

194
10-1974

Việt nam





A technical innovation contest, a new feature of the movement for productive labour among young people in North Viet Nam. Young workers at the Technical Section of the Mao Khe Coal Mine are taking part in the contest with a task arising from the needs of their work : to transform an electric drill into a timber hauling windlass.

Photo : MAI NAM

AT THE CONSTRUCTION SITE OF A ROLLING MILL

HO XUAN HA



Building communication lines inside the factory.



SOME years ago, there were only bare hills in the area. Now, as can be seen from the accompanying photos, a rolling mill is — with the assistance of the German Democratic Republic — on its way to completion.

When we arrived at the steel works construction site, Nguyen Van Luong's team was assembling a kiln. In a larger building nearby, which will serve as the rolling mill, group leader Vu Van Phi was directing the installation of the third overhead travelling crane. A steel beam was slowly lifted aloft, then nimbly, and with great precision, put into place.

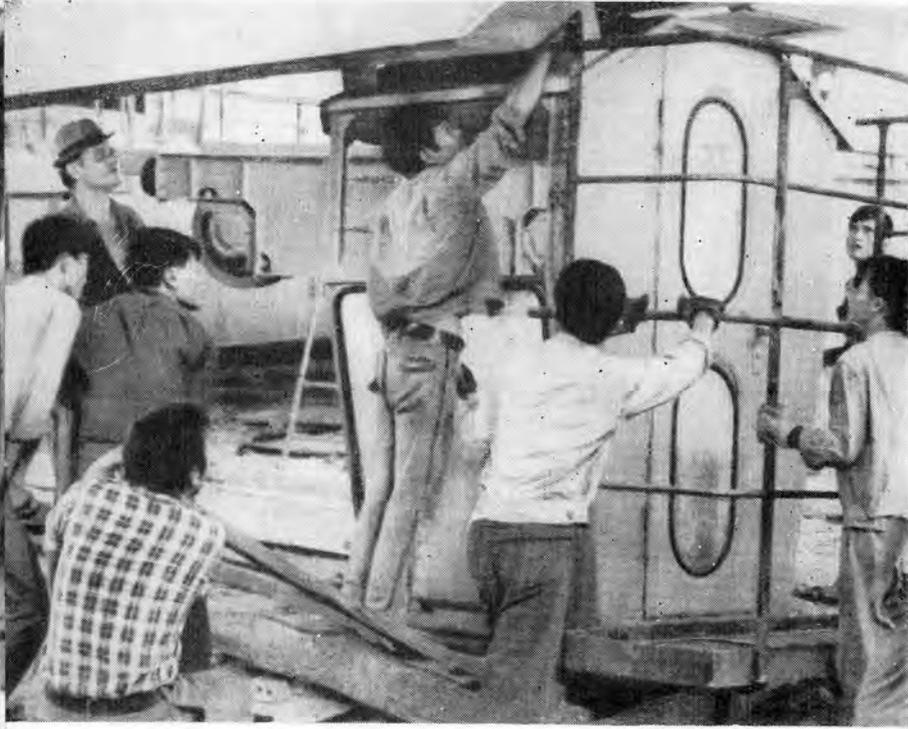
In the scorching sun outside, young workers were pouring concrete under the guidance of Nguyen Trung Son, Chief Engineer and Director of the "works built by the youth." As he took us round the complex basement of the rolling mill, Nguyen Trung Son said: "The Ho Chi Minh Youth Union branch at the site has performed many difficult tasks. In the construction of an underground reservoir, for instance, which requires great technical skill, they have poured over 300 cubic metres of concrete in 18 days, instead of the month and a half

Electric arc lamps shine throughout the three shifts.

AT THE CONSTRUCTION SITE...

it normally takes. In the planting of 24-ton ferro-concrete piles, each shift has planted 3 or sometimes even 6 piles instead of the usual 2.

We met Group 2, a "socialist labour team" headed by Truong Thi Vy, 22, an "emulation fighter". Three-fourths of her group were young women. With only rudimentary equipment they had moved thousands of cubic metres of earth for foundations and conduit-laying.



GDR specialists are devoted in their help to, and their work alongside, their Vietnamese colleagues.

Nguyen Trung Son, (above, right), Chief Engineer and Director of the "works built by the youth".

◀ Nguyen Cui (left), an old hand in the building section of the metallurgical branch and manager at the construction site.

Duong Kim Dung, a surveyor. ▶



"We are training young workers as well as technicians," Nguyen Cui, manager at the site, told us. "80% of our personnel are young people. Most of them started at the trade in late 1972 during the US B.52 bombing raids. As for our technicians, they have only recently left their school benches. Thanks to their enthusiasm and general education, however, all have made good progress. When this mill is completed, they will be able to perform other important and more complex tasks elsewhere."



A general view of the Rolling Mill.



The mill's third travelling crane will be set up soon. Assembly work is their main task at present.

Porcelain from Hai Duong

HOANG HOA

- ★ A Chinese specialist and Vietnamese technician examine new samples.
- ★ Porcelain articles ready to be fired...
- ★ ... and tea sets straight from the kiln.

Below, left to right :

- ★ Hai Duong porcelain is on sale at all department stores in North Viet Nam.
- ★ Sorting products for delivery to the trade service.
- ★ Gas pipes of the round-the-clock kiln.
- ★ Le Thi Hien, chief designer at the factory.



PORCELAIN is greatly appreciated in Viet Nam and it has always been part of family life here.

The traditional pottery kilns in Bat Trang, Mong Cai, Hoa Binh and other localities were constructed five centuries ago. Since then they have turned out many articles that have made the lives of each generation more comfortable and pleasant. However, the handicraft method of production was

