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15 DECEMBER 1986

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LAOS

SOLIDARITY WEEK WITH SOVIET UNION OPENS

BK271010 Vientiane KPL in English 0907 GMT 27 Nov 86

[Text] Vientiane, November 27 (KPL)--A meeting was organized here yesterday by the Lao-Soviet Friendship Association to open a week of Lao-Soviet solidarity.

Present at the meeting among others were Somlat Chanthamat, secretary of the LPRP CC [Central Committee] and head of its propaganda and training board, and Iavasian Paraikorounovich [name as received], members of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic, head of its agricultural and food industry department, who led an Armenian delegation to Laos to attend the week of Lao-Soviet solidarity.

Ambassador Yuriy Mikheev and other Soviet diplomats here also attended the meeting.

On this occasion, Mrs. Khamsouk Vongvichit, vice-president of the Lao-Soviet Friendship Association, spoke of the significance of the opening of the week of solidarity between the Soviet Union and the Lao PDR here, describing it as a contribution to the strengthening of the long-standing friendship between the two countries. She highlighted the achievements of the Lao-Soviet Friendship Association in the interests of the fraternal friendship and all-round cooperation between the two nations. She also voiced the full support of the Lao people for the constructive initiatives of the Soviet Union on disarmament, on the prevention of a nuclear holocaust and the defence of peace and security in the world.

For his part, Iavasian Paraikorounovich said that the members of the Soviet-Lao Friendship Association and all Soviet people expressed their best wishes and congratulations to the 4th Congress of the LPRP, which ended with a great success, marking a further development of the Lao revolution. He pledged that all members of the Soviet-Lao Friendship Association and the entire Soviet people would do their best to contribute to further strengthening the solidarity and cooperation between Laos and the Soviet Union for the success of the national defence and construction in each country.

/6662

CSO: 4200/171

VIENTIANE REPORTS CASTRO GREETES LAO PARTY LEADER

BK290422 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 29 Nov 86

[Text] Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan, general secretary of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Central Committee, recently received a greetings message from Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee. The message reads:

I have learned with great pleasure and revolutionary joy about the success of the Fourth LPRP Congress in which you were reelected general secretary of the party Central Committee. On this occasion, on behalf of our party and the Cuban people, I would like to extend warm and fraternal congratulations to you.

Under the correct leadership and the creative application of the various general principles of Marxism-Leninism to the true situation of the Lao people of all ethnic minorities, the LPRP won historical victories in the struggle against the French colonialists, the Japanese militarists, and the U.S. imperialists. At present, it has recorded successes in building and defending the socialist fatherland. In this constant and continuous revolutionary struggle, the Lao, Vietnamese, and Cambodian nations and their parties--reliable mainstays ensuring all the victories they have won--have always maintained special militant solidarity and, from this solidarity, the LPRP has become a strong fortress.

On this happy occasion, beloved Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan, I wish you good health and new success in carrying out the tasks outlined by the Fourth Party Congress. At the same time, I hope that the fraternal friendship relations existing between our two peoples, parties, and states will last forever.

/12232

CSO: 4206/25

PHOUMI VONGVICHIT HANDS OVER PEACE TORCH TO UN TEAM

BK211447 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 17 Nov 86

[Text] On the morning of 15 November 1986 our Lao Government leaders headed by Phoumi Vongvichit, acting president of the republic and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers held a ceremony at the Presidential Office to hand over the Torch of Peace to the UN World Run for Peace team after the team ended its 3-day activities for peace in Laos. The ceremony to return the torch to the World Run for Peace team was ehld in a joyful atmosphere prior to the team's departure for the SRV. It was attended by Singkapo Sikhotchounlamani, chairman of the Lao committee for world peace and for solidarity and friendship with various nations, along with many high-ranking cadres as well as a large crowd of youths and pioneers of Vientiane capital. Also attending the ceremony were representatives of international organizations to Laos.

In the ceremony, after receiving the torch from a representative of the Lao youths, Acting President Phoumi Vongvichit handed over the torch to Laurence Oslund, head of the World Run for Peace team. On behalf of the government and the Lao people throughout the country, Phoumi Vongvichit expressed satisfaction over and highly appreciated the success of the team in the LPDR where it, together with the Lao people of various tribes, carried out activities for peace to contribute to genuinely turning 1986 into a year of peace in accordance with the resolution of the United Nations. Phoumi Vongvichit once again reiterated the unchanged stand of the LPDR toward the movements of struggle for peace of various nations throughout the world. He particularly reiterated full support for the Soviet peace initiatives, in particular the creative proposal on the disarmament, halt to nuclear testing, and halt to an arms race to proceed to a complete elimination of nuclear weapons from now until 2000.

In conclusion, he wished the World Run for Peace team success in its activities for peace to contribute to the cause of struggle for the safeguarding of durable world peace. The UN World Run for Peace team left Vientiane capital for the SRV and it will proceed to other countries in Asia.

/12232

CSO: 4206/25

PHOUMI VONGVICHIT GREETES WORLD YOUTH CONGRESS

BK221000 Vientiane KPL in English 0906 GMT 22 Nov 86

[Text] Vientiane, November 22 (KPL)--Phoumi Vongvichit, acting president of the Lao PDR, has sent a message to the World Federation of Democratic Youth, greeting its 22nd Congress which is to be held in Budapest from Nov. 23 to 29.

The message says:

The 22nd Congress of the WFDY is held at a time when the young generation and progressive people all over the world are actively struggling against the nuclear war danger and particularly the star wars program of the U.S. and its allies. On the other hand, the imperialist and other reactionary forces are accentuating their aggression against the independence of several countries and undermining the solidarity along [as received] the youth.

But since the 21st Congress of the WFDY, we have clearly seen that the young generation had become the most important guarantee of peace, and given the most solid support to the youth and the peoples all over the planet.

The results of the young generation's past activities were clearly shown at the 12th World Youth Festival held in Moscow in 1985. The Lao Government and people are proud to see that the Lao youth has the full ability to take part in the national construction, the consolidation of the new regime, and at the same time, has actively contributed, to the struggle against imperialism and colonialism, new and old, racism, zionism and apartheid, for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress.

The message goes on:

The 22nd Congress of the WFDY is meaningful in that it will review all its past activities, draw experiences, and put forward a strategic guideline in order to better implement its tasks in the struggle of the youth and progressive people in the world for peace, democracy and justice.

You will also have to concentrate your efforts on studying the urgent problems faced by mankind in the struggle against the nuclear war danger, for the safeguarding of peace, and to support the constructive initiatives forwarded by the Soviet Union for putting an end to the arms race and maintaining peace and international security.

/6662

CSO: 4200/171

ROMANIAN PARTY GREETES LPRP CONGRESS

BK241012 Vientiane KPL in English 0908 GMT 24 Nov 86

[Text] Vientiane, November 24 (KPL)--The Central Committee of the Romanian Communist Party CC, has conveyed warm greetings to the recent 4th Congress of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party here.

The message said:

Under the leadership of the LPRP, the Lao people victoriously fulfilled their democratic revolution's tasks, thereupon profoundly transforming the Lao society into a revolutionary one, and building a new life for the Lao people on the path of socialism.

The message expressed satisfaction over the all-round achievements scored by the communists and working people of Laos and wished them new and still greater successes in their economic development.

The Fourth Congress of LPRP has created favourable conditions for further development of the friendship relations and solidarity between our two parties, governments and people, the message added.

It also reaffirmed Romania's constant support for the Lao revolutionary cause.

It continued:

We hope that in the new stage of socialist building in Laos, the Romanian-Lao friendship relations will be further strengthened on the basis of the agreements reached at the meeting between general secretaries N. Ceausescu and K. Phomvihan, for the interests of our two peoples, socialism and peace.

The message highlighted the achievements of the Romanian people in carrying out the resolution of the 13th Congress of the RCP. It also stressed the peace policy pursued by Romania to get rid of nuclear arms, and promote friendship relations and solidarity among the socialist countries, the communist and working class parties, and progressive people in the world.

We wish you success in the implementation of the resolution of the LPRP Congress for the development of the economy and society along the path of socialism, and for the prosperity of the fraternal Lao people, the message concluded.

/6662

CSO: 4200/171

PORTUGUESE PARTY GREETES 4TH LPRP CONGRESS

BK251021 Vientiane KPL in English 0901 GMT 25 Nov 86

[Text] Vientiane, November 25 (KPL)--The Politburo of the Communist Party of Portugal [CPP] CC has cabled a message of greetings to the Politburo of the LPRP CC on the occasion of its recent 4th Congress.

The message conveyed warm friendship and solidarity to the 4th Congress of the LPRP, the delegates to the congress, and the communists and working people of Laos.

It praised the achievements obtained by the Lao people under the leadership of the LPRP in their national safeguarding and socialist building during the past 11 years.

The message went on:

The CPA, which supported the Lao people in their struggle for national liberation against the French colonialists, Japanese militarists, and U.S. imperialists in the past, voices support for the guideline of the LPRP aiming at building socialism in Laos, and maintaining peace and stability in Southeast Asia.

The message hailed the 4th Congress of the LPRP as an event of great significance that took place at a time when the world situation was being strained by the bellicose policy of the U.S. imperialists.

After praising the peace policy of the Soviet Union, the message pointed to the main objective of the Portuguese people which is safeguarding the fruits of the April 1974 revolution.

We hail the 4th Congress of the LPRP and its resolution. We will strengthen the friendship and solidarity between our two parties on the basis of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism, for the interests of our two countries and socialism, the message concluded.

/6662

CSO: 4200/171

LEADERS SEND GREETINGS TO ALBANIAN COUNTERPARTS

BK291230 Vientiane KPL in English 0904 GMT 29 Nov 86

[Text] Vientiane, November 29 (KPL)--Lao leaders have conveyed warm greetings to Ramiz Alia, first secretary of the Party of Labour of Albania [PLA] CC, president of the Presidium of the People's Assembly; and Adil Carconi, chairman of the Council of Ministers [CM] of the PSRA [People's Socialist Republic of Albania], on the occasion of the 42nd national day of the PSRA.

The message was jointly signed by K. Phomvihan, general secretary of the LPRP CC, chairman of the Council of Ministers, and Phoumi Vongvichit, acting president of the Lao PDR.

The message hailed the achievements gained by the Albanian people, under the leadership of the PLA headed by Ramiz Alia, in their national liberation and socialist building, in the improvement of their livelihood, and their contributions to the cause of peace and security in the Balkans, Europe and the world.

It continues:

Laos and Albania have long standing relations of friendship and solidarity. The party, government and people of Albania have always given support and assistance to the revolutionary cause of the Lao people. We have a firm conviction that the Lao-Albanian friendship relations will be further developed for the interests of our two peoples, and of peace and socialism.

On this occasion, we wish the fraternal Albanian people greater successes in the implementation of the resolution of the 9th Congress of the PLA for national defence and socialist construction.

On the same occasion, Phoun Sipaseut, vice-chairman of the CM and minister of foreign affairs, has sent a warm congratulatory message to his Albanian counterpart, Reis Malile.

/6662

CSO: 4200/171

PARTY SECRETARIAT INSTRUCTION ON NATIONAL DAY

BK301430 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 30 Nov 86

[27 November "Guidance Instruction" from the LPRP Central Committee Secretariat on celebration of the 11th anniversary of 2 December National Day and on hailing the glorious success of the Fourth LPRP Congress--signed by Khamtai Siphandon]

[Text] To party committees of all provinces, Vientiane municipality, ministries, state committees, and mass organizations at the central level:

The celebration of National Day this year is of especially great political, economic, and social significance because our people are simultaneously saluting and hailing the brilliant success of the Fourth LPRP Congress and the multifaceted great, all-round, and stable victories and achievements scored in the past 11 years in fulfilling the two strategic tasks of defending the country and building socialism. The Fourth Party Congress spelled out in detail the overall line of the revolution in our country throughout the by-passing period and outlined the orientations and tasks for economic and social development from now to the year 2000 and the Second 5-Year Plan from 1986 to 1990. It also put emphasis on the fundamental views on the modification of the economic management mechanism. The success of the congress clearly shows the firm unity, revolutionary enthusiasm, and creativity of our party. The congress also reiterated the solidarity and rigorous support of the fraternal parties to our country's cause of defending and building socialism. At present, our people are launching extensive and enthusiastic campaigns to translate into reality the resolutions adopted at the Fourth Party Congress.

Realizing the significance of the congress, on the occasion of the celebration of the National Day this year, the party Central Committee Secretariat is issuing a guidance instruction to the party committees of all provinces, Vientiane municipality, ministries, state committees, and mass organizations at the central level to enable them to firmly grasp the following objectives and expectations:

A. Content of the Organizing of the Celebration of National Day

1. To extensively popularize the success of the Fourth Party Congress with a view to enabling our entire party, army, and masses to understand the traditions

of and multifaceted, great, and firm victories and achievements scored by our party and nation in the past 11 years, to understand the weak points and shortcomings which must be rectified with a sense of determination and revolutionary enthusiasm, and to understand the orientations and tasks outlined by the Fourth Party Congress; and, at the same time, to extensively launch propaganda and training campaigns on the overall achievements scored in the past 11 years and the specific achievements scored by their respective localities and services.

2. To energetically organize socialist campaigns by concentrating efforts on fulfilling tasks in various spheres, for example by organizing an effective harvest of main season rice crops, organizing an equitable distribution within agricultural cooperatives in accordance with the policy, continuing to promote dry season production, including carrying out dry season rice growing and growing starch crops, organizing and promoting the purchasing of rice, payment of agricultural tax, and purchasing of farm and forest products, for example coffee, cardamon, sticklac, and other products, in an effective and timely manner; continuing the application of the new economic management mechanism and socialist business accounting in accordance with the guidelines set forth; encouraging the people to repair roads and highways, especially in the countryside, so as to facilitate smooth communications by the people and to resolve the problem of goods transportation to meet the needs of the people; organizing campaigns to clean up homes, markets, offices, organizations, factories, hospitals, schools; ensuring fulfillment of national defense and public security tasks; and heightening a sense of vigilance to resist all the multifaceted forms of subversion of the enemy, especially their design to destroy the success of the congress.

B. On the Celebration

With regard to the form of celebration, it must conform to the main content we have just mentioned by placing emphasis on principal content and simplicity.

1. The provinces and Vientiane Municipality are encouraged to organize grand rallies. The organizing of mass rallies must simultaneously cover the two main contents--to celebrate the National Day and to hail the glorious success of the Fourth Party Congress. Thus, at the rallies speeches on the achievements and victories scored in the past and on the immediate tasks as well as on the success of the Fourth Party Congress must be delivered. The contents of the speeches must rely on the various documents adopted at the Fourth Congress, such as the speeches at the closing ceremony, the statement of the party Central Committee Propaganda and Training Board, and various editorials in PASASON and other newspapers.

2. They must organize artistic performances, sports and acrobatic activities, film shows, and lectures among the masses and seize this opportunity to review the achievements scored in the past year, to hail and commend persons who have scored outstanding achievements, and to popularize particular achievements and good persons. The newspapers and radio services at the center and in all localities as well as the state television service must extensively cover these events.

C. The Slogans Are As Follows

Long live the 2 December National Day!

Wholeheartedly hail the glorious success of the Fourth LPRP Congress!

Long live the LPRP--the organizer and leader of all victories of the Lao revolution!

Long live the LPDR!

Strengthen the unity among the people of all tribes!

Enhance the spirit of self-reliance and self-building!

Strive to compete in building socialism!

Strengthen the militant alliance, special solidarity, and all-round cooperation among Laos, Vietnam, and Cambodia!

Strengthen our solidarity and all-round cooperation with the Soviet Union and the other fraternal socialist countries!

Fight resolutely to safeguard peace!

Support the peace initiatives of the Soviet Union and the fraternal socialist countries!

Resolutely oppose the arms race, a nuclear war, and the Star Wars of the U.S. imperialists!

Long live invincible Marxism-Leninism!

Long live world peace!

In organizing the rallies, attention must be paid to promoting political and ideological education and heightening a sense of vigilance to effectively maintain security, standing ready to smash and check all subversive schemes of the enemies in a prompt manner, and, at the same time, refraining from holding unreasonably extravagant entertainment, feasts, and ceremonious functions.

To organize joyous celebration of the National Day, everyone is permitted to observe two holidays on 1 and 2 December.

Upon receiving this guidance instruction, all party committees, state committees, and mass organizations throughout the country are requested to correctly implement it.

Vientiane, 27 November 1986

Khamtai Siphandon

On behalf of the LPRP Central Committee Secretariat.

/12232

CSO: 4206/25

PARTY, STATE LEADERS VISIT VIENTIANE HOSPITALS

BK011036 Vientiane KPL in English 0907 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] Vientiane, December 1 (KPL)--Party and state leaders today on the occasion of the celebration of the 11st [as received] founding anniversary of the Lao PDR have visited various hospitals in the capital.

A party and state delegation led by Phetsamun Latsasima, member of the LPRP CC and president of the Lao Women's Union visited the hospital number 1. Lt General Osakan Thammatheva, member of the party CC and deputy-minister of national defence, on his part led a similar delegation to pay a visit to the hospital number 103 and the delegation which visited Mahosot Hospital was led by Thongvin Phomvihan, member of the party CC and first secretary of the Lao People's Revolutionary Youth Association and Khambou Sounisai member of the party CC and mayor of Vientiane capital visited Setthathirat Hospital.

The party and state leaders, on this occasion, have conveyed warm salutations, the best wishes of recovery to patients who are hospitalized in these hospitals and congratulated the medical staff for their good care. They also distributed gifts to all the patients.

In each visited place, the party and state leaders hailed the highly responsible consciousness of revolutionary medical staff and invited them to enhance their responsibility and improve the care in their respective hospital. They appealed to all the hospitals' personnel to actively carry out the two tasks such as the defence and construction of their socialist fatherland.

/6662
CSO: 4200/171

BRIEFS

'SOLIDARITY DANCE' RECEPTION--Vientiane--Thai and Laotian officials were seen in a rare solidarity Thursday night--on the dance floor of the Lan Xang Hotel. They joined in the "Samakkhi Ramwong" (Solidarity Dance) which was part of the reception hosted by the Laotians for their Thai visitors who were here for talks to improve relations. The reception was held on the first day of the visit by the 23-member Thai team led by Arun Phanuphong, an advisor to the prime minister. After a Laotian-style buffet dinner service with Lao-made beer and European liquors, the Thai and Laotian officials moved to the hall of the hotel for entertainment. There was a Laotian band which played a mixture of classical and modern music. Women dancers invited both Thai and Laotian officials to join them in the "Samakkhi Ramwong" to Bua Khao (White Lotus) and Loi Krathong--two of the best-known Thai songs. The Thai visitors were apparently impressed. Provincial governors of the two countries also took part in the dance. [Text] [Bangkok THE NATION in English 29 Nov 86 p 2 BK] /6662

OFFICIAL RECEIVES POLISH AMBASSADOR--Vientiane, November 8 (KPL)--Dr Siho Bannavong, the Vientiane party committee member, deputy mayor of Vientiane received here on Nov 6, Marian Fronczek, the Polish ambassador to the Lao PDR. During the cordial meetings, S. Bannavong congratulated the close relations of friendship and the all-round cooperation between the parties, governments and peoples of Laos and Poland. The deputy-mayor wished the Polish ambassador success in the fulfillment of his diplomatic mission here. [Text] [Vientiane KPL in English 0912 GMT 9 Nov 86 BK] /6662

AMITY GROUP'S BRANCH--Vientiane, November 12 (KPL)--The Lao-Soviet Friendship Association has set up a new chapter in the central Bolikhamsai Province to promote the solidarity, friendship and all-round cooperation between the Lao and Soviet peoples. Among those present at the opening ceremony on Nov. 8 were Thongsavat Yamani, vice-chairman of the State Committee for News Agency, Newspaper, Radio and Television, acting-chairman of the Lao-Soviet Friendship Association, Lieut-Col Sitha, acting-secretary of the party committee and acting president of the administrative committee of Bolikhamsai Province, and Latifov, chairman of the Soviet-Lao Friendship Association of Tadzhikistan, and deputy-head of a visiting delegation of the association. [Text] [Vientiane KPL in English 0929 GMT 12 Nov 86 BK] /6662

USSR: GYMNASTIC AID--Vientiane, November 12 (KPL)--The Soviet Union handed over here on Nov 11 gymnastic equipment as aid to the Lao circus troupe. The aid included 10 mattresses and a carpet worth 5,000 rubles. Earlier this year, the Lao circus troupe had also received security equipment from the Soviet Union. [Text] [Vientiane KPL in English 0931 GMT 12 Nov 86 BK] /6662

TOURIST SITE OPENING--Vientiane, November 21 (KPL)--The administrative committee of Vientiane capital opened on November 20 a new tourist site at Houai Khanna, Nasaithong District, about 25 km north of downtown Vientiane. It is the 4th tourist centre after Danxang, Namson, and Xieng Khouane Pagoda. Among those present at the opening ceremony were Sisavat Keobounphan, Politburo member and secretary of the LPRP CC, and secretary of the party committee of Vientiane capital; Khambou Sounisai, member of the party CC, mayor of Vientiane, and other senior officials. [Text] [Vientiane KPL in English 0921 GMT 21 Nov 86 BK] /6662

SOVIET AMBASSADOR CALLS ON SISOMPHON LOVANSAI--Vientiane, November 26 (KPL)--Soviet Ambassador Yuriy Yakovlevich Mikheyev yesterday called on Sisomphon Lovansai, Political Bureau member of the LPRP CC and vice-president of the PSA [People's Supreme Assembly], to present to him a copy of a letter from the USSR Supreme Soviet to the parliaments and people throughout the world. The letter drew public attention to the tense international situation and called for joint efforts from all countries in the world to defend world peace and save humanity from the threat of a nuclear war. It reaffirmed the principled stand and initiatives of the Soviet Union on the reduction of military forces and prevention of outerspace militarization. In their talk, Sisomphon Lovansai and Yuriy Yakovlevich Mikheyev highly valued the friendly relations and all-round cooperation between the parties, governments and peoples of the two countries. For his part, Sisomphon Lovansai stressed the stand of the party and government of the Lao PDR in support of the Soviet initiatives on the prevention of a nuclear holocaust and the maintainance of world peace. [Text] [Vientiane KPL in English 0913 GMT 26 Nov 86 BK] /6662

INDIAN MINISTER THANKS LEADERS--Vientiane, November 29 (KPL)--P. Sipaseut, vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers and minsiter for foreign affairs of the Lao PDR, has received the following message from Narayan Datt Tiwari, minister of external affairs of India: Excellency, Thank you for your kind message of congratulations on my appointment as minister of external affairs. I am confident that the close ties between our two countries will be further strengthened in the years to come. Please accept, excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration. [Text] [Vientiane KPL in English 0858 GMT 29 Nov 86 BK] /6662

SONLAT CHANTHAMAT ATTENDS PHOTO EXHIBITION--Vientiane, November 20 (KPL)--The minister of culture, in collaboration with the Hungarian Embassy, opened here on Nov. 28 a photo exhibition to mark the 30th anniversary of the Hungarian Socialist Worker's Party and the victory day over the reactionaries. In their speeches, Deputy-Minister of Culture Somsai Desakhamphon and Hungarian

Ambassador Dr. Laszlo Rosta recalled the unceasing development of Hungary into a country with a strong economy and a healthy culture and society. S. Desakhamphou stressed the constant strengthening of relations between Laos and Hungary for the interests of world peace. Present at the opening ceremony were Somlat Chanthamat, secretary of the party CC and head of its propaganda and training board, Khambou Sounisai, member of the party CC, mayor of Vientiane, Thongsing Thammavong, member of the party CC, minister of culture, and other high-ranking officials. Diplomatic envoys of socialist countries here were also present. [Text] [Vientiane KPL in English 0906 GMT 30 Nov 86 BK] /6662

FRIENDSHIP DELEGATION TO USSR--Vientiane, November 28 (KPL)--A delegation of the Lao-Soviet Friendship Association, led by its acting-president Thongsavat Yamani, who is also vice-chairman of the State Committee for News Agency, Newspaper, Radio, and Television, left here on November 26 for a friendly visit to the Soviet Union. During a week-long visit there, the delegation will attend the celebration of the 11th founding anniversary of the Lao People's Democratic Republic in Moscow. They will also attend a week of Soviet-Lao solidarity there. [Text] [Vientiane KPL in English 0920 GMT 28 Nov 86 BK] /6662

DELEGATION ATTENDS BANGKOK BOXING CONFERENCE--Vientiane, November 26 (OANA-KPL)--A delegation of the Lao Federation of Amateur Boxing led by its president, Sayalat Sayavong, left here yesterday for Bangkok to attend the 11th general session of the International Federation of Amateur Boxing. The 11th general session which is held from November 26 to 27 in the Thai capital, will elect a new Executive Committee and five sub-commissions. The Lao delegation was seen off at the airport by Phiang Sisoulat, deputy-minister of education, and other high-ranking officials. [Text] [Vientiane KPL in English 0907 GMT 26 Nov 86 BK] /6662

CASTRO GREETs KAYsONE PHOMVIHAN--Vientiane, December 1 (KPL)--Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba CC sent warm congratulations to Kayson Phomvihan who was reelected as general secretary of the LPRP [Lao People's Revolutionary Party] at its recent 4th congress. The Cuban leader recalled the historical victories of the Lao people, under the just leadership of the Marxist-Leninist LPRP, over French colonialism, Japanese militarism and U.S. imperialism, and hailed Lao people's achievements in the present national socialist construction. In their revolutionary struggle, the nations and parties of Laos, Vietnam, and Kampuchea have always been bound by a special militant solidarity, which is a firm guarantee of all their victories, and with this solidarity the LPRP has become a strong vanguard in the struggle of the Lao people, the message stressed. F. Castro wished K. Phomvihan good health and success in the realization of the resolution of the 4th party congress. He also wished for further strengthening of the fraternal friendship between the peoples, parties and Governments of Cuba and Laos. [Text] [Vientiane KPL in English 0904 GMT 1 Dec 86 BK] /6662

SOVIET DANCE SHOW--On the evening of 11 November, the Ministry of Culture and the USSR Embassy to Laos jointly organized the premier performance of the ballet troupe of the Moldavian SSR currently on a performing tour of Laos to celebrate the 69th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution and

to greet the Fourth LPRP Congress. Attending the performance were Sali Vongkhamsao, secretary of the party Central Committee, vice chairman of the LPDR Council of Ministers, and chairman of the State Planning Committee; Thongsing Thammavong, alternate member of the party Central Committee and minister of culture; and other ministers, deputy ministers, chairman and vice chairmen of state committees, and a large number of Vientiane residents. Yuiy Yakovlevich Mikheyev, USSR ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Laos, and diplomats of various countries also attended the performance. [Text] [Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 13 Nov 86 BK] /12232

YUGOSLAV NATIONAL DAY GREETINGS--On the occasion of the SFRY National Day, on behalf of the LPDR Council of Ministers and the Lao people and in my own name, I would like to extend congratulations and sincere best wishes to your excellency and all the Yugoslavian people for happiness and fine success in developing your country, thus contributing to the defense of peace and security in the region and the world. I am convinced that the friendly relations and existing cooperation between our two peoples will continue to develop and be strengthened ceaselessly. ["Text" of 27 November greetings message from Kaysone Phomvihane, chairman of LPDR Council of Ministers, to Branko Mikulic, president of the SFRY Federal Executive Council] [Text] [Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 29 Nov 86 BK] /12232

CSO: 4206/25

MALAYSIA

AGREEMENT REACHED WITH INDONESIA ON MELACCA STRAITS SECURITY

Defense Minister Comments

BK280912 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0600 GMT 28 Nov 86

[Text] Malaysia and Indonesia have agreed at the General Border Committee meeting in Jakarta to concentrate on the Straits of Melacca in efforts to rid the area of any threat that can jeopardize the security of both nations. The attention of the two countries is not being focussed on the waterway after the successful joint operations against communist terrorists along the Sabah-Sarawak-West Kalimantan border.

