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DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

1945 - 1960

IMPRESSIONS OF FOREIGNERS

FOREIGN LANGUAGES PUBLISHING HOUSE



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HANOI 1960

HINDUSTHAN
The Sunday Bintang Timur
ZERIPOPUL

RENEW

ATJARA Kandjangan Presiden
Ho Chi Minh di Djak.

軍事裁判やめよ

要求制止美国在南越准备

SANTUHINI
TUBAN BANGSA
TUBAN BANGSA

抵抗戦
五年

国会批准

NÉPSZAI
L'ECHO

社会新報

VIET-N
CRAM

賠償停止
南



地

1966

VIET NAM — THE LOVELY LAND

I saw the brave Vietnamese people, who have an indomitable spirit, whose valour knows no bounds. Tireless and indefatigable, the peasants, with the dirt covering their feet and their hands work with a new spirit and enjoyment in their own fields, which were distributed to them after the land reform.

Behind them I saw Vietnamese womanhood, the great patriotism and practical deeds of Viet Nam's valiant daughters.

They not only sacrificed their own lives but also presented to their fatherland brave sons and daughters who gave their lives heroically.

To me, and to many others in Ceylon, Viet Nam was a country which has known war. But after coming to Viet Nam, witnessing their theatres, the archeological preservations in Hanoi, the industrial development in the factories and many other such things, I was amazed and astonished. The bitter war and the rain of bombardments of the brutal inhuman enemies have not prevented the brave Vietnamese nation from building its land.

My visit to the National Minorities' College was an unforgettable experience. I went during the

occasion of a visit of the Northern Minorities representatives to the college. The unity and brotherly feeling which prevailed among them was a mark of strength to advancing people's Viet Nam. The people's government provides help and assistance to improve their living standard, cultural tradition, education, etc. and the endeavour of the government to bring about close unity among the minorities and the majority, as well as unity among the minorities themselves is a noteworthy factor to be praised.

I came to this lovely land alone. But I am returning to my motherland not as lonely as I came, but with so many compatriots around me. They are the inspiring spirits of the great martyrs of Mother Viet Nam. The noble common cause for which they lived and laid down their lives will ever guide and lead us in all our struggles in the future.

H. M. P. MOHIDEEN

Member of the Association of Cingalese Writers
Editor of *The Patriot* — 1957

THEY EMBODY MAGNITUDE AND STRENGTH

One of the youngest democratic republics, Viet Nam is a wonderful country. It is not only the beauty of her mountains and valleys, her marvellous Halong bay, her villages, her green ricefields and bamboo jungles that captivate you, but her grandeur and vigour which make a deep impression. A small people, kind-hearted, magnificently beautiful and always in good humour, they embody magnitude and strength.

Technically backward, Viet Nam, which had been a prey to the armed-to-the-teeth French colonialists,

emerged victorious in the end. After the bloody war, we have seen its towns and cities with their war-shattered houses and hospitals and at present, in the course of only a year or two bamboo and palm-leaf houses are built with an incredible strength.

The ancient and modern techniques are employed together to build the future. We realize that these people who were able to overcome all the difficulties arising from their struggle for freedom, will surmount the obstacles on their road to happiness, peaceful socialism and national reunification.

The wishes of the people will succeed at last. Viet Nam has the strength born of a great conviction.

IMRE PATKO MIKLOS Rev.
Hungarian journalist — 1960

THE VIETNAMESE THAT I KNOW

The Vietnamese that I know, patient, unshakable, generous and modest, and especially fearless, is the product of the unceasing struggle against the hostile sea which sends destructive storms against the land, of the fight against the climate, the cause of alternating and sometimes disastrous droughts and floods...

Following with confidence the Lao Dong Party which has led her to the great victory in the liberation struggle, she is heading towards greater successes. Four years ago, there was in the heart only hope. Today the dream has become a reality...

EMIL MIRONESCU
Rumanian journalist — 1958

NO LONGER A MERE GEOGRAPHICAL TERM

The first thing which impresses a stranger in Viet Nam is the high amiability of the people, the friendly attitude and tactful interest they show towards any visitor from far away countries. They offer you the most beautiful flowers, the most scented tea, invite you to sweets and pieces of dried cocoanut...

Today's Viet Nam has a great and real significance and is no longer a mere geographical term.

Fervour and optimism, that is the unforgettable prevalent impression we have after a sojourn of 21 days in Viet Nam.

CARLO MEANA
A visit to Viet Nam
Czechoslovakia — 1956

AN ACTIVE, SKILFUL AND HEROIC PEOPLE

The deepest impressions which first strike the mind of the strangers who visit the various parts of Viet Nam are that, with the riches of her subsoil, that beautiful country reflects faithfully what its long generations have done patiently and indefatigably. It is the work of an active, skilful and heroic people.

Today in north Viet Nam, such achievements can be seen everywhere. This gifted and painstaking people are now advancing toward new victories with a strong will and unshakable faith.

The NEPHADSEREG
Hungary — 1959

STRAIGHT-FORWARDNESS AND SIMPLICITY

The great ardour of all the strata of the Vietnamese people in pushing forward the socialist construction of their economy, especially agriculture and industry, is an unforgettable fact. As I have observed, all the people to whom I have talked, show a firm will to place their best mental and physical forces at the service of this construction work. The second impression I shall not forget is the warm friendliness of the leading figures in the political and scientific circles with whom we have made acquaintance in Hanoi. The cordial personal relations we have managed to establish in the course of our rather short visit are not only due to the fact that the economic interests of our two socialist states remarkably complement each other, but first and foremost to the straightforwardness and simplicity of our hosts. This particularly applies to the venerable personality of the Chief of State, Ho Chi Minh, whose natural charm in playing host to us at the Presidential Palace has fascinated the members of our delegation during our stay in Hanoi.

MANFRED VON ARDENNE
Laureate of the National Prize,
Laureate of the Stalin Prize,
Professor and Doctor h.c.,
Dresden (German Democratic Republic) — 1960

BEAUTIFUL WOMEN WHO LOOK DAINTY AND FRAGILE, YET...

We have been very privileged and honoured to meet some of those women who fought through long years in the forests, in the jungles. I think we have been

especially impressed, including the menfolk of our delegation to see how these beautiful women who look so dainty and fragile that the wind could blow them over, yet can tell us stories of fortitude and heroism which are almost past belief because of the endurance and the suffering which they have been through. And for their sake particularly we all feel that Viet Nam deserves a happy, easier future.

LENA JEGER, MP. Labour Party
Great Britain — 1957

PEACE-LOVING PEOPLE

The Vietnamese people are peace-loving, rich in sentiment. An atmosphere of peace and friendship prevails wherever we go.

LIN TSIANG
Chinese journalist residing in Thailand — 1958

The image imprinted in my memory on the occasion of my visit to the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam is: peace, friendship and victory of Viet Nam's heroic people.

SUCHIN ACKHARAXAMIT
Thai journalist — 1958

The absolute majority of the Vietnamese people are rustic and simple peasants. They are of course peace-lovers. Past experiences have taught them that

peasants suffer the most whenever war breaks out at any place of the world. They work very hard but are very happy because they know that their future will be bright in peace.

Venerable OKKAHATA
Burmese Buddhist Monk — 1958

THE CONCERN OF ALL

There are things which are engraved in one's memory once and for all.

There are things which are worth reviving in spite of many difficulties.

I should like to refer to my sojourn in the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam of which I keep an unforgettable memento.

My meeting with President Ho Chi Minh has left a deep impression. His simplicity, his broad knowledge, and his affection are the reasons why he is loved by all his people.

My visits and meetings with the various sections of the population, miners, teachers, doctors, peasants, workers, etc. have taught me what a national labour, a national longing are.

I have realized that the national re-habilitation which is progressing with giant strides is the concern of all. I have realized that the national reunification of Viet Nam through peaceful means is the entire people's concern.

F. RADACAL
Youth of the Guadeloupe — 1958

AN EXAMPLE OF GREAT ENDURANCE AND SELF-DEVOTION

For us, who have been for a long time struggling and sacrificing for the elementary requirements of men's dignity, the great endurance, the lofty self-devotion, the irrepressible will and the boundless courage of the Vietnamese people are a most inspiring and stimulating source.

MOSTAFA KHALIFA
Head of the Egyptian Trade Delegation — 1959

NO DIFFICULTY NOR OBSTACLE

The energy, both spiritual and material of the Vietnamese people makes the advance of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam irresistible. That is why I would like to say that under the socialist regime there will be no such word as « difficulty and obstacle » in the dictionary of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, whether that struggle is waged in war time or in peace time.

HONG UNGTRA CUL
Thai Journalist — 1958

TIRELESSNESS AND SELFLESSNESS

What has been for ever engraved in my heart is the lofty devotion of the leaders of state in tirelessly and selflessly leading the Vietnamese people's advance. That is very unusual in the countries which boast to be civilized ones.

SAN RAN
Thai Journalist — 1958

UNTOLD SACRIFICES IN RESISTANCE, STRENUOUS EFFORTS IN CONSTRUCTION

I was deeply moved by the warm sympathy and friendship of the Vietnamese people towards the Algerian people. I was struck by the untold sacrifices of the Vietnamese people in their long and heroic resistance as well as by the strenuous efforts they have displayed in the construction of a new Viet Nam. I am sure the Vietnamese people will secure national reunification.

MALEK RIDHA
Editor-in-Chief
of the El Moudjahid (The Fighter)
Algeria — 1958

HANOI AND I

O Hanoi!
I come here, with nothing
But my heart.
That heart — a boundless love.

