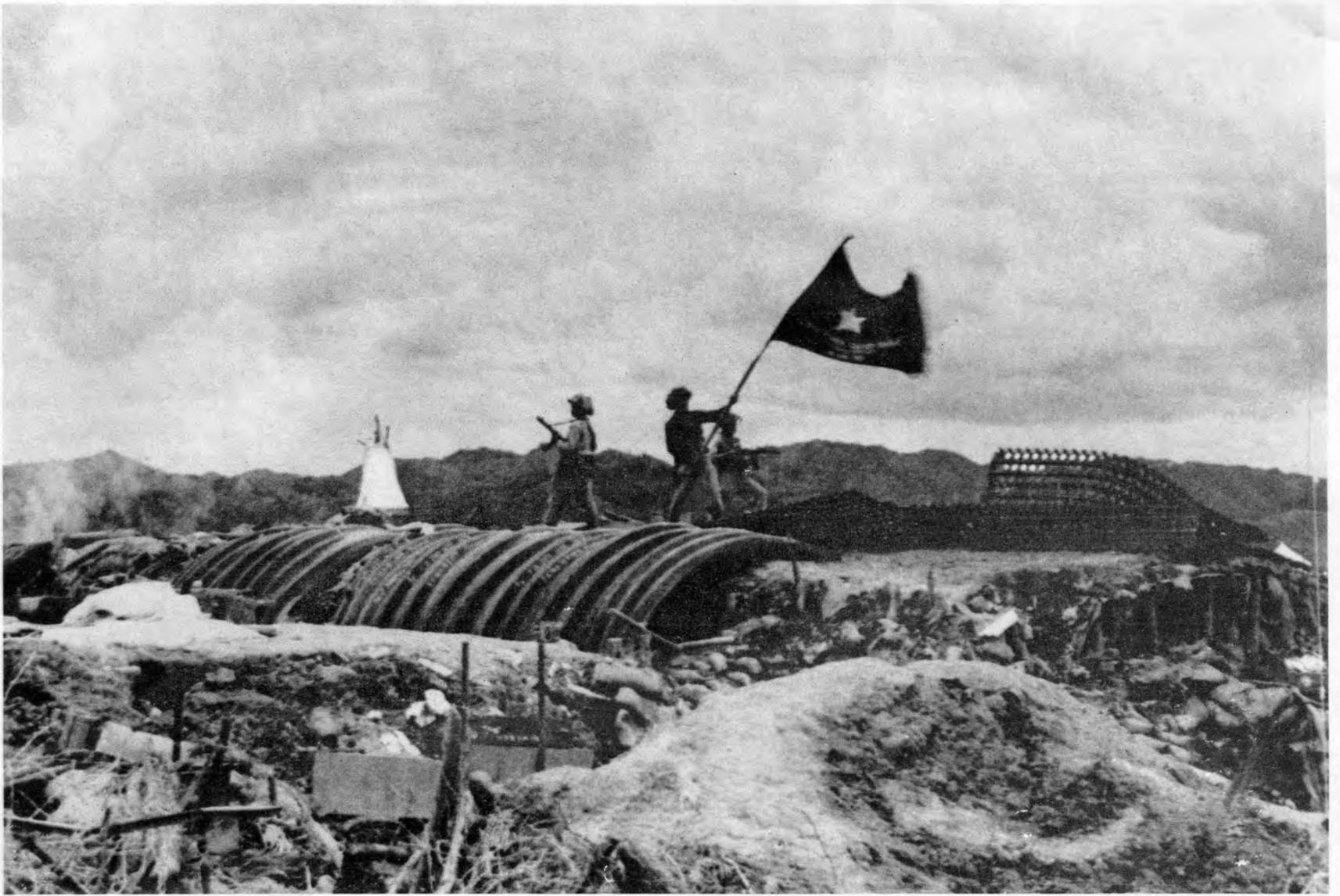


198
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Việt nam

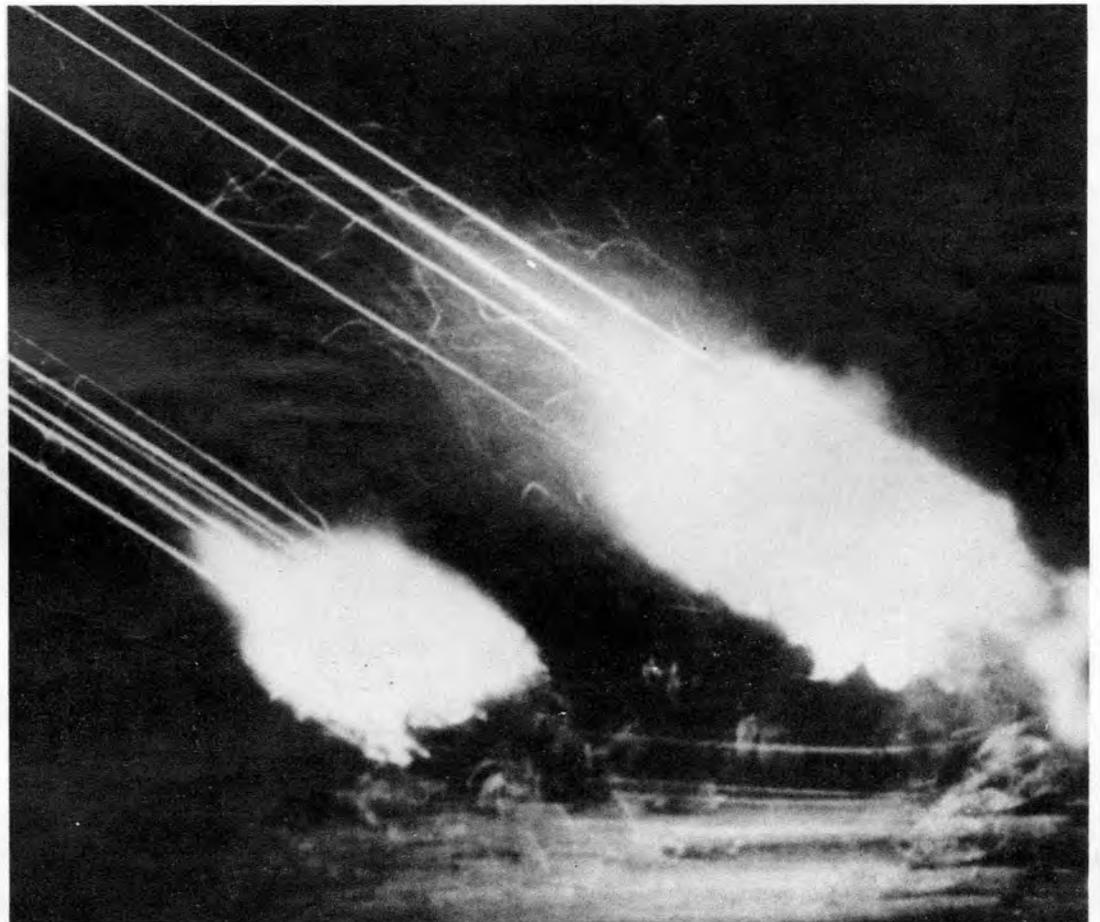
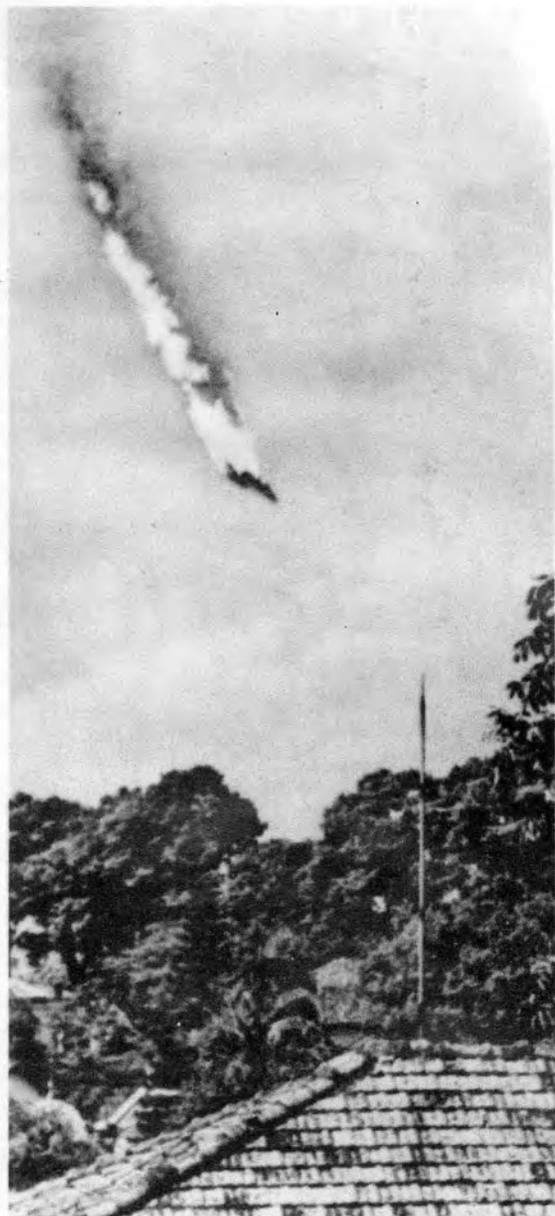


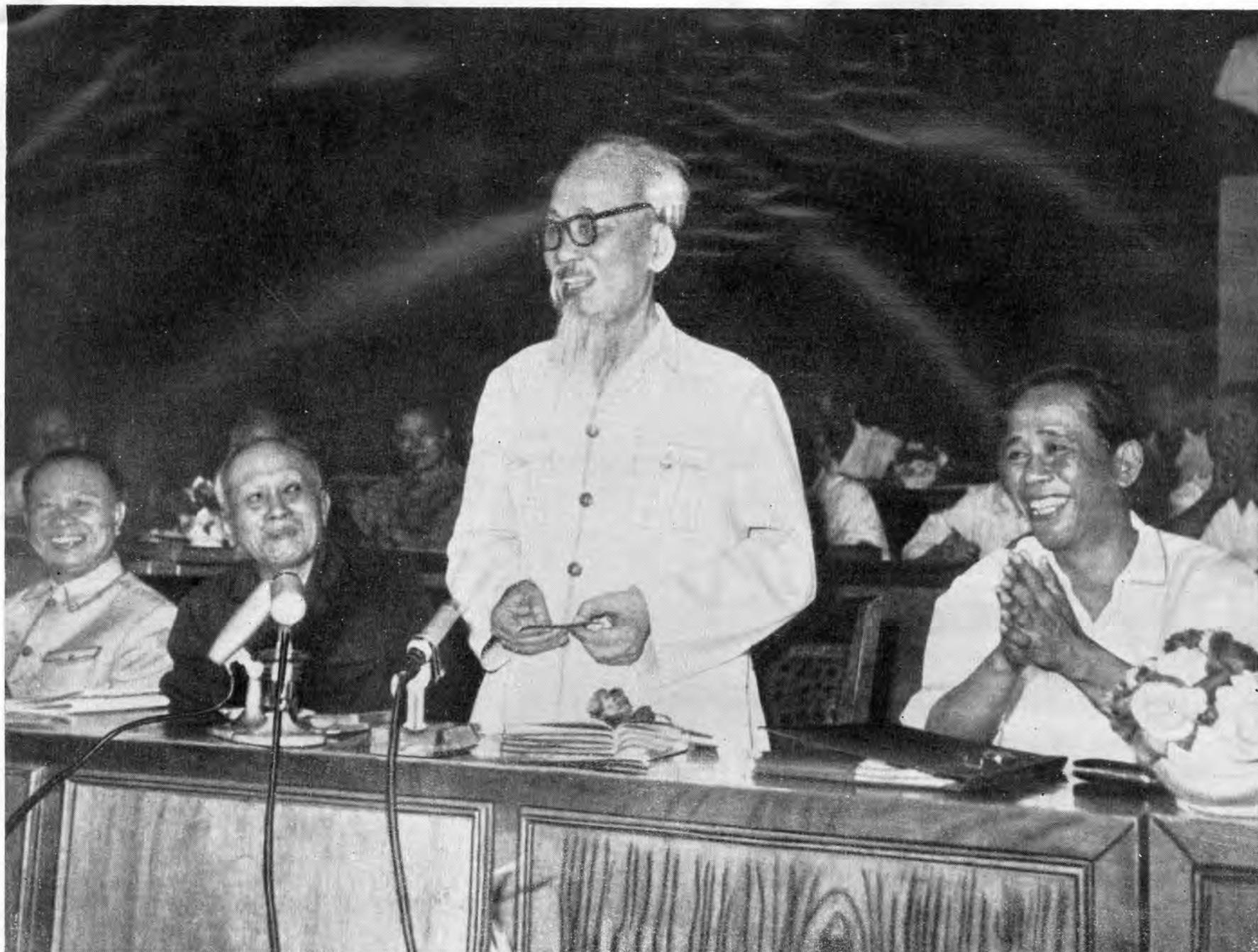


On May 7, 1954, the "Determined to fight and to win" banner of the Vietnamese People's Army fluttered high on top of the bunker of General De Castries, Commander of the French entrenched camp in Dien Bien Phu. The resistance against the French colonialists had ended in victory.

