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4 December 1984

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GOVERNMENT TO STEP TOWARD FREE MARKET IN OIL

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 10 Oct 84 p 7

[Article by J. N. Pierce]

[Text] The Federal Government will introduce a partial crude oil allocation scheme at the beginning of next year as a stepping stone to a free market from 1988.

The scheme, announced in Canberra yesterday by the Minister for Resources and Energy, Senator Walsh, guarantees a market for small oil producers, but reduces the mandatory uptake of Bass Strait crude oil by Australian oil refineries.

Initial reaction from oil producers and refiners has been mixed.

Senator Walsh said the background to the marketing decisions was an expectation that supplies from existing Australian oilfields would exceed the light crude oil demand of Australian refineries by about 45,000 barrels a day in 1984-85.

"A surplus is expected to continue for a few years," he said.

The main features of the three-year scheme are:

- Small producers with an output of up to 50,000 barrels a day will sell all of their production through allocation arrangements, except in special cases, such as a remote location. These small producers are expected to have an output of about 65,000 barrels a day in 1984-85.

- The refiners' allocation of Bass Strait crude oil for 1985 will be 350,000 barrels a day, a reduction of 20,000 barrels a day on present levels. Allocations at this level will be conditional on the industry meeting its present target of 385,000 barrels a day. The allocation target will be reviewed late in 1985 with a view to further reductions in 1986 and 1987, perhaps in line with Bass Strait "old" oil production.

- The crude oil under the allocation scheme will continue to be sold at the import parity price, but in addition to the customary six-monthly adjustment in this price, there will be reviews and adjustments every two months if a price change of at least \$1 a barrel is indicated.

- Surplus crude from large producers will continue to be available for export, but it can also be sold on a negotiated basis to Australian refiner-marketers if they have fulfilled their allocation obligations. Industry sources said this could create problems if prices for the non-allocation crude were pushed below import parity.

- The controversial Bass Strait crude oil coastal freight adjustment arrangements for allocated crude oil will be continued.

The Bass Strait coastal freight surcharge will be 65 per cent of the coastal freight allowance component of the Bass Strait import parity price and will initially increase the surcharge from 20 cents to 25 cents a barrel.

The executive director of the Australian Petroleum Exploration Association, Mr Keith Orchison, said the scheme represented a satisfactory outcome for small producers, but problems remained for the major producers.

"The scheme has settled the situation for the next 12 months and that is about as much as one could have hoped for under the circumstances," he said.

BHP was still reviewing the details of the scheme last night, but its Bass Strait partner, Esso, expressed disappointment.

"We are going through a short period of favouring onshore producers and refiners at the expense of offshore producers," Esso spokesman, Mr Frank Hooke, said.

Esso would have preferred to go to a free market "but if we couldn't, a sensibly controlled market would have been better".

Caltex Australia, one of the country's major refining companies, was also critical of the scheme.

"The Government has failed to address the reality of the freight inequity experienced by Caltex and other non-Victorian refiners, but it is setting common capital city prices for major petroleum products," Caltex spokesman, Mr Barry Pearton, said.

NEW TREASURY SECRETARY ON WEAKNESSES OF FREE MARKET

Sydney THE AUSTRALIAN in English 9 Oct 84 p 12

[Article by Robert Bowden]

[Text]

IN HIS first public address since becoming Secretary to the Treasury, Mr Bernie Fraser yesterday revealed some suspicion of the market, and admitted traditional economic policies alone could not reduce inflation or unemployment.

In strong contrast to his predecessor, Mr John Stone, the new Treasury Secretary also labelled many arguments favoring free markets in Australia as "pretty sterile".

Mr Fraser admitted that traditional monetary and fiscal policies had not worked in Australia and endorsed, albeit cautiously, the need for other measures, including incomes policies.

"This is not the place to comment on the way monetary and fiscal policies have been formulated and implemented in recent years," he said.

"Experience shows, however, that monetary and fiscal policies on their own are not capable of reducing inflation and establishing stable longer-term economic environments without incurring socially and politically unacceptable levels of unemployment and other disruptions in the short term.

"This is especially so in countries like Australia where there are important institutional rigidities in the labor market which, at best, will be freed up only gradually.

"It is this experience which gives rise to the appeal of incomes policies to supplement fiscal and monetary policies.

"The current approach in Australia, of course, is built around the accord between the Government and the ACTU."

He said the prices and incomes accord had proven more durable than most commentators had expected and had "contributed substantially" to the moderation of labor costs and industrial disputation.

Mr Fraser was addressing the Royal Australian Institute of Public Administration.

His acceptance that the rigidities of the labor market would only be gradually, if at all, freed up is in stark contrast to the approach of Mr Stone who advocated free market solutions to the wages issue.

While Mr Stone may have harbored doubts that the rigidities of the labor market could be reduced, he certainly never aired that view.

Mr Fraser, however, appears to have accepted, perhaps reluctantly, that the 'mixed' economy with substantial government involvement is the framework in which Treasury must operate.

"There is scope for legitimate debate about the appropriate extent of government involvement in particular sectors (including some sectors largely outside the market such as health and education), Mr Fraser said.

"For the most part, however, that debate in Australia is about changes at the margin — and probably fairly gradual at that.

"No group in a position to as-

sert its views is advocating radical, overnight changes in the present mix.

"This situation renders arguments in favor of general 'market' or 'interventionist' approaches pretty sterile.

"Treasury is often caricatured as being free-market orientated.

"But it is one thing to appreciate the benefits that could flow from an unfettered market system if the conditions necessary for the establishment of such a system could be satisfied; it is another thing to believe that those conditions can be established and sustained on a wide front.

"A better characterisation of the Treasury is to see it as a force for 'economic rationalism'."

Mr Fraser also said the private sector had often failed to practise what it preached on free-market thinking.

"From my contacts with the private sector over the years, I have observed on a number of occasions that 'market' solutions to industry problems have floundered on the assumption that industry actually believed its own rhetoric about wanting to get out from under the government umbrella," Mr Fraser said.

He said Treasury was unlikely to be successful in advocating free markets when many industries felt more comfortable with a regulated environment.

CSO: 4200/181

COLUMNIST ANALYZES SECOND TERM CHALLENGES FOR HAWKE

Melbourne THE AGE in English 8 Oct 84 p 13

[Commentary by Michelle Grattan: "Managing Victory: a Challenge for Hawke"]

[Text]

WITH the election considered a foregone conclusion, Ministers and some Government backbenchers are already turning their minds to what will happen afterwards.

How different will be the composition and power relations in the second Hawke Government? Will all present Ministers survive and what changes will Bob Hawke make in portfolios?

How will the inevitably expanded back bench (even without a swing, it will grow because of the bigger Parliament) be gainfully occupied? Will Caucus become more aggressive and what are the best ways of containing such aggression?

In 1974, the second Whitlam Government re-elected, to a man, the first Whitlam Ministry. Later, it was seen as an opportunity missed to prune dead wood.

In 1984, it also seems likely all or almost all Ministers will be back, the saying grace this time being that the "dead wood" is much less.

Mr Hawke is committed to stability and continuity, and has already said he expects the changes in portfolios (which he allocates, once the Ministry is elected) to be relatively limited.

Of course, it is all speculation at this stage, including the extent of change: once the fiddling begins, other things follow as a consequence.

One of the interesting questions is the future of Gordon Scholes in

Defence.

There has been considerable criticism of him within the Government. Although everyone likes him personally, he is regarded as being too much just the shop steward of his department.

The fate of Mr Scholes might be one convenient benchmark of how willing Mr Hawke is to grasp the occasion to make a few necessary tough decisions about the particular jobs to which his colleagues are best suited.

A Minister who comes in for constant attack inside and outside the Government is Gareth Evans. Senator Evans's hold on the Attorney-Generalship is, however protected by Mr Hawke's strong personal loyalty to him (Senator Evans, a Victorian Labor Unity man, was one of Mr Hawke's earliest supporters), by his legal talents and by the lack of an obvious alternative.

A third unfashionable Minister at present is the voluble Barry Jones, who has given ammunition to the Opposition by some careless words on science funding and the possibility of tax rises.

For the sake of his own future, Mr Jones should think carefully whenever he considers opening his mouth in the next eight weeks — and then decide firmly against it.

In factional terms, if Mr Hawke has his way, the Left is unlikely to do much better out of the second Ministry than it did in this one, where it has four portfolios, three of them lowly (Defence Support, Veterans' Affairs, Territories and

Local Government).

Mr Hawke is disinclined to be more generous to the Left by some cross-factional deal on numbers.

Earlier talk of Right and Left combining to squeeze the representation of the Centre has evaporated, although the Right is still shakey about the Centre Left (Mr Hawke was particularly annoyed about the Health Minister, Dr Blewett, who put out a provocative paper on the Centre Left's conference performance) and would not be averse to putting Centre Left members in their place a little.

Left-wing Ministers could well be among those who get new jobs: there is talk of moving Stewart West from Immigration and a feeling that the separate Ministry of Defence Support is an anachronism, so Brian Howe, the Left's putative leader, could have to be found something else.

So far, the Left shows little sign of facing up to the need to plan for its own future by bringing in one or two younger people to replace its older Ministers, Tom Uren and Arthur Gietzelt, both of whom want another term.

The Left as a faction can, through the exercise of discipline, choose who it puts in the Ministry: it will be its own fault if it does not put its best face forward.

Apart from the possible scrapping of Defence Support, some other administrative changes are likely after the election. There is expected to be some rationalism in the industry-technology area, and in the Social Security-Health portfolios, with the likely creation of a new Community Services Department comprising sections of Social Security, Health and Veterans' Affairs.

Last Thursday, a committee of Ministers and backbenchers began work on proposals for possible changes in relations between Cabinet, Ministry and Caucus. The committee will meet again tomorrow and its report will be ready in time for the first Caucus meeting of the new Government.

The committee was set up, with just Ministers, in March, after a Ministry meeting at Kirribilli House when there were grouches from junior Ministers about not getting enough say. (Communications Minister, Michael Duffy, once dubbed the junior Ministers

"the little kids", a term they now widely use in referring to themselves.)

The committee, which is chaired by Paul Keating, then went into hibernation without meeting, until a recent move in Caucus led to expanded terms of reference and the addition of three backbenchers — Senator Peter Cook, Centre Left activist John Scott, a Left-winger, and Ross Free of the NSW Right.

The group is also examining the relationship between Cabinet and Caucus committees, the role of the public servants in the operations of Cabinet, Cabinet committees and Caucus committees, and the number and work of parliamentary committees.

While the committee originally grew out of the discontent of the "little kids", it will not lead to any alteration to the system of a Cabinet separate from the Ministry.

But there is pressure to give junior Ministers — and Caucus — a more effective say in Government decisions. Some junior Ministers condemn the present full Ministry meetings as often a charade, at which the Leader either lectures or indulges the outer Ministry.

Caucus in particular is likely to insist on more "consultation" in the second term. After the election, with a good result and a good deal of experience behind the Government and a full three years ahead, many Caucus members will think that it is the time to have a greater say in government — and to try to get the Government to have a greater go at reform.

On the Caucus economic committee, there are moves to seek more access to specialist economic information.

One Caucus member predicts a drive for a larger back-bench role in the Budget preparations: "The rush into Government left us all a bit dazed and unprepared. There was a degree of patience shown the first year. There was more consultation in the second. In the third, we will have the full involvement of Caucus."

He is probably wildly optimistic but the sentiments are significant. Ministers, too, expect Caucus to be more lively second time around. One remarks: "They have had a gutful. The only reason they haven't exploded is that they have

been very responsible — and there was the threat of the election."

On the other hand, if Caucus does not assert itself quite early in the second term, it could find itself outmanoeuvred by Mr Hawke.

The larger back bench has also prompted discussion of ways to bring more of them into the power circle — or at least into the warm rays of its outer edge.

The most radical, and thus the one least likely to be adopted, is to have a reduced number of departments, but multiple Ministers in particular departments. This would, for instance, put two or three Ministers into departments like Industry and Social Security, all sharing the same permanent head.

The Government Leader in the Senate, Senator Button, has floated this possibility with colleagues. However, mega-departments can be criticised on the grounds of bureaucratic awkwardness and frightening novelty.

Another suggestion that has been canvassed is to expand the Ministry by about three. The problem with that is that the Government will want to be able to give out more than two or three jobs.

A third, and widely favored, proposal is for a clutch of parliamentary secretaries, a variety of assistant Ministers, who help with the paperwork and chores in portfolios.

Malcolm Fraser's Government had a couple: they are good training jobs for bright back-benchers and they relieve the Ministerial load without making the system too messy.

In the first Hawke Government, all the pressures have been towards maximising the power and free rein of the Prime Minister and his senior colleagues.

The second Hawke Government could see the attempted reassertion of traditional Labor values, in both policy and the way power is exercised, presenting Bob Hawke with delicate problems guiding the "democracy" within the party.

PAPER DISCOUNTS TOKYO REPORTS OF IRON ORE CUTS

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 8 Oct 84 p 17

[Article by J. N. Pierce]

[Text]

Tokyo reports suggesting extra tonnages of Australian iron ore shipped to Japan in the first half of the 1984-85 fiscal year would be offset by cuts in the second half have been discounted by December quarter shipping schedules which point to normal tonnages.

During the April-August period of the fiscal year, Japanese blast furnace steel mills imported 53.2 million tonnes of iron ore, of which Australia supplied 28.1 million tonnes or nearly 53 per cent of the total.

A Tokyo trade press report said Japanese steelmakers intend to reduce carriers to be sent to Australia from October onward to retain this fiscal year's share of Australian ore at the usual level of 47 per cent to 48 per cent. Such a move would have involved a savage cut of nearly a quarter from the average monthly rate of shipments so far in the year.

But Australian iron ore industry sources say while there has been a cut in projected December quarter tonnages from the levels so far in the year, they mark a return to normal and partly reflect a seasonal rise in Indian shipments after the end of the monsoon.

"There is no suggestion that Australia will be penalised," said one executive.

The jump in iron ore shipments, which over the past six months has provided one of the few bright spots in Australia's mineral export industry has stemmed mainly from two factors.

A strike at India's major iron ore ports halted shipments

between March 15 and April 11, creating a gap which Australian producers — Hamersley in particular — were able to fill quickly from stockpiles.

At the same time, world steel activity has shown a widespread if patchy recovery. For the first eight months of 1984, raw steel production for the western world shows a gain of nearly 14 per cent to 291 million tonnes following improvements of 22 per cent in the US, 12 per cent in Europe and 11 per cent in Japan.

With very little excess tonnage remaining in their stockpiles, the Pilbara mines are tending to meet shipments out of current production, with resulting benefits that come from economies of scale.

In addition, movements in exchange rates have been on the iron ore miners' side in the past six months. After strengthening by 4.5 per cent against the US dollar in the March quarter — and thus reducing export income — the Australian dollar weakened by 7 per cent in the June quarter and by a further 4.5 per cent in the September quarter.

★ ★ ★

The cash has begun to flow in for Woodside Petroleum for the first time since the company was formed 30 years ago. It received \$5.2 million in sales revenue from the State Energy Commission of Western Australia between August 16 and September 30 as its half-share of initial deliveries of North West Shelf natural gas.

With the price payable by SECWA still regarded as confidential, Woodside's September quarter report does not disclose the volume of gas delivered in the initial period, but says that total deliveries are running at between 140 and 150 terajoules a day (about 3.5 to 3.7 million cubic metres).

At its plateau production rate — now likely to be reached in 1986 or 1987 — the domestic gas plant is scheduled to produce and deliver about 10.9 million cubic metres a day.

The Woodside report also disclosed the first cargo of condensate — which will be produced at a rate of 300,000 tonnes a year when the domestic gas plant reached plateau production — is scheduled to be shipped from the Burrup Peninsula before the end of 1984.

CSO: 4200/181

LETTER LISTS ANZUS COSTS, BENEFITS DECLINE

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 9 Oct 84 p 10

[Letter to the Editor from Alex Carey]

[Text]

SIR: Mr Bill Hayden has repeated his insistence on tangible progress towards control of the nuclear arms race as a condition of Australia's continuing to accept the role of front-line nuclear target on America's behalf (*Herald*, October 3). In the absence of such progress he plainly regards the risks incurred by our present role in the American alliance gravely to outweigh the benefits.

This judgement has not, I believe, received the consideration it merits from recent *Herald* commentators and editorials. Related commentary has been stronger on expressions of faith in the value and importance of the ANZUS treaty than on critical examination of the basis of that faith.

When ANZUS was established in 1951, Australians were understandably, if wrongly, as it turns out, apprehensive about a revival of Japanese militarism. The ANZUS treaty was welcomed as providing, at little immediate cost to Australia, protection against that development.

Thirty-three years later the situation has greatly changed. Even if we regard ANZUS as embodying a general US commitment to come to our aid should we be attacked (and its terms steer widely and calculatedly clear of any such promise), it is now difficult to discover benefits from ANZUS that are in any way commensurate with its increased costs.

First the decline in benefits:

We no longer expect Japan (to put the point conservatively) to be a significant threat to us in the foreseeable future. Hence the major benefit for which we once valued ANZUS has diminished almost to vanishing point (now, ironically, there is a US interest in urging an enlarged military role for Japan that is directly opposed to our interests).

There is no other country in our region which has both the political motivation and the capability to present a major threat to us. (If Indonesia is regarded as a possible exception here, we must recognise that our earlier differences with Indonesia over West Irian made it clear that the US will not readily come to our aid against Indonesia.)

Second, the growth in costs of our role within ANZUS and the American alliance:

Since 1950-51 many Australians have died for the American alliance in two immensely destructive (and almost certainly unnecessary) wars — in Korea and Vietnam.

In 1951, nuclear weapons were still relatively few and there were no nuclear bases in Australia. In 1984 there are 50,000 nuclear warheads. The world is engaged in a Star Wars arms race, and our ANZUS role includes American bases which constitute priority nuclear targets. Without the bases, Australia would be as unlikely a nuclear target (after New Zealand) as the world contains.

There is no discernible nuclear or conventional threat from which ANZUS affords us protection; and our hosting of various American bases and facilities elevates us unnecessarily to the status of a front-line nuclear target.

Unless the superpowers give an early demonstration that they have the will and the ability to get off the nuclear road to Armageddon, we should, as Bill Hayden proposes, make moves to decouple ourselves at least from the nuclear-war-fighting capacity of both of them.

Alex Carey,
Honorary Visiting Fellow,
University of NSW,
Kensington.

October 4

COUNCIL CALLS FOR CER REVIEW ON NEW ZEALAND LAMB

Sydney THE AUSTRALIAN in English 9 Oct 84 p 12

[Text]

THE Sheepmeat Council of Australia will pressure the Senate review of the 1983 Closer Economic Relations (CER) agreement between Australia and New Zealand for strengthened protection against the dumping of NZ lamb and mutton on Australian markets.

The decision was made after a meeting attended by 150 Australian sheep producers and sheepmeat industry representatives in Sydney yesterday gave a firm thumbs down to any increase of NZ sheepmeat exports to Australia.

The Sheepmeat Council's executive director, Mr Richard Moxham, said that the Federal Government would have to recognise the looming threat to the Australian industry from NZ sheepmeat surpluses.

"Under CER, New Zealand is free to ship its lamb and mutton to Australia any time it likes," Mr Moxham said.

"While we don't want to build up barriers, it is obvious there has to be some mechanism to protect the Australian industry in the early stages of CER."

CSO: 4200/181

QUEENSLAND PREMIER ON POWER TO BAN NEW ZEALAND IMPORTS

Brisbane THE COURIER MAIL in English 9 Oct 84 p 9

[Text] QUEENSLAND had adequate powers under the Health Act to ensure New Zealand imports were banned from the state, the Premier, Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen, said yesterday.

Sir Joh said he stood by his threat of a ban on New Zealand imports if the New Zealand Government continued its ban on United States nuclear warships.

He said the New Zealand Prime Minister, Mr Lange, should not take his threats too lightly as he had "all the powers necessary — very strong powers".

Cabinet discussed forcing New Zealand to comply with food labelling regulations as an initial measure.

The Opposition Leader, Mr Warburton, said the Premier should keep his nose out of international dealings between the ANZUS countries.

"He is guilty of grossly irresponsible behavior in calling for a trade blockade of New Zealand exports to Australia. The implications of such a move are extremely serious," Mr Warburton said.

"This action would sabotage the Closer Economic Relations

trade agreement between Australia and New Zealand.

"The trade balance is very much in Australia's favor, so we would be the ones most harmed. In 1982-83, Australia's exports to New Zealand totalled \$1162 million, compared with \$694 million worth of imports.

"New Zealand is Australia's largest market for manufactured goods and our fourth largest trading partner overall."

Mr Warburton said Queensland exported goods worth \$122 million to New Zealand, more than double the \$59 million imported from that country.

Mr Innes (Lib., Sherwood), said the blockade would be ridiculous as 1400 New Zealand tourists visited Queensland each year, staying an average three weeks.

In Canberra, the Foreign Minister, Mr Hayden, said the difficulties with the ANZUS alliance called for "a subtle and low key approach".

Mr Hayden, speaking during an urgency debate in the House of Representatives, accused the Opposition of seeking to inflame an already difficult situation.

The Opposition had moved a motion condemning the Govern-

ment for not acting to preserve the alliance.

Mr Hayden said the Opposition had not suggested what Australia had done wrong or had not done to try to preserve the alliance in view of the New Zealand Government decision to ban nuclear-powered or armed vessels.

"What we are doing in a rather difficult situation is to address ourselves in this issue as subtly as we can in the hope there will be some positive output in the end," he said.

"The tactic we are adopting is the same as that being adopted by the US.

"We believe that in all the circumstances, if anything is to be achieved, this is the most likely way to bring about some sort of result."

Mr Hayden said the Opposition seemed to want the Government to make some sort of fierce public denunciation of the New Zealand Government or to adopt "bovver boy tactics using steel-capped boots".

He said the US had not asked Australia to help persuade the New Zealand Government to change its mind.

MPS HIT RADIO'S ROLE IN FOREIGN RELATIONS 'EMBARRASSMENT'

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 10 Oct 84 p 5

[Excerpt] CANBERRA--Radio Australia--our overseas voice--has been severely criticised by a top-level Parliamentary committee.

The Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence says in a report, tabled in Parliament yesterday that some aspects of Radio Australia's activities have caused embarrassment in Australia's foreign relations.

The report calls for a Parliamentary review of the network's functions, its relations with the Federal Government and its activities in South-East Asia.

It says this review should be carried out in view of the important implications to the country of Radio Australia's activities in the ASEAN region.

The lengthy report details Australia's relations with the ASEAN nations and says effective communication through the media is of obvious importance for the promotion of mutual awareness and understanding.

"Australian media relations with ASEAN countries have encountered some tensions, notably with Indonesia," it says.

"The potential for some difficulty in this area is likely to continue, given the somewhat differing roles of the media in Australia and most ASEAN members.

Awareness

"The committee considered it did not have sufficient evidence to determine how successfully Radio Australia performs the function of promoting awareness of Australia in the ASEAN region.

"The committee is therefore unable to confirm that Radio Australia is performing this function as successfully as the organisation itself claims."

The report says Radio Australia broadcasts news and commentaries in Asian languages and it is this aspect of the network's activities which has caused some embarrassment to Australia, particularly with Indonesia.

"The committee is also concerned about the extent to which ASEAN Governments and listeners may associate Radio Australia with the Australian Government, and assume that views or news analyses broadcast to the region reflect Government attitudes or policies," the report says.

PRK PUBLISHING OUTPUT DESCRIBED

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 19 Sep 84 p 3

[Text] The world learned with horror about the genocide carried out by the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary regime against the people of Kampuchea. Despite the helping hands of solidarity which were extended to that country after January 1979, improvement within a short period of time appeared impossible. However, 5 years after that terror, Kampuchaa is appearing in the Second Book Fair-Exposition La Habana '84 with samples of its publications which are undeniable proof of its inhabitants' spirit of struggle and overcoming obstacles.

Chey Sophea, Kampuchea's vice minister of culture and information, is now in Cuba on his first visit, as is the book show which he is presenting to those attending the event.

"Knowledge means the triumph of socialism, and we obtain it by means of books, which are bridges to knowledge. Through them we can pass on valuable experiences in the building of socialism," Sophea tells us.

The vice minister explains that Marxist-Leninist ideas have only been known for a short time, and that publishing work is very important in this task.

"We pay great attention to the field of publishing, because as is known, Kampuchea fell into the abyss of Pol Potism, which destroyed the whole base of its culture. Thanks to our Revolutionary People's Party of Kampuchea, and to the assistance given us by Vietnam, the USSR, and other socialist countries, we have advanced greatly in this sector since 1982, when quadrilateral cooperation was established between Kampuchea, Vietnam, Laos and the Soviet Union," declared Sophea.

Today educational and scientific-technical magazines and books, socio-political studies, and literature--mostly poetry and novels--are being produced in Kampuchea in the five printing houses in the country. Also, there is work going on in translating important works into the Khmer language. An approximate idea of the work to be done to this effect is given by the fact that in 1984 there are plans to produce some 500 million pages (13x19 cm), and they are already self-sufficient in providing textbooks for the schools.

"It is an honor for us to take part in this fair. Our countries are very distant from each other because we are separated by thousands of kilometers, but cooperation is very close," notes the vice minister of Kampuchea; who after emphasizing the response which holding the event had received in Havana, and the Kampuchean participation in the radio and written press of his country, adds that "we want to have closer relations with Cuba in the publishing field. We hope to translate Cuban books and to publish them in our country, and have Kampuchean books translated and published in Cuba." He also stated that, "In Cuba there are well-developed techniques for color printing, and I believe that there are favorable factors for showing, for example, the beautiful scenery of Kampuchea."

