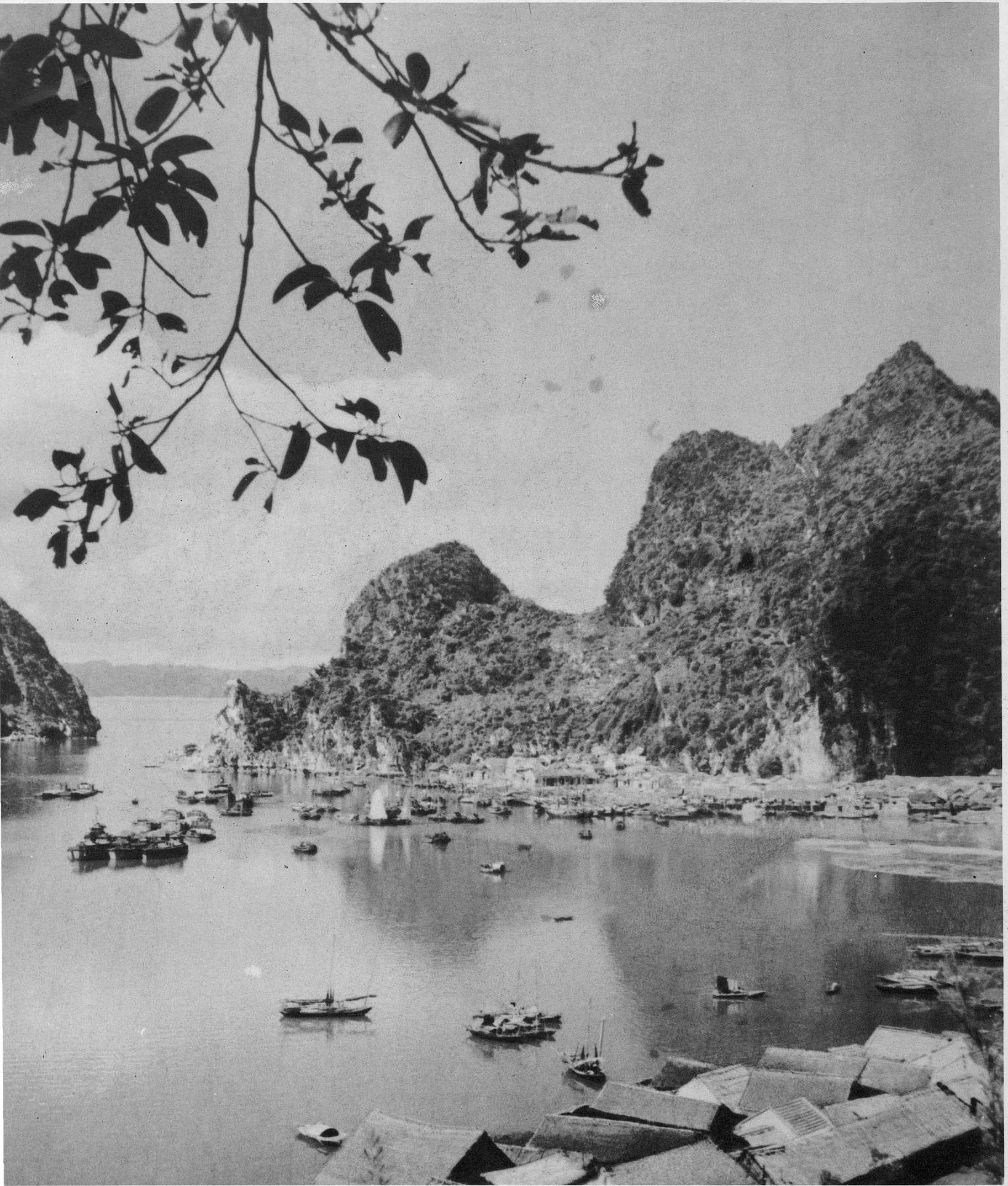


200
1975

Vietnam





Mount Poem on the bank of the Ha Long Bay. On May Day 45 years ago, a hammer and sickle was planted on its top by a youth from the nearby mining area.
Photo : BAO CUONG

30th ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDATION OF
THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM



Prime Minister Pham Van Dong.

VICTORIES OF HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE AND EPOCHAL MAGNITUDE

PHAM VAN DONG

*Prime Minister of the
Democratic Republic of Viet Nam*

GREAT events in history, events of deep and lasting significance, take on ever greater dimensions, stand out ever more clearly as time goes by and spread their positive influence far and wide, conforming to the trend of progress of a whole historical period.

This is what we may say in 1975, 30 years after with regard to the great revolution of August 1945 and the foundation on September 2, 1945 of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, the first worker-peasant State in Southeast Asia.

We may say this because those two great events opened a new era in the history of the Vietnamese nation and are closely bound up with the growth and the ever greater successes of the three revolutionary torrents of the time.

We all remember that soon after reading our Declaration of Independence President Ho Chi Minh had to issue an appeal calling on the Vietnamese people to rise up and oppose the French colonialists. The war of resistance against French colonialism was to end in the resounding victory of Dien Bien Phu. The sounds of the guns at Dien Bien Phu were the signal for the collapse of old-style colonialism. This was a contribution of great significance

made by the Vietnamese people to the cause of national liberation all over the world.

Immediately after the failure of the French colonialists the American imperialists became the sworn enemy of the Vietnamese nation. Inspired with this great thought of President Ho Chi Minh – "Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom" – our people rose up. They perseveringly waged an extremely hard war of resistance against American aggression for national salvation, successively foiled all steps of the enemy's war escalation, won ever greater victories, defeated the American expeditionary corps in the South and the air and naval war of destruction against the North and compelled the enemy to sign the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam

Though heavily defeated, the US imperialists still sought by thousands of tricks to impose US neo-colonialism on the southern part of our country. They used the Nguyen Van Thieu clique, their agents, to step up the war and sabotage the implementation of the Paris Agreement. To defend the Agreement and the fruits of the revolution, in spring this year our armed forces and people in the South launched a general offensive and uprising, the peak of which was the operation named after our great President

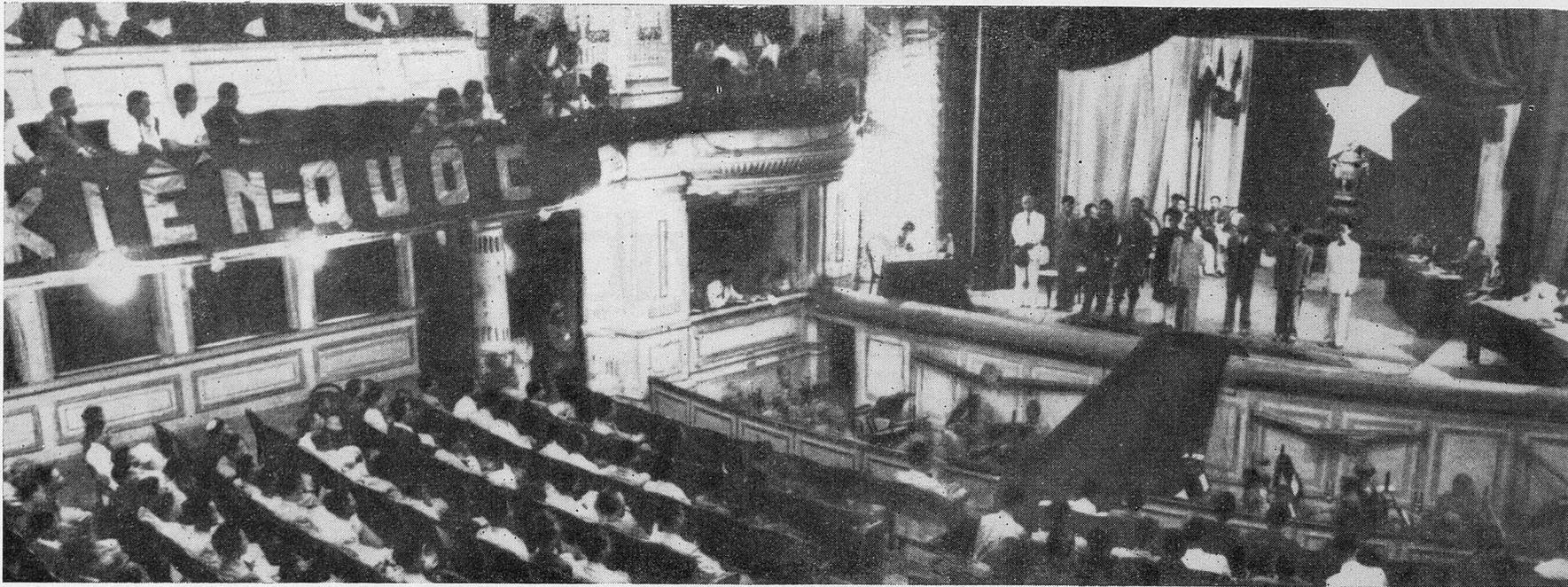
Ho Chi Minh, completely liberating Saigon and the southern part of our homeland.

With the great victory of the historic Ho Chi Minh campaign, our people have fully realized the target of the national liberation war: to defend the independence and freedom of the whole of Viet Nam and to defend the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, the first socialist State in Southeast Asia.

From now on, Viet Nam is again a single stretch extending from Lang Son to Cape Ca Mau, and the revolution in our country enters a new period with new favourable conditions.

This victory of historic significance and epochal magnitude is a very heavy blow dealt at imperialism. It opens very bright prospects for the world people's struggle for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress on an international scale.

A wonderful thing that should be stressed is the fact that, in the course of their long victorious struggle against a colossal and hitherto undefeated enemy, the Vietnamese people have matured, like the legendary genie Phu Dong, and their revolutionary heroism has caused the blossoming of numberless magnificent feats of arms throughout our beloved and majestic land, feats of arms which grew ever



In early 1946, the National Assembly (1st legislature) met to adopt the Constitution of the DRVN and decide on the path to be followed by the nation.

Chairman Truong Chinh of the National Assembly Standing Committee and delegates to the 3rd Session of the National Assembly (4th legislature).



greater till the final victory of the historic Ho Chi Minh campaign.

Meanwhile socialism in the North, in the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, has developed to the full its position and influence turning the North into the revolutionary base of the whole country, the firm rear of the heroic South. It was in the flames of war that the socialist North was ceaselessly consolidated and developed in all fields – military, political, economic, cultural – and built close ties with the fraternal socialist countries and peace- and justice-loving people throughout the world.

All these wonderful achievements spring from the correct and clear-sighted leadership of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, a Party armed with the invincible doctrine of Marxism-Leninism, the leader and organizer of all the victories of the Vietnamese people.

Very important tasks still lie before the Vietnamese people. They must enhance their ideology and feelings, their levels and capacities to quickly achieve the best results in the healing of the war wounds, the development of economy and culture, the stabilization and gradual improvement of their living standards, while striving to fulfil their lofty internationalist duty to the two fraternal neighbour countries on the Indochinese peninsula.

The Vietnamese people will certainly be successful in building a peaceful, reunified, independent, democratic and prosperous Viet Nam and will contribute to the defence of peace in this area and the world, as desired by the great President Ho Chi Minh.





