

The Times of Viet-Nam

MAGAZINE

Vol. V. No. 41 — October 13, 1963



OUR COVER :

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*worth
repeating*

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contents:

ARTICLES :

MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC...Page 2.
ARTIST NGUYEN PUTS COUNTRY AND HUMAN LIFE ON...Page 8.
VIETNAMESE FEASTS AND HOLIDAYS. Page 11.
THEY MET — AND THEY BEAT THE RAIN. Page 12.

REGULAR FEATURES :

WORTH REPEATING. Page 1
PEN PALS. Page 16

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Message Of The President Of The Republic To The National Assembly

(October 7, 1963)

Following is the translation of President Ngo Dinh Diem's message to the National Assembly on October 7, 1963:

FIRST PART

Principal Elements Of The Present Domestic Situation

1.— The Strategic Hamlets

All of you undoubtedly know that in the past six months, all the enemies of our people, at home and abroad, have left no stone unturned to prevent this election from taking place. They have resorted to every possible means to carry out their black scheme namely to destroy the constitutional character and the just cause of the present Government. They have been defeated. But you well know that they have not laid down their arms.

Honourable Dean of the Assembly, Ladies and Gentlemen of the National Assembly,

On the occasion of the solemn inauguration of this first session of the Third Legislature, I wish to greet in you those whom the Vietnamese people, inspite of all obstacles, have, by free choice elected as their representatives to our National Parliament.

All of you undoubtedly know that in the past six months, all the enemies of our people, at home and abroad, have left no stone unturned to prevent this election from taking place. They have resorted to every possible means to carry out their black scheme namely to destroy the constitutional character and the just cause of the present Government. They have been defeated. But you well know that they have not laid down their arms.

Therefore your role, as well as your responsibilities are immeasurable at this stage of our history. The country and myself count on your patriotism, your wisdom and your vigilance to accomplish them fully.

You will have to keep in touch with the people, and trust and collaborate with the Government, to defend, consolidate and develop the gains made by our National Revolution in all fields, especially in the democratic and popular movement of the Strategic Hamlets, which is rising from the countryside towards the cities and will deeply modify the entire superstructure of the State.

In fact, the dominant feature of last year was the undeniable reinforcement, both quantitative and qualitative, of the system and national policy of the Strategic Hamlets.

In any case, the results so far obtained in the different aspects of strategic hamlet life confirm our forecasts:

A.— In The Political Field :

To this date more than 8,600 strategic hamlets (out of a projected total of 11,864) have been built, in which more than 10.5 million inhabitants are united in their struggle for a life more just, more free, more prosperous and more brotherly. In the construction of the strategic hamlets, we have held firm to the criterion of speed rather than of solidity: in building rapidly and simultaneously, a wide network of hamlets, we count on anticipating the predictable reactions of the enemy—notably to counter his «sword and shield» tactic, by which he pushes before him

As of October 1, 1963, 0,679 hamlets (73 per cent of the total of 11,864) had elected their executive committees; 8,400 hamlets (70 per cent) had elected their councils; 8,200 hamlets (69 per cent) have been granted charters. In addition, 8,371 popular groups (70 per cent) have been formed.

Meantime, the ensuing prosperity of the rural economy will bring the residents of the hamlets the social and cultural progress which they have been promised.

Within the context of the national strategic hamlet policy, we must also note the historical **exodus of our Montagnard compatriots** fleeing Communist exactions and joining the national cause. This movement has continued in the course of this year despite the obstructions of the despoiling Viet Cong.

At this hour more than 217,000 Montagnard refugees are resettled in 211 strategic «buon» and 436 resettlement centres, of which a large number have been transformed into strategic «buon».

With the aid of the Government, all those refugees participate in the movement of overall modernization and, likewise, in the national struggle against Communism, — notably by forming «Montagnard Detached Units» which, by their courage, resistance and knowledge of the terrain, are making life in the Highlands difficult for the enemy.

Equally within the framework of the Strategic Hamlet Policy is the «Chieu Hoi» (Open Arms) national campaign, which invites all our fellow-countrymen who have been deceived and exploited by Communism to return to the national community. Essentially based on brotherliness and justice, this policy helps the returnees to develop their personality freely, and at the same time offers them a chance to atone for their past errors by taking part in the fight for the national cause; in this way, it contributes to reduce the potential of subversion.

Moreover, having thus imposed on the enemy a front (at hamlet level) in a war which had previously been frontless, and using our Special Forces to create insecurity in his rear, we force him to fight,

This grand enterprise is essentially revolutionary in its whole nature. The strategic hamlet policy has in effect already set in motion a vast movement of study and full revision of the institutions of the present government to adapt them to the imperatives of underdevelopment of the 20th century. Starting from the hamlets, the movement must necessarily reshape the entire superstructure.

B) — In The Economic, Social And Cultural Fields :

The basic principle of the economy of the strategic hamlets is to achieve a general economic revolution, which aims at reshaping the whole rural infrastructure before it progressively reaches the urban centres.

Such a revolution cannot be made overnight; the problem was raised only a few months ago and plans are now under study. Our overall aim is deproletarianisation and self-sufficiency. Our plan will provide for a division of the country into flexible and viable economic units destined to become the driving centres of an accelerated industrial development, and at the same time, the cradles of a new, more human civilization.

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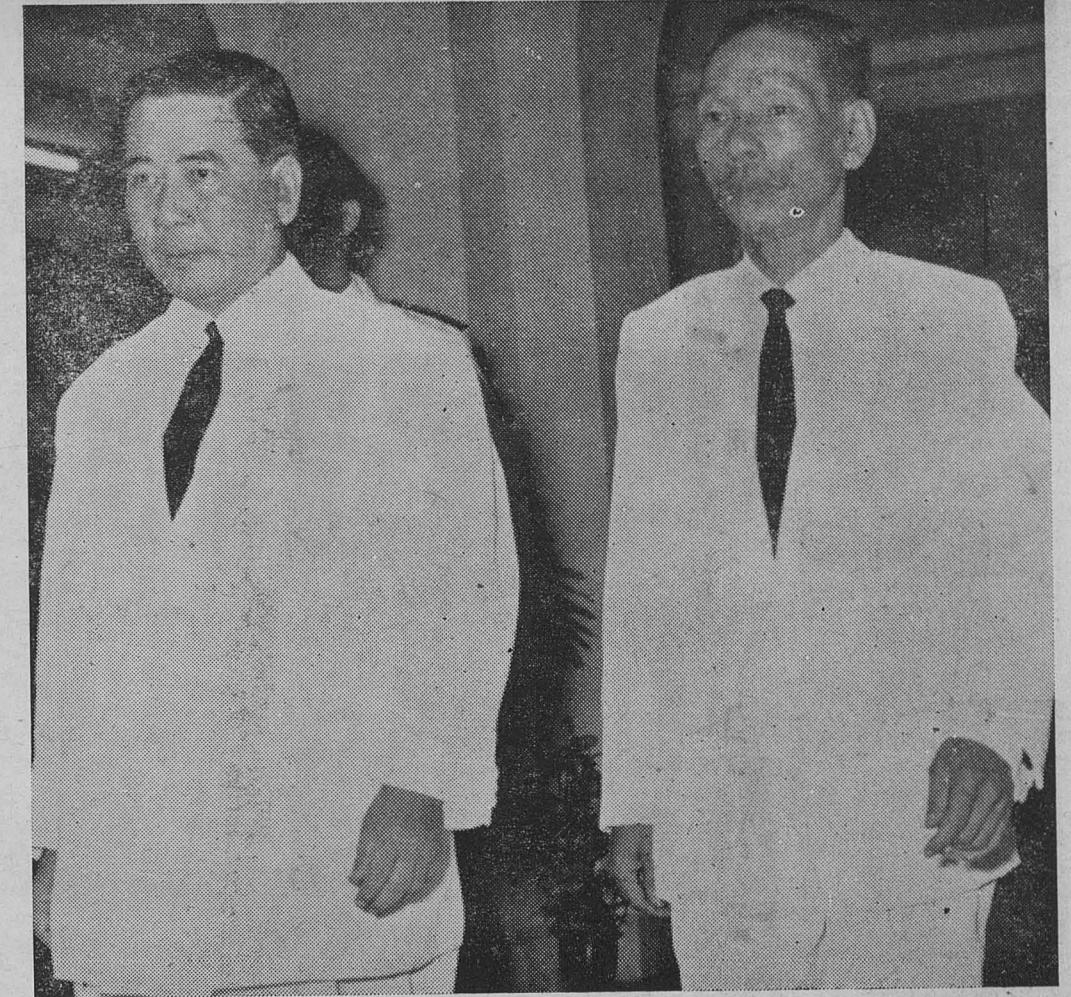
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The hamlet system, which already provides a reasonable degree of security to 74 per cent of our population, constitutes a network of defence in width at the same time as it encircles and isolates enemy zones by cutting off their ordinary sources of supply.

