

Vietnam courier



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A SOVIET PARTY AND GOVERNMENT DELEGATION VISITS VIETNAM

The Soviet Party and Government delegation arrives in Hanoi on 27 October 1983.



Vietnamese — Soviet talks held in Hanoi on 28 October 1983 between the two Party and Government delegations headed respectively by Pham Van Dong, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam and Chairman of the SRV Council of Ministers, and by G. A. Aliyev, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, and First Vice-Chairman of the Soviet Council of Ministers.

The Soviet delegation pays a visit to the construction site of the Hoa Binh hydro-power plant on the Da river, built with Soviet aid.

Photos: VNA



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Front Cover: Thang Long Bridge builders at the moment of joining the last spans crossing the Red River on 18 October 1983.

Photo: NGUYEN CHINH

**Vietnam
Courier**

12-1983

A Party and Government delegation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, led by G.A. Aliyev, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and First Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers, paid an official friendship visit to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam from October 27 to November 4, 1983, on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the signing of the Vietnam — USSR Friendship and Cooperation Treaty. On November 3, 1983 talks were held between the Soviet Party and Government delegation and the Vietnamese Party and Government delegation headed by Pham Van Dong, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam and Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. A Joint Statement was issued on November 4, 1983. Following are some important excerpts:

On Vietnamese — Soviet relations, the Statement said:

"During the talks, the two delegations note with satisfaction that Vietnamese — Soviet relations have developed fruitfully, in line with the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation signed between the SRV and the USSR on November 3, 1978. The Treaty shows the desire of the Parties and peoples of Vietnam and the Soviet Union to constantly consolidate and strengthen the solidarity and all-round cooperation between the two countries. The Treaty has become a firm instrument of the struggle for peace and stability in Southeast Asia, for the security of nations, and has had a positive effect on the development of the situation in Asia against the warlike imperialist and international reactionary forces.

"The Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics once more reaffirm that the decisive factor for the constant development of Vietnamese — Soviet relations is the fraternal cooperation between the Communist Party of Vietnam and the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, based on ideological unity, mutual respect and trust, and on their common objective of fighting for peace and

building socialism and communism. The two sides express their determination to strive for the consolidation and development of Soviet — Vietnamese relations on the basis of the principles of Marxism — Leninism and socialist internationalism, in accordance with the Vietnamese — Soviet Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation.

"The two sides stress the special importance of the meetings between Comrade Le Duan and Comrade Yu. V. Andropov for the constant consolidation of the fraternal friendship between the Parties and peoples of the two countries.

"The participants in the talks are for the continued promotion of relations between the two Parties at all levels and stress that in the present situation, ideological cooperation among the fraternal Parties in the struggle against the hostile ideology is of particularly important significance. They are determined to coordinate their actions in this area ever more closely.

"The two delegations express profound satisfaction at the all-round and strong development of Soviet — Vietnamese cooperation in economy, science and technology. The remarkable results of this cooperation are contributing to solving the tasks of the national economies of the two countries. This cooperation has in a practical way helped Vietnam overcome difficulties and imbalances in its economy, develop production, improve the people's living conditions, and build the material and technical bases of socialism.

"The two sides consider the perfecting and enhancement of the effects of economic, scientific and technological relations between the two countries to be an important task.

"On behalf of the Communist Party, the Government and people of Vietnam, the Vietnamese delegation expresses sincere and profound gratitude to the Communist Party, the Government and people of the Soviet Union for their strong support and their generous and effective assistance to Vietnam's socialist construction and national defence.

"To concretize the important questions discussed by Comrade Le Duan and Comrade Yu. V. Andropov at their meetings in December 1982 and July 1983, the two sides have examined some questions relating to Vietnamese — Soviet economic cooperation in the period to come, particularly in the fields of energy and metallurgy, expansion of the production of export goods, and further consolidation of the multi-sided relations between Vietnam and the Far-Eastern and Siberian regions of the Soviet Union.

"As a result of the talks, the two sides have signed a long-term program on the development of economic, scientific and technical cooperation between Vietnam and the Soviet Union.

"The Soviet delegation once again reaffirms the consistent and principled policy of the Soviet Union to support and give all-round assistance to fraternal Vietnam to help it develop its economy, science and culture, bring into full play the achievements of socialism, and defend its independence and sovereignty.

"Vietnam and the Soviet Union are determined to further develop cooperation between the two countries, accelerate the process of cooperation and international division of labour within the framework of the Council of Mutual Economic Assistance. The two sides believe that the forthcoming Summit Conference of the member countries of the Council of Mutual Economic Assistance on economic problems will further deepen socialist economic integration."

On the pressing issues of the world situation, the participants in the talks note that "the struggle between the two antagonistic social systems is more acute than ever. Imperialism, first of all the United States, is speeding up the arms race, conducting provocations in many regions, and committing gross interference in the internal affairs of other countries. These activities are aimed at checking and putting back the development of the world socialist system, the countries having won back their independence, and the national liberation movement. The two sides strongly denounce these activities which are rendering the international situation extremely tense. They stress that there is now no more urgent task for the world's people than to frustrate all aggressive plots of the militarist forces. The initiatives expounded in the political declaration of the Prague meeting of the Warsaw Treaty member countries, the joint statement of the Moscow meeting of the Party and State leaders of socialist countries, and the Soviet Union's proposals on the condemnation of nuclear war, on a nuclear freeze, and on banning the use of force in outer space and from space to earth are all aimed at achieving this objective.

"The Socialist Republic of Vietnam fully supports Comrade Yu. V. Andropov's September 28, 1983 Statement, and stresses that this is a document of great political significance, a firm response to Washington's militarist foreign policy and to Reagan's hostile attacks on the Soviet Union and other countries in the socialist community.

"The imperialist plan to deploy new US nuclear missiles in Western Europe in the hope of winning military superiority over the Soviet Union and other socialist countries portends very grave dangers for the destiny of peace. The Vietnamese side voices its strong support for the counter-measures recently taken by the Warsaw Treaty member countries aimed at maintaining the equilibrium of forces in nuclear weapons between the Warsaw Treaty Organization and NATO in Europe. The Vietnamese side highly

values the new proposals set forth by the Soviet Union on October 27, 1983 which reflect the Soviet Union's sustained efforts in reaching agreements at the Geneva talks.

"The two delegations sternly condemn the imperialist and other reactionary forces for their provocations against the Soviet Union, Vietnam, Cuba and other socialist countries."

On the situation in Asia in general and in Southeast Asia in particular, the Statement said:

"The two sides emphasize the increasingly grave threat caused by Washington's encouraging the revival of Japanese militarism and trying to involve Japan in its war preparation plans in Asia and the Pacific, and in NATO's militarist line.

"Vietnam and the Soviet Union consistently stand for turning Asia into a continent of peace and good neighbourliness. The two sides are interested in the socialist countries' proposals aimed at ensuring peace and security in Asia, including the proposals on confidence-building measures for the Far East, the signing of a convention on non-aggression and non-use of force in relations between the countries in Asia and the Pacific area, and other proposals aimed at the above-mentioned objectives.

"The Socialist Republic of Vietnam fully supports the Soviet Union's principled line aimed at normalizing its relations with the People's Republic of China.

"The two sides have exchanged views on numerous issues related to the situation in Southeast Asia. They stress that the root cause of the continued tension in Southeast Asia lies in the hostile policy of the hegemonist and imperialist forces, which is jeopardizing the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea, and in the unceasing outside interference in the affairs of this region. The Soviet Union entirely supports the three Indochinese countries struggle to foil all manoeuvres of these forces.

"The two sides hold that in order to stabilize the situation in Southeast Asia, it is necessary first of all to end outside interference in the internal affairs of the countries in the region.

"The problems of Southeast Asia can be solved only by peaceful means and by the promotion of dialogue between the Indochinese and ASEAN countries on the basis of mutual respect, non-imposition and non-interference in each other's internal affairs.

"The Soviet Union totally supports the peace-loving foreign policy of the Socialist Republic of

Vietnam and the constructive proposals set forth by the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the People's Republic of Kampuchea for improving the situation in Southeast Asia and turning this region into a region of peace, stability and cooperation. It totally supports the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in its efforts to normalize its relations with the People's Republic of China on the basis of the five principles of peaceful co-existence, in the interests of the two peoples and of peace in Asia.

"The Soviet Union acclaims the decision of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the People's Republic of Kampuchea to annually withdraw Vietnamese volunteer troops from Kampuchea. This troop withdrawal is a clear indication of the constant growth of the Kampuchean revolution and of the consistent policy of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam of respect for the independence and sovereignty of the People's Republic of Kampuchea.

"The Soviet Union welcomes the further strengthening of the fraternal friendship, solidarity and all-round cooperation between the three Indochinese countries and welcomes the success of the Vietnam—Laos—Kampuchea Summit which has affirmed the three countries' line of ceaselessly developing their solid alliance. The close unity and solidarity among the Vietnamese, Lao and Kampuchean peoples is an important factor of peace and stability in Asia and the rest of the world.

"The Vietnamese and Soviet delegations welcome the steady steps forward of the People's Republic of Kampuchea in its national and social revival. Vietnam and the Soviet Union have given and continue to give vigorous support to the Kampuchean people in their endeavour to build a new society and safeguard the gains of the Kampuchean revolution.

"The two sides declare that the Government of the People's Republic of Kampuchea—the only legal representative of the Kampuchean people—is the only government entitled to decide any issue concerning Kampuchea. The two sides resolutely condemn the schemes of using the United Nations to cover up constant interference in the internal affairs of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, and will constantly support this country's efforts to regain its legal seat at the United Nations and in other international organizations.

"Vietnam and the Soviet Union declare their fraternal solidarity with the people of the Lao People's Democratic Republic in their socialist construction and national defence."

LONG-TERM PROGRAM FOR VIETNAMESE-SOVIET ECONOMIC COOPERATION

(31 October 1983)

Excerpts

I — The Main Results of the Cooperation

The economic, scientific and technical relations between Vietnam and the Soviet Union are characterized by their constant development in scope and the constant broadening of the domains they encompass in our national economy.

The volume of Soviet technical assistance to Vietnam in the building and transformation of national economic projects has increased year after year. With the assistance of the Soviet Union, Vietnam has restored, improved and built more than 200 projects including the Thac Ba Hydro-Electric Power Plant, the Uong Bi Thermal-Power Plant, coal mining projects, the Hanoi Engineering Plant, the Lam Thao Phosphate Fertilizer Plant, the Bim Son Cement Works, the Haiphong Port, a satellite earth station, various State farms growing vegetables, fruit trees and other tropical trees, many food-processing enterprises, the Hanoi Polytechnic, various institutes for scientific research, and educational, job-training, cultural and health establishments.

In the 1981—85 period, the volume of Soviet technical aid for Vietnam doubled compared with that in the previous five-year period. With Soviet help, the designing, construction and improvement of major projects have been

done in the key branches of the Vietnamese economy, such as the Hoa Binh Hydro-Power Plant, the Pha Lai Thermo-Power Plant, the Tri An Hydro-Power Plant, open-cast and underground coal mines, the Lao Cai Apatite Mine, equipment-repair workshops, tin-processing enterprises, the Thang Long Bridge across the Red River, the building trust and other projects.

The exchange of commodities between the SRV and the USSR has increased rapidly and is expected to treble compared with the 1976—80 period. The Soviet Union has supplied Vietnam with materials of vital importance for the national economy such as petrol, fertilizers, iron and steel, machinery and equipment. It has also supplied Vietnam with food.

For its part, Vietnam has supplied the Soviet Union with various farm products such as rubber, tea, coffee, fresh and canned vegetables, consumer goods made of local materials or materials supplied by the Soviet Union, and handicraft articles.

Vietnamese—Soviet scientific and technical cooperation is constantly increasing. The two sides are jointly working out scientific programs closely related to the needs of the Vietnamese national economy, and to the building of modern material and technical bases for scientific research in Vietnam. Joint research

projects have begun on subjects of mutual concern.

The two sides will continue expanding cooperation in personnel training including the training of Vietnamese citizens in schools, factories and construction sites in the Soviet Union.

The expansion of the economic, trade, scientific and technical relations between Vietnam and the Soviet Union has taken place along with the perfecting of existing forms of cooperation and the adoption of new ones.

The founding of the joint venture for oil and gas prospection and extraction on the Southern continental shelf of Vietnam marks an important stage in Vietnamese—Soviet cooperation and has strategic significance for Vietnam's economic development.

The manufacture of goods from Soviet materials in Vietnamese factories has proved to be a promising endeavour.

The general scheme for the development and distribution of the workforce from now till the year 2000 is being worked out with the participation of Soviet experts with a view to ensuring a scientific basis for Vietnam's programs of social and economic development.

The exchange of experiences in socialist construction has been more and more comprehensive and effective.

Relations between Vietnam and the Soviet Union have assumed a more and more systematic character and rest on a long-term basis. The coordination of the State plans of the two countries, mutual consultations on questions of long-term strategic development and coordination of economic policies have become an extremely important instrument to coordinate the programs carried out by the two countries.

The activities of the Vietnamese — Soviet intergovernmental committee on economic, scientific and technical cooperation, which regularly reviews the implementation of the commitments of both sides, are enhancing the effectiveness of the cooperation.

