

205
1-1976

Việt nam



With our best wishes for the
New Year

« VIET NAM » PICTORIAL

Gathering tea at the
Moc Chau State Farm.
Photo : DUY NHAN



POST-WAR ECONOMIC RESTORATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The great victory of our people's struggle against the US for national salvation has ushered in a new stage for the Vietnamese revolution, a stage in which the whole country advances toward socialism in independence and reunification.

Entering this new stage, our people have to overcome untold difficulties to carry out the restoration and development of the economy after the war, to build a new, socialist life. With our country marked by millions of war wounds caused by US bombs and shells, with our backward economy damaged by a 30-year-long war, with the newly-liberated South burdened with 4 million unemployed people and millions of hectares of cultivated land badly devastated, the restoration of our economy and the stabilization of our people's lives will not be a simple job and cannot be fulfilled in a short time.

Responding to the appeal of the Party and the Government, our people have upheld their revolutionary heroism tempered in struggle. They have speeded up the work on the front of production and construction, and overcome immense difficulties which had seemed insurmountable, in order to heal the war wounds. Production has become the most important front and the motto "All for production, all for the building of socialism, all for the prosperity of the Fatherland and the happiness of the people" has expressed the will and sentiment of every Vietnamese.

In the North, which the US imperialists had hoped to push back to the "stone age", barely 3 years after the signing of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam, hundreds of power plants, mechanical engineering shops, metallurgy factories, ship-building yards, collieries and enterprises manufacturing consumer articles, etc., have been repaired. A series of new factories have been built and put into operation such as the Gia Sang Rolling Mill, the Cam Pha and Go Dam Mechanical Engineering Plants, the Vinh Phu Textile Mill, etc. Output in a number of industrial branches has not only reached but even surpassed the highest results attained before the war. Having undergone initial reorganization in the direction of large-scale socialist production, agricultural production has achieved noticeable results. Thai Binh province with an area of 100,000 hectares of cultivated land is the first prov-

ince to have reaped seven tons of paddy per hectare per year and several co-ops have reached 10-12 tons in the movement for intensive cultivation and all-round development of agriculture. Specialized areas and new economic regions continue to be set up. By the end of 1975, post-war economic restoration in North Viet Nam has been in the main completed and the people's lives have been further improved.

In the South, in the months since complete liberation, benefiting from the devoted help of the revolutionary power, the people have begun the work of overcoming the heavy burdens resulting from the neo-colonial aggressive war of the Americans. Millions of bomb craters have been filled up, hundreds of factories quickly put back into operation, agricultural production rehabilitated on hundreds of thousands of hectares of land left fallow and still littered with unexploded bombs and mines; many villages and houses have been rebuilt. Hundreds of thousands of people have left the cities (which had been overcrowded as the result of the US and puppet administration's "pacification" and "concentration of people" policy) for their native rural areas or for new economic areas to participate in developing production.

One fact of great significance: the North-South railway bearing the name Thong Nhat (Reunification) that links Hanoi with Saigon is being urgently restored.

Beginning the year 1976, with the above results, which though still modest are full of promise, our people are firmly confident that their work of healing the war wounds and achieving economic restoration and development will certainly win brilliant successes.

In this glorious cause, besides the great difficulties, there are fundamentally favourable conditions. Our country possesses abundant natural resources. The North is rich in important minerals favourable to the development of heavy industry and has over 20 years' experience in building socialism.

Favoured by nature, the South has fertile soil that makes it possible to boost production on a large scale in regions specializing in growing rice and industrial plants, or in animal husbandry, fishing, etc., in order to meet the people's needs and to furnish exports. There are also a number of industrial

operations, especially light industries and food industries. The plants, though small in size, are able to produce large quantities of consumer articles. Our people are industrious and creative in labour. Our Party's line of building socialism is correct and in conformance with the realities of the country. We have, moreover, a superior social regime—a socialist regime—that makes it possible to bring into full play the latent capacity of man and nature so as to build a peaceful, independent, reunified and socialist Viet Nam.

As Premier Pham Van Dong said in his speech at the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the founding of the DRVN: "For us Vietnamese, a glorious page of history has been turned and a new period has begun: the period of peaceful construction. This new work requires that we strengthen our great friendship and co-operation in all fields with the other socialist countries which are bound to us by the common ideal of building socialism and communism. We will strive to strengthen our great friendship and our relations in all fields with our two fraternal neighbouring countries, relations which have become still closer in the new situation. It is our wish to expand our friendly relations in many respects with other countries in Southeast Asia. Now that peace has been restored, we are provided with favourable conditions to expand all good relations with the bloc of non-aligned countries, the countries of the Third World, for a noble objective—consolidating national independence and building their respective countries into prosperous ones. We are establishing normal relations and expanding economic, cultural, scientific and technical relations with all other countries on the principles of mutual respect for each other's independence and sovereignty, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit."

A glorious page of history has been turned. A new period is being ushered in. With our spirit of self-reliance, industry and thrift, with the sympathy and support of the brotherly socialist countries and friendly countries on the five continents, our 45 million Vietnamese people will write a new, glorious page of history and will certainly build socialism successfully in a Viet Nam that will stay reunified, independent and free for ever.

FLOW OF STEEL

Text: HOANG HANH

Photos: TRAN HO and HOANG HOA

Editor's note—In the treasury of Vietnamese folk tales, there is one which tells about a poor peasant on whom three genies one day called. They were the Gold Genie, the Silver Genie and the Iron Genie. All three asked to be put up for the night in the peasant's hut. There was only room for one: the peasant picked the Iron Genie. When morning came, the Genie had disappeared, leaving in his bed a big lump of iron. With this material, the peasant forged plough, harrow, knife and spear, and was able to make a decent living for himself.

Iron was in fact the stuff of dreams for successive generations in Viet Nam. Now it is replaced by steel.

This dream has come true. On May 1, 1975, at the Gio Sang Rolling Mill, molten steel was tapped for the first time at the precise time when the South Vietnamese people and armed forces had completely defeated the neo-colonial aggressive war of the Americans and their agents, and liberated their beloved native land.

STEEL was flowing!

The day when molten steel was tapped from the furnace and was flowing out in a golden glow was indeed a festive day.

The event filled with enthusiasm the more than 1,500 workers who had striven perseveringly for five successive years to build the steelworks.

Molten steel was tapped as the nearly 2,000-kilometre-long railway linking the North and the South of the country was being rebuilt and other major works were under way for the building of socialism.

Our joy was shared by experts from the German Democratic Republic and from other brotherly socialist coun-

tries, who had been giving us whole-hearted assistance.

The steelworks were started in 1970. In 1972, the American imperialists launched eight B.52 raids and dropped thousands of anti-personnel steel-pellet bombs on the construction site.

Unexploded bombs were defused, the splinters were collected and were added to the pig-iron from the blast furnaces, to feed the steel furnace.

In spite of the war and thousands of difficulties the building work continued. Here 90% of the workers were in the 18-22 age bracket.

Dang The Mao, Nguyen The Vinh, Nguyen Thanh Thuy, Bui Hong Thanh came here on the same day two years

ago. They were then 17 and had just finished the 10th grade of secondary school. They wanted to be steel workers. But then work consisted mostly in carrying earth, pouring concrete, levelling the ground, clearing away bomb splinters and debris.

The weather was inclement: scorching sun, torrential rain, the ground turned into a sea of mud.

When winter came, it was so cold that fires had to be lighted in the huts. There was a shortage of everything: rice, salt, vegetables, even water. The men worked in shifts.

Mao and Vinh slept in bunks next to each other; yet they practically never met for a whole month when

they worked in different shifts. As soon as one came back, the other left. The meals consisted of rice mixed with maize. But no one complained. The young people were perfectly aware of the thousands of difficulties the country was encountering. So they just clenched their teeth and endured every trial.

The steelworks gradually rose over 24 hectares of land encompassing 6 hillslopes. More than half a million cubic metres of earth had been moved. Seven thousand tons of equipment was installed; 70% of the work was done by hand.

The young people learned their trade as they worked. As soon as



* Seventy years ago, the first iron and steel were produced in Viet Nam. At present, iron and steel are being produced in the first Viet Nam iron and steel plant.

Right:

* A 1975 D. 52 raid on the steelworks.

Far right:

* A 1975 D. 52 raid on the steelworks.

FLOW OF STEEL



Engineer Gunthe Raoske and other experts from the German Democratic Republic are helping Vietnamese cadres and workers melt the first taps of steel.



Nguyen Thanh Thuy's job is to test the quality of the steel.

the building work was finished, they were able to tackle steel-making. Here the earth-carrying basket and the steel-worker's tongs lie side by side.

And so at 19 years of age, Dang The Mao became a rolling-mill operator and Nguyen The Vinh a metallurgist. Nguyen Thanh Thuy was put in charge of control work and Nguyen Hong Thanh took a job in the compressed-oxygen factory. They were now mature.

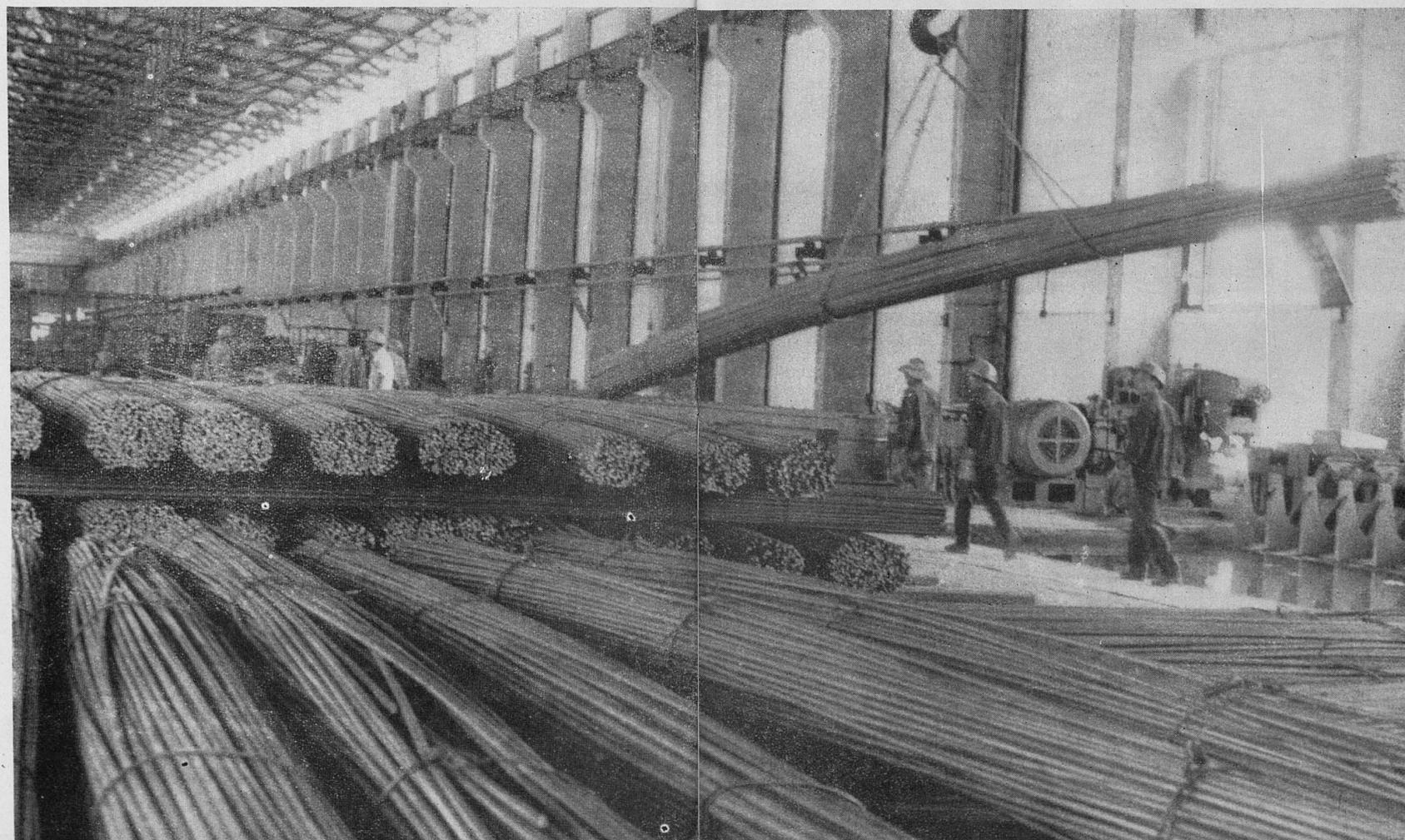
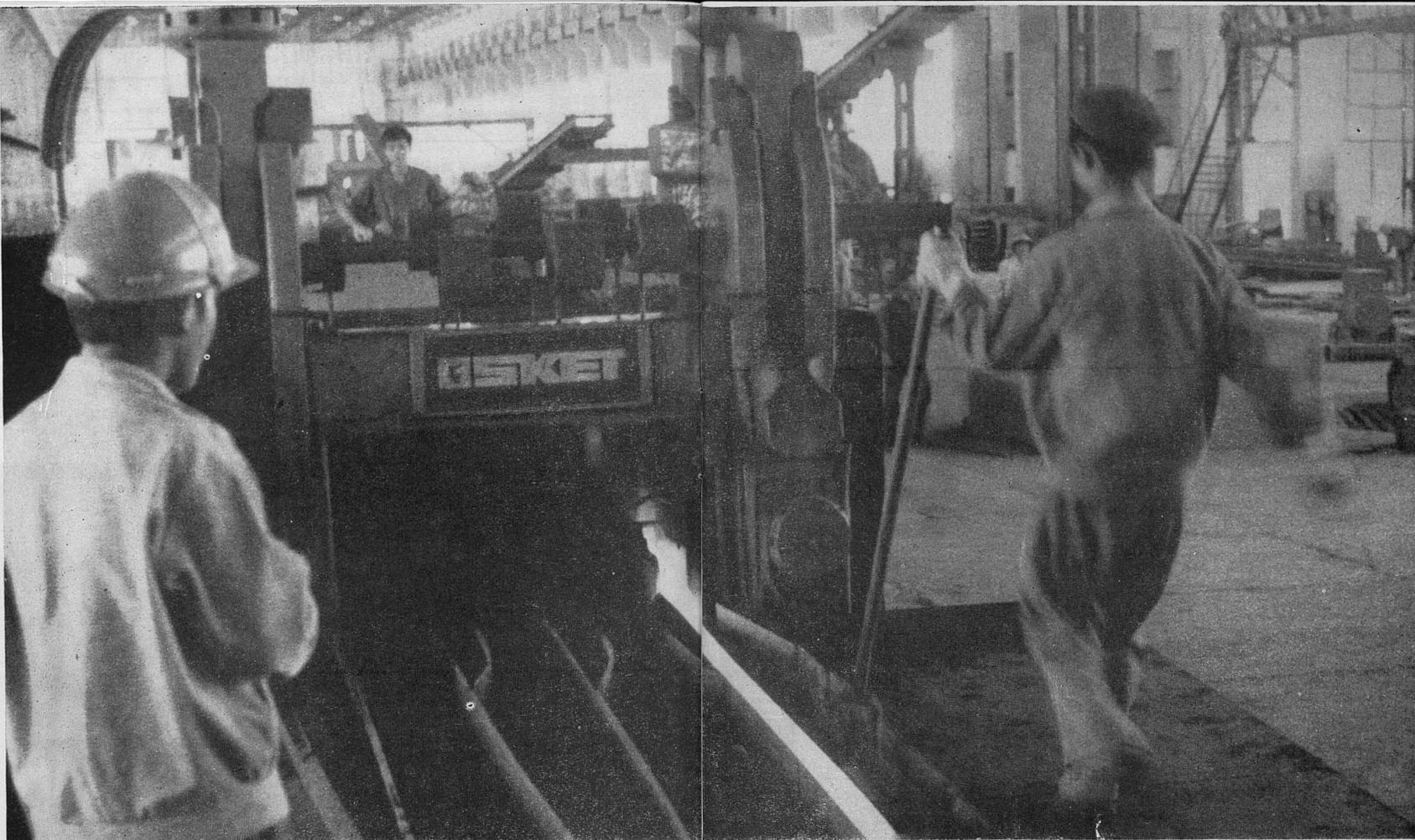
Indeed, at 19 years of age, they cannot claim to be veteran steel makers. But before them nobody in Viet Nam had ever been a steel-maker. Iron ore had been mined here 70 years ago by the French, but only to be carried to France. The Vietnamese were then treading on all kinds of minerals: iron, coal, manganese, chromium, but they could not claim a single ingot of steel as their own.

