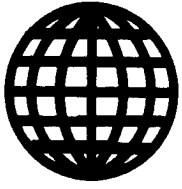


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JPRS Report

East Asia

***Southeast Asia
Vietnam: TAP CHI CONG SAN***
No 10, October 1989

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[This report is a translation of the table of contents and selected articles from the monthly theoretical and political journal of the Vietnam Communist Party published in Hanoi. Notations in the table of contents indicate articles previously published or not translated.]

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A Number of Problems in Renovating Thinking About Our Age and Socialism

00000000 Hanoi TAP CHI CONG SAN in Vietnamese No 10, Oct 89 pp 1-11

[Article by Le Xuan Luu; not translated]

Some Problems on the Transfer of Technology in the New Situation

00000000 Hanoi TAP CHI CONG SAN in Vietnamese No 10, Oct 89 pp 12-17, 11

[Article by Dang Huu; not translated]

The Role of the Trade Union in the Renovation of the Country

902E0176A Hanoi TAP CHI CONG SAN in Vietnamese No 10, Oct 89 pp 18-22, 25

[Article by Xuan Cang, member of the Secretariat of the Vietnam Confederation of Labor Unions]

[Text] National renovation, which was initiated at the Sixth Party Congress, has recognized and completely rearranged the various problems related to the development of our entire society. The Vietnam Trade Union, a social entity and a large mass organization of the working class with almost 4 million members in 17 sector trade unions and 44 provincial, municipal, and special zone trade unions, was quick to recognize its responsibilities. The Sixth Congress of the Vietnam Trade Union was a major self-criticism session. At the same time, the congress also made decisions and formed guiding viewpoints that will change the present state of affairs and bring about an historical turning point for the Vietnam Trade Union.

Noting the general trade union situation, the political report issued at the congress mentioned two reasons for the weaknesses in trade union activities during the past years: backwardness in theoretical understanding and sluggishness and conservatism in organizational and cadre work. The backwardness in trade union theory—it can be called this today—has left deep marks in the “slowness to recognize and concretize the role, functions, and tasks of the trade union in the initial stage of the transitional period.”¹

Now, from where must we begin in order to fully manifest the effect of the trade unions in the renovation of the country and, at the same time, enable the unions' work to become a great training forge for the working class and the trade union organizations? For the first time in the history of Vietnam Trade Union congresses, the political report issued by this congress did away with subjects of a traditional nature and began with propaganda, education, management participation, emulation movements, looking after living conditions, the organization of cadres, and finally international tasks. The congress focused on four major tasks with respect to

national renovation, the working class, the trade union organizations, and the international problems.

That was a new way of choosing—choosing a task and doing it well with the existing strength and capabilities and on target in order to move the entire body. In itself, this work represents a great change in methodology.

Two very important questions asked at the Sixth Vietnam Trade Union Congress were: What must be done to get trade union members, workers, and laborers to feel that this is their mass organization and use it as a reason for their existence? What must be done to bring the trade union members, workers, and laborers out of their apathy and, from this, involve them in the revolutionary action movements and get them to take the lead in renovating the country?

In order to answer these questions, the trade unions have concentrated all their energy on mobilizing and persuading the working class to abandon the bureaucratic centralism and state subsidies economic management mechanism, manifest creativity in participating in building a new management mechanism—an independent socialist commercial production mechanism that uses economic accounting and that is tied to the commodity markets. The trade unions have found their role in the ownership mechanism of the state enterprise labor collectives, a mechanism that ensures that each laborer is really in control. This replaces the previous ownership mechanism that was very formal in nature. The practices of the past 10 months following the congress show that the framework of this ownership mechanism is “property ownership.” “With this new management mechanism, the state transfers assets of all the people to the worker collectives and directors to manage and use in order to maintain and expand commercial production, provide jobs for the laborers and ensure their standard of living, and fulfill the obligation of making contributions to the state budget.”² With this spirit and concept of “property ownership,” the trade unions must enable the laborers to see that their fate and lives are tied to these ownership rights. Their happiness and standard of living and that of their families “depend primarily on the responsibilities, renovation of economic thinking, and improvement in the scientific and technical knowledge, managerial work, labor discipline, dynamism, and creativity of the ranks of workers and cadres.”³ In the control mechanism of the labor collectives, the trade unions must play the role of representative with respect to the obligations and rights of the workers and laborers, and, together with the managerial organizations under the leadership of the party committee echelons, maintain and build the real control mechanism of the labor collectives. The trade unions must organize the revolutionary movements of the workers, remove the difficulties, solve the burning problems, and organize emulation movements in accord with the principle of being open, making comparisons, and together developing and creating a motive force for commercial production. If the trade unions know how to organize things and boldly renovate thinking and work methods, no matter how

great the difficulties, they will be able to organize emulation movements among the workers. Emulation movements can and must be organized in socialist competition with a spirit of emulating in competition and not competing in emulation.

With respect to workers and laborers, the trade unions must elevate the role of the representative concerning obligations and rights and give more attention to the basic function of protecting the legitimate interests of the laborers. This is an "innate" function of the trade unions, a function that is closely related to the existence of the trade unions and that binds the trade unions to its members. The Sixth Vietnam Trade Union Congress reached a conclusion on the problem, but to date, there are still arguments within the trade unions about this. There are still people who fear that stressing this function will lead to struggles to "demand rights" with respect to the state and result in the masses engaging in anarchic activities. Reality has shown that such fears are groundless.