To obtain food and medicines, he must carry out frontal attacks against our positions which are defended courageously and victoriously by our popular forces and our Combatant Youths: from January 1962 to July 1963 their total casualties reached 4,124 compared to 6,362 on the enemy side.

Furthermore, our operational forces, animated by an offensive spirit thriving on success, attack logistic centres deep in the jungles and forests which the enemy believed to be inviolable—such as the Do Xa base, the Interzone 5 command post, the famous «Zone D» or the «Duong Minh Chau» stronghold. The multiple raids conducted there in the course of recent months have inflicted the severest blows against the enemy's supply and war potential.



Escorted by the Dean of the

Assembly Nguyen Xuan Thai.

a conventional war in a hostile environment.

Progressively freed from static defence tasks, our Armed Forces, acting as a «strike force», relentlessly harry an enemy transformed into roving bands operating without a base. In the Highlands, the mountainous coastal area of Central Viet Nam, in the swamps of the Plain of Reeds in the immense ricefields of the Delta, everywhere our Armed Forces have inflicted heavy losses on the enemy.

To mention only the most important among our victories in recent months: the Lam Son, Dan Tien, Binh Tay and Me Lang operations — and more recently the Phi Hoa, Dai Phong, An Lac and Dan Thang operations. In the past month alone, the enemy suffered three bloody defeats in Go Cong, Ca Mau and Go Den.

Other large-scale and long-term operations were particularly designed to support the building of strategic hamlets. They also were crowned with success, such as the Binh Minh (Binh Duong), Hai Yen (Phu Yen), Dong Tien (Qui Nhon), Trung Nghia (Quang Ngai) and Phung Hoang (Quang Tri) operations.

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President Ngo Dinh Diem arrives to address Third National Assembly.

Tactically, all those results were made possible essentially by the lightning mobility which, together with courage and aggressiveness, characterizes the action of the whole of our Armed Forces, which are now capable of exploiting the intelligence obtained immediately. This mobility is partly accounted by speedy communications, thanks to the other hand, especially to airborne operations, whose number has markedly increased as result of an adequate provision of fast, well-armed helicopters.

Another determining factor in our military success is the rapid progress achieved in the training of the cadres of our Regular Army and the Civil Guard.

The Dalat Military Academy has reduced the duration of its course from four to two years to cope with the growing needs of cadres of the three armed services. The number of cadets in each class has thus been increased from 400 to 800.

The training of reserve officers at the Thu Duc Interarms School achieved the most striking results last year. The percentage of qualified volunteers has greatly exceeded the forecasts, and allowed us not only to eliminate the shortage of cadres in the Regular Army, but also to have a reserve of more than 600 officers ready to relieve their comrades in the fighting units.

The Nha Trang non-commissioned officers school is pursuing the accelerated training of personnel so actively that we shall be able to reach 100 per cent of

our authorized strength in the course of the coming year.

This day, last year, we could say we had reversed the situation: from the defensive we had gone to the offensive and snatched the initiative from the enemy. Today we have moved one step further; we are now in a position to go over to the offensive on all fronts, it has become obvious — all observers admit — that the war has taken a major turning towards an undoubted and significant victory.

This victory, which will liberate our territory, will have another uncalculable impact: it will make real peace in the world possible since a concrete proof will have been established that the Communists are not invincible, even in the field of guerrilla warfare in which they are reputed to be the masters. It will also show the small countries of the Third World (underdeveloped world) that they too can defeat the Communists in a subversive war.

It is worth stressing that — more than ever — the whole population is engaged in the battle, from the regular troops of the Vietnamese Armed Forces, the Civil Guard and the village self-defence units, to the popular combatants, Combatant Youth of the Delta and the Highlands, through the mass of village notables, minor civil servants and health or agricultural workers. At the risk of their lives, they all carry out their daily tasks in anonymity and with constant courage and devotion.

It is sheer justice that, in recognition of their sacrifices, without delay the Nation should extend to them and to their families the means to better their lot constantly, and, for those who have fallen on the field of honour, to ensure a secure future to their widows and children.

In the course of the last 12 months, 7,000 prefabricated houses were sent to various units to improve the housing conditions of soldiers, families. A larger programme has been worked out for 1964. This is a proof of the Government's concern to improve the living standard of the combatants' families.

In the same vein, the system of military cooperatives, selling the most-needed goods at low cost, made important progress last year.

Moreover, special mention should be made of the work to help the Wards of the Nation; the first part of a Centre built for their benefit was inaugurated recently and very soon it will welcome more than 1,000 war orphans.

3.— The Buddhist Affair

As I have already said in the past, the enemy, having lost the logistic and strategic support of the people in the countryside, is seeking an alternate strategic way but by fomenting, with the complicity of foreign elements, troubles in certain circles who live far from the front and thus:

are insufficiently aware of the people's heroic struggle.

Under the cover of the struggle for religious or political freedom, the godless, enslaving Communists have been successful to some extent, owing to the demagogic and criminal complicity of a certain number of traitors and foreign adventurers, and also thanks to certain segments of the Western big press which gratuitously gave them a sounding board to poison no small part of the national and international opinion with the help of the so-called Buddhist affair.

The appropriate measures taken by us to resolve this affair, and the truth about its political and reactionary content have begun to enlighten the world. Yet, we must continue our campaign at home and abroad alike to clear up the prevailing confusion, because all the enemies of the Vietnamese people's independence and liberty will ride this so-called Buddhist affair to death, and as I stated at the beginning of this message, they will hang on to it until the end. They will ceaselessly try to exploit the least incident. They will seek to instill fanaticism even into our children, taking advantage of our smallest differences to attempt to destroy our independence and our sovereignty, and wreck our efforts to emerge from the politico-religious confusion to become a modern State.

This affair therefore is a good lesson to us. It reminds us how underdeveloped we still are, not excluding those who have been considered intellectual and enlightened. It made us feel that in the face of an implacable enemy, any factional solidarity which harms the national solidarity is an act of treason. It also opens our eyes to the urgent need to be self-sufficient—if we want to be Vietnamese and not a race of weaklings and outcasts. It also helps us to improve our understanding of the importance and the scope of the Strategic Hamlet Revolution, a genuine solution to all the problems of underdevelopment—no single hamlet has been affected by the liberal-Communist international conspiracy based on the artificial exploitation of the so-called Buddhist affair.

From this difficult and new trial, Free Viet Nam has emerged better steeled, May we hope that her solidarity with her allies—also put to the test of slander and intrigue—will emerge strengthened also for the greatest good of the common fight against Communism; and not against friends.

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SECOND PART

National Reconstruction

No more than in previous years has the intensification of the Viet Cong subversion stopped our people from pursuing their

mission of national reconstruction, overcoming acts of sabotage and depredations by harder work and greater tenacity.

The year just gone by was the first of the second Five Year Plan 1962-66, whose objectives have been mentioned in my message last year, that is—on the basis of the First Plan's results—the economic independence of the country and the improvement of the living standard of the population.

A.—Economic Development

1.—Agriculture

As you know, this means that we must above all give priority to the intensive development of the rural economy, which offers boundless scope for rapid development. Furthermore, the rural sector is not only the very framework (by definition) of the Strategic Hamlet Policy, but also the starting point of this revolution which, from the base, will reach the cities and their inhabitants.

In that first year of the Second Plan, the forecast targets have been fulfilled and in some sectors, sometimes even exceeded.

Thus, concerning agricultural production, the cultivated area in 1962 reached three million hectares, an increase of 205,000 hectares over 1959, and 175,000 hectares over 1961. In the Western Provinces of the Southern Area, especially, the increase in cultivated area amounted to 109,000 hectares over 1959, and 103,000 hectares over 1961.