All those who come here never want to part.
Hanoi, I am sure, does not disappoint me.
Here is Hanoi, a milestone on the long road of
friendship —

Road trodden since long past
And covered by the dust of time and history,
Now opens up again for new meetings,
So that together, side by side, shoulder to shoulder,
We advance to the victory of friendship...

*
* *

I would like to ask whether the Red River
Has ever washed the Indonesian islands,
I would like to ask whether the Western Lake wind
Has ever blow through the Bukit forests.
But now that I am in Hanoi
What I asked for is a heartfelt feeling.
I've talked with the quiet Red River,
With the Hac Tri guerillas who defended their villages
And triumphantly entered Hanoi as victors.
I've talked with the dear Western Lake
Whose water lightly lulls my soul.
The morning breeze carries far away the voice and
laughter

Of Tuti and Duriami
Whose hair is impregnated with a fragrant jessamine
scent

*
* *

O Hanoi, Hanoi!
Never shall we be separated.
I have nothing with me but my heart;
May I offer it to you?
In this boundless realm of friendship and peace.
Your feelings and mine are mingled.

They arise from the people's heart
Filled with deep-felt love,
And ocean-wide hopeful ideal.
O Hanoi, Hanoi!
You and I, we share the same blood,
We're the people's sons
Tirelessly fighting
For entire independence
And bright future.
We walk under a shining sky,
A sky of affection and love
A sky of rose and freshness.

BANDA HARAHAP
Head of the Artistic Delegation
of Indonesia — 1959

A GRACIOUS, SIMPLE AND PROUD, ENERGETIC AND SENSIBLE PEOPLE

But how can I pass over the joy I feel as a French
journalist to be received today as a friend, invited at
their own will by a free people to their beautiful land?
How can we not have confidence in the solidarity and
friendship between our two peoples, having seen you
struggle against the horrors of a war? I will carry
away in my heart what I have seen in their own
country a gracious, simple and proud, energetic and
sensible people...

JEAN MAURICE HERMANN
French journalist — 1955

WE HAVE CRIED BECAUSE BEING FRENCHMEN...

When we crossed the border, we were surprised at the reception given to us by the Vietnamese people. It will be a long time before we see again the Lang Son station where the population acclaimed with long ovations the messengers of peace from France. Our emotion was at its peak. We have said and we repeat: we have cried. We have cried because, being Frenchmen, we shall not forget, and the reception extended to us was for us a great consolation and at the same time a most imperative duty.

JACQUES MITTERAND
Advisor of the French Union — 1955

During our visit, we have had a ceaseless close view of this war-damaged land, the innumerable sufferings of this brave people and often we felt sore in our hearts. But what a relief that never once was our first impression contradicted: this desire for peace, this thirst for peace and friendship with France.

Madam YVES FARGE
Member of the World Council of Peace,
Member of the Honorary Committee of
the National Association of old
militants of French resistance — 1955

WARM INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

As a journalist, I have been in the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam for two years. During these two years, this beautiful land has known many changes

which have deeply impressed me. But as a Chinese visitor, my greatest impression, and this I wish to tell everybody, is the friendship, the warm international solidarity. Never once during these two years did I feel I was working in a foreign country. On the contrary, I felt I was amidst closest friends, dearest to my heart.

CHANG KE
Correspondent for People's Daily
China — 1956

A HAPPY AND UNITED PEOPLE

I visited north Viet Nam twenty years after my first trip there. I saw a happy people living in a democratic republican regime, united in their work of building a prosperous Viet Nam invested with an entire political and economic sovereignty. A regime supported by the entire people is unquestionably a good regime in which the interests of the country and those of the people are placed above all.

LEN MENG
Cambodian journalist — 1960

THE FUTURE IS THEIRS

The Vietnamese Youth are rightly proud of themselves. They have displayed courage and heroism during the most trying days of the history of their country.

Now a lot of work is waiting for them. They are quite aware of it and I have seen their enthusiasm at work. Sure, the future is theirs.

PAUL GIBUS
President of the Guiana's Students Union
1958

THE REVOLUTION GIVES HUMAN FAITH BACK TO THE POOR

I have understood why they begin to count their ages from the Revolution afterwards. The first order issued by the Republic says : « Take from the French their granaries, give the starvelings their rice ». The Revolution gives human faith back to the poor and rouses in them the human nature which has been degraded.

WOJCIECH ZUKROWSKI

House without walls

Poland — 1959

VIETNAMESE VOTE FOR THE FIRST TIME

These elections took place on January 6th, 1946. It was the first time in their national history that the Vietnamese went to the polls. Though there was a single list almost everywhere, the number of candidates on it exceeded by far the number of deputies required : 77 candidates against 6 seats in Hanoi, 107

against 12 at Haiphong, 58 against 7 at Ha Tinh, etc. the percentage of voters was high and the foreign observers, the Americans for instance, recognized that the elections were held in quite normal conditions. Ho Chi Minh polled 169,222 votes out of 172,765 voters from 187,888 electors in Hanoi, General Vo Nguyen Giap obtained 97 per cent of the votes in Vinh. These elections organized in January by the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam were held in secret in many provinces in the South. There were 800,000 voters in the five provinces of the South-West, the strong bases of the Resistance. The national unity was intact.

JEAN CHESNEAUX
Contribution to the history of the
Vietnamese nation.

THE PEOPLE RULE

It is the people who rule in the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. All sections of the population are represented in the National Assembly, the highest ruling body. Most of the deputies are workers and peasants. The same is observed in local organs. It is quite natural that the state policy serves the people's interests. Even the «Tu Do» (Liberty), newspaper issued in south Viet Nam recognizes that the Democratic Republican regime «meets with the aspirations of the poor».

IVAN KOULAKOV
New Times
Soviet Union — 1959

A DEMOCRATIC COUNTRY

The Democratic Republic of Viet Nam is a democratic body with a government of its own elected by a National Assembly composed of all classes. Their opposition to the French regime is based on the principle of national self-determination. The numerous breaches of faith by the French government, particularly in the Bay of Ha Long agreement, have convinced them that French offers of independence to Viet Nam are not genuine and sincere.

NEW TIMES OF BURMA
1949

THEY HAVE VOTED FOR A HAPPY FUTURE

Elections to the National Assembly of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam took place last Sunday — the second elections during the 15 years of existence of the Democratic Republic.

During these 15 years, the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam has known only six years of peace. Out of the other nine years, there was one year of uncertainty and provocations by the French colonialists armed to the teeth, and eight years of hard and ruthless war. Then came the U. S. A. interference, which caused the partition of Viet Nam into two parts. Almost half of the population do not know peace and freedom. According to the Geneva Agreements, signed in 1954, Viet Nam should have been reunified nearly four years ago...

During the past six years, the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam has tried its utmost to have the country reunified...

Citizens of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam have many reasons to have confidence in the candidates. Government leaders, labour heroes, outstanding fighters in the national liberation struggle, the most conscious women, representatives of national minorities — all of them form the fighting forces of the country — the Viet Nam Lao Dong Party and the Viet Nam Fatherland Front. The six years of construction have testified to this confidence.

The people of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam have ballotted for patriotic candidates and have thus voted for the people's interests and benefit, world socialism and peace.

KAREL PRASEK

Correspondent for Rude Pravo
Czechoslovakia — 1960

IMPRESSIVE STRUGGLE FOR LIBERATION

What impresses me most is the story of the resistant village of Lien Minh which the French invaders were able to occupy only for a few weeks, though nearly all the surrounding area had been placed under their control. Simple peasants and farmers who had come to learn by necessity to handle a gun and throw a hand-grenade, were the terror of the French battalions which were well officered and armed to the teeth. I am impressed by the story of that village defended by valiant men because it eloquently synthesizes the struggle for the liberation of all the Vietnamese people, composed mostly of peasants, who have taken up the military profession by necessity and have been able to defeat in the most difficult conditions an invader far better armed than they.

REMUS LUCA

A visitor to Viet Nam
Rumania — 1959

FREEDOM FIGHTERS OF VIET NAM

Valiant Fighters! You enter'd golden gates of Divine
Kingdom
As you made your desire, the desire of Freedom;
Unfading deeds of heroism unfold'd to epitomize
Cao Bac Lang*
With fetters broken that bound the bleeding hand.

Day after day, and year after year
Weary hearts leap to hold you near,
And dreamy nights whisper in silent echoes
The tales of horror and the tales of woes.

Who'd efface patriotic spirit and the tears of toil
When blood drain'd to cement bursting soil;
Oh! the days when rifles riddl'd lustrous lives
Wicked weapons whizzing to wound weeping wives.

In country's clarion call, sisters bade their brothers
adieu
Perhaps ne'er to meet them again anew
Flames of fire flew high to glitter the sable sky
Martyrs defending Resistance Base with banners high.

Banners beaming, brave buglers blared — « Wipe the
traitors soon »
Soon to sink-in, « dreary dawn of doom »;
And valorous Vietnamese blazed like blizzard all
around
While enemy lay motionless on the burning ground.

*Cao — Bac — Lang is an abbreviation of north Viet Nam's three mountainous provinces which served as mighty bases for the heroic and successful « War of Resistance ».

E'en riotous gardens resist'd to bloom-in-beauteous
Hungry valleys signall'd flying clouds to highlight
And People's army stream'd like a shooting star
Vehemently battering aggressors, close and far.

Viet Nam' ll vigorously vindicate her virgin victory
Which's transfix'd high in heavens with angelic
No power shall ever pollute Country's sacred name,
Standing resurrect'd from atrocious imperialist game.

Flowers of Freedom blossom in songs of severe strain
Songs that'll linger on Vietnamese lips, time and
We rejoice to cherish in the sanctuary of our heart
President Ho's dazzling present and blazing past.

Unknown Warriors! you dwell in deeds to flood
For Asia's unbreakable unity to glow pure and bright;
This National Day, India pays you homage again
May our Freedom's Wings, float high in twain.

