

VIETNAMESE WOMEN'S DAY : MADAME NGO DINH NHU
UNVEILS HAI BA TRUNG MEMORIAL

Saigon (VP) March 11

Madame Ngo Dinh Nhu, Deputy to the National Assembly and President-Founder of the Vietnamese Women's Solidarity Movement, this morning presided at the ceremony held at Me Linh Place to mark the anniversary of the Trung Sisters. These two are Viet Nam's heroines who raised the flag of revolution against invaders and subsequently wrote a glorious page in Viet Nam's history.

The commemorative ceremony marked the beginning of the celebration of the Vietnamese Women's Day.

The celebration site offered an impressive show to the spectators. The public stands were colourful with national flags flying high. In front of them stood the heroines' memorial. At the foot of the memorial was an altar where odorous incense and the smoke of burning joss-sticks rose into the sky, and nearby a large red table held the drums and the set of eight instruments for the rite. In front of the altar two girl students representing the heroines rode elephants with 10 guards on horseback each.

The Gia Long High School students, all dressed in blue, stood at the back of the memorial while around it were the blue-uniformed paramilitary women of the first "Quyet Thang" class carrying flags. Early spectators crowded both sides of the streets leading to Me Linh Place.

The VWSM central executive committee members sat on the grand stand along with Mr. Truong Vinh Le, Chairman of the National Assembly, Mr. Vuong Quang Nhuong, Chairman of the Constitutional Court, Cabinet members, representatives of the Diplomatic Corps, officers of the Armed Forces and deputies to the National Assembly.

Madame Ngo Dinh Nhu inaugurates memorial :

The commemorative ceremony began at 3:30 a.m. This year's ceremony was especially highlighted by the inauguration of the Hai Ba Trung memorial, which added all the more to the impressiveness and significance of the event.

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After the arrival of Madame Ngo Dinh Nhu, the ceremony began with the National Anthem and a minute of silent homage to the heroines. Then three series of nine gong beats broke the still air and meditative atmosphere, after which the Gia Long students sang the "Trung Nu Vuong" song.

In her opening speech, Deputy Mrs. Nguyen Van La, the chairman of the Vietnamese Women Day organizing committee, revealed that despite many difficulties the day's celebration was not only as impressive as in previous years but even more widely celebrated thanks to the spirit of assistance of Free World women and also the dedication of the Vietnamese women.

Thus, the Vietnamese women have given eloquent evidence of their indomitable determination to follow the example of the Trung Sisters to preserve their nation and give glory to the women of Viet Nam.

Following Mrs. Nguyen Van La's speech, Madame Ngo Dinh Nhu came to the memorial and cut the blue ribbon which symbolically covered the statue to inaugurate the monument amidst the deafening cheers of the spectators. At that moment the fountains around began to spout.

ADDRESS OF MADAME NGO DINH NHU :

Then Madame Ngo Dinh Nhu delivered her address to the Vietnamese women. (The full speech is reproduced in the following pages).

DECORATIONS FOR THREE EXEMPLARY WOMEN :

At this ceremony, three exemplary Vietnamese women were decorated by Madame Ngo Dinh Nhu on behalf of the President of the Republic. They were cited for their high sense of responsibility, their fighting spirit against the Viet Cong, and their virtuous model lives for the whole nation.

Mrs. Nguyen Thi Diep, 47, who participated in the development of social services at Tuy An hamlet, Phu Yen province, even though of modest means. She has contributed labour, money and many sacrifices. She was made a Knight of the National Order.

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Mrs. To Thi Go, 36, of Hoc Mon district, Gia Dinh province, has a true nationalist sense and has spread the sense of justice in her hamlet. She is an effective member of the National Revolutionary Movement and though abducted and threatened by the Viet Cong, she kept up an unwavering spirit of resistance to Viet Cong. The President has granted her the Cross of Valiance with Silver Star.

The last is Mrs. Nguyen Thi Diem who received the Cross of Merit. Her husband, a hamlet chief, killed by the Viet Cong, left her without any means to support their children. Through many sacrifices she was able to rear them properly and all in her village agree that she is a kind, virtuous and perfect woman.

VIETNAMESE WOMEN'S RESOLUTION :

Mrs. Nguyen Phuoc Dai on behalf of the Vietnamese women then read the resolution of the Vietnamese women. (The text of the resolution is published in the following pages).

Floats :

The next part of the programme was a demonstration of basic maneuvers by the "Quyet Thang" Paramilitary class, followed by a civic parade and floral float procession.

The two girls portraying the Trung Sisters rode two elephants, and were dressed in yellow with turbans on their heads and swords slung across their backs. Escorted by 20 horsemen they paraded in front of the public stands amid enthusiastic cheers. They were followed by a 20 marvellous floats contributed by various organizations and schools. Slowly they rode past the Me Linh Place.

Each float depicted either a bird or a boat. Their common feature, special to this year, was that each one illustrated the Vietnamese women's participation in national activities.

