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2 April 1984

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INDONESIA

RIFT IN SURABAYA PDI REPORTED

Rival Committee Formed

Surabaya SURABAYA POST in Indonesian 2 Jan 84 p 2

[Text] Surabaya: At the beginning of the new year at midnight on Saturday, the political scene was startled by the establishment of a rival PDI [Indonesian Democratic Party] branch executive committee in Surabaya. The rival committee was formed by 19 Surabaya subdistrict commissioners who had been suspended last November by Soetam Soekarno, chairman of the Surabaya PDI DPC [Branch Executive Committee].

Young PDI members, as well as PDI officers who felt they had been excluded from the discussions which resulted in the commissioners' suspensions, reacted strongly to the suspension.

Although Drs Marsoesi, chairman of the East Java PDI DPD [regional executive committee], promised to meet with the Surabaya PDI DPC on 3 January, and in spite of the announcement by Soetam Soekarno, chairman of the Surabaya PDI DPC, that the suspension order would be cancelled immediately, the rival PDI DPC's banner was unfurled on Keburu field.

Torn Up

This morning, one of the Surabaya PDI DPC members stated that the 1984 New Year's decision portfolio should be torn up and discarded because of the instability and anxiety which has resulted from the Surabaya PDI DPC chairman's decision to suspend the subdistrict commissioners in spite of the fact that it is in the subdistricts that the PDI has its most potentially active and mobile members.

When questioned about his position after hearing that Soetam Soekarno had issued an immediate cancellation of the suspension, he asked in reply, "Now that the flag has been raised, does it have to be lowered again?"

Meanwhile during a press conference this afternoon at Kedungdoro Street, young PDI members representing all 19 Surabaya subdistricts stressed that the rival committee was still an interim body. Its membership has been announced and the majority of those on the rival committee's BPH [Daily Management Body] are officers of the Surabaya PDI DPC led by Soetam and 60 percent are young Surabaya PDI members.

Review

The rival organization is the result of an agreement reached during a meeting between Surabaya PDI members and the 19 suspended commissioners.

Soetam Soekarno and Rahadi [committee secretary], whose leadership roles are no longer acknowledged by the rival executive committee, are certainly not included on the committee directorate. The rival committee urges the PDI central committee to review Soetam's management of the Surabaya PDI DPC. They feel that the suspension has caused a regional trauma, that Soetam's leadership has been inconsistent and contrary to the decisions of the branch working conference, and has caused a split in the Surabaya PDI organization.

The new committee's leadership does not intend to entrench themselves in office. They want to reorganize the PDI commission democratically and to hold a branch conference in the very near future.

The complete membership of the rival executive committee includes: Latief Asmarayuda, chairman; Amano, Enpe [N.P.] Tambuwun, Soebijanto, Soehadji, BA, Mardjuki, Soedjono, A. Harsono, and Achmad Sofyan, deputy chairmen; Achmad Balukh, secretary; Mrs Pangerapan, Soeparman A.S., Ami Poerwono, Soewito, BSc, and Soeharto, deputies; Soeratman, treasurer; Mrs Hutagalung, Hasan Khasan, and Soegito Tjiptoadi, deputies.

PDI Officials' Reaction

Surabaya SURABAYA POST in Indonesian 3 Jan 84 pp 2, 12

[Text] Surabaya: Drs Soepardi Sariohartono, chairman of the PDI faction in the DPRD [Regional Legislature] KMS [City of Surabaya], considers the formation of a rival PDI DPC by a number of PDI activists to be a normal occurrence which serves to emphasize the dynamic character which burns within the city of Surabaya's PDI.

In response to a question about the impact on party unity and the possibility of it affecting political stability in Surabaya, Soepardi asked with a grin, "You have written often about a number of PDI crises, haven't you? Evidently those crises did not have much effect."

He feels certain that the rival PDI will wither and die on the vine. According to Soepardi, since the PDI is one of the legal political organizations, the existence of another party calling itself the PDI is dependent on the acceptance of that party by the government and the higher level PDI leadership. Soepardi went on to say, "As long as the Central and East Java executive committees continue to recognize Soetam Soekarno's leadership role, then the Soetam DPC will be the leadership of PDI members and of all PDI faction representatives in Surabaya."

Personally, Soepardi feels that Soetam Soekarno must be recognized as the legal chairman of the Surabaya DPC since he was chosen by the PDI branch conference in April 1983. "If the branch conference, for instance, selected someone else, then PDI faction members would have to accept the leadership of that person," he said.

Only One

Soetam Soekarno, chairman of the Surabaya PDI DPC, has declared that he does not have the right to prohibit the establishment of a rival PDI DPC. "They have the sovereign right to proclaim something," he said, "but it must be clearly understood that there is only one political party directorate in an area and that their continued existence depends on the authorities."

Drs Marsoesi, chairman of the East Java PDI DPD, feels that the PDI and its officers in East Java and particularly in Surabaya are mature. For this reason, the East Java PDI DPD is giving them the opportunity to resolve the conflict themselves and to achieve a reconciliation. He added that if they cannot solve their differences, then the DPD will take action.

These three PDI officers were completely unaware of the political fireworks set off on Saturday night by the young Surabaya PDI cadre and commissioners from 19 subdistricts. Drs Soepardi and Marsoesi only learned of the existence of a rival DPC when they read the SURABAYA POST. Soetam Soekarno found out about it when he was questioned by a reporter. "Really, I don't know yet," Soetam said incredulously.

Mardjuki Bratawardani, another member of the PDI faction, said that he did not know anything about his name being listed as deputy chairman of the rival PDI executive committee chaired by Latief Asmarayuda. He felt that he was never contacted about this and guessed that the names of a number of others such as Soehadji, N.P. Rambuwun (Tambuwun), Mrs Pangerapan, and Mrs Hutagalung had been included without their consent.

The PDI branch conference held on 17 April 1983 at the Youth Forum, which selected Soetam Soekarno as the chairman of the Surabaya PDI DPC, was a rather confused affair. When the conference chose Soetam and eliminated the name of the other candidate, Bambang Pratikno, a number of PDI commissioners knocked over meeting chairs and threw food containers at one another. The complete dissatisfaction over the new chairman was a result of arrangements made by the PDI DPP [Central Executive Committee].

Soepardi believes that with the help of so prestigious a man as Drs Marsoesi, the PDI crisis can be resolved. "As long as the PDI has Marsoesi, it will reunite," he said.

The members of the DPC chaired by Soetam Soekarno include deputy chairmen Soehadji, H. Harsono, N.P. Tambuwun, Soebianto, Soedjono Tjiproprawiro, and Latief Asmarayuda; secretary D. Rahadi; deputy secretaries P. Soeharto, Mrs Poeengarapan, Soeparman, Soewito, and Mardjuki Bratawardani; treasurers Mrs Soeyitno and Mrs Hutagalung.

Background

This crisis began after Soetam and Rahadi issued Order #067 dated 22 November 1983 which addressed the suspension of administrative managers.

In essence, this order cancelled all orders of the former Surabaya PDI DPC regarding appointment of subdistrict commissioners and assistants and announced that, in the interim, administrative management was to be handled directly by the Surabaya PDI DPC. Prior to the appointment of new subdistrict assistant administrative managers, the chairman of the PDI DPC promised to appoint acting managers for all Surabaya subdistricts.

Although the intent of the order was not to dismiss or suspend the commissioners but rather to decommission them, the commissioners interpreted it as a suspension. Why was it necessary for them to be decommissioned? According to Soetam, there was more than one commissioner for each Surabaya subdistrict and some subdistricts had as many as three. This violates State Law No 3 of 1975 concerning political parties and the Functional Group (GOLKAR) party which permits only one commissioner per subdistrict.

He said that the commissioners would have retained their status if their appointment letters were not rescinded and that this situation would upset the stability of each subdistrict organization. Steps that have been taken include cancellation of the orders of the previous Surabaya PDI DPC, and the simultaneous decommissioning of the Surabaya commissioners. He reiterated that decommissioning does not imply dismissal or suspension. He stated that they still retain their mobility and that the arrangement still exists.

Hasty

He regreted that those commissioners who had received the order had not asked him or the secretary about it. Soetam feels that the cadre and commissioners who proclaimed the rival DPC acted hastily and that there would not be any problem if they had come to him with their questions.

The SURABAYA POST inquired if the presence of a rival DPC represented any threat to the PDI organization.

His response was, "There is no danger and there is no confusion because I did not create any confusion." Soetam feels that the actions of the young cadre are a normal occurrence. With a chuckle, he said that it's normal for youngsters to be dynamic.

He added that the lawful PDI DPC is the one which has its credentials from the central committee and that its management must adjust itself to local conditions for various reasons.

"Nowadays, political parties are partners with the government. There is no 'opposition' in the political parties," he said, "since they all accept the single principle (Pancasila)."

Soetam hopes that the rival Surabaya PDI DPC realizes that a reorganization is underway and he summons them to act according to the rules in the spirit of Pancasila.

Last Tuesday evening, the members of the PDI DPC and PDI members from throughout Surabaya met to resolve this problem. In addition to discussions on the organizational consolidation and clarification of the commissioners' suspensions, the meeting commemorated the 11th anniversary of the PDI. Soetam remarked that the meetings held between 22 and 29 December never achieved a quorum, thus the reorganization effort was blocked while, on Keburu field, the rival Surabaya PDI DPC was being proclaimed.

Present Themselves

On Monday night around 11:05 pm, the rival committee members, lead by A. Manu and Achmad Balukh, presented themselves to Marsoesi, chairman of the East Java PDI DPD.

Marsoesi took this opportunity to explain to them that in Indonesia political parties belong to the people and that political organizations have rules. As the party executive committee has stated, before they can take political action they must have credentials from the PDI DPD which are based on the recommendations of the East Java PDI DPD and of the local government. If these prerequisites can be satisfied then the new committee can be properly established.

There are other things to consider in this situation. If the PDI membership actually supports them, it is possible that the central committee will have to reconsider. "This is a valuable experience. Let's not allow the PDI to get an 'Ojo Dumeh' [arbitrary] attitude," Marsoesi said.

Rival Committee Continues to Exist

Surabaya SURABAYA POST in Indonesian 4 Jan 84 p 2

[Text] Surabaya: During its meeting on Kecilung Street last night, the Surabaya PDI DPC apparently did not discuss the establishment of the rival Surabaya PDI DPC even though a number of the rival committee officers including Latief Asmarayuda, Soebijanto, Soehadji, Mardjuki, A. Harsono, Soedjono, Mrs Pangera-pan [as published], Soeparman A.S., Soewito, BSc [Bachelor of Science], and Mrs Hutagalung were present.

During the meeting it was emphasized that SK [Directive] No 067 of 1983 had been cancelled. It was this order which rescinded all orders of the previous Surabaya DPC on the issue of subdistrict commissioners that had been interpreted as a suspension of those commissioners.

After first dining together, the committee met in closed session at 2000. Soetam Soekarno, the primary spokesman accompanied by Rahadi, finally gave a statement to the reporters who had been waiting outside for more than 2 hours.

After the meeting, the attendees spilled out of the living room of Mrs Hutagalung's house. Five members of the rival PDI executive committee exited together and said nothing, but motioned to Soetam and Rahadi who provided some information to the press at the PDI secretariat on Pacar Keling Street.

Prestige

The SURABAYA POST asked if the cancellation had not reduced the leadership's moral and political authority. "We are not looking for prestige. What has been done was not to serve my personal interests, but the interests of the organization. It is obvious that we are always ready to accept criticism," Soetam Soekarno stated in response.

He reported that the meeting was conducted in an atmosphere of brotherhood and mutual respect based on the true democratic spirit. The meeting concluded that it is essential to resolve the conflicts. "We will not permit the present confused conditions to continue," he snapped.

As party leader, Soetam approved the de facto cancellation of Directive No 067 of 1983. The cancellation order was immediately dispatched to all Surabaya subdistricts.

What about the existence of the rival Surabaya PDI DPC? "I don't know about that. Nothing about any type of rivalry was discussed during the meeting," Soetam emphasized again. He anticipates that cancellation of the order will put an end to the Surabaya PDI organization's problems. However, there still are multiple subdistrict commissioners and that problem will be addressed in a continuing and fraternal dialogue.

Frequent Occurrence

Meanwhile, young PDI members who are advisors to the Surabaya KNPI [National Indonesian Youth Committee] voiced the opinion that instances of opposition frequently occur within a party organization. Apparently, they have not studied and comprehended the spirit of State Law No 3 of 1975 on implementing the restructuring of party commissioners. All parties involved indicated that this is the primary factor in the conflict.

They said that a commissioner is a subdistrict or village level assistant to the DPC and that the branch executive committee cannot just act capriciously and disregard the accurate and sound advice of other officers.

Last year, the Surabaya PDI branch conference's commission on organization firmly tasked the Surabaya PDI DPC to rectify the commissioner issue on a case by case basis through subdistrict and village level dialogues. They remarked that perhaps this is where the Surabaya PDI DPC erred. Soetam himself has expressed his regrets over the issuance of Directive No 067 of 1983 which is seen as a bitter experience.

Embarrassed

From this incident, one can surmise that the Surabaya PDI leadership has yet to fully comprehend the details and implementation of State Law No 3 of 1975. Since the PPP [United Development Party] and GOLKAR [Functional Group], which must have faced the same problems in structuring their commissioners, did not encounter these difficulties, one of the young PDI members expressed the hope

that the DPC would not be embarrassed or reluctant to seek the advice of the government, the PPP, or GOLKAR. After all, the political parties and GOLKAR are one in the same; conduits of the peoples' aspirations.

Unaware

There were evidently many PDI officers who were unaware that they had been named as members of the rival committee. N.P. Tambuwum, for example, said that he had never been contacted or invited to speak. Mrs Hutagalung preferred not to comment and stated that the problem was now in Soetam's hands. She did say that when this all took place she was in Jakarta. Mardjuki, Soehadji, and Mrs Pangerapan all said that they did not know anything about it.

When contacted at his home, Latief Asmarayuda, chairman of the rival Surabaya PDI DPC, refused to answer any questions. He would only say that, during a meeting at his home on Tuesday afternoon, he and the young PDI cadre (members of the rival DPC) had agreed that Achmad Balukh would be designated as spokesman.

Balukh has stated firmly that the final verdict on the existence of the rival DPC rests in the hands of the DPP with the DPD as intermediary and that each of these bodies has their own guidelines. Should the central committee require the eventual restructuring of the subdistrict commissioners, then the rival DPC will continue to function without the leadership of Soetam Soekarno.

"Soon, we are going to Jakarta to meet with the DPP. We steadfastly intend to democratically select our subdistrict commissioners through a peoples' struggle. That has been our demand all along," Balukh reiterated.

In regard to the matter of members who were named to the rival committee without their knowledge or consent, Balukh stated that they were named to the committee because the people want a DPC that can be trusted and that does not include Soetam Soekarno or Rahadi.

What happens if a member refuses to join the committee? "No problem. Everyone has that right," Balukh replied.

Recognized

When the rival Surabaya PDI DPC met with the chairman of the East Java DPD, Marsoesi invited them to use the PDI secretariat facility on Pacar Keling Street which is also used by the Surabaya and East Java cadre. Balukh said that Marsoesi personally recognized only the de facto existence of the rival DPC. His recognition is based on the fact that the committee has arisen from the hopes and aspirations of the people represented by the commissioners from all Surabaya subdistricts.

The rival DPC intends to democratically accomplish the restructuring of subdistrict commissioner positions, to immediately convene a branch conference upon receipt of guidance from the central committee, and to expedite the re-generation of the Surabaya PDI organization from the branch level on down.

East Java PDI to Solve Crisis

Surabaya SURABAYA POST in Indonesian 5 Jan 84 p 2

[Text] Drs Marsoesi, chairman of the East Java PDI DPD, emphasized that his committee will act expeditiously to resolve all the problems which have arisen in the Surabaya PDI DPC.

He has invited the members of the PDI DPC led by Soetam and Latief, as well as the previously suspended commissioners to hold mature, level-headed consultations. Those who are right will be commended, those who are wrong will be admonished, and if necessary will be chastized and expelled. As the party elder and patron, Marsoesi hopes that all the problems of the Surabaya PDI organization can be solved. "I think that is the best way," he said.

Refused

He refused to acknowledge the de facto existence of the rival Surabaya PDI committee proclaimed by the subdistrict commissioners. The rival group presented itself to him 2 days ago, and were asked to abide by normal procedures. Since national Law No 3 of 1975 regulates the political parties and GOLKAR [the government party], the PDI has similar rules which are set forth in the party bylaws.

Marsoesi said that recognized branch directorates must possess certain credentials. They must be acknowledged by the central committee based on the recommendations of the East Java PDI DPD and the regional government. If all of these prerequisites are met, then their credentials will be bonafide. If not, then things become difficult.

"I received them as commissioners and as PDI members. I could not chase them away," he said with a smile. Mindful of the fact that they had been suspended by their leader Soetam, Marsoesi as the father figure said that he would defend the subdistrict commissioners.

He added that the directors of the East Java PDI DPD are now striving to resolve the Surabaya PDI organization's difficulties.

9127

CSO: 4213/142

INDONESIA

DEMONSTRATORS PROTEST DUTCH ASYLUM FOR IRIANESE

BK211325 Hong Kong AFP in English 1019 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Jakarta, 21 Mar (AFP)--A group of between 30 to 40 Indonesians from the eastern province of Irian Jaya today staged an orderly demonstration outside the Dutch Embassy to protest the embassy decision last week to grant asylum to four Irianese. The demonstrators, representing a Jakarta-based association of Irianese founded in 1982, carried banners and sang Indonesian patriotic songs. Three of them were admitted in the embassy building. Embassy Counselor for Political Affairs Diderico Robarto Hasselman told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that he met the three delegation members and was handed a petition from their association.

In the petition, the association "strongly condemns" the four Irianese who fled to the Dutch Embassy on February 29, saying their action could "besmirch the image and values of the Indonesian young generation's struggle in general, and the Irianese young generation in particular." It also for [as received] an "immediate explanation" from the Dutch Government to the Indonesian Government" of the reasons behind the asylum request.

The four Irianese, who left for the Netherlands last week, were reported to have written to the Indonesian Parliament to protest the arrest of the curator of a university museum in Jayapura, Irian Jaya's capital, last November 30 on charges of having ties with members of the Irianese separatist Free Papua Movement (OPM).

The local Irianese group, which has no chapter in Irian Jaya and is not affiliated to any national body, declared its allegiance to Indonesia and said it felt "humiliated" by the Dutch Embassy's action. Irian Jaya, the former Dutch New Guinea, was taken over by Indonesia in May 1963.

The demonstrators then went to parliament where they were received by Deputy Speaker Amir Murtono and handed him another petition urging the government not to equate the "four Irianese's act of treason" with the "mental attitude of Irian Jaya's young generation in general."

CSO: 4200/606

REPORT ON AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS 12-18 MARCH

BK191145 [Editorial Report] Kampuchean media monitored by Bangkok Bureau carried the following items on agricultural developments during the reporting period 12-18 March:

Koh Kong Province: Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian at 0430 GMT on 12 March reports that 500 hectares of land have been reclaimed. At 1100 GMT on 15 March the radio reports that over 300 metric tons of surplus paddy were sold to the state in the province.

Battambang Province: Phnom Penh radio at 0430 GMT on 12 March reports that recently, peasants in suburban areas of Battambang provincial seat sold over 900 metric tons of paddy to the state. At 1300 GMT on 13 March the radio broadcast a statement by (Chuong Khva), chief of Battambang Province's communications, transport, and postal service, on efforts made by the provincial authorities to transport paddy from threshing grounds to warehouses. In 1984, the provincial authorities plan to purchase 120,000 metric tons of paddy. His service is capable of transporting 65,000 metric tons of paddy in 4 and 1/2 months. A request was made recently to the central authority to send 65 to 100 trucks for transporting the remaining 55,000 metric tons of paddy. Phnom Penh radio at 1100 GMT on 15 March reports that by 8 March over 93,000 metric tons of paddy were sold to the state. The radio at 1300 GMT on 18 March reports that last year peasants in the province planted over 73,000 hectares of rice. Due to natural disasters, only 60,000 hectares of rice were harvested. About 36,800 metric tons of paddy were sold to the state. Phnom Penh SPK in French at 1114 GMT on 17 March reports that peasants in Mounge Russei District sold over 3,940 metric tons of paddy to the state.

Kompong Som Municipality: Phnom Penh SPK in English at 1121 GMT on 12 March reports that peasants in suburban areas of this town planted 9,566 hectares of rice in the last monsoon. Three hundred hectares were planted with subsidiary crops like corn, beans, and vegetables. A total of 8,700 beds of black pepper were grown. In the 1982/83 season, fishermen in Kompong Som caught 1,185 metric tons of fish and 310 metric tons of shrimp. A total of 121,000 liters of fish sauce was produced. Added to the income of Kompong Som were 2,356 cubic meters of timber, 12 metric tons of charcoal, and 1,312 metric tons of firewood. Phnom Penh radio at 0430 GMT on 13 March reports that by the beginning of March people in Kompong Som town sold 1,700 metric tons of paddy to the state.

Svay Rieng Province: Phnom Penh SPK in French at 0417 GMT on 12 March reports that peasants in the province have already harvested 113,000 hectares of rice with an average yield of 1 metric ton per hectare. They sold over 17,000 metric tons of paddy to the state. At present, they are planting 1,080 hectares of dry season rice. The provincial agricultural service has provided over 50 metric tons of chemical fertilizer, 320 liters of insecticide, as well as many pumps and agricultural tools to the peasants. Last year, eight embankments were restored and an irrigation canal of 150 meters was dug. SPK French at 1109 GMT on 14 March reports that by the beginning of this month peasants in Svay Rieng Province had sold over 17,220 metric tons of paddy to the state or 96 percent of the plan. SPK French at 1138 GMT on 18 March reports that peasants in Kompong Rou District have already harvested over 19,000 hectares of rice. They sold 3,560 metric tons of paddy to the state.

Preah Vihear Province: Phnom Penh radio at 1300 GMT on 12 March broadcast a recorded statement by (Thao Chor), head of the province's agricultural service, on production in the province. In 1983, 15,630 hectares of land were cultivated, including 13,684 hectares of rice, yielding 18,500 metric tons of produce; 1,653 hectares of other food crops were planted, yielding 15,491 metric tons of produce; 128 hectares of TR-36 rice were also planted, yielding 3.04 metric tons of paddy per hectare. There were 40,137 head of cattle and 12,938 pigs in the province. In 1984, the province plans to increase the cultivated area to 16,600 hectares, including 15,000 hectares of rice, 900 hectares of subsidiary crops, and 700 hectares of other crops.

Kompong Thom Province: Phnom Penh radio at 0430 GMT on 16 March reports that by the end of February, peasants in Kompong Thom Province had sold almost 28,000 metric tons of paddy to the state, or over 1,000 metric tons over plan. Phnom Penh radio at 0430 GMT on 14 March reports that by mid-February, peasants in Stoung District had sold more than 7,000 metric tons of paddy to the state.

Takeo Province: Phnom Penh radio at 1300 GMT on 17 March reports that by 9 February, peasants in the province had sold over 11,500 metric tons of paddy to the state, or 64 percent of the plan. The radio at 1300 GMT on 12 March reports that by the end of February peasants in Kirivong District had tilled 1,300 hectares of land and sowed or transplanted almost 1,500 hectares of rice. Phnom Penh radio at 0430 GMT on 14 March reports that by the end of February, peasants in Kirivong District had sold 1,600 metric tons of paddy to the state.

Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province: Phnom Penh SPK in French at 0428 GMT on 15 March reports that by the beginning of this month, farmers in the province had sold to the state 20,000 metric tons of the targeted 26,000 metric tons of paddy. SPK in French at 1201 GMT on 16 March reports that during this dry season, peasants in the province planted 5,200 hectares of rice, over 4,800 hectares of subsidiary and industrial crops, including 1,200 hectares of sweet potato and almost 1,500 hectares of beans. In a month, the veterinary service vaccinated over 7,000 head of cattle and 800 head of pigs against various diseases. SPK English at 1111 GMT on 13 March reports that peasants in Srei Snam District have harvested the monsoon rice on 8,000 hectares. They sold 250 metric tons of surplus paddy to the state.

Kampot Province: Phnom Penh radio at 0430 GMT on 13 March reports that in 1979 there were 58,035 head of cattle in the province. In 1983, there were 107,278 head of cattle and 180,956 pigs. Phnom Penh radio at 0430 GMT on 14 March reports that by the end of February peasants in the province had transplanted over 400 hectares of dry season rice among which there were over 100 hectares of IR-36 rice. Over 1,000 hectares of subsidiary crops were also planted. SPK English at 1105 GMT on 18 March reports that peasants in the province have sold 9,600 metric tons of paddy to the state in the last 2 months, exceeding the plan by 1,600 metric tons. Phnom Penh radio at 1300 GMT on 14 March reports that so far 165 hectares of dry season rice have been transplanted in Kampot District.

Kompong Chhnang Province: Phnom Penh radio at 1100 GMT on 15 March reports that by the end of February over 3,000 hectares of dry season rice had been transplanted, or 50 percent of the plan. Over 1,100 hectares of subsidiary food crops and over 3,400 hectares of industrial crops have also been planted. The radio at 0430 GMT 13 March reports that peasants in Kompong Leng District have already harvested over 5,400 hectares of rainy season rice. By the end of February they had transplanted 665 hectares of dry season rice and planted more than 2,000 hectares of vegetables and industrial crops. The radio at 1300 GMT on 14 March reports that so far 1,600 metric tons of paddy have been sold to the state in Baribo District.

Kompong Cham Province: Phnom Penh radio at 0430 GMT on 18 March reports that peasants in the province had sold over 22,000 metric tons of paddy to the state by the end of February. Almost 600 metric tons of soybean were also sold to the state. The radio at 1300 GMT on 18 March reports that by mid-February, over 17,000 hectares of dry season rice were transplanted and over 10,000 hectares of subsidiary crops planted in the province. SPK French at 1109 GMT on 14 March reports that by the end of February peasants in Kroch Chhma District planted nearly 1,950 hectares of rice, 4,150 hectares of subsidiary and industrial crops, including 2,300 hectares of tobacco. They also harvested more than 3,680 hectares of rice during the main rice planting season with an average yield of 2 metric tons per hectare. They harvested 2,110 metric tons of corn, 1,060 metric tons of beans, and 230 metric tons of sesame.

Kompong Speu Province: Phnom Penh Radio at 0430 GMT on 16 March reports that by the end of February, peasants in Phnum Sruoch District had sold over 3,000 metric tons of paddy to the state.

Prey Veng Province: Phnom Penh SPK in English at 1055 GMT on 14 March reports that veterinarians in the province have vaccinated 16,186 head of cattle against epizootic diseases. Owing to the better care the herd of cattle had increased to 179,303 from the 119,820 in 1979. SPK English at 1057 GMT on 14 March reports that by mid-February peasants in Kamchay Mea District had sold 4,080 metric tons of paddy to the state. SPK English at 1102 GMT on 17 March reports that peasants in Kompong Travek District have sold 8,157 metric tons of paddy to the state.