PRALHAD N. MOHGAONKAR
Nagpur (India) — 1957

THE LIBERATION MOVEMENT HAS THE SUPPORT OF THE MASSES IN LARGE MEASURE

Reports received indicate that the liberation movement of Viet Nam guided by Ho Chi Minh, President of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam has the support of the masses in large measure. Except for

French control in the main cities of Saigon, Hue, Hanoi and Haiphong, the country seems to be solidly behind Ho Chi Minh and his followers. The liberation movement has armed forces consisting of regular and popular troops and its own currency backed by gold in bullion. Colonial powers in their attempt to retain control of their possessions abroad brand every movement for national liberation as communist and Ho Chi Minh's organisation has been no exception.

The NEW TIMES OF BURMA
1949

THEY HAVE THE FULL SUPPORT OF EVERY INDIAN

The brave people of Viet Nam desire independence and peace and in this they have the full support of every Indian. If their case ultimately goes before the United Nations, it will be a challenge to the integrity of the purpose of that august body. One can only hope that it will receive a full measure of justice.

The struggle of the people of Viet Nam is merely a part of that universal fight for freedom which is being waged by such a large section of the human race today. It is symbolic of the new awakening in Asia and the new consciousness of fundamental human rights — first of which is the right to be free.

Mrs. VIJAYA LAKSHMI PANDIT
1947

The sympathy of every Indian student is with the people of Viet Nam who are fighting against French military attack to defend their hard-won freedom. The

victory of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam will strengthen the forces fighting for freedom all over the world and particularly in Asia.

Excerpt from the appeal of the All India
Students' Federation on the occasion of
the celebration of Viet Nam Day, January 21, 1947

WHEREVER WE GO IN VIET NAM, WE CAN MEET HEROES

The Vietnamese people's history could fill dozens of thick books. Wherever we go in Viet Nam, we can meet heroes.

Dien Bien Phu symbolises the Vietnamese people's glorious victory, the dismal French and American political failure, and also a complete military defeat of imperialism such as never seen before in Asia or Africa.

S. TAHSIN

Secretary General

Indonesian Journalists' Association 1958

A TORCHLIGHT FOR THE PEOPLES OF THE FAR EAST

Among the South-East Asian countries torn by warfare or riots, Viet Nam is the only one which, step by step and steadily, advances toward final victory to become a torch lighting up the road of the Far Eastern people to peace and freedom. Despite the

joint manoeuvres of the imperialist powers against the people of East Asia in the economic, political, cultural and military fields, the struggle waged by Viet Nam during these three years has been a source of confidence for us. Unlike its neighbours — Malaya, Thailand, Indonesia, Burma — which experience a lot of difficulties and face the reprisals of the imperialists, Viet Nam enters its fourth year of struggle with an unshakable faith in the final victory.

Land reform, the development of handicrafts and trade, liquidation of illiteracy, the raising of the people's cultural level, solidarity among the various strata of the population, the ideological education of the masses, the regroupment of all the patriotic forces around the government, all that is the solid foundation stone for final victory.

During the last three years, all these achievements have been obtained by the Vietnamese people with a tremendous sacrifice, sure as they are that these realizations will lead to victory, freedom and a genuine peace.

The INTELLECTUAL WORLD
China — 1948

**THEY HAVE SUCCEEDED IN
REVOLUTIONISING THEIR
COUNTRY FOR THE GOOD
OF THE PEOPLE**

I have great pleasure in sending greetings to my brothers of Viet Nam and to her distinguished President on behalf of myself, the Afro-Asian Solidarity Association of India and the Indian people on the auspicious occasion of the Fifteenth Anniversary of their proclamation of independence. I have never had the privilege of visiting Viet Nam, but Viet Nam and her people are no strangers to me. I have met a number of her distinguished citizens in various international conferences and I know sufficient about this country and her brave people who, because of their fine qualities, have endeared themselves to me.

We admire the Vietnamese people for their bravery and spirit of sacrifice with which they wrested their freedom from the imperialists through rivers of blood. It is not long since they have been free and it is wonderful how, in this short period, they have succeeded in revolutionising their country for the good of the people. They have started new industries, built roads and dams, have arranged irrigation for their

dry lands. Industrial production has gone up and living conditions of the workers and the peasants are much better than before. New jobs are being created to give employment to the people. All this has made the people happy and consolidated. Education has also improved. Illiteracy has been basically liquidated. Schools have increased and so has the number of school-going children. Medical aid is provided free and the number of hospitals has considerably increased. And all this has been achieved within the period of five years of their freedom after the bloody war of nine years' duration.

These are brilliant victories. They already show that people are determined to rebuild their country, work and sacrifice for it till it is safe from want, disease and war and to struggle for the reunification of their fatherland by peaceful means.

Smt. RAMESHWARI NEHRU
President,
Indian Association for Afro-Asian Solidarity
1960

INTENSE ACTIVITY OF THE WHOLE PEOPLE

What has notably impressed me personally was the intense activity of the whole people, men, women and children, in their daily life and especially in the field of construction.

It was with great emotion that we watched thousands of your workers doing reconstruction work amidst joy and collective efforts, singing while transporting all necessary materials for the railway line, carrying basketfuls of pebbles, sand, cement and earth to complete by the end of this month the Thac-

huong dam, a water reserve for the whole region. This enthusiasm and joy showed the unshakable confidence in the government headed by your venerable President Ho Chi Minh, which has led you to win peace and will lead you to economic victory, to better living conditions.

We have learnt much during this short visit and we will tell all French working people the truth about what we have seen, on all points, but especially about reconstruction, the work for peace.

EMILE PASQUIER
General Secretary of the National Federation
Lighting and Moving Forces (France)
1955

ENTHUSIASM AT WORK

Hon-gay miners dug hills of anthracite and rolled trains of half-demolished wagons with a real passion, because they know that exported coal is the main means of payment for the Vietnamese trade. About 12 kilometres outside Hanoi, we have seen hundreds of men, peasants, soldiers, townspeople coming here of their own will, to dig with their own hands irrigation canals to fight a threatening drought.

JOANNY BERLIOZ
New Democracy (France)
April 1958

TO CREATE A COUNTRY OF THEIR OWN

I have also been to north Viet Nam and I have seen how they have blown up old concrete posts of French imperialism to obtain raw materials for their new roads; thousands of kilometres of barbed-wire fences were removed by the assiduous hands of free and independent peasants, who tilled anew their lands abandoned because of the fortifications and the war waged for so long a time against them by the colonialists. I have witnessed the beginnings of an industry in the hands of a people hitherto kept in a state of a miserable colonial producer to the profit of foreign exploiters, in the hands of those people who rejoice at their newly won freedoms as they work side by side to create a country of their own.

REWI ALLEY

Writer

New Zealand — 1958

(Retranslated from French text)

THE INDOMITABLE SPIRIT WHICH WON THE GREAT BATTLE OF DIEN BIEN PHU

We are extremely pleased to see that within a short period of five years since liberation from foreign domination, great achievements have been made by the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. We notice that the indomitable spirit which won the great battle of Dien Bien Phu is now turning in the direction of rehabilitation. We also admire the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam for allowing freedom of worship.

U CHIT THOUNG

Cultural Minister

Union of Burma — 1959

A REALISTIC AND CONCRETE NATIONAL ECONOMIC PLAN

The Democratic Republic of Viet Nam has completed land reform and has solved the problem of food shortage. The past few years have seen a constant increase in rice production.

The Democratic Republic of Viet Nam has drawn up a realistic and concrete national economic plan. Helped by the Soviet Union, China and other socialist countries, the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam is making big strides forward.

Although Viet Nam is divided geographically into two, economically she cannot be so. South Viet Nam abounds in rice, coffee, sugar-cane, rubber, while the North is rich in mineral resources.

SATYA GRAHA

Chief Editor, Suluh Indonesia
1958

A CITY WHICH BELONGS TO THE PEOPLE

One notices the contrast very vividly in the case of Saigon and Hanoi. Walking through the streets of Saigon, one sees that there are two cities. One city is rich with speculators and profiteers and the foreign communities. The other is that of the poor people, living in abject misery, homeless and diseased.

Here, walking around Hanoi, I have the feeling that this is a city which belongs to the people. The people are all over the city. They do not have to live in separate quarters and to get away from the bright broad streets and the pretty lakes which are the delight of Hanoi.

WILLIAM WARBEY, MP
Great Britain — 1957

WE WERE SURPRISED...

The Vietnamese in the North, led by their Fatherland Front and beloved President Ho Chi Minh are starting with essentials. We have found everywhere an extreme modesty about the developments planned; the actual achievements are greater than we had been led to expect. For a country whose people were given no higher education by the colonial power, we were surprised to see what is already being turned out by the machine tool factory in Hanoi, to see girls whose parents probably could not read or write, using testing equipment with a competence that few girls in the West get a chance to acquire.

A. M. YOUNG
Doctor of Science
Fellow of the Royal College of Science
Great Britain — 1958

SOMETHING NEW AND GREAT EVERY WEEK

Every week brings new and great things in the life of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. Industrial enterprises are commissioned, irrigation canals destroyed during the war are rebuilt. «No man's lands», these fertile fields transformed into deserts by the invaders, are tilled and sown to paddy seed. The young and independent country is consolidated and musters its forces.

V. OGIPOV
When the jungle becomes desert
Soviet Union — 1956

EXCELLENT RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

In North Viet Nam, we have met Buddhist believers. Their religious activities have been excellent. Pagodas and temples have been kept in good order. I am very glad to note that only in a few years' time the Vietnamese people have achieved many successes in various fields. You have pushed forward industry, raised the output of rice and cereals, and improved the people's living standard.