The new-type relations between Vietnam and the Soviet Union have become a decisive factor for developing the economic potentials of Vietnam. On the basis of its cooperation with the USSR, and the other countries in the socialist community, Vietnam has been able to overcome the consequences of foreign aggression, rehabilitate its war-ravaged national economy, resist the attacks launched by imperialist and expansionist forces and step up the building of the material and technical bases of socialism, thus laying the groundwork for improving the working people's living conditions. The continued expansion and intensification of Vietnam — USSR economic cooperation meets the fundamental interests of the Vietnamese and Soviet peoples.

II — The Main Orientations of the Long-term Cooperation

In view of the tasks set for the Vietnamese people in building the material and technical bases of

socialism and step by step turning Vietnam into a socialist country with developed industry and agriculture, advanced science, technology and culture and on this basis raising the living standards of the working people, the two sides deem it necessary to promote and accelerate their economic and scientific cooperation and to increase its effectiveness continuously. To this end, they have agreed to:

— Enhance cooperation in key branches of the national economy, firstly in agriculture and in the energy industries, including geological surveying and exploitation and processing of oil, and in the expansion of the transport, communications and postal services.

— Continue cooperation in building the main branches of the engineering and metal industries, the chemical industry and the building-materials industry.

— Promote the training of Vietnamese cadres in the cultural, educational and medical fields with Soviet assistance.

— Create the necessary conditions for a rapid advance of science and technology in Vietnam through broader participation of Soviet institutions in research projects now under way, transfer of Soviet technical documents, scientific information, and results of scientific research, supply to Vietnamese institutes and laboratories of necessary equipment and materials, sending of Soviet experts to Vietnam and sending Vietnamese trainees to the USSR.

— Increase cooperation in joint research projects of mutual concern.

— Increase the production of Vietnamese export goods with Soviet assistance, taking into account the needs of the Soviet national economy, with a view to

providing the necessary conditions for a balanced cooperation.

— Continue to establish joint enterprises as a new form of cooperation in order to facilitate the rapid development of the Vietnamese economy and the training of highly-qualified Vietnamese personnel.

— Expand cooperation on the basis of mutually beneficial compensation. To this effect, the two sides will jointly work out coordinated programs.

— Promote cooperation in the manufacture of goods in Vietnam with Soviet-supplied materials.

— Expand goods exchange through cooperatives and organizations of the home trade ministries and adopt measures for supplementary exchanges through foreign trade agencies.

— Seek new ways to expand goods exchange on a long-term basis in keeping with the export capacities and import needs of the two countries, and perfect the existing forms of transactions and economic cooperation as a whole.

— Perfect the coordination between planning bodies and economic organizations of the two countries in order to give a regular and harmonious basis to the process of examining and resolving questions relating to the implementation of the adopted programs for the development and intensification of cooperation.

— Take the necessary measures to make fuller use of the productive potentials already created in Vietnam and concentrate on the construction of key projects in the main economic branches of Vietnam. At the same time, the two sides will ensure the harmonious

settlement of all matters concerning the building and operation of the most important cooperative projects, including the construction of a number of infra-structural projects, the supply of equipment and spare parts according to set objectives.

III — Priority Areas for Cooperation

The two sides hold that efforts should be centered on cooperation in the following areas:

In agriculture. To resolve the food problem and to increase Vietnam's export, the Soviet Union will continue supplying Vietnam with agricultural machines and equipment, petrol and other materials, fertilizers and equipment for plant protection. The two sides will widen cooperation in growing and processing tropical vegetables and fruit, coffee, tea, tobacco and other industrial crops as well as in planting rubber trees and producing natural rubber, taking into account the needs of the Soviet economy for these products.

In the field of fuels and energy. The two sides will continue prospecting and exploiting oil and gas on the continental shelf of southern Vietnam within the framework of the present joint venture, build open-cast coal mines and pits and power projects in accordance with the overall plan in this field, firstly, the Hoa Binh Hydro-Power Plant, the Tri An Hydro-Power Plant, the Pha Lai Thermo-Power Plant, high-voltage lines and transformer stations. When drawing the master plan for the development and distribution of productive forces in Vietnam, the two sides will carry out necessary research for the

effective use of the water resource of the Da river.

In metallurgy. Cooperation will be oriented toward the building of a modern metallurgical industry for Vietnam associated with the development of the necessary power and material bases. In the framework of this cooperation, the Soviet Union will firstly help Vietnam design and build a steel plant with a capacity of 500,000 tonnes a year using chiefly scrap iron as material. As a follow-up to this and on the basis of the most efficacious use of ferrous materials in Vietnam, it is hoped that within a short period an economic and technological feasibility study could be completed for the building of a steel complex with a capacity of 1.5 million tonnes a year. In addition, measures will be taken to make fuller use of the capacity of the existing metallurgical enterprises in Vietnam. With regard to non-ferrous metals, the prime objective of cooperation is to develop the tin industry.

In engineering. The two sides will cooperate in building the metal-working establishments required by Vietnamese needs.

Firstly, the Soviet Union will help Vietnam upgrade the Hanoi Engineering Works, complete the construction of the diesel-engine factory, the Cam Pha Engineering Factory, build repair workshops for trucks and construction machines and the truck and tractor spare-part factory. The two sides will also continue to cooperate in designing and building an industrial valve factory, a forging and pressing equipment factory and a casting and forging factory.

In the Chemical and Oil-processing Industry. The two sides will continue to cooperate in expanding the exploitation of apatite and producing phosphatic fertilizer, building oil refineries and petro-chemical works on the basis of the domestic oil and gas resources and in manufacturing natural rubber products. The two sides will also continue cooperating in the designing and building of a cellulose factory, a viscose factory, a nitrogenous fertilizer factory, a caustic soda factory associated with the development of the necessary materials and energy industries.

To meet the needs in medicines of the Vietnamese population, Vietnam and the Soviet Union will cooperate in building establishments for the production of a number of antibiotics in Vietnam.

In the field of transport, communications, and postal services, the two sides will complete the construction of the Thang Long Bridge across the Red River, continue upgrading Vietnam's railways and increasing its rail transport capacity, first of all on the Hanoi — Haiphong line, the Hanoi — Lao Cai line and the Hanoi marshalling yard, and building a wide-band micro-wave communication line between Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, and a co-axial cable line in keeping with the present agreement.

In geological survey. The two sides will continue joint prospecting for natural gas and oil, tin, apatite and iron and other minerals... as a basis for an effective use of Vietnam's natural resources and the continued strengthening of the material and technical foundations of Vietnam's geological service.

THE GRENADIAN REVOLUTION CONTINUES

The US aggression against the independent State of Grenada, the biggest aggression by the USA since its war of aggression in Vietnam, is an extremely barbarous militarist adventure, a challenge to peace and justice. This aggression has been carefully calculated over a long period of time and planned in detail by the American imperialists with a view to overthrowing the revolutionary power in Grenada, a government which the US hates and has been trying to wipe out ever since it was born in 1979 in the hope of imposing US neo-colonialist rule on this country.

Nothing can justify this dirty criminal act by the US in Grenada, an act which tramples underfoot the basic rights of a nation and defies the United Nations Charter. Nothing can hide the cunning,

perfidious and warlike nature of the US imperialists. By conducting this aggression against Grenada, they have thrown off their mask of "peace" and "human rights". Their reckless adventure proves how afraid they are of the revolutionary movement in Grenada, in Latin America and in the Caribbean!

The island of Grenada is only a dot on the map of the world. It poses no threat to any country whatsoever in the Caribbean, much less to the security of the USA, an imperialist superpower!

By sending their Navy, Army and Air Force units to invade such a tiny island, a country with such a small population, the US imperialists have stained the honour of the USA and the American people.

Law and order on Grenada's territory is within the sole jurisdiction of the Grenadian Administration. Nobody has the right to violate and occupy the territory of independent Grenada, even for a few days. The Grenadian people have the full right to choose any socio-political system they like, they have the right to enlist friendly aid from whatever quarters in order to build and develop their country's economy.

The Reagan Administration has no justification whatsoever to arrogate to itself the right to use violence to overthrow a government which refuses to move in the American orbit, even though it has panted on its bombers and warships such labels as "democracy" and "human rights".

The US aggressors in Grenada and the Reagan Administration cannot yet congratulate themselves on the fulfilment of their criminal plan against the Grenadian people. For though the US invasion is over, the US is only beginning to get bogged down in this burning area of the Western hemisphere. The US imperialists will bear all the consequences of, and suffer serious setbacks resulting from, the invasion of Grenada. Even though Grenada's small population lives on an island close to the United States, once the will to independence and freedom has penetrated the mind of every citizen of this country, it will become an invincible force! The Grenadian revolution will continue and will win. The Grenadian people will live on and win!

(Excerpts from a Nhan Dan commentary of 27 October 1983)

Unite with Nicaragua

AND STAY THE HANDS OF THE US AGGRESSORS!

The whole world indignantly condemns the brazen-faced invasion of Grenada by US forces and sternly warns the Reagan Administration against any attempt of direct military intervention in Nicaragua. For the US warlike demons, Grenada is only an "appetizer" and a "prelude" to a larger military adventure in the Western hemisphere. After repeated setbacks in its schemes to undermine the Nicaraguan revolu-

tion, Washington is preparing for another extremely serious escalation. The White House and the Pentagon make no secret of their plan to start a large-scale aggression against Nicaragua.

Dozens of US warships are cruising off the coasts of Nicaragua. US troops are stationed in Honduras, Nicaragua's neighbour. Hence the present critical situation: the Reagan Administration

has not only been waging an undeclared war against Nicaragua with remnant Somoza troops and Honduran troops and conducting a campaign of destruction by air attacks for many months now, but is also attempting to repeat the scenario performed in Grenada and lay its blood-stained hands on Nicaragua.

The Reagan Administration's high-handed action in Central

America and the Caribbean is added proof of the extremely barbarous nature of the US imperialists, who are ready to engage in dangerous adventures in order to save their dirty profits, in defiance of the rules of ethics and international law.

Obviously the mind of the man in the White House is full of 19th-century fancies: he considers Latin America to be a US possession and the Caribbean a little pond in the US backyard.

However, the time is gone when the US imperialists ruled the roost. Under no circumstances will US "gunboat diplomacy" be able to bring other peoples to their knees.

The indignation expressed by the whole world, including US allies, over the Grenada incident testifies to the utter isolation of the Reagan Administration. Should

it recklessly attack Nicaragua, it would certainly meet with the resolute resistance of the Nicaraguan people and the strong protests of the world's people. The socialist countries, the non-aligned countries, the forces of peace, freedom and justice will side with the Government and people of Nicaragua.

In the hope of winning back their lost supremacy the US imperialists will not shrink from any crime, any cynical act, in actively conducting their warlike policy. The struggle of the socialist community and the world's people against the US nuclear arms race and the deployment of US missiles in Western Europe is increasingly linked with the struggle against the US scheme to start new wars of aggression, in various forms, in the Middle East, Africa, Southeast Asia, Central America and the Caribbean.

The Vietnamese Government and people deem it their sacred internationalist duty to support the Nicaraguan revolution. We resolutely demand that the Reagan Administration immediately stop its criminal schemes against Nicaragua. In these days we wish to express our profound sympathy for the Nicaraguan people. We firmly believe that the heroic Nicaraguan people, united and determined to win and enjoying strong international support, will overcome their greatest trials and will make steady steps forward on the road of independence, freedom, and social progress, holding high the glorious revolutionary banner in Central America and the Caribbean.

(Excerpts from a Nhan Dan editorial of 28 October 1983)

WE STAND BY THE SIDE OF THE CUBAN AND NICARAGUAN PEOPLES

(Excerpts from Nhan Dan
Editorial of 4 November 1983)

The warlike policy of the Reagan Administration doesn't stop with Grenada. It is blindly making new adventurous military steps; it is threatening to invade Cuba and Nicaragua in the hope of winning back lost positions and crushing the national liberation movement in this region while menacing this movement in other regions of the world. It is our country's responsibility and duty to stand by the side of Cuba and Nicaragua and to support the Cuban and Nicaraguan peoples and other independent countries in this region in their fight against US imperialism and its agents.

On this occasion, Comrade Truong-Chinh, member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee and President of the Council of State, on behalf of our Party and people, has expressed our unswerving militant solidarity with the fraternal Cuban Party and

people and has condemned the Reagan Administration's invasion of Grenada and its threats against Nicaragua. He said: "The Vietnam lesson is still fresh. If the US imperialists recklessly invade Cuba and Nicaragua, they will face many Vietnams in Central America and Latin America. The Vietnamese people will always side with the fraternal Cuban people."

More than ever, the socialist countries, the peace-, freedom- and justice-loving forces all over the world should form a united front in order to closely associate the fight for peace, against the US nuclear arms race and the deployment of US missiles in Western Europe, with support for the just cause of the Cuban and Nicaraguan peoples in order to safeguard the Cuban and Nicaraguan revolutions and foil all US schemes of limited war against independent countries especially those which are advancing to socialism.

FAMILY ECONOMY AND THE «V.A.C»¹

ECOSYSTEM IN VIETNAM

After man discovered how to breed domestic animals and grow his own food, a family group (husband, wife, children...) would look for a mountain cave or hole where they would set up a hut or a makeshift house. The family then began taming and breeding wild animals. Boars were among the first wild animals to be domesticated in this way.

After livestock breeding came the picking of fruit in the forests, and the growing of vegetables around the house, then rivers and streams were dammed and ponds were dug to raise fish. People also took up handicraft work as a sideline to achieve self-sufficiency for their families or village community.

