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5 JUNE 1987

EAST ASIA
SOUTHEAST ASIA

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ECONOMIST OPTIMISTIC ABOUT ECONOMY

Jakarta ANTARA NEWS BULLETIN in English 2 May 87 pp A5, A6

[Text] A leading economist has regarded Indonesia's economy in 1987 as encouraging in the wake of the worse world economic recession in 1986 had passed.

Head of the Economic Study Board of the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KADIN) Prof. Moch. Sadli said in Kyoto Friday that the growth of the gross domestic product (GDP) might not be surpassed as far as three percent.

Addressing a two-day meeting of the ASEAN-Japanese entrepreneurs the Indonesian economist however said that the encouraging fact was that the improved prices of commodities resulted in an improved purchasing power with the GDP.

Elaborating on the Indonesian economic situation during the recession and the efforts to cope with it, Prof. Sadli said Indonesia should learn to live with the lowering oil price.

The situation of the high prices of Indonesian commodities in the 60th and 70th decades would never prevail again.

Indonesia which enjoyed an economic growth rate of seven percent per year during the last 15 years has plummeted to the zero growth rate in 1981 before it rose again to three percent in 1983 and six percent in 1986 resulting from a betterment of the world market.

The figure however dropped to two percent in 1985 before it rose to 2.6 percent in 1986.

In a bid to improve the economic condition Indonesia as from 1983, taken measures, including the rescheduling of big projects, the austerity drive, changes in the taxation system, deregulations and the devaluation of rupiah against the US dollar.

Sadli regarded the most tough task was the abolition of protectionism imposed on the imported substitution industry.

He said that the devaluation in 1986 had brought about positive impacts on exports.

In 1986, non oil-gas exports were up by 11 percent from 5.87 billion dollars to 6.53 billion dollars.

Exports of garments from Indonesia made a great headway reaching 800 million dollars in 1986.

If it is not hindered by protectionism the Indonesian textile industry would reach one billion dollars, Prof. Sadli said.

He concluded that the economic and business situation in Indonesia in this year was better than that of last year.

Sadli however warned that the government should remain on the look out in stipulating its monetary policies considering that an inflation would undermine the balance of payment

Inspite of the devaluation in 1986, the inflation rate per year still stood at eight percent.

Japan is still on the top of the list of Asean investments in Indonesia, with 238.9 million US dollars in 1986 compared with Singapore amounting to 230.1 million US dollars.

He said that Indonesia should have taken measures in improving the investment climate, as it was still considered important for the Indonesian economic development.

/13104

CSO: 4200/576

EDITORIAL DISCUSSES FOREIGN INVESTMENT PROSPECTS

Jakarta BUSINESS NEWS in English 1 May 87 p 2

[Text]

Japanese business circles have conducted several surveys that compare the investment climates in ASEAN countries. Polls involving Japanese businessmen have been launched through questionnaires, in Japan itself as well as in the ASEAN region, to find out what they think of the investment climates in several Southeast Asian countries.

In general, Indonesia does not rank first. Thailand is frequently rated top on the list, followed by Singapore or Malaysia, and then Indonesia.

Indonesia, now putting its economy in order, feels awkward in the face of its rather low rank in ASEAN. Since the considerable setback suffered by government investments, private investments have been expected to be capable of covering the shortage. What else must be done?

The Indonesian economy has since 1983 been twice shaken by devaluation and hindered economic growth. However, the regulations governing investments at present are not worse than those ten years ago, except that the tax instrument can now no longer be used to provide special incentives. The Investment Coordinating Board (BKPM) has also tried to act more flexibly.

But there are several constraints really hard to eliminate, which in general restrict PMA (foreign investments) more than PMDN (domestic investments). For instance, any new PMA must have Indonesian business partners, and within 10 years the Indonesian partners must be allowed the opportunity to own majority shares. In the other ASEAN countries such restrictions are also imposed, but several sectors can be excepted, e.g. for exports. In Indonesia, exception cannot be granted because the Outline of the State Policy (GBHN) of 1983 stipulates that PMA must be in the form of joint ventures.

PMA under a certain limit (US\$ 1 million) are not permitted either. In the past, this restriction was not felt as a major impediment because big investments were flowing in. However, the important thing at present is employment expansion, and a lot of small and medium sized foreign companies are now interested in investing their capital overseas. This minimum capital requirement may be felt as political, and the Indonesian government is still rather reluctant to give it up. Therefore, small PMA such as Japanese companies leaving their country because the yen is too strong, tend to go to Thailand and Singapore where no such restrictions are imposed, especially for the purpose of exports.

Foreign companies, particularly Japanese, also regret that tax holidays are no longer granted in Indonesia, while in the other ASEAN countries such facilities are retained. The argument that the Indonesian tax law has reduced corporate tax rates is not so effective towards them because the new tax rates are only favourable to old established companies, while new firms prefer long tax holidays.

The number of new PMDN and PMA licences has indeed decreased considerably since 1984. In 1983 the total was still high because investors wanted to have their ventures approved with tax holidays. Of the total approved, only a small number would be realised. The total of PMDN projects has for a long time exceeded that of PMA ventures.

The total of PMDN approved began to rise again in 1985 and last year it continued to increase, but the level was still below the total for 1983. PMA approval in 1984 dropped to only half of the 1983 figure. In 1985 it kept on declining and last year it slightly went down again, but was more or less stable at the level of US\$ 800 million.

In terms of the dollar value, the amounts involved are fairly big compared with investments in the other ASEAN countries. In Indonesia the total value of PMA in 1986 was around US\$ 800 million. This can be compared with US\$ 557 million for Singapore, US\$ 176 million for Malaysia, US\$ 125.5 million for Thailand, US\$ 485 million for South Korea, and US\$ 705.5 million for Taiwan.

Japanese PMA alone, their investments in Indonesia are registered at US\$ 329 million, in Singapore US\$ 230 million, and in Thailand only US\$ 67 million last year.

What is the conclusion of all this ?

First, it is true that PMA in Indonesia have suffered a setback since 1983. The main reason

is most likely the declining economic growth, so that the market prospect is not so bright.

Second, Indonesia still offers a special appeal to fairly big industries, which process natural resources for domestic marketing as well as exports. Highly labour intensive industries can also be attracted to invest in Indonesia.

Third, owing to the impediments of high cost, bureaucracy, the image of corruption, monopolies, etc., investors in a free position to choose between Indonesia and Thailand or Singapore may not pick out Indonesia.

Fourth, though the flow of PMA into Indonesia remains the biggest, Indonesia needs a lot more.

/13104

CSO: 4200/576

THAI TRADE ATTACHE VIEWS INDUSTRY, TRADE PROSPECTS

Bangkok SIAM RAT SAPDA WICHAN in Thai 26 Apr-2 May 87 pp 15-19

[Unattributed report: "Thai-Lao Trade Prospects, a Clear Path"]

[Text] The Lao People's Democratic Republic is one of the countries in the Indochina group, which includes Laos, Vietnam, and Cambodia. All three of these countries have problems. Not one of these countries has succeeded in improving its economy since switching from a democratic to a socialist system.

As for the standard of living of the Lao people, in general there are still shortages of essential items, incomes are low, unemployment is high, there is a lack of resources, and communications are inconvenient. Besides this, inflation is a problem, and there is a shortage of foreign currency. Laos has to rely on foreign aid and must frequently borrow money from international financial institutions.

The reason for this is that agricultural and industrial production cannot support or generate revenues for the government. Few production industries have been established. Laos has to rely on goods from abroad, particularly Thailand, a neighboring country that is bound to Laos by both history and topography.

The data for this report were obtained from a market survey conducted in the LPDR by the Commercial Advisory Office, which is located at the Thai embassy in Vientiane. The report concerns the domestic production of various types of goods and the import of goods from Thailand.

The Vehicle Parts and Accessories Market

Prior to 1975, most of the vehicles used in Laos came from such countries as West Germany, France, Japan, the United States, England, Italy, and Australia. The parts and accessories were all imported from abroad. But today, the situation and the number of vehicles imported from these countries has changed. That is, most of the vehicles used in the LPDR are imported from Japan. This is followed by vehicles imported from the Soviet Union and Volvos from Sweden.

However, in Laos today, the use of private automobiles has been limited and their import has been prohibited in accord with the government's policy of conserving fuel. Most of the vehicles imported today are transport vehicles. This includes both small and large vehicles. These are imported in order to support economic activities, transportation, and capital construction. Most of these vehicles belong to the state.

The Lao government does not have standard vehicle repair and maintenance plants. Thus, the use period of the various types of vehicles is shorter than normal as compared with private-sector vehicles. As a result, the demand for imported parts and accessories is increasing.

A 1983 survey conducted by the Ministry of Material and Technical Supply found that Laos had the following number of vehicles: 4,863 trucks, 1,973 (agricultural) tractors, 6,778 buses and transport vehicles, 10,706 sedans and small trucks, 97,074 motorcycles, and 402,800 bicycles.

Because Laos does not have plants to produce vehicle parts, equipment, and accessories, the demand for these items has increased each year. The report by the Ministry of Material and Technical Supply stated that during the period 1984-1985, the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Agricultural Cooperatives alone needed 1,250 parts for trucks, 818 parts for tractors, and 1,380 parts for sedans.

Laos imports vehicle parts and accessories from Thailand. The statistics show that Laos imports parts and accessories worth an average of 100 million baht a year. In particular, in 1982, it imported parts and accessories worth 241.5 million baht. In 1983, Laos imported parts and accessories worth approximately 22.64 million baht from Thailand.

As for marketing trends for vehicle parts and accessories, markets for these types of items are limited. While Laos obtains some of these items from the socialist countries, it also imports them from Free-World countries such as Japan and Thailand. Thailand produces vehicle parts and accessories in order to cut down foreign imports and so it is not difficult to export these goods to markets in the LPDR. This is because most of the items produced in Thailand are made for use with Japanese vehicles.

It is easier and faster for Laos to import items from Thailand than from Japan. Normally, the private sector in Laos and certain public sectors import these types of goods from Thailand, because prices are lower and transportation is more convenient and faster. Thus, the marketing prospects for these types of goods are still bright. Thailand will probably be able to continue exporting such goods to Laos for a long time to come. This will continue to be an important market. The future looks very bright for these types of goods here.

However, we would like to offer several suggestions to businessmen who would like to sell such goods in Laos. First, they should contact the government units that use the goods directly and inform them of the types of items, the styles, and the models in order to facilitate deliveries. Second, the Lao

government has entrusted the Lao Trade Company (Societe Du Commerce) with the task of purchasing goods and signing contracts. The stipulation of product standards is the duty of the unit using the goods. Third, there are very few restrictions regarding product quality. This is because Laos lacks experience concerning technical matters. As for prices, normally Laos is not interested in expensive items.

The Plastics Market

Laos imported plastic products for the first time during the period 1955-1956. Thai merchants brought these in to replace wooden products, animal horns, hides, and ceramics. Most of the initial imports consisted of plastic utensils and containers. The import of plastic products increased greatly after 1960.

Plastic products have played a great role. The Lao people like such products very much. Since 1980, the demand for plastic products of various types has averaged between 219.6 and 732.9 tons per year. The demand has increased continually, because these are attractive products that are light in weight and convenient.

Prior to 1975, when Laos still had a democratic system, several private businessmen established factories to produce plastic goods. Initially, they produced mostly household items. The designs were very simple. These factories could not keep up with domestic demand. After Laos switched to a socialist system, these private factories were seized and shut down.

Today, Laos has just one factory to produce plastic goods. Originally, the name of this factory was the "Susuki Plastics Factory." It is located at Ban Dong Pa Lan in Vientiane City. This is a public factory subordinate to the Ministry of Industry, Handicrafts, and Forestry. Its main task is to produce electric wire, plastic electric insulators, electrical circuit boards, and other such items used in electrical work in order to support the Ngum River dam construction project. At the same time, it also produces plastic items such as plastic fabrics, plastic bags, and so on in order to satisfy market demand.

There is only one factory in the country that produces plastic products and so it cannot satisfy the needs of people throughout the country. In addition, the number of designs is very limited when compared with the many designs available from Thailand. Also, production in Laos is considered to be very backward.

Laos' yearly volume of production of goods is not very great, averaging about 200 tons a year. This is because Laos is still encountering problems concerning raw materials, investment funds, and production technology. For the most part, Laos must rely on other countries for raw materials and production technology.

A report by the State Planning Commission estimated that demand for plastic products averages at least 5-700 tons a year. The products that are in demand and that are used by the Lao people in daily life include: 1. household items such as cups, dishes, bowls, and glasses; 2. containers such as plastic bags

and plastic fabric; 3. pipe and wire; 4. office products; 5. electric insulators; and 6. general articles such as purses, shoes, and toys.

Each year, the LPDR imports huge quantities of plastic products. It imports both raw materials and finished products. Most of the raw materials and semiprocessed goods are imported from the socialist countries. This is done using a countertrade system based on trade agreements. Most of the finished goods are imported from Thailand. Small amounts are imported from other countries such as Singapore, Hong Kong, and Japan.

Since 1980, the amount of plastic products imported into the country has increased greatly based on market demand. This is because Laos cannot produce household items and other such items. Moreover, the private sector, or Lao people, frequently engage in border trading with Thai merchants. The import of these types of goods is convenient and can be accomplished quickly. Thus, plastic goods from Thailand can be found everywhere in Laos.

