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Editorial

THE VIETNAMESE NATIONAL DAY

Within two decades from 1954 to 1975, Vietnam has changed her Quoc Khanh Day, or National Day, three times. The first Republic of Vietnam under President Ngo Dinh Diem chose the 26th of October for the Quoc Khanh Day to celebrate the country's first Constitution. The overthrow of President Diem and his government in 1963 gave birth to the second National Day, the first of November. This day was chosen by the rebellious generals to commemorate the successful coup d'etat that put them in power. Less than twelve years later, the second Republic of Vietnam collapsed under the invasion by the Communists from the North and a Vietcong Quoc Khanh Day was imposed along with Vietcong rules on the people. The second of September, or the new National Day of Vietnam chosen by Vietcong, was dated all the way back to 1945 when the Vietcong led by Ho Chi Minh took power from a legitimate nationalist government established when the occupying Japanese army surrendered to the Allies forces.

The Vietcong regime, seen by the people as an extended branch of the Soviet Union, has been hopelessly trying to force the populace to accept the socialist system and rules. Being their own enemy, the Vietcong with their oppression and hatred toward the populace and a badly mismanaged economy could only distance themselves further every day from the rest of the nation as people became more daring in denouncing Vietcong rules. The Vietnamese people today even refuse the regime National Day and instead celebrates their own Quoc Khanh. In 1986, the people chose the Founding Fathers Commemoration Day to be a new Quoc Khanh Day.

The Founding Fathers Commemoration Day, the tenth of March in lunar calendar, has a significant historical meaning to the Vietnamese and has been widely observed with tremendous respects since the foundation of the nation.

The underlying principles for the people's National Day as opposed to the one imposed by the Vietcong rulers are the belief of the people that the Vietcong regime in Vietnam is merely another difficult chapter in the history and will eventually be brought down, and their affirmation that the country's traditional values must live on regardless of the regime's attempt to erase them. The Vietcong regime has committed betrayal by denouncing the traditions and ancestors by imposing unacceptable rules that run in counter with traditional values dearly upheld by the people. The populace has declared war with the rulers by expressing disapproval for the regime's National Day and gone on to celebrate its own.

By choosing the Founding Fathers Commemoration Day to be the National Day, the Vietnamese affirm the sacred values of the country and their respect for the ancestors who founded and sacrificed for the nation. Moreover, a non-partisan day also unites the whole people in the struggle against the totalitarian Vietcong. Such a united front will be joined by all people regardless of their political adherence.

Annual celebrations of Quoc Khanh Day by the Vietnamese people, both overseas and inside the country despite difficult conditions, while the regime has to keep mute of its own version of National Day clearly indicate the pride of the Vietnamese people and their denouncement for the VC regime.

News from Viet Nam

RESISTANCE IN MINH HAI

Resistance forces conduct history classes

Two Vietnamese History classes were organized last December and January by the Resistance Unit of Minh Hai and the local Resistance Administration Committee (RAC). "Heroes of my Country" text book was used in the teaching of an audience composed of different ages. The participants agreed on the term "Soviet Domination" when talking about the present situation of the country. To express their support for the resistance, the participants made three hundred manual



Water supply in the Resistance maquis.

copies of the text book for future classes.

The local RAC reported a resistance organization named "Doan Nhan Dan Phuc Quoc Viet Nam" (People Force for the Nation Salvation) led by Phan Van Nhut, an officer of the former Republic of Viet Nam, recently joined NUFRONLIV. The new members were sworn in a ceremony.

RESISTANCE IN GIA-CONG

Vietcong forces ambushed in Dac Lay

In the news broadcast on 8 March 1988, Vietnamese Resistance Radio relayed a report by the

RAC of Gia Rai-Kontum whereby the local ARU ambushed a group of VC soldiers in Dac Lay district. The VC troops withdrew after a brief exchange of gun fires leaving behind two dead and one wounded. The ARU suffered one loss. The unit picked up three B40 bazookas, two automatic rifles AK-47, some hand grenades and ammunition, and military documents. The wounded VC soldier was treated and taken to a safe location for release. Touched by the humane treatment of the resistance unit, this soldier promised to tell his comrades of the amnesty policy of the Front.

In another ambush in last November, the unit killed four VC soldiers and wounded several others. The unit confiscated two AK-47s, one K-54 pistol, one B40, and a large volume of ammunition and medical supplies. One khang chien quan died and a few others were wounded in this ambush. Before leaving the scene, the resistance unit left behind leaflets urging VC troops to desert and join the resistance, or at least refuse to engage with resistance units.