Now Vietnamese steel has been smelted. Each year, the works will produce 50,000 tons of sheet steel and section steel and 10,000 tons of wire steel. These figures are puny compared with the productions of advanced industrialized countries. But the important thing is that steel had been smelted in Viet Nam. The day is not far off when our steel-works will be producing hundreds of thousands of tons of steel a year.

Right, from top to bottom:

* In steel-working 90% of the operations are automated. But this does not mean that high manual skill is not needed from the workers.

* The first shipments of steel are sent to construction sites.



INDUSTRY IN SOUTH VIET NAM SURGES FORWARD

BY now, under the revolutionary administration, and thanks to courageous efforts on the part of the working class, almost all factories in South Viet Nam have been put back into operation. In Ho Chi Minh city (formerly Saigon-Gia Dinh) and its neighbourhood, more than 8,000 industrial undertakings, big and small, have returned to normal production. Of these about 5,000 are under State management. Of the private undertakings 95% have asked for permission to resume functioning. In other provinces, many enterprises have also resumed operation.

In the past 20-odd years under the US-puppet regime, industry in South Viet Nam was completely dependent on foreign countries for raw materials and spare parts, and barely managed to survive in a declining economy.

Hence the many difficulties that the revolutionary administration in South Viet Nam has to face in order to rehabilitate and develop industrial production, in an effort to turn a dependent and consumer economy into an independent and productive economy serving the people's interests. Right in the first days following liberation, the revolutionary administration has sought to develop the spirit of independence, self-reliance and creativeness in the working class and to fully use raw materials available in the country, with a view to reducing and gradually doing away with dependence on foreign countries. The relationship among productive units has become one of mutual assistance and cooperation. From a hiring status, the workers have become the collective masters of their factories and of society, conscious that their products are to serve the needs of the entire population.

These new factors have changed the face of industry in South Viet Nam. Hundreds of thousands of workers and other toiling people have been given employment and are striving to contrib-

INDUSTRY IN SOUTH VIET NAM . . .

ute to economic recovery and development. The SINCO sewing-machine factory, which used to import 100% of its machine parts, now produces 80% of these. The MIC and BASTOS cigarette factories, which used to import American tobacco, now make use of high-quality local tobacco leaves. The COGIDO and NAGICO paper mills have successfully experimented with local bamboo and wood to replace imported paper pulp.

Under the new regime, the collective spirit, the sense of discipline and the courage to initiate innovations have been enhanced among the workers. In particular, their class consciousness has been greatly raised following the struggle against the comprador bourgeoisie; new relations of production have been established and productive forces liberated. As a result, output has been raised in many undertakings, the quality of the products has been improved and production costs lowered. The VICASA rolling mill, thanks to technical improvement, has seen its output raised by 45 - 52%. The VINAPRO factory, with the assistance of the NIKINOWO plant, has turned out "Great Victory 5" two-wheeled tractors, rice-husking machines, and 6-HP Bong Lua (Rice Ear) internal combustion engines, with 70% of the parts manufactured in the country itself. At present, many State-owned and joint State-private enterprises are engaged in planned production.

The initial results are still modest. Yet a new orientation has been set: to build independent and modern industry to serve as a basis for a vigorously developing socialist economy.

Right, from top to bottom :

★ *Processing latex in An Loc (Long Khanh).*

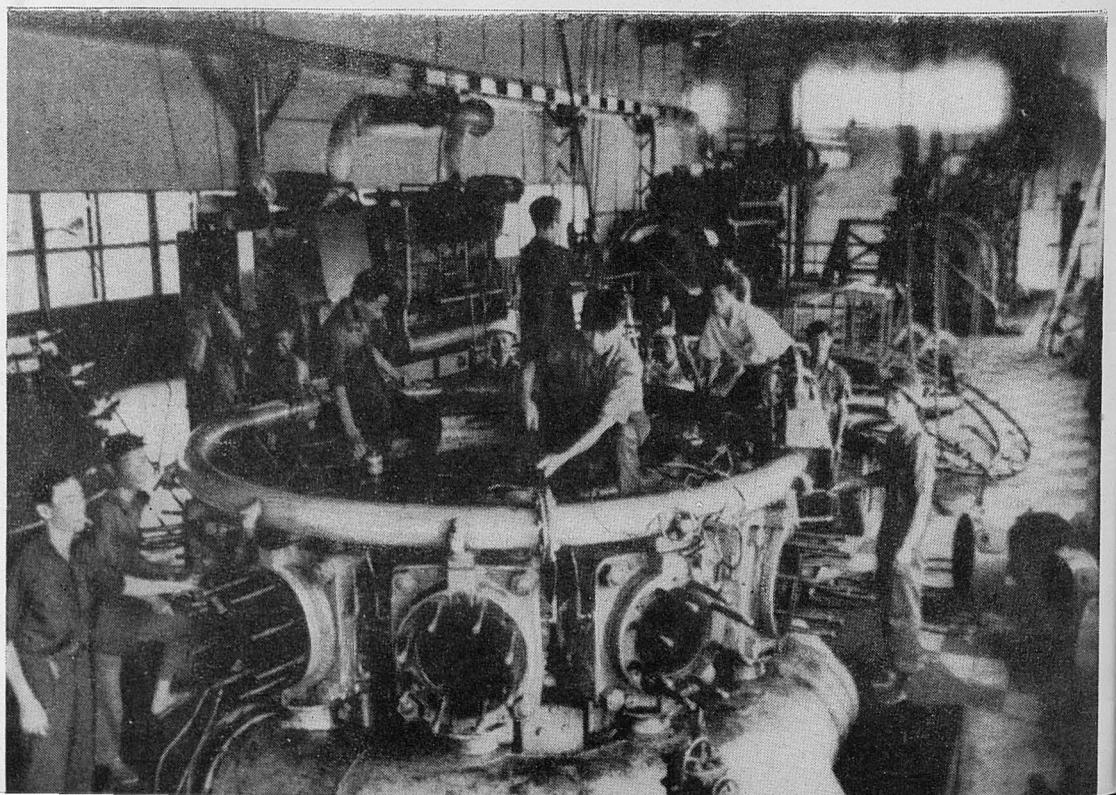
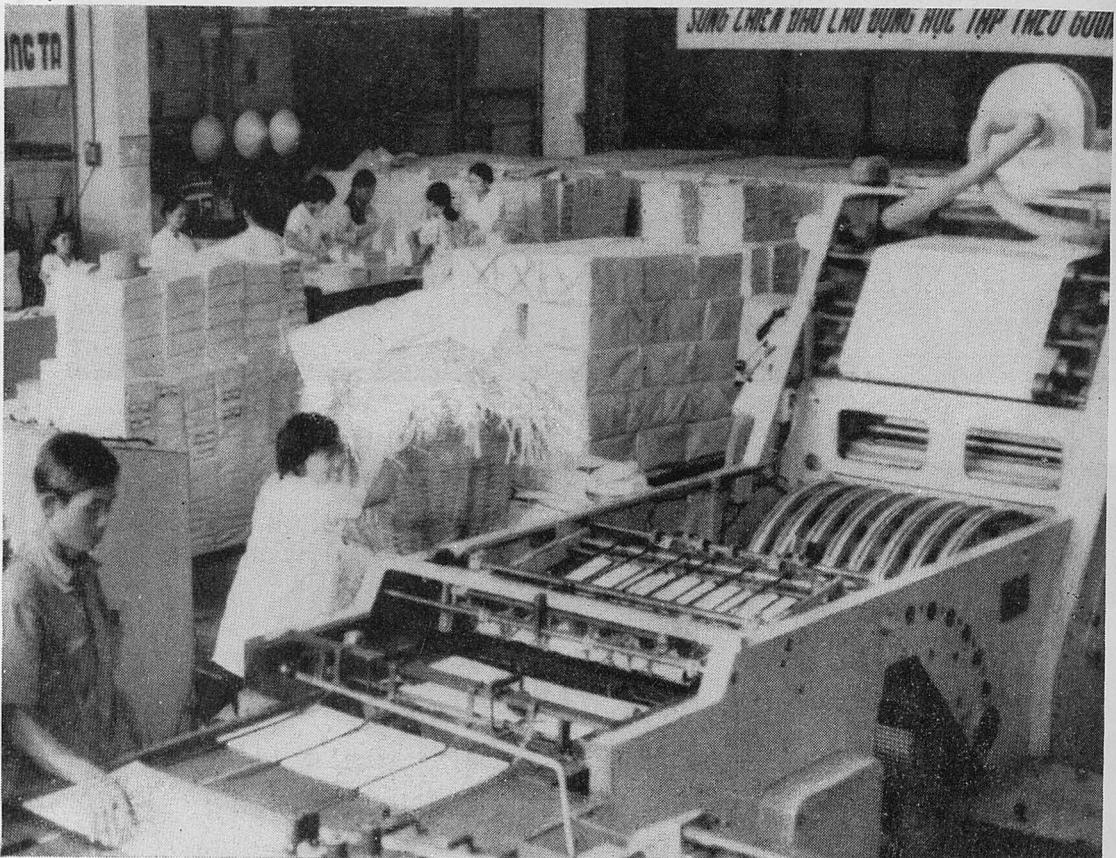
Photo : VNA

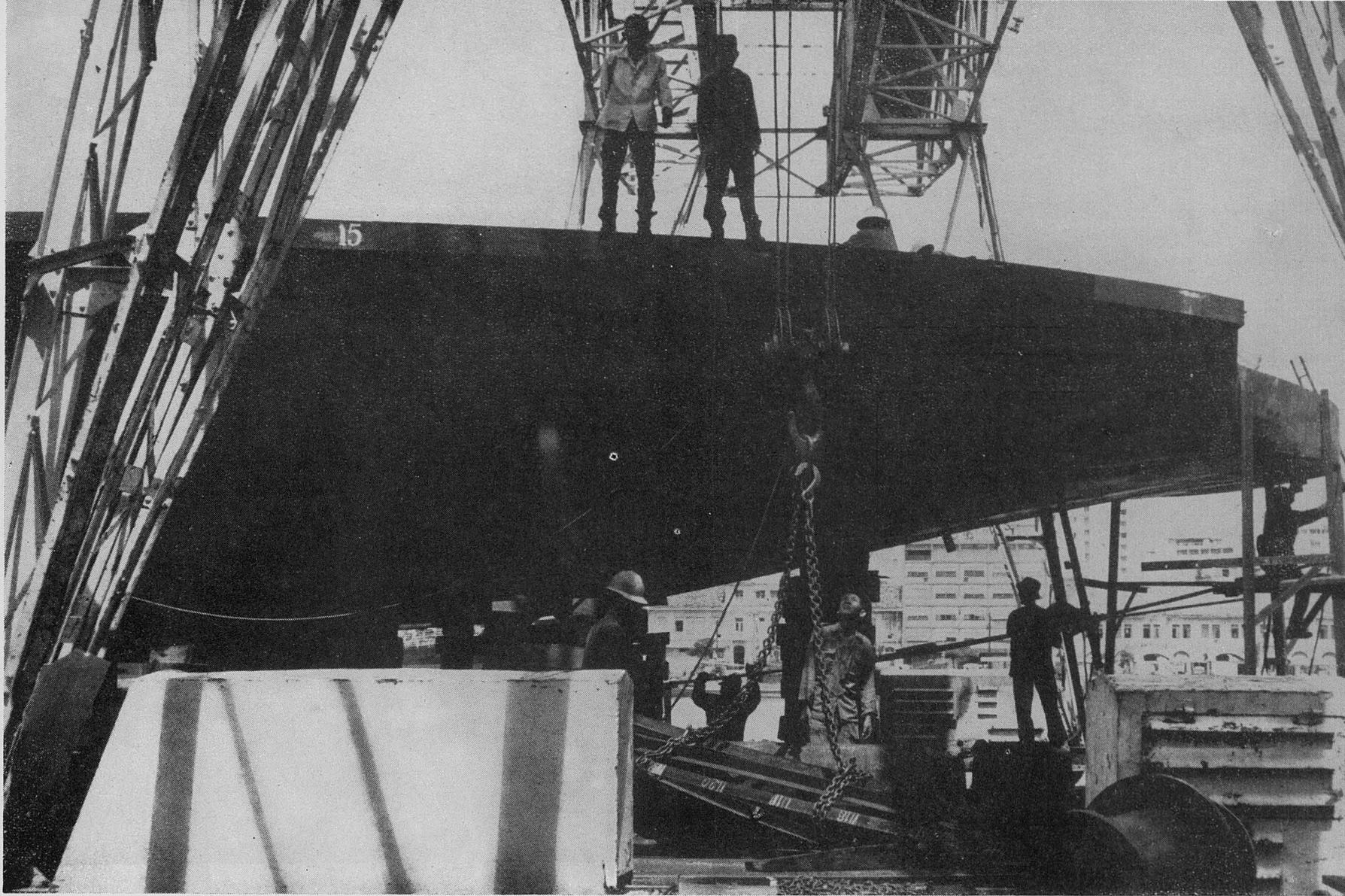
★ *A shop of the COGIDO paper-mill (Bien Hoa) striving to increase output.*