▲
President Ho Chi Minh signs the decree proclaiming the Socialist Constitution (1960).



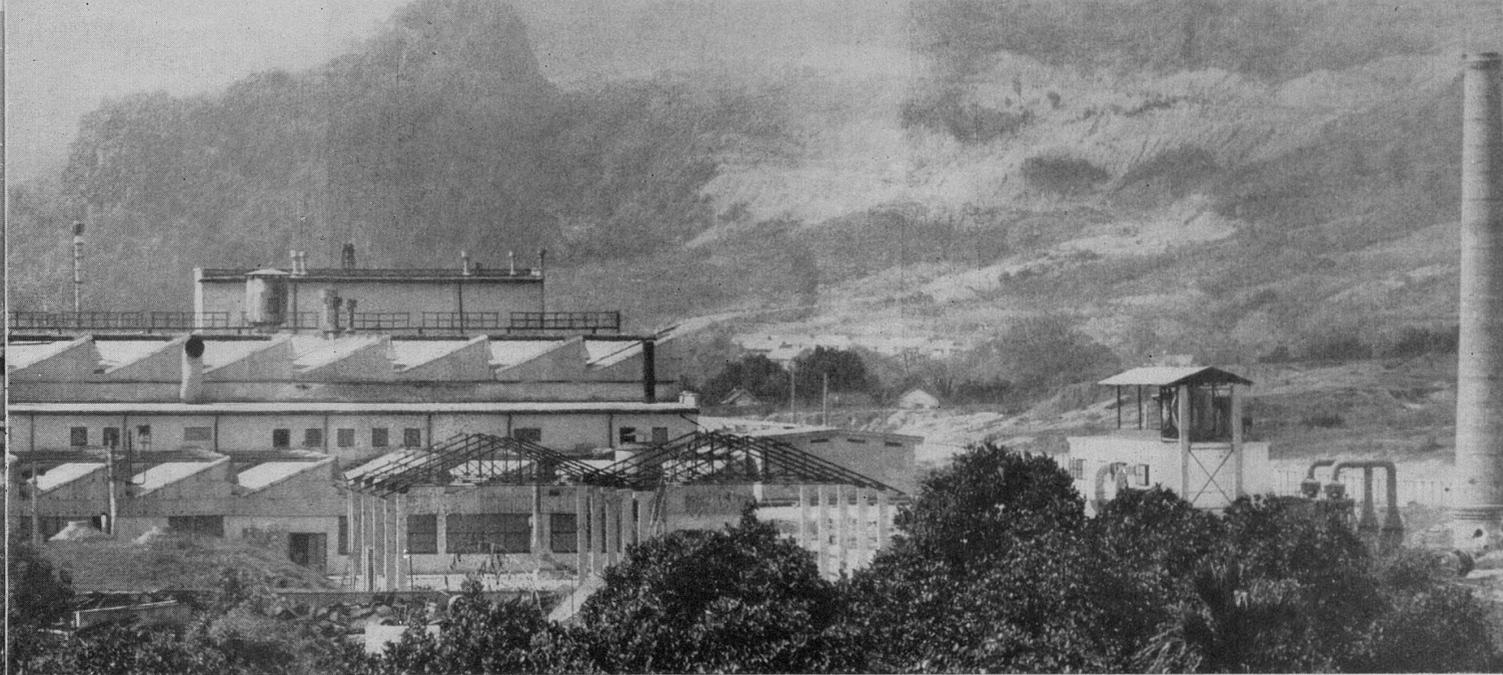
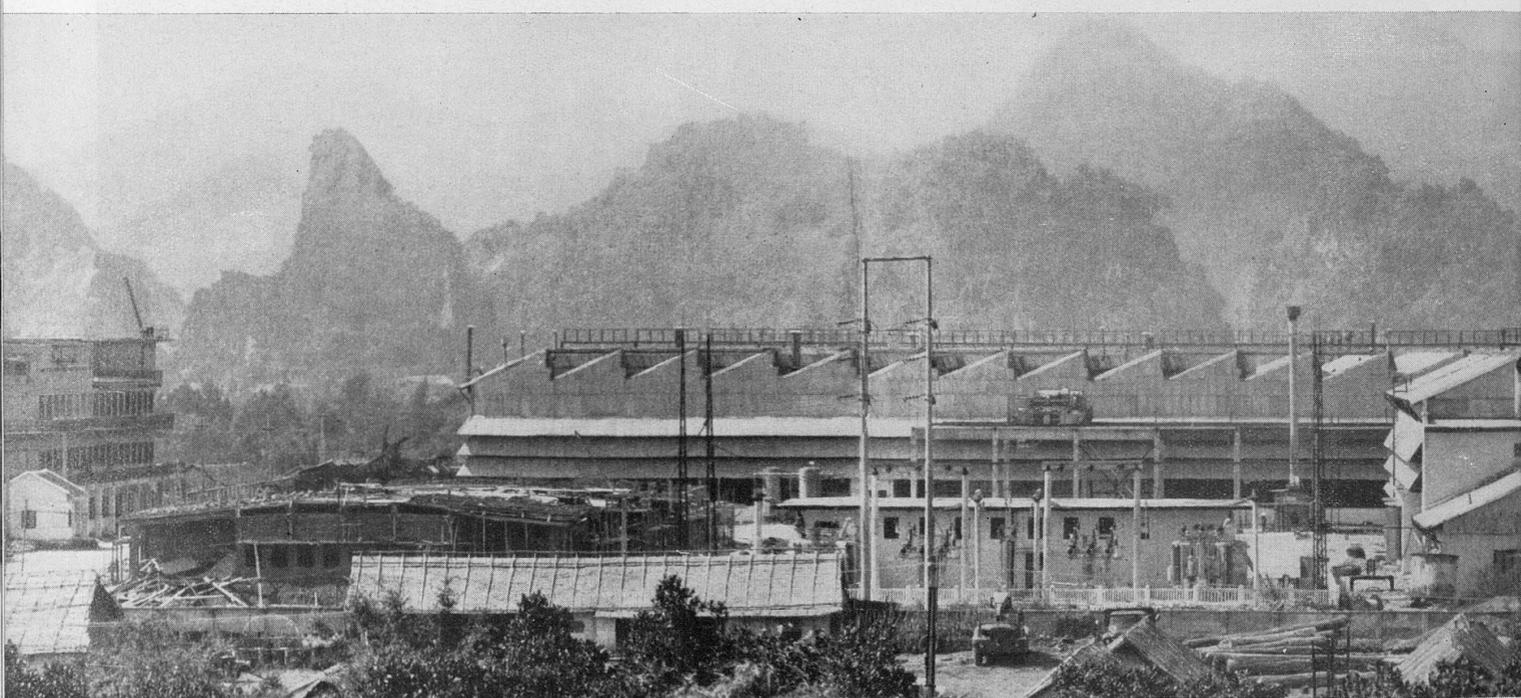
◀
Enthusiastic scenes as people go to the polls to elect the National Assembly (4th legislature).

▶
Future generations are cared for right from childhood.

THE HEART OF THE MINE

PHAN CANH and VAN CHUC

- ★ A BIG PROJECT IN HONOUR OF THE 30th ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE DRVN.
- ★ A "HOSPITAL" FOR TRANSPORT LORRIES AND MACHINES OF THE QUANG NINH COAL AREA.



The Cam Pha Mechanical Engineering Plant, the "heart" of the Quang Ninh collieries.

These 27 ton tip-up trucks have been repaired by the Plant.

About to work on the construction of a project in honour of the 30th anniversary of the founding of the DRVN. All of them are 30 years old (top right).



BACKED by the Da Chong massif and overlooking the Bai Tu Long Bay, the Cam Pha Mechanical Engineering Plant is emerging.

Six workshops will be installed in two buildings. At the foundry shop, production work will be fully mechanized. The other sections (engineering, forging, manufacture of electrical appliances, motor car repair, painting and nickelling) will be also provided with up-to-date equipment: 84-ton metal-milling machines capable of turning out toothed wheels 3.2 metres in diameter, hydraulic forging presses (630 tons pressure), electronic engines of ultra-sound control, etc.

This "heart" of the Quang Ninh mine will produce steel, spare parts for motor cars and machines for coal extraction and each year will recondition 150 lorries.

In the resistance to the US air war of destruction against the North, US planes had twice destroyed the factory under construction: seven workers were killed. Under the command of Dang Van Ty, Head of the Construction Section, however, the 122 workers dashed out to the parts which had been hit to extinguish the fire and dismantle machines. 3,000 tons of machinery and equipment were moved to safety.

Trenches and shelters were dug for self-defence work and, between the enemy bombing attacks, preparations were made for the building of the factory for the third time.

After the restoration of peace, over 1,000 cadres and workers were sent to the area. Everybody resolved to complete the construction of the plant in 1975 to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

Many difficulties still lay ahead as a result of the war, but nothing could impede the plant's advance. Said Nguyen Van Nghia, a young worker:



The Vietnamese workers are devotedly helped by Soviet specialists. On the left is Akadi Ivanovich Stankov, an engineer.

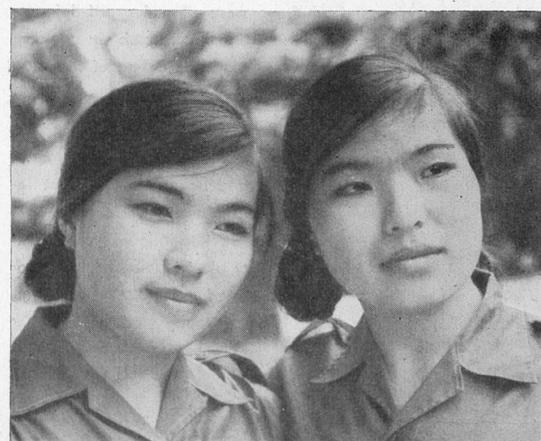


Though the construction has not yet been completed, in the Mechanical Section production has already started.

"Everything was running smoothly when a new obstacle arose: the lack of able workers for the welding of wind pipes. Over two thirds of the plant's personnel are like us, only recently graduated from school. Would we be obliged to sit idly by, waiting for help from our superiors? Together with some companions I went to meet the manager. With his consent and the assistance of our team leader, we started some experiments which were approved by the fore'gn specialists. What an unexpected joy for us all!"

Intense days of work began. Hardly had any premises been built when machines were established and production work started. Builders, assemblers and producers worked together in perfect harmony. In the past year, though construction work had not yet been completed in any workshop, over 200 items of goods were produced and the number of vehicles repaired amounted to 30% of the norm set by the plant's construction project. These first results helped the Hong Gai Coal Company to fulfil its 1974 State plan.

THE HEART...



TWO GIRLS ON THE TRUONG SON RANGE

Pham Thi Trung (right) and Pham Thi Hieu, 18, are twin sisters from a family of workers in Nam Dinh city. Both of them joined the people's army on the same day, serve as army cooks in a unit on the Truong Son Range and often produce circus performances during their spare time. These amateur artists participated in the All Army Folk Art Festival in 1974.

