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SELECTED NEWSPAPER ARTICLES ON CENSUS PREPARATIONS IN NORTH VIETNAM

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THE CENSUS OPERATION WILL BEGIN SOON

[This is a full translation of an article written by Dang Thi appearing in Nhan Dan, No 2160, 16 February 1960, page 4.]

The North's census operation will go into effect on 1 March 1960. This operation has great political implications, for it will bring to our Party and Government data on the population according to sex, age, nationality, cultural level, and profession. It will also tell us about the population repartition of each zone, province, city, district, and village. The data will have great significance as far as the leadership of our economic construction and cultural development and our country's First Five-Year Plan are concerned.

Our Party and Government have paid special attention to the preparations for the census operation and to the creation of all necessary conditions to insure good results for the operation itself. In April 1959, the Central Party Secretariat passed a decision launching the census operation in North Vietnam. In August 1959 the Government Council issued a decree on the setting up of a Central Census Committee and Census Committees of all levels. In July 1959, the Central Party Executive Committee issued a directive concerning the intensification of preparations for the Census. The months of May and June 1959 saw the beginning of the operation in a number of test areas having more than 79,000 inhabitants which would gather experiences for improving the drafting of the program and organizational plan.

At the present, the census preparation has reached a decisive phase.

The Government has resolved to begin the operation in North Vietnam on 1 March 1960, and it will register the names of all Vietnamese citizens, all foreigners residing on our territory, and all our citizens living abroad.

The registration will affect all normal residents (including those who are temporarily away for a period not exceeding six months). According to the list approved by the Central Census Committee, the operation will begin 1-5 March

for the delta areas, and 1-7 March for the highland areas. Census takers will interview the people directly and write down their answers on registration forms.

As a check, verifiers will review all the figures and data provided to census takers from 6-9 March 1960 in delta areas and from 8-11 March in the highlands.

The basic material for registration is the registration form.

The registration program aims at reflecting essential needs relating to the planned leadership of our national economy at the present time.

In the registration form will be recorded the following items: relationship to the head of the household, sex, age, and nationality. In capitalistic countries the census program always omits the nationality problem. For instance, in the United States, they do not include nationality in the registration form but only color or race. Statistics of capitalistic countries never elicit correct data on the number of nationalities. They substitute language, country of origin or religion data for this item.

Such "methods" will lead to the crudest distortion of the truth on nationality groups.

In the Soviet census program, the nationality questions hold a very important place. Each nationality in the great Soviet family is assured of over-all development. This is the law prescribed by the Soviet Constitution. It originates in the deep respect accorded to the nationality of each Soviet citizen.

The nationality problem of our registration plan is very significant, since it will supply for 1960 valuable data which will shed light on the Socialist development of nationalities in the North of our country.

Our census program pays attention to the problem of cultural and educational levels of the people. This will enable us to reckon the number of illiterates and literates, as well as the educational level of the latter.

The completion of the census will provide data on the number of people engaging in various branches of production,

materials and non-productive domains, as well as on the population of urban and rural areas.

The Government's regulations on the census operation in the entire "Northern part of Vietnam" have laid a great responsibility upon census committees vis a vis the Government and people.

Experiences in the USSR census operation showed that to get satisfactory results we must first carry out successfully and in sufficient time the activities preparatory to it.

Therefore, in the scope of activities of the census committees from the top down to the village levels, preparatory activities have to be thorough, carefully planned, and should immediately occupy a most important position.

Dang Thi

(Central Census Committee)

LAO DONG YOUTH GROUP CENTRAL COMMITTEE
DIRECTIVE ON THE CENSUS

[This is a translation of an article appearing in Tien Phong (Vanguard) No 522, 1 February 1960, page 1.]

The Youth Group Central Committee Secretariat has released a directive to all group levels on the census operation. The directive strongly stressed the scope, objective, and importance of the census operation and drew the attention of the group levels to the following activities in the activation and guidance of the group members and youths, so as to carry out the census operation according to the Party and Government plan:

1. Educating, persuading and mobilizing cadres, members, and youths to participate in the operation

--Organize small group and branch conferences to debate the aim and meaning of the census operation; to discuss procedures so that members and youths will understand the actual situation of a given family and at the same time will carry out their task of explaining to the people and activating them to report on the seven census items.

