

The Myths About Reconciliation

In the past few months, some people have intentionally confused the two concepts of *reconciliation* and *diplomatic normalization* between the US and Hanoi. It is necessary to shed some lights to the myths of reconciliation to avoid mistakes that could be detrimental to the people of Indochina and damaging to the image of the United States.

Myth 1: there has been a rancor between the two peoples of Vietnam and America hence there is a need for reconciliation.

This rancor is purely a product of Hanoi propaganda resulting from the regime's blind faith in the communist ideology, who utterly regards America as a dangerous imperialist and an enemy. There is no hatred between the two peoples; as a matter of fact the people of America have always been considered a friend by the Vietnamese of both North and South. As for believing in this myth, some Americans were taken by surprise when, on their trips to Vietnam, they were greeted with a warm welcome from the Vietnamese people. They are moved and feel guilty about the Vietnam war. This guilt complex has driven the support for diplomatic normalization without the realization that this move is against the Vietnamese people's will and only benefits the people's enemy, the Vietnamese Communist Party.

Myth 2: the Hanoi regime truly wants to resolve the MIA and POW problems.

The fact is this communist regime has gone against Vietnamese tradition to carry on its uncivilized and inhumane policy against its war prisoners, and continues using them as hostages to pressure the United States even after the war had ended fifteen years ago. Right after its invasion of South Vietnam in 1975, Hanoi authorities had assured its members and cadres that their future will be much brighter with the trade of American prisoners for gold. With a genuine wish to resolve the MIA and POW problems, Hanoi would have not restricted US officials from moving freely and contacting the local residents in their search for the American remains and captives. Internal sources from the regime's members disclosed that Hanoi still retains a number of American war prisoner in Indochina while Hanoi flatly denies the allegation. Before 1975, Hanoi also rejected the charge of its sending 300,000 regular troops to the South, and that the "Front for the Liberation of South Vietnam" was not its product but a mass organization of Southern Vietnamese rising up against the Saigon government...

Myth 3: the United States is the cause of economic chaos in Vietnam; and it must end its embargo and normalize relations with Hanoi.

Since 1978, Hanoi has chosen to be a client state of the Soviet Union and continued receiving an annual aid of 3 bil-

lion dollars from its patron, in which 1 billion was economic aid. With this financial source and in the absence of war, the whole country, including the prosperous South Vietnam, has been driven backward to the worst state of poverty and hunger under the regime's totalitarian rule. Only by ending this communist regime will the country have a chance to develop and progress, while re-establishment of trade and relations only helps the regime's survival and prolong the people's sufferings.

Myth 4: economic cooperation following reconciliation will naturally lead to democratization.

This is a false assumption as economic cooperation will not automatically lead to political liberalization. On the contrary, it may work against democratization for a strong economy will help consolidate the oppressive mechanism, and mercantile gains can easily blind international ethics from standing up against human rights violations. The plain fact is Hanoi so far remains critical of political reform and agrees only to limited decentralization of economic control and management. While some economic openness is observed in Vietnam, political intimidation, arrest of dissidents, and armed control measures continue to escalate. Foreign investments are only paid off when true democracy is restored to Vietnam; and the free world including the United States should maintain their economic and diplomatic leverage to pressure the Hanoi regime for fundamental changes.

Myth 5: Vietnam must protect Cambodia from the return of the Khmer Rouge.

This is not the wish of the peace loving people of Vietnam who have longed for the return of their men, husbands and children, and who also share with the people of Cambodia the feeling of a long lost freedom and self-determination. As long as Hanoi troops remain in Cambodia, the people of this country will continue to suffer and have no chance to speak up their views with the Khmer Rouge leaders either fighting in the jungle or sitting at Phnom Penh. Hanoi declared its total withdrawal of troops since last September but different sources have discredited this claim and maintain that there are at least 80,000 Vietnamese troops remaining in the Phnom Penh uniform. In Battambang, the local people call them "the Vietnamese Independent Regiment Ngor-51". In normalizing relations with Hanoi, the US will forego its leverage to pressure the Vietnamese communists into accepting a comprehensive solution for Cambodia and the chance to return peace and independence to this country.