In looking after the lives and protecting the legitimate interests of the workers and laborers, the target set by the trade unions is: jobs, a [good] standard of living, democracy, and social fairness. This is not a slogan to "make demands" on the state. The trade unions feel that this is their responsibility and that they must launch the masses, manifest their intelligence, shoulder things together with the state to solve the burning problems, and play a leading role in the social life of the workers and laborers. Recently, the trade unions have been doing this. Together with the state, the trade unions have discovered the things hampering the production of a number of state enterprises. These things have resulted in hundreds of thousands of laborers being laid off while the methods used by the management organizations to solve the problems have been very arbitrary and, in many places, rudimentary. On the other hand, the trade unions have organized worker discussions and launched the skilled workers and technical cadres in starting additional production and business activities in order to attract workers, improve the goods, and find markets. The trade unions in the light industry sector have appealed to the workers in the sales sector to help sell the millions of books of matches stagnating at the Thong Nhat Match Factory. The trade union at the Haiphong Export Clothing Enterprise has organized the sale of items that the enterprise had intended to use to pay wages to obtain money to pay the workers. The trade unions at the Hong Gai and Cam Pha coal corporations actively intervened, together with the trade unions in the energy sector and the federation, in requesting that the state do something about the fact that mine workers are paid late. Within one week, the state had provided 5 billion dong and implemented specific measures to end the "running debt" situation between the commercial production installations, which is the direct reason for the lack of liquid assets and the shortage of money to pay the mine workers their wages on time. Many trade unions in Dong Nai Province and the trade unions at the

Thang Long bridge construction enterprises in Hanoi have, together with the directors, had many discussions with the workers about the problems bothering the workers. This has helped the managers understand the concerns, thoughts, and ideas of the workers. On the other hand, this has helped the workers obtain needed information concerning managerial activities and helped them understand the managers. The discussions organized by the Ha Tuyen provincial trade union at the Tuyen Quang Paper Mill have helped the party committee echelons in the province understand the nature of the managerial cadres that they employ. During these discussions, people have suggested ways to solve the problems in organizing production, and ways have been sought to overcome the difficulties and handle the reactions and complaints of the workers. Discussions, which are a democratic and open form, have become a school of socialist democracy among the workers and laborers.

In order to do the things mentioned above, the trade unions must undergo complete renovation, from theory to practice, and they must start by renovating the cadres organizations and the trade union operating formulas. The Vietnam Confederation of Trade Unions has changed its name to the Vietnam Confederation of Labor Unions and gradually expanded its organization into the private sector. More than 2 million workers and laborers now belong to this confederation. The trade unions must strive to strip away the administrative and bureaucratic centralism shell and do away with forms of organizations that parallel those of the state system and with operating formulas based on meetings and directives. They must organize movements from the top down and not start movements from the bottom up. "The bases must be used as the sphere of operations, and the members must be the targets of mobilization, persuasion, and education. This is the only way that the positions and policies of the party and state and the decisions of the trade unions will reach the masses and become the great material strength to carry out the tasks assigned."⁴

Another problem discussed at the Sixth Vietnam Trade Union Congress that I think needs to be clarified is: the trade unions and the social problems of the working class. In my view, this is a key problem if the trade unions are to carry out their functions and renovate their operating formulas. This problem was mentioned in all the documents and in the ideas expressed before, during, and after the congress, but it was not a separate item on the agenda and was not a main topic in any of the speeches. Thus, those involved in theoretical work on the trade unions need to delve into this more deeply and clarify the various angles of this problem.

Ever since the working class seized power, the trade unions have tended to focus almost all of their energy on carrying out the task of participating in state and economic management and in mobilizing the workers and civil servants to emulate and step up production, with that regarded as the great school of communism and the school to build up the working class. But for some

reason, every time we look, the trade unions have always failed to mature in these schools. Rather, it seems as if the trade unions have become more and more passive and confused. The democratic mechanisms in management have gradually become more formalistic, and the ownership role of the laborers has gradually become an abstract slogan.

Today, under the light of renovation and with the conditions to review things, we have begun to see the lack of variety and incompleteness of the strategic guidelines mentioned above. We have begun to realize that the trade unions must pay more attention to the "social aspects of production." They must reserve some of their energy and strength for an important sphere that has long been neglected, that is, the social problems and the working-class people. At the microcosmic level, it is at the bases that you find the problems concerning socialist democracy rights, the legitimate interests in daily life, and the long-term fundamental interests of the workers and laborers. At the macrocosmic level, it is at the central-echelon trade unions and Confederation of Labor Unions that you find social policies, policies to ensure that the people develop in all respects, and policies to build a strong working class.

Actually, this is a strong aspect of the trade unions. The trade unions realize the social effects of the positions and policies of the party and state and of the administrative echelons. They realize that these are related to the rights and obligations of the workers and laborers. Because of this, the trade unions will see their place when they participate in state and economic management.