Thai plastic goods continue to dominate the market, and things seem very bright for the foreseeable future. This is because domestic production cannot satisfy the demand. Another reason is that Laos imports less than 30 million baht worth of these goods a year. Thailand's main competitors are Japan, Singapore, and Hong Kong. Businessmen have not given very much thought to these types of goods. This provides an opportunity for expanding the sale of these types of goods to the LPDR.

The Textile Market

There is still no textile industry in the LPDR. Textiles are produced on a handicraft basis. The volume of production is insufficient.

The Lao government cannot invest in building a textile industry. At the same time, it does not have a policy of allowing foreigners to invest in Laos. Thus, Laos will continue to encounter major shortages of textiles every year. Lao officials have stipulated a policy of "wearing and eating enough to satisfy needs" that the Lao people are to follow.

Laos has only a small-scale industry that employs few laborers. There are only two factories. One is the Textile Factory subordinate to the Ministry of Industry, Forestry, and Irrigation [as published]. This factory is located at Km 10 on Tha Dua Road. It was established in 1971 during the Souvanna Phouma administration. Originally, it was a private factory known as the Lao Vieng Textile Factory. After the administrative change, the Lao government took control of this factory. This factory uses West German equipment and equipment produced in Hong Kong. Its production objective is to replace imports of cloth and cloth goods. It has a maximum production capacity of 1,500 square yards a day. It has only 80 workers. It produces mainly cotton goods.

The other factory is the Sokpaluang Textile Factory subordinate to Vientiane Capital (Vientiane Municipality). This factory, too, used to be a privately-owned factory. Its former name was BIS. Later on, it was taken over

by the government and made subordinate to Vientiane Capital. This is a small factory with only 50 workers. It has a maximum production capacity of 500 square yards a day. It, too, produces mainly cotton goods.

A report by the Lao Ministry of Trade stated that the minimum need for cloth of the people of the country now averages 2.14 square meters per person per year. Several years ago, the population of Laos was approximately 3,756,000 people, and the annual population growth rate was 2.5 percent. This means that 9,886,543 square yards of cloth are needed each year.

Based on statistics provided by the Department of Foreign Trade, Lao Ministry of Trade, it is clear that Laos imports very large quantities of cotton cloth and synthetic fabrics. Every year, approximately 98.25 percent of all cloth goods are imported.

Both the private and public sectors in Laos import cloth. There are 18 private importers. Thus, in Laos, private individuals play a major role in importing cloth. During the period 1979-1983, cloth imports by the private sector accounted for approximately 35 percent of total cloth imports. These imports included both synthetic fabrics and cotton cloth. Most of the cloth was imported from Thailand.

As for public-sector imports, normally, the government's purchasing unit, that is, the Lao Trade Corporation, imports cloth for the various government units. It imports large quantities of cloth, particularly synthetic fabrics, each year. The bulk of the imports come from Thailand. Occasionally, cloth is imported from Singapore and Japan. But the amounts are much smaller than those imported from Thailand. Laos also imports cloth from the Socialist countries using countertrade. These countries include the Soviet Union, East Germany, Hungary, and Vietnam.

Today, many countries in both the Free-World and socialist camps would like to penetrate the Lao textile market. Free-World countries such as Japan and Singapore have done so. For example, the Japanese Marubeni company has sent a representative to Laos in order to contact the Lao government and Lao importers about textile goods from Japan. The socialist countries have proposed selling increased amounts of textiles to Laos in the form of countertrade and through the use of bilateral trade agreements.

Even though Thailand regularly exports textiles to Laos, exports have now declined because of the increased competition from both camps. Thus, in the future, the Lao textile market, which was once dominated by Thailand, may become more uncertain.

However, the Commercial Advisory Office in Vientiane feels that there will continue to be a preference for Thai cloth because of the influence of customs in dress. The Lao have imitated the Thai in modes of dress and so they prefer the same styles of cloth. Most Lao prefer synthetic fabrics. Cotton cloth is popular among government officials and state employees.

In selling cloth goods to Laos, much thought should be given to price competition. Because today, exporters often cut their prices. Advertising on

television and radio stations whose broadcasts reach Laos, such as Color Television Channel 7, should be stepped up. This television channel has great influence on the Lao people with respect to recommending products from Thailand.

The Building Materials Market

During the past several years, Laos has stepped up its import of building materials. In particular, in 1983 Laos imported building materials worth a total of 350.16 million baht. This is because Laos has building programs in all the economic sectors. In particular, the communications and transportation and agricultural sectors are building large numbers of drainage canal and irrigation projects. The amount of building materials required each year will continue to increase.

Laos imports about 50 million baht worth of building materials a year from Thailand. The most common building materials imported from Thailand are cement, steel construction members, iron pipe, nails, and galvanized iron.

The market outlook for building materials should remain very bright for many years in view of the fact that Laos does not produce these goods itself. It has only small plants that cannot satisfy the demand for such materials in large-scale projects. It will have to continue importing these materials. Moreover, Laos is still in the process of national recovery. Laos needs large amounts of building materials. This provides Thailand with an excellent opportunity to sell such goods to Laos.

Today, many Thai merchants and businessmen have gone to Vientiane to establish contact with the Lao government. There are many other types of goods that Laos needs in addition to those discussed in this report. And it seems that the Lao prefer to use goods from Thailand rather than other sources.

11943

CSO: 4207/192

PAPER COMMENTS ON SINGAPORE'S RACIAL POLICY

Kuala Lumpur UTUSAN MALAYSIA in Malay 1 Apr 87 p 8

[Editorial: "Racial Politics in Singapore"]

[Text] Every country has its own way of diverting the people's attention from problems it faces to make certain that they give unanimous and unified support to the party in power. In America, for instance, the communist threat has been vigorously propagandized so that those who live in that country are fearful of being attacked by the Soviet Union at any time. Communist countries use the danger of the western capitalist culture, which could destroy their own culture, as the primary enemy for binding the people's loyalty.

In Singapore, a republic which is a neighbor to Malay nations, apparently the racial problem has been used for the same purpose. A government, which to date has wanted to create unity without regard to race, as reflected in the Malaysian Malaysia concept when Singapore was part of Malaysia earlier, suddenly has displayed a viciousness toward the non-Chinese community in that republic. Earlier, we had the idea that in the Republic of Singapore people were permitted, without regard of their nationality, to have the same opportunity to participate in the various government bureaucracies.

However, it has now been verified that the PAP [People's Action Party] government under the leadership of Lee Kuan Yew has failed to do this. This is evident from the explanation provided by the government ministers about the lack of Singapore Malays who hold important posts in the armed forces. The reason why this is true is not because Malays are not capable of becoming pilots, for instance, but because the Singapore leadership is dubious about the loyalty of Malays to the republic, which is controlled by Chinese. They are concerned that if Malays are given important positions in the Singapore Republic Army, their loyalties will be divided between that country on the one hand and their Malay neighbors on the other.

Government clarifications, particularly that of Mr B.G. Lee, minister of trade and industry, have definitely created controversy. The opposition parties on that island agree that the PAP government in Singapore now is dealing in racial politics which are aimed at frightening a large part of the island's Chinese residents, claiming the Malay nations surrounding the republic are a

threat to their future. By doing this, they hope the Chinese will give their full support to the government for guarding their interests. This is the way the government leaders hope to break up the influence of the opposition which has been revealed to be increasing in that country. In addition, the divide-and-rule tactics will also create suspicion among the major ethnic groups in Singapore and will create anxiety among them.

Aware of the bad effect this government's attitude will have on the future of that country, the Malay leaders of that republic have participated with other opposition leaders in requesting the government to stop its discriminatory policy against ethnic groups. One of these opposition leaders, Mr Ibrahim Ariff, said the government's leader, Mr Lee, is unwise to suspect the loyalty of the Singapore Malays, and he urged that more Malays be given opportunities to serve.

6804/9365

CSO: 4213/77

MUSA WARNS SAMY AGAINST INTERFERING IN UMNO AFFAIRS

Violated Secrecy

Kuala Lumpur UTUSAN MALAYSIA in Malay 20 Mar 87 p 3

[Text] Kuala Terengganu, 19 March--Datuk Musa Hitam, UMNO [United Malays National Organization] deputy president, today warned Datuk Samy Vellu, MIC [Malayan Indian Congress] president, against interfering in UMNO political affairs.

"Just as we did not interfere in MIC affairs and respected the organization, I hope they will respect the UMNO and will not interfere in its affairs for the sake of UMNO unity," he remarked.

Datuk Samy Vellu, who is also the minister of works, today was reported as saying that all big projects were approved after being discussed by the cabinet and were not decided upon solely by the prime minister. He also talked about what took place in several cabinet meetings.

Speaking at the "Musa-Razaleigh" unity forum held in the Cultural Arena here this afternoon, which was attended by Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah, minister of trade and industry, Datuk Musa Hitam went on to say, "Datuk Samy Vellu actually has violated the principle of cabinet secrecy. If he does this, of course, I can speak louder and more about this," he said.

Samy's Response

Kuala Lumpur UTUSAN MALAYSIA in Malay 21 Mar 87 p 2

[Excerpts] Kuala Lumpur, 20 March--Datuk S. Samy Vellu, minister of works, said Datuk Musa Hitam should not feel he was interfering in UMNO affairs when he told the newspapers that cabinet members spoke freely during cabinet meetings.

Datuk Samy Vellu, who is also the MIC president, added that he said this because he did not want MIC members and residents of his election district (Sungai Siput) to think he was a puppet in the cabinet.

When speaking to reporters in the Parliament Building on Wednesday [18 March], the minister informed them that cabinet ministers were free to express their opinions and to function in the cabinet.

He was asked by the reporters to comment on the allegations made by a certain party that cabinet members were not permitted to express their opinions or criticisms but rather were "puppets" in the cabinet.

In speaking to reporters in the Parliament Building today, Datuk Samy Vellu said he was shocked by what Datuk Musa said.

"What I said, which was reported in the newspapers yesterday, was merely in response to questioning from reporters in the Parliament Building during an interview session," he said.

6804

CSO: 4213/76

GOH CHENK TEIK'S EFFORT TO WIN GERAKAN PRESIDENCY

Spreading of Rumors Alleged

Selangor SIN CHEW JIT POH MALAYSIA (Supplement) in Chinese 8 Apr 87 p 2

[Text] In a public statement yesterday, Yap Chee Kian, a central committeeman of the Malaysian People's Movement [GERAKAN], accused Goh Cheng Teik of spreading rumors, at a time when GERAKAN advisor Lim Chong Eu is abroad, that "Lim Chong Eu supports the joint challenge of Goh Cheng Teik and Khor Gaik Kim against the Central Committee of the party."

The statement said: "Many party members are aware of the fact that party advisor Lim Chong Eu has twice told the press that he did not interfere with the party election in June. There had been rumors that Lim Chong Eu invited state assemblymen to his home and criticized the party's Central before them. But this was later clarified by Dr Lim himself who stated that his talks with the state assemblymen did not relate to matters concerning the party's Central Committee or its leadership in Penang. This clarification clearly indicates that Dr Lim Chong Eu does not want to be utilized by Goh Cheng Teik and Khor Gaik Kim as their electioneering tool.

"Now, taking advantage of the party adviser's absence from the country, Goh Cheng Teik has again spread word purporting that the advisor stands behind Goh Cheng Teik and Khor Gaik Kim in their defiance against the Central Committee. This is deplorable. It is now clear that both Goh and Khor are making good use of the absent advisor's reputation for their election campaign.

"On the other hand, through their effort to establish a relationship with the party advisor, it can be seen that Goh and Khor themselves have no way of winning the support of party members. That's why they are compelled to borrow the party advisor's good name to make a show of strength. The eyes of GERAKAN party members are bright and clear, and they can detect this trick by a mere glance," the statement concluded.

Support by Khor

Selangor SIN CHEW JIT POH MALAYSIA in Chinese 16 Apr 87 p 5

[Text] Datuk Khor Gaik Kim, member of GERAKAN's Central Committee, said that if it were the wishes of the party's basic membership and advisor Dr Lim Chong Eu that Dr Goh Cheng Teik run in the GERAKAN's presidential election, he would give Dr Goh full support.

At a press conference today, Datuk Khor said that the formation of candidates for various positions in the GERAKAN party election will be based on the wishes of Dr Lim Chong Eu and the entire membership throughout the country.

However, Datuk Khor said, up until now nobody has publicly announced his intention to run for which post or to challenge which official in the party election.

He said he has no interest in any position, but if the party members need him, he will consider coming out and run for office in the election.

Datuk Khor indicated that he does not agree to Dr Lim Keng Yaik's idea purporting that a party election can threaten the party's unity. A party leader should not exploit such an idea to avoid an election or to hold on to his high position.

Datuk Khor stressed that GERAKAN's members are mature and strong enough to cope with a party election in order to strengthen its organization and improve its work performance.

On the other hand, Datuk Khor praised the party's treasurer Datuk Lee Yu Lung who was courageous enough to admit that the GERAKAN's record in last year's general election was all but poor.

"It's precisely because of this poor performance in the general election that Goh Cheng Teik and myself have asked for a comprehensive examination of our party," he said. He believes that only through such self-criticism can the party uncover its weaknesses and errors, and appreciate its own good qualities.