The Vietnamese communist regime has shown no sign of reconciliation with the Vietnamese people by continuing its retaliation policy with a network of "reeducation camps" and by refusing to change its totalitarian rule. How could reconciliation be genuinely considered with a regime of such attitude? It is time for the free world not to fall hostage of its conscience by siding with the tyrants who have caused endless misery and sufferings to the people then, in the name of the people call for reconciliation and cooperation. ■

The Vietnamese Communists' Double Language

Almost all of the world events in this last decade of the 20th century are mediately circulated; and if people are not informed right away of *why* things happen, they at least know *what* has happened. The case of Vietnam is an exception.

Toward the end of April, the world media had been focusing on the subject of Vietnam fifteen years after the communists took over the entire country. The view is that there seem to have been positive changes in Vietnam, especially in the economy with genuine "openness". From the outside looking in, one only can see reports of Nguyen Van Linh inviting the United States' cooperation, or Nguyen Co Thach coaxing foreign investors by presenting Vietnam as a country of political stability and economic openness. Along with the profitability approach, Hanoi also allures people's conscience by crediting that investment in Vietnam will help rebuild this war-torn country; and on this merit the United States ought to reestablish trade with Vietnam.

Without close observation, one would not be able to comprehend that only two weeks before the April 30 anniversary, both Nguyen Van Linh and Vo Chi Cong, the number one and two figures of the Party Politburo respectively, had given grave warnings against possible revolt and ordered the Security Forces to be on high alert, at the same time instructed the army to fully utilize its power against dissidents. The unstable situation and Hanoi's fear of the widespread resistance movement under the leadership of NUFRONLIV were further revealed by the two official state media organs, the People's Daily and the People's Army Daily on April 15.

The Vietnamese communist regime is one of only a few on Earth that still maintains its closed system with a communications blackout to and from the outside world. This practice has enabled the regime to pass on

information in double lines: one for the outside world and one for internal consumption. While international reporters, acquiring information and therefore, basing their views on Hanoi programs broadcasting in English, are now echoing the reconciliatory tone of Hanoi heading toward peace and reconstruction, Vietnamese people are hearing a different tone through programs broadcasted in native language, which continues to denounce the free world and especially the United States as the "imperialists", the instigators of the "political crisis" in Eastern Europe, and the cause of chaos in Vietnam.

One typical example: a recent Hanoi broadcast program in English on April 11 had given a friendly view of Hanoi toward normalization with

"The changes in East Europe resulted not only because of internal causes but also from non-violent, imperialist efforts. Checking and eliminating socialism and the world revolutionary movement is the unchanged strategy and objective of U.S.-led imperialism, which is now developing a new strategy to wipe socialism from the face of earth, using cruel, subtle, and brazen maneuvers"

(Hanoi Domestic Broadcasting Service in Vietnam, April 11, 1990)

the US. The broadcast being transferred widely over the international communication network later on had built a false impression that there are genuine changes in the Hanoi leadership's attitude. The world did not know that just three days before that, on the Hanoi domestic service broadcast in Vietnamese, a commentary article in the official People's Army Daily was aired which harshly condemned the US imperialists and their reactionary plot to destroy communism. And on April 9, the same broadcasting service read the article by Nguyen Thanh Binh, member of the Politburo and Secretariat, urging militarization of cadres in the non-military sectors. All these three broadcasts were monitored and reported by the FBIS of the US Department of Commerce in its Daily Report Eas-90-71 on April 12, 1990.

With double language, the Vietnamese communists also try to mischievously present the two concepts of "reconciliation" and "diplomatic normalization" to serve their propaganda that Hanoi good will gestures are greatly impeded by US unfriendliness and hard-headed stance.

A close observation of Hanoi's presentation of the same matter in two different and often opposite views and languages will enable one to see that the Vietnamese Communists are manipulating their broadcasting system to court the world's ears by their conciliatory tone for support and aids on the one hand and to agitate cadres for wars and suppression on the other.

And it is not surprising why a regime believed to have made drastic reforms in the country still encounters such widespread internal resistance. Only when the communication blockade and the use of double language are no longer practiced in Vietnam, can genuine democracy be observed. The only chance to realize this is to have the communist regime replaced by a democratic government. ■

Insight

Behind

The Mike Morrow's Arrest

An American publisher and businessman, Michael Morrow, was detained by the Vietnamese communist authority on April 23 with the charge of having improper authorization to visit the central city of Da Nang. He was then released on May 15 after three weeks of interrogation on allegation of spying according to sources from Asia.

