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25 March 1986

SOUTHEAST ASIA REPORT

CONTENTS

INDONESIA

France Supports Jakarta To Host ITTO Headquarters (ANTARA NEWS BULLETIN, 14 Feb 86)	1
Mochtar: ITTO Issue Will Not Affect Relations With Japan (ANTARA NEWS BULLETIN, 19 Feb 86)	2
BKPM- Bapindo Cooperation To Promote Investment (ANTARA NEWS BULLETIN, 13 Feb 86)	3
Difference in Systems Hampers Trade With East Europe (BUSINESS NEWS, 21 Feb 86)	4
LNG Shipment to ROK To Start in June (ANTARA NEWS BULLETIN, 16 Feb 86)	6
Peat Utilization Agreement With Finland Signed (ANTARA NEWS BULLETIN, 10 Feb 86)	7
Trade Deficit With Canada Described (ANTARA NEWS BULLETIN, 13 Feb 86)	8
Canadian Aid for Bukit Asam Coal Railway Project (ANTARA NEWS BULLETIN, 14 Feb 86)	10
Ombilin Uses Highly Sophisticated Equipment in Coal Mining (ANTARA NEWS BULLETIN, 17 Feb 86)	11
Coal Export to Japan Expected to Double (ANTARA NEWS BULLETIN, 19 Feb 86)	13
Balinese Farmers Asked To Grow More Secondary Crops (ANTARA NEWS BULLETIN, 16 Feb 86)	14
Development of East Kalimantan Fertilizer Plants Reported (BUSINESS NEWS, 21 Feb 86)	15

Log Export Ban Boosts Central Sulawesi's Exports (ANTARA NEWS BULLETIN, 20 Feb 86)	16
Bali To Send More Transmigrants to Irian Jaya (ANTARA NEWS BULLETIN, 10 Feb 86)	17
PELITA Daily To Have New Management (ANTARA NEWS BULLETIN, 20 Feb 86)	18
LAOS	
Amnesty International Report on Attapeu Reeducation Camps (THE NATION, 14, 14 Feb 86)	19
MALAYSIA	
PAS Action Ruled 'Un-Islamic' (Vijayan Menon; NEW STRAITS TIMES, 20 Feb 86)	32
Four Italian-Built Minesweepers Arriving Soon (THE STAR, 19 Feb 86)	33
Army Assault Craft Ordered From Dutch (THE STAR, 18 Feb 86)	34
THAILAND	
Industry Minister on Sugar Crisis (NAEO NA, 16 Dec 85)	35
Editorial Accuses Government of Concealing Economic Data (NAEO NA, 16 Dec 85)	40
CAMBODIA	
COALITION GOVERNMENT OF DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA	
KPNLF Leader Blasts 'Phony' Letter, Chides Sihanouk (THE NATION, 20 Feb 86)	42
ANS General Cites Support in Interior, DK Harassment (Jacques Bekaert; BANGKOK POST, 21 Feb 86)	43
KPNLF Split in Leadership Widens (BANGKOK POST, 21 Feb 86)	45
Sak Sutsakhan Leadership Faction Discussed (THE NATION, 28 Feb 86)	46
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KAMPUCHEA	
VFF Greet KUFNCD on SRV-PRK Treaty Anniversary (Phnom Penh Domestic Service, 27 Feb 86)	47

PRACHEACHON Editorial Marks Women's Day (Phnom Penh Domestic Service, 7 Mar 86)	48
Hun Neng Attends Kompong Cham Provincial Meeting (Phnom Penh Domestic Service, 2 Mar 86)	51
Army Paper Calls for Participation in Local Tasks (Editorial; Phnom Penh Domestic Service, 1 Mar 86)	52
Phnom Penh Reports Battle Successes, CGDK Rifts (Phnom Penh Domestic Service, 27 Feb 86)	55
Report on Agricultural Developments 24 February-2 March (Phnom Penh Domestic Service, various dates)	57
Briefs	
PRK-USSR Cooperation	59
Health Cooperation Program Signed	59
Polish Health Delegation Visits	59
SPK Reports Thai 'Violations'	60
Heng Samkai Addresses Meeting	60
Chan Phin Attends Ceremony	60
Thai Border Battalion Activities	61
Chan Phin Opens Training Course	61

VIETNAM

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, TRADE, AND AID

Authorities Issue Report Defending Bai Bang Working Conditions (DAGENS NYHETER, various dates)	62
Government Promises Improvement, by Peter Bratt	62
Swedish Aid Official Comments, by Bo Goransson	64
Briefs	
Meeting Marks CPSU Congress	68
Lao Road Built With SRV Assistance	68

PARTY ACTIVITIES AND GOVERNMENT

Youths Urged To Support Border Troops (Thanh Trung; NHAN DAN, 22 Dec 85)	69
---	----

AGRICULTURE

Haiphong Reclaims Land Adjacent to Sea (NHAN DAN, 21 Dec 85)	71
---	----

HEAVY INDUSTRY AND CONSTRUCTION

Briefs

Power Plant Project	72
Cement Factory Output Record	72

LABOR

Productive Labor in Schools Encouraged (NHAN DAN, 22 Dec 85)	73
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INDONESIA

FRANCE SUPPORTS JAKARTA TO HOST ITTO HEADQUARTERS

Jakarta ANTARA NEWS BULLETIN in English 14 Feb 86 pp A1, A2

[Text] Hamburg, 14 Feb (ANTARA)--The French Government has supported Indonesia's struggles to make Jakarta host of the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) headquarters.

The support was made clear by French Junior Minister for Forestry, Souchon, during a meeting with Indonesian Forestry Minister Sudjarwo in Paris Wednesday.

Souchon told Sudjarwo that France fully understood the important position of Indonesia as a main producer of tropical timber, the Indonesian Embassy in Paris told ANTARA Thursday.

The French Minister also promised to generate support from other European Economic Community (EEC) members, if the Netherlands withdrew the nomination of Amsterdam as the venue of the ITTO headquarters.

Paris' step is expected to be followed by African countries, which are ex-French colonies.

French President Francois Mitterrand had earlier promised his government support to Jakarta when he met President Soeharto in Rome last November, after both leaders addressed the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) assembly.

Netherlands Reapproached

Minister Sudjarwo Thursday left Paris for the Hague to meet the Dutch Minister of Agriculture/Fishery, Braks and Prince Bernhard, husband of Princess Juliana and concurrently chairman of the World Wildlife Fund.

It was learnt, Sudjarwo's visit was aimed at reassuring the Hague that Jakarta was the correct place for the ITTO headquarters.

Foreign Minister Mochtar Kunumaatmadja had made a similar approach when he visited the Netherlands last January.

If Amsterdam withdraws, Yokohama, Japan, will be Jakarta's only competitor, Japan, which has no tropical forest at all, is still striving to make Yokohama the ITTO centre.

From the Hague, Sudjarwo is scheduled to fly to Stockholm to win support from the Nordic countries (Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Iceland and Finland).

INDONESIA

MOCHTAR: ITTO ISSUE WILL NOT AFFECT RELATIONS WITH JAPAN

Jakarta ANTARA NEWS BULLETIN in English 19 Feb 86 p A10

[Text] Jakarta, 19 Feb (ANTARA)--Japan's determination to propose Yokohama for would be headquarters of the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) will not affect relations between Japan and Indonesia, Foreign Minister Mochtar Kusumaatmadja has stated.

Speaking before newsmen at the Soekarno-Hatta airport soon after his arrival from the United States Tuesday night, Mochtar said the two countries had agreed to settle amicably problems arising in connection with the plan to set up the ITTO headquarters.

The foreign minister pointed out that the Netherlands, Japan and Indonesia had respectively proposed Rotterdam, Yokohama and Jakarta for would be ITTO headquarters.

Mochtar has just visited the United States and Japan to seek the understanding of the two countries in Indonesia's proposal to set up the ITTO headquarters in Jakarta.

For the same purpose, he made tours of countries grouped in the European Economic Community (EEC) in January this year.

The location of the ITTO headquarters will be determined at a meeting of the International Tropical Timber Council (ITTC) in May this year, the minister explained.

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CSO: 4200/781

INDONESIA

BKPM-BAPINDO COOPERATION TO PROMOTE INVESTMENT

Jakarta ANTARA NEWS BULLETIN in English 13 Feb 86 p A5

[Text] Jakarta, 12 Feb (ANTARA)--The National Investment Coordinating Board (BKPM) and the Indonesian Development Bank (Bapindo) have agreed to cooperate in encouraging both domestic and foreign investments particularly in the regions.

Ir. Eddy Sanyoto, vice chairman of BKPM, said this to ANTARA here Wednesday following his meeting with Subekti Ismaun, President Director of the Bapindo.

He said that the Bapindo has agreed to provide funds for projects offered by the BKPM to encourage investment in the regions.

The Bapindo and the BKPM agreed to form a "sub-team" in charge of studying and determining feasibility studies at the BKPM to be promoted in the regions.

Projects that get priority from the BKPM will be promoted through the Bapindo branch offices, he said.

The BKPM and the Bapindo will jointly compile a list of primary clients to be given recommendations as business partners for the would-be foreign or domestic investors.

To promote Indonesianisation of the shares in foreign capital investment companies (PMA) which has been in operation for ten years in Indonesia, Bapindo will assist the BKPM in nationalizing capital investment by offering the shares to its primary clients so that capital investment could stand at a ratio of 51 percent domestic investment and 49 percent foreign investment, Eddy Sanyoto said.

Meanwhile, Subekti Ismaun on the occasion said that the Bapindo will assist investors who have got approved letters (SPT) from the BKPM so far as the projects are considered feasible by the bank.

The Bapindo up to the end of 1985 has provided Rp. 1 trillion of accumulative investment credit and Rp. 300 billion of sectoral investment credit.

The amount of investment approved by the BKPM in 1985 was recorded at Rp. 4.6 trillion. Of the total, 80 percent were domestic investment and the remaining 20 percent were foreign capital investment. Based on the recommendation of the governor of the Central Bank, the government is now looking into further lowering the interest rate of the government banks for credit loan.

INDONESIA

DIFFERENCE IN SYSTEMS HAMPERS TRADE WITH EAST EUROPE

Jakarta BUSINESS NEWS in English 21 Feb 86 p 7

[Text] The difference of foreign trade systems applied in Indonesia and in East Europe is the main factor that hampers the growth of Indonesia's trade relations with countries in that region, according to Edward Simanjuntak, chairman of the Indonesian Association of State Trading Companies.

Speaking at a meeting with Parliamentary Commission VII here recently, Simanjuntak stated further that Indonesia's trade relations with East European countries had a good future, but the prospect was not so bright as trade activities between Indonesia and the West European countries.

The trade policy adopted by the East European countries are different in many ways with the Indonesian foreign trade policy, which in some ways is similar to the open and free policy adopted by the West European countries, he explained.

He pointed out that the East European countries almost always proposed that the purchase of goods from Indonesia should be countervailed with Indonesia's imports from the East European countries concerned, including the import of complete projects and services.

The East European countries usually appoint certain companies to handle annual transactions and determine the time limit of the business activities, he said further. They also proposed banking arrangement for the realization of the clearing system, he added.

On the contrary, Indonesia gives freedom to its exporters and importers to carry out transactions, buy foreign exchange and determine banks which will act as suppliers of business activities, he said, adding that Indonesia preferred to appoint not only one bank.

He mentioned the need to implement special regulations and procedures to promote trade relations between Indonesia and the East European countries as well as Vietnam.

He pointed out that the unavailability of regular shipping services for direct routes between Indonesia and the European countries was another factor causing the unsmooth growth of Indonesia's trade with that region.

Indonesia's export commodities offered by state trading companies to East Europe have so far consisted of coffee, coal, textile, urea fertilizer and cement. Coffee supply from Indonesia to East Europe in 1985 comprised 181.25 tons worth US\$244,687.50 to East Germany and 510 tons valued at US\$551,000 tons to Romania. Indonesia's textile exports to Vietnam in the same year stood at 600,000 yards worth US\$311,100. In 1983, Indonesia exported 10,000 tons of coal worth US\$.360,000 to Vietnam.

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CSO: 4200/780

INDONESIA

LNG SHIPMENT TO ROK TO START IN JUNE

Jakarta ANTARA NEWS BULLETIN in English 16 Feb 86 pp A2, A3

[Text] Medan, 15 Feb (ANTARA)--PT. Arun Natural Gas Liquefaction Company plans to ship LNG to South Korea for the first time next June, Vice-President J. R. Oekon said to ANTARA Friday.

J. R. Oekon said that the shipment of LNG to South Korea need not wait for the completion of the Arun 3 plant project, which is specially reserved for South Korea, but it can be carried out with LGN from other Arun plant projects.

PT. Arun Vice-President J. R. Oekon was in Lhokseumawe to witness the 100th shipment of LNG from PT. Arun's second plant.

With the realization of LNG shipment to South Korea Pertamina will be successful in expanding its LNG market (so far only Japan).

According to the contract between Pertamina and South Korea, signed 12 August, 1983, South Korea will buy about 2.1 million tons of Indonesia LNG a year for 20 years.

J. R. Oekon hinted that the official price of Indonesian LNG will stay at US\$14 million per shipment although the price is subject to the petroleum price. "The official price of the Indonesian petroleum has not come down. Therefore, the price of the Indonesian LNG stands as before," he said.

PT. Arun Natural Gas Liquefaction Co. is a joint venture company between Pertamina, Mobil Oil and Jilco (Japan's buyers of Indonesian LNG) with Pertamina holding the most shares. Indonesia supplies 50 percent of Japan's LNG needs recording at about 30 million tons a year. PT. Arun's production of LNG at present totals 683 shipment.

According to J. R. Oekon abundant LNG deposits have been discovered in the off-coast of North Aceh. However, he said that another plant may still be built in this Arun gas fields if there are other countries interested in buying Indonesian LNG.

LNG trade needs an integrated cooperation because the buyers should be able to provide a special dumping terminal, special LNG ships and the producers must build the plant.

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CSO: 4200/781

INDONESIA

PEAT UTILIZATION AGREEMENT WITH FINLAND SIGNED

Jakarta ANTARA NEWS BULLETIN in English 10 Feb 86 p A6

[Text] Jakarta, 10 Feb (ANTARA)--Secretary General of the Mines Ministry Adwar Nurhadi and Finnish Ambassador to Indonesia Erik Heinrichs Monday signed a cooperation agreement for the development and utilization of peat in Central Kalimantan.

Based on the cooperation agreement, Finland will provide experts in the field of peat utilization, equipment and vocational training to Indonesian workers and conduct a feasibility study which will cost about 5.5 million Finnish marks (about one million U.S. dollars).

While, Indonesia is 1985/86 fiscal year provides about Rp 350 million for a plot of land and its operational expense. [as published]

Before the agreement was signed, the activities for the development and utilization of peat have been conducted among other things by sending nine Indonesian experts to Finland to study the peat utilization technology for two months beginning July, last year.

The feasibility study on the peat utilization in Central Kalimantan is expected to yield by July 1987.

Adwar Nurhadi stated that Indonesia has great quantities of peat reserves in Sumatera, Kalimantan and Irian Jaya. Peat can be used as fuel and for plant seedling nursery.

The cooperation with Finland is aimed at utilizing peat for electricity power generator in areas surrounding the regions where peat is found.

Data from the Mines and Energy ministry show that peat reserves in this country covers about 26 million hectares, while each kilogram of peat is estimated to produce energy between 4,000 to 4,500 kilo calories.

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CSO: 4200/780

INDONESIA

TRADE DEFICIT WITH CANADA DESCRIBED

Jakarta ANTARA NEWS BULLETIN in English 13 Feb 86 p A8

[Text] Jakarta, 13 Feb (ANTARA)--The trade balance between Indonesia and Canada has in the past five years always been in favour of Canada. "This is due among other things to the lack of aggressiveness of Indonesian exporters to penetrate the Canadian market," said Indonesian Ambassador to Canada Abubakar Adiwoso here Thursday.

He was accompanying Indonesian Minister of Trade Rachmat Saleh in receiving Canadian Minister of International Trade James Kelleher, who arrived here Wednesday evening for a three-day visit.

Ambassador Abubakar told the press that the low aggressiveness of Indonesian entrepreneurs in penetrating the Canadian market has somehow been the result of the unavailability of information about the Canadian market.

To overcome this problem, he said Indonesia will shortly appoint a trade attache for Canada, who will dispatch current information on the Canadian market to Indonesian entrepreneurs.

He considered very timely the visit of the Canadian Minister of International Trade as the Indonesian Government is now gearing up to promote its external trade and cooperation in a drive to boost its non-oil exports.

He said Indonesian Trade Minister Rachmat Saleh and his Canadian counterpart would discuss possible ways of stepping up trade and economic cooperation between the two countries as well as other issues on multilateral trade.

Canada has in the past several years begun to pay its attention to the Asian Pacific countries such as ASEAN.

Counter-purchase

Meanwhile Director of External Trade Relations J. Pitoy ascribed the deficits to a great deal of the Canadian participation in many tenders of the Indonesian government in the framework of enhancing the counter-purchase scheme.

Indonesian exports to Canada reached a total of C\$22.10 million in 1981 against its imports from Canada that surpassed to C\$101.54 million, or a C\$79.44 million deficit for Indonesia.

In 1983, Indonesian exports rose to C\$28.33 million, compared with its imports that climbed higher to C\$157.67 million, moving its trade deficits up to C\$157.67 million.

Indonesia's deficits in its trade with Canada continue to grow bigger to C\$273.15 million in 1984 when its imports stood at C\$318.80 million against its exports at C\$45.63 million.

However, in 1985 from January to September, the deficits have been cut to C\$176.42 million through which Indonesian exports ran at C\$32.80 million against C\$159.23 million of its imports.

Indonesia has so far exported such commodities as rubber, coffee, cocoa, as well as plywood, textiles and garments to Canada which in turn exported capital goods as machineries, chemicals and fertilizer.

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CSO: 4200/780

INDONESIA

CANADIAN AID FOR BUKIT ASAM COAL RAILWAY PROJECT

Jakarta ANTARA NEWS BULLETIN in English 14 Feb 86 p A7

[Text] Jakarta, 13 Feb (ANTARA)--Indonesia and Canada here Thursday signed an agreement on a railway project assistance to support the development of the Bukit Asam coal project, South Sumatra.

The agreement was signed at a meeting between Canadian Foreign Trade Minister James Kelleher and Indonesian Communications Minister Rusmin Naryadin.

Indonesia was represented by Director General of Land Communications Ir. Giri Suseno Hadihardhono and Canada was represented by the Sidney Steel Corporation company.