Venerable AMRITANAN
Leader of the Nepalese Buddhist Delegation
1959

FREED FROM A DARK AND BACKWARD LIFE

The Viet Nam Lao Dong Party and the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam Government pay constant attention to building a happy life for the people.

About 60 national minorities living in the mountainous regions of north Viet Nam have been freed from a dark and backward life and are advancing on the path towards Socialism.

M. NAIBAHO
Chief Editor, *Harian Rakjat*
Indonesia — 1958

TEN TIMES MORE SCHOOLS

Since the time when the Vietnamese people fought the colonialists for their freedom, constructive work has begun in the liberated zones. As a result of land

reform, 11 million poor peasants have drawn profit from land; industry and trade have been brought into the orbit of the State sector. In the cultural field, one can say that a true revolution has occurred. It suffices to consider that in 1945, only two per cent of children learned, while more than 90 per cent go to school now. The number of schools is ten times greater, and to date more than 14 million people have learnt to read and write.

ZERI POPULLIT
Albanian Newspaper — 1955

TWO MORE THAN IN ADVANCED AMERICA!

Youngsters now growing up in north Viet Nam are leading very different lives from those led by their parents when they were children in a French colony. There is no really good aspect of colonialism to the people who live in a colonised country. But one of the most terrible things, to me, is the effect on the children from the moment they are born. They do not even know they are missing.

In Viet Nam, for instance, before independence, children were almost certain to get malaria. Epidemics of smallpox, cholera, typhus and poliomyelitis constantly swept through the country, carrying off children and adults alike in their thousands, as did influenza every winter. They were subject to the hundred and one diseases that flourish in the tropics—liver diseases, fungus and parasitic diseases of various kinds, trachoma and other eye complaints. There was no education for any but the select few, no time for play and laughter, and no energy for them even if there were time, because there was never enough food. In times of drought and flood,

hunger became starvation and almost certain death. To remove the thought that I may be exaggerating, I quote these figures painstakingly acquired by members of the Vietnamese Women's Union. During the terrible famine of 1945 — 46, when two million people in north Viet Nam died of starvation in the worst areas, seventy of every hundred babies born, died within that year.

At present, in Hanoi, the infant mortality rate is only 28 in the 1,000, two more than in advanced America!

LORRAINE SALMON
South-East Asia Correspondent
for Australian newspapers Tribune
and Guardian — 1960

ASTONISHING NOT LONG AGO — NOW BECOMING EVERYDAY ACTUAL OCCURRENCE

He who comes to Hanoi cannot go without noticing that everybody studies here. In every factory, office groups are formed, courses are set up at night for the grown-ups. School-rooms are also reserved for the same purpose. All children go to school. You will also see watchmen and workers at construction sites attending night classes. Huge posters are placarded everywhere calling upon every person to go to school.

In the 1959 school year the number of pupils increased twentyfold in elementary schools and sixteenfold in High Schools and Universities as compared with that under French domination in Indochina. This number does not include the pupils still studying in the Soviet Union, China and other socialist countries.

One thing which not long ago was astonishing is now becoming an everyday actual occurrence: an

ordinary man knows how to read, to write and has a right to study. Libraries, public reading-rooms, workers' clubs have taken the place of refreshment bars, night cafés, and «famous» opium dens in Hanoi.

Foreigners who came to see Hanoi, usually heard that memoirs or books they wrote about the life of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam are outdated rapidly. A German memoir writer said to me: «A few months ago, in writing about Viet Tri, I said that it was a peaceful small town submerged in the rice-fields of the fertile Northern plain. But now it is being transformed into a big industrial centre.»

PHILIPPOV
Correspondent for Pravda
Soviet Union — 1960

NEW LIFE IN VIET NAM

She sits upon her doorstep low,
The book between her palms held so;

Three score and ten, with failing sight
But now she learns to read and write.

The boy who hovers by her knee
Points now to «i» and now to «t»*

The heads are close, one black, one grey...
And while she reads, his glances stray.

* The letters «i» and «t» are the first to be learned in the anti-illiteracy courses.

He sees the vista of the plain
Where, buried deep in verdant grain,

The land is springing green with rice,
And crops once single, burgeon twice:

But all her gaze is centred in
The simple letters, thick and thin.

This hand that holds the pencil now
In childhood steered another's plough,

These eyes that scan the quiet page
Once burned with deep, unyielding rage:

This body wrinkled, small and brown
Has felt the landlord's lash swing down

But now she reads, and on her face
The joy of youth lends all its grace

Now, in the sunset of her years,
Triumphantly, the dawn appears.

Australian writer MONA BRAND
visited north Viet Nam with her husband Len Fox, a correspondent of the Sydney paper, Tribune — 1957.

MAIN STAGES OF LIBERATION OF MAN

The few days fully spent in Hanoi have more and more convincingly shown me this rapid development which ushers in a forthcoming era of prosperity, happiness and peace.

The land reform which has restituted freedom and equality to the peasants, enables them to fight victoriously against famine, and it is obvious that this victory, of such great extent, is itself the basis of future developments.

The struggle against illiteracy is also nearing completion.

The economic re-habilitation already remarkable, enables one to foresee the complete success of the Three-year plan.

In these achievements I have seen the main stages of the liberation of man which enables him to secure a material and cultural life, which is part and parcel of the respect of human dignity and a condition of progress whose ever-growing acceleration is assured by the socialist transformation of the economy.

Dr LAZARD
France — 1958

STEADY PROGRESS IN EVERY SPHERE

One of the most outstanding differences is that today these people have enough to eat and can buy new clothes, as well as other necessities and a few luxuries. Under the French colonial regime which supported feudalism so strongly, it was customary for the minority people to face starvation for at least four months every year. This was brought about by the big taxes that had to be paid both to the French and to the local feudal officials, and by the fact that the peasants were always forced to devote their time to harvesting the officials' crops before their own, with the result that their own harvests were often ruined.

Looking through the windows of one house at the lush tropical vegetation—the banana trees, areca

palms, jack fruit trees and hibiscus bushes, and watching the peasants strolling home from the fields in the early afternoon to meet us, I thought how relaxed and independent their lives were now, compared with those days only a few years ago when they were so oppressed by the mandarins and local officials that they were afraid to lift their heads or raise their eyes lest they be accused of some offence.

During our stay in north Viet Nam we have been able to observe steady progress in many spheres. We have seen for ourselves how, with their greatly improved rice crops, the peasants of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam no longer have to fear starvation for part of the year, and can, in fact, export rice—a thing unknown before in the North. We have observed and taken part in their Lunar New Year and Mid Autumn Festivals as well as their May Day and Independence Day celebrations and witnessed their whole-hearted enjoyment of these occasions, made brighter for the small luxuries that only an improving standard of living has made possible.

The Government's deep concern for the many minority people who enjoy equal rights with the rest of the Vietnamese, is another outstanding feature of the new life.

MONA BRAND
Australian writer
1957

I CAN TALK TO MANY PEOPLE IN AUSTRALIA...

I can talk to many people in Australia of my experiences working as a newspaperman for two years in the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. I can assure them that the government and people of the Demo-

cratic Republic of Viet Nam, the victors of Dien Bien Phu, know very well what war is, that they want no more of it, and that they wish for nothing more than the honest friendship of all peoples and governments as they set about their heavy task of transforming their north Viet Nam, for centuries a prey to feudalism and colonialism, into a modern Socialist land. I can tell them of the progress already made in this direction — that in north Viet Nam the spectre of annual famine, chronic for centuries, has been laid to rest forever; that the standard of clothing was visibly better at the end of my stay than at the beginning; that the road from Hanoi to Ha Dong, for example, is today one huge construction site as the factories, denied north Viet Nam by both feudal and colonial power, are at long last being built. I can speak of the vigorous spirit with which north Viet Nam's age-old heritage of ignorance, superstition and disease is being tackled by the government, through the agency of the organised people themselves. I can speak of sixteen million people stepping out along the road of modern development. From my knowledge of what is happening in other South-east Asian countries, I can assure my fellow Australians that fundamental social advances have been made in north Viet Nam that are still things of the future for all other countries in the region.

MALCOLM SALMON
South-East Asia Correspondent
for Australian newspapers
Tribune and Guardian — 1960

UNRIVALLED ANYWHERE IN SOUTH EAST ASIA

Briefly, here are some of the impressions I take away with me after my travels in north Viet Nam:

Many thousands of healthy, happy children with strong teeth and easy, friendly, smiles... Thousands of bicycles. Bookshops and many books...

Everywhere, in towns and villages — for I went deep into the countryside, visited many homes, factories, co-operatives, schools, farms, industrial sites — ample food and cloth, shops filled with basic consumer goods sold at reasonable prices.

Millions of men and women, busy all day long, building, working, learning, planning, teaching, studying, co-operating.

Thousands of bright, fit, energetic and enthusiastic Pioneers and Labour Youth.

Throughout the country an atmosphere of intelligent security, of quiet determination to make definite, if unspectacular, material progress according to a national plan based on practical, sensible, voluntary co-operation among all the people.

A national resolution that Socialism through co-operation, which does not yet involve fully most families in north Viet Nam, though of vital importance to the country's development, will be gradual and strictly in accordance with the wishes of the people. A national longing for the reunification of Viet Nam; a steadfast belief that this will come about in due course.

No sign anywhere of preparation of war.

Those are some of my impressions. They add up to a conclusion that north Viet Nam's national drive is based on peace; that comparatively, Viet Nam's steady rate, depth, and scope of economic and social development is unrivalled anywhere in South East Asia.

During a month's travelling about in north Viet Nam I saw no warlike preparations. On the other hand, I have seen millions of workers and peasants working hard in fields and newly-built factories.

