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JPRS Report

East Asia

Southeast Asia

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East Asia

Southeast Asia

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**PASASON Views U.N. Role in Cambodia,
Thai-Lao Border**

42060013 *Vientiane PASASON in Lao 21 Sep 88 p 3*

[Article by "Santiphap": "The U.N. on the Way To
Guaranteeing Peace and Resolving Regional Disputes"]

[Excerpt] Today, the U.N. is assuming an increasingly
outstanding role in resolving the Cambodia problem. In
the middle of this month, U.N. Undersecretary-General
Rafiudin Ahmed served as the U.N. Secretary-General's
special envoy in making a visit to the SRV, PRK, and the
LPDR for consultations. His objective was to solve the
Cambodia problem. In a meeting with him, Acting
Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the LPDR,
Nouhak Phoumsavan, valued highly the U.N.'s role in
these efforts and the support for making Southeast Asia
a zone of peace and cooperation while finding ways to a
peaceful resolution of the Lao-Thai border dispute. Concerning
the Cambodia problem specifically, it is certain
that if the Cambodian people's seat in the U.N. is not
used by any one side as a tool to resist other sides, it will
expedite a solution to this problem.

**French Firm Signs Deal on Finance, Agricultural
Development**

42060001a *Vientiane PASASON in Lao 2 Aug 88 p 1*

[Unattributed report: "Vientiane City and the French
Firm, Sidi, Have Reached an Agreement on Economic
Development"]

[Text] Vientiane City and a French international invest-
ment and development firm (the Sidi Company) have
reached an agreement to cooperate in setting up a
corporation for exploitation and development in Laos.
This corporation is to concentrate on investment
projects which will help farmers financially in the areas
of agriculture, industry, handicrafts, construction and
various other services.

This agreement was signed in Vientiane City on 29 July
and will be carried out on the basis of mutual benefits.

08149

Chlorine Plant Built With SRV Help

42060001e *Vientiane PASASON in Lao 6 Aug 88 p 1*

[Unattributed report: "Construction Completed on Two
Chlorine Plants"]

[Text] After a year of construction the project to set up
two chlorine plants at the Kaoliao and Chinaimo muni-
ciple water systems has been completed, and there was a
presentation ceremony in the afternoon of 3 August
between the Lao Munciple Water Corporation, the
owner of the project, and the Ho Chi Minh City Muni-
ciple Water Corporation of the SRV, the constuction
contractor.

These are small-scale plants consisting of salt containers,
containers for chemical analysis, pipes to carry the chlo-
rine, and some other equipment with a total construction
cost of 16 million kip. These plants can produce 90 kilos of
chlorine and 2,000 cubic meters of municiple water per
day. They will save more than 2 million kip per year in raw
materials which will not have to be bought abroad.

08149

**Border Security Chief Views Smuggling
Crackdown**

42060001c *Vientiane PASASON in Lao 3 Aug 88 p 2*

[Interview with Comrade Khambaidouang Keomani-
vong, head of the Border Security Department; date and
place not specified: "Controlling Contraband"]

[Text] [Question] May I ask you what the outstanding
accomplishments of your unit are?

[Answer] It is our responsibility to control checkpoints at
the airport, Tha Naleng, and Tha Deua. Other areas are
the responsibilities of the province, city and districts. It
is our responsibility to inspect people entering and
leaving the country and to block every attempt to cross
the border illegally.

[Question] In the past how have we punished those who
have broken the law?

[Answer] It has been done according to the law. We have
provided both heavy and light punishments depending
on the circumstances of each case. We have punished
both merchants and officials.

[Question] How is the smuggling done?

[Answer] They sneak things in without passing the
checkpoints and other areas. They do this when we
officials are inattentive. They try to take advantage 24
hours a day. Recently we were able to arrest some
individuals and cooperatives with: tires, spare parts,
medicine, fish sauce, fruit etc. When they smuggle goods
in, they can sell at a lower price because they have not
had to pay the tax, and this means that the state stores
and other cooperatives cannot sell their goods.

[Question] How will you block smuggling in the future
and long-term?

[Answer] We will cooperate to the fullest with the people
and local guerrilla units, and we will use modern tech-
niques to inspect along the banks of the Mekong River.
We will educate the merchants and mobilize the masses
along the border to work with us as our ears and eyes so
that trade along the border is free and legal. If someone
violates the law by smuggling in goods they will be
punished appropriately.

08149

Coffee Export Targets Reported

42060001d Vientiane PASASON in Lao 8 Aug 88 p 1

[Unattributed report: "The Lao Export-Import Corporation Increases Its Purchase of Goods for Export"]

[Excerpt] Recently the Lao Export-Import Corporation adopted measures to assure the purchase of goods for export, especially coffee and other agricultural products, through increased cooperation among [its] branches in all areas of the provinces and hence greater efficiency.

Comrade Somchai Sitthinolada, the administrator of the corporation, indicated that in 1988 the corporation will increase its purchases of coffee for export to more than 132,000 tons.

Through its operations in the first 6 months of this year the corporation was able to purchase more than 31,000 tons of coffee, and the domestic transportation system experienced an increase in volume to more than 1 billion kip; this included food, clothing, and utensils which went on to serve society well.

08149

Luang Prabang Party Demographics, Weaknesses

42060001i Vientiane PASASON in Lao 1 Aug 88 p 2

[Building the Party column by Sainambak: "The Accomplishments of Building the Party in Luang Prabang Province"]

[Excerpt] At present throughout Luang Prabang Province the party committee totals 496 members, of whom 15 are women, 220 are Lowland Lao, 226 are Lao Theung, and 50 are Hmong. As a result of investigations 109 party members who were deficient were expelled. Seven party members who were sick and could not carry on with their work were allowed to leave the party. The party accepted 185 progressive members of the masses, and 78 alternates were given full membership. There are a total of 2,602 party members now throughout the province, of whom 142 are women, 2,170 are full members, 432 are alternates, 995 are Lowland Lao, 1,392 are Lao Theung, 215 are Hmong, 121 are strong members, 1,059 are average members, 1,129 are weak members, and 239 have not been categorized. There are 1,548 members in the countryside, 770 in organization offices, and 284 in public security forces. There are 118 party units throughout the province. Of these the central party unit includes 64, and 71 are inexperienced. The average age of the party committee is 42, which is 6 months less than the last party committee. The average educational level is fifth grade. These improvements to the party have given the party a happy atmosphere, and more progress has been made within the party.

08149

State Bank Official Predicts Savings

42060001h Vientiane PASASON in Lao 1 Aug 88 p 1

[Unattributed article: "Savings Deposits for 1988 Predicted To Be 200 Million Kip"]

[Excerpt] Based on the evaluation of the committee for the state bank it was reported that in the first 6 months of this year savings deposits throughout the country totalled more than 110 million kip. This fulfilled 64.7 percent of the yearly plan and was double the figure for the same period last year. It is estimated that savings deposits will surpass 200 million kip by the end of the year.

Mr Leuan Sombounkhan, the deputy chairman of the state bank, expressed the opinion that, according to the figures for the fulfillment of the plan for the first 6 months of 1988, it was clear that the drive for savings deposits from the people, cadres, state employees, soldiers, and police was making steady progress and was continuing to expand with a rapid tempo. This demonstrated the confidence of the people, cadres, and state employees in the national economy and currency.

The people generally conduct business with each other much more by money now than in the past. That savings deposits have almost doubled compared with 1987 confirms that the people are very involved with the bank and are using money for their transactions more.

08149

Electrification of Phon Tiou Mine Making Progress

42060001f Vientiane PASASON in Lao 6 Aug 88 p 1

[Unattributed article: "By the End of This Year 46 Kilometers of the Power Line from Thakhek to the Phon Tiou Mine Will Be Completed"]

[Excerpt] Construction on the 22,000 volt power line from Thakhek to the Phon Tiou mine is continuing without interruption, and it is estimated that 46 km will be completed by the end of this year.

This construction project was begun in October 1987, and at present an average of just 25 percent is completed. Poles have been erected for a distance of 23 km, electrical cable has been mounted for 10 km, and the surveying for the line is 100 percent completed for the total distance of 108 km. In addition 25 km of the path for the line have been cleared.

Comrade Khammani Inthilat, the head of this project to construct a power line from Thakhek to the Phon Tiou mine, indicated that when compared with the plan, the actual construction is behind schedule because many

difficulties have been encountered, for example there have been problems with the construction budget, and construction materials and equipment have not been sufficient for the needs.

08149

State Bank Chief Announces Credit Changes
42060001b Vientiane PASASON in Lao
3 Aug 88 pp 1, 3

[Unattributed report: "The Bank Will Change the Credit System To be in Line With the New Thinking"]

[Text] In connection with the expansion, improvement and modification of the credit system of the bank, Mrs Pani Yathotou, the chairman of the state bank committee explained that: it was on the basis of these changes that the state bank defined its [new] role, rights and duties under the socialist business system. This means that the bank will have to change its monopolistic methods in distributing money and providing loans. Credit will have to be provided for the purpose of serving production and encouraging agriculture. The intent is to provide credit to the countryside and farm families in order to encourage the production of goods in line with the policies adopted by the party and state.

The bank chairman also emphasized that in the past the bank had a system of subsidized credit, which did not encourage production. It meant that interest rates were set too low. For example the commercial interest rate was only 7.2 percent per year and averaged only a little over 1 percent per month. Because of the low interest rates a great deal of money remained in the hands of their customers; in Savannakhet Province 600 million kip still remains out of circulation. In addition credit was not made available from the funds at hand which meant that mobilization was only possible through providing loans.

The subsidized interest rates had the effect of causing the shortage of cash which is now a serious problem. In addition the bank was run in an arbitrary fashion, and credit was not available to the farmers which meant that the people could not understand the role of the bank. In the past loans to farmers amounted to only a small proportion; farmers averaged less than 1 percent of those receiving loans from the bank, and this did not encourage the production increases that were needed.

In order to expand, make improvements, and correct these problems the bank must vigorously promote the use of goods and currency, build confidence, and make [its services] more convenient for its customers. And in particular it must make contact with the various production bases.

08149

Private Farms Won't Be Revived, State Owns Land
42060001g Vientiane PASASON in Lao 6 Aug 88 p 2

[Problems To Be Solved column: "Restoring Two-Way Service to the Farm Families under Contract"]

[Excerpt] It is apparent that in many places the intent of the contract system is not yet being fully implemented. For example the two-way service for the farm families under contract is still not receiving the attention it should. This problem may not be significant in itself, but if it receives too little attention, then the contract system will become neglected, and the farmers will return to individual farming.

The contract system is not supposed to bring farmers to return to individual farming; on the contrary it is a form of cooperation which depends on coordination between a cooperative and its members according to [mutual] obligations. This form of cooperation is suitable for agricultural production. It assures efficient production because the workers have an incentive in that they receive real benefits.

In order to carry out the contract system well it is important to disregard the old ideology which involved subsidized collectivism. The operation of the cooperatives must be changed to the business system, and a commercial relationship must be established with state trade and the markets in order to assure goods for the contracting families, create conditions so the farmers can expand production, and distribute the farmers' goods to meet the needs of the state and markets (this is what is meant by the two-way service).

With the contract system and the two-way service we will build a relationship between the state and the farmers which is close and which satisfies the state's ownership rights to the land, and we will assure that the movement for agricultural cooperatives is going in the right direction and will expand.

08149

Overview of DAP's Performance in Sarawak
*42050001 Kuala Lumpur NANYANG SIANG PAU in
Chinese 10 Aug 88 p 8*

[Excerpts] On 23 August 1978 the Democratic Action Party [DAP] officially formed two branches at Sarikei and Sibu with the view to strengthening its organization in the state of Sarawak. It at once became a powerful opposition party which is truly represented in every state of Malaysia.

In the past 10 years, DAP's development in Sarawak has progressed by leaps and bounds, and 26 branches have been set up by now. Ten years ago, the DAP was sponsored and organized mainly by Chinese people, but it has been expanded to include many members of other nationalities today, a number of whom even sit as leaders of the party in Sarawak.

There is no denying the fact that DAP's entry into Sarawak was led by some disgruntled members of the Sarawak United People's Party [SUPP] who, after quitting the said party, acted as a go-between for the DAP's presence in Sarawak.

On 8 August 1978 three state assemblymen in Sarikei, namely, ex-SUPP members (Teo Geok Goan), (Lim See Beng) and (Lim Kong Bin), were entrusted with the task of visiting Kuala Lumpur and meeting with DAP's important officials there and explaining their motive for establishing DAP branches in Sarawak.

On 23 August 1978, Teo Geok Goan, a self-professed SUPP-backed legislator of Sarikei, suddenly changed his identity and became chairman of DAP's committee in Sarawak state and succeeded in "landing the rocket" in Sarawak state, initially at Sarikei and Sibu.

It so happened that the DAP's advance toward Sarawak took place at a time when the Sarawak National Party [SNAP] had just wound up its long years of opposition life and joined the Barisan Nasional [National Front], thereby leaving vacant the seat of opposition in the Sarawak Legislative Assembly. Taking advantage of this vacuum, the DAP quickly schemed to open up a new political situation in Sarawak and aimed its rocket at the Sarawak State Assembly.

During the past 10 years, through the mass media, public rallies, political forums and solidarity meetings, the DAP in Sarawak brought up discussions and interpellations about all sorts of political problems, which aroused the people's interest in politics and their deeper comprehension toward democracy and civil rights.

Owing to the DAP's success in establishing branches in Sarawak state, the Sarawak authorities at one time, by invoking the Sarawak Immigration Law, regarded DAP Secretary General Lim Kit Siang as a "persona non

grata" and forbade him to enter the territory. Finally, on 27 September 1978 Mr Lim won the then Sarawak Chief Minister Tun Rahman's permission and was allowed to visit Sarawak freely.

