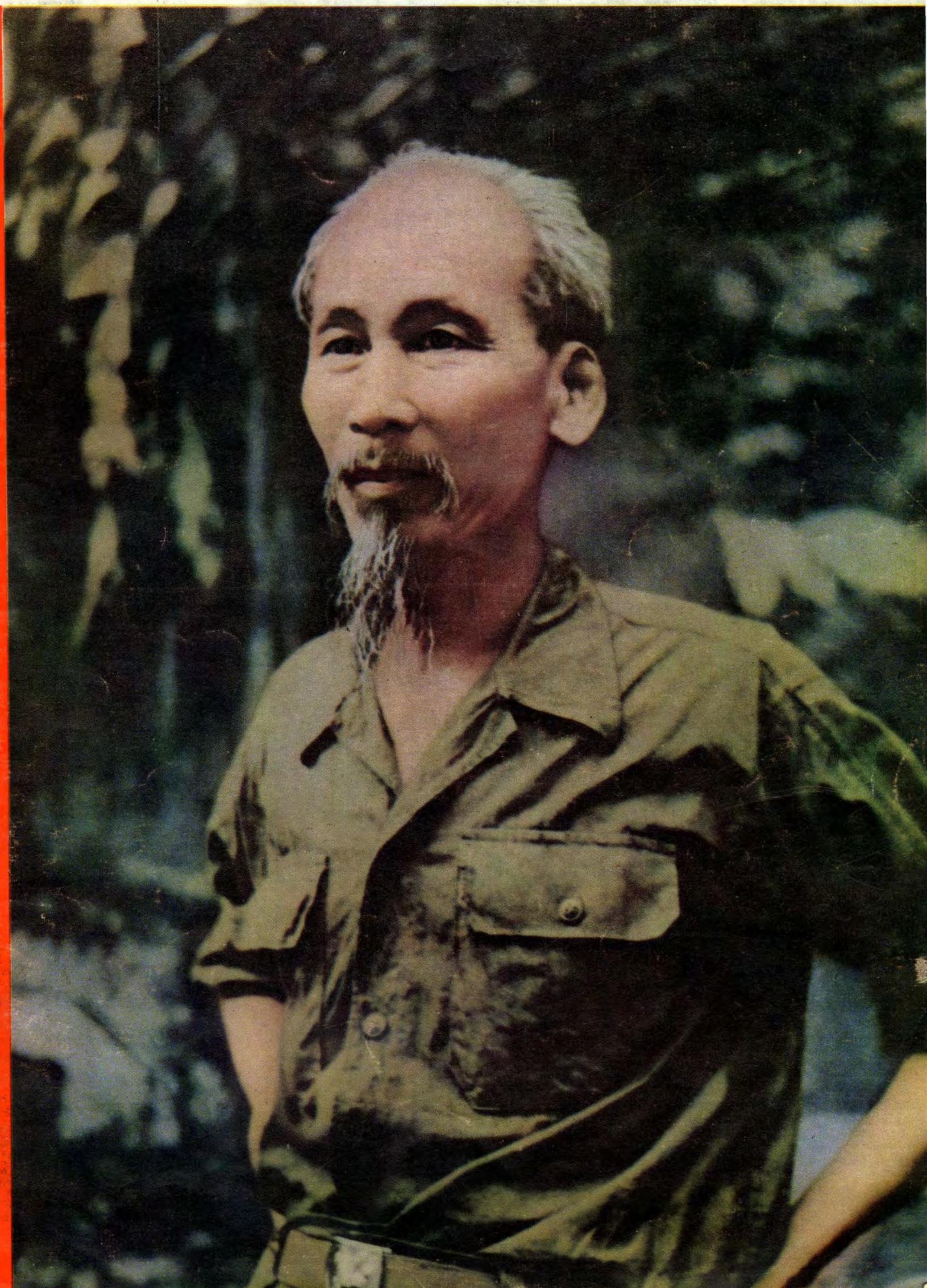


199
1975

Việt nam

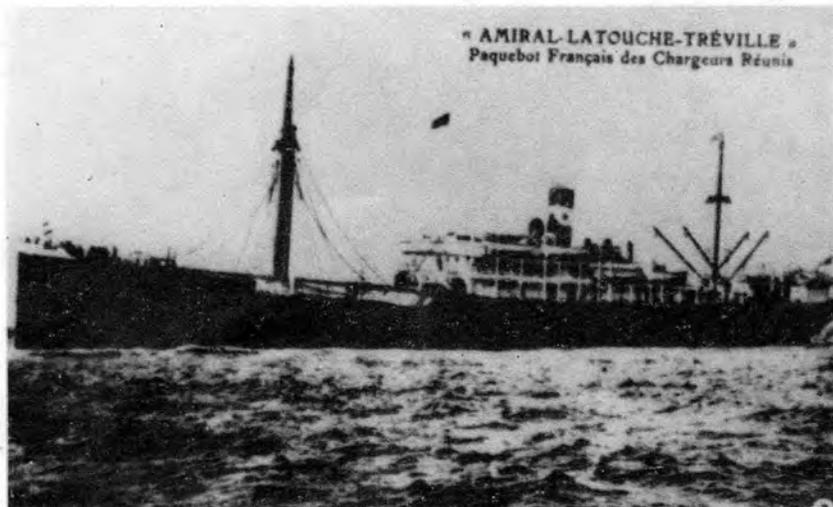




▲ In December 1961, President Ho Chi Minh returned to his native village for the second time.

Left to right :

- ★ In 1911, the young patriot Nguyen Tat Thanh (later President Ho Chi Minh) left his Fatherland aboard this ship to go in search of a way for national salvation.
- ★ In December 1920, Nguyen Ai Quoc (President Ho Chi Minh's name at that time) attended the Congress for the foundation of the French Communist Party held in Tours.
- ★ Nguyen Ai Quoc and other delegates to the 5th Congress of the Communist International (Moscow - 1924).



SINCE THOSE FAR- OFF DAYS...

In Summer 1905, Phan Boi Chau, a patriotic scholar who had secretly returned from Japan, met with a young man, Nguyen Tat Thanh (40 years later to become President Ho Chi Minh) and advised him to go to Japan to study. Japan had just defeated Czarist Russia and was enjoying high prestige. Had Thanh followed this advice... his life would certainly have been different, and the Vietnamese revolution, too, might have followed another course.

But he did not... Why? Although Thanh felt great respect and admiration for Phan Boi Chau, a patriot with exceptional qualities, he did not find a good reason to follow the same path for national salvation as that blazed by Phan Boi Chau.

At the age of 15, Thanh not only had great ardour and patriotism, but also the ability to judge things for himself and to have a comprehensive picture of events.

Afterwards he went to Hue for further studies, then to Sa'gon, and at the end of 1911 left for France.

* *

Many Vietnamese had gone to France before Ho Chi Minh, but he was the first Vietnamese in France to find the light of Marxism-Leninism. This was mainly because he was always anxious to discover the road for national salvation and Marxism-Leninism, with its scientific and revolutionary character, fully responded to his wishes. The story of his happiness, in 1920, when he first read Lenin's "Theses on the National and Colonial Question" is well known. He said, "I wept for joy. Sitting all alone in my room, I would speak aloud as if I were addressing large crowds: 'Dear martyred compatriots! This is what we need, this is our path to liberation!'"

* *

In 1920, Ho Chi Minh, who then took the name of Nguyen Ai Quoc (Nguyen the Patriot), attended the Tours Congress, which founded the French Communist Party. He founded the League of the Peoples of French Colonies (1921), edited the paper "le Pariah" (the Pariah) (1922), published the book "Le Procès de la Colonisation Française" (French Colonization on Trial) (1925), and wrote many plays, stories and newspaper articles. He went to the Soviet Union in 1923 as a delegate to



On September 2, 1945, President Ho Chi Minh read the Declaration of Independence at Ba Dinh Square in Hanoi, founding the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

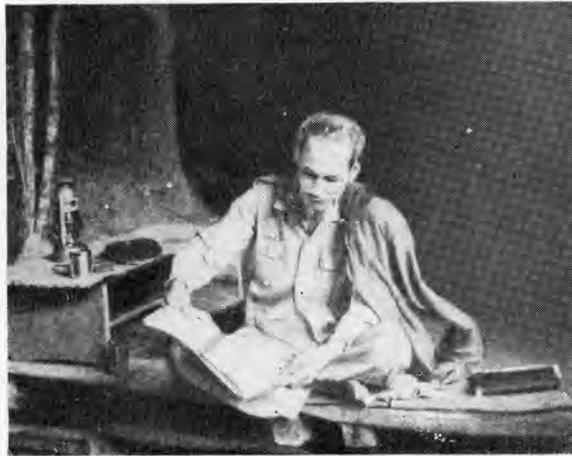
the International Peasants' Congress and the following year (1924) attended the 5th Congress of the Communist International. In mid-December 1924, Nguyen Ai Quoc arrived in Canton, China, where he opened many courses for training young Vietnamese, founded the Viet Nam Revolutionary Youth League (1925), published the paper "Youth", wrote "The Path of Revolution" (1927), and joined in founding the League of Oppressed Asian Nations (1925). In 1928-1929, he carried out his activities in Thailand, where he published the paper "Than Ai" (Fraternity) to make propaganda for the revolution among Vietnamese residents there.

In these many-sided activities, Nguyen Ai Quoc creatively applied the principles of Marxism-Leninism to the conditions in Viet Nam, and to the realities of the colonies in general. All that he did had a strong impact on the revolutionary movement inside Viet Nam, leading to the foundation on February 3, 1930, of the Viet Nam Communist Party (now the Viet Nam Workers' Party).

* *

With the birth of the Party, the Vietnamese people's revolutionary struggle entered a new stage. Apart from the period from mid-1931 to the beginning of 1933 when he was detained in Hong Kong by the British imperialists, Ho Chi Minh was always in close touch with the situation in Viet Nam, participating with the Party Central Committee in leading the Nghe-Tinh (Nghe An and Ha Tinh) Soviet-type movement (1930-1931) and the Democratic Front Movement (1936-1939).

Following a period of study at the Lenin University and of work at the Institute for Research into the National and Colonial Question under the Communist International, he returned to China in 1938.



SINCE THOSE FAR- OFF DAYS...

Right, from top to bottom :

In the years of socialist building in the North and the resistance to the US aggressors :

- ★ At the Thai Nguyen Iron and Steel Complex.
- ★ With the people, fighting against drought in Ha Tay province.
- ★ President Ho Chi Minh visits an anti-aircraft unit defending the capital.

At the end of 1939, he went to South China to prepare for his return to Viet Nam. More than a year later, on February 8, 1941, he arrived at Pac Bo, Cao Bang province.

Ho Chi Minh once took the chess game as an example of the art of revolutionary struggle :

*Eyes must look far ahead, and thoughts be deeply pondered.
Be bold and unremitting in attack.
Give the wrong command, and two chariots are rendered useless.
Come the right moment, a pawn can bring you victory.*

Ho Chi Minh attached great importance to the problem of the favourable moment. He wrote in the Review "The Communist" in April 1921 : "It is up to those who march in the van to hasten the coming of favourable moments." Pending the arrival of a favourable moment, all-out efforts must be made to prepare for meeting them. Ho Chi Minh himself had done that acceleration and preparation for nearly 30 years. In this connection the poet To Huu wrote :

*These thirty years, travelling without a rest,
Yet only now arriving at the destination.*

It was then that Ho Chi Minh saw the favourable moment coming. The French government had surrendered to the German Nazis. The French colonialists had allowed the Japanese fascists to take control of Indochina. The 8th Plenum of the Party held in May 1941 under Ho Chi Minh's presidency at Pac Bo (Cao Bang province) predicted that the Second World War would create favourable conditions for the Revolution to triumph in many countries. It considered national liberation as the most imperative task of the Vietnamese Revolution and decided to found the Viet Minh (League for the Independence of Viet Nam) to rally all Vietnamese patriots.

..

In Autumn 1942, on a mission to China, he was arrested in Kwangsi province by the local administration of Chiang Kai-shek and kept in jail for more than a year.

It was in those hard days that he composed "Prison Diary", one of the greatest collection of poems in Viet Nam and the world. It is difficult indeed to give an adequate impression of the revolutionary optimism pervading these poems. On the way from one prison to another, although his legs were fettered and his arms bound, he calmly looked at a bird flying past or a cloud floating in the sky. Once, taken by river to another jail, he was hung upside-down by the legs to the roof of the boat, yet his eyes kept gazing at the riverside villages and hamlets, and his thoughts wandered with a small fishing boat that was gently parting the waves.

We all know his style of work, characterised by his alertness and dynamism. In the situation of the Vietnamese Revolution, he certainly wanted to be even more alert and even more dynamic. But his attitude of mind, as seen through his verses, showed extreme serenity and composure. In this way even seemingly contradictory qualities could be combined in the same wonderful soul.

After his release from prison, Ho Chi Minh returned to Viet Nam and, together with the Party Central Committee, gave his leadership to the General Insurrection of August 1945.

Within less than a week, the Revolution had triumphed in every part of the country. And on September 2, 1945, in Ba Dinh Square, Hanoi, he read the Declaration of Independence, ushering in the period of "the greatest leap forward in the long history of the evolution of the Vietnamese nation." (Le Duan, First Secretary of the CC of the VNWP).

..



Left to right :

- ◀ President Ho Chi Minh in the years of resistance to the French colonialists :
- ★ During a mission.
- ★ Working in a grotto in the Viet Bac mountainous area.
- ★ Joining production work.

From then on, the course of Vietnamese history was to move quickly. Under the leadership of President Ho Chi Minh and the Viet Nam Workers' Party, the Vietnamese people, bringing into full play the traditional qualities of their nation, have defeated the French colonialists and taken the North to socialism while fighting victoriously against US imperialism, the most brutal enemy of all mankind.

