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Editorial

THE VIETCONG REGIME WILL NOT EXIST FOREVER

For several years, the nations concerned with the situation in Indochina have hoped to find a solution to restore peace in Indochina, to achieve stability in Southeast Asia and, if possible, to put an end to the problem of the boat people, which has created complicated problems to the nations in the area. Any solution seems to lead to direct talk with the Communist regime in Viet Nam, to the need for some effort to persuade them to be more reasonable. Any more coercive approach would not go beyond the application of diplomatic, political, or economic pressures to force the Viet Cong to withdraw their troops from Kampuchea and to observe their own pledges...

The basic mistake, which reflects the superficial view of the policy makers in the Western democratic countries, is the fact that they have considered the Viet Cong regime as an entity that will exist forever, a hindrance that one cannot avoid dealing with.

The Viet Cong regime does not conform to the aspirations of the Vietnamese people. The continued flow of refugees fleeing by boat - those who "vote with their feet" - only reflects a small part of the general disaffection of the people toward the ruling minority - indeed a very small part which became known because it has spilled out for every body to see. The rest, which is brimming inside the country and is hidden from view, takes the form of organized resistance of the people, which has created unending difficulties for the Communist regime.

The Viet Cong regime has not observed the pledges that they themselves had made. Is this something that still has to be proved? All the agreements that they have signed have been disregarded one by one. They have only retained the terms that are advantageous to them and they demand that the other signatories observe these terms. The Viet Cong regime has all the appendages of a government, like all other governments in the world. But in reality they are only a group of robber barons, carrying out their plundering activities with men they call prime ministers, cabinet ministers, ambassadors... People have used the principles of civility, of law, and of reason in dealing with a group of men who have scant regard for any civilized traditions, who defy international law, and who tread underfoot even the basic principles of human rights.

However, by indiscriminately committing these crimes, the Viet Cong regime cannot exist forever. The Vietnamese people are a brave and patient people with a strong spirit of independence - qualities which the world sometimes assigns only to the ruling Viet Cong minority - and as such, they can never accept a regime which is contrary to their aspirations. With these strong traditions, they are rising up to overthrow the Viet Cong regime, and to regain freedom and democracy to their country which's government is deserving of respect and trust. This reality however seems not to be grasped by the people who are responsible for the conduct of policies in some countries. Instead of perceiving the live forces that are now sprouting up all over Viet Nam, they have continued to deal with a body that is in process of decomposition.

In order to solve once and for all the problem of Indochina so as to achieve stability in Southeast Asia, it is necessary to solve the Vietnamese problem. But a solution to the Vietnamese problem can only be found by dealing directly with the Vietnamese people, in whom reside the forces of change that can move the problem to a satisfactory conclusion. To talk with the Viet Cong is to deny this reality, and to unwittingly identify the Vietnamese people at large with a ruling minority. No satisfactory solution can be achieved by reinforcing the adversary through identification of a ruling minority with an opposing majority on the other side.

It is about time the world should be prepared to deal with a "Post-Vietcong" era in Viet Nam. It is about time the world should be ready to talk directly to the Vietnamese majority, those who can understand the language of justice, of human rights. It is about time the world discard all illusions about coming to terms with an inhuman minority that is now on their way to the dustbins of history because of widespread popular opposition.

News from Viet Nam

RESISTANCE IN QUANG DA: Viet Cong Unit Ambushed in Hoa Vang District.

A Viet Cong armed security unit was ambushed by the Quang Da provincial armed resistance group at Hoa Vang district in the last part of June, according to the Vietnamese Resistance Radio broadcast on August 15. After a 10 minute engagement, the Vietcong broke and ran, leaving behind three killed. Only one combatant was slightly wounded on our side. In their panic, the enemy also left behind one CKC, two AK-47's, and a quantity of ammunition and medicine.

Before withdrawing from the site of the ambush, the armed resistance group disseminated a number of propaganda leaflets calling on the Viet Cong troops to defect and to join with the resistance forces of the people against the brutal regime of the Communists.