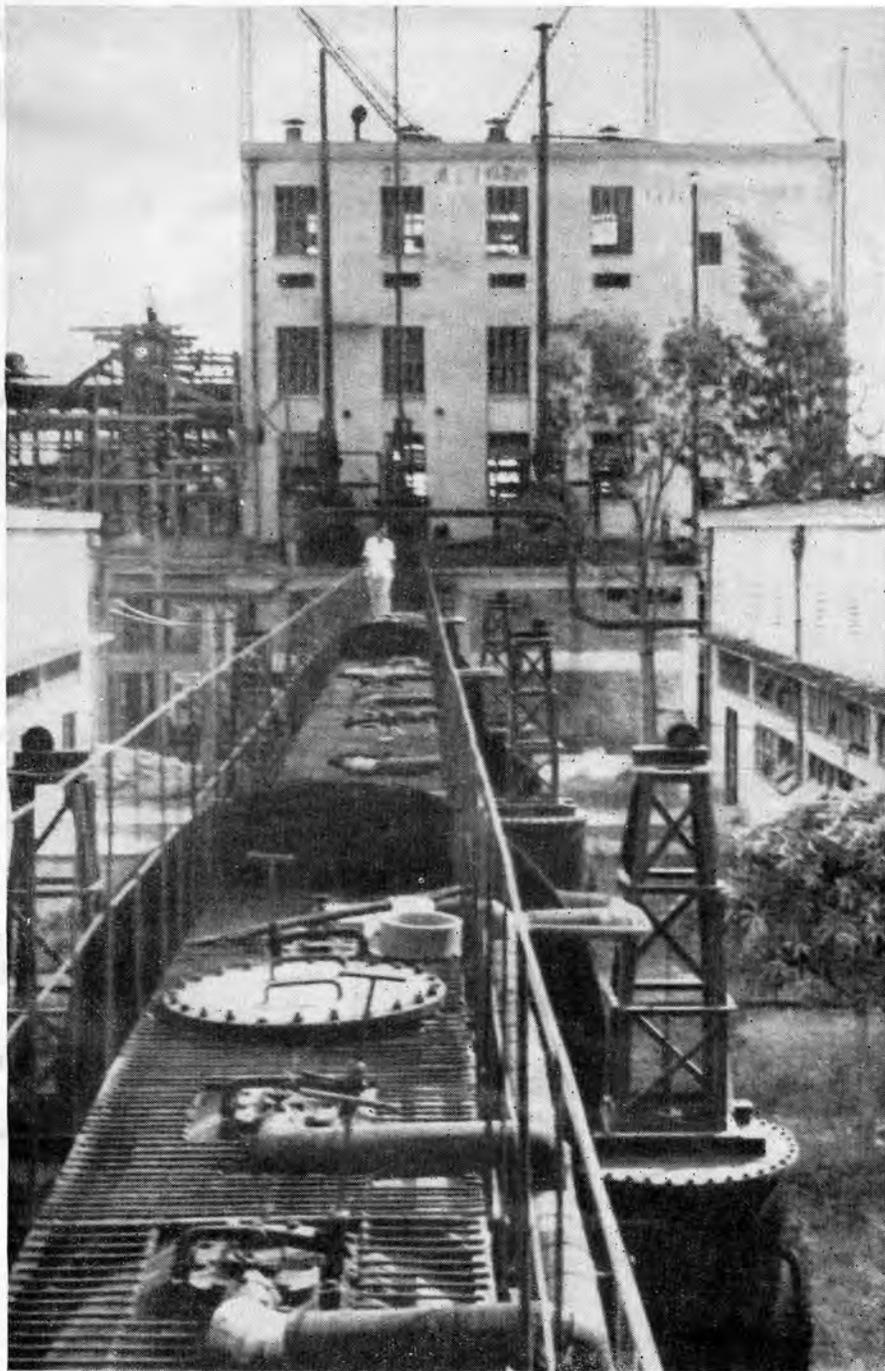
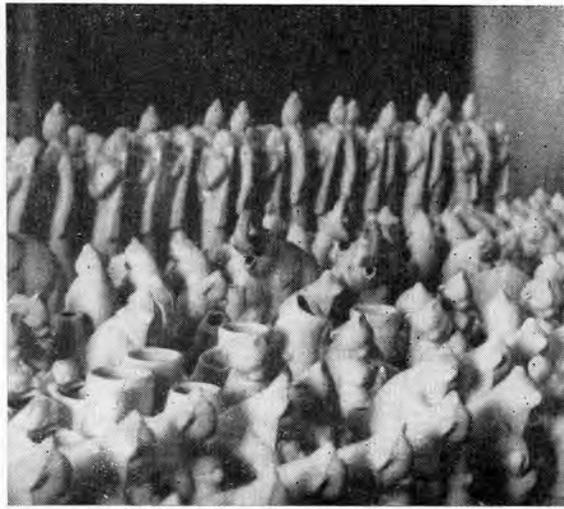
unable to meet the increasing needs of the population.

Thus, with the assistance of the Chinese People's Republic, the Hai Duong Porcelain Factory was built — one of the first factories to be built under the plan for socialist construction in Viet Nam. September 2, 1960, the 15th anniversary of the National Day of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, is also the day that the Hai Duong Porcelain Factory was opened. The first

articles to come out of the kiln on that day gave pleasure to both producers and customers — because of their harmony and simplicity and the elegance of their designs.

Tens of millions of porcelain articles have been produced and sold in the 14 years since then.

The first Vietnamese workers and technicians to be trained in China have now become the authorities on technique at the factory. They have trained many other



skilled workers, which has meant that production has been able to be constantly increased. Not only is the output of Vietnamese workers like Tran Thi Le, Ngo Van Vi and Le Thi Hien very high, but so is that of several Chinese residents participating in the emulation drive at the factory. For instance, Hsuen Ming-feng, a 25-year-old worker, is now right at the centre of the emulation drive, which calls on workers to

"catch up with and surpass Hsuen Ming-feng" in labour productivity, the number of workdays per month, and technical innovations in production.

Like all other consumer goods factories, the Hai Duong Porcelain Factory was a target during the US wars of destruction. It was heavily bombed three times, but it managed to fulfil its production plans each year. In spite of the bombs, vases, tea sets, and other porcelain articles continued to

reach consumers in all parts of North Viet Nam and in many fraternal countries.

Today, the Hai Duong Porcelain Factory is not only being restored, but also enlarged. Side by side with Chinese specialists, Vietnamese workers and technicians are striving to modernise the equipment and improve production methods. An increase in quantity and quality and a decrease in production costs are the goals of the Hai Duong Porcelain Factory.

WE visited Giang Vo, a construction site in Hanoi, at a time when a number of major works were under construction.

The engineers and workers there had adopted new, more effective and less expensive methods of foundation-laying: mine blasting to compress earth, planting ferro-concrete piles, etc. Looking at the future Giang Vo Lake and Park and the multi-storey

ALL AGED AROUND TWENTY

Reportage by QUANG PHUNG

blocks which will serve as a cultural house, a young pioneers' palace, a TV station, and schools and hospitals, it was hard to imagine that three years earlier there had been only wet and spongy land in the area — which, according to legend, was once a training area for royal forces.



TRAN THI THUAN, a 3rd-grade mason of the "March 8 Team" responsible for putting the finishing touches to the buildings.

TRUONG THI THANH HUONG, member of a socialist labour team for three consecutive years, began building work three years ago immediately after finishing junior high school. She is now experienced at pouring ferro-concrete, cutting and bending steel bars, etc. She is not only considered to be one of the beauties of her unit but is also one of the best singers at the construction site.



Four hundred young people — peasants and students freshly graduated from general schools in Hanoi and its suburban areas — have come here to continue the work of the "young volunteers for the reconstruction of the capital." Optimistic and enthusiastic, they were all born about the same time as the capital was liberated and are all equally keen about construction work.

1. PHAM VAN TIEN, a young peasant from Dong Anh district, said: "I volunteered to help reconstruct the capital after completing my 8th year of general education... We masons take great pride in the fact that we laid the first bricks and will prepare the last troughs of mortar for these buildings..."

Young welder NGUYEN VAN LOI is called "a painter" by his mates.

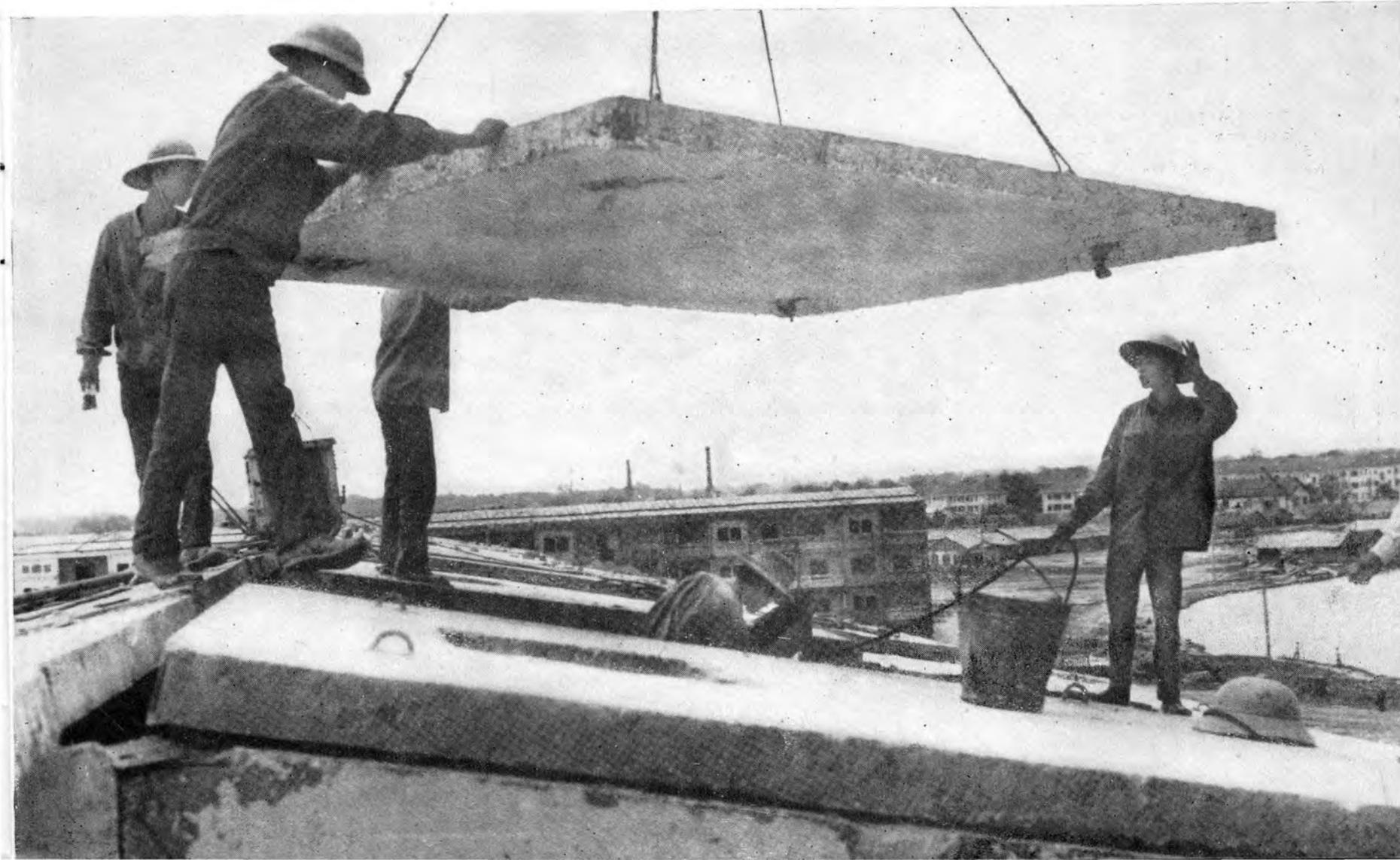
"I paint canvasses because I love art, not because I am good at it," he told me as he was doing a sketch at the construction site entitled "Assembling a Crane" (right, above).

