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Joint Venture Establishes New Company

42000067A Rangoon *THE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY* in English 31 Mar 90 pp 12, 4, 6

[Excerpts] Yangon, 30 March—The Information Committee of the State Law and Order Restoration Council held its 84th press conference with local and foreign journalists at the Guest Room of Defence at 1 pm today. [passage omitted]

At the Press conference, Managing Director of the Myanmar Heavy Industries of the Ministry of Industry 2 Col Than Shwe clarified matters concerning establishing of the Daewoo Electronic Myanmar Co Ltd under the joint venture of the Myanmar Heavy Industries and the Daewoo Company; Director-General of the Trade Department U Maung Maung Kyaw, the joint venture for hotel project by the Daewoo Corporation and the Myanmar Hotels and Tourism Services and the joint venture between the Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd and the Daewoo Company; and Deputy Director-General of the Budget Department of the Ministry of Planning & Finance U Kyaw Hlaing, the 1990 State Budget Law and the 1990-1991 Budget Estimate.

Managing Director of the Myanmar Heavy Industries of the Ministry of Industry 2 Col Than Shwe said, "The Myanmar Heavy Industries and Daewoo Electronic Company Ltd and Daewoo Corporation of the Republic of Korea signed an agreement at the Ministry of Industry I at 10 am on 29 March to establish Daewoo Electronic Myanmar Co Ltd as a joint venture to produce electronic and electrical goods. The joint venture project is to be implemented in two steps. The capital investments is four million U.S. dollars and the ownership ratio is Myanmar Heavy Industries 45 per cent (U.S. dollars 1.8 million) and Daewoo Group 55 per cent (U.S. dollars 2.2 million). As Step I, about 270 Myanmar workers and five ROK experts will work in co-operation in production of electronic and electrical goods. As Step I during 1990 Daewoo Electronic Myanmar Co Ltd will produce two types of 3,000 colour TV sets, two types of 67,000 black and white sets, 63,000 radio cassette tape recorders in two types, and 4,000 refrigerators. Later the yearly production will increase to 180,000 colour and black and white TV sets, 156,000 radio cassette tape recorders and 10,000 refrigerators. These goods will be distributed mainly for foreign market and they will also be distributed sufficiently in the country. As Step II, new factories will be built in Pyinmabin, Mingaladon Township, Yangon Division, depending on the success of the production work and demand from foreign and domestic markets. It has also been aimed at establishing an Industrial Complex. Under Step II, about 633 Myanmar workers and six ROK experts will be employed and it has been planned to produce 32,000 colour TV sets in two types, 168,000 black and white TV sets in two types, 156,000 sets of radio cassette tape recorders in three types and 29,000 refrigerators. After that, yearly production of colour and black and white TV sets will be 360,000 sets, radio cassette tape recorders 192,000 sets and 55,000 refrigerators."

In connection with building of a hotel under joint venture with Daewoo Corporation and the Myanmar Hotels and Tourism Services, Director-General of the Trade Department U Maung Maung Kyaw said, "Many persons from foreign countries have come to Myanmar Naing-Ngan to make investments under the open-door economic policy. Moreover, as 14-day visas have been granted to tourists instead of 7-day visas, more tourists are visiting Myanmar Naing-Ngan. But as there are only about 450 rooms at hotels in Yangon of the Myanmar Hotels and Tourism Services, it is found that rooms for tourists are insufficient. Hence, the Ministry of Trade is making arrangements for building new hotels in Yangon, Mandalay and Bagan. Furthermore, arrangements have also been made for renovation of the Inya Lake Hotel and the Strand Hotel in co-ordination with foreign economic enterprises. In this connection, Managing Director to the Myanmar Hotels and Tourism Services U Thawda Sein and Chairman of the Daewoo Corporation Mr Hong Soung-Bu, on 29 March 1990, signed a contract on constructing a hotel at Kyunthaya on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, Yangon, with cent per cent investment of the Daewoo Corporation. According to the contract, five-star hotel will be built on 45.5 acres of land at Kyunthaya at a cost of 60 million US dollars within four years. The hotel will house from 350 to 380 rooms. The Myanmar Hotels and Tourism Services will provide necessary assistance. Permission will be sought from Union of Myanmar Foreign Investment Commission. The Daewoo Corporation will draw a modern design of the hotel and will build it. [passage omitted]

In replying to a question asked by the ANTARA correspondent, the Information Committee said that in the first stage the Daewoo Electronic Myanmar Co Ltd would produce colour television sets beginning September 1990 and black and white television sets, radios and cassette tape recorders and refrigerators beginning November 1990.

In replying to a question concerning costs for manufacture of colour and black-and-white television sets asked by *THE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY*, the Information Committee said that costs for the manufacture of black-and-white television sets were three or four times less compared with costs for the manufacture of colour television sets. The Daewoo Electronic Myanmar Co Ltd would produce black and white television sets because the Daewoo Electronic Co Ltd already had markets for the black-and-white TV sets.

In reply to a question on designating the standard of hotels asked by *THE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY*, the Information Committee said that a five-star hotel was designated in consideration of facilities that had to be furnished at such hotels, of higher level of services, dining halls, opportunities for physical exercises and accommodation of conference halls.

In replying to a question asked by the KYODO correspondent, the Information Committee said that the high standard hotel to be constructed at Kyunthaya, Inya

Lake, Kaba Aye Pagoda Road in Yangon, would be completed within four years.

In replying to a question asked by the ASAHI SHIMBUN correspondent, the Information Committee said that an increase in the net deficit as shown in the 1989-90 revised estimate budget was to assist activities conducive to the accomplishment of the four main tasks being carried out by the State Law and Order Restoration Council. The Information Committee added that revenues collected during the past year met the target.

In replying to a question raised by the REUTER correspondent, the Information Committee said that the Myanma Heavy Industries would earn 47,736 dollars annually for the lease of three factories to the Daewoo Electronic Myanmar Co Ltd and there would be more earnings for the lease of land at Pynmabin in Mingaladon Township where new factories would be constructed.

In replying to a question asked by the UPI correspondent, the Information Committee said that the joint venture Myanmar-Daewoo International Ltd would produce 72,000 dozens of garments during the first year and 126,000 dozens each in the following years out of which 10 per cent would be put on sale in the country and the rest would be exported.

In replying to a question asked by the XINHUA correspondent, the Information Committee said that a total of 8,060 visitors came to Myanmar Naing-Ngan in 1989-90 and earnings amounted to K 32.5 million.

The press conference then ended at 2 pm.—MNA

Efforts Toward Unity, Solidarity Among Ethnic Groups

42000067B Rangoon THE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 30 Mar 90 p 1

[Text] Yangon, 29 March—"The State has formed the Manpower Resettlement and Utilization Board to fulfil the food, clothing and shelter needs of those who, realizing their past misdeeds, have returned to the legal

fold and those who deserted their native places for fear of the insurgents and to carry out rehabilitation activities."

"Such boards are to be formed at State/Division and Township levels where necessary with respective Law and Order Restoration Council chairmen and department heads concerned."

"While bringing about changes in political and economic systems, which is aspired by the entire mass of people, emphasis is being laid on effectuating the development of border areas and the national races. And these activities have helped bridge the economic and social development gap between the national races. Efforts are being made to institute unity and solidarity among the national races."

These are the remarks made by Minister for Livestock Breeding & Fisheries and for Agriculture & Forests Lt Gen Chit Swe in his capacity as the Chairman of the Manpower Resettlement and Utilization Board at the Board's first meeting held at the Myanmar Agriculture Service on Natmaok Road here this afternoon.

The meeting was attended by Vice-Chairman of the Board Chief of Staff (Army) SLORC Secretary (2) Maj-Gen Tin Oo, Secretary Myanma Farms Enterprise Managing Director Dr Myint Thein and members, department heads from the Government Office, the Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Home & Religious Affairs, Ministry of Social Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture & Forests, Ministry of Livestock Breeding & Fisheries, Ministry of Planning & Finance, the Auditor-General's Office, the Ministry of Trade, the Ministry of Cooperatives, the Ministry of Energy, the Ministry of Construction, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health concerned.

Maj-Gen Tin Oo also delivered a speech. Afterwards, Managing Director Dr Myint Thein submitted the work programme (draft) to the meeting, and those attending the meeting took part in the discussions and forwarded suggestions.

The meeting then ended with concluding speech by Minister Lt-Gen Chit Swe.—MNA

STATE OF CAMBODIA

Health Minister Visits France, Asks for Aid

42000075B Bangkok *THE NATION* in English
29 Apr 90 p 3

[Text] Paris—Cambodia desperately needs assistance to help battle malaria and train medical personnel and rural health care workers, Phnom Penh Health Minister Yit Kim Seng said here.

Dr Yit Kim Seng, who is here for a private visit, said in an interview with AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE on Friday that he had been in touch with non-governmental organizations in France such as the Pasteur Institute to try to obtain aid.

Yit Kim Seng, who has been health minister in his country's government since 1981, said Cambodia had only 18,000 hospital beds for a population of more than seven million.

He said the war-torn country was seriously lacking medicine, basic medical equipment and trained medical personnel.

Yit Kim Seng is in France to undergo medical treatment. He is scheduled to return in May for an operation on his eyes.—AFP

Rice Research Institute Operations, Plans Discussed

42000075A Bangkok *BANGKOK POST* in English
11 May 90 p 16

[Text] Extension workers in Cambodia will soon tell farmers about their allies in the ricefields—"friendly" insects, spiders and pathogens that reduce production costs by controlling major pests without insecticides.

A team from the International Rice Research Institute [IRRI] recently introduced basic principles of integrated pest management (IPM) in Cambodia. They were led by entomologist James Litsinger, training coordinator Herminia Rapusas and senior research assistant Jovito Bandong.

IPM is the use of the best mix of pest control tactics to maintain high yields and maximise farm profits with minimal use of ecologically disruptive pesticides. Its foundations are improved rice varieties that have built-in resistance to pests and diseases, and the diverse communities of predators, parasites and pathogens in ricefields that, if recognised and protected, will control most insect pests.

"Cambodian agriculture must start from scratch," says Dr Glen Denning, IRRI scientist and coordinator of the Australia-funded IRRI-Indochina Programme. "But this gives the country a chance to intensify rice production while avoiding mistakes such as improper and inefficient use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides."

The IRRI project in Cambodia is developing low-cost technologies to increase yields, improve soil fertility and sustain productivity.

"Most of the qualified agriculturists fled or perished during the Pol Pot regime," adds Dr Harry Nesbitt, agronomist and leader of the Phnom-Penh-based IRRI-Cambodia Project. "The IMP training was in response to requests from Cambodia's Minister of Agriculture."

The IRRI team gave two one-week training courses on survey techniques and basic IPM concepts at the Cambodia Plant Protection Station. The 60 participants are now training farmers in IPM. The team also surveyed rice pests and their natural enemies in representative rice-growing areas.

Five thousand copies of the Khmer edition of "Helpful Insects, Spiders, and Pathogens: Friends of the Rice Farmer" have been distributed. The booklet, available in 10 languages, has 166 colour plates and drawings to help rice growers recognise the "good guys" in their ricefields.

Problem

In 1987 and 1988, 26 Cambodian agricultural workers attended four-month rice production courses at the IRRI headquarters in Los Banos, the Philippines. The trainees spent about 60 percent of their time in lectures and the rest in the field, putting principles to work.

"The Cambodians were eager to learn but had a language problem, so instructions included a daily English course," recalls course coordinator Rodolfo Salcedo.

The trainees have assumed key positions in Cambodia's agricultural system, Dr Nesbitt says. "There is at least one former IRRI trainee in every place where the IRRI team works."

Cambodia exported rice until the late 1960s but has imported 50,000-100,000 tons annually for the past five years. Yields average 1.4 tons per hectare (6.25 rai), the lowest in Asia.

"Hundreds of Cambodia's indigenous rice varieties disappeared during the war," Dr Nesbitt says. "Fortunately, seeds of about 700 of these varieties were preserved in IRRI's rice germplasm bank. IRRI has sent 524 samples of these traditional rices back to Cambodia and is helping replant, test and multiply them."

IRRI and Cambodian scientists continue to select suitable varieties—both improved and traditional—for the country's rain-fed and irrigated low-land, deep-water and up-land rice ecosystems.

Cambodia planted 2.4 million hectares (15 million rai) to rice in the late 1960s. During the height of political disturbances in the 1970s, Cambodia's rice area dropped to half a million hectares. Land planted to rice has gradually increased to 1.8 million hectares (11.56 million rai) today.

"Another 600,000 hectares (3.75 million rai) lie idle because of the lack of draft animals and a depleted labour force," says Dr Prabhu Pingali, an IRRI economist. "Only 35 percent of Cambodia's 7.5 million people are between 16 and 60 years old. Mechanisation is out of the question because about 2,000 tractors would be required to bring each 100,000 hectares (625,000 rai) into production. Cambodia has only 1,200 tractors."

Dr Nesbitt says rebuilding the research infrastructure is more expensive than expected. "All scientific equipment

was destroyed in the war, along with buildings, fences, and irrigation system. Before the IRRI-Cambodia Project, only one or two rice research stations even had measuring tapes, balances, bags or marking pegs. None had fences to protect experiments from grazing animals."

Meanwhile, Cambodia is seeking about \$7 million (about 182 million baht) to build its own rice research and training institute patterned after IRRI.

Islamic Figures Support Suharto's Candidacy

90SE0034A Jakarta TEMPO in Indonesian 28 Apr 90 p 14

[Text] It looks as though the process of nominating a president in the General Session (SU) of the People's Consultative Council (MPR) three years from now is not going to be made a noisy one by an appeal for a unanimous determination or something of that sort. Golkar, as the largest social-political force, has stated its firm intention not to engineer as the nation approaches once again the selection of a president.

This assertion was made by the chairman of the Central Leadership Council (DPP) of Golkar, Jacob Tobing, in a meeting with reporters in his organization's office at Slipi, Jakarta, on Tuesday last week. "The Golkar DPP is not thinking about having a unanimous vote," Tobing said.

Then wasn't Golkar's statement that it would be nominating President Suharto again before the General Session of the 1988 MPR a case of engineering a unanimous vote? Apparently not. This was later made clear by Golkar General Chairman Wahono on the occasion of the breaking of the fast at the office of the Golkar DPP on 19 April.

In Wahono's view, a unanimous vote cannot be questioned if it really and truly arises and develops from below. "If it happens spontaneously, and no one has ordered his subordinates to see to it that it takes place, or arranged it, how can it be prevented?" Wahono asked.

Thus, the engineering of a new unanimous vote is not in accordance with Golkar policy, if it occurs because someone arranges for it to happen or orders it to happen. In looking ahead to the next General Session of the MPR, Wahono guarantees that Golkar is not going to try to mobilize a movement in support of a unanimous vote.

For the Indonesian Democratic Party (PDI), organizing support for a candidate is exactly what is needed. According to the general chairman of the PDI, Soerjadi, a candidate for a leadership position must seek support from the people who are going to be led by him, while those who are going to be led must try to find the best leader for them. "Support needs to be organized from both sides," he said. Which means that in such a situation there is "engineering." But it must be done in a democratic spirit. "If it is accompanied by manipulation and threats, then it is not what is called a unanimous vote," Soerjadi said.

It seems that, although the General Session of the MPR will not take place until 1993, voices supporting President Suharto have already been heard. In the middle of September, 1989, for example, the deputy chair of the parliamentary PDI, Ipi Asmasubrata, acting on her own account, openly requested President Suharto to be willing once again to be nominated as president in the General Session of the next MPR.

Actually, Ms. Asmasubrata was not alone. At the beginning of October of the same year, it was evident that a number of leading Islamic personalities and Islamic religious scholars had quietly done likewise: They had made a written declaration the contents of which were almost the same as Ms. Asmasubrata's request. Their document was signed by dozens of leading figures and religious scholars such as Hasan Basri, Prodjokusumo, and Ibrahim Hosein (Indonesian Council of Religious Scholars [MUI], Lukman Harun (Muhammadiyah), K.H. Masjkur, Anwar Nuris, Aminuddin Azis (Association of Muslim Scholars [NU]), former Minister-Coordinator of People's Welfare Alamsyah Ratuperwiranegara, a former high-ranking official of the Department of Religion, Anton Timur Djaelani, and many other leading figures from various Islamic organizations, such as Al Wasliyah and the Indonesian Chinese Islamic Union [PITI]. There are even those who said that Mohammad Natsir, Chairman of the Indonesian Council for Islamic Missionary Endeavor (DDII) and former principal figure in Masyumi, also joined in affixing his signature.

It is said that this declaration was the result of several meetings attended by the leading Islamic personalities at the home of K.H. Masjkur and at Ratuperwiranegara's office in Kemang, Jakarta. According to one of the signers, speaking to TEMPO, topics discussed at the meetings were the various measures taken, and successes achieved, by President Suharto in destroying the Indonesian Communist Party (PKI), leading the New Order government, building the implementation of the material and the spiritual development of the nation (which they judged to have succeeded), as well as the meritorious service rendered by the president, working through the Pancasila Muslims' Service Foundation, in building so many mosques. In view of all this, they requested that Suharto once again become President.

"The actual signing of the document was performed late in the day; as a result, there were leading figures not present who subsequently signed it," said our source.

But several of the individuals mentioned above denied that they had joined in signing the declaration, such as MUI Chairman Hasan Basri, the secretary of the MUI, Prodjokusumo, and the deputy general chairman of the NU, K.H. Ali Yafie. "I didn't know there were such meetings," said Hasan Basri. "The MUI was never invited to a meeting of that kind," Prodjokusumo said. "I too never attended those meetings, and I did not sign such a declaration," said Ali Yafie.

Anwar Haryono, one of the chairmen of the DDII, denied that Natsir had joined in the declaration. Anwar Haryono admitted that he himself had attended a meeting at the home of K.H. Masjkur several months ago. On that occasion, Ratuperwiranegara had taken the opportunity to comment on the success of national development in the hands of President Suharto. "But the declaration of support was simply not discussed," he said.

It is true that not all of the above-mentioned individuals took issue with the report that they had signed the declaration. "I certainly did join in signing it. It is inconceivable that I would have wanted to be left out—after all, this is in the same category with holy war," said K.H. Ibrahim Hosein, chairman of the MUI Council on Binding Religious Rulings. Furthermore, according to him, a number of MUI figures such as Hasan Basri and Prodjokusumo had signed the declaration beforehand. Another source mentioned that the signature of Hasan Basri was in the first line of signatures on the document.

Anwar Nuris, former Secretary-General of the NU Executive Board, also admitted signing the declaration. "The important thing is that President Suharto remains, so far, strong and healthy, and his ideas, that is, on the equitable distribution [of goods and resources], [big business] shares for cooperatives, and so on, are still fresh. So for me, the renomination of President Suharto poses no problem," Nuris said.

Nuris took issue with the notion that the declaration had been engineered. "A unanimous determination of this kind does not, after all, violate the regulations. We cannot be arrested because we state such an opinion, because there is a guarantee in the 1945 Constitution," he said. There is one limitation, according to Anwar Nuris: The declaration is not, of course, being circulated now, because it is intended for the General Session of the 1993 MPR.

Central Sulawesi Transmigration Plans Described

90SE0031B Jakarta PELITA in Indonesian
19 Apr 90 p 8

[Text] Transmigration is developing rapidly in Central Sulawesi. This is true not only of the agricultural models, but of new models as well. The new models include fishing, fish farming, industry, estates, and village development.

The estate model is now focused on a rubber PIRSUS [special smallholder nuclear estate] project at Beteleme, Poso Regency, and on an oil palm project at Bungku, also in Poso Regency. When these have become successful, similar projects will be developed elsewhere.

The industrial model is being initiated at Tondo, about seven kilometers north of Palu, where several small industrial units are being set up to produce ebony handicrafts. Artisans will be brought from Java.

Transmigrant communities for fish farming and fishing are planned for the eastern shore of the Donggala Regency. Planning was begun in 1982, when H.J.M. Kaleb was Donggala regent. Although the region is very suitable for fish farming, manpower is very limited. Investors are now ready to invest in fish farm development, but plans are still held up by the lack of skilled workers.

A.R. Biantoro, chief of the Central Sulawesi Regional Transmigration Office, told PELITA that the village development model should also be implemented. There are many villages in Central Sulawesi with potential, he said, but the human resources are lacking. If these villages acquire skilled manpower for their development, self-sufficiency will definitely not be difficult.

For 1990-91, there are plans for placing 4,000 transmigrant families in villages with potential scattered over four regencies of the province. The transmigrants are expected to join with local residents in building up their villages.

Biantoro said the development system calls for the cooperation of transmigrants with local residents. This system is not very difficult, he said, because no new land needs to be cleared. The transmigrants will work with village residents on land that has already been prepared.

