
15. Draft a short-term economic development project to be carried out in 1966.

C. In the Social, Education and Cultural Fields

16. Review the subsidy system for the dependents of the war dead and the disabled veterans.
17. Improve the salary of civil servants and military personnel.
18. Expedite the program of home-building to improve the housing situation of the poor.

19. Totally eradicate juvenile delinquency and mendicity.
20. Improve the educational organization, establish more schools in crowded areas.
21. Organize the students and young people into groups and associations.
22. Encourage artists to serve the people and the social revolution.

D. In the Field of Foreign Affairs

23. Review the entire Foreign Affairs personnel serving in Embassies of Viet Nam abroad.
24. Establish diplomatic centers in a number of important nations to expand national prestige in the world.
25. Supply all necessary documents to inform about the revolutionary struggle of the Republic of Viet Nam.
26. Try and get the support of all Vietnamese residents abroad for the revolutionary struggle at home.

The above 26-point emergency program of action was immediately put into execution by the government. This is a truly urgent and far-reaching program, it is a heavy responsibility for the Cabinet, especially in this very difficult situation with countless complicated and insoluble problems. However, in accordance with the principle that "words and actions must match" and with the ardent spirit to serve the revolutionary ideal and to defeat Communism, the War Cabinet, after three short months has achieved concrete results that are presented in the following short summary.

II. — MINISTRY OF WAR

A. — DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE

Since the formation of the War Cabinet, the Department of National Defense has put into application a short-range program aimed at reaching the following objectives :

THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

- has introduced a plan to be implemented among the various head agencies and central services :
- to reorganize and make more efficient all chains of command and staff.
- to simplify bureaucratic procedures in all official business.

THE ARMED FORCES :

- has applied several measures to reorganize and consolidate the Armed Forces :
- to promote the spirit of solidarity and unity of purpose in the various units, to develop the spirit of comradeship.
- to enforce strict military discipline to assert the prestige of the Armed Forces
- to promote the spirit of volunteering to serve at the front as well as at the rear.
- to raise the standard of living of the troops and give assistance to their families.
- to implement the policy of being just in promotions transfers and mobilisation.
- to eliminate all forms of corruption, bribery and misbehavior.
- to emphasize the task of inspection to remedy the errors and to ameliorate the living conditions of the various units to limit desertions.
- to promote the Armed Forces by improving the uniforms and military conduct.

Following is a summary of the important activities :

1) Reorganisation and Development of the Armed Forces

a) Reorganization of the chain of command

— The High Command has been reorganized into the General Staff to make the command more efficient and be able to solve quickly all problems at the frontline.

— All organizations connected with Political Warfare, Training, Logistics have been centralized under a Commissariat-General system to ensure a better coordination of all war efforts and activities.

— The Regional Forces Command and the Popular Forces Command have been merged into a Central Regional and Popular Forces Command to reduce the personnel and make for a more efficient chain of command.

b) Development of the Armed Forces

— Along with the efforts to improve the ranks, the Armed Forces as a whole has been strengthened to meet the needs of the anti-Communist war.

c) Reorganization of the military territorial commands

— To meet the requirements of the situation, the Phuoc Thanh Sector has been dissolved and the boundaries of the Tactical Zones 32 and 33 have been redefined. With the newly assigned responsibilities, the above tactical zones can firmly control the secret enemy bases.

— The establishment of the Special Tactical Zone 24 in the IV Corps area, and the Quang Nam Special Tactical Zone help to normalize all pacification activities in those areas formerly under V.C. pressures.

— A number of military areas has been established at several important strategic points such as big airbases, army bases in order to ensure the security of these military installations. At several suspected V.C. infiltration points along the border and on the supply and liaison routes of the enemy, many military areas have also been established to control and neutralize the V.C. activities.

d) The increase in operations

INFANTRY

With the support of the Air Force and the Navy, the Army Corps commands have conducted 1,686 company size or bigger operations and also carried out 275,747 minor actions.

Of these, there have been 1,303 contacts with the enemy and the government forces put out of action 10,821 V.C. (8,984 killed, 1,837 captured). Meanwhile the operational forces seized 2,612 weapons of all types (137 crew-served weapons and 2,475 individual weapons).

The most significant operations have been the following :

- Operation Lam Son 190 at Ba Long, Quang Tri
- Operation Starlite at Văn Tuong, Quang Ngai
- Operation Dan Thang 7 at Duc Co, Pleiku
- Operation Dã N Tien 107 at Thuan Man
- Operation Gibraltar at Vinh Thanh, Binh Dinh
- Operation Hung Vuong 9 at Ben Cat, Binh Duong
- Operation Dan Chi 143 at Vinh Chau, Bac Lieu
- Operation Dan Chi 151 at Vinh Chau, Bac Lieu

Besides, nearly all the important routes have been cleared, especially National Routes 19 and 21 and opened to traffic. The reopening of these highways have helped to normalize the standard of living of the military personnel and civilians on the Highland of Central Vietnam. Over 8,000 tons of supply have been transported safely to the highland provinces and to the Eastern provinces of the South. This demonstrated that the situation is well under control and that we have the initiative throughout the country.

NAVAL ACTIVITIES

The total of Naval activities was 23,647 cruises, including 1,984 made by the Navy, 6,480 by the River Forces, and 15,183 by the Junk Force.

The Navies of the Republic of Viet Nam and the United States have conducted 404 operations to support friendly forces in operations.

AIR FORCE ACTIVITIES

The VNAF activities numbered 25,527 sorties including 13,550 operational missions, 11,977 supply missions. During the same period, the USAF flew 41,839 sorties including 26,137 operational missions and 15,702 supply missions.

VNAF and USAF also conducted 5,166 strike missions against North Vietnam. The VNAF pilots flew 214 sorties and the USAF pilots flew 4,952 sorties.

2) Improving the moral and material support for the Soldiers

a) Increase of Soldiers' pay

The salary of the soldiers was terribly low as compared with that of an office boy in the civil service. By virtue of Decree N° 129, signed on July 7, 1965 and Decree N° 303-QP, the salary of the soldiers was increased on a par with that of Class C1 civil servants.

b) Payment of per diem allowances to Popular Forces personnel

Decision N° 1190-QP-TCTT-NĐ of July 12, 1965 fixed the per diem allowances granted to Popular personnel at VN\$20 regardless of Corps area. A member of the Popular Forces while attending a training course at the Training center can also earn an allowance of VN\$15 per day for food like a member of the Regular Forces (Decision N° 1244-QP-TCTT of July 21, 1965). A member of the Popular Forces who is hospitalized is entitled to have VN\$2 additional per diem (Service Order N° 10426-QP-TCTT-HC1 of July 29, 1965).

c) Living quarters for the dependents of the military personnel

In order to provide the families of the Armed Forces personnel with comfortable housing the Government has allocated to the Regular Forces VN\$929,000,000 and to the Regional and Popular Forces VN\$329,000,000 to build living quarters.

d) Education for the children of soldiers and combatants killed in action

The Office of the Wards of the Nation has established more classrooms and dormitories. From now till the end of 1965, it will accept all boy and girl students who are the children of military and civilian personnel killed in action. Besides, as of July 26, 1965, the Office of the Wards of the Nation has given financial assistance to the Wards of the Nation.