"In conducting an examination, party leaders should not keep silent about major charges while admitting minor ones or get through with it any old way.

"I feel it strange why Lee Yu Lung should have criticized Goh Cheng Teik on the basis of the party's poor show in the general election.

"As far as I know, although the Central Committee in early 1985 appointed Goh Cheng Teik to analyze the electoral constituencies, the final selection of our party's candidates, our negotiations with the National Front and the final formation of our candidates--all this was the prerogative and responsibility of our Central Working Committee under the leadership of Dr Lim Keng Yaik.

"Consequently, this issue has no relationship with Goh Cheng Teik or Dr Lim Chong Eu," Datuk Khor's statement ended.

9300/12624

CSO: 4205/15

NEP BEYOND 1990 VIEWED BY PAPER

Kuala Lumpur UTUSAN MALAYSIA in Malay 26 Mar 87 p 8

[Editorial: "NEP After 1990"]

[Text] The form the economic policy will take when the New Economic Policy [NEP] ends in 1990 is becoming increasingly clear. Although we do not yet know what it will be called, based on the comments made by the prime minister and his deputy yesterday in an economic seminar held in Kuala Lumpur, we believe that most of the spirit of the NEP will be retained. This means that special programs to aid the bumiputera [indigenous persons] to obtain a share in the various sectors and corporations will be continued so that the targets established can be achieved.

However, under this policy, target percentages for the bumiputera have not been stated. On the other hand, the policy to upgrade the bumiputera economy in the future sets no time limit for its effectiveness. Perhaps the national leaders have learned that setting a percentage share and the time by which it is to be effective, as was done under the NEP, may create problems if the openly stated ideals fail to be achieved for reasons beyond their control. For instance, when the NEP was drafted, the country experienced extraordinary growth. However, midway in the implementation of that policy, we experienced a recession which resulted in the failure to achieve established targets. Looking at these facts, the decision not to set a percentage share by 1990 is a wise one.

But, it is important that the participation of bumiputera in the economy continue to be given serious attention to ensure that they are not forgotten as happened prior to 1969. However, whether we want to or not, they must accept the truth of the matter, as explained by the prime minister, that after 1990 the bumiputera businessmen can no longer have too great expectations that the government will assist them. The base provided them under the NEP should allow them to become self-sufficient in obtaining a greater share of the economy even though there is no government protection.

Thus, solely because of their achievements, bumiputera businessmen can be proud because what they obtained, they obtained through the sweat of their own brows and not through the aid of the parties in power. An interesting question arises as to whether the bumiputera business community is able to

be self-sufficient. Is the base provided them by the NEP strong enough? Or will they later be swallowed up by the nonbumiputera giant companies which may be stronger in regard to free competition?

These are the questions that arise and must be faced by the bumiputera entrepreneurs themselves in a more realistic way. They should find a way as well as prepare themselves to operate in the business world in such a way that they can compete without the aid of the government.

6804/9365

CSO: 4213/77

PAPER SEES NO HOPE FOR COOPERATION AMONG ISLAMIC STATES

Kuala Lumpur BERITA HARIAN in Malay 31 Mar 87 p 10

[Editorial: "Cooperation Is Still a Dream"]

[Text] Trade relations between Islamic nations are still not at a level to be proud of. Mr Daim Zainuddin, minister of finance, who is visiting several Islamic states, said these relations must be upgraded for mutual interests. Only 8.8 percent of the total trade of nations that are members of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) was conducted among its members last year. According to the IDB, the economic recession is one of the reasons why Islamic nations are not investing or offering financial aid through the bank.

The IDB was established in 1975 at the recommendation of the Islamic Conference Organization for the purpose of further strengthening economic cooperation among Islamic nations. Although the IDB was made responsible for readying capital for member nations who needed it, the overall development aspects are the responsibility of each member nation. For instance, as a developing country that has not foregone contributing toward the development of the Islamic economy, Malaysia has a good record especially with regard to technical support to poor Islamic nations. Malaysia also offers aid to suffering nations such as Mali.

However, a question has arisen as to how the spirit of Islamic unity and solidarity demanded by Islam has sometimes been disregarded. Many Arab nations invest in the West because investments in those nations offer a better return. Some of them only focus on places such as the United States, whether on the petrochemical or heavy industry fields which, of course, require huge capital. Arab investors are more interested in western trade partners who promise big profits. In this respect, no one can blame Arab investors, and Malaysia does not want to blame Arab nations. But, developing Islamic countries perhaps wonder why this is happening and how long this situation will continue.

Recently, the Arab Trade Council criticized the Malay Trade Council here. They said the trade council in Malaysia paid little attention to trading opportunities with Gulf countries. They said Malaysian traders only looked to the East and other advanced nations such as the United States, Germany, and the United Kingdom. This is true. But the importance placed by Arab investors on advanced nations, especially those in the West, is also true and clear.

All this is a reflection of a continued lack of understanding. It is not surprising that Arab nations invest in the West when local entrepreneurs do not give this enough attention. Also, it is not surprising that western nations are ready to try their best to attract the investment of this oil money. The price of oil perhaps is not as high as it was in the mid-seventies, but Arab nations continue to invest anywhere that profits are available. If Arab nations can cooperate with non-Islamic western nations, why can't they cooperate in the same way with Islamic nations? Or are Islamic nations happier to fight each other, waste capital and time, buying bullets rather than establishing a more beneficial brotherhood?

Whatever the criticisms that have been made or the reasons that have been presented, basically it is clear that Islamic nations place less emphasis on efforts that would improve brotherly ties, especially in the economic field. Poor nations that have no resources need huge capital to develop their countries. Countries that have resources perhaps need expertise. Nations that already are active in industry need markets. However, none of this can be obtained if there are no good relations between Islamic nations. Using religion just as a symbol of unity is meaningless if this is not followed by generosity. Rich Islamic nations, of course, are aware of their responsibility toward poor relations. Offering aid to those who need it, of course, is demanded by Islam.

6804/9365

CSO: 4213/77

PALM OIL INDUSTRY PROMOTION MOVES PROPOSED

Kuala Lumpur BUSINESS TIMES in English 1 May 87 p 1

[Article by Lim Hock Chye]

[Text]

A GOVERNMENT-INDUSTRY committee has recommended the implementation of several measures to strengthen the Malaysian palm oil industry.

These measures are aimed at countering the

US-inspired anti-palm oil lobby, achieving integration within the industry, upgrading market capability, and lowering of production cost.

Primary Industries Minister Datuk Dr Lim Keng Yaik announced this at a press conference in Kuala Lumpur yesterday after chairing the fourth meeting of the Palm Oil Advisory Committee, a forum for liaison between the palm oil industry and the Minister of Primary Industries.

The committee was formed on February 27 last year to identify strategies for the development of the industry and the marketing of its products. It members include representatives from the various sectors within the palm oil industry and the relevant government agencies under the ministry and Felida.

Referring to the anti-palm oil lobby, Dr Lim said there has been a spate of adverse and intentionally-misleading press reports on palm oil, in particular in the United States.

He added this is part of a systematic campaign carried out by producers of competing oils, especially soyabean oil, to discourage consumption of palm oil.

"Besides the campaign aimed at the public, the lobbyists have

also petitioned to the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to require food containing palm oil be labelled: Contain palm oil; a saturated fat.

He said a public relations agency has been identified to carry out measures to counter negative publicity against palm oil.

Dr Lim also said that the committee also received a report on the visit of two officials of the US International Trade Commission (ITC) to Malaysia on April 20 to 24 to study the Malaysian palm oil industry.

He said he is confident that from the study, the ITC and the US Government will find only the truth — that the Malaysian palm oil exports have been taken place without any so-called "unfair practice".

The committee also reviewed the market situation and noted that the price of the commodity had fluctuated quite considerably since the last meeting of the committee in July 1986.

"The outlook in the coming months is likely to be influenced by the supply position of soyabean oil which is expected to be below normal. There are reports that Malaysian palm oil production is expected to be below that of last year, based on trends in January and February.

"Furthermore, domestic stocks

of the commodity is low. Indonesian exports are expected to be down considerably, and they even reported to be importing from Malaysia.

"On this basis, I expect the palm oil price to remain steady for the foreseeable future."

On the proposed EEC levy on vegetable oil and fats, he said: "I am also confident that the proposal will in the end be defeated. Nevertheless, in the event that is not ultimately the case, Malaysia will have to review the situation again. Those countries that are adversely affected by the EEC levy will be consulted in the exercise."

/13046

CSO: 4200/569

PAPER COMMENTS ON 5TH MALAYSIA PLAN FUND CUT

Kuala Lumpur NANYANG SIANG PAU in Chinese 15 Apr 87 p 2

[Editorial: "Malaysia Plan Expenditures Slashed"]

[Text] Our government has decided to curtail the funds for the Fifth Malaysia Plan (1986-1990) by M\$25 billion, that is to say, from the originally-planned M\$74 billion to M\$49 billion. Due to the worsening economic situation in the past 2 years, which adversely affected the prices of our primary products and depleted the resources in our treasury, the cabinet was compelled during a meeting last month to slash the expenditures for national development. This move came as no surprise, but what astonished the public was the large margin of curtailment.

This year's budget for development expenditures amounts to M\$6.673 billion, which is 25 percent less than last year's budget or a cut of M\$2.185 billion in absolute numbers. So from the time the government put forward the financial budget draft last October, we can see the government's decision to slash the development expenditures by a wide margin. As a matter of fact, Ghafar Baba, chairman of the cabinet investment committee and concurrently deputy prime minister, already disclosed last February that the government was examining the Fifth Malaysia Plan and that it would propose some adjustments. What was generally unexpected was the huge curtailment of the funds which amounted to M\$25 billion, as divulged by Chief Supervisor (Lading) of the Economic Planning Section of the Prime Minister's Department. This is an indication that the government has made an extremely bad calculation.

If we compare the funds available for the Fifth Malaysia Plan with those for the Fourth Malaysia Plan, we can readily see the serious nature of the cut. The funds for the Fourth Malaysia Plan (1981-1985) totaled M\$80.3 billion. Normally, when a country proposes a fund appropriation for a 5-year plan, the amount for a particular period is bigger than the preceding period, and the amount for the following period will even be bigger than the current one. This is due to the gradual depreciation of the country's currency and its relentless development. In our case, however, the funds for the Fifth Malaysia Plan were cut by M\$6.3 billion, and then, after a readjustment, were further cut by M\$25 billion. If our financial resources were not in real difficulties, our government would not make such an unwise decision.

According to an explanation by the chief supervisor of the Economic Planning Section, the cabinet made the above-mentioned move because of the world economic situation which adversely affected Malaysia's economy. Furthermore, after this Malaysia Plan was brought forward in March last year, the world's economy turned for the worse, causing prices of primary products to drop and world trade to remain stagnant. Therefore, the government was forced to decide for the big cut. He promised that the government will review the situation if the economy improves and that shelved development programs will be pushed forward.

Speaking about the Fifth Malaysia Plan, various quarters have expressed doubt that this plan will generate an annual 5 percent economic growth for the country, as predicted by the authorities. The fact shows that this target is not realistic. Last year our country gained half a percent growth only; this year the growth rate was originally projected for 1 percent, but thanks to a favorable economic turn, the Central Bank has reassessed the growth at 1.5 percent to 2 percent. Now that the appropriation of funds for the 5-year plan has suffered a huge cut, we worry that our economic growth will suffer considerably. This is a possibility that our government must not ignore.

Of course, the success factors for the 5-year plan do not depend on government funds alone. In fact, it has been estimated that investment by the private sector during the 5-year period may total M\$73 billion. If our government can absorb this large investment or even a bigger amount, this will naturally replenish the insufficiency of government appropriations. At the same time, it will also prove the importance of attracting more foreign and domestic investors in our country. Based on Central Bank disclosures, beginning with this year huge amounts of foreign investment have been flowing in, reaching M\$4.5 billion thus far. We hope that this foreign investment will go to production and manufacturing enterprises, such as the establishment of factories, and not flowing to stock exchanges.

The main objectives of the Fifth Malaysia Plan are to eradicate poverty, restructure society and to seek further growth amidst tranquility. Therefore, the government has let it be known that the slash in funds will not affect these objectives and that plans benefit the poor, such as building village roads, supplying water and electricity, opening schools and basic public facilities, will continue to be carried out. We concur with these lofty government goals and agree to the government's idea of cutting unnecessary expenses, discarding luxurious programs and paying full attention to plans which bring happiness to the people. Another problem that deserves special attention is unemployment which is projected to reach 10.1 percent out of the total work force by 1990. The success or failure of the Fifth Malaysia Plan will depend on whether or not there will be sufficient public and private investment to be used for building large factories with ample job opportunities or for developing our agricultural plans.

9300/12624
CSO: 4205/15

CHINESE-LANGUAGE CLASSES IN NATIONAL SCHOOLS DISCUSSED

Kuala Lumpur NANYANG SIANG PAU in Chinese 9 Apr 87 p 2

[Editorial: "Chinese-Language Classes Face Possible Closure Again"]

[Text] Due to funding problems, Chinese-language classes which have been offered by national middle schools in several states are again facing a crisis of closure, thereby causing a setback to the study of the mother tongue for ethnic-Chinese pupils. This is a disappointment indeed.