Morrow, who returned to his home in Bangkok, said his detention appeared to be connected to a wave of arrests of Vietnamese intellectuals who security officials feared were planning anti-government protests as part of a U.S. plan to overthrow the regime.

"I was never informed of formal legal charges against me but was told in the course of interrogations that I was under investigation for espionage activities and activities to destabilize the government of Vietnam," he said.

Morrow said he was on a survey tour for hotel and tourism opportunities in Vietnam with Thierry Rodzynek, a French businessmen who was also arrested and released after three days. Along with their arrests was Do Trung Hieu, a communist cadre and representative of a Vietnamese architectural firm, also a former underground communist activist during the Vietnam war, who is still being held.

He said the security officers exhibited a "war psychosis" about the United States. He quoted one officer as saying "the United States had embarked on a sophisticated political and military strategy to topple the Vietnamese government" and "We are once again at war with the United States."

Morrow said he was told by security officials that under Vietnamese law neither he nor other detainee was allowed legal counsel and could be held for extendable

periods of four months at a time without formal charges being made.

The arrest of Mr. Mike Morrow, a well-known journalist and consultant on doing business with Hanoi, will badly hurt the Hanoi regime's image in the West and highlights many problems of Vietnam's current system, according to Western analysts:

1. It is a system of centralized bureaucracy. "There is no national law. Any agency can do anything to you that it wishes at any time, and there is no legal defense" said a Bangkok-based Western businessman.

2. The security forces are fully authorized to hold suspects for an unlimited time. They believe that a long term incarceration always succeeds in drawing "the truth" from those arrested.

3. By government regulation, no action can be taken against the security forces for doing their duty as they see it, no matter how unreasonable the arrest appears to be for on-lookers. Most of the arrest is done out of suspicion: their whole training and mindset is to assume the worst especially with a Vietnamese-speaking foreigner. The security forces in Vietnam still maintain the wartime mentalities and have complete independence of decision.

4. The political situation in Vietnam is quite unstable unlike what has been presented to be by Hanoi authority, which poses an adverse situation to foreign investment besides other drawbacks of the Vietnam situation.

Arresting a foreign businessman, who not only was a favorite journalist to the regime for his war time reports and stories that works to the regime's advantage, but also played a crucial role in attempts by Hanoi to woo foreign investment, Hanoi certainly reinforces the thought among foreign visitors that "the Vietnamese communist authorities are brutal and lawless" and will make it more difficult for

the regime to reassure its nervous investors.

Hanoi high-ranking officials had refused to intervene citing the fact that "investigation by security forces is an all-consuming task taking months to resolve and there is nothing they can do." This hands-off excuse is a way to protect the regime's ruling mechanism by force and fear, it is not the situation as the Hanoi hierarchy tried to put it "the security force has a mind of its own and sometimes, as in the Morrow's case, against our will".

After the ordeal, even a pro-Hanoi business consultant like Mr. Morrow must express concern about strict and arbitrary interpretation of Vietnam's rules affecting businessmen.

Hanoi Blames Economic Blockade To Cause Boat People

Hanoi has charged that "the hostile policy of blockade and embargo pursued by certain countries against Vietnam for more than 10 years now is one of the causes of Vietnamese economic difficulties, which has subsequently led to illegal departures", according to its broadcast in English on the *Hanoi International Service* on March 25, 1990.

In a desperate move to seek economic cooperation from the world to save its collapsing economy, Hanoi once again resorted to these poor people, whom they have forced to leave their beloved motherland with the imposition of a communist totalitarian rule. It is always someone else to blame instead of Hanoi, the culprit of all disasters and sufferings in Vietnam.

The accusation, however, only reveals further Hanoi's underestimation of the world's awareness, and its obstinacy toward acknowledging its

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wrong doings in driving the people out of the country and bringing the economy to the current disastrous situation.

Despite Hanoi claim of an improved economic situation, the flood of refugees have reportedly been increased this year compared to 1989 according to Thailand and Philippine authorities. There have been about 4,000 Vietnamese workers exported to East Germany by Hanoi reportedly fleeing to the West to seek freedom since the collapse of the Berlin wall.

