

VIETNAM ONE YEAR AFTER THE 7TH NATIONAL PARTY CONGRESS

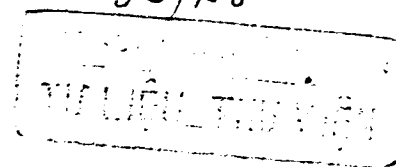
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HÀ NỘI - VIỆT NAM

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One year after
the 7th National Party Congress

THE GIOI Publishers
Hanoi - 1992

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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

In the early 1980's, Vietnam realized that stagnation in this country was caused by the system of centrally-controlled, bureaucratic subsidy-based administrative management, primarily in the area of the economy. This is the reason why in the 1980's, the Government carried out a series of economic reforms which have been undertaken in three stages.

The first stage from 1980 to 1985, with the contractual system first applied in agricultural production, the farmers were closely associated with their land and the products stemming from their labour in the fields. The contractual system in agriculture unfettered the farmers who had long been small-scale producers in a self-sufficient economy. During this phase, reforms were undertaken in the system of prices, salaries, and currency. These reforms did not bring success; on the contrary, they created setbacks in financial policy and significant difficulties for production and people's living conditions.

The second stage was marked by the resolutions of the 6th Congress of the CPV held in December 1986. The basic policy direction was then renovation of the management of the national economy, i.e. the elimination of the centrally-controlled, bureaucratic, subsidy-based administrative management system, the shifting of production and business to a system of cost-accounting, and consideration of the three major economic

programmes as central tasks: agriculture became the real priority and the production of consumer goods and that of goods for export were to be promoted.

During the same period, the contractual system was further improved in the area of agriculture. The system of industrial management and the circulation and distribution of goods have undergone significant reform, the essence of which was the level of autonomy granted to production units and their directors, turning them from passive to active participants in production and business.

The third phase began in late 1988. During this phase, the basic concept of renovation initiated by the 6th Congress of the CPV was perfected and enhanced. It was carried out by means of effective policies in all aspects of the nation's activities.

The most outstanding economic achievement of this period was the initial formation of a market economy with many sectors operating under the management of the State.

Since the end of 1988, the State has begun to apply a new pricing system for many kinds of important goods and materials. Those still supplied by the State are now limited and in 1990 a one-price system was applied for all goods and materials. Vietnam has not allowed prices to suddenly float but carried this out gradually. The 'shock treatment' method was not used by policy makers; instead a 'long-rain-soaks-the-land' method was strictly applied. Thanks to this 'Asian method', prices have been gradually readjusted over a number of years, little by little reaching the same level as market prices and being accepted by society. A system of free-market prices with fluctuations completely dependent on supply and demand has now taken shape.

In agriculture, thanks to the contractual system and investments by the State in irrigation, soil improvement, fertilizers, insecticides and seeds, Vietnam, which was a food importer with food shortages occurring every year particularly in large cities and industrial regions, has become, since 1989, the world's third-largest grain exporter while nation's food reserves are greater than ever before.

In industry, the subsidy system has been abolished and a one-price system applied, thus linking production closely to the market. There are 12,000 State-owned industrial enterprises throughout the country and under the new system they are encountering severe difficulties. Those which are dynamic and have become used to the new system can maintain stability and are gradually expanding; others are dying, have been dissolved or exist in name only. At the moment State-owned enterprises are being restructured. All other economic sectors are being encouraged. The State has so far issued 1,300 permits for the establishment of private enterprises, including private businesses, limited liability companies, and joint stock companies. A state of 'healthy competition' among State-owned enterprises themselves and between State-owned and private enterprises has been declared.

In the area of finance, due to the application of controls, inflation has been significantly reduced. In just one year after the 7th Congress of the CPV (June 1991) triple-digit inflation came down to double-digit inflation.

In the field of export-import, Vietnam, whose economy has always been marked by a surplus of import has succeeded in achieving a balance between imports and exports, with even a small export surplus in the second half of 1991 and the first half

of 1992. Since 1987, Vietnam has opened its doors to other nations of the world.

Official statements have been made on both international and domestic platforms, to the effect that 'Vietnam wishes to be a friend of all countries in the world community striving for peace, independence and development'. As evidence of this, Vietnam has promulgated the Law on Foreign Investment (1987), adhered to the Bali Treaty, become an observer at ASEAN, withdrawn its forces from Cambodia (1989), normalized its relations with China (November 1991), is working for the normalization of relations with the USA and so on.

After renovation of the economy, Vietnam is step by step renovating and improving its political system.

Over the past half century, the Vietnamese State has promulgated four Constitutions. The 1946 Constitution appeared when Vietnam won back its independence after nearly a century of colonial domination, the 1959 Constitution after nine years of the war of resistance against foreign aggression (1945-54), the 1980 Constitution after liberation of the entire country and the 1992 Constitution which marks a new phase, that of building a mixed economy within a market system with the regulation of the State and the eventual building of a jurisdictional State.

Throughout their history, the Vietnamese have never talked as much about a State under the rule of law as they are now doing, despite the fact that the majority of the Vietnamese have acquired sufficient knowledge about the essence of such a State.

From Vietnam's viewpoint, such a State is one of the people, for the people and by the people. It will manage the whole of

society by means of the law. That the people are taken as the basis, and everyone is equal before the law is the policy and principle on which all offices of the State apparatus will operate.

In order to build such a State, since the end of 1986, the National Assembly and Government of the SRV have promulgated over 30 laws and nearly 40 ordinances, including criminal code, civil law, and economic law. This is a turning-point in law-making in Vietnam.

All this does not mean that Vietnam has emerged from serious socioeconomic crises – major unemployment, inflation not yet under control, smuggling rife – creating a great many difficulties for domestic production. There is a lack of capital in addition to the US embargo, economic development is still at a low level while world economic competition is fierce, many kinds of officials need to be retrained in view of the new system, the State apparatus is still cumbersome, inefficient and needs to be transformed to become more qualified, co-ordinated, and effective, corruption is still like an epidemic which must be stopped and rapidly eliminated, much effort is still required in drawing up and improving the law, and the legislative, judicial, and executive arms of government are also to be reorganized to meet the requirements of national construction and defence. However, the prerequisites now exist for Vietnam to overcome its present difficulties and successfully carry out renovation.

TOWARDS A STATE BASED ON THE RULE OF LAW

At the 11th session of the 8th Legislature of the National Assembly of the SRV, convened in order to approve the 1992 Constitution (amended), on March 24, 1992 the General Secretary of the CPV CC, Mr Do Muoi, delivered an important address on behalf of the Party. Below are its excerpts.

Through the Party Congresses, since the 3rd, 4th, 5th, and especially the 6th and 7th, the line of Socialist revolution in Vietnam has been significantly readjusted, amended and made specific; the directions, steps, forms and measures aimed at achieving our objectives have been defined more and more precisely; the serious and lasting errors in our major lines and policies, in strategic leadership, and in organizing implementation, have been gradually overcome so as to bring our country out of its present socio-economic crisis.

Over the past five years, carrying out the line of renovation, and thanks to the outstanding efforts of our entire people, we

have recorded important, though initial, achievements in all fields. Many new policies with regard to different areas – the economy, society, defence, security, foreign relations, and democratic development – have increased the efficiency of social management at various levels of the administration, in maintaining political stability, and in raising the activeness and creativeness of all strata of our people. All this has changed the face of our country and made it stronger, more vigorous and encouraging. These positive changes reaffirm the correctness of our line of renovation.

However, our country is still beset with many difficulties we have to strive to overcome. Life continuously calls for new requirements. The present general situation of our country not only requires but also creates conditions for us to continue economic renovation as the central theme while we must advance renovation in a more uniform and comprehensive way. For this purpose, what is particularly important is renovation of the political system, guarantees of the democratic rights and civil rights, reform of the State apparatus, and the gradual building up of a State based on the rule of law, a State really of the people, by the people and for the people.

To carry out this great and important task, we have to fundamentally and comprehensively amend the 1980 Constitution, to change provisions that are no longer appropriate and add new ones. This is an urgent requirement facing the whole Party, entire people, and directly concerning the National Assembly, the State's supreme body of power and the only institution with constituent and legislative powers. Being the supreme law of the State, the Constitution (amended) institutionalizes the revolutionary line put forward by the CPV in the "Platform for National Construction in the Period of Transition to Socialism" and in the "Strategy for Socio-Economic Stabilization and Development up to the Year 2000". It is the fundamental legal basis for the development and defence of the country.

We warmly welcome the enthusiastic contribution, with a sense of mastership and a great spirit of responsibility, by all strata of people in the whole country, by all levels and sectors, by the delegates of the National Assembly, who have made important proposals for turning the Constitution (amended) into a product of the intelligence of the entire people and a reflection of the will and aspirations of the whole country. The Constitutional Amendment Committee has worked with great diligence in a collective and democratic way, and has accepted suggestions from the people in order to amend and correct the draft Constitution (amended) in order to present it to this session of the National Assembly for consideration and decision.

The Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee has been continually informed of Constitutional amendments and has on many occasions discussed and considered major questions regarding the basic contents of the draft constitution (amended). In the main, it agrees with the draft which is being presented today to the National Assembly by the Constitutional Amendment Committee.

The CPV proposed that the National Assembly give it careful consideration and take the final accurate decision in accordance with the people's expectations.

For all the Constitutions, the source of power is always considered the central provision. Thirty-three years ago, in his report on the draft constitution of 1959, President Ho Chi Minh pointed out: "In whose hands is political power and whose interests does it serve? This will determine the whole content of the Constitution ⁽¹⁾."

President Ho Chi Minh gave an early revelation of the shortcomings of various types of governments that we had to avoid and

to prevent their emergence in our country's political system. He demanded that State officials, irrespective of function, must rely on the people, serve them, be closely linked to them, attentively listen to their views, remain united with them and be their faithful servants. Ho Chi Minh's ideas are clearly embodied in Chapter I of the draft Constitution (amended), which provides for the "political system" of the SRV.

The people are assured of their right to mastery through the representative system, through their right to elect their representatives who will on their behalf, decide all State affairs. Persons elected to represent the people come from among the people, and must serve the people's interests, power is entrusted to them by the people and the people should permanently oversee the activities of their representatives. Of course, 'delegates to the National Assembly must be loyal to the socialist Vietnamese homeland, and strive to carry out the drive for renovation so as to make the people rich and the country strong. They must be knowledgeable persons capable of fulfilling the responsibilities of delegates to the National Assembly and participating in decision-making on major national issues. They must be virtuous and honest, and be exemplary in the implementation of the law and win the confidence of the people" as mentioned in the draft law on the election of delegates to the National Assembly (revised) presented to this session of the National Assembly.

The electoral law must contain provisions to ensure that the people may enjoy their most fundamental right, that is the right to vote, the free choice of their representatives in the State's supreme body of power, entrusting to the latter the power to participate in decision-making on major national issues and matters closely related to the people, such as living conditions, jobs, democratic freedoms, and equality and social justice.

Along with the question of representative democracy, importance must be attached to the question of direct democracy so that the people may participate in the process of drawing up and implementing laws and State policies.

The draft Constitution (amended) has stringent provisions regarding the obligations and responsibilities of deputies vis-a-vis the voters who elected them, and regarding the oversight of their activities by the people and the dismissal of those who lose the confidence of the people. These are necessary provisions in our country's electoral system.

The deputies' great mission to be representatives of the people on the State's supreme body of power is no easy or simple task. Over the past eight terms and 46 years of activity at the National Assembly, deputies of different generations have enhanced their responsibilities towards the people when they make decisions on major national issues. The activities of the National Assembly deal with more and more substantial issues and are more and more effective. Democracy has developed more and more strongly.

For many reasons, however, the activities of the National Assembly do not yet fully reflect the active democratic life of the whole of society. The first and most important reason is that the people have not correctly understood the role of the National Assembly, the effectiveness of its activities, and of the deputies has not been good enough, and neither have devoted all their energies to meeting the real situation and the aspirations of the people. This situation should be changed. Many deputies and committees of the National Assembly should be gradually shifted to a pattern of permanent and more effective activity to increase the efficiency of the role of the State's supreme body of power, whose most important function is making laws and overseeing at the highest level all the activities of the State. This policy responds to the requirements of national development,

but actual conditions do not permit the completion at once of this work, which must be performed steadily step by step throughout the process of building a socialist State based on the rule of law.

On the basis of the Constitution (amended) and the electoral law that the 8th Legislature of the National Assembly will approve at this session, we are convinced that voters throughout the country, including millions of young men and women who for the first time go to the polls to fulfil their obligations and implement their precious citizens' rights, will clear-sightedly choose their representatives to the 9th Legislature of the National Assembly. These deputies will be dedicated to the country and the people and are worthy of the confidence of our people.

The 9th Legislature of the National Assembly will continue the renovation of our nation and will further enshrine the process of uniform and comprehensive renovation; it will reform the economic system and management and the political system as well.

Our democratic system includes another important element dealt with by and given an eminent position in the draft Constitution (amended). That is the citizens' rights to democracy, freedom, equality, and the human rights of all members of society.

We reaffirm that in our society, all strategies, plans and policies of the Party and State always put the people at the centre, are in the people's interests and are carried out by the people.

In a democratic society, the State must with its legal system and its operational apparatus create a mechanism enabling the National Assembly deputies to implement their powers and

responsibilities in participating in decisions on fundamental and important societal issues; reflecting the will and aspirations of the people, and balancing the interests of different strata, of people from various ethnic groups, in all parts of the country, and in all fields.

On the other hand, a real democracy must create favourable conditions for each member of society to develop his own creative talents for the benefit of his collective, his country and himself.

This is not an easy task, of course. Each nation, each person must endeavour to achieve this fine ideal in their own way, without being dogmatic or copying from others. In the particular conditions existing in Vietnam, the way leading to genuine democracy for each member of the national community is through the long struggle against feudalism, colonialism and imperialism, for the fundamental national rights which President Ho Chi Minh reaffirmed in our nation's Declaration of Independence: "All people of the world are born equal; all of them have the right to life, liberty and happiness".⁽²⁾

After our undaunted and courageous struggle for the liberation of the nation and working people, the ideals of freedom and democracy have spread among all strata of our people. President Ho Chi Minh's ideas have been clearly and continuously expressed, from the 'Demands of the Annamese People' (June 1919), and the 'Declaration of Independence' (September 2, 1945), to the 1946, 1959, 1980 Constitutions and the current draft Constitution (amended); it is solemnly reaffirmed in these documents that "In the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, political, economic, cultural, and civil rights are respected and defended by the law".

We are profoundly aware that the right to democracy and freedom are the results of the struggle of the entire nation. Only

when a nation is independent and free can each individual enjoy freedom and happiness. Resolute struggle and dedicated work are the prerequisites of freedom and happiness. There is no other way. At present, we have to concentrate our efforts on eradicating poverty and backwardness, and at the same time solidly defending our national independence and sovereignty, promoting the achievements of the revolution and making our people rich and our country strong. Only in this way can the democratic freedoms of each person be ensured.

It must be clearly understood that the right to freedom and democracy of each individual is inseparable from the obligations of each member of society. Each citizen has rights as a citizen but also obligations as a citizen.

To speak of the rights and obligations of citizens is also to speak about the relationship between citizens and State, between individuals and the community, as written in the draft Constitution (amended): "The State guarantees the rights of citizens; citizens must fulfil their obligations towards the State and society". Citizens are members of the community, but the community is composed of all members taken together. Each member, besides his rights, has also his obligations and responsibilities vis-a-vis himself, the community and other members of society. This is a mutual relationship and a common responsibility vis-a-vis society. The explicit definition of this relationship is laid down in Article 49 of the draft Constitution (amended), "The rights and obligations of citizens are provided for in the Constitution and in the law".

The draft Constitution has correctly embodied what President Ho Chi Minh said, "For many long years, our Party, army and people have fought heroically and accepted a great deal of sacrifice... to secure for the working people *the right to be the masters of the country*. Therefore all workers, manual and intellec-

tual, must clearly understand that we are now the masters of our country. Having the right to mastership, we also have "to fulfil our obligations as masters".⁽³⁾

We should clearly understand the meaning of freedom. Freedom does not mean that everyone can do whatever he likes. Freedom has its limits, which are the lawful and legitimate interests of each member of the community, the benefits of development and progress of society. The laws determine democratic freedoms and are not in accordance with the subjective desires of an individual or a group of persons; they must start from reality, the economic, cultural and spiritual development of society. The laws must correspond to the general economic and educational level of society. This requires a common perception so as to reach a correct understanding of the law and to act according to the law. Respecting and seriously implementing the Constitution and laws, a citizen is actually implementing his right to genuine freedom.

Along with amendment of the Constitution and beginning with this work, we should energetically reform our State apparatus. This is something necessary, significant, and urgent. The Constitution (amended) approved at this session of the National Assembly will be the legal basis for carrying out this work.

At present, in view of the requirements of renovation, the State apparatus, as well as strong aspects which need to be consolidated, has revealed many shortcomings and weak points, for instance its cumbersome organization and low level of efficiency; the powers and responsibility of each State body and coordination between different parts of the State apparatus have not been adequately determined on a legal basis; bureaucratic ways of working and corruption are serious and endemic. The State apparatus should thus be streamlined and made more

efficient to raise the effectiveness of the administration of society, to build socialist democracy, and to strengthen the legal system. In so doing, a mechanism will be created capable of reducing and eradicating negative aspects in State management and society and, as a result, the superstructure will be able to progress and open the way for the development of productive forces and infrastructure as well. Political stability, law and order, and social justice will be maintained.

Reform of the State apparatus must be based on the principle that supreme State power be concentrated solely in the National Assembly, but with a separation of work and functions between the National Assembly, Government, Supreme People's Court and the Supreme People's Prosecutor's Office, so that each area might carry out effectively its functions and powers in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution. There must be close cooperation and coordination between these areas so as to establish the combined strength of State authority. State organs are organized in accordance with the principle of democratic centralism. Important issues must be collectively discussed and decided but at the same time, the powers and responsibilities of each individual must be clearly defined.

The second plenum of the CPV CC (the 7th) carefully considered this issue and reaffirmed that renovation in general and reform of the State apparatus in particular constitute a process which must be carried out actively and urgently, but cautiously and steadily in order to maintain and strengthen political stability. It must be based on the creative application of Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh's thoughts, it must also start from the realities of our country and the experience of building our country over the past few decades, while reference shall be made to the greater experience of other countries.

The Communist Party of Vietnam understands completely that in the nation's present situation in order to continue the process of renovation of society, the renovation of the content and methods of Party leadership is an issue of prime importance.

Our Party acts in the role of leader of society as President Ho Chi Minh said, "Our Party is the one in power." This is why the CPV realizes its heavy responsibility vis-a-vis the nation. The Party constantly requires that Party organizations, leading Party committees above all, consciously accept oversight by the people. The CPV operates in accordance with the Constitution and the law. All Party members must live and work in accordance with the Constitution and the law. This is set out in the rules and the platform of the Party. Our Party leadership is recognized by our people through the National Assembly, the supreme representative of the people, the National Assembly and laid down in the Constitution. The CPV undertakes to do its utmost to be worthy of this recognition. When this recognition has been institutionalized under the Constitution, we must create favourable political and legal conditions for the people to actually carry out oversight of the Party leadership. I think that we will be able to do so, and that will be good for the Party itself and for the country in general. This is an important issue; we will surely find the correct and good way of doing this work, thereby consolidating the Party and making it secure, strengthening the relationship between the Party and the people, and making the Party worthy of the confidence of the people.