8131

CSO: 3248/33

LAOS

WORLD YOUTH-STUDENT FESTIVAL COMMISSION CHOSEN

BK080606 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1400 GMT 7 Nov 84

[Text] On 13 October 1984, the LPRP Central Committee Political Bureau issued a resolution on the appointment of the national committee in charge of the preparation for the 12th world youth and student festival to be held in Moscow, the capital of the Soviet Union, in 1985 at an initiative of the Leninist Komsomol. This 12th festival is very significant because it constitutes an encouragement for peace-loving and progressive youths and students in the world to carry out movements to make a great contribution to the struggle against imperialism, to oppose war, and for international friendship and security.

In the resolution, the party Central Committee Political Bureau has decided to appoint a national commission to prepare for participation in this festival. The commission consists of 13 comrades with Comrade Saman Vi-gnaket, secretary of the party Central Committee and chief of the party Central Committee Organizing Committee, as chairman; Comrade Thongsavat Khaikhamphouthoun, member of the party Central Committee and first secretary of the Lao People's Revolutionary Youth Union [LPRYU] Central Committee, as vice chairman; and Comrade Mrs Thongvin Phomvihan, member of the party Central Committee and first deputy secretary of the LPRYU Central Committee, as vice chairman.

This national commission has the duties of publicizing--so that youths and students will acknowledge and understand them--the purposes, spirit and significance of the world youth and student festival, which is organized under the slogan: For solidarity against imperialism, for peace and friendship; encouraging the youths and students to launch campaigns to score achievements to welcome this festival; guiding all activities to prepare for as well as to select representatives of the youths and students to attend the festival; and effectively directing activities of the Lao youth and student delegation during the festival.

CSO: 4206/29

BRIEFS

SRV BUILDS ROADS NEAR BORDER--According to a recent report from Laos, the Vietnamese Armed Forces in Laos are expeditiously constructing strategic drivable roads in Laos. Currently, in southern Laos they have been busily building a drivable road from Savannakhet provincial capital to Route 9 in Banang, Vietnam. Hanoi hopes to build this road into a strategic route for use in transporting Laos' rich natural resources to Vietnam and, at the same time, for strengthening its control over Laos. In northern Laos, a large number of Vietnamese soldiers and youths press-ganged to work in Laos are currently constructing a highway from an area straddling the border of Sam Neua and Xieng Khouang Province to Nam Bak in Luang Prabang Province, aimed at threatening the Chinese border in Yunnan Province. [Text] [Beijing International Service in Lao 1230 GMT 1 Nov 84 BK]

TRADE MINISTER RECEIVES PRK DELEGATION--On the afternoon of 8 November, Vanthong Sengmuang, member of the LPRP Central Committee and minister of trade, received a delegation of the PRK Trade Ministry led by Deputy Minister of Trade Thong Chan. The delegation is paying a visit to the LPDR. During the talks, which were marked by an atmosphere of cordial friendship, Minister Vanthong Sengmuang highly appreciated the PRK Trade Ministry delegation's visit which contributes to strengthening and developing the cooperation and assistance between the trade ministries of the two countries. At the same time, the guest and the host exchanged views on many issues concerning the immediate and future bilateral trade work based on mutual interest and mutual assistance and cooperation. Chanpheng Bounnaphon, deputy minister of Laos, and Nguon Phansiphon, PRK ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Laos, were also present. The PRK trade delegation arrived in Vientiane on the morning of 8 November for a friendship visit and to sign trade exchange agreements with the LPDR for 1985. [Text] [Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1400 GMT 8 Nov 84 BK]

YOUTH LITERARY CONTEST--On the morning of 16 November, the Central Committee of the Lao People's Revolutionary Youth Union [LPRYU] opened the second contest on short stories, poems, photos and other literary articles with the aim of permitting youth composers to display their work to welcome the 30th anniversary of the LPRP founding, the 10th anniversary of the LPDR founding, the 30th anniversary of the Lao youth organization, and the 12th world youth and student festival scheduled to be held in Moscow in 1985. Attending the opening ceremony of the contest as honor guests were Lieutenant General Saman Vi-gnaket, member of the LPRP Central Committee Secretariat, head of

the Central Organizational Board, and chairman of the national committee for preparations to welcome the 12th world youth and student festival; and Mrs Thongvin Phomvihan, member of the LPRP Central Committee and acting first secretary of the Executive Committee of the LPRYU Central Committee. [Excerpt] [Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1400 GMT 16 Nov 84]

YOUTH VOLUNTEER FOR ARMY SERVICE--After studying document No 35 of the Council of Ministers on the obligations to be fulfilled by the Lao people of all tribes, in particular the obligation of all Lao youths to contribute to the task of defending the country and maintaining public security for the peaceful life of all people, since August this year, the parents and people of various tribes, as well as cadres and soldiers of various units or departments in Vientiane have sent their beloved and good sons and nephews to work in service of the nation in an enthusiastic movement. According to still incomplete statistics, as of early November, a total of 474 youths from nine districts in Vientiane Province volunteered to serve the nation. Noteworthy is that in Saisomboun District, 80 youths voluntarily requested that the district and provincial authorities accept them to work in the ranks of the armed forces. [Text] [Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0430 GMT 20 Nov 84 BK]

YOUTH ACTIVITIES IN PAKLAI DISTRICT--On the afternoon of 17 November, a rally was held by the executive committee of the Lao People's Revolutionary Youth Union [Lpryu] of Vientiane Municipality at the Vientiane Theater to hail the achievements in service of the front line in Paklai District, Sayaboury Province, scored by the first batch of pioneer youth volunteers from Vientiane Municipality. Over 1,000 representatives of youth unions and youths from various ministries, departments, services and communities in Vientiane municipality attended the rally. Present as guests of honor at the rally were Sisavat Keobounphan, secretary of the party Central Committee and secretary of the party committee of Vientiane Municipality; Mrs Thongvin Phomvihan, member of the party Central Committee and acting first secretary of the LPRYU executive committee; Brigadier General Ai Soula-gnaseng, deputy chief of the LPA general staff department; Dr Siho Bannavong, deputy chairman of the Vientiane Municipal Administrative Committee; and representatives of the mass organizations in Vientiane Municipality. The rally heard a report read by (Sithong Chansomphou), deputy secretary of the Vientiane Municipality LPRYU and head of the first batch of pioneer volunteer youths from the municipality, on details of the activities of the volunteer youth group in serving the front line for 1 month from 6 October to 6 November. [Text] [Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0500 GMT 19 Nov 84 BK]

AGRICULTURE DELEGATION RETURNS HOME--On the afternoon of 15 November, the SRV Agriculture Ministry delegation led by Nguyen Ngoc Triu, member of the CPV Central Committee and minister of agriculture, returned home with splendid success after paying a 12-day visit to the LPDR at the LPDR Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Cooperatives. On hand to see the delegation off at Wattai airport were Inkong Mahavong, member of the LPRP Central Committee and minister of agriculture, irrigation and cooperatives; other deputy

ministers; and a number of high-ranking cadres of the ministry. Nguyen Xuan, SRV ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Laos, and embassy officials were also present at the airport. [Text] [Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1400 GMT 15 Nov 84 BK]

SOVIET ACROBATIC TEAM--On the evening of 15 November, the Soviet Armed Forces acrobatic team led by Colonel (Akonov Kanariy), deputy director of the Sports Committee of the Defense Ministry, paid a courtesy call on Major General Somsak Saisongkham, deputy minister of national defense and deputy chief of the LPA General Staff. The Soviet Armed Forces acrobatic team arrived in Vientiane on 13 November for a performance tour of our country. It presented a premier performance at the General Political Department's auditorium. [Summary] [Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0430 GMT 16 Nov 84 BK]

CSO: 4206/34

BULLETIN TODAY HITS REAGAN ON DEBATE REMARKS

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 25 Oct 84 pp 6, 10

[Commentary by Benedicto David: "Reagan's 'Double Standards'"]

[Text]

US President Reagan's statement on the Philippine situation in the course of his debate with Walter Mondale is apparently making waves in the United States and elsewhere.

Quite obviously, it turns out, he did not mean what he said about this country having only two choices...as evidenced by the clarifications issued by his subordinates after much soul-searching.

We mention this because this is not the first time that statements from world figures have been made in haste and repented at leisure. In the same way, idle jokes may have a devastating effect on the international scene when made by people who are in no position to make jokes about nuclear warfare and the destruction of hundreds of millions of men, women and children in another country.

President Reagan is apparently prone to making such ridiculous and uncalled for statements with regard to possible courses of action and with regard to situations obtaining in countries other than his. This is quite unfortunate because the man is at the helm of the most powerful nation on the face of this planet and what he says...and what he orders could determine the continuation of life on earth for the humans at least.

We realize, of course, that in the course of such wide-ranging debates and discussions, some politi-

cians may make statements that they do not quite mean. Unfortunately, the President of the United States and the Secretary General of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union are in no position to make mistakes when they speak before their respective publics...because they are always speaking to the world. What they think and say affect the lives of every human being on earth.

We do not agree with Mr. Reagan that only two alternatives are open to the people of this country. We disagree with Mr. Reagan's statement that communist would take over this country were Mr. Marcos to step down. It all depends on the transition and on the popular acceptance of the situation. At this time, we cannot see how an announced handful can take over the country against the will of the majority and against the guns of the establishment. It is simply so far-fetched that perhaps Mr. Reagan should review the intelligence findings of American services and see how far he has departed from the statements contained in such reports.

We disagree that the security situation here is so bad that American support is needed in order to prevent this place from turning communist.

It was quite revealing though not surprising that Mr. Reagan should openly state that the main concern of the United States is not

so much the welfare of the Philippines as the security of American bases here. We were quite surprised that he was willing to go along with any type of government so long as it is avowedly anti-communist. This is, of course consistent with the Washington stand with regard to the various governments in Latin America and Asia. Apparently, Mr. Reagan does not mind Nicaraguans or El Salvadoreans being killed by their governments for as long as those governments are anti-communist.

So much for the double standards of Mr. Reagan. He is obviously the type of man who would be willing to fight American battles even if every drop of Nicaraguan or El Salvadorean blood is shed in the cause of freedom...the freedom of the United States, of course.

Statements emanating from Mr. Reagan must be well-appreciated by the Communists in the various countries of the Third World...for he is giving truth to the claims of Moscow that the United States does not really care for the peoples of the world for so long as the American people are kept safe and prosperous with a car in every garage and a chicken in every pot.

We wish Mr. Reagan and his fellow-officials in Washington would grow up and not merely grow older. There is only one standard of freedom...and freedom for the people of the Third World is every bit as precious to those peoples as it is to the great American people.

MALAYA COLUMNIST ON MOOD DURING MAJORITY REPORT RELEASE

Quezon City ANG PAHAYAGANG MALAYA in English 26 Oct 84 pp 5, 6

["Woman in the City of Man" by Esty Juco: "Brave Men"]

[Text]

I've just come in from the Magsaysay Hall of the SSS after a long sweltering morning, waiting for the report of the Four Brave Members of the Agrava Fact-Finding Board. The more than two and a half hours' wait was well worth its while.

Outside, the building was a moving line of yellow. Protesting concerned citizens, waving their silken yellow flags, walked in an endless moving oblong, chanting out their anger and their demands: "Sigaw ng bayan: KATARUNGAN!" "Marcos, RESIGN!"

Within the building, even the SSS lady employees had a spring to their step. Reason: the SSS uniform for ladies is a spanking-smart bright yellow! As for the dour-looking security guards at the lobby entrance, they had the field all to themselves now. How very different from the last time I went there to listen to General Ver testify "and help the Board to get at the real truth!" That morning, the place was bristling with military men, all helping to keep order (...but of course!).

Well, the hall this time was packed full with media people and other concerned citizens, eager

to find out "the whole truth" as reported by four male members of the Fact-Finding Board. Although seats were at a premium, there was good natured camaraderie among those packed inside. More than that, there was a notable absence of fear or trepidation lest "the hard hand of the military pounce upon them." There was courage in upturned faces. There was peace on weary-looking people. It was as if they had finally glimpsed the light at the end of the long, dark tunnel.

As someone beside me remarked: "Yesterday, we went through the motions of receiving the report from the Chairman. Today we get to know the truth."

Atty. Enrique Syquia shared with me a Statement on Truth and Justice, prepared by Concerned Citizens on the findings of the Aquino Assassination by the Fact-Finding Board. It had very telling observations, pointing out that "the assassination of Ninoy Aquino was caused by a group in the military, plotting . . . together in conspiracy."

It cited the circumstances under which the crime was perpetrated.

It spoke of the "arrogant display of absolute power and disregard for human life." It stressed that "the restoration of confidence in the military establishment is a precondition to the renewal of confidence in (our) future and the rebuilding of our society." It called attention to the "far-reaching damage that the crime inflicted on the economy, causing severe hardships and suffering to the people, immediately and for many generations to come." The statement also expressed the fact that "the national honor has been tainted before the eyes of the rest of the world, our children and future generations."

On account of all these, the people call for "the immediate and permanent relief of all of those named in the conspiracy by the majority report, and all others engaged in the cover-up. There is no alternative because it is the issue of our confidence. This course of action must be immediately carried out. This step is all the more important since there are many in the military who are dedicated and loyal to the Republic. Such a measure would then vindicate the sense of honor of the military and that those who remain will preserve its integrity."

This statement was given by an impressive number of organizations representing a wide cross-section of citizens' groups, from ordinary housewives and manual laborers to professionals and church groups.

Meanwhile, members of both local and foreign media were milling around and socializing while at the same time trying to "position themselves" to the best ad-

vantage when the Board members would finally render their report to the nation. As a matter of fact, some pessimists among the crowd expressed doubt that "anything could happen to the Board while in Malacanang." Perhaps they were thinking of the special circumstances about the Palace security command?

When the Board finally came, there was a long round of popular applause. There was a clearly delineated line drawn between the Chairwoman and her Board as far as expression of approval was concerned. Despite the Lady-Justice showing coolness and charm in a fetching blue-lavender get-up, she certainly failed to win over the sympathy of the entire assembly. The booing was especially marked when, after she called, in a matter-of-fact manner, for the heads of the sectors which the Board members were supposed to represent so that they could get a copy each of the Board Report, as well as for the SSS bossman Gilbert Teodoro, National Press Club president Tony Nieva and the representative of the FOCAP to likewise receive a copy each of the Fact-Finding Report, she abruptly and without any word of explanation whatsoever proclaimed that the session was ended.

Quick as a flash, Atty. Lupino Lazaro called on Board Member Salazar to inform the body of the findings of the Fact-Finding Board as contained in the report. Atty. Juan David called on the Board to inform the assembly of the decision. "Yesterday," he said, "only half of the truth was known; today, we expect the whole truth." He explained that this

was necessary, not only in fairness to the integrity of the Board, but also to the people who have been awaiting this for a long time.

Public Coordinator Bienvenido Tan then read the pertinent portions of the report that named those who were responsible for and involved in the crime which snuffed out the life of Ninoy Aquino in such a heinous manner. "You are entitled to know what is contained in the Report," he said. (Sustained applause.)

And then, before a hushed audience and under the continuing glare of lights, he read out the important portions of the report, often citing the page numbers where the materials read out were contained. The people listened to a confirmation of what they had known all along, but had not been too sure would be spelled out so clearly, so logically.

The clock sped past the noon hour. I had to leave, to dash out these lines . . . buoyed up by the thought that, in our country, despite the heavy hand of military rule, there are still brave people who dare to ferret out the truth, and to stand for it in the face of threat to life, career and property.

Before catching a ride to the Malaya office to write this report, I paused awhile to share some words of encouragement with the members of the "walking oval picketline" who had stopped to eat a frugal lunch of bread rolls.

"Don't lose hope," I cheered them. "This is only the beginning of a long hard fight ahead."

RALLY HITS BOARD FAILURE TO NAME 'MASTERMIND'

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 26 Oct 84 pp 1, 13

[Text]

A multisectoral march-rally protesting the violent dispersal of jeepney strikers earlier this week and expressing dissatisfaction over the Agrava fact-finding board's failure to name the "mastermind" in the assassination of former Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr. was held yesterday afternoon at Liwasang Bonifacio.

The rallyists, numbering several thousands, belonged to opposition groups like the Nationalist Alliance for Justice, Freedom, and Democracy (NAJFD), August Twenty-One Movement (ATOM) and the Coalition of Organizations for the Realization of Democracy (CORD).

Speakers led by former Sen. Lorenzo Tañada, Agapito "Butz" Aquino, and "Noy" Aquino — younger brother and son, respectively, of the slain opposition leader — took turns at deploring the Agrava board's failure to pinpoint the mastermind, although saying that they have taken a "wait-and-see" attitude regarding the matter.

Tañada said, however, that as a result of the

Agrava board's findings, "it is clear that the people fully know who was the real party behind the killing of Aquino."

Brig. Gen. Narciso Cabrera, Western Police District (WPD) superintendent, said the rally organizers had a permit from the mayor's office.

The march-rally was peaceful although violence nearly erupted at 3:15 p.m. when marchers stopped for a while on España near the railroad crossing while waiting for other groups to join them from the Welcome Rotonda in Quezon City.

Cabrera admonished the marchers against obstructing traffic and, after some tense moments, succeeded in persuading the marchers to stick to the sidewalk and police their ranks.

Noy, who spoke in behalf of his mother Cory, said he did "not believe there were no other people" behind the slaying of his father aside from those indicted by the Agrava board and urged the people to continue fighting for democracy.

"Butz" Aquino said yesterday's rally was just one of a series of demonstrations to be held in the coming weeks.

TV BROADCASTS SONGS, 'MARCOS RESIGN' CHANTS AT AGRAVA FINDINGS

[uezon City ANG PAHAYAGANG MALAYA in English 26 Oct 84 p 7]

[Article by Butch Francisco in the "TV Views" column: "Great Moment on RP TV"]

[Text]

The live coverage of the public announcement by the Agrava Fact-Finding Board of its findings on the Aquino assassination last Tuesday and Wednesday gave us both the bleak and the bright pictures of Philippine television.

On Oct. 23, Corazon Juliano-Agrava, chairperson of the board, outsmarted the four male members of her commission and beat them to the draw by first, rushing to Malacanang to submit to the President a copy of her own report early in the afternoon, and second, calling the media and all concerned to a non-press conference at the SSS Hall late in the afternoon to make public her report.

In the scheme of things here, it is always the President who should be informed first. The people can wait. Anyway, both moves by the former justice were seen by hundreds of thousands of viewers who may have noticed the obvious cordial relationship between the President and the woman he picked from retirement and near-anonymity to become the most controversial lady in this country the past year. The atmosphere in Malacanang was so friendly that maybe if any of the royal occupants of the Palace were celebrating his birthday that day, Mrs. Agrava could have sung "Happy Birthday."

In contrast, as viewers must have noticed, the reception to Mrs. Agrava by the public at the SSS Hall ranged from a shrug of the shoulders to outright hostility. Just as she an-

nounced that she was issuing a report different from her male colleagues, the boos by about 200 people were loud and clear to the tense and disbelieving viewers.

The crack in her voice was also clear to the folks at home as the lady sternly said: "Whatever I placed in my report is what I believe in. I could hardly care whether you people who are booing out there should even pelt me with tomatoes or even slander me. I couldn't care less. All I know is I have tried to serve you to the best of my ability and if my best is not good enough for you because it does not subscribe to what you want of me, then I'm sorry for you and for myself."

During the distribution of the copies of her report to the lawyers and the media, viewers also got an inkling of whoever was popular among the SSS onlookers, based on the length and intensity of their applause to the lawyer or mediaman receiving the copy. And the winner was . . . Lupino Lazaro, counsel of the Galman family. On the media front, clearly the most applauded were Malaya and Mr. & Ms., both from the so-called Alternative Press.

But where the government station Channel 4 ended its coverage of the SSS Hall proceedings, Channel 7 went on with emcee Tina Palma valiantly trying to give the much-awaited scoop — the portion of the report which analyzes the airport assassination. Tina was reading its conclusion, especially the part which discounts escorts Lat and De Mesa as

the triggerman, when the screen went blank. How many collective curses must have been thrown at homes and offices by outraged viewers who had been helpless victims of foul TV censorship before!

Fortunately, Channel 7 made up for it the next day when it aired in full the reading by lawyer Bienvenido Tan of the conclusion of the report made by the four other board members also at the SSS Hall. Naturally, the people were right in predicting that the level of conspiracy would stop somewhere — not far enough. But the names of Gen. Fabian C. Ver and Maj. General Prospero Olivas, two Goliaths of the Marcos regime, figuring in the list to be indicted, along with several military men and one civilian, Hermilio Gosuico, was received with disbelief and wild applause.

Not only that. When the lengthy reading was over, where Channel 4 toned down the background sounds in the SSS Hall, Channel 7 let it known that the crowd, dired with nationalist spirit, was singing "Bayan Ko" with clenched fists and with voices loud and proud. And the last TV shocker of the moment — the crowd was vigorously chanting "Marcos Resign!" in an accelerating tempo. Uncensored.

In the regular newscasts that followed, Channel 7 showed TV journalism at its best as it presented the various aspects of the events and the reaction by the people to it, from Cory Aquino and Cardinal Sin to the US representative and the men-on-the-street. This, the station did without underplaying the other important news stories of the day. For such a fine job, the staff and crew and the management of Channel 7 deserve our congratulations.

It was a rare, great moment in Philippine television.

VALENCIA VIEWS AGRAVA FINDINGS, CONTINUING INQUIRY

'No Explosion'

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 25 Oct 84 p 4

["Over a Cup of Coffee" by Teodoro F. Valencia: "No Explosion Happened"]

[Text]

FOREIGN media people who expected an explosion after the release of the Agrava Board findings were disappointed. No such explosion happened. They have themselves to blame. They "leaked" the findings weeks ago. When the final report came, it was almost exactly what was leaked to them. As in a volcano that was expected to erupt, lava emissions and minor explosions cushioned the big blow.

* * *

With the Agrava Board's report out, the President did the only thing he could do — endorse the case to the prosecution arm of the government and indicate the proper court that will investigate and hear the people accused in the report. Under our constitution, the accused will be given their "day in court". At this point in time, nobody is guilty as yet. The Agrava Board, as a fact-finding body, merely pointed the way for the prosecution and indicated who should be prosecuted.

* * *

It is important that we underscore the need for a thorough investigation where all the accused would be given their chance to prove themselves innocent. Mrs. Corazon Agrava rejected the military's theory that Rolando Galman shot ex-Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr. Instead, the Agrava report accused the Avsecom under Gen. Luther Custodio as the guilty party. If this charge can be proved in the coming investigation, the trial of the persons named will follow. The Agrava Board did a wonderful job of it. There was clear indication that the members went about their jobs with neither fear nor favor.

* * *

Neither the government people nor the opposition leaders have any cause to question the Agrava Board findings at this time. If people insist on reading their own prejudices and conclusions into the report, the labors of the Agrava Board members will be for naught. The report can only provide the starting point for a full-dress investigation according to our penal laws and the prosecution of those who will be found to be the probable culprits.

* * *

In view of the disagreements on the part of board members and their chairman, Mrs. Agrava, on the involvement of Gen. Fabian Ver, chief of staff of the AFP, the question will be resolved simply. Gen. Ver will go on voluntary leave and face an investigation — all others similarly implicated will likely do the same if their chief does it.

Board Members Deserve Praise

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 26 Oct 84 p 4

["Over a Cup of Coffee" by Teodoro F. Valencia: "Board Members Deserve Praise"]

[Excerpts] THE INJECTION of politics or partisan feelings in the release of the Agrava report on the Aquino murder defused what otherwise could have been shock on the part of the public. For one thing, nothing new was contained in the report as it was earlier "leaked" to foreign newspapers, radio and television. It was as if the Filipinos were the last to know about very serious happenings in their own country. Even at the SSS plenary hall where the findings were revealed, supposedly for the first time, there was a partisan crowd that applauded, cheered and later sang what they consider to be opposition songs.

It was, sad to say, a poorly orchestrated reaction where normal shock should have been. Even the reactions of the opposition leaders were conclusions far ahead of the Agrava findings. In a way, only the reaction of Mrs. Cory Aquino appeared to me to be rational and logical. She asked why Aquino had to be eliminated by the military. Many have the same questions. Perhaps the trial will unravel this mystery.

Gen Fabian C Ver, chief of staff of the AFP, correctly reacted to the Agrava board's charge that he was involved somehow in the coverup or in the plotting of the killing. He immediately announced he was going to leave for the duration of the trials of those who will be indicted. He wants to waive the right to a preliminary investigation to expedite his trial and the final disposition of his case.

It was expected that there would be over-reactions to the Agrava report. Mrs. Corazon Agrava, for instance, came for special abuse by leading members of the opposition. As if she did not do enough to please them even if she joined her four other fellow members in their general conclusions. Was she expected to do as told by the opposition? I believe nobody who served in that Agrava board deserved anything but high praise for their good work.

As we had repeatedly said in this column, the final release of the Agrava board findings would only start a wider cleavage between the opposition and the government people. As it has happened, nobody is behaving strangely. All reactions by the prominent people were easily predictable and consistent with their set political beliefs. In a way, this is a disservice to the memory of Ninoy. The principal concern of all, at this point is to dig deeper into this

case and find out answers to still unanswered questions. Partisanship can only becloud facts and issues. The only loser in a partisan reaction to the Agrava report would be Ninoy and his family.

The Agrava board was a fact-finding body. The job to look into the details of what they have outlined in general will be up to the fiscals and the courts that will try the accused. If we truly want to nurture democracy, as many swear to, then we have to give all those indicated in the fact-finding report their constitutional right to be heard, to confront their accusers and to demand that they be convicted only by proofs beyond doubt. If we convict them now, it will be a disservice to every democratic principle that the accusers say they live by.