Hanoi Continues Chemical Warfare

Hanoi has announced its completion of a training course on chemical warfare on the *Hanoi Domestic Service* broadcasted in Vietnamese on March 19, 1990.

There have been reports leaking out of Laos in the past few months that the Vietnam-back Lao government has been using chemical warfare against resistance fighters along the Thai-Lao border, and against dissidents inside Laos around the Plain of Jars.

In an era of peaceful resolution, Hanoi still focuses on its military approach and even applies this force against its unarmed citizens.

Hanoi Maintains Force And Control In Cambodia

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State in charge of Foreign Affairs in Asia, Mr. Richard Solomon, said in Bangkok - Thailand on May 14 that Hanoi still maintains a large number of troops and personnel in Cambodia to keep the Phnom Penh government under its control.

U.S. intelligent source last November has confirmed the presence of at least 80,000 Vietnam troops in Cambodia. Other sources including those from two Eastern European diplomats have indicated earlier this year that Hanoi's withdrawal of troop last September was merely a sham.

Even institutions as eager to



Vietnamese Communist war material and documents seized by the Cambodian National Resistance at Treng (Road 10, in Cambodia) on December 11, 1989.

return to Vietnam as the Asian Development Bank have had to back off on Hanoi's word that it is out of Cambodia. ADB had laid the ground for renewal of aid to Vietnam pending withdrawal from Cambodia.

Difficulties Experienced In State-run Enterprises

Many Hanoi state-run enterprises encounter problems due to changes in East European countries, according to a report by the *Vietnam News Agency* broadcasted by the *Hanoi International Service* on May 6.

"Political and economic instability in a number of countries has had a negative impact on Vietnam's state-run enterprises," said the broadcast. "The supply of raw materials is running out, and processing and purchasing contracts have either been cancelled or scaled down. Meanwhile, the inputs, especially the price of raw materials and fuel, have soared up. Surplus of manpower has become a common sight at many enterprises."

A View Over Thai-Viet Trade Relation

Excerpt from the *Bangkok Post* editorial: "Taking a Longer View of Vietnam" on May 8, 1990.

"When Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan unveiled his policy to change Indochina from a battle field to a market place more than a year ago, the plan was greeted with keen interest and excitement among the business community."

Much of the initial excitement

and optimism has now evaporated. There is no question that the war-ravaged Vietnamese economy has the potential to eat up a great deal more consumer-good imports. And judging from the broad array of made-in-Thailand merchandise available on the streets of Ho Chi Minh City, this country has the potential to become a major supplier of basic manufactured goods for Vietnam. But the truth of the situation is that after several decades of war, the cash-trapped Vietnamese economy simply does not possess enough hard currency to meet the import demands of its population. This is not to mention the enormous improvement needed by the Vietnamese authorities to streamline their bureaucratic procedures and upgrade their basic infrastructure to make their country a more attractive trading and investment partner."

Pyramid Schemes Throw Hanoi Banking System Into Chaos

In addition to our May report of a fraudulent business named Thanh Huong (a self-claimed perfume and shampoo operation), there have been similar giant schemes such as Xacogiva (a construction company) in Vietnam. They cheated people into billions of piasters (millions of dollars) by running a classic pyramid scheme, paying early investors with money poured in by later investors, then turned around invested most of this money into luxurious and lavish life styles and little into actual production.

These two operations were

closed down and the schemers, Nguyen Van Muoi Hai and Pham Cong Tuoc, respectively arrested in April and early March by the state authorities. The incidents have provoked nervous investors to demand their money back from other credit cooperatives and this spreading panic has virtually paralyzed Vietnam's credit system.

The situation also underlines Hanoi failure to regulate private institutions created by its economic reform and the outright corrupted system that are backing these fraudulent operations.

Hanoi Continues Its Policy On Labor Export

According to reports by Hanoi VNA in English on April 25, "the Hanoi Minister of Labor, War Invalids and Social Welfare Tran Dinh Hoan has reaffirmed Hanoi policy of continuing to expand labor cooperation with all countries on the basis of equality and mutual benefit.

In an exclusive interview with VNA, Tran Dinh Hoan rejected the false reports in some foreign press agencies and newspaper claiming Vietnam has stopped sending its workers to and is repatriating before schedule those who are working in East European countries due to the 'anti-Vietnam' psychosis there."