Photo : HUU CAY

★ *Workers at the Da Nang power plant ensure a steady supply of electricity to the people.*

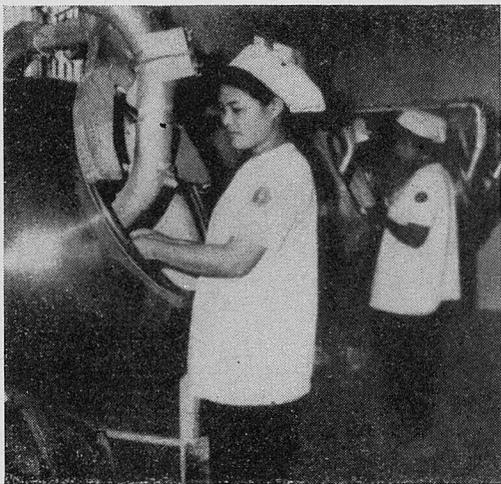
Photo : VNA





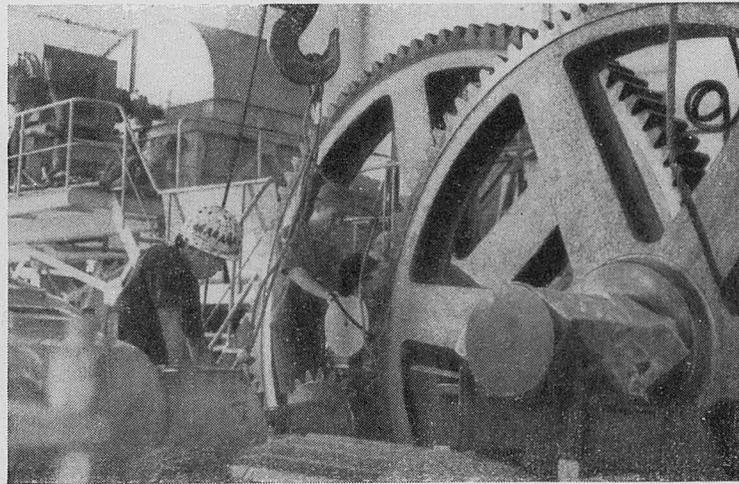
Above : Workers at the Thu Thiem industrial company building 200-ton barges (Saigon - Gia Dinh).

Photo : NGUYEN HUY HOANG



Far left : The MADZER pharmaceutical factory in Saigon.

Photo : VNA

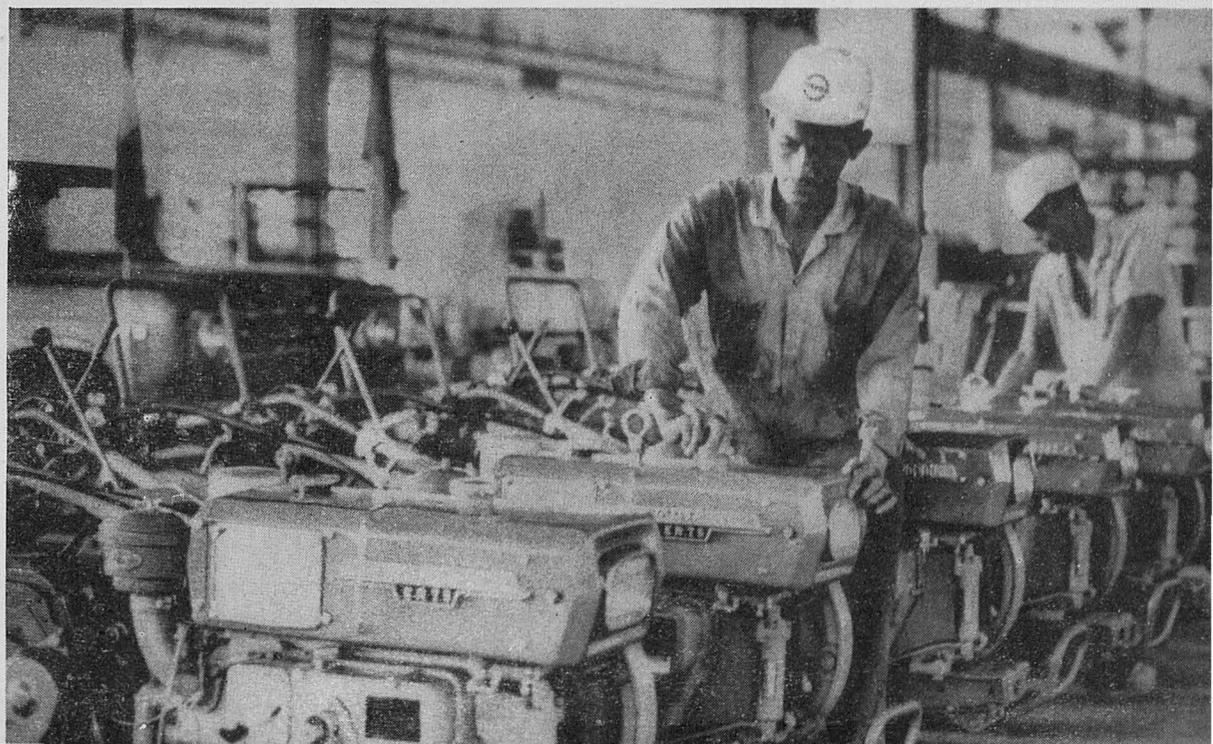


Left : Workers at the Quang Ngai sugar refinery are working diligently to put the plant back into operation.

Photo : TRAN PHUONG

Bottom : The "Dai Thang (Great Victory) 5" two-wheeled tractor, a new product jointly turned out by the VINAPRO and NIKINOWO factories.

Photo : NGUYEN KHANH





Dawn breaks over a land ravaged by American bombs and toxic chemicals.

DAWN ON AP BAC

TRAN HO

Our readers Suen Serrano (San Diego - USA) and Tom Palframan (Queensland - Australia) have asked us to tell them something about South Viet Nam after liberation (Editor).

We came to Ap Bac, a village lying near Highway 4, 30 kilometres from My Tho, where on 2 January 1963 a famous battle was fought, heralding the defeat of the American "special war" in South Viet Nam. Here many heroic collectives and individuals had recorded outstanding achievements: Mrs Bay Hy, at 60 years of age, killed an enemy soldier with a spear; Hai Dong, Bay Den and Tan Thanh fought a whole enemy battalion for two days; the Ap Bac - Giron Battalion fought resounding battles which reverberated as far as the Western Hemisphere...

The people who fought the enemy so courageously and so perseveringly are now working hard to bring back prosperity to their village, their fields and orchards. Over the past 20 years, the Americans and their agents had dropped immense amounts of bombs and shells on this area, used hundreds of bulldozers to level the ground,

and launched hundreds of raids to turn the region into a "no man's land." Not a house had remained standing, not a living being was in sight in the daytime, not a light shone at night..

Now looking at the lush green vegetation one cannot imagine that not so long ago this was a "dead area".

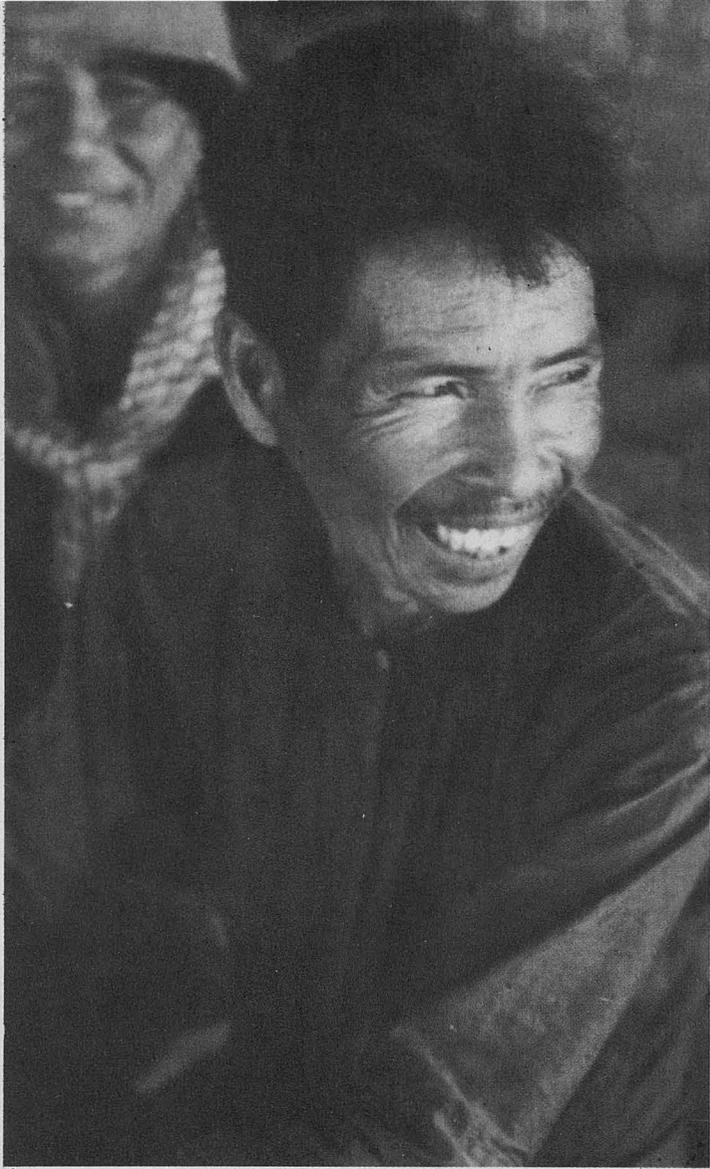
At dawn, the noise of tractors at work broke the silence of the fields. Weeds and grass were ploughed under. Sau, the head of the tractor team, told me that 660 hectares of fallow land would soon be brought under cultivation. On over tens of hectares of newly-tilled land, rice was growing vigorously. Groups of peasants were weeding and spreading fertilizers, talking and laughing as they worked. One called to me: "Hey, take a snapshot of us and come back at harvest time. We'll treat you to some new rice."

Ducks are again raised.



Discussing cultivation plans.





Far left : Hai Hoanh, one of the resisters of the enemy during the occupation.

Left : Mrs Pham Thi Ly, 75, lost four children in the fight against the enemy.

Nguyen Van Sau's team is working hard to bring 660 hectares back under cultivation.





The Ap Bac guerrillas who struck the American aggressors and their agents with terror, are now spearheading the efforts to rehabilitate the land.

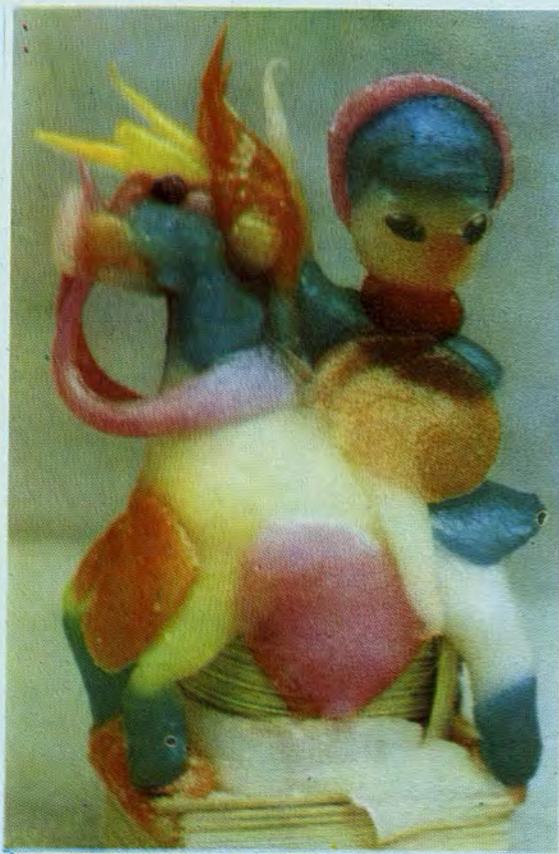
DAWN ON AP BAC

Walking along the bank of the irrigation canal, we came to the school. The 5-kilometre canal had just been dredged and re-organised. On the banks, trees seared by napalm and chopped by shell splinters were again in leaf. The people had built a school-house and over 200 dwelling houses within the space of one month. Nearly 500 children were going to school for the first time.

