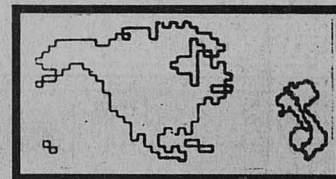


# Indochina Interchange



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## U.S. NGO Forum Organizes Meetings with Foreign Ministers

By Jim Spencer

On October 6, 55 representatives of 36 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other organizations met in New York with the foreign ministers of Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos. Taking time out from busy schedules at the United Nations General Assembly, these diplomats discussed the current developments in Indochina with many of those who have been involved with the region since even before the warming of bilateral relations with the United States.

### *Viet Nam*

Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam of Viet Nam began the day by thanking all the American NGOs for helping to alleviate the consequences of war in Viet Nam in the face of official American ostracism of the country, and acknowledged the bond between certain groups of Americans and his people. Foreign NGOs have indeed played a significant role in solving nagging problems for the neediest Vietnamese. As only 20% of the government budget is directed towards social problems, during a time of physical hardship and international isolation, NGOs have earned the trust of the Vietnamese by helping rehabilitate the wounded, invalids and orphans.

Part of his cultural tradition, Mr. Cam noted, is loyalty to friends, and he was, therefore, quick to reassure American NGOs, that even as bilateral relations are slowly realized, old friends who have helped Viet Nam in her time of need will not be forgotten. Furthermore, he asked for continued expansion of NGOs' Viet Nam projects, with priority given to creating jobs for victims of war, income for children's centers, development in rural areas, and

## NGOs Enlarge Viet Nam's "Hole in the Wall"

By Linda Blair

A walk through Hanoi's old neighborhoods reveals the vigor of the "hole-in-the-wall" market economy: simple, dark doorways of snug row houses camouflage a variety of home workshops: sewing, carpentry, photography, even computer informatics! Street vendors stake out licensed turf for morning soup stands, motorcycle repair, vegetable and clothing stalls; illegal squatters gather up their curbside merchandise and scatter like dry leaves blown before an approaching motorcycle/sidecar with five young patrolmen. Bike and foot peddlers with pushcarts or shoulder poles tote their entire stock of pottery, vegetables, flowers, plastic kitchen "tupperware."

All Hanoi is a market! The entry price into the market economy is still low: owning a tea kettle, one can sell boiled water by the glass; with an old foot pump, the product is air to inflate Hanoi's fleet of bicycles. All manner of goods are available, from handicrafts to Singapore electronics. New prosperity, for some at least, is evidenced by an astounding building boom as private houses are renovated and expanded skyward, providing much needed living space for families at the expense of Hanoi's graceful old architecture.

With such a vigorous and apparently profitable street trade as a background to daily life in Hanoi, it is no wonder

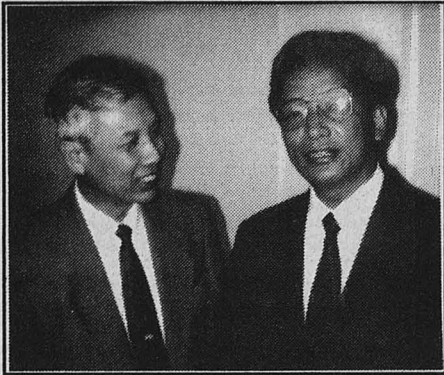
that many international NGOs headquartered here are piloting revolving credit programs to enable more people to participate in what seems a profitable and sustainable market economy.

Vietnamese program staff from several NGOs have received credit training (in English) in India, Thailand, or the Philippines. The Grameen bank program has been an influential model. Most significantly, effective credit training can now be conducted in Vietnamese by both overseas Vietnamese economists such as Dr. Liem and by trained local cadres



Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam, Interpreter Le Hoai Trung, and Director of North America Department, Le Van Bang

Continued on p. 3...



Dr. Ho Si Thoang, Chairman of Vietnam Oil & Gas Company, with Mr. Cao Si Kiem, Governor of the State Bank of Vietnam, who spoke at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington on September 22d.

such as Mrs. Lan of the Women's Union. Thus, district and commune officials are now learning to organize and maintain credit programs themselves.

With the flexibility inherent in small pro-

grams, NGOs are trying out different models to provide small capital to rural or urban households for a variety of projects. Most programs are in their first or second year of operation. Data is being collected and shared among NGOs to help define the optimal use of funds in the Vietnamese economic context.

The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) entered the credit arena in 1990 by donating capital to the Women's Union in two coastal communes for revolving funds to raise breeding sows. Recent monitoring indicates a good return for women in this project, with many able to improve their homes from the profits. Since the poorest families usually lack the spare food to raise a breeding sow, the piglets paid back to the fund are "lent" to these families to raise for meat. In the same year, AFSC donated money for a revolving fund for bamboo cages and fingerlings to itinerant fishing families wanting to stay put on the river so that their children could attend school. They now raise fish for sale in bamboo cages beneath their small houseboats. Despite initial success, this project illustrates the risks of rural credit, as market-ready fish died in a flash flood in summer of 1991. Instead of repaying loans with interest to cover inflation, families had to borrow more to restock and begin again. Similarly, participants in a third pig-raising project lost ten percent of animals to disease, despite a coordinated vaccination program. We are discovering that rural credit programs based on crops or on livestock entail a high level of risk. Future programs must address this factor, balancing accountability, motivation, and risk. Revolving funds we have established for equipment (outboard motors and fish nets for fishing families, nylon cord for net-weaving families, foot-power water pumps

for farmers) are seen as more secure.

In 1991, AFSC staff remarked an inconsistency in our donations. While rural farmer and fishermen were being asked to repay their capital with interest (not to us but to a fund for other borrowers in their communes), small cooperatives and factories were receiving outright gifts of much larger sums for transformers and electrical equipment. These same enterprises would often approach us again the next year for more aid, as if we were taking over the now defunct annual state subsidy. We began to look for ways to make all our capital grants self-replenishing. In the current fiscal year, we have established a variety of revolving funds. Large projects for saltpan improvement and irrigation end up benefiting individual families. So, loan funds have been devised to enable the families to pay back into a fund for future investment. When we next make grants to cooperative factories, we will require that profits be set aside for re-investment.

Most of our revolving funds have been administered by a Women's Union chapter or local cooperative. However, recently we organized an irrigation loan through the Agricultural Bank. We have become convinced of the importance of activating and strengthening local credit resources. After all, NGOs cannot possibly fill Viet Nam's credit needs. We can, however, sponsor pilot projects that help us learn to respond effectively to urban and rural poverty.

AFSC/Vietnam is currently at work devising some of the first village-based loan funds for isolated minority communities in the mountains northwest of Hanoi. We expect these funds to concentrate on appropriate local orchard crops and hardy native livestock such as local chickens. We'll be sharing our experience with other NGOs and our Vietnamese counterparts. Together, we are learning how to use revolving credit to boost family economy, and at the same time to develop the management abilities of local people in the countryside.

[Linda Blair is the American Friends Service Committee Country co-Director for Viet Nam. Quaker Office, 26 Pho Lien Tri, Ha Noi. Tel. 84-4265229. Fax. 84-425-5212.]

## HO CHI MINH CITY BARGAIN CHARTER FLIGHTS

Korean Airlines and Aseana Airlines are beginning charter flights with direct connections from New York or Los Angeles via Seoul to Ho Chi Minh City. Departures from the U.S. November 22; December 7, 21; January 4, 18. Returns from HCMC 28; Nov. 25; Dec. 9, 23; Jan. 6, 20. Roundtrip prices from N.Y. Nov \$850; Dec-Jan \$900; from L.A.: \$650/\$750. (Quotes from Esther Kim, Sharp Travel: 1-800-252-1170.)



relief from natural calamities.

Following his statement, the Foreign Minister invited questions and suggestions on how the Ministry of Foreign Affairs could best assist NGOs in their work. One NGO representative asked that restrictions impeding the establishment of base offices in Viet Nam be eased, so that NGOs can better administer their projects, to which the Foreign Minister replied that the only barrier to establishing an NGO office in Ha Noi is the lack of available housing.

In answer to other questions about Vietnamese policy, Minister Cam spoke of current deforestation problems from Montagnard slash and burn agriculture and American chemical warfare in Viet Nam; and about the commitment of the Vietnamese government to a multisectoral economy in which foreign investment in all fields ranging from industry to agriculture will be welcomed, especially in the provinces.

In response to concerns about the status of the POW/MIA negotiations, Mr. Cam reaffirmed that Viet Nam had returned all living POWs after the end of the war, advocates normalization of relations without preconditions, and is ready for full cooperation with the United States. As proof of good intentions he pointed to the fact that since 1987, 19 joint Vietnamese-American searches for MIAs have turned up 482 sets of remains.

On the Cambodian peace process, Mr. Cam feels that, since historically, Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos have had close relations, the stability of the one directly affects that of the others. Viet Nam has received praise from both Prince Sihanouk and Yasushi Akashi-the head of UNTAC in Cambodia -for doing everything within its power to ensure that the Paris Peace Accords are successfully implemented despite a rising incidence of violence against Vietnamese residents of Cambodia. In his opinion, the recent anti-Vietnamese sentiments in Cambodia are a calculated diversion from the peace process rather than reflective of a popular backlash, and felt assured that the Cambodian government was prepared to deal appropriately with the problem.

### *Laos*

The second speaker of the day, Vice-Foreign Minister Soubanh Srithirath of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, greeted the assembled NGOs warmly and expressed his desire for continued cooperation between NGOs and the Lao government. As one of the least developed nations in the world, Laos has faced political

reality with a policy of renewal since 1986. The New Economic Mechanism, as the reforms are called, has three areas of focus: liberalizing prices, rationalizing exchange rates, and granting autonomy to public enterprises. In

1987-88, the government freed the exchange rate, thereby attracting foreign investment in construction and other needed areas. This stabilization was followed by privatizing over 600 enterprises which led to an increase of 6.5% in GNP and an increase in per capita income of \$180-\$215 over the period from 1989-1991. In addition, the inflation rate has been under control since 1991 and even recorded a recent 10% decrease to add to other signs of encouragement. This growth, however, was tempered by the persistent problems of seasonal floods, which last year decreased rice production by 300,000 tons, and the continuation of a destructive slash and burn economy in the highlands.

One of the primary goals of a new, "medium term policy" for 1991-95 is to provide self-sufficiency in agriculture through a crop-substitution program to combat the dependence on highland opium harvesting. The plan not only introduces coffee, orange, bean, and sesame crops as the major source of local income, but also calls for the curbing of international demand for the drug. Eradication of opium is only the beginning of an ambitious program which includes upgrading an antiquated road system, improving education, and investigating the tremendous hydroelectric and mineral potential of Laos.

Alounkeo Kittikhoud, head of the International Organizations Department of the Foreign Ministry, added that he was already encouraged by the support of some 30 NGOs - 13 of whom have local offices - currently working on small-scale irrigation, poppy plantation reduction, and construction of buildings for schools and medical clinics. Though appreciative of this NGO support, Mr. Soubanh was wary of ideological and religious rather than developmental agendas.

In response to questions, Vice-Minister Soubanh reiterated Laos' commitment to accommodating United States requests



Lao Vice-Foreign Minister  
Soubanh Srithirath

for information on POW/MIAs, but pointed out that during the war in Laos, most of the rural population fled to the cities and was concerned with mere survival rather than keeping track of the American missing. Moreover, this lack of popular knowledge is exacerbated by seasonal weather problems that have held up the joint searches. He is hopeful, though, that the planned excavations will continue after the monsoons.

### *Cambodia*

Speaking third, Foreign Minister Hor Nam Hong of the State of Cambodia thanked the NGO community for the essential role it has played in Cambodia's survival through a period of international isolation. Minister Hong was delighted to see that eighty NGO offices are now open in Phnom Penh and hoped for their continued growth, specifically by helping UNTAC monitor the elections.