Crop protection also has been the object of great attention: besides the existing centre in Saigon, three new regional ones were recently set up in Hue, Can Tho and Banmethuot.

In the coming year we shall witness the following results with regard to rice: introduction of the first phase of seed selection, the creation of three test centres growing two crops a year, and beginning of the second phase of the distribution of fertilizer to strategic hamlets in the Central Area provinces.

Thanks to the extension of the sown area, thanks also to the use of fertilizers, insecticides, and selected seeds, to the progress of the hydraulic projects, and to improved farming methods resulting from an intensified campaign to encourage agricultural expansion, the output has also increased. In 1962, the rice harvest amounted to 5,205,000 tons, a figure not reached for many years and an increase of nearly 597,000 tons over 1961.

Concerning hog breeding, there was a substantial drop in 1962 due to the bad 1961-1962 rice crop caused by the disastrous overflow of the Mekong River in 1961, but recent figures show that the hogs population has regained its normal upward trend in 1963, and for the first nine months of the year alone, it reached a level comparable to that of the whole 1961, or 3.7 million hogs, thanks especially to the success of the campaign against hog plague

The realization of the land development programme has had satisfactory results: the cultivated area in different land development centres set up from 1957 to 1963 reached 122,000 hectares for a resettled population of 253,556.

For rubber, the cultivated area this year has increased by 8,000 hectares, and the making over of old plantations is being pursued. Other crops, notably fruit trees, have equally shown increases in both cultivated area and yield. With regard to keenaf, 3,500 hectares had been cultivated.

In the field of forestry, a particular importance has been given to the reforestation programme with a view to compensating the unavoidable and repeated devastations caused by the war. Since 1962 more than five million seedlings of all species had been planted, notably on the deforested areas of Central Viet Nam and the Highlands. Within the framework of the large scale reforestation programme, the Strategic Hamlets will receive 10 million seedlings.

This agricultural development effort has always been effectively supported by the Agricultural Credit, which to date has granted loans totalling VN\$4.5 billion. So far 1.3 million farmers' families have benefited from these loans either individually or through the cooperatives and farmers association.

The synchronization of activities of the farmers' associations with those of the Strategic Hamlets, as well as the establishment of cooperatives in Strategic Hamlets, will greatly contribute to the development of the democratic economy of the rural infrastructure.

To sum up, our rural expansion at the annual rate of six to seven per cent in recent years, allows the most legitimate hopes all the more so as it will progressively become an integral part of the Strategic Hamlets system. Despite subversion, the priority agricultural sector of the Second Five Year Plan has yielded the expected results.

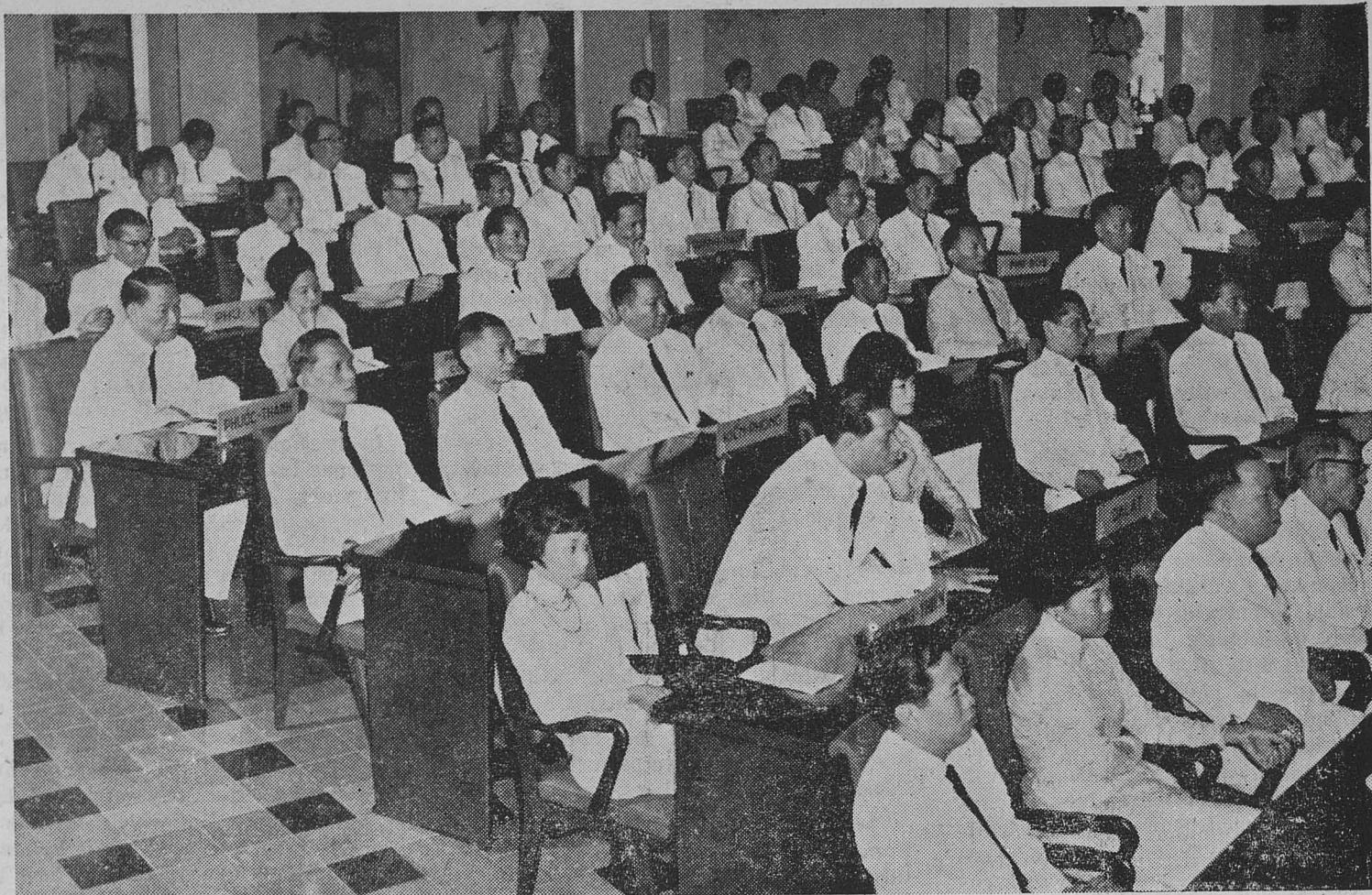
2.—Industry, Handicraft, Energy

Although our Second Five-Year Plan has placed emphasis on the development of agricultural production and increase of the peasants' income, the sector of industrial production has been given great encouragement also.

Indeed, because we wanted to facilitate our country's industrialization, we have endeavoured to limit its internal contradictions and even reduce the factors hindering development through the creation of an industrial development area and the promulgation of a law on investments.

In the course of that second year of the Second Five-Year Plan, local industries have gone through a remarkable development: the total of investments since January 1962 has reached over VN\$2.5 billion.

The State continues to encourage this development actively through the Industrial



Deputies to the new Assembly hear the Presidential address.

Development Centre, which makes regular loans to industrialists, but also helps those who must pay the 5/7th tax by granting them a special loan at the special rate of interest of 2 per cent, repayable in installments over many years.

The encouragement of new investments has had happy effects :

The textile industry, principally, is making constant progress : the new SICOVINA plant in Da Nang, with 400 automatic looms and 20,000 spindles, supplies cotton thread to hand weavers in Central Viet Nam, the two new VISYFASA and INTERTEX-CO textile mills are producing synthetic rayon and poplin fabrics ; the two large enterprises, VINATEXCO and VIMYTEX, continue their expansion programmes to attain, at the end of this year, 800 automatic looms and 40,000 spindles each. Thus, with 110,000 spindles, almost of the country's needs of cotton thread will be satisfied.

With regard to rubber, the setting up of the DAINAMCO and MICHELIN, factories for the manufacture of bicycle and motorbike tires and inner tubes have been completed.

A new paper mill to supplement the COGIDO has completed the installation of its machinery.