Today, with the investment renovation policy and the multifaceted economic policy, the structure of the working class is undergoing an important change. In heavy industry, some elements have been cut back while others have been expanded (oil and gas, cement). The ranks of workers in light industry, agriculture, and the food industry have expanded, and there are many new factors. The intellectuals have become a direct production force, and they play an important role in the development of the working class. The worker-laborer forces "outside the state sector" have expanded greatly with many levels, and this poses many urgent social problems. The rapidly increasing number of workers and civil servants who have retired or who can no longer work, who now number in the millions, is creating major problems in daily life and created a social element that has a profound effect in worker society in the population centers. Irrational things concerning rights have occurred in the ranks of the working class. For example, workers at one place receive higher wages than those at another place even though their standards are the same and they have the same position. With the same role in controlling the country and in taking the lead in renovation, the state worker collectives have direct property rights to the enterprise assets, and there is an ownership mechanism in operation (although not yet tested). But workers outside the state sector don't have these things. A completely different ownership mechanism must be

formed through the role of the trade unions as the representatives of the workers and trade union members with respect to obligations and rights. Notable changes are also taking place in the sphere worker-labor social psychology. A sociological study conducted among 5,400 workers in Ho Chi Minh City at the end of October last year showed the guidelines to which attention must be paid. Asked why they worked, 55.1 percent said that the main reason was to make a living, followed by a concept of responsibility, a love of the profession, and close ties to the enterprise. When asked about their daily concerns, 53.4 percent of the workers said that they were concerned about food, and 32.7 percent said housing. When asked about major plans, 64.7 percent of the workers said that their greatest plan was to expand the family economy, followed by plans to improve their skills and study a foreign language. As for guidelines for upgrading the enterprises, 88 percent said that the enterprises should be expanded by giving attention to stabilizing living conditions. This was followed by those who mentioned the problems of materials and jobs. When asked which policy they liked the most, 59.9 percent said the wage policy (at present, the handling of wages in Ho Chi Minh City has been opened up), 55.9 percent said the policy to oppose negative aspects, 37.6 percent said the "open door" policy, 31 percent said the policy to expand the private economy, and 32.8 percent said the policy to give the enterprises greater independence. As for what types of books they liked, 46.2 percent said that they liked to read books on social psychology, and 39.1 percent said books on science and technology.

What do these figures show? Today's workers are more interested in practical problems related to daily life than they are in the general problems of society. Something worth noting is that among young workers, pragmatism has developed in an alarming manner.

In general, today's workers are more familiar with modern means of information, and each day they receive a large volume of information from many sources. Standards and artistic enjoyment have changed: the majority of young workers do not like purely national art forms. Sexually explicit films and titillating films and the various types of black videos and books have changed their aesthetic tastes.

The above situation shows that if the trade unions do not become deeply involved in the social spheres of the mobilization targets, they will not be able to create a revolutionary movement among the workers and laborers or effectively improve the function of participating in managing the state and the economy and inspecting and supervising the work of the state.

Every trade union cadre must be a social activist among the working class. To do this, the trade union cadres must be trained in sociology and social psychology. They must have excellent knowledge of mass psychology and must be highly skilled in organizing social activities among the workers. This is an empty space in the research program and curriculum of the high-level trade

union schools. Cadres study many subjects at these schools, such as basic culture, Marxist-Leninist theory, labor economics, trade unionism, and so on. But subjects concerning trade unions accounts for only about 15 percent of the classroom hours during the 4 years, and almost no sociology courses are offered.

In 1922, when discussing the role and tasks of the trade unions given the conditions of the new economic policy, Lenin told the trade union cadres: "You must immerse yourselves in the lives of the workers. You must have detailed knowledge of the lives of the workers and be able to make firm decisions at any time regardless of the problem. You must know the attitudes of the masses and be aware of their needs, wishes, and real thoughts. You must be able to make clear judgments—without being at all idealistic—about their level of awareness and the effects of prejudices or vestiges of the past. You must gain the boundless trust of the masses by taking a very friendly attitude toward them and satisfy their needs by taking an interest in them."⁵ Today, the above requirements are still applicable to Vietnam's trade union cadres. They must become more deeply involved with the social problems and the people of the working class.

Footnotes

1. "Proceedings of the Sixth Vietnam Trade Union Congress", Lao Dong Publishing House, Hanoi, 1989, p 54.
2. Address by Do Muoi, chairman of the Council of Ministers, at the meeting to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Vietnam Trade Union, NHAN DAN, 29 July 1989.
3. Ibid.
4. Speech by General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh at the Sixth Vietnam Trade Union Congress, "Congress Proceedings," Lao Dong Publishing House, Hanoi, 1989, pp 27, 28.
5. V.I. Lenin, "Collected Works," Progress Publishing House, Moscow, 1978, vol. 44, p 126.

Preparing for the New Educational Reform

00000000 Hanoi TAP CHI CONG SAN in Vietnamese
No 10, Oct 89 pp 23-25

[Article by Pham Tat Dong; not translated]

**Retrospective and Continuation of the Renovation
of Theoretical Thinking**

00000000 Hanoi TAP CHI CONG SAN in Vietnamese
No 10, Oct 89 pp 26-28, 48

[Article by Ho Ba Tham; not translated]

**Some Opinions on the Problem of Nationality in
Our Country Today**

00000000 Hanoi TAP CHI CONG SAN in Vietnamese
No 10, Oct 89 pp 29-33

[Article by Nguyen Van Huy; not translated]

Thoughts and Measures in the Face of Today's Paddy Price Situation

902E0176B Hanoi TAP CHI CONG SAN
in Vietnamese No 10, Oct 89 pp 34-37

[Article by Tran Phung, specialist with the Economics Department, Gia Lai-Kontum Provincial CPV Committee]

[Text] Since the end of the 1st quarter and the beginning of the 2d quarter 1989, the price of commodities has stopped rising. The prices of many goods have remained stable, and a number of goods have even dropped in price, including agricultural goods. In particular, the price of paddy has declined greatly in a very short time. At the end of the 1st quarter 1989, the price of rice was 650-700 dong per kg. At the beginning of July, it was 450-500 dong per kg. The price of paddy has dropped from 350 dong per kg to only 220-250 dong per kg. In the Mekong Delta, in some places the price of paddy has occasionally dropped to only 150-180 dong per kg, and it has still been difficult to sell the paddy. In Gia Lai-Kontum, which is an area that has many difficulties and that is at a great disadvantage in producing paddy as compared with many other localities in the country, the price of rice is now only 430-450 dong per kg, and the price of paddy is 220-250 dong per kg.