Also in May and June, the provincial armed resistance group unscrewed four tracks of rail line for a total of 84 km on the railroad from Saigon to Danang and destroyed 16 power transmitters. The activities of the Quang Da provincial armed resistance group recently created a situation of insecurity in the area and caused great anxiety to the Viet Cong.

RESISTANCE IN GIA RAI-KONTUM: -Training Courses Held for Young Men and Women.

- Distribution of Information Leaflets and Other Printed Materials.

The Administrative and Resistance Committee of Gia Rai province reported that several training courses on basic military and mobilization techniques had been held for 43 young men and women in the province. After completion of the courses, 17 trainees volunteered to join the provincial armed resistance force. The rest, 26 men and women, were assigned to go back to work in their native villages and hamlets, according to a Vietnamese Resistance Radio broadcast on Aug. 15, 1987.

The same report said during the same period the Committee had distributed a total of 8,500 leaflets, 140 printed documents of all kinds prepared by the Directorate General for Inland Affairs, and a number of small-sized picture books printed by the Directorate General for

Overseas Affairs. The widespread distribution of these documents caused a great deal of worry to the local Viet Cong authorities. Their top officials had to instruct their cadres to warn the people away from these "reactionary and subversive" documents under threat of severe punishment. The Resistance folksongs, with their patriotic content and their lines easy to understand and to memorize, were particularly appreciated by the people and quickly became widely popular.

RESISTANCE IN TIEN GIANG:

-The People Boycott the Sham Campaign for Democracy of the Viet Cong.

-A security Agent in the District of Cai Lay Is Put Out of Action.

According to a Vietnamese Resistance Radio broadcast on Aug. 15, 1987, the ARC of Tien Giang province reported that the local Viet Cong party cadres had been instructed to encourage the people to denounce or to openly criticize government cadres who had committed acts "harmful to socialism" in a nationwide campaign to build "democracy" ordered by party top boss Nguyen Van Linh.

Being well aware of the real intentions behind the drive of the brutal Viet Cong regime which wanted to know on the one hand what wrongful acts had been committed by their cadres and on the other hand how much "reactionary" the people had become so that they could devise appropriate suppressive measures, the people in the province were determined to boycott the campaign.

According to the same report, the body of a Viet Cong security agent named Nguyen Van Dau was discovered in a rice field last June 15. According to the local people, Dau had been the terror in the district, making the people live in an atmosphere of relentless oppression and causing them numerous problems and difficulties, especially to families having draft-age youth. It was believed that he had been killed by the people for his acts

and also as a warning for other security agents.

Panicked by the killing, the Viet Cong security service in Cai Lay both threatened and enticed the people to denounce the killer or killers to the authorities, but they also failed.

RESISTANCE IN TAY NINH: Military training provided to the youth and rally of an independent resistance group.

In the second quarter of this year, the Administrative and Resistance Committee of Tay Ninh province have organized a total of four training courses on basic military and mobilization techniques for 72 young men and women in the province. After completion of the courses, 17 of them have volunteered to join the armed resistance force of the provincial ARC. The rest have secretly returned to work for the resistance in their native villages. The liberation policy of the Vietnamese resistance is to put more emphasis on the training of cadres to work among the people rather than direct military attacks against the Viet Cong military machinery.

These training courses have been held for several years in accordance with that policy, and have contributed decisively to spreading the influence of the resistance among the people without incurring serious losses due to the search and pur-



An Armed Resistance Unit in action

suit operations of the Viet Cong.

Also in Tay Ninh, the ARC has made contact with a resistance group and has convinced them to join NUFRONLIV. The group had been operating independently until they finally managed to make contact with the ARC after several attempts. In rallying to the Tay Ninh ARC, they brought with them several pistols, M-16, AK's rifle, and a substantial quantity of ammunition. The leader of the

group, named Nguyen Van Thanh, was a former officer in the Republic of Vietnam Armed forces. Along with his comrades, he was enrolled in courses on the policy of total struggle of NUFRONLIV.