The minister of defense, Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, told a news conference after the meeting that cooperation on security in the Straits of Melacca was vital to both countries. He stressed that attention needed to be focussed on the strategic straits, one of the biggest waterways in the world with movement of all types of foreign vessels including military craft. The minister explained that the possibility of threats, such as sabotage, hindrances, and other subversive activities against Malaysia and Indonesia in the waterway, had prompted the two nations to be on constant alert. Any form of threat in the area should be jointly faced by both nations so that it would not develop into something beyond their ability to overcome.

Datuk Abdullah said one form of cooperation was related to an early warning and detection system and exchange of information. He added that toward this end, the various land, air, and naval facilities in the two countries would be used to counter such threats.

Commentary Views Plan

BK281202 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0800 GMT 28 Nov 86

[Station commentary]

[Text] The decision reached by Malaysia and Indonesia to cooperate in enforcing stricter security in the Straits of Melacca is yet another example of the close relations between the two nations and the growing ASEAN identity. The Straits of Melacca, as it appears on the map, may seem to be a narrow waterway but it is in reality one of the world's busiest as well as a vital channel of maritime transport.

For many years Malaysia has been concerned over signs of the increased level of pollution in the Straits of Malacca. At one time the then attorney general of Malaysia described it as one of the world's dirtiest maritime backlanes. How-

ever, as a result of determined action taken by Malaysia, Indonesia, and Singapore there is now an effective system in operation, not only to detect but to cope with oil spills and potential threat to the marine environment arising out of pollution and other accidents. Further, the International Maritime Organization has assisted Malaysia and Indonesia to put into effect a traffic separation scheme to bring about a more orderly movement of ships moving up and down the Straits of Melacca.

Historically, Malaysian economic development has been dependent on the excellent port facilities along the west coast of peninsular Malaysia. Port Kelang, Penang, and more recently Pasir Gudang are important ports but there are a few smaller ports as well. The security aspects may not have been so important even a few years ago, but today they have become a priority area. It is well known that the Soviet naval presence has been stepped up based in the Indian Ocean and in the Pacific regions. From time to time, submarines are known to pass through the straits, apart from conventional naval vessels. It has long been an essential feature of the international law of the sea that a submarine when passing through narrow waterways, such as the Straits of Melacca, should not move unseen or below the water but should do so quite openly like all other vessels.

It is this aspect of security that has become of much concern to Malaysia and Indonesia. In addition, it is well-known that there are ships belonging to the superpowers that carry nuclear weapons. The South Pacific nations have declared a policy of discouraging the visits to their areas of nuclear-powered vessels and ships carrying nuclear weapons.

Malaysia and Indonesia along with their ASEAN partners subscribe the concept of Southeast Asia as a zone of peace, freedom, and neutrality. They would rather see more merchant navy vessels than military vessels. The agreement that was announced by the Malaysian defense minister will therefore be a furtherance of the objectives of ASEAN as well as being with the aims and principles of the UN Charter.

Malaysia and Indonesia have also been working closely over the land border demarcation to determine the exact boundary line separating their respective territories in the large island of Borneo. Malaysia's two eastern states of Sabah and Sarawak occupy the northern portion of this island. These and other developments augur well for a future of ASEAN as a progressive regional organization.

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CSO: 4200/172

COMMENTARY ON STATUS OF ANTARCTIC CONTINENT

BK241035 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0800 GMT 24 Nov 86

[Station commentary]

[Text] Malaysia will continue to pursue its policy of drawing attention to the issue of Antarctica and of an international trusteeship form of status for its resources. The Malaysian representative at the United Nations articulated Malaysia's stand on this matter last week, when he addressed the General Assembly committee that was discussing Antarctica.

Malaysia was a first UN member state to propose that Antarctica, which had for a long time been the exclusive preserve of a few advanced nations, should be treated henceforth as a part of the heritage of mankind. This should be in harmony with Third World aspirations for a new international economic order. The pattern of the distribution of the wealth of the world, had during the colonial era, been decided upon by the then powerful European nations. Proceeding on the basis of possession through discovery, or outright annexation, many parts of Asia, Africa, and the Pacific were seized and used for their purposes and interests. Antarctica had been treated in a similar fashion. Now with the decolonization process [words indistinct] been occurred very rapidly, it is vital that Antarctica itself should not remain carved up into various bits and pieces of territory that particular states exploit for scientific and economic purposes.

The Malaysian prime minister, when he brought up the issue of Antarctica to the UN General Assembly for the first time in 1982, introduced the concept of Antarctica as the common heritage of mankind. There are other examples of this kind of concept in international affairs. The Law of the Sea Conference and the Law of the Sea Convention a few years ago, established a regime for the sources, or rather the resources of the floor of the sea and the ocean bed to be administered by the International Seabed Authority. The understanding is that while licences are issued by the Seabed Authority, the royalties from the mining firms concerned, will be paid into a fund that will be used for the economic development of the Third World nations and in particular for the poorer nations that are often referred to as the Fourth World nations.

Malaysia does not perceive any reason why Antarctica ought not to be the subject of a similar arrangement. An important development that points to the

urgency of an early decision on the lines recommended by Malaysia is the increase of activity in the Antarctic region. In the words of the Malaysian representative, Mr Yusof Hitam, some of the 18 decisionmakers' parties to the 1959 Antarctic Treaty, tried to explore the resources of the region even though the treaty had no legal order for resource development.

Many nations that support Malaysia's posture on Antarctica fear that soon there may be a mad scramble for marine and mineral resources of the icy continent. It is the superpowers and a few nations that have the technological expertise that would be in a strong position to benefit from the wealth of Antarctica. There are vital ecological considerations, too, that cannot be overlooked in this area. If the United Nations is to obviate an international crisis of alarming dimension, a speedy decision must be taken on Antarctica.

/12232

CSO: 4200/172

CHRISTIAN-LED PARTY WINS SABAH POLL

BK300633 Hong Kong AFP in English 0322 GMT 30 Nov 86

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, 30 November (AFP)--Sabah's Christian-led state government has won a by-election to the east Malaysian state legislature in an overwhelmingly Moslem constituency.

The returns show Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) candidate Jasnie Gindug polled 2,657 votes Saturday to wrest the Solaman seat--a rural constituency that has traditionally voted for the predominately Moslem United Sabah National Organisation (USNO)--by some 704 votes.

The PBS victory was a major blow to the USNO which had the same day announced plans to dissolve the party and merge with Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad's United Malays National Organisation (UMNO) in what it said was a bid to protect Moslem rights.

USNO leader Mustapha Harun, 72, had campaigned for support for the merger proposal and used the official symbol of the National Front in the poll, although the PBS is also a member of the 13-party federal coalition that Dr Mahathir heads.

USNO Secretary-General Hamid Mustapha, Mr Mustapha's son, said some Moslem voters among the Bajau community had voted for Chief Minister Joseph Pairin Kitingan's PBS because they feared UMNO's expansion to Sabah.

"I think that in time they would have nothing to fear," he said.

UMNO, which dominates peninsular Malaysian politics, has steered clear of Sabah and Sarawak which joined the Malaysia federation in 1965.

Mr Kitingan, who has spoken against UMNO's expansion to Sabah, said the PBS victory was further proof that it now had the support of all communities and that its multi-racial policies worked.

The PBS drew heavily on Christian Kadazan and Ethnic Chinese voters to win power in bitterly contested polls in April last year.

The party has slowly gained Moslem support and now leaves USNO with only 9 of the 48 elected seats in the 54-member State Assembly. One seat is held by the Parti Berjaya. USNO officials said the party had given Mustapha Harun a full mandate to negotiate terms of the merger with Dr Mahathir before UMNO's next general assembly in the middle of next year.

BRIEFS

USNO TO MERGE WITH UMNO--USNO [United Sabah National Organization] is to merge with UMNO [United Malays National Organization]. The decision was reached at the end of the party's extraordinary general assembly today. Forty-five USNO divisions voted in favor of the merger with UMNO. Only the Moyog division opposed. Two divisions did not send their delegates to attend the assembly. The decision of the assembly was announced by the permanent speaker of the assembly, Datuk Haji (Kassim Kanidin). USNO Secretary General Datuk Abdul Hamid Tun Mustapha yesterday tabled the motion for the merger. He said the expansion of UMNO to Sabah would safeguard the interest of Bumiputeras (indigenous people) and at the same time speed up national integration. The dissolution of USNO is also necessary to avoid disunity among its members. [Text] [Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 29 Nov 86 BK] /12232

FRENCH HELP FOR CAMBODIA--Malaysia has asked France to play a more direct role in seeking a comprehensive political solution to the Kampuchean problem. The deputy minister of foreign affairs, Datuk Kadir Shekh Fadzir, made the request at his meeting with the special adviser to the French minister of external affairs, Mr (Francois Mizoufe) in Kuala Lumpur this afternoon. Datuk Kadir later told newsmen that France has a lot to gain economically from trade with the three Indochinese countries, if Vietnam decided to leave once the Kampuchean problem is resolved. Furthermore, France has to (?effectively) play its role to make Vietnam withdraw its troops from Kampuchea. Mr (Francois Mizoufe) is in Malaysia to assess economic relations between France and the various ASEAN countries. [Text] [Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 28 Nov 86 BK] /12232

CSO: 4200/172

REPORTAGE ON SUPPORT, OPPOSITION TO NEW CONSTITUTION

Catholic Bishops Urge 'Yes' Vote

HK271458 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 27 Nov 86 pp 1, 12

[By Deedee Siytangco]

[Excerpt] The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) issued a pastoral letter yesterday urging Catholics to vote for the ratification of the draft 1986 constitution.

The Catholic Bishops in the country, in their letter to their flock entitled "Covenant for Peace," cited the charter as being "pro-life, pro-poor, pro-Filipino."

The provisions of the draft constitution, said Ricardo, Cardinal Vidal of Cebu, CBCP president, are in "consonance with authentic human values." As pastors, they looked at human values in light of the faith, and they concluded that the provisions of the draft charter are consistent with the teachings of the gospel, he said.

"We opt for the ratification of the draft 1986 constitution. We express this stand, moreover, to assist you in the formation of your own conscience.

"At this historical moment, many forces are striving mightily to destabilize what we have gained dramatically in February 1986. We believe that this new constitution will provide a firm basis for governance, a clear direction for national renewal and development, and a covenant towards peace," the letter said.

The faithful were urged to go out and vote in the plebiscite so they can have a hand in building the structure for peace in the country. The structure, the CBCP emphasized, is contained in the new constitution.

However, the CBCP admitted the "imperfections" of the new constitution. Vidal said that some would approve of it, others would veto it. Whatever an individual voter's decision would be, the bishops urged that it be done on the basis of an "informed and formed conscience."

The freedom of the individual conscience is to be respected, the CBCP said. When the church's pastors studied the draft, they did so according to its historical context and to help their flock to vote intelligently, the bishops said.

The CBCP letter supports the opinion of Jaime Cardinal Sin, Archbishop of Manila, who has urged the faithful to vote "yes" in the plebiscite.

Minsupala Opposition to Charter

HK251327 Davao City THE DAILY SAN PEDRO EXPRESS in English 11 Nov 86 p 4

[Editorial: "The Minsupala Idea"]

[Text] A group of Mindanao leaders most of whom politicians and are "victims" of the February revolution, came up with a resolution setting their adverse stand on the proposed Charter which is due for ratification by the people on 2 February 1987.

Besides going "No" for the plebiscite, the leaders who have themselves identified with the Mindanao Sulu Palawan group (Minsupala) also advised President Corazon Aquino to "withdraw the proposed charter... and call for election of Constitutional convention delegates who will draft a new charter." A failure by the president to heed their call, they said, would make Mindanao people free to opt for self determination or independence.

The stand against the ratification and the warning that Mindanao people might opt for self-determination surely pack some degree of significance if not for the personality of those who compose the Minsupala group. It could even stir some kind of political imbalance considering the fact that a decision by the people in Mindanao to work for its independence is already a serious threat to the political stability and sovereignty of the country.

However, the implication of the stand of the leaders is lessened to a greater degree by their own stature and previous political affiliation. While it may be true that they have managed to carve out a niche of their own in politics, their having been ousted could surely put a bar or deterrent to the adoption of their ideas regarding the stand of Mindanao people on the proposed constitution and for them to be swayed easily to work with the old political leaders for the island's self-determination and independence.

Nevertheless, their voices and opinion should not be negated by the political bias of the present regime for they are still a potent group which commands influence in this part of the country.

KBL to Coordinate Rejection

HK260731 Baguio City Mountain Province Broadcasting Company in English 0330 GMT 26 Nov 86

[Text] The Kilusang Bagong Lipunan, or KBL, is coordinating with all opposition groups in its nationwide drive for rejection of the proposed constitution. This

course of action was finalized during a meeting of the KBL Central Committee that followed the organizational meeting of the Coordinating Committee led by former Batasan Sepaker and Acting KBL President Nicanor Yniquez. Yniquez will be actively supported by former Rizal governor Isidro Rodriguez, KBL Secretary General Salvador Britannico, and other KBL officials.

/12232

CSO: 4200/168

EDITORIAL CALLS 'IRAN ARMS DEAL' U.S. CRISIS

BK010201 Bangkok THE NATION in English 1 Dec 86 p 4

[Editorial: "Iran Arms Deal Controversy May Get Out of Hand"]

[Text] The sale of American arms to Iran, compounded by the fact that the profits made from it have been sent to the Contras fighting the Sandinista government in Nicaragua, is steadily escalating into a major White House crisis and we are possibly seeing only the tip of the iceberg. It is now being revealed that Admiral John Poindexter who resigned and Lt Col Oliver North who was dismissed had destroyed almost all the document and papers held in the National Security Council office of the White House before they left. Further it is being asked whether it was possible for North to handle such a huge multi-national operation single-handedly with only his boss, Poindexter, being aware of it.

This question has implicated White House Chief of Staff Donald Regan and it will not be surprising at all if his involvement is proved and he is forced out of office. The Justice Department has been handling the investigation of the arms deal and the channeling of money to the Contras and President Ronald Reagan has appointed a team of three men to conduct an independent investigation of the NSC. Reagan himself has only come in for minor condemnation and charged with errors of omission.

But the two houses of the Democrat-dominated Congress has yet to open a full-scale investigation. Individual congressmen have been making several critical remarks but the 100th Congress starts officially functioning only at the beginning of next year. Reagan, in his televised speech, said that only a small amount of defensive weapons had been shipped to Iran but now it is reported the value of the arms sent to Iran could be well over a billion dollars.

If Reagan had been aware of the extent of arms shipments, he could be charged with "cover-up" by the incoming congress and if it was proved he was not aware of it he will be accused of gross negligence of duty in a vital area. During the past six years, Reagan had ridden a crest of popularity but the mass of information that is steadily being uncovered regarding the controversial issue involving both Iran and the Contras is bound to affect him.

When the various committees of Congress begin their investigations next month, they will certainly delve into the matter with a vengeance. This might not hurt Reagan as much as it did Richard Nixon, but the question of his ability to govern the country will be jeopardized. If that happens Reagan will lose his ability to negotiate arms control proposals with the Soviet Union, the financial backing for his Strategic Defence Initiative and his strong stand against the Congress in matters concerning trade protectionism.

/6662

CSO: 4200/171

ARTICLE CALLS FOR 'DIRECT LOBBYING' OF U.S. CONGRESS

BK220207 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 22 Nov 86 p 3

[Article by Prachayathawi Tawethikun: "Thailand Must Play Its Cards Right With Congress"]

[Text] The Democrat-controlled U.S. Congress is going to be more impatient with countries which do not cooperate in helping the U.S. solve its trade problems, well-informed diplomatic sources said yesterday.

But while this may spell trouble for Thailand and other developing countries, the outlook is not all that bleak. Even the much-feared Jenkins Bill might not succeed again this year, provided Thailand plays it right, said the sources.

Because there are many "reasonable" Congressmen and Senators who are willing to listen, Thailand must find an effective way to communicate its position to them.

One way to accomplish this may be through direct lobbying, but this must be complemented by official contacts at the embassy. Sources cautioned that Congress has more than 150 embassies to deal with, so Thailand's efforts should concentrate on important issues and should be made on a sustained, long-term basis, said the sources.

But it would be wishful thinking to believe that lobbying is a panacea for all the problems. At best it is an information service and not a policy guide for congressmen. Cultivating good friendships with the congressional staff might tie up the loose ends, and should go hand in hand with lobbying activities.

Congressional staff are the people on whose expertise and judgment congressmen rely. This process, which was begun by former Ambassador M.R. Kasemsamson Kasemsi, must be strengthened today.

Thailand can also use its long-standing friendship with the United States as one of its tools in dealing with the Congress. Although to the congressmen security interests may be of secondary concern, it is always important to bring home to them that Thailand, a frontline state, has been shouldering

its responsibilities in the security field. It is also important to point out to them that Thailand is one of the "fair trading partners" which the United States has in the Asia and Pacific region.

This can be seen in the fact that the difficulties which the United States has with Thailand are relatively minor. The sources listed them as the protection of intellectual property rights, the ban on tobacco, and tariff barriers on soy beans and other agricultural products. If steps are seriously taken in these areas, it would help the image of the country in the eyes of Congress.

Efforts must also be made to reach beyond the Hill, said the sources. In the past Thailand relied heavily on the Administration which was successful in stemming the protectionist tide to a certain extent.

But now the Republican majority in the Senate has vanished, and it is a new ball game. The Administration will have to be active in Congress in the drafting of any trade bill from the beginning.

In this the United States Trade Representative will have a crucial role to play and Thailand should begin work in the early stages of the bill. Thailand cannot continue to wait until the bill comes to the floor for voting.

Thailand should join with other affected countries to form a "free trade coalition" and push for implementation of the agreement at the Punto Del Este round of talks on GATT. This would help to restore free and fair world trade, according to sources.

If the textile industry is pushing for a textile trade bill, Thailand should work with the clothing retailer's association to oppose it. If the Farm Act has a marketing loan programme for rice, Thailand should ally itself with the other farmers whose crops have not been given the same privileges.

Above all, the sources said that the trade practice which follows closely the Japanese model in the world at large is no longer acceptable. In Japan, market penetration is only one-sided. While the Japanese may have been successful up to now, the Americans have reached the limit of their endurance.

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CSO: 4200/171

THAILAND

COLUMNIST: U.S., U.N. WRONG ON SRV, PRK; TIES NEEDED

Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai 17 Sep 86 p 5

[Slap in the Face column by Pleo Singoen: "The Real Enemy"]

[Text] Thailand should be seizing new markets in certain countries. But as the saying goes, while the nose is just below the eyes, you can't see it. I don't understand our foreign policy. Are we "haunted by the ghost of a fighter?" We view our neighbors as enemies and make it seem as if we will have to go to war and destroy them. But we won't be enemies forever. Instead of taking steps to keep out the Vietnamese, Cambodian, and Lao refugees, we have had our nose up the ass of the United States and the United Nations. They tricked us into accepting these people. And what are things like today? Does anyone care about us? It's clear that these refugees will stay here forever.

We should change our policy and separate politics from trade. Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, and Burma could be markets for many of our goods. We shouldn't allow Malaysia, Singapore, and Japan to dominate these markets. Squadron Leader Prasong Sunsiri has portrayed Vietnam as a tiger and terrible dragon, ridden by the Soviet Union, waiting to pounce on Thailand. Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City are said to be filled by Russians.

That is just one part. Today, if you visit Hanoi, the first vehicle you will see when you get off the airplane is a Toyota. And the streets and hotels are filled with Japanese. It is Japan that has occupied Vietnam. The Japanese are no longer taking control using weapons. They are doing so using economic means. Japan is quietly taking control of the trade markets in Vietnam. This is very worrisome.

The same is true in Burma. In the past, Thai fishermen were able to fish in Burmese waters. But today, it is Japan that has taken control of the Burmese fishing market. In the future, Thai fishermen will be limited to fishing in the lake in Lumpini Park.

In this situation, fishing products are our only hope and the only thing we have to supply to world markets. Thai fishermen are considered to be "professionals." Countries throughout the world would like to have our capabilities. But in the territorial waters of neighboring countries, including Malaysia, Burma, and Vietnam, our fishing boats are gradually being

pushed out by the busybody Japanese. We have been foolish and timid. We have acted like an ostrich, hiding our head in the sand with our ass in the air in an effort to avoid the problems. The fact is, we have become very friendly with China. But that doesn't mean that we will turn communist. And so why should we be afraid of associating with Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. Let's draw closer instead of having embassies just to receive memorandums.

In someone's home, family matters are their business. We can keep things separate and trade with each other. Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia all want Thai goods. They are all eager to trade with Thailand. Things would be fine if the government would implement a clear policy to give the private sector greater confidence.

We tend to put the blame on Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, and the United States. But let's not dance to the tune of anyone else. We must be careful. The real threat to Thailand's economy is Japan.

11943

CSO: 4207/31

THAILAND

SRV TO BE PAID 12 MILLION BAHT TO FREE FISHERMEN

BK290233 Bangkok THE NATION in English 29 Nov 86 p 3

[Text] Thailand will arrange to pay about 13 million baht in fines to free 466 Thai fishermen from prisons in Vietnam after the latest Thai plea for a reduction in the fines was turned down by Hanoi.

Sarot Chawanawirat, spokesman for the Foreign Ministry, yesterday described the decision of Hanoi as "most regretable."

"Their decision not to lower the fines does not contribute to creating a better understanding between the two countries or enhance the possibility of a meeting between the foreign ministers of Thailand and Vietnam," he said.

Thai fishermen arrested allegedly for violating Vietnamese waters prior to January 1, 1986, face a \$500 fine each; those who were arrested after that face a fine of \$1,000.

Sarot said the government wants to help free the Thai fishermen and will make arrangements to pay the amount.

When Le Mai, Vietnam's ambassador-designate to Thailand, paid a courtesy call on Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila on Wednesday, he was told to pass on Thailand's request to Hanoi for a reduction of the fines on the arrested Thai fishermen.

Air Chief Marshal Sitthi also told Le Mai that Thailand hopes to build a new embassy in Hanoi as soon as possible because the present Thai Embassy in Hanoi is too small and is in a poor condition.

Thailand wants to exchange the land and building of the former Thai Embassy to Ho Chi Minh City for a plot of about five rai of land in Hanoi and build a new Thai Embassy on it.

Vu Tien Phuc, a first secretary of the Vietnamese Embassy in Bangkok, told THE NATION yesterday the delay in the release of the Thai fishermen was partly due to some legal formalities at the local administration level in Vietnam.

He said the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry has always tried to help release the Thai fishermen as soon as possible but local authorities in Vietnam play a very important role in this matter.

Phuc also said the Vietnamese Foreign Minister has agreed in principle to let Thailand build a new Thai Embassy in Hanoi.

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CSO: 4200/171

COMMENTARY REponds TO SRV ARTICLE ON FOREIGN POLICY

BK280838 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in English 1500 GMT 27 Nov 86

[Station commentary: "Thailand Must Be Strong for Peace"]

[Text] An article published in the QUAN DOI NHAN DAN issue of 7 November 1986, entitled "Where Is Thailand Heading?" has rudely criticized the current foreign policy as well as internal activities of the Thai Government. The Vietnamese military paper has reportedly alleged that the Thai Foreign Ministry and the Thai Armed Forces are now [words indistinct] certain extent and that Thailand itself to become [words indistinct] of America. The article went further to attack the Sino-Thai relations in terms of racial ties and economic classification. On the Kampuchean problem, the Vietnamese military analysts pointed out that Thailand's determination is to cooperate with the United States and China against the interests of Indochinese states and even against that of the ASEAN countries.

Apparently, what should be raised in the first place is probably the most critical thing in the life and death of a nation. That is the question of national interest with regard to security of national sovereignty and territorial integrity. Certainly, one cannot live idly when there has been plundering in neighborhood. The 1978 occupation of Kampuchea by Vietnamese troops has more than scared all the people in the Southeast Asian countries, particularly those living in Thailand, the frontline state next door to oppressed Kampuchea. In fact, Thailand has just sighed with relief from the full impact of the Vietnamese struggle to reunite the northern and southern parts of Vietnam. Despite the fact, Thailand, as some ASEAN countries, had already established diplomatic relations with Vietnam with a view to normalizing the relationship between the two countries. It is most unlikely for them to accept the Vietnamization of Kampuchea as legitimate practice. However, if one considers justly the above allegation by the Vietnamese authorities in reality and in terms of strategy, Thailand is always on a defensive position owing to its culture, religion, and state of mind of the Thai people who are generous, kind, and peace-loving.

That citizens living along the Kampuchean-Thai border have suffered considerably from fightings between the Vietnamese forces and the tripartite coalition troops under Prince Sihanouk, Son Sann, and Khieu Samphan. On several occasions, Vietnamese soldiers and Vietnamese-backed Heng Samrin troops

had intruded into Thailand the fiercely [as heard] attacked many villagers and government officials near the frontier causing death and injuries to thousands of Thai people as well as damage to the Thai people's property.