◀ Nearly twenty years later, Hanoi – "An aerial Dien Bien Phu" – smashed the big air offensive of the US, contributing to Viet Nam's epoch-making victory over the US imperialist aggressors.

A fire network of Hanoi militia and homeguard forces which set ablaze the US intruding planes in 1972.





President Ho Chi Minh and other leaders of the VNWP at its 3rd National Congress (September 1960) which decided on the line of socialist transformation and construction in the North and of struggle for the liberation of South Viet Nam and the reunification of the country.

THE GLORIOUS BANNER OF VICTORY

Our Party stands for virtue, civilization,
unity, independence, peace and happiness.

HO CHI MINH

ON February 3, 1975, the Viet Nam Workers' Party will be exactly 45 years old,

Under the glorious banner of the vanguard unit of the working class, the labouring people throughout Viet Nam, their heart full of pride and confidence, are vigorously marching into a new spring full of promise.

Since the foundation of the Party, the Vietnamese people have, with the unconquerable will of a whole nation, risen up from the long nights of slavery and imprisonment and successively defeated three big imperialist powers from three continents, entering a new era for their country, that of independence, freedom and socialism. The history of the Vietnamese revolution in the past 45 years is that of the most glorious period in over 4,000 years of building and defence of the nation. The Viet Nam Workers' Party headed by President Ho Chi Minh is the organizer and leader of the Vietnamese people's struggle for the achievement of success in that glorious period of history.

Right from its foundation, the Party had, in 15 years of struggle against the immensely cruel rule of the French colonialists, led the people in two great rehearsals for the insurrection: the 1930-1931 revolutionary high tide which culminated in the Nghe Tinh Soviet uprising and the 1936-1939 democratic movement, and later the great struggle against the French colonialists and the Japanese fascists which led to the successful August 1945 Revolution and the foundation of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, the first people's democratic State in South-East Asia. With these exploits, *"Not only our own toiling class and people but also the toiling classes and oppressed peoples of other countries can be proud of this fact: for the first time in the revolutionary*

history of colonial and semi-colonial peoples, a party barely fifteen years old has led the revolution to success and seized power throughout the country." (Ho Chi Minh — Political Report at the Second National Congress of the VNWP).

After the August 1945 Revolution, the Vietnamese people had, under the leadership of the VNWP, waged a protracted and valiant resistance the high point of which was the great victory of Dien Bien Phu (1954) causing the aggressive war launched by the French imperialists with the help of the US interventionists to end in failure, thus making an important contribution to the dislocation of the colonial system of the imperialist powers and creating new possibilities for the national liberation movement in the world. "For the first time in history a small colony had defeated a big colonial power. This was a victory not only of our people but also of the world forces of peace, democracy and socialism. (Ho Chi Minh — Thirty Years of Activity of the Party).

In the past nearly 20 years, the Party has again shouldered an extremely hard and difficult task on behalf of its nation and progressive mankind: to lead to victory the struggle of the Vietnamese people against the neo colonialism of the US imperialists in Viet Nam, against the most brutal enemy of mankind.

The people throughout the world have considered the successes recorded by the Vietnamese people in their anti-US struggle for national salvation which compelled the Yankee imperialists to sign the January 27, 1973 Paris Agreement and pull out their expeditionary corps from Viet Nam as their own successes.

Thanks to the leadership of the Party, the socialist revolution and construction in North Viet Nam has also achieved great victories. In a rather short period of time (1954-1965), profound changes took place and a new economic and social structure emerged: the socialist relations of production were established and have come to hold a predominant role; the material and technical bases of socialism have been initially set up; the people's life is totally different from what it was in the past and is being markedly improved.

In the years of resistance to US aggression, socialist North Viet Nam had more than ever shown its vigorous vitality and brilliantly fulfilled its task as a big rear area, being worthy of the role of being a solid revolutionary base for the whole country. "While a fierce war was being waged in which the American imperialists dropped millions of tons of bombs on our country, despite many difficulties and hardships, the children could go to school and everyone was provided with adequate food and clothing even in areas severely affected by flood and typhoons. In the history of war this is a rare occurrence, the result of immense efforts; it will stand as a tremendous achievement of our people, our Party and our State." (Le Duan)

Two years have elapsed since the signing of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam. Responding to the call of the Party, the North Vietnamese people are striving to heal the wounds of war, restoring the economy, developing culture and boosting the construction of socialism. In the light of Marxism-Leninism, the Party has pointed out: "The outstanding feature of the transitional period in Viet Nam is the direct advance of a backward agricultural country to socialism, without passing through the stage of capitalist development." (Ho Chi Minh)

... "We must strive to reinforce the dictatorship of the proletariat and develop to the utmost the leading role of the Party, the organizational and managerial role of the State and the spirit of collective masterhood of the toiling masses with a view to successfully carrying out the three revolutions, the keystone being the technical revolution. This is the fundamental orientation, one with the character of a law, of socialist revolution in our country. This is the necessary content of the latter's transition to socialism without going through the stage of capitalist development." (Le Duan)

We are firmly convinced that, under the glorious banner of the Party, the Vietnamese people will fulfil their heavy tasks in the new present period of the Vietnamese revolution. As Comrade Le Duan, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the VNWP has said, "Our people, who scored wonderful exploits in the fight against the US aggressors, and gained the victory, will certainly achieve new and wonderful exploits in the completion of the national democratic revolution in the South and the building of socialism in the North, fully implementing the recommendations of Uncle Ho in his sacred Testament: to build a pacific, reunified, independent, democratic and prosperous Viet Nam."



Le Duan, (centre, in black suit), First Secretary of the Central Committee of the VNWP, enquires into the health of the population at Vinh Giang, Vinh Linh area, on the occasion of the Quy Suu Tet in 1973, the first Lunar New Year's Festival following the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam.

Photo: Viet Nam News Agency

Right, from top to bottom:

Foundrymen at the Hanoi Mechanical Engineering Plant emulate one another in catching up with and surpassing the "Nguyen The Hung Team", a vanguard unit in the industrial branch. Socialist industrialization is a major task set by the VNWP.

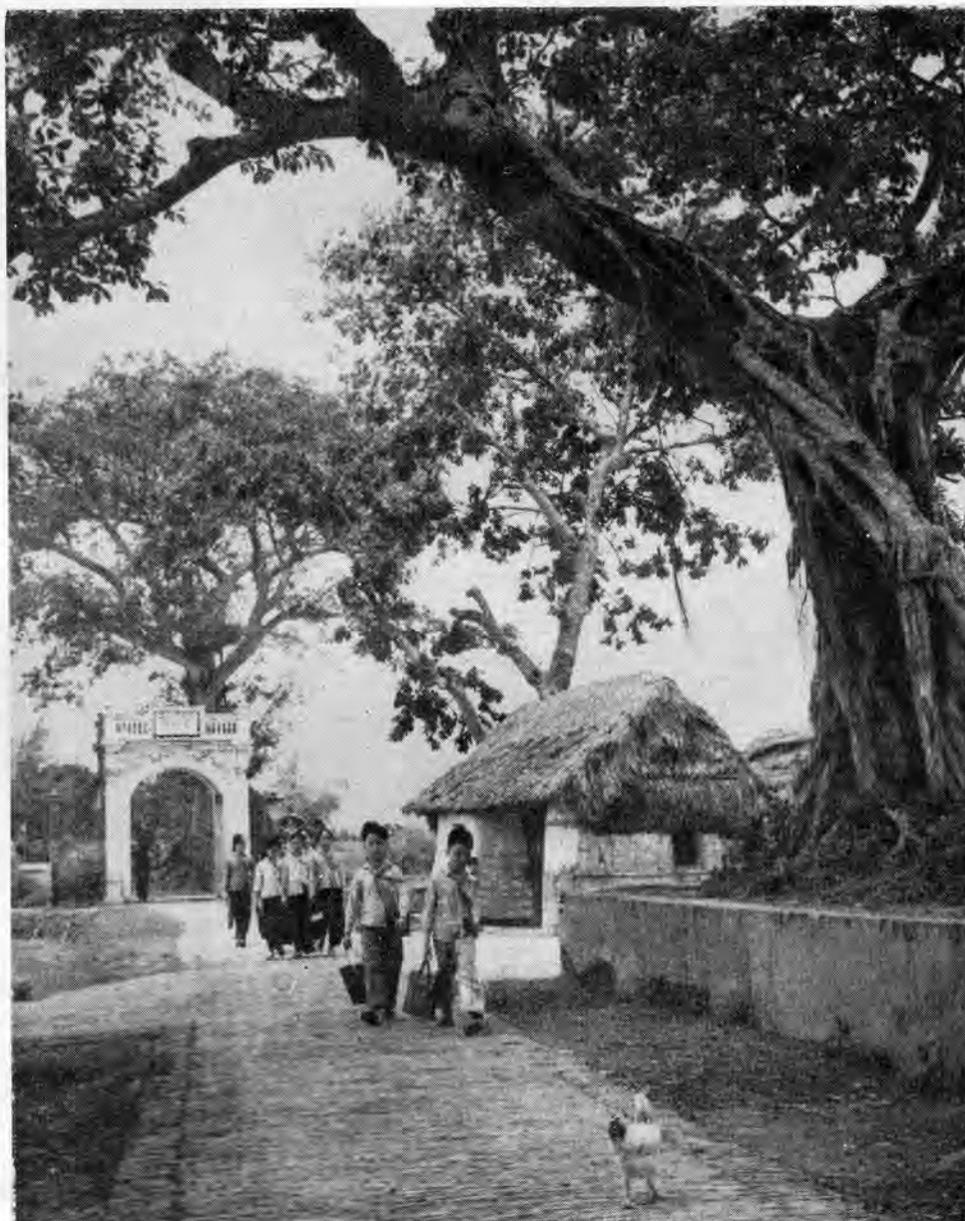
Photo: CANH KHANH

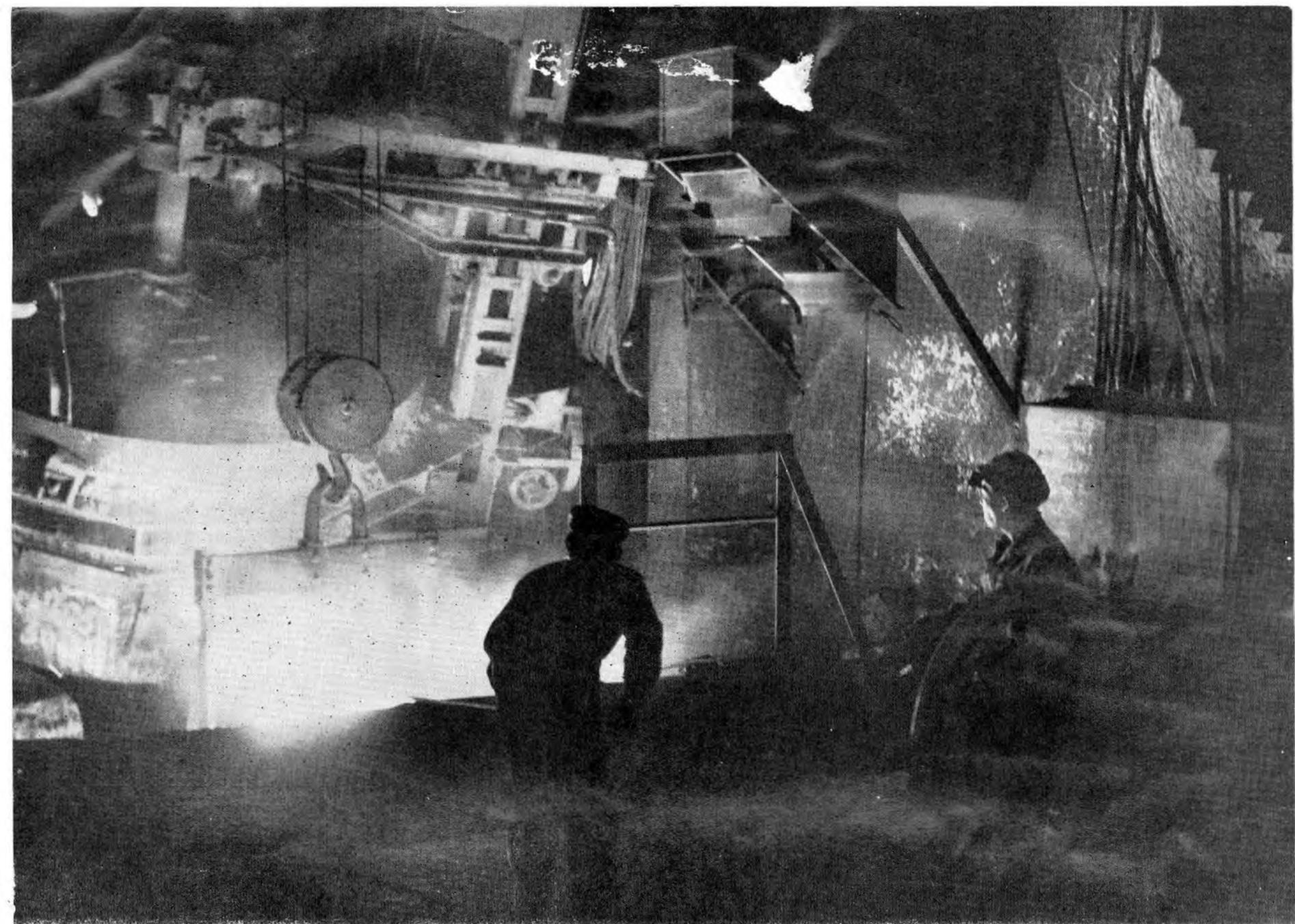
The Cau Do co-operative (Ha Tay province) enthusiastically marches forward in the movement to reorganize work and improve management so as to bring agriculture to large-scale socialist construction.