In 1957, President Ho Chi Minh returned to his native Sen (Lotus) village after 52 years of absence.

Unfortunately, he had not yet had the opportunity to revisit the cities of Hue and Saigon when, on September 3, 1969, he left this world forever. That is why millions of Vietnamese, his sons and daughters, his nephews and nieces, in both zones of Viet Nam, while acting upon his Testament, are nurturing the great wish which To Huu has expressed in verse :

*Tomorrow, when our country is reunified,
Mothers will meet their sons, and wives their husbands.
That day will be our happiest,
Uncle Ho, overjoyed, will certainly be with us.*

HOAI THANH
(March 1975)



President Ho Chi Minh, Le Duan (right), First Secretary of the CC of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, and Truong Chinh (centre), Chairman of the DRVN National Assembly Standing Committee, enjoy spring together with the children (1968). In his lifetime, President Ho Chi Minh showed great concern for the young shoots of the nation. He said : "To train revolutionary generations for the future is a very important and necessary task.



PLENTY OF COAL

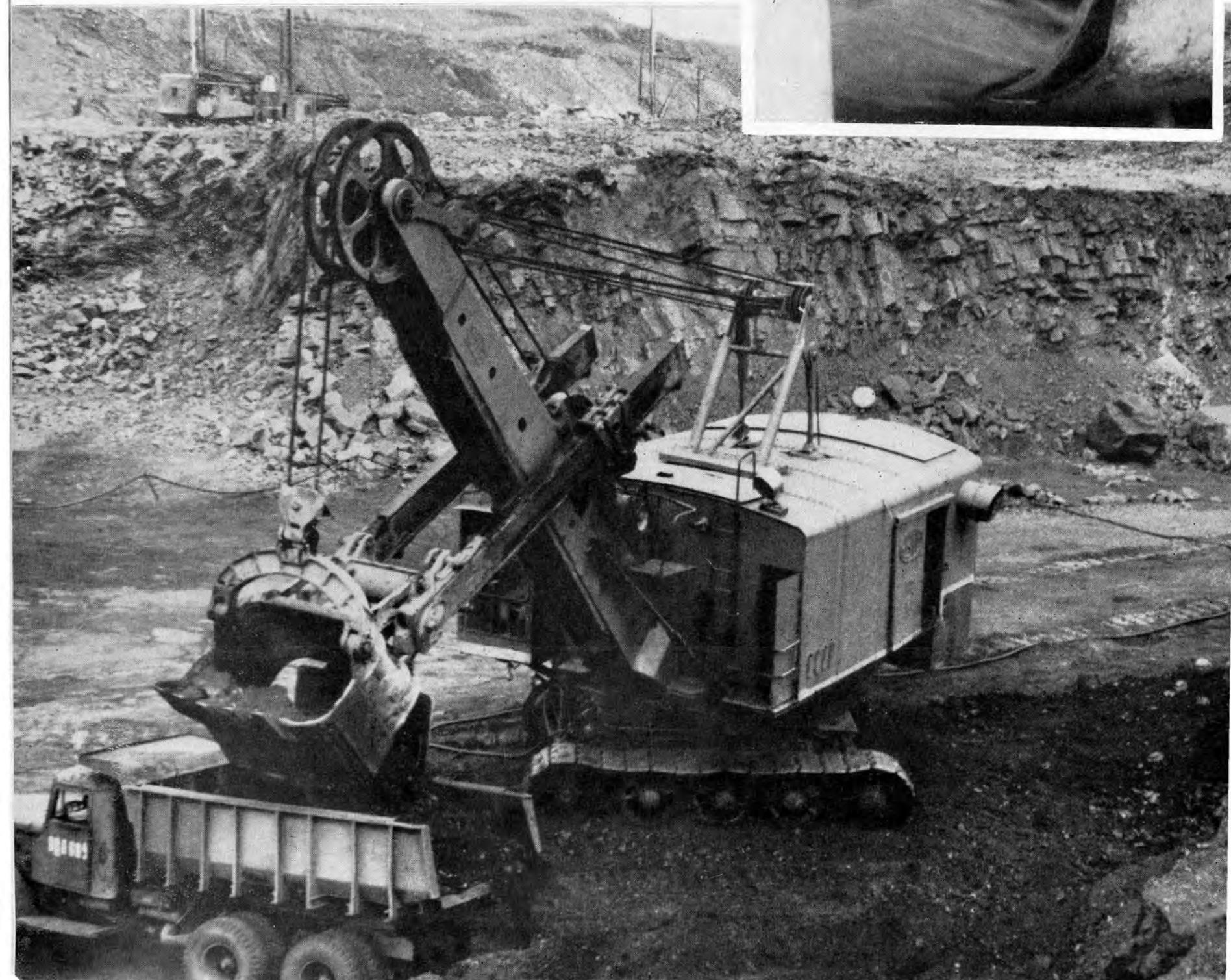
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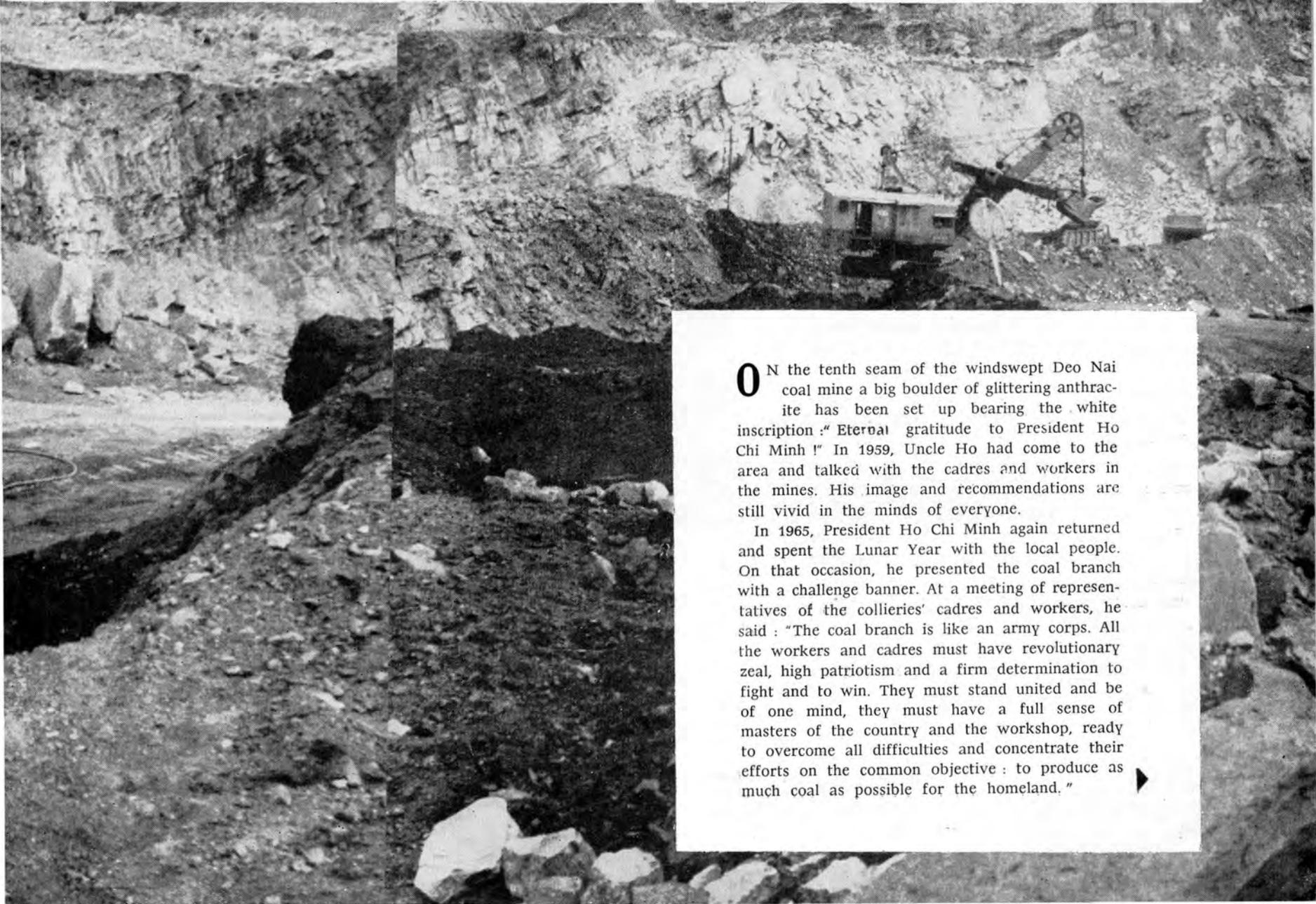
THE HOMELAND

TRAN HO

Left to right and from top to bottom :

- ★ Nguyen Van Dau, leader of a team of "young people acting upon Uncle Ho's teachings", a vanguard driller of the Deo Nai collieries. ▶
- ★ Vu Quang Sy, a repair team leader, has introduced many innovations to enable excavators to be put back in working order right on the spot.
- ★ A conveyer belt designed and set up by the workers themselves.
- ★ A view of the Deo Nai coal mine.





ON the tenth seam of the windswept Deo Nai coal mine a big boulder of glittering anthracite has been set up bearing the white inscription: "Eternal gratitude to President Ho Chi Minh!" In 1959, Uncle Ho had come to the area and talked with the cadres and workers in the mines. His image and recommendations are still vivid in the minds of everyone.

In 1965, President Ho Chi Minh again returned and spent the Lunar Year with the local people. On that occasion, he presented the coal branch with a challenge banner. At a meeting of representatives of the collieries' cadres and workers, he said: "The coal branch is like an army corps. All the workers and cadres must have revolutionary zeal, high patriotism and a firm determination to fight and to win. They must stand united and be of one mind, they must have a full sense of masters of the country and the workshop, ready to overcome all difficulties and concentrate their efforts on the common objective: to produce as much coal as possible for the homeland." ▶



Chief Engineer Vo Tuan (right) and his men assembling an excavator.

PLENTY OF COAL...

In implementation of President Ho Chi Minh's teachings, in the past 10 years the cadres and workers at Deo Nai have overcome numerous difficulties. In the war, despite fierce US air attacks 90% of their extraction work previously carried out by hand has been mechanized.

At present Deo Nai has hundreds of engineers, cadres, middle-level technicians and workers, dozens of excellent excavator drivers and dozens of model drilling teams. They have set up the conveyer belts and sorting machines themselves and assembled big excavators of a high technical standard. In 1974, they fulfilled their plan 55 days ahead of schedule. In the dusty hot atmosphere of work with noisy excavators, heavy lorries and drilling machines continuously on the move, we

This drilling-machine has been assembled by the mine's cadres and workers and named "May 19" on account of its high work productivity (May 19 is the birthday of President Ho Chi Minh).

met Nham Van Bac, an excavator driver. His team had completed its 1974 plan 65 days ahead of time and was now constructing a road along a seam for the 1975 plan which will save the mine 60,000 dongs. He confided to us: "In the past, my father carried coal loads on his head. Now, I'm an excavator driver. This is really a big change for my family. This is why I feel a great love for our social system and understand more and more deeply what Uncle Ho said. Every day, besides our work we've done our best to study and ponder on how to improve technique. The least reduction of time in the handling of the buckets of coal for instance will help, I think."

In 1975, the norms set by the Deo Nai coal mine are 30% higher than those of 1974. Nguyen Van Thinh, a cadre responsible for planning and emulation work, said to us: "In 1973-1974 we had the honour of keeping the challenge banner presented by President Ho Chi Minh to the coal branch. In the enthusiastic atmosphere now as we are working to celebrate the nation's big anniversaries in 1975, we're certain that we'll fulfil all the tasks entrusted us by the State. This is a responsibility towards our homeland and it is also our own feeling through our desire to implement Uncle Ho's behest to produce as much coal as possible for the country."

Nham Van Bac (right), Chief Excavator Operator, has stood in the vanguard of the emulation movement in honour of the anniversary of President Ho Chi Minh's birth.



1945
1975

30th anniversary of the foundation of the DRVN

THE RESISTANCE WAR AND NATIONAL CONSTRUCTION

(1945 - 1954)



The Council of Ministers meeting in the Viet Bac jungle.
Photo : Viet Nam Museum of the Revolution

From its foundation on September 2, 1945, the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam was faced with innumerable difficulties. Hardly had the terrible famine of 1945 ended when floodings and drought hit the country. 95% of the population were still illiterate. And under the cover of the British troops who came to disarm the Japanese fascists the French colonialists staged a comeback to Viet Nam, creating hostilities in Saigon on September 23, 1945 which soon spread to the provinces in Nam Bo (South Viet Nam) and South Central Viet Nam.

In these circumstances, the revolutionary power launched a nation-wide movement to wipe out famine, illiteracy and foreign aggression.

On September 3, 1945, the Council of Ministers opened a campaign to boost production and combat famine. Five days later, President Ho Chi Minh decreed the organization of popular education. Meanwhile the Government ordered a 25 per cent reduction of land rents for the peasants, the protection of the workers' rights in their relations with employers, and put into effect the 8-hour work-day.

The directive on "the resistance to aggression and national construction" issued by the Central Committee of the Party on November 25, 1945 defined the urgent task of the entire Party and people at that time. It was "to consolidate power, struggle against the French colonialist aggressors, eliminate traitors and improve the people's living standard." The Viet namese people turned to a protracted and hard but inevitably victorious resistance.

To realize and develop the people's right to be masters of the country, the elections to the first General Assembly of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam were held on January 6, 1946 and the first Constitution of the DRVN was adopted on November 9, 1946. The national united front was broadened with the foundation in May 1946 of the Viet Nam National League (Lien Viet).