Early this month, many national middle schools in Perak state received a directive one after another from the Education Bureau, saying that effective this month Chinese-language classes would be stopped due to lack of funds for providing subsidies. According to Deputy Education Minister (Yun Shih-Chin), Chinese-language classes in several states other than Perak may also be closed due to insufficient funds.

It is of course the government's obligation to provide citizens with education opportunities, and learning the mother tongue is a basic right of all nationalities. At any rate, it is difficult to accept the authorities' reasoning for closing the Chinese-language classes on economic grounds, especially considering the fact that the subsidies for running Chinese-language classes are insignificant as compared to appropriations for other governmental administration expenditures.

Admittedly our nation's economy is not so good at the present time. However, as education is a basis for the founding of a state, the government cannot "cut the feet to fit the shoes." The government must not deprive certain people of the opportunity to learn their mother tongue simply because it wants to save money, for such a measure would affect the usefulness of education. According to plans drafted by the authorities, a new curriculum for middle schools will be put into effect next year, and the Chinese language will be incorporated as a required course. Yet today, just several months before the new curriculum in the middle schools is to take effect, Chinese-language classes have encountered difficulties and foundered. This makes people worry whether the Chinese language can really be included in the regular curriculum of middle schools.

Despite the fact that our constitution grants all nationals the right to studying their mother tongue, in reality the Chinese are faced with mounting difficulties in the process of receiving their Chinese-language education. Leaving aside what is long past, some people in government key posts recently expressed the view that the Malay language should be regarded as the mother tongue for all nationalities. Then there is also what the authorities call "half subsidies" for Chinese primary schools by giving them measly tens of dollars of token subsidies. The offering of a Chinese-language course in national middle schools has indeed encountered repeated and intermittent difficulties, causing unnecessary harassment to ethnic-Chinese students.

In conducting Chinese-language classes over the years, the officials have often shown prejudicial attitudes and put forward perfunctory pretexts for delaying the classes in national middle schools or concluding the course prematurely. Consequently, Chinese-language classes have been ignored by many people.

Recently, numerous Chinese students who sacrificed taking the Chinese subject in a government-sponsored examination are being watched by the public, and those who did exceedingly well in the examination but without taking Chinese are being criticized, too. While we question the students' enthusiasm for learning Chinese, we should also calmly deal with the factors which have brought about this degree of enthusiasm. Are the Education Ministry and school authorities stressing or encouraging students to take up the Chinese subject in a government examination? Are the schools giving students sufficient teaching periods to study the Chinese language?

In fact, apart from the problem of funds, Chinese-language classes in national schools are generally faced with a shortage of qualified teachers, lack of suitable textbooks and deficiency in administration and efficiency. Due to the shortage of teachers, most of Chinese-language classes have no full-timers to do the teaching, and classes are held irregularly (mostly after school closes at the end of the day or during weekends). Due to lack of proper supervision, the learning and teaching of a Chinese-language course leaves much to be desired. Furthermore, as such a course is elective, it is not regarded as important by the school authorities and the parents, while the students tend to lack seriousness. All this has caused the level of Chinese-language classes in national schools to plummet further.

We can hope for a thorough solution to the problem of Chinese-language classes only when Chinese is incorporated into national schools as a regular subject. It is right and proper for ethnic-Chinese children to learn Chinese, and this is a fundamental constitutional right which should not be hindered. We hope that the authorities will pay attention to the aspirations of ethnic-Chinese students for learning their mother tongue. Chinese primary schools should be granted their due fair treatment and development within the framework of the national education system, and may the plan to list Chinese on the curriculum of national middle schools as a regular subject be speedily put into practice.

9300/12624
CSO: 4205/15

BRIEFS

FOREIGN PRESS CRITICIZED--Bukit Mertajam, Sunday [22 March]--Today Datuk Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir, deputy foreign minister, criticized foreign newsmen who frequently wrote negative reports about this country's political developments for the purpose of destroying the work of a healthy democracy. He regretted that most foreign press reports depicted Malaysia as a "secretive country and as a nonperforming one in the world." In fairness, they should write positive reports about a number of things done, especially in the economic and political fields, through genuine democratic means," he said when officially opening the Bukit Mertajam District UMNO [United Malays National Organization] delegates conference here today. Datuk Abdul Kadir said the reporters do this to frighten overseas countries away from entering into two-way relations with Malaysia and from investing in this country to weaken Malaysia's economy. "Actually, our country is not as bad as they picture it. No leader of this country has been assassinated as has happened in Western nations. Some Western and Asian leaders who have visited this country have been intrigued enough by the way we defend democratic values to want to visit this country again," he said. Datuk Abdul Kadir, who is also a member of the UMNO Supreme Council, said that after 30 years of independence, this country is still capable of maintaining democratic values even though at certain times some have opposed them. [Text] [Kuala Lumpur BERITA HARIAN in Malay 23 Mar 87 p 9] 6804/9365

UMNO ENTRY INTO SABAH DEFERRED--Kota Kinabalu, 23 March--UMNO [United Malays National Organization] has decided to defer its plan to enter Sabah and perhaps will not do so if the USNO [United Sabah National Organization] can reorganize and put its house in good order, Tun Datu Mustapha Datu Harun, USNO president, stated today. He said Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, UMNO president, presented him with this decision when he met him last Thursday [19 March]. Speaking to newsmen when he arrived at the Subang International Airport from Kuala Lumpur at midday, Tun Mustapha said Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir felt that if the USNO leaders could unite the organization's members, the UMNO would not have to go into Sabah. Tun Mustapha said the same views were expressed by Datuk Sri Sanisi Junid, the UMNO secretary general who is also minister of agriculture, Mr Anwar Ibrahim, minister of education who is also the UMNO Youth Movement chairman, and Datuk Megat Junid Megat Ayob, deputy minister of home affairs, whom he met on the same day. The USNO president said Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir informed him that the UMNO initially wanted to enter Sabah because it found the USNO without a leader and others of its leadership were divided. With much urging and many letters from individuals

coaxing him to return, he decided to become active in politics again and to lead the USNO. [Text] [Kuala Lumpur UTUSAN MALAYSIA in Malay 24 May 87 p 18] 6804/9365

1.5 PERCENT GROWTH RATE FORECAST--Kuala Lumpur, Thursday [26 March]--The country's economic growth rate may reach 1.5 percent (compared to a 1-percent growth rate in 1986) if prices of primary goods remain firm, the National Bank wrote in its annual report. The bank also forecast that the national balance of payments would be higher than that of 3 years ago because we have been able to cut imports and are increasingly able to restore the achievements of our national exports. "The ability of the country to reduce the deficit in the current account and the introduction of foreign capital, which also reflects the confidence of investors in the domestic investment climate, are some of the reasons why growth will be apparent in the next 2 years," the report stated. The world economy also is forecast to grow at a rate of 2.5 to 3 percent. The agricultural and industrial sectors are anticipated to grow this year while the service sector will also show a modest recovery. Growth in the agricultural sector is forecast at 2.6 percent, reflecting the recovery of lumber exports. Activity in the industrial sector is estimated to continue at the rate of 5.5 percent with good growth in the electronics, textile, and wood-based industries, the report said. [Text] [Kuala Lumpur BERITA HARIAN in Malay 27 Mar 87 p 1] 6804/9365

LARGER BUMIPUTERA ECONOMIC SHARE--Tampin, Sunday [22 March]--A high-level committee established to review the implementation of the New Economic Policy [NEP] will make certain that the bumiputera [indigenous people] share of the economic sector will be upgraded to 50 percent by the year 2000. Mr Ghafar Baba, deputy prime minister, said this was important for ensuring that an economic balance is created among the various ethnic groups in this country in the true sense of the words. Mr Ghafar Baba, who also chairs this committee, said the bumiputera share of the national economic sector is forecast to reach only 22 percent by 1990 while the target set under the NEP is 30 percent. "Therefore, the committee which I chair will make certain that the bumiputera share will be increased to 50 percent by the year 2000," he told reporters after officially opening the Tampin District UMNO [United Malays National Organization] delegates conference here today. According to him, the committee also will make recommendations to the government for the economic policy that must be drafted by the end of the NEP implementation period. In this connection, Mr Ghafar, acting as UMNO vice president, wanted Malays to increase their efforts multifoldly and to continue to cooperate closely with the government to ensure the achievement of that target. Besides Mr Ghafar Baba, the committee is composed of five cabinet ministers, representatives of the local Trade Council, and senior officials of the government, including members of the Economic Planning Unit. The deputy prime minister added that the government has given serious attention to the problem of an economic balance among the various ethnic groups in this country to guarantee the maintenance of close unity among the people. [Text] [Kuala Lumpur BERITA HARIAN in Malay 23 Mar 87 p 1] 6804/9365

CSO: 4213/76

SINGAPORE

BRIEFS

16 ARRESTED FOR COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES--The Internal Security Department today arrested 16 persons in connection with a clandestine communist network. Disclosing the arrest, the Ministry of Home Affairs told that investigation is still in progress and a detailed statement will be issued in due course. The 16 arrested are (Winston Lim Kin Chuan), (William Yap Hong Yen), (Kenneth Chang Swee Cheng), (Cheah Boon Thye), (Tay Hong Seng), (Teo Soh Leng), (Tang Lay Lee), (Rita Lim Li Kok), (Wang Sok Ee), (Ee Li Leng), (Mah Li Lim), (Low Yit Leng), (Tan Kee Seng), (Kevin Desmond de Souza), (Choon Lye Meng), and (Jenny Sim Lai Cheng). [Text] [Singapore Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 21 May 87 BK] /12624

CSO: 4200/578

SOLOMON ISLANDS

BRIEFS

DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH SINGAPORE--A joint communique announcing the formal establishment of diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level between Solomon Islands and Republic of Singapore has been issued simultaneously in Honiara and Singapore on April 21. The communique reads as follows: "Convinced that the establishment of diplomatic relations between Solomon Islands and the Republic of Singapore will contribute to a better understanding and co-operation amongst their respective people, the Governments of Solomon Islands and Republic of Singapore have agreed to establish diplomatic relations as from April 21, 1987. The two governments further agree that the non-resident High Commissioner of Solomon Islands to Singapore will be accredited out of Honiara." Solomon Islands and Singapore both come under the umbrella of the Commonwealth. This brings the total number of countries with which Solomon Islands has established full diplomatic and consular relations to 31. [Text] [Honiara SOLOMON NIUS in English 24 Apr 87 p 1] /6091

CSO: 4200/570

THAILAND

OFFICIALS COMMENT, BACKGROUND TO CPM SURRENDER DEAL

Bangkok SIAM RAT SAPDA WICHAN in Thai 5-11 Apr 87 pp 15-19

[Unattributed report: "Amnesty to CPM Guerrillas, a Major Offensive Aimed at Ending the Revolutionary War"]

[Excerpts] The army's plan to grant amnesty to CPM [Communist Party of Malaya] guerrillas along the Thai-Malaysian border is a major political offensive by the army against the CPM in the area. It is believed that the objective of this offensive is to bring an end to the revolutionary war in this area, a war that has been going on for about 50 years now.

"We will bring an end to CPM terrorism during my term as RTA CINC," said Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut, the RTA CINC, to subordinates shortly after becoming army commander. He made this remark to show his firm commitment to solving this problem, a problem that has long been ignored. Based on this clear policy, administrative officials began studying solutions and the possibility of hitting this target.

During the past several months, political talks have been underway with the CPM in the border area. On previous occasions, such talks failed to achieve anything. The decisive factor as far as the success or failure of these talks is concerned is where these guerrillas will be allowed to live if they surrender. More than 80 percent of these guerrillas are Malaysian by nationality. And according to the Thai-Malaysian agreement on security in the border area, if CPM guerrillas of Malaysian nationality are captured or they surrender, they must be turned over to Malaysian officials. At present, this agreement is still in force.

In 1982, when Gen Han Linanon was the 4th Army Region commander, a great effort was made to find a way to persuade CPM guerrillas to surrender to officials. Unofficial talks were held on several occasions. An officer who played an important role in those talks was Lt Gen Panya Singsakda, the former deputy commander of the 4th Army Region and the present assistant army chief of staff for operations. Another officer who played a major role was Col Thammarak Wisarangkun Na Ayuthaya, the former head of the Intelligence Section, 4th Army Region and a former intelligence officer with the 2d Army Region. Today, he is the head of the Intelligence Section, Directorate of Intelligence.

During those negotiations, Lt Gen Panya negotiated directly with Khiu Choen, the No 2 man in the CPM, Zone 2, 12th Regiment, Betong District. This is the CPM's strongest unit militarily. Even though those talks failed to hit the targets, they paved the way for future work teams to continue the negotiations.

"The main problem is the status of the CPM guerrillas after their surrender. They want to settle down in Thailand. They don't want to return to Malaysia. During those negotiations, we could agree to almost all the conditions set by the CPM. But we couldn't find a solution to the problem of their status. And when this was discussed at the government level, the National Security Council was opposed to granting Thai citizenship to these guerrillas. As a result, the negotiations collapsed," said a former military officer in the 4th Army Region who is knowledgeable about what happened during that period. At that time, Gen Han's view was that the way out was to consider granting them citizenship in stages in order to check things. If this had been done, the CPM guerrillas would have agreed to lay down their weapons and begin a new life along the border inside Thailand.