1. Ho Chi Minh, *Selected Works*, Vol. 2, p. 127

2. Ho Chi Minh, *Selected Works*, Vol. 1, 'Declaration of Independence,' p. 351.

(3) Ho Chi Minh, *Selected Works*, Vol. 2, 'Talk at the 2nd National Conference of Trade Unions', p. 203

VIETNAM WISHES TO BE FRIENDS WITH ALL COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD COMMUNITY

*Interview with Mr Vu Khoan, the SRV's
Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, published in
the June 6, 1992 issue of VNA's Evening News.*

Question: Could you please give us your assessment of the results of the foreign policy mapped out by the CPV's 7th Congress?

Answer: The 7th Party Congress was convened just one year ago. At the Congress the resounding theme was: Vietnam wishes to be friends with all countries in the world community striving for peace, independence, and development.

This inspiring theme has been rapidly reflected in actual life and has contributed to bringing about a fundamental change in our country's foreign relations. The dark clouds of mistrust and hostility over our country have cleared. The sky has brightened though not all of the clouds have been driven away.

In addition to the continued consolidation and renovation of traditional relations of friendship with our neighbours, Laos and Cambodia, we have changed the nature of our relations with China and Southeast Asian countries in ASEAN from a state of mistrust and hostility to one of normalization, which is indispensable for all these neighbouring countries – relations of friendship and coöperation. Mutual visits at different levels,

between different sectors and among different circles are frequently paid; dozens of agreements have been signed at State level; the volume of goods and services exchanged is rapidly increasing; the number of investment projects has considerably increased; airlines, maritime routes, railways (with China), postal services and telecommunications are being restored and expanded; and outstanding problems between Vietnam and these countries have been transferred to 'negotiating channels' instead of confrontation. This month (viz July), with its signing of the Bali friendship agreement, Vietnam has moved towards multilateral cooperation in the region. Along with this fundamental improvement in relations with neighbouring countries, relations between Vietnam and many countries and territories in Asia and the Pacific region from northeast, east, south and west Asia to the South Pacific are in process.

Relations between our country and western and northern European countries, which have thawed over the past few years are now developing vigorously. Another achievement of our diplomacy is that we have quickly restructured our ties with our traditional trading partners, the former Soviet Union and countries in eastern Europe. Relations with international institutions both within and outside the U.N., which have never been interrupted over the past ten years, are now strengthening markedly.

It is our relations with the U.S. that are still in a state of stagnation. Owing to miscalculation and to the 'Vietnam syndrome', the U.S. administration is still resorting to its obsolete 'roadmap', its changes in direction are still too insignificant and still remain contrary to the aspirations and interests of people and many circles in the U.S. itself.

With this continual movement on the diplomatic front, it is obvious that our country's international status has fundamentally improved, and the international environment is much more favourable to the reconstruction and defence of our country. In the economic field in particular, 1991 was the first year for the

past few decades that we were able to balance our exports and imports, and the number of investment projects established in 1991 equalled that of the three previous years put together. This fact is very significant given that COMECON - our main trading partner - has broken up, while the U.S. has not lifted its embargo against Vietnam. Of course I don't think that everything will go smoothly. Relations between the two countries have always had positive and negative aspects, and which aspect will prevail depends on each country, each issue and each point in time.

Question: In your view, what has led to these encouraging results ?

Answer: In my opinion, these are the result of many subjective and objective factors taken together, each strongly influencing others. Subjectively, our State has been sensitive and quick in grasping the changed situation and in deciding correct policies, paths and measures and putting them into practice in an inventive, active and flexible way. The initial but very important achievements in economic renovation and political stability have given strong support to our diplomatic activities.

Objectively, as well as the great difficulties and trials caused by the collapse of socialism in eastern Europe, especially in the former Soviet Union, we also have favourable conditions. One is the signing of the international agreement on a comprehensive political solution to the Cambodian problem, thus removing an obstacle in our relations with many countries. It is also in the interests of many countries to promote peace, stability, and cooperation in order to develop and expand markets for consumer goods and investment. This is also the trend in cooperation in the region between medium-sized and small countries in face of new difficulties and opportunities.

Question: After one year's implementation of the resolutions from the 7th Congress on the diplomatic front, what do you think about the lessons to be learned ?

Answer: The lesson we have learned over the past year is the reflection of lessons drawn over the past fifty years or so by our Party and State on the diplomatic front.

Above all, there is the lesson of independence and sovereignty. Over the past few decades, whenever we applied our spirit of independence and sovereignty to the utmost, the revolution has won great victories. Over the past year, our Party has elevated this spirit to a higher level, always starting from that spirit of independence and sovereignty to decide our country's policies, paths and measures.

Second, we have skilfully combined our national strength and the strength of our times in the new context. We understand well that our national strength is unity and cohesion, our determination, intelligence and diligence, the respect we have won from the peoples of the world, and our abundant resources. At the same time, we have intelligently and rapidly grasped new world trends, thereby gaining strength in the diplomatic field although our potential is still limited.

Third, we have kept the initiative and flexibility in diplomacy. Favourable objective factors cannot become a force if we don't know how to put them to advantage. Unfavourable factors will become challenges if we don't overcome them in a patient and calm manner. The situation has changed, if we act in our former way, without initiative and flexibility, we could easily fail. Our Party has avoided rigidity, subjectivity and voluntarism even in the diplomatic field. This is the reason for our success.

Fourth, as on the battlefield, victory is won only when the strength of all services of the military is combined. Diplomatic activity is also a front with the participation of many sectors. An orchestra playing discordant chords will not do at all; likewise if there is no coordination among different sectors, success in the diplomatic field cannot be assured.

LAW ON THE ORGANIZATION OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Pursuant to Chapter VI of the 1992 Constitution of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, this Law shall provide for the organization and activities of the National Assembly, Standing Committee of the National Assembly, Council of Nationalities and National Assembly Committees and the duties and powers of deputies to the National Assembly.

CHAPTER I GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

The National Assembly shall be the highest representative body of the people, and the supreme body of State power of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

The National Assembly shall be the only body with constitutional and legislative powers.

The National Assembly shall make decisions on fundamental domestic and foreign policy, on the nation's tasks in the socio-

economic, defence and security areas, on the main principles regarding the organization and activities of the State apparatus, and on societal relations and the activities of citizens.

The National Assembly shall hold supreme power of supervision over all activities of the State.

Article 2

The National Assembly shall have the following duties and powers:

1. Drawing up and amending the Constitution; making and amending laws; and deciding the programme for making laws and ordinances;

2. Practising supreme power of supervision over the complying of the Constitution, laws and resolutions of the National Assembly; examining reports on the activities of the Head of State, Standing Committee of the National Assembly, Government, Supreme People's Court, and Supreme People's Prosecutor's Office;

3. Deciding on plans for the nation's socio-economic development;

4. Deciding the financial and monetary policies of the State; deciding on the State budget and State budgetary allocations, and approving the final balance of the State budget; imposing, amending or repealing various kinds of taxes;

5. Deciding on the State's ethnic minority policy;

6. Regulating the organization and activities of the National Assembly, Head of State, Government, People's Court, People's Prosecutor's Office and local authorities;

7. Electing, suspending the functions and revoking the mandates of the Head of State, Deputy Head of State, Chairman and Deputy Chairmen of the National Assembly and members of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly, Prime Minister, Chief Judge of the Supreme People's Court, and Head of the Supreme People's Prosecutor's Office; approving proposals by the Head of State regarding the setting up of the National Defence and Security Council; and approving proposals by the Prime Minister on the appointment, suspension of the functions of and dismissal of the Deputy Prime Ministers, Ministers and other members of the Government.

8. Deciding on the establishment or abolition of ministries and Government bodies at ministerial level; the creation, merging, division and adjustment of the boundaries of provinces or cities under central Government authority; and the establishment or dissolution of special administrative-economic units;

9. Repealing official documents of the Head of State, Standing Committee of the National Assembly, Government, Prime Minister, Supreme People's Court, and Supreme People's Prosecutor's Office which are in conflict with the Constitution, laws and resolutions of the National Assembly;

10. Deciding on amnesties;

11. Regulating ranks and levels in the people's armed forces, those of diplomats, and other State ranks and levels; regulating orders, medals, and other honours conferred by the State;

12. Deciding on issues of war and peace; issuing regulations regarding emergency situations and other extraordinary measures ensuring national defence and security;

13. Deciding on fundamental foreign policy; ratifying or nullifying international agreements which have been signed or adhered to in accordance with proposals by the Head of State;

14. Deciding on the organization of referendums.

Article 3

National Assembly organization and activities shall be in accordance with the principle of democratic centralism, and shall work in accordance with a system of conferences and decisions by majority vote.

The effectiveness of the National Assembly activities shall be ensured by the effectiveness of its sessions, the activities of its Standing Committee, Council and Committees, delegations of deputies and individual deputies to the National Assembly.

Article 4

When carrying out their duties and powers, the National Assembly, its Standing Committee, Council and Committees and deputies shall rely on the participation of the Vietnam Fatherland Front Committees, social and citizens' organizations.

State offices, social organizations, economic organizations and military units, within the scope of their capacities and duties, shall have a responsibility to create the necessary conditions for the Council, Committees and deputies to the National Assembly to carry out their duties.

CHAPTER II

CHAIRMAN AND STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Article 5

The Standing Committee of the National Assembly shall comprise the Chairman of the National Assembly, Deputy Chairmen

of the National Assembly, and other members of the Standing Committee, and shall be presided over by the Chairman of the National Assembly, Deputy Chairmen of the National Assembly and the Deputy Chairmen of the Standing Committee.

Members of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly may not at the same time be members of the Government and shall work exclusively for the National Assembly.

The term of office of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly shall be in accordance with that of the National Assembly. When the term of the National Assembly expires, the Standing Committee of the National Assembly shall continue its work until the new National Assembly Legislature elects a new Standing Committee.

Article 6

The Standing Committee of the National Assembly shall have the following duties and powers:

1. Publicizing and directing the election of deputies to the National Assembly;
2. Organizing preparations for, convening and directing sessions of the National Assembly;
3. Explaining the Constitution, laws and ordinances;
4. Issuing ordinances on issues entrusted to it by the National Assembly;
5. Supervising the implementation of the Constitution, laws, resolutions of the National Assembly, ordinances, and resolutions of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly; supervising the activities of the Government, Supreme People's Court, and

Supreme People's Prosecutor's Office, suspending implementation of official documents of the Government, Prime Minister, Supreme People's Court, and Supreme People's Prosecutor's Office which are in conflict with the Constitution, laws, and resolutions of the National Assembly, and to present to the National Assembly decisions on the repeal of these official documents; repealing official documents of the Government, Prime Minister, Supreme People's Court, and Supreme People's Prosecutor's Office which are in conflict with ordinances and resolutions of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly;

6. Supervising and directing the activities of People's Councils, repealing erroneous resolutions of People's Councils in provinces and cities under central Government authority, dissolving People's Councils in provinces and cities under central Government authority where the People's Councils in question cause serious damage to the people's interests.

7. Directing, regulating and coordinating the activities of the Council of Nationalities and National Assembly Committees: guiding and ensuring the necessary conditions for the activities of deputies to the National Assembly;

8. When the National Assembly is not in session, approving proposals by the Prime Minister regarding the appointment, suspension of the functions of and dismissal of Deputy Prime Ministers, Ministers and other members of the Government and reporting to the National Assembly at the next possible session;

9. When the National Assembly is not in session, deciding on declarations of a state of war when the country is invaded and presenting this decision to the National Assembly for ratification at the next possible session;

10. Deciding on general or partial mobilizations; announcing states of emergency throughout the country or in individual regions;

11. Carrying out the foreign relations work of the National Assembly;

12. Organizing referendums in accordance with National Assembly decisions.

Article 7

The Chairman of the National Assembly shall have the following duties and powers:

1. Presiding over sessions of the National Assembly, ensuring the implementation of the National Assembly Statute and regulations regarding National Assembly sessions; officially signing laws and resolutions made by the National Assembly;

2. Directing the work of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly; guiding preparations for, convening and presiding over meetings of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly;

3. Convening and presiding over conferences of the Chairman of the Council of Nationalities and Chairmen of National Assembly Committees discussing the programme of activities of the National Assembly, of the Council and National Assembly Committees when deemed necessary;

4. Maintaining relationships with deputies to the National Assembly;

5. Directing and organizing the implementation of the National Assembly budget;

6. Directing the carrying out of the foreign relations work of the National Assembly; representing the National Assembly in the foreign relations work of the National Assembly; directing the activities of the delegations from the National Assembly of Vietnam to the International Parliamentary Union.

The Deputy Chairmen of the National Assembly shall assist the Chairman in carrying out his duties in accordance with the allocation of work by the Chairman.

Article 8

The Standing Committee of the National Assembly shall direct, regulate and coordinate the activities of the Council of Nationalities and National Assembly Committees, convene and preside over sessions of the National Assembly.

In making preparations for sessions of the National Assembly, the Standing Committee of the National Assembly shall have the following duties and powers:

1. Drafting the programme for sessions of the National Assembly in accordance with proposals by the Head of State, Prime Minister, Chief Judge of the Supreme People's Court, Head of the Supreme People's Prosecutor's Office, Council of Nationalities, National Assembly Committees and deputies to the National Assembly;

2. Directing, regulating and coordinating the activities of offices involved in preparing the agendas of the sessions; and examining the preparation of draft laws, reports and other projects to be presented to the National Assembly;

3. Deciding other matters relating to National Assembly sessions.

Article 9

The Standing Committee of the National Assembly shall present to the National Assembly decisions regarding the programme for drafting laws and ordinances in accordance with proposals by offices, organizations, and individuals with the right to present draft laws as provided for in Article 62 of this Law.

Article 10

The Standing Committee of the National Assembly shall issue ordinances on the basis of the programme for drafting laws and ordinances already approved by the National Assembly.

Offices, organizations, and individuals with the right to present draft laws to the National Assembly shall be entitled to present draft ordinances to the Standing Committee of the National Assembly.

Draft ordinances shall be examined by the Council of Nationalities or by the National Assembly Committees involved before being presented to the Standing Committee of the National Assembly. When deemed necessary, the Standing Committee of the National Assembly shall decide on sending draft ordinances to deputies to obtain their views before approval.

Article 11

The Standing Committee of the National Assembly shall supervise the activities of the Government, Supreme People's Court, and Supreme People's Prosecutor's Office in implementing the Constitution, laws, ordinances and resolutions of the National Assembly and the Standing Committee of the National Assembly.

The Standing Committee of the National Assembly shall decide the programme of supervision for each quarter and each year; it shall carry out the supervision itself or entrust the Council of Nationalities or the National Assembly Committees involved with implementing the programme of supervision; it shall examine and discuss reports and recommendations on supervisory activities; it shall request individuals, organizations, and State offices involved to implement recommendations that it deems necessary.

Article 12

The Standing Committee of the National Assembly shall supervise and direct the activities of People's Councils; it shall by its own decision or in accordance with proposals by the Prime Minister; Head of the Supreme People's Prosecutor's Office, Council of Nationalities, National Assembly Committees or National Assembly deputies, repeal erroneous resolutions of People's Councils in provinces or cities under central Government authority; it shall dissolve People's Councils in provinces or cities under central Government authority where the People's Councils in question cause serious harm to the people's interests.

Article 13

The Standing Committee of the National Assembly shall, by its own decision or in accordance with proposals by the Council of Nationalities, National Assembly Committees or National Assembly deputies, repeal official documents of the Government, Prime Minister, Supreme People's Court, or Supreme People's Prosecutor's Office which are in conflict with the ordinances and resolutions of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly; it shall stop the implementation of official documents of the Government, Prime Minister, Supreme People's

Court, and Supreme People's Prosecutor's Office which are in conflict with the Constitution, laws and resolutions of the National Assembly and present to the National Assembly decisions on such repeals at the next possible session.

Article 14

When the National Assembly is not in session, the Standing Committee of the National Assembly shall ratify proposals by the Prime Minister regarding the appointment, suspension of the functions of or dismissal of Deputy Prime Ministers, Ministers or other members of the Government and report to the National Assembly at the next possible session.

Article 15

When the National Assembly is not in sessions, in accordance with proposals by the National Defence and Security Council, the Standing Committee of the National Assembly shall decide on announcing a state of war when the country is invaded and report to the National Assembly for ratification at the next possible session; decide on general or partial mobilizations, and on announcing states of emergency throughout the country or in individual regions.

Article 16

In intervals between two sessions of the National Assembly, the Standing Committee of the National Assembly shall examine responses by the Prime Minister and other members of the Government, Chief Judge of the Supreme People's Court, and Head of the Supreme People's Prosecutor's Office to questions put to them by the Council of Nationalities, National Assembly Committees and National Assembly deputies as well as the implementation of recommendations by them.

Article 17

The Standing Committee of the National Assembly shall meet at least once a month. The Chairman of the National Assembly shall prepare agendas and direct preparations for and convene and preside over meetings of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly.

Documents concerning the meetings shall be sent to members of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly seven days at the latest before the day of the meeting.

Article 18

The Standing Committee of the National Assembly shall work in accordance with a system of conferences and make decisions by majority vote. Ordinances and resolutions of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly shall be approved by a vote of more than half its members. Ordinances and resolutions shall be promulgated fifteen days at the latest after the day they are approved, except where the Head of State presents them to the National Assembly for reconsideration.

CHAPTER III

COUNCIL OF NATIONALITIES AND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES

Article 19

The Council of Nationalities and National Assembly Committees shall be the offices of the National Assembly with the duty of examining draft laws, proposing laws, draft ordinances and other

drafts; examining reports submitted by the National Assembly or the Standing Committees of the National Assembly; presenting their ideas to the National Assembly and the Standing Committee of the National Assembly on the programme for drafting laws and ordinances; and carrying out their right to supervise and to make recommendations regarding issues within the scope of their duties and powers.

Article 20

The Council of Nationalities shall have the following duties and powers:

1. Examining draft laws, making recommendations regarding laws, draft ordinances, and other drafts related to ethnic minority issues;

2. Supervising the implementations of laws, ordinances and resolutions of the National Assembly and the Standing Committee of the National Assembly in the area of ethnicity, programmes and plans for socioeconomic development in mountainous regions and areas inhabited by ethnic minorities, and implementing the budget in this areas.

3. Making recommendations to the National Assembly regarding questions of policy in the area of ethnicity and on socioeconomic development in mountainous regions and areas inhabited by ethnic minorities.

Article 21

The National Assembly shall set up the following Committees:

- Legal Committee,
- Economic and Budgetary Committee,
- National Defence and Security Committee,

- Committee for Culture, Education, Youth and Children,
- Committee for Social Affairs,
- Committee for Science, Technology and the Environment,
- Foreign Relations Committee.

Article 22

When deemed necessary, the National Assembly shall set up an ad hoc committee to study and examine projects or investigate specific issues.

Article 23

The Legal Committee shall have the following duties and powers:

1. Examining draft laws, making recommendations regarding laws and draft ordinances regarding the organization of the State apparatus, regarding criminal and civil cases, the administration, the programme for drafting laws, ordinances and other drafts submitted by the National Assembly and the Standing Committee of the National Assembly; and participating in checking drafts to be examined by the Council of Nationalities or other National Assembly Committees so as to ensure the constitutionality, legality and uniform nature of the legal system;

2. Examining proposals for the setting up or abolition of ministries and offices at ministerial level; merging, dividing and re-drawing or adjusting the boundaries of provinces and cities under central Government authority;

3. Supervising the implementation of laws, ordinances and resolutions of the National Assembly and the Standing Committee

of the National Assembly in the area of organization of the State apparatus, criminal and civil cases, and administration; supervising the promulgation of resolutions and decrees of the Government, decisions and instructions of the Prime Minister; official documents of the Supreme People's Court and Supreme People's Prosecutor's Office guiding the application of laws regarding control and legal proceedings; and supervising the activities of the Supreme People's Court and Supreme People's Prosecutor's Office.