The Canadian assistance for the railway project is part of its package assistance to Indonesia amounting to US\$120.2 million which have been realized since the third five-year development plan.

Canada's assistance to the Bukit Asam coal project covers heavy railway facilities, coal wagons, signaling tools and railways.

Fifteen logs with spare-parts special for coal carriers is expected to arrive here from Canada in May.

James Kelleher is visiting Indonesia in the framework of stepping up economic and trade relations.

During his four-day visit to Indonesia, Kelleher will hold talks with his counterpart Minister Rachmat Saleh and other cabinet ministers.

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CSO: 4200/780

INDONESIA

OMBILIN USES HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT IN COAL MINING

Jakarta ANTARA NEWS BULLETIN in English 17 Feb 86 pp A6, A7

[Text] Sawahlunto, 17 Feb (ANTARA)--The Ombilin coal mining enterprise in Sawahlunto, West Sumatera, is the first among such mines in Indonesia, probably even in ASEAN, to use highly sophisticated equipment for deep mining operations.

The fully mechanical equipment, supplied by a British firm, have already been operated semi-mechanically since mid-1985, and are expected to go into full operation beginning in April this year, the company's production and development director, Suhandoyo, disclosed here Saturday.

With the use of the modern equipment the coal mining company managed to produce 770,750 tons of coal last year, while the target has been set at 750,000 tons.

The output was the highest among those of all the coal mining companies in Indonesia in 1985, Ahmad Priyono, the president director of the state-run coal mining company, said during a thanksgiving ceremony here.

The 1985 production level, he added, was also higher than the highest output ever reached during the Dutch colonial era. In 1930, 624,212 tons were produced, he said.

The ceremony was also attended by Inspector General of the Department of Mines and Energy Ibnu Sudjono, British Ambassador to Indonesia MacDonald and West Sumatera Governor Azwan Anas.

The occasion also marked the commencement of the construction of 350-unit housing complex for the employees, a 60-m bridge over the Ombilin River to the location of a new mine in Perambanan.

Ahmad Priyono said further that the company also has the task of developing the coal mines throughout the country, except the one in South Sumatera. In this context the government intended to reopen the secondary mining technical school (STIM) in Sawahlunto which was closed in 1968 after an existence of 15 years.

The Bukit Asam coal mining company in South Sumatra, with the US\$800 million in investments it has received recently, is expected to produce 3,000,000 tons of coal per annum, making it one of the biggest coal producers in Indonesia.

The Ombilin company is expected to boost its output to 900,000 tons this year, and 1,000,000 tons next year. Ombilin holds 30 million tons of coal deposits consisting of 30 million tons in open mines and 130 million tons in deep mines.

The boosting of coal production is not only necessary for increasing foreign exchange revenues for the state but also for providing cheaper energy for domestic consumption.

Rp 10,000 worth of coal would be sufficient to produce one ton of cement which Rp 20,000 worth of fuel oil would be needed to produce the same quantity, he added.

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CSO: 4200/781

INDONESIA

COAL EXPORT TO JAPAN EXPECTED TO DOUBLE

Jakarta ANTARA NEWS BULLETIN in English 19 Feb 86 p A1

[Text] Jakarta, 18 Feb (ANTARA)--Coal exports from Indonesia to Japan will increase from 100,000 tons/year during 1986 to become 200,000 tons/year in 1987.

"The increase of coal export to Japan is in accordance with the demand from that country, besides, Japan will also buy the commodity at a higher price compared with the Indonesian coal exports to other countries," President Director of P. N. Tambang Batubara (state-owned coal mining company), Achmad Priyono said at a hearing before Parliament Commission VI led by its vice chairman, H. A. Poerwosasmito, here Tuesday.

He stated that due to the increase of coal demand from Japan, the export of coal to Malaysia, particularly coal from the Ombilin mining enterprise in West Sumatera, will decrease.

According to him, the price of coal on the international market is about 37 US dollars per ton, while Japan buys Indonesian coal at 38 US dollars per ton.

Indonesian coal exports, particularly from Ombilin, reached 452,312 tons worth 16.57 million US dollars during 1985, while in 1984 it reached 401,502 tons worth 14.36 million US dollars.

Besides to Japan, Indonesia also exports coal to Malaysia, Thailand, Bangladesh, South Korea and Vietnam.

Replying to a question asked by a member of Parliament, Achmad Priyono said that Indonesia still imports coal from other countries in order to meet the demand for the Suralaya steam power electricity plant which needs certain coal not yet produced in Indonesia.

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CSO: 4200/781

INDONESIA

BALINESE FARMERS ASKED TO GROW MORE SECONDARY CROPS

Jakarta ANTARA NEWS BULLETIN in English 16 Feb 86 pp A1, A2

[Text] Denpasar, 15 Feb (ANTARA)--Minister of Agriculture Affandi has called on local farmers in Bali to grow secondary crops such as soybeans which he declared as important as rice having a highly economic value and containing nutritive substances.

Addressing a meeting with farmers of Kedewatan village, some 30 km north of Denpasar, Friday, he said the output of secondary crops in the region is still very low, particularly compared with the performance of its rice output.

"If the Balinese farmers succeed in yielding 12 tons of rice per hectare, I wonder why they turn out only 0.9 ton of soybeans per hectare," the minister added.

He appealed to the local farmers to evaluate themselves so as to raise the soybeans output to as high as around 2.1 to 2.5 tons per hectare as having been achieved by West Java.

In this context, the minister advised them to buy soybean-seeds of higher quality, although the price is a bit expensive.

"Try to buy seeds of Rp 750 per kg, don't buy the cheaper ones of Rp 500 per kg. I assure you the output will be much greater," he said.

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CSO: 4200/781

INDONESIA

DEVELOPMENT OF EAST KALIMANTAN FERTILIZER PLANTS REPORTED

Jakarta BUSINESS NEWS in English 21 Feb 86 p 4

[Text] Urea fertilizer and ammonia produced by PT Pupuk Kaltim, a fertilizer plant in East Kalimantan, were supplied to the domestic market and exported in 1985.

President Director of PT Pupuk Kaltim disclosed at a meeting with Parliamentary Commission VI here recently that the company produced 495,949 m. tons of ammonia in 1985, of which 231,753 m. tons had been used in the processing of urea.

The company produced 400,252 m. tons of urea and sold 264,223 tons of ammonia last year. Some 66,657 m. tons out of 264,223 m. tons of ammonia sold by the company in 1985 was supplied to the Gresik petrochemical plant in East Java and the remaining 197,566 m. tons was exported.

PT Pupuk Kaltim consists of production unit I (Popuk Kaltim I), and production Unit II (Popuk Kaltim II). Fertilizer and ammonia supply from the company in 1985 mostly came production unit II, because production unit I is still under the rehabilitation work. The rehabilitation of Kaltim I is expected to be completed in October 1986.

The supply of urea from PT Pupuk Kaltim is managed by PT Pusri. The supply of ammonia from PT Pupuk Kaltim mostly goes to PT Petro Kimia Gresik and Philippines Phosphate Fertilizer Corp. and the smaller part goes to other countries outside ASEAN such as India, Taiwan, South Korea and Tanzania.

To smoothen the supply of fertilizer and ammonia from PT Pupuk Kaltim, several facilities have been built not far from the plant, including a special harbour for the shipment of urea and ammonia, ware houses for urea and storage tanks for ammonia. The number of workers employed by the company was registered at 2,266 in 1985.

The construction of the third production units, Pupuk Kaltim III, is scheduled to start in the beginning of this year. When completed, the third production unit will produce 570,000 tons of urea/year. That new production unit is expected to be completed in the beginning of 1989. With the operation of the three production units, PT Pupuk Kaltim will produce 1,700,000 m. tons of urea and 330,000 m. tons of ammonia a year from 1989.

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CSO: 4200/780

INDONESIA

LOG EXPORT BAN BOOSTS CENTRAL SULAWESI'S EXPORTS

Jakarta ANTARA NEWS BULLETIN in English 20 Feb 86 p A6

[Text] Palu, 20 Feb (ANTARA)--The ban on log export has a positive impact on the increase of non-oil/non-gas commodity exports from Central Sulawesi, South Sulawesi's provincial trade office chief Soemarsono told ANTARA here Wednesday.

The ban, laid down in the joint decision of the ministers of trade, home affairs and forestry, has given a great boost to processed timber exports in 1985.

In 1984 Central Sulawesi's exports consisted of logs and sawn iron-wood, logs and sawn timber of various wood species, iron-wood handicraft products, mangrove wood, rattan, sea products and resin, reaching a total volume of 98,538.94 tons worth US\$22,896,443.36.

In 1985 Central Sulawesi's exports recorded a value of US\$23,960,578.22, although the volume declined to 62,233,169 M3.

This export value increase was due to the increase in volume of sawn timber by 179.25 percent, recording a value increase of 239.70 percent.

The exports of processed timber, not including iron-wood, in 1984 reached 17,210.73 M3 worth US\$3,448,286.35. In 1985 the export of plywood increased to 48,060.27 M3 worth US\$11,713,819.91.

The logs, which were banned for export, were bought by 18 local saw-mills.

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CSO: 4200/781

INDONESIA

BALI TO SEND MORE TRANSMIGRANTS TO IRIAN JAYA

Jakarta ANTARA NEWS BULLETIN in English 10 Feb 86 pp A1, A2

[Text] Jayapura, Irian Jaya, 10 Feb (ANTARA)--Vice Governor of Bali I Dewa Gde Oka has said that in the current fourth five year development plan (pelita IV) his province will be transmigrating about 1,000 families to Irian Jaya in the light of improving life.

Speaking to newsmen after a meeting with Irian Jayan Governor Izaak Hindom here Saturday, he further said the sending of the new settlers will be jointly arranged by the two provincial administrations and will be carried out gradually depending on the preparation works of the new resettlement centres in Irian Jaya.

He also said that the would-be transmigrants generally consist of tough and skilled farmers who are expected to be able to improve their standard of living and thus to support the implementation of development programs in Irian Jaya.

"I am convinced that the Balinese transmigrants will be feeling at home at their new settlements because the lands in the province are so fertile," the vice governor concluded.

Meanwhile, Drs. Ida Bagus Putraka, head of the Bali Transmigration office, who accompanied the vice governor during his meeting with Governor Izaak Hindom, said that in the next 1986/87 fiscal year, Bali is scheduled to send about 300 families to Irian Jaya.

They will be resettled in the Jayapura regency, he added.

After the meeting the Balinese vice governor and party visited the Skylan transmigration area where Balinese settlers are living well there.

On Sunday they left for Sorong where they will closely observe the living condition of the Balinese transmigrants.

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CSO: 4200/780

INDONESIA

PELITA DAILY TO HAVE NEW MANAGEMENT

Jakarta ANTARA NEWS BULLETIN in English 20 Feb 86 p A1

[Text] Jakarta, 20 Feb (ANTARA)--The "Pelita" daily newspaper in Jakarta will run under a new management board as of 11 March this year with Akbar Tanjung as editor-in-chief.

Akbar Tanjung was general chairman of the Indonesian Islamic Student Association (HMI) in the 1970's. His present position is that of vice-secretary general of the executive board of the Golkar Functional Group.

The new management board Thursday held a meeting with no less than 16 advertising agencies in an effort for an exchange of views. Among those present were the general chairman of the Indonesian Advertising Agency Association (P3I), Bati Subakti, P3I Secretary General Yushak Ismail and the general chairman of the Jakarta Chapter of P3I, Fachri Muhammad.

Agil H. Ali, a young figure of the East Java Golkar chapter who sponsored the meeting, said "the new management will involve new Islamic intellectuals and young businessmen."

He said although the daily will still voice the Islamic aspirations it will no longer commit itself to a political aspirations, adding "the outlook of Pelita will be more national and it will no longer be exclusive or inclined to lean on a certain political party."

The newspaper with a circulation of about 15,000 has so far been known as affiliate of the Islamic United Development Party (PPP).

Under the new management the daily will increase its pages to 12 and will recruit more reporters who are well educated, Agil said.

Among the members of the new management board are Aburizal Bakrie (as vice-editor in chief) and Dr. Sulastomo (old editorial board member).

Pelita sells most of its publication in East Java and South Sulawesi.

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CSO: 4200/781

LAOS

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REPORT ON ATTAPEU REEDUCATION CAMPS

Bangkok THE NATION in English 14, 15 Feb 86 p 5

[Text]

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL has long been concerned at the practice of arbitrary administrative detention and restriction without charge or trial in the Democratic People's Republic of Laos (DPRL), in particular with regard to persons taken into custody for "re-education" in 1975-76, at the time of the DPRL's foundation, but also with regard to persons taken into custody in subsequent years.

According to the information available to Amnesty International, the largest numbers of persons are to be found in provinces in remote northeastern and southern parts of the country, including notably isolated districts in Houa Phan, Xieng Khouang, Savannakhet, Attapeu and Xe Kong provinces, but also in other provinces.

These persons were originally taken into custody and are believed to have been held in detention or restriction for "re-education" for as long as ten years without ever having been charged, tried or sentenced, contrary to international human rights norms entitling them to trial within a reasonable time or to unconditional release.

These persons may have originally been taken into custody and may still be detained or restricted not because they are alleged to have committed any specific recognizably criminal act, whether violent or non-violent, but only on account of their imputed political sympathies for a previous government and of their suspected current dissident political tendencies.

Amnesty International has urged that these persons either be immediately charged on an individual basis with specific recognizably criminal offences and be given prompt and fair trials

conforming to international standards, or otherwise that they be immediately and unconditionally released and granted facilities enabling them to return to their homes without hindrance.

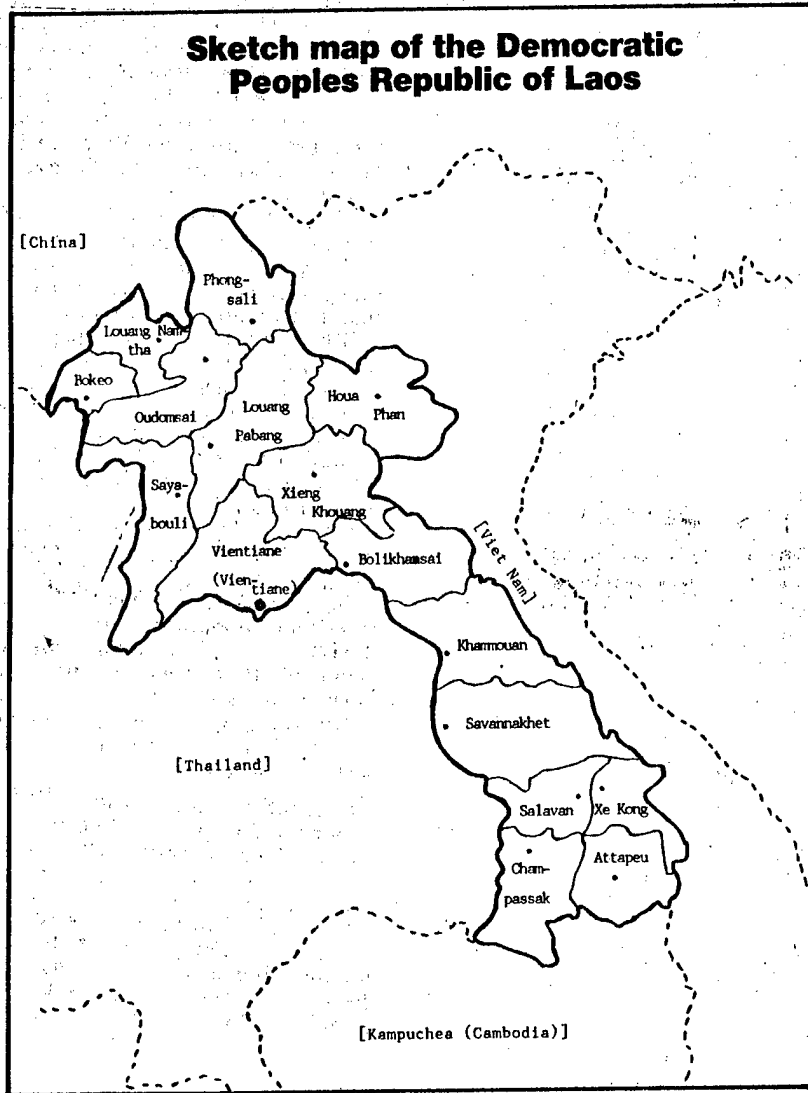
In April 1985, Amnesty International made public a document describing the organization's overall concerns in Laos. At that time, most of Amnesty International's information on "re-education" had to do with its history and recent practice in northeastern Laos. Recently, however, while gathering additional information on "re-education" in northeastern Laos, Amnesty International has also been able to gather considerable new data on the history and practice of "re-education" in other parts of the country, particularly in the southeastern province of Attapeu.

The following document sets forth this new information on "re-education" in Attapeu, covering the period from 1975 up through the latter part of 1985.

**Attapeu Province:
History and
administration**

Located in the southeasternmost corner of the Democratic People's Republic of Laos (DPRL), Attapeu is one of the country's most underdeveloped and remote provinces. Lying astride none of the landlocked country's few major communications routes, Attapeu is also the province most distant from the national capital and chief town, Vientiane.

During the Second Indochina War (1959-75), it was a stronghold of partisans of the future DPRL and subjected to intensive aerial bombardment. Attapeu was brought under the complete administrative predominance of the political antecedent to the DPRL, the Neo Lao Hakxat (Laotian Patriotic Front), as early as 1970, thereby becoming the first Laotian province outside the country's northeast to be politically consolidated by it. It was furthermore the site of a wartime "sub-divisional headquarters" of the Neo Lao Hakxat (NLHX) and also for the then People's Party of Laos (now the Revolutionary People's Party of Laos), which staffed and



directed the NLHX and is now the DPRL's sole legal political party. In addition to Attapeu itself, these wartime Party and Front sub-divisional headquarters had authority over territories included in the current DPRL provinces of Champassak (to the west) and Xe Kong (to the north).

For these reasons and also because crucial supply lines of the then Democratic Republic of Vietnam (now the Socialist Republic of Vietnam) ran through Attapeu into neighbouring areas of southern Vietnam and northwest Kampuchea, it was heavily targeted for United States Air Force bombing, which brought about extensive loss of life, as well as much physical destruction, particularly to towns and villages and to transportation infrastructure, such as trails and bridges.