NGUYEN XUAN BINH, 20, head of the concrete-pouring team, has always been a leader in the movement for higher work productivity. An "emulation fighter" in 1973, he is also an able goal-keeper in the construction site's soccer team.





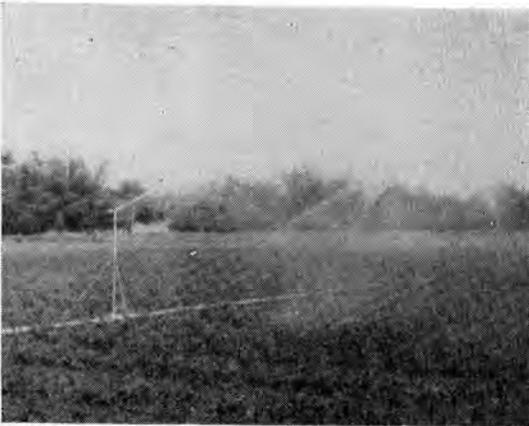
Prefabricated slabs fall into place at the young technicians' will.





The Non Nuoc Bridge in Ninh Binh, 100 kms. south of Hanoi, is the longest bridge on the Hanoi-Vinh railway line. It was destroyed by US bombs during the war but has recently been rebuilt. The new bridge is 222 metres long and is supported by five main trusses, each 5.5 metres wide and 12 metres long.

Photo : MINH DAO



Pham Thi Mao (right) and Ha Cat Lam (left) from Hanoi won the first and second prizes at the 5 kms. Bach Dang Swimming Contest held in North Viet Nam for the third time (1974).

Photo : HOANG HOA



As well as producing a variety of goods for the locals, the Bat Trang Pottery Workshop on the outskirts of Hanoi produces many typically Vietnamese art goods for export. Photo : A corner of the workshop's "Tradition House".

Photo : VU QUANG HUY



The four suburban districts of Hanoi constitute a green belt and supply a variety of vegetables for the 1,000,000 people of the capital. They also supply pigs, fish and rice - and, due to the rice output, Hanoi has been awarded the title of a "five ton" unit.

Photo : CANH KHANH



A performance in Reunification Park (Hanoi) by the Hanoi Pioneers' Club's band at the summer camp, which was attended by more than 6,000 children.

Photo : BAO CUONG

The Nam Hong Mechanical Engineering Plant in Hanoi produces two kinds of motor cycle - one for men and one for women. These "Hanoi" motor cycles each weigh 57 kgs., run at between 57 and 65 kms. an hour and consume 1.4 to 1.6 litres of petrol per 100 kms. Apart from their chains and free wheels, all their parts are manufactured by the Nam Hong enterprise.

Photo : QUANG THANH



Members of the Parasitology Section of the Hanoi Medical College, a socialist labour unit for nine consecutive years, study a new drug for the treatment of intestinal worms. The unit has succeeded in cultivating pathogenous amoeba and, together with other units, produced a new medicine for the treatment of malaria.

Photo : NGOC QUAN



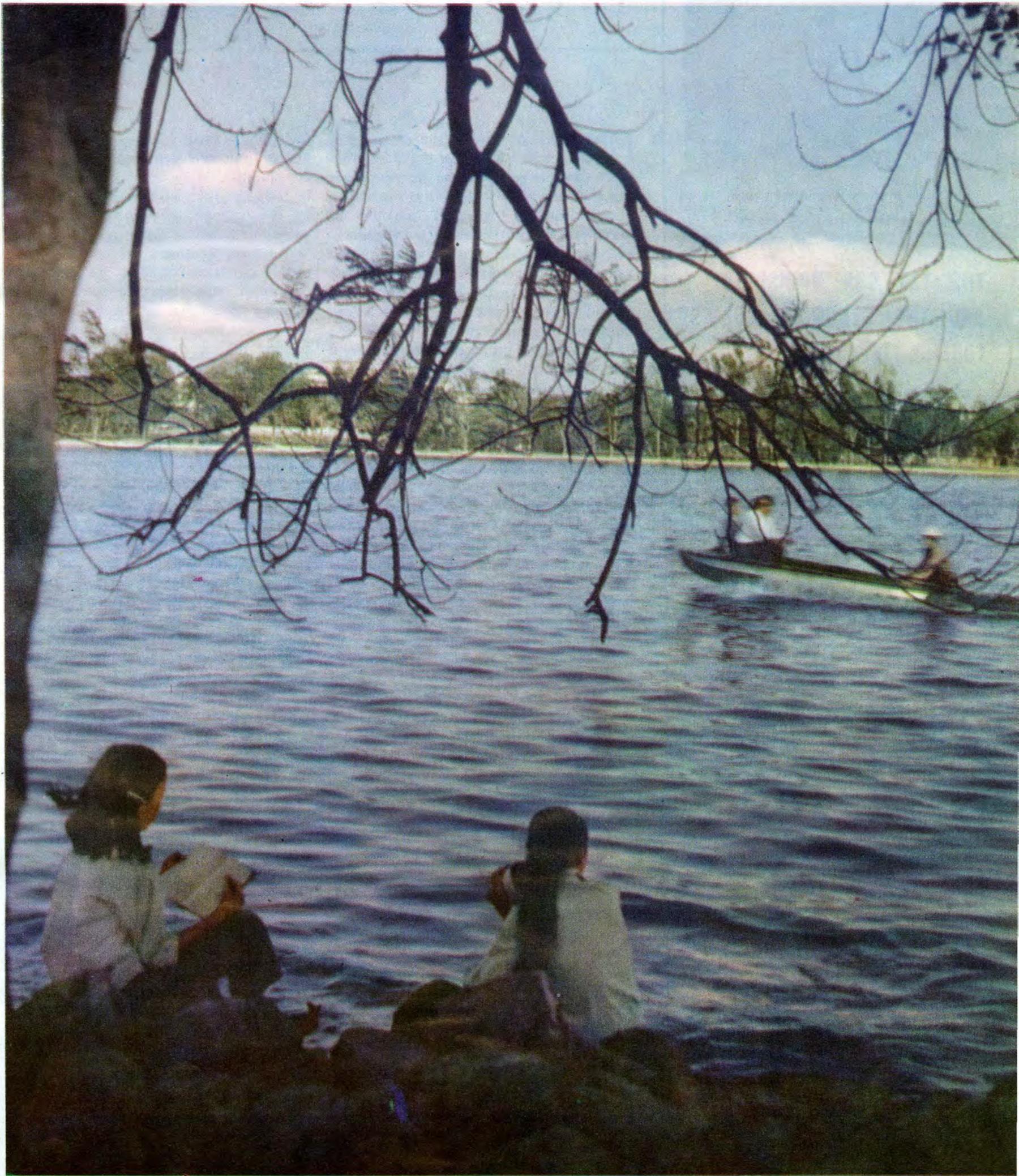
In 1974, the workers at the Giang Vo house assembly construction site in Hanoi have doubled their output of 1973. By using ferro-concrete piles for the foundations of multi-storey buildings, they have saved both time and a considerable amount of iron and steel, as well as reducing building costs by one-third.

