

ECONOMIC PLANNING, TRADE AND FINANCE

'HOC TAP' EDITORIAL SETS FORTH ECONOMIC TASKS FOR NEW ERA

/Hoc Tap June 1973 editorial: "Struggle To Fulfill the Immediate Economic Tasks"; Hanoi Radio, Vietnamese, 0000 GMT, 24 June 1973]

In the recent years of fierce war our people made tremendous efforts on the economic front, continued to build the socialist north, strengthened our economic and military potentialities, and contributed decisively to the historic victory of the anti-U.S. national salvation resistance. Our people have a legitimate right to be proud of our great successes on the military, political, and diplomatic fronts. Our people also have the right to be proud of our great achievements on the economic front during the anti-U.S. resistance.

The victory of the anti-U.S. national salvation struggle has created a new turning point for the Vietnamese revolution and presents the northern part of our country with a very heavy responsibility while opening up for the north great favorable opportunities for restoring and developing its economy, developing its culture, and accelerating the process of our national socialist industrialization.

In the new phase of the revolution North Vietnam assumes a very great responsibility for implementing our people's present revolutionary tasks: intensifying national solidarity, constantly heightening vigilance, striving to consolidate past victories, accelerating socialist construction in North Vietnam, safeguarding peace, achieving independence and democracy in South Vietnam, and proceeding toward peacefully reunifying the fatherland.

As in the past, North Vietnam must develop its great effect as a base area for our entire country's revolution and an outpost of the socialist network in Southeast Asia. North Vietnam must accelerate socialist construction. In the new phase the economic front in the north has become the most decisive front of the revolution.

The present situation requires that we not only quickly overcome the heavy consequences of the war and stabilize the people's livelihood but shift soon to the phase of building a socialist economy on a large scale so

we can create within the shortest period of time in our national history an independent, self-sufficient economy, with its basic content including a machine industry capable of equipping the national economic branches technically; possessing bases, fuel, raw materials, and domestic materials to satisfy major domestic consumer demands. Insuring the strengthening of the national defense capability; implementing the socialist division of labor; guaranteeing a balance between exports and imports; having a contingent of scientific and technological cadres of the economic branch; and training a contingent of skilled workers to master technology.

The VWP Central Committee and the government have appealed that, for the nation's prosperity, for the achievement of independence and democracy in the South, and for their beautiful and happy life, the northern compatriots should uphold their heroic tradition and spirit of collective ownership, enthusiastically work in a creative manner, restore and develop the economy, consolidate the national defense forces, expand cultural work, eliminate poverty and backwardness, and turn our country into a stable, strong and prosperous socialist country.

In implementing this appeal we must in the immediate future quickly heal the war wounds, stabilize production and the people's livelihood, normalize economic activities, quickly restore production, restore and develop the economy, prepare conditions satisfactorily for developing the economy on a large scale and at a high rate, combine economic construction with national defense consolidation, and strongly intensify the building of socialism in the north. We must motivate everyone to advance enthusiastically into a phase of peaceful construction with a strong revolutionary spirit, a seething emulation movement, and determination to overcome all difficulties and score new successes in building the economy.

Each individual must become a stalwart combatant in the building of socialism in the North, work selflessly for the fatherland and socialism, and work with discipline and in accordance with technology in order to achieve realistic economic efficiency and high labor productivity. It is necessary to develop the initiative of each branch, each locality and each basic unit; to uphold the spirit of relying mainly on our own strength; to overcome the idea of dependence; to motivate everyone to do his utmost to rebuild the country; to strive to overcome the shortcomings and weaknesses in the task of economic management; and to build a new pattern of management in conformity with the principles concerning building a socialist economy and with the new situation and tasks.

It is necessary to make everyone clearly understand the great victory already achieved and the path of advance so he will continue striving, work enthusiastically, and carry out his missions and studies in a new spirit.

In the spirit of intensively preparing conditions for shifting quickly to building the economy on a large scale, we must strenuously carry out urgent economic tasks such as the task of urgently normalizing the activities of the communications and transportation branch -- a branch with a position of primary importance -- and at the same time actively preparing conditions

for early implementation of the communications and transportation development plan with a view to meeting the national economy's future development requirements.