At least in part because of refugee flight and fatalities that were caused by the war, Attapeu is currently the DPRL's most sparsely populated province. With an officially tabulated population of 69,600 persons on an area of 11,900 square kilometres, it has a population density of less than six persons per square kilometre. An overwhelming majority of this generally scattered population, moreover, is defined as belonging to the Lao Theung ("Upper Laotian") category of national minorities (*xonxat*). These Lao Theung comprise mostly Mon-Khmer ethnolinguistic groupings, whose language, culture and farming practices are quite different from that of the country's predominant Lao Loum ("Lowland Laotians").

Under previous regimes, they had suffered from discriminatory treatment and neglect, and they are conventionally considered to enjoy a relatively low level of socio-economic and socio-cultural development today.

Almost all of Attapeu is dominated by rugged and forest- or brush-covered upland terrain, including part of the Bolovens Plateau in the Northwest and foothills of Vietnam's Central Highlands in the east. There are, however, several narrow, but significant valley lowlands. The most important of these lies astride the Xe (river) Kong, which traverses the province initially from north to south before turning

southwest to flow toward Kampuchea's Steung Treng province.

Two of the Xe Kong's tributaries, the Xe Kamane and the Xe Xou, which flow west down out of the Central Highlands' foothills before joining together and then flowing into the Xe Kong, are also flanked by valley lowlands. Historically, the site of the province's only major town has been in the area of the tri-confluence of the Xe Kamane, Xe Xou and Xe Kong, at approximately the centre of the province.

Even before the destruction caused by bombing, Attapeu's transport infrastructure was minimal. In the 1960's, the province's two best transportation routes were little more than single lane loose surface dirt trails, not reliably passable during the yearly May to October monsoon rainy season. They were both in the valley lowlands. One, designated Route #16, followed the Xe Kong northward from the tri-confluence area, eventually connecting it with an asphalted road in Saravane province.

The other, designated Route #18, followed the Xe Kong southwest from the tri-confluence area, eventually connecting it with a paved road in Champassak province.

Otherwise, Attapeu's transportation infrastructure consisted of rutted dirt tracks leading up into and across the rugged uplands, most of which were passable only to animal carts or military vehicles, and then sometimes only during the dry season.

Similarly, even before the war period, the province's chief town was hardly more than an oversized village, with at most several thousand inhabitants and no industry, even of a small scale, to speak of. It did not, in any case, survive the hostilities, but was, like many villages, virtually abandoned to avoid them, ceasing for all practical purposes to exist.

Currently, like other DPRL provinces, Attapeu is governed by a (state) Administrative Committee that is fully staffed and closely directed by a provincial Party Committee of the ruling Revolutionary People's Party of Laos (RPPL). Membership in these two committees is interlocking, but not identical. In Attapeu, as other

DPRL provinces, the Party Committee (headed by its Secretary) is responsible for policy formulation, while the Administrative Committee (headed by its Chairman) is responsible for policy implementation.

The provincial Party Committee in Attapeu, like the RPPL Central Committee in Vientiane, has members with specific policy-making responsibilities in the spheres of economy and finance, united front and mass mobilization work, ideology and ideological training, defence and security matters, organizational staffing, and foreign relations, among other things.

Membership portfolios within the provincial Administrative Committee similarly reflect the pattern of functional differentiation set by the Council of Ministers in Vientiane, with its various constituent Ministries and State Committees. It thus includes members charged with policy implementation in such spheres as defence; foreign affairs; interior (security); (economic) planning; industry, handicrafts and forestry; commerce; agriculture, irrigation and agricultural cooperatives; transportation, communications and posts; finance; construction (public works); public health; and so on.

The persons holding these portfolios typically head sub-committees in charge of the work in these spheres, which is said to be organized into provincial "services" or "sections" (*phnek*.)

Below the province level, Attapeu is divided, like the rest of the country, into districts (*meuang*), sub-districts or "cantons" (*tasseng*) and villages (*ban*).

Attapeu comprises four districts, Samakhixai, Xaisetha, Sa Nam Sai and Xanxai, which are divided into 20 sub-districts and 149 villages.

Samakhixai district covers the west-central part of the province, including the tri-confluence area, where a new provincial chief town named Samakhixai has been established. Xaisetha district lies to the northeast and southeast, bordering on Kampuchea and Vietnam, and can be reached by travelling up the Xe Kamane and Xe Xou valleys. Sa Nam Sai district lies to the south, bordering on Kampuchea, and can be reached by travelling down the Xe Kong valley along Route #18. Xanxai district lies to the northeast, bordering on Vietnam, and is virtually inaccessible.

"Re-Education" in Attapeu Province: Generalities

In the early part of 1985, Amnesty International received from refugee workers an estimate of the number of persons still restricted or detained for "re-education" in Attapeu. According to this estimate, which was based primarily upon extensive interviews with Laotian refugees in Thailand who had formerly been held for "re-education" in the province, it was believed that there were still approximately 1,400 persons restricted or detained for "re-education" in the province's Samakhixai and Xanxai districts as of the beginning of 1985.

Among these estimated 1,400 persons, around 800 were thought to be in Samakhixai district and perhaps another 600 in the more remote Xanxai district, according to the reports collected from former Attapeu "seminarees" (*khon semina*, the term originally applied to persons sent to "re-education") who had managed to make their way from Attapeu to Thailand.

In the appendix to a letter sent on August 16, 1985 to His Excellency Kaysone Phomvihane, Chairman of the DPRL Council of Ministers and Secretary General of the RPPL Central Committee, Amnesty International listed the names of 2,632 persons who, according to reports from various sources, were at that time believed to be among those held for "re-education" in different provinces of northeastern and southeastern Laos.

This list included the names of 452 persons who had been reported to Amnesty International as being among those held in Attapeu. Almost all of these latter persons whose names were known to Amnesty International were thought, according to the most recent information then available, to be in the tri-confluence area of Samakhixai district. The few others whose names were specifically known to Amnesty International were reported to be either in Xanxai or perhaps in Sa Nam Sai district.

The information now available to Amnesty International is too incomplete to allow it to confirm or to attempt to revise the estimate received by it in the early part of 1985. It does, however, indicate that the number of persons still restricted or detained for "re-

education" in Attapeu as of the latter part of 1985 was not substantially less than it had been at the beginning of the year and was almost certainly in excess of one thousand.

Amnesty International has obtained considerable new detail from former restrictees and detainees and from other sources about general aspects of "re-education" in parts of Attapeu and about many of the 452 individuals whose names were known to it as of August 1985 as well as other individuals whose names have since become known to it. This information suggests that such reduction as did occur during the course of 1985 did not result from outright releases. Rather, it seems to have resulted from successful escapes and, to a much lesser extent, death from disease or during escape attempts or other factors. The new data also suggests that the early 1985 estimate received by Amnesty International may have failed to include certain kinds of restrictees and detainees in certain locations, and thus may possibly have under-estimated the total.

The new information obtained by Amnesty International has to do primarily with developments as regards persons who had been held for "re-education" in Samakhixai district. It reveals that a significant number of persons who were thought as of August 1985 to be undergoing "re-education" in the tri-confluence area of Samakhixai district either had in fact already been moved elsewhere in the province or have since been so relocated. Perhaps the most notable transfer has been that of some restrictees to do road construction work across the rain-swept Bolovens Plateau area of north-western Attapeu, a move that seems actually to have begun as early as mid-1984.

This new information does, on the other hand, confirm that many, probably most, of the persons previously thought to be in the tri-confluence area of Samakhixai district were still held in that area as of the latter part of 1985.

"Re-Education" in Attapeu Province: History A: Battalion #402

According to Amnesty International's information, some of the persons currently restricted or detained for "re-education" in Attapeu have been held continuously in this province since 1975-76. Among these decade-long Attapeu restrictees and detainees are said to be many former military personnel of the Royal Armed Forces of the Royal Laotian Government (RLG).

These included field-grade, junior-grade and non-commissioned officers who had previously been assigned to the RLG's Military Zone IV, which comprised territory now in the DPRL provinces of Attapeu, Champassak, Salavane and Xe Kong. Almost all of these persons are of the predominant Lao Loum (lowland Laotian) ethnic grouping, and came originally from provinces more or less distant from Attapeu. According to numerous first-hand accounts, they had in almost all cases voluntarily and peacefully allowed themselves to be flown from various locations in Champassak and Salavane into Attapeu in 1975-76, during or after the nationwide overthrow by the RPPL of the coalition government that had been formed between the RLG and the Neo Lao Hakxat in 1973, following a cease-fire and political agreement between the two reached in that year.

According to these accounts, they were told by Neo Lao Hakxat cadres that they were being flown into Attapeu to attend brief political "seminars" to explain to them the policy changes being initiated by the new regime, in order that they might be integrated into its service. They were instead immediately placed under armed guard and have never been allowed to leave Attapeu.

Reportedly, most of the persons in this group of decade-long Attapeu restrictees were initially held inside the then only partially constructed site of what would be called

Samakhixai town and become the provincial capital. While attending the compulsory political lectures there, they were also obliged to engage in strenuous collective agricultural labour. They were soon thereafter moved out of the town site and organized into a seminar and work "battalion" (*kongphan*), designated Battalion #402, which was composed of a small "headquarters unit" (*kong banxakan*) and four "companies" (*konghoy*), which were designated Companies #1, #2, #3 and #4. These companies were in turn reportedly composed of a number of "platoons" (*mouat*), which were further subdivided into a number of "squads" (*mou*).

Work and seminar Battalion #402 was organized under the auspices of and guarded by detachments of combatants from the DPRL military in Attapeu province. Regular cadres of the then Laotian People's Liberation Army (now the Laotian People's Army) reportedly acted as its commanders

at all levels, as well as of the DPRL combatants detached to guard its members, and the chief officer in charge of the unit is said to have held the rank of lieutenant colonel.

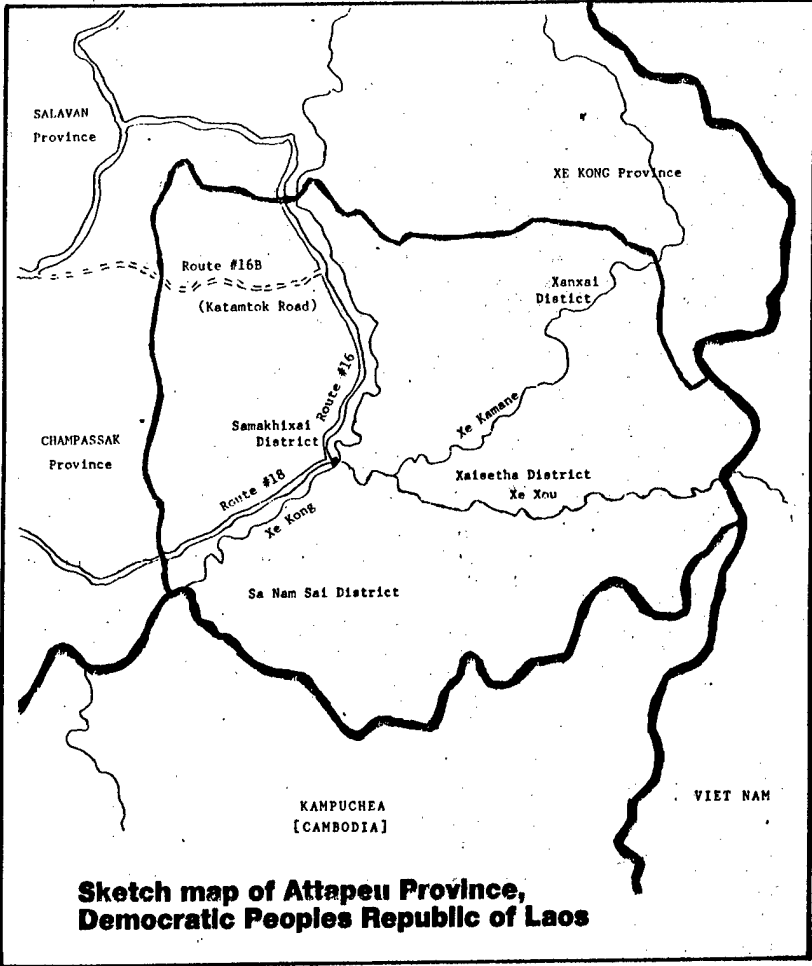
The number of "battalion troops" (*phon kongphan*) — not including the command cadres and combatant guards — is reportedly originally to have totalled between 600 and 800 men, with a relatively small number assigned to work and study under the headquarters unit and the rest distributed more or less evenly to work and study under the battalion's four companies.

The bivouac of Battalion #402's headquarters unit was reportedly soon located at a place on the east bank of the Xe Kong, opposite the site of Samakhixai town. At the same time, separate bivouacs were reportedly chosen for the battalion's four companies.

Company #1 is said to have been located not far upstream from the headquarters, also on the east bank

of the Xe Kong, at a place called Ban Mai. Company #2 is said to have been located further away, up the Xe Kamane, at a place on its northern bank known as Houay Phoke. Company #3 is said to have been sent even further up the Xe Kamane, a place, also on its northern bank, known as Ban Hat Liang. Company #4, finally, is said to have been ordered furthest from battalion headquarters, downstream along the Xe Kong's west bank, into an area known as Ban Hom.

In the initial period, Battalion #402's troops reportedly laboured to establish and build up self-supplying encampments at their various bivouac sites. They began by setting up dwellings for their commanders, their combatant guards and themselves, and then cleared forest and brush and started to farm paddy and garden plots from which their commanders, combatant guards and they themselves got rice and vegetables.



Sketch map of Attapeu Province, Democratic Peoples Republic of Laos

After this initial period, they reportedly were increasingly deployed in units of platoon or squad size on various heavy labour assignments, during which they were ordered to perform tasks deemed necessary or useful by the provincial military or the provincial party and state authorities. These tasks are said to have included clearing jungle and undergrowth for fields to be farmed by life-time local residents, in most cases Lao Theung peasants who had supported the RPPL from even before 1970; logging and quarrying to provide construction materials being used in the building-up of Samakhixai town and smaller DPRL military and administrative concentrations; working as coolies lugging sacks of paddy or rice and other agricultural produce from fields to warehouses or from warehouses to boats, carts and trucks; and repairing and constructing bridges and loose-surface trails and roads.

For the most part this labour, which was reportedly combined with frequent attendance at political seminars, is said to have been performed in Samakhixai district, although Company #3 is said also fairly often to have worked in Xaisetha district.

The troops of Battalion #402 continued to be organized and to work in the above-described manner through 1979-80. The next several years, starting in 1980, but especially from 1982 through 1984, were reportedly a period of transition, during which most of what had been officially termed the "troops" of Battalion #402 were progressively seconded to work directly for various parts of the provincial military command or the provincial administrative "sections," either inside or outside Samakhixai town.

While the majority of those so seconded worked as simply manual labourers (*kamakone*), others were given minor skilled jobs. During this period of transition, what is said to have been first described as a process of seconding is said to have increasingly become permanent reassignment out of the old Battalion #402 structure, and it reportedly was in effect dissolved. It reportedly has not, however, ever been formally abolished and continues to have some residual and skeletal existence as a unit of organization to which some of its former troops are still on occasion answerable.

B Battalion #979

During 1979-80, meanwhile, several new groupings of restrictees and detainees were, according to Amnesty International's information, brought into Attapeu either to continue there the "re-education" they had started in other provinces or to begin there to undergo "re-education" for the first time. One of these several groupings comprised persons brought down to Attapeu from "re-education" centres in such northern DPRL provinces as Phongsali, Louang Namtha, Oudomxai, Louang Phabang and Sayabouli, where they had been held since 1975-76. They were evidently moved from northern to southeastern Laos as a result of the severe deterioration in relations between the DPRL and the People's Republic of China during 1978-79, which in the DPRL's estimation reportedly rendered provinces on or near the Chinese border insufficiently secure to host "re-education" on a significant scale.

Although some of the persons who had been held in these provinces were reportedly released to Vientiane in 1979-80, many others, especially, it is said, those considered politically recalcitrant, were moved elsewhere, including Attapeu. Among the persons reportedly transported down into Attapeu are said to have been approximately 200 ex-RLG military officers from Louang Phabang and other northern provinces.

Although most of these are identified as being Lao Loum, they are said also to have included some Lao Soung ("highland Laotians") belonging to the Hmong ("Meo") ethnolinguistic group. Said in addition to have been among those transported down from Phongsali, Sayabouli and other northern provinces were approximately 100 ex-RLG Lao Loum civil servants and civilian political figures closely associated with the RLG constitutional monarchy, including several prominent members of the royal family of the house of Louang Phabang. Upon arrival in Attapeu, many of these persons were organized into a seminar and work battalion, designated Battalion #979. (It is thought that this designation may have referred to the unit's official foundation date, September 1979).

The troops of Battalion #979 were reportedly substantially augmented by the incorporation into the unit of a second newly arrived grouping, in this case of new reestrictees. They are said to have been mostly young men (*xao noum*) who had been secondary school students in Vientiane immediately prior to their being taken into custody and transported into Attapeu. It is reported that approximately 100 such young men, all Lao Loum, were brought down from Vientiane and put into Battalion #979.

According to available accounts, they were so placed into restriction because DPRL authorities in the capital either suspected them of holding dissident political views or alleged that they had been avoiding military service, and also more generally because they came from families believed to have had very strong past political or professional affiliations with the old RLG.

Battalion #979 is said therefore to have been formed in stages both from the older, veteran ex-military and civilian seminaries brought down from parts of Laos near China and from the younger, new ex-student reestrictees taken into custody in Vientiane, with only a few other elements being added in.

The forming up is reported to have occurred at an assembly point located in a place known as Ban Touay, said to be in an isolated and unpopulated area a considerable distance northeast of Samakhixai town.

Like Battalion #402, it was reportedly organized under the auspices of DPRL military forces in Attapeu province, and was completely officered by regular duty Laotian People's Army (LPA) cadres who also commanded detachments of armed LPA combatants who closely guarded the battalion's troops. In evident contrast, however, to Battalion #402, Battalion #979 is said to have answered directly to central DPRL military authorities in Vientiane, rather than to the provincial military in Attapeu.