The reason for this situation is that recently, the production of commodity paddy in poor fields where farming conditions are bad has begun to achieve results. Peasants in every region of the country have been able to carry on expanded reproduction and intensive cultivation and increase yields on the entire area. Added to that, because of the positive effect of the "10 contracts," many places have had good harvests for several consecutive seasons. The tension between supply and demand for grain throughout society had gradually declined and stabilized. In general, people are no longer afraid of famine, and because of this the amount of paddy and rice on the markets has increased. The policy of allowing paddy and rice to circulate freely has been implemented widely, and this has created favorable conditions for regulating supply and demand among the areas and regions. This has increased the people's confidence and enthusiasm.

However, along with the results mentioned above, there are still things about which many people are very concerned. In particular, for the peasants, the greatest worry today is that the state does not have enough cash to purchase their paddy, which has caused the price of paddy and rice to fall. Many families have excess rice but little cash. They offer their paddy at a low price but still have a hard time selling it.

In places with poor land where farming is very difficult, the peasants have begun to neglect the transplanting and planting of rice. In places with good and relatively good fields, intensive cultivation to increase rice yields is no longer being given as much attention as it was before. With the present price situation and the production

capabilities of the peasants, the production of paddy and rice will decline, and there will again be a great imbalance between supply and demand for paddy and rice. Prices will rise, and we will be hit with another economic and social crisis.

At the recent fifth session of the eighth National Assembly, many National Assembly delegates boldly suggested that the Council of Ministers step up the purchase of paddy for the peasants and implement measures to prop up paddy prices to ensure that the peasants don't suffer losses. Those are correct, necessary, and timely proposals. But looking closely at the relationship between obligations and rights between the peasants and state and at fairness among peasants in the different regions, those proposals have not and should not be implemented for the following reasons:

1. For a commodity economy to continue to develop in the direction of large-scale socialist production, the market price of paddy must always be many times higher than its production price. That is natural. That is a principle that cannot be denied. For example, according to data provided by the Ministry of Finance (Agricultural Tax Department, 1987), the actual cost of producing 11,818,847 tons of paddy was 1,792.725 billion dong, but the gross market price of the paddy was 4,136.616 billion dong, or 130 percent higher.

The average production cost of 1 kg of paddy is 151.6 dong, but the market price six months ago was 350 dong, or 130 percent higher.

The above situation is determined by market prices, and these prices are determined through the effects of supply and demand, psychological effects, and competition, which all work to create an artificial social value. This phenomenon is due to the fact that the laws of market prices control agricultural products. Determining the market prices of products is a social act even if this social act was not done consciously or was unintentional. Of course, this act is based on the exchange value of the products. It is not based on the fields or the differences in the fertility of the land.

In 1988, the gross production of paddy for the entire country was 19.5 million tons. In 1989, it has been forecast that yields will reach 20 million tons. Of this, about 8.1 million tons is accounted for by intensive cultivation (differential income 2), and almost 6.7 million tons is accounted for by differential income 1.¹ taxes fixed at their present levels, each year the state receives only about 1.5 million tons. The remaining 18.5 million tons of paddy remains in the hands of the peasants. Deducting 10 million tons of paddy for use as seed and food (the average being 200 kg per person X 50 million agricultural households = 10 million tons), that leaves about 8.5 million tons of commodity paddy. If the state has to purchase all of this paddy at a price of 350 dong per kg, it will have to spend a total of 2,975 billion dong in 1989. And that does not include the large amount of paddy left over from 1988.

The thing that should be noted here is not the huge amount of money that must be paid to the peasants (2,975 billion dong). Rather, what we need to ask is, With a gross production price of 1,288.600 billion dong for 8.5 million tons of paddy (8.5 million tons X 151,600 dong per ton), why it is necessary to pay a total market price of 2,975 billion dong? Furthermore, even if it really is necessary to spend so much money, it will be impossible to distribute the money among the peasants evenly. Instead, attention is focused mainly on the areas that have fertile land and favorable farming conditions.

Clearly, if the state has to purchase the commodity paddy now in the hands of the peasants at 350 dong per kg as proposed, this will give rise to the following:

The commodity exchange relationship between the state, which represents all of society as the consumer, and the peasants, who are the producers, will be out of balance. Paddy with a gross value (gross production cost) of 1,288.600 billion dong will be sold for a total market price of 2,975 billion dong and exchanged for industrial goods with a gross value equal to the gross price of 2,975 billion dong.

This will violate the principle of social fairness, because even though production expenses in the various areas are the same, the incomes of the peasants who live and work in areas with fertile fields will be five-six times higher than those who live and work in areas with poor fields where farming conditions are difficult.

Thus, to ensure that the state can purchase all of the commodity paddy produced by the peasants at the "production price of the poorest fields with the worst farming conditions" and ensure that the peasants in every region of the country earn an income in line with the amount of work done, it is essential that the state implement correct and timely revenue measures to take in the differential income I items in order to satisfy all the needs for the common interests of all of society. If a differential income I item is not recovered, the state will not be able to purchase all the commodity paddy in the hands of the peasants at a high price as proposed.