The President can rightfully claim credit for the Agrava report's courageous performance of duty. If the President had any other reason than to find out the truth about that Aquino slaying, he would never have formed the Agrava board I think the President, more than anyone else, was shocked by the Agrava report. Truth must out and justice must reign. There is just no other way.

The main theme of the Agrava report is a conspiracy among 26 people supposedly involved in the Aquino murder. Conspiracy among 26 people? As a lawyer, I have my doubts that a conspiracy so widely spread can be proved in a court of law. To probers like the Agrava board members, probably, but not to a court.

CSO: 4200/180

BULLETIN COLUMNIST QUESTIONS PIMENTEL OUSTER

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 26 Oct 84 p 6

[Article by Jesus Bigornia: "Why the Sudden Comelec Decision to Oust Pimentel?"]

[Text]

“THE President's Men” do not seem to know when to stop giving Mr. Marcos problems. Not realizing the gravity of the political crisis that the 1983 Aquino assassination generated, the Commission on Elections (Comelec) has, out of the blue, ousted former Cagayan de Oro Mayor Aquilino Pimentel, a ranking opposition leader, from the Batasang Pambansa. However justified the poll body may be or that they constitute an independent constitutional body, it cannot be denied that all of them owe their appointment and are beholden to President Marcos. Coming as it did on the heels of wide publicity on the report of a citizens' fact-finding board on the Aquino murder, the Comelec decision cannot avoid being described as political persecution.

* * *

Knowledgeable circles know that Pimentel likes nothing better than martyrdom at the hands of the present regime. He had refused to defend himself against charges of tampering with the election results in his native city resulting in his “victory” at the polls last May. It would appear that he is daring the Marcos administration to put him away in jail again, this time for election frauds. He has succeeded in projecting himself as a possible presidential candidate during the post-Marcos era. And the Comelec has fallen into his well-laid trap. More important at the moment than Pimentel's ambitions is Malacañang's nettlesome problems brought about by increased taxes and rising prices. Well-placed government authorities conceded that deferment of pronouncement of decision on the Pimentel poll case to a more appropriate time would not have aroused so much suspicion and protest.

CSO: 4200/180

CEBU PAPER PUBLISHES 'CONCERNED CITIZENS' STATEMENT

Cebu City VISAYAN HERALD in English 26 Oct 84 p 3

[Text]

(A statement of concerned citizens on the findings of the Aquino Assassination Fact-Finding Board.)

The fact-finding Board, in a four to one vote, has released its findings. As determined by the Board, the assassination of Ninoy Aquino was carried out by a group in the military, plotting and working together in conspiracy. The report represents a first step in the vindication of the Filipino people's indignation over the assassination itself and the organized cover-up staged by a group in the military establishment.

Because of the circumstances under which the crime was perpetrated;

Because of the arrogant display of absolute power and disregard for human life;

Because the restoration of confidence in the military establishment is a precondition to the renewal of confidence in our future and the rebuilding of our society;

Because of the far-reaching damage that the crime inflicted on the economy causing severe hardships and suffering to the people, immediately and for many years to come;

Because the national honor has been tainted before the eyes of the rest of the world, our children, and future generations;

Therefore, a most important

step, is the immediate and permanent relief of all those named in the conspiracy by the majority report and all others engaged in the cover-up. There is no alternative because the issue is one of confidence. This course of action must be immediately carried out. This step is all the more important since there are many in the military who are dedicated and loyal to the republic. Such a move would then vindicate the sense of honor of the military so that who remain will preserve its integrity.

After this step is taken, the people's welfare and sense of justice demand that appropriate measures for justice be taken through an effective prosecution before a credible and competent court.

The safety and well-being of all the witnesses and members of the fact-finding body is of national concern and the responsibility of government.

What we seek is justice, the restoration of confidence, and unity.

Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Bishops-Businessmen's Conference for Human Development, Trade Union Congress of the Philippines, Finance Executives Institute of the Philippines, Harvard Business School Association of the Philippines, Makati Business

Club, Management Association of the Philippines,, Personnel Management Association of the Philippines, Namfrel — Bantay Ng Bayan, Integrated Bar of the Philippines, Philippine Jaycees;

Association of Christian School and Colleges, Concerned Women of the Philippines, CCitizens Alliance for Consumer Protection Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines Catholic Lawyers Guild of the Philippines, Family Rights Movement of the Philippines, Federation of Associations of Teachers of Metro Manila, Manila Public School Teacher's Association, National Alliance of Public School Teachers Associations, National Bar Association, Philippine Bar Association;

Council of the Laity of the Philippines, Adoracion Nocturna, Barangay Sang Virgen, Catholic Nurses Guild, Catholic Women's League, Christian Family Movement, Christian Life Communities, Holy Name Society, Mother Butler, Guild, Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Young Christian Workers, Young Ladies Association of Charity.

CSO: 4200/180

CEBU ASSEMBLYMEN URGE CONSTITUENTS TO TAKE TO STREETS

Quezon City ANG PAHAYAGANG MALAYA in English 26 Oct 84 p 3

[Article by Benjie Guevarra]

[Text]

CEBU CITY — Two members of parliament urged Cebuanos last week to actively participate in the "parliament of the streets" in exerting pressure on the Marcos government to repeal the highly controversial Amendment No. 6.

In a conference with the Cebu Breakfast Club last Friday, MPS Antonio Cuenco and Nenita Daluz said they will ask the support of their fellow opposition members in the legislative body to boycott sessions whenever demonstrations and rallies are held.

Cuenco and Daluz revealed they will propose to boycott Batasan sessions in protest of the flagrant abuse of human rights and the constitutional Amendment No. 6 that grants legislative powers to the president.

Calling for general participation in mass actions aimed at restoring justice and democracy in the country, Daluz told club members and guests that "we should shake off the cloak of neutrality that has rendered us apathetic to the call of the times."

Daluz said the people should not be afraid in joining these protest actions

since fear has only isolated every Filipino from each other, which is why the "tyrant" has so rooted himself in power.

"Let us fight and fight with reason. The rule of reason — of our reason — will eventually triumph over the rule of the tyrant," she stated.

"The people have long been crying for change, for peaceful change," Daluz stressed, adding that "what we see in the reinforced protest actions is only a polarization — of those in the middle, the passive and the disinterested."

She also said that foreign support to President Marcos is actually a support to the cause of communism as there is no "tastier meat" that can force the people to this political ideology than suppression, graft and corruption, human rights abuses, and wanton disregard for the people's clamor for reform.

Cuenco, on the other hand, claimed that the new increase in gasoline prices will trigger massive civil disobedience all over the country.

The solon said the tax hike will result in a new round of price increases of basic commodities, which the people can no longer take at this time of economic crisis.

\$3 BILLION IN FOREIGN LOANS NEEDED ANNUALLY

HK161510 Manila BUSINESS DAY in English 16 Nov 84 p 2

[Text] The country will need \$3 billion in foreign loans annually from 1985 to 1990 to stabilize the economy and restore its international creditworthiness. Without that amount of available funding--fresh borrowings or rollover of old loans--and without government success in fully implementing the short-term adjustment measures under the International Monetary Fund program, poverty will significantly worsen and the debt crisis will continue up to the year 2000.

These were the major conclusions of the World Bank's confidential economic memorandum on the Philippine completed 24 October. Much of the World Bank's projections in that memorandum conform with those in the joint economic memorandum of the government, the IMF and the advisory committee of the country's creditor banks.

"New gross (loan) inflows would need to average about \$3 billion annually to meet debt service, to rebuild (foreign exchange) reserves, and to finance an adjustment of the current account deficit from about 5 percent of GNP (gross national product) in 1985 to 1 percent by the end of the decade," the World Bank country memorandum states.

The World Bank projections assume a moderate growth of the international economy (at an average 3 percent per year in industrial countries) that would not constrain demand for Philippine exports, nor the government's success in implementing not only the IMF's short-term adjustment measures but also the medium-term structural changes the World Bank has been recommending.

They also assume a high 13 percent average export growth between 1985 and 1990. In comparison, the government-IMF projections assume an annual average export rate growth of only 10 percent.

The government-IMF memorandum estimates that the country needs \$3 billion in new loans from 1984-1985 and only \$430 million in 1986.

According to the World Bank projections, the average \$3 billion in loans annually would be needed to cover the current account deficits during the 6-year period. It says these shortfalls in foreign exchange outside of loan transactions, will average \$625 million annually (from \$1.1 billion in 1985 to \$500 million in 1990).

The new loans would also be needed for principal repayments on foreign debt after the 1984-1986 debt rescheduling. It says those loans will average \$1.56 billion annually (from \$162 million in 1985 to \$2.1 billion in 1990). Those loans will also be needed to rebuild the country's reserves of foreign exchange levels necessary to restore the country's international creditworthiness.

Only minimal foreign exchange net inflows due to direct investment are expected up to the end of the decade. The World Bank estimates that direct investment net inflows (new investments minus divestments) for the remainder of the decade will average only \$90 million annually.

The country report also says that out of the total \$18-billion medium and long-term loans needed up to the end of the decade, \$9 billion will come from official sources such as foreign governments and international financial institutions. It notes that some \$3.2 billion of this total is already scheduled for disbursements during the period according to loan agreements signed 31 December 1983. The country will have to ask \$8.9 billion from foreign banks, the report adds.

The report says the "preconditions for a restoration of lending from private (foreign) sources on a voluntary basis" would come only after the level of debt service falls notably in relation to exports.

CSO: 4200/175

POPE'S VERSION OF LIBERATION THEOLOGY AIDS STREET PARLIAMENT

Cebu City VISAYAN HERALD in English 26 Oct 84 pp 1, 4

[Text] Pope John Paul II is fashioning a "theology of human dignity and human rights" that appears to be leading businessmen to join the "parliament of the streets" a Jesuit theologian said recently.

Speaking before a forum on the Bishop-Businessmen's Conference, Fr. Antonio Lambino, professor of theology at the Loyola House of Studies, said the Pope is transforming "liberation theology" in an effort to rid the controversial doctrine of its Marxist elements.

He said that the weakness of the theology of liberation arises from its use of Marxist categories that leave out the spiritual dimension, thereby reducing man to homo economicus.

The doctrine made the Vatican-endorsed "preferential option for the poor" a go-signal "to sacrifice the oppressors," he opined.

Citing its positive points, Fr. Lambino however said that liberation theology helped recover an "effective" moral passion for justice, provide a practical (as contrasted to the traditionally theoretical point of lifestyle for theology, and aided in the restoration of a Christian lifestyle that challenges unjust structures and distorted value priorities.

Fr. Lambino's words came hardly two weeks after moderate businessmen, upon the urging of Philippine Catholic prelate Jaime Cardinal Sin, joined the "parliament of the streets."

Businessman Jose Concepcion Jr., chairman of the National Citizens Movement for Free Elections, told PNF recently that he was also stressing the organization of small Christian communities devoted to "our Blessed Mother." These communities, he said, would help identify secular problems and determine ways of solving them.

Earlier reports that the Vatican had condemned liberation theology were "oversensationalized and inaccurate," Fr. Lambino said in his talk. The Vatican, he explained, warned only against certain forms and types of liberation theology.

"The arguments for or against the theology of liberation are not important. What is important is how not to nip in the bud the rise of small Christian communities," Fr. Lambino stressed.

TOLENTINO APPEALS AGAIN FOR AMENDMENT 6 REPEAL

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 25 Oct 84 p 6

[Text] FOREIGN MINISTER Arturo M. Tolentino yesterday pleaded anew for the repeal of Amendment No. 6--"for it could help reduce demonstrations considerably."

In a speech before a seminar on development diplomacy on the occasion of the United Nations Day, Tolentino said that the biggest barrier to both foreign investment and tourism in the Philippines is political in nature.

"The frequency of demonstrations here, which are always publicized in the foreign media, has produced an exaggerated and over blown-up image of a Philippines seething with political unrest and instability," Tolentino said.

He said the solution to the demonstrations is not in the hands of the foreign service for "no amount of assurance on the part of the foreign service that the government is in control, can erase the published pictures of violent demonstrations."

THE REPEAL of Amendment No. 6 could help solve the problem, Tolentino said.

"For as long as that controversial provision in our legal system remains, it will always be a reason or excuse for demonstrators to claim we have a dictatorial government and continue to demonstrate against it," said Tolentino.

The minister recently flew in from New York, where he headed the Philippines delegation to the UN. He will go back to New York for the ongoing UN general assembly and proceed to Dublin, Ireland to attend the coming dialogue of ASEAN foreign ministers with foreign ministers of the European Community from Nov. 4 to 16.

In the seminar jointly undertaken by the Foreign Service Institute and the United Nations Information Center, Tolentino also sought the establishment by President Marcos of an inter-ministerial body to coordinate efforts to bring about economic benefits to the country from outside sources.

He envisioned the body to be headed by Prime Minister Cesar Virata and to include representatives from the industry and trade, tourism, public information and other sectors of society.

SALTWATER INTRUSION RUINS COASTAL FARMING

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 26 Oct 84 p 5

[Text] THE contaminating water must have come in long before Ray Yumol noticed how it was killing his rice crop. Ray recalls, even now, how before the Second World War, certain times of the year brought in the salt that lowered crop harvests and sent village farmers in this interior town of Macabebe, Pangasinana province, in Central Luzon about 60 kilometers north of Manila, to seek alternative employment. But that never happened in successive years.

The year that the saltiness came in, however, Ray canvassed other farmers in his barrio and found most of them in quiet despair. Those who were on the downstream side, from five to more feet below the level of the river at its lowest portion, were in extremis. For the last two years, their production of the traditional wag-wag wice had dipped from over 100 cavans of palay to less than 10.

Ray went over the lay of the land quickly and decided that, though he could do something about his own farm, the rest of his barrio friends probably wouldn't. So he sat out the rest of that planting season and let his two hectares fallow. He took the easily employable among his friends to nearby towns where there was a demand for skilled carpenters and woodworkers. Then he began making the rounds of government offices and agencies to see what could be done about bringing his community some form of relief.

What he learned discouraged him. All along the coastlines fronting Manila Bay, saltwater intrusion had been creeping unnoticed over the years. Upriver to Calumpit town in nearby Bulacan province, land reform farmers were coming to grips with the problem. They, too, had no immediate remedies.

On the coastlines fronting Cavite and Manila, saltwater had seeped into foreshore lands, contaminating once deepwater pockets of fresh water. And down in Cebu City in the Visayas, exploding urban populations had pushed the saltwater boundaries as much as three to four kilometers inland.

CSO: 4200/180

80 MULTINATIONAL FIRMS THREATEN TO QUIT OVER LOST INCENTIVES

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 26 Oct 84 p 18

[Article by Arleen C. Chipongian]

[Text]

EIGHTY of the 160 regional headquarters (RHQs) operated here by multinationals are threatening to pull out, because of the withdrawal of all duty and tax privileges enjoyed by private business concerns as provided for by Presidential Decree No. 1955.

A. Lewis Burridge, president of the Philippine Association of Multinational Companies' Regional Headquarters Inc. (Pamuri), yesterday said that "the only attraction the local economy offers is the tax exemption privileges and if these are withdrawn, there's hardly any reason for some RHQs to stay."

* * *

BURRIDGE disclosed that the Pamuri has informally discussed the impact of the withdrawal of duty and tax officials.

He added that the heads of RHQs were drawing up a position paper to formally ask the Ministry of Finance for the return of their privileges.

"Officials of RHQs in the country are still hoping that the government would consider the case of the RHQs."

Burridge, concurrent president of the American Chamber of Commerce, said that the withdrawal of RHQs would mean a minimum loss of some \$8 million, as each RHQ is required to remit \$50,000 a

year to sustain its stay in the country. The pull-out will also displace some 1,000 local employees.

* * *

THE Pamuri head said that the association was awaiting response from the finance ministry "regarding this confusion brought about by PD 1955."

The decree signed by President Marcos last October 10, and it took effect October 15.

The PD states that exemption would only be granted to the following:

- Those registered by the Board of Investments under PD 1789 and those registered by the Export Processing Zone Authority under PD 66.

- The copper mining industry in accordance with the provision of LOI 1416.

- Those covered by international agreements to which the Philippines is a signatory.

- Those covered by the non-impairment clause of the Constitution.

- Those that will be approved by the President of the Phils. upon the recommendation of the Minister of Finance.

Burridge added, "I don't think the RHQs fall under any of the exempted categories."

BRIEFS

PESO GUIDING RATE SET--The peso official guiding rate against the dollar in yesterday's [15 November] trading was set at 19.955 pesos to a dollar from Wednesday's level of 19.96 pesos to a dollar. Yesterday's transactions saw 13 banks trading a total of \$15.96 million. [Text] [Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 15 Nov 84 HK]

FUMIGATED FRUIT BANNED--Agriculture and Food Ministry officials yesterday [15 November] denounced as protectionist the impending ban by the United States Government on food items, including Philippine fruit exports fumigated with a chemical, ethylene dibromide, or EDB, used by local producers. Ranking ministry officials interviewed said the United States' move expected by September next year smacks of a protectionist policy and aims to promote the American irradiation technology. EDB is the only fumigant acceptable to importers of Philippine fruit, notably Japan and the United States. [Text] [Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 15 Nov 84 HK]

CSO: 4200/175

THAILAND

CHAWALIT SAID TO HELP 'TURKS,' COMPETITION WITH PHICHIT

Bangkok DAO SIAM in Thai 23 Sep 84 pp 1, 3

[Article: "The Split Between the 'Classes' Has Been Healed Because CRMA, Class 5, Gave In to the Persistent Ones; Major General Wirot Saengsanit Was the Important Link"]

[Text] The arrest of the young turks, which caused a split between Lt Gen Chawalit and Lt Gen Phichit, was just a very minor "military mishap." After a few days, they were all friends again. Because if there was a serious split at this time, the face of politics would change and so the "heirs" in the military would change. Thus, they have to compromise until the time comes for something really important to occur. The young turks are happy that their request to return to government service has reached the stage at which Air Chief Marshal Phanieng Kantharat, the deputy minister of defense, has signed for Prem to allow them to receive pension funds so that they can first serve as pension officials. The reason for this is that things must be done in accord with the requirement that states that before people can return to government service, they must first be pension officials or people who have received a retirement allowance. They are preparing to go greet Prem when he returns from the United States and will ask his forgiveness.

Col Manun and Col Bunsak, two important young turks, were "asked" by Suppression Division officials to "come chat" about political problems all night. When they finished their chat, they were allowed to return home. This conflict resulted in "very senior people" having to settle the matter since it was feared that the situation might grow even worse and turn into a confrontation. Because each side has its supporters. And these are not ordinary people but people with weapons. There was a dispute between CRMA Class 5 officers, who hold senior positions in the army, and CRMA Class 7 officers, most of whom are young turks, who instigated the events of 1 April. But in the end, the situation ended well, with the officers of the two classes apologizing to each other for having spoken too harshly. And to soothe people's feelings, there was a big party for officers from CRMA Class 1 to CRMA Class 9 on the evening of 22 September at the Hyatt Central Plaza Hotel.

Concerning this dispute, a news report said that an analysis of the situation was made and both sides felt that a split at this time would be more disadvantageous than advantageous. They felt that it could develop to the point of having an adverse effect on promotions and on the request to grant an extension to Gen Athit Kamlangek, the supreme commander and RTA CINC, if the situation changed too much. Because the recent military reshuffle created a "balance" of power. If changes are made, the loss of balance would create several problems. And if there was a clear split, another force that is still in existence, that is, the effort to revise the constitution to allow regular government officials who are senators to hold political positions, would be destroyed. Thus, it is necessary to preserve the line "if a mistake is made now and we fight among ourselves, all our plans will come to naught and the succession to power will be different from what has been planned," said the news source.

DAO SIAM once printed a special report that stated that Lt Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut, the deputy chief of staff of the army, and Lt Gen Phichit Kunlawanit, the new commanding general of the First Army Area, have been compelled to take separate paths. That is, Lt Gen Chawalit will turn to politics while Lt Gen Phichit will probably become the next RTA CINC. A news source has confirmed this. They have had to take separate paths that will not lead to a conflict. And at present, both of these senior officers know what their paths are.

As for solving the immediate problem and healing the splits between the officer classes, a news report said that Maj Gen Suchinda Khraprayun, the director of army operations, called a meeting of CRMA Class 5 leaders. After discussing matters, they concluded that no retaliatory action should be taken against the young turks of Class 7. Rather, there should be a dialogue between the groups. Because people might misunderstand and think that members of the two groups are trying to persecute each other. In the end, CRMA Class 5 asked Maj Gen Wirot Saengsanit, the new commander of the AAA Division, to take action on this matter since Maj Gen Wirot, who is a member of Class 5, is known as a person who "gets along well with all classes." Maj Gen Wirot talked with young turk leaders of CRMA Class 7, including those who participated in the 1 April coup, in order to generate better understanding. Some of these people hold views that are opposed to those of (Special) Colonel Prachak Sawangchit, who, in an interview, strongly attacked Lt Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut, Maj Gen Suchinda Khraprayun, Police Maj Gen Bunchu Wangkanon and Maj Gen Phuchong Nilakham. These people disagree with him because they remember how well they were treated by Lt Gen Chawalit after the failure of their attempted coup d'etat. At that time, Lt Gen Chawalit was the director of army operations and the secretary of the Committee to Investigate the Wrongdoing of the Instigators. Lt Gen Chawalit played a large part in gaining a pardon for them even though they had clashed with "senior people," who are still angry. And after they were dismissed from government service, several of the young turks who were "having problems" received help from Lt Gen Chawalit. For example, he helped

Lt Col Somphong Wisetsang, the former commander of an air battalion, Army Air Center, who had a heart disease, with his financial problems since he knew that Lt Col Somphong was poor. He continued to provide such help until Lt Col Somphong recovered. He "found jobs" for several young turks. He also found sources of capital so that they could borrow money to invest in various business ventures. "Lt Gen Chawalit even helped my child get into a school, which would have been impossible without his help. I won't ever forget that. Some of us are very upset with Col Prachak for attacking Lt Gen Chawalit like that. His apologizing to Lt Gen Chawalit has relieved our apprehension. Lt Gen Chawalit might think that we have forgotten [his kindness]," said a young turk to DAO SIAM.

This young turk also said that when Gen Prem Tinsulanon, the prime minister, returns from the United States, where he went for a physical examination, on 28 September, young turks will go to Don Muang Airport to welcome him home so that he will know that what happened was the result of a misunderstanding. And interview remarks to the effect that others would make a better prime minister than Prem also require that an apology be made to Prem.

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CSO: 4207/32

THAILAND

GENERAL'S WIFE ON QUEEN ROLE IN YOUNG TURK ARRESTS

Bangkok SU ANAKHOT in Thai 27 Sep-3 Oct 84 pp 19, 20

[Article: "Lady Phorani Mahanon: Behind the Release of the Young Turks"]

[Text] On the evening of 15 September, two of the former young turk officers were arrested by Suppression Division officials and taken to Section 5, Precinct 2, Suppression Division, Lat Phrao, for interrogation. They were charged with various criminal offenses such as formulating plans to assassinate the queen and the prime minister, planting a bomb to kill Gen Athit Kamlangek and stockpiling weapons.

After Col Manun Rupkhachon and Col Bunsak Phothicharoen were interrogated, they were released amidst a very tense situation between CRMA [Chulachomklao Royal Military Academy] officers from the class whose members had been arrested and CRMA officers from the class whose members had had these people arrested.

On 17 September, Col Prachak Sawangchit, the focal point of the young turks who was very upset by the arrest of his friends, issued a statement saying that these arrests were the work of four people who oppose the young turks' return to government service. His two friends were released because of the compassion of the queen, who sent Lady (Dr) Phorani Mahanon to deal with this matter. It was because of the compassionate help given by the queen that these two young turk officers were finally released.

Two days later, an apology was made. Col Prachak Sawangchit and other young turks took flowers and apologized to the four men whom he had accused of being behind the arrests. He said that he had made this accusation because he had received incorrect information. [He said that] it is normal for brothers to argue. This misunderstanding was a matter among brothers. Blood is thicker than water. It is said that it was Gen Athit Kamlangek who wanted Col Prachak to make this apology because he wanted to improve relations between soldiers. Thus, this matter came to an end.

As the person who went to the Suppression Division at Lat Phrao in order to monitor the arrest of the two former young turks in accord with the queen's instructions, Dr Phorani told SU ANAKHOT what had really happened:

"The queen did not instruct me to tell anyone to release Mr Manun or anyone else. She had heard that young turks had been arrested on charges of speaking ill of the queen. And so she asked me to go look after their safety.

"This was the same as when Mr Anan Senakhan was arrested. The queen sent Lady Syuraphada to ensure that he was safe. But she was not involved in legal matters. She sent me to see if they were being kept in a safe place. She didn't want them mistreated for having said something bad about her. And so she sent me to see if they were safe and to see to it that they were not harmed. I did not tell anyone to release them or do anything else except that."

When she was asked about the crown prince going to the Suppression Division, Dr Phorani said:

"The same was true of the crown prince. The queen sent him to look after me since I had been gone so long. She telephoned me three or four times but I had not returned. And so she contacted the crown prince and asked him to go see if everything was all right.

"By the time he arrived, Mr Manun and Mr Bunsak had already been released. As I said, the queen did not issue instructions to Mr Bunchu and Mr Phuchong. That is, she had heard that young turks had been arrested on charges of saying bad things about her. She was afraid that they would be mistreated and so she sent people to see that they were safe. She was not involved in legal matters. She just sent people to see that they were safe."