"We made a great effort, because we believed that unless we launched a political offensive, there would be no chance of solving this problem. These guerrillas would definitely not surrender until they had received assurances about their status after surrendering."

Similarly, during the time that Gen Wanchai Chitchamong was the 4th Army Region commander, an attempt was made to continue the negotiations. But the same problem was encountered once again, because higher echelons did not feel that citizenship could be granted. The talks collapsed and no further negotiations were held until after Gen Chawalit became the RTA CINC and Lt Gen Wisit Atkhumwong became 4th Army Region Commander.

During the recent talks, the past problems and obstacles were summarized. A military news source said that there was a heated debate among senior military officials about whether or not to grant citizenship after granting amnesty. So far, they have not yet come to any conclusion about this. A compromise solution to this problem is to grant alien resident status to the CPM guerrillas of Malaysian nationality in order to get them to lay down their weapons and surrender to Thai officials.

When this compromise solution was passed on, the 8th CPM Regiment in the Khao Nam Khang Zone in Na Thawi and Sadao districts, Songkhla Province, came and surrendered to officials in the area. It is expected that other CPM guerrillas operating along the border will surrender, too.

"Granting alien resident status is less complex than granting citizenship, which would probably generate much opposition. The minister of interior can make the decision on granting alien resident status based on security considerations and then submit the matter to the cabinet," said a military news source.

A Seminar To Find a Solution to the Problem of CPM Terrorism

At the end of last year, the 4th Army Region held a seminar in order to discuss ways to solve the CPM terrorist problem. The topic about which there was great discussion was the obstacle that has prevented the guerrillas from surrendering to officials. One point that was discussed was the international agreement that affects the fighting to defeat the CPM, that is, the agreement to turn CPM guerrillas of Malaysian nationality over to Malaysian officials whenever guerrillas surrender or are captured. Those at the seminar felt that negotiations should be held with Malaysia in order to revise this international agreement and allow CPM guerrillas of Malaysian nationality to live in Thailand. They can be separated into small groups and moved as far away from the border as possible so that they do not pose a threat to Malaysia's security.

Those at the seminar, which was presided over by Maj Gen Ophat Phothiphaet, the deputy commander of the 4th Army Region, also discussed the policy that Lt Gen Wisit Atkhumwong, the 4th Army Region commander, has implemented in order to serve as a basis for accepting the surrender of CPM guerrillas:

1. To discuss the policies that will be implemented to persuade CPM guerrillas to surrender.
2. To have secure detainment sites.
3. To maintain friendly relations with Malaysia.

The line of the National Security Council [NSC] is to focus on the national interest and consider the long-term interests of the Thai in the area and Thai-Malaysian relations.

CPM Conditions for Surrendering

The conditions set by the CPM during the negotiations consist of four major points: They want assurances that they will be safe after they surrender; they want to be allowed to live in Thailand and not sent back to Malaysia; they want to be provided with land where they can live and work; and they want to be allowed to keep weapons for self-defense.

As for being allowed to keep weapons, that is unacceptable to officials in the area. An effort has been made to convince them that officials will definitely provide them with protection after they surrender. Thus, this problem has diminished. As for their request to live in Thailand and not be returned to Malaysia, it is felt that if this request is accepted, many more guerrillas will surrender. It is well known that the main problem preventing the guerrillas from surrendering is their fear of being sent back to Malaysia.

"If we can convince Malaysia that the guerrillas who surrender will not pose a danger to Malaysia by allowing them to settle down far from the border, there should not be any problem. Malaysia will probably accept this," said a military official.

Now that progress has been made in persuading the guerrillas in the area to surrender, efforts will be made to coordinate things with senior Malaysian officials in order to sound out their attitude toward the surrender of CPM guerrillas to Thai officials.

"We cannot allow Malaysia to misunderstand us. This is a very delicate matter. It is essential that we reach an understanding with Malaysia on this issue in order to maintain our good relations," said Lt Gen Panya, a person who is playing an important role in this, when asked about Malaysia's attitude.

During the period when this officer served in the south, senior Malaysian officials had great respect for him. He constantly stressed the need to improve relations with Malaysia. He felt that that was the only way to solve the problems in that area. That is, he felt that there had to be good mutual understanding.

"We feel that Malaysia will understand what we are trying to do to solve the CPM problem," said Lt Gen Panya confidently.

"We have not yet found a clear solution to this problem. Some of the approaches being taken to solve this problem may look wrong and may not seem appropriate. But if these can help solve the problem and hit the targets, they should be considered and discussed in order to find a good solution," said Lt Gen Panya when asked about the matter of granting Thai citizenship to the CPM guerrillas of Malaysian nationality.

The International Political Offensive

At the meeting of the Thai-Malaysian General Border Committee held in Kuala Lumpur at the beginning of the year, in his capacity as the head of the Thai delegation, Gen Prachuap Suntharangkun, the minister of interior, took the offensive at the political negotiating table by submitting a proposal to grant political amnesty. It is believed that Malaysia will turn to using political tactics instead of military measures alone to solve the CPM problem. This should lead to a solution to this problem. In the past, Thailand finally succeeded in implementing a politics lead the military policy, that is, Order 66/23, and achieved good results.

Thailand's actions were aimed at sounding out Malaysia's attitude concerning a political offensive in the area. Senior Thai officials did not believe that Malaysia would be the one to launch a political offensive. And today, Malaysia's attitude is still unclear. Because of this, Thailand feels that the time has come for it to launch a political offensive against the CPM. At the same time, it is trying to get Malaysia to understand Thailand's attitude on this issue.

"Malaysia does not really want the CPM guerrillas sent back to Malaysia. We have coordinated things and explained our plan to them," said a military news source in the area about Malaysia's attitude. Clearly, unless steps are taken to reach an understanding on this, this could lead to a misunderstanding between the two countries. For this reason, "until a definite conclusion is

reached on what to do with the CPM guerrillas of Malaysian nationality, we will simply keep an eye on things. These people many return to Malaysia if an understanding can be reached with Malaysia on this," said Lt Gen Panya.

Steps in Securing the Surrender of CPM Guerrillas

Since launching the political offensive, political and development activities have been carried on in order to prepare for the surrender of CPM guerrillas. The political measures include holding political seminars in order to instill political ideals based on a democratic system with the king at the head. This also includes psychological rehabilitation. The next step is to consider allotting land to former guerrillas away from the border or allotting them land in self-help settlements in the south. At present, the guerrillas who have surrendered are undergoing political training at Civil-Police-Military Unit 43, Sirinthon Camp, Pattani Province.

It is still too soon to say whether this major political offensive by the army will bring a quick end to terrorism in the border area. A military news source who is involved in the political negotiations to persuade these people to surrender and become participants in the development of Thailand stated quite confidently that besides the guerrillas from the 8th CPM Regiment in Sadao District who have surrendered, several hundred more guerrillas from the 10th and 12th regiments will surrender in the next few days. However, observers in the area feel that the great profits that the members of the 12th Regiment, which is based in Yala Province, have enjoyed may cause these guerrillas to think twice about surrendering.

"I don't think that all of these people will agree to abandon their great interests in this area. These guerrillas seem quite confident about the security of those military bases not yet destroyed by officials. Because throughout the period of military operations, officials have never been able to seize a large military base from the 12th CPM Regiment, Zone 1, Betong District. And I don't think that the military will be able to exert much military pressure in this area in the near future," said a local observer concerning this political offensive. He seemed fairly certain that after this political offensive, it will be necessary to launch a major military campaign here in order to increase the military pressure on the CPM guerrillas still hiding in the mountains. The security units in the area did not deny this when asked what the next step would be after this "move" by the military.

The important achievements that have enabled the army under the command of Big Chiu to wage this political offensive and achieve results can be attributed to the work staffs of the senior officers who have been involved with this problem for a long time. Such officers include Lt Gen Panya, the assistant army chief of staff for operations, Gen Wanchai Ruangtrakun, the army chief of staff, Maj Gen Kitti Rattanachaya, the commander of the 5th Division, and several members of Gen Chawalit's administrative staff who have been involved with this problem for a long time. There is one thing that reflects the similar view that people have had concerning this problem. From former commanders Han and Wanchai to the present commander, Lt Gen Wisit, all agree that "military measures alone cannot solve this problem. It is also necessary to wage a political offensive."

What is certain is that if the army lacks unity in its attitude toward problem, it will be impossible to wage a successful political offensive. The success of this depends on the army's ability to implement its policy. "This must be viewed as a pilot project of the army. If we can make these people feel secure and give them assurances about their new life after they surrender, we feel sure that those still in the jungle will soon come and surrender. I think that this is a very important issue. If we cannot give them these assurances, the next offensive in our effort to end terrorism in this area could falter," said a special colonel who is very concerned about this. He is confident that this offensive by the military is an important "move" that will lead to another offensive aimed at reaching the final goal in bringing an end to CPM terrorism.

Development Villages, an Attempt To Reduce the Influence of the CPM in Betong

The CPM has great influence over the rubber plantation workers in Betong because of the lack of order and control in the villages here. Thus, some people feel that one way to reduce the influence of the CPM in this area is to supervise the villages scattered about this area and link them together under the control of local units. This is the source of the "development village" idea that has been presented in order to achieve results in actual practice.

The military operations that have been carried on in Betong over the course of the past several years have achieved some results in reducing the influence of the CPM. But a senior official in the 4th Army Region admitted that it is essential to change the structure of the villages in the area if we want to control the CPM effectively. This is because the border villages here are located in complex mountain ranges and thick forests. The houses of the villagers are scattered here and there. It is difficult to supervise things and protect them. This is why the CPM has been successful in increasing its power. Government officials have not been able to provide protection. As a result, the terrorist groups in the area have been able to collect illegal taxes.

The development village concept was originated by a unit that is directly involved in suppressing CPM terrorism, that is, the Thai Combat Team commanded by Maj Gen Kittti Rattanachaya. This idea is similar to that of Lt Gen Harold Brigg, the English general who achieved success in organizing strategic villages in Malaysia in order to block the growth of the CPM in the rural areas and jungles in the 1950s. It can be said that this "Brigg Plan" played a major role in forcing the CPM to retreat across the border into Thailand. The CPM was surrounded by the masses, whom government officials had succeeded in controlling. In effect, officials prevented the people in the area from providing support to the CPM.

A fact that must be admitted about villages in Betong District is that officials cannot control these villages. The villagers are scattered here and there, and this makes it difficult to supervise them. Thus, it is not surprising that the CPM has gained influence over the villagers in this area. Until recently, no concrete idea was ever proposed to solve the problems involved in supervising the people effectively.

For this reason, when the Thai Combat Team proposed this idea, the matter was discussed at length in order to reach a conclusion. At the very least, this should lead to a debate on the best way to solve the problems that have arisen.

In reference to the operational line, a program document states that "the government must take direct responsibility for the entire program and entrust the units concerned with the task of implementing things. The units concerned include the National Housing Authority, the Land Reform Office, the Forestry Department, the Government Housing Bank, the 4th Army Region, and the Southern Border Provinces Administrative Center. The private sector will be encouraged to participate in building housing in the form of housing estates. The villagers in the target areas will be allowed to take mortgages with the government serving as guarantor. These will be new communities that are easy to supervise and control. The villagers in the target areas will be moved to the sites prepared. Units involved in security matters will look after the people in the area."

The document stated that the main reason this program is being implemented is to "separate the people from the CPM," which has relied on the people in the area as a source of supplies and a base of support. It has been stipulated that the new villages to be built must be located within the CPM zone and 5-15 km from the border.

The program has been divided into three stages. During the first stage, preparations will be made. These must be approved directly by the government. These preparations include obtaining data in the target areas, formulating detailed work plans, and explaining things to the people in the area so that they understand what changes will be made. The second stage is the stage in which the housing will actually be built. In the third and final stage, after the people in the target areas have been moved to the new villages, the development villages will be converted to strategic villages. The villagers will be given political and military training so that they can defend themselves. It will take 3-5 years to complete all three stages.

"I have discussed things with several senior people. They all agree that this is one way to solve the problems in this area. If resolute action is taken, we should be able to reduce the influence of the CPM in this area. We will be able to supervise the people. As things are today, we can't supervise them," said Maj Gen Kitti Rattanachaya about the state of affairs that has existed for over a decade.

There are reports that when Gen Prem Tinsulanon, the prime minister, inspected the Thai Combat Team at the Sanaonarong Camp in Hat Yai District last September, Maj Gen Kitti informed Gen Prem about this idea. Gen Prem expressed great interest and ordered units in the area to submit the matter to him in writing for consideration. In his report, the commander of the Thai Combat Team stressed the need to take urgent action in Betong District, where the CPM wields great influence and where government officials can not control the people.

However, this idea has not lead to action, because the units in the area are not in agreement about the problems. Some units feel that this idea overlaps the border defense village program, which is now underway. As a result, this matter has not been forwarded "directly" to superior units for further consideration. Thus, nothing has been done to implement this idea.