The ceremony ended around 10:30 a.m. when representatives of the organizing committee took the three exemplary women to the Independence Palace for introduction to the President of the Republic.

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VIETNAMESE WOMEN'S DAY
Address by Madame NGO DINH NHU,
Deputy to the National Assembly,
Chairman-Founder of the Vietnamese
Women's Solidarity Movement
at the Commemorative Ceremony Honoring
the TRUNG SISTERS, National Heroines.

Saigon, March 11, 1962

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure and a great honor for all the women of Viet Nam together with me to inaugurate this monument and square dedicated to the Trung Sisters. Our pride is the greater because this monument is certainly the first of its kind in modern Viet Nam. This inauguration could not have taken place, however, without the efficient, enthusiastic and devoted cooperation of innumerable people of good will. Among these I must first name winner of the Grand Prix de Rome for Sculpture Nguyen Van The, winner of the Grand Prix de Rome for Architecture Ngo Viet Thu, well known to all of you here, and his assistants, Reconstruction Service Chief Tran Van Nam and his engineers; and Prefect Vu Tien Huan and his assistants. They spared neither time nor effort in order that this monument and this square, the costs of construction and arrangement for which are almost entirely paid by the active members and sympathisers of the Vietnamese Women's Solidarity Movement, could be inaugurated on this Women's Day.

To all those who have contributed to make it possible for the Vietnamese Women's Solidarity Movement to have the great privilege of offering this monument and this square to the Capital on behalf of the Vietnamese Women, I wish to express my heartfelt thanks.

As you see, this monument represents two typically Vietnamese Women, Trung Trac and Trung Nhi. To model them Sculptor Nguyen Van The looked at none other than the many Vietnamese Women in the villages and towns which he has visited so often while touring the Republic of Viet Nam. One of them, Trung Nhi, faces the mouth of the sea in an attitude full of resolution and vigilance. The other, Trung Trac, the elder, faces the North. With sword half-drawn from her scabbard, she stands ready to march forward into battle. The two sisters have their hands firmly and fraternally clasped, symbolizing indissoluble solidarity.

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VIETNAMESE WOMEN'S DAY (2)

If we notice also that, with their backs to one another, together they watch the full circle of the horizon, we will understand how much this symbolic monument expresses the admirable desire of the Vietnamese Women to follow the example of the Trung Sisters.

My dear Sisters,

I have briefly commented on this monument, to the creation of which you have all contributed with such enthusiasm. I now want to speak of the way of achieving the goal which every Vietnamese patriot contemplates and which you have aided to define and personify in so beautiful a manner. This goal is none other than the defense of Viet Nam against all invasions and all oppressions, no matter from whence they come.

We must therefore first understand the principles of Union, whether with a small or a capital "U," in order to apply them to ourselves, this famous union which you hear of so incessantly and which risks losing its very meaning because so many crimes are committed in its name.

Yet there is no need to define this word: the important thing is not to degrade or betray it. Indeed, a basket of crabs can also represent union -- and even a nest of vipers; but it is difficult to call union an enclosure wherein good and wicked are locked together. Union for all of us and one and for all is the union of sane elements who are determined to rebuild the country, to build liberty in spite of and in the face of everything, and who are also determined to detect in order to annihilate the hypocritical traitors to the fatherland who dare to infiltrate into the national ranks to sow trouble and disorder.

Our oneness will never be a disorderly collection of individuals who pull themselves in different directions for only one purpose, that of individual self-interest. Our union, drawing its strength from unity and discipline, will track down, neutralize and extirpate all of the society's scabby sheep, enemies of this Personalist Regime which pledges to bring forth solutions to the problems of an under-developed country and to ensure independence, liberty and happiness to all.

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VIETNAMESE WOMEN'S DAY (3)

I believe it might be well for people to know what we, the Women of Viet Nam, think of this.

Aside from the howling of the Communist wolves, we are really surprised to see a section, reputedly serious, of the people of the Free World continue to mouth certain sermons of pseudo-liberalism which indeed are an insult to the democratic principles of Free Viet Nam. Even now, we continue to hear those various professors es-liberty, unaware of reality, proclaim that the political and philosophical ideal of the Republic of Viet Nam is not "attractive" enough to draw the masses of people. According to them; Communism and its lies are much more appealing to the suffering populations.

As so-called "evidence," they put forward the state of insecurity in the villages -- a sign, they say, of the indifference of the people who, because they have no sympathy for the Personalist regime, abstain from taking sides and allow the enemy to settle in.

But, if this were the case, why does not Western Democracy, with its political and philosophical ideals of which it is so proud, with its immense natural resources and its powerful armed strength, succeed in drawing to it any under-developed and defenseless countries?

If it is true that a doctrine is satisfactory only if the people are willing to fight bare-handed for it -- then why have the under-developed and defenseless countries refused to rally to Western Democracies in their fright of Communism? And why are those Western Democracies, which demand so little that they are satisfied with apparent neutrality from anyone, so demanding regarding Viet Nam? So demanding in fact that, without even attempting to understand its Personalist doctrine, they will take it into consideration only if the people will fight bare-handed for it?