Photo : HOANG KIM DANG

Repairing a road in Lang Son province following the US air war of destruction on the North.

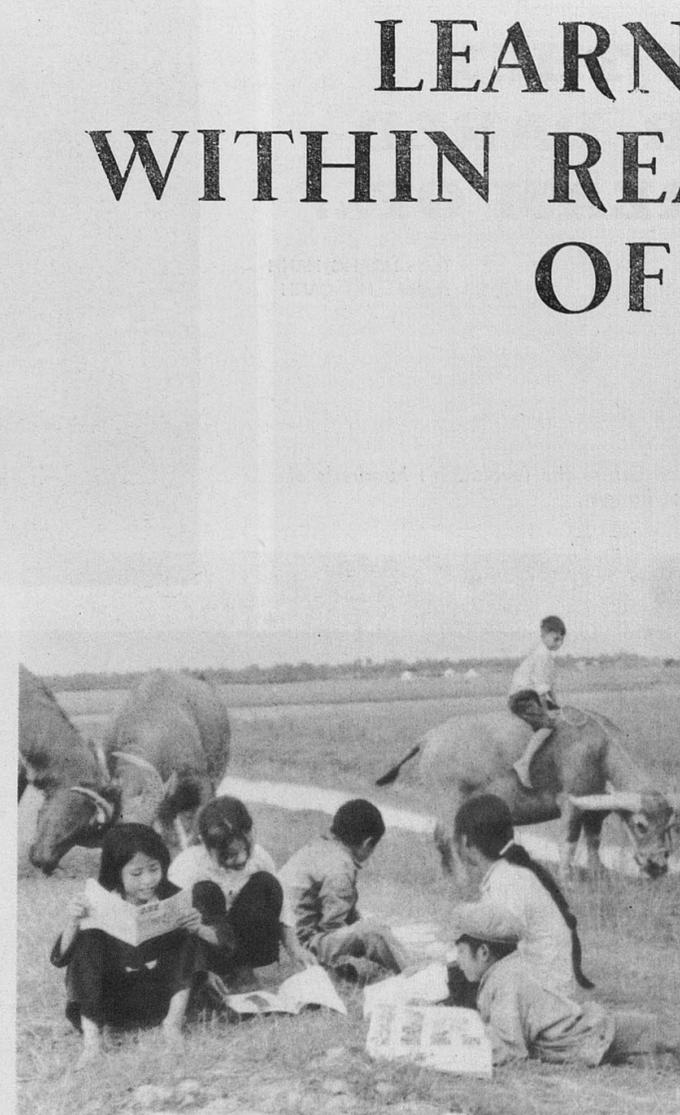
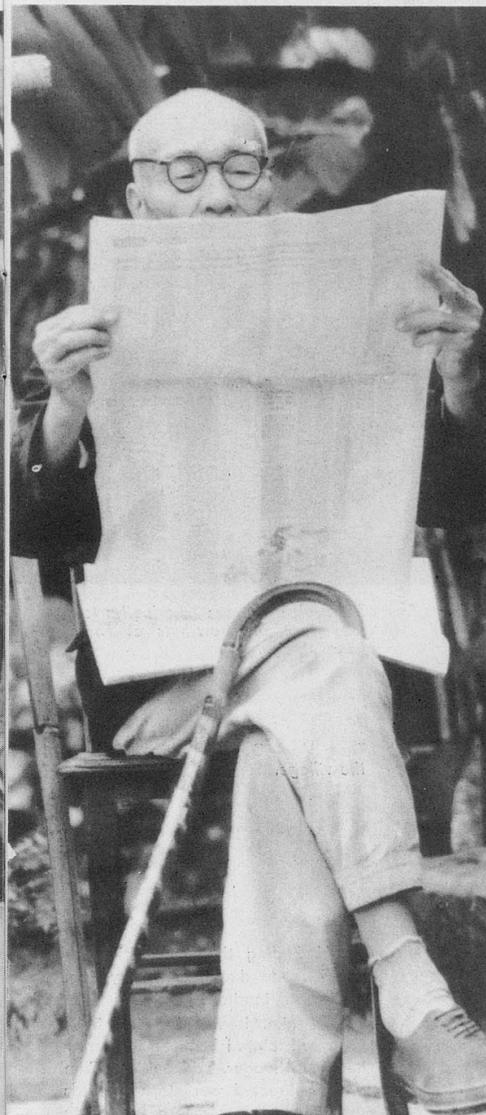
Photo : DINH DANG DINH

Our readers' photographs

Plate polishing at the Haiphong Glassware Factory.

Photo : NGUYEN DUC VAN





LEARNING WITHIN REACH OF ALL

ANH CUONG

- Left to right:
- Nguyen Thi Thin, the librarian, says: "The people here are fully aware of the importance of reading and learning from books and periodicals published by the Party."
 - Members of the science and technique team of the co-op are regular readers.
 - Mr Ha Dinh Vuong is not only a studious reader but also an esteemed poet.
 - Children greatly enjoy reading.

EVER since primary schooling became universal in the country, the reading of books and periodicals at the Dong Xuan farming co-operative in the suburbs of Hanoi has strongly developed. In 1966 there were a mere fifty-odd books on the common bookshelves. Now the co-op's library includes more than 4,000 volumes belonging to 17 categories, the major part being books on agricultural science and literature.

People of each age group and occupation have, of course, their own favourites. Young men are mostly interested in literature and popular science. Women's attention is drawn to articles and publications on home economics, health care and child upbringing. Members of the co-op's management are allowed priority in borrowing books on economic management and technology.

For the children there is a sizable number of children's books. About 40% of the co-op members are regular readers. Half of the labouring force and 85% of the cadres frequent the reading-room. Nguyen Thang, the co-op's chairman, eagerly talked to me about the growth of the number of readers and the benefits they draw from attending the library. In 1969, rice output at Dong Xuan was 5 tons per hectare; by 1974 it had grown to 8 tons. Reading, he thought, had contributed to that progress. The co-op members had put into practice many things they had learnt in the books and reviews. Dong Xuan boasts a splendid herd of pigs raised in a collective farm. The manager is Nguyen Thua Huan, deputy chairman of the co-op responsible for

livestock breeding. He is a studious reader of technical journals from which he has learnt much about cross-breeding, food processing and disease prevention. In 1969, an epidemic affecting pigs broke out. Thanks to the knowledge he had acquired in animal disease prevention and treatment, Huan was quickly able to take all necessary measures to stamp it out. He has also been practising cross-breeding of pigs with great success.

The children at Dong Xuan are also great readers of books and reviews. I attended a session during which two students of the local secondary school, Phan Chi Minh and Thanh Huong, reported to their comrades about the benefits they had drawn from the co-op library as well as from their home libraries. In their "literary notebooks" they had painstakingly copied down excerpts from their readings. At the competition of literary composition recently

held among secondary-school students throughout the city, Thanh Huong won the second prize.

The oldest of the regular readers at the library is Mr Ha Dinh Vuong, aged 77. His readings are quite varied and range from old annals and novels to biographies of national heroes, books of history, geography, and publications dealing with topical events. He said: "Thanks to my reading I have been able to comprehend events both in the world and in the country as well as what has been happening in my own native region. This knowledge gives me joy and helps me educate my children and grandchildren." In his leisure time, he helps the librarian put her books in order and restore them to good shape. He introduces new books to the readers and composes verses which he recites at socials organized by the co-op.

DO YOU KNOW?



- ★ When the August 1945 Revolution ended in success, the whole of Viet Nam had 25 million inhabitants.
- ★ On April 1, 1974 when the 2nd general census was carried out, the DRVN had 23,787,375 inhabitants, 51.1% of them women. People of national minorities accounted for 15.6% of the total population.
- ★ Two thirds of North Viet Nam's population have been born after the August Revolution.
- ★ From the 1st general census on March 1, 1960 to April 1, 1974, the DRVN population increased by 7,870,000 inhabitants (49.4%).

- ★ The percentage of national minorities went up from 14.8% in 1960 to 15.6% in 1974. During the same period, the population of the highland nationalities increased by 70.3%.
- ★ The death rate in the DRVN dropped from 3% before the August Revolution to 1.2% in 1960 and 0.7% in 1974.
- ★ On April 1, 1974, North Viet Nam had 1,587 people aged between 100 and 140, 1,184 of whom women; four people were aged 140, one of them a man.
- ★ Nghe An is the province with the largest number of centenarians: 239 people are over 100 years of age.

- ★ Dien Bien ranks first among the districts with 54 people aged over 100.
- ★ In comparison with the number of books published in the whole of Viet Nam in 1939 (the peak year under French rule) the number of books published each year in the DRVN had increased by six times in 1954-1960 (period of the restoration of production and initial development of the economy and culture), by 18 times in 1961-1965 and 15 times in 1965-1972 (during the US air and naval war of destruction against the North).
- ★ Many foreign books have been translated into Vietnamese and greatly appreciated by Vietnamese

readers among them: "The Making of a Hero" by Nikolay Ostrovski; "The Mother" by Maxim Gorky; "War and Peace" by Leo Tolstoy; "Road to Calvary" by Alexey Tolstoy; "Short Stories" by Lu Hsun; "The Last Judgement" by Blaga Dimitrova; "Les Miserables" by Victor Hugo; "Eugenie Grandet" by Honoré de Balzac; Select Plays by Shakespeare; "Cuore" (Heart) by Edmondo De Amicis; "The Gadfly" by E.L. Voynich; Selected Poems of Rabindranath Tagore; "For Whom the Bell Tolls" by Ernest Hemingway; "Ten Days that Shook the World" by John Reed and "The Iron Heel" by Jack London.

AT THE THANG LONG CO-OPERATIVE

WHAT THEY NEVER DARED TO DREAM OF...

Text : HOANG HANH
Photos : HO CANH

★ The gloomy life before the revolution : hundreds of people died of hunger.

★ A new life is surging up.



Tile-roofed houses gradually take the place of straw-huts at Thang Long village.

Tran Van De, the oldest man in the village.



ON finding that my uncle was nearly dead from starvation, the landlord and his wife sacked him. It was in May 1945. I too had fainted from the sweltering heat and hunger, said Bui Van Cam as we directed our steps towards the nursery class where his fourth son was. "Only in the evening," he added, "did my father return, bringing back some rice. We prepared a thin rice soup for my uncle, but we could not save him. That year, out of the nine members of my family only two survived,— and it was the same story all over the countryside. It was before the collapse of the Japanese fascists and the August 1945 Revolution."

Bui Van Cam is now responsible for the educational, cultural and social activities of the village. His father, over sixty years old, is leader of a tree-planting brigade made up entirely of elderly people.

In the period before the August Revolution, Thang Long village (Kinh Mon district, Hai Hung province) had over 2,000 inhabitants, 250 of them died from the famine of 1945 including 15 whole families. 30% of the population suffered from elephantiasis. Throughout the year all the village lanes would be deep in mud and water.

As 80% of the land belonged to the landlords, the peasants had to work as hired labourers or drift around looking for a living: it was a life of misery, full of illness and ignorance.

