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Vietnam Report

No. 2398

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MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

SOUND ORGANIZATION OF MILITIA, SELF-DEFENSE FORCES DISCUSSED

Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 6 Aug 82 p 3

[Article by Chinh Nghia: "Patrol and Guard Duty of Militia and Self-Defense Forces"]

[Text] The patrol and guard duty is one of the principal activities of the militia and self-defense forces in fulfilling their mission of maintaining political security and social order and security. The task of patrolling and standing guard reflects vigilance, combat readiness and the ability to play an active role constantly under all circumstances. To carry out activities aimed at maintaining order and security at each installation, the task of patrolling and standing guard involves a large numerical strength and requires great efforts but will produce great effects. At a time when the enemy is frantically waging a manifold war of destruction and when many negative manifestations in society have not yet been checked, there can be no stable order and security if any locality or installation fails to implement the patrol and guard system satisfactorily no matter in whatever area and under whatever circumstances.

Recently, all favorable conditions have been created for the militia and self-defense forces in many localities and installations to fulfill their important function. In response to the confidence and sympathy of the local party organizations, administration and people, the male and female combatants in the militia and self-defense forces have set forth a motto for energetic action saying: "Let us keep awake so that the people may sleep peacefully!"

Beside the localities and installations which have paid attention to using the militia and self-defense forces to maintain order and security, there still are, however, many others which have not paid due attention to these forces and have even never used them under the pretext that their organization is too broad and not yet uniform. On the other hand, because of their low enthusiasm and dynamism, the military organs and militia and self-defense forces in those localities have failed to take the initiative to act as a staff for the local party committee echelon and administration and to take energetic action to help them guide this task--not to mention a small number of cadres and members of the militia and self-defense forces who have a low sense of organization and discipline, who have failed to set good examples

in their behavior and whose acts have disrupted order and security and thus lessened the masses' confidence in themselves and their own units. Another practice--though not widespread but worth mentioning for the sake of drawing and exchanging experiences--is that some localities not situated in the northern region have organized a number of militia and self-defense teams and units which are completely disengaged from productive activities and are only specialized in carrying out the patrol and guard duty. These teams and units include public security agents or the personnel specialized in protecting agencies and enterprises and have become a kind of army units.

People in many areas believe that there are two tendencies: Either neglecting the militia and self-defense forces and, worse still, failing to boldly use them to fulfill the mission of maintaining order and security or using them beyond their scope and function, and that both tendencies are wrong. From this mission has sprung a problem requiring specific solution which is that of the relationships of close coordination between security and national defense and between national defense and security according to the spirit and substance set forth in Joint Directives No 01 and 02 of both the Ministries of National Defense and Interior.

To carry out the task of patrolling and standing guard satisfactorily, each unit as well as each cadre and member of the militia and self-defense forces must pay attention to the following points:

--Forces must be organized and positioned to suit the situation and terrain in each locality and installation. Whatever the situation, however, it is necessary to choose comrades with good virtues who have won the masses' confidence, who are experienced or who have been trained in patrol and guard duty and to use them as activists to be entrusted with more difficult and complex jobs or terrains.

In carrying out patrol and guard activities, care must be taken to coordinate closely two formulas--openness and secrecy--with the aim of executing the formulated plan and also to avoid acting according to one's own convenience without following a specific plan. The patrol and guard duty must be coordinated with supervision and following up at installations. Every effort must be exerted to avoid rigidly repeating the same activities as if according to a set regulation; on the contrary, it is necessary to change the method and form of activities frequently and in a versatile and clever manner to suit the situation.

--In organizing and assigning tasks, attention must be paid to limiting to the minimum the use of unproductive forces; instead, it is necessary [for combatants] to take turns at performing production and simultaneously maintaining order and security so that everyone may have the opportunity to undergo training, to contribute his efforts to the good of the locality and to help relieve the people's burden.

--In implementing the yearly military training program for the militia and self-defense forces, the patrol and guard duty must be considered to be an important subject of study; one must not only learn movements and pure

technique but must also study law, regulations and methods of dealing with cases and affairs requiring a swift and sound solution, without, however, omitting any reference to illegal acts and, at the same time, without violating the people's right to ownership.

In the border and coastal areas and on sea islands as well as in cities and towns, at the hubs of communication lines and at harbors and bus and railroad stations, the task of patrolling and standing guard must necessarily be carried out strictly according to a regular pattern. Only by doing so can one prevent both the enemy and malefactors from taking advantage of any loophole to carry out their activities.

With a total strength of a million, the militia and self-defense forces are present everywhere at all times throughout the country. If every locality and installation pay attention to using these forces and if every militia and self-defense cadre and combatant acting in conjunction with other forces take part enthusiastically in the patrol and guard duty and remain constantly vigilant, it will be difficult for the enemy and malefactors--no matter how cunning they may be--to escape the immense net set by our army and people.

9332

CSO: 4209/478

MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

SECOND-PHASE INDUCTION PROCEDURES EXPLAINED

Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 13 Aug 82 p 3

[Text] To date, many localities have basically completed the preparations for calling on the youths to join the army in the second phase of 1982. Some localities have issued induction orders and are even preparing to deliver recruits ahead of schedule in order to draw experiences.

A number of localities have paid attention to carrying out propaganda and education satisfactorily so that the number of youths having registered for military obligation and undergone medical examinations represents a high percentage. Many military draft councils, military command sections and public health bureaus in districts, precincts, cities and municipalities subordinate to provinces have carefully studied and firmly grasped provisions of the law on military obligation and induction criteria, displayed a high sense of responsibility, heightened their standard of professional knowledge and have thus become able to review [and apply] policies and criteria and perform medical examinations without committing many mistakes and also to obtain results that are much more accurate than those from the first induction phase of 1982. The various sectors and mass organizations at many installations have enthusiastically conducted uniform activities and scored realistic and good achievements as a contribution to the preparations for the current induction phase.

To carry out the current induction phase satisfactorily, it is necessary, however, to immediately eliminate some shortcomings committed by certain areas in making preparations for this task. In some localities, propaganda and education about the duty to defend the fatherland and the law on military obligation have not yet been carried out intensively and extensively so that the percentage of youths having registered for the military obligation and undergone medical checkups is still low. Due to a failure to study carefully and to grasp firmly the provisions and regulations of the law on military obligation, there have been instances when some military draft councils--especially those in districts, precincts, cities and municipalities subordinate to provinces--have not acted correctly in examining and ratifying cases related to the exemption and deferment policy and also in applying youth induction criteria. Inexact conclusions about the recruits' state of health have been drawn by a number of public health cadres and personnel including the heads of physical examination councils because they have not

yet firmly grasped the health standards and examination and diagnostic methods specified by the National Defense-Public Health interministerial commission.

The above-mentioned facts point to the need, in the days ahead, for all localities and units to understand thoroughly the specified requirements in order to fulfill brilliantly the task of calling up the youths for the current induction phase. All of the youths inducted must have the essential qualifications. Toward this end, it is necessary to make sure that each of the new recruits is really worthy so that after they have been delivered to regular army units, none of them will be returned to his respective locality because of [the incongruity of his induction with] the policy or because he does not meet the health criteria.

Efforts must be exerted to follow a regular pattern during the current induction phase and also in the future, which is the need for all localities to obtain a sufficient number of recruits to fulfill exactly the set quantitative norms, to refrain from exceeding them and to consider them as legally compulsory. Each village, ward, town and state organ and installation must strictly execute the decision of the people's committee and the induction order of the military commander in chief in each district, precinct, city and municipality subordinate to a province. To meet this requirement, each installation must make sure that each youth has good qualifications prior to being inducted and each village, ward, town and military command section in each district, precinct, city and municipality subordinate to a province must firmly ascertain the situation of each youth before calling him up for military service. State organs, mass and social organizations, schools and families have the duty to motivate and educate citizens and to make arrangements and create conditions for them to fulfill their military obligation. The law specifies that the persons to be called up during the current induction phase must be born between 1 September 1955 and 31 August 1964. In addition, those who have previously failed to comply with the induction order are still considered to be subjected to induction until and through the age of 35.

The people's committees in districts, precincts, cities and municipalities subordinate to province will decide on the list of persons to be called up for induction and the military commanders in chief in districts, precincts, cities and municipalities subordinate to provinces will call up youths one by one for induction. The induction order must be issued 15 days in advance and the person called up must be present at the time and place indicated in the induction order.

Induction deferment must be carried out in strict accordance with Article 29, Section IV, of the law on military obligation. In executing this law, attention must be paid to the following points:

Concerning persons engaged in some task, induction will be deferred only for those who are carrying out scientific research for the state and whose status is certified by a minister, the head of a State Commission or of another agency subordinate to the Council of Ministers or by a person holding a corresponding function.

Concerning persons who are studying, induction will be deferred only for those who are attending a general middle school or a vocational one or who are undergoing long-term training in a vocational middle school, an advanced school or a college. This deferment provision will be applied only to students who are attending the state's regular schools including the work-study ones; as for those who are studying in evening or correspondence courses or at on-the-job training classes, their induction will not be deferred.

It is necessary to publish officially the list of persons whose induction is deferred or who are exempted from military obligation and also the result of medical examinations. People's committees in villages, wards, towns and cities and the heads of organs, enterprises and other units and installations are responsible for organizing sendoff ceremonies, for creating conditions for recruits living in their respective areas to be present at the fixed time and place and for strictly implementing policies concerning the army men's families.

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MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

PEOPLE'S INSPECTION ACTIVITIES IN THANH HOA REVIEWED

Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 9 Aug 82 p 1

[Text] VNA--The Council of Ministers recently awarded the traveling banner to Thanh Hoa Province for its best achievements in carrying out inspection activities in 1981 as compared with other regions in the country.

Beginning with pilot centers designed to draw experiences in leadership over the past 5 years, Thanh Hoa has now completed the building of a people's inspection network extending from the provincial to the ward and village level and also to state organs and enterprises. This network comprises more than 65,000 inspectors of whom 40 percent participate directly in production and 28 percent are women.

The provincial people's inspection network has positively contributed to limiting acts contrary to policies as well as illegal deeds.

Over the past 5 years, people's inspection boards have collected 100,500 opinions expressed by the masses and have participated in promptly resolving nearly 62,000 complaints and denunciations made by the people under the form of petitions or letters. In conjunction with the responsible inspection commissions in various sectors and at different echelons, the people's inspection forces have inspected and examined over 7,000 cases related to the implementation of the state plan and the execution of various systems and policies in many installations.

The satisfactory inspection activities carried out by the people over the past 5 years has constituted a stable support for the judicial organs in Thanh Hoa. As a result, the entire province has retrieved millions of dong in cash, thousands of tons of grain, hundreds of hectares of illegally usurped and occupied lands and fields and large amounts of materials and goods valued at dozens of millions of dong and has returned all these items to the state and people.

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CSO: 4209/478

MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

SEVERE PUNISHMENT OF DOCUMENT, SEAL COUNTERFEITERS REPORTED

Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 10 Aug 82 p 3

[Article by Tran Dang Tuan, cadre of the Central Military Court: "Criminal Counterfeiting of Document, Seal"]

[Text] Luu Bach Da hired Nguyen Van Nhi--who was once sentenced by the Hanoi People's Court to 3 years in prison for counterfeiting seals--to carve two seals bearing the name of Merchandise Transport Enterprise No 2 and that of the Public Security Station in Thanh Tri District, Hanoi, for use in illegal commercial dealings. After taking possession of these seals, Da counterfeited a number of orders for missions and leave authorizations and sold them to traders to make a profit.

Seeing that they could make much money by counterfeiting documents and seals, Da and his friend named Nguyen Van Chu eagerly established numerous connections in order to intensify their sale. Chu succeeded in inducing Pham Van Di and Nguyen Van Co to act as middlemen to sell more of these items. After having a seal bearing the emblem of Regiment 510 made and in order to avoid possible detection following the continuous use of the same emblem, Da again hired Nhi to carve many other seals bearing the emblems of different units such as Regiments 10, 12 and 757, the Planning Staff Bureau of Division 4, the regiment stationed at the Bien Hoa Air Base, etc. By forging these phony documents with the greatest care and making them look real, they were able to deceive buyers and certain local agencies. Da personally used the phony documents fabricated by himself to secure his transfer to a vegetable and fruit corporation with a monthly salary of 65 dong.

Nguyen Van Chu also made false statements about his background, claiming that he was formerly an armyman, and was thus given a job in a printing house. When their trick was uncovered, these men used phony documents in an attempt to escape but could not avoid the punitive blow of the law.

Da and his accomplices were tried by Military Court X on charge of "forging documents and seals for deceptive purposes" and according to the current state law.

The use of counterfeit documents and seals by Da and his accomplices to deceive the people and state organs was a dangerous act because it hampered

the normal activities of the state organs and was prejudicial to the latter's stability and strength and because it disrupted social order and [badly] influenced the people's confidence [in the state]. By committing these illegal acts, Da and his accomplices carried out swindling and cheated the people out of their money in order to indulge in luxurious living while the people were encountering many difficulties in their livelihood. Therefore, Military Court X sternly condemned them and handed down the following punishments:

--Luu Bach Da was sentenced to 10 years in prison because he was the mastermind and the principal supplier of false documents and seals to his accomplices. Nguyen Van Chu was sentenced to 8 years in prison, Nguyen Van Co 7 years, Pham Van Di 6 years and Nguyen Van Nhi 4 years.

At the same time, the court ordered the confiscation of a total amount of 122,838 dong from Da and his accomplices.

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MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

HILLTRIBE INSURGENTS NAG VIETNAMESE

Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 11 Jul 82 p 3

[Article by John Laird]

[Text]

DALAT

SEVEN years after the communist victory in South Vietnam, armed groups continue to resist government authority in highland and river delta areas.

A senior official at this mountain resort town in Lam Dong Province, 230 kilometres (145 miles) northeast of Ho Chi Minh City, said the general population, including farmers, workers and artisans, had to undergo defence training to meet threats from Montagnard insurgency.

The Deputy Chief of the Provincial People's Committee, Nguyen Hoang, said his province was not easy to control because of its hilly, forested nature, which allowed insurgents to operate.

Western and Asian newsmen travelling the road from Ho Chi Minh City for a tour of new farmlands came upon an outpost manned by two Vietnamese troops who, in a seemingly-relaxed manner, said they were guarding against FULRO — the United Front for the Liberation of Oppressed Races.