2. Recently, some people have said that if the peasants still have commodity paddy left over after satisfying domestic needs, this paddy should be exported in order to stabilize the incomes of the peasants. Whenever there are shortages, we can import rice, because the peasants will reduce the area cultivated in rice if they cannot sell their rice. This is an excellent idea that should be implemented immediately in order to promptly resolve the difficulties for the peasants and the state. But over the long term, this measure may be very difficult to implement. This is because world market prices fluctuate constantly, "with sun in the morning and rain in the afternoon."

A country that is building socialism in conditions such as those that exist in our country cannot have a "standard price" that fluctuates constantly like this. On the other hand, our country is a tropical agricultural country

where rice enjoys advantages and is the main crop. It is the "king of crops." Paddy production and business must be regarded as the main production task and as the main source of life and income of the Vietnamese people. We have paid a very high price because of the ideas that the "peasants cannot become rich from rice," "our agriculture cannot grow rich by producing grain," and so on.

In order to contribute to correcting the errors and shortcomings in pricing here, I would like to make the following specific suggestions:

1. It must be decided once and for all that rice is the primary crop in Vietnamese agriculture. Paddy is the main source of life of the Vietnamese people. Paddy production and business are the main tasks. If Vietnam is to build socialism, it must start from agriculture. Agriculture must be the leading front, and paddy production must be the root.

2. Because the "production prices of the poorest land do not return the land rent, these are the prices that always regulate the markets." Thus, in our country, agricultural production in general and the rice sector in particular have brought, are bringing, and will continue to bring rather large differential income I items for the country. These land rents must be recovered in order to satisfy the common needs of all the people and the entire nation. They should not be squandered as in the past, because this makes it impossible to ensure social fairness or create the conditions necessary for the state to raise paddy prices to the same level as the "production prices of the poorest land with the poorest farming conditions." This is a principle that should not be forgotten when implementing the economic management functions of the state in the agricultural sphere.

3. Based on doing a good job in recovering differential income I for the state, the following tasks must be carried out well:

The price of the paddy purchased must be increased. Specifically, the price should be raised to 400 dong per kg in order to make the farmers more enthusiastic about rice growing and quickly increase annual paddy yields nationwide to 25-30 million tons. This must be done in order to create an important source of export goods for the country.

Along with raising the paddy purchase price, the selling price of rice must be lowered from its present level. Specifically, the price should be lowered 500 dong per kg, which will benefit both the producers and the consumers. The state must take steps to keep purchase and sales prices relatively stable and ensure that they are uniform throughout the country.

4. The sales price of paddy (500 dong per kg) must be used as the standard for calculating the price of other commodities, including the price of agricultural and forestry products, with the exception of paddy and rice. Based on the level of necessary social labor expenditures

for paddy, a correct system of exchange relationships with a scientific basis can be established. This will have a positive effect on the entire price system. This will ensure that the state will be able to divide social labor in a planned way throughout the national economy and prevent spontaneous labor fluctuations among the sectors and commercial production spheres.

If the above measures are carried out well in a timely manner, the state will be able to control both standard paddy prices and paddy markets, strengthen the national reserve forces, a true material strength of the dictatorship of the proletariat, and increase accumulation for the budget each year.

With the high purchase price and low sales price of the state, the peasants will earn greater profits more in line with the labor expended, and they will make a greater effort to carry on intensive cultivation to increase rice

yields even more. It should not be difficult to increase the gross production of paddy nationwide to 25-30 million tons a year, and this target should be hit in the near future. Based on this, the state will have another important source of export goods in order to import industrial goods in balance with agricultural products.

Footnotes

1. Differential income 1 is the increase in yield as compared with the areas with the lowest yields.

Proceeding Toward Determining an Impact Mechanism for Solutions to Inflation and Deflation

00000000 Hanoi TAP CHI CONG SAN in Vietnamese
No 10, Oct 89 pp 38-48

[Article by Vu Ngoc Nhung; not translated]

Art and Commodities

00000000 Hanoi TAP CHI CONG SAN in Vietnamese
No 10, Oct 89 pp 49-52, 61

[Article by Tran Van Binh; not translated]

On the Quality of Grain

902E0176C Hanoi TAP CHI CONG SAN in
Vietnamese No 10, Oct 89 pp 53-57, 66

[Article by Le Doan Dien, professor of Biology]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The quality of the various types of grain depends on the actions of three spheres: processing, storage, and control to implement the quality standards, which have been carried on in three sectors, that is, the state, collective, and family sectors. This is the most faithful reflection of our level of technology and mechanization. In recent years, our most important grain crop has continued to be rice.

Although the idea of processing subsidiary food crops with the aim of reducing the amount of rice consumed was proposed more than 20 years ago, the results have been very limited. Varieties and quality are poor and quantities are small. These products do not account for a very high percentage in the grain allocation, and production costs are high. Because of this, consumers have not accepted these products, and the markets have paid little attention to them. The main commodity is rice. For a long time, consumers have had their own ideas about the quality of "state store rice."

Over the years, the bureaucratic centralism and state subsidies mechanism in the grain sector has left many things in the sector's activities, particularly concerning product quality.