In the food industry, the Hiep Hoa sugar refinery is expanding to reach an annual output of 20,000 tons, including 10,000 tons of refined sugar, and 10,000 tons of raw sugar imported and refined locally, while the Quang Ngai sugar mill project is being completed. Two new factories for the

extraction of rice bran oil and for the production of glucose and starch are under construction ; three new projects to produce condensed milk are being materialized.

Lastly, Shell and Esso are preparing the installation of their joint oil refinery at Nha Trang, while the various manufacturers of current consumer goods (pharmaceuticals, metal ware, bicycle accessories, electric fans, etc.) continue to progress rapidly. Last month on auto battery plan, was started which is expected to meet the entire local needs, and allow an exportable surplus.

Complementing industry, handicrafts are unceasingly developing their activities and production with constant aid from the Government, especially in the fields of ceramics, lacquer, tortoise shell, pottery, bamboo and rattan work, etc. A pilot handicraft workshop in Hue, two ceramic workshops in Phu My and Hue help handicraftsmen improve their techniques and to utilize local raw materials, while qualified agencies search new outlets for their products.

The industrial effort continues to be favoured by a sharp increase of **basic power**.

The Nong Son coal mines have raised their monthly output to 10,000 tons. Part of this is sold to the Water and Electricity Company, and the rest consumed in homes and by the brick, tile and glass factories, etc. The An Hoa industrial complex continues its installation to allow it to use all the anthracite produced by

Nong Son, and to produce fertilizer in 1966.

With regard to mining, we should mention the production of fine siliceous sand and marine salt, and the continued prospection for graphite and lateritic iron deposits in Quang Ngai, in order to assess their possible use as iron ore.

This year the construction of the dam, the tunnel, the Kong Pha power house and the transmission line of the Danhim hydroelectric complex will be completed. The first power produced there will be received in Saigon about the end of this year.

Finally, the Ha Tien Cement Works will start production in November this year, while its finishing plant in Thu Duc may start operation at the end of the year.

3.— Public Facilities

In the field of public facilities, basic works have been carried out for constant modernization and development of the transportation and communication systems; moreover, emphasis was placed on works to benefit the strategic hamlets.

Road transportation is being continuously improved : National Roads 1, 13 and 14 have been modernized, sabotaged bridges and roads repaired ; 680 kms of road of the infrastructure programme of prime urgency have been built, of which 520 kms are macadamized ; besides, the Army Engineers have reconditioned 250kms of existing roads and realized 380 kms of roads suitable for vehicles for the operational and logistic support of the strategic hamlets,

Thirteen new class G and 18 class H air-fields have been built or modernized; out of these, six class G and 17 class H have been built by the Army Engineers. In addition, equipment of the seven main airports in the country was increased and modernized.

Rail traffic continues despite sabotage. In Saigon, the public transportation system has been extended to cover the suburbs,

The population's fresh water supply has been the object of a great effort this year: water supply systems in the provinces were greatly extended; in the capital, five kilometres of new mains have been laid, pending the completion of the pipeline to bring water from the Dong Nai River in the near future.

Beside the Danhim system, whose effective exploitation will start next year, power network were built or extended in many provincial localities.

To help the strategic hamlet programme, many roads have been built or repaired, deep wells dug and canals cut — such as those which permitted the creation of Strategic Hamlets in the Plan of Reeds and the Inter-Waico area. Moreover, 230 new post offices opened in the villages. Next year each strategic hamlet will have a postoffice.

We should also mention the important works realized in reshaping the land, reconstruction and town planning: setting up of capitals in newly created provinces, construction of district administrative offices, building of populous provincial urban centres and areas devastated by fire, widening of streets in the capital, etc. A particular effort was made to improve mass housing: slums and over crowded quarters were decongested, housing developments have been created for workers and minor civil servants, thousands of fire victims have been provided with new homes in new quarters, technical processes for manufacturing new materials for prefabricated houses have been developed...

In the field of Public Works, the coming year will see important new realisations, notably: the building of seven large bridges totalling 1,400 metres in length on National Road I, construction and equipping of the new Cholon river port serving interior waterways.

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8.— National Development

The many tasks required by the anti-Communist struggle and economic expansion have not affected the Government's constant determination to work actively to improve social welfare for all sectors of the population.

1.— National Education

The size of the budget earmarked for National Education, VN\$1,342,392,000 in amount (an increase of 15.59 per cent compared to 1962), has allowed the rate of increase to remain constant in all branches and various levels of education.

A total of 17,345 students are receiving advanced education, an increase of 17 per cent over last year. The building programme has been carried out within the set deadlines: second phase of the Hue Faculty of Medicine, first phase of the Saigon Medical Centre, and the Saigon and Hue Faculties of Pedagogy. Saigon University's removal to Thu Duc has effectively started. Next year will see the opening of new courses, especially at Hue University.

Public secondary education is being given to a total of 98,749 students (an increase of 15 per cent over 1962). Twenty new high schools or post-graduation courses were created, making a total of 121 such public institutions with 1,828 classrooms.

The number of children receiving public primary education has increased by 7 per cent over 1962 to a total of 1,174,020. Class-rooms total 21,998 (of which 1,181 were built this year); there are 20,679 teachers. This year a special large-scale programme for the Strategic Hamlets to train 880 new teachers and to build 1,320 class-rooms has been carried out. Comprising two phases and necessitating a budget of VN\$ 87,360,000, the implementation of the programme is being completed.

Technical education also is progressing steadily with 6,305 students (27.90 per cent more than 1962) who, in a large number of technical and vocational high schools, are being provided with constantly improved facilities. Two new technical high schools are to be built this year in Quang Tri An Giang, whereas the Phu Tho polytechnic senior high school will be enlarged. We should also mention the expansion of agronomic, forestry and veterinary education by the transformation of existing institutions at Can Tho, Hue and Bao Loc into an «Agricultural Junior High», «Agricultural Senior High», and «Advanced School of Agronomy», the latter granting a degree in agricultural engineering.

Community education has made a spectacular new leap; its school population has reached 42,577, an increase of 128 per cent over last year. The 75 existing schools will soon be increased by 22 others converted from primary schools.

Lastly, complementing public efforts, private education with 416,809 students (compared to 411,873 in 1962), has slackened its expansion somewhat, due to a certain saturation and stricter regulation of the schools.

It is worth stressing that quantitative progress in the field of education has been qualitatively accompanied by efficient measures to raise the level of studies and improve teacher training: reform of medical education, normal schools and the Baccalaureat; renovation of foreign language teaching methods; centres to train junior high and technical education teachers; refresher course centre for school teachers, etc.

In addition, the profound revision of programmes, from primary to advanced,

and the review of teaching methods and techniques of school organization are constantly pursued in order to adapt the training of teachers and students to the exigencies of the national revolution and to realize the total development of the human being.

In the field of scientific research, we should mention that in 1963 after five years of efforts, the Atomic Energy Office has begun to bear fruit. With the operation of the VNR-1 reactor, first accomplished on Feb. 26, 1963, the search laboratories can be used fruitfully. After the completion of the Dalat Nuclear Studies Centre, planning was begun on a project for an Institute of Fundamental Nuclear Physics.

2.— Public Health

The health improvement program continues to develop in all sectors: 21,053 beds in 7,751 medical centres. This is the subject of an important expansion with the transformation of a certain number of provincial hospitals into regional general hospitals capable of serving several provinces at the same time.

The provincial hospitals already have 27 fully-equipped surgical wards, many of them operating in full swing with the help of surgical teams from friendly nations. Well-equipped laboratories and X-ray equipment improve diagnosis and treatment in almost all the provinces. Efforts are actively continuing to make hospitals in the capital and certain provincial hospitals fully autonomous with the population's participation in their management.

Besides, we encourage private initiatives in the medico-social field, and also efforts towards setting up a social security system.

From the point of view of preventive medicine, the various programs of malaria eradication, mother and child care, the fight against tuberculosis and leprosy, of mass immunization, and so forth, have produced the most satisfactory results.

With the extension of the Strategic Hamlets, the rural health program is in full expansion at present: 151 infirmary-maternity clinics have been constructed and equipped in the districts and 6,425 first aid stations in the villages and hamlets according to the principle of the «spreading oil drop» method. Efforts are now being made to give every hamlet a first aid station manned by qualified personnel.