CSO: 4212/38

KAMPUCHEA

SON SEN SAYS TOTAL SRV PULLOUT KEY TO PROBLEM

BK200315 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2300 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] In his reply to a question raised on 17 March by a representative of the Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea concerning SRV Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach's recent visit to Australia, Son Sen, Democratic Kampuchean minister attached to the coordinating committee in charge of national defense, said: The main point to consider whether Nguyen Co Thach lied or not depends on whether the Vietnamese aggressors will or will not withdraw all of their aggressor troops from Kampuchea. So far, Nguyen Co Thach has tried hard to raise up many issues. However, he has not said a word about the withdrawal of the Vietnamese aggressor troops from Kampuchea. The United Nations and the world community have been well aware of the fact that over the past more than 5 years, the Vietnamese Hanoi authorities have sent some 250,000 troops to invade and occupy Kampuchea. The Vietnamese troops are posing a direct threat to this region. This is why the ASEAN, the United Nations, and the world community have kept demanding that the Vietnamese Hanoi authorities withdraw all of their aggressor troops from Kampuchea in order to allow the Kampuchean people to decide their own destiny through a free election under the UN supervision. Therefore, the total withdrawal of the Vietnamese Hanoi authorities' troops from Kampuchea is the sole key to the Kampuchean problem. The Kampuchean people, world people, and countries in the world are watching and listening whether the Vietnamese will speak about the total withdrawal of their aggressor troops from Kampuchea or not and whether they will really withdraw their troops. This is the point to consider whether the Vietnamese Hanoi aggressors and Nguyen Co Thach lie or not.

CSO: 4212/38

AFP REPORTS SON SANN'S 20 MAR PRESS CONFERENCE

BK201648 Hong Kong AFP in English 1631 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Jakarta, 20 Mar (AFP)--Nationalist Cambodian resistance leader Premier Son Sann said today that it was "no use" for Vietnam to try to "split" the Cambodian resistance government nor "separate" the countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) which maintain "solidarity". Speaking at an airport press conference before his departure for Bangkok, Mr Son Sann said that it was a "loss of time" to try to split the Cambodian coalition government's three factions which are "more united and stronger than ever."

Reports that Vietnam would be ready to negotiate the Cambodian conflict once Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge are dropped from the coalition government, Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach indicated here recently. [Sentence as received] The Communist Khmer Rouge form the coalition government together with Sihanoukists and Son Sann's nationalist since June 1982. [Sentence as received]

Mr Son Sann however described as a "positive step" Vietnamese foreign minister's reported flexibility on negotiation talks which he would accept to concentrate on Cambodia, dropping Vietnam's demand that the presence of foreign forces in the region be included in any talks on Cambodia. The coalition premier told AFP later that the new Vietnamese "statements" were "encouraging", but added "we do not believe them too much."

Mr Son Sann who visited Bandung for three days after talks with President Suharto and Indonesian Foreign Minister Mokhtar Kusumaatmaja last Friday made an appeal for a conference on Cambodia to be held in Bandung, West Java, some 180 km (111.6 miles) from here, where the Asia-Africa Conference was held in 1955, the cornerstone of the Non-aligned Movement. The prime minister of the coalition government said that "all the parties concerned" should agree to convene such a conference, and stressed that the Cambodian coalition government should participate in the negotiations on Cambodia. The Indochinese proposals for peace and security in the region do not mention the participation of the Cambodian resistance groups.

To a question by the press Mr Son Sann acknowledged that he had a "private talk" with Armed Forces Commander General Benni Murdani, but said he was "embarrassed" when asked on the topics discussed with Indonesia's second strong man after President Suharto. He said that both he and General Murdani had agreed to endeavor "to put an end to the Cambodian conflict." Informed sources said the unpublicized meeting took place last Friday afternoon at the Defence Ministry. Mr Son Sann had earlier said he wished to meet Benni Murdani after the Indonesian commander reportedly said in Vietnam that Vietnam was not viewed as a threat to the region by the Indonesian people and the Indonesians Army. No visit with General Murdani had been scheduled.

Asked whether he would accept Pol Pot's participation in a government in Cambodia after the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops, Mr Son Sann said he had no right to answer this question and added that "all Cambodians" were now in the "first step" of the struggle "to fight the Vietnamese out of Cambodia."

On the participation of Heng Samrin in such a government, Mr Son Sann said that "everything is negotiable within the framework of the International Conference on Cambodia (ICK)".

CSO: 4200/621

KAMPUCHEA

CLANDESTINE RADIOS REPORT BATTLEFIELD ACTIVITY

Ratanakiri Position 'Liberated'

BK170921 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT
16 Mar 84

[Text] On the night of 8 March, our national army and guerrillas attacked and completely liberated a Vietnamese position at (Ta Mut) village, Ratanakiri battlefield. We killed or wounded a number of Vietnamese enemy soldiers; the remaining soldiers fled from this position. We destroyed two Vietnamese offices, a paddy stock containing 15,000 bushels of paddy, and a warehouse containing medicine and various materiel. We also seized two carbines, four rolls of cloth, and a number of documents and materiel.

On 10 March, the Vietnamese enemy moved out from Ban Lung to rescue their comrades. We ambushed them, killing one and wounding one; the remainder fled back.

Long live our valiant and courageous national army, guerrillas, and people on the Ratanakiri battlefield!

Four Vietnamese Positions 'Liberated'

BK170917 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT
16 Mar 84

[Text] Following our repeated attacks which depleted the Vietnamese enemy forces, on 10 March, unable to endure our guerrillas' attacks any longer, the Vietnamese were forced to withdraw from their positions at Phnum Bok, (Moen Ta Ek), Thmat Pong, and (Sre Aoh). We completely liberated and controlled these four positions.

Long live our valiant and courageous national army guerrillas, and people in Sot Nikom District, Siem Reap battlefield!

Battambang Villages 'Liberated'

BK170854 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2300 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] On the night of 10 March, we swept the Vietnamese enemy between the bridge at (Traoh) village and (O Ta Ke) bridge along Route 5, north of Battambang provincial seat. We killed two Vietnamese soldiers and wounded another. We destroyed a warehouse containing over 10,000 sacks of paddy, weapons, ammunition, and a quantity of materiel. We seized two AK's and a quantity of materiel. We liberated four villages: (Traoh), Khse Luos, Popeal Khe, and O Ta Ki.

Three Hundred Khmer Soldiers Desert

BK170827 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2300 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] On 2 March, 300 conscripted Khmer soldiers posted at (Phnum Ta Mom) position, Leach battlefield, fled home to be reunited with their families and relatives.

Desertions on Kompong Som Front

BK190909 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2300 GMT 18 Mar 84

[Text] On 1 March, 100 conscripted Khmer soldiers posted on the Kompong Som battlefield to fight and die on Vietnam's behalf fled home.

SRV Planes Strafe Tonle Sap

BK190936 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 18 Mar 84

[Text] On 5 March, in the (Damrei Chhor) area near the bank of the Tonle Sap, the Vietnamese enemy sent aircraft to strafe our people who were working to earn a living, causing damage to a large number of our people's boats.

The Vietnamese enemy aggressors are being seriously defeated on the battlefield of aggression in Kampuchea. They are facing great difficulties, and lack the fighting force to resist the increasingly vigorous attacks of our national army. Due to their stubbornness, cruelty, and savagery, the Vietnamese have made very effort to extricate themselves through intensifying the use of toxic chemical weapons to indiscriminately exterminate the Kampuchean people. Now they are using planes to barbarously fire on our innocent people who are working to earn a living.

This clearly shows the cruelty and savagery of tigers which are mortally wounded. Therefore, our people everywhere should be very vigilant and defend themselves against Vietnamese aircraft attacks so that they cannot destroy our lives and property at will.

Forced Relocation of Kampot People

BK190932 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT
18 Mar 84

[Text] On 26 and 27 February, the Vietnamese enemy forced people in Trapeang Veal, Prich, and Krasang villages in Chhuk District, Kampot Province, to settle in an infertile area so as to starve them to death.

SRV Planes Spraying Toxic Chemicals

BK210429 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2300 GMT 20 Mar 84

["News commentary" entitled: "The Vietnamese Aggressors Have Sent Airplanes To Spray Toxic Chemicals in Stung Treng District, Stung Treng Province"]

[Text] On 10 March, seven Vietnamese airplanes sprayed toxic chemicals over O Preah and O Preang streams and five others sprayed toxic chemicals over Prey Chas located along the lower part of O Thmar Samlieng and O Rei streams in Stung Treng District, Stung Treng Province, killing many inhabitants who drank water from those streams.

In the situation when their forces have suffered serious defeats, the Vietnamese Le Duan aggressors have increased the use of toxic chemicals against our people. As mentioned above, they sent more than 10 airplanes to spray toxic chemicals over forests, ponds, and streams, thus killing our people young and old alike. This clearly showed that the Vietnamese aggressors have obstinately refused to respect the Geneva protocol and world community's repeated demand banning the use of toxic chemicals. Their attempt is to completely exterminate the Kampuchean nation and race before their war of aggression end in a most shameful defeat.

The Kampuchean people call on the world community and all the peace-loving countries in the world to take any effective measure to force the Vietnamese Le Duan aggressors to immediately end their use of toxic chemicals. This is in order to allow the Kampuchean people to live peacefully as the peoples in all other countries throughout the world.

Mondolkiri Areas Bombed

BK210415 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2300 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] On 16 March, the Vietnamese aggressors sent 14 fighter-bombers to conduct 3 bombing missions over the area between Prek Raoy and Prek Rotieng, 30 km east of Kaoh Nhek District seat in Mondolkiri Province. They also sent six other fighter-bombers to bomb another area.

This clearly shows that the Vietnamese infantry forces have been unable to cope with the vigorous attacks launched in all areas by our army and guerrillas.

Consequently, the Vietnamese aggressors have turned to use aircraft to help and replace the infantry forces in their attempt to redress their difficult situation. However, it is useless for the Vietnamese aggressors to play this game of throwing stones into a vast sea. Despite the fact that the Vietnamese aggressors have turned to use aircraft against us, our army and guerrillas in these areas still can launch their activities against the Vietnamese aggressors.

SRV Company Post Smashed

BK210419 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2300 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] On the night of 13 March, our army and guerrillas attacked Sala Lek Pram which is the seat of Kompong Tralach District, Kompong Chhnang Province. We attacked the Vietnamese company position in Sala Lek Pram. We smashed and took control of this district seat. As a result of this attack:

- 1) We killed 25 enemy soldiers, wounded 13 others, and destroyed 19 AK's, 6 SKS guns, 4 carbines, 1 60-mm mortar, 1 RPD, 1 Goryunov, 1 M-30, 1 82-mm mortar, 1 C-25 radio set, 8 telephone sets, 7 trucks and cars, 13 bicycles, 7 motorcycles, 7 typewriters, 1 power generator, 2 rice milling machines, 20 military barracks, a district office, the headquarters of the Vietnamese company, and a quantity of gasoline and kerosene.
- 2) We seized 2 AK's, 1 60-mm mortar, 15 mortar shells, 1 RPD, 500 RPD rounds, 2 amplifiers, 3 recorders, 1,200 AK rounds, and a quantity of medicine.

'Commandos' Attack Chhep District Town

BK220300 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2300 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] On 12 March, our commandos launched a two-pronged attack against Chhep District Town in Preah Vihear Province. The first prong went in from the east toward Chhep market; the second moved from the south, across the ricemill, toward the ammunition depot near the Chey Sen Road junction. At 0130, we opened fire in unison. After 15 minutes, we killed 8 enemy soldiers and wounded 10 others. We destroyed a ricemill, an ammunition depot, a 60-mm mortar, six AK's, three B-40 rocket launchers, four barracks, and a quantity of materiel. Following our attack, the Vietnamese enemy panicked and fired all types of guns until dawn.

CSO: 4212/38

VODK ON ROLE OF DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEAN FORCES

BK180936 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT
17 Mar 84

[Station commentary: "At the End of the 20th Century, Can One Let a Country Determine Another Country's Destiny as it Wishes?"]

[Text] While he is staging diplomatic activities in Australia aimed at waging diplomatic maneuvers on the international scene, Nguyen Co Thach, the diplomatic chief of the Le Duan Vietnamese enemy aggressors, and Australian Foreign Minister Bill Hayden agreed it is necessary to do away with Democratic Kampuchean forces. The two foreign ministers agreed that Democratic Kampuchea should be obstructed from waging the struggle against the Le Duan Vietnamese enemy aggressors. Nguyen Co Thach stated that Vietnam's current urgent goal is to do away with Democratic Kampuchean forces--political and military. Why are the Vietnamese enemy aggressors so alarmed? Why are they making every effort to stage savage and criminal diplomatic activities to do away with Democratic Kampuchea?

The Le Duan Vietnamese enemy aggressors are alarmed because they have many more difficulties and are at a complete impasse on the Kampuchean battlefield of aggression. Democratic Kampuchea has pinned the Vietnamese enemy aggressors down on the battlefield. The aggressors have been seriously attacked by Democratic Kampuchean forces each passing day. They cannot extricate themselves from the impasse. Not only can the Le Duan Vietnamese enemy aggressors not swallow Kampuchea, but they are sliding downhill, thanks to the struggle of Democratic Kampuchea, uniting with the Kampuchean people throughout the country and all Kampuchean patriotic forces during the past more than 5 years.

The Vietnamese enemy aggressors have been sliding downhill militarily and politically. In the military field, the Vietnamese have made every effort throughout the past more than 5 years but they cannot do away with Democratic Kampuchean forces. In the political field, the Kampuchean people throughout the country have opposed the Vietnamese enemy aggressors. The Kampuchean people hate the aggressors and have assisted and supported Democratic Kampuchea. They have cooperated with the national army and guerrillas of Democratic Kampuchea to wage a vigorous struggle against the Vietnamese enemy throughout the country. The 6th dry season will conclude in about 2 months.

The Le Duan Vietnamese enemy aggressors are unable to launch any large offensive on the battlefield. On the contrary, they have been strongly attacked and pinned down by the national army and guerrillas of Democratic Kampuchea. They have completely lost control of the situation. Under this circumstance in which they have many more serious difficulties and are being vigorously attacked and pinned down by the Kampuchean people and the national army and guerrillas of Democratic Kampuchea, the Le Duan Vietnamese enemy aggressors are so alarmed. They ordered Nguyen Co Thach to stage diplomatic maneuvers to lie and cheat everybody on the international scene.

These diplomatic maneuvers are aimed at quickly doing away with Democratic Kampuchean forces in order to prevent the Kampuchean people and Democratic Kampuchea from defeating them on the battlefield. The Vietnamese want to abolish Democratic Kampuchea not in order to withdraw their aggressor troops from Kampuchea, resolve the Kampuchean problem or restore peace and stability in Southeast Asia, but in order to have breathing space and restore their difficult situation on the military battlefield. The Vietnamese enemy aggressors intend to regain their military superiority. They would gather their forces and launch a major offensive to completely swallow Kampuchea. The Le Duan Vietnamese enemy aggressors have clearly realized that if they succeed in doing away with Democratic Kampuchean forces with any of their means or tricks, they will definitely be able to swallow Kampuchea. There is no other force which can resist them. During the past over 5 years, the Le Duan Vietnamese enemy aggressors have been unable to do away with Democratic Kampuchea through military and diplomatic means and maneuvers. They are unable to abolish Democratic Kampuchea now that they are bogged down on the Kampuchean battlefield and sliding toward final defeat. Furthermore, at the end of the 20th century when there are international law and the UN Charter, the world can never allow the Vietnamese enemy aggressors to swallow Kampuchea and determine the destiny of Kampuchea, which is a sovereign state, as they wish. The Kampuchean people and the national army and guerrillas of Democratic Kampuchea, who have waged a tough and bloody struggle over the past 5 years against the Vietnamese enemy aggressors for the defense and survival of their nation and race, can never allow the Vietnamese enemy aggressors and their accomplices to leave aside and eliminate Democratic Kampuchean forces, swallow Kampuchea, exterminate the Kampuchean race, or determine Kampuchea's destiny as they wish. It is up to the Kampuchean people to determine their own destiny. Nobody has the right to determine Kampuchea's destiny. Peoples in the world and peace-, justice-, and independence-loving countries throughout the world cannot allow the Vietnamese enemy aggressors and their accomplices to determine Kampuchea's destiny. If the Vietnamese are allowed to determine Kampuchea's destiny now, they will successively determine the destiny of neighboring countries in the future. Other expansionists and aggressors would use this bad precedent in Kampuchea to stage aggression against other countries, in particular small, middle-sized, and weak countries throughout the world.

Therefore, the Vietnamese enemy aggressors and their accomplices must not be allowed to determine Kampuchea's destiny as they wish. If the Vietnamese enemy aggressors and their accomplices are allowed to determine the destiny of Kampuchea as they wish, it is a danger not only for Kampuchea but also for other small countries in the world. It also endangers peace and order

throughout the world. For that reason, it is necessary to firmly stand on the principles of international law and the UN Charter and to firmly adhere to the UN General Assembly resolutions to resolve the Kampuchean problem by joining hands to pressure the Le Duan Vietnamese enemy aggressors until they unconditionally and completely withdraw their aggressor troops from Kampuchea and respect the Kampuchean people's right to determine their own destiny without any outside interference.

CSO: 4212/38

BRIEFS

LAO HEALTH MINISTRY DELEGATION--Phnom Penh, 12 Mar (SPK)--A delegation of the Ministry of Public Health of the Lao People's Democratic Republic led by Acting Minister Phen Phensi-gna arrived in Phnom Penh on Monday morning for a visit to Kampuchea. It was welcomed at the Pochentong airport by Chhea Thang, vice minister of public health, and Khamphon Boutsavath, charge d'affaires a.i. of Laos. [Text] [BK121507 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1129 GMT 12 Mar 84]

SWEDISH COMMITTEE TALKS--Phnom Penh, 15 Mar (SPK)--Chan Ven, general secretary of the State Council and vice chairman of the KUFNCD National Council, received a delegation of the Swedish committee for Kampuchea, Laos, and Vietnam in Phnom Penh on Thursday morning at the end of its 6-day visit to Kampuchea. He Johan Peanberg, chairman of the committee and head of the delegation, said he was very impressed by Kampuchea's rapid development in education, culture, agriculture, and other fields. Earlier, the delegation met with Deputy Foreign Minister Kong Korm, Minister of Agriculture Kong Samol, Minister of Education Pen Navouth, and Deputy Health Minister Nut Savoeun. At its departure, the delegation was seen off by Prach Sun, vice chairman of the Commission for External Relations of the KPRP Central Committee. [Excerpts] [BK170643 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1143 GMT 15 Mar 84]

GDR CULTURAL DELEGATION--Phnom Penh, 6 Mar (SPK)--A delegation of the Culture Department of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany led by its deputy director, Franz Hentschel, arrived in Phnom Penh on Monday on a visit to Kampuchea. It was welcomed at the Pochentong airport by Prach Sun, vice chairman of the Commission for External Relations of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea Central Committee. Also present to greet the delegation was Werner Plotz, second secretary of the GDR Embassy. [Text] [BK071409 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1133 GMT 6 Mar 84]

GIFT FROM SOVIET WOMEN--Phnom Penh, 6 Mar (SPK)--Mean Saman president of the Association of Revolutionary Women of Kampuchea, received Monday seven sewing machines as a gift of the Soviet Women's Committee to the Kampuchean women on the occasion of Women's International Day (March 8). The gift was handed by Oleg Bostorin, ambassador of the Soviet Union to Kampuchea. [Text] [BK071409 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1109 GMT 6 Mar 84]

VIETNAMESE SAWMILL ASSISTANCE--Phnom Penh, 6 Mar (SPK)--In cooperation with the Vietnamese Province of Da Nang, the Dangkao Teap sawmill in Battambang Province, northwest of Phnom Penh, produced 314 cubic metres of timber last year. It also turned out 152 cubic metres of construction wood in the same period. The sister Province of Da Nang has helped the mill in restoring machines and professional training. Da Nang's forestry service has provided the mill with four sawing machines, one truck, and other equipment. [Text] [BK071409 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1106 GMT 6 Mar 84]

SOCIALIST UNITY PARTY DELEGATION--Phnom Penh, 8 Mar (SPK)--A delegation of the Cultural Department of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany headed by its deputy director Franz Hentschel left Phnom Penh Thursday concluding a four-day visit to Kampuchea. While in Kampuchea, the delegation met with Chheng Phon, minister of information and culture. It visited the Tuol Sleng Genocidal Museum, the National Museum and the Fine Art School in Phnom Penh, mass graves of genocidal victims at Cheung Ek in Kandal and Bati ruins in Takeo. It was seen off at the Pochentong airport by Him Chhem, deputy minister of information and culture of Kampuchea, and Gunter Horn, GDR ambassador. [Text] [BK111339 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1126 GMT 8 Mar 84]

SIHANOUK TO VISIT JAPAN--Khmer resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk has been invited to Japan for an official visit that will include talks with Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone next month, informed sources told THE NATION yesterday. The sources said that the prince will leave China in the middle of next month for Japan, will return to Beijing for awhile, and then proceed to Pyongyang, the capital of North Korea. He is due to leave here on March 24. During his visit to Japan, he will also hold talks with Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe and may also meet members of the Diet. The Japanese leaders are expected to express support for the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea headed by the prince, and the prince will seek more humanitarian aid for the two non-communist factions in the coalition. The coalition government includes the prince's FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Kampuchea] resistance movement, the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) led by Son Sann, and the Khmer Rouge. Japan has been channelling humanitarian aid to the two non-communist factions through UN relief agencies. The prince is scheduled to stay in Japan for five to seven days, according to the sources. [Text] [BK200450 Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English 20 Mar 84 p 6]

SOVIET FOREIGN TRADE DELEGATION--Phnom Penh, 6 Mar (SPK)--A delegation of the Foreign Trade Ministry of the Soviet Union arrived in Phnom Penh Monday for a visit to Kampuchea. The delegation, led by USSR Ambassador to Kampuchea Oleg Bostorin, will hold talks with a Kampuchean trade delegation. [Text] [BK071409 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0413 GMT 6 Mar 84]

RED CROSS AID--Phnom Penh, 14 Mar (SPK)--During February, the Kampuchean Red Cross distributed 1.5 metric tons of rice as well as clothes and other consumer goods to 43 families of Kompong Thom Province 150 km north of Phnom Penh. During the same period, several needy families of Mongkolborei District and the provincial seat of Battambang, 300 km northwest of the capital, received the same aid supplies from the Red Cross. [Text] [BK141625 Phnom Penh SPK in French 1113 GMT 14 Mar 84]

ROAD, BRIDGE REPAIRS--Phnom Penh, 16 Mar (SPK)--Since liberation, workers of the Kompong Chhnang provincial communications service have asphalted over 17 km of Route 5 and macadamized over 10 km; they have also built 21 bridges, repaired more than 60 others, and banked up about 150 km of roads. In Kompong Thom Province, 1,500 meters of Route 6 were asphalted during the first two months of this year. [Excerpt] [BK170643 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0401 GMT 16 Mar 84]

LAO HEALTH DELEGATION--Health Minister Yit Kimseng received in a cordial audience at the Ministry of Public Health on the afternoon of 12 March the visiting delegation of the LPRP Ministry of Public Health led by Deputy Minister Phen Phensi-gna. Deputy Health Minister Chhea Thang and My Samedi, dean of the College of Medicine, Pharmacy, and Dentistry, were also present. [Excerpt] [BK141625 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 13 Mar 84]

CSO: 4212/38

TEAM SURVEYS ROUTE OF OIL PIPELINE FROM VIETNAM

BK181130 Vientiane Domestic Service inLao 1200 GMT 17 Mar 84

[Feature: "Project To Conduct a Survey for the Installation of a Permanent Oil Pipeline"]

[Text] One of the projects in the LPDR's First Five-Year State Plan is surveying for the installation of a permanent oil pipeline. According to a report released by Comrade (Kongfa Phimmasak), head of the oil pipeline survey team, the project is being carried out in accordance with the Laos-USSR economic and technical cooperation agreement signed on 23 December 1981. This project is to survey for the installation of a permanent oil pipeline to Vientiane from Vietnam's Vinh City. The route is 506 km long, including a 386 km stretch in Lao territory and another 136 km [figures as heard] in Vietnam. The total budget for the surveying is 36 million kip.

The survey is being carried out by 250 workers, 2 Lao engineers, and 75 Soviet experts and began in April 1982. Included in the survey work is clearing forests, determining the route of the pipeline, and measuring topography by theodolite. The geological work includes taking soil samples along the pipeline and at storage sites and pumping stations and subsoil samples for research into mineral substances beneath the pipeline's route. Artesian wells have also been dug at various pumping stations. At the same time, various major rivers over which the pipeline will run have been surveyed, for example, the Nam Thon, Nam Ngum, (Nam Mang), (Nam Lok), (Nam Niap), Nam San, Nam Kading, (Nam Seun), and (Nam Phao) rivers.

Following a period of hard and constant work with a sense of responsibility, and through the perseverance of the fraternal workers of the team, the survey work has now been 90 percent completed and is expected to be fully completed in March 1984.

In addition to their survey work, the team has built living quarters at various points, such as Ban Hai, Tha Bok, Pak San, Pak Kading, Nam Thon, (Nam Seun), Siang Lom, (Tham Tem), Kham Keut, and (Na Ton). At the same time, work has been carried out to transport material and equipment from Danang port [words indistinct] and to facilitate the work of the experts stationed in Vientiane and various production forces.

The project is an initial step in transforming and building our country's socialist economy. The success of this work is part of our economic construction achievements. The workers and engineers in the permanent oil pipeline survey team are carrying out their tasks in order to contribute to scoring achievements to welcome 1 May--an international day for the working class and laboring people--and to salute the 29th anniversary of the founding of the LPRP and the 9th anniversary of the establishment of the LPDR.

CSO: 4206/100

PASASON EDITORIAL ON AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES

BK161544 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 16 Mar 84

[PASASON 16 Mar editorial: "Vigorously Consolidate Movement of Setting up Agricultural Cooperatives"]

[Text] In the socialist system, state and collective production normally encompasses all society's products. With regard to the agricultural sector in particular, collective or cooperative production is a decisive factor in social production as well as in the struggle of who is going to emerge the victory between the socialist and capitalist paths.

On the road of advancing toward socialism by our country, in parallel with the transformation of other domains of work, the transformation and change of the form of agricultural production still remains complicated, thorough, and fierce in our country. Nevertheless, judging from our experience in the past year, it can be seen that our people of all tribes have fully endorsed and supported the party's line and policies. Moreover, they have also successfully implemented these policies. For instance, until now, more than 2,000 agricultural cooperatives have been set up throughout the country. Of these, several hundred have been firmly consolidated to develop a high level of production efficiency. In addition, in the areas where favorable conditions are absent for setting up agricultural cooperatives, our farmers of various tribes have established united labor exchange units among themselves instead, thus setting up a trend for collectivization in agricultural development in our country.