Tun Rahman's move was criticized by the SUPP as an attempt to weaken the party's political strength. He countered, however, that the DAP had already set up branches in Sarawak and there was no longer any reason to block DAP officials from carrying out their party affairs in Sarawak.

Rebutting SUPP's criticism purporting that the DAP and Tun Rahman were in collusion within ethnic-Chinese constituencies during national and state elections, the DAP indicated that as a fledgling party in Sarawak, it cannot afford to campaign in other electoral districts where it has only slim chances of winning.

During its decade-long presence in Sarawak, the DAP has gone through three state elections and two general elections. It was beaten in all three state elections, but it registered a victory for the Kuching Municipality in both national elections in the person of (Sim Kwan Meng) MP. Sibu Municipality was at one time conquered by the DAP, but only for one term, for its representative in Parliament, (Lim See Beng), was beaten by SUPP's Teo Siong Seng [phonetic] at the latest general election.

(Teo Geok Goan), leader of DAP's committee in Sarawak, got elected several times under the SUPP banner in the past, but under the "Rocket" banner he was beaten five times in five elections at Sarikei.

In his personal letter to his daughter dated 28 May 1988, DAP Secretary General Lim Kit Siang indicated that the DAP Sarikei branch holds the distinction of being the first DAP bridgehead in Sarawak. More importantly, the letter added, members of the Sarikei branch have an indomitable spirit and sincerity in the party's political belief, and it was a pity that the DAP was beaten by a small margin of votes over there.

Mr Lim also wrote that if he were a free man, he would no doubt attend the 10th founding anniversary of the DAP branch in Sarikei.

With regard to DAP's three-time failures to break into Sarawak's legislative assembly, former publicity officer (Lim Goan Sin) indicated it was due to neither its disorganized campaign workers nor the flagging fighting spirit of its party members, but because of the wide margin in personnel and finance between our opponents and ourselves. The opponents, being on the upper hand as a ruling party, utilized government publicity tools, such as television, radio, government transport and all propaganda media under their control for attacking the candidates of our party, according to Mr Lim Goan Sin.

Reviewing the past national and state elections in Sarawak, the main factor for ethnic-Chinese society for

repudiating the DAP is that its candidates in certain electoral districts were not acceptable to the local people; furthermore, the DAP has been regarded as an outsider and its concept that the Chinese must take part in politics is a fatal weakness in its electioneering process.

Of course the DAP realizes that its "the Chinese must play politics" concept is meeting with strong resistance among the Chinese people. That's why in the state election just past, the DAP launched an offensive for "participation in politics," threatening that if it could win several seats at a general election, the DAP would form a coalition government with certain political parties for balancing purposes.

However, in the latest blitzkrieg Sarawak state election, it remained a battle between the state National Front

and some progressive group, while DAP's slogan of "participation in politics" turned out premature, because the Chinese community remained under the influence of the current situation and still wholeheartedly supported the existing National Front, rejecting all forces which might help the progressive camps.

In the coming national and state elections, the strategy to be adopted by the DAP in Sararak is bound to be a knotty one, especially in choosing a partner for cooperation, and it must first clearly feel the opinions and aspirations of the voters, or else it would not be able to test its political strength and mettle to the best advantage.

9300/08309

Daily Alleges President Misled on Barangay Elections Issue

42000015b Manila *PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER* in English 27 Sep 88 p 4

[Editorial: "President Misled on Barangay Polls?"]

[Text] The President appears to have been pushed again into a needless confrontation with the Senate by some of her advisers who may not exactly have the best interests of the country at heart.

On the mere say-so of a defense department functionary that about 20 percent of the country's 48,000 barangays are under communist influence, some congressmen—sporting their new *Lakas ng Demokratikong Pilipino* reversible coats—went to Malacanang and urged the President to postpone the barangay elections.

We do not fault Ms Aquino for heeding them. After all, members of Speaker Ramon V. Mitra's LDP—among them, her own brother—enjoy her confidence. Rather, we blame party stalwarts in Congress for twisting the facts of the case to get Ms Aquino's support.

That defense and congressional officials were not exactly honest with Ms Aquino has become apparent in the light of recent developments. Reports filed with the Commission on Elections by city and municipal election registrars indicate that 95 percent of the country's barangays are "relatively peaceful" and ready for the 14 November elections.

The reports say, moreover, that the number of barangays considered potential hot spots may be "very much less" than the figure given by Secretary Luis Santos' Department of Local Government.

Then there is the observation of Comelec Chairman Hilario Davide Jr. that while peace and order problems have always been part of past elections, the Comelec had been able to place potential trouble spots under its control to ensure peaceful and orderly polls.

We will not try to guess how that defense department official got his figures and why the congressmen—who are normally wary of military statistics—swallowed his statement unquestioningly.

Neither will we try to pass judgment on the arguments of Senators Ernesto Maceda and Aquilino Pimentel, chairmen of the Senate committees on defense and local government, respectively, that the proposal to postpone the barangay elections was hatched by the LDP leadership to have incumbent barangay officials replaced with LDP-blessed officers-in-charge. This, the senators say, is an attempt to strengthen the party's hold on the country's barangays in time for the 1992 elections.

Neither will we comment on the statement of Senate Majority Floor Leader Orlando Mercado, an avowed Coryista, that deferring the elections would damage the credibility of the lawmaking process and the entire Congress.

But in the face of the election officials' reports, we suggest that the matter of postponing the elections be studied anew. This time, more weight should be given to these rural officials' reading of the situation in their own areas. After all, they should know more about it than some retired generals.

/9604

Defense Secretary Cites Nation's Role in Asia Balance of Power

42000015c Manila *THE MANILA CHRONICLE* in English 23 Sep 88 p 3

[Text] Defense Secretary Fidel V. Ramos yesterday stressed the country's strategic importance for the continued balance of power in the region.

He also hinted his approval of the continued American military presence here to maintain regional stability.

"Asia and the Pacific region is fast becoming the new center of the superpower contest for dominance," Ramos told the Manila Rotary Club.

He said the Armed Forces was concerned over the implications of the Soviet Union's proposal to withdraw from Vietnam if the United States does so here.

Ramos warned the people "not to be lulled into unwarranted optimism or complacency."

"For superpower presence or not, there is no absolute guarantee of peace in the geopolitical setting with the strategic importance of the Philippines," he said.

Ramos explained the superpowers had vast resources to control events in the region that it can "wage and sustain conflicts (in the region) through surrogates."

"Predatory intentions can be transformed into proxy wars or internal subversion," Ramos added.

He said the pullout of either the United States or the Soviet Union from Asia and the Pacific would affect the region.

For instance, "a power vacuum itself could be the cause of a more heightened tension among neighbors," he said.

Ramos cited as an example the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea, which are being disputed by at least two Asian countries, including the Philippines.

"The (island) group, is a sensitive point in our external defense and territorial integrity," Ramos said, adding that a diplomatic offensive was the only way to protect and assure the security of the country's claim to the disputed territory.

/9604

Chief Justice Urges Labor, Management Cooperation

42000014b Cebu City SUN STAR DAILY in English
23 Sep 88 p 6

[Article by Wilfredo A. Veloso: "Did the Trade Unions Understand What the Chief Justice Said?"]

[Excerpts] The speech of Chief Justice Marcelo Fernan before a labor convention here over the weekend should have a sobering effect on those who profess to have the welfare of labor at heart. As Fernan rightly pointed out, while an enlightened and vigilant trade unionism is the working man's best instrument for gaining benefits, "it also imposes a moral burden on the part of the working man."

It is true, Fernan said that a trade union "is the best weapon of the workers to counter the forces of capital against their just claims," but the harnessing of this power "must not be directed toward triggering an adversarial confrontation with the forces of capital." Alas, this is not the situation we see in many parts of the country today where the forces of labor and capital figure in bloody confrontations.

The Chief Justice, of course, knows this sorry situation only too well, being an avid observer of the passing scene. This knowledge must have prompted him to caution trade unions against taking an adversarial position against the forces of capital in seeking just compensation, amelioration and respect for the workers' rights. He knows only too well that there have been violent strikes anchored on unjust demands from certain labor unions.

This corner hopes that Fernan's enlightening speech has made both the labor sector and management realize that they need each other and that there is really no need for each side to resort to force and intimidation to get what they want.

As he correctly pointed out, "the avenues of dialog and the willingness to arrive at a consensus must be guarded by both labor and capital to achieve a climate of industrial peace needed for economic development."

Let's hope the points stressed by Chief justice Fernan in his speech here last Saturday did not fall on deaf ears. It is not only capital that has a big stake in the forging of industrial peace. Labor, too, must strive to bring about such a climate. As the saying goes, useless each without the other.

/12232

LDP Party Designates Five Provinces for Pilot Development Program

42000015d Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 25 Sep 88 p 3

[Article by Cristina Pastor, staff member]

[Text] No one knows for sure how the phrase "Law of the 20" came about but in Italy where small and medium enterprises form the backbone of a vibrant economy, the phenomenon is known as the "Trato Principle."

Trato is a small town where thousands of successful family-run factories engaged in shoe-making and textile-processing spurred Italy's underground economy in the late 1960s.

Noting that the Philippines and Italy share the same respect for family ties and the same helplessness over a corrupt bureaucracy, the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP) initiated its own version of countryside development and called it "Kalakalan ng 20."

Speaker Ramon Mitra Jr. said the concept was patterned after Italy's Law of 20 where businesses with a maximum of 20 workers are entitled to tax exemptions and credit incentives.

These rural-based enterprises, the LDP president explained, would be exempted from paying income taxes for 5 years and would be allowed to waive compliance with social security and minimum wage laws.

"We should have less government in areas where there is too much government," Mitra said, explaining Kalakalan's thrust towards less state intervention in business.

He denied that Government stands to lose huge revenues under the scheme, arguing that the underground economy actually contributes "an infinitesimal amount of taxes to government."

LDP spokesman Rep Oscar Orbos (Pangasinan) said any small business starting to take off must be given every chance to grow. The basis for exempting these businesses from complying with the minimum wage law, he said, is the assumption that one who works for a family or friend will not be exploited.

Minimum wage and social security benefits, Orbos said, are manifestations of state control which the Kalakalan wants to do away with.

As of last week the LDP has identified the provinces of Cavite, Bulacan, Pangasinan, Iloilo and Maguindanao as pilot areas. It has also created a task force that will draft the program's implementing guidelines.

The task force will coordinate with various government agencies to determine which laws would have to be repealed or amended to pave the way for Kalakalan ng

20 which, according to some observers, is this government's answer to the Marcos regime's KKK.

/9604

Senator Urges Probe Into Disappearances of Labor Leaders

42000015a *Quezon City MALAYA in English*
6 Oct 88 p 3

[Article by Joey Salgado]

[Text] Sen Ernesto Herrera yesterday urged the government to look into mounting reports of mysterious disappearance and deaths of labor leaders and union officials.

Herrera, Senate labor committee chairman, also asked labor leaders to set aside political and ideological differences and wage a concerted campaign against trade union repression.

"If the reports are true, then this looks like an annihilation of the country's labor movement and its leaders," Herrera said.

The senator has asked the Commission on Human Rights and non-government organizations to furnish him with documented reports on violations of trade union rights, which would form the basis of a Senate inquiry on labor repression.

The senator cited the recent disappearance of Buenaventura Carreon, Solidbank Employees Union president, who has been missing since 22 Sept.

Carreon disappeared after the employes union filed a notice of strike to protest management's alleged non-payment of holiday pay.

Recently, Benito Clutario, a member of the secretariat of the Labor Advisory and Consultative Council was reported abducted by unknown men after coming from an out of town meeting with LACC officials.

Herrera also expressed concern over the reported disappearance of 10 labor leaders in Pampanga last month.

Members of cause-oriented groups have blamed right wing vigilante organizations for their disappearance, Herrera added.

/9604

Partido ng Bayan Leadership Discusses Coalition Aims

42000014c *Quezon City WE FORUM in English*
12-28 Sep 88 p 3

[Excerpt] The convulsions that are widely affecting major political groups have not spared even the militant

Partido ng Bayan (PnB) in the ongoing realignment of forces.

PnB chairperson Fidel Agcaoili earlier warned Reps. Greg Andolana and Venancio Garduce of sanctions the party may take should the two pursue their reported intentions of joining the yet to-be-formed Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP). Andolana and Garduce, the only two survivors of the congressional elections from the Left opposition, were reported earlier to be considering moving out of PnB and joining House Speaker Ramon Mitra and Rep Jose Cojuangco in the LDP. The two congressmen, whose performance has been rather remarkable for first-timers, were reportedly worried over the fact that their constituencies have not been getting political concessions because of the PnB affiliation.

However, in its second national congress last week, the party voted unanimously for a resolution to "establish links" with PDP-Laban (Pimentel faction), Liberal Party (Salonga wing), and National Union of Christian Democrats (led by Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus).

Is new politics in the doldrums to need the merger with trapos (traditional politicians)?

Not quite, if you ask Agcaoili, the party's reelected chairperson.

The alliance, Agcaoili said, will be on an issue-to-issue basis. "We are conscious that these groups are traditional parties. But their current leadership has a clean track record of militance," Agcaoili said, referring to Sen Pimentel, Sec Manglapus and Rep Bonifacio Gillego and Senate President Jovito Salonga.

From its very inception, the party chairman said, PnB has stood for coalition politics.

Sonia Soto, newly elected secretary-general, pointed to the resolution's preamble declaring, among others, that the PnB recognizes the need to address "burning issues of the day," and this can be done more effectively if in alliance with other major groups.

