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JPRS-SEA-87-116

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19 OCTOBER 1987

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POLITICAL

Hanoi People's Committee Issues Decision on Family Economy Land

42090544 Hanoi HANOI MOI in Vietnamese
23 May 87 pp 1, 4

[Text] On 22 May 1987 the Municipal People's Committee issued the following temporary decision:

Implementing Resolution 146/HDBT, dated 26 November 1986, of the Council of Ministers, the goals of which are to stimulate and encourage conditions for developing the economy and increasing the incomes of the families of cooperative members, cadres, workers, and civil servants, the Municipal People's Committee issues the following temporary decision:

1. The agricultural cooperatives must set aside a certain amount of their cultivated area and fully utilize wasteland, bottomland, and bodies of water to supplement the family economy of cooperative member families. The categories to whom supplementary land will be assigned for use in the family economy are the family members of cooperative members, workers, civil servants, retired or disabled officers, disabled veterans and war dead, and military personnel and people's public security police on active duty. With regard to workers and civil servants on active duty and members of small industry-handicrafts cooperatives living in the locality, depending on the land situation the cooperatives may also assign or lend them land for use in the family economy.

The amount of land assigned to each person cannot exceed 10 percent of the average amount of land per person in the cooperative (as of 1 June 1987). Each household cannot exceed 500 sq m in areas bordering dikes, 1,200 sq m in the lowland and midland areas, and 1,700 sq m in the mountain region (not including forest land and hilly land that is assigned according to the capabilities of each household). The land area that is assigned cannot exceed 10 percent of the cooperative's total agricultural land area, and must be stabilized over a period of 10 years.

In addition, the cooperatives may allow the families of cooperative members, workers, and civil servants to borrow land for production by the season.

The 5 percent land set aside for use by cooperative members when the cooperatives were formed will not be redivided. The garden land, especially that used for specialized cultivation and fruit trees, belonging to the families prior to the organization of the cooperatives will, during the immediate future, remain unchanged.

2. People who are assigned land must use it for the right purposes and with a high degree of efficiency. They must practice intensive cultivation, protect the fertility of the land, and use the land for self-production. They are forbidden to lease, sell, exchange, rent out, or build

houses on the land. If land is not used in accordance with regulations must be taken back. In the event of serious violations, current laws must be enforced

When land must be obtained for construction, the state will recover it and the cooperative will assign other land.

3. Land that has been assigned by the Municipal People's Council to the organs and units for construction which has not been used in correct accordance with the permit or has only partly been used for construction will be recalled entirely, or the part not yet used for construction will be recalled so that it can be used in the plan to develop the family economy.

All illegally issued land must be recovered in accordance with the state land management policy.

4. People participating in the family economy are obliged to pay agricultural taxes in accordance with the current policy. Newly developed land is exempted from taxes for between 5 and 10 years and improved land is exempted from taxes for between 3 and 5 years.

5. Products of the family economy are marketed at negotiated prices and are exempted from industrial and commercial taxes.

6. If capital is needed to develop the family economy the credit cooperatives or the state bank will lend it in accordance with current regulations.

7. People participating in the family economy may receive tools, equipment, and materials serving production from relatives abroad in accordance with the current state policy.

8. People who suggest innovations and carry out research projects, and who apply technical advances to production receive priority in borrowing capital in order to carry out their work, and may sign contracts with individuals and groups needing to apply technical advances to production, in accordance with decision 681/QD-UB, dated 21 February 1987, of the Municipal People's Committee.

9. The echelons, sectors, and agricultural cooperatives are responsible for serving, assisting, and encouraging the development of the family economy.

The Land Management Service, along with the Collective Peasants' Association, will guide and direct the granting of land in accordance with the contents of the above decision, and will complete that task in the third quarter of 1987. The Municipal Planning Commission, the Agricultural Service, and the Materials Corporation are responsible for setting aside some of the principals, such as chemical fertilizer, insecticides, coal, etc., to meet the needs of the family economy.

The prices of materials and tools, and the prices of services, for the family economy are calculated at cost for the cooperatives.

10. Organizations and individuals contributing to the development of the family economy will be rewarded, and all acts impeding the family economy will be dealt with appropriately.

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Local Party Leaders Give Views on Press Renovation

42090561a Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG
in Vietnamese 20 Jun 87 pp 1, 2

[Interviews with Truong Tan Sang, Member of the Standing Committee of the Municipal Party Committee and Secretary of the Binh Chanh District Party Committee; and Tran Van Tao, Secretary of the 5th Precinct Party Committee, by correspondents Nguyen Duc and Quoc Vinh respectively: "On the Occasion of Vietnam Press Day: Renewal in the Press As Observed by Two Precinct and District Party Committee Secretaries"; interview dates and places not given; first paragraph is SAIGON GIAI PHONG introduction]

[Text] Since the initial achievement of renovation in the press, what effect has the press had on the leadership and supervision of local party committee echelons? What requirements have been created in expanding the openness and democratization of information in coordination between the press and local party committee echelons? These are the current problems directly relating to renovation in the press that were raised in interviews conducted by correspondents from SAIGON GIAI PHONG with Truong Tan Sang, Member of the Standing Committee of the Municipal Party Committee and Secretary of the Binh Chanh District Party Committee; and Tran Van Tao, Secretary of the 5th Precinct Party Committee.

Truong Tan Sang: Does Not Fear a Loss of Achievement When Press Criticizes Negative Occurrences in the Local Area. Except for Meetings To Discuss Personnel Affairs, There Are No "Internal Matters" Concerning the Press.

Question: Sir, do you regularly read the newspaper?

Answer: I am a diligent reader, not only of SAIGON GIAI PHONG but also of TUOI TRE [Youth], CONG NHAN GIAI PHONG [Liberation Worker], PHU NU THANH PHO [Municipal Woman], and the daily papers of the Party Central Committee. I will speak specifically of SAIGON GIAI PHONG. Every day when I reach my office, the paper is on my desk. The first thing I do is scan through the four pages of the paper, look for and mark what is worthy of attention and then return to read it carefully.

Question: What kinds of news and articles do you usually "mark"?

Answer: New information on the economy, science and technology, current events, policy, articles introducing achievements and experience in the fields of economic management, party construction, etc. For example, articles on unusual events; information on policy such as the emigrant exchange rate and reduction in customs procedures; articles on the field of agriculture such as taxes, two-way contracts, the product disposal rights of the farmer, etc. This information, examined from the application aspect, is extremely necessary not only for every leadership level but also for the people.

Question: What about the articles reflecting and criticizing a negative occurrence, especially one right in the Binh Chanh local area?

Answer: This kind of article must be read immediately and carefully. If a negative incident occurs within the purview of the district and is reported by the paper, I immediately work with the man directly in charge or someone in the standing committee of the party committee responsible for that field. After listening to a careful report, I provide guidance on handling the matter. But more importantly, we give attention to both the individual and universal aspects of the incident to acquire a prompt guidance viewpoint. It is the same for other locations. For example, SAIGON GIAI PHONG last month published the news that "More than 200 tons of fertilizer sat in the warehouse while the crops lack fertilizer." This occurred in Hoc Mon but we reexamined our own Binh Chanh. Clearly, fertilizer not reaching crops in keeping with the agricultural season is the responsibility of leaders and managers. Thanks to this, we advocated during this summer-fall season the advance payment of funds to farmers for the purchase of fertilizer, and the district also sold fertilizer directly to the farmers without waiting for two-way contracts as before.

Question: Sir, could you be more specific about a few cases?

Answer: I have only had my mission in the district for 6 months. In my opinion, the predominant issue raised by SAIGON GIAI PHONG has been the quality of agricultural cooperativization. The problems presented in the newspaper articles have all been accurate. Our careful investigation found that the entire district had only a little more than 40 percent of the production collectives and cooperatives that were fair, more than 20 percent were average, and the remainder were substandard. The district party committee and people's committee spent a great deal of time in discussion before issuing a resolution on strengthening and raising the quality of production collectives and agricultural cooperatives. The resolution was disseminated down to the basic unit level. Time and reality will provide a specific answer. However, if the articles had gone "deeper" and more carefully

stated the true appearance of the "put on" types of collectives and cooperatives with their specific "addresses" and their multifaceted ill effects on life and society, it would have been even better for us.

Question: Wouldn't this have "collided" with the achievements of the local area?

Answer: I don't think it's a problem of subtraction. And there should increasingly be no confusion between method and objective. The objective of building socialist success is consistency while leadership methods, from the central to the basic level, are all based on the actual situation which is flexible. Some are right and some are wrong. If wrong, they are corrected and made increasingly more effective. The only concern is that one will not notice what is wrong or not become anxious over one's erroneous actions that are pointed out by others.

Question: Actually, aren't there still not a few individuals with position and power who are extremely reluctant to have their "dirty linen washed in public," especially with the masses doing the washing?

Answer: I oppose that method of thinking. My only fear is that a "flesh wound" with no one "washing the linen" may become "infected." For an individual to act as a leader but not accept the ideas, contributions and criticisms of the people, recall is fitting. Any day such individuals remain in a leadership status is a day of additional loss in prestige for the party and the revolutionary administration. The "Speak Frankly, Speak the Truth Forum" and "Readers' Opinions" columns of SAIGON GIAI PHONG are extremely good. The cadres and people all like to read them. I read them and liked many of the articles very much. Each individual, whether at a leadership level or not, has only two ears and two eyes, and cannot hear everything and know everything. Listening to the masses criticize other individuals, other work and other places, one must reconsider oneself, not to mention when they are talking about him. If you don't listen or know, how can you act?

Question: Sir, could you speak more clearly on the effect of the press on the leadership and supervision of the district party organization?

Answer: A leader must have a grasp of and resolve every problem that arises in his own local area. Regrettably, our grasp of problems is not yet complete or in depth. The press has been a great help in this aspect and we will soon require more such help. You see, the city has six rural districts that all have a similar political mission and economic objective but with different methods of work that often duplicate each other because of untimely information. Some things that Cu Chi has done for two or three seasons and is about to abandon as backward are being initially tested by Binh Chanh, or vice versa. Such a style is truly a waste of time and extremely expensive.

Question: Since the advent of open criticism in the paper, the contact of correspondents with the basic level has become more difficult. Do some locations commonly use the guise of an "internal matter" to refuse press contact?

Answer: In my opinion, except for those meetings held to discuss personnel matters, there are no "internal matters" in connection with the press.

I hope to meet with you once a quarter to exchange information. Moreover, I am ready at any time to listen to your opinions and questions, and only require that you write me a few lines for an appointment.

Tran Van Tao: The Press Has a Positive Effect on the Leadership and Guidance of the Party Committee Level. When the Press Criticizes Something in a Local Area, Leaders Must First of All Consider It Their Own. Party Member Discipline Must Be Openly Presented in Newspapers and on the Radio.

Question: Sir, can you tell us what local public opinion is concerning the press, especially since achievement of this renovation?

Answer: The most clearly visible feature is that the press increasingly has a mass nature and is presenting the voice of the laboring people in accordance with the Sixth Party Congress principle of "the people knowing, the people discussing, the people acting, and the people inspecting." The news and articles of newspapers fairly regularly and closely reflect the lives, state of mind and ideology of the masses. In the 5th Precinct, the number of people reading SAIGON GIAI PHONG is increasing. The Propaganda and Training Department of the Precinct Party Committee, the distribution center for SAIGON GIAI PHONG, only distributes 4,383 copies daily. That is too few! With many trying to find the paper at newsstands, naturally the price is high.

Question: Would you give us your opinion on the qualifications of a precinct party committee secretary?

Answer: I read SAIGON GIAI PHONG regularly. Through this, I note that the paper has a good effect on the leadership and guidance of the precinct party committee. I would like to present a few specific examples. When the press in general and SAIGON GIAI PHONG in particular mention negative incidents in this place or that, we gain many lessons in experience and must reexamine our own management and guidance aspects for any faults. Information from the newspaper on director club activities provided us with additional experience in economic management. The daily information provided by SAIGON GIAI PHONG on socioeconomic management renovation in other socialist countries, especially the Soviet Union, has given us new inspiration in our guidance and management work. Of course, we cannot rigidly follow the procedures of the Soviet Union

but experience can be drawn from them for use in the local area. Recently, SAIGON GIAI PHONG mentioned a negative occurrence in the 5th Precinct Tax Bureau that assisted the Standing Committee of the Precinct Party Committee in gaining experience in tax sector management. An inspection of the 5th Precinct Tax Bureau is presently underway. Especially the "Speak Frankly, Speak the Truth" column on page 1 of SAIGON GIAI PHONG, and the "Ideals Enrich the Nation" column of TUOI TRE are extremely vibrant, reflecting democracy and openness in information, and also providing us many contemplations on leadership work and an additional understanding of the thoughts and aspirations of the masses.

Question: Concerning your mention of the 5th Precinct Tax Bureau, we wish to ask: When the negative incident there was presented in the paper, what was the reaction of the precinct party committee? Was there any fear for a loss in prestige?

Answer: According to my observation, their reaction was good with a spirit of responsibility. When the press criticizes something bad or a negative incident in a local area, it is first of all necessary for the leaders in that area to consider it as their own, and to find the reasons leading up to that matter.

Question: In our work with the precincts and districts, we see not a few precinct and district party committee echelons that are extremely reluctant about printing disciplinary action against a party member by the precinct or district, especially when the perpetrator is a party committee member. If this happened in your precinct, how would you handle it?

Answer: In my opinion, these incidents are news just like any others. Party discipline should not be hidden within the "inner palace" but must be openly presented to public opinion in order to gain experience.