Mr. Hong began his prepared speech by outlining the problems which now block the fulfillment of the Paris Peace Accords. He placed the blame squarely on the shoulders of the KR for complaining about the Vietnamese in Cambodia. Although UNTAC border checkpoints have confirmed the absence of any organized Vietnamese force in Cambodia, KR leaders continue to refuse UNTAC's reassurances. The second KR complaint, he said, is that the Supreme National Council lacks sufficient power in relation to the SOC government. The Paris Peace Agreement, however, never empowered the SNC as a government, so the point is indefensible.

Despite his frustrations, Minister Hong feels that the KR must be kept within the peace process for timely elections and a decent chance for peace. Towards this end, he called for the Security Council of the UN to pressure the KR back into the Agreement and show them that the international community will not tolerate violation of the peace treaty.

KR participation in the elections, however, is no guarantee of peace, so the State of Cambodia is working under the assumption that following any of the probable electoral scenarios, the KR will surely resume fighting, and any elected government must be ready to defend its mandate. Prince Sihanouk also fears the worst and has requested a

halt to the disarmament and cantonment of SOC troops.

Military victory is short-lived however in the absence of a decent standard of living for all Cambodians, especially those living in the countryside. The best defense against a return of the KR is a contented population, backed by strong social and economic policies, and international bilateral and NGO support. Not surprisingly, contentment is linked to the demining program. Mr. Hong revealed that although UNHCR and the United States both had funds to begin demining before repatriation began, because of bureaucratic and political problems, the money rotted in the bank while agricultural land was cleared for allocation to the returnees from the border. These logjams subsequently led UNHCR to the short-term solution of replacing the incentive of arable land with that of hard cash. Unfortunately cash does not

necessarily replenish itself, and the Foreign Minister asked what happens when the money runs out? It is almost certain they will become a liability for the future government by joining the ranks of the unemployed.

In Mr. Hong's estimation, there are three possible alternatives for the elections if the KR persists in violating the Peace Accords: 1) hold elections throughout the areas which have allowed UNTAC to implement Phase II - about 90% of the country, and only hold elections in KR areas once they permit UNTAC access to their territory, 2) legally exclude the KR from the Peace Agreement for block-

ing Phase II, and disregard any tallies from those areas under its control, and 3) give UNTAC a stronger mandate to enter KR zones and, if necessary, forcibly supervise countrywide elections.

The Foreign Minister thought alternative three was unlikely as it is not realistic to ask an already skittish UN force to enter hostile areas with the purpose of enforcing a democratic election on a population under the control of an organized guerilla movement. Alternative two, though seemingly the most logical of the three, is dangerous in that it will precipitate conflict between the KR and other forces before the election by allowing the KR an excuse to disrupt the elections they are bound to lose. Although Mr. Hong believes the KR military strength is widely overestimated, the other Cambodian factions are not yet likely to present a strong challenge, and UNTAC's will or capacity to fight a potent guerilla force is yet unproven.



State of Cambodia Foreign Minister Hor Nam Hong



Alternative one, ironically, holds the most promise for the KR, yet is reluctantly favored by Hong. If indeed the elections are carried out only in selected areas, the KR could cry foul to the international arena, since any results, technically, would be incomplete. In this scenario, UNTAC's mandate could be perceived, by disheartened and weary UN donors, as fulfilled after only a 90% complete tally, and all UN forces could be withdrawn leaving the KR with a "legitimate" gripe that any existing government was not popularly elected, thereby "excusing" a resumption of military force against an administration barely out of the gate. On the other hand, this alternative does delay the conflict between the KR and the other parties until at least 90% of the country has been successfully polled, and gives Phnom Penh the political advantage of having always kept the door open for KR participation. But for this sequence of events to favor the new government requires a strong post-election UNTAC presence, and the Foreign Minister made it clear that a UN decision to withdraw completely next Spring could prove disastrous for all of Cambodia. Haunted by the specter of inevitable conflict, Cambodia will rely on international support for all measures to monitor the KR military potential, and sanctions on the border trade with the Thai military.

Minister Hong's explanation of the complexity of the Cambodian political situation highlighted the significance of this meeting with all the representatives from Indochina. As most of the NGO staff present are based in home offices in the United States, it was important for them to hear the insights of those who negotiate and create policy which directly affects NGO work. The end result of this opportunity to meet the delegates was a greater clarity on the role of NGOs, and a better chance for cooperation with the three governments in the years to come.

After the Meeting adjourned, the representatives of agencies with programs in Laos met with Foreign Minister Phoun Sipaseuth. He expressed gratitude for NGO assistance, and



Lao Foreign Minister Phoun Sipaseuth and  
NGO Forum Convenor Joy Carol

hoped for its expansion in small and medium sized projects.

Because their schedules did not permit them to address the NGO Forum meeting, informal discussions were held later in the afternoon with Mr. Son Sann, President of the KPNLF and the Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party, and Mr. You Hockry, member of the FUNCINPEC national council. Both complained of SOC harassment of their organizers, called for a larger, more governmental role for the Supreme National Council, and expressed concern about continued large-scale Vietnamese presence in Cambodia. Son Sann also appealed for NGO assistance to proposals he has received from monks to build homes for orphans, the handicapped and widows.



You Hockry, Member of the  
FUNCINPEC Party National  
Council

## NGOs DRAFT CAMBODIAN ADVOCACY AGENDA FOR TRANSITION & BEYOND

A small group of representatives of Canadian and U.S. NGOs met in New York October 7-8 to consider the new challenges facing agencies wishing to bring their field experience to bear on government policies.

Responding to the emerging crisis facing the peace process, and to remarks by leaders of Cambodian groups at the U.S. NGO Forum quarterly meeting, the ad hoc group drafted a four page document which has been circulated for comment to headquarters and field staff of agencies with programs in Cambodia.

The advocacy agenda outlines policy directions through the transition to elections in May and afterwards. Topics addressed in the former period are methods to insure Khmer Rouge compliance with the Paris agreement, including sanctions; non-modification of the limited role of the Supreme National Council; tensions regarding immigration and ethnic minorities, particularly the Vietnamese; recruiting election observers from international NGO networks; assuring safe and productive return and reintegration of refugees and displaced persons; rapid assistance to rehabilitation and reconstruction with subsidies for essential public services.

Concerns raised for the post-election era were: extending the U.N. presence to safeguard human rights; providing political and military support against an armed challenge from the Khmer Rouge; supporting national development under the control of and for the benefit of Cambodians in both urban and rural areas; timely fulfillment of aid pledged at the June Tokyo conference for reconstruction and rehabilitation; encouragement of appropriate contributions to development by overseas Cambodians; control of logging, strip mining and other environmental problems; systematic demining.

[Copies of the advocacy agenda are available from USIRP.]

# Dear President Bush and President-Elect Clinton,

We believe it is time for the United States to end its unilateral economic embargo of Vietnam. We also urge our government to stop its solitary objection to World Bank, Asian Development Bank, and International Monetary Fund assistance for Vietnam.

The embargo, a vestige of past conflict, undermines our country's political, economic and security interests. It hurts American investors and workers because our corporations are forbidden to compete freely with European and Asian allies in Vietnam's fast opening market of seventy million people. American non-governmental organizations working with Vietnamese witness this policy's humanitarian cost in the impoverishment of innocent people and the flow of refugees.

Although almost two decades have passed since the United States and Vietnam signed the Paris Peace Agreement, both nations are burdened by suspicions and misunderstandings. Because we distrust them, the United States is the only country in the world that pressures and punishes the Vietnamese by withholding diplomatic and trade relations. Because they distrust us, Vietnam detains citizens accused of American-linked subversive political activity. Among the consequences of this mutual mistrust is the anxiety shared by the families of some 2,000 American and 300,000 Vietnamese Missing in Action who seek the fullest possible accounting of loved ones and the return of remains.

In the last year the United States has taken positive steps to modify the embargo in response to Vietnamese cooperation on Cambodia and POW/MIA concerns. We recognize that full diplomatic normalization is linked to further progress on these issues. However, we share the growing public sentiment that it is time for the United States to end its unusually harsh treatment of Vietnam. We should approach Vietnam with flexibility and creativity as we do China, the successor states to the Soviet Union, South Africa and other societies with which we have unresolved diplomatic, human rights and political differences.

It is time for both the United States and Vietnam to leave behind the conflicts of the past and embark on a promising future. The best way to foster cooperation is to engage in trade, encourage educational and cultural exchange, and build bridges of opportunity to resolve outstanding differences. That can only begin when the embargo ends.

Sincerely,

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Title/Position \_\_\_\_\_  
Institution/Organization \_\_\_\_\_  
Check here ( ) if should be listed "for identification purposes only"  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

(Signers to date)

## Non-Governmental Organizations

- ◆ Barnett F. Baron, Vice President/International Programs, Save the Children \*
- ◆ Douglas R. Beane, Director/Office of Community Outreach, Church World Service and Witness
- ◆ Ewing G. Carroll, jr., Executive Secretary, Indochina and China Related Areas, The United Methodist Church \*
- ◆ James C. Cobey, Chairman, Health Volunteers Overseas and American Red Cross Volunteer
- ◆ Dr. John D. Constable, Trustee, Indochina Surgical-Educational Exchange
- ◆ Paul Cox, Director, Veterans Speakers Alliance
- ◆ Peter Davies, President & CEO, Interaction
- ◆ Marilyn Edmunds, Director of Public Affairs, Pathfinder International
- ◆ William H. Eisman, DDS, Chair, U.S.-Viet Nam Friendship Association/San Francisco \*
- ◆ William R. Essig, Vice President/International Programs, Mercy Corps. International
- ◆ Craig Etcheson, Executive Director, Campaign to Oppose the Return of the Khmer Rouge
- ◆ Ardith A. Eudey, Vice-Chairman for Asia, Primate Specialist Group, Species Survival Commission, IUCN \*
- ◆ Jack Fortin, Senior Vice-President, World Vision/United States



- ◆ Nancy M. Fox, Executive Director, Americans for International Aid and Adoption \*
- ◆ Eric A. Gass, United Church of Christ
- ◆ Jerry Genesio, Founder/Executive Director, Veterans for Peace, Inc. \*
- ◆ Fredric S. Gregory, Executive Director, World Concern
- ◆ Paul Hamilton, Associate V.P., Planned Parenthood Federation of America, International Division \*
- ◆ John C. Hammock, Executive Director, Oxfam/America
- ◆ Lani J. Havens, Executive Director, Church World Service & Witness, National Council of Churches/United States
- ◆ Judith L. Ladinsky, Chair, U.S.-Committee for Scientific Cooperation With Viet Nam
- ◆ John A. Lapp, Executive Secretary, Mennonite Central Committee
- ◆ Boyd Lowry, Executive Director, CODEL \*
- ◆ Laura J. Marks, Staff Associate, Women's Commission for Refugee Ministries, U.S. Jesuit Conference \*
- ◆ John McAuliff, Executive Director, U.S.-Indochina Reconciliation Project
- ◆ Rev. Robert W. McChesney, S.J., Secretary for International and Refugee Ministries, U.S. Jesuit Conference \*
- ◆ Rev. Jiro Mizuno, Asst. Gen. Secretary for Asia/Pacific, World Div. General Board of Global Ministries, The United Methodist Church
- ◆ Rev. Frank Moan, SS, Director, Refugee Voices
- ◆ Kara Newell, Executive Secretary, American Friends Service Committee
- ◆ Theodore C. Ning, MD, Vice President, Friendship Bridge
- ◆ William Nottingham, President, Division of Overseas Ministries, The Christian Church
- ◆ Thomas J. O'Brien, MM, Director, Maryknoll Missioners Justice and Peace Office
- ◆ John M. Palmer, Executive Director, Helen Keller International
- ◆ Kenneth H. Phillips, President, Childreach
- ◆ Sydney Rosen, Executive Director, World Teach, Inc. \*
- ◆ Roger Rumpf, Director, Asia Resource Center
- ◆ Bob Seiple, President, World Vision/United States
- ◆ John H. Skillman, Deputy Executive Director, Council on International Educational Exchange \*
- ◆ John G. Sommer, Dean, Academic Studies Abroad, School for International Training/World Learning Inc. \*
- ◆ Jeremy J. Stone, President, Federation of American Scientists
- ◆ Paul A. Strasburg, Chair, Board of Directors, Volunteers in Asia
- ◆ Steven Stratford, Executive Director, Veterans Vietnam Restoration Project
- ◆ Grace C. K. Sum, Executive Director, The Pearl S. Buck Foundation, Inc.
- ◆ Daniel Susott, MD, Executive Director, World Family Foundation
- ◆ C. David Thomas, Director, Indochina Arts Project
- ◆ Richard M. Walden, President, Operation U.S.A.