As a result of the French colonialists' provocative acts, the nation-wide resistance of Viet Nam was launched on December 19, 1946.

In Autumn-Winter 1947, the Vietnamese armed forces and people smashed an attack mounted by the French aggressors on the Viet Bac base, putting an end to the defensive stage of the resistance. The struggle for national salvation passed into a period when the Vietnamese people actively contended with the enemy.

Guerilla warfare extended to the whole country and the three categories of armed forces (regular, regional and guerilla forces) were developed.

In winter 1950, the Vietnamese armed forces and people launched a big operation close to the Viet Nam - China border, wiping out an important force of the enemy and expanding and consolidating the Viet Bac base, thus linking Viet Nam with other countries in the socialist camp.

In early 1953, in face of the French colonialists' military, economic and political difficulties caused by the protracted war in Indochina, the US imperialists - who had been defeated in Korea - sought to interfere more deeply into this peninsula. The Navarre plan which aimed at winning back the initiative in the strategic field, was actually an American plan. The people's war, however, which developed in Winter 1953 - Spring 1954 over the whole country - including enemy-controlled towns and cities - culminated with the victory of Dien Bien Phu. In this way the Navarre plan was smashed and the success of the Geneva Conference was ensured.

NEWS IN BRIEF — NEWS IN BRIEF

With its new equipment and system of work, the port of Haiphong has more than doubled its quotas of goods loaded and unloaded.

Photo : TRAN HO



To give effective service to agriculture, the lecturers and students of the Agricultural Hydraulic Section at the Hydraulic College have regularly gone to the countryside to help set up plans to combat waterlogging and drought.

Photo : VAN HUONG

The Haiphong Cement Works has been restored and expanded. In 1972, it was heavily damaged by US bombs.

Photo : TRAN HO



Over 20,000 square metres of housing for workers and labouring people have been built in the Cau Tre (Bamboo Bridge) quarter in Haiphong once turned into a bomb field by US B. 52s.

Photo : TRAN HO

The nepenthes (*Nepenthes* family) abounds in Viet Nam. Each plant has many pitcher-shaped leaves with lid-like apertures. The lids open in the morning and shut up at night. Owing to their fragrance the "pitchers" attract many kinds of insects which, once fallen in them, turn into food for the plant. The nepenthes leaves have a medicinal use.

Photo : LE VIET HAO





President Ho Chi Minh visited Battalion 27 of the Engineering Corps. He walked on a bridge which had just been built under enemy bombs.

A MIDST the banners, congratulatory certificates and decorations of all kinds in the tradition room of the 27th engineering battalion hangs a picture showing President Ho Chi Minh in his plain khaki suit, walking over a bridge. Captain Pham Minh Thoa, political instructor of the battalion, a man three times honoured with the chance to meet Uncle Ho, told us the story behind the picture.

"It was at night time, when we'd just completed constructing the bridge under a deluge of enemy bombs, that Uncle Ho came to visit our unit.

He shook hands with everyone, smiling kindly. Everybody felt warmed up, despite the biting cold of winter. Looking at the river and the linked sections of the bridge, Uncle Ho said:

"You've done a good job."

Then, he added:

THE BRIDGE

THAT WILL

FOREVER BEAR

HIS IMPRINT

BA THUOC

"You are sappers, so you should be made of iron! Do your best in building bridges and assembling ferry-boats to help lorries move rapidly to the front."

The words of President Ho Chi Minh went deep in the heart of every officer and man and all present shouted out with one voice:

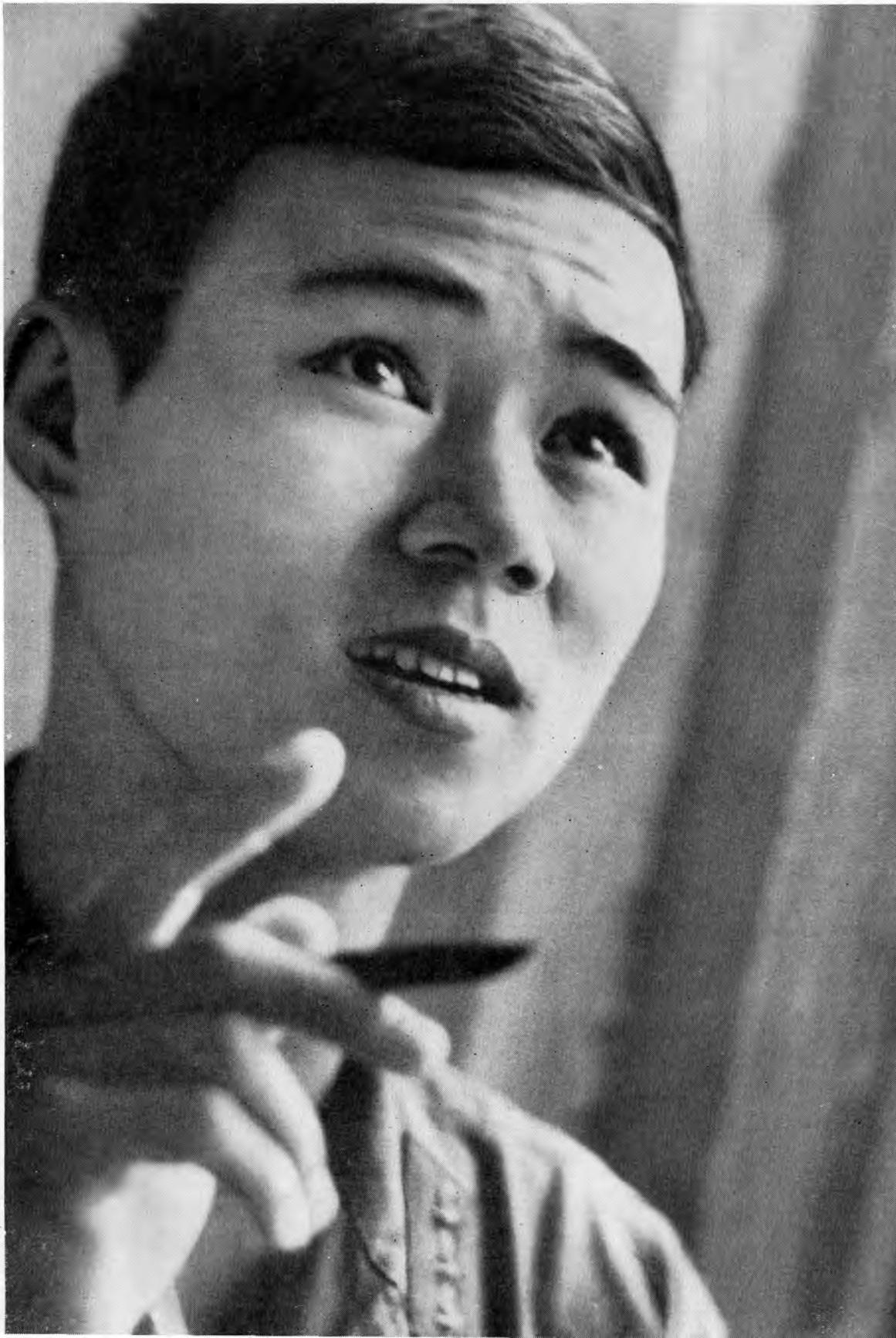
"Long live President Ho Chi Minh!"

The visit of Uncle Ho seemed to infuse new strength into the unit. By working day and night, hundreds of kilometres of road were opened. All in all, the battalion has moved over a distance equivalent to three times the length of the country. 5,800 convoys of lorries and artillery and missile units were enabled to cross rivers in safety. Over more than 500 days and nights working in the most sensitive points subjected to continuous US bombing, an average of 5 bombs per head were dropped for each member of the battalion.

..

Eight years have elapsed since the visit of Uncle Ho. Many changes have taken place in the battalion and its officers and men have recorded many new exploits but the visit of Uncle Ho still remains deeply engraved on their hearts. The combatants often remind each other about it especially when they meet with difficulties. Pham Minh Thoa said: "The most memorable moments in my 25 years of combat and in my whole life have been the moments I spent near Uncle." He met Uncle for the first time in the resistance against the French colonialists when he was an infantryman; during his second meeting he was already a Party member; the third time in the thick of the resistance to US imperialist aggression Pham Minh Thoa had become commander of an engineering unit.

"The teachings of President Ho Chi Minh give me added strength," says company political instructor Vu Van Hanh.





"You are sappers, so you should be made of iron! Do your best in building bridges and assembling ferry-boats to help lorries move rapidly to the front!" These recommendations of President Ho Chi Minh have been turned into deeds by every officer and combatant.

"I feel as though Uncle Ho were constantly by my side, encouraging me and giving me added strength to defeat the enemy," said Pham Minh Thoa. Once a US bomb buried him but he fought his way to his feet so that he could continue to direct his battalion.

In these seething days when all are engaging in emulation to celebrate the 85th birthday of President Ho Chi Minh, Pham Minh Thoa and his battalion have endeavoured to achieve new records.

Lorries and machines roared. People moved to and fro to put pontoons and bridge girders into place. In only a short period of time, a new pontoon bridge has spanned the swift-flowing river.

Company leader Vu Van Hanh, 25, had been a 3rd year student of the Trade College before he joined the people's army. Tempered under fire he has become an intelligent and courageous commander.

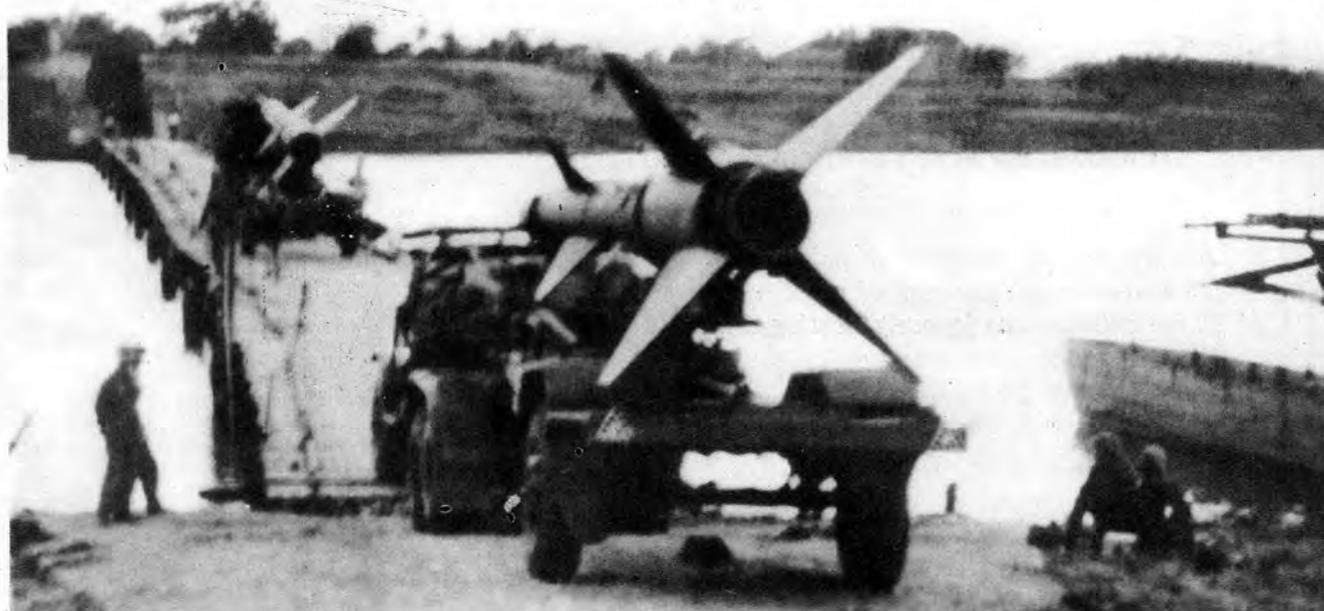
Acting upon the teaching of President Ho Chi Minh: "Cadres must love their combatants," Hanh is always looking for ways to reduce the loads carried by his men during operations or shorten the time they have to stand in water to make the bridges or assemble ferry-boats. He often tells new recruits about the visit of Uncle Ho and the fighting tradition of the unit.

"I had not the honour to meet Uncle," said the young combatant Nguyen Van Tham, "but I am very proud to serve in a battalion which President Ho Chi Minh once visited. I feel encouraged each time I look at the picture of Uncle walking on the bridge". Once, a pontoon bridge tilted under the weight of a piece of artillery. Tham unhesitatingly dashed into the water to hold the bridge up with his own shoulders. Everybody followed suit and the artillery piece was taken across the bridge safely. These courageous acts are no rare occurrence in the 27th engineering battalion, for all officers and men are determined to be worthy of the words of President Ho Chi Minh. Each achievement they consider as an exploit in honour of their beloved Uncle Ho.



Young fighters share the joy of Captain Pham Minh Thoa who has met Uncle Ho three times.

For the 27th engineering battalion, each lorry, artillery gun or missile which passes this bridge is an exploit in honour of President Ho Chi Minh.