Weapon maintenance is of first priority of Khang Chien Quan.

RESISTANCE IN BINH TRI THIEN

People punishes a Vietcong security agent

The RAC in Binh Tri Thien region completed several mobilization missions in Le Minh, Phuong Hoa, A Luoi and Phu Loc districts. Members of the committee distributed over four thousand leaflets to the households of said districts. The residents were reported to be happy to hear about the resistance, and contributed over 300 kilos of rice and dried foods to the unit. People also gave the unit members special gifts on the occasion of Tet.

The body of a VC security agent was found last January in Phu Thuan district, Hue province. It was reported that some angered people killed the agent and dumped his body on a street after he had forced local residents to buy bonds issued by the regime. ●

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.

The Boat People Tragedy:

An outlook of the problem

Immediately after the Vietcong' take-over of South Vietnam in 1975, when the whole world was still startled with the 'sudden Peace in Indochina', it's had to face a tragedy of large scale which inflicted upon the human conscience: The Boat People tragedy. These people throwing themselves against the open sea in fragile embarkations, risking their own life in search of freedom were the symbol of the freedom loving spirit and at the same time, the invocation of the Vietcong crimes and oppression committed against the people in Vietnam.

For humanitarian concerns, the world had contributed generously to solve the Boat People problem, by tending a helping hand toward these refugees. Some countries have even accepted the refugees on their soil to start a new life.

To the Vietnamese people, the tragic event of Boat People is the direct consequence of a much greater tragedy the country ever knew in its history: The Vietcong regime. This tragedy of the Vietcong regime not only gave way to the massive and tragic flow of refugees, it has also caused tremendous suffering to more than 60 millions people of Vietnam, and it was the cause of the bleeding of the country servicing the hegemonistic scheme of the Soviet Union in South East Asia. The people of Vietnam considered the Vietcong regime a problem they must solve by their own.

The two facets of the Vietcong regime problem are then different, but yet linked to each other: While the world concerns itself to solve the refugee problem, motivated by humanitarian principles, the Vietnamese people stands up for a struggle to overthrow the Vietcong regime for their national salvation.

13 years have passed, but the refugee problem seems never end to the world as the Vietnamese people still seek to flee the Vietcong regime against all odds. Moreover, the Vietcong have taken advantage of the situation to create more difficulties to refugees recipient countries in the region through their policies of sending spies and agents, posing as



refugees, to the outside world, threatening the national security of these countries. The threat is such as refugees recipient countries like Thailand has had to adopt a stricter policies toward the Boat People landing on her shores.

Most recently, the Vietcong campaign to promote 'tourism' in Vietnam among Vietnamese refugees communities around the world

was conceived as an direct attack to the refugee status of the Boat People, inducing the government of Thailand to adopt an even more severe policies on the matter. Thailand attitude has raised a general disapproval among public opinions that concerned themselves with humanitarian aspect of the issue, but failed to evaluate and assess the security threatening risk that Thailand had to face because of Vietcong' destabilizing scheme against this country. Consequently, the general tendency is to emotionally blame Thailand, the victim, instead of the real criminal in this tragedy: The Vietcong regime.

The techniques utilized here by the Vietcong is nothing new: They have been used against the government of South Vietnam repeatedly before 1975. When the Vietcong sabotages were such that the government had to adopt strict measures on certain areas, the discontent opinion used to turn toward the government to blame instead of realizing the necessity involved because of Vietcong attacks. If the world opinion fails again this time to single out the author of all tragedy and security threat in the region today, the Vietcong regime in Vietnam, one can not hope to solve any of these problems including the mounting frictions between countries, and the mounting expansion threat from the Vietcong and the Soviet Union.

The Vietnamese people do not want to see their compatriots suffering anywhere in the world and in Vietnam. NUFRONLIV's stand on the issue remains that in order to solve the enchained tragedies in Vietnam to day, the Vietcong regime must be overthrown. This is the ultimate solution to liberate the people of Vietnam, to secure peace to the whole Southeast Asia, and to relieve the world from the presence tragic event of Boat People.

UNITED STATES

Atlanta-Georgia.

A study-discussion seminar was held by NUFRONLIV' Chapters Representatives in the South East region on the 26 and 27 of March, 1988 in Atlanta, Georgia. The seminar agenda included topics on the tasks ahead in the course of the struggle for the next two year period as stated in the recent Convention of Delegates of the General Directorate of Overseas Affairs.



Demonstration against Vietcong financial ploy in San Jose, California, USA.