1. With respect to paddy, in recent years, it has been difficult to use the entire industrial production belt from raw materials to milling, packaging, storage, accounting, and circulation. Many different seed phenotypes (stemming from crossing varieties and classifying things when making purchases), mixtures, dissimilar elements, irrational price policies, laxity in quality control, and so on—these are the factors that have caused rice milling to be carried on in natural, non-industrial ways that do not require that the technical regulations be observed strictly. These factors have also resulted in people "running after" quantity and giving little attention to the quality of grain in general and rice in particular.

As for milling equipment, since 1960, the northern provinces have used a system of large rubber "ru lo" machines, each with a capacity of 15 tons of rice per shift and assembled and installed based on a scale of 30-60 tons of rice per shift. This system had rational technical operating regulations. Initially, the equipment was new and so milling output and recovery results were fairly high. But through the operation process, because quality standards for raw materials were not maintained, because the machine maintenance measures were not

good, and because the broken equipment was not repaired or replaced promptly, product quality declined, the machinery broke down, and sometimes the machines, such as the rock sieves, the paddy graders, and the broken-grain winnowing machines, could not be repaired.

The percentage of uncooked rice mixed with the paddy that must be re-milled has increased from 10 percent to 50 percent, and the amount of paddy mixed in with the uncooked rice is above the norm. The percentage of sand in the uncooked rice has exceeded the standard of 0.02 percent. The recovery percentage has gradually declined: in 1978 it was 71.5 percent; in 1983 it was 71 percent; and in 1988 it was 69.3 percent. The 1975 norm for paddy mixed in among the uncooked rice was 40 grains per kg. Now it is 50-60 grains per kg. Foreign matter in the uncooked rice is usually higher than the stipulated norm of 0.04 percent. Equipment output has declined from 60 tons per shift to 54-55 tons per shift. As for the broken-grain winnowing machines, at present we are still using types of machines that do the winnowing by shaking, and these are not efficient. Whenever it is necessary to produce uncooked rice with only 3-5 percent broken grains, the recovery rate is only 40-50 percent while the amount of broken grains has increased 30-40 percent. This situation will be unacceptable in commercial, economic accounting production of the grain sector in the coming period. The paddy and rice mechanization problem at the mills is a pressing problem that must be solved. At the mills with a capacity of 60 tons per shift, each shift of workers must carry 80 tons of paddy and 60 tons of uncooked rice and form high piles in a very dusty environment. By making improvements and installing machines, the number of laborers can be reduced by 15-20 per shift, and the workers won't have to put up with such tiring and dangerous labor conditions.

The large machine system now in use in the southern provinces uses "Mon" type machines, which have many shortcomings concerning technology and recovery efficiency. The machines are all linked in a synchronized system and so when one element breaks down, this affects the entire system, wasting much energy. The industrial production chain is not efficient, the workers must work hard, and there is a lack of labor safety. The recovery rate and the quality of the products are low. The milling needs of the key rice areas in the Mekong Delta require that this old machine system be renovated. In the past, the southern provinces also used some smaller Japanese machines, but these are now broken and out of operation.

Today, the entire country is using more than 10,000 Song Hong machines with a capacity of 2.5 tons per shift. This is a large number of machines, and they mill 75-80 percent of the country's total paddy. Although this type of machine has a number of strengths (it is easy to operate and repair and can be installed in populated areas), it also has many shortcomings. For example, the percentage of crushed rice is rather high, the recovery

rate is low (64-65 percent, and 66-67 percent in a number of localities), the rice chaff separation level is low, and much paddy is mixed in with the rice (100-120 grains per kg of uncooked rice). The problem that needs to be stressed here is that the system of small machines must be thoroughly renovated in the coming period because of its important position. Today, the rice recovery rate is declining, reaching only 68 percent. If we increase this just 3-4 percent (just in order to reach the previous level), with approximately 12 million tons of paddy being milled, we can have an additional 360-480,000 tons of uncooked rice a year. Besides this, the quality of the bran from which oil can be pressed depends on this machine system.

2. In past years, the grain was preserved and stored using mainly natural methods. We have not invested much in equipment, storehouses, and materials for preserving grain in general and paddy and rice in particular. Because of this, losses in terms of both quantity and quality are fairly high. We do have not adequate or accurate statistical data on these losses, but losses have certainly never been below the world average (approximately 10 percent).

In preserving seed, in lead-in, we have completely ignored the quality control regulations, with the result that grain storage has become very disorderly: There are various types of paddy, penotypes with different moisture contents, and various harmful insects and microorganisms. In such lead-in conditions, it is difficult to preserve the grain well and move it for milling in order to have good lead-out products.

In the northern provinces, for many years now, we have been using granary types A1 and A2. These types of granaries have a number of shortcomings. They have not been improved, and they cannot be equipped. They cannot deal with the self-generating heat of the grain or prevent birds, rats, and weevils from getting at the grain. The measures to protect the vegetation and to prevent and control harmful insects, microorganisms, and diseases are not good.

When the paddy is transported from the granaries to the mills, it is usually packed in gunny sacks (using gunny sacks is very expensive, and storage costs have increased greatly but quality has not increased). Today, 100 kg type gunny sacks costs 1,200 dong, and they can be depreciated 10 percent each time. Thus, for each ton of paddy transported, another 100 dong must be added to the cost. For every 1 million tons of paddy transported to the mills, an additional cost of 1 billion dong is incurred. We can easily calculate the benefit of the transportation and storage methods.

In the southern provinces, the material and technical base of grain storage is very weak, too. We must quickly build various types of storehouses—mainly state storehouses and storehouses of the commercial grain units—in order to satisfy the storage requirements. Each year,

the grade of hundreds of thousands of tons of paddy has had to be lowered. This is an urgent problem for the grain sector.