Nevertheless, past experience has taught us that a shortage of management cadres, technical cadres, effective lessons, and leading cadres is a primary obstacle restricting the advancement of shifting to agricultural collectivization. That is why the training of cadres for managing agricultural cooperatives has now become an urgent task which must be immediately carried out. It is imperative that we continue providing refresher courses for cadres in charge of agricultural cooperative work at the provincial and district levels and dispatch cadres and literature on agricultural collectivization to all provinces for organizing training courses for cadres on agricultural cooperative management—cadres such as directors, personnel in charge of technical and financial matters, production unit chiefs, and inspectors, with a view to firmly and extensively consolidating and developing agricultural cooperatives.

The agricultural service of each district must organize training courses on simple operational techniques for agricultural cooperatives in the district, for example the techniques in preparing and utilizing organic fertilizer, selecting crop seeds for transplanting, running intensive agriculture, and preventing and eradicating crop pests, so as to provide fundamental knowledge to agricultural cooperative members on crop cultivation and production development.

Only by paying attention to consolidating the existing agricultural cooperatives so that they can firmly strengthen organization, effectively grasp management work, creatively utilize scientific and technical methods in crop cultivation, and increasingly improve labor efficiency will we be able to develop the movement of shifting to agricultural collectivization by our farmers in a more extensive and thorough manner, thus becoming a collective movement in the trend of agricultural production in our country.

Each province, district, and canton must have explicit objectives in this endeavor to encourage farmers to take up collective livelihood, especially in setting up agricultural cooperatives. A canton which does not have any cooperatives should set up at least one or two units to carry out production on an experimental basis for future expansion. As for the canton in which a number of agricultural cooperatives are already in operation, efforts must be made to consolidate them and to set up more units whenever favorable conditions prevail. This means that the consolidation and expansion of agricultural cooperatives must be simultaneously carried out so as to march forward to improve the production efficiency of all agricultural units, thus contributing to consolidating agricultural production in our country. This is one way to fulfill or overfulfill the targets set up by our party and state to produce 1.4 million tons of foodstuffs this year.

The party committees and administrative committees at all levels must regard the work of shifting to agricultural collectivization as an important task which must be consistently carried out. Efforts should be concentrated in the coming production season in order to provide conveniences to our farmers to learn new lessons and to develop new strength for carrying out seasonal rice farming this year in a highly effective and timely manner.

CSO: 4206/100

BRIEFS

GDR CULTURAL DELEGATION--Vientiane, 12 Mar (KPL)--Thongsing Thammovong, alternate member of the party CC, deputy-head of the Propaganda and Training Board and minister of culture, on March 10, received here, Frang Heuzel [name as received], deputy-head of the Cultural Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany. F. Heutzel [name as received] was accompanied by Somsri Desasomphou, deputy minister of culture. C. Zeisberg, charge d'affairs a.i. of the GDR to Laos was also on hand. The discussion was centered on the mutual cooperation in the cultural field. The above delegation arrived here on the noon of the same day. [Text] [BK131538 Vientiane KPL in English 0909 GMT 12 Mar 84]

HEALTH DELEGATION TO PRK--Vientiane, 12 Mar (OANA-KPL)--A Lao delegation of public health led by its vice minister Phen Phensi-gna, on March 10, left here for the People's Republic of Kampuchea. The official friendship visit is aimed at reinforcing the cooperation in the field of public health between the two countries. Seeing the delegation off at the airport were Dr Ponmek Dalaloi, deputy minister for public health and Chhong Toeng, PRK Embassy's counsellor. [Text] [BK131538 Vientiane KPL in English 0911 GMT 12 Mar 84]

CZECHOSLOVAK PARTY DELEGATION--Vientiane, 13 Mar (KPL)--Sojak, head of the committee in charge of the economic affairs [of] Communist Party CC of Czechoslovakia on March 12, led his delegation to visit Laos. The two sides are to exchange experiences and draw lessons from past cooperating. The delegation was received at the airport by Maisouk Saisompheng, member of the party CC [and] head of the economic delegation of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party CC, along with other officials. Dr L. Kocsis, the ambassador of Czechoslovakia to Laos was also on hand. [Text] [BK131538 Vientiane KPL in English 0854 GMT 13 Mar 84]

VIETNAMESE DELEGATION--Vientiane, 17 Mar (OANA-KPL)--The Vietnamese delegation of communication and transport led by Le Ngoc Hoan, the director of the federation road construction No 8 and also head of the joint project of the construction of the Lao National Highway No 8 on March 16; called on Phao Bounnaphon, alternate member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party CC and minister of transport and post at his office. The Lao minister on this occasion exchanged views with the Vietnamese delegation on several questions concerning the joint project of the construction of the National Highway No 8. The discussion was friendly and cordial. [Text] [BK180602 Vientiane KPL in English 0912 GMT 17 Mar 84]

MEKONG COMMITTEE DELEGATION'S RETURN--Vientiane, 15 Mar (OANA-KPL)--The National Mekong Committee of Lao PDR led by its chairman Somphavan Inthavong who is also vice-chairman of State Planning Committee, on March 10 was back from Phnom Penh after having attended the seventh conference of three Indo-chinese countries' Mekong committees held in the capital of Kampuchea from March 5 to 8. Welcoming the delegation at the airport were Soulima Bounleut, vice chairman of the State Planning Committee and other officials. Nguyen Xuan, extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador to Laos and Chhong Toeng, counselor of Kampuchean Embassy to Laos were also on hand. [Text] [BK180602 Vientiane KPL in English 0921 GMT 15 Mar 84]

DELEGATION RETURNS FROM INDIA--Vientiane, 10 Mar (OANA/KPL)--The Lao Foreign Ministry delegation led by its vice-minister, Souban Salitthilat, on March 8, was back from India. The delegation had attended seminar on cooperation of India and Indochinese countries. [Text] [Vientiane KPL in English 0935 GMT 10 Mar 84 BK]

GDR PUBLIC HEALTH DELEGATION--Vientiane, 5 Mar (OANA-KPL)--Dr Khamliang Phonsena, acting minister of public health of Laos, on March 3, received here the visiting delegation of public health of GDR led by its Vice-minister Rudolf Muller. During the session, there was exchanges of views and experiences centering on the cooperation in the field of public health and cadres training both within the short and long term framework. The discussion was also taken part by Prop Vannalet Latsapho, public health vice-minister. [Text] [Vientiane KPL in English 0911 GMT 5 Mar 84 BK]

SPK DELEGATION--Vientiane, 5 Mar (OANA-KPL)--The delegation of the KAMPUCHEAN NEWS AGENCY (SPK) led by its general director, Eo Saman, on March 4th, called on Son Khamvanvongsa, chairman of the State Committee for News Agency, Newspaper, Radio and Televisions. S. Khamvanvongsa, on this occasion, congratulated the delegation for its visit to Laos and said that the first meeting of the general directors of the Indochinese news agencies which is to be opened here soon will be a historical and most important event for further cooperation among the news agencies of Laos, Vietnam and Kampuchea. The meeting of news agencies' general director of Laos, Kampuchea and Vietnam is in accordance with the spirit of the first summit of the Indochinese countries, he said, and it will give the three news agencies the opportunity to enhance their mutual understanding and their cooperation. The SPK general director in his reply stressed that his agency always gives special attention to strengthen the cooperation and coordination among the Indochinese agencies. [Excerpts] [BK071601 Vientiane KPL in English 0902 GMT 5 Mar 84]

GERMAN YOUTH'S GIFT--Vientiane, 10 Mar (KPL)--The representative of the Free German Youth League, head of GDR friendship group working in Laos, on March 7, handed over a documentary film. The film was made at the time of the first congress of the Lao People's Revolutionary Youth Union held last year. [Text] [BK111015 Vientiane KPL in English 0938 GMT 10 Mar 84]

MPR HEALTH DELEGATION'S ARRIVAL--Vientiane, 9 Mar (OANA-KPL)--A public health delegation of Mongolia led by its vice-minister, Myam Dorje [name as received], on March 8 visited here. The delegation and the Lao officials are to discuss the construction of a sixty-bed hospital in Phonsavan, northern Xieng Khouang Province. Welcoming the delegation at the airport were Prop Vannalet Latsapho, vice-minister of public health, and other officials. Orsoogiyn, Nyamaa, extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador of Mongolian People's Republic of Laos, was also on hand. [Text] [BK111015 Vientiane KPL in English 0916 GMT 9 Mar 84]

VNA DIRECTOR'S VISIT--Vientiane, 9 Mar (OANA-KPL)--The Vietnamese delegation of news agencies, led by its director general, Dao Tung, on March 8, paid a courtesy visit to Son Khamvanvongsa, acting chairman of the State Committee for News Agencies, Newspapers, Radio and Television. Also present with Son Khamvanvongsa to receive the guest was Bounteng Vongsai, general director of KPL. S. Khamvanvongsa, on the occasion, highly appreciated the visit of the Vietnamese delegation which is to attend the first conference of the general directors of news agencies of Laos, Kampuchea and Vietnam being held in Vientiane from March 9-15. Son Khamvanvongsa expressed satisfaction over the close relations between the two countries' news agencies. Dao Tung, in return, thanked the Lao side for the cordial welcome reserved for his delegation. [Excerpts] [BK111015 Vientiane KPL in English 0909 GMT 9 Mar 84]

AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR--Vientiane, 17 Mar (OANA-KPL)--At the meetings with the Australian Ambassador to Laos Phillip Frederick Peters, Phoun Sipaseut, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and foreign minister, and Sali Vongkhamsoo, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and chairman of the State Planning Committee thanked the former for his contribution of the enhancement of friendship relations between the two countries. The two Lao leaders, as the Australian ambassador is about to complete his mission here, wished Phillip F. Peters much success in carrying out his new post. P.F. Peters was accredited as ambassador to Laos in August 1981. [Text] [BK171313 Vientiane KPL in English 0910 GMT 17 Mar 84]

PHOMVIHAN ATTENDS CHAMPASSAK MEETING--Vientiane, 19 Mar (OANA-KPL)--Kaysone Phomvihan, general secretary of the LPRP CC and chairman of the Council of Ministers, was among the guests present at the inaugural session of the party General Assembly held in the southern province of Champassak on the 16th of March. The General Assembly attended by 169 representatives of the party members in the province was chaired by Sounthon Thep-asa, member of the party CC, secretary of the party committee of Champassak Province who during the session presented a report on victories in all fields scored by the people in this southern province. Also present at the assembly were Pho Dinh Co, secretary of the party committee of the Vietnamese Province of Nghia Binh and Bounkeung, member of the committee of the party of the Kampuchean Stung Treng Province. [Text] [BK191052 Vientiane KPL in English 0859 GMT 19 Mar 84]

CSO: 4200/620

NEW CALEDONIA

BRIEFS

FRENCH PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION VISIT--The president of the legal subcommittee of the French Parliament, which was visiting New Caledonia, said today that the vote of self-determination forecast for 1989 was too far away.

Mr (Raymond Fornier), who is a socialist deputy to the French Parliament told a news conference he was speaking personally. The five-men parliamentary delegation left New Caledonia today after 4 hours of talks with political leaders on the statute toward autonomy proposed by the French Government. Radio Australia's correspondent in Noumea, Helen Fraser, says the statute sets 1989 as the time for vote of self-determination after 5 years of internal autonomy. Mr (Fornier) said he thought this period of 5 years needed to be reduced because it was too long and could or would unavoidably lead to the depopulation of New Caledonia by people who fear what could happen or people who were waiting to achieve things in the territory. [Text] [BK090822 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 9 Mar 84]

CSO: 4200/604

THAILAND

COLUMNIST: POLICY OF ECONOMIC ISOLATION OF SRV IS FAILURE

Bangkok DAO SIAM in Thai 21 Jan 84 p 3

[Chon Tawan column: "The Vietnamese Market"]

[Excerpt] I remember a minor matter that seems as if it would bring better results. But it is a minor matter that senior people do not dare make a decision about. This minor matter referred to here is the matter of opening trade with Vietnam. Even though Thailand had good relations with Vietnam, it completely severed trade relations with Vietnam after Vietnam sent troops into Kampuchea and put the Heng Samrin government in power 5 years ago.

Thailand, the other ASEAN countries and free world countries have opposed this action by Vietnam. In particular, the ASEAN countries have resolutely opposed Vietnam and the Heng Samrin government. In opposing Vietnam, one action taken has been to refuse to sell war materials to Vietnam. The definition of such materials is very broad and includes anything that would help enable Vietnam to fight the Khmer Serei and occupy all of Kampuchea.

Allowing Vietnam to station 100,000 troops near the Thai border does not bode well for the independence and sovereignty of the nation. But during the past 5 years, we have not been able to pressure Vietnam to pull back from the border or withdraw from Kampuchea.

Controlling the goods sent to Vietnam has not weakened the Vietnamese. This shows that Vietnam has not experienced any problems concerning the materials controlled by Thailand. What is more, it is quite clear that war materials produced in Thailand are readily available in Vietnam and Kampuchea. These goods are sold in these two countries at prices that are higher than in other countries. It is openly recognized that these goods produced in Thailand are sent to Vietnam and Kampuchea through, or by, Singapore, which is the ASEAN country that plays an even greater political role than Thailand and which strongly supports opposing Vietnam militarily.

Singapore may claim that the state and people of Singapore are not involved in selling war materials to Vietnam and Kampuchea. But it must admit that Vietnamese companies or companies in which Singaporeans hold shares are selling such goods to Vietnam and Kampuchea. These goods are purchased from Thailand and sent there directly.

Since we cannot implement measures to prevent such materials from benefiting Vietnam militarily, the Thai government should review the matter of trading with Vietnam, which is a large market to which we can sell goods. In opening direct trade with Vietnam, we don't have to worry about Vietnam's financial position. We can sell to them on an exchange basis instead of using money. Because Vietnam has goods that Thailand can use domestically and that it can resell to earn much foreign currency. Fishing products are an obvious example.

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CSO: 4207/89

THAILAND

THAI-LAO BUDDHIST CLERGY RELATIONS DESCRIBED

Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 6 Feb 84 p 5

[Article: "The Thai and Lao Buddhist Clergy, Not Too Different"]

[Text] The following is a report from a representative of MATICHON who went to Laos on 2 February to observe things there. It's very good to hear that while relations between Thailand and Laos are not too good on some fronts, they are very good with respect to the Buddhist religion.

This harmony refers to the "desire to continue having religious relations."

"At present, Lao officials are making preparations to make a major improvement in relations with Thailand concerning the clergy. The Buddhist Relations Organization of Laos plans to invite members of the Thai Buddhist clergy to visit Laos during April and May. The members of the Thai Buddhist clergy will have a chance to visit Kampuchea and Vietnam following their visit to Laos."

This was learned from an interview with Achan [Teacher] Thongkhoun Anantasounthon, the president of the Supreme Council of the Buddhist Relations Organization of Laos. The Lao Buddhist clergy has not yet sent an official invitation. There have just been preliminary informal talks. During these informal talks, Thai officials did not file any objections.

The report also said that Mr Souban Salitthilat, the Lao deputy minister of foreign affairs, confirmed that Laos greatly wants to improve relations with Thailand. The Kampuchean problem will be separated from the matter of bilateral relations with Laos. The atmosphere has improved constantly, especially following the latest round of talks between the Thai and Lao representatives in Bangkok in January.

Mr Souban also said that "Thai officials should not let the differences in our administrative systems pose a serious obstacle in developing relations between our two countries. Because the Thai and Lao peoples have long had close psychological ties and are like brothers."

Yes? Laos and Thailand are like brothers. If a news survey was made on international relations, particularly between Laos-Vietnam-Kampuchea and Thailand, just as is done concerning other matters and a contest was held to determine the foremost story of the year and month, the foremost story would have to be "Laos Restores Relations, Invites Thai Buddhist Clergy for a Visit."

As for the newspaper that publishes this story, it's not important if it wins an award for publishing this story. Because what is more important than an award is the truth.

Many truths have been revealed in this report. And there are many Buddhist teachings that can be used to lend support. For example, concerning the matter of "solidarity," the Buddhist teachings do not limit this to solidarity between family members or between the people in a village, commune, district, province or country. The concept of solidarity also extends to the peoples living in neighboring countries. Because of this, Thailand should show "solidarity" with neighboring countries.

Solidarity with our neighbors to the east refers to Kampuchea. Solidarity with our neighbors to the north refers to Laos and the minority groups that have not formed a state. Solidarity with our neighbors to the west refers to Burma. And solidarity with our neighbors to the south refers to Malaysia, Indonesia and others.

Here, it should be stressed that this solidarity that has constantly been called for by the Thai government does not mean solidarity between just certain groups of people or certain occupational groups or just one sex. This refers to solidarity that is without bounds.

The fact that a high-level national and religious unit of Laos has expressed the intention of inviting members of the Thai Buddhist clergy to visit Laos is a call for broad solidarity. And this broad solidarity may help bring about perfect solidarity.

"The cooperative attitude of the group will help bring happiness."

"Across the Mekong River in Thailand, we Thais are ready. The Mekong River is the river that binds us together."

There have never been any real differences between Laos and Thailand in course of history. When Laos is happy, Thailand is happy. When Laos suffers, Thailand suffers. Laos and Thailand have the same religion, that is, Buddhism.

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CSO: 4207/86

THAILAND

BACKGROUND TO CURRENT THAI-LAO RELATIONS

Bangkok MATICHON SUT SAPDA in Thai 12 Feb 84 pp 47, 48

[Article: "The Friendship Bridge of Laos, a Path That Cannot Be Ingored"]

[Text] The friendly relations between Thailand and Laos, fraternal countries that cannot be distinguished by blood, were immediately severed when the Lao People's Revolutionary Party emerged victorious and toppled the right-wing Lao government in 1975 and then created the Lao People's Democratic Republic and became a socialist country under the close control of the Soviet Union and Vietnam.

Even though diplomatic relations were not severed, the deep differences between the leaders of the two countries were quite evident. At the same time, feelings of estrangement between the two people's began to grow because of the derogatory propaganda issued by each side. And in the beginning, there were rather serious clashes along the border. Inevitably, this generated fear among the Thai people.

In this tense atmosphere, an attempt was made by the leaders of the two countries to restore relations to what they had been. Talks were held several times. But they were never able to achieve what they had hoped to achieve. In particular, the talks held in Bangkok during the time of the Kriangsak government--in which Mr Souban Salitthilat, the Lao deputy minister of foreign affairs, headed the Lao delegation--achieved more negative than positive results since the Lao delegation was so dissatisfied with the disrespectful reception given them by Thai officials that it abruptly returned home.

Laos claimed that the then Thai minister of interior had forced the Lao delegation out of the hotel where it was staying and said that [the ministry] would not pay the hotel bill. Laos felt that this action was a "slap in the face."

The failure of these joint talks resulted in the situation along the border becoming even more tense. Then, after General Prem became prime minister, bilateral talks were held once again in a better atmosphere since each side was willing to give and take a little.

At the end of last year, General Kriangsak led a group of MPs on a visit to Laos on a fact-finding mission. It can be said that this was the first Thai delegation to make an official visit to Laos since the liberation of Laos.

The visit to Laos by General Kriangsak was like extending a hand of friendship. Instead of raising the painful issues of the past, Laos gave the Thai delegation a warm reception and, as it is said, "rolled out the carpet" all the way from the airport. Lao officials said that the Lao leaders received General Kriangsak like a visiting head of state.

A few months after General Kriangsak and his group returned to Bangkok with new data, new talks between Thai and Lao representatives began in Bangkok. This time, the Ministry Of Foreign Affairs disclosed that the atmosphere of the talks was much better than before and that things seemed to be improving all the time. Laos told Thailand that it would take back as many Lao refugees as it could.

Before the criticism of these latest talks had a chance to die down, Laos pulled a new "surprise" by giving reporters from THE NATION permission to visit Laos and gather facts on the situation there. Previously, it had refused to allow reporters to accompany General Kriangsak and his group.

A few weeks after that, MATICHON and MATUPHUM reporters were invited to go observe the proceedings at the Indochinese foreign ministers conference held in Vientiane. This was an unprecedented gesture toward Thai reporters. And this clearly showed that the Lao bridge of friendship was set on a firm foundation.

From observing the proceedings at that conference, it was learned that the Lao leaders have a strong desire to improve bilateral relations with Thailand, with this issue resolutely set apart from the Kampuchean problem. Laos has stressed that Laos is not involved in the Kampuchean matter and that Thailand should not tie itself to this problem so firmly that national interests are adversely affected by not being able to have bilateral relations with Laos.

"We should show greater acceptance of each other. We should not let the matter of 'wearing different colored clothes' pose an obstacle to improving peaceful relations. It's time that we accepted each other. [Thailand] must accept the fact that Laos will not return to what it was before," said Mr Souban.

Looking at the present situation in Laos and the hand of friendship that Laos has extended to Thailand for the benefit of both countries, the proposals made by Laos should not be ignored or viewed as unimportant.

A simple reason is that Thailand stands to profit greatly by opening legal trade with Laos since about all the consumer goods in the Lao markets are goods that have to be imported from Thailand.

And there is another by-product of having bilateral relations with Laos. As everyone knows, at present large quantities of goods are smuggled and traded on the black market. Lao officials will have to insure security along the Thai-Lao border. At present, things are not very tense. Most of the clashes are clashes with smugglers and not military clashes. A diplomatic news source in Vientiane has confirmed this.

"It's time that Thailand revised its foreign policy. It should not bind itself so tightly to the United States or become so bogged down in the Kampuchean problem that it cannot form bilateral relations [with Laos]. If Thailand continues to be so obstinate, it is crazy," said the diplomatic news source in Vientiane.

And the attitude that is now evident in Thai diplomatic circles is that this policy should be changed. But as for whether anything will be accomplished, only time will tell.

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CSO: 4207/86

THAILAND

POLICE TO PROSECUTE PRK BORDER WEAPONS TRAFFICKERS

Bangkok DAO SIAM in Thai 21 Jan 84 pp 1, 16

[Article: "Police Officials Who Trafficked in Weapons Ordered Dismissed From Government Service"]

[Excerpt] Police Major General Bunchu Wongkanon, the commander of the Suppression Division, together with Police Major General Phichai Chamnanphrai, the commander of the Railway Police Division, and Police Lieutenant Colonel Bunrit Rattanaphon, the deputy superintendent of Precinct 1, Suppression Division, arrested Police Private Winai Phuangthong, Police Private Anu Phupiem, Police Sergeant Narongsak Nakkaeo, Police Private Khanongwan Chanmani and Mr Choi. As stated in a previous article, these people were members of a gang that was trafficking in weapons, including rifles, explosives and ammunition, along the border and in Aranyaprathet.

Later on, a reporter [covering] the Police Department interviewed Police Lieutenant General Kiet Tiraphaet, the commissioner of the Provincial 1 who was at the Police Department on official business. He asked him whether the story about the lower-ranking policemen stationed at the police station in Khlong Namsai Commune and at the provincial police station in Aranyaprathet District being arrested by police from the Suppression and Railway Police divisions on charges of trafficking in rifles and grenades was true or not. Police Lieutenant General Kiet Tiraphaet, the commissioner of the Provincial 1, said that four policemen had in fact been arrested for trafficking in rifles and explosives and that it's good that they were arrested. At present, he has sent an urgent radio message to Police Major General Chamnan Suwannarak, the commander of the Provincial 2, ordering him to take resolute action against corrupt policemen who tarnish the image of the Police Department. At the same time, he ordered that a committee be formed to investigate disciplinary violations. Based on the investigation, they will be dismissed from government service before the criminal case is sent to court so that they do not set an example for others. His policy is to dismiss police officials who act improperly and whose actions tarnish the image of the Police Department. As for this matter, he is not afraid of the influential people in back of these police officials who were trafficking in weapons. He has ordered that resolute action be taken in accord with the policy of Police General Narong Mahanon, the director-general of the Police Department.

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CSO: 4207/89

THAILAND

COLUMNIST QUESTIONS CGDK NEED FOR BORDER SANCTUARIES

Bangkok DAO SIAM in Thai 6 Feb 84 p 2

[Getting to the Heart of Matters column by Chan Chanthakhran: "What Will Happen?"]

[Text] Yes, this is worth thinking about. But it doesn't require any deep thought. Only a little thought is necessary.

The matter that I am referring to is the matter of the Khmer Rouge releasing reports that it attacked bases of the Heng Samrin faction and that it was able to capture Siem Reap, which is the location of an important military base of the Khmer-Vietnamese forces. If this is in fact true, it is well worth thinking about. Because to date, the reports issued about the fighting have always reported on the defeats suffered by the Khmer Rouge.

Just recently, there was a report that the Vietnamese forces in Kampuchea were assembling large numbers of troops in order to wipe out the Khmer Rouge, which is like a thorn in their side. But another report said that Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the leader of the Khmer coalition, and Mr Son Sann, the prime minister, went and visited Kampuchean refugees living along the Thai border. The report also said that they went and visited the forces that are opposing the Khmer faction that is backed by Vietnamese troops.

These two reports have made me wonder which of the two Khmer factions actually has the advantage. Because if the pro-Vietnamese Khmer faction has the advantage, a leader such as Prince Sihanouk would not dare make a visit. But that is a political game that is being played by Prince Sihanouk and the Vietnamese, a game that Thailand can only watch.

But there is something that I don't understand. That is, why do the Khmer forces that are resisting the Vietnamese forces have to establish their military bases near the Thai border? What is their purpose in doing this? I don't understand. Because today, the Thais who live along the border are experiencing many problems that have arisen because of the fighting between the two Khmer factions.

When an artillery shell fired by one of the sides lands in Thai territory, it naturally causes a lot of damage. These shells kill both people and livestock. Pity the poor Thais along the border who have to earn a living there. Every day, they have to worry about artillery shells since they are never sure when they might be hit.

Like a stupid person, I keep wondering why the forces of Prince Sihanouk don't move their bases away from the Thai border. Or is it their plan to have Thai soldiers get so angry at having artillery shells fired into Thai territory by the Vietnamese forces that they lose their patience and fire back? What could happen except a new war between Thailand and Vietnam! Who stands to gain and lose? I think that only China and the Soviet Union can answer that. The White Bear has long been making preparations to get the resources of these two countries. That is my opinion. I don't know whether it's correct or not.

11943

CSO: 4207/89

RECENT BORDER CLASH WITH BURMA DISCUSSED

BK170305 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 16 Mar 84 p 22

[By Wira Prathipchaikun]

[Text] An uneasy lull hangs over Maw Po Kay as Burmese troops regroup and resupply for yet another attempt to take the rebel stronghold.

At this stage, it can only be hoped the Burmese will not make another cross-border incursion into Thailand as they did last Monday when their forces forded the Moei River in pursuit of the Karens and were eventually badly mauled by the rebels.