According to accounts from its former members and others, Battalion #979 was soon ordered to abandon its assembly point for a staging area at a place known as Tat Koum, from which its troops were sent, in line with the Battalion #402 precedent, to establish and

build up separate, self-supplying encampments for the battalion headquarters unit and each of the battalion's four companies, which were located at various bivouacs on either bank of the Xe Kamane, considerably upstream from Samakhixai town. As the troops of Battalion #402 had reportedly done earlier and closer to the province's new and gradually growing capital, those of Battalion #979 are said to have been set to work under armed surveillance constructing permanent shelters and then clearing off land on which were cultivated paddy and vegetables. Within, however, a year or less after this work was basically completed, the troops of Battalion #979 reportedly began to join those of Battalion #402 in being seconded as menial labourers or skilled workers to the provincial authorities of Attapeu, including both its military offices and its administrative sections. They are said to have increasingly performed, on what became a permanent basis, various assigned tasks alongside or at least nearby the Attapeu veteran troops of Battalion #402. Most of Battalion #979's reassigned troops, sometimes still organized as squads or platoons of the battalion, but in other cases scattered as individuals, reportedly were sent to work at a series of heavy constructing tasks, such as putting up residential or administrative buildings, military barracks and offices, housing for cottage and small-scale machine industry, schools, clinics and dispensaries and state stores, or repairing and constructing bridges and roads. In the earlier stages of this period of transition, the new work of Battalion #979's troops reportedly resulted in it becoming known as a "construction battalion" (*kong phan kosang*). When, as this period was completed in 1983-84, this pattern of its troops' reassignment became general and permanent, Battalion #979 is said to have followed Battalion #402 into virtual non-existence, without formally being fully disbanded and abolished.

C Settlements

Meanwhile, a third grouping of reestrictees now identified by Amnesty International as having been brought into Attapeu during 1979-80 was being settled in. The persons in this grouping, like those brought down

from areas of northern Laos near China, had already been in "re-education" for several years, but they were transferred from much closer by.

They are reported to have comprised mostly Lao Loum ex-RLG non-commissioned officers who had originally been taken into custody for "re-education" in 1975-76 in neighbouring Salavane province, to the northeast of Attapeu. At least several hundred such persons were reportedly transferred from "re-education" in Salavane to "re-education" in Attapeu during 1979-80, according to reports because they were considered politically unfit for complete and unconditional release back into society.

It is said that upon arrival in Attapeu, most of these persons were neither organized into seminar and work battalions nor assigned to perform menial or skilled labour tasks for provincial military officers or administrative sections, but were instead obliged to establish a number of chiefly agricultural "settlements" or "colonies" (*nikhom*). These village-like settlements are said typically to have been established in areas exclusively populated by Lao Theung with a long history of support for the RPPL. However, while sometimes being located near small Lao Theung villages, they were reportedly almost always set up separately from them.

These settlements are reported to have been officially designated by numerals, such as two so identified by Amnesty International, Settlement #18 and Settlement #20.

They are also said to have local geographical names either in Laos or Khmer, such as Phou Dam Khouan (for Settlement #18), Phoum Kong Toun (for Settlement #20) and Kong My (numerical designation of which is unknown). Their restricted residents, who reportedly often include the wives and children of the men originally taken into custody in Salavane in 1975-76, are said for the most part to be put into "production units" (*kong phalit*) and otherwise into "animal husbandry units" (*kong liang sat*) or "fish raising units" (*kong liang pa*). These various units are said generally to be directed by native Lao Theung military cadres who simultaneously have authority over small local military units that keep a watchful eye on the settlers. In addition to growing rice and vegetables for their own consumption

and that of the cadres and combatants who lead and watch them, these reeductees' production units are reportedly sometimes assigned to grow sugarcane, tobacco, cotton and other "industrial crops" (*phonpouk outsahakame*) to provide for the needs of local or provincial cottage or small-scale machine industries, while the animal husbandry units reportedly raise draft animals, poultry and hogs for use or consumption both inside and outside the settlements to which they are attached.

In addition to the settlements that, according to the information available to Amnesty International, were established in the above-described manner by persons brought down from "re-education" in Salavane in 1979-80, there is another settlement in Attapeu province about which Amnesty International is aware which, according to its information, was founded during the transitional period between 1979 and 1984 by and for troops of Battalion #402, and, to a lesser extent, Battalion #979.

This settlement was in fact reportedly created out of the former encampment of Company #4 of Battalion #402, that is, in the area of Ban Hom, down the Xe Kong from Samakhixai town. As the transition proceeded, most of the troops of Company #4 are said to have been reassigned to work elsewhere, while a few troops from other companies of Battalion #402 as well as from Battalion #979 were ordered to what became known as Ban Hom Settlement.

Available accounts indicate that those persons either kept at or sent to the Ban Hom Settlement were generally chosen for assignment there because they were considered incapable of useful work elsewhere, either because degenerated health or advanced age made them unable to do heavy labour or because they lacked the specialized knowledge necessary for the performance of skilled labour. They are said thus to have been organized, like the residents of other settlements, into units that engaged in agricultural production, especially paddy and sugarcane planting, and in animal husbandry or fish raising, by which means they fed themselves and their cadres and guards and also supplied some surplus to the provincial administration.

In addition, according to the information available to Amnesty International, the former encampment of the headquarters unit of Battalion #402, located on the east bank of the Xe Kong opposite Samakhixai town, has in recent years come to function like an agricultural settlement. Its remaining residents reportedly comprise primarily veterans of Battalion #402 drawn from various places, but also include some veterans of Battalion #979 and a few other elements.

As in the case of Ban Hom, they are said to have been chosen for restriction at this site because they are either infirm, elderly or unskilled, and to be assigned to engage for the most part in self-supplying agricultural production activities, particularly paddy growing. The site is, however, said according to recent reports not to be called a "settlement"; it is variously referred to simply as "402", by the geographical name Tha Bak or as a "Reform and Reconstruction Centre" *a(soun dat sang)*.

In contrast to the former encampments of Company #4 and the headquarters unit of Battalion #402, the encampments of its other subunits and those of Battalion #979 are said for all practical purposes either to have been abandoned or to have been turned over to the local population (in most cases Lao Theung).

This is said to mark the completion of the transition away from a system of work and seminar battalions to that of permanent seconding of these battalions' troops as menial or skilled labourers to provincial military offices and civilian administrative sections.

Escapes, Deaths and Releases

According to former Battalion #402 and #979 troops, one result of the change in the form of restriction for "re-education", away from work within the original battalion structures to work under the auspices of civilian administrative sections and military and security forces' offices or in routinely settled agricultural production and animal husbandry units, was a major improvement in the restrictees' opportunities to escape, to (as their slang puts it) "make a jump" (*ton*).

Starting around 1981, therefore, quite considerable numbers of restrictees reportedly have each year been able to escape from Attapeu, typically making their way via Champassak province into Thailand, but also taking other routes to other destinations. It is reported that as many as 100 escape attempts, most of them successful, occurred yearly, either from inside or outside Attapeu, and that from 1981 through 1985, between one-third and one-half of the ex-troops of Battalion #402 and #979 made successful jumps.

Not all efforts, however, have been successful. Some restrictees have reportedly either been apprehended or, on occasion, shot and killed by LPA troops, security forces or local Lao Theung militiamen, sometimes as they were trying to slip out of their areas of residence or workplaces, but more often as they were trying to make their way to the Champassak border. Others were reportedly taken into custody or, again less frequently, shot and killed in Champassak or elsewhere in Laos or while trying to cross from Laos to Thailand.

According to former restrictees who were able to escape, those taken into custody inside Attapeu while trying to escape from it have generally been jailed at one of three prison facilities in the province: the provincial jail in Samakhixai town, a jail in Xanxai district far to the northeast of Samakhixai town, or a jail closer to town and more directly to the east that is located at a place known alternatively as Boeng Vay or Done Makkhuea. The reported imprisonment of restrictees accused of trying to escape as well as of other wrongful acts is discussed separately, below.

The number of restrictees held for "re-education" in Attapeu province has reportedly thus been reduced over the last five years primarily as a result of successful escapes and occasional fatal shootings of those trying to escape. In addition, however, the number has reportedly fallen because of deaths from disease and "old age," as well as from accidents at work. It is said that many of the deaths by disease were due to poor working conditions, in particular obligatory labour at unsanitary and malarial construction sites where few or no provisions for hygiene or malaria prophylaxis had been made.

"Re-Education" in Attapeu Province: Late 1985

The information available to Amnesty International as of the latter part of 1985 suggests that as of that time perhaps 500-600 veterans of Battalions #402 and #979 were still being held for "re-education" in Attapeu.

Among these, the most recently available reports indicate, probably something more than half were in late 1985 assigned to work under one of Attapeu's provincial civilian administrative sections. The largest numbers of these are reported to be assigned to work under one of four provincial economic sections, either the construction; the transportation, communications and posts; the industry, handicrafts and forestry; or the commerce section. They were said in virtually every case to the "general workers" (*kamakone thouapay*) performing heavy or menial labour tasks, such as putting up state buildings of various types inside or outside Samakhixai town; maintaining and constructing roads and trails; manning ricemills, electrical generating plants or the province's only mechanical sawmill; logging and quarrying; doing coolie labour and stevedoring; digging drainage ditches and laying water pipes, etc.

A few are said to have been performing more skilled labour, such as woodworking, driving, cooking, vehicle repair, even barbering.

The largest concentrations are said to have been found in three state-owned construction "corporations" or "firms" (*bolisat*) answering to the Attapeu construction section and in a "road-making unit" (*kong het thang*) deployed on what is known as Route #16B (or the Katamtok Road) and reportedly answering to the Attapeu transportation, communications and posts section.

The three corporations reportedly were known as Corporations #1, #2 and #3 and each to have between 50 and 80 veterans of Battalions #402 and #979 as workers. Corporations #1 and #2 are said to have been doing construction work primarily inside Samakhixai town, with Corporation #3 more frequently detailed to work at other locations. The Route 16B/Katamtok Road crew is said to have included 50-60 veterans of the two battalions.

The task of these restrictees was reportedly to upgrade a disused colonial-era trail branching off from Route #16 at a point some 40 kilometres north of Samakhixai town and winding its way westward up onto and across the Bolovens Plateau in northwestern Attapeu, to transform it from a trail into a loose-surface road passable to ordinary traffic, at least during the dry season. This work is officially stated to have begun in early 1984, and to have proceeded with help from Attapeu's neighbouring and "sister province" in Vietnam, Gai Lai-Cong Tum. The project reportedly involved intensive upgrading of at least 40-50 kilometres of muddy and rocky track, from the Route #16 turnoff point north of the village of Ban Kangiak to the area of the village of Houay Kong, near the Attapeu-Champassak provincial boundary. The restrictees' contribution to the upgrading work is said according to a variety of sources to have been made almost entirely by hand, as they laboured their way with picks and shovels from one makeshift bivouac to another through a region that is among the most heavily hit by monsoon rains in Laos (an average of approximately 140 inches of rain a year). By July 1985, according to an official broadcast over *Radio Vientiane*, the work to construct this "new road in the mountainous area linking Attapeu and Champassak provinces" was "70% complete," and it was hoped that construction would be "completed and the road opened for traffic by the end of 1985 as a gift to Attapeu on the occasion of the December 2 national day."

At last report, the work was, however, still not fully completed, and at least some restrictees remained at work on certain parts of the project.

Most of the remainder of the veteran Battalion #402 and #979 restrictees said to be working in the latter part of 1985 for Attapeu civilian administrative sections with economic functions were reportedly to be found either in the state plan or the equipment and supply sections. Others were said to be working for civilian administrative sections with non-economic functions, either the public health, the propaganda, or the culture sections.

The ex-Battalion #402 and #979 restrictees working for these various sections reportedly were for the most part menial labourers, but a fair number of them were said to be performing relatively skilled tasks, working, for example, as engineers, maintenance men and repairmen, medics and pharmacists, or even playing musical instruments (such as the saxophone).

The information available to Amnesty International as of the latter part of 1985 suggests that as of that time perhaps another one-fifth to one-fourth of the veterans of Battalions #402 and #979 still being held for "re-education" in Attapeu were assigned to work under the auspices of offices of the provincial military or security forces. The largest number was said to be working under the auspices of the offices of the Provincial Command Committee (*khana banxakan khoueng*), which reportedly oversees Attapeu's provincial military forces, while a smaller number were said to be working under the auspices of the offices of the Provincial Defence of Peace and Order Units (*kong pongkan khouam sa-ngop souk khoueng*), which reportedly function like a provincial police. Most of these two groups of restrictees were said, like those working under civilian administrative sections, to be doing heavy or menial labour, including construction work and road work at military bases, as well as more unusual unskilled tasks such as taking care of the provincial armed forces' herd of transport elephants.

A relatively large proportion of those working for the military or security forces, however, were said to be doing skilled labour of various kinds, including making furniture, blacksmithing, maintenance and repair work, driving and boat piloting.

Most of the remainder of the ex-Battalion #402 and #979 troops said still to be held for "re-education" during the latter part of 1985 were reported as of that time to be attached either to the Ban Hom Settlement or to the Reform and Reconstruction Centre/Tha Bak/402 headquarters unit site opposite Samakhixai town.

There were said to be approximately 100 battalion veterans restricted, together in many cases with their families, to Ban Hom, and a smaller number restricted across from Samakhixai town, where, as was noted above, they in both cases formed an overwhelming majority of the restricted residents. Also as was noted above, they had in both places long been engaged primarily in agricultural production activities. Although the most up-to-date information available is that their work remains the same, there are, however, some recent reports indicating that both groups of restrictees may towards the end of 1985 have been obliged to turn over some of the fields they had pioneered and farmed for several years to other, non-restricted, cultivators, and once again open new fields for themselves to work, and that some of them may at the same time have had to abandon for occupation by others the dwellings they had earlier built and put up new shelter to live in.

Available reports indicated that the agricultural settlements said to be largely populated by restrictees brought down from Salavane in 1979-80 were relatively unlikely to be encroached upon in a similar manner, at least as far as the settlements at Phou Dam Khouan (#18), Phoum Kong Toun (#20) and Kong My were concerned. The most recent information indicates that the approximately 180 families said to be restricted to these three settlements continued as of the latter part of 1985 to farm the same fields and live in the same dwellings as in previous years.

"Re-Education" in Attapeu Province: Prison Facilities

A number of restrictees have reportedly been caught attempting to escape from "re-education" in Attapeu and interned as of the latter part of 1985 in one of three "jails" (*khok*): one in remote Xanxay district, one some 20 kilometres east of Samakhixai town in the Xexou River valley at a place known either as Done Makkheua or Boueng Vay, and one inside Samakhixai.

In addition to holding restrictees who are said to have been caught

attempting to "make a jump," these facilities are reportedly also used for detention of other categories of errant restrictees. These are said to include restrictees who are alleged to have "made mistakes" in their work, "opposed the [RPPL's policy] line," "shirked work," engaged in "resistance activities," behaved in manners deemed "dangerous to society" (*phai sangkhom*) or been involved in "corruption."

They reportedly may also include restrictees who have allegedly complained in letters about their treatment or conditions of work in "re-education" and also members of already jailed restrictees' families who have tried to visit their newly apprehended relatives only to be imprisoned themselves. It is reported that most restrictees imprisoned are placed in jail without having been afforded any sort of trial or other legal process, and that periods of imprisonment are generally indefinite.

According to available information, all the known prison facilities in Attapeu province are administered under the auspices of the Provincial Defence of Order and Peace Units. It is reported that the jail in Samakhixai town is located in a compound approximately one hundred metres square, adjacent to the headquarters of the Provincial Defence of Order and Peace Units and about 150 metres from the bank of the Xe Kong River. It is said that this facility is known as a "light

punishment" (*thot bao*) jail, and that it is generally used to incarcerate persons whose alleged misbehaviour is considered relatively minor, whether restrictees or others. Its total population is said to vary between 50 and 100 inmates. Conditions are reportedly severe, there in particular being no provisions either for protection against mosquitoes or regular bathing.

Both the Done Makkheua/Boueng Vay and Xanxay facilities are said to be "heavy punishment" (*thot nak*) jails run by local Lao Theung working for the Defence of Peace and Order Units. They are reported generally to be used to incarcerate persons whose alleged misbehaviour is considered relatively serious, again both restrictees and others, and conditions in them are reportedly extremely difficult. Populations have not been reported, but it has been noted that the Done Makkheua/Boueng Vay jail is newer than that in Xanxay, that while the latter has existed since before 1975, the former was not set up until 1980.

In addition, available information regarding the most recently known location of persons believed held for "re-education" in Attapeu indicates that perhaps 2% of the total number of such persons were, as of the latter part of 1985, incarcerated either in the Samakhixai town, the Xanxay or the Done Makkheua/Boueng Vay jail.

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CSO: 4200/787

MALAYSIA

PAS ACTION RULED 'UN-ISLAMIC'

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 20 Feb 86 p 1

[Article by Vijayan Menon]

[Text] **PEKAN, Wed.** — The National Fatwa Council today concluded that the *amanat* **Haji Hadi** (Haji Hadi's message), which sparked off the *mengkafir* issue and launched a *Pas Jihad* (holy war) for the establishment of an Islamic State in the country, is un-Islamic.

Members of the council were unanimous in their conclusion that the *amanat* was contrary to Islam and posed a threat to the Muslim community.

Council chairman Prof Tan Sri Haji Abdul Jalil Hassan said this afternoon that the council believed the *amanat* also went against the principles of the Islamic mission (*dakwah Islamiah*) and that conflicting views would only lead to chaos.

He said the council arrived at the conclusion at its 16th meeting here. The meeting was inaugurated by the Tengku Mahkota of Pahang yesterday.

Haji Hadi Awang, the Pas vice-president, issued the *amanat* in September 1983 while campaigning during the Selangor by-election in Kelantan.

In the *amanat*, the Pas leader said: 'We oppose Umno not because it is Umno, we oppose the Barisan Nasional not because it is called Barisan Nasional.

'We oppose them because they main-

tain a colonial Constitution, maintain infidel regulations, maintain unholy regulations.

'It is because of this we fight to oppose them. Believe us when we say that our struggle is a holy war, our donations are for a holy war and, and because we are fighting against such a group, if we die in this fight, our deaths will be the deaths of martyrs. Our deaths will be an Islamic death.

'We do not have to become Jews, we do not have to become Christians, we do not have to become Hindus, we do not have to become Buddhists, but we can become infidels by saying that politics is politics and religion is religion.'

Posters of the *amanat* now grace the walls of many Pas clubs and centres. One was also found on a wall of Ibrahim Libya's house in Kampung Me-mali.

Prof Tan Sri Haji Jalil said Muslims should be wary of conflicting views on religious rulings advocated by individuals or groups with ulterior motives.

He said the council deliberated on the *amanat* in detail and unanimously concluded that it was contrary to the teachings of Islam.

He advised Muslims to refer to State muftis or their respective State Fatwa Committees if they were confused by any religious matter or ruling.

He added that the two-day discussions (*muzakarah*) were attended by 20 ulamaks. They included 14 muftis from all the States and six people appointed by the Rulers' Council.