Accordingly, the Thai Government has sent several protest notes to the Vietnamese side and also to the UN secretary general in order to have them circulated among the member countries. It is quite a peculiar case that Thailand's territory has been encroached by foreign troops who territory has no common border with Thailand. These very things clearly point out who is of aggressive-minded [as heard] and who is a great liar.

On 21 November 1986, the Thai Foreign Ministry had issued a press statement concerning Vietnam's violations of Thailand's sovereignty and territorial integrity during 8 October to 5 November 1986. Only less than a month, the Vietnamese forces illegally occupying Kampuchea and stationing along Thai-Kampuchean border fired into Thailand more than 100 rounds of heavy weapons such as mortars, recoilless guns, and others. Previous violations came on 9 to 15 October during which the Vietnamese troops made deliberate incursion into Thai territory and entrenched upon Hill 538 in Buriram Province with fire support from heavy weaponry from Kampuchea against Thai forces on Thai soil. As a result, 10 Thai rangers were injured. As a matter of fact, the Vietnamese allegation over the cooperation between Thailand, the United States, and [words indistinct] is just a kind of slanderous propaganda on which Vietnam is well known to be an expert at and its goal is merely to deviate world opinion.

Thailand itself could also criticize the current hostile policy of Vietnam in its cooperation with an Eastern European superpower in an attempt to expand its sphere of influence into the Southeast Asian region. Vietnamese conduct indeed seems to comply more with the critics when viewing from the Indochinese experience which Vietnam currently asserts the satellite policy as it was done earlier in Eastern Europe.

The cooperation between Thailand and the United States that started over a century and a half ago has been placed on economic and trade field and actually they have not had the same attitude toward every issue. A well known example is the controversial protectionism of the United States. Nevertheless, the most vital interest of Thailand is its sovereignty and territorial integrity which all Thai people can sacrifice even their life to safeguard and protect. Thus the mutual preparedness and readiness to prevent Thailand's territorial integrity against any ambition by expansionist-minded country is indispensably inevitable and also quite a common practice for any country confronting foreseeable peril. The Thailand standpoint is, however, firmly based on self-defense and noninterference in other countries' internal affairs. It is a totally different stance for Vietnam, which always relies on force while engaging in international dispute, relying solely on acts of aggression while timidly claiming self-defense and relying on all-out occupation while proclaiming itself a regional peacekeeper.

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CSO: 4200/171

REPORTAGE ON EC DEMANDS TO EASE FOOD RADIATION LEVEL

Agricultural Aid Cut Threatened

BK280239 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 28 Nov 86 p 13

[Excerpt] The European Community yesterday threatened to cut agricultural aid to Thailand if the Thai Government refuses to review the standard level of radiation in imported dairy products and foodstuffs, which an EC official stationed here described as "not scientifically and systematically standardised."

The EC official also claimed that the standard level set recently by the Thai Public Health Ministry of 21 becquerels per kilogramme has hurt Thailand-EC trade and, if not reviewed, would affect Thailand's export to EC countries.

This was disclosed by Deputy Commerce Minister Prachuap Chaiyasan after his meeting with Dr Endymion Wilkinson, acting head of the EC Delegation for Southeast Asia.

Mr Prachuap quoted Dr Wilkinson as saying that thousands of tons of powdered milk from the Netherlands are now held up at Khlong Toei port because Thai officials do not allow them to enter the local market.

"He said the standard level set by Thailand is too low. He cited the standard level set by the EC itself at 370 bq/kg and it is 124.74 bq/kg in the U.S.," Mr Prachuap said.

He said Dr Wilkinson has asked the Thai Government to review and reset the standard level, "otherwise it would destroy Thailand-EC trade relations."

Dr Wilkinson was quoted as saying that the Philippines, for example, had intentionally set the standard level of radiation very low. "The EC considered this as a protectionist measure, not a public safety measure, and thus made a counter-measure by cutting agricultural aid to that country," he added.

He said Thailand was given US\$70 million in aid by the EC to solve the problem of tapioca, the major Thai agricultural export to the EC, and the new grant will be \$60 million.

"A meeting is scheduled to be held in January next year to discuss details of the aid, but Dr Wilkinson said that if Thailand refuses to review the standard level of radiation as requested, an 'unfavourable atmosphere' would prevail at the meeting and this will be no good for Thailand," Mr Prachuap said.

But he added that he told Dr Wilkinson that this is a technical problem and the Commerce Ministry is not in the position to make any decision and must consult with the Public Health Ministry and the Science, Energy and Technology Ministry.

He also said he suggested that the two sides appoint representatives and organise a technical seminar to work out a solution to the problem.

"I also told Dr Wilkinson that the Thai Government has to be responsible for public safety and welfare, and also want to maintain good trading relations with all countries," he added.

Meanwhile yesterday, Dr Wilkinson issued a press release claiming that a number of unsubstantiated rumours have been circulating concerning the safety of various foodstuffs imported from Europe.

"I would, therefore, like to take this opportunity to put the record straight. We are, of course, as concerned with the health and well-being of our people in Europe as with the people of our trading partners. Therefore, we have put up in the EC a continuous surveillance mechanism to monitor radiation levels in foodstuffs in Europe. The present levels are perfectly safe," he said.

Daily Fears EC 'Retaliation'

BK280245 Bangkok THE NATION in English 28 Nov 86 p 4

[Editorial: "Only Thailand Can Set Its Own Health Standards"]

[Text] While we have been thinking that our government was too slow and lax in reacting to the import of food products from Europe that suffered radiation contamination because of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster last April, a new twist has been added to it. Malaysia was one of the first countries in the region to react to contaminated products from Europe and it was followed by the Philippines. Now Thailand, at least from our point of view belatedly, took the issue up and the European Community seems very displeased with it.

Endymion Wilkinson, acting head of the delegation of the Commission of the European Community (EC) saw Public Health Minister Thoetphong Chaiyanan Wednesday and Deputy Commerce Minister Prachuap Chaisan yesterday and complained that the levels of contamination by radiation of milk products set by Thailand were too low. He pointed out that the milk products that have been taken off the shelves of supermarkets had levels of radiation contamination that were acceptable to EC and to its trading partners.

We are totally unqualified to enter this argument but we do point out that while dealing with health hazards of imported foodstuffs, especially baby-food, the levels should be determined by Thai scientists in the Office of the Atomic Energy for Peace. And naturally this applies to imports from all countries. It has been quite common for several countries to condemn some of Thai seafood exported to them as substandard from their levels of health standards and there is nothing that we can do about it.

While leaving the scientific sophistry about radiation levels in food to those who are qualified, we are interested in the political implications. Already the opposition in the House of Representatives is on the warpath tabling motions that the government has been negligent about the matter for too long since the Chernobyl nuclear disaster occurred seven months ago.

But we do not like the EC to tell us that our scientists are being overcautious. We would say that, where baby-food is concerned, it is better to be overcautious than lax. Further, we understand Mr Wilkinson's visit to the public health minister but the fact that he also took it upon himself to see the deputy commerce minister--who has nothing to do with health hazards--appears somewhat sinister. It might imply retaliation of some kind.

Sitthi Dismisses EC Demands

BK290413 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 29 Nov 86 p 1

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Sitthi Savetsila yesterday dismissed as insignificant an EC official's threat to cut agricultural aid if Thailand does not review the national standard of radiation levels which he said is hurting dairy imports from EC countries.

The threat was made on Thursday by Dr Endymion Wilkinson, chief of the EC delegation for Southeast Asia.

Dr Wilkinson said the European Community would consider cutting agricultural aid to Thailand if Bangkok did not review the national standard of 21 becquerels per kilogramme, which he said was too low.

But ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Sitthi made light of Dr Wilkinson's threat, saying "he is only a small person and has no authority."

He also advised reporters not to pay any attention to Dr Wilkinson's comments as such threats were made by a "small person".

ACM Sitthi said it is the Government's duty to set standards it feels would protect the interests of the people. "What the Government has done is correct," he said.

He added that the setting of standards is a temporary measure. Once the radiation levels go down the standards can be lifted, he added.

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CSO: 4200/171

EDITORIAL HAILS KPNLF RECENT 'SHOW OF UNITY'

BK290323 Bangkok THE NATION in English 29 Nov 86 p 4

[Editorial: "Son Sann Faction Unity Comes at the Right Time"]

[Text] For quite some time there has been dissension going on in the Son Sann faction of the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea (CGDK) and it is good news that the infighting is to be halted soon. Son Sann, apart from being the prime minister of CGDK, is also the president of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) and there has been friction between him and Gen Sak Susakhan, the commander-in-chief of the KPNLF troops fighting the Vietnamese in Kampuchea. Son Sann is now in Bangkok and pressure has been brought on him to recognize Sak in his present position in order to make the resistance forces more unified.

A mediator is reportedly trying to narrow the differences between the two and it is said that Son Sann will soon be visiting Site Two, a refugee camp for Khmers, and that along with Sak will be making a show of unity among the KPNLF forces. This is somewhat timely because the resistance forces, all three factions of them taken together, have been showing increased capacity to withstand the Vietnamese forces and are trying to make deeper penetrations into Kampuchea.

The Vietnamese have not unleashed any dry season offensive yet and there might be some rethinking of their policy about the occupation of Kampuchea when the Vietnamese Communist Party Congress is held in about two weeks in Hanoi. It is a time when it is necessary to maintain full unity within the three factions that form the tripartite coalition and it is also time to coordinate strategies between the three factions.

By far the strongest of the three factions is the Khmer Rouge which has already stood up well against the Vietnamese and has reportedly made deep incursions into Kampuchea. The Khmer Rouge have not been internationally popular because of the genocidal policies they followed while in power in Phnom Penh. The man who was blamed for these atrocious policies was Pol Pot but nature seems to be taking care of him.

Whenever any suggestions were raised about a political solution to the Kampuchean conflict, Hanoi promptly brought up the name of Pol Pot in order to secure some international sympathy for its recalcitrant stand. Now it has been reported that Pol Pot is suffering from cancer and is undergoing treatment in China but most reports agree that he has less than a year to live. Vietnam will have no reason to bring up the bogey of Pol Pot again.

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CSO: 4200/171

THAILAND

PARTY CHIEF BUNCHU: MILITARY BUDGET TOO HIGH

Bangkok LAK THAI in Thai 9 Oct 86 pp 55-57

[Interview with Mr Bunchu Rotchanasathian, the leader of the Community Action Party; date and place not specified]

[Excerpt] [Question] Each year, the military's budget increases while that for development and other sectors decreases. Do you think that the military's budget can be cut in order to increase the budgets of other sectors?

[Answer] Yes. I think that we must discuss this. The military, too, is responsible for the country's situation. This is necessary. The question is what adjustments the military can make to help us. This must be discussed at the meeting. The minister of defense, on behalf of the military, takes part in the budget deliberations, too.

[Question] In the past, politicians haven't dared touch the military's budget.

[Answer] That is because we have given the military a free hand in allotting budget funds within the military. But what we want to talk with them about is the total amount. We want to tell them what the situation is. We have a glass of water. If one sector drinks most of the water, what is left won't be enough for the people in general. How can we help each other?

The military must adjust itself to the situation in the country. How can it do this? If it isn't possible this year, how can it be done next year? We have to cooperate and help each other. We share responsibility for ensuring that the country's situation improves. If living conditions improve, that will be very important for the country's security. That will help suppress crime and will help us in our struggle against our enemies. These burdens will become lighter. Regardless of who has incited these people, there must be something for them to feed on. That "something" is injustice and poverty. These are the problems that must be solved.

[Question] How likely is it that the military's budget will be cut this year?

[Answer] I think that this generation of military leaders has a much better understanding of the problem and will play a greater role in this. There are military officers in parliament. As senators, they have a better understanding

of the problems. But we don't know how far they will be willing to go in making adjustments. We will make inquiries. The RTA CINC has said that he will try to make changes in the army in accord with the situation. Quality will be considered more important than quantity. I agree with that. That will help enable us to stipulate lines for adjusting the expenditure ratio between the security and development sectors in order to improve the situation.

[Question] Another budget that is mentioned frequently is the secret budget. What do you think about this budget, and should it be cut?

[Answer] This the same as for the military budget. That is, it depends on whether they understand and how much they are willing to change. Adjustments must be made. But we can't say that it isn't necessary to have this budget. There is a need. But the question is, how necessary? Should there be an audit? And what can be done to prevent these funds from being misused? These are the questions that the people responsible for the country's affairs must think about and answer.

[Question] Many people feel that the secret funds are used for personal gain and that they should be done away with.

[Answer] This is because of past behavior. As a result, people are suspicious. Whether such things are still going on is something that the people responsible must find out. Such things must not be allowed to happen again. I don't know how much truth there is to this, but most people feel that this has happened. Because people are convinced that such things have happened, it's difficult to erase that image from people's minds. People continue to think this way.

In view of the fact that we must all cooperate and take responsibility, I hope that we can work together to solve the problems.

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CSO: 4207/31

NAVY PLAN SAID 'SCUPPERED' BY BUDGET CUTS

BK210439 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 21 Nov 86 p 5

[Text] Budget cuts have scuppered the Navy's development programme, Commander in Chief Admiral Thada Ditthabanchong said yesterday.

Adm Thada said the Navy had planned to procure two or three antisubmarine ships, a few aircraft and some artillery for the Marine Corps this year.

However, since about 60 million baht had been lopped off the budget, the Navy could at best employ contractors to build the antisubmarine ships and buy no more than two artillery pieces and an automatic viewfinder, he said.

The commander said the Navy this year received 7,913 million baht from the Government, the smallest allocation among the armed forces. Of that, three million baht was trimmed by the Budget Scrutiny Committee.

In view of the constraints, Adm Thada said the navy's prospects of buying two submarines worth about 5,000 million baht were remote.

The modernisation programme implemented a few years ago included the acquisition of six patrol boats, all of which have been commissioned, two corvettes which are being built in the United States, two mine-sweepers, three F-27 planes, five helicopters, two antisubmarine ships and other weapons.

Adm Thada complained that while the Navy's allocation had been trimmed, its responsibility in guarding Thailand's 2,775-km coastline had been broadened.

Pointing out at the strategic importance of the Gulf of Thailand and the vulnerability of the U-tapao naval base, the admiral said the Navy should play greater role in defending the airspace above the gulf.

"If I were the enemy, U-tapao would be my main target of air attack," said the admiral.

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CSO: 4200/171

THAILAND

COMMENTARY: NEGATIVE RESULTS POSSIBLE IN PRINCE PROMOTION

Bangkok KHAO PHISSET in Thai 8-12 Oct 86 p 5

[Unattributed report: "On Being Loyal, Between Military Position and Position as Heir to the Throne"]

[Text] When asked about the possible promotion of the Crown Prince, Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut, the RTA CINC, said that the "military life of the Crown Prince is like that of soldiers in general. He is not shown any special consideration." We feel that both the government and the army should review this viewpoint.

The time that the Crown Prince went to the United States to learn to fly jet aircraft, there was talk among senior officers about offering guidance and showing loyalty in an "appropriate" and correct manner in view of his position as the "heir to the throne." The Crown Prince is an important national symbol. The military and the state must do everything possible to preserve his status and, in particular, keep him safe.

Thus, a "military analysis" is not sufficient in considering whether to promote the Crown Prince. Consideration must also be given to "political science" and the importance of the heir to the throne.

Normally, the king is considered to be the "commander in chief." The heir to the throne is the one who will take his place in the future. Holding a military position has both its good and bad points. The person must carry out his duties in accord with the chain of command. It is very dangerous to put the Crown Prince in a position like that of an ordinary commander. It is dangerous to promote him based on "military considerations" only.

Actually, as mentioned above, the military position of the Crown Prince is that of "deputy commander-in-chief." He has the ability to carry out official duties that are appropriate to and in accord with his position as heir to the throne. He can even serve as chief privy councillor.

Basing things only on "military considerations" and not giving any "special consideration" to the Crown Prince may eventually lead to a clash with his high position as heir to the throne. Thus, the rank and position of the Crown Prince is something that must be considered very carefully by the government and army. They must consider the "importance of the monarchy." Otherwise, those who are loyal could come under criticism.

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CSO: 4207/31

JUSTICE MINISTRY RULES VIDEO COPIES LEGAL

BK230139 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 23 Nov 86 p 3

[Text] Thai businessmen who reproduce video movies and music tapes originating from abroad are not guilty of piracy under copyright laws, the Justice Ministry's technical division director said yesterday.

In a seminar on intellectual property rights organised by the Thai Industries Association, Charan Phakdithanakun said there are no legal provisions against reproducers of foreign video movies and music tapes.

Neither is there an "international law" on copyrights that obligates Thailand to provide protection for foreign copyright holders, he added.

"As regards foreign copyrights, bilateral or multilateral treaties between sovereign states apply," Mr Charan said.

Thailand is a signatory to the 1908 Berne Convention only, he said, and this convention does not govern video and music tapes.

"Thailand at the time had also reserved the right to be committed only to 1908 Berne Convention provisions," he added.

"So, legally speaking, such reproductions do not constitute a breach of copyright laws," he said.

The same legal interpretations could also apply to translations of foreign literary works in Thailand, Mr Charan said.

Asked about the legal effect of a local translation of foreign literature, he said it could be considered a "modified" work and thus protected under the 1978 Copyright Act.

"Such translation possess 'originality' that is protected under the copyright law," he said.

Participants at the seminar also expressed concern over industrialised countries' widespread protectionist stance, including that of the U.S. House of Representatives, which has been planning to enact a series of food security laws to protect its farm industry.

The U.S. Government, they said, has been pressuring Thais to recognise and protect U.S. intellectual property rights as a precondition for its favourable trade relations with Thailand.

However, the adverse effects of the Farm Act on Thailand are considered far more severe than those on the U.S. caused by Thai copyright piracies.

In a conciliatory gesture, they suggested conflicts of interest be resolved through negotiations. "These conflicts concern not only legal aspects but also mutual benefits for both countries.

"We should formulate a policy that suits our country's needs."

Chawalit Atthasat, speaking on local copyrights, said literature, works of art and other "expressions in tangible form" produced locally are automatically afforded protection.

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CSO: 4200/171

SUSPECTED COMMUNISTS ROB OVER 100 ON HIGHWAY

BK230607 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 23 Nov 86 p 1

[Text] Nakhon Nayok--More than 100 holiday makers were robbed of over one million baht in cash and valuables by heavily-armed men who closed off a section of the road leading to Khao Yai National Park for about three hours yesterday.

The daring daylight robbery by some 10 men armed with HK47 and M16 assault rifles and Chinese-made hand grenades took place at the spot between kilometres 27-28 of the Nakhon Nayok-Prachin Buri road in Tambon Hintang, Pakphli District.

The gunmen, who set up a roadblock around 9 a.m., held up 30 vehicles and robbed more than 100 people of over one million baht in cash and valuables before they fled the scene.

Nakhon Nayok Police Superintendent Police Colonel Prayong Rotsaengrat said the robbers were in fatigues like those worn by military-trained Rangers. He suspected them to be communist insurgents.

Col Prayong said the robbers used a huge log to block the road at a spot about 13 kilometres from the national park.

Among the victims were some 50 students from Mahidon University, soldiers, policemen, government officials and businessmen who were heading for a holiday at the national park.

Police said it was impossible for their victims to see what was going on until it was too late because the spot was both a slope and a sharp curve.

The robbers divided themselves into two groups. One group searched the victims and their vehicles, while another took the loot up the hill.

The robbed items included colour TV sets, cameras, video machines and stereo systems.

Col Prayong said helicopters and some 100 policemen and 150 forestry officials were mobilised to hunt down the robbers who were last seen heading in the direction of the provincial town.

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CSO: 4200/171

EX-ACTIVIST SURACHAI'S DEATH SENTENCE COMMUTED

BK010725 Bangkok BANGKOK WORLD in English 1 Dec 86 p 1

[Excerpt] His Majesty the King has commuted the death sentence on Surachai Sae Dan to life imprisonment, Corrections Department Chief Sanit Ruchinarong announced this morning.

The announcement was made at 11 a.m. at the Interior Ministry.

Mr Sanit said the Royal clemency is tantamount to giving Surachai a rebirth. All is because of His Majesty the King's mercy and kindness to his people--not because of appeals from any organisations, he noted.

He said His Majesty's words to grant clemency for Surachai reached the Corrections Department last month.

Surachai, 44, a convicted murderer on death row, submitted an appeal to His Majesty the King for clemency through Ban Khwang maximum security prison, where he has been detained, on March 27 this year.

The Bangkok Military Court on January 29 sentenced Surachai to death after finding him guilty of killing a police officer during a train robbery in Surat Thani in 1978.

Surachai was arrested on June 29, 1982 along with Mali Sakhon, 49, and Prawit Phaenkachon, 42, while they were on their way to negotiate a cease-fire between the Communist Party of Thailand (CPT) and the Government with the then Surat Thani governor Sanong Rotphothong.

They were then charged with sedition, Communism and being members of the outlawed Communist Party of Thailand. Surachai alone was also charged with murdering Pol Capt Sawai Phonchana during the train hold-up.

Surachai, Mali and Prawit were each given 10 years in prison under the Anti-Communist Act BE 2495. But the penalty was lifted on Surachai on the ground that he had already received the death sentence.

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CSO: 4200/171

BRIEFS

SRV ACTION DURING DRY SEASON--Vietnam has recently deployed about 6,000 additional soldiers along the Thai-Cambodian border near the eastern province of Trat in apparent preparation for a dry season offensive against Kampuchean resistance forces. Supreme Command Spokesman Lieutenant General Wichit Bunyawat said the Vietnamese deployment sparked off speculation that Vietnam and Heng Samrin forces might launch military operations against troops of the UN-recognized Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea during the upcoming dry season. Lieutenant General Wichit said in the past month, Vietnam also dispatched additional soldiers and ammunition to the border areas near Kap Choeng District of Surin Province and Ban Kruat District of Buriram Province in the northeast. During the period, he said, 2 Thai soldiers were killed and 16 injured in a series of landmine explosions while patrolling along frontier provinces of Ubon Ratchathani, Sisaket, and Buriram in the northeast. He said that the landmines were believed to have been planted by the Vietnamese. [Text] [Bangkok Domestic Service in English 0000 GMT 22 Nov 86 BK] /6662

COMMUNIST INSURGENTS KILL VILLAGERS--Nakhon Si Thammarat--Two villagers were killed and another seriously injured when an unknown number of communist insurgents lobbed a hand grenade and fired with machinegun at a hut in Phipun District last night, it was reported. A fourth villager was also reported missing after the attack. The report said the incident took place on Plai Khlong Katun mountain. The dead and injured villagers were later taken to Phipun Hospital by Rangers. Meanwhile two soldiers from the Fourth Army Region were reported wounded in two clashes with communist insurgents in Tha Sala and Sichon districts when the Fourth Army opened an operation against the insurgents last week. Two insurgent camps were also reported seized during the operations. [Text] [Bangkok BANGKOK WORLD in English 24 Nov 86 p 3 BK] /6662

COUNTRY STILL 100 PERCENT UNDEMOCRATIC--Experts said yesterday that Thailand is still 100 percent undemocratic because the military controls Thai politics. Speaking at the Royal Hotel yesterday were Dr Pricha Suwannathat, vice rector of Thammasat University; Dr Phokhin Phonlakun, a lawyer at Ramkhamhaeng University; Kraisak Chunhawan, a social scientist at Kasetsart University and son of Deputy Prime Minister Maj-Gen Chatichai Chunhawan; and Sane Chammark, former vice rector of Thammasat University. Dr Pricha said the military

was the chief obstacle to the proper development of democracy. As an example, he pointed to the recent dispute over the Army's secret fund. He said Parliament, which is supposed to represent the people, had the power to determine the national budget. But the Army had intervened in that process. He said that when Parliament tried to cut the secret fund by four million baht, the Army intervened and the fund was increased by 12 million baht. Mr Kraissak said Thailand was still not a democracy and that it is governed by "dictatorship disguised as a democracy". [Text] [Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 30 Nov 86 p 3 BK] /6662

'ATTACK SCARE' IN REFUGEE CAMP--Bangkok, Nov 28 (AFP)--Cambodian refugees in a camp along the Thai border with Cambodia have begun preparations to leave after reading alleged Vietnamese leaflets which warned of an imminent attack, a border source said Friday. The leaflets, printed in the Khmer language, were strewn along the border area this week and were brought by Cambodians into the Site Eight camp which houses families of pro-Chinese Khmer Rouge combatants, the source said. They warned of an attack on Saturday by Vietnamese troops on resistance positions along the Thai-Cambodian border and advised Cambodian citizens to look after their own safety and keep out of harm's way. Refugees in the camp, which is home to 30,000 Cambodians, were seen packing their belongings and preparing to evacuate the camp during the night, the source said. A military source at the border, however, said that army units were on full alert but that no evacuation plan had been considered. Thai Army Commander-in-Chief General Chawalit Yongchaiyut had said Wednesday that Vietnamese troops were removing barbed wire and mines along the Thai-Cambodian border in an apparent preparation for an offensive. Twelve Cambodians were killed and 45 wounded on May 29, when shells fell on Site Eight camp during a cross border bombardment. [Text] [Hong Kong AFP in English 1518 GMT 28 Nov 86 BK] /6662

DISCUSSION ON CROWN PRINCE PROMOTION--There are reports that the crown prince will be appointed deputy commander of the 1st King's Guard Division. (The article in the last issue referred to him by his military name, Special Col Wachiralongkon Mahidon, which is the name that he uses in the course of his regular military duties.) His name is on the list of those being considered for deputy divisional command positions, the senior level for those with the rank of special colonel before being promoted to general. Reports state that he is in "line" for promotion and that he will be made the first deputy commander after Special Col Banthit Malai-arison is transferred to another division at the same level. During this reshuffle, there are vacant positions in several important divisions. For example, there are deputy command positions open in the 6th Infantry Division, the 2d Infantry Division, the 1st Special Forces Division, and the 2d Special Forces Division. In addition, the crown prince will definitely retain his position as commander of the King's Guard Mahatlek Regiment. That is his regular position in protecting the king and queen. His name is listed in the "Class Book" of Preparatory Class 7. That is equivalent to CRMA [Chulachomklao Royal Military Academy] Class 18. [Text] [Bangkok LAK THAI in Thai 16 Oct 86 p 9] 11943

CSO: 4207/31

CHEA SIM RECEIVES VISITING ICO DELEGATION

BK260600 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0355 GMT 26 Nov 86

[Text] Phnom Penh, 26 Nov (SPK)--Chea Sim, member of the KPRP Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the National Assembly and of the KUFNCD National Council, received in Phnom Penh on Monday a delegation of the World Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] headed by Eisabin Nasser [spelling as received], member of the organization's Executive Council which came to visit Cambodia on 20 November.