In a simply-furnished house we met people who truly represented Ap Bac: Nam Phan, secretary of the Party cell, who had led the underground struggle against the enemy; Hai Hoanh, member of the Party bureau, who had lost four children in the fight; and Ba Rau, chairman of the village

committee, who had lost one arm. Their faces were still deeply marked by years of hardships and sacrifices. Yet they were beaming with enthusiasm and optimism. Ba Rau said: "It was hard enough to fight the American aggressors. But now it will be even harder to fight against famine and ignorance and strive to build a life of abundance and happiness. We shall have to look after agriculture, stock breeding, education, health work, and solve hundreds of problems. We have spent many sleepless nights working out plans. However, there are many favourable conditions: the people, who were so heroic in struggle, are now working selflessly to rebuild the region. Certainly, we shall overcome all difficulties and surge forward."





"Mum's back, Mum's back!" the children often shout enthusiastically when their mothers return home from market. They expect the latter to bring them some toys made from rice dough.

The toys are of various forms and colours: hens, ducks, pigs, birds, bowls, pots, tripods, trays of fruit, etc. With their skill, the people's artists have turned rice starch into highly stylised figurines reflecting nature and life in the countryside and conforming with the understanding, imagination and aesthetic sense of the children. This is part of the folk sculptural art going on in the delta and midland of the DRVN. The artists produce right in the markets of the countryside, particularly on the occasion of the mid-Autumn festival and the Tet (Lunar New Year). Besides usual subjects, they invent new ones inspired from the new life: tractorists, army men, air planes, etc.

The practical realities of combat and building in Viet Nam are giving wings to that traditional art, helping it to develop and create new dreams for the children.

FOLK ARTS

RICE DOUGH TOYS

TRAN MANH PHU

Photos: LE VUONG
(Viet Nam Fine Arts Museum)



Left to right and from top to bottom:

- * The small cavalier.
- * A twittering bird.
- * An artillery gunner.
- * The two cocks.
- * A goat.

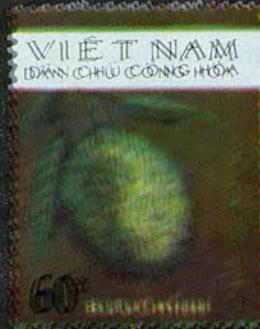
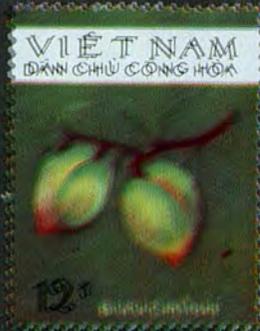
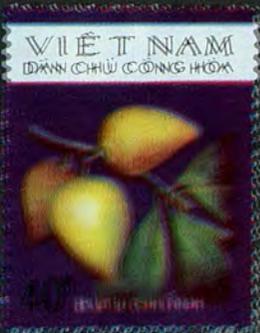


PHILATELY

The General Post and Telecommunications Service of the DRVN has issued a new series of 8 stamps on Vietnamese fruits:

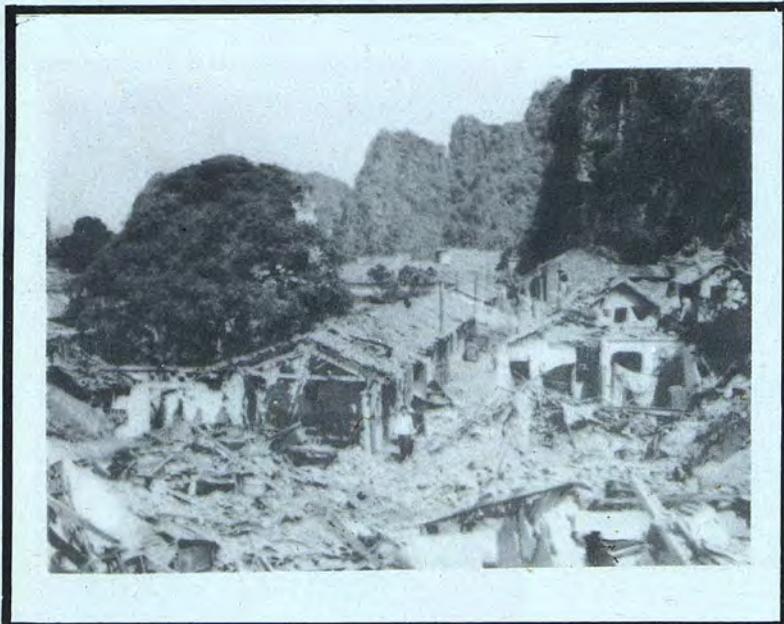
1. The spondillia plum (*Achras sapota* L.): 12 cents;
2. The peach (*Persica vulgaris* Mill): 12 cents;
3. The jambosa (*Eugenia lamibos* L.): 20 cents;
4. The "vu sua" (*Chrysophyllum Cainito* L.): 30 cents;
5. The "lekima" (*Lucuma Mamosa*): 40 cents;
6. The pomegranate (*Punica granatum* L.): 50 cents;
7. The durian (*Durio Zibethinus* D.C.): 60 cents;
8. The plum (*Prunus solicina* Lindl.): 100 cents.

In offset - Size: 33mm x 43mm.



IN the US air war of destruction against the DRVN, Hon Gai was literally reduced to rubble. Before being compelled to sign the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam, the US imperialists had dropped – in 204 air raids – 2,838 bombs of various types on this economic centre of Quang Ninh province and capital of the coal branch. 87,000 people had to evacuate to the countryside.

After the restoration of peace in early 1973, like people in other towns and cities, the Hon Gai population immediately returned to rebuild their province capital. Hundreds of thousands of cubic metres of broken rubbish were cleared, hundreds of bomb craters, filled up and the unexploded bombs and shells, defused. People re-established each electric



Hon Gai after a US air attack in 1972. Photo : TRUONG THAI

wire pole, straightened each steel beam and retrieved each small part of machinery. Thanks to their own efforts and with the help of people in the whole province, in only a short period of time great changes took place in the area.

The Hon Gai Mechanical Engineering Plant, once hit by 300 enemy bombs, started producing again. The workers had set up their machines even before the roof of the plant was completed. Hundreds of different parts were turned out with a view to quickly restoring the damaged engines. In some three months, the plant began to repair the damaged locomotives, carriages and transport lorries and a number of machines necessary for economic rehabilitation. Besides, it also produced new coaches and spare parts, among them the boiler which illustrates this report. The coal-sorting workshop has all its railway lines leading to the port put in order, and its conveyer belt system set up. The port also had its cranes and pier repaired, and all the US mines, cleared.

At present, all the plants and factories in Hon Gai have been restored and a number of new ones are being built: the workshop for the manufacture of 100 ton-barges and 135 h.p. - tug boats; four brick kilns in Gieng Day with a capacity of 100,000,000 bricks a year; a dockyard for the building of medium-sized sea-going vessels; a whole series of enterprises for the manufacture of tea, sweetmeats and cake, pharmaceutical products, sweet drinks, glassware, building materials... and for the processing of wood and foodstuffs, etc.

Life in Hon Gai provincial capital is surging up, more vigorously than in the period before the war.

★ Workers at the workshop for building barges and launches went on with their production, though its premises had not yet been completed. ▶



★ The first four – storeyed building under reconstruction in Hon Gai.

AT AN AREA ONCE EXTERMINATED BY ENEMY BOMBS

(A report on reconstruction work in Viet Nam after the war, made at the request of Virgilio Pérez Cartaya from Havana – Cuba)





★ Three months after its restoration the Hon Gai Mechanical Engineering Plant started producing boilers for railway engines.

★ Heading towards the quay for export.

★ Port Manager Le Viet Thanh stuck to his post despite the 26 US air raids against the area.

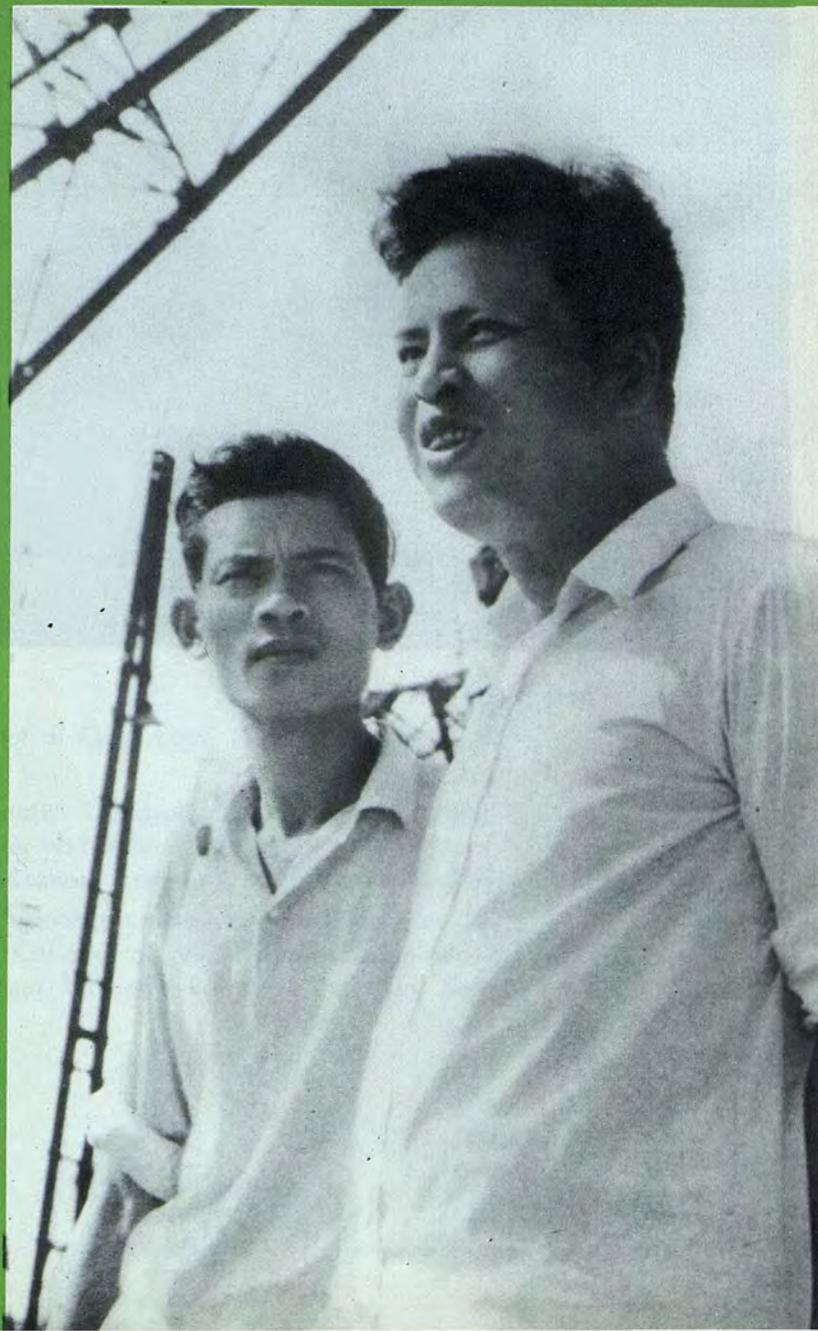




Photo: HO HAI

This painting entitled "The Fishing Hamlet of Quat Lam" (Size 50cm X 150cm) has won keen appreciation from the public.

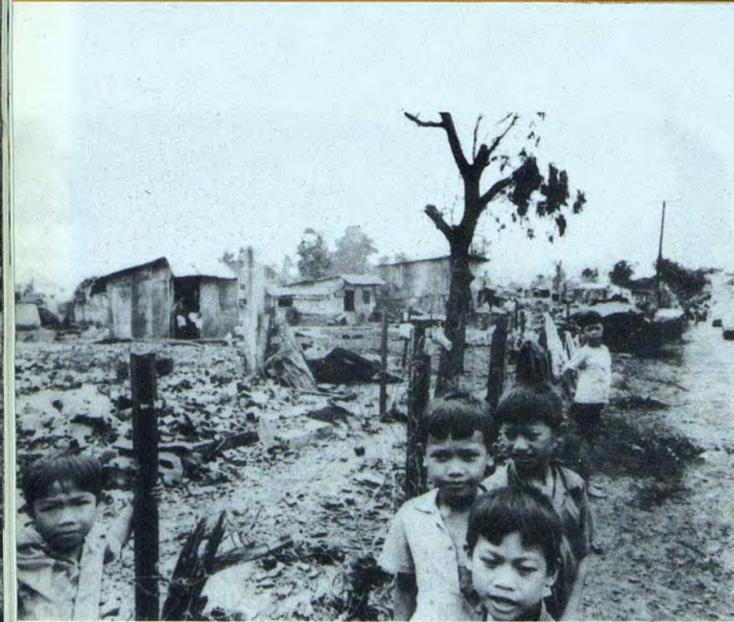
Its author—Tran Lien Hlang—has brilliantly displayed the theme of "fishing" with ease, a theme specifically Vietnamese. With refined brushstrokes, a harmonious combination of colours and daring stylisation, her work has great originality.

The first creation of this young artist of great promise was presented at her graduation exam at the Industrial Fine Arts College of Viet Nam. It obtained a "Gold Medal" at the International Exhibition of Women's Paintings held in Sofia (1974).

GLIMPSES OF SAIGON AND THE MEKONG RIVER

A report by Massimo Loche, correspondent of "the Unita" in Viet Nam, made at the request of "Viet Nam" Pictorial.

Photos by Marie Hediard and Massimo Loche



Left to right and from top to bottom :

- * A class in My Tho province (July 1975).
- * People tackle the most urgent jobs : transplanting rice at Long Hung village.
- * Along a street in Xuan Loc, capital of Long Khanh province.
- * Can Tho province : You discover a rich land with immense possibilities, but almost desert.
- * Saigon : preventive vaccination in a suburban quarter.

MANY a surprise awaits those who visit Saigon for the first time after liberation. Travelling along the large avenues, which are lined on either side by ostentatious buildings or which wind their way across discreet and luxurious villas of former Saigon, one has the impression of discovering a prosperous country. For the road leading from Tan Son Nhat airport to the centre of the city passes through "good" quarters and the *de luxe* dwellings of the "bigwigs" of the puppet administration and the rich compradors. Crossing a bridge, however, one notices, at once, an incredible housing quarter for working people, set up pell-mell on the water, with the most assorted materials. Tins smashed flat and fixed to one another serve as cover for roofs and walls ; mud replaces cement.