Today, everything is changed. On a visit to Tran Van De, the eldest man at the village, we found the old couple sipping tea in the verandah. In the yard were their grand nephews and nieces, playing and romping. Tran Van De was very happy to talk to us: "I'm now 72 years old," he said, "and it's 50 years since we got married. Three of my sons and daughters died from disease and hunger before the August 1945 Revolution. The remaining six are now all well-off. When I think of the miserable life I led in the old days as a servant, before liberation, I cannot hold back my tears. I toiled hard day and night but I was constantly cursed and beaten by the rich landlords; there was no house of our own to live in, no adequate food for the children... Besides we were tormented by thousands of other worries: poll taxes, no steady jobs, the famine..."

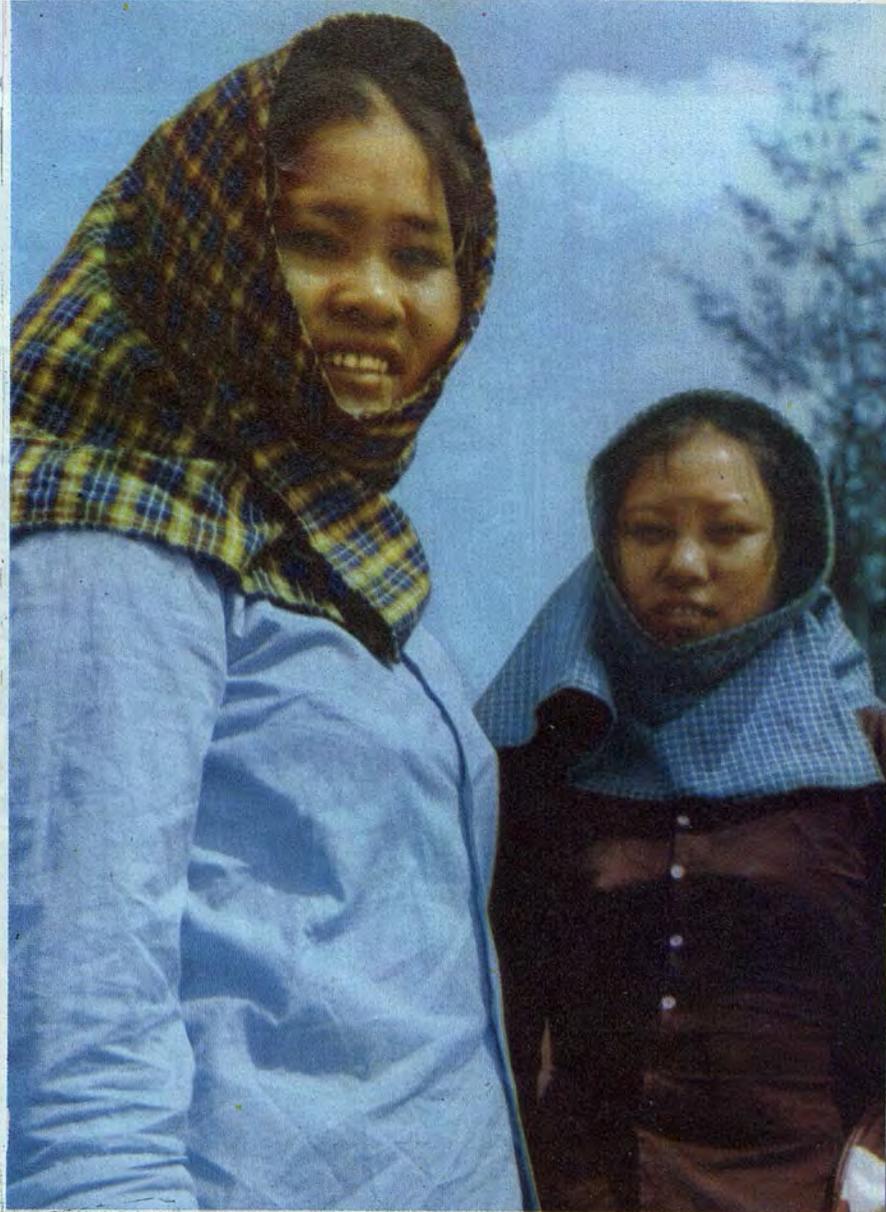
Now, thanks to the revolution, our lives have completely changed."

Old De took us round his tile-roofed house. Everything is neat and clean. The furniture in the drawing room is of well-polished wood. "The wood comes from trees I planted myself in the garden," he said. On the walls, among the congratulatory certificates presented him by State organs and mass organizations are framed pictures of his two sons in uniform.

During our stay at Thang Long village, we visited many other peasant families. Everywhere I was told similar stories of change.

Nguyen Van Tuyen, Chairman of the Thang Long co-operative, gave me the figures in which its members take such great pride, figures which never before could they dare dream of: 9 tons of paddy per hectare per year (against 2 tons before the revolution); an average of 3.6 porkers per household, 200 thoroughbred sows in the collective farm; 15 tons of fish produced in 1974; a total of 2,500 pupils and students in different classes from nursery schools to the 7th form of general education.

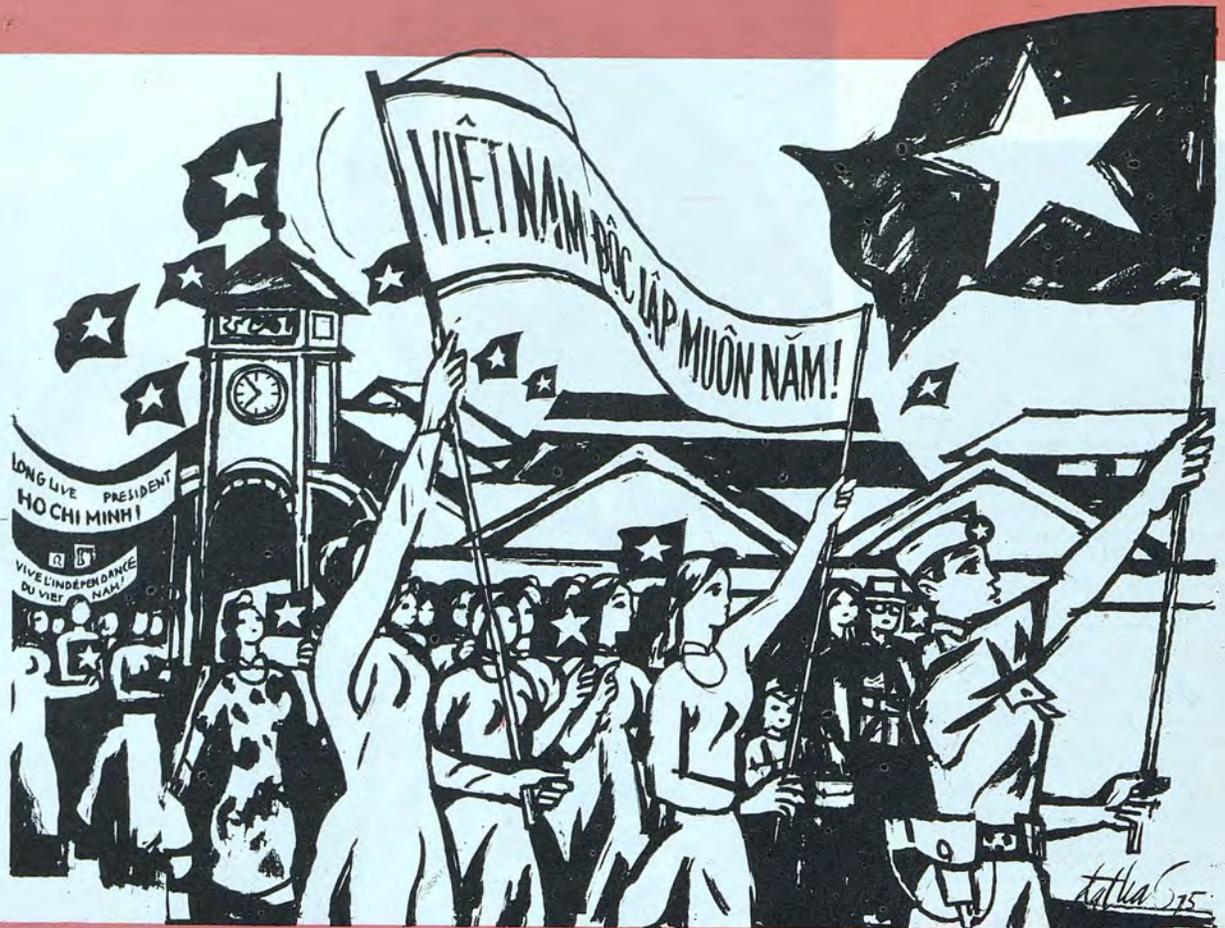
These great changes in the life of Thang Long village have occurred thanks to the revolution. The future will show even deeper changes not only here but also all over North Viet Nam.



A collective pig-breeding centre in the Thang Long agricultural co-op.

Nguyen Thi Duc (left), from the rice-planting technical team, on a field once tilled by her parents for the benefit of the landlords.





LITERARY PAGES

THE HISTORIC DAYS OF AUGUST

Illustration : DANG THAC

(From the memoirs by Hoang Quoc Viet, Secretary General of the Central Direction of the Viet Minh (League for the Independence of Viet Nam) in the 1945 Revolution period and a member of the CC of the VNWP, President of the Viet Nam Federation of Trade Unions and Head of the Supreme Prosecutor's Office of the DRVN.)

...I was sent to South Viet Nam, along with comrade Cao Hong Lanh.

We left Thai Nguyen by raft and later went downstream to the delta by boat. That year, the river was in spate; on its way our boat saved a number of people stranded by the rising water. Near Bac Ninh, our boat took a short cut through the flooded fields. At Yen Vien, on the high road we saw a car with a very big yellow-starred red flag; through its loudspeaker came the well-known revolutionary songs "To Smash Fascism" and "The Heroic Fighters". In a break between the songs we could hear an announcer's voice: "Hullo, Hullo, the insurrectionary forces led by the Viet Minh gained control over Hanoi at 4 p.m. today. Power in the capital city is completely in our hands."

It was August 19, 1945.

In this Propaganda car we rapidly travelled straight to Hanoi. The red flags and streamers dazzled our eyes. The car carried us from one liaison place to the other, and at last to the Hanoi Insurrectionary Committee presided over by comrade Nguyen Khang. Here our comrades had been working since morning without even time to

take a bite to eat. In the morning, 150,000 people had participated in a demonstration and seized the North Viet Nam Governor's Palace and the Town Hall. From 1 o'clock to 4 o'clock in the afternoon, our forces in Hanoi surrounded the Security Force garrison, continuing their struggle till the Japanese withdrew their tanks and troops guarding the cross-roads. Comrade Khang discussed with me the urgent problems to be settled, and informed me that the Hanoi and Bac Bo People's Revolutionary Committees were to present themselves to the people on the following day.

At 7 p.m., we left Hanoi for South Viet Nam in the car which had transported comrade Thap (now member of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party) and an official of the Hoa Hao religious sect to North Viet Nam.

Everywhere we went, we brought concrete information about Hanoi and the successful insurrection of its inhabitants, thus filling all the comrades with great elation and enthusiasm.