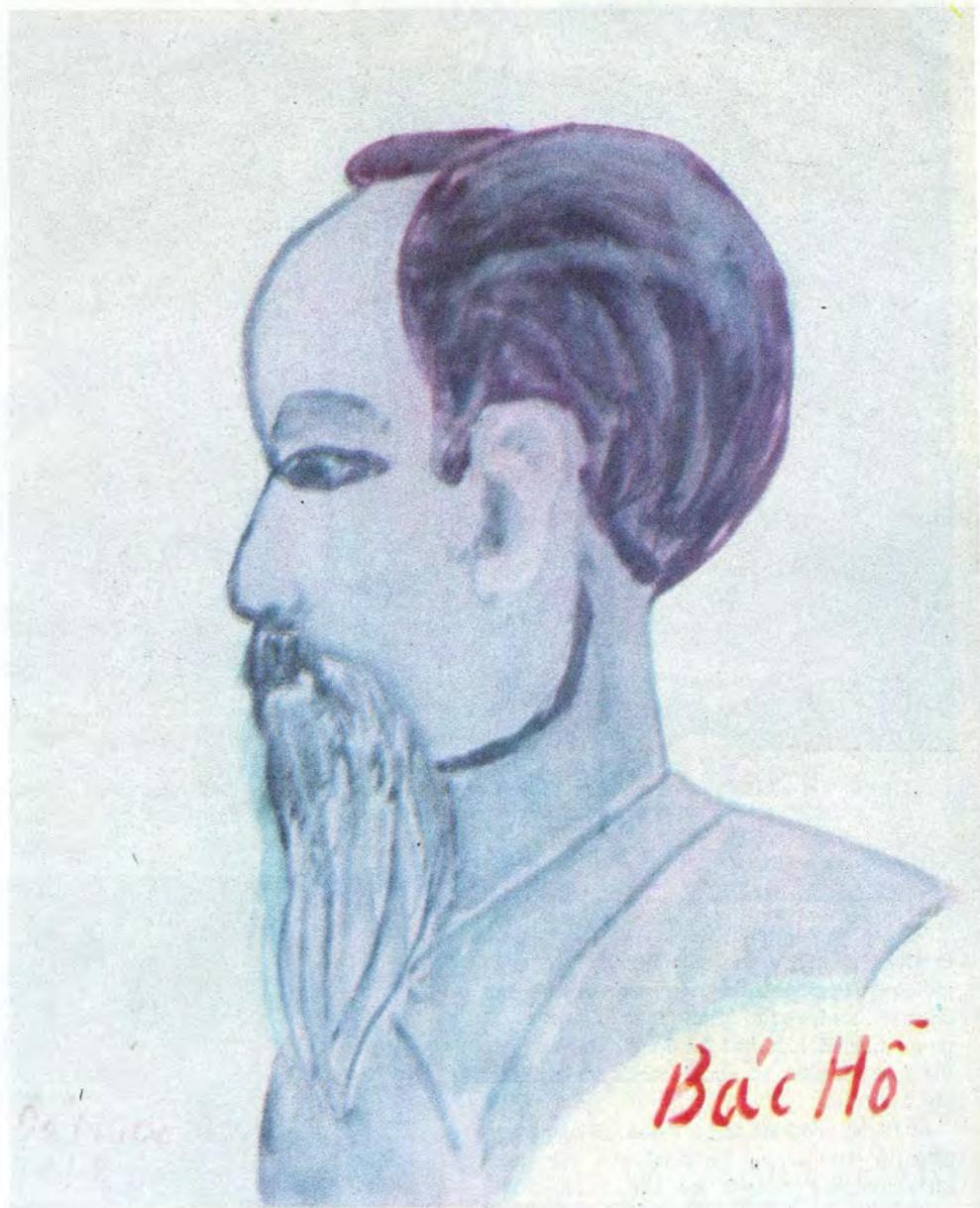


CHILDREN'S DRAWINGS AND POEMS ABOUT UNCLE HO

UNCLE HO'S PORTRAIT

On the wall in my house is a portrait of Uncle Ho
Beneath a bright-red flag.
From the portrait Uncle Ho smiles at us
As we romp and play.
In the yard some hens are strutting about,
In the orchard custard-apples are already ripe.
It seems as though Uncle were telling me :
« Child, don't go away from the house :
« Look after the vegetables, sweep the kitchen,
« Shoo away the pilfering hens, and watch out for
the US planes,
« Go to the shelter whenever they come ! »
Uncle Ho has to care for so many important things,
Yet he keeps smiling at me...

TRAN DANG KHOA
8 years old



Uncle Ho.
DO NGOC, 12 years old

THINKING OF UNCLE HO AT MID-AUTUMN

The full moon is so bright, mother.
Looking up at it I thought Uncle Ho was smiling at
me...
As I play in the bright and clear moonshine,
I feel as though he were embracing me.
Mother, that full moon so bright and clear,
Isn't it the very image of Uncle's life ?

NGUYEN HONG KIEN
8 years old

THINKING OF YOU I LOOK TO THE NORTH

Tonight the sky is bathed in moonlight.
It's mid-autumn : thinking of you I look to the North.
There children are joyously beating drums,
Dancing, singing and shouting.
O Uncle, how I long for you !
All in the South are longing for you and looking to
the North.

Written by a child of the South

Uncle Ho sings and dances with us.
ANH TUAN, 12 years old





Uncle Ho distributes
candies to us.

THANH TU,
10 years old

A visit of Uncle Ho to our club.
THANH PHUONG, 12 years old



PLANTING TREES AND THINKING OF UNCLE HO

...Every afternoon we come here :
As we plant trees, we think of Uncle Ho.
The saplings' eyes are red with weeping,
Mourning for Uncle Ho.
Young trees, grow up,
And put out leaves thick and green !
Grieving over Uncle's death,
Grow up, quick ! Grow up.

NGUYEN MINH CHAU
12 years old

VISITING UNCLE'S HOME

Here it is, Ba Dinh Square
Here it is, Uncle's home
Straight is the path leading there
Up the stairs I run
Oh had Uncle been still living
He would have called
"Hong Kien ! Hong Kien !"
Here is the soft gravel path
Here is the avocado tree
Here is the clear little lake
And here is Uncle's bed-room
Oh had Uncle been still living
He would have lifted me in his arms
He would have kissed me.
But he's gone.
I've come to see you, Uncle,
But I can't meet you.
Oh Uncle, Oh Uncle !
Although you're no more
I still love you.
On the shady path
You're still strolling
I still hear
Each of your words.
On the bright path
On which you strolled,
Under the cool shade of trees
I'm now strolling.

NGUYEN HONG KIEN
8 years old

FOR THE RICEFIELDS

TRONG THANH and VAN CHUC

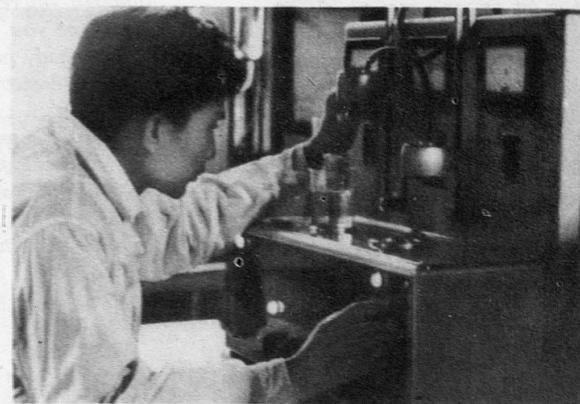


Van Thang, equipped with 4,000-cu. m./hour pumps.



Nguyen Ngoc Can, director of the pump factory, checks pumps in operation at the Khanh Nghia co-operative.

Says engineer Le Huy Kiem: "We have made new copper alloys that will improve the quality of our pumps."



THE car, covered with red dust, stopped before the Van Thang pumping station. Nguyen Ngoc Can, director of the Hai Hung pump factory, engineer Dang Dinh Lien, and two repair workers alighted. They were coming to check the 14 mechanical pumps each with a capacity of 4,000 cubic metres per hour which the factory had sent to the area.

They were warmly received by Tran Thinh, head of the water conservation department of Chi Linh district, and the head of the Van Thang pumping station. Said Tran Thinh to us: "Before the installation of this pumping station, no one in the eight communes in the southern part of Chi Linh district dared to think of getting two rice crops a year, for the fields were submerged when the time came for sowing winter rice. Now, thanks to these pumps, the area under rice in Chi Linh has nearly doubled compared with 1971."



Woman fitter Nguyen Thi Hoa says: "The ever-higher requirements of the customers demand that we fitters should constantly raise the quality of our work."

We watched the water gushing from the station into the drainage canal. The head of the station reported a smooth functioning of all the pumps over the past two years.

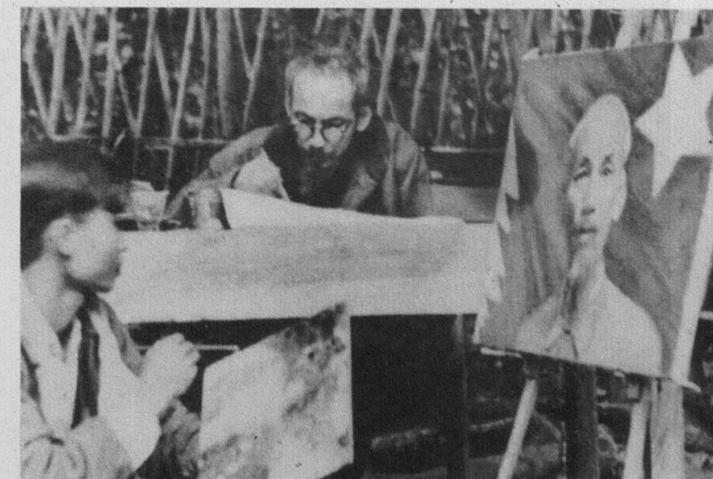
Next, we called on the Khanh Nghia farming co-operative in Nam Sach district. We met deputy manager Nguyen Van Triet near a rice nursery. From his talk with our companions, we understood that the pump factory and the co-operative had entered into sworn brotherhood more than ten years ago. On one occasion when 90 hectares of ricefields were threatened by waterlogging, the factory sent five pumps and a score of workers to help the co-operative.

The deputy manager of the co-op said: "Now we are busily engaged in reorganizing production in the direction of large-scale socialist agriculture. In 1974, we moved 39,000 cubic metres of earth to improve our system of irrigation and drainage. This year, we'll do even more." But,

he added with a smile, "we may have to ask the factory for some help."

The factory director replied: "Just tell us. We'll do our best."

The above notes were taken during our trip with the Hai Hung pump factory people to the fields. In fact, the men we travelled with formed but one of many such delegations the factory had been sending to various localities to make a survey of their needs in irrigation and drainage and to gather their remarks on the functioning of the pumps. In 1975, as a result of those fact-finding trips, more types of equipment will be produced: BG.14 pumps for the deep wells of the midlands, watering equipment for vegetable-growing areas in the vicinity of cities, high-powered pumps with a capacity of 8,000 cubic metres per hour, etc.



Diep Minh Chau making a painting of President Ho Chi Minh in the Viet Bac highlands - 1951.

THE ROAD TO UNCLE HO

DIEP MINH CHAU

Editor's note: Painter-Sculptor Diep Minh Chau is a native of South Viet Nam. In the resistance against the French colonialist invaders, he presented President Ho Chi Minh with a painting he made with his own blood on the occasion of the 2nd anniversary of the founding of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam (September 2, 1947), representing the President and three children from Central, South and North Viet Nam. In 1951, he visited the North and was honoured with the opportunity to live near President Ho Chi Minh for a period of time spent in artistic work.

Following are some of his paintings and statues and excerpts from his memoirs.

... "I am very grateful to Uncle Ho who taught me how to paint for the nation and the people, who created an impressive framework for us artists to reflect the greatness and new valour of the nation.

... In August 1945, I was lucky enough to get a small picture of Uncle from a newspaper. I made a big painting of him which I put on show in my locality. I was the first man to have painted Uncle Ho. As for the small picture, I kept carefully in a wallet in my chest pocket, close to my heart. Ever since, everywhere I went I would make drawings of Uncle. I painted from memory as if Uncle were in front of me. On September 2, 1947, from the Plain of Reeds in South Viet Nam I wrote to Uncle the following letter:

*Respected father,
For two years now, confiding in you and responding to your call, I have zealously put my art work in the service of the National Defence Forces of the 8th Zone. The August Revolution carried out under your leadership has liberated my artistic spirit.*

Today, in the jubilant atmosphere of Viet Nam's National Day, — a scene unprecedented in South Viet Nam — after hearing the re-reading of your Declaration of Independence and your eloquent call, and after listening to the song "Long Live Ho Chi Minh" performed by the South Viet Nam Pioneer's Group, I felt deeply moved. On a piece of silk seized by our armed forces from the enemy at the Giong Dua battlefield in April 1947, using the blood from my own arm, I have painted a picture of you surrounded by three children from Central, South and North Viet Nam. With immense respect, I present it to you as an expression of my gratitude. You have liberated my art and turned my body and soul into weapons of the national liberation revolution.'



President Ho Chi Minh's house on stilts in the Viet Bac jungle.

(Oil painting - 1951)

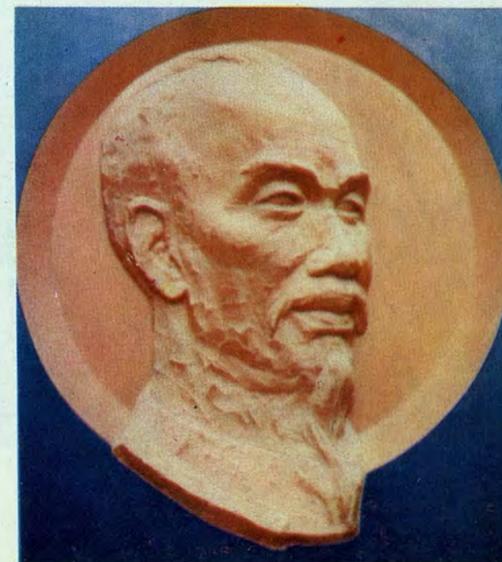
Since 1950, I have made over 20 paintings and more than 20 statues of Uncle but none of them has reached perfection and given me satisfaction. Out of Uncle's love for South Viet Nam, I was lucky enough to be given the honour of living near him. From the far off South, I overcame thousands of difficulties to come near him but even now I feel as though I am not yet close enough to Uncle. He is so noble-minded and so great, like a star in the immense blue night. And my feelings each time I met him were like stirring waves: the star from above would turn into hundreds and thousands of glittering lights which made it impossible for me to see Uncle clearly.