In execution of this policy, the Front has spent much effort in persuading the Viet Cong cadres and troops to defect the repressive machinery of the Communist government and to return to the cause of the people. In Tay Ninh, during the same period, four government troops have defected to the provincial ARC, bringing with them one CKC, three AK-47's, and a quantity of ammunition. The increasing number of defectors, while weakening the Viet Cong forces, has contributed to further strengthen the Resistance Forces. These defectors have grown disaffected with the administrative policy of the Viet Cong and have decided to join up with the Vietnamese Resistance to overthrow the Viet Cong regime and to build an independent and democratic Viet Nam.

RESISTANCE IN THUAN HAI: An ambush at Ham Tan.

The ARC of Thuan Hai province in Central Vietnam reported that on the 25th of June, the provincial Armed Resistance Unit had staged an ambush against a Viet Cong unit on the way back from a search operation in Ham Tan district. The ambush resulted in 3 enemy killed and 1 slightly wounded. The ARC had one combatant slightly injured and captured four AK-47's and a substantial quantity of ammunition. Because of low morale, the Viet Cong troops broke and ran immediately, and the ambush took place briskly, lasting not more than 10 minutes.

Acting in accordance with the struggle policy of the Vietnamese Resistance, the armed group gave first aid to the wounded Viet Cong soldier then

released him. According to Viet Nam Resistance Radio broadcast, the Viet Cong prisoners thus released have spread words about the policy of clemency of the Vietnamese Resistance among their fellow soldiers and many have defected and many others have been persuaded to hold their fire during engagements with Resistance forces. After every ambush, the armed units always disseminated leaflets calling on the Viet Cong troops to defect and to return to the people. The main purpose of these small ambushes was to create opportunities to publicize the policy of the Front among the Viet Cong troops, rather than to kill our fellow compatriots who happened to be on the other side with a weapon in their hands.

RESISTANCE IN AN GIANG: Popular protest against the viet cong economic policy.

Carrying out the policy of attacking the Viet Cong on all fronts, Vietnamese Resistance paid special attention to the need for mobilizing the people to sabotage the economic system of the Viet Cong. The people have responded favorably to the appeal of the Resistance because they do not want their labor to continue to be exploited by the Viet Cong indefinitely. In An Giang, once a most prosperous province southeast of Saigon, the ARC has launched several campaigns advising the people on ways to resist the Viet Cong's collection of taxes and plundering of their harvests. A slogan that was spread from mouth to mouth was: "We do not sell, we do not hand over, we do not submit anything to the Viet Cong." It was known that the Viet Cong cadres themselves had become increasingly negligent in their duties of collecting taxes and harvests from the people. Some of the more fanatic cadres had been killed by the people. One of them was the Viet Cong

Once extensively covered by the world media, Vietnam has been neglected by news agencies since the 1975 communist takeover: as a consequence, the public both inside and outside the country hardly knows what has actually happened to the Vietnamese people except for speculations based on Hanoi's propaganda.

To offset the Viet Cong's suppression of information, the National United Front for the Liberation of Vietnam has established in 1983 the Vietnamese Resistance Radio to inform the Vietnamese populace of the world and to bring news from within to outside world.

Broadcasting eight hours daily on the 30m and 40m wavebands (13.3 Mhz and 7.4 Mhz), the VRR has effectively mobilized the populace into concerted resistance activities against the Hanoi regime.

Following are some excerpts from VRR daily news program.

cadre Tran Van Sy, killed with a knife in the rice field of the Cho Mui District. According to the local people, Sy was punished by the inhabitants of the District for his wicked ways with the people and his severe tax computing methods.

RESISTANCE IN BEN TRE: An independent resistance group joins up with the Front.