Soto, who took the position vacated by Alan Jazmines, has long been involved in alliance work. She was chairperson of the League of Filipino Students for two terms and was secretary general of the women's organization, WOMB.

"There's not much difference in doing organizational alliance work with doing PnB's linkages except that here, you talk more in terms of pursuing legislative agenda," Soto, who was the party's administrative officer prior to her new post said.

Soto also said working with other political parties is not new insofar as the local chapters of the PnB are concerned.

"The most significant of these experiences was during the local elections," she recalled. In the local polls, PnB supported candidates from other parties in places where the party influence is not strong enough to field its own. In other cases, PnB members were asked to run in other slates just to ensure its victory.

"And still, there were areas when a common slate was fielded which gave us more elbow room for winning," Soto said.

The arrangement Soto believes, earned the PnB a stronger hand in developing a mass base and implementing its pro-people nationalist program. This was a far better victory than the debacle in the congressional polls when the Left fielded its own slate in many parts but won only in two.

The two, Garduce and Andolana, on the other hand have survived congress despite the red tag. Soto cited the two for "their effectivity in voicing minority opinion that creates public opinion."

Even the controversy involving the LDP is, as some quarters in the cause-oriented groups believe, an indication of the effectivity of Garduce and Andolana in the House. "Otherwise, they will not merit the scheming tactics of Mitra and Cojuangco."

The rift is almost over now, Agcaoili said. PnB insiders believe Garduce and Andolana were persuaded not to leave the party. Garduce, on the other hand, has earlier denied he is bent on joining LDP, but this was muddled by various media reports.

The PnB, meanwhile, has yet to come out with a formal announcement of the Andolana-Garduce conflict. Optimism prevailed when a thunderous applause was heard after the closed-door caucus of party leaders during the congress.

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Columnist Supports Postponing Local Elections
42000014a Cebu City SUN STAR DAILY in English
23 Sep 88 p 6

[Article by Godo M. Roperos: "To Hold Polls or Not Is Not the Issue, but National Security"]

[Text] Once again, the national leadership is at odds with one another. It is clearly divided on the issue of whether to hold or not to hold the elections for barangay leaders in November as provided for in a recent bill President Aquino signed into law. Congress itself is clearly divided on the matter, with the House opting to postpone the elections until May 1989 while the Senate is putting its foot down in behalf of the law providing the elections in November.

Surprisingly, President Aquino who had already placed her imprimatur on Republic Act 6653, decreeing that the barangay elections shall be held on 14 November this year, has suddenly entertained second thoughts. and she is now saying she stands behind the decision of the House to postpone the elections to May next year. If she had her doubts about the elections, why did she sign the bill in the first place? Was she ill-advised again? What happened to her security advisers? Did they not brief her on the implications of her act?

It is clear there is any kind of implication to the national security if the elections were to be held on 14 November. But it is a matter where no one can really be sure what it will bring to the nation. All that we can have about these implications are pure conjectures or speculations. Off-hand, we can say that we entertain certain reservations about it since none can really assure us how many barangays in the country are influenced, infiltrated, or controlled by communist insurgents, except what the military is saying.

The figure cited is 20 percent of the total 43,000 barangays in the country. Which means roughly 8,000 rural communities. But the Senate says the military has been steadily cutting down the number by their effective campaign to regain control of these communities, and it is now only 18 percent or more than 6,000 communities. But whether one likes it or not, the number is still big enough to offer a beachhead to the insurgents if in the coming elections, communist control of the villages will be strengthened.

It is on these grounds our reservation is anchored. For what assurance can we have the military operation to regain these communities into the democratic fold will continue successfully? We have no doubt the armed forces in recent months were able to dent the strength of the insurgents in some areas. And in fact, they may have shot through with holes the timetable of the CPP/N-PA/NDF. But still, this is not assurance enough for holding a successful barangay elections in November. In fact, we understand, it is the military community which is suggesting we postpone the elections to better times.

If this is true, then it is possible the armed forces leaders believe they can still improve further the national condition, given a few more months to operate in the countrysides. It is probably this assurance President Aquino got from her security advisers that made her change her mind. But then, it did not add to her image as a decisive leader, since she has already signed the bill into law setting the date of the elections. No matter. The real issue is not whether to hold it or not in November, but whether it is to the interest of the nation to do so.

The Senate's stand is that it should be held in November as the law provides, in order to complete once and for all the country's democratic normalization process. It seems, in the thinking of the senators, the barangay elections will put the country on a full democratic

circumstance, regardless of whether or not it will give the insurgents a number of fully controlled villages, too. Of course, the elections can be postponed in the questioned villages. But the problem is how accurate is our data on the number of villages under the influence or control of the insurgents?

Right now, we have only the military assessment to depend on. They are gathering and collating the information. But are they able to cover and assess all the 43,000 barangays? How big or how small is the margin of error the AFP is giving to their statistics? How reliable

are their sources of information from the countrysides? These are questions which need to be answered carefully before any tacit decision on the matter should be made, or before the concerns expressed by the House may be pacified.

On our part, until we are assured the barangay elections can be held without untoward implications to the national security, we will continue having reservations about holding it, either in November or in May next year.

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NSC Chief Comments on Indochina Policy, Prospects

42070170b Bangkok SIAM RAT SAPDA WICHAN in Thai 28 Aug-3 Sep 88 pp 26-28

[Excerpts] "Whenever we feel that something could affect the security of the country, we voice our views on that. Some agreement should be reached based on the facts. But the decision is up to the prime minister and the cabinet. It's the situation that determines whether something poses a danger to our national security....," said Suwit Sutthanukun, the secretary general of the National Security Council (NSC), in describing the scope of the duties of his unit, which is directly subordinate to the prime minister and which is the "professional" unit with respect to data. Also, this unit is independent of any political party, because "we sell ideas," as he put it.

Turning the Battlefield Into a Trading Market; It's Possible But We Must Be Careful

The NSC has had a positive reaction to the government's policy of trading with the Indochina countries. "This can be done," said Secretary General Suwit. He pointed out that we are already trading with these three countries. For example, trade with Laos is increasing. Last year, Thailand opened temporary border transit points at least 10 times. This year, we have already opened 13 points to facilitate trade. "A transit point is being opened at Chong Mek in Mukdahan Province. Goods are flowing in and out of the country constantly."

The same is true of Vietnam. More and more people in the private sector are investing there. They can do so freely. But if a trade policy on Vietnam is promulgated, that would benefit merchants, because it would generate greater confidence concerning trade with the Indochina countries. However, the secretary general of the NSC did not deny that we must still be very careful about security. He said that he is sure that merchants understand this. If, for example, strategic goods fall into the hands of the enemy, that could prove dangerous to Thailand. But the situation today is much better than before.

The list of prohibited items once contained 273 items. After the negotiations with Laos, the number of such goods was reduced to just 61 items. He said that "we will continue to be on guard, but the way to handle things is to relax things by seeing which goods pose little or no danger. Things can change. For example, in the past, bicycles could be used in military operations. But when the situation changed, we felt that they would use bicycles for various civilian activities rather than for military purposes.

"If we can sell goods, that will benefit us. If there is a negative aspect to this, we can protect ourselves in other ways. Capabilities and potential are not fixed. This can change. Their potential has increased. So has ours. But on comparison, our potential is greater and so we can deal with them."

The Situation in Cambodia: Khmer Coalition Still Has the Advantage

Vietnam has announced that it will withdraw all its troops from Cambodia by 1989, 1 year sooner than previously announced, and that it will withdraw 50,000 troops by the end of this year. The secretary general of the NSC feels that we must continue to watch this. It is difficult to determine whether Vietnam is sincere or whether it is just trying to fool us. But based on the intelligence that has been obtained, some Vietnamese troops have been withdrawn. As for the fighting in Cambodia, the CGDK still has the advantage. This is one reason why Vietnam has taken a more positive attitude.

However, the results of the unofficial meeting on the Cambodia problem that was held at Bogar, Indonesia, at the end of July have not led to any changes. It will take time. Nothing definitive was discussed at the meeting. The meeting was held just to enable people to talk with each other. But it was beneficial in that each side got to see the attitude of the other and possible solutions were discussed. "Those there agreed to hold another meeting. This should have an effect."

Secretary General Suwit said that Vietnam continues to implement a policy of swallowing, or "Vietnamizing," Laos and Cambodia. They are stepping up such activities in terms of both quantity and quality. "They are sending people to Laos and Cambodia, and Vietnamese are marrying Lao and Cambodians. The laws and legal measures are being revised in ways favorable to Vietnam. Vietnamese-language study is increasing. These things have not decreased."

Negotiations With Laos on the Rom Klao Issue, Now Their Turn

At the beginning of the year, there was bloody fighting at Ban Rom Klao, and both Thailand and Laos suffered losses before a ceasefire was negotiated by the militaries of the two countries. But since then, little progress has been made in the negotiations on demarcating the border between the two countries even though the two countries have agreed to use the Thai-French Treaty of 1907 and the maps concerned. At present, technical officials are trying to locate the points on the map in terms of actual territory in order to clearly demarcate the border. Thailand has proposed that the chief of staff officers serve as chairman of the Technical Committee.

"We have proposed that a senior and well-respected official be used. If a conflict arises, the chairman will be able to talk to people. We are now waiting for a response from Laos. In terms of a game of chess, we have already made our move. It's now their turn," said the secretary general of the NSC. He said that Laos should propose its own technical committee. We will discuss things and go to see various areas just as we did with Burma when

demarcating the border along the Sai River. In the case of Laos, the Rom Klao area is not the only area. We must demarcate the entire length of the border.

"It may take 5-10 years. That's better than waiting 11 years before starting, which would mean that it would be 20 years before we could conclude this. If we begin now, we should be finished in 10 years. In 11 years, things should be fine. There shouldn't be any problems." Otherwise, until the border has been clearly demarcated, incidents such as the Ban Rom Klao incident could happen frequently. "We are afraid that such incidents will happen again. Thus, we are trying to solve this problem by clearly demarcating the border so that our children won't have to fight. We are trying to solve this problem for the benefit of future generations."

Stability of the New Government, Don't Take Too Negative a View

The secretary general of the NSC said that he always has a positive outlook, particularly concerning Thai politics. He believes that Thai have a special quality. They are able to adjust themselves to the existing situation and rely on past experience. They can be compared to water, which can change levels and form, as MR [royal title] Khukrit Pramot, an elder statesman, once said. "Thus, I don't think that we should be too quick to decide how long this government will last," said the secretary general. He added that because of its increasing understanding of the situation, the government should be able to solve the problems to the satisfaction of various groups.

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Pact Provides for Increased Flights to and From Vietnam

*BK1010010288 Bangkok THE NATION in English
10 Oct 88 p 14*

[Text] Thailand and Vietnam last week reached an agreement to increase the number of flights between the two countries from three to four per week to cope with the rising traffic volume, according to official sources.

Thai aviation authorities also held talks with Laos on improving ticketing and flight scheduling operations to provide more convenience to passengers. However, flight frequency and capacity between Thailand and Laos would remain unchanged.

Officials told THE NATION that talks with both Laos and Vietnam proceeded smoothly as both countries were willing to see improved air services and greater frequency.

According to the agreement with Vietnamese authorities, the number of flights between Thailand and Vietnam will rise to four per week, enabling both countries to operate two weekly flights each, starting this November.

At present, either country operates one and two weekly flights alternatively or an equivalent to one and a half flights per week. But the new agreement will allow Thai Airways International [THAI] to fly to Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City on Wednesdays and Saturdays, while Air Vietnam will serve Bangkok on Mondays and Fridays.

"The increased frequency will make it more convenient for passengers travelling between both countries," said an official accompanying the Thai team during talks with their Indochinese counterparts.

Vietnam also requested THAI to carry refugees travelling in groups to third countries, saying that its airline had been unable to cope with the large number of such passengers. These refugees will pay only 60 percent of the full normal fares.

However, the request has yet to be decided by the Thai side as it involves national security, needing further consultations with other government agencies concerned. To avoid negative impact on THAI's operations, officials said, the national-flag carrier may carry refugees from Vietnam if there are vacant seats only since the refugees will be charged less than the normal fares.

Meanwhile, Siphum Sukhanet, permanent secretary for transport and communications, disclosed that starting this October 1, Thailand and Australia will have one more flight between the two countries per week each.

In addition, the Bangkok-Perth sector will have more passenger capacity using the Boeing 747 instead of the present DC-10.

Reaction Continues Over Possible Indochina Policy Changes

Editorial: Pressure Works To Get SRV Withdrawal

42070008 Bangkok NAEO NA in Thai 13 Sep 88 p 5

[Editorial: "Foreign Policy"]

[Excerpt] Singapore engages in more trade with Vietnam than any other ASEAN country. Thailand has long been a toy of Singapore. Singaporean merchants purchase Thai goods and resell them to Vietnam. The government of Singapore has never mentioned this.

Only a few Thai trade with Vietnam. The yearly value of this trade is only a few million baht. Also, the Thai government has designated 61 items as strategic goods, which cannot be sold. However, Vietnam relies on Laos as a cover in order to trade with Thai in the private sector. Even though Thai sell only about 1 billion baht worth of goods to Laos each year, this is of great significance to Vietnam.

The best foreign policy for Thailand is to reduce the trading field with Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam even more. Besides restricting Singapore, this will also put pressure on Vietnam. Using trade this way will eventually result in Vietnam agreeing to withdraw its troops from Cambodia and Laos, which is what the Free World countries want.

Thailand should expand trade with Vietnam only after Vietnam acts in accord with the conditions set by the United Nations and ASEAN.