MALAYSIA

FOUR ITALIAN-BUILT MINESWEEPERS ARRIVING SOON

Penang THE STAR in English 19 Feb 86 p 2

[Text]

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. — Four minesweepers ordered from Italy at the cost of \$400 million will arrive in Malaysia on March 26, according to the Italian manufacturers.

The Italian shipyard, Intermarine Pte, which built the minesweepers or counter-measure vessels (MCMV) also stated that there was nothing wrong with the vessels.

"The vessels were fully tested as they are made out of new naval and mine warfare philosophy and technology widely used by Nato (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation)," said Intermarine's marketing manager Commander Trisolini Longobardi.

He said so far, there were only 10 such vessels built and four were with the Royal Malaysian Navy.

Commander Longobardi, who was here to promote his firm's product at the *Defence 86* at the Putra World Trade Centre was commenting on reports that the delivery of the vessels were delayed because the vessels faced technical problems.

The vessels were scheduled to arrive by the end of last year.

Acting Navy Chief Laksamana Muda Datuk Abdul Wahab Haji Nawi was also quoted as saying that there were "teething problems" with the new vessels though he did

not elaborate.

Commander Longobardi said: "The delivery of the vessels was delayed when it was found that the vessels could not be sailed out of the shipyard due to a bridge which was in the way.

"But now the problem has been solved and the bridge was dismantled and a new draw bridge built."

He also said that the vessel was not an ordinary minesweeper, but a complex one with sophisticated and modern computerised sensors used to detect all sorts of modern mines.

"The old mines were those floating in the water and attached to steel cables.

"But the modern sophisticated mines are buried in the seabed and can only be detonated by sounds and vibrations. With this new MCMV, such mines can be detected and destroyed from afar," he said.

Commander Longobardi said that the body was also made of a new material called Glass Reinforced Plastic (GRP), which is widely used by all NATO's vessels.

The new vessels of a Lerici class — KD Mahamiru, KD Jerai, KD Legendang and KD Kinabalu — are different from the ones used by the Italian navy (about one metre shorter).

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CSO: 4200/775

MALAYSIA

ARMY ASSAULT CRAFT ORDERED FROM DUTCH

Penang THE STAR in English 18 Feb 86 p 4

[Text]

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. — The army has ordered 165 assault craft from a Dutch Company to transport troops and heavy vehicles across rivers.

The Far East director for Damen Shipyards, Mr Fedrik Smit, said 60 of them were being made in the Netherlands and the rest in Limbungan, Terengganu.

The aluminium craft would be assembled by Limbungan Timur Sdn Bhd. The 60 would cost the army about \$1.5 million.

The cost of the locally-assembled craft would be worked out by Limbungan Timur, Mr Smit told reporters at the *Defence 86* exhibition.

The Damen Fast Assault Craft 540 is a vessel designed to transport a fully-equipped infantry section of 10 men.

One man can navigate the craft, which is powered by an outboard engine. The craft can be used at sea, but within two nautical miles of the beach.

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CSO: 4200/775

THAILAND

INDUSTRY MINISTER ON SUGAR CRISIS

Bangkok NAEO NA in Thai 16 Dec 85 p 4

[Text] We interviewed Dr Chirayu na Ayuthaya about his work policy when he first took his post, replacing Mr Ob Vasurat, who had to resign due to the fallout from the "9 September Incident." Now we have "the sugarcane and sugar issue," so we asked to interview him about this problem. In an exclusive interview, Danal Ekmahasawat, the driving force of NAEO NA BUSINESS WORLD, interviewed Dr Chirayu, who willingly made the problem understandable in a polite, gentle, and informal way. Note: This interview was conducted on 4 December before sugarcane growers held a protest at Rama V Plaza.

[Question] What are the antecedents to and the fallout from sugarcane growers in Suphanburi Province harvesting their sugarcane before the mill started to operate its presses? This caused turmoil.

[Answer] At this moment, the Ministry of Interior is investigating through the provincial police. The Ministry of Industry is also investigating. The problem might stem from many causes. We must understand right from the start that the primary point is not the issue of the normal start up of sugar mill presses. Rather, the mill sought to test its equipment; the Refly Chaimongkol mill is a brand new one, which has never pressed sugar before.

This mill requested to test its equipment two weeks ago. The Sugarcane and Sugar Commission feared that if it allowed raw sugarcane to be pressed oil-fueled engines, there would be a problem in knowing how much sugarcane would be pressed.

Many growers might want cash so they might hurry to deliver sugarcane to the mill. At what point would the presses be shut down? The commission feared that having a small amount cut and pressed would become a force pressuring farmers to cut sugarcane as soon as the mill started to operate its presses.

In addition, the commission was also worried about many matters that have not been reported to me but which I can guess. If the commission allowed the mill to use fresh sugarcane to test the presses, there would be quite a few problems to worry about.

Consequently, the mill requested to test the equipment without using sugarcane, meaning testing the equipment itself to see if it worked well. Here, however, the mill might have been thinking that the commission would give permission to test the equipment with sugarcane. The mill might have contacted the growers in advance. It's not that as soon as permission was granted that the sugarcane was cut, because cutting sugarcane is not done very easily.

Or else, some parties whom we don't know right now--let's not say the mill or the growers or whomever--but 500-600 truck loads of sugarcane were cut.

At the time that I talked with the undersecretary of state of the Ministry of Industry, the problem had already arisen. But let's not talk about who got shot by the arrow or who shot the arrow; help those who have been shot first, then we can investigate later.

However, it can be seen--regardless of one's perspective--that there are six issues resulting from pressing sugarcane out of season. Clearly, it was not a simple matter; the commission should not have allowed the mill to start pressing just because the mill wanted it. This ruling has impacted the system considerably.

Regardless, the matter is finished, the problem has been solved. Hopefully, there has not been that much damage. Many administrators are happy to have solved the problem, but some of them might be a little hurt because they were threatened, which is not good. We solved the problem, not because we were threatened, but because there was trouble.

[Question] Isn't politics one of the causes of the Suphanburi sugarcane problem?

[Answer] I think the politics came afterwards. It entered in because whenever there is trouble, people come to see how and why the trouble has arisen. They came to watch over the situation--there was nothing harmful about that--which is something that should be supported.

There is nothing harmful if they are helping to coordinate between officials and those who are in trouble. Government officials themselves were already taking care of the matter fully. The politicians came in to help, which in this case was no problem.

But please don't come in during other circumstances and incite the people and make it impossible for us to deal with the situation. We want to respond to the needs of everyone, but it has to be done within the law, so we must request everyone to sympathize with us.

[Question] Is it possible that they wanted to test you, Professor, because you had just become minister?

[Answer] No, not at all. There is no such issue... None whatsoever.

[Question] And then the price that was proposed--420 baht per ton--can it be done?

[Answer] Price is the issue in the end; but more important than that is how to have it rise to its highest. Saying what the desired price is or what the price should be is not as important as how to make the price go higher. I am looking at that.

[Question] Would additional protests against the price for sugarcane be a major problem?

[Answer] They certainly would be a problem. But surely they see that it is the government's duty and responsibility to solve the trouble by gently promoting and supporting those businesses involving farmers that are experiencing problems. The government should solve those problems as much as possible. It should help and support those businesses so they survive, so that they will benefit the country and farmers in the future.

But intentions alone are not enough and setting a good target price alone is not enough; they have to be actually accomplished. While we are trying to make the growers see that we are discharging our responsibilities, mutual understanding should develop.

Therefore, those protests surely will not occur. On the contrary, if we look at it from another perspective, if they ask for this or that and we say that it cannot be done and do nothing, then there are reasons to protest. But if we do everything reasonable, I would be surprised if they still protested.

[Question] Is the major reason for the protest the fact that the price is still not as good as they want?

[Answer] That's right. That's why I say that the point that we have to work on right now is to look at the things that will make the price increase, not asking for a higher price. I can vouch that District 7 officials, Mr Somphab, chairman of the Special Sugar Commission Task Force, and Mr Rewat, Kanchanaburi Chart Thai Party MP, not only talked about the target price, but also were looking for some measures to make the price higher.

[Question] Professor, are you worried that you must handle this problem?

Worried? Sure, I am very worried. But you can assess for yourself whether I worry and run away from the problem or worry and fight back?

[Question] If it is an economic issue, I believe that you can contend with it easily. Lately, there are indications that this problem is also entangled with politics. What game plan are you drawing up for handling the political aspects?

[Answer] Politically, I think that people want sincerity, responsible work and reliable public information to make them understand that I am not staying still doing nothing but that I am doing everything possible. I don't have anything more than that. My politics are not politics that use force or power for solving political problems.

[Question] Do you think you can solve the problem without it reaching the Office of the Prime Minister?

[Answer] The prime minister has received letters with recommendations about the issue. He has expressed his thanks for those recommendations. And he has insisted that I examine those recommendations and report to him. If you consider this as having reached the Office of the Prime Minister, then I admit it.

[Question] In your opinion, are the actions of the Chart Thai Party clearly secondary when the prime minister is so confident?

[Answer] I look at it rather that the Chart Thai Party is concerned about the nation instead of taking advantage of the deteriorating economy to propagandize its politics. Rather, it is trying to do its homework and has sent its recommendations by letter to the prime minister for the government to consider. I myself do not know if there is anything better than this that I can hope for.

[Question] Many people have noted that Chart Thai Party actions are a secondary matter. The fundamental problem is that the sugarcane growers are refusing to end the problem at the negotiation table; instead, they are lobbying outside, so solving this kind of problem depends on the individuals. And in the future, if the price of sugar in the world market increases, the prices of everything else will increase. If growers are still like this, then it is not certain that the problems with the 70/30 sharing system will end?

[Answer] I don't approve of that kind of behavior. I would like less of these kinds of actions. I am not looking for an excuse. Please, I think that's typical of Thai people, isn't it, not only of the Sugar Commission. There should be a way to solve this problem.

[Question] If the problem persists?

[Answer] I think we must get to the core of the problem, such as the distrust, dissatisfaction, and conflicts of opinion with mutual respect and democratically. We can work together better when all persons accept the rules and respect each other's opinion, whatever the decision at the table is.

But from the past, I feel that I was attacked for not working efficiently because I am too democratic. I allow too many things to happen. I should pound the table sometimes, but I have not taken that direction yet.

[Question] Professor, do you have to pound the table sometimes?

[Answer] I think sometimes I might have to do so when I reach my maximum limit: That's enough. It shows that there must be something that makes us unable to have mutual respect.

[Question] Do you mean the leaders in some groups in some districts?

[Answer] I don't know. (Both interviewer and interviewee laugh).

[Recorded by Khamron Wanwangeri]

12587/9435
CSO: 44207/133

THAILAND

EDITORIAL ACCUSES GOVERNMENT OF CONCEALING ECONOMIC DATA

Bangkok NAEO NA in Thai 16 Dec 85 p 4

[Text] One of the interesting research studies reported at the "The Next Step in National Development" seminar organized by the National Development Research Institute at Pattaya last weekend was "An Overview of the Thai Economy." This report discussed fundamental problems such as the trade, loan repayment and budget deficits, private sector and government competition for overseas loans, the worsening unemployment problem etc. These stem from the ease with which the Thai economy, the government as well as the private sector, have bought economic growth by relying on generating overseas debt. When revenues fall below the debt burden, the ratio of loan repayments to export earnings shoots up. This creates pressures that restrict the growth of the Thai economy, which is then set back from another angle.

The report estimates that next year and the following year, Thailand's international loan repayments will reach 30 percent of export earnings, which is a frightening figure and which makes the outlook for Thailand closer and closer to that for the Philippines, which is bankrupt. Normally, Thailand sets a limit of 20 percent of its foreign currency earnings for its debt repayments, but it appears that debt repayments will exceed that by 50 percent.

Lately, economic reports by government, private sector and independent exports, there have been reports with identical data concerning the dangerous turns that the nation's financial, treasury and trade situations are taking. There are unceasing activities that are making the government alert to looking for ways to adjust itself in these matters. The government seems to have acknowledged this all along. The obvious thing is its attempt to set a ceiling on incurring overseas debt and to slow down its rate every year. Apparently this grave national problem has not eased that much since a large number of persons are not trying to understand what the nation is facing. In addition, the government itself has not developed good data and control systems yet, so the problem has become chronic and is difficult to solve.

Worse than that, the government itself is trying in many ways to conceal various data about the national economy, instead of reporting it fully in a call for unity to solve the problem. This includes not transmitting it to the media and experts, so they have gone in to dig out such data and play it up, which has caused certain policies to be reviewed. Right now, we cannot

solve the problem by relying on the government alone; we absolutely need the cooperation of the private sector to report out the data systematically to guide us in making the correct economic adjustments.

Marketing information and data that will help Thailand adapt to survive in a competitive world should be included, in addition to data systems about various conditions in the country. Cooperation to overcome the upcoming dangers will be futile if there is no reliable data and good direction in closely coordinating such efforts.

12587/9435
CSO: 4207/133

COALITION GOVERNMENT OF DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA

KPNLF LEADER BLASTS 'PHONY' LETTER, CHIDES SIHANOUK

Bangkok THE NATION in English 20 Feb 86 p 4

[Text]

Dear Sir,

We are amazed that cheap political stunt by "Pen Thouk Kary" (Letter 24.1.86) could find its way to the page of your respectable paper.

You might be interested to note that there is no one by that name in Melbourne and that the P.O.Box as indicated belongs to the Khmer Community of Victoria — a Cambodian welfare association which according to its constitution is a non-political organization, and only concerns itself primarily with the settlement welfare of Khmer refugees in Melbourne. Naturally no one connected with that association has any knowledge of a "Pen Thouk Kary" and/or his infamous letter.

For a desperado to hide behind a phantom name and tries to incriminate a welfare agency is an act of cowardice of the lowest denominator. Yet the architect of the letter has the gore to carry on about "Democracy" and "Democratic institution." There is no need to reveal the identity of the writer and the organization he belongs to — no matter how provocative a letter of this nature could be. We believe that such disparage by a desperate detractor in the present tense political environment does not deserve undue attention, less we got involved in the mud-slinging and muck-raking exercise, which "Pen Thouk Kary" seems to be specialized in.

We, Cambodians, have indulged in self-incrimination for far too long. This extended acrimonious self-denigration has inflicted devastating damage to our sense of self-image, self-belief, self-respect, and morale. This self-inflicted injury has resulted in our near complete loss of credibility as a race and a nation.

The period of agonizing self and soul-searching has long passed. It is now time for reckoning. And as Prince Sihanouk has stressed on numerous occasions during his Australian visit to Melbourne in March 1985, the present real enemy of Cambodia is Vietnam and not any of

the factions of the Coalition Government. "Pen Thouk Kary" is completely off the mark when he tried to glorify the Prince whilst at the same time, in his twisted logic and crazy sense of rationale, denigrated President Son Sann. For it was the Prince who had publicly supported President Son Sann in the present KPNLF leadership difficulty.

The question that "Pen Thouk Kary" should have raised should not concern who has been or is a better leader, for history will judge our leaders by their records.

After the French we had 16 years of "popular" leader followed by another 16 years of ineffectual leader. History has clearly shown that to be a popular leader is one thing, but to be an effective leader is another. President Son Sann has never pretended to be the first, but has striven with insurmountable obstacles to be the latter. He has chosen to be truly respected, which is more lasting, rather than being vaguely liked.

The question at this juncture of our national liberation struggle would be whether all of us, Cambodians, realize that time is running out on us; and therefore would we be responsible enough to face ourselves fairly and squarely and ask ourselves the one REAL question that we seem to have been avoiding all the time during the past 7 years — i.e. we all had the courage to take up armed resistance against the Vietnamese occupiers, do we now have the real gut to call on the positive side of our Khmer characters — and have the REAL COURAGE to forgive, forget and make up, so as to get on with the serious business of liberating Cambodia from the Vietnamese colonialists?

Yours sincerely,

Lim Muy Hong
PRESIDENT

Khmer People's National Liberation
Front, Australia

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CSO: 4200/786

COALITION GOVERNMENT OF DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA

ANS GENERAL CITES SUPPORT IN INTERIOR, DK HARASSMENT

Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 21 Feb 86 p 4

[Article by Jacques Bekaert]

[Text]

SITE B — General Duong Khem has just returned from almost three months inside Kampuchea. The commander of the 1st Brigade of the National Sihanoukist Army is probably the highest-ranking nationalist leader to have spent such a long period of time inside the country.

"To go as far as the eastern border of Siem Reap province is not a very difficult task," explained Duong Khem in an interview with this correspondent during a recent visit to the Sihanoukist camp at Site B, where the general was enjoying a week of rest before returning to the battlefield.

A native of Prey Veng province where he was born in 1933, Duong Khem took over the military command of the "Moulinaka" brigade of the National Sihanoukist Army (ANS) after the death in August 1984 of Colonel Nhem Sophon, who succeeded the founder of the first Sihanoukist armed movement, Kong Si-leah, in August 1980.

A professional soldier, Duong Khem was a paratrooper in the Cambodian army. During the regime of the Khmer Rouge he was in Battambang, doing hard labour. He managed to escape in 1978 as he was about to be executed.

"We are aware that Vietnam is trying to close the border but I doubt if they can succeed," said the general. "So far we have always found ways to go inside."

Duong Khem left last November with a group of 180 men. "They are inside now, establishing a new base somewhere in Siem Reap province.

They have joined several hundreds of our troops already there." He came back about two weeks ago, with a group of soldiers due for a rest.

"What amazes me," said Duong Khem, "is the amount of assistance we receive from villagers and soldiers of the Heng Samrin army. The latter even sometimes give us free rice." A group of soldiers from the People's Republic of Kampuchea indeed has served as the ANS avant-garde to ensure the safe return of the general and his group.

"It is thanks to villagers who acted as the go-between that we made the contact with the Heng Samrin troops. They heard that there was a Sihanoukist general in the area and told the villagers they would like to get in touch with us."

The PRK soldiers explained to the ANS troops that they did not want to have anything to do with the Khmer Rouge or the Vietnamese. "They only wanted to support Samdech Sihanouk, they told us."

One of the main aspects of Duong Khem's mission inside Kampuchea was to establish a stronger Sihanoukist presence in Siem Reap province and develop the ANS propaganda network.

Heng Samrin troops are equipped with old AK 47 and have no more than 60 bullets per man, according to General Duong Khem, while an ANS soldier carries at least 300. "It gives the impression the Vietnamese do not really trust their own ally. But then you cannot blame them."

The general had gone with dozens of small radio sets, pictures of Noro-

dom Sihanouk and cassettes with messages from the Prince, as well as bulletins in Khmer printed by the propaganda services of the ANS.