Chairman Chea Sim sincerely thanked the delegation for its visit to the PRK, which, he said, reflects the sympathy of the Arab peoples toward the Cambodian people.

After recalling the achievements recorded by the Cambodian people during the past 8 years under the leadership of the KPRP and talking about the strategic alliance among the three Indochinese peoples, an alliance tempered in the struggle against the common enemies, Chea Sim informed his guests about the crimes committed by the genocidal Pol Pot clique against the Cambodian people, including Muslims.

Chea Sim stressed the goodwill of the three Indochinese countries to settle all problems through negotiations in order to defuse tension in Southeast Asia as well as in the Asia-Pacific region. He expressed his wish for the development of relations between the Cambodian people and Arab peoples.

For his part, Eisabin Nasser affirmed that after returning home he will do his best to contribute to making the Arab peoples, particularly the government of the United Arab (?Emirates), understand the realities in Cambodia. He expressed firm belief that in the future relations between the Arab and Cambodian peoples will be restored and developed on the basis of mutual interests.

He wished the Cambodian party, government, and people more and greater successes in national defense and reconstruction.

The delegation left Phnom Penh on Tuesday morning, ending its 5-day visit to Cambodia.

During its visit, the delegation also met with Yos Son, member of the Central Committee and vice chairman of its Foreign Relations Commission; Chan Ven and Superior Bonze Tep Vong, both vice chairmen of the KUFNCD National Council and secretary general of the Council of State and vice chairman of the National Assembly respectively; and Ros Chhun, secretary general of the Front's National Council. It visited the Tuol Sleng Museum of genocide, the mass graves at Cheung Ek, the former Royal Palace, and the National Museum.

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CSO: 4212/9

CHEA SOTH RECEIVES CSSR TRADE DELEGATION

BK251333 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1105 GMT 25 Nov 86

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK November 25--Chea Soth, Politburo member of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea Central Committee, vice premier and minister of planning, received in Phnom Penh Monday a foreign trade delegation of Czechoslovakia led by Deputy Minister Jan Strakar.

Vice Premier Chea Soth informed his guests of Kampuchea's economic development, particularly trade, and highly valued the visit as a contribution to consolidating and developing the friendship, solidarity and cooperation between the two countries and two peoples.

He expressed confidence that the trade cooperation between Kampuchea and Czechoslovakia would further develop and flourish.

For his part, Jan Strakar pledged to do his utmost to implement the two cooperation agreements signed in Phnom Penh between Kampuchea and Czechoslovakia on March 19, 1986.

"Czechoslovakia will help Kampuchea develop her industries and agriculture," he added.

The delegation left here this morning after a six-day friendship visit to Kampuchea, and was seen off at Pochentong Airport by Top Sam, Kampuchea deputy minister of home and foreign trade and other Kampuchean officials.

While in Kampuchea, the delegation held talks with Mrs Ho Non and Mr Top Sam, respectively minister and deputy minister of home and foreign trade, exchanging views and experiences on trade exchanges between Kampuchea and Czechoslovakia.

It also visited the former royal palace, the national museum, in Phnom Penh, the car-tyre factory and the plywood factory in Kandal Province, and the Angkor Vat temple in Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province, and other places of interest.

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CSO: 4200/171

MEN SAM-AN RECEIVES BULGARIAN AMBASSADOR

OW290417 Phnom Penh SPK in French 1200 GMT 27 Nov 86

[Text] Men Sam-an, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Organization Commission of the KPRP Central Committee, received Bulgarian Ambassador to Cambodia (Leon Yossifov Herha) in Phnom Penh on 19 November 1986.

Men Sam-an briefed her guest on the barbarous crimes committed by the Pol Pot genocidal clique, lackey of the Chinese expansionists, against the Cambodian people. She said that, despite the enemies' dark schemes of destabilizing the PRK [People's Republic of Kampuchea] and undermining the Cambodian people's revival, the Cambodian revolution has constantly developed and the situation in Cambodia is irreversible. She expressed her satisfaction with the fine development of the multifaceted cooperation and fraternal friendship between Cambodia and Bulgaria, and especially between the two parties of both countries. On behalf of the party, government, and people of Cambodia, Men Sam-an conveyed sincere thanks to the party, government, and people of Bulgaria for their valuable assistance to and moral support for the Cambodian revolution.

In his reply, the Bulgarian ambassador, after highly valuing the achievements recorded by the Cambodian people in all domains over the past 8 years, praised relations between Bulgaria and Cambodia. He pledged to do his utmost to promote fraternal cooperation between the two countries and he made known that the party and government of Bulgaria would always side with the Cambodian people in their undertaking of national defense and construction.

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CSO: 4212/9

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KAMPUCHEA

LEADERS GREET ALBANIANS ON INDEPENDENCE, NATIONAL DAYS

BK281316 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1114 GMT 28 Nov 86

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK November 28--Kampuchean leaders have sent warm greetings to their Albanian counterparts on the 74th independence day and the 42nd national day of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania [PSRA].

Heng Samrin, general secretary of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchean Central Committee, president of the State Council; and Hun Sen, premier, said in a joint message to Ramiz Alia, first secretary of the Party of Labour of Albania (PLA) Central Committee, president of Presidium of the People's Assembly; and Adil Carcani, chairman of the Council of Ministers;

"The People's Republic of Kampuchea hailed the achievements recorded by the Albanian people in implementing the resolutions of the Eight Congress of the PLA and wished them new greater success in the implementation of the resolutions set forth by the ninth congress".

"We have a firm conviction that our efforts in strengthening and developing the relations between our two peoples and two countries will actively contribute to social progress and safeguarding world peace".

Another message [word indistinct] by the National Assembly Chairman Chea Sim and addressed to Pali Miska, chairman of the People's Assembly of the PSRA, said:

"We highly appreciated the exemplary heroism displayed by the Albanian people who, under the leadership of the PLA, obtained great success in national construction".

On the same occasion, Hun Sen, as Kampuchean foreign minister, sent best greetings to his Albanian counterpart, Reis Malile.

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CSO: 4200/171

BRIEFS

CSSR TRADE DELEGATION--Phnom Penh SPK November 20--A foreign trade delegation of Czechoslovakia led by Deputy Minister Jan Stracar arrived in Phnom Penh this morning for an official friendship [visit] to Kampuchea. The delegation was warmly greeted at Pochentong Airport by Top Sam, Kampuchean deputy minister of home and foreign trade, and other Kampuchean officials. Jiri Vesely, Czechoslovak ambassador to Kampuchea, was also present. [Excerpt] [Phnom Penh SPK in English 1059 GMT 20 Nov 86 BK] /6662

MISLED PERSONS RETURN--Phnom Penh SPK November 20--In three weeks ending on mid-November, 160 people intoxicated by the enemy propaganda reported themselves to the revolutionary authorities throughout Kampuchea, bringing along 45 firearms and a quantity of ammunition. This brought the total number of returnees in the first ten months of this year to 3,937 and the total weapons to 2,137. The biggest return was in October in Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province with 148 ralliers and 110 guns. [Excerpt] [Phnom Penh SPK in English 1197 GMT 20 Nov 86 BK] /6662

THAI INTRUSIONS REPORTED--Phnom Penh SPK November 25--In the week ending November 22, Thai aircraft on 12 occasions intruded into Kampuchean airspace, spying over the areas of Daan Sar (Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey), Poipet, Phnum Malai, Pailin (Battambang) and Koh Kong. On sea, Thai armed vessels, on 45 times, illegally operated in Kampuchean waters. While on land, Thai artillery [as received] shelled 1,030 rounds on 47 places in the provinces of Koh Kong, Pursat and Battambang causing heavy losses in lives and property to the local population. [Text] [Phnom Penh SPK in English 1112 GMT 25 Nov 86 BK] /6662

VINACONTROL DELEGATION LEAVES--Phnom Penh SPK November 26--A delegation of the Vinacontrol (Vietnam Superintendence and Inspection Company) left here Tuesday after a six-day working visit to Kampuchea. The delegation, led by Nguyen Dan Uyen, general director of the Vinacontrol, was seen off at Pochentong Airport by Chheng Saroeun, deputy director of the Kamcontrol (Kampuchea Superintendence and Inspection Company) and other Kamcontrol officials. While in Kampuchea, the delegation had a meeting with Ho Non, member of the KPRP CC and minister of home and foreign trade, during which the Vietnamese head delegate pledged to do everything possible in the framework of the cooperation between the two parties and governments to bring about

new, greater successes for the Vinacontrol-Kamcontrol cooperation. The delegation and its Kampuchean counterpart reviewed the cooperation work in 1986 and discussed how something should be done in 1987. The delegation also visited Tuol Sleng Museum of Genocide, the ex-Royal Palace in Phnom Penh and Angkor Wat temples in Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province. [Text] [Phnom Penh SPK in English 1122 GMT 26 Nov 86 BK] /6662

YOUTH DELEGATION TO HUNGARY--Phnom Penh SPK November 25--A delegation of the People's Revolutionary Youth Union of Kampuchea [KPRYU] left here Wednesday for Budapest, Hungary, to attend the 12th Congress of the World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY) opened there from Nov 23-29 with the participation of youth delegations from more than 120 countries and a series of international and regional organizations. The Kampuchean delegation is led by Sbaong Sam An, deputy secretary of the KPRYU. The KPRYU has been a member of the WFDY since February 1980. [Text] [Phnom Penh SPK in English 1110 GMT 25 Nov 86 BK] /6662

PDRY REELECTION CONGRATULATIONS--Phnom Penh SPK December 1--Heng Samrin, general secretary of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea Central Committee and president of the State Council of the People's Republic of Kampuchea; and Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers, have extended their warmest greetings to Yemeni counterparts, Haydar Abu Bakr Al-Attas and Yasin Sa'id Nu'man on the occasion of their re-election and reappointment respectively as president of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen and prime minister of the PDRY. In their messages, the Kampuchean leaders wished the Yemeni leaders the best of health and successes in their highly responsible tasks. They also wished the relations of friendship and solidarity between the two countries further consolidation and development. Hun Sen, as foreign minister of the PRK, has also sent a message of greetings to Abd al-'Aziz ad-Dali on his re-appointment as foreign minister of the PDRY. [Text] [Phnom Penh SPK in English 1107 GMT 1 Dec 86 BK] /6662

CHEA SIM RECEIVES BIRTHDAY GREETINGS--Phnom Penh November 28--Kampuchean National Assembly Chairman Chea Sim, has received best greetings from his Vietnamese counterpart, Nguyen Huu Tho, on his 54th birthday. In his message, the Vietnamese leader wished Chairman Chea Sim the best of health and new greater success, and the friendship, solidarity and cooperation between the peoples of Vietnam and Kampuchea further development. [Text] [Phnom Penh SPK in English 1110 GMT 28 Nov 86 BK] /6662

BULGARIA, CAMBODIA COOPERATION ACCORD--Phnom Penh SPK November 27--A protocol on promotion of cooperation between Kampuchea and Bulgaria in rubber and agricultural production as well as forest exploitation was signed in Sofia Tuesday after the regular meeting of the Bulgaria-Kampuchea Intergovernmental Commission for Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation. Signatories were the co-presidents of the commission, Aleksí Ivanov, Bulgarian minister of agriculture and forestry, and Kong Samol, Kampuchean cabinet minister in charge of agriculture and rubber production. Under the documents, Bulgaria will supply technical assistance for Kampuchea to develop these economic branches and will help train Kampuchean cadres. [Text] [Phnom Penh SPK in English 1134 GMT 27 Nov 86 OW] /6662

SOLIDARITY DELEGATION VISITS USSR--Phnom Penh SPK November 27--A delegation of the Kampuchean Committee for Afro-Asian People's Solidarity led by its vice-president Phit Phanou, member of the National Council of the United Front for Construction and Defence of the Kampuchean Fatherland, concluded its 12-day friendship visit to the Soviet Union on November 25. The visit was made at the invitation of the Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee (SAASC) and the Soviet Committee for Support to Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea (SCSVLK), reports TASS. While in Moscow, the Kampuchean guests had working sessions with officials of the SAASC, the Soviet Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Institute of Far-East Affairs under the Soviet Academy of Sciences, and visited Leningrad and Georgia. They stressed that the People's Republic of Kampuchea, together with Vietnam and Laos, had stood for the strengthening of peace and security in the Asian Pacific region and supported the Soviet peace initiatives, and expressed profound thanks to the party, the government and the people of the Soviet Union for their disinterested aid to the construction of a new Kampuchea. [Text] [Phnom Penh SPK in English 1132 GMT 27 Nov 86 OW] /6662

UNION DELEGATION FOR POLAND--Phnom Penh, 20 Nov (SPK)--A delegation of the KFTU [Kampuchean Federation of Trade Unions] led by its vice chairman Heng Teav left on Thursday for Warsaw to attend the first congress of the Polish Trade Unions Central Council. It was seen off by Say Siphon, alternate member of the KPRP Central Committee and vice chairman of the KFTU, and others. [Text] [Phnom Penh SPK in French 0403 GMT 21 Nov 86] /9604

CSO: 4212/9

NHAN DAN SUPPORTS USSR STATEMENT ON NICARAGUA

OW250937 Hanoi VNA in English 0704 GMT 25 Nov 86

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov 25--NHAN DAN in an editorial today voices full support for the Soviet Union's November 16 statement rejecting the U.S. allegation that it has increased its military presence in Nicaragua.

The paper says:

"The U.S. increasing military aid to the Contras, its plan to send its military personnel to directly take part in their activities as well as the smear campaign masterminded by responsible officials in the U.S. Administration against the Soviet Union are actually aimed at clearing the deck for a direct military intervention. The fact remains that the U.S. itself is intensifying its hostile policy toward Nicaragua in an attempt to overthrow the legal government there. Nobody else but the United States has over the past seven years threatened Nicaragua and peace in the Caribbean".

The paper says that the Soviet Government's statement demonstrates its high sense of socialist internationalism toward the Nicaraguan revolution as well as its just stance and firm attitude to the U.S. schemes and moves against Nicaragua.

"This statement," the paper says, "is alerting in time the world public in defence of the Nicaraguan revolution. The Vietnamese people fully support the Soviet Union's stance. Recent developments in Nicaragua have fully exposed the U.S. ruling circles' hypocrisy about 'human rights' and the 'right to self-determination of nations.'"

"In these grave hours of the Nicaraguan people, the Vietnamese people reaffirm close solidarity with them and pledge to continue to do their best to support and assist the Nicaraguan revolution. The struggle for freedom and independence of the Nicaraguan people will certainly triumph against all U.S. slanderous and aggressive acts," the paper says in conclusion.

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CSO: 4200/170

NHAN DAN HAILS SUCCESS OF GORBACHEV'S INDIA VISIT

BK290515 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 28 Nov 86

[NHAN DAN 29 November Editorial: "A Historic Event"]

[Text] The official friendly visit by Comrade Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee to the Republic of India from 25 to 28 November 1986, has concluded very successfully. President Zail Singh, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, and other high-ranking leaders of the Indian Government, as well as the Indian people welcomed the Soviet top leader very solemnly and warmly.

During their talks in an atmosphere of profound mutual understanding and respect for each other's viewpoints and stands, Comrade Gorbachev and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi discussed the issues of war and peace, security in Asia and the Pacific, all the problems of Indo-Soviet relations, and the potential to continually develop these relations with due consideration for both countries' present demands.

The documents announced at the end of this visit--the joint communique, the New Delhi statement on the principles of a nuclear-free and non-violent world, and the bilateral agreements on economic, consular, and cultural affairs--symbolize the glorious success of Comrade Gorbachev's first visit to Asia as CPSU general secretary and assert Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's assessment stressing that General Secretary Gorbachev's visit to India would become a new and considerable milestone on the path of consolidating Indo-Soviet friendship relations. It will help consolidate political, economic, and cultural cooperation between the Soviet Union and India and achieve the common goal of peace.

Progressive mankind has followed with deep interest this historic international event and is very enthused by the relations of close friendship and comprehensive cooperation between the Soviet Union and India which have further developed on a new scale and with a new quality. For a long time, especially over the past 15 years, since the two countries signed the treaty of peace, friendship, and cooperation between the Soviet Union--the most powerful socialist country--and India--the greatest nationalist [daan tuccj chur nghiax] country playing the very important role in the Nonaligned Movement--the exemplary relations of peaceful coexistence among countries of different socioeconomic systems have taken shape and developed and are based on the principles of equality, scrupulous respect for each other's sovereignty, and non-interference in each other's internal affairs.

The world's people are emotionally listening to the voices of the Soviet and Indian leaders representing the two great nations. These are the voices of 1 billion people eagerly echoing from New Delhi and dealing with the hot issues that concern not only Asia and the Pacific but also the whole world. They put forth very great and significant initiatives related to the current and most important duty of mankind which is to consolidate peace and eliminate the danger of a nuclear disaster. Both sides called for the use of military resources for socioeconomic development objectives; condemned all acts of terrorism, including state terrorism; clearly pointed out the necessity of renovating political thinking in the nuclear era in order to advance toward establishing a comprehensive system of international security; stressed the urgency of seeking a political solution to the regional conflicts in the Middle East, Southwest Asia, and Central America, and of turning the Indian Ocean into a zone of peace; strongly condemned apartheid; expounded the role of the Nonaligned Movement in the struggle to protect peace, demand disarmament and peaceful coexistence, and so forth.

These initiatives were pointed out by the two countries in the New Delhi statement on the principles of a nuclear-free and non-violent world. All men of conscience can see clearly in this document an accurate analysis of the current world situation, awareness of the earnest aspirations of nations, and the noble sense of responsibility of the Soviet Union and India for the fate of mankind. The 10 principles in the New Delhi statement concerning building a nuclear-free and non-violent world constitute the most correct philosophy of life for man in the present as well as the future. They must become a reality quickly.

Peaceful coexistence must become a universal standard for all international relations. Human life is of the highest value. Non-use of force must serve as the basis for the life of the human community. Mutual understanding and trust must replace fear and suspicion. The political and economic independence of each country must be recognized and respected. All resources must be used only for socioeconomic development. Man must have conditions for harmonious development. The potential of materials and human intelligence should help resolve global problems. A comprehensive system of international security must be based upon a mutual fear of the consequences.

Building such a world urgently demands the implementation of disarmament, which means a move toward reaching agreements on totally eliminating nuclear weapons before the end of this century, prohibiting the militarization of outer space, banning nuclear tests and the production of new destructive weapons and chemical weapons, eliminating chemical weapons depots, and reducing the number of ordinary weapons and armed forces.

So long as nuclear weapons have not been eliminated, the Soviet Union and India propose that an international convention be signed immediately to prohibit the use or the threat of using nuclear weapons.

Also during this visit and in his address to the Indian Parliament, Comrade Gorbachev put forth new peace initiatives on the stability and security of Asia and the Pacific. He said that he is ready to hold talks with the United States and other countries whose warships regularly operate in the Indian Ocean

about considerably reducing the number of naval operations there. He said he is ready to hold talks with the United States and Asian countries involved with the various measures to create confidence in the military field as far as they concern Asia and the Indian Ocean and Pacific regions. He said he is also ready to hold multilateral talks about ensuring security for sea communications and safety for flights over the Indian Ocean, as well as ensuring the sovereignty of coastal countries over their natural resources and opposing terrorism along the lines of sea and air communications.

The Soviet-Indian initiative in the New Delhi statement and the new Soviet initiatives in Comrade Gorbachev's address to the Indian Parliament are very great and important contributions of the two great countries to the cause of world peace, which respond to the most earnest aspirations of nations including Asian and the Pacific nations. Together with the previously announced initiatives of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries, the new initiatives made public in New Delhi demonstrate a new political thinking and new ethics which are penetrating the minds and hearts of large numbers of people and are becoming the renovating force for our world.

The New Delhi statement helps further enlighten mankind's will to advance, the objectives to be established, and the measures to attain them. As an Asian nation that shares the same concern about the troubled situation in this region and, at the same time, as the loyal friend of the Soviet and Indian peoples, the Vietnamese people warmly welcome and fully support the New Delhi statement and Comrade Gorbachev's new proposals that flexibly and creatively develop the important proposals he put forth at Vladivostok on 28 July 1986 to implement the Marxist-Leninist foreign policy set by the 27th CPSU Congress. We consider them very great contributions to the struggle for peace, stability, and security in Asia, the Pacific, and the world, and a very important factor in helping to promote every nation's positions and aspirations towards peace and cooperation.

This struggle remains difficult and complex because of the obstacles caused by the warlike imperialist forces and international reactionaries. However, as the New Delhi statement has clearly pointed out, we believe in the strength of the worldwide peace alliance, which is stepping up resolute acts to achieve the objectives of the era.

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CSO: 4209/149

CUBAN EMBASSY HOLDS PRESS MEET FILM SHOW

OW291747 Hanoi VNA in English 1459 GMT 29 Nov 86

[Text] Hanoi VNA 29 November--Lieutenant Colonel Cecilio Diaz Medina, military attache of the Cuban Embassy in Vietnam, held a press conference here this morning on the 30th anniversary of the landing of the Granma ship and the founding of the Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces (2 December).

Addressing the conference, the Cuban military attache recalled the important significance of the landing on [the] Cuban shore 30 years ago of the Granma with 82 revolutionary fighters and weapons on board under the leadership of Fidel Castro, which, he said, marked the beginning of the last stage of the fight for the liberation of the country.

After reviewing brilliant achievements recorded by the Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces and people in national construction and defence, he affirmed the entire Cuban people's determination, their staunch mettle and high vigilance in the struggle to defend national independence and foil all adventurous plans of U.S. imperialism.

He expressed gratitude to the Vietnamese party, government, army and people for their unswerving and warm support for the Cuban people's revolutionary cause.

On this occasion Cuban Ambassador Armando Saucedo Yero gave a film show here 27 November. Among the Vietnamese guests was Do Van Tai, deputy head of the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam.

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CSO: 4200/173

SOLIDARITY, FRIENDSHIP COMMITTEE DISCUSSES LAO PARTY CONGRESS

OW252000 Hanoi VNA in English 1459 GMT 25 Nov 86

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov 25--A talk on the success of the fourth congress of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party was jointly sponsored here this morning by the Vietnam Committee for Solidarity and Friendship With Other Peoples and the Vietnam-Laos Friendship Association.

Among those present were Trich Ngoc Thai, deputy head of the international department of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee and secretary general of the Committee for Solidarity and Friendship With Other Peoples; representatives of the Foreign Ministry, central and local offices and mass organizations.

Lao Ambassador Khampheun Tounalom, other members of his staff, and Lao students in Hanoi were also present.

Speaking of the success of the recent LPRP Congress Pham Dinh Vinh, deputy head of the international department of the CPV CC, vice president of the Vietnam-Laos Friendship Association, and member of the Vietnamese party delegation to the Fourth LPRP Congress, said:

"The congress was an important milestone in the revolutionary path of the LPRP and ushered in a new stage for the Lao revolution. Its resolutions are the light shining the way for and a strong encouragement to the entire Lao people of different ethnic groups to obtain new and ever greater achievements in building a peaceful, independent, unified, and socialist Laos".

Ambassador Khampheun Tounalom expressed gratitude for the fine words and high appreciation of the Vietnamese Communist Party and people toward the Lao congress. He said that the devoted support and assistance of the Vietnam Party, Government and people have enabled the Lao people to obtain great success in their revolutionary cause.

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CSO: 4200/170

FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT CONDEMNS SOUTH AFRICA

OW281739 Hanoi VNA in English 1558 GMT 28 Nov 86

[Text] Hanoi VNA 28 November--Vietnam today severely condemns the South African authorities' slanderous campaign against Zimbabwe and Mozambique, as well as their armed provocation against these two countries.

In a statement released here today a spokesman for the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry says that together with their allegation of a Mozambique and Zimbabwe plan to overthrow the Malawian Government, the South African authorities are concentrating its troops along the border of Mozambique and Zimbabwe in preparation for a new military adventure against these countries.

The statement notes:

"This brazen slanderous campaign is a shop-worn trick often used by the South African authorities to carry out their policy of intervention and aggression in southern Africa. In last May and June, under the pretext of pursuing the ANC and SWAPO forces, the Pretoria administration launched barbarous attacks on Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana and Angola, lending a hand to the reactionaries to sabotage, from inside, the security and stability in these countries. Now under the pretext of defending Malawi, Pretoria again is threatening the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Zimbabwe and Mozambique. "Obviously it is a treacherous move of the South African racists who are trying to mislead the public in Africa and the world from the cause of the recent crash of the plane carrying Mozambican President Samora Machel." The statement continued: "The Vietnamese people and government once again reaffirm their militant solidarity with and strong support for the just struggle of the peoples of Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Angola and other southern African countries aimed at defending their independence and sovereignty and completely getting rid of brutal apartheid."

The statement demands that the pretoria authorities stop at once their threat of aggression and support to their reactionary henchmen in their sabotage against the independence and sovereignty of the countries in the region.

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CSO: 4200/173

SOUTH AFRICA'S CAMPAIGN AGAINST NEIGHBORS DECRIED

OW010821 Hanoi VNA in English 0724 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] Hanoi VNA 1 December--NHAN DAN today comes out strongly against the South African administration's current slanderous campaign against Angola, Zimbabwe and Mozambique.

"This campaign," the paper says, "is aimed at nothing but misleading the world public about the recent air crash in South Africa that caused President Machel's death, and about the rising waves of struggle of the South African people against apartheid, as well as at dividing the southern African countries."

The paper goes on:

"It is also aimed at justifying the new war acts of the Botha administration being plotted against these countries."

"As has been shown in the past, this is a familiar practice of the South African administration before it undertakes new acts of provocation and aggression," the paper notes, adding that South Africa, prompted by U.S.-led reactionary governments in the West, has for decades now waged undeclared wars against the peoples in the region.

"Together with the people in Africa and across the world, Vietnam reaffirms its solidarity with and full support for the just struggle of the fraternal Mozambican, Zimbabwe and Angolan peoples for their independence, Sovereignty and territorial integrity," the paper says.

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LEADERS SEND GREETINGS ON ALBANIAN NATIONAL DAY

OW281713 Hanoi VNA in English 1540 GMT 28 Nov 86

[Text] Hanoi VNA 28 November--Vietnamese party and state leaders have sent greetings to their Albanian counterparts on the 42nd National Day [of] Albania (29 November).