In this urban scenery of striking contrasts, the appearance of prosperity is manifested by enormous quantities of goods of various kinds displayed not only in the shop-windows of well-made streets in the centre but also on the pavements of the poorest quarters. In

fact, most of those industrial products were not made in this country, but imported. Even in some rare cases when the products bear the mark "Made in Viet Nam" they actually depended entirely on foreign materials. The system could function only thanks to the continued injections of dollars from American aids, the war and the monstrous speculations it had engendered. In some aspect, the heaviest burden which South Viet Nam has inherited from the Americans is not so much misery as that artificial prosperity which has no root in this country.

Saigon has nearly 4 million inhabitants, that is one fifth of the South Vietnamese population. Before liberation most people in Saigon lived from expedients, large and small, which permitted them to survive. A small number of "bigwigs" of the regime accumulated immense riches which they hoarded in safety in far-off banks. But the 80% of the population in the country still lived on a backward agriculture, organized only at the level of small family production. Travelling along the roads and canals in the Mekong

River delta, one is struck now and then by scenes of devastation caused by the war. A closer look, however, helps one discover an even greater crime : great expanses of land had been left waste due to US bombs and shells ; the puppets' repression and "pacification" turned the peasants into "refugees" going to swell the population in cities and towns. One sees a rich land with immense possibilities but almost desert, while the urban centres are overcrowded - Saigon in particular, which is an abnormal excrescence on a rachitic body martyred by the war.

In the months following liberation, the people's power at different levels has taken a whole series of steps with a view to restoring the economy and reversing the most harmful consequences of the war. Thanks to an appropriate policy and the consciousness of the workers, factories and plants have gradually been restored to operation ; thousands of workshops are at present functioning. The people's power has paid particular attention to the "deflation" of the cities ; with its aid, people can return to

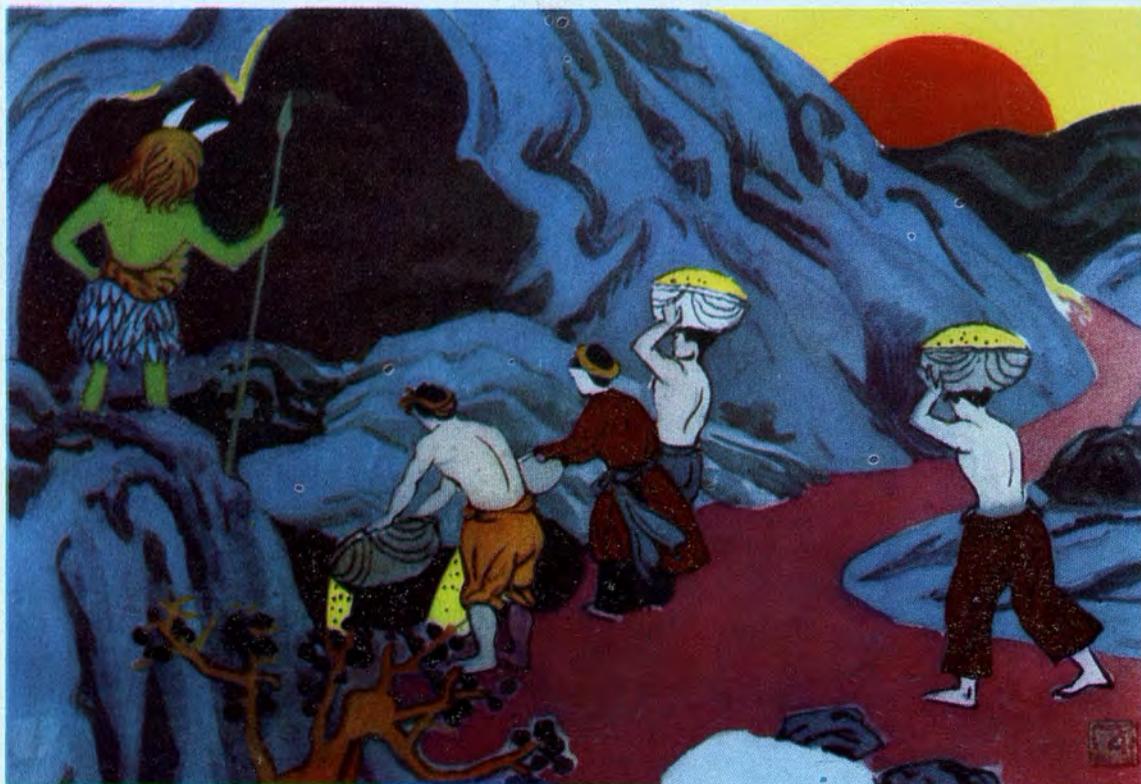
their native soil. In addition, with the creation of new economic centres, a prospect for productive work in the countryside has opened up for hundreds of thousands of unemployed people. Meanwhile, with the cooperation of the population, the people's power has carried out a resolute struggle against the speculators, those who, in the shade of neo-colonialism, had piled up immense fortunes at the expense of the people and who, after liberation, continue to sabotage the economy by hoarding goods of prime necessity thus creating an artificial scarcity.

The results obtained so far in the stabilization of the economic life permit us to think that the economy of South Viet Nam has found the way of normal development leading gradually towards an indispensable integration with the economy of the North and that, in the coming months and years, with its great resources and the diligent work and creative spirit of its 45 million inhabitants, the reunified Viet Nam will steadily advance towards a truly prosperous future.

The "CAY NEU"

FROM A PRODUCTION BY THE VIET NAM MAGIC LANTERN STUDIO

Scenario : HOANG QUYEN
Drawings : DO XUAN DOAN
Narrator : HO HAI

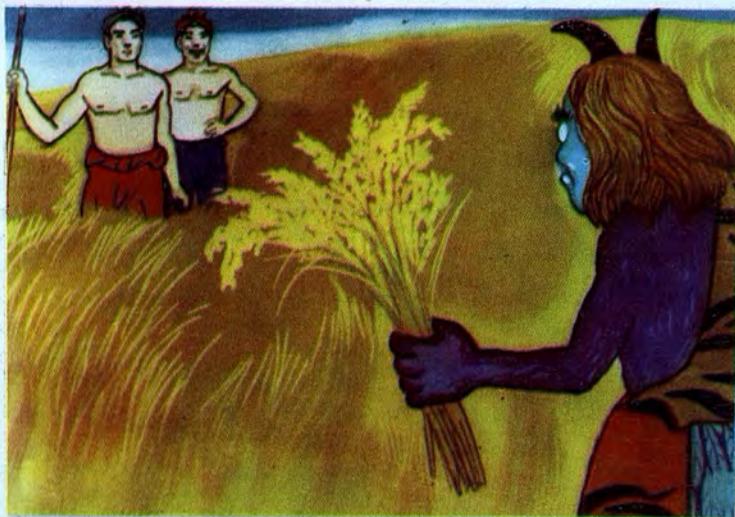


1

Formerly, the Vietnamese people in the countryside used to plant in front of their house a "cay neu" on the occasion of the Lunar New Year Festival. It was a towering bamboo pole at the top of which were hung arrows and bows, small terracotta bells and a bunch of pineapple leaves or a banyan bough. This was aimed, according to popular belief, at driving away all misfortunes of the past and welcoming good things for the new year.

The origin of the "cay neu" is told in a folk tale as follows :

1. Once upon a time, the Devil captured all the arable land on earth. Man had to work on lease for him, and led a very miserable life.



2. One day, to satisfy his greed for gain, the Devil said to Man : "At the coming harvest, I'll take all that is on top of the plants ; the rest will belong to you !" As Man planted rice, he brought in only straw.

3. Having a deep compassion for Man, Buddha appeared and suggested : "As the Devil wants all that is on the top, just grow potatoes !"



2

3



4. At harvest-time, Man brought home basket after basket of tubers while the Devil gathered only creeping stems and leaves.

5. Greatly angered, the Devil changed his mind : "This time, I'll take what is at the root ; the rest will belong to you !" - Man again planted rice, playing a bad trick on the Devil.



4

5

6. As mad as a March hare, the Devil said: "I'll take all that is at both the top and bottom of the plants!" - Man then planted maize, gathered the cobs and left the rest to the Devil.



6

7. The Devil claimed back his land - "Go to his house with plenty of money." Buddha said, "Manage to buy a small plot of land just enough to grow a cluster of bamboo-trees, and tell him that the land of man extends as far as the shady bamboo-trees."



7

8. The bargain with the Devil concluded, Man planted bamboo-trees. Covered by Buddha's dress, they grew quickly and soon turned into thick hedges and forests, pushing the Devil step by step into the sea.



8

9. The Devil hurled his wild beasts into the mainland. With the help of Buddha, however, they were beaten black and blue.



9

10. Being heavily defeated, the Devil and his forces took to their heels. But they asked Man to permit them each year to return some days to visit the tombs of their ancestors.



10

11. During those days, people would meet and hold festivals to thank Heaven and Buddha for having helped them recover their food and clothing.



11

12. They would plant "cay neus", to remind the Devil that man's land is inviolable.



12



Deputy-company commander Do Viet Cuong, the hero renowned for his victorious attacks on enemy vessels. Of the 14 vessels sunk or set afire by his team, he personally accounted for seven.

Only one fourth of the time

Text and photos : DUONG NGUYEN

THE FIRST COMPANY OF THE 126th UNIT UNDER THE NAVAL COMMAND HAS BEEN THREE TIMES AWARDED THE TITLE HERO OF THE PEOPLE'S ARMED FORCES BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND THE GOVERNMENT.

THIS UNIT HAS BEEN CREDITED WITH MANY INNOVATIONS IN COMBAT TECHNIQUE AND MANY SUCCESSES IN BOTH LAND AND SEA WARFARE. IT PUT OUT OF ACTIONS THOUSANDS OF ENEMY TROOPS, SANK OR SET AFIRE ABOUT A HUNDRED ENEMY VESSELS AND PARALYZED MANY ENEMY COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS.

IN THE OPERATIONS OF SPRING 1975, IT CONTRIBUTED TO THE LIBERATION OF MANY ISLANDS AND WAS AWARDED A MILITARY EXPLOIT MEDAL, SECOND CLASS.

PPOINTING to two spots on the map, Company Commander Nguyen Ngoc Que said: "At noon on 13 April 1975, while the spring general offensive and uprising was in full swing in southern Trung Bo, our company received the order to go and liberate a number of islands. Less than one hour later, we had all embarked and were hidden in the holds of cargo ships. We sailed for six days on rough sea. The ships tossed and rolled and many people were sea-sick. Enemy spotter planes and cruisers kept a tight watch on us, harassed the ships and sometimes opened fire on the convoy, but failed to detect the aim of the operation."

Late at night on the sixth day, the ships were within 100 metres of the shore of one island. Led by deputy-company commander Do Viet Cuong, one detachment left their ship in row-boats. The tide was then ebbing and was pulling the boats away from their destination. There was also grave risk of detection by enemy lookouts. But Cuong was an experienced sailor and eventually succeeded in putting the whole party ashore.

The detachment made their way through thick mangrove swamps, avoided enemy patrols and more than one hour later found themselves quite close to their target. After carefully checking the enemy's troop dispositions as well as his own, Cuong led one team toward the command bunker. Crawling up to a loophole he dropped a grenade through the opening. Following the explosion, assault teams from all sides rushed up to enemy positions. Le Xuan Thanh's B. 41 rocket-launcher destroyed the watchtower with one shot. Do Huy Tam, Mai Hong Trang and others mowed down enemy troops with bursts of their AK submachineguns. The signal equipment of the garrison stopped functioning and their remnants fled in disorder, pursued by a squad under the command of platoon leader Hoc.

Meanwhile, three squads under the command of company commander Nguyen Ngoc Que attacked another enemy position, which was quickly destroyed.

At 4.30 a.m. Tong Van Quang was killed and Que himself took over

Reviewing the combat plan before the battle.



Practice for training purposes is very much in accordance with the realities of actual battle.



Pursuing the enemy.



Private Do Huy Tam, for his baptism of fire, achieved such exploits that he was awarded a Combat Exploit Medal, Third Class.



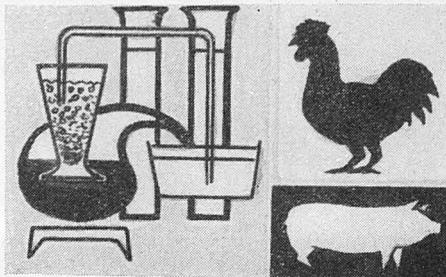
command of the mortars and recoilless guns. The enemy, attacked from three sides, disbanded. Le Xuan Phat rushed forward and clambered on top of their command bunker. The "three-striped" puppet flag was torn down and the victorious gold-starred red flag hoisted.

The assault had taken only one fourth of the scheduled time. The fighters of the First Company met in the joy of victory. A song burst from their lips: "O dear Fatherland, we are standing guard on your islands!"

At present, together with other units, they are keeping vigilant watch on our advanced positions.

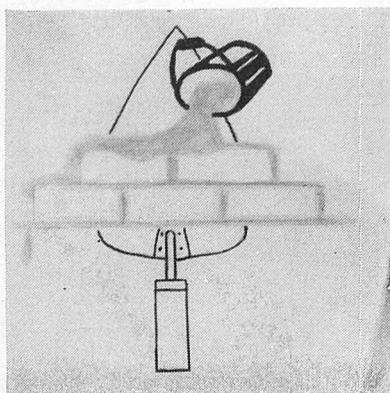
NEWS IN BRIEF — NEWS IN BRIEF

With a view to increasing the protein content of animal feed, Nguyen Lan Dzung, an instructor at the Hanoi University, and his collaborators have successfully isolated some strains of yeast capable of desolving starch into its constituent parts. Used experimentally in animal-breeding centres in Ha Tay, Nam Ha, Ninh Binh, etc., these yeasts have caused an increase in weight of about 10% in the animals. Nguyen Lan Dzung's group have also used the biomass of a kind of bacteria to create crude Vitamin B.12 to be used in animal breeding.

