

# BN Acts against Corruption

Yuan Tung Jih Pao (Chelon, Chinese), Mar 20, 1958

Saigon Assize court on morning of Mar 19 sentenced in absentia Ho Thong Minh, former Defense Minister, to 15 years hard labor and 1 million Piastre fine for embezzlement of public funds. Court also called for confiscation of his properties and for his national degradation. When Minh succeeded Le Ngoc Chan as Def Min, he reached an agreement w/a certain French firm on purchase of 15,000 prefab'd houses totaling \$ 45,635,000 \$VN. His actions became suspicious when on 2/24/55, he ordered acctg service to pay the French firm immediately on pretext that he would be leaving on an inspection tour. Instead, he fled.

Tieng Chuong (Saigon, VNese) Sept 12, 1958

Min Finance, by decree of Aug 30, charged Maj. Gen. Ng. Van Hinh w/misappropriating 50,000 \$VN from pub funds, money given him for mission to France in 1953 and he did not return. Also, same date, Min Fin charged Col. Ng Van Vy w/embezzling 86,370 \$VN, advanced to him in 1953 to repair Gia Long Palace, and never acctd for.

Saigon, Tu Do, Oct 11, 1958

Tran Huu Cuu Chan, a former cabinet min, was brought before court of first instance on Oct 10, to answer a charge of swindling \$ 100,000 \$VN from a contractor. Court found him guilty, sentenced him to 3 mos in prison, and ordered him to reimburse his accuser.

Ngon Luan, Saigon, Nov 22, 1958

Army Capt Ngo Van Chuyen, district chief of Cai Nuoc district, An Xuyen Province, arrested on Nov 11 for taking a bribe fr/a woman whose husband, a commie agent, was recently apprehended by local authorities. After taking the bribe he released the woman's husband.

Saigon, Buoi Sang, Nov 28, 1959

On Nov 27, Presirepublic signed decree dismissing Ng Xuan Quyen, dir gen of land registration and topog survey, who was recently jailed for engaging in subversive activities harmful to natl security. Dismissal as from Sept 3, 1958.

Saigon, Dan Nguyen, Nov 29, 1958

Capt Ng Van Ha and Lt Duong Hong Son, chief and dep chief of Darlac province civ gd, have been put in jail for misappropriating more than 1 million p's fr/public funds.

Tin Moi, Dec 13, 1958

Arrest and finement of Lt. Col. Tran Quoc Dung, corps of engineers, for having embezzled 10 million \$VN from natl def funds. Many contractors involved in this affair and as much as 40 mil \$VN involved. Investigations continue.

Tu Do, Dec 19, 1958

Lt. Col Dung was chief of directorate of construction and public bldgs; was charged w/taking bribe fr/ civ contractor Tran Van Nham, who also was jailed

for embezzling more than 2 mil \$VN fr/ MinDef funds.

VNPress, English, 12/23, 1958

Art. 1 of draft bill No. 71, voted by Natl Assembly on Dec 22, 1958, provides death penalty for any civil servant, mil person, or elected official convicted of embezzling over 2 mil \$VN from pub funds.

Tu Do, Jan 8, 1959

Maj Do Duc Trung, also of directorate of const and pub bldg in capital mil zone, cashiered and jailed; reportedly involved in embezzlement of pub funds by civ contractors and in an opium-smuggling ring recently discovered in Gia Dinh province.

Press Freedom, Violations of, etc.

Tu Do, Mar 3, 1958

VNPress Agency has disclosed that because of its articles which were considered harmful to the natl security, the Mar. 2 issue of the weekly THOI LUAN was seized by the authorities. It is learned that Nghiem ~~xxxx~~ Xuan Thien, publisher of the weekly, has applied for authorization fr/the Saigon Pref're to hold a press conference to reveal the motives behind the seizure of the issue.

(decree used for the seizure dated to Bao Dai govt of 1945: provides that any paper making prop for communism can be seized.)