Out of Hanoi we rolled at full speed passing through Bang, Dong Van and

Phu Ly. Everywhere flags had been hoisted and many villages by the roadside were illuminated with torches. At Dang Xa, self-defence troops were moving busily to and fro.

It was not yet 9 p.m. when we reached Nam Dinh. At the entrance to the town, a self-defence girl armed with a sword stopped our car and asked for our pass. We produced our papers and were led to the former office of the province's French Resident. Comrade Van Tien Dung met us. His first words were: "All is well here."

After a short rest, we went on our journey. Not until we were ten kilometres outside the town could we move into in high gear: there were large groups of people on the road, carrying flags and shouting slogans at the tops of their voices. On the flank of Mount Non Nuoc a line of big white letters was seen: "Long live the victorious Vietnamese revolution." At Ghenh, Bim Son and then Len, we had to show our papers.

"We're all friends."

"Please go on, comrades."

We arrived at Thanh Hoa late at night when the town was sound asleep,

except for groups of young people busy hanging banners across the main roads. Comrade Le Tat Dac received us in the former palace of the French Resident. After washing, we discussed the situation until the sky began to turn faintly light. We left Thanh Hoa for Vinh where we arrived at 9 a.m. Comrade Nguyen Tao met us.

"They have got rid of the Japanese very neatly, and appointed Mr Le Viet Luong as Chairman of the Provincial Committee."

We passed by Ha Tinh, Quang Binh and Ngang Pass. It had been a long time since we had last seen the sea. For us cadres who had spent so many years in underground activities, we felt greatly elated to see that in our old revolutionary bases forests and mountains were now ours. Now, driving freely along the great road which runs along the whole length of Viet Nam, we felt all the more moved and elevated with our victory at the sight of immense expanses of sky and sea. We arrive at Quang Tri, then at Hue.

Comrade Nguyen Chi Thanh and comrade Lanh (i.e. To Huu) informed us: "The Emperor has abdicated. He is only waiting for the Central Government envoy to come and take over his seal and sword."

At Da Nang, comrades Le Van Hien and Le Dung were waiting for us, having been informed of our arrival by telephone from Hue. With great joy we again met comrade Huynh Ngoc Hue, a very energetic, sensible and dynamic young worker. One of the great delights of our trip was that we could meet many of our comrades at each stage of the journey.

At Da Nang, comrade Cao Hong Lanh received information that his native district of Hoi An had also established people's power. The local comrades invited him to attend a meeting with the people of his native village, but remembering Uncle Ho's recommendations at our departure: "Go to South Viet Nam as quick as possible, don't lose a single half-day," he took leave of the local comrades the same night and set off with us.

His simple luggage contained a very precious remembrance: a blue suit worn by comrade Le Hong Phong when living in China and handed him by a worker in Nanning.

Climbing over the Hai Van pass we arrived at Quang Nam. Here, as on many other portions of Highway 1 we saw division after division of Japanese troops retiring to regroupment areas with all their equipment, horses and arms, big and small. They were all crestfallen, officers and men, with the clear look of a defeated army. At the top of the Hai Van pass, the Japanese requested us to stop our car. Finding some pistols in it, they reported the fact to their officers. The commander of the unit came to meet us. We pointed at the yellow-starred red flag on the bonnet of the car and showed him our credentials issued by the Central Direction of the Viet Minh (League for the Independence of Viet Nam). The Japanese officer asked our pardon and begged us to go on our way.

Quang Ngai was astir with an atmosphere of tense struggle. Meetings and armed demonstrations were taking place. Short-haired self-defence girls aimed their spears at our tires, shouting: "Halt!" We produced our papers, but they were not satisfied. I had to alight and explain to them for a long time before they agreed to introduce us to their superior. It was Tran Qui Hai, who had just come back from the Tan Trao Congress, how we did not know. We thought we had gone fast with our car, but others were faster. Comrade Hai led us to a drink of coconut milk. After some talk, we took leave, heading our car southward at full speed.

... Our car continued on the road in the southern part of Central Viet Nam, a beautiful road as straight as a ramrod, flanked with mountains on one side and the sea on the other and bathed in the limp bright sunshine.

Here, as in all other places we had passed, yellow-starred red flags had been raised everywhere on either side of the road. Demonstrators were streaming along waving and shouting slogans as they walked. Crowds of people poured on to the road with spears, lances, knives, hammers, bamboo sticks and wooden rods in their hands, all faces showing immense bravery and a high spirit.

... Through the length of our country with its huge mountains and long rivers, the people had risen with lightning swiftness and sweeping vigour. Everywhere, the revolution had seized power, everywhere, we saw our national flags fluttering. Slogans were shouted in different dialects, northern or southern but all animated with the same enthusiasm and high spirit. It seemed as if a strong electric current had passed through the whole country, stirred it up and set it in motion. This August electric current was the indomitable spirit of our nation, the glorious revolutionary traditions that our Party had been developing and nurturing since 1930. This August electric current was the strength of our just cause, of our Party's correct line and policy; of slogans for struggle put forth by our Party at each specific moment, always in conformity with our people's aspiration; of propaganda work which had the Party's ideas given deep roots among the masses. This August electric current was the natural result of the patient mobilization which had brought about the mighty front of Viet Minh, thereby giving to our people - stimulated by the glorious victory of the Soviet Red army and the anti-fascist forces the world over - deeper confidence in the invincible forces of their own solidarity. That is why, at the favourable moment, the Party's call to rise up met with an immediate response of every patriotic soul in Viet Nam.

Lenin's famous teaching in the decisive hours of the October Revolution had strongly inspired the Vietnamese communists: "Hesitation leads to death. We should be audacious! audacious! audacious!" Confident in the strength of the heroic masses, our Party, with less than 5,000 cadres and Party members, but animated with the boldness of those who would dare to assault even the high skies, led the people to rise up and ensured success to the nation-wide struggle.

Exactly one week after we left Hanoi, we reached Bien Hoa, on the threshold of Nam Bo (South Viet Nam). It was late in the night. A control post had been set up deep in the forest. The local comrades stopped our car and phoned to Saigon for instructions.

We took up the phone to talk directly to comrade Nguyen Van Nguyen at the other end of the line. Nguyen Van Nguyen was exceedingly glad. We felt it through his voice.

... We got into our car again and drove on. Behind us ran the lorry of the local militia forces escorting the Frenchmen they had captured after they had parachuted into the forest of Bien Hoa.

Saigon!

In this brightly illuminated city, the red of our flags appeared all the more beautiful. Comrade Nguyen met us:

"Completed yesterday."

He accommodated us at the former palace of the South Viet Nam Governor. Hardly had we closed our eyes when comrade Nguyen knocked at the door:

"Representatives of all sections of the population have learned of your arrival. They ask to meet the envoy of the 'Viet Minh' Central Direction without delay."

After talking with the Regional Committee of the Party, we went to meet these representatives: some asked about one policy, others about another and, at last, the same question was put, here as in all other places:

"Please let us know who is Ho Chi Minh? Is he..."

Who else? The head of the revolutionary State power is the respected leader, the experienced fighter of the working class, the most faithful son of the people - comrade Nguyen Ai Quoc. This information was greeted with cheers:

"Warm support to the Central Government headed by President Ho Chi Minh!"

The great prestige of Uncle Ho and the bloodsoaked flag of the Party and the Viet Minh had united the whole people into one bloc. This bloc of national union, continuously expanding, had been the iron basis of the nascent revolutionary power.

I wired to the North: "Power already seized in all 21 provinces traversed. The uprising has also been completed in the six provinces of Nam Bo" (South Viet Nam).

The reply from Hanoi read: "Proclamation of Independence will take place on September 2nd..."

*
* *

Like all other citizens, I will never forget the day of September 2nd, 1945, when the independence of our country was proclaimed. On the birthday of our country, I was in Saigon, the heart of our beloved Nam Bo, among millions of our compatriots whose hearts and souls were turned to the Ba Dinh square in Hanoi, listening to the voice of our Fatherland. Uncle Ho read the Proclamation of Independence; his voice was warm, gentle and resonant as I had heard it, years ago, in the forest in the depths of the Pac Bo cave.

After HOANG QUOC VIET
(Editing: Thép Mòi)



The Democratic Republic of Viet Nam is 30 years old

THE BUILDING OF SOCIALISM IN THE NORTH AND THE ASSISTANCE TO THE RESISTANCE AGAINST US AGGRESSION IN THE SOUTH (1954-1965)

Over the half of the country which had been totally liberated, the North Vietnamese population proceeded in 1955-1957 to the implementation of the agrarian reforms and the restoration and development of production. By late 1957, the total output in industry and agriculture had nearly reached the level of 1939 (the peak year under French domination).

With the completion of the three-year plan of socialist transformation and initial development in economy and culture (1958-1960), North Viet Nam established socialist relations of production, almost entirely abolished the exploitation of man by man and turned its economy into an homogeneous one. On that basis, the National Assembly of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam adopted the first Socialist Constitution of Viet Nam on December 31, 1959.

From 1961, implementing the line approved by the 3rd Congress of the Viet Nam Workers' Party held in September 1960, a "Congress on the



The Thuong Dinh industrial centre in the capital.

Photo: MANH THUONG

building of socialism in the North and the peaceful reunification of the country" as President Ho Chi Minh put it, the North Vietnamese population endeavoured to carry out the first five-year plan (1961-1965).

By the end of this period, 80% of the agricultural co-operatives had become higher level co-operatives and food production had more than doubled in comparison with 1939.

In industry, over 1,000 factories, large and small, had been built up or expanded. Many new branches came into being: mechanical engineering, metallurgy, chemical industry, etc. The industrial output value had increased by more than 38 times in comparison with 1955.

In education, the numbers of general school and college students had gone up by 4.7 and 45 times respectively compared with the 1939 figures. Intermediate vocational schools, which were almost non-existent in the past, now numbered 128 with a total of 35,600 students.

The number of hospital beds in 1964 had increased by 50 times and there was now one doctor for every 13,000 people and one assistant-doctor for every 3,000 as against one doctor for 180,000 people in 1939.

Such achievements had, according to the assessment of the 12th Plenum of the Central Committee of the VNWP (December 1965), turned North Viet Nam into "a solid base for the Vietnamese revolution throughout the country with a superior political system and a great and powerful economic and national defence potential."

That was the reason when the US imperialists, after having been defeated in their "special war", massively sent their expeditionary corps and satellite troops to South Viet Nam to wage a "local war" there and later expand it to the whole country, North Viet Nam had the necessary means to defeat all their schemes and actions.



PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH VISITS AN ANTI-AIRCRAFT UNIT IN THE CAPITAL.

Oil painting by HUY TOAN
(1968)

HUY-TOAN 12.1968



BORN in a little alley in Haiphong city Ai Lien had to work from the age of 7 for a theatrical company to help support her family.

For four years, she did all sorts of jobs from washing the dishes to guarding the theatre. During her spare time, however, she would watch the movements of the actors and actresses closely and train herself in singing, playing musical instruments and the expressive gestures of the traditional stage. On finding that Ai Lien had some gift for acting, the manager allowed her to perform on the stage.