Of the 1,300 villages in Central Sulawesi, only about 50 percent have more than 1,000 families. In fact, there are villages with only 50 to 100 families, despite their great potential. Villages like these need to be developed, Biantoro said optimistically.

Very Bright

The prospects for transmigration are very bright in Central Sulawesi. Several UPT's [transmigration settlement units], like the one at Toili, are flourishing. At a glance, the transmigration settlement at Toili, Banggai Regency, looks like a new, rapidly growing city. This settlement does not give the impression that it is stagnant and discouraging because of infertile soil, as some people have believed. It is now an ideal, flourishing settlement.

Officials who visit the site, as Minister of Transmigration Sugiarto did in 1989, praise it as an ideal, strategically located settlement.

They say the transmigrant settlement is very large and flat and strategically situated. Stretching along the shore, its land is fertile and good for food crops.

Professor Drs Harun Zain, former minister of manpower and transmigration, said when he visited the area in 1981 that because the region is flat, broad, and fertile, it was the best settlement area in Indonesia at that time.

The same can be said of Parigi Selatan, Donggala Regency, where a spontaneous transmigrant settlement, populated mainly by people from Bali, is called the biggest rice barn in Central Sulawesi. This is despite the fact that the area was still forest before transmigrants arrived. Now, because of the size of its food crops, the insect infestation it is suffering will affect food procurement by Central Sulawesi DOLOG [Logistics Depot].

From January to March 1990, for example, Central Sulawesi DOLOG's rice procurement was only 550 tons, whereas procurement reached 3,000 tons in the same

period last year. The decline was caused by borer infestation of 3,500 hectares of paddy fields at the end of 1989. The infestation reduced production from three tons per hectare to one ton per hectare.

Connecting Roads

PELITA observed that there are still several UPT's that are having problems selling their farm products because of distant markets and inadequate transportation facilities.

One often meets transmigrant farmers who complain about difficulties in marketing their abundant harvests. A.R. Biantoro acknowledged the problem.

He said he is trying to assure that the conditions of roads to some of the settlements are kept under control. This naturally requires much money and regular cooperation with the authorities involved.

Muslim Population Declining

*90SE0031C Jakarta PELITA in Indonesian
19 Apr 90 p 2*

[Text] Tangerang, PELITA—The number of Muslims in Indonesia appears to be on the decline, while non-Islamic religions are racing ahead. This situation is a result of the lack of unity in the Islamic community. "We used to boast that the Islamic community made up 90 percent of Indonesia's population, but, regrettably, the percentage has now fallen to 88.4 percent, renowned lecturer KH [Muslim Scholar and Pilgrim] Zainuddin M.Z. said Monday night [16 April] at the Al-Itihad

Great Mosque in Tangerang in a ceremony simultaneously commemorating the Descent of the Koran and the 20th anniversary of Pos Kota.

Islam cannot disappear from the world as long as its people adhere to the Koran, for the Koran never changes and is applicable to every age. Nevertheless, Zainuddin said, the Koran does not guarantee that Islam will always exist in West Java if the people of Tangerang do not fight for Islam. In this high-technology era, we are in a religious race. "Judaism is racing ahead, as are other non-Islamic religions. They are trying to see to it that there is no unity among Islamic communities," Zainuddin declared.

Zainuddin therefore called on the approximately 10,000 worshipers to do good deeds, consistent with the teachings of the Koran. The Koran is the guide we must follow. When we do so, solidarity will automatically result. "When the Islamic community possesses solidarity, anything it attempts will be easily realized," Zainuddin emphasized.

Zainuddin regretted that many Muslim parents are sending their children to schools that clearly do not reflect Islamic values. If parents do not care about religious education, the Islamic community will have a different character in 20 or 30 years. It is these young people who will replace the older generation. Zainuddin said the challenges will be great and will be in the hands of the young people.

Therefore, Zainuddin continued, we should instill delight in reading the Koran, so that our homes will be illuminated by the reading of it. We should also assure that its contents are understood. In this way, the Islamic community will move ahead.

Saravane Official Comments on U.S. Chemical Warfare, Roads

90SE0040D Vientiane PASASON in Lao 7 Apr 90 p 3

[Excerpts] Many of the people traveling together thought that they would leave Saravane District early because the road to Sanouai District was difficult and long. [passage omitted]

After we had passed Ta-oi District on the way to Sanouai District, I thought that travel was difficult because of the poor condition of the road. [passage omitted]

When I did not arrive on time, many people said: "Whoever goes to Sanouai District does not want to return, and whoever returns from there does not want to go back." The reason for this saying was that the road was so difficult. One reason for the difficulty was that this road, which was built with the help of the 59th Battalion under Vietnamese central authority in 1964, has been just a path since the war against the American imperialists. Both sides of the road were lined with the destruction and craters left by the American bombs. Along any 100 meter stretch one could see the bodies of old, abandoned vehicles by the side of the road. And it was difficult to find any large trees in this area. In any direction one looked there was nothing but low weeds and grass. The large trees were cut off and killed by the explosions and the chemical poisons. Mr. Tiangthong of the party committee of Sanouai District told me that before the war this area was dense forest crowded with animals including many elephants and tigers. The people came to fields here until the destruction of the war left just red earth and barren hills without trees or grass. After the war the forest here sprouted and turned green again as our nation was liberated. [passage omitted]

In 1990 Mr. Tiangthong will be happy to escort province officials here who have invested 240 million kip to build the road from Saravane District to Sanouai District. Mr. Seksavan, the head of the Saravane Province construction machinery enterprise, said that: "we will build a road from Sanouai District to Saravane District which can be used in both the dry season and the rainy season in 1990."

French-British Consortium in Oil Exploration

90SE0040B Vientiane PASASON in Lao 2 Apr 90 p 1

[Text] The initial stage of the oil exploration in central Laos, the surveying and data collection, was completed in mid March. European oil companies from France and England joined together to invest in the exploration and exploitation after an agreement was reached with the Lao government in September 1989 which "approved giving the companies mentioned the right to explore for and exploit oil wells in this area."

There was a report from the experts involved that the exploration was expected to be completed within the specified time of five years. The budget for the exploration was \$16 million.

The second stage of the exploration is to begin in October 1990 and will last about six months. It will take place in three provinces: Savannakhet Province, Khammouan Province, and part of Saravane Province.

Details of PRC Aircraft Buy, Operating Losses

90SE0040E Vientiane PASASON in Lao 6 Apr 90 p 2

[Excerpt] As many people already know, on 25 February Lao Airways held a ceremony to receive the first Y-12 aircraft from the PRC under a purchase agreement with the Catic (CATIC) enterprise. In the middle of April the second such aircraft will arrive at Vientiane airport. Lao Airways signed an agreement to purchase two Y-12 aircraft for a total cost of \$3,900,000 including the cost of training the pilots and eight mechanics.

On 23 March the Y-12, which is a small 17 seat aircraft but with complete services meeting international standards, began its flights. It began with flights to the North from Vientiane to Xieng Khouang and from Vientiane to Sayaboury. There was still a problem with the flight from Vientiane to Sam Neua because the airfield there was not in good condition. Province officials were working on this and would have to make repairs before flights began. As for Oudomsai and Louang Namtha the technical committee of Lao Airways was inspecting there, and it was thought that flights would begin soon. Lao Airways will also expand the Y-12 flights to include the central and southern provinces, for instance, Khammouan, Lak 20, Saravane, Attopeu, and Khong District. The Y-12 aircraft will take the place of the Mi 8 aircraft, which will be used for special charters. This was because the Y-12 were more economical than the Mi 8. But the Mi 8 had a special capability in that it could land in any valley.

Mr. Ounheuan Satlitthian, the director of Lao Airways, repeated that "the problem causing concern for Lao Airways is the fare price because at present we are still using the old price [based on an exchange rate of] \$1 for 400 kip." This meant that domestic flights lost money. [passage omitted]

Swedish Aid, Route 13 Paving Progress

90P30021D Vientiane PASASON in Lao 31 Mar 90 pp 1,4

[Excerpts] (KPL) It is expected that the last segment of Route 13 South between Nam Ngum and Tha Bok in Tha Phabat District in Bolikhamxai Province, which is part of the Route 13 South Construction Project, will be paved by the end of 1990.

The chief of the Route 13 South Construction Company Ounheuan Vilaiphon reported that this phase of the project has been in operation since mid-1987. The 93 km stretch between Vientiane and Tha Bok is being built with assistance worth 9.4 million U.S. dollars from SIDA in Sweden. Funds above that amount have been furnished from the national budget. [passage omitted]

Work is progressing to pave the road up to Km 72, with a red laterite road bed being built as far as Km 75 and the roadway being cut up to Km 80. There are only 30 kms left of the final segment to build in 1990. [passage omitted]

Australian-Aided Northern Port Construction Projects

90P0021E Vientiane PASASON in Lao 31 Mar 90 p 1

[Text] (KPL) The construction of the Pakbeng Port in Oudomxai Province was completed at the end of February after having been under construction since the beginning of October 1989. The Australian government provided funding through the interim international Mekong organization.

This is a permanent port, built with a 20-centimeter thick steel-reinforced concrete pier that is seven meters wide and 222 meters long.

Comrade Chanthaphon Phanvisouk, the chief of the Mekong River Port Construction project of the Ministry of Transport, Posts, and Construction reported that construction has been completed, along with the construction of warehouses and a crane system at the Tha Deua-Pak Khon (Xaignabouli Province) Port and at the Tha Louang (Luang Prabang Province) Port. Construction began in 1986 with gratis aid also provided by the Australian government.

SRV Border Formalities in Savannakhet Described

90P30021A Vientiane PASASON in Lao 21 Mar 90 p 3

[Excerpts] Along the Lao-Vietnamese border between the provinces of Savannakhet and Quang Nam-Danang, SRV, previously there had been no village, only a small creek known as "Houai Sa-eut" which was its name in the Lao Theung language spoken by the people in the area. But now that area has become a populated area with a market which sells all sorts of goods. Most of the goods come from Thailand, Laos, and Vietnam. [passage omitted]

The market operates mostly in the morning. The buyers and sellers are just about evenly divided between Lao and Vietnamese. It is very easy for Vietnamese to come to the market; they just pay a border crossing fee of 200 kip and they can just cross over with their goods. Most of the border crossers from Vietnam sell poultry, eggs, meat, noodles, Vietnamese food, bread, and household goods. Most of their purchases are rubber thong sandals, bath soap, and other industrial products.

The Lao traders flock to the bus station where they travel from the border to Savannakhet town every day loaded with poultry, marine products, mats and other goods produced in Vietnam. This has become commonplace for the traders in various towns along Route 9. [passage omitted]

When one visits this border market, what catches the eye is that buying and selling takes place in kip and Vietnamese dong at the same time. The market has become a currency exchange for travelers to Vietnam where dealers operate openly at a rate of 1 kip to 6 dong or 1,000 kip to 6,000 dong,

One might ask, who sets the exchange rate? The answer is: nobody; the actual sales determine it.

Looking at their whole operation, it is likely that no one has read Party resolutions or State policies regarding rationalization of market prices. In actuality, they are able to make daily calculations based on sales of goods and the value of and demand for kip or SRV dong along the border.

When one has had enough of this border market, one can board a vehicle heading for the police post to get a travel permit. This is easily obtained by showing one's documents and paying a fee of approximately 300 kip per person. Then it's on your way until you get to the SRV police and customs post. Then things got complicated because both of the cargo trucks we were on were carrying goods not listed in the annual goods transport plan, but rather carried goods left over from the 1988 quotas. Thus, the SRV customs considered them to be smuggled goods. They deemed it necessary for customs cadres to track us to the provincial customs office, who in turn followed us through to Danang and back. [passage omitted]

Lao Airways Routes, Agents, Profits

90SE0040C Vientiane PASASON in Lao 10 Apr 90 pp 2, 3

[Excerpts] At present Lao Airways has more flights abroad than in the past. It has flights from Vientiane to Phnom Penh and from Vientiane to Ho Chi Minh City. The one flight per week from Vientiane to Phnom Penh will be increased to two: on Wednesday and Friday. The flights from Vientiane to Bangkok will depend on how crowded they become. It was felt that they could arrange one more flight. The flight from Vientiane to Ho Chi Minh City was still not definite because there were only six to seven passengers per flight; there may be many reasons for this - one was that a visa was required to enter Laos, which was a minor problem for the passengers. In just the first two months of 1990 there were about 4,275 passengers from abroad who used Lao Airways to enter or leave the country.

Lao Airways has representatives to sell tickets and transport goods (parcels) in many locations abroad, for instance, there are five locations in Bangkok, there is one in Phnom Penh, there is one in Ho Chi Minh City, there are two in Hanoi, and there is one in France, one in Japan and one in West Germany. In addition there are many countries which have expressed an interest and are in communication concerning having representatives of Lao Airways. [passage omitted]

Mr. Khemphon Phachanthavong, the head of planning and finance, said that "...the profits achieved from these foreign flights are used to cover the costs of domestic flights; domestic flights are still subsidized—the price is calculated at .06 [cents] per km while the price of international flights is calculated at .40 [cents] per km."

If the subsidies of domestic flights became unnecessary, it was felt that Lao Airways would achieve a good income and sufficient profits to be able to accumulate the funds to improve and expand the airline. If this were not done, debts would accumulate, and there would definitely be problems.

Export-Import Firm Indebtedness, Trade Volume

90P30021C Vientiane PASASON in Lao 30 Mar 90 p 1

[Text] Export-Import Corporation Director Kakkeo informed us that since 1986, the corporation has a domestic and foreign debt of 6 billion kip because goods have been brought in without the funds to pay for them. The goods sit in the warehouses and the external bills are not paid to the corporation. There is also a 4 billion kip accounts payable debt due. In 1990, approximately 40-50 percent of the debt will be paid.

From the beginning of the year to date, goods have been exported to the following socialist countries: the USSR, Vietnam, Poland, and Czechoslovakia. The goods shipped include coffee, plywood, parquet, and other goods worth 2,169,845 rubles.

The primary imports from the socialist countries—the USSR and Vietnam—have been textiles, cotton thread, and consumer goods worth 1,674,431 rubles.

The imported goods from capitalist countries are worth about 92,000 dollars, most of which come from Thailand.

Since 22 Feb 1990, the corporation has been able to pay only slightly more than 2 million kip of its 1989 bills. In 1990, plans call for it to turn over to the national budget 1.4 billion kip.

Security Problems in Luang Prabang

90SE0040A Vientiane PASASON in Lao 3 Apr 90 p 3

[Excerpts] As we already know, Xieng Ngeun District of Luang Prabang Province borders Vientiane Province, Xieng Khouang Province [passage omitted]. Their settlements are isolated and distant, which makes travel difficult and provides an opportunity for a number of bad groups to cause disturbances disrupting the peace of the multi-ethnic people in the villages of Phou Khoun Canton, Tha Bo Keo Canton, Na Nan Canton and places along the border with Vientiane Province and Xieng Khouang Province. [passage omitted]

In 1989 [passage omitted] 109 members of the multi-ethnic LPRYU [Lao People's Revolutionary Youth

Union] volunteered as a group to fulfill their military duty. They coordinated closely with guerrilla forces and conducted 180 short-range and long-range patrols in their area of responsibility. They were able to successfully restrict the operations of the bad groups. At the same time that they were building these national defense forces, the public security forces of Xieng Ngeun District coordinated with the provincial public security forces to carry out their duties successfully in many areas, for example: they conducted censuses in two cantons far from the district seat, namely, in Tha Bo Keo Canton and in Na Nan Canton, and they verified that censuses taken in five cantons were done correctly according to census policies. [passage omitted]

Vientiane Coal Mining Operations, World Bank Loan

90P30021B Vientiane PASASON in Lao 22 Mar 90 p 2

[Excerpts] Coal mining in Ban Bo Chan, Hin Heup Canton, Feuang District, Vientiane Province formally began a year ago, but is not yet really widespread. [passage omitted]

In 1989, the volume mined was approximately 1,800 tons. Because the equipment is very old and the amount of inputs very high, the mining company lost 3 million kip. Many of its customers declined to pay their bills. This included the Vientiane Capital Brick Works which owed 10 million kip. The company's director said good-naturedly that "We are not going to sell any more to parties in arrears. In 1990, we will mine 3,500 tons and move up to a production of 15,000 tons per year. Most of that will be sent overseas where markets are guaranteed and will expand".

At this time, the company has borrowed 500,000 dollars from the World Bank and has purchased the necessary equipment. The Australian government has providing assistance funds amounting to 300,000 dollars to conduct further surveys.

The Feuang District mine has been surveyed with the cooperation and assistance from the Soviet government. An area of 1 square km to a depth of 100 meters has been surveyed and contains about 4 million tons of coal, 80 percent of which is high quality. The veins of coal range from a depth of only 3 meters down to 200 meters.

Last year, a kilogram of coal cost 22 kip [to mine], but this year the director says that "it has dropped to 17 kip because production costs have dropped due to improvements in organization and work methods. Waste due to machinery breakdowns is slight." [passage omitted]

Provincial Airports Repaired, Now in Service

BK0305102690 Vientiane KPL in English 0903 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] Vientiane, May 3 (KPL)—The airport in the southern Attopeu Province has recently been restored by

the provincial road and bridge, transport, and construction company at a cost of almost one million kip.

The work included the maintenance of the apron, drainage, runway, and others.

On the other hand, the general public in the provincial town and Sai district of the northern Oudomsai Province

have since April led efforts to rehabilitate their local airport. It has been left ruined for years.

After more than 10 days of labour, the airport has been opened to the landing of light planes.

It is anticipated that the flight between Vientiane and Oudomsai will resume soon.

Air Force To Buy Italian Helicopters

90SE0043D Kuala Lumpur BERITA HARIAN
in Malay 8 May 90 p 6

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Monday [6 May]—The government is buying four of the most modern helicopters from Italy in order better to meet the needs of the Royal Malaysian Air Force (TUDM), according to TUDM Commander Lieutenant General Mohamad Yunus Mohamad Tasi.

He said the manufacturer, Augusta, promises to deliver all four of the helicopters no later than the end of July.

“The Treasury and the Ministry of Defense are now arranging the payment process,” he told reporters at a promotion ceremony here today.

He declined to specify the total cost of the helicopters, however.

Yesterday, Deputy Prime Minister Ghafar Baba said Malaysia is planning to buy two Italian helicopters.

Lt. Gen. Mohamad Yunus said the purchase of these most modern helicopters will enhance the capability and speed of TUDM transport operations.

“These helicopters will replace the old Nuri and Caribou aircraft,” he said.

The use of the four helicopters will be more focused on transporting prominent people and senior TUDM officers, however.

“They may still be used to transport civilians and TUDM employees in emergency cases, as is done now with the Nuri helicopters,” he said.

It has been learned that the helicopters are of A109C and AS61N types and cost 20 million ringgit each. They have the most modern equipment, including night flight capabilities.

Earlier, Lt Gen Mohamad Yunus awarded a decoration to Deputy Air Force Commander Major General Ahmad Merican S.T. Merican.

Maj. Gen. Ahmad Merican held the position for three months before his assignment was confirmed.

Taiwan Expands Investments

90SE0032C Kuala Lumpur BERITA HARIAN
in Malay 2 May 90 p 14

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, 1 May—Minister of Trade and Industry Datuk Sri Rafidah Aziz said that during the 1st quarter of this year Malaysia received 78 applications from Taiwan for investments worth more than 1 billion ringgit.

She said that this is an increase of about 26 percent in the number of Taiwan investments over the 1st quarter of last year and that she is confident the increases will continue.

She said the number and value of these investments, which exceed the number and value of Japanese investments, are the greatest Malaysia has ever received during this period.

“When Taiwan began to invest here in 1987, it submitted only 37 applications.

“Now, however, there are more than 100 a year. During the 1st quarter of this year, we received from them 78 applications worth more than 1 billion ringgit,” she said today at the Mimaland Playground at a holiday celebration for underprivileged children.

Datuk Sri Rafidah stated that last year Japan was the largest investor in Malaysia, followed by Taiwan. In number of investments, however, Taiwan led Japan.

Most Taiwan investments are focused on the manufacturing sector, particularly electronic and electrical items, textiles, clothing, and chemicals. The steel mill planned by the China Steel Corporation will be the largest Taiwan investment in the country.

She said efforts to further expand Malaysia-Taiwan economic relations and cooperation were discussed here last night with her counterpart, Taiwan Economic Minister Cheng Lee An.

She is pleased that the Taiwan Government and members of the industrial community propose to increase foreign investment, especially in Malaysia. They feel that this country is a suitable place for their investments.