## Business

- ◆ Allan Affeldt, President, IPW and EOS Development Group
- ◆ Gregory Arnold, Managing Director, Viet Nam Investment & Trade Associates
- ◆ Patricia Cunneen, President, EastQuest
- ◆ Mathilde Genovese, Kingship Ltd./Vietnam Newsletter
- ◆ Robert L. Irick, Chairman, Asia-Pacific Council of American Chambers of Commerce
- ◆ Richard M. Lockwood, President, Lockwood Nutrition Service, Inc.

- ◆ Eugene A. Matthews, President, Ashta International
- ◆ William Schwalbe, Director, Special Projects, William Morrow and Company Publishers \*
- ◆ Thomas Schwarz, Attorney, Skadden & Arps \*
- ◆ Sesto E. Vecchi, Partner, Russin & Vecchi
- ◆ Anne Butterfield Weills, Attorney, Weills & Siegel

## Academic

- ◆ Robert S. Browne, Senior Research Fellow, Howard University
- ◆ Eric Crystal, Coordinator/Center for Southeast Asian Studies, University of California at Berkeley \*
- ◆ Stephen C. Dunnett, Vice-Provost for International Education, State University of New York at Buffalo \*
- ◆ David L. Featherman, President, Social Science Research Council \*
- ◆ Albert Fishlow, Dean of International and Area Studies, University of California at Berkeley \*
- ◆ Leonard A. Gordon, Professor of History, Brooklyn College, C.U.N.Y.
- ◆ A. Tom Grunfeld, Associate Professor of History, SUNY/Empire State College \*
- ◆ Glenn L. Hendricks, Professor and Coordinator, Southeast Asian Refugee Studies Project, University of Minnesota
- ◆ Barbara Lindeman, Overseas Study Advisor, Georgetown University \*
- ◆ Mary L. Mittler, Assistant Vice President for Education Services, Oakland Comm. College \* (and eight members of the faculty)
- ◆ Kristin Pelzer, Professor of Southeast Asian Studies, University of Hawaii
- ◆ Susan K. Pinkard, Director/Overseas Study, Georgetown University \*
- ◆ Robert R. Reed, Chair, Center for Southeast Asia Studies, University of California/Berkeley
- ◆ William T. Smathers, Manager, Asian Programs, Foreign Fulbright Programs Division, Institute of International Education
- ◆ Thomas M. Steinfatt, Professor and Director, Speech Communication, University of Miami
- ◆ Carl A. Trocki, Jacobson Associate Professor of Southeast Asian History/Georgetown University \*
- ◆ Lois T. Vietri, Co-Director Maryland-Viet Nam Partnership, Dept. of Government and Politics, U. of Maryland
- ◆ David W. Vikner, President, United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia
- ◆ John W. Williams, Asst. Professor of Political Science, Principia College \*
- ◆ Adam Yarmolinsky, Provost, University of Maryland/Baltimore County \*
- ◆ Linda J. Yarr, Assistant Professor, Friends World Program, Long Island University \*
- ◆ Marilyn B. Young, Professor/Department of History, New York University \*

## Other

- ◆ Lady Borton, Writer
  - ◆ Fredy Champagne, Vietnam Friends
  - ◆ W.D. Ehrhart, Poet & Writer
  - ◆ Larry Heinemann, Vietnam Veteran, Author of Paco's Story (National Book Award, 1987)
  - ◆ Richard M. Hughes, Actor
  - ◆ Gregg Krech, Buddhist Peace Fellowship \*
  - ◆ Nicole Vecchi M.D., Founder, Yale Viet Nam Education Fund
- [(\*) Affiliation Listed for Identification Purposes Only]

## Embargo Postscript and What to do with this Letter:

*On August 28, 1992, President George Bush extended for another year the Trading with the Enemy Act which enables the trade embargo against Vietnam. While the extension must be renewed annually, the President can lift the embargo at any time. Some observers feel the period between the election and inauguration offers a logical opportunity. The letter above is the result of discussions which began in the U.S. policy workshop at the NGO conference in Stony Brook. Additional signatures are welcome if the president has not acted, but must be received in the office as soon as possible. The letter has already been sent with the current signatories and may be published as an ad if special funds can be obtained. Please note: the impact of such a letter lies not in the number of signatures but in the diversity, weight and prominence of the institutions and individuals supporting it. Accordingly, for most readers the challenge is not to sign it oneself, but to seek out a university or business leader, a renowned artist or writer, a religious or elected official, an NGO director or Board chair, etc.*

# UNTAC Presence Gets Mixed Reviews from NGOs

By Martha Walsh

Since 1979, non-government organizations (NGOs) have observed and assisted in Cambodia's gradual rise from ground zero. The process has been slow and painful for both Cambodia and those involved in the areas of relief, reconstruction, and development. The signing of the Paris Peace Accords nearly one year ago, and the presence of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) have served as catalysts for moving certain sectors in Cambodia further in the past eleven months than over the twelve previous years. NGOs are far from impervious to the dramatic changes. UNTAC's impact on NGOs has been both direct and indirect, positive and negative.

Cambodia's economy is in a state of upheaval. A massive influx of dollars has resulted in soaring inflation. The demand for lodging and offices has created exorbitant rental costs thereby harmfully affecting NGOs, some of which have had to relocate more than once and report spending an inordinate amount of time renegotiating leases and looking for new quarters. In addition, local staff salaries have been adjusted and readjusted by over 100% to keep pace with rising prices and to compete with the salaries and prestige of UNTAC employment opportunities. A "brain drain" has been cited by NGO representatives who have lost some of their most able Cambodian assistants and counterparts to the U.N. and foreign diplomatic missions.

One issue which has recently come into the spotlight is the gross misconduct of some male UNTAC personnel. An open letter composed by women working for Phnom Penh-based NGOs was sent to U.N. Special Representative Yasushi Akashi signed by one hundred and sixty expatriate and Khmer men and women; it outlined concerns of Phnom Penh residents about the mistreatment of women by soldiers and other personnel. There have been numerous

Cont. on next page..

# Cambodian Repatriation Update

By Robert Maat

"100,000 Refugee Returns to Cambodia" read the headlines of the September 1, 1992 issue of the Bangkok Post. There remains, however, nearly a quarter of a million Cambodians awaiting return to their homeland under the auspices of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Site K, a Khmer Rouge camp in Trat Province, Thailand was the first encampment to be closed by the UNHCR and Thai government in mid September. Sok Sann, another small camp in Trat under the auspices of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) is scheduled to be closed by the end of the month. Any residual population will be transferred to Khao I Dang to await eventual repatriation.

Original plans had all the camps closing by the end of 1992, but it is now clear that deadline will not be met. The UNHCR predicts that 100-120,000 will still be in border encampments at the beginning of 1993. The Thai government has said all Khmers will be repatriated by the time of the Cambodian elections which are scheduled for May, 1993.

UNHCR officials have made it clear that the repatriation effort will continue at its present pace, 30,000 refugees per month, and increasing up to 40,000 by November and December, despite the present impasse in the UN Comprehensive peace plan. To date, the Khmer Rouge have refused to comply with Phase II of the Peace Accords, which includes the demobilization and cantonment of their troops, by refusing UNTAC free access to their zones. Most recently, Prince Sihanouk has announced the Khmer Rouge have decided not to participate in the upcoming elections.

Likewise, UNHCR officials have stated the repatriation effort will remain on schedule despite its inability to provide what it had promised the returnees in its early information campaigns in the camps. By mid-August, 18% of the returnees had chosen option A, but very few had received the allotted two hectares of mine-free, arable farm land. 25% of the returnees had chosen option B: a promise of land for a house with building materials. UNHCR says the local provincial governments have been less than cooperative in providing the land.

Cont. on next page...

## UNHCR Packages for Returning Cambodian Refugee Families:\*

Option A - two hectares of farmland, housing kit, agricultural kit

Option B - housing kit, agricultural kit, land for a house, if hireable, a job with UNTAC

Option C - cash grant of US\$ 50 for each adult and \$25 for each child 12 or under food aid

\*under all Options, refugees will be given UNHCR rice rations for 400 days.





English Street, Phnom Penh

cases of Khmer and foreign women being harassed both verbally and physically with no form of redress. The letter requests that a code of conduct be inscribed, that UNTAC appoint an ombuds-person to address these issues, and that there be

training in cross-cultural sensitivity and in the prevention of AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases. UNTAC officials have agreed to comply with these requests.

NGOs have, nonetheless, given UN field personnel high marks for offering their assistance and insight to NGO field staff. NGOs now have access to complimentary telephone links from Svay Rieng to Phnom Penh, medical services in Phnom Penh have been made available to NGO staff, and UN teams have reconstructed the road from the capital to Kompong Chhnang, facilitating site visits. Transportation within different provinces is also facilitated by local UNTAC personnel. Further, United Nations Volunteers and UNTAC soldiers have approached NGOs to assist citizens of their assigned provinces and districts after conducting informal needs assessments.

The above examples have made a sharp but short-term effect and will disappear with the termination of the UN mission in August. Long-term impact on NGO programs will result from the UN-funded and implemented quick impact projects (QIPs) targeting returning refugees and their communities. NGOs have criticized the QIP program for inadequate research and preparation and expressed regret at not having been consulted fully in the planning phases.

QIPs entail direct provision of resources such as building materials for villagers rather than encouraging local residents to take responsibility for their survival. It is felt that this may ensure a welfare mentality which becomes difficult to alter into enthusiasm for and participation in community development-oriented programs. NGOs have begun working with UNDP, UNHCR, and CARERA (the operations office of UNDP) to integrate QIPs into sustainable development projects.

While there has been tension between the NGOs and the UN since its arrival en masse, the cooperative activities which are beginning to sprout will benefit Cambodians immediately and continuously.

[Martha Walsh was Asst. Dir. of USIRP and now works for PACT and USIRP. 11B Street 57 Beng Keng Kang, Chamcar Man Dist., Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Fax. 855-23-26625.]

56% of those repatriated had chosen option C: a cash grant of US\$ 50 for each adult in the family and \$25 for each child 12 or younger. Knowing Options A and B are not really available, questioning UNHCR's credibility because they feel lied to, desiring to escape the deteriorating conditions of the camps with increased banditry and violence, many returnees are opting for Option C, as it is the quickest route out of the camps.

Meanwhile, NGOs working in Battambang report that the majority of the returnees in that province are in new settlements outside of villages, rather than integrating themselves into existing villages. They live in refugee camp style housing. Those returning under Option C who do not have relatives become homeless. There is no more agricultural land being made available in Battambang for Option A. Other problems include those internally displaced in the province, land mines, and inaccessible health care. The situation of female heads of households is extreme. There are often no latrines in the new settlements, and no clean water within 3 kilometers. The returnees know what they need to improve sanitation but they lack the resources to do it.

Finding mine free land has been a major stumbling block for the UNHCR in offering Option A. Eleven months after the Peace Accords in Paris there has yet to be any major demining except for along main roadways. One diplomat has said there are more mines in the ground now than during the signing of the peace last October. UNTAC military officers have told NGOs in Battambang that the primary reason demining has moved along so slowly is lack of funding. Sergio deMello, UNHCR's Special Representative to Cambodia and Director of the UNTAC Repatriation component has appealed for "concrete action as opposed to compassionate rhetoric." Wherever the blame lies, it's clear that land mines will be a serious problem long after UNTAC leaves the country in September, 1993.