"The reaction to the cassettes was extraordinary. Usually we organized villages meetings and played the tapes for the inhabitants. Their reaction was highly emotional. They recognized the voice of Prince Sihanouk. People went on their knees, hands clasped together as a sign of respect. Many people were openly crying."

On such occasions the ANS usually distributes extra food, clothes and medicine to villagers. "The area I visited is very poor. The only food in fairly normal supply is rice, but nothing to go with it. The diet is very unbalanced. The medical situation is tragic, with numerous cases of malnutrition. That's why people are happy to exchange rice for the vegetables that we bring."

Villagers told Duong Khem that every other week a Vietnamese political cadre would come to town to provide political education, praising the merits of the "Communist Party."

But, said the general, everywhere they went the great obsession of the people was the obligation to go to the border for the construction of the border wall. "Men leave their villages in great numbers to take refuge in the nearby forests. They know how dangerous the work — which they identify as "forced labour" — is. We met dozens of such people. They were only too eager to help us. They were usually of great assistance to us, providing us with crucial information about who is who in the village."

Another source living in Phnom Penh recently confirmed to us the impact of the border work on the entire Kampuchean population. "To the Khmers, it is like going back to the time of Pol Pot, even if it is only

for a few weeks. The conditions are terrible, malaria is ever present and regional hospitals are full of the border work casualties. It also adds to the Khmer resentment toward Vietnamese civilian settlers since the Vietnamese do not participate in the construction of the wall," the source, who has been able to travel to several provinces, told the *Bangkok Post*.

"Most villagers as well as the Heng Samrin cadres we talked to were sceptical about the announced intention of Vietnam to withdraw its troops from Kampuchea. People told us constantly: Kampuchea would be a new Champa, we would be absorbed by Vietnam."

Duong Khem was also critical of the tactic employed by the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea. "We could have gone further into Kompong Thom if it had not been for the Khmer Rouge. They created a lot more problems for us than the Vietnamese. They harassed us many times, which of course was the best way to alert the Vietnamese army of our presence..."

"In several villages we were told that men had fled to the forest to escape forced conscription either by the PRK army or the Khmer Rouge."

"As the ANS develops its presence inside the country, we can count on the growing support of the people. The people want Sihanouk back. Some remember him as their king, the younger ones have been told about him by their parents. We are the soldiers of Sihanouk and that's why we receive such assistance from everybody, sometimes even the Khmer Rouge rank and file," said the general.

He has recently been made the personal assistant to Prince Norodom Ranariddh for political affairs and expects to go back inside Kampuchea any time soon.

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COALITION GOVERNMENT OF DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA

KPNLF SPLIT IN LEADERSHIP WIDENS

Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 21 Feb 86 p 3

[Text]

A POWER struggle within the Kampuchean resistance group headed by nationalist Son Sann has intensified following his announcement that two military leaders had left their posts, informed sources told Reuters yesterday.

Thai and diplomatic sources said neither Son Sann nor a faction led by General Sak Sutsakarn was in control of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front.

Son Sann said on Wednesday he had accepted Sak's resignation as commander-in-chief, fired chief of staff Dien Del and thrown two other dissidents out of the KPNLF.

He said the moves had healed a two-month rift in the anti-Vietnamese, non-communist organization.

But Thai sources said actual command of the KPNLF's guerrillas had fallen by default to a committee of 10 commanders controlling individual units along the Thai-Kampuchean border.

Diplomats said the leadership rift had left the KPNLF moribund and that at most only a few hundred of its fighters were operating deep enough inside Kampuchea to be considered part of the insurgency there.

The KPNLF, which says it has 15,000 guerrillas, is allied to fighters led by Prince Norodom Sihanouk and to the communist Khmer Rouge.

Sihanouk shuffled his own military leadership last month, naming his son Ranariddh as commander-in-chief in place of General Teap Ben.

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CSO: 4200/786

COALITION GOVERNMENT OF DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA

SAK SUTSAKHAN LEADERSHIP FACTION DISCUSSED

Bangkok THE NATION in English 28 Feb 86 p 5

[Text]

KHMER military leader Gen Sak Sutsakhan visited some of the commanders of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) on the Thai-Kampuchean border in a move to reassert his command over the resistance force — a couple of days after KPNLF President Son Sann deprived him of the top military and other political posts in the front.

Out of the eight base commanders, five, including Col Prumvit, were present to receive Gen Sak, who also chaired a series of meetings with political cadres, camp administrators and Khmer civilians during the border tour from Feb 22-25.

Son Sann on Feb 18 appointed Col Prumvit, base commander of Sokh Sann, as his top military commander in place of Gen Sak and head of a four-man committee to oversee the front's military affairs.

The other three members of the committee are Chea Chhut, base commander of Nong Chan base, Keo Choun, base commander of Nam Yuen and Im Chhoodeth, a member of Son Sann's Executive Committee (Exco). Chea Chhut and Keo Choun were named by Son Sann as vice chairmen while Im Chhoodeth was appointed adviser to the committee.

Chea Chhut and Im Chhoodeth

have declared allegiance to Son Sann while Keo Choun and Prumvit have stayed clear of the dispute in the movement.

The other four base commanders who were present to receive Sak, accompanied by Gen Dien Del and all the staff members of the High Military Command, were Nong Samet Base Commander Liu Ne, Bak Roneas Base Commander Pann Thay, Thlok Base Commander Thou Thip and O'Bok Base Commander Sopheak Rachana. Dien Del and the four base commanders have pledged allegiance to Sak.

Son Sann has also sacked Dien Del from his post as chief-of-staff as well as other political posts and dissolved the High Military Command led by the general.

Prumvit was quoted as telling Sak that he had no knowledge of his appointment as the head of the four-man committee. But Son Sann's spokesman Col Sangwar de Lopez had earlier told *The Nation* that the four members had been informed of the establishment of the committee and their new positions.

Prumvit reportedly told Sak during the border trip that he heard of the establishment of the four-man committee from the Voice of America while he was in his Sokh Sann base opposite Chanthaburi Province.

The other base commander, Ta Maing of Prasat Tbeng base, who was absent from the meetings with Gen Sak, is said to be neutral in the leadership crisis. Sak told the base commanders to continue their fighting against the Vietnamese under his command but he did not go as far as touching upon the leadership crisis which pits him against Son Sann. The same message was conveyed to political cadres and some camp administrators during his visit to Site Two.

The Nation has also learned that Sak plans to call a meeting of all the key commanders of the KPNLF on the border very soon in a move to consolidate his position in the resistance force.

Col Sangwar de Lopez, contacted by *The Nation*, said that he did not want to make any comment concerning Gen Sak's visit to the border.

He reaffirmed the order to deprive Sak and Dien Del of their posts. He said that the decision had been taken and was endorsed by the Executive Committee during a meeting on Feb 15.

The spokesman claimed that Prumvit had been informed of the new appointment and had accepted it. Son Sann has also ousted two other dissident members, Dr Abdul Gaffar Peangmeth and Hing Kunthon from the movement.

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PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KAMPUCHEA

VFF GREETES KUFNCD ON SRV-PRK TREATY ANNIVERSARY

BK270812 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Text] The Central Committee of the Vietnam Fatherland Front sent a greetings message recently to the KUFNCD [Kampuchean United Front for Construction and Defense] National Council on the 7th anniversary of the signing of the treaty of peace, friendship, and cooperation between the SRV and the PRK. The message stressed:

The signing of the treaty of peace, friendship, and cooperation between our two countries on 18 February 1979 was an event of historical significance in strengthening the bonds of friendship and special relations between Vietnam and Cambodia, tempered and tested for years by common struggle in the same trench against imperialism, colonialism, and expansionist-hegemonist reactionary forces.

Over the past 7 years under the leadership of the KPRP, the Cambodian people have won great victories, particularly the victory in the 1984-85 dry season along the Cambodian-Thai border in sweeping the reactionary Cambodian remnants and the great victory of the recent Fifth KPRP Congress. These victories testify to the good will, solidarity, and determination of the Cambodian people. The all-around cooperation between Vietnam and Cambodia as well as among Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia constitutes a factor determining the victories and helping our three peoples to overcome all difficulties, to foil all perfidious maneuvers of the expansionist-hegemonists and their henchmen, and to win great successes in the national defense and reconstruction efforts of each of our countries, thus actively continuing to the defense of peace and stability in Southeast Asia and the world.

On this occasion, we would like to express profound thanks to the Cambodian people and the KUFNCD National Council for wholeheartedly assisting the Vietnamese revolution. We wish the Cambodian people successes in the implementation of the Fifth KPRP Congress resolutions. May the bonds of friendship, militant solidarity, and special relations between our two peoples last forever.

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PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KAMPUCHEA

PRACHEACHON EDITORIAL MARKS WOMEN'S DAY

BK080920 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 2300 GMT 7 Mar 86

[PRACHEACHON editorial: "Cambodian Women Are Confident in the Party and Revolution and Are Advancing"]

[Text] An international conference of women from 17 countries held in Copenhagen, the capital of Denmark, decided to observe 8 March each year as the day of world women's united struggle for rights and freedom, equality, democracy, and social progress. Since then, 8 March has become the day of struggle for the well-being of women and children and for all-around equality between women and men. In socialist countries, women enjoy equal rights as men. March 8 has become a yearly traditional festival of women.

The PRK Constitution clearly defines the equal rights between women and men, and the KPRP has focussed its attention on creating facilities for women to participate in social work, thus enabling our fraternal women to make progress in all fields and turn the 8 March spirit into a resolute will contributing to firmly defending national independence and building our Cambodian fatherland gradually through a transitional period toward socialism.

During the past 7 years, besides the increasing advance of our revolution, the livelihood of women has improved with each passing day, thus stimulating our women's revolutionary awareness and encouraging them to serve the struggle more actively such as in persuading their husbands and children to serve in the army and militia units and the national defense, willingly transporting food to combat units without fear of sacrifice, diligently visiting Cambodian combatants and Vietnamese Army volunteers, and being ready to serve in combat. In 1985, fraternal women distributed more than 6.066 riel to the army and actively launched several forms of struggle against the enemies inside the country. In several places, women have volunteered to join militia and self-defense units to defend local security and attack the enemies resolutely, such as the women in Trapeang Chong Commune, Bakan District, Pursat Province. Some other women have cooperated with the authorities in the search for enemy networks, hide-outs, and arms caches. For example, the mine disposal company in Svay Rieng Province while on a national defense mission actively persuaded misled persons to return to their families and the revolution.

According to reports by 17 provinces and municipalities, in 1985 fraternal women persuaded 779 misled persons to return to the fold. As the spirit of mutual assistance, especially toward the families of combatants and workers on national defense labor missions, has been firmly consolidated, in 1985 the fraternal women helped the needy families with more than 2 million riel. In the fields of production, industry, agriculture, and craftsmanship, the fraternal women also made noteworthy feats. Women who comprise the majority of production forces in state enterprises, collective production institutes, and handicrafts worksites have strictly abided by the internal discipline and regulations, protected and preserved collective property, and emulated in promoting the production output and its quality thus ensuring sufficient supply to meet the demand of the people. In solidarity groups for agricultural production, fraternal women have fought valiantly to surmount various obstacles caused by floods, drought, and sabotage activities of the enemies. They have been active in carrying out production in accordance with the directive by the Central Committee of the women's association for each family to raise 2 hogs and 10 chickens. At present, 593,258 families have fulfilled or overfulfilled this plan. They have also planted subsidiary food crops and expanded several traditional forms of handicrafts in order to increase income for their families and production output for the society. The female cadres, personnel, and workers have also ceaselessly heightened their sense of responsibility in fulfilling tasks assigned them in the field of culture, education, health, and social affairs. They have joined in building a new progressive and fine culture and strived to get rid of illiteracy and improve the health level of the entire society. The fraternal women are also responsible for various other social work, particularly in raising the children.

The 76th anniversary of the international women's day this year coincides with the International Year of Peace 1986 set forth by the United Nations. As all other women in the world, the Cambodian women who have been victims of the Pol Pot genocidal regime appropriately desire to live together with their families in a country which is peaceful and with well-being and happiness. Presently, while it is true that our country is enjoying independence and freedom, our enemies have not abandoned their maneuvers and schemes to sabotage our country's rebirth and our revolution. However, our enemies are in a state of defeat and weakness while our people are awakening politically and pledging to fight for the defense of our revolutionary gains.

All maneuvers slandering our revolution and psychological warfare schemes of the Cambodian reactionaries of all stripes under whatever forms can never fool our people. This year, 1986, is the first year to implement the resolutions of the Fifth Party Congress. We have pledged to successfully implement our common strategic tasks in the current revolutionary stage and the three goals to our revolution, thus actively contributing to the movement for all mankind to live in peace which was launched by the Women's International Democratic Federation.

In this immediate period, all Cambodian women must pledge to advance, strengthen, and expand their state of mastery and contribute to building genuine revolutionary forces by striving to successfully fulfill the following tasks:

Jointly unite and resolutely strive to attack the Cambodian reactionary elements by not listening to the enemies' slanderous propaganda nor helping them in anyway, willingly encouraging husbands and children to join in the army and the national defense labor, preparing to wholeheartedly serve the combat, joining in the militia units, cooperating with the local authorities in smashing the enemies' networks, and persuading misled persons to return to the revolution, thus weakening the enemies to a greater extent. Strive to successfully carry out the dry season production drive and be well prepared to carry out the coming rainy season production in order to contribute to promoting the four aspects of economy--foodstuff, rubber, forestry, and fishery--with high output, thus ensuring sufficiency for our people's consumption and for our state's export plan. Strive to sell paddy to the state and timely give paddy to the state as national patriotic contribution. Be thrifty in production and consumption. Female workers must emulate in expanding their sense of mastery and creative ingenuity, strive to surmount shortages and difficulties, and improve the output and quality of their production. Strengthen the women's association by regularly holding group meetings, preserving its essence, and organizing courses for local female cadres in order to provide them with good revolutionary ethics and leadership capabilities and thus creating a women's movement to successfully fulfill the resolutions of the Fifth Party Congress. Enhance propaganda about the genuine spirit of patriotism, internationalist socialism, and especially the Cambodia-Vietnam militant alliance which is the decisive factor of the Cambodian revolution's death and life.

The work to stimulate and organize women is a revolutionary work of strategic significance. In our country, the number of women is more than half of the entire population. The women's association is responsible for the tasks of ensuring the [words indistinct] and quality of its activities aimed at educating, encouraging, mobilizing, organizing, and helping women in their daily life, production, and tasks. It is imperative for all sectors and mass organizations to cooperate with the women's association in raising our women's levels of culture, know-how, vocations, and their duties as mothers and wives. It is imperative for the party committees and local authorities to correctly implement the policies to educate and apply the women's labor forces, as well as the policies regarding the livelihood and health of women. All of this is the responsible task of all sectors, organizational units, and mass organizations in the entire society. It is not only a specific task of the women's association.

To welcome this year's international women's day, all fraternal Cambodian women throughout the country pledge to sharpen their will to fight and emulate in striving to surmount all obstacles and difficulties in order to contribute to the cause of defending and building the Cambodian fatherland and the cause of liberating women to another extent.

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KAMPUCHEA

HUN NENG ATTENDS KOMPONG CHAM PROVINCIAL MEETING

BK020946 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 2 Mar 86

[Text] Kompong Cham Province recently held a second meeting to sum up achievements of state authorities, masses, and people for 1985 and set targets for 1986. The report of the meeting stressed the results scored by the province in defending the locality. The provincial forces killed 131 enemy soldiers, took 48 prisoners, and wounded 38. They achieved this in close cooperation with local state authorities, police, militia force, people, and the Vietnamese volunteer army. They have persuaded 270 misled persons to return to the revolution who brought with them 16 weapons and a notable quantity of war materiel.

In production, our compatriots planted more than 124,895 hectares of rice and more than 310,800 hectares of corn and beans with a total yield exceeding the plan. In animal husbandry, our compatriots raised more than 306,130 head of cattle. In forestry and fishing, our compatriots produced more than 7,130 cubic meters of timber and caught more than 4,570 metric tons of fish. Rubber was planted on more than 19,660 hectares with more than 56,746 liters of latex collected and more than 9,186 metric tons of rubber crepe produced. The trade, communications, education, and public health fields have also developed.

On this occasion, Comrade Hun Neng, alternate member of the Party Central Committee and secretary of the Kompong Cham provincial provisional party committee, praised the results scored by compatriots in the province through braving all kinds of difficulties with a patriotic spirit. The comrade called on the audience to strive to sharpen the will further to achieve 1986 targets for the party and the state.

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CSO: 4212/63

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KAMPUCHEA

ARMY PAPER CALLS FOR PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL TASKS

BK021358 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1200 GMT 1 Mar 86

[19 February KANGTOAP PADEVOAT editorial: "The Whole Army Should Actively Take Part in the Two-Task Movement in Localities"]

[Text] Implementing the two-task movement in localities is a necessary and urgent task in the current phase of the Cambodian revolution. It is aimed at promoting the movement of masses to fight the enemies, safeguard social security and order, and build real forces in localities. This would provide a firm support for the people to advance toward becoming masters of their locality and in production.

In the past, the KPRAF has made an important contribution to the task of promoting mass movements and advancing the three revolutionary movements, namely building localities, fighting the enemies, and defending the people. It has expanded our people's victories in every field. Furthermore, our forces have cooperated with companies in districts in promoting and disseminating the political lines of the party and state in order to heighten the political awareness of the people and lead them to the point of unmasking the enemies and opposing every slander of the enemy psychological warfare.

Relying on the people and in control of the people and grasping their desire, our army has selected good persons loyal to the revolution and who love the people. They have uncovered every type of enemy hidden among the masses. Our army has cooperated with militiamen in fighting against armed enemy elements and contributed to building and defending every revolutionary organization and state authority of the people in localities. This has vigorously increased the strength of the revolution to serve as a firm support for the masses to strengthen their combined forces in smashing the enemies and becoming masters of their localities. Along with localities, our forces have vigorously advanced production and improved the people's living standards. The right to be masters of localities has been daily strengthened and stabilized thus ensuring complete safety in the localities.

Although in the past our army has implemented well these two tasks, if we take a general view, we see that a small number of units still do not

have a clear understanding of their role and duties. They have not yet firmly built their forces and cannot be properly used. Their political and specialized knowledge is still weak. More importantly, cadres in these units still possess inadequate revolutionary character. Therefore, the results of their work do not respond to the goals set by the fifth meeting of party representatives concerning the task of firmly building localities.