The message, jointly signed by Truong China, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee and president of the Council of State, and Pham Van Dong, chairman of the Council of Ministers, and addressed to Ramiz Alia, first secretary of the Albanian Party of Labour Central Committee and president of the Presidium of the People's Assembly; and Adil Carcani, chairman of the Council of Ministers, says:

"Over the past 42 years, advancing towards the path of socialism, the Albanian people have obtained great success in building a new life, strengthening the material and scientific-technical foundation for the socialist economy and further improving the people's life.

"Promoting their success, the Albanian people are striving to implement the tasks of economic and cultural development in the 1986-90 period laid down by the Albanian Party of Labour (APL) with a view to carrying out the long-term strategy for building a socialist society in the beautiful Albania."

The message continues:

"The Vietnamese people greatly rejoice over and value highly the fraternal Albanian people's achievements, and sincerely wish them, under the leadership of the APL, headed by Comrade Ramiz Alia, still greater success, continuing to bring Albania to new peaks, thus contributing to strengthening the force of socialism and defending peace in the Balkan peninsula, Europe and the rest of the world.

"The Vietnamese communists and people note with satisfaction that the fine tradition of friendship, militant solidarity and fraternal cooperation between the two parties and two countries for the past more than 40 years has been promoted a step further in recent years.

"We deeply believe that with our two countries' joint efforts those relations will constantly be consolidated and developed in all fields."

The message expresses sincere thanks to the party, government and people of Albania for their precious support and assistance to the Vietnamese people's national liberation struggle in the past as well as their national construction and defence at present.

On this occasion, Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach has extended greetings to his Albanian counterpart, Reis Malile.

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REPRESENTATIVE SUPPORTS LIBYA AT UN DEBATE

OW211518 Hanoi VNA in English 1453 GMT 21 Nov 86

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 21--"The Government and people of Vietnam reiterate their full support for and militant solidarity with the Libyan and other Arab peoples in their struggle against the U.S.-Israeli acts of intervention and aggression, for the defence of their independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity".

This came in a speech by Bui Xuan Nhat, acting head of the Vietnam Permanent Mission to the United Nations, at a UN Nov. 19 debate on "U.S. attack against Libya in April 1986".

The Vietnamese official stressed: "By committing the invasion of Grenada, the undeclared war against Nicaragua then the aggression against Libya, the U.S. authorities want to demonstrate that the Vietnam syndrome is no longer holding them from wars on foreign soils. The United States, while trying to avoid a second Vietnam, among prepared to commit armed intervention wherever and whenever possible. [sentence as received] This dangerous tendency must be ceased if other small states are not to full them. [sentence as received] We appeal to the world people including the [word indistinct] not to permit it".

He continued: "We strongly condemn the U.S. unprovoked attack and demand that all acts of aggression and provocation against Libya be halted immediately and unconditionally, and full and appropriate compensation be provided to the socialist people's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya". "We support all efforts aimed at turning the Mediterranean into a zone of peace, security and cooperation. In this regard, we welcome the Soviet Union's proposal on the simultaneous and mutual withdrawal of the Soviet direction," Bui Xuan Nhat said in conclusion.

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CSO: 4200/170

BUI XUAN NHAT ADDRESSES UN SESSION 24 NOV

OW260743 Hanoi VNA in English 0719 GMT 26 Nov 86

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov 26--Vietnam is for the setting up of a comprehensive international peace and security system, said the acting head of Vietnam's permanent mission to the UN, Ambassador Bui Xuan Nhat, in a Nov. 24, UN debate.

Ambassador Nhat pointed out:

"Realities over the past 40 years in Asia, Africa and Latin America have shown that it is the policies of imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, apartheid, racism and Zionism at variance with all peoples' right to decide their own future, that have brought about repeated local wars and instability in various corners of the world for the past years. Under whatever signboard that policy may be carried out, it goes entirely against the principles of maintaining international peace and security as stated in the Charter of United Nations: The sovereign equality of all countries, peaceful settlement of international disputes and non-use of threat of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state.

"In this context, we see the establishment of a comprehensive system of international peace and security as a process to strengthen the UN collective security system and to facilitate the maintenance or initiation of proper courses to implement, in a concrete and concerted way, the purposes and principles of the UN Charter so that hot-beds of tension can be eliminated and conflicts and disputes between states can be settled through peaceful means".

He continued: "For the past 40 years, Southeast Asia has been the only place in the world never to have enjoyed peace. The Vietnamese people have been subjected to repeated wars waged by foreign aggressors and we have carried out an unyielding struggle not only for our independence but also for international peace and security.

"We are of the view that solution to the existing differences can be found in dialogue and negotiations between all countries concerned on the basis of equality with neither side imposing its will on the others. In this connection, Vietnam welcomes the activities to this end undertaken by Indonesia,

acting as representative of the ASEAN countries. Vietnam together with the other Indochinese countries, has tabled a good number of proposals and is ready to exert its best efforts to promote the trend for dialogue and cooperation in solving in an equitable manner questions of Southeast Asia".

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CSO: 4200/170

PHAM VAN DONG MESSAGE TO UN SUPPORTS PALESTINIANS

OW281742 Hanoi VNA in English 1552 GMT 28 Nov 86

[Text] Hanoi VNA 28 November--Chairman of the Council of Ministers Phan Van Dong today sent a message to Javier Perez de Cuellar, UN secretary general, and Massamba Sarre, president of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, expressing the Vietnamese people's strong support to the Palestinian people.

The message occasioned by the International Day for Solidarity with the Palestinian People (29 November) says: "Over the past decades, the Palestinian and other Arab people have overcome numerous sacrifices and persistently struggled against the intervention and aggression of the U.S. imperialists and Israeli expansionists and for their fundamental national rights. They are now courageously fighting against the U.S. and Israeli scheme of causing tension and division, and pressing the Arab countries to accept a separate solution. The whole progressive mankind have expressed their support for the struggle of the Palestinian and other Arab people, and strongly condemned the aggressive and expansionist policy of imperialism, Zionism in that region,"

"The Vietnamese people and government," the message stresses "reaffirm their consistent, resolute support for the Arab countries' struggle for the defence of their sovereignty and national independence, especially the just cause of the Palestinian people [word indistinct] imperialism, Zionism, for their sacred inalienable national rights, including the right to self-determination, repatriation, and the right to set up an independent, sovereign Palestinian state."

"We are convinced that the people and the resistance force of Palestine, united under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization, their only legitimate representative, and with the support of other Arab nations, the socialist countries, the Nonaligned member countries and the justice- and peace-loving people in the world, will certainly bring their revolutionary cause to glorious success," the message concludes.

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CSO: 4200/173

UN ENVOY SUPPORTS PEACEFUL USES OF SPACE

OW281709 Hanoi VNA in English 1527 GMT 28 Nov 86

[Text] Hanoi VNA 28 November--Vietnam fully supports international cooperation in peaceful use of outer space, said Bui Xuan Nhat, acting head of Vietnam's permanent mission to the United Nations in its 26 November debate.

Ambassador Bui Xuan Nhat reiterated that "Vietnam is for the measures and steps leading to a strict ban on the development, testing or deployment of space-strike weapons, the conclusion of an international agreement to guarantee the immunity of artificial earth satellites, a ban on the development, testing and deployment of new anti-satellite systems and elimination of those already in existence. As stressed in the final political declaration adopted at the meeting of the heads of states or governments of the Nonaligned Movement in Harare, Zimbabwe, last September, equally important is the ensuring that the existing treaties safeguarding the peaceful use of outer space, as well as the 1972 treaty on the limitation of anti-ballistic missile systems are fully honoured."

The Vietnamese ambassador praised as great practical importance the initiative put forth by the Soviet Union in June this year concerning a three-stage program to conquer outer space for peaceful purposes. If realized, he said, this initiative, consisting in the establishment of the world space organization, will open the prospect of near-earth space being used with joint efforts for the benefits of all nations.

He continued: "though still on a limited scale due to financial and technological constraints, Vietnam has made tremendous efforts to utilize a variety of practical applications of space science and technology in its socio-economic development, especially in the fields of meteorology, geology, hydrology, forestry, agriculture, cartography and environment.

"With many difficulties of a developing country Vietnam can hardly benefit from the applications of space science and technology without the effective cooperation with friendly countries in the intersputnik and intercosmos as well as with the relevant agencies of the United Nations. We are cooperating with some Southeast Asian countries and Cuba in tropical disaster forecasting. With the assistance of the Soviet Union, we have built some ground-satellite stations for telecommunications and television broadcasting, and are now expanding this network. The Soviet Union, Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia are now cooperating with Vietnam in a joint research into equatorial magnetic field, project VIE-76011

sponsored by the UN Development Program and the Food and Agriculture Organization and it be accomplished by 1987 will increase our capability to use data obtained from remote sensing." [sentence as received]

"Vietnam is grateful for the cooperation and assistance extended to it by many countries and [the] United Nations and its specialized agencies. We hope to enjoy further cooperation with the international community in the peaceful use of outer space," Ambassador Bui Xuan Nhan concluded.

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BRIEFS

NEW THAI AMBASSADOR--Hanoi VNA 11 Nov--The new Thai ambassador to Vietnam, Chuchai Kasemsan, presented his credentials here today to Vice President of the State Council Nguyen Huu Tho. Vice President Nguyen Huu Tho had a cordial conversation with the Thai ambassador. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1531 GMT 11 Nov 86 OW] /6662

LAOS TIMBER EXPLOITATION AID--Hanoi VNA 11 Nov--The southernmost province of Minh Hai and other economic units last year helped Laos lumber and export 26,000 cubic metres of wood via a sea port in the central province of Nghe Tinh. This is part of a long-term economic cooperation between Vietnam and land-locked Laos. Minh Hai provided Laos with consumption good and materials and equipment to reorganize its lumbering, forest planting and building of new settlements including hospitals, schools, and roads. It has signed with a Lao company an agreement on economic cooperation for the 1986-90 period. Under the agreement, Minh Hai will help in building lumbering camps and new settlements in mountain areas, clearing the Mekong River bed, and upgrading roads 8B and 12 in service of transporting wood for export. Commenting on this cooperation, Lao party leader Kaysone Phomvihan said that Minh Hai's effective work has provided the Lao people with experiences and inspired them in economic production and national construction. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 0700 GMT 11 Nov 86 OW] /6662

ORIENTAL LANGUAGES CONFERENCE HOSTED--Hanoi VNA No 21--A conference on oriental languages was opened in Ho Chi Minh City on Thursday. The three-day conference is attended by linguists from Vietnam, Laos, Kampuchea, the Soviet Union, the German Democratic Republic, Czechoslovakia and Poland. Almost 200 research papers and reports have been sent in. Of them some 60 will be delivered at the conference. In his opening speech, Prof. Pham Nhu Cuong, on behalf of the Vietnam Committee for Social Science brought out the fruitful cooperation between the Vietnamese committee and the Institute of Oriental Studies under the Academy of Sciences of the USSR in studying Vietnamese and other languages in Vietnam. He expressed his desire to expand cooperation in this field between Vietnam and other socialist countries. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 0718 GMT 21 Nov 86 OW] /6662

MUBARAK GREETES NEW AMBASSADOR--Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has expressed the hope to develop relations with Vietnam. At a reception given to Vu Bach Mai, new Vietnamese ambassador to Egypt, President Mubarak praised the traditional friendly relations between Egypt and Vietnam and wished for further development of relations between the two countries in all fields. [Text] [Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 21 Nov 86 OW] /6662

MEDICAL AID FROM HUNGARY, DENMARK--Hanoi VNA Nov. 21--The Vietnam Red Cross Association has received 40 cases of medicine and cloth worth one million forint as aid from its Hungarian counterpart. Hungarian Ambassador Bola Benyet presented the sample of the goods at a ceremony held here yesterday. A fund-raising campaign for Vietnam launched by the Danish-Vietnamese Friendship Society is getting on throughout Denmark. Last year, the society collected nearly 150,000 krone and about 100,000 krone so far this year. The money is destined for buying medicine and medical equipment for a children's hospital in Ho Chi Minh City. Last June, the society sent the first shipment of aid worth nearly 90,000 krone to Vietnam. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1451 GMT 21 Nov 86 OW] /6662

TRADE WITH HUNGARY PROMOTED--Hanoi VNA Nov. 21--A protocol on goods exchange and payment for 1987 between Vietnam and Hungary was signed in Budapest yesterday. Under this protocol, the value of goods to be exchanged next year will reach some 60 million rubles. Vietnam will trade textile products, rubber, coffee, condiments and other goods for Hungary's machines, equipment, medicines, chemicals and consumer goods. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1458 GMT 21 Nov 86 OW] /6662

SRV-MONGOLIA HEALTH COOPERATION--Hanoi VNA Nov. 21--A plan on cooperation in the field of public health between Vietnam and Mongolia for 1986-90 was signed here today. Signatories were Minister of Public Health Dang Hoi Xuan and Mongolian Ambassador to Vietnam Gelegiyn Adiyaa. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1505 GMT 21 Nov 86 OW] /6662

SRV-GDR UNIVERSITY COOPERATION--Hanoi VNA Nov. 21--An agreement on education cooperation between Berlin's Humboldt University and Hanoi University for the 1986-90 period was signed in Berlin on Thursday. It provides for collaboration in the fields of Marxism-Leninism, Asian studies, law, chemistry, biology, physics and mathematics. Signatories reports ADN, were Humboldt University rector Prof. Helmut Klein and Hanoi University's director for research Prof. Nguyen Van Buu, who is in the GDR capital to study research work at Humboldt University. The two universities have been linked by a friendship agreement since 1979. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1522 GMT 22 Nov 86 OW]--Hanoi VNA Nov. 22--A work plan for cooperation between the universities of Leipzig and Ho Chi Minh City in the 1987-90 period was signed in Leipzig, GDR, on Friday. The document, reports ADN, provides for collaboration mainly in social sciences, chemistry, physics and tropical agriculture. Leipzig University's department for German language and literature studies will help their Vietnamese colleagues organize a course on world literature. A friendship agreement was signed by the two universities in 1979. Earlier this week, Berlin's Humboldt University and the University of Hanoi concluded a cooperation accord. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1522 GMT 22 Nov 86 OW] /6662

GDR AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS--Hanoi VNA Nov 22--The new ambassador of the German Democratic Republic to Vietnam, Loeschner Joachim, today presented his credentials to Vice President of the State Council Nguyen Huu Tho. Vice President Nguyen Huu Tho had a cordial talk with the GDR diplomat. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1524 GMT 22 Nov 86 OW] /6662

CSSR'S GOTTWALD BIRTH ANNIVERSARY--Hanoi VNA Nov 22--Czechoslovak Ambassador Bohuslav Handl called a press conference here today on the 90th birth anniversary of the late outstanding leader of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, Klement Gottwald. It was attended by Dao Tung, vice-president and general secretary of the Vietnam Journalists' Association, and other Vietnamese senior officials. Highlighting the life and revolutionary activities of Klement Gottwald, the Czechoslovak ambassador stressed the major tasks of national construction and development, of preserving peace, and consolidating the friendship between Czechoslovakia and fraternal countries laid down by the 17th CPC Congress are the revolutionary cause bequeathed to the Czechoslovak people by their great leader. The Czechoslovak ambassador praised the constant development of the fraternal friendship and all-sided cooperation between Czechoslovakia and Vietnam, and he said he believed that the two countries will do their utmost to further promote these friendships and cooperation. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1531 GMT 22 Nov 86 OW] /6662

SRV-USSR TECHNICAL MEETING--Hanoi VNA Nov 22--A regular session of the Vietnamese-Soviet sub-commission for scientific and technical cooperation was held in Moscow from Nov 12-21. The Vietnamese side was headed by Le Qui An, vice chairman of the State Commission for Science and Technology, and the Soviet side by V.M. Kuzinov, vice chairman of the State Committee for Science and Technology. The two sides reviewed their work, noting that their cooperation is going ahead with the view of stepping up the scientific, technical and economic development in Vietnam, and expanding the two countries' economic and trade ties. The Soviet Union will help Vietnam actively and effectively join other council for mutual economic assistance (CEMA) member countries in implementing the council's long term programme on scientific and technical cooperation, as well as in their bilateral cooperation plans for the 1986-90 period. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1526 GMT 22 Nov 86 OW] /6662

UNESCO MEETING ON HUE PRESERVATION--Hanoi VNA Nov 22--A conference was held here today on the fifth anniversary of an international campaign launched by UNESCO to help preserve the former imperial city of Hue in the central province of Binh Tri Thien. The conference, occasioned by the 40th anniversary of the United Nations agency, heard a report by Nong Ngoc Chan, vice minister of culture and head of the Hue-UNESCO working team, on the development and results of the campaign since 1981. The conference highlighted the efforts of the Vietnamese Government and the initial assistance of UNESCO in restoring and preserving the architectural beauties of the ancient city. UNESCO has so far granted more than 100,000 dollars as aid to Vietnam for the preservation of cultural relics in the city. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1534 GMT 22 Nov 86 OW] /6662

INDUSTRIAL OIL SHALE FOUND--The joint SRV-USSR oil venture in Vung Tau-Con Dao in southern Vietnam has found the first industrial oil shale. The enterprise has set up three oil rigs. Two of them have been put into operation. Tens of thousands of tons of crude oil have been exported. [Text] [Hanoi International Service in English 1100 GMT 24 Nov 86 BK] /6662

POLISH ECONOMIC COOPERATION PROTOCOL--Hanoi VNA 25 Nov--A protocol on economic cooperation and assistance in wood processing between Vietnam and Poland was signed here recently. Signatories were Deputy Minister of Forestry Nguyen Huu Quang and Deputy Minister of Chemical and Light Industries Z. Tokowski [name as received] who led a Polish delegation for a week-long visit to Vietnam. While here, the delegation paid tribute to the late President Ho Chi Minh at his mausoleum and visited various industrial establishments of wood processing and paper industries in Hanoi, Haiphong, Daclac Province and Ho Chi Minh City. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1449 GMT 25 Nov 86 OW] /6662

SOVIET ART EXHIBITION--Hanoi VNA 11 Nov--An exhibition of young Soviet artists' paintings and sculptures was opened at the National Art Gallery here this afternoon in celebration of the 69th anniversary of the Great Russian October Revolution (Nov. 7). The exhibition, jointly sponsored by the Vietnamese Ministry of Culture and the Academy of Arts of the USSR, is displaying 121 paintings and sculptures done by young Soviet painters since 1980. They depict the land and people of the Soviet Union, especially its great efforts in socialist construction and in the struggle for world peace. [Excerpt] [Hanoi VNA in English 1529 GMT 11 Nov 86 OW] /6662

SOVIET-AIDED DAM--Hanoi VNA 6 Nov--The main dam being built at the Hoa Binh Hydroelectric Power Plant on the Da River stands comparison with other major dams in the world. The 128-metre high dam, capable of blocking more than 9 billion cubic metres of water, is installed on a 1-kilometre long foundation of the most turbulent river of Vietnam. This is an epochal project. The successful laying of the foundation of the Hoa Binh Dam is a wonderful work of scientific and technical cooperation between Vietnam and the Soviet Union. With Soviet assistance, Vietnamese workers have built another dam as large as the first dam on the river bed. The timely completion of the concrete wall to protect the dam from water absorption spells out the great efforts of the Vietnamese workers and Soviet experts working side by side on the construction site. This work has helped speed up the tempo of construction of the plant, especially the installation of the first generator unit. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 0700 GMT 6 Nov 86 OW] /6662

INCREASED EXPORTS TO USSR--Vietnam has boosted the production and quality of export goods. To implement a program signed with the Soviet Union, Vietnam Vegetables and Fruits Export Company has joined efforts with various localities to enlarge specialized zones, each covering from 500 to 1,000 hectares. Thanks to the application of new technical advances and anti-crop pest efforts, the output and quality of food and vegetables in these specialized zones have notably increased. The quantity of potatoes delivered to the Soviet Union in 1986 increased by 85 percent; vegetables by 50 percent; and carrots by 20 percent as compared with 1985. [Text] [Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 25 Nov 86 BK] /6662

ALBANIAN AMBASSADOR'S PRESS CONFERENCE--Hanoi VNA Nov 26--Albanian Ambassador to Vietnam Syrja Laze called a press conference here yesterday evening on the 42nd national day of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania (Nov. 29). Present at the conference were representatives of the Foreign Ministry, the Vietnam Committee for Solidarity and Friendship With Other Peoples, and many Vietnamese and foreign journalists. Ambassador Syrja Laze brought out major achievements recorded by the Albanian people over the past 42 years, especially in the Seventh Five-Year (1981-85) State Plan and presented major tasks of the current 5-year (1986-90) plan. The diplomat expressed satisfaction at the fine development of the solidarity, friendship and cooperation between the states and peoples of Vietnam and Albania. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1447 GMT 26 Nov 86 OW] /6662

GREETINGS TO CYPRIOT PARTY CONGRESS--Hanoi VNA Nov. 26--The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam yesterday extended its warmest greetings to the 16th Congress of the Progressive Party of the Working People (AKEL) of Cyprus. The congratulatory message reads: "The Vietnamese people are following with deep concern and fully support the Cyprian people's just struggle against the U.S. and NATO's intervention in their internal affairs to turn Cyprus into a military base and divide the country, and their fight for peaceful settlement of the Cyprus issue on the basis of ensuring its national independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity and non-alignment and in the genuine interests of the Greek and Turkish communities in Cyprus. The Communist Party of Vietnam highly value the role and contributions of the AKEL in the struggle for the welfare of the Cyprian people and for peace, security and cooperation in the Mediterranean and the rest of the world. On this occasion, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to the AKEL and Cyprian people for their heartfelt support to Vietnam in national construction and defence. May the solidarity and friendship between the two parties and peoples be further consolidated and developed." [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1443 GMT 26 Nov 86 OW] /6662

UN DELEGATE SUPPORTS PLO--Hanoi VNA Nov 27--Vietnamese Government fully supported the proposal on convening an international peace conference on the Middle East to solve the Palestine issue, said Nguyen Binh Thanh, Vietnamese representative to the UN at its debate on Nov. 24. Ms. Thanh condemned the United States of having systematically prevented the search for a right and fair solution to the Palestine issue. She further exposed the U.S. scheme to impose a separate, Camp David-like agreement on the Palestinian and other Arab people, turning the Middle East into a fortress of neo-colonialism to fight against the national liberation movements and independent nations in the region. Ms. Thanh also voiced Vietnam's condemnation of Israel for checking the holding of the conference. The Vietnamese people, she stressed, are firmly convinced that the heroic struggle of the Palestinian people, under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), will surely gain final victory. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 0702 GMT 27 Nov 86 OW] /6662

JAPANESE AMBASSADOR RECEIVED--Hanoi VNA Nov. 27--Japanese Ambassador to Vietnam Matano Kagechika today presented his credentials to Vice President of the State Council Nguyen Huu Tho. Vice President Nguyen Huu Tho had a warm conversation with the Japanese diplomat. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1507 GMT 27 Nov 86 OW] /6662

GREETINGS TO MAURITANIAN LEADER--Hanoi VNA Nov. 27--President of the Council of State Truong Chinh today sent greetings to his counterpart in Mauritania, Maayouia Sidi Ahmed Ould Taya, on the 26th National Day of the Republic (Nov. 28). The message wishes the Mauritanian people happiness and prosperity, and the friendly relations between the peoples of Vietnam and Mauritania consolidation and development. On this occasion, Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach has also extended greetings to his Mauritanian counterpart, Cheik Sid Ahmed Babamine [name and title as received]. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1508 GMT 27 Nov 86 OW] /6662

METEOROLOGISTS VISIT PYONGYANG, MOSCOW--Hanoi VNA Nov 28--A delegation of the Vietnamese General Department of Hydro-meteorology led by its director Tran Van An, attended the 19th conference of leaders of the hydro-meteorological services of socialist countries held recently in Pyongyang, Korea. The conference discussed measures to further raise the efficiency of the hydro-meteorological work in service of national development in socialist countries. Another delegation of the department led by deputy director Nguyen Van Quy, who also is co-chairman of the Vietnam-USSR joint committee, has attended the 8th session of the committee held in Moscow in furtherance of an agreement signed between the two countries on scientific, technological cooperation in the field of tropical meteorology and storm research. The session reviewed their cooperation in 1985 and agreed on programs for 1987. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 0722 GMT 28 Nov 86 OW] /6662

SRV-USSR PUBLISHING COOPERATION--Hanoi VNA Nov. 28--The regular session of the Vietnamese-Soviet permanent working groups for cooperation in book publishing and distribution has been convened in Ho Chi Minh City. The session worked out orientations and measures to promote the cooperation in the publishing, printing and distribution of books between Vietnam and the Soviet Union for 1987. The participants also dealt with the publishing of documents of the coming Sixth National Party Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam, and books about the achievements recorded by the Soviet people on the occasion of the 70th anniversary (next year) of the Russian October Socialist Revolution. A program for cooperation in these fields for 1987 and a plan of cooperation for 1986-90 between the two countries were signed during the session. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 0705 GMT 28 Nov 86 OW] /6662

SRV-USSR PUBLICATION COOPERATION--The permanent work team on Vietnamese-Soviet cooperation in publication held its seventh conference in Ho Chi Minh City recently. Attending the conference were Vice Minister of Culture Vu Khac Lien, representatives of various publication organizations, and a Soviet state publication commission delegation. The conference reviewed tasks on publications and distribution during the past and discussed orientations and measures to expand cooperation between the two countries in 1987. The conference stressed that in the coming days, more documents on Soviet achievements will be published to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Soviet Great October Revolution as well as documents relating to the Sixth CPV Congress. Vietnam and the Soviet Union signed an agreement on publication cooperation for 1987 and other related projects for the 1986-90 period. [Summary] [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 27 Nov 86 BK] /12232

SRV ENVOY AT UN DEBATE--Vietnam supports the use of space for peaceful purposes. Acting head of Vietnam's permanent mission to the United Nations, Ambassador Bui Xuan Nhat, made the statement on Wednesday [26 November] at the UN debate on international cooperation in using outer space for peaceful purposes. Ambassador Bui Xuan Nhat voiced full support for all measures and actions banning the development, testing, and deployment of space weapons. [Text] [Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 28 Nov 86 BK] /12232

LEADERS SEND GREETINGS--Hanoi VNA 28 November--Vietnamese leaders today extended greetings to their Yugoslav counterparts on the 43rd National Day of Yugoslavia (29 November). The message was jointly signed by President of the State Council Truong Chinh, Chairman of the Council of Ministers Pham Van Dong, and Chairman of the National Assembly Nguyen Huu Tho, and addressed to Sinan Hasani, president of the Collective Presidency, Branko Mikulic, president of the Federal Executive Council, and Ivo Vrandecic, president of the Federal Assembly. The Vietnamese leaders wished the "Yugoslav people prosperity and happiness, and the friendship and cooperation between the Vietnamese and Yugoslav peoples further consolidation and development in the interests of the two nations and world peace." On this occasion, Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach has sent greetings to his Yugoslav counterpart, Raif Dizdarevic. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1537 GMT 28 Nov 86 OW] /12232

GREETINGS TO NETHERLANDS PARTY--Hanoi VNA 28 November--The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam today extended greetings to the 30th Congress of the Netherlands Communist Party. The message wishes the congress "fine success, thus ushering in a new stage in the struggle for the vital interests of the working class and the entire labouring people of the Netherlands and making an active contribution to the common cause of peace, national independence, democracy and social progress the world over." It also expresses firm belief that in the light of the 30th Congress resolution, the party will win still more successes. "We sincerely thank the NCP and other political and social circles in the Netherlands for their strong support and assistance to the Vietnamese people in their socialist construction and national defence" the message says. It also wishes the solidarity and friendship between the two parties, working classes and peoples further consolidation and development. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1524 GMT 28 Nov 86 OW] /12232

SRV, USSR SPACE EXHIBITION--Hanoi VNA 28 November--The exhibition entitled "Vietnam-USSR Friendship Space Flight" was opened here on Thursday under the sponsorship of the Vietnam revolutionary museum. On display are the landing module of the Soyuz-37 spaceship and many other things related to the flight jointly conducted by cosmonauts Pham Tuan of Vietnam and V. Gorbatko of the Soviet Union. Also on show are photos on the space research in the interests of peace made by the Soviet Union and other member countries joining in the inter-cosmos project, and on the study and training in the Soviet Union of the first Vietnamese cosmonaut. The opening was attended by Nguyen Van Hieu, director of the Vietnam Institute of Sciences, Nong Quoc Chan, vice minister of culture; and A.I. Loupar, scientific and technical attache of the Soviet Embassy. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1518 GMT 28 Nov 86 OW] /12232

BENIN GREETINGS--Hanoi VNA 29 November--President of the State Council Truong Chinh and Chairman of the Council of Ministers Pham Van Dong today sent a joint message of greetings to Mathieu Kerekou, head of state and of the National Executive Council of the People's Republic of Benin, on his country's National Day (30 November). The message wishes the Beninese people many new achievements

in national construction and defence, thus contributing to the struggle against imperialism, colonialism and other reactionary forces for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress in Africa and the rest of the world. It also wishes to solidarity and friendship between the two peoples further consolidation and development. On this occasion Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach has sent a message of greetings to Beninese Foreign Minister Freoeric Assogba Affo. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1503 GMT 29 Nov 86 OW] /12232

BULGARIAN AGRONOMIST CONCLUDES VISIT--Hanoi VNA 29 November--Bulgarian agronomist Milko Iordanov concluded today a week-long working visit to Vietnam. During his stay, Milko Iordanov, representative of the Bulgarian Central Council of Scientific and Technical Unions, had working sessions with the Vietnam Gardeners' Association, the Central Fruit and Vegetables Company, and vegetable cooperatives on the outskirts of Hanoi. He exchanged experiences in tomato planting with farmers and promised to send them high-yield, past-resistance tomato varieties. Milko Iordanov was received by Le Khac, vice-president and general of the Union of Scientific and Technical Associations, and Nghiem Xuan Yem, president of the Gardeners' Association. They worked out cooperation plans between the two unions for the years to come. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1448 GMT 29 Nov 86 OW] /12232

CSO: 4200/173

UNANNOUNCED INSPECTIONS REVEAL PROBLEMS

Hanoi THONG KE No 6 in Vietnamese Jun 86 pp 13, 14

[Article by Dang Van Ngoc of the Methods and Systems Department, General Department of Statistics: "Some thoughts About Inspection of Statistical Work at Basic Units"]

[Text] Directive No 295/CT of the chairman of the Council of Ministers on strengthening and improving statistical work stipulates: "State statistics agencies have the right to inspect and control sectors and units in the execution of the accounting and statistical-reports systems."