Question: Every precinct and district holds meetings to handle unresolved problems that arise in cadre, party member and socioeconomic management. These meetings often have debates, internal struggles, etc. For that very reason, a number of precinct and district party committee echelons state that internal meetings should be "closed" to the press. To us, these meetings are helpful in the vocational aspect and a source of good information.

Answer: The 5th Precinct is ready is open its doors for you to attend those meetings to first of all assist you in grasping the substance of the precinct situation. And when you want to write about those meetings, an able correspondent is a requirement. We do not conceal the true conditions of the precinct, including those that are not really fine. When you write, you should not overdo or exaggerate but state exactly what the issue is. Recently, the leading small industry and handicraft cooperatives in the 5th Precinct have been declining in many

aspects and we are seeking ways to strengthen them. Meetings will be held on this problem. Correspondents from all newspapers may attend. If you join us in correctly evaluating the principles leading up to this matter, it will assist the precinct party committee a great deal.

Question: Do you have any additional requirements in coordination with the press on the aspect of information?

Answer: There are two things. We currently have the 5th Precinct Bulletin which is considered as a newspaper of the 5th Precinct. Can you provide some practical guidance for those involved with the 5th Precinct Bulletin? If you can, you can consider them as competent associates and correspondents for SAIGON GIAI PHONG. We also request regular contact with you to provide information on the activities of the precinct during each period. Possibly quarterly. I have discussed this with Nghi Doan, Chairman of the 5th Precinct People's Committee, and will arrange to meet you once each quarter to exchange opinions on coordination between the precinct party committee and the press, and to supply you with the information you need. On the occasion of Vietnam Press Day (21 June), on behalf of the party organization and people of the 5th Precinct, I wish you the best of health and many additional successes in renovation of the press.

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Report on Ho Chi Minh City Press
42090561b Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG
in Vietnamese 20 Jun 87 p 2

[Text] Newspapers published in the city:

One newspaper is published daily in two languages, Vietnamese and Chinese.

Periodicals consist of:

TUOI TRE [Youth] is published four times a week.

Weekly publications:

- CONG NHAN GIAI PHONG [Liberation Worker],
- PHU NU THANH PHO [Municipal Woman],
- VAN NGHE THANH PHO [Municipal Arts and Letters],
- KHOA HOC PHO THONG [Popular Science],
- KHAN QUANG DO [Red Scarf],
- CONG GIAO VA DAN TOC [Catholicism and the People],
- CONG AN THANH PHO [Municipal Public Security].

Semimonthly publications:

- GIAC NGO [Awareness],

- NHI DONG [Children].

Monthly publications:

- TUOI TRE CUOI [Smiling Youth].

Aperiodic publications:

- DIEN ANH [Cinema],
- DIEM PHIM [Film Point],
- SANG TAO [Creativity],
- HOC TAP [Study].

Publication figures:

- The publication with the highest distribution in the city at the present time is TUOI TRE CUOI with 320,000 copies of each issue, followed by CONG AN THANH PHO with 300,000 copies per issue.
- SAIGON GIAI PHONG publishes 91,000 copies daily (in both Vietnamese and Chinese).

There are 746,000 copies of weekly publications issued each week.

The Municipal Journalists Association has 650 members with 19 chapters, consisting of: 14 chapters in municipal news, press, radio and television agencies; and 5 chapters in central sector radio, television and newspaper agencies.

Since 1984, the Municipal Journalists Association has presented annual press awards. Last April, the association presented 23 awards to correspondents with good news, articles or photographs on the topics of resisting bureaucracy and state subsidization, and discovering new factors.

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Renovation of Basic-Level Key Cadre Training Urged

42090541a Hanoi GIAO DUC LY LUAN in
Vietnamese Apr 87 pp 51-52, 70

[Article by Nguyen Trinh of the Ha Nam Ninh Party School: "Renovate the Training of Key Cadres at the Basic Level"]

[Text] In recent years the Ha Nam Ninh party school has trained thousands of key cadres at the basic level, and has contributed to improving their ability and moral quality so that they can successfully fulfill the political missions at the local level and begun to concentrate on meeting the actual work requirements at the basic level. But after carrying out strict self-criticism we realize that we still have many deficiencies and weaknesses. In order to overcome the deficiencies and meet the requirements of the new situation and missions, as indicated by the Political Report of the Sixth Party Congress, it is necessary to completely renovate the work of the party schools, so in future years our provincial party school must be concerned with renovating the training of key cadres at the basic level.

First of all, we must improve student selection and renovate the schools' planning.

To accomplish those tasks, the local (provincial and district) party committees and those at the basic level must select sufficient numbers of people in the correct

categories to study at the provincial party schools, while at the same time creating conditions for the schools to do a good job of carrying out basic investigations. On that basis, the schools must draft short- and long-range plans, draft curricula for the classes and subjects, and select appropriate teaching and study methods. In future years, in addition to the key cadres at the village and subprecinct levels the schools must pay appropriate attention to the basic-level cadres in the industrial and circulation-distribution sectors, which have much social property and are experiencing many difficulties in economic-commercial management and in the party work.

Second, the schools must improve the contents of its curricula and teaching methods in order to improve the quality and effectiveness of their training of basic-level key cadres.

In past years our school has made many all-out efforts to implement the improved curricula under the guidance of the Propaganda-Training Department of the Party Central Committee. Even so, it still has many weaknesses. We recommend that in future years the Propaganda-Training Department and the Party School Department pay more attention to guiding the contents of the professional curricula and specialties. Furthermore, the school itself must take the initiative in improving the contents, guidelines, and methods in the following three aspects of education:

Renovating the teaching of Marxist-Leninist theory. In order to overcome the tendencies toward empiricism and pragmatism, and arbitrary adulteration, it is necessary to draft a relatively systematic and complete Marxist-Leninist theory curriculum, in order to bring about for the students a world view and scientific methodology which is, as Uncle Ho said, to study the spirit of Marxism-Leninism in order to deal with all matters and all people, and with one's self. Education must enable students to use the methods of Marxism-Leninism as tools in analyzing and affecting the world around them. Therefore, it is necessary to study subjects thoroughly in order to fully understand the theoretical principles of the Marxist-Leninist doctrinal system and oppose the study method of memorizing words but not understanding them or being able to apply them in the students' actual work.

The renovation of the teaching of the lines and policies of our party and state. With regard to the key cadres at the basic level, in addition to enabling them to understand the scientific and revolutionary nature of those lines and the creative application of the system of Marxist-Leninist viewpoints to the actual conditions of our country, it is also necessary to enable them to firmly grasp the policies and specific measures for victoriously implementing those lines. It is necessary to create confidence and self-consciousness in their actions. We must severely criticize incorrect viewpoints which impede the implementation of the lines and policies of our party and state.

The renovation of the teaching of work knowledge and moral qualities. In future years it will be necessary to pay attention to equipping the students with knowledge of economic management, state management, security and national defense management, and cultural-social management.

The teaching of moral qualities must be tied in with class viewpoints and the teaching of a spirit of enlightened responsibility in victoriously carrying out the lines and policies of our party and state. In order to do so, it is necessary to renovate scientific research and applied research, serve instruction practically and effectively, and assist the party committees in recapitulating the experience lessons regarding organizing the implementation of the lines and policies of our party and state at the basic level.

Third, we must renovate the development of the corps of instructors of the provincial party school.

Instructors are the main force in carrying out reforms of the contents of curricula and instructional methods, in order to improve the quality and effectiveness of cadre training. The instructors of the provincial party school have not yet been fully trained in the basic Marxist-Leninist theory subjects and in the other academic subjects, including professional teaching courses. Therefore, it may be said that they are truly "deficient" and "weak." For that reason, I recommend that in future years the central echelon and the local echelons pay greater attention to the following aspects:

With regard to training, the nation should have a center for comprehensive training in professional subjects. If that is to be accomplished, I recommend that plans be promptly developed and that we locate and train instructors who are enthusiastic but are also capable of teaching Marxist-Leninist theory and the other subjects. There must be many forms of training, not only in our country but also abroad, as in the case of the instructors of the central-level schools, on the basis of which to standardize the various kinds of instructors at the provincial party school.

In addition to training, attention must be paid to highly organized and scientific utilization and management, and there must be a specific and explicit policy toward all kinds of instructors at the provincial party school. Problems still exist, although each locality, province, and municipality has resolved them to one degree or another. Therefore, some people are not content in teaching at the party schools. Some policies are outmoded but have not been amended, or are incomplete.

Therefore, in future years those aspects must be renovated, in order to create a solid corps of instructors for the party schools. I recommend that the central echelon promptly determine the position of the provincial party school (i.e., to which state school it corresponds). We

believe it is very necessary to apply a number of regulations and policies toward instructors, such as those dealing with scientific research and professional matters, to serve as a basis on which to construct the schools' material bases and standardize all students graduating from the schools.

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**Expose on Corruption in Civil Aviation
Department Suppressed**

42090541c Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN
in Vietnamese 25 Jun 87 p 2

[Text] Issue No 120, volume 2, of the newspaper HANG KHONG VIETNAM, which appeared in February 1987, included an article on the topic "Into Whose Hands Are the Materials Falling?" which brought to the attention of the public negative incidents that took place at the Vietnam Civil Aviation General Department. They included the use of welfare funds, the distribution of materials, and the improper, unjust construction of housing at Gia Lam airfield, in the "special rights and benefits" manner. After publishing the first issue, the newspaper intended to continue the article in its issue No 121, but it was ordered by the party committee and the head of the Viet Nam Civil Aviation General Department not to continue the article (according to an announcement by HANG KHONG VIET NAM in its issue No 121).

Then many readers wrote letters, sent articles, or went directly to the editorial board of the newspaper QUAN DOI NHAN DAN to protest and request a clarification of the interruption of the article "Into Whose Hands Are the Materials Falling?" in the newspaper HANG KHONG VIET NAM.

In accordance with the readers' opinions, we have carried out an investigation and collected information on that matter.

As reported in the article "Into Whose Hands Are the Materials Falling?" in 1985 and 1986 the materials management organs of the Viet Nam Civil Aviation General Department released a large quantity of construction materials belonging to the General Department to sell to individuals. In all, there were 594,623 tons of cement, 82,121 tons of steel of all kinds (10 percent of the amount supplied in accordance with the state plan), millions of bricks, and large amounts of other construction materials, such as wood, lime, rock, etc.

Only 24 people who were cadres covered by the policy of the General Department, were allowed to buy small amounts of those materials. In all, they purchased 10,500 kg of cement, an average of 454 kg per person; 1,223 kg of steel, an average of 50.9 kg per person; and 23,000 bricks, an average of 959 per person, while most of the materials fell into the hands of four categories of people: people with authority, people with much money, people

who directly managed the materials, and people who distributed and controlled the materials (as reported by HANG KHONG VIET NAM).

Many people in positions of authority at the General Department were allowed to buy very large quantities of materials. For example, Col Ngo Dac Thuong, head of the organization and cadre department, who had a large house with all the amenities in the country (which the unit helped him build), who did not yet have residency in Hanoi, whose children were already grown, and who had been provided a house by the state, was still authorized by the head of the General Department to obtain 300,000 dong in welfare funds, which was paid in materials at a time when their prices were at their lowest levels. There were other similar cases.

The categories allowed to purchase large quantities of materials included people with much money, people who directly managed the materials, and people who were authorized to distribute the materials, such as Col. Nguyen Khac Nham, head of the planning department, who signed an order authorizing the sale of materials to many people in violation of policies and regulations, and who himself has a spacious house in the country near the airfield where he works. In a 2-year period (1985-1986) he purchased 3 tons of cement, 520 kg of steel, and 4,000 bricks.

The categories authorized to purchase large quantities of materials also include relatives and friends of the "gatekeepers," the people who distribute and manage materials. Meanwhile, many families of disabled veterans and war dead who have difficult circumstances need more assistance but have not received it.

Why were such people able to purchase so much material?

They were able to do so because of lax management and because of the abuse of authority, unjust and improper distribution of policies and regulations, and distribution of the special authority and special privilege variety. For example, in 1985 the party committee and head of the Vietnam Civil Aviation General Department decided to mobilize an enterprise fund and a large amount of repair capital to build and repair housing for cadres, workers, and personnel in the units, including 400,000 dong for use in upgrading and repairing and for issuing materials for cadre housing. That money was divided among five people, four of whom were in the category of people in authority who were granted those sums in materials at a time when their prices were at their lowest levels. Not only that, but by means of price adjustments, price scales, the use of public transportation facilities, and the use of employees in transportation and in housing construction, the money distributed to those four people increased greatly in value, after it was distributed to individuals with authority. According to that method of distribution, such people as the head of the organization department was able to buy in 1985 and 1986, in

accordance with the regulations and policies of the Civil Aviation General Department, 62.4 times more cement than the average person and 112.8 times more steel than the average person.

With regard to categories authorized to purchase the materials, there was not only a lack of fairness in distribution but there was also excessively prejudicial treatment. At a time when people in authority and people with much money were able to buy such excessive amounts of materials, people included in the policy, such as Lt Col Nguyen Xuan Thinh (a military man who volunteered to fight the French), and Lt Col Truong Quoc Toan, who retired from the General Department and requested permission to buy materials but were refused.

For those reasons, there are two contrasting scenes at the Gia Lam airfield. On one side there are dilapidated, crowded houses (the housing of the majority of the 300 people who requested houses but whose requests have not yet been acted upon), and on the other side there are villas that are excessively elegant in comparison to our people's present standard of living, and have iron gates and brick fences (those are the houses to which were distributed money in accordance with special privileges and benefits). That is not to mention the housing of the pilots.