With the development of human society, the family economy also developed in various forms. From the time that the first family groups were set up through capitalist society and into developed socialist societies, the family economy has existed and will continue to exist independently according to the needs of family and social life. People have always tried to make the best possible use of all members of the family, of land and water around their dwellings, of sources of raw materials and energy, of human intelligence and advances in science and technology, to improve the living standards of both family and society, and to create facilities for rest and recreation, thus meeting both their mental and physical needs. Only when social life has been improved both materially and spiritually can family life be improved, and vice versa.

According to Richard Harwood, a well-known researcher in the family economy in developing countries, the various stages in the development of the family economy are as follows:

+ First stage: total reliance on food gathering or partial food

gathering combined with crop farming and stockbreeding.

+ Second stage: Autarkic production as the main element with 90% of the products to be used on the spot.

+ Third stage: Production of commodities, about 40% of them to be sold on the market.

+ Fourth stage: Use of mechanized means.

— First step: ploughing, harrowing machines, etc.

— Second step: motor pumps, sowing, harvesting and other machines.

The family economy in Vietnam at present is mostly in the second and third stages. A small proportion of families in the North and a sizeable number of families in the South, particularly in the cities, townships and near the highways and waterways, have moved from the third stage to the first, then the second step, of the fourth stage. Many families are taking more than 90% of their farm produce to the market for sale. This is significant progress in terms of historical stages of the family economy in Vietnam. We should speed up that advance in each locality and throughout the country instead of restricting it. An important step would be to put the family economy in the managerial framework of the socialist economy.

Line and Policies of the Party and the State

The Party's general line on the family economy was adopted over 20 years ago. The Resolution of the Fifth Plenum of the Party's Central Committee, held in July 1961 (third session), stipulates:

"We should pay attention to the development of the cooperative

economy as the main sector, at the same time paying due attention to the co-op members' family economy."

This was followed up by the directive to reserve 5% of the arable land for the co-op members' families to grow vegetables and raise domestic animals as a secondary source of income. More than twenty years later, the Resolution of the Fifth Party Congress (1982) again underscored the necessity to "encourage, guide, and aid the family economy, to make it an effective part of the national economy."

Over the past 20 years or so, many other concrete policies have been applied with regard to each type of family economic activity.

For example, in stockbreeding: to develop family stockbreeding in close association with collective and State-run undertakings.

Although no official document tries to restrict the family economy, in many localities and at several levels, over the past 20 years, actions have been taken that restricted, and even hindered, the development of the family economy. The main reason is perhaps that the cadres did not regard the family economy as part of the socialist economy. Some examples:

— Following the completion of collectivization of agriculture in the North in 1960, private breeding of buffaloes and cows was restricted and even hindered (families were not free to sell or kill their animals; the State purchased them at low prices; fines were imposed on families which allowed she-buffaloes or cows to mate; indiscriminate collectivization of cattle, etc.). As a result, for 20 years there was only a small increase, 1—2% in the herds of buffaloes, while the

herds of cows actually decreased. Before collectivization, buffaloes increased by 4% annually, and cows by 5—6%.

—Collectivization of private ponds, causing the yield and output of fish to decline notably.

—Handicrafts and small industries: shortage of raw materials; remuneration for processing materials put out by the State remained unchanged for many years although the prices of food and commodities on the market had risen considerably.

In our opinion, the scientific and practical basis of the policy of encouraging the family economy is:

1. The historical inevitability of objective social evolution.

2. The availability of both main and auxiliary labour forces; the main labour force having spare time; private families having land, farm tools and production means. These are the basic conditions necessary for producing more social wealth at the lowest cost.

Outside the eight-hour day in factories and offices, workers and public employees have 16 hours a day at their disposal. They can spend these hours as well as their holidays eating, resting and engaging in family economic activities. Children and old people also can join in those activities.

3. The family economy, with 5% of arable land² in the North, accounts for more than 50% of the income of cooperative members. Nationwide, the family economy provides more than 90% of the meat, almost 100% of the vegetables and fruit, an important quantity of consumer goods, as well as farm products and handicraft products for export.

4. The family economy directly raises the family's living standards and improves its diet. Clothes, stationery, medicines, household utensils, all these are acquired with income from the family economy and it is thanks to the family economy that the life of workers and public employees is being improved to some degree.

5. The family economy is a tradition, and experience is handed down from generation to generation. Encouraging, guiding, and helping it helps improve the life of the people and of society as a whole in the period of transition

to socialism, at a time when the State is not yet able to make large investments in materials, equipment, and cadre-training.

6. The family economy is a part of the socialist economy because:

—Land, the main production means, has been socialized, while other main production means are in the hands of the socialist State.

—The family economy is closely associated with the collective and State economy. These sectors provide the family economy with seeds and strains, animal breeds and some fertilizers, insecticides, fodder and medicines.

—Apart from those consumed at home and sold on the rural markets, the products of the family economy are managed by the socialist State in one way or another.

Under these conditions, it is not possible for the family economy to grow into a capitalist economy. Neither is there any need to worry about the development of a spirit of private ownership (this is an old concept) since collective, State and family economies all must bring practical and well-deserved material rewards to the working individuals. If the collectives, the State sector and the socialist State help develop the family economy, thereby improving the material and cultural standards of the working people, then the latter will feel more attached to the collective and State economies, to the socialist State.

The V.A.C Ecosystem and the V.R.A.C.T System³

The family economy throughout Vietnam at present consists of three elements: gardens and orchards (vegetables and fruit), fishponds, and stockbreeding (V.A.C.). Of course, the composition of the VAC ecosystem varies from sub-region to sub-region, according to the climatic conditions, the land, the farming and stockbreeding techniques and the way of life peculiar to each ethnic group. But the family economy does not only consist of VAC. In mountain regions, families also engage in hillside farming, carving gardens out of mountain sides and forests (R), in the plains, the family economy also includes the 5 per cent of arable land (R); R also represents timber

forests and tree belts along the coast (against strong winds and invasion by sand dunes), while T represents handicrafts and small industries. VRACT represents a comprehensive family economic structure, each component part of which plays its own role in improving the life of the family and of society, but each usually closely interrelated with the others. A good family chief is one who knows how to give effective play to that relationship.

For example: pig breeding provides dung to fertilize the kitchen garden and orchard and feed fish in the pond. Selling vegetables, beans, peas and mushrooms, fruit and fish, provides the money to buy rice bran to feed the pigs and nitrogenous fertilizer to fertilize the garden and orchard...

Not all areas can develop a rational crop and cattle farming structure on the land available with the VAC ecosystem. And not all families have developed a mode of production suited to the ecological, working, breeding, and capital investment conditions. In this narrow production sector (which nevertheless supplies more than 90% of the foodstuffs to society), there remains a visible lack of uniformity in the production and technical levels. The land, biological and labour potentials are, however, considerable. These potentials will rapidly become realities, requiring a very low outlay, and help rapidly improve the life of each inhabitant and of society as a whole if we grasp the biological, economic, and socio-psycho-physiological laws. To achieve a clever effect on the elements of the ecological system, social system and on their interactions is indeed a science as well as an art.

The per capita share of land for habitation, with gardens and ponds, plus the 5% allotted to each family in northern Vietnam is about 360 square metres. But in the mountain areas and the uplands where the people can have at their disposal areas of hillside land, the per capita share varies from 2,000 sq. m. to around 5,000 sq.m. In the South, the difference is even greater—from 500 to 20,000 sq.m. In many localities, many families own from 2 to 5 hectares of orchard each.

Per capita income per 100 square metres (including water) also varies a great deal from region to region, from zero dong, 100 dong to 5,000 and 10,000 dong. This emphasizes the diversity of the crops and cattle and the different levels of proficiency and experience in production and labour, in the exploitation of each ecological region and sub-region. In regions and sub-regions with similar conditions (land, water, climate, vegetation, animals, people), there are many different formulae for farming (perennial crops, annual crops, crops with long-term and short-term growth, and special crops) and various combinations of farming and other production activities in the VAC and VRACT systems. The VAC system is the most common, in which outstanding formulae can emerge bringing high output values on each 100 sq. m., and high average per capita output value according to labour and manpower. If we can combine experimental field research with the development of the mass emulation movement, if we can ensure practical rewards for families successful in VAC or VRACT we can rapidly resolve the problem of evening out incomes from the auxiliary economy and increase them continuously.

In many areas, the guidance and encouragement to the family economy for it to develop along the right lines according to a "family-collective-State" system will usefully serve the exportation of valuable farm produce such as pepper, coffee, tea, tobacco, medicinal herbs, rabbit skins, feathers, etc.

In similar ecological conditions, in a given region, or a hamlet, the VAC formula applied in different families has brought about different economic results, because of the impact of other factors: labour, capital and materials, technical equipment and facilities, and experience (depending on the cultural level, the assimilation of scientific and technical advances, the crop and cattle farming traditions). So far we have only paid attention to the investment of capital and materials and to equipment in the collective and State sectors, and the introduction of scientific and technical advances into these two sectors. In the years ahead, the family economic sector, though

small in scale, will yield valuable amounts of foodstuffs and consumer goods. If it receives due investment, if appropriate policies are applied to encourage it, it will rapidly increase its capacity to improve the living standards of the working people, with very little expenditure involved.

In Families of Workers, Public Employees and in the Cities and Townships

By the end of 1981, Vietnam had a little over 26 million working people, 60% of them — or 15.6 million — engaged in agriculture, the remaining 10.6 million being non-agricultural workers in the countryside and the towns, including about 3.5 million workers and public employees and a number of pensioners and disabled soldiers who are still fit physically to take part in the family economy. Over the past 10 years, in the face of difficulties, families of workers and public employees, pensioners and urban families have actively engaged in raising pigs, poultry, fish, quails, rabbits, bees, etc. In the past few years they have even been raising cows, using the plots allotted to them for kitchen gardens and orchards, and engaging in handicraft work (sewing, weaving, knitting, growing mushrooms, making vinegar, soybean sauce, preparing bean sprouts..)

The family economy has contributed to raising the living standards of workers and public employees, making up for their salaries which are below the needs of their families, and supplying an important amount of consumer goods. Apart from the material benefits, raising poultry and tending gardens and orchards is also a form of recreation for pensioners, white-collar professionals, and manual workers engaged in heavy duties.

As the families of workers and public employees or those living in townships have little or no land at their disposal, the VAC system usually consists at the most of (C): raising pigs and poultry, bees, rabbits. A number of families with a cottage in the suburbs have VAC, or VC or AC. Many families have T (sewing machines, knitting machines, small-sized machines to grind coffee or beans, etc.) With their cultural and technical levels

they can assimilate scientific and technical advances and apply them to livestock breeding, farming, processing of farm products, and, with their creative spirit, they have obtained record yields in both undertakings (for instance, breeding porkers that put on 15-20kg a month, piglets weighing up to 180kg for each litter, raising hens that lay 260 eggs a year, etc.)

In families of workers and public employees, in urban and other families, the VAC system has so far had a spontaneous character. If there is an organization in charge of the VAC from the centre down to the provinces and districts, if concrete policies and plans are worked out, there will be greater possibilities for improving the living standards of workers and public employees and of society as a whole.

To Develop the Family Economy

In studying the various stages of the family economy we can clearly see that the contradictions inherent in society and everyday life and the need to improve the material and cultural standards are a motive for speeding up the change from one stage to another. From the autarkic economy with regard to food grain and foodstuffs to the mercantile economy, the role of markets, roads and waterways, consumer goods, the law of value, and market laws are very important. From the third to the fourth stages of development, there is the decisive role of industrial development, with mechanical ploughs, spinning machines, other small machines, electricity and water, chemical fertilizers, insecticides, veterinary medicines, and advances in biological science and other scientific and technical achievements.

From 1961, the State has reserved 5% of land for the family economy. In order to avoid overlapping with family stockbreeding, from April 1963 the State has reserved another 5% of land for collective stockbreeding and another 10-15% of land for the same purpose from 1979.

The system of product-based contracts in agriculture has made it possible for the State to provide private families with more food for breeding pigs (for instance, the State delivers 5kg of paddy to each family in exchange for 1kg of live pig) or to allot more

land (for instance, the State allots 360 sq. m. of land in exchange for 30—50kg of live pig). Many cooperative farms in Haiphong, Thanh Hoa, Ha Bac and other localities have allotted to the families 15% of the arable land. These are effective measures to encourage the family economy.

The State has also undertaken to allot to families hillside and forest land and a number of fish-ponds.

Families that do well in live-stock-breeding receive awards and commendations. Beginning in 1971, annual conferences have been organized for individuals and families with good records in livestock-breeding at district, province and central levels. From 1972 to 1976, Chairman of the Council of Ministers Pham Van Dong presided over such conferences at national level. Many medals, certificates of merit, and material awards have been conferred on families with such achievements.

For the past five years, the campaign for tending "Uncle Ho's orchards" and "Uncle Ho's fish-ponds" has been stimulating the movement for developing family kitchen gardens, orchards and fish-ponds making use of technical advances and of improved seeds, strains and breeds.