Editorial Sees Gains, Wants More Flexibility
42070008 Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 14 Sep 88 p 8

[Editorial: "Don't Be a Hawk All the Time"]

[Excerpts] It seems that the dispute within this administration over foreign policy, specifically, trading with Indochina, continues. The dispute is between the prime minister and the minister of foreign affairs. Just after he became prime minister, Maj Gen Chatchai Chunhawan announced that he wanted to change the battlefield in Indochina into a trading market. But Air Chief Marshal [ACM] Sitthi Sawetsila is opposed to this idea. He wants to continue putting economic pressure on Vietnam until Vietnam withdraws its troops.

Another point that the Thai government should think about is that the Cambodia problem is in the process of being resolved. The international situation has put pressure on Vietnam to take a softer position on this problem. For example, the Soviet Union has withdrawn its forces from Afghanistan and put greater emphasis on economic development. It has also taken steps to reduce political and military confrontation with both the United States and China.

These changes have forced Vietnam to change its policy, too. Vietnam once announced that the situation in Cambodia was irreversible. But now, Vietnam has agreed to withdraw its forces sooner than previously announced. The situation is now changing. The Thai government must monitor this situation and implement a flexible policy in accord with the situation. That is better than being rigid and hawkish all the time.

Editorial: Chatchai Should Ignore Lee Kwan Yew
42070008 Bangkok DAILY NEWS in Thai
13 Sep 88 p 5

[Editorial: "Our Dear Friend, Lee Kwan Yew"]

[Excerpts] During Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan's visit to Singapore at the end of last week, Mr Lee Kwan Yew, the prime minister of Singapore, twice raised the issue of Thailand's policy toward Vietnam. Mr Lee Kwan Yew expressed apprehension about the Thai government's policy of encouraging people in the private

sector to trade with Vietnam and Laos and turning the Indochina battlefield into a trading market. Mr Lee Kwan Yew called on the Thai prime minister to change this policy.

If Maj Gen Chatchai, the Thai prime minister, listens to the views of Mr Lee Kwan Yew, he will in effect be preparing himself to wear pants with his ass sticking out.

Everyone knows that for the last 10 years, while Thailand has implemented a policy of prohibiting trade with Vietnam and Laos, particularly strategic goods, Singapore has allowed many private companies to ship goods from the Port of Singapore to Haiphong Port in Vietnam. And many of the goods that these private Singaporean merchants have sold to Vietnam are goods that were produced in Thailand. Singapore purchased them from Thailand and then resold them to Vietnam. They are still selling a wide variety of goods to Vietnam. Thus, Lee Kwan Yew's statement that Thailand should stop thinking about trading with Indochina and adhere to the ASEAN resolution, that is, to put economic pressure on Vietnam until it withdraws its troops from Cambodia, is a joke. It's like a monkey trying to trick its master. The Thai government should ignore him.

We feel that Maj Gen Chatchai should ignore this warning by Lee Kwan Yew and implement a policy of allowing private Thai companies to trade with Vietnam and Laos. The government should not change this policy. It should promote this both directly and indirectly as much as possible with the support of private trading organizations and the Chamber of Commerce in order to give companies greater assurance. Because in trade, if you aren't willing to compete, you won't be able to beat others. Politics is a part of trade, too. Thailand can't afford to make a mistake.

Columnist Backs Trade, Cites Fears of DK
42070008 Bangkok BAN MUANG in Thai
12 Sep 88 p 5

["Ta Mo Lo" column: "There are Obstacles in Converting the Battlefield into a Trading Market"]

[Excerpt] The situation in Cambodia remains unchanged. The "cocktail party" has given people hope that peace is at hand in Cambodia. But I feel that the problems in Cambodia have changed. I am not afraid of Vietnam, the invader. Instead, I am afraid that the Khmer Rouge will return to power there. I am afraid that they will begin slaughtering Cambodians again.

Vietnam is afraid. So are the Heng Samrin and Son Sann factions. So is Prince Sihanouk. The Khmer Rouge is the strongest of the various Cambodian factions. It is thought that if Vietnam withdraws its troops, the Khmer Rouge will seize power again. In Cambodia today, there is fear of Vietnam. But people fear the Khmer Rouge even more. Thailand is in a dilemma.

I don't think that the Heng Samrin faction in Phnom Penh has any great affection for the Vietnamese. And Vietnam no longer has any desire to stay in Cambodia, where there is no future for Vietnam. But it is committed to staying. I don't think that anyone, even the Soviet Union, can get Vietnam out of Cambodia or restore peace to Cambodia. I don't think that the Soviet Union, China, the United States, ASEAN, or the United Nations can solve the problems there. The problems will resolve themselves over time.

Mr Mahathir Mohamad, the prime minister of Malaysia, said that "if Vietnam withdraws its troops from Cambodia at the wrong time, there will be another civil war in Cambodia." Malaysia is a member of ASEAN and sides with Thailand. This clearly shows that the problem of peace in Cambodia has changed. Instead of fearing Vietnam, people now fear the Khmer Rouge. This is a longstanding problem. We must be patient and stay on top of things for the sake of our own interests.

I think that the policy of turning the battlefield into a trading market is a good policy. Trade between Vietnam and Thailand will help reduce the tension between our two countries and foster better understanding. Trading with Laos will help improve the atmosphere. Even the Heng Samrin faction in Cambodia wants to trade with us. Why should we close the door? I think that trade in Indochina is the key to solving the various problems in Indochina, including the economic problems and the problems of peace and security.

The Indochina region can facilitate economic development and the development of the quality of life. If Indochina really wants to cooperate economically, I think that the situation will eventually improve. I think that the policy of turning the battlefield into a trading market is the right policy. But it must be a cautious policy.

Why does Thailand have to worry about the fighting in Cambodia? The danger that Vietnam will invade Thailand based on the plan of uniting Indochina has passed. Indochina knows its capabilities. Sitthi Sawetsila, the minister of foreign affairs, who is responsible for conducting political negotiations, can continue his negotiations. Meanwhile, the government can engage in trade. That would be more beneficial than harmful. This is Thai-style politics.

Sources on Sitthi, Chatchai Advisors Conflict
42070008 Bangkok KHAO PHASET in Thai
21-27 Sep 88 pp 24-26

[Excerpts] When Maj Gen Chatchai Chunhawan, the prime minister, first introduced his six policy advisors—MR [royal title] Sukhumphan Priphat, Dr Narongchai Akraserani, Dr Chuanchai Akkhanan, Dr Surakiet Sathianthai, Dr Buansak Uwanno, and Mr Phansak

Winnarat—many people thought that there would be a serious clash of ideas between these people and regular government officials, particularly people in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

During the past month, except for the problems that arose between ACM Sitthi Sawetsila and MR Sukhumphan as a result of erroneous information appearing in one English-language newspaper, with the result that ACM Sitthi had to go to Ratchakhru Lane in order to get an explanation and MR Sukhumphan had to explain things, there have not been any serious conflicts.

But even though things have been relatively quiet and seemingly free of problems, things have been happening, and some political observers feel that these things are so important that they will eventually weaken the stability of the government.

From a Battlefield to a Trading Market, a Source of Conflict

A high-level news source in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs told KHAO PHASET that Maj Gen Chatchai's statement that "we will change Indochina from a battlefield into a trading market" shocked the leadership of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, because that represents a total and sudden shift of tactics. It means moving away from putting political and economic pressure on Vietnam.

The news source said that ACM Sitthi had to convene a meeting to explain to senior administrators that the policy of the new administration does not signal any shift. The only thing was that the statement made by Maj Gen Chatchai bypassed the most important step, that is, Vietnam must first withdraw all its troops from Cambodia. Later on, Maj Gen Chatchai confirmed that his statement does not conflict with the policy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He was just putting the troop withdrawal in proper perspective. And it is the intention of this administration to expand trade with all countries regardless of their ideology in accord with the policy of being friends with all countries.

But this clarification does not seem to have solved the problem. Moreover, the former secretary general of the prime minister, Squadron Leader Prasong Sunsiri, who played a very important role in formulating foreign policy in the previous administration, said that the policy of turning the battlefield into a trading market bypasses steps and could result in the battlefield moving into Thailand. He also criticized the prime minister's policy advisors, saying that they are young scholars who lack experience. He said that the government should follow the steps set by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. These statements have brought the policy conflict between the administration and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs into even sharper focus.

Advisors Say That Goals Are the Same, Tactics May Be Different

One of the prime minister's policy advisors told KHAO PHISET that it seems as if some foreign affairs officials are not trying to understand the prime minister. Because when this is considered carefully, the goal of getting Vietnam to withdraw its troops from Cambodia does not conflict with the matter of opening or expanding trade. The goals are the same.

"The only thing is that there may be a difference of opinion on tactics or on how to do things while waiting for them to withdraw their troops," said this advisor. He said that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs wants to wait until Vietnam has withdrawn all its forces from Cambodia before discussing the matter of trade. But the advisors feel that while waiting for them to withdraw their troops, which could take several years, we should make use of this time to discuss trade and formulate trade plans without making any commitments.

"After they have withdrawn all their troops, we can begin trading immediately. We won't have to wait several years. If we wait for them to withdraw all their troops first, we will be behind other countries. Singapore has criticized us about this, but they have already signed agreements with Vietnam and are just waiting for the green light."

As for fears that the battlefield will shift to Thailand, this advisor feels that if we don't do anything that would lead to our becoming a battlefield, there is no chance of the battlefield moving here.

"But the battlefield could shift here if people continue to hold narrow views and don't change their views in accord with the changing world situation. You have to understand that the world has changed greatly. People may think that we don't have much experience. But each one of us has come in contact with the new views of the leaders of various countries. This is valuable experience, right?"

Foreign Ministry Unhappy With Reduction in Role

A high-level news source in the Government House told KHAO PHISET that both the prime minister and his advisors are unhappy about the attitude of certain leading foreign affairs officials, who are trying to show the people that they do not agree with the revised foreign policy. This indicates to people that there is a lack of unity within the government.

Most recently, Ministry of Foreign Affairs officials accepted an invitation to talk to opposition parties about the copyright and trade protectionist laws. This took place at the President Hotel on 12 September. There are indications that the advisors to the prime minister are not very happy about this. They feel that this was a

breach of political etiquette on the part of regular government officials. Some news sources feel that the ministry was trying to get the opposition to side with it. Because from what is known, the prime minister has asked two of his advisors, Dr Surakiet Sathianthai and Dr Buansak Uwanno, to study the Copyright Act carefully. It is well known that these two scholars hold views that are diametrically opposed to those of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. If this is really the case, there is real cause for concern with respect to unity between regular government officials and political officials in their positions as superiors and subordinates.

Concerning this, Mr Narong Wongwan, the leader of the Ruam Thai Party, who agrees with the policy of turning the battlefield into a trading market and who attended the meeting at the President Hotel, told KHAO PHISET that the foreign affairs officials had been invited on an unofficial basis. People just wanted to know what Thailand stands to gain from these two laws if they are enacted. He said that the foreign affairs officials did not make any attempt to lobby people.

Affect on the Government's Stability, Sitthi Will Lose Because of Subordinates

"ACM Sitthi Sawetsila is in a very difficult situation. On one hand, he is the leader of a pro-government party. But he is also the head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which is at odds with the government's advisors. He could lose because of his subordinates," said a high-level news source in the Government House. He added that personally, Maj Gen Chatchai and ACM Sitthi understand each other very well. Even the disagreement with MR Sukhumphan was cleared up after things were explained.

What people are unsure about is how much influence foreign ministry officials have over ACM Sitthi. People familiar with the minister of foreign affairs have said that this is worrisome, because during the past 8 years, everything that has been done has been attributed to ACM Sitthi. Gen Prem did not touch anything. But now that Chatchai is prime minister, he has expressed the intention of playing a role in monitoring foreign policy. This is a minor rift that could be expanded. This depends on four important variables, that is, the prime minister, the advisory team, foreign affairs officials, and ACM Sitthi.

The conflict over this is not yet highly visible, because the advisors have not responded. They intend to remain quiet, because they don't want the senior people on the two sides to get into arguments because of the conflicts of their subordinates. Moreover, they don't place much importance on having people agree with the policy presented to the prime minister. They feel that it is up to the prime minister to make the decisions. Thus, they aren't very concerned about the attacks or criticisms of the policy.

Sources Comment on Chawalit Interest in Lao Ties

42070002b Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 6 Sep 88 p 3

[Article by Suwaphong Chanfangphet: "Army Strengthens Relationship Between Thailand and Lao"]

[Excerpt] A high-level news source in the army has confirmed that Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut, the RTA CINC and acting supreme commander, is still very interested in improving relations with Laos.

Last week, Gen Chawalit sent Gen Charuai Wongsayan, the army chief of staff, to Laos in order to coordinate things with senior Lao military officers in preparation for the official visit to Thailand by Gen Sisavat Keobounphan, the chief of staff officers of the Lao People's Army.

Why is Gen Sisavat being invited to pay an official visit to Thailand? In response to this question, a news source close to Gen Chawalit explained that Thailand wants to improve relations with Laos. To do this, we have implemented the "Thai-Lao Friendly Relations Program."

This program calls for giving help to Laos. Thailand will allow Lao students and others to study and observe things in Thailand. According to this program, Thailand will allow Lao students to study modern agriculture and new technology. Supreme Command Headquarters is in charge of this program and will monitor the results.

A report stated that a group of Lao students has already arrived in Thailand. They are studying agriculture in a northern province under the close supervision of the army. The army hopes to expand this program. This will be a long-term program with an initial budget of approximately 50 million baht. This is a large program and so it is necessary to coordinate things with many other units. Thus, it is no longer possible to conceal the fact that Lao students are being allowed to study and observe things in Thailand. Gen Chawalit has taken steps to have Gen Sisavat make an official visit to Thailand and openly sign an official agreement.