Nevertheless, the incursion provides a grim reminder that Thailand may be dragged into the interminable war between Rangoon and the Karen National Union fighting for autonomy.

Buoyed by their military success at the KNU's redoubt and economic centre at Mae Taw Wah in January, the Burmese forces were determined to capture Mao Po Kay, another key economic lifeline of the rebels, located near the Moei River just across the Thai village of Ban Mae Tan.

Latest Thai intelligence reports claimed the Rangoon military command had ordered its troops to take Maw Po Kay at any cost.

But after more than a week of ferocious fighting and countless attacks--some suicidal--the Burmese still could not penetrate the Karen defence and found the prospect of victory becoming increasingly elusive.

The elation following their token triumph in capturing a Maw Po Kay sawmill was dimmed after the Karen retook it over a week ago.

The Maw Po Kay camp forms a horse-shoe river bend jutting into Thai territory. The camp is said to be heavily fortified with machinegun nests and a mine-field blocking its entrance. Its bunkers are triple-decked and can withstand mortar barrages.

Maw Po Kay's weak spot is its rear adjoining Thai territory, which is lightly guarded. From the military point of view, that is where the attack should be concentrated, but that would also mean inviting trouble from the Thai side.

Given that Rangoon did not approve Monday's border incursion, the Burmese field commanders, desperate for a win, might be tempted to have another go.

Perhaps in their thinking, violating Thai sovereignty in such a blatant manner did not dent relations, which are officially warm but in reality tepid.

Though sharing a border extending hundreds of kilometres, the rugged mountain terrain has formed a natural barrier between Thai and Burmese people. The peoples are in regular contact with the Thais are nonetheless the Karens and Mons.

It is, therefore, only natural that the Thais are more sympathetic to the Karens than to the Burmese even though the government has maintained a neutral policy regarding Burma's internal affairs.

The summoning of Burmese Ambassador in Bangkok to receive a report on the incursion--without even a mild protest--contrasts sharply with the response of the Thai military.

The deployment of troops reinforcements and artillery pieces "to protect Thai sovereignty" constitutes a show of force which cannot, by any standards, be interpreted as a friendly gesture.

Neither does the latest order by Burmese military command for its troops to seize Maw Po Kay "at any cost". The order immediately prompted concern among Thai army officers of another possible incursion.

After all, pointing big guns at each other while attempting to maintain diplomatic niceties will not help promote friendship, but rather foster mutual distrust.

With such an attitude being adopted by the military of both sides, the odds on an unnecessary clash are dangerously high, considering Maw Po Kay's proximity to Thai territory.

Unless diplomatic efforts are stepped up to defuse the border tension, Thai-Burmese ties would only suffer--that of course will not benefit either party.

CSO: 4200/622

THAILAND

BORDER FORCES 'ON FULL ALERT' AT BURMESE BORDER

BK210008 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 21 Mar 84 p 1

[Text] Mae Sot, Tak--Thai troops were placed on full alert last night following a report of a possible cross-border attack against the Karen stronghold at Maw Po Kay.

Field military sources said that they had intercepted a radio order by Burmese commanders, telling troops of the first and fifth battalions of the 44th Division to enter Thailand to launch the assault on the Moei River camp.

Maw Po Kay is situated on the horseshoe-shaped bend of the Moei River protruding into Thai territory in the east. Burmese troops have so far failed to break the Karens' resistance line at the entrance of Maw Po Kay in the west.

The Rangoon forces early last week tried to strike Maw Po Kay from the east by intruding into Thailand. But the attempt was aborted following a clash with Thai Border Patrol policemen, who managed to push the intruders back across the border.

Troops positioned along the river have been put on full alert, said the sources, adding that air force planes and gunships were also on standby.

An air force OV-10 plane was sent on a reconnaissance mission over the border yesterday, to observe movements opposite the Moei River.

Burmese soldiers reportedly started shelling the Karen camp with smoke shells yesterday afternoon--the usual practice of pinpointing artillery positions before launching a major attack.

The sources also said that patrols would be sent today on observation trips to border areas south of Maw Po Kay, opposite the Karen camps at Mae La, Wang Kha and Phalu, which were expected to be the Burmese forces' next target.

CSO: 4200/622

EDITORIAL ON NGUYEN CO THACH'S DIPLOMACY

BK190215 Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English 19 Mar 84 p 4

[Editorial: "Sihanouk, Like Thach, Detests Khmer Rouge"]

[Text] Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach has changed gears so many times that we are pretty sure that when he comes to Bangkok this week and sees Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila he will switch to the reverse gear. Does the foreign minister of any country, let alone a communist country, have the right to switch policies day by day when he is out of contact with the leaders of his country? Even a super-diplomat like Andrey Gromyko, the world's longest-serving foreign minister and now concurrently holding the post of deputy prime minister, will not have that kind of freedom to play pranks with Soviet foreign policy and he has never done so.

If the tape recordings of Thach's statements on Thailand, Indonesia, and Australia--obviously they are available in these days of electronic journalism--are played they will reveal nothing but a hodge-podge of contradictions. There is no doubt that there is a clear-cut foreign policy set by the Politburo in Hanoi which nobody can alter one iota except the Kremlin. So when Thach twists and turns in the labyrinth of his personal diplomacy, the words have no meaning and they are just turned to the wave-length of his listeners.

At Dong Muang, Thach emphasised the China threat as a backdrop for his visit to Indonesia. While in Jakarta he expertly played on Indonesian fears of China. It would have been unwise to play the same tune in Australia and so he escalated anti-Khmer Rouge feelings there and calmly downgraded the China threat. His devious diplomacy is becoming almost predictable and that is why we say that he will switch to reverse gear in Bangkok. When he meets Sitthi on Thursday, he will try as far as possible to infuriate Thailand by accusing it of aiding Khmer Rouge thereby trying to provoke an angry rebuttal.

In that case he would be able to point out that Indonesia was cooperative, Australia was favourable and Thailand antagonistic to his "realistic" approach to the Kampuchean problem. Ergo, there is a wide split among these countries. Prime Minister Son Sann of the coalition government of Democratic Kampuchea has gone one step forward and has rightly pointed out that by upgrading the Khmer Rouge threat, Thach is trying to split the coalition.

For whatever it is worth, when Thach goes back to Hanoi he would be able to "prove" that there is a split among ASEAN members and in the Democratic Kampuchea coalition government, and that Australia is backing Vietnam in its "realistic" approach.

But let us for the moment, just for the fund of it, believe what Thach says: The Khmer Rouge is considered by Hanoi as more of a threat than China. And if, as Son Sann says, he wants to split the coalition, he has an ideal opportunity in Bangkok. No man has suffered more under Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge than Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the president of Democratic Kampuchea, who has had several of his close relatives murdered by Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge regime when it was in power. Sihanouk will be in Thailand at the same time as Thach this week and Sitthi will be only very glad to arrange a meeting between them. Oh no, we are not insinuating a de facto recognition. We are only suggesting that Thach plays the same tune as he played in Australia--hatred of Pol Pot--which will be sweet music to Sihanouk's ears.

By the way, if the Khmer Rouge has now been promoted to the top in Hanoi's hate list, why doesn't the Vietnamese army smash up the guerrillas?

CSO: 4200/622

EDITORIAL COMMENTS ON THACH TOUR

BK190205 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 19 Mar 84 p 4

[Editorial: "Hanoi Must Earn Regional Respect"]

[Text] The Nguyen Co Thach travelling show is on the road again, arriving back in Bangkok tomorrow night for another three-day engagement. The Vietnamese foreign minister will be presenting his usual high-profile performance with full-scale airport arrivals and departures, talks to newsmen and--as a highlight--a conference with our foreign minister, ACM [Air Chief Marshall] Sitthi Sawetsila.

Mr Thach arrives back in town from engagements in Indonesia and Australia where, as usual he tried and sometimes succeeded in charming the locals. The problem is that he does not serve the causes of peace, detente, civil rights and freedom nearly so well.

Mr Thach went to Indonesia. There, he said some things that Indonesians like to hear. Because of their recent political history, Indonesian leaders in particular have grave suspicions about the motives of communist China. Anyone who has studied much about the region understands those feelings well, and accepts them as honest expressions, as we do here in Thailand. Mr Thach took a suave version of Vietnamese paranoia and hatred towards Beijing to Jakarta. The "Chinese threat," he said, was what was holding up a Kampuchean peace.

Then he went to Australia. Now, that country and its leaders for some reasons that are very good and some reasons that are not so good, have particularly strong feelings against the Khmer Rouge. On the other hand, Australia has no hard feelings about China, a major consumer of major Australian exports. So in Canberra and other Australian cities, Mr Thach forgot about the still ill-defined "Chinese threat" and claimed elimination of the Khmer Rouge was the major item holding up a Kampuchean peace.

We now cannot profess to predict what Mr Thach might present to ACM Sitthi and the rest of us here in Thailand as the main problem holding up a Kampuchean peace. What we do know, however, is that Mr Thach is being highly cynical in his attempts to split ASEAN from its friends, and to split the friends of ASEAN from each other.

We also know what is holding up a Kampuchean peace and a meaningful detente between us and Vietnam, and between Vietnam and most of the rest of the world. That is the presence of Vietnamese troops in Kampuchea, beginning specifically with the 100,000 or so Vietnamese soldiers virtually at our border. It is Vietnam's disregard for the rights of the Kampuchean people, and its expansionist policies which try to equate old-style colonialism and military invasion with security.

It is Vietnam's own actions in Kampuchea which are holding up normal relations between us and Hanoi. It is Vietnam's own actions in providing the Russians with secret military bases, thus changing the balance of power in the region, which causes trouble. It is Vietnam's own actions of suppressing Kampucheans which have caused it to be ostracised by most of the world's nations.

Mr Thach, as a major policy-maker, is in a position to do something about that. When Vietnam becomes a responsible member of a civilised world, it will be treated as such, by Thailand as well as by virtually every country. So long as it continues its cynical demands that every other country react only to Vietnamese actions and demands, it will find little sympathy anywhere, no matter how well he presents his case.

CSO: 4200/622

THAILAND

AMBASSADOR TO SRV DISCUSSES BACKGROUND, CURRENT ASSIGNMENT

Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 7 Feb 84 p 3

[Article by Niramom Phruttathon: "An Old Road, A New Path? Thailand-Vietnam: A Meeting With the Thai Ambassador to Vietnam, Mr Montri Chalichan"]

[Text] That evening, one corner of the small reception room inside the large building that serves as the Thai embassy in Vietnam was arranged as a bar to serve drinks. And there was a long table for the buffet.

The adjoining room was a compact multi-purpose room with pretty curtains. The table was covered with a woven tablecloth. And there were attractive baskets of fruit that had been arranged by Mrs Thida Chalichan and her assistants.

A moment later, Mr Montri Chalichan arrived and mingled with the guests.

"I studied political science at Chulalongkorn University. But before graduating, I received a government scholarship to study law in France. I started all over and received my B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. degrees, finishing at the beginning of 1965. I entered government service with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, working in the International Organization Department. Most of my work involved legal affairs. I served as the chief of the Treaty Division and of the Legal Division and as the deputy director-general of the International Organization Department. I was then assigned diplomatic duties abroad and served in Australia and Switzerland. I was the second secretary. I was still very young, being only about 30 years old.

As for Vietnam, I have been here about 2 years altogether. I served with the joint negotiating group on Vietnam in 1975 just after South Vietnam was defeated and Saigon was captured. They sent representatives to negotiate. Then, North Vietnam sent others. I was one of the representatives. Later on, I came with the party of Deputy Prime Minister Phichai, which came to negotiate for the second time. But no agreement was reached. In 1976 we went to Hanoi and succeeded in reaching an agreement.

Concerning Vietnam, senior people must think that I am a capable person and so they have sent me here. There are constantly matters that worry me. The situation is tense. Sometimes, they call me in and protest about something and I respond.

"What about the Thai fishermen who have been seized by the Vietnamese?"

"Last year, two groups were sent back to Bangkok. The first group, totalling 63 people, was sent back at the end of December. Just recently, we sent back another 42 people. They had been detained here for about a year. It depends on how long it takes us to get money to pay for their upkeep. They have been released from prison. [If] we don't have the money to pay the expense of their upkeep, they have to stay in prison. Our bureaucracy is slow. I imagine that only Thailand has encountered such a problem. When people violate their territorial waters, the provincial people's courts sentence them to prison. Malaysian waters are still rich [in marine life]. They don't have to fish outside their waters. But in Thailand, the fishermen have been catching large quantities of fish for years now and so few fish are left.

I asked them to make a survey. There are still more than 200 Thais in prison. Recently, five more boats, with more than 100 people, were seized. I have tried to go see them. But they don't know in which province they have been imprisoned. You have to understand that our officials here are fed up with things. They encounter....(laughs). For example, I wanted to make an extra door in this room, and it took me more than 8 months to get permission from the Hanoi City Planning Commission.

Concerning this, they haven't complained. They call us in and inform us that they have arrested Thai fishermen. They tell us not to violate their territorial waters. Our government already knows all about this, but it cannot do anything about it.

Concerning providing help, I used the credit of the embassy to stand security for the first group arrested. Each boat was fined \$1,000, which amounted to \$6,000 for the six boats. And concerning their upkeep during the 4-5 days after they were released from prison before being sent back to Thailand, I said that we would pay them after we got our people back, but more than a year has passed and we still haven't paid them. We owe them about \$7,000. I have warned the Ministry of Foreign Affairs several times, and it knows that the cabinet has given approval. But for some reason, I haven't received any money for this.

"And so, the next time, if the money isn't paid, things will be different, said Achan Chirati.

"Exactly! When they said they would release the second group, I asked to use the same method but they refused. They said the money had to be paid first. I quickly reported this to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs,

which quickly reported the matter to the Ministry of Agriculture. I tried to find out where money could be obtained. But since I couldn't find any, I decided to ask for money from the government's central fund, which is not Ministry of Agriculture money. But before I could finish things, the expenses for their upkeep increased. Recently, we paid \$28,000. At a Ministry of foreign Affairs conference for department heads, I said that by doing things like this, we were just making things more difficult for ourselves. We refused to pay the \$6,000 and now the amount is over \$20,000.

"Have you ever visited those who have been arrested?"

"Not yet. I sent officials to provide assistance and make identity cards. Actually, they have not been given long sentences. [The Vietnamese] don't want to have to support them. Sometimes they release the crew and just hold the captain and his assistant. For example, when the five boats were seized, they put the crews of the boats on one of the boats and released them. The others were sent to court for trial."

"What about the Vietnamese who have fled by boat, or the 'boat people'? What is your view on this matter?"

"They don't want to live in poverty. In 1979, there was a boat named the Huai Fong that carried more than 2,000 boat people each trip from the south to Hong Kong. Hong Kong official arrested the captain and crew and sent them to court. The Vietnamese refugees said that officials gave them help after they were paid a bribe. Each adult had to pay 600 grams of gold. There was a similar case later on. After that, the UNHCR helped arrange the "orderly departure" program. At present, this is still going on. And so there are two types [of departure], although the number of boat people has declined.

Last month, I was informed by the UNHCR that another 2,000 people had fled. In some months, the number is fewer than 10. I understand that the number of people who have fled like this totals tens of thousands.

My embassy has sent more telegrams than any other. Some embassies send only about 100 telegrams to their ministry. But we have sent 3,000 telegrams a year. We constantly have to report on the progress made.

Vietnamese who want to travel abroad must obtain a special visa. It's different than for Thais, who can obtain a passport that is good for 5 years and who can go anywhere. When they travel to another province, they have to get permission from the police and tell them where they are going, where they will stay, how long they will be gone and when they will return. They have to follow these regulations exactly, otherwise, they are guilty of a criminal offense. If they are not sent to prison,

they are sent to a political re-education camp (laughs). Take me, for example. Except for the airport, I must stay within a 5-kilometer radius of Hanoi.

Thus, besides gaining some information from the ambassador about his activities in Hanoi, we also had a chance to eat some delicious Thai food.

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CSO: 4207/86

THAILAND

WOMEN'S DELEGATION IN SRV MEETS PRK COUNTERPARTS

Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 2 Feb 84 p 3

[Article by Niramom Phruttathon: "An Old Road, a New route? Thailand-Vietnam: A Neighborly Chat"]

[Excerpt] That evening after dinner, along with Lady Kanittha, Achan Thiranat and Achan Chirati, I asked if we could talk with the Kampuchean representatives in their room since we had not finished our conversation.

The representative from Kampuchea was Mean Saman, age 28, the president of the Kampuchean Revolutionary Women's Association. She joined the struggle for Kampuchean independence when she was just 13 years old. She was one with the Pol Pot group, but then switched and sided with Heng Samrin since she disagreed with all the killings carried out by the first group. Ros Serei, another representative, told us this.

Ros Serei, age 38, attended the peace conference in Sweden last August. Lady Kanittha asked her to tell about her life.

We did not talk to Mean Saman directly since she speaks only Cambodian and Vietnamese. But we talked with Ros Serei a lot since Achan Chirati speaks English and French fluently and served as an interpreter.

Ros Serei said that she was once a French-language teacher. During the time that the Pol Pot group was killing all the intellectuals and those suspected of being pro-Vietnamese, her children and husband were killed. She disguised herself as a vegetable seller. Later on, she was arrested and would have been executed if the Vietnamese troops had not come to provide help.

This is what was told to us by our Kampuchean neighbors. The atmosphere that evening was one of trying to get to know each other better as fellow human beings rather than trying to criticize each other. Because we are all working to promote the happiness and well-being of women. Thus, we did not have to "worry" about talking in a political way like politicians.

Lady Kanittha asked how the Kampucheans feel about Prince Sihanouk. News reports by the daily press say that some Kampucheans still place their hopes in him. But Ros Serei said forcefully:

"Sihanouk is finished. People hate him. The people of Kampuchea once had great hopes during the Lon Nol period. They hoped that Prince Sihanouk would come help free them from American imperialism. In 1975, the people warmly welcomed the Khmer Rouge. But in the end, Pol Pot, Ieng Sary and Khieu Samphan violated the rights of the Kampuchean people. They drove the people out of their homes and forced them to go live in the jungle. Many were killed. But Prince Sihanouk did nothing to help."

"But Prince Sihanouk was under the control of those three men," said a Thai in gentle disagreement.

"Yes. We saw Prince Sihanouk arrested and imprisoned by the Khmer Rouge. The people helped free him from prison. But in 1979, he did not return to his country but instead joined the Khmer Rouge," she said.

"But what is more, he went and appealed to the United Nations and to Western countries for the return of [the bodies of] more than 20 of his children [sic] who had been killed during the Pol Pot period. But he didn't say a word about the millions of others who had been killed. And he said that Pol Pot's policy was correct."

"But Prince Sihanouk is still recognized by many countries," said a Thai.

Ros Serei, age 38, whose face always looked sad and tense, tried to smile.

"Yes. Kampuchea is divided. It has lost both people and assets. It is poor now. But Sihanouk is rich and travels a lot. He often appears in public. He is known throughout the world. We cannot do things like him."

This suffering of fellow human beings, which has come about because of political conflicts, that the Kampucheans are presently enduring is very terrible for Kampucheans of all sides. However, listening to the terrible things reported by the various sides, whether Ros Serei or Prince Sihanouk, they definitely do not favor neutrality. It was late and so we said goodnight.

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CSO: 4207/86

THAILAND

MONKS FROM SRV ARRESTED

Bangkok DAO SIAM in Thai 4 Feb 84 pp 1, 2

[Article: "Monks Flee Vietnamese Threat, Reveal Torture"]

[Text] Three Vietnamese monks were arrested in the city. When officials encountered them, they were surprised since they spoke a foreign language. When the officials asked to see their papers, it turned out that they were Vietnamese monks who had fled here to escape the threat of death. They had come from southern Vietnam. On the palms of their hands were scars from when north Vietnamese soldiers had nailed their hands to a tree. They had been wandering about staying in various temples in the city for about a month before they were arrested.

At 1445 hours on 3 February, while Police Captain Thanin Nakharin, the chief inspector at the Samranrat Police Station, and Police Master Sergeant Pramuan Phaeokrathok were out on patrol, when they reached Atsatang Road in Sala Chapho Sua Precinct, Phra Khanong Ward, Bangkok Metropolitan, they encountered three monks walking in front of the market there. What was strange about them was their language since they spoke to each other in a foreign language. After listening to them and not understanding what they said, the police officials asked to see their identity cards. But they didn't have any and were not able to talk to the officials. Thus, the three monks were taken and turned over to Police Lieutenant Thitiphon Suwannaying, the officer on duty at the Samranrat Station.

Police Lieutenant Thitiphon tried to interrogate them using both Thai and English but was unable to make himself understood since the three monks did not speak either Thai or English. He called in Police Sergeant Phanom Saengchat, a police official in the clerical section at the Samranrat Station, since he is from an area near the Thai-Kampuchean border. When Police Sergeant Phanom talked with them, he learned that the three monks were from southern Vietnam. They had escaped by crossing through Kampuchea and entering Thailand in Aranyaprathet District, Prachinburi Province.

The three monks were identified as Thai Tim, age 30, Chao Mok, age 23, and Su Dai Muong, age 34. Dai Muong and Thai Tim had been in Thailand 1 month. The other monk, Chao Mok, had been here only 2 weeks. They had been living in various temples in Bangkok. Because Thai monks felt that they were of the same religion, they allowed them to sleep at the temples. The three Vietnamese monks had changed their robes to the style worn by Thai monks. After that, police officials sent the three monks to the refugee center of the Special Branch Division on Kasemsan 3 Lane, Rama 1 Road, Pathumwan Ward, Bangkok Metropolitan. The three monks have contacted the United Nations Refugee Office in Thailand in order to ask for assistance.

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CSO: 4207/89

INDUSTRY MINISTER ON PRIVATISING STATE ENTERPRISES

Bangkok BUSINESS IN THAILAND in English Feb 84 pp 20-23

[Minister of Industry Ob Vasuratna interviewed by Jorges Orgibet in Bangkok; date not given]

[Text]

Khun Ob, the 5th Five Year plan envisioned rapid growth in Thailand's mining industry, but mine production has been down, last year production was down 25.6% and mineral exports were down 37.2%. What is the Ministry doing to improve production and increase exports?

We can produce more, but the price is so low that it doesn't pay to mine it. Take the wolfram price. It's very low and they simply are not mining it. As for tin, there's a quota on tin which limits how much we can export.

Any indication that the situation might improve this year?

I can't tell you that. I'm not a mining expert. I do think the general world situation will improve this year — then production can go back up.

There's a report that the Ministry of Industry wants to sell some state-owned mines... the Pilok Mine in Kanchanaburi and the Smerng mine in Chiang Mai... what's the status of those mines? And are there any buyers?

You know that under the Mines Organization we operate nine mines. These mines, like most other government-operated enterprises are running at a loss. It's my intention that any business that the private sector can do — we should not try to do it. The government should only do public utilities— like water and electricity.

This Ministry intends to sell off six of the mines. Take the three— Pilok, Smerng and another, an antimony mine in Chonburi, I forgot the name— if they had effective management they would not be losing money. That's why I have the intention of asking the private sector to buy some shares and run the mines as a joint venture.

Has anyone shown an interest?

I haven't announced it yet because I'm asking the Mines Organization to give me a book value of these mines, with details of the equipment, personnel, etc., so we will have something concrete to talk about. Once the value of the mines are established, then we will

invite people to join... then we can ask people to put in their bids.

What do you think of Darm Thiewthong's proposal that the OMO should be sold to the private sector? He claims the shortfall is mainly due to an inefficient staff and mechanical breakdowns.

I haven't looked into that one yet. They are making a profit, but I don't know how much.

You see, Jorges, there are so many things I have to deal with in this office each day before I can leave even by 7:30. Unless I have an appointment outside that I cannot refuse, I have to stay here every day to 7 or 7:30. Sooner or later I am going to take to my bed.

Do you know how many bids have been received for the antimony concessions in Chonburi?

No, no, we have not announced that yet to the public....

But it was in the newspapers....

What was in the papers was something else. BP Minerals, the very big British minerals firm, are interested in antimony. They came to see me twice to see if the government would be interested in BP putting some shares into the mine in Chonburi.

In your opinion should antimony concessions in Chonburi be granted?

Yes, but here's what we will do: we will estimate the present value of the mine, then we'll know what price we should get for the government.

You are referring to the government mine. But aren't there concession areas outside of this mine that are available?

Yes, there are many. Anyone can apply for those now through the Department of Mineral Resources. The survey period would be for one year. If they see there are deposits then the concession will be for about 15 years— up to 45 years with a couple of extensions.

So much for mining. You have backed proposals to sell six or seven state enterprises. Do you see any of the state enterprises being sold in the near future?

Sure...

Which ones?

The paper factory, the Alum Organization— that is, either sold or turned into a joint venture... or it could be leased.

As a management contract?

It's not a management contract. It would be a lease for private operation.

Specifically, do you have any bidders for those mines now?

Yes. Many people are interested, but they are waiting to see what our conditions will be.

When do you expect those conditions to be prepared?

They are being prepared now, for mining. After that, we'll go after the others. We can't do everything all at once.

How about the sugar factories?

There are three sugar factories under this Ministry. We will retain one and sell the others. We are already expanding the Saraburi mill. We will get rid of the mills in Lampang and Uttradit, but we have not yet set the conditions... it's so slow here. We have asked for the book value, the present value, an equipment inventory, etc... and we are still waiting.

You mean the organizations themselves haven't come through with the information?

Well, they don't like my idea very much (laughing).

Are they trying to stall?

That's it— (still laughing)

Do you see any chance for any of the state enterprises, remaining as a government agency, turning around and providing proper service — and becoming profitable?
Well, there are the monopolies.

Like the Tobacco Monopoly. But I don't agree with monopolies. If it was agreed that one more factory manufacture cigarettes there would be free competition. There would be a justified price for the consumer. And that factory should also be allowed to manufacture foreign cigarettes like Pall Mall, 555, etc.

Are you saying that the TTM should make foreign cigarettes?

No, another factory. TTM doesn't want to do it. There is a restriction on foreign cigarettes— but you can get as many as you like, all over town.

What you are saying is that if they were produced legally the government would be getting revenue from them?

That's right. And here's another example: Thai Airways. There's only one domestic airline belonging to the government. They should be broad-minded enough to allow a private airline to operate.

As a scheduled or charter airline?

As a scheduled airline.

Then you think Thai Airways should have some competition?

Yes, indeed.

You know there are some people who won't like that idea.

The people will like it, but the government won't like me. (laughs)

Do you also think that Thai Airways International should have some competition?

No, that's different. They already have competition.

We have some questions on oil. Consumption increased about 8% in 1983. Are we still trying to conserve oil now that prices are down?

We must try to conserve if we cannot find any energy substitute at a price lower than oil. We have been using lignite for electricity generation as well as gas and oil. If you use careful calculations you will find that it is cheaper to use lignite or coal for electricity generation where now we are using oil and gas.