At other points, civilians carrying AK-47 rifles were encountered.

Hoang told the newsmen at a Press briefing that there had been incidents of guerrilla attacks in the past year, but would not elaborate. He said only that the "bandits" came to villages at harvest time to take food from the people.

The neighbouring provinces of Dac Lac and Gia Lai — Cong Tum, bordering Kampuchea and Laos, faced a more serious situation, but not very serious, said Hoang.

But he dismissed FULRO, the largest insurgent movement, as an unorganised group which posed no threat to the regime.

It existed only in name and its members roamed separately in groups never exceeding 10 or 12 people, he said.

Hoang linked the activities of these "bandits and pirates" to American and Chinese policies of subversion against Vietnam — charges commonly levelled by Vietnam.

A Western diplomat in Bangkok estimated FULRO's strength as between 1,000 and 5,000 men. He believed the front was well-coordinated but was "an interesting political phenomenon" rather than a major insurgency threat.

Its goal was not ideological, but aimed at autonomy for Montagnard ethnic minorities — a goal going back to the time of the French colonial occupation.

The diplomat said there were validated acts of government vehicles being ambushed on the road to Da Lat in the past several years. Other sources report that domestic Vietnamese radio has occasionally broadcast successes of government counter-attacks in highland areas.

The diplomat said that the Khmer rouge resistance in Kampuchea sometimes mentioned FULRO strikes in their propaganda.

He added that FULRO's source of weapons was undoubtedly the Khmer

rouge, who are themselves supplied with Chinese arms through Thailand.

He said there were other lowland insurgencies in the south, particularly in the Mekong delta area where former troops of the overthrown Saigon government had formed a "Movement for National Restoration."

The Cao Dai sect, while still tolerated as a religion, was also apparently involved with insurgency in rural areas, particularly between Ho Chi Minh City and the Parrot's Beak area of Kampuchea, which juts into southern Vietnam.

But the lowland insurgencies were fragmented, the diplomat added.

A Vietnamese refugee interviewed in Thailand earlier this year said that during the struggle for South Vietnam, the Communists promised the Montagnards autonomy, but instead subsequently took their land for collectivisation.

Government attempts to establish new economic zones in rugged, virgin areas had also antagonised the Montagnards and provoked fighting with new settlers, he added.

Vietnam has also constantly made allegations of Chinese-provoked incidents and subversion along its northern border, as well as the Sino-Laotian border.

Vietnamese official media has mentioned the infiltration of agents, the opening of cheap markets along the border, and wide use of propaganda and other methods to sway the loyalty of northern ethnic minority groups.

Vietnam's response — the combining of defence and economic activities by the general population — was listed as a major national task of the country by Communist Party Secretary Le Duan at Vietnam's Fifth Party Congress last March.— AP

CSO: 4220/348

CORRUPTION HAS BECOME WAY OF LIFE IN SOUTH

Kuala Lumpur BUSINESS TIMES in English 26 Aug 82 p 21

[Article by Michael Fathers]

[Text]

A NEW class of rich people has emerged in communist Vietnam living off the sale of contraband goods, pharmaceuticals, black market foreign currency dealings and the spoils of corruption.

Residents say corruption is a way of life in Ho Chi Minh City just as it was when the town was called Saigon before the United States-backed government fell in April 1975.

An outspoken critic of the government, former Deputy Health Minister Mrs Duong Quyen Hoa, told *Reuters* that corruption was everywhere and affected officials from both the North and the South, enabling some to amass large sums of money.

Former Saigon residents who had managed to keep some capital were benefiting from a large-scale trade in foreign currency, Western consumer goods and much-needed medicine, caused by severe shortages of hard currency and the collapse of Vietnam's foreign trade, she said.

Urchins

For a city where the average wage is 200 duong (US\$20) a month and shortages are perennial, there is a considerable number of well-patronised restaurants serving luxury food and wine at a cost of about 300 duong a meal.

Filling the tables are the new rich who do not seem to fear this ostentation.

The open-air Lam Son Cafe, opposite Saigon's former opera house, is packed nightly by beer-drinking customers paying 10 duong (US\$1) a bottle and listening to a string orchestra playing sedate dance music.

In contrast to Hanoi, there has been a clampdown on taped broadcasts of Western pop music according to foreign residents, and Saigon's former coffee shops are silent.

In alleys behind Nguyen Hue Street, a main boulevard where urchins used to harass American servicemen, and where stolen supplies from special shops for American servicemen were sold, the same stalls are now loaded with Western-brand cigarettes, Japanese watches, cameras, cans of cocoa cola and tinned food, electronic goods and liquor.

For a visitor after an absence of 10 years little had changed.

The urchins are now the children of American and other foreign fathers and Vietnamese mothers.

Instead of "Hey mister you give me money," the children plead, "My dad is Gary...Bobby.Peter...Jimmy. ... Brian... you help me."

The ubiquitous light Japanese motorbikes which polluted the city have been largely replaced by bicycles and spare parts ran out and petrol was rationed.

There is almost universal poverty. Members of the old middle class, lawyers, doctors and other professional people sell their belongings to survive and some have become cyclo drivers, cigarette stall holders and hawkers.

The poverty is reflected in an upsurge of theft, but the lawlessness and violence which characterised the city during the American presence has gone.

"It is not a military city any more. We have more order now. There are fewer police on the streets but there are still lots of plainclothed police," one elderly Chinese resident said.

People still live and sleep on the streets, most of them families who returned without authority from the harsh new economic zones where they were sent after Hanoi's victory.

The city authorities say there are 100,000 people unemployed and unhoused among the 3.5 million inhabitants.

In Cholon, the Chinese quarter, the former bustling streets are relatively quiet and many shop fronts are barricaded, mainly as a result of the exodus of thousands of Chinese after Peking's war with Hanoi in 1979.

The public markets throughout the city are well stocked with food from the Mekong Delta. But government shops where produce can be bought for one tenth of

the free market price are short of supplies.

The black market operates with the tacit consent of the government, financed mainly by remittances from Vietnamese with relatives living abroad.

Mai Chi Tho, chairman of Ho Chi Minh City's Governing People Committee and a member of the Communist Party's Central Committee, told foreign reporters that the black market was a supplementary source of supply to satisfy people's needs.

Black market

"The state does not have the ability yet to satisfy fully the wants of the people and those individual traders are useful. Our long-term aim is to get rid of them." Mr Tho said.

Until then the black market flourishes for those few Vietnamese with cash or assets to sell. For the remainder life is at subsistence level.

"I do not consider we have hungry people in Ho Chi Minh City," Mr Tho said. "But there may be some who have less calories than others."

Women no longer wear the flowing ao dai because they cannot afford the cost of buying the long bolts of material. Instead a blouse worn with

black pants has replaced it as the national dress. The ao dai is reserved for women in official positions who deal with foreigners.

The shirts and trousers of many men are a patchwork of repairs. People in the streets ask you for old clothing.

In this city where foreign residents say the black market value of the dollar increases on average one duong (10 US cents at the official rate) a week, profits can be enormous.

The official exchange rate of the dollar is 10 duong. But on the black market a dollar changes hands at between 85 duong and 100 duong.

Shopkeepers say people are beginning to hoard dollars to take advantage of their rising value, or are selling them for gold, an easily transportable asset and vital

for Vietnamese planning to make the hazardous journey across the South China Sea to refugee camps in Hong Kong, Malaysia, Thailand and the Philippines.

Holding foreign currency is illegal and the government seeks to control the black market by issuing dollar-equivalent scrip notes to the beneficiaries of foreign remittances.

Hierarchy

These can be used to purchase imported goods at special government stores for foreigners known as Imex (import/export) or inter shops. They are then sold for duong at 10 times the official rate.

For Vietnamese from the austere north where privations has been a way of life for nearly 30 years, this is a rich city

and corruption is the only way they can earn enough to buy the luxuries they see, residents say.

Bribes and payoffs affect every aspect of life in Ho Chi Minh City where a large bureaucracy demands permits and pieces of paper for every activity.

Payments are made monthly to escape being sent to the feared new economic zones. People caught listening to foreign radio broadcasts or dealing in foreign currency, traffic offenders and curfew breakers, all add money to the illegal rotation of funds.

Mrs Hoa, the former Deputy Health Minister, said: "Of course people are punished. But if you pursue the offenders too vigorously you risk touching the hierarchy. Therefore the authorities have to approach corruption softly." — Reuter

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, TRADE AND AID

LETTER DESCRIBES LIFE IN HO CHI MINH CITY

Paris DOAN KET in Vietnamese 19 Jun 82 pp 1, 8

[Letter from Ho Chi Minh City by Lien Van: "The City During the First Days of the Rainy Season"]

[Text]

Ho Chi Minh City, 24 May 1982

Dear Friends,

Since I arrived here, 10 days have flown by. Each day, I have "left the house and gone out" early in the morning and travelled around until late at night on an old borrowed bicycle; however, I have not been able to go beyond the environs of the city because of my work and because I have been busy delivering letters, delivering medicine and meeting friends during my lunch break.

My vision, therefore, has been restricted to the inner city, to a few circles, to a few attitudes. But, this does not mean that I should not speak. However, as I write, I must avoid generalizations and readers should remember the limitations upon my vision.

In order to avoid speaking in a general manner, which easily results in a systematic overview, I shall write about what I remember so that readers, as I have, can gradually become somewhat familiar with the life of the city.

At noon on 13 May, my airplane left Bangkok, flew over the Gulf of Thailand and along the Kampuchean coast to Rach Gia, turned left and flew toward the east past Can Tho and the western delta, landing at Tan Son Nhat Airport. The rice paddies were still dry but there were a few small wet spots. The first storm of the season occurred in March but it was not until several days after I returned home--which were hot and muggy days--that a large storm occurred and lasted all afternoon. It then rained all night on each of the next 3 days. The rainy season had truly begun.

As I travelled around in the rain, attentively listening to the street noises and smelling the delicate fragrance of the wild flowers (compared to several years ago, there seems to be fewer lambrettas and motorized bicycles and also less

pollution and I selected streets that are lined with trees and traveled only by bicycles, maybe this is why I smelled less vehicle exhaust), I eagerly looked again for the vibrant green color of the leaves and the brilliant red and gold of the lush Cycas revoluta trees, which are the things that bring pleasure to a person returning from afar.

Was anything unusual noticed this summer? There are still the glass containers filled with tobacco and there are "pump" stations, vehicles repair shops and lottery tables on every street corner. In the 13 provinces that comprise "B2" (Nam Bo), every province has a lottery and lottery results are announced on T.V. each evening (1845 hours). The number of counters selling laundry powder, fragrant soap and consumer goods (genuine goods sent from the West and fake goods) has apparently not increased compared to last year. There are, however, many more coffee stands, beverage stands and vegetable counters, which have taken over the sidewalks. One has the impression that one-half this city spends one-half its time buying and reselling goods or eating and drinking. There is a basis for this impression but it is still just an impression. A more careful examination shows that these stores are filled with locally produced goods of all types and styles. This city has always eaten and drank much but it also works well, has truly produced much wealth and has made a major contribution to the sources of export goods.

Prices, of course, have continued to rise. The price of rice and grain has risen "moderately": from 4-9 dong (the summer of last year) to 6-13 dong per kilogram; the prices of gasoline (25-30 dong per liter) and imported cologne can be considered to not have increased. However, the most shocking prices are the price of sugar (40 dong per kilogram)--more than double last year's price-- and the price of meat (pork tenderloin, which cost about 60 dong last year, now costs 110-120 dong; beef costs 80 to 100 dong per kilogram). As a result, the prices of Pasteur, Ho Xuan Huong and Truong Minh Ky noodles and beef is 12 dong per bowl (last year's price was 9 dong) and the price of "special" noodles and beef is 20 dong. At noodle and beef stands, one usually sees mostly Honda motorbikes and very few bicycles.

Most difficult, therefore, continues to be the living conditions of manual workers, civil servants and cadres, who have fixed wages. The basic wage, which ranges from 50 to 150 dong, commodity subsidies and compensation for losses combine for a total of 150 to 300 dong. Direct production workers and civil servants at agencies that "manage" to satisfy the "three interests" can earn from 600 to 1,000 dong. The most miserable lives are lived by teachers, who are in the "non-production sector" and must find additional work as teachers or work in another trade, even sell potatoes and candies to their students. For the past 2 years, doctors have been able to breathe a little easier. After their hospital hours, they operate private clinics and can earn a few thousand per month. Journalists, in order to spend a few months in the countryside or an industrial area obtaining information on the actual situation, must have a minimum of a few thousand dong with them. Some have had to sell their homes so that they could continue to pursue their literary careers.

When a literary work has been completed, it frequently remains in a drawer at the publishing house for a long time due to the shortage of paper. Paper is scarce and, as a result, expensive; a novel costs from 5 to 20 dong. Yet people still buy many of them quickly. A few of the hottest sellers at book counters in the city are: "Under the Shade Tree"(Nguyen Thi Ngoc Tu); "The Pile of Gems"(Vu Hanh); "The Old Ben Nghe"(Son Nam); "The Ivory Strategy" (Nguyen Quang Sang); "The Bitter Wine"(Vo Huy Tam); "The Conclusion of the 30 Year War"(Memoirs of Colonel General Tran Van Tra); "Vietnamese Phonetics" (Doan Thien Thuat); "The Land of Man"(Nguyen Thanh Long's translation of Saint-Exupery's "Terre des Hommes and Le Petit Prince"); and "On the Special Battle Line"(Khanh Van's story about Miss Dinh Thi Van, a skilled intelligence soldier). This year, the Van Hoc Publishing House performed a very welcomed service by reprinting a host of modern works that can be considered to be classics by Ngo Tat To, Nguyen Tuan, Nguyen Cong Hoan, Thach Lam, Nguyen Hong, To Huu, Xuan Dieu, Nguyen Kien, Vu Thi Thuong, Chu Van...in the hope that these new and old works quickly reach the hands of readers overseas. The same is true with regard to the Buddhist sutras which the venerable Thuong Toa spent much time and effort translating and which were recently printed.(*)

Soon, my airplane will be leaving for Hanoi. Here, I shall stop writing for awhile. When you read my letter, see it as a whole, as a body and soul. Europe is the first normal thought of one who has gone far away and returned to his motherland.