To achieve the two tasks with greater results and to contribute to welcoming the 35th founding anniversary of our army, all armed units should heighten their spirit to implement well every aspect of the tasks to strengthen and increase their leadership. They should not rely completely on companies in districts to carry out these two tasks but should strive to understand and vigorously advance the task of promoting mass agitation work. The masses' three revolutionary movements should also be vigorously promoted. Every unit of the armed forces in the region should divide and share the responsibility of appropriately building the localities and set aside forces for fighting the enemies and for working with the people. Cadres and combatants should cooperate with local state authorities on plans to strengthen villages and communes.

First of all, they should agree on how to carry out the work with village and commune committees and every organizational institution. They should temper themselves, mould their character, and transform themselves into model examples and advance another step among the party ranks. They should adhere correctly to the good character and discipline of the revolutionary army. Cadres and combatants should strengthen their influence and win the people's confidence through concrete activities of words and deeds. They should preserve the revolutionary way of life. Only this way can they carry out well and effectively the task of promoting movements of the masses and building localities.

They should constantly link together localities, examine, analyze, and grasp local geographic situation and activities of the enemies, people and state authorities should clearly discern weak and strong points in the task in localities and the enemy maneuvers in the area. They should actively take part with the people in building trenches and be ready to fight and firmly defend villages and communes through building strategic fences and networks of strategic village and communes [words indistinct] of militiamen and use this as an important base. This includes improving marksmanship, lobbing grenades, planting punji stakes, defusing mines, planting mines, digging trenches, and using traditional weapons and techniques to fight and ambush the enemies from every side and cut off the enemy transport lines, and so on. Attention should be paid to disseminating the political lines of the party and state, raising the people's revolutionary awakened spirit to increase the people's confidence in the new regime, and constantly heightening the spirit of solidarity with friendly Vietnam. Furthermore, every aspect of the forces should be appropriately built and the participation of the masses' movements should be really expanded in fighting and winning back enemy soldiers in localities.

Production work should be vigorously promoted to improve the people's living standards in the area.

By achieving these two tasks, the whole army would enable localities to score brilliant victories in firmly building villages and communes. Enemy maneuvers would also be timely checked and smashed. Local forces would be expanded. They would be able to enjoy their right of being masters and appropriately respond to the need of being an army born from the people, through the people, and for the people.

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PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KAMPUCHEA

PHNOM PENH REPORTS BATTLE SUCCESSES, CGDK RIFTS

BK271348 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1200 GMT 27 Feb 86

[From the "Weekly Roundup of Salient Events" feature]

[Excerpt] According to a tally from various battlefields throughout the country, this month our revolutionary armed forces in cooperation with the Vietnamese army volunteers put out of action 1,154 enemies of all colors, or 112 more than in January. Of these we killed on the spot 587, wounded 126, captured 178, and persuaded 266 to return to the national society. We seized 359 assorted firearms, more than 2,000 rounds of assorted ammunition, 209 mines, and a quantity of Beijing-provided war materiel. In particular, at the border three enemy trucks transporting ammunition at the border were completely destroyed.

These results are praiseworthy achievements of our armed forces units that are in charge of a number of regions adjacent to the Cambodian-Thai border. These forces are more resolutely overcoming all difficulties in a spirit of proletarian struggle, more vigorously conducting activities in guarding against and ambushing all attempts by the bandit remnants and Sereika elements to rear their heads inside the country in addition to the enthusiastic participation of the workers engaged in national defense labor to seal off all passages used by the enemy. In the interior, the regional forces, authorities, militia, and inhabitants alike are powerfully accelerating the triple revolutionary movement with a high sense of revolutionary vigilance, guarding and defending villages and localities in response to the battlefield situation.

While our revolution is making success and growing steadily, the three groups of the coalition government are torn up by serious daily rifts and fightings. The Son Sann group has been split into two factions and its members are heading toward a fratricidal struggle. As for the Pol Pot group, it is also experiencing a serious split as many of its disillusioned units, many of them very close to Pol Pot, have surrendered to the KPRAF. In particular, Sihanouk, who is the figurehead president of the so-called coalition government, publicly complained not long ago that 38 of his men were killed by Pol Pot's forces. These developments have greatly worried Washington and a number of other countries that support the reactionary Cambodians. They are afraid that these rifts might become a

point of no return for the coalition government, and will bring about the collapse of their efforts to create confrontation and maintain tension in Southeast Asia. Progressive public opinion loving justice and peace noted that the more material aid and dollars the imperialists and expansionists give the reactionaries, the more serious the internal differences among the reactionary ringleaders of the tripartite coalition government will become. This is one of the causes that push them toward inevitable and total defeat.

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REPORT ON AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS 24 FEBRUARY-2 MARCH

BK040918 [Editorial Report] Cambodian media monitored by Bangkok Bureau carried the following reports on agricultural developments during the reporting period 24 February-2 March:

Kampot Province: Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian at 0430 GMT on 25 February reports that by the end of January, peasants in Kampot Province had sold more than 1,300 metric tons of rice and gave more than 1,100 metric tons as patriotic contributions to the state. Phnom Penh Domestic at 1300 GMT on 26 February states that peasants in Kampot Province have so far sowed more than 70 hectares of dry season rice and planted 800 hectares of corn, 270 hectares of potato, 440 hectares of vegetables, and 110 hectares of peanut and other industrial crops.

Kompong Chhnang Province: Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian at 1300 GMT on 25 February reveals that by 6 February, peasants in Kompong Chhnang Province had sowed more than 860 hectares of rice of the planned 1,260 hectares and transplanted another 2,030 hectares. Almost 3,300 hectares of subsidiary crops and more than 230 hectares of industrial crops had also been planted. Phnom Penh Domestic at 1300 GMT on 28 February reports that peasants in Kompong Chhnang town have sowed more than 900 hectares of dry season rice, transplanted more than 2,900 hectares out of the targeted 6,300 hectares, and planted nearly 320 out of 1,900 hectares of industrial crops and more than 3,600 hectares out of the more than 6,500 hectares earmarked for food crops.

Takeo Province: Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian at 1300 GMT on 25 February says that by the end of January, peasants in Bati District had sold more than 380 metric tons of paddy to the state and paid 175 metric tons in national patriotic contribution. According to a Phnom Penh Domestic report at 1300 GMT on 27 February, peasants in Samraong District had paid 280 metric tons of paddy in patriotic contribution by the end of January. Phnom Penh Domestic at 1300 GMT on 2 March notes that by early February, peasants in Prey Kabbas District had transplanted 2,000 hectares of dry season rice of the planned 5,200 hectares. A total of 880 metric tons of paddy had been sold to the state and more than 200 metric tons had been paid as patriotic contribution.

Kompong Speu Province: Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian at 0430 GMT on 26 February reports that peasants in Samraong Tong District plan to grow 370 hectares of dry season rice. By the end of January, they had retilled 664 hectares of land and sowed or transplanted 330 hectares of rice or 90 percent of plan. According to the radio at 0430 GMT on 1 March, by mid-February, rice purchase centers in Kompong Speu Province received more than 2,900 metric tons of paddy as national patriotic contributions and bought more than 2,500 metric tons of paddy from peasants in the province.

Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province: According to Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian at 0430 GMT on 27 February, by February, peasants in Puok District had put more than 900 hectares under dry season rice. By the end of January, they had sold to the state more than 100 metric tons of paddy and paid nearly 30 metric tons in patriotic contribution. Phnom Penh SPK in English at 1113 GMT on 28 February states that by mid-February, peasants in Puok District transplanted dry season rice on 720 hectares. Local peasants restored three canals, totaling 7,000 meters, to provide water for the field. The district veterinary service also vaccinated 1,430 cattle against various diseases. Phnom Penh Domestic at 1300 GMT on 28 February reports that by early February, peasants in Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province had sold to the state more than 7,000 metric tons of paddy. Phnom Penh SPK in French at 0400 GMT on 27 February reports that by mid-January, peasants in Chong Kal District had harvested 3,500 hectares of rice with an average yield of one metric ton per hectare. In the same period, they had sold to the state 161 metric tons of paddy.

Kandal Province: Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian at 1300 GMT on 1 March states that peasants in Kandal Province, by mid-February, had transplanted more than 22,420 hectares of various types of rice, harvested almost 2,100 hectares of dry season rice with a yield of more than 25,300 metric tons, and planted more than 15,500 hectares of subsidiary crops. According to Phnom Penh Domestic at 1300 GMT on 27 February, peasants in S'ang District had by 12 February sowed 1,000 hectares of rice seeds and transplanted more than 2,600 hectares of dry season rice to fulfill the 5,600 hectares planned for dry season rice.

Prey Veng Province: Phnom Penh SPK in French at 0429 GMT on 26 February reports that by mid-January, peasants in Prey Veng Province had planted 12,294 hectares of rice and harvested 135,400 hectares of rainy season rice.

Kompong Cham Province: According to Phnom Penh SPK in French at 1203 GMT on 26 February, peasants in Kompong Cham Province had planted 124,895 hectares of rice last year with an average yield of more than one metric ton per hectare. They had also planted 7,100 hectares of corn and 24,700 hectares of beans.

/12858

CSO: 4212/63

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KAMPUCHEA

BRIEFS

PRK-USSR COOPERATION--Phnom Penh, 1 Mar (SPK)--Under a PRK-USSR agreement in the cultural field signed in February 1980, the Soviet Union this year has set aside 10 grants for a circus group from Cambodia. The Soviet Information and Culture Ministry has also sent material and personnel to train another 35 acrobats. Under another agreement, the Soviet Union will build a hall with a capacity between 1,200 and 1,500 spectators. In the field of sports, Soviet trainers have assisted in the training of 51 volleyball coaches, 4 sports teams, 25 athletic coaches, another 40 sportsmen, and 102 wrestlers. Furthermore, grants have been set aside for two wrestlers and two weightlifters. Through this assistance, Cambodian sportsmen were able to compete in events in the USSR, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and Vietnam in 1985. Between 1983 and 1985, the Soviet Union provided assistance in translating from Russian into Cambodian political and socio-scientific documents and published more than a million books. Millions of books in foreign languages and cinematographic equipment have also been donated to Cambodia. [Excerpts] [Phnom Penh SPK in French 0359 GMT 1 Mar 86 BK] /12858

HEALTH COOPERATION PROGRAM SIGNED--Phnom Penh, 3 Mar (SPK)--A program of cooperation in the health field for the 1986-90 period was signed between the PRK and the Polish People's Republic in Phnom Penh on 2 March. The signatories were Yit Kimseng, Cambodian minister of health, and Stanislaw Gura, Polish deputy minister of health, head of the Polish delegation currently visiting Cambodia. Nut Savoeun and Chhea Thang, Cambodian deputy ministers of health; and Ludwik Klockowski, Polish ambassador to the PRK, were present at the signing ceremony. [Text] [Phnom Penh SPK in French 0456 GMT 3 Mar 86 BK] /12858

POLISH HEALTH DELEGATION VISITS--Phnom Penh, 1 Mar (SPK)--At the invitation of the PRK Health Ministry, a delegation from the Public Health Ministry of the Polish People's Republic led by its Deputy Minister Stanislaw Gura arrived in Phnom Penh on 27 February for an official visit to Cambodia. It was greeted on its arrival by Nut Savoeun, Cambodian deputy health minister, and Ludwik Klockowski, Polish ambassador to Cambodia. [Text] [Phnom Penh SPK in French 0405 GMT 1 Mar 86 BK] /12858

SPK REPORTS THAI 'VIOLATIONS'--Phnom Penh, 7 Mar (SPK)--In February, a total of 62 Thai aircraft operated over many areas between 5 and 10 km inside Cambodian territory in the provinces of Preah Vihear, Siem Reap, Battambang. At sea, 374 illegal entries were made by Thai vessels in sectors between 4 and 20 km from Kaoh Kong and Kaoh Tang islands. On land, hills 321 (northwest of Pailin), 814 (northwest of O Da), and 453 (southwest of Ta Sanh) were shelled 259 times by Thai artillery. Between 4 and 10 February and from 18 to 22 February in particular, Thailand fired between 800 and 1,000 shells daily on hills 453 and 814. During the same period, many groups of Pol Potists and other Cambodian reactionaries infiltrated from Thailand to carry out sabotage activities in Cambodia. Local border guards and people put 960 of them out of action; they also seized 321 rifles and a notable quantity of other war materiel. [Text] [Phnom Penh SPK in French 0355 GMT 7 Mar 86 BK] /12858

HENG SAMKAI ADDRESSES MEETING--A ceremony was held recently at the Svay Rieng provincial political school to close a course training cadres from various units and departments throughout the province. Comrade Heng Samkai, member of the KPRP Central Committee and secretary of the provisional party committee of Svay Rieng Province, highly appreciated the outcome of the course. He also stressed the great successes won by the Cambodian revolution over the past 7 years, successes closely linked with the vigorous participation of the women. He also urged the women to strive to carry out all immediate tasks and to encourage and exhort our people to uphold patriotism, make clear distinctions between friend and foe, and actively participate in the triple revolutionary movement. He also urged them to use their acquired knowledge once they have returned home and to transform it into concrete combat activities in order to advance toward more and bigger successes, thus contributing to national defense and reconstruction. [Text] [Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 26 Feb 86 BK] /12858

CHAN PHIN ATTENDS CEREMONY--The second training course for junior instructors on purchase, sale, and store was closed at a ceremony held at the commercial college on 1 March in the presence of Comrade Chan Phin, member of the KPRP Central Committee and minister of home and foreign trade. The report summing up the course stressed that the commercial college trained and supplemented the education of 65 junior accounting instructors during the first course. During this second course, the college turned out 92 other junior instructors from various provinces throughout the country in three specialities: purchasing, sales, and maintaining stocks. Afterwards, Comrade Chan Phin urged all graduates to use their knowledge and concentrate their attention, once back home, on training local trading cadres, personnel, and workers to make them clearly understand purchasing, salesmanship, and maintaining stocks and to know how to take care of and transport goods. They must also explain to them the need to be loyal to the revolution, the nation, and the people, for this is a collective service by a concrete profession that conforms to the aspirations of our party, state, and people. [Text] [Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 4 Mar 86 BK] /12858

THAI BORDER BATTALION ACTIVITIES--During the first week of February, combatants of battalion no 4, in close cooperation with the Vietnamese army volunteer, launched a sweep operation against the enemy on hill 859 northwest of O Da. The two prongs of our comrades-in-arms charged into the enemy's hideout. After a short battle, 21 enemy were killed on the spot, while the survivors fled into Thai territory. We seized 9 weapons, including a DK gun, and (?9,000) rounds of AK ammunition. In Veun Sai District of Ratanakiri Province, two groups of our armed forces and our Vietnamese friends launched a sweep operation against the enemy around [name indistinct] and an enemy hideout from 28 January to 3 February. They put out of action (?61) enemy and seized 15 weapons and a large quantity of war materiel. [Text] [Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1200 GMT 4 Mar 86 BK] /12858

CHAN PHIN OPENS TRAINING COURSE--A ceremony was held at the Economic Institute of the Education Ministry on 3 March to open a special higher-level training course for 150 trainees. The ceremony was presided over by Comrade Chan Phin, member of the Party Central Committee and minister of internal and external trade. According to the report presented by Comrade (Li Phoeng), deputy director of the institute, this special higher-level training course which will last for 3 years is aimed at giving training on four specialized subjects, that is commerce, finance, banking, and economic planning. This course is organized with the cooperation and assistance of the SRV's Ministry of Higher and Vocational Education and particularly the Hanoi Institute of Economy which has sent five professors to teach in our country. Speaking on the occasion, Comrade Pen Navouth, alternate member of the party central committee and minister of education, exhorted all trainees to study hard, temper themselves well, and understand that theory and knowhow are essential factors for advance toward building socialism in accordance with Marxism and Leninism which is the current goal of our country. [Text] [Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 5 Mar 86 BK] /12858

CSO: 4212/63

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, TRADE, AND AID

AUTHORITIES ISSUE REPORT DEFENDING BAI BANG WORKING CONDITIONS

Government Promises Improvement

Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER in Swedish 13 Feb 86 p 16

[Article by Peter Bratt]

[Text] Recruitment of forest workers for the Bai Bang project is voluntary. One-third of the work force is employed under contract for a specific time. Wages have more than doubled over the past year.

That is what Vietnamese authorities have told SIDA [Swedish International Development Authority]. SIDA says that the decision as to whether those statements are true and whether enough has been done to justify further payment of Swedish aid will be made by 9 April at the latest.

A consultant's report in January of last year, prepared at SIDA's request, revealed that forest workers employed in producing forest raw materials for the paper mill in Bai Bang, Vietnam were living in miserable conditions.

The report covered between 17,000 and 20,000 people, mostly women, who had been forcibly recruited to work in the forests, where they had to spend their entire lives felling timber. Their pay was so bad that a great part of the day was spent growing rice and raising pigs just to survive. They were living in hovels with minimum rice rations and no possibility of seeing their families.

The report created a sensation in Sweden. The idea that the largest Swedish aid project in history--it has cost 2 billion kronor to date--should have the side effect of forcing so many people to live under what could be called slavlike conditions was considered unacceptable.

Both the then Minister of Foreign Affairs Bodstrom and SIDA's new head, Carl Tham, said that if the coercion did not cease, no further subsidies from Sweden would be paid.

The Vietnamese were given until 31 January of this year to come up with a report on the promised improvements.

The intention was that a new 5-year agreement would be signed covering the paper mill, but that only a 1-year agreement would be signed for the forestry portion of the project, the purpose being to put pressure on the Vietnamese to actually make the improvements.

The new agreement was supposed to be signed on 31 May 1985. SIDA was assuming that a 1-year forestry agreement would be signed, and according to Christina Rehlen, who was handling the matter for SIDA, no protests had been received from the Vietnamese. But on 22 May, an order suddenly arrived from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Stockholm to sign a 5-year forestry agreement.

It was done, with the result that Sweden's subsequent negotiating position with Vietnam was weakened. But there remained the demand from Sweden that substantial improvements be made on behalf of the forest workers, otherwise no more money would be paid out after 1 July 1986.

That arrangement also provided that the formal decision on further aid would be made by the government rather than by SIDA, as would otherwise have been the normal procedure.

The Vietnamese report has now been submitted to SIDA. It says that wages have been increased from 180 to 460 dong. At today's prices, that would allow the workers to buy enough rice to survive. Experienced observers contacted by DAGENS NYHETER doubt that this is possible in practice. The regime has not lived up to its commitments concerning wage payments in the past.

Bo Goransson, deputy chief of SIDA, has told DAGENS NYHETER that it is helpful to have the Vietnamese put their commitment on paper. SIDA has two inspectors on the spot to see what happens in practice.