Photo : MINH DAO



In "Reunification Park" (Hanoi).

Photo : PHAM QUANG PHUNG





Dong Da Hill in Hanoi where every year on the 5th day of the 1st moon, Quang Trung's victory over the aggressors (Spring, 1789) is celebrated.

THE TAY SON UPRISING AND THE STRUGGLE AGAINST FOREIGN INVASION

The peasant movement in the XVIIIth century culminated in the Tay Son uprising.

In 1771, at Tay Son village, Quy Nhon district (present-day Binh Dinh province in South Viet Nam), the three brothers Nguyen Nhac, Nguyen Hue and Nguyen Lu rose up against the Nguyen feudal lords. In 1783, Nguyen Hue defeated Nguyen Phuc Anh and wiped out the army of 50,000 and the 300 vessels sent up the My Tho River by the Siamese monarchy to aid Nguyen Phuc Anh. Three years later, Nguyen Hue got rid of the Trinh in the North, occupied Thang Long (now Hanoi) and reunified the country.

In October 1788, at the demand of Le Chieu Thong, the last king of the Le dynasty, the Tsing aggressors entered Viet Nam. The generals and mandarins whom Nguyen Hue had appointed to govern the North for the time being withdrew to the mountainous area of Tam Diep (100kms. south of the capital).

At that time Nguyen Hue was in Phu Xuan (now Hue) and had taken the throne under the regnal name of Quang Trung. On hearing that the enemy had occupied Thang Long, he led his army to the North. Arriving at Tam Diep as the old year was drawing to a close, he told his men that they could enjoy the New Year Festival in advance and promised them that they would celebrate victory on the seventh day of the first month of the Ky Dau Lunar New Year (1789).

After their rest, Quang Trung's infantrymen, elephant-mounted troops and flotilla vigorously attacked the enemy in Hai Duong, Bac Giang, Chuong My (Ha Tay province) and Dai Ang village (Thanh Tri district) on the outskirts of Hanoi. The bulk of the army, led by Quang Trung himself, rushed straight on to Thang Long. After only five days and nights of lightning onslaughts, they had literally wiped out the 200,000-strong Tsing aggressors.

On the 5th day of the 1st moon of the Ky Dau year, Quang Trung led his elephant-mounted forces into the liberated capital. And as he had promised, the Tet Lunar New Year of Victory was celebrated in a grand manner in historic Thang Long on the seventh day of the New Year (Spring 1789).

VAN TAN
Historian

FOR many years now, the economy of Saigon has been *essentially an economy designed to serve the war*. It was based mainly on US aid and the spending of American GIs—when half a million of them were still in the South. It is little wonder that a number of economists affirmed that 30% of the Saigon administration's income came from US aid and 30% from expenditure in service of the American expeditionary corps; only 30% stemmed from agricultural production and 10% from industrial output, whose materials, however, were largely semi-finished products included in US aid.

At times, the Saigon press used to call the economy an "artificial prosperity." The goods supplied each year by the US were worth nearly 1,000 million dollars. In addition, some billions of "red dollars" were spent each year by American troops and the yearly supply of PX goods (exempt from all taxes) was also worth some billions of dollars. The American way of life and its luxury goods flooded South Viet Nam. Foodstuffs largely consisted of rice and wheat from the US, canned foods, frozen meat, etc. There was an outward show of prosperity, but in actual fact the war was savagely wrecking the basis of South Viet Nam's agriculture. Millions of peasants were herded into "strategic hamlets". Tens of thousands of industrial and other workers lost

their jobs—small industry and handicrafts having been strangled by the influx of US commodities. In short, people were forced to lead the lives of parasites—living on US aid, eating US food, and working to serve the American GIs.

The Paris Agreement was signed, stipulating the withdrawal of US troops from South Viet Nam. With their rice granary in the Mekong River delta and the wealth of their forests and seas, the nearly 20 million skilful and diligent South Vietnamese people could have restored and developed their economy and begun to lead happy and prosperous lives. But the Nguyen Van Thieu clique has resorted to more and more fascist measures and stubbornly torpedoed the Agreement. It has maintained over 1,000,000 troops, concentrated 600,000 people in "settlement centres", detained over 200,000 political prisoners, increased the number of policemen and secret agents in its security forces to nearly 200,000 and prevented millions of farmers from returning to their native villages. The number of people not engaged in productive labour has increased to 10 million. The rate of inflation reached 60% in 1973, 86% in June 1974, and is continuing to soar.

Meanwhile, the US Congress has curtailed its aid to Saigon and foreigners have become hesitant about investing capital as the situation in the South has become increasingly



AN INSURMOUNTABLE ECONOMIC CRISIS

MINH DO
(South Viet Nam journalist)

unstable. And these two facts have further aggravated Saigon's economic and financial crises.

The supply of commodities is constantly diminishing. The price of rice has gone up from 100 piastres a litre in January 1973 to 300 piastres, petrol from 40 piastres a litre to 260 piastres, fertilizers from 5,000 piastres a quintal to 22,000 piastres and gold from 35,000 piastres a tael to 120,000 piastres.

Industrial activity is slackening and some industries have ceased to operate. The capacity for production of the paper-making, fabric-weaving and plastic goods industries is down by 30%-60% owing to the shortage of imported materials. According to Hoang Duc Nha, Minister of Information and a nephew of Nguyen Van Thieu, the number of unemployed has increased to one and a half million.

Agriculture, fisheries and transport are faring no better, due to shortages in fertilizers, fishing nets and fuel. 50% of the fishing industry has had to close down and up to 60% of some means of transport has come to a standstill.

Trade has also been stagnating as a result of the decline in purchasing power.

The economic crisis, which even industrialists and traders are finding intolerable, has seriously affected the lives of various strata of the people, in particular the wage-earn-

ers: industrial workers, labourers, civil servants, office workers, teachers, soldiers, policemen, etc. Many families in urban centres can only afford to eat seaweed and thin rice soup. The Saigon press has reported many cases of death from starvation or suicide out of economic desperation (22 cases of suicide a day on one occasion).

Thieu hopes to overcome his budget deficit by increasing taxes, collecting outstanding rates and printing an increasing number of banknotes, including a new 10,000-piastre bill, but such measures will not remedy the situation. Tran Van Don (Vice-Premier of the Saigon administration) himself has admitted: "We are facing a very serious danger. The current economic crisis is undeniably threatening social stability and will soon exert its influence on politics."

It is perfectly clear that Saigon's economy and financial situations are going from bad to worse. Consequently a popular movement is developing in Saigon-controlled areas for better living conditions, democratic freedoms, peace, national concord and independence.