FOOTNOTES

- * Yesterday morning, the 1st of April, I visited the Van Hanh Temple and although I was unable to meet with Minh Chau (he was absent), I did meet with other priests and the mass of men and women Buddhist devotees who are studying to teach the sutras. In response to a question, I learned that neither Quang Do nor Huyen Quang were ever imprisoned as was rumored in Paris several months ago. Around the time of Tet, these two priests continued to oppose the church, consequently, late in February, 1982, they were "asked" to return to their homes: Quang Do returned to Thai Binh (to his former village where he lives with his mother) and Huyen Quang returned to Nghia Binh. Once again, it is necessary to gain experience concerning the concept and policy regarding information in our country.

7809

CSO: 4209/403

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, TRADE AND AID

EDITORIAL STRESSES STATE MANAGEMENT OF EXPORT-IMPORT BUSINESS

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 7 Aug 82 p 1

[Editorial: "Managing Export-Import Business"]

[Text] In execution of the resolution of the Sixth Plenary Session of the Party Central Committee and of decrees No 40-CP and 200-CP of the Council of Ministers, the right of various sectors, localities and basic units to carry out directly export-import transactions has been developed over the recent past and clear-cut results have been obtained due to this policy. A number of localities have taken positive initiatives in exploiting the existing potentials to develop production, to practice thrift in consumption and to increase the sources of export goods as well as import possibilities, thereby creating more jobs for the people and contributing to solving the problem of their livelihood and to raising more income for the budget. Some sectors entrusted with the task of carrying out export and import directly have also obtained initial results. However, some erroneous tendencies have recently appeared in the process of organizing and managing the export-import business; these deviations have had not only a bad influence on the management of the sources of export and import goods, on the fulfillment of obligations to the central level, on the exploitation of the market and on the use of foreign currency but have also made it impossible to carry out control and supervision.

During the advance from small-scale to large-scale socialist production, developing the right and duty of various localities, sectors and basic units to carry out export and import is a correct and necessary policy aimed at exploiting economic potentials, rapidly increasing the sources of export goods, gradually striking a balance between export and import, accumulating foreign currency for the state and eliminating pluralistic management methods. In properly implementing this policy, it is necessary, however, to correct deviations quickly and to maintain the principle of state monopoly of foreign trade by enforcing the centralized and unified management of the central level upon foreign trade activities through various policies and organizational and managerial mechanisms.

While continuing to encourage the export-import activities of various localities and sectors, the state's position is, through the medium of 5-year and yearly plans, to make appropriate investments in the building and expansion of export goods producing installations and of areas specialized in

cultivating crops suitable for export. The export plan norms assigned to localities and sectors will be balanced by the norms for the supply of raw materials and means essential to production, purchase, transportation and preservation.

The principle of unified management must be materialized primarily by the division and determination of export rights and responsibilities between the central and local level and must also be reflected in the publication of a list of export goods. No matter whether they are produced at the central or local level, the main export goods of great value which play an important role in the foreign economic policy must fall under the unified business right of the state and must be placed in the charge of centrally run export organizations. The various localities have the duty to deliver these kinds of goods in the exact quantities indicated in the plan; if there is a surplus, it must be entrusted to centrally run organizations for export purposes; in case these organizations refuse to take this surplus in charge, localities will have the right to export it with the permission of the Ministry of Foreign Trade. Apart from the list of goods placed under the unified management of the central level, localities have the right directly to export those goods which they can produce and exploit on their own. It is necessary for the various localities to cooperate in the field of exportation but the sources of export goods must be created primarily through the development of local production. The collection and purchase of export goods will be reorganized under the condition that the goods belonging to any province or city must be placed under the responsibility of this province or city and that the organizations and units subordinate to any province are not allowed to collect and buy the export products of another province unless authorized to do so by the local people's committee. Private citizens are forbidden to compete [with state organs] in buying export goods while state-owned corporations are not allowed to raise purchase prices unilaterally.

To guide importation to the greatest advantage, the state will clearly determine the kinds of goods whose importation is forbidden and will promulgate a suitable tax system in order to limit or encourage [the importation of] different categories of goods after assessing the benefit to be derived from their importation for the sake of the national economy.

From the organizational point of view, the unified management by the state must be exercised by subjecting all export-import activities to the authorization of the Ministry of Foreign Trade. This will be issued after completing appropriate formalities without, however, causing obstacles to business units.

The reorganization of the export-import activities of various localities is aimed at increasing the effectiveness of state management, applying the principle of state monopoly in foreign trade and of unified management by the central level and, at the same time, creating favorable conditions for the various localities and sectors engaged in import and export to carry out their activities easily and with high effectiveness.

PARTY ACTIVITIES AND GOVERNMENT

PARTY POLITICAL ACTIVITIES TO BE MADE MORE EFFECTIVE

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 17 Aug 82 pp 3, 4

[Article: "Political Activities To Surely Achieve High Degree of Effectiveness"]

[Text] As of early August, nearly 30 provinces and municipalities have held conferences to extend political activities to key cadres of district and ward level and in a number of primary party organizations.

The central organs like the ministries of Foreign Affairs, Power, National Defense, Interior, Mines and Coal, Engineering and Metals, Culture, Higher and Vocational Education, etc. have reviewed and evaluated or are reviewing and evaluating their own performance on the basis of a thorough understanding of the basic contents of party congress documents. The provinces of Vinh Phu, Ha Bac, Ha Nam Ninh, Ha Son Binh, Nghe Tinh, Gia Lai-Kon Tum, Nghia Binh, Thanh Hoa, Quang Nam-Da Nang, Dong Nai, Tien Giang, etc. have ordered that trial work be done by a number of party organizations located in different areas to get some experience, to correct in time any deviations and to supplement the draft reports on leadership as performed by the provincial VCP committees. In Ha Son Binh, Ha Bac, Nghe Tinh and Quang Nam-Da Nang Provinces and Haiphong Municipality, many districts have ordered that political activities be closely linked with reviewing the job of issuing membership cards, judging party members' qualities, expelling unqualified members from the party, admitting more new members and purging further the ranks of party members. Those were realistic things to do to prepare for the second round of congresses. Son La, Cao Bang, Lang Son, Hoang Lien Son and Quang Ninh Provinces referred to the actual situation and analyzed the enemy's shrewd plot as they dealt with the question of combining economic matters with national defense, and vice versa, in the process of considering how to fulfill the two strategic tasks in their localities.

Some localities thoroughly understood the three needs -- and closely combined them -- to heighten awareness, to correctly evaluate the situation of the movement and therefrom to recommend realistic programs of action for their localities and sectors; as a result, they obtained good initial results. However, generally

speaking, in many localities and a number of sectors, the results of this round of political activities were limited and its quality was not yet very good. What were the reasons that led to that situation?

Awareness Along With Action

In its report sent to its superior echelon, the Standing Committee of the District VCP Committee of T.H. District considered the results obtained in the round of political activities in its locality as good ones because cadres and party members had taken part in the learning in large numbers and had thoroughly understood the congress documents and because there had been close reviews by the primary party organizations. But when the Standing Committee of the Provincial VCP Committee asked questions about the district's program of action, such as how to properly resolve the grain problem, what measures to take to put an end to the problem of ricefields being left fallow for one season, etc., the district party committee secretary replied that this task would be discussed further in the time to come.

The case of T.H. District was not a common one among all localities, but it was not an exceptional phenomenon. What we should be concerned about was the fact that in this round of political activities many localities attached importance only to heightening awareness and failed to consider to a proper degree the need to evaluate the situation of their movement and work and to review the leadership as performed by the party committee echelons, nor to learn any lessons of experience and, therefrom, to recommend realistic programs of action aimed at properly exploiting the existing capabilities of their localities and sectors in connection with labor, land and occupations. Some localities even believed that to determine the guidelines and tasks about seeking urgent solutions to the socioeconomic problems of their localities was something that should be discussed later and had nothing to do with the political activities. Others affirmed that there had been a high degree of unanimity toward the contents of the congress documents, but on the other hand there were cadres whose attitude pointed to a lack of belief on their part that the party resolution could really be carried out. That pessimistic attitude happened to have appeared right in the localities that had just harvested an almost totally successful winter-spring crop and where the living conditions of farmers had been improved and the obligations to contribute grain and foods to the state had all been overfulfilled. It was obvious that these phenomena reflected a separation between awareness and action, between thoroughly understanding the resolution and evaluating the situation and organizing its implementation. That situation resulted from the fact that they had failed to thoroughly understand and to closely combine the three needs as the VCP Central Committee Secretariat has mentioned in its directive entitled, "About the Round of Political Activities To Study and Discuss the Implementation of the 5th Party Congress Resolution." The very title of the directive did stress the need to study the congress resolution beyond the limit of awareness and understanding of the document. For "the political activities this time are aimed not at giving one's opinion about the Central Committee documents but rather at having a unified awareness and full

understanding of these documents. Before the conferences, all cadres must read and think over the above-mentioned resolutions. During the conferences, do not introduce nor discuss the entire texts of the resolutions but rather concentrate on clarifying the basic matters; further analyzing the matters that have not yet been carefully discussed in the first round of congresses, the viewpoint matters that are related to many urgent aspects of today's work; and criticizing the wrong ideas that are contrary to the party line and policies. "

The secretariat directive also indicates it is necessary to fully understand the three needs -- on the basis of awareness being attached to the basic contents of the congress documents, to thoroughly review the state of the movement in localities, sectors and primary units, as well as the leadership performance of party organizations there, and thus "to recommend realistic programs of action for the localities, sectors and primary units, along with effective measures in order to resolve the immediate urgent socioeconomic problems. "

The way many localities organized the study of the congress resolutions as they recently did obviously did not reflect correctly and fully the meaning of political activities. It was the old way of learning, which worried more about terminologies and dealt with minor situations rather than the basic matters. The yardstick that measures the effectiveness of this round of political activities is the programs of action and realistic organization. Naturally, in order to have correct programs of action and to create a revolutionary mass movement, we must have a revolutionary way of thinking and a new awareness of the party congress line. However, if we have only awareness and thinking, we cannot turn the party resolutions into reality. To have a total unanimity toward the party resolutions, as reality has indicated, we must organize action in accordance with the thinking and viewpoints of the congress. This round of political activities is held just for the purpose of turning the congress resolutions into a revolutionary mass movement. Consequently, the political activities this time are aimed at organizing revolutionary action. Only by recommending correct and realistic programs of action and positive measures can we ensure a full understanding of the congress documents and turn the party line into the masses' vitality. If the political activities limit themselves to promoting awareness only, they fail to ensure unity between theory and practice, between thinking and organization, and actually lead to a separation between policy and action.

Correct Assessment of Situation

According to the experience of many provinces, to be able to recommend correct programs of action requires a correct assessment of the situation and an in-depth review of the performance of all sectors and echelons on the basis of a thorough understanding of the congress documents. The process of analyzing the movement and evaluating the capabilities in a locality is also the process of reexamining the leadership that has been performed in the sectors, units and party organizations there.

In the assessment of the situation in a number of localities as they recently did, there usually were two incorrect tendencies: the tendency to depend on others and the attitude of blaming one another while reviewing the shortcomings in the movement.

The tendency to depend on others was most evidently shown in relying on and waiting for investment and assistance from the superior echelons and foreign aid; failing to make active contributions to the central administration, particularly contributions of grain and foods; and lacking belief and the desire to see the potential capabilities of one's locality and sector. As one failed to fulfill one's task, one concluded that the reason was a lack of assistance from one's superior echelons. The tendency to depend on others usually prevents an accurate evaluation of the basic advantages, the potential and existing capabilities and the new factors, which help to overcome difficulties and to make the movement go forward. As the result of this tendency, there is no positive effort to draft and carry out a program of action aimed at promoting self-strengthening and self-sufficiency and exploiting any potential.

It is not easy to overcome the tendency to depend on others. According to the experience of Gia Lai-Kon Tum, Quang Nam-Da Nang and Nghia Binh Provinces, to do so successfully involves analyzing and correctly assessing the situation and making everybody see all of the existing capabilities and advantages, mostly the capital of foremost importance that is labor, land and occupations, which serve as a basis for recommending a correct program of action. To do so, it is necessary to go through the progressive models to review the socioeconomic work, to single out the matters of regulatory interest, to affirm any prospects and correct direction and to make clear and definite conclusions about the potential of every production installation in terms of organizational experience, production knowledge, material and technical base, capital, raw materials, etc. Only by properly satisfying this need can we draw experience lessons, strengthen solidarity and raise the revolutionary spirit and work capacity of cadres and party members.

To evaluate the state of the movement must be linked with stressing the responsibilities of collectives and individuals. Another unhealthy phenomenon is the habit of blaming one another and holding others responsible for any shortcomings and mistakes in leadership over implementation. In H and T provinces, as the shortcomings in the task of serving agriculture were analyzed, the commercial sector blamed the industrial sector for producing too few and poor-quality tools; the industrial sector criticized that the commercial sector had failed to fulfill its distribution and circulation function and had not yet worked closely with the installations in rural areas; the bank complained that capital remained idle in the sectors; the building and materials organ held the communications and transportation sector responsible, and so on. That meant that all sectors and echelons had not yet truly seen their own responsibilities for the shortcomings in the leadership of the provinces. As a result, villages blamed districts; districts held the provincial

level responsible; the provincial sectors in their turn blamed the central organs for not having paid attention to serving and working closely with production installations. Thus there was a failure on the part of both collectives and individuals to recognize their function and role toward the province's common tasks.

In reality, there is not a single important task of a province that can be fulfilled without the joint work of many sectors, in which every member of each and every organ needs others and has a mutual responsibility for others. Any work in a province can be done with a high degree of effectiveness only when "first of all, every person fulfills his personal responsibilities, for if he fails to carry out his duty, this will automatically affect the ability of others to carry out theirs"* in a collective or a sector as a whole. Therefore, when a locality or unit has to carry out a decision handed down from its superiors, it must have an organic association of all of its components in a good work-division and cooperation relationship. The reason is that "work division itself comprises cooperation; conversely speaking, cooperation itself comprises work division. "*

All standing committees of provincial party committees or heads of central sectors must make serious reviews in order to properly prepare reports on evaluation of the state of the movement and to recommend programs of action for their localities.