If Gen Sisavat comes here for an official visit, it should be possible to discuss a wide range of issues with him, particularly the unsolved problems. This will openly and officially improve relations between Thailand and Laos.

Besides this, Gen Chawalit hopes to establish a basis for Thai-Lao relations among the younger generation of Lao, who have grown up apart from Thailand in a communist society, which is very different from Thai society.

"Actually, we are not very concerned about relations with senior Lao officials. We are concerned about the younger generation, who will someday replace them. We are concerned that they will have very different ideas from us. That is why we have implemented this program," said the army news source.

Because of this deep hope of the army, Gen Chawalit is making a great effort to push this matter. He is trying to coordinate things with other units, particularly the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and persuade them to accept this program.

Gen Chawalit hopes that this program will help pave the way for restoring friendly relations between Thailand and Laos. But problems remain, particularly budget problems. The army has not succeeded in getting others to take an interest in or approve this program.

"We were able to end the fighting at Ban Rom Klao. The fighting there cost a billion baht. We have requested funds for this program so that such problems won't arise again. But we have not received much support," said a senior officer who has played an important role in this in a hurt tone.

The army will have to get the government to agree with this if it wants this program to achieve results. However, many people feel that the army is going too far to please Laos. In particular, people remember that the army has made many mistakes in the past and wonder whether it is making another mistake this time. It is up to the army to show that this program based on the ideas of Gen Chawalit can achieve good results.

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Further Details of Corps Commands Reported

42070170c Bangkok LAK THAI in Thai
1 Sep 88 pp 18, 19

[Text] "In the past, we didn't have any. Combat support commands are new units. They evolved based on the situation. Out of necessity, we formed combat support commands in the army regions. They handle combat support and logistics activities. The same is true in the case of forming corps. This is being done based on the situation. They can be called special action armies depending on the situation. They will carry out combat missions. They will resemble our combat support commands. But they will be higher than a command and lower than an army region. They will be subordinate to the army regions. In particular, the [army region] commander will have command over the corps," said a senior staff officer to LAK THAI about the formation of corps. He added that this is not a new program. This program has been in existence for about 3-4 years. But no concrete action has been taken. The structure was formulated last year, but slots have not yet been filled. This is the first year that corps slots will be filled. The program calls for the formation of only two corps, the 1st Corps in the 1st Army Region and the 2d Corps in the 2d Army Region. Also, the commander will not be referred to as "mae thap" [commanding officer] because that title is reserved for the commanding officer of an army region. They would be like "big" and "little" commanding officers. "We are looking for a suitable title. We may

use the term 'corps commander.' For example, the commander of the Special Warfare Command is referred to as the 'commander of the Special Warfare Command,' not 'commanding officer.'"

LAK THAI has already published a report on the plan to withdraw troops from the Cambodian border. Local forces will be stationed there so that frontline troops won't confront the enemy. This program is aimed at reducing the pressure along the border. This is in line with Vietnam's policy of withdrawing its troops from Cambodia. Our news source said that, based on LAK THAI's article, that was the basis for forming these corps. They will carry out missions in the 1st and 2d Army Regions.

Both the 1st and 2d Army Regions have a full complement of men. In view of this, the corps must have a full complement of men, too. This is similar to the combat support commands, which share duties in the combat support line.

In the 1st Army Region, there is a "heavy" allocation of forces in the area. The mission in this region requires that a corps be formed in order to share the combat duties, just like the combat support commands, which share the combat support tasks. Some of the details on the formation of these units have already been reported. This is not a secret.

Units directly subordinate to the 1st Army Region include the 1st King's Guard Engineers Regiment. This regiment is composed of the 52d and 112th Engineers Battalions in Ratburi, the 1st Special Combat Training Battalion, and the 21st Communications Battalion. There are also combat support units in various areas.

As for "regional" units, the 1st Army Region commands the 1st and 2d military circles and the Lopburi, Chonburi, Ratburi, Ratburi (Kanchanaburi section), Phetchaburi, and Saraburi military districts.

The 1st King's Guard Division commands the following units: The 4th King's Guard Cavalry Regiment, an important tank unit stationed at Bang Krabu that is directly subordinate to the division; the 1st King's Guard Artillery Regiment, which commands the 11th and 31st King's Guard Artillery Battalions; the 1st King's Guard Engineers Battalion; the 1st King's Guard Communications Battalion; the 1st King's Guard Medical Battalion; the 1st King's Guard Infantry Regiment, which is composed of the 1st, 2d, and 3d King's Guard Infantry Battalions; the 11th King's Guard Infantry Regiment, which is composed of the 1st, 2d, and 3d King's Guard Infantry Battalions; and the 31st King's Guard Infantry Regiment, which is composed of the 1st, 2d, and 3d King's Guard Infantry Battalions.

The 2d Infantry Division in Prachinburi commands the following units: The 2d Cavalry Battalion, an armored unit that is directly subordinate to the division; the 2d

Artillery Regiment, which is composed of the 12th Artillery Battalion, the 21st King's Guard Artillery Battalion, and the 102d Artillery Battalion; the 2d King's Guard Engineers Battalion; the 2d Communications Battalion; the 2d Medical Battalion; the 2d King's Guard Infantry Regiment, which is composed of the 1st, 2d, and 3d King's Guard Infantry Battalions; the 21st King's Guard Infantry Regiment, which is composed of the 1st, 2d, and 3d King's Guard Infantry Battalions; and the 12th King's Guard Infantry Regiment, which is composed of the 1st, 2d, and 3d King's Guard Infantry Battalions.

The 9th Infantry Division is a huge unit. The units directly subordinate to this division include the 19th Cavalry Battalion; the 9th Artillery Regiment, which is composed of the 9th, 19th, and 109th Artillery Battalions; the 9th Engineers Battalion; the 9th Communications Battalion; the Medical Battalion; the 9th Infantry Regiment, which is composed of the 1st, 2d, 3d, and 4th Infantry Battalions; the 19th Infantry Regiment, which is composed of the 1st, 2d, and 3d Infantry Battalions; and a support regiment.

The 1st Army Region also commands the 11th Infantry Division, which is composed of the 1st Battalion of the 111th Infantry Regiment and the 1st Battalion of the 112th Infantry Regiment; the 1st Combat Support Command; and four Thahan Phran irregular regiments.

Units directly subordinate to the 2d Army Region include the 2d Special Combat Training Battalion; the 201st and 202d Engineers Battalions; and the 22d Communications Battalion. Combat units include the 3d Infantry Division, which is composed of the 8th Cavalry Battalion, and the 3d Artillery Regiment, which is composed of the 3d, 8th, 13th, and 103d Artillery Battalions. There are also combat support units, that is, the 3d Engineers Battalion, the 3d Communications Battalion, and the 3d Medical Battalion.

Infantry units, which are the main forces, include the 3d Infantry Regiment, which is composed of the 1st, 2d, 3d, and 4th Infantry Battalions. Other units subordinate to the 3d Infantry Division include the 8th Infantry Regiment, which is composed of the 1st, 2d, 3d, and 4th Infantry Battalions, and the 13th Infantry Regiment, which is composed of the 1st, 2d, and 3d Infantry Battalions.

The 6th Infantry Division commands the 21st Cavalry Battalion; the 6th Artillery Regiment, which is composed of the 6th, 16th, 23d, and 106th Artillery Battalions; the 6th Engineers Battalion; the 6th Communications Battalion; and the 6th Medical Battalion. The infantry units of the 6th Infantry Division include the 6th Infantry Regiment, which is composed of the 1st, 2d, and 3d Infantry Battalions; the 16th Infantry Regiment, which is composed of the 1st, 2d, and 3d Infantry Battalions; and the 23d Infantry Regiment, which is composed of the 1st, 2d, and 3d Infantry Battalions.

The units of the 12th Infantry Division include the 121st Infantry Regiment, which is composed of the 1st, 2d, and 3d Infantry Battalions, and the 122d Infantry Regiment, which is composed of the 1st and 2d Infantry Battalions.

The 2d Army Region also commands the 2d Combat Support Command and four *thahan phran* irregular regiments. The "regional" units subordinate to the 2d Army Region include the 3d Military Circle and the Surin, Surin (Buriram section), and Khon Kaen military districts. These three military districts are subordinate to the 3d Military Circle. The military districts subordinate to the 6th Military Circle include the Udon Thani, Udon Thani (Sakon Nakhon section), Udon Thani (Nakhon Phanom section), Udon Thani (Loei section), and Roi Et military districts.

It can be seen that the 1st and 2d army regions have enough units to warrant the formation of these new corps. This will facilitate the work of these army regions, which are command units.

Even though these corps will be formed to serve as field "work units" directly responsible for combat duties, they will not be in direct command of combat units such as infantry divisions or regiments. In normal times, these units will be directly subordinate to the army regions. If a situation arises and the corps need to carry on operations, with the command structure in place in the area, combat forces will be allocated to the corps.

In normal times, the corps will have a "head" but no "body." But there will be some units that are directly subordinate to the corps. Forces will be allocated later on. Each corps will be commanded by a lieutenant general. Two major generals will serve as deputy commanders. There will also be a chief of staff with the rank of major general.

LAK THAI was told that the corps will be combat operations units. Unlike the army regions, they will not control any territory. Where they carry on operations will depend on the situation. Initially, they will control the civil-police-military units, which are field units.

In normal times, the corps will not have much power. But in times of conflict, they will have much power. The corps will be mobile units that are constantly on the alert. They will resemble military units in Israel, which uses corps as field units.

"The reason why the corps commander will be a lieutenant general is that during times of operations, he will have to command divisions, which are commanded by major generals. Thus, the corps commander must be of higher rank. Even though the corp commanders will hold the rank of lieutenant general, the same rank as army region commanders, they will be junior to the army region commanders. That is, they will probably be two steps lower," said our news source. "The 'head' will be

formed first. Forces will be assigned later. Many adjustments need to be made before the corps will have a 'body,' because this is something new."

Issues Facing Finance Ministry Examined

42070170a Bangkok SIAM RAT SAPDA WICHAN in Thai 21-27 Aug 88 pp 4, 5

[Excerpts] What is strange is that the minister of finance, Mr Pramuan Saphawasu, has not yet entrusted any responsibilities to his two deputy ministers, Mr Suchon Champhunot of the Thai Nation Party and Mr Nippon Phromphan of the Democrat Party. Mr Pramuan told reporters that for now, he will monitor everything himself. The two deputy ministers will help monitor things. In 1-2 months, the work will be divided based on people's skills.

"I will be involved with policy matters only. The under secretary of finance will be responsible for daily matters. I won't meddle in those things," said Minister Pramuan, the "lord of finance," with the approval of Maj Gen Chatchai.

It isn't known whether he is doing things this way because he wants to assume all responsibility because he doesn't trust the two deputy ministers or what. But there are also things that make people wonder how skilled the new "lord of finance" is.

"My policy is to grant an interview to the mass media only twice a month. I feel that the work of the Ministry of Finance is concerned with numbers. This work is very complex and so I don't want to give interviews frequently." This is another image.

A news source close to Mr Nippon said that Mr Nippon can't say anything about the fact that Mr Pramuan's attitude is different from that of other ministers. He wouldn't dare say anything, because this is the first time that Mr Nippon has been a minister. Also, Mr Pramuan is much older than Mr Nippon. Thus, there is little possibility that Mr Nippon will go to Mr Pramuan to ask his reasons and ask that he be given responsibilities.

However, it is thought that after parliament convenes, it will become clear whether this lord of finance has a firm grasp or not. Because the draft expenditure budget for fiscal 1989 is waiting, the minister of finance must study the details and submit this to the cabinet. He must be prepared to respond to questions and explain things to those who have questions, which includes the mass media. If he tries to avoid the issue or twist things or refuses to explain things, people will probably begin to question the ability of this minister.

Besides this, the minister of finance must also chair meetings of the Special Subcommittee To Consider the Draft Budget Act at parliament. This must be done very

quickly. If there is any delay, this will definitely not be completed in time for the new fiscal year. It would cause much confusion if the budget act from the previous year had to be used temporarily.

There are also two other issues left over from the Prem 5 administration about which the present minister of finance will have to make a decision. One is the matter of allowing private individuals to rent the Songkhla and Phuket deep-water ports. The other is the "4 April Program," which is an issue on which political opponents are focusing their attention.

Although there has not been any criticism from Mr Bunchu Rotchanasathian, the leader of the Community Action Party who is considered to be the shadow minister of the Ministry of Finance, he cannot be ignored. He may just be biding his time and looking for weaknesses. Things will become very interesting once he starts criticizing.

Thus, Mr Pramuan should not be concerned about reporters trying to do their job. Instead, he should be concerned about the economic problems and the fact that the two deputy ministers don't have anything to do.

Minister Subin Profiled, Relationship With Montri Probed

*42070001c Bangkok KHAO PHISSET in Thai
31 Aug-6 Sep 88 pp 52, 53*

[Unattributed report: "Subin Pinkhayan, Will He Be Just a Shadow of Surat and Montri?"]

[Text] Merchants breathed a great sigh of relief after the cabinet was appointed, with some people wondering about the constitutionality of this, and Montri Phongphanit was not appointed minister of commerce. Merchants have been eagerly seeking background information on Mr Subin Pinkhayan, the new minister of commerce. This former minister of the Office of University Affairs has a background that should satisfy merchants. This should help to settle things down and improve the image of this newly elected administration.