The minister of trade and industry gave assurances that her ministry will always be prepared to offer any help needed by Taiwan businessmen who want to invest here.

When asked whether foreign investments here will score a new record in 1990, Datuk Sri Rafidah said she was confident that the level of investment will equal that of 1989.

“The level of foreign investment in the 1st quarter of this year was better than in the 1st quarter of last year,” she added.

Speaking about her meeting with the Taiwan economic minister, she announced that Taiwan has promised to open its automobile markets to the Proton Saga at the end of next year.

She added that Taiwan is also studying Malaysia's request that quotas be enlarged for Malaysian products, such as coconuts.

Datuk Sri Rafidah suggested that the Malaysian minister of agriculture hold talks on the matter with his counterpart in Taiwan.

She added that Malaysia is now exporting only 45 metric tons of coconuts to Taiwan, whereas the Philippines and Indonesia export 45,000 and 25,000 metric tons, respectively.

Lee Kuan Yew Urges Better Relations With Singapore

*90SE0032B Kuala Lumpur UTUSAN MALAYSIA
in Malay 1 May 90 p 1*

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, 30 Apr—Singapore Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew today called on Malaysia to take steps to strengthen ties between the two countries on the basis of mutual trust.

At the same time, he again denied reports that Singapore is trying to sabotage the "Visit Malaysia Year" program.

Speaking today at a press conference at Seri Negara Carcosa after a meeting with Prime minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, Lee declared that Malaysia and Singapore should practice a policy of openness in order to eliminate any suspicions that may arise between the two countries.

"Let us both be open to inspection. Singapore has two air bases, and Malaysia also has two air bases.

"Let us look at them together," he urged.

The Singapore prime minister said this when he was asked about the spy case involving two Singaporeans.

Lee said he told the Malaysian prime minister that what is needed now is action toward strengthening mutual trust and building confidence.

The United States and the Soviet Union, for example, did not trust each other but found there was no benefit in their maintaining such attitudes. They agreed to cooperate in establishing a working relationship.

"No one here believes that Singapore and Malaysia will attack each other.

"Therefore, let us look at the capabilities we have so that we can maintain equivalent capabilities at all levels.

"No one knows what form Southeast Asia will take 10 years from now, or even seven years from now," he asserted.

When asked about the reaction of Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir to his recommendation, Lee said the Malaysian prime minister did not indicate any hesitation.

"I feel it will be better if you submit that question to him, however.

"I believe we, particularly the press, should not take unwise positions. The United States and the Soviet Union themselves have agreed to establish a working relationship.

"Let us not always be chasing and treading on each other. We are not big countries, like some others in the world," the Singapore prime minister said.

As for the spying operations of intelligence agencies, he said they are routine and exist among all countries. Even Singapore once arrested one or two Malaysian spies.

The Singapore prime minister said the report that his country was trying to sabotage "Visit Malaysia Year 1990" was absolutely untrue.

"It is not in our interests to do anything to sabotage the program.

"We are not crazy or stupid. Why would we want to do that?"

Lee also noted that one good thing he has found in his efforts to strengthen ties with Malaysia has been the personal attitude of Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir, whom Lee considers rational, open to differences of opinion, and aware of Singapore's valid interests.

He said Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir is able to be firm in defending Malaysian interests in discussions.

"He is a person who is firm in negotiating but always does whatever he promises."

Armed Forces To Increase Cooperation With Fiji

*90SE0043A Kuala Lumpur BERITA HARIAN
in Malay 14 May 90 p 5*

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, 14 May—Malaysia has agreed to increase its military technical aid to Fiji in the framework of bilateral relations, according to Minister of Defense Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen.

For this purpose, he said, the two countries will confer and will identify aspects that can be added to the technical aid program.

Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen said he conveyed this to Major General Sitiveni Rabuka, Fiji Armed Forces commander, in their meeting at the Ministry of Defense this morning.

He said that so far the Ministry of Defense provides for one Fijian military officer to attend the Malaysian Armed Forces Staff School (MTAT) on Padang Tembak Road every year.

"That number may be increased, or we may seek other aspects. We can talk about this together," he said.

He said that in the meeting Maj. Gen. Rabuka also expressed his opinion that, for their mutual benefit, cooperation between Malaysia and Fiji should be intensified.

Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen said that he and Maj. Gen. Rabuka exchanged views on regional security, including the issue of U.S. forces in the Asia-Pacific area.

Maj. Gen. Rabuka, who has been much talked about since launching a coup d'etat in Fiji in 1987, visited the Ministry of Defense during a 5-day visit to this country that began last Friday [10 May].

Maj. Gen. Rabuka first inspected a 107-man honor guard from the First Royal Malay Army Battalion (RAMD).

He was welcomed by Armed Forces Commander General Tan Sri Hashim Mohd. Ali, and the two of them talked for half an hour.

Maj. Gen. Rabuka's delegation then visited the MTAT, which is near the Ministry of Defense Building, and talked with senior officers of the school.

Mahathir Says PAS Gives Islam Second Place

90SE0032A Kuala Lumpur UTUSAN MALAYSIA in Malay 25 Apr 90 p 2

[Text] Kuantan, 24 Apr—Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad feels that the call by PAS [Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party] leaders for Muslims to cancel pilgrimage plans and prepare for the elections is a clear proof that PAS puts the party above religion.

"We are not surprised at the statement of the PAS leaders, for it has been the PAS policy to give more importance to the party than to making the pilgrimage required by Islam," he declared.

Speaking to reporters tonight following a breaking of the fast at the chief minister's residence, the prime minister said people should pay no attention to efforts that are contrary to Islam.

Haji Subky Latif, PAS chief of information, recently asked all people planning the pilgrimage to cancel their plans in order to participate in the elections, which are expected to be held in June, the pilgrimage month.

Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir said UMNO [United Malays National Organization] has long been aware of PAS methods, which are contrary to Islam, and is not surprised that PAS puts the elections above Islam by making this statement.

"There may be people for whom this will be the last opportunity to make the pilgrimage, but for the party's sake PAS asks them to cancel their plans," he said.

In reply to a question, Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir said PAS should not think that only its supporters make the pilgrimage.

"When I went I was in UMNO, not in PAS," he said.

He said he knows the type of candidates he wants in the next elections but has not selected the people yet. He said they should be people who can serve the country and the party and who are experienced, popular, and respected.

PAS Willing To Face Elections Alone

90SE0043B Kuala Lumpur BERITA HARIAN in Malay 13 May 90 p 1

[Text] Kuala Terengganu—Haji Abdul Hadi Awang, deputy president of PAS [Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party], said PAS is willing to stand alone in the next elections rather than with a party that opposes creation of an Islamic state.

Therefore, he said, PAS will terminate its cooperation with all parties in the Islamic Unity Movement (APU) if their leaders reject the aspirations of PAS to form an Islamic state.

Haji Abdul Hadi said PAS will not work with DAP [Democratic Action Party] in the elections, since DAP's leaders clearly reject the Islamic state concept.

"PAS is firm in its struggle to form an Islamic state. PAS therefore refuses to cooperate with DAP and other parties if they are not willing to accept this concept," he told about 8,000 PAS members at Kampung Batu Enam last night.

Deputy DAP Chairman Karpal Singh recently said his party wants PAS to drop its desire for an Islamic state if it wishes to have DAP's cooperation.

DAP is willing to work together to take over the government if PAS will promise not to make this country an Islamic state, he said.

Haji Ahmad Sabu, deputy president of PAS Youth, called Karpal Singh's statement "impertinent."

He said the DAP leader had no right to interfere with PAS, since he is not a PAS member.

Meanwhile, at Pulau Pinang, Karpal advised PAS to "cool" its desire to form an Islamic state. It should rather take the opportunity to challenge the National Front in the next elections.

He said any step toward making Malaysia an Islamic state would violate the Federal Constitution.

"The Federal Constitution is the highest law of our land. DAP will work only for what is permitted by the Constitution, namely a secular state," he said in a press statement here yesterday.

Karpal said DAP greatly deplores PAS President Haji Fadzil Nor's statement reiterating the party's intention to keep fighting for the creation of an Islamic state.

"He said I don't understand their concept, but PAS should be realistic and realize that their desire violates the Federal Constitution," Karpal said.

DAP, Spirit of '46 Meet

*90SE0033C Kuala Lumpur UTUSAN MALAYSIA
in Malay 3 May 90 p 1*

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, 2 May—Leaders of DAP [Democratic Action Party] and the Spirit of '46 met today to expand their understanding on various issues related to the upcoming general elections.

The meeting was held here at the home of Spirit of '46 President Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah.

The Spirit of '46 delegation was led by Tengku Razaleigh, while the DAP group was headed by the party's secretary-general, Lim Kit Siang.

Other DAP members who attended the meeting were Chairman Dr. Chen Man Him, Deputy Secretary-General Lee Lam Thye, Vice President Ahmad Nor, and Ipoh member of Parliament P. Patto.

When asked about the meeting, Lim said they had discussed a number of issues related to the elections, such as a manifesto, seat allocations, and organization of a second series of speeches.

He said the two parties will meet again soon to discuss other election-related matters.

He spoke to reporters after a press conference called in response to DAP member Yusop Mohamad Yusop's disclosure today that PAS [Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party] and DAP had planned a secret meeting.

Yusop made the disclosure at Gerakan headquarters, and Lim responded by holding a press conference at Tengku Razaleigh's home several hours later.

Government To Hold Inflation to Five Percent

*90SE0042A Kuala Lumpur UTUSAN MALAYSIA
in Malay 14 May 90 p 1*

[Text] Kuantan, 13 May—Deputy Prime Minister Ghafar Baba said the government promises to hold inflation to no more than five percent per year over the five years following the next general elections.

He said the country's inflation rate will be held to five percent annually, compared to the current two to three percent per month.

"We are determined to control inflation so that it will not exceed five percent per year after the next general elections," he said here today as he opened a 44th UMNO [United Malays National Organization] anniversary celebration, sponsored by the Kuantan UMNO Division.

Ghafar, who is also deputy UMNO president, said the desire to control the country's inflation rate will be realized only if the people ensure a BN [National Front] victory in the rapidly approaching elections.

He also said that in the next 5-year election period the government intends to lower the poverty rate to 15 percent, having thus far reduced it from 49 percent to 29 percent.

During the same period of time, he said, the number of people enjoying electricity and water supplies will be increased.

"The government will try to raise the percentage of people being supplied with electricity from 90 percent to 95 or 98 percent and those with clean water supplies from 70 percent to 87 or 90 percent," he said.

He said the government is also planning to send some of the nation's young people to Taiwan to learn skills needed in the wood furniture industry.

This objective of this plan is to make the revenues of the national wood products industry four times greater than the present income from sales of sawn logs.

The deputy prime minister said the desires of the people will be realized when such revenues create a good national economic situation.

He emphasized that the aspirations of the people for enjoying comfortable lives during the next five years will be fulfilled only if in the next elections the BN is given a mandate to govern again.

"That will be only way we can have future progress. In other words, we must defeat the opposition in the elections," he said.

New Party Will Support National Front

*90SE0042B Kuala Lumpur UTUSAN MALAYSIA
in Malay 12 May 90 p 2*

[Text] Johor Baharu, 11 May—Another new party supporting the National Front [BN] is said to be in the process of formation and will be registered before the next general elections. The new party is being established by several FELDA [Federal Land Development Authority] settlers.

The party, known as the Farmer Awareness Movement (API), is said to have emerged in FELDA's Taib Andak Branch area.

A party founding committee was set up at the first meeting, which was held near Mersing in April.

UTUSAN was informed that a local attorney was appointed to draft the party's bylaws. He will register the party by the end of this month or by the time of the elections.

When Aziz Salleh, a member of the party's founding committee, disclosed this to UTUSAN today, he said the party will be expanded throughout the country when its registration is approved. He said that all FELDA settlers and members of the farm community, regardless of race, may join.

He said the API will ask to become a National Front associate when the registration is approved.

Aziz said the party's creation was not masterminded by any political leader but was inspired by a group of FELDA Settlers Association members in the state.

He said the party is not being formed to oppose the BN government but, on the contrary, will support the BN in facing all problems as the elections approach.

He said the party was formed also because its members want to protect farmers and settlers from always being exploited by politicians who seek only their own political interests.

The API was created also because farmers and settlers are weary of the attitudes of some party leaders who know only how to advise the people to unite, while they themselves do not exhibit such a spirit. On the contrary, they constantly fight among themselves.

Tornado Fighter Purchase Uncertain

*90SE0033A Kuala Lumpur UTUSAN MALAYSIA
in Malay 1 May 90 p 1*

[Text] Malacca, 29 Apr—The government has not yet decided whether to buy the Tornado fighter from Britain, Deputy Prime Minister Ghafar Baba said today.

Following his visit to an open house held at nearby Jasin by State Government executive council member Haji Jaafar Lajis, Ghafar told reporters that the Tornado purchase was merely a proposal and that the government may not buy it because of its price and sophistication.

The deputy prime minister declined to give more details, however.

In September 1988, the governments of Malaysia and Britain signed a memorandum of understanding on purchases of defense equipment, including the Tornado fighter, for the Malaysian Armed Forces (ATM). The proposed purchases were valued at 4.4 billion ringgit.

Ghafar said the opposition parties have spread slanderous stories charging that he and Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad received commissions from the aircraft purchases.

He said that although the opposition parties have intentionally slandered government leaders by saying they took bribes, the opposition has been unable to prove the charges.

The opposition has been denigrating and slandering the government, he said. "If they continue this practice, it will be hard for the government to do its job," he added.

Commenting on the recommendation made by DAP [Democratic Action Party] Secretary-General Lim Kit Siang that the government launch a campaign to counter foreign criticism of Malaysia, Ghafar said criticism of

the country from abroad is because of opposition party accusations of the government.

"Foreigners criticize us because the opposition parties do it. Why should the government set up a committee to respond to foreign criticism when the government itself is able to handle it?" he asked.

What is needed, he said, is for the opposition to be fair and to refrain from slanderous charges. Foreigners will then be unable to interfere in the country's affairs.

Commenting on the decision of Zainal Rampak, president of the Malaysian Trade Union Congress (MTUC), to join the Spirit of '46, Ghafar said, "Zainal's advantage will probably be only temporary, for labor union members know that his duty is to protect workers, and they do not want to be dragged into politics."

The deputy prime minister said Zainal has clearly used the MTUC for his own political purposes and for those of the opposition, because standing alone he would have no influence. Furthermore, he does not have any followers.

Ghafar said he is sure the Spirit of '46 must have offered him something so attractive that he forgot his responsibility to promote the welfare of workers and labor unions.

As for Datuk Haji Engku Muhsein's resignation from all his positions in the Spirit of '46, Ghafar said he did not want to interfere in the internal affairs of the party by commenting on the matter.

"I know him. He has a good patriotic, Islamic spirit. He was very useful when he belonged to UMNO [United Malays National Organization]," Ghafar said.

Although Datuk Haji Engku Muhsein has relinquished all his positions, he is still a member of the Spirit of '46, Ghafar noted.

Ghafar hopes Datuk Haji Engku Muhsein and all other members of the party will realize that splits are not beneficial.

Datuk Haji Engku Muhsein submitted his resignation from his positions as member of the Spirit of '46 Supreme Working Council, deputy party liaison chief for Terengganu, and president of the Hulu Terengganu Division.—BERNAMA

Secret PAS-DAP Meeting in Jakarta Canceled

*90SE0033B Kuala Lumpur UTUSAN MALAYSIA
in Malay 3 May 90 p 1*

[Excerpt] Kuala Lumpur, 2 May—Yusop Mohamad Yusop, deputy chairman of DAP [Democratic Action Party] Socialist Youth (DAPSY), revealed how he was asked to join a DAP delegation to a secret meeting with PAS [Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party] in Jakarta.

The secret meeting, scheduled for 17 April, was called off, said Yusop, who was one of three DAP members selected to attend the meeting.

Yusop, 41, also said that the Spirit of '46 was involved in arranging the meeting between DAP and PAS.

Yusop announced at the same time that he had submitted his resignation from all DAP positions and that he will be joining the Gerakan Party.

Speaking today at a press conference called by Gerakan, Yusop said the other DAP delegates were to be Lim Guan Eng (member of Parliament from Malacca City) and DAP Information Bureau Chief Liew Ah Kim.

PAS delegates were to have been Chief of Information Subky Latif and Youth President Abu Bakar Chik.

Through Yusop's disclosure, Gerakan confirmed Gerakan President Dr. Lim Keng Yaik's recent statement that PAS and DAP had planned a secret meeting in Jakarta.

In an immediate reaction, DAP called Yusop's statement a lie, saying it cannot be accepted as truth.

The issue of a secret PAS-DAP meeting, as alleged by Datuk Sri Dr. Lim, became increasingly controversial as Gerakan and DAP challenged each other to present proofs of their charges.

PAS and DAP have denied the Gerakan president's charges.

The issue heated up even more today when Gerakan and DAP tried to substantiate their respective positions in separate press conferences.

In its press conference at 1100 hours today, Gerakan sought to prove its charges by inviting Yusop (one of the proposed members of the DAP delegation to Jakarta) to reveal plans for the secret meeting.

Yusop confirmed that the secret meeting was to have taken place on 17 April and identified DAP Youth President Lim Guan Eng as head of the delegation and Liew Ah Kim, member of Parliament from Seputih, as the other member. [passage omitted]

Sabah Elections Expected Year Early

*90SE0042C Kuala Lumpur UTUSAN MALAYSIA
in Malay 10 May 90 p 14*

[Article by Muhammad Ridwan: "Windfall Payments Stir Speculation of Early Election"]

[Text] Kota Kinabalu, 9 May—The current distribution of 200-ringgit "windfall" payments to about half a million Sabah residents over age 21 has further spurred speculation that the state election will be held soon, a year earlier than scheduled.

Political observers voicing this speculation say windfall payments from the Sabah State People's Trust (ARNS) scheme have always constituted a raising of the curtain on state elections.

Several political observers say that predictions linking the distribution of ARNS dividends to state elections have never been wrong. ARNS is managed by the Sabah Foundation.

The people of Sabah are indeed enjoying a windfall. Since last Tuesday [1 May], thousands of people have thronged registration centers to receive their share. Centers have been opened throughout the state.

The Sabah Foundation has allocated about 100 million ringgit for payment of the ARNS dividend.

About 500,000 Sabah people over 21 years of age are expected to receive the dividend.

Of that total, 350,000 are holders of ARNS certificates distributed during the BERJAYA [Sabah People's Party] government (1976-85), while the other 150,000 are new recipients who have only recently reached the age of 21.

Those qualified to receive the dividend are Malaysian citizens who are natives of Sabah and Malaysian citizens not born in Sabah but who have become permanent residents of the state.

What is more interesting, and has far-reaching implications, is the government's decision to include residents of the Federal Territory of Labuan among those entitled to receive ARNS dividends.

This is not only interesting because of its extensive and far-reaching implications, but it also strengthens the view that elections may come at any time.

A change in state governments is always followed by a change in the name of the scheme, as though each government wants to be known as the founder of the scheme, which exists only in Sabah.

It was begun under an USNO [United Sabah National Organization] government in 1970 with the name Tun Datu Haji Mustapha Trust. Each person was paid 50 ringgit. The USNO government paid the same dividends in 1973 and 1974.

Under the BERJAYA government, Tun Mustapha's name was deleted, and the scheme was renamed the Sabah People's Trust (ARS).

The BERJAYA government paid dividends three times, in 1978, 1981, and 1985. Between 1981 and 1985, the government disbursed more than 200 million ringgit, causing the Sabah Foundation to go into debt.

After the Sabah United Party took the reins of government in 1985, no payments had been made until now. Through laws passed by the State Legislature in March, the government made several changes, including revision of the scheme and renaming it to ARNS.

One of the steps taken was the transfer of 20 percent of the shares of Innoprise, Inc., a Sabah Foundation investment group, to the ARNS.

How much has the windfall affected the attitudes of voters? Many political experts believe it will help the governing party somewhat.

They note that many of the ARNS dividend recipients are residents of rural and poor areas, where average monthly family income is less than 200 ringgit.

For such people, the dividend is indeed a windfall, some observers say. "This step needs to be followed up quickly, because the impression will not last long," they add.—BERNAMA

Navy Announces Long-Term Defense Strategy

*90SE0043C Kuala Lumpur UTUSAN MALAYSIA
in Malay 12 May 90 p 14*

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, 11 May—The Royal Malaysian Navy (TLDM) has prepared a long-term plan that will last until the year 2010. The plan is consistent with the goal of making the TLDM an optimum and balanced force.

Navy Commander Vice Admiral Tan Sri Abd. Wahab Haji Nawi said in a message marking the 56th anniversary of the TLDM that the 20-year plan covers a defense force of three dimensions, i.e., on the surface, in the air, and beneath the surface.