The actual situation described above allows us to affirm that the article "Into Whose Hands Are the Materials Falling?" published in issue No 120 of the newspaper HANG KHONG VIET NAM accurately reflected the truth with regard to the nature, contents, developments, people, and quantities regarding the situation.

Why, then, did the party committee and head of the Viet Nam Civil Aviation General Department decide not to allow the publication of the second part of the article "Into Whose Hands are the Materials Falling?" ?

The party committee and head of the Viet Nam Civil Aviation General Department should carry out an investigation to find out whether or not the matters brought out in the newspaper article are correct, entirely incorrect, party incorrect, or entirely correct. Then the party committee and the head should discuss matters with the cadres, party members, and masses of the General Department. Furthermore, they should write articles in the newspaper HANG KHONG VIET NAM or in other newspapers to express their opinions and attitude toward the subject of the newspaper article, or correct the editorial board and criticize it for lacking a sense of responsibility if the article was incorrect, or commend the article and acknowledge deficiencies on the part of leadership and recommend plans and measures to overcome and correct those deficiencies.

It is regrettable that the party committee and head of the Viet Nam Civil Aviation General Department did not handle the matter in that way, but on the contrary

prevented the newspaper from continuing the publication of the article, and not only remained "silent" toward the opinions of the masses (as expressed in readers' letters published in the newspaper QUAN DOI NHAN DAN), but had a severe attitude toward the editors and reporters of the newspaper HANG KHONG VIET NAM, especially toward the people who participated directly in publishing the article "Into Whose Hands Are the Materials Falling?"

With regard to the way the party committee and head of the Viet Nam Civil Aviation General Department handled the matter, we believe that there is nothing else that can be said than that to a certain extent there was intimidation toward the newspaper HANG KHONG VIET NAM because it dared speak frankly and speak the truth.

We recommend that with a spirit of looking directly at the truth, carrying out strict self-criticism and criticism, and respecting public opinion, the party committee and head of the Viet Nam Civil Aviation General Department solicit the opinions of the collective leadership, the party organization, and the masses in a truly democratic manner, without being coercive, pushy, formalistic, or artificial. They must do everything necessary to correctly evaluate the matter, clearly realize the truth, and on that basis have an explicit attitude toward events that have taken place, in the presence of the unit's masses as well as in the newspaper and toward the public.

We recommend that the control committee of the Military Commission of the Party Central Committee quickly reach a conclusion regarding this matter and recommend appropriate corrective measures, in order to stress strict order and discipline in the party and the army, and contribute to purifying and strengthening the party organization and organ of the Viet Nam Civil Aviation General Department.

5616

**Editorial on Effectiveness of Party Inspection
42090558 Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in
Vietnamese 6 Jul 87 pp 1, 4**

[Editorial: "Boost the Effectiveness of Party Inspection"]

[Text] Party inspection must always adhere closely to political tasks and rely on party building as the action objective.

The principal theme of party inspection presently is contributing to boosting the quality, party characteristics, and principled nature of party members so they are truly vanguard warriors leading the masses in successfully carrying out the resolution of the party's sixth congress.

In the struggle to carry out vigorous changes in ideology, behavior, and action, inspection plays a very important role.

The basis for evaluating the quality of inspection work is the effectiveness of inspections: have they or have they not contributed to promoting the political task of the unit, building the party organization, strengthening discipline, intensifying solidarity, reestablishing discipline in the party, and struggling against negativism to make the party organization cleaner and stronger. Each inspection must lead to the clear distinction between right and wrong and to firmly grasping and using the party's guidelines and precepts for enforcing discipline in the specific circumstances of each unit with the correct principles and procedures. Now, party inspections should be aimed toward evils: making up good reports, opportunism, self-interest, flattery and liking flattery, authoritarianism, arrogance, intimidating the masses, assailing someone, special rights and interests, degenerate living, pursuing money, violating socialist property, theft of public property under many forms, etc.

Inspection work is the work of building and protecting the party, of educating, managing, and training party members. Reliance on the party organization is the principle, the condition and procedure when conducting inspections. On the other hand, there should be the close, tailored guidance of the party organization and the higher level inspection committee vis-a-vis the lower level party organization.

Party inspection work must be linked to stepping up democratic activities, self-criticism and criticism in the party and unit, and developing the vigilance of the party member in conjunction with satisfactorily performing the party organization's management of the party members. Regardless of the party member and despite his position, he must be examined from the party chapter on up when he commits a shortcoming or error. On the other hand, we should rely on the masses, develop the masses' sense of responsibility toward party building, motivate the masses to actively share views on and criticize party members, and detect negative incidents in the party organization and party members.

What is extremely important for guaranteeing that party inspections attain high quality is that there must be, under the leadership of party committee echelons, a high-quality and capable rank of inspection cadres which has a high sense of responsibility, profound revolutionary feelings, loyalty and honesty, incorruptability, and high principles, and neither covers up nor saves face nor is prejudiced or narrow-minded.

On the basis of regularly inspecting and training themselves in accordance with these standards, inspection cadres must have an active, positive, objective, and scientific workstyle and working method, know how to closely coordinate inspection with management of party members, promptly prevent negative acts, and not let

situations and incidents erupt and then inspect and reach conclusions. Instead, they must discover negative instances and immediately nip them in the bud or keep them from spreading. When inspecting, treat party organizations and party members who breach discipline, regardless of their level, with no difference, neither lenient to those above nor harsh to those below. Absolutely do not hold any preconceptions about anyone, do not listen to one side, hold no beliefs or doubts groundlessly, and be ever vigilant in the face of ploys to misguide, cover up, conceal, or fabricate false evidence by those who commit crimes, accuse falsely, and attack people directly.

Party inspection work always represents the fairness of discipline in the party and of the law in society. It is the forefront, the mainstay of the struggle against negativism in the party.

6915

ECONOMIC

Northern Provinces Experience Poor Winter-Spring Season

42090557a Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 7 Jul 87 p 3

[Article by Viet An: "Grain, Food Program Achievement: New Challenge and Determination on Grain Production Front"]

[Text] The winter-spring season this year has ended. This initial seething period of grain production this year in the north overcame great challenges of natural calamity.

We began this winter-spring season with a new atmosphere and determination. Plans in area, yield and output were all higher than before. In reality, the situation did not develop as desired. At first, the winter crop in the northern provinces achieved pleasant results: area reached 235,270 hectares, an increase of 31.7 percent over the previous winter crop; and a fair increase occurred in crop yields (corn by 23 percent, sweet potatoes by 28 percent, western potatoes by 12 percent, etc.). Winter grain output increased by 66.6 percent over the previous winter crop. The area of winter-spring and spring subsidiary crops over the entire nation reached nearly the level of the previous year. Additionally, the area and yields both of winter-spring rice in the southern provinces increased over the previous year. According to preliminary statistics, provinces achieving the highest winter-spring rice yields were An Giang with 56.6 quintals per hectare, Dong Thap with 51.2 quintals per hectare, Tien Giang with 45.7 quintals per hectare, Phu Khanh with 44.5 quintals per hectare, etc. As for the 5th-month—spring rice in the north, natural calamity occurred that differed from that experienced for many years, especially during the past few years.

This winter-spring season in the north was the warmest since 1899, and evolved in a complex manner, causing the rice seedlings to quickly become spindly: newly transplanted seedlings and rice matured and developed extremely fast, stooling was poor, and booting and heading were 30 to 40 days earlier than normal. Besides the amount of rice (the 5th-month crop accounted for about 30 percent of the sown and transplanted area), that headed at the end of March and beginning of April with low yields, the remaining area of rice headed during the middle of April with four consecutive periods of northeast monsoons, cold weather, overcast skies and drought, resulting in high percentages of empty heads, in some locations from 50 to 60 percent.

Under these conditions, insects and disease developed and spread over a wide area with many varieties, in many regions becoming epidemic. Moreover, a rainfall during this winter-spring season that was lower than the average over many years created drought over a broad area.

Faced with these serious challenges of nature, all sectors, echelons and farmers in the northern provinces exerted great efforts in the process of limiting the harmful effects of natural calamity. Foremost and attracting social opinion was the handling of spindly seedlings and the rice transplanted with such seedlings. During the recent past, many readers reflected their opinions to us concerning this problem. However, it was necessary to wait until now for a relatively sufficient basis for initially answering this situation.

Due to the abnormal weather development during this season, the seedlings swiftly became spindly. On the other hand, because of experience over many continuous seasons during previous years (that of successfully sowing early seedlings), many locations sowed seedlings earlier than the stipulated period for each variety of rice and each rice planting. In a number of places, prolonged drought slowed land cultivation and seedlings had to wait for the fields so rice was also transplanted in spindly seedlings. The area of such rice reached hundreds of thousands of hectares. The city of Hanoi alone had 9,000 hectares of seedlings sown before the stipulated schedule and the area of rice sown in spindly seedlings reached 10,000 hectares. In the face of this unique situation, many localities such as rural Hanoi, Hai Hung, Ha Bac, etc. used special methods of handling the spindly seedlings and rice transplanted with such seedlings. These methods consisted of: destroying old seedlings; splitting the rice into small clumps for retransplanting; and cutting the rice to kill it, uproot it and retransplant with young seedlings. These methods had a scientific basis and practical experience because we have short-term high-yield rice varieties that permit the sowing and transplanting of late spring plantings; in some years, 150,000 hectares of rice have been successfully retransplanted.

Nevertheless, when seeking understanding about the actual situation and process of handling spindly rice and transplanting with spindly seedlings, listening to the opinions of district, village and cooperative cadres and farmers, and based on the results of recently harvested retransplanted rice, we note that the organization and achievement of these methods, especially the uprooting of old rice to retransplant with young seedlings, are not being thoroughly or promptly conducted. This is most clearly expressed in those locations where the management and production direction of the collective is inherently lax and nonspecific; the perception of cadres and farmers in a number of locations is still incomplete, undecided and irresolute, etc. On the other hand, the areas of retransplanted rice were widely affected by drought (many locations suffered from prolonged drought right after transplanting); insects, disease and poor care resulted generally in low yields, and some locations were unable to harvest or the harvest was insignificant. Nevertheless, this problem must still be studied and more fully considered to assist in clarifying the apprehensions of public opinion and to gain experience for production guidance, especially at the primary level.

According to estimates, due to difficulties and obstacles encountered by the 5th-month—spring rice in the north, yields greatly declined, leading to a drop in output of about 70,000 tons over the previous season and a deficit of 1.1 million tons compared with the plan, producing a new and difficult situation for ensuring the plan for the entire year on the grain production front. The subsequent period has opened a demand for positive, continuous and versatile struggle to not only achieve a successful summer-fall season in area, yields and output but also to partially compensate for the output shortage of the winter-spring crop. The plan demands new effort; for the summer-fall crop an area of 930,000 hectares, a yield of 34.6 quintals per hectare, and an output of 3.22 million tons; and for the 10th-month crop an area of 3,009,000 hectares, a yield of 14 quintals per hectare, and an output of 7,224,000 tons.

Beginning the summer-fall and 10th-month crop seasons, the difficulties usually encountered are drought at the beginning over a widespread area. To this time, the area of summer-fall rice has reached nearly 90,000 hectares and the 10th-month rice is being actively sown and transplanted, including a planned 300,000 hectares of early 10th-month rice in the northern provinces to have an area for developing a winter crop. These are the results of our extremely difficult struggle. The difficulties of natural calamity still facing us are insects, disease, waterlogging and flooding at the end of the season. In recalling many previous 10th-month crops, natural calamity is a factor creating an unstable situation and losses at a level producing an ideology that the 10th-month crop is unsure and like gambling with the sky, leaving only the winter-spring season as sure and able to compensate for the 10th-month crop. However, results

of the winter-spring season this year have pushed the coming 10th-month crop into a position in which yields and output must be increased to partially compensate for the winter-spring season.

Difficulties and challenges will surely arise but hopes for the success of the summer-fall and 10th-month crops are also extremely great; if the potentials are better exploited, available capabilities are further developed, and each factor of the production process is firmly supervised and achieved. These efforts are being actively developed in a concentrated manner along a synchronized course to achieve intensive cultivation of each rice planting such as sowing sufficient seedlings, transplanting seedlings of the proper age, working the ground promptly and carefully, transplanting precisely on schedule, ensuring the requirements of water, fertilizer, disease and insect prevention and control, etc., at the highest level that conditions permit. According to the plan, chemical fertilizer and drought resistant fuel for the summer-fall season in the south have been defined at a fairly sufficient level. There is still insufficient fertilizer and insecticide for the 10th-month crop but solutions are being achieved, including additional importation. Electric power for pumping stations during serious flooding has been set at a fairly sufficient level: 90,000 to 100,000 kWh. A remaining problem is to strengthen supervision and coordination between sectors in distribution and use to achieve high efficiency.

New factors from substantiating and introducing the resolution of the Sixth Party Congress and the resolution of the Second Plenum of the Party Central Committee are being gradually created, and have the strength to stimulate production and better achieve the guideline of the "state and the people working together." There are the policies of goods exchange between the state and the farmers, stabilizing tax and contract levels until 1990, an exchange relationship following the principle of equality to ensure strengthening of the worker-farmer alliance, redefinition of a rational exchange rate between material supplies and agricultural products, etc. In contacts with basic level cadres and farmers in a number of locations, we have learned that the farmers welcome and desire these policies to be promptly and strictly implemented in order to create additional favorable capabilities for a victory on a grain production front that is filled with difficulties and challenges as at the present time.