However, in a separate broadcast in Vietnamese on April 27, Hanoi admitted that "many regrettable conflicts between the Vietnamese workers and Czech citizens have recently occurred." and "there is a schedule from Czechoslovakia to repatriate Vietnamese workers completely by 1995." In a report on April 19, Hanoi disclosed that the situation in Bulgaria is no better where "Vietnamese workers are facing cold stares from Bulgarian who asked when they could go home. In addition to that, they have often been manhandled by hooligans on whom the Bulgarian police turn a blind eye."

The miserable conditions suffered by roughly 200,000 exported Vietnamese workers in the Soviet bloc



Vietnamese residents in Canberra protesting against the Hanoi delegation

have been going on for years where severe discrimination, unfair wages and jobs, impoverished living conditions, and dangerous working conditions that the Vietnamese workers must endure have long been brought to the Vietnamese authority attention but with no response. The reason Hanoi brought it up now, and only mentioned some of the countries in the Soviet bloc with the exception of the Soviet Unions, is to shift the blame on the democratic situation in these countries which is often referred to by Hanoi as "political crisis".

Despite the sufferings of exported Vietnamese workers, Hanoi continues to rely on them to defray its debts with foreign countries and solve the unemployment situation in Vietnam as a Hanoi Deputy Minister, Mr. Ngo Xuan Loc, enthusiastically put it "the state is looking forward to increase national budget by 60 billions in the 1990 from 'labor cooperation' alone..."

This dream of exploitation, however, is disappearing as Eastern European countries are cancelling further labor contract with Hanoi and plan to repatriate Vietnamese workers. As on her visit to Hanoi during May 8-13, East German Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mrs. Almut Berger, had signed an agreement terminating the labor contract between the two countries with the provision of repatriating 60,000 Vietnamese workers there. Hanoi's resentment against its erstwhile allies is vividly illustrated in its statement

"the workers have been sacrificed on the capitalist's profit-altar".

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Worldwide Movement For Vietnam Freedom And Democracy

Riding on the rising wave of democracy and the crumbling situation of the communist world, especially that of the Vietnamese communists, the Vietnamese activities around the globe in bringing down the communist regime and restoring freedom to Vietnam have been escalating with the formation of a worldwide movement.

Vietnamese people, especially the youths and students, of several places in the United States and Australia, in France, West Germany, Belgium, Japan...have repeatedly appealed to the governments of these countries to continue their diplomatic and economic pressures on the Hanoi regime for fundamental changes in Vietnam. They also join the domestic movements in demanding the regime to endorse democratic pluralism and return the people's right to choose their own representatives and the governing system. There have been about 30 Declarations from roughly 500 organizations within the Viet-

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name communities overseas so far intended to serve the above stated goal.

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Canberra, Australia

Australian M.P. refuses to meet Hanoi delegation

A Member of Australian Parliament of Cabramatta, Mr. John Newman, has refused to meet with three Vietnamese communist officials due in Sydney on May 15, 1990.

The Vietnamese delegation consisted of three people, Le Quang Dao, Vice Chairman of the Presidium and Chairman of the National Assembly, Ngo Ba Thanh, the member of Ho Chi Minh city, and Vu Mao, the member from Ha Nam Ninh province.

Mr. Newman has also indicated that they are not welcome in the Cabramatta Electorate and that until freedom of rights were restored in Vietnam he would not extend his friendship. "I have a very strong memory about the Vietnam war and the hardship of the Vietnamese people after the war", said Mr. Newman. "The Vietnamese government must show a great deal more compassion and co-operation before I can entertain any meeting in the future. Our Federal government should use this opportunity to protest to the Vietnamese parliamentarians about human rights in Vietnam."

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Minnesota - USA

Vietnamese community opposes Hanoi propaganda and tourism scheme.

A rally to denounce Hanoi propaganda scheme carried out in the campus of Minnesota University has successfully turned the regime's screening of film on March 11 into a total disaster; there were only 20 spectators from an expected crowd of several hundreds showed up. Facing the fierce objection from the Vietnamese students and community, and after being explained of Hanoi propaganda scheme behind the film, the school's administrative staffs

responsible for the film screening have promised to seek for the Vietnamese community's advice in advance for any future activities related to Vietnam.