4. Recommending the necessary measures aimed at improving the legal system.

Article 24

The Economic and Budgetary Committee shall have the following duties and powers:

1. Examining draft laws and making recommendations regarding laws, draft ordinances, and other drafts in the area of economic administration, business activity, the budget, finance and currency;

2. Examining projects and plans for socio-economic development, the draft State budget and budgetary allocations, reports by the Government regarding the implementation of socio-economic development plans, the State budget, and balancing the State budget;

3. Supervising the implementation of laws, ordinances, resolutions of the National Assembly and the Standing Committee of the National Assembly in the area of economic administration, business activity, the budget, finance and currency; and supervising the activities of the Government in implementing State socio-economic development plans and the State budget;

4. Making recommendations to the National Assembly regarding issues concerning socio-economic development plans, economic administration, the budget, finance and currency.

Article 25

The National Defence and Security Committee shall have the following duties and powers:

1. Examining draft laws and making recommendations regarding laws, draft ordinances and other drafts pertaining to the area of national defence and security;

2. Supervising the implementation of laws, ordinances and resolutions of the National Assembly and the Standing Committee of the National Assembly pertaining to the area of national defence and security; supervising the carrying out of national defence and security duties and the implementation of the State budget in this area;

3. Making recommendations to the National Assembly regarding issues of national defence and security policy and measures necessary to ensure the carrying out of the duties and powers of the National Assembly and the Standing Committee of the National Assembly in the area of national defence and security.

Article 26

The Committee for Culture, Education, Youth and Children shall have the following duties and powers:

1. Examining draft laws and making recommendations regarding laws, draft ordinances and other drafts pertaining to the area of culture, education, information, sport, young people, and children;

2. Supervising the implementation of laws, ordinances and resolutions of the National Assembly and the Standing Committee of the National Assembly pertaining to the area of culture, education, young people and children; supervising the implementation of policy regarding culture and education in programmes and plans for the country's socio-economic development and policy with regard to young people and children and the implementation of the budget in these areas;

3. Making recommendations to the National Assembly regarding the development of culture and education in the country and policy with regard to young people and children.

Article 27

The Committee for Social Affairs shall have the following duties and powers:

1. Examining draft laws and making recommendations regarding laws, draft ordinances and other drafts pertaining to the area of social affairs.

2. Supervising the implementation of laws, ordinances and resolutions of the National Assembly and the Standing Committee of the National Assembly pertaining to the area of social affairs; supervising the implementation of social policies in programmes and plans for the country's socio-economic development and the implementation of the budget in this area;

3. Making recommendations to the National Assembly on measures aimed at solving social problems.

Article 28

The Committee for Science, Technology and the Environment shall have the following duties and powers:

1. Examining draft laws and making recommendations regarding laws, draft ordinances and other drafts pertaining to the area of science, technology and environmental protection;

2. Supervising the implementation of laws, ordinances and resolutions of the National Assembly and the Standing Committee of the National Assembly pertaining to the areas of science, technology, and environmental protection; supervising the implementation of policy on scientific and technological development and environmental protection in the programmes and plans for the country's socio-economic development, and the implementation of the budget in this area;

3. Making recommendations to the National Assembly regarding policy on investment in the development of science and technology and environmental protection.

Article 29

The Foreign Relations Committee shall have the following duties and powers:

1. Examining draft laws and making recommendations regarding laws, draft ordinances and other drafts in the area of State diplomatic activity, international civil law and justice; and on Government reports regarding diplomatic activity presented to the National Assembly;

2. Supervising the implementation of laws, ordinances and resolutions of the National Assembly and the Standing Committee of the National Assembly in the area of diplomacy; supervising Government activity in implementing the State's foreign policy; and the diplomatic activity of various sectors and localities;

3. Implementing and assisting the National Assembly in implementing diplomatic relations with the parliaments of other countries and with the International Parliamentary Union;

4. Making recommendations to the National Assembly on issues concerning the State's foreign policy, and relations with the parliaments of other countries, the International Parliamentary Union, and with international organizations.

Article 30

The programme of activities of the Council of Nationalities and National Assembly Committees shall be decided by the Council and Committees, on the basis of the Constitution, laws, ordinances and resolutions of the National Assembly and the Standing Committee of the National Assembly, and in accordance with guidance and coordination from the Standing Committee of the National Assembly.

Article 31

The Council of Nationalities and National Assembly Committees shall have the right to request members of the Government, the Chief Judge of the Supreme People's Court, the Head of the Supreme People's Prosecutor's Office, and State officials concerned to supply documents or come and present information on issues that the Council or Committees are considering or examining. Those receiving requests from the Council or National Assembly Committees shall respond to the requests.

Article 32

When necessary, the Council of Nationalities and National Assembly Committees shall dispatch their members to offices or organizations concerned to investigate and examine issues that the

Council or Committees are interested in. The offices or organizations concerned shall have a responsibility to create the necessary conditions for members of the Council or Committees to carry out their duties.

Article 33

The Council of Nationalities and National Assembly Committees shall have the right to make recommendations to the Prime Minister and other members of the Government, the Chief Judge of the Supreme People's Court, the Head of the Supreme People's Prosecutor's Office, and the Chairmen of People's Committees in provinces or cities under central Government authority regarding issues relating to the duties and powers of the Council and Committees. Those receiving recommendations shall have a responsibility to consider them and respond within fifteen days at the latest after the date of receipt of recommendations. Beyond this time limit, if those receiving recommendations do not respond or where the Council and Committees do not agree with the contents of responses, the Council or Committees shall have the right to recommend to the Chairman of the National Assembly that responses be requested at the meetings of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly or at the next possible session of the National Assembly.

Article 34

The Council of Nationalities and National Assembly Committees shall set up subcommittees to study and prepare issues in the areas of activity of the Council and Committees. The heads of subcommittees shall be members of the Council or Committees, but other members need not be members of the Council or Committees or deputies to the National Assembly.

CHAPTER IV

DEPUTIES TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Article 35

Deputies to the National Assembly shall be representative of the will and aspirations of the people, not only representative of the people of the electoral unit choosing them but of the people throughout the country; on behalf of the people, they shall implement State power in the National Assembly.

Article 36

The term of office of deputies at each legislature of the National Assembly shall begin at the first session of this legislature of the National Assembly and end at the first session of the next legislature of the National Assembly.

The term of office of deputies elected at supplementary elections shall begin at the session following the supplementary election and end at the first session of the next legislature of the National Assembly.

Article 37

Among the deputies to the National Assembly shall be those working with special responsibilities and those working without special responsibilities. The number of deputies working with special responsibilities shall be decided by the National Assembly.

Article 38

Deputies to the National Assembly shall be responsible before their voters and at the same time before the National Assembly for the carrying out of their duties as deputies.

Deputies shall be exemplary in respecting the Constitution and laws, leading a decent life and respecting the rules of public life, defending the lawful rights and interests of citizens, and contributing to the promotion of the people's mastership.

Deputies to the National Assembly shall have a duty to disseminate information on and explain laws, and encourage the people to implement them and to participate in the management of the State.

Article 39

Deputies to the National Assembly shall have a duty to participate in sessions of the National Assembly, and to participate in discussions and decision-making on issues pertaining to the duties and powers of the National Assembly as provided for in Articles 1 and 2 of this Law.

Article 40

During sessions of the National Assembly, deputies shall have a duty to participate in plenary meetings of the National Assembly, meetings of the Council and Committees of the National Assembly, and of groups or delegations of deputies; and to discuss and to decide by vote on issues listed in the agendas of the session.

Article 41

Deputies to the National Assembly shall have the right to present draft laws and recommendations regarding laws before the National Assembly and draft ordinances before the Standing Committee of the National Assembly in accordance with procedures provided for by law.

Article 42

Deputies to the National Assembly shall have the right to put questions to the Head of State, Chairman of the National Assembly, Prime Minister and other members of the Government, the Chief Judge of the Supreme People's Court and Head of the Supreme People's Prosecutor's Office. Those questioned shall respond to questions put to them by deputies.

When the National Assembly is meeting, deputies shall send their questions to the Chairman of the National Assembly. Those questioned shall respond before that session of the National Assembly. Where investigation is necessary, the National Assembly may decide to allow a response before the Standing Committee of the National Assembly or at the next session of the National Assembly or allow a written response.

In intervals between two sessions of the National Assembly, questions may be sent to the Standing Committee of the National Assembly to be forwarded to the offices or persons questioned with a time-limit set for a response.

If deputies disagree with the contents of responses they shall have the right to propose to the Chairman of the National Assembly that the matters be brought before the National Assembly for discussion or before the Standing Committee of the National Assembly.

When necessary, the National Assembly or Standing Committee of the National Assembly shall make decisions regarding responses to questions and the responsibilities of those questioned.

Article 43

Deputies to the National Assembly shall maintain close relations with voters, accept their supervision, have continuous con-

tact with them, try to understand their ideas and aspirations, and gather and faithfully reflect their opinions in the National Assembly and State offices concerned.

At least once a year, deputies shall report to voters regarding the carrying out of their duties as deputies. Voters may directly or through the Fatherland Front request deputies to report on their work and may make observations about the carrying out of National Assembly deputies' duties.

Article 44

When receiving recommendations, complaints, or denouncements by the people, deputies to the National Assembly shall have a responsibility to study them, forward them to the offices concerned, and facilitate and follow up their settlement. The State offices concerned shall inform deputies to the National Assembly regarding the results of settlement of these recommendations, complaints and denouncements.

If the settlement of recommendations, complaints or denouncements is deemed to be inadequate, deputies to the National Assembly shall have the right to meet the heads of the offices concerned to find out more and request reconsideration. Where necessary, deputies to the National Assembly shall have the right to request the heads of the offices concerned at higher levels to settle the matter.

Deputies to the National Assembly shall have a responsibility to inform persons making recommendations, complaints or denouncements of the results of settlement.

Article 45

When violations of the law are discovered, causing harm to the interests of the State and to the rights and interests of social

organizations, economic organizations, units of the armed forces or citizens, deputies to the National Assembly shall have the right to request the offices, organizations or units concerned and responsible persons to take the necessary timely action to stop these violations of the law. The offices, units, organizations or responsible persons shall inform deputies to the National Assembly of the results of settlement.

Article 46

When carrying out their duties, deputies to the National Assembly shall have the right to make contact with State offices, social organizations, economic organizations and units of the armed forces. The heads of these offices, organizations or units, within the scope of their capacities and duties shall have a responsibility to receive and respond to requests from deputies to the National Assembly.

Article 47

Deputies to the National Assembly shall have the right to attend conferences of People's Councils at various levels in the places where they are elected and express their views, but not vote.

The Chairmen of People's Councils at various levels shall inform deputies to the National Assembly of the dates of meeting of the People's Councils at their levels and invite deputies to attend and supply them with the necessary documents.

Article 48

Deputies to the National Assembly elected in a province or city under central Government authority shall constitute a delegation of deputies. A delegation of deputies shall have a head and may have a deputy head of delegation to organize

the activities of the delegation, to maintain relations with the Chairman of the National Assembly, the Standing Committee of the National Assembly, offices of the local authorities, the Fatherland Front and other offices and organizations in the locality regarding issues related to the activities of National Assembly deputies.

Each delegation of deputies may have one or two deputies with special responsibilities.

Article 49

Deputies no longer worthy of the confidence of the people shall, depending on the seriousness of their wrongdoing, be dismissed by the National Assembly or voters.

The Standing Committee of the National Assembly shall decide on bringing before the National Assembly cases of dismissal by the National Assembly or voters in accordance with proposals by the Central Committee of the Vietnam Fatherland Front, provincial committees of the Front or by voters.

When National Assembly deputies are dismissed by the National Assembly, the dismissal shall be approved by a majority of two thirds of the total number of National Assembly deputies.

When National Assembly deputies are dismissed by the voters, the dismissal shall be carried out in accordance with procedures provided for by the Standing Committee of the National Assembly.

Article 50

Deputies to the National Assembly may ask to be relieved of their duties due to health conditions or other reasons. The acceptance of requests by National Assembly deputies regarding the

resignation shall be provided for by the National Assembly; in intervals between two sessions of the National Assembly, this shall be decided by the Standing Committee of the National Assembly and reported to the National Assembly at its next session.

Deputies to the National Assembly sentenced to prison terms by the courts shall lose their rights as deputies, as of the day the sentences take effect in law.

Article 51

Without the agreement of the National Assembly, and when the National Assembly is not in session without the agreement of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly, deputies to the National Assembly shall not be put in prison, prosecuted or their offices or residences searched. Proposals to imprison deputies, prosecute them, or search their offices or residences shall come within the competence of the Head of the People's Prosecutor's Office.

If as a result of committing crimes deputies are temporarily taken into custody, the office in charge of custodial matters shall immediately report on this fact to the National Assembly or Standing Committee for consideration and decision.

Deputies shall not be dismissed or forced to resign by offices or units where they work if there is no agreement from the Standing Committee of the National Assembly.

Article 52

Deputies to the National Assembly with special responsibilities shall be provided with a place to work and other facilities necessary for their activities as deputies.

State offices, social organizations and economic organizations where deputies worked before taking on special responsibilities as

National Assembly deputies shall have a responsibility to accept and provide work for National Assembly deputies after their term of office expires.

The period during which National Assembly deputies take on special responsibilities shall be included in their continuous period of service.

National Assembly deputies without special responsibilities shall be allowed at least one third of their work time for carrying out their duties as deputies. Offices or organizations where they work shall create the necessary facilities for deputies to carry out their duties.

Salaries and other allowances for National Assembly deputies shall be provided for by the Standing Committee of the National Assembly.

CHAPTER V

SESSIONS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Article 53

The National Assembly shall meet regularly twice a year.

In case of requests from the Head of State, Prime Minister or at least one third of the total number of deputies, or by its own decision, the Standing Committee of the National Assembly shall convene extraordinary sessions of the National Assembly.

Article 54

The Standing Committee of the National Assembly shall propose the agendas of each session of the National Assembly;

the Standing Committee of the National Assembly from the previous legislature of the National Assembly shall propose the agenda for the first session of a new National Assembly Legislature.

Article 55

The Standing Committee of the National Assembly shall decide on convening regular sessions of the National Assembly 30 days at the latest and extraordinary sessions of the National Assembly seven days at the latest before the opening of the sessions.

Tentative agendas for the sessions may be sent to deputies to the National Assembly at the same time as decisions to convene the sessions.

Article 56

The first session of each National Assembly Legislature shall be convened by the Standing Committees of the previous National Assembly Legislature, 60 days at the latest from the date of the election of National Assembly deputies.

The first session of each National Assembly Legislature shall be opened and presided over by the Chairman of the previous National Assembly Legislature until a Chairman of the new National Assembly Legislature is elected by the National Assembly.

Article 57

Agendas for sessions of the National Assembly shall be decided by the National Assembly.

Deputies to the National Assembly shall have the right to propose amendments and additions to approved session agendas. Amendments and additions to session agendas shall be approved by a majority of more than half the total number of deputies.

Article 58

The National Assembly shall convene in public.

When necessary, in accordance with proposals by the Head of State, the Standing Committee of the National Assembly, Prime Minister or one third the total number of deputies, the National Assembly shall decide to hold closed sessions.

Article 59

Issues listed in agendas for sessions of the National Assembly shall be discussed and decided at plenary meetings. When necessary, the National Assembly shall decide to hold discussions within the Council of Nationalities or Committees, or in groups or delegations of National Assembly deputies.

Article 60

Members of the Government who are not National Assembly deputies may be invited to attend plenary meetings of the National Assembly, and may express their views regarding issues pertaining to sectors or areas for which they are responsible, in accordance with requests by the National Assembly or as agreed to by the National Assembly in accordance with proposals by those members.

Article 61

Representatives of State offices, social organizations, economic organizations, units of the armed forces, press offices citizens, and foreign guests may be invited to attend public sessions of the National Assembly.

Article 62

The Head of State, Standing Committee of the National Assembly, Council of Nationalities and Committees of the National Assembly, the Government, Supreme People's Court, Supreme People's Prosecutors' Office, Vietnam Fatherland Front, member organizations of the Front, and deputies to the National Assembly shall have the right to present draft laws before the National Assembly.

The right to present draft laws may be carried out by presenting new draft laws, amended draft laws, or additions to existing laws.

Deputies to the National Assembly shall enforce their right to recommend laws through recommending the promulgating of new or amended laws or additions to existing laws.

Article 63

The National Assembly shall decide the programme for making laws and ordinances for the whole legislature of the National Assembly and annual programmes in accordance with proposals by the Standing Committee of the National Assembly.

Before being presented to the National Assembly, draft laws shall be examined by the Council of Nationalities and National Assembly Committees concerned, the Standing Committee of the National Assembly shall express its views and may send them to National Assembly deputies 20 days at the latest before the opening of sessions.

Article 64

The National Assembly shall examine draft laws after listening to presentations by the offices, organizations, or individuals presenting the drafts, and reports on the examination by the

Council or Committee supervising the examinations and vote on approval after discussion. On the basis of the views and discussions of National Assembly deputies, persons presiding over sessions shall propose the issues that need to be voted on and the method of voting in order for the National Assembly to make decisions. The National Assembly shall approve the draft by voting on each article and chapter individually, thereafter voting on the whole draft or voting on all the draft at one time.

Article 65

The National Assembly shall decide long-term and annual plans for the country's socio-economic development; the nation's financial and monetary policy, the draft budget and State budgetary allocations.

The Government shall present to the National Assembly draft plans, draft budgets and budgetary allocations for the next year at meetings of the National Assembly at the end of the preceding year.

The National Assembly shall ratify the final balance of the State budget presented by the Government one year at the latest after the end of the fiscal year. Drafts shall be sent to deputies of the National Assembly ten days at the latest before the opening of sessions.

Article 66

The National Assembly shall examine drafts after listening to presentations by the Government, and reports on examinations by the Council or Committees concerned and shall vote on their approval after discussions.

The National Assembly shall approve the draft by voting on each question separately, thereafter voting on the whole draft or voting on all draft at one time.

Article 67

The National Assembly shall examine and discuss reports on the work of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly, Prime Minister, Chief Judge of the Supreme People's Court, and Head of the Supreme People's Prosecutor's Office at year-end. At mid-year sessions, these offices shall send reports on their work to National Assembly deputies; when necessary, the National Assembly may examine and discuss them.

The National Assembly may issue resolutions regarding the work of the offices reporting.

Article 68

At the last session of each National Assembly Legislature, the National Assembly shall examine and discuss reports on work over the whole National Assembly terms, of the Head of State, the Standing Committee of the National Assembly, Chief Judge of the Supreme People's Court and Head of the Supreme People's Prosecutor's Office.

Reports on work over the whole National Assembly terms shall be prepared by the Chairman of the National Assembly on the basis of reports from the Standing Committee of the National Assembly, Council of Nationalities, National Assembly Committees and delegations of deputies.

Article 69

At the first meeting of the first session of each National Assembly Legislature, the National Assembly shall elect a committee to examine the status of deputies to the National Assembly comprising a director, a deputy director and members from among deputies to the National Assembly introduced by the Chairman of the preceding National Assembly Legislature.

On the basis of reports from the Committee examining the status of deputies, the National Assembly shall confirm the deputy status of elected deputies or announce single cases where the election of deputies shall not be valid.

The Committee examining the status of National Assembly deputies shall have concluded its duties when the examining of the status of deputies is complete.

Article 70

The National Assembly shall elect the Chairman of the National Assembly, deputy chairmen and members of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly from among National Assembly deputies in accordance with a list of nominees recommended by the Standing Committee of the previous National Assembly Legislature.

The number of deputy chairmen and members of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly shall be decided by the National Assembly.

Article 71

The National Assembly shall elect the Head of State from among National Assembly deputies introduced by its Standing Committee.