7300

Southern Grain Eases Northern Food Shortage
42090557b Hanoi *QUAN DOI NHAN DAN* in
Vietnamese 8 Jul 87 p 3

[Article by Viet An: "Grain, Food Program Achievement: Necessity for Nationwide Grain Regulation"]

[Text] At the present time and probably for a long time in the future, grain output calculated per capita and in accordance with social requirements is not uniformly

distributed between localities, areas and regions. Compiled data provides an examination of two factors: the average per capita grain output in the provinces of Nam Bo is higher than those in Bac Bo and that of the lowlands is higher than the uplands and midlands, while the grain requirements of the border provinces and key industrial areas of the north are greater than the south. Therefore, regulation of grain circulation and distribution throughout the nation has an extremely important significance in production, life, security and national defense.

Upon arrival of the winter-spring season this year, the grain imbalance was at an critical level. While the winter-spring rice in the southern provinces was a bumper crop with yields and output higher than previous years, the 5th-month—spring rice in the north suffered a decline of about 700,000 tons and a 1.1 million-ton deficit compared with the plan. Since May, the price of grain has drastically increased in Hanoi and in a number of other localities in the north, creating an extremely great difference in the price of rice compared with Nam Bo. The grain standard for recipients supplied by the state had not been fully or promptly met for a few months prior to that. One of the causes for this situation was that collection and transportation of grain from south to north was not prompt.

Faced with a severe grain situation in the north, the Council of Ministers advocated a campaign to concentrate, collect and transport grain and goods from the south to the north. The objective presented was to, during a period of 3 months (1 May to 31 July), successfully achieve grain collection norms for the 1986 10th-month crop and 1986-1987 winter-spring crop, and to purchase an additional 300,000 tons of paddy; for the transportation of 500,000 tons of grain in rice equivalent (both rice and paddy) to the north.

Developing this campaign, party committee and administrative echelons concentrated on supervision and the people of the southern provinces, especially those in the provinces of Nam Bo and in Nghia Binh Province, cadres, and workers actively procured, transported, milled, loaded and unloaded grain. Many provinces arranged for thorough explanations and traveled to hamlets, villages and the farmers to assign firm supervision and to promptly handle obstacles. Dong Thap Province on the very first month of the campaign collected more than 20,000 tons of paddy, primarily through collection of agricultural taxes and two-way contracts, and delivered more than 30,000 tons. The provinces of An Giang, Hau Giang and Cuu Long also had a large volume of grain for delivery and sale to the central government.

Thanks to this, through the 2 months of May and June, more than 130,000 tons of grain were collected in the campaign and transported from the south to the north. This is not counting about 20,000 additional tons purchased and self-transported by sectors from Hanoi during May in accordance with grain management agency

permits; and the grain market situation in the north clearly changed: along with some rice imported from foreign countries, the grain transported from the south created a supply base sufficient for Hanoi to accept higher amounts than previously or to surpass the plan for the border provinces and industrial areas, to concentrate on lowering the drastically increased price of rice, and to assist in stabilizing the market.

The results of the campaign were not only in swiftly collecting and transporting a volume of grain from the south to the north but also in assisting to promote the task of grain collection in the southern provinces. Due to production and other reasons, the progress of granary delivery for the 10th-month rice throughout the first quarter of this year was little in volume and much slower than the first quarter last year. Only with a winter-spring harvest of fair yields and a change in supervision organization did this progress increase to a rapid rate. To the present time, the progress of granary delivery has risen to nearly the same level as the same period last year.

However, despite the level of effort, the campaign is two-thirds over and the volume of grain collected and transported from south to north is still extremely small compared with the proposed objective. The southern provinces are concentrating on the collection of outstanding tax and two-way contract debts at all levels. In the very near future, the grain situation will still have a great many source difficulties, and will encounter the preharvest period in both the south and the north during August. Therefore, grain regulation is still a critical problem.

During the campaign's process, the northern provinces exerted greater efforts in grain collection. However, because yields from the 5th-month—spring crop were greatly reduced, the collection plan had to be readjusted to only a little more than one-half the initial level. At this time, the collection is basically completed with each region having provinces that achieved early progress such as the lowlands: Hai Hung, Ha Nam Ninh and Thai Binh; former Region 4: Binh Tri Thien and Nghe Tinh; the highlands: Quang Ninh, Bac Thai, etc. Regulation between localities in the north must also be set forth, with a consistent form to assist in resolving the difficulties in grain for those locations with high requirements and difficulties in production.

However, an important source of regulation is still from the provinces of the south. Besides continued promotion of the campaign to purchase and transport grain from Nam Bo to the north, according to the opinion of a number of local areas, it is necessary for a number of provinces and cities in the north with material supplies and means of transportation to continue to travel to the midland and southern provinces to purchase and trade for grain. This does not create instability in the grain market in the selling location if done under the guidance of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry and the

Campaign Guidance Committee; and will gradually form a mechanism of grain regulation association and cooperation between localities in the south and in the north.

During the past 3 years, grain output has remained at a level of a little more than 18 million tons in paddy equivalent while the population has increased by 1 million people annually. At this level however, if regulation between regions throughout the country is achieved and is more positive, a tense situation like that during the recent past can be avoided. To do this, it is necessary to reorganize grain regulation and circulation throughout the country and to transfer the activities of the grain sector to accounting and business with a network from the central to the local area and basic unit, with the capability to shoulder responsibility for a large portion of the wholesale and retail business. Only in this manner will it be possible to assist in resolving a number of critical and basic problems of grain production and use, and especially to create a new change in grain circulation and regulation.

7300

Issues in Renovating Economic Thinking
42090564 Hanoi TRIET HOC in Vietnamese Jun 87
pp 24-37

[Article by Le Dang Doanh: "About Renovating the Economic Thinking in Vietnam Today"]

[Text] In recent years, in the socialist countries (and in a number of other countries), the questions of "renovation," "socialist renovation," "renovation of the thinking," "renovation of the economic thinking," and so on have been suggested as a very urgent and current task.

The 27th Congress of the CPSU marked a very important step toward renovating the thinking and working method, facing the truth, and speaking the truth. Comrade M.S. Gorbachev said in the Political Report at the 27th Congress of the CPSU: "It is the actual economic and political situation which we are living in and the special stage of the historical process which the Soviet society and the whole world are undergoing require that the party and each and every communist show a spirit of creativity and renovation, and try to escape the framework of the familiar but obsolete concepts." (Footnote 1) (M.S. Gorbachev: Political report at the 27th CPSU Congress) He added: "Let us start by first learning to think differently, having a new thinking, and getting busy right away with making reforms in organization, style and method of work, and so on; let us stop clinging to the old, the obsolete, and what has become for us a habit, something we easily do. It is not with our old methods, our old-fashioned way of approaching problems that we can fulfill the new tasks—this must become a theorem for everybody." (Footnote 2) (M.S. Gorbachev. NHAN DAN, 26 May 1986).

Comrade Jaruzelski mentioned many ways "to renovate socialism" at the 10th Congress of the Polish United Workers Party. The 13th Congress of the Bulgarian Communist Party and the 3rd Congress of the Communist Party of Cuba held in 1986 also mentioned renovating the thinking in various fields. On the other hand, we should remind ourselves that Lech Walesa and the trade union "Solidarity" in Poland had also used the slogan of "socialist renovation" to try to overthrow the socialist system there. Therefore, what is important is to determine the content, direction, and purpose of renovation, rather than just to talk about renovation in general. In our country, General Secretary Truong Chinh has repeatedly mentioned the need to renovate our thinking. At the Cadres Conference To Study the Draft Political Report, which was held from 7 to 10 July 1986, General Secretary Truong Chinh had this to say: "The socialist revolution in our country requires that we renovate many things—renovate the thinking, mostly the economic thinking, renovate the work style, renovate our organization and cadres." (Footnote 3) (Truong Chinh; NHAN DAN, 26 July 1986)

In an important speech at the 10th Hanoi Municipal Party Organization Congress, General Secretary Truong Chinh pointed out: "For our country renovation is an even more urgent need and a matter of vital importance. This need is an internal requirement in our country's economy and at the same time conforms to the renovating trend of our era. Only by renovating our ways of thinking and doing things, renovating the thinking, mostly the economic thinking, renovating the work style, and renovating our organization and cadres can we acquire the ability to escape such a bitterly difficult situation as the one we are in today." (Footnote 4) (Truong Chinh; NHAN DAN, 20 October 1986)

The 6th Party Congress affirmed our party's determination to renovate our thinking, style, organization, and cadres. It also asserted the need and direction for renovation:

"Only through renovation can we see correctly and totally the truth, the new factors to be stimulated, and the mistakes to be corrected, for the purpose of properly applying Marxism-Leninism to the conditions of our country and further developing the historical and revolutionary traditions of our nation." (Footnote 5) (Opening speech by Nguyen Van Linh at the 6th Party Congress; TAP CHI CONG SAN, January 1987 p 20)

The 6th Party Congress thus asserted that the direction for renovating our thinking would be to properly apply, rather than to stay away from, Marxism-Leninism.

Let us mention hereafter a number of matters having to do with methodology and the scope of renovating the economic thinking from the philosophical angle.

I. Some Methodological Matters

It is necessary to remind ourselves of a number of basic Marxist-Leninist principles having to do with social thinking and consciousness: Thinking is a part of social consciousness and is determined by the material existence of society, first of all by the economic base of society. Marx wrote: "The mode of production and material living determine the process of social, political, and spiritual activities in general. It is not the consciousness of man that determines his existence; on the contrary, it is the existence of society that determines his consciousness." (Footnote 6) (K. Marx: Preface of "Critique of Political Economy," "Selected Works," Vol. 1, Su That Publishing House, Hanoi, 1971, p 439) Consciousness and thinking are the reflection of the objective world and only reflect nearly correctly the movement of the objective world. Stalin wrote about the relationships between social ideas and existence as follows: "The new social ideas and theories appear only after the development of society's material activities has created new tasks for it. But after they have appeared, these new ideas and theories become an extremely vital force that facilitates fulfillment of the new tasks created by the development of society's material activities and makes society move forward easily. There are different social ideas and theories. There are old and outdated ones that still serve the interests of the declining forces in society. The significance of these ideas and theories is the fact that they prevent society from developing and moving forward. There are new pioneering ideas and theories that serve the interests of the pioneering forces in society. The significance of these ideas and theories is the fact that they make society develop and move forward easily; furthermore, the more accurately they reflect the needs of development of society's material activities, the greater their significance will be." (Footnote 7) (J.V. Stalin: "Dialectical Materialism and Historical Materialism," Su That Publishing House, Hanoi, 1967 pp 23-24)

We can draw from there a number of preliminary conclusions on renovating our thinking.

1. Renovation of thinking originates from the material life of society and must serve its development. The need to renovate our thinking originates from the reality of life. The need to renovate the economic thinking in the Soviet Union originates from the realities of the Soviet economy. "The pace of economic development not only decreased in an obvious manner, but in the early 1980's it also reached the worst level. During that time, the rate of increase of the people's income actually came to a standstill, and the posture of the Soviet Union in the economic contest with the United States did not improve for many years and, in regard to certain parameters, even got worse." (Footnote 8) (V.V. Kulikov: ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, September 1986 pp 128-139 (in Russian)). It was the realities of life, as Kulikov pointed out above, and the great changes in life, such as the changes in the scientific and technological revolution,

the direct international economic alliance among economic units, the international economic situation, and so on, that have led to the renovation of thinking in the Soviet Union, which M.S. Gorbachev mentioned in the Political Report at the 27th Congress of the CPSU: To renovate the economic thinking in essence means to move the center of attention from quantitative norms to quality and effectiveness, from intermediate results to final results, from expanding production to renovating it, from strengthening the sources of fuel and raw materials to improving their use and speeding up development of different sectors, which requires many scientific achievements, and so on.

The same is true in Vietnam, where there has appeared an economic thinking which, because of complex and changing socioeconomic realities, such as enterprises failing to use full output and labor, failing to use all materials, and wasting raw materials (and because of the socioeconomic conditions that have changed), is against bureaucracy and state subsidies, advocates totally switching to economic accounting and socialist enterprise, and demands a renovation of thinking. Therefore, the economic thinking must be closely linked with and originates from life in order to test and serve the latter. To renovate the economic thinking cannot be an end in itself, nor can it be separated from life. In addition to the common characteristics of socialist countries originating from their common needs, to renovate the thinking must bear the actual historical character of the socioeconomic situation of each country. To renovate the thinking in Vietnam must first of all originate from the present socioeconomic realities and overcome the contradictions that are now active. We can and need to study the results which other socialist countries have obtained from renovating their thinking in order to apply them to our country's conditions, but we should not make a true copy of the contents of their renovation, which originates from economic and social conditions greatly different from ours.

Here is a comparison of a number of economic and social conditions between our country and a socialist country being in a stage of developed socialism (like the Soviet Union).

1. Stage of development

Vietnam

- In the very first part of the period of transition, socialist reforms have not yet been completed; the state-operated economy remains immature and weak; the nonsocialist components account for an important part of production and circulation.
- Socialist industrialization remains unaccomplished; the production force is very inferior; the economy has excessive lack of balance in many areas.
- The number of jobless people is extremely large.
- The state of supply and demand of the necessities shows a lack of balance. Prices and market change in an uncontrollable manner.

Soviet Union

- In the first stage of developed socialism, the state-operated economy is strong; the socialist economy accounts for an overwhelming share; the individual and family-based economies operate in the socialist orbit.
- Socialist industrialization has been achieved; social production is highly developed, with a very abundant production force; the economy is basically balanced.
- Members of the work force all have jobs; there is the phenomenon of shortage of labor.
- The supply and demand of the necessities are in a balanced state. Prices and market are stable, with changes taking place as planned.

Furthermore, we cannot afford not to consider what Marx called the "Asian mode of production" and what history left behind that show further differences, such as the social structure, psychology, and so on.