Communications and transportation must meet the requirements arising from the new situation, and especially transportation of imported goods and transportation in support of economic recovery and development, stabilization of the people's livelihood, and national defense. To this end it is necessary to intensify the restoration and development of communications and transportation at a high pace by gradually modernizing communications and transportation; repairing, enlarging, and maintaining the old communications lines; and constructing new communications lines. In the immediate future it is necessary to strive to quickly rehabilitate the bridge, railroad, land communications line, and railroad station system; the signal network along the main sections of communications lines and in areas where the main junctions of communications lines are located, and so forth.

We must intensify the task of organizing and managing the communications and transportation branch, take the initiative in exploiting satisfactorily the potential capabilities of this branch, and closely manage the economic and technological norms with a view to increasing the output of transportation means, boosting labor productivity, and reducing transportation cost.

It is necessary to carry out a rational distribution of tasks among the central and local transportation forces and the transportation forces of various branches; to reorganize, on the basis of concentration and specialization, the transportation forces along transportation lines and in each area; to coordinate transportation by railroad, sea and river, and land transportation means; to unify the management of storage facilities and loading and unloading grounds at railroad stations, ports, and wharves; and to redesign the storage network at railroad stations, ports, and at material supply and goods distribution warehouses. It is also necessary to improve the distribution of material supplies and goods in order to rationalize transportation, intensify two-way transportation operations, avoid duplication of transportation efforts, and so forth.

As for industry, in addition to urgently collecting and repairing damaged equipment, carrying out industrial sanitary measures, assembling and installing equipment, promptly carrying out production, and boosting production to meet the requirements of the new situation, it is necessary to carry out scores of tasks to rapidly restore and develop the important and urgently needed heavy industry branches such as electricity, coal, machinery, metallurgy, construction materials, and chemical products, and the light industry and food industry branches, while preparing conditions for developing other key branches on a large scale. It is necessary to rapidly develop local industry, the consumer goods industry, and handicrafts -- which are especially important branches -- with a view to serving the people's livelihood.

To this end it is necessary to build many additional small installations equipped with fairly modern equipment and capable of making many products with low production costs that can be sold easily; to study the people's consumption requirements, establish a list of items that local industry is capable of producing, and work out production plans, to promptly study a system for distributing tasks related to the production of regularly and extensively needed items -- such as family utensils, learning aids, and so forth -- so that the production installations can stabilize their production; to study the systems for selling raw materials and purchasing and collecting products; to work out plans to provide production establishments with material supplies consistent with their production plans; to supplement the policy of using discarded materials and products; and to closely organize the registration of handicraft production installations and the collection of taxes from these installations in accordance with the trend for vigorously encouraging the production of many new, low-cost items.

The responsible branches must concern themselves with leading and helping the handicraft cooperatives with raw materials, consumption, and equipment, improving the work distribution system; and they must promptly set forth appropriate policies designed to encourage local industry and handicrafts to develop.

In agriculture, it is necessary to concentrate efforts on accelerating agricultural production according to the trend for comprehensive development, along with intensive cultivation and specialized cultivation on the basis of delineating areas of cultivation and gradually advancing toward large-scale socialist production.

One of the main tasks in the coming years is to study immediately and basically solve the problem of grain and food produced in the country. To this end it is necessary to carry out intensive cultivation in the delta areas and to open up new economic areas in the midlands and mountain areas. In addition to accelerating grain and food production it is necessary to actively develop cultivation of industrial crops, including long-term crops such as tea, [words indistinct] and short-term crops such as jute, rush, banana, and pineapple which can be exported. Attention must also be paid to cultivating medicinal herbs and oleaginous trees. In our cultivation, productivity must be increased in a stable manner on the basis of properly carrying out the irrigation task and especially by improving the farmland water conservancy network, establishing a seed-selection system, and increasing the production of fertilizers, insecticides, and anti-epidemic medicine.

With regard to animal husbandry, it is necessary to continue increasing the number of hogs, both per capita and by weight, and to increase the number of crossbred hogs in the national cooperative, and cooperative member family domains. To provide conditions for increasing the number of oxen it is necessary to pay attention to cultivating grass, improving meadows, and preparing fodder for oxen.

