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Embassy of Viet-Nam
Washington, D.C.

April 16, 1959

Dr. Wesley R. Fishel
Department of Political Science
Michigan State University
East Lansing, Michigan.

Dear Dr. Fishel,

With reference to your letter of April 13, I am glad to answer your queries as best I can in the limited time available.

1. The National Assembly of North Viet-Nam has supposedly a total membership of 350. At the full meeting held on March 2, 1946 only 302 members were present. Since that time no elections have been held for the Assembly. It is safe to estimate that the present membership is well below three hundred. In fact only the permanent standing committee has been functioning.

2. The length of the coastline of Viet-Nam from the border of China to the Gulf of Siam is approximately 1,260 miles.

3. Population figures are:

(a) South Viet-Nam (below the 17th parallel) 12,200,000.

(b) North Viet-Nam (above the 17th parallel) 13,000,000.

(c) In South Viet-Nam 20 percent of the population are in the cities, the rest are in the rural areas. For the Republic of Viet-Nam, the density population is 71 per square kilometer. In the rural area of South Viet-Nam the density population is 115 per square kilometer. Density population in the highlands is 9 per square kilometer, and in central Viet-Nam it is 87 per square kilometer.

Population figures for Communist North Viet-Nam are not as yet available.

4. Data on schools in the DRV are not as yet available.

3864
1661
52
5577

5. In South Viet-Nam in 1958 there were 52 public high schools with an attendance of 41,340 students. Concerning elementary schools, according to the "Times" of Viet-Nam (January 7, 1959), Viet-Nam has 3,864 public schools and 1,661 private schools with 18,544 teachers and an enrollment of 1,037,465 pupils.

6. We do not have any data available as yet on the total mileage of roads, paved or dirt, in North Viet-Nam (DRV).

7. At the present time there are five radio stations in the Republic of Viet-Nam - Saigon, Dalat, Hue, Nha Trang and an Army station.

According to Director Buu Tho, the Vietnamese Broadcasting Service is planning to expand its broadcasting network in Viet-Nam within the current year.

Cities scheduled to have their own regional stations include Phan Thiet, Qui Nhon, Quang Ngai, Da Nang (in Central Viet-Nam), Pleiku, Banmethuot, and Soc Trang.

These stations will provide short local emissions and relay Saigon broadcasts.

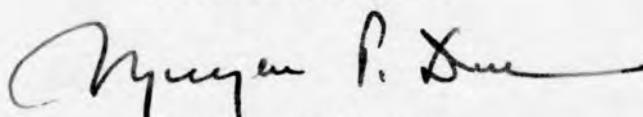
8. The main radio station in DRV is at Hanoi. In addition, the newspaper "Nhan Dan" of July 3, 1957 announced that the foundation of a radio reception center at Que Duong, province of Hadong had been completed. The newspaper "Hanoi Hang Ngay" also announced on July 13, 1957, that a Russian plant at Novosibisk (?) had just completed manufacturing a 100-meter high radio transmitter for the DRV.

9. Arbitration for minor civil disputes is frequently made by local administrators.

Thank you for your kind remarks about the "News From Viet-Nam". The twenty copies which you requested of the March 30, 1959 issue have been sent to you under separate cover.

If I can be of further assistance please do not hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely yours,



Nguyen Phu Duc
First Secretary