

EMBASSY OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM
PRESS AND INFORMATION SECTION

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ON THE FIFTH CONGRESS OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF VIETNAM

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PERIOD SINCE THE 4TH CONGRESS OF THE C.P.V.

1- THE FOUR PREVIOUS CONGRESSES OF THE PARTY:

The fifth Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam will be held late this month.

Following is an outline of the work of the founding conference in 1930 and four previous Congresses of the Party.

The founding conference, held from February 3 - 7, 1930 in Kowloon, Hong Kong, under the Chairmanship of Nguyen Ai Quoc (the future President Ho Chi Minh) who represented the Comintern, is regarded as the founding Congress of the Party. The Conference decided to unify the various Communist organizations in the country into a single party of Vietnamese communists under the name of 'Vietnam Communist Party'.

The Party Central Committee held conference in October of the same year and adopted a political thesis drafted by Tran Phu. The conference elected Tran Phu General Secretary of the Party and changed the name of the Party into 'Indochinese Communist Party'.

The first Congress of the Party was held in Macao, China, from March 27-31, 1935, with the participation of 15 delegates representing 600 party members in the country and from overseas Party organizations. This congress laid down the urgent tasks for consolidating and developing the Party, broadening the mass base, and stepping up the struggle against the imperialists' plan to provoke a new world war.

The second Party Congress was held from February 14-19, 1951, in Tuyen Quang province (now Ha Tuyen province) in the Viet Bac resistance base at a time when the fight against the French colonialist aggressors was entering the decisive state.

It was attended by 158 delegates and 53 stand - by delegates representing 766,349 Party members. It decided on several major policies including the policy of land rent reduction and land reform in the free zones, aimed at promoting the resistance war to final victory.

The Congress decided to split the Indochinese Communist Party into three Marxist - Leninist parties of Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea to better suit the needs of the revolution and desire of the people of each country. The Congress also decided to bring the party into the open and renamed it Vietnam Workers Party. Its new Central Committee consisted of 29 full members. Ho Chi Minh was elected President of the Party, and Truong Chinh, its General Secretary.

The third party congress was held in Hanoi from September 5 - 12, 1960, six years after the liberation of the north from French occupation, when the three year plan for economic and cultural restoration and development (1958 - 60) has ended and the north embarked on the socislist revolution and the whole country was engaged in the struggle for national reunification.

The congress was attended by 600 full and stand by delegates representing more than 500,000 members.

The congress adopted the first five year plan (1961 - 65) for economic and cultural development along socialist lines.

It elected a new central committee which consisted of 47 full members and 31 alternate members. Ho Chi Minh was elected President and Le Duan, first secretary, of its Central Committee.

The fourth national congress took place from December 14 - 20, 1976 after the country was reunified and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam came into being.

The congress was attended by 1,008 delegates representing 1,550,000 party members through out the country. The congress decided to renamed the Party 'Communist Party of Vietnam'. The congress worked out the general line and the immediate tasks of the socialist revolution in Vietnam. Its central committee is made up of 101 full members and 32 alternate members.

2- ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT SINCE 1976

A- Agricultural collectivization movement consolidates

Since 1976 the movement for agricultural collectivization in Vietnam has been consolidated year after year.

In northern Vietnam, the small agricultural cooperatives set up in the sixties have been strengthened organisationally and enlarged to embrace each a whole village at present. The co-ops have re-structured their lands to facilitate intensive farming and carry out specialization of crops, including crops for export in many areas, three crops (two rice crops and one subsidiary crop or two subsidiary crops and one rice crop) are grown in the same field annually.

The system of allocating contractual quotas to individual or group of farmers applied since the end of 1980 has created a new impetus in agriculture. In applying this new method, the co-ops in Northern Vietnam have drawn another 80,000 peasant families into collective farming.

In southern Vietnam, socialist reform in agriculture was carried out right after national reunification (1976).

In the littoral stretching from Binh Tri Thien to Thuan Hai provinces, 89.9 percent of peasant families have adopted collective farming either in production collectives or in co-ops. The percentage of peasant families adhering to cooperatives account for 84 percent of the total.