But there is no coal in Thailand.

True, we import coal from Australia. I should think that it is cheaper than oil, even including the freight. We must find cheaper substitutes for oil.

How close are the PTT and Texas Pacific in reaching agreement on the price of TP's investment in the Gulf? And are they getting together on a joint venture?

The PTT thinks that the "sunk cost" as given by Texas Pacific is too much and they are negotiating that. Once they have agreed on the sunk cost and the sharing of further exploration, and the percentage of PTT participation, they can go ahead and get it settled.

Does that mean a 50-50 joint venture?

No, they are talking 75-25 with the PTT holding 75%.

Does it look as if that is going through?

They are talking about two things. One is a joint venture and the second is the price of gas. If they can agree on the price, then there will be no joint venture. The Texas Pacific price now is higher than what we are paying to the Union Oil Company because they claim that the gas they found is less than Union Oil's and that boosts the price. The government sympathizes with them. But the government is trying to find an explanation of why you have to pay 2.43 dollars per one million BTU to one company and why have to pay 3 dollars over to another. It's difficult to explain to the public... they are still negotiating.

Are the negotiations friendly?

Yes, very friendly. Joe Clark (Texas Pacific president) is coming out again sometime next week (late in January) for more talks.

Finally, what is the status today of the TORC expansion plan— the financing agreement?

Hmmm. I can tell you that. I'm handling this one personally.

How did Technik reduce the cost by US\$137.5 million— did they cut down capacity or what?

Oh, no, no, no. Everything's the same— same capacity— everything. I was of the opinion the price could be cut down. I asked for a breakdown so I could see the figures how they arrived at a \$501 cost of machinery. They had a figure in administration for Foster Wheeler and engineering work for

\$46 million, and another 50 or 60 million for taxes, etc. So they cut down and cut down— and were able to cut down only \$45.5 million. That's all they cut down.

Then what is this figure of \$137 million?

That's the cost, the total cost of the British and the French governments. They would like to have this, and I agree with them. But I

also think it should be diversified with other nations, like Japan. The British and French did a hard study on the TORC expansion project and their governments said this TORC expansion is economically feasible.

Considering the world oil situation is the TORC expansion a viable program?

It is, and it has been confirmed by two other governments. With the expansion, TORC will be producing about 120,000 barrels of oil per day. The total oil consumption in Thailand is about 200,000 bpd. You must realize, this project won't be finished by the end of this year. It will take 39 months, well over three years to complete — and by then we will need the capacity.

Are Barclay's and Societe Generale still in the picture?

No. They are out.

Incidentally, can the government legally guarantee the soft loan for this project?

Of course. I have talked with the Prime Minister and he has no objections to that. But this has to be referred to the Minister of Finance. And they have asked for seven days to check it out.

*How are you and Khun Sommai
(Sommai Hoontrakul, Minister of
Finance) getting along?
(laughs)....*

*According to the press you two
are having some trouble.*

There's no real trouble, Jorge.
When you have a discussion, and
there are some points where you
have different views, that doesn't
mean you are enemies and don't
want to talk to each other.

*Khun Ob, thank you for a very in-
teresting conversation.*

CSO: 4200/597

TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT OF FARMERS HEAVILY IN DEBT

Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English 4 Mar 84 p 2

[Text]

MORE than 25 per cent of Thai farmers still remain heavily indebted and by the end of the 1981 cropping season their debts totalled more than 2,000 million baht, according to the latest report from the Office of Agricultural Economics of the Agriculture Ministry.

The report said farmers in the central region topped the list of the indebtedness. The farmers in this region, who make up 35.5 per cent of the indebted farmers nation-wide, have experienced higher degree of agricultural development because of favourable geographical conditions.

They also have more advanced production technology and planting is possible all year round in many areas in the central region.

"There are also

many financial institutions which offer credits to farmers who always find readily available financial resources," the report said.

The report also explained that farmers in other regions often have difficult access to credits or loans and tend to live on subsistence level.

The report was based on a survey among 4,467,547 families of farmers at the end of the 1981 cropping year. A total of 1,131,702 of them or 25.33 per cent were found to be carrying debts worth 2,372 million baht.

Financial institutions serve as the most popular source of credits or loans (about 58 per cent of the debts). Among them is the Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives which comparatively gave out more loans

and credits than the others.

Other preferences as alternative sources of loans include businessmen, agricultural cooperatives, commercial banks, relatives, neighbours, rice-mill owners, government officials and monks.

About 76.53 per cent of the farmers stated that they needed the loans for agriculture while the other 23.47 per cent said they were for personal uses.

While most of the farmers obtained their loans or credits by signing contracts, about 25 per cent of those in the Northeast did so verbally.

The report also pointed out that the farmers were charged an average interest rate of 32.16 per cent for loans from sources outside financial institutions whose average interest rate was only 13.61 per cent per annum.

MISTREATMENT OF POLITICAL PRISONERS DISCUSSED

Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English 4 Mar 84 pp 1, 2

[Text]

A LEADING human rights lawyer yesterday challenged the government's claim that there are no "political prisoners" in Thailand and made public a list of 57 people who are detained or prosecuted for alleged political offences.

They include a 54-year-old partially blind lady facing communist charges, 17 Muslims who were given long jail terms for subversions and several other persons for lese majeste and crime against the state.

Lawyer Thongbai Thongpao told a seminar on "Problems of Human Rights in ASEAN" at Thammasat University that at least seven persons simply disappeared after arrests by government authorities.

He cited the case of Kamol Piantamdi who disappeared on Dec 25, 1980 after he was arrested together with a friend. Kamol is a son of Mrs Vimol Piantamdi, who was arrested on communist charges three years ago and is now on trial.

Mrs Vimol, who had one eye removed in a surgery during detention, has been in poor health condition but has been denied bail to seek treatment outside.

Thongbai said authorities had tried to use a taped conversation with Kamol to persuade Mrs Vimol to cooperate.

Surachai sae Darn, an alleged communist leader, and Damri Ruangsutham, former member of the politburo of the Communist Party of Thailand (CPT) were also listed as political prisoners by Thongbai.

Surachai was arrested in Surat Thani together with another two communist suspects on June 29, 1981 while Damri was also arrested with his body guard in the same southern province on April 18, 1981.

Both are standing trial on sedition, communist and other related charges in the military court.

Six students of Ramkhamhaeng University who were arrested in connection with an attempt bomb-planting in Bangkok in March 1982 also made up the list of political prisoners. They are being tried by the military court for sedition, bomb-planting and secessionist activities.

Thongbai also cited the case of Pol Maj Anant Senakhan as one of the six persons being held on political offences connected to lese majeste.

Three of them were arrested on charge of publishing and distributing materials offending the Royal Family in July last year and were recently sentenced to four to eight years in jail.

Pol Maj Anant has been adopted by Amnesty International, a London-based human rights organization, as a "prisoner of conscience."

"The government's claim that there are no political prisoners in Thailand is not true," said Thongbai.

He said the government tries to avoid criticisms in its dealing

with people with alleged political offences by pressing criminal charges against them.

He said there may be many other "prisoners of conscience" who are still unaccounted for.

Thongbai said it had been a practice for policemen to question people suspected of political offences at hotels or other private places. Most of the people defined as political prisoners are detained at special detention centres, he said.

The seminar yesterday, which was attended by about 30 people involved in hu-

man rights campaigns, was organized by the Regional Council on Human Rights in Asia.

Thongbai said the council will launch a campaign on political prisoners in the region this year by calling for abrogation of martial law, the anti-communist act, amnesty for communist defectors and permission for convicts waiting for extradition to have more freedom of movements.

In its 1983 annual report, Amnesty International raised concern over the use of detention without trial for political offences and the imposition of death penalty in Thailand.

It also wrote to Premier Gen Prem Tinsulanonda in 1982 urging a review of the anti-communist law which allows the people accused of communist activities to be detained without trial up to 480 days.

Thongbai yesterday also voiced concern at the killings of journalists in Thailand. He said an average of 10 journalists are murdered every year in course of their duty.

CSO: 4200/597

THAILAND

F-16 AIRCRAFT PURCHASE CONTROVERSY CONTINUES

Differences of Opinion Cited

Bangkok PATINYA in Thai 27 Feb 84 pp 8-12

[Article: "Should the F16 Be Purchased?"]

[Excerpts] Concerning the trip to the United States by General Athit Kamlangek at the end of January, one of his goals was to discuss the purchase of the multi-purpose, high-performance fighter aircraft that is presently causing a stir in aerial combat weapons circles, that is, the F16 aircraft produced by the General Dynamics Corporation. During the initial talks, one flight of aircraft was to be purchased, including 14 F16-As, which is a fighter aircraft, and two F16-Bs, which is a training aircraft. The total price was to be approximately 50-60 billion baht. Adding on the cost of making improvements, the cost would have been 100 billion baht [sic].

Because this amounts to approximately 5-10 percent of the national budget, there has been a debate on whether Thailand really "needs" to have F16 aircraft.

As for those who do not think that it is essential for Thailand to have an expensive aircraft like the F16, they feel that in the present situation, Vietnam will not invade Thailand and even if an aerial offensive was launched against Thailand, we have F5-E aircraft. The reports that Vietnam has Mig-23 aircraft have "not been confirmed." In addition, our pilots are better trained and have better morale. All this is already comfort enough. And they feel that the primary focus in developing the air forces should be on enabling the air force to engage in systems combat, such as using a warning system, a communications system, new weapons and a logistics system, and on providing welfare benefits to lift the morale of the airmen.

Concerning the purchase of just a single flight of expensive high-performance aircraft, if air force money is used to make the purchase, the air force will have exhausted its budget, which amounts to approximately

1.5 billion baht a year. The air force will not be able to develop anything else for the next 5-10 years. And so the air force will not be able to employ systems combat.

Besides this, the officers in this group feel that if high-performance aircraft are purchased, the focus should be on ground-support attack aircraft, of which Thailand still has a great need. The attack aircraft presently in use, such as the Sessata E-37/T37 Dragonfly, are light attack jets that fly at slow speeds. The OV-10 Bronco and the T28 Trojan are prop aircraft that are used just to fight the communist terrorists in the country. Thus, attention has been given to the attack fighters like the A-7 Corsair. This aircraft gained quite a reputation during the Vietnamese War as the aircraft that suffered the fewest losses. The cost of purchasing an old A-7 aircraft that has been upgraded to make it equivalent to a new aircraft is only \$5-6 million. And the cost of a new OV-10 Thunderbolt is \$11-12 million.

The officers in this group feel that if Vietnam invades Thailand on its own (without the support of the Soviet Union), the main focus of the invasion will be the ground attack. These attack fighters would be better able to halt the ground attack than would expensive high-performance fighter aircraft. Using these latter aircraft for this would be like using a sports car to haul goods instead of using a pick-up truck.

However, the desire to purchase F16-A aircraft is strongest in the military since senior officers want to show their ability to negotiate the purchase of the finest aircraft that is also the most difficult to purchase. They want this as an "ornament" for the Thai military. And lower-ranking officers, too, will be proud of the fact that Thailand has one of the world's most modern military forces.

The Thinking of Civilians and Scholars: The Economy Is the Important Thing

Few civilians or scholars favor purchasing the F16-A. Their first reason for not supporting this is that, by itself, Vietnam is not capable of invading Thailand. Even though its military forces may be much stronger than ours, Vietnam has severe economic problems and cannot wage a protracted war against Thailand. Or if Vietnam attacks Thailand at the instigation of the Soviet Union, the Soviet Union will have to pour in weapons, and the war will no longer be a limited-zone war. It will be a great-power war, and Thailand will have support from its allies. Matters would be beyond Thailand's ability to control.

The existing number of F5-E aircraft are considered adequate for defending the country and maintaining the balance of combat power between Thailand and Vietnam at a low level. If Thailand purchases high-performance

aircraft, Vietnam will have to obtain better aircraft to match us. But if Thailand succeeds in purchasing high-performance aircraft that are better than those of Vietnam and has more of them, perhaps Thailand and Vietnam can stop being enemies.

But in reality, while it is very difficult for Thailand to purchase F16-A aircraft using its own money, Vietnam obtains weapons free from the Soviet Union. And the Soviet Union has several types of high-performance aircraft that it can give to Vietnam if necessary. Thus, simply purchasing F16-A aircraft will not prevent an increase in Vietnamese capabilities.

The F16-A is an offensive weapon. Even though the military may believe that launching an offensive first is the best defense, comparing the "targets" in Vietnam to those in Thailand, the targets in Thailand are much more valuable since Thailand is an economic area and is of greater strategic importance. Vietnam has few targets that are really worth destroying. Thus, this is not worth the risk of fighting a war, in which offense and defense would alternate.

The lesson of the Vietnam War is that Vietnam was able to defeat the U.S. government and military without using a single aircraft in offensive combat. Instead, Vietnam used politics in coordination with the military. And the main forces that won the victory were the infantry troops. Thus, [our] military should concentrate on developing its capabilities for repelling a ground invasion. General Saiyut Koetphon, the former supreme commander, formulated the "combined forces defense" plan and prepared the "arsenal" program, which involved pooling funds from the ASEAN countries to stockpile weapons for use in emergencies. But interest in these plans waned after the new supreme commander took over.

The F16 is a very expensive aircraft, and this purchase would total more than 5 percent of the national budget. And it is not known where this money would come from. In the 1985 budget, which is now being prepared, no money has been allotted for purchasing F16-A aircraft. If money from the air force budget is used, the development of the air force on other fronts will come to a halt for at least 5 years. Whenever other funds are used, this always creates problems on other fronts.

Weapons capabilities can be increased to such an extent that the military and the people become complacent and place their fate in the hands of these weapons. And they may forget that victory in war depends on "brain" power and manpower. France [forgot this and] suffered a defeat along the Maginot Line, as did the United States and [South] Vietnam on the Indochina battlefield. This is different from having adequate weapons but having a population that is alert. There must be unity. We must all help make the country strong. If an enemy attacks, everyone will be ready to fight. It is believed that if the Thai people are prepared to defend their independence, friendly countries will hurry to provide weapons support if Thailand stumbles.

In short, both civilians and scholars feel that in the present general situation, it is not necessary to increase our combat strength by purchasing F16-A aircraft, which are very expensive. Increasing our combat strength should be done in a normal manner, which is sufficient for defending ourselves. The government should change its policy of solving the Indochina problem through confrontation to one of reducing the tension, holding political negotiations, opening up trade and building friendly relations. This will solve all the problems. Besides enabling Thailand to launch a peaceful offensive, the people's standard of living will be good. This will bring about permanent security in the country.

The Decision Is Up to the Government

Even though the military has already decided to purchase the F16-A, the question is whether or not the United States will sell these aircraft to us. And if it agrees to sell them to us, where will we get the money to pay for them? Besides using the military's money, money from other sectors will have to be used, too. Thus, this is something that the government must consider carefully without worrying about all the pressures. What it must think about is what we should use our limited resources for to generate the greatest benefits for the country and build as much real security as possible.

RTN CINC Comments on Weapons Purchases

Bangkok SU ANAKHOT in Thai 19-25 Feb 84 p 10

[Comment by Admiral Praphat Chanthawirat, the RTN CINC: "They View Us As a Second Line"]

[Text] It would be good to get [this aircraft]. We know that there are enemies, or people with bad intentions toward us, all around us. We must build up our strength. I prefer to think of it this way. We have money in our pocket and so we can purchase things. We have to purchase the best goods that we can. [Purchase] good items at a low price, that is my idea and the idea of the navy. When we purchase ships, we try to select the best ones possible that will cause us the fewest problems. If they are cheap, so much the better. That's my feeling. The cause of all the trouble is that those who are losing profits are trying to stir up trouble. In terms of money, all the money in the world won't help when danger comes. Preparations must be made. We cannot rely on others for everything. We have to help ourselves. We have to stand on our own feet. We cannot have them carry us. The air force wants quality weapons and that is a correct view. If I had the money, I would like good-quality things, too. Everyone would. We want weapons that are superior to theirs. One problem is that we don't have enough money. And they don't want to sell this weapon. Even if we had the money, they would not sell.

That is, the United States will not sell its best weapons to Thailand. That is their concept. When they don't want to sell something, they have to find an excuse for this. They have a reason for this. I once told them that the weapons that they sell us are "second line" weapons. They are second class weapons. Such weapons have caused problems for us regarding their combat capabilities. And when they stop using these weapons, it is difficult to find parts to repair them. This has created many problems for us. They have said that it's their country's policy not to sell first-class weapons to anyone except.... Put simply, they have three classes of allies. As for us, they don't feel that we are very important. We say that we are important. They say we aren't. This is what is said. It's our duty to prove that we are important. And it is their duty to think about whether we are important.

As for me, I don't have any problems. If the United States won't sell weapons to me, I will buy them elsewhere where prices and quality are similar or even better. I have talked to them frankly. I have told them that I cannot spend the people's money on inferior items. If the things aren't of good quality, I won't buy them. I have told them this frankly. The air force, too, has been frank. It wants to purchase the weapons from the United States because the United States has the most advanced weapons.

Columnist Analyzes F16 Debate

Bangkok BAN MUANG in Thai 15 Feb 84 p 4

[Free Thoughts, Jungle Breezes and Warm Sunshine column by Nui Bangkhunthien:

"Another View on the F16 Issue"]

[Text] General Athit Kamlangek returned from the United States, and it was felt that the request to purchase the new F16 fighter aircraft from the U.S. government would be approved.

But then, reports over the B.B.C. radio said that some members of the U.S. Congress who are members of the Subcommittee for Asian and Pacific Affairs, opposed this for two reasons:

1. The F16 exceeds Thailand's needs. The equipment is very complex and is just too expensive.
2. If the United States sells this aircraft to Thailand, this will step up the weapons race in Southeast Asia. Thailand claims that it needs to achieve aerial combat parity with Vietnam, which has the Mig-23 aircraft from the Soviet Union. But there is no definite evidence showing that Vietnam has Mig-23 aircraft.

That was a news report concerning the views of U.S. politicians and not of government or congressional friends. That is why this does not seem so serious. When weapons are purchased on a government-to-government basis, weapons traders become dissatisfied because it is difficult for them to make money. Thus, they have to line up various points of opposition.

However, because this involves billions of baht, from an economic standpoint, this is a "waste" since it will not produce anything in return when we consider last year's trade deficit of over 60 billion baht and 1984 budget expenditures, which have been set at more than 200 billion baht and which includes money to repay the loans and interest, which has been the fourth highest expenditure for several years now.

Those who express disagreement with this should be listened to in order to arrive at a conclusion that will benefit the majority.

One reader expressed his views. The WIS News Agency broadcast a feature program analyzing the F18 aircraft on Television Channel 3. The important things that were said were:

The F18 is a new aircraft of the United States. It is thought to be the most modern aircraft [in the world]. Even though a newer model, the F20, is being produced, only a prototype has been produced. There are no F20s in operation.

The U.S. Air Force conducted combat exercises with two flights of aircraft to test the efficiency of the aircraft. One flight was composed of F5 aircraft, whose performance is similar to that of the Russian Mig-21, while the other flight was composed of F18 aircraft. Both sides had video-computers to prevent any actual losses.

The result was that the F18 was not able to score a clear victory over the F5. Both sides suffered the same number of "losses."

But the F18 costs 30 times more than the F5. Thus, there is criticism that producing the F18 is a waste of money. Some people have called this a "clumsy turkey." This has reduced the confidence of the U.S. military. Because one of the very painful lessons learned in Vietnam was that even though it had modern weapons, all the supplies it could use and huge sums of money, it could not defeat the Vietcong.

What determines who will win is not modern weapons but skill and cleverness in deceiving the enemy, in concealing things and in releasing news selectively to confuse the enemy.

Thus, I would like to warn people not to deceive themselves and think that the F16 will be the ultimate weapon. The F16 is very expensive when compared with the French Mirage, which has comparable performance. The Mirage is much cheaper.

The anti-aircraft missile produced by England is just about as efficient as the Redeye missile produced by the United States. But the English missile is much cheaper. And in the war against Argentina, the English forces shot down many Argentinean aircraft.

"The country will not be secure just by having a strong military. National security depends on the security of each family. That is what one philosopher said."

The above was an article submitted by one reader. Several things need to be discussed since the money to buy the F16s comes from the taxes of the people.

The U.S. government is being heavily criticized in Congress. And the Thai government has to get permission from the elected MPs here, too.

No one can deny that it is necessary to increase our strength and that the more weapons, the better. But we must look at our "pocketbook," too. We must determine what has the greatest priority. If the military really needs something, it must give reasons for this so that the MPs and people understand why it is essential for us to have these things. It must not keep things to itself or believe so firmly in the honeyed words of the great powers that it no longer pays any attention to the people.

The great powers have never been sincere toward the small nations. In giving aid, they carefully calculate what benefits they will derive. If they give aid and do not benefit, the great powers find some excuse to abandon their friends. Look what happened in Vietnam.

Maintenance Problems, Fuel Costs

Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 16 Feb 84 p 11

[Finance and Field column by Saengthai Khaophuthai: "The JUSMAG Salesman"]

[Text] There is one clever question which asks: If a worker earns 2,000 baht a month but by a fluke acquires a 3,000cc Benz, should that worker use the Benz?

The conditions that go along with using the Benz are that it must be driven at least 1 hour a day to go to work or somewhere else and so must be driven at least 60 kilometers a day (the minimum speed is to be 60 kilometers/hour).

If it were you, do you think you would be able to pay for the gasoline alone? Remember, a 3,000cc engine uses at least 1 liter per 6 kilometers. If the car had to be driven 1 hour a day, it would cost more than 100 baht a day to operate.

If you were a janitor, guard or laborer, you would probably shake your head. But if you had a lot of friends and had other ways of earning money to buy gasoline for the car, there wouldn't be any problem since you could probably use the "forms" of a Benze owner to get money.

This was an exmple that I wanted to mention before discussing the purchase of F16 fighter aircraft to increase the strength of the Thai military. I used this example because the F16 has several things in common with the Benz in the example.

The F16 is a high-performance aircraft, but fuel costs are very high. It must be flown 1 hour a day. Otherwise, it will not stay in tune and will not fly properly. And with this high performance, the F16, with its A100 engine, uses 28,000 baht worth of fuel per hour.

One flight of aircraft is composed of between 16 and 25 aircraft. Some flights may be smaller or larger, but the nubmer is generally 18-20 aircraft.

Just think how many hundreds of thousands of baht in fuel one flight of F16s would consume in a day or how many hundreds of million it would consume in a year.

As for the idea of purchasing these aircraft and just keeping them on the ground until we need them, aircraft mechanies say that aircraft cannot be treated like furniture just to threaten Vietnam and Kampuchea. If purchased, they must be used. And what is important is that we would have to train our personnel to fly these aircraft and to use them in all types of combat. Thus, they would have to be flown daily for both engine maintenance and training reasons.

Besides these expenses, another important problem concerns parts and maintenance costs. The United States is no longer producing this aircraft itself and has turned production over to France. But France plans to stop production, too, since NATO has said that it will stop using this aircraft since so many have crashed. Those to be sold are those presently in stock.

Thus, in the future, there will definitely be problems in obtaining parts for this aircraft. The United States, which will sell the aircraft to us, will have to run about trying to obtain parts from the countries that have purchased these aircraft. A country that has not used a particular part will sell the part to the country that needs it now. At present, there is only one factory that produces parts and it is located in Beligum. If it stops producing parts, we will have problems. Besides this, because the parts have to be ordered from so far away, it increases their cost. That is, when we order parts from the United States, the United States sends the order on to Belgium or France.

To date, five countries have purchased this aircraft, and all have said that they will stop using it. Iran, the first country to purchase this aircraft, was the first to announce that it would no longer use this aircraft since too many were crashing. To date, worldwide, 20 percent of those produced have crashed.

"Two weeks ago at Clark Airbase in the Philippines, two of these aircraft crashed while participating in joint exercises with the Philippines, Indonesia and Thailand," said an aircraft mechanic.

Another of the aircraft's very terrifying systems is the electrical system, which is the heart of the engine. It is an extremely high-level system that is much too complex for Thai mechanics. Even if the United States sends people to provide training, this will consume much time and many personnel.

Since this is the case, the question is why we want to purchase this aircraft. The answer is that behind the purchase of the F16 is the fact that Air Chief Marshal Thakhlao Susilawan, the former RTAF CINC, wanted to strengthen the air force. He looked about for an efficient aircraft and found the F20, which the United States was just putting into production. He thought that this was an aircraft whose performance capabilities matched our needs and that it was suited to our pilots and to the economic position of the Thai military since we were already using the F5.

The F20 and the F5 are very similar to each other. Thus, it would be easy to maintain and use, and its performance was comparable to that of the F16. The only difference was that the F16 has a 30-percent greater payload capacity.

"However, after the RTAF CINC died and General Prem visited the United States, I don't know why they changed their minds and decided to purchase the F16," said the same aircraft mechanic.

That is the background on this. But in addition to the background, it appears that JUSMAG, which serves as a military advisor to Thailand, recommended that Thailand purchase these aircraft that were left over from the Vietnam War.

"They were good salesmen. They tricked Thailand into purchasing things, including the wire in the F.M.S. system, even though we produce and sell this wire ourselves," said an officer. And concerning the purchase of the F16, he said that "at present, it's like buying goods from a 'chek' [derogatory term for Chinese people]."