Dr Phorani also said; "As for what I said, or what the queen ordered, Mr Bunchu and Mr Phuchong were aware of this. I went and informed Mr Manun and Mr Bunsak. The queen did not instruct me to tell them to release these men. I don't know why there are rumors that she ordered me to secure their release. The truth is that she wanted me to go see if they were safe. That is all. I have no idea what will happen next. My duty was to go see that they were safe and I did that. I was not involved in anything else. And the crown prince was not involved either. He just went to see if I had gone to ensure their safety as instructed by the queen. She did not order them released. This is the truth," said Dr Phorani emphatically.

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CSO: 4207/26

GOVERNMENT TO DISCUSS SPECIAL PARLIAMENT SESSION

BK121022 Bangkok BANGKOK WORLD in English 12 Nov 84 p 32

[Text] The government-parliamentary co-ordinating committee will hold a meeting today at Government House to discuss a move by the opposition Chat Thai Party and some senators to convene an extraordinary session of parliament, Deputy Prime Minister Gen Prachuap Suntharangkun said today.

He said he still did not know the motive behind the move, especially of the Chat Thai Party.

He assured that there was no move on any issue among senators who backed the government and they had continuously given their full co-operation to the coalition government. He added that he did not believe that they have any difference of ideas on government policy.

Asked by reporters why the government had called for a move to preempt the opposition bid to call for a special session by taking the initiative itself, Gen Prachuap replied: "We are waiting for a suggestion from government whips who has sounded out the opinion of senators and they are scheduled to meet this afternoon under the chairmanship of Deputy Prime Minister Buntheng Thongsawat and attended by ministers attached to Prime Minister's Office Pol Lt Chan Manutham, Michai Ruchuphan, Dr Kramon Thongthammachat and some senators. He said the committee may decide on a preemptive opening of Parliament after they had sounded out the opinion of the whips. He admitted they may be confused if the opposition is able to convene an extra session but this is the way in democracy and parliament.

He said that government had the duty to explain to MP's if there would be an extraordinary session and that Defence Minister Gen Prem would be the person to respond [to a] question on what has been referred to by some MP's as "in-subordination" by Gen Athit. He said he saw no reason why the government would have to resign except if it lost in a vote in parliament.

CSO: 4200/176

THAILAND

VOFA COMMENTARY ON LAOS' SETBACKS AT UN

BK121640 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in English 0000 GMT 8 Nov 84

["Special" commentary: "Laos Remains in a Deep Trench"]

[Text] Less than 2 weeks after Thailand's election to the non-permanent membership of the United Nations Security Council, Thailand and its ASEAN partners has tasted yet another sweet victory. As expected, the ASEAN-SPONSORED resolution on the situation in Kampuchea sailed smoothly through the United Nations General Assembly on 30 October 1984. The Vietnamese and their cohorts must have been expecting it too. There was never a doubt from the start, particularly after the race for the United Nations Security Council seat was over. That was probably the reason why Vietnam chose its shoeshine boy to speak against the resolution on the floor of the assembly hall. Of course, no one else would volunteer for the lost cause. And it has come to our knowledge that Laos was, of all the UN membership, that only country which spoke against the resolution. What was not expected was the fact that the margin of the victory would be so thick. It was to be sure the greatest ever achieved in 6 years. It is a resounding mandate which must send the message all across the globe that the use of force is not the answer to everything. It may therefore be said the nightmare continues for Vietnam and its allies. No doubt this nightmare will continue for as long as until they, out of their own free will, decide to come back to their sense.

Ideally, of course, we would like to see that Vietnam and their allies would be woken up by this rightest mandate. But we are realistic enough to understand that they would not be the case. As in the years before, we know that Vietnam will choose to plunge deeper into the abyss of shame and despair rather than to face the reality. Above all the so-called Indochina countries, if they exist at all as an entity. They never have any respect for the United Nations. That is why they still want to retain their membership. [As heard] There is a mind-blocking question that is best left in themselves to answer.

There is one aspect in the whole episode, however, which evokes some curiosity. Laos which is supposed to be our brother has seen it a fix to sandbag Thailand and ASEAN once again on the Kampuchean question, as it did before the election of the UNSC's Asian seat. There is no doubt whatsoever that this was done at the behest of its Vietnamese mentors. We, therefore, cannot help but sympathize with the Lao people that they have a country which does not have the mind of its

own. To say the least, their leaders have probably sold their souls. What better explanation could [words indistinct] Laos seem to have forgotten that the resolution also the wording may confine only to Kampuchean has a universal application. [Sentence as heard] it protects the smaller nation against the encroachment of their sovereignty and independence by more powerful nations and neighbors most of all. Instead of defaming Thailand, Laos should be thankful for the ASEAN efforts to devise a scheme that would insure the sovereignty and dependence of a smaller nation, and would also benefit Laos in the longer run.

For Laos, unfortunately, the skies seem to darken always; the Vietnamese clouds are hanging over its heads with its some 60,000 Vietnamese troops in the country. The hypnosis must be very effective indeed. It can be easily seen that Laos remains in deep trench until Laos recovers, which it probably never will. It is meaningless to talk or listen to it in rational term.

CSO: 4200/176

FRENCH GROUP PLEDGES CONTINUED REFUGEE AID

BK170432 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 17 Nov 84 p 3

[Text] The France-based Medecins Sans Frontieres will continue to provide medical assistance to refugees here, its local director said yesterday.

Dr Marcel Roux pledged continued aid as he took two MSF executives from Paris, Dr Catherine Dubus and Dr Xavier Cockempot, to refugee camps along the Thai-Kampuchean border.

He said his 38-member staff, including 15 doctors, would continue to work with refugees to the extent of their needs. Should the need increase, more aid will be provided, he said.

Dr Roux said the refugee situation had improved considerably with only a few cases of malnutrition being reported. Malaria and skin disease were also reported among several refugees, he said.

Dr Dubus and Dr Cockempot, who will be here for about 10 days, have already visited Karen refugees at Mae Sot and displaced Laotians and Hmongs in Chiang Khan District.

Meanwhile, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said the Khao I-Dang holding centre would turn 5 years old on 21 November.

The camp, which in mid-1980 held 130,000 refugees and represented the biggest Kampuchean community, now has a population of less than 33,000.

Some sections which earlier teemed with refugees are now closed and fenced off, according to UNHCR, which said there are now some 44,000 Kampucheans in Thailand.

They consist of the population of Khao I-Dang, a group at Phanat Nikhom and about 900 Thai-Khmers at Kap Choeng whose claims for Thai nationality are being considered by the Interior Ministry.

The UNHCR said resettlement was not the only solution for the refugees and other avenues would continue to be explored.

CSO: 4200/176

THAILAND

PRASONG ON THAIS IN REFUGEE FLOW

Bangkok NAEO NA in Thai 25 Sep 84 pp 1, 15

[Article]

[Excerpts] On the evening of 14 September, Squadron Leader Prasong Sunsiri, the secretary-general of the National Security Council [NSC], said that clever Thais who want to go to the United States secretly entered the Lao refugee camp in Nakhon Phanom Province. They are villagers from villages located near this center.

The secretary-general of the NSC said that there are about two-three [sic] of these Thais. They are northeasterners and so their language closely resembles that of the Lao people. They lived in the refugee center for 2-3 years. Later on, they were sent to the United States. But not long after they arrived there, it was discovered that they were Thais and not Lao people. Recently, they were sent back to Thailand.

"These are Thais with a new idea. But they have not set a good example. I have told U.N. officials that it is easy to distinguish between Thai and Lao people. Just give them some glutinous rice to roll. Thais will roll it one way while Lao people will roll it another way. I showed them the ways that rice is rolled," said Squadron Leader Prasong while showing reporters how to roll rice.

"In conclusion, Mr Paul Harting told me that he visited several places during his trip to Thailand this time. He also visited Vietnam and saw the truth for himself. He gained a greater understanding. He saw how sincere our government and officials are about solving the problems and helping the refugees. Thus, he thanked the government and people of Thailand. He will do everything possible to see to it that the problems are solved, and he will listen to our recommendations," said Squadron Leader Prasong in conclusion.

Gen Athit Kamlangek, the supreme commander and RTA CINC, was interviewed on the matter of Lao soldiers attacking Thai road construction officials near three villages in Uttaradit Province. This problem with Laos reached

the point where one official was killed. He said that he has ordered the forces in the area to protect the road construction officials. The units in the area have blocked the Lao forces and they now have the situation under control.

Maj Gen Naritdon Detchapradit, the secretary of the army, revealed the identities of the road construction officials who were wounded or killed: 1. Mr Thawin Chaipura was killed; 2. Mr Siwan Thunglao, age 26, was wounded in the right arm and back; 3. Mr Narong Sukhadi, age 38, had his left eardrum broken by the force of the explosion; 4. Mr Thongdi Thapnin, age 30, was wounded in the front part of his left leg; and 5. Mr Lan Tanthak, age 21, was wounded in the left leg.

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CSO: 4207/29

THAILAND

ECONOMIC AGREEMENTS WITH PRC NOTED

Bangkok NAE0 NA in Thai 25 Sep 84 pp 1, 11

[Article: "Economic Cabinet Calls For Quick Improvement In Methods"]

[Text] The economic cabinet has entrusted the units concerned with the task of improving trade, financial, banking and investment activities and tourism with China so that things are in accord with China's development situation. China has promised that it will purchase agricultural products from Thailand as it said it would.

Mr Trairong Susannakhiri has revealed that after the minister of foreign affairs and his party, composed of both government officials and people from the private sector, returned from China, he submitted a four-point report to the economic cabinet:

Trade: It was agreed that the volume and value of trade between the two countries would be increased. The initial trade target was set at 10 billion baht. China said that it is quickly increasing agricultural yields. It has asked Thailand to study matters and adjust its exports to China accordingly. It was agreed that the two countries would exchange trade data and information. China confirmed that it would purchase goods from Thailand as agreed on, which includes 200,000 tons of cassava, 2,000 tons of rubber and 50,000 tons of mung beans.

Investments: Both sides agreed to begin considering investments. And it was decided to establish a joint committee on investments in addition to the joint trade committee now in existence. China expressed an interest in investing in Thailand's potash project. It said that it would quickly consider investments by the Thai private sector in various industrial projects. Besides this, Thailand's Chiyatai Company and Beijing Municipality agreed to invest jointly in an animal feed project.

Finance and banking: China said that it would consider allowing Bangkok Bank to establish a branch in China.

Tourism: China supports this and will cooperate in Thailand's tourist activities. Both sides will promote tourism and carry on tourist activities.

After those at the meeting had been informed of this, Mr Trairong said that the economic cabinet entrusted the Ministry of Commerce with the task of considering Thailand's export trade structure with respect to goods exported to China in order to improve the structure so that it is in accord with China's economic development situation. The emphasis should be on processed goods, medicines and durable articles. The Office of the Investment Promotion Board, the Bank of Thailand, the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs were entrusted with the task of preparing a draft of a mutual investment guarantee agreement, establishing a Thai-Chinese Investment Committee and establishing a committee to go study China's laws, goals and policies in open-city economic zones and circles. The Tourist Organization of Thailand was entrusted with the task of coordinating tourist activities. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will periodically furnish data to the government sectors concerned.

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CSO: 4207/29

NATIONAL BANK TO AID SMALL EXPORTERS

Bangkok NAEO NA in Thai 26 Sep 84 pp 1, 12

[Article: "The Governor of the National Bank Makes 6 Billion Baht Available For Loans At Interest Rate of 8 Percent In Order to Help Small Exporters"]

[Text] Under the leadership of Kamchon Sathirakun, the national bank has made available 6 billion baht to save the small exporters and industrialists. The interest rate on loans will be only 8 percent. The emphasis will be placed on export goods that have a bright future on foreign markets.

Mr Nan Kitchalak, the assistant governor of the Bank of Thailand (BoT), talked with reporters on the morning of 25 September about the measures to help exporters that were discussed at the BoT board meeting held on 24 September. He said that the BoT has revised the regulations on letters of credit and on providing help to small industrialists. The credit line was set at 3 billion baht, with the following two regulations in force: Of the 3 billion baht, 2 billion is to be allocated to the commercial banks based on the proportion of government bonds purchased. These bonds, which will be issued in the near future, will be recalled in 18 months and will pay an interest rate of 12.5 percent. These government bonds cannot be used as currency reserves of commercial banks. Also, they cannot be used to establish branches or sold to the people.

As for the second regulation, Mr Nan said that the BoT will allocate the remaining 1 billion baht to the commercial banks based on the commercial banks' extension of credit during the first 6 months, that is, depending on whether the banks extended credit to sectors supported by the government. This money will be allocated as a bonus.

The assistant governor of the BoT also discussed a second revision. That is, the BoT will support extending credit to exporters during the pre-export period. This is different from in the past when credit was extended during or after the export period. Emphasis will be placed on type-three exports such as gemstones, rice and new goods that have a bright future as far as exports are concerned. Besides this, up to 5 million baht in credit will be extended for discount purchases or LC take overs for small exporters. The BoT will allocate the money

to the commercial banks at 5 percent interest. The commercial banks can then lend the money at 8 percent.

Mr Nan said that for small industrialists, the amount of credit will not exceed 5 million baht. The BoT will stipulate the allocation of this credit line using the same rates as those for small exporters. All together, the amount used to support exports and to aid small industries totals 6 billion baht. This can generate revolving capital of approximately 60 billion baht.

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CSO: 4207/29

THAILAND

DAILY ASSESSES ONGOING RAILROAD STRIKE

BK100655 Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English 10 Nov 84 p 1

[Text] Railwaymen were split into two factions yesterday over the motive behind their massive strike and their demand to the government.

One group wanted to be purely involved in the labour dispute--that is the demand for retroactive compensations of 375 million baht to about 20,000 workers in the State Railway of Thailand (SRT) whose employment status was changed from daily to monthly basis since early this year. The group also wanted the management to pay overtime payment to those who work on Saturdays--the official holiday of the state enterprise.

Another group of employees, however, wanted to include the controversial devaluation of the baht into their demand. Railwaymen in this group said they should be given additional income to offset the loss of the value of their salaries following the baht devaluation.

They even called for a cabinet reshuffle in the wake of the baht devaluation when they started the work stoppage in Bangkok on Thursday. The issue of cabinet reshuffle was, however, buried and no one mentioned it yesterday.

Leader of the Railway Workers Union, Phayung Manichot, said his labour union wanted nothing else but the demand on payment.

His union is one of the six labour unions in SRPT.

His union distributed a statement clarifying its stand on the strike. The statement said his union agreed to the strike to demand the two-point payments but "we learned later that the leader of the SRT labour unions group issued its statement which was also submitted to the premier calling for a cabinet reshuffle, a revision of the constitution and an adjustment of the government's policy 66/23."

"The demand for a cabinet reshuffle is a political issue which is not the desire of locomotive workers. We will not be involved or take any responsibility in the political movement," the union's statement yesterday said. The SRT labour union, led by Ahmad Khamthetthong, however, announced yesterday that it also protested against the baht devaluation.

CSO: 4200/176

THAILAND

CHAT THAI TO HOLD DEBATE, COLLECT SIGNATURES

BK130256 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 13 Nov 84 p 15

[Text] Apparently unfazed by the failure to reopen Parliament, the Chat Thai Party will hold a debate on the baht's 17.3 percent devaluation at a Bangkok hotel this Sunday.

It will also carry on collecting signatures for its motion to convene an extraordinary session of Parliament.

Conceding defeat following the surprise back-down by Supreme Commander General Athit Kamlang-ek, Chat Thai deputy leader Dr Anuwat Watthanaphongsiri admitted yesterday that the party would have to wait until next May when Parliament re-opens.

But while Parliament remains closed, he said, the party will hold debates to grill the government over its economic policies, with the first scheduled at the Bangkok Palace Hotel this Sunday.

Piyanat Watcharaphon, a young Turk member of the party, said yesterday that the party would continue to gather signatures in its campaign to get Parliament reopened.

The Sisaket MP insisted that reopening Parliament would ease political tension rather than exacerbate the situation as feared by some people.

He said that a meeting will be held tomorrow with a handful of MP's from other parties, at which time he will seek their backing for Chat Thai's motion to reconvene Parliament.

Meanwhile, Agutthaya MP Prem Malakun disclosed that Chat Thai had collected a total of 124 signatures, including 105 from the party itself, 12 from the National Democracy Party and two each from the Social Democratic and Progressive parties.

A parliamentary source disclosed that Senate "whip," Chana Rungsaeng, had been able to obtain the signatures of 17 civilian senators in support of Chat Thai's motion--before Gen Athit backed down. Another source said that Gen Athit had spoken with the prime minister on the telephone at about 7 am yesterday reportedly to bring about a compromise.

CSO: 4200/176

POLICE INSPECTOR DENIES HELPING RIGHTIST EXTORTIONISTS

Bangkok DAILY NEWS in Thai 30 Sep 84 p 3

[Article by Sukhon Chai-Ari: "Police Lt Col Khamron Musikbunleut, chief inspector of Hua Mak, says: 'I Have Never Encouraged Navaphon in Mu Ban Seri'"]

[Excerpt] Police Lt Col Khamron Musikbunleut, police lieutenant class 13, was in the same group as Pol Maj Gen Savat Amonvivat. He was transferred from inspector in the Bureau of the Royal Household to chief inspector of Hua Mak in the year there was a big flood. He has a total of 101 men under him for over 100,000 people in 47 square km with 28 subdivisions and a high-density area which is a center for criminals and drug addicts.

This week we would like to talk with a metropolitan police department inspector. There are many things we need to ask him for our readers who are in the "protection area" of our police.

The spirits of the Bangkokians in subdivisions inside and outside the metropolitan area are now getting low because there are many robbers in almost every village.

We stopped by to talk with the officers in the subdivision area to find out what are the main reasons for this.

Pol Lt Col Khamron Musikbunleut is chief inspector of the Hua Mak police station located in the middle of the subdivision [area]. His duty covers 47 square km and over 100,000 people. When Bangkok was under water the area that was flooded longest was under his responsibility.

[Question] The topic we will discuss first is a question from the people in Mu Ban Seri villages 1 to 8 about the case where a group of people wearing uniforms similar to that of the Thahan Pran Irregulars sent out circulars throughout the villages and claimed they had the approval of the chief inspector to suppress crimes and to maintain security in all Mu Ban Seri villages. What is the truth of this?

[Answer] I am watching the activities of this group. I would like to let everyone know that we will not allow anyone to do the task our police are supposed to be doing. However, a group of people who call themselves Navaphon Forces led by Mr Suchat Phonsing dress like Thahan Pran Irregulars and walk along the subdivisions claiming they are an operational unit, and collect money from homeowners. This has caused a great deal of misunderstanding on the part of the residents.

I myself do not know exactly what they are trying to do. At this point we are watching them closely because they have not yet done anything illegal, and no one has complained about them. I have been making periodic reports to my superior.

I also had a meeting with all the leaders of Mu Ban Seri who are chairmen and members of the subdivisions, warned them not to believe this group of people, and if there is anything unusual they should report it to the police at once.

We know very well that there is a lot of crime in Mu Ban Seri Nos 1 to 8. [Since] we do not have a lot of police here we have asked for police from [unit] 191 to help us to patrol the area. However, because these villages cover such a large area and there are many more new village construction projects we might not be able to help everywhere.

As for the Navaphon unit, when the residents see them they are afraid of them the same way they are afraid of criminals because they dress similar to jungle soldiers, the Thahan Pran Irregulars, who live in the forest. They happen to be in my area [of responsibility.]

Lt Col Khamron Musikbunleut continued. "I used to tell them that if they would become eyes and ears of the police and behave like good citizens helping the people then everyone would love to have them, but I told them not to exploit the people. We cannot let any unit come in and behave like that. I do not encourage wrongdoers...."

He finished this issue concerning Mu Ban Seri Nos 1 to 8 by saying that if anything like this happens they should report to the police and they should also act as the eyes and ears of the police.

There is a group of people who act like jungle soldiers and voluntarily suppress crimes and guard the area. Their group leaders sent out letters to the people in the villages to help pay a "reward," and also they claimed that they had approval from the local police "chief inspector." It turns out they have been using the name of the inspector to make their living even though the other party has nothing to do with it. The people in Mu Ban Seri should understand this based on what has been said here. As for how much more of a problem they might cause, we should help each other to protect ourselves early before it gets bigger.

Having an illegal force daring to come in suddenly from nowhere and insulting the ability of police officers in the municipality makes it look strange indeed!

Khamron Musikbunleut continues to provide a sense of security for his people. The inspector said firmly, "The cause of crimes in the subdivisions comes from a few slum areas in the middle of the subdivisions, e.g., the area along the banks of the Ka Cha canal. The police have searched this area on a regular basis. There are drug addicts and criminals including [transients] who come in once in a while to cause problems, and then leave the area. In particular, laborers who are migrant workers have been brought in by the police to record their history. We use police patrol cars and motorcycles on duty patrolling and checking all of Saen Saep Canal which is a fairly large area. The police still have insufficient equipment, e.g., vehicles, and we have to ask the people to help by using their boats to cruise along the canals. This must be done continually until the crime is eliminated in order to help the people feel secure."

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CSO: 4207/30

BANGKOK PEACEKEEPING COMMAND, CHAWALIT-PHICHIT CONTEST

Bangkok LAK THAI in Thai 11 Oct 84 pp 18, 19

[Article: "The Bangkok Peacekeeping Command, a Balance Between Chawalit and Phichit"]

[Text] Gen Athit Kamlangek, the supreme commander and RTA CINC, has ordered that the structure of the Bangkok Peacekeeping Command [BKPC] be improved. A news report has stated that as a result of this change, Lt Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut, the deputy chief of staff of the army, has been appointed deputy commander of the BDPC. He is second in command to Gen Athit Kamlangek, the commander of the BKPC.

What is important is that this change in the structure of the BKPC shows the balance that has been established between "Big Chiu" and "Big Tiger," that is, Lt Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut and Lt Gen Phichit Kunlawanit, the commanding general of the First Army Area.

An Order

The news report said that Gen Athit Kamlangek, the commander of the BKPC, issued an order appointing Lt Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut, the deputy chief of staff of the army, to the position of deputy commander of the BKPC. This order was issued before the young turks went to apologize to Lt Gen Chawlaith. It was issued at the headquarters of the BKPC on 17 September and went into effect on 1 October.

Because of this, Lt Gen Chawalit is second in command to Gen Athit and can issue orders to subordinate echelons.

"I have told you that Lt Gen Chawalit works very hard. His superiors have to be grateful and reward him," said a high-level military news source to LAK THAI. He said that Lt Gen Chawalit is doing everything possible to coordinate things between Gen Prem and Gen Athit, or between the government and the military and between the government and the political parties. Actually, it can be said that Lt Gen Chawalit is the person who designed the structure of the BKPC. During the period that he was the assistant army chief of staff for operations, he was appointed chief of staff of the BKPC. When he became the deputy chief of staff of the

army, a fellow classmate from the Chulachomklao Royal Military Academy, Class 1, that is, Lt Gen Wanchai Ruangtrakun, the assistant army chief of staff for operations, replaced him in this position.

Who Is Who?

AS for the various echelons of the BKPC, Gen Athit Kamlangek is the commander of the BKPC. There are three deputy commanders: Lt Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut, Vice Admiral Siri Sirirangsi and Air Vice Marshal Chamlong Bunyakitti.

The next echelon down consists of Lt Gen Wanchai Ruangtrakun, who has been appointed assistant commander of the BKPC, which is a new position. Maj Gen Chamlaeng Uchukomon, the chief of staff of the First Army Area, is the chief of staff of the BKPC. Next come the BKPC commanders for the five sectors, that is, Lt Gen Phichit Kunlawanit for the army, Vice Admiral Amnuai Iamsuro for the navy, Police Lt Gen Suwanna Rattanachun for the police and Mr Phaisan Mulasatsathon for the civil sector. As for the air force, it is thought that the person who will replace Air Chief Marshal Chakon Thattanon, who has been made the deputy RTAF CINC, will be Air Vice Marshal Prayat Ditsayasin, the new commander of the RTAF Security Force.

What is worth noting is that the position of assistant commander of the BKPC which is held by Lt Gen Wanchai Ruangtrakun, is a new position. This will help secure the position of Lt Gen Chawalit's faction since Lt Gen Wanchai Ruangtrakun is a member of Class 1, CRMA, the same class as "Big Chiu." Maj Gen Chamlaeng Uchudomon, the chief of staff of the BKPC, is a member of Class 5, CRMA, the same class as Maj Gen Suchinda Khraprayun, the director of army operations, Maj Gen Wirot Saengsanit, the commander of the AAA Division, Maj Gen Wimon Wongwanit, the commander of the 1st Special combat Division, and Maj Gen Isarangkun Nunphakdi, the commander of the 1st Kings Guards Division.

In particular, Lt Gen Wanchai has worked very closely with Gen Athit. During the period that he served as the chief of staff of the BKPC, he played an important role in carrying on things in place of Gen Athit. And most recently, he was given the task of mobilizing people to plant trees along both sides of Wiphawadi Rangsit Road.

As for the appointment of Lt Gen Chawalit to the position of deputy commander of the BKPC, besides the fact that his superiors have seen his qualities and rewarded him, this is also considered to be another move of the "chessmen" by "superiors."