He said the TLDM has now achieved a surface warfare technology level that is adequate for current needs, but the TLDM still does not have capabilities in the other two dimensions.

In a message read by Technical Director Captain Foong Soo Hoi to a formation of 500 TLDM officers and men at the Defense Ministry today, the Navy commander said the plan will emphasize air and under-water capabilities.

He said the creation of an air branch, which is to be marked by the arrival of six Wasp helicopters, will be a very meaningful step, not only for the TLDM but for the country as well.

He said the country also greatly needs a submarine branch in order to establish a more comprehensive defense position. Furthermore, the branch will be an asset to enhancing industrial technology.

Tan Sri Abd. Wahab said the plan will not be a burden to the government, however, because the TLDM is not seeking more than normal allocations.

He also reminded TLDM personnel of their two main objectives: to safeguard national development efforts from every threat, and to protect our waters from any penetration.

As a step in optimizing law enforcement in Malaysia's extensive waters, support committees have been formed, he said. These include the Maritime Enforcement Coordination Team, the Maritime Coordination Committee, and the National Maritime Council.

From the aspect of infrastructure and TLDM personnel welfare, Tan Sri Wahab said the TLDM is nearly ready to accept all development plans for the period until the year 2010 (Sixth Malaysia Plan) as replacements for the Fifth Malaysia Plan, under which the comfort of personnel and their families was improved.

For the sake of personnel welfare, he said, the construction of a hospital, quarters for single personnel, and a new and larger dining hall, plus the renting of housing for married personnel will be continued.

He said the Sixth Malaysia Plan will give more emphasis to the construction of primary bases in Sabah and Sarawak, which have long remained unfinished because of economic recession.

In this morning's ceremony, Captain Foong presented certificates to seven selected Navy personnel. Two of them received the Loyal Service award for more than 18 years' service. Four received athletic medals (two gold medals and two silver medals), and one received a certificate of appreciation.

Ramos Proposes Cutting Powers of Field Officers

42000065B Manila MANILA CHRONICLE in English
17 Apr 90 p 1

[Text] The law that empowers a commanding officer to summarily arrest and detail personnel under his jurisdiction has to be amended to avoid abuses in the military justice system.

Appearing before the Davide Commission yesterday, Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos said the summary power vested on commanding officers under Article of War 105 could lead to the kind of excesses which fueled the resentment of soldiers against their higher-ups.

This was one reason, Ramos said, why the coup leaders were able to rally a number of soldiers to their side during the December mutiny.

Ramos told the commission that under Article 105 of the Article of War, a commanding officer can summarily arrest and confine military personnel under his jurisdiction even before they are tried for specific charges.

He recalled that the provision, also called the summary powers of a commanding officer, was enacted in 1938 by virtue of Commonwealth Act 408. During the time of former President Marcos, he said, there were efforts "to make it stricter" but these did not result in major improvements in the system.

While admitting that the military justice system is imperfect, Ramos said the DND is "pushing very, very hard" for the adoption of Article of Military Justice to replace the Article of War which, according to him, is now pending on the committee level of both Houses of Congress.

He said that in the past, summary powers consisted of a package of punishment amounting to seven days of restriction to camp and seven days of deprivation of privileges and liberties, among others. But under the 1985 amendment, it was increased to a package of 60 days.

"If a commanding officer imposing the punishment has the rank of a general or a flag officer in command, the sanctions even include forfeiture of pay of a certain amount," he added.

He said that Presidential Decree 1968 redefines Article of War 105 as giving expanded powers to generals and flag officers but more junior commanders are vested with lesser powers.

On the U.S. "persuasion flights" during the December coup, Ramos said he would still welcome the U.S. support even if it came after the F-5s of the AFP had repelled the rebel aircraft in Sangley Air Base in Cavite.

Since the situation during the coup in Zamboanga, Palawan and other places was still unstable, he said, U.S. air support was still considered vital.

He mentioned requesting U.S. Ambassador Nicholas Platt, who offered the air assistance, to send "non-firing and non-combative" persuasion flights only for a short duration beginning at about 2 p.m. on Dec. 2.

Commenting on the secretary's disclosures before the Davide commission, AFP spokesman Col. Juanito Rimando said the Articles of War "is an old law that stands improvements."

Rimando said the AOW, designed to "instill discipline within various military units, is only exercised by commanders against their subordinates facing minor infractions and violations. [Quotes as published]

Captured Documents Outline Crucial Plans

42000065A Manila MANILA CHRONICLE in English
19 Apr 90 p 1

[Text] Rebel soldiers would have shut down all media and replaced the constitutional government with a 23-man council of their own choice if they had succeeded in their attempt last December, documents obtained by the military show.

Press Secretary Tomas Gomez III distributed copies of the documents to Malacanang reports yesterday, saying they had come from "a friend in the military." These documents had either been "captured" or "given by a mole."

The five-page document, titled "For Love of Our Country and Our People," also shows that the rebels from the Reform and Armed Forces Movement (RAM) and the Soldiers of the Filipino People (SFP) intended to take the following actions:

1. "...destroy and dismantle the chain of command of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and install a new one."
2. Subject Malacanang, Camp Aguinaldo, Camp Crame, Fort Bonifacio, Villamor Air Base, Fort Abad, the Capital Command Headquarters and the National Capital Region Defense Command headquarters to "continuous harassing attacks and bombardment," not really to occupy them, "but more for psychological reasons, in order that confusion, pandemonium, chaos and disorganization may be attained."
3. Close the mass transport system and "totally restrict" the travel of private transport on land, at sea or in the air.
4. Take over government financial institutions and important infrastructure "in political centers throughout the country."
5. Destroy the civil government communication system.

The documents show that rebel soldiers were preparing to organize "special teams (for) sabotage, subversion, assassination and kidnapping" attempts. The targets, however, were not identified.

Reacting to the documents, Gomez said it was apparent that Gregorio Honasan, the fugitive cashiered colonel known as one of the top rebel leaders, and his group were prepared to "disable the very media he was using."

Gomez also singled out an item in the document saying that the members of the government council would be chosen by Honasan, and two other rebel leaders—Brig. Gen. Jose Zumel and Brig. Gen. Edgardo Abenina.

"The selection procedure indicates that Honasan, Zumel and Abenina are the kingmakers and controllers," Gomez said, adding that "no mention is made of turning over the powers they presume will be there."

Gomez also said it was "pure coincidence" that he got hold of the documents exactly a day after a lengthy interview of Honasan conducted by the Atlanta-based Cable News Network was published by a national daily.

In his interview, Honasan had warned of another coup attempt, unless the government "shapes up." Honasan also said his group was prepared to turn over power to a National Council for Reconciliation composed of men and women of reputable background.

Gomez said the documents were obtained by the military after the December coup attempt.

The documents, though not dated, was presumably prepared before September, since it indicated that "contingency plans must be prepared in connection with the possible death of President Marcos." Marcos died in exile in Honolulu Sept. 28 last year.

The documents also included an item called "Lessons of August 28, 1987," meant apparently to ensure gains in the December attempt, actually the fifth and a failure like all the others.

The media, the documents said, played a crucial role in preventing the downfall of the Aquino Administration during the Aug. 28 coup.

"The government did not fall, the civil component was able to rally and compose itself backed up by the military through media," the documents said.

Rebel soldiers also acknowledged that a coup must have a "very binding strong moral code."

The other factors that led to the failure of the Aug. 28 coup according to the document, were:

1. "People did not come out to support the (rebel) movement because of the absence of its own political will and a pronounced political goal."
2. "People were expected to acclaim a new leader, but there was not even one to choose from. No known personalities came out to support the (rebel soldiers') movement."
3. "It failed to kill, destroy, win support."

4. "There was very clear manifestation and indication of lack of commitment and sincerity of units/ commanders."

5. "Indecisiveness in choosing and attacking the strategic objective: Malacanang and Aginaldo."

Civilians Suffer As Troops Fight Against Time

4200065C Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English
13 Apr 90 p 3

[Text] In the province of Bataan, some 120 kms north-west of Manila, the local military commander, Col. Ramsey Ocampo, has set a self-imposed deadline for wiping out communist insurgents.

He says by the end of this month there will be no communist guerrillas left in his province. But local folk doubt the deadline can be met. "Since 1987, the military has issued four ultimatums that it will crush the insurgents in the province," says Rustico Yumul, a Protestant pastor assigned to Mariveles, one of Bataan's 12 towns. "They are still at it."

But there is no doubt the military means business.

There are seven combat battalions in Bataan, an usually high concentration of forces for a relatively small province (about 400,000 people).

Military operations against the communist-led New People's Army (NPA) are frequent and the encounters are fierce.

Bataan is known in history for the 'Death March'—25,000 of Filipino and U. S. soldiers captured by the Japanese in 1942 were forced to trek 130 km across the island of Luzon; about 10,000 man died there.

Today, Col Ocampo's all-out drive against the NPA in Bataan seems to be taking its heaviest toll on civilians, especially those suspected of being rebel supporters.

Manila-based human rights groups say that six political motivated murders have shaken Bataan's rural folk since the new year.

The victims include the secretary-general of a local fishermen's group and the brother of a prominent trade union leader, says a report of a fact-finding mission by the Philippine Alliance of Human Rights Advocates (Pahra).

Aside from these killings, the Pahra mission also documented cases of arbitrary arrests and detention, searches, harassment and assaults.

"Some military officers have told us that only the police need warrants of arrests," said Fr. Rollie de Leon, a Catholic priest who heads a local human rights group. "They said that they in the military don't."

The boldness of the killings has had a chilling effect on life in the province, leaders of local organizations in Bataan say.

Eliodoro dela Rosa, 43, was the secretary-general of the 'Force of Fishermen in Bataan' (Lambat), a local fishermen's group. He was shot dead on Jan. 22 by two unidentified men inside a public jeep along a highway.

On Mar. 7, Oscar Tagulao, 28, was shot from behind while driving his "tricycle" (a motorbike with a sidecar). Tagulao's relatives think the real target was Oscar's brother, Orlan. A trade union leader in the Bataan Export Processing zone (BEPZ), Orlan had been receiving threats.

The killers are unknown. But since the victims had been either harassed or threatened by military elements in the past, suspected NPA members reportedly drawn up and circulated by the military.

Bataan has long been on the military's list of "critical" areas, and has been a NPA stronghold since the mid-1970's.

The government has economic reasons for exerting its utmost to dislodge the NPA from Bataan.

The province hosts an export processing zone, the country's largest oil refinery, an arms and ammunition plant and the Philippines' biggest explosives company.

Bataan would also have been the site of the country's first nuclear power plant if it had not been mothballed by President Corazon Aquino when she took power in 1986.

Half of the area occupied by the U.S. Navy base at Subic Bay is in Bataan. One of the battalions deployed in the province, the Special Action Force, is assigned to guard the U.S. facility.

Finally, with the 1992 deadline set by Aquino for breaking the back of the communist insurgency drawing near, the military faces mounting pressure to score decisive military victories against the insurgents.

The government is winning the propaganda war against the insurgents, particularly after damaging revelations that the communists had conducted bloody purges against suspected government agents in its ranks.

Human rights groups warn that the military's vigilante justice against suspected communists threatens to create, as in Vietnam, a nation of "sullen villages".

Rolando Olano, a local leader of the left-wing New Nationalist Alliance (Bayan) says the military lumps activists of trade unions, the anti-nuclear movement, farmers and fishermen's groups together with the NPA.

"If they suspect us of being insurgents, they should file charges in court, that is, if they still believe in the law," said Olano, who was himself arrested March 10.

With the counterinsurgency drive on full throttle, civilian officials have been pushed to the sidelines, unable or unwilling to intercede on behalf of constituents complaining of alleged military abuses, Pahra officials said.

As a result, though coup-plotting rebel soldiers have so far failed to seize power in Manila, the military is virtually running the show in insurgency-ridden areas.

NPA Controls 227 Barangays in Cordilleras

*42000065D Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English
17 Apr 90 p 8*

[Text] Baguio City—Brig. Gen. Juanito Aquias, commanding general of Cordillera Regional Command (Crecom), reported that the Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army (CPP-NPA) are in control of 227 barangays in the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR).

Aquias made the report during the recent first regular meeting of the newly organized Regional Development Council (RDC), Regional Development Assembly (RDA), and Regional Peace and Order Council of CAR.

He said that the biggest single threat to peace and order in the Cordilleras is the "active presence" of the CPP-NPA.

The Crecom chief reported that some 1,400 regular CPP-NPA members are in control of 227 hinterland barangays in the region.

Under the control of the rebels are 47 barangays in Abra, 136 in Kalinga-Apayao, 26 in Ifugao, 15 in Mountain Province, and three in Benguet.

Intelligence sources said that although Baguio is not under control of influence of the NPA, it is often used as a rest and conference site by the rebels.

The Crecom head reported that the CPP-NPA Politburo met in Ifugao last December and decided to conduct sabotage operations aimed at preventing the implementation of the regional autonomy in that province.

The rebels have threatened to burn government buildings and installations and commercial establishments in Ifugao, causing some residents to evacuate, he said.

The NPA has been conducting ambushes in Ifugao, resulting in heavy casualties on the government, it was noted.

NPA Set Up 'Shadow Government' in 3 Bataan Towns

*42000068A Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English
16 Apr 90 p 15*

[Text] Balanga, Bataan—Communist insurgents have set up a "shadow government" in at least three towns in

Bataan, an Army brigade commander said in a recent dialogue with municipal and barangay officials of Samal.

Col Rene S. Dado, Commander of the 702nd Infantry Brigade, identified the towns as Abucay, Samal, and Mariveles. Mariveles is site of the country's first export processing zone located in the southernmost tip of Bataan.

He lamented that he accomplished only 61.62 percent of his goal to crush insurgency in Bataan in three months "because of the lukewarm attitude of the municipal and barangay officials in the anti-insurgency campaign."

Dado said local executives are afraid to fight communist insurgents for fear of reprisal.

He said that Special Operations Teams (SOT) were deployed to identify the political and military structures of the communist movement and liberate the communist-influenced barangays in Abucay, Samal and Mariveles.

Dado had earlier set 31 March this year as his deadline in crushing the communist insurgency in Bataan. He set this date when he took over as commander of the 702nd Infantry Brigade last December, replacing Brig. Gen. Liberato A. Manuel.

Lt Col Ramsey L. Ocampo, Bataan PCINP commander, said that military and police operations are concentrated in Samal to ferret out the rebels. He alleged that Samal is a "laboratory" of dissidents in Central Luzon.

Samal, he said, is on record as the birthplace of communist insurgency in Bataan.

Banks Inflate Cash Figures of NPA Raids

42000070A Cebu City SUN STAR in English 5 May 90 pp 1, 19

[Article by Godofredo M. Roperos]

[Text] The National Democratic Front (NDF), the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and the New People's Army (NPA) undertake raids only on municipal halls and banks. Other than these, raids should be taken as being done by other elements.

Mario Santos, NDF chairman of the Central Visayas told this writer in an exclusive interview with SUN STAR DAILY Thursday somewhere in the city, that certain bank proprietors have taken advantage of their raids, by bloating reports of their cash takes. He cited the raid on the rural bank in Bohol, where the bank owner reported the raiders took P150,000 from the bank, when they actually got only P40,000.

He refused to say anything about the recent Compostela town raid, explaining they usually do not venture any information on important matters unless they already have an official report on them.

He said National Democratic Front, umbrella organization of the communist revolutionary groups, is currently reassessing and formulating new approaches to the problems confronting itself in the light of recent developments in the world.

This was as far as Santos would go in reply to my question about their response to the unfolding dramatic events in Eastern Europe, also known as the European Communist bloc.

"We are not at privilege for the moment to say anything about our stand regarding recent events in mainland China and Eastern Europe," he said in between bites of puso and chicken barbecue, "until we get word from the national center which is collating the stand of various councils."

Santos, who had sought the interview with me through a common acquaintance who contacted me by phone and arranged the meeting, was accompanied by someone who introduced himself as Phil Solomon, the organization's media liaison officer for the Central Visayas. Both told me they were less than 30 years, but more than 25.

Various topics surfaced in the course of our talk:

Item: The NDF is as interested as the Government in stabilizing the peace and order condition of the country. In Central Visayas, his group is willing to sit at the negotiating table with government and other leaders to come to a meeting of minds on the issue.

Taxation

Item: NDF's taxation activities go through phases, the first being a letter sent seeking appointment with the landowner, business manager, or factory proprietor. If he agrees, then they move to the second phase—a face-to-face meeting where they negotiate for the amount. In case of refusal, then they undertake what they termed as "confiscation." Any letter which dictates an amount, and instructs where it should be delivered for pick-up, according to Santos, does not come from them, but from extortionists.

The amount of tax they collect is usually not more than five percent of the gross income of a person or firm. But most often, during negotiations, this is brought down to a mere one or two percent.

Item: The NDF-CPP-NPA land reform program is already in progress in the region, here in Cebu and Bohol, in areas they have "occupied." How does their program go? They identify rural inhabitants as poor peasants, middle peasants, rich peasants, and landlords.

The poor peasants are those tillers whose income is not enough to support their basic needs, and have to go into indebtedness to survive. They get priority assistance from the movement.

The middle peasants are those whose income is just enough to support their basic needs, who live in a real subsistence economy. They get the next priority.

The rich peasants are those who enjoy a surplus income enough to allow them to hire others to help them work the land.

The landlords are those who do nothing but live off the produce, out of the labor of tenants and hired hands.

Item: They have never been involved in any case of kidnapping for ransom. Any case of this nature attributed to them is not true.

Before we parted, Phil Solomon handed me a computer print-out of a 28-page manuscript called "Program of the National Democratic Front" and sub-titled the "People's War and the National Democratic Movement," which they claimed has already undergone a sixth revision.

But I believe the manuscript needed thorough reading before anyone could feel competent to write about it.

Anti-Communist Group Offers Help in Promoting Peace, Order

42000070B Cebu City SUN STAR in English 7 May 90 pp 1, 2

[Text] Anti-communist fighters have offered to help the Cebu Provincial Government organize the Bantay Lungsod or civilian volunteer groups in Cebu's 48 towns.

The offer was formally made in a letter to Vice Gov. Enrique Rama from the National Alliance for Democracy (NAD)-Visayas.

"We are offering our expertise ... in organizing civilian volunteers for purposes of implementing the Bantay Lungsod," said NAD-Visayas regional action officer Rolando B. Cabacang, in his letter dated last April 25.

He said the Capitol is understandably facing problems with its security plan because of political "partisanship," the reluctance of municipal mayors to take sides, and lack of technical knowhow in organizing community-based volunteers.

The NAD includes anti-com groups in Cebu like Kadre led by Jun Alcover, League of Concerned Citizens of Cerge Remonde and Kontra Force in Davao led by Jun Pala.

Asked for comment, retired Brig. Gen. Jesus Hermosa, Capitol consultant on peace and order, told SUN STAR DAILY he "welcomes" the offer of the NAD "on condition that their members fall under the control of the municipal peace and order councils headed by the respective mayors.

Hermosa pointed out that this is a requirement in the ordinance of the Provincial Board (PB) creating the Bantay Lungsod.

Failure

Recently, the program was called a "failure" by one PB member, prompting the board to invite the consultant to give a status report during a caucus today.

Hermosa was instrumental in framing the PB ordinance but refuses to call the Bantay Lungsod his "brainchild," because it is patterned after the Bantay Bayan program endorsed by President Aquino.

Under the PB ordinance passed in 1988, a Bantay Lungsod or CVO shall be established in each municipality and component city in Cebu Province to "preserve and protect" the people's democratic ideals.

Its members are to be "basically unarmed" although those licensed to own guns are required to abide by laws and military regulations on bearing firearms.

One of their functions is to provide information on insurgents and criminal elements in the neighborhood.

The arming of civilian volunteers is a crucial issue, but was not referred to in any part of the NAD's written offer for assistance.

During his term as military chief of the Visayas Command in Cebu, Hermosa was engaged in a bitter quarrel with the Kadre and other anti-com groups, whom he accused of abusing mission orders that allow them to carry firearms, engaging in extortion and other illegal activities.

Thorny Issue

However, during the interview, Hermosa made a distinction, saying he appreciated the help of the LCC, an anti-com group whose thrust is education, in holding seminars to organize CVOs in Mandaue city and a few towns.

Sometimes referred to as "vigilantes"—a label they dislike—anti-com groups claim the right to defend themselves against armed NPA rebels in justifying the carrying of guns by some of their members.

In the Bantay Lungsod program, the check and balance, provided by the peace and order council against abuses, is itself a thorny issue for anti-com groups, who shun any "control" by politicians.