PRICES OF SOME GOODS IN THE AREA CONTROLLED BY SAIGON

Petrol	1972 :	40	piastres a litre
	1/1973 :	60	— — —
	2/1974 :	260	— — —

Rice	1968 :	2,200	—	a quintal
	1/1973 :	9,500	—	—
	9/1973 :	17,000	—	—
	1974 :	30,000	—	—
				(50,000 piastres a quintal in some regions of Central Viet Nam)

Gold	1/1965 :	7,600	piastres a tael (38gr)
	1/1973 :	35,000	— — —
	1/1974 :	95,000	— — —
	4/1974 :	120,000	— — —

Fertilizers	1968 :	4,600	piastres a quintal
	1973 :	11,200	— — —
	1974 :	22,000	— — —

EXCHANGE RATE OF SAIGON'S PIASTRE

1955	1 dollar equalled	35	Saigon piastres
1960	1 — —	74	— —
1970	1 — —	118 and 275	—
			(parallel exchange rates)

January, 1973 :

1 dollar equalled 330 Saigon piastres

January, 1974 :

1 dollar equalled 560 Saigon piastres

April, 1974 :

1 dollar equalled 620 Saigon piastres

June, 1974 :

1 dollar equalled 640 Saigon piastres

August, 1974 :

1 dollar equalled 655 Saigon piastres



Many buses lie idle due to the high cost of fuel.

The plight of unemployed workers and labouring people.



Beside the Restored Sword Lake after liberation.

Lacquer painting by NGUYEN TU NGHIEM
(Viet Nam Fine Arts Museum)

The Phu La national minority is one of the smallest in Lao Cai province. Formerly its members were held in contempt by the ruling class and the larger ethnic groups. They were all illiterate; and many of their hamlets were wiped out by disease or destitution.

Since liberation, the Phu La, like the other nationalities, have become masters of their own destiny. Many of them have become cadres in various branches of activity. The following lines will tell you the story of one of them.

Hardly had we set foot on the tableland of Shapa when we received a pleasant surprise: plot after plot of vegetables were to be seen spreading under the bright summer sun. In the distance were the yellow patches of sunflower blossoms. Meo members of the Sau Chua co-operative, bearing baskets full of harvested vegetables, were talking and laughing. From nearby we could hear the sound of a waterfall.

Giang Seo Phu called out to the members of the co-op. Recognizing her, they rushed up to us, shouting greetings. Taking her hands, one of the women said, "We're so glad you've come. Look how beautifully the vegetables have grown!"

For three successive seasons, the Sau Chua co-op., which supplies seeds to vegetable growers in the delta, has had bumper harvests. Over the past three years the lives of its members have undergone big changes. Giang Seo Phu told us about the days when she had been assigned by the Party provincial committee to the Ta Van and Lao Chai villages, inhabited by Meo minority people, to urge them to settle down to a sedentary life in Sau Chua and create a new economy there. The Meo were then living a nomadic and precarious life. Their clothes were tattered; they had no blankets to keep them warm in winter; and medical attention was very limited.

But Giang Seo Phu was very determined. She had worked in Sau Chua for over 20 years, since she was only a girl of 18. A member of the Phu La minority, after liberation she immediately joined a group of local young volunteers of various nationalities who were about to set out on a campaign against bandits in the West. During the hard struggle to protect the people and the fruits of the revolution, many of her comrades perished. Compared with the dangers and hardships of those days, her present work seems relatively easy. Together with her fellow cadres, she canvassed the whole area, going from house to house to explain to people the advantages of the new style of life.

At first only ten households agreed to go to Sau Chua, and went there with their belongings in baskets on their backs. They and Giang Seo Phu worked hard to cultivate the land and sow seeds. Thanks to their determined efforts and to help from the provincial and district committees, a bumper harvest was reaped. And, as a result, 40 more households joined them. Now, after three years, they all have much to be proud of: large expanses of fields, a school and a health centre. Everyone has warm clothes and each household is the proud owner of at least one horse.



A deputy president of the provincial administrative committee, she has been entrusted with an important job: educational and social work.

A DAUGHTER OF THE PHU LA NATIONAL MINORITY

ANH CUONG

★ Giang Seo Phu joins in the harvesting along with Sau Chua Co-op members.



Now all 14 national minorities living in Lao Cai province have taken the road to socialism. Over two-thirds of the provincial people's council is made up of representatives of the minorities, and 30% of them are women. The people often say: "The Party, the revolution and Uncle Ho have made a new life for us. We have been able to discover the truth and we have learnt how to use our minds and limbs to work for the revolution."

Giang Seo Phu, the daughter of a small minority group formerly held in contempt and enslaved, is now one of the deputy presidents of the provincial administrative committee and is in charge of educational and social work.

◀ On the road.

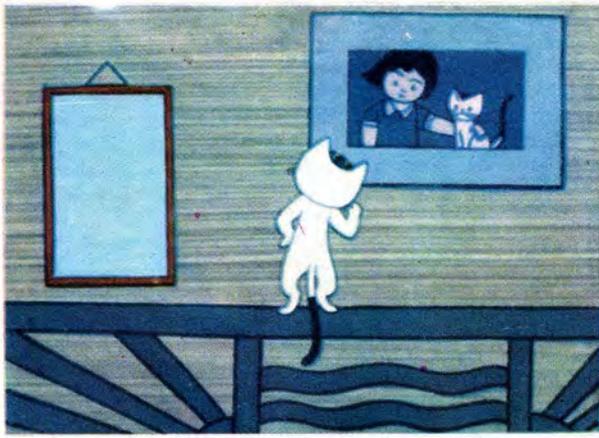
Three photos below:

★ Calling on a little patient: an occasion to check up on health work in the area.

★ Once illiterate, Giang Seo Phu is now in the second year of a college-level correspondence course on industrial management.

★ An impromptu meal.





Little Van and her mischievous kitten are close friends. Daddy took a photograph of them together and the kitten never tires of gazing at it.

The child and the vase

Script : VAN BIEN
 Design : HUU DUC
 Direction : NGHIA DUNG
 Narrator : LE ANH TUAN



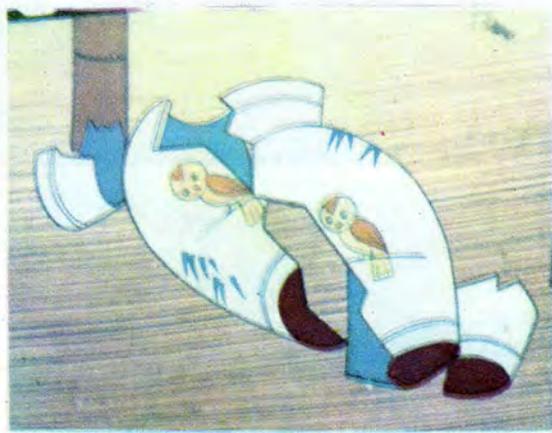
One day, Daddy bought Van a beautiful vase. The kitten came up and seemed to be very interested in it, so Daddy said : "Stay still ! I'll go and fetch a few flowers and be back in a moment."



On her way back from school, Van got a small fish for her kitten. Arriving home, she saw the vase and exclaimed : "Oh, what a beautiful vase !" She was so enraptured by it that she completely forgot about her kitten, who was sitting nearby and beginning to feel rather cross with her friend.



Suddenly getting a whiff of the fish, the kitten turned round and snatched at it. Van went after the kitten and managed to retrieve the fish, but the kitten again made a lunge at it.



Van jerked back her arm, knocking the table. The vase fell to the ground and smashed into pieces.



When Daddy came back into the room and saw the broken vase, he turned to the kitten and said angrily : "You naughty cat ! Tonight you can sleep in the storehouse and think about what you've done !" Van felt very sorry for the kitten as, on such a wintry night, it could catch cold.



While her father was still pondering about the broken vase, Van plucked up courage and said : "The cat didn't break the vase - I did, Daddy." Daddy took Van into his arms, kissed her and said : "By being frank enough to admit it was your fault, you have observed one of Uncle Ho's five injunctions." Suddenly Daddy and Van were astonished to notice that the vase had mysteriously mended itself and that the flowers that had been lying scattered on the ground were now arranged in it. The pair of nightingales painted on the vase began to sing : "Bravo for little Van. She's been brave enough to admit her fault."