* Le Duan: "Some Problems About Cadres and Organization in the Socialist Revolution," Su That Publishing House, Hanoi, 1973, p 41.

5598

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PARTY ACTIVITIES AND GOVERNMENT

EDITORIAL URGES IMPROVEMENT OF PARTY MEMBERS IN ARMY

Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 11 Aug 82 pp 1, 4

[Editorial: "Party Membership Cards and Party Members' Training"]

[Text] The issuance of party membership cards has been carried out widely in our army and has brought about good results. Through this broad campaign of political activities, an important step has been made to strengthen the party members' contingent from the qualitative point of view. Now more than ever, the criteria for the communist party members have been set forth very clearly, thus constituting a stern basis for each party member to reexamine himself and to undergo reexamination by primary party organizations, party committees at various echelons and the broad masses. Everyone has realized that each phase of party card issuance is an occasion to perform study, education and reexamination and to try to carry out self-criticism and criticism and that these phases are very necessary and are objectively required by the task of building the party in the present situation in order to raise the quality of the party members' contingent and to make the party increasingly wholesome, stable and strong so as to enhance its prestige among the masses.

Though the issuance of party cards has been done strictly in many areas and has had a good effect, a number of party organizations have been rather inclined to think that they have fulfilled their duty after delivering party cards to members. On their part, a number of party members feel assured of their positions after receiving their party cards and some of them have even kept their cards very carefully in a safe place and have almost forgotten about them. Worse still, [after receiving their cards,] other party members--who had striven to win the party cards mostly because they were motivated by erroneous individual concepts--have neglected to train themselves and have shown a tendency to lower their party membership qualifications.

In view of such a situation, party organizations and committees at various echelons must be held responsible for continuously, regularly and satisfactorily providing ideological leadership and organizing tasks related to the problem of party cards. It is necessary to correct the erroneous attitude of certain party members who consider party cards merely as ornamental gadgets or certificates. How is it that party cards have been issued to a number of party members and not to others? It is because certain

party members and not to others? It is because certain party members are worthy and qualified while others are unworthy and do not have the necessary qualifications. But fulfilling the qualifications or not is not an unchangeable status. Any party member who fulfills the qualifications or not is not an unchangeable status. Any party member who fulfills the qualifications today may become unqualified afterward if he does not continue to train himself. The improvement of communist qualities and the training based on the party members' criteria must never stop. Since the revolution is developing continuously, the mission entrusted to our army will be heavier and the need for party members within the armed forces to develop their exemplary vanguard role and to induce the masses to carry out revolutionary actions will be greater. Each party member must examine himself everyday to see whether he has fulfilled his responsibilities and continued to deserve the party card issued to him or has stopped and even regressed. A party card is a thing which constantly reminds a party member that he is standing amid a party organization and that he has the honor and duty ceaselessly to study and to improve and train himself within the nationwide movement for revolutionary action and also to move forward incessantly in order to fulfill the party membership qualifications satisfactorily. Therefore, it is necessary to raise the quality of the political education of party members simultaneously with reexamining them regularly on the basis of the quality and ability criteria required of them during the new stage; it is also necessary to modernize the primary party organizations' method of carrying out activities and simultaneously to apply a strict pattern in making arrangements for the masses to criticize and examine the party members' activities. These are realistic and effective measures aimed at enabling all party members to hold constantly and firmly to their positions and to prove really worthy of the party cards they have received.

Party cards can be issued only to worthy party members. This worthiness must be regularly ascertained by actual facts. A party member worthy of the party card issued to him is one who possesses both revolutionary virtues and working capacities, who sets bright examples of justice, impartiality, diligence, thrift and integrity, who has a passion for study, who fulfills his mission satisfactorily under all circumstances and who acts as a nucleus of solidarity and takes the lead in the struggle for what is right and against what is wrong and against all negative manifestations in society.

Once taking possession of their party cards, all party members in our army--no matter whether their working positions are high or low and no matter whether they are long-standing or new party members--have the duty to train themselves incessantly to maintain and heighten their party membership qualifications and to be always able to meet requirements of the new situation and to fulfill their vanguard and leading role as party members in the common revolutionary undertaking and in the mission of the army as well as in the daily job of each party organization and [army] unit.

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CSO: 4209/478

PARTY ACTIVITIES AND GOVERNMENT

YOUTH UNION MEMBERSHIP CARD DISTRIBUTION REPORTED

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 11 Aug 82 p 1

[Article: "Ha Son Binh's 10,550 Youth Union Members Received Membership Cards"]

[Text] Implementing Resolution 3 of the Central Committee of the Ho Chi Minh Youth Union on heightening the quality of the organization of basic unions and on membership card distribution, the Ha Son Binh Provincial union has carried out two drives of membership card distribution in all of its districts and city unions and subordinate unions. As of 30 June, the entire province organized membership card distribution at 78 points, completing 93 percent of the plan. At the union installations where membership cards were distributed, 86.6 percent of the members fulfilled the requirements. Twelve percent of the total number of the provincial union members, or 10,550, received membership cards.

Most of the points selected for the membership card distribution were units with satisfactory achievements for several years in a row, and there were a number of installations that progressed from being weak or fair to being rather satisfactory, such as Kim Boi, Phu Xuyen, Ha Dong, etc.

Through the membership card distribution, levels and echelons of the union could bring their installations to perfection, many weak installations could make improvement, and the administration of union members could become tighter.

During this time, youth throughout the province vigorously stepped up the revolutionary action movement, volunteered to accept hard tasks, and achieved impressive political service in their units. The youth union of the localities and the units that satisfactorily carried out the membership card distribution were Ha Dong, Kim Boi, Yen Thuy, Ky Son, Chuong My, the Da River General Hydroelectric Construction Corporation, etc.

However, a number of localities in the province did not pay due attention to membership card distribution. The propaganda and education task to heighten union members' understanding was still unsatisfactory. A number of localities did not prepare carefully. In the coming card distribution drive of 2 September, the entire province will strive to see to it that 40 percent of the total member of the union installations will receive cards. Particularly, the Kim Boi District union has carried out with high quality the registration of 85 percent of the union installations within the entire district for card distribution.

SOME IMPROVEMENT SEEN IN ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

Kuala Lumpur BUSINESS TIMES in English 25 Aug 82 p 9

[Article by Catherine Campbell in Hanoi]

[Text]

VIETNAM'S economy has turned a corner and better times are ahead, according to government officials in this dilapidated but still gracious capital.

"Rice crops this summer are the best since the North-South war ended in 1975 and numbers of poultry and livestock have also increased," one senior official said.

Consumer goods such as soap, toothpaste and utensils are easier to obtain, the official said, although a visitor's overwhelming impression is of scarcity — of clothing, of transport, of electricity, of living space in the shabby houses.

Western diplomats based here agreed that the economy had picked up marginally and said there were more goods in the shops.

"But there is rampant inflation and a critical balance of payments problem," one diplomat said.

According to International Monetary Fund (IMF) figures, Vietnam's balance of payments deficit in 1981 was US\$240 million. Foreign exchange reserves at the end of the year were only US\$16 million, or less than one week of imports.

"A shortage of spare parts and of outside aid means that the government can't maintain the infrastructure," the diplomat said. "But the Vietnamese are really making an effort on food production."

Self-sufficient

A grain and root vegetable crop of 15.5 million tons is expected for 1982, short of the 16-million-ton target but half a million tons better than last year, the diplomat said.

He noted that according to figures of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), Vietnam should have a crop of 18 million tons to be truly self-sufficient, but added that "no one will starve if the food is distributed properly."

The Communist Party's fifth congress here last March declared development of agriculture rather than heavy industry as the prime economic goal. This marked a major shift in Vietnam's economic policy, government officials said.

"Our aim is socialist industrialisation," one said. "Industrialisation must be given priority in our efforts, but now we are facing the reality that we have been trying to proceed to industrialisation from being a backward agricultural country. We can't hurry. First we must feed 50 million people."

"Vietnam is hoping that its 21 million ex-

perienced labourers can produce agricultural exports which in turn would generate foreign exchange for the purchase of machines and other goods," the official said.

Development of light industry, such as handcrafts, was the second priority, he added.

"Light industry suits our needs. It doesn't need much investment, it requires a lot of labour and the technology is not very complicated."

The official said Vietnam would try to make full use of its capital to develop exports, particularly of coal and soyabean, and would try to improve its transport system and provide for its energy needs before turning its attention to heavy industry.

"The main thing we must do is change our system of management from wartime to peacetime," he said.

After Vietnam's 30 years of war came to an end, prices in the north, which were kept artificially low during the conflict, started spiralling upwards. Increases averaged 30 to 40 per cent a year but now the government is trying to stabilise them again, the official said.

A monthly rice ration of about 15 kilogrammes of rice is sold to each person at the fixed rice price of 0.4 dong (about four US cents) per kilo. Extra rice must be bought at the market price of 10 dong per kilo.

The price of this extra rice, and of most other things, is exorbitant compared with the fixed monthly salary of about 150 dong (US\$15 at the official rate) paid to all employees from factory workers to civil servants.

Salaries were doubled last year to try to cope with inflation, but many people were forced to take spare time jobs simply to pay for food, the official said.

"Living conditions are not easy," the official said. "But we are moving, and this is the correct direction." — Reuter

SEARCH FOR WAYS TO HALT ECONOMIC DECLINE

Kuala Lumpur BUSINESS TIMES in English 9 Aug 82 p 19

[Article by John Laird in Hanoi]

[Text]

FACED with declining exports, mounting debt repayment problems and rampant inflation, Vietnam's new economic leadership seems intent on further experimentation and major policy adjustments.

The appearance of more consumer goods and increased economic activity in this capital city in the past year indicate that two years of liberal incentive policies have worked to boost production.

Light industry last year recorded a moderate recovery after two years of sharp decline. Agriculture, buoyed by good weather and new free enterprise contract systems, recorded its third successive year of increased production.

But Vietnam relies increasingly on borrowed money. It ran out of foreign exchange in February, and is now considered to have slipped into the ranks of the poorest developing countries.

Its substantial growth potential has been stunted by decades of war followed by rigid economic policies that failed to create opportunities and motivate the workforce.

Last March at the fifth Communist Party congress, party secretary Le Duan admitted there was mismanagement in party and state organs at all levels, and promised further reforms.

Influential southern economist Vo Van Kiet was then promoted by the congress to full Politburo status, and the following month made head of the State Planning Commission in a reshuffle of economic portfolios.

"The pragmatists have

won," confided one Vietnamese official during a visit of Western newsmen in July.

Vietnamese and Western sources confirmed that Van Kiet, a former party secretary of Ho Chi Minh City, was associated with a slowdown of socialisation in the south, where limited capitalism is being tolerated and increasingly mixed with socialist forms.

Framework

"If we are very rigid in having only state-owned sectors of the economy, we cannot meet the needs of society," acting head of the Foreign Ministry's press department Le Mai told newsmen at a briefing.

Le Mai said economic planning would concentrate on the state as well as collective enterprises and individual workers — but within the framework of centralised authority and long-term socialist goals.

All types of enterprise must comply with targets set by the state, but beyond that they are to be free to dispose of their products, he added. Many people have been working in spare time jobs, to earn extra cash under the new flexibility.

"We can now see the direction we are moving," Le Mai said of the incentive system and new management ideas. "It has been producing over the last two or three years; the people know now that they should work hard."

The south has been especially successful in tapping private capital since reunification. A Western official said there has been a big movement toward

joint ventures between state and private interests, with the investor typically acting as deputy director or manager.

But the country is still desperately short of investment capital and expertise.

Major Western investors continue to refuse aid because of Vietnam's invasion of Kampuchea in December 1978. A few sympathetic European countries have offered credit, but Vietnam has been unable to use much of it because it lacks resources, such as spare parts for key industries and transportation, a Western official said. It also suffers from energy shortages, congestion in its ports and lack of trained personnel.

An International Monetary Fund (IMF) report said that various constraints contributed to a decline in steel production from 106,000 tons in 1979 to 35,000 tons last year, and in cement production from 843,000 tons in 1978 to 538,000 tons last year.

Vietnam has asked for a meeting of the "Club of Paris" — the mechanism by which defaulting countries may negotiate rescheduling of their debts to European countries.

Large burden

Vietnam owes US\$3.5 billion and has been defaulting on payments for the past six months, according to Western sources. While the debt is small compared with those of other countries, it represents a large burden as a percentage of Vietnam's exports, which have declined in value in each of the past three years.

Last year, interest and principal repayable to Western and

socialist creditors was US\$284 million, representing 77 per cent of export earnings of US\$369 million, according to figures provided to the IMF.

In 1980, repayments represented 59 per cent of earnings, and the figure was 34 per cent in 1979.

The government devalued the Vietnamese dong by 70 per cent and increased prices of agricultural products to farmers by 400 per cent or more in an attempt to bring official prices in the north into line with free market prices in the south, the IMF said.

Vietnam also doubled the salaries of civil servants, who fared badly on fixed wages when compared with increased earnings of factory and farm workers under the new piecework and contract policies.

The salary increases hit bank balances of state enterprises, and some could not pay salaries and distribute ration books in April and May, said one Western official.

Southern Vietnam, which continues to be more prosperous, may eventually lead the economy out of its difficulties.

Vietnam places priority on expanding agriculture, especially in the Mekong River Delta which already has 43 per cent of Vietnam's rice lands. The delta has the potential to double or triple its output and end the country's food deficit, according to one expert.

One Western official remarked that despite Vietnam's overall debt, the south is paying its way and has recently gained a lot of economic independence. — AP

ECONOMIC PLANNING, TRADE AND FINANCE

EDITORIAL URGES EXTENDING MARKETING COOPERATIVES NETWORK

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 17 Aug 82 pp 1, 4

[Editorial: "Consolidating, Strengthening Collective Commerce"]

[Text] The collective commercial force is being consolidated and developed. More than 8,500 primary-level units, or marketing cooperatives (an increase of 214 units as compared with 1980), consisting of more than 14 million members (an increase of 1.2 million as compared with 1980), are extending their activities to villages and subwards, mainly the rural areas, all over the country. The long-standing emulation banners in the marketing cooperatives sector like Hoang Hoa in Thanh Hoa, Tay Giang in Thai Binh, Ninh Phuc in Ha Nam Ninh and Ky Son in Nghe Tinh Province and the progressive units in recent years in such provinces as Binh Tri Thien, Quang Nam-Da Nang, Nghia Binh, Phu Khanh, Thuan Hai, Tay Ninh, Dong Nai, An Giang, Tien Giang, etc. and Ho Chi Minh City clearly prove the great effects of collective commerce on serving agriculture, production and the standard of living. In municipalities and cities, the expanded activities of marketing and consumer cooperatives in subwards and wards have also made a considerable contribution to goods circulation and to serving the working people's living conditions.