Carrying out the above directive, some provincial and municipal departments of statistics have conducted unannounced inspections of the accounting and statistical work at certain basic units of the various sectors of the national economy.

Reports made subsequent to those inspections were most helpful in providing us with an awareness of the lingering problems still affecting the accounting and statistical fields at basic economic units. Besides, good experience was also obtained for the selection of appropriate inspection methods and inspection objectives which have served as the basis for the improvement of leadership actions in the entire sector. The most salient observations were made as follow:

- At many units, the handling of accounting documents was done in a slipshod manner. Instances of this carelessness were a disbursement slip not bearing the signature of the person receiving cash and a payment made to a person without an address. Inspections conducted in An Giang showed that as much as 30 percent of all accounting documents bearing initial entries were not done in accordance with the rules and regulations.
- Some ministries and sectors took the liberty to invent new forms besides standard forms approved by the General Department of Statistics.
- Many reports submitted by basic units did not reflect the truth and violated determinations on prices and product specifications. For example, a farm's net annual income of 507,575 dong was reported in the final report as 105,783 dong only; another unit reported sales making up 94.3 percent of the annual plan but in reality, the percentage reached was 66.27 percent.

- Accounting and statistical methods did not adhere to determinations. For example, there were accounting cut-off amounts and cash transfers not done according to instructions, incorrect computations of the value of the general output, and non-observance of new price lists causing erratic determinations in accounting operations for fixed properties, raw materials, and material supplies and causing subordinate units to repeat the errors. By the same token, a ruch-mat cooperative reported a general output of 244,965 dong, for the first 6 months of the year, but the inspection's recomputation showed the same output at only 136,877 dong. Those were the causes leading to insufficient and inaccurate statistical figures.

To overcome the above weaknesses, statistical inspection work needs to be strengthened.

In past years, in providences and cities, statistical inspection used to be conducted in an unscheduled manner and focused on some model units (up to now, few provinces and cities have been able to inspect the majority of basic economic units placed under local management). Besides, inspection methods and objectives in different provinces and cities, and even in the same provinces in certain instances, were not uniform. Certain inspection teams checked only the use of accounting documents and reporting forms and neglected to review now entries were made and whether or not figures were accurate. As a result, inspection work failed to produce a homogenous effect and to attain the objectives set.

It is my belief that learning from the above realities, in order to strengthen and improve statistical inspection work, our sector has to issue written directives defining inspection rules and procedures to be enforced in a unified manner by all inspection units. Those directives should contain the following:

- Purposes and requirements,
- Inspection objectives and methods,
- Assignment of tasks in the inspection mechanism of various levels, and
- Responsibilities of the inspected unit and of the inspection cadres.

In terms of purposes and requirements, I think statistical inspection aims primarily at ensuring a system of accurate and uniform information instead of misinformation. Therefore, it needs to uncover, in a timely manner, inaccurate figures and illegitimate accounting documents and forms and also to recommend corrective measures.

As far as the inspection objectives and methods are concerned, I would like to suggest that all forms of regular, periodic, unscheduled, specialized, and total inspection be used.

Regular and periodic inspections aim at checking the implementation of accounting work and compliance with the statistical and accounting reporting systems by the basic unit. This is done by the inspection cadre himself, and this

inspection task is compulsory any time a report is received by the inspection cadres. When a regular inspection is conducted, the inspector must look at the arithmetic of the figures and see to it that the information in reports logically reflects sufficiency, balance, and accuracy.

Unscheduled inspections are made especially when the units need immediate corrective actions in matters of accounting and execution of the reporting system.

Specialized inspections review the implementation, by unit, of the accounting procedures and of the statistical reporting system pertaining to certain norms. The unit may have to fulfill other norms not included in the scope of this type of inspection, which should be used only at certain model units.

Comprehensive inspections cover the execution of all accounting rules and the entire statistical reporting system by unit. This form must be used periodically for weak units suffering an endemic deficiency in implementing the accounting and statistical reporting systems.

As regards the inspection method, it is suggested that the totals showed in the unit's recapitulation report be used to review initial entries and intermediate accounting books systematically.

When reviewing initial entries, the inspector will keep an eye on the legality of the forms in order to uncover those entries not responding to required conditions, those established without a legitimate purpose (no initial economic substantiation), and those bearing erroneous or incorrect figures (straying away from initial economic substantiation). Besides, special attention must be given to inspecting conformity with price determinations in entries describing the prices of material supplies and commodities, and with standards and norms regulating material supplies and fixed properties.

With regard to intermediate accounting books, the inspector will especially check the method of computing statistical norms and other accounting methods that pertain to the accounting and statistical report, such as the determination of the final amounts and the transfer of accounting items (because accounting figures are one of the major bases for the establishment of statistical reports).

When inspecting statistical reports, attention must be given to the rationality and legality of the figures of the planned standards in order to ensure their comparability.

Generally speaking, successful inspection work requires a uniform guidance on inspection objectives and methods for the inspection sector.

I subscribe to the idea that the Methods and Systems Department ought to assist the General Department of Statistics in promulgating directives which define general principles governing the conduct of inspections of work programs and the task assignments for other departments of the general department and for local departments of statistics. Besides, the Methods and Systems Department must have the responsibility for monitoring, guiding, and supervising the execution of the inspection program. By the same token, it will make sure that inspection

units comply with the objectives and methods set forth in the program and recapitulate inspection results for further reporting to the leadership of the general department.

It is also suggested that professional departments and the Methods and Systems Department directly participate in inspections at some basic economic units to learn on the job.

Local departments of statistics should establish detailed inspection programs for each quarter and each year, assign tasks for their specialized statistics bureaus and for district statistics bureaus, provide related inspection units with pertinent documents and information, train inspection cadres, and recapitulate inspection results for further reporting to the general department and to the local people's committee.

Cadres directly involved in inspection work must carefully study pre-inspection materials, and when uncovering errors in accounting and statistics, they must immediately explain to the cadres of the basic units what went wrong and how to correct the mistakes in accordance with current rules and regulations. They are responsible for making reports detailing the findings and results of the inspections at basic units.

With regard to inspected units, responsible cadres must give proper attention to accounting work and statistical reports, provide their accounting personnel with adequate training and with current and valid documents and forms, assist inspection cadres while working at their units, listen to their recommendations, correct deficiencies, and enhance the proficiency of the unit's cadres through learning from inspection experience.

Finally, in order to create the most favorable conditions for inspection work and attain optimal efficiency, statistics agencies of various levels need to secure guidance and assistance from local governments and to work in close cooperation with the financial and banking sectors and with related units.

9458/12951
CSO: 4209/71

RESULTS OF PARTY ORGANIZATION, CHAPTER CONGRESSES DISCUSSED

Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG in Vietnamese 16 Sep 86 pp 1, 4

[Article by political reporters: "In the Party Organization and Party Chapter Congresses in the Subwards and Subprecincts"]

[Text] As of now, the subward party organizations and party chapters holding primary party organization congresses have concluded the congresses. In Tan Binh Ward, the 25 subwards have concluded the primary party organization congress.

A Number of Ideas of Party Members at the Primary Level

With the exception of the party chapter in Subprecinct 7, Precinct 5, which held its congress early and was unable to discuss the draft report of the Executive Committee of the Municipal Party Organization, all the party organizations and party chapters opened their congresses by discussing the draft reports of the Municipal CPV Committee and the ward and precinct committees to which they are subordinate. Prior to that, the party organizations and party chapters had discussed the political draft report of the Central Committee of the CPV presented at the Sixth National Congress. It can be said that almost all of the party members at the primary level who evaluated the draft report of the Municipal CPV Committee reviewed things in depth, evaluated the city's real situation correctly, and clearly recognized the strengths and weaknesses of the executive committee and of the entire municipal party organization. Many party members agreed with the Municipal CPV Committee that the main reasons for the strengths were the great efforts made, the great resolve to overcome the difficulties, and the great energy of the laborers, cadres, and soldiers. This is also a manifestation of "using the people as the source." As for the shortcomings, many party members analyzed shortcomings concerning laxity in the dictatorship of the proletariat on all fronts, particularly on the distribution and circulation front. Many comrades related this to the real situation in their subwards in order to emphasize this shortcoming. Many analyzed the transformation and construction of the dictatorship of the proletariat in depth. The following question was posed: "We have a revolutionary regime, public security forces are present in the neighborhoods, and there is a widespread apparatus to uphold socialist laws. Why, therefore, are dishonest merchants, speculators, illegal traders, producers of bogus goods, corrupt individuals, and thieves still able to act

so boldly and aggressively?" Many primary-level party members expressed their opinions on the 1986-1990 guidelines, tasks, and targets. In particular, they mentioned specific measures to strengthen the dictatorship of the proletariat and reestablish order in distribution and circulation. This is a problem that the Municipal CPV Committee has posed in many resolutions and directives, but so far without effect. Many party members suggested that the Municipal CPV Committee place great emphasis on the control work of the party and on strengthening the various echelon control organizations, reexamining the ranks of control cadres, and ensuring that the party's control apparatus is really pure, objective, and resolved to maintain party discipline and uphold the laws of the state.

What is wonderful is that at these primary-level congresses, many party members avoided taking a narrow viewpoint and looked beyond their own subward and tasks. Many comrades looked at the situation in the municipality and country as a whole and contributed practical ideas to the central echelon and Municipal CPV Committee. Many comrades understood that regardless of their post and work echelon, all party members must contribute to planning the work of the party, not complain, and not shift the blame for mistakes and shortcomings to other people or other echelons. But a fact worth mentioning is that in discussing the reports of higher echelons, retired party members expressed more opinions than did party members who are still on the job. And older party members expressed more ideas than did younger party members. This shows that even though retired party members are no longer on the job, they are still very loyal to the party and cannot rest when the party is in turmoil. But this also shows that many young party members must improve their understanding and dare to think and speak in order to have the courage to act.

Reality at the Primary Level in the Production and Circulation and Distribution Spheres

After discussing the draft reports of higher echelons, the party organizations and party chapters discussed their own draft reports. In general, even though the preparations for the recent subward and subprecinct congresses were very long as a result of engaging in self-criticism and criticism, listening to the ideas of the masses, correcting the shortcomings, and discussing the documents of higher echelons, many party chapters, such as Subprecinct 19 in Precinct 1, Subprecinct 19 in Precinct 3, Subprecinct 12 in Precinct 10, and Subprecinct 10 in Precinct 11, discussed things enthusiastically. In particular, Subprecinct 10 in Precinct 11 broadcast the congress proceedings so that the people in the subprecinct could follow things. In Subprecinct 19 in Precinct 3, Phan Minh Tanh, a member of the CPV Central Committee and deputy secretary of the Municipal CPV Committee, came to the party chapter congress and discussed a number of the themes that must be discussed in the draft report of the Municipal CPV Committee. Thus, after discussing the draft report of the Municipal CPV Committee, the party members in the party chapter related these points to the strengths and weaknesses of their own party chapter.

Almost all of the party members affirmed the strengths and notable achievements of the subwards and subprecincts during the past 3 years. Many subprecincts, such as Subprecinct 19 in Precinct 1 and Subprecinct 10 in

Precinct 11, have begun building a socioeconomic structure. They have linked production to distribution and circulation and given attention to the standard of living. Almost all of the subwards and subprecincts have expanded small industry and handicrafts production. Subward 20 in Tan Binh Ward and Subprecinct 9 in Precinct 8 have made a number of changes in agricultural production. In Subprecinct 19 in Precinct 1, Subprecinct 10 in Precinct 11, and Subprecinct 14 in Precinct 6, distribution and circulation have gradually been linked to production, and the consumer cooperatives in the subprecincts have given attention to purchasing the handicrafts products in the subprecincts, investing capital in animal husbandry, and purchasing discarded materials for supply to the production installations in order to keep up the amount of goods. Many subwards and subprecincts have given attention to relating expanding production to looking after the lives of the people and providing jobs for laborers. This has been most striking in Subward 5 in Phu Nhuan Ward.

The party members in the party organizations and party chapters set aside much time for analyzing the shortcomings and weaknesses in each sphere of activity. This is regarded as the basis for finding ways to overcome the shortcomings and making progress in the work. It can be said that almost all of the subwards and subprecincts have many shortcomings and weaknesses in production. For example, the committee echelons, party organizations, and party chapters have not concentrated their leadership resources on expanding production. They have not exploited all of the potential of the subwards and subprecincts or made full use of the intelligence of the retired cadres and scientific and technical cadres to support economic management and step up production. Party members in Subprecinct 14 in Precinct 1 and Subprecinct 10 in Precinct 11 expressed many ideas concerning the organizational and economic management capabilities of the committee echelons, saying that their abilities are still limited and that too much stress is placed on controlling things using administrative and bureaucratic methods. Also, they have been slow to improve work methods and have not remained close to the production installations in order to help the installations solve the problems. Comrades in Subward 25 in Binh Thanh Ward and Subprecinct 19 in Precinct 3 emphasized the fact that production has not yet been linked closely to distribution and circulation. As for the brotherly relationship with the rural villages, many comrades criticized the fact that the consumer cooperatives place too much emphasis on trading and are overly concerned about the amount of trade. They have not stressed investing in production and animal husbandry, and as a result, notable economic results have not been achieved. In Subward 20 in Tan Binh Ward, an agricultural production subward, many party members criticized the committee echelons and people's committee for not stressing investments in agricultural production, not being concerned about improving management at the production cooperatives, and not giving attention to expanding secondary production, with the result that the incomes of the cooperative members are very low (15 dong per day). A number of party members mentioned the fact that the product contracts have not been fulfilled. Product contracts have not been signed with laborers in all the production spheres.

Almost all of the party members in the subward and subprecinct party organizations and party chapters said that one of the shortcomings in improving small industry and handicrafts is that people do things subjectively

and are in a rush to complete things. Consequently, too much stress is placed on form, quality is poor, and practical results have not been achieved in expanding production, increasing labor productivity, and improving product quality. In many subwards and subprecincts, reform is carried out under pressure, and the principle of voluntariness is not respected. In the cooperatives and production cooperative teams in the subwards and subprecincts, boss-worker and exploitative relationships still exist. Many comrades affirmed that in this situation, it cannot be said that the transformation of small industry and handicrafts has been virtually completed. In reforming and expanding production, in many subwards and subprecincts, we recorded many observations on the restraints imposed by the present production management mechanism. The small industry and handicrafts management apparatus in the city and in the wards and precincts is very large and cumbersome. There are many departments and sections, but they cannot manage the production installations. The subward echelon is the echelon that is closest to the production installations, but staffs are very small. There is a shortage of management cadres and funds. As a result, while the management apparatus is large, it is very loose, and this gives rise to negative phenomena.

The problem that was probably mentioned most frequently was the disorder in distribution and circulation. The consumer cooperatives in the subwards and subprecincts have contributed greatly to the disorder. The state commercial sector has not provided enough goods, providing only 10-20 percent of the goods sold. The rest are "provided" by the subward and subprecinct consumer cooperatives. But this often leads to chaos, with people competing to buy and sell. This contributes to price increases. The consumer cooperatives stress the amount of business and profits. They emphasize trading activities and food businesses in order to make large profits. As a result, little attention is given to supporting retail sales to cooperative members, and prices are sometimes higher than those on the "free" markets. In Subprecinct 14 in Precinct 1, the CPV committee has made harsh self-criticism about this problem. But many subward and subprecinct committees have not seen or mentioned all the shortcomings. Instead, they talk a lot about the achievements. Many party members criticized the committees for not giving attention to managing the cooperative business stores, particularly in the food sector, and for allowing many private merchants to call their businesses cooperative businesses in order to gain a monopoly. The consumer cooperatives have just shared the profits while the state has lost tax revenues. Many party members said that the cooperative business form is a suitable form for improving things, but it must be controlled tightly. The state employees or consumer cooperative personnel must be watched carefully to ensure that they are not bribed. Some comrades also mentioned the fact that the consumer cooperative management apparatus from the city to the wards and precincts is too cumbersome and that business results are poor. Sometimes, these cooperatives act as an intermediary in improper activities and help push up commodity prices. There are a number of other ideas to which attention should be given in view of the fact that many party members criticized consumer cooperatives for not supporting production, not keeping up the amount of handicrafts, not investing in production or animal husbandry, and not making practical contributions to looking after the lives of the people in the

subwards and subprecincts. Some consumer cooperatives allow dishonest merchants to make use of and steal goods in order to pocket the difference in price.

The Guidelines and Tasks at the Primary Level Must Be Linked to the Urgent Fronts

The party organization and party chapter congresses in the subwards and subprecincts discussed and passed resolutions on their guidelines, tasks, and targets during the next 2 years.

As for the common guidelines and tasks, although they used different words and titles, the subwards and subprecincts all said that the leading tasks are to concentrate on stabilizing and expanding production, to continue carrying on socialist transformation with respect to small industry and handicrafts and agriculture (subwards and subprecincts along the edge of the city), to give attention to the standard of living, to maintain order and security, and to build the party, the regime, and the revolutionary mass organizations. The Subprecinct 19, Precinct 1, party organization passed a resolution that links economic problems and living conditions, that considers expanding production as the basis for improving the standard of living, and that relates production to distribution and circulation, to market reform and control, and to the formation of a socioeconomic structure in the subprecinct. Subprecinct 19 in Precinct 1 is giving much attention to investing money to expand the processing of export products. The norm for the amount of export business has been set at 200 million dong, in current prices, by 1987. Subprecinct 10 in Precinct 11 also stated that the initial task is to link production to distribution and circulation and to formulate specific plans to increase the production of export goods. The party chapter in Subprecinct 19 in Precinct 3 gave attention to expanding the operations of the precinct's food processing enterprises and to moving toward producing various types of export goods. This is regarded as the basis for improving the standard of living of the cadres, workers, civil servants, and laborers. Subprecinct 19 in Precinct 1, Subprecinct 7 in Precinct 5, and Subprecinct 10 in Precinct 11 formulated rather specific plans for turning their precincts into a planning and budget echelon based on the decisions of the Municipal CPV Committee and the Municipal People's Committee.

However, a very common problem is that the party organizations and party chapters have not linked their guidelines, targets, and tasks to the urgent fronts on which the Municipal CPV Committee will guide activities from now until the end of 1986, particularly distribution and circulation and order and security. On the distribution and circulation front, the subwards and subprecincts have concentrated mainly on stipulating norms for amount of trade and population service norms. A number of subwards and subprecincts have stipulated a number of investment norms for production and animal husbandry, linked the economy to the rural villages, and kept up the amount of small industry and handicrafts goods on the spot. But little attention has been given to the negative aspects or to the confusion in distribution and circulation that now exists in the subwards and subprecincts. As a result, they do not have specific plans and measures to contribute to stabilizing distribution and circulation and blocking the negative phenomena of the

consumer cooperatives and cooperative business sectors in the subwards and subprecincts. Subprecinct 10 in Precinct 11 mentioned a number of problems but does not have specific measures to solve the problems. We feel that this is a problem to which other subwards and subprecincts that are about to hold congresses should give attention. They should discuss this carefully and put forth specific and effective measures in order to contribute to ending the present disorder in distribution and circulation.

The subwards and subprecincts mentioned the problem of improving living conditions on almost all work fronts. But in general, they have not really concentrated on this and do not have specific plans and measures. Subprecinct 7 in Precinct 5 stated that the immediate task is to repair three small buildings in the subprecinct and use the club at 168 Tran Hung Dao Street as a kindergarten for 200 children who do not have a school to attend. Subprecinct 14 in Precinct 1 and Subward 25 in Binh Thanh Ward mentioned a number of plans to provide jobs, build public service projects, and open additional child-care centers and kindergartens. The people here are very happy that the party organizations and party chapters have specific plans concerning a number of tasks and hope that the plans will be implemented soon. We feel that the party organizations and party chapters must grasp the real situation concerning the lives of the people in the subwards and subprecincts and clearly understand the problems that the people are facing. If they understand what the people's living conditions are like, they will understand the effect of this on society and public order and security. And they will have more specific plans and measures to improve living conditions. Because no echelon can understand the lives of the people as clearly as the subward and subprecinct echelon. We hope that the subwards and subprecincts will give attention to this problem when they hold their primary level party organization and party chapter congresses.

Almost all of the subwards and subprecincts that held congresses said about the same thing concerning maintaining political security and social order, such as "constantly improve the spirit of revolutionary vigilance," "build pure and strong public security forces," and "strive to promote the movement...." We feel that in the present situation, simply stating such "slogans" will not satisfy the pressing tasks put forth by the Municipal CPV Committee for the subward and subprecinct echelon. The situation concerning political security and social order now existing in each subward and subprecinct must be evaluated concretely and accurately, and there must be specific and resolute plans to maintain public order and security at the primary level. It must also be realized that public order and security in the subwards and subprecincts cannot be separated from other work spheres. Speculators, smugglers, people who make bogus goods, criminals, and other social parasites live in the subwards and subprecincts. In a ward, neighborhood teams and households help them to survive and conceal them. We feel that the basic party organizations in the subwards and subprecincts must grasp this reality and immediately implement measures to eliminate crime and social evils.

A Few Things Worth Noting In the Election of New Committees

To close this article, we would like to make a few observations on the election of new committees at the subward and subprecinct party organization

and party chapter congresses. Almost all of the subwards and subprecincts have new faces in the party committees. In Subprecinct 10 in Precinct 11, three of the five members of the party committee were elected to the committee for the first time. They are young people who matured during the revolutionary movement in the subprecinct during the past 10 years. The average age of the members of the Subprecinct 10, Precinct 11, party committee is 30, which is a relatively young age. Seven of the party members elected to the Subprecinct 7, Precinct 5, party organization have Level 3 cultural standards. One is a college graduate. The average age of the members is 36. The Subprecinct 19, Precinct 1, party organization elected seven party members. Two are retired party members. The average age of the members is 50.

In general, the subwards and subprecincts prepared the personnel program well. This was discussed thoroughly during the congresses and so it was easy to achieve unanimity during the elections. Subprecinct 12 in Precinct 10 and Subprecinct 19 in Precinct 3 were special cases that must be given attention. The old party committee in Subprecinct 12, Precinct 10, recommended seven comrades for the new committee. Many delegates publicly stated that they did not want the head of the subprecinct public security forces on the committee because he has many shortcomings. The congress recommended two other comrades as candidates for election to the party committee. As a result, the head of the subprecinct public security forces was not elected to the party committee. Instead, one of his deputies was elected. The old party committee in Subprecinct 12, Precinct 10, was complacent and did not obtain the ideas of the masses and party members when recommending people for the party committee. What should be applauded is that the party members in Subprecinct 12 opposed this and boldly recommended and elected comrades with adequate standards. The situation in Subprecinct 19 in Precinct 3 was completely different. When the old party committee recommended five comrades for the new committee, no one in the party chapter expressed any ideas or recommended anyone else as a candidate. But when the ballots were examined, it was found that 11 of the ballots were invalid. That was one-third of the party members in the party chapter. Thus, 11 of the party members in Subprecinct 19 were not frank and honest in the internal struggle. They did not have confidence in these comrades but they did not speak out or recommend someone else. These 11 comrades deprived themselves of their right to vote and lacked a spirit of party building. We felt that it was necessary to mention these two examples so that the other party committees, party organizations, and party chapters can gain experience.