In July, an independent resistance group led by Nguyen Van Bay, a former official of the Government of the Republic of Vietnam, disbanded itself to join up with the Front, the Ben Tre provincial ARC reported. The group, which had been operating in the area for a number of years, brought with them 15 weapons of all kinds and their rally helped a great deal in the expansion of the zone of influence of the Resistance in the province. Also in Ben Tre, in the months of July and August, the provincial armed force launched several propaganda campaigns at the Cho Lach, Giang Trom and Thanh Phu districts. More than 3,000 information leaflets were disseminated, and the armed group also destroyed four power transmitters and a bridge at the Giang Trom district. These sabotage acts were undertaken to disrupt the enemy search operations in the area. Here as well as in many other localities,

Following are abbreviations being used in this news brief:

ARF	The Armed Resistance Forces.
ARU	The Armed Resistance Units
ARVN	The Armed Forces of the Republic of Vietnam.
CPV	Communist Party of Viet Nam.
GD ILA	The General Directorate of In-Land Affairs
GD OA	The General Directorate of Overseas Affairs
NRC	The National Resistance Council.
NUFRONLIV	The National United Front for the Liberation of Viet Nam
RAC	The Resistance and Administration Committees.
RVN	The Republic of Viet Nam (formerly South Viet Nam).
VC	Viet Cong (Vietnamese communist).
VRR	Vietnamese Resistance Radio.

electricity was not for private use, and the movement of people and goods was strictly limited and controlled by the Viet Cong. The Viet Cong military and security services had priority use of these public utilities and transports. The sabotage acts were carried out with the active help of the people, in accordance with the strategy of attriting the enemy forces by all means, a strategy that had been put to use by the Vietnamese people for thousands of years whenever they were faced with an enemy with abundant means of suppression at hand.

RESISTANCE IN DARLAC: Ambush of Viet Cong security forces.

A Viet Cong armed security unit was ambushed by resistance forces on the route from Ban Me Thuot to Nha Trang on August 17. The engagement lasted for 15 minutes and ended when the Viet Cong security force broke and ran, leaving behind two killed, one wounded, and a quantity of ammunition and weapons, including two AK-47's, one K-54. The Viet Cong security force was ambushed while they were on an operation to arrest people for transport of merchandises. According to the report from the provincial ARC, the wounded Viet Cong soldier was treated by the resistance force and, after being briefed on the struggle policy of the Resistance, chose to stay back and join the provincial ARC.

According to the ARC, the open-arms policy of the Front also extended to members of the enemy security forces. That policy had proved to be fruitful, and a number of security agents had secretly cooperated with the people to sabotage the policy of exploitation and suppression of the Viet Cong.

RESISTANCE IN DONG THAP: Sabotage of the Viet Cong forced labor policy.

The Viet Cong policy of using forced labor for irrigation and water works was boycotted and greatly hampered by the local people, the Dong Thap provincial ARC reported. A Viet Cong cadre named Tran Van Tong was beaten to death by the people and his body was discovered in a rice field last August 23. Tong was the cadre responsible for drafting people into forced labor gangs to



NUFRONLIV chairman Hoang Co Minh with an Armed Resistance Unit.

build water works in the District of Hong Ngu. If the people were unable or unwilling to provide manpower, they had to bribe him. His killing was a reaction of the people against the Viet Cong acts of exploitation and oppression.

Also in Dong Thap, the ARC last July welcomed and turned over to the provincial armed force 18 young men who volunteered to join the resistance, along with 300 kilograms of supplies such as rice, salt, dried fish, and medicine.

RESISTANCE IN THUAN HAI: More volunteers to join the resistance.

On Oct. 6, the Vietnamese Resistance Radio reported that in Thuan Hai, the provincial armed unit, in coordination with the ARC, recruited 36 young men into the unit. The young recruits belonged to all walks of life, including four who were defectors from the Viet Cong armed forces. The defectors said that they learned of the resistance led by NUFRONLIV by secretly monitoring the Vietnamese Resistance Radio while they were still with the Viet Cong. They said that, responding to the appeal of NUFRONLIV, many other Viet Cong soldiers were also looking for an opportunity to defect and join the resistance. The engagement with the Ham Tan armed unit was an opportunity for them to defect and join the resistance.

RESISTANCE IN SONG BE: Training Courses on Mobilization Techniques Opened.