Marketing cooperatives are the collective economic organization of the working people in the field of commerce and an inseparable component of the socialist commerce. Collective commerce has the responsibility, along with state-operated commerce, for helping to fulfill the common task of the socialist commerce, namely, to control a larger part of wholesale business, to direct retail business and services, to command the social market, to properly carry out goods circulation and distribution and to serve production and the standard of living. Organized and operating in every village and subward and closely linked with the working people's collective production organizations in rural areas and cities, marketing cooperatives have the ability to effectively support state-operated commerce in purchasing and controlling sources of goods, particularly agricultural food products and handicraft goods; exploiting the potential and strength of local economies;

channeling goods into organized circulation; and fighting against acts of speculation, smuggling, etc., thus contributing to establishing a new order on the market and stabilizing the standard of living.

The practical task of the marketing cooperatives sector is first of all to properly carry on the purchasing job, which is entrusted to state-operated economic organizations, and to serve as agents of these organizations in supplying the working people with consumer goods and means of production. At the same time, it expands its own business by further exploiting the local sources of goods, organizing processing to obtain more commodities, expanding the services that are suitable for the needs and habits of the local production and life, contributing to mobilizing more goods for export for the state and participating in market management.

Many localities, because of a lack of a thorough understanding of the function and effects of collective commerce, have restricted and altered the organization of the latter. Some localities have allowed their marketing cooperatives to deal illegally in the lines of goods that are under unified state management; to buy goods from far places; to incorrectly implement policies and regulations about prices, currencies, taxes, etc.; to compete with state-operated commerce and other localities in buying and selling; and to become the business tools that are wholly after profit and setting up funds for their own localities.

To consolidate and develop in the right direction the marketing cooperatives, along with strengthening state-operated commerce, has an important significance in strengthening the socialist commercial front. Collective commercial installations must consider serving production and the standard of living within the areas of their operation their principal activity. They can extend economic relations to other localities in order to create more sources of goods, but they must be organized, adhere to business-management job assignment and decentralization and maintain market and pricing discipline.

Marketing cooperatives in rural areas must direct their marketing and service activities toward serving agricultural production and the standard of living and contribute to resolving such problems as reorganizing goods circulation on the district scale, consolidating the economic aspect of the worker-farmer alliance, stepping up the movement to set up cooperatives in agriculture and consolidating the new production relationships in rural areas. Marketing cooperatives in the highlands and midlands must pay attention to serving better the living conditions of members of ethnic minorities and the armed forces stationed in their localities. District and village marketing cooperatives in the vicinity of municipalities and industrial zones, in addition to serving their own localities, must closely cooperate with urban wards and subwards and supplement sources of agricultural products and foods for the benefit of cadres and workers. In municipalities and cities, subward and ward marketing and consumer cooperatives must try to exploit the

scattered sources of goods, to expand services and food-processing activities and to assist state commercial organs in distributing goods fairly and to the right recipients, who must be consumers themselves.

On the basis of the already-determined guidelines and tasks, the marketing cooperatives network, particularly at the primary level, must be expanded and consolidated, attract large numbers of working people and exploit the abundant capabilities of the masses in order to overcome the difficulties that arise from capital being still in short supply and material and technical means remaining poor.

Every activity of marketing cooperatives must be aimed at the socioeconomic objectives of their locality for the benefit of production development and the working people's living conditions.

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AGRICULTURE

SLOWER PACE FOR RESETTLEMENT, COLLECTIVIZATION

Kuala Lumpur BUSINESS TIMES in English 4 Aug 82 p 19

[Article by John Laird in Da Lat]

[Text]

FACED with chronic food shortages and a population increase of one million people a year, Vietnam is relocating large numbers of city dwellers and farmers into new economic zones in the south's highland and Mekong River Delta areas.

Visiting newsmen last month were shown the new Hanoi New Economic Zone near this Central Highlands city in Lam Dong Province. Here 15,000 former residents of Hanoi, 1,100 kms (685 miles) to the north, are growing vegetables, pioneers in one of the new settlements.

Authorities have mobilised youth movements to clear land and build dwellings in Lam Dong and neighbouring provinces and have mounted campaigns to persuade volunteers that they will be better off in the new communities.

Further south, the government is promoting new economic zones and collectivisation in hopes of expanding rice growing lands in the fertile Mekong River Delta.

Experts say the delta's potential has barely been tapped — it now accounts for 43 per cent of the country's padi fields, but could double or triple its output with further expansion and the replacement of traditional rice strains with new high-yielding and pest-resistant varieties.

Attractiveness

Such a leap forward will be essential if Vietnam is to feed its population of as many as 55 million, which in recent post-war years suffered natural disasters, used its resources for wars with China and in Kampuchea and admittedly erred in economic management and policy.

Authorities in Lam Dong Province take pride in the Hanoi economic zone, one of the most successful. It boasts a simple hospital, movie hall, shops, offices, tractor station, sawmill and sim-

ple wooden dwellings on more than 5,000 hectares (12,500 acres) of sticky red clay soil.

Some 48,000 hectares (120,000 acres) have been reserved for the zone, with plans to reach a population of 150,000 by 1990.

Residents have few material possessions and often only dirt floors for their dwellings, nestled among the corn fields.

In some economic zones, as many as 90 per cent of the inhabitants reportedly abandoned their new lives when faced with severe hardship in marginally-fertile areas. Reports on other pioneering settlements indicate many inhabitants suffer from malaria.

"In 1975-76 we made mistakes, rushed too much, and asked people to leave for the zones when we were not prepared for them," said Bui Huu Nhan of Ho Chi Minh City's Press Department. "Now we are moving more slowly."

The current, revised policy is to provide more amenities to increase the comparative attractiveness of such zones.

Those recruited as permanent settlers get at least six months of free rice, along with such items as mosquito nets, bowls and mats, according to officials.

Farmers in the Hanoi zone also get 1.5 hectares (3.7 acres) of land for personal use in addition to working communal land, the officials said.

But while the highland zones may ease population pressure and produce valuable crops,

The Mekong Delta is the apparent key to food self-sufficiency in Vietnam.

Dr M. Balasubramanian, an Indian rice expert on a two-year mission in the delta, said the output of the region could double or triple within five to six years.

Interviewed in Ho Chi Minh City, Dr Balasubramanian said authorities planned to bring 60,000 more hectares (150,000 acres) under cultivation this year, and were aiming to increase delta yields from two to four tons per hectare (2.5 acres) within four years. Two million hectares (five million acres) are currently in rice in the delta area.

Vietnamese leaders announced at the fifth Communist Party congress last March that agriculture in the south would proceed towards collectivisation, although at a slower pace than first planned.

Dr Balasubramanian said that seven to ten per cent of farmers had joined collectives since 1975, while a number of other forms had arisen: state farms, new economic zones and transitional productive collectives.

Middle-class farmers were resisting collectivisation, he said. The chairman of the Ho Chi Minh City People's Committee Mai Chi Tho said that since the 1975 communist victory, 620,000 people from the city, formerly called Saigon, had either returned to their rural homes or gone to new economic zones.

However, a considerable number of people have filtered back from the zones to the city, where they eke out a living and are not eligible for rations and other state-supplied benefits.

Over five years, 40,000 settlers came to the economic zones in the delta province of An Giang, and in seven years 141,000 people came from the lowlands to zones in the highland province of Dac Lac, a Vietnam News Agency report has said.

Comparable figures on emigration from Hanoi and the northern Red River Delta were not available. — AP

CAUTIOUS EFFORTS TO COLLECTIVIZE MEKONG FARMERS

Kuala Lumpur BUSINESS TIMES in English 14 Aug 82 p 9

[Article by Michael Fathers in Can Tho]

[Text]

VIETNAM has gone back on its plans to collectivise agriculture quickly in the rice-rich Mekong Delta and has adopted a cautious policy of persuasion to bring private farmers under government control.

The Mekong Delta farmers, Vietnam's most affluent peasants and stalwarts of private enterprise since American-backed land reforms in the late 1960s broke up the large estates of absentee landlords, successfully resisted Hanoi's hurried and poorly planned attempt in 1977 to communise agriculture in the south.

A communist party directive, issued in 1980 in a bid to increase food production, is now being applied to the Delta.

Known as Central Committee Order Number 100, it established a piece-work system and enabled farmers within a collective to sell 40 per cent of their harvest on the open market where prices are often 10 times above the fixed government price.

In return, farmers within a collective can in theory get petrol, fertilisers and their other needs at subsidised prices. In practice, shortages, an emasculated transport system and late deliveries mean many of their needs are not met.

Impressive

Officials said the reform had an impressive effect in Northern Vietnam, where all land is state owned. Rice production rose 25 per cent or 900,000 tonnes last year.

But in the Mekong Delta, known as Vietnam's rice bowl, it had little impact and production remained relatively static at around 7.5 million tonnes.

Life for the Delta's 13 million inhabitants goes on much as it did before the communist takeover in April, 1975.

The scars of war when the Delta was the centre of com-

munist-led insurgency against the American-backed governments in Saigon have gone.

The barbed wire around buildings and bridges in the Delta towns and on highways has been removed, bomb craters have been filled in or overgrown with vegetation.

Guard towers stand derelict and falling apart, road blocks have been removed and sentry boxes at landing stages for the Dutch-built ferries which ply the Mekong and its bassac tributary are used by street-sellers.

Peasants dry their crops on the side of American-built asphalt roads. Water buffalo and still some tractors plough the water-logged paddy fields.

Money lenders still operate charging an average 10 per cent of harvests. Property sales are illegal but land changes hands surreptitiously, sold by neighbours or peasants planning to leave by boat for refugee camps in South-East Asia. Normally their land would be confiscated.

Farm labour can be hired and monthly wages are above the average 200 duong (US\$20 at the official rate) paid to government employees.

"You cannot force a Mekong Delta farmer to do anything unless he sees it is to his advantage," Professor Vo Tung Xuan, vice-rector of Can Tho's Agriculture University, told foreign reporters.

"What we are trying to go do now is persuade him that by joining a collective he will benefit. There is no coercion. A farmer is free to choose if he wants to remain outside."

Prof. Xuan, educated in the Philippines and Japan, returned to Vietnam one week before the communist victory.

He said that at the end of June, eight per cent of farms in the Delta had been collectivised. An optimistic target was 50 per cent by the same time next year.

With the free market price for

padi rice now standing at around six duong (60 cents) a kilo, compared with tow duong (20 cents) a kilo paid by the government, the incentive to collectivise is not great.

Each collective averages about 30 hectares (75 acres) and includes some 100 people, Prof.

Xuan said.

When a collective is formed, private farmers pool their land and equipment and redivide it according to the size of each family and set quotas based on the fertility of each plot.

The quota has to be sold to the government. All additional production can be sold on the open market. Half of any livestock sales is taken by the state.

The demand for free-market rice remains high because of the ration system set by the government for each individual in the towns and cities of Vietnam. People without government-approved jobs have to buy their food on the open market.

Priority

Prof. Xuan said priority was given to collectives for fertilisers, high-yielding seeds and petrol, all in short supply.

He spoke of debilitating transport bottlenecks, poor storage facilities and bad central planning which inhibited increased production and distribution and affected the image of collectives for the average private farmer.

Prof. Xuan said about five state farms had been set up in the Delta, worked by North Vietnamese immigrants, on poor land local farmers refused to cultivate. But there had been no large scale migration south to the Delta.

"Hanoi has acted very carefully on this (migration)," a senior official said. "They are afraid the southerners will think they are coming to steal their rice and it would create trouble which would be difficult to contain." — Reuter.

AGRICULTURE

GREATER EXPLOITING BY MARINE PRODUCTS SECTOR URGED

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 16 Aug 82 p 4

[VNA News Release: "Exploitation of Sea Products in Third Quarter"]

[Text] The marine products sectorsays that according to statistics gathered in many years, the volume of sea products obtained in the 1st quarter normally accounts for 19 percent, in the 2nd quarter 24 percent, in the 3rd quarter 35 percent and in the 4th quarter 22 percent of the total annual catch. The volume of sea products obtained in the last 6 months of the year is normally 7-10 percent greater than that in the first 6 months. Consequently, the last 6 months, particularly the 3rd quarter, will determine whether the goal for the entire year is to be reached or not.

On the basis of weather changes and an observation of biological factors related to the major objects to be caught during the fishing season, there are many indications to the effect that the period of time when the schools of fish all appear at the same time will come later and last longer, with the density of such schools being possibly greater in some locations, this year than in the previous years.

On the basis of the characteristics of this situation, the Ministry of Marine Products is strengthening its leadership in different localities and units as it concentrates the favorable conditions on good exploitation and protection of production in the 3rd quarter, for the purpose of successfully fulfilling the 1982 state plan.

The period from July to October is the time of peak production in the northern and central provinces' exploitation of sea products. The localities in the northern and central parts of the country are supplying additional materials to production installations for the latter to organize division of fishing grounds, contests among themselves to promote productivity or moving of fishing grounds. The Ministry of Marine Products, along with Thuan Hai, Phu Khanh, Nghia Binh and Quang Nam-Da Nang Provinces, also organizes contests in the skills of drawing lead lines of nets to surround fish in the Thuan Hai fishing grounds from late July through September, selects the units that have recorded high catches and good quality of

products and at the same time reviews the good experience in fishing in order to promote higher production among the central provinces.

The ministry is directing the northern provinces that are engaged in fisheries to organize technical guidance in the use of three-layer dragnets for shrimp fishing in Haiphong and to disseminate the technique of fishing with manually-drawn nets in Nghe Tinh Province, which is a traditional occupation that does not require much fuel and serves export.

