

VIETNAMESE WOMEN'S DAY ADDRESS**by**

Madame Ngo Dinh Nhu, Member of the National Assembly, President-Founder of the Vietnamese Women's Solidarity Movement: at the Commemorative Ceremonies in honor of the Trung Sisters, National Heroines

Saigon March 22nd, 1961

My Dear Sisters :

For 2,000 years, the Nation and the Vietnamese women have never forgotten this day. But it is only since the Founder of our Republic, President Ngo, came to power that the Nation has been able to render to the Two Sisters the honor which is due them, and to celebrate with so much luster and solemnity the anniversary of their sacrifice and the evocation of their courage.

It is also thanks to personalism, which characterizes this regime and which — not only on paper, but especially in its actions — recognizes the value of woman and restores her to her rightful station, both as an individual and collectively.

Without fear of being too presumptuous, then, we may say that this era is ours — the era of women. Is this not then the time to prove before the world, to our country and to history, that the greatest mistake a nation can make is to subjugate half of its population for selfish purposes, instead of appreciating its value and utilizing it in good faith and with respect, for the betterment of the entire nation ? This is certainly necessary in order that there to no temptation, especially in this country, to return to the past in things concerning us.

Our task is not so easy — and for this reason the influence of women is even more necessary — for the world in which we live is becoming more and more suffocating, scientifically as well as morally.

While the scientists, urged on by their governments, are turning gray before their test-tubes to find a more efficient means of exterminating humanity, most people whose time is not taken by such a sinister occupation spend their time tearing one another apart in a thousand and one ways.

As a result, we end by discerning among the civilized this strange behavior : consideration and regard only for the evilest ones (the more so if they are insolent, for then they are judged capable of everything and anything) ; leaving in peace only the indifferents, for these people are less apt to fetter the schemes of the seditious. As a defense against this mounting perversion, many find the only solution to be shielding themselves behind a mask of cold and surly mistrust.

There is really nothing so very exciting about moving in such a world !

What to do ? Go home, barricade oneself, raise fences, or retire to some desert isle, if indeed such a thing still exists ? Wait until all these beings whom we preferred to ignore, pushed by the evil we have refused to see, hurl themselves at us, smashing the fences, invading our isle, to give us the lot reserved for cowards, egoists and all the indifferents for whom peace can never be anything but ephemeral and who, sooner or later, must obey a law which they can not amend because they chose not to take part in its establishment ?

Or, is it better to join the evil ones and, swept into the continual and bloody battle they engage in between themselves and against others, try to survive in the hope of an improbable liberation ? That is to say, « spend one's life preparing to live, but never living », as a famous author puts it ?

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Or, should we meekly resign ourselves, as many have already done, confining ourselves in the guise of defense, to shut our hearts and our faces in order not to be hurt? Even if this dries us up and makes us ugly before our time?

But, no! We will do none of this, for these attitudes are not worthy of us. And more, the situation of our country, as well as that of the world, does not permit it. Life has become so grave that we cannot permit ourselves any chidishness, any mistake, any cowardice.

As we all know, the Communist menace weighs heavier and heavier in this world and this and because too many countries — even the best defended — are poorly adapted to the form of the struggle. The strongest prepare for nuclear war and arm themselves to the teeth; the most well-trained practice classical warfare and guard their frontiers day and night. But in vain! Does one shoot at what one does not see? Does one seize something more fluid than air?

It is thus that the war of subversion, for which there has been no preparation, infiltrates under the noses and beards of the great powers, through the thousand loopholes of democratic regimes, flying over and above the frontiers, crossing the oceans, and assisted even in our own ranks by those whose profession or natural inclination causes them to be the benevolent instruments, sometimes unknowingly, of our worst enemies.

The pitiful result of this state of affairs is that confronted by the Communist world — to whom we leave complete peace because we cannot penetrate it — the free world, always on the defensive, is slandered and eaten away little by little. The stake seems no longer to be the partition of the world — but the partition of the free world! By euphemism, we call the incipient beginning of this partition « neutralization, » but it is in effect the same thing. To understand this, it is sufficient to transpose this world problem to our own divided country: What would we become if, instead of being firmly anti-Communist in the South, which counter-balances the activity of the North, we were to become neutral?