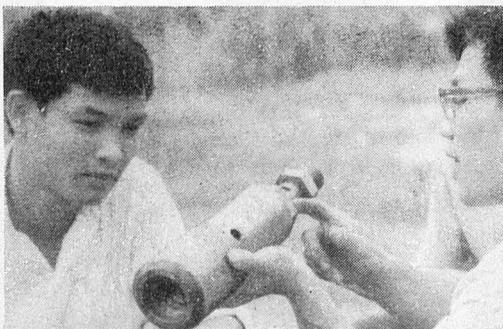


In 9 October 1975, medical professors and doctors of the Nhi Dong and Binh Dan hospitals in Saigon successfully performed a surgical operation separating two Siamese twins born on 6 October 1975 in Hoa Thanh commune, Cai Be district, My Tho province. They were bound together at the lower part of their spines, their pelvises, vaginas, and anuses. X-ray photographs showed that their spinal chords communicated.

Before the operation, one child showed signs of lack of oxygen in its myocardium, and received special care. Twenty-four hours after the operation, the children's condition remained stabilized. This was the second successful operation of its kind. The first had been performed by Professor Ton That Tung in Hanoi (January 1973).



The department of silicate chemistry of the Hanoi Polytechnic and the laboratory of building materials under the Ministry of Higher and Vocational Education and the College of Civil Engineering have studied the making of various compounds from blast furnace anhydride, pozzolanic slag, and pozzolanic dolomite. They have created bonding materials with a mark figure higher than 150, from which to manufacture unfired building materials with strength of 45 to 75 kilograms per square centimetre (unfired building materials produced from Portland cement in many countries have strength figures of only about 35 kilograms per square centimetre).



The gas content study department of Geological Group No 9 has designed and manufactured drilling-tubes for obtaining both coal and gaz specimens, suited to the conditions of Viet Nam. The drill-cores of coal obtained are found in good condition, and boring at different depths has brought up 92-100% of drill-cores.

Photo: Engineers checking the equipment.

NGUYEN HUU TUAN — NHU KHUE



After several years of research, engineers of the ferrous alloys department of the Thai Nguyen Iron and Steel Complex have succeeded in producing auto-consumed electrodes used in electric steel furnaces. This will save tens of thousands of dong each year in imported electrodes.

Photo: Checking the functioning of the electrodes.

DAM GIANG

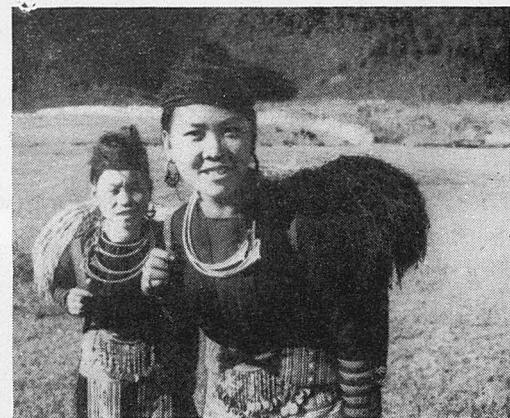
Illustrations: NGOC TRAM



The Thai Nguyen fire-brick factory has produced various kinds of bricks of high temperature resistance, to be used in the metallurgical industry. These bricks had formerly to be imported.

Photo: Fire-bricks used in steel furnaces.

THIEN TOAN



THE GREAT FAMILY OF VIETNAMESE NATIONALITIES

THE great family of Viet Nam has had many nationalities living shoulder to shoulder for thousands of years.

At first it was called Van Lang and comprised 15 tribes. By the end of the First Millenium B.C. it developed into the State of Au Lac. The national spirit of its members was clearly manifested right at the early stage of its foundation. At the call of the Trung Sisters in the years 40-43 A.D., the people vigorously rose up against invaders.

Now the great family of Viet Nam has over 60 nationalities (with a total population of 45,000,000 inhabitants) representing almost all the linguistic groups in Southeast Asia:

- The **Viet** (or **Kinh**), the **Muong** and a number of ethnic groups in the Viet An and Quang Binh provinces belonging to the **Viet-Muong** speaking group;

- The **Tay** and **Nung** - the most important ethnic groups in the Viet Bac Autonomous Region -, the **Thai** - the most important group in the Tay Bac Autonomous Region -, and a number of other minority peoples like the **San Chay**, the **Giay**, the **Lu**, etc., belonging to the **Tay-Thai** speaking group;

- The **Meo** and **Zao**, living mostly on the highlands and belonging to the **Meo-Zao** speaking group;

- From the **Tibeto-Burman** speaking group are those living mainly along the border of Viet Nam with China;

- From the **Mon-Khmer** speaking group are those who settled down in the remote areas close to the banks of the Da and Ma rivers (northwestern region), in the mountainous areas of Thanh Hoa and Nghe An, on the Tay Nguyen High Plateaux and in East Nam Bo;

- From the **Malayo-Polynesian** speaking group are the **Cham**, **Gia Rai**, **Edeh**, **Rac-Lai**, etc., inhabiting South Central Viet Nam and Nam Bo.

Besides there are the **La Chi** and **Co Lao** whose language has not yet been defined unanimously by the ethnologists.

Since time immemorial the Vietnamese nationalities had lived on agriculture, their economy bearing an autarkic character. Their unity and solidarity has been ever more consolidated and tested in the struggle against the whims of nature and foreign aggression; it has been even more reinforced since the foundation of the Party of the working class and cristallized into an unconquerable force in the two resistances against the French and the American invaders. The different nationalities of Viet Nam have engraved on their minds the teachings of President Ho Chi Minh in the letter he addressed to the nationalities in the South in April 1946: "The nation and government belong to all of us. Hence, all the nationalities in our country must unite closely to preserve our nation and support our government. Rivers may dry up and mountains may wear out but our unity will never diminish."



A 4,000 - YEAR - OLD LAND

"THE HUNG KINGS FOUNDED OUR NATION WE SHOULD STRIVE TOGETHER TO DEFEND IT!"⁽¹⁾

Professor PHAM HUY THONG, Director of the
Archaeological Institute of Viet Nam

Four thousand years of civilized life and 18 Hung Kings : is this an authentic history or a legendary invention ? For quite a long time people have engaged in heated debates... Now we want to clear the matter up. And we are set upon it, particularly after the victory over US aggression, we are even more eager to throw light on the origin of our people.

Is there a basis, or not, for our confidence and traditional pride in a high and age-old culture of our forefathers ? Are there the millenary intelligence and energies, or not, in the determination of the present generations to win back independence and freedom and to build a happy and prosperous life ?

The question goes back to the problem of **civilization**. To increase our ability to defend human dignity at present, we have enquired into the forms of life in which our ancestors lived in the days of yore. To wonder whether there is, or not, an era of the Hung Kings does not mean to confirm or negate the myths concerning the source of our nation ; inversely, it is aimed at enlightening a concrete point of the past : before contacting the civilization of the northern neighbours, did we have, or not, a high culture of our own in our history ?

*
* *

To this question, the Vietnamese historians gave the answer in the very thick of the war. From now on, we can affirm - through archaeology - the historical authenticity of the Hung Kings epoch. For we have at hand irrefutable proofs : the material vestiges of that epoch.

A hundred sites containing the vestiges of the Hung era have been discovered and studied by our young archaeology. The analysis of these archaeological materials by the most up-to-date methods of investigation and their comparison with annals, the oral tradition and other historical sources allow us to conclude : **That culture of the Bronze and Early Iron age, which was born and developed on the present-day territory of North Viet Nam in the two milleniums B.C., is no other than the material form in which life under the Hung Kings manifested itself, those radiant times when the ancient Vietnamese nation came into being and grew into a State.**

And we have begun to re-create with ever more consistency and faithfulness, the centuries constituting **the dawn of our national history.**

*
* *

Opening the Hung Kings period resplendent with the elaboration of cultural values was the stage of the **Phung Nguyen culture**, a more and more profound study of which proves that our people have not exaggerated when attributing 4,000 years to their culture.

Not only bronze metallurgy made its appearance, but rice-growing reached an advanced stage and became the main branch in agricultural production. How deeply moved we were when picking up a handful of half-calcined rice dating back to those remote times ; the radiocarbon revealed that they belonged to the **finishing Phung Nguyen** some 3,500 years ago.

Stone working - polishing, sawing, drilling, chiselling, chasing - for the manufacture of instruments and ornaments had attained a high skill. With regard to the decorative designs on pottery goods, their richness, harmony, originality and beauty unquestionably testified to an open and enthusiastic heart, a good intellectual level and an elaborate aesthetic sense.

The Phung Nguyen culture followed its course for many centuries then, passing through some intermediary stages, reached a brilliant apex : the **Dong Son culture.**

Life in the Dong Son period was that of the establishment of the first State under the 18 "Hung" (18 Kings) who, succeeding one another from father to son, grouped the population in the area into a human community having the same institutions and pooling their efforts in the struggle against typhoons and floods, aggression and piracy.

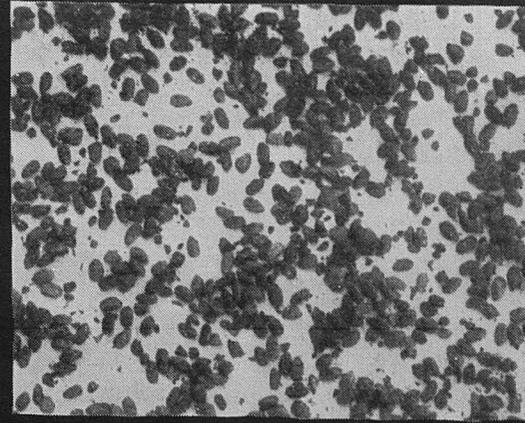
The ancient Vietnamese nation was established on the basis of an already refined civilization. Agriculture developed to the point of directing all aspects of life. The society which had been raised to a higher level, in its turn brought various crafts for the embellishment of life - woodworking, ceramics, basket-making, fabric-weaving, lacquer, etc. - to a higher degree. Metallurgy in particular became marvellous : the Ngoc Lu bronze drums, the Dao Thinh urn and even the simple instruments and weapons eloquently prove to the skill of the ancient Vietnamese. With regard to the technique of alloying, casting as well as the creation of forms, plasticity in drawing, decoration, composition, ... the Dong Son art overbrimmed with an immense passion for life.

*
* *

The Phung Nguyen - Dong Son civilization was of great originality and its creators proved to be highly able people.

We are now immensely proud of that fine introduction to our history. The Vietnamese people who since times immemorial have scored great achievements in response to the calls of their leaders - from the Trung Sisters to President Ho Chi Minh - always feel their hearts vibrate with the most profound sentiments for the founders of their first State.

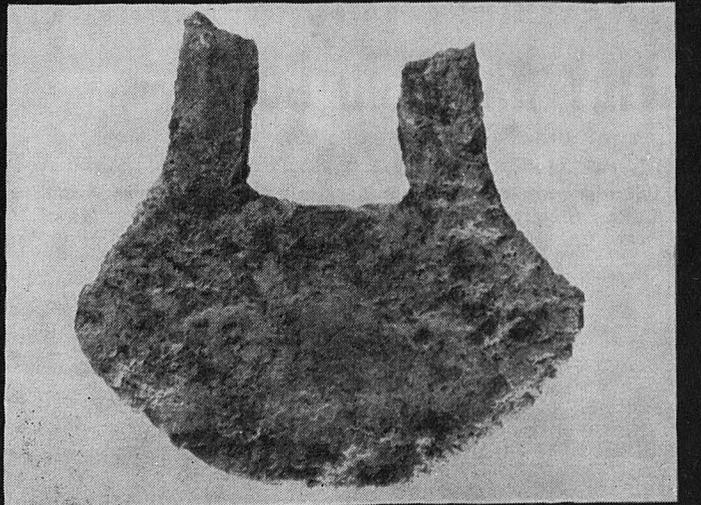
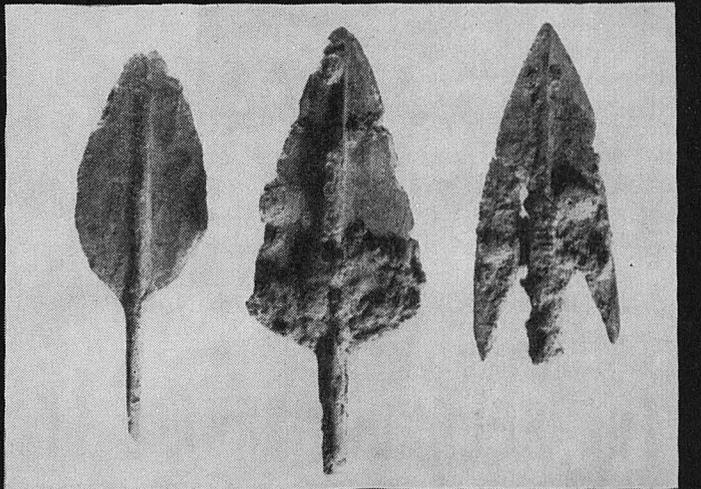
(1) From a speech addressed by President Ho Chi Minh to VPA combatants.