True, I saw soldiers but they were helping in the field digging ditches or making roads.

I have lived in the Far East for 12 years and travelled extensively. Let me say this: north Viet Nam is making material progress unequalled by any country in South East Asia.

ALEX JOSEY
South-East Asia Correspondent for
the London Paper **Reynolds News**
1960

PRIORITY TO ECONOMIC CONSTRUCTION

From all I have seen, it is clear that the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam is giving priority to the economic reconstruction of the country, has respected the Geneva Agreements to the letter, has no intention of interfering in the affairs of Laos, has, since the re-establishment of peace, built no strategic roads or military bases threatening its neighbours, that it is ensuring its own safety through the peasant and minority population, who are daily becoming more attached to it thanks to a wise, human and clear-sighted policy.

Mme ISABELLE BLUME
Member of the Presidium of the
World Peace Council
1959

THE SOLDIERS OF PEACE

The glorious division 320 which fought not far from Hanoi during the war has in peace time brought its contribution to a great victory over an enemy just as dangerous: drought!

More than 2,000 soldiers took part in the construction of the Bac-Hung-Hai agricultural hydraulic system, side by side with thousands of peasants.

I have chosen the example of these soldiers and officers of Bac-Hung-Hai—a great building site of socialism in Viet Nam—to show how closely the life of the Viet Nam People's Army is bound to that of its people.

During my three weeks of travel through democratic Viet Nam, I met soldiers everywhere, wherever there is the need to produce and to build.

It is a really hard job for them to fell trees for months on end in the mountains of Bac Son.

Everywhere, the soldiers volunteer for the hardest jobs. In January 1958, they were given orders to build a State farm on the hills of Phu Tho for cultivating tea. After only five months' work, they were able to build this farm, 200 houses, 15 kilometres of road, to weed 310 hectares and clear 130 hectares. According to the results obtained, I think this plantation will be completed three years before the plan foreseen.

In the Army farms, they cultivate rice, plant rubber trees, coffee, tea, pepper, and they breed animals.

An exhibition was organized in Hanoi last December on the technical improvements and inventions made by the Army in the sphere of handicrafts and industry. This exhibition was very interesting, especially for those who know little of the conditions of work in a country not provided with machines. It is strange to see a wooden crane able to lift heavy loads to a height of 12 metres, or to see an electric battery with wooden parts.

The soldiers manufactured a car themselves as a trial in their own workshops, as we say in our country «on one's knees». Their prototypes of dynamos, turbines, etc., also deserve mentioning because they show us the capabilities of a people freed from the colonialist yoke.

BOREK HOMOLA
Writer for the Czechoslovak Army newspaper
Defence of the People
1958

IMPRESSIVE PROGRESS

The Vietnamese people who made the French colonialists bite the dust at Dien Bien Phu in 1954, are achieving impressive progress in restoring life and prosperity to a country which had been bled white under foreign occupation.

Illiteracy and other social evils which had the force of law under the colonialist regime are visibly disappearing. The people are showing the same zeal in the work of national reconstruction as they showed formerly in the heroic resistance against the French colonialists. This is the best guarantee of success.

Of course, the struggle of the Vietnamese people has not finished. As in the Cameroons, Viet Nam is divided, and partitioned families continue to live, one part in the North and the other in the South.

All African peoples in general and the Cameroons people in particular wholeheartedly support the peaceful struggle which is being waged in this part of Asia for the building of a unified and independent Viet Nam.

ERNEST OUANDIE
Vice-President of the Union
of the People of the Cameroons
1959

NOT ONLY MERE FIGURES

Before the war, in the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam (north Viet Nam) the total rice output amounted to 2.4 million tons on the average. As a result of huge and evergrowing irrigation work and the extension of the acreage of arable land and thanks to the efforts made in agriculture, chiefly the battle to obtain two harvests per year, in 1954 the total rice production reached over 4 million tons. Last year, particularly propitious to Viet Nam, it exceeded the mark of 5 million.

This is not only mere figures, this is the path of life, the right to live as a rule. The famine which carried off more than 2.5 million people in 1945, is no more a threat to that country. The great battle waged under the slogan «Rice» enters a new period though it is not completed as yet, and the planned figure of 500 kilogrammes per head of population per year is still short by 50 kilogrammes. The suppression of the famine spectre and even the twofold increase of the rice yield from 1,300 to 2,500 kilogrammes per hectare, are but the beginning, the preliminary steps.

TRIBUNA LUDU
Poland — 1960

A PLAN OF PROSPERITY FOR ALL

The aim of the three years of economic reconstruction was common prosperity for all the people. The Democratic Republic of Viet Nam Government has scored brilliant successes. The Vietnamese people are resolute in building their country into an advanced industrial country. They have outstripped the pre-war production level in many fields.

Though of course not yet satisfactory, the results the Vietnamese people have achieved in their efforts to develop their country economically within the last four years are very great. In the countryside, in the factories, as well as in the coalmine we visited, we saw the people working hard and with enthusiasm. They are working for their country and for themselves. We were very much impressed by the modesty of the leaders who are now also in the forefront and working hard. We are confident that with abundant natural resources, ample manpower, a good program and organization under the leadership of President Ho Chi Minh and others, the Vietnamese people will surely achieve much progress in the economic field in the near future, on the road to Socialism.

L. DJAWOTO
Vice-Director
Antara News Agency
Indonesia — 1958

KEY TO SUCCESS

What is the key to their success? It is the determination of the Vietnamese people, and the leadership of the most advanced class in history: the working class.

Viet Nam which was formerly considered as a backward agricultural country by the colonialists, has embarked today on the path toward socialism, prosperity and strength.

HARIAN RAKJAT
Indonesian newspaper — 1958

RAPID RESULTS OF A RIGHT POLITICAL LINE

The most remarkable thing for us is the enthusiasm of the Vietnamese people in their labour, their respect for and absolute confidence in President Ho Chi Minh and other leaders. The people of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam has driven out all the dark shadow of poverty and epidemics, put an end to illiteracy and unemployment. There is nothing more encouraging for us than the rapid results of a political line, a just and equitable regime... Before every economic, cultural or social achievement or victory scored by the Vietnamese people, we also feel very proud and consider it as our own record.

MIA SENTUF
Head of the Algerian Women Delegation
1959

THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE'S MATURITY

Although still very limited, the realisations show the Vietnamese people's maturity and their ability to manage perfectly their own affairs. These constitute a square refutation to the colonialist arguments. Such an experience is a precious encouragement to peoples of goodwill who struggle against the humiliating slavery of the colonial regime. It is up to our Maghreb people, who are inferior to nobody in will and dynamism, to draw lessons from the profitable experience of the Vietnamese.

ETOILE ALGERIENNE
January 9, 1947

THE BURMESE PEOPLE WILL MARCH HAND IN HAND WITH THEM

September 2nd, 1960 is the fifteenth anniversary of the successful founding of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

On this significant occasion, the people of the Union of Burma, the monks and the laymen congratulate the Vietnamese people.

The founding of the Democratic Republic, the political, economic and cultural life of which is to be built on Socialist lines, was proclaimed to the world 15 years ago after the Vietnamese working people, under the leadership of President Ho Chi Minh, had overthrown the French colonialists and the Japanese fascists. It is registering successes up to this day.

By this message we would like to make known the fact that the Burmese people will not only support the struggles of the Vietnamese people for national reunification and against the imperialists, but also will march hand in hand with them towards Afro-Asian Solidarity, the complete banning of nuclear weapons and towards world peace.

Success to the building of Socialism in the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam!

THAKIN KODAW HMAING
International Lenin Peace Prize Winner,
President, World Peace Congress
Burma — 1960

NO MACHINATIONS OF POLITICIANS CAN COUNTERMAND HISTORICAL FORCES

On behalf of myself, of the All India Peace Council and of the vast masses of the Indian people, I most heartily congratulate the people of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam on the auspicious occasion of the celebration of the fifteenth anniversary of their day of Independence. I congratulate them also on their splendid achievements, during these years of freedom, in agriculture, industry, transport and communications, in trade, culture and in general social welfare of the people. These are achievements of which any people can be justly proud...

It fills one's heart with pain and indignation to think that such a country as Viet Nam has been cut into two by western imperialist diplomacy. The peoples of the world have plenty of experience of such vivisection of their lands at the hands of western imperialists... One is grieved to learn that between north and south Viet Nam even ordinary family correspondence between husband and wife, parents and children and the like is legally forbidden by the U.S. - dominated south Viet Nam Government. The Geneva Agreements of 1954 drew a line between the North and the South. The agreements declared that the line was by no means a «frontier between two countries», but only a «temporary demarcation line».

The agreements also unequivocally stipulated for «joint nation-wide general elections within two years». But all that now remains a dead letter through the shameful machinations of the U. S. government and their stooges in south Viet Nam who are trying to convert south Viet Nam into a U. S. bastion in South-East Asia and a permanent market for American goods.

But no machinations of politicians can countermand historical forces. The fast developing dissatisfaction, discontent, and even open revolt against the U.S.-sponsored administration in south Viet Nam, in the face of atrocious repression and inhuman tortures, are clear pointers to the fact that the day of liberation of south Viet Nam and of the happy reunification of the two parts of the country, artificially separated from each other by the 17th parallel, is not very distant.

PANDIT SUNDERLAL
President, All India Peace Council,
Member, Presidential Committee of
the World Peace Council — 1960

The Vietnamese people form a single indivisible entity. Their economy, language and culture cannot be partitioned. The continued existence of the so-called « Republic of Viet Nam » in the south is absurd. And no diplomatic or juridical manoeuvre can be an argument for this absurdity.