In the conditions of Vietnam in the 1980's in general and in each geographical and socio-economic area in particular, the requisite conditions for developing the family economy and the VAC system to achieve high economic results are:

- Determining the area of arable land, hillside and forest land, pastures and ponds reserved for the family economy in each area, with regard to the various strata of the people (soldiers, cadres, retired workers and public employees living in the countryside...);

- Selling at low and fixed prices seeds, animal breeds and raw materials to the families;

- Selling at low and fixed prices important means of production: chemical fertilizers, insecticides, veterinary medicines, composite fodder, supplementary feed, hand tools, motor pumps, power generators, small-sized cultivators, materials for building sheds and sties, manure-precussing facilities...;

- Opening more markets, restoring cattle markets, and building more roads;

(Continued on page 21)

Vietnam Advances:

FAMILY POULTRY-RAISING

Nha Trang, capital of the coastal province of Phu Khanh in central Vietnam, has a thriving fishing industry but food production in its rural suburban districts falls short of the city's needs. To increase the local sources of food as well as the people's incomes, the city has encouraged poultry-raising by the people. This activity can easily be engaged in by families of cadres, workers and public employees, as it requires little investment and no special skills.

The city folk are encouraged and assisted by the people's administration and the branches concerned. The city's Poultry Farm sponsors poultry-raising by individual families. It supplies them with brood hens, feed, medicines, and technical guidance, and provide outlets for the products.

The farm sold to the poultry raisers 28,000 two-month-old fowls and 160,000 brood hens in 1982 and 50,000 two-month-old fowls and 240,000 brood hens in the first nine months of this year.

With regard to feed, Nha Trang has plenty of fish meal but little rice bran, maize and beans. To ensure a steady supply of feed for the fowls at stable prices, the farm has entered into economic cooperation with neighbouring provinces. When circumstances require, the farm's technical cadres have devised new feed formulas. The output of feed by the farm has increased rapidly: 320 tonnes sold in 1982; 920 tonnes in the past nine months.

The Poultry Farm buys the eggs produced by the poultry-raising families at mutually agreed prices and sells them to the Trade Service at higher prices. It's like farming out the poultry, but the amount of feed sold to the poultry raisers is higher than that required for producing the eggs bought from them. For this reason, the raisers who observe the technical requirements and moreover can provide protein-rich feed of their own can get extra eggs and fowls, which they may consume or sell on the free market.

With a population of 220,000, Nha Trang is raising 250,000 brood hens, which give 10 million eggs each year. At least 60% of the families of workers and public employees in the city are raising from 20 to 30 brood hens each, using various types of coops and enclosures made of all kinds of materials, and set up in the most varied places, even on floors above the ground.

A family which breeds, say, 20 hens, will invest about 3,000 dong (Vietnamese currency) for brood hens, feed, cages and enclosures, etc. It takes about two years for the fowls to begin laying eggs. The cages will last five years. The revenues from the sale of eggs are about 600—900 dong per month. These figures do not include the fowls and eggs consumed by the family. The waste can be used to manure the family garden or can be bartered for food with neighbouring agricultural cooperatives.

Poultry-raising in Nha Trang by individual families, especially those of cadres, workers, public employees, and teachers, has proved to be quite profitable. This movement is developing and is becoming a branch of the family economy, which supplies a considerable quantity of products for society.

XUAN NOI

VIETNAM COURIER

In socialist industrialization, the development of the energy industry is of strategic importance, and the development of electricity is both a long-term and an urgent task.

The present electrical-power capacity of the whole country is 41 per cent thermo-power, 30 per cent hydro-electricity, while 29 per cent comes from diesel-powered and gas-powered generators. Only 24 per cent of the thermo-power plants are coal-fired, the rest are oil-fired, the oil being imported. Through many years of operation, the quality of the equipment has been reduced due to insufficient maintenance and lack of spare parts. Building small hydro-power stations is one of the immediate measures aimed at creating new sources of energy and overcoming the present shortage of power.

Vietnam has fairly abundant hydro-electric potentials. Nearly 2,200 waterways (rivers and streams) 10 kilometres long and upward are evenly distributed in the country. The energy reserves are estimated at 80 billion kWh/year. In the mountain areas and the uplands, there is abundant rainfall, a dense network of rivers and streams, and steep gradients. In central Vietnam, the Truong Son Range, lying near the coast, contains many high waterfalls. In the uplands and the plains, apart from the system of large rivers, there are many networks of canals which are either already in existence or are being built.

For many years, much attention has been paid to the hydro-electric potential available for small station in the northern mountain provinces. In 1965, 30 small hydro-electric stations were in operation there; some of which had been built in French colonial days and had lain idle for a long time before being restored. By 1980, their number had increased to over 300. During 1981-1982 and the first half of this year, 60 more stations

have been built by various localities and branches. The total capacity of the existing stations is about 25,000 kW and the electricity output is about 90 million kWh/year, equivalent to nearly 25,000 tonnes of oil per year. These hydro-electric stations supply about one million people with household-use electricity and serve pumping stations, rice husking and food-pro-

Vietnam Advances

SMALL HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER STATIONS IN MOUNTAIN AREAS

cessing mills, and a number of local factories. The resolution adopted by the 5th Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam pointed out: "...It is necessary to combine thermo- and hydro-electricity, combine plants of various sizes, find all means to increase electrical supply for the southern provinces ... to build small- and medium-sized hydro-electric stations in central Vietnam, Tay Nguyen (Central Highlands) and the mountain provinces of the North."

The movement to build and restore small power stations has been in full swing in many localities, especially in the provinces of Quang

Nam — Da Nang, Cao Bang and Hoang Lien Son.

Many stations have been built according to the motto: "Parallel efforts of the central and regional administration". Many provinces have taken the initiative in making plans and investing capital. Imported equipment which has lain idle in warehouses for many years is brought out and used. Various kinds of 200 — 1,000-kW hydraulic turbines being now manufactured in the country itself, more favourable conditions have been created for achieving our objectives.

Early in 1981, the first two 200-kW turbines made by the Hydro-electric Equipment Designing Institute was installed on the Cung river, in a narrow valley of Dai Loc district, Quang Nam — Da Nang province. By the end of 1982, two 1,000-kW turbines ordered by this province were successfully made by the No. 1 Machine-Tool Plant to equip the hydro-electric station in the Phu Ninh water conservancy network. Vietnamese-made machines have subsequently been installed in Ban Hoang, Thong Giat (Cao Bang province), and Duy Son, Dai Quang (Quang Nam — Da Nang province).

In many localities, attention has been paid not only to the setting-up of hydro-electric stations but also to their organization and management in order to overcome previous shortcomings: inadequate maintenance resulting in breakdowns, no training of skilled operators, and absence of repair workshops.

At present, work at the construction site of the Hoa Binh hydro-electric plant on the Da river is being speeded up. Meanwhile, in many localities, a series of new projects are underway for developing small hydro-electric stations.

THANH LONG

THE MEKONG RIVER DELTA

NGUYEN VAN THIEU'S PROGRAM OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND THE PRESENT SITUATION IN AGRICULTURE

Under the Communist Party's leadership, the South Vietnamese peasants, who had been tempered in two resistance wars, would not let the imperialists and feudalists put the yoke back on their necks. The "land to the tiller" policy loudly announced by Thieu in March 1970 at Can Tho, in the heart of the Mekong delta, could be implemented only in 1974, after the issue of the "Vung Tau message".

Other factors must also be taken into account. For nearly fifteen years South Vietnam had been rocked by repeated upheavals. With the concerted uprisings of the people who took up arms to defend themselves and used revolutionary violence to oppose counter-revolutionary violence, the fate of the puppet regime was now hanging by a hair. US troops had to intervene directly. What happened next is known to the whole world. The general uprising and the Tet offensive in 1968 forced the Americans to acknowledge defeat, sit at the conference table, and prepare for a withdrawal.

But Nixon still obdurately sought to realize his scheme. He had to bring US troops home to avoid further American casualties and reduce the drain on national resources that even the richest country in the world could no longer bear. He had to appease public opinion in the United States and in the world, put an end to division and doubts which were

shaking American society and plunging the country into prolonged recession. But US presence had to be maintained in Vietnam and other countries of Indochina after the withdrawal of US troops, the Nguyen Van Thieu regime had to be maintained to carry out US policies. Even after the military defeat of the imperialists, the revolution could not be allowed to have a strong base in the countryside of Vietnam. Social conditions had to be created to enable the Thieu regime to survive and take South Vietnam into the orbit of the "free world".

To carry out this scheme, the Americans proceeded to the Vietnamization of the war, poured weapons into South Vietnam, increased the number of puppet troops to one million, and at the same time, built up local forces and militia, so that Saigon troops might eventually replace US troops. In the countryside, "pacification", "accelerated pacification" and "Phoenix campaigns" were launched repeatedly, in order to destroy revolutionary bases, terrorize the population, drive rural people into the towns, thereby turning them into refugees who could be more easily drafted into the army. The Americans also engineered a coup d'Etat in Kampuchea, heavily bombed the Ho Chi Minh trail and the liberated areas in Laos, and prepared for an attack and a blockade against North Vietnam. Diplomatic activities were inten-

sified, Nixon and Kissinger went to Beijing and other capitals to seek the collaboration of the expansionists and international reactionaries in the fight against the Vietnamese revolution, not only in the present time, but also in the future.

The US imperialists knew very well that repression alone could not solve the problem. It was more important on the one hand to wipe out the achievements of the revolution in the countryside, or at least, distort them, on the other hand, to create new classes of peasants more or less politically attached to and economically dependent on neo-colonialism. The outdated feudal relations of production were execrated by the people and they hampered the economic development of South Vietnam within the US orbit. The social base of neo-colonialism in the countryside must be the class of land-owning middle peasants, with production experience, and completely dependent on foreign countries in the technological aspect. This would make it possible for capitalist firms to sell small machinery, fuel, technical material, to have farm products for sale, without allowing the economy of South Vietnam to develop to a dangerous point, that is to become self-supporting and capable of competing with the mother country. On this basis, the politics of the Republic of Vietnam, if it had survived, would be only a faint shadow of US foreign policy.

After liberation, vestiges of this policy could be seen in the Mekong delta. Some people were dazzled by market stands piled up with consumer goods; by the roar of motorcycles, by the immense quantities of chemical fertilizers sold everywhere and of insecticides used profusely, without any regard for the protection of the environment. But a cool-headed examination will reveal the dependent, limited character of the neo-colonialist economy and its backward aspects.

The US — puppet regime introduced a large number of small machines which could be conveniently used by the peasant families, but they built no important irrigation works. The dependence on natural conditions remained as it had been decades, or even centuries, before. The tractors were chiefly small ones.

A number of bigger tractors were used in extensive culture which was dependent on natural conditions and these varied with each place and with each crop. Peasants lost the habit of using manure as fertiliser. All the fuel, spare parts, seeds, fertilizers, insecticides, means of transport, farming and food processing equipment were imported. We may say that in US—Thieu days, agricultural production in the Mekong delta depended on foreign countries for everything, except sunlight.

To keep South Vietnam dependent on foreign countries was indeed the sole aim of the agrarian and other policies of the US—Thieu regime.

Two points should be noted in Nguyen Van Thieu's "land to the tiller" policy. The priority granted to a number of people shows that the puppet administration was seeking to build up a social base mostly composed of persons having close connections with the regime. And although the maximum area owned by any one person was fixed at three hectares in Nam Bo, and one hectare in Trung

Bo, influential people were in possession of areas ten times larger. A number of land-owners engaged in "direct production", buying machinery, hiring labour, and became rural bourgeois. In the four years from the promulgation of the agrarian law to March 26, 1974, when Thieu read his Vung Tau message, land-owners or their heirs were given a huge amount of money in compensation: 152 billion piastres.

This compensation was hardly justified: the land-owners' land and property were registered under different names, the collection of land rent was cleverly camouflaged. After liberation, in the provinces of Soc Trang, Bac Lieu, Can Tho, Long Xuyen and other places in the Mekong delta, a number of land-owners were still renting or farming hundred of hectares with hired labour. Such a situation could not be changed overnight.

However, we cannot deny the fact that the countryside then underwent a deep change in the socio-economic structure, which led to the forming of new relations of production. The "land reforms" by Ngo Dinh Diem and Nguyen Van Thieu were similar in many respects, particularly in the motives behind them and the methods used, but they had quite different aims. Diem had wanted to restore the class of feudal landlords, but Thieu, under US guidance, sought to develop capitalist relations of production in the countryside. The class of feudal landlords had been fundamentally eliminated. The class of rich peasants and rural bourgeois was developing. The central figure in the countryside was now the middle peasant.

This transformation was already underway when South Vietnam was liberated.

The Nguyen Van Thieu land policy had its greatest effect in the regions under tight US-puppet control; it had some influence in the disputed areas, while in the liberated areas, the land policy of the revolutionary government continued to be carried out.

The Nam Bo Countryside After Liberation

How was the agrarian situation in Nam Bo after liberation? Who owned the machines, the cattle, the farm tools? And how was the relationship between man and man?

In order to make a survey of the situation and have a basis on which to devise policies for the development of production and the socialist transformation of agriculture, in mid-1978 the Party Central Committee directed the South Vietnam Agricultural Transformation Committee to make a thorough investigation in a number of selected places in different regions of Nam Bo.

In selecting the places to be investigated, the varied aspects of the region, the momentous events and social upheavals having happened over the past decades, the social relationships and the natural conditions were taken into account. This painstaking investigation which was carried out during several months by a team of experienced cadres has provided most valuable materials for further studies.

True, in the Mekong delta, at the time of the survey the feudal relations of production had disappeared. Vestiges of these in some places, particularly in the regions where formerly those in power could coerce peasants into submission, had been eliminated soon after liberation. Most peasants had their own land. But there were still great inequalities in land ownership between poor peasants and rich peasants. And there remained a number of landless peasants who had to work for others to make a living.