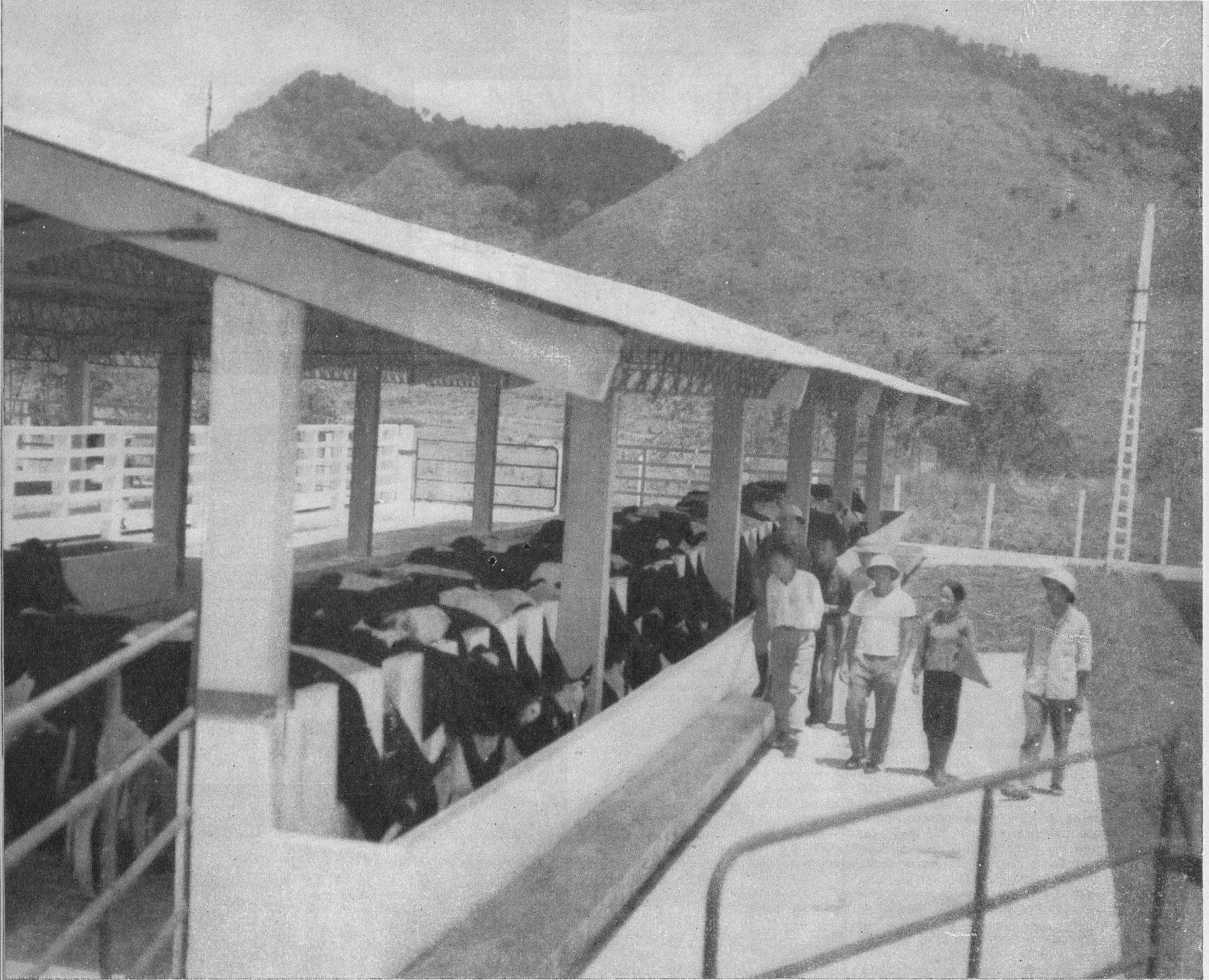
Rice grains found at Dong Dau (Vinh Phu province).



Decorative designs on Phung Nguyen pottery and Dong Son bronze artifacts.



Bronze arrows (Go Mun culture) and iron hoe (Dong Son culture).
Photos : PHAM NGOC LONG



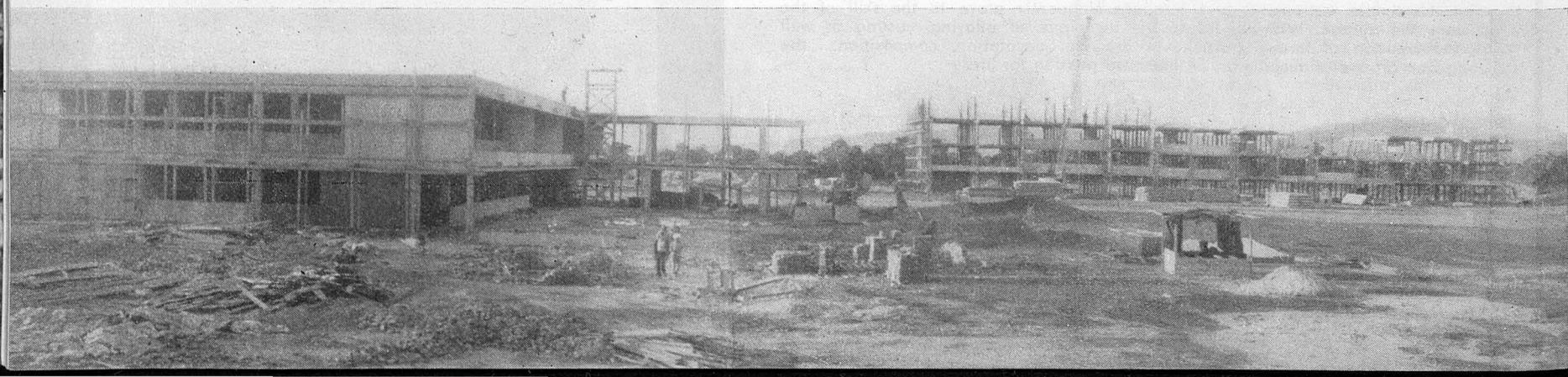
ON THE OCCASION OF THE 17th NATIONAL DAY OF THE CUBAN REPUBLIC (1-1-1959 – 1-1-1976)

THE SPLENDID FRUITS OF THE FRATERNAL FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN VIET NAM AND CUBA

Editor's note – At the request of Carlos Aluares Avaloz and other Cuban friends, we give below a report on the activities of the Cuban "Ho Chi Minh International Building Brigade" in Viet Nam.

"We firmly believe that the future of the Fatherland of immortal President Ho Chi Minh will be filled with glorious successes in national reconstruction and the building of a socialist society," such was the greeting sent by Cuban leaders to the Vietnamese people on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. Inspired by such warm feelings, Cuban volunteers of the Ho Chi Minh International Building Brigade have come to Viet Nam to give the Vietnamese people fraternal assistance.

On the Moc Chau tableland (Son La province) our Cuban friends have helped build ten breeding centres where dairy cattle are raised according to socialist industrial methods. The stalls, the "maternity clinic" and the dairy sheds stand next to 56 hectares of grazing ground surrounded by a wire fence with concrete stakes and divided into 35 areas where the cows graze; pure-breed black-and-white milchcows brought over from the American continent.



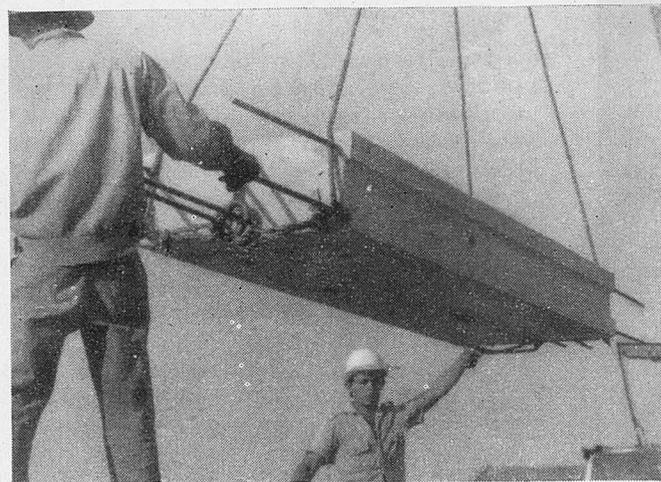


In Luong My (Hoa Binh), on gentle hill-slopes, our Cuban friends are helping us level the ground and build four breeding centres where hens are raised on a large scale by industrial methods.

In the town of Dong Hoi on which the Americans dropped thousands of tons of bombs, a polyclinic is being built with Cuban help. Here men of the Nguyen Viet Xuan team are working selflessly to unearth and defuse dozens of unexploded 1,000-pound aerial bombs, some lying 15 metres underground.

Comrade Jilberto Larondo, a veteran of the historic battle in the Bay of Pigs and now a building worker, said: "We work 12 hours a day on an average, but we would like to do even more, for we think that the interests of the Vietnamese people are also those of the Cuban people."

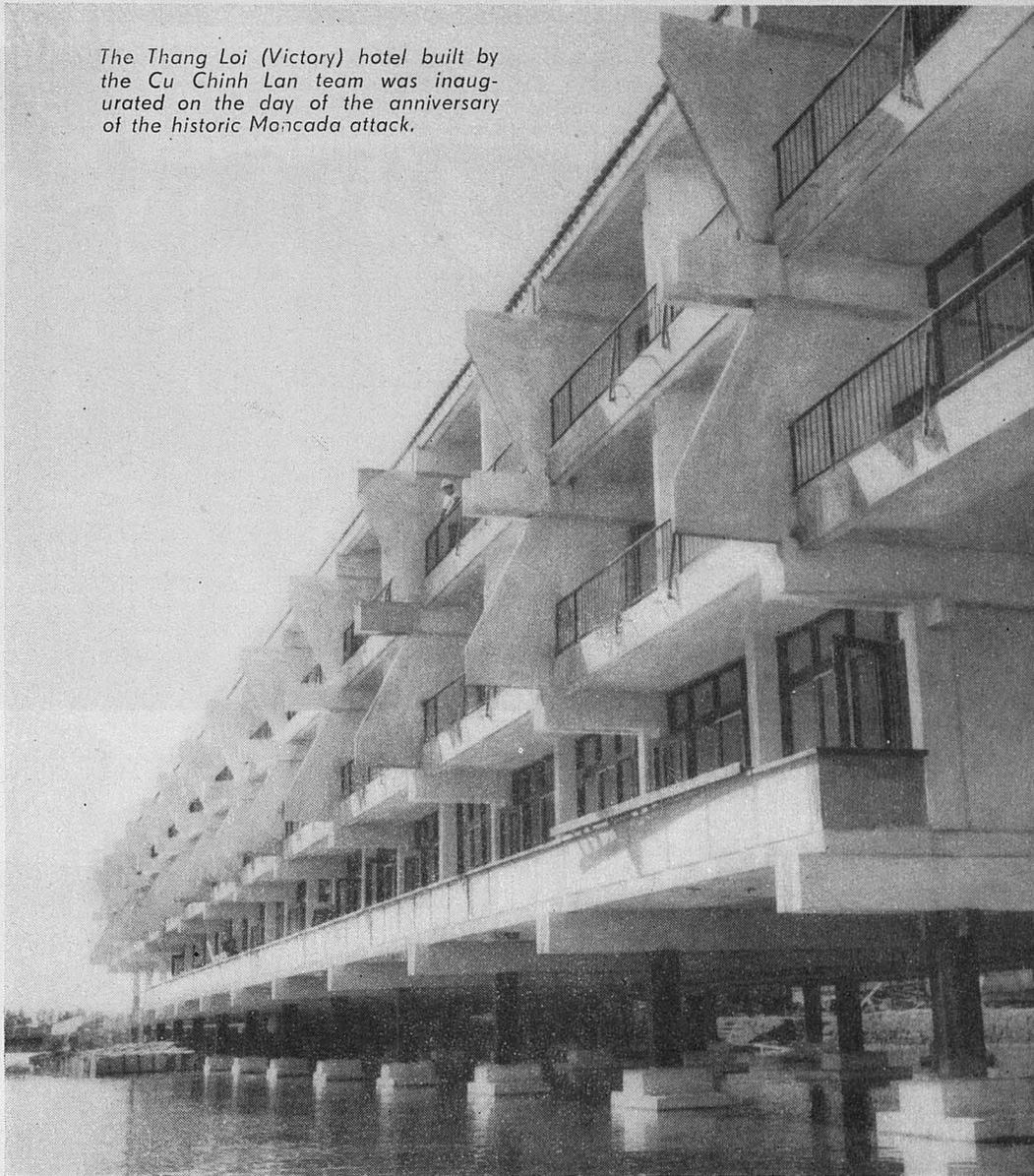
Inspired by proletarian internationalism, Cuban and Vietnamese workers and cadres, who are "twin brothers" in the words of Premier Pham Van Dong, are bound together by sincere affection and common labour. Team leader Bernabe Mesa



Left to right and from top to bottom :

- ★ A breeding centre for dairy cattle has been built in the Moc Chau highland by the Le Thi Hong Gam team of Cuban workers and cadres. It has been stocked with big milkcows brought over from the far-away American continent.
- ★ Cuban and Vietnamese workers on the construction site of the Luong My breeding centre for poultry.
- ★ Comrade Benancio Antunas discussing plans of the Dong Hoi hospital with Vietnamese building engineers.
- ★ Hipolito Cubilla joins in the construction of the hospital.

The consulting room and the No 1 ward of the Dong Hoi hospital under construction.



The Thang Loi (Victory) hotel built by the Cu Chinh Lan team was inaugurated on the day of the anniversary of the historic Moncada attack.

Arias of the Le Thi Hong Gam team, who has twice been awarded the Lao Dong (Labour) Order by our Government, said: "We consider it our duty to help young Vietnamese workers raise their professional standards so that they may operate the machinery and equipment we brought over from Cuba."

Hundreds of other Cuban workers and cadres in the Ho Chi Minh Buiding Brigade, who have helped build the Thang Loi (Victory) hotel and the 53-kilometre stretch of road linking together the two breeding centres at Xuan Mai and Ba Vi, have shed much sweat for the sake of Viet Nam and recorded brilliant results. The memories of our industrious, modest and good-humoured Cuban friends will remain engraved in our hearts for ever.

NGUYEN VAN CU
Engineer, Ministry of Building

Photos : PHU DOANH, PHUNG TRIEU,
VU HANH and TRAN DONG



The delegation of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the delegation of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam on the rostrum at the meeting marking the 30th anniversary of the proclamation of independence of Laos, held in Vieng Xay.



* The people of Vieng Xay warmly welcome the delegation of the VNWP, DRVN Government and Viet Nam Fatherland Front led by Chairman Truong Chinh (Chairman Truong Chinh on the left; President Souphanouvong on the right).

* Women gunners of the Lao People's Liberation Armed Forces at the parade held in That Luong square in Vientiane.

* Delegates of the various nationalities of Laos marching past.