And so Van and the kitten became friends again. And Van said to her friend : "Well now, don't be angry with me any longer. When I come back from school tomorrow I'll bring you a much bigger fish than the one I brought you today."

THIS is the second harvest season at the Dien Bien State Farm since the end of the war. Groundnuts, sugar cane and coffee are being brought in in unprecedentedly large quantities. Heavily laden wagons are heading off along the roads for the processing shops.

I got a ride on a tractor, which took me to Production Brigade 13. The area had been heavily attacked by US aircraft during the war, but the brigade was made up of tough fighters who clung to their positions and maintained a high level of production.

I talked to Brigade Leader Pham Duc Luc, who was repairing a weeder, and asked him about the difficulties they had encountered.

Good earth in the highlands

NGUYEN DINH UU

"As you know," he said, "this 300 hectare expanse of fields was pocked with more than a thousand bomb craters. It was a lunar landscape. Had it not been for our joint efforts in filling them up and levelling the ground, such bumper harvests would have been impossible."

I had been told that, during the war, Pham Duc Luc had on several occasions been buried under heaps of debris by bomb blasts, but he had continued to work unflinchingly.

I asked him the reason for the high yields obtained this season. He said, smiling mischievously:

"Yes, not only Production Brigade 13 but the whole of the State Farm has obtained very good results. However, I think that you had better try to find out the reasons by yourself..."

It was late afternoon, but the hum of machines went on, like a stirring march.



Production team leader Pham Duc Luc working at the task of improving farm tools.

Each year dozens of hectares of previously virgin land are cultivated.





Green maize grows in fields once littered with enemy bombs and shells.



Two years ago, when they first came here, each fighter planted two banana trees. Now there is a forest of them.



A new high-yield variety of sugar cane.





That night, around a camp fire which warmed the chilly air of the mountains, Production Brigade 13 discussed the results of their work. The figures revealed were most encouraging :

- Coffee yields had increased 171⁰/₀ on an area of 158 hectares ;
- Paddy yields averaged 6.6 tons per hectares ;

- Meat deliveries to the State had increased 10⁰/₀ compared with the pre-war period.

Were these splendid results obtained by the State Farm due to favourable weather conditions or to special efforts on the part of the farm workers ?

Suddenly I remembered my first meeting with the farm manager. Dang Van Xung was a former armyman who had taken part in the Dien Bien Phu campaign. As well as being manager, he is at present commander of the State Farm's battalion of militia. Many members of the militia are also former Dien Bien Phu combatants.

"A revolutionary fighter," he said, "doesn't wait until he is fully equipped before he goes and fights the enemy. He'll get his weapons through his own efforts."

In fact, many farming implements have been manufactured by the workers themselves, from metal retrieved from wreckages of enemy planes, bomb and shell cases, and local materials. *Azolla* grown from plants brought by plane from the delta provides 500 tons of green compost per hectare per year.

New high-yield rice strains have been planted and new farming techniques applied. In particular, a new style of work prevails, the main features of which are organisation, technique and discipline.

Perhaps this is the answer to my question. And it is valid not only on the production front. I remember the valiant exploits of Deo Van Van, hitting back hard at raiding US planes with bursts from his machinegun. The "determined-to-fight-and-win" spirit of the combatants of Dien Bien Phu is still very much alive on every front : combat, production and construction. The land which was soaked with the blood of heroes and war martyrs twenty years ago is blooming once more.

Dang Van Xung, Chairman of the Dien Bien State Farm : "This year our food production is 300⁰/₀ greater than it was in 1958."

"Fresh flowers" of the mountain area.



Artillerymen of the past are still on the alert.

FOREIGNERS' HANDBOOKS

THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD CANNOT ALLOW THE PARIS AGREEMENT TO BE SABOTAGED



... "We are overwhelmed by what we have seen during our visit here. And it will be a great help to us in our activities in Sweden.

"We have visited Kham Thien Street in Hanoi and the Thuong Ly quarter in Haiphong. We have seen the remains of schools, hospitals, churches, temples and pagodas that have been destroyed. We have been in Quang Binh province and in the liberated zone of South Viet Nam.

The devastation caused by the US imperialists has to be seen to be believed. On the other hand, we have also been able to observe how well the Vietnamese people work and co-operate with one another, the love they show each other and their determination to reconstruct their country. We firmly believe that you will overcome the difficulties created by the war.

... In fact, your achievements are an encouragement for the rest of the world because they demonstrate that, if they have enough self-confidence, people are perfectly able to improve their living conditions, overcome poverty and build a society in which everyone can live in dignity. We have witnessed the fact that everybody here — industrial workers, peasants, armymen, nurses, teachers, etc. — has worked as hard as possible for peace and national independence.

We believe that the people of the world cannot allow the Paris Agreement to be sabotaged.

We must help you to see that it is fully implemented and we will also continue to assist you in the reconstruction of your country."

Mrs. BERGITTA DAHL
MP, Member of the Social Democratic Party
and President of the Swedish Committee of Support
for Viet Nam

SOLIDARITY WITH VIET NAM IS SOLIDARITY WITH ONESELF



... "The struggle of the Vietnamese people is perhaps the highest expression of the struggle against imperialism. The problem of Viet Nam must be included in the agenda of all democratic countries. All people of goodwill must try to solve it. Viet Nam cannot be left alone in her heroic struggle against the gravest manifestations of colonialism and imperialism. All democratic people must understand that solidarity with Viet Nam is solidarity with oneself.

The Paris Agreement represents a step forward, but one must continue to struggle for its scrupulous implementation and for the recognition of the Provisional Revolutionary Government. I know that the Americans have pulled out their troops, but they have not changed their political line. One must stick to the position of respect for the Paris Agreement.

... The major problem facing Viet Nam at present is reconciliation and national concord. I have noticed that, in the regions controlled by the PRG and in the DRVN, all proposals are based on goodwill.

Each nation, and each region, in the world should contribute to the reconstruction of Viet Nam. What we have seen in Viet Nam is horrifying: ricefields, villages, orchards, all sources of production and life, have been bombarded.

However, if on the one hand I have witnessed destroyed hamlets, bombed bridges and upturned highways, on the other I have had the pleasure of meeting a people proud of their struggle and morally self-confident. They are ready to reconstruct their country — houses, bridges, etc. — and make their soil bear fruit. What should people do to demonstrate their solidarity with Viet Nam? ... I feel that we cannot rest so long as Vietnamese children are not assured of a better and more humane future."

ARMAROLI SILVANO
President of the Emilia-Romagna Council (Italy)

Letters to the Editor

"I have read your attractive pictorial for several years now. It is very interesting and the way in which subjects are dealt with is of a high standard. As I take great interest in every aspect of life in Viet Nam, I should be most grateful if you could also let me know details of the broadcast of 'Voice of Viet Nam Radio.' I would like to be well informed on every success achieved by Viet Nam."

JANUSZ PUSZCZEWICZ
Poland

"I have almost all the issues of 'Viet Nam' Pictorial that have ever been published. I enjoy them tremendously."

DAVID SANCHEZ
USA

"Every issue of your excellent monthly 'Viet Nam' brings me first-hand news of your heroic country. The articles are well written and the standard of the layout and photos is very high. Your magazine reflects the revolutionary enthusiasm of the Vietnamese people in the rehabilitation and construction of the DRVN and in the defence of the liberated areas in the South against the land-grabbing operations by the Thieu administration, a tool of US imperialism."

GERD WEDEMEYER
German Federal Republic

"I like your 'Viet Nam' immensely. It contains a wealth of information about your brave country..."

S. M. K. WALI
India

"I enjoy reading 'Viet Nam' Pictorial very much. It is interesting and useful and is produced by a people whose heroism and dedication in defence of their country's freedom have aroused admiration all over the world. Such heroism and dedication have involved the blood and lives of thousands of sons and daughters of Viet Nam working in the interests of, and out of love for, their Fatherland."