Subin Pinkhayan was a good student who was by temperament suited to being an engineer. He served as an MP as a member of the Social Action Party [SAP] led by MR [royal title] Khukrit Pramot. He earned a reputation as a compromiser and so was easily able to establish relations with Surat Osathanukhro and Phong Sarasin. That improved his position in the Social Action Party, and more and more people began to take notice of him. When Montri Phongphanit, who is the acting secretary of the Social Action Party, moved to the Ministry of Communications, which is a bigger ministry than the Ministry of Commerce, in order to take control of projects worth tens of billions of baht, Subin was appointed minister of commerce, a ministry that has subdued many "wizards."

Subin, as usual, was cautious when he took over this ministry from Montri, saying that he would continue Montri's policies, particularly concerning agricultural goods. He said that he would adhere to the principle of free trade and work to increase the incomes of the farmers. He said that things must be fair for the merchants in a free trade system. Many merchants have said that they are happy that Subin has a reputation as an honest man. They should be able to carry on trade without having to worry about what is happening in the background.

After being appointed to this position, Subin began by examining the work of the various departments together with the two deputy ministers. He expressed an interest in various policies and compiled data in order to take charge of the ministry. But even so, the Ministry of Commerce is the Ministry of Commerce. No other ministry is as disorganized as this ministry. There are many problems left over from the past that Subin will have to solve. One important problem is the conflict between senior officials in the ministry. He must also stipulate a clear trade policy in order to create confidence among people in the private sector.

That first problem is a very difficult problem. His first day there, Subin had to deal with the "tricks" of senior officials from the under secretary to directors-general. All of these people are very skilled at playing games with politicians. The first "grenade" was thrown very quickly.

Sukhon Kanchanalai, the lovely director-general of the Department of Commercial Registration, who is called the "shadow under secretary," who holds a news conference only once a year, and who is very difficult to see, quickly announced that the government (which could refer to anyone) must quickly make a decision on the intellectual property issue, because the United States is applying great pressure concerning this. Otherwise, we will have serious problems concerning the GSP on 15 December.

Also, Phachon Isarasena, the under secretary of commerce, who last year was strongly opposed to the promulgation of a Copyright Law and the GSP, has now openly said that the GSP issue is very important to exports. Besides this, others at lower levels have said that Thailand will have to promulgate a Copyright Law in accord with the wishes of the United States if we want to continue trading with them.

This sudden turnaround has generated new movement. That is, this issue, which created conflicts that led to parliament being dissolved at the end of April, has been brought up again, because it is known that Prime Minister Chatchai's policy advisors, whom Kraisaak Chunhawan, the prime minister's son, helped select, are opposed to promulgating a Copyright Law.

As a member of the executive committee of the Social Action Party, the leader of which has been stirring up trouble since 1986, Subin has taken action on this matter

very quickly, saying that we must try to solve this problem by negotiating. And if we have to make some concessions, people shouldn't think that we are unpatriotic. Thai should understand this. This is just the start of the problems.

During a visit to the Department of Commercial Relations, Phachon Isarasena, the under secretary of commerce, sharply criticized the director-general of this department, Chare Chutharattanakun, in front of Subin. He said that it is difficult for this department to carry out its tasks, because it is difficult to evaluate things. He said that this department spends much money, but it isn't certain whether it is the department or the private sector that has achieved the results. Often, the department crows about the achievements but conceals the failures. On being attacked like this, Chare, who once competed with Phachon for the position of under secretary of commerce, immediately fired back by saying that the Department of Commercial Relations has never concealed anything. It has always revealed everything. The one exception is the matter of a secret OCCC [Office of the Commission to Counter Corruption] letter that was sent to him. He said that Phachon had tried to harass him by informing the OCCC that he had used one of the department's vehicles for personal business. He has not forgotten that even though he was cleared of the charge. On hearing this, Phachon immediately stiffened. That same day, Phachon ordered a close associate to investigate a commercial newspaper on corruption charges, saying that the newspaper had accused him of being unfair in appointing officials last July. This was in response to Chare. This will continue to be a problem. This conflict between officials will undoubtedly cause problems for Subin just as it did for Montri and Surat.

However, policy matters will be much more important. Subin, who is known as an honest person, must still prove that he can handle the job. He will have to do a good job to erase the corrupt image of previous SAP politicians who worked in this ministry.

Cassava is the first issue that will challenge Subin's skills. The Thai Cassava Association conducted a survey and learned that next year's cassava yield will reach 24.6 million tons. This is very worrisome, because the EEC will accept only 5.5 million tons in the form of cassava pellets. Something must be done to solve this problem as soon as possible.

On 23 August, Sukit Wangli, the president of the Thai Cassava Association, met with Subin and asked him to announce a cassava policy as soon as possible so that trade plans can be formulated in advance. He also asked that the policy formulated not be changed in midyear, which is what the previous minister of commerce did.

Subin denied this request, saying that ministry must have the option of changing the plan; otherwise, merchants could exploit the cassava farmers. We must

always have the option of changing the policy. Subin's statement can only be interpreted to mean that the trade policy of the present minister of commerce is the same as that of Montri and Surat.

In trade circles, it is well known that whenever the trade policy is revised in midyear, it means that tens of millions of baht are being taken out of the pockets of the merchants and given to "hooded men." Keeping open the option of changing the policy means that there is still a "chance" of that happening again under the leadership of an SAP politician. But Subin may have made a mistake. Only time will tell whether Subin is different from Surat and Montri, which is what the merchants hope. Because even though the policy is the same, the methods used may be different. MR Khukrit has allowed his personal secretary, Mr Thawisak Phansura, or Kuai Cheng, to serve as Subin's secretary. Things might turn out better. But Subin will have to prove that he has escaped the shadow of Surat Osathanukhro and Montri Phongphanit. If he doesn't, there is no reason to hope that things will improve, and we can begin looking for a new minister of commerce. But if he can, it will be the country's good fortune to have a democratic government that is working on behalf of the people of the country.

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Phichit Rattakun Views Obstacles Enroute to NIC Status

42070001b Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 4 Sep 88 p 5

[Article by Phichit Rattakun: "Will Thailand Be a NIC or Modified NIC?"]

[Excerpts] There is talk that Thailand will be a NIC [newly industrialized country] by the year 2000. What this means is that the country will be a highly industrialized country. The country will be highly developed economically as a result of selling industrial goods, and the majority of the people will be affluent.

Looking at Thailand's present industrial situation, it can be seen that efforts have long been underway to turn Thailand into an industrial country. We have constantly tried to induce foreigners to invest here, and during the past 3-4 years we have been very successful in this.

One reason why we have been successful in attracting foreign investment is that labor here is cheap. Also, older industrial countries have reduced their import quotas. This is a protectionist measure against the newly industrialized countries. There are also the problems concerning international currency exchange rates. All of these things have caused industrial investment in Thailand to increase quickly. This has led people to think that Thailand will become a NIC.

But the question is, what effect is this huge amount of investment having on the country? First, it is clear that even though employment has increased greatly, the situation is not very good if we look at the country's situation as a whole. Even though this employment has generated income for thousands of families, these laborers tend to live in clusters near the factories, such as in Bangkok, Pathumthani, and Samut Prakan. Employment has not been dispersed on a broad scale considering that we have a population of 52 million people.

Moreover, investment by Thai accounts for very little of the recent investment here. This is because Thai lack knowledge about production technology or the production process. We lack opportunities to create domestic markets. Foreign companies control the markets for their products worldwide. This is why Thai have not invested in industry. The investment has come from foreigners, who have invested mainly in medium and light industry, or the manufacture of parts.

This situation has given rise to doubts about the possibility of our becoming an industrialized country. Because if we can't continue to provide an attractive environment in the future, these foreign investors will move their production units to other countries. The important economic infrastructure that we have built, such as deep-water ports and other facilities, will have been built for nothing.

Second, when foreign investors want to invest in industry here, they usually request special investment privileges for the first 5-8 years. For example, they are granted special tax exemptions. Thus, the government has little chance to benefit from these taxes and so the income that it can use to build basic facilities important to national development is limited.

Third, as for the industries that have arisen recently, even though income from exports has risen greatly, looking at the types of goods being exported, it can be seen that the 10 industrial items that earn the most money for the country are almost all goods made from foreign raw materials. This includes electrical circuit boards, which earn several billion baht a year. Almost all of the parts and raw materials used to make these boards are imported from abroad. Gems earn several tens of billions of baht a year. But most of the raw materials are imported from abroad. Or take textiles, for example. Thailand exports 40 billion baht worth of textiles each year. But almost 90 percent of the cotton used in producing textiles is imported. This cotton costs 7-10 billion baht. There are many other goods, including electronic and video goods and shoes, that are in the same situation.

In short, Thai industry today relies heavily on imported raw materials. Even though these goods earn money for the country, the net income earned for the country is not as high as it should be.

Fourth, the purchase of production factors, such as capital goods, which includes equipment and machinery, production processes, and technology, has increased steadily. For example, in 1988 the purchase of capital goods has increased 65 percent. It can be said that every time the industrial sector expands, the import of capital goods increases also. This could lead to a trade deficit in the future.

Fifth, in developing industry, we have not put as much emphasis on primary industries as we should have. These primary industries will be prototypes of other industries. The primary industries lacking here include machine production, machine tool, metal and raw material, steel, and raw material development industries. Looking at these five factors, it can be seen that even though Thailand now has certain capabilities, these capabilities are rather limited. They need to be developed.

Let me give a concrete example. Take the metal and machine industries for example. We can produce certain types of agricultural machinery such as rice mills and threshers, tractors, and water pumps. But we lack the technology to ensure that these machines are precision machines with great durability. Semiprocessed metal products such as thick and thin metal sheets, steel used to produce machinery, and precision machine tools such as lathes and planes still have to be imported from abroad. The domestic plants that produce such tools have a production capacity of only 20-30 pieces a month. And the tools produced are not precision tools. They can be used only to repair agricultural machinery. They cannot be used to produce industrial machinery.

As for producing other types of machinery, even though we can produce some basic industrial tools such as bottle molds, vehicle body molds, presses, plastic bag, spray can, and toothpaste tube blowers, and even machines to make cassava pellets and sugar, Thailand's technology must be developed constantly. We can do this by learning from others and transferring technology through joint investments with other countries. This includes technology used in producing small diesel engines for agriculture and metallurgical technology of a very complex nature, such as producing small casings used with electronic goods.

Another thing that needs to be considered carefully is the system for developing the country's raw materials and resources that could be used to develop the primary industries and related industries. This includes such raw materials as minerals, agricultural products, and natural gas.

We have not used or are just beginning to use these raw materials to develop our industry. We have been exporting these raw materials to foreign factories. For example, we export tin, wolfram, cerite, fluorite, lignite, lead, limestone, chalk, "din man," feldspar, iron, and quartz. This also includes separating tine tailings to obtain more

expensive ore for use in industry. Another thing is processing agricultural goods such as para rubber and cassava to produce industrial products and building an industry to produce raw materials for the drug production plants.

The country must take urgent action to produce the manpower needed by industry. This is an urgent problem that must be solved as quickly as possible. We need both university graduates and graduates of vocational schools who are experts in specific fields and who can use their skills to develop the production process, draw up new designs, utilize the technology brought in, and use the raw materials in the country to build industries in the localities.

In the near future, the primary path used in developing the country's industrial production will be the path of relying on the country's comparative advantages regardless of whether this concerns raw materials, technology, marketing, labor, or the dispersal of income. This will be the path that benefits the country the most.

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Labor Expert Views Solutions, Examines NIC Status

42070002a Bangkok SIAM RAT SAPDA WICHAN in Thai 14-20 Aug 88 pp 13-16

[Interview with Dr Chira Hongladarom, the director of the Human Resources Institute; date and place not specified]

[Excerpts] Dr Chira Hongladarom, the director of the Human Resources Institute, Thammasat University, is a scholar who has worked on labor matters for more than 10 years. He served on the the government's Wage Committee for 6 years. He also served on the National Advisory Council for the Development of Labor for 4 years. The comments that follow were made after the new prime minister spoke about revising the government's labor policy. It isn't sure how much will be done.

[Question] It is thought that the new administration will encounter rather serious labor problems. What is your view on this?

[Answer] During the period of the acting administration, rather serious political problems arose, such as the strike by employees of certain state enterprises. Some people thought that this problem would become even worse after the new government was formed. However, I think that in the past, the government did not give enough attention to the labor problems. The government ignored the problems and was not really interested in solving these problems. It took an interest only when a crisis arose. Thus, I am sure that the new government will encounter labor problems. But I don't know exactly what the problems will be or how serious they will be.

[Question] Would you please order the labor problems in terms of importance?

[Answer] I think that the problem of changing the form of the state enterprises is the most important labor problem. There are two points that should be noted about this. First, no one disputes the fact that changing the form of the state enterprises would increase the efficiency of the production system. But there is another point and that is, if the form of the state enterprises is changed, how serious an effect will this have on the laborers? Thus, we can't look at this problem just from the standpoint of economics. We must also consider the situation of the laborers. I am opposed to the new government's policy of leaving the state enterprises unchanged even though it said that it would adhere to the policies of the previous administration. I think that it should obtain people's views and discuss things with politicians, scholars, policy planners, and union representatives. A fund should be established in order to provide compensation and pay a certain amount of money to those who are laid off from work so that they can support themselves. I think that this is very important. The matter of having a secure job is very important. If laborers don't have an income, they will put up strong resistance. I have talked with laborers, and most understand the government's direction. But they don't support it fully, because they are always placed at a disadvantage and don't benefit. Thus, the matter of changing the form of the state enterprises must be reviewed. But it should not be stopped. In Thailand, in solving problems we must look at things from many angles. I don't think that we can expect the laborers to suffer the consequences without being compensated. At the same time, Thailand must be able to compete with other countries. Efficiency in production is very important.