Each time I did not succeed in making any part of Uncle's statues just as I wanted it to be I suffered a great deal. Even now, I carve statues of Uncle with great caution. I am only groping towards discovering something very "mysterious", very grand which is still out of my reach. I consider every statue as a trial step for the best art work in my life. To be worthy of Uncle's affection and teaching and the confidence of the South Vietnamese fathers and mothers, I shall do my best to make a memorial to Uncle Ho which will be set up in the heart of Saigon, the Ho Chi Minh city, after the liberation of South Viet Nam.



Uncle Ho and three pioneers from Central, South and North Viet Nam.

(Painting made with blood on silk - 1947)



A bas-relief. (Lacquer-painting - 1958)



Plaster - 1971.



Self-defence forces patrolling the Trang Tien bridge in Hue.



Da Nang students and pupils help in the popularization of the NFL and PRG political lines.

Thousands of puppet troops have been captured by the PLAF.



Kontum electrical workers have kept the current working uninterrupted.



THE CAMBODIAN RESISTANCE ENDS IN TOTAL VICTORY

On April 17, 1975, the heroic armed forces of the Cambodian people liberated Phnom Penh. Two days later, the whole land of the Angkor Temples was liberated. This resounding victory put an end to over 100 days of violent attacks by the Liberation forces and more than five years of very fierce struggle by the Cambodian people.

To defend independence and freedom and the right to a decent life and responding to the call of the National United Front of Kampuchea presided over by Samdech Head of State Norodom Sihanouk and the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia led by Samdech Penn Nouth, Premier, and H. E. Khieu Samphan, Vice-Premier, the entire Cambodian people rose up, knives or guns in the hand, to oppose the US aggressors and their agents. Defying innumerable difficulties and hardships, they defeated the aggressive operations of over 100,000 American GIs and Thieu mercenaries in May-June 1970, the war of destruction launched by the USAF against Cambodia from 1970 to August 1973 (including carpet bombings by B-52s and the 180 days and nights of unceasing raids in early 1973), and the US neo-colonialist war waged by nearly 200,000 Lon Nol troops equipped with US weapons and directed by US advisers.

This victory is the resplendent apex of the Cambodian people's undaunted struggle lasting more than a century against colonialism and aggressive imperialism.

With that victory of historic significance, the great Cambodian people, who recorded in the past many marvellous achievements in the building of the Angkor civilization, have now contributed a new and immortal exploit: the defeat of the US imperialist attempt to turn the land of the Angkor Temples into a new US colony and war base through the application of the "Nixon doctrine".

Along with the victories recorded by the two other Indochinese peoples, the Cambodian people's victory is an important contribution to the struggle of mankind for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress.

The Vietnamese people warmly hail the complete victory of the Cambodian people. They will do their best to strengthen further the militant solidarity and sincere co-operation between the two peoples and make them more and more flourishing.

THE SPRING OF GREAT VICTORY

- ★ 55 days and nights of continuous offensives and uprisings; the more than one million strong puppet army completely smashed; the puppet coercive apparatus completely liquidated.
- ★ The 44 provinces of South Viet Nam completely liberated.
- ★ US neo-colonialism completely defeated in South Viet Nam.

In early spring 1975, punishing the American aggressors and their puppets for their violations of the Paris Agreement and continuation of the war, the armed forces and people of South Viet Nam staged powerful and continuous offensives and uprisings throughout all theatres of operations.

It all began with a fierce battle in early January 1975 in which Phuoc Long province, about 100 kilometres from Saigon, was liberated. It was the first time that a province was completely freed.

From 4 March to 4 April 1975, within a period of one month, the FLAF waged a series of valiant, daring, intelligent and lightning-fast actions which started with the capture of the town of Buon Me Thuot and led to the annihilation of the enemy's defensive dispositions in the Central Highlands, the cities of Hue and Da Nang, the plains of Central Trung Bo and Southern Trung Bo, and to the complete destruction of his armed forces and coercive apparatus in the First and Second Military Regions.

Faced with the danger of a complete collapse, the enemy set up a solid defence line running from the town of Phan Rang in Southern Trung Bo to that of Can Tho in Western Nam Bo, the core of which being the line defending Saigon and running through Xuan Loc, Bien Hoa, Thu Dau Mot, Cu Chi, Dong Du, Hau Nghia and Tan An.

A large-scale campaign, lasting from the 9th to 30th of April and bearing the name of our great President Ho Chi Minh, destroyed the remnants of the enemy's armies and administration and liberated Saigon.

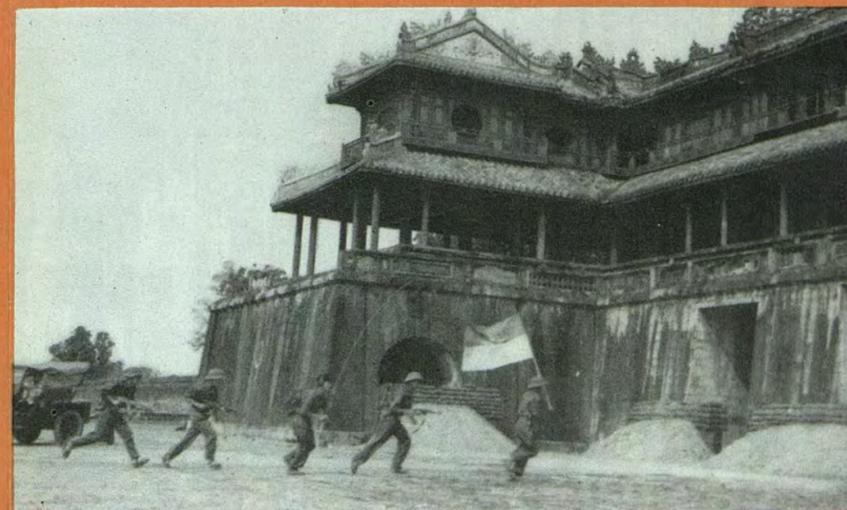
At 11.30 hours on 30 April 1975 the flag of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam was hoisted over the presidential palace of the former Saigon regime, and by 2 May 1975 all remaining provinces in South Viet Nam had been liberated.

Thus in 55 days and nights of continuous offensives and uprisings, our armed forces and people had put out of action more than one million puppet troops fully equipped by the Americans, completely wiped out the enemy's coercive apparatus, forced the Americans to put an end to their involvement, and driven their puppets in South Viet Nam to unconditional surrender.

The neo-colonial war of the Americans has completely failed.

The sacred struggle waged by our people over the past 30 years for national liberation has ended in brilliant victory.

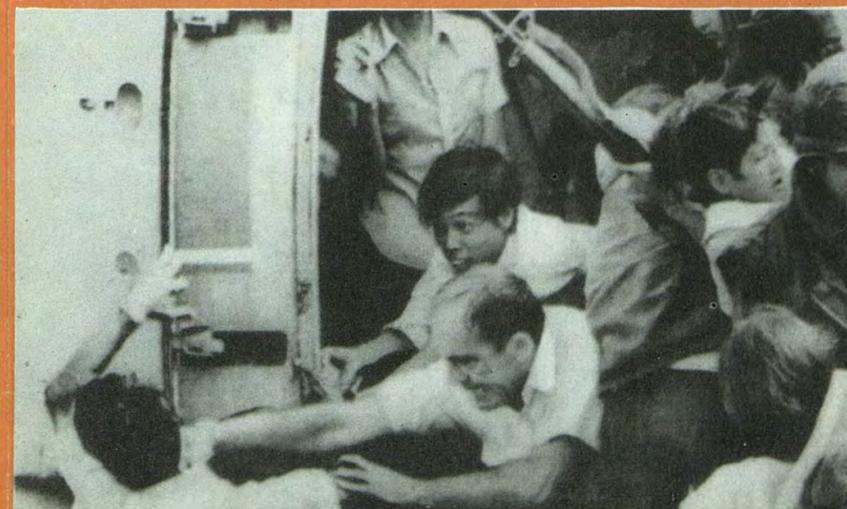
Our people have thus fulfilled the behests contained in President Ho Chi Minh's Testament and won complete independence and freedom.



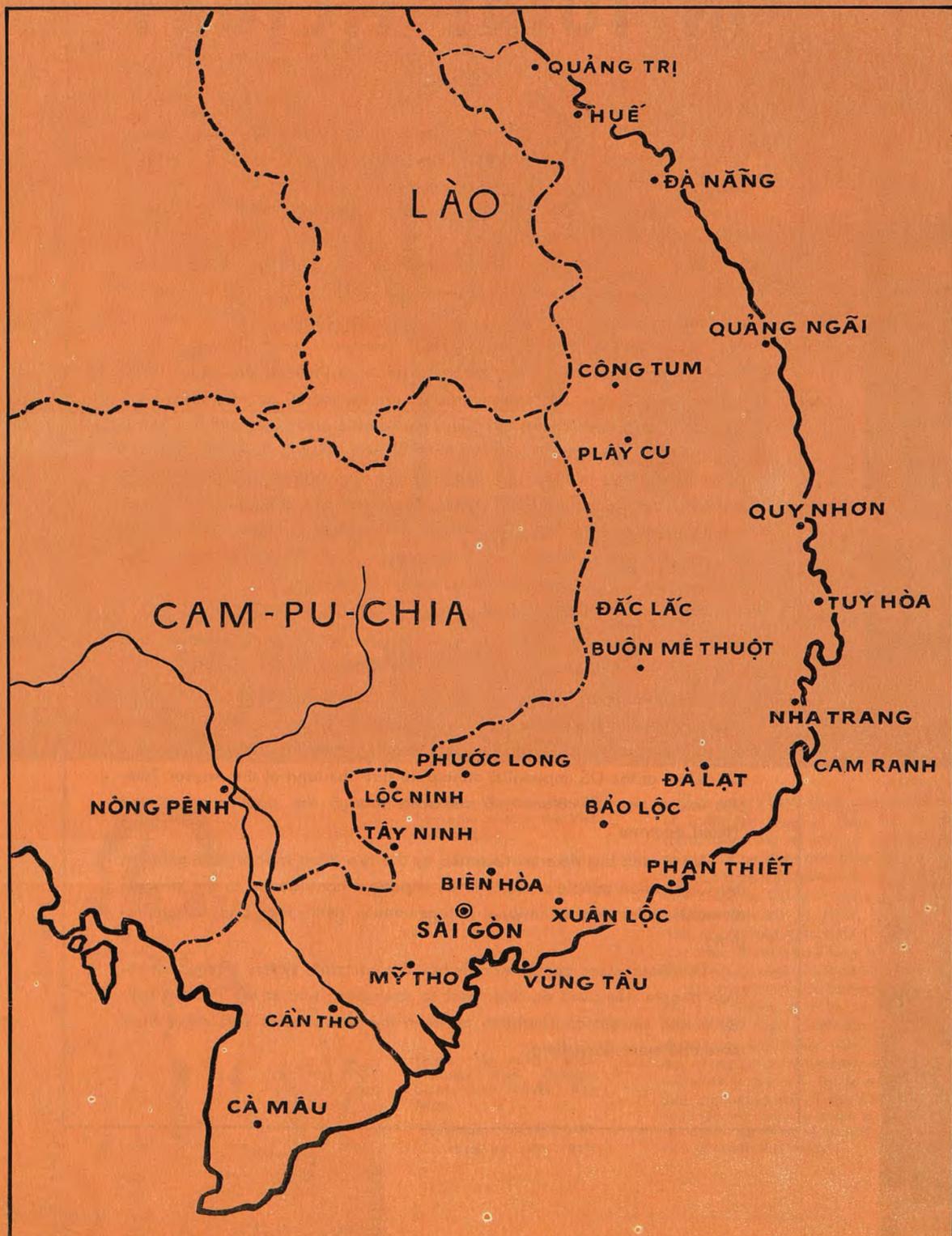
Liberation combatants rushing into the Great Citadel of Hue city.



Da Nang people welcome the Liberation fighters back to liberate their native soil.



A US aggressor's act of hooliganism during his scramble for safety.



Editor's note : President Ho wrote in his "Prison Diary" :

But in our days poems should contain verses steely,
And poets should form assault teams.

When reading the President's poems, we share the feelings of the poet Hoang Trung Thong, who detects "as many fine thoughts as there are poems" and discovers "infinite lyrical beauty" in "those steely verses".

On the occasion of President Ho's 85th birthday (May 1975) we publish below some of his poems, a piece from his "Stories and Tales" and some of his political cartoons printed in "le Pariah" ("the Pariah"), an organ of the colonies' population which he founded, directed and published in France in the years 1922-1924.

SOME POEMS, CARTOONS AND A STORY BY PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH



SAILING ON THE DAY RIVER

The stream is quiet and deserted,
Stars guide the boat, which waits for
the moon.
Nothing is to be seen on every side,
And nothing is heard except the creaking of
the oars.
But deep in my heart I am beset by trouble
and worry,
As I think of how to regain freedom for my
country.
Dawn breaks as we reach destination,
A rosy tinge bathes the immensity of the
land.

Autumn 1949

NIGHT SCENERY

The brook's singing is as a song,
The moon plays in the tree and shadows
mingle with flowers.
The night scenery is as beautiful as a
painting,
One cannot sleep thinking of the trials facing
the country.