— Elementary schools sponsored by the Armed Forces and the Department of Education have also been established in the military dependents camp at each army unit throughout the country.

e) Promotion and rights of the Soldiers

In 1965, there has been a special promotion for the servicemen serving at the front beside the special promotions on the battlefield. The date of the promotion is set up for November 1, 1965 (Service Order N° 1718-TTM-TQT of July 23, 1965).

A statute has already been promulgated to give servicemen at different echelons many appropriate rights in the promotion, salary while on active duty and after having been discharged or retired.

A plan for rotating the officers between the field jobs, staff and training positions has been put to a test in II Corps Area and will be put into application in the very near future to ensure the justice in transfers and assignments.

f) Aid to the veterans and disabled servicemen

A program has been drafted for the Veterans' Office to give material and spiritual help to retired servicemen and disabled veterans, widows and orphans of combatants killed in action.

— *Pensions and allowances* : During the last three months, the Veterans Office has already paid the pensions and allowances for 2,422 veterans.

— *Sponsorship* : the sponsorship is three-fold : placement, vocational training, and distribution of allowances.

3) Drafting and Home Guard

a) To strengthen the frontline and carry out the policy of equality in the service to the nation, the Department of Defense took many measures to encourage and urge the male citizens of draft age to enlist.

Male citizens from 20 to 30 years of age including Vietnamese of Chinese origin — having the Junior High School diploma and those having no diploma, are drafted and trained as non-commissioned officers or enlisted men. (Communique of June 28, 1965).

— All male citizens who have previously been dispensed of military service or have received deferments because their dispensation has been annulled or their deferments have expired. (Communique of August 18, 1965).

b) To support the frontline the Home Guard was created to strengthen the rear.

B. — DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE

In order to step up the war efforts against the Communist aggressors, and pave the way for the success of the social revolution in keeping with the War Cabinet policy, the Department of Psychological Warfare has achieved the following major and essential tasks :

1) Improvement of the organization and Cadre training

Organization wise, the major achievement has been the merger of the former Information Department and the Open-Arms Department into one Department of Psychological Warfare.

Furthermore, it has had to carry out the ideological education of the cadres and personnel who have been disturbed by the past instability and the too frequent and abrupt changes affecting the country.

a) In the reorganization of the agency

Decree N° 158 of July 30, 1965 merged the Information and Open-Arms Departments into the Psywar Department. The decree appointed assistants to the

Secretary and established the Psywar Department's representative offices in the Corps Areas to help coordinate and reinforce local psywar activities, and train more cadres on the spot to meet the present urgent needs. In the meantime, an Overseas Psywar Service had been set up to step up psywar activities abroad, in close cooperation with the Foreign Affairs Ministry.

The Psywar Department has worked out plans to grant the status of an autonomous agency to a number of specialized agencies such as the National Broadcasting System, the National Motion Picture Center and the National Printing Office. The move will help these agencies to have favorable conditions in which to develop.

b) In training the Cadres

In accordance with the new policies, the central and local training centers have organized 18 classes for 1,912 cadres. Ten of these classes graduated village psywar commissioners and deputy hamlet chiefs in charge of psychological warfare.

c) A general statute for the Cadres

Has been drafted, classifying the cadres into various categories according to their capabilities and academic background. All are granted family allowances. The organization of examinations to select psywar editors and reporters, the technical training given to the cadres, including the training of woman cadres to replace the male cadres absorbed by the military service are part of the policy of rational use of personnel and mobilization of all human resources.

2) Vital activities in the fields and Information, Psywar, and Open Arms

a) New orientation in the Information Fields

To Improve the press — This includes the application of new criteria for news reporting and calling the attention of the press to the policies of the government and the successes and efforts of our troops at the front. The Psywar Department has authorized the publication of a daily, four weeklies and closed a number of unworthy newspapers. The Department has also organized weekly briefings for the press.

The Viet-Nam Press Agency has also increased its scope of activity many fold: both the international and domestic coverages are much more substantial and the news release is much faster. The documentation and feature section has also been improved: more detailed war reportages, more substantial foreign press reviews, and more articles on the Communist countries behind the bamboo-curtain etc...

make the VP bulletin more useful and more substantial. As a concrete proof, the Vietnamese language bulletin increased from 1719 pages in May to over 3,000 pages in September.

In radio broadcasting, two new stations are being established, one in Can Tho and another in Danang, while seven local stations are being reinforced. More low-cost radio sets have been sold to the population, more renovations have been brought to the broadcasting programs, including the opening of a free discussion session open to the people. Broadcasting techniques have also been improved.

Studies are also being made to reinforce the central broadcasting system by using more powerful transmitters.

In Motion pictures, thus far 14 newsreels, four documentation and other films have been produced by the National Motion Picture Center. Efforts have been made to improve the local motion picture facilities including planned expansion of the NMPC and the establishment of movie studios. Studies are being made towards the installation of a television system.

b) Psywar activities

In the country — Adopting democratic and progressive working methods, the Department has organized a psywar convention to review past activities and work out a three-month short-term action program.

Among the masses, the Department has been active in launching drives and organizing ceremonies to promote the spirit of national solidarity among the people. To that purpose, a ceremony was organized last July 20 to commemorate the victims of the Communists, a ceremony to commemorate the anti-Communist war heroes, 48,728 bull sessions, 29,860 conferences and lectures and 1,146 mass meetings.

The Department has further carried out information and propaganda missions, aimed at popularising among the masses the War Cabinet's 26-point program, and denouncing the Viet Cong schemes by distributing leaflets, displaying posters, slogans and especially by publishing books to help improve the people's educational level, organizing cultural and theatrical performances and distributing documents depicting life on the other side of the bamboo-curtain. 63 such documents totalling 3,137,560 copies, have been distributed. In the meantime, the Department is going ahead with plans to establish a National Artistic Troupe and organize 12 cultural contests.

Abroad — Psywar activities abroad have been increased in pace, especially in Asian countries, with the collaboration of the Vietnamese embassies. A committee in charge of preparing documents in foreign languages has been established and is working on a number of publications.

In the North — The Department has exploited the internal dissensions and difficulties within Communist North Viet Nam for counter-propaganda purposes, and to pave the way for the creation of a North Viet Nam Liberation Front. On the occasion of the recent Mid-Autumn-Festival over 10,000 packages of gifts from South Vietnamese children to North-Vietnamese children were dropped on the North and so were 24 categories of leaflets totalling 30 millions copies.

c) Open arms program

Activities in this field aim at three goals :

- Intensify the call to rally to the national cause.
- Improve the conditions to welcome and train the returnees, and help them to return to a normal life.

3,450 Viet Cong have rallied to the national cause bringing with them in 7,897 assorted weapons.

Of this total, 1,623 returnees were sent back to their families, 50 graduated from training courses, and six armed-propaganda platoons made up of returnees have been formed. Meanwhile, a nation-wide Returnee Convention was also organized recently.

The Open Arms Division is studying plans to send returnees abroad to spread the humane policies of the national government and expose the crimes of the inhuman Communist regime.

d) Policy of Racial Harmony and collective progress

Vis-à-vis the Montagnards

— To work out a sound policy based on racial harmony and collective progress and in the spirit of national unity, the government has carefully revised its policy towards the montagnards to improve their living standard.