In accordance with proposals by the Head of State, the National Assembly shall elect the Deputy Head of State from among National Assembly deputies; and shall ratify the setting up of the National Defence and Security Council.

Article 72

The National Assembly shall elect the Chairman, deputy Chairmen and members of the Council of Nationalities from

among National Assembly deputies in accordance with a list of nominees recommended by the Chairman of the National Assembly.

The number of Deputy Chairmen and members of the Council of Nationalities and the number of members with special responsibilities shall be decided by the National Assembly.

Article 73

The National Assembly shall elect the directors, deputy directors and members of each National Assembly Committee from among National Assembly deputies in accordance with a list of nominees recommended by the Chairman of the National Assembly.

The number of deputy directors and members of each Committee and the number of members with special responsibilities shall be decided by the National Assembly.

Article 74

The National Assembly shall elect the Prime Minister from among National Assembly deputies introduced by the Head of State.

The National Assembly shall ratify proposals by the Prime Minister regarding the appointment of Deputy Prime Ministers, Ministers and other members of the government in accordance with a list of nominees with their functions.

Article 75

The National Assembly shall elect the Chief Judge of the Supreme People's Court and the Head of the Supreme People's Prosecutor's Office from among deputies introduced by the Head of State.

Article 76

The National Assembly shall elect a Secretariat of Sessions for each National Assembly Legislature comprising a Head of the the Secretariat and secretaries from among deputies in accordance with a list introduced by the Chairman of the National Assembly.

The Secretariat shall have the following duties and powers:

1. Taking minutes of each seance and each session, preparing notifications of the seances of the National Assembly; and summing up the views of National Assembly deputies at National Assembly sessions.

2. Cooperating with the Council of Nationalities, National Assembly Committees and other offices concerned in amending draft laws and draft resolutions to be presented to the National Assembly.

3. Carrying out other work entrusted to it by the Chairman of the National Assembly.

The Chairman of the previous National Assembly Legislature shall designate a temporary seance secretary for the first session of the new National Assembly Legislature until the election of a Secretariat by the National Assembly.

Article 77

At the first session of each National Assembly Legislature, the Standing Committee of the National Assembly, Prime Minister, Chief Judge of the Supreme People's Court, and Head of the Supreme People's Prosecutor's Office shall report on work done since the last session of the previous National Assembly Legislature to the first session of the new National Assembly Legislature.

Article 78

Laws and resolutions of the National Assembly shall be approved by majority vote of more than half the total number of National Assembly deputies. In cases of dismissal of National Assembly deputies, the shortening or prolonging of National Assembly terms, or amendments to the Constitution, decisions shall be approved at least by two thirds of the total number of National Assembly deputies.

Laws and resolutions of the National Assembly shall be signed by the Chairman of the National Assembly and promulgated by the Head of State 15 days at the latest after the date of approval.

CHAPTER VI

ASSISTING APPARATUS AND THE BUDGET OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Article 79

The Standing Committee of the National Assembly shall organize a system of the work of the National Assembly, the Standing Committee of the National Assembly, the Council of Nationalities, and National Assembly Committees.

The organization and duties of these offices shall be provided for Standing Committee of the National Assembly.

Article 80

The budget of the National Assembly shall be a separate item in the State budget to be discussed and decided by the National Assembly at year-end sessions.

The Chairman of the National Assembly shall direct and organize the implementation of the National Assembly budget.

CHAPTER VII CONCLUDING PROVISION

Article 81

This law shall replace the Law on the Organization of the National Assembly and State Council dated 3 July 1981.

This Law was approved by the 8th Legislature of the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam at its 11th session on 15 April 1992.

Chairman of the National Assembly

LE QUANG DAO

(Signed)

LAW ON THE ELECTION OF DEPUTIES TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Pursuant to Articles 7, 9, 54, and 91 of the 1992 Constitution of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam;

This Law shall provide for the election of deputies to the National Assembly.

CHAPTER I GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

The election of deputies to the National Assembly shall be carried out in accordance with the principle of universal, equal, direct and secret voting.

Article 2

Citizens of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, irrespective of nationality, sex, social standing, religious belief, educational level, profession, and duration of residence, if 18 years of age or over, shall be entitled to vote, and if 21 years of age or over, shall be entitled to stand for the National Assembly in accordance with

legal provisions,⁷ except for persons who are insane or deprived of these rights by law or by the people's courts.

Article 3

Deputies to the National Assembly shall be loyal to the Vietnamese socialist homeland, shall strive to implement the cause of renovation in order to make the people rich and the country strong, shall have adequate knowledge and the capacity to fulfil the tasks of deputies to the National Assembly and to participate in decision-making on major national issues, shall have good human qualities and ethical standards, be exemplary in implementing the law and win the confidence of the people.

Article 4

The Vietnam Fatherland Front shall organize consultations to select and to introduce candidates for the National Assembly.

Article 5

The Standing Committee of the National Assembly shall announce and preside over the election of deputies to the National Assembly; supervise elections, and ensure they are carried out in a democratic manner and in accordance with the law.

The Government shall direct People's Committees at various levels in holding elections in accordance with the law.

Article 6

Expenditure on elections for deputies to the National Assembly shall be covered by the State budget.

CHAPTER II

NUMBER OF DEPUTIES, ELECTORAL UNITS, AND POLLING AREAS

Article 7

The total number of deputies to the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam shall not exceed 400 persons.

Each province and city directly under central Government authority shall elect at least three deputies.

The capital, Ha Noi, shall be allocated an appropriate number of deputies.

Article 8

Deputies to the National Assembly shall be elected by individual electoral units. Provinces and cities directly under the central Government authority may constitute separate electoral units or be divided into several electoral units. Each electoral unit may elect no more than three deputies.

The number of electoral units, list of electoral units, and number of deputies to be elected by each electoral unit shall be calculated according to the population numbers of these units as determined by the Standing Committee of the National Assembly and made public 70 days at the latest before election day.

Article 9

The number of National Assembly deputies of ethnic minority origin for each term of the National Assembly shall be deter-

mined by the Standing Committee of the National Assembly to ensure that ethnic minorities have an appropriate number of deputies.

Article 10

Each electoral unit shall be divided into several polling areas. Each polling area shall have from 300 to 2000 voters.

Mountainous regions, islands, and sparsely inhabited areas may constitute separate polling areas even if the number of voters is less than 300.

Hospitals, maternity clinics and homes for the disabled with more than 50 voters may constitute separate polling areas.

Units of the people's armed forces shall constitute separate polling areas.

The division of units into polling areas shall be decided by People's Committees at commune, city ward or town level and be approved by People's Committees at the next highest level.

CHAPTER III

ORGANIZATIONS RESPONSIBLE FOR ELECTIONS

Article 11

In charge of the organization of elections of deputies to the National Assembly shall be:

- Election Councils at central level;

- Election Committees in provinces or cities directly under central Government authority;
- Election Boards in electoral units;
- Election Teams in polling areas.

Article 12

Ninety days at the latest before election day, the Standing Committee of the National Assembly shall set up Election Councils comprising 15 to 21 persons each, including representatives from the Vietnam Fatherland Front, the Standing Committee of the National Assembly and the Government.

Each Election Council shall elect a chairman, one or two deputy chairmen and one general secretary.

Election Councils shall have the following duties and powers:

1. Leading the organization of elections throughout the country and overseeing and facilitating the implementation of legal provisions regarding the election of deputies to the National Assembly.
2. Making public lists of candidates for the National Assembly in each electoral unit throughout the country;
3. Examining and settling complaints regarding the work of Election Committees, Boards, and Teams; to examining and settling complaints regarding electoral duties handed over by Election Committees or Boards;
4. Receiving and checking election reports sent in by Election Committees or Boards, and compiling reports summing up elections throughout the country;

5. Considering and deciding on re-elections and additional elections and annulling election results in electoral units;

6. Announcing the results of elections throughout the country;

7. Issuing certificates to deputies elected;

8. Presenting to the National Assembly reports summing up elections and files and documents regarding elections.

Article 13

Seventy days at the latest before election day, the People's Committees of provinces and cities directly under central Government authority, together with the standing members of People's Councils at the same levels, shall set up Election Committees comprising 7 to 9 persons, including representatives of the Vietnam Fatherland Front and the Government at the same level.

Each Election Committee shall elect a chairman, deputy chairman and secretary.

Election Committees shall have the following duties and powers:

1. Directing preparations for and organization of elections in electoral units; printing voters' cards and ballot papers in accordance with models supplied by Election Councils;

2. Overseeing and facilitating the implementation of legal provisions regarding the election of deputies to the National Assembly by Election Boards and Teams;

3. Receiving the applications and files of candidates for election;

4. Preparing lists of candidates in electoral units and reporting to Election Councils;

5. Examining and settling complaints regarding elections and activities of or handed over by Election Boards;

6. Receiving and checking reports on elections;

7. Announcing the results of elections throughout a province or city;

8. Reporting on the organization and holding of elections as provided for by Election Councils;

9. Submitting files and reports regarding elections to Election Councils;

10. Organizing re-elections and additional elections in accordance with Election Council decisions.

Article 14

Sixty days at the latest before election day, People's Committees in provinces and cities directly under central Government authority, together with standing members of People's Councils at the same levels, shall set up in each electoral unit Election Boards comprising 9 to 15 persons each, including representatives of the Vietnam Fatherland Front and the local authorities.

Each Election Board shall elect a head, one or two deputy heads and secretaries.

Election Boards shall have the following duties and powers:

1. Overseeing and facilitating the implementation of legal provisions regarding the election of deputies to the National Assembly by Election Teams;

2. Overseeing and facilitating the distribution of polling stations;

3. Examining and settling complaints regarding the work of Election Teams;

4. Distributing ballot papers to Election Teams, five days at the latest before election day;

5. Overseeing the preparation of and posting of lists of voters;

6. Posting lists of candidates in electoral units;

7. Examining and settling complaints regarding candidates for election;

8. Overseeing elections at polling stations;

9. Receiving and checking reports on the counting of votes sent in by Election Teams; compiling establishing reports the results of elections in units to be sent to Election Councils; and announcing results;

10. Reporting on the organization and holding of elections as provided for by Election Councils and Committees;

11. Submitting files and documents regarding elections to People's Committees of provinces or cities directly under central Government authority;

12. Organizing re-elections or additional elections in accordance with the provisions of this Law.

In places where there is only one electoral unit, Election Committees shall carry out the duties and powers of Election Boards and shall not set up Election Boards.

Article 15

Twenty days at the latest before election day, People's Committees at commune, city ward and township level shall set up in each polling area Election Teams comprising 5 to 11 persons

each, including representatives of the Vietnam Fatherland Front and the local authorities.

Units of the people's armed forces shall set up in each of their polling areas Election Teams comprising 5 to 9 persons each, representing the units.

Each Election Team shall elect a chairman, one deputy chairman and secretaries.

Election Teams shall have the following duties and powers:

1. Organizing elections in polling area;

2. Arranging polling stations and preparing ballot boxes;

3. Distributing ballot papers bearing the stamps of Election Teams to voters;

4. Keeping order in polling stations;

5. Counting votes, and compiling reports on voting to be sent to Election Boards;

6. Submitting reports on the counting of votes and the holding of elections to People's Committees at commune, city ward, or township level;

7. Reporting on the organization and the holding of elections as provided for by the next highest level.

Article 16

Election Councils, Committees, Boards and Teams shall not campaign for candidates for election.

Article 17

The organizations responsible for elections shall work collectively and shall hold meetings only when there are at least two

thirds of the total number of members present. Decisions shall be approved by majority vote.

The organizations responsible for elections may mobilize personnel from state offices, mass organizations or social organizations for assistance in accordance with decisions of the chairmen of Election Councils, chairmen of Election Committees or heads of Election Boards.

Article 18

State offices and personnel, mass organizations and social organizations shall, within the scope of their duties and capacities, create favourable conditions to help Election Councils, Committees, Boards, and Teams to implement their duties and powers.

Article 19

Election Councils shall have completed their duties after submitting to the National Assembly reports summing up elections and all files and documents regarding elections. Election Committees, Boards, and Teams shall have completed their duties when Election Councils announce the results of elections throughout the country.

CHAPTER IV LISTS OF VOTERS

Article 20

During the drawing up of lists of voters, all citizens with the right to vote in elections for deputies to the National Assembly

shall have their names recorded in lists of voters at the location where they have their permanent or temporary residence.

Each voter may only record his name in the list of voters at one place of residence.

Article 21

Lists of voters shall be drawn up by People's Committees at commune, city ward, or township level in accordance with polling areas.

Lists of voters for units of the people's armed forces shall be prepared by the commanding body of the units for each polling area.

Article 22

Thirty days at the latest before election day, the offices drawing up lists of voters shall post the lists at offices of People's Committees at commune, city ward or township level, or in public places in polling areas, the posting of these lists shall be widely publicized so that the people can check them.

Article 23

When checking lists of voters, if omissions or errors are found, within 20 days of the posting of lists, each person is entitled to lodge complaints or report verbally or in writing to the offices drawing up the lists of voters; the offices drawing up the lists of voters shall record such complaints or reports. Within three days of receipt of the complaints or reports, the offices drawing up the lists of voters shall settle them and inform those lodging the complaints or reports on the results.

If persons lodging complaints or reports do not agree with settlements, they shall have the right to appeal to the people's

courts in districts, townships, or cities at provincial level. Within three days of receipt of complaints, people's courts shall settle them. Decisions by people's courts shall be final.

Article 24

During the period between publication of lists of voters and election day, if voters change their place of residence and will not be able to vote at places where their names are recorded in lists of voters, they shall have the right to request the People's Committees there to certify their move so that their names may be recorded in lists of voters at their new places of residence and they can vote there. When issuing certification, the People's Committees shall write in the lists of voters, beside the names of voters in question: going to vote at another place".

CHAPTER V

STANDING FOR ELECTION, NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES, AND CONSULTATIONS TO INTRODUCE CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION

Article 25

Citizens wishing to stand for election to the National Assembly under the provisions of this Law shall, 60 days at the latest before election day submit to Election Committees in the places where they present their candidacy an application for candidacy, brief curriculum vitae, and certificates from the People's Committees of the commune, city ward, or township at their place of residence stating that they are entitled to stand for election as provided for in Article 2 of this Law.

Article 26

The Presidium of the Central Committee of the Vietnam Fatherland Front shall organize meetings of representatives of member organizations for consultation and agreement on the structure, composition and number of persons that mass organizations, social organizations, and state offices at central level shall introduce as candidates for election to the National Assembly. Representatives of Election Councils shall be invited to attend these meetings.

Standing Committees of the Vietnam Fatherland Front in provinces and cities under central Government authority shall organize meetings of representatives of member organizations for consultation and agreement on the structure, composition, and number of persons in the provinces or cities to be introduced as candidates for election to the National Assembly. Representatives of Election Committees shall be invited to attend these meetings.

Article 27

On the basis of the agreed structure, composition and number of candidates, mass organizations, social organizations, and state offices shall nominate their respective candidates.

Article 28

The Presidium of the Central Committee of the Vietnam Fatherland Front, and Standing Committees of the Fatherland Front in provinces and cities under central Government authority shall on the basis of the agreed criteria and composition, through discussion and amendment, draw up preliminary lists of persons who have been nominated as candidates or who stand for election by themselves, and send these lists to their places of work or residence to request the views of local voters.

Article 29

Meetings of voters at commune, city ward or township level, shall in accordance with administrative units (hamlets, villages or groups of families), be convened and presided over by Standing Committees of the Fatherland Front at commune, city ward, or township level, in coordination with People's Committees at the same levels; meetings of voters in state offices, social organizations and units gathering workers and officials or representatives of workers and officials thereof, shall be convened and presided over by the heads and trade union chairmen of these offices, organizations and units; meetings of voters in units of the people's armed forces, gathering together all military personnel, shall be convened and presided over by the heads of the units. At these meetings, voters shall, on the basis of selection criteria for deputies to the National Assembly, make observations and express their confidence in the persons who have been nominated as candidates or who stand for election by themselves, by raising their hands or by secret vote as decided by the meetings.

Persons nominated as candidates or standing for election by themselves, and representatives of organizations, offices or units having persons nominated as candidates or standing for election by themselves, shall be invited to attend these meetings.

Article 30

The Presidium of the Central Committee of the Vietnam Fatherland Front shall hold consultations with representatives of member organizations to choose from among persons nominated as candidates or standing for election by themselves in order to draw up official lists of candidates for election to the National Assembly from people's organizations, social organizations and state offices at central level. Representatives of Election Councils shall be invited to attend these meetings.

Standing Committees of the Fatherland Front in provinces or cities under central Government authority shall hold consultations with representatives of member organizations to choose from among persons nominated as candidates or standing for election by themselves in order to draw up official lists of candidates for election to the National Assembly from the provinces or cities. Representatives of the Election Committees of the provinces or cities shall be invited to attend these meetings.

Forty days at the latest before election day, the minutes of these meetings and lists of candidates for election shall be sent by the Presidium of the Central Committee of the Vietnam Fatherland Front, the Standing Committees of the Fatherland Front of provinces or cities under central Government authority to Election Councils and Election Committees.

Article 31

Election Councils shall publicize the lists of candidates for each electoral unit, as proposed by the Presidium of the Central Committee of the Vietnam Fatherland Front, the Standing Committees of the Fatherland Front and Election Committees of provinces and cities under central Government authority.

The number of persons in lists of candidates for each electoral unit shall be larger than the number of deputies to be elected by these units.

Candidates for election may register their candidacy in only one electoral unit.

Article 32

Candidates for election may not be members of Election Boards or Teams in electoral units where they stand for election.

If they are members of organizations responsible for election in units where they stand for election, they shall withdraw from membership of the organizations responsible for election as of the day their names are recorded in lists of candidates for election.

Article 33

Thirty days at the latest before election day, the Presidium of the Central Committee of the Vietnam Fatherland Front and the Fatherland Front committees of provinces and cities under central Government authority shall submit to Election Committees files regarding persons recorded in lists of candidates, including:

1. Cards introducing the candidates;
2. Applications for candidacy recording name, age, profession, place of origin, address and place where standing for election;
3. Brief curriculum vitae;
4. Certificates from state offices, at their places of residence certifying that the candidates meet all the conditions for candidacy set out in Article 2 of this Law.

On receipt of these papers, Election Committees shall issue acknowledgements of receipt.

Article 34

Twenty days at the latest before election day, Election Committees shall post lists of candidates in their respective electoral units as decided by Election Councils.

Article 35

As from the date of publication of lists of candidates, citizens shall be entitled to lodge complaints or to report to Election Boards or Committees regarding errors in or omissions from lists

of candidates. Election Boards or Committees shall record and settle such complaints or reports. If complainants or those reporting do not agree with the results of settlements by Election Boards or Committees, they shall be entitled to lodge complaints or to report to Election Councils. Decisions by Election Councils shall be final.

Article 36

Candidates for election whose names are on the lists of candidates already made public shall have the right to carry out election campaigns through meetings and contacts with voters and to report to voters regarding their intention to carry out the responsibilities of deputies if elected to the National Assembly.

Meetings and contacts with voters shall be organized by the Vietnam Fatherland Front.

CHAPTER VI ELECTION PROCESSES

SECTION I ELECTION DAY

Article 37

Voting for deputies to the National Assembly shall be carried out on the same day throughout the country.

Election days shall be Sundays determined by the Standing Committee of the National Assembly and announced 90 days at the latest before election day.

Article 38

During the ten days preceding election day, Election Teams shall continuously inform voters of the date of the election, polling stations and the duration of polling, using every means: posters, radio broadcasts, and every other local means of communication.

SECTION 2

VOTING PROCEDURES

Article 39

Voting shall begin at 7 a.m. and end at 7 p.m. Depending on the local situation, Election Teams may decide to begin polling earlier or close later than prescribed, but not before 5 a.m. or later than 10 p.m. respectively.