11943

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READERS' COMPLAINTS, SUGGESTIONS ON COLLECTIVIZED AGRICULTURE

Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG in Vietnamese 24 Sep 86 pp 1-2

[Article: "A Summary of the Opinions Contributed to the Party Congress Concerning Agricultural Production and the Living Conditions of Farmers"]

[Text] In the letter box for opinions being offered to the party congress, we have received 50 letters concerning agriculture. The persons who have contributed opinions concerning agriculture are mainly persons who live in the outskirts of the city, in the suburban districts that have agricultural production. A few live in the provinces of Hau Giang, Ben Tre, Tay Ninh and Quang Nam-Da Nang.

I. Agriculture Has Yet To Truly Become "the Front of Foremost Importance"

Reader Ho Thi Phuong (Quang Nam-Da Nang Province) maintains that "the concerned levels and sectors must take another look at the way things are being done in order to steadily increase and enhance the role and position of agriculture in our country, because, farmers are the country's largest force. In the national, democratic revolution, farmers, along with workers, played the role as the main force. Today, they must also play this role." However, "in actuality, the policy of the 5th Congress of making agriculture the front of foremost importance has yet to be implemented well"(Nguyen Thanh Thai, the Communications-Transportation Service). "At a time when agriculture continues to encounter very many difficulties due to shortages of materials, technical support, management personnel...many places are attaching far too much importance to commerce and food and beverage services (too many stores and restaurants have sprung up) because they only have their eyes set on immediate gains and do not take long-range interests into consideration"(Tran KimKhoa, the 3rd Precinct). According to reader Vu Dinh Nha, a people's council representative in the 21st Subward of the 3rd Precinct, the causes of this situation are: "Although the state has given its attention to agriculture, the rate of development continues to be slow because the measures taken have not been strong or well coordinated, have not made full use of the intelligence of scientific and technical forces, investment and agricultural product procurement policies are not reasonable, the distribution of products, culture and literature-art is unfair and irrational, and the material standard

of living of persons who work in agriculture is still low, not to mention the fact that leadership cadres at one place or another have done things that are wrong."

Some readers have also dealt with the specific causes of the "bottlenecks" in agricultural production. Le Van Dai (4th Precinct) asserts that "we have trained countless agricultural engineers but have yet to realize high returns from this training in production." Nguyen Trung Thuc observes: "We have not focused efforts on the production of chemical fertilizers. Although we have the necessary raw materials, we do not know how to process them. Rather, we sell these raw materials to foreign countries and then buy finished products instead of building chemical fertilizer plants. Short-term rice yields cannot be raised if there is a shortage of chemical fertilizer and a shortage of pesticides to control planthoppers." Phan Van Hung (Hoc Mon District) addresses the issue that "we have yet to truly revamp planning. We have long been saying that economic construction must be carried out from the basic level upward. In concept, this is correct. In practice, however, things are done differently. Because, very little attention is given to the sources of supplies needed to maintain balance, particularly materials. Production plans are assigned but not material supply plans. Meetings to assign and approve plans sometimes become bargaining sessions that go on until a compromise is reached. At other times, the plan set by the upper level is simply accepted. In the process of implementation it will be adjusted downward. The result is that the norms that are set are exceedingly vague."

"When agricultural production forces are still experiencing many difficulties in their material and spiritual lives, how can the country produce 19 to 21 million tons of grain? Some persons who make plans set norms without needing to know anything about the interests and capabilities of those who work the rice paddies, terraced fields and orchards. Has there been 1 year during which the functional agencies of the central level have supplied materials and products in two-way trade in accordance with the plans and norms that they have set? Conversely, the mobilization of grain is usually given very much attention. Plans and norms that are imposed in this way have caused indignation on the part of agricultural producers"(Nguyen Tri Viet).

II. The Agricultural Cooperativization Policy Is Correct but Places Have Implemented It in Form Only or Under Pressure

"At many places, cooperativization is merely a matter of form. Cooperatives must be organized in accordance with the principles of voluntary association, mutual benefit and democratic management. However, there are many localities which, because they are bent on recording an achievement and instead of agitating among the masses, have employed measures that force the masses to join collective production. If they do not join, they are called opposition elements"(Vu Bang, Binh My Village, Cu Chi District). Nguyen Van Huynh of Hamlet Number 1 in An Phu Tay Village, Binh Chanh District, asserts: "Because places have been bent on recording achievements, even at times when circumstances and conditions have not been favorable and there has been nothing by way of support, farmers have still been virtually 'deceived' into joining collective production." "Many farmers are still being forced to join collectives. Of course, some farmers are happy about this because they have

received additional land. However, after 1 year of farming, farmers at some places have wound up with less at the end of the harvest season than they did before joining the collective when they had to hire people to harvest and plow their fields. The main reason for this is bad management"(Phan Van Lai, the Level I School, Tan Qui Tay 3 Village, Binh Chanh District). Many readers cite many specific examples to show why farmers hesitate to join collective production. For example, when "joining a collective, you must agree to make a payment, which is arbitrarily determined by the locality, to the 'grain fund.' If this payment is not made in full or if it is made late, you are threatened with having household rice taken away and are constantly asked to come to the public security station. In the end, the payment to the rice fund becomes more important than the payment of rice in taxes and the settlement of contracts"(Tran Van Xay and the collective of the Association of Collective Farmers, Hamlet Number 3, An Phu Dong Village, Hoc Mon District). Specifically, "joining a collective means you pay 10 percent to the fund. But does the collective use this fund to do anything that truly benefits its members? Some places that incur losses force collective members to absorb these losses"(Phan Van Lai, Binh Chanh District). In addition, "when joining a collective, you become eligible to trade for matches and priority materials and income is about 10 kilograms higher per manday than the income earned by private farmers but 3 percent of output must then be paid to cover management costs and material losses. As a result, you only break even"(Phan Van Lai). Some collectives, "through poor management, have allowed buffalo and cattle to die of starvation or cold weather. Humans have had to pull harrows in place of buffalo. There are not enough hoes, shovels, knives and sickles for farmers when the season arrives"(Tran Anh Tuan, the Rear Services General Department).

Cao Hoai Duc (the Cu Chi District Office of Education) describes the situation in his district: "In recent years, Cu Chi has reported that it has virtually completed agricultural cooperativization and the redistribution of cropland. In actuality, however, many agricultural cooperatives are cooperatives in form only and have yet to truly begin conducting effective operations. Cooperatives have even been established in many hamlets and villages that lack all the conditions needed to establish a cooperative. On the basis of these reports, the district reported the same to the city and conducted the 'compulsory' sale of one tractor to each cooperative. For 1 year now, these tractors have been lying idle at many cooperatives awaiting the day when they are...liquidated because no cropland has been cooperativized. Yet, these cooperatives have still had to pay the quarterly and annual debt due on this tractor. While many places are in need of means of production, means of production sit idle at these cooperatives waiting and rusting. In mid-October 1985, a district leader went to basic units to directly work with cooperatives to 'improve the quality of cooperatives' as it was called. The work he performed involved nothing more than reassessing production capacity and cadre standards. Since then, I have not seen anything change."

At some places, cadres have propagandized cooperativization as follows: "When you join the collective, fields are still contracted out and you continue to work just as when you were a private farmer"(Phan Van Lai). At other places, "more than a few persons have been waiting for the collective to disband so that they will be free to earn their livings privately"(Nguyen Van Huynh, Binh

Chanh District). "On joining a collective, some persons have taken advantage of cropland averaging to engage in a disguised form of trade and not produce"(Nguyen Van Leo, Loc Trung Hamlet, Loc Hung Village, Trang Bang District, Tay Ninh Province). "In form, contracted fields are turned over to cooperative and collective members but, in practice, the same old private mode of production prevails with everyone providing for their own needs"(Tran Van Xay, An Phu Dong Village, Hoc Mon District).

The organization of the production of collectives and cooperatives is still irrational in many respects.

"Directive 100 is quite correct but there are still many 'deviations' in its implementation that have caused persons to be less than completely satisfied. There are collectives and cooperatives that use contracts correctly and balance the three interests but there also is no shortage of places that use contracts incorrectly, that use 'non-specific' contracts or use contracts as a form of 'land rent.'

In their management activities, more than a few collective and cooperative management boards still serve their own interests"(Nguyen Van Huynh, An Phu Tay, Binh Chanh District). "At present, many collectives and cooperatives still do not produce enough food and the persons who have joined collective production are not better off than when they were earning their livings privately because the indirect work force is large"(Nguyen Van Huynh).

"The output quotas contained in product contracts are unreasonable, that is, are too high on a seasonal basis because some types of taxes paid in rice equivalent are unreasonable. For example, a payment of rice must be made for the irrigation water supplied to fields. This is unreasonable because the people also participated in the construction of the water conservancy system. Fertilizer production costs vary from one locality to the next even though these localities are equally distant from main roads. Contract quotas are not based on the actual output of each crop but are set for the entire year. Consequently, in times of drought, pests or crop failures, output must still be delivered to the state at the contract rate"(Ho Thi Phuong, Quang Nam-Da Nang Province, and Nguyen Nam, Binh Chanh District).

"Capital is invested in production without including the cost of raising, cultivating or irrigating seedlings, weeding, winnowing or drying rice"(Nguyen Ba Thanh, Can Tho). "As regards crop yields, particularly rice yields, the figures, in my opinion, are arrived at through compromise and do not reflect the actual yield. Because, the actual yield might be higher (despite what the official data of the statistics sector reflect)"(Phan Van Hung, Hoc Mon District). Phan Binh Minh (Ben Tre Province) asks: "When all the costs and deductions per 1 cong [1,000 square meters] of class A land total 12 gia of rice, that is 480 kilograms, how much does the farmer who worked the field receive?"

Some collectives and cooperatives are not truly upholding the right of collective ownership of farmers.

Phan Van Hung (Hoc Mon District) states that "the activities of the boards of directors of many cooperatives are activities in form only and do not uphold the right of ownership of cooperative members." Vu Bang (Binh My Village, Cu Chi District) indicates: "Transactions between cooperative members and the cooperative are still plagued by red tape. Specifically, when pests are noticed on rice, cooperative members report to their unit but it is sometimes 10 days before the unit sends persons out to spray pesticide. Some persons have had to go report to the cooperative. This is not to mention the fact that the pesticide sprayed the first time lacks 'punch,' thus making it difficult to meet requirements with the next spraying. Nevertheless, this unit receives work points in paddy equivalent for each time that it sprays, points that are paid when the crop is harvested."

Although it is farmers who directly produce crops, they are not allowed to participate in formulating production plans or deciding the allocation of crops. Some places "force farmers to raise three crops of green beans but do not have them plant rice even though rice requires less irrigation"(Ho Thi Phuong).

When farmers agree to join collective production and stand shoulder to shoulder in building collectives and cooperatives, their right of ownership must truly be respected in everything from the formulation of production plans to the distribution of products, which are the final results of their labor. Tran Thi Kim Nguyen maintains that "management cadres must convene a meeting of farmers, very precisely calculate the results of their labor to date and formulate a clear plan for the future on the basis of the opinions expressed by the people. Only in this way can they truly be management cadres who dare to assume responsibility and be held accountable."

Some places have distributed cropland in ways that are not fair or reasonable.

As regards the redistribution of cropland, "there is still unfairness in determining the average number of persons per household and the redistribution of farmland prior to carrying out agricultural cooperativization at a number of basic units in the countryside and the outskirts of the city. Although, from the standpoint of basic issues, reports have been issued stating that the redistribution of cropland and the abolition of exploitation have been completed, no report has been issued which certifies that localities have redistributed farmland in a fair and accurate manner. Many party members and cadres within the village and hamlet leadership apparatus have received more than the average amount of cropland distributed within their area while some families have received less than the average or none at all. Relatives of cadres or influential families who had surplus cropland to begin with, which was not redistributed or was only redistributed in a perfunctory manner, automatically built new houses, dug new ponds, built new mounds and set up separate households and then were distributed additional cropland, thus giving them far more than allowed under the locality's standard"(Nguyen Nam, Binh Chanh District).

In addition, some agricultural land has, in practice, been removed from the category of farmland. "When you include the number of households joining cooperatives 'stripped down to the bone,' the ratio of land to the number of

households in cooperatives naturally rises. The results of surveys and the classification of cropland are of very poor quality. Changes in the structure of land are not clearly defined. Of special importance is the unexplained loss of agricultural land"(Phan Van Hung, Hoc Mon District). At some places "good cropland has been set aside for 'public use' but they still have yet to put it to 'use' for the 'public,' thereby unintentionally preventing or delaying productive use of cropland (by temporarily using it as a soccer field until building materials arrive or leaving it fallow while awaiting construction). Some good cropland has been set aside on a permanent basis (as in a land grant) for units on the upper level to raise crops to meet their own needs. The concerned units on the upper level only declare that they use this land for one season. During the remaining seasons, members of the unit quietly rent the land and raise crops for themselves to increase their personal income"(Tran Van Xay, Hoc Mon District).

The issue of cadres and negative phenomena within collectives and cooperatives:

Concerning the standards and skills of collective and cooperative management cadres, Nguyen Van Huynh (Binh Chanh District) states that "the majority of collective cadres, who are appointed by the local administration are collective members who previously owned no cropland and had to work for hire or only had one or two paddies. Now, they must manage as much as 40 to 50 mau of cropland and are, as a result, confused when it comes to organizing a well run cooperative." Meanwhile, "work methods are still bureaucratic and administrative. Cooperative management boards do not truly maintain close contact with the people in order to gain an understanding of their thoughts and aspirations and do practically nothing by way of providing practical assistance to cooperative members in production and their everyday lives"(Vu Bang, Cu Chi District). At some places, "party members and cadres have no consideration for the people at all, act like officials and are feared by the people. Many party members who hold public positions of authority go around drinking and getting drunk"(Nguyen Van Leo, Tay Ninh Province).

Some cadres "perform their work in a form for form's sake manner, let things slide and are irresponsible"(Tran Thi Kim Nguyen, 8th Precinct). "As it turns out, only those persons who are on the management board receive payment for overtime work and are allowed to borrow money to make a profit. One collective sells matches and has opened a tree farm but sells its products on the outside. Collective members are only allowed to buy those products that cannot be marketed. But if they can be sold, merchants will not buy them unless they are given credit on the deposit and the final payment"(Phan Van Lai, Binh Chanh District).

While "the party members and leadership cadres of the village were campaigning for the sale of products and grain to the state, some of them invited private merchants to their homes and sold tens of gia of rice"(Nguyen Nam, Binh Chanh District). There is currently "a phenomenon called 'the fishing junk kick,' that is, buying grain and fertilizer from fishing junks and barges and transporting it back for distribution in the West, which was started by a

group of dishonest fishing junk managers, coordinating with whom are some village leaders and party members, particularly a few degenerate party chapter committee members"(Nguyen Nam).

As regards the loss of materials at the Eastern Canal farmland water conservancy project in Cu Chi, Dang Duc (Cu Chi District) reports: "Each day, I have witnessed the illegal sale of fuel by mechanized construction workers. The day after the mechanized construction unit delivers its workers to Bau Tron Hamlet in Nhuan Duc Village, there is 'surplus fuel' on sale. It is sold all day long and the amount sold is quite large. The same thing happens when cement arrives. Meanwhile, the project is being constructed slower with each day that passes. Also according to Dang Duc, "many agricultural cooperatives are competing against one another in the illegal business in agricultural materials."

Procurement prices are unreasonable and do not provide incentive for farmers to produce.

"The various policies that encourage the development of agriculture are unsatisfactory: procurement prices are unreasonable and fertilizer, pesticides and the other types of agricultural materials are not supplied in a way that is well coordinated or supplied on time. Agricultural mechanization to help free the farmer from strenuous labor is still very severely limited. For some crops and species of livestock, the chain extending from production to distribution and circulation has been cut into pieces, thus impeding investments and limiting the amount of technical guidance provided and efforts to control sources of goods"(Bang Hong Van, the Agriculture Service).

Farmers often say that they must plant rice seed that has been "thoroughly measured out," because, when they thresh their paddy and sell rice to the state, they sell it at very cheap prices, virtually giving it away but, once it has been sold, they have difficulty withdrawing their money and must go back and forth to the bank many times"(Tran Thai Hoa, the 11th Subward, the 3rd Precinct). "The farmer wants to be able to sell a much larger quantity at negotiated prices than he is required to sell at official prices. Only then will he be eager to raise yields"(a number of elders in Binh Thanh District). As regards livestock production, "with appropriate buying and selling prices and appropriate incentives, the state, without making any costly investments at all, would be able to earn tens of millions of dong in profit annually from hogs because it would not have to absorb the cost of losses in shipments from the provinces"(Le Van Dai, 4th Precinct).

"Selling hogs to the cooperative is easy but buying meat is difficult and involves much waiting. Sometimes even selling hogs is extremely difficult when the cooperative's procurement representative acts like an emperor"(Nguyen Nam, Binh Chanh District).

Competition in the procurement of agricultural products for exportation has caused chaos on the market.

"At present, many business units only use fertilizer and pesticides to trade for agricultural products with agricultural cooperatives and marketing

cooperatives. These cooperatives never produce these agricultural products, but go around buying them up to trade for fertilizer and pesticides, which are then put onto the free market. By so doing, the management boards of these cooperatives have abandoned production for a purely business operation"(Bang Hong Van, the Agriculture Service).

"The organization of agricultural production exporting activities is decentralized. Many units are exporting agricultural products, from precincts and districts to the city, and prices are set at any level seen fit. The amount of materials and other essential products imported for agriculture is small compared to needs as well as to the quantity of agricultural products exported"(Hai Phong, the Agriculture Service).

III. Appropriate Concern Is Not Being Shown for the Material and Spiritual Lives of Farmers

"In many rural areas in the outskirts of the city, oil lamps flicker throughout the year. To buy lantern oil, one must travel 20 kilometers to reach the nearest sales point of the fuel corporation. When requesting electricity service at the locality's electricity management office, you are asked to keep coming back and are made to comply with all sorts of procedures"(Nguyen Nam, Binh Chanh District).

The subsidiary economy is not encouraged and conditions have not been created for it to develop.

"People no longer raise hogs because the prices of livestock are too high. Raising fish is also a losing operation. Yet, we hear reports each year that the number of hogs being raised has increased and many fish were spawned"(a number of elders in Binh Thanh District). "In actuality, have the subsidiary trades opened by cooperatives, such as brick baking, carpentry, blacksmithing and so forth, absorbed all idle labor or skilled cooperative members or only created jobs for a favored minority?"(Vu Bang, Cu Chi District).

Spiritual life in the countryside, especially in former liberated areas, is still inferior in many respects.

"The life of the laboring people in the former liberated areas is still a life of many hardships, besides the shortages, poverty and backwardness that have existed since before the war"(Cao Hoai Duc).

Another social issue of no less importance is that of family planning: "Cropland cannot be continually subdivided but the population is growing because family planning in the countryside, although propagandized, is rarely practiced"(Phan Van Lai, Binh Chanh District).

IV. Some Suggestions

Flexible forms of organization of production are needed when carrying out agricultural cooperativization.

"Our country is advancing to socialism from a poor and backward system of small-scale production that suffered extensive damage in the war. In addition, we are bypassing the stage of capitalist development. Therefore, we need to have suitable transitional forms of organization of production before we can lead the economy into the sphere of socialism and should not be too rigid or stern toward everything that appears to be 'non-socialist.' In particular, at a time when the country's economy is experiencing a period of instability, to be appropriate, it is even more necessary for our economic policy to be more dynamic"(Tran Kim Khoe, 3rd Precinct). "In the initial period of socialist construction, allowing many different segments of the economy, including the private economy, to exist within the national economy is reasonable"(Ngo Van Tuan, Hamlet Number 4, Kinh A, Le Minh Xuan).

Agricultural planning must be revamped.

Hai Phong (the Agriculture Service) suggests that we "should look into revamping the planning mechanism of the agricultural sector, particularly production and export-import plans. Plans for the agricultural sector should be assigned to the agricultural sector because, in actuality, no one is closer to or understands the economic activity of the sector better than the agencies concerned with it. On the other hand, the sector has the responsibility of endeavoring to gradually achieve balance for the sector. The sector is currently responsible for guiding production and providing technical guidance and, as such, must have the authority to meet its support requirements. Specifically, in the 3rd quarter or at the start of the 4th quarter, the Municipal Planning Committee must inform the sector of its production, export-import and supply norms for the next year. Then, the sector should guide subordinate units and the precincts and districts that have agricultural production in formulating plans from the basic units upward and try to finish integrating these plans and forward them to the Municipal Planning Committee during the 4th quarter. In the precincts and districts, the plan for the agricultural economy (including exports and imports) should be incorporated in the socio-economic plan of the precinct or district and forwarded to the Municipal Planning Committee to be integrated. In this way, the sector plan will be combined with the socio-economic plan for the locality. The system of planning organizations must be strengthened from the basic units upward. Planning cadres must be assigned to the jobs for which they were trained to insure the uniformity of planning and, at the same time, insure that reporting procedures and the rate of implementation of the plan are maintained, as this is the only way to help to provide timely leadership and guidance, particularly when the agricultural season or epidemics demand that urgent and accurate steps be taken."

The agricultural cooperative must be the foundation of the village, of the district.

This is the view of Cao Hoai Duc (Nhuan Duc Village, Cu Chi District). "To accomplish this, the agricultural cooperative must carry out the three revolutions thoroughly and well: the production relations revolution, the scientific-technological revolution and the cultural and ideological revolution. Ordinarily, to establish the new production relations, many places only concern themselves with bringing farmers into collective

production and making them the owners of cropland and the other means of production but give no attention to the other relations. The view that we increasingly stimulate change in the conservative nature, thinking and habits of farmers as we step up the collectivization of cropland and means of production is not entirely correct. Facts have shown that farmers do not want to join collective production because they do not have confidence and have not thoroughly adopted the new thinking. Because, the thinking and habits found in the rural areas of Vietnam have formed not just on the basis of cropland, but as a result of many different social factors. Therefore, social questions must be considered as being of foremost importance. Equal importance must be attached to all factors. We should not attach an excessive amount of importance to the collectivization of cropland."

Also according to Cao Hoai Duc, "there are still very many agricultural cooperatives that have only established a management 'structure' but do not know how to 'get things done,' do not know where to get investment capital when cropland has yet to be collectivized. The only alternative is to build and create the initial conditions for agricultural cooperatives to become cells, become economic cooperation teams that are capable of producing non-agricultural and other commercial products, such as exported bamboo blinds, exported bean curd, the services and small industry and the handicraft trades, which are easier to collectivize than cropland. By doing this, farmers will change their old thinking and habits faster than when every attack is aimed only at their cropland. The proof of this is that at those places where the subsidiary sectors and trades, such as small industry and the handicraft trades, circulation and commerce have been well organized and good investments have been made in these areas, the face of society has changed and developed very rapidly, as typified by the town of Cu Chi, Tan Thong Hoi Village and Tan Phu Trung Village. Clearly, these are doorways through which the natural influences and catalysts of the urban industrial way of life and way of working can have a strong and direct impact upon rural life and affect the old agricultural production relations. Of basic importance in gaining the willing participation of farmers in cooperativization is for them to recognize that cooperativization is an essential condition of revolutionary requirements, as truly being in their interest, not as several measures taken by the state to manage the manpower, products and cropland of farmers. Consequently, suitable economic and social policies must be adopted which show these persons that it is better to be a collective farmer than not."

The trade sector and the subsidiary household economy must be developed.

Ngo Van Tuan (the Le Minh Xuan State Farm), Anh Cao (the College of Economics), Le Van Dai (4th Precinct) and Le Van Cuoc (14th Subward, 8th Precinct) suggest that we "strongly develop the traditional trades and the subsidiary household economy, such as household hog production, which is not very costly from the standpoint of materials and pens." One of the sources of capital from which the farmers in collectives and cooperatives can borrow money to develop the subsidiary household economy is the cash fund, or the rice fund of the collective. Concerning this, Phan Van Lai (Binh Chanh District) specifically suggests that we "must regularly audit funds. Preventing funds from becoming lost or shrinking is good, but it is also necessary for these funds to generate interest. For example, if they were

used to develop the livestock production sector alongside crop production, raising chickens and ducks on surplus rice would bring 3 or 4 dong in income while selling the surplus rice would only bring an income of 1 dong. At present, management costs and the cost of constructing pens make it impossible to raise livestock by industrial methods. Instead, we must contract with farm families. Full use must be made of existing installations and priority must be given to those persons who have the facilities and experience needed to raise livestock. They must be allowed to borrow 'rice' capital from the collective and pay it back in the form of meat. However, instead of using 'non-specific' contracts, we must regularly observe what they are doing, advise them concerning the techniques of livestock care, pen sanitation, vaccinations and so forth..."

Moreover, according to Cao Hoai Duc (Cu Chi District), the subsidiary economy not only supports agricultural production, but also helps to build collectives and cooperatives, that is, "in order to do a good job of improving the quality of agricultural cooperatives, the state must adopt a new and more practical outlook, the best being to develop the subsidiary trades before the cooperativization of cropland. Thus, upon what base are cooperatives to exist and operate? Let them develop the subsidiary trades into cooperation teams producing baskets, bamboo blinds and so forth, develop the services, organize the procurement and sale of agricultural products...in order to lay the initial economic groundwork and establish a base for investing in education, culture, public health and material-technical bases for agriculture."

Generally speaking, many readers throughout the city and its rural outskirts, such as Phan Tri (5th Subward, Binh Thanh District), suggest: "The city must take measures to promote household livestock and crop production because little capital is required and results can be achieved in only 1 to 3 months. In 1985, household livestock production declined due to a lack of concern on the part of leadership, too much reliance upon two-way trade with the provinces, reliance upon the specialized livestock farms and vegetable growing areas of the city and the failure to fully see the benefit resulting from the entire city increasing the production of food. Developing the household economy, which includes small industry and handicraft production, livestock and crop production, is one of the measures of long-range significance that can be taken. To step up livestock production, the city must re-examine the prices at which young livestock and poultry are sold and the procurement prices paid for products and set these prices at appropriate levels that encourage persons to raise livestock. The Women's Union must be the nucleus of the campaign to encourage household livestock production. Elders and teenage students must take the lead in crop production."