On 18 June [1948] the government of Malaya realized that it would not be possible to reach a compromise. It declared an emergency and began carrying on resolute suppression activities. Party members fled into the jungle, took up arms to fight the government, and formed the "Malay National Liberation Army." It was during this period that the CPM began operating in the border area in Waeng District in Narathiwat Province, Sadao District in Songkhla Province, and Betong District in Yala Province. Initially, the CPM had as many as 12 regiments. But as a result of the resolute suppression operations, it was left with just three regiments: the 8th Regiment in Songkhla, the 10th Regiment in Narathiwat, and the 12th Regiment in Betong. The CPM guerrillas continued to retreat, and in 1960 they seized areas in southern Thailand to serve as their base of operations. In 1966 they changed their name to the "Malay People's Liberation Army."

Today, the CPM has about 1,500-1,800 armed men operating the Thai-Malaysian border area. Most of these forces are located along the border in Betong, Than To, and Bannang Sata districts in Yala Province.

CPM Objectives

Initially, the CPM guerrillas operating in Thailand did things in accord with the party's policy. Their objective was to topple the Malaysian government. They did not harm Thai officials, because they needed an area to stockpile supplies and wanted to gain the support of the people. It can be said that during that period, they received much support from the local people, particularly in Betong District. Because of this, the number of CPM guerrillas increased, and they obtained more weapons. Later on, after Thailand and Malaysia began cooperating in order to suppress the CPM guerrillas, whom both countries regarded as a "common enemy," the guerrillas stepped up the violence and began attacking Thai officials.

An important obstacle facing officials in their efforts to suppress the CPM guerrillas has been the guerrillas' intelligence capabilities. Whenever troops have been moved in order to launch a suppression operation, the guerrillas have learned of this in advance. In addition, the terrain is composed of mountains and thick forests, which makes it difficult to make aerial inspections. As a result, the suppression plans have often failed to achieve the desired results. And unless intelligence units can pin down the exact location of the guerrillas, it is impossible to find and destroy the targets. Another result of this has been serious government losses. The troops sent to destroy the guerrillas have stepped on mines planted by the guerrillas, who are much more familiar with the area and who have learned many lessons over the years. Because of this, the security officials in the area agree that "government officials are at a disadvantage on this battlefield." They feel that "unless a political offensive is launched against the CPM guerrillas in the area, it will be difficult to bring an end to this revolutionary war."

The Influence of the CPM Guerrillas in Betong and Illegal Taxes

Betong District, Yala Province: The main income of the CPM guerrillas operating in the Thai-Malaysian border area comes from illegal taxes. The guerrillas have been collecting these taxes for several decades. In the present situation, even though the local security units claim that they have succeeded in reducing the influence of the guerrillas, particularly in the border towns, the fact is, no rubber plantation worker in the area of influence of the guerrillas dares not to pay the "illegal tax" demanded by the guerrillas. This clearly indicates that the guerrillas still wield much influence in this area.

"If you don't pay them, you don't have the right to tap the rubber trees in the area. This has been going on for so long that it is normal for us. Everyone knows that government officials don't have the power to protect the rubber plantation workers in this area," said a plantation worker who works a rubber plantation in the area of influence of Zone 1 CPM guerrillas, 12th Regiment, east of Betong about why it is necessary to pay the illegal tax to the guerrillas each time they demand money.

Rubber tree growing is the main occupation in Betong. But it is not just the rubber plantation workers here who have to pay protection money. Rubber plantation workers in the CPM zones of influence in Narathiwat and Songkhla are in the same position. It's just that everyone knows that the military strength of the CPM guerrillas is strongest in Betong and so their collection of protection money is more systematic here than in other areas.

No one knows for sure how much money the guerrillas collect in "illegal taxes" each year from the rubber plantation workers in the border areas under their influence. But 4th Army Region officials have roughly estimated that they collect around 100-200 million baht a year. This is certainly possible given the fact that the CPM guerrillas have influence over more than 100,000 rai of rubber plantations. This does not include the illegal taxes that they extort from others, which includes those engaged in timber and mining operations in Than To and Bannang Sata districts.

Rubber plantation workers here have said that the CPM guerrillas demand money from the workers twice a year on important Chinese holidays, that is, at Chinese New Year and at the Lunar Day celebrations. The rule is that on Lunar Day, each rubber plantation worker has to pay 100 baht to the guerrillas in protection money. But the guerrillas collect the bulk of the money during the New Year holiday. The tax is based on the size of the plantation. The usual rate is 8 baht per month for each 2.5 rai owned. However, this is negotiable if the owner of the plantation feels that this is excessive.

"At those times, they send someone to collect the money. He carries a notice stating that the plantation workers have to pay. No one has ever refused to pay. If someone can't pay the entire amount, he can pay in installments. For example, during this past Chinese New Year period, they asked me to pay 8,000

baht. But I talked them into reducing the amount. It's not fixed. You definitely have to pay, but how much is another matter," said the same plantation worker.

Based on the above method of collecting money and on the fact that the rubber plantations in this area total almost 300,000 rai, we can obtain a rough estimate of the amount of money extorted from the people here each year. As a result of the large sums involved, conflicts sometimes arise among various guerrilla groups. This is because these groups try and collect protection money outside their zone. Today, there are two main subgroups of CPM guerrillas that operate independently of each other.

"Those who own plantations that straddle the areas of influence of these two groups have to pay protection money to both groups."

From talking with the rubber plantation workers here, it seems that they are all fed up with having to pay protection money to the CPM guerrillas. But they have no choice as long as they continue working the rubber plantations.

"You can see how much money they make every year from extorting money from plantation workers. I consider them to be influential gangs that are preying off the plantation workers. They have abandoned their ideals concerning returning to liberate Malaysia. Today, they are well settled in Thailand. It is becoming more and more difficult for them to carry on operations in Malaysia." With their large revenues, it has been easy for the guerrillas to purchase modern weapons to replace the carbines that they have used since the Second World War.

"From what I have seen, they now have very modern weapons, including AK rifles, M-79s, and M-16s. Only the older guerrillas still prefer the carbines, because they are familiar with them. I once asked them where they obtained these weapons. A guerrilla leader said that as long as they have money, it will be easy for them to obtain weapons," said another plantation worker concerning the changes that have taken place.

Because of these changes, Malaysia feels that it is essential to build a wall along the border here. It has budgeted almost 400 million baht to build a concrete wall 2.5 meters tall and more than 15 km long. The focus is on the areas of influence of the CPM guerrillas, many of whom are in Thailand.

"Malaysia knows that the CPM guerrillas still have much influence in Thailand. They have cleared the border area on their side and built roads along the border in order to eliminate the influence of these guerrillas. Malaysia hopes that this wall will prevent the guerrillas from crossing the border and carrying on operations in Malaysia. They have a strategic view. The construction of this wall clearly shows what their attitude is toward this matter," said a senior official in the area concerning this problem.

The thing that concerns Thai officials about the construction of this wall is the construction of 1 X 2.5-meter gates at regular intervals all along the length of the wall. Thai officials are suspicious about these gates. From what they have seen, the people in the area can't help but think that the purpose

of these gates is to help Malaysia "achieve its political objectives in the area." Because as everyone knows, on many occasions, the bandit terrorists have used Malaysian territory as a base before crossing the border to carry on operations in Thailand. This has happened several times during the past 3-4 years. The rubber plantation workers in the area are very afraid, because Malaysia views them as CPM supporters who provide the guerrillas with help to enable them to carry on operations in Malaysia.

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CSO: 4207/186

THAILAND

DEBATE CONTINUES OVER CPM ISSUE ON SOUTHERN BORDER

Bangkok KHAO PHISET in Thai 8-14 Apr 87 pp 14-17

[Unattributed report: "Thailand-Malaysia: the CPM and Border Interests, the New Friendship Line That Has Begun Encountering Problems"]

[Excerpts] "I am not boasting, but I feel confident in saying that we are now on the offensive. In granting amnesty to the CPM guerrillas, what concerns us is what attitude Malaysia will take and whether they will understand our good intentions," said a military officer who has played a key role in pushing for amnesty for the CPM guerrillas to KHAO PHISET. He was very confident about the military's direction even though there are concerns about how Malaysia will respond to this.

The matter of granting amnesty to the CPM guerrillas is a policy that has been considered at various echelons, from the 4th Army Region to the army and National Security Council (NCS). And finally, on 15 March 1987, in his capacity as the head of the Thai delegation, Gen Prachuap Suntharangkun, the minister of interior, raised this issue at a meeting of the Thai-Malaysian General Border Committee. This is a very delicate matter for both countries. Thus, Thailand's road ahead will definitely not be lined with roses.

Everyone knows that in the past, Malaysia itself misunderstood the problem involving the CPM, which is the direct enemy of Malaysia. In particular, Malaysia charged that Thailand was "supporting the CPM." Thus, now that Thailand has decided to solve this problem by granting amnesty to these guerrillas and providing those who surrender with a place to live, "understanding" on the part of Malaysia is very important.

A news report from the 4th Army Region has informed KHAO PHISET that realistically, there is very little chance that Malaysia will allow the CPM guerrillas to return to Malaysia. Malaysia's prime minister has clearly stated that Malaysia will not grant amnesty to these former rebels and that it will prosecute them. Similarly, in a recent interview, Mr Ghazali, the Malaysian ambassador to Thailand, stated only that "members of the CPM who are returned under Thailand's amnesty program will not be hanged." Thus, it is still not clear what reception Malaysia would give to these former rebels.

An army lieutenant general told KHAO PHISSET that in the end, Thailand will have to shoulder the responsibility for the CPM guerrillas who surrender. The CPM guerrillas of Malaysian nationality are Chinese who have long had problems with the Malays. "The CPM was formed because of the nationality issue. The Chinese there were oppressed. If Malaysia gave them a warm reception, the CPM would think that Malaysia's political prestige had declined. The Malay's definitely won't agree to this. And if thousands of these people did return, this would just lead to another major political conflict."

In view of this, Thailand has several programs to handle the surrender of the CPM guerrillas under this amnesty program. A news report has informed KHAO PHISSET that it has been proposed that these guerrillas be given the status of "participants in the development of Thailand" (PDT) just like former members of the Communist Party of Thailand (CPT). But this must be considered carefully before an official answer is given.

If the Border Is Quiet, Who Gains and Who Loses?

It is predicted that if peace is restored along the southern border, the economy on the Thai side will improve greatly. In particular, revenues from tourism will increase. Instead of flowing to Malaysia, more currency will flow into Thailand. Thus, if things reach that point, it is thought that Malaysia may well keep a tighter hold on its sea interests at the "continental shelf" level.

A news report stated that today, while Thailand is increasing the area cultivated in para rubber trees at an average of 7 percent a year nationwide, Malaysia is rapidly reducing the area planted in rubber trees. Instead, it is planting palm trees in order to gain the lead in palm exports.

"However, if the four-five southern provinces become more peaceful, the economy there will definitely improve. Thus, we have to see whether our policy of restoring peace to the border and granting amnesty to the CPM guerrillas will stumble over anything," said an officer in the 4th Army Region to KHAO PHISSET.

The Final Offensive

As far as granting amnesty to the CPM guerrillas and repatriating them to Malaysia, Malaysia is not being very cooperative. Furthermore, if these guerrillas have no guarantee that they will be safe after receiving amnesty and being sent back to Malaysia, our policy could encounter problems.

The news report stated that at present, at the local level, preparations are being made to solve this problem. The target is to revise the Thai-Malaysian agreement, a standing order, which was signed by both governments.

This agreement clearly states that if CPM guerrillas surrender, Thailand must turn them over to Malaysia. Actually, it is thought that few members of the

CPM want to return to Malaysia. Thus, Thailand wants to revise the agreement to make return to Malaysia "voluntary." This is the only way out short of granting Thai citizenship to these guerrillas.

Keep an Eye on the Border, a Trail of Turmoil

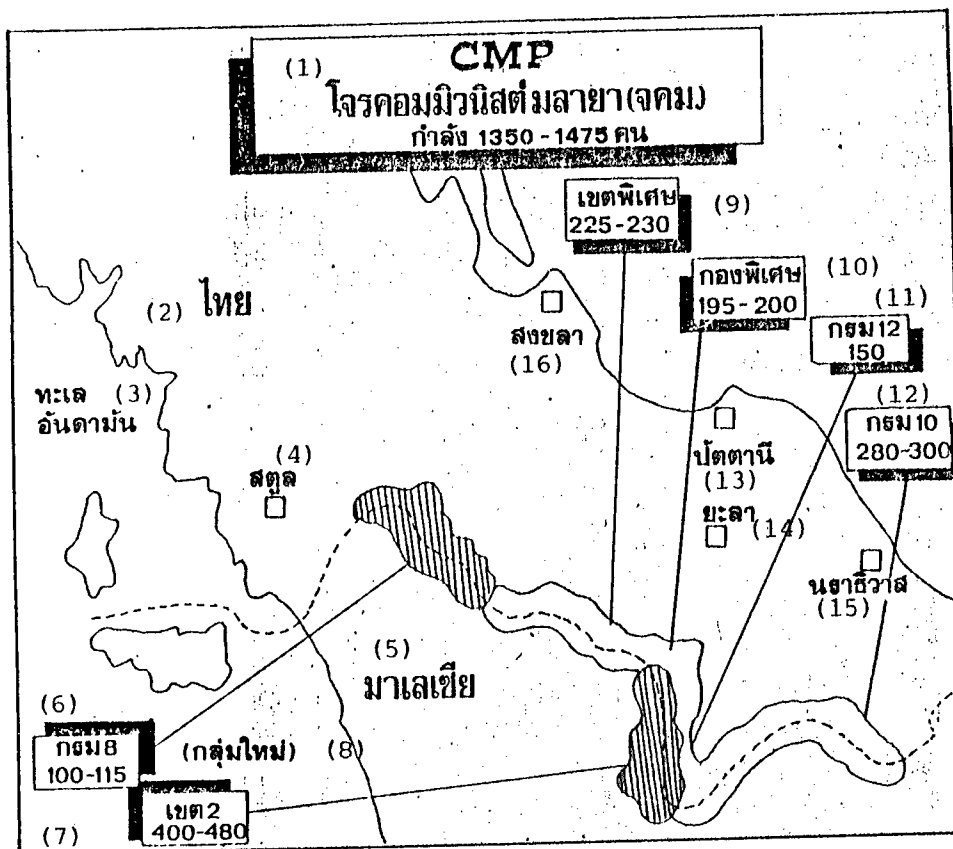
"I can assure you that these matters are unrelated to each other. The more we suppress the CPM, the more they like it. I am not lying. I can assure you that they are very happy that we have taken action against the CPM," said Lt Gen Wisit Atkhumwong, the 4th Army Region commander in response to a question by a reporter on 1 April. The reporter had asked if it was possible that Malaysia was showing its displeasure about Thailand's intention of granting amnesty to CPM guerrillas, their direct enemy, by seizing Thai fishing boats.