So far the Special Directorate for Montagnard Affairs has completed, in co-operation with other agencies, the following achievements :

In the administrative and political field, the Montagnard Customs Courts have been restored, 3,100 Nung refugees have been resettled, and Radio Program « The Voice of Lowlanders and Highlanders as brothers » has started being broadcast.

One of the most important achievements was the rallying to the national cause of 483 members of three FULRO companies on September 11, 1965. The returnees were introduced to the Prime Minister on September 15, 1965, at Banmethuot.

In the military field, a military institute has been established for the Montagnard soldiers' children. One hundred Montagnard boys are now attending the first class. Besides, 37 Montagnard army officers have been trained.

In the cultural field, Montagnard high school and university students have been assisted at different examinations, a larger number of Montagnard students have been admitted to specialized schools and universities, 30 campuses have been built to receive 6,000 Montagnard students who have also been granted a total of 385 scholarships. Furthermore, an exhibit of Montagnard culture is in the offing.

In the field of social welfare, a total amount of VN\$55,434,760 has been granted to needy Montagnards, 52 specialized cadres have been trained, 1,177 Montagnard youths have attended vocational training courses, a dress-making workshop and a rice-husking mill set up, and a number of Montagnard farmers have been made owners of the land they till. The "Truong Son" program which aims at providing security to Montagnard villages and hamlets and improving the Montagnard's living conditions is underway with the training of 7,000 cadres.

Vis-à-vis the Vietnamese of Cambodian descent

Another notable achievement in the policy of "racial harmony and collective progress" was the surrender of 898 members of two groups of the "White Turban" organization — entirely made up of Vietnamese of Cambodian descent — who had been lured by traitors to fight against the government and the people. Of their own will they rallied to the national cause in two groups: the first totalling 272 men led by Mr. Chau Ucht, surrendered at the Tri Ton district last July 31, and the second, including 626 men, led by Mr. Chau Hieng, made their submission at Tinh Bien last August 5.

Vis-à-vis the Vietnamese of Chinese descent

The Government also has given special attention to the Vietnamese of Chinese descent and has treated them exactly like all other Vietnamese. Thus, the Vietnamese of Chinese descent are enjoying the full rights of the Vietnamese and have to fulfill the same duties.

For example, the Vietnamese of Chinese descent are authorized to do business, to become government employees, to vote and to be candidates at election.

At the same time, following the campaigns spreading the War Cabinet policy among the Vietnamese of Chinese descent thousands of them have answered the draft call.

3) Task of Coordination

Psychological warfare being conceived as an all-embracing field, the Department of Psychological Warfare has coordinated its organization, its activities and the use of its personnel with other branches of activities to carry out policies in a common action.

It aims at supporting the organization of the population into groups and associations stressing the educational aspect by organizing study sessions within the Home-Guard units, civilian defense units, encouraging a massive movement of discussions in different organizations, encouraging the population to eradicate profiteers, supplying the cadres with weekly documents dealing with the two main topics of anti-Communism and social revolution.

It directly contributes its efforts to ceremonies and exhibits such as : The Presentation Ceremony of the Directory and the War Cabinet, the International Aid Day, the Youth and Fatherland Day, the National Flag Procession from Ca Mau to Ben Hai, the International Aid Day exhibit, exhibits in different localities, the welcome ceremony for Vietnamese Youths of Chinese descent who have joined the Army, the resettlement of 377,006 anti-Communist refugees, and encouraging civic group to send gifts to foreign aid missions.

The Psywar Department has trained Psywar cadres, assisted other departments in starting training courses in psychological warfare, a 'movie technical training course for policemen, a training course for Army volunteers, a course for the Special Forces and has trained high-ranking administrative cadres and Foreign Affairs officers in psychological warfare.

Furthermore, the Department's various audio-visual equipments have been used to support the activities of those branches that are related to the Psywar.

In spite of the short period of time, the Psywar Department has strived to implement its program of action. It has especially concentrated its efforts on concrete actions directing towards the countryside, North Viet Nam and overseas.

In the ideological field, the Psywar Department has changed the attitude of its personnel by rejuvenating its cadres, helping them to see the situation as it is and be more confident in the eventual victory of the national cause and thus serve better.

C. — DEPARTMENT OF RURAL RECONSTRUCTION

The Department of Rural Reconstruction is a new organization set up on July 30, 1965, with the task of working out plans to pacify and liberate rural areas from Communist control, to develop the national economy and the society in order to improve the living standard of the rural people. To carry out this task the Department's program of action gives weight on both rural reconstruction and rural activities.

1) Rural Reconstruction

— Establishing a policy of pacification and a program of action to improve the rural life in accordance with the War Cabinet strategy.

— Elaborating a program for the building of 74 storage houses at the cost of VN\$ 90,800,000.

— Transporting 8,000 tons of relief goods to provinces in the First Corps Area at the cost of VN\$ 3,587,237.

— Distributing 320 trucks in support of the rural reconstruction program.

— Resettling 500 refugees at An Hai, My Khe, training 100 policemen for population-census, setting up a special center for 500 families having connection with the Viet Cong in Tuy Phuoc and An Nhan districts.

— Sponsoring Open Arms Programs, livestock breeding program, building 22 warehouses for foreign aid goods at the total cost of VN\$ 230,000,000.

— Completing 225 New Life hamlets and starting construction work on 624 more.

2) Rural Operations

— Having organized 14 mobile administrative teams, 17 rural reconstruction teams, 4 rural research cadres teams in the III and IV Corps Areas, completed the training of 4,105 New Life hamlet building cadres, and organizing a central center for the training of new cadres.

— Amending the statute of the Farmers' Associations, completing one-month course to train 50 Farmers' Association members in the provinces and another course to train 53 accounting clerks for Farmers' Associations of district level.

— Distributing 300 water-pumps for sales at low prices to farmers and Farmer's Associations.

— Organizing 17 courses on the use and maintenance of Ohler water-pumps and Clinton engines.

— Cooperating with the Nationalist Chinese team of experts to study building of the Duc Trong dam in Tuyen Duc province.

— Implementing the 1965 pig-corn program which includes the building of 998 pigsties, distribution of 671.5 tons of cement and 1,375 pigs, 7,169,250 tons of corn and the granting of loans totaling VN\$2,105,402.5 to pig breeders.

D. — DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

The Department of Interior is now realizing the following two major objectives :

- 1 — Reorganizing the administrative system at the central and local levels.
- 2 — Implementing the government's policy to boost the war efforts with a view to accelerating the victory over the Communists.

To realize the first objective, decree 1250-RNV-VP of August 15, 1965 formally reorganizes the Department's structure along the following two principles :

- To draw a clear distinction between Political and Administrative branches,
- To simplify and make more efficient administrative procedures.

As a result, a number of services considered as outdated have been dissolved, while new ones created. Renovation plans have also been extended to local administration.

— Prefectural, provincial and village councils have begun operation since July this year.

— Public relations agencies have been created in provinces and districts to help local people in their business with the authorities.