A number of young men in Song Be secretly attended three mobilization training courses organized by the resistance in July and August. The courses

taught the basic mobilization techniques, including the technique for drafting, printing, and disseminating information leaflets. Song Be, a province north of Saigon and close to the Kampuchea border, was the scene for many successful operations conducted by the Resistance during the past few years. In the course of the training, more than 30 young men and women had practiced writing and printing 100 books on Vietnamese national heroes, and other documents, including more than 2,000 leaflets. One of the books, which was titled "Our National Heroes," had been reprinted and distributed widely among the overseas Vietnamese communities.

Also according to the Vietnamese Resistance Radio, resistance forces in Song Be province received more than 150 kilograms of supplies, including dried food, medicine, knives, spades, and even four captured grenades from the people in Tan Ngon, Binh Phuoc and Loc Ninh districts.

RESISTANCE IN LAM DONG: Ambushed action on the road to Dalat.

A passenger bus was intercepted by resistance forces on the road from Saigon to Dalat late last July. The passengers enthusiastically greeted the resistance fighters and welcomed the strategy of total struggle championed by NUFRONLIV. In the course of the meeting, three passengers volunteered to join the resistance, one of them was a former soldier in the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces. The passengers also collected a number of gifts to donate to the resistance, including tobacco, food, and even some money.

The passengers had resumed their travel on the bus, bringing with them a number of small flags, NUFRONLIV insignia, and information leaflets which the Lam Dong armed resistance group had given them for distribution to the people in the places of their destination.

For several years, Viet Cong troops in the area had tried to avoid clashes with the Resistance forces. Lam Dong was one of the provinces where the people could easily monitor the Vietnamese Resistance Radio.

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

From: The National United Front For The Liberation Of Viet Nam

To : Press agencies and daily newspapers

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On the 28th of October, 1987, UPI relayed from Bangkok a news broadcast of the Laotian Communist Radio reporting on a military clash between a Vietnamese Resistance Force and their troops in mid-July of this year. According to this news, the clash has taken place in Southern Laos, and the leader of the said Vietnamese Resistance Force was killed. Public media and press have inquired the National United Front for the Liberation of Vietnam (NUFRONLIV) on this matter soon after this news was transmitted by UPI.

As an organization leading the current Vietnamese liberation struggle, NUFRONLIV sees the need to unravel this Vietcong propaganda scheme, and calls your attention to the following points:

The Vietcong presently impose a brutal regime on the Vietnamese people, and occupy the two neighboring countries - Laos and Kampuchea. Their domination by forces have encountered fierce resistance from the Indochinese peoples. The efforts of the Vietnamese people in Vietnam and abroad, together with the Laotian and Kampuchean resistance movements have incurred serious setbacks to the Vietcong regime, particularly demoralizing their troops and cadres on many fronts. The Hanoi government has been concealing these difficulties, and trying to black out news on the Vietnamese Resistance. To break these Vietcong deceitful policies, the clandestine Vietnamese Resistance Radio was established in late 1983 to keep the Vietnamese people as well as the world informed of what happens inside Vietnam.

Even though presented as one of their accomplishments of three months ago, the Vietcong regime has to indirectly acknowledge the military activities of the Vietnamese Resistance. Their allegation of the Vietnamese Resistance leader's death in Southern Laos is understandably to boost the Vietcong troops' morale. Due to language differences, the name of Chairman Hoang Co Minh has been incorrectly pronounced as "Houang Qu Vinh." The Vietnamese Resistance Forces, usually known as "Hoang Co Minh Resistance" to the Vietnamese was mistermed as "Que Minh guerrillas" by the radio broadcast. Attempting to curb the deterioration of troop morale and to dampen the resistance drive of the Vietnamese people, the Vietcong have tried to induce the people to think that Chairman Hoang Co Minh was killed and his force suffered severe losses. One more time, **NUFRONLIV denounces this Vietcong tactic of disinformation, and that their claimed military accomplishment a mere product of imagination.**

For the past several years, the Vietnamese people in Vietnam and abroad, in cooperation with the peoples of Laos and Kampuchea have been engaging in resistance activities to overthrow the Vietcong regime, and to restore peace and democracy in Indochina. **We hereby confirm that Chairman Hoang Co Minh is safe, and is directing the liberation struggle of the Vietnamese people.**

Dialogue

QUESTION: Early last November, the international media carried a UPI news report of Oct. 28 about a clash between a South Vietnamese armed unit and troops of the Laotian Communist forces. Immediately after that, I had in hand a press release that you put out about that incident. Then, a few days later, I learned of another UPI report confirming that the armed unit was indeed a unit of the resistance forces led by Hoang Co Minh, and that Mr. Minh himself was killed in the clash. It seems to me that there are so many mysteries surrounding these reports. What is the truth?