In his letter to the vice governor, Cabacang of NAD said one of the causes for the weak response to the Bantay Lungsod program is the lead role played by elected officials.

"It cannot be denied that partisanship is one of the most prevailing reasons," he said.

"The mere fact that the organizers and initiations are the mayors and barangay captains... naturally people against them will not cooperate."

The NAD spokesman said a second reason was their reluctance to take risks.

Third Reason

"Others are afraid the work may place them at the crossroads and their political life will only be endangered, so they opt to stay neutral."

Cabacang cited as a third reason, the officials' "lack of technical knowledge and correct orientation in organizing civilians and motivating (them)."

Vice Gov. Enrique Rama, who was still in Manila on official business last week, was sponsor of the PB ordinance creating the Bantay Lungsod during his stint as chairman of the committee on public order and safety.

The NAD-Visayas, described itself in the letter to Rama as an organization "known for our crusade which is ideologically against communism and criminality."

It offered its "expertise" in implementing a provincial defense plan, saying NAD had succeeded doing so in other parts of the country like Negros Oriental, Davao, Metro Manila (Bicutan and Pandacan) and parts of Cebu and Bohol.

Listed as members of The NAD board of trustees are Ben Coralde (Bantay Bayan) as special operations officer, Jun Alcover (Kadre) as spokesman, Jun Pala (Contra Force) as vice chairman for operations and Cerge Remonde (LCC) as vice chairman for education. EGM

RAM Linked to Robberies

42000071A Manila *MANILA CHRONICLE* in English
12 May 90 pp 1, 2

[Text] Rightist rebels strapped for funds could be behind the recent robberies in Manila, said PC/INP [Philippine Constabulary/Integrated National Police] chief Maj. Gen. Cesar Nazareno.

The Constabulary chief said yesterday that the rebels "are either raising money for the entire movement to support their plans to stage another putsch, or are merely forced to do it to survive."

He added that "this angle is strengthened by the fact that the type of arms used by the robbers were high-powered and traceable to the RAM [Reform the Armed Forces Movement]."

Two days ago, men armed with revolvers and a shotgun took only 10 minutes to rob P1.2 million from the Boston Bank in West Triangle, Quezon City. The same day, an armored van of Far East Bank was stopped by robbers carrying assault rifles and a grenade launcher. The robbers set fire to the van but failed to snatch the cargo of P9 million.

According to Nazareno, "our investigators are firming up evidence against the RAM because we already have clear leads on these incidents."

He noted how hundreds of soldiers who were forced to go underground following the failed coup attempt "are starving because they no longer receive their salary and are not being supported by their leaders to feed their families."

Nazareno said when they fled, the renegade soldier took along numerous weapons from the AFP armory with them.

The PC chief speculated that the bank raids "might be sanctioned by the RAM core group because we know for a fact that they are running short of funds."

Two justice officials are reported to be leaving for Cagayan de Oro today to negotiate the surrender of former assemblyman Homobono Adaza.

The two are justice undersecretary Silvestro Bello III and senior state prosecutor Aurelio Trampe.

Bribery Cases Reported in Escape of Dissidents

42000071B Manila *MANILA CHRONICLE* in English
13 May 90 pp 1, 5

[Text] The communists spent about P1 million, some of it going to soldiers as bribe, to spring the wife of the communist movement's acting head from the Constabulary stockade last year, military sources said yesterday.

The operation went so smoothly for Wilma Austria-Tiamzon the military until now has no definite idea how it happened. She appeared to have simply disappeared unnoticed in the confusion of Christmas Day visits.

According to the sources, the big expense entailed by the rescue has been confirmed by some detainees from the communist movement who felt there were more important comrades who deserved to be rescued.

Military authorities are now looking into the operation, particularly the bribery part.

Tiamzon is the financial commission head of the communist movement aside from sitting as member in the executive committee. Her husband, Benito, is the alleged acting communist party head in the absence of Jose Ma. Sison who is seeking political asylum in western Europe.

In fact, reports from the underground said Benito himself worked closely for raising funds for the escape of Tiamzon.

The military actually got wind of the plot to rescue Tiamzon from jail when some P10,000 in crisp P100 bills were found inside the detention cell of one of the detained communist leaders inside Camp Crame.

The money was found two months before Tiamzon escaped and there had been reports that the money used to bribe the jail guards had been given in advance.

One such rebel plan was codenamed "Operation Black Label."

The military did prevent rebel leaders from escaping but not Tiamzon who casually walked out from the detention area after a Christmas Day mass.

Ironically, it was Rodolfo "Bilog" Salas who reported or called the attention of the military that Tiamzon had escaped.

Salas reportedly rejected the plan.

Tiamzon's escape was actually the second time. In November 1988, couple Romulo Kintanar and Gloria Jopson escaped after attending a birthday party hosted by their warden, Lt. Col. Robelito Comilang.

Enrile Comments on Security Issue in South China Sea, Malaysia

42000071C Manila MANILA CHRONICLE in English 29 Apr 90 pp 1, 6

[Text] Senator Juan Ponce Enrile yesterday said that the alleged security threat posed by the reported military buildup of Malaysia is a mere ploy to rationalize the retention of U.S. military facilities in the Philippines.

Enrile made this statement at a forum on U.S. Bases and Human Rights sponsored by the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP) at the National Press Club office in Intramuros.

Speaking before scores of foreign and local mediamen, Enrile said that the U.S. government has been supporting the Malaysian military buildup since 1986, at a time when he was still defense secretary of the Aquino administration.

Enrile also said that ever since that time the Philippines has been establishing airfields in various parts of the country in response to the military buildup in Sabah.

"It is unusual that the head of the RP bases negotiating panel and not the AFP chief of staff or personnel is announcing this so-called Malaysian threat to our national security," the senator commented.

Enrile's comments came in the wake of statements of concern expressed by Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Pablo Suarez and other ranking officials of the Department of Foreign Affairs over the \$192-million naval base being constructed by Malaysia at Gemas near the capital of Kota Kinabalu in Sabah.

The naval base is set to be Malaysia's largest and most sophisticated military installation and will be occupying a 4,400-hectare area.

Once completed within the 1990-1994 period, the base will serve as the main center of Malaysian naval operations in the South China Sea, site of the Spratly Islands which are still currently being disputed by the Philippines and Malaysia.

In addition, Malaysia is also reportedly considering the construction of a \$4.6-million "forward base" in Sandakan on Sabah's east coast; a special forces base in Mersing, Johore state; and an air base in Gong Kedah.

Foreign Affairs officials said that the Malaysian government should issue clarifications and assurances that their defense buildup is not a threat to the security of ASEAN countries like the Philippines.

An ASEAN diplomat, however, claimed that the Malaysian naval buildup aims to discourage secessionist movements in Sarawak and Sabah led by Joseph Pairin Kitingan.

At the same forum, Senator Wigberto Tanada said that the reported Malaysian buildup should not strike fear in the hearts of Filipinos and convince them to allow the bases to stay in the Philippines beyond 1991.

Tanada added that Indonesia will not allow the military buildup of another ASEAN country like Malaysia to disrupt peace in the island portions of Southeast Asia.

Enrile also claims that "barring any interference by the chief executive, the Senate temper definitely favors the non-extension of the bases agreement beyond 1991."

Enrile announced that he has "joined Senator Wigberto Tanada and eleven other senators in signing proposed Resolution No. 795 which calls on the President of the Philippines to move for the negotiation of a Philippine-American treaty of friendship of cooperation during the [bases] exploratory talks...instead of focusing on 'dollars and cents' issues..."

"I am unequivocally and firmly against continued American military presence in whatever form in the Philippines beyond the cut-off date specifically provided for in the 1987 Constitution... The military bases agreement should not extend beyond 1991. I will vote against any military bases treaty that the Executive Department will submit to the Senate for its concurrence," stressed Enrile.

Navy Asks for 39 Billion Pesos Supplemental Budget

HK3105114990 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 31 May 90 p 3

[Text] The Navy has asked Congress to grant it a P [peso] 39 billion supplemental budget to upgrade its facilities in the next 10 years.

It also requested some P12.2 billion in the next five years for the purchase of six patrol gunboats, three transport ships, and three long-range aircraft to improve the naval forces capability to patrol the country's borders and the 200-mile exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

Navy officials, led by its chief, Rear Admiral Mariano Dumancas Jr., presented Monday their budget requirements before members of Congress.

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel, one of the staunchest supporters for the Navy modernization, assured naval officials that he "would convince his colleagues to give an all-out support for the modernization of the Navy."

In briefing Congress, the Navy claimed its capability had been greatly reduced because of its inability to upgrade transport requirements.

The Navy's ships were old and too expensive to maintain and operate. The average age of a naval ship was 44 years compared to the 16 years average age of ships of other ASEAN countries.

Aside from Pimentel, those who attended the briefing were Senators John Osmena and Santanina Rasul and Representatives Michael Mastura and Baltazar Satur.

"We are convinced that the Navy should be given top priority in the allocation of funds," Pimentel told reporters after the closed-door briefing. "We are at the bottom among ASEAN, if we do not do anything now, when will we start?"

Ambassadors Urge Peace Talks With Muslim Rebels

HK2905120990 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 29 May 90 p 1

[Text] Resident ambassadors of 13 member states of the influential Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) [ICO] here yesterday raised the possibility of the resumption of the peace talks between the Government and the separatist Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF).

But Peace Commissioner Edilberto de Jesus reiterated the Aquino government's position that such resumption should be initiated by the MNLF and should be premised on the Muslim rebels' recognition of the Philippine Constitution.

Government officials, headed by Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus, met with the Muslim ambassadors for a briefing.

De Jesus, who was present, also said some ambassadors asked about the possibility of "enlarging the (Muslim) autonomous region" in Mindanao as well as the causes

in the delay of Zacaria Candao's proclamation as governor of the autonomous region.

At the same time, Manglapus told reporters he "wouldn't bet" on the OIC granting membership to the MNLF during this year's meeting scheduled June 11-15 in Cairo, Egypt.

"Our information...that whatever may have been left of the sympathy for the MNLF's desire to be accepted as a member has been dissipated," Manglapus said. But he did not elaborate.

A source said it was Libyan Ambassador Alem Adem who raised the possibility of resuming the peace talks between the government and the MNLF.

Libya, a member of the OIC quadrupartite committee along with Saudi Arabia, Somalia and Senegal, has been known to be most sympathetic to the MNLF cause.

On Candao's case, Manglapus said he hoped the former would be proclaimed governor "in a few days" by the Commission on elections so he could lead two government teams that would visit Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Egypt.

The teams were assigned to inform OIC member states of the government's efforts to implement the Tripoli Agreement, particularly the granting of autonomy to Muslim provinces in the Philippines.

The government "intends to keep its word" and hopes the OIC would allow it to do it its way, Manglapus told the ambassadors.

"We hope to persuade our Muslim brothers, including Nur Misuari, to take up the new challenge of democratic synthesis and to come and join our system," he added.

At the end of the briefing, Saudi Arabian Ambassador Fouad Hasaan Faki said the Philippines should not be concerned too much with the OIC granting membership to the MNLF.

The issue, he said, is not high on the OIC agenda and added the Palestine question would pre-occupy member countries as well as the Iran-Iraq conflict, the Lebanese question and the immigration of Soviet Jews into Arab territories.

Commerce Source on Vietnam, Burma, U.S. Rice Trade Competition

90SE0038B Bangkok BAN MUANG in Thai 13 Apr 90 p 7

[Text] Thailand might ease terms as much as possible in order to gain sales in the government to government rice market so that it can unload rice and compete with Vietnam.

A source in the Ministry of Commerce revealed that the Department of Foreign Trade had assigned a commercial advisor and an inspector of the Ministry of Commerce to make trips to discuss rice sales at the government to government level in order to be able to unload rice and sell rice in competition with Vietnam. The Thai representatives who will make these trips have prepared terms for rice sales to governments which are very favorable for the purchaser. They have extended the payment period a great deal. Normally when selling rice at the government level, Thailand allows the purchasing government 180 days credit. In addition the price has been set lower; it is just \$10 to \$15 per ton higher than Vietnamese rice of the same type. Normally Vietnamese rice of the same type is \$40 to \$50 per ton lower than Thai rice.

The reason for the sales trips is that at the present time there still are no large orders for rice which would cause the price of rice to rise. Although private parties have been able to sell rice abroad, the lots have been small, and have not been able to improve the domestic price. In addition rice exporters have begun to be uneasy about the rice market. They are afraid that Vietnam will be able to take the rice market away from Thailand. Vietnam has been able to find an export market for 1.7 million tons since the beginning of the year.

In addition to the Vietnamese competition Burma has also begun to look as if it might become a competitor for Thai rice in the near future because it has been able to export 700,000 to 800,000 tons of rice this year.

Health Official Cites World Support on U.S. Cigarette Issue

90SE0021C Bangkok NAEO NA in Thai 5 Apr 90 p 5

[Text] Mr. Suthat Ngoenmun, the deputy minister of public health, who headed a delegation that attended the "Seventh Cigarette and World Health" conference in Perth, Australia, on 2 April, told reporters that all of the speakers at the conference expressed support for Thailand in its struggle against the American Cigarette Exporters Association, which is demanding that the U.S. government implement protectionist measures against Thailand in order to force Thailand to open its markets to American cigarettes. More than 1,000 representatives from 70 countries expressed support for Thailand.

Dr. Hirochi Nakajima, the director of the World Health Organization, said that everything possible will be done to help Thailand from becoming a victim of foreign

cigarette companies. An appeal will be made at the GATT meeting to make people aware of the threat to the health of the world community if Thailand, which is in the forefront in this, becomes a victim. But if Thailand manages to avoid this, other developing countries will escape, too. "Every UN organization must oppose trading activities in cigarettes, poisonous substances, and narcotics of every type."

Dr. Chon Seffrin, the president of the American Cancer Association, praised Thailand, saying that Thailand is in the forefront of the struggle against "goods of death." He said that he plans to visit Thailand in order to discuss what can be done to fight this both in the United States and in the international arena. He said that he is confident of victory.

The conference drafted a resolution supporting Thailand. This resolution will be sent to President George Bush.

Besides this, Dr. David Yen, the president of the Asian and Pacific Association for the Control of Tobacco Use, presented an award to Dr. Prakrit Watisathokkit, the head of the Pathology Department, Ramathibodi, and the chairman of the Action Program Against Thai Cigarettes, in his capacity as someone who has constantly struggled against the United States over this issue. This was the first award presented by this association.

At the conference, Mr. Prakrit said that he will continue this struggle to the end, because Thailand already has many problems stemming from the use of cigarettes. If foreign cigarettes are imported, it will be the same as being eaten by a tiger. He said that he hopes that everyone will participate in the struggle, not only against American cigarettes but also against all types of cigarettes in the world.

Oranut Gets Advisory Opinion on Indochina Trade

90SE0038A Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 10 Apr 90 p 6

[Text] Mrs. Oranut Osathanon, the director of the Department of Foreign Trade, disclosed the outcome of the meeting of the coordinating committee for expanding trade with Laos, Vietnam, and Cambodia held on 5 April. She said that the meeting agreed to replace the representative from the Committee for Thai-Lao Cooperation with a representative from the Joint Operations Center. In addition a member was added from the Division of Information and Foreign Affairs in the Office of the Ministry of Interior in order to increase the committee's expertise.

Mrs. Oranut also said that the committee had invited Dr. Khian Thirawit, the director of the Asian Studies Institute of Chulalongkorn University, to come and give his views about investing in these three countries. Dr. Khian pointed out the problems of trading with these countries at present. He said that they still lacked stability in investment and in foreign currency which was used in

trade. Therefore if someone intended to make such investments, he should begin with a small-scale activity which could be moved easily. Trade should be handled through organizations supported from abroad. And governmental units should have a greater role in advising about the initial method of entry into the markets of these countries.

"The committee will put together a handbook concerning the procedures for entering these markets and the obstacles and risks an investor will face so that Thai investors will really understand the markets of these three countries," Mrs. Oranut said.

Suchinda on Monk's Premonition

90SE0038E Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai 16 Apr 90
p 1, 22

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Members of the "Kraprayun" family and the "Nunkakdi" family joined together to make merit by giving alms on the veranda of the Somnatwihan Temple yesterday morning (15 April). During the ceremony several officers from the fifth class of the Royal Military Academy joined in, including General Suchinda Khraprayun, General Itsaraphong Nunphakdi, Lieutenant General Wimon Wongwanit, Lieutenant General San Siphon, Lieutenant General Choetchai Thirattanon, Lieutenant General Ariya Ukhotkit, and Lieutenant General Phaibun Hongsinlak.

A correspondent reported that the atmosphere in the family group of General Suchinda was jovial, and on this occasion General Suchinda greeted the priest, Kitiwon Prasat, or as he was known, "Lord Im." They were long-time friends. He told those joining in the ceremony that this priest had had a premonition about him since he was a sub-lieutenant that he would become RTA commander in chief. Those joining in the ceremony asked the priest to see later if he would become prime minister or not, but it appears that the priest did not answer. [passage omitted]

New Air Force Divisions Planned

42000074B Bangkok THE NATION in English
19 Apr 90 p 4

[Text] Defence Minister Gen Chavalit Yongchaiyudh will sign an order this month to set up four regional air divisions proposed by the Royal Thai Air Force, RTAF Commander in Chief ACM Kaset Rojananil said yesterday.

The plan to set up the divisions was designed shortly after Kaset was made air force chief last year. Under the plan, each division will handle air operations in its region and coordinate activities with the regional army command in the same region.

The divisions to be set up are: Division 1 based in Lopburi to provide air defence in the Central region; Division 2 based in Nakhon Ratchasima, to cover the

Northeast; Phitsanuloke-based Division 3 to handle air defence in the North; Division 4 in Hat Yai will be responsible for the South.

Currently there are four RTAF air wings that are similar in structure to army regiments. Based in Lopburi, Nakhon Ratchasima, Takli and Hat Yai, the wings must go through RTAF headquarters in Bangkok to coordinate operations with the army.

Kaset said he had already chosen officers to command the divisions and that all would have the rank of air vice marshal.

"I know who are qualified for the posts. Otherwise, I would not have ascended to the top air force post," the air force chief said.

Kaset also dismissed criticism that officers close to his predecessor ACM Voranart Apicharee were purged in the mid-year military reshuffle announced on Saturday.

"We have the least problems of the three armed forces. Some officers were promoted and, of course, others were moved to the RTAF headquarters but everyone is happy because those who were transferred to the headquarters also have work to do," he said.

Kaset said that the reshuffle would not please everyone but added that he had tried to treat all the officers fairly.

The RTAF is still strongly united after the reshuffle, he said.

Labor Relations, Privatization, Unions Discussed

42000074A Bangkok THE NATION in English
26 Apr 90 p 13

[Text] The election of a moderate union leader to head the powerful Thai Trade Union congress [TTUC] is good news for the Thai labour movement.

Last Sunday's election of a new president for the Thai Trade Union Congress could be seen as a step towards fulfilling the labour movement's ambitious plan to merge Thailand's five most powerful labour organizations and towards the establishment of a labour and social welfare ministry.

The unexpected landslide victory of Boonthian Khamchoo over his rival and incumbent president Wattana Iambamrung also showed that the domination of TTUC by the State Enterprises Relations Group led by Ekkachai Ekharnkamol has also ended. Ekkachai and Wattana, leader of the Communications Authority of Thailand, are close allies. Boonthian, from the Metropolitan Electricity Authority labour union, won 89 votes in the election whereas Wattana received 33.

Although Boonthian is not a prominent unionist like Wattana and Thanong Pho-arn of the Labour Congress of Thailand [LCT], he is not a newcomer in the labour movement, having gained some experience from

working with the late labour leader Phaisarn Thawatchainan some years ago.

Boonthian's rise to power in TTUC was also welcome news for Deputy Interior Minister Wattana Assavahem, who tried unsuccessfully to guide the former TTUC president into supporting his labour policies, particularly regarding the merger of the five labour councils and upgrading the Labour Department to a ministry.

Wattana and Ekkachai were reportedly noncommittal towards the minister's lobbying for their support. But Thanong of LCT is supporting Minister Wattana.

Wattana is gaining support from the labour movement in general. Last Friday he arranged a meeting between the prime minister and Thanong and Anusak Boonyapranai, president of the National Free Unions Congress, to extend a formal invitation to the prime minister to preside over the May Day celebrations at Sanam Luang. Neither Wattana nor Ekkachai attended the meeting, which took place at a dinner reception at the Ambassador Hotel.

Relations between TTUC under Wattana and four other labour organizations (LCT, LCTL, NFUC and Labour Industrial of Thailand) were strained after the two sides split on how to cope with the rising cost of living and on demands for an increase in the minimum wage, and whether to support the Labour Department being made a ministry.