Consequently, the content of renovating the economic thinking in our country must originate from a combination of its socioeconomic conditions, with consideration given to the appropriate contents of the same in the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. We cannot help worrying about the recent tendency to copy in an extremely carefree manner their renovation of thinking. Here we need to "renovate a copy-style renovation," to base the renovation of our thinking on Vietnam's realities, and to resolve Vietnam's current problems, which are tested in our own economy and society.

2. About the goal of renovating the thinking, as we pointed out earlier, there can be different goals. Can the goal of renovating the economic thinking in Vietnam be restoring capitalism, restoring exploitation, restoring free competition? Definitely not! The goal of renovating the thinking must be building socialism in Vietnam, as the 6th Congress has affirmed—"to properly apply Marxism-Leninism to the situation in our country."

The important matter here is that we must correctly understand the true nature of socialism and to overcome all misunderstandings and prejudices about socialism, and any subjective association of Confucianist thoughts, simplistic barracks-style communist ideas, and so on with socialism. Here let us remind ourselves of what Marx-Engels pointed out:

"For us, communism is not a state of affairs that must be created, nor an ideal that reality must obey. We call communism a realistic movement, which wipes out the present state of affairs." (Footnote 9) (K. Marx, F. Engels: "German Ideology." I. Feuerbach: "Selected Works," Vol. 1, Su That Publishing House, Hanoi, 1980 p 297) I translated the word as "realistic movement." The German word, Bewegung, means "campaign, movement" p 6). This means that socialism is a necessity which reality will move to. The socialism that is built in

Vietnam must originate from Vietnam's socioeconomic conditions and obey the objective laws that are working for development in the Vietnamese society today.

In order to penetrate deeply into the masses and to become a material force, to renovate the thinking must be a mass undertaking and involve the thinking of an entire generation. Therefore, we cannot be impatient, nor rely only on the renovation of just a handful of educated people, but instead we must motivate the masses and renovate the thinking of working people throughout the country. This is a revolutionary and hard task. Naturally, scientists must lead the way and set up a scientific base for this task.

3. In the methodological aspect, to renovate the thinking must be to smoothly apply the dialectical thinking method and to overcome all manifestations or variations of the metaphysical thinking, such as experimentalism, voluntary subjectivism, simple nonscientific method, and so on.

To renovate the thinking must first of all be dialectical denial accompanied by succession and development of the past. The 6th Party Congress clearly indicated that renovation means "to display the nation's historical and revolutionary traditions" and "to maintain the noble and proud character of our party, people, and system and at the same time to further develop it to make it richer and finer." As we pointed out earlier, the need for renovation of thinking originates from realities, not from theoretical argumentative thinking, and certainly not primarily from mistakes. A lot of things now become inappropriate because conditions have changed. There are, of course, quite a few old thinking patterns and prejudices being totally unscientific and unrealistic that absolutely must be overcome. We cannot help worrying about the fact that there recently appeared signs of total denial of and excessive insults against the entire past, while the true task we must fulfill is to succeed and develop the heritage left by the preceding generation.

For those who are willing to achieve renovation, as Lenin reminded us, "The first duty of those who want to seek 'the roads leading to the happiness of mankind' must be not to deceive themselves and to courageously and sincerely recognize the truth." (Footnote 10) (V.I. Lenin: "Friends of the People..." "Complete Works," Vol. 1, Su That Publishing House, Hanoi, 1977 p 510) The truth is that the condition of renovation has opened our eyes and that we all have to bear a certain degree of responsibility for the weaknesses and failures in the past. To blame other people, to consider that only other people need to renovate their thinking, and to believe oneself having been from the beginning alert and clear-sighted—that really is the greatest self-deception, unscientific attitude, and arrogance. With its scientific and revolutionary character, the Marxist dialectic is the truly correct method to consider renovating the thinking as a continuous process. For, as Marx said, the dialectic "considers the movement itself, each formation of the movement

having taken shape, only as a temporary state and does not worship anything, for basically it has a critical and revolutionary character." (Footnote 11) (K. Marx: "Capital," Book 1, Vol. 1, Su That Publishing House, Hanoi, 1963 p 29) And that is the need for the current renovation of our thinking.

II. Some Matters in Economic Management

An important aspect of renovating our thinking is economic evaluation and management. The 6th Party Congress affirmed: "Only through renovation can we see correctly and totally the truth, and see the new factors to be further developed and the mistakes to be corrected." (Footnote 12) (Opening speech at the 6th Party Congress, TAP CHI CONG SAN, January 1987, p 20)

The principal aspect of renovating the thinking is to overcome the superficial and simplistic approach to evaluating the situation and to give up the tendency to make realities rosy. Here there are two aspects having to do with viewpoint and power. About the viewpoint on looking into the truth, renovation here really is restoration of the truly Leninist attitude toward the truth and toward shortcomings: "Our strength has been and always will be to recognize the most serious failures in a totally alert manner and to draw from these failures lessons of experience that would allow us to see what needs to be corrected in our activities. Therefore, it is necessary to speak openly and not to beat around the bush." (Footnote 13) (V.I. Lenin: "Complete Works," Vol 40, Progress Publishing House, Moscow, 1978, p 255)

The other aspect of making correct evaluation based on the truth is scientific power: to truly combine theory with practice and to review all typical models in order to evaluate the true nature of the overall situation. Lenin also pointed out: "...In order to clarify this objective unit, do not take scattered examples or documents (because the phenomena in social life are extremely complicated, people always can find as many scattered examples or documents as they like to have to prove any argument) but entire sets of documents about the bases of economic life." (Footnote 14) (Ibid., Vol. 27 p 388)

At the present time there are very many different, even contrasting, ideas originating from different judgment of the situation and from using a number of individual typical models to replace an overall evaluation and using phenomena instead of true nature. That leads to asserting different reasons and different solutions.

To correctly evaluate the situation is not to be separated from correct judgment of socioeconomic theories. Without correct theories we cannot accurately analyze the complex realities, nor can we generalize the nature of and the laws hidden behind phenomena. Ludwig Boltzmann, the late 19th-century theoretical physicist, had this to say: "Nothing is more practical than theory." His

statement bespeaks the role of theory, the close link between theory and practice, a lively and profound theory that is directed at finding answers for the problems in life.

A basic view that needs to be affirmed is to recognize the real contradictions that exist in the period of transition and in a socialist society. Following the abolition of the systems of man exploiting man and of private ownership of the major means of production there comes the disappearance of the opposing contradictions, instead of an elimination of contradictions in general. The movement of things in practice shows that the socialist production relationships are not naturally and automatically suitable for development of the productive force but instead require perfection being achieved on a regular basis and with well-defined goals and awareness. To do so we must be alert to discover contradictions in the multifaceted development of daily life. We must review the experience of the masses, discover effective forms of solution in connection with the typical examples, and from there develop generalized solutions suitable for the national economy. Let us get rid of prejudices against contradictions, the existence of which must be considered something positive necessary for the renovating effort.

A new attitude, totally alert and principled, is to learn the experiences of the capitalist economy and capitalist economic management, in addition to studying the socialist economic-management experience as the major field of interest. Lenin had repeatedly insisted that Soviet Russia learn the Taylor method and from capitalist Germany; at the same time, he had also pointed to the double character of capitalist economic management. On the one hand, it is the scientific achievements based on a developed scientific and technological production and aimed at managing, regulating, and coordinating a large-scale production. These are methods that need to be analyzed and applied. On the other hand, capitalist management also is a function of the capitalist production relationships, an exploiting function aimed at obtaining maximum profits. This is the character that needs to be eliminated. To categorically refuse to learn the capitalist management experiences is to close one's eyes in front of an obvious truth and to ignore a potential of man's knowledge. On the other hand, to shamelessly copy and idolize the capitalist management experiences while applying them to the socialist production relationships, i.e., to defy the difference in terms of nature in the production relationships, also is a mistake.

To adhere to the basic guidelines and views of the 6th Party Congress, "to continue to persevere in thinking about, searching for, testing, and gradually shaping the new in an active and steady manner" is the road to renovation of our thinking in economic matters.

Youth Movement Termed Unstable

42090545 Hanoi HANOI MOI in Vietnamese 29 May 87 p 2

[Article by Nguyen Trieu: "Advancing Toward the Municipal Youth Union Congress: Questions of a Topical Nature; Why Is the Youth Movement Unstable?; Must the Youth Union Participate Directly in Economic Work?; What Is the Relationship Between the Party and the Youth Union?"]

[Text] Those have been pervasive contents of the seminars organized by the municipal Youth Union chapter within the framework of preparatory activities for the ninth congress of the municipal Youth Union chapter.

In general, there is agreement that the Youth Union does not yet have a clear course and its struggle goals are not specific, so the movement is still fragmented and is dependent on the circumstances and localities. A kind of disease that has eaten rather deeply into the work style of the Youth Union organization is "beating drums and assembling," and primarily rely on "enthusiasm," and does not sufficiently take into consideration the effectiveness of activities. Nearly all the movements are characterized by being launched with much fanfare, after which they are not monitored, distortions are not corrected, and the good models are not disseminated. The Youth Union cadres have not received regular training and lack social knowledge, so they find it difficult to rally the youths, and do not have sufficient prestige with the party committees and governmental administrations. The capital's Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union has a mid-level Youth Union school, but it does not yet have a stable instructional base. During a conference, the basic-level Youth Union cadres reached agreement on launching a movement to work and economize to contribute to developing the Youth Union school. That was a good innovation, but steps must be taken to ensure that all contributions by Youth Union members are used in the correct manner.

Those who attended the conference in general observed that youths have sufficient enthusiasm and capabilities to serve as the assault forces in all spheres. But the requirements regarding party members and organizations have not been fully met. Furthermore, the Youth Union's education and propaganda work has not been carried out. It is commonly believed that today's youths lack ideals and tend more toward pleasure-seeking and pragmatic. There are reasons for that, but more must be said and about the matter. The youths of today have very great needs with regard to education, social relations, and political maturity. But those needs are still very far from being fulfilled.

In industry, agriculture, circulation and distribution, etc., youths have made certain contributions and have been inquisitive and made all-out efforts. But not all recommendations of the Youth Union have been supported by the party committees and governmental

administrations. Furthermore, some leadership echelons only know how to reject proposals and do not make suggestions or provide the necessary guidance. The movements to construct youth projects, the agricultural scientific-technical units, the model retail stalls, the youth production teams, etc., have not brought about notable results. That is a responsibility of the Youth Union. But on the other hand the party committees and governmental echelons also do not yet truly sympathize with the Youth Union and do not yet have common regulations regarding such activities. Many cadres and Youth Union members have recommended that the Youth Union work be made part of the curricula of the party schools. At the same time, the municipal party committee and the ward and district party committees also should have permanent training plans for leadership cadres with regard to the Youth Union work.

Most of the participants agreed that the Youth Union should engage directly in economic work. That is an urgent requirement of the present situation. The Youth Union must participate in economic work above all in order to have conditions for rallying youths, especially at the subward level. That is also a way to accomplish work, a form of strengthening the social responsibilities of the cadres and Youth Union members. According to observations of youths in Ba Dinh Ward, in general the subward party committees support the Youth Union in instituting the various forms of production, but the people's committees of many subprecincts are not yet in unanimous agreement. In agriculture, although the youth seed teams, crop protection, and irrigation teams have proved their usefulness, there is as yet no unified operational mechanism, or a policy appropriate to those organizations.

With regard to relations between the party and the Youth Union, there were many different observations and evaluations. Some people expressed the opinion that first of all the Youth Union must take the initiative and dare recommend to the party its action program. But there were also opinions that leadership of the Youth Union work is the responsibility of the party committee echelons. The party must have specific guidelines and plans to guide the Youth Union. It cannot be said that the Youth Union's activities are weak only because of the Youth Union. Many people observed that the Youth Union has not yet taken the initiative in its activities, has not been creative, and has not truly been an assault force. The habit of awaiting directives has deeply penetrated the thought of many cadres. But the party committees also have not fulfilled their responsibility.

According to the common viewpoint, the greatest problem in the youth movement at present is that the relationship between the obligations and rights of youths has not been satisfactorily resolved. The young generation of today demands social justice. If everything is handled openly and if all stands and policies are carried out uniformly and fully, the Youth Union movement will undergo major transformations.

5616

Cumbersome Red Tape at Haiphong Port Described

42090555 Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 29 Jun 87
p 2

[Article by Minh Son: "Too Many 'Fortresses' at Haiphong Port; From Submitting Claims to Picking Up Merchandise One Must Pass Through 5 Organs, 17 Windows and 20 'Processing Stages'; Negative Phenomena Abound; Investigation Prompted by Reader's Letter"]

[Text] Some readers have written to our editorial office or have met with our regular correspondent in Haiphong to complain about enduring interminable waits and too much red tape while claiming merchandise shipped by sea from foreign countries to Haiphong Port.

We conducted an investigation and below are our findings:

"Fortresses" One Must Pass Through

After receiving a notice from VOSA Corp., a sea shipping agent, advising that his merchandise had arrived at the port and is ready for pickup, a claimant must find his way through five different organs. (some people, however, show up at the port for pickup knowing that their merchandise has arrived although they have received no notices). These five organs are, as follows: 1) VOSA, 2) Haiphong Customs, 3) Haiphong Port, 4) Haiphong Noncommercial Goods Corp., and 5) Ngo Quyen Ward Service Corp. (Haiphong).

At these 5 organs, the claimant must go through 17 windows and more than 20 "processing stages."