— The cities of Hue, Dalat, Danang, and Vung Tau now have a common status.

— New villages have been created while the provincial status of Phuoc Thanh and Con Son have been abolished. Five districts have been turned into administrative units. The city of Cam Ranh has been created to meet new administrative requirements.

— Six administrative refresher course centers have been created in Go Cong, Hau Nghia, Tuyen Duc, Quang Ngai, Quang Nam and Pleiku. To make these courses more effective, audio-visual equipments have been supplied to 47 provinces and cities.

— The Department has allocated over VN\$108 million to the province to help regularize official business at village and hamlet levels.

— Investigations have been conducted on and sanctions applied in 20 cases of corruption in provinces.

— 14 ranking civil servants and 79 policemen have been sent abroad for training on administrative affairs.

To achieve the second objective, the Department of Interior has adopted a new policy of re-education to turn convicts into useful elements in the society. For this, it has applied new educational, re-educational and vocational training methods. As a result of the policy of leniency, a total of 995 detainees were freed in June, July and August, this year, while amnesty or sentence reduction was

granted to 157 others. In the field of social reorganization, the Department has set up an Anti-Fraud General Youth Group, has settled labor conflicts and eliminated bad elements from various organizations.

In order to support the war efforts, the Department of Interior has reorganized the police and multiplied the local police service to effectively cope with more frequent Viet Cong sabotage schemes. It has also supplied about 400 New Life hamlets with radios so that they can alert the armed forces in case of Viet Cong attacks. It has furthermore created Home Guard pilot units, consolidated civil defense organizations, and increased the control of natural resources. The above activities led to the discovery of many Viet Cong arm-caches and the arrest of a large number of Viet Cong cadres.

On the other hand, the Department of Interior has helped coordinate activities in the economic, financial and social welfare fields in order to enable successful implementation of common programs.

E. — DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH

The activities of the Department of Youth are centered on two fields : Youth and Physical Education and Sports.

1 — Concerning the youth, the Department's activities are geared to two objectives :

a) Study and help establishing youth groups in order to organize young people into ranks.

b) Create a new Youth Movement for the building of new society, push forward the anti-Communist fight and the defense of security among youth ranks from the capital down to villages and hamlets.

Concerning the first purpose, the Department of Youth has :

— established the Commission of National Youth,

— recognized the executive committees of 6 private youth organizations,

— helped acquire the authorization to set up five youth associations and requested legal status for three other organizations belonging to the General Office of Buddhist youths,

— authorized the organization of the United Confederation of Students and examined changes and enlargement of activities of a number of youth organizations.

The Department has decided to grant VN\$820,000 aid to 11 youth organizations and proposed another VN\$150,000 grant to three other organizations.

In parallel with the above activities, the Department of Youth also makes great efforts in creating a youth movement for the building of a new society. Four work camps have been organized in Saigon, Gia Dinh and Cam Ranh.

As for the task of controlling and perfecting the youth ranks, so far 59,499 combatant youths have been armed with guns and side arms, a first step to convert the youths into members of the Home Force. The Department also provides youth cadres to the Civil Defense Forces in rural areas.

To train the youths and develop their movements, the Department has organized nine political, military, intelligence and special sports training courses for 2,328 youths at national training centers.

To resist Viet Cong attempts to arrest youth cadres, the Department of Youth has taken many measures, such as arming these cadres, organizing an intelligence network and methods of employing the service of cadres in exile or those captured and freed by the Viet Cong. Furthermore, the Department has sponsored a Vietnamese university mutual assistance mission to attend work camps in Korea and Japan from June 29 to August 25, 1965.

2 — Concerning Sports, the Department has installed a National Commission of Sports, has granted permission for the establishment of 21 provincial sports organizations, and opened three boxing rooms.

The Department's activities consist of two bicycle races in the I Corps Area from August 21 to 27, 1965 and a six-leg race in the Southern part of the country from Sept. 7 to 12, 1965. The Department has also organized a national sports championship, season opening track-and-field contests, football, volley ball, and table tennis matches.

International activities of the Department consist of organizing friendly matches and participation of Vietnamese teams in international meets of football, basketball, tennis, pingpong in the Philippines, Singapore, Penang, (Malaysia), Vientiane. Friendly matches had taken to Viet Nam foreign teams such as the Quang Hoa football team from Hongkong and Japanese table tennis players. The Department is also preparing to send a sports delegation to Kuala Lumpur to attend the 1965 South East Asian Games.

To maintain and develop sports movements, the Department has repaired four stadiums in Long Khanh, Vinh Binh, Khanh Hoa, and Vinh Long, at the total cost of VN\$1,250,000. It also has plans to recondition other stadiums all over the country, to establish sports health centers and to earmark VN\$4,492,000 for assistance various sports organizations.

III. — THE ECONOMY AND FINANCE MINISTRY

In the economic and financial field, along with measures to cope with the requirements of the situation such as the food supply and transportation problems, the government has had to carry out large-scale construction projects aimed at building the infrastructure for economic development. All this has been carried out within the framework of the war and social revolution to make the people's living conditions more stable.

A. — THE ECONOMY DEPARTMENT

In line with the above policy, the Economy Department has been gearing during the past three months its activities towards the following objectives :

1) *Internal Trade*

a) To stabilize the rice market, the government has :

- Supplied the Southeastern, Highland and Central Delta province with a total of 75,771 tons of rice ;
- Shipped from the Western provinces to Saigon 1,735 tons of paddy and 90,259 tons of rice ;
- Signed D and E contracts for the dealers to supply the Department's security stocks with 82,779 tons of rice ;
- Negotiated with USOM for the importation of American rice. A total of 29,565 tons of this rice had arrived at different Vietnamese ports while the rest will be shipped here soon ;
- Distributed to retailers 21,334 tons of sugar and 324,000 cases of condensed milk to stabilize the prices of other prime necessity commodities.

2) External Trade

a) To meet domestic needs, the government has delivered licences for imports of goods and machinery with credits earmarked by the American, West German and French aid programs. Besides, the Economy Department has earmarked government-owned foreign exchange to import 100 small cars and 200 three-wheeled scooters to be sold on instalments to taxi and motorcyclo drivers. A number of other vehicles of different types and spare parts for taxicabs have also been imported with government-owned foreign exchange.

b) The Economy Department has also postponed the exports of a number of local items to satisfy the local consumption of the people and of the industries.

3) Industrial and Handicraft Development and Promotion of Investments

a) The Economy Department has studied 75 industrial and handicraft projects for the installation of textile, dyeing and mechanical plants as well as for the production of food, paper, chemicals and leather and rubber goods. The economic authorities have also set up a security stock of 600 tons of cotton yarn to supply local handicraft weaving mills. The same authorities have annulled the regulation requiring that paddy-husking mills must be separated from each other by at least 1,000 meters so that mills in insecure areas can be moved to safer zones.

b) To encourage investments, the government has accepted to grant investment privileges to six enterprises, and earmarked a total of VN\$63,145,146.17 to grant loans to nine other business concerns.

B. — THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT

1 — In parallel with the above-mentioned activities, the government has achieved a fiscal reform aimed at supporting the war efforts and the national reconstruction and at boosting the returns of the National Budget. The government has issued a decree-law to increase consumption tax on a number of non-necessity goods such as beer, soft drinks and cigarettes....