GUSTAVO A. JIMENEZ
Mexico

THE LAO REVOLUTION SURGES AHEAD

Photos : NGOC KHANH

Prince Souphanouvong, President of the National Political Council of Coalition of Laos, addresses a meeting held in Vientiane in his honour.



IN recent months, the Lao people's struggle for the scrupulous implementation of the Vientiane Agreement and its Protocol has recorded initial successes. The National Political Council of Coalition has adopted a political programme for the building of a peaceful, independent, neutral, democratic, united and prosperous Kingdom of Laos. The Provisional Government of National Union has unanimously passed a 10-point programme

aimed at consolidating its administrative machine and has unanimously expressed its opposition to the attempts by the reactionary ultra-rightists to regain control in the Vientiane National Assembly so that they can hamper the activities, and refute the role of the NPCC and the PGNU. The Central Joint Commission has taken a further step to neutralise Luang Prabang and Vientiane : a joint mobile team has been set up for the planting of markers to ensure a lasting ceasefire.

These important events have corresponded with the aspirations of the various strata of Lao people and have been warmly welcomed throughout the country. The lines for the building of a peaceful Laos contained in the NPCC's Political Programme have struck deep roots among the people of Laos.

Greatly alarmed by the trend towards peace, independence and national reconciliation, the ultra-rightists in Vientiane, fostered and commanded by the US, have reacted with frenzy. They have tried in every way possible to hinder the normal activities of the NPCC and the PGNU ; they have provoked and slandered the Lao Patriotic Forces, tried to prevent the serious implementation of the Vientiane Agreement and its Protocol and schemed for the eventual overthrow of the NPCC and PGNU. They have rigged up the so-called "Committee for Coordinated Actions by the Vientiane side," which Buddhists in Vientiane consider to be "an organisation sponsored by men with bad records aimed at serving ill-intentioned people and foreign warmongers..., opposing peace and national concord in Laos." Meanwhile Washington and the Thai reactionaries keep interfering with the internal affairs of Laos. They continue to sabotage peace, national concord and the Vientiane Agreement.

As pointed out in Prince Souphanouvong's report and the Political Programme of the NPCC, the foreign policy of the Kingdom of Laos is aimed first and foremost at demanding that the US and Thailand sincerely implement the 1973 Vientiane Agreement and its Protocol, that they respect the fundamental national rights of Laos, stop their military involvement and withdraw all their armed forces and military personnel from the country.

Closely united with their Lao brothers and sisters in the struggle against their common enemy — imperialism, the Vietnamese people fully support their fight for a genuinely peaceful, independent, democratic, neutral, united and prosperous Laos.



A LPAF medical worker checks the health of children in Luang Prabang.



A Joint Guard team patrolling in Vientiane. In the lead is a fighter of the Lao Patriotic Forces.



under the French colonialists then under the US-Thieu clique. After the liberation of Loc Ninh, together with many nurses and other staff members from the hospital, 74-year-old Huynh Kiet and his wife volunteered to work for the Revolution. Many changes have taken place since then. At that time the hospital was merely a carcass, as the enemy had taken away all machinery and equipment when they pulled out, but now the hospital has been fairly well re-equipped, with various sections : surgery, pediatrics, gynaecology, etc. The medical workers are devoted in their care for the patients ; they are kind and affable, unlike the "mandarin-doctors" of the past who practically scared their patients to death and even cursed them when they were at death's door. The lives of the common people were then held in great contempt.

At this hospital, which has been renamed Binh Phuoc, Huynh Kiet feels great affection for the doctors and nurses trained in the Resistance. Several of them were in their childhood just as poor as he himself was in the past. But

A HOSPITAL IN THE LIBERATED AREA

THU YEN and TRAN PHUONG

BOMB after bomb fell. Houses and earth shook. Enemy planes roared overhead. Anti-aircraft guns boomed. Then came the hurried steps of the first stretcher-bearers. "Mistress Cuc has been wounded !" a self-defence fighter shouted as he led the stretcher-bearers down the steps into an underground shelter.

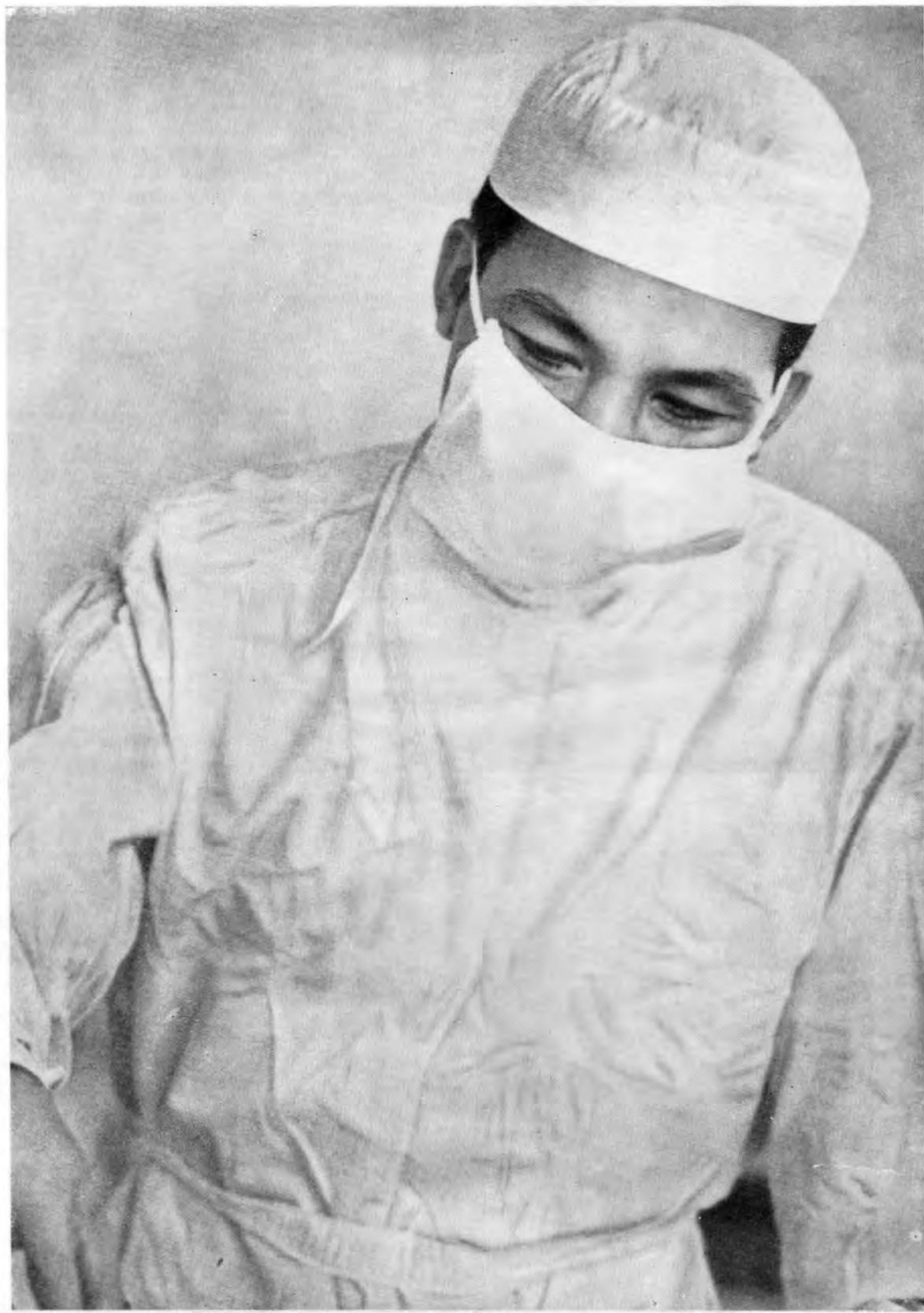
The hospital director examined the victim. Her right arm had been crushed, and its arteries severed, by a bomb splinter. Only a few hours earlier this teacher at the Loc Tan primary school had still been writing lessons on the blackboard for her tiny pupils...