THE NEW ERA IN THE COUNTRY WITH A MILLION ELEPHANTS

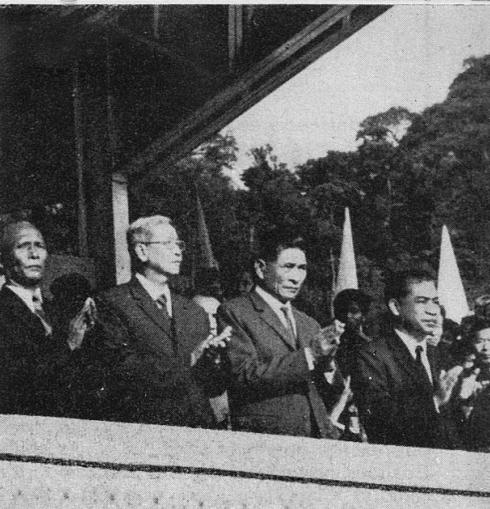
Photos : LAM HONG and NGUYEN THI THE

Early this spring all over Laos the people were singing and dancing the traditional Lam Vong to show their enthusiasm before the new stage of the revolution.

As said Kaysone Phomvihane, the Vice-President of the Central Committee of the Lao Patriotic Front, the Lao people, diligent in work and courageous in battle, felt great pride before the tremendous progress of the Lao revolution which had defeated all aggressors and their agents and completed in the main the national-democratic revolution in the whole country.

Over the past thirty years, the three million Lao people, united in the national front, have fought perseveringly following the correct line charted by their vanguard Party, now the People's Revolutionary Party. First they defeated the old-style colonial war of aggression waged by the French colonialists, then completely foiled the intensified special war waged by the American imperialists and their agents and smashed their neo-colonial yoke. This was an extremely glorious victory with international significance and of an epochal character.

At present, Laos "formerly a small country savagely trampled by aggressive imperialism for a century, has become a peaceful, independent, democratic and unified country. Its many nationalities,



formerly treated like slaves and animals, have become the masters of their country and their destiny."

At the ceremony marking the 30th anniversary of the declaration of independence of Laos (12 October, 1975) Vice-President Kaysone Phomvihane stressed : "This is an historic, tremendous, marvellous victory, without precedent in our revolutionary history. It brings the Lao revolution forward to a new stage in which, together with the fraternal Vietnamese and Cambodian peoples, we shall build socialism and strengthen the forward post of the socialist system in Indochina and Southeast Asia."

The victory of the Lao revolution, together with that of the Cambodian and Vietnamese revolutions, has contributed to bringing about deep changes in the situation in Southeast Asia, encouraging and spurring the struggle for national independence, democracy and social progress.

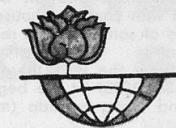
On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the proclamation of the independence of Laos, a delegation of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, DRVN Government and Viet Nam Fatherland Front, led by Comrade Truong Chinh, Member of the Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly, and Member of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front, and a delegation of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, led by President Huynh Tan Phat, came to Vieng Xay to attend the celebrations. In the name of the entire Vietnamese people, they hailed the glorious historic day of the Lao people, the tremendous victory of the Lao revolution and wished the fraternal Lao people many brilliant successes in the building of a peaceful, independent, democratic and unified Laos.



At the invitation of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, a delegation of the Government of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia led by Dzemal Bijedic, President of the Federal Executive Council, paid a friendship visit to the DRVN. The delegation was received by Viet Nam's State leaders, and held talks with its Vietnamese counterpart in a friendly atmosphere. The guests later visited several economic and cultural establishments in the capital and toured Haiphong port. Everywhere it went, the delegation was given a grand and cordial reception.

Photo : Hanoi people warmly welcome President Dzemal Bijedic and the other Yugoslav delegates at Gia Lam airport.

Photo : NGOC KHANH



MEETINGS
CO-OPERATION
FRIENDSHIP



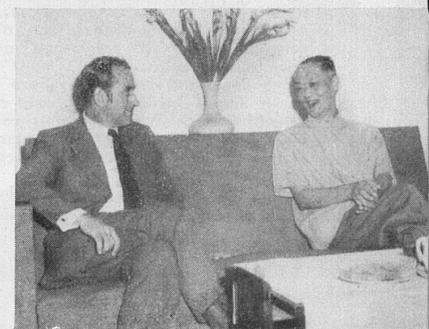
Nguyen Co Thach, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, representing the DRVN Government and Agustin P. Mangila, representing the Government of the Republic of Philippines, sign a joint communiqué on the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.



Hoang Van Tien, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, representing the DRVN Government, and Ambassador Kiyoshi Syganuma, representing the Japanese Government, sign the document on the usage in the 1975 fiscal year of the credit which the Japanese Government agreed to hand us as non-repayable aid.



Truong Chinh, Chairman of the National Assembly Standing Committee of the DRVN, chats with John Anthony Benedict Stewart, the first Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in Viet Nam.



Hoang Van Hoan, Vice-Chairman of the DRVN National Assembly Standing Committee, receives William Bryce Harland, the first Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of New Zealand in our country.

Photos : XUAN LAM



HISTORICAL RELICS
AND PICTURESQUE SITES

THE YEN TU AREA

Text : VAN MINH
Photo : NGUYEN VAN CU

In 1288, after our people's victory over the Yuan aggressors, King Tran Nhan Tong went to Yen Tu (in present-day Quang Ninh province), set up pagodas and temples and founded the "Truc Lam (Bamboo Forest) Sect" with himself as the First Bonze. The area became an important Buddhist Centre.

Now, many vestiges of Viet Nam's architecture under the Tran (1225-1400) can still be found in Yen Tu : The Hoa Yen pagoda, the Thien Dinh temple,... which give a general idea of the time, though reduced to rubble ; the natural shower bath of King Tran Nhan Tong at the Ngu Doi stream ; about a hundred towers of various forms and sizes, and an intact alley paved with decorated flagstones which looks as if it were covered with carpets. Thousands of ancient pine-trees line the paths leading from relic to relic, the trunks of some of them reaching 4.60 metres in circumference.

Besides the pagodas, towers, statues of Buddha and stelae built under the Tran, there are also those dating back to other dynasties ending with the Nguyen (1802-1945) at the beginning of the August Revolution ; among them the Hue Quang tower and Dong pagoda (made of copper), two original works of art.

THAM OM AND ITS ARCHAEOLOGICAL RICHES

Photo : The Archaeological
Institute of Viet Nam

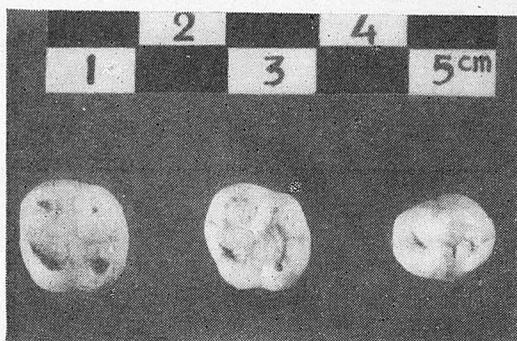
Viet Nam's archaeologists and palaeontologists are studying the rich evidence of a far-off past found in Tham Om Grotto (Chau Thuan village, Quy Chau district, Nghe An province) in the years 1973 and 1975.

These archaeological vestiges comprise many fossil bones and teeth of different living beings : primates (besides human remains are vestiges of gigantopithecus, gibbons, macaques), proboscidiens (asiatic elephants, stegodons), perissodactyles (tapirs, rhinoceros), artiodactyles (wild boars, stags, fallow-deer, roe-deer, wild oxen and buffaloes, bouquetins), carnivores (ailuropoda, Tibetan bears, cuons, hyenas, civet-cats, tigers, wild cats), rodents (hedgehogs, moles), tortoises and a number of molluscs,...

The fossils of orang outangs, ailuropoda and stegodons dating back to the Lower Pleistocene at least 150,000 years ago, are particularly interesting. Rather rare in the world, they have been, however, discovered in many places in Viet Nam : the Tham Khuyen and Keo Lang caves (Lang Son), the Hum (Tiger) Cave (Yen Bai), the Tham Om grotto (Nghe An), etc.

In Tham Om Grotto we have also excavated three fossil human teeth (two molars and one canine) from the very sediments containing the above-mentioned vestiges. Through their forms and sizes, the teeth have the characteristics of Archanthropians, but also with several features of Homo Sapiens ; hence a more comprehensive study is needed before arriving at any conclusion (see photo).

In the same cave we have dug up a primitive tool made from a quartz splinter.



VIETNAMESE ART

TWO ANCIENT VASES

At Keo pagoda (Vu Thu district, Thai Binh province) there are two vases which date from the time of the Le dynasty (16th century). They were made at the renowned kilns in Bat Trang (Hanoi).

The vases are 71 centimetres high. They bear high-relief decorative designs : dragons, phoenixes, lotus petals. The neck and body of the vase are entwisted by the curves of a dragon, while lotus petals decorate its shoulder. These designs are not coated with enamel and are of the colour of ivory. The enamelled parts are white. Other decorations are in the shape of clouds (around the dragon), lotus petals (constricted lower part), and circles (from top to bottom). They are all indigo blue, a colour characteristic of pottery of the Le time, while pottery of the Tran time (1225-1400) is characterized by its brown enamel and Ly pottery (1009-1225) by a beautiful jade blue enamel.

DO VAN MINH
Photo : PHAM NGOC LONG



The aniseed-tree (*Illicium verum* Hook) belongs to the *magnoliaceae* family. It grows upright, can reach 8-12 metres in height and has small leaves. There are many varieties of *Illicium verum* Hook classified according to the form of its fruit.

Hilly soils at an altitude of 300 - 1,000 metres are most suited to the aniseed-trees. However, their development differs in the northern and the southern slopes of each hill.

Only a few countries in the world grow aniseed-trees. In Viet Nam they have been planted for a long time in Lang Son and Cao Bang provinces and in some other localities having an appropriate temperate climate. Combining the ancestral experiences with the vanguard techniques, the Forestry Service of Viet Nam is planning to plant aniseed-trees on a large scale.

VIETNAMESE SPECIAL PRODUCTS

THE ANISEED-TREE

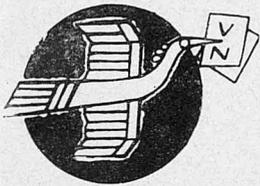
Aniseed-trees bear fruit at the age of ten and live on an average 100 years. From 10 kgs of dry fruit, people can extract 1 kg of essence with which to produce Anis liquors, ingredients for the food industry, medicaments for the treatment of rheumatism, neurasthenia, cardiac tonic, stomach diseases, etc., and shampooing ointments.

Along with the eucalyptuses, camphor-trees, aloes, cinnamon-trees..., the aniseed-trees constitute a product of high economic value in Viet Nam.

Engineer VO TRI CHUNG

Photo : NHU KHUE





Letters to the Editor

"Let me sincerely congratulate the Vietnamese people for their indisputable and irreversible victory... Long live the victory of the Vietnamese revolution!"...

ALEJANDRO GALUEZ CANCINO
Political Researcher
(Mexico)

★

"I would like to extend my best wishes to all the people of Viet Nam, a country for which I have the greatest love and interest..."

STAN ALLEN
Student
(USA)

★

"I'm a worker of the FIAT Company and a new reader of 'Viet Nam' Pictorial. The problems reflected on your illustrated review are very interesting."

TRUPIO GIOVANNI
(Italy)

★

"I'm greatly interested in your country... My father has always had a profound respect for President Ho Chi Minh and a great friendship for the peoples of Indochina."

"Viet Nam' Pictorial permits me to add to my learning, for it deals with important problems and contains a reliable source of information."...

LENGLET PIERRE
State official
(France)

★

"We Cuban people always love and respect the Vietnamese people. We have constantly expressed our solidarity with them in the past struggle as well as in the post-war reconstruction at present."...

VIRGILIO PÉREZ CARTAYA
Public servant
(Cuba)

★

"Recently I obtained a number of back copies of some of your publications and have from them considerably increased my knowledge of your country and its people... I look forward to much pleasant and informative reading from your 'Viet Nam' Pictorial and other publications..."

TOM PALFRAMAN
Retired Citizen
(Australia)

Front cover : **At the factory for manufacturing electric motors in Hanoi.**

Photo : KHUE DU

Back cover : **Militia men and women of Long Hung village (My Tho province) undergo military training. My Tho was once the site of the Nam Ky uprising in 1940.**

Photo : NGOC THONG

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To divert the enemy attention, Henri Tho, who carries out underground activities under the guise of an enemy captain, has to personally interrogate and torture Hue, his comrade-in-arms and sweetheart.

"THE LIST OF SPIES"

Script : VAN BAU

Direction : KIM SON and NGO CU

Interpretation : **The Theatrical Troupe of the Hanoi Public Security Service**

Text and photos : PHAM GIANG and TRAN CHINH

decided to kill Paul Hach to deprive him of the list. Captain Henri Tho and his men intervened in time, capturing both materials and CIA agents.

"The List of Spies" has been written by the amateur artists of the Hanoi Public Security Service. It has been performed for nearly 500 times in the past nine years, to over half a million people. Everywhere it enjoys keen appreciation from the public.

In late 1953, before the imminent defeat of the French Expeditionary Corps, the CIA sent two of its agents - Bella and Captain Wilston - to the house of Lieutenant-Colonel Paul Hach, responsible for the spying activities of the French colonialists in Viet Nam, to obtain his list of spies.

At that time, two members of our counter-espionage service, among them a cadre disguised as Captain Henri Tho, were also trying to get hold of the list. Their activities were soon suspected by the enemy. To keep secrecy and save his colleagues, Tho had once to personally interrogate and persecute Hue, a flower-girl at the suburban Ngoc Ha village, his own comrade-in-arms and sweetheart.

On the eve of the defeat of the French colonialists in Viet Nam, Bella and Wilston



Lieutenant-Colonel Paul Hach (sitting), responsible for the French espionage service, discusses plans with his agent to conceal "top secret" documents.



At the end of their tether, the enemy try to kill one another.



Việt nam