The truth is, in fact, simple. Human beings require minimum conditions of security to exercise their free will. If materially they are not able to oppose the blows of the evil, they will not dare to openly side with the good. Personalism, which is pragmatic, recognizes such an elementary truth. With horror (to avoid saying nausea) it witnesses the progress of neutralism in the world, favored by the inability of Western Democracy to really protect all those that Communism covets.

VIETNAMESE WOMEN'S DAY (4)

Therefore, if some poor peasants of Viet Nam, like the timorous neutralists of the Free World, do not always dare to openly take sides and know only how to tolerate the Communists when they invade their villages, sighing with relief when they leave, chased out by stronger forces, it is because the Personalist Republic of Viet Nam, like the Free World -- but with much more excuse -- has not been able to protect the rural areas as effectively as it should have.

But if it has not been able to do this, the reason is simple and clear. In 1955, the Personalist Republic of Viet Nam was faced with the urgent necessity of building well-armed and well-trained paramilitary forces living among the people in the hamlets, villages, and districts to protect them. A conventionally organized and equipped army, that is one with a base, would then have come to the rescue of these local forces only in case of serious attack in an exposed area.

But, Viet Nam, which is poor and cannot afford an army comparable to that of the Communists who pour all their material means into war purposes rather than peace purposes, has had to face the greatest difficulties in training and equipping another paramilitary army, especially when its allies refused to recognize the need for such forces.

That is the only reason for the insecurity in the rural areas.

To welcome the claims of the Communists who allege "an unpopular regime, an incapable government," et cetera, to justify -- with the irresponsible assistance of certain elements of the Western world -- their own subversion, is indicative either that one is too naive or that one sees the mote in his brother's eye and not the beam in his own.

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Viet Nam is situated at such an important spot on the globe and its neighbor is such a monster that it cannot afford any weakness or childishness. And it is weak, and it is childish to waste one's time, especially now, in defaming without foundation the leaders who refuse any compromise and who have decided to give their lives for the country. The more, it is abject to make obsequious bows to foreigners so that they will listen to and disseminate certain extravagant statements.

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VIETNAMESE WOMEN'S DAY (5)

Lastly, it is criminal to listen to those who excite to murder and stir up disorder, be they foreigners or not. At worst, one can play with fire in countries where security prevails, but not in our country where all the forces of evil have leagued together to capture it -- chiefly when our dear Viet Nam could so rapidly become an example of intelligent democracy appropriate to Asia.

For we who know what the Personalist regime is and who understand that it offers the only solution to underdeveloped countries on the road to independence, liberty and happiness, it is imperative for us to give all our strength to achieving the security without which Viet Nam cannot live and to immediately implement the resolutions we take today which, after me and on your behalf, one of our sisters will proclaim.

From now on we shall not face the same difficulties as in the past, because for each problem we have drawn not only a solution, but also a plan and a program. To the extent possible, we have gathered the material means to implement these.

The thing we may be short of is manpower, for our country is lacking in cadres. But that is why we women can play so vital a role in this crucial period.

Each woman must now nurture the great ambition of being a factor in the victory of our threatened and persecuted country.

Let us glance backward only for a brief moment to see what we have accomplished in such a short time and we shall understand that in doing our utmost we shall achieve the ideal of the Trung Sisters thanks to ourselves, their proud descendants.

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RESOLUTION OF THE VIETNAMESE WOMEN
ON VIETNAMESE WOMEN'S DAY
March 11, 1962

I - Whereas the Personalist Regime is the only way for the people, especially those in underdeveloped countries, to achieve independence, liberty and happiness because it considers man free and responsible in his intimate reality, community life and transcendent calling: because it considers labour an asset for creation and full development infinitely superior to mere possession: because its community work system never exploits the individual but seeks to give each family enough property to free it from dependence: because its principle of collective advancement provides all communities with facilities needed by each family and betrays no one because of its basic principles of true respect for human beings for whom all fundamental liberty and property must be secured:

II - Whereas, all the forces of evil are presently grouping together against Viet Nam in order to hinder the success of a doctrine which would open the way for all underdeveloped countries from philosophical, political and economic aspects alike;

III - Whereas, Communism is the most devilishly evil force because it automatically uses only hatred, lies and terror to achieve its goals;

IV - Whereas, in this struggle to the end, there are still in countries, long under foreign domination, too many backward, naive or misled elements who, with more or less irresponsibility, serve the enemies of the Vietnamese people;

V - Whereas, the feminine force has not yet given its utmost in this fight;

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RESOLUTION OF (2)

All the women of Viet Nam hereby resolve :

- 1) To organize en masse to face the enemy on all fronts;
- 2) To make an immense and concerted effort to inform the ignorant, to guide the misled, to unmask and destroy the wicked;
- 3) To protect and disseminate through words and acts the Personalist Regime that the forces of evil attack so atrociously and to defend until the end the integrity and independence of Viet Nam against any oppression from wherever it may come.

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