With regard to poultry, in addition to accelerating poultry raising in the state-operated and cooperative sectors, it is necessary to pay real attention to developing poultry raising in cooperative member families and to pay special attention to fish breeding. It is necessary to accelerate the building of material and technical bases for animal husbandry, especially the building of breeder hog bases managed by the central level, bases for receiving breeds of domestic animals and fowl, stations for breeding bulls and milk cows, and a number of fodder-processing enterprises in the localities.

It is necessary to open up additional areas of cultivation in the midlands and mountain areas by building new economic areas. This is the long-range strategic trend for developing agriculture in the northern part of our country. Therefore it is necessary to make positive preparations so that in a relatively short time we can open up millions of hectares of agricultural land for animal husbandry, to cultivate forests, and to grow agricultural crops.

The building of new economic areas must be carried out urgently but carefully, and we must prepare material and technical bases so that after we have reclaimed wasteland we can build ricefields and carry out production, thereby attaining a realistic and increasingly greater economic effectiveness.

Special attention must be paid to building the bases serving the people's life related to their food, housing, travel, disease treatment, and study in the new economic areas. To this end it is necessary to improve and accelerate the investigation, research, and planning tasks. It is necessary to implement seriously the forest protection law passed by the National Assembly Standing Committee on 6 September 1972 and proclaimed by the DRV president on 11 September 1972. It is necessary to constantly and resolutely protect, improve, and reform forests and refrain from destroying them, especially those at the river sources. It is necessary to concentrate on growing forests in order to progress toward transforming forestry into an important economic branch in our country and building raw material bases to develop industries, especially the paper industry, chemical fibers industry and lumber industry.

It is necessary to boost production on the basis of constantly consolidating and improving the socialist production relationships. First it is necessary to maintain agricultural cooperatives, small industry cooperatives, and handicraft cooperatives, and consolidate them in the economic, technical, political, and ideological fields and make them stable and strong so they exert an increasingly greater influence on the restoration and development of our socialist economy.

In the coming days the requirement for expanding capital construction on a large scale will be very urgent. For this reason, along with restoring communications and transportation operations and stabilizing production and life, it is necessary to prepare conditions for building important projects

for our national economy. In capital construction, its temporary, immediate restoration aimed at stabilizing production must be linked with the restoration and development of capital construction on a large scale. It is necessary to study carefully the projects to be restored or the projects to be built and to insure the economic effect of capital investments.

One of the urgent immediate economic tasks is to strive to stabilize and gradually improve the people's livelihood. It is necessary to quickly meet the people's housing requirements, primarily in the war-devastated areas, areas where industrial complexes are concentrated, and the municipalities and cities; to help the rural people rebuild their old homes and build new ones; to concern ourselves with disease prevention and treatment, and with the people's and their loved ones' studies in the postwar period; to satisfactorily organize the circulation and distribution of goods; to stabilize the markets and prices of goods; to promptly and rationally provide work for the wounded combatants, the demobilized servicemen, and those weakened by the war; to care for the fallen heroes and servicemen; and to satisfactorily build collective dining halls and nurseries to create favorable conditions for the workers to be at ease so they can enthusiastically engage in production and in the performance of other tasks.

It is necessary to insure that the payment of salaries faithfully reflects the principle of distribution of profits according to the amount of work produced with a view to encouraging everyone to enthusiastically accelerate production and the performance of other tasks. In the payment of salaries it is necessary to draw a clear line of distinction between those who are hard-working and those who are lazy, between those who are skillful and those who are awkward, and between those working with a high productivity and those with a low productivity. This is in accord with the following Leninist slogan: "Those who work more will receive more, those who work less receive less, and those who do not work at all shall not eat." (Lenin, Selected Works, Vietnamese version, Su That Publishing House) At the same time the system of granting rewards or taking punitive actions must be strictly implemented.

Along with satisfactorily carrying out these tasks it is necessary to expedite basic investigations and planning; quickly develop the planning, survey, and project-implementing forces in preparations for implementation of longterm, postwar plans; strive to train skilled workers in a systematic manner; improve, train, and employ satisfactorily the economic management cadres and scientific and technological cadres in accord with the requirement for rapid progress in economic recovery and development; restore auditing in the management system; improve to some degree economic management and the planning task; gradually carry out a society-wide redistribution of labor with a view to meeting the requirements arising from the development of transportation, industry, forestry, and the new economic areas; promote economic cooperation between our country and the fraternal countries on the basis of proletarian internationalism; and expand economic relations between our country and other countries on the basis of respect for each other's

independence and sovereignty, noninterference in each other's internal affairs, equality, and mutual interests.