With the assistance of Dr Dap, Assistant Doctor My Hanh who was in charge of anaesthetics and resuscitation, and Nurse Le Thi Bong, Dr Nha amputated the badly injured arm with great caution.

The operation over, enemy planes could be heard once more, bombing and strafing. It was November 30, 1973.

"Mistress Cuc would have died if she had lived in the US-Thieu-controlled area," said Huynh Kiet, an old and permanent staff member at the hospital. "Only in the NFL hospitals can common people with such a serious injury be saved," he added.

Fifty-four years ago, Huynh Kiet had come to Loc Ninh as a plantation labourer. Later he had worked as an attendant at the Loc Tan hospital



their lives have been so deeply transformed. Doan Thi My Hanh, for instance, was the daughter of a mason. Her mother died when she was 11 years old. At the age of 15, My Hanh began working for the revolution, first as a cook and then as a medical trainee. In August 1972, she graduated as an assistant doctor and was sent to this hospital. Old Huynh Kiet is often reminded of the fact that very few women could have reached such a level of education in the past. Now there are seven women assistant doctors working at the hospital. As well as their normal work, all have participated in promoting hygiene, cooking, digging trenches, etc. The revolution has really imbued them with a new concept of life.

The patients treated at the hospital in East Nam Bo seem to share similar feelings about it. During our visit there we met many of its former patients. They had come there to voice their gratitude to the medical workers: the "Liberation hospital" had become so dear to their hearts.



Far left : An emergency case.

Near left : Doan Thi My Hanh, an assistant-doctor specialising in anaesthetics and resuscitation.

Below, left to right and downward :

- ✪ Hospital Director Chu Van Nha performing an operation.
- ✪ Pharmacist Trinh Son Ca and Dieu Thi Gai, a Xa Tieng national and member of the Pharmaceutical Section, dig up "dinh lang" tubers for the preparation of tonics.
- ✪ Surgeon Nguyen Trong Giong helps Old Huynh Kiet and his wife improve their education after work hours.
- ✪ Preparing serum.





A vase (Thieu Duong, Thanh Hoa).



A pot (Thieu Duong, Thanh Hoa).

Photos : NGUYEN
VAN TUAT
(Museum
of History)

AT THE MUSEUM OF HISTORY

CERAMICS OF THE HUNG VUONG PERIOD

In the period of the Hung kings, the art of ceramics was relatively developed.

In the Phung Nguyen sub-period (about 4,000 years ago) the material used was clay, mixed with fine sand and organic matter from animals or plants. The pottery was light, but fragile and not quite watertight. In the Dong Son sub-period (3,000 — 2,500 years ago) the clay contained less organic matter and the pottery was more solid. Generally speaking, the material was less adhesive and easier to mould, did not crack or lose its form and could withstand high oven temperatures. Many scientists think that the ceramics made in the delta and midlands of Bac Bo, such as the areas of Viet Tien and Dong Dau (Vinh Phu province) and Vinh Quang (Ha Tay province), were baked at higher temperatures than those made in northern Trung Bo — for instance, in Thieu Duong and Dong Son (Thanh Hoa province). In the Hung Kings period, ceramics were shaped on potter's wheels, then decorated with various motifs — comb's teeth, geometrical designs, "beehives", "lattice-work", "women rush", spirals, waves, etc. — by brushing, cutting, stamping, scratching, etc. They were then coated with liquid clay, which gave them a more polished surface and made them more watertight. Most of them were containers or cooking utensils, such as pots, vases, basins, bowls, dishes etc., but spoons and sinkers were also produced.

NGUYEN VAN HUYEN



AN HISTORICAL MICROPHONE

Photo : HOANG MANH TUNG

The station was hit at 4 : 51 a.m. (Dec. 19) by blockbusters : the Voice of Viet Nam was interrupted. Nine minutes later, however, it could be heard once more, announcing victories and denouncing the crimes perpetrated by the Yankee imperialists. The Voice of Viet Nam thus remained intact throughout the 12 days of the US air blitz on the North in late 1972.

The mike used for resuming broadcasts after that 9-minute interruption has now been displayed at the Viet Nam Revolutionary Museum.

TRAN CU

(Viet Nam Revolutionary Museum)

On December 18-19, 1972, the US imperialists attacked the broadcasting station of "Voice of Viet Nam Radió" in Me Tri district on the outskirts of Hanoi. Thousands of tons of bombs were dropped by US B. 52s and F. 4s on the area.

SOME ANIMALS IN THE HANOI BOTANICAL GARDENS

The Hanoi Botanical Gardens covers 13 hectares and supports 2,400 trees of 100 different types and a variety of animals. Among the mammals are tigers from the north-western mountain provinces of Lai Chau and Ha Giang with their black and bright yellow stripes, leopards from Nghia Lo with black spots, black Malayan bears with white V-shaped markings on their chests, and China Ink martens with whitish fur on their heads and long, hairy tails. Alongside the man-made knoll called "Nui Nung" there is a pond with many white swans. On a small island in the pond loiter scarlet headed flamingoes and pink-legged herons, a flock of white doves and an ibis. Also to be seen in the gardens are serins, jays, varan lizards, mottled deer and stags, Tibetan bears, pythons, gibbons, monkeys, lynxes, elephants, badgers, crocodiles, etc.



Việt nam

PICTORIAL

PUBLISHED IN VIETNAMESE,
RUSSIAN, CHINESE, ENGLISH,
FRENCH and SPANISH
XXth YEAR
N^o 194 — OCTOBER 1974

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Front cover : Nguyen Thi Nga and fellow masons at the construction site of the Go Dam industrial complex. Building work is a new job for young women in Viet Nam.

Photo : PHAN CANH

Inside front cover : A technical innovation contest, a new feature of the movement for productive labour among young people in North Viet Nam.

Photo : MAI NAM

Inside back cover : A 10-year-old art ensemble.

Back cover : In the Hanoi Botanical Gardens.

Photo : PHAN CANH

Editorial Board : 79 Ly Thuong Kiet Street, Hanoi.

Distributor : Xunhasaba, 32 Hai Ba Trung Street, Hanoi. Printed at the Tien Bo Printing House, Hanoi.

Editor : Le Ba Thuyen. Layout : Trinh Tri. Index : 12655.

A 10-YEAR-OLD ART ENSEMBLE

CONG GIANG and NGOC QUAN

The Viet Nam Philharmonic Opera and Ballet Theatre was set up in 1964. With a specially selected repertoire, the ensemble has toured many parts of the country, including the hottest battlefields, to perform for civilians and combatants.

Everywhere they have been, the musicians, actors and actresses, as well as their bandmasters — Quang Hai (Bachelor of Arts), Trong Bang and Do Dung — have been keenly appreciated. Singers Quy Duong and Trung Kien have been warmly applauded for their lyrical songs ; and Quang Hung, although now advanced in years, still manages to retain his charm and spirit.



Tam Trung, a contralto, is very popular with audiences.

◀ Conductor Trong Bang and orchestra on stage in Hanoi.

Audiences often talk of Ngoc Dau, a singer famous over the past thirty years for her leading roles in many classical and modern operas. Soprano Kim Dinh and contralto Tam Trung have also been highly praised.

To Chiem and his sister, Y Lang, two talented pianists, and violinist Khac Hue and cellist Nguyen Cuu Vy, have hardly ever missed a performance.

Over the past ten years, the ensemble's repertoire has been greatly enriched by the addition of many Vietnamese and foreign ballets and operas. The ensemble has also presented several symphonies by Beethoven, Tchaikovski, Mozart and Schubert and many orchestral and choral works by Vietnamese composers, such as Hoang Viet, Chu Minh, Hoang Van, Dam Linh and Nguyen Dinh Tan.

The ballet "Free Wings" by Nguyen Viet.





Việt nam