In this regard, an important number of health cadres and nurses have been sent to the villages, not only to provide care but also to educate the population about health, to teach preventive measures and to oversee the good application of sanitation rules. The training of these cadres is now being accelerated at the centre in Gia Dinh.

Moreover, the improvement of technical personnel at all levels is being realized as much by provision of in-service training and seminars, as by the granting of scholarships to graduate technicians for further training abroad.

ARTIST NGUYEN PUTS COUNTRY AND HUMAN LIFE ON CANVAS



Reflection

Sister's love



THE Nguyen Van Nguyen showing of 40 oil paintings opened this week at the Saigon Catinat Hotel Tu Do Street, and the fishing junks he loves to paint figure prominently in the exhibition.

A native of Sadec Province, the 53-year-old artist began his studies of art in Cambodia at the age of twenty. He held his first one-man show four years ago though he has participated in many other exhibitions.

Mr. Nguyen has been twice among the winners of the ESSO calendar art contest, in 1960 and 1961, taking third prize both times.

Landscapes take a second place to fishing junks at the seaside in his preference of subjects.



Grandmother

Young lady

Mother's love





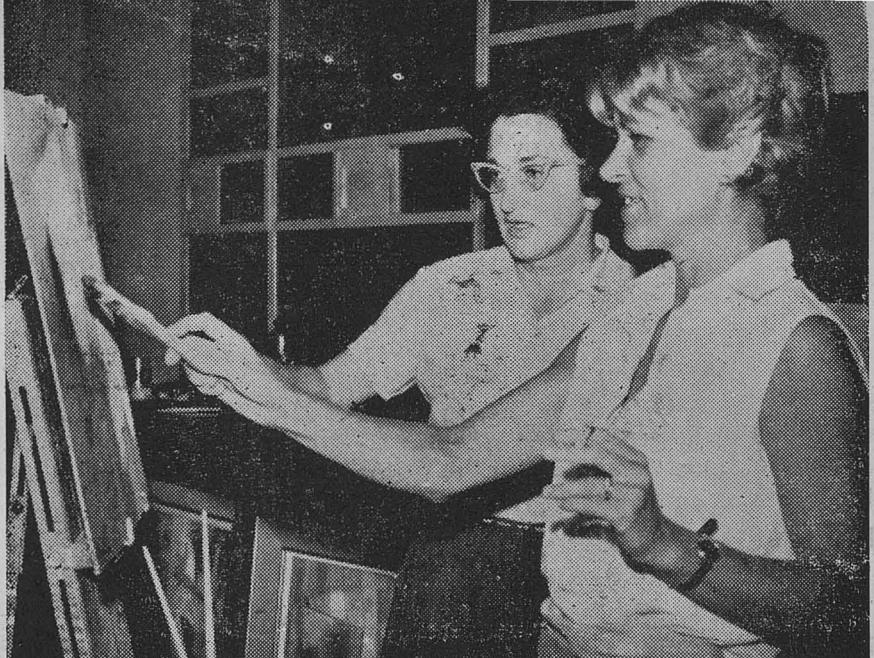
Mrs. Rollen Anthis takes a look at Mrs. William Trueheart's work.

Saturday, Oct. 12, 4 pm, at the Vietnamese-American Association, marks the opening of an art exhibit by the members of the Saturday morning painting class taught by Mrs. J.B. Drachnik. The class is composed of beginners, intermediate and advanced students, the latter having studied with Mrs. Drachnik for one year.

Many nationalities are represented among the women students... Vietnamese, American, Chinese, French, British, Australian and Canadian.

Here the ladies are shown at work.

Mrs. John Richardson gets a painter from Mrs. Drachnik.



Mrs. Joseph Drachnik with student Mrs. Jean Lambert.



Mrs. E. V. Nelson, Mrs. John Denny, Mrs. Walter Lapointe and Mrs. Daniel Richards at work.

Mrs. Robert Tyrell and Mrs. Yuen Tsi Kien take their hobby seriously.



Customs Of Viet Nam VII:

Vietnamese Feasts And Holidays

By Truong Van Binh

(Continued from last week)

The Lacquerers

Lacquer work was introduced in North Viet Nam during the reign of Emperor Le Nhan Ton (1443-1460) by Tran Truong Cong, an Ambassador to China. He was a native of the village of Binh Vong in the province of Ha Dong. Before his return, the Vietnamese people did not practise lacquer work at all. Lacquer was only exported to China where the province of Ho-Nam was well known for the production of lacquer wares.

On the return of Tran Truong Cong the first Vietnamese craftsmen failed to fix their gold and silver decorations on wood because their lacquer did not dry and did not produce a brilliant finish, and the pictures they drew faded away rapidly. Tran Truong Cong volunteered to go again to China and succeeded in learning the secret of lacquering on wood. It consisted of covering the wooden wares with a coat of gum and kaolin before applying the lacquer. This compound is designed to prevent the wood from absorbing the lacquer and impair its brilliant finish and freshness. When he was back again in his country his compatriots began to practise the new art he had learned during his second stay in China.

After his death a temple was erected in his native village as a token of gratitude towards the initiator of lacquer work.

Since that day our lacquerers have improved their process continuously until the stage we have arrived at today, with great amounts of fine wares much appreciated in both local and world markets.

Preparation Of Lacquer

Lacquer is a kind of sap extreated from lacquer trees (cay son) and kept in a bamboo basket rendered water-tight by a thick coat of mastic and laquer of inferior quality.

The sap kept in such a container will give many layers of lacquer of different qualities and designed for various uses. The inferior one, laid at the bottom of the basket, is of poor quality and is called « nuoc thiec » used for the preparation of a kind of mastic. Above it is another layer which is rather thick, heavily sticky called « son gan » and used for gluing-boats and bamboo baskets. On top is the lacquer intended for sale, called son gioi, and itself composed of two layers: son nhi or secondary quality and son nhat, of to quality.

Kept for a long time in its container, lacquer is covered on its surface with another very thin and transparent, film-like layer called son mat gian which the saler picks up little by little with a spoon and keeps apart.

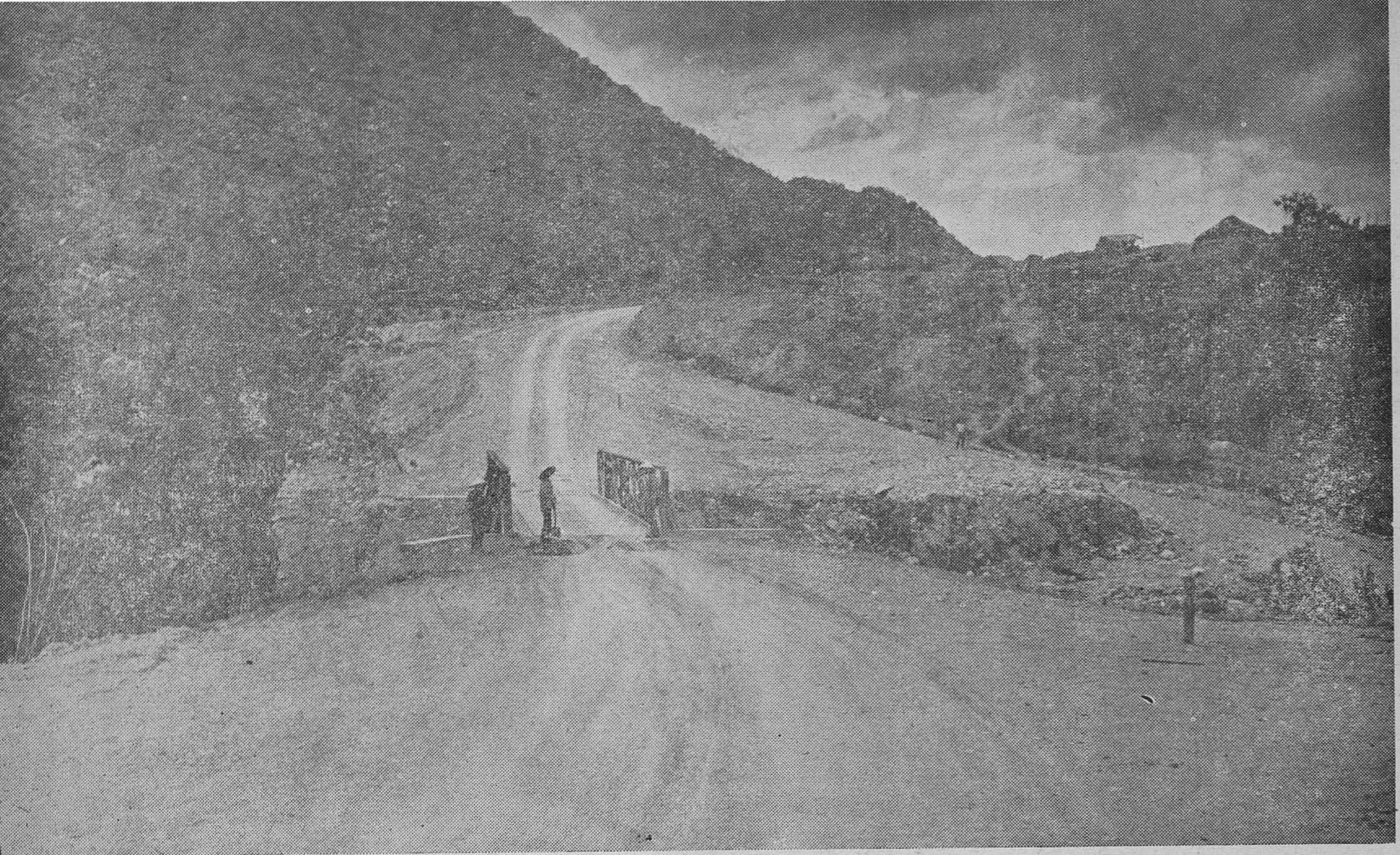
Lacquer for sale, as it stays in the container, is not ready for use. It must be refined. It is laid upon a long cotton cloth lined with wadding. The cloth has one end tied to a hook and the other terminated with a crank, with which a workman can turn and twist the cloth. Lacquer is thus squeezed out refined and good for use.