Photo: HOANG DANG

The VNWP has always paid great attention to the development of education. Pupils of a primary class in Kim Bang district, Nam Ha province, on their way to school.

Photo: MAI NAM





KIEU MINH CHAU

NGUYEN TRONG THANH



THIS is the name of a woman worker at the "March 8" Textile Mill in Hanoi, twice honoured with the title of "Excellent Weaver."

It was on an afternoon shift that I accompanied Kieu Minh Chau to her workshop. Machines were humming and shuttles were clicking gaily — that click-clack so familiar to weavers. Kieu Minh Chau moved nimbly to and fro, unravelling knots, fastening broken threads, coping with any impediment in production.

I had been told a lot of stories about this outstanding worker. Kieu Minh Chau joined this factory — evoking the name of the International Women's Day — immediately after it came into being. A diligent and careful weaver, very keen on study, she has, in the past ten years, overfulfilled every task entrusted her by the workshop. Her highest achievement was when she completed her yearly plan in seven months and eight days. The number of machines she operates every day is usually twice that assigned to other textile workers. When the need arises, she even volunteers to handle an additional number of machines to help her mates and keep the production belt at the workshop moving. On account of her effective style of work, she has been commended before the entire factory by its Emulation Committee. With regard to the young workers, as their colleague and eldest sister, Kieu Minh Chau has done her best to help them improve their standard of work and overcome mistakes and shortcomings. Even during the days when this mother of two had to look after her babies, she always ensured over 24 work-days each month. Together with her husband, she arranged her house work so that they could concentrate on their work untroubled by household cares. Both her daughters, Thuy Huong — entrusted to a kindergarten during working hours — and Thuy Van — a first-former — are very intelligent children.

Van Dich, a cadre responsible for the emulation movement at the Textile Mill, told me :

Kieu Minh Chau is always present at the workshop before work time.



"Kieu Minh Chau is one of our best workers, a good cadre of the Youth Union Branch and a good cadre of the Women's Organization of the factory."

On the 45th anniversary of the foundation of the VNWP, Kieu Minh Chau will have been exactly four years in the Party. A mem-

ber of the "Glory" batch, that named after President Ho Chi Minh, she has always lived simply and modestly and has been elected Vice-Secretary of the B-Shift Cell and an executive member of the Hanoi Women's Union.

In the factory's seething emulation movement in honour of the

anniversary of the founding of the Party (February 3, 1975), Kieu Minh Chau fulfilled her 1974 plan three months and three days ahead of schedule. Once again she has been conferred the "Model Worker" title of the textile branch, a title which she has now held for five consecutive years.

The weaving shop where Kieu Minh Chau works is the largest section of the Textile Mill.

Below, left to right.

- ★ No matter how hard it rains little Thuy Huong will be taken to the kindergarten and her mother will get to work on time.
- ★ They are among the 340 "Excellent Weavers" of the DRVN.
- ★ Thuy Van is very pleased to have mum as her teacher at home.



☆ 1974 : Thai Binh brought in 7 tons of paddy per hectare on average over its whole 80,000 hectares of arable land (2.4 times the yield recorded in 1939, the peak year under the French rule).

☆ Initial reorganization of agricultural production along the line of specialized and intensive cultivation.

☆ Targets for 1980 : From 8 to 9 tons of paddy per hectare ; 800,000 - 1,000,000 pigs (four times the pig herd of 1939).

THAI BINH ADVANCES TOWARDS LARGE-SCALE SOCIALIST PRODUCTION

NGUYEN NGOC TRIU

*President of the Administrative
Committee of Thai Binh province*

*Photos : QUANG PHUNG
and PHAN CANH*

FIRST IMPORTANT RESULTS

Thai Binh is one of the main agricultural provinces in the Bac Bo (North Viet Nam) delta. Its land is fertile and its peasants have a long tradition of irrigated rice-growing.

Over the past ten years, despite the two air wars of destruction waged by the US imperialists, the difficulties caused by natural calamities and the lack of material and technical bases, Thai Binh has endeavoured to carry out the Party's line on agricultural development and recorded repeated successes. Rice yields in particular have steadily increased. Over its whole acreage of 80,000 hectares of cultivable land, Thai Binh reaped five tons of paddy per hectare in 1966, six tons in 1972 and seven tons in 1974.

These results have helped Thai Binh feed a population nearly double that of 1945 and contribute plenty of food and other farm products to the revolutionary cause throughout the country.

Agricultural production in Thai Binh, however, still bears a marked character of small-scale and scattered production, with low work productiv-

ity and a low percentage of goods produced. Meanwhile, the revolution demands that agriculture supply ever larger quantities of food and food-stuffs for society, raw materials for industry, agricultural produce for export and manpower for other economic branches.

If agriculture keeps remaining on the basis of a small and backward production, it cannot fulfil those four tasks. Hence the urgent need for Thai Binh as well as for the whole of North Viet Nam to take agriculture towards large-scale socialist production.

It is well-known to everybody that a large-scale socialist agriculture means specialized and intensive cultivation, development in every sphere and carried out over a large area with a high labour productivity and a high rate of goods produced. That agriculture must be provided with advanced technique.

THE WAY AHEAD

To have a large-scale socialist agriculture, there must be a developed industry. But industry in our country,



★ Nguyen Ngoc Triu, President of the Thai Binh Administrative Committee, visiting a co-operative (*near right, above*).

★ Farming work is still mainly done by hand (*far right, above*). But thanks to irrigation work, new strains of rice and appropriate techniques, Thai Binh has increased its rice yield by 2.4 times in comparison with the period prior to the August Revolution (*right*).





THAI BINH...



modern industry in particular, is still insignificant. Regional industry in Thai Binh is also very inadequate. As the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party has pointed out, however, we cannot sit idly by, waiting for industry to develop but must immediately take the peasants and agriculture into socialism, gradually advancing towards large-scale socialist production.

In implementation of the directives of the VNWP Central Committee and basing themselves on the dictatorship of the proletariat and the collective mastery brought about by the socialist revolution, the provincial Party and Administrative Committees are re-organizing production in the direction of specialized and intensive cultivation and redistributing agricultural work on a large scale with a view to effecting water-control work, transforming the soil and building a number of necessary material and technical bases for seeds, fertilizers, draught forces, engineering, electricity... We are also applying the recent achievements of the country and the world in science and technology. As Thai Binh is a province in the delta, we are paying particular attention to the intensive

30% of the work has been taken over by tractors.

Photo : HAI NGOC

cultivation of rice and the development of subsidiary crops while striving to make stock-breeding a major branch of production and developing a number of plants like mulberry, jute, rush, etc., to provide raw materials for industry and export. If we accomplish those tasks well we will gradually take Thai Binh forward towards large-scale socialist production in agriculture,

hectare to 5 and its gross agricultural output value increased by 53%. The main thing is that Dong Hai has created a new style of work, with a sense of organization and plan, where division of labour and co-operation in production are envisaged and a unified management is effected in the entire co-operative. The campaign is being expanded, embracing 85% of the agricultural co-ops in the province.

"With socialist collective ownership, with the re-organization of labour on a large scale to carry out hydraulic work, soil improvement, and the building of a number of necessary material and technical bases, with the application of the achievements of the 'green revolution' and limited help from industry, we are fully capable of taking our country's agriculture another step forward on the path of large-scale socialist production, at a time when industry is still being built up. Moreover, we may use agriculture as a base for industrial development. Or, to put it another way, we must, after the transformation of individual production into collective production, immediately re-organize agricultural production and labour in the direction of centralization, specialization and co-operation on an ever larger scale, thus creating a kind of socialist 'manual work-site'. On this basis, we must put industry at the service of agriculture and gradually step up the technical revolution, in order to develop the forces of production, strengthen the new relations of production and build a new countryside and a new peasantry. This is the road of gradual advance toward large-scale socialist production in agriculture, and the way to ensure victory for socialism in our countryside."

(From the speech entitled "To Build a Large-Scale Socialist Agriculture" delivered by LE DUAN, First Secretary of the CC of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, at the Conference on re-organization of production and initial improvement of agricultural management in the plain and midland).

develop its production forces and consolidate its production relations with a view to making it possible for Thai Binh's agriculture to become a basis for the development of industry.

This is the main content of the campaign "to reorganize production and improve management from the grass-roots level along the line of large-scale socialist production" launched by the Secretariat of the CC of the VNWP, and which is being enthusiastically carried out in Thai Binh as well as in other provinces in the North.

In this campaign, special attention has been paid to the reorganization and improvement of management at the co-operative levels and care has also been given to the organization of production and managerial work at the district level. Given the present conditions of machinery and equipment, a local unit with some 10,000 hectares of land and 40,000 working people, equivalent to a district, enables a better and more rational division of work and organization of production.

BASES FOR CONFIDENCE

Over the past two years, Thai Binh has experimented with the reorganization of production work and improvement of management at Dong Hai, a middle-level co-op in the province. This co-op has scored initial successes: rice yields went up from 5.7 tons in 1972 to 8.2 tons in 1974; its pig herd rose from an average 3.3 porkers per

Not long ago Tong Vu was a co-op which lagged far behind the province. After a year of reorganizing production and improving management along the style of Dong Hai, it has become a pretty good unit, raising its output from 4 tons of paddy per hectare in 1973 to 7 tons in 1974.

Many other advanced units in Thai Binh and other provinces which had taken the first steps in transforming themselves into units of large-scale socialist production have turned into typical examples greatly encouraging us.

The building of the district level carried out on a trial basis by Thai Binh in Dong Hung has also yielded initial results. From 7.3 tons in 1973, the average per hectare output of its 12,000 hectares of cultivable land went up to 8 tons in 1974. The district level is gradually becoming the base for the realization of the three revolutions in the countryside (revolution in production relations, technical revolution and cultural and ideological revolution).

The industrial, commercial, cultural, educational and medical branches in the province are also making great efforts to serve this campaign. The first results obtained allow us to believe that Thai Binh is fully capable of implementing the movement launched by the Party Central Committee, and it will attain the targets fixed for 1980: to reap an average output of 8-9 tons of paddy per hectare (three times that of 1939), and to double the value of agricultural output and the co-op members' income in 1974.



After four harvests gathered on experimental plots, the agricultural engineers in Thai Binh hold that the province can bring in 10 tons of paddy per crop per hectare.

A fodder-processing factory under construction.



The An Ninh Breeding Station supplies good porkers for the whole province.

Silk and jute are among the export items of the province.



THE CASTLE OF HAPPINESS

An animated cartoon produced by the Viet Nam Animated Cartoon Studio

Script : TO LINH
 Direction : NGHIEM DZUNG
 Drawings : MAI LONG and THE THIEN



1. The sun has risen for some time. At the storehouse of the co-op, Handmill and Pencil have already begun work. But Lazy Cat is still sleeping soundly.



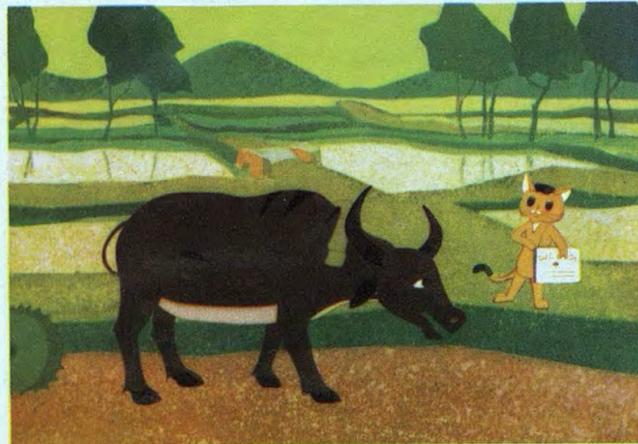
2. The mice are having a field day (above).