Logistically and statistically, UNHCR officials are quick to point out how well things are going, especially when compared to other UNTAC components. Has UNHCR's manner of proceeding been more help than hindrance to Cambodia's long and tortuous road to peace? Perhaps only time will tell. As UNTAC's own director, Yasushi Akashi, has stated, "it takes more courage to build than to destroy, to make peace than to make war, to promote reconciliation than to prolong war."

[Robert Maat works with the Coalition for Peace and Reconciliation in Site II refugee camp on the Thai-Cambodian border. Coalition for Peace and Reconciliation, P.O. Box 1, Sanampao, Bangkok 10406, Thailand. Tel. 66 37 269073. Fax. 66 37 269082]

## DRAMATIC INCREASE IN STUDENTS FROM INDOCHINA TO U.S.

More than 100 students, visiting fellows and teachers have come to the United States for the summer and fall semesters. Fifteen have received Fulbright grants mandated by Congress and announced by the Administration as part of 1992 aid to Vietnam.

A consultation may be held among American institutions with current or planned programs of educational exchange and training with Indochina in New York December 13-14 co-sponsored by the Social Science Research Council and USIRP. Scholars from Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and Australia will also participate.

[For information, contact Elisabeth Lamoureux, USIRP.]

## Return to Viet Nam as a Teacher

By Dave Berman

Some twenty years after my tour of duty in Vietnam, I am back in Vietnam once again as a visiting professor at the University of Ho Chi Minh City via a research proposal on social science education in Vietnam.

How do the Vietnamese teach about the American war in their country, I wonder, some twenty years afterwards, in curriculum, textbook, and instruction? "Di mot dang, hoc mot sang khon" the Vietnamese say in their rhythmic cadence. "Go a distant road, and learn a basketful of wisdom." Perhaps I will come back with a basketful of wisdom of my own to offer my students who will one day become the social studies teachers in America's schools, students who will one day teach about their own wars in unknown and distant lands.

As a visiting Professor at Ho Chi Minh U, I am to be jointly shared by the department of English and department of History, with teaching and lecturing responsibilities in both. My primary teaching responsibility, however, is an "American Studies" course which is offered to students for the first time through the Open University available to both University and non-degree students.

The class usually meets twice each week in three-hour sessions. My forty-plus students are a teacher's dream; the teaching conditions a teacher's nightmare. The students sit there on wooden benches behind elongated group desks in near 100 degree heat and 85 percent humidity with only on overhead fan to cool the room. The monsoon rains sweep through the window shutters and into the classroom in the late afternoon.

My students sit patiently through stifling three-hour classes eager in their innocence to learn anything American about a country that to this day continues to deny them diplomatic recognition. In spite of the war and the years of ideological indoctrination that have followed, they seem to genuinely admire my country. Their questions range from the Los Angeles riots to the Presidential election to the lifting of the embargo and the establishment of diplomatic relations. They may be the most dedicated and sincere students I have taught in some sixteen years of teaching

### Institutions Sending Vietnamese, Cambodian and Lao Scholars to the United States

#### *Viet Nam:*

- ◆ -Asian Institute of Technology
- ◆ -Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- ◆ -Ministry of Trade and Commerce
- ◆ -Office of the Council of Ministers
- ◆ -Central Committee
- ◆ -College of Foreign Trade
- ◆ -Department of Economic & Regional development/Ho Chi Minh City University .
- ◆ -Department of International Organizations
- ◆ -English Department/Can Tho University
- ◆ -English Department/Ho Chi Minh City University
- ◆ -History Department/Ho Chi Minh City University
- ◆ -Faculty of Law/Ha Noi University
- ◆ -IMEXCO
- ◆ -Institute of Archaeology
- ◆ -Institute of Economics/National Center for Social Sciences (NCSS)
- ◆ -Institute of Market Prices
- ◆ -Institute for Social Sciences/Ho Chi Minh City
- ◆ -Institute of World Economy
- ◆ -State Planning Committee
- ◆ -Ministry of Agriculture
- ◆ -Center of National Resources Management and Environmental Studies
- ◆ -Songcham State Chemical Enterprise
- ◆ -State Enterprise in Haiphong City
- ◆ -Polytechnical University of Ho Chi Minh City
- ◆ -State Bank of Viet Nam
- ◆ -State Enterprise in Ho Chi Minh City
- ◆ -United Nations
- ◆ -United Nations Development Program (UNDP)

#### *Cambodia:*

- ◆ -Institute of Economics

#### *Laos:*

- ◆ -Ministry of External Economic Relations
- ◆ -Ministry of Science and Technology

### American Institutions Sponsoring Vietnamese, Cambodian and Lao Students in the United States, Summer/Fall 1992

#### *Viet Nam:*

- ◆ -Brigham Young University
- ◆ -Brown University
- ◆ -Columbia University
- ◆ -Cornell University
- ◆ -Economics Institute of Boulder, Colorado
- ◆ -Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy (Tufts)
- ◆ -Georgetown University
- ◆ -Harvard Business School/International Center
- ◆ -Harvard Institute of International Development
- ◆ -Harvard-Yenching Institute
- ◆ -Kennedy School of Government (Harvard)
- ◆ -Neiman Program (Harvard)
- ◆ -Notre Dame University
- ◆ -Radcliffe College (Harvard)
- ◆ -State University of New York/Buffalo
- ◆ -Texas A & M -Texas Christian University
- ◆ -Tufts University
- ◆ -University of Arizona
- ◆ -University of California/San Diego
- ◆ -University of Hawaii
- ◆ -University of Illinois
- ◆ -University of Indiana
- ◆ -University of Maryland
- ◆ -University of Minnesota
- ◆ -University of North Carolina
- ◆ -University of Utah
- ◆ -University of Washington
- ◆ -University of Westchester
- ◆ -University of Wisconsin
- ◆ -Urban and Environmental Studies Program (Tufts)

#### *Cambodia:*

- ◆ -State University of New York/Buffalo

#### *Laos:*

- ◆ -Harvard Institute of International Development
- ◆ -East Asian Legal Studies (Harvard)
- ◆ -Harvard Law School



high school, undergraduate, and graduate students.

They ask me why an American soldier would return to Vietnam as a visiting professor. I tell them that I am unable to explain to them my reasons, knowing full well that I am unable to articulate these reasons for myself. Originally scheduled to teach English classes as well, I only assist the other instructors, sometimes teaching an entire class, sometimes just conversing with the students.

Although I am to be shared by both English and History Departments, my responsibilities to the History Department are minimal. Scheduled to present a series of lectures to the History Department faculty, I lecture to them on only two or three occasions on American perception of Vietnam and the Vietnam war. I also give a presentation on American economic and social conditions to the Federation of Scientific and Technological Associations of Ho Chi Minh City (Lien Hiep Cac Hoi KH va KT), sometimes referred to as the Social Science Club. This lecture recalls my first presentation to the Club some two years ago entitled "Teaching Vietnam and the Vietnam War in American schools" as a member of an Educators' Delegation to Vietnam through the U.S.-Indochina Reconciliation Project.

These occasions give me the opportunity to meet with academics outside the English Department as well as outside the University. Through the visiting professorship, I meet with educators and administrators of the Ho Chi Minh City Education and Training Service (So Giao Duc Dao Tao) responsible for public school education in Ho Chi Minh city. I meet with educators of Teacher Training University (Truong Dai Hoc Su Pham, located near the Ho Chi Minh U

Campus) that prepares high school teachers for district and area high schools. I travel to Hanoi and meet with administrators of the Ministry of Education of Vietnam (Bo Giao Duc Va Dao Tao) And I travel to the southern edge of the Central Highland and meet with educators at the University of the Dalat (truong Dai Hoc Da Lat). My one regret is that I am unable to continue further north into the Highlands and the area near Pleiku where I served my tour of duty some twenty years ago.

One additional regret is that my time in Vietnam flies by so quickly. At our last class, we present each of the students with a certificate that they have completed the American Studies course jointly offered by the University of Ho Chi Minh city and the University of Pittsburgh. In return, and in their generosity, the Vietnamese shower me with gifts as I prepare to leave. The presents range from baskets of thanh long (dragon fruit) and mang cut (mangosteen) to personal gifts such as a lacquer ware jewelry box for my daughter.

My class in American Studies favors me with a beautiful Vietnamese painting inscribed by the artist Thich Le Thien, a Buddhist monk from the An Quang pagoda, who is the cousin of one of my students. The painting of a single bamboo stalk with leaves is accompanied by a vertical inscription in traditional Chinese characters which reads in Vietnamese: "Uong" "Nuoc" "Nho" "Nguon" "When you drink the water, remember the source," a most appropriate gift, I think, when given by Vietnamese students to their American professor, or by any students when given to their teacher.

[Dave Berman teaches social studies education at the University of Pittsburgh. He has returned to Viet Nam twice with USIRP before this most recent trip. University of Pittsburgh School of Education, 4C18 Forbes Quadrangle, Pittsburgh, PA 15260. Tel.(412) 648-7311. Fax.(412) 648-5911.]

## New Vietnamese Cabinet

Prime Minister.....	Vo Van Kiet
Deputy Prime Ministers.....	Phan Van Khai Nguyen Khanh Tran Duc Luong
Defense.....	Doan Khue
Interior.....	Bui Thien Ngo
Foreign Affairs.....	Nguyen Manh Cam
Organization and Personnel Committee.....	Phan Ngoc Tuong
Justice.....	Nguyen Dinh Loc
Finance.....	Ho Te
Trade.....	Le Van Triet
Science, Technology and Environment.....	Dang Huu
Labor, War Invalids and Social Welfare.....	Tran Dinh Hoan
Transport and Telecommunications.....	Bui Danh Luu
Construction.....	Ngo Xuan Loc
Heavy Industry.....	Tran Lum
Light Industry.....	Dang Vu Chu
Energy.....	Thai Phung Ne
Agriculture and Food Industry.....	Nguyen Cong Tan
Water Resources.....	Nguyen Canh Dinh
Marine Products.....	Nguyen Tan Trinh
Culture and Information.....	Tran Hoan
Education and Training.....	Tran Hong Quan
Public Health.....	Nguyen Trong Nhan

## State Commissions and Other Bodies

State Planning Committee.....	Do Quoc Sam
State Bank.....	Cao Si Kiem
State Inspectorate.....	Nguyen Ky Cam
State Committee for Cooperation and Investment.....	Dau Ngoc Xuan
Committee on Ethnic Minorities and Mountain Regions.....	Hoang Duc Nghi
Committee on Population and Family Planning.....	Mai Ky
Committee for Child Care and Protection.....	Tran Thi Thanh Thanh
Government Office.....	Le Xuan Trinh
Ministers Without Portfolio.....	Phan Van Tiem Ha Quang Du

## ***COMMENTARY:***

### **Washington's Transition Offers Both Opportunity and Risk**

by John McAuliff

The final months of the Administration of President George Bush offers the ideal chance for a resolution of the two decade anomaly of American foreign policy: having no diplomatic and trade relations with Vietnam. It also offers an early challenge to an Administration led by Bill Clinton to define the true nature of post-cold war foreign policy.

When President Bush publicly received General Vessey's report of greater Vietnamese assistance on MIAs shortly before the election, he not only pledged a second \$25,000 grant of typhoon disaster assistance, but he also made two significant statements. First he recognized that Vietnam itself has 250,000 MIAs and offered U.S. help in their resolution. [A good start would be to give Vietnam a set of the million or more "captured documents"--journals, letters, etc. of NLF and DRV soldiers.]

Second, he also emphasized that there would be "no recriminations" as information emerged from Vietnamese files of the cause of death of captured Americans. Presumably many of the discrepancy cases as well as other MIAs will be clarified as fatalities due to bad treatment at capture, in prison or under interrogation, an unpleasant reminder that war dehumanizes its practitioners and creates victims on all sides.