Wattana and the State Enterprises Relations Group, the umbrella organization of 25 state enterprises' labour unions led by Ekkachai, submitted a letter to Prime Minister Gen Chatichai Choonhaven on Tuesday calling for government cooperation in forming a joint committee to deal with rising consumer goods prices. The four allied groups of unions did not participate in this campaign against rising prices even though it attracted support from several other pressure groups, including the Students' Federation of Thailand and the Solidarity Party.

Most state enterprise labour leaders were unenthusiastic about the attempt to push for the minimum wage increase and a ban on short-term employment, which many unscrupulous employers have abused as a means of excluding their workers from the protection of labour laws. Most state enterprise employees are not affected by either the minimum wage or the short-term employment loophole.

However, new TTUC president Boonthian seems more sympathetic with the plight of workers in the private sector. He may give some support to the alliance of the four labour groups, and consequently improve their otherwise strained relations.

TTUC and the other four labour organizations will be in a better position from now on to speak with one voice on labour issues. Boonthian himself has already announced that he would respect any resolutions of the other four

labour groups. If mutual respect develops, an eventual merger into one umbrella labour organization—the dream of many labour unions in Thailand—could come true.

Boonthian, meanwhile, said after the election that disagreements and conflicts between TTUC and the four other unions were a thing of the past, as he is willing to work with all the other labour groups and respect their decisions.

As the leader of the MEA labour union, a member of the State Enterprises Relations Group, Boonthian said he would continue to campaign against the government's privatization policy and oppose the appointment of academics on a panel proposed by the government as a forum to deal with conflicts over privatization.

The State Enterprises Relations Group earlier declared that it wanted bilateral talks with the government, not tripartite negotiations.

Boonthian told THE NATION that he wanted some government leaders to stop releasing "provocative" news that could anger state enterprise labour unions, particularly claims that the labour unions have been opposing privatization merely to protect their own interests in state enterprises that are generally full of fringe benefits.

The new TTUC president said such statements created a serious gap of understanding between the government and state enterprise labour unions.

"Don't forget that we are also Thais who live in Thailand," Boonthian said.

Boonthian said the government must also settle the serious dispute between the government and dockworkers' unions from the Port Authority of Thailand over the partial privatization of the Laem Chabang port. The Chatichai administration wants to place two of four wharfs at the deep-sea port in Chon Buri under private management, leaving the other two to PAT, a state enterprise that now runs the Bangkok port. The dockworkers have threatened to strike if the government presses their plan.

Boonthian argued that the government should listen to PAT labour unions patiently as they are protecting public interests.

He also called on the government to enforce the new minimum wage law so that no workers are cheated by employers.

Beginning this month, the daily minimum wage in Bangkok and a few adjacent provinces has been increased from Bt73 to Bt90. But so far few employers have abided by this regulation.

Boonthian said he would follow the footsteps of his mentor Phaisarn Thawatchainan in improving the conditions and income of bottom-level workers. He also said

he would try to push for the formation of more labour unions to help protect workers' rights.

Paper Backs Formation of Labor Ministry

*90SE0021B Bangkok BAN MUANG in Thai
5 Apr 90 p 2*

[Editorial: "Establishing a New Ministry"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] People in general in both the public and private sectors support the establishment of a Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, because they feel that the country and people need such a unit.

The number of laborers in industry and agriculture is increasing. Thus, someone must look after the social welfare of the people just as is done in the developed countries. This is a very complex task that is very different from administration in general. Budgetary and administrative matters must be handled in a very proficient manner.

Thus, it is essential that we establish a Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare if we really have the interests of the people at heart. Even though this will affect the power and interests of the Ministry of Interior, when you realize that nothing lasts forever, the prosperity of the country and the happiness of the people should make much merit for those who support this.

Democrat Head To Quit, Chuan Gets Support

*90SE0038C Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 7 Apr 90
pp 1,21*

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The big annual meeting of the Democratic Party has been going on at the Royal River Hotel since 1400 hours on April 6. MP's and party members from throughout the country have joined in. Mr. Phichai Rattakun, the head of the party and chairman of the meeting, said that his term expired on 31 December 1990 and he wanted to announce that he would not be a candidate for party head again.

He said that in the past three months he had been considering the role of the party in the past and present and what it would be in the future. In the future the economy would become more complex, and the party leaders and government leaders would have to be very wise and take a broad view of the nations problems. The party took the correct path regarding opening relations with the PRC. This caused it to be regarded as Communist, but now this policy has been adopted. [passage omitted]

Mr. Phichai said in an interview that regarding the new party leader, he backed Mr. Chuan Likphai, who was an MP of his generation. At present Mr. Chuan is the party's MP with the most seniority. As far as being the party head, every MP in the party was prepared to lead the party, but this was up to the party conference.

Major General Sanan Khachonprasat, the party secretary, said in an interview that when Mr. Phichai left office, it was not known if the new leader would be Mr. Chuan or not. It was certain that nothing would be changed because at present the Democratic Party had no 10 January group or any other group. As for the party secretary the new party head would decide that himself. There were candidates for the position. [passage omitted]

Mr. Chuan Likphai, the deputy head of the party, said that becoming the party head at this time might not be suitable but that no one knew about the future and in another year there could be changes. It was difficult for him to say if he was ready or not; it would depend on the feelings of the other party members.

"The party now has a good future. It is not my goal in life to be this or that. I am not anxious for this. I am not old, but I began in politics when I was young, and now I have come to have seniority. When the time comes, I will make the announcement myself," Mr. Chuan said.

Mr. Banyat Banthatthan, an MP from Surat Thani and a member of the party administrative committee, said that when Mr. Phichai made a definite announcement, the party membership would agree that the new party head should be Mr. Chuan. Of this there was no doubt - otherwise the party would break up because Mr. Chuan had seniority and was very acceptable to the people. The position of party secretary could be discussed later after the new party head had taken his position.

Mr. Trairong Suwannakhiri, an MP from Songkhla and a member of the party administrative committee, said that Mr. Chuan was not the only suitable candidate. [passage omitted]

Political Implications of New Central Bank Slots

90SE0021D Bangkok NAEO NA in Thai 5 Apr 90 pp 7, 8

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] At the 4 April cabinet meeting, the cabinet passed a resolution appointing Mr. Wichit Suphinit, the assistant governor of the national bank, to the position of deputy governor of the national bank. The other deputy governor is Mr. Phaisan Kumanwisai. This appointment is effective immediately. Mr. Pramuan Saphawasu, the minister of finance, said that an additional deputy governor is needed because there is too much work for a single deputy governor.

Just several days prior to this, the minister of finance had denied rumors that another deputy governor would be appointed, saying that no such proposal had been submitted and that this was not under consideration. [passage omitted]

Appointments to the position of deputy governor of the national bank must be approved by the king just like appointments to the position of governor of the national bank. [passage omitted]

A report from the Government House said that the appointment of Mr. Wichit stemmed from pressure by the prime minister's Ban Phitsanulok advisory team, which feels that Mr. Wichit is a very capable person and which thinks that the other deputy governor, Mr. Phaisan, will retire at the end of September along with the governor. Thus, the two top positions at the national bank would be vacant at the same time, which could lead to problems later on.

As for the appointment of a deputy governor as initially proposed, a news source said that the list of names submitted to the minister of finance did not have two names as was first stated. It contained the name of Mr. Phaisan only. His name was proposed in order to eliminate the possibility of a vacancy in case someone retired at the end of the fiscal year. As for the backing given the assistant governor, who is a "favorite" of the present governor, for the position of deputy governor, this is considered to be a political position and so seniority is not the important factor.

The problem is, even though this person is very knowledgeable in his field, with respect to administration in general and other skills, including the ability to deal with people in the Ministry of Finance and the government and the ability to win support for the national bank's economic and monetary policies, he is not highly regarded by others at his level.

However, in view of the custom of having two deputy governors, the "favorite" has a good chance of being promoted at the end of this year. The most senior of the present assistant governors is Mr. Roengchai Marakanon.

Mr. Chawalit Thanachanan, the governor of the national bank, discussed the reasons for appointing another deputy governor. He said that the bank's workload is increasing. As someone who served as a deputy governor for four and one-half years, he said that he knows how difficult this job can be. The person who holds this position is like a "whipping boy." He has to be on top of everything. Today, the bank needs two deputy governors. In some countries, there are more than two.

The important thing is that the present deputy governor and governor will both retire at the end of this fiscal year. That could cause problems, because there would be a void at the top echelon of the national bank. [passage omitted]

Paper Supports Khukrit on Elected Government

90SE0021A Bangkok BAN MUANG in Thai 3 Apr 90 p 3

[Editorial: "Money Buys Democracy"]

[Excerpts] Parliament reporters invited MR [royal title] Khukrit Pramot to give a special lecture on the topic "Elected Government in the Eyes of MR Khukrit Pramot" on 31 March 1990. [passage omitted]

It was expected that more than half the people of the country would listen to and discuss the views of MR Khukrit. [passage omitted]

The frank opinions expressed by MR Khukrit, who is a pillar of democracy, probably opened the eyes of people who have "become lost" in a "money talks" type of democracy and given them food for thought about where Thailand's democratic path is leading in view of the fact that the basis of our democracy is money.

This shows that Thailand's present democracy does not belong to everyone, which was the intention of King Rama 7. Rather, this democracy belongs to the wealthy. It would not be wrong to call this a financiers' democracy. [passage omitted]

This poses a great danger to the lives of the poor in Thailand, which has a population of almost 50 million people. Their value as human beings will decline to the point where they are nothing but trash, or simply slaves used to vote for wealthy people. Only the shell of democracy will remain.

Will we continue to allow this situation to exist? This is something that the Thai people, particularly the poor and disadvantaged, should ponder. They should demand their democratic rights, which are being destroyed by dictatorship, financiers, and laws purchased with money. Will there be anything left for the poor. This is a very sad matter.

Opposition Leader Samak Views Chawalit Prospects

90A50045A Bangkok KHAO PHISSET in Thai 2-8 Apr 90 pp 24-27

[Interview with Thai Citizen's Party Leader Samak Sunthorawet; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [KHAO PHISSET] Politics and military affairs have changed now that General Chawalit Yongchaiyut has joined the administration and someone else has been appointed to the top spot in the army. What is your view of these changes?

[Samak] Actually, politics began to change when people started criticizing the administration. Looking back, it can be seen that the government did not carry on political activities very carefully. The government formed a cabinet composed entirely of people from the coalition parties. There were no neutral people to keep an eye on things. That is different from when General Prem Tinsulanon was prime minister. At that time, General Chawalit Yongchaiyut was Prem's representative. Stated simply, people kept close watch on the cabinet. But ever since 1986, in appointing ministers, the various coalition parties are been given free rein in appointing people. The political parties have not given any consideration to the suitability of those appointed. Instead, positions have gone to senior people and people with money. Little attention has been given to how

knowledgeable or capable these people are. As a result, some of our ministers have little knowledge or talent. They have allowed the bureaucrats to handle things. Some ministers have focused their attention on growing rich. They have looked for ways to bring in money. This is the nature of the present administration [passage omitted]

In short, the fact that General Chatchai has brought General Chawalit into the administration means that he is using the "like cures like" method. When he asked General Chawalit to join the government, General Chawalit was very clever. He removed one fuse after another. He handled the air force problem himself, promoting Big Te (Air Chief Marshal Kaset Rotchannin) to the top spot. He took steps to ensure that the army did what he wanted by transferring General Phichit Kunlanwanit to Supreme Command Headquarters. General Wanchai Ruangtrakun was made under secretary of defense. That left only General Sunthon Khongsomphong. As for General Suchinda Khraprayun, he is neutral as far as General Suchinda is concerned. In the end, General Chawalit couldn't find an heir. He couldn't bring in General Sunthon or General Charuai, because that might have looked bad. General Phichit and General Wanchai were already too far away. And now he has left.

If General Chawalit could have found a military heir, he could have been a major player in politics. But he would not have been the same as General Prem, who came in as a neutral person. Today, there is no longer any chance of bringing in a neutral person. This has forced General Chawalit to make a choice. Comparing this to a game of rummy, General Chawalit has made mistakes. He has drawn too many cards and has almost no cards left to play. Thus, he has had to collect the cards that others have thrown away. Otherwise, he wouldn't have any cards to use. Now, all that General Chawalit can do is lay down cards. Politics is very restrictive, and it's difficult to bargain.

[KHAO PHISSET] Then you don't consider General Suchinda, who has replaced General Chawalit as RTA CINC, to be his heir?

[Samak] No. General Suchinda was chosen because General Chawalit had no other choice. And today, with respect military and government appointments, the prime minister probably felt that the best solution was to bring General Chawalit into the government so that he could help solve the problems. As insiders have said, there were four people in the government who were too boisterous and whom some factions wanted to remove. The prime minister has now managed to remove them. As for two others, the two parties to which they belong will have to solve the problems themselves.

[KHAO PHISSET] Why was it necessary for General Chawalit to join the government?

[Samak] He had no other choice. One way of thinking is that he was invited to join the government in order to

shore up the government. That is, there were people who didn't want the administration to rely on some other military class, which could have affected other classes. And so, he was made a minister. Second, he was put in charge of suppressing corruption, about which there has been much criticism. But a third reason is that if he had not joined the government, he would have risked "being released into empty space." There would have been the danger of changes, because power is in the hands of the government. Bargaining power concerns the power to stage a coup. That is, "I won't dismiss you if you won't stage a coup." It was a matter of bargaining. [passage omitted]

[KHAO PHISSET] Do you think that the prime minister is grooming General Chawalit to succeed him as prime minister?

[Samak] That is his intention.

The prime minister is enjoying being prime minister. But if he completes his term, I can assure you that he won't run again. He will have had enough by then. He will have earned a reputation. He will have gone far enough. He will have reached the top.

But the problem is, although he has reached the top, his reputation could become tarnished because of how things have been handled. Things might have to be corrected later on. Things could easily come to an end.

[KHAO PHISSET] Why do you think that General Chatchai is grooming General Chawalit as his heir?

[Samak] That is his intention. If I can read his mind. Party secretary Banhan has said that he is No 2. But I think that this is the best choice. General Chawalit has few choices. He could become the leader of the Thai Nation Party. He could become the leader of the Social Action Party or the Solidarity Party. Or he could form a new party. But he can't form a new party unless parliament is dissolved. And today, politics has him tied. He has a new position. If a seat becomes vacant, he will have a problem. That is, if there is a by-election and he doesn't run, he will face severe criticism.

[KHAO PHISSET] It seems that bringing General Chawalit into the government will benefit General Chatchai.

[Samak] It will help. And making him his heir will help forge ties. [Chulachomklao Royal Military Academy] Class 5 will be pleased by this. The only thing is that this comes just a little late. In the past, they could have taken control immediately.

One reason why General Chatchai refused to resign in order to solve the government's problems is that he does not trust our MPs. He is afraid that if he resigns and submits the names of, say, 200 MPs, Mr. Wan Chansu (the president of parliament) might hold them. Suppose that Mr. Wan does not submit the names. General Chawalit would be able to negotiate the terms. If the Thai Nation Party became an opposition party, many people would be very happy. Do you see? These MPs

shouldn't accept this type. That is, we got rid of General Prem. We shouldn't install another Prem. But there are those who want to block the Thai Nation Party and see it become an opposition party. That could happen, because there is nothing in the constitution that prohibits that. [passage omitted]

[KHAO PHASET] What path do you think General Chawalit will follow?

[Samak] General Chawalit will definitely find the path ahead of him filled with difficulties. The first problem is, Who will resign so that he can run for office. If there is a vacancy in the northeast, there shouldn't be any problem. But if the opportunity arise somewhere else, he might come under heavy criticism, because he might not run. He will have the same status as everyone else. What army commander would help him? I don't think that this is possible. Thailand is strange. Once you are out, you are on your own. Someone else has taken his place. The most that he can hope for is the respect of people.

[KHAO PHASET] Is his replacement stronger?

[Samak] It depends. The new military commander is neutral.

[KHAO PHASET] Thus, if he wants to become prime minister, General Chawalit will have to join the Thai Nation Party.

[Samak] Probably. And he will have to throw himself into politics. He will have to use all his knowledge and talents. But his ties to the military will give him an advantage. [passage omitted]

[KHAO PHASET] In short, you think that General Chawalit will join the Thai Nation Party rather than take some other path, is that right?

[Samak] I think that that is his most likely course of action, because that will benefit him. [passage omitted]

[KHAO PHASET] What will relations between the army and the government be like?

[Samak] Let me put it this way. Will General Chatchai continue to use Class 7 to bargain with them? If he does, there will definitely be problems. You don't have to look very far. The aide to the minister of defense will be replaced. Manun will be replaced. The secretary to the minister is another one.

[KHAO PHASET] Will the political views of General Suchinda, the new RTA CINC, affect the political environment?

[Samak] General Suchinda has already had his first lesson. He needs a second and third lesson. Things must be done more carefully. But I don't think that General Suchinda has made any mistakes. Rather, the mistake was releasing this news. If he was speaking to insiders in an academic way, it shouldn't have come out like that. Releasing that news was damaging. This is the fashion

here. That is, people like to do this. But that taught General Suchinda to be more careful.

However, General Suchinda is a professional soldier. He is not a political soldier or politician. And he is not like Big Chiu. There will be fewer conflicts between the military and the government, because he is not like Big Chiu. Big Chiu likes to talk. And when some talks a lot, there are always problems. Whenever he says something, you have to interpret it.

[KHAO PHASET] Why do you think that General Suchinda is a professional soldier?

[Samak] From the things that he has said. The things that he has said show that he is not a politician. He has spoken like a soldier. He is not ready to become a politician. Big Chiu has prepared himself to become a politician. Whenever he says something, you have to interpret it. He talks in circles. Even if you listen carefully, you have no idea what he said. [passage omitted]

[KHAO PHASET] Looking at the opposition, specifically the Solidarity Party, it seems that that party has constantly tried to woo General Chawalit. Now that General Chawalit has joined the government, has the opposition lost?

[Samak] General Chawalit is a very lucky man. He was able to join the government. The Solidarity Party did not want to join the government. That's all. And he might stay just temporarily. If he can't get along with them, he might switch to the Solidarity Party and become party leader. He wouldn't have to go to all the trouble of forming a new party. Mr Narong Wongwan is very tired. That's a possibility. The Social Action Party has said that it won't do things that way. It would be better to have someone who is neutral. There are several such parties. The Masses Party says that it established the party for him. There are at least three parties lined up.

[KHAO PHASET] Nothing startling will happen to the opposition parties, right?