Moreover, to have a just tax policy and to reinforce the national economy, the government has just promulgated a decree-law to modify the customs tariff an attempt to increase the returns for the National Budget. The move is destined to meet the needs raised by the present situation to keep down the inflationary pressures, to stave off the black market, to simplify and rationalize the tax system so as not to discourage businessmen.

2 — In the monetary field, to project the value of the piaster hurt by a foreign exchange black market indulged by members of the allied forces, the government has put into application the payment of the allied forces with Military Payment Certificates. On August 31, 1965, a Special Currency Fund was set up at the National Bank to buy the foreign exchange counter-part of the military scrips and to exchange Vietnamese piasters for foreign exchange from American servicemen. This measure has brought in for the government large amounts of foreign exchange and ended the perturbations detrimental to the national economy and the monetary sovereignty of the country.

The issuance of military scrips has yielded good results. From August 31 up to now the Special Currency Fund has bought nearly US\$4 million and at the end of this year this amount will be brought to some US\$30 million.

3 — Reconstruction Lottery to put an end to the black market of the Reconstruction Lottery tickets, the government has taken strong measures such as the replacement of a number of Lottery dealers and a stricter control of the sales of the tickets.

The government has also reorganized the weekly drawings of the Lottery to eliminate all the causes which encourage the black market of the tickets. So far the authorities have severely punished six contractors who had violated the conditions mentioned in the contracts.

4 — Moreover, to avoid deficiencies in the collection of taxes, the Finance Department has ordered a reform of the tax collecting system and sent inspectors to different tax, customs and treasury services to carry out unexpected checks of their accounting books and budgets.

C. — THE PUBLIC WORKS AND COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

During the recent months the most urgent need has been to stabilize the supply of food stuffs, and the distribution of imported and manufactured goods from the cities to the rural areas. The supply of the Central provinces has also been given priority. For these reasons, since the formation of the War Cabinet, the Public Works and Communications Department has been striving to carry out all the projects mentioned in the Urgent Highway program and the Pacification Highway program. It has reconditioned and renovated bridges and portions of roads sabotaged by the enemy on main communications axes. The Department also has plans to build a highway around the capital and the My Thuan bridge over the Mekong River.

Further, other permanent projects such as the improvement of the rural postal service, the strengthening of the tele-communication programs, the militarization of all airports, the development of the maritime ports in Da Nang, Qui Nhon, Nha Trang... the construction of social welfare facilities, the distribution of drinking water in the cities and the hamlets, the power problem, the river transportation and others have recorded several noteworthy successes. Here are the two most notable achievements :

1) Supply problem for the Central Area

The Department has :

- Increased the activities of the existing Vietnamese and French steamers to supply the Central Area.

- Encouraged and allowed private individuals to hire foreign steamers ;

Intervened with USOM in order to hire a greater number of foreign steamers and flat-bottomed ships, and to build floating pontoons to facilitate unloading operations.

- Assigned the Cuu Long ship which used to be entrusted with the task of repairing beacons to the supply of the Central Area.

Besides, the Public Works Department also allowed Air Vietnam to schedule special flights connecting the Capital to the Central Area provinces and those of the Southern Delta Area, and approached the various US military agencies for the supply services to Dalat and Tuyen Duc.

2) Housing reform and lowcost housing project

So far, the Reconstruction Authority has built 19,050 low-cost houses to be rented or sold by instalments to the population.

The above-mentioned houses represent only too small a number which cannot meet the needs of the increasing population.

In consequence, a new housing policy has been adopted to improve the living standards of the masses who are living in slum areas.

The reforme program in this field includes :

- the improvement of dwellings and cleaning up of slum area in the capital.
- the building of 1,000 houses costing VN\$20,000 each for the workers ;
- the purchase of vacant lots and reselling them by small plots to the population who will build their houses themselves ;
- the construction of cultural and social welfare establishments ;
- the construction of military dependents quarters, etc...

D. — DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The Agriculture Department has played a major role in the implementation of the government's rural policy. The organization of the Department has been perfected in accordance with the new policy, all action programs, both short-term and long-term, have been thoroughly re-examined to make their implementation more efficient.

Despite many difficulties caused by the war which is spreading every day and the troubled daily life in rural areas, many achievements have been scored, thanks to the concentration of cadres and facilities on a number of most important projects :

1) Land reform

Amendment to the Land reform decree-law :

The Land Reform Council, at its 38th session of last July 28, has endorsed many important amendments to the law on land reform, aiming at helping farmers and making them landowners, such as : granting full ownership to the farmers immediately after the distribution of land plots (instead of provisional certificates issued previously) ; exempting farmers from land taxes during the whole period they have to pay for the purchase of their ricefield (within a maximum period of 12 years) ; authorizing farmers to postpone the payment of their first instalment for one year.

Use of public land and ricefield :

From now on, the public land and ricefields in all villages will be distributed directly to farmers instead of renting them on bid as previously.

— Sale of ricefields from former French proprietors : The ricefields bought from French proprietors according to the Sept. 10-1958 Franco-Vietnamese agreement, will be distributed to farmers on a granting-purchase basis (totalling 224,647 hectares, scattering in 27 provinces). At the same time, the improvement of cultivated lands and consolidation of farmers organizations in plantations for production development have also been realized.

— Regularization of former illegal seizures of land by issuing land ownership certificates to farmers according to the « making farmers landowners » program. This had been carried out in many provinces so far, for example, the distribution of 206 hectares to 349 families in Tuyen Duc's Lac Nghiep village last Sept. 19, and that of 80 hectares to 220 families in Tay Ninh's Dau Bong village...

2) Agricultural production

During the past three months, the Agricultural Department has carried out many actions aimed at improving technical farming methods with such programs

as distributions and crop protection. VN\$300 million agricultural hydraulics program now in progress will benefit some 100.000 hectares. Among the most important achievements of this program were the hydraulic system of Phan Rang, that of the Cho Gao in Dong Son (Gocong) the Viet Yen dam (Quang Tri) and the Kadtia dam (Kontum).

3) Animal husbandry

Such programs as pig maize animal breeds distribution, animal protection have been strongly carried out with important results harvested.

4) Forestry

Some changes have been realized in this field : simplification of procedure in the issuing of licenses for small exploitation firms or poor people cutting woods in the forests ; simplification of procedure for opening charcoal kilns, sawmills, woodmills, to help provide jobs for needy people ; granting authorization for new charcoal kilns to cope with the VC attempt to hamper the production of charcoal in the Ca Mau area...

5) Fishery

Many programs on the building of fishports, motorization of fish boats, improvement of fishing gear, development of fish rearing, have been carried out in order to increase the production in fish catching as well as in fish rearing.

6) Agricultural credit — Cooperatives

— The field of action of the National Agricultural Credit Office has been extended to meet the needs of the agricultural economy.

Besides the task of helping agricultural production, the agricultural credit will provide financial aid to storage, processing and trade activities, in order to serve more effectively rural areas. On the other hand, NACO will from now on give more importance to economic activities. Loans granted by this agency should be actually used in activities benefitting farmers and fishermen.