In the central highland provinces, inhabited mostly by ethnic minority groups, the authorities, after redistributing land to the peasants, immediately organized them into collective work. By the end of 1981, more than 70 percent of the families of ethnic minorities had joined collective farming in the region in different forms, 32 percent of which in co-ops.

B- LOCAL INDUSTRIES DEVELOP

By the end of 1980, the local industries in Vietnam had 1,900 state run enterprises employing over 300,000 workers, in addition to about 12,000 small industry and handicraft cooperatives and production teams with a work force totalling 1.5 million.

Last year, the value of local industrial and handicraft production totalled 5.4 billion dong, representing a four percent increase over the previous year and accounting for almost 65 percent of the gross industrial output of the country. Seventy percent of this amount came from the small industries and handicrafts.

Most of the local industrial products are consumer goods. Exports accounted for 15 per cent of the output value of the local industries. The main production lines consist of primary necessities such as fish, salt, wood, mosquito netting, towels, sleeping mats, silk, hand tools, bicycles, lime, bricks and tiles... new lines have been added recently such as silkthreading machines, metal-drilling machines, freezers, electric, motors, bale-tennis bats, car-brake oil, firebricks...

From 1976 to 1981, the local industries yearly produced about 20 million hand tools, 200,000 carts, 180,000 bicycles, 500,000 tonnes of cement, ten million pairs of sleeping mats, 250,000 porcelain articles, 100,000 tonnes of salt, 80 million metres of mosquito netting, 20,000 tonnes of paper...

The development of local industries has helped to boost the district economy. The output value of industrial production which occupied a negligible percentage in the district economy in the past has now risen to ten per cent.

About 85 percent of the agricultural co-ops in many Red River Delta provinces have taken up handicrafts as side-line occupations. These occupations are employing about fifteen per cent of the workforce and producing an amount of goods accounting for 60 per cent of the yearly agricultural industrial output value of these co-ops.

C- HEALTH NETWORK EXPANDS

Since the 4th Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam, the number of hospitals and medical institutions has almost doubled, from 1,396 in 1975 to 2,396 in 1980. The number of sanatoria and maternity homes rose from 86 to 93 and from 6,565 to 9,034 respectively. As a result, the total number of beds has increased from 142,000 to 198,000 in the same period.

Traditional medicine has also received due attention, institutions specializing in this faculty have been established in almost all provinces and big cities with the total number of state-employed practitioners rising from 4,901 to 6,500.

The area under medicinal plants has expanded from 2,000 in 1975 to 4,500 in 1979, yielding 2,970 more tonnes of medicinal herb. The percentage of herbal materials which entered in the production of medicaments rose from 9.3 to 29.3 in the same period. At present, there are 2,000 establishments in 51 districts throughout the country which have met the norms set by the State for the cultivation and use of Eastern medicine.

D- SOME FIGURES ON ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL ACHIEVEMENTS

The difficulties faced have been truly formidable: A backward agricultural economy dominated by small-scale production, repeated natural calamities, the sequels of decades of war, a state of uncertain peace with threats of yet another war. Nevertheless, since the 4th congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam the Vietnamese people have made strenuous effort to heal the wounds of war, restore and develop production, and build the material and technical bases of socialism.

Agriculture

- 1) In spite of natural calamities in three successive years

(1977, 1979, 1980) food production in 1980 was the equivalent of 14,380,000 tons of paddy, up 2,900,000 tons from 1975. The breakdown is as follows:

- 11,700,000 tons of paddy (up 1,200,000 tons) and the equivalent of 2,700,000 tons of paddy from subsidiary food crops (up 1,700,000 tons).

In 1981, production was the equivalent of 15 million tons of paddy.

2) Animal husbandry (in 1981)

Pigs: 10,457,000 (2,100,000 in 1975)

Buffaloes: 2,376,000 (2,100,000 in 1975)

Oxen: 1,761,000 (1,400,000 in 1975)

3) Progress of industrial crops between 1975 and 1980

Jute: Up 26%

Groundnuts: Up 43.4%

Rush: Up 45%

Tobacco: Up 89%

Soya: Up 111.9%

4) In 1980, the total number of tractors used in agriculture was 49,922 (15-H.P. Units), up 20,000 units compared with 1975.