--Mobilize members, youths, and adolescents to participate in the work of information and activation in all villages and hamlets. Organize talks, oral interviews, and slogan writing to create among the people animation, excitement and responsiveness to the census registration phase.

--Activate all educated and well-trained brothers and sisters to participate in the census operation in villages, city sectors, factories, etc. Promote their spirit of responsibility, their concept of disciplined organization to carry out exactly the prescribed plan. Avoid carelessness and errors in the work.

2. Besides the common tasks, our group must collectively mobilize the country's youths and adolescents in the following manner:

From the district group upward and in all directly connected branches, each level must delegate a comrade in charge of statistics to work with census committees to secure the total number of males and females, in dividing them into age levels from 7 to 25 years old (according to the final compilation form), in order to help the groups leadership, and to report to the Central Committee.

The district groups must devise immediate plans for this; provincial and city groups will collect all data from surrounding directly connected branches to obtain an accurate figure rapidly.

The provinces will determine the report deadline of the districts, and will report themselves to the Central Committee by the beginning of April 1960.

FOCUSING THE CRUCIAL PHASE OF THE CENSUS OPERATION
FROM TODAY [15 FEBRUARY 1960] TILL 7 MARCH 1960

[This is a full translation of an editorial appearing in Nhan Dan, No 2159, 15 February 1960, page 1.]

After a period of urgent preparation, the census operation is moving into the crucial phase for our entire Party and people. This is the most decisive step for the success of the operation. Prior to this stage, local administrations should have carried out satisfactorily all preparatory activities such as: the improvement of the machinery for the leadership of the census at all levels; the complete training and deployment of cadres in provinces, cities, districts, city sectors, villages, and streets so that they could cooperate with Party branches and local administrative committees to select and train census takers for hamlets, plants, factories, and other communities; the checking of population centers and household lists, and so forth. At the same time, Party and Government leaders of all levels should plan to organize all aspects of the operation in local areas, to devote a great deal of time to administer exactly and collectively all local census operations, and to place the census in its true perspective as a crucial activity at present.

In carrying on the above activities, we must rely on Party branches and grass-roots organizations, especially the Lao Dong youth group to strive to educate the people, clarify all misinterpretations, so that everybody can understand the aim and significance of the census and realize that his own duty is to participate in and support the census with all his heart. It is only when we correctly follow the people's way and rely on them that the census operation can be carried out satisfactorily and census data can be accurate.

After the careful completion of census preparations, local areas will begin the registration on 1 March 1960 and should finish the work within the appointed time of five days for delta provinces and seven days for the highlands. In this period of registration, villages and city sectors should compile indices on the population of the concerned areas, classified according to age levels. As for

the other indices, the district, province, and Central Government will take care of that. As the census operation affects every citizen, and as it must be completed in such a short time, we should uncover shortcomings and errors quickly and correct them immediately. A delay--however short--will complicate the correction task and will lengthen the operation.

In order to avoid interference with daily activities of production, verifiers and census takers should try to work during the people's recess hours, at noon or in the evening.

This census will cover the entire area of the North. This operation, from its preparatory stage and registration activities to the final compilation of indices on the population according to age levels, professions, education, nationalities, urban and rural areas throughout the North, is an entirely new and complex operation that requires the mobilization of tens of thousands of cadres.

Our cadres should have the spirit to overcome difficulties, to follow the people's way, and respect the people's interest, in order to accomplish the mission entrusted to them by the Party and Government.

THE SCOPE AND SPECIAL ASPECTS OF THE CENSUS OPERATION

[This is a full translation of an unsigned article appearing in Tien Phong (Vanguard) No 523, 3 February 1960, page 3.]

As we already know, the census operation is very important to the administration of our country, and the elaboration of plans and conducting of Party and Government policies. Its immediate importance is the realization of the Three-Year Plan and the elaboration of the Five-Year State Plan. Therefore this census operation requires the necessary gathering of accurate data in the whole North within a prescribed time.