— A total of VN\$230,800,000 has been earmarked for the special program of developing cooperatives and farmers associations.

Achievements in this field included : the purchase of a rice mill in Cholon, the enlargement of eight rice storehouses in five western provinces, the purchase of a storehouse and building of a new one at Danang to stock fertilizers or agricultural products, the construction of five tobacco drying houses and storehouses in Khanh Hoa and Binh Thuan provinces, the purchase of a tea processing plant for the Lam Dong Cooperative. A total of VN\$53,984,000 has been needed for the above-mentioned realizations.

IV. — MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND SOCIAL WELFARE

A. — DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Besides regular activities, the Education Department has achieved the following special activities :

1) *Organization of the school curriculum convention*

to study the revision of the present high school curriculum. One hundred teachers from throughout the country participated in the convention from July 26 to 31.

2) *Abolition of noon classes*

in the capital and the Gia Dinh provincial capital the results obtained from June to September 1965 were :

- 18 classes for 1080 students lifted in Saigon,
 - 16 classes with 960 students lifted in Gia Dinh,
 - 9 classrooms were completed in Saigon and 8 in Gia Dinh,
 - 17 classrooms in Saigon and 29 classrooms in Gia Dinh are under construction.
- These classrooms will permit the lifting of 200 other noon classes.

3) *Development of Primary and Secondary Education*

For the 1965-66 school year, the Education Department will allow the schools to open 290 more secondary classes and 2,055 more primary classes. With these additional classes, the schools will be able to receive 14,500 more high school

and 104,250 more primary school students. In parallel with this, the Education Department has recruited 309 high school teachers and 1,085 primary school teachers including 48 Montagnards.

4) Textbooks

The program of printing more than two million textbooks to be distributed free of charge to public primary schools is being carried out with financial help from friendly countries (the United States, Nationalist China, South Korea and Australia). The Nationalist Chinese Government has just given 5,000 textbooks to the Department of Education.

5) Overseas Studies

The Education Department has convened the Overseas Study Commission to consider the granting of scholarships and the permission to study abroad to self supporting student. Especially for this year, the permission to study abroad is based, not only on the financial capacity of the parents, but also on the educational achievements of the students.

6) Besides, the Education Department has cooperated with the Health Department in establishing School Health Centers to protect student's health. The Department has also taken measures to improve the living conditions of the teachers, especially the less well paid ones so that they can fulfill their duties. During the 1964-65 summer vacation, the Department has organized refresher courses to provide the teachers with the opportunity to exchange experiences and learn more about professional knowledges.

B. — DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

To serve the people, the Health Department has effectively worked to satisfy the need of protecting the health of the people :

1. — The Department has planned to establish ten clinics in the Saigon-Gia Dinh area's labor quarters. These clinics will relieve the burden supported by existing general hospitals and in wartime could be transformed into first aid stations. One of these clinics has been completed in the Lu Gia residential quarter and a preventive medical and Mother and Child Care Center has also been completed (within the Thai Binh Hospital).

General hospitals in Saigon and Gia Dinh have been reinforced, enlarged and provided with first aid facilities. In provinces, VN\$4.2 million have been granted for the building of a hospital in Quang Tin. An Anti Tuberculosis Center will be inaugurated in Can Tho at the end of this month.

Besides, the Department has negotiated with USOM for major improvement of provincial hospitals at the total cost of VN\$100 million to be paid by USOM. Moreover, friendly countries such as the United States, Great Britain, the Philippines are ready to send health expert teams to Viet Nam.

2. Preventive medicine measures are the main concern of the government. With ever increasing population in cities and while public sanitation need is not met yet, the important problems is to boost public sanitary activities and to prevent contagious diseases.

— Consequently, the Department has taken measures to solve the garbage problem in the Capital such as employing more workers for night shifts, repairing garbage trucks and asking for more USOM aid trucks.

It has also worked out a program of public sanitation and preventive medicine measures for anti-Communist refugees (digging wells, building restrooms, giving immunization shots against smallpox, cholera, plague and so on).

An Anti-TB immunization drive in the capital has also been launched.

In parallel with preventive measures, the education of the people on how to observe sanitary rules to avoid contagious diseases and to have a healthy and happy life is in full swing.

3. Medicines and supply — To protect the people's health and save their money and to prevent the illegal activities of a number of drugstores, the Department has taken measures against over charges, sales of false drugs or drugs other than the ones prescribed by the doctors.

The Department is planning to realize important works such as building more health facilities.

A VN\$7 million credit has been planned to enlarge the Hong Bang Anti TB Institute. Another credit — VN\$6 million — has also been granted to the Binh Dan hospital to set up 100 more beds.

— The hospitals now under construction at Vinh Hoi, Tan Quy Dong, and Phu Tho Hoa will be inaugurated at the end of this year. Others including two Anti-TB centers will be completed soon. The Department is also studying the construction of Anti-TB Institutes in provinces and cooperating with the Defense Department in establishing a National Rehabilitation Center with the help of U.S. charitable organizations.

— The personnel and facilities in the provinces will be increased thanks to the aid provided by friendly countries.

The Health Department has negotiated with USOM to send 30 US health teams to the Republic of Viet Nam (each team includes 3 doctors and 13 specialists). Six of these teams will arrive by November. Besides, the Viet Nam Project, set up as a result of the call of the U.S. President, will send 150 more U.S. physicians here to work on a benevolent basis. The Department has also discussed with the Viet Nam Project, USOM, the British and Australian embassies about providing Viet Nam with experts and medical equipment.

C. — DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE

The Department of Social Welfare aims at bettering institutions which provide relief to anti-Communist refugees, fighting social evils and helping orphans, widows and needy people.

1) *Internal reorganization*

Setting up the Planning Legal and Research Directorate, enlarging the body of inspectors, raising the provincial welfare committees to the rank of provincial welfare services.

2) *Aid to anti-Communist refugees*

Setting up a number of temporary refugees centers, and mobile teams composed of Welfare and Rural Reconstruction cadres ; providing relief to 40,055 people ; settling 98,407 others and granting VN\$38,339,185 to provincial anti-Communist refugee aid funds ; distributing 440,000 cans of milk, 50,000 mosquito nets and 100 tons of rice given by governmental agencies and friendly countries.

3) *Fighting social evils*

Special attention was given to the solution of the beggar problem, hoodlums and prostitution :

Sending 139 beggars to the Trai Te Ban (a poorhouse), setting up the Lam Dong center for beggars, helping 283 beggars to remain at their home, and building more houses for the old.

In cooperation with the Youth and Interior Departments and the City Hall, the Welfare Department has studied suitable measures to arrest and try the hoodlums, and the setting up of juvenile delinquent reeducation centers in Danang and Nha Trang cities and Dinh Tuong and Phong Dinh provinces.

Realizing plans to stop prostitution, a big problem which requires time, in co-operation with the Health Department, the Prefecture and provincial administrations.

4) Helping orphans, widows and people in need

— Distributing more than 62 tons of food and clothes to 1,400 families of the war dead and disabled and wounded military personnel, in collaboration with the Catholic Relief Service.