(1947)

A POEM WITHOUT A TITLE

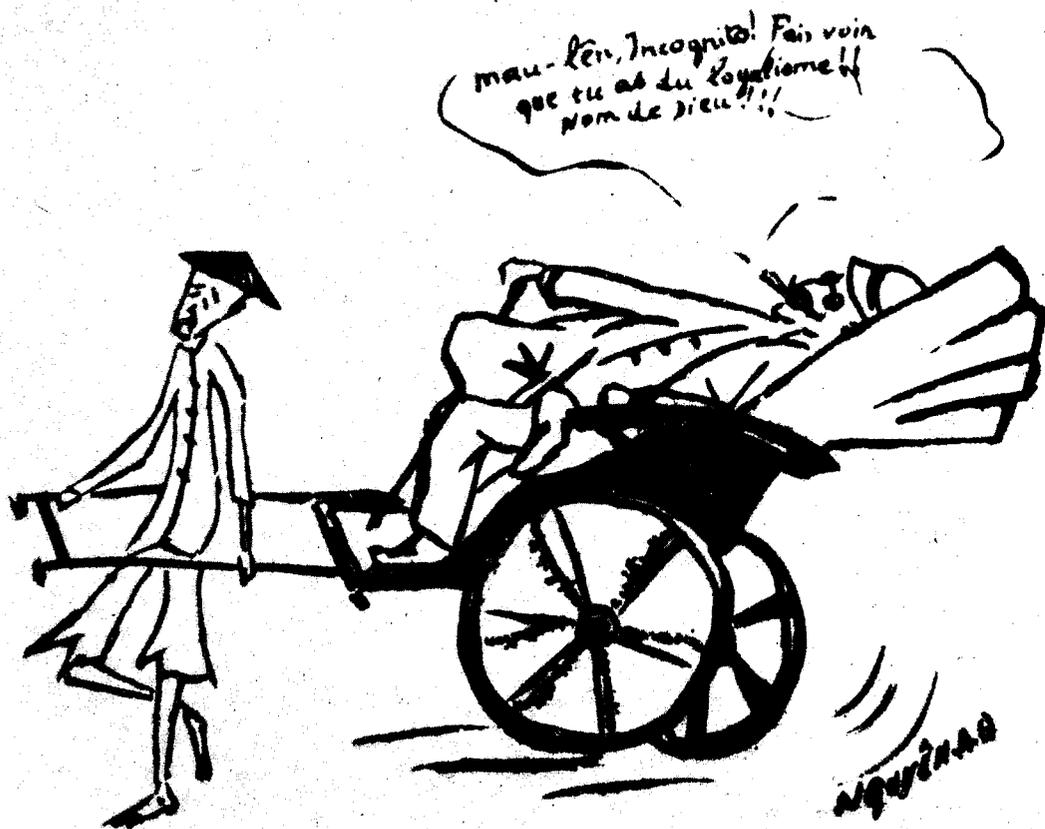
Flowers bloom along the mountain trails as
the guests come,
Birds take wing as troops move into the
jungle.
Military matters have been discussed, State
affairs settled,
Come on, children, let's go and water the
vegetables!



CLIMBING A MOUNTAIN

Leaning on my staff I climb a mountain to
observe the battlefield :
Range upon range of mountains beneath
oceans of clouds.
The strength that emanates from our troops
rises to the stars,
As they swear to destroy the aggressors,
those wolves and jackals.

Many cartoons were drawn by Nguyen Ai Quoc (later President Ho Chi Minh) and published in "the Pariah". They attacked the policy of oppression and exploitation of the colonialists—the French colonialists in particular—in colonial countries, especially in Viet Nam and Indochina.



CLASS SOLIDARITY

In early 1921, a big strike of registered sailors* broke out in Brazil. A ship had just arrived in Rio de Janeiro. Its crew did not know that their comrades were struggling against the employers. A black striker, José Léandro da Silva, wanted to get aboard the ship to inform the sailors of the news. On the quay, José met a policeman who blocked his way.

"But I've the right to go and see my comrades! Why not?" said José to the representative of law and order.

"No arguing! Clear off!" retorted the policeman.

José insisted.

The policeman's only answer was to draw out a revolver and open fire. José briskly dodged the shot and, quick as a lightning, grasped the agent and threw him into water.

Some fifty armed policemen rushed to the spot and leapt on José. The latter defended himself. With a sailor's knife, he killed several agents and wounded others. At last he was vanquished by force of numbers and collapsed half dead having received 18 shots in his body.

None the less he had enough strength left to murmur the Internationale when they brought him to hospital. Later he was put into the dock and condemned to 30 years forced labour.

As soon as they learned of the trial, the revolutionary workers set up a Defence Committee. They confided the case of their comrade to several barristers and organized protest meetings throughout the country. An agitation campaign in support of José was carried on vigorously for three years. Public opinion was so indignant that the authorities had to reopen the trial.

On February 8, José appeared again before the court. 15,000 workers attended the hearings which lasted a whole night. The employers did not want to let go of their victim and it took the Public Prosecutor five hours to read his long list of charges.

PAC BO REVISITED

Twenty years ago, in this very cave
The Party charted the line of resistance to
French and Japanese.
The entire people have been led into battle,
And our beautiful land is now again ours.

(20-2-1961)

A POEM WITHOUT A TITLE

It has been a long time since I wrote my last
poem,
Today let me try to compose a new one.
I rummage about among old papers looking
for a rhyme.
When suddenly "win" comes like a flash to
my mind.

March 1968

IN PRAISE OF THE ELEVEN WOMEN GUERRILLAS OF HUE

Rifle firmly in hand,
You fought in a skilful battle array!
Hurrah to you courageous girls,
Breaking the bones of the American enemy.

March 1968

With eloquence, Comrade Paulo de Lacerda and his colleagues victoriously refuted the prosecutor's arguments.

The proceedings came to an end at 4:30 a.m.
It was an acquittal.

The verdict was received by a thunder of applause. And the black striker José let himself fall into the arms of his comrades and defenders, the delegates of the white workers.

Thus, despite the difference of colours, there are only two races in the universe: that of exploiters and that of the exploited. And there is only one genuine brotherhood: the brotherhood of proletarians.

NGUYEN AI QUOC
"the Pariah"

№ 25 — May 1924

* Registered sailors: According to international maritime law all sailors must be registered in a State list. Only then are they regarded as official sailors.

AN UNFORGETTABLE MEETING

HO HAI



Playing the "Five Fingers" game under the guidance of Mistress Chinh Lam.



Care is given to the least action of the pupils.

"Uncle Ho ! Uncle Ho !" The children shouted gleefully.

President Ho Chi Minh stepped into the class, smiling.

Little Chinh Lam rushed to the door. She wanted to be the first to embrace Uncle. But many of her friends got there quicker. She could only hear Uncle ask :

"Are you all right ?"

"Yes, we are," the whole class replied in unison.

"Are you good ?"

"Yes, we are," the boldest pupils said. As for Chinh Lam, she forgot to make any answer : she was working her way through to get closer to Uncle. Fortunately enough, Uncle stretched an arm in her direction.

"What's your name ?"

"My name is Chinh Lam."

"How old are you ?" Uncle added affectionately.

As Chinh Lam was about to answer, the glare of a photographer's flashlight caught her and she shut her eyes, speaking at random :

"Two and a half, Uncle !"

Uncle Ho smiled and the whole class burst into laughter.

This is the story Chinh Lam often tells when she talks about beloved Uncle Ho. It was on December 31, 1958 : Chinh Lam was then six and a half years old.

Thirteen years after the visit of President Ho Chi Minh, the "Mam Non" (Young Shoots) Nursery School in Hanoi received a new teacher. She was Chinh Lam herself.

After graduating from the seventh class of general education, Chinh Lam followed a middle-level course for the formation of nursery class teachers in Hanoi. As the US air war of destruction against the North was raging, her school was evacuated to the countryside. Together with her companions, Chinh Lam volunteered to go to the hottest areas to do practical work and help in defending the children.

Passing to the children her own dream, the dance she often performed in her childhood, "Last night, I met Uncle Ho in my dream."





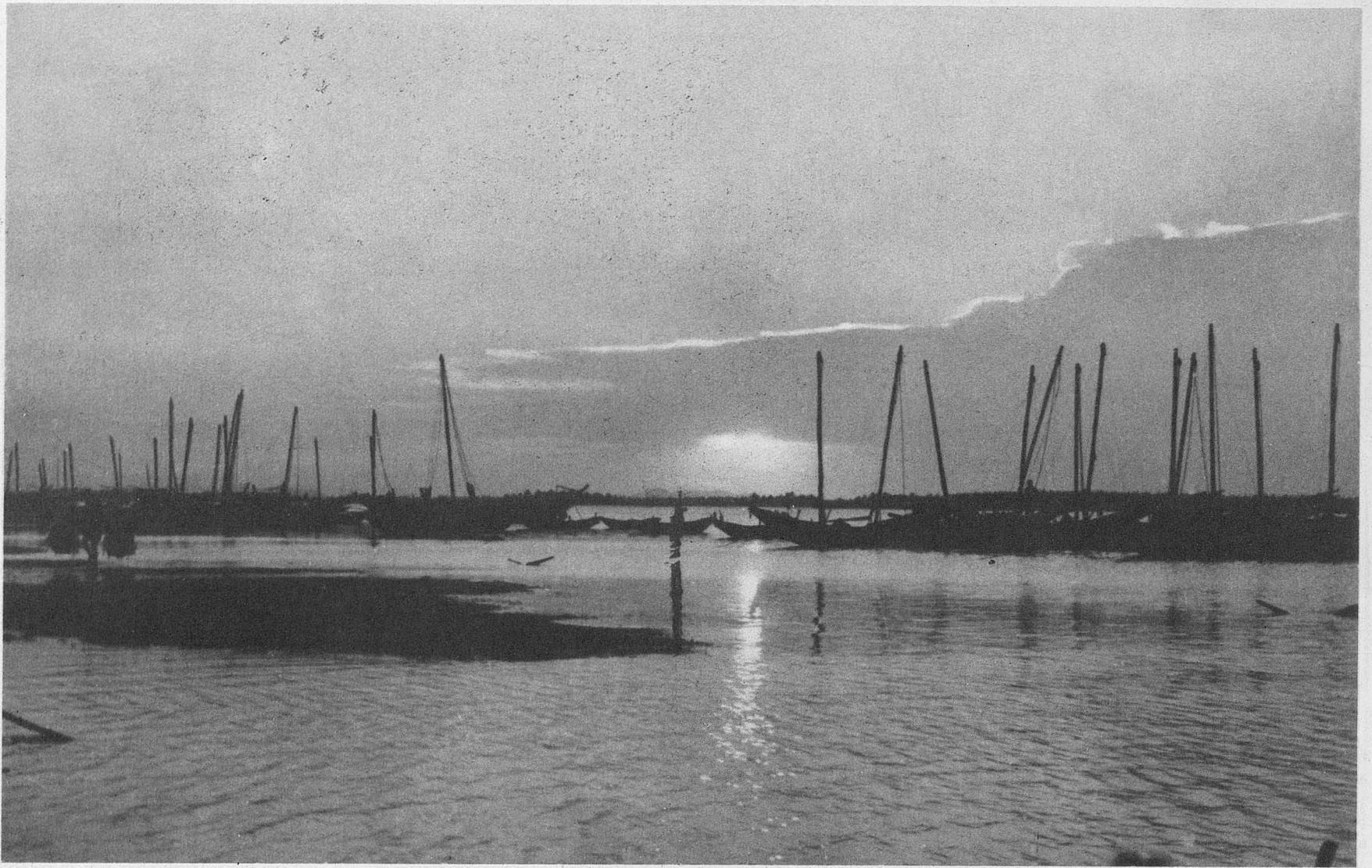
Chinh Lam's pupils during a performance in honour of the 30th anniversary of the foundation of the Viet Nam People's Army.

Later, returned to Hanoi, how happy she was when she was given a job right at the school she had attended when she was a small child. Her joy was all the greater when, in the tradition room of the school, she noticed a picture of President Ho Chi Minh's visit showing herself — as a pre-school pupil...

At first, Chinh Lam met with many difficulties for the children would cry bitterly and ask to go home or return to their kindergartens. Only through great patience could she get them accustomed to pre-school classes. Together with her colleagues, Chinh Lam made attractive toys for the newcomers and endeavoured to improve her teaching methods. She wanted to give the young shoots the same devoted care as she had received in her infancy.

Besides work, Chinh Lam and her fellow-teachers have regularly attended complementary courses. The news of the opening of a higher college for the formation of nursery class teachers has come to Chinh Lam at a time when she is about to complete her 10th year of complementary education. She wants to learn more in order to work better as Uncle Ho advised the youth.

Every year, Chinh Lam would bid farewell to her pupils at the end of their school year which usually fell on the birthday of President Ho Chi Minh (May 19). On that day the children sing her favourite song, "Last night, I met Uncle Ho in my dream", an item which Chinh Lam herself used to sing and dance in her own childhood.



Sunset on Coto beach.
Photo : DINH DANG DINH



White smoke.
Photo : MINH DUONG



THE HEART OF THE POPULATION IN HO CHI MINH CITY

VAN TRANG

Editor's note : Writer Van Trang was Deputy-Secretary General of the Association for the Defence of Women's Rights and Dignity in Saigon. Many of her novels and essays have been published in Saigon. At present, she is Assistant-Secretary General of the Saigon - Cho Lon - Gia Dinh Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces and lives in the liberated zone. Following are excerpts from one of her essays.

IN the nearly 30 years, since the August 1945 Revolution, the Saigon population lived only 29 days in independence and freedom. They have never met Uncle Ho. They have only met the arrogant and brutal agents of the imperialists, first the French then the American, who took turns in ruling over South Viet Nam. They have not had the opportunity to see with their own eyes or even to hear the full story of the moments when Uncle "leaning on his staff, climbed up a mountain to observe the battlefield", when he visited the families of labouring people in little alleys, cared for the warmth of combatants, gave sweetmeats to the children, "distributed milk for the babies and silk for the old folks". Their hearts are like a plot of fertile land where any seed of news will germinate, propagate and live for ever.