Article 40

Each voter shall have the right to cast only one vote. Voters shall go to vote themselves and may not ask other persons to vote in their places and may not vote by letters except in the circumstances set out in Article 41 of this Law.

Article 41

Voters may ask other persons to fill out ballot papers on their behalf if they are unable to do so themselves but they must cast the votes themselves.

If due to disability, voters are unable to cast votes themselves, they may ask other persons to cast their votes for them.

Sick, elderly, weak, or disable voters who are unable to go to polling stations themselves may request Election Teams to bring ballot boxes and ballot papers to their residences in order to cast their votes. In such circumstances, Election Teams may organise additional ballot boxes and bring them to the residences of voters to receive their ballots.

Article 42

When voters are filling in ballot papers, no one may look, including members of Election Teams.

If voters fill in ballot papers wrongly, they shall have the right to request new ballot papers from Election Teams.

Article 43

Everyone shall obey polling station regulations.

Article 44

When polling ends, if there are still voters in polling stations who have not yet cast their votes, Election Teams may announce the end of polling only when all voters have cast their votes.

Article 45

On election day, voting must be continuous, and if unexpected circumstances interrupt voting, Election Teams shall immediately seal all papers and ballot boxes, inform Election Boards and take the necessary measures to ensure the continuation of polling.

Article 46

If polling is postponed for particular reasons, Election Teams shall immediately inform Election Boards so that requests can be made to Election Councils for consideration and decision.

CHAPTER VII
ELECTION RESULTS

Section 1
COUNTING OF VOTES

Article 47

Counting of votes shall be carried out at polling stations immediately after polling ends.

Before opening ballot boxes, Election Teams shall count and seal up unused ballot papers and invite two voters who are not candidates and are present at polling stations to witness the counting of votes.

Candidates for election and representatives of institutions or organizations or persons authorized by them shall have the right to witness the counting of votes and to lodge complaints regarding the counting of votes. Reporters, cameramen, photographers, and television and radio personnel may witness the counting of votes.

Article 48

The following ballots shall be considered as irregular:

1. Ballots which do not conform to the model set and distributed by Election Teams;
2. Ballots which do not bear the stamps of Election Teams.
3. Ballots on which the number of persons voted for as deputies is larger than the number of deputies that the electoral unit may elect.

4. Ballots on which the names of candidates are crossed out.

Article 49

If a ballot is suspected of being irregular, the head of an Election Team shall raise the issue with the whole team for settlement.

Article 50

On-the-spot complaints regarding the counting of votes received by Election Teams shall be settled by the Teams, and the method of settlement recorded in team reports.

If Election Teams are unable to settle complaints they shall forward them to Election Boards for settlement.

Article 51

Election Teams shall record in team reports the results of the counting of votes:

- The total number of voters in the electoral area;
- The number of voters participating in voting;
- The number of regular ballots;
- The number of irregular ballots;
- The number of votes for each candidate for election;
- The complaints received, those settled and the method of settlement, and those not yet settled.

Team reports shall comprise two copies bearing the signatures of the heads of the Teams, secretaries, and of the two voters invited to witness the counting of votes; one copy shall be sent

to Election Boards, the other to the People's Committees at commune, city ward, or township level three days at the latest after the election.

SECTION 2

ELECTION RESULTS IN ELECTORAL UNITS

Article 52

On receipt of reports from Election Teams, Election Boards shall check the reports and draw up reports confirming the results of the elections in their own electoral units.

Board reports shall clearly record:

- The number of deputies determined for the individual electoral units;
- The number of candidates;
- The total number of voters in individual electoral units;
- The number of voters participating in voting, and its proportion of the total number of voters;
- The number of regular ballots;
- The number of irregular ballots;
- The number of votes cast for each candidate;
- The list of deputies elected;
- Complaints settled by Election Teams, those settled by Election Boards, and those forwarded to Election Committees and Election Councils for settlement.

Board reports shall comprise three copies bearing the signatures of the heads, deputy heads, and secretaries of the Boards, one copy shall be sent to Election Councils, one copy shall be

sent to Election Committees and one copy to the People's Committees of provinces or cities under central Government authority five days at the latest after the election.

Article 53

Of the number of candidates that electoral units may elect, those winning more than half the regular votes and more votes than others shall be elected. Where several persons win the same number of votes, then age will be taken as the basis for selection, the older persons being elected.

SECTION 3

ADDITIONAL ELECTIONS AND RE-ELECTIONS

Article 54

If in a first election, the number of elected persons is less than the number of deputies set by the Standing Committee of the National Assembly for an electoral unit, Election Boards shall clearly record this fact in their reports to Election Committees. Election Committees shall report to Election Councils for consideration and decision. Where there is an additional election, this shall be held 30 days at the latest after the first election. In the additional election, deputies shall be chosen only from among persons who were candidates in the first election but were not elected.

Article 55

In every electoral unit, if the number of voters who go to cast their ballots is less than half the number of voters recorded in the

list of voters, Election Boards shall clearly record this fact in their reports and immediately inform Election Committees. Election Committees shall decide the dates of re-elections 15 days at the latest after the first election. In a re-election deputies shall be chosen only from among persons who were candidates in the first election.

Article 56

Additional elections or re-elections shall be in accordance with the lists of voters drawn up for first elections and shall be carried out in accordance with the provisions of this Law, except for the condition that the number of regular ballots shall exceed half the total number of votes provided for in Article 53 and the number going to vote shall exceed half the total number of voters as provided for in Article 55.

SECTION 4

SUMMING UP THE ELECTIONS

Article 57

After receiving and checking reports confirming the results of elections by Election Boards and settling complaints if any, Election Committees shall compile reports reaffirming the results of the elections in their respective localities.

Summing-up reports shall clearly record:

- The number of electoral units;
- The number of candidates in a locality;
- The total number of voters in a locality;

- The number of voters participating in voting and their proportion in relation to the total number of voters in the lists of voters for all electoral units in the locality;

- The number of regular ballots;
- The number of irregular ballots;
- The number of votes cast for each candidate;
- The list of deputies elected;
- Complaints settled by Election Boards;
- Complaints settled by Election Committees;
- Important matters arising and method of settlement;
- Requests to Election Councils.

Reports shall comprise four copies bearing the signatures of the chairmen and secretaries of Election Committees; one copy shall be sent to Election Councils; one copy to Fatherland Front committees at the same level; two copies to Standing Committees of People's Committees and People's Councils at the same level seven days at the latest after the election.

Article 58

After receiving and checking the reports of all Election Boards and Committees and settling all complaints if any, Election Councils shall compile summing-up reports on the elections throughout the country.

Summing-up reports shall clearly record:

- The total number of deputies elected to the National Assembly;

- The total number of candidates;
- The total number of voters;
- The total number of voters going to vote, and their proportion in relation to the total number of voters;
- The number of regular ballots;
- The number of irregular ballots;
- The list of elected deputies and the number of votes cast for each;
- Important matters arising and method of settlement.

Reports shall comprise four copies bearing the signatures of the chairmen and general secretaries of Election Councils: one copy shall be sent to the Standing Committee of the National Assembly, one copy to the Government, one to the National Assembly, and one for the archives.

CHAPTER VIII

SUPPLEMENTARY ELECTION OF DEPUTIES

Article 59

During the term, if vacancies occur for National Assembly in electoral units, the Standing Committee of the National Assembly may decide to hold a supplementary election for that electoral unit. The Standing Committee of the National Assembly shall set up a Supplementary Election Committee comprising three to five persons, including representatives of the Vietnam Fatherland Front and of a number of other people's organizations and presided over by the Deputy Chairman of the National Assembly.

Article 60

The Standing Committee of the National Assembly shall set the dates for supplementary elections and publicize them 30 days at the latest before elections; if the remaining period of the term of the National Assembly is less than two years, a supplementary election shall not be organized.

Article 61

The lists of voters drawn up by the Chairman of the People's Committees at commune, city ward, or township level shall be published 15 days at the latest before supplementary elections.

Article 62

Twenty days at the latest before supplementary elections, People's Committees of provinces or cities under central Government authority, together with Standing Committees of People's Councils at the same levels, shall set up in electoral units Supplementary Election Boards comprising three to five persons each, including representatives of the Vietnam Fatherland Front and of a number of people's organizations in the locality.

Each Supplementary Election Board shall elect a head, one deputy head and one secretary.

Article 63

Fifteen days at the latest before supplementary elections, the Chairmen of People's Committees at commune, city ward, or township level shall set up in each polling area Supplementary Election Teams comprising five to seven persons each, including representatives of the Vietnam Fatherland Front and of a number of people's organizations at grassroots level.

Each Supplementary Election Team shall elect a head, one deputy head and one secretary.

Article 64

The duties and powers of Supplementary Election Committees, Boards and Teams and voting procedures for supplementary elections shall be the same as provided for regarding Election Councils, Boards and Teams and regarding the process of elections and the confirming of results of elections as provided for in this Law.

Article 65

Lists of candidates for election to the National Assembly in electoral units where vacancies for deputies occur shall be publicized 10 days at the latest before elections.

Article 66

Complaints regarding the work of Election Teams shall be settled by Election Boards. Complaints regarding the work of Election Boards shall be settled by Election Committees.

CHAPTER IX

HANDLING OF VIOLATIONS OF THE LAW ON ELECTIONS

Article 67

Persons using deception, buying, or coercion to impede elections to the National Assembly or the candidacy of citizens, persons responsible for elections committing actions such as faking ballot papers, cheating or using other manoeuvres to falsify the results of elections shall, depending on the seriousness of their

actions, be subject to disciplinary action, administrative penalties, or investigation for a criminal liability.

Article 68

Anyone shall be entitled to denounce unlawful actions during elections to the National Assembly; persons preventing or taking reprisals against those denouncing such actions shall depending on the seriousness of their actions, be subject to disciplinary action, administrative penalties or investigation for criminal liability.

CHAPTER X

REGARDING IMPLEMENTATION

Article 69

This Law shall replace the Law on the Election of Deputies to the National Assembly promulgated on 18 December, 1980.

Article 70

The Standing Committee of the National Assembly and the Government shall set down detailed provisions for the implementation of this Law.

This Law was approved by the 8th Legislature of the Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam at its 11th session on 15 April, 1992.

**Chairman of the National Assembly
LE QUANG DAO (signed)**

WE WANT TO STRENGTHEN CO-OPERATION AND RELATIONS WITH EVERY COUNTRY OF THE WORLD

Extracts from a speech by Vo Van Kiet, Chairman of the Council of Ministers, at an economic forum held in Switzerland in February 1990.

... We are witnessing active preparations by human beings for the coming new age, an age of international co-operation and peace. The prejudices of ill-will have been cast aside and given way to understanding, comprehension, sympathy and co-operation. Through countless invaluable experiences human beings have established peaceful, reasonable and intelligent methods of resolving their problems, including the most complex issues. This is a significant prerequisite for each people to achieve their rightful aspiration which is development in peace.

As a people which have suffered many dozen years of war, overcoming the tragedy and aftermath, the Vietnamese long for peace no less than any other peoples of the world. And we need peace in order to be able to concentrate our manpower and resources to rebuild our national economy.

We have carried out a policy of "Doi Moi" (renovation),⁽¹⁾ consistently and thoroughly, believing it will help us accomplish

1. The policy of renovation was initiated by the 6th Congress of the CPV and reaffirmed and further developed by the 7th Congress of the CPV

our goals. Renovation does not mean abandoning old ideas or casting aside socialism but is a reaffirmation of humanistic and perfect socialism with the ideal of serving people and for people.

In the process of developing and building an economy serving the people we do not hesitate to use the accumulated and tested knowledge of human civilization and technological and scientific successes, and we see them as useful tools to help us attain our goals most speedily and effectively.

I would like to present the basic features of the policy of renovation developed by Vietnam; especially those concerning the economy.

Firstly, we are rebuilding the structure of the national economy, determining that we must begin with agriculture, and see it as the major battlefield rather than preferring to develop heavy industry. The essential, priority target is to produce staple foods to meet the needs of the people and then gradually to increase the buying power of the 80 per cent of the population who are farmers; and to create as well as expand local markets. Other economic sectors such as heavy industry and transport will be closely related to agriculture and food goals with the purpose of development and service. From this, we drew up three major economic programmes: staple foods, consumer goods and production of goods for export.

We also accept the role of all economic sectors. Today, private individuals in Vietnam have the right to ownership of production facilities. They are treated as equal under the law with State economic units and the collective economy. In other word, they have the right to enrich themselves and the government shall protect that right. Farmers have right to use their lands over a long period of time and enjoy the income earned, plus the

right to pass down the use of land to their children. The Vietnamese National Assembly has decided to grant exemption from agriculture taxes for a year to all Vietnamese farmers in accordance with the Testament of President Ho Chi Minh.

Given the policy of renovation, we firmly believe that in the near future Vietnam will have a confident generation of business people.

Secondly, we are re-structuring the system of socio-economic management, bringing the centrally-planned system to an end, as well as loosening the supervision of production activities and goods circulation through a network of ordinances and regulations regarding prices issued by the Central Committee. We know that in order to develop economic activities and make them vigorous so as to create strong sources of goods and services, we have to apply the laws of goods production. Management methods will thus have to be more flexible and dynamic. Beginning with its socio-economic development plans, the government is encouraging enterprises belonging to all economic sectors to have autonomy in business operations and to attain the goal of rapidly boosting productivity to meet the needs of production and society. In short, we accept a market economic system.

Thirdly, we are successfully implementing our policy of expanding external economic relations, which we call the "open door" policy, with a view to boosting trade, co-operation and investment with economic organizations and countries of good will, regardless of political regimes and based on the principle of equality and mutual benefit as well as diversified economic relations. We are leading Vietnam in participating more actively in the international division of labour and merging into regional and world market. We wish to deal with every country of the world, especially in East Asia, the Pacific, and the Southeast Asian region.

Vietnam's extensive participation in the international and regional economy is an obvious consequence of the foreign policy that the Vietnamese Government and citizens have been patiently pursuing. This policy aims to preserve peace and develop international co-operation.

In the external economy, we are in the process of making progress. The IMF, WB and ADB are indicating positive support. France and Vietnam have signed agreements on co-operation in the economy, industry, culture, science and technology and on investment guarantees.

Italy and Vietnam have also signed a similar convention. Co-operative relations between Vietnam and Sweden and Finland have made progress as well. Relations between Vietnam and Belgium, Holland and Great Britain are in active transition. Vietnam and Australia are in good terms, the two countries are preparing to re-sign an agreement on commercial and economic co-operation. Relations involving commercial and economic cooperation between Vietnam and ASEAN and Southeast Asian countries are improving.

Since the introduction of the Law on Foreign Investment, there have been many foreign delegations coming to Vietnam to seek investment opportunities. We have now drawn up an industrialization strategy for Vietnam with the help of UNIDO. At the same time UNIDO, DIESA, ESCAP and FAO have done research on the improvement of Vietnam's macro-economic policy.

Renovation and streamlining of the economic management structure have also been carried out simultaneously. We have overcome bureaucracy in administrative management, simplified administrative procedures and streamlined the staff.

New laws in appropriate to a situation of economic restructuring have been tested in order to make improvements and will be

promulgated in the near future. Financial and banking systems have also been renovated to create the right conditions for economic development. The operating structure of State enterprises has been renovated and up-to-date management methods and technology applied with the purpose of improving efficiency and the quality of operations.

Socio-economic progress will not be made if there is no political stability, and political stability is the consequence of the democratization process. The democratization process in Vietnam has become day by day more profound. We have this because the Communist Party of Vietnam relied on the people, received suggestions from citizens of all strata, admitted its mistakes and always worked for the people's interests and aspirations. The people's representative offices have re-affirmed more clearly their powers and responsibilities in management of the country's affairs.

The successes achieved in the economy and politics during the renovation process over the past few years form the bases for Vietnam's economic development prospects. However, we admit that Vietnam's economy is still confronted with complex and difficult problems. It needs time to overcome, for instance, the budget deficit, unemployment, foreign debt and especially poor infrastructure.

We had to search for each step and had to pay it dearly over many years in order to find a new path to today's management structure which truly suits Vietnam's specific conditions.

We wish to affirm that our policy of renovation has brought the right results for the Vietnamese. We conclude that renovation is irreversible, is a matter of life or death to Vietnam, and finally is the only path we will consistently follow.

With accumulated experience and the challenges we have undergone, we see the necessity of integration and co-operation with the world outside as a decision element in accelerating the speed of economic development in industrialization in Vietnam.

Relying on this spirit, we welcome you in expanding economic co-operation with Vietnam, especially investing in our country. Investment opportunities in Vietnam are wide open and awaiting you. We believe conditions are now excellent. Our country still has unexploited resources, and the Vietnamese are intelligent and hard-working. Business conditions and daily activities are well catered for. Most of all, we have succeeded in constraining and lowering inflation which to a certain extent is a chronic disease affecting developing countries, as well as promulgating legal documents to make more specific the Investment Law. We are continuing to enact policies encouraging foreign investors and provide easier conditions for them in relation to the administrative authorities, through simplifying administrative procedures, customs, visa and passport formalities.

At present, Vietnam is giving special priority to foreign investment projects in the area of infrastructure development and projects in the three major economic programmes: producing and processing agricultural produce, producing consumer goods and producing goods for export, as well as small to medium-scale investment projects using intensive labour.

The trend towards internationalization of economic, cultural, social and political activities is increasing in this modern era, illustrating the obvious truth that the gap between peoples is narrowing. The world today will surely be more secure and happier

if the "have not" countries are helped to become rich and if economic relations between North and South become more equal and humane.

With this, I believe that the embargo and boycotts against Vietnam are out of date and moreover unfair to our people – a people who have suffered so much misery and lived in poverty and backwardness, yet have always wanted to advance forward. Today once again I wish to reaffirm that we are determined to let bygones be bygones in order to face the future. We are ready to normalize relations as we have said many times and to expand co-operation and relations with every country of the world based on mutual trust, respect for independence and sovereignty, equality and mutual benefit. We are ready to receive and welcome foreign companies, investors and customers to Vietnam, for co-operation and trade as well as for investing in the rebuilding of our country. Let us welcome the decade of the 1990's, the last decade of the twentieth century, and call it the decade of understanding and international co-operation.

THE VIETNAMESE ECONOMY - ONE YEAR AFTER THE 7TH CPV CONGRESS

by Le Dang Doanh

One year is too short a period over which to assess such an important path as that of the continued renovation pursued by the 7th Congress of the CPV. In the economic field, the application of this policy has brought about clear, positive developments in almost all aspects of the economy and changes during the process of shifting to a market economy under State management. On the other hand, the Vietnamese economy is still facing serious and complicated problems. Hereunder is a review of these changes and the problems which call for continued solutions.