The President's statements, combined with the extraordinary Senate Select Committee hearings, have created a context in which the Vietnamese can respond further. Under the impressive leadership of Senator John Kerry, the universe of cases to be solved has been narrowed down to some 135, and the origins of the American public's obsession with the myth of living POWs is being exposed in the duplicity and vengefulness of the Nixon-Kissinger era and the political and financial exploitation of the neo-Rambos.

Vietnam's critics cite the recent provision of photos and other contemporaneous data as proof that Hanoi has been holding out. The Vietnamese note they never denied these materials existed but cite the need to gather them from uncataloged archives and separate out classified military data. (Vietnam has no declassification process, much less a means of efficiently blanking out offending sections the way our government does.) Suffice to say, the Vietnamese were never going to put all their cards on the table until they were confident Washington wanted to end the game rather than to seek new excuses to prolong hostilities.

To whatever internal desire exists among American leaders for closure, must now be added the pressure of our European and Japanese allies for us to stop using their trade and investment as well as international lending agencies as clubs for strictly bilateral concerns. In addition, the American business community has mounted quiet pressure that it no longer be unfairly denied the potential of Vietnamese markets and investments.

Ideally, over the next two month, President Bush will move rapidly along the road-map and the Vietnamese will provide increasing amounts of data. At a minimum he should present the incoming Administration with the gift of having

### **New Visa Policy for Cambodia**

Visas for Cambodia can be acquired at Pochentong Airport with no prior documentation. This visa is good for one week and can be extended through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The initial cost is \$20 and can be extended for one month for an additional \$20.

taken the politically dicey steps of lifting the embargo, ending the veto of loans from international financial institutions, and opening up liaison offices with consular facilities in each other's capital. Given Vietnamese support for the Cambodian peace process, and Khmer Rouge sabotage, it hardly makes sense to delay full normalization until elections there. Still we may see a reprise of the Nixon-Carter two stage China process as both sides hold out for further gains before the final formal step.

If significant progress does not take place before January 20, President Clinton will face a dilemma. With a stroke of the pen he could demonstrate in his initial days that a new perspective on the world has taken office which puts old conflicts behind us by resolving not ignoring them. However, his advisors may shun a potential controversy which detracts from a honeymoon focused on the domestic economy (despite the obvious argument of potential trade and job benefits).

More troublesome will be advisors whose counsel of delay is prompted by their own Vietnam era baggage or by a "we won the cold war" ideological desire to impose new conditions for normalization. These are likely to involve human rights or political reform issues which will have an appeal to liberal ideals. However, applied solely and unprecedentedly to Vietnam, they would be but another symptom of America's syndrome of being unable to make peace with our memories. [Not to mention counter productive to their ostensible goal!]

Some press accounts suggest that a Bill Clinton still sensitive to attacks on his war-time draft record would be especially cautious of Vietnam. Now that it cannot be construed as partisan electioneering, let me say that it was Clinton's work in England against the war when he could have hidden behind the student-abroad role which indicates that he was motivated by principle not by self-interest. [My own special demons of the period are those who cheered on the war but found ways for themselves, or their children, to avoid fighting it.] One might even argue that it is most consistent with war time moral concern for the American and Vietnamese victims of the war to not allow their current lives to be further crippled by lack of reconciliation.

### **New Cambodian Representation at U.N.**

The Supreme National Council took the Cambodian seat at the U.N. in October. Each party is represented, with the role of charge d'affaires alternating monthly between the SOC and one of the three factions. Ouch Borith heads the SOC delegation. He was Ambassador to Vietnam and before that the head of the Asia-Pacific department of the Foreign Ministry. Assisting him is Thon Hin, former Deputy Director of the Americas-Europe department (718-830-3770). The KPNLF is represented by Ambassador Toch Lonn (718-786-8753). FUNCINPEC's representative, Eng Roland, will arrive in February. Thuon Prasidh continues to represent the Khmer Rouge.



# NGO Work in Laos Moving Ahead

By Bruce Shoemaker

The work of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Laos has been expanding and moving into some interesting directions over the last couple of years. There are now more than 20 international NGOs resident in Laos including agencies from Australia, the United States, Japan, France and a number of other European countries. Several agencies have staff based in upcountry provinces working in agriculture, health and other sectors. The NGOs in general have cooperated well with each other. There are monthly coordinating meetings, sectoral committees and some NGOs have held joint training sessions and workshops.

A good example of this is the CHAMPA Project, a joint NGO initiative for Primary Health Care. CHAMPA is working with the Ministry of Health to develop a coordinated approach (with resource materials, curriculum, and a national training staff) for NGOs to implement at the district and village level for training. This way Laos will not have to be confronted with a different approach to health training from each agency initiating a project in the country.

One of the most encouraging developments is the increasing role of by Lao nationals. International NGOs have been able to employ professional Lao staff since 1987 and currently have Lao project officers, technicians, and community organizers working together with local partners (local governmental units, the Women's Union, etc.) in carrying out the bulk of their rural development projects.

Some NGOs are actively promoting this transition but it is also coming at the initiative of the Lao themselves - both NGO and governmental - who are challenging traditional assumptions about the need for foreign staff, and who want to see a larger role for Lao in foreign-supported projects. In many of the large multilateral and bilateral aid programs in Laos a high percentage of "aid" goes to well-paid foreign advisors. Many Lao seem to be getting tired of hearing that they lack the training as they see ever more foreigners imported to work on projects in their own country.

Rather than employing numerous foreign staff, some NGOs have made a conscious effort to hire locally and invest in training and intensive staff development for their Lao personnel. While this is not a rapid process and requires a long term view of development, agencies proceeding on this path are already seeing the increased effectiveness in their projects as a result of their personnel investment.

Some agencies also look at other ways to increase local initiative and input to help create structures for local control in the future. Many agencies have substantially increased the role of their local staff in initial project identification and formulation as well as implementation and monitoring. The use of local Lao technical experts rather than outsiders is also being promoted. Two agencies have formed local Lao advisory boards from both within and outside of the government, to advise the agencies on the overall direction of the country programs. At least two NGOs now have Lao

Deputy Directors, and the time cannot be too far off when the local offices of some international NGOs will be directed by the Lao themselves.

Two good examples of local initiative in international NGO work which have developed over the past year include:

- 1). The Sustainable Agriculture Forum (SAF). What began as the Agricultural Sub-Committee of the NGOs became the SAF over the course of a few months as it was taken over by Lao staff. Participants became predominantly Lao, the language of the meetings was changed from English to Lao, as was that of the meeting minutes. Rather than being a meeting of fore-

igners trying to resolve Lao problems, the SAF has become a forum for an increasingly active network of Lao development workers concerned with issues of sustainable development. They have established ties with similar groups in the region, put on a variety of seminars and training workshops on topics such as alley cropping, botanical pesticides and community forestry, and have begun to publish a newsletter in Lao with the involvement and support of Lao government departments and individuals.

- 2). Training of Trainers (TOT). As training becomes a central focus of NGO efforts in Laos, the need for improved participatory training methodology has become strongly felt. In December 1991 several NGOs organized two sets of TOT workshops, both of which relied on teams of professional Thai trainers who came to Vientiane. Among the participants (both government and NGO staff working in



Lao Ambassador to the U.S.,  
Hiem Pommachanh

Continued on next page...

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additional training session with themselves as trainers. At first they planned to invite one of the Thai resource people from the previous session to assist them, but when that person wasn't available, the Lao team decided to continue on their own and conducted a successful program. Since then the team has been contracting training sessions for a number of other NGOs. Rather than the continued involvement of the Thai team in future TOT sessions - as the plan was originally envisioned by many people, including some of the Thai trainers themselves - it is recognized that the capacity for conducting such training now exists in the country itself. Involved NGOs are now hoping to support the establishment of a Training Resource Center run by Lao in order to help coordinate and facilitate future NGO training needs in the country.

The above experience with the Training of Trainers has further stimulated thinking about the role for outside institutions in Lao development. Many NGOs in Laos have been relying on various institutions (NGOs, academic, technical) in neighboring countries, particularly Thailand, for training and consulting needs. Many of these institutions seem very interested in expanding their work into Laos and other Indochina countries on a long-term basis. This seems generally well-intentioned and they often do have a great deal of experience and competence. Much (but not all) of what they have to share is useful in the Lao context. NGO staff are concerned, however, that the agendas for expansion in Indochina that many regional institutions seem to have could make them less interested in "devolvement" - the process of promoting an increased role for indigenous Lao individuals and institutions as their capacities increase and a subsequently reduced role for outsiders. While there is much to be learned - both good and bad - from neighboring countries, NGOs in Laos need to be sure that reliance on regional consultants and institutions doesn't come at the expense of increasing the capacity of Lao institutions and people.

[Bruce Shoemaker is the Country Representative for The American Friends Service Committee/Laos. P.O. Box 70, Nong Khai 43000, Thailand. Tel/Fax. 856-21-9084.]

many sectors) there were several Lao who were particularly skilled and enthusiastic about the training they received. On their own initiative they later approached one NGO with a proposal for holding an

## Dear Editor,

I am writing to correct what I consider to be a major distortion of my presentation at the NGO Conference as reported in the July issue of Indochina Interchange.

The major thesis of my presentation was that:

-Along with benefits realized through Viet Nam's shift to a market economy, have come some negative "side effects" as well. Among these is the growing gap between the "haves" and "have-nots".

-The government of Viet Nam is acutely aware of the problem and is concerned with finding strategies to address that gap. It is in that context that NGOs have a real opportunity and challenge to help the government identify mechanisms to provide a safety net for the most vulnerable members of society.

-In twenty years of development work, I have never been as impressed as I am with the commitment of the Vietnamese leaders, (commune, district, provincial and national level) to helping the poorest of the poor.

The synopsis of my remarks as reported in the Interchange quotes me as saying that "...the government allows the most vulnerable groups to be left behind..." This statement neither represents what I said, nor reflects the spirit of my comments. The gap between the "haves" and the "have-nots" is a side effect of the new economic policies and is of great concern to the government. It is not, as your quote suggests, a volitional act of the government.

Best Regards,

Jerry Sternin

[Editor's note: We appreciate Jerry's correction and regret the wrong impression left by the short summary of his remarks. A full report of all talks at the Conference is available from the office for \$7.00.]

### FIRST LAO AMBASSADOR NAMED

Hiem Phommachanh has taken up residence in Washington as the first Ambassador of the Lao Peoples Democratic Republic to the United States. Mr. Hiem received his undergraduate degree from the University of Montreal in 1973, returned to Laos to become director of the Technical School of the Ministry of Education, and became vice chairman of the Peace Committee in 1982. In 1991 he received a Masters degree in International Studies from the University of Sydney in Australia. He is married to Mrs. Kanika Phommachanh, Minister Counselor of the Lao Mission to the U.N. They have two children.

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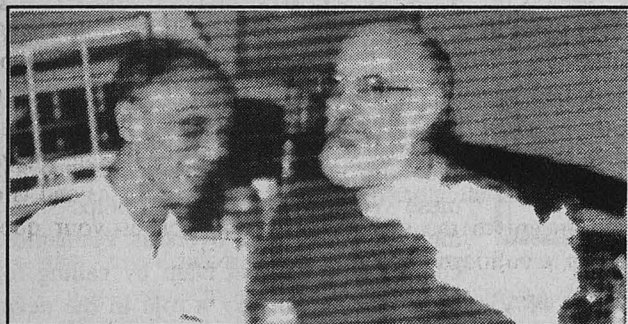
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## ASA Delivers Humanitarian Medical Aid

by Steve Sherlock

In mid-May, Aid to Southeast Asia, Inc. (ASA) shipped two twenty foot sea containers of medical supplies and equipment to Viet Nam. Community General Hospital, in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, donated the equipment and part of the shipping cost. George Strohl, President



Steve Sherlock Delivers Medical Supplies to Viet Nam

of Community General and a Viet Nam veteran, was instrumental in securing the donation of a large quantity of high quality equipment. Mr. Strohl will accompany an ASA delegation to meet the equipment in Hanoi in July.