Under the former regime, however, the life of actors and actresses fluctuated like a boat drifting without any destination. Most often, the bosses robbed the employees of their salaries. Therefore Ai Lien was forced to wander about, performing songs at ferry crossings, bus stops and in restaurants to eke out a living and realize her cherished dream of becoming an actress. It was this dream that helped her overcome the difficulties and bitterness of her life at that time.

Only after the successful August Revolution could Ai Lien and other artists find an authentic meaning for their work. She joined a "Resistance Art Troupe" bringing her voice to the service of the revolution and the people.

On many occasions, Ai Lien was honoured with the chance to meet President Ho Chi Minh. Each time, Uncle Ho advised her to train hard to become an artist of the people. The most moving moment of her life was in 1969 when President Ho Chi Minh was about to leave this world for ever: her family was honoured with the opportunity to meet him and to receive an insignia presented by the President himself.

Remembering the teachings of Uncle Ho, Ai Lien has continued to work hard day and night. She was the first to present a revolutionary form of "cai luong" (renovated theatre). She has improved the traditional tunes to make them better adapted with the content of the new times, while always keeping their original character.

Ai Lien has made a name for herself by her performances in many plays: "A Mother of the South", "Quan Cong", etc.

She has had the opportunity to perform in numerous countries. The folk songs imbued with national character she presented would meet with prolonged applause and she was often called to give a double encore before the audience would allow her to leave the stage.

In 1969 during her tour in Paris she won high praise from many Vietnamese residents in France and even from a number of artists from the Saigon side. Several art critics and artists at home and abroad have described her as "A bright star on the cai luong stage."

Ai Lien's family is a very happy and united one. Ha Quang Dinh, her husband, is a well-known cameraman. Their sons and daughters include an engineer, teacher and actors and actresses. More than a half of them have followed the path of their mother.

Ai Lien's fifth daughter, Ai Van, acted the main character of the film "Nhung, a Saigon girl" which won her many prizes at home and abroad. She was at that time a 3rd-year student of the College of Vocal Music. In over 20 years of art work under the new regime, Ai Lien, an artist of the people, has won the affection of all. She has been elected to the Central Committees of the Viet Nam Women's Union and the Viet Nam Theatrical Art Association.

At present, though her hair has turned grey, her voice still remains crystal clear. Ai Lien still sings in praise of the new life and the historic exploits recorded in both zones of our beloved homeland.

ARTIST AI LIEN

NGOC LAP

● Ai Thanh (left), the youngest member of the family, does part time work for Viet Nam Radio and Television.

● Ai Lien corrects a motion made by Ai Xuan, her sixth daughter (right).

● Artist Ai Lien (far right).





Letters to the Editor

"... Although the US imperialists are malicious and will never give up their malicious intention to invade Viet Nam, the rest of Indochina, and elsewhere, the general direction of the future history of mankind has been already decided. The final victory of the heroic Vietnamese people is clear now. Your victories give cheer and hope to us who love progress and hate crime.

Your magazine 'Viet Nam' has been playing a most important role in reporting the events of historic importance in Viet Nam all the world..."

SUGIO KEJIRUKA
(Tokyo - Japan)

"... I like most the literary pages and would like to read more Vietnamese poems. The "Four thousand-year-old land" column greatly interests me. It helps me better understand your country..."

SECRETINA NINA
(Leningrad - USSR)

"... Chinese and Vietnamese youth are bound together by the militant friendship of comrades and brothers. Therefore I hope you will publish in 'Viet Nam' Pictorial stories about young heroes and heroines and advanced workers in your country."

KIM CHI-CHANG
(Shanghai - P.R. of China)

"... Through reading 'Viet Nam' Pictorial I see again my beloved homeland, full of confidence and promise. An independent, reunified, peaceful and prosperous Viet Nam is the common aspiration of the Vietnamese people in general and the ideal of almost all the Vietnamese students in the Federal Republic of Germany. We have struggled and will continue to struggle strongly for a peace in South Viet Nam in the spirit of national reconciliation and concord as stipulated by the January 27, 1973 Paris Agreement..."

NGUYEN NHU VINH
Chemical Engineer
(Nuremberg - Federal Republic
of Germany)

"... Everything in your pictorial is good, the progress in reconstruction work, the landscapes of Viet Nam and the reorganization of the people's life, in particular. Go on in this way so that everyone may know about the people of Viet Nam and its beauty."

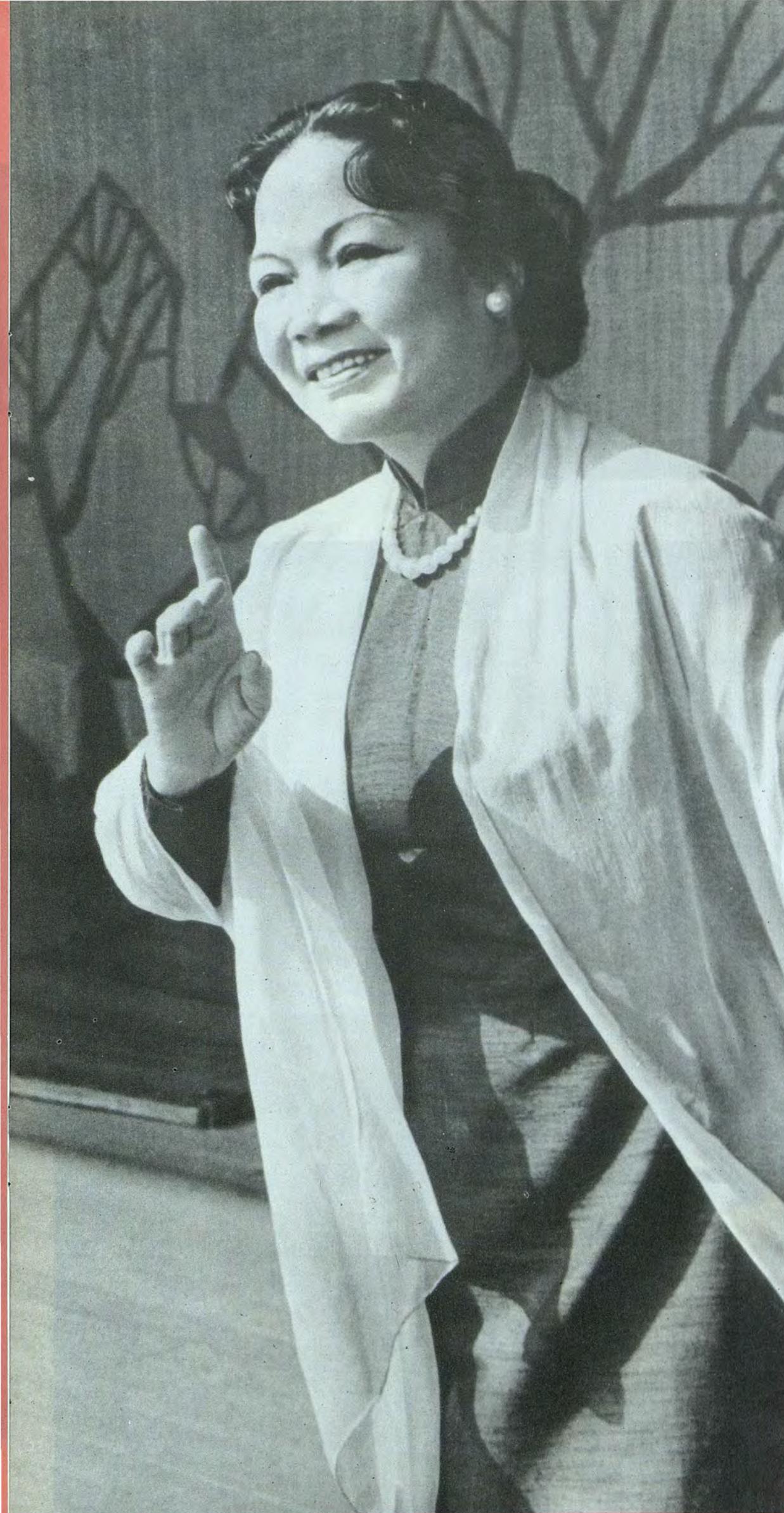
FRÉDÉRIC ISELI
(Genève - Swiss)

"... Your illustrated review informs us of the culture, sports and the building of a new Viet Nam. Besides, we are aware of the advances recorded by the glorious Vietnamese people in production, technique and industry..."

JULIO BEGRONO MARTINEZ
(Havana - Cuba)

"I like the layout of the review very much. The photos are fine, especially those in the centre pages."

ALICI CORDOSA NIETO
(Bogota - Colombia)



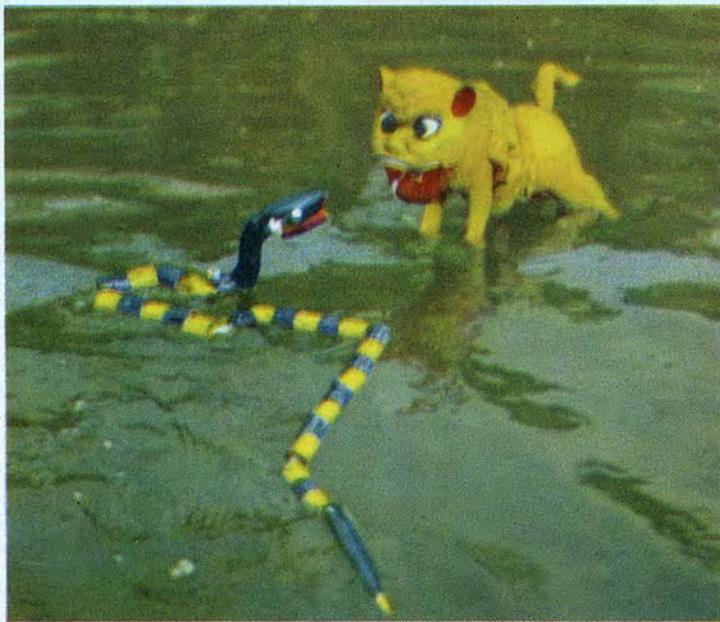


A TRADITIONAL ART OF VIET NAM

WATER PUPPET SHOWS

Photos : HO HAI

Despite his size, Buffalo obediently follows the orders of Man.



Tiger, who once disposed of a big reptile,...



... says to Buffalo with great surprise :
"Why, you're already subdued by Man ?"



"But man has intelligence !" Buffalo says - Tiger expresses his desire to see it. "I left it at home!" Man replies.



Tiger agrees to be tied to a tree so that Man can go and bring back his intelligence without worrying about his buffalo being killed. "Here's my intelligence !" shouts Man beating him.



All the animals in the area are overjoyed to see the ferocious tiger punished as he deserves.

ROLLS of drumbeats resound, followed by the bursting of firecrackers. Multi-coloured flags suddenly surge up from the surface of the water. In the midst of the cracker smoke, Teu, the buffoon, appears and announces the programme. Plays and sketches follow one after the another, praising national heroes, depicting ceremonies and festivals and reflecting scenes of daily work and life : paddy husking, rice pounding, fishing, harrowing and ploughing, a buffalo fight... This is how Viet Nam's nautical puppet shows are performed on the surface of ponds and lakes which abound in its countryside. An original art very popular with the Vietnamese people, it has developed from early times being listed among the entertainments performed for a king of the Ly dynasty in 1021.