In the flush of their first victory recorded in 1950 when two US warships were chased away from Saigon port, the people in the city have risen up with an extraordinary force at Uncle's call to wage a second resistance, that against the US imperialists, for national salvation. Revolutionary movements sprang up everywhere in the face-to-face struggle with the enemy. Each year, on the eve of the Lunar New Year, Saigon people would

wake up to see the New Year in which meant to wait for Uncle's New Year greetings broadcast over the radio. Some liked to take notes. Others held that people could not hear well when writing. They preferred to drink in every one of Uncle's words.

"Just listen to Him!" they said. "We don't know whether we will ever meet Uncle. The struggle is so hard. In prison we can't hear him."

The South Vietnamese people and the Saigon population deeply regretted the fact that Uncle died before they could see him.

One day, talking about beauty spots in Viet Nam, D., Director of a bank in Saigon, told me :

"When the war will have ended, we'll take foreigners to one spot which has never been recorded on the geographical map of Viet Nam : the Ho Chi Minh trail. Everybody I met abroad asked me about it. Unfortunately I know nothing about it though I take pride in it all the same."

At that time I lived in Saigon, and like D., I knew nothing about the road. Later, after joining the liberated zone, I found children not yet in their teens travelling along the road, "pulling down the Truong Son Range" like the others. Their parents had been detained in Saigon prisons or killed by American bombs and they had been given scholarships by the

northern Government. Once, when I passed through North Viet Nam, I had the opportunity to read a letter written by a Vietnamese resident in France — a native of Saigon who had graduated from an advanced mathematics course — to his 10-year-old cousin.

"I've been told," he wrote, "that the Ho Chi Minh trail has been attacked day and night by B.52s and it is littered with engines for the detection of human breath or the smell of urine, reconnaissance electronic machines, noise recorders, in short dozens of gadgets to prevent even an ant from passing. Yet people continue to move between North and South, they told me. This time, it is quite clear that you have taken that road. On learning of the news, all my friends feel great admiration for the organizational talent of our fellow-countrymen. They are ever more confident that the US will soon be defeated..."

The Vietnamese people took pride in their leader! Saigon city takes pride in bearing his name! Those who have crossed the Truong Son Range are proud of having seen the road bearing the name of Uncle which had been attacked day and night without ever being cut.

At the 40th World Youth and Student Festival held in Berlin, capital of

the German Democratic Republic, other delegations greeted us with the shouts: "Ho! Ho! Ho Chi Minh!" and especially the representatives of countries in struggle against imperialism used the same motto. Uncle Ho has become the symbol of the fight for national independence. Uncle had taught us to be modest and we went to the Festival in that spirit. But several delegations carried big portraits of Uncle — the Italian youth and students for instance had a 10-metre-high picture of Uncle at the head of their march.

Living in Saigon for dozens of years, cut off from the outside world, I had not fully realized the grandeur of Uncle.

★

The number of Saigon people struggling against aggression in the National Front for Liberation, the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces, in different associations and patriotic organizations are so many proofs of the heart of Saigon which turns towards Uncle and acts upon his recommendations.

"Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom," these words as well as the image of President Ho Chi Minh have become immortalised for the Saigon population as well as for all true Vietnamese.

Letters to the Editor

"I am very pleased to write to you who are valiantly facing the genocidal aggression of the imperialist North American octopus.

It is clear that the US imperialists are recklessly playing their last cards — we do not underestimate them but history cannot be reversed. Indications of their recklessness are the new trade laws aimed at strangling the governments of the nationalist countries in Latin-America and their warmongering policies towards the oil-exporting countries in the Middle-East. Meanwhile we cannot forget that in Indochina the US is still propping up puppet administrations.

There is no doubt that the relations of force are in favour of the left movement and this process cannot be turned upside down."

VIRGILIO CANTORAL CHING
(Republic of Panama)

"I am very happy to say that your magazine reaches me regularly. Under the circumstances you have done a mighty job. As far as I am concerned your magazine is equal to any other similar magazine available here."

DEREK POCOCK
Lindfield
(Australia)

"I would like to see more articles in depth on economics, development, education, history... It certainly is a well put-together magazine, and I must add, it serves you and your people well."

HARRIET KASOW
Jerusalem
(Israel)

"I am astonished, and have always been so, that despite your country's difficulties, you can produce this marvellous magazine and send it out to most parts of the world."

ESTHER BRINCH
Copenhagen
(Denmark)

"You are publishing a lot of pictures which are of good quality but only a very small per cent of them shows the beauty of the Vietnamese countryside. I know that Viet Nam is a wonderful country, therefore I would like to see more pictures of it..."

RUTTKAY JÁNOS
Budapest
(Hungary)



LIGHT IN THE PRISON

DURING the war of resistance against the French colonialists, Tran Thi Man, a woman from Rach Gia province, disguised herself as a man in order to carry out underground activities in enemy-controlled areas. Following the concerted uprisings of 1960, she was arrested by the Diem administration. No torture could wrench from her the least information about the revolutionary organization. She refused to sign a petition to "rally" to the Saigon administration. The police promised to release her if she would speak ill of the government of President Ho Chi Minh, but she said: "There is no ground on which to speak ill of President Ho's government. On the contrary it has many merits. Would you like me to tell you about them?"

She told her prison companions stories she knew about President Ho Chi Minh. They all took heart from hearing them. Two of the President's verses she often recited were:

*Thy body is in jail
But thy spirit is not.*

She was successively taken to four prisons: the Saigon central prison, the Thu Duc and Chi Hoa jails, and the Phu Loi

camp. Wherever she was kept, she would continue to tell her companions stories about President Ho Chi Minh in defiance of the warders' interdiction. Finally, many of the guards themselves listened to those stories.

In her dark and damp prison cells, she composed short poems about Uncle Ho, which she recited to her fellow-prisoners and asked them to help her improve them. Many of those poems found their way to other prisons. On the occasion of President Ho Chi Minh's 73rd birthday, in 1963, she composed a poem in his honour. Here are some excerpts:

*Thinking of you puts joy in
our hearts.*

*It doesn't matter that we are
in jail.*

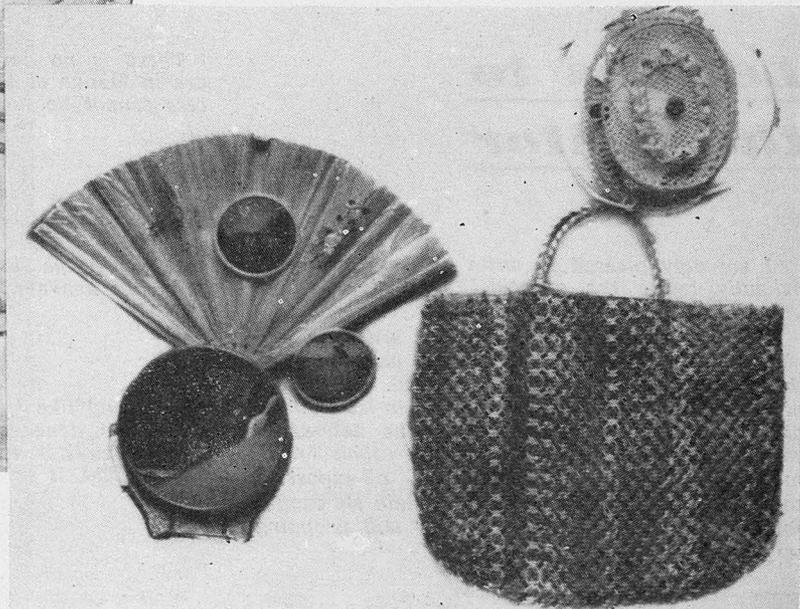
*Reviewing our actions past
and present,*

*We remember your teaching:
"Be loyal and devoted to the
Revolution,*

*"Let your honour be intact
even if you should die."*

*.....
You set us a great example:
Even in a little bamboo boat,
one can cross an ocean.*

The poem ends with these lines:



*In our cold cells, we hear a
distant cock-crow,
The whole prison is shrouded
in the night fog.
We stand up and turn our
faces to the North,
Respectfully, we wish Uncle
Ho a long, long life.*

When on the morning of May 19, 1963 he heard the poem sung in every cell of the prison, the prison director summoned Man and four of her companions to his office. The women were beaten and ordered to reveal the name of the author of the poem. They said: "Each of us contributed a few lines." In anger, the prison director asked Man: "What do you know about Ho Chi Minh that you dare to compose a poem about him?" Man calmly said: "Listen to what I know about him," and went on to recite the whole poem.

The torturers shook their heads and gave up their questioning.

After her return to our side, we came to talk to her. She said: "We left infinite love and respect for Uncle Ho. When we were in the enemy's prison, we thought of him every minute. Thinking of him gave us the stamina to stand up to the enemy."

HONG PHU

Some objects made by patriots in US-puppet jails and later presented to President Ho Chi Minh.



Hoai Lien (with a sixteen-stringed zither) performs a song in praise of the victories recorded by the PLAF of the Fifth Zone on the banks of the Thu Bon river. She is accompanied by Vu Cuong playing a moon-shaped lute. Both artists are members of the Liberation Art Ensemble of South Central Viet Nam. Founded ten years ago, the Art Ensemble has covered the whole area, from the delta to the mountains of the Western High Plateaux in order to serve the combatants and has been awarded over 100 decorations.

Photo : MANH NHIEU

The chief authors of the sabotage of the Paris Agreement



Despite the Paris Agreement, US airmen continue to train pilots for the Saigon administration.

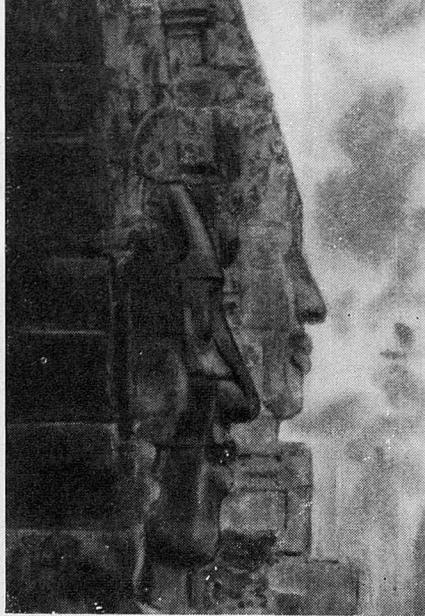
THE Paris Agreement on Viet Nam has been signed for over two years yet hostilities continue in the South. What is the reason for this state of affairs? Following are some proofs as to who are the chief authors of the sabotage of the Agreement:

The US has continued its military aid to the Nguyen Van Thieu administration: Les Aspin, a deputy to the US House of Representatives, revealed that from January 28, 1973 to early 1975, Washington has reserved 8 billion dollars for aid to South East Asia mostly for the continuation of the war in this area. From January 28, 1973 to July 10, 1974 alone, 694 planes, 800 pieces of artillery, 204 gunboats and 1,100 tanks were illegally introduced by the US into South Viet Nam.

A US war command machine has been maintained in South Viet Nam including 26,000 military personnel disguised as civilians. The Defence Attache's Office (DAO) at the US embassy in Saigon, the Special Assistant to the Ambassador for Field Operations (SAAFO), the US Agency for International Development (USAID), the Consulates General in Da Nang, Nha Trang, Bien Hoa and Can Tho and the US consulates in other provinces are in fact military command machines.

The US has not renounced its "deterrent" policy. On many occasions, US planes and warships have encroached upon the territory of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. Washington has deliberately evaded its responsibility in the healing of the war wounds in North Viet Nam; it has threatened the DRVN and cynically charged it with violating the Paris Accords. Tens of thousands of American GIs and hundreds of US aircraft of various types are still being stationed in Thailand.

The Ford administration continues to carry out "Nixon doctrine" in South Viet Nam. Immediately after his advent to power, Gerald Ford declared that the "Nixon doctrine" would be continued in South Viet Nam and Indochina. He has affirmed that aid to the Nguyen Van Thieu clique would go on uninterrupted and stressed that the US policy towards South Viet Nam would remain unchanged.



The Angkor Wat, a wonder of the land of "phnom" pagodas.

During a social evening.



Crossing a "srok" (hamlet) to join the front.



IN THE EMBATTLED LAND OF THE "PHNOM"

Painter LE LAM
Association of Liberation Writers
and Artists of South Viet Nam.

IT may be said that nature and men in Cambodia are like living paintings with a wide gamut of colours and harmonious lines which have reached perfection.

Everywhere one can see rows of shadowy "thot not" palm-trees forming a mottled Indian Ink background and the towering roofs of the "phnom", the conical pagoda typical of Cambodia, whose decorative designs seem to dance up towards the sky. All the Cambodian people I met were robust, optimistic and full of energy.

I have painted the Cambodian land with deep inspiration and emotion.

The days I spent with the Liberation combatants defending the ancient Temples of Angkor have left me with indelible memories. They were young Khmer peasants, immensely candid, gay and communicative. Day in day out, holding firmly onto their guns, they stuck to their posts to maintain the liberated zone. Very valiant in combat, they would also throw themselves into entertainments as though they had not a care in the world. The scene of Liberation combatants singing and dancing along with young girls and children by torch light to the accompaniment of the drumming of the old people is still vivid in my memory.

The scenery and men of Cambodia are so attractive. I painted in hamlets, in fortified strongpoints, beside pagodas, in communication trenches...

My sketches and water colours have been displayed at Angkor Wat, Angkor Thom and Bantay Srey. The exhibitions were visited by the local population, bonzes, cadres and Liberation soldiers. One Khmer friend told me: "Through your works, one can immediately see how deeply you love Kampuchea."