[Samak] There aren't any problems. I don't foresee any problems. There aren't any major problems. The question is, Is there anything for which the minister of defense should be criticized? So far, there isn't. And so we are remaining quiet for the moment. [passage omitted]

Air Force Senior Leadership Profiled

90A50044A Bangkok KHAO PHASET in Thai
2-8 Apr 90 pp 42-44

[Text] Air Chief Marshal Kaset Rotchananin, the RTAF CINC

Date of birth: 27 August 1933

Education:

Saraburi provincial boys school

Upper secondary school
 RTAF Academy, Class 1
 Flying training school, Korat, Class 25
 Squadron officers school, Class 18
 Air Command and Staff College, Class 15
 Air War College, Class 13
 National Defense College, Class 26
 Education abroad:
 Squadron officers school, Air University, USAF
 Academic instructors school, Air University, USAF
 Important positions:
 1958: Pilot assigned to the 2d Flight, 52d Squadron, 5th Wing
 1958: Pilot assigned to the 1st Flight, 13th Squadron, 1st Wing
 1963: Training officer, Operations Section of the 61st Squadron, 6th Wing
 1968: Operations officer, Operations Section, 61st Squadron, 6th Wing
 1971: Squadron leader, 62d Squadron, 6th Wing
 1976: Deputy commander, 2d Wing
 1977: Deputy commander, 6th Wing
 1978: Commander, 6th Wing
 1980: Deputy director of logistics
 1982: Director of logistics
 1984: Assistant AF chief of staff for operations
 1985: Deputy AF chief of staff
 1986: AF chief of staff
 1987: Deputy RTAF CINC
 1988: Deputy supreme commander
 Present position: 1989: RTAF CINC
 Special positions:
 1958: Special AF liaison officer during the Korean War.
 1961: Pilot with the transport unit
 1963-1980: Pilot with the Royal Conveyance Division
 1965: Head of the Victory Unit during the Vietnam War
 1973: Royal aide-de-camp
 1976: Member of the National Administrative Reform Council
 1977: Member of the National Legislative Council
 1979-present: Member of the Senate
 1984: Chief advisor to the director of the Bangkok Mass Transit Authority and member of the board of the Thai Airways Company Ltd.
 1985: Member of the board to consider bartering weapons and war materials for agricultural and industrial products
 1986: Member of the board of Thai Airways International
 1987: Permanent member of the board of the Veterans Council and supreme military arbitrator
 Decorations:
 Maha Wachira Monkut
 Maha Poramaphon Chang Phuak
 Spouse: Mrs. Wanthana Rotchananin
 Children: Miss Kkesi Rotchananin, Mrs. Kotsama Yuk-tathat, Miss Kanittha Rotchananin
Air Chief Marshal Kan Phimanthip, deputy RTAF CINC
 Date of birth: 28 April 1933
 Place of birth: Maha Phrutaram, Bangrak, Bangkok Metropolitan
 Present address: 111/81 Ban Thippithak, Phahonyothin, Bangkok
 Spouse: Mrs. Chitwadi Phimanthip
 Education:
 1953: RTAF Academy
 1958: Flight training school
 1968: Squadron officers school, Class 18
 1971: Air Command and Staff College, Class 15
 Rank:
 1958: Pilot officer
 1961: Flight officer
 1964: Flight lieutenant
 1967: Squadron leader
 1972: Wing commander
 1976: Group captain

1982: Air vice marshal
1985: Air marshal
1987: Air chief marshal
Past positions:
1958: Pilot
1969: Test pilot
1974: Chief of staff, 4th Wing
1977: Commander, 1st Wing
1978: Assistant air attache in Kuala Lumpur and acting assistant air attache in Singapore
1981: Deputy director of intelligence
1982: Director of intelligence
1984: Director of operations
1985: Assistant AF chief of staff for operations
1986: Commander of the RTAF security force
1987: AF chief of staff
Present position: Deputy RTAF CINC (since October 1988)
Decorations and medals:
Maha Poramaphon Chang Phuak
Maha Wachira Mongkut
Thai Order of Merit
Victory Medal
Freedom Medal

Air Chief Marshal Kroekchai Hansongkhram, Assistant RTAF CINC
Date of birth: 8 September 1933
Spouse: Mrs. Phongsri Hansongkhram
Education:
Rachirawut Withayalai school
Army Preparatory school
Chulachomkloa Royal Military Academy
Flight training school
Revised flight curriculum of the U.S. Air Force
Air Command and Staff College, Class 16
Army War College, Class 24
National Defense College, Class 27

Important positions:
Deputy commander, 5th Wing
Commander 53d Wing
Director of the flight safety division, Office of the Inspector General
Chief of staff of the Air Operations Control Directorate
Deputy director of the Air Operations Control Directorate
Director of education and training, Air Force
Assistant RTAF CINC

Air Chief Marshal Phisit Sikalasin, assistant RTAF CINC
Date of birth: 1 August 1934
Spouse: Mrs. Chirawat Sikalasin
Children: Two daughters
Education:
RTAF Academy, Class 1
Flight school in the U.S.
USAF squadron officers School
USAF instrument flight instructor's course
Air Command and Staff College
Air War College
National Defense College
Important positions:
Deputy commander, 4th Wing
Assistant air attache in Manila
Deputy commandant of the flight training school
Director of personnel
Assistant AF chief of staff for personnel
Deputy AF chief of staff
AF chief of staff
Assistant RTAF CINC

Air Chief Marshal Anan Klintha, AF Chief of Staff
Date of birth: 19 June 1933
Education: Upper secondary school
RTAF Academy, Class 1
Air Command and Staff College, Class 15

Armed Forces Staff College, Class 19

Air War College, Class 17

National Defense College

Education abroad:

British Air Force Academy

USAF squadron officers school

Important positions:

1959: Pilot with the 22d Squadron, 2d Wing

1961: Pilot with the 3d Flight, 63d Squadron, 6th Wing

1961: Forward air control officer, Joint Operations Team, Operations Division, Tactical Air Command

1963: Flight instructor at the flight training school

1965: Jet pilot

1970: Instructor at the squadron officers school

1975: Deputy head of the Planning Section, Operations Division, Tactical Air Command

1976: Deputy director of the Policy and Planning Division, Directorate of Operations

1978: Acting director of the Policy and Planning Division, Directorate of Operations

1979: Assistant air attache assigned to the Thai embassy in Jakarta

1983: Chief of staff of the Air Operations Control Directorate

1986: Assistant AF chief of staff for operations

1988: Deputy under secretary of defense

Present position:

1989: RTAF chief of staff

Special duties:

1962: Combat information officer, Combat Planning division

1966: Assigned to the UN forces in Korea

1972: Liaison officer with the 1st AF Liaison Team, Ratburi

1973: Fighter operations officer in the Khmer Republic

1975: Commander of the Nakhon Phanom Air Base

Decorations:

Maha Wachira Monkut

Maha Poramaphon Chang Phuak

Spouse: Mrs. Suraphi Klintha

Children: Aphichada Klintha, Aphisara Klintha, Phatraphon Klintha

Border Official Disputes 'Yellow Rain' Report

42000074C Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 18 Apr 90 p 9

[Article by Yod Doi from the Mountaintop column]

[Text] The so-called "Yellow Dust" mystery has come back to haunt villagers living along the Thai-Lao border, but provincial officials are not convinced that the "dust" is a toxic substance blown across the border.

A week or so ago, the Third Army Region warned Thai villagers in Nam, Chiang Rai and Uttaradit provinces about the possible danger from "Yellow Dust" after a report claimed that 10 Nan residents were hospitalised after coming in contact with it.

The report, however, was denied by Nan Deputy Governor Pipat Kongmalai. "There isn't 'Yellow Dust' or 'Yellow Rain' as claimed by the report," he said in an interview with Yod Doi. "I have heard about its occurring along the Thai-Cambodian border provinces of Chanthaburi and Trat, but I've never known about its danger here in the North."

The Third Army claimed that 10 villagers had been given medical treatment at a district hospital and that samples of the "dust" had been found scattered in the vicinity of Nam Onn stream.

The samples were collected for laboratory tests, which revealed that they did not contain toxic chemicals, the deputy governor assured.

According to the Army's warning, local villagers said the "dust" caused skin inflammation, eye irritations and created nausea and acute diarrhoea if swallowed.

The deputy governor said Nan police and a team of provincial public health officials led by Dr Boonyong Wongmitre, director of Nan Provincial Hospital, had examined the 10 villagers and concluded that a wild flower's pollen grains caused the sickness.

Columnist Opposes Recognition of Hun Sen

90SE0038D Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai 7 Apr 90 p 3

[Column by Chalam Khieo: "Recognizing Hun Sen"]

[Excerpts] By now General Chawalit Yongchaiyut may have begun to figure out how politics is played. [passage omitted]

If he must get involved in shady dealings such as the game of recognizing the government of Hun Sen, I think it will not be pleasant for him at all.

I read the story which appeared in the newspaper that at the first meeting of the Council of Ministers General Chawalit joined the discussion about playing the losing card and recognizing Hun Sen, and it seemed strange to me because the source of the information was a "news report"; this implied that the person providing the story was afraid of what he was doing and might be telling the truth or might be planting a story.

I investigated this story carefully, and the words about playing the losing card and recognizing the government of Hun Sen were not those of General Chawalit.

General Chawalit joined in the discussion at this meeting of the Council of Ministers, but he said that he wanted time for officials to study the effects of this move beforehand.

On analyzing these new moves in this old matter, it appears clear that this time they are serious, and General Chawalit will be used to back it.

The pro-Vietnam and Hun Sen faction in our country has been trying for a long time now to have us recognize the government in Phnom Penh of Mr. Heng Samrin, but no one dared to speak freely until General Chawalit arrived and then it was felt that he was the one to make their wishes come true.

When the determination is sufficient, everything is possible.

But do not forget the damage which will be done to the nation will be long-term and will effect even our descendants.

The first factor to be considered before recognizing the government of Hun Sen is:

International law and allies.

Did Vietnam's army not invade Cambodia, drive off the legal government, and establish a puppet government? Did this not violate the UN charter? Did the votes to seat the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea in the UN General Assembly increase or decrease in the past year? If they increased, it means that the world still does not accept the military invasion.

ASEAN, the United States, Great Britain, France, and 123 other countries throughout the world still consider that the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea is the legal government and is the correct government according to the principles of peaceful coexistence. If Thailand breaks away, it will be breaking with friends who have been with us for a long time.

The only thing we will gain from recognizing the government of Hun Sen is the heart of Vietnam. [passage omitted]

POLITICAL

Greetings on Vietnam-Nepal Relations Anniversary

BK1405155290 Hanoi VNA in English 1442 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 14—Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach today sent a message of greetings to his Nepalese counterpart on the occasion of the establishment of the Vietnam-Nepal diplomatic relations.

In his message, Nguyen Co Thach wished the friendship between the two peoples further consolidation and development in the interests of the two peoples, and of peace, stability, and cooperation in the region.

Council Issues Regulation on Inspection Work

BK1005141490 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 8 May 90

[Text] To enhance the efficacy of inspection work, strengthen state management, seriously implement state policy and laws, and broaden socialist democracy, the Council of Ministers recently promulgated a regulation on the organization and activities of the inspection sector.

The regulation comprises 41 articles in seven chapters defining the general clause, principles, work contents, and activities concerning the inspection sector.

MILITARY

Lessons Learned in First Phase of Haiphong Conscription

902E0195A Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 9 Mar 90 p 2

[Article by Dao Van Su]

[Text] This conscription campaign, Haiphong City organized things to deliver recruits for induction on the mornings of 26 and 28 February 1990. By 1000 hours on 28 February, Hong Bang and Le Chan wards had finished delivering their recruits for induction without having to use the reserve figures. At the induction points in Hong Bang, we saw several youths whose eyes were red from crying, because the unit already had enough recruits. Thus, they will have to wait for the next induction campaign. That afternoon, the provincial military committee received reports from the wards, districts, and cities stating that the required number of recruits had been inducted and that safety had been maintained. Not one locality had failed to deliver the required number of recruits. The units in Haiphong receiving recruits praised the quick and orderly manner in which the recruits were delivered. Some places such as Hong Bang Ward finished delivering the recruits in just

45 minutes. Do Son City had to take preventive measures for just one person, or 0.5 percent. These were excellent results. But just two weeks prior to this, the newspapers and radio and television stations in Haiphong were reporting that this year's military recruitment situation was encountering very serious difficulties. And even on the days that the recruits were delivered for induction, leading cadres from the subward and village level to the municipal level admitted that this year's recruitment campaign had been very difficult. This change from facing difficulties to achieving success did not happen all by itself. What did Haiphong do to change this situation?

Mobilizing and Educating Youths—Many Forms and Resolute Measures

On the first day that physical examinations were given to youths in Haiphong in preparation for the first recruitment campaign of 1990, there was great turmoil. The percentage of youths who went to the examination stations had never been so low. In some wards and cities, only 10-50 percent of the youths went for their physical examination. Looking into this, we saw that there were many reasons for this. Some youths did not understand their responsibilities in carrying out the Military Draft Law. The new management mechanism could not force them to do anything. There had been many difficulties in implementing the military rear policies and the policies on demobilized soldiers who have returned home. The matter of social fairness had not been resolved well with respect to military obligations. Many of the people who had avoided conscription and ignored orders had not been resolutely punished.

Also, in many places, the physical examinations were organized before the local leadership apparatus had been perfected and before the new chairman had taken over and the old chairman had retired. Furthermore, the effects of the March 1989 recruitment of Haiphong youths in Military Region 1 had not been fully overcome. Even though Haiphong had sent delegations to take the youths back to their old units, the situation had not been fully stabilized. Many families said that the cadres in the units were too militaristic and that their children were being harassed. With a clear understanding of the situation, the Municipal CPV Committee, the Haiphong Municipal People's Committee, and the Haiphong Municipal Military Committee instructed the echelons to concentrate on spreading propaganda and educating the youths about fulfilling their civic duties and resolutely punish those who had avoided fulfilling their obligation or kept other youths from being recruited into the military. From the party chapters and people's cells to the subward, ward, district, and city people's committees, factories, and enterprises, review meetings were organized, and each family was given the task of mobilizing youths for induction. Many places used very lively forms of mobilization and achieved good results. In Ngo Quyen Ward, after the son of Pham Xuan Yen, a category 2/4 war invalid, and the

son of the head of the Sea Transport General Department went for their examinations, many families encouraged their children to obey the order. Six of Dang Van Vuong's children had joined the army. This time, his seventh son enthusiastically went for his physical examination. Whenever families gave reasons why their children could not go for their physical examinations, the committees, sectors, and mass organizations in the subwards and wards resolutely tried to educate them. If that failed, they prepared a memorandum. Thus, many families signed the memorandum, promising to send their children for an examination and prepare them for induction.

Criticize and Promptly Prosecute the Children of Cadres and Party Members Who Try To Avoid Their Military Obligation

Nguyen Trong Lo, a member of the Municipal CPV Standing Committee and the chairman of the Municipal Propaganda and Training Committee, said that "For this campaign, the Municipal CPV Committee decided to both work and spread propaganda. In order to ensure social fairness, the cadres and party members had to set an example in encouraging their children to enlist. Recently, a number of party members, who are subward and village cadres, and services took steps to help their children avoid the draft. They have been reported, and the Haiphong television station has criticized this. This has generated good public support and encouraged people to fulfill their military obligation."

The subwards and villages have counted the children of cadres and party members who have tried to avoid the draft and sent their names to the ward and city for integration. If their parents work for a state organization, the ward or district will send a letter to the organization, and the head of that organization will review the matter and take disciplinary action. If the parents are party members active in the locality, the matter will be reviewed by the party chapter where they reside. Nguyen Quang Tuyen, the vice chairman of the Municipal Control Committee said that "This is an important theme. It is related to controlling party members. If a party member intentionally tries to prevent his son from being drafted, he must be expelled from the party."

We met several cadres and party members whose children had avoided this draft. But not one said that they had "intentionally tried to prevent this." They all said that they had told their children of their responsibilities. If a child is bad, the parents can't teach him.

Is that true? What are the responsibilities of parents?

The primary level party committees must seriously review this and make clear determinations. There are families in which both the mother and father have been party members for many years, such as the family of Ho Chu, the director of the Cultural and Information Service, and the family of Le Thi Hanh, the deputy secretary of the Hoang Van Thu Subward CPV Committee, but they have allowed their children to avoid the draft.

Many irregularities in this conscription campaign in Haiphong were discovered by the masses. They criticized these things publicly, and this had good results. However, there were also a number of cases in which the criticisms were not investigated seriously, with the result that the wrongs were not rectified. The Ngo Quyen Ward public security forces were criticized for arbitrarily allowing four youths who had passed their induction physicals to go to school without going through the Military Draft Council. Dao An, the chairman of the Military Draft Council and the chairman of the Municipal People's Committee, ordered the public security service to send a vehicle to pick up the four youths and bring them back. But the Ngo Quyen Ward public security forces did not do this. The Haiphong City Military Committee and Chairman Dao An thought that the order had been carried out. It wasn't until we investigated and reported this that they learned the truth.

Good results were achieved in the first military conscription campaign of 1990 in Haiphong. But because of the hurried manner in which this was carried on and because the rear area policies (invalid soldiers and social welfare, priority to discharged soldiers, handling of deserters) were not implemented fully, the problem that remains is to ensure that the soldiers fulfill their military obligation and not desert.

We were told that Haiphong has made plans to visit and encourage the troops during the training period. That is essential. But at the same time, an effort must be made to implement the military rear policies and ensure social fairness. If these things are done, future conscription campaigns will go more smoothly and Haiphong's soldiers will feel more at ease and fulfill their military obligations well.

Special Operations Branch Prepares for Training

*902E0195B Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN
in Vietnamese 13 Mar 90 p 1*

[Article by Vu Ngoc Viem]

[Text] With the training motto "fundamentals, practicality, and firmness," by 10 March the units in special operations branch had completed making preparations for the 1990 training.

From squad leaders to regimental commanders, 98 percent of the cadres received eight to 12 days of training in order to ensure that they fully understand the orders and are in full agreement on the contents, methods, and problems that must be solved with respect to the control, training, and combat readiness measures. The command organized "offensive infantry division" training for the heads of the organizations, units, and schools and the field-grade and general officers in the branch.

With 3,000 man-days, all of the training grounds, from company to regiment, have been solidified, repaired, and unified. Groups 45, M98, and T20 have coordinated

things, made full use of the materials at hand, and built many new training grounds in order to carry on basic training and special operations training on time. Training materials and physical education equipment have been provided and full use will be made of the teaching materials left over from the previous year. This will cut training expenses by millions of dong.

The primary level units, from squads on up, have recorded their training ground times. The contents of the training result reports have been unified from the company level to the branch command level. The political, staff, and technical rear services organizations have sent cadres to each unit to conduct inspections and help subordinate echelons prepare for the new training year. On 15 March, all the units in the special operations branch will launch an emulation movement and hold a ceremony to mark the start of the military training.

ECONOMIC

Hospital Receives Gifts From GDR

*BK1605091690 Hanoi VNA in English 0738 GMT
16 May 90*

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 16—A ceremony was held here yesterday at the Vietnam-GDR Friendship Hospital to receive 3,465 kg of medicines and surgical instruments sent as gifts from the German Democratic Republic.

Present at the ceremony were GDR Ambassador to Vietnam Dietmar Grumbach and Professor Nguyen Van Dan, vice minister of public health.

The GDR has over the past 10 years made five consignments of medicines, surgical instruments, and fabrics as gifts to the hospital.

Bulgarian Red Cross Provides Aid

*BK1505044690 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
2300 GMT 14 May 90*

[Text] In Hanoi on 14 May, the Vietnam Red Cross Society held a ceremony to receive 19 tonnes of aid provided by the Bulgarian Red Cross Society. Bulgarian ambassador to Vietnam (Zheltozkov), on behalf of the Bulgarian Red Cross Society, presented the aid to professor Nguyen Trong Nhan, chairman of the Vietnam Red Cross Society.

The aid include canned meat, blankets, clothes, and shoes.

Trade Agreement With Cuba

90CA0040Z Havana GRANMA in Spanish 2 Apr 90 p 2

[Text] On 30 March, the Government Trade Delegation from the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, headed by Dinh Phu Dinh, vice minister of Foreign Economic Relations, and the Cuban Trade Delegation, headed by Pedro

Alvarez Borrego, vice minister of foreign trade, signed the 1990 Commercial Trade Protocol.

As a result of the document signed, there will be an anticipated nine percent increase in commercial trade between the two countries. Vietnam supplies rice, natural rubber, anthracite, engines, and another group of products, while Cuba delivers sugar, medicines, and other items.

Cuban Foreign Trade Minister Ricardo Cabrisas Ruiz met with Dinh Phu and both officials emphasized that despite the complex international situation, trade had developed between the two countries.

Cabrisas also referred to work that both countries are doing to achieve agreements regulating commercial trade relations over the next five years and possibilities of mutual cooperation in other areas.

Proposal for Cooperation With Thailand on Rice Export Prices

*42000073A Bangkok THE NATION in English
8 May 90 p 15*

[Text] Hanoi—The Vietnamese agriculture and food industry minister, Nguyen Cong Tan, said yesterday he had accepted in principle a Thai proposal for the two countries to cooperate in setting rice export prices.

But a leading Thai rice exporter expressed scepticism yesterday about the Vietnamese response. He suggested Tan was simply replying politely to the Thai proposal, designed to avoid price undercutting and to curb Thailand's loss of market share for lower grade rice caused by last year's surge in Vietnamese exports.

The proposal was put to Tan yesterday by the visiting Thai commerce minister, Dr Subin Pinkayan, who suggested Thailand and Vietnam should cooperate to set prices of the lower grade rice (corresponding to the Thai 25 percent grade) that they both export.

Subin said the cooperation was needed in order to maintain price stability on world markets and to prevent exploitation by international brokers. He also proposed sharing information so that both countries could follow market developments more accurately.

Tan said Vietnam had no objections to the proposal and would agree to talks being held shortly to discuss the details. Last year was the first year in recent history that Vietnam was able to export rice, he said, and therefore cooperation with Thailand would be highly beneficial for the country's plans to continue to export.

Last year Vietnam produced 19 million tonnes of paddy, but this year's production cannot be assessed yet, Tan said.

The Vietnamese agriculture and food industry minister revealed to a Thai reporter for the first time details of Vietnamese rice production. He said that on average

Vietnamese farmers grow two rice crops per year usually producing 5,320 kg per hectare annually.

Most of the exports are 35 percent, 25 percent, and 10 percent grades, he said. Very little is 100 percent, the top category, although attempts are being made to improve production to conform with market demand, Tan said.

Ten million Vietnamese farming families grow rice on four million hectares. The average acreage is 0.6 hectares per family. The main varieties are "BR64, 66, 83, 84, 23." Under the reformed economic system, farmers can sell their rice freely. Four government companies export the rice.