Industry and transport

1) Total industrial output value (handicrafts included) in 1980 was up 12.8% 1975, broken down as follows:

- Group A (means of production): Up 20.4%

- Group B (consumer goods): Up 8.1%

In this total output value, group A accounted for 37.8% in 1975 and 40.3% in 1980 and group B for 62.2% in 1975 and 59.7% in 1980

2) Some figures of industrial output

Electricity (million KWH) 1975: 2,653 - 1980: 3,635.5

Coal (million tons) 1975: 5.2 - 1980: 5.3

Cement (thousand tons) 1975: 536.7 - 1980: 641

Paper (thousand tons) 1975: 41.7 - 1980: 46.8
Timber (thousand cubic metres) 1975: 1,252 - 1980: 1,626
Sugar (thousand tons) 1975: 45.6 - 1980: 113.9
Fabrics (million metres) 1975: 146.4 - 1980: 175.3
Tea (thousand tons) 1975: 10.8 - 1980: 15.5

3) Transport and communications:

- The network of railways (principal and auxiliary) and railway stations on the North-South axis, totalling more than 2,000 kilometres, has been restored.
- 3,800 kilometres of motor roads and 4 kilometres of wharves have been built.
- Major repair facilities for sea, rail and motor transport have doubled compared with 1976.

4) In industry and transport and communications, many undertakings have been enlarged: The Uong Bi thermopower plant, the Nam Dinh weaving mill, the Ha Bac nitrogenous fertilizer plant, the Lam Thao super-phosphate plant, the Lao Cai apatite mine, etc.

- Have been completed: The Bai Bang paper mill, with an annual capacity of 50,000 tons, the Minh Phuong weaving-mill, the Dong Nam spinning mill, etc.
- Under construction (to be commissioned some time in 1981 - 1990).
- The Hoa Binh hydropower project on the Da river with a capacity of nearly 2 million KW.
- The Tri An hydropower project on the Dong Nai river with a capacity of 320,000KW.
- The Pha Lai thermopower plant with a capacity of 640,000KW
- The Bim Son cement works with an annual capacity of more than a million tons.

- The Hoang Thach cement works with an annual capacity of over one million tons.
- The Hanoi spinning mill: 100,000 spindles per year,
- The Nha Trang spinning mill: 100,000 spindles per year,
- The Thang Long bridge spanning the Red river.

A strong fillip has been given to oil and gas exploration and exploitation, with Soviet assistance and cooperation.

Education, medicine, culture

1) Education: more than 16 million people are going to school. Details:

	1975:	1980:
Infant classes	823,000	1,587,000
- General education	10,320,000	12,095,000
- Complementary education	1,598,000	2,194,000
- Secondary vocational education	96,000	133,000
- Higher education	92,000	146,000

2) Medicine:

	1975:	1980:
- Hospitals and infirmaries	1,396	2,396
- Sanatoriums	86	93
- Communal health care stations	6,565	9,034
- Hospital beds	142,000	198,000

(Health care personnel (1980 figures):

- Medical doctors: 12,400 (7.5 for every 10,000 inhabitants)
- Assistant doctors: 27,900.
- Nurses: 74,000
- Midwives: 13,600.

3) Culture (1980 figures):

- Books: 29.7 million copies,
- Films: 128.

1) Socialist transformation in the South:

- The comprador bourgeoisie eliminated as a class,
- Private capitalist industry and trade converted in the main,
- 30% of the toiling peasantry engaged in varying degrees of collectivization: Solidarity teams, labour-exchange teams, production collectives, farming cooperatives.

2) Consolidation of cooperatives in the North:

By 1980, north Vietnam had 11,088 farming cooperatives, most of them of advanced level, grouping 96.8% of peasant households each cooperative numbers on an average 1,709 people (590 labourers) and works 201 hectares of land.

3) The regime of contract quotas has rapidly spread in agriculture since 1981. The benefits and obligations of the individual farmer are clearly defined and what he gets is reflexion of the efforts he makes. As a result he is encouraged to practise intensive cultivation and increase crop yields.

4) In five years (1976 - 1980)

About 4.2 million people found productive employment. About 1,470,000 people (700,000 labourers) settled in new economic zones; clearing up 500,000 hectares land. (In 1975, at the time of liberation, there were 3 million unemployed in the south, among them one million former members of the Saigon puppet army).