Also on May 4, Mrs. Le Ly Hayslip has arrived at St. Catherine school of Saint Paul, Minnesota to promote the Vietnamese communist tourism plan. She was confronted by the local Vietnamese students and residents with questions of human rights violations in Vietnam, the legality of touring Vietnam under the restriction of US law, and the ethic of helping this oppressive communist regime. The promotion ended half way for the event seemed to lose its original goal and Mrs. Le Ly, known among Vietnamese communities as a pro-communist figure working under the label of "reconciliation", was too embarrassed to stay.

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Tien Giang -Vietnam

400 kilogram of foodstuff and medicine offered to the Resistance unit.

Local movement demands return of private estates.

According to the report of Tien Giang Administrative-Resistance Unit, local residents have given the unit 400 kilograms of foodstuff and medicine. There were also 40 kilograms of explosive material offered by the local communist troops indirectly through their relatives.

There were several hundreds of leaflets calling people to demand the Hanoi regime to return their proper-

ties confiscated since the regime took over and to demand the ending of the state's policy forcing farmers to sell their products to collectivization at unbearably low price.

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Dac Lac -Vietnam

Resistance unit clashes with Hanoi security forces

The armed Resistance Unit of Dac Lac province reported of two clashes with Hanoi security forces within the month of January when these security forces were on their raids. The resultant outcome was 4 dead and several injured among Hanoi force; one resistance member sacrificed and one was slightly injured. The Resistance unit received 2 AK-47 and some ammunition.

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Minh Hai -Vietnam

Women and Youths Resistance Units in promoting tasks.

According to reports from Minh Hai Administrative-Resistance unit, the local Women and Youths Resistance Units have helped promoting the just cause among Hanoi troops and assisted these soldiers to desert the communist rank. The unit has received a dozen of deserted soldiers who brought along many weapons, ammunition, and important documents. One of the deserter told of blowing up an army tank prior to his leaving.



The Vietnamese Day celebrated by Vietnamese residents in Bonn (FRG)

A Crumbling Regime's Desperate Reaction: Fire On The People !

The Vietnamese communist regime is spiralling down to oblivion by resorting to its most hopeless measure: ordering the People's Army to gun down dissidents.

From the beginning of March before the party's Eighth Plenum, Major General Dang Vu Hiep of Hanoi, who is responsible for the army's indoctrination, had emphasized "The Party's leading role must be reinforced within our army ranks". Apparently, a gun before being deployed must be assured that it is in the party's hands.

Then by early April, Nguyen Thanh Binh, a member of the Party Politburo and the fourth of the Party Secretariat, had moved one step up in the preparation for the use of violence when urging cadres in the nonmilitary sectors "to enhance military thinking in their sectors" through compulsory military education. It would be extremely hard for the free world to gasp the explanation for such order that "it is to enhance leadership and management efficacy of cadres working under the state mechanism." Hanoi's change of its "openness" from decentralization of control in economic sectors to militarized management has a bad omen, for what could the need be to expand an army which is already ranked third in the world?

A week after Binh's campaign to militarize state management, on April 17, both Nguyen Van Linh and Vo Chi Cong, the number one and two figures of Hanoi leadership revealed the truth behind the move: "the spreading wave of resentment is posing a real threat

to the state security. A possible revolt is expected and the army must get ready to quell it at any cost"

When the Hanoi regime must resort to its last resource of force in addition to its network of securitate agents, which have been fully militarized and trained to crush organized opposition and demonstration, its view of the situation must be quite desperate. The turn of events will not take place as heated but short lived isolated moves of few hundred people marching in Saigon or Hanoi, but will be a stream of mass demonstrations concurrently taking place in every city, every village of Vietnam. At the same time, the oppressive ruling apparatus will disintegrate as the army units will one by one leave the communist ranks to join the people's side.

For two years, Hanoi has been carefully planning for the mass celebration of several grand events in 1990: the centennial birthday of Ho Chi Minh on May 19 (according to Hanoi propaganda to serve a political maneuver in May 1945), the 60th anniversary of the Vietnamese Communist Party (formed on February 3, 1930 in Hong Kong), the 45th anniversary of the creation of the "Republic Democratic Vietnam" (September 2, 1945), the 15th anniversary of the fall of South Vietnam (April 30, 1975)... But in April, their enormous plan was scaled back into a tiny fraction of its intended grandeur: fearing the popular uprising by April 30, 1990, Hanoi ordered severe restrictions placed on foreign journalists, strictly controlled movements and activities of citizens, escalated the state's armed

control measures. The celebration of April 30 this year had a gray atmosphere of a funeral to it.