As to the Nam Bo provinces, since the monthly catches do not vary much from month to month, the localities must maintain and develop the major occupations, such as fishing with gill nets 5, gill nets 7, mesh-2 nets, mesh-3 nets, encircling nets, anchovy catching, shrimp fishing, etc., to promote high productivity.

Although the months of July, August, September and October are the peak season for fish to appear in larger numbers, it is also the time for big storms to pass through our country to cause shipwrecks, to destroy coastal rear-service installations and to impede going to the sea to fish. The Ministry of Marine Products reminds all localities that they should organize prevention and control of storms and typhoons for people and fishing boats and trawlers at sea and in the harbor and for storage facilities.

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AGRICULTURE

BINH TRI THIEN FIGHTS DROUGHT, INSECTS FOR RICE CROP

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 16 Aug 82 p 1

[VNA News Release: " Binh Tri Thien Fights Drought, Prevents and Controls Harmful Insects for Summer-Autumn Rice Crop"]

[Text] More than 24,000 hectares of summer-autumn rice in Binh Tri Thien Province, because of prolonged hot weather, suffered from drought, with more than 8,000 hectares being seriously stricken and an area affected by saline water and harmful insects. The Provincial People's Committee sent 2 groups of cadres to the northern and southern parts of the province to assume direct leadership and to decide on the spot how to satisfy the need for materials of its districts and production installations, immediately sent over nearly 200 tons of gasoline and oil and urged the local people to use manual means to fight the drought and to save the rice crop. The electric power plants in the province fixed in time their breakdowns and reserved electricity on a first-priority basis for fighting the drought.

Cooperatives encouraged farmers to contribute their energy by using manual tools to get water to the ricefields and to save the crop. Hong Thuy, Cam Thuy and Thanh Thuy Villages (Le Ninh District) dredged and built anew more than 3,000 meters of canals and ditches to bring water in to fight the drought. Thuy Duong Cooperative (Hue Municipality) expended more than 5,000 work days to dredge more than 2,000 meters of canals and ditches. Hue Municipality concentrated manpower on repairing and reconditioning the Giang Tho Dam, which blocks the saline water, and watering 2,000 hectares of rice plants, which were heading.

In addition to 170 tons of insecticide supplied early in the crop season, in this phase of prevention and control of harmful insects for the summer-autumn rice Binh Tri Thien Province has supplied the cooperatives with 90 more tons of insecticide.

The province has sprayed insecticide to destroy harmful insects for nearly 19,000 out of the more than 28,000 hectares of summer-autumn rice.

AGRICULTURE

NGHE TINH GROWS TENTH-MONTH RICE AT ACCELERATED PACE

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 16 Aug 82 p 2

[Article by Thanh Phong: "Tenth-Month Crop in Nghe Tinh"]

[Text] I worked with Dinh Si Nam, a member of the Standing Committee of the Provincial VCP Committee and deputy chairman of the People's Committee of Nghe Tinh Province, on a day when the southwesterly wind was blowing most violently. At this time, members of these committees were seldom absent from the key rice-growing or seriously drought-stricken areas. The time before the beginning of autumn was the period so-called "determined to fight" against the inclement weather. Hardly in any previous years had it grown the tenth-month rice on a more accelerated schedule than it did this year, but Nam's voice still rang somewhat reserved and hesitant. Was it due to the experience of many years in leading the "tenth-month crop with 10 different ills" of Nghe Tinh?

Nghe Tinh raised the question of assuming leadership over this year's tenth-month crop at a quite early time and began discussing about it right after the initial evaluation of the fifth-month and spring crop had been made.

The tenth-month rice crop in Nghe Tinh normally is quite precarious because of irregular drought and flood patterns. As an average in several years, never did it exceed in any given year the total production of from 260,000 to 270,000 tons of paddy (except in 1981 when paddy production was 300,000 tons). But this year the province would try "to harvest" 350,000 tons. The VCP Committee members strongly believed in this figure, but nobody wanted to announce it, for the experience of many years had taught them that a successful crop or a total loss could be just the difference of 1 day as what happened in a key rice-growing area proved it: the entire area was preparing for harvesting the crop, but a forest torrent came and caused flood, hence "as one is about to push rice (from the bowl) into one's mouth, one is forced to lay the chopsticks down." And that could be the reason for a speaker to get a blame. But nevertheless I still maintained my confidence since I had actually visited a number of localities and heard about the rather careful preparations made on a scientific basis by the province for this crop.

This year the province still had the largest area -- 150,000 hectares -- for growing the tenth-month rice. After it had learned about the weather characteristics of 76 small climatic areas and reviewed the experience in crop-growing success and failure in many years, it decided to grow the tenth-month crop at an earlier time. Every year it had about 15,000 hectares of autumn rice, but this year it decided to grow the early tenth-month rice in 20,000 hectares simultaneously with the autumn rice. It selected X 1 as the rice variety for this early-growing area. This is a short-term rice variety that is harvested in about mid-September. This decision would have two effects: to harvest early to avoid the flood and to grow winter potatoes after the flood. Hung Nguyen, Cam Xuyen, Duc Tho, Thanh Chuong, Quynh Luu and Yen Thanh Districts already finished the job. Nghe Tinh normally has more than 40,000 hectares of ricefields considered "uncertain" because they are located in an area without the means to be self-sufficient in water and being vulnerable to drought. For this season it selected Nong Nghiep 21, which is a drought-resistant rice variety (after being tested in many seasons) for direct sowing (without transplanting). The province as a whole finished direct sowing in more than 10,000 hectares so far. The cooperatives decided to practice intensive cultivation even in this "uncertain" area, or else they would have to "gamble with nature" as they did in many previous years. For the remaining 70,000 hectares, which were the main-crop area in the tenth-month season because of its self-sufficiency in water, in the key rice-growing area, the province decided to concentrate on practicing intensive cultivation and turning it into a food commodity-producing area to be used also as a seed-producing area for the next season. In this area, in addition to the regularly-used varieties, this year 10,000 hectares were put aside to accommodate the new V13-C2, which is a good rice variety that offers high yield, to prepare for using it as the main crop in the key rice-growing area in the next tenth-month seasons.

Although the quantities of fertilizers provided by the state were not large, the fact that Nghe Tinh sent them to production installations early was something to be happy about. The quantities of organic fertilizers produced by the people also increased by 15-20 percent as compared with the previous seasons. In the past years the difficulty encountered by Nghe Tinh in the tenth-month season was to grow the tenth-month rice on schedule. This year it assumed leadership over this early. Normally about 70 percent of the total area of transplanting would be considered an ideal figure if it were done before the beginning of autumn, but this year the figure could have been 90 percent by the beginning of autumn. This year was also one of severe drought for the province, but since leadership was carried out properly, the progress made in sowing and transplanting was being speeded up. A correct policy was to help districts and production installations to be self-sufficient and flexible, to combine the efforts of both the state and the people and to combine the watering-drainage network in the northern and southern parts with electric and hydraulic pump stations. The province also assumed synchronized leadership over both mechanized and rudimentary means; as a result, in spite of the severe

drought, the drought-stricken area was decreasing. Nghe Tinh had about 10,000 hectares of drought-stricken ricefields located in the areas of Duc Tho, Do Luong, Nghi Loc and Can Loc, which were making great efforts to fight the drought with every available means. Along with fighting the drought, the province was making good preparations for fighting harmful insects. It set up watch stations to uncover the common dangerous insects like army worms, brown planthoppers and leaf rollers. More than 100 tons of insecticide had been sent to different locations. The province was opening courses to train the insect-fighting teams of production installations in the technique of destroying insects.

Nghe Tinh also corrected some weak links in the product contracting system. What had been obvious and corrected early was the application of the system being far from uniform because there was a lack of uniform care and fertilizing work in the fields. In this tenth-month season, cooperatives purchased nitrate fertilizer and supervised its distribution and use to ensure good care; as to the families having very few laborers or having "under policy" eligibility, the assistance extended to them began with production rather than only at the time of distribution. If the families of dead heroes, wounded soldiers and troops that had very few laborers were behind schedule in rice transplanting, members of the youth union would come to help; if they did not have money to buy fertilizer, the cooperatives would lend them some money taken from the 1 percent reserve fund. And the most fundamental measure taken was to consolidate the specialized units.

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AGRICULTURE

FIFTH-MONTH, SPRING GRAIN COLLECTION ACCOMPLISHED

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 7 Aug 82 pp 1, 4

[Text] VNA--As of 31 July, the northern provinces and cities have achieved the overall norm for grain collection from the 1982 5th-month and spring crop by fulfilling 102.5 percent of the planned norm and by simultaneously reaching 103 percent of the stabilized grain obligation norm. Except for Vinh Phu, Thai Binh and Hanoi City which have attained only 97 to 99 percent of the overall norm for grain collection from the 5th-month and spring crop, all of the provinces in the delta, midlands and former Region 4 have fulfilled the overall norm and have vigorously started buying additional grain over and above the obligation. By reaching 126 percent of the overall norm, Quang Ninh has taken the lead among the mountainous and border provinces. The northern provinces have used material supplies, merchandises and cash to collect and exchange for 156,000 tons of paddy over and above the obligation and have thus obtained an increase of 10.9 percent over the planned norm.

For the 5th-month and spring crop of this year, the grain sector had prepared the necessary goods and material supplies and drawn up a plan rapidly to assign tasks to the provinces and promptly to carry goods, material supplies and cash in order to help carry out the grain collection and goods exchange satisfactorily. The provinces and cities had taken versatile and effective measures to motivate peasants to save grain and sell it in great quantities to the state. As of 31 July, Thanh Hoa Province has surpassed the overall grain collection norm by 14,000 tons in carrying out grain collection and goods exchange and has thus taken the lead among all the northern provinces and cities.

In the mountainous provinces, delivery into warehouses has been slow because the harvest was late. In particular, Lang Son Province has achieved only 3 percent of the overall grain collection norm and only 2.4 percent of the stabilized obligation norm.

As for the collection of subsidiary food crop products, except for three provinces in former Region 4 which have been collecting corn and potatoes, all other provinces--especially those in the mountainous region--have not yet paid due attention to this task so that the quantity of subsidiary food crop products collected is still small.

Though the achievements scored in grain collection are fairly good in comparison with the planned norm, grain is still a difficult and pressing problem for the entire country. Since the task of receiving and transportation goods has not yet been carried out properly, the state of grain distribution is tense in certain localities.

The various provinces and cities must try to carry out political motivation better and must coordinate this task with the concentrated use of cadres, material supplies and goods to ensure that most of the planned quantities of grain and goods are collected and exchanged, thereby contributing to the entire country's effort to meet the ever increasing need for grain.

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AGRICULTURE

STRUGGLE TO PROTECT TENTH-MONTH, SUMMER AUTUMN RICE CROPS REPORTED

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 12 Aug 82 p 1

[VNA Release: "Ha Bac, Ha Nam Ninh: Dividing Marshy Fields Into Small Areas Favorable for Waterlogging Fight To Protect 10th-Month Rice Crop. Binh Tri Thien: Drought Fight in Favor of Summer-Autumn Rice Crop"]

[Text] Along with drought prevention, many localities in the north have taken preventive and fighting measures against waterlogging to protect 10th-month rice crop.

More than 20,000 of the 90,000 hectares of the 10th-month ricefields in Ha Bac Province usually suffer from drought. The province has spent millions of work-days to build water conservancy projects, including tens of antiwaterlogging projects, but has not basically solved the waterlogging situation.

Embarking upon this year's 10th-month rice crop season, Que Vo, Tien Son, and Gia Luong Districts in marshy areas have set up a committee to direct the anti-waterlogging fight from the district level to the installations level. The provincial and district water conservancy sectors have directed cooperatives in implementing the formula of watering high fields, draining marshy fields, draining and maintaining water according to plans, and decreasing the drainage of water from high fields to marshy fields. While harvesting the 5th-month spring rice crop, Ha Bac mobilized cooperative members to build and elevate more than 1 million cubic meters of earth, repair canals and ditches, and heighten and tightly close embankments to fight waterlogging. The district has divided ricefields into more than 200 large areas and into thousands of small areas to fight waterlogging. Tien Son, Gia Luong, Que Vo, Thuan Thanh, and other districts have directed the opening of sluices to have silt water combine with water cushion drainage. Almost all the cooperatives have transplanted 10th-month rice from marshy to high fields. As of now, the Ha Bac water conservancy sector has controlled, repaired, and insured that 80 percent of the water pumps operate effectively. Along with dredging reservoirs, dams, falls, and the main drainage axes of the Song Cau, Bac Duong, and Gia Thuan agricultural irrigation systems, Ha Bac has established plans to coordinate the operation of water adjusting dams and sluice gates, and has motivated compatriots in marshy field districts to purchase additional buckets and stand ready to fight waterlogging.

In Ha Nam Ninh, Vu Ban District of marshy areas has controlled and reinforced the entire embankment system in the district and divided the marshy fields into

slots of 10 to 15 hectares so as actively to maintain water for drought prevention along with bailing out of draining water when there is waterlogging. Cooperatives in the district have dredged more than 1,000 draining canals and prepared nearly 10,000 cubic meters of earth, rocks, and sand, thousands of bamboo trees, and hundreds of tons of fence at vitally important protective dikes. Cooperative members are prepared with each household having one or two buckets actively to fight waterlogging.

It has been 3 months since the sowing and transplanting of the summer-autumn rice, but Binh Tri Thien Province as a whole has had almost no rain and a constant outdoor temperature of 37 to 39 degrees C, and many drives of level 5 and level 6 Southwest winds lasting several days, which has not been known during the past 5 or 6 years. Small-category reservoirs have dried up, and the water of Nam Thach great water conservancy construction has gone below the necessary minimum level (6.90 meters). In big rivers such as the Giang, Hieu, Huong and so forth, due to the low level of sweet water, salt water has advanced to near upper reaches, causing loss of irrigation water sources and salt water contamination of rice plants. In Hue City, sluices of Thao Long dam have been eroded at their foundation and Nai I dam collapsed. It is estimated that in the entire province more than 50 percent of the summer-autumn rice area has suffered from drought or is contaminated by salt water; drought has been serious in a number of districts: 1,900 of the 2,500 hectares of transplanted rice plants in Quang Trach and 1,500 of the 2,200 hectares of transplanted rice plants in Bo Trach have suffered from drought.