CANADA

Brandfort.

To mark its 1st anniversary, the Resistance Support Group of Branford has organized a fund raising dinner to support the Resistance in Vietnam on March 26, 1988 with the participation of numerous Vietnamese residents here. In the opening remarks the NUFRONLIV' local chapter representative has called on the people to beware of the Vietcong financial scheme as well as their ploy to promote the so-called 'Tourism campaign' in the community.

The Resistance Support Group of Brandfort was established last

year to coordinate Resistance support efforts of the Vietnamese people here, as well as to preserve and promote the Vietnamese culture in the host country. During the last twelve months, the Group has organized three classes teaching Vietnamese to youngsters, a volley ball court, a Martial Art class. The Vietnamese Children Day also was organized under its auspice. Most important of all, its active campaign against the Vietcong financial ploy in Brandfort.

AUSTRALIA

Canberra.

Numerous Vietnamese resident in Canberra have participated to the Fund Raising Dinner organized by the local Resistance Support Group and the local NUFRONLIV' Chapter. The din-



A fund raising dinner in support of the Resistance in Philadelphia, USA.

ner took place on Febuary, 28th, at Haig Park. Also present at the dinner were several community' dignitaries. The dinner was organized in the frame work of a resistance support campaign by the community here that should last the whole spring.

THE VIETCONG'S LULLABY

In recent months, Hanoi has made a few moves that captured some notice from the West. The Vietcong regime is presently courting Western nations for economic aids in an attempt to find a solution for its economic dead end. This dead end was originated from permanent economic crises resulted from dictatorial policies being sabotaged by the people at all levels with all means. The situation has further deteriorated as helps from Moscow do not flow in as abundantly as they used to be since the Soviet Union now too finds itself in the middle of crisis and is forced to revise its generosity for Hanoi.

The Hanoi regime is crying children malnutrition, widespread starvation, and using the same line once used by Eastern European countries- that is 'The West should help us so that we could escape the Soviet influence...'

Hanoi officials bluntly told the U.S. : 'Please send us food to help with the hunger problem'. They said to Western governments : 'We are expecting humanitarian aids such as medicines, medical equipment, to alleviate the sufferings of the Vietnamese people'. They tried to convince Western investors : 'Invest in Vietnam. We have achieved political stability, cheap labor, and plenty of natural resources, and especially we just passed new investment laws that you should find attractive and progressive'. In lobbying the IMF and Asian Development Bank for investment loans, they promised : 'We will improve the standards of living of our people and overhaul the national economy..'

Some Western nations, including the U.S, may have found the melody soothing their ears; they sent their medical experts to Vietnam to assess the situation. Washington, although still sticking to its economic embargo against Hanoi, has let a number of private humanitarian organizations work with Hanoi in order to find ways to lessen "sufferings of the Vietnamese people".

The cry for help by Hanoi seemed working, at least for now.

However, observers who are familiar with the way the Vietcong operate think the cry is a siren's melody, a sedative melody of a predator to lure its prey for the kill. Western nations should protect their interests by not allowing Hanoi to lure them.

At first, Hanoi never intends to be independent of Moscow. The Vietcong regard the Soviet Union as their model and follow its footsteps in every area. Moreover, for their joint strategic interest each year Hanoi receives from Kremlin over 2 billion dollars in military aids and almost one billion dollars for its collapsing economy. It is never Hanoi's intention to deviate from the Communist system. The VC economy is a totalitarian one, planned, operated and controlled by the party, where private initiatives have no role to play. The two contributing factors to the collapse of this economy are the centralization of decision making power which system does not encourage people to produce. On the other hand and most important is the sabotage carried out by the Vietnamese people, who have made brave sacrifices in the fight against the Vietcong oppressive machine from within. For the Vietnamese any help going to the Vietcong is deemed as against their will and interests.

Even if considering their own interests are the sole factor in evaluating the business opportunity thus ignore the will of the people in Vietnam, Western nations would benefit much from any economic venture with Hanoi.

The Viet cong regime, following the Soviet Union's instruction, is now occupying militarily Laos and Kampuchea (while the occupation of Kampuchea has been media headline, the presence of fifty thousand VC troops in Laos has been conveniently ignored). Moreover, the regime is known to have trained Communist rebels in the Philippines, Thailand, and Burma. Hanoi concedes to the Soviets the use of strategically important military bases in Cam Ranh Bay and Da Nang. Cam Ranh, the Soviet largest naval base outside the Union, each month services from 20 to 30 Soviet vessels, among them frigates and nuclear submarines. From Da Nang, Soviet bombers could reach Manila within one hour, or attack capitals of ASEAN member nations as well as Northern Australia. Thanks to Hanoi, Soviet battleships have been able to base themselves in the much wanted warm water and could easily dominate the Malacca Strait, a location with a strategic importance only after the Persian Gulf in term of energy transportation for East Asia and America.