Since the complete liberation of the North in 1954, the staging of puppet shows has been given much attention. In 1956, President Ho Chi Minh personally instructed the Ministry of Culture to set up the Central Puppet Troupe. Efforts were made to restore and improve this branch of theatrical art.

From simple stories and short sketches many complete plays have emerged : "Little Ty Fights off the French invaders", "Harvest Festival", "The Mountain Genie and the Water Genie"... The show "Intelligence and Strength" in particular (see photos) is always greatly enjoyed by the spectators. Based on a folk tale, it relates the story of a tiger – the king of all animals – who vanquished a big reptile but who was finally defeated by man.

DANG LOI



★ Le Duan (left), First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, visits the family of Mrs Nguyen Thi Tru on a spring day.

★ A happy family (left, centre).

★ Mrs Nguyen Van Manh (left) and one of her grandsons, the 33rd combatant in their family.

THE JOY OF A FAMILY

Text : MINH TIEN

Photos : NGUYEN DINH UU,
HONG TAM and THANH HAO



⊛ Three successive generations in armed struggle for independence and freedom : 33 combatants with a total of 400 years in the army (5 have served for 30 years each) ; 26 combatants awarded a total of 51 decorations of various kinds.

⊛ Over 20 members of the second and third generations have joined the anti-US fight, for national salvation.

ON reaching the top of the stairs leading to his grandmother's room, Bui Thanh Quang said aloud joyfully :

"Grandma ! I've been admitted to the army !" Old Nguyen Van Manh's wife looked silently at her grandson, deeply moved. Her eyes ran from the star on his army cap to his mouth, with that same smile so characteristic of every generation in the family. Mrs Manh gently caressed the brand new uniform...

Like other Vietnamese mothers and grandmothers whose family members are about to join the front, this wife, mother and grandmother of 33 combatants in the armed forces felt great pride but not without a trace of anxiety on her face. Her anxiety, however, was nothing compared with what she felt 50 years ago when her husband started carrying out revolutionary activities. What would become of her small children, she would often tell herself, if he were to fall into the hands of the enemy.





Grandfather and grandson : one smile.

Then the August 1945 Revolution broke out. Though over 50 years old, Nguyen Van Manh left the Red Guard Unit in Saigon where he had done underground work to join an Armed Propaganda Brigade, as it was then called, fighting on many fronts in the southern and northern part of the city and the coastal area.

Mrs Nguyen Van Manh still remembers the evening of September 23, 1945 when the French colonialists opened hostilities in Saigon. Back from a demonstration, her family found out that their house had been burned to ashes by the invaders. All her sons and sons-in-law asked her permission to follow their father, including Muoi (Vietnamese for Ten—the tenth son) and Ut (the youngest), respectively 15 and 13. "We cannot take up arms yet, but we can do any other jobs: first-aid, liaison work, etc.", the latter insisted. Finally Mrs Manh had to agree to their entreaties. Thus father and sons, 13 people in all, joined the armed forces. Muoi is now a major...

In 1954, most members of the family were regrouped to the North under the Geneva Agreement

on Viet Nam. Those who remained in the South included three sons of Mrs Nguyen Thi Tru, Mrs Nguyen Van Manh's third daughter. Last year, by mere chance, Mrs Manh met again one of them—Mai Thanh The—after 20 years of absence. A combatant five times honoured with the "Valiant anti-US Fighter" title he was among the delegation of South Viet Nam heroes, heroines and outstanding combatants on a visit to the North. At present Mai Thanh The has returned to the South but his image is still fresh in the mind of his grand mother—the living image of Nguyen Van Manh himself.

In early spring this year, Mrs Nguyen Thi Tru's family was honoured with a visit by Le Duan, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party. This was a precious reward for a woman whose husband and eight sons are in the army.

We had the opportunity to meet Old Nguyen Van Manh at his private house. Though 87 years old, he is still in good shape. Over twenty out of his more than 30 sons and grandsons are still serving under

the colours. The remainder are actively participating in the socialist construction of the North: a doctor, a factory director, a secretary of a workshop Party branch, etc.

Old Manh told me the reason which urged him to choose the revolutionary path. He repeated the words he said to Comrade Tran, Secretary of the Tan Phong Ha village Party cell, before being admitted to the Party in 1930:

"My life is most miserable..." Then thinking of the verses by the revolutionary poet Nguyen Dinh Chieu:

*Living or dead, we'll fight the aggressors
Generation after generation, we pledge to take
vengeance.*

I added: 'I'm ready to make sacrifices, even to die for the revolution.'

On learning of the complete liberation of his native South, Old Nguyen Van Manh felt great joy. "My sons and grandsons are maturing along with our homeland. I see still more clearly that the path of revolution and struggle is that leading to happiness," he said.

SPLENDID VICTORY – RADIANT FUTURE



At 11:30 a.m. on April 30, 1975, the red and blue yellow-starred flag of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam was planted on the Presidential Palace of the Saigon puppet administration. The historic campaign named after the great President Ho Chi Minh and launched against the last den of the US imperialists' lackeys ended in success.

Thus, throughout their general offensive and uprising started in March 1975, the South Vietnamese armed forces and people crushed the enemy's war machine composed of over 1,000,000 troops fully equipped by the Americans and completely abolished its machine of coercion, compelling the US to stop its involvement and the Saigon hirelings to surrender unconditionally.

The arduous and heroic struggle waged by the entire Vietnamese people for 30 years was finally victorious.

Viet Nam is again one and the Vietnamese people are completely independent and free. 45 million Vietnamese people have become the eternal masters of their country.

The historic tasks of the people's national democratic revolution have been accomplished throughout Viet Nam. Our nation's history and revolution will step into a new period, that of unprecedentedly flourishing development. President Ho Chi Minh's sacred Testament has thus been fully implemented by our entire Party, army and people.

This splendid victory is the result of 30 years of persistent struggle against imperialist aggression, including 20 years of fighting waged against the US imperialists and their quislings by the very valiant South Vietnamese people, those who "were the first to rise up and the last to achieve independence and freedom"; it is a victory of the National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, the organizers and leaders of the hard struggle for the independence and freedom of the home-



★ In a street of newly liberated Hue (left, above).

★ An employee of the US Consulate in Nha Trang as she flees along with puppet troops (left).

land; a victory of the entire Vietnamese armed forces and people, of the North, the great rear area, and of the South, the great front.

This victory is that of the militant friendship between the three fraternal Indochinese peoples; that of the combat friendship and great support and assistance of the brotherly socialist countries, the international communist and workers' movement and progressive mankind, including the people in the United States.

Along with this victory, the situation in Viet Nam and the world has undergone a great change in a way favourable for the struggle for peace, national independence and socialism.

As Premier Pham Van Dong said on May Day 1975, "This victory has created an opportunity for the people of our entire country, for the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam to grow by leaps and bounds in all respects in order to fulfil their new tasks in the new situation, with unprecedentedly favourable conditions."

Bright tomorrows with heavy yet very glorious tasks are awaiting the Vietnamese people.



Life returns to normal in Da Nang after liberation.



Thieu troops force people in the South to evacuate using them as a shield for their panic-stricken rout.

Home-guard fighters in Da Nang remain highly vigilant.



IN AN AREA OF THE MEKONG RIVER DELTA

FROM A REPORTAGE MADE BY ABBAS, AN
IRANIAN CORRESPONDENT, BEFORE THE
COMPLETE LIBERATION OF SOUTH VIET NAM

An NFL combatant travelling by sampan in the Mekong delta... His waterproof knapsack contains spare clothes, a mosquito net, a hammock, a road-book adorned with drawings and a picture of Ho Chi Minh. Around his belt is a supplementary magazine for his AK-47 machinegun, a waterproof canvas which also serves him as a bed sheet, a grenade, a medical kit and an electric torch. The knapsack and the torch are marked "Made in USA". The combatant told me he carried with him all his belongings.





A class in a peasant's straw-hut. The cadres of the NFL admitted that not all the children in the liberated zone could attend school. "The security conditions are still very hard," they told me. And to confirm this, two shrapnels exploded 200 metres from the place where this photo was taken.

Women peasants taking babies to be looked after in a clinic run by the NFL. Many medicaments used at the clinic were produced in the USA and bought in the Saigon-controlled area.

A guerilla takes a rest. Amidst the population, the guerillas have really lived like "fish in water". The peasants feed them and they can move about with their minimum of weapons and luggage.



... After the first trees, we reached a no man's land. Several children surging up from we did not know where grasped our hands and helped us discover a new world, that of the Viet Cong. For this was exactly a new world. Highway 4, that road which linked Saigon with the provinces of the delta and on which I had travelled dozens of times was of strategic importance for the Saigon regime which had to keep it open at all costs. I had followed the military operations there and noticed a permanent deployment of troops in the region and I thought that the NFL forces – the "Viets" – would hold the immediate surroundings. But I had never imagined that, over large liberated areas, the population was living an almost normal life.

I spent five days in that liberated zone extending for 30kms between Highway 4 and one of the branches of the Mekong river in My Tho province. They were the most interesting five days of my life as a photographer, ones I shared with my travelling companions: Jean-Claude Pomonti from "Le Monde", Tiziano Terzani, a journalist from the German magazine "Der Spiegel" and an interpreter; later during my second sojourn I was joined by Safa Haeri from the Iranian Television Network.

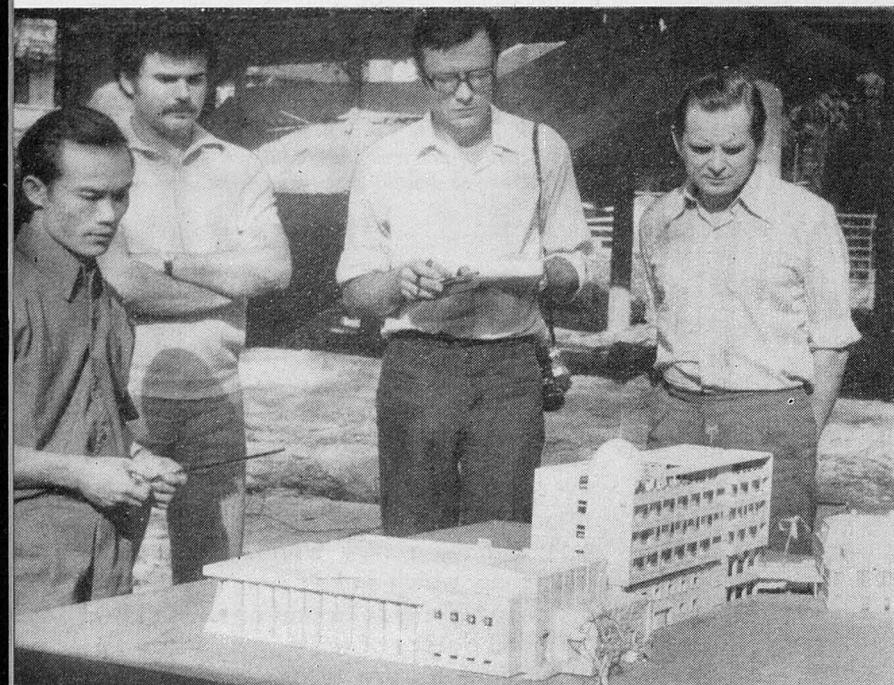
The first contact with the NFL soldiers was very touching.