Cholon, Yuan Tung Jih Pao (Chinese), Mar 10, 1958

Nghiem Xuan Thien, publisher, and Phan Quang Dan, editor, of Thoi Luan, have both been served w/a court summons for pub'g an article in their paper entitled "A Letter to Our National Assembly Deputy." They must appear Before the court on Mar. 13. (According to Tu Do on Mar 11, Dan will not be summoned.)

Paris, AFP, radioteletype in Engl to the Americas, Mar 13, 1958

"Thien, publr of Thoi Luan, the last opposition newspaper to appear in Saigon, was sentenced by a Saigon court to a suspended 10-month prison term today for having pubd news likely to encourage communism in SVN. Court also fined him 100,000 piasters on the same charges and forbade publication of the newspaper."

Cholon, Chung Kuo Jih Pao, (Chinese), Mar 21, 1958

Saigon Assize court on Mar 19 reviewed the two cases of libel and confirmed sentences pronounced against publr Thein by the criminal court of first instance. In the first case, he was sentenced by the criminal court to a 20,000 \$ fine and 100,000 \$ in damages for slandering the economic police service. In second case he was fined 10,000 \$ and had to pay 1\$ compensation to the defense dept.

Dan Chung, Apr 2, 1958

Editorial: We Ask the Release of Phi Van

Phi Van, chief editor of Dan Chung, was arrested at 6:00 a.m. Mar 29, 1958. Charges assertedly political. . . ."And, while waiting for the ultimate truth in the arrest of our colleague Phi Van, we would like to express our most sincere thanks to the chief of the Ngo Quyen police station who has proved to be well imbued with the ideals and the laws of a democratic regime by giving Phi Van treatment which is completely in accord w/the principles of personalism and human dignity."

Dan Chung, Apr 12, 1958

Announced that, thanks to the clear-sighted investigation of the general directorate of security and police, Phi Van, who was arrested for an unknown offense, was released on Apr 9.

Le Journal d'Extreme Orient, June 5, 1959

(Communiqué of Sec State for Info): Sec State for Info and Youth has directed newspaper Nguoi Viet Tu Do to suspend publication as of June 2, 1959. The

editor of this newspaper, Mr. Luu Duc Sinh -- known as Mac Thu--has, one the one hand, been sentenced by the Sgn court for the issuance of a check with insufficient funds and has, on another, been the defendant in two trials for swindling. These facts proved that the editor of NVTD has neither the financial condition nor the moral character to direct a newspaper under the present regulations. (Dr. Bui Kien Tin, former MinInfo, helped finance the paper. Others involved in mgmt included Tran Van Tuyen, former MinInfo under Bao Dai, Ng Van Can, known as the "Khaki Deputy" of Natl Assembly because wears khaki suits; has PhD in theology fr/French univ.) VNPress, Engl, Aug 21, 1959

Saigon Daily Dan Nguyen was today convicted of a charge of libel and sentenced to suspend publication for one month. Paper had claimed there had been a leak in regard to exam papers prepared for the junior high school exams. Educ Dept immediately sued the mgmt of the paper for libel. Case came before Saigon court this morning. Tribunal handed down sentence: 12,000\$ fine; publication of the sentence in three newspapers; and suspension of the daily for one month. Defendants were Ha Thanh Tho, Cao Minh Chiem, and Cao Minh Huu, respectively mgr, editor, and reporter.

FSDespatch: Aug 9, 1958

Buoi Sang was temp suspended reportedly due to polit pressure brought against Tam Moc (Mai Lan Que), whose brother was being eased out of his position as Chief of Security for Third Mil Region. Thong Nhat Distribution Agency refused handle distrib of the paper.

Cong Nhan ceased publication apparently because it didn't do well financially being unpopular with MinInfo. Result of these two failures is that Buoi Sang and Cong Nhan have merged. Van Hoan is editor; policies tendings toward Buoi Sang's.

Tin Dien discontinued "indefinitely" by MinInfo. Anna Le Trung Cang, the publisher, out of the country, with her French husband soon after birth of their first child and had turned over opn of paper to her sister. Suspension expected to continue till her return.