ASA was founded in 1989 by Viet Nam veterans who share a commitment to delivering humanitarian aid to the people of Southeast Asia. ASA determines needs of hospitals in Viet Nam, solicits donations of appropriate medical equipment and supplies, consolidates and ships donations and monitors delivery to hospitals in Viet Nam.

[Steve Sherlock is the President of Aid to Southeast Asia: 1316 4th Street, SE, 2nd Fl, Minneapolis, MN 55414; 612-378-9491.]

## Indochina Resources

### *Viet Nam*

**Foreign Investment Laws of Viet Nam.** English translation of the Vietnamese State Committee for Cooperation and Investment document, produced by the Australian law firm Philips Fox, and headed by Nguyen Tan Hai and William Magennis. Covers 80 key items of legislation, with the latest as of 1/31/92. Purchasers also receive a free subscription to the 1992 laws. 900 pages; US\$ 295, AU\$ 395, checks payable to Viet Nam Laws. Viet Nam Laws, 7th Floor, 461 Bourke St., Melbourne, Victoria 3000, Australia. Tel.+613 604 5555, Fax.+613 602 3100.

**Viet Nam Business Handbook.** An English language handbook for the business community describing the opportunities in Viet Nam's expanding market. This comprehensive publication covers each of the important sectors relevant to foreign companies doing business in Viet Nam, such as political and administrative structure, transport and infrastructure, and useful contacts. 400 pages. \$100. Cindy Taylor, Viet Nam Business Handbook, Indochina Project, 2001 S St., NW, Suite 740, Washington, D.C. 20009. Tel.(202) 483-9222. Fax.(202) 483-9314.

**VIET NAM, World Bibliographical Series,** by David G. Marr. Although several useful bibliographies of the Viet Nam War have been published, and country specialists are well served by a variety of works in Vietnamese, Chinese, French and English, this is the first general, annotated bibliography of Viet Nam to appear in English. This volume is designed for librarians, teachers and undergraduate students, but anyone preparing to travel to Viet Nam or with a particular interest in the country will find it of interest. David Marr has written extensively on Vietnamese history, and is considered one of the leading Western experts on Viet Nam. ABC-CLIO Press, 130 Cremona Drive, Santa Barbara, CA 93117.

**The Course of Empire: the United States in the Pacific,** by Frank Brodhead and Christine Wing. A short history of the American involvement in the Pacific from shortly before World War II. Organized chronologically, this booklet describes the building of American power in the region, challenges to that power during the Vietnam Era, the results of this conflict, and the relationship between the United States and the Pacific in the "Gorbachev Era." March 1992. 56 pages. \$2.00, American Friends Service Committee Literature Resources, 1501 Cherry St., Philadelphia, PA 19102. Tel.(215) 241-7048.

**Voices From the Ho Chi Minh Trail**, by Larry Rothman. Scheduled to be released in 1993, this collection of Vietnamese poems was compiled by Rottman (a Vietnam veteran who teaches Vietnamese literature at Southwest Missouri State University) during his many trips to Viet Nam. Event Horizon Press, P.O. Box 867, Desert Hot Springs, CA 92240. Tel.(619) 329-3950.

**"Reform of a Centrally-Managed Developing Economy: the Vietnamese Perspective,"** by Carolyn L. Gates and David Truong, 1992. An article chronicling the first period of economic reform from 1981-85, in which ad hoc reforms meant to revitalize the socialist economy produced strong negative side-effects, through the more recent reforms of Doi Moi, which provide fundamental changes. Both authors, economists by training, have years of experience in Viet Nam, including long stays during 1991 to observe, first-hand, the economic changes. The article is the 9th in a series from the Nordic Institute of Asian Studies covering a wide variety of subjects concerning Asia. 41 pages. Nordic Institute of Asian Studies, Njalsgade 84, DK-2300, Copenhagen S, Denmark.

**"Refugees at Risk: Forced Repatriation of Vietnamese from Hong Kong, August 1992."** A publication of Asia Watch describing the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees' policy of forcibly returning the Vietnamese emigres in Hong Kong back to Viet Nam. This critique attacks the UNHCR for not screening the political refugees out from the economic ones carefully enough, neglecting the problem of those who become political refugees after arrival in the Hong Kong camps, and not giving opportunity for groups - such as the ethnic Nung - to voice their concerns. 11 pages. \$3.00. Asia Watch: a Division of Human Rights Watch, Publications Department, 485 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10017-6104. Tel.(212) 972-8400. Fax.(212) 972-0905.

**"Smoothing the Way to Joint Venture Agreements,"** Sesto E. Vecchi. Appeared in the July/August 1992 issue of International Corporate Law; outlines the various steps involved in commencing a joint venture in Viet Nam. Topics include feasibility, preparing for negotiations, authority of directors, and the need for education. 5 pages. Send self-addressed stamped envelope,

\$0.52 to Sesto E. Vecchi, Kaplan, Russin, Vecchi & Kirkwood, 90 Park Ave., New York, NY 10016-1387. Tel.(212) 210-9543. Fax.(212) 210-9493.

**"Seventeen Years Later, Winning the Viet Nam War,"** Kenneth J. Conboy. Published by the Heritage Foundation, this article describes Viet Nam's present economic and political situation with regard to the former Soviet Union, Eastern Europe, and the United States. Also includes the author's suggestions to selectively lift the U.S.-led embargo on Viet Nam. 11 pages. \$4.95. The Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Avenue, NE, Washington, D.C., 20002-4999. Tel.(202) 546-4400.

**Horizons.** A quarterly journal from the overseas Vietnamese community. Its goal is to promote understanding and community apart from political issues. The journal provides a means for crosscultural exploration of themes whose realities have affected Vietnamese lives and culture. Yearly subscriptions: \$14 regular, \$10 student, \$20 library. Horizons Publications, 45 S. Park Victoria, Suite 350, Milpitas, CA 95035.

**Journal of Vietnamese Studies.** A yearly publication from the Australian-Vietnamese community including articles ranging from "Vietnamese studies in the Soviet Union" to "Phan Boi Chau's Memoirs", to "East, West, and Vietnamese Women." The Journal helps bridge the gap between the overseas Vietnamese community and Viet Nam by calling for

all people of Vietnamese origin to play a role in the development of present-day Viet Nam. Australian Association of Vietnamese Studies, G.P.O. Box 2918DD Melbourne Victoria 3001, Australia. Tel.(03) 353-9294. Fax.(03) 350-1259.

### *Cambodia*

**Political Control, Human Rights, and the UN Mission in Cambodia.** This Asia Watch report raises concerns that with less than eight months left to go before the scheduled elections, UNTAC has only begun to address the structures that have led to grievous human rights violations in Cambodia in the past. Major concerns include ensuring protection for ethnic Vietnamese living in Cambodia, for those refugees returning from the Thai border and the increasing political activity of the Khmer Rouge. The report gives generally high marks to UNTAC's protection of human rights, but warns that transforming Cambodia into a pluralistic society cannot be achieved before the proposed democratic elec-

### **Keep Abreast of Current Events Relating to Southeast Asia:**

Radio Australia/Southeast Asia:  
9580 frequency on Shortwave,  
7, 8, 9 AM Eastern Standard  
Time, U.S.A.



tions. UNTAC, therefore, must gain support from the international community in implementing and sustaining human rights education projects, and in establishing firm control over the areas slated for repatriation of refugees. 73 pages. \$7.00. Publications Department, Human Rights Watch, 485 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10017. Tel.(212) 972-8400. Fax.(212) 972-0905.

**Border Needs Assessment Report, September 1992**, by Francis SamSotha and Mariam Khambaty. This summary of the situation in Site 2 Refugee Camp is the result of interviews with 1,000 refugees by the Cambodian-American organization Cambodia New Generation. The authors conclude that the refugees, while of Cambodian origin, face different challenges than those who remained in their homeland. Among the concerns addressed are to what degree the returnees will be perceived as strangers or immigrants by their former countrymen, and how the older refugees will reconcile their memories with present realities. Interviews were conducted with several categories of people, including women with families, widows, soldiers and amputees among others. 23 pages. Cambodia New Generation, Inc., 2619 Broadway, Suite 206, Oakland, CA 94612. Tel. (510) 444-1472 or (510) 444-1839. Fax.(510) 533-5341.

**Cambodia Peace Watch**. A monthly publication by the Coalition to Oppose the Return of the Khmer Rouge (CORKR) designed to track the implementation of the Cambodian Peace Accords. CORKR is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to bring a democratic form of government and a regime with respect for international standards of human rights and international development aid for Cambodia. Subscriptions: \$10.00 for individuals, \$25.00 for organizations. CORKR, 318 4th St., NE, Washington, D.C. 20002. Tel.(202) 544-8446. Fax.(202) 675-1010.

## Organizational Briefs

### *Viet Nam*

**Vietnamese American Education Foundation Organizes Law Seminar for Vietnamese Lawyers in Viet Nam**. The seminar took place from September 26 to October 9 in Ha Noi and Ho Chi Minh City in cooperation with Vietnam's Ministry of Justice, and was aimed at providing Vietnamese lawyers and legal professionals with practical knowledge on contract drafting,

corporate law and dispute resolution. The seminar was taught by Stuart Lemle of Land, Lemle and Arnold; Sesto Vecchi of Russin, Vecchi and Kirkwood; and Hoanh D. Tran, commercial litigator for MCI Telecommunications Corp. and president of VAEF. Hoanh D. Tran, Esq., Vietnamese American Education Foundation, 1628 16th St., NW, 3rd Floor, Washington, D.C. Tel.(202) 667-4690.

**Volunteer Medical Team to Restore Sight of Needy in Viet Nam**. Surgical Eye Expeditions (SEE) International has organized a volunteer surgical team to assist Vietnamese doctors in providing free sight-restoring operations to approximately 80 needy persons in Ho Chi Minh City from November 25-30. The clinic will also include a half-day seminar to brief Vietnamese surgeons on new ophthalmic techniques and developments. SEE International deploys volunteer ophthalmologists, nurses and technicians in the United States and 24 countries throughout the developing world. In 1991 SEE volunteers examined more than 70,000 patients and performed more than 7,800 sight-restoring surgeries. Baillie Brown, SEE International, 27C-2 East De La Guerra, Santa Barbara, CA 93101-9858. Tel.(805) 963-3303. Fax.(805) 965-3564.

**Viet Nam Village Friendship Project Requests Aid in Constructing Community Village**. Plans for the village include buildings to shelter 250 orphans and 100 Vietnamese over the age of 55 lacking family support, a community center with a library, assembly hall, sports facilities, and a fifty bed hospital. In addition, the project will provide education, including vocational training for all age groups. The sale of community-produced goods will help maintain the village. The proposed site, six km. west of Ha Noi, has been donated by the Government of Viet Nam. The estimated cost of the village, excluding equipping the hospital and technical school is 2,250,000 pounds. Len Aldis, Secretary VFVP, Flat 2, Tomlins Grove, London E3 4NX. Tel & Fax: 081-980-7146.

**Viet Nam Library Education Project Meets in April 1992**. Members of the Viet Nam Library Education Project of the School of Library and Information Science, Catholic University of America met in Washington, D.C. The group agreed to offer workshops in library science in Ha Noi, Hue and Ho Chi Minh City during the summer of 1993. They also agreed to translate the ALA Glossary of Library and Information Science, 1983 into Vietnamese. Quynh N. Hoa, Viet Nam Library Education Project, Catholic University School of Library and Information Science, Washington, D.C. 20064. Tel.(202) 319-5085. Fax.(202) 319-5574.