Without exaggeration, one can say that if this war of subversion were to have its full effect, the obvious result would be the taking of the entire world without a shot being fired from the most modern of arms, without waves of airplanes leaving their landing fields, without a navy leaving port, and — who knows what else — not moving an inch. I am not inventing tales; a great strategist of the free world has just issued this warning. It is frightening to think that such things could happen because of our frivolity, naievety, evil, fear, envy, or simply because, often incontinence due to our boneless tongues which can turn in any direction, we have howled with the wolves, helping them to create disarray and anarchy in our ranks; worse yet, we have ourselves scattered to the four winds foolishness which undermines the prestige of our leaders, of our institutions and even of our own achievements, these bastions which the enemy hates because they assure our defense.

The free world, and we ourselves, are militarily strong; but if we wish this strength to be fully effective, we must understand that it is necessary to keep pace with an acute consciousness of subversion and the means adequate to wipe it out. Without this, the military strength which has cost us so much, is left in quicksand; and the hinterland, sapped by subversion, will no longer be a source of support, but will be only an immense crowd, demoralized and demoralizing.

This is not vain threat; nor is it pure sophism!

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The free world, and most of us, could hardly hide our satisfaction on learning of the great quarrel between the two Communist blocs over war and the so-called «peaceful co-existence». «At last, they will eat one another's noses and will perhaps annihilate one another and leave us in peace,» some of us sighed with relief.

Nevertheless, this quarrel — if indeed it was a quarrel, if it was not a sinister farce designed to mollify our mistrust and to make us relax our vigilance — ought to make clear to us how much confidence Communism puts in subversion, even in the guise of coexistence, to attain its purpose — the domination of the entire world.

This Communist confidence in subversion is provoked not only by many encouraging results, but also and above all, because it is their only possible way to success. Communism will not win a war by military means, for their armed forces are already too busy maintaining in slavery too many peoples ; they cannot therefore be diverted to huge military offensives without risking the immediate uprising of their oppressed peoples in one great wave against their dictatorship.

Thus, while we wait with arms ready, eyes on the watch, they have already perfidiously installed themselves, just behind us, ready to stab us in the back !

The only solution, you may say, is to find capable and proven leaders, conscious of the danger and with a real understanding of the Communist bag of tricks. It is they who will take in hand all the work, while we have only to tend to our business, heart and mind at ease.

This is, in fact, a solution of sorts. But let us remember that our most capable leaders have each but one brain and only ten fingers, and if all of us, as many as we are, do not try to support their efforts, they also are in danger of falling, dragging us with them in their descent.

We who believe in justice and who have had the good fortune to find just people to lead us and assume the heaviest of our responsibilities, we also stand to lose with them if we do not help them to vanquish — A people should indeed merit its fortune and its leaders.

How many countries are actually under the Communist yoke, are moaning under it, who are hardly inferior to us in courage, strength and intelligence ? Victims of mischance, we may say. But it is not impossible that they owe their servitude to a brief moment of blindness indifference, cowardice or simply ingratitude and lack of appreciation for their leaders and their achievements. That moment may not have had an immediate effect, but the results were not the less mortal in the end.

The Trung Sisters died in defeat and the whole country fell with them. History recalls our small number in the face of the enemy ; but we have vanquished our enemies on other occasions with the same number, against the same numbers. The fault seems to have been more in the intrigue born of envy and ingratitude which grew in the ranks of the two heroines during their reign.

The people paid for these moments of blindness and sickleness — paid with grim centuries of submission and invasion.

Do we wish to risk falling once more into servitude because of the same sins vis-a-vis our country and our leaders ? To wait while the Communists, after having exploited our faults to their advantage, throw themselves into the assault of our country and crush us like rotten fruit ? Would we not prefer to take the post of the Trung Sisters and efface the affront which was made to them, this affront which continues even now ?

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The lies which the lackeys of our national enemies profer now regarding them, regarding us are only intolerable insolence. The dishonorable activities of these devilish beings, whose inhuman doctrine attempts to propagate itself only by the vilest means — lies and terrorism, veritable rape when aimed at a population — inspires the same indignation.

As long as this state of things continues, we must not consider ourselves out of debt; no more to ourselves than to our country, our enslaved sisters in the North, and our heroes.

The only way to acquit ourselves, as well as to protect us an ours, is to organize, my dear sisters, organize ourselves into a force — united, intelligent, ready to help one another in the most effective way, capable of instructing the ignorant, of unmasking the malefactors, of aiding the weak and oppressed; a force which will break down the evils of humanity, so that the enemy cannot find in our ranks its usual and complacent accomplices.