[Question] Another interesting issue is the minimum wage policy.

[Answer] I am a member of the Wage Committee. I feel that our economy has grown well. We must definitely consider a new minimum wage. This should be done as quickly as possible. I am concerned about the fact that government leaders were too quick to say that wages will be increased, because we have to look at things carefully to determine what effect a wage increase will have on production efficiency and our ability to compete with other countries. We must consider such matters very carefully. This must be supported by complete data. But I agree that the minimum wage needs to be increased. This should be done in October. Besides this, the government should take this opportunity to change the entire wage structure. I don't approve of adjusting the cost of living for government officials on a case by case basis. The entire structure should be changed. The new government should do this by raising the issue in parliament. We have government officials with excellent qualities. But the previous administration wasn't interested. As a result, people became demoralized. Many good

people have left and entered the private sector. Providing incentives to get government officials to work hard is very important. It shocks me to see the country prosper while the incomes and prestige of government officials decline. There must be a balance. This year's budget revenues may reach 40 billion baht. The monetary problems should improve.

Another matter that should be discussed is the minimum wage policy for provincial industries. Something must be done to have a suitable wage policy in order to expand provincial industry.

In short, this is the time for the new government to take a look at the entire wage structure. Thai labor is not just cheap; it is also of high quality. To create incentives, there must be suitable wages. Things should be more systematic than in the past, when one committee stipulated wage levels for government officials and another committee set the minimum wage for laborers. Things should be done systematically. That will benefit the country over the long term.

[Question] What do you think about the present unemployment problem?

[Answer] Today, many people feel that the economy is growing well and that this will enable us to reduce unemployment. This probably will help. But the unemployment problem is a structural problem. It stems from the fact that Thailand's economic structure is shifting from agricultural production and exports to industrial production and exports. In particular, in 1987 the economy expanded 6.6 percent. The production sectors that expanded the most were industry, 9.9 percent, and services, 9.1 percent. The value of exports increased greatly. It is thought that in 1988, the economy will grow at a rate of 9 percent. This is based on data from the Development Council. Looking at these figures, things look rosy for Thailand. Unemployment should drop. But we should look at things in greater detail. More and more people are entering the labor market. But the growth of the economy does not focus on employment. Thus, not all of those entering the labor market have been absorbed. Unless the industrial sector expands greatly, this will continue to be a problem. I am concerned about the structure of the economy, which does not provide any support. There are no data on labor markets. The new generation of laborers does not have a proper attitude toward finding a job. School curriculums are not suited to preparing people for work in a competitive world.

[Question] Other countries think that Thailand will become a NIC [newly industrialized country]. In your view, how likely is this?

[Answer] As I said above, the data on economic growth, exports and foreign investment indicate that Thailand will become a NIC. But looking at this more deeply, we cannot become a NIC as long as the agricultural sector accounts for 70 percent of the labor force while industry accounts

for only 10 percent. Employment in the industrial sector of a NIC must be 25 percent or more. The employment structure is not suitable. We must develop employment and the quality of our laborers along with developing the economy. We must reform the production of our human resources in accord with market demand. We must quickly improve our educational curriculum. Because the quality of the people coming out of school has remained unchanged, that is, they have been educated to meet the needs of a bureaucracy. A suitable curriculum should include both theory and practice. The private sector should play a role in designing the curriculum. Actually, besides developing the school curriculum, improving the quality of the laborers can be done by providing on-the-job training. I think that the public and private sectors will cooperate on this. If we can improve the quality of our laborers and solve the labor shortages in accord with economic expansion, we stand a good chance of becoming a NIC. It's time for us to restructure our human resources.

[Question] What can be done to help end the labor shortage?

[Answer] We are not providing the right incentives. We should have incentives that will encourage laborers with various qualifications to work hard for the country. Our wage structure is still very inefficient. It is distorted. Managers are paid much higher wages than skilled workers even though they are equally important. Besides this, we should make an effort to get skilled workers living abroad to return home. The Human Resources Institute is conducting a study on the behavior and incentives of laborers living in the United States in order to find a way to persuade them to return home and work for the benefit of the country. Improving the educational curriculum is one thing that needs to be done to end the labor shortage. But this should not be done just at the tertiary level. This should also be done at lower levels, that is, at the secondary and vocational levels, in order to produce laborers who have skills in line with the needs of the market. This will solve the unemployment problem and end the labor shortage. The private sector must play a role in solving these problems, with the state coordinating things. Emphasis must be placed on providing help, such as in the form of taxes or investment at the primary level.

11943

Sources View Banhan Power, Influence in TNP
42070001a Bangkok LAK THAI in Thai
22 Sep 88 pp 20, 21

[Excerpts] The Thai Nation Party [TNP] is now the largest political party with 87 seats in parliament, and in the next election, there is a good chance that this party will be able to maintain its position. Everyone agrees that one of the main reasons for the success of the TNP is the skill of Mr Banhan Silapa-acha, the secretary general of the TNP.

The increased role and influence of Mr Banhan during the time of the Prem 5 administration displeased some people in the TNP and other political parties, which have kept an eye on the activities and increased role of Mr Banhan. Because as is well known, if he is allowed to continue playing such a role, he will be able to build the TNP to such an extent that the other parties will not be able to keep pace. And it is thought that Mr Banhan will not limit his role just to this. Because besides his influence within the TNP, Mr Banhan has expanded his influence to other political parties.

"At present, people are spreading rumors that Mr Banhan "spun webs" for Gen Prem Tinsulanon and that he was a shadow prime minister in order to make people apprehensive about the role of Mr Banhan," said a high-level news source in the TNP to LAK THAI. He also said that people have been trying to sell this idea to the military. These people hope to implant doubts in the military about the role of Mr Banhan. In particular, they want people to think that Mr Banhan is a political businessman who is trying to use money to increase his influence and throw politics in a democratic system into turmoil because of financial power. Those who are opposed to Mr Banhan have made this charge repeatedly. They have created an image of Mr Banhan as a political investor or political businessman.

During the recent general election, it is thought that Mr Banhan played the largest role and had the most power in the TNP. The important thing was the selection of candidates to run in the name of the TNP and authorizing support for these candidates. It can be said that this was completely in the hands of Mr Banhan. He also attracted candidates from other political parties. This created more enemies for Mr Banhan. This is because the other parties feel that if they allow Mr Banhan to continue playing this role, Mr Banhan will be able to attract more prominent politicians to the TNP.

Restricting Banhan

During the recent general election, there were rumors in the TNP that Maj Gen Praman Adireksan, the chairman of the party advisory committee who ran for election in Saraburi, his native home, and Maj Gen Chatchai Chunchawan, the party leader, would be betrayed and that there was a good possibility that they would fail to win election. That would have left only one powerful person in the party to have won election to the House of Representatives, Mr Banhan. Because of this, some people felt that Mr Banhan would become party leader.

As for positions in the new administration of Maj Gen Chatchai Chunchawan, it can be seen that those in the TNP who hold important positions include not only Maj Gen Chatchai and Mr Kon Thappharangsi but also Mr Banhan, who holds the position of secretary general of the TNP. A news source in the TNP said that Mr Banhan's role has decreased greatly. What is clear is that [former] ministers who are close to Mr Banhan, such as

Mr Praphat Photsuthon, Mr Bun-ua Prasetsuwan, and Mr Suraphan Chinwat, are not ministers in this administration.

"Actually, not only did Mr Banhan lose power when the government was formed, but he began to lose power even during the election. Steps were taken to ensure that those close to him would lose the election. Mr Prathuang Wichanpricha and Mr Chaowarin Latthasaksiri, for example, both lost even though they are intelligent men," said the news source close to Mr Banhan to LAK THAI.

Chatchai Cooperates With Praman To Regain Power

A high-level news source in the TNP said that people opposed to Mr Banhan spread rumors to the effect that Mr Banhan wanted to seize power in the TNP and that people in the security sector were displeased by the political tactics used by Mr Banhan. These rumors eventually came to the attention of Maj Gen Chatchai.

A news source close to Mr Banhan said that Mr Banhan is well aware of the fact that he is under attack from many sides. Even reporters whom he once supported can't do anything to help him. What is worse, some newspapers have begun attacking him.

"There is clearly a conflict between Chatchai and Banhan. Mr Banhan used to be able to see Maj Gen Chatchai whenever he wanted, but when he went to see him at the Government House at the beginning of September, he had to wait in line for a long time in front of Chatchai's office before he was finally allowed in," said the same news source to LAK THAI. He added that this is a sign that there is a major conflict between these two men. That day, Mr Banhan was very upset.

As for those who oppose Mr Banhan, within the TNP, people are very happy that they have been able to curb the influence of Mr Banhan. Some predict that during the next election to the party's executive committee, if things remain like they are today, it would not be a surprise to see someone else appointed party secretary general. Because by that time, Mr Banhan will be powerless.

11943

Student Federation Leaders View Objectives, Obstacles

42070003a Bangkok SIAM RAT SAPDA WICHAN in Thai 7-13 Aug 88 pp 10-12

[Excerpts]

The Student Movement, an Ideological Problem That Should Be Discussed

"I don't think that there is a student movement today," said Mana Triyaphiwat, the deputy secretary general of

the National Student Federation of Thailand [NSFT]. This was like dropping a bombshell to get people thinking. We have already discussed the student federation. As for the student movement, things must be organized by each organization. The students must become politically aware. At the very least, they must have a sense of responsibility toward society. The problem today is that students in general don't have much interest in this. This stems in part from the economic and social situation. Students are not really interested in playing a role in society. Today, only one group of students is playing an active role.

"To have a 'movement,' you must study and organize things. There must be ideological activities. This is not happening today. We place great hopes in the word 'movement.' For example, to carry on a movement on some issue, you must have more than just 100-200 students. Thousands of students must participate. Whenever people talk about a 'student movement,' the picture that comes to mind is that of the student movement during the period 14 October [1973] to 6 October [1976].

"I think that the situation today is similar to that just prior to 14 October. There is one group that is actively involved. There are some students who could launch a rebellion and move against the current of society. But the rest are content to flow with the current. We must think about what we can do to arouse students in general or at least get them to feel a sense of responsibility toward society. They don't have to participate in every movement. But they should at least be aware of the things that we are doing."

Revise the Line in Order To Move Forward

"This year, students from Chulalongkon University will play a rather major role politically," said the deputy secretary general of the NSFT to SAPDA WICHAN. "In previous years, students from Thammasat University have always been associated with political matters. But this year, Thammasat must focus on internal matters and won't get involved in external matters very much. Chulalongkon students have discussed this matter and want Chulalongkon to have a greater political image. In the past, everyone thought of Chulalongkon as a very conservative place. We plan to play a more active role politically at a time when Thammasat is reducing its role on this front. This year, we have been able to coordinate many things with Ramkhamhaeng, including the student organization. We are coordinating things with the five united front parties. These are the main forces in carrying on various activities. Most Ramkhamhaeng students are responsible people. They have a lot of people. Ramkhamhaeng students are very responsible about controlling mobs and sending people to various places."

A news report from Thammasat University said that the Saengtham Party, a student party that has played a prominent role during the past 10 years and that has usually won control of the student organization each

time there has been an election, did not field candidates in this year's election. It did not want to manage the student organization. People in this party were more interested in establishing relations with fellow students and people in various circles and in studying. The lesson of the Saengtham Party is that those who manage the student organization have little time for other things, because they are very busy with regular activities, including welcoming new members.

The Past Line and Activities of the NSFT

"What the student movement wants most today is to be a force in exerting pressure to have Thailand become as perfect a democracy as possible," said the deputy secretary general of the NSFT. "What I mean is that at the very least, there must be a fairer distribution of income, and people must have greater rights and freedoms."

In the past, movements on various problems have always united under the banner of democracy. This includes the movement opposing the air force's purchase of F-16 A-100 aircraft, the movement in cooperation with farmers on low rice prices at the beginning of 1986, the movement opposing the U.S. Farm Act, which has affected Thai farmers, the movement to have an elected prime minister and have the Speaker of the House serve as president of parliament, the movement to oppose the government's solution to the copyright problem, the opposition to the U.S. drug patent issue, the opposition to building the Chon River dam, the movement to help female workers of the Sikao Kantho Company, and the activities carried on in cooperation with workers at the G.S. Steel Company.

"Besides the activities that have come to the attention of people in general, the student federation has also engaged in less publicized activities. We have reinforced the people's forces in building bargaining power. For example, we have helped laborers unite and submit demands to politicians. We have helped representatives of slum dwellers present their ideas to politicians. We have coordinated things between various power groups and the political parties. For example, we have invited members of political parties to come answer people's questions. But this is not generally known," said the deputy secretary general of the NSFT.

Each Lesson Adds to the Treasury of Knowledge

When SAPDA WICHAN asked about the lessons learned from past movements, the deputy secretary general of the NSFT said that "today, we know that the student movement is just an 'opposition faction outside parliament' even though people in general may think that we are a political bargaining force. People may feel indifferent about some of the things that we have done. But we are satisfied with our role in creating an opposition movement."

“Another lesson that we have learned from our activities is that the people’s acceptance of the students depends both on the issue at hand and on the strategy and tactics used in carrying on activities. It also depends on the timing and steps followed. Today, we are analyzing our successes

regarding the Chon River dam issue and having an elected prime minister. We were successful because these things were in line with the wishes of the people.”

11943

MILITARY

Flight Safety Deficiencies in SRV Air Force Examined

Air Force Official Interviewed

*BK1110165888 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
1400 GMT 10 Oct 88*

[Radio correspondent's interview with the director of the Air Force's Department of Training Schools; names, date, and place not given—recorded]

[Summary] [Correspondent] Comrade department director, many people have been concerned about the lack of flight safety in the Air Force in recent years. Could you tell us, what are the causes of this?