P. ANTOGONSKI
The strength of Viet Nam
Writer of the Soviet Union
1960

NATIONAL REUNIFICATION, A CAUSE OF JUSTICE

Only when the determination for liberation is steeled in the course of a long revolutionary activity; when the national feeling arouses after long years of outrage and humiliation; when the truth cannot be hushed up because the trick is too flagrant and the people's consciousness is always ready to defend the truth; only then can freedom recover its rights and peaceful construction begin. Such is the brilliant lesson drawn from Viet Nam and other countries.

I fully subscribe to the cause of justice and national reunification of the Vietnamese people and, as a democrat and peace-lover, I support them wholeheartedly.

OLGA POBLETTE
University History Professor
Chile — 1958

GENEVA AGREEMENTS IMPLEMENTED

In the course of these last five years the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam has strictly adhered to and correctly implemented the Geneva Agreements. Its government has many a time made proposals to the effect of unifying the country through peaceful means. This is the fond hope of the Vietnamese people on their way to the successful building of socialism.

IZVESTIA
Soviet Union — 1959

During the past five years, the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam has correctly implemented the Geneva Agreements and has made ceaseless efforts to reunify the country. Since July 1955, the Government of the Democratic Republic has many times proposed to the south Viet Nam authorities to open a consultative conference to discuss the question of holding nationwide general elections to reunify the country. The efforts of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam in these five years have had great influence among the people throughout Viet Nam. The south Viet Nam authorities, however, ignored the Vietnamese people's interests, and opposed all those reasonable proposals.

PEOPLE'S DAILY
China — July 20, 1959

PROFOUNDLY CONVINCED

I have been profoundly convinced of two things:

— That the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam will fight for the letter and spirit of the Agreements signed by so many governments in Geneva in 1954 and will always respect them.

— That the Vietnamese people will steadily build up their country into a prosperous industrial country with a modern agriculture.

ALAN WINNINGTON
Daily Worker Correspondent — 1959

READY TO FIGHT FOR THE JUST CAUSE

I have seen Viet Nam beautiful, strong and heroic. It by no means differs from the young but firm hearts of the Vietnamese people in their struggle against the imperialists who are attempting to divide their country into two parts, an unrelenting struggle for national independence and reunification.

Fine images and feelings I could find around me, on the various occasions when I had the pleasure to contact Vietnamese friends, have proved that the Vietnamese are ready to fight for the just cause, and make no racial discrimination.

ABDUL RAHMAN ABOUKOSS
Syrian journalist — 1958

ENTHUSIASM AND ARDENT DESIRE FOR NATIONAL REUNIFICATION

Two things remain engraved in our memory: firstly, the determination, enthusiasm and zeal of the Vietnamese youth; the second point of no less importance is their ardent desire for national reunification. Everywhere we went, we saw his desire and the spirit of struggle to reach this goal.

GOPAL KISHNAN
Secretary-General of the National Union
of Students of India — 1958

TIRELESS STRUGGLE

We know that the Vietnamese youth and people are carrying on a tireless struggle for the reunification of their country, which the American imperialists want to maintain partitioned, in violation of the Geneva Agreements and with the aim of turning half of it into a military base. We are firmly convinced that the determination and sacrifices of the Vietnamese youth and people will thwart all American imperialist schemes.

FOSSO FRANCOIS
General Secretary of the Democratic
Youth of the Cameroons — 1959

A MOVEMENT CLOSELY CONNECTED WITH PEOPLE'S LIFE AND DAILY WORK

We have visited many spots in north Viet Nam. In the countryside, factories, barracks or colleges, everywhere, we clearly realized that the Vietnamese people are doing their utmost in their struggle to safeguard peace, build socialism and achieve many more successes in order to consolidate the North, and struggle for national reunification. Everybody is urging himself to do something useful to this reunification. This has become a movement in which the masses and cadres are waging an active struggle, a movement closely connected with the life and daily work of the people and embodying the main goal and leading idea which promote the people's advance.

CHAN CANG MENG
Chinese writer — 1956

THE HO CHI MINH GOVERNMENT HAS MADE NO BONES ABOUT PROPOSING...

Under the leadership of President Ho Chi Minh, the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam in the North has been developing as a people's democratic state. Truly confident in the people's abilities, it has made no bones about proposing to the Southern authorities a reduction of armed forces and an extension of trade relations between North and South to facilitate Viet Nam's reunification. It stands to reason that these pursuits, instrumental to the struggle of the Vietnamese people, have been opposed by those who want to be the imperialists' puppets for the sake of their own interests.

REPUBLIK
Indonesian newspaper — 1958

While the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam is working on a programme of peaceful construction and implementing the Geneva Agreements, the authorities in the South show an opposite attitude for fear they would lose power as a result of the general elections. They act under pressure from outside. The withdrawal of the French army and the suppression of the French Military Command at Saigon in April this year made it necessary to put the primary question dealing with the responsibility of the continuation of the implementation of the Geneva Agreements. The Diem government does not recognize these agreements. The initiative taken by Hanoi as well as the recent appeal made by the Co-Chairmen of the Geneva Conference remain unanswered.

TRIBUNA LUDU
Poland — 1956

THIS STATE OF DIVISION IS ABSURD

This state of division is all the more absurd since in Viet Nam, the South is a rice granary and the North the source of energy and the seat of industry. The South needs coal, the North rice. However, this man-made frontier compels each of the two zones to try to satisfy its own needs. The U. S. A. has given to south Viet Nam four and a half times more aid than China and Russia have to north Viet Nam; and there is an obvious difference between these kinds of aids. While Russia and China concentrate on the tool industry and industrial capital, the U. S. A. have poured out huge quantities of consumer goods together with military organizations and some basic installations.

Technicians from Russia, China and Eastern European countries help the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam stabilize her economy. Thanks to these gifts the Ho Chi Minh government increases month after month its economic standard. Even in Hanoi, the shortage of technicians is deplorable, but this will be overcome very soon, and I have seen how enthusiastically young students of engineering institutes worked.

HAROLD DAVIES, M. P.
12 years of Viet Nam's history.
Horizons, December 1957
(Translated from the French text)

GENEVA SPIRIT CANNOT BE DESTROYED BY ACCEPTING SOUTHERN VIEWPOINTS

I found on discussing with the International Control Commission that the Commission has many difficulties. Nevertheless, I am sure they have done a good

job of work and they should be maintained. But to coordinate their work it is necessary for them to be able also to act in the South. But the southern government washes its hands completely of the Control Commission. I do not want to enter into the causes and consequences of this, but it is clear that one cannot just destroy the spirit of Geneva by accepting the southern view-points that the Commission should have no control whatsoever in the South.

HAROLD DAVIES, M. P., Labour Party
Great Britain — 1957

BUT THIS CANNOT LAST LONG

In Viet Nam I have met many people of goodwill and good ideas. They are worthy citizens of the Republic and valiant people who resolutely advance along the path they have chosen and who know what is the aim of their existence and what are their aspirations.

Speaking of the beauty of the souvenir, of the sun in the South and the pleasant rains, of the Red River delta and the picturesque Halong Bay, of the valiant fighters and beloved sons of Viet Nam, I cannot help remembering above all the injustice imposed upon Viet Nam, the injustice of the separation of two brothers, of the South from the North, of rivers, rice-fields, etc. But this cannot last long because the right of the people for freedom and for living in the sun and the right to build up the common future of their offspring are great and unalterable.

And I also know that my Vietnamese comrades will believe me when I say: « We are with you in your just struggle ».

BOGOMILE NONEFF
Chief Editor of the Bulgarian Review
Motherland — 1960

90% OF PEOPLE IN THE SOUTH LOOK TOWARDS PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH'S GOVERNMENT FOR THEIR SALVATION

The only elected government and the only National Assembly in all of Viet Nam is the National Assembly of the D. R. V. N., the government headed by President and Prime Minister Ho Chi Minh.

Diem's background and career were typical for his role as an American puppet.

...

Like all other informed people, including American officials in Saigon, Mr Hoang Van Co, director of « Viet Nam Presse », the official news agency and as such, chief mouthpiece of the Diem regime, did not bother to deny that ninety percent of people in the South looked towards the government of President Ho Chi Minh for their salvation.

It was impossible during two visits I paid to Saigon, to find anyone even in the upper ranks of those paid by Diem and the Americans to popularise the regime, who had any faith in the dictator of the regime they serve. Among the broadest sections of the population

on the other hand, one found a unanimous desire to end the dictatorship and unify the country by democratic means.

One found also among the ordinary people a rather touching faith that the great power who had negotiated the Geneva Agreements would ensure fulfilment of the provisions for unification by free, general elections.

WILFRED BURCHETT
North of the 17th Parallel

TWO VIET NAMS, BUT ONLY ONE

My fellow-countrymen, looking at the world, see two Viet Nams. They see north Viet Nam, and south Viet Nam. And between the two, the main newspapers and propaganda organs in my country spare no effort to make them see south Viet Nam in a good light and north Viet Nam in a bad.

I will try to prove to them what I believe to be true: that no force on earth can create a viable power in Viet Nam in opposition to the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, and that the Diem regime is doomed to failure.

I will tell them another thing which I believe to be true: that the south Viet Nam people, those who are represented in the press of the capitalist world as 'Communist terrorists' and 'bandits' because they are struggling against the U.S.-Diem regime, are the true patriots of south Viet Nam, the modern bearers of the banners of national liberation struggle which the whole Vietnamese people have carried so heroically in the past.

I will also tell them this: just as south Viet Nam has in the past been the gate through which imperialism has forced its way into Viet Nam, so it will be the gate through which in the future the south Viet Nam people will throw imperialism out of Viet Nam forever.