Despite all its efforts, Hanoi can no longer conceal the uncontrollable situation in Vietnam: at the end of March, a television crew from Osaka, Japan entered Vietnam to film a special program about the country for the April 30 occasion. They wanted to visit Qui Nhon but was ordered not to. The crew went ahead to the city against the order and was detained in Kontum (700 Km North of Saigon) for a full day. They later learned of the reason for barring the crew to the region was that the Vietnamese authorities did not want them to meet with a resistance organization actively working in Kontum-Pleiku, a NUFRONLIV chapter known to the local residents as the Administrative-Resistance Committee of Kontum led by Mr. Mai Xuan Canh. The fact that the Vietnamese Resistance under the leadership of NUFRONLIV is growing into a frightening force to the current communist regime is evidently detailed by the editorial of the People's Army Daily of April 27, an official media of Hanoi, which blasted the resistance, its leader - Mr. Hoang Co Minh, and especially the Declaration of Renewal and Modernization issued inside Vietnam by NUFRONLIV last July.

By ordering the army to turn its guns on the people, Hanoi has chosen a fatal approach to preserve its power. The already resentful soldiers who came from the people will not tolerate this last push. As precedent cases in history, it is the very apparatus protecting the tyrant that will bring the tyrant down. ■



Letter Of The Editor

Ten years ago, when many believed that communization is an irreversible phenomenon and accepted it as a *fait accompli*, the Vietnamese people did not give up their hope for a life of freedom and dignity: the National United Front for the Liberation of Vietnam (NUFRONLIV) was born out of the need to unify the struggle into an organized and coherent force.

The spirit of resistance, like a green bud growing in the harsh land of totalitarianism, has turned into a powerful force which threatens the Hanoi regime's very survival and has compelled it to an "openness" policy long before the triumphant cheer of democracy was heard in Eastern Europe.

The *Vietnamese Resistance* News letter was published by NUFRONLIV in the face of worldwide skepticism. But today, it has been recognized as a proven means that sheds light into the Vietnam situation and brings to the fore the Vietnamese aspiration against the regime's cunning maneuver and propaganda. In this day and age, the truth and people's power have prevailed as the decisive solution to Vietnam, the *Vietnamese Resistance* News letter will continue its positive role and effort to inform its readers of updated events in and outside Vietnam which are often obscures or distorted by Vietnamese Communist authorities. With a new name, "**Vietnam Insight**", starting with the July issue of this year, the news letter will also display a broad view and activities of many Vietnamese groups and individuals in our mutual efforts to liberate and renovate Vietnam.

We wish that with **Vietnam Insight**, our readers and supporters will better comprehend the Vietnamese aspiration and approach for a future Vietnam of political democracy, economic freedom, and social progress.

We appreciate and thank you for your continuing support for **Vietnam Insight** and the *Vietnamese Resistance* which have made our rough road to freedom and democracy shorter and more bearable. The promising land of a free Vietnam will soon join the world of peace, freedom, and progress. ■

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. The National United Front for the Liberation of Vietnam (NUFRONLIV) was formed in 1980 to absorb Vietnamese at home and abroad into a mass organization to free Vietnam from the Vietnamese communist regime and to build a democratic and prosperous country.

. NUFRONLIV liberation strategy emphasizes on mass mobilization that utilizes all available means and creative methods of the masses to undermine the enemy, with which military approach is conceived to be supplemental.

. Overseas the NUFRONLIV has chapters almost everywhere there is a Vietnamese community. Inside Vietnam the infrastructure expands even far deep into the North. Besides the member networks, NUFRONLIV communicates with people inside Vietnam via its Vietnamese Resistance Radio, broadcasting 8 times daily for one hour each.

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Commissioner-General/Directorate of Inland Affairs:
Commission-General/Directorate of Overseas Affairs:
Commander in Chief/Armed Resistance Forces:

Hoàng Cơ Minh
Ngô Văn Tự
Nguyễn Kim
Đặng Quốc Hiền