11943

CSO: 4207/96

BRIEFS

AMBASSADOR TO SIERRA LEONE--The Foreign Ministry announces that the Government of Republic of Sierra Leone has approved the proposal made by the government of his majesty the king to appoint Prasoet Mat-udi as Thai ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to that country. Prasoet is currently serving as Thai ambassador to Senegal with residence in Dakar. [Text] [BK141315 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1000 GMT 13 Mar 84]

TRADE AGREEMENT WITH PAKISTAN--Thailand and Pakistan today signed a trade agreement during a ceremony held at the Foreign Affairs Ministry. Signing the agreement on behalf of the Thai and Pakistan governments were the Thai foreign minister and Pakistan ambassador to Thailand. Under the agreement, which will be valid for 1 year, the two countries will promote bilateral trade within the framework of the laws and regulations of the two countries and appoint a joint trade committee to implement the agreement. [Summary] [BK200220 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1000 GMT 16 Mar 84]

GOVERNMENT'S REVENUE, EXPENDITURE--The Finance Ministry has reported that during the first 3 months of 1984 fiscal year, October-December 1983, the government's revenue was recorded at 36.00 billion baht and expenditure at 30.02 billion baht. [Excerpt] [BK200229 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0000 GMT 16 Mar 84]

BARTER WITH ROMANIA--Mongkhon Somkhane, commercial counselor attached to the Thai Embassy in Bucharest, reported that, in 1983, Romania imported 40,000 tons of 5-percent type rice from Thailand by bartering with Romanian chemical fertilizer. In 1984, Romania has shown interest in importing 20,000-30,000 tons of Thai rice by bartering with other Romanian products, not chemical fertilizer. [Excerpt] [BK091712 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1000 GMT 6 Mar 84]

OUTGOING INDIAN AMBASSADOR--At 1400 today, outgoing Indian Ambassador Ashok Bhalchandra Gokhale, accompanied by the Protocol Department's director general, Sukho Suwansiri, called on Prime Minister General Prem Tinsulanon to bid him a farewell after having completed his term in Thailand. The prime minister exchanged views with the Indian ambassador on general issues such as trade and fishery. [Excerpt] [BK091712 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 7 Mar 84]

JOINT EXERCISES WITH MALAYSIA--The air forces of Thailand and Malaysia will hold a joint exercise April 9 to 18, according to a statement released today by the Malaysian 2d Infantry Division. The exercise, named Air Tamal III, is a continuation of two similar exercises held in 1982. The purpose of the air operation is in support of ground troops operating against communist guerrillas along the Thai-Malaysian border, the statement added. Thailand and Malaysia have an agreement to combat jointly the 2,500 communist guerrillas who operate mainly along the common border. [Text] [BK200900 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in English 1230 GMT 19 Mar 84]

MP TO ASSIST HAN--A democrat MP for Phatthalung, Phrom Bunyarit, announced at his home in this provincial town today that he was ready to resign from his Parliament membership to pave the way for Gen Han Linanon to run in by-election in Phatthalung under the Democrat Party banner. He said that he considered Gen Han to be a man with high efficiency and could do the job better than him. Phrom said he was willing to help Gen Han in every way, including campaigning for the by-election. He said that he would still be a member of the Democrat Party and continue his profession of playing shadow puppets in support to Gen Han. He had a strong confidence that the former Fourth Army commanding-general would be a great benefit to the Phatthalung people. "As soon as Gen Han resigns from the Senate, I will quite Parliament," Phrom said. [Text] [BK171040 Bangkok BANGKOK WORLD in English 17 Mar 84 p 1]

1983 FOREIGN INVESTMENT--Investment situation in Thailand has improved significantly with the level of foreign investment chalked up to more than 40 percent from the total investment fund of nearly 12,000 million baht last year, the highest record than ever during the past 24 years. Following several various years, foreign investment in Thailand has increased in almost all categories. Last year's foreign investment has brought about foreign exchange currency into the country amounting to nearly 50,000 million baht. [Excerpt] [BD060002 Bangkok Domestic Service in English 0000 GMT 2 Mar 84]

RICE AID TO SENEGAL--Thailand will donate 200 tons of broken rice to Senegal in a show of sympathy towards the Senegalese Government and people who are suffering from drought and famine. Senegal is one of the largest buyers of Thai rice with annual import volume of 200,000 to 300,000 tons. [Summary] [BK101329 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in English 1230 GMT 9 Mar 84]

RICE TO DROUGHT-HIT LAOS--Thailand is expected to sell more rice to Laos this year as the Laotian rice crop has been badly hit by drought, the Board of Trade reported. The Board of Trade said the Laotian Government would be importing more or less than 100,000 tons of rice to meet its shortage this year against 30,000 tons imported last year. According to a report by the Laotian Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Cooperatives, drought has seriously affected the country's rice production to about 18.6 per cent below the target set by the government. [Text] [BK141315 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in English 1230 GMT 13 Mar 84]

RICE EXPORTS--According to a report from the Crops Prices Stabilization Center, Thailand exported 716,593 tons of rice from 1 January to 5 March this year. Of that figure, 192,414 tons were exported by the government and 524,179 tons were exports by private companies. Thailand still has to deliver 681,225 tons of rice under orders received so far this year. [Excerpt] [BK101329 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1300 GMT 8 Mar 84]

CSO: 4207/113

MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

ARMY PAPER HAILS BATTLE AT DIEN BIEN PHU

BK160704 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1400 GMT 14 Mar 84

["Excerpt" from QUAN DOI NHAN DAN editorial: "The Spirit of Dien Bien Phu--The Height of Vietnamese Revolutionary Heroism"--date not given]

[Text] Dien Bien Phu, a remote stretch of land deep in a hilly jungle, has become a historic landmark. The Dien Bien Phu victory ranks in our nation's golden history and in the history of the world peoples' revolutionary struggle as a high point of Vietnamese revolutionary heroism. The Dien Bien Phu spirit and the Dien Bien Phu experience became an invaluable heritage for our nation in its struggle for national independence and socialism.

The Dien Bien Phu spirit reflected the determination to fight and win of our entire party, people and army. It brought into full play the combined strength, both spiritual and material, of the entire country in the fiercest test of strength, the last decisive test of strength between our side and the enemy, in order to win a total victory in the resistance against the French colonialist aggressors.

This determined-to-fight-and-win spirit is regarded as a crystalization or a height of the heroic bearing, patriotism, hatred of the enemy, and undomitable will to resolutely fight the foreign aggression against our people who have been steeled through a 4,000-year history and have been elevated to a new height after nearly a quarter of a century of revolutionary struggle under the leadership banner of the party and venerated and beloved Uncle Ho.

Our fighting position in the Dien Bien Phu battle was the position of combatants who rose up to break the shackles of enslavement during the August Revolution. From rifles and rubber-tire sandals, we have developed into powerful army corps, growing ever stronger and winning ever greater victories in the course of fighting.

Our fighting position in the Dien Bien Phu battle was the position of those having firm confidence in the vanguard party and in the law of inevitable victory resulting from a shining resistance with just cause, from the extraordinary growth of our spiritual and material force, from the abundant the combat experience we obtained after nearly 9 years of fighting the enemy, and from a confidence in the ever stronger support provided by our comrades, friends and the entire progressive mankind.

Our fighting position in the Dien Bien Phu battle was reflected in the valiant bearing of Be Van Dan, who used his own body as an object to block the fall of an artillery piece; of To Vinh Dien, who used his own body as a buffer to keep an artillery piece steady; of Hoang Van No, who was a champion bayonet fighter; of Phan Dinh Giac, who used his body to block the enemy's bunker porthole; and of the many other heroes and valiant fighters. This fighting position and determined-to-fight-and-win spirit were our absolute superiority.

The Dien Bien Phu spirit also demonstrated the creativity, intelligence and resourcefulness of our entire party, people, and army as was seen in many activities ranging from the wonderful handling of the war and strategy by the party Central Committee to the creative leadership skills of the party committee and the command committee of the Dien Bien Phu battle and demonstrated the resourcefulness and flexibility of the commanders, cadres and combatants in various attacks.

Many seemingly simple but very extraordinary deeds, such as digging trenches, clearing roads, dragging artillery pieces, building the combat terrain and communication trenches, encircling the enemy, launching large-scale attacks on airfields and transporting weapons and food provisions, were achieved thanks to the Vietnamese people's bravery and outstanding intelligence which developed from a higher-than-the-mountain determination and their deeper-than-the-abyss hatred.

The Dien Bien Phu spirit was the spirit of the rear and the frontline sharing the same view and the army and people sharing the same will. It was also the spirit of a national battle conducted with coordination between various units and various battlefields. Coordinated with the heroic attacks in Dien Bien Phu were the many deceptive blows dealt to the enemy from the rear, such as those at the Gia Lam and Cat Bi airfields, along Route 5 in the Central Highlands, and along Route 9 in Nam Bo.

Facing our main-force personnel, who were annihilating the enemy day and night under the rain of bombs and the storm of bullets, were our people from across the country, from the liberated zone and from those areas under temporary enemy control, who, with the slogan--all for the frontline and all for victories--, wholeheartedly engaged in combat support missions, ensuring logistical support for a large-scale and long-term military campaign conducted far from the rear.

Our people, both young and old, male and female, used all means and ways, including even sweat and blood, to care for our soldiers in everything ranging from rice to newspapers, writing paper, towels and needle and thread. This spirit of unity and coordination created a great combined strength for the victory of the Dien Bien Phu battle and the victory of the 1953-54 winter-spring offensive.

After 9 years of efforts,
Dien Bien Phu victory was achieved.
It went down in golden history,
As a garland of red flowers.

The Dien Bien Phu spirit will forever brighten up the heart of every Vietnamese citizen. The Dien Bien Phu lesson will forever be a component of our people's valuable treasure of national defense experience.

The Dien Bien Phu spirit, the Dien Bien Phu tradition, and the Dien Bien Phu experience must be carefully preserved from one generation to another and must be strongly developed in the present struggle for national defense and construction.

Now, more than ever before, the Dien Bien Phu spirit must be reflected through the determination to totally foil the multifaceted war of sabotage waged by the Beijing expansionists and hegemonists in collusion with U.S. imperialism and to remain ready to defeat all the wars of aggression on any scale while carrying out national construction, strengthening national defense, resolving to triumph over poverty and backwardness and build a bountiful life, and undergoing training to improve the quality of socialist men.

CSO: 4200/613

MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

BRIEFS

DIEN BIEN PHU, VPA FETES--On 13 March, the CPV Secretariat issued a directive on the commemoration of the 30th Dien Bien Phu victory anniversary and the 40th Vietnamese People's Army founding anniversary. The directive emphasizes: The 30th Dien Bien Phu victory anniversary falls on 7 May and the 40th VPA founding anniversary falls on 22 December 1984. These two major anniversaries are our people's important historic events. They should be well organized to mobilize all our party members, people and troops to emulate in scoring achievements, successfully implementing all the fifth party congress resolutions, accelerating the development of all-people national defense and the people's armed forces, enhancing the revolutionary traditions, increasing combat strength, successfully building socialism, defending firmly the socialist fatherland, and fulfilling international obligations. [Text] [BK151249 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 14 Mar 84]

CSO: 4200/613

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, TRADE AND AID

INTERVIEW ON SRV-USSR SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION

BK161323 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Interview by a Voice of Vietnam correspondent with Le Qui An, vice chairman of the State Science and Technology Commission and chairman of the Vietnamese-Soviet Subcommittee for Scientific Cooperation, on "The Process of Developing Scientific Cooperation Between Our Country and the Soviet Union, and the Achievements Resulting from This Scientific-Technological Cooperation"--recorded; date not given]

[Text] [Question] Dear comrade, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of Vietnam-USSR scientific and technological cooperation, would you please review the process of developing scientific cooperation between our country and the Soviet Union?

[Answer] Scientific and technological cooperation between Vietnam and the Soviet Union began not just 25 years ago but much earlier. However, the date 7 March 1984 marks the 25th anniversary of the signing of the treaty on scientific and technological cooperation between the two countries. Over the past 25 years the fraternal cooperation between Vietnam and the Soviet Union in the scientific and technological field has constantly developed both in width and depth on an ever-expanding scale and with increasingly more diverse forms, thereby bringing about ever more marked results.

We can divide this process into two states: The first stage lasted from 1959 to 1975. During this period, cooperation was effected only on widely separate projects and not concentrated on solving major scientific-technological problems to meet the goals of the national economy. The Soviet Union helped us chiefly in training cadres and building the material-technical bases.

Since 1975, following the complete liberation of South Vietnam and with the entire country embarking on socialist construction, scientific-technological cooperation between Vietnam and the Soviet Union has developed in an unprecedentedly vigorous manner; and this can be referred to as the second stage. The two countries have defined long-term scientific projects involving joint research efforts for 5-6 years. At present work is being done on 88 long-term projects of cooperation for the 1981-85 period between the various ministries and sectors of our country and the Soviet Union. These projects are aimed at solving the current problems facing 23 major sectors of the national economy

such as agriculture, forestry, energy, communications and transportations, public health, engineering, metallurgy, geology, marine products and so on.

Every year hundreds of specialists are exchanged by the two countries to carry out these projects under contracts and agreements signed between the two sides. The Soviet Union has designed and manufactured modern machinery for various joint Vietnam-USSR research facilities in Vietnam to facilitate the work of Vietnamese and Soviet scientists. The findings of their research will benefit both sides. The organization of joint Vietnam-USSR scientific-technological research centers is a new, highly promising form of cooperation that will bring about practical scientific and economic results. Both sides recognize the need to further develop this form of cooperation.

[Question] Comrade, would you please review the achievements which have been recorded in the building and development of Vietnam's science and technology with such Soviet assistance and cooperation?

[Answer] One of the greatest achievements we have recorded in the scientific and technological field over the recent past with the generous and disinterested assistance of the Soviet Union is the scientific and technological potential we now possess. Nearly 20,000 university cadres have been trained in the Soviet Union and more than 50 percent of our doctors and candidate doctors have graduated from Soviet universities and institutes.

Apart from training our cadres, the Soviet Union has helped Vietnam build and equip many important scientific establishments, such as the Vietnam institutes of science and the Hanoi polytechnic college. Another significant event in Vietnam-USSR scientific and technical cooperation was the joint space flight by heroic cosmonauts Gorbako and Pham Tuan on 24 July 1980. Many important scientific data was collected in this flight and its scientific findings will play an effective role in work related to the survey of natural resources and research of space biology and physics.

In the field of agriculture, work related to the selection and production of crop seeds and establishment of seed reserves is being intensively carried out with good results at the joint Vietnam-USSR seed experimentation, selection and production stations in Van Dien, Hanoi and Hung Loc, Ho Chi Minh city. In less than a year, together with our scientific cadres, Soviet experts have planted rice, corn, beans and vegetables on an experimental basis on thousands of hectares with seeds obtained from the Soviet Union's seed reserve. Many of these seeds have proved to be suitable to the local climate and capable of resisting insects and blight.

Both Soviet and Vietnamese scientific cadres working at these stations have made field trips to many provinces and have collected hundreds of varieties of rice, beans and vegetables from various localities to add to the seed reserves of the two countries. The establishment of these crop seed selection and production collectives is of great importance to the discovery of new, high-yield and high-quality varieties.

Well, due to limited time, what I have stated above are some typical examples only. In fact, thanks to the wholehearted assistance of Soviet experts, we have been able to record many encouraging achievements.

[Question] What do we have to do to develop the results of scientific cooperation between Vietnam and the Soviet Union?

[Answer] To develop the results of scientific and technical cooperation between Vietnam and the Soviet Union I would like to stress only the following two points: One is how can we make the best use of the great and disinterested aid of the Soviet Union. Two is how can we accelerate the assessment of research results and promptly apply them to production and life.

In the past we have proposed several research subjects but have not been able to concentrate manpower and funds in order to carry out the research subjects well. As a result, research on some subjects has been slow and less effective.

With a view to making good use of Soviet aid, we should redetermine the guidelines for setting priorities of cooperation. We must boldly postpone research on some of the subjects which we do not urgently need or which we are still unable to do in order to concentrate on the targeted subjects.

At present, the Vietnamese and Soviet state commissions of science and technology have unanimously agreed on 16 priority guidelines for cooperation. On the basis of these guidelines, the Vietnam State Science and Technology Commission will cooperate with the various ministries and sectors in our country to determine a nomenclature of subjects of scientific and technical cooperation with the Soviet Union in the 1986-90 period. Moreover, we must also have a balanced plan of funds and materials for these subjects so as to effectively use Soviet aid.

In order to carry out well those subjects of cooperation which both sides have agreed upon, responsible agencies should appoint capable cadres to take care of the task and organize well the implementation of the task. Although the application of scientific and technical innovations to production in our country has progressed, it is still slow. There is still a rather large gap between science and production because we have not succeeded in establishing an alliance between the two.

So, in the near future we must study an integrated system for bringing technical progress into production as stipulated in Resolution No 51 of the Council of Ministers. In this regard, we can learn from the many experiences of the Soviet Union in the organization of science and production unions.

[Correspondent] Thank you, comrade.

CSO: 4209/213

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, TRADE AND AID

BRIEFS

WOMEN'S UNION LEADER VISITS PHILIPPINES--Hanoi, VNA, 17 March--Duong Thi Duyen, presidium member of the Central Committee of the Vietnam Women's Union, paid a 10-day visit to the Philippines ending Tuesday as guest of the New Women's (?union) (NWU) of the Philippines. She was warmly welcomed by Mrs Filomena Tolentina and Mrs Leoviginla Agustin, respectively president and secretary general of the NWU, who held talks with her. She attended and spoke at local women's congresses and at the NWU National Congress convened in Manila on 11 March. She also attended the celebrations on International Women's Day (8 March) and gave talks in Manila and other localities on the situation in Vietnam and the Vietnamese women's movement. Leaders of the national committee on the role of Philippine women and the National Council of Philippine Women received Mrs Duong Thi Duyen at their office buildings. Present on the occasion were Mrs Leticia Perez de Guzman, executive director of the national committee; Mrs Minerva Laudico, president of the Union of Philippine Women Citizens; Mrs Carolina Basa Salazar, president of the Federation of ASEAN Women; and others. Mrs Duong Thi Duyen called at the Philippine National University. She was cordially received by Mrs Liwayway Calaland, vice-minister of labour; Mrs Carmen Nakpil, director of the technical centre; and Mrs Rosalinda Tironal, ambassador attached to the Foreign Ministry. At all the localities she visited, the Philippine people expressed their desire to further promote the ties of friendship and cooperation between the peoples, especially women, of the two countries. [Text] [OW172139 Hanoi VNA in English 1518 GMT 17 Mar 84]

EDUCATION ASSISTANCE TO KAMPUCHEA--Hanoi, VNA, 12 March--Vietnam has helped Kampuchea in opening 17 refresher courses for teachers and in printing more than 9,177,000 copies of text books and over 4,000 copies of bilingual dictionaries. Vietnam has equipped laboratories in four schools in Phnom Penh and supplied libraries in the city with more than 6,000 books in Vietnamese, Russian, French and English. With Vietnam's assistance a nationwide anti-illiteracy campaign has been deployed with great success and 793 Kampuchean students have been granted Vietnamese scholarships. [Excerpt] [OW130441 Hanoi VNA in English 1536 GMT 12 Mar 84]

NEW JAPANESE AMBASSADOR--Hanoi, VNA, 19 March--The newly accredited ambassador of Japan to Vietnam, Koichi Tsutsumi, paid a courtesy visit to chairman of the Council of Ministers Pham van Dong here today. Chairman Pham van Dong had a cordial conversation with the Japanese diplomat. [Text] [OW191557 Hanoi VNA in English 1449 GMT 19 Mar 84]

USSR COOPERATION ANNIVERSARY MARKED--Hanoi, VNA, 20 March--A meeting was organized in Ho Chi Minh City last Saturday to mark the 25th anniversary of the Vietnamese-Soviet agreement on scientific and technical cooperation. The meeting was jointly sponsored by the city's committee for science and technology, its fatherland front committee, its subcommittee of the Vietnam-USSR Friendship Association. Among those present on the occasion were a delegation of the State Commission of the USSR for Science and Technology led by its Vice-Chairman V. M. Kudinov, Soviet Consul General in Ho Chi Minh City O. A. Volkov, and Pham Tuan and Gorbatko, Vietnamese and Soviet cosmonauts. Speaking at the meeting, Hoang Anh Tuan, chairman of the city committee for science and technology, and V. M. Kudinov brought out notable results of the Vietnam-Soviet cooperation, especially in the scientific and technical field, over the past 25 years. They expressed the confidence that the bilateral cooperation would further develop in the interests of national construction in each country and of peace and security in the world. On this occasion, a book exhibition has been arranged in the city and a reception has been given by the city party and people's committees in honour of the visiting Soviet delegation. [Text] [OW201604 Hanoi VNA in English 1539 GMT 20 Mar 84]

USSR-AIDED REFRESHER COURSE--Hanoi, VNA, 21 March--With aid from the Soviet National Economic Academy, the Central Economic Management School recently opened in Ho Chi Minh City a refresher course for more than 500 senior and middle-level cadres from all over the country. It is the ninth such course so far. Through the past eight courses, the economic management school gave refresher training to almost 5,000 cadres from all parts of Vietnam. All the courses have been organized with assistance from the Soviet Union. [Text] [OW211253 Hanoi VNA in English 0702 GMT 21 Mar 84]

CSSR DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS--Hanoi (CTK correspondent)--Vo Dong Giang of Vietnam and Jindrich Rehorek of Czechoslovakia pointed to the seriousness of the international situation and the significance of joint efforts for preserving peace in the world, especially in Europe and Southeast Asia, during talks which were held here today. The Czechoslovak deputy foreign minister, who is on a friendly official visit to Vietnam, and his Vietnamese counterpart appreciated the present development of bilateral relations and discussed further possibilities of cooperation. [Text] [LD152247 Prague CTK in English 1648 GMT 15 Mar 84]

CSO: 4200/613

PARTY ACTIVITIES AND GOVERNMENT

TRUONG CHINH ASSESSES DIEN BIEN PHU VICTORY

OW130855 Hanoi VNA in English 0730 GMT 13 Mar 84

[Text] Hanoi, VNA, 13 March--Today 30 years ago, on 13 March 1954, the Vietnam People's Army unleashed artillery fire on the Him Lam stronghold of the French Army, opening the historic Dien Bien Phu campaign. Following are excerpts from an article by president of the State Council Truong Chinh, member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, written in honour of the 25th anniversary of the Dien Bien Phu victory (1979):

The Dien Bien Phu victory has become a symbol of patriotism and revolutionary heroism of the Vietnamese people and army and their tradition of indomitable struggle for the independence and freedom of the motherland.

The Dien Bien Phu victory has gone down in the history of our nation beside the victories of Bach Dang, Chi Lang and Dong Da. It was a development of the tradition of heroic struggle against the Chinese feudalist aggression in the fight to defeat industrialized imperialist powers equipped with strong and highly mechanized armies.

In the whole anti-French resistance war and more particularly in the Dien Bien Phu campaign, the enemy was much stronger than us in terms of economic and military potentials. We had no navy, no air force, no tanks and no armoured units. Yet, we have defeated the best equipped French troops in all battlefields of Indochina.

Over the past 25 years, the Dien Bien Phu spirit has been alive and carried forward in the anti-U.S. resistance war for national salvation, in socialist construction as well as in the fight to defend the country from the Beijing expansionists and hegemonists.

With our victories over the French colonialists, the U.S. imperialists, and the Beijing expansionists and their henchmen in Kampuchea, we are confident that we have the necessary moral and physical strength to overcome all sacrifices, hardship and defeat any enemy should they dare encroach upon our independence and freedom. This strength is inexhaustible because our army and people have always fought for the survival of our nation and to discharge our noble internationalist obligation.

Today looking back at the Dien Bien Phu victory, we see all the more deeply its great significance for our people and for the world as a whole.

To the Vietnamese people, the Dien Bien Phu victory has proved that a nation, however small, if united under the leadership of a Marxist-Leninist party, knows how to arm itself to conduct a people's war, and supported by the socialist countries, freedom- and justice-upholding countries, and all progressive mankind, is fully capable of defeating a bigger force of the colonialists and imperialists and their henchmen.

The Dien Bien Phu victory is the culmination of the strategic general offensive of the Vietnamese armed forces and people, a decisive victory of the 1945-54 liberation war. It brought to a successful and the long resistance war against the French colonialist aggressors and the U.S. interventionists. [Sentence as received] It proved the correctness of the strategic guidance of the party Central Committee and President Ho Chi Minh, the enormous efforts of the entire party, army and people and the great progress of the Vietnamese Army in military art, organization, command and fighting.

The Dien Bien Phu victory directly led to the success of the Geneva conference on Indochina and the signing of the Geneva agreements under which France and the other countries participating in the conference undertook to recognize the independence sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Vietnam, a commitment which was later seriously breached by the French and U.S. imperialists.

The victory of the resistance war against the French colonialist aggressors, and especially the Dien Phu victory, safeguarded and developed the gains of the August revolution, and opened up a new stage of the Vietnamese revolution: after the Dien Bien Phu victory the Vietnamese people have embarked on the road of socialist revolution in the north while continuing to carry out the national democratic revolution in the whole country and liberate the south from the imperialists' and their henchmen's domination. The north's advance to socialism is an important strategic transformation, because the socialist north served as a firm and powerful rear base for the resistance war against U.S. aggression, for national salvation, and a firm basis for national reunification and the successful building of socialism in the whole country.

To the world people, the Dien Bien Phu victory is a common victory of the peoples of Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea, who, as brothers and comrades-in-arms, stood side by side in the same trench against their common enemy--imperialism--for self-liberation.

About the Dien Bien Phu victory, President Ho Chi Minh said: "This is a great victory of the Vietnamese people, and also a common victory of all oppressed peoples in the world. The Dien Bien Phu victory has further elucidated a truth of Marxism-Leninism in our time, that is the imperialist's aggressive war will be defeated and the people's liberation revolution will be victorious."

The Dien Bien Phu victory marked a new advance of the world people's struggle for peace, national independence, democracy and socialism. It heralded the disintegration of old colonialism and a further weakening of world imperialism.

The Dien Bien Phu victory was an active contribution to the three revolutionary currents of the world in our time: the movement of socialist revolution and the construction of socialism, the movement for national liberation and national independence, the workers' and democratic movement in the imperialist and developed capitalist countries.

As such, the Dien Bien Phu victory fully conforms with the law of development of human society together with the spring 1975 victory of our armed forces and people, the Dien Bien Phu victory contributed to speeding up the inexorable development of human society on a world-wide scale in our epoch which began with the Great October Socialist Revolution.

The Dien Bien Phu victory will forever be a source of worthy pride of the Vietnamese people, and at the same time, a strong encouragement to the world people.

It has vindicated this undeniable truth: any enemy who is reckless enough to trample on our nation's independence and sovereignty, whether he is the imperialist ringleader or the Chinese expansionists and hegemonists, will not escape the thunderblows of the Dien Bien Phu type.

CSO: 4200/613

PARTY ACTIVITIES AND GOVERNMENT

TRUONG CHINH ADDRESSES SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION

Part One

BK200703 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] As we have already reported, on 14 March in Hanoi, the State Science and Technology Commission held a grand ceremony to mark the 25th founding anniversary of the State Commission for Sciences--the forerunner of the State Science and Technology Commission, the Vietnam Social Science Commission and the Vietnam Institute of Science today. Chairman Truong Chinh attended the meeting and talked to the participants. Comrade Truong Chinh's speech comprises three parts:

1) The achievements recorded by Vietnam's scientific and technological sector in the past 25 years; 2) The key role of the scientific and technological revolution in our country's socialist revolutionary undertaking; and 3) The main tasks of our country's science and technology in the period of transition to socialism.

Now we would like to present to you the first part of Comrade Truong Chinh's speech:

Dear comrades, over the past 25 years, although our economic and scientific-technological bases have been weak and our country has been seriously devastated by war, our party and state have always paid attention to developing science and technology. To date we have scored heart-warming achievements:

1. The various scientific and technological branches have made important contributions to resolving step by step the tasks of developing production, stabilizing the people's life, and strengthening our national defense potential.

Since national reunification was realized and the entire country entered the period of transition to socialism, scientific and technological work has taken a new step forward in contributing to formulating a unified national policy for science and technology, defining the main orientations for activities, and making initial efforts to organize and rally forces in accordance with these orientations. With regard to scientific research and the application of technological innovations, you have made noteworthy contributions to agricultural, forestry, and fishery production, especially to increasing crop yields and to fishing and processing marine products. Science and technology have also contributed to overcoming the shortages of raw material supplies, and spare parts facing industrial production, capital construction, and communications and transportation.