First, let us see how the land was used. Investigation in the eight selected places gave the following figures: ricefields occupied 84 per cent of the total area of land; fields planted with other crops, only 1.2 per cent; areas under industrial crops, even less:

1 per cent, while gardens occupied 4.2 per cent of the total area, and dwellings, 5 per cent. The peasants also owned some patches of forest which made up only 0.5 per cent of the total area and ponds for fish and shrimp breeding (less than 0.5 per cent of the area). Besides, 3 per cent of the total area was 'waste land.

The uneven distribution of cultivable land among different regions of the Mekong delta could be easily seen. For each person, there were 5,484 sq.m. at the My Dong hamlet, in Dong Thap province; 1,324 sq.m. at the Phu Hung and Phu Thuan hamlets, in Tien Giang province; and less than 1,200 sq.m. at hamlets 8 and 9, in Ben Tre province.

Everywhere there was a gap between the poor and the well-to-do. Among the 636 families at the Phu Hung and Phu Thuan hamlets, as many as 242 families had no land or less than 5 *cong* (one *cong* = one-tenth of a hectare) of land, while some families owned as much as 4 hectares. At the My Dong hamlet, the average area of land for each family was 3.5 hectares, but 37 families had no land and 43 families had less than 5 *cong*. While 43 other families owned each from 7 to 20 hectares. At the two Bung Coc and Phu Tuc hamlets in Hau Giang province, 2,000 hectares had been distributed to peasants who had no or little land, but there still remained 54 out of 528 families, or one-tenth of the population, who had no land or less than 5 *cong* each. On the other hand, a number of families owned as much as 10 hectares.

How did the peasants come into possession of the land they now till?

There is no easy answer to the question. In a third of a century since the August Revolution, there have been many social upheavals, land has changed hands several times, many people have left their homes to live elsewhere. In some places, the land belonged to a

handful of landlords, in others it belonged to French plantation owners. In some localities in Kien Giang province, 71 per cent of the land is said to have been distributed to peasants by the revolution during the war of resistance against the French. In Dong Thap province, the landlords owned nearly all the land until the concerted uprisings, in 1960 when the people rose up against the US-Diem Administration and the tenants became masters of the land they tilled, only areas occupied by gardens were redistributed. However, at the time of the survey, the local population said that only half of the land in the locality had been given them by the revolution. In the Dong Thap Muoi region, most of the land had been distributed by the revolution, while in An Giang province formerly under tight enemy control, only 10 per cent of the total area had been allocated by the revolution.

In any case, those figures give us an overall view of the situation. In the eight localities where the investigation was made, about 40 per cent of the land had been distributed by the revolution. The land which peasants acquired by their own means constituted less than 19 per cent, and the land reclaimed by them, 27 per cent of the total area. Only 4 per cent of the land had been distributed to peasants by the Thieu regime, in implementation of the policies of "dispossessing landlords" and "giving land to the tiller". This speaks volumes about the true results of those policies.

In the countryside, those who have no or little land must work for others to make a living, while those who have more land than their families could farm have to hire labour. Uneven distribution of land in the countryside creates different strata of peasants. The more uneven the distribution is, the greater becomes the differentiation.

No wonder that in the fertile Mekong delta, hiring labour was common practice up to the time of the liberation of South Vietnam.

About 2 per cent of the families in the countryside lived not by agriculture, but by handicrafts, small trade... They had no or very little land.

Poor peasants made up from 18 to 25 per cent of the families, and owned from 7 to 10 per cent of the land. After liberation, a number among them were allocated land, but they did not accept it, having no capital or tools. They lived chiefly by working for others, especially at harvest time.

Families of middle peasants made up 50—60 per cent of the population, and they owned about half of the total area of land in the locality. The greater part of their land had been allocated by the revolution.

In the eight localities where the investigation was made, the middle peasants owned about one-third of the total capacity of the farming machines and 60 per cent of the draught animals. Farm work was done chiefly by members of the family. When there was too much work to do, the middle peasants had to hire labour, but occasionally they too worked for others.

Another group of peasants whom, for convenience's sake, we shall call upper middle peasants, made up from 12 to 17 per cent of the families, and owned 20—27 per cent of the land in the locality. An important part of their land had been allocated by the revolution (as much as 66 per cent in some localities in Minh Hai province). Having the necessary capital and tools, they were able to extend their fields by reclaiming land and farming waste land.

These middle peasants owned about one-third of the draught animals, tractors, means of transport, and more than half the number of small machines. Many of them used their machines in selling their services to other peasants.

In the Mekong delta, there were also rich peasants and bourgeois, these small groups had considerable economic power. They made up 2 per cent, or at most 5—7 per cent of the families, but owned 10—12 per cent, and in some places, as much as one-third of the total area of land in the locality.

Their property had different origins—honest work or illicit means—and they did not have the same political stand.

Clearly, great economic and social differentiation was seen among the various strata of peasants in Nam Bo. The class of landlords had been fundamentally eliminated, and working peasants had their own land. But the tendency of small-scale production to develop spontaneously was encouraged by the US—Thieu regime, and the differentiation process took place at once. Because of different natural and social conditions, and owing particularly to the struggle between the revolutionary forces and the reactionary regime and its hirelings, this differentiation varied according to the situation in each place. In regions under tight and prolonged enemy control, differentiation was the most marked. In the disputed zones, it progressed more slowly, and in the zones where revolutionary bases had been established, it was considerably restricted. The differentiation was greater in localities with more land, more farming machines, and its pace also depended on the stage of development of the mercantile economy.

The middle peasants constituted the largest group, and played a central role in the countryside. They made up 62—77 per cent of the families and owned 62—77 per cent of the land. They constituted a very important force.

The past decades have seen very particular developments in the political and social life in Nam Bo. The abolition of feudal land ownership took place during the resistance war, when revolution and counter-revolution were pitted against each other. The intensity of this struggle varied with each stage. Sometimes the struggle moved from one region to another, depending on the form of warfare

at each stage. It is understandable that at some places, feudal land ownership has not been completely eliminated. Conditions were sometimes lacking to ensure a fair distribution of land.

The above-mentioned process took place when capitalism was penetrating into the countryside. Neo-colonialism, using economic and political measures, was seeking to create a social base for its political regime, and in doing so, it further widened the gap between the different strata of the population, divided the peasantry into two opposing groups: the exploiting group and the exploited one.

The rich peasants, though small in number, were the exponents of capitalist development in the countryside. They had under their control not only the poor peasants, hired labourers, but also the majority of the middle peasants. The middle peasants formed a large but heterogeneous group. A number of them still met with economic difficulties. Those who fared better had a tendency to tread in the footsteps of bourgeois and rich peasants. Their wavering attitude and tendency of spontaneous development, together with illegal operations by the bourgeois and rich peasants, were responsible for the negative aspects in the countryside after liberation. The bourgeois, rich peasants and the negative features of the upper middle peasants constitute obstacles to the building of large-scale socialist agriculture. Only by conducting a searching analysis can we perceive behind the apparent prosperity of villages lying along peaceful canals, in the shade on coconut palms, the realities of peasant life, and explain the intermingling of wealth and poverty, modernity and backwardness, progressive and negative attitude. In the socialist transformation of agriculture, judicious and steady steps must be made in the right direction so as to gradually lead the peasants from individual to collective production while not neglecting the elimination of exploitation by rich peasants and bourgeois and the last vestiges of feudalism.

PHAN QUANG

An Ha:

THE SHAPING OF A NEW ECONOMIC ZONE

Thirty kilometres west of Ho Chi Minh City lies a new economic zone of the city's Fifth Ward. Here the soil is saline and was left unused throughout the war years. Right after the liberation of the South, a contingent of young volunteers dug a canal to bring fresh water to the area, thus paving the way for the building of the An Ha farm. In the An Ha canal, 20-tonne boats ply back and forth, berthing at An Ha market where local products—sugar, sugarcane, fish sauce—are exchanged for goods from Ho Chi Minh City.

The farmers' houses string out for two kilometres along the canal, amidst verdant orchards, their roofs covered with climbing plants. Regularly spaced they have fibro-cement roofs and bamboo-and-palm leaves partitions. They were built in the first days of the existence

of the farm, for the pioneer families.

We called at the first house, a three-bayed one, quite spacious for a dwelling in a new economic zone. On a low cupboard beside sitting-room furniture made of good-quality wood a transistor radio was conveying the music program from Radio Ho Chi Minh City. The outbuildings included a brick kitchen, a big water tank and a shed for five pigs, two oxen and two goats. There are also a fish-pond and an orchard with about 300 pine-apple plants... The family of Mr Hai Cao — the owner — has six of its members working for the farm. They had come to An Ha in the very first days. "When I was in the City," Mr Hai Cao told us, "I drove a cyclomotor¹ from 4 a.m. till midnight but our family was always deeply in debt."

Another newly-arrived family said they thought it lucky that their application had been quickly granted. During the war they had moved from Central Vietnam to Saigon where they lived from hand to mouth collecting and selling scrap. The husband proudly said that four of the seven members of the family were working on the farm, with the three children going to school. An Ha has two basic general-education schools with an enrolment of 420 pupils.

"Gone are the hard times," he added. "Now we have some savings. But what we find most heartening is the fact that the children's future is ensured — something we had never thought possible."

* *

The centre of the farm has the look of a miniature "agro-industrial complex". Besides making fish sauce, its budding industry also turns out sugar, paper and alcohol from more than 600 hectares of sugarcane — an excellent variety with a tall and upright stem with a high sugar content. With some equipment made in Saigon a factory treats 200 tonnes of sugarcane a day, turning out white powdered sugar. (The handicraft mills around Ho Chi Minh City only produce treacle and unrefined sugar.)

The management pays particular attention to the technique of production and the quality of products. According to Le Kim Hung, a responsible cadre, many engineers and technical and managerial cadres have been offered jobs at the farm or have signed contract with it. This has enabled An Ha to score much success. Following the example of the sugar mill, a paper mill turns out 700 kg of paper a day: type-writing paper, mimeograph paper, flowered paper, wrapping paper. It hopes to produce newsprint and writing paper by the end of this year. Raw materials are plentiful: waste from the sugar factory, rice straw and stubble from the production collectives in the surrounding areas. Three and a half tonnes of straw will give a tonne of paper pulp and a tonne of paper pulp, 650 kg of paper. A kilogramme of first-grade paper will sell at 40 *dong*. In the same way the distillery gets its raw materials from the sugar factory. The woman engineer in charge let us know that 220 litres of molasses will give 30 litres of alcohol pur-

chased by the State at 36 *dong* a litre. Production costs are about 100 *dong* including ferment, fuel...

"An Ha farm begins to show profit," said Chin Tan, the manager. "However, we will always remember our first days here. The State invested 8 million *dong* in the farm. We netted 1.5 million *dong* from our first crop of sugarcane; and we have retrieved our investment after two more crops. Now we can stand on our own feet."

* *

A five-year plan (1981 — 1985) to develop An Ha has been drafted. Part of it has taken concrete form. The remaining projects include a 200-bed polyclinic for the farm-workers and also for the people of Binh Chanh district; a brick-kiln producing one million bricks a year; a pigsty for 200 breeders; a sawing-mill and a carpentry shop; a pastry and confectionery enterprise. In 1983 the drilling of wells to provide fresh water to every family will be completed.

Bidding us farewell, a female employee of the farm's planning bureau said:

"Come and see us again. You will see even more progress. We are up to our ears in preparations to welcome here 200 more families from the City..."

THIEN ANH

1. Three-wheeled passenger vehicle driven by a small engine.

Among the 71 national scientific projects undertaken in the current five-year plan (1981 — 1985) the compiling of the National Atlas of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam holds a special place. Because its final result will be not just a technical performance nor a scientific report but a comprehensive scientific endeavour, represented by a set of maps of our country.

In a word, the atlas must be a scientific document summing up the results of basic surveys undertaken throughout the country and giving a complete account of our knowledge of it at this stage. On the other hand, to compile an atlas also means to conduct new surveys and investigations, check the old surveys, and fill the missing parts.

need to complete the atlas at an early date.

This project for a national atlas was begun after only 27 years of survey of national resources and conditions in the North and 6 — 7 years of similar work in the South. The data so far collected on the social and economic conditions of our country are still far from complete. Organization is

COMPILING THE NATIONAL ATLAS

The atlas will be a cartographic summing-up of our present knowledge of our country in the natural, economic, historical, cultural and social fields. Such a set of maps obviously serves many purposes and must meet different requirements. It will prove to be very necessary to the various planning departments in their effort to work out general as well as specific plans for economic development, make effective and rational use of the natural resources of the country, redistribute the work force on the national as well as regional scales, combine manpower with natural resources, rationally redistribute the productive forces and evolve development programs for the major regions of the country. The atlas is to be an official document of the State. Hence its comprehensive and national character. It is comprehensive for it encompasses all the natural economic, historical and social aspects of the country and presents them in their interrelations within a unified entity. Its national character is reflected in its contents and composition. As a scientific document, it must contain accurate and duly processed data reflecting the results of past and recent surveys and researches.

Finally, after the completion of this work, by conducting comparative analyses, we may bring out geographical areas or fields of knowledge which call for more elaborate and larger-scale surveys and investigations to be conducted in future.

That being our purpose, we should not wait for all basic surveys to be completed and all areas of the country to be studied equally thoroughly before starting on our own project.

This official atlas of the country will also provide us with a basic document from which to draw popular or tourist maps.