However, Vichai Sriprasert, president of Riceland International and a board member of the Thai Rice Exporters Association, said the chances of the two countries being able to cooperate on export prices is slim.

Vichai, who is a private sector representative in Subin's delegation, interpreted the Vietnamese response as nothing more than politeness. Even among Thai exporters, cooperation on price setting has not been possible, he said. And as for the exchange of data, Vietnamese market information is probably worse than Thailand's, he said.

Judging by what he has seen of Vietnamese rice production, Thailand's exports face genuinely and increasingly dangerous competition, Vichai said. The Vietnamese irrigation systems, the heart of rice production, are highly efficient, he observed.

In the past year the economic reforms introduced by Hanoi are beginning to show results, Vichai continued. Farmers receive incentives in the form of fertilizer bartered for rice in a 1:2 ratio, and most important, the law has been amended to allow farmers to own their land and to pass it on to their children.

This has given greater meaning to "assets" and provided the greatest incentive for farmers, Vichai said.

But, he noted, Vietnam still has to reform its bureaucracy so that fertilizer is distributed more effectively and quality control is improved.

The question of cooperation on rice export prices has arisen because Thai 25 percent grade rice costs U.S.\$40-50 per tonne more than the Vietnamese equivalent which is priced at no more than \$200 per tonne.

Thai Commerce Minister's Visit Reported

*BK0805123590 Hanoi International Service in Thai
1130 GMT 8 May 90*

[Text] Thai Commerce Minister Subin Pinkhayan and representatives of such Thai business sectors as tourism and fishery visited the SRV from 6 to 7 May. On the afternoon of 7 May, the Vietnamese and Thai commerce ministers exchanged views and experiences on business

transactions, joint investment in producing and processing agricultural products, and joint investment between the Thai private sector and Vietnamese organizations in cultivating and canning pineapples and raising silk worms. They also discussed implementation of the credit terms that the two governments signed on 23 January.

Measures To Reduce Budget Deficit

*902E0204A Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese
21 Mar 90 p 2*

[Article by Doctor of Economics Tao Huu Phung]

[Text] The 1990 state budget estimate was approved by the Sixth Session of the Eighth National Assembly with a deficit rate that, although less than 1989, was still large. To this time, after two months of implementation, the extremely difficult and strenuous task of balancing budget receipts and expenditures has been a "hot" spot of our country's economy. During the first two months of the year, receipts amounted to only 33 percent of the first quarter plan and only six percent of the plan for the entire year but the deficit level for those two months was 20 percent of the level for the entire year as permitted by the National Assembly. Even so, many expenditure items still had no source of payment such those for capital construction investment, for the purchase of export goods, and for economic, cultural and social undertakings.

The primary reasons are that domestic business production is low. Budget debt collection discipline is not being strictly executed and budget debts and unpaid collections are still large, in some locations rising to hundreds of billions of dong. The direction and supervision of tax collection in accordance with the law has not received the proper level of concern. Many localities have not yet met the requirement of "using receipts to make expenditures," still have an ideology of relying on and waiting for the budgets of upper levels, etc.

From the situation above, we wish to submit several suggestions: Needed first of all is a proper viewpoint and concept that collections from domestic business production are the primary and most important source of revenue of the state budget at the present time, and that the viewpoint of minimizing revenue sources from within the economy while waiting and depending on external receipts must be resisted. To acquire revenue, the state budget must first of all stimulate and create conditions for promoting production development. The state must increase investment capital and implement credit interest policies with appropriate financial levers stimulating leading industrial sectors to earn much revenue for the budget. On the other hand, on the basis of strengthening foreign exchange management, the state must make investments in foreign exchange and provide guidance in the effective use of invested foreign exchange to increase raw material, machinery, and equipment imports; to stimulate partial industrial and

technical renovation; and to create a clear change in the business production quality of the state economic area and other economic components.

Sectors, sections, and primary level units must give concern to the better nourishment and exploitation of revenue sources, achieving proper and complete collection of every source of revenue for the state budget on the basis of current law, and thoroughly resisting shortfalls, especially those in the collection of industrial, commercial, and agricultural taxes and of export and import duties. Promptly promulgate a population income tax to properly and rationally achieve income distribution and redistribution among all levels of the population, with first of all an interim system of income regulations for economic facilities with high incomes and those with unreasonable incomes compared with the results attained.

It is necessary to immediately develop and implement Directive 21, 19 January 1990, of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers on strengthening discipline in the collection of state budget debts among state-operated economic units, and to comply with orders for prompt collection and distribution to resist collection shortfalls and backlogs.

Financial agencies at all levels must inspect the 1989 statements of sectors and units that during the recent lunar new year celebration disbursed excessive wages and awards and made irrational expenditures not in keeping with the policy and system of payment to the state budget.

Conduct a good inventory of the fixed and liquid assets of all sectors and state-operated economic facilities. On that basis, implement forms to transfer authority for using the types of capital mentioned above to each unit to both preserve and develop state capital, and to uphold the rights and responsibilities of financial autonomy of primary level units. Subsequently, a system of capital taxes must be promulgated that follows the principle of the more capital used, the more taxes paid, aimed at stimulating economical and effective capital use.

Strengthen foreign and civilian loan source management and unify the foreign exchange management system, achieving foreign exchange purchases and sales through banks to effectively and with the proper objective use annual sources of foreign exchange, with policies of debt repayment consistent with capabilities of the economy.

Apply concentrated and unified management and raise the effectiveness of export and import work. Export purchase expenditures are an extremely large item in the state budget that presently threaten to raise the budget deficit and positive measures of handling them are necessary.

An issue of paramount importance is reorganization of export-import business activities along a course of concentrating junction points and reducing intermediate steps to avoid roundabout buying and selling and

increased circulation charges, with efforts made to decrease the original cost of export goods.

Reexamine the overall quota of capital construction investment expenditure for 1990 for conformance with changes in domestic and foreign revenue sources on the basis of rationally redeploying and rearranging projects, reducing or postponing those not truly necessary and lacking in effectiveness. Allocate and loan capital precisely according to state procedures and stipulations, immediately overcoming occurrences of allocations and loans made in accordance with "phantom" amounts through greed for socialist property.

Properly execute the unified wage systems and policies of the state, ensuring payment of salaries and awards consistent with the principle of distribution in accordance with labor, and do not arbitrarily impose wage and cash award systems contrary to the common system of the state. In reality, a condition now exists in which wages are not uniformly implemented throughout the country with a number of sectors and production facilities paying salaries without a thorough understanding of the principle of distribution in accordance with labor, creating a great disparity in wages between sectors and failing to ensure social equality.

Thoroughly practice expenditure conservation in every field of economic and social life. The state should promptly promulgate specific systems, policies, and norms on conservation, dealing severely with cases of corruption or waste of state property, and suitably rewarding collectives and individuals with achievements in conservation practice.

Strengthen financial discipline by properly implementing Resolution 186-HDBT, 27 November 1989, of the Council of Ministers on decentralization of budget management to the local area. Strictly execute state accounting and statistics regulations. Every source of revenue must be audited and fully reflected in the budget. Eliminate all types of slush funds and halt disbursements not contained in the budget and without documentary proof. Make public all receipts and expenditures and submit accurate reports to upper echelons. Conscientiously, fully and promptly fulfill every obligation concerning the state budget. Regularly conduct good financial inspections and reviews, promptly praising good examples and good work with adequate material rewards and with strict prosecution of units and individual violating financial discipline.

CIDSE-Funded Projects

*BK0905153890 Hanoi VNA in English 1445 GMT
9 May 90*

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 9—The International Cooperation for Development and Solidarity (CIDSE) has approved 52 aid projects for Vietnam worth a total of 2,620,000 U.S. dollars for the year ended 28 February 1990.

These include five projects co-financed by CIDSE and the European. [as received] Most of the projects are intended to help in food production, especially in irrigation, some to assist victims of natural calamities and others to help in job-training and health care.

Ms. Marian Cadogan, representative of CIDSE in Hanoi, said that the organization was satisfied with the deployment of the projects so far.

CIDSE which is headquartered in Dublin (The Irish Republic) also has offices in Vientiane (Laos) and Phnom Penh (Cambodia).

20 Rice Mills To Be Built in Mekong Delta

42090025P

[Editorial Report] According to the Ho Chi Minh City daily SAIGON GIAI PHONG of 6 March, the Ministry of Construction and the directors of construction units in the Mekong Delta recently held a meeting to discuss plans to build 20 rice mills with a 50 tons/shift capacity in the Mekong Delta, using materials imported from Japan. Construction General Company 1 has been assigned to do the job.

The newspaper also reported that capital shortage was impeding construction projects in the Mekong Delta.

'Critical' Food Shortage Reported in Nghe Tinh Province

42090022P

[Editorial Report] On 26 March the Hanoi daily NHAN DAN reported that Nghe Tinh Province was facing a "critical" food shortage. The problem was most widespread in Ky Anh, Thanh Chuong, Nghi Xuan, Quynh Luu, Huong Son, Huong Khe districts and in other districts in the mountain areas. Nghe Tinh's People's Committee had to purchase 500 tons of rice to help peasants, fishermen, and salt producers throughout the province.

The report stated that peasants who cultivate industrial crops for export were also short of food. Nghe Tinh loaned 500 tons of rice to these peasants with the expectation of being repaid in July from the harvest of peanuts and pepper.

Ho Chi Minh City-Haiphong Air Route Inaugurated

BK2704143090 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
0500 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] On 23 April, a TU134-B3 aircraft of the Vietnam Civil Aviation carrying passengers from Ho Chi Minh City's Tan Son Nhat airport, landed safely at the Haiphong International Tourist Airport. This is the maiden flight of a regular schedule of flights between the Haiphong-Ho Chi Minh City-Nha Trang-Danang route.

The Haiphong International Tourist Airport was built as a joint project between the Vietnam Civil Aviation and Haiphong municipality. About 4.5 billion dong was invested in repairing the airstrip, building an air terminal station and a control tower, and installing flight-control equipment.

Construction units have strengthened the 2,400-meter airstrip and have built safety areas on both sides of it. They have also built a modern air terminal station with the interior decorated according to civil aviation sector standards.

SOCIAL

Urgent Need for Fighting Corruption

902E0203A Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese
16 Mar 90 p 3

[Article by Nguyen Tung Lam]

[Text] The socioeconomic situation of our country is a topic of discussion in many locations. The positive results of the party's renovation policy have been acknowledged by practice. A way out of a seemingly stalemated economy has opened slightly. However, something impossible to be unconcerned about is the negative situation in every field of economic and social life that is becoming more seriously rampant. A portion of the cadres and party members, especially in economic sectors, have become degenerate, deviant, corrupt, and engaged in bribery and waste of state and public property. Court cases in which the principal culprits are cadres with position and power, or offenders taking advantage of those in authority to create losses in state property amounting to billions of dong are no longer a unique occurrence.

Regrettably, the detection and prosecution of economic offenses during the past few years has been on a downward trend. A large volume of state property has been converted into private property. Even more serious, this situation creates a chasm between part of the cadres and party members and the masses of laboring people. As General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh said, "The danger of gradually losing the masses will increase if the situation above is allowed to persist with no efforts to overcome it."

The name of this situation is nothing more than corruption. Corruption has reached an alarming state, tarnishing the fine image of our party among the people. To achieve that prestige, our party has had to sacrifice tens of thousands of its outstanding members throughout the 60 years of achieving its revolutionary leadership mission. Corruption has become a fundamental cause for the decline in public confidence in party leadership. Our party originates from the people and consists of the people's children. The party is responsible to the people for leading the revolutionary undertaking of the nation. This responsibility has been entrusted by history and the

people and is not something won through forceful acquisition of leadership power. The brilliant pages of history during the past 60 years of the party and people are proof affirming the truth of the party's leadership. Shortcomings in leadership of the socialist revolution have been clearly recognized and are being overcome by our party. The present situation of corruption is due to those posing as Communists and using the name of the party for extortion and sabotage. The people demand that the party thoroughly eliminate these vermin. This is a legitimate and positive demand, absolutely not a contradiction between the party and the people as some people believe.

The General Secretary stated, "This is truly a crime, whether viewed from the aspect of individual morals or social behavior. The law must resolutely eliminate these vermin. Party discipline must promptly halt the dangerous erosion of party prestige."

The problem presented now is that the party must immediately apply special measures to purify the party ranks. Actually, this means the party must launch a struggle against corruption for the strength of the party and the fine state of society we have built.

We think that in this struggle, the following points must receive attention:

First, the party must launch a mass movement against corruption. The primary objective would be party members and cadres holding management positions and cadres with the authority of or involved in deciding economic activities in economic, state management and social organization agencies. The higher the leadership position, the more that party members must be strictly reviewed and clearly inspected. Publicize conclusions on the private lives of leading cadres at all levels. Inventory the property and inspect the income of management cadres for signs of shady income.

Second, during the struggle process, one or two possibilities could occur: either a sketchy and generalized handling of two or three cases in the style of "sacrificing a pawn to save a rook"; or overstating, irrationally prosecuting, and unjustly portraying and accusing innocent individuals, and even possibly taking advantage of the struggle for internal purges and elimination of honest individuals who will not take sides. All these possibilities create a serious danger of destroying social stability with counteractions and consequences impossible to measure. Therefore, firm leadership is needed.

Third, establish "corruption resistance committees" from the central to the provincial, municipal and special zone level. These committees would be assigned special powers in prosecution. The activities of these committees must be ensured of no intimidation from any influence or protective umbrella. The members of corruption resistance committees must be carefully chosen and must be recognized as pure and reputable cadres and party members in legal protection, party and state agencies.

These are my own humble opinions as a party member, member of the press, and legal researcher. Because this is an internal struggle within the party in power aimed at purifying and strengthening the party and state apparatus, it is of special importance. Without concentrated and unified supervision, detailed and firm stipulations, and probability forecasts, mistakes will be difficult to avoid and when that occurs, the danger to the party will be even greater. Conversely, if resolute and thorough measures are not taken due to excess concern for adverse possibilities, the struggle will have no results, the situation of corruption will continue, and the confidence of the masses in the party will continue to erode. I think that by using the ranks of those participating in political and economic circles, and with high standards, our party will surely find the proper method for this struggle.

Family Planning Work Reviewed

902E0201A Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese
27 Mar 90 p 3

[Text] By accompanying several teams investigating, surveying, and evaluating the effectiveness of the population and family planning program in seven provinces and four key cities, we noted that after a year of execution, fairly many new and extremely pleasing features have appeared but impediments still exist that must be swiftly resolved. To acquire an objective assessment, the evaluation teams also contained specialists from the standing committee of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) in Hanoi, one of the international organizations providing our country with a fairly large amount of financing for this program.

After three rounds of surveying and inspecting the factors and data with microcomputers, the team members, including our own and the friends, unanimously affirmed that Vietnam made great progress during the past year in implementing this program that can be considered an achievement milestone in the strategic mission of each nation and the entire world during the present era. Perhaps active renovation, the proper course and conformance with objective patterns in socioeconomic life were instrumental in promoting the many actions effectively assisting and achieving in an increasingly synchronized and perfect manner the many measures of the population and family planning program. Doctor S.M. Macrae, director of the UNFPA Program in Vietnam, happily talked to members of the press after learning that the National Assembly and Council of Ministers of our country last year made several important decisions creating basic conditions for the program, such as the Health Protection Law, stipulating the function, mission, authority, and internal organization of the National Population and Family Planning Committee; the decision on budget investment in support of local areas for the construction and expansion of 300 technical service centers to assist mothers and children; and inter-village family planning to create conditions for couples to voluntarily apply convenient and safe contraceptive methods. With the concern of the party and state, sectors

and mass organizations conducted effective activities. The education sector introduced the population education program to general schools and teachers colleges in 33 provinces and cities. The Youth Union mobilized 20 million youths in achievement of the three objectives of population, marriage, and family with many vivid forms, drawing millions of young men and women of that age group to respond to the campaign. The General Confederation of Labor supervised provinces and cities in summarizing and drawing from many useful lessons during the five years of participation in this movement. The Ministry of Finance tripled the investment budget over the 1988 level. The Ministry of Public Health gave this program the top priority of six national programs. The Voice of Vietnam and television station have increased the number of broadcasts on resources, population, and the environment to three times a week.

The investigations and surveys indicated that with the same circumstances, time, and conditions, any place knowing how to apply uniform factors and measures can achieve the planned norms. Examples are Hanoi, Haiphong, Vinh Phu, Hai Hung, Nghe Tinh, Thanh Hoa, Quang Ninh, Tien Giang, and An Giang, locations that by the end of last year had formed and perfected an organized system from the province and city to the village, subward, and hamlet level to truly and effectively operate in gradually socializing this program. In Hanoi, Ha Son Binh, Vinh Phu, and Hoang Lien Son alone, besides constructing and placing in operation intervillage technical centers for family planning and mother and child protection in accordance with planned norms and with support capital from the central government, municipal and provincial level administrations also supplied additional funds amounting to hundreds of millions of dong in voluntary public contributions for the construction of many additional new centers. In Ha Son Binh, besides the funds contributed by hamlets for center construction, additional funds were issued to public health stations for use in the elementary and advanced training of midwives and pediatricians, fully answering village quantity requirements. From this, the program assembled sufficient conditions for affiliating the programs of the public health sector from the hamlet and village to the district and provincial level.

Through the investigations and evaluations, Thanh Hoa was confirmed by the teams as a location with great efforts in synchronized coordination between sectors and mass organizations to achieve the population and family planning program, especially in the rural area, one of the most difficult objectives of the program to achieve.

To this time, compared with 1988, the entire nation has reduced the birth rate by .44 percent.

However, according to the report of the recent sixth session of the National Assembly, "Achievement of the population and family planning program in our country during the past year has failed to achieve proposed norms, especially in the rural area. This program still has

many incomplete tasks and shortcomings that must be promptly overcome. Concurring with the assertion of our National Assembly, the investigative and evaluation teams also stated the foremost reason that local areas did not or have not achieved the planned norms of this program as proposed at the beginning of the year: that party committee and administrative echelons from the village to the provincial level still have no concept of the strategic importance and significance to invest in supervision equivalent to the great results attained with the purpose of fully utilizing and developing the favorable conditions of our country, as well as the special concerns of international organizations.

One of the typical examples cited by the investigative and evaluation teams was that while the nation creates conditions for this program to gradually and properly accomplish a portion of the assigned task by permitting establishment of an organized system of population committees with specialized cadre ranks with their own accounts, not a few local areas have arbitrarily disbanded this organized system by incorporating it into the planned parenthood station, or combining it with the preventative health center. Moreover, a number of local areas have withdrawn funds from the program budget to build operating rooms and canteens or to purchase diagnostic and treatment equipment.

In many localities, including large cities, we noted that not a few family planning technical service centers were in operation. Regrettably however, responsible departments of the Ministry of Public Health have still not issued specific operations guidance to these centers. Even more reprehensible is that in a number of provinces, public health service directors have not directly and specifically supervised this program but have given a blank check to the planned parenthood stations. Therefore, many key national and sector programs lack the conditions necessary for uniformly achieving affiliation in accordance with guidelines proposed by the Ministry of Public Health. Perhaps because of this, many factors for formulating plans as well as widely disseminating contraceptive methods have not reached those practicing voluntary application, especially in the urban areas. Consolidated data indicates that the practice of endometrial aspiration and abortion is double that of contraception, which is unacceptable! Even Dr. Phan Trinh, chief of the Secretariat of the National Population and Family Planning Committee, asked, upon learning of this unreasonable ratio in a conference to review the public health sector, "I wonder if the designation of endometrial aspiration and abortion in public health facilities is correct, especially the abortion rate." If this situation is true, clearly the public health cadres in many locations have not properly maintained close contact with the people to propagandize and guide anyone who wishes to voluntarily apply contraceptive methods in an easy and convenient manner.

According to the objective reported by the Council of Ministers to the National Assembly, the program proposes a reduction in the birth rate this year of .4 percent

compared with 1989. To achieve this comprehensive objective, the state must strive to provide assistance to local areas to further expand the technical service centers; with 8,340,000 dong for capital construction and 15 billion dong for operating expenses. At the same time, the state must this year allow the importation of additional types of contraceptive drugs which our country does not have.

For the national program to achieve uniform cooperation, the public health sector of the entire country must

have a uniform supervision center. One task for swift accomplishment is to revise the collection of service funds for those voluntarily applying measures of contraception and few births, consistent with the decision of the Council of Ministers on a priority policy for the population and family planning program. At the same time, revise the system of technical subsidies for those serving, aimed at encouraging these ranks to do better, and to assist couples wishing to participate in population and family planning to do so easily and conveniently.

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