With the spirit of fighting drought like fighting the enemy, the provincial VCP Committee and the People's Committee are concentrating on directing the fight to rescue rice plants. On one hand, the provincial People's Committee has given instructions to the localities to strengthen pond and dam management, thoroughly put the available water sources into use, and mobilize all forces and means from water pumps to water wheels, buckets, and spirals to pump water and strive day and night to rescue rice plants. On the other hand, the province has sent groups of cadres headed by comrade leaders of the water conservancy service to the localities seriously damaged by drought, bringing warehouse distribution orders and slips along to consider demands and to supply them on the spot.

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AGRICULTURE

IRRIGATION MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENT DISCUSSED

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 12 Aug 82 p 1

[Editorial: "Increasing the Effectiveness of Agricultural Irrigation Management"]

[Text] The movement to emulate with the Cau Ghe agricultural irrigation managerial cluster which was launched more than 2 years ago is being broadened.

The guiding ideological basis of this emulation movement is how to pose the question: While the supply, technological, fuel, and equipment situation meets with many difficulties, what should be done to enable the water conservancy task, which serves agricultural production, to become more and more effective? The answer is found at a typical model, the Cau Ghe agricultural irrigation managerial cluster, and the movement has expanded to all of Hai Hung Province and has gradually gained in many other provinces.

The essential value of this movement is that, first of all, it has created a strong and comprehensive move starting at the installations, that is, at agricultural irrigation managerial clusters, primary units of the agricultural irrigation managerial system of the state. Using its strength which is having direct relationship with the production movement, an agricultural irrigation managerial cluster assists cooperatives in satisfactorily watering and draining through agricultural irrigation cells and groups of basic units, along with playing the liaison role between and developing the effectiveness of the sectors responsible for water conservancy at installations. A real move starting at installations requires that upper echelons also adjust their work methods, thus creating a comprehensive strength for developing production.

The content of this emulation movement is gradually to advance agricultural irrigation management onto a scientific track, aiming at achieving high effectiveness essentially in the two aspects of technological and economic management through taking concrete, practical measures such as: building and implementing the operating process of the agricultural irrigation system depending on the natural conditions and water sources of each locality, insuring thorough watering and draining from junctions to ricefield surfaces, and meeting production demands. It is necessary to heighten the quality of watering and draining in accordance with scientific methods, develop initiatives, and overcome difficulties to carry out satisfactorily management and work.

Regarding economic management, pay attention to implementing economic contracts between agricultural irrigation clusters and water consuming cooperatives and to developing the conservation movement, which includes conserving water, electricity, raw materials and fuel, with clear and serious regulations on reward and penalties. Results of agricultural management in many clusters and cooperatives together with actions by other technological links have significantly increased rice production.

Recently, the emulation movement has been linked with the mechanism of project contract in agricultural cooperatives, has acquired additional strength and has enriched the content of activities. Activities of agricultural irrigation managerial cadres and workers as well as those of cooperative agricultural irrigation units have relied upon economic-technological norms as bases for the product contract system. Forms of contract have developed from single to complex depending on local conditions. The more the cadre and worker of the agricultural irrigation cluster try effectively to serve production units, the more benefits there will be for themselves and the collectives. The agricultural irrigation unit member as well as the cooperative member farming on contract demand that agricultural irrigation clusters guide and help them concretely and practically, introducing progressive technology into production. Previously, concerning several tasks much effort was put into appealing and motivating, but task implementation had few results; presently these tasks are carried out speedily and in a significantly effective manner; an example of such tasks is the close coordination between watering plans and production plans, which is beneficial to farming and leads to electricity and water savings. Masses of cooperative members have consciously built ricefields, embankments, and fish-bone shape ditches to adjust water level for each ricefield, insuring rational watering and draining, insuring crop production, and so forth.

The good experimental lessons from the movement to emulate the Cau Ghe agricultural irrigation managerial cluster, are being applied creatively in appropriate forms from simple to complex and in accordance with the conditions of the water sources and watering and draining means of each locality, and will certainly lead to high effectiveness and make a contribution to developing agricultural production.

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AGRICULTURE

FARMING PROGRESS IN NORTH REPORTED

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 11 Aug 82 p 1

[Article: "The North Completed 93.2 Percent of the 10th-Month Rice Sowing and Transplanting Plan"]

[Text] The drought which began with this year's 10th-month crop season is dragging on, affecting the speed of the sowing and transplanting of the 10th-month rice in the northern provinces. The localities have found ways to overcome the difficulties and to create water sources for transplanting on all the planned areas. Thus, although the sowing and transplanting speed was slow in the beginning, the General Department of Statistics announced that as of 5 August 1982 the northern provinces completed 90 percent of the sowing and transplanting plan and, as of the start of autumn (8 August), 93.2 percent of the plan, the delta provinces completed 94.3 percent, the midlands provinces 89.5 percent, the mountain provinces 93 percent, and the provinces in the old region four 93.1 percent. A number of the provinces have basically completed the transplanting, such as Hai Hung, Thai Binh, Quang Ninh, and Hoang Lien Son.

Until the end of the crop season, more than 90,000 hectares remain to be transplanted. Only with the present transplanting speed and the effort to provide the ricefields with enough water can the transplanting be completed most satisfactorily and in time. Large areas have been infested with insects and diseases. Although the situation is still not serious, insects and diseases have developed on a large scale and are of several kinds including brown planthoppers, leaf rollers, mealy bugs and rice leaf beetles. The localities are actively taking preventive and eradicating measures. Learning from the preceding crop seasons, many cooperatives have organized concentrated insecticide sprayings, saving the insecticides and reaching high effectiveness at the same time.

The province also completed the first weeding round for 470,000 hectares, 39.3 percent of the transplanted area. The area for the second round is 116,000 hectares, fewer than last year. Paying attention to intensive 10th-month rice farming, the localities have prepared more than 5 million tons of manure, an average of 4.6 tons per hectare, 1 quintal more than last year. However, the achievement is still low in reference to the plan. The Ministry of Agriculture has provided 286,000 tons of nitrogen fertilizer, 65 percent of the plan.

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AGRICULTURE

MORE PRODUCTION COLLECTIVES ADOPT PRODUCT CONTRACTS

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 17 Aug 82 p 1

[Article: "In Provinces and Municipalities of Former Nam Bo 54 Percent of Collectives and Cooperatives Sign Product Contracts With Laborers"]

[Text] In the summer-autumn and tenth-month rice seasons, 4,239 production collectives and 127 cooperatives, or 54 percent of all collectives and cooperatives in the provinces and municipalities of former Nam Bo, signed product contracts with laborers.

The localities where the movement to sign product contracts was widely developed were Tien Giang, with nearly 100 percent of its collectives and cooperatives having signed such contracts; Kien Giang, more than 90 percent; Hau Giang, 80 percent; Ben Tre and Ho Chi Minh City, more than 60 percent; and Long An, Dong Thap and An Giang, hundreds of production collectives each.

In the last winter-spring season, no units in Cuu Long Province had signed product contracts, but in the summer-autumn and current tenth-month seasons 120 production collectives have adopted the new contracting system. In Cai Be District (Tien Giang Province), where the movement to build production collectives had just been launched, the newly-established collectives also adopted the form of product contracts with laborers.

The collectives and cooperatives that had signed product contracts all obtained higher rice crop yields and outputs, with farmers feeling encouraged and production being developed. As the result of applying the new contracting system, all localities were able to consolidate the existing collectives, to restore the dissolved ones and to establish new collectives. Those were the basic positive aspects that have created a new spirit for the movement to improve agriculture to move forward.

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AGRICULTURE

CULTIVATION OF VEGETABLE, SUBSIDIARY FOOD, INDUSTRIAL CROPS EXPANDED

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 7 Aug 82 p 1

[Text] VNA--Whole concentrating efforts on sowing and transplanting the 10th-month rice crop, the provinces and cities throughout the country have sown and grown vegetables and subsidiary food and industrial crops on nearly 420,000 hectares--an increase of nearly 50,000 hectares over the same period last year. The northern provinces and cities have sown and grown subsidiary food crops on nearly 33,000 hectares--an increase of nearly 5,000 hectares over the same period last year. Concerning industrial crops alone, the various provinces and cities have sown and grown them on more than 96,000 hectares--an increase of 22,000 hectares over the same period last year.

To eliminate the long-standing tendency to neglect vegetables and subsidiary food crops, many provinces and cities have intensified guidance, organized labor and motivated the people fully to use land, materials and capital to expand the area reserved for vegetables and for subsidiary food and industrial crops. Gia Lai Lai-Kon Tum Province has launched a movement to grow sweet potatoes on 10,000 hectares in 60 days; many districts in this province are trying to cultivate this crop on 1,500 to 2,500 hectares each. Along with the sowing and growing of subsidiary food crops, the northern provinces and cities are growing the trailing sweet potato roots on nearly 20,000 hectares--a 1,000-hectare increase over the same period last year--as a preparatory measure to obtain cuttings to grow in the coming winter.

Numbers of people who have recently settled to farm and live in the province of Dac Lac, Gia Lai-Kon Tum, Lam Dong, Hoang Lien Son and Ha Tuyen are expanding the reclaimed idle land area to obtain thousands of hectares to grow subsidiary food crops.

Along with sowing and cultivating subsidiary food crops, the Mekong River Delta provinces have sown and grown kenaf on nearly 3,000 hectares, which is nearly double the kenaf area cultivated in 1981. Long An Province has cultivated more than 1,100 hectares of kenaf, topping the list of all provinces in the Mekong River Delta.

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HEAVY INDUSTRY AND CONSTRUCTION

SIX RAILROAD CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS COMPLETED IN 7 MONTHS

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 17 Aug 82 p 1

[VNA News Release: "Railroad Construction Corporation No 8 (Railroad General Department) Hands Over 6 Projects in 7 Months"]

[Text] Since the beginning of the year, Railroad Construction Corporation No 8 (Railroad General Department) has completed and handed over 6 of the 11 projects in this year's plan, including many key projects of the station areas and leading lines in Hanoi, Haiphong, Uong Bi and the construction site of Pha Lai thermo-electric power plant; the Nos 1 and 2 lines of Gia Lam Station; the Gia Lam-Cau Bay line; the Nos 12 and 13 lines of Haiphong Station; the Vang Danh-Dien Cong Port line; and the Haiphong Port-Ve Pagoda line.

In the construction of the 18-kilometer Chi Linh-Pha Lai railroad line, track units 805 and 807 successfully applied the workshop method to track laying and closely combined mechanization with manual work; as a result, track-laying capacity reached 300-350 meters a day, an increase of 3 times higher than the previous rate. In 4 months, they were able to complete 8.5 kilometers of tracks out of the total of 18 kilometers of the entire line. In July alone, 4 kilometers of tracks were laid, or twice as quickly as in the preceding months. In the construction of the Kep-Uong Bi line, track unit 804 through concentrated work was able to hand over and put into operation an additional section of 500 meters of tracks being linked by a switch with the Vang Danh-Dien Cong Port line and 2 secondary track sections at the Uong Bi A Station area and running from the latter station to Uong Bi C Station.

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CSO: 4209/474

HEAVY INDUSTRY AND CONSTRUCTION

ARTICLE HIGHLIGHTS WORK OF RUBBER INDUSTRY CORPORATION

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 17 Aug 82 pp 2, 4

[Article by Tran Vy of the Chemicals General Department: " Technical Potential of Southern Rubber Industry Corporation"]

[Text] The Southern Rubber Industry Corporation, which is subordinate to the Chemicals General Department, normally encountered quite a great deal of difficulties arising from its increasing production needs, but the supply of materials, raw materials and fuels has not been up to the levels set in its plans. As an overall calculation, with the quantities of materials and raw materials supplied to it, only half of its enterprises had jobs and there were about 500 workers having no jobs to do.

With the spirit of resolving difficulties by itself, it has taken a new direction for doing business by exploiting the existing potential capacities of localities, mostly the Mekong River delta provinces. In a survey, it has clearly found that the chemical industry should serve better agricultural production and that, on the other hand, agriculture should be in a position to support the development of industry.

The first step was an economic alliance with An Giang Province. A contract signed by two sides stipulates that the province is to supply materials and raw materials in accordance with the corporation's needs and the corporation is to provide the province with rubber products needed in agriculture and for rural life. The two sides tighten their economic relations but agree not to violate the procedures and policies the state has promulgated.

By carrying out their pledges, the corporation clearly saw that the province's urgent need was to have tires for its large tractors, which for some time had to be bought from abroad. On the basis of that reality they raised the question of manufacturing a new line of product. Within only a short time, with active assistance from An Giang Province, the corporation made a study and then succeeded in making large tires of 18-4-30 size for rear wheels and tires of 650-16 size for front wheels of tractors. After getting these tires, An Giang has revived dozens of large plowing machines.

With this work arrangement, this year the corporation has signed follow-up contracts with An Giang to triple the quantities of agriculture-serving products over the 1981 figures.

On the basis of this experience, the corporation has expanded its economic alliance with Phu Khanh Province and the export-import organ of Ho Chi Minh City and widely developed various forms of contract ordering of goods, such as purchasing raw materials and semifinished products; filling orders and purchasing raw materials at negotiated prices set by Ho Chi Minh City, etc.

Moreover, it also relies on the country's strength, which is the natural rubber resource, and considerable equipment availability to cooperate with the friendly countries and to manufacture products that they request. In many cases, these countries supply materials and raw materials for the corporation to manufacture products, which on the basis of agreement are supplied to them by request.

To have additional materials and raw materials, its cadres and workers strive to exploit major sources of raw materials; to fully use old materials, cables from broken parts of power shovels and bead wires from discarded automobile tires to make bead wires for bicycle tires; to find technical ways to use a number of domestically-available chemicals in the place of imported chemicals; to use recycled rubber to make products that do not have to be of high quality, etc.

Implementing Decisions 25-CP and 26-CP of the Council of Ministers, the corporation perfected the organization of enterprises, rearranged the assembly lines and clearly determined the lines of goods to be manufactured. In the Dong Nai Rubber Enterprise, in the past years due to its management being slackened many negative phenomena occurred. The enterprise then consolidated the ranks of cadres in workshops and production teams and gave production team leaders the authority to select workers for their teams and to offer their opinions about setting the norms in connection with labor, wages, bonuses, consumption of materials and raw materials, standards and quality of products, etc. so as to have a strong basis for paying piece-work wages, wages based on products, etc.