The Vietcong never change their nature and always remain followers of Moscow. Hanoi will likely play up the reformist image, which are merely intended to

to let the populace release their frustration for a while, hoping they will work harder to the regime benefit. However, none of these tricks could cover the regime's inhumanity. Many people imprisoned in 1975 are still in jail. Religious leaders are arrested every day without a charge. Artists and writers are tried for "using cultural means for counter-revolutionary activities" while they only wish to write the truth. Political oppression put the country in a permanent state of terror and this unstable variable will make any foreign investment in Vietnam an unaffordable risk because the people will regard any business with the regime an act of cooperation with their enemy, an act of provocation in the face of their sufferings.

If Western nations need a medicine to sooth their conscience in view of the sufferings of the Vietnamese people, they should start doing something about the Indochinese refugees who linger their lives in camps across Asia. Such benevolent acts would be practical in helping the refugees and lessening the burdens shouldered by Southeast Asian countries that receive the refugees. On the other hand, aiding Hanoi only helps this oppressive regime get back on its feet to be more oppressive and aggressive after.

For their interests, governments of free countries must always remember VC deceipts and must not submit themselves to any tempting promise given by Hanoi.



NEW BIRDS ON KREMLIN ROOFTOPS

Soon after Gorbachev assumed power, Western intellectuals and media have continuously and unhesitatingly talked about the so-called reformist and moderate spirit of the new Soviet leader. After a few discouraging news such as minority-caused political unrest, heavy human loss in a ship accident, and military casualties suffered by the Soviet army in Afghanistan announced by Tass Agency, the outside world has given itself the go ahead in confirming the birth of a friendly and pro-West regime in Moscow.

Some analysts hastily talked about a new trend in the Soviet Union after Gorbachev personally telephoned Andrei Sakharov to inform him of the decision to pardon the scientist and restore his privileges as a member of Soviet Academy of Science. Gorbachev also promised to loosen the party control on the Russian intellectuals.

This incident undoubtedly strengthened a theory embraced by many western specialists whereby the formulation of Soviet strategic policies was nothing more than outcomes of the struggle between doves and hawks in Kremlin, or pragmatists and fundamentalists as some preferably called, a struggle which sometime could be intense enough to cause infighting.

Western analysts have maintained that the Soviet leadership is presently divided between the pacifist group that seeks ways to increase trades with the free world as much as deemphasize national defense, and the hard line Marxist group that insists on military

strength and direct confrontation with the West. What one shall consider is the validity of aforementioned observations or theories and how beneficial they are to the Soviet Union.

The first and obvious benefit Moscow enjoys is how favorably the West perceives its glasnost policy. The perception that the doves have gained ground in the fight against the hard line fundamentalists in Kremlin has placed great pressure on governments of Western nations to make concessions to Kremlin. Such concessions consequently could credit the efforts by the so-called reformist group and enhance its image. The KGB has worked very hard to create this illusion.

Identical to a well played drama, all actors on Kremlin stage are given clearly defined roles and instructions. The Red Army is the brutal devil with vast power; party committee members are ruthless. Heavy industry sides with the military establishment. KGB, or the bloodthirsty security machine of the regime, is seen as undecided. In the roles of the doves are seen light industries, agriculture, the diplomats, artists, writers, scientists, and other intellectual elements. The leaders in Kremlin are perceived as moderate but always surrounded by extremist fundamentalists.

The old trick performed by a new magician can be traced back to the time when Krustchev ran into difficulties caused by remnants of Stalin regime for attempting to become friendly to the West. More recently, Brezhnev had to work hard to maintain a good relationship with the free world and at the

same time to avoid sabotage by the hard line fundamentalists from within the party. Today we see the same series of political maneuvers taking place in Moscow, only better polished and prepared.

In sum, the old conservative Marxists although rarely hold power in Moscow but carry great influence behind the scenes in shaping national policies. Western experts on Russian affairs, particularly those in the U.S., apparently operate on this premise and often call on their governments to exercise self-restraints in East-West relations to aid moderate elements in Kremlin in the power struggle with the hard liners.