Preparation Of Mastic And Some Lacquer For Coating Wooden Wares

This is a kind of mastic prepared with lacquer of 2nd quality (son nhi) and of the inferior quality (nuoc thiec) drained from the bottom of the basket and mixed with saw-dust. It is used to fill the holes and crevices of everything to be lacquered, boat, wooden wares, bamboo baskets furniture etc... to give them a smooth and even surface. Lacquerers call it « son lo » or the first coating to be laid upon the wares.

But when they have to cover some parts with gold or silver they must lay over them a coat of lacquer mixed with tung-oil called « son thiеп ». Another type called son hom is also a mixture of lacquer, clay, and water and used as first coating upon wooden wares.

(Continued on page 16)



THEY MET — AND THEY BEAT THE RAIN



DANANG, Viet Nam (I Corps 10)—The requirement given two Engineer battalions of the First Vietnamese Corps seemed an impossible one—build 26 miles of road through the dense Communist infested jungles of Quang Ngai and Quang Tin provinces and complete it before the Fall rainy season.

«The job has been finished with amazing speed and thoroughness,» explained Major Paul I. Fowler, adviser to the battalions.

«One battalion started in Trabong in Quang Ngai and the other 26 miles away at Tra My in Quang Tin—they've met and have beat the rain by two weeks—I have a great deal of respect for these two fine construction battalions,» stressed the major.

Started in March and completed in early October, the road cuts through the heart of the cinnamon country of Viet Nam. Montagnard

This soldier plows his D-7 bulldozer through the jungle growth. During most of the construction, visibility was limited to less than 10 feet.

Photo on left:

A number of these bridges were required to span the streams and rivers criss-crossing the route. Open terrain, such as this, lasted only 2 miles before hitting dense jungle mass.

tribesmen daily cut and transport to market the earthy spice.

«Aside from the military value, the road will lead to furthering the economic progress of the area for years to come,» said Major John E. Wagner, I Corps Engineer adviser. He said that even now the Montagnards are finding road travel preferable to hefting heavy loads through the jungle.

This road net is getting away from the coastal land and hacking through mountain regions making truck and transport and delivery of goods feasible to people who heretofore have done without many things.

To discourage the Viet Cong from hampering the road effort, two Vietnamese Infantry battalions were engaged in patrolling and security during the building process.

Still, the Communists managed to snipe at the Engineers almost daily. Mines and booby traps were planted



Photo above:

These soldiers check for mines or traps that Viet Cong may have planted during the night before allowing the bulldozer driver to proceed.

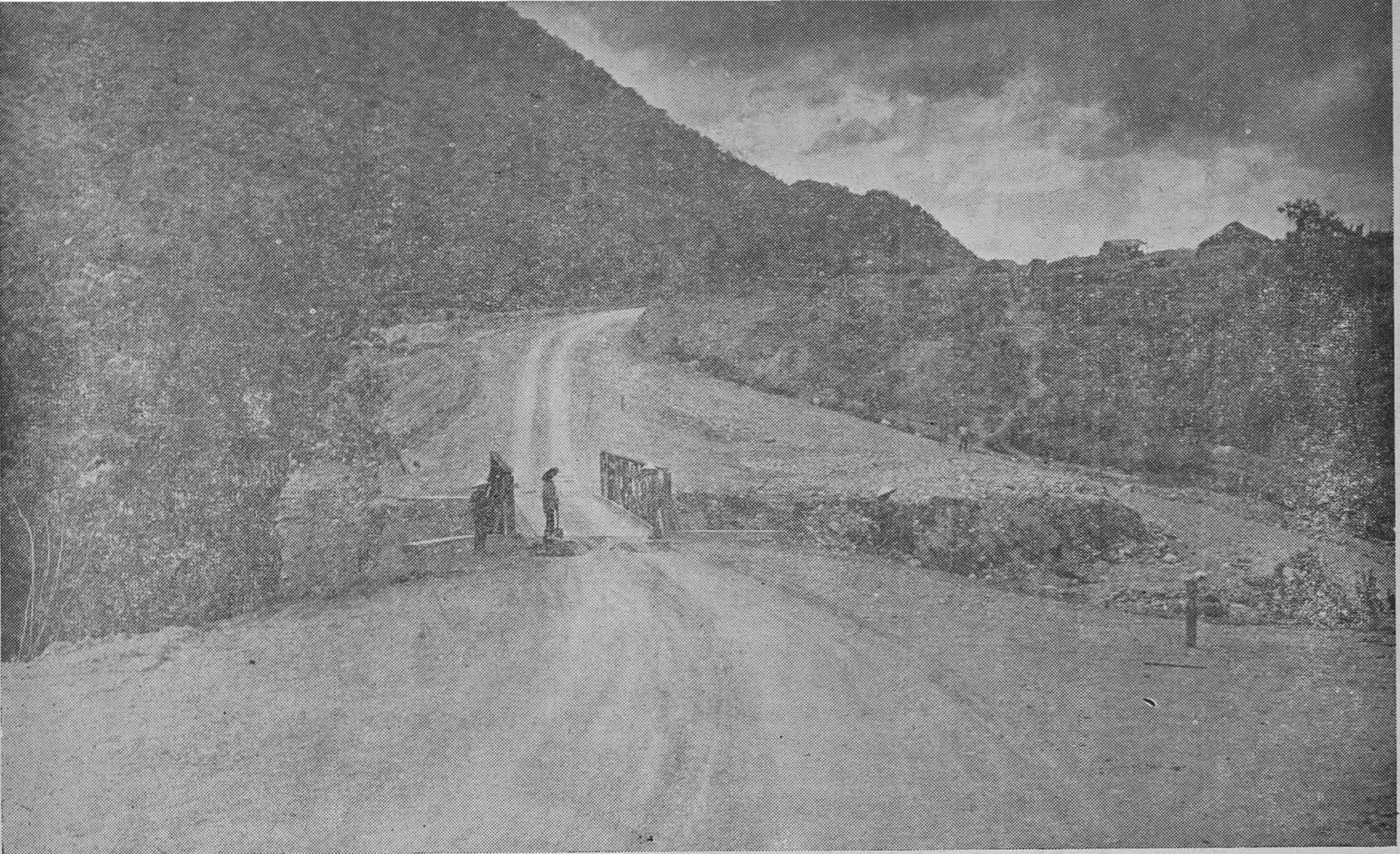
Photo on left below:

Major Fowler studies soil composition with his counter-part, Captain Tran Van Tue. Slopes, grades and angles all had to be carefully planned with soil in mind to insure against washouts during the long winter rains.

