

Dan's  
Statement File  
Political Parties

Tu Do, April 17, 1958

ACTIVITIES OF OPPOSITION PARTIES

What Accounts for the Existence of a Bloc and a Party?

- \* Mr. Phan Quang Dan explains that the Democratic Party he is regularizing is the same with the Republic Party established in 1949.
- \* Temporarily called the Democratic Party, it will be given another designation.
- \* Mr. Hoang Co Thuy is designated Secretary General after a period of ten months during which he did not have official relations with the Democratic Bloc.
- \* The National Assembly in 1959 compared to the present one will be a progress if ...

(Letter from Mr. Phan Quang Dan  
to Tu-Do paper)

Note of the Editor.— In Tu Do paper of April 14, 1958, we announced the division of the Opposition Democratic Bloc into a Bloc and a Party. We reproduce hereunder the letter just received from Dr. Phan Quang Dan referring to the division mentioned above. Mr. Dan's explanations on the Party are rather clear although he does not indicate the reason why he withdrew from the Bloc to reform the Party. As for the Bloc of Mr. Hoang Co Thuy, one has not yet known what will be the explanations.

x x x  
x x  
x

Gia Dinh, April 15, 1958

To the TU-DO paper,

The news your paper have published regarding me and the Democratic Bloc are true in general. But for the public not being aware of the facts, these news may not be understood as was remarked in your issue of April 14. Therefore, I venture to give the following explanations.

BLOC AND PARTY

In 1949, I established the Republic Party and carried on activities under that designation, especially abroad until I returned in 1955. For the past three years, I have concentrated my efforts on the alliance of opposition parties to form an opposition organization legal, constructive and advocating non-violation. Therefore, after the dissolution of the Popular Revolutionary Council, I got in touch with the remaining comrades to resume working in the framework of the Council. After this, the National Assembly Bloc was established to struggle for a democratic National Assembly. But a few months after, for one reason and another, part of my comrades were arrested and in fact, the National Assembly Bloc no longer existed. Following this, the Democratic Bloc was organized and I was designated Secretary General until April 11, 1958.

By Bloc, as well as by Front, one means the league of many political parties sharing the same views on a number of essential questions. After three years of activities in allying political parties, I have reached the following conclusions:

- 1) I deem it advisable to unite political parties into a few strong ones.
- 2) In present national groups, either working openly or covertly, many approve of this union.
- 3) But from a practical viewpoint, I find that we do not yet have propitious circumstances for so doing. I think that the political atmosphere should be more open, that political parties must be allowed to work overtly, and that only then does the alliance of political parties have sufficient conditions to materialize and last a long time.

Based on remarks mentioned above, in an extraordinary meeting of the Democratic Bloc held on April 11, 1958, I stated the following:

"I and male and female members of the Republic Party, have decided as a result of discussions to confine our activities temporarily within the sphere of the Party pending more propitious circumstances which make possible an alliance with political groups sharing our views in order to establish a broad Democratic National Front.

## NEW SECRETARY GENERAL

From June 6, 1957 to April 11, 1958, lawyer HOANG CO THUY neither had official relations with the Democratic Bloc nor joined in the activities of the Bloc. But according to what I was told, lawyer THUY was requested to assume his responsibility as Secretary General.

## PARTY REGULARIZATION

In a meeting held on April 11, 1958, I also stated the following:

"Although we oppose the present Government in many respects and do not approve of a number of laws in force, we always advocate a struggle permitted by law in order to improve and strengthen the Republic <sup>an</sup> Regime. Therefore, we decide to comply with administrative procedures while regularizing our Party. This activity also tends to pave the way for the establishment of a national democratic front to which we are looking forward, because many united legal political parties will serve as the foundation of a legal front entitled to start its activities immediately."

The Republic <sup>an</sup> Party established since 1949 has never been registered. Under this designation, we stressed the aims of our struggle to overthrow a monarchy subject to the colonialists in order to establish an independent Republic. Now that the republic regime is promulgated, every Vietnamese citizen is a Republican. Our main activities aim at struggling to broaden a free democracy, so that the entire people may participate to the reconstruction of the country, contribute to solve political, economic, social and cultural problems. With a view to marking a shift in our main activities, our Party will be registered under a new designation. But we will choose a designation differentiating it from the Democratic Party to avoid any misunderstanding on the part of the public.

## THE THOI LUAN PAPER CASE.

In the hearing given on March 13, 1958 to try the THOI LUAN paper, I stated that I was not the author of the accused article which the Court imputed to me. My articles have been all signed clearly: PHAN QUANG DAN.

From the beginning of November 1957, I did not contribute to the THOI LUAN paper. That statement only determined the responsibilities clearly and accurately and did not imply a segregation. If I could not contribute to the paper, it was only because I was too busy for so doing.

CONCERNING THE "THIET THUC" PAPER.

*To*  
I applied ~~from~~ the Department of Information for the authorization of issuing a newspaper by the name of "THIET THUC". The "THIET THUC" used to be a paper serving in 1945-1946 as a struggle instrument of the People's Movement against the Communists & Colonialists (\*See footnote).

MAKING READY FOR THE FORTHCOMING NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTION

*X*  
As indicated in your paper, a main point in our program is to make ready from this very moment for the forthcoming National Assembly Election.

We very much welcome your appeal to all Vietnamese citizens to make ready for that election (article on Standpoint of April 12, 1958).

We venture to add only that if nationals are free to conduct their political activities from this very moment, only then does the forthcoming election of the National Assembly in 1959 have a democratic character and the people hope that the forthcoming National Assembly compared to the present one will be a progress.

PHAN QUANG DAN

(\*) The People's Movement conducting its activities in 1945-1946 in Hanoi occupied the whole area of Ngu-Xa North-West of Hanoi with the purpose to reconcile the conflict between national revolutionary parties and the Communist Viet Minh party and advocated the establishment of a Vietnamese Republic represented by the President. The People's Movement broke up after Ho-Chi-Minh signed the Preliminary Agreement on March 6, 1946, under which the invading French troops landed in North Vietnam. The Communists leaned on the French strength to repress national parties. PHAN HUY DAN was member of this People's Movement. (Note of the Editor.)