Even though Lt Gen Wisit may disagree, several generals who have monitored this matter feel that this is something worth thinking about and that this could well be true. But as the policy representative in the locality, it is difficult for Lt Gen Wisit to speak frankly.

Fishermen intruding into Malaysian waters is not the only issue, even though that has ended as far as the protests are concerned. The real problems have not yet been solved. On 31 March, about 200 Malaysian troops with tractors and armed vehicles destroyed a Thai slum in Padang Beshar opposite Sadao District, Songkhla Province. More than 100 homes were destroyed and burned. These soldiers drove out about 100 Thai and arrested approximately 30 Thai on charges of gambling and entering the country illegally. The evidence consisted of a pistol and 2 kg of marijuana.

Even though Padang Beshar is filled with criminals, narcotics traffickers, and smugglers and even though Malaysian officials warned the Thai living in that slum in advance, a report from the area said that this operation was part of the Malaysian government's policy of establishing order along the Thai-Malaysian border.

"This operation took place at a time when Thailand is trying to bring about peace along the border and solve the CPM problem," said the report. It concluded by expressing concern that Thailand's effort to solve the CPM problem may stumble because of a lack of understanding on Malaysia's part.



- Key:
- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Communist Party of Malaya (CPM) | 9. Special Zone: 225-230 |
| Strength: 1,350-1,475 men | 10. Special Unit: 195-200 |
| 2. Thailand | 11. 12th Regiment: 150 |
| 3. Andaman Sea | 12. 10th Regiment: 280-300 |
| 4. Satun | 13. Pattani |
| 5. Malaysia | 14. Yala |
| 6. 8th Regiment: 100-115 | 15. Narathiwat |
| 7. Zone 2: 400-480 | 16. Songkhla |
| 8. (new group) | |

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CSO: 4207/197

OPPOSITION: GOVERNMENT BOUGHT OFF MPs TO THWART VOTE

Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai 10 Apr 87 pp 1, 6

[Excerpts] Mr Sanya Sathirabut, the deputy secretary general of the Prachakon Thai Party, told reporters that on 9 April, reports appeared stating that money has been paid to opposition MPs who signed the motion calling for a no-confidence debate against the entire cabinet. In return, they have been asked to withdraw their names so that the motion will not have the 70 signatures needed to pass.

Mr Sanya said that it has been learned that each of the MPs was paid 1 million baht. There are reports that six MPs are going to withdraw their names. He said that he knows to which party they belong and that he has evidence showing that this is true. That is, some of those who have been approached are prepared to confirm that people contacted them. However, no members of the Prachakon Thai Party, Progressive Party, or Masses Party were contacted.

As for why an attempt is being made to buy off these MPs, Mr Sanya said that those engaged in this know that Mr Samak Sunthonwet, the leader of the Prachakon Thai Party, has secret data. If these data are disclosed, the government will fall. Mr Samak has never revealed these data even at meetings of opposition party leaders. But the man responsible, a minister close to the prime minister, is aware of this. The investigation reached as far away as the United States and so word of this probably reached this minister. Thus, an attempt is being made to defeat the motion calling for a no-confidence debate by spending 20-30 million baht.

"We have evidence showing wrongdoing on the part of a minister close to the prime minister. If these data cannot be disclosed at the no-confidence debate because of the failure of this motion, the Prachakon Thai Party will disclose the data to the public. These data will show that that minister engaged in activities very damaging to the country," said Mr Sanya. He said that he does not think that those who are now negotiating will succeed. Because for the motion to fail, almost 20 MPs would have to withdraw their names. That will not be easy. Besides this, the MPs must withdraw their names at a parliamentary meeting on the day of the debate. They probably won't dare do that, because they would be embarrassing themselves.

The secretary general of the Prachakon Thai Party said that an effort to ensure the failure of this motion was made even before the motion was submitted. Initially, the United Democracy Party said that 28 of its members would sign. But when it came time to sign, fewer than 10 actually signed. "This opposition is a true opposition. Unlike the previous opposition, we are not waiting for a chance to join the government," said Mr Sanya.

Mr Charat Phuachuai, an MP from Phetchabun and the deputy secretary general of the Community Action Party, talked with reporters about this, too. He said that it is not true that money has been paid to MPs to buy their votes. That is just a rumor. He said that he has questioned fellow MPs about this. Rumors are being spread in an attempt to destroy the political parties and democratic system by using current political events to tarnish parliament's image and undermine people's trust. Mr Charat said that these rumors state that members of the Community Action Party will withdraw their names. But that is simply not true. The party leader, too, has confirmed that no party member will withdraw his name. Thus, he said that he categorically denies this.

Mr Charat said that based on what has happened, something should be done to reveal the truth. "No one will withdraw his name. That is definite. Rather, more people will sign. Today, the number has increased to 84. It is not easy for people to withdraw their names. Before people can withdraw their names, a resolution must be passed at the meeting."

Mr Chakraphan Thattiyakun, an MP from Chachoengsao and the spokesman for the Progressive Party, said that he has been hearing such rumors since 8 April. But he can confirm that none of the 19 members will withdraw their names. The number signing the motion is increasing. Besides this, the Prachakon Thai Party and the Community Action Party have both confirmed that none of their members will withdraw their names. He said that he would like to tell the government that submitting this motion concerns the democratic system and that this is normal. There is no reason to become alarmed. The prime minister has told parliament that he is not worried. Now that such rumors have appeared, the ministers should not tell the people one thing but do something else. Because of such rumors, the people are becoming fed up with democracy. He said that he is sure that efforts to buy votes will fail.

Mr Buntheng Thongsawat, the leader of the United Democracy Party, said that he has heard rumors that some ministers have given about 20 million baht to MPs to get them to withdraw their names. He said that he can state categorically that members of his party will not withdraw their names.

A reporter asked what he will do if the United Democracy Party holds a meeting and passes a resolution to withdraw the names. Mr Buntheng replied that he will resign from the party. "This no-confidence motion should not cause any alarm. If people are afraid, they should not be in the government. This is normal in a democracy. The constitution gives the opposition the right to do this."

Dr Surin Phitsuwan, the secretary to the Speaker of the House, told reporters that this afternoon, Mr Chuan Likphai issued instructions to put this motion

on parliament's agenda. The matter will be taken up at a special session at 0900 hours on 22 April.

Dr Surin said that this was put on the agenda so soon in order to put an end to the rumors about people paying money to buy votes to defeat the motion. Article 46 of the regulation on parliamentary meetings states that a motion cannot be revised, which includes withdrawing or adding names, after the Speaker has put the motion on the agenda. After that, if someone wants to withdraw his name, he must obtain approval at a meeting of parliament.

A reporter asked whether any MPs had come and asked to withdraw their names today. Dr Surin said that two more had come to add their names, which makes a total of 84. No one made an official request to withdraw his name. There have just been rumors and talk about this. He said that he went and asked those whose names have been mentioned, that is, Mr Thanet Telan and Mr Wasan Intharasut of the Community Action Party, whether they intended to withdraw their names. Both said that they had no intention of withdrawing their names. Those were just rumors. It has even reached the stage where leaflets have been printed. "This is not good," said Dr Surin.

As for the resignation of Pilot Officer Chalot Worachot, Dr Surin said that Mr Chuan has been officially informed of this. Parliament will be informed of this at the meeting, and a letter will be sent to the Ministry of Interior in order to hold a by-election.

Concerning the resignation of Pilot Officer Chalot, Mr Marut Bunnak, the minister of education and the deputy leader of the Democrat Party, said that the party will hold a meeting in order to choose a candidate to run in the by-election. It cannot sit by idly. Who the candidate will be depends on the party resolution. And it is important to listen to the views of the MPs from Phayathai, Mr Decho Sawananon and Mr Chawalit Techaphaibun. This must be discussed by the executive committee before a decision is made.

Mr Phichai Rattakun, the leader of the Democrat Party and the deputy prime minister, said that he does not believe the rumors about people buying votes. This could be a matter of people trying to smear others and of people spreading rumors harmful to the country and democracy. The government feels that in holding this debate, the opposition is doing its duty in accord with the constitution. It is the opposition's duty to submit such motions. It is the government's duty to explain things. Also, where could the government get 20 million baht to buy votes?

A reporter asked his view on the RTA CINC's statement that someone had asked him to stage a coup. Mr Phichai asked why everyone thinks that the RTA CINC will stage a coup. Using the democratic system to solve the problems is the best way. The reporter said that there might not be a debate on 22 April. Mr Phichai said that nothing is going on. Everything is being done in accord with the democratic system. The opposition has acted correctly.

Squadron Leader Prasong Sunsiri, the secretary general to the prime minister, answered reporters questions about these rumors. He said that this is a political matter. People can say what they want. As Air Chief Marshal Phaniang

Kantararat, the minister of defense, said, the identity of those involved should be revealed so that we all know. If nothing is said, we can't know. Politics and the opening of parliament are like this. The reporter asked his view on Gen Chawalit's statement that someone had asked him to stage a coup. He also asked if the government had given the green light. Squadron Leader Prasong replied that he should go ask Gen Chawalit. He said that he is in no position to answer.

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CSO: 4207/202

MP SURIN FAULTS POLITICAL LIMITATIONS, MP WEAKNESSES

Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 13 Apr 87 p 3

[Interview with Mr Surin Phitsuwan, a Democrat Party MP from Nakhon Sithammarat Province and the secretary to the Speaker of the House; date and place not specified]

[Excerpts] [Question] What is your view of the political situation in the face of the things that have happened in the past several days?

[Answer] Of the various things that have happened, I think that there are two problems. One is that, in a democracy, the right to criticize things and express opinions about political and social matters is the most valuable right. If we can criticize things and express ideas and if our criticisms are on target, the people can use their own judgment in analyzing these ideas.

It can be seen that the right to make criticisms and legal rights have not been promoted. To use an analogy, the government leaders responsible have failed the test with respect to these things. This was a test to see how sincere we are with respect to these two principles. And we failed on both counts.

[Question] What can be done to correct things to ensure that elected MPs can play a role in accord with the wishes of the people?

[Answer] In the present political situation, no single group, and that includes the political parties, the security sector, and regular government officials, has sufficient power to determine the course of political development and political change. These groups are all dependent on each other. Because the regular government officials and people in the security sector succeeded in solving one of the nation's important problems, that is the communist problem, by using a clever political plan, they have great confidence in their abilities and think that they can solve the other political problems in the system if they direct things.

Today, the legislative branch has gained legitimacy and been recognized by the people through the past three-four elections. Because it has played a part in things, the legislative branch feels that it is capable of standing on its own and that it has a role to play in political development.

The things that have happened recently concern political bargaining. The disputes that have arisen are "collision points." This includes the incidents involving Mr Samak and Achan Khukrit. These are points of collision between the two ideological lines over which faction (parliament or the military) will determine the course of politics.

As I said above, no single faction has the right to determine the course of politics. I think that we must join together and pool our ideas and energy in order to form an efficient system and solve the country's social problems.

I am sure that military leaders such as Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut are very capable people who are sincere about wanting to solve the country's problems. Gen Chawalit is like a bridegroom who has to choose between two brides. One will probably follow him along the path once taken by the security sector. That is, this path calls for the use of resolute measures and the separation of power, or the centralization of power in one center. The other bride is the people and legislative branch. This bride is saying, I don't want a master. I may not obey. But don't follow me either. I may not be ready to lead. Let's walk together on the path of democracy in order to solve the problems for the people and the country. This is a point of political transition or crisis. But there is a way out for society. We have to choose one of the above paths.

[Question] You mentioned the attempt being made by the military and the MPs to play a role in guiding politics. The opposition MPs have played such a role, but the government MPs have done very little. This is clear from the withdrawal of the motion concerning thahan phran irregulars. Government MPs have frequently acted like this.