Photo on right below:

Major Paul I. Fowler and Engineer commander Captain Pham Van Thai discuss the fine point.





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MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(From page 7)

3.— Social Action

With the completion of the achievements of public Health, an extensive Social Action program has been worked out to create or develop assistance works and thereby to raise the living standard of the working classes, protect the woman and the child, and assist the underprivileged and the victims of natural calamities.

In the populous urban quarters, popular restaurants have been opened where meals are provided for the modest price of five piastres; likewise day nurseries, dispensaries and pre-natal clinics have been made accessible to poor people. Throughout the country, orphans are cared for in 63 orphanages, and delinquent minors are given primary as well as vocational education in view of their rehabilitation. Homes are provided for the aged, and asylums welcome invalid, resourceless and lonely people. Help is given to the victims of natural calamities (floods, typhoons, fires, drought, etc.) by many aid agencies.

In connection with the Government's program of Social Action, particular mention must be made of what has been accomplished for the benefit of our Montagnard compatriots of the Highlands, of whom more than half now live in secure areas. An intensive action is indeed necessary to allow them to catch up rapidly with the country's average standard of living.

Meanwhile 349 adult literacy classes have been held. A total of 10,255 Montagnards are attending classes in 139 elementary schools, 8,867 in 56 primary schools, 635 in secondary schools, and a few study in the universities.

Vocational courses, particularly in the field of handicrafts, enable Montagnards to learn lucrative trades. Others initiate them to new cultivation methods, and farming implements, seeds are given to them.

With regard to health care, the Montagnard Strategic Hamlets already have 362 medical posts, 92 maternities and seven small hospitals. In addition, 24 mobile medical facilities visit them regularly.

This social action for the Montagnards is an integral part of the policy of Collective Advance of all strata of the nation's population.

4.— The Sphere Of Labour

In the same spirit, the workers' condition continues to improve markedly.

judiciously within the framework of implementation of the Second Five-Year Plan. The quick industrial growth already permits an increase of the annual rate of employment. But above all, the consolidation of the Strategic Hamlets offers many new opportunities and, at the same time, the possibility of a more rapid social advancement to the workers.

Likewise in other sectors, as I have already pointed out to you, the Strategic Hamlet system will not fail to have repercussions in the industrial and commercial spheres. The leaders of the employers' associations and of the large labour organizations are in close contact to determine the most favourable conditions for the establishment of certain experimental «pilot strategic enterprises» by the end of this year.

In response to the Government's desire to provide the ever increasing numbers of workers with a basic property on a family basis, this year a few rubber plantations have begun to give a two-hectare plot of land to the families of a number of deserving workers, chosen with the agreement of the Union, and helped to clear the land and plant selected young rubber trees.

THIRD PART

International Life

Within nine years, from the position of a country little known, endowed with a very limited internal and external sovereignty, partitioned by the 1954 Geneva Agreements, Viet Nam has gradually emerged to rank among the countries endowed with full internal sovereignty, and to consolidate her international position.

1.— Viet Nam's International Relations And Foreign Policy

Today, the Republic officially established diplomatic relations with more than 80 countries, that is with nearly all the non-Communist states. Furthermore she has set up embassies, legations or consulates in some 30 countries and representations in 45 others.

The firmness and independence of her foreign policy has won her the sympathy not only of anti-Communist nations, but also of the nations of the Third World (underdeveloped world). She has given her firm support as much to the peoples' emancipation movements as to the uprisings in countries oppressed by Communism, or again to the movements of resistance against the Communists' attempts at conquest.

It is probable that same—if not all—of those projects will be debated by you in the course of this legislature.

The under-employment problem is the object of numerous studies whose aim is to help in distributing human resources

Parliamentary Union. Likewise she has participated in the activities of a number of world organization whether affiliated with the U.N. or not.

oo

Nevertheless, Viet Nam's external relations are unavoidably influenced by the international tension instigated and maintained by Communism to exert a permanent threat to world peace.

2.— Foreign Aid

a) Technical Assistance :

As in past years, Viet Nam continues to benefit from a wide technical assistance.

The various U.N. programmes essentially provide the services of experts, research or studies for development in different fields.

Under the Colombo Plan, the five donor countries—Australia, Japan, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and Canada—sent to Viet Nam experts in different branches in fiscal year 1962-63. Canada in particular has donated wheat flour, while Australia and the United Kingdom have provided agricultural equipment and laboratory material for use in the universities.

Peking has attacked India and continues to dangle the threat of a new war over that country. It is increasing pressure against Free Viet Nam through the Viet Cong and through our neighbouring countries.

With regard to unilateral aid, France has given us an important aid in the cultural field and provided the services of experts, as well as scholarships and training.

The Federal Republic of Germany continues to aid us in the form of experts, equipment and scholarships.

With aid from friendly countries, the Government has always given special attention to the training of our people abroad. In 1962-63, 575 scholarship recipients and 383 other students were authorized to continue their studies abroad, that is 958 in all, of which 463 were in Education, and 127 in Health and Social Welfare.

b) Financial Aid :

In the field of financial aid for economic development, many countries and credit agencies have participated in the implementation of numerous projects :

France has underwritten the financing of the building of the Ha Tien cement works and earmarked NF 70,000,000 for the An Hoa-Nong Son industrial complex.

Other projects totalling an estimated NF 100,000,000 are envisaged.

The Federal Republic of Germany has loaned DM 50,000,000 which rounds out the credits necessary for the realization of the An Hoa-Nong Son industrial complex.

Great Britain has granted us a £580,000 loan to buy dredgers.

The U.S. Development Loan Fund has loaned us US\$ 9.7 million to improve our railways system, US\$ 17.5 million for the Metropolitan Water Office, and US\$ 12.7 million for the Thu Duc power generating plant.

Negotiations are underway with the International Development Association for a US\$ 15 million loan for the ensemble of the university campus at Thu Duc.

C.— Aid To Strategic Hamlets

In the meantime, conscious of the fundamental importance of the strategic hamlets, the friendly countries have brought us an increased aid for the implementation of this programme.

lets, the friendly countries have brought us an increased aid for the implementation of this programme.

Thus Australia has earmarked £250,000 for the purchase of minor equipment and and miscellaneous products such as barbed wire, farm tools, galvanized sheet iron-fertilizer, etc. This credit falls within the framework of a large material assistance for the development of the rural masses.

The Federal Republic of Germany has underwritten a DM 15,000,000 loan to help us import different kinds of goods. The counterpart fund of that amount in Vietnamese piastres will be used for the economic development of the strategic hamlets.

But it is the United States which has brought us the most substantial aid for the realization of the programme. This year the total amount of American aid has reached US\$ 35 million in the form of farm surpluses and exclusive of the technical assistance and a direct aid in the form of equipment.

FOURTH PART

Presentation Of 1964 National Budget

1.— American Aid :

Besides an effective military aid, the American economic aid programme this year gives particular importance to the improvement of the living standard of the rural masses.

Out of a total VN\$ 2.3 billion, nearly 85 per cent is earmarked for different programmes aimed at accelerating the building and developing the infrastructure of the rural economy: agricultural production, agricultural hydraulics, agricultural credit, fisheries, rural schools, rural health.

We express our deep gratitude to the American government and people for their important material aid, and we bow in deep gratitude to the many Americans who have given their lives, and mixed their blood with that of our combatants in the common struggle.

2.— 1964 National Budget

The draft 1964 National Budget, submitted to the consideration of your Assembly in accordance with the Consideration, includes forecasts of appropriations necessary for the operation of the national Public Services and subsidies to provincial budgets.

The Special Economic Development Budget conceived for long-term industrial projects will be presented to this Assembly later. The Special Security Budget will be drawn up according to the special procedure provided by the November 25, 1961 law within the framework of the state of emergency.

(Continued)

Message Of The President Of The Republic To The National Assembly

(from page 15)

All the forecast expenditures of these three budgets for 1964 will reach a total amount to VN\$ 28.5 billion as compared to VN\$ 27 billion in 1963. There will thus be an increase of over five per cent. The national defense requirements alone contained in the Security Budget will absorb a little more than 52 per cent of this total.