At Vosa, there are two windows. At Window No 1, he must present all necessary papers to prove he is the right recipient. After careful examination, a clerk holds some of these papers and instructs the claimant to wait an "appropriate time: before moving to another window to get these papers back and take a delivery permit. That "appropriate time" usually last 2-3 hours. Last year, during end-of-the-month days, some people had to wait from one-half to a full day. At Window No 2, the claimant pays an administrative fee, recovers his papers and gets a delivery permit. Then he goes to the customs office for additional procedures.

At Customs (station for delivery of noncommercial merchandise inside the May To Stadium), the claimant must go through new procedures:

At Window No 1, he must submit the delivery permit and wait; when his name is called out he must present all kinds of papers (there once again he must answer all questions raised by a customs clerk to make sure he is the right person). Then the clerk sells him merchandise declaration forms.

At Window No 2, the claimant fills out the declarations and hands them to the clerk before moving on to Window No 3—some 50 meters down the aisle.

At Window No 3, he must wait until his name is called out to take an unloading permit.

Last year, during the last days of May a "trip" from Window No 2 to Window No 3 usually took one-half or a full day. On the afternoon of 29 May 1987, when we were there, many persons who submitted their declarations by 1530 hours were advised by customs personnel to return the following day at about the same time to recover their declarations and get their unloading permits. This processing stage is conducted by customs personnel in a rather cumbersome manner. They examine the declarations (usually a heavy stack) and record them on books, then carry them to the customs office at No 22 Dien Bien Phu Street (more than 1 km from the May To Stadium). There, these documents are checked against motorcycle registration permits before being returned to the May To Station. The transfer of records between customs cadres from two different sectors is a fastidious process. Records received from superior echelons are assigned to the May To customs station chief for review and issuance of the necessary unloading permit.

At Window No 4, the claimant takes the unloading permit then proceeds to Haiphong Port to engage in other procedures.

At Window No 5, after picking up his merchandise at the port, the claimant must surrender the unloading permit and merchandise declarations to the customs bureau chief, who then directs a unit of customs clerks to check for possible discrepancies between these declarations and the actual merchandise. The claimant must hire a unit specializing in opening his cargo, at the cost of 500-800 dong per 15 minutes. When closing time is near, or when the office is too busy, the claimant can speed up the process by giving a cash bonus, or a cake of soap, or a bag of sugar to the clerks, who, of course, will not refuse it.

At Window No 6, following the merchandise inspection the claimant must apply for a permit to sell noncommercial merchandise.

At Window No 7, he must submit an invoice certifying that his merchandise has been sold. He must wait there to get his customs declarations back and take a permit to remove his goods from the stadium.

At Haiphong Port, the claimant must go through five windows and six processing stages.

At Window No 1, he submits the unloading permit issued by customs to a storehouse clerk.

At Window No 2, he pays a storage fee, gets an invoice and brings it into the storehouse to claim the merchandise (the claimant must provide his own means of transportation).

At Window No 3—the guardpost by the port gate—the claimant must apply for an entry pass, for which he must present his identity card, a permit to rent a truck, a rental contract, an unloading permit, and a receipt showing that all fees have been collected. Failure to produce any of these papers will automatically cause rejections. At 1115 hours on 2 June 1987, right before our eyes, some people were denied access to the port for not submitting a truck rental contract. When they found the contract, the office was closed for the day.

Window No 4 is where the driver (the claimant cannot enter the port), after getting the entry pass, meets station cadres inside the port to pick up the merchandise. According to regulations, claimants are not allowed access, but the stadium where we stood to observe people coming and going for merchandise pickup, looked like a "marketplace." Noisy shouts were heard throughout the stadium. Many people complained to us that they were compelled to pick up their merchandise at a time when the station was going to close, or when cranes were "out of order" by "accident." Thus, to speed up the loading process, claimants often had to "cough up" a "bonus" to "stimulate" stevedores. It seems that almost everyone had to do so. How much of that money has been received by the port, the loading and unloading sector, and units and the workers? Perhaps only port officials and stevedores can answer that question. Indeed, the state has never collected a penny from these bonuses despite the fact that facilities, gas and oil are furnished by the common budget!

At Window No 5—the port gate—after loading the driver must stop his truck to submit papers and wait in line for vehicle and cargo inspection before being allowed to move out.

Window No 6. After leaving the port gate, the claimant must go back to Window No 1 to surrender the unloading permit to a desk inside the storehouse and must wait for clearance by port and storehouse authorities before being allowed to move the truck and cargo to a corner of May To Stadium for further processing.

At the Ngo Quyen Ward Service Corp., the claimant must go through two windows.

At Window No 1, he must pay a parking fee. By the end of May 1987, a truck plus cargo was charged 1,050 dong. The claimant then must hire coolies to reclose the merchandise boxes.

After obtaining a permit to sell motorcycles and other goods (which are above the authorized norms) from the customs office, the claimant must go through additional procedures at the Haiphong Municipal Noncommercial Goods Corp.

First, he must write an application for repurchasing the motorcycles and goods which he must sell to the Non-commercial Goods Corp. Everyone is willing to do so because prices are very cheap. We witnessed the case of a claimant receiving a shipment of three motorcycles, the third of which was appraised by customs as a used item with just 60 percent of its initial value, making it possible for him to repurchase it at 3,000 dong (the price of a motorcycle tire).

Second, the claimant must replot to the purchasing bureau to sign a purchase order.

Third, with that purchase order in hand the claimant must move to the desk in charge of writing invoices and pay.

After going through 5 organs and all these procedures, the claimant must, before leaving May To Station, present all his papers—a replay of what he did when he first entered the stadium.

How do things work at the above 5 organs and 17 windows and during all these "processing stages"?

Snags, Inconveniences, Negative Phenomena

A look at these 20-plus "stages" shows that whenever any of them hit a snag the entire network would grind to a halt. Such snags are daily occurrences given the fact that these five organs are different from each other in terms of both structure and nature of work.

A usual pattern is that an organ opens while the others stay closed or that a section "works against time" while the others "slow down." Here is an example: By mid-May 1987, seeing that the storehouse was full to the brim of privately-owned merchandise—nearly 5,000 cartons—while Haiphong Customs was able to issue an average of 37 unloading permits, port officials sent out an alarm signal. In response, Haiphong Customs dispatched an additional 20 cadres and clerks to the May To Stadium. Processing was sped up considerably.

Results: On 28 May, 181 boxes; on 29 May, 244 boxes; and on 30 May, 281 boxes. But these were just unloading permits. Unloading pace, in fact, was very slow. A count at the May To Stadium gate on 30 May 1987, at 1510 hours, showed that of a total of 252 trucks—including a backlog from the previous day—only 132 were cleared. Thus, in a corner of the May To Stadium, which was covered with wet mud just like a field of rice seedlings in the wake of summer downpours, there were day in and day out an average of over 100 vehicles waiting in line for merchandise inspection.

Haiphong Customs officials said that, on Sunday 31 May, making good on a pledge to the port, they issued more than 100 permits; nevertheless, at the storehouse only the invoice-writing section was at work while other desks were off. Thus, even if other sections in the chain were at work, there would be no relief for claimants.

Snags usually hit various processing stages, taking on the form of messages written on slips of paper advising personnel to "do this at once," or "do that in special priority." From whom did these slips originate? Well, most of them came from public security, or from those having close relationships with customs cadres, or from children and brothers of powerful people. A category of persons is also entitled to that privilege—a fact known to and discussed by all but which no one dares expose. They are "top dogs" hunting for merchandise claimant in front of VOSA and the customs offices and at the May To Stadium. Some claimants recalled they had to give them 30,000-35,000 dong to speed up processing. Officials at the economic security bureau of Haiphong public security and customs told us that the above reports were true and that they were willing to make a few arrests but that they could not do so (!). It should be reminded that not everyone can become a "top dog," unless he has some "close" or profit-splitting relationships with cadres and personnel at the above windows and organs. Only Haiphong public security and customs know whether they are truly willing to nab, thwart, and prosecute these evildoers. Numerous organs and processing stages and considerable red tape have tried the claimants' patience (by the end of May, the fastest clearance took 3 full days of waiting, otherwise 7 days or more was a rule), creating a network of overbearing and corrupt cadres and civil servants and marring a corner of the Haiphong May To Stadium with negativism. Shops have sprung up there, buying and selling merchandise and causing prices to rise out of control. On 31 May 1987, a glass of lemonade cost 120-150 dong compared with 50 dong at other places in Haiphong. About 150-200 vehicles converge daily from Nghe Tinh, Thanh Hoa, Ha Nam Ninh, Ha Tuyen, and Son La to the stadium to haul merchandise. Freight from Haiphong to Hanoi amounts to 15,000-17,000 dong per box, and 27,000-30,000 dong during "tense times." How much of that money goes into the pockets of drivers and personnel of organs owning these vehicles? Do these organs know that? Negativism affects claimants sharing a rented truck as well. For instance, claimant No 319 netted a 15,000 dong-profit from storing a box of goods in the stadium simply by marking up the fee from 13,000 dong to 28,000 dong.

Does it make sense to let claimants for merchandise shipped from overseas to Haiphong Port cool their heels "miserably" amid a maze of procedures, as we have seen? How many unnecessary processing stages can be dropped? A truly accurate answer cannot be found in a short investigative article and in light of our limited capabilities. In our opinion, however, the most earnest answer rests with the above five organs and their higher counterparts.

9213

Transportation Fees Termed Out of Balance

42090539a Hanoi HANOI MOI in Vietnamese
17 May 87 pp 1, 4

[Article by Nguyen Quang Hoa: "Transportation Fees: Public Opinion Changes Course"]

[Text] After less than 2 years, public opinion regarding transportation fees has completely changed. If at the end of 1985 people complained that transportation fees were too high, they now think that they are too low. But the problem is not merely one of public opinion. Behind the complaints regarding those irrational fees there is the real concern of the communications-transportation sector.

First of all, let us talk about railroad transportation.

Recently the localities have increased the prices and fees of passenger transportation by motor vehicles, so the railroad has become the lowest-priced means of transportation. Permitting the flow of goods among the localities, eliminating the control stations, and reducing troublesome searches have created favorable conditions for merchants to transport larger quantities of goods. For those reasons, the number of railroad passengers has suddenly increased.

The railroad sector has sought all ways to repair, develop, and utilize the existing material-technical bases and has arranged the turn-around times of locomotives and railroad cars to transport 60,000 to 65,000 passengers a day. But in fact, since Tet of this year, the average number of passengers per day has increased to 80,000, and some days the total has been 85,000. Passengers on the Thong Nhat line have increased from 1,200 a day to 4,100 a day.

Because of the excessively irrational fees, the sector is increasingly "exceeding its plan" with regard to passenger transportation, so it is incurring increasingly larger deficits. In the first quarter alone, according to preliminary figures the railroad sector lost 116 million dong, which caused a state budget deficit.

In an interview with us on the sector's situation, comrade Nguyen Van Tu, head of the Railroad General Department, stated that "The consequences of the war with regard to the sector's material-technical bases have not been overcome, in recent years in-depth investment has not been rational, and materials, spare parts, and fuel, which have long been classified as "strategic," have been scarce and their quality is low, which has created a chronic problem which has caused chaos in managing production. On the railroad network there are now 400,000 rotting railroad ties, which has caused the trains' speed to decline. The number of ties produced by the railroad sector or supplied to it is sufficient to replace

only the newly damaged ties. The Thong Nhat railroad line is regarded as the "backbone" but it is also in a situation of incomplete restoration.

The installations have deteriorated and when the facilities and equipment are due for repairs there is a shortage of repairs and raw materials, so the number of good facilities has declined. Within a period of only 1 year the railroad sector was not supplied, or was supplied with insufficient quantities of, materials, spare parts, and equipment valued at 300 million dong. That situation has caused the material-technical bases to become increasingly distant from the requirement of improving them in order to improve the quality of transportation."

According to the comrades in the Railroad Transportation Department, on average each passenger car has 70 seats. In order to transport 80,000 passengers a day the trains would have to pull 130 cars. But in fact the sector has no more cars in reserve. Additional cars cannot be built or purchased abroad because of the lack of funds. The consequences of having to carry excessive loads is that the railroad cars break down even more quickly.

The situation is similar in the river transportation sector. According to data of the Federation of River Transportation Enterprises, both the provinces and the central echelon have suffered deficits. During the first 9 months of 1986 the Hanoi river transportation sector suffered a loss of 118 dong per 1000 km. The Federation was the only unit in the country not to suffer a loss. But since September 1986, because of changes regarding salaries and shift differentials, the Federation has lost 30 million dong annually. In 1987, from beginning to end, the Federation will lose more than 524 million dong.

With regard to the present river transportation fees, comrade Phan Long, general director of the Federation of River Transportation Enterprises, said that the river transportation fees are strangling the sector to death. First of all they cause the good transportation facilities to deteriorate rapidly because they cannot be repaired.

Second, they are strangling the machinery and transportation factories because there is no money to repair the facilities. At present, the transportation corporations of the federation still owe the machinery factories 16 million dong (for 1986 alone). The numbers of facilities belonging to the river transportation federation which did not undergo annual repairs (between 1982 and 1986) totalled 560 boats and 387,000 tons of barges.

Because of the irrational transportation fee (450 dong per 1,000 ton/km), the sector is also in a situation of "the more it carries, the more it loses." Another irrationality with regard to prices in the sector is that only one price is applied for all kinds of facilities, so River Transportation Corporation No 5, one of the five corporations in the federation, which transports rice to Hanoi and the border area, has a larger number of modern facilities, such as self-propelled barges, and thus suffers an even

greater deficit because its facilities are slower than barges that are pushed or towed. At present that corporation's activities are very difficult because the federation is not permitted to spread losses and profits among its enterprises.