Saigon Moi largest circulation in Sgn (claim: 80,000). Much of this gain result of clever promotion, including give-aways, and more pages per issue than competitors.

Tieng Chuong has picked up most of Tin Dien's readers and has estd 35,000 cir

Phan Van Cham, editor of weekly, Hanoi. Was reportedly VNQDD before Geneva.

Press censorship in VN: Following the "independence" granted by the Fr under Bao Dai, Premier Tran Van Huu reinstated pre-censorship (Decree 81-SG/PTT, dated May 19, 1950) and proceeded to browbeat the press thoroughly in an effort to enlist support for or at least stifle non-support of BD. Under successive govts press censorship contd, as did other press controls, including licensing of pubx, numerous procedural regs, govt-controlled allocation of all newsprint.

Under NDD, penalties for violation of censorship became more lenient, w/ punishments ranging fr/reprimands to revocation of license to publish. No publishers were fined or imprisoned, and trend was toward relative freedom, and NDD specified this in his directives to his MinInfo. But after procl of RepVN on 10,26,55, regime took active steps to make itself look better, and to provide a facade of freedom of the press. On Dec 16, 1955, Dept of

Info and Youth issued Decree No. 266-ND/BTT granting to Vietnamese Veterans Assn a complete monopoly for distribution of all publications in SVN. In Feb 1956, press censorship of VN-lang pubs was officially abolished. And on Feb 20, Presidential Ordinance No. 13, ~~sixty~~ was proclaimed, providing prison terms up to ~~five~~ years and fines up to 1 mil \$VN for various journalistic offenses. Pre-censorship continued of all non-VNLang pubs.

Saigon, Le Song, March 14, 1960 (Saigon, Saily News Transl, USOM, Mar 15, 60)

Orgn of inter-family groups in prefecture has been reported as being progressively carried out, and probably completed in districts 2 (back of Dai Nam theatre) and 7 (west of Gholon). However, several officials in charge, as well as the people themselves, have made the following comments:

1. According to the spirit of the communique, the inter-family group chiefs must keep family name lists for control, if necessary. This will cause much trouble. What shall be done when a certain family wants to take back the list for some official use, when the chief of the group or his whole family is away from home? Instead, the people suggest that the family name lists be made in duplicate, and chief keep the dup.

2. According to the communique, the family chiefs are in charge of the declarations of the goings-and-comings of his family mbrs or his relatives. Such a duty will cause much trouble to busy family chiefs (traders, businessmen, etc.). There is another matter. Will a declaration be needed when a whole family goes away (to Vung Tau, Dalat, etc.) for a short vacation (two days, for example). Can such decs be reported verbally or are written requests needed?

Responsible authorities are requested to find ways to solve these situations.

VNPress, in English, Feb 4, 1960

The "interfamily group program," whereby several families living on the same street form a group, is designed to promote friendship and assistance among neighbors, Saigon Prefect Ng Phuoc Hai, said today. He stressed that such orgs will enable people living in the same area to get better acquainted and eliminate friction among them.

The project provides that from five to 20 households will comprise one group with a section leader. Several groups will make up one section. The ~~xx~~ section chief will be in charge of rels w/the administrative chief, Ng Ph. Hai explained.

In front of houses of members of intefamily groups will be a sign w/two lines of figures, one above the other. Upper line will indicate the number of the house owner's section and his group and the lower line the regular address.

Group and section leaders will be given larger signs by the prefecture. The signs will also indicate their functions. As they are not regular govt employees, they do not have fixed working hours.

Meetings of groups and sections can be orgd in the evening or during the mbrs spare time. At these meetings, mbrs may discuss activities or other events. One of the major roles of the group is to explain govt policy to the mbrs and acquaint the authorities w/the problems of the members.

The interfamily ~~xx~~ project is designed for the local pop but foreigners who want to join the group should be encouraged to do so, the prefect said.