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Gen Athit Kamlangek

Commander of the Bangkok Peacekeeping Command (BKPC)

Lt Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut
Dep Commander of the BKPC

Vice Admiral Siri Sirirangsi
Dep Commander of the BKPC

Air Vice Marshal Chamlong Bunyakitti
Dep Commander of the BKPC

Lt Gen Wanchai Ruangtrakun
Assistant Commander, BKPC

Maj Gen Chamlaeng Uchukomon
Chief of Staff, BKPC

Lt Gen Phichit Kunlawanit
Commander of the BKPC , Army

Vice Admiral Annuai Iamsuro
Commander of the BKPC, Navy

Mr Phisan Mulasatsathon
Commander of the BKPC, Civil Sector

Air Chief Marshal Prayat Ditsayasin
Commander of the BKPC, Air Force

Police Lt Gen Suwanna Rattanachun
Commander of the BKPC, Police Sector

THAILAND

REDEPLOYMENT ON LAO BORDER SEEN AS PUBLIC RELATIONS MOVE

Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 6 Oct 84 p 4

[Fuong Nakhon Stop Sign column by Kosum Hakthongkhwang: "The Case of the Three Villages--When People Sing Different Songs, There Is Confusion"]

[Text] The statements made at the United Nations by Air Chief Marshal Sitthi Sawetsila, the minister of foreign affairs, and those made by Mr Sawanit Khongsiri, the director-general of the Information Department, and RTA officers concerning the three villages in Uttaradit Province are not in complete accord with each other.

At a U.N. meeting, Air Chief Marshal Sitthi Sawetsila said that the "Thai government has decided to withdraw its military forces from the three villages even though the other side is trying to block a peaceful solution to the problem."

Following this statement by the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Sawanit Khongsiri, the director-general of the Information Department, told A.P. reporters that this statement by Air Chief Marshal Sitthi Sawetsila means that Thailand will rotate its military forces but not withdraw them as people understood him to say.

The views of the military, from the commanding general of the Third Army Area, which is responsible for this area, to the supreme commander, lead to a totally different understanding.

Lt Gen Thiep Kromsuriyasak, the commanding general of the Third Army Area, said that he knew nothing about Air Chief Marshal Sitthi Sawetsila's statement at the United Nations. At present, everything is normal. Nothing has changed. If an order has actually been issued to withdraw the troops from the three villages, it has not yet reached him.

Maj Gen Naritdon Detchapradit, the secretary of the army, said that the army must act in accord with the government's policies. If the government issues an order, the army is ready to withdraw its troops.

Gen Athit Kamlangek, the supreme commander and RTA CINC, said that the negotiations to determine to whom the three villages belong must continue. It should be understood that Thailand has not siezed these three villages but has sent troops to protect the road construction there.

As for whether the troops will be withdrawn, Gen Athit said that that is up to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

One aspect of international politics must be understood. That is, at present, besides the dispute over the three villages, Thailand is trying to gain a seat on the U.N. Security Council. Thailand's competitor for this seat is Mongolia, a Soviet-bloc country that is a close ally of Laos.

As for Thailand being willing to withdraw its troops from the three villages, which is what Thailand's minister of foreign affairs said at the United Nations, in addition to wanting to reduce the tension along the Thai-Lao border, Thailand also wants to show the world that Thailand is the one that took the initiative [in solving the problem], which would emphasize Thailand's position as a peace-loving country.

But there is a weakness in this proposal and that concerns unity of thought. The military has acted as if it knew nothing aobut this. And even the director-general of the Information Department, who should understood things better than anyone, has "interpreted" Air Chief Marshal Sitthi's statement differently.

This weakness became even clearer when the military unit in control of this area, that is, the Third Army Area, and the top military leader, that is, the supreme commander and RTA CINC, showed that they had many reservations about what the minister of foreign affairs had said.

This amounts to showing Lao officials that the Thai government's policy has the approval of people at the top policy level. That is, the minister of defense, the minister of foreign affairs and the secretary-general of the National Security Council are probably in agreement on this. But it is doubtful whether regular government officials such as the supreme commander, RTA CINC and the commanding general of the Third Army Area particpated in making this decision. Moreover, they were not even clearly informed about the government's position on this.

But the military wasn't the only one. After Air Chief Marshal Sitthi Sawetsila said that Thailand would withdraw, the director-general of the Information Department explained that "this is not a withdrawal. We are just rotating our forces." This is very different in meaning.

When a person at the United Nations says one thing, a person in the Ministry of Foreign Affiars says another and people in the military say something else, the hope of the government and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of building an image of loving peace and of wanting to reduce the tension will probably come to naught.

In the future, if people set such goals, they must first ensure that there is unity of thought within the country. Then they can look for votes and build an international position. But if people within the country are all "singing a different song," the chances of succeeding will be very small.

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THAILAND

1973 UPRISING LEADERS PROFILED, CURRENT ACTIVITIES NOTED

Bangkok WIWAT in Thai 13-19 Oct 84 pp 12-18

[Article: "An Historical Ruin"]

[Text] When Seksan Prasoetkun, a former student leader who played a prominent role during the events of 14 October 1973, repudiated the struggle line of the Communist Party of Thailand (CPT), came out of the jungle with his wife and surrendered to officials at the end of 1980, he said, "I am an historical ruin."

Exactly what he meant by this is still unclear today. What he meant and the scope of this are not clear. And it isn't clear, as some people have claimed, whether some former student leaders are moving from a life of politics to the dead end referred to as an "historical ruin."

But there are sufficiently clear answers to people's questions about what their lives are really like at present.

Seksan Prasoetkun and Profound Morality

Seksan was a student in the Faculty of Political Science at Thammasat University. He played a large role in the events of 14 October 1973 by giving Hyde Park type speeches that made a deep impression on many listeners. He was a natural leader in that mass struggle movement and helped lead it to victory in the end.

It is said that Seksan liked to study books and that he would frequently engage in debates with others in order to reach a conclusion. And so it frequently occurred that his ideas were at odds with those of other students. In 1975, he criticized the student movement frankly, saying that "if we don't study people's thoughts and feelings carefully, we may just end up creating a new ruling class. By chance, it may solve the material problems. But in other facets of life, the people will continue to be controlled by a minority."

Many people did not appreciate the criticisms that he made during that period, and his reputation among students began to decline. However, as the president of the Free Students Federation, Seksan continued to

carry on political activities, taking an independent stand. Many times, he and his followers confronted the Red Gaur, a group of political officials who opposed the activities of the National Student Center of Thailand [NSCT] in that period.

Just before the events of 6 October 1976, Seksan and his friends, including Prasit Chaiyo, Saman Luatwonghat, Weng Tochirakon, Thoetphum Chaidi and Chiranan Phitrapricha, went to France. After the sad events at Thammasat University, these people made contact through the People's Republic of China in order to coordinate things with the CPT.

He stayed in China for awhile and then travelled on to the front line with his wife, Chiranan Phitrapricha, and Prasit Chaiyo. They went to Region 3 bases in Loei, Phitsanulok and Phetchaburi provinces. This was known as Zone 333. This was in an area known as Phuhin Rongklao. He then moved to Office A30 in Laos, where he worked with several other student leaders. Finally, he went to Tak Province to carry on activities. Then, after the dispute with the CPT over the proper line, he decided to surrender to officials.

Following that, he went to the United States to study for a Ph.D. He was accompanied by his wife. Recently, he returned home for a visit. He wrote a dissertation on administration in Thailand. One close friend said that Seksan has not changed. He still believes that nothing can be accomplished by simply making appeals.

In the June 1984 issue of THAI KHADISUKSA, Seksan wrote an article entitled "Idealism, a Weapon of Activity or a Tool of Oppression?" He wrote that "men have been hurt by ideals. But can men live without ideals? Certainly, as long as men live together, a sense of right and wrong is necessary. But being "tied" to certain "morals" is not necessary and is even dangerous."

Thirayut Bunmi, Ideal of Freedom

Thirayut Bunmi, the secretary-general of the NSCT in 1972, was one of the 13 people who served as the fuse that touched off the events of 14 October 1973. After being freed from prison by the victory of that mass movement, he joined with others in organizing the People's Movement for Democracy. He served as the coordinator for the group. One of the well-known achievements of this group was getting the people of Ban Nasai to appeal to the government for justice. Volunteer officials had burned their village, charging that the villagers had given support to the communist terrorists. Finally, the government had to compensate them for their losses.

Besides that, Thirayut engaged in various political activities. For example, he supported having the United States remove its military bases from Thailand. And he participated in many labor movements.

Prior to the events of 6 October 1976, he went to France. From there, he went to China and then to Laos. He helped organize the Committee for Coordinating Patriotic and Democratic Forces and worked with many former student leaders and politicians. This organization served as a link between the CPT and the democratic forces. When Laos severed relations with the CPT in 1979 after Vietnam invaded Kampuchea, United Front Office A30 had to be moved to Thailand.

At the same time, the estrangement between this united front group and the CPT continued to grow. Several former student leaders left the jungle. In 1981, Thirayut's picture appeared on the front page of many daily newspapers. In an interview, he gave his reasons for leaving the jungle and surrendering to officials.

Thirayut received his degree in engineering from Chulalongkorn University. In 1968, he was the No 1 student in Thailand. Now, he is working on his doctorate in economics in the Netherlands. Even though he is now far removed from events in Thailand and even though he was greatly disappointed by the CPT, he still tells people that "in Thailand, there is still no political party with an organization that can match that of the CPT. The CPT would have the best ideals if it could be more free."

Saowanit Limmanon, What Is Politics?

This rather plump girl once rode on top of a van and used a microphone to urge tens of thousands of people to join in the struggle for justice. It cannot be denied that Saowani acted resolutely during the events of 14 October.

Saowani was a student in the Faculty of Law at Thammasat University when the demand for a constitution was voiced. She once told friends that "I don't know what politics is, but I pity those people who have given up everything in order to demand what is right."

Saowani played a prominent role in one period, that is, during those sad events. After earning her bachelor's degree, she went to France to continue her studies. She still lives there and has supported various struggles. For example, she has served as a coordinator for Thais living there.

Sombat Thamrongthanyawong, a Businessman

He was the secretary-general of the NSCT during the events of 14 October. He was a student at Kasetsart University. He then did post-graduate work in political science at Chulalongkorn University.

During the time that he served as the leader of that struggle movement, he held views that were different from those of other students. Many students felt that he was really a compromiser rather than a fighter. Thus, on several occasions, there were rumors that he was close to government officials.

A close friend of his said that Sombat was a very independent person who was intent on improving his position like a businessman. It can be seen that he did not play politics wholeheartedly. Even though he was said to be very close to a certain political group, this did not mean that he held firmly to their views. Sombat established the Siam Orchard Company and is now running the business. As for his role in another circle, he was at the home of Col Manun Rupkhachon the day that Col Manun was released from the Suppression Division, Chokchai 4.

Somphong Sakawi and the Labor Groups

He was the studentbody president at Ramkhamhaeng University in 1972-1973. He played an important role in having Dr Sak Phasukniran removed from his position as rector of the university, which was one of the things that led to the events of 14 October. He went into the jungle and joined the CPT but later left disappointed. He has engaged in various small business activities, including selling ice and fruit. In particular, he has often brought durians to his friends.

Normally, Somphong prefers to live quietly. But there have occasionally been rumors about him. For example, when the Siam Mai Party was formed in Laos by Thongpak Phiengket, there were rumors that Somphong was involved. And several people have mentioned his name in connection with the Khannayao Communist Party, or scientific socialist group, which has not yet succeeded in establishing a role for itself. He once told a close friend that he really didn't want to become involved because he was afraid that he would have to play games rather than play politics correctly. However, he is known to be close to Prasoet Sapsunthon, a former member of the CPT Central Committee who is now involved with certain government officials. He is active mainly among laborers. Very often, Somphong acts as a spokesman for this group. He joined labor leaders such as Sawat Lukdot and Amat Khamthetthong at the Royal Hotel in the name of the National Democratic Movement.

Bunsong Chalethon and New Steps

He was one of the 13 rebels who demanded a constitution during the period of 14 October. He was the founder of the Satchatham [Truth] Party at Ramkhamhaeng University. And he joined with Thirayut Bunmi in forming the People's Movement for Democracy.

He fled to the jungle after the events of 6 October. In 1978, he was the first student leader to return from the jungle. It caused quite a sensation when he granted an interview to the press and stated frankly that he did not agree with the CPT, which dismayed people in general.

After that, he became involved with the newspaper KAO MAI. And with another sum of money, he began publishing a weekly newspaper for a period. In the end, he asked for political asylum in Sweden, where he continued his studies.

What he thinks now is that "fighting is useless because it just lets others gain the advantage."

Chamni Sakset, In the Political Forefront

One person who donated 100 baht to help establish the Satchatham Party at Ramkhamhaeng University, which was the party that won the election at that time, was Chamni Sakset.

Chamni's main role involved political parties. He was the founder of the Socialist Party of Thailand. He ran for election and became an MP in 1975 when things were very "hot." He frequently won praise in parliamentary debates. In 1976, parliament was dissolved and he lost the election. He then changed course and engaged in debates in various places outside parliament.

Together with Phirun Chatwanitkun, Thanya Chunchathathan, Udon Thongnoi, Chonthira Sattayawattana and several others, he left and joined the CPT in November 1976. Along with several members of his old party, such as Khaisaeng Suksai, he formed the Socialist Party of Thailand amidst the fighting. In the end, he, too, left the jungle disappointed.

Wirat Sakchiraphaphong, a Good Insurance Salesman

He graduated with honors from the Faculty of Political Science at Chulalongkorn University, graduating second in his class. He served as the deputy secretary-general of the NSCT in 1974. Later, he served as the deputy secretary-general of the Socialist Party of Thailand. But after all that, Wirat Sakchiraphaphong fled and joined the CPT after the events of 6 October. It was said that he was an excellent speaker who had a style unlike anyone else. He could be both humorous and biting. Some officials said that if they caught him, they would immediately cut out his tongue.

He split away from the CPT for reasons similar to those of his friends. He said "don't force me to have to take up arms again." And he has never done so again. He became a life insurance agent with the Interlife Company. Ever since then he has led a peaceful life with his wife and children. Besides this, he registered to take courses in the Faculty of Law at Ramkhamhaeng University.

Wirat is a person with a thirst for knowledge. When Order 66/1980 was issued, he studied it carefully until he understood it clearly. He understands it much better than most people and is imbued with [the spirit of this order]. But he does not really like the people who implemented this order.

At present, he is an official at the Interlife Company just like a close friend of his. He has travelled all around the country. He still has hopes of becoming an MP again. In the 1983 election, he travelled to several places to help friends win votes. But he did not run for election for personal reasons.

Wisa Khanthap, an Artist Who Is Still Working

During the events of 14 October, Wisa Khanthap, a student in the Faculty of Humanities and one of the 13 rebels, wrote a poem that said that "there is no power on earth where the leader will voluntarily step down." This became well known everywhere in the country where people were making demands. He became an important leader on the literary combat front. His works include "Tamnan Ling Yuk Mut" [The Dark Age of the Monkey], "Da Saodoi" [Curse the Hill Girl] and "Rao Cha Fakham Pai" [We Will Overcome].

Wisa Khanthap continued to write during the period that he was with the CPT. There were no reports that he had laid down his arms or ceased operations during the first 3 years. His younger brother, Suphot Khanthap, was killed while he was with the CPT, and this inflamed him even more.

In 1981, Wisa was still in the Phuphan mountains. But that same year, together with fellow members of the Socialist Party of Thailand such as Phiraphon Triyakasem, Chamni Sakset and Luan Khachonsak, he left the Phuphan mountains and met with government officials. But his literary works, regardless of whether it is "Khun Kon Kandoet" [The Night Before the Event] or "Rua Lam Mai" [The New Boat], have always been available at shops, and they have impressed many readers.

Wisa's life in the city is tied to artistic and cultural circles. He writes songs for his music "friends." And he has written songs for several television plays such as "Fai Ritsaya." Recently, he has been working with Surachai Chanthimathon, that is, "Nga Caravan," to record the song "Land of Smiles." He works at an advertising company.

Khamnun Sitthisaman, the Newspaper Route

He served as a studentbody official at Thammasat University in 1974 and as the secretary-general of the NSCT in 1974-1975. He was a student who was widely rumored to be in contact with Phin Bua-on, a former member of the CPT Central Committee and the person who implemented certain aspects of the Internal Security Operations Command's intelligence program. And there are still rumors about him even today.

When he was studying in the Faculty of Law in 1975, he worked with Phansak Winyarat at the weekly newspaper CHATHURAT. When he graduated in 1977, he practiced law at the office of Kasem Sirisamphan. He then provided legal assistance at the Capital Development Company. In 1979, he again went to work with Phansak at CHATHURAT. Finally, he managed to start his own weekly newspaper, LAENG KHAO. He serves as editor and publisher.

AS for his personal life, while is is still single, he has a girlfriend who works in the public relations section at the Phanthari Hotel in Pathaya. And so he makes frequent trips there.

Kriangkamon Laohaphairot, Has Kept Himself Hidden

Kriangkamon Laohaphairot was the secretary-general of the NSCT in 1975 before Sutham Saengprathum. During that period, the activities of the students and people, laborers and farmers became more and more violent. Also, third-force groups began to interfere so much that things became very confusing several times. The officials responsible for maintaining order remarked sarcastically that this was "excessive democracy."

But Kriangkamon used prudence in handling the situation. He acted cleverly. He was young, but he was strong and patient. He was never weak. But just before the end of his term as secretary-general of the NSCT, his restraint in the face of the threats began to waver. "We may have to go on a long march," he said.

After he joined the CPT, he played a major role in raising the banner of the NSCT in the revolutionary fight. But in the end, he took the same path as the other intellectuals who laid down their weapons. He left the jungle and went back to school. He graduated from the Faculty of Political Science at Chulalongkorn University and now does contract work at an aluminum plant.

Several of his close friends feel very sad when talking about Kriangkamon. He keeps to himself and rarely meets with friends to discuss problems or have a friendly chat. He has been this way since a novel written by a progressive female writer was published. But his friends feel sure that Kriangkamon is still as intelligent as ever. The only question is whether he will use his intelligence.

Mahin Tanbunphoem, a Fight Is a Fight

He was the studentbody president at Ramkhamhaeng University in 1976. He was arrested during the events of 6 October along with Prayun Akkharabowon, a close friend from the same school. After he was released, Mahin engaged in business activities. He worked as a life insurance sales manager at the Thaphra Branch of the Aknea Insurance Company. After working there for a period, he left to engage in various private business ventures. At present, he sells food at the Ramkhamhaeng Cooperative Store. He has achieved good success.

He said that "struggle is struggle. As long as we live, we have to struggle. But it is the method that will determine whether we succeed or not."

Bunsom Akrathamkun, a Student Who Withdrew

Turning now to the period after 6 October, Bunsom was the president of the Thammasat University studentbody organization in 1981. At present, he is working as the circulation manager for MATUPHUM.

Concerning the role of students after the fall of the Thanin Kraiwichien government, he said that Gen Kriangsak Chamanan, the prime minister at that time, made it possible for students to form student clubs. Thus, students again began carrying on various activities. Gradually, the activities moved from within the universities to the outside. Students from different institutions joined together to do social work in the rural areas.

In 1981, which is the year that he served as studentbody president, Bunsom said that the role of the students had declined as compared with 1980. This was a result of the ideological crisis stemming from the international situation. Among students, there was much argument concerning political ideas, Thai society and the role of students. It was not possible to arrive at any conclusions on these matters.

However, Bunsom felt that the time when he was a student was of great importance in laying a psychological foundation and providing capabilities since various factors were very supportive. There were groups and they had time and a stage. "The activities helped me greatly in managing people, studying tasks and coordinating things," he said before excusing himself to go check the bookstore accounts, which are sent in daily.

An Historical ruin or Waiting For the Proper Time?

Sutham Saengprathum, the secretary-general of the NSCT during the events of 6 October, is now a lawyer. He has opened an office with a friend. He spoke about the fact that several people seem to regard themselves as "historical ruins." He said that while each person has the right to view himself the way he wants, each person is of value to society. The role that people play depends on the actual situation and the suitability in each period. "People can do anything that is of value. As a lawyer, I can be of help in cases involving injustice. And I can participate in debates at various places in order to exchange views, generate ideas and bring about a proper appreciation of things."

This former secretary-general of the NSCT also said that everyone thinks that people must wait for the right time and that they must have a role that they can play correctly in accord with the democratic system. In the past, this was possible. But people were pressured, hunted down and killed. Thus, some other method must be found. In any case, he believes that everyone wants to wage a peaceful struggle.

THAILAND

ARMY, ISOC SEEK BOOST IN RUBBER QUALITY

Bangkok NAEO NA in Thai 21 Sep 84 pp 1, 15

[Article: "Fourth Army Area Establishes Santinimit Units to Revive the South"]

[Excerpt] The chief of staff of the Fourth Army Area has revealed that communist terrorist activities have declined. But small groups of influential people in the plains areas that were profitting from illegal mining, timber and narcotics activities have been arrested. The army area is taking resolute action to suppress such people and is seeking ways to revive the economy.

On the morning of 20 September at Supreme Command Headquarters, on behalf of the Fourth Army Area, Maj Gen Thonphon Bunyopattam, the chief of staff of the Fourth Army Area, talked with reporters about the situation in the south. He said that at present, the Fourth Army Area has formulated various projects that will be implemented in 1985. The purpose is to bring peace and order to the south in 1985. Emphasis will be placed on economic matters. In particular, attention will be given to solving the para rubber problem in the south.

Maj Gen Thonphon Bunyopattham also said that in the south, up to 1 million families, or approximately 4 million people, earn their living by working on rubber plantations. This is 60-70 percent of the total population in the south. About 9 million rai are planted in para rubber trees, which is 60 percent of the total area in the south. But today, the south is encountering a problem, that is, the quality of the rubber is poor. Thus, a rubber growers' group must be formed in order to find ways to improve the quality of the para rubber and create bargaining power on the trade front. The name of this project is the "Project to Organize the Southern Rubber Growers." This is in accord with Policy 66/1980. The emphasis is on improving the lives of the people, building economic security and bringing about justice in order to eliminate the revolutionary factors in the south. This will be done by having the CPM [civil-police-military] units cooperate with the people.

The chief of staff of the Fourth Army Area said that to do this, the Fourth Army Area will cooperate with the Internal Security Operations command in monitoring activities in order to have the rubber growers work together to improve the para rubber and organize agricultural cooperative groups. This will be done by coordinating things with the provincial and district rubber research centers and the government units concerned.

Things will be carried out in stages. First, the 21 existing Santinimit units of the Fourth Army Area will be given help and additional units will be formed. These will be given training in improving the quality of the rubber. They will be given training at the Rubber Organization and will be sent to observe things at the good rubber cooperatives. After that, Santinimit units will be sent to explain things to the people so that they understand things and know how to improve the quality of the rubber and to get them to organize cooperatives so that they have bargaining power on the trade front. It is believed that if they have the cooperation of all officials, they will form an important bargaining force.

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THAILAND

PARLIAMENT FAULTS NAVY ON SHIP PROCUREMENT

Bangkok NAEO NA in Thai 28 Aug 84 pp 1, 11

[Article: "MPs Fault Navy's Purchase of Ships At Cost of Almost 50 Million Baht"]

[Text] The navy wants to purchase landing craft at a cost of more than 50 million baht. It has been said that these don't meet the specifications. MPs have examined the matter in parliament and support the domestic shipbuilding industry. But excellent companies should be used. At the same time, the RTN CINC has said that this matter must be carried out in stages.

On 27 August, a news report from parliament stated that Mr Thirawit Kuntharap, a Thai Nation MP from Chaiphum, and Mr Aram Lowira, also a Thai Nation MP from Chaiphum, sent a petition to Police Lt Gen Chamrat Mangkhlarat, an MP from Kanchanaburi Province and the chairman of the House Administrative Subcommittee, concerning the navy's purchase of landing craft.

The two Thai Nation MPs from Chaiphum Province said that the navy has announced that bids will be tendered for the purchase of one large landing craft. They specified various things. Here, however, only a few important points concerning charges that involve the advantages and disadvantages of the competitors who are submitting bids will be presented.

1. The time limit for submitting bids was changed from 15 March 1984 to 2 April 1984 so that another company would have time to submit a bid.
2. The width of the boat was changed from 15.50 meters to 16 meters (the boat made by the ItalThai Company is 15.65 meters wide).
3. A change was made in the number of guns to be installed on the boat. Originally, the boat was to have two guns, one fore and one aft. But now there is to be just one gun at the bow.

4. The ItalThai Marine Company submitted plans for just one model, the PS 8588, to be built at the company's shipyard in Thailand. As for the PS 8858, PS 8859 and PS 700D models, it submitted prices for construction in France.

But the navy's selection committee ["K.P.Y."] concluded that the model that the ItalThai Marine company had proposed building in Thailand, that is, the PS 8858 [sic], did not meet the proposed specifications.

5. The ItalThai Marine Company model that the navy had intended to purchase this time, that is, the PS 8858 model, did not meet the requirements of the navy's technical committee. Because out of a possible score of 100 points, the PS 5895 model received only 74.13 points, which put it in sixth place.

The ships capacity, equipment and electrical system are not in accord with the specifications and there are five violations that have not been admitted.

6. The bids were opened on 17 April 1984 and the results, as stated in Point 4 of a letter sent by the Samsang Company Ltd on 16 August 1984, were that the bid of the Korea Takoma Company Ltd was 119,386,000 baht lower than that submitted by the ItalThai Marine Company Ltd. After the bargaining was completed and the final bids submitted, the bid of the Korea Takoma Company was still 47,294,000 baht lower than that of the ItalThai Marine company (not 500,000 baht as has been reported).

If the Thai government makes the purchase on a government-to-government level, the Korean government has proposed selling the ships at a cost of 331,136,300 baht, which is 53,860,000 baht cheaper.

7. According to the conclusions of the navy procurement committee, the ItalThai Marine Company Ltd asked to be paid 80 percent of the money within 13 months--with the ship to be completed within 30 months--instead of receiving the money in installments in accord with the progress made in building the ships. This would be risky for the government if the builder abandoned the work.