I. PROGRESS IN MACRO-ECONOMIC STABILIZATION

The outstanding feature of the economy one year after the 7th Congress is remarkable progress in macro-economic stability, which creates the most fundamental and favourable conditions for continued development. This stability is reflected in the principal balances in the economy (for instance, the balanced budget and a balance between exports and imports) and above all in the price index, the price of gold and the rate of exchange between the Vietnamese dong and the US dollar. This rate of exchange is particularly significant for stability of the whole economy since payment for all Vietnamese exports and imports is in hard curren-

Chart 1:
PRICE INDEX AND RATE OF EXCHANGE
(1991 AND THE FIRST HALF OF 1992)

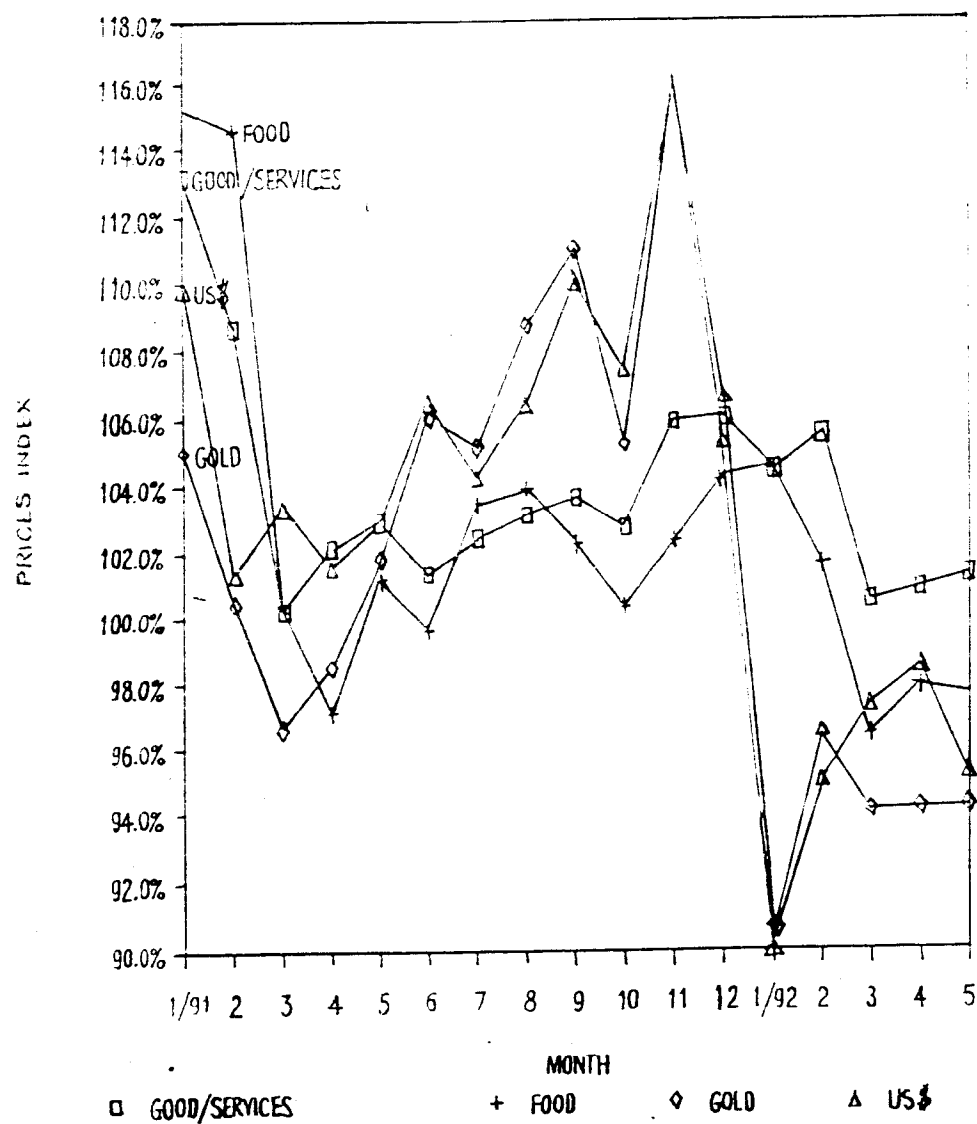
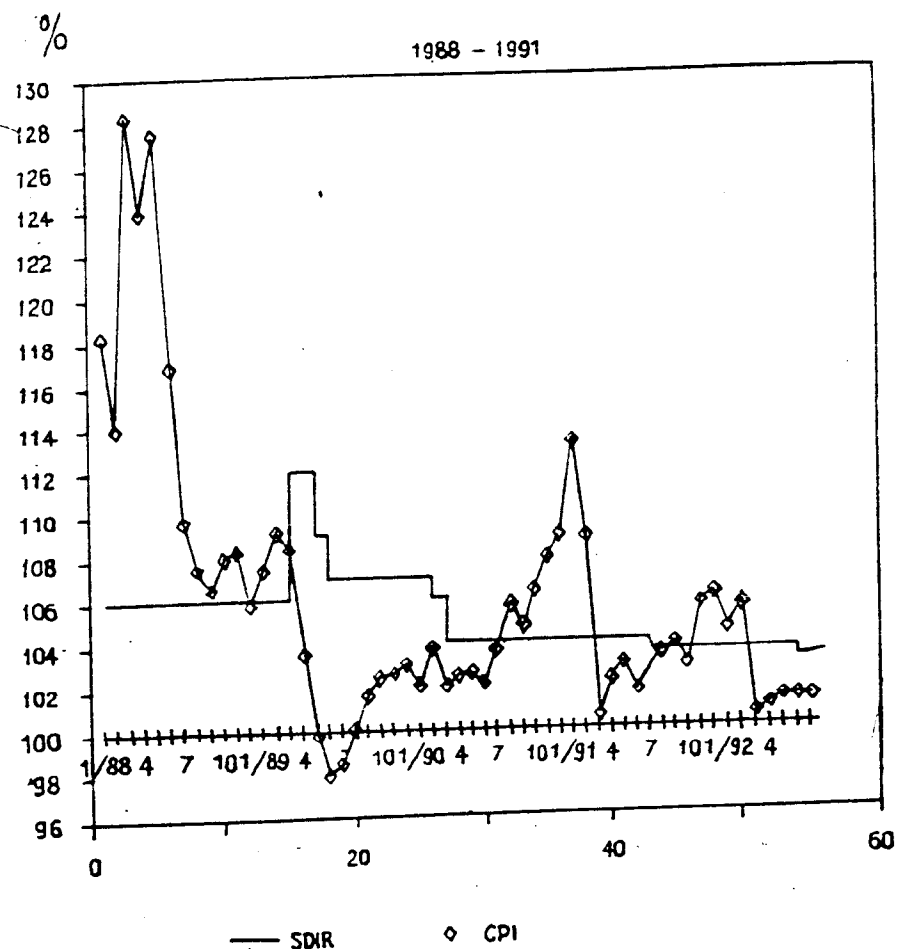


Table 1 and Chart 2
PRICE INDEX AND CREDIT INTEREST RATE

	1988		1989		1990		1991		1992	
	SDIR (%)	CPI (%)	SDIR (%)	CPI (%)	SDIR (%)	CPI (%)	SDIR (%)	CPI (%)	SDIR (%)	CPI (%)
JAN.	6.0	118.3	6.0	107.4	7.0	102.0	4.0	113.2	3.5	104.4
FEB.	6.0	114.0	6.0	109.2	7.0-6.0	103.8	4.0	108.7	3.5	105.5
MAR.	6.0	126.4	6.0-12.0	108.4	6.0-4.0	101.9	4.0	100.5	3.5	100.5
APR.	6.0	123.8	12.0	103.5	4.0	102.5	4.0	102.2	3.5	100.9
MAY	6.0	127.6	12.0	99.8	4.0	102.6	4.0	103.0	3.5	101.3
JUN.	6.0	116.8	12.0-9.0	97.9	4.0	102.1	4.0	101.7	3.0	
JUL.	6.0	109.6	7.0	98.5	4.0	103.6	4.0	102.5		
AUG.	6.0	107.5	7.0	100.2	4.0	105.8	3.5	103.4		
SEP.	6.0	106.5	7.0	101.6	4.0	104.7	3.5	103.7		
OCT.	6.0	108.0	7.0	102.5	4.0	106.4	3.5	102.8		
NOV.	6.0	108.3	7.0	102.6	4.0	107.9	3.5	105.6		
DEC.	6.0	105.8	7.0	103.0	4.0	108.9	3.5	106.1		



The tables show that as of June 1991, the rate of exchange between the Vietnamese dong and the dollar as well as the price of gold had increased faster than the price index for goods and services. In November 1991, one dollar was worth more than 16,000 dong, creating pressure on all the pricing systems in the country. At this juncture, the Vietnamese Government simultaneously implemented a number of measures in order to intervene strongly in the market for precious metals and foreign currencies, using its reserves of gold and foreign currency, forbidding the use of foreign currencies on the domestic market, boosting activity on the foreign currency market in Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi, and more tightly controlling smuggling and the import of goods. As a result, the rate of exchange and the whole pricing system index went down and stabilized in the first six months of 1992. As compared with November 1991, the value of the Vietnamese dong has increased 29% in comparison with that of gold and 25% in comparison with the dollar. The stability of the rate of exchange has increased the confidence of the people in the dong, allowing the bank to reduce interest rates for savings and loans, thereby creating conditions for the promotion of export and import, and encouraging private individuals at home and abroad to invest in businesses. Another remarkable achievement has been in the export-import area. As everyone knows Vietnam lost its most important traditional markets because of the upheavals in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union in 1990 and 1991. These changes affected the market for 60% of Vietnamese exports and 80% of imports.

During the second half of 1991 and the first six months of 1992, Vietnam looked for new markets in the region and continued to improve the balance between exports and imports.

Table 2 presents Vietnamese exports and imports for the past few years and the first six months of 1992.

Table 2

EXPORT-IMPORT BALANCE SINCE 1989 (IN 1'000S DOLLARS)

Year	Export	Import	Exp/ Imp ratio
1989	1524,6	2383,7	1 : 1.56
1990	1815,0	2474,0	1 : 1.36
1991	2081,7	2198,7	1 : 1.06
1992*	990,5*	928,8*	1 : 0.836*

For the first time in history of Vietnam's economy there was a small surplus of exports in the first six months of 1992. But the significance of this surplus should not be overestimated because the government took the initiative to restrict imports, especially the import of consumer goods.

The export-import market is also experiencing considerable change. Vietnam's main markets have shifted to Southeast Asia. In 1991, Singapore, Japan and Hong Kong alone accounted for 58% of the total value of Vietnam's foreign trade; the normalization of relations with China, and the strengthening of cooperative relations with Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and other ASEAN countries have created favourable conditions for foreign trade and economic cooperation to develop strongly. Table 3 lists Vietnam's main trading partners at present.

* The first six months of 1992

Table 3

VIETNAM'S PRINCIPAL TRADING PARTNERS IN 1991 (%)

Country	Export	Import
Singapore	26.76	33.93
Japan	20.85	9.82
Hong Kong	11.74	11.82
(Former) Soviet Union	8.57	4.88
France	4.23	5.78
South Korea	1.54	8.74
Taiwan	3.17	4.35
Thailand	4.70	2.29
China	4.90	2.00
F R G	0.52	3.03

Airlines, maritime transport, post and telecommunications and tourism have expanded their services, thereby increasing sources of foreign currency.

Over the past year, the State has simplified application procedures for export-import permits thus paving the way for export-import companies to expand their operations.

The loss of traditional markets has exerted strong but positive pressure on productive units in order to improve product quality and boost the competitiveness of goods for export. In 1990-1991 alone, the proportion of processed goods increased from 4.09% to 6.25%, and this trend has continued in the first six months of 1992.

In the first six months of 1992, principal exports recording a large increase over the first half of 1991 are crude oil 46%, rice 200% (because of bumper crops and an improvement in the quality of rice for export), coal 48%, rubber 41% and coffee 30%. A number of industrial units (garment, knitwear, footwear, processed agricultural produce) have penetrated northern European markets and the import sector has ensured the supply of principal raw materials and goods, meeting the needs of the economy and society.

It can be said that after the changes in 1991, this year Vietnam's foreign trade has been developing in the right direction, ensuring vigorous activity in the economy and society.

However, Vietnam's exports are still basically made up of raw materials. The proportion of processed goods is still very small. Their competitiveness is not yet great, despite great potential for improvements in quality.

While seeking new markets, Vietnam has continued to maintain and expand its traditional markets: agreements signed with the Ukraine, Uzbekistan, and a trade agreement recently signed with the Russian Federation are evidence of this policy. The countries of the former Soviet Union are markets with a large requirement for goods that Vietnam can produce and great potential for supplying many products to the Vietnamese economy. Particularly with regard to Russia, these relations call for the overcoming of the obstacles stemming from debts incurred by Vietnam to the former Soviet Union and issues which have been resolved in the recent visit (July 1992) by the Russian Government delegation to Vietnam.

On the other hand, smuggling is still a very serious problem causing serious damage to many sectors of the country's industry such as textiles, machinery, ceramics, glassware, and so on.

The stable price index for domestic goods and service is closely related to efforts made in the financial monetary field.

As Table 4 shows the price index in Vietnam has tended to gradually stabilize.

Table 4

PRICE INDEX FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1992

	January	February	March	April	May	June
CPI	4.4%	5.5%	0.5%	0.9%	1.5%	0.1%

In general, for the first half of 1992 the price index increased on average by 2.1% per month as compared with 4.8% per month for the first half of 1991.

We should mention the increase in the price of electricity from 240 dong/kwh to 450 dong/kwh as of March 1, 1992. The power price has significantly influenced the consumption of electricity in general and in agriculture in particular. It increases agricultural production costs while the prices for agricultural produce have fallen on the market.

Production costs for industrial goods also increased by 4% in general. In particular, the cost of production for paper, laminated steel, urea fertilizers, calcium carbide, and water in cities increased by 8-16%, presenting challenges for these production units.

In the area of finance and budgetary management efforts and progress have been made. Budget receipts from domestic sources have markedly increased by a factor of two to three as compared with the first half of 1991. Of these

receipts, 5,686 billion dong came from taxes, an increase of 207% over the first half of 1991. Export-import tax receipts increased by 51.8%. Production in the state-owned economic sector is obviously on the rise, and receipts from this sector, at both central and local level, have also increased by 180% as compared with the first six months of 1991.

Regarding expenditure, the Government has divided these into regular expenses and investment. The State takes charge of expenditure for energy and infrastructure only. State enterprises have to secure investment by using credit and no longer receive financial allocations from the State as before.

Expenditure on capital construction has considerably increased, to 16.2% of total expenditure. Many major construction projects have come into operation or are in progress, for instance the north-south 500kv power transmission line, the Thac Mo and Vinh Son hydro-electric power stations, the highway north of Thang Long Bridge, Noi Bai Airport and others.

Expenditure on education, culture and public health has gone up but remains limited and is still short of what is needed. Although budgetary expenditure has been restricted, the budget deficit is still high.

What is positive, however, is that money is no longer issued at random to cover extra expenditure. The State Treasury has sold a large number of bonds in order to make up the budget deficit and invest in a number of projects.

II. PROMOTION OF FOREIGN INVESTMENT AND RESTRUCTURING OF THE BANKING SYSTEM

More attention has been paid to attracting investment from other countries. The State has simplified procedures for consideration of investment applications and implemented the

'one door' principle vis-a-vis foreign investors. The minimum wage for Vietnamese workers employed by foreign companies has been reduced from 50 US dollars a month to 35 US dollars a month in Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi, and 30 US dollars a month in other places as of January 1, 1992, in order to make the environment for investment more attractive.

In the first six months of 1992, 68 permits were issued for a total investment of 700 million US dollars, including 28 industrial projects with an investment of 200 million US dollars, 3 projects in oil exploration and extraction with an investment of 195 million US dollars, 10 projects in agriculture, forestry and food processing industry with an investment of 105 million US dollars and 5 fishing industry projects with an investment of 23 million US dollars.

Two export-oriented production zones - Linh Trung and Tan Thuan, Ho Chi Minh City, are under construction, and preparations are underway for the construction of others in Hai Phong, Da Nang and elsewhere.

Of late, the State Bank of Vietnam has allowed foreign banks to open branches in Vietnam, among them are four big French commercial banks (Banque Française de Commerce Extérieure, Banque National de Paris, Société Générale and Crédit Lyonnais). The Thai Military Bank, ANZ Bank of Australia, Standard Chartered Bank of Great Britain and Dutch NMB of the Netherlands have applied to open their branches in Vietnam.

At present, the Vietnamese Government is streamlining laws and regulations to facilitate and to attract more foreign investment through the following measures:

- Further simplification of procedures for oversight and consideration of projects, and issuing of permits;
- Clearer decisions on procedures regarding the allocation of land, leasing of land, and land rents;

- Facilitating of procedures regarding hiring work force;
- Amendments to the laws on companies and foreign investment with a view to allowing foreign companies to buy shares in a number of Vietnamese joint stock companies and so on.

The development of the market economy under State management is inseparable from renovation and modernization of the banking system,

In implementing the Ordinance dated May 24, 1990 regarding the State Bank of Vietnam, efforts have been made to consolidate the State Bank as well as the network of commercial banks including:

1. Four state-owned commercial banks;
2. Joint stock banks and credit cooperatives;
3. Branch of foreign banks and joint-venture banks.

The four state-owned commercial banks are:

- The Bank for Foreign Trade (Vietcombank);
- Industry and Commerce Bank (Incombank);
- Agriculture Bank (Agribank);
- Bank for Investment and Development (BID).

Until recently, these banks have had the main function of granting credits to State-owned enterprises and small amounts to farmers.

At present, they are increasing their activity in granting credits to farmers and rural areas as well as to the private sector involved in industry and commerce.

The main joint stock banks are:

- Maritime commercial Joint Stock Bank of Hai Phong;
- Joint Stock Bank of Vung Tau;
- Joint Stock Bank of Dong Thap;
- Credit Joint Stock Bank of Saigon;
- Dai Nam Joint Stock Bank.

These banks have assets totalling between 250 billion dong (about 22 million US dollars and 6 billion dong (about 500,000 US dollars) and are limited in their area of operations, a number of cities or specific regions.

Credit cooperatives are being revived and consolidated after the serious crisis of late 1989 and early 1990.

Owing to the inefficiency of the banking system usury has not yet been eradicated in cities and rural areas.

Since early June 1992, the rate of interest on savings has been reduced from 4.5% to 3.5% per month and that on credit raised leaving the former lower than the latter with a view to avoiding fluctuations in interest rates (i.e, interest on loans is lower than that on savings) and ensuring normal activities by commercial banks. In so doing, the large and unjustified demand for credit from State-owned enterprises has been markedly reduced.

III. DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION

The production of foodstuffs and raising of livestock have been quite successful. Production of food grains is equivalent to 10 million tonnes of paddy, the highest production so far with an increase of 2.2 million tonnes over the winter-spring crop of 1991

(when there was a crop failure). In comparison with the winter-spring crop of 1990, which was a normal year, 1992 has seen an increase of 1.16 million tonnes. The south brought in a bumper crop, as did the north, and only a number of provinces in central Vietnam experienced a drought with harvests being affected.

Production has increased thanks mainly to greater productivity. Average output for the spring crop was 37.8 tonnes per ha, 20% more than in 1991.

Thanks to the market system ensuring benefits to the producers, other cash crops - cotton, mulberry, rubber, coffee, tea and so on - also achieved larger outputs. As a result of increased investment and establishment of joint ventures in processing, the production of silk has developed strongly and opened up possibilities for export and creation of new jobs for large numbers of people.

For the first time since 1989, industrial production has increased and is in a position to maintain and expand markets both at home and abroad.

The total value of industrial production for the first half of 1992 is estimated to have increased by 16.6% as compared with the same period in 1991. This is a fairly high rate of growth given that in the first half of 1991 an increase of 2% was recorded as compared with the same period in 1990. It is also for the first time that small enterprises under local management has emerged from recession and increased by 5%.

The products which have recorded large increases in production are crude oil 62%, coal 12%, tin 19%, steel 37%, electricity 7%, urea fertilizer 76%, cement 37% and others.

This achievement is the result of many years of investing in the expansion of production capacity and modernization, including the initial and still modest results of foreign investment. The in-

crease in production has also partly reflected efforts to improve quality, design, and packaging. A number of products such as garments, ceramics and porcelain have found export markets in Southeast Asia and Western Europe.

On the other hand, many industrial enterprises are still facing serious difficulties in the marketplace (both at home and abroad), in modernizing their equipment and technology which are still very backward, in mobile capital and so on.