**International Council of Voluntary Agencies Holds Symposium on Assistance to Viet Nam in Ha Noi from November 16-19.** The objectives of the meeting are to 1) discuss the role of international NGOs in Viet Nam's recent development, especially since 1989; 2) introduce the situation in Viet Nam in general, and the needs of its people in particular; 3) discuss Vietnamese concepts of interest groups and NGOs, and their role in development; and 4) discuss and recommend modes of cooperation and coordination between and among international NGOs and local NGOs. ICVA, Secretariat, Case Postale 216, Geneva 21, Switzerland. Tel.(41 22) 732 00 00. Fax.(41 22) 738 99 04.

**Speaking Tour of Janet and Stan Reedy Sponsored by Asia Resource Center and Mennonite Central Committee.** The Reedys will be available for presentations in the United States during January, February and March of 1993 covering current issues relating to Viet Nam. The Reedys have worked in Viet Nam for five years, and have extensive experience in promoting reconciliation and implementing development programs in health, agriculture, reforestation, job creation, education, handicrafts and English training. They will be available to speak on current topics related to their work in Viet Nam. Roger Rumpf, Asia Resource Center, P.O. Box 15275, Washington, D.C. 20003. Tel.(202) 547-1114.

**California Southeast Asia Business Council Sends High Level Delegation to Viet Nam, Nov.2-Nov.12.** The California Southeast Asia Business Council will help member firms prepare for the lifting of the embargo by organizing a goodwill mission to Ha Noi and Ho Chi Minh City. The purpose of the delegation is to develop high level ministerial and other contacts. Group and one-on-one meetings are being tailored to the specific needs of each firm under the guidance of Viet Nam specialist Mathilde Genovese of Kingship Ltd., Hong Kong. Jeremy Potash, California Southeast Asia Business Council, 1946 Embarcadero, Suite 200, Oakland, CA 94606. Tel.(510) 536-1967. Fax.(510) 261-9598.

**United States-Viet Nam Trade Council Sends Letter to President Bush Calling for End to the Trade Embargo.** The letter was significant in that it was signed by the heads of several large corporations interested in Viet Nam: Caterpillar, Inc.; Boeing Commercial Airplanes; American International Group; Hunt Oil Co.; Amoco Production Co.; Fluor Daniel Inc.; Windmere Co.; Chevron Overseas Petroleum, Inc.; Phillips Petroleum Co.; Coudert Bros.; and United Technologies Co.

Virginia Foote, Director of Asia Commission, International Center, 731 8th St., SE, Washington, D.C. 20003. Tel.(202) 547-3800. Fax.(202) 546-4784.

**Business International Holds Conference in Oakland, CA on Business Strategies for Viet Nam.** The purpose of this one-day session on October 7 was to discuss the opportunities available in this attractive but heretofore restricted market. What opportunities are left for U.S. companies? How much potential does the market really hold? What are other companies doing to prepare their entry into Viet Nam? Speakers included a host of authorities including Chris Bruton of Business International, and Luu Le of Bank of America (Hong Kong). Lina Serpico, Business International Co., 215 Park Ave. South, New York, NY 10003. Tel.(212) 460-0600. Fax.(212) 995-8837.

**Forum Europe Organizes "Opportunity Viet Nam: the Outlook for Investment and Trade" Conference in Brussels.** The October 23-24 meeting focused on the outlook for Viet Nam as a magnet for investment, as a trading partner and as a member of the international community, while discussing how political relations with the European Community and the United States will affect the developing Vietnamese economy. Vietnamese participants include Vice Chairman of the Council of Ministers, Mr. Phan Van Khai and other senior Vietnamese officials. Opportunity Viet Nam, c/o Forum Europe, 88 Rue des Patriotes, B-1040 Brussels, Belgium. Tel.(322) 736-14-30. Fax.(322) 736-32-16.

**Fifth Annual Conference of the Northwest Regional Consortium for Southeast Asian Studies: "Development, Environment, Community and the Role of the State" Held in Vancouver, October 16-18.** The University of British Columbia hosted this year's Conference, which was scheduled to include the participation of 15 academics from the Viet Nam Center for Social Sciences. Among panels planned were "Social Science Research in Viet Nam," "Political and Economic Change in Viet Nam," "Challenges of Economic Development in Viet Nam," "Viet Nam, Southeast Asia and International Relations." Geoffrey Hainsworth, Chairman of the Conference Committee, Department of Economics, The University of British Columbia, #997-1873 East Mall, Vancouver, B.C., Canada V6T 1Z1. Tel.(604) 822-2876. Fax.(604) 822-5915.

**"Remembering Tet, 1968, An Interdisciplinary Conference on the War in Vietnam" to be held at Salisbury State University, November 18-21.** The conference features papers dealing with the representation of the Vietnam War in novels and memoirs and on film and television,



the contemporary state of American-Vietnamese relations, comparisons between the Gulf War and Vietnam War, and approaches to teaching the Vietnam War. Participants are from several disciplines: political science, history, sociology, American studies, literature and popular culture, and media and communications. Dr. Harry Basehart, Department of Political Science, Salisbury State University, P.O. Box 2195, Salisbury, Maryland 21801.

**Friendship Bridge Expands To ESL.** In June 1992, a three-teacher Friendship Bridge delegation taught a short ESL (English as a Second Language) course for the staff of Pediatric Hospital #1 in Ho Chi Minh City. Since 1988, Friendship Bridge has been providing primarily medical humanitarian aid and promoting educational exchanges toward healing the wounds of war. This current extension into ESL is a direct response to the voiced needs and subsequent invitations of Vietnam's medical community. To date, Friendship Bridge's ESL effort has received donated books and materials. Additional sources for such donations would be welcomed as are inquiries about this project. Connie and Ted Ning, or Ronnie Wynne (ESL Instructor) c/o Friendship Bridge, 33424 Deep Forest Rd., Evergreen, CO 80439. Tel. (303) 674-0717.

**Mid-Atlantic Region of the Association for Asian Studies's 21st Meeting at West Chester University Includes Panel on Academe and NGOs in Indochina.** The October 31 roundtable, "Academe and NGOs: Dialogue of Shared Interests and Perspectives on Conditions and Prospects in Indochina", was chaired by Gene Chenoweth and included participants Jacqui Chagnon (SAIS), Pat Martin (Mennonite Central Committee), and John McAuliff (U.S.-Indochina Reconciliation Project). MAR/AAS Conference, International Studies Program, c/o Mr. Barry Dengler, West Chester University, West Chester, PA 19383.

**Viet Nam Free Market Education Project Conducts Economic Seminars in Viet Nam.** The Viet Nam Free Market Education Project (VFEP) held an economic seminar in Ho Chi Minh City from September 28 to October 2 and one in Ha Noi from October 3-6. The meetings provided practical training for Vietnamese businesspeople on how to do business with Americans once the trade embargo is lifted. Bob Dalton, VFEP, P.O. Box 28177, Central Station, Washington, D.C. 20038. Tel.(202) 347-5585.

**California Educators Send Group to Viet Nam From October 3-18.** Under the auspices of the California International Studies Project, 16 California educators travelled to Ha Noi, Hue, Da Nang and Ho Chi Minh City to gather primary source material to more accurately understand the large numbers of Vietnamese students in the California school system. During the trip, participants met with teachers and students at Vietnamese colleges and universities to develop a clear idea of modern Viet Nam on a people-to-people basis. Tuckie Yirchott, CISP, Littlefield Center #14, Stanford, CA 94305-5013. Tel.(415) 725-1482. Fax.(415) 723-6784.

**U.S. Business School in Viet Nam (USBSV) Requests Support to Help Train Business School Professors and Senior Managers.** Noting the need for training to manage day-to-day operations of large business and government units in Viet Nam, the USBSV aims to train two to three hundred Vietnamese in American business skills on a similar model to that of American schools. As foreign business becomes increasingly interested in Viet Nam, Vietnamese must be prepared to accurately assess the advice of foreign consultants eager to sell their services yet to some degree self-interested. Using qualified professors from competitive American business schools, the USBSV would provide Vietnamese with the tools to better interpret investors and appropriately manage their own economic growth. The ultimate goal of the American side of the USBSV is to cease operations in 1995 and allow its Vietnamese graduates to constitute the founders of a wholly Vietnamese institution. The project needs financial support to supplement a corporate grant before operations can begin. Tinh Nguyen, 295 Woodcliff Dr., 817-02A, Fairport, NY 14450. Tel.(716) 383-7876. Fax.(716) 383-7868.

**Indochina Resource Action Center Sends Letter of Protest to Department of Justice in Response to Killing of Vietnamese-American Medical Student.** The student was beaten to death on August 15 in Coral Gables, Florida. The statement called for the full investigation and prosecution of what seems to be a racially motivated crime. Le Xuan Khoa, Indochina Resource Action Center, 1628 16th St., NW, 3rd Floor, Washington, D.C. 20009. Tel.(202) 667-4690. Fax.(202) 667-6449.

### *Cambodia*

**First Annual Cooperation Committee for Cambodia (CCC) Meeting Held in Phnom Penh in August.** The meeting focused on the future of the CCC, including discussion groups on how 1) the CCC can become more involved with local initiatives and Cambodian NGOs, 2) the CCC can

become more involved in sectoral meetings, 3) the CCC can develop the capacity to provide an ongoing macro-analysis of each sector of NGO work in Cambodia, 4) the CCC can provide a stronger voice on behalf of NGO concerns and priorities. Minutes available. Cooperation Committee for Cambodia, CCC/PNH, P.O. Box 2420, Bangkok 10500, Thailand.

**World Education to Begin Nonformal Health Education Project.** An agreement signed with the Ministry of Health allows World Education to establish a series of 3 training workshops in participatory training for commune-level health personnel in Prey Veng province. Those trained will help develop health education materials and implement health education activities in the 5 communes over the next 12 months. World Education, 210 Lincoln St., Boston, MA 02111. Tel.(617) 482-9485. Fax.(617) 482-0617.

**Cambodian Ministry of Health Represented at the 8th International Conference on AIDS/III STD World Congress.** Harvard University and the Dutch Foundation for AIDS sponsored Dr. Abdul Coyaume from the Cambodian Municipal Health Directorate to attend. Dr. Coyaume will help the Cambodian government introduce a policy to combat the rising incidence of AIDS in Cambodia. Cooperation Committee for Cambodia, CCC/PNH, P.O. Box 2420, Bangkok 10500, Thailand.

**Cooperation Committee for Cambodia Votes in New Executive Committee.** On September 15, CCC members elected Jim Noonan of Maryknoll as president, Linda Hartke of Church World Service as vice-president, and Liz Holmes of International Women's Development Agency as treasurer. Two at large seats went to Tonie Nooyens of Oxfam UK and Sochua Lieper of Khmera. CCC/PNH, P.O. Box 2420, Bangkok 10500, Thailand.

**Cambodia Network Council Starts Cambodian American Skills Bank Project.** Funded by a grant from USAID, the Cambodian Network Council is collecting information to identify skilled Cambodian Americans willing to help rebuild their homeland. The Skills Bank questionnaire is currently being distributed throughout each region of the United States, and Cambodian Americans are invited to complete it, indicating their level of skills in over 120 occupations which will be needed to rebuild Cambodia. The wide variety of occupations needed includes, among others, administrators of all sorts, construction engineers, and technical specialists. The information will be compiled in a database to be made

available to USAID and other agencies recruiting skilled persons to help rebuild Cambodia. Mong Heng, Cambodian Network Council, 713 D St., SE, Washington, D.C. 20003. Tel.(202) 546-9144.

## *Laos*

### **The International Lao-American Organization Formed.**

The International Lao-American Organization (ILAO) is a non-profit, tax-exempt humanitarian organization based in Murfreesboro, Tennessee comprised of Lao-American representatives in the United States and abroad. The objectives of ILAO include the improvement of health, education, and social conditions for Lao people everywhere. Dr. Chantho Sourinho, ILAO, P.O. Box 1584, Murfreesboro, TN 37133-1584.