In addition to strengthening management, the corporation stepped up scientific and technical work, applied progressive techniques and assigned every cadre and engineer the task of studying ways to improve techniques, to improve the assembly line and to make new products. More than 40 new ideas were applied. An outstanding success was the study, designing and making of an automatic machine that immerses woven fabric in latex and replaces the machine that rolls and coats this fabric used in bicycle and automobile tire construction, thus boosting labor productivity by tens of times, raising product quality and saving quite a great deal of raw materials and avoiding hard work for workers. Further developing this achievement, the corporation continued to manufacture two additional machines and to prepare its material means so as to triple its present production of bicycle tires and tubes by 1985.

At the Hoc Mon rubber factory, when the foreign capitalist owners were leaving, they had thought that we would be incapable of managing it, for the material and technical base of the factory had been dependent on another factory abroad. However, after only a short time the cadres and workers there were able to master the advanced production technique and to put the factory into normal operation. Everybody was working enthusiastically; dozens of new ideas were applied to improve industrial programs and assembly lines, including the ones about designing and making by itself diaphragms of synthetic rubber for the curing of bicycle tires, which boosted production by 400-500 percent; making a continuous-operation inner tube press that boosted the annual production of bicycle tubes to 1.5 million, etc.

In the movement to develop new ideas, the corporation put into production many new lines of goods, including a number of export items like large-size tractor tires, motorcycle tires, passenger car tires, gloves, heating pads for the public health sector, etc.

As its momentum continues, the corporation as a whole is striving to overfulfill its 1982 plan by 5-10 percent.

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LIGHT INDUSTRY

NEW ASSEMBLY LINE PRODUCES PRESSED BAMBOO MATS

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 16 Aug 82 p 4

[Article: "New Equipment for Pressed Bamboo Mat-Producing Assembly Line"]

[Text] In Dien Bien Wood Enterprise (Thanh Hoa Province), on the work site that once had been destroyed by American bombs there appeared a newly finished project: the pressed bamboo mat-producing assembly line. This assembly line, if there are enough raw materials and some additional support equipment is assembled and installed, will have the capacity of making each year 4 million square meters of pressed bamboo mats. It consists of many pieces of equipment, quite modern and automatically controlled, which Czechoslovakia has helped us to assemble, install and operate. This year the enterprise has accepted the plan for producing 140,000 square meters of pressed bamboo mats and within 6 months it has delivered more than 70,000 square meters. The manufactured product is sold to the foreign-trade organs which turn it into large bags for export. The enterprise is now moving toward stabilizing its industrial program, improving the quality of its product and signing contracts for exporting this line of goods.

With assistance from the technical cadres in the sector, the enterprise was studying and making glue. The system of glue-making equipment was completed within a month. Its mechanics and technical cadres used scrap metals and built a mat-cutting machine to add to the assembly line.

A purchasing team went to the highland districts and signed contracts with more than 10 primary-level units and marketing cooperatives; in 6 months it purchased nearly 200,000 square meters of unfinished bamboo mats for the enterprise.

The fact that the assembly line was put into operation has attracted thousands of people into the bamboo mat-weaving occupation, raised the value of slender bamboo and reed as the locally available raw materials and led to new development for many production sectors in the province.

LABOR

RESPONSIBILITIES OF UNIONS TO AGRICULTURE VIEWED

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 12 Aug 82 p 2

[Article by Vu Dinh, secretary of the Vietnam Confederation of Trade Unions:
"Responsibilities of Unions"]

[Text] Thoroughly understanding the worker-peasant alliance in the socialist revolution and our party's viewpoint of considering socialist industrialization and agricultural cooperativization as revolutionary achievements of both classes of workers and collective peasants, the Vietnam Confederation of Trade Unions pays attention to organizing the worker and civil servant movement to serve agriculture. Many resolutions of the Executive Committee of the Confederation of Trade Unions have stipulated that serving, reforming, and developing agriculture is a basic and permanent task of the working class and unions. Through the movement serving agriculture, unions have made active contributions to introducing the ideology and behavior of the working class and the progressive industrial and technological-scientific type management into agriculture so as to advance it to great socialist production. Workers and peasants have joined in building the collective mastership regime in accordance with the ideology of the working class.

Implementing the direction of the above-mentioned task, unions of all echelons and sectors pay attention to organizing the movement in units that directly affect the combined technological measures of the agricultural production and key areas of grain-food production.

Regarding the link to earthwork, unions of all echelons build and maintain the scores of old operating tractors well. This movement develops its action to increase efficient plowing in a timely manner, lower cost within the link, train a contingent of rather skilled, good tractor operators, and decrease annoyances to peasants.

Initially, in carrying out agricultural product contracts a number of tractor units did not have worksites because of misunderstanding in many localities. In this situation, unions and tractor managerial organs held discussion meetings and signed contracts with peasants, and consequently, since the 1981-82 5th month spring rice crop production, the number of production cooperatives and collectives that have resumed signing earthwork contracts have become almost equal to previous numbers. The number has even increased in areas such as Nghe Tinh, Thai Binh, Ha Nam Ninh, Thanh Hoa, Quang Nam-Da Nang, Cuu Long, Minh Hai, Kien Giang, etc.

LABOR

RESPONSIBILITIES

Unions coordinate with the water conservancy sector in vigorously stepping up the movement of managing and using the agricultural irrigation constructions that serve agriculture production in accordance with the joint resolution of the Vietnam Confederation of Trade Unions and the Ministry of Water Conservancy on launching the movement to emulate the advanced Cau Ghe (Hai Hung) agricultural irrigation cluster. Through two preliminary summaries of experience from lower to upper echelons, all the sectors and levels acknowledged its obvious effectiveness in expanding watering and drainage areas without having to invest more for the building of new projects. Realistic conclusions also confirmed that under the same earth and weather conditions, wherever the movement exists, rice yield increases in certain localities by 1 to 5 quintals, even by 7 quintals per cultivated hectare in each crop season.

8418

CSO: 4209/470

POPULATION CUSTOMS, AND CULTURE

ABOLITION OF SUPERSTITIOUS PRACTICES IN HO CHI MINH CITY URGED

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 7 Aug 82 p 3

[Article by Vu Thanh Huan: "Abolish Superstitious Practices in Ho Chi Minh City"]

[Text] Under the neocolonialist regime, superstitious practices in South Vietnam were encouraged by the U.S.-puppet clique who created all the necessary conditions for their development. Just in Saigon--the capital of the so-called "Republic of Vietnam"--there were thousands of palaces, temples and pagodas and hundreds of large market fields which harbored hotbeds of superstition such as Le Van Duyet's Tomb, Tam Tong Mieu [Tam Ton Shrine], Cay Mai, the Fifth and Sixth Precincts and the Vietnamese-American Association office.

After the complete liberation of Saigon, the press organs, publication centers and sources of import books and newspapers which advocated superstition were abolished. Large and small centers of superstitious activities then went underground. However, recently there has been a tendency among these hotbeds of superstition to make a comeback.

A new trick played recently by these centers was to launch the rumor that the Kuanyin Buddha had appeared to rescue emigrants from dangers on the sea and that this sight had been photographed by the U.S. Navy. Afterward, enlargements were made from this "made-up" photo and put on sale at the price of 1,000 dong apiece. Such a trick is the first step in the merchandise advertising method usually employed in the "free world" countries.

In addition to such a brazen way of making money, the so-called "Dao Ba Tran" [Lady Tran's Religion] has emerged to conduct activities. This has proven to be a very barbarous religious practice. A young woman would allow herself to be hanged to a house roof beam and tortured by a group of "priests" in the hope of avoiding torture by devils after death. These "priests" have recently made propaganda allegations prejudicial to our regime.

There has been a competition in making money by organizing pilgrimages to the "holy lands." A pagoda had its Buddha statue slipped out and claimed that it had been lost. A few days after, the statue was secretly brought back into the pagoda [to make people believe that it reappeared miraculously].

Recently, there has been a recurrence of the fact that many households in the city suddenly received letters from abroad. The sender's name was not written on these letters which began with a quotation from the "Gospel" followed by explanations. Finally, the author of these anonymous letters requested the addressees to make 20 copies of the letters and to send one to each of their close acquaintances. This request was accompanied by cajoleries and threats saying that such and such a gentleman and lady who complied with the request immediately won hundreds of thousands of dong at the lottery, that a very sick member of their household suddenly recovered completely, that another member picked up a piece of gold weighing several "chi" [each chi about 3.78 grams] while walking on a road, that some men and women who refused to comply with the request were hit by a vehicle when they were walking on a road a few days after, that a fire broke out at their houses and that they fell victims to a theft....

A queer sight was seen in Thu Duc: The dead body of a Catholic priest was placed amid a layer of popcorn in an open coffin without a lid. Many followers elbowed one another to tear a piece from his shroud or robe in the hope of attracting good luck; they even ate this popcorn by the handful and on the spot or brought it home for their relatives to eat to cure diseases. After the burial, many persons came to the priest's tomb to pray to him to save them from misfortune or to help them prosper in their business. Many others came from remote provinces such as An Giang to visit the tomb, pulled up the plants and weeds growing on the tombs and brought them home for use as medicines or talismans.

There is an obvious tendency for superstitious activities to expand. State organs, mass organizations and the progressive masses in the city must take energetic measures to deal with these activities. In their opinion, the administration, mass organization and the masses themselves believe that these activities are not of a purely superstitious nature.

During the successive campaigns to wipe out vestiges of the depraved and reactionary culture, literature and arts left behind by the former society, the city has, at the same time, swept away superstitious activities. The responsible organs have closely and promptly coordinated with mass organizations to detect quickly persons making a living by superstitious practices and to concentrate reform education on them. Efforts have been exerted to point out the damage done by their dishonest acts, to persuade them to give up the habit of earning their living by deceitful religious practices, to find employment for them and to transfer them to the productive labor sector. Mass organizations have eagerly instructed their union and association members to abstain resolutely from participating in superstitious activities and from covering them up and tolerating them and sternly to unmask persons engaged in clandestine superstitious practices. The local administration at various levels has proceeded to transform the material bases of superstition centers into revolutionary cultural, literary and artistic ones to serve the laboring people, youths, teenagers and children. This

transformation can be seen most clearly in the 4th and 10th precincts and the Binh Thanh District. The Municipal Buddhist Association does not recognize pagodas but considers superstitious activities therein as heretic ones which betray Buddhism. The Municipal Archbishop's Office has also issued notices disclaiming any recognition of the Fatima activities as well as the rumor about the weeping statue of the Virgin Mother and pointing out that it considers this rumor superstitious and false.

However, the question is: How can superstitious phenomena and activities continue to take place although such energetic measures have been applied by the city to deal with them? How is it that some of these activities have been going on for 1 to 6 months and have even been replayed every year? How is it that these activities have not been confined to a ward, village, precinct or district but have even spread throughout the city and to the surrounding provinces?

It is first necessary to take into account the objective fact that our country--especially Ho Chi Minh City--has just emerged from a war which lasted more than one quarter of a century and during which the colonialists and imperialists wreaked heavy destruction from all points of view. It is, therefore, impossible to complete very quickly the task of rebuilding the country and abolishing superstition. Moreover, while our people are still faced with numerous difficulties in their livelihood, reactionaries have ganged up with bad elements to sabotage our people's task of building a new lifestyle by resorting to all tricks including intensive activities to promote superstition.

From the subjective point of view, backward elements among the masses whom the administration at various levels and the mass organizations have neglected to educate sufficiently have resorted to superstitious activities in the hope of extricating themselves from the present difficulties in their livelihood. On the other hand, the abolition of superstition has sometimes been neglected in certain localities because attention has been focused on the building of economy and national defense. Therefore, the measures aimed at abolishing superstition are merely administrative or palliative ones which are taken only when superstitious practices have been spread widely for a long time.

Practical experiences in Ho Chi Minh City have demonstrated that once superstitious activities have been spread widely, the elements engaged in superstitious practices to make a living have become experienced in dodging punitive blows by using a backward section of the masses as a smoke screen to hide their dishonest acts. This is the reason why it is difficult for us to detect superstitious activities and to nip them in the bud. Moreover, once these activities have been spread widely and have become a mass movement, they will likely induce a psychology under which one will be hesitant to take action for fear of wasting time and having to deal with the "masses."

Based on these actual facts and experiences, the question to be raised while taking action to abolish superstitious activities is to determine the exact

targets in order to formulate a suitable policy to deal with them. The targets involved in superstitious activities are of two categories or are comprised of two sections. One section is the backward elements among the masses. Another is a group of persons specializing in superstitious practices to earn their living or taking advantage of these activities to sabotage the revolution. Our attitude toward the latter group is firmly to punish, reform and educate them. In carrying out such measures, attention must be paid to the need to develop the effectiveness of the task of educating the backward section of the masses and to motivate the persons specializing in superstitious activities to atone for their mistakes by [on the part of the administration] revealing all their deceitful tricks to the people. With regard to the backward elements among the masses, it is necessary to educate and awake them patiently to enable them to see with their own eyes the deceitful tricks played by persons specializing in superstitious practices to make a living. On the other hand, it is necessary to help these elements of the masses stabilize their life and to attract them into mass organizations where they will receive education, acquaint themselves with the new lifestyle and culture and become resolved to unmask and detect persons who obdurately earn their living by superstitious practices.

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POPULATION CUSTOMS, AND CULTURE

BRIEFS

PEOPLE MOVED SOUTHWARD--In the first 6 months of this year, 459 families with a population of 2,572 (including 1,400 laborers) left Thai Binh Province for the new economic zones in Kien Giang, Dac Lac, Song Be and Thuan Hai Provinces. The new economic committee and other sectors in Thai Binh cooperated in providing favorable conditions such as capital [for these people]. Vu Thu, Thai Thuy and Quynh Phu Districts satisfactorily solved problems relating to policies toward the outgoing people. The administration at all levels and the local people at the reception areas--especially the rice growing state farms in northern Ha Tien and Kien Binh and state farm 333--mobilized their manpower to help the newcomers build dwelling and eating places, stabilize life and rapidly start production. [VNA] [Text] [Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 11 Aug 82 p 3] 9332

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