Because smuggling is rife and a very serious problem, many Vietnamese goods are encountering great difficulty in competing with smuggled foreign goods on the home market. Consumer goods (electric fans, bicycles and motors) are in difficulty. Textiles, garments, ceramics and other products even fertilizers, have also experienced temporary setbacks due to uncontrolled imports and duties have not been fully collected.

In the south, serious power shortages in the dry season have considerably affected industrial production and people's lives. With Da Nhim and Tri An lakes drying up, hydroelectric power generation was cut by 12% as compared with the first six months of 1991, while the demand for power is rocketing.

IV. DEVELOPMENT OF PRIVATE-RUN ECONOMY

The private sector has witnessed rapid developments. With the implementation of laws on private enterprises and companies, guaranteeing business autonomy for all citizens, so far in 35 provinces and cities 785 enterprises have been registered with a total capital of 424 billion dong, 449 of them with initial capital of 97 billion dong, 315 limited companies with total registered capital of 203 billion dong and 21 joint stock companies with registered capital of 124 billion dong.

It is noteworthy that the number of private enterprises registered and licensed in accordance with the law on private enterprises accounts for only 0.5% of the total number of operating enterprises. Throughout the country there are at least 700,000 household businesses; not counting hundreds of thousands of smaller household or family businesses.

On the one hand, these business units have markedly increased services and commercial turnover, thereby contributing to the development of consumer goods production and the improvement of services.

On the other hand, businesses operating without permits, tax evasion and smuggling have rapidly brought about a widening gap between the rich and the poor. Tax-evasion and counterfeiting have also caused a great deal of damage in many areas of the economy and society.

Reviewing the Vietnamese economy since the 7th Party Congress, we can see initial positive changes. Despite difficulties caused by the US embargo (in finance, credit, investment and aid from other countries, in technical assistance and so on), the economy of Vietnam has definitely avoided the danger of collapse due to external upheaval, and has gradually stabilized. This is indeed encouraging.

V. ORIENTATION IN THE YEARS TO COME

At its year-end session in 1991, Vietnam's National Assembly passed a resolution regarding the main economic and social tasks at present. The Council of Minister has determined eight major tasks, the primary one being to limit and reduce inflation.

The following are issues to be resolved for the benefit of the Vietnamese economy:

1. Macro-economic stabilization and the fight against inflation

In recent years, inflation has clearly been reduced now being at 2-digit level with rates as follows:

Year	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992 (expected)
CPI	487.2	301.3	308.2	74.3	129.3	74	30 - 40%

If the rate of price increases during the first half of 1992 is kept at 2.1% per month, then the rate of inflation for the whole year will be about 30%, which is still rather high. For the continued stabilization of the economy, it is necessary to reduce the rate of price increases to less than 10% per year (viz at one-digit level), i.e. about 0.5% per month. On this basis interest rates on deposits and loans should be reduced to approximately equal to the CPI, plus 0.1% to promote business activity. The present interest rate is 3% per month, higher than the CPI and also higher than the average rate of profits for industry and agriculture, causing great difficulty in investment and the long-term development of production.

The rate of exchange for the Vietnamese dong should be kept stable through good management of the balance between exports and imports and the current account even when there arise needs on foreign currencies in society and economy.

For this reason, it is vital to accumulate more of the nation's income in the State budget. According to estimates by specialists of the world bank the accumulation from GDP in the State budget is about 13%, a very low percentage as compared with other developing countries. In order to mobilize about 16% of GDP, a realistic level, there should be tax reform, simplification of taxation regulations and keeping export duties realistic. At the same time a strengthening of regulations regarding accounting and statistics, and tax collection reform, including customs duties.

The National Assembly should promulgate without delay a law on the budget to balance receipts and expenditure, with drastic reductions in State expenditure. The objective to be attained is a balance between receipts and expenditure with regard to regular expenditure from the State budget, and the State should economize and invest about 4% - 6% of GDP in the framework of the State budget.

2. Promoting Investment and Solving Employment: Two Pressing Needs

The target set by the 7th Party Congress was that of doubling average per capita income within 10 years. To this end, the Vietnamese economy should have a growth rate of no less than 7% per year and correspondingly invest about 15% - 20% of GDP annually. The required investment for the Vietnamese economy at present is about 3 billion dollars per year and this should reach 5 billion dollars per year.

According to preliminary calculations, 50% of this capital must be obtained from abroad through direct investment from FDI and from the ODA (Official Development Assistance).

Only through a gradual increase in investment using domestic and foreign funds can we create more jobs and reduce the pressure caused by the shortage of jobs. At present, Vietnam has a large labour force with a good general education, many of whom are still unemployed, as well as abundant and still unexploited resources. The prerequisites for the exploitation of these two resources are investment on technology and equipment.

Nowadays, capital is scarce on the world market. Countries in the former Soviet Union from being donor countries have become countries needing vast loans. Other Eastern European countries

are also badly in need of capital not counting other countries are usually in need of investment.

In such circumstances, Vietnam has to improve its investment environment, attracting foreign investment (FDI) and improve its efficiency in managing investment from ODA sources and putting it to use.

3. Looking for consumer market

For the continued development of production, the Vietnamese economy has to urgently resolve the question of consumer markets for its products, both at home and abroad.

A large number of productive units in the country are under threat due to the lack of a correct policy to control imports. First of all, huge amounts of smuggled goods are flooding markets without paying any tax, causing stagnation in domestic production. The situation is serious for the production of household utensils, fertilizers, steel, sugar, textiles and more. Control of imports and elimination of smuggling are urgent tasks in order to protect domestic markets and improve the competitiveness of Vietnamese products.

The expansion of export markets has become a key issue for our industrial and agricultural production sectors. Many agricultural produce, including rice, need more markets. In industry, if we strengthen marketing and investment in equipment as well as improve quality and delivery conditions, a number of Vietnamese products may rapidly enhance their competitiveness on international markets. Of course, this requires concerted efforts from the State, banks, enterprises and even individual workers.

Looking for new markets and standing firmly on them are in fact a new challenge for the economy of Vietnam.

4. *Advancing economic reform* aimed at creating a market economy under State management. A number of concepts should be emphasised here. The important elements are stabilizing the economy, maintaining the value of currency, and developing banking activity and services with regard to rural areas and the private sector. To improve the quality of the banking services, it is necessary to remove monopolistic attitudes among banks, thereby creating competition between various kinds of banks including foreign ones.

Another economically and socially significant task is reforming the financial system, primarily the tax system. From the experience of many countries, the application of a VAT would be advisable and suited to the conditions of Vietnam. Reform of the budgetary system which includes, among other things, the financial relationship between the central and various lower levels, may bring about major improvements in the national financial system.

The strict implementation of the State system of accounting and statistics for enterprises in all economic sectors, the application of compulsory and independent auditing for all companies, Vietnamese and foreign, and the strengthening of financial discipline and control by the State are essential measures to bring about ways of doing business properly in conformity with the market mechanism.

Macro-economic planning has major significance for the establishment of a logical economic structure in terms of sectors and regions, rapid provision of infrastructure and power generation, and will help in the development of different economic sectors. It is necessary to promote the system of information for various businesses and guide them in such a way to avoid losses due to inefficient investment.

The combination of foreign investment with domestic investment in a unified economy is very important for promoting maximum efficiency in the national economy.

Of course, planning methods must change and be applied through appropriate economic instruments - credits, assistance to science and industry and so on.

5. *Reform of State-owned enterprises* Conditions are now ripe for the reform but this will be a difficult task. Reform should be carried out in different respects:

- Restructuring of State-owned enterprises;
- Reform of State management of these enterprises to ensure ownership by the State and, at the same time, giving enterprises autonomy in production;
- Reform within enterprises themselves, reorganizing them into corporations which are more suited to the market economy, changing their system of accounting and statistics, promoting marketing and so on.

The analysis in Tables 5 and 6 shows that:

- The proportion of State-owned enterprises as compared with other countries is small, but it is rather high compared with other developing and developed countries;
- The number of enterprises is too big (12,000 enterprises and if added to these set up under Decree 268⁽¹⁾, this number may be 17,000). Of these enterprises, most local ones are too small, with backward technology and operating at a loss;
- Five per cent of the largest enterprises contribute 80% of the budget in the state-owned economic sector.

(1) Decree 268/HDBT relating to granting organizations and scientific associations permission to set up businesses.

Table 5

PUBLIC SECTOR IN CERTAIN COUNTRIES

	Contribution to GDP(%)	Labour force used(%)
Countries with a market economy		
France (1982)	16.5	14
Australia (1979)	14.5	13
Italy (1982)	14	15
Turkey (1985)	11.2	20
Great Britain (1978)	11.1	8.2
FRG (1982)	10.7	7.8
Denmark (1974)	6.3	5
Netherlands (1973)	3.1	8
USA (1983)	1.3	1.6
Malaysia	23.9	-
Other countries		
Vietnam (1989)	23.7	7.7
Poland (1985)	81.7	71.5
Hungary (1984)	65.2	70
Czechoslovakia (1986)	97	-
GDR (1982)	96.5	91.2
USSR (1990)	80 - 90	-
PRC (industry only)	(57)	(45.6)
Laos	15	2

Table 6

**RATIO IN TERMS OF PRODUCTS BETWEEN
STATE-RUN ESTABLISHMENTS AND OTHERS**

Product/Branch	Ratio(%)
Cement	100
Metallurgy	100
Oil exploration	100
Electricity	99.90
Coal	98.20
Chemicals	69.50
Engineering and Electronics	52.90

In key sectors and production areas, State-owned industry occupies an important position with a complete monopoly. But a deeper analysis reveals that the number of State-owned enterprises in certain sectors is too big as compared with other market economies (Table 7) for instance in commerce.

Table 7

DIFFERENT BRANCHES OF THE PUBLIC SECTOR (1989)

Branch	Proportion of the economy(%)	Proportion of the State-owned sector (%)	Number of enterprises
Industry	10.5	44.2	3516
Trade	5.8	24.6	3864
Agriculture	0.8	3.4	1576
Construction	2.2	9.2	1331
Forestry	0.7	2.9	470
Post and communications	1.9	7.9	426
Banking, finance	1.4	5.9	-
Hotel and tourism	0.4	1.6	851
Other productive branches	0.1	0.3	-
	<u>23.7</u>	<u>100</u>	

In comparison with other economic sectors, the State-owned sector uses a greater proportion of fixed assets and more modern equipment, but is still backward and heterogeneous by international standards.

Although it employs about 12% of the labour force, the State-owned economic sector employs all those with university level education and trained workers. It also uses a greater part of the credits granted by the State Commercial Bank.

The reform of State-owned enterprises is considered one of the main tasks of 1992 and the following few years. The main direction and measures are:

a. Restructuring of State-owned enterprises: This involves consolidation and development of enterprises producing goods and public services or those indispensable for the national economy such as electricity, coal, cement, airlines and railways that the private sector cannot yet be responsible for. Permits are being renewed for State-owned enterprises. For enterprises where State ownership needs to be maintained at a level of 100%, the State will invest in the form of credits, and strengthen financial control and supervision. Efforts have been made to improve banking services and to recover bad debts. Preparations are being made to promulgate a statute on directors of State-owned enterprises and the organisation and operations of management boards to control directors' salaries and link workers' income to the results of their work. A State regulation regarding State-owned enterprises is in preparation. It is intended that strict regulations governing accounting and statistics, should be implemented, including publication of the results of financial activity. All kinds of indirect subsidies will be eliminated, and the value of fixed assets has been raised from 3900 dong per dollar to 10,000 dong per dollar. Preparations are being made to stop the granting of credit at a negative rate of interest (i.e. the interest rate for credit is lower

than that for deposits). Consideration is being given to the organizational restructuring of unions of enterprises to envisage the setting up of groups of enterprises or corporations; the autonomy of enterprises will be respected. The General Oil and Gas Company being put under the direct leadership of the Prime Minister is a totally new solution.

Short-term courses to train personnel are being promoted with practical content.

b. The establishment of new State-owned enterprises will be tightly controlled; a number of new joint stock companies will be founded and owned by the State.

c. A number of State-owned enterprises will be changed into jointstock companies. This measure is being tested in medium-scale light industrial enterprises and services which operate profitably, and will eventually be considerably expanded in 1995 and the following years.

It is intended to attract foreign companies to buy shares in operating enterprises, and at the same time attract unused capital from the people and enterprise workers. After a period of operation other forms of organization may eventually be adopted to suit the capital market, including the organization of a stock exchange. This process has been carried out with technical assistance from UNDP and the World Bank.

d. With regard to other enterprises, the following forms may be applied:

- Signing contracts with the directors and workers of the enterprise;
- Leasing assets;
- Sale or ceding of equipment;
- Dissolution or sale of the enterprise.

Laws regarding State-owned enterprises, cooperatives, and bankruptcy are being prepared. The fight against smuggling, the production of counterfeit goods and the abuse of labels and so on is being stepped up.

The reorganization of State-owned enterprises is being carried out step by step to avoid negative economic and social upheaval, thus giving hand to those workers who have lost their jobs and are engaged in suitable new occupations, and to guarantee them a fair income. Preparations are underway to implement a system for social insurance and health insurance for official and workers.

Reform of State-owned enterprises is an important economic and social task, affecting in many respects, aimed at raising the economic and social effectiveness of the enterprises, making them appropriate to the market economy and expanding international cooperation.

The past year has shown that the Vietnamese economy has undergone significant changes in the process of implementation of resolutions from the 7th Party Congress.

In spite of current difficulties and obstacles, there are good reasons to expect that these obstacles and limitations will be overcome and that there will be stronger development in the near future.

CHRONOLOGY

(July 1991 - 92)

1991

July 3-9

Mr Lane Evans, President of the Veterans Commission of the US House of Representatives, visited Vietnam.

July 10

Official visit to Vietnam by the Special Envoy of the Rumanian Foreign Minister, Valeriu Tudor.

July 12

Mr Yoshio Sakurauchi, President of the Japanese Lower House paid an official visit to Vietnam.

July 16

Minister of Heavy Industry Tran Lum and B. Nikitin, First Deputy Minister for the Oil and Gas Industry of the USSR, signed documents regarding cooperation in geological prospecting and oil and gas extraction on Vietnam's continental shelf.

Aug. 8

SRV Deputy Foreign Minister Nguyen Dy Nien paid an official visit to the PRC.

Aug. 10

Secretary General of the CPV CC Do Muoi received a delegation of US Congressmen led by Representative Thomas Richard Carper.

Aug. 20

Chairman of the Council of Ministers Vo Van Kiet received Mr. Anwa Ibrahim, Malaysian Minister of Finance, who was visiting Vietnam and attending an international conference on 'Mutual Action for Progress: Vietnam's New Policy and the Experience of ASEAN.'

Aug. 23-24

Mr. Mageed Abid Jafar, Minister of Finance of the Republic of Iraq, and President of the Iraqi Subcommittee of the Iraq-Vietnam Economic Cooperation Committee, made a working visit to Vietnam.

Aug. 28

Cardinal Bernard Law, Archbishop of Boston, paid an official visit to Vietnam.

Sept. 2

SRV Deputy Foreign Minister Tran Quang Co attended the Conference of Foreign Ministers of the Non-Aligned Countries held in Accra, the capital of Ghana.

Sept. 7

SRV Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam paid a friendship visit to the PRC.

Sept. 16

Mr Le Quang Dao, Chairman of the SRV National Assembly, and Vice Chairman of the State Council, paid an official visit to Cambodia.

Sept. 17

Thai Foreign Minister Arsa Sarasin paid an official visit to Vietnam.

Oct. 3

Deputy Head of the Foreign Relations Committee of the CPC CC Zhou Shangqing paid an official visit to Vietnam.

Oct. 8

A delegation from the US Social Sciences Institute (Aspen) led by former senator, Mr. Dick Clark, and director of the Indochina policy programme, paid an official visit to Vietnam.

Oct. 12

Kaysone Phomvihane, Chairman of the CC of the People's Revolutionary Party of Laos and President of the People's Democratic Republic of Laos, paid an official friendship visit to Vietnam.

Oct. 18

SRV Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam set out for the Paris International Conference on Cambodia.

Oct. 23

Chairman of the SRV Council of Ministers Vo Van Kiet paid an official visit to Indonesia.

Oct. 27

Chairman of the SRV Council of Ministers Vo Van Kiet paid an official visit to Thailand and signed a joint communiqué.

Minister of Trade and Tourism Le Van Triet and Thai Foreign Minister Arsa Sarasin signed an agreement on promoting and protecting investment; Deputy Foreign Minister Vu Khoan and Thai Deputy Foreign Minister Wichian Rattakun signed an agreement on cooperation in the field of cooking fuel.

Oct. 28

Indian Minister of Oil and Natural Gas B. Shankaranand and representatives of Indian companies operating in the oil and gas field paid an official visit to Vietnam.

Oct. 30

Chairman of the SRV Council of Ministers Vo Van Kiet paid an official visit to Singapore.

Nov. 4

Secretary General of the CPV CC Do Muoi and Chairman of the SRV Council of Ministers Vo Van Kiet paid an official visit to the PRC.

Nov. 14

Deputy Chairman of the State Council Nguyen Huu Tho set out for Paris to attend the Fourth Summit Conference of Francophone Countries.

Nov. 16

President of the Republic of Malaysia's Upper House Dato Can Choong Tak paid an official visit to Vietnam.

Australian Minister for Overseas Trade and Development Dr. Neal Blewett paid an official visit to Vietnam.

UK Minister of Energy John Wakeham and representatives from a number of British oil companies – BP, Shell, British Gas, Enterprise Oil, Lasmo, OSC and Barclays Bank – paid an official visit to Vietnam.

Nov. 20

Deputy Chairman of the SRV State Planning Committee Ho Huan Nghiem and Mr. Peter Repnik, Secretary of State in the Ministry of Economic Cooperation and head of an FRG Government delegation, signed a record of the minutes of governmental negotiations on economic cooperation between the SRV and the FRG for 1991 and on directions for activities in coming years.

SRV Deputy Foreign Minister Vu Khoan, Secretary of State Peter Repnik and the FRG Ambassador to Vietnam signed an agreement on technical cooperation between the two countries.

Nov. 25

Foreign Minister of the French Republic Roland Dumas paid a friendship visit to Vietnam.

Nov. 28

SRV Minister of Communications, Transport and Post Bui Danh Luu and Brunei's Minister of Communications Dato Seri Zakaria signed an agreement on air transport between Vietnam and Brunei.

Nov. 22

A high-ranking delegation from the State of Palestine headed by Mr. Y. Arafats, President of Palestine and Chairman of the PLO, paid an official visit to Vietnam.

1992

Jan. 4

A delegation of high-ranking Japanese officials headed by Mr. Kamei, member of the Lower House, visited Vietnam to prepare for cooperation with and assistance to Vietnam in the future.

Jan. 6-8

General Suchinda Kraprayoon, Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces of Thailand, visited Vietnam.

Jan. 8-13

Lord M.S. Caithness Secretary of State for the UK Foreign Office, visited Vietnam.

Jan. 15

Minister of International Relations from Quebec, Canada, John Giaccia, visited Vietnam.

Jan. 15-17

Thai Prime Minister Anand Panyarachun paid an official visit to Vietnam and signed a Vietnam-Thailand joint communiqué.

Jan. 16-17

Deputy Foreign Minister Nguyen Dy Nien, Special Envoy of the Chairman of the SRV Council of Ministers, visited Uzbekistan and signed a joint communiqué on the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Jan. 20-23

Chairman of the Council of Ministers Vo Van Kiet paid an official visit to Malaysia.

Jan. 22-23

Deputy Foreign Minister Nguyen Dy Nien, Special Envoy of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers, visited the Ukraine and signed a protocol on the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Jan. 24-25

Deputy Foreign Minister Nguyen Dy Nien, Special Envoy of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers, visited Byelorussia and signed a protocol on the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Jan. 24-26

At the invitation of Chief of State Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Chairman of the SNC, Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam visited Cambodia and signed a joint communiqué.