Scientific and technological management has initially developed its effect in ensuring and improving the quality of a number of export goods and in partially reducing the wastage of supplies in production and in the distribution and circulation of goods.

2. A contingent of scientific and technological cadres has been trained for virtually all of the major branches. These cadres are loyal to the revolution, possess good political quality and a fair to high level of professional skills, and can meet a good part of the need to develop scientific and technological activities. This contingent of cadres, with its great creative ability, is truly a valuable asset of our party and state. We have set up a network of scientific and technological research and management organs for the various sectors at all echelons. A number of fairly modernly equipped research institutes and colleges are carrying out important programs and research projects. Scientific and technological services such as documentary information, invention and scientific supply have also developed at a fair rate.

3. The scientific and technological management system from the State Science and Technology Commission to the management organs of the various sectors and localities has been established and is developing its effect in directing scientific and technological activities on a national scale. Planning work in scientific and technological activities has begun to command attention; and as a result of this, the fragmented and loose state characteristics of former scientific and technological research activities has been overcome to a certain extent. We have promulgated a number of policies and systems designed to further link sciences with production, broaden the initiative of research establishments, and gradually overcome the malpractice of bureaucratic subsidization toward scientific and technological activities.

4. We have strengthened and expanded international cooperation in the scientific and technological field first of all with the Soviet Union and other member countries of CEMA. We have been and are receiving valuable assistance from fraternal countries in training and fostering cadres, increasing material and technical bases, and exchanging scientific and technological information and experiences in the organization and management of scientific and technological activities.

We warmly welcome the delegation of the USSR State Committee for Science and Technology led by Comrade Minister Kudinov now visiting Vietnam and attending the activities marking 25 years of Vietnamese-Soviet scientific and technological cooperation. The delegation's presence in Vietnam at this time is a great encouragement to us. It shows that the Soviet Union always assists us in the scientific and technological as well as other fields, and that Vietnamese-Soviet relationship is very close.

Together with natural science and technological science, over the past 25 years social sciences have recorded pridesworthy achievements. Research activities have been directed at resolving the pressing problems of political, economic, cultural and social life; demonstrating the scientific basis of the party's lines and policies; supporting the anti-U.S. war for national salvation and the undertaking to build socialism; and contributing to enhancing the Marxist-Leninist awareness of all the party and people. Social sciences have greatly

contributed to the study of the characteristics and developmental rules of the Vietnamese society, the Vietnamese national, and the Vietnamese people in the history of their national construction and defense.

On behalf of the party and state, I warmly welcome and praise the aforementioned achievements of the various research institutes, colleges, production establishments, the State Science and Technology Commission, the Vietnam Social Science Commission, the Vietnam Institute of Science, and scientific and technological management organs of the various sectors at all levels. We have achieved much within only 25 years; and this is pridesworthy of our system and of our country's scientific and technological workers.

I hope, comrades, that you will continue to develop your strong points and overcome shortcomings in your persistent effort to advance steadily forward.

Parts Two, Three

OW201139 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Last two parts of address by Truong Chinh, Political Bureau member of the CPV Central Committee and chairman of the SRV Council of State, at the meeting held in Hanoi on 14 March to mark the 25th anniversary of the State Commission for Sciences--read by announcer]

[Text] II. The Key Role of the Scientific and Technological Revolution in Our Country's Socialist Revolutionary Undertaking.

Dear comrades: The basic feature of the socialist revolution in Vietnam is that it proceeds from an economy which is predominantly small-scale production to socialism by bypassing the period of capitalist development. This is the biggest characteristic which embodies the essence of the revolutionary process and determines the main content of this process.

Proceeding from this basic feature and following the general line of the period of transition to socialism, our party has pointed to the need to simultaneously carry out the three revolutions; namely, the revolution in production relations, the scientific and technological revolution and the ideological and cultural revolution of which the scientific and technological revolution is the kingpin. This is the correct way to build a socialist system of collective mastery, a large-scale socialist production, a new culture, and a new type of socialist people. These three revolutions are closely correlated and profoundly interact.

To carry out the revolution in production relations is to open the road for the productive forces to develop, to boost the scientific and technological revolution, and to develop the gains of the ideological and cultural revolution.

To carry out the scientific and technological revolution is to help develop production, increase labor productivity, build material and technical bases of socialism, consolidate and perfect the socialist production relations, and create favorable conditions for successfully achieving the ideological and cultural revolution.

To carry out the ideological and cultural revolution is to develop new thoughts, build a new culture and a new type of socialist people, and stimulate the two other revolutions to develop vigorously.

Each of these three revolutions plays an important role and has a rich content and a great task which is to achieve the objectives of the socialist revolution. At this point, our party has stressed that the scientific and technological revolution is the kingpin. How is this key role manifested?

1. Science and technology have an impact on social production in all aspects, transform the productive forces to the root, create material and technical bases of socialism, provide new equipment for the entire national economy, and transform social production as a whole, which relies mainly on handicraft labor, into large-scale mechanized production.

Nevertheless, in view of an economy which consists essentially of small-scale production, we cannot quickly achieve the scientific and technological revolution, but must adopt suitable steps and policies; that is, we must combine simple and modern technologies and manual, semi-mechanized, and mechanized means. In advancing to socialism without going through the period of capitalist development in the conditions of assistance from the Soviet Union and other fraternal socialist countries, we should and can achieve the scientific and technological revolution in two ways: to advance straight to modern mechanization from manual work and at the same time to advance gradually from handicraft means to semi-mechanization and eventually to mechanization.

Within a definite period of time, our country's handicraft and semi-mechanized production has increased remarkably and has played a great role in social production.

Our country's scientific and technological revolution is being conducted at a time when the modern scientific and technological revolution is taking place in the world and the productive forces are developing strongly. Therefore, we must assimilate the latest gains of world science and technology, especially in mechanization, electrification, automation and chemistry and step by step apply them to production in an advantageous manner. This depends on our efforts and the development of our cadre contingent as well as of our material and technical bases.

2. The scientific and technological revolution plays a very important role in socialist industrialization, a central work for the entire period of transition to socialism in our country. With its key position, the scientific and technological revolution has a strong impact on the process of coordination between industry and agriculture and creates an economic, industrial and agricultural structure for the entire country. Through socialist industrialization, the scientific and technological revolution will enable industries, especially heavy industry, to transform agriculture and the agriculture that depends on modern scientific and technical bases will be able to efficiently meet the needs of industrial development.

Socialist industrialization requires a scientific and technological revolution. The development of the scientific and technological revolution will help boost the completion of industrialization work at an early stage.

The issue of increasing labor productivity assumes a very important role in the struggle to make socialism a success. Lenin said: In the final analysis, labor productivity is the most important and basic factor for the success of a new social order.

While opening the road for the productive forces to develop and build material and technical bases of socialism, the scientific and technological revolution also helps achieve a higher new labor productivity to consolidate and perfect the new production relations and ensure the total and thorough success of socialism. At this point, the key role of the scientific and technological revolution is manifested through its impact on the process of socialist industrialization and on the development of the national economy in the direction of its basic progress. This impact will help to constantly increase social labor productivity.

3. In the process of organizing and managing social production and of transforming small-scale, scattered and backward production into large-scale production which attains the level of concentration, specialization and cooperativization, the scientific and technological revolution plays a decisive role and actively contributes to reorganizing the agricultural, industrial and forestry installations, cooperatives, corporations, general corporations, enterprises and joint enterprises. It also plays an active role in the rational distribution of the work force at each production installation and in the redeployment of the labor force in each locality and region as well as in the entire country.

In the process of advancing from small-scale production to large-scale socialist production in our country, the scientific and technological revolution will create a material premise to gradually eliminate the vestiges and consequences of small-scale production. Large-scale production itself cannot tolerate the state of disparity, dispersion, disorder and in discipline; narrow-minded and selfish bourgeois manners; liberalism and arbitrariness; and the old ways of life and thinking of small producers. President Ho said: Habits and backward traditions are also our enemies. They latently prevent the revolution's advance. We can, in no way, suppress them, but we must transform them in a very cautious, painstaking and protracted manner.

Transformation of small-scale agriculture as well as of small producers' thinking and habits is a revolution that requires many generations to achieve because, as far as individual peasants are concerned, only large material bases, tractors, and machines can help achieve this transformation and make their thinking healthy. This is the fastest way to basically transform individual peasants.

Obviously, on the basis of the scientific and technological revolution, we will be able to carry out a revolution regarding the actions, manners, work behavior, working habits, thinking habits and lifestyle of each individual and collective and of the entire society.

Therefore, the scientific and technological revolution will positively contribute to the struggle of solving the problem of who is triumphing over whom between socialism and capitalism in our country. It will not only transform the productive forces to the root and eliminate poverty and backwardness but will also exert a profound impact on social life in all aspects and contribute, together

with the revolution in production relations and the ideological and cultural revolution, to building a new regime, a new economy, a new culture and a new type of socialist people.

So far, many party committee echelons and state organs have failed to realize the key role of the scientific and technological revolution, to grasp the party's line and tasks in the scientific and technical spheres and to fully recognize the strength of the scientific and technological revolution as a great motive force in the building of socialism in our country. For this reason, there exist shortcomings in organizational work and in the implementation of tasks and the failure of promptly applying scientific and technological advances to production, life and national defense. The plan of scientific and technical development has not yet become an organic part of the plan for economic, cultural and social development.

In asserting that the scientific and technological revolution is the kingpin, our party has highly valued the role of science and technology. The Political Bureau's Resolution No 37 on the policy regarding science and technology points out: Today, science and technology constitute a very strong motive force which helps accelerate the building of socialism, defend the socialist fatherland, eradicate poverty and backwardness, and lead socialism to total victory in our country.

As combatants on the scientific and technological front, you comrades should thoroughly understand the party's basic viewpoints on the relationship among the three revolutions, on the key role of the scientific and technological revolution in the socialist revolutionary work, and on the content, direction and progress of the scientific and technological revolution in our country.

III. The Main Tasks of Our Country's Science and Technology in the Period of Transition to Socialism.

Dear comrades: I am not going to tackle all of the aspects of the activity of our scientific and technological work. Many related, concrete issues have been mentioned very clearly in many party documents and resolutions and in the report of the State Science and Technology Commission. Here, I am going to raise only some common issues, both basic and pressing.

1. Our country's scientific and technological work should aim all of its activities toward the task of effectively stimulating the development of production; stabilizing and improving, step-by-step, the people's livelihood; and consolidating and strengthening the national defense potential of our country. It should be focused on the research on our country's economic-technological and socioeconomic characteristics and should contribute to concretizing the party's line in the first phase of the transition period. It should also contribute to promoting the laboring people's right to collective mastery; vigorously developing production forces; raising labor productivity; building new production relations; and successfully implementing the two strategic tasks, building socialism and defending our socialist fatherland.

We must vigorously promote the independent role of scientific and technological work in all economic, cultural and social activities, making it the firm basis

for all party and state policies and resolutions. Scientific and technological work must positively contribute to solving difficulties; creating new values; increasing existing potentials; raising labor productivity, product quality, economic efficiency, and efficiency in economizing on labor and material supplies.

We must remain close to realities, correctly grasp concrete production requirements and organize and rally forces to study and resolve promptly all scientific and technological issues raised. We should have appropriate organizational methods to tie scientific work to production work and create conditions for shortening the period from study and development to application in production.

An issue of primary concern now is to rapidly and extensively apply all scientific achievements and technological advances to realities. Many technological advances, though conclusively recognized as benefitting economic efficiency, have not been applied, thus resulting in great waste.

We should build up a system of measures, planning and economic organization and measures in order to create a motive force to accelerate research and invention work and encourage production installations to apply scientific achievements and technological advances. We should devise scientific and technological forecasts and strategies, using them as the basis for the building up of strategies for socioeconomic developments and for distributing and promoting production forces. We should closely organize and manage a system of key state programs for scientific and technological advances and should, on the basis of the resolution of the Fifth Party Congress and the subsequent resolutions of the party Central Committee plenum, reexamine these programs and clearly define the key tasks and points and pressing tasks that must be completed with the use of concentrated forces. We should satisfactorily carry out experimentation, trial produce, promptly evaluate the results, and make suggestions on the application of technological advances to realities. We should prepare a scientific basis for the plan for socioeconomic development for the 1986-90 period and for subsequent plans.

2. We must aim all scientific and technological activities at serving socialist industrialization and contributing to advancing, step-by-step, our country's economy to large-scale socialist production.

The scientific and technological revolution must mainly serve agriculture in order to firmly resolve the issues of grain and foodstuffs, raw materials for industry, and consumer and export goods. In the first phase of the transition period, the advance of agriculture one step further toward large-scale socialist production demands contributions from the scientific and technological sectors for resolving problems in water conservancy, draft power, spare parts, fuel, labor tools, fertilizers, insecticides, building materials and so forth.

We must study measures for intensive cultivation and multicropping and to fully utilize all available areas for grain, food and industrial crops. We must vigorously develop labor, land, forest and sea potentials; satisfactorily utilize all production capabilities; and raise agricultural labor productivity.

To consider agriculture at the forefront of our economic activities does not mean that we should develop agriculture single-handedly but that we should essentially, correctly and closely, combine agriculture with industry. Agricultural development must be associated both in scope and scale with the development of the consumer goods industry, the food industry, the light and small industries, and the handicraft industry in both urban and rural areas. At the same time, attention must be paid to the development of a number of key heavy industrial sectors such as energy, fuel, engineering, metallurgy, chemicals, communication and transport, and construction as well as other industrial sectors directly related to agricultural production.

Here, the scientific and technological revolution must have a strong impact on light and heavy industries and make an important step in advancing agriculture to large-scale socialist production in order to help achieve the four socioeconomic objectives in the coming stage. Meanwhile, it must prepare preconditions and forces for accelerating socialist industrialization in subsequent years.

3. We must strengthen leadership and management on the scientific and technological front. First, we must make everyone fully perceive the key role of the scientific and technological revolution in socialist construction and defense of the fatherland, clearly perceive the basic motive force of the scientific and technological revolution under the conditions in which our country directly advances to socialism bypassing the stage of capitalist development. With that done, we will bring about changes in action and organization, carry out the scientific and technological revolution in accordance with the party's line, and devise leadership measures to create conditions for directing scientific work toward production and causing production to need further scientific requirements.

We should firmly grasp the motto of developing scientific and technological work in a comprehensive, homogeneous and balanced manner, but we must also focus our efforts on key directions, vanguard scientific and technological sectors, and priority projects. We should also overcome the situation of scattered, spontaneous, and duplicated leadership and overlapping functions and tasks, which is causing waste in manpower and property in the system of organizing scientific and technological installations.

In leading and managing scientific and technological work for further development, we must combine scope and scale; small, medium, and large scales; and different levels, from low to high and from simple to complex, in order to meet pressing, immediate needs and ensure long-range development. We must coordinate the activities of the key force, that is, the contingent of scientific and technological cadres, with those of broad mass movements, in order to fully utilize all existing scientific and technological potentials, rapidly bring about effective results and achieve the targeted socioeconomic objectives.

We must strengthen the state system of inspection over product quality and resolutely handle the cases of production that fail to comply with the prescribed technical requirements or that fail to meet the prescribed quality standards. We must put an end to the existing tendency of declining quality, even in many production sectors, that is causing extremely great waste of social wealth. We must ensure an accurate system of measurements in production, distribution and circulation, and contribute to correctly systematizing the distribution and circulation work.

We must make appropriate investments in scientific and technological activities. As economic conditions are becoming increasingly difficult and the technical standards in production are increasingly declining, greater attention must be paid to making investments in scientific and technological activities and in the training of scientific and technical cadres and technical workers. This is a quick way to contribute to enhancing social labor productivity and basically solving difficulties in production and the national economy.

We must reorganize the system of research agencies and develop them in accordance with the principle of rational labor distribution concerning functions and tasks. These agencies should be rationally arranged to suit each economic region, and conditions should be created for their joint research within the boundaries of their territory.

The State Science and Technology Commission, the staff organ of the party and state in leading and guiding scientific and technological work, should be perfected politically, ideologically and organizationally in order to satisfactorily accomplish its task as an agency that unifies management of all scientific and technological activities countrywide.

4. We must strive to build up a contingent of scientific and technical cadres in line with the requirements for economic cultural and social development in our country. This body of cadres must strive to master modern science and technological problems they face in reality.

The prime political tasks of our country's scientific and technical workers are to conduct scientific research; devise inventions; review experiences of progressive models; and rapidly apply scientific and technological advances in production, the people's livelihood, and national defense. We should rally a large number of scientific and technical cadres in the implementation of key, advanced technical programs in order to make positive contributions to working out economic and technical projects and formulating 5-year and yearly plans. We must pay attention to further training leading cadres and skillful specialists; detecting and highly valuing talents; and training young cadres and boldly assigning work to them. We must rationally utilize scientific and technical cadres; with their professions and capabilities well suited to their jobs. We must seek to improve the cadres' living conditions and create conditions for their work so that every cadre can develop his creativity and talents in service of socialist construction and defense of the fatherland.

We must reexamine, for amendments or supplements, a number of procedures and policies, and truly encourage all brother and sister cadres to make further inventions and contributions. Preferential treatment should be given to scientific and technical cadres on the basis of the quantity and quality of the scientific products they have created. We should devise policies to encourage them to to localities, grassroots units, especially, to those places with acute shortages of, and needs for, scientific and technical cadres.

Districts, enterprises and worksites must be the areas of activity of scientific and technical cadres. The State Science and Technological Commission and the other agencies concerned should reassess the current status of utilizing the body of scientific and technical cadres and make the necessary suggestions for

national assignment and utilization of this body of cadres. Meanwhile, we must work out projects and plans for training scientific and technical cadres to meet the requirements for economic, cultural, scientific and technical development in the years ahead, in accordance with the direction of development set forth by the Political Bureau.

Our country's socialist construction requires that our scientific and technical cadres regularly and dutifully conduct studies on Marxism-Leninism; conduct studies on the party's line and policies; firmly grasp Vietnam's realities; go deep into mass revolutionary movements; review the masses' advanced experiences; and assimilate the world's scientific achievements and technological advances.

Scientific creation requires that our scientists combine their revolutionary fervor with their technical know-how and research methods. Revolutionary fervor results from a combination of scientific know-how and revolutionary sentiments. It is a source of spiritual strength which helps scientists clearly determine their ideals, aspirations, stands, viewpoints and objectives of their service. It helps scientists enthusiastically and consciously conduct their research for the sake of our socialist revolutionary undertaking.

Scientific creation is a process of arduous labor. It requires solid technical know-how and correct thinking method. On many occasions, scientists' disoriented and hit-or-miss ways of doing things in research and invention have resulted from a lack of training with a scientific thinking method. This thinking method is a very important factor in scientific creation. The lack of it will cause us to fall either into empiricism or stereotyped dogmatism. Engels said: People that want to stand firm on the pinnacle of science necessarily must have a conceptual dialectic.

Creative labor require probity and modesty. Deceitfulness, pseudo science and haughtiness are alien to scientific workers. Engels himself set an example of probity and modesty. Although his work was very great, he remained very modest, always considering himself to be playing second fiddle to Marx.

Probity and modesty will bring about solidarity, affection and mutual assistance in creative labor whereas deceitfulness and haughtiness will cause us to turn our backs on one another, mistreat one another, seek to hamper one another's advance, be jealous and refuse to cooperate. On many occasions, sharply divided opinions of scientists have not resulted from scientific matters per se or standpoints or learning, but rather from dislike of character or petty bickering over privileges or positions.

Developing to a high degree creativeness in scientific and technical activities and upholding the spirit of collective mastery and socialist cooperation, scientific and technical cadres should endeavor to overcome individualism, localism and departmentalism and should strive to train themselves to become valiant and honest fighters on the scientific and technical front and to devotedly serve the people, the fatherland, peace and mankind's happiness. They must be sincere and modest, unite among themselves, be enthusiastic in their study and research and ceaselessly be creative and inventive.

5. We must closely combine social sciences, natural sciences and applied sciences. The general trend of sciences to infiltrate and affect one another is an essential rule in the development of current day sciences. Our scientific and technological revolution is a very complex process of development. It requires that we not only grasp natural laws under conditions of a tropical country, but also firmly grasp and correctly apply the laws of social development. Today, no economic development plan can be considered scientific if it does not take into full consideration the possibilities, requirements and social and ecological consequences of this development. The best plan would have to consider all the economic, technical, social and environmental aspects, that is, it must have the active contributions of many disciplines of sciences. No science, standing alone, can solve the basic and urgent problems posed by our country's scientific and technological revolution.

Our weak point so far has been to separate social sciences from natural sciences and applied sciences. In the past, although we did carry out a number of basic and combined research programs, we could not, in fact, call them basic and combined because they lacked the necessary data of social sciences. By basing ourselves only on investigation of natural conditions while disregarding investigation of socioeconomic conditions and separating social sciences from the task of basic and combined research, we made our information, data and conclusions incomplete and untrustworthy. We must resolutely overcome this shortcoming.

The Fourth National Party Congress affirmed: We must pay attention to the correlation and combined effect of science and technology and the relationship between natural sciences and social sciences. The Fifth National Party Congress further stressed: We must closely combine social sciences, natural sciences and applied sciences and must attach great importance to organizing the collaboration and coordination among various disciplines of science through interbranch activities for the purpose of joint research to resolve important scientific and technological problems.

In reality, our country's scientific and technological revolution is posing many important and complex problems. The application of the combined strength of all sciences to solve these problems is correct and necessary. On the other hand, a fierce struggle between the proletarian ideology and the bourgeois-petty bourgeois ideology is taking place around the current scientific and technological revolution. Western scholars have spread many reactionary theories such as the convergence theory [thuyeets hooif tuj], the theory of unified industrial society [thuyeets xax hooij coong nghieepj thoongs nhaats], and the theory of post-industry society [thuyeets xax hooij haauj coong nhieep] to defend and embellish capitalism and cover up its insurmountable and acute contradictions and to eliminate class contradictions and the class struggle.

Obviously, apart from the success of socialism and the revolutionary changes in science and technology brought about by the scientific and technological revolution, many reactionary, ideological currents have emerged to distort and fiercely counterattack the revolutionary systems of Marxism-Leninism. For this reason, more than ever before, there must be cooperation between naturalists and technological scientists on one side and social scientists on the other side to attack and defeat the reactionary doctrines of the bourgeoisie, revisionism and Maoism.

At this point, the role of Weltanschauung and Marxist ideology and methodology, which social science can efficiently support, will help scientists to always walk in the right direction and avoid regrettable errors and losses. With this cooperation which Lenin called the scientists' alliance, we will surely triumph over the bourgeois world concept.

Dear comrades: I have just expressed some views to help you further understand our party's line and viewpoint on the scientific and technological revolution, and I have also laid down some tasks of scientific and technological work for our country during the period of transition to socialism.

I hope that you will develop good points, overcome shortcomings and strive to successfully carry out the scientific and technological revolution in order to prove that it really plays a key role in the three revolutions and to build a new regime, a new economy, a new culture, and a new type of socialist people, thus greatly contributing to abolishing poverty and backwardness, leading socialism to total victory, and firmly defending our socialist Vietnam.

I hope that our country's contingent of scientific and technical cadres will develop more vigorously, will constantly build up a revolutionary world concept and scientific methodology, will heighten its qualities and knowledge, and will improve itself to become a body of scientific and technical cadres who are politically steady and skilled specialists and to meet the increasing high requirements of the country.

I wish you good health and even greater achievements in creative work. I hope that Vietnam's science and technology will develop further.

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ECONOMIC PLANNING, TRADE AND FINANCE

NGUYEN THANH BINH ON PRODUCT CONTRACT SYSTEM

BK201104 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0400 GMT 13 Mar 84

[From the Review of NHAN DAN for 13 Mar]

[Text] Haiphong Municipality recently held a national conference on agriculture. NHAN DAN today carries on page 2 these main points of a speech by Nguyen Thanh Binh [secretary of the CPV Central Committee secretariat] at this conference.

After presenting achievements in agricultural production over the past 3 years in implementation of the product contract system, Comrade Nguyen Thanh Binh pointed out shortcomings of a number of cooperatives and production collectives in carrying out the product contract system as follows:

We must realize that shortcomings of a number of cooperatives, production collectives, and localities stemmed from different causes such as lack of responsibility by grassroots unit cadres, insufficient details of newly promulgated policy, and low educational background of cadres at grassroots units, thus making them unable to apply the policy creatively to the realistic conditions of localities. It was also caused by slow improvement of management by the higher echelons and a number of inappropriate policies. The Ministry of Agriculture's report has pointed out many shortcomings in implementing the product contract system. Each grassroots unit and locality must study and compare their shortcomings in order to overcome them promptly. Most important, they must not cite these shortcomings to express doubts about the correct position of the product contract system which has been asserted by resolutions of the CPV congresses and party Central Committee plenums.

We can raise a problem and make a straightforward proposal, but we must do so in a uniform manner because the party's strength relies on its line and organization to encourage and mobilize millions of people to act as one.

Dealing with targets for struggle in the days ahead in agriculture, Comrade Nguyen Thanh Binh said: In the years ahead, we must strive to obtain a similar or better rate of progress than that which we achieved during the past 3 years. We must develop not only grain production, but must also comprehensively develop agriculture as affirmed by the party Central Committee Fifth Plenum resolution. This is a new capability and situation in our country's agriculture. We must continue to accelerate grain production while bringing about vigorous change in

developing industrial crops, livestock raising, and fish rearing. We must complete land and forest allocation in 1985 to create a base for striving to cover bare hills and fallow land with greenery by 1990. We must overfulfill plan norms in material production for industry while making more efforts to achieve greater progress in exports.

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ECONOMIC PLANNING, TRADE AND FINANCE

NHAN DAN ON REARRANGEMENT OF INDUSTRIAL SECTOR

BK170313 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 13 Mar 84

[14 March NHAN DAN editorial: "Rearrange Industrial Production"]

[Text] Consolidating the state-run economic sector, especially the state-run industrial sector, to enable it to maintain its leading role in our national economy is a very important task. In order to contribute to effectively exploiting all industrial production capabilities, including those of the state-run industrial sector and the artisan industrial and handicraft sectors, to obtain high output, good quality and better results, it is necessary to quickly rearrange all production establishments in various industrial sectors.

Some sectors and localities have striven to prepare theses or have proceeded with rearranging industrial production, including the production of the state-run industrial sector and of artisan and handicraft production establishments. A number of technological economic sectors have been formed and many types of economic associations have been organized between various sectors and between sectors and localities.

Ho Chi Minh City has prepared 14 theses with emphasis on rearranging production in conjunction with efforts to carry out socialist transformation among the agricultural, industrial and trade sectors. Hanoi, Haiphong and certain other areas have also rearranged important machinery sectors and other sectors dealing in garments, pottery, ceramic and glassware.