The women of Viet Nam are fully capable of realizing such a force, I know. For since, I have come to know you better, I can tell you, my dear sisters, that working with you and in our forward march, going in concert with you, is a most exalting experience. This experience we shall soon share together on a national scale. Thanks to the determination and the invincible spirit that the Trung Sisters have bequeathed us, we can be sure that their army, the victorious one, will soon be revived. It is only waiting for our decision.

VIETNAMESE WOMEN'S DAY—RESOLUTION OF THE VIETNAMESE WOMEN ON THE OCCASION OF THE TRUNG SISTERS' ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS IN SAIGON, 22 MARCH 1961

— CONSIDERING that Communist materialism and atheism is only an inhuman doctrine, treading on human dignity, destroying all the sacred national and family sentiments;

— CONSIDERING that the mission of the Vietnamese women is to continue the tradition of the Trung Sisters, fighting fighting for the Fatherland and Family against invasion, despotism and exploitation, whatever form they take or from wherever they come; and

— CONSIDERING that the Vietnamese Republican Regime has introduced a new era for the emancipation of women and has created favorable conditions for the evolution of the Vietnamese woman in all the phases of her life,

WE, THE VIETNAMESE WOMEN, HEREBY RESOLVE :

1. — To follow the path of the Trung Sisters; to improve ourselves each day in order to make up a strong and well-trained force to fight effectively against all forms and aspects of Communism, for the safeguard of our families, our Fatherland and mankind;

2. — To free our Sisters in the North, who are being exploited by the Viet Cong under the cover of the « socialization program of North Viet Nam » in order to strive together toward Peace and National Unity in freedom and prosperity; and

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3. — To participate positively and judiciously in the election of President and Vice President, to dramatize the decisive role of women in the nation-wide choice of a Chief of State who is fundamentally anti-Communist and who has effectively defended the legitimate rights of women.

VIET CONG MINE RETURNING CONG HOA CAMPERS

A car carrying a group of Cong Hoa girls who were returning to their homes in Phuoc Tuy province on Thursday after participating in the Nhi Trung camp, struck a mine laid by the rebels of the «Front for the Liberation of South Viet Nam», at Phu My.

Two of the girls died at Cho Ray hospital where they were taken for treatment together with ten other wounded. Of these, four are reported to be in a critical condition.

CAMBODIAN-BORN VIETNAMESE DENOUNCE EXTERNAL SUBVERSION

Delegates of monks and Vietnamese people of Cambodian descent throughout Vinh Binh province met at Phu Vinh last Wednesday to formulate a statement designed to inform public opinion following the publication by the press of a neighbouring country of articles detrimental to the Government of the Republic of Viet Nam.

The statement stressed the following points :

— There is no discrimination among Vietnamese people whether they are of Chinese, Cambodian or of other origin. They have lived united in the past and continue to live in harmony in the present. All Vietnamese people form one nation working for the development of their land.

— On the practical level, democratic principles are applied to each and every citizen regardless of origin. For instance, all have equally contributed to the agroville projects and equally benefitted from them. At Long Vinh agroville 121 families of Cambodian origin were given houses and ricefields ; at An Truong 37 families were granted ownerships of the land they tilled. All together 4,028 families of Cambodian origin benefitted from the land reform in Vinh Binh province and from loans totalling six million piastres last year.

— Six years after it regained its independence Viet Nam's achievements not only surprise the world but also have raised the country to the level of other developed countries in the Far East. Such magnificent results were attained thanks to the enlightened leadership of President Ngo Dinh Diem who has carried out a policy which meets the aspirations of the people. Because of these achievements and because they can live in a democratic country, all the people of Cambodian origin in Vinh Binh province, feel very privileged to be included in the nation which has a past record of heroic deeds, which is now progressing steadily and which has a very promising future.

FIRST ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS GRADUATED

The Secretary of State for Education, Mr. Tran Huu The, presided at the graduation of the first class of 25 electrical engineers at the National Technical Centre at Phu Tho on Saturday. He personally presented the diploma to Mr. Ngo Duc Huan, who recorded the highest grade.

In his welcoming speech, the school director, Mr. Le Si Ngac, described the major phases marking the development of advanced technical education in Viet Nam and of the Advanced School of Electricity. Four years ago, he said, the school was merely composed of a series of classrooms and a radio laboratory with worn-out equipment inherited from the former school.