3. Even though the problem of quality control has been discussed frequently in all areas, it has been viewed only as an issue of responsibility and conscience, not as a matter of law. There need to be regulations, standards, and techniques in order to maintain the quality of grain in general and paddy and rice in particular. Many of the sector's stipulations on grain quality standards are lower than those allowed by economic and technical capabilities. For example, Standard 26 TCN 09-86 on the quality of purchased paddy stipulates only two standards, for the degree of moisture and mixture. At the same time, the Ha Nam Ninh Grain Service has stipulated five standards for non-glutinous rice and six standards for glutinous rice.

The old stipulations and standards are not sufficient, but even these are implemented in an arbitrary manner, which has had many serious consequences.

Based on formulating a national grain reserve and safety strategy, we have the capability to export grain in order to earn foreign currency to support the needs of the national economy. This is a major guideline that the state must grasp in order to manage the economy. However, in order to make effective use of the grain and maintain exports, we must give serious attention to improving the quality of the grain. As for the quality of our rice, we suggest that the following things be done in the coming period:

1. The activities carried on after the rice is harvested (harvesting, threshing, drying, transporting, washing, classifying, storing, milling, and so on) must be reorganized. A number of the technical advances (particularly suitable techniques) made by the fraternal countries and countries in this region must be studied and applied to our country's situation with the aim of achieving the highest economic results possible. This includes, for example, using chemicals to preserve paddy with a moisture content greater than 25 percent and raising the age of the "truc dap da" in the milling machines.

2. The equipment must be restored and improved (or renovated) so that the production chain can operate continuously, and the large mills must be upgraded to the point where they have a capacity of 30-60 tons per shift. Steps must be taken to ensure that the rice meets the state's standards. Particular attention must be given to designing and manufacturing paddy graders and to mechanizing paddy lead-in and lead-out in order to reduce the amount of labor and improve working conditions for the workers.

The system of large mills in the south must be renovated and re-equipped. A number of modern mills with a capacity of 600 tons per day must be built in the key rice areas to support both domestic consumption and exports.

Both techniques and equipment must be renovated in order to standardize the small milling machines (those with a capacity of 2.5-5 tons per shift) throughout the country. This must be done in order to improve the quality of the rice and bran, increase the recovery rate, and satisfy the needs of the rural areas.

3. All of the rice chaff controlled by the state-operated mills must be pressed. The techniques for storing the chaff before it is pressed must be perfected in order to maintain the quality of chaff. The technical standards for purifying bran oil must be adjusted. The oil presses at the large mills must be perfected in order to increase oil recovery efficiency. Small-scale oil pressing tools must be designed and manufactured (for families and cooperatives) in order to expand the chaff pressing capabilities among the people.

4. The system of granaries in the northern provinces must be improved along with using suitable storage techniques. Enough equipment must be provided to deal with the storehouses, and means must be provided to prevent and control rats, weevils, insects, and so on in order to maintain the quality of the paddy during storage.

Designs must be perfected. A number of provincial and district granaries must be built in the south using suitable techniques. Granary models and suitable techniques must be popularized widely at the cooperative and family level.

A number of relatively modern silos must be built in the key rice areas so that rice can be stored for long periods to support reserves as part of the national grain safety strategy.

5. The regulations and standards dealing with the purchase, storage, processing, circulation, and distribution of rice must be revised, supplemented, and promulgated.

The product quality control system must be restored from the central echelon to the basic units of the sector. Adequate testing equipment must be provided for the entire system. Organization and product quality control must be improved.

6. Rice price policies in purchasing, distribution, and circulation must be formulated and promulgated based on the quality standards and rice grades.

Some Thoughts on Gold in Our Country

00000000 Hanoi TAP CHI CONG SAN in Vietnamese
No 10, Oct 89 pp 58-61

[Article by Nguyen Van Truong; not translated]

The Abilities of Leaders

00000000 Hanoi TAP CHI CONG SAN in Vietnamese
No 10, Oct 89 pp 62-66

[Article by Tien Hai; not translated]

Some Real Problems in Hop Thinh

00000000 Hanoi TAP CHI CONG SAN in Vietnamese
No 10, Oct 89 pp 67-71

[Article by Pham Thang; not translated]

The Thang Long Club, the Joy of the Elderly

00000000 Hanoi TAP CHI CONG SAN in Vietnamese
No 10, Oct 89 pp 72-74, 77

[Article by Thuy Mai; not translated]

The Educational Situation in an Ethnic Minority Area and the Problems Posed

902E0176D Hanoi TAP CHI CONG SAN
in Vietnamese No 10, Oct 89 pp 75-77

[Letter by Nguyen Do Khang (Gia Lai-Kontum)]

[Text] During the past 14 years, education in Gia Lai-Kontum has made important contributions to raising the cultural standards and level of awareness of the tribesmen. A rank of tribal cadres has been trained, and even though the real requirements have been satisfied, the cultural and spiritual lives of the tribesmen in the province have been transformed. However, because evaluation methods are still one-sided, because of the lack of synchronized policies and measures, and because the echelons and sectors in the province have not provided close guidance, education has declined in recent years. The number of illiterate people is increasing (including among youths of school age and in places having favorable conditions). The number of students has declined. In many places, there are no ethnic minority students, and in many villages education is being neglected.