The Korea Takoma Company Ltd said that it would deliver the ship 14 months faster. Thus, the navy would be able to use the ship sooner and the government would save up to 64 million baht.

8. The company that filed the appeal agrees with supporting the domestic shipbuilding industry. But companies that have done a good job should be selected. Consideration should be given above all to the interests of the country. The documents submitted by the company filing the appeal showed that the five armed patrol boats built by the ItalThai Company for the navy have cracks in the hulls. These cracks resulted because

wire and steel different from that stipulated by the navy were used. This shows that the ItalThai Marine Company Ltd lacks experience in building ships. Thus, it was proposed that the Administrative Subcommittee discuss this matter further.

Following that, Admiral Praphat Chanthawirat, the RTN CINC, and Admiral Niphon Sirithon, the secretary of the navy and the chairman of the Ship Procurement Committee, issued a joint statement to reporters on the afternoon of 27 August at the same place. They said that the navy has called for bids for the construction of these ships, that is, a landing craft, a patrol boat and a minesweeper. But during the submission of bids, there were reports that gave rise to criticisms, particularly concerning the landing craft, since bids were opened at several different times. At present, the only step left is for the cabinet to approve the budget. The companies that submitted bids will be asked to come sign contracts. Several companies submitted bids. But only two companies submitted bids properly. The Korea Takoma Company of Korea submitted only one bid for construction of the ships abroad. The ItalThai Marine Company submitted bids for construction both here and abroad. The navy asked the Korea Takoma Company to submit a bid for construction in Thailand, but the company said that it couldn't do so in time and so it sent an assistant military attache to discuss the matter.

Admiral Praphat also said that he had listened to them. But he couldn't interfere with the committee members. Concerning the fact that the ItalThai Marine Company submitted a higher bid, that is, it submitted a bid of 382 million baht while the Korea Takoma Company bid 341 million baht, our policy clearly states that if the cost of building a ship within the country is not 15 percent higher than that of building it abroad, we will consider building it within the country. We considered this properly in accord with the steps. Besides this, we were pleased that our ship was equipped with a bigger engine while the cost was 4 million baht lower. If we had the ship built abroad, we would have to spend another 20 million baht in order to send people to monitor the construction. The RTN CINC also said that because we have been able to have a landing craft built at a cost of 382 million baht, with the budget set at 500 million baht, we have 118 million baht left that we can use to build a patrol boat, which costs 120 million baht. All we have to spend is an additional 2 million baht. As for our target of building six patrol boats, things are on target. But we need another five to six landing craft.

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THAILAND

ARMY PRODUCES FDC COMPUTER FOR USE ON BORDER

Bangkok NAEON in Thai 31 Aug 84 pp 1, 2

[Article: "Athit Praises the Thai Army for Producing FDC Computer"]

[Excerpts] Gen Athit Kamlangek has praised the artillery for producing the first artillery fire-control computer. This can determine the fate of a battle. Being a soldier requires patience since there is a scarcity of funds and the army has to be ready to fight even though there are shortages.

The supreme commander said that artillery can determine the fate of a battle. Thus, we must develop our artillerymen even more. After that, Gen Athit answered reporters' questions about the use of computers to control the firing of artillery. He said that this is the result of efforts made by researchers. This requires further development. Their efforts are very praiseworthy. And civilians participated in this, too. Such computers will be of great use. This will enable us to fire the guns quickly and compute fixes accurately. And this does not cost very much.

Lt Col Surachet Hoprathum, the logistics chief of the Artillery Division and the man who originated the idea of an FDC computer, told reporters that he worked on this with Flight Lieutenant Phaisan Sanguanmu and Mr Chirachai Sichon. It took more than 1 year to build a small computer. This is thought to be the first FDC computer in the world that can convert signals into the Thai language. This computer was completed just 1 month ago. It is now being used in Surin Province and in Aranyaprathet District in Prachinburi Province. It takes this computer only 10-20 seconds to compute what it would take a person 3 minutes to compute. And a human might make a mistake because of differences in the information requested and that provided by forward observers.

Lt Col Surachet also said that this small computer can be carried by the forward observers. When they fix the target, they input a code and the computer gives instructions. After that, the firing officer converts the radio signals into computer signals. The firing angle is then computed and sent to the artillery battery. Other countries have used such a system for a long time with very good results. That is, the number of

firing directors can be greatly reduced. The cost of a computer is about 200,000 baht. The [main] computer is a large computer. It is kept at the firing center. If this system is to be used with all four artillery groups, it will cost 800,000 baht. If the computers were produced abroad, they would cost 16 million baht.

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MAJOR GENERAL SUCHINDA PROFILED

Bangkok DAILY NEWS in Thai 30 Sep 84 pp 6, 14

["Dao Siam Sun Club" Column: "Major General Suchinda Kraprayun, Strong Chairman of RTA Military Academy Class No 5"]

[Text] Maj Gen Suchinda Kraprayun is chief of Army Operations. In a ruling period that requires the security of both government stability and also national defense, the military seems to have its role in supporting the administrative institution. The military is an important support to keep an eye on because it has important [mechanisms] that have to work in cooperation with each other in order to make things go. Today this RTA military academy officer of class No 5 makes a graceful appearance. He has an intelligent look. He is a military intellectual who is able to get along comfortably with other types of intellectuals, and now he is one of the leading officers of the Army.

Maj Gen Suchinda Kraprayun, 51, was born on 6 August 1933. He is the son of Mr Chuang and Mrs Somphong Kraprayun in Nakhon Pathom and the youngest of three children. He was a good student, and finished the 6th year of secondary school in Amnuaysilapa Phranakhon, the same year as Dr Vira Pitarachat. He continued his studies in the RTA Preparatory School, class No 12, and then entered Chulachomklao Military Academy with a West Point curriculum. Class No 5 is the group that is now rising and spreading its green military cap like a cobra, e.g., Maj Gen Wimol Wongwanit, Col Salaya Sipen, Maj Gen Isaraphong Nunphakdi, and Maj Gen Wirot Saengsanit. We see how popular the number 5 is, such as the Army Preparatory School Class No 5 of Gen Athit Kamlang-ek, the supreme commander and commander of the Army, who has said with all his heart that he does not want to be prime minister. Major General Suchinda graduated from the military academy in 1953, became an artillery man, an artillery company commander, and an artillery company instructor who went to study an artillery battalion course at Fort Sill, Oklahoma in the United States. He received the top exam score in Army Staff College Class No 44 which was the same group as Maj Gen Phichit Kunlayavanich who was in military academy class No 2 and they graduated together from the Thahan Pran Irregular surprise attack course abroad. Taking the army chief of staff course has become an event of historic importance

for the classes; it is still being talked about without end. Maj Gen Suchinda Kraprayun continued his study at the U. S. Staff College and then returned to teach in the RTA Staff College. He fought in Vietnam as an artillery trooper. When he returned from the field of battle he was posted to Army Operations officer, and was then posted as assistant military attache in the United States. When he returned he became [information planning division chief] in the Army Information Unit, assistant chief of Army Operations when Lt Gen Chavalit Yongchaiyut was chief of Army Operations, and was then promoted to be chief of Army Operations where he is now. He was once secretary to the Interior Minister Gen Sitthi Chirarot, and also an advisor to the prime minister.

He married Vanni, sister of Maj Gen Issaraphong Nunphakdi. Maj Gen Suchinda Kraprayun has always been chairman of the RTA Military Academy class No 5. This demonstrates firmness, resolution, and brilliance, and the fact that blood is thicker than water. Whenever there is a political discussion this army official can easily and confidently discuss politics with political scientists. There is an old saying that the sun always rises in the east, a natural phenomenon since ancient times. The RTA Military Academy class No 5 graduates are like the sun. Nothing can stop them, nothing can stop the increase in stature of the RTA Military Academy class No 5 who are the brains and the main support of the Athit sun. They have become so powerfully entwined that one can find no cracks in them, especially when they have (Big Chieu) who is another brilliant man to be their capo also.

9884

CSO: 4207/30

THAILAND

BRIEFS

SUPPORT FOR PREM--Nong Khai--A 14,000-strong crowd gathered here this morning in a show of support for Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon, officials reported. The crowd, comprising national defence volunteers, village scouts and local people, said in a letter to the prime minister that they backed his continued tenure in office. The letter was handed to Governor Sakda Ophong by Provincial Council member Chamrat Chuklin, leader of a group of representatives acting on behalf of the demonstrators. The crowd massed at the Hor Suppression Monument. They came from 10 districts in the province, including Muang, Phon Phisai, So Phisai, Bung Kan, Phon Charoen, Seka, Tha Bo, Si Chiang Mai, Sang Khom and Phak Kat. [Text] [Bangkok BANGKOK WORLD in English 15 Nov 84 p 32 BK]

SOMMAI RECEIVES TREATMENT--Finance Minister Sommai Huntrakun left for Japan yesterday to receive treatment for stomach ulcer, minister attached to the prime minister's office Michai Ruchuphan said this morning. Sommai had a stomach operation a few years ago but is suffering a similar ailment because of stress and workload. Asked by a reporter whether Sommai's deteriorating health means that his replacement is needed, Michai said there is no need to do so because Sommai is still as fit as the Great Wall of China. [Text] [Bangkok BANGKOK WORLD in English 16 Nov 84 p 3 BK]

COMMUNIST SYMPATHIZERS OFFER TO SURRENDER--About 200 to 300 hilltribe people who took refuge in Laos because they were communist sympathizers have offered to surrender to Thai authorities and resettle in Thailand, a Thai senior army official said yesterday. Colonel Phairot Wannatrang reportedly said the mass surrender is expected to take place either at the end of this month or early next month. He said the hilltribe people were sympathizers of the communist movement in Nan Province. They fled to Laos after the government launched a major operation against the insurgents last year. Col Phairot added that Thai authorities, however, have to make sure the hilltribe people are sincere in wanting to resettle in Thailand. [Text] [Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in English 1030 GMT 14 Nov 84 BK]

FIRST NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON TRADE--Thailand will hold the first national workshop on promoting trade with the Soviet Union and socialist countries of Eastern Europe between this Wednesday and Friday. The Commerce Ministry said that about 90 trade experts from the government and private sectors will meet with representatives of East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Bulgaria, Poland, Romania, Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union. The ministry said that

Thailand exported \$50.6 million worth of goods to those countries in 1983 while importing \$61.6 worth from them. The Soviet Union is Thailand's largest trading partner in this group with Romania second. Thailand's key exports are agricultural products while key imports from those nations are chemical fertilizer, iron and steel. [Text] [Bangkok Domestic Service In English 0000 GMT 13 Nov 84 BK]

MP'S TO GRILL PREM--A group of MP's from both the government and opposition parties yesterday decided to question General Prem Tinsulanon in his capacity as defence minister about General Athit Kamlangek's behaviour in denouncing the baht devaluation and calling for a cabinet reshuffle. Mr Naruchat Bunswan, a Songkhla Democrat MP, said yesterday that the 20 MP's, who met yesterday at the Wiang Tai Hotel, had decided to submit an urgent motion to parliament, should it be reopened, to question Gen Prem. He said that even though they opposed the devaluation as did General Athit, they disagreed with the manner in which the supreme commander expressed his opposition. He added that if the prime minister reshuffles his cabinet it would be bad and give the impression, especially in foreign countries, that the government is under the influence of the military. [Text] [Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 12 Nov 84 p 1 BK]

FOREIGN EXCHANGE CONTROL ACT--The Finance Ministry is seeking cabinet approval for an amendment to the Foreign Exchange Control Act, aimed at plugging a legal loophole which enables the transfer of local and foreign currency into and out of the country. A cabinet source told BUSINESS POST that the proposal was made urgently so it could be decreed immediately. The ministry reportedly stated that a legal loophole existed in the Foreign Exchange Control and the Customs acts. Customs laws are supposed to cover money as an article under official control, whose transfer into and out of the country requires official permission. However, the Dika (Supreme) Court has reportedly ruled that money is not an "article" covered under the Customs Act and can be brought into or taken out of the country freely. The Finance Ministry, in a secret letter to the cabinet, said a huge amount of money might be siphoned out of the country if an urgent decree was not issued immediately. The draft amendment states that money will be treated as an "article" subject to official control under the Customs Act. It states that "Carrying money into or out of the country is considered illegal under the Customs Act. Any attempt, assistance, or involvement in the activity is also illegal. Officials are authorised to take legal action against the people involved." [Text] [Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 12 Nov 84 p 17 BK]

UTTARADIT, KANCHANABURI DEFENSE BATTALIONS--The two Volunteer Defense Corps battalions that were formed in Prachinburi Province have achieved good results. They have been able to shoulder much of the workload of the military units. Also, they have coordinated things well with the thahan phran irregulars. The idea of forming VDC battalions is spreading to other provinces. In particular, Kanchananburi and Uttaradit provinces will each form one VDC battalion. As for forming additional reserve divisions in addition to the 11th, 13th and 15th divisions, one more division will be formed this fiscal year. And three more divisions will be formed in the next 3 years to make a total of seven divisions. Thus, there will be soldiers available for combat, but they will not have to stay on active duty. This is similar to what is done in Israel. [Text] [Bangkok LAK THAI in Thai 11 Oct 84 p 7] 11943

TIN QUOTAS--A news report from the Department of Mineral Resources discussed the results of a conference held by the Committee to Set Production Quotas for Tin Mines, the chairman of which is Mr Siuwong Changkhasiri, the director-general of the Department of Mineral Resources. The report said that the conference set tin production quotas for the final period of 1984, that is, from October to December. The export quota set by the World Tin Association was 5,175 metric tons. The mines, including both land and sea mines, have been given permission to produce a total of 3,428.847 metric tons, or 66.25 percent. The mines of the Sea Mining Organization and of the Provincial Administrative Organization have been given permission to produce a total of 1,346.153 metric tons, or 26.01 percent. And the quota set for state mines and central mines was set at 400 metric tons, or .73 percent. [Text] [Bangkok DAILY NEWS in Thai 29 Sep 84 p 3] 11943

CSO: 4207/32

MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

ARMOR SERVICE OBSERVES 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 1 Oct 84 p 3

[Article by Major General Le Xuan Kien: "On Their 25th Anniversary (5 October 1959--5 October 1984), Armor Troops Rise To Qualify as an Important Strike Force of the Army"]

[Text] Twenty five years ago on 5 October 1959, the 202d Regiment--predecessor of the Armor Service of our People's Army of today--was established. The armor troops came into being as a requirement of the mission to build a revolutionary, regular and increasingly modern Vietnam People's Army in response to the mission of protecting the north and preparing for the revolution to liberate the south and unite the fatherland. The armor troops have been defined as an important strike force of the army. Since their establishment, the armor troops have received the concern of the Party Central Committee, Uncle Ho and the Ministry of National Defense in education, training and construction with supporting branches and services and have been wholeheartedly assisted and cared for by the local party organizations and administrations and the people of the local areas. From the very first period, the armor troops have simultaneously conducted urgent construction, actively trained, firmly grasped the scientific and technical aspects of the service and skillfully used their arms and equipment. We previously had no tanks or armored vehicles but now these modern armaments produce pride in the extraordinary strength of the army and in the honor and heavy responsibility of the cadres and men in the service--those directly involved in maintenance, care and use to truly and constantly be a technical service fighting with modern weapons.

Born during an extremely tense and savage period of the war of resistance against America for national salvation. we at first had only 30 T-34 tanks, an old type vehicle, and 16 self-propelled artillery pieces. Inheriting the heroic combat traditions and glorious victories of our army, the men in the service developed the fine qualities of the Vietnamese worker class, gained a thorough and profound understanding of the policies, line and military ideology of the party and the mission of the army during each revolutionary period, unceasingly trained their will and prepared to accept all missions assigned by higher echelons.

Nine years after their establishment, in February 1968 on the battlefield of southern Vietnam, our army for the first time used tanks in coordination with infantry and other services in battle. With their powerful firepower and great strike strength, the armor troops joined the infantry and other units to outstandingly complete their mission in the battle to overrun Lang Vei Base, establishing the tradition, "To move out is to strike victoriously." That was also the first battle of the spring 1968 general offensive and uprising.

The Lang Vei victory produced the expectation and possibility of using tanks and armored vehicles in joint service battles. This battle also confirmed that our armor troops had sufficient conditions to victoriously attack the foe in the new mission. Faced with the violent level and urgency of the fighting, the armor troops rapidly developed their forces and perfected their equipment and 4 years later, from the first victorious battle in the 1972 campaign, they participated in the major battles in Quang Tri, Dac To-Tan Canh, eastern Nam Bo and Region 5, successfully completing their mission and creating confidence among the infantry with the presence of tanks and armored vehicles. Our armor forces participated in major attacks in vital areas to greatly surprise and panic the Americans and the puppet army. They had believed that our tanks and armored vehicles would have difficulty in traversing the roads struck by their savage blocking attacks.

With their combat strength confirmed, there were new steps in development for the armor troops. At the end of 1974 on all the primary and key fronts, we had a number of well-equipped armor brigades and regiments within the combat formation of the main force corps. In the general offensive and uprising of 1975, from the opening battle at Buon Ma Thuot to the campaign to liberate Tri-Thien-Hue, the pursuit and attack to drive the enemy from Da Nang to Saigon, and the historic Ho Chi Minh Campaign, the armor troops truly developed the capability for high mobility, strong firepower and great strike strength against the strong defensive lines of the enemy, especially in the most savage battles. The strike role of the armor troops became increasingly more effective as at Xuan Loc, the Vinh Binh Bridge, the tank battle at the Bong Bridge and the attack on and occupation of Tan Son Nhat. At noon on 30 April 1975, Tank 843 of the 203d Armor Brigade, Huong Giang Corps, led the Saigon strike and occupation corps into Doc Lap Palace. Tank Company Commander Bui Quang Than raised a flag over the presidential office of the puppet administration to proclaim the death of the Americans and their lackeys.

The revolutionary history of the three nations of Indochina has a bright and shining page for the noble international undertaking of our army, including the participation of the armor troops, especially in joining the people and army of Kampuchea in attacking and dispersing the Pol Pot genocidal group and liberating the country of Angkor civilization.

Through 25 years of simultaneous construction and combat, the armor troops have rapidly matured from don't have to have, from small to large and from striking a few battles with small forces in one campaign to continuous and many attacks by many tactical forms in one and then many continuous campaigns with increasingly larger forces, making a worthy contribution toward complete victory in the liberation of the fatherland and in fulfilling their noble international duty, and praised by the party and the National Assembly as a heroic service.

Our country is at the present time in a situation of simultaneous peace and having to resist a multifaceted war of destruction of the Chinese hegemonists and expansionists in connivance with the American imperialists and other reactionary powers, and at the same time, having to be prepared to cope with a situation in which the enemy could wage a large-scale war of invasion. Faced with this situation, the armor troops retain their revolutionary vigilance and,

along with other services and branches, are ready to fight to protect the fatherland, victoriously striking the enemy from the very first on the front line. In order to fulfill this great responsibility, the armor troops must be skilled both in counterattack and attack, must simultaneously study to become skilled in defensive operations, must successfully carry out their mission and function in the strategic operations formulas of our army and people to protect the fatherland, must be skilled in coordinated branch and service operations, in independent combat, etc. The armor troops are gradually, urgently and actively perfecting the general operations plans and tactical forms of the service, and are building and advancing toward perfection of the art of using tanks and armored vehicles in strategic operations, in combat and in various types of tactical formations.

In the undertaking to build a regular and modern revolutionary army, the armor troops are increasingly important and are becoming the main strike force of the ground forces. The armor service has been built into an integral service. When the armor units are strengthened in quantity and quality, many units will receive primary strike missions in the joint service and branch campaign.

Developing the tradition of moving out is to strike victoriously, and clearly recognizing the position and mission of the armor troops in the war to protect the fatherland, the armor troops during the past few years have made new developments both in quantity and in quality. This progress has been increasingly strengthened and perfected. In order to maintain high combat readiness and to victoriously strike in the very first battle, the tank and armored vehicle units compete in achieving the objectives of the great movement, especially the two key steps, overcoming weaknesses, mastering service science and technology, and skillfully using their assigned equipment. Cherishing, maintaining, managing and caring for the vehicles and equipment, and conserving every liter of fuel, every round of ammunition, every hour of study and every subject must produce results for the student. Armor units throughout the army during the past few years have completed the training curriculum assigned them by higher echelons. Through the achievement of good ratings in inspections, many units have totally risen such as those in the tank units of Military Region 2, the naval branch and groups H01, H02, H05 and H03. In order to evaluate training results and combat capabilities, the units conduct map staff and two-echelon staff exercises, unilateral actual vehicle exercises, and actual vehicle exercises with the infantry and other services. Alerts are held with shifts to the various levels of combat readiness conditions. These tasks truly strengthen and increase the capabilities, command capacity, staff work and vocational standards of the cadres at all levels and at the same time effectively supplement the equipment use standards of the troops.

Developing the traditions of the heroic service, the armor cadres and men are elevating a new atmosphere of emulation with a "to move out is to strike victoriously" spirit, are well-completing their training and combat readiness mission and are assisting in the firm protection of the beloved fatherland.

MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

BRIEFS

DEGA-FULRO BATTLE ACTIVITIES--On 6 September, Dega-Fulro guerrillas attacked the Le Duan Vietnamese soldiers west of a position in (Dek Keo), (Phnum Beh) District, in Play Cu, killing one and destroying a C-25 radio. On 8 September, the Dega-Fulro guerrillas attacked the Le Duan Vietnamese at (Tonle Ropap), west of (Ho Chi Minh), killing two and wounding three. Between 13 and 16 September, the Dega-Fulro guerrillas attacked the Le Duan Vietnamese soldiers west of (Phnum Phu Nhoet), (Phnum Thom) District, and at (O Lap), also in (Phnum Thom) District, killing six and seizing an AK, an M-16, and an AR-15. In sum, on the Play Cu battlefield, the Dega-Fulro killed or wounded 12 Le Duan Vietnamese enemy soldiers. [Text] [(Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 2 Nov 84]

CSO: 4212/11

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, TRADE AND AID

UN RESOLUTION ON KAMPUCHEA TERMED 'OF NO VALUE'

BK071159 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 6 Nov 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] The 39th Session of the UN General Assembly has concluded its general debate. In their speeches, representatives of many countries spoke less of the situation in Southeast Asia as compared to other issues. Following is our commentator's analysis on these issues:

In the general debate, the UN General Assembly heard 151 speeches. Most of them referred to three current big issues--that is, peace, security and disarmament; the worsening economic situation; and regional problems. On those regional problems, most of the speeches focused on the three hottest points in the world at present--that is, Central America, the Middle East, and Southern Africa. They directly or indirectly criticized the warlike and aggressive policy of the United States in these regions. They strongly criticized the reactionary forces--henchmen of the United States in El Salvador and Honduras, in Central America; Israel in the Middle East; and South Africa in Southern Africa.

The number of speeches referred to the situation in Southeast Asia in general and in Kampuchea in particular are more or less the same of those in the last UN session. Though there are many noteworthy points in the contents of these speeches, they only referred to this issue in a general manner. A number of countries, if one does not want to say many, spoke vaguely of the situation in Kampuchea. Moreover, the viewpoint of these countries, expressed in a sophisticated way, shows that their understanding of and sympathy with the situation and viewpoint of Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea and, to different extents, are in conformity with realities in Kampuchea and Southeast Asia.

Despite China's pressure and instigation backed by the United States and ASEAN, the number of countries sympathizing with the Polpotists disguised under the fanciful camouflage of the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea is very few. Among the 151 speeches, only 7 recalled the ailing political corpse which does not exist in reality. Another fact is that almost none takes the question of unilateral withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea as a precondition as it was in the past, while the tendency to seek for a solution to the Southeast Asia problem in general and that of Kampuchea in particular

outside the United Nations is increasingly developing. There are more and more countries realizing that the resolution adopted by the majority at the United Nations on Kampuchea, which is unjust to the Kampuchean people, is eventually a piece of paper of no value.

Some countries spoke at the United Nations one thing, and outside this forum, another. They obviously affirm the deadlock of any un-passed solution once the majority of the countries are still under the pressure from the United States, China and their followers. Through these speeches, we can see clearly the tendency of separating from China's policy toward the developing issues of the Indochinese countries. There is also a trend among countries to encourage the settlement of the Southeast Asian problem in general and Kampuchea in particular through dialogue on the basis of justice, equality and respect for the interests of all concerned parties. The number of countries wanting to have a political solution through peaceful dialogue is increasing. Although there are many differences in the concept of a solution. Although there are many differences in the concept of a solution, all this shows that the trend toward regional dialogue is in conformity with the common desire of the international community to decrease confrontation and hold dialogue. This is the stand of the three Indochinese countries, which is at variance with that of China, who wants to instigate confrontation to fish in troubled waters.

The general debate of the 39th Session of the UN General Assembly has concluded. The genocidal Pol Pot clique, backed by China, the United States, and other reactionary forces, is still occupying the Kampuchean seat. Under pressure from the United States, China and their followers, the majority of the United Nations has passed another erroneous and insignificant resolution on the so-called situation in Kampuchea. For Vietnam, Kampuchea, Laos and other freedom- and justice-loving countries, this resolution is nothing. It has no value of morality, legality, reality and conscience because first of all, this resolution, right from the start and from its nature, is a merciless refusal to the right to live and to be happy and free of the peoples of Kampuchea, Vietnam and Laos.

Though the genocidal Polpotists still sit at the United Nations and are supported by Reagan and Deng Xiaoping and those of the same feather, it is certain that they have no foothold in Kampuchea and in the history of the Khmer nation. They were already sentenced to death by the Kampuchean People's Tribunal. The progress of history of the Khmer nation is decided in Kampuchea by the Kampuchean people, not anywhere else and by no one else.

