

Singer

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NICE-LOOKING APPEARANCE, EMPTY STOMACH

(Opposition paper Tân Dân)

The City decongestioning program has brought to the attention of the persons who are the least interested in it one point which they cannot deny: the beautiful aspect of Saigon City in contrast with its disorder during last years.

Bach Dang Wharf is no longer strewn with tables and chairs, booths, peddlers' carts. The place where there used to be disorder is now occupied by tiny golf grounds, rows of trees nicely trimmed, attractive gardens for children. Many pavements which abounded in booths dealing in every goods, are now empty and "desert like the pagoda of Ba Danh".

From an artistic viewpoint, that beauty maintains the reputation of the Capital of Vietnam known as the Pearl of East Asia...

But from a practical viewpoint, considering the manner of living of the people in recent days, nobody could deny the straitened circumstances of the majority of the poor people earning their living as peddlers as a result of the embellishment of this part of the City. They are deprived of their living means and add to the already considerable number of the unemployed.

After decongestioning operations, merely mentioning the Bach Dang wharf case, there are up to one thousand families deprived of their living means.

On Summer evenings, it is so nice to go to the river bank for fresh air, cool breeze, and so nice to rest one's eyes on the beautiful river bank. This is not "living beauty" but one which lowers the spirit of man, an unproductive, inactive beauty.

Why could not we maintain both the beauty already realized and add food and refreshment stalls on the condition that the stall keepers are required to abide by the regulations of the City concerning the quality standard of stalls, tables and chairs, paint.

Should this suggestion be approved by the City, hundreds of families could resume their brisk activities

and obviously considerable taxes could be collected.

The welfare of the people is not achieved by the prohibition of and restrictions on certain trades, especially those of peddlers. This prohibition is not consistent with the spirit of the Constitution of the Republic.

With a humble suggestion, but with a sincere will of constructiveness on a large scope, we advocate the realization of the welfare of the people since the nice-looking appearance is not sufficient.