## *Regional*

### **A New Way to Ship Books and Other Materials to Educational Institutions in Viet Nam and Cambodia.**

Funded by private foundations, Bridge to Asia supports educational modernization in Asia by sending college and graduate-level books and journals to Vietnamese and Cambodian institutions. Subjects, in order of priority, include: science and technology; economics, business and management; education; agriculture and animal husbandry; health, medicine and nursing; engineering; English language teaching materials; humanities and social sciences. Book donors pay U.S. shipping, Bridge to Asia pays warehousing and ocean shipping, and agencies in Asia pay costs of distribution. To donate, please 1) pack your donation in a carton or envelope of any size, 2) place a list of contents on the outside, designate recipient and send a copy of this list to the recipient, 3) mail the books to the warehouse: Bridge to Asia/Cargo Services, Pier 19, San Francisco, CA 94111. Also mail a copy of the donation list to the Oakland office: Bridge to Asia, 801 Franklin St., #1430, Oakland, CA 94607. Donations are tax-deductible.

### **Call for Pieces for Viet Nam Forum and Lac Viet.**

Smart, passionate writing in any manner or on any topic related to Viet Nam, Cambodia or Laos is being solicited for publication in either of these Yale University affiliated journals. Dan Duffy, Viet Nam Forum/Lac Viet, 18 Center Rd., Woodbridge, CT 06525, Tel.(203) 432-3432. Fax.(203) 389-6901.

### **Project Hearts and Minds Requests Medical Supplies for Distribution in Viet Nam and Cambodia.**

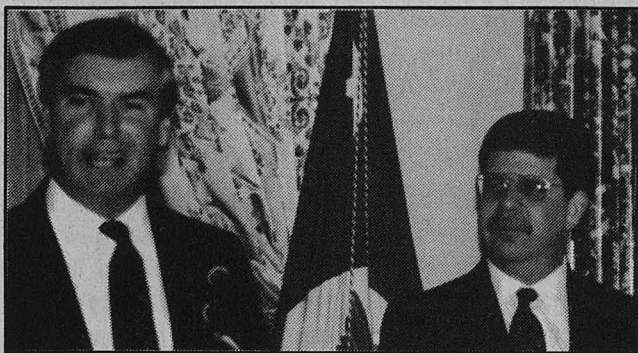
Projects Hearts and Minds is a medical aid program designed to bring medical supplies directly to rural health clinics that serve the poor of Viet Nam and Cambodia. It is collecting



these supplies by using medical request lists provided by several clinics in Viet Nam. Once packaged, the supplies will be hand-delivered to targeted clinics by veterans returning to Viet Nam and Cambodia. For information please contact Veterans for Peace/ Monterey County, 33 Portola Ave., Monterey, CA 93940. Tel.(408) 649-5599. Fax.(408) 646-VFPM.]

## Trips to Indochina

**U.S.-Indochina Reconciliation Project Announces January 1993 Trip to Viet Nam and Cambodia for Professionals and Academics.** Leaving January 1, this three-week long trip will include meetings with various ministries and universities focusing on perceptions of the



Charles Salmon at his swearing-in ceremony at the State Department as first U.S. Ambassador to the Lao Peoples Democratic Republic, with Arnold Kanter, Undersecretary for Political Affairs.

war in Viet Nam from both sides as well as the prospects for economic development in Viet Nam. The trip also includes several days for meetings in Cambodia. Participants will have the opportunity to research topics of interest under the sponsorship of Viet My. Deadline: December 1, 1992. Jim Spencer, USIRP, 220 West 42nd St., Suite 1801, New York, NY 10036. Tel.(212) 764-3925. Fax.(212) 764-3896.

**Delaware Chapter of People-to-People International and Opera Delaware Announce February 1993 "Mission of Understanding" to Viet Nam.** The February 4-19 trip includes meetings with performing and visual artists, University staff and students, business persons, Ministry of Culture staff and military veterans in Sai Gon, Nha Trang, Da Nang, Hue and Ha Noi. PTP-Delaware is part of a global network promoting international understanding on a person-to-person basis; Opera Delaware has commissioned an opera taking themes from Vietnamese history and will premier on

November 27, 1993 in Wilmington, DE. Kathleen Meyer, People-to-People International/Delaware, P.O. Box 25064, Wilmington, DE 19899. Tel.(302) 892-1083.

## Position Openings

### *Viet Nam*

#### **Holt International Children's Services**

**Country Director, Administrative Assistant.** Holt International is opening a project in Vietnam, focusing on the needs of children in institutions. Holt is accepting applications for the positions of Country Director and Administrative Assistant.

Marjorie Bishop, Program Assistant, Holt International Children's Services, P.O. Box 2880, Eugene, OR 97402. Tel.(503) 687-2202. Fax.(503) 683-6175.

#### **American Friends Service Committee**

**Field Representative for Viet Nam** (field placement May, 1993): from a home/office base in Ha Noi, develop and monitor a variety of small-scale development projects in northern Viet Nam through travel to project sites, evaluations of proposals and negotiations with relevant authorities; be open to ways of improving communications between Vietnamese and Americans; be responsible for financial management, reporting on project activities and developments. Requires: practical experience with small-scale development projects in the Third World; knowledge of Vietnamese or willingness to learn Vietnamese; initiative, communications and project management skills.

Rick Boardman. AFSC Personnel Office, 1501 Cherry St., Philadelphia, PA 19102. Tel.(215) 241-7102.

#### **United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia**

**English Teaching in Viet Nam, 1993-4.** Requires prior work experience in third world country; applications due in December.

Pat Magdamo, United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia, 475 Riverside Dr., New York, NY 10115. Tel.(212) 870-2601.

### *Cambodia*

#### **American Friends Service Committee**

**Field Directors, Relief, Reconstruction and Development Program, Phnom Penh** (field placement April, 1993): continue to implement and develop AFSC relief and development programs in Cambodia, including animal health, physi-

## **VETERANS VIETNAM RESTORATION PROJECT**

The VVRP is a non-profit, tax-exempt, charitable organization that facilitates the return to Viet Nam of American Vietnam War veterans (and others who feel so inclined) to undertake humanitarian aid projects. We have already arranged for 45 Americans (41 men & 4 women) to return to Vietnam, and in so doing, have assisted in the construction of four medical facilities.

Our purpose is to help *heal the wounds of war*, the psychological wounds of veterans, the physical wounds of the Vietnamese people, and the wound that still festers between our two nations.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the VVRP, obtaining a subscription to our newsletter, going back to Vietnam on one of our projects, or would just like more information about us, please write or call:

◆ P.O. Box 369, Garberville, CA 95542 Phone: (707) 923-3357,  
Fax: (707) 923-2939

cal rehabilitation, hydrology, and family food production. Oversee projects, coordinate work of several program specialists, maintain liaison with appropriate government ministries. Requires: willingness to learn Khmer, French desirable; experience in project development at the community level; demonstrated skills in administration, supervision and communication under complex and unfamiliar bureaucratic and cultural conditions.

Rick Boardman, AFSC Personnel Office, 1501 Cherry St., Philadelphia, PA 19102. Tel.(215) 241-7102.

**Prosthetist/Orthotic Technician** (2 positions). Assist Cambodian Ministry of Social Action and National Rehabilitation Center in Phnom Penh to provide quality prostheses within the limits of available local materials. Procure supplies, provide and identify opportunities for training. Support work with provincial prosthetic workshops. Write reports, prepare budgets for AFSC. Requires: certified prosthetist (preferred), or related professional with experience in prosthetics; conversational French important; willingness to learn Khmer; Third

World experience strongly preferred; administrative and budgetary experience.

American Friends Service Committee Personnel Office, 1501 Cherry St., Philadelphia, PA 19102. Tel.(215) 241-7102.

### **American Refugee Committee**

**Field Director:** Responsible for coordination of all activities within the program and have overall supervisory responsibility for international staff of four persons. Will direct program implementation responsibilities by working to strengthen curative health care center. Applicant must be a qualified medical doctor with public health training and/or experience. Must have experience in program management and training. 1-2 year contract.

Cathy Tilsen or Karen Grabau, American Refugee Committee, 2344 Nicollet Ave., Suite 350, Minneapolis, MN 55404. Tel.(612) 872-7060.

### **World Relief**

**Micro Enterprise Coordinator.** Will train and supervise Cambodian counterpart who will take over the program. Collaborate on development for curriculum on lending management and income generation. Set up financial management system to monitor income generating indicators. Applicants must have an MBA or BS in accounting and experience in program management in a cross-cultural setting. One year contract with possible extension.

World Relief, P.O. Box WRC, Wheaton, IL 60189. Fax.(708) 653-8023.

**NGO Resource Project Officer.** Will serve a group of NGOs working together to collect, analyze and disseminate information about the current political, social and economic situation in Cambodia. Duties will include daily summaries of UNTAC and other briefings in Phnom Penh, longer weekly pieces, and topical reports. Qualifications include knowledge of Cambodia, excellent spoken and written English language skills, and French and Khmer language skills desirable. Application deadline: November 13, 1992.

Steve Troester, American Friends Service Committee. Fax. 855-23-26-400, alternate fax. 855-23-26-191 (c/o Indoswiss). Please send resume, writing samples and three references with phone and fax numbers.



# Resource Order Form

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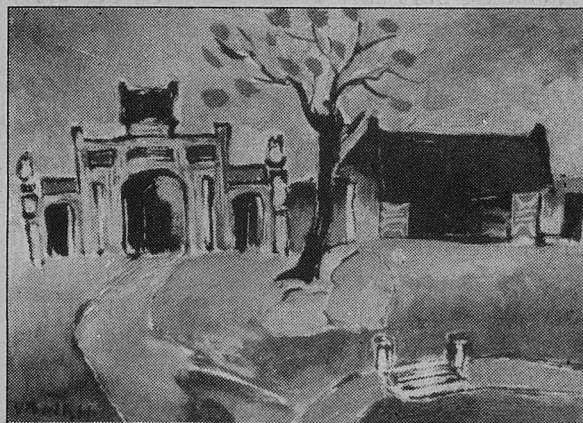
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1. \_\_\_\_\_ Copies of **Directory of U.S. NGOs Viet Nam Programs, 1992** (154 pages) at \$10.00 each.
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## Images from Vietnam Greeting Cards



*Steps to My Pond*

Artist: Vi Kien Thanh

The Indochina Project, a program of the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation, is pleased to offer 12 different full-color, fine art greetings cards featuring contemporary graphic images by Vietnamese artists. The Indochina Project is publishing this fine art as part of its effort to promote cooperation and understanding between the peoples of the United States and Vietnam. Proceeds support humanitarian assistance programs as well as the Indochina Project's art and cultural exchanges.

These cards are 4 1/4" x 6 1/4", and are printed on recycled paper and come with recycled paper envelopes. Cards are available in sets of 12 (one of each 12 images). One full color image is available as a screen printed, 100 percent cotton pre-shrunk t-shirt in adult sizes: M, L, XL.

These cards are a great fundraising resource and are being offered at special wholesale rates to interested organizations that wish to order 500 or more sets. For details please contact the Indochina Project.

If you would like to receive a free full color catalog depicting all images, prices and information on how to order these cards and t-shirts please write: Indochina Project, 2001 "S" Street, N.W., Suite 740, Washington, D.C., 20009. Telephone 202-483-9222 or Fax 202-483-9314.

Indochina



Project

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# PRUNING TIME

## An important note to our readers

You are one of more than 3,000 people receiving Indochina Interchange. Printing, postage and staff time for each issue cost about \$5,000. Prudent management requires that we periodically determine that a live body is actually opening the newsletter and finds it useful. In addition, it turns out that if a high enough ratio of our readers are paid subscribers, we are able to qualify for more rapid delivery at reasonably priced postage. Ideally we'd like to publish nine or ten times per year, instead of quarterly, but that requires funds for an additional staff person as well as substantially higher production costs. If you have already sent in a contribution, thank you. We truly appreciate the support. If not, please complete the following and return it as soon as possible:

- ☐ Continue sending me Indochina Interchange. ☐ Remove my name from your mailing list.  
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(P.S. We welcome your comments and suggestions for future issues. Deadline for next issue: December 1)

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