[Director] It is true that the armed service's lack of flight safety has in recent years reached a fairly high level. The causes for this can be summed up as follows:

Deficiencies in organization and command account for about 10 percent of the causes. Training activities designed to improve the organizational and command ability and flight supervision capability of commanding and leading cadres at the grass-roots level still show many weaknesses; they are neither fundamental nor strict. Flight commanders are all right under normal circumstances, but they often become confused when dealing with an emergency where problems occur in the air, and take improper actions that seriously threaten safety and may even cause regrettable accidents. This shows that the training and education designed to prepare pilot psychology and resolve as well as aircraft operating techniques are unsteady and inconsistent with the various complex maneuvers that are required in unstable weather conditions.

In addition, we have remained passive and inactive in the struggle to prevent accidents and danger, and have yet to bring into play the aggregate strength of all components directly related to flying missions such as the sectors of communications, meteorology, aviation, flight control training, aeronautical technology, air force logistics, and even, party and political work.

The causes of danger that are attributed to poor aeronautical technology make up about 35 percent. Regarding aircraft maintenance and pre-flight checks, especially at the regimental level, defective equipment is not promptly discovered and thoroughly repaired. Sometimes, equipment malfunctions during flight, and this is dangerous.

It is the pilots themselves who endanger flight safety more than anything else with their errors accounting for about 50 percent of the causes. Pilots still make many errors in operating aircraft such as failing to detect equipment malfunctions in time and dealing with in-flight emergencies competently.

Also, weaknesses in air technical logistics account for about 2.5 percent of the causes of mishaps. This is evidenced by the fact that at times and in some places, runways are not kept in good condition, being dirty and in need of repair. Therefore, aircraft safety is affected during landing, and this is at variance with the technical standards of aviation.

Furthermore, faulty meteorological information gathered for aviation purposes accounts for about 2.5 percent of the causes. Our country's meteorological conditions are very complex, and the meteorological sector has failed to give timely, accurate forecasts of bad weather developments. Consequently, flights are still allowed to head into bad weather because of inaccurate forecasts.

Well, we deem that the lack of flight safety in the recent past has been caused chiefly by man. Errors are made by man, and we would not cast the blame on anything else.

We will strive to quickly overcome these shortcomings. However, our country's current socioeconomic difficulties also have no small impact on all those who are involved in flying activities. You know, comrade, when people are worried about their families' livelihood, they cannot devote all of their efforts to flying activities.

In addition, our aircraft, technical aviation equipment, on-board equipment, and maintenance facilities are limited and not standardized; this does not guarantee the reliability of aeronautical technology.

[Correspondent] Comrade, what are the Air Force party committee and command planning to do in 1988 to enhance the quality of training and ensure flight safety?

[Director] Well, faced with this situation, the Air Force party committee early this year adopted a resolution on flight training and ensuring flight safety in a realistic manner. Also, our commander has decided to promptly provide refresher training for the contingent of flight commanders at the regimental level.

We organized a training course for flight commanders following the occurrence of accidents, and it was discovered that a number of them had not led their squadrons properly while on flying missions. The course, which lasted for 2 months, yielded fairly good results. Then, we arranged a refresher course on theories of flight command and flight control for instructors whose job it is to provide theoretical training for pilots at the regimental level.

We also renovated the training provided to young pilots and closely monitored their progress to ensure flight safety. Conferences have also been held periodically to review and exchange experience in ensuring flight safety, especially at flight regiments.

[Correspondent] Comrade, please tell us about some initial results of comprehensive training activities and about the irregular tasks of the Air Force this year.

[Director] This year, the service has achieved some progress in comprehensive training, especially flight training as you already know. All Air Force units are fully aware of the watchwords for training set forth by the service's party committee, namely fundamental, comprehensive, selective, combat-practical, safe, and economical.

To date, the entire service has finished 80 percent of the plan concerning flying time, and many units such as the M.29, M.17, and M.18 groups have fulfilled over 90 percent of their flying time targets. All of the main training subjects for various types of aircraft such as fighters, bombers, helicopters, transports, and so forth have been actively completed. Generally speaking, the level of proficiency achieved during training in various subject matters has topped 75 percent, and flight safety violations have dropped when compared with the same period last year.

[Correspondent] Comrade, beside these achievements, what are the training weaknesses that must be overcome by Air Force units in 1988?

[Director] Well, we do have certain shortcomings. Some commanding cadres of basic units are not fully aware that training is a central, regular task. This must be overcome so that good guidance will be given to organizing flight training and ensuring flight safety. Another shortcoming is that supervision over training activities remains slack at all levels, and we will have to finish key training subjects concerning complicated flight maneuvers in accordance with the weather conditions. Still another weakness is that as the year draws to an end, some commanders of basic units become impatient and go easy on the enforcement of flight training regulations, and this may endanger flight safety. Therefore, we must remain extremely alert and careful in organizing training flights in order to achieve high quality and firmly ensure safety.

[Correspondent] Thank you, comrade.

Article Discusses Flight Safety

*BK1810004488 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
1400 GMT 13 Oct 88*

[Article by Station Correspondent Bui Duc Toan:
"Factors To Ensure Flight Safety"]

[Text] When talking about the human factor in ensuring flight safety, we should also mention the contingent of technical workers and other service components. As we have noted earlier, at present, in the combat aircraft units, each pilot and plane are serviced by hundreds of

people in many different components, including mechanics, drivers, gas and oil workers, radar operators, signalmen, meteorologists, and airfield controllers.

At a northern airfield, I once had the opportunity to meet with the cadres and combatants servicing combat aircraft. Despite the scorching summer heat and the high temperature on the tarmac which exceeded 40 degrees Celsius, everyone was absorbed in his work. Moreover, they had to constantly cope with the ear-shattering roar of jet engines. Anyone who stands for the 1st time near a group of jet planes with their engines turned on it will find the experience unbearable. A young mechanic joked: In our line of work, we are accustomed to deafening noises, therefore, all of us are hard of hearing. Perhaps our eardrums have thickened. We cannot hear normal voices very clearly, probably because they are not loud enough.

—But you are all equipped with earmuff, aren't you? I asked.

The young worker laughed: Yes, of course, but each team is given only a few pairs, and certainly they are not enough. It is the same with our protective uniforms. You must be a cadre or an engineer to be issued with one set of uniforms a year. For soldiers, two have to share a set of uniforms a year.

I looked out at the apron where aircraft were parked. Its surface was spotted with oil and lubricants. The mechanics said rubber sandals used here were torn to shreds after only a few months.

The weather is more pleasant in the southern airfields. But those in the north have to withstand two different kinds of weather a year: swelteringly hot and biting cold. In summer, sunlight is scorching, and heat rises from concrete runways. In winter, it is chilly, and runways are swept by stinging cold winds. Over the past years, the technicians and service personnel at these airfields have patiently, industriously fulfilled their duties. Taking a look at the entire contingent of Air Force service cadres and combatants, we are all filled with pride, confidence, and admiration. However, in the current difficult situation, it is inevitable that at certain times and in certain localities the contingent of technical cadres has slackened control and supervisory procedures and some cadres have not felt reassured about their future.

In stressful days of training, mechanics have to wake up at 0300 or 0400 in the morning and go to the airfields to prepare for a day of flying. When the aircraft return, the mechanics have to clean and lubricate the aircraft which are to be taken to the hangars for further maintenance work. During contests, demonstrations, or night missions, they are considerably busier. Their diet, however, is still too skimpy, not enough to compensate for their daily hard work. During the war, the technical workers were given a daily ration equal to one-third of the pilots'.

Today, in peacetime, the technicians' ration is equal to only one-sixth of the pilots'. This is a thorny problem that the Air Force is still unable to solve. For this reason, depending on the conditions of each unit, the kitchen details can only improve the technicians' diet during holidays or festivals by using whatever food they can grow by themselves. However, at a number of airfields in central Vietnam, such as the S, P, and C airfields, it is impossible to grow crops or raise animals. Even when they have money and want to buy food to improve their meals, our soldiers have to walk dozens of kilometers to find a market. Diet also depends on the area where a unit is stationed. In some localities, the food is abundant and cheap; in others, it is scarce and expensive. The mechanics of Unit C.23 assigned to work in Unit C.29 said: We are given the same amount of money for food, but here, food costs twice as much as it does in our unit.

According to the comrade cadres at Workshop No. 14 of Unit M.29, 90 names were on the official personnel chart but only 71 cadres actually worked there, which was less than enough in terms of personnel requirements. However, the workshop topped the list of units with large numbers of cadres and party members because the number of cadres and party members on hand accounted for more than half of the total number of personnel there. All eight engineers and scores of skilled workers have been members of the armed forces for quite while, have a great deal of experience, and perform their duties systematically. Therefore, they have always overfulfilled the planned norms by 10-20 percent. Many NCO's and soldiers have continued to work diligently even though it was already 6 months past the deadline for them to be discharged from the armed forces.

After exchanging views with some technical cadres, I came to realize that our brother technicians had faced the same problems as other air force personnel concerning their life and occupations. A technical cadre who possesses the same professional skills but who works for a civilian plant or enterprise has better conditions for bringing into full play his capabilities and may earn a monthly income ten times higher than that of his fellow worker in the armed forces. There is no way to prevent this fact from affecting the contingent of technicians. Therefore, a very large number of comrade technicians have expressed their wish for transfer or demobilization.

As far as family life is concerned, most of our cadres and military officers do not have their families with them. Engineer Captain Hoang Van Tich, manager of Workshop No. 14, told me that he had two children. When his wife was going to give birth to her first baby, he took some time off hoping to have the chance to take care of his first child. Yet, the time for his home leave was limited. After he left home in the morning, his wife gave birth to a baby in the afternoon of the same day. Recently, his wife wrote him, saying that their second child was already 6 months old. Yet, he still cannot go home to see his wife and children because he is too busy with the training season.

During a recent military maneuver, his colleagues and he completed maintenance work for an aircraft bearing serial No. 8224 two days ahead of schedule. When I visited the workshop, the aircraft was on a test flight and safety was guaranteed.

The service personnel at Workshop No. 14 also came up with such valuable designs as a pilot's parachute-fitting device, a red oil pressurization vehicle, a tire-changing mechanism, and a 27-volt DC current to boost the aircraft's electrical system.

It is believed that some of the technical problems arising from technical cadres and service personnel are unavoidable because the latter's psychology must be affected by difficult living conditions, meager meals, hard work, job stress, and family separations. Though technical cadres and service personnel can surely do very well in their daily work performance, it is very likely that somewhere down the road, they will make mistakes once in a while.

Recently, at D Airport, as the jet fighter bearing serial No. 31 of the C.23 Wing was rolling toward the end of the runway for takeoff, the K.6 Technical Team radioed the pilot to come back. The reason was that the fuel supply system was leaking and fuel was pouring out. Later, at a meeting to identify the cause of the problem, everyone found out that the fuel filter had been misaligned when one of the technicians tried to connect it to the fuel pipe. Since the lower thread of the fuel filter was covered by a rubber ring, nobody could detect the misplacement. There had been no leak when the engine was run at idle speed. However, as the aircraft was gathering speed for takeoff, a build-up of high pressure inside the system resulted in a fuel leak.

Though the mistake was not serious to the extent of affecting flight safety, all of the comrade leading cadres of the air force present at the flying school that day ordered the mechanics of the C.23 Wing involved to conduct serious self-criticism.

Such petty mistakes by our brother technical cadres and service personnel show even more clearly that the human factor in ensuring flight safety is still the most important ingredient. The fourth and final factor that we want to mention in this discussion on flight safety is equipment. As we all know, the condition of many of our aircraft, particularly our cargo aircraft, has deteriorated. Many of them have exceeded their limits of airworthiness and there is a shortage of spare parts. An air force cadre said to me: We spent a lot of money to purchase two aircraft. In fact, we should have bought one only and used the rest of the money to buy accessories and spare parts instead. That way, if a problem develops, we might be able to fix it. But we did not take this factor into consideration and bought two aircraft. Now, if something goes wrong, we do not know what to do about it. Obsolete, defective machinery also affects flight safety. No pilot can feel at ease if he knows that the aircraft he is going to fly is too old or no longer considered airworthy. By the same

token, during their travels to carry out their missions, if some of our cadres and combatants are lucky enough to get a seat on that most modern means of transportation of the army, they cannot enjoy peace of mind. Nevertheless, because our country is still poor, members of the armed forces must overcome difficulties and our service personnel must do what they can to prolong the airworthiness of our aircraft. This brings back memories for all of us when we think of certain incidents—a pilot's failure to lower the landing gear on landing, a canopy being blown away while in flight, a flat tire, or a fuel leak. Surprisingly enough, none of these incidents are important to our pilots because they handle such routine malfunctions with much sang-froid, intelligence, and dexterity, thereby using the opportunity to test their own capabilities. This again demonstrates that the number of accidents involving mechanical failures is very small. Therefore, the human factor in ensuring flight safety still remains the most important ingredient.

ECONOMIC

Ho Chi Minh City Trade Delegation Visits Malaysia

*BK1410155988 Hanoi VNA in English
1500 GMT 14 Oct 88*

[Text] Hanoi VNA October 14—A trade delegation of Ho Chi Minh City led by Chairman of the People's Committee Phan Van Khai has returned from a visit from October 7-10 to Kuala Lumpur.

The delegation was received on October 8 by Deputy Premier Abdul Ghafar Bin Baba who also hosted a reception in its honor.

The delegation visited several corporations in Kuala Lumpur with which it discussed measures to increase bilateral relations in import-export, tourism, and investments.