In the new phase of the revolution the northern part of our country has extremely favorable conditions for accelerating the building of socialism and carrying out these heavy and urgent tasks. The great victory of the anti-U.S. national salvation struggle vigorously encourages all of us to bring into full play our victorious elan and revolutionary heroism that we demonstrated in combat in the present peaceful reconstruction of the country. Our country has abundant natural resources and abundant manpower. Our people have extensive courage, intelligence, and creativity, our cadre corps has initially become mature, our economic management standards have improved to a certain degree, and our scientific and technological standards are much better than before.

The fraternal socialist countries will wholeheartedly support and help us in economic recovery and development and in building socialism.

We are capable of expanding our economic cooperation with some other countries, and at the same time trying to win the hearty support and assistance of the world's peoples.

The problem posed for us is that we must know how to fully use and apply these favorable conditions to the highest degree for the building of socialism.

The most important thing in insuring successful fulfillment of the immediate economic tasks is to strengthen party leadership. The party committee echelons, from the central level to the local level, must strenuously engage in economic studies and truly lead the economic tasks. One of the greatest requirements for party leadership at the present juncture is to launch at all costs a widespread patriotic emulation movement, with the participation of broad masses of the people, who will enthusiastically engage in labor and production and in healing the wounds of war, develop a seething revolutionary impetus among the masses, and advance vigorously to meet all the requirements arising from the new phase -- the phase of building and developing the economy on a large scale and at a high rate.

A widespread patriotic mass emulation movement cannot result simply from the ideological education task, although this task has an extremely important impact, but it also results from a large-scale organizational task, carried out in a very careful and arduous manner. Therefore, in exerting its leadership the party must closely coordinate the sophisticated and effective ideological task with the organizational task in a scientific manner and in accordance with the gradual advance of economic construction, with our country's general situation, and with the real situation in each area.

The strengthening of party leadership must be accompanied by developing most fully the effect of economic guidance and management of the state

machinery and satisfactorily utilizing this machinery to fulfill the immediate economic tasks, build a socialist economy, organize the workers in such a way that all of them enforce discipline and abide by state discipline, and train and transform millions of people into socialist workers.

The state apparatus must be improved so as to guarantee satisfactory management for the national economy, which is advancing toward large-scale at a rapid tempo; proceed with the study and gradually carry out improvement of economic management; and build a new system of economic management. The immediate requirement is to reassess the situation and capability of each unit and each locality in order to formulate concrete, positive plans and turn these plans into the masses' objective for action in the coming period.

All inspected and classified equipment and materials must be quickly distributed to the needy localities where they will be utilized in the most economical manner and bring out practical results. Properties damaged by the war must be evaluated and managed in accordance with the state system.

It is necessary to create all conditions for all laborers to be employed and to work on a system of 8 hours a day and in accord with their responsibilities, labor discipline, and set economic and technical norms, and thus make labor productivity equal or exceed that of the prewar period. Generally speaking, each branch must concentrate its forces on restoring in the shortest possible period of time the key facilities which turn out products of importance to the economy and national defense and which are capable of creating a great source of accumulation for the state. Each factory and each production facility must also concentrate its forces on restoring within the shortest possible period of time the important projects, workshops, organs, or tasks.

The task of overcoming the war-caused destruction and starting from very backward points of departure compared with the economic level of the developed countries to begin the building of a socialist economy, socialist culture, and socialist men with a view to quickly eradicating poverty and backwardness requires that everyone exert great efforts. We have won the war. We must be determined to win in peace.

Under the party's clear-sighted leadership we will certainly succeed in developing our present favorable conditions and potentialities, improving our organizational and managerial capabilities, accelerating the labor production movement, and successfully fulfilling the immediate, urgent economic tasks, thus vigorously developing the North's economy so it can meet the revolutionary requirements of the new era.

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