I consider my visit to the Khmer people a great honour.



Pounding rice.

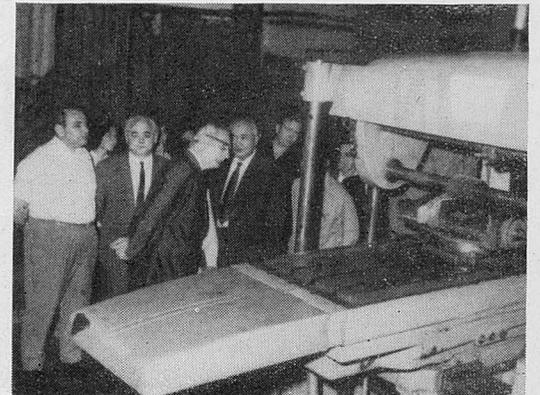
MEETINGS — CO-OPERATION — FRIENDSHIP



Premier Pham Van Dong (right) receives J. Zhamayan (left), member of the Central Committee of the People's Revolutionary Party of Mongolia and Chairman of the Mongolia - Viet Nam Friendship Association.
Photo : VU DINH HONG



The Government economic delegation of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic headed by Vice-Premier Jan Gregor touring Haiphong Port.
Photo : KIM HUNG



The Government economic delegation of the Hungarian People's Republic led by Janos Brobandi, Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers, visits the Tran Hung Dao Mechanical Engineering Plant in Hanoi.
Photo : KIM HUNG



The Government economic delegation of the Romanian Socialist Republic led by Vice-Premier Gheorghe Radulescu visits the Cement Works in Haiphong.
Photo : KIM HUNG



Dr Gerhard Weiss (with spectacles), Deputy-Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the German Democratic Republic, visiting the native village of President Ho Chi Minh.
Photo : KIM HUNG



Delegates from the International Association of Democratic Lawyers lay a wreath on the monument to those killed by US bombs on December 26th, 1972 at Kham Thien Street, Hanoi.
Photo : LAM HONG



FOREIGNER'S HANDBOOK

AN AMERICAN'S IMPRESSIONS OF HO CHI MINH

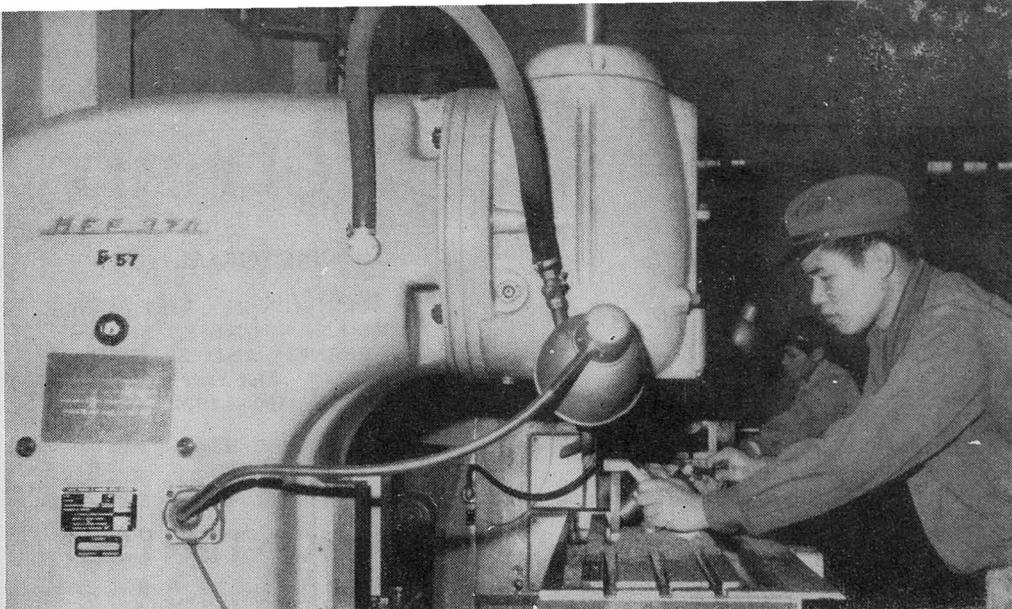
... In 1969, three days after Ho Chi Minh's death in Hanoi, teachers and students at Cornell University in the United States organized a moving memorial service for him, including posters, Vietnamese music, a brief account of his life work, and a concluding discussion on how to relate the epic struggle of the Vietnamese people to growing American public disenchantment with the war. It was a moment I shall never forget, and it helped set a number of participants on a course of lifetime opposition to US imperialism.

Today, in 1975, I have had the opportunity for the first time to walk out among the people of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and talk with them about anything, including their feelings for Ho Chi Minh. Once again I have learned something new... The people of Viet Nam continue to think of Ho Chi Minh as being alive in their own daily activities, sort of looking over their shoulders with a friendly smile, cigarette in hand — a respected uncle who prefers to teach by concrete example rather than by strict formula. It is also quite significant, I think, that today Ho Chi Minh's name is so often related to life, to growth, rather than old age or death. Thus, for example, one has the Ho Chi Minh young pioneer groups as well as the nation-wide tree planting efforts started by Ho and continued on the second day of Tet each year.

With US intervention still continuing in the South, with much of the Paris Agreement still unimplemented, Ho Chi Minh's dream of a completely independent, free and peaceful Viet Nam remains unfulfilled. There is a popular confidence, a sense of future victory, however, that a foreigner, and an American in particular, finds quite impressive. The sense of patience that Ho Chi Minh cultivated over almost six decades of revolutionary activity is still there, but so too his optimism. A whole new generation has grown up, been tested in battle, and shown itself fully as committed to national independence as any previous generation in Vietnamese history. Ho Chi Minh would be very proud of them, especially as they launch massive new economic development plans even while forcing the US government to reconsider the policy of bankrolling a hopeless puppet in Saigon indefinitely.

Ho Chi Minh's approach to life and the revolution deserves study by anyone in the world who believes in the fundamental goodness of humankind and wishes to act on that premise.

DAVID MARR
Doctor of History, Director of the
Indochina Resource Centre
USA



From Hungary, this drilling-machine has come to Viet Nam...

On the 30th anniversary of the National Day of the People's Republic of Hungary

CSEPEL—TRAN HUNG DAO

TRONG HAI

"Those small motors will soon be sent to the countryside," said Nguyen Van May, Director of the Tran Hung Dao Mechanical Engineering Plant in Hanoi as he pointed to a row of 12-h.p. Diesel motors standing in front of the plant. "In 1975 and in the years to come, we will produce many varieties of high quality Diesel motors to meet the demands of agriculture on its way towards large-scale socialist production," he added.

Behind us, a large Diesel engine started roaring. Turning back, Nguyen Ngoc Anh, Master of Science, said: "This 120-h.p. motor has just been test-produced. Many other Diesel engines have been successfully turned out thanks to the experience of our Hungarian friends."

In the workshop we were surrounded by the noise of planers, drilling-machines, metal grinders, lathes, etc., operating on every side. As we stopped in front of a machine bearing a copper plate inscribed with the words "Viet Nam", Nguyen Van Kinh, Secretary of the Plant's Trade Union Organization, informed us: "This is among the many machines presented to us by the workers at the Csepel Plant in Budapest which has sworn brotherhood with our plant. Those gifts have contributed to helping us overfulfil our 1974 plan."

In the enthusiastic atmosphere of emulation at the Tran Hung Dao Mechanical Engineering Plant in early 1975, everybody is determined to fulfil his plan right from the first month and the first quarter in honour of the great anniversaries of the year, among them the 30th anniversary of the National Day of the fraternal People's Republic of Hungary.

... and helped its workers turn out many more products in the service of agriculture.



At the Museum of the Revolution

A SPECIAL SUIT OF CLOTHES

Text: HOANG MANH TUNG

Photo: TRAN CU (Museum of the Revolution)

In June 1931, Mr Nguyen was arrested by the British authorities in Hong Kong. The French colonialists were very happy at the news as for many years they had not succeeded in tracking him down.

In court, Mr Nguyen was actively defended by Mr Francis Henry Loseby, a British barrister. The British imperialists had to withdraw their charges against him.



The special suit of clothes presented by Mrs Rosa Loseby to the Viet Nam Museum of the Revolution.

but they tried to force him to leave Hong Kong on a French boat. This was a device to hand Mr Nguyen over to the French colonialists. F.H. Loseby appealed to the Privy Council in London and confided the case to his friend, the lawyer Stafford Cripps. Finally the Privy Council had to order the release of Mr Nguyen.

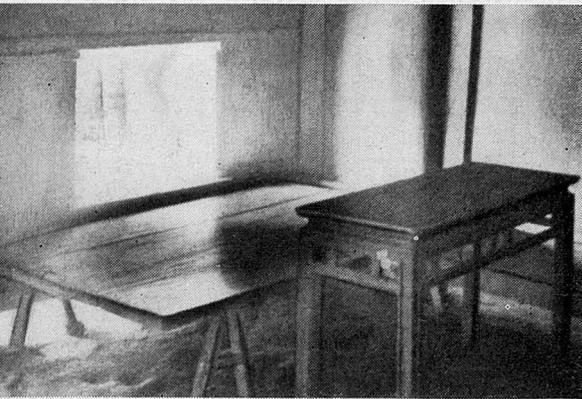
Mr Nguyen secretly went to Singapore but was again arrested and brought back to Hong Kong. Again he was helped by F.H. Loseby who later made preparations for his escape. With a suit of clothes, a canvas cap, a pair of spectacles and canvas shoes bought by Mrs Rosa Loseby, Loseby's wife, Mr Nguyen disguised himself as a rich businessman and left Hong Kong.

Mr Nguyen — alias Nguyen Ai Quoc — was later President Ho Chi Minh. At that time, he had also been known as Tong Van So.

In early 1960, at the invitation of President Ho Chi Minh, F.H. Loseby and his wife visited the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

Back in Hong Kong, Mrs Rosa Loseby bought a suit of clothes, a cap, a pair of spectacles and a pair of shoes similar to those used by President Ho Chi Minh in the past and offered them to the Viet Nam Museum of the Revolution.

AT THE NATIVE VILLAGE OF UNCLE HO



"FORMERLY WE WENT THIS WAY..."

Following the restoration of peace, the ancient house of President Ho Chi Minh at Sen (Lotus) village in Nghe An province was repaired and transformed into a museum. As they did not know the exact position of the lane leading to it in the past, the local authorities temporarily set up a new one on the left of the house leading to the Guests' House to facilitate reception.

In 1957, returning to his native village after 52 years of absence, Uncle Ho immediately noticed the error. "Formerly, we went this way," he said. "It was separated from the next house by a hedge of agnus castus and on the other side by a hedge of hibiscus."

Four years later, on his second visit to Sen village, Uncle Ho found that agnus castus and hibiscus plants had grown luxuriantly on the lane as in former years.

HIS ANCIENT BED

In his infancy, Uncle Ho lived in a house built by the local people for his father after his graduation as second laureate in the competitive mandarins' examination for the doctorate degree. Four planks of wood installed in the apartment close to the kitchen served him as a bed and a table at the same time.

Back home in 1957, Uncle felt great joy when he recognized his former plank-bed. "That bed is still intact? Our folks have preserved it so well!"

OLD DIEN'S SMITHY

In front of the ancient house of Uncle Ho in Sen village, there was a smithy belonging to Old Dien, father of Hoang Van Luyen, a childhood friend of Uncle Ho, four years his senior. In his spare time, Uncle Ho would go to Old Dien's shop to help him blow bellows or pick up scrap iron for making toys.

In 1957, back in his native village, Uncle Ho visited the blacksmith's shop and instructed the local cadres to turn out tools in abundance for the farmers. The smithy of Old Dien has now been put on show in a museum.

"THE JACK-FRUIT TREE IS STILL THERE?"

In his childhood, Uncle Ho would go and take fresh air under the shadow of this jack-fruit tree behind the house of his maternal grandfather. After his departure, the tree gradually decayed but from its stump, two strong shoots emerged. Back to that house in 1961, Uncle could not contain his joy when he saw that tree once again.

"The jack-fruit tree is still there?" he exclaimed.

Text and photos : HONG THANH

Việt nam

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At the native village of Uncle Ho

Front cover : President Ho Chi Minh (in the resistance to the French colonialists).

Photo : Vu Nang An

Inside front cover : President Ho Chi Minh visits his native village after 52 years of absence.

Photo : Dinh Dang Dinh

Back cover : Uncle Ho's "wise nephews and nieces".

Photo : Ho Hai

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HE SET HIS HEART ON IT

TRAN DINH

The artisan Song Hy spent 150 days and many nights embroidering this portrait of President Ho Chi Minh. He thought: "The services Uncle Ho has rendered to the country are immense, like heaven and sea. The portrait of him I am going to make should at least express a tiny bit of our infinite gratitude to him". He began work in the sweltering heat of summer 1969 dreaming of offering it to Uncle Ho. Alas, the President died as the work was being completed.

Mr Song Hy, who is 60 has spent 40 years in his trade. Together with the embroidery he has composed a poem to express his feelings toward the President. Here is an excerpt :



Mr Song Hy putting the finishing touch to the embroidered portrait of Uncle Ho.

"Talent alone does not decide the value of a work of art. Other important factors are feeling and industry." Such is the teaching of an old artisan to the younger generation.



*Silvery hair adorns your high forehead
On which time has drawn wrinkles.
Your decades of activity in Europe and Asia
Are devoted to the nation and the working
people.*

*Brilliant eyes, an immense forehead,
A smile that inspires confidence,
And a beard suggesting serenity and kind-
ness :*

*O how beautiful :
One would think a god descending onto the
earth !*



Việt nam