In view of its many purposes, the project has been carefully prepared. As early as 1974 we sent a team to Havana to learn from Cuba's experience in the compilation of its National Atlas. In the 1975 — 80 plan, the atlas was officially listed as a State project but for various reasons, only ten maps were drafted and a cartography committee set up to prepare for the execution of the program. After adoption of the following Five-Year Plan (1981 — 1985), Resolution No. 37 of the Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee pointed to the

still inadequate. For instance, the natural - geography department belongs to one State organ, the economic-geography department to another, while geographic studies in general are still insufficient and scattered.

We are also handicapped by the state of small-scale production which makes it very difficult to combine the work of different departments in the carrying out of a common program in which the subjects are heavily interdependent. To crown it all, our material and technical bases for such a large-scale project are still very weak. In spite of everything, however, we are to meet the following requirements:

The atlas will be in seven parts. The introduction will feature the national emblem and flag, a portrait of President Ho Chi Minh and specimens of his handwriting.

The second part presents the general geography of Vietnam. This part will also include a picture of Vietnam seen from outerspace, Vietnam in the political map of the world, Vietnam in Southeast Asia, together with a physical map and an administrative map of our country.

The third part is devoted to the national history, the foundation and defence of our nation in the course of several thousand years, from the Stone Age through the insurrections against the domination by feudal occupiers from the North, the period of national independence and especially the period beginning with the August Revolution of 1945. This part will bring out the history of the Vietnamese nation as one of unrelenting struggle against natural calamities and foreign aggressions.

The fourth part deals with the natural resources and conditions of our country. This part will provide in-depth knowledge of nature in our country, the laws governing territorial distribution, the distribution of national resources and their interrelations. Variations in time will be illustrated by historical documents. The natural elements should be represented in a detailed manner, proportionately to the scale of the map. However, this requirement cannot yet be fully met in the present conditions due to the still incomplete surveys, and generally speaking, the disparity in the level of their thoroughness. In the section on the natural conditions of our country, besides analytical maps there should be general maps and regional maps. This section comprises ten chapters, to be presented in a cause-effect order. First, those elements which had a decisive effect on the formation of the territory: geological, geographical, climatic and hydrological. These elements also have a direct effect on soil composition and on the flora and fauna. By summing up the above-mentioned elements we shall have maps which give a general view of the natural conditions of our country resulting from the interrelations among various elements of nature.

Because of its importance in many fields the chapter on the sea makes up a separate part in the section on natural conditions. The elements of the sea should be presented in close connection with corresponding elements of the mainland in order to reflect the interaction between the two in different respects: natural, economic and social.

Regrettably, however, we have been unable to conduct surveys

of the various tracts of the sea in an equally detailed fashion, hence the disparity in our documentation on various maritime regions. Nevertheless, this chapter will comprise a complete set of maps on the geography, temperature, salinity, tidal movements, wave regime, geological structure and mineral as well as biological resources of the sea adjoining our country.

The part on our country's natural conditions ends with an ecological map which is of great importance, for our country's territory is two-thirds hilly and mountainous and is influenced by tropical conditions.

The fifth part of the atlas deals with the population, the main force of production with a strong impact on nature. The maps will show the very uneven demographic distribution in our country, the locations of the towns, the natural population movements, the manpower resources, the distribution of the various ethnic groups and the dynamics of population growth.

The sixth part of the atlas deals with the economy. This part presents Vietnam in the first stage of socialist industrialization in which agriculture still holds the most important role, followed by industry and communications and transport. Though not an agricultural atlas, this section includes a comprehensive set of maps regarding such questions as land utilization, the composition of land resources, the process of land collectivisation, agricultural manpower, agricultural climate, the irrigation and drainage systems, the distribution of annual and perennial plants, stockbreeding, the scientific establishments serving agriculture, etc.

The last map in this section deals with the zoning of agricultural production.

Another major section of this part of the atlas is devoted to industry. It presents an overall view of the sad industrial situation of our country in colonial days and the rapid growth of industry since the August Revolution of 1945.

It is only natural that in an industrially underdeveloped country like Vietnam, small industries and handicrafts should still hold an important role. However, due

to the complexity of their structure, the drawing of a map of small industries and handicrafts, an interesting feature of the atlas, will require much effort from the cartographers. Then there will be maps on communications and transport, and trade. The last map of this section has a highly synthetic character: it describes economic zones in general.

The seventh part of the atlas presents our most striking achievements in education, health care, culture, science and technology.

Apart from the above-said maps, the atlas will also include maps on a large scale dealing with some special regions of the country such as the Red River delta, the Mekong river delta and the Central Highlands.

We envisage a total of 233 maps, large and small. The two most important parts present the natural conditions (87 maps, 37%) and the economy (75 maps, 32%). Next come the demographic part (28 maps, 12%) and the historical part (24 maps, 10%). The rest concerns other aspects of our country's life. Such a composition reflects the present stage of our basic surveys and the development of our country in various fields. Owing to the fact that our economy remains an underdeveloped one, the economic maps, especially the industrial maps, account for a relatively small part while the maps on our natural and human resources, the bases from which to work out economic development programs, account for nearly half of the total number of maps.

The size and scale of the maps also deserve careful consideration. Due to the shape of Vietnam, on a given page, the useful part of a map accounts for only over 20% of total space, and so, the remaining space could be filled with smaller-scale maps or charts and legends. Finally, the artistic side should also be given adequate attention.

Needless to say, such an important project requires very careful and detailed preparations and the concerted efforts not only of cartographers but also of cadres of various branches: scientific and technical workers in basic-investi-

gation agencies and economic, cultural and social departments. Thus, each specialized map in the atlas must involve at least two cadres: a cartographer and a specialist in the field concerned. Due to the national character of the project and the scientific standard required, for each map one has to enlist the cooperation of the highest scientific authorities in the branch concerned. No source of documentation should be overlooked and not a single idea or suggestion should be neglected. For any map which involves several organs or cadres from several organs, the best way to operate will be to organize a collective of authors responsible for the drawing of this particular map. In any case, the organization of scientific commissions to evaluate and approve the maps is a necessary step before they can be referred to the editorial staff of the atlas. The atlas being an official document of the State, a number of maps featuring data and figures should be certified by the responsible authorities of the offices concerned. Another major question is that the maps must be drawn up according to a strict time-table so as to facilitate collation and checking. Besides, some of the maps must be completed earlier in order to serve as basis for the compilation of others. For instance, in the chapter on geology, the geological map must be completed before the maps on structure, subsoil, hydrography, and construction geology. If the maps are being drawn at the same time, mutual consultations between their authors is very necessary.

It is only about one year and a half since compilation work was officially started. Even so, and in spite of many difficulties in organization, finances, and materials, the project has already brought some preliminary benefits. First, it has helped popularize the cartographic method which until now has not been widely used in the management, direction and planning of work. Secondly, it has helped the ministries which are involved in the project to get a better grasp of their respective branches of activity. In fact, even though our in-

dustry is still little developed, few ministries can claim a comprehensive and systematic knowledge of their respective branches. For instance, the compilation of the engineering-industry map has been entrusted to the Ministry of Engineering and Metallurgy. So far this ministry has controlled and managed only those engineering factories that are directly under its authority while knowing very little or nothing at all of the engineering factories under other ministries such as those of transport and communications, agriculture, forestry, mining and coal, chemicals... or those run by the provinces and cities. And yet, only with the help of a map showing the territorial distribution of all the existing engineering factories can an optimum network of engineering establishments be drafted.

The compilation of the National Atlas is only at its initial stage: organizing the staff, gathering documents and data, drawing up of maps, by the various authors. In the next stage, after the maps have been approved by the various scientific commissions, the editorial staff will collate them in order to eliminate all discrepancies. Finally, it is the stage of revision, fine drawing, and trial printing before mass printing.

The Geographical Institute under the USSR Academy of Sciences, which has acquired rich experience in the compilation of maps of different Soviet republics and has helped Cuba draw up its National Atlas, is cooperating with the Vietnam Institute of Sciences in this project. The cooperation is being carried out on two levels. First, the Soviet scientists will advise us on general methodology. Secondly, some will work side by side with Vietnamese scientists in the compilation of maps in fields where we lack specialists or experience. The assistance of Soviet specialists will be especially indispensable in the final stage of the project, that of collation and final integration and arrangement.

NGUYEN VAN CHIEN

Family Economy...

(Continued from page 12)

— Fixing appropriate prices for farm products and rates of land tax and commodity taxes, to encourage the family economy;

— Restoring and developing handicrafts and small industries, sending industrial goods to the countryside, even to remote areas, to stimulate the development of VAC;

— Ensuring production alongside consumption, cancelling all rules and regulations created by localities on their own initiative and resulting in hindering the flow of farm products and cattle. This will have an impact on the improvement of planning;

— Reorganizing production at the grass-roots and district levels, reorganizing the family economy alongside the collective and State economies (so far this has not received due attention). An important starting-point is to improve the composition of the people's diet and the rural development program. Guidance must be given to the drawing up of family economic plans;

— Having a sound assessment of the importance of the family economy in the period of transition to socialism in Vietnam, especially in the early stage. Commending and rewarding families with good performances in the development of VAC and VRACT systems in all fields or in specific sections.

TRAN VAN BA

Agromonist

1. V.A.C.: Initials of the Vietnamese words: Vuon (garden), Ao ca (fish-pond) and Chan nuoi (stockbreeding).

2. The cooperative reserves for each family 5% of the arable land for developing the family economy. This land is allotted to each co-op member's household in proportion to the number of its members.

3. V.R.A.C.T.: Initials of the Vietnamese words: Vuon (garden), Ray or Ruong phan tram (hillside or 5% ricefields), Ao ca (fish-pond), Chan nuoi (stockbreeding), Tieu cong nghiep and Thu cong nghiep (small industry and handicrafts).

Caring for Patients at Their Homes

The author of this article is one of the leading health officials in Ha Son Binh, a major province adjacent to Hanoi. He is also director of a major hospital, the Ha Dong hospital. During the resistance against French colonial aggression (1945 — 1954) he was a nurse in a People's Army unit operating in the Red River delta. Later he completed his secondary then higher education, became an assistant doctor then an army doctor. In the sixties he became well known in the health service for the decisive part he played in building the Van Dinh hospital into a model health care centre at the district level. In the seventies he innovated a new system of health control by sending medical officers to examine and treat patients right at their homes in Van Dinh district town and in many villages of Ung Hoa district, Ha Son Binh province. His experience has been turned to account and enriched by many localities throughout the country. Health control at the patients' homes has become an objective of the national health service.

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* *

"Health for all by the year 2000" is a noble objective and at the same time a slogan for action of the World Health Organization. In pursuance of this goal, the Alma Ata Declaration of 1978 laid special emphasis on primary health care. This calls for not just medical treatment. In fact, a series of tasks relating to disease prevention have been set which call for mass immunization in a planned way, environmental hygiene, nutritional hygiene, personal hygiene, mother and child care, etc.

"Health for all by the year 2000" is certainly within the reach of the developed countries even though in many of the capitalist countries the congenital evils of capitalism such as unemployment, prostitution and malnutrition among the poor sections of the population would lead one to believe that unless the governments concerned really act upon this slogan, health in these

countries will remain the privilege of a few social strata.

With regard to the developing countries, which are for the most part newly emancipated colonies, the question assumes a much more serious character. In fact, how can a government still burdened by poverty, famine and disease, and which lacks everything, from health establishments, medical staff to medicaments, attain the objective of "Health for all by the year 2000"? It may receive some humanitarian aid from developed countries, but who, if not itself, could tackle this momentous task?

The Socialist Republic of Vietnam is no exception. Our country has opted for the socialist path, bypassing the stage of capitalist development, and is laying the groundwork for socialism. However, socialism remains a distant objective. For the time being, Vietnam

remains a poor and underdeveloped country with a predominantly small-scale production. Will it be able to achieve this goal: "Health for all by the year 2000"?

Capabilities of the Socialist Option

Right after its inception following the August Revolution of 1945, independent Vietnam already demonstrated a clear tendency toward socialist development. However, the domestic and international situation at that time did not allow this option to reveal itself completely. Nevertheless, it reinforced patriotism among the basic sections of the revolutionary masses, leading to the victory of the resistance against the French war of colonial reconquest. When the United States began its aggression, the North had gone through almost a decade of socialist construction. The socialist ideal combined with patriotic élan spurred the entire people on to fight and defeat this new aggressor.

One of the foremost achievements of socialism in Vietnam is the forming of a widespread health-care network reaching to the remotest villages and hamlets. This network took shape almost simultaneously with the socialist transformation of private capitalist industry and commerce in the towns and the agricultural cooperation movement in the rural areas. Today, it has become a comprehensive system comprising four levels. The grassroots is the commune or equivalent unit. It comprises a

medico-maternity station which combines treatment with disease prevention, handles first aid and supervises rural sanitation and the prevention of epidemics. It also takes care of normal childbirths. The district level has the duty of directing and assisting the commune level. It has a more complex organization oriented toward specialized treatment and prevention of diseases. Each district has one or several polyclinics of 100—150 beds each with medium-level anti-epidemic competence and a sanitation and disease-prevention brigade equipped for operational tasks. The provincial level assumes the function of guiding and providing direct support for the district level. It comprises two distinct and complete systems: a treatment system of wide-ranging competence, comprising one, two or even three polyclinics of 300—400 beds each and a number of specialized clinics. Its prophylactic system comprises several specialized stations equipped for tactical operations. On top of this pyramid is the centre with a system of polyclinics and specialized hospitals of high-level competence, a disease-prevention system capable of tackling strategic tasks on a national scale, and a system of research institutions. To ensure effective functioning for this system there is also a network of central and local pharmaceutical enterprises and several vaccine laboratories and system of colleges and secondary schools of medicine and pharmacy.