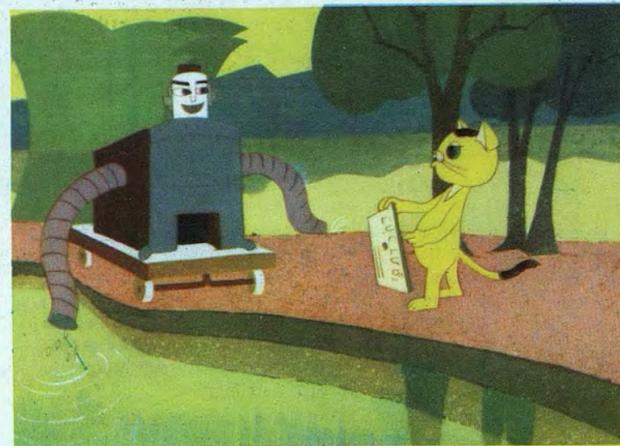
3. Pencil draws a "Castle of Happiness". Lazy Cat wishes he could come and live there, imagining that in such a place one would do nothing but eat and play (above, near right).



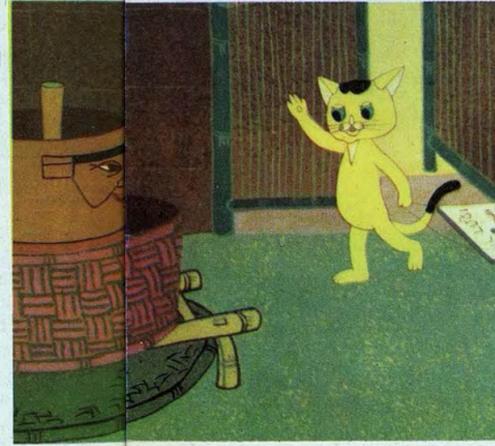
4. But how to get enough money to buy his train ticket to the Castle of Happiness? Handmill suggests that as Lazy Cat has such a big "lump of laziness" in his fat tummy, he could perhaps try and sell it.



5. Lazy Cat vainly tries to sell his treasure to Buffalo...



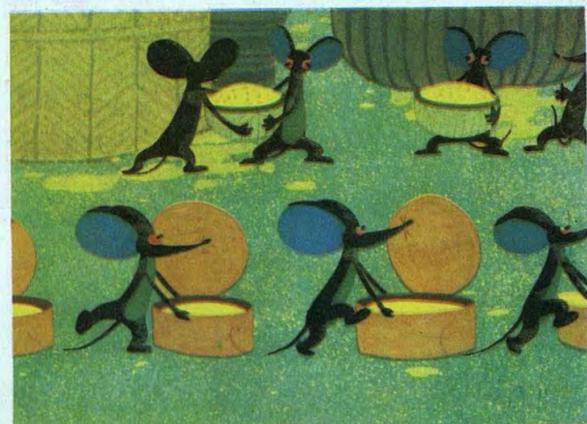
6. ... and to Water Pump. Neither of these hard-working fellows has any use for it.



7. Finally, Handmill says he would buy Cat's "lump of laziness" on condition that Cat would do away with the pilfering mice. Cat promises to do his best.



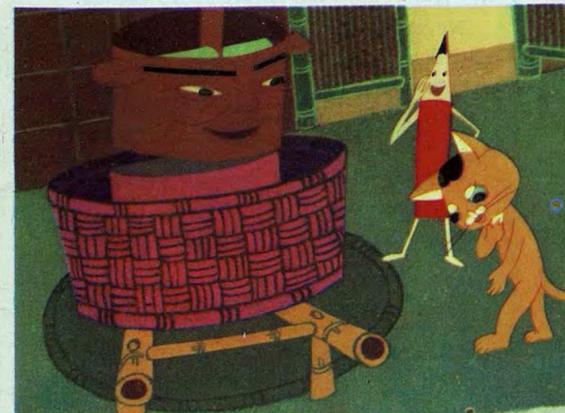
8. For the moment, however, he goes to sleep and dreams of having a wonderful time at the Castle of Happiness.



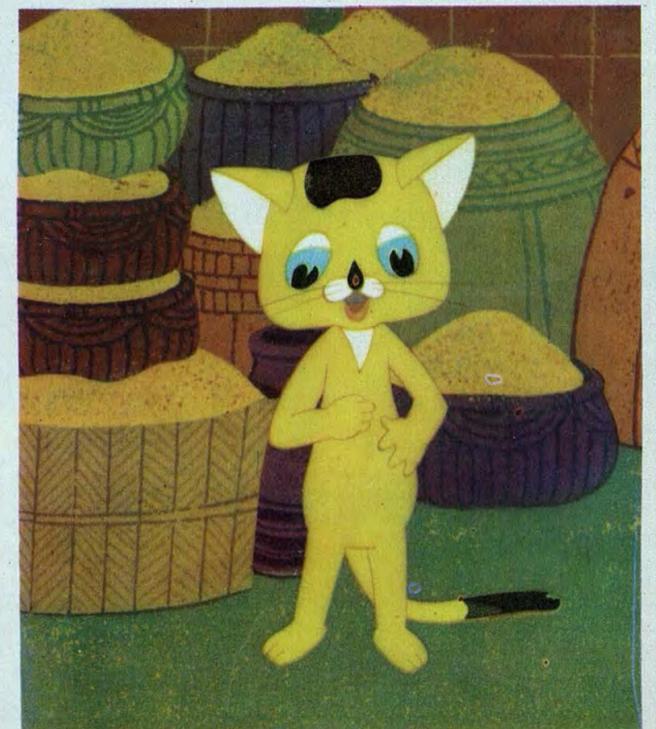
9. The mice of course take full advantage of the occasion.



10. But presently Cat wakes up and remembers his pledge to Handmill. The mice are quickly disposed of.



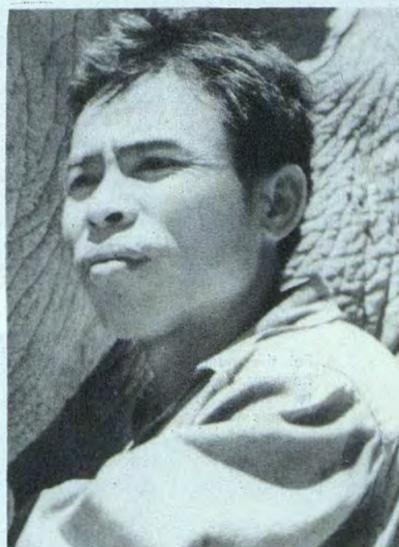
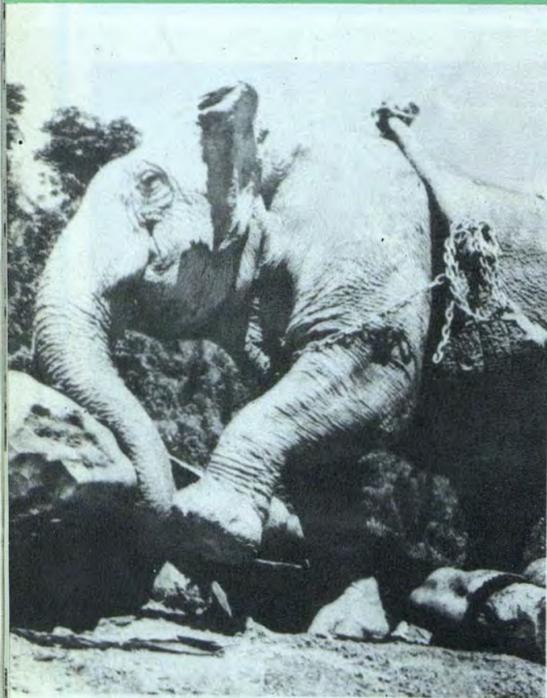
11. Now Cat wants to take out his "lump of laziness" to sell it to Handmill. But, how strange, the lump has vanished and his tummy is now so lean! This is the result of his recent exertion.



12. Now he understands that honest labour is the source of all happiness.

WOOD FOR THE DELTA

HO XUAN HA



THERE are 41 of them, living in lonely shacks amidst deep jungle. They have set foot on many places that had never before been reached by man. Yet they are no explorers, just lumbermen coming here as this remote place has an abundance of valuable timber. But in this area, however, with its rugged terrain, biting cold, and torrential rain all of nature seems unkind.

Nevertheless the Trung Chinh brigade of the Con Cuong Lumber Extraction Site in western Nghe An province has overcome all difficulties and overfulfilled its State plan for six consecutive years.

34-year-old Brigade leader Nguyen Ngoc Lai, an "Outstanding Cadre" for 12 years running and a deputy to the National Assembly, said to us:

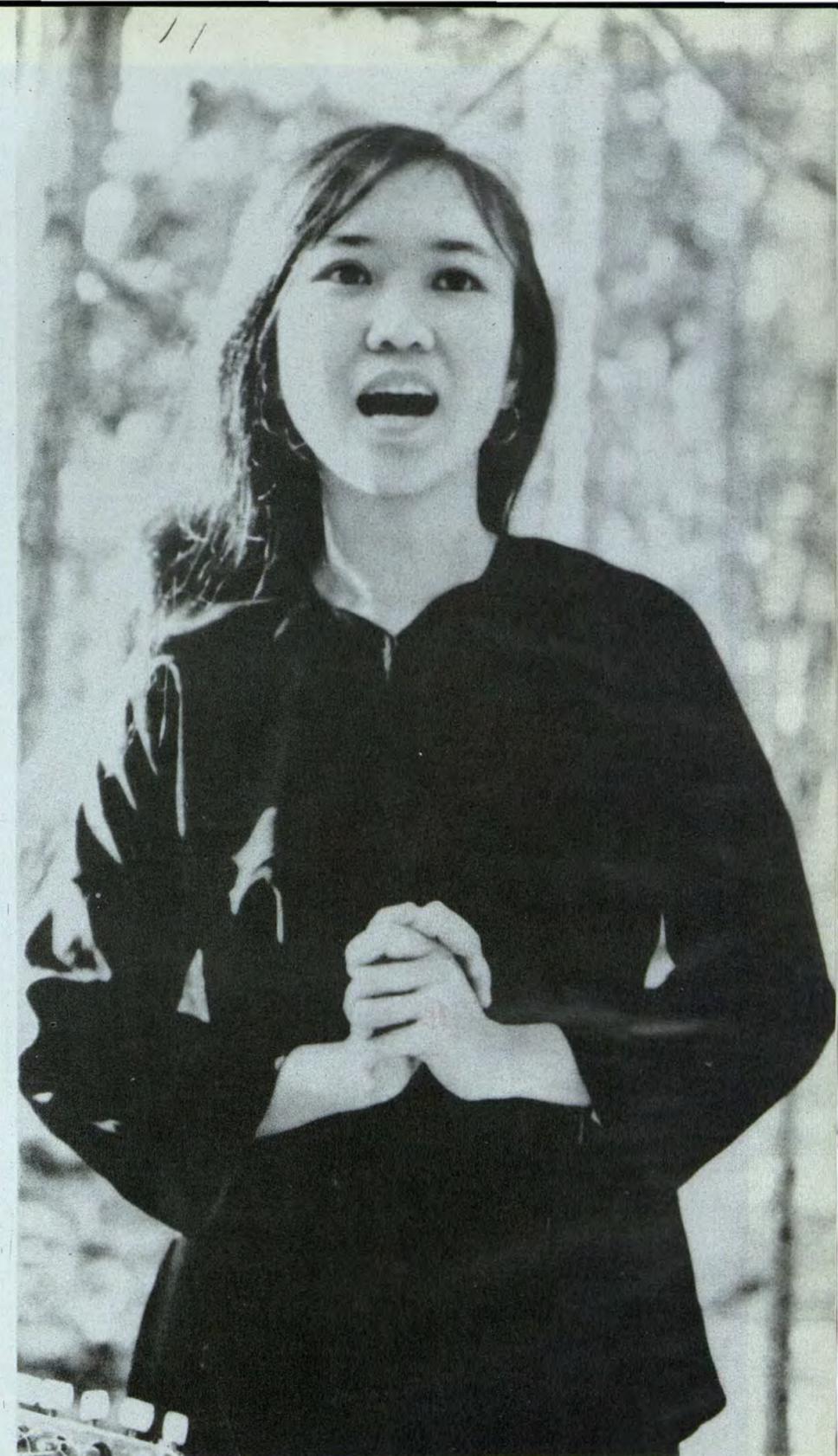
"Our country is in urgent need of timber for healing the wounds of the war and national construction. So we've done our best to get as much wood moved to the delta as possible. In this silent struggle, we've scored repeated successes thanks to a realistic plan, a good organization of work and the improvement of our workers' life."

A modest and discreet man, Nguyen Ngoc Lai did not mention their brave spirit of labour and the solidarity and mutual affection of his mates.