— Establishing an orphanage in Vinh Long province for 700 orphans, taking part in receiving and caring for 400 orphans in the Institute for the Execution of the Dharma. Training child care cadres, establishing technical center to give professional education to orphans, boosting up the establishment of an international Bureau of Foster Parents in Saigon.

— Giving cash and goods totaling VN\$258,362 to 421 needy people.

— Giving VN\$36,000 to victims of Communist subversive acts in Phuoc Tuy province, at the My Canh floating restaurant and the Directorate General of Police... Giving VN\$27,418 to 93 Vietnamese repatriating from Cambodia...

— Giving goods to 93 hospital welfare services and buying blood for victims, totaling VN\$438,000.

— Aids totaling VN\$3,218,350 to welfare and charitable organizations.

— VN\$243,900 for scholarships.

— Aids in cash and goods totaling VN\$215,480 to 94 fire victims families in Saigon and 174 families whose houses have been burnt down by Viet Cong.

— Aids totalling VN\$866,000 to 453 typhoon victim families...

To improve the living conditions of people in need, the Department has completed the construction of 208 wooden bridges, in provinces and welfare institutions in the Capital with a total cost of VN\$1,674,200. It provides the people in Saigon with 300,000 litres of drinkable water per week. It also finishes the building of two low cost cafeterias in Saigon and seven others in provinces, two more night shelters for shoe shining boys and one night shelter for the poor in Hau Nghia province. It also boosts the construction of model welfare centers in provinces.

Besides, the Department is undertaking the distribution of low cost houses and is studying 2,128 applications for purchasing flats.

D. — DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

The main task of the Department of Labor consists of achieving the two following objectives :

1 — *To consolidate the rear* by building up a unity of mind and action between employers and workers in the factories, by improving the workers' living conditions and by helping them to have access to ownership.

2 — *To reorganize the Department's machinery* to meet the present war condition.

In promoting the employers and workers unity, the Department has settled 139 out of 290 cases of individual labor disputes. The issues of these settlements have given the workers 245.906 piasters in compensation allowances paid by the employers.

— The Department has issued a decision putting into practice law N 19-64 concerning the organization of Labor forces which has been sent to the Central Executive Committee for approval. This decision will guarantee many privileges to labor unions and their members.

— Law N 008-65 dated August 13, 1965 aims at revising the statute of dockers in order to eliminate the exploitation of the labours by their employers.

— Several orders on the appointment of accessors of the labor tribunal and members of the arbitration council to act in the settlement of individual labor conflicts have been issued to materialize the democratic spirit of the government labor policy.

— To improve the workers living conditions, a number of activities are under way :

- A drafted decree-law for labor medical care ;
- A drafted project for application of a unique system of payment through compensation funds in order to distribute reasonably workers' family allowances ;
- Drafting a statute for foreign laborers in order to protect the Vietnamese workers' interests ;
- A proposal for the ratification of International Labor Convention N° 89 so as to enable the Republic of Vietnam to put into practice in case of using female workers at night times ;
- To build a Social Security Center at the cost of VN\$5 million in order to assure the workers such interests as family allowances, labor accident compensation, medical care and factory security ;
- Free professional courses for workers have been organized. So far, 50 courses have been completed and 400 trainees out of 467 have graduated. Moreover, 112 trainees in automobile mechanics and electricity have also been graduated from these courses.

In order to give workers the opportunity to access to ownership, 100 taxicabs and 200 three-wheeled Lambretta scooters will be imported at the end of this year. Meanwhile a housing project for workers is under way in Tan Quy Dong. Two housing quarters with 154 flats each are under construction and will be sold on instalment basis to the workers. The project costs VN\$10 million. Besides, social welfare facilities are also under construction which include schools, maternity clinics, dispensaries, and houses for workers.

In view of reforming its organizations and its activities, the Department advocated the system Committee which includes the • leadership Committee, • and the Executive Committees for Directorates and Services. These Committees will meet periodically according to the principle • Group leadership and individual duty performance •. The purpose of all this is to create a • New Way of working • and to enhance government prestige among the population.

V. — MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

The instability of the political situation in Viet Nam in the first months of 1965 has weakened the national prestige before the world. The War Cabinet formed at the crucial moment, has set up a practical program in which the four main points of the foreign activities have been focussed on :

- Reorganization of the diplomatic missions abroad in personnel.
- Establishment of more diplomatic missions in important areas.
- Making known to the world the revolutionary struggle of the Republic of Viet Nam.
- Making the Vietnamese residents abroad understand and support our revolutionary struggle.

1) *Influencing world opinion*

In compliance with the Government policy, our Embassies abroad — especially those in the countries which have great influence on Viet Nam — have organized conferences, seminars to denounce the aggression from North Viet Nam and to emphasize the self-defense struggle of the Vietnamese people.

As of now, people living in friendly countries begin to change their attitude towards us and sympathize with us.

2) *Reorganization in personnel in Embassies abroad*

On the suggestion of the Foreign Ministry, the Government has appointed new Ambassadors to the following countries :

- Tunisia
- Japan
- Ivory Coast
- Laos
- Turkey

To reinforce the personnel in our Embassies abroad, the Foreign Ministry has sent five Counsellors to :

- Bangkok
- Tokyo
- Ankara
- Rome
- Manila

Nine Secretaries and 18 administrative officers to other important areas.

Within the scope of improving the diplomatic activities, an examination has been held to recruit 30 Secretaries to serve at various embassies. They are now under training at the Foreign Ministry.

3) Relationship between the Republic of Vietnam and Foreign Countries

A significant success of the War Cabinet in its relations with other countries was the official visit of the Prime Minister to the Republic of China and Thailand in August 1965. It was the first time since the November 1, 1963 Revolution that the Head of the Vietnamese Government made a state visit abroad. This event not only strengthens the ties between Vietnam and two friendly nations but it also helps Vietnam win sympathy from other Asian nations.

Owing to our national policy and the effective efforts of the War Cabinet, along with increasing activities of our Embassies in trying to influence world opinion, the relationship between Viet Nam and the friendly countries has been strengthened and at the same time, has dealt a heavy blow to the prestige of North Viet Nam on the international scene.

The Vietnamese Liaison Mission with the ICC has :

- published a White Book entitled : « The so-called war of Liberation in South Viet Nam ». This book has been widely circulated abroad to denounce the Communist aggressive plans and activities.
- reported to the I.C.C. on Viet Cong violations of the Geneva Agreements.

These violations can be listed as follows :

- 187 violations of the demilitarized zone.
- 4 infiltration instances of troops and weapons into South Viet Nam,
- 375 terrorist and sabotage activities.

As a result, the ICC had officially denounced North Viet Nam for :

- The infiltration of V.C. cadres into the demilitarized zone.
- The sending of a junk of weapons to Cua Viet (Quang Tri) from the North,

In order to strengthen international relationship, Viet Nam has been contacting friendly nations to establish diplomatic installations in Ethiopia, Colombo, Switzerland, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Kenya, Canada, Brazil. These countries are considered to have much influence on Viet Nam, in view of their geographical, political or economic situation.

A fact to remember was that while Viet Nam was trying to strengthen relationship with friendly nations, she had to break relation with France as a result of the destructive policy adopted by the government of De Gaulle. Both Vietnamese and French embassies were lowered to consulate level.