For a poor and underdeveloped country like Vietnam, which was moreover heavily devastated by war, such a widespread and comprehensive system of health care obviously is far above what the national economy can afford. At first sight, there seems to be an imbalance between the development of health work and economic development. In most countries, the economy usually goes one step ahead of health work in order to create the necessary conditions for

the latter to develop to a corresponding level. The Vietnamese Government has approached the problem differently. Health work can and must stay one step ahead in order to promote production by protecting and improving the health of the working people.

The continual war against foreign aggression has also been an important factor determining Vietnam's option, because without an effective health service there could not be a powerful army and a firm rear area to carry out a protracted resistance and defeat the enemy.

This option has been proved by realities. By its own efforts Vietnam has been able to set up a reliable service with a large body of qualified medical workers and an ever-expanding material and technical basis. Even in the bitterest years of war, all the war wounded and sick armymen and all women in parturition were attended to and there was no major outbreak of epidemics. Many dangerous epidemic diseases left by the old regime such as cholera and poliomyelitis have been checked. Social diseases like malaria, trachoma and venereal diseases are being eliminated. Infectious diseases have been successfully tackled. The environment and the health of the population, especially in the rural areas, have changed dramatically compared with the colonial times. In 1982, for the first time in the nation's history, Vietnam became self-sufficient in food after many decades of sustained efforts. As in the fight against foreign aggressions in the past, the medical service has made an important contribution to this remarkable success in the battle for food.

Without any doubt, had it taken the road of capitalism, its medical service would not have attained its present level within such a short period of time and in such atrocious conditions of war. The socialist option has created conditions for it to grow and develop at a

spectacular pace and enabled it to effectively serve the building of socialism.

Problems of Growth

However, this quick development of the medical service has been accompanied by growing pains.

The biggest crisis it is experiencing now is the lack of medicines. To ensure medicament supplies to nearly 60 million people calls for a mighty pharmaceutical industry. Needless to say, such an industry can exist only on the basis of a developed chemical industry, which Vietnam still does not possess. During the war years, the modest pharmaceutical factories at the centre and in the localities operated mainly with materials from foreign aid. Foreign-supplied medicaments played an important role in meeting the demands of the resistance. However, since the war ended, which means the end of the emergency situation, foreign aid in consumer goods has been gradually reduced to a bare minimum. Over the past several years, the Government has continued to import some drugs of special use and a large quantity of materials for the production of medicaments of common use but they are far from meeting the requirements.

So, the basic measure at present is to make the most of traditional medicine and pharmacy, which had existed for thousands of years before the French introduced Western medicine into Vietnam. An important point in the medico-sanitary line of the Vietnamese State is to restore traditional medicine and combine it with modern medicine. This is a major undertaking requiring the mobilization of the whole State-run medical apparatus and also all the practitioners of traditional medicine who have either come together in the Vietnam Traditional Medicine Association or are still practising individually. Apart from the National Medicine Institutes in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, today a whole

system of medical centres using traditional medicine has come into existence in the towns and cities and even in many rural districts. All the polyclinics now have their own traditional medicine departments. Acupuncture in various forms—simple acupuncture, pharmacopuncture, electro-acupuncture and acupunctural analgesia—is being practised widely and the simple and practicable methods of this therapy have been popularized down to the grassroots.

Raising and exploiting animal and vegetal sources of pharmaceutical materials are being encouraged at all levels of the health system. At the grassroots in particular, all families are encouraged to plant 25—35 most common medicinal plants. Traditional medicines produced in different forms such as decoction, infusion, powder, tablets, collagen, liquor... have been used more and more widely. The pharmaceutical factories, for their part, are processing vegetable and animal pharmaceutical materials into pills, extracts and potions for drinking or injection. The shortage of medicines, though still acute, has been fundamentally overcome. More importantly still, Vietnam has been able to define a correct policy for developing its pharmacy during the transitional period pending the establishment of a modern chemico-pharmaceutical industry.

Another crisis, also quite serious, which has lasted for many years now, stems from the insufficient number of beds at the medical centres, and in a number of cases two patients have had to share a bed, especially during seasonal outbreaks of diseases, in winter and more particularly in summer. Paradoxically enough, it is precisely this rapid development of the health service which has generated this crisis. Thanks to effective medical intervention on a large scale, the infantile mortality rate has dropped by nearly twenty times compared with the pre-revo-

lutionary period while life expectancy has doubled. Population growth stands at more than one million yearly. However, the increasing medical needs of the population, not the population growth, lie at the root of the crisis. As a matter of fact, in the old days, ordinary folk could hardly afford medical care when falling sick. They would seek relief from some herbs growing in their gardens. In more serious cases they would have recourse to prayers and sorcery. If everything failed and the patient died, "that's the will of heaven". Things are different now. Medical care is available everywhere and is free. Every citizen knows that he is entitled to medical attention whenever he falls sick. The need for medical care has thus risen dramatically, outstripping the capabilities of the existing health system.

How to tackle this problem? Should we quickly increase the number of beds at the hospitals, which means a concomitant increase in personnel, equipment and also maintenance costs? And what if this very increase should stimulate the demand for hospitalization? To this we have a ready answer, for the present medical budget has already surpassed the economic capacity of the country.

A- Logical Development

It is against this background that the leadership of the Health bureau of Ung Hoa district together with the staff of Van Dinh hospital have decided on a new mode of health care: to give medical care at the patients' homes. This is no novelty in the developed countries. But to do this the first thing is to have a large number of medical personnel. Moreover, the question is not just to give medical treatment, but also, to prevent diseases, not for a given number of families but for all families. For

this reason, the model of the developed countries cannot be applied in Vietnam.

First, there must be a reorganization of the health-care network at the grassroots so as to extend it down to each family. So far the medical network which has been formed on a national scale has only reached the communal level. True, there is also a body of nurses working on a part-time basis in the production brigades, but their activities are limited to a number of operations such as giving anti-epidemic vaccinations, looking after environmental hygiene, detecting sickness in people and sending them to the communal health station. Such activities do not project health care into every home, the cell of society.

The promoters of the Van Dinh initiative—let's call it that—focused their attention on improving health care at this final stage. Still regarding the commune's medico-maternity station as the heart of all medical and sanitary activities at the communal level, they have founded medical units of around 1,000 persons placed under the direct guidance of an assistant doctor and two nurses. Each family will send one of its members to join the Red Cross organization, which is an important auxiliary of the medical unit. Members of the Red Cross are usually recruited from among the young who have finished basic general education and are thus provided with the necessary general knowledge and notions of hygiene. The Red Cross will open short-term courses, usually lasting only seven evenings, to help the new members acquire simple but clear notions of what is to be done in disease treatment and prevention. Red Cross members will regularly urge individual families to observe hygiene rules, give periodical vaccinations, tend the plots of medicinal herbs, inform the medical unit of new cases of

sickness so that the medical station could send a medical agent to the patient's home before things may get worse. Only when the case is more than the medical agent can handle will the patient be taken to the commune's health station; it will be referred to the district hospital only when the station has done all it could.

To monitor the health situation in all its aspects, the medical unit, with the assistance of the commune's physicians, will organize a general health check-up and establish the health record of each individual (including vaccinations). The health records of all members of each family are put in a special folder. Each family is given a serial number, inscribed on its health dossier as well as on the medical map of the commune. The health dossiers of the commune are kept at the commune's health station. At the end of each work day the physicians of the medical units would meet at the station to report on the health situation in the commune.

These improvements were successfully experimented in the Van Dinh township in 1973, and like an oil stain, they later spread to the neighbouring communes and finally to the whole district of Ung Hoa. Here is an instance: Tan Phuong commune, with a population of 5,000 people in 920 families living in three geographically well defined areas, is divided into three medical units. The medical service of the commune comprises four assistant doctors and nine nurses. The head physician and three nurses work at the commune's medico-maternity station; the three other physicians and six nurses work at the medical units with the assistance of 920 members of the Red Cross, who are in daily contact with their families. Ung Hoa district, with 150,000 inhabitants and 27,000 families has, apart from the 150-bed Van Dinh district hospital, another 300 beds in 30

communal medico-maternity stations. In actual fact, the district has also 27,000 potential beds for sick people in their own homes.

Health control at home — in concrete terms, this means to monitor the health situation, give medical examinations and treat the patients at home — has brought about very positive benefits to the population, especially in case of sickness. In the present conditions when public transport and travel accommodations are still primitive, the new system spares the patients' families travel costs and loss of time for work. With regard to the medical centres, it relieves them of congestion and also contributes to cutting down State expenditures. It is thanks to this good health-care organization, especially the examination and treatment of patients at their homes, that over the past ten years and more, in no circumstances at the Van Dinh hospital have two patients had to share the same bed, even in peak periods.

The system of health control at the patients' homes as described above is based on a principle which Lenin has spelled out for health services in a socialist society: "The health of the working people must be the affair of the working people themselves". It is also an application of the mass line of the Communist Party of Vietnam with regard to health work. The Socialist Republic of Vietnam, for all the enormous economic problems it is facing, has been fully capable of putting this system into effect on a national scale because it has built up a widespread and comprehensive medical and sanitary network. This system is being applied on an increasing scale by more and more localities throughout the country. Without doubt, it will help Vietnam achieve this noble objective "Health for all by the year 2000".

Dr. NGUYEN KHAC THUAT

MORE ON DIOXIN

In the law-suit which opposes Vietnam war veterans to the US authorities and the Dow Chemical Company which made the Agent Orange containing dioxin, the company's lawyers have argued that:

The Defence Department had been aware of the genetic effects of dioxin several years before it was used in Vietnam. Thus the responsibility — that is the payment of damages to the victims — lies not with the company but with the US Government, the company having merely executed the orders of the Defence Department.

It should be remembered that in Seveso (Italy) during the July 10, 1976 accident, 150 grammes of dioxin were released, contaminating 18 square kilometres and causing the evacuation of 750 people. The Hoffman la Roche company, which owns the factories, had to pay 66 million pounds damages to the local authorities and 11 million pounds to the affected people.

How much in damages should the US Government pay to the Vietnamese people, victims of the massive dumping of dioxin? And for the large-scale genetic and ecologic consequences of a chemical war waged over ten years?

(The above-mentioned data on dioxin and on the law-suit in the USA are taken from the British scientific review Nature of May 18, 1983).

A pharmaceutical factory

Under colonisation Vietnam was deprived of a pharmaceutical industry. The number of pharmacies could be counted on the fingers of one hand. Whether under French or Vietnamese ownership and management, they merely retailed medicines coming from France or prepared remedies on prescriptions from imported raw materials. Some pharmacists offered their own preparations for sale, but the range and volume of these local products was negligible. Today the budding pharmaceutical industry in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam is endowed with 55 enterprises, 14 of them national ones. One of the latter, the No.2 Pharmaceutical Factory of Hanoi, has essentially mechanised its production chain and has 800 employees, mostly women workers. It was founded in 1960 on the basis of the drug factory run by the Health Service of the People's Army during the years of the anti-French Resistance (1945 — 54). This modest enterprise turning out products by handicraft methods and established in the Viet Bac jungle in the extreme north of the country, returned to Hanoi after peace was restored in 1954. The new equipment received under Soviet aid made modernisation possible.

Re-named in 1960, the enterprise came under the Ministry of Health in the same year, with the task of producing medicines for both the armed forces and the civilian popu-

lation. At that time there were 182 employees, mostly women, with a modest level of general education and professional competence. Nevertheless, imbued with the fine tradition of the Revolutionary Army, and animated by great resolve, they worked steadily to raise their level of competence to that required by the new tasks.

In less than a quarter of a century the factory has grown to several times its original size. Its 800 employees have for the most part attained the secondary level of general education, only those of the older generation being content to finish at the 7th form. Members of the management, and the heads of workshops, laboratories and departments, etc., are of university standard.

Since its formation the enterprise has been faced with a major obstacle, the lack of raw materials. Imports being limited because of shortage of foreign currency, it is forced to exploit to the full the medicinal materials found in the country itself. The medicines made from plant and animal medicinal substances represent 30% of the total value of production and this percentage has been increasing, with the encouragement of the medical authorities.

The enterprise has 2 research laboratories, one for long-term and specialised work, the other for short-term, most often linked to

present-day techniques of production. Results obtained by the researchers which are of real scientific value are rapidly introduced into the production process.

Vinblastin and other active constituents used in the treatment of leukemia and arterial hypertension have been separated from the *vinea rosa*, a small herbaceous plant with a 4-petaled flower, which grows almost everywhere.

Many alkaloids such as morphine, codeine, narcotine, thebain... have been extracted from the poppy by a special method.

Gitoxin and digitoxin, used in the composition of cardiac medicines, are extracted from the *digitalis purpurea*.

Solasodin, which is used in the making of corticoids, is extracted from *solanum laciniatum*.

These few examples will give an idea of the level of research done on medicinal materials and on various technologies: extraction of active constituents from medicinal plants; making of new products; recovery and treatment of raw materials that are deficient in quality, to improve them and make them usable.