The country is still poor and most of the brigade's work is still done by hand but its members have made the best use possible of existing mechanical means. Besides tractors and lorries for transporting logs to the timber yards, buffaloes and elephants are also used. Elephants in particular are quite able to roll the logs downhill and heap them into piles at their destination. Each elephant can move 3-5 tons of wood at one time across deep streams and bumpy roads in thick jungle.

Every year, the Trung Chinh brigade fells and shifts thousands of cubic metres of wood, hundreds of thousands of bamboo poles and many other forestry products for the plain.

The clear blue Lam river lends them a hand carrying these precious materials down to the delta where they will be used to rebuild cities, villages, schools and hospitals devastated by the war.



NGOC DUNG, an artist of the Cai Luong (renovated theatre) in the art ensemble of Long An province near Saigon. She joined its "Young Shoot" troupe at the age of 10 and over the past ten years she has acted in enemy-held areas bringing revolutionary songs even to people in many enemy "strategic hamlets".

Photo : LE BA THUYEN



- ✪ A "living crane" in action.
- ✪ The Lam river at Con Cuong (above, right).
- ✪ Elephant-keeper Nguyen Dinh Cat, an "Outstanding Worker" of the Forestry Service (right).
- ✪ On their way to the timber-yard.

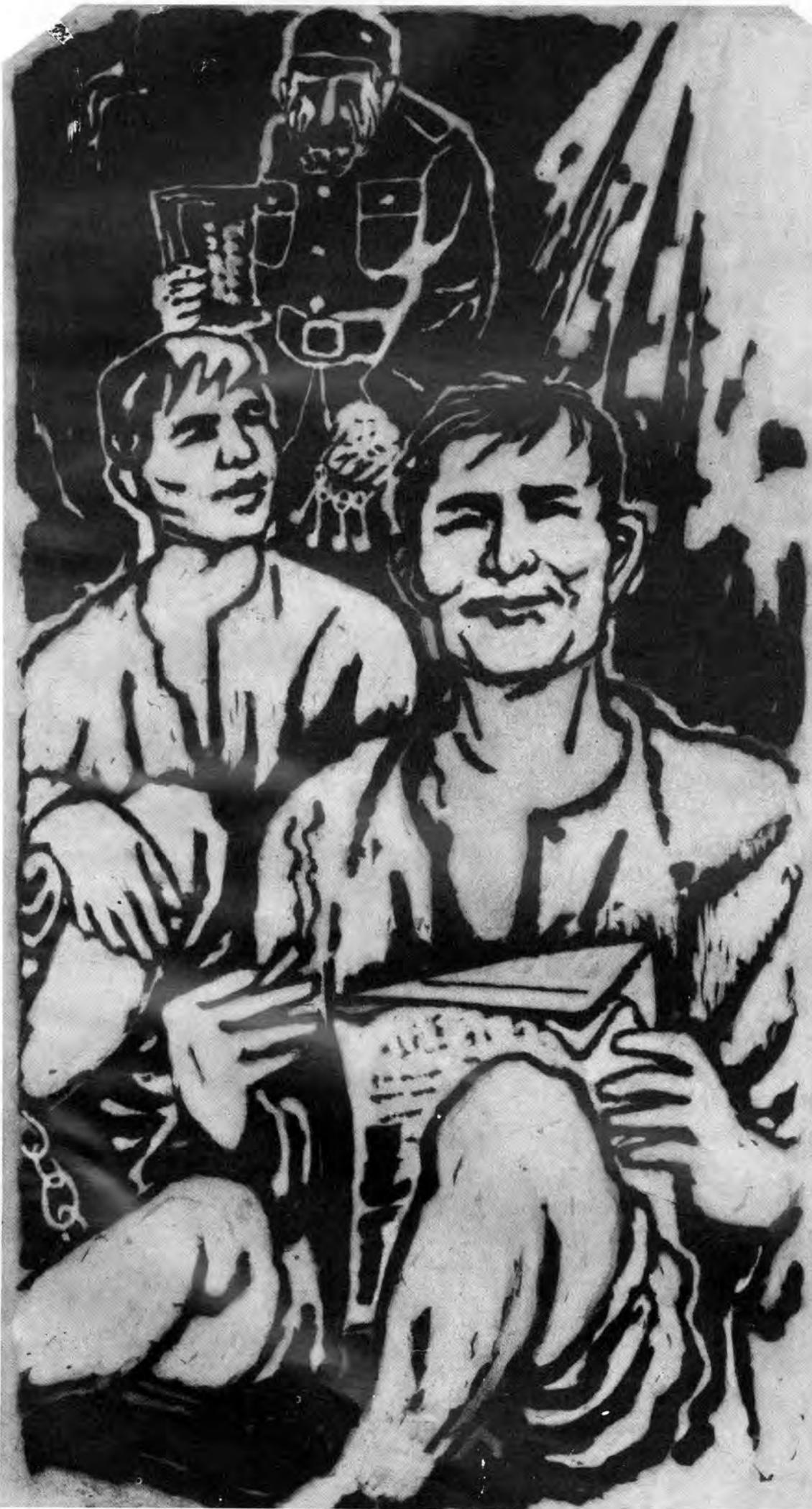


THE PEASANTS' STRUGGLE AGAINST ENEMY TAX COLLECTION BEFORE THE AUGUST REVOLUTION.

Lacquer painting by NGUYEN TU NGHIEM—1960
(Fine Arts Museum)

Editor's note : On the occasion of the 45th anniversary of the foundation of the Viet Nam Workers' Party (February 3, 1975), we publish excerpts from a memoir by Le Van Luong, now Secretary of the Central Committee of the VNWP, on his days in the French colonialists' condemned cells.

Illustration : TRONG AN



At the age of nineteen I was arrested and put in the dock at "The Trial of the Indochinese Communist Party".

Sung (1) and I were transferred to Saigon Central prison.

Upon arrival at the section for prisoners sentenced to death I heard a very familiar voice calling, "Luong, Luong, come here ; let's share this cell together." The person calling me was Hung (2). He was enjoying a rest sitting close to the door of the cell. At the period, prisoners in this section demanded that the door of the cell be opened a few times a day to let the light in and to enable them to look outside.

Thanh and Ro (3) also greeted us, "Come here, the cell is rather narrow to hold all of us, but it doesn't matter."

In all we were seven people living in one cell. ... Some days later, the French chief guard came in. He told Hung, "The appeal court agrees with the verdict of death passed against you, but as there has been a more recent trial, the decision from Paris has not yet arrived. I am telling you this because I know you are not afraid of death. I have bought some rum and cigars, one glass of rum and one cigar for each of you."

We had been told that the French gave rum and cigars to prisoners sentenced to death just before the execution to cheer them up.

Hung asked, "Why don't we have them now ? The execution might happen at any time."

The chief guard brought some rum and three cigars. Hung declared, "We are seven people here and there are provisions for three only. It is not enough."

The additional shares were brought in. We all smoked our cigars and soon the cell was filled with smoke.

For some days, Hung appeared in court and was absent from "home". Thanh and Ro in the meantime resumed their old habit of cursing and beating the guards. The latter came to us and complained about this. After inquiry, we learnt that the guards were rude to them.

Nevertheless, that was not the root cause. Since Mot Dam (4) had been executed, Thanh's and Ro's concern had increased. They guessed that the day of their execution was approaching and sometimes gave free rein to their violent tempers. We sought to appease them by our advice. We exposed the evils of society which had led them to crime. Thanh and Ro spoke of the days they had spent in Poulo Condor and of their bad treatment at the hands of the chief guard and other jailers there. In Poulo Condor the regime was extremely harsh. Many detainees committed suicide. Some of them, when a murder occurred, claimed to be the author in order to finish up with a "death sentence". I proceeded to explain, bit by bit each day and in a mild manner, until Thanh and Ro finally understood.

*
* *

After a time, the prison guards asked us, "Do you want to lodge an appeal ?"

"Yes," we replied, "all the more so, as we have committed no offence and death sentences have been imposed on us."

We subsequently signed applications for appeal. Barrister Cancelleri, who had been sent by the International Red Relief to act as our defence counsel, often visited us. He came each time with gifts of food and cigars. One day, he handed us some money. We refused it.

"We have everything we need. It's already very kind of you to have defended us."

"The money has been sent to you by the International Red Relief," Cancelleri replied.

"Has it ? We will accept then. Please convey our thanks to the International Red Relief."

Cancelleri told us that the French Communist Party was waging a campaign demanding a reversal of the death sentences imposed on us. We had vaguely heard this information before, when we read French newspapers.

How had the French papers reached us ? When we asked to borrow some newspapers to read, the chief guard dared not lend us Saigon papers, but he handed us copies of *L'Intransigeant*, the *Marseillais* and *Paris Soir*.

"These are the papers I have and as a special favour I will lend them to you," he said.

From then on we read newspapers every day. We were particularly interested in the Leipzig trial of Comrade Dimitrov by the Hitlerite fascists. The trial, which echoed throughout the world, was reported with abundant details by the bourgeois papers. In our cell, we followed its developments closely, even more closely than those living outside the prison. We read Comrade Dimitrov's

defence statements and learnt the way he based himself on existing reactionary legislation to defend his Party and to accuse imperialism. We learnt many things, from the spirit and the attitude of the communist militant who defended the Communist International, and the Bulgarian Communist Party and nation, who pointed an accusing finger at the faces of the Goerings and the Hitlers, to the experience of struggle in court. French bourgeois papers described him as "Dimitrov, the brave man".

We took interest in reading these reports and felt very proud and our maturity increased.

"Had we gained this experience before," we said among ourselves, "in court the other day we would have given the French the kind of answers they deserved." During that period, we succeeded in establishing communication with political prisoners in the front prison building. We borrowed books from the prison library and wrote invisibly on

imperialism!", "Long live the Indochinese Communist Party!" The slogan was shouted calmly. We all heard them, and knew that Thanh and Ro were going to death. Silently we glanced at each other.

The chief guard came in. "Your friends have bid you farewell. Did you hear them?" he asked.

"Yes."
"There are two cigars left... Will you smoke them?"

We took the two remaining cigars from the packet which had been given to Thanh and Ro that morning.

After hesitating a bit the chief guard said: "The two men are not of your group, so why did they shout slogans?"

"There is nothing strange in this. They have realized where good sense lies. Every thinking person will condemn you. Are't you aware of that?"

READY TO FACE THE GUILLOTINE

them using boiled rice liquid. We informed the comrades in the other building of the titles of the books concerned. They then borrowed them and painted on a page, previously agreed between us, with a solution of tincture of iodine to make the letters appear. By this method, we were informed of the situation outside. As we were awaiting the execution day, we did not give any information on our personal situation.

Behind our cell was a row of papaws. Sparrows often came there and cheered us with their twittering. One day, petty-offence prisoners came with long sticks and poles to chase them away. They said they had received the order from the chief guard to protect the papaws and to keep the ripe fruit for us. We invited them to come in, and told them, "If you chase the birds away we shall lose the pleasure of listening to their twittering. This doesn't matter, but you should keep the ripe papaws for the children in the women's cell. They are innocent yet are confined there."

One day, the jailers brought us a large quantity of good food. We did not know where the food came from. Later we realized that they had taken it away from the parents and wives of petty-offence prisoners who had brought these gifts to their sons and husbands in prison. We then said to the jailers, "Those people are leading a harder life than we. We forbid you to take anything away from them."

The jailers admired us more and more. Some of them were moved to the point of telling us that they repented and apologizing.

We told them, "We are fighting the French and the imperialists, we feel no enmity towards you." Their admiration for us grew.

Whole days were spent in entertainment and fun, playing games, singing songs and performing operas. When the cell door was open and people walked past, we always found something pleasant or funny to say to them.

At night when we heard street-vendors shouting their wares we jokingly repeated their calls. "Who will buy coconut juice with sugar?" We then felt as if we were actually walking along the pavement. Noises coming from outside revived memories of street and factory activities and we felt an unbearable nostalgia for them.

One day, Thanh and Ro fell ill, although not seriously. The prison warders came and told them to go to the prison hospital. This was a pretext to take the men to their execution. Before leaving, they spoke to us, "You said earlier that before we die we should keep our awareness and shout slogans. Now tell us some of these."

They had guessed what would happen to them. We, too, share their apprehension. If they had lived, they would have become honest men.

Some days later, at five o'clock in the morning, we heard slogans echoing from the distance—faint, but quite perceptible: "Down with French

With an uneasy smile he went away. For people like him it takes time to understand many things.

Six months elapsed. For thirteen months Hung had been in the condemned cell. It was my sixth month in prison. We discussed plans for everything—how to walk to the guillotine and how to face it, so that when death came, we should die in a fitting manner. We asked the guards for a description of the guillotine. They provided us with every detail, and asked me why we got interested in it.

"I want to know thoroughly," I said, "not to be caught unawares when facing it."

We asked them about the proceedings and the way they take prisoners to the execution. They explained everything.

Usually this question is put to the victim, "Do you want to have the last rites?" (A Catholic priest was present at executions).

Our answer would be: "What should I want them for?"