A number of sectors, including the light-industrial sector, have rearranged their weaving, paper, pottery and ceramic facilities in accordance with the organizational form of united enterprises. The food industry sector has rearranged its sugarcane, sugar, tea, tobacco, vegetable oil and export-oriented canned food production establishments in the direction of achieving a combination between industry and agriculture and linking processing establishments with raw material producing areas.

The engineering and metals sector has carried out the motto of achieving specialization in conjunction with efforts to diversify products, regularize the distribution of materials within the sector and expand its cooperation with the coal, electricity, and food industry sectors in manufacturing replacement spare parts and equipment in full sets. The chemical sector has rearranged a number of fertilizer, basic chemicals, rubber, paint and printing ink production establishments.

Initial efforts to rearrange production along with improving the management system have produced positive effects. None of the above sectors and localities has complained about their production and business activities being reduced as a result of production rearrangement. On the contrary, production rearrangement efforts have created new capabilities in production, have eased the state of material imbalances, have duly contributed to gradually stabilizing one aspect of work after another, and have created new developments in production.

However, production rearrangement efforts have not been intensively stepped up. A number of echelons and sectors have failed to fully realize the interests of the entire society, to achieve economic cooperation between sectors and localities and between central and local levels under the unified system of national economy, and to be fully aware of the concept of achieving collective mastery over the three basic levels. Some localities have, on certain occasions, only looked after their selfish interests or have balked at difficulties, resulting in the inherently limited source of materials being fragmented and making it impossible for the source of social products to be concentrated to a high degree as desired in the state's hands so that they can be redistributed in accordance with plans.

At a time when our chemical and rubber materials are still inadequate, there exists an indiscriminate production of bicycle spare parts and tires. As many as 800 bicycle tire manufacturing establishments have been noted in one city alone. At time when the source of timber exploited yearly is not plentiful enough, there are nearly 100 state-run timber processing establishments at the central and local levels with many sectors and localities involved in the control and processing of timber.

Some 28 ministries and general departments have maintained their own construction forces, thus causing the dispersion of construction equipment and materials. In one city alone, 58 construction units have been found. This has resulted in the rotation of equipment for use and the dispersion of those materials which should have been reserved for key projects instead of going to various fragmented projects. New unnecessary establishments have sprung up, thus adding more difficulties to the problem of supplying fuel and materials.

In compliance with the resolution of the Fifth Party Congress and other resolutions of various CPV Central Committee plenums on tasks for socioeconomic development, all sectors and echelons must step up the rearrangement of production, link this task with the decentralization of management, and accelerate the construction and transformation of the national socialist economy.

Various industrial sectors must redistribute their production forces in order to gradually form a technological economic sector while contributing to building an agroindustrial structure, combining the sectoral economy with the regional economy, and stepping up efforts to meet those priority objectives for the production of agricultural products, goods for consumption and export, and for strengthening national defense capabilities.

We must quickly and more accurately categorize enterprises, ensuring that those enterprises holding a vital position in the national economy can receive a

priority and regular supply of essential equipment and raw materials. As for those enterprises for which the state cannot provide a regular supply of equipment and raw materials, we must allow them to adopt a flexible system so that they can create a regular source of supply for themselves. Regarding those enterprises considered to be ineffective in operation, we must merge them with other enterprises or stop their operation and transfer their workers to other establishments in accordance with their professional skills. Economic results must be regarded as a standard on which the categorization and rearrangement of enterprises are to be based.

The rearrangement of industrial production is aimed at enabling various establishments and the industrial sector to increase their output, product quality and economic results, thus making full use of the production capacities of the state-run economic sector and of modern industries as well as the production capacities of other economic establishments and elements as required by the state plan.

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ECONOMIC PLANNING, TRADE AND FINANCE

NHAN DAN ON EXPANSION OF MARKETING COOPERATIVES

BK181506 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 14 Mar 84

[15 March NHAN DAN editorial: "Expand the Marketing Cooperative Network"]

[Text] Marketing cooperatives in various localities have achieved fairly good improvements in their operations. Together with the state-run trade sector, they have made their contributions to serving production and the people's lives.

Altogether, the country has 8,783 low-level marketing cooperatives which, with 14.5 million members operating in 95 percent of the total villages and wards, run a network of 19,850 shopping and service outlets and production and processing establishments. Over 83 percent of the total number of districts and towns and almost all provinces and cities have established management boards. Some 77 districts have founded united district marketing cooperatives and two provinces have set up united provincial marketing cooperatives in accordance with the democratic principles of economic management and accounting.

In 1983, the marketing cooperative sector nationwide collected and purchased 3.4 billion worth of goods in fulfilling the quota for support of the state-run trade sector and the home trade, foreign trade and grain sectors; earned 4.9 billion dong as retail agent; and made nearly 8 billion dong in self-initiated businesses including production, processing and services. The sector's gross retail sale revenue from operating as retail agent and independent retailer accounted for 29 percent of the entire home trade sector's gross retail sale revenue.

These improvements are, however, regarded as initial success and as, in general, incommensurate with the role of the marketing cooperative sector in the national economy and with the country's economic potentials, and as failing to meet a demand for joining with the state-run trade sector in surging forward to control the market and prices in order to contribute to stabilizing production and the people's lives.

The scope of activities of marketing cooperatives is still small and their operations are still scattered. Their material and technical bases are still poor, their business revenue small, and their share of the social market not large enough. A number of marketing cooperative establishments have not operated their business in the right direction, thus rendering their struggle on the free market ineffective. Certain localities, especially some urban areas, have let

private traders abuse the name of marketing cooperatives to engage in competitive buying and selling, thus adversely affecting market management, production and the people's lives.

It is noteworthy that the marketing cooperative movement in a number of mountainous provinces is facing numerous difficulties arising from a shortage of cadres and funds and a lack of necessary assistance. A number of trade establishments have had to close down because of losses.

Though belonging to the collectively-run economic sector, marketing cooperatives have a high social character. The purpose of their business is to serve production and people's lives. Operating in both the economic and social fields, marketing cooperatives rely chiefly on the people's capabilities and support. They are run in accordance with the democratic principles of economic management and accounting under the leadership of various party committee echelons concerned and the local administration. With these characteristics, marketing cooperatives enjoy many favorable conditions to achieve rapid growth and to join with the state-run trade sector in controlling the market.

To achieve this aim, the most important thing is to correctly determine the direction for expansion of trade business in order to serve production development and the laboring people's lives and to actively assist the state-run trade sector in securing grain and food and other important agricultural products under state control while broadening the trade of above-quota goods in their struggle against the free market to enable the socialist trade sector to quickly control the market and gradually stabilize and bring prices down.

The primary and direct task of marketing cooperatives is to support the development of agricultural production, the collectivized economy, and the family economy. The supply of farming implements, hand tools, draft cattle, fertilizer, construction materials, crop seeds, livestock breeders and feed for domestic animals and fowls to peasants is of great significance, especially at present when the system of product contracts with labor groups and laborers is being implemented.

On the basis of supporting agriculture and the family economy, marketing cooperatives must effectively assist the state-run trade sector in rounding up all sources of goods, grain and food, and other agricultural products under the state's control so as to provide raw material for industry, agricultural products for export, and food for workers, state employees and members of the armed forces. On the other hand, marketing cooperatives must make efforts to collect and purchase grain and food and other agricultural products for the state and to serve as the state's retail sale agents to distribute industrial goods directly to the peasants while expanding business activities concerning other products that the peasants need to sell and buy. It is necessary to step up production and processing activities and services, and to establish a direct buying or selling relationship with the peasants and other laboring people in order to resolutely do away with the mediation of private traders.

Carrying out extracurricular dealings in items of goods not falling under the state's unified management also constitutes an important task aimed at meeting

the people's needs, flexibly controlling the market, step by step taking over and replacing the free market, gradually stabilizing prices and improving services.

As a result of this, marketing cooperatives, unlike private businesses, must neither run purely after profits, nor raise prices unwarrantedly, nor chase after or yield to the influence of the free market. They must consider the collection and purchase of goods for the state and serving as the state's retail sale agents as their primary task; on this basis, constantly expand their business activities and proceed toward buying and selling all the essential commodities to the peasants and other laboring people in every village, city ward, and city block.

The responsibility of marketing cooperatives at present is very heavy, and their activities are very complex in many aspects. They constitute an indispensable force of the socialist trade system. The marketing cooperative sector must positively mobilize all the capabilities of cooperative members and round up additional capital, shares, labor and material resources locally in order to build more storage facilities and shops and acquire more measuring and calculating equipment.

The various economic sectors of the state must intensively study the revision of a number of policies regarding taxes, credits, material supply, trade discounts and agents' commissions in order to help marketing cooperatives accumulate capital. Strengthening the contingent of marketing cooperative cadres both quantitatively and qualitatively is also a pressing issue. Through political activities, sessions to study party and state resolutions, reviewing conferences, congresses of cooperative members of their delegates, and drives to emulate progressive units and individuals, it is necessary to forge and enhance the quality and revolutionary virtues of cadres, and to do away with negative phenomena such as corruption, under-the-counter dealings, officialism and misappropriation of socialist property belonging to the collectives and the state. On the other hand, marketing cooperative management organs at the central and provincial levels must open training courses to improve the cadres' managerial and professional skills, with attention given to cadres at the district and grassroots levels. It is necessary to enforce appropriate systems of wages, bonuses and social security in order to help cadres to maintain and further their career, and to produce a large number of competent marketing cooperative cadres.

The distribution and circulation of goods is now a burning, complex front where socialist trade--which consists of state-run trade and marketing cooperatives--has the duty to uphold revolutionary zeal, display a dynamic character, and bring its professional efficiency into play with a view to winning successes in support of production and the people's life. In our country's rural areas, especially in former Nam Bo, if marketing cooperatives can surge forward to buy all the agricultural foodstuffs sold by the peasants and sell to them in return the means of production and consumer goods needed by them, they will make a remarkable contribution to controlling the market and stabilizing prices. The marketing cooperatives that operate satisfactorily in Ho Chi Minh City, Long An and Haiphong have gained many valuable experiences, and they have demonstrated the very important role they play in assisting the state-run trade sector.

The strength of marketing cooperatives lies in their close link with the forces and capabilities of the masses of cooperative members. Therefore, beside the attentive guidance given by the various party committee echelons, administrative bodies, and mass organizations at various levels, we also need to fully develop the sense of collective mastery of the laboring people in order to consolidate and expand the marketing cooperative network even more satisfactorily.

CSO: 4209/213

AGRICULTURE

MEASURES TO DEVELOP KIEN GIANG AGRICULTURE COMPREHENSIVELY REVIEWED

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 12 Jan 84 p 1

[Article by Tran Quoc Khai: "New Changes in Agricultural Production in Kien Giang"]

[Text] Together with Minh Hai, Kien Giang is a province lying on the southernmost part of our national territory and bordering on the Rach Gia Bay. It has a rice growing area of 238,000 hectares. In 1976--a year of abundant crops--the grain output of Kien Giang was only 434,011 tons. This year [1983], despite unfavorable weather conditions such as a protracted period of sunshine and drought, Kien Giang has achieved 680,300 tons of grain, surpassing the plan norm by 60,300 tons which is the highest increase ever obtained. Why has Kien Giang been able to win such a success?

Intensive Cultivation, Multicropping and Application of Technical Progress in Production

Kien Giang's land is vast and level and includes 400,000 hectares of agricultural land; however, in 1976, the rice growing area of the province was only 222,118 hectares most of which produced only a single 10th-month crop with an output of less than 2 tons per hectare. Almost all the remaining half of the [agricultural] area was fallow land with a high degree of alkalinity. Even in the region where the 10th-month rice was sown directly without transplanting, many areas were made up of highly saline or alkaline soil with an unusually unsteady productivity and volume of production.

Taking the realities of production into consideration, Kien Giang has energetically applied the multicropping method and introduced new technical progress into production. Kien Giang has rationally delimited production areas and used the "Nong Nghiep 3A," KT-6 and MTL32 as the main rice varieties to increase the number of crops per year. Especially in the field of water conservancy, Kien Giang has dug irrigation canals to reduce soil alkalinity, leveled the land and embanked fields in order to grow the summer-fall and winter-spring rice crops. On the other hand, the method of dry plowing and direct sowing on dry soil has been extensively applied in production. Owing to these efforts, the winter-spring rice area of Kien Giang has over the past year [1983] risen to 8,503 hectares

and yielded 33.1 quintals per hectare; the summer-fall rice crop has expanded over 38,044 hectares with an output of 32.3 quintals per hectare. It was a year when Kien Giang obtained the highest output ever from the winter-spring and summer-fall rice crops. At present, the 10th-month rice plants are no longer the only ones existing in Kien Giang. However, it would be quite wrong to believe that Kien Giang has attained the "highest pinnacle" of the 10th-month rice output!

Needle-s to say anything about the actual situation in other places, the mere fact that the high-yielding rice area in Kien Giang obtained a great result from this year's [1983's] 10th-month crop has exercised a new attractive effect! To win such a success, the whole province had to carry out zoning wherever conditions were favorable for the planting of the early 10th-month rice crop on an area of 47,048 hectares. Along with dry plowing as a measure designed to reduce soil alkalinity, the province had also directed farmers to apply phosphate fertilizer to rice plants. Beside using the new IR-42 variety, the province had selected local high-yielding varieties of 10th-month rice seeds for use in direct sowing. Owing to these great efforts, the output of the early 10th-month rice crop in Kien Giang has come up to 40 quintals per hectare, which is more than twice the yield in the past and which has helped raise the 10th-month rice output of the whole province from 19.59 to 23.8 quintals per hectare.

Intensification of the Agricultural Cooperativization Movement

Kien Giang's success in grain production in 1983 was also owing to the satisfactory development of the agricultural cooperativization movement. After being reorganized, peasants have become activists in the intensive cultivation and multicropping movement. To provide land for poor peasant families and for those having not enough fields or none at all, the province carried out an adjustment and distributed 15,000 hectares to 15,000 peasant families. To date, the whole province has set up 1,528 production collectives and 3 agricultural production cooperatives involving 34 percent of the total farming area and 39 percent of the total number of peasant families in the province in the collective production system. There are 22 villages and wards, 2 towns and 168 hamlets which have basically completed agricultural cooperativization. The cooperativization movement has resulted in creating favorable conditions for the development of agricultural production. In 1981, the province chose Production Collective No 2 in Giong Rieng District as a pilot unit for the cultivation of the winter-spring rice. The collective obtained an output of 6 tons per hectare right from the first crop. This result immediately wielded a great persuasive power in the rural areas throughout the province and repelled conservative thoughts and any hesitation about cooperativization, intensive cultivation and multicropping. Then, lots of agricultural production collectives came into being and today, almost all of them are participating in developing the high-yielding rice zone. Many of them have achieved a yearly rice output of 9 to 10 tons per hectare. In Tan Hiep District, the rice outputs of collectives have surpassed those of peasants still working individually on their own by 1 to 3 tons per

hectare. In the 1983 summer-fall season, Giong Rieng District as a whole performed dry cultivation on 11,600 hectares of which 10,000 were cultivated by the district's collectives which achieved an output of 4.5 tons per hectare.

The Road Ahead and Problems Requiring Solution

Nineteen eightythree was a year when Kieng Giang effected an inceptive yet very fundamental change in agricultural production. Kieng Giang has had a plan to expand the winter-spring rice area rapidly to 70,000 hectares and the summer-fall rice area to 120,000 hectares by 1985 and also to try to achieve a yearly output of 8 tons per hectare. It will build up 100,000 hectares of high-yielding 10th-month rice in order to attain a gross output of 1.4 million tons of grain. In addition to rice crops, Kien Giang will intensively develop subsidiary food crops and will especially expand the area grown with export industrial crops such as kenaf, sugarcanes, pineapples, coconuts and peaches. A vast and level stretch of land situated north of Ha Tien and nearly twice as large as Thai Binh Province will be exploited in a comprehensive manner to enrich the province [of Kien Giang]. This year [1983], for the first time, the Kien Luong state farm in this region has derived a profit from its business. The state farm had proceeded to build up fields and to intensify cultivation. To make up for the capital invested in material bases and in the long-term transformation of fields for rice cultivation, the state farm started growing sugarcanes on more than 10 hectares of improved alkaline soil, harvested two crops per year and reaped a profit of 125,000 dong, thus opening up new prospects for the vast alkaline land of Kien Giang. Moreover, Kien Giang will persistently expand both the rice multicropping area and the high-yielding rice zone but numerous problems are being raised which require solution. Over the past 2 years, the summer-fall rice area has increased greatly but the total area of drying yards has proven too small and the shortage of drying and winnowing equipment has been much more serious; as a result, large quantities of summer-fall paddy sprouted and their quality went down. Since the prices of fertilizers, gasoline, oil and insecticides have not yet been truly rational, they must be adjusted quickly in order to stimulate the intensive cultivation and multicropping movement and to expand the industrial crops area.

With its immensity, the Kien Giang sea constitutes a fishing area abundant in shrimp and fish; the mountains of Kien Giang contain hundreds of millions of cubic meters of limestone for supply to the production and construction sectors; the lands and fields of Kien Giang are level and vast. All that offers great potentials for a comprehensive development of agricultural production.

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AGRICULTURE

LAND SURVEY, CLASSIFICATION, DISTRIBUTION IN HA NAM NINH RATIONALIZED

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 12 Jan 84 p 2

[Article by Dinh Van Ton, chairman of the Land Management Board of Ha Nam Ninh Province: "Management and Use of Land in Ha Nam Ninh"]

[Text] Ha Nam Ninh is a key rice producing province in the Red River delta. Its land area ranks 30th and its population 3d among 40 provinces and cities throughout the country.

In 1960, the total population of the former three provinces of Ha Nam, Nam Dinh and Ninh Binh was only 1.8 million; in 1982, it rose to 2.8 million--an increase of 1 million. During the same period, the farmland area was reduced by 21,000 hectares. Each year, there has been a loss of nearly 1,000 hectares of "fertile" land. Therefore, the average per capita farmland area used for agricultural purposes has undergone a serious diminution: From 1,130 square meters in 1960, it has dropped to 735 square meters in 1983.

In view of this land situation, Ha Nam Ninh has for many consecutive years taken positive measures including the expansion of land toward the sea simultaneously with the opening of new lands and the application of the intensive cultivation and multicropping method in order to further increase the sowing and planting area. However, the new land area has failed to compensate in time for the rapid decrease in the [existing farming] area.

Of the many reasons for the decrease in cultivated area, the fundamental one is the [inadequate] concept held by various echelons and sectors who have not yet appreciated land at its true value. The habit of using land wastefully and managing it loosely at one's own convenience has become a rampant "chronic" disease among all localities, echelons and sectors and has exerted a bad influence on agroforestry production.

In order to reestablish order in the management and use of land, subjecting land management to legal regulations has now become an urgent requirement and an aspiration of the broad laboring masses. Therefore, in July 1980, the province launched a movement to implement policies designed to unify the management of land, strengthened management and paid attention first to satisfactorily carrying out the task of surveying, classifying and registering land throughout the province and compiling the relevant statistics.

That task was a new one while experiences were still few and the amount of materials and capital available still small; also, the contingent of cadres directly in charge of land management from the provincial to grass-roots level was insufficient and at the same time weak. Nevertheless, thanks to the assistance of party committees at various echelons and by implementing the "joint action by the state and people" motto and trying to overcome difficulties, the whole province simultaneously proceeded with the land management task.

In 3 years (1981-1983), the provincial land management sector basically completed the land survey, drew up maps of plots of land for 112 villages with an area of nearly 100,000 hectares and readjusted nearly 150,000 hectares. During the survey, it was found that an additional 3,100 hectares of agricultural land (including 2,300 hectares of cultivated land) had for many years not been included in the production plans of many villages. Out of 18 districts, 10 basically completed the classification of village land and the categorization of land cultivated with grain crops in districts and cities. The remaining eight districts basically completed the classification of land in villages. Of 436 village units and state farms and forestry sites, 302 registered for the compilation of land statistics and nearly 100 of these units completed the listing and registration files. The districts of Hai Hau, Xuan Thuy, Kim Son and Gia Vien basically completed the three tasks of surveying, classifying and registering land.

The task of surveying, classifying and registering land and compiling statistics not only served the purpose of managing and using land but also had a great effect on the perfection of the socialist production relationships in the rural areas; it promoted in time the execution of product contracts and new regulations on agricultural tax and created a legal basis for the formulation of short-and long-term agroforestry plans.

Land inspection and control became a regular job involving a close coordination of all echelons and sectors. Almost all localities in the province closely linked inspection and control with land survey, classification and registration and promptly detected and checked the practice of using land illegally.

Over the past 3 years, the entire province resolved 10,000-odd cases of illegal and irrational use of land by both organizations and individuals (including more than 700 infringements by cadres and party members), retrieved nearly 300 hectares for the collective production sector's benefit, refunded [to the state] an income composed of more than 3 million dong, 392 tons of paddy and 58 tons of pork due as an obligation and retrieved housing land and rearranged more than 100 houses involving the illegal use of land. An initial step was taken to examine and issue certificates of land use registration for 20,000 households.

Land transfer and retrieval were carried out in strict accordance with the state regulations, policies and systems. In particular, land transfer to the people to build dwelling houses and to villages, cooperatives and

public agencies to build public welfare works and so forth was examined and ratified according to projects and plans. Land retrieval was carried out strictly, righteously and promptly. Many localities carried out satisfactorily the task of retrieving land such as the villages of Phu Loc and Dong Phong (Hoang Long), Cia Thanh and Gia Tan (Gia Vien), Chau Son (Kim Bang), Nghia Phu (Nghia Hung), My Tan (Nam Dinh City), Yen Thanh (Y Yen), Cong Hoa (Vu Ban), Khanh Duong (Tam Diep) and Hoanh Son (Xuan Thuy). More than 50 hectares of land were retrieved just by 10 villages in Kim Son District.

Apart from the results and achievements registered, land management by the province is still replete with shortcomings requiring solution. In a number of localities, cadres and people have not yet understood the land policy and law deeply and comprehensively; nor have they clearly distinguished the difference between the right of ownership in times past and the right to use land at the present time. For this reason, there still are instances of violation of the right to entrust land or instances of land encroachment and usurpation, [illegal] purchase, sale, transfer and exchange of land, etc. Many localities have not yet realized the intrinsic relationships among the three tasks of surveying and classifying land and compiling the relevant statistics; they have carried out these tasks slowly and the quality of their job is not yet high. In certain localities, infringements have not yet been dealt with rigorously or have been ignored and even covered up or dealt with superficially for form's sake. This course of action has failed to win the people's confidence. The organizational system of the land management sector, especially in districts and villages, has not been clearly defined. The cadastral documents and records of a number of installations are still incomplete and unfinished so that their effectiveness is still low.

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AGRICULTURE

HANOI INVESTMENTS IN LAM DONG NEW ECONOMIC ZONE INCREASED

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 12 Jan 84 p 2

[Article by Duong Diep: "Hanoi Continues to Invest in the Building of the Lam Dong Economic Zone"]

[Text] According to the Hanoi Committee for the Building of the Economic Zone in Lam Dong, despite the occurrence of a serious drought at the beginning of the agricultural season and despite the heavy damage done by Typhoon No 6 to houses, bridges, sluices and grain and subsidiary food crops--state farms and agricultural cooperatives have overcome all difficulties, overfulfilled many norms in crop planting and capital construction and continued to receive more than 700 laborers coming from various districts and precincts to build economic zones. The total farming area is 3,509 hectares representing 115 percent of the yearly plan norm. Production installations have paid attention to the intensive cultivation of grain producing crops. Many cooperative member families have accepted product contracts for rice cultivation and have achieved an output of 6 to 10 tons per hectare. For a long time past, Lan Tranh was a region beset with grain production difficulties; this year, it has achieved a fairly good output of rice, subsidiary food and grain--in particular, 25 quintals of rice per hectare from a single crop. The introduction and experimental cultivation of high-yielding varieties of corn has resulted in an output of between 3 and 4 tons per hectare from a single crop and even 8 tons per hectare in some localities. To date, production installations belonging to this new economic zone have harvested over 3,300 tons of grain--an increase of more than 400 tons over 1982.

Capital construction has also made great progress and has surpassed the [value] norm by more than 400,000 dong. The 72-meter long Dinh Van bridge has been built across the Da Don River, making it convenient for the local people to move about. Many cooperatives have contributed hundreds of thousands of dong to the building of the Sui Canh and Doi Bac bridges.

Along with production development, the material and cultural life of people in the Lam Dong economic zone has been stabilized and gradually improved. The incentive given to sideline household business has contributed greatly to raising the material living standards of laborers. Many households have each reaped an additional income of 20,000 to 30,000 dong from gardening and animal husbandry.

To date, the entire zone has built 11 schools attended by 3,600 pupils with 190 male and female teachers; a multidepartmental hospital with 80 beds has also been built; a wired radio network with 350 public loud-speakers has extended to production installations to serve more than 15,000 cadres and people throughout the zone.

To speed up the cultivation of industrial crops on new areas in 1984, efforts will be exerted to grow coffee on 100 new hectares and tea on 130 new hectares, to take care of 240 hectares already cultivated with tea, to raise the grain output to 4,000 tons and to obtain 450 tons of beans of various kinds and 50 tons of castor oil seeds; the state will invest 10 million dong more in the opening of new lands, in the construction of water conservancy works and in the expansion of installations designed to repair machines and process agricultural products in the Lam Dong new economic zone.

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AGRICULTURE

BRIEFS

REGREENING OF TOXIC AREAS--Hanoi, VNA, 15 March--The southern province of Dong Nai has grown mangroves on 14,000 hectares in saline areas and forests along the sea coast which had been heavily devastated by toxic chemicals sprayed by U.S. aircraft during the last war. The Chau Thanh and Long Thanh afforestation centres in Dong Nai Province each year have planted from 2,000-3,000 hectares of forest land with mangrove trees. The centres have assigned remote forest lands to the care of the local people and helped the latter in fish and rearing techniques along the canals or submerged forest lands. The population in these mangrove forests are also preparing for large-scale bee-keeping by building on the availability of mangrove flowers. [Text] [OW150921 Hanoi VNA in English 0706 GMT 15 Mar 84]

CSO: 4200/613

HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE

BRIEFS

MARXIST-LENINIST COURSE--Propaganda and Training School No 2 recently opened, in Ho Chi Minh City, the first higher Marxism-Leninism course for the southern provinces from Lam Dong Southward, with more than 200 students attending. During their 54-month training, students will study four specialities: philosophy, political economy, scientific communism and CPV history. In addition to training on the basic theory of Marxism-Leninism, students will be taught other sciences, such as psychology, pedagogy, linguistics, dialectic logic, formal logic and scientific atheism. After graduation, the students will become teachers, instructing in political theory at party schools at all echelons, colleges, vocational middle schools and schools for sectors and mass organizations. [Text]
[OW220523 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 19 Mar 84]

CSO: 4209/213

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