Because of the deficits, during the first quarter of this year the average income of a cadre, worker, or civil servant in the river transportation sector was only 950 dong per month. The crew members may have higher incomes, but because they work the year round on the rivers they cannot increase their production or take on a second job, so their incomes are still too small, and more negative phenomena arise.

In the motor vehicle transportation sector, the crisis regarding fees is less than in the above-mentioned sector, especially in passenger transportation. In part because fees have increased and in part because of the method of assigning responsibility for maintaining vehicles to the drivers and assistant drivers, they must do their own repairs, and sometimes must buy their own innertubes and tires and part of their fuel. Also because of that method of assigning responsibility, fees in that sector are also very chaotic and causes much negativism. In addition to the prices set by the state or the localities, which are printed clearly on the tickets, there is another kind of price that is "agreed upon" by the drivers and passengers, or imposed by the drivers, which are usually many times greater than the fixed prices. For example, the price of tickets on the Hanoi-Bac Ninh line is 10 dong but drivers usually collect 30 dong, and the price of tickets on the Hanoi-Hai Phong line is 53 dong but drivers usually collect 150 to 200 dong.

It must be added that because prices are low some people need not buy tickets at the ticket window, but are prepared to pay additional money so that they can board the bus in advance.

Returning to the matter of public opinion regarding the present transportation fees, nearly everyone must admit that they are too irrational. That has not only prevented the communications-transportation sector from overcoming its present difficulties but has given rise to many negative phenomena among cadres, workers, and civil servants in both the sector and society at large. The rational of fees would both stimulate the people engaged in transportation and improve the quality of service by the transportation sector. At the same time, the passengers could accept the principle of equivalent prices, which is now an urgent matter.

5616

No Solution Seen for Hanoi Electric Power Shortage

42090548 Hanoi HANOI MOI in Vietnamese
10 Jun 87 p 3

[Article by Quang Cat: "When There Is an Electric Power Shortage"]

[Text] The Electric Power Service, responsible for managing and distributing electricity, depends itself on the electricity that is distributed.

During the first quarter of this year, there was a relatively stable supply of electricity. Hanoi received a daily average 2.9 million kWh, with the highest power level, in the evening, of 165,000 to 180,000 kWh. At that time industry's biggest problem was not electricity, but a shortage of materials.

There were problems at the end of March, and by the beginning of May the volume of electric power supply had dropped to an average of only 2.4 million kWh a day—some days it dropped to 2.1 million. The evening high point dropped to 130,000 kilowatts, and at times there were only 100,000 kilowatts. The failure of industry to meet objectives in the second quarter was thus due to a shortage of electric power. There was also a shortage of power for agriculture, with too small an amount distributed on some days. Demands were not met for providing drought control priority for electric power.

It has been necessary to reduce electricity for daily life. In the city, from a time when electricity was supplied day and night, it was cut on alternate days, then was cut during the daytime, and at times there were outages for whole days and nights. During April and the first part of May, some collective areas, such as Thanh Cong, Thanh Xuan, Nghia Do, Vinh Ho, Yen Lang, and some parts of Hai Ba Trung Ward, had outages for 2-3 evenings in a row.

What is the reason for this situation? It is primarily due to instability in the supply of electric power. Pha Lai Power Plant is plagued with breakdowns of subsidiary equipment, and it is short of replacement parts or has limited repair capability. Since the beginning of the year, when it generated 300,000 kilowatts, it has dropped to 200,000 kilowatts, and even 100,000 kilowatts. Soviet technicians have recently made many efforts, so that 6 furnaces and 3 generators were started, but because former illnesses have not been completely overcome, power output continues to fluctuate. Major repair has not been completed on the old, worn equipment at Uong Bi and Ninh Binh Power Plants, so they generate limited power. As for Thac Ba Hydroelectric Plant, the water level is too low this year, which has put limits on generator running time. The Hai Phong air turbine has a power output of 70,000 kilowatts, but limited oil supplies permit electricity to be generated only in special circumstances.

In addition, the following problems have persisted for a long time.

Enterprises in the suburbs of the city have been generally connected to lines of the agricultural sector. Enterprises very much want reliable power to be provided on alternate days, but agriculture needs it on a daily basis, even if it comes in a trickle. Because of that conflict, there

has been no optimum way to distribute electricity during the present shortage. With too small a volume, if it is distributed to agriculture on a daily basis, factories do not have enough power for production. On the other hand, if power is provided for factory production on alternate days, crop work cannot be suspended on days when there is a total outage.

Within the city, it has been possible to ensure the availability of electric power only in the evening, and in some areas it has had to be cut 2 evenings each week. With electricity not available all day, when it becomes available in the evening everyone competes for its use, so that there are very rapid surges of power at substations, causing them to burn out. Then there are area-wide power outages even though power has not been cut.

It is worth noting that electricity is now used for cooking in many places in the city. The cost of 1 kWh of this electricity is 10 dong, while the price for cadres is only 0.6 dong. Calculations indicate that only 160,000 families pay for electric power on the basis of family contracts, and 10,000 households pay via payroll deductions by their agency. Electricity is too cheap, and people use it without restraint, ranging from use for cooking to producing ice to sell for profit. There are some collective zones (which pay for electricity via subsidies) in which each family uses up an average of 300 kWh a month. One high-level cadre uses as much as 4,200 kWh per month. Another organizational cadre makes ice and ice cream, for which he receives tens of thousands of dong monthly, but only pays 50 dong a month for electricity (according to the rate set by the agency). Then there is the matter of leniently permitting dedicated electric lines. According to regulation, only a few persons were to receive such priority because of their responsibilities, but the practice then had a tendency to expand.

Finally, I wish to touch on the unauthorized use of electricity, which has received much mention in this paper. I will simply tell about a number of the most recent cases from 12 May to 5 June, a period in which 86 cases were prosecuted involving theft of electricity for unauthorized businesses and 48 cases were prosecuted in which it was taken for non-business use. Here are a few examples. Nguyen Thi Thanh, of 27 Hang Dau, tapped the dedicated lines of the Hanoi Broadcast Station to obtain electricity for her soft drink business. Nguyen Duc Lan, of 10 Quan Tho Alley, 3 Hang Bot, tapped the electric power network to make fire crackers by electrolysis. Quach Van Du, of 38 Nguyen Thai Hoc, tapped electricity from outside the watt-meter for the purpose of producing inner tubes for carts and motorcycles. The sad thing is that among the persons mentioned above there were 46 cadres and 2 party members—especially that there were economic planning committee cadres making ice and ice cream for business who, when investigated, objected vociferously. Some collectives in the electric power sector also failed to set a good example. When one such collective in Khuong Thuong was investigated, a loss of up to 60 percent of its electricity was uncovered.

There are presently problems with sources of electric power. In view of capabilities of the sector and the electric power service and based on present sources of electric power and the demands of electricity consumers, the sector does not dare promise any great prospects. A group of technicians has come from friendly foreign countries to improve the capital's electric power network, but supplies have not yet arrived. In order to improve the structure of electric power sources (hydroelectric more than thermal energy sources), we must wait for the Song Da hydroelectric power source to begin operation. The immediate task is therefore to implement consolidation measures planned out several years ago.

With the real situation currently that electric power cannot be supplied day and night, I suggest that methods be implemented to provide dependable electricity for a few days a week to suburb trunks for agriculture and industry. Within the city, electric power should be supplied on alternate days in a fair way, and the electric power service must implement this in a strict and publicized way in accordance with established plans.

9830

Draft Regulations for Municipal Commercial Bank

42090556 Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG in Vietnamese 18 Jun 87 p 4

[Text] The Economics Department of the Municipal CPV Committee held a conference yesterday afternoon, 17 June, at the municipal people's committee to present the draft regulations for the Municipal Commercial Bank, called the Commercial Bank for short, which will begin operations soon.

Attending the conference were representatives from the directorship of services, precinct and district people's committees, large production, business, and export units, and mass organizations in the city.

The Commercial Bank is a new model organized as an experiment in the city and the socialist composite business unit in the financial and monetary field. It has legal status, independent and autonomous economic accountability in finance and business operations, and separate capital.

The Commercial Bank has been established with separate capital drawn from the following sources: capital initially provided by the state bank; shares contributed (each share is 50,000 dong) by segments of the national economy, mass groups, and the people, including overseas Vietnamese; bonds (each bond is 10,000 dong) which pay off at maturity and pay interest (stocks and bonds are freely transferred with the consent of the buyer and seller). The amount of the bank's private capital is set initially at 500 million dong and divided into 10,000 shares. The Commercial Bank guarantees confidentiality in the customers' use of accounts.

Regarding operations, the Commercial Bank is permitted to carry out all the transactions of a commercial and business bank. Specifically, it may receive deposits in all types of currency including foreign currency; make disbursements in cash, by account transfers, and by bank transfers; buy and sell bonds; grant short-term credit of various types under all forms, including discounts, bills of exchange, money orders, guarantees, etc.; participate in investments to form or expand industrial installations, small industry and handicrafts, banks, transportation, insurance, services, etc.; foreign payments and credits; purchase and sale of foreign currency in travelers checks, from expatriots, bank transfers, bank receipts, export-import credits, etc.

The Commercial Bank Management Council, elected by the congress of shareholders, leads the bank on behalf of the shareholders. Operating the bank is the director, a manager from the Management Council. Before commencing operations and upon approval of the state bank, the Management Council is responsible for completing the procedures for mobilizing, increasing, decreasing, and transferring share assets; the procedures for opening accounts and using the checks of the Commercial Bank; the credit procedures and interest rate structure applicable to the Commercial Bank.

6915

SOCIAL

Problems in Legal Sector Noted

42090540a Hanoi HANOI MOI in Vietnamese
12 Jun 87 pp 2, 4

[Article by Nguyen Thanh Vinh, lawyer: "On the Occasion of the First Session of the Sixth National Assembly: "Private Thoughts of Lawyers"]

[Text] During recent meetings between candidates for election to the National Assembly and voters, several lawyers expressed opinions about legal matters. Indeed, they wanted to say much more, and many of them wanted to say that they hoped the National Assembly would be concerned with bringing about a new transformation that benefits the people and the nation.

Recently, our lawyers' committee has received a number of sincere, constructive opinions in the spirit of the Sixth Party Congress, and dared directly confront the truth and speak the truth. Thus we would like to pass them on, and hope that they are useful for our new National Assembly.

One lawyer affirmed that "Wherever there is society there are laws. During the national liberation revolution, despite the fierce warfare our people still led disciplined lives. But 10 years after the nation was liberated and unified the situation of disrespect for laws and lack of discipline had reached alarming proportions. Many

instances of law violations, from traffic violations, disturbing the peace, hooligan acts, and illegal encroachment on land, to extortion, corruption, demanding bribes, and bullying have occurred openly and brazenly, but no one has been punished.

That situation must be brought to an end. That is the ardent aspiration of the people, for only if laws are enforced can people's rights be ensured, and only then can state management be effective. If laws are not respected, morality will more or less deteriorate, the prestige of the state will decline, and the people's confidence will weaken in turn.

The legal system has two requirements: that there be laws and that laws be enforced. When the people are hungry we must urgently obtain rice. But the hunger of the legal system is also an urgent requirement, one which we can no longer ignore.

One lawyer confided that "The resolution of the Sixth Party Congress was very good. Legal circles are very sympathetic toward it, especially the part dealing with laws: "Our social policy makes service to the people its highest goal. We must achieve social justice and rapidly restore order and discipline in all spheres of social life. We must live and work in accordance with laws. We must achieve socialist democracy and respect and protect the rights of citizens."

Resolutions and laws must be made part of life. Words must be accompanied by deeds. In that sphere, cadres, at both low levels and high levels, play a decisive role. Cadres have great responsibility toward the destiny of the nation; especially in the present phase it is necessary to promote the advance of all aspects. The actual situation has shown that only if cadres lead the way will the rest of the nation follow. If cadres are not exemplary, disrespect laws, and even violate laws, we cannot demand that the people respect laws, and of course the people will disrespect laws and the government as well.

One judge confided that "In many cases cadres and civil servants violate laws because they do not understand them (for objective reasons, because of laziness toward studying and researching them), or else because they believe that laws are unnecessary and that if there were no laws no one would die. Some even regard laws as obstacles to their activities, and are confident that a proletarian standpoint is sufficient to resolve all problems. Only when they become law violators and are brought to justice do they wake up, and then it is too late."

Therefore, I think that the governmental cadres must be systematically educated with regard to laws in special legal training classes, so that they can fully understand the importance of laws in the enterprise of building socialism. Laws codify the lines of the party and serve the interests of the people. Furthermore, it is necessary to pay special attention to propagandizing and educating

the people with regard to laws, for only if they know the laws and clearly understand their rights and responsibilities can they exercise and bring into play their collective mastership right.

One lawyer worried that "Today, more than 40 years after the revolution, if there are still many prosecutors and trial judges from the provincial level to the Supreme Court who are not law school graduates, that is an extraordinary fact which must be rapidly overcome."

Furthermore, no laws have been promulgated regarding the organization of lawyers, and the prosecution of criminal cases is too slow, while there have long been laws regarding the organization of the courts, the public security police, and the people's organs of control. Because of the lack of those two legal documents, it is difficult to ensure the democratic rights of the people or to speak of real democracy.