4) Assistance from friendly nations

Viet Nam is continuing to cooperate in the economic and technical fields with other countries and still receiving assistance from friendly ones.

a) Economic and technical cooperation with Africa

Vietnamese embassies in African countries have been instructed to study the economic and technical cooperations with African countries in the following fields :

- exchange of experts, teachers and students,
- exchange of technical know-how :
 - through seminars
 - through consultations on technical plans
 - through supply of technical documents
 - through information of modern technique.

b) Vietnam had signed trade agreements with Tunisia and Morocco

with a view to opening more markets for such local products as black tea, green tea and handicrafts.

Assistance from the Free World

The free world has been providing Viet Nam with needed assistance in its fight against the Communists and in its task of national reconstruction.

On June 22, 1965, the Prime Minister presided over the ceremony marking the International Aid Day in Saigon, organized jointly by the Foreign Ministry and the Psywar Department.

The free world's assistance to Viet Nam comes in economic and technical aid and military assistance :

a) Economic and technical aid

This aid has made important headway and has progressed at increasing paces ever since its inception.

b) Military assistance

The military assistance of the Free World to Viet Nam also picks up momentum of the economic and technical aid.

At the beginning of July, Korea sent to Viet Nam two freight ships. A Korean combat division will be arriving here soon.

At the end of July, New Zealand sent an artillery unit to Viet Nam to cooperate with the Australian combat battalion which will be reinforced in the near future.

Through the continuous economic, technical and military assistance, the Free World has shown that it is always ready to back up the anti-Communist struggle and the national reconstruction of the people of Viet Nam.

5) Participation in International Conferences

To defend its interest and position in international organizations, the government of Viet Nam had participated in 48 international conferences.

6) VIP's visits to Vietnam

19 statesmen and international delegations have visited Viet Nam during the past three months.

**7) Strengthening relation
with Vietnamese residents abroad**

In order to spur the Vietnamese residents abroad into contributing to the anti-Communist struggle and to the revolution, Vietnamese embassies abroad have been ordered to strengthen the relationship with Vietnamese residents through timely informations, the setting up of cultural libraries, the reorganization of student dormitories and the reopening of cafeteria for Vietnamese students in France and through the cultural festivals in Thailand and Laos.

VI. — MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

1) Upholding the Law of the Land

Measures have been taken to carry out the decisions of the Court concerning those who exploit their fellow countrymen in real estate business, particularly those who disregard the law of the land and challenge the authority of the Court in relying on the Decision of April 24, 1964, taken for the benefit of the poor, to illegally build their houses on others' land.

In application of the Prime Minister's Decision N° 994-UBHP-CT of July 9, 1965 empowering the Minister of Justice with the right of taking final decision on the expulsion of illegally built houses, the Ministry of Justice has thoroughly examined the decisions of the Courts regarding these expulsions and see to their application, in conformity with the original spirit of Decision N° 816 TTP-VP of April 24, 1964.

— Total number of requests claiming the carrying out of the Courts' orders	529
— Number of requests already satisfied	14

2) Examination of detainees' cases

- a) See to the speedy trial of a number of detainees associated with the former regime.
- b) Take action on the cases brought forward by the Crime Investigation Interministerial Committee.

Case on which action had been taken

— Brought to trial :	
Before the Revolutionary Court	4
Before the Military Court	24
Before the Civilian Court	244
	<hr/>
	272
— Forwarded to other competent departments	531
— Discarded for lack of conviction of guilt	398
— Proposed for acquittance	56

Cases under-examination :

— Under investigation (by the Military Police or by the National Police).	199
— Under examination	103
	<hr/>
Total.	11,559

3) Pardon and clemency

To express the generosity of the Government towards those who have been misled and who now feel much repentance for their deeds, the Chairman of the Directory, on the proposal of the Ministry of Justice, has signed the following Decrees benefiting them with pardon or clemency :

- N° 12-CT-LDQG-SL of July 9, 1965 (19 convicts)
- N° 15-CT-LDQG-SL of July 19, 1965 (43 convicts)
- N° 16-CT-LDQG-SL of July 19, 1965 (1 sentenced to death)
- N° 13-CT-LDQG-SL of July 9, 1965 (4 political convicts)

On the contrary, the Chairman of the Directory has turned down the request for clemency of 4 convicts condemned to death (Decree N° 22-CT-LDQG-SL of July 28, 1965).

4) Organization

— Following the organization of the Custom Tribunal in the Highlands of Central Vietnam, preparations are underway for the setting up of district-level and village-level Custom tribunals and for the creation of Montagnard Sections at the Dalat, Pleiku and Banmethuot Courts.

- Reactivate the Kien Phong Peace Court.
- Speed up the building of premises at Pleiku, Banmethuot, Binh Dinh and Bac Lieu.
- Start the extension of the Saigon Court Building.

5) Bill drafting

The following bills are being drafted or revised by the Ministry of Justice :

- The Penal Code, the Civil Code, the Penal procedures, the Civil procedures and the Trade Law with a view to unifying the laws of the land.
- The Bill on priority rights for the tenants on the rent of real estates for living or industrial purposes.
- The Bill confirming Vietnamese qualifications for the Chinese-born Vietnamese citizens and legalizing the situation of those who have been issued Vietnamese ID cards.

Already drafted and promulgated was Decree N° 014-65 of September 17, 1965 improving the organization of the Court of Cassation with a view to simplifying its procedures.

VII. — CONCLUSION

The War Cabinet, formed three months ago, has presented the Vietnamese people with an emergency program comprising 26 points in the following fields :

- War, Politics
- Economy, Finance
- Cultural and Social Affairs
- Foreign Affairs

Through the above detailed recapitulation, one can see that the five points relating to the military and political fields have been implemented. Since these objectives required a dynamic contribution of the whole population, especially their sacrifice, austerity and union, goods results cannot be obtained in a short period of a few months.

The Government hopes with the increasing efforts of the various Departments and the determination of the Vietnamese people, bright results could be obtained in the near future.

In the economic and financial fields, the Government has achieved 8 out of 10 points of its program and has succeeded in guaranteeing the normal supply of food for the rear, fighting speculations and blackmarketeering, maintaining the cost of living and carrying out an austerity policy.

However, we still have to fight the Vietcong aggressors, therefore our difficulties have not yet been overcome.

In the educational, social and cultural fields, we have achieved only 3 out of 7 points (from point 16 to point 18). The long foreign domination and the harmful political organizations are the main obstacles for the reorganization of the people's life. This reorganization can not be done in a short period of time. For example, the education reform has been planned right after the November 1 Revolution but not yet been realized because there should be discussions and studies among various agencies and organizations before it is carried out.

Finally, in the diplomatic field, the first two points have been implemented while the last two ones are being progressively completed.

In summary, the Government has achieved 18 points out of 26 — that is two thirds of its program presented to the Vietnamese people in a shortest time and in the most critical situation, both internally and externally. The rest of the government program is in the process of being started or implemented.

The encouraging results would surely deserve the attention of the people and would be an incentive for all us to double our efforts, to defeat the communists and to achieve a true Revolution for which our beloved people have been longing.