In a commentary on 18 October, when the general debate of the UN General Assembly was going on, the BBC predicted that this session of the UN will adopt another resolution on the situation in Kampuchea. Yet, said BBC, though this kind of resolution is passed annually by the majority, no one pays heed to it while the Heng Samrin government, in BBC words, continues to consolidate in Kampuchea.

The PRK is growing. The Khmer nation is strongly reviving. The solidarity among the three Indochinese countries is strengthening. The situation in Vietnam, Kampuchea and Laos is becoming better and better. That is a trend and a law.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, TRADE AND AID

NHAN DAN HAILS TIMELY WPC SUPPORT FOR NICARAGUA

OW140811 Hanoi VNA in English 0741 GMT 14 Nov 84

[Text] Hanoi, VNA, 14 Nov--NHAN DAN today says that the world peace council's decision to make 14 November the international day for solidarity with the Nicaraguan people demonstrated the high sense of responsibility of the force of peace, national independence, democracy and social progress, who are siding with the Nicaraguan people in these grave hours of trial.

"Once again," the paper says, "the Reagan administration has revealed its extremely brutal nature in Central America. It has brought the situation there to an extremely dangerous point fraught with unforeseeable consequences. By using force to threaten a small independent and sovereign country, the U.S. administration has brazenly trampled upon the elementary international laws. The same aggressors who have invaded Grenada are positively planning an aggression against Nicaragua in an attempt to abolish an indomitable symbol in Latin America.

The Reagan administration's overt threat to invade Nicaragua, an independent, sovereign country, a member of the non-aligned movement and of the UN Security Council, has plainly shown that Washington's bellicose and reactionary policy remains unchanged."

The paper goes on: "Threatening to invade Nicaragua is an offence against the conscience of the whole progressive mankind. Nicaragua, after the successful 4 November general election, has gained added spiritual and material strength. The world people, including the progressive people in the United States, are uniting with the heroic Nicaraguan people in their struggle against the U.S. imperialists.

"A comrade-in-arms standing in the same trench as the Nicaraguan people, the Vietnamese people deeply sympathize with them and firmly believe that the invincible Nicaraguan revolution will triumph over all dark schemes of the enemy. Together with the world peace and progressive forces, we strongly condemn the dangerous schemes and acts of the United States against Nicaragua. We reaffirm our full support for the revolutionary cause of the fraternal Nicaraguan people." "Nicaragua will be a second Vietnam if the U.S. dares to invade it," the paper warns.

CSO: 4200/178

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, TRADE AND AID

TRUONG CHINH SENDS GREETINGS TO OAU CONFERENCE

OW141045 Hanoi VNA in English 0813 GMT 14 Nov 84

[Text] Hanoi, VNA, 13 Nov--State Council President Truong Chinh has sent his warm greetings to the 20th Summit Conference of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in Addis Ababa.

President Truong Chinh said in his message:

"Imperialist and reactionary forces are trying to sow division among African countries in order to weaken their unity and divert the OAU from its objectives. But the African nations have strengthened their solidarity and are determined to fight against imperialism, colonialism new and old, racism and apartheid in defence of their national rights and natural resources, for a new world economic order, thus making important contributions to the world people's struggle for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress.

"The Vietnamese people and government fully support the African people's just struggle, especially the fight of the Namibian and the South African peoples under the leadership of the South West African People's Organization (SWAPO) and the African National Council (ANC) against the rule of the South African racists.

"We believe that the African people, rallying around the OAU and in solidarity with peace-loving and progressive forces in the world, will win bigger successes in their just struggle.

"May the friendship and solidarity between the Vietnamese people and the African peoples be further strengthened and developed."

CSO: 4200/178

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, TRADE AND AID

SRV LEADERS CONGRATULATE NICARAGUANS ON ELECTION

OW161608 Hanoi VNA in English 1534 GMT 16 Nov 84

[Text] Hanoi, VNA, 16 Nov--Vietnamese leaders have extended their warmest congratulations to Daniel Ortega Saavedra and Carlos Nunez on their elections respectively as president and chairman of the National Assembly, of the Republic of Nicaragua.

The message from president of the State Council Truong Chinh to President Daniel Ortega Saavedra reads:

"The returns of the 4 November elections were an eloquent demonstration of the Nicaraguan people's close solidarity with the strong support for the genuine Nicaraguan revolution under the correct and clear-sighted leadership of the Sandinista National Liberation Front, the vanguard contingent of the heroic Nicaraguan people.

"I firmly believe that the heroic Nicaraguan people, under the leadership of the Sandinista National Liberation Front and the Nicaraguan Government headed by you, will continue to march forward to obtain still greater successes in their arduous but surely victorious struggle to build and defend an independent, democratic and prosperous Nicaragua."

His message to Chairman Carlos Nunez, chairman of the National Assembly Nguyen Huu Tho reaffirmed Vietnam's militant solidarity with and full support for the revolutionary cause of the Nicaraguan people, and wished for further consolidation and development of the militant solidarity and fraternal friendship between the two countries.

CSO: 4200/178

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, TRADE AND AID

NHAN DAN CRITICISES UN RESOLUTION ON AFGHANISTAN

OW190829 Hanoi VNA in English 0723 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Quotation marks as received]

[Text] Hanoi, VNA, 19 Nov--The resolution on the so-called "Afghanistan situation" recently adopted at the 30th General Assembly of the United Nations is aimed at shielding the aggressors and interventionists, and an act of turning one's back on the victim," NHAN DAN notes in a commentary today.

The paper says: "Wide public opinion in the world has pointed out that the cause of the present situation around Afghanistan is the undeclared war against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan by the U.S. imperialists in collusion with the Chinese hegemonists and other reactionary forces.

"Everyone knows that the presence of a limited number of Soviet troops in the territory of Afghanistan is in compliance with Afghanistan's request and the treaty of friendship and cooperation between the two countries signed in 1978. This also conforms with the UN Charter.

Afghanistan and the Soviet Union have many times made it clear that the withdrawal of Soviet troops can be considered only when the aggression against Afghanistan has ended with the guarantee of no repetition of sabotage acts from outside against the people and government of Afghanistan. This is a clear, righteous and reasonable stance which meets the interests not of Afghanistan alone but also of peace and stability in southwest Asia. The key problem is for Washington, Beijing and Islamabad and their lackeys to stop all acts of aggression and intervention against Afghanistan."

"The Vietnamese people fully support the correct and persistent stance of the government and people of Afghanistan. They highly value the cooperation and generous assistance extended by the Soviet Union to the people of Afghanistan. The situation in Afghanistan is stable and be reversed by no reactionary force," NHAN DAN says.

CSO: 4200/178

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, TRADE AND AID

BRIEFS

SUHARTO RECEIVES SRV ENVOY--Hanoi, VNA, 14 Nov--Indonesian President Suharto has expressed his wish for ever closer cooperation between Indonesia and Vietnam. While receiving the credentials of Tran Huy Chuong, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the socialist Republic of Vietnam, President Suharto exalted the time-honoured friendly relationship between the two countries. He expressed the belief that "in the coming years, we will prove the ever closer relationship and the over developing cooperation between the two peoples and the two countries." [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1537 GMT 14 Nov 84 OW]

SRV TRADE GROUP RECEIVED--Hanoi, VNA, 14 Nov--A delegation of the Vietnamese Ministry of Foreign Trade led by Minister Le Khac arrived in New Delhi Tuesday on an official visit to India at the invitation of Indian Minister of Finance and of Commerce Pranab Mukherjee. On the same day, P. Mukherjee received and conferred with Le Khac. The two sides expressed satisfaction at the development of the friendship and cooperation between the two countries and expressed the wish for further promotion of these relations. The Indian minister affirmed that though India was having its own problems, the Indian Government would do its best to further promote bilateral relations, especially to ensure fruitful economic cooperation with Vietnam. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1611 GMT 14 Nov 84 OW]

EMBASSIES ISOLATED IN HANOI--Hanoi, 14 Nov, KYODO--An area in Hanoi where the Japanese Embassy is located has been isolated from other areas by a flood triggered by an unseasonal typhoon which hit northern Vietnam last Thursday through Friday. Electricity and water service are still being suspended in the quarters where the Philippine and Thai embassies and international organization offices are also located. Many residences for diplomats from the Soviet Union, East Europe and Western nations are also located in the same quarters, left as an isolated island on the land. They are waiting for food supply. The typhoon left 60 people dead, 100 injured and destroyed 1,000 houses, 100 schools and 130,000 hectares of paddy fields, according to radio Hanoi report on Tuesday. The typhoon caused 400 to 700 millimeters of rain in Hanoi and Thanh Hoa and Ha Nam Ninh provinces--the heaviest rainfall in a century for this season. In Hanoi, water in drainageways and ponds in low-level areas flooded. [Text] [Tokyo KYODO in English 0004 GMT 14 Nov 84 OW]

FIRST SRV ENVOY RECEIVED--Hanoi, VNA, 15 Nov--A. G. Sokomanu, president of the Republic of Vanuatu, has praised the close friendly relations between Vietnam

and Vanuatu and expressed his wish for developing them in the interests of the two countries and of peace and development in the region. President A. G. Sokomanu said so on 5 November when receiving the credentials presented by Hoang Bao Son, the first Vietnamese ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Vanuatu. At a separate reception of Ambassador Hoang Bao Son, Premier of Vanuatu Walter Lini affirmed that the people of Vanuatu respected and admired the Vietnamese people and that Vanuatu was ready to strengthen and develop friendly relations and cooperation with Vietnam." [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1726 GMT 15 Nov 84 OW]

HAVANA CONFERENCE--Hanoi, VNA, 15 Nov--Phan Hien, Vietnamese minister of Justice, left here Wednesday for the 8th Conference of Justice Ministers of Socialist Countries to be held in Havana, Cuba, soon. Minister Phan Hien was seen off by his deputies Phung Van Tuu and Dao Xuan Mien, and the Cuban charge d'affaires a.i. and a representative of the Soviet Embassy here. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 0756 GMT 16 Nov 84 OW]

GANDHI ASSASSINS--Secretary General of the Indian Communist Party Rajeshwar Rao denounced the United States and the CIA for carrying out an anti-India policy and working out a plan of assassination of the late Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. Speaking at the press conference in New Delhi on Thursday, 15 November, Mr Rajeshwar Rao said the coward assassination of Mrs Indira Gandhi is the high peak of the dirty plot of imperialism in an attempt to sabotage the progressive foreign policy, the sovereignty, and territorial integrity of India. The same day at a teach-in in New Delhi, Mr Darbara Singh, former governor of Punjab state, denounced the United States, Britain, the Federal Republic of Germany, and China for massively supplying weapons to Pakistan, lending a hand to the terrorists to oppose India. The Indian newspaper HINDUSTAN TIMES said on Friday that the murderer of Mrs Indira Gandhi received \$100,000. [Text] [Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 17 Nov 84 BK]

U.S. ACCUSED OF SLANDER--Hanoi, VNA, 17 Nov--"The slander campaign against Bulgaria, the Soviet Union and the socialist community as a whole around the attempt on the life of Pope John Paul II in 1981 is part of the new anti-communist crusade launched by President Ronald Reagan," says NHAN DAN in a commentary today. The paper says: "By accusing Bulgaria of terrorism against Pope John Paul II, the Western PSY-war machine hopes to distract world public attention from the vicious scheme of the United States and other Western countries which are feverishly stepping up the arms race and preparing for a nuclear war, thus dangerously threatening peace and the security of nations. That campaign, "the paper says," also aims at opposing the policy of dialogue, international detente and disarmament successively put forward in the past years by the Soviet Union and other socialist countries and many progressive nations." "World opinion strongly demands that the Italian court free at once Bulgarian citizen S. I. Antonov and that the United States and other Western countries immediately stop their slander campaign against Bulgaria, the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. "The Vietnamese people join all justice-loving people across the world in demanding the immediate release of Antonov," the paper says. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 0726 GMT 17 Nov 84 OW]

WATER CONSERVANCY AGREEMENT--Hanoi, VNA, 18 Nov--A cooperation and aid agreement in water conservancy between Vietnam and Kampuchea for 1985 was signed in Ho Chi Minh City on 15 November. Signatories were Nguyen Canh Dinh, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee and minister of water conservancy and Kong Sam-ol, minister of agriculture and head of the Kampuchean delegation. Under this agreement, Vietnam will help Kampuchea train technical workers, design and build irrigation projects, and a delegation of Kampuchean cadres will visit Vietnam's major irrigation projects. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1706 GMT 18 Nov 84 BK]

FLOOD LOSSES--Hanoi, VNA, 18 Nov--Chairman of the Council of Ministers Pham Van Dong has received a message from his Kampuchean counterpart Chan Sy expressing the Kampuchean people's deep sympathy over the losses in lives and property caused by the recent torrential rains in Central Vietnam provinces. Chan Si expressed his belief that the Vietnamese people, under the sagacious leadership of the Communist Party and government, will overcome difficulties and bring life back to normal in a short time. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 0726 GMT 18 Nov 84 OW]

NGUYEN DINH TU DEPARTS ALGERIA--Hanoi, VNA, 4 Nov--The Vietnamese party and government delegation led by Nguyen Dinh Tu, member of the C.P.V. Central Committee and minister of higher and secondary vocational education, left Algiers on November 3 for home after attending the celebration of the 30th anniversary of Algeria's revolution (November 1). While in Algeria, Nguyen Dinh Tu was cordially received by President Chadli Benjedid. He also met with Bouhara, permanent member of the secretariat of the Central Committee of the Algerian National Liberation Front Party and head of its international department. Nguyen Dinh Tu also had cordial meetings with the Algerian minister of higher education and scientific research and the director of the Algerian Atomic Centre. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1515 GMT 4 Nov 84]

PAVILION AT BAGHDAD FAIR--Hanoi, VNA, 5 Nov--Vietnam is participating in the 21st Baghdad international fair held in the Iraqi capital from November 1-15. The Vietnamese pavilion displays art and handicraft articles such as woollen carpets, lacquer and rattan ware, embroideries and potteries, and tea, coffee and other agricultural products. Hassan 'Ali, member of the Revolutionary Command Council and minister of trade of Iraq, on November 2 visited the pavilion. He expressed his admiration for Vietnamese craftsmanship and his hope that the Vietnam-Iraq relations will be further developed. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1600 GMT 5 Nov 84 OW]

SOVIET BUILT WORKSHOP COMMISSIONED--Hanoi, VNA, 6 Nov--The prefab-concrete factory of the union of Thang Long bridge building enterprises in Hanoi on November 5 officially commissioned a concrete sleeper workshop as a practical deed in honour of the 67th anniversary of the Great October Revolution. Equipped by the Soviet Union, the factory can manufacture 225,000 sleepers a year. The workshop was completed after more than a year of close cooperation between Vietnamese workers and Soviet experts. It plans to produce 10,000 sleepers from now to the end of the year for the construction of the Thang Long bridge and of railways in other places of Hanoi. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1447 GMT 6 Nov 84 OW]

AMITY GROUP GREETES NEHRU ANNIVERSARY--Hanoi, VNA, 6 Nov--The Vietnam-India Friendship Association has sent a message of greetings to Indian Prime

Minister Rajiv Gandhi on the 95th anniversary of the birth of former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. The message says: "Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru was not only a great leader of the Indian people but also a valiant fighter for national independence and world peace. He was one of the founders of the non-aligned movement and made great contributions to defining and firmly maintaining the movement's goal of struggling against imperialism and colonialism and for world peace and security. As a very close friend of the Vietnamese people, the prime minister, together with President Ho Chi Minh, fostered the friendship and solidarity between the Vietnamese and Indian peoples, friendship and solidarity which are developing fruitfully in the interests of the revolution in each country and for the common benefit of peace and security in Asia and the rest of the world. We wish that the Indian people, under the leadership of your excellency, will rapidly overcome the great losses and sorrows caused by the assassination of Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi by reactionaries, and will record greater achievements in building a happy and prosperous India." [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1516 GMT 6 Nov 84]

TRUONG CHINH RECEIVES HUNGARIAN ENVOY--Hanoi, VNA, 6 Nov--Bela Benyei, Hungarian ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Vietnam today called on State Council President Truong Chinh. President Truong Chinh had a cordial talk with the ambassador. Acting director of the office of the National Assembly and of the Council of State Le Trang was present on the occasion. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1522 GMT 6 Nov 84]

CSO: 4200/140

PARTY ACTIVITIES AND GOVERNMENT

NHAN DAN ON RESULTS OF 6TH PLENUM RESOLUTION

BK060638 Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 30 Sep 84 pp 1, 4

[Text] The resolution of the party Central Committee's sixth plenum is generating a new source of vigor within the party, and it is being urgently and scrupulously implemented. By satisfactorily combining efforts to study the resolution with efforts to carry it out and by devising specific plans of action, all local party committee echelons and the various departments and sectors at the central level have really devoted themselves to this work.

All municipalities, provinces, and the special zone are concentrating efforts on carrying out major projects aimed at reorganizing production, improving management over the basic units, resolving a number of pressing problems related to the distribution and circulation of goods, tightening market management, and stabilizing step by step the living conditions of workers, state employees, members of the Armed Forces, and the working people.

Hanoi Municipality's main tasks consist of improving the livelihood of the working people, continuing to accelerate the transformation of private trade, continuing to finish the intensive work activities planned for its suburbs, and rearranging its industry and handicrafts. Meanwhile, the plan adopted by Ho Chi Minh City focuses on a number of tasks designed to transform private industry and trade, reorganize production, and improve the distribution and circulation of goods. The city has also adopted a number of systems and policies regarding Assault Youths and persons leaving to build new economic zones.

Initial efforts are being made to renovate economic management in the various localities. Such efforts consist of rearranging the various production sectors, accelerating the decentralization of management and the turnover of basic units to the district level, building the district into a planning and budgetary level fully capable of assuming comprehensive socioeconomic management within the district, broadening the initiative of enterprises in production and business, and so forth.

However, the central government still needs to devise specific regulations and uniform policies dealing with local- and grassroots-level problems and to direct their implementation promptly with a view to resolving the major relations between agriculture and industry; between the central and local

levels; and among the state-run, collectivized, and family-based economic sectors so as to develop the potentials and strong points of each locality.

It is noteworthy that all the localities are intensively carrying out tasks aimed at transforming private trade; expanding socialist trade; tightening market management; positively controlling the sources of goods, especially grain and other agricultural produce, as well as marine products and industrial, small industry, and handicrafts products; controlling money; ensuring the state's unified control over the trading of essential commodities; punishing speculators and smugglers; and guaranteeing the supply of essential commodities to workers, state employees, and members of the Armed Forces. Hanoi has made considerable progress in ensuring the supply of nine items of goods to workers and state employees, gained initial control over the cigarette market, punished a number of smugglers, and proceeded toward gaining tight control over the catering service sector under different forms. Meanwhile, Ho Chi Minh City is vigorously developing the socialist trade network by expanding its collection and purchasing operations, wholesale and retail activities, and service. The socialist trade sector has succeeded in controlling 70 percent of the social market's grain, 70 percent of pork, 41 percent of vegetables and fruits, 44 percent of fresh fish, 62 percent of sugar, and 80 percent of fishsauce; and it is striving to control 80 percent of wholesale value and 60 percent of retail value by the end of this year. Efforts to transform bourgeois business households are also being stepped up.

Haiphong Municipality and Quang Nam-Danang are also accelerating the transformation of private trade, expanding socialist trade, tightening market management, and stepping up the collection and purchase of agricultural and forestry products. The total value of goods collected and purchased locally in Haiphong in the first 9 months of this year was up by 19 percent over the same period last year. Quang Nam-Danang is tightening management over timber and other major forestry products such as cinnamon, Aleurites Cordata, and so forth; eliminating the trading bourgeoisie and private traders' operations involving the sale and transportation of timber and other forestry products, and expanding the retail network to sell grain at business-guaranteed prices to all people in the city.

Ha Nam Ninh has also organized the sale of grain to nonagricultural people at business-guaranteed prices. Vinh Phu and Hai Hung have gained unified control over the pork and beef market. Vinh Phu and Ha Bac have opened numerous outlets to sell cigarettes and prohibited private traders from dealing in this item.

In all localities where it is applied to life, the resolution of the party Central Committee's sixth plenum has brought about initial results and filled everyone with confidence.

PARTY ACTIVITIES AND GOVERNMENT

VU DINH LIEU ON PLANNING IN HAIPHONG, HAI HUNG

BK311531 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Text] Recently Comrade Vu Dinh Lieu, member of the party Central Committee and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and representatives of the State Planning Commission and the ministries of agriculture, forestry, marine products, water conservancy, and power went to Hai Hung and Haiphong and discussed with local leaders the fundamental spirit and the main orientations for formulating the 1985 state plans and projecting economic strategies until the year 2000 in accordance with local conditions and the general requirements of the country as a whole.

The People's Committees of Hai Hung Province and Haiphong Municipality reported to Comrade Vu Dinh Lieu on the development of the local economies over past years and on the targets and measures for economic development in 1985 and the years that follow.

Comrade Vu Dinh Lieu and the representatives of the central sectors took a trip to study the actual situation of some production establishments in the two localities; and at the same time, they talked with local leaders on ways to develop strong points and resolve difficulties, especially the imbalances encountered in the formulation of plans.

In 1985 and the years that ensure, Haiphong Municipality will employ its marine products sector as the spearhead in producing goods for export; and consequently, it has paid attention to consolidating sea fishery, cooperated with the southern provinces in sea fishing, and strongly developed the raising and culture of marine products on 9,000 hectares of brackish water and 1,800 hectares of pond and lake water. In addition, the municipality has also invested capital and sent a workforce to the mountainous provinces to exploit forest products and plant long-term industrial crops.

In formulating plans, Hai Hung Province pays special attention to achieve a balance between production and the consumption of export-destined products. Drawing upon experience from previous production seasons, especially the experience in the consumption of products during the last winter crop season, beginning from 1985, the province will closely guide the signing of two-way economic contracts between state collection and purchase organs and the producers so that planning work can be carried out in a positive manner.

In the coming years, Hai Hung will concentrate on creating material conditions for developing agriculture in a comprehensive manner while promoting the processing industry in order to generate more sources of goods for export.

Comrade Vu Dinh Lieu, on behalf of the Council of Ministers, praised Haiphong Municipality and Hai Hung Province for having made initial efforts to carry out planning work for 1985 and the years that follow. At the same time, he called the attention of the two localities to various issues, urging them to further develop their dynamism and creativity in adopting realistic measures for better exploiting the strong position of the port city and the abundant resources of a fairly large agricultural province in the Red River Delta.

CSO: 4209/45

PARTY ACTIVITIES AND GOVERNMENT

BRIEFS

DESIGN COLLEGE HONORED--Hanoi, VNA, 18 Nov--A ceremony was held in Hanoi Friday to mark the 30th anniversary of the industrial art designing college. Present on the occasion were Vo Nguyen Giap, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; Huynh Tan Phat, president of the Presidium of the fatherland front Central Committee and president of the Vietnam Architects' Association; Tran Van Can, president of the Plastic Arts Association; Mai Huu Khue, vice minister of higher and vocational secondary education, and representatives of a number of colleges. Representatives of the Soviet, Czechoslovak and CDR embassies attended the ceremony. On this occasion, the college was conferred the Labour Order, third class, by the Council of State. This is the second time the college received this distinction. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 0741 GMT 18 Nov 84 OW]

LIBERATION ANNIVERSARY--Hanoi, VNA, 15 Nov--The party committee of the Ho Chi Minh city has held a conference to review its work and discuss a program of action for the rest of 1984 and the following months in anticipation of the 10th anniversary of the Liberation of Southern Vietnam (30 April). Total output of industry, small industry and handicrafts, it was reported at the conference, increased by 27.8 percent in the first 10 months of 1984 over the corresponding period last year, laying a firm basis for the realization of the yearly target of five billion dong in output value. On the other hand, the conference noted, a number of problems remained to be solved, particularly the plan for export and import, price and market control, and improvement of the people's life. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 0713 GMT 16 Nov 84 OW]

SUPPLY MINISTRY INVENTORY CONFERENCE--The Ministry of Supply recently held a conference in Ho Chi Minh City to start the implementation of Decision No. 157 of the Council of Ministers on the general inventory of fixed assets. Attending the conference were leaders of provincial supply corporations and units belonging to the supply sector in the southern provinces. Comrade Minister Hoang Duc Nghi attended and addressed the conference. In 2 days of work, the conference discussed fairly detailed measures aimed at carrying out Decision No. 157/HDBT satisfactorily and avoiding the errors and shortcomings that plagued various general inventories in the past. The experiences gained by the two pilot units, the Hanoi Metal Corporation and the United Supply Export-Import Enterprise, were also made public at this conference. [Text] [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 1 Nov 84]

ECONOMIC PLANNING, TRADE AND FINANCE

BRIEFS

DISSATISFACTION WITH PRICES--According to reports from Vietnam, a kilo of pork now costs 250 dong in Ho Chi Minh City. Sometimes it increases to 300 dong and is hard to get, as most of it goes to Soviet and Cuban advisers and experts stationed at various Vietnamese ports. The Vietnamese people and administrative staff have no chance of competing with the Soviets and Cubans. The reports say that Vietnamese from all walks of life are very indignant about this and have circulated leaflets in many places denouncing and condemning the Le Duan clique for selling out Vietnam's sovereignty to the Soviets and Cubans and creating famine in Vietnam. Some people wrote leaflets demanding that the Soviets and Cubans be ordered out of Vietnam so that the Vietnamese can regain their right to earn their living normally. [Text] [(Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 16 Nov 84 BK]

CSO: 4212/16

AGRICULTURE

BEIJING VIETNAMESE REMARKS ON SRV AGRICULTURE

OW192339 Beijing in Vietnamese to Vietnam 1400 GMT 18 Nov 84

[Part I of Station Correspondent's Article: "Vietnam's Agriculture Is In a Predicament"]

[Text] Dealing with Vietnam's agricultural production status during the current year, a NHAN DAN editorial published in the 24 May issues notes:

Some progress has been achieved in grain production, but it still remains unsteady. The achieved per capita grain output can ensure the people's consumption needs only at a low level between self-sufficiency and undernourishment.