Another lawyer stated, "I remember very vividly the complaint of a voter during a meeting with candidates for election to the National Assembly. The voter said, 'During the feudal period people who were falsely accused still had a drum to beat and could protest their innocence and also had To Hien Thanh to prove their innocence. But today one doesn't know how to resolve such a problem have requested counsel from the Hanoi bar, which have caused me to become very concerned. I think that the disposition of complaints has a very great importance in putting the people at ease, for it is a matter intimately related to the lives of the people and to their belief in our party and government. Therefore, the new National Assembly should pay special attention to definitively resolving the complaints, by means of appropriate measures, including the setting up of groups to consider complaints which are impartial and are authorized to make final decisions which are enforced immediately. One procurator recommended that "In order to truly strengthen the socialist legal system, by means of which to increase the effectiveness of the state, the National Assembly, and the government, a deep and broad scientific investigation should be made into the situation of lack of respect for laws and discipline in society, and on the harmful effects and reasons for that situation. On that basis, we must then find effective measures to enable society to live and work in accordance with laws.

In place of a conclusion, I would like to mention the thought of an old lawyer, which is also the feeling of many students of jurisprudence: "It must be admitted that the situation of negativism and daily law violations catch our attention and cannot but sadden us. But we will not fold our arms and remain passive, or remain on the outside of things. As people who are the collective masters of the nation, we have the responsibility of joining in the fray. With our knowledge of jurisprudence and in our tiny sphere of activity, we are responsible for making contributions. Of course, our efforts only

amount to a gust of wind. But only by the gathering together of wind can a storm take form, and only then can a new transformation be brought about."

5616

Truth in Dong Tien Village

42090537 Hanoi DAI DOAN KET in Vietnamese
1 Jun 87 p 7

[Article by DAI DOAN KET reporter team: "Investigation Made Following Reader's Letter—The Truth in Dong Tien Village"]

[Text] Early in February this year we received a letter of denunciation from Lai Quang Luan, formerly a party member and director of Dong Tien Cooperative in Chau Giang District, Hai Hung Province, about the fact that he had been harassed, relieved of his job, and illegally expelled from the party.

Let us print an excerpt from this long letter:

"I, a demobilized soldier, went back to my locality where I was elected into the village CPV Committee, and served as director of the cooperative beginning in 1983. While I was doing my work, I did not agree to some of the careless and wrong practices being carried out under the direct leadership of Hoang Van Chieu, secretary of the village CPV Committee. For example, there was the case of selling nearly 10 tons of pork 'on paper' to the state through the Bo Thoi food store at the end of 1983; some organs were given land to use to boost crop production, but they did not do any crop growing and let the people do the job and then collected a kind of land rent from them.

"Early in 1984 there was in the village a troublesome coal transaction that involved Chieu. The district CPV Committee sent a control board over. I made a truthful report to Nguyen Duc Lam, deputy chief of the control board of Chau Giang District CPV Committee. Shortly after Chieu held a meeting with representatives of cooperative members and declared that 'the party committee now arranges for Luan to do another job.' Since that day I have been virtually stopped from doing my work. A few days later, I continually was summoned by the People's Committee to the committee headquarters 'to deal with urgent official business,' and every summons did contain these words, 'Your failure to show up is not justifiable under any circumstances.' These summonses were mostly signed by Hoang Quoc Binh, deputy chairman of the village and head of the village public security force. Many times Binh sent militiamen to my home in order to escort me to the headquarters.

"In October 1984, my family had many pictures taken with some relatives and friends on the day when we bade farewell to a relative who was leaving for the south after being transferred there. Chieu had his subordinates get hold of one of the photographs, make several prints from

it, and send them to all of the administration organs in the district and Hai Hung Province, along with an information they wanted to spread to the effect that the picture showed an antigovernment organization. A few days later I began to receive successive summonses from the Hai Hung Provincial Organ of Control signed by one of its members, Bui Quy Nga, and asking me to come to discuss the picture.

"At the end of 1984 the village People's Committee sent militiamen to my home to ask that I appear in front of the committee to pay a debt to the cooperative. Only then did I realize that Chuan had convened a meeting of the Standing Committee to conclude that I had taken 13,900.80 dong from the cooperative. This sum of money represented the amount of cash and gifts that the Standing Committee of the village CPV Committee at its meeting at the end of 1983 decided to give to a number of organs which had assisted the village, including the pump station, the power plant branch office, and so on. I was the person who delivered them and brought back the receipts obtained after their delivery. But Chieu had given instructions to the accountant that he should not accept the receipts I had brought back, and conclusions were afterwards made to accuse me of corruption. On 12 February 1985 Chieu convened a meeting of the Standing Committee where a decision was made to remove my name from the list of party members, with the reasons given being 'having caused the loss of the party's prestige, having refused to take part in the party's activities for 5 months.'

"The District CPV Committee Organ of Control has refused to accept the reasons and conclusions submitted by the village, and so far my name remains in the list of party members under the management of the District CPV Committee. But in the village I am a nonperson...."

Power To Let People Live or Die

We of the DAI DOAN KET reporter team went to Chau Giang to investigate and found that the things Luan has mentioned were true. We also discovered other cases of oppression, such as the case of Lai Quang Tam, a former chairman of the village People's Committee. In 1981, when Tam was elected village chairman, the village CPV Committee found that he was too poor and, at a meeting, decided to let him borrow 30,000 bricks, 1,500 roof tiles, and a timber so that he could build a house, with the total value to be paid back little by little to the cooperative. When he had to deal with Luan's case, Tam expressed his disagreement. Village Secretary Chieu then ordered the accountant not to take payments from Tam any more, later set up a file in which Tam was accused of corruption, dismissed him from the position of village chairman, and removed his name from the list of party members. Tam received about the same treatment as Luan did: He received summonses from the village and from the Organ of Control of Hai Hung Province.

We can conclude that that was a case of ruthless oppression, with power being misused and the organizing measures of the party and state being used to oppress somebody who had refused to behave along with the people in power. At the present time, the names of both Tam and Luan still are included in the list of party members under the management of the Organization Committee of the Chau Giang District CPV Committee, but in their village their names have long been erased.

We can add another example regarding Lai Hong Thi, a disabled soldier. Thi denounced the illegal distribution of land in Dong Tien. The province had authorized the village to distribute land to only 30 households for construction of their houses, but a number of key cadres of Dong Tien Village, headed by CPV Committee Secretary Hoang Van Chieu and People's Committee Chairman Do Ngoc Thuy, distributed land to nearly 100 households and received bribes in the form of cash and gold from many of them. Thi's family was immediately put under house arrest. Militiamen asked any visitors and relatives who entered and left his home to produce their identification papers, and occasionally brought some of them to the People's Committee headquarters for questioning. The village public security office ordered Thi to report to it if he would go somewhere. Late in 1986, as Thi was being sick at home, the village public security chief, Hoang Quoc Binh, came to his house with a very large group of armed militiamen, who questioned him about why he had not reported on where he was going a few days before, then tied him up, and took him to the district headquarters. The district public security office and the district Organ of Control later made a decision about issuing Binh a warning based on the charge that he had illegally arrested people. Again as an act of abusing his authority and disregarding the law, Hoang Quoc Binh toward the end of 1984 led a group of armed militiamen and a person named Khac, who introduced himself as an officer of the Hai Hung public security office, and conducted a search in Luan's home. When Luan asked to see the search warrant, Binh was unable to produce one but instead said in an arrogant manner, "The central administration is number one, but the local level is number two; and you can carry your rice balls along and go to court to sue me." Dong Tien Village used to have an insecticide warehouse, which has been turned into a jail. Those who protested would be confined there by order of village public security chief Hoang Quoc Binh, whose militiamen would beat them up before arresting them. The latest case: Binh led a group of militiamen to the home of a grade 3 student, beat him up, and took him to the warehouse to detain him there for more than a day, all for terrorizing the student's father, Hoan, who was trying to denounce Secretary Chieu. Hoan is under house arrest imposed by the village public security office, which has told him that he could not leave the village at all.

Collective "Robbery"

On 23 August 1985, a truck carrying 60 bags of feathers from Hong Tien Village left Route 39 and entered Route

5. When it passed through Dong Tien Village, suddenly a large van appeared and blocked the road. The truck had to come to a complete halt, when a large number of militiamen and guards of Dong Tien Village climbed aboard, shouted orders, and forced it to back up into the village People's Committee headquarters near the roadside. The bags of feathers were quickly pushed from the truck into the backyard of the committee headquarters. The driver and the cargo escort were both extremely scared and did not dare to claim the merchandise back because they did not know what had happened. The cargo, 975 kg of feathers for export at a value of nearly 600,000 dong, was thus turned into the village's "improvement" merchandise.

The People's Committee of Dong Tien Village was disregarding the state law when it took the merchandise and detained the truck, an act beyond its authority to carry out, and was even more wrong when it later shared the money coming from it (it was lawful merchandise because its owner in Hong Tien Village had paid full taxes to the Bo Thoi tax-collecting station).

Do Ngoc Thuy, chairman of the People's Committee and cooperative director, and Hoang Quoc Binh, public security chief of the village, had to bear the main responsibility in this case because they not only knew it very well but also, according to the letters of denunciation of many people, including the militiamen who had been forced to commit that illegal act that day, were in direct command and charge of this collective "robbery."

We learned that after the case had been publicly known, the Dong Tien Village People's Committee had to pay the sum of 365,750 dong, the sales of the illegally confiscated feathers, to the district bank. What deserves attention is the fact that when it gave that quantity of feathers to the Foreign Trade Service of Chau Giang District, the Dong Tien Village People's Committee received in exchange not cash but cotton materials and other valuable goods, which it sold, shared the profits in the sales, and paid only the cost amount to the district bank. By law the goods that are illegally confiscated must be returned to owners. Dong Tien Village cannot do whatever it likes to do. The organizers of "robbery" must be dealt with by the law.

Illegal Business, Tax Evasion

To expand the collection of feathers and other goods for export is a correct direction to take. To employ private business people in collectivized organizations and to mobilize their principal is also a correct direction to take. But the Dong Tien Village People's Committee took advantage of this to do things against the law. The Standing Committee of the CPV Committee and People's Committee of Dong Tien Village proposed to the People's Committee of Chau Giang District the creation of a "cooperative producing and collecting goods for export." Although the district People's Committee only agreed to let the Dong Tien Village People's Committee

set up a goods-collecting team under its management, the village committee refused to carry out the district's decision and proceeded to have seals made—a square seal bearing the name of "Cooperative Producing and Collecting Goods for Export" subordinate to the Chau Giang District Export Goods Collection Corporation and other seals bearing the official titles of "Director Hoang Ngoc Khoach" and "Deputy Director Lai Thi Hue," the latter a private business woman selected into the board of directors of the cooperative "by recommendation." This seal was being used for quite a long time. This organization was never registered for business anywhere, nor had it ever paid a penny of tax. It did not have an accountant, nor a treasurer or employees. It really was a "ghost" cooperative. Its business activities were conducted only by Lai Thi Hue and her husband either in the name of the "ghost" cooperative or in the capacity of "cadre of the People's Committee of Dong Tien Village."

Between 24 July 1985 and 19 September 1985, this organization, actually private business woman Lai Thi Hue, delivered to the Chau Giang District Export Goods Collection Corporation 5,977 kg of feathers (which included the confiscated feathers we mentioned earlier) and received in exchange 15,286 meters of cotton materials of all kinds. Hue sold 6,529.5 meters from this quantity of materials to the marketing cooperative of Chau Giang District at speculative prices and made a profit of 40,953 dong (in new banknotes). It has not yet been determined by the legal organ who shared this profit. It is still unknown where the remaining amount of materials, 8,756.5 meters, was sold and how much profit was made from it.

Again in the name of this "ghost" cooperative Hue also delivered to the district export corporation 8,775 kg of jute fibers, for which she received in exchange 8,775 kg of urea nitrate, 121.4 kg of monosodium glutamate, and 111.8 meters of foreign-made materials. She gave to the village 5,250 kg of nitrate, but as to the remaining 3,525 kg and the quantities of materials and monosodium glutamate, nobody knew where she sold them, how much money she got from the sales, and to whom she distributed that money.

The Hai Hung Provincial Public Security Service conducted an investigation and came to definite conclusions. Hai Hung Province unanimously decided to prosecute the case (Decision to prosecute No 01/KTVA dated 19 December 1985).

But for unknown reasons the decision was buried in the files for the last 6 months. Also the decision to detain Lai Thi Hue while the investigation was going on to determine who her accomplices were and who protected Hue and Khoach was not carried out. Even the seals of this "ghost" cooperative were not yet handed over by the village to the responsible organ.

The undeniable truth is that in Dong Tien Village there are a new class of "village bullies," a separate administration, and separate laws, with those people feeling free to commit unlawful acts, to steal socialist properties, and to oppress the people. In such a situation, we are compelled to ask this question: Why did those acts take place in such a brazen manner and for such a long time and why have they so far remained unsolved? There were many control groups from the district and the province sent to Dong Tien Village to investigate, but they came and they went and there were no "responses," and we wonder where the responsibilities of the Chau Giang District CPV Committee and People's Committee rest now. Why has the Chau Giang District CPV Committee failed to resolve the cases of wrong expulsion of party members in the village which it was fully aware of? When we first arrived in Chau Giang, a lot of cadres from the district party and people's committees expressed their anger about what had happened in the village but did not dare to expose them. What were the "umbrellas" that

protected the cadres who had done wrong things in Dong Tien Village and prevented the prosecution of the economic case there although the Hai Hung Public Security Service has initiated it?

We propose that the responsible organs in Hai Hung quickly investigate and justly and openly deal with those people who have violated the laws and the party's principles. We also propose that the responsible organs clarify the cases of distributing land for residential construction in Dong Tien, setting up false files, falsely accusing decent and honest people, on the basis of those accusations sending them to reeducation camps, expelling them from the party, and so on, and other very serious matters that have been taking place in this village.

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