Another benefit for Kremlin is derived from the free flow of information in the West. Selected remarks by Soviet leaders are announced by Western media and used by the intellectual community outside the iron curtain to prove the theory that the West can only benefit from a mutual cooperation with a friendly Soviet regime. In the mean time, a number of Russians consisting of Soviet diplomats, middle level officials, state journalists, and Russian intellectuals are well prepared by Moscow to contact with the free world. These people would privately attest to great difficulties encountered with the fundamentalist elements who are seen as obstacles to a friendly East-West relationship.

Kremlin has already established two agencies in charge of this orchestrated mission- the Institution of American and Canadian Study (ISKAN), and the Institute of World Economy and Communication (IMEMO). Disguised as scholars, members of the institutions make remarks as representatives of the Russian intellectual community instead of state employees and can easily persuade their Western counterparts of the validity of any theory they put forth. Through contacts with Western intellectuals,

Moscow has collected valuable information for numerous purposes. First, Moscow learns how the West could be fooled. Second, misinformation tailored according to feedback from such contacts would be fed to the free world. And third, favorable perception by the free world would be used for propaganda inside the country to deceive the Soviet people.

Yet we must agree that Kremlin is not the only guilty party in this campaign of misinformation that has caused much Western misperception on the Soviet Union. Foreign affair experts in America, who live in an environment where government scandals are nothing new, have a dangerous habit of applying thinking methods familiar to the American public like interest groups and compromising in their Soviet affairs study. A typical example is the Iran-Contras scandal. The Reagan administration believed it could create a shift of power in Iran by supporting the moderate Iranian elements by selling them arms. We all know the outcome.

The West does not limit its misperception to the Soviet case. After the sixth Congress held by the Vietnamese Communist Party, a new national policy was declared by Nguyen Van Linh, the new leader of the party. As the new rulers in Vietnam

blamed the old governing body for failure in almost every area, Western media began to talk about the opposition from the hard liners led by Le Duc Tho who was ready to assume power should Linh, a so-called reformist, fails to secure aids from the West and revive the dying economy. The amusing fact is Tho was just a few years ago was regarded by Western analysts as a progressive and friendly Communist leader the free world could work with.

After all, the plays in Moscow and HaNoi both have one thing in common- they are old plays performed by new actors. Doves and hawks seen on the rooftops of Kremlin and Hanoi are only birds of a feather.

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The 1988 Vietnamese National Day Art and Literature Award: The historical signification

Since 1987, the National Resistance Council has decreed the establishment of the Vietnamese National Day Art and Literature Award, to be conferred each year on the occasion of the National Day.

The decision taken by the National Resistance Council was of the utmost importance since it aimed at, on one hand, preserving and promoting the cultural creativity of the Vietnamese people during the liberation struggle, and on the other hand to preserve the Vietnamese cultural heritage against the Vietcong scheme to destroy all value system on which the Vietnamese society is founded, and to which all Vietnamese attaches himself.

Last year, the award was conferred to the book "War Prisoner and Peace" by Phan Nhat Nam. This year, it went to a musical work, 'Chinh Phu Ngam' or 'the Ballad of a Warrior's Wife', a suite for Small Chamber Ensemble, composed by Cung Tien.

To compose 'Chinh Phu Ngam', Mr Cung Tien has had his inspiration from a classical written by the Vietnamese scholar-Poet Dang Tran Con more than 2 centuries ago. The original version, 'The Elegy of a warrior's wife' was an ensemble of 414 verses, written in Classical Chinese was a chef d'oeuvre of Vietnamese Classical Literature. Dang' work also inspired several artist of the same epoch to translate it into Vietnamese. Among those, the most known and loved version is the one by the woman poet Doan Thi Diem. Her version of the Chinh Phu Ngam Elegy, designated as 'Ballad of a Warrior's Wife' written in Vietnamese vernacular ideogram (chu Nom) has inspired many generations of Vietnamese poets and writers, and has been translated into French, English, Japanese...thus widely known among foreign scholars.

The 'Ballad of the Warrior's Wife' has been conceived by Cung Tien since 1981. From the original version, that was written for a full orchestra, derived the revised version for small chamber ensemble. The suite' structure is somewhat dictated by the main themes in Doan Thi Diem poems.

The composer, Mr Cung Tien began to write songs since his early teen's, and for the past 35 years, he is among the most known and loved song writers in Vietnam. A career economist, he is now living in Minnesota with his family, and serving as Mineral Economist for the State of Minnesota's Department of Natural Resource since 1977.



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.

To promote our just cause, your financial contributions are welcome. For subscription or contributions, please contact our Public Relations Office :

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