MALCOLM SALMON
South-East Asia Correspondent
for Australian newspapers
Tribune and Guardian — 1960

THIS NATURAL ASPIRATION WILL SUCCEED

When we speak of uniting the whole world and when peoples of the world are anxious for peace and happiness, we cannot understand why this unnatural division (of Viet Nam — Ed.) is being maintained. But we have learnt from our history that no government can succeed in trying to suppress the natural aspirations of the people and therefore we are confident that this natural aspiration will succeed.

RAJA MANTRI
Secretary General of Maharashtra Pradesh
Congress Committee
India — 1958

I SUPPORT YOUR STRUGGLE

We are aware of your pain which is ours, because we face the same situation as your country does. Therefore I support your struggle.

MIRA VON KUHBAUN
West Germany — 1958

HAIL THE STRUGGLE OF THE PEOPLE OF VIET NAM

Together with all people who love freedom and justice for others as well as for themselves, I hail the struggle of the people of Viet Nam for the peaceful reunification of their country by free general elections, in accordance with the Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam which was signed four years ago today.

WILLIAM CARY

Writer,

Bolton, Massachussets, U. S. A. — 1958

WE ARE BROTHERS-IN-ARMS IN OUR COMMON STRUGGLE

We are brothers-in-arms in our common struggle for the liquidation of colonialism and imperialism so that peace will prevail in the world, and so ensure happiness and friendship among the Youth.

We hail the valiant Vietnamese Youth for their victory which, despite the U. S. imperialists' domination in south Viet Nam, will be an impetus in the struggle for the reunification of Viet Nam.

Success to everybody!

**RAMAMONJISOA CLEMENT
RANDRIAMASIVELO JULIEN**

Malagasy — 1958

THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE WILL SOON CELEBRATE THEIR DAY OF NATIONAL REUNIFICATION

At present, we are free, but your south Viet Nam is still occupied by the imperialists and is becoming a military base threatening peace in the Far East. The people in south Viet Nam are being repressed and terrorized by the imperialists, but they are heroically struggling for freedom and national unification. The people of our two countries must carry on their struggle in order to annihilate imperialism. We are convinced that Viet Nam will be soon reunified, the Vietnamese people will soon celebrate their day of national reunification, as the Iraqi people will wipe out all reactionary plots. Our two countries will successfully build happiness.

Mrs. **SALIMA PHARI**

Head of the Iraqi Women Delegation
1959

PROGRESSIVE MANKIND SUPPORTS THIS PEOPLE

Faithful to its undertakings, the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, which stands by the letter and spirit of these decisions, tirelessly looks for the rapprochement of both sides of the country. Long since it has proposed to the authorities of Saigon to raise, even partially, the restrictions of passage on the demarcation line, and set up economic and cultural exchanges; it has reduced the formalities for traffic between the Democratic Republic and the South of the country to their simplest forms.

But, the south Viet Nam authorities consider the 17th Parallel in quite a different way...

The Geneva Agreements had provided for elections to be held in July 1956.

Basing itself on these provisions, the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam proposed to the south Viet Nam authorities to proceed to the preliminary consultations concerning the elections, as stipulated in the Agreements on the cease-fire. But the Saigon authorities flatly refused.

The Government of the Democratic Republic brings about far-reaching democratic transformations and at the same time proves its sincere will to finish with the division of the country.

Not only has reunification a great importance for the Vietnamese people, but also for the strengthening of peace and security in Asia. Progressive mankind supports this people who longs to build a peaceful, united, independent, democratic and prosperous Viet Nam.

NEW TIMES
Soviet Union, April 12, 1956

... We deeply believe that the aspiration of the Vietnamese people for an early national reunification will be achieved, as well that of the Indonesian people for the recovery of their West Irian will certainly be achieved. The struggle for national reunification of the Vietnamese people is a struggle against imperialism, to bring about territorial integrity and national sovereignty; it is also a struggle to safeguard peace in Asia and in the world. Therefore it enjoys the support and sympathy of the Indonesian people and the peace-loving peoples throughout the world.

The Vietnamese territory is not yet reunified, colonialism still holds sway in south Viet Nam. What we have seen in north Viet Nam shows that colonialism and misery have gone for ever, and the people in north Viet Nam are building socialism jubilantly and enthusiastically.

AMAN KOMBALI
Head of the Delegation
of Indonesian students — 1959

ASIANS SHOULD TAKE PRIDE IN THIS

Judging from the fact that the situation in south Viet Nam (which is separated from the North by the provocations of the U.S. imperialists who would turn it into their colony in violation of the Geneva Agreements), is deteriorating in the field of rice cultivation as well as in the fields of industry and national culture, we find that the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam has shown by example that a country can make progress only when it makes a clean bid under a correct party leadership to leave the imperialist fold. The Asians should take pride in this.

MYO MYINT
Secretary General
Burma Trade Union Congress
1960

WE ARE BROTHERS

Soviet Union and Viet Nam
United as sworn brothers,
Struggle hand in hand
For friendship and peace,
For Viet Nam's reunification,
For a world without war.

*
* * *

Soviet Union is far, but
Wholehearted and eager
In helping devotedly
With all her strength,
Her everlasting and loyal friendship.

*
* * *

Viet Nam, our young friend,
Is courageously pushing her way upward,
Building a fine and firm North,
Wiping out famine, illiteracy,
And increasing her rice crops.

*
* * *

From the Soviet land,
Technology and science

Covering long-distant roads,
Following cadres and experts,
Are handed to the Vietnamese people
Together with all her warm helping spirit.

*
* * *

Happiness will blow in,
Glorious days will come
Like the Celestial King Phu Dong
Stretched out to rise up.
Oh! how it will change
The heroic Viet Nam.
The industrial Viet Nam
Built up by one's hearts,
By both parts reunified
In the socialist family.
Oh! how happy will be
Our brothers, far and wide,
Seeing the Viet Nam Democratic Republic
Advancing, firm and rapid.

AVARELAMOVA
Poetess
Soviet Union — 1960

UNITY OF THE PEOPLE'S WILL

Anyone who has visited Viet Nam, even only once, will forever keep in his mind the image of wonderful Viet Nam. The memory of his meeting with Vietnamese people will always remain in his heart.

All my life I will remember how Viet Nam fought against the colonialists. It was a genuine people's war. The army fought the enemy and so did the guerillas. Millions of peasants, workers and intellectuals proudly and bravely made sacrifices, moving forward to face death, always advancing to perform feats of arms. Even the women and children, side by side with the men, took part in the struggle. The heroic struggle on an unprecedented scale ended in victory. The Viet Nam Lao Dong Party has led the Vietnamese people to success and work along the path of peaceful economic construction and the building of socialism.

I have had the honour of witnessing the enthusiastic spirit of the entire Vietnamese people in the struggle against the imperialist aggressors. The heroism of the glorious Viet Nam People's Army and guerillas has won the admiration of the whole world. People in all countries are much surprised at the great results of the Vietnamese people's labour. Deep

in the jungle they built factories and workshops, printing houses, colleges, libraries and scientific laboratories.

The life in the deep jungle in Viet Bac was a wonderful life that will go down to posterity. It symbolized the determination, heroic organizational spirit and united will of the nation.

... In the same way that during the war years, millions of Viet Nam's friends throughout the world followed the armed struggle of the Vietnamese people with anxiety, sympathy and support, at present, in the years of peaceful construction, each labour success scored by the Vietnamese workers, peasants and intellectuals has brought joy to the friends of Viet Nam. And there are a great many of them the world over!

... But the song of victory and happiness of peaceful labour of millions of people of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam is troubled by the sufferings of millions of their compatriots who are still living in an inferno under the terrorist regime in south Viet Nam. The traitorous Ngo Dinh Diem clique who are clinging to state-power by means of terror backed by the bayonets of their American masters, are driving millions of people to suffering and poverty.

The people in the free North cannot for even a minute forget their compatriots who are leading a hard life under the frightful yoke of the evil-doers, enemies of the Vietnamese nation.

The people living on both sides of the 17th parallel that is keeping them apart from each other, have firm confidence in the bright future when the Vietnamese nation will be unified into an inseparable happy family of people of the same blood. And the friends of Viet Nam are also confident of this.

Viet Nam will certainly be unified and free!

R. CARMEN
Lenin Prize

A GREAT REVOLUTIONARY LEADER

Ho Chi Minh is a great Vietnamese revolutionary leader in the international workers' movement. He has devoted his whole life to the struggle against the French colonialists, for the liberation of his country, for the victory of Socialism and the happiness of his people.

We are entirely justified in saying that Ho Chi Minh has made noble contributions for the realization of the Vietnamese people's ideals.

NOTICIAS DE HOY
Cuba newspaper
1960

A LEGENDARY LIFE

The simplicity of this thatched house surprises every foreigner but not those who know Uncle Ho. Modesty is characteristic of the whole eventful life of this Head of State. He has always lead the same life as his people — in self-sacrifice, work and struggle. He has been a steward, cook, journalist and politician. He has been shadowed by imperialist agents, living in exile and hiding in caves and forests. Always thinking of his people, he fought for their interests in France, China, in the mountains and the jungles of his country. He has unified the anti-colonialist movement of his people whom he has lead to the victories at Viet Bac, Hoa Binh and Dien Bien Phu. His life has become a legendary one.

BOREK HOMOLA
Czechoslovakia — 1960

It was my first meeting with President Ho Chi Minh, the man who has contributed much to his country's liberation and is still contributing to its construction and reunification. It is not surprising therefore that 95% of south Vietnamese people are behind President Ho Chi Minh. He is modest and very simple in manner. He willingly sits down on the steps of thatched-roofed huts, to talk to peasants; in barges of fishermen. All have confidence in him and talk to him, of their secrets and difficulties.