"Is there anything you want to say?", the French would ask, because they presumed that when the prisoner faced death, he might lose his self-control and confess, hoping that this confession would save his soul. The French were very shrewd indeed, but they should not have expected us to confess anything. They would ask this question, "Do you want to leave a message for your family?" Well, a question like this was welcome. According to imperialist regulations, each prisoner was allowed to write one letter only. For this we had our plan: Le Van Sung's wife named Sau Diec, was a courageous militant whom he loved very much. It would be better that Le Van Sung write to his wife. Hung and I would, on behalf of the comrades, write to Ngo Gia Tu and other comrades in Poulo Condor, who were our close and most cherished comrades-in-arms.

We prepared in advance our statements to be made before the guillotine. They were aimed at condemning imperialism, making propaganda for the Party and exhorting the masses. As they would not allow the worker-peasant masses to attend our execution and there would not be much time, we prepared something straightforward and concise. We chose the four following slogans: "Down with French imperialism", "Long live the Indochinese Communist Party", "Long live the Indochinese Revolution", and "Long live the Communist International".

We then learnt to sing "The Internationale". The song was to be sung in rhythm and unison in the execution yard. At that time "The Internationale" had already been translated into Vietnamese language. The version of that time did not differ very much from the current one, apart from two or three words.

From then on, every night we went to bed early, because we knew that the condemned men were usually taken for execution at about 5 o'clock in the morning. We wanted to get up early and have

time to wash ourselves, do our hair and dress properly before final stroke.

These were the preparations for the day of our execution, which we carried out each day.

In the seventh month of my imprisonment, the chief guard came one day and said, "Why have you not applied for an amnesty?" "Why should we do so," we retorted, "we have committed no crime. To make revolutions is not a crime. We want only to appeal, to oppose your justice and your law, but we will never apply for an amnesty. It depends on you whether you behead us or not."

The chief guard and the public prosecutor came in turn and sought to influence me, arguing, "You are still young, there is still a long life ahead of you. Besides you have an education..."

These words were repeated over and over again by the chief guard and the prosecutor for two days. We could not bear hearing the same advice continuously repeated; we sent them away and had done with them.

Cancelleri also came (it might have been under pressure from the public prosecutor).

"You have not applied for an amnesty and have defended your prestige as Party members," he told us. "This is a lofty attitude. However, in my opinion, you should apply for an amnesty. It is only a matter of proceeding which does not affect nor harm the honour of the Party."

"To date you have assisted us in many ways," we replied. "We thank you very much for that, but this time, we ask you to agree to our not following your advice."

At that time, in France the movement for the release of political prisoners in Indochina was very strong. The imperialists had wanted us to sign applications for an amnesty. We would do no such thing! At nights we continued to practice singing and went to bed as early as before. In the mornings, we rose early, dressed and did our hair, and waited for the final call.

About a month later, the chief guard entered, rubbing his hand "Well, now... it is finished," he said.

"What is finished?" we asked.

"It is now over for you, you will go tomorrow," he said.

"We shall go tomorrow, shall we? Well, we are ready. We have been waiting for a long time already," we answered.

"No, I mean that you will leave here for another place... to Poulo Condor."

The French Communist Party launched a vigorous campaign, demanding an amnesty for "the 10,000 political prisoners in Indochina, especially the cancellation of ten death sentences." This struggle, inspired by proletarian internationalism, eventually won. But when the chief guard reported the news to us, he juggled with words to see if there was any sign of apprehension among us. Later, Cancelleri showed us press articles and parliamentary statements by French communist deputies. We then realized clearly that through the 7 to 8 months of our imprisonment, the French workers and people had waged a relentless struggle to save our lives.

Hung, Sung and I, said to one another, "We owe our lives to the French proletariat."

In the early days of January 1934, we left Saigon Central prison for Poulo Condor. Leaving an underground hell, we landed in an earthly hell. Eleven years later, Hung and I were still sharing the same iron collars and fetters as we had done in the condemned cell. We resumed our militant activities and struggle. Hung was very determined. His prison certificate was filled with the red marks of the scars from the innumerable punishments he had received. Following the triumph of the Revolution, our Party and Government sent a ship to take us to the mainland. We returned to Saigon at the very moment the French started the hostilities there on September 23, 1945.

A new struggle began...

1. Le Quang Sung, from Quang Nam province, was the first Secretary of the Cho Lon Provincial Party Committee. He laid down his life along with Ngo Gia Tu and To Chan when trying to escape from the Poulo-Condor jail through high seas.

2. Pham Hung, now Political Bureau member of the VNWPPC.

3. Thanh and Ro: two common law offenders who were detained at Poulo-Condor and later sentenced to death for having committed murder.

4. Môt Dam: a prisoner charged with murder in Gia Dinh province.

RIDING CAPTURED AMERICAN TANKS

A story told by Quang Minh, a PLAF tank-driver, about how he rode to battle the captured American M. 41 tank bearing the number 071.



Photos : NGOC THONG

Riding captured enemy tanks, gunner Nguyen Van He has blown up scores of bunkers and pillboxes.

IT was dusk when we made our way to the battlefield, from which the enemy had been routed. The road was lined with carcasses of US-made armoured vehicles. From far away came the distant reports of heavy artillery. Clusters of flares were floating in the sky.

Although tired out by several days and nights of forced march, we set to work at once trying to retrieve abandoned enemy armour and other weapons. These were to replenish our own armoury.

Noticing an almost intact M.41 tank, we examined it carefully. It had been hit by several projectiles. The electric wiring had been cut in various places. A few parts had been smashed. We tried to start the engine but in vain.

We had only some book knowledge about this type of American combat vehicle. Never-

theless all of us were determined to put it back into working order. That booty had cost us much sweat and blood. It must be made to serve the Liberation army.

We spent many sleepless nights studying the blueprints and doing the repairs. We replaced the damaged parts and re-established the electrical circuits and fuel piping system. We thus put back to life first the auxiliary engine, then the main engine.

The same patient work was done on other captured vehicles, all more or less damaged. One by one many knocked-out tanks and armoured personnel carriers were thus made shipshape and taken to base.

We spent a great deal of time and effort studying our trophies and learning to drive them and use their weapons and signals systems.

Eventually, one day, a column entirely made up of captured vehicles started on the road, heading for S., where an enemy battalion had encroached.

The order was given for attack. In the van, Nguyen Khac Don, our unit commander, was riding an M.41 tank driven by Chu Minh Xuyen. In spite of strong enemy reaction, it successively broke through three defence lines and was now attacking the fourth. The driver handled the tank skilfully, manoeuvring it so as always to offer enemy fire-power the smallest and hardest-to-hit surface. Gunner Duong Van Binh was having his baptism of fire. He none the less slammed all his nine shells on target. A blockhouse soon burst into flames under his blows.

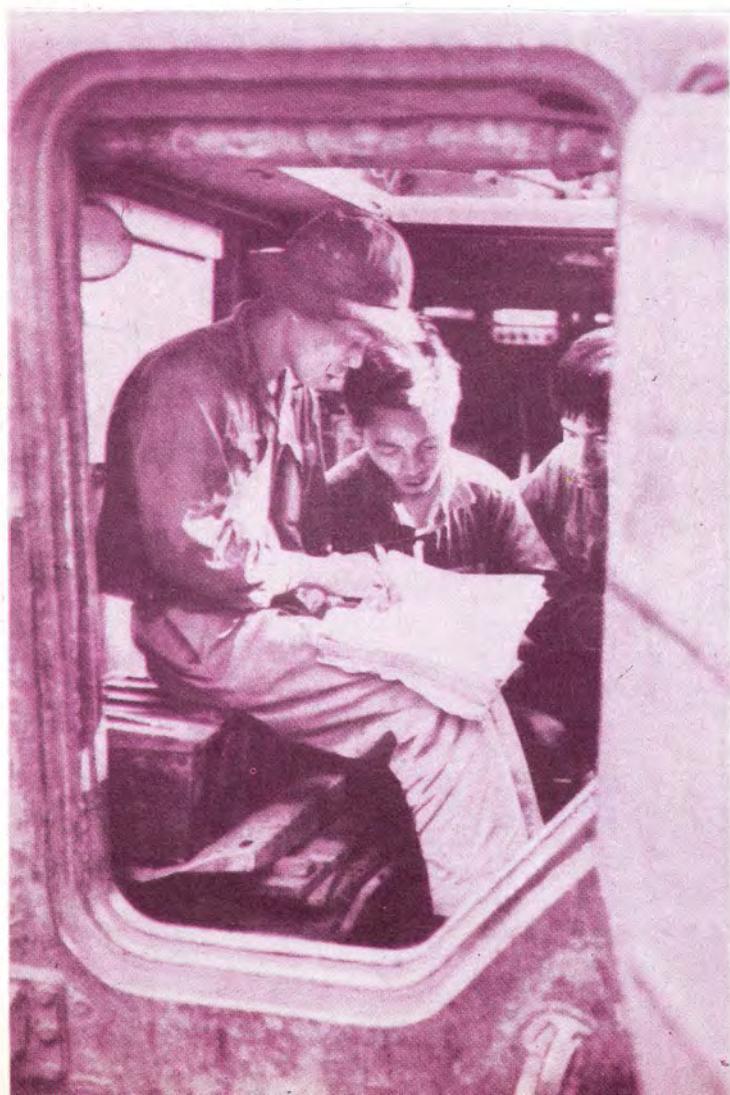
The other tanks also fought beautifully. One had but one engine left but kept moving and firing. Another had its gun

jammed, but the driver revved up his engine and made it roar thunderously, shaking enemy morale and creating favourable conditions for our assault squads to rush forward.

An enemy tank squadron was stationed nearby. But its commander was so afraid of annihilation that it never came to the rescue of the attacked position.

After an agony lasting barely 20 minutes, the S. position, standing at an important point northwest of Saigon, was destroyed.

The battle was a historic event, for it marked the beginning of the unceasing growth of PLAF armour. More and more enemy combat vehicles have since been captured. Those US-supplied weapons have been used with ever higher combat efficiency by the Liberation forces who have meted out deserved punishment to all encroaching enemy forces.



Top : When that tank was seized by the PLAF, its engine was still running and its guns had not had time to fire a single shot.

Left : They have not only solid theoretical knowledge of this type of American combat car...
Above : ... but have also learnt to handle it skillfully.

Photos : DUY NHAN

CUTTING winds are blowing. Yet the fields under tomato, potato, cabbage, turnip-cabbage, etc., at the Minh Sinh co-operative are covered with a splendid green.

Like other co-operatives in the North, Minh Sinh (Ha Tay province) is reorganizing its work and beginning to build the material and technical bases for an agricultural production along the line of large-scale socialist production.

In the early 1960s, with its old method of farming, Minh Sinh could only produce two crops a year and had an average annual yield of four tons of paddy per hectare.

At that time, people harvested the autumn rice in mid-December and in mid-January of the following year, they started transplanting the winter-spring rice seedlings. Nothing was grown in the period between these two crops, which is the coldest period in the year with an average temperature of 12°C. This is a very favourable temperature for plants grown in temperate regions. But one month and a half was too short a period for an additional crop.

The planting of new strains of rice with a short growing period and high yield has made it possible for the co-op to have three months available in between the autumn and spring crops to grow a supplementary winter crop.

With its many short-evolution plants, the winter crop is a source of vegetables for the population and export, and a source of abundant food for making animal husbandry a major branch in agricultural production. It also helps in improving the soil through crop rotation.

However, as a result of the backwardness and dispersion of Minh Sinh's bases of production while land and farming implements were distributed equally to production brigades which accounted each for only some dozens of working people, and with the lack of unified management throughout the co-operative, it was not able to take on an additional crop and raise its paddy output to more than five tons per hectare per year.

Hence, the urgent need for Minh Sinh as well as for other co-ops in the North to reorganize production in the direction of centralization and specialization and to use collective labour as a "technical necessity" to boost production.



Minh Sinh co-op members prepare for the winter crop while harvesting the autumn crop.

Through its persevering and bold efforts over the past ten years, Minh Sinh has step by step realized the new organization of work. Its ricefields have been delimited for specialization, and brigades specialized in hydraulics, seeds, stockbreeding, cultivation, etc. have been set up. Plans for production and the distribution of goods have been unified in the entire co-operative. Besides, Minh Sinh has done its best to apply technical measures concerning irrigation work, the transformation of the soil, the intensive use of fertilizers, the introduction of new strains of rice, etc. As a result, rice yields have gradually increased.

In 1974, Minh Sinh brought in 12 tons of paddy per hectare (two crops). Its pig herd quadrupled in comparison with 1966. Ten years ago, it had to buy 15 tons of paddy each year from the State. In 1974 on the contrary, Minh Sinh sold to the State 300 tons of paddy and 60 tons of pork. The yield in cash of each hectare of land at Minh Sinh was 8,000 **dongs**. The value of each work-day doubled in comparison with 1966.

Anyone who visits the Minh Sinh co-op now in winter will see a splendid robe of green instead of the desolate and bleak scenery of the past.