This latter technology in particular has enabled precious medicines like Vitamin K, penicillin, aspirin, chloromycetin, quinine... to be produced economically. The semi-synthesis of tetrahydropalmitin and the manufacture of gelotamin have produced medicines highly appreciated both at home and abroad.

A number of medicines produced by the factory are very popular, such as: *tô mốc* (an antibiotic), *xêda* (a sedative), *kavet* (for gastric ailments), *sen vông* (a tranquiliser), *tang luc* (a tonic), tonic granules for children, curcumin, berberin, tetrahydropalmitin... For export let us cite the liquid and solid balms which were awarded prizes at the Youth Scientific-Technological Exhibition in Moscow, 1980 — 81.

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Always in the spirit of counting first on its own resources, the No. 2 Pharmaceutical Factory of Hanoi has made great efforts to renovate its old equipment and make new apparatuses. Its mechanical workshop has made many types of equipment based on models given by the Soviet Union. Among others the enterprise has put into operation a machine for rinsing bottles, a mechanical sieve, a machine for filling penicillin phials, an evaporator for concentrating extracts, a vertical oven for the continual tempering of phials.

Thanks to these achievements the handicraft stage is now confined to the preparation and conditioning of medicinal materials before their technological treatment.

Many of the workers, both men and women, have been sent to foreign countries for a period of instruction, notably to the Soviet Union and Hungary. Others continue with refresher courses in Vietnamese schools. The most gifted are sent to college. Pharmacists, both men and women, follow post-graduate studies either at home or abroad.

Because of its success in pharmaceutical production, in scientific-technological and economic management, and because of the continuous training and upgrading of its personnel, the No. 2 Pharmaceutical Factory of Hanoi has been awarded the Labour Order 2nd and 3rd class by the National Assembly. Its management is noted not only for its competence but even more for its cohesion and sense of responsibility.

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CHRONOLOGY

(16 October — 15 November)

OCTOBER

17. Signing in Hanoi of the minutes of the second meeting of the Joint Commission for Economic, Cultural, Scientific and Technological Cooperation, and of an agreement on trade between Vietnam and Libya.

17—21. Visit to the Soviet Union by Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach.

18. Completion of the last spans of the Thang Long Bridge over the Red River.

— Opening in Hanoi of a seminar on "Vietnamese-Soviet cooperation at the present stage".

18—22. A delegation of the Cuban National Assembly, headed by Flavio Bravo Pardo, member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and President of the Cuban National Assembly, pays an official friendship visit to Vietnam.

20 Oct. — 2 Nov. A high-ranking military delegation of the People's Republic of Mongolia, led by Mongolian Defence Minister, Lieutenant-General Jamsrangiin Iondon, pays an official friendship visit to Vietnam.

20—21. Holding in Hanoi of the Second Congress of the Vietnam Cinematographic Workers' Association.

21 Oct. — 2 Nov. Visit to Vietnam by a delegation of the Congolese Party of Labour.

22—24. Opening in Hanoi of the Third Congress of the Vietnam Musicians' Association.

27 Oct. — 4 Nov. A Soviet Party and Government delegation, headed by G.A. Aliyev, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and First Vice-Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, pays an official friendship visit to Vietnam. On this occasion the two sides sign a long-term program for economic, scientific and technological cooperation between Vietnam and the Soviet Union. A joint statement is published.

NOVEMBER

28. A spokesman for the SRV Ministry of Foreign Affairs issues a statement completely rejecting the erroneous resolution on the so-called "Kampuchean problem" adopted by the 38th session of the UN General Assembly.

2. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Vietnam issues a statement condemning the US threat of aggression against Nicaragua.

3. SRV Deputy Foreign Minister Ha Van Lau arrives in Albania for an official friendship visit.

4. Signing in Prague of a cooperation agreement for 1983—84 between the SRV Chamber of Commerce and the Czechoslovak Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

— Inauguration in Hanoi of a branch of the Pushkin Institute for the teaching of Russian.

7—11. Opening of the Third Congress of the CPV Branch in Ho Chi Minh City (Second Round). A new executive committee is elected with Nguyen Van Linh as its Secretary.

8—9. Holding in Hanoi of the Second Congress of the Vietnam Photographers' Association.

8—10. Opening in Hanoi of the National Congress of Vietnamese Catholics for National Construction and Defence and for the Defence of Peace. 299 delegates attend the Congress.

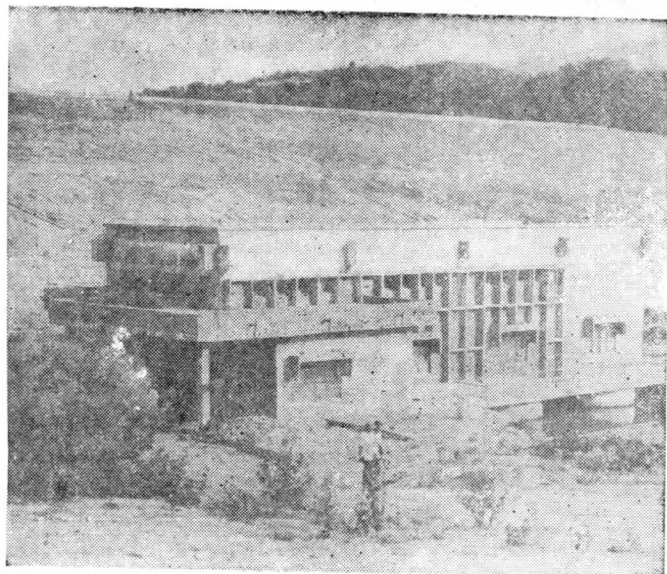
8—12. Cuban Deputy Foreign Minister Pelegrin Torras visits Vietnam.

12. A delegation of the Mongolian National Assembly, led by Demchigiyn Molomjamts, Political Bureau member and Secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Revolutionary Party of Mongolia, pays an official friendship visit to Vietnam.

— Signing in Hanoi of documents on economic and commercial cooperation between Vietnam and Hungary.

— A delegation of the Syrian Arab Baath Socialist Party, led by Mohamed Jaber Bajbouj, member of the Party National Leadership and President of the Syrian Peace Committee, pays a friendship visit to Vietnam.

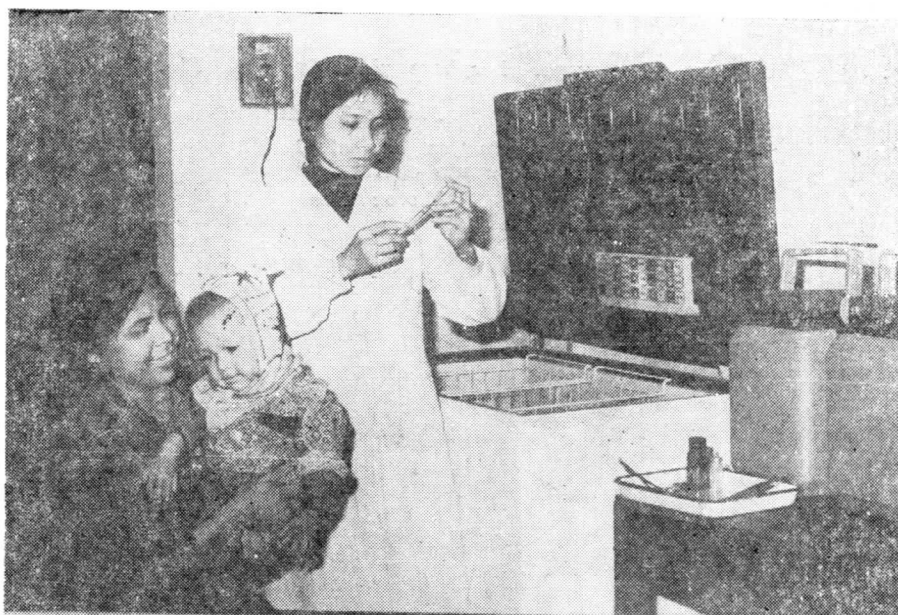
15. Polish Foreign Minister Stefan Olszowski visits Vietnam.



The newly-built Dae Uy 225kW hydro-power station in Gia Lai — Kon Tum province serves the new economic zone of the province. (See article on page 13)

Photo: NGUYEN KHUE

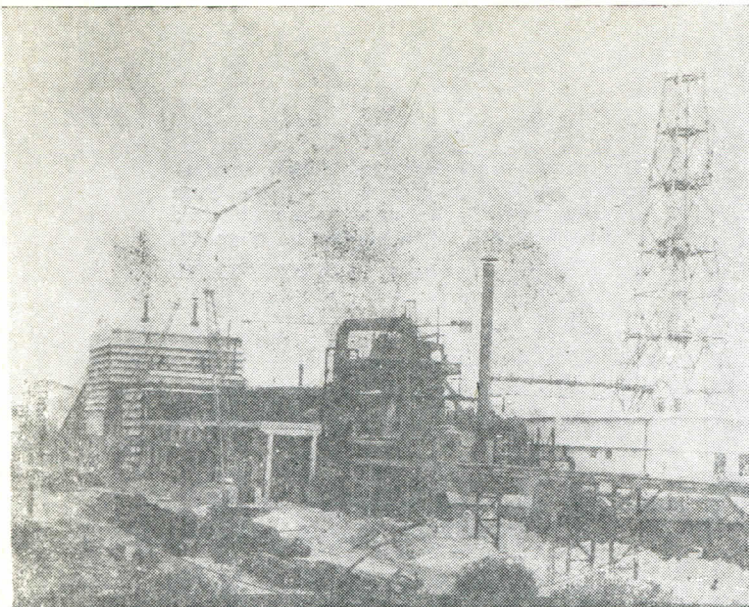
Vaccination for children at the health station of Tan Phuong commune. (See article on page 22)



Preliminary processing of traditional medicines at the health station of Tan Phuong commune. (See article on page 22)

Photos: QUANG NGOC



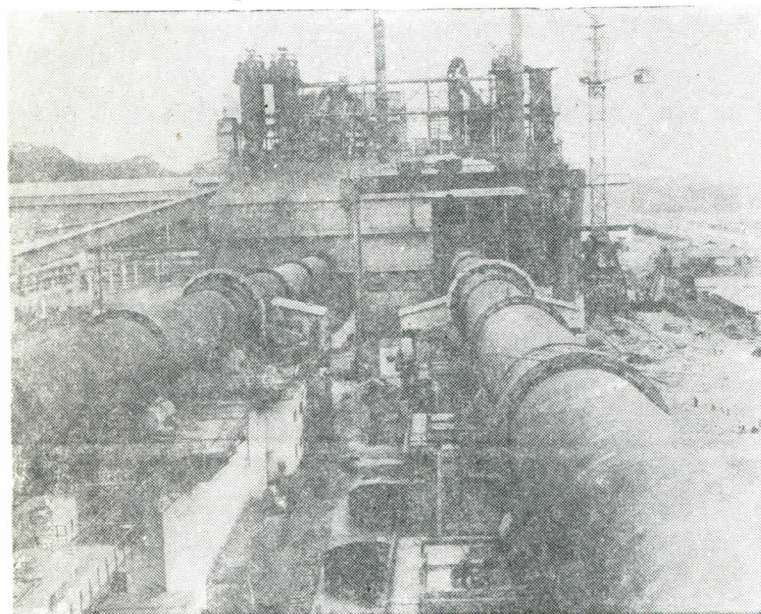


Enlarging the Lam Thao super-phosphate plant in Vinh Phu province.

Photo: VU HANH

Preparations to put the No.2 production line of the Bim Son cement plant (Thanh Hoa province) into operation.

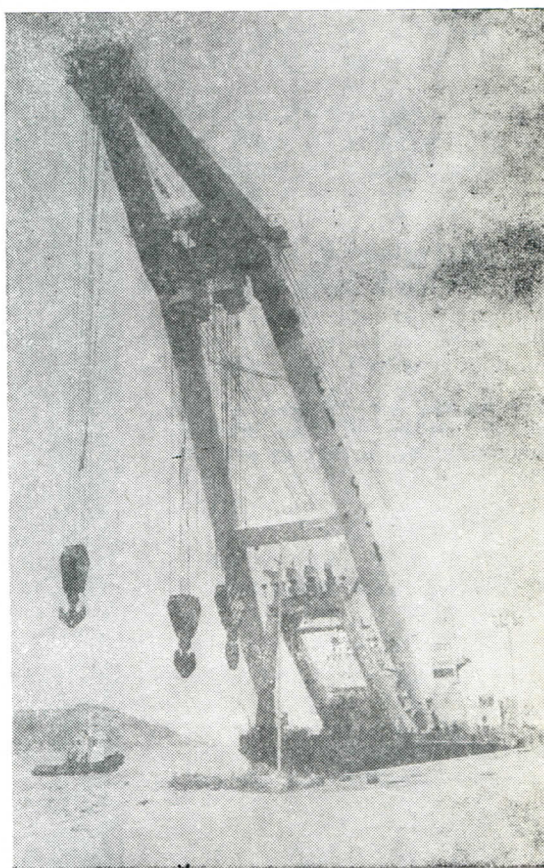
Photo: TRAN SON



SOME PROJECTS OF VIETNAMESE-SOVIET COOPERATION

A 1,000-tonne Soviet-built crane used for oil exploration in Vung Tau.

Photo: NHAT TUONG



Vietnam
courier

НОВОСТИ
ВЬЕТНАМА

Le Courrier
du Vietnam

El Correo
de Vietnam

Báo đối ngoại: **TIN VIỆT NAM**

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