In Gia Village, Mang Yang District, previously, minority students attended school to Grade nine. But by the 1988-1989 school year, there were no minority students above Grade six. In Kong Chro District, there were only 30 minority students in Grade three and none in Grade four. In the entire province, for every 100 minority students who enter Grade one, by Grade five there are only about 5-10 left. In Khang District, at the end of the 1988-1989 school year, 1,012 students dropped out of school.

Very few minority students reach general middle school. In the 1988-1989 school year, in the entire province, there were only 155 minority students at this level. Among these were 111 students from the Gia tribe, 23 from the Se Dang tribe, six from the Ba Na tribe, three from the Jeh tribe, and two from the Trieng tribe.

The school buildings are very dilapidated, and the roofs leak. There is a widespread lack of tables and chairs for the students. In a few villages in Chu Pak District, the students have to sit on rocks. The provincial and district general boarding schools and minority work-study schools have not given attention to recruiting students from remote areas. The instructional materials are of poor quality, and there is a shortage of textbooks. The lives of the teachers are very difficult, with the result that they are not at ease in their work. Many of the children who enter Grade one can't speak the general language, and the teachers can't speak the tribal language. Thus, these students don't understand the lessons presented by the teachers, and the teachers don't understand what these children are saying. It's common for students to remain in the same grade for 2-3 years.

The following are some of the reasons for the poor state of education in Gia Lai-Kontum:

We do not have education, cultural, and social policies that are in accord with the special psychological characteristics, practices, and conditions of the tribesmen in the province. The work of developing and implementing educational and cultural measures is done slowly and in a dispersed and simple way. The guidance given is not synchronized. This wastes much time and energy, and the results are very limited.

Education in the tribal areas must move forward with the aim of improving the understanding and cultural standards of the people and satisfying the strategic socioeconomic and national defense requirements. But not enough attention has been given to this. The sectors, mass organizations, and administrative echelons have not coordinated things closely with the education sector in spreading propaganda and encouraging tribesmen to study culture. The education sector has not adhered to reality or done studies to try and understand the special characteristics of each area and each tribe in order to implement appropriate measures in providing instruction.

Not enough attention has been given to training the ranks of teachers—the factor that will determine the overall quality of education. There are almost no minority teachers, and this has had a great effect on opening schools and classes and encouraging students to attend school. Teachers are not assigned to villages in an appropriate manner. Teachers do not know about or understand the ethnic minority policies or the customs, practices, psychology, and lives of the tribesmen. The priority policies with respect to teachers in tribal areas are inappropriate in terms of both material and spiritual treatment. As a result, the teachers are not at ease in their work. They do not want to be sent to base areas and regard this work as compulsory. More and more teachers are leaving the teaching profession.

The educational situation and the quality of education in the tribal areas in Gia Lai-Kontum are in an alarming state. Thus, measures must quickly be implemented to solve the problems, restore and expand cultural education, and bring the light of civilization to the tribesmen. To this end, I would like to suggest the following:

1. The education sector and the authorities at the various echelons must cooperate closely with each other in order to reorganize the network of schools in accord with the socioeconomic situation and special population characteristics of each area and each tribe. Boarding schools can be opened in the villages or associated villages in order to attract students.
2. Priority must be given to recruiting minority students living in remote areas or areas with many difficulties to have them attend a provincial or district boarding school or work-study school. Much money must be invested in this system of schools, and measures granting special treatment must be implemented in order to put the students at ease so that they will stay at the cultural schools until they graduate.

3. Instructors with a spirit of responsibility and an understanding of the special psychological and physiological characteristics and personality of minority students must be recruited. Instructors must be mass agitation cadres who can teach culture and who can rely on the "villages" and people, spread propaganda to develop cultural life in the villages, and persuade parents to send their children to school. Besides teaching, the instructors must help the localities explain things and mobilize people to implement the positions and policies of the party and state. To do this, teachers must be selected carefully. They must understand the ethnic minority policies and have a lofty spirit of responsibility. For the long term, attention must be given to providing training and using minority teachers on the spot. Those teachers who score high achievements in their work, who have helped the bases build a good cultural life, or who have lived in the locality for many years must be compensated in an appropriate way.

4. New policies and procedures regarding economic and social construction and development in the Central Highlands in the new situation must soon be implemented, and priority must continue to be given to investing in the minority areas. Immediate attention must be given to training a rank of minority teachers to serve as the activists for the localities in launching the "schools near the people, teachers close to the pupils" education movement. The advanced teachers and vocational schools, minority youth work-study schools, and provincial and district tribal boarding general schools must be given more attention in terms of both investments and the quality of the training. The training plans must be in accord with the realities of each region and each tribe in the province. Only if this is done will education here improve in terms of both quantity and quality and contribute to enabling the "mountain areas to catch up with the plains" on the economic, cultural, and social fronts.

On the Problem of International Cooperation

00000000 Hanoi TAP CHI CONG SAN in Vietnamese
No 10, Oct 89 pp 78-80, 87

[Article by Xuan Anh; not translated]

Agriculture in the German Democratic Republic

00000000 Hanoi TAP CHI CONG SAN in Vietnamese
No 10, Oct 89 pp 81-84

[Article by Nguyen Trong Thu; not translated]

**Soviet Literature and the Problem of New
Thinking**

00000000 Hanoi TAP CHI CONG SAN in Vietnamese
No 10, Oct 89 pp 85-87

[Article not translated]

Young Slave Workers

00000000 Hanoi TAP CHI CONG SAN in Vietnamese
No 10, Oct 89 pp 87

[Article not translated]