To meet this requirement, the census operation should gather extremely correct data, necessitating absolute uniformity in need, content, methods, time and planning throughout the North. Consequently, the leadership should be centralized and should go straight from top to bottom to insure training, registration, checking and compilation of all data within the prescribed time. To meet the above needs the Party and Government will employ a large force of census takers, the most important elements of which will be our cadres and youths. As far as brother and sister party members and youths are concerned--besides acting as examples in registering themselves and their families--a great number of them will be chosen as census takers to help other takers and the people carry out the census operation. Therefore we should completely understand the scope and special aspects of the census to have a correct attitude before beginning our task.

1. A scientific census operation is a new and complex activity

The number of people in the country, like that in the provinces and villages, always changes. Each day there are tens of thousands of newly born babies, hundreds of dead people, tens of thousands of people moving to other work areas, paying visits to relatives or moving from urban to rural areas and vice versa. In reality, there are also hundreds and thousands of other complex migratory cases. According to the 1957 statistical data, a baby was born every 48 seconds.

and a person died every three minutes, thus providing an average of a new citizen in the North every 65 seconds. During the past few years, owing to the development of our socialist industry and trade, the distribution of the population among urban and rural areas has greatly changed, for a number of people who had been farmers, traders, artisans or who had been unemployed, have now become workers.

Some small traders lost their jobs in the cities and moved to rural areas to engage in production and become rural inhabitants.

In view of these very complicated population changes, the only thing to do is to operate according to scientific methods, that is, to regulate, plan, allocate uniform time to insure the collection of accurate data and to avoid duplication and omission.

2. The census operation requires the collection of accurate and complete data within a short prescribed time.

As stated above, if the data collected and the census are not accurate, the forthcoming state plan will certainly not be relevant. Every census taker should bear in mind the fact that if there were duplication or omission of three or five persons in each hamlet or village, the total figure for the country would involve a real duplication or omission of tens of thousands of inhabitants. If we duplicate or omit a person we will render the state plan inoperative; this will have an impact on the building of the socialist nation, on the estimate of the plan concerning food rations, medicine, and fabrics reckoned on a per capita basis. To reach this accurate figure, the Central Government has laid down principles and concrete regulations. Each level, and each census taker, has to fulfill the requirements in a satisfactory, speedy, and efficient way.

3. The census operation is an activation movement with great political implications.

To get good results, we have to acknowledge that the census is not a mere statistical operation but a politically

implicated activation among the broad masses to maximize their awareness and to get them to register voluntarily. Although the operation aims at promoting the public interest, it will surely upset certain individuals who might worry or misunderstand; or it will perhaps obtain inaccurate results owing to the difference in motives. On the other hand since the operation is complex and difficult, the data collected should be accurate. Therefore if we do not lean on the people and make them understand clearly the aims of the census, our work will not meet the need. In consequence, we have to try our best in informing and activating the people in a thorough and efficient way.

SEVERAL EXPERIENCES IN LEADERSHIP FOR THE CENSUS IN HAI DUONG PROVINCE

[This is a translation of an article written by Tran Tao, appearing in Nhan Dan, No 2153, 9 February 1960, page 4.]

In carrying out the Party Central Committee and Government directives, our province has experimented on the census operation in Hai Duong City and the whole Kim Thanh District. The operation began on 1 May 1959 and ended on 6 June the same year.

1. The decisive factor was the correct conception of the problem on the part of the Provincial Party Committee

During the census operation in Hai Duong City and Kim Thanh District, our province has had to carry out simultaneously a great number of urgent activities such as harvesting the chiem crop, and getting ready for the mua crop, building up and consolidating cooperatives, etc. Owing to the loose coordination of the operation, the incomplete study and grasp of the Party Central Committee directive, and the misunderstanding of the importance of the operation, the Party Committee in our province has not seen the problem in its true perspective. The Provincial Party Committee appointed a comrade as permanent executive secretary in charge of the whole operation, but the committee itself has seldom discussed the problem. In Kim Thanh District, the census operation was explained for two hours at a two-day meeting of village and branch delegates. Many comrade at provincial, district, village levels thought that the census operation was only a simple collection of data. Branches and different sectors have not yet grasped the problem and did not participate very much in it.