"The experience of the socialist countries that have preceded us shows that even though they have a modern industry and agriculture, they still give attention to the subsidiary household economy. This economy accounts for 30 to 40 percent of national income. By taking this approach, they have mobilized a significant amount of idle labor and contributed to society a considerable quantity of products"(Anh Cao, the College of Economics).

It is necessary to build the new countryside and carry out educational, cultural and social development.

According to Cao Hoai Duc (Cu Chi District), to change the face of the countryside in the outskirts of the city, we must have persons who possess cultural and technical standards and skills. Thus, the culture and education sectors must provide active support. In the present situation, culture and education are still being regarded lightly and attention is not being given to their development. Form is considered more important than results. If we do not promote education, how can we raise the cultural standards of the people and train leadership cadres who are intelligent and capable and meet high specialized standards? If we do not carry out cultural and social development, how can we spread new ideas in order to make inroads against thinking that is old? There is no other way to improve life in the countryside than by making determined and tactful efforts to abolish all conservative and backward habits by installing electricity and gradually carrying out mechanization to improve working conditions, developing water conservancy and communications, expanding the education network, raising the cultural standards of the entire village and popularizing wholesome cultural activities (literature-art, physical culture-sports, films...).

Water, fertilizer, labor and seed must be supplied in a well coordinated manner to support production well.

"The fields of collectives must be prepared in a way that produces good rice and results in few weeds; they should not be plowed in a less than thorough or shallow manner because it is cheaper by 1 or 2 gia of rice (as a result of buying fuel at the official price) to plow the fields of the collective than a private field, as a result of which much time must be spent weeding"(Phan Van Lai, Binh Chanh District). And, "it is also necessary to drain waterlogged fields, leach fields of sulfates and protect crops but very few collectives have persons in charge of this work, outside of the bookkeeper, warehouse custodian and head of the collective"(Phan Van Lai).

Farmers enthusiastically welcome the construction by the party and state of the Eastern Canal (Cu Chi District) in order to practice multicropping and expand the amount of area under cultivation. However, it has been suggested that we "should attach importance to regularly repairing and dredging the canals and ditches that have been dug because many are now blocked and their embankments are in poor condition, which affect production and travel by the people, including the Tu Canal near the An Ha River. Allowing canals to remain in a state of disrepair with the result that many fields lie fallow wastes very much labor and property of the state and labor of the people. I suggest that the Tu Canal be dredged, that its embankments be raised so that they can be easily travelled by the public and that bridges be built in each section of the canal. The canal's water brings life to the rice plant and is the lifeline of the farmer. In addition, the canal's valves must be repaired so that water can be pumped down from the Tan Thoi Nhi pump station when it is hot and dry and an irregular flow of water can be avoided. Trees must be planted along the embankments of the canal to retain soil. An organization should be set up to protect the canal, routinely inspect dike sections for damage and take disciplinary action against persons who dig into and unconsciously damage the canal"(Tu Phu, Cu Chi District).

However, in construction work, "it is necessary to concentrate on building projects in a well coordinated manner and with a specific deadline for completion so that they yield the highest possible economic returns (specifically, electric pump stations and irrigation and drainage projects for agriculture in the outskirts of the city)"(Vu Dinh Nha).

As regards seed, "we must promote the transplanting of a number of short-term, high yield varieties of rice during the 10th month season in order to trade with farmers and avoid farmers having to set aside 100 square meters of ground to be directly sown with short-term rice during the 10th month season. This practice wastes labor, is unscientific and produces many adverse consequences. We must prove to farmers that they truly stand to benefit by propagating seed of the collective"(Phan Van Lai).

The agricultural products export-import business must be restructured.

"It is necessary to unify the units that export agricultural products and import materials for agriculture within one entity of which the agricultural sector is in charge, an entity that operates in accordance with a unified export-import plan for the entire city and within which there is an assignment of responsibilities and authority to units and the precincts and districts. Due to the special characteristics of agricultural production, the initial period of investment in a product is long (3 to 4 months for crops, 5 to 6 months for livestock). It is suggested that fresh, seasonal products that must be marketed quickly be directly imported in order to make it possible to be close to the market"(Hai Phong, the Agricultural Service).

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PROBLEMS WITH PRODUCT CONTRACTS OUTLINED, IMPROVEMENTS SUGGESTED

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 6 Oct 86 pp 3, 4

[Article by Do The Tung, the Nguyen Ai Quoc Advanced Party School: "Some Ways To Improve the Product Contracts in Agriculture"]

[Text] The realities of the past several years have proven that the new contracts are one of the important factors that have helped agriculture to develop, have helped to increase the amount of area under cultivation, the yield and the output of rice and raise the amount of grain mobilized for the state and the standard of eating of cooperative members.

However, during the past 2 years, the yield and output of rice have stopped rising and the standard of eating of cooperative members has declined at many places. At the same time, many negative phenomena have arisen, such as lax and inefficient production management on the part of management cadres; insufficient depreciation on means of production; very little capital formation by cooperatives; the problem of products being withheld has become universal and is growing as more than a few cooperative members have fallen into financial difficulties and are unable to pay their debts; some households have asked that they be allowed to return some of the fields accepted under contract; manual labor is becoming more widespread; the monoculture of rice is increasing; the trade sector is on the decline; the activities of cooperatives are weak... In the face of these phenomena, some persons who oppose the new contracts have been given an opportunity to denounce and abolish them. Many persons who previously supported the new contracts have also started to become skeptical, maintaining that perhaps they have "lost their effect."

Having looked into the situation at a number of agricultural cooperatives, we see the following: examined separately, each of the phenomena mentioned above has specific causes but these phenomena are interrelated and, in the final analysis, stem from one or two common causes. To correct these negative phenomena, it is first of all necessary to correctly analyze their causes.

On the basis of initial studies, these causes can be summarized as the following two primary causes:

First, many aspects of the relationship between the state (represented by state-operated economic organizations) and cooperatives are irrational. The

cooperative is a form of the socialist economy. To strengthen and develop it, positive assistance must be provided in many areas by the proletarian dictatorship state. This is a prerequisite without which the class of farmers cannot advance to large-scale production.

When product contracts with groups of laborers and individual laborers were first implemented, as a result of closely tying the responsibility and interests of the laborer to the final results of production, we motivated everyone to work hard and voluntarily put more of their own capital into intensive cultivation. On the other hand, contract quotas were, generally speaking, still low, particularly at weak and deficient cooperatives. The quantity of materials traded by the state with farmers under two-way contracts was still in balance with these contract quotas (even though the supplying of materials was heavily characterized by bureaucracy and state subsidies). Consequently, at first, many households met or exceeded contract quotas and the living conditions of farmers were improved. However, during the past 2 years and due to many different reasons, the quantity of materials supplied by the state directly to cooperatives per unit of land under cultivation has declined. Meanwhile, contract quotas have risen across the board and the quotas on the amount of grain mobilized for the state are also much higher. Therefore, the number of households failing to meet contract quotas has steadily risen and the amount of grain distributed under contracts has decreased. The population has been growing quickly, consequently, the amount of grain consumed per capita has steadily declined.

When abolishing state subsidies and shifting entirely to business practices, the state suddenly increased the prices of agricultural materials and industrial consumer goods many times but the prices of paddy were not raised accordingly. Moreover, the fact that many state-operated organizations have been placing sole emphasis upon business income while giving light attention to supporting production plus lax management by the state have further reduced the small amount of materials being supplied directly to farmers. A considerable portion of materials goes through the free market before reaching the hands of farmers at high prices.

In this situation, only those cooperatives that earn a high income as a result of good commerce activities or developed handicraft trades can provide the same or a higher level of material support. The majority of cooperatives specializing in rice production have been forced to reduce the quantity of materials supplied, particularly chemical fertilizers. Some well-to-do families who have tried to make the investments needed to meet or exceed contract quotas have suffered losses as a result of the price disparity mentioned above. Many persons have taken a look at their situation and concluded: it would be better to accept less land under contract, only enough to meet the grain needs of the family, and put my labor and capital into another, more profitable area of the household economy, go into trade or go gather forest products or fish for marine products, depending upon the area. The majority of the households that have built homes and purchased expensive furniture have done so as a result of developing the household economy or through sources of income other than contracts, not by increasing the income they earn under contracts.

Because difficulties have been encountered in trading paddy for chemical fertilizer of the state, some cooperatives have left it up to their members to obtain their own nitrogen fertilizer instead of allocating paddy for this purpose. As a result, households that have much paddy and money have traded for quintals of chemical fertilizer. Conversely, some households that lack food and have been unable to trade for even 1 kilogram of fertilizer, have had to plant their crops without fertilizer, thus falling even shorter of their contract quotas. Generally speaking, the state is only supplying about one-fifth as much pesticide to cooperatives as it was previously. Despite this fact, crop insurance contracts are not being widely used and the use of pesticides is irrational, decentralized and ineffective. Many cooperative members must buy their own pesticides on the free market. Market management agencies have not dared to intervene because farmers respond: "The state and the cooperative have not supplied us so you must let us buy what we need on the outside." Also because of rising fuel prices, the cost of preparing fields by tractor has become very expensive, nearly three times as high as plowing by buffalo at some places. Moreover, payment, which was once made in money, is now made in paddy. Therefore, laborers would rather hoe their fields than hire a tractor. Some cooperatives that have purchased tractors plow their own fields. But only those cooperatives whose cash income is high can afford the costs incurred and make full use of tractor capacity. Cooperatives that rely solely upon income in paddy cannot make full use of their tractor capacity because paddy prices are low, fuel and spare part prices are very high and revenues do not cover expenditures. This is not to mention the fact that cooperatives at some places have been forced to accept many unreasonable terms. For example, if they want to hire tractors, they must also hire two workers from the station and pay each 1,100 dong per month. But the station only pays these workers the wage stipulated by the state. Consequently, in order for these workers to do their work well, the cooperative must subsidize them during the days they spend preparing the ground. Many cooperatives use their tractors as means of transportation in order to earn more money than they would preparing fields. As regards water conservancy, many places are not receiving the full supply of electricity and fuel that they once did or are not being supplied on time. Many canal and ditch systems that were constructed years ago are now in need of repair or have not been completed. As a result, district irrigation corporations are only able to supply water to level II canals. Cooperative members themselves have had to lead the water into fields. Despite this, water conservancy costs have not been reduced. The district irrigation corporations collect water conservancy fees in paddy but this paddy is deposited in state granaries and the corporations only receive payment at a stipulated price; therefore, even though they hear complaints that "water conservancy costs are high," these corporations usually do not have sufficient capital to build or repair projects as planned because material prices are high. As regards seed, very many cooperatives no longer raise seed collectively, but have made each member household responsible for obtaining their own seed. The cooperative only stipulates which variety is to be planted on each field, consequently, seed has degenerated at many places.

The difficulties described above have made it necessary for persons who accept contracts to perform not only the three final jobs in the rice production process, but all other jobs as well.

Secondly, the management standards of the cadres at cooperatives are, generally speaking, weak. These cadres have not received training on a regular basis and no mechanism has been put in place that closely ties the responsibility and interests of the manager to the final results of production.

The old contracting method, which was not consistent with the low management standards of cadres or with small-scale production forces based primarily on manual labor, impeded the development of production. Since making the change to the new contracts, these management standards have not been raised. The reason production increased is because closely tying the responsibility and interests of the laborer to the final results of production provided incentive for cooperative members to work hard and mobilized family capital for intensive cultivation. However, these two positive factors have their limits. Practical experience proves that, given the extent of manual labor today, one laborer who undertakes the three jobs of transplanting, cultivating and harvesting, accepts 6 to 7 sao Bac Bo under contract, a modest amount, and employs additional labor cannot raise crop yields further. The use of family capital in intensive cultivation is impeded by the fact that losses increase with increased investments due to the disparity between paddy prices and the prices of agricultural materials as mentioned above. Therefore, to continue to develop the incentive that contracts provide, we must make improvements in the preparation of fields, the supplying of fertilizer, the protection of crops and livestock, water conservancy and seed because it is only through these areas that scientific-technical advances can be introduced in agriculture. This demands that cooperative cadres be well versed in economic management, have a thorough understanding of agricultural technology and possess high zeal and a high sense of responsibility. However, the corps of cooperative management cadres is usually unstable and does not receive regular training. At many cooperatives, cadres do not know about the new directives of the central level concerning contracts. Although the cultural and political standards of cooperative cadres have, generally speaking, been raised, their ability to provide economic management and their knowledge of agricultural science and technology remain limited and, given the circumstances of the relationship between the state and cooperatives as described above, lax management is unavoidable. This is not to mention the fact that some cadres lack integrity and have fallen victim to the maladies of corruption, waste and bureaucracy, thus making an even worse mess of the operations of the cooperative.

More deserving of attention is the fact that, generally speaking, the responsibility and interests of the manager have not been closely tied to the final results of production at agricultural cooperatives. The level of distribution under contracts has declined and the low prices of paddy have caused the income of cooperative cadres to also be low. This has forced many cadres to give more attention to the household economy than the work of the cooperative because the way to "get rich" is through the household economy or other activities, not through what they are distributed by the cooperative.

To correct the unwholesome phenomena mentioned above, in addition to the basic requirement that there be a consensus throughout the party concerning the implementation of the new contracts, it is necessary to take a series of well

coordinated measures that encompass many different fields. In our opinion, the following several measures must be taken immediately:

First, we must reorganize and strengthen the state-operated organizations of the districts that provide support in the areas of the preparation of fields, fertilizer, the protection of crops and livestock, water conservancy and seed. The operations of these corporations must be closely tied to the final results of production by persons who accept contracts. The interests of state-operated organizations, cooperatives and the individual laborer must be closely combined.

The model that is the operations of the Kien An District Crop Insurance Corporation (Haiphong) provides us with a specific solution to this problem. In Do Son, they have begun a pilot project in assigning the crop insurance corporation the task of supplying fertilizer as well. In Kien An District, the crop insurance corporation has taken on the additional task of supplying rice seed. Instead of setting up its own seed farm, the corporation contracts with cooperatives that have the material bases, tradition and skills for producing good seed. The corporation supplies materials and genetically pure seed received from the central level and provides technical guidance. At the same time, it has assumed the responsibility of distributing seed paddy to the cooperatives within the district (at an exchange rate of 1 kilogram of seed paddy for 1.2 kilograms of table paddy).

We maintain that it is reasonable for crop insurance corporations to supply both fertilizer and rice seed. Tractors are not yet suited to all areas of the country. Therefore, tractor stations should only be established where appropriate, that is, where the average amount of cropland per laborer is high and the supply of draft power is strained to the limit. Tractor stations must undertake both functions: preparing fields and providing technical maintenance for cooperatives that have bought and used their own tractors. At cooperatives that have few buffalo, plowing and harrowing should be coordinated by production unit instead of distributing one buffalo to each group of households, which leads to buffalo being used beyond their capacity and not receiving good care, as a result of which they must be taken out of production early. Better policies aimed at encouraging families to raise their own buffalo must be adopted.

The district irrigation corporations must also be strengthened by closely tying the responsibility and interests of the corporation to the actual results of irrigation and drainage operations. The authority and responsibilities of the district irrigation corporation and cooperatives with regard to the maintenance, use and repair of water conservancy projects must be clearly defined. Projects that support just one cooperative should be turned over to the cooperative to manage. The workers needed to operate this project should also be assigned to or trained for the cooperative, with the corporation only conducting inspections and providing technical instruction. Water conservancy fees should be collected on the basis of actual results of irrigation and drainage operations, not on the basis of an imposed rate. Clearly defined bonuses and penalties must be established for corporations, the cadres of corporations and the personnel of the specialized irrigation units of cooperatives.

Secondly, contract output quotas and the quotas on the amount of grain mobilized (in addition to taxes, must correspond to the quantity of materials supplied by the state to cooperatives and persons who accept contracts. Everyone knows that when crop yields are low, it is very easy to exceed contract quotas. However, once crop yields reach high levels, it is very difficult to increase output. Figures for the world show that a 2 percent increase in materials is needed to increase output by 1 percent. Therefore, contract quotas cannot be raised to suit convenience nor is it possible to rigidly set these quotas when material supply conditions and the techniques of intensive cultivation have changed.

Some persons suggest that contract quotas remain stable for a period of 5 years. This approach is only correct when all conditions, particularly the supply of materials, do not change. If the supply of materials declines but the same contract quotas are maintained, the practical effect is the same as raising contract quotas. Conversely, when the state is able to increase the supply of materials, contract quotas must be raised accordingly.

Thirdly, the ratio between paddy prices and the prices of agricultural materials and essential consumer goods sold to farmers must be adjusted. Products produced over and above contract quotas must be procured at negotiated prices that cover all costs and provide a profit because exceeding a contract quota generally means that a person must make a much larger investment.

Fourthly, inspections must be intensified to bring to light negative phenomena that must be rectified and new problems that arise so that ways can be found to solve them, beginning with putting a stop to the spread of the withholding of products by taking appropriate measures in each case.

Not all the withholding of products involves households who have fallen short of their contract quota. Nor has every household that has fallen short of contract quotas done so as a result of objective circumstances. Therefore, we must examine each case on its own merits and deal with each in an appropriate manner. Some persons are diligent workers but do not know how to do arithmetic, or they lack capital to invest in intensive cultivation, and have fallen short of their contract quota, which has resulted in their products being withheld. We must help them to gain experience, supply them with materials in advance or arrange for them to take more suitable jobs, even loan them grain so that they can support their families during the between season shortage. In the case of persons who have encountered unexpected difficulties, it is necessary to postpone or reduce their debts, even grant them a hardship subsidy. In the case of persons who are lazy and do not plan their expenditures, we must take stronger educational measures combined with administrative measures. Stern measures must be taken to deal with persons who intentionally put things off. But there are also families who are withholding products on their own because state-operated organizations still owe them money for the procurement of agricultural products or hogs or because they delivered paddy in exchange for nitrogen fertilizer but have yet to receive this fertilizer, etc. Therefore, state-operated organizations must set an example of fairness first. Party members must set examples. At many

places, farmers do not deliver their products because many party members have put delivering their products off or are indebted to the collective.

Fifthly, it is necessary to strengthen the socialist system of law, resolutely punish acts of collusion and the siphoning of agricultural materials onto the free market, strictly forbid unlawful trade in materials and unify the supplying of agricultural materials within one entity. At present, many organizations are importing chemical fertilizers and, through joint businesses and economic ties, these materials move about in a very chaotic fashion. Many places also sell nitrogen fertilizer in place of the grain standard to cadres currently working or retired, which means that they must sell this fertilizer on the free market. It is necessary to improve the way that materials are supplied because there is still much red tape which makes for increased losses and waste as a result of materials being transported in circuitous routes, being loaded and unloaded many times and being shipped through many intermediary echelons. As a result of these factors combined with many other negative phenomena, materials do not reach producers at the right time or in the right amount and are not of the right quality.

Sixthly, cooperatives should be encouraged to look for creative ways to improve the product contract mechanism, ways that closely tie the responsibility, authority and interests of cooperative management cadres to the final results of production.

Many cooperatives do not let out contract fields to key management cadres. Instead, they have raised their salaries so that they devote their efforts to the work of the collective. At the same time, they have clearly defined the responsibilities and authority of management cadres and enacted bonuses and penalties for management cadres. If the amount by which contract quotas are not met is large, the director and the unit chiefs have work days deducted from their total. If the cooperative exceeds its contract output quotas by a wide margin, they receive a bonus.

Seventhly, the activities of marketing cooperatives must be increased. They must undertake the functions of procuring agricultural products, producing small industry and handicraft products under contract, selling necessary consumer goods to farmers and serving as agents for state-operated commerce. It is impossible to "get rich" by means of a subsistent economy. Rather, this must be done by developing commodity production. At many places, particularly at agricultural cooperatives that lie far from main roads, the products and goods of the household economy are not all marketed even though the output of these products and goods is not large. On the other hand, farmers are unable to buy many consumer items that they need very much. At some places, private merchants have wormed their way in and are buying products cheaply and selling them at high prices, thus gouging farmers at both ends. Therefore, to stimulate the division of social labor and the development of commodity production, it is necessary to strengthen the activities of the marketing cooperatives in the areas of ordering goods, paying for procurements,

supplying in advance agricultural materials, building materials, industrial consumer goods and so forth with the aim of encouraging farmers and giving them the feeling of security they need to develop commodity production.

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CSO: 4209/128

TYPHOON, FLOOD CONTROL COMMITTEE REVIEWS ACTIVITIES

BK300418 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 29 Nov 86

[Text] The Central Steering Committee for the Control of Typhoons and Floods and the Ministry of Water Conservancy jointly held a conference on 27 and 28 November to review the fundamental task of dike building efforts to prevent and control typhoons and floods in 1986 and to discuss guidelines and tasks to be carried out in 1987.

In 1986, localities with river dikes excavated 2.47 million cubic meters of dirt to strengthen river dikes, thus attaining 110 percent of the planned target. Apart from strengthening dikes on large rivers, Hai Hung, Ha Bac, Vinh Phu, Ha Son Binh, and Ha Nam Ninh have further excavated 609,200 cubic meters of dirt to strengthen dikes on small rivers. Although having fulfilled their dike strengthening task, many localities have failed to fulfill the task of building and repairing protective dikes and sluices. The main reason for this is that this year they have met difficulties--a shortage of funds, stone, and means--in transporting and building protective dikes. Furthermore, localities have also not yet truly attached importance to this task.

Despite great efforts to control typhoons and floods, this year heavy rainstorms have caused serious cave-ins at a number of river dikes, protective dikes, and sluices. Right on those rainstormy days, the Ministry of Water Conservancy, in coordination with various localities and the armed forces, dealt effectively with various complex situations, thus partly reducing the damage.

At the congress, delegates from various localities and the water conservancy sector pointed out many lessons from experiences learned while implementing the task regarding the control of typhoons and floods. These lessons call for refraining from adopting a subjective attitude, paying attention to the task of weather forecasts, strengthen dike patrol and dike protecting forces, and detecting and dealing promptly with all situations effectively right from the outset.

The conference also suggested that the central government improve ways to make its investments in dike building and in the control of typhoons and floods if more favorable conditions are to be created for localities to mobilize their forces and means to step up their dike strengthening, building of protective dikes and sluices, and efforts to control natural calamities right from the beginning of the 1987 dry season.

BRIEFS

NEW MAIZE STRAINS--Hanoi VNA 22 Nov--The Institute of Agricultural Science and Technology has hybridized four new high-yield maize strains. Two varieties, code-named S1 and S2 have the maturity duration of 95 days and yield more than 2 tons per hectare, a 20 percent increase over other strains of the same period of growth. The third strain, called Maize No 6 with the medium maturity duration (105-108 days), can yield 3-3.5 tons per hectare, an increase of around 25 percent over other strains of the same maturity duration. The new variety has been grown along river banks in northern provinces with a total hectareage of 10,000 ha. The last new maize hybrid has a yield of 4 tons per hectare. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 0659 GMT 22 Nov 86 OW] /6662

CSO: 4200/170

BRIEFS

HIGH VOLTAGE CABLE CONSTRUCTION--Hanoi VNA 30 November--The construction of a 220-kv electric cable which links the Pha Lai thermal power plant in Hai Hung Province with the Hai Phong port city was started on 28 November. This 52 km line, built with Soviet assistance, will be stretched on 129 pylons. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 0723 GMT 30 Nov 86 OW] /12232

FOURTH PHA LAI PLANT OPERATING--Hanoi VNA 30 November--The fourth and last generator group at the Pha Lai thermal electric power plant on 29 November began generating power onto the national grid. This biggest thermal power plant of Vietnam, built with Soviet financial and technical assistance in Hai Hung Province, southeast of Hanoi, has four generator groups, each with a capacity of 110 mw. As a practical deed to greet the Sixth National Congress of the CPV, Soviet specialists and Vietnamese workers have beaten the deadline for the installation of the last generator group scheduled for early 1987. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 0713 GMT 30 Nov 86 OW] /12232

OIL RIG IN OPERATION--To score achievement to commemorate the 69th Great Soviet October Revolution and to welcome the 6th CPV Congress, on 28 November, the joint SRV-USSR oil and natural gas enterprise put into operation fixed Oil Rig No 3. This oil rig can dig 16 oil wells at a time. Experience drawn from Oil Rig No 1 has been applied by Soviet and Vietnamese engineers and workers to the construction of Oil Rig No 3. As a result, they were able to reduce the construction and assembly periods by 1 and 1/2 months and 2 months respectively, thereby fulfilling the Vietnamese-Soviet International Emulation Agreement. Results of exploitation in the first few days showed that the first well drilled by Oil Rig No 3 produced more oil output than those wells drilled by Oil Rig No 1. [Text] [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 1 Dec 86 BK] /12232

CSO: 4209/149

ACTING CULTURE MINISTER AT MUSIC SCHOOL CEREMONY

OW280755 Hanoi VNA in English 0700 GMT 28 Nov 86

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 28--The Hanoi Conservatoire has over the past 30 years trained 2,100 singers, musicians and music researchers and teachers, more than 800 of them with university degree.

This is reported in a ceremony held here recently marking the 30th anniversary of the institution.

The ceremony was attended by, among others, Tran Van Phac, member of the Vietnam Communist Party Central Committee and acting minister of culture, Ha Xuan Truong, head of the party Central Committee's Commission for Culture and Arts.

In the first academic year, the school had only 23 teachers and 120 students. But now it has six faculties staffed with more than 100 lecturers, with a dozen of them holding a doctorate degree.

During the anti-U.S. resistance war, many students of the school went to the front and several of them fell in battle for national salvation. The school has also prided itself upon the prizes taken over recent years by its students at national and international music contests.

Worthy of note were pianist Dang Thai Son, the first-prize winner at the 10th international Chopin piano contest held in Warsaw in 1980, and pianist Ton Nu Nguyet Minh, the third-prize winner at the international Smetana piano contest held in Czechoslovakia in 1980 and the second-prize winner at the international piano contest held in Italy in 1984. Several singers won high prizes at song contests held in the German Democratic Republic, Czechoslovakia, the Soviet Union and other countries.

Many graduates and teachers of the school have been given the title "People's Artiste" and "Merit Artiste". The Hanoi Conservatoire has twice been conferred with the Order of Labour, First and Second Class, by the State Council.

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