GREEN FIELDS IN WINTER

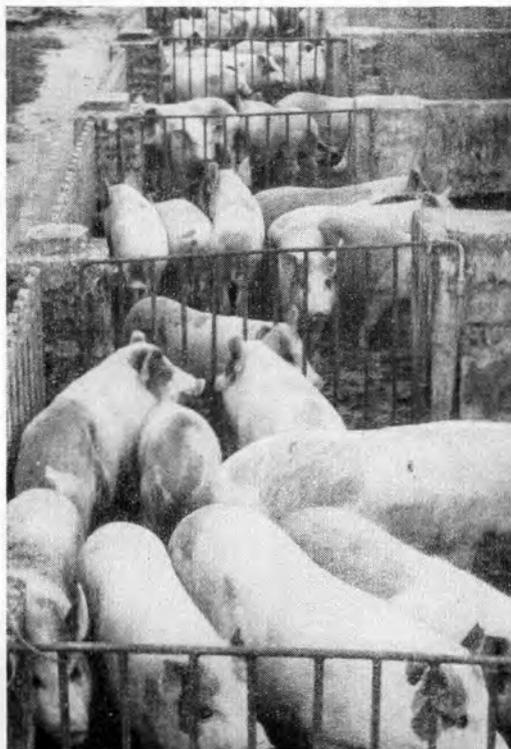
Text : HONG HIEU

Photos : TRAN HO and HOANG HOA

Nguyen Kim He, President of the Minh Sinh co-operative for 12 years : "Thanks to the winter crop, we have more food to make stockbreeding a major branch in agricultural production."

Right : Minh Sinh pigs.

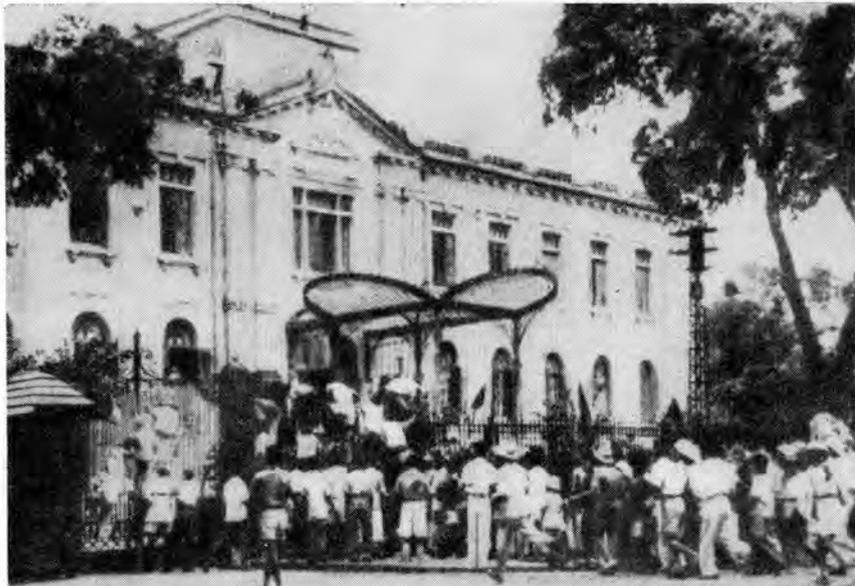
Far right :
At a market in the city.



When the fields put on a splendid robe of verdure.



THE SUCCESSFUL AUGUST REVOLUTION AND THE FOUNDATION OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM



Under the leadership of the Party, Hanoi people rose up on August 19, 1945 to wrest back power. Pictured is the offensive against the Bac Bo (North Viet Nam) Governor's Palace.

June 1945: The *Liberated Zone*, an image of the new Viet Nam, came into being, embracing six provinces of the Viet Bac mountainous area. Besides, many resistance zones and revolutionary bases were set up in other localities.

August 1945: The situation was ripe for the revolution in Viet Nam.

August 10, 1945: The Japanese Emperor surrendered to the Allied Forces.

August 13, 1945: The National Conference of the Indochinese Communist Party decided to form the *National Insurrectionary Committee* and set forth three principles of action for the general uprising: *concentration, unity, timing*. It called on all the members of the Party "to be clear-sighted in their leadership and determined to make sacrifices in the fight to win back independence for the homeland, and be worthy of being the vanguard force of the nation."

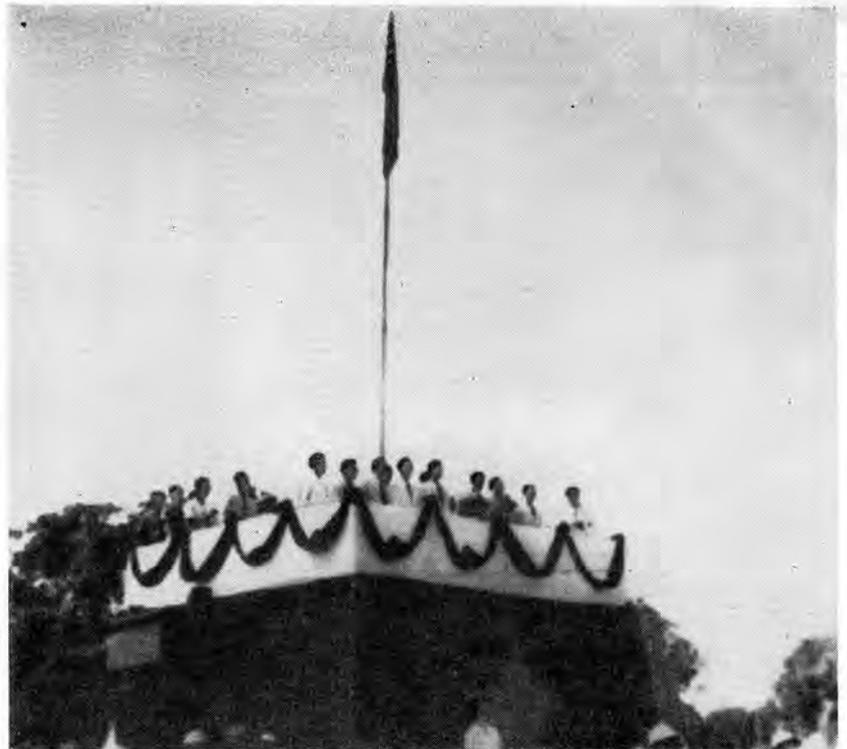
August 16, 1945: The *National People's Congress*, convened by President Ho Chi Minh, opened in Tan Trao (Tuyen Quang province) with the participation of representatives from North, Central and South Viet Nam and from all political parties and mass organizations symbolizing

the spirit of solidarity and union of the nation. The *National People's Congress* passed the *Order for General Insurrection* and elected the *Viet Nam National Liberation Committee*, which was to become the Provisional Government, led by Comrade Ho Chi Minh.

"The decisive hour has struck for the destiny of our people. Let all of us stand up and rely on our own strength to free ourselves."

The general uprising quickly spread to the whole country. Hanoi rose up on August 19, Hue, on August 23 and Saigon, on August 25. Within 12 days, the regime of the imperialists and colonialists and their feudal agents was overthrown throughout Viet Nam despite the fact that 60,000 Japanese troops were at that time still stationed in this country not to speak of the 30,000 local mercenaries.

August 26, 1945: President Ho Chi Minh returned to Hanoi and presided over the first meeting of the Provisional Government. He decided to enlarge the Provisional Government to draw in other members symbolizing the policy of broad union and the single-mindedness of the entire people.



On September 2, 1945, at Ba Dinh Square in Hanoi, President Ho Chi Minh reads the Declaration of Independence, solemnly proclaiming the foundation of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, the first worker-peasant State in South-East Asia.

September 2, 1945: On behalf of the Provisional Government, President Ho Chi Minh read the Declaration of Independence at Ba Dinh Square in Hanoi, solemnly proclaiming the foundation of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, the first people's democratic State in South-East Asia:

"Viet Nam has the right to enjoy freedom and independence and in fact has become a free and independent country. The entire Vietnamese people are determined to mobilize all their phys-

ical and mental strength, to sacrifice their lives and property in order to safeguard their freedom and independence."

For the first time in Viet Nam's history, the State power belonged to the labouring people. A new era opened, that of genuine independence and freedom.

Text: Bui Huu Khanh
(Institute of History)
Photos: Viet Nam News Agency

Casting ballots to elect the first National Assembly of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam (January 6, 1946).



WELCOME TO THE DISTINGUISHED CAMBODIAN GUESTS!



AT THE INVITATION OF PRESIDENT TON DUC THANG, SAMDECH NORODOM SIHANOUK, HEAD OF STATE OF CAMBODIA, PRINCESS MONIQUE SIHANOUK AND OTHER DISTINGUISHED CAMBODIAN GUESTS PAID A VISIT TO THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM TO ENJOY THE AT MAO LUNAR NEW YEAR FESTIVAL WITH THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE.

Premier Pham Van Dong, Head of State Norodom Sihanouk and Princess Monique Sihanouk at the Thong Nhat (Reunification) Park in Hanoi.

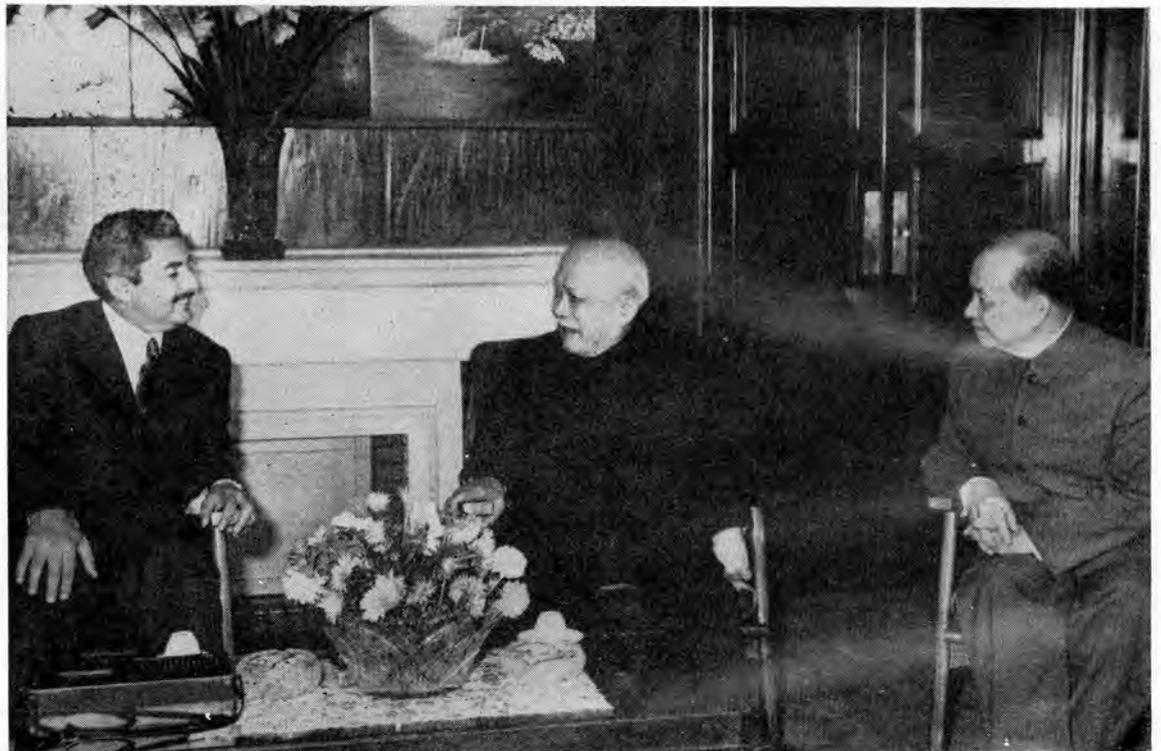
Photo : THE TRUNG

MEETINGS

CO-OPERATION

FRIENDSHIP

Ton Duc Thang (*centre*), President of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and Truong Chinh (*right*), Chairman of the DRVN National Assembly, cordially receive Salem Rubaya Ali (*left*), Chairman of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen during his friendship visit to the DRVN.



Far left :

Le Duan (*centre*), First Secretary of the Viet Nam Workers' Party Central Committee, has a friendly talk with His Excellency Ieng Sary (*left*), Head of the Economic and Financial delegation of the National United Front of Kampuchea and the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia.

Photo : THE TRUNG

The delegation of the Mexican Communist Party headed by Valentino Campo, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee, visits the Army Museum.

Photo : THE TRUNG

Photos : VU TAO,
NGOC DAN and
HOANG NHU THINH



President Ton Duc Thang warmly welcomes the sons and daughters coming from the great front-line.



During a reception at the Presidential Palace in honour of the delegation. Centre : President Ton Duc Thang ; third from right : Le Duan, First Secretary of the V N W P C C ; right : Truong Chinh, Chairman of the DRVN National Assembly Standing Committee ; third from left : Premier Pham Van Dong ; left : General Vo Nguyen Giap.