The forecast income for the coming fiscal year amounts nearly 19 billion piastres, against 22.5 billion in the 1963 budget. This lower figure results particularly from the reduction of the forecasts of the counterpart funds. Revenue from our own resources shows, in the meantime, an increase of more than three per cent over 1963, or 332 million piastres.

As a result, the total deficit of the 1964 general budget is much greater than that of the current year. It amounts to 9.5 billion piastres, of which 7 billion is used to balance the Armed Forces budget. This figure is high no doubt, but it is an eloquent testimony of the heavy sacrifices accepted by the entire nation in the vital struggle it has been waging on a three-fold front.

When the 1964 draft budget is sent to the National Assembly for consideration, the Government will provide all the necessary explanations on the utilization of the different credits.

3.— A Look Into The Future

In this struggle for a new life against the obstacles thrown up by subversive war and the requirements of the industrial revolution, we must recognize that most of the cadres in the public as well as private sector, particularly those in the higher echelon, have not yet realized thoroughly the historical impact, nor have they accepted all the material, moral and intellectual efforts that such a struggle implies.

We can only defeat Communism and underdevelopment through a clear awareness of our country's realities, through the sacrifice of private selfish interests, however great they may be, through a spirit of creation which keep pace with a fluid situation, and through a discipline freely accepted, for the sake of the salvation of our Fatherland.

Therefore the movement of studies and free discussions, as well as that of total revision of institutions and men, must be pursued with the greatest vigor from the base upwards, from the hamlets to urban centres.

Located as it is at the important intersection of invasion routes, and subjected to a historical situation in which it is emerging from a traditional society into an industrial one, Viet Nam must carry on a sound revolution in all fields in order to protect her independence and assure for herself a future as a free and prosperous people.

With the popular movement of Strategic Hamlets, this third legislature will coincide with the historical stage of the deep transformation of the institutional structure of the State.

I wished thereby to tell you,

Mr. Dean of the Assembly,

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Assembly,

How your role is both delicate and of prime importance amidst the war and the irreversible revolution which is now carrying the entire nation towards a new life which is more free, more just, more prosperous and more fraternal. That, however, is our people's destiny. Let us live up to that destiny through self-control, clear-sightedness, determination and creative imagination. Let us be worthy of our ancestors and the heroes who have given their lives so that a radiant and new life may be ours tomorrow, very soon. Lastly let us be ourselves—Vietnamese,

May the Almighty help us!

— END —

Vietnamese Feasts And Holidays

(From page 11)

The light and shining lacquer with which they cover furniture: desk, tables, chairs, sofas etc...is called *son dau*, a mixture of lacquer of first-rate quality (*son nhut*) and boiled tung-oil.

Wooden Lacquer-Wares

Most of the items to be lacquered are made of wood. But lacquer can be applied also on leather items such as saddles for the mandarins' horses in older times on metal, as on light arms; on cloth and paper, as fans and parasols. In pagodas and temples we can see statues, altars, candle sticks, parasols etc...richly lacquered and gilded.

Process Of Lacquering Wooden Wares

The wood to be used is preferably soft and porous and not hard. It must be well planed and tightly joined by the carpenter. The ware is then treated by the lacquerer who covers it with a first coating of mastic (*son lo*) prepared as it is said above rubs it with a pumice stone. Then a first coating of lacquer (*son hom*) is laid upon it, followed by a careful rubbing with a kind of red stone. Then a second application of lacquer (*son lot*) is made and also followed by a pumicing with a soft tone.

Then the ware is sheltered for some days to dry before decoration. When it is ready

it will be covered with a coat of good, light and shiny lacquer and passed to the decorator for ornamentation. This man draws the designed pictures with a paint brush dipped in the *son thep*. When gold and silver are laid on the pictures he covers them with another thin and transparent lacquer called *son phu* to preserve their brilliancy.

Handicraftsmen

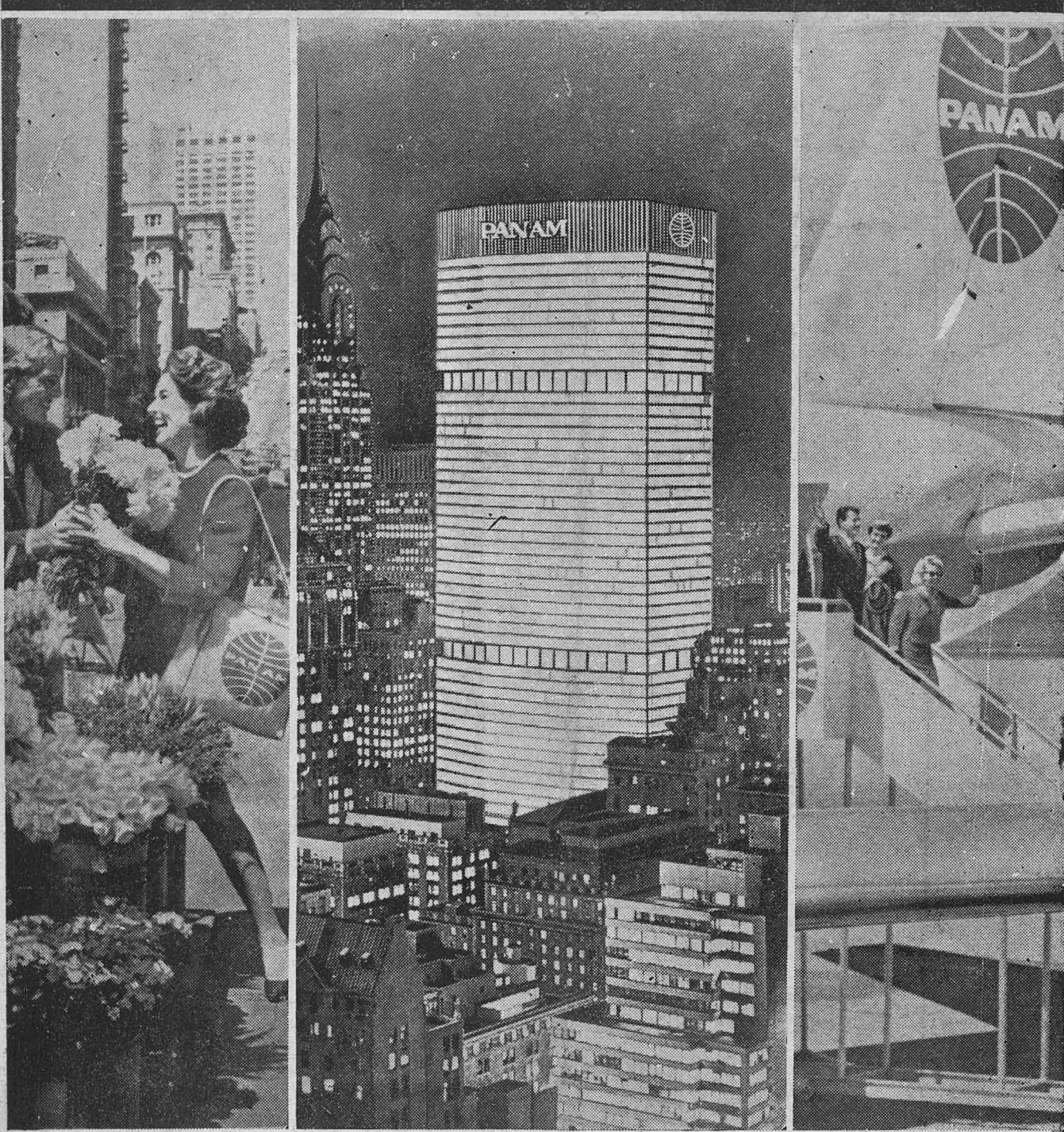
Making Votive Papers

Votive papers are still used on many occasions. They are made in the form of gold sheets (*giay vang*) silver sheets (*giay bac*), gold ingots (*vang ma*, *vang tho*) coins, (*tien*), horses, elephants, fabulous animals and birds, soldiers, man, women, hats, shoes, clothes, dress, houses, vehicles and anything people believe they can burn as offerings to gods, goddesses and the dead.

Gold and silver sheets, ingots and coins are made of paper covered with a coat of powder from any metal or material giving yellow and white colors. All the other items are composed of a bamboo frame covered with thin sheets of gorgeous colors.

On the anniversary of the death of an ancestor, or a member of the family, pe-

(to be continued)



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