Jan. 28

Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Korea Kim Yong Nam paid an official visit to Vietnam.

Jan. 30 - Feb. 1

General John W. Vessey, Special Envoy of the US President, visited Vietnam.

Feb. 12- 14

Foreign Minister Qian Qichen of the PRC paid an official visit to Vietnam and signed an agreement on economic cooperation and another on visa exemption for citizens of the two countries.

Feb. 13-15

Chairman of the SRV Council of Ministers Vo Van Kiet paid an official visit to Laos and signed a Vietnam - Laos joint communiqué.

Feb. 25 - Mar. 1

Chairman of the SRV Council of Ministers Vo Van Kiet paid an official visit to the Philippines and Brunei. In the Philippines, important documents were signed and in Brunei the two countries decided that diplomatic relations would be established at ambassadorial level as of Feb. 29, 1992.

Mar. 18

A government delegation from the Republic of Byelorussia headed by Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers N. N. Kotikov paid an official visit to Vietnam.

Director-General of UNESCO Federico Mayor visited Vietnam and signed documents on cooperation.

Mar. 22

Deputy Foreign Minister Koji Kakizawa of Japan visited Vietnam.

Mar. 23

Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam paid an official visit to India.

Mar. 23-25

Deputy Chairman of the SRV Council of Ministers (standing member) Phan Van Khai attended an international seminar on

'Opportunities for Investment and Trade in Vietnam' held in Bangkok.

Mar. 24 - Apr. 1†

At Ba Dinh Conference Hall, Hanoi, the 11th session of the 8th Legislature of the National Assembly was held mainly to approve the Constitution (amended), the Law on the Organization of the National Assembly (amended), and the Law on the Election of Deputies to the National Assembly (amended).

Mar. 26-28

A delegation from the Hungarian Foreign Ministry headed by Vice Secretary of State Tomaj Denes visited Vietnam.

Mar. 28 - Apr. 6

At the invitation of the CPV CC, a delegation of officials from the CPC CC headed by Xu Rui Xin, Deputy Director of the Secretariat of the CPC CC, visited Vietnam.

Mar. 31

Filipino Minister of Agriculture Senen Bacani visited Vietnam.

Apr. 1

Malaysian Minister of Communications and Transport, Dr. Dato Seri Ling Liong Sik, visited Vietnam and signed an agreement on maritime transport between the two countries.

Apr. 3

Mrs. Birgit Erngren, Sweden's Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade headed a trade delegation from the Swedish Government on a visit to Vietnam.

Apr. 5

Adviser to the CPV CC Nguyen Van Linh visited Singapore and Malaysia.

Apr. 6

A delegation from the National Council of French Employers (CNPF), headed by Mr. André Ross, visited Vietnam.

Apr. 13

Australian Minister of Industry, Technology and Trade Senator John Button and Treasurer John Dawking, visited Vietnam.

Apr. 19-24

Prime Minister of the Republic of Malaysia Dr Mahathir Mohammed paid an official visit to Vietnam.

Apr. 19-25

Chairman of the SRV National Assembly Le Quang Dao paid an official visit to Japan.

Apr. 23-27

Mr. Lee Kuan Yew, former Prime Minister and presently Senior Minister of Singapore, paid an official visit to Vietnam.

May 3-9

A delegation from the Parliament of the Republic of Indonesia headed by Mr. Mohamad Kharis Suhud, Chairman of the People's Consultative Council and Chairman of the Council of People's Representatives, paid an official visit to Vietnam.

May 3-19

Adviser to the CPV CC Nguyen Van Linh paid an official visit to the PRC.

May 4

Japan's Minister of Construction Taku Yamasaki visited Vietnam.

May 5

Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca paid an official visit to Vietnam.

May 11-15

Deputy Chairman of the State Council of Cambodia Norodom Chakkrapong visited Vietnam and signed a press communiqué.

May 7-23

Mr Hong Ha, Secretary of the CPV CC and Director of the Party's Foreign Relations Committee, paid an official visit to Japan.

May 19-20

The 7th National Women's Conference was held in Hanoi.

June 1-3

Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam paid an official visit to Belgium and the European Community.

June 4-5

Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam paid an official visit to the United Kingdom.

June 8-10

Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam paid an official visit to Germany.

June 11

Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam paid an official visit to the Netherlands.

June 12

Malaysian Minister of Public Works Dato Leo Moggie paid an official visit to Vietnam.

June 18

Adviser to the French President Jean Christophe Mitterand visited Vietnam.

June 19

Assistant Minister for Asia and the Pacific, Canadian Ministry of Foreign Relations and International Trade H. R. Balloch visited Vietnam.

July 2-22

A Vietnamese Government delegation headed by Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers Tran Duc Luong visited Russia, Byelorussia, Denmark, Norway, and the Ukraine.

July 19

A general election of deputies to the National Assembly of the SRV was held throughout Vietnam.

July 19-22

Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam signed in the Philippines the 'Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation' among SEA countries at the 25th annual meeting of ASEAN Foreign Ministers held in Manila.

July 22

Vietnam officially acceded to the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation in SEA (the Bali Treaty) and became an observer member of ASEAN.

DATA

Major Indicators for 1989, 1990 and 1991

	1989	1990	1991
Average population, million persons	64.8	66.2	67.7
National income⁽¹⁾, billion dong	17 414	27 514	45 551
Growth rate in national % income⁽²⁾	2.7	2.3	2.3
Value of industrial production billion dong	13 594	14 017	14 763
State-owned enterprises	8 849	9 308	10 291
Other economic sectors	4 745	4 709	4 472
Value of agricultural production⁽²⁾ cultivation	14 676	14 890	14 874
livestock	10 940	11 070	11 077
Investment in capital construction by the State billion dong	3 736	3 820	3 797
Value of exports million roubles	1 920	2 704	3 512
million dollars	1 946	2 404	1 970
Value of imports million roubles	807	1 111	80
million dollars	1 139	1 293	1 890
A number of main products foodstuffs equivalent to paddy mil. tonnes	2 566	2 752	2 239
tea	1 726	1 148	290
coffee	840	1 604	1 949
rubber	21.51	21.49	21.72
electricity generation, bil.kWh	30.2	32.2	34.3
coal	40.8	59.3	59.6
crude oil	50.6	57.9	59.7
cement	7.9	8.8	9.3
sea fish	3.8	4.6	4.3
textiles	1.5	2.7	3.9
	2.1	2.5	3.2
	623	616	577
	336	318	277

1. Current prices

2. 1989 fixed prices

Food Production, Winter-Spring Crop 1991-1992

	1991	1992	1992 compared with 1991 (%)
Cultivated area 1000 ha	2 883	3 068	106.4
the north	1 730	1 795	103.8
the south	1 153	1 273	110.6
Production equivalent			
to paddy 1000 tonnes	7 815	10 000	127.9
the north	2 928	4 520	154.4
the south	4 887	5 480	112.3
Production of paddy			
alone 1000 tonnes)	6 788	8 780	129.3
the north	1 997	3 400	170.3
the south	4 791	5 380	112.3
Subsidiary crops equivalent	1 027	1 220	118.9
to paddy 1000 tonne			
the north	932	1 120	120.3
the south	95	100	105.3
Winter-spring paddy			
area 1000 ha	2 160	2 278	105.5
the north	1 090	1 090	100.0
the south	1 070	1 188	111.0
output 100 kg/ha	31.5	37.8	120.0
the north	18.4	31.2	169.6
the south	44.8	45.3	101.1
production 1000 tonnes	6 788	8 780	129.3
Winter-spring corn			
area 1000 ha	243	266	109.4
the north	299	252	109.8
the south	14	14	102.9
production 1000 tonnes	366	412	112.5
the north	347	392	112.9
the south	19	20	104.7
Winter-spring potatoes			
production (fresh) 1000 tonnes	1 637	2 083	127.3
the north	1 425	1 863	130.7
the south	212	220	103.8

Value of Industrial Production (1989 fixed prices)

Billion 'dong - %

	Whole of 1991	First half of 1992	First half of 1992 as compared with same period for 1991
TOTAL VALUE	14 763	8 632	116.6
State-owned enterprises	10 291	6 112	122.8
Enterprises in other sectors	4 472	2 520	104.4
Centrally-controlled industry	7 461	4 520	129.6
Ministry of Energy	1 290	669	107.7
electricity	1 098	569	107.3
coal	153	84	112.5
Ministry of Heavy Industry	788	481	121.8
Oil and Gas General Company	1 925	1 446	160.0
Ministry of Light Industry	967	1 104	121.1
Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industries	1 462	287	139.4
Ministry of Construction	555	309	129.0
Ministry of Communications and Transport	123	62	105.8
Other ministries	351	162	106.0
Locally-controlled industry	7 302	4 112	105.1
State-owned enterprises	2 830	1 591	106.9
Enterprises in other sectors	4 472	2 520	104.4
Hanoi	308	173	119.7
Haiphong	95	65	133.1
Hai Hung	120	56	107.2
Thai Binh	129	62	102.2
Nam Ha		72	93.7
Thanh Hoa	204	106	106.6
Nghe An	121	59	98.0
Quang Nam-Da Nang	273	135	110.4
Dong Nai	210	97	117.5
Ho Chi Minh City	2 159	1 138	114.0
Long An		86	93.3
An Giang	167	82	97.0
Ben Tre	247	115	72.7
Tien Giang	163	87	104.5
Can Tho	437	146	96.7

Main Industrial Products

	Sixth months of 1992	Sixth months of 1992 as compared with same period for 1991
Electricity generation bil. kWh	4 823	107.3
Clean coal 1000 tonnes	2 378	112.6
Crude oil 1000 tonnes	2 776	162.7
Tin bullion tonnes	969	119.1
Sheet steel 1000 tonnes	93	136.7
Transformers units	1 030	111.5
Chemical fertilizers 1000 tonnes	280	118.2
Apatite 1000 tonnes	182	110.9
Pyrite 1000 tonnes	62	248.9
Insecticides 1000 tonnes	3.5	67.6
Soda (NaOH) tonnes	2 609	119.7
Sulphuric acid tonnes	3 794	88.2
Soap 1000 tonnes	34.6	131.6
Cement 1000 tonnes	1 796	137.4
Bricks for construction, mil. units	1 753	103.2
Porcelain mil. units	55.6	83.8
Glass (all kinds) 1000 tonnes	18.3	119.6
Electric bulbs 1000 units	4 385	178.5
Paper, packaging 1000 tonnes	57	115.2
Matches (boxes) mil. boxes	59.7	84.8
Canned vegetables and fruits 1000 tonnes	4.2	62.4
Sugar, molasses 1000 tonnes	252	122.7
Tea 1000 tonnes	8.6	103.9
Cigarettes (packs) mil. packs	760	136.9
Liquor mil. litres	19.6	97.1
Beer mil. litres	92.3	156.3
Condensed milk mil. cans	36.3	102.0
Vegetable oil tonnes	3 366	102.1
Sea fish 1000 tonnes	322	112.6
Thread (all kinds) 1000 tonnes	19.2	64.4
Cloth, silk mil. metres	125	98.6
Ready-made clothes mil. units	44	97.4
Knitwear mil. units	9.1	65.6

Investment in Capital Construction (Current prices)

	First half of 1992 (bil. dong)		Percentage completed as compared with annual plan
	Total	Allocation from State budget	
TOTAL	1 783	972	41.5
Central level	1 306	529	43.7
Ministry of Energy	606	3	56.4
Ministry of Heavy Industry	65	2	42.6
Ministry of Construction	87	5	51.8
Ministry of Transport, Communications and Post	200	200	39.9
Ministry of Forestry	11.5	7.0	34.1
Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industries	12.6	4.0	9.3
Ministry of Water Conservation	126	126	59.3
Ministry of Commerce and Tourism	10	2	29.8
Ministry of Education and Training	6.6	6.6	32.6
Ministry of Public Health	7.4	7.4	34.1
Local level	477	443	36.4

Foreign Investment (First half of 1992)

	Number of projects	Capital: mil. \$	
		Total	Legal capital
TOTAL	68	691.7	295.3
Industry	28	200.7	100.8
Oil and gas	3	195.4	-
Transport, Communications and Post	1	2.2	1.0
Hotels + services	19	154.5	133.0
Agriculture, forestry, food industry	10	105.0	38.0
Fishing industry	5	23.6	12.1
Banks	1	10.0	10.0

Retail Price Index for Goods and Services (% as compared with previous month)

	March 1992	April 1992	May 1992
GOODS AND SERVICES	100.5	100.9	101.3
Goods	100.0	100.8	100.8
Foods and foodstuffs	97.6	100.2	100.6
food grains, cereals,	96.4	97.9	97.6
foodstuffs	98.2	101.1	102.2
Other products	102.5	101.5	101.0
Garments	99.1	99.2	99.7
Domestic consumer goods	100.8	103.2	101.8
Cultural and educational products	97.5	99.7	103.5
Pharmaceutical products	100.8	100.2	100.0
Means of transport	96.6	99.9	99.7
Fuel	96.3	98.3	99.8
Building materials	99.0	104.1	99.1
Electricity, water	155.7	113.5	102.1
Services	102.8	101.2	104.5
Services for daily life	104.8	100.8	104.4
Repairs	100.2	102.5	101.1
Processing of consumer goods	100.7	100.6	107.0
Price index for gold	94.1	94.2	94.2
Price index for dollar	97.3	98.5	95.3

Structure of retail market

	Sixth months of 1991	Sixth months of 1992
TOTAL	100.0	100.0
State-owned businesses	30.4	21.9
Collectively-run businesses	2.3	1.6
Private businesses	67.3	76.5

Exports

		Whole of 1991	First half of 1992	First half of 1992 as com- pared with same period for 1991 (%)
TOTAL VALUE	mil. dollars	1 970	991	110.7
Central level	mil. dollars	1 300	637	114.4
Exports by provinces	mil. dollars	670	354	104.9
Main exports				
Coal	1000 tonnes	1 165	692	148.4
Crude oil	1000 tonnes	3 930	2 536	146.0
Tin	tonnes	2 331	1 174	126.6
Rice	1000 tonnes	1 000	628	223.1
Rubber	1000 tonnes	61	25	141.0
Peanuts	1000 tonnes	80	32	121.7
Tea	1000 tonnes	10	2	61.9
Coffee	1000 tonnes	81	54	130.8
Processed meat	1000 tonnes	24.7	3.0	30.8
Vegetables, fruit	mil. USD	16.6	4.6	47.9
Cinnamon (all kinds)	tonnes	1 046	280	44.4
Aquatic produce	mil. USD	267	120	88.4
Garments	mil. USD	93	24	44.2
Handicrafts	mil. USD	24.7	10.2	60.0

Imports

		Whole of 1991	First half of 1992	First half of 1992 as com- pared with same period for 1991 (%)
TOTAL VALUE	mil. dollars	2 239	829	79.3
Central level	mil. dollars	1 659	599	77.5
Imports by provinces	mil. dollars	580	230	84.6
Main imports				
Oil (crude and refined)	1000 tonnes	2 625	1 445	127.7
Steel (all kinds)	1000 tonnes	114	121	144.6
Fertilizers (urea)	1000 tonnes	1 046	265	42.7
Soda	1000 tonnes	4	2	100.0
Calcium soda	1000 tonnes	9.6	12.6	592.9
Insecticides	mil. USD	24.5	6.6	51.6
Car tyres and tubes, 1000 sets		99.5	46.3	233.8

Credits
(Estimates for up until 30 June 1992)

	Billion dong
Mobilized capital	12 483
Deposits by economic organizations	6 855
Savings	4 828
Receipts from sale of bonds	800
Loans granted	10 840
Short-term loans	8 767
Medium-term loans	850
Long-term loans	1 223

Interest Rate on Deposits and Loans
(Applying since 1 June 1992)

	% per month
Interest rate on deposits	
Deposits by economic organizations	
No fixed term	1.0
3-month term	2.1
6-month term	2.4
Interest rate on savings	
No fixed term	1.8
3-month term	3.0
Interest rate on loans	
Floating capital (maximum)	4.2
Fixed capital (maximum)	3.0

Employment in Different Sectors of the Economy

Thousand persons

	1989	1990	1991
TOTAL	28 940	30 286	31 091
Materials production sector	27 060	28 320	29 121
Industry	3 241	3 392	3 400
Construction	795	818	821
Agriculture	20 698	21 683	22 392
Forestry	197	206	216
Communications and transport	455	475	490
Post	40	35	47
Commerce	1 606	1 681	1 724
Other sectors	28	30	31
Non-materials production sector	1 880	1 966	1 970
Public services	261	295	299
Science	60	51	50
Education	768	803	799
Culture and the arts	43	45	45
Public health, sport, social insurance	288	303	300
Credit, State insurance	97	91	93
State administration	230	240	238
Other sectors	133	138	146

Area and Population for Different Provinces

	Area (in km ²)	Population 1991 (1000 persons)	Population density (persons per km ²)
ALL VIETNAM	331 030	67 679*	204
Mountainous and central regions	102 937	11 543	112
Ha Giang	7 831	490	63
Tuyen Quang	5 801	597	103
Cao Bang	8 445	591	70
Lang Son	8 167	644	78

	Area (in km ²)	Population 1991 (1000 persons)	Population density (persons per km ²)
Lai Chau	17 139	468	27
Lao Cai	3 045	491	62
Yen Bai	6 307	610	90
Bac Thai	3 503	1 083	165
Son La	14 210	727	51
Hoa Binh	4 613	723	157
Vinh Phu	4 823	2 098	430
Ha Bac	4 615	2 173	475
Quang Ninh	5 938	948	143
Red River Delta	12 466	13 276	1 066
Ha Noi	934	2 095	2 243
Hai Phong	1 503	1 501	1 009
Ha Tay	2 143	2 130	994
Hai Hung	2 552	2 555	1 000
Thai Binh	10 524	10 706	1 119
Nam Ha	2 424	2 474	1 021
Ninh Binh	1 386	800	577
Former 4th Zone	51 178	9 054	177
Thanh Hoa	11 168	3 153	282
Nghe An	16 371	2 562	156
Ha Tinh	6 055	1 234	204
Quang Binh	7 983	693	87
Quang Tri	4 592	491	107
Thua Thien - Hue	5 309	321	184
Central coastal region	45 823	6 995	153
Quang Nam-Da Nang	11 988	1 832	153
Quang Ngai	5 856	1 090	186
Binh Dinh	6 076	1 295	213
Phu Yen	5 223	670	128
Khanh Hoa	5 258	872	166
Ninh Thuan	3 530	412	117
Binh Thuan	7 892	824	104
Highland regions	55 569	2 689	48
Gia Lai	15 291	774	51
Cong Tum	10 305	150	15

	Area (in km ²)	Population 1991 (1000 persons)	Population density (persons per km ²)
Dac Lac	19 300	1 072	54
Lam Dong	10 173	593	68
Eastern Nambo	23 483	8 194	349
Ho Chi Minh City	2 089	4 076	1 951
Song Be	9 546	1 017	107
Tay Ninh	4 027	827	205
Dong Nai	5 368	1 742	297
Ba Ria-Vung Tau	1 953	532	270
Mekong River Delta	39 574	14 883	376
Long An	4 338	1 177	271
Dong Thap	3 276	1 402	428
An Giang	3 424	1 850	540
Tien Giang	2 339	1 557	666
Ben Tre	2 247	1 264	563
Vinh Long	1 494	1 004	672
Tra Vinh	2 363	901	381
Can Tho	3 022	1 695	561
Soc Trang	3 139	1 124	358
Kien Giang	6 243	1 266	203
Minh Hai	7 589	1 643	214

* not counting separate survey teams

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the Foreign Languages Publishing
House has been renamed
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