THE FRATERNAL LOVE BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH

Amidst days of resounding victories scored by the South Vietnamese armed forces and people, the entire population in the North was overjoyed and deeply moved to receive the delegation of Hero-Units, Heroes, Heroines and Outstanding Combatants of the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces which was paying a visit to the North

to attend the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Viet Nam People's Army. These are elite sons and daughters of the South—the "Brass Wall of the Fatherland"—"heroes and heroines of the nation and of the epoch with a truly wonderful intelligence and courage," as Premier Pham Van Dong declared.



Left to right :

- ★ PLAF Heroine Nguyen Thi Phuc (centre) and women gunners from the militia forces of Ngu Thuy village, a "Hero Unit" in Quang Binh province.
- ★ The delegates visit the native village of Uncle Ho.
- ★ Among their fellow-countrymen of the national minorities in the Tay Bac (North-West) region.
- ★ A pioneer in the capital singing the song : "My Uncle Liberation Combatant !" in honour of the delegation.

During its stay in the North, the delegation was given a hearty welcome by President Ton Duc Thang and other Party and State leaders. In Hanoi and everywhere it went, the delegation had moving encounters with various sections of the people of the North whose thoughts are constantly turning to their southern

brothers and sisters as they work hard day and night to heal the war wounds and build socialism.

Through their welcome to the delegation, more than 23 million compatriots in the North have sent their greetings to the National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary

Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, the organizers and leaders of every victory of the South Vietnamese population in its anti-US struggle for national salvation.

At a grand reception in honour of the delegation, General Vo Nguyen Giap said: "In their visit, the delegates have convey-

ed to the people of the North the fraternal feelings, enduring force and confidence in success of the armed forces and people in the South. Upon their return, they will bring back the deep sentiments and iron-like determination of the northern armed forces and people to their compatriots and combatants in the South."

Ta Quang Ty (left), Hero of the South Viet Nam Liberation Army, and Colonel Tran Hanh (right) of the People's Air Force, Hero of the Viet Nam People's Army.





Pom Kham hamlet.

A girl of Lao Lum nationality.



A VISIT TO THE LAND OF

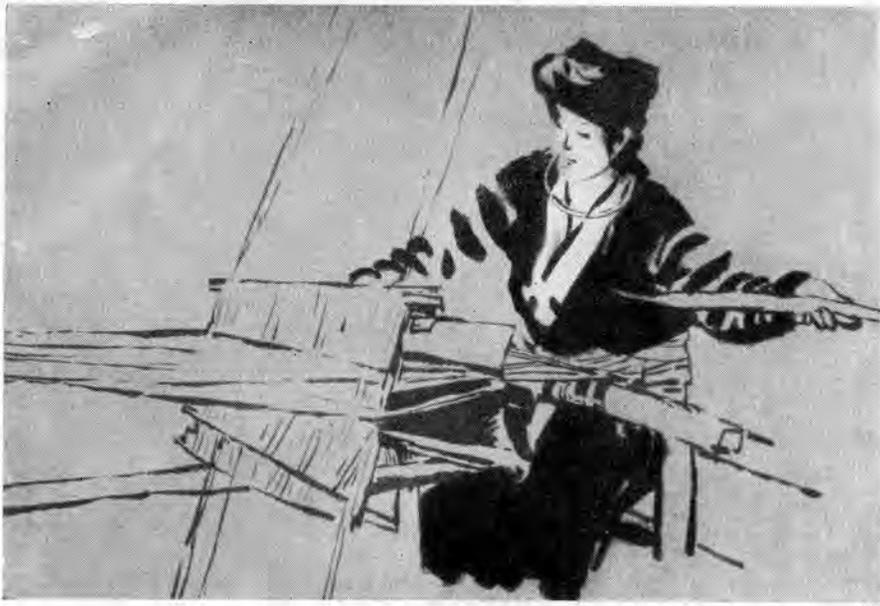
On leaving the Xieng Kho district capital, I headed towards Keo Ven village, guided by a Lao friend. Slopes followed slopes, intercalated by ravines and streams.

At Keo Ven we stopped. Neo Ta Seng, Chairman of the village's Patriotic Front, said to us: "In 1949, Kayson Phomvihane, now Vice-Chairman of the Central Committee of the Lao Patriotic Front, founded in this area the first unit of the people's armed forces named the 'Latsavong Brigade', the forerunner of the present Lao People's Liberation Army. The name Lao Hung, which means Bright Lao came into being. Many members of the 'Latsavong Brigade' have been born and matured on this historic land of Lao Hung and have become leading cadres in the army and revolutionary power."

At Keo Ven, there were two

classes: a complementary course for cadres and a class for women and children. We met Nang Noi, a charming teacher of Lao Lum nationality from the far-off delta. She had volunteered to come here to give the Lao Thong minority people a basic education. On many occasions, she was homesick for her parents. But for several years now she had joyfully remained at her post. Besides teaching, Nang Noi would join the local people in farming the burnt-out clearings or digging bamboo shoots, and was deeply loved by the villagers.

Under the former regime, how could there be solidarity between the different nationalities in Laos? As a result of the colonialists' and feudalists' "divide and rule" policy, the Lao Lum held the Lao Thong in contempt and the Lao Xung kept away from the Lao Lum. Now under the



Top : Weaving fabrics. Above : A complementary class for Lao Xung people.

THE TEMPLE OF LITERATURE

In a letter sent to "Viet Nam" Pictorial, Fedorco V., a Soviet reader, wanted to know why the Temple of Literature in Hanoi is so named, and its relations with art and literature in Viet Nam.

Following are the answers by Do Quang Toai, Chief of the Museum and Preservation Bureau of the Hanoi Cultural Service :

The Temple of Literature has in fact a more complete name : The Temple of Literature and National College.

The Temple of Literature was built in 1070 in Hanoi under the reign of King Ly Thanh Tong. At that time, it symbolized Viet Nam's literature and was a study place for the princes. Six years later, a National College was set up in the same area which in 1259 was renamed National Institute, the first university ever established in Viet Nam, accessible to princes and sons of high dignitaries and outstanding students throughout the country.

In 1482, Le Thanh Tong, a king well-known for his literary gifts in the history of feudalism in Viet Nam, ordered stelae to be erected in the Temple of Literature-National College compound to record the names of those who had received the degree of Doctors at competitions starting with the year 1442. Among the names recorded are well-known people who made major contributions to science or literature like Le Quy Don, Le Van HUU, Ngo Thi Nham,...

From that period onward, there was a stele for each competition. Through the vicissitudes of war, however, many stelae have been destroyed or got lost. Only after King Quang Trung's march to the North to fight off the Ch'ing aggressors, and on his order, were 82 stelae restored and erected again at their present spots. The most recent stele dates back to 1779.

A long-standing cultural centre and big university for the formation of talented people in Viet Nam, the Temple of Literature and National College is also a historical relic of value of Hanoi embodying the Vietnamese people's traditional love for literature.

Photo : DO HUAN



"CHAMPA" FLOWERS

Text and Water Colours by Painter Dang Duc Sinh

leadership of the Lao Patriotic Front, the Lao people live in national concord and mutual affection.

At many other villages of the Lao Xung in Phu Muot and Huoi Sai, we also met young teachers from the Lao Lum nationality. Assistant-doctor Mannivon had come from Sam Neua. A knapsack on her back and her medical kit across the shoulder, she would daily scour the region to organize hygiene and prophylactic work and give treatment to the people.

In the evening a stirring atmosphere prevailed. Large crowds of people would flood to our houses to hear reports on the political situation, production and defence work in the locality.

After leaving Lao Hung, we stopped at Xop Xai. A social was organized that night in honour of the district's campaign of agricultural production to im-

prove the people's living standard. The drum beats accompanying the Lam Vong dance fascinated us the whole night. Graceful and hospitable girls in their motley garments kept on inviting us to join the dance. Though I knew nothing about the Lam Vong, I danced with the rest.

At Xop Xai, I made acquaintance with a young doctor. He knew French and Russian and had carried out many years of study abroad. Back in the homeland, he is now accustomed to cross jungle and streams, his trousers rolled up, to give treatment to the people and bring science to combat bad customs in remote hamlets and villages.

Under the banner of the Lao Patriotic Front which has over the past 30 years led them from victory to victory, the different nationalities in the liberated area are standing united to build a decent and happy life.



VIET NAM :
LAND
AND PEOPLE

Việt nam

PICTORIAL
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THE DAU PAGODA

LOCATED at present-day Khuong Tu hamlet, Thanh Khuong village (Ha Bac province), the Dau pagoda is a very ancient architectural

work believed to have been built in the end of the 2nd century AD.

In the centre of its court, one can still find part of the Hoa Phong Tower built under the Tran kings (1225-1400) and believed to have been nine storeys high. The remaining three storeys, standing on a 6.85 metre wide square base, are 17 metres high. The whole is built with square blocks of hard bricks of a dark violet colour. In front of the tower are stone relics among them two prostrating squirrels with round eyes and lion-like noses, small bells hanging from their necks. The stone walls of the steps leading to the main section of the front altar are carved with dragon designs. Each of these fabulous animals is represented with five undulating curves and two horns with slightly protruding branches, its mouth holding a pearl and the forelegs propping up the chin.

Many other sculptural works of value are still to be found at the Dau Pagoda, in particular some very realistic statues representing Phap Van, Kim Dong, Ngoc Nu.

Photo : TRAN PHUONG

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Front cover : Trinh Thi Toan (right), an excellent worker at the March 8 Textile Mill and one of the most outstanding weavers at the competition held by the textile branch in the DRVN (1974).

Photo : TRONG THANH

Inside back cover : The golden silk yarn.

Text and photos : ANH CUONG MAI NAM

Back cover : Nguyen Minh Thang, Hero of the South Viet Nam PLAF, talks about the fight against the US aggressors.

Photo : HG HAI

We have the honour to inform our readers that instead of 12 monthly issues, eight enlarged issues of "Viet Nam" Pictorial will come out in 1975.

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VIETNAMESE ART

BIRD MAN BEATING A DRUM

The stone statuette of a bird man beating a drum — 0.4 metre high, 0.24m wide and 0.26m long — is an original work from the famous Phat Tich pagoda in Ha Bac province.

It represents a legendary personage, half-man half-bird, his eyes half-closed and his hands lightly tapping the two ends of a drum. The stone is carved with strong, clear strokes yet the sculptor has nevertheless succeeded in delicately portraying the legendary man's feathers, wings, tail, stomach and legs with the supple curves peculiar to the art works of the Ly period (XIth century). The decorative designs on the body and head of the man bear a marked national stamp.

Photo : Museum of Fine Arts



AT THE MUSEUM OF THE REVOLUTION

THE "PHILIPS" N° E5503 — E2

IN March 1945, To Huu Hanh, a telegraphist, was entrusted with seeking a wireless set for the Bac Ky (North Viet Nam) Committee of the Indochinese Communist Party. To Huu Hanh succeeded in securing a second-hand Philips (N° E5503-E2) which he put into good working order by all means available then secretly sent to a revolutionary base at La Phu village, now Quang Trung village, Hoai Duc district, Ha Tay province. Thanks to this radio set, the Bac Ky Party Committee had immediate information of the Japanese fascists' surrender to the Allied Forces and stepped up the measures necessary for the successful General Insurrection of August 19, 1945.

Photo : TRAN CU
(Museum of the Revolution)





★ Lua and Hong share in the common happiness.

THE story happens in a silkworm-raising hamlet with two brigades engaged in production emulation.

One brigade gets into trouble because of shortage in the supply of mulberry-leaves. What is the other brigade going to do? Should it take advantage of the difficult situation in which its rival is finding itself in order to rush ahead and win the race? Some of its members are rather inclined to adopt such a course. But others do not share their views. Lua, the brigade leader, is especially opposed to competition for competition's sake. The main target, she thinks, is something much more important: the growth and maturity of the collective, the renewal of the countryside, the adoption by all of a new attitude to work, better organization and greater yields, the correction of wrong conceptions. At the head of her brigade, she starts a drive to help the rival group solve its supply difficulties. Together they reap high yields.

Lua is a positive character, with lovable traits and exemplary conduct. But there are also other, less commendable, individuals. These are castigated, mostly by being held up to ridicule.

The tunes sung in this popular opera are folk-songs, and the lyrics are full of witty popular sayings. However, the content bears the stamp of the new times.

Good acting, singing and dancing contribute to the deserved success of this play.

THE GOLDEN SILK YARN

Script : VIET DUNG

Direction : TRAN HOAT —
VAN CHI

Presented by the Hanoi Cheo
Opera Troupe

Text and photos : ANH CUONG
— MAI NAM



★ The people of the hamlet welcome the plan for the re-arrangement of their native region (near right, above).

★ Two negative characters: peevishness and laziness incarnate (far right, above).

★ Success has come to this silkworm-raising hamlet (right).



Vietnam