"They claim that the work is voluntary. But the dividing line between coercion, threats, and persuasion is vague. I have not yet decided what SIDA will propose to the government concerning further aid. That will be done no later than 9 April."

In an appended report from the Swedish aid office in Hanoi, it is noted in general that Vietnam has a social system which is striving toward communism and in which "the individual's right of self-determination has been set aside in the interests of the collective society."

The report says that Vietnam is in a very difficult economic situation with an exploding rate of population growth.

According to the report, the Ministry of Labor admits that relocation methods have been too callous and says that from now on, entire families will be relocated rather than isolated individuals, as was the case previously.

The Vietnamese report says that major improvements for forest workers in the Swedish paper industry project have been made. In addition to wage increases, 2 million Swedish kronor worth of clothing, mosquito nets, radios, and shoes have supposedly been bought.

The question is what practical means SIDA will have for determining by 9 April whether the promises in the report correspond to reality.

25 March 1986

Swedish Aid Official Comments

Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER in Swedish 11 Feb 86 p 5

[Op Ed article by Bo Goransson, deputy chief of SIDA; first paragraph is DAGENS NYHETER introduction]

[Text] Is there a limit to what we consider acceptable conditions for Vietnamese forest workers? Or is there a danger that we will create isolated "Swedish islands" by stepping outside Vietnam's normal regulations and laws? Those questions are asked by Bo Goransson, department head and deputy chief at SIDA, against the background of a Vietnamese report on improvements for forest workers at the Swedish Bai Bang project.

A year ago, in February 1985, there was intense debate in Sweden concerning conditions for the nearly 20,000 Vietnamese employed in felling trees for the Bai Bang mill. A report commissioned by SIDA had drawn attention to several problems, among them wretched housing, unpaid wages, and inadequate health care. The personnel had been sent there in many instances from distant villages, vacations were short, and employees had little possibility of visiting their families or quitting their jobs.

After the startup of the Bai Bang mill at the end of 1982, it became obvious that one reason for inadequate deliveries of wood was the low productivity of the forest workers. SIDA therefore commissioned a study of the situation of those forest workers.

The conditions spotlighted by that report were criticized by then Minister of Foreign Affairs Lennart Bodstrom during his visit to Vietnam in January 1985, and they influenced the agreements signed between Sweden and Vietnam in May.

The final agreement on the project runs for 5 years and is expected to cost 380 million kronor. But in that agreement, the Swedish Government has promised money for the forestry portion of the project only during the first year. The decision on money for forest activity during the following years will depend partly on improvements for the employees and partly on a new and clear organization of forest operations.

Vietnam is poor--very poor. That creates problems, common to many developing countries, with respect to social services, the prospects for realistically creating or offering a possibility of individual choice, and so on. Vietnam was at war for a long time. Moreover, Vietnam's social system and tradition are such that the focus is on usefulness to the state rather than individual rights.

It is obvious that individuals have far less freedom than they do, for example, in Sweden. That circumstance is the result both of material shortages and of the social system.

Vietnam has about 60 million inhabitants, and population density is high in certain fertile parts of the country. Those areas have between 500 and 1,000 inhabitants per square kilometer. The land is unequally distributed between north and south. Since the end of the war in 1975, a deliberate effort has been made to move people from the north to the south and from the densely populated deltas to the highlands.

Sometimes harsh relocation methods have been used. This is acknowledged by the Vietnamese. They say they are now endeavoring to move families instead of individuals and to give them a long probationary period. If 75 percent stay, the effort is considered a success. Economic incentives (higher wages and allowances) are becoming more common. Economic sanctions against those who do not want to relocate are also used--meaning primarily that they are forced to pay back any loans quickly.

In one respect, that policy has produced results: only 20 percent of the population lives in cities, and Vietnam does not have the same rapid migration to the cities that other developing countries are experiencing. Also part of the picture--and two more reasons--are rapid population growth and industry's limited capacity to absorb manpower, which is growing at the rate of 1 million per year. Another consequence is that more and more people are working in the cooperative or private--that is, not the state-run--agricultural sector.

According to the Vietnamese Constitution, work is a right as well as a duty. The state is responsible for making work available, so the individual has the right to work. The state requires that the individual work according to the state's instructions, so the individual has the duty to work. Officially, therefore, there is no unemployment, but there are "jobseekers."

The law also stipulates that employees have the right to rest, to take vacations (the length of which depends on how stressful the work is), to receive sickness benefits, education, health care, and housing and to enjoy equality between the sexes.

Ninety percent of the women in Vietnam work outside the home, mainly in agriculture, light industry, health care, and education. Many women are engaged in remarkably heavy work. A number of regulations are aimed at protecting women's health. For example, women are not to engage in heavy work when they are pregnant, are to receive 6 months of pregnancy leave, and are to be given time off to nurse their infants.

Naturally, such statements often do not correspond to reality in Vietnam. There are shortcomings in health care, underemployment is widespread, and women are often engaged in very heavy work.

Recruitment methods vary within the state and cooperative sectors. A person applies for membership in an agricultural or industrial cooperative.

To recruit people for the state sector, the enterprise (or equivalent entity) needing workers is assigned a district or province, based on considerations of population policy, and that is where it is supposed to do its recruiting. An

exception is made in the case of positions in the central government or jobs requiring the competence of an expert or lengthy training.

In some cases, recruitment takes the form of short-term contracts, but 1-year and 3-year work contracts also exist. The most common form of contract does not have any particular time limit.

Those who apply for jobs are considered first. If not enough people apply and the new job position is in an area to which the state says people should relocate (for security reasons, to cultivate new land, or other reasons), an attempt is made to persuade them. A person who turns down two or three job offers forfeits his chance for another job with the state. Someone who accepts probably has little chance of changing jobs. Only certain reasons are accepted--for example, if one is needed on the family farm, has sick relatives, and so on.

It is hard to judge how subtle or extensive the element of coercion is. As a result of tradition and family pressure, it is often the women who relocate, while the sons stay where they are. The fact that most of those employed in the forest are women is also a result of the large surplus of women in the country.

Vietnam promised to provide SIDA with a report by 31 January 1986 on the steps taken to improve conditions for those employees. The Vietnamese report will become generally available for the first time today. It explains the steps taken by the Vietnamese in the short term to improve conditions for the forest workers. It points out that recruitment is on a voluntary basis. The report emphasizes the desire to recruit families to an ever-increasing extent in the future. New terms of employment are to be tried out. Attention is also drawn to the country's poverty as a reason for the difficult conditions in the forest.

Vietnam recently changed its economic policy with a vigor and degree of concentration reminding one of its hereditary foe, China. One chief purpose was to introduce more incentive and a greater possibility of choice for its inhabitants. The currency--the dong--was devalued by 90 percent. The wage and price policies were drastically revised. The previous system, with its basic wage, subsidized food coupons, and regulated prices, was replaced by a money wage based on piece work and flexible, market-adjusted prices. The transportation and distribution apparatus had to adapt to a market situation and begin sending goods to wherever demand existed rather than to destinations dictated by the plan.

Naturally, there is a connection between material conditions and the desire to relocate, stay where one is, or work with a will--in Vietnam as in Sweden. Poor working conditions in Vietnam have attracted a great deal of attention in the past in connection with the Bai Bang mill. As early as the late 1970's, when the mill was completed and began operations, it was obvious that poor working conditions were a major reason for the low productivity. Those conditions were gradually improved, partly by the distribution of extra food, higher bonuses, and better health care. The results were not long in coming.

The production goal for 1985--22,000 tons--was even exceeded by a small amount. Today the Bai Bang mill is an attractive workplace. Is it possible to achieve something similar in the forest?

In its Bai Bang budget, SIDA has earmarked 3 million kronor for specific improvements in conditions for the forest workers. In addition, a Swede has been in Vietnam since December. He will work there full time for 1 year to expedite the work of making various kinds of improvements for the employees and to follow up on the decisions reached.

However, conditions in the forest differ from those in the mill in several ways.

The number of workers totals about 20,000--10 times as many as in the mill. They live and work spread out over a large area. Providing housing, water, health care, and communications is more difficult or at least more expensive.

Working and employment conditions for the Vietnamese forest workers raise questions of various kinds: humanitarian, political, social, and economic.

Is there a limit to what we consider acceptable conditions? If that minimum limit is not met, what do we do then? How can we exert the most effective influence in both the short and the long term?

Is there a danger that we will create isolated "Swedish islands" by stepping outside Vietnam's normal regulations and laws? Is there any point at which influence by a foreign state becomes inappropriate?

Could a long-term process of change also include activity by the Swedish union movement to cooperate with and build up more independent sister union organizations in Vietnam? So as to have an influence from within and from below? Is there an interest in doing so?

11798

CSO: 3650/174

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, TRADE, AND AID

BRIEFS

MEETING MARKS CPSU CONGRESS--The Hoa Binh City People's Committee and the City Chapter of the SRV-USSR Friendship Association, Ha Son Binh Province, held a joint meetings to greet the 27th CPSU Congress. A large number Vietnamese and Soviet workers building the Hoa Binh hydroelectric power project attended the meeting. These workers have stepped up many emulation activities aimed at completing the building of Generator Group No 1 and putting it into operation by late 1987. [Summary] [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 27 Feb 86 BK] /8918

LAO ROAD BUILT WITH SRV ASSISTANCE--Under a plan to build Road No 9 in Savannakhet Province, an important road of Laos leading to the Eastern Sea through Vietnam, Lao and Vietnamese construction units have thus far built nearly 200 km of road from the Keng Kabao Port on the Mekong River to Se Banghiang. Vietnamese Engineering Group No 84 is taking part in the construction of this road. [Summary] [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 27 Feb 86 BK] /8918

CSO: 4209/368

PARTY ACTIVITIES AND GOVERNMENT

YOUTHS URGED TO SUPPORT BORDER TROOPS

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 22 Dec 85 pp 1, 4

[Article by Thanh Trung: "Movement of Youths Supporting Advanced Posts of the Fatherland"]

[Text] In the past more 3 years, the Movement of Youths Supporting Advanced Posts of the Fatherland has achieved unequivocal results in educating the young generation about the need to defend the fatherland, raise national defense awareness and show gratitude to frontline combatants and in speeding up assistance to advanced posts and to youth union organizations along our northern border.

Provincial and municipal youth union organizations have launched a campaign of revolutionary action, accelerating production, economic and national defense building and strengthening border defense. Tens of thousands of youth projects, jobs and classrooms named after the movement of youths supporting advanced posts have attained high output, quality, and efficiency.

Bags of warm clothing, big plastic containers, transistor radios, books, newspapers, physical education and sports equipment, and household utensils including pots, pans, bowls, plates, towels, handkerchiefs, etc., have been sent by youths from many places to our advanced post combatants and youth union installations in border areas. Children and students have sent hundreds of thousands of letters, stamps, and envelopes to border troops.

Youths in Hanoi, the capital city, have assisted Cao Bang Province in building a small hydroelectric power station and have sent groups of medical and polytechnic students and political singers to Lang Son and Cao Bang to visit and entertain combatants and local compatriots and youths. The Hanoi Municipal Youth Union has also helped its Ha Tuyen counterpart hold training courses for leading provincial cadres in charge of ethnic children.

Ho Chi Minh City youths have deposited hundreds of thousands of dong earned from 650 projects into a bank account in support of advanced post combatants and have sent young political song groups right to the border of Ha Tuyen and Lang Son to entertain troops. At the same time, the

Ho Chi Minh Municipal Youth Union has organized gift-distribution visits to combatants fulfilling international obligations in Kampuchea. Similar activities were carried out by youths in the southern provinces of Long An, Song Be, Tay Ninh, Phu Khanh, Quang Nam-Da Nang and Gia Lai-Kontum. Recently, provincial and municipal union secretaries from Hanoi, Ha Bac, Minh Hai, Tay Ninh and Dac Lac visited advanced posts and union district organizations in the Lang Son Border areas and subsequently discussed plans for assigning help to a district in which advanced posts and frontier guard units were located. On that occasion, young representatives of the Ca Mau frozen shrimp enterprise presented combatants of border post X (Lang Son) with gifts and household utensils.

Youths in mountain villages and union district organizations in areas south of six border provinces have launched a very enthusiastic and appreciable movement to support advanced posts by initiating emulative brotherhood ties with and sending assistance to the frontline. More than 6,000 youths in the rear province of Quang Ninh zealously took part in road building, completing their projects ahead of schedule and in line with high quality requirements--a process having salutary effects on youth training. More than 5,000 youths briskly left the rear districts of Hoang Lien Son Province for the border region, where they overfulfilled norms on building a communication road in support of national defense and the economy. Thousands of ethnic youths in rear districts enthusiastically went to Vi Xuyen and Yen Minh districts to build border fortifications in support of combat.

The Haiphong Municipal Youth Union has sent thousands of youths from both sexes to the border districts of Quang Ninh to do productive labor and has sent gifts to advanced posts. The Bac Thai Provincial Youth Union has singled out its district organizations for emulative brotherhood relationships with their counterparts in Cao Bang Province. During the first stage of that campaign, the Dong Hy district union organization sent truckloads of tables, chairs, beds, and cupboards to the Ha Quang District union organization following a Chinese attack in which all houses were burned and destroyed.

9213/9190

CSO: 4209/289

AGRICULTURE

HAIPHONG RECLAIMS LAND ADJACENT TO SEA

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 21 Dec 85 p 1

[Article: "Haiphong: Nearly 5,000 persons Go to Newly Reclaimed Lands Adjacent to Sea--Redistribution of Labor Within the City"]

[Text] With the assistance of the Ministry of Labor, the labor sector of Haiphong City has conducted a survey to reappraise its labor force in the entire city, especially in the agricultural field. Relying on production development plans of seven suburban districts and working together with the latter, the labor sector has redistributed manpower according to plans, sending out laborers to effectively exploit nearly 10,000 hectares of newly reclaimed land adjacent to sea.

In addition to implementing party and state procedures and policies toward people engaged in land reclamation, many agricultural cooperatives in Thuy Nguyen, Do Son and Tien Lang districts, guided by the motto of "the state, collectives and people working together," have effectively carried out several measures aimed at redistributing labor within the framework of economic development planning, first of all, expanding sectors and crafts in cooperatives with labor diverted from farming. In sending people to new economic zones, the cooperatives took part in building-material and technical bases to serve production, cultural and social needs, and housing facilities for new arriving families. Their responsibilities would end only when production in the new economic zones had truly become stable. Districts and cooperatives have allowed families to assign manpower, retaining the elderly at existing cooperatives and sending young and strong laborers to new economic zones. Do Son and Tien Lang CPV district committee echelons have also appointed competent cadres and party members to positions of leadership in new economic zones. Many cooperatives in Thuy Nguyen have shared some of their material and technical bases and production tools with new economic zones. Due to these efforts, in 1985 suburban Haiphong districts were able to send 1,235 families of nearly 5,000 persons, including 2,633 laborers, to new economic zones in Gia Minh (Thuy Nguyen), Route 14 (Do Son) and Vinh Quang (Tien Lang). In addition to redistributing labor within the city, the labor sector has also created favorable conditions for 30 families of 153 persons, including 72 laborers, to voluntarily depart for other provinces to open up new land.

9213/9190
CSO: 4209/289

HEAVY INDUSTRY AND CONSTRUCTION

BRIEFS

POWER PLANT PROJECT--To greet the 27th CPSU Congress, thousands of Vietnamese workers and Soviet experts at the Tri An Hydroelectric power plant project site--a project built with Soviet assistance--have emulated in completing many portions of the project, including the building of a dam. Mechanized Engineering Unit No 25 is pouring concrete to build the foundation for the dam while Water Conservancy Engineering United Enterprise No 4 is supplying stone for the construction. [Summary] [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 27 Feb 86 BK] /8918

CEMENT FACTORY OUTPUT RECORD--The Ha Tien cement combine has produced 230,000 tons of cement of various kinds as required by plan and will, from now to the end of the year, turn out an additional 10,000 tons and prepare adequate conditions for implementing the first quarter of the 1985 plan. Compared with figures from 1981 through 1984, the 1985 output was the highest ever. Total cement production was delivered to the state in excess of plan. The factory has overcome difficulties by reorganizing production, strengthening supply and technical management and striving to make the most of the three following resources--expanding association with 70 friendly units; purchasing part of supplies, spare parts, and means necessary for production; and building one new 280-ton barge with steel-reinforced cement hull, two steelhulled barges to transport oil and two 280-ton tub boats. The factory has relied on its own workers to repair and rehabilitate all power-operated shovels, repair and adjust several stone-carrying trucks, transform and bring to perfection the Kien Luong stone-exploitation zone and rehabilitate Derrick No 2 in Thu Duc. It has regularly and strictly inspected various stages of production and ensured quality of each batch of cement in line with technical standards. Especially this year, the factory has successfully turned out a brand of cement with less heat-radiating power for supply to the Tri An hydroelectric power station project. The state council of quality management has conferred the quality seal of Category 1 to the P-300 Ha Tien cement combine. [Text] [Hanoi NAHAN DAN in Vietnamese 23 Dec 85 p 1] 9213/9190

CSO: 4209/289

LABOR

PRODUCTIVE LABOR IN SCHOOLS ENCOURAGED

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 22 Dec 85 p 1

[Article: "Encourage Schools To Organize Productive Labor--Pay No Tax; Can Use Income From Labor, Including Foreign Currency; Assistance From Sectors, Echelons Mandatory"]

[Text] The chairman of the Council of Ministers has just issued a decision encouraging schools to accelerate productive labor. The decision points out that teacher and student productive labor must become a core curriculum, which an appropriate percentage of time must be set aside for and which must be effective, since--in addition to educating people about becoming new men--it is a measure designed to generate capital for maintaining and developing education.

Income arising from productive labor will be exempt from tax, including agricultural tax.

Schools are authorized to use that income, minus production costs, to repair, build or equip their classrooms and improve teacher and student living standards.

Educational sectors--general schools, trade schools, colleges and vocational middle schools--are authorized to use foreign currency earned from export of goods made by productive labor in schools to import equipment and technical supplies to support teaching. These products are to be exported by foreign trade organizations at the request of educational sectors.

Production sectors--agriculture, forestry, fishery, industry, handicrafts, etc.--and people's committees at various levels are bound to encourage schools and help them effectively speed up productive labor and rationally use its achievements.

The youth union, women's union, trade unions, and collective peasant associations should stimulate the people and mass organizations at the basic level to coordinate with schools to foster teacher and student dynamism and creativeness in productive labor.

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END