ANSWER: I wish to suggest you a way to help you analyze these reports. According to the Laos radio broadcast as monitored in Bangkok, a group of armed men native of South Vietnam tried to cross the border from Thailand into Laos to set up a resistance base on Vietnamese territory to fight against the Viet Cong. According to the same report, they were intercepted and annihilated. The leader, Gen. Hoang Co Minh, was said to have been killed in action along with more than 100 of his troops. 65 others were reported captured and the rest, numbering about 40, was said to have managed to escape. The report said that the unit was well armed, and fully equipped with radios as well as pure gold bars, and that it was completely destroyed after 24 clashes. That was the gist of the report. What do you make of that? You can draw these conclusions: 1) The Vietnamese resistance is made up of people formerly from South Vietnam; 2) These people, who have been evacuated out of the country, have found the way back in; 3) They are well armed; 4) They are starting to set up resistance bases inside Vietnam. In brief, this is a small group among the more than one million refugees; they tried to come back to again take up arms against the Viet Cong; but they have been annihilated by the Laotian Communist forces even before they were able to stage any significant activities. Is that what you think? That is what the Viet Cong want you to think, so that you will come to the conclusion that "the Vietnamese resistance is only a small problem, an adventurist military activity led by a small group without the support of the Vietnamese people, but

probably enjoying some discreet support from a number of neighboring countries, such as Thailand or the U.S".

QUESTION: That is probably so, I think. But is that the truth?

ANSWER: The truth is that the Vietnamese people have risen up to fight against the Viet Cong everywhere in the country, in the whole of Indochina which now is under Viet Cong domination, as well as from overseas. The truth is that the Viet Cong have been trying to distort the true policies as well as the true potential of Vietnamese resistance. But more importantly, they wanted to discredit the cause of our struggle. Why do they do that? Because they needed to bolster the morale of their cadres inside the country, and they also wanted to use it as a leverage to exert pressures on the various governments in the region. A sort of cheap "casus belli" to justify their continued occupation of Laos and Kampuchea.

QUESTION: So you think that this report is just an attempt at disinformation for propaganda purposes?

ANSWER: That's right. They want to create the false impression that the Vietnamese resistance is only made up of a group of refugees infiltrating back into the country. This is to deny that the Vietnamese resistance has been waged by the Vietnamese people themselves, from inside the country. They want to spread the belief that the conduct of the resistance of this group is only a military adventure. This is to deny the fact that the Vietnamese resistance forces have attacked the Viet Cong by several means, and that our military struggle only serves to support our proselytizing struggle. They claim that the Vietnamese resistance is aided by foreign countries, and they have hinted at the "international reactionary forces." That is an attempt to prove that the Vietnamese resistance does not have the support of the people and it made up only of a small group used by foreigners for subversive purpose against the Viet Cong. That is pure propaganda aimed at

perverting the right cause of our struggle. That is the truth. We Vietnamese are experienced enough to see through this propaganda scheme.

QUESTION: But what about President Hoang Co Minh? What has become of him?

ANSWER: Thank you for inquiring. President Hoang Co Minh is safe and he is still directing the resistance struggle

QUESTION: But, at least something must have happened in Lower Laos? I am sure something must have happened there...

ANSWER: In Lower Laos, as well as in other places in Indochina, and especially in Viet Nam, our resistance forces continue to clash with the Viet Cong. But it would be bad for them if the people in the country and the world at large are aware of these clashes. They wanted to keep the people ignorant of these happenings, but for some time they have been unable to do so because accurate information is being broadcast daily by the Vietnamese resistance radio and because there are more and more frequent contacts between the people and the resistance forces. Being unable to cover up, they have attempted to "declare the death of the resistance" by a simple news report, to deceive domestic and world public opinion.