The grain production situation in Vietnam during the first 6 months of the current year is actually pessimistic. This year's 5th-month rice harvest in southern Vietnam was relatively good, but following last year's bad 10th month rice harvest, the output of this year's 5th-month rice and other winter-spring crops in northern Vietnam has generally decreased. As a result, the entire country's total grain output target for the first half year has not been reached. What is the reason for the continual decrease in grain output of last year's 10th-month rice and this year's 5th-month rice and subsidiary crops in northern Vietnam, as well as in the entire country? Is it true that this situation has been caused by natural calamities, as claimed by the Vietnamese administration?

Of course, natural disasters constitute an important, not sole, cause of the decrease in grain production. In fact, this decrease during the past many consecutive years in northern Vietnam has been closely connected with the current agricultural policy, the mistakes committed in agricultural management, and the decline in the national economy.

According to many Vietnamese refugees coming from rural areas, Vietnam's current agricultural and price policies regarding farm products are detrimental to the peasants' imperative interests and labor efforts. Since the implementation of the contractual system, the Vietnamese administration has purchased obligatory grain and collected agricultural taxes on the basis of the peasants' cultivated acreage. Peasants must pay these taxes, even though the transplanted ricefields were affected by natural disasters. In some years, rice seedlings were ruined by natural disasters. Despite replacement transplantings, rice plants could not develop well. In order to avoid delivering a large

amount of obligatory grain and paying heavy taxes, the peasants had to transplant, in other fields, the rice seedlings already planted sparsely in a number of ricefields. This seriously affected the growth of rice plants, and caused a decrease in paddy output. This is the reason why many ricefields have been left uncultivated.

However, the amounts of obligatory grain to be delivered, and of taxes to be paid, have not been reduced at all by the state. This has caused the peasants to complain vehemently. This situation has occurred with, not only food crops, but also short-term industrial crops; especially jute and rush, the two important raw materials for Vietnam's handicrafts.

Since the Fifth CPV Congress, the Vietnamese administration has, many times, stressed the need to boost the cultivation of short-term industrial crops, but this cannot be achieved, because many problems related to the policies have not yet been solved. As revealed by the Vietnamese refugees, the products coming from short-term industrial crops in Vietnam are classified in two categories: 1) Obligatory products, the varieties and output of which are prescribed by the administration, can be bartered for the grain, chemical fertilizers, and coarse cotton cloth provided by the administration; 2) products to be delivered to the administration in accordance with the signed contracts, and in exchange for commodities for daily use.

But, during the years of bumper crops, although the peasants in specialized cultivation areas have delivered the set amount of obligatory products to the state, each has received only 5 or 6 kilos of paddy, and a small quantity of subsidiary, crop products. Still worse is that the paddy is mixed with a large quantity of grit, and is sometimes moldy or germinating. In the event of bad harvest, even this small amount of bad quality grain is not supplied accordingly.

Although their grain quota has been exceeded, the peasants may purchase only an additional 15 kilos of paddy at state-prescribed prices. This year, the Vietnamese Administration has stopped selling this additional amount of paddy. Currently, in industrial crop growing areas, the policy of supplying grain in a common way is being implemented. This means that the households, which have delivered the set quota of obligatory products, may be supplied with grain. Otherwise, the set amount of grain will be reduced. If they exceed the quota, they may barter grain for other products.

From these facts, we can realize that, in the current very tough grain situation, one of the main measures applied by the Vietnamese Administration to solve the grain problem is to continue reducing the amount of grain to be supplied to the people, because the amount of basic food products for the peasants in specialized cultivation areas is small, and cannot help meet their needs. People have disregarded the administration's request to develop industrial crop production.

Along with interplanting food and industrial crops, people have planted other industrial crops in many fields reserved for rice, and have bartered their products for staple goods on the free market. This is one of the reasons for the delay in the planting of short-term industrial crops.

According to the Vietnamese refugees, Vietnam's current price policy is highly irrational. In fact, there is an increasingly large imbalance between the prices of farm products and those of other goods, and this has seriously affected the peasants' labor efforts. For instance, in 1981 and before, the state paid 9 hao for 1 kilo of jute, and 5 hao for 1 kilo of dry rush. At that time, the state sold the peasants in specialized cultivation areas 1 kilo of grain for 4 hao, 1 kilo of nitrogenous fertilizer for 3 hao, and 1 meter of coarse cotton cloth for 1.7 dong. Meanwhile, 2 kilos of jute could be bartered for 1 meter of coarse cotton cloth, and 3 kilos of paddy for 4 kilos of nitrogenous fertilizer. But, in 1983, 3 kilos of paddy could be bartered for only 1 kilo of nitrogenous fertilizer, 250 spathes of rush for 1 meter of coarse cotton cloth, and 1 ton of dry rush for only 2 kilos of sugar.

As reported by the Vietnamese refugees, since the implementation of the new price policy, the prices of grain and chemical fertilizers sold to the peasants in specialized cultivation areas have increased 10-fold, although the purchase price of jute and rush was raised 7 or 8 times higher than in 1981 and before.

The irrational price policy has made the peasants' burden even heavier, and has caused many difficulties to their lives. Because their labor efforts have been seriously jeopardized, production has therefore been strongly affected, agricultural production has not developed, and the people have become impoverished.

Currently, Vietnam's countryside cannot find a way out.

CSO: 4209/76

AGRICULTURE

FIVE NEW RICE STRAINS OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 2 Oct 84 p 4

[Unattributed article: "Five New Rice Strains Recently Recognized"]

[Text] On the morning of 1 October, the Ministry of Agriculture held a news conference to announce the official recognition of five new strains of rice. These strains are CR203, Spring 2, 184, VN10 and C22.

Strain CR203 was selected from a group of cockchafer resistant strains of the International Rice Institute (IRRI) and was introduced to our country in 1978. Within that rice strain group, it bore the name IR8423-132-6-22, has been grown and studied by the Institute of Plant Protection and is called "Strain Cockchafer Resistant 203" or CR203 for short. It is a short-term strain and may be sown in both the late spring and the early tenth-month crop season. CR203 is fertilizer tolerant, has a strong and healthy stem, is little affected by blow-down and has a high ratio of delicious grain (68 to 70 percent). Besides its ability to resist cockchafers, this strain is also fairly resistant to silver leaf disease but is susceptible to dry stripe and blast if attention is not given to the balance between nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. Strain CR203 has been in the experimental strain system of the state since the tenth-month season of 1981, is a strain with the possibility for becoming widely popular, and may be grown in many different types of soil from the lowlands to the highlands and from areas with high intensive cultivation standards to those unable to maintain these standards. Strain CR203 presently occupies more than 200,000 hectares. The average yield is 45 to 58 quintals per hectare with a number of locations attaining higher yields such as the cooperatives of Phu Lap in Ha Son Binh Province with 83 quintals; Nam Giang in Ha Nam Ninh Province with 77.8 quintals; and Nam Binh in Thai Binh Province with 76.4 quintals per hectare. During the recent extremely cold spring, thanks to supplementary planting of the late spring crop area with CR203, a high-yield harvest was attained.

Rice Strain Spring 2 (also called M2, Mexico and Rice 2) is from a Mexican rice strain group imported into our country in December of 1976, was selected by the Institute of Grain and Food Crops, and has been area grown since 1981. Spring 2 is an early spring rice strain suitable for low fields of high fertility which may be irrigated. The strain has high acclimatization and fertilizer tolerance, has excellent resistance to the cold and is suitable for areas with the conditions for high levels of intensive cultivation; yields in some locations have reached 80 to 90 quintals per hectare. However, the rice grains are discolored, of inferior grade and susceptible to cockchafers.

Strain 184 is a fifth-month rice strain propagated by the Institute of Grain and Food Crops from hybrid unit IR8 X (813XNN1) and is also called 75-1. The strain has been area grown since October of 1977. The plant is sturdy with thick upright leaves, is dark green in color, requires high intensive cultivation, has long blossoms with large, closely spaced and delicious grain, has a high rice grain ratio and is well-liked. Since 1978, this strain has been widely grown in the Red River Delta and in the midlands and highlands. The rice is suitable for many types of low, marshy, acidic and irrigated muddy land. The average yield is 35 to 40 quintals per hectare with some locations attaining 60 to 70 quintals; and the strain is highly resistant to the cold and is resistant to blast. Nevertheless, the strain is still unstable, requiring constant reselection and nurturing to raise the strain quality.

Strain VN10 (also called Agriculture 75-3) is a strain propagated and selected by Jose Marti College from hybrid pair A5XRumania 45. VN10 is grown in the early spring, is suitable for acidic soil fields lacking phosphorus and is of an intensive cultivation form. The average yield is 50 to 60 quintals per hectare and 80 to 90 quintals with outstanding intensive cultivation. VN10 has excellent cold resistance and is resistant to blast and brown spot but requires constant reselection and a high nurture level in order to increase the acclimatization and to resist silver leaf disease during periods of warm weather.

Strain C22 is a cold resistant rice strain originating in the Philippines which was brought in by the International Rice Institute for testing and comparison with other cold resistant strains and was judged to be a strain of excellent cold resistance. Since 1977, Strain C22 has been imported by the Vietnam Agricultural Science Institute for research and study. The strong points of this strain are its resistance to drought at the beginning and end of the season and its suitability for semimountainous and hilly areas where irrigation is impossible. The strain is being widely used in the lowlands of Thanh Hoa, Nghe Tinh and Binh-Tri-Thien and in the highlands.

7300

CSO: 4209/54

AGRICULTURE

NAM BO PROVINCES PLAN TRANSFORMATION COMPLETION DURING 1985

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 4 Oct 84 p 2

[Article by Vu Oanh, Director of the Central Agriculture Department: "Provinces of Nam Bo Determined To Basically Complete Agricultural Transformation During 1985"]

[Text] Good, Healthy Movement Development

The Secretariat of the Party Central Committee has estimated that since the Fifth Party Congress and especially during the recent period, the provinces of former Nam Bo have made new and important changes in land reallocation and agricultural transformation. Generally speaking, the movement has developed in a good and healthy manner.

This is true. To the present time, the provinces and cities in Nam Bo have re-allocated the land in the rice areas with extremely low average size fields and in the high-output rice areas. Since 1976, Nam Bo has reallocated 402,446 hectares, more than 50 percent among the farmers themselves. Since the promulgation of Directive 19, reallocation has been more rapid; and many locations have conducted the task in an urgent manner. The number of fields reallocated since 1983 is equal to 25 percent of the area reallocated during the previous 8 years. Besides the campaign to confiscate the fields of landlords and rich peasants, reallocation among the farmers themselves was carried out with the slogan, "Sharing one's food and clothing with others." For the upper middle peasants, there were gentle methods and rational persuasion calling on them to give up land in excess of their labor strength. When many locations established production collectives, remaining land differences were resolved when product contracts were let. After the land was reallocated, many locations gave attention to creating conditions for every component to develop production and assure a higher income. Some locations had little land area or level ground but knew how to coordinate land reallocation with labor and population redistribution to build new economic zones as was the "two-home collective" experience of Long An.

With the methods above, although the land reallocation was complex, results in many aspects were attained: eliminating land exploitation and blocking division of the farmers; liberating labor and more effectively using the land; uniting the farmers and creating conditions for cooperativization; assisting in building the new rural area and the new man; and not forcing, leveling or disturbing the land.

The lesson here is that the problem of attitudes about farmer classes has been correctly resolved, especially concerning the middle peasants, and a bloc of rural farmer solidarity has been established under the leadership of the party.

However, there are still a number of shortcomings. In the areas with much land and few laborers, little land reallocation has been accomplished and it is not yet well-coordinated with labor and population redistribution. In a number of eastern provinces, land reallocation is still slow.

Immediately following land reallocation, many locations have emphasized the establishment of production solidarity teams. By June of 1984, less than that portion which had shifted up to production collectives, Nam Bo had 21,443 production solidarity teams, including 30 percent at advanced and good levels, 35 percent at the average level and 25 percent at the weak level.

The most outstanding new thing is that in the movement to build production solidarity teams, the two-party material-advance contract mechanism has had a great effect. Poor farmers have received material advances, new technology and mutual aid and have been able to develop field yields. The middle peasants have increasingly had the conditions for high levels of intensive cultivation. The state has been able to control products and to effectively compete with private commerce.

The production solidarity team movement has begun to expand into other fields with solidarity teams raising gardens, growing industrial crops, raising fish, shrimp and bees, producing salt and planting trees. The establishment of production solidarity teams is also closely connected with plans for elevation to production collectives. The production solidarity teams create the premise for firmly establishing collectives, conducting planned production training, building the overall material and technical base, and developing and training the cadres.

It may be concluded that the production solidarity team is an appropriate economic form and a necessary and vital step in raising the farmer from a low to a high socialist orbit.

Nevertheless, there are still shortcomings in the construction of production solidarity teams such as irregular quality with a number only signing contracts with and selling agricultural products to the state; some locations underrating the production solidarity teams and wishing to advance directly to the collective; and some locations desiring excessive perfection and not yet boldly expanding the production solidarity movement.

Closely connected with the establishment of production solidarity teams, 85.6 percent of the villages in Nam Bo are forming marketing cooperative networks. In the provinces of Tien Giang, Long An, Tay Ninh, Minh Hai and Cuu Long, 100 percent of the villages have marketing cooperatives. However, the movement to establish credit cooperatives is still weak and uncoordinated. Only 390 of the total 1,981 villages have credit cooperatives.

The close connection of marketing and credit cooperatives with establishment of production solidarity teams has a great effect in the struggle between the two

ways in the Nam Bo rural area. However, there are still many obstacles to be overcome. Many marketing and credit cooperatives still lack capital and still have no policies for collecting capital from the people. Share interest rates are still unreasonable and have not yet attracted the farmers. There is still emphasis on the sale of commercial goods and not rising to the marketing of agricultural products and the control of goods to compete with merchants.

To the present time, Nam Bo has established 23,881 production collectives and 365 agricultural cooperatives, bringing 52 percent of the population and 44 percent of land into collective production; Tien Giang Province has achieved 83 percent of the population and 83 percent of the land.

Since the promulgation of Directive 19, the situation has had a number of new features. The establishment of production collectives has become fairly stable and relatively firm with no one requesting to leave as before. The attraction of many middle peasants by the collectives has not only raised the population percentage but also that of the collectivized land. At this time, one province (Tien Giang) has 20 districts (15 percent) and 620 villages (40 percent) which have basically completed agricultural cooperativization.

The experience in establishing production collectives has become increasingly rich.

1. The collective is the lowest form of collectivization and universal acquisition of taxes from income off the land. It not only has an effect on those with much land but also on those with few laborers and on all farmers in general, closely connecting the common interests of the collective with the private interests of the farmer and allowing the farmer to easily introduce his land to the common business enterprise. (There has also been a portion of the production collectives established many years ago which did not produce taxes from income off the land, the small and low-level cooperatives, but these occupy only a small percentage).

2. Many forms of attracting capital from the farmers have been applied such as shares both inside and outside of norms with reasonable interest rates and also profit. Many policies have been created to attract the production means of the middle peasants and machine owners such as installment payment, joint enterprises and businesses with machine collectives, and contract use of small machines and draft animals. Thanks to this, the collectives have been able to accumulate capital, to gradually collectivize production means, to purchase additional machinery and to build the material and technical base.

3. Product contracts have been let to the laborer from the beginning; on the basis of field collectivization and production planning, many locations have let contracts even in the old (or newly partitioned) fields with farming and living convenience capital. The application of this contract mechanism demands that collectives have simple to complex level production, business and economic accounting plans. Initially, many collectives when first formed presented consistent contract and distribution levels to the farmers for democratic discussion which allowed the farmers to make easy calculations and inspections. Of great importance is that there was no nonspecific or grazing contracts.

4. In conjunction with development of the collective economy, many locations have provided guidance in family economy. Products from the family economy are purchased by the marketing cooperative at an agreeable price or in accordance with a two-party contract.

A production collective established like that above truly attracts the farmers (including the upper middle peasants) into collective production in a voluntary manner and develops the strength of the collective economy from its very establishment and even in the lower steps.

Most of the collectives are doing well, achieving higher rice yields and outputs than the individual farmer. Naturally, there are many factors affecting production and marketing results but extremely pleasant to note is that the greater the number of collectives, the greater the grain output. For example, the grain output for all of Nam Bo during 1983 increased by 8 percent over 1982 and 14 percent over 1980. The number of collectives increased and the grain which the state was able to collect also increased. Any province with a high rate of cooperativization also had an increase in grain collection. There were also much greater collections in other agricultural products. The material and technical base of collectives and cooperatives has been steadily strengthened. Production has developed and distribution has been harmonious regarding the three interests. The living standards of the collective members have been improved. Most of the collectives have a man-day grain equivalent value of 8 to 10 kilograms with some locations achieving 20 to 30 kilograms. The grain use objective has risen from 30 to 40 kilograms per month. Many advanced units have achieved high labor productivity: one laborer producing 1 ton of paddy and from 1,000 to 2,000 dong per year.

Besides the establishment of production solidarity teams, production collectives and cooperatives during the past, the economic sectors have joined the provinces in building and perfecting the special state-operated economic organizations, the agricultural trade state enterprises at the district level. It is through these organizations that agricultural transformation is closely connected with industrial and commercial transformation and that the state economy is closely connected with that of the collective and the family. The supply of machinery, fuel and oil, nitrate fertilizer and insecticides in conjunction with the marketing of agricultural products in accordance with contracts at the district level is beginning to have an effect.

The selection and elementary and advanced training of cadres has a decisive significance in expanding and raising the quality of the cooperativization movement. During the past few years, some progress has been made in this matter such as: a cadre plan in harmony with the plan for establishing production solidarity teams and collectives, more closely matching curricula, consistent forms of elementary and advanced training, etc. The quality of elementary training has been elevated. The rate of elementary training has been increased to answer the comprehensive requirements of the movement.

Causes and Experience

The Secretariat of the Party Central Committee has clearly stated the two basic causes (the proper line and consistent forms and policies, and the profound understanding of all echelons and sectors in Nam Bo to creatively apply and determinedly supervise high-level achievement). At the same time, it also stated

in an extremely specific and systematic manner eight reasons and lessons in experience. We will only raise a number of additional points.

1. Closely connect transformation and construction in agriculture with transformation and construction in industry and commerce. Nam Bo has a diversified agricultural-forestry-fishing production structure, a commodity production base which is closely connected with a processing industry and a market which previously was ruled by the monopolistic comprador bourgeoisie who exploited the laboring farmers and which still has goods controlled by the commercial bourgeoisie in the cities through a system of merchants closely connected with the rural market. Due to this characteristic, during more than the past year, the task of agricultural transformation has not only been halted in the elements of land, draft animal and tractor collectivization and in the establishment of production collectives in the field areas but has also been beset with new elements and fields.

In conjunction with the establishment of new production relations in agriculture, local areas have established a mechanism of material advance contracts (fertilizer, gasoline and oil, insecticides, spare parts, etc.) with the co-operatives, production collectives and production solidarity teams and have placed product marketing in the hands of the state. The widespread organization of a marketing cooperative system, reorganization of small merchants and transformation of the rural market have drawn the peddlers into marketing cooperation or transferred them to agricultural production, small industry and handicrafts. Reorganize the agricultural product processing mechanism and the small industry and handicraft facilities. Establish machine collectives and organize alliances and business between them and the agricultural collectives.

2. Closely connect agricultural transformation with construction of the district and gradual construction of the socialist new rural area. A highlight of the cooperativization movement in Nam Bo has been that it has been carried out during the past with the reorganized strength of the farmers and a management mechanism consistent with each step forward from low to high, united the interests of each farmer family with those of the collective and the state. Despite the fact that state capital has been limited, the farmers have promoted water conservancy in accordance with plans within the scope of each hamlet, village and district. Thanks to the water conservancy effort, the district level has been able to rearrange the production and tenth-month crop structures. Many models of using the agricultural potential of Nam Bo have been extremely creative such as arranging an integrated salt-shrimp production business in the salt-water areas, rice and shrimp in the brackish water areas, cajuput, fish, shrimp, turtles, snakes and bees in the alkaline soil areas, etc. New rice strains are being used with new systems of farming (dry-land plowing, direct dry-land sowing and fall harrowing) and initial steps are being taken in the use of green and barnyard manures.

In conjunction with the water conservancy system, systems of technical service in support of agriculture and circulation and processing service systems have rapidly formed at the district level in complexes such as the rice strain, plant protection and veterinarian system. A system of material supply, marketing corporations and processing facilities has also appeared.

Thanks to these systems in conjunction with agricultural transformation, the district echelons in Nam Bo have gradually developed a collective ownership role of simultaneous transformation, district construction, production development, advancement toward goods and monetary control, and gradual accumulation of capital in order to unceasingly expand production and to expand the position of socialism within the area of each district.

Agricultural transformation is closely connected with production development. Many locations, production solidarity teams, production collectives, villages and districts have begun to accumulate capital, a portion to purchase additional fixed assets for production expansion and a portion appropriated in conjunction with socialist labor man-days to construct public welfare projects for renewing the appearance of the rural area and improving the spiritual and material lives of the farmers.

Nevertheless, the results attained are only the beginning and district construction is an extremely heavy strategic mission which is posing many extremely great problems demanding that we consider, seek and make greater efforts in order to well-achieve the Resolution of the Party Congress and the Directive of General Secretary Le Duan.

3. A salient point in agricultural transformation since the promulgation of Directive 19 has been the leadership concentration of party committee echelons. The role of the district party committees in agricultural transformation is also extremely clear. The committee echelon must thoroughly and profoundly understand the policy and line of the party, have high determination, have internal party agreement and have creative methods of work consistent with the economic, political and social characteristics of each district. The district party committee secretary and the chairman of the district people's committee must truly strive in mobilizing the strength of the entire district in transformation to surely create a change in the movement.

Further Promoting Agricultural Transformation in Nam Bo in Years to Come

1. A consistent plan and continued land reallocation in the zones of high average land area are necessary in close connection with population reallocation and labor redistribution between areas. Areas that have completed land reallocation must inspect for and resolve any deviations which arise. Production solidarity teams must be widely developed in areas where production collectives have not yet been organized, including in the industrial crop, fruit crop, and stock raising areas and in other trades. Solidarity teams must be established consistent with the characteristics of each area, objective and practical activity.

2. Quickly expand the system of marketing and credit cooperatives to all the villages with the purpose of replacing private commerce, eliminating speculation and high interest loans, controlling the rural market and well-serving production and life. Commerce sectors and banks may commission a number of marketing and credit tasks in the rural area with guidance in the elementary and advanced vocational training of the cadres in the marketing and credit cooperatives.

3. Actively strengthen the production collectives and agricultural cooperatives, assure a socialist collective nature in every organization, production, management and distribution aspect, and assure that collectives and cooperatives earn more than the individual farmer. Emphasize summarization and develop the experience of advanced units. Strengthen newly organized and sub-standard collectives.

4. Prepare and develop new collectives with especially good selection and elementary and advanced training of cadres. Conduct good production planning, build the material and technical base and construct the new rural area.

5. Strongly develop forms of joint business between collectives in order to build the common material and technical base, develop trades, redistribute labor and gradually raise the standards of the management cadres. The elevation of collectives to cooperatives must be thoroughly prepared with especially the need for strong management cadres with an understanding of business. Upgrading to the cooperative level must certainly require higher labor productivity, production effectiveness, better business and a much greater capital accumulation. The cooperative must be a new step forward in economic work, labor distribution and trade development. Do not be anxious to hurry.

6. The expansion of fruit orchard transformation must be done carefully. The Central Agriculture Department will join the Ministry of Agriculture and local areas in testing, gaining experience, establishing specific policies and petitioning Secretariat approval before implementation. First of all, encourage the families engaged in intensive orchard cultivation through commercial and financial steps in order to concentrate agricultural products and to partially regulate the income of those with high incomes.

At the same time, it is necessary to carry out good management and transformation of buffaloes, cattle, tools, agricultural machinery and the shrimp and fish raising trades precisely in accordance with the policies set forth.

7. Strengthen the alliance between state, collective and family operation: from the very first, coordination must be achieved in the aspects of production course, labor use, the application of technical advances, material assurance, production insurance, processing and product consumption.

8. Actively provide elementary and advanced training for the cadres and strengthen the village apparatus. Have plans for each village. Select cadres through movements. Quickly perfect the cadre ranks at the village level, especially those in key positions.

9. Closely connect district construction with transformation promotion. Urgently develop the system of state-operated production and agricultural service at the district level and develop from the very first the supervisory role of district state-operated economy. Urgently build state farms, state forests, state fishing enterprises and farms producing plant seed and breeder animals to supply cooperatives and collectives; and build water conservancy systems, agricultural pumping stations, machine repair shops and agricultural implement manufacturing facilities. Quickly develop state-operated commerce and marketing and credit cooperatives. Form economic and technical complexes in

accordance with each area at the district level. Establish the facilities necessary for developing education, public health and culture.

As the Secretariat of the Party Central Committee asserted, "With the proper policy and working methods and determined leadership, the provinces of former Nam Bo will surely basically complete agricultural cooperativization with the production collective form as the primary feature by the end of 1985."

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