During those five days, I never spent more than six hours at the same spot. Mobility is a strategic necessity for the NFL. We moved on foot over ricefields and by sampan along the hundreds of canals which crisscross the Delta. The perfect organization of the NFL was visible at each moment: all their actions were coordinated and nothing seemed to be unnecessary.

Despite the ceasefire, the zone controlled by the NFL was permanently pounded by Thieu artillery: harassment fire with no precise target. Even when shells exploded near a village, nobody around us got alarmed. Life continues. That daily heroism impressed me.



GIFTS FILLED WITH FRIENDSHIP



LE NGOAN

Czechoslovak specialists and a Vietnamese cadre study a model of the new Hanoi Pioneers' Club.

AT the Pioneers' Club in the capital we were attracted by an atmosphere of intense activity. Groups of children played chess ; others were learning how to blow horns, drumming or singing. At a class on electricity, some twenty children were learning on how to use and repair receivers and transmitters. Pointing at the new radio sets on the tables and the musical instruments used by the pioneers, Comrade Dien, the manager of the Club, said : "They have been recently sent us by our Czechoslovak friends. A 5-storey building provided with up-to-date equipment is being erected with the assistance of Czechoslovakia. Perhaps the most interesting part will be the astronomical observ-

atory where the children will be able to observe the universe ; it may help them to become young meteorologists in the future..."

A pause, then he added : "All the Czechoslovak specialists have offered us devoted help. M. Kafka has carefully examined each screw, bolt and switch to ensure safety for the children during study work and play. Engineer I. Parlieck has done his best to put the water pipes in the best possible position. Their examples have deeply impressed us."

Ian Pexa, another Czechoslovak specialist, said to me : "We've come here as uncles and elder brothers of the Vietnamese children. What we've achieved is actually in implementation of President Ho Chi Minh's wishes : to do our best for the future of our brothers and children so that the future generations can live in happiness."



Before starting the game "Hunting Martens".



WHEN the US imperialists staged the coup-d'état in Cambodia and obstinately hurled 100,000 American and Saigon troops into the land of the Angkor Temples, they hoped, through expanding the war to the whole of Indochina, to impose neo-colonialism on the three Indochinese peoples.

The history of the past five years since the signing of the Joint Declaration of the Summit Conference of the Indochinese Peoples, however, is a history of militant solidarity and glorious victory for the Vietnamese, Lao and Cambodian peoples and one of ignominious failure for US imperialism and its lackeys.

In five years, the US poured 7 billion dollars and millions of tons of bombs into Cambodia. But the Cambodian armed forces and people, under the leadership of the National United Front of Kampuchea and the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia, have matured in fighting and defeated all the enemy military operations, putting out of action hundreds of thousands of enemy soldiers. With the liberation of Phnom Penh, they have recorded one of the most brilliant victories, safeguarding the independence and neutrality of their beloved homeland and bringing total defeat to the neo-colonialist war of aggression waged by the US imperialists and their agents.

In Laos, the Liberation armed forces and people under the leadership of the Lao Patriotic Front have broken Washington's "special war" strategy. The

Meetings

Co-operation

Friendship



MILITANT SOLIDARITY—GLORIOUS VICTORY



Prince Souphanouvong, Chairman of the National Political Coalition Council of Laos, has a cordial chat with the people of Luang Prabang who have come to welcome the successes of its 2nd Session.

Photo : LAM HONG LONG



Khieu Samphan, Vice-Premier of the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia warmly welcomes Huynh Tan Phat, President of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, on a friendship visit to Cambodia.

Photo : NGUYEN TOAN PHONG

Vientiane Agreement has solemnly recognized the fundamental rights of the Lao people for independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity, and put an end to all the military and aggressive actions of the US and its hirelings in Laos. The National Political Coalition Council of Laos presided over by Prince Souphanouvong, Chairman of the Lao Patriotic Front, and the Provisional Government of National Union headed by Prince Souvanna Phouma, have been established. The 18-point Political Programme for the building of a peaceful, independent, neutral, democratic, unified and prosperous Laos, has been warmly supported by the Lao people

and serves as a compass for all the activities of the NPCC and the PGNU.

Meanwhile the Vietnamese people have recorded a great victory in their struggle against the US aggressors leading to the signing of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam: the US was compelled to withdraw all its troops home. In Spring 1975 the stubborn attempts of the US-Thieu clique to continue the war and sabotage the Paris Agreement were dealt well-deserved blows. Within 55 days and nights of relentless attacks and uprisings, over 1,000,000 puppet troops were put out of action; the enemy's war machine and administration, from the

centre to the grassroots level, were completely liquidated. Our people have won total victory.

On the occasion of the 5th anniversary of the signing of the Joint Declaration of the Indochinese Peoples' Summit Conference, the Vietnamese people greatly rejoice at the victories of historic significance and epochal magnitude of the three fraternal countries. They, together with the Lao and Khmer peoples, pledge to unceasingly consolidate and strengthen their close militant friendship, considering it as a basic factor to ensure their own victory as well as that of the three brother countries watered by the same Mekong River.



During the friendship visit of the military delegation of the People's Republic of China to the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam the head of the delegation, Yang Yung (left) is cordially greeted by General Vo Nguyen Giap (right).

Photo : VU TAO

Gifts presented by the USSR All-Union Leninist League of Young Communists to the South Viet Nam Liberation Youth being handed over at the office of the Special Representation of the Republic of South Viet Nam in Hanoi.

Photo : KIM HUNG



The delegation of the Algerian Ministry of Veteran Mujahidin (former Algerian Liberation army combatants) headed by its Department Director Kadi Mohamed has paid a friendship visit to the DRVN. Photo : At the Army Museum in Hanoi.

Photo : LE PHAN



AN HISTORIC ROOM

Photo : Viet Nam
News Agency

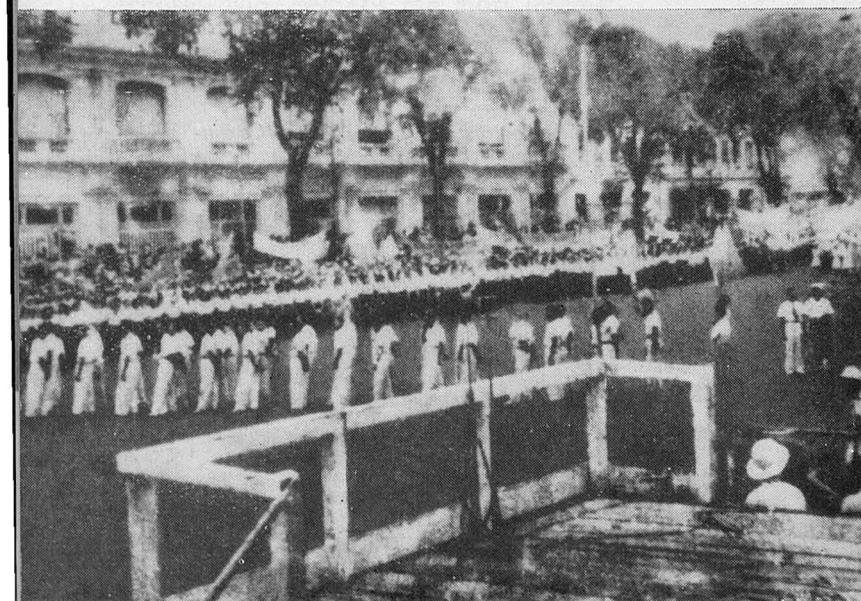
ON August 26, 1945, President Ho Chi Minh left the Viet Bac resistance base where he had presided over the People's National Congress held in Tan Trao (Tuyen Quang province) and issued an order for general uprising, and returned to Hanoi. Though still unwell and coughing occasionally, he would work all day at the former palace of the Governor of Tonkin and till late at night in a small room on the first floor of N° 48, Hang Ngang Street (see photo). It was in this room that President Ho Chi Minh drafted the Declaration of Independence sometimes writing sometimes using his type-writer, enjoying some of the happiest moments of his life. In this room, his closest collaborators were invited to give their suggestions and comments concerning the draft of the Declaration.

This historic Declaration of Independence stresses that "All the peoples on the earth are equal from birth, all the peoples have a right to live and to be happy and free.

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

TRUE TO THEIR INDEPENDENCE OATH

Photo : Viet Nam News Agency



ON September 2, 1945, despite the gunshots fired by the French provokers, over a million people of Saigon - Cho Lon turned out into the streets, raising aloft golden-starred flags and posters in honour of the National Day. At the fixed time people in Saigon and representatives from the provinces in South Viet Nam gathered below the loudspeakers to listen to the Declaration of Independence read by President Ho Chi Minh in Hanoi and broadcast to the entire country (see photo).

True to their oath of independence, on September 23, 1945, the South Vietnamese population stood firm against the French colonialists who staged a return to Viet Nam. Ever since then the South Vietnamese and the entire people of Viet Nam have recorded victories both over the French and over the American imperialists.

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Front cover : **A big festive occasion.**

Photo : HO HAI

Inside front cover : **Mount Poem on the bank of Ha Long Bay. On May Day 45 years ago, a hammer and sickle was planted on its top by a youth from the nearby mining area.**

Photo : BAO CUONG

Inside back cover : **A child of Hanoi.**

Back cover : **A view of Trang Kenh in Haiphong port city.**

Photo : MANH THUONG

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A CHILD OF HANOI

A production of the Hanoi Feature Film Studio

Ngoc Ha's family before the destruction of Kham Thien street by US B. 52s.



Ngoc Ha is helped by an "Uncle Combatant".

PRODUCED by the Hanoi Feature Film Studio, the film "A child of Hanoi" relates a simple story set in late December 1972 during the 12 historic days and nights of fighting against the US air blitz on the capital.

Its main character is Ngoc Ha, a little girl from Kham Thien Street. Following a US air raid by B.52s, Ngoc Ha loses her mother and sister. After roaming about looking for them she tries to go to her father, who serves in a missile unit, to inform him of the news. As she wanders about Ngoc Ha witnesses many scenes of heroic struggle and many moving examples of love and affection. Through the eyes of the child, the film presents a girl employee of the State trade service, an officer of the people's army, a young woman architect, a security officer... all filled with a confidence which helps them overcome all difficulties and hardships to defeat the enemy.

The role of Ngoc Ha is played by Lan Huong, 12, a pupil of the Kim Lien Second Level School in Hanoi. This is the first time that she has acted in a film, and her success has been a great pleasure for her father, who is in the army, and her mother, an engineer.

TRANG DUONG

Ngoc Ha meets her younger sister again.



Việt nam

A CHILD OF HANOI