QUESTION: But how can they be so blatant?

ANSWER: Did you forget that the Viet Cong, during all the years of war, continued to deny the build-up of North Vietnamese troops in the South and only admitted it after 1975. They invaded Kampuchea but they denied it, saying they were only performing "an international duty." They never admitted the presence of their 50,000 occupation troops in Laos. They are capable of many other blatant acts, the use of disinformation is only a small tricks up their sleeves...

TOURISM IN VIET NAM, A SMOKESCREEN

About 10 years ago, a French couple, members of the French Communist Party, went to work in the USSR as part of a so-called "cultural cooperation" plan between the two brotherly Communist parties. They were treated in a relatively more open manner, and with less constraints than the foreign tourists in Moscow. They saw with their own eyes some of the realities of Communism. Some questions arose, which were not solved, and these led to bigger ones. Back in Paris, they raised the questions with the leadership of the French Communist Party.

In the end, they left the Party. And the French public had the pleasure to read the book "The Street of the Red Proletarian" * detailing the experiences of the few years they lived in Moscow. In the masses of literature about tourism in Communist countries, that book provided some of the most interesting and most accurate descriptions.

And it is expected that among the Vietnamese refugees who would respond to the current Viet Cong campaign seeking to encourage, with reassurances, the refugees to come back and visit their own country as "tourists", there would be someone who would eventually take up his pen and jot down his travel experiences: a sort of ugly "Gulag Tour", organized in an unreal world quite apart from the true, tragic world under the Viet Cong ruling machinery.

The propaganda techniques of the Viet Cong in this campaign are in fact not so different from the way the Soviet Union advertised her "Potemkin Villages." *The techniques consist in "putting behind glasses" and glossing over the real miseries of the country in order to present a cosmetic face of the Communist regime to the world.* Although they have not been able to achieve the same level of sophistication as the Soviet, and certainly one can only expect a pale imitation of the Gorbachev's Glastnost, the current campaign to attract tourists to Viet Nam probably would bring about certain results which, although unsuspected to foreign public opinion, would be within the calculations of the Viet Cong government. One such results would be the implication of a "normalized situation" for the Communist regime in Viet Nam.

After the Viet Cong took over the South of the country, a great number of people had fled into political exile, causing a number of complicated problems for the neighboring countries. If, for example, among the few refugees who would respond to the Viet Cong campaign and go back to visit their country, some of them were picked out and advertised as "typical tourists", then all the risks and dangers encountered by the boat people in their flight for freedom would have lost all significance: the Viet Cong would use these selected individuals to prove that those who fled the country were only economic

refugees, that they left the country because they wanted to avoid the hardships, that they went abroad to make a living and in search of better material well-being. That would lead people to come to the conclusion that "life under the Communist regime in Vietnam is certain livable." And the Viet Cong regime would appear to the outside world as just one political regime among others, something that is not so terrible, not so inhuman as commonly thought of 10 years ago...

Beside, the Viet Cong would be able to amass a not so insignificant amount of foreign currency through this operation. This precious currency, in whatever amount, is useful to the regime. But the greatest advantage that would flow from this campaign would be a de facto "whitewashing" of a regime that is, so to speak, finally accepted by the civilized world as just a hard and austere political regime ruling over one of the world's poorest countries where life is, after all, not so unlivable. This is the greatest profit that would derive from the campaign. Those who contribute to humanizing the faces of the Red Satans, those who, despite the urgings of their conscience, choose to go ahead and visit that land, now enslaved by a most barbarous regime, would also harvest some small profits. Because of the difference in the standards of living, they would be able to buy a few gifts at low prices and to discreetly give some meager amount of money to their relatives to help them get by...