But the Provincial Party Committee has realized the shortcoming in time and has redefined the "crucial phase" of this operation for the district and city levels. At the same time, the Party Central Committee is sending cadres to villages and city sectors to help local administrations carry out the operation, enabling the Provincial Party Committee

and especially the branch committees to change radically their conceptions. Many Provincial Party Committee members have understood that the census operation is truly a great political movement requiring strict leadership and concentration of forces. All activities have progressed and have gradually been routinized. The steering committees for the census operation in villages and city sectors have been reinforced; at several places, half of the Party branch committee members belong to the steering committee. The village and city sector committees collectively meet to discuss and guide the operation. The census personnel has been relatively well chosen and is quite satisfactory in terms of number as well as in quality. At many places, a great part of the village, hamlet cadres and Party unit heads help directly as census takers, thus contributing to the successful functioning of the operation. In the registration period, the cadre forces were concentrated and the work progressed satisfactorily, thus fulfilling the directive of the Party Central Committee.

However, the leadership of our Provincial Party Committees at all levels still have several defects, especially in the division of labor among branches and sectors: many branch and sector elements seem to be indifferent to the census operation and have not realized that it is closely related to their own activities, therefore, they have no plan to participate in it in a concrete and realistic way.

In evaluating the above-mentioned facts, we have drawn a number of valuable experiences: The decisive factor contributing to the success or failure of the census operation is the correct conception or misconception of the problem on the part of the Provincial Party Committee.

At present, we have many extensive operations to carry out, operations which of course we cannot afford to delay; but within a predetermined period, we have to afford the census operation an emergency role to activate all forces to accomplish it in a successful, speedy, and efficient way.

2. Education and propaganda campaigns are the main tasks in the entire census operation.

The census operation is complicated and relates closely to all citizens; moreover, it is to be done on an extensive

basis within a uniform time. Therefore, its actual scope involves profound and vast political activation; and in order to fulfill it successfully, one has to fulfill political activation, propaganda and educational campaigns among the people.

Owing to our misconception at the very beginning, our Party Committee members at all levels have not fully realized the importance of propaganda and educational operations. The propaganda and education committee of the province did not send cadres to attend classes at the outset, and therefore it did not grasp the problem and lacked plans to promote efficiently propaganda and educational activities.

Consequently, at the beginning, cadres and Party members had loose conceptions which could not be corrected in time, and our preparations proceeded slowly and unsatisfactorily.

Gradually, with the correct conception of the Province Party Committee on the census, the propaganda and educational operations have been reinforced. District, city, and village meetings have collectively explained the scope, objective and content of the census operation. We obtained remarkable results, especially in villages and city sectors, where study classes have been organized widely and leadership has been exercised rigidly. Many vigorous forms of activation were utilized. During this period, there were misconceptions among the people, and at the same time the enemy and subversive elements have produced such dangerous arguments as: "The census aims at rationing consumer goods, so that from now on nobody will be able to eat more, or have more clothes than others"; "the census in cities aims at classifying the people and investigating their property..."; etc. At one time, these anxieties tended to sow bewilderment among certain people, but thanks to the great extent of propaganda, we have gradually reassured them.

A great and important success of the propaganda and educational campaign is the training of census takers. Almost all census takers have understood the scope and aim of the census and have grasped the nature of the operation. They are the most important elements in the census operation: It is they who have gone into individual households to collect the most accurate data; it is they who have widely campaigned and explained the objective of the census to the mass of people. The success of the operation at Hai Duong City and Kim Thanh District is due to a great number of census

takers who had been thoroughly trained for the job.

The above experiences suggest then in our future operations the propaganda and educational campaigns should be considered as the most important ones and the main tasks of the whole operation. It is only on the basis of a thorough understanding and grasp of the problem on the part of cadres, Party members, and census takers--and a full orientation enabling the citizen voluntarily to report accurately to, and to cooperate sincerely with, the cadres--that the census operation will obtain accurate and complete returns and will not be delayed.

Thanks to the leadership of the Party Central Committee, the Government, and the steering committee for the census operation, the census at Hai Duong City and Kim Thanh District has been completely successful. This experiment will help the Party and Government to draw upon a number of experiences to lead the operation throughout the North. As far as our local administration is concerned, this has provided us with many valuable experiences. Our Party branch is now determined to use all these experiences to improve the operation and participate with the whole Party and people in the successful fulfillment of the census operation in the North.

Tran Tao

Deputy Secretary of the Provincial Party Committee.

Chairman of the Hai Duong Province Administrative Committee.