JIRINA DUMASOVA
Czechoslovakia — 1960

President Ho Chi Minh whom we are very happy to meet is a very simple but also an eminent and learned man, affectionate towards everybody, like father and son.

Venerable AMRITANAN
Leader of the Nepalese Buddhist
Delegation — 1959

FRIEND AND TEACHER OF THE PEOPLE

President Ho Chi Minh is the best representative of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and its people. I was present when he was delivering a speech to the workers of the Power Station in Hanoi. There he was called Uncle Ho, the friend and teacher of the people. Just as Ho Chi Minh has learnt the most progressive ideas in Europe which he is now teaching his people and applying to the historical and social conditions of Viet Nam, his nature and appearance can set an example in the furtherance of art and promotion of the artists in Viet Nam.

...the Vietnamese people, then President and all the friends I have met during my trip, I wish happiness and success in the future development of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. I hope it will soon be unified with the southern part of the country under the golden-starred red flag.

WALTER HEISIG
Director of the Applied Arts Institute
German Democratic Republic — 1960

SOURCE OF INSPIRATION TO THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE

Recalling our short stay in Viet Nam two years ago we were deeply impressed by the rapid progress made during the last thirteen years in the field of economy, industry and culture which go to prove that the great national leader Dr Ho Chi Minh has been the source of inspiration to the Vietnamese people. His leadership and wise counsel have been the guiding forces all these years to the great heroic national strive for material and spiritual progress and prosperity of the new independent sovereign state, as well as for the peace and well-being of the neighbouring countries and the world.

BA THAN
Burmese journalist — 1958

HO CHI MINH

Who is this King we hear of?
Who is this saint!

Who removed the thorn from the foot,
The foot of sleeping beauty named the life!

Who gave the helping hand to the victims,
Victims on the grinding wheel of suffering!

A tiny little earthen lamp seems to be walking,
Walking over the difficult paths of darkness!

Even the passing winds seem to be enquiring,
Enquiring from the lovely lands of Viet Nam!

Eh! Who has wiped out the tears?
The tears from the face of its history!

The earth has dreamt a promising dream,
A dream in the wake of night!

'That some one has sown the seed,
The seed of rising sun in the fields of sky'

Visible are the pinkish feet of flowers,
Flowers walking on the autumn twigs.

Who is this lover of humanity?
Who is this sage?

AMRITA PRITAM
Indian poetess — 1958

A SKILFUL HORTICULTURIST

After a careful study, we realize that the seed of prosperity has grown into a great success because it is sown in a fertile soil. The skilful horticulturist who

is President Ho Chi Minh has sown that seed in a fertile soil which is the Vietnamese people.

The Vietnamese people have struggled against the American and French imperialists in the light of rich revolutionary experiences from the brother peoples of the Soviet Union and China. This spirit of struggle and enthusiasm was tested in the Dien Bien Phu campaign. The peace-loving peoples all over the world have warmly supported that heroic cause of the Vietnamese people.

Venerable PANNYO ZAWTA
Buddhist Priest
Burma — 1958

YOUTHFUL SPIRIT WHICH PLEADS FOR LIBERATION OF ALL MANKIND

We were fortunate enough to witness the great National Day celebrations on September second. On that day we found the real cross-section of Vietnamese people and their love and respect for their great leader President Ho Chi Minh. We listened to the President's speech with great enthusiasm and admiration and we could find in him the youthful spirit which pleads for the liberation of all mankind from the yoke of imperialist powers. When the thousands of people assembled in the square shouted «Long live President Ho», we too joined in this, because of the very fact that the long life of your President Ho Chi Minh is not only necessary for Viet Nam, but is also equally necessary for the peace-loving people of Asia.

M.M. JACOB
Zonal Organiser of Bharat Sevak Samaj
India — 1958

THE MOST PERSISTENT REVOLUTIONARY

The French identified Ho Chi Minh as Nguyen Ai Quoc, the most persistent and canny of all the revolutionary nationalists in Indochina... He became (in France) an international figure, the representative of his country's struggle for liberation from the French. In the years that followed, his name became universally known throughout Tonkin, Annam and Cochinchina. It became synonymous with the most dogged and persevering attempts to create and keep alive kernels of resistance to French rule. Nguyen Ai Quoc was like a shadow across French mastery in Indochina. His presence was reported everywhere. His name was spoken in whispers. His influence stirred young people in the villages and towns.

HAROLD R. ISAACS
New Republic, Feb. 1947

HE HAS DEVOTED HIS WHOLE LIFE TO HIS PEOPLE'S CAUSE

A personality such as President Ho Chi Minh is worthy of veneration, for he is a great fighter for the freedom of his country and his people. One may say that he has devoted almost his whole life to the cause of the Fatherland and the nation.

THE MERDEKA
Indonesia — 1959

President Ho Chi Minh is the embodiment of the Revolutionary struggle of the people of Viet Nam.

THE HINDUSTAN
India — 1958

The self-denial which he has practised throughout his life is unparalleled by any other President.

THE HANTHAWADDY
Burma — 1958

GREAT SYMBOL FOR STRUGGLE AGAINST COLONIALISM-IMPERIALISM

President Ho Chi Minh is a great symbol for African and Asian struggles against colonialism-imperialism. His revolutionary achievements and activities are an inspiration for all people in Asia and Africa who are struggling against colonialism and every form of exploitation.

MUNYI KAMWITHI
Kenya Students' Delegate — 1959

Today, India is welcoming not only the leader of the Vietnamese people, but a great leader of the awakened peoples of Asia as well.

THE JAGARAN
India — 1958

FATHER OF THE REPUBLIC

For three years, all sections of the Vietnamese people have commemorated the birthday of their revolutionary President, Ho Chi Minh, on whom an honorary title of «Father of the Republic» was conferred as the Chinese people did on Sun Yat-sen.

ECHO DER WOCHE

Munich — 1948

EXAMPLE OF WHOLEHEARTED DEVOTION

The life of comrade Ho Chi Minh, one of the best-known leaders of the national liberation movement in the Eastern countries is an example of wholehearted devotion for the sake of the people's interests, for the noble cause of the proletarian class throughout the world.

The successes scored by the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam are connected with comrade Ho Chi Minh's activities. Being an experienced revolutionary, a faithful Marxist and Leninist, comrade Ho Chi Minh struggles unceasingly for the sake of the working class and for his compatriots' happiness.

PRAVDA

1960

During these few minutes, through the brilliant personality of the President, I have seen the inexhaustible fighting ability and the irresistible force of the people.

M. MALEK RIDHA

Editor-in-Chief of

the Al Moudjahid (The Fighter)

Algeria, October 3, 1958

WE HAVE LEARNT MUCH

Let us wish our great Leader and Teacher President Ho Chi Minh long life to do much for oppressed African and Asian peoples. Also I am expressing my tribute to Viet Nam Lao Dong Party, which is doing much in constructing this country towards Socialism, mankind's real last system... We have learnt much about his revolutionary activities and experiences.

Viet Nam should immediately be unified so that peace can exist in Indochina and the world over.

JONI KAMWITHI MUNYI

Vice-President of the Kenya United

Workers' Party — 1959

GOODBYE TO VIET NAM

By the Red River
Where teams of workers carry heavy logs
And sampans glide past on the glowing water
I leave behind a little of my heart.

In North-West hills
Where men once fought for freedom and now at dusk
The graceful Thai girls walk down to the river
I leave behind a little of my heart.

In thatched-roof hut
Where a peasant woman sang a song to welcome us...
In Hanoi streets where little children run
To grasp a stranger's hand in chubby fist...

And in the hearts
Of men and women who through the sunlit days
And through the cloudy hours became our friends
I leave behind a little of my heart.

LEN FOX
Correspondent for Sydney paper
Tribune — 1958

FAREWELL TO VIET NAM

Viet Nam so green
as long as a **dan bau** *
its string broken
on the **Ben Hai** ** river
your river today
runs with tears between its banks...
your song remains unfinished.

Viet Nam... a country split
the sword dipped in your blood
remains in strangers' hands
Viet Nam... on your neck, on your arms
I still see
traces of the yoke and the irons

Viet Nam... from afar I bring you
the wounded hand of my country
to place it in yours
damp with the sweat
of your fighting and your efforts

Viet Nam... I shall never forget
the burning fire of your sun
the golden powder of your stars
never shall I forget your flowers
nor the flowered names of your girls

* A one-stringed folk musical instrument.

** On the 17th parallel, which serves as a provisional demarcation line between north and south Viet Nam.

Never shall I forget the waters of the Red River.
embroidering a purple ornament
on the apron of Hanoi
and floating on its waves
junks and the corpses of yester-year

I shall never forget your Small Lake
that vase of flowers in the heart of the town
the pink lotuses, the grey pagodas
which bending over the waters to mirror their gods
saw in them only the faces of men

Viet Nam... your palaces are only bamboo
so many times throughout the ages burnt down
but in an instant risen again
for these palaces are your houses
each one has cradled a hero

And the days of your joy
will be more numerous by far than the grains of your
rice
more vivid than the flowers of your flame-of-the forest
land of low houses
and small wiry men
but big through its heroes

Viet Nam... land of great tomorrows
your happiness is there, is arising
more brilliant than the moon in your sky
more rapid than your winds
more impetuous than your torrents

Land of peasants...
where since all time
a buffalo is worth more than a king
a branch of bamboo dearer than a sceptre
a shoulder pole more exact than the scale of the gods

Unforgettable land...
the distant sounds you hear yet
are no longer the enemy returning
but your friends building the future

Viet Nam... I am leaving, lonelier still
while the train carrying me away moves on
my heart turns back
towards you
But to find it again
I shall return one day
Farewell Viet Nam! Farewell!

MENELAUS LUDEMIS
Greek writer and poet — 1959