We have said, at the beginning of this column, that someone among those tourists would eventually write out the truth. The book "The Street of the Red Proletarian" ("La Rue du Prolétaire Rouge") has not attracted enough attention. A similar book, written by one of those Vietnamese refugees who have committed the mistake of coming back to the country as a tourist, probably would not get a better reception. But that seems like hope against hope. Because the French couple did not have any relatives in the USSR, they were able to tell the truth. It may not be the same with the Vietnamese refugees: their relatives are still being held hostages in the hell that they have just visited and, being as bound with family feelings as they are, they will not have the courage to write out the truth for fear of possible reprisals against their loved ones. Foreigners who have participated to this touristic campaign have more freedom to speak out the truth. But, are they able to see the truth? And, more importantly, do they realize that, just because they want to satisfy their wayfaring urge, or their curiosity, or just because they want to have some good time, they are actually acting as defenders for a band of murderers?

(*) La Rue du Prolétaire Rouge, Nina & Jean Kéhayan, ed. Club France - Loisirs (Seuil) 1978.



News in Brief

MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL FOR OVERSEAS VIETNAMESE YOUTH

Every year, in the eighth month of the lunar calendar, festivities are held for the young Vietnamese kids. For the past two years, NUFRONLIV has



shown special concern with the maintenance and development of the national traditions among the overseas

Vietnamese youth. In this spirit of upholding the good traditions of the people, Front Chapters everywhere have organized activities in celebration of the mid-Autumn festival, with the cooperation of the people and jointly with the other associations. Writing and painting competitions, cultural events, distributions of gifts and lanterns, unicorn dances, and lanterns processions have been simultaneously held all

over the world, from Australia to North America, from Europe to Japan. Following are some of the pictures taken during the mid-Autumn festivals organized by the Front Chapters jointly with the local associations.



Mid Autumn Festival
in Sydney (Australia) and
in Houston (Texas-USA).

THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST 'THE VIET CONG ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL SCHEME' REACHES ITS PEAK: MASSIVE STREET DEMONSTRATIONS ARE HELD ALL OVER THE WORLD

For more than a year, the Viet Cong regime has adopted as an official policy the plundering of the Vietnamese refugees overseas as a way to consolidate their ruling machinery inside the country. This scheme has been opposed by Vietnamese refugees through widespread and well-coordinated actions everywhere in the world. Since June, several associations in Europe, in Japan, in Australia, and in North America have held emergency sessions to call on the people to denounce the new schemes of the Viet cong. After several skirmishes with the Viet cong

and Viet Cong sympathizers in Paris, in Japan, and in Montreal, the campaign against the Viet Cong economic and financial scheme has spread to other places. On Oct. 10, Vietnamese refugees in many parts of the world have fervently organized massive street demonstrations to explain to the public at large the schemes of the Viet Cong and the necessity for an economic embargo against them.



Street demonstration in Paris (France) against Vietcong financial scheme.

This is the most effective and most realistic way to help the Vietnamese inside the country. Any economic aid to or cooperation with the Viet Cong would only help the regime survive for a longer time and prolong the miseries of the people since the Viet Cong would certainly revert to even more repressive measures against them after they felt they have sufficiently consolidated their economic system.

The National United Front for the Liberation of Viet Nam (NUFRONLIV) was formed in 1980 by the Vietnamese people, inside Viet Nam and abroad to liberate their country from the viet cong, and to build a free and democratic nation. Under the leadership of President HOANG CO MINH, the National Resistance Council directs the three branches of NUFRONLIV, the General Directorate of In-land Affairs, the General Directorate of Overseas Affairs, and the Armed Resistance Forces in mobilizing the Vietnamese people in every way and by every means to overthrow the viet cong. Throughout the country, from North to South, the General Directorate of In-land Affairs has developed resistance network, in which mobilization activities are carried out under the protection of the Armed Resistance Forces. Directed by the General Directorate of Overseas Affairs, NUFRONLIV chapters have been formed and are active around the world wherever Vietnamese are resettled.

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To present background information on Vietnamese liberation struggle, "THE VIETNAMESE RESISTANCE" is published monthly by the overseas Directorate of Information, and sent to a selected readership. Also available are publications in Danish, French, German, Japanese, etc..., and "KHANG CHIEN", the most widely read monthly tabloid among the Vietnamese overseas.

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