[Answer] I think that people have a mistaken view about the legislative process and about parliament. It is wrong to think that once we join the government, we no longer have the right to express views or criticize things. The political parties or MPs who have joined the government should still have the right to submit motions to debate the problems and find solutions, or options, for the administrators. The fact that government leaders feel that submitting motions is a violation of parliamentary principles is something that needs to be corrected. The parliamentary process should be a process of expressing views and offering options to the administrative branch. Parliament should be the means by which the people can express their frustrations through the MPs. The administration views each movement in parliament as something that could cause the administration to stumble. I do not think that this is good for democracy.

However, we are trying to relax the tension and solve the problems as they arise. I am sure that the administration will be broadminded and come to understand and accept the parliamentary process. In short, every faction is trying to determine exactly what the nature of the legislative process should be so that it is in harmony with the system in use today.

In 1968, the constitution in effect during the administration of Field Marshal Thanom separated the administrative and legislative branches completely. Even the establishment of a subcommittee to investigate various activities of the

administration was considered to be a violation of the constitution. Today, subcommittees carry on such activities freely. Sometimes, they do this without waiting for parliament to assign them this task. Thus, we have made much progress. We want to advance even more and have even greater rights. But other systems in society might not be able to accept this.

[Question] As for the withdrawal of the motion on the thahan phran irregulars, the people who requested that this be withdrawn are knowledgeable people who have been politicians for a long time and who should know about the democratic system. This shows that during the period that they have been involved in politics, they have not developed their political knowledge correctly. They were more concerned about saving face for someone.

[Answer] I think that there were complex reasons that we cannot understand. Very often, the activities that are carried on within the political process are activities aimed at gaining a leading role for certain groups or certain people. They do not concern honest principles. They are not carried on with clear ideals. Some of these things still concern individuals and the personal feeling that the party and legislative systems cannot really direct things. The individual is still very important in Thai politics and in each of the institutions. Thus, in each institution, political party, and political group, individuals who can lead are very important. Very often, principles are a secondary issue. This is similar to what happened with the government. Criticisms must be made in accord with legal principles.

[Question] This shows that the MPs in the political parties need to develop much more.

[Answer] Definitely. But this does not mean that there hasn't been any improvement. I think that there has been much improvement. The legislative branch does not have the power, tools, or personnel to do things like the administrative branch, which has everything at its disposal. All we have are the issues of principles, reasons, and roles. The power that we have depends on whether what we say is in accord with the principles and the degree of acceptance.

The administrative branch can talk about principles, think in a systematic manner, and take action. Take the policy of suppressing the communists using politics leads the military measures, for example. MPs had been talking about that ever since 1968. They had been talking about that for a long time. But all they did was talk. That was just an idea. They were not in a position to take action.

In short, if the principles and ideals of the legislative branch are not clear, we have nothing. Because we can't take action. I want MPs and legislative leaders to have firm and definite principles and ideals. I want to see them express their ideas in a reasonable manner based on factual data. This will increase the legitimacy of parliament.

[Question] Many MPs say that they have principles. But when some issue arises, such as the matter of withdrawing the motion on the thahan phran irregulars, very few actually speak out.

[Answer] No political group, faction, or institution operates in a vacuum. They all operate in an environment in which there are various pressures. On some issues, they have a clear standpoint or clear principles. But in some cases, the pressures are strong enough to distort things and force people to make compromises. I think that in deciding on what criteria to use to measure us in terms of our principles and ideals, the surrounding environment must be taken into consideration. It is not just the legislative branch that needs to develop. The administrative branch and the security sector must change their thinking and accept the fact that the legislative branch has a legitimate right to play an independent role and express views.

People have agreed to join the government, a coalition government that is not limited just to the legislative branch. There are other factions, too. Once you decide to join, you have much less freedom than you should have. You feel constricted, and pressures build up. As a result, some principles and ideals have to be compromised. But this does not mean that you have to compromise all the time or abandon all your ideals. It just means that you have to decide how to act in the present situation in order to establish a footing in the hope that the give and take will lead to mutual understanding. In particular, the legislative branch feels ill at ease, because it does not feel that it is helping anyone. It is as if the legislative branch lacks capabilities and has not been of any help to the government. It seems too sensitive. And our political leaders have been overly protected and have lost touch with the realities of politics. There must be evaluations, adjustments must be made constantly, and the people and their 347 representatives must express their views. But today, if you are an MP in a government party, you can't express your views freely. This is contrary to the nature of politics in a parliamentary system.

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CSO: 4207/197

COMMENTARIES VIEW LOSS OF TRUST IN PREM, DEMOCRACY

Public Losing Confidence in Prem

Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 25 Apr 87 p 7

[Article by Kiattichai Phongphanit: "A Crisis of confidence"]

[Text] A "crisis of confidence" has clearly arisen amidst the political confusion here in the present parliamentary system. If someone says that their institution has reached the end of the line, clearly, parliament has failed, too.

This failure refers to political behavior showing that parliament is not an organization that can solve the nation's problems. Instead, it is just a gathering place for people who seek legitimacy but whose actions are a farce. Not only is it impossible for the people in this organization, which is supposed to be the highest institution in the democratic system, to look each other in the face anymore, there is certainly no reason to expect that people in general want to look at these people anymore.

Today, people are losing confidence in this institution and the people in parliament, who have been referred to as being honorable and honest people who are willing to make sacrifices. Where has their honor gone, and how much longer can be people look at each with pride?

This may be a superficial conclusion to a superficial political tactic amidst a political fight at a time when the present prime minister has held this position for a long time. But it is now quite clear that no one can say anything or touch this man. Otherwise, people would not have run here and there to ensure the failure of the no-confidence motion.

What will be the result of the failure of this motion? First of all is the boredom of people at all levels. People in general no longer have much confidence in their representatives. Actually, this view has been prevalent for a long time, and it has been confirmed by the failure of this no-confidence motion. The little confidence that people had in their representatives will probably disappear completely. MPs will probably now be viewed as people who are interested only in serving their own interests. As for whether the reports about money being paid to MPs to get them to withdraw

their names from the no-confidence motion are true or not, it probably doesn't matter as far as the trust of the people is concerned.

Also, there is no longer any assurance that the intellectuals still have confidence in parliament. Intellectuals have followed the activities of parliament closely. They are tired of this and have lost confidence in view of the fact that this institution has frequently engaged in a farce that intellectuals, whether here or abroad, have found difficult to explain.

This is the trend that is evident, and the erroneous explanations by the MPs will probably generate little confidence. It's unfortunate that people's trust has eroded to this point after all the attempts to develop Thai politics. We now know that those who suppressed the truth about creating a democracy were just spouting words. It's only stupid people who talk without knowing what they are saying.

What we must now keep an eye on now that the no-confidence motion has failed is the reaction of the opposition groups. The failure of this motion is not the end of their hope as far as their duties are concerned. This group must regain its confidence.

It's possible that some MPs may resign in order to test the democratic system outside parliament. Because it is no longer possible to make such a test within parliament. This is what could happen as a result of the failure of this no-confidence motion. And what will happen if some MPs do resign is that they will have to confront each other again in various forms. The political situation will grow even more intense. The struggle will be filled with betrayals in order to erase the tarnished image of both parliament and those in this system. There will certainly be an effort to criticize others strongly.

Various things have clearly shown that parliament is losing power and that it is being dominated by an institution that relies on weapons and superior force as its source of power. Thus, various leaders and political groups realize that this situation can no longer be ignored. Because if parliament is toppled again, the politicians who have gained positions in the Prem 5 government will have few opportunities left. This is the source of the conflict between these two institutions.

Whatever will happen will happen. Parliament is not a way out for solving the problems confronting the state. Government leaders cannot be touched at a time when the military is dominating the country's political line. At the same time, the MPs are acting very suspiciously. This is the weakness that is destroying the confidence of the people.

During this frightening period, perhaps there will be a new beginning at the same point.

Columnist Blasts Politicians

Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 23 Apr 87 p 3

[Analysis column by Sucha Chunlapet: "Traitorous Politicians"]

[Text] The no-confidence debate against the entire cabinet on 22 April failed as expected. Of the 84 opposition MPs who signed the motion calling for a no-confidence debate, 15 later withdrew their names. As a result, the motion failed.

Looked at superficially, the fact that the opposition parties were unsuccessful in their call for a no-confidence debate can be viewed as a defeat for the opposition. They were defeated because they were betrayed by a few party members who signed the motion and then withdrew their names.

But looking at this more deeply, it is clear that the failure to hold this debate was a defeat for politicians, parliament, and all the political parties in the democratic system. It was a defeat for all 347 MPs.

Even though the betrayal by these 15 MPs is considered to be the main cause of this defeat, that is just one part of the reason. The betrayal by these MPs was not the decisive betrayal. Rather, it was the betrayal by the four government parties, which asked an outsider to serve as prime minister. And that is not all. These four parties have cooperated in creating a power center outside the parliamentary system. That is, they have cooperated in making Gen Prem the center of political power in the country. What is worse, the four parties have allowed the forces of Gen Prem to play a greater political role than the politicians in the democratic movement. Thus, these four political parties have betrayed democracy and the people since the very beginning in exchange for positions and profits. The politicians in these parties have betrayed the ideals of democracy and the trust of the people because of wanting to cling to the legs of Gen Prem. Thus, the politicians who have clung to Gen Prem, which includes the original 233 MPs and now these other 15 MPs, are all traitorous politicians.

Even the opposition parties that are still thinking about forming a government with Gen Prem at the next opportunity can be considered to be thinking about betrayal. The leaders of certain opposition parties are intent on being traitors by cooperating with Gen Prem. That's all right. But it should be understood that by doing this, these party leaders will lose all honor as politicians in a democracy.

The leaders of the present government parties have no shame as democratic politicians, because they did not try to help preserve democratic principles even initially. They allowed Gen Prem and his men to prevent the opposition parties from holding a no-confidence debate. This shows that these party leaders are so afraid of Gen Prem that they have forgotten what type of politicians they are. They have completely forgotten that politicians in a democracy must do everything possible to promote democracy.

Actually, the leaders of the government parties should give some advice to Gen Prem and point out the advantages of holding a no-confidence debate or criticizing the government. They should point out to him the importance and necessity of administering the country by showing a sense of responsibility toward parliament, which is the representative of the people. But instead, they have approved dirty methods to destroy democracy. Moreover, they are happy that no debate was held and that the people did not have a chance to find out what a bad job they have done in administering the country's affairs.

The first group of traitorous politicians certainly applauded the action taken by the second group of traitorous politicians. They did not realize that they were applauding the decline of democracy and the loss of people's rights.

Daily: Prem Rules Fake Democracy

Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 20 Apr 87 p 8

[Editorial: "The Essence of Gen Prem"]

[Text] At a review of naval troops last Saturday, Gen Prem Tinsulanon, the prime minister said that without the military, he would probably not be prime minister. He said that because of the appeals made to him and the moral support given, he has remained in this position and is confident that he will continue looking after the country and military.

Gen Prem also said that the political temperature is still very high. But he is confident that with the cooperation of the military and the Police Department, the temperature can be lowered. He is prime minister because of the military.

We feel that Gen Prem was being very truthful when he made these statements. This was a rare occasion, because this prime minister rarely says anything even in times of confusion and disorder in the country. This has been the case on many occasions and so it is felt that Gen Prem has been buying time to maintain his position.

However, Gen Prem's sincerity on this occasion shows the sadness of the Thai people, who have just realized that the so-called progress made by Thai politics these days has all been a sham aimed at making people think that the country is a democracy. During the 7 years that Gen Prem has been in office, we have had a fake democracy. Only one group is stipulating people's roles and that is the military, not parliament.

We don't know how numbing an effect this will have on people. They have to pay taxes and vote for MPs. But the reality is that these politicians, who are supposed to be their representatives, are actually just ornaments for the real powerholder, who attaches no importance to and is not at all interested in the democratic system.

The statements made by Gen Prem make it quite clear that the formation of a government by the political parties was just a play without any meaning. The

only thing was that, as directed by the military, the hero of the play had to be Gen Prem.

This fake democracy provides a clear indication of the future of Thai politics. As long as Gen Prem remains prime minister, he will not be concerned about democracy, the well-being of the people, or the parliamentary system. Rather, his only concern will be the military.

We don't want the idea of indirect dictatorship to appear among the Thai people. But the statements made by Gen Prem have raised this issue again. This is a great insult to the intelligence of the Thai people, who are not stupid and who cannot be fooled so easily. And once this idea has arisen in the minds of the Thai people, more and more people will come to have a negative view of Gen Prem, which could easily generate other highly undesirable effects.

Editorial Sees Major Loss of Confidence in PM

Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 23 Apr 87 p 8

[Editorial: "Don't Give Up All Hope in the Parliamentary System Just Yet"]

[Text] The attempt by the opposition parties to hold a no-confidence debate on the entire cabinet failed because 15 MPs withdrew their names from the motion to hold a debate. As a result of their action, the motion to hold a debate did not have the necessary number of names as required by the constitution.

Even before the day of the no-confidence debate, it was expected that this would happen, because MPs had revealed that several factions that support Gen Prem Tinsulanon, the prime minister, were trying to defeat this motion. They did not want this debate to delve into or even touch on the activities of Gen Prem out of fear that the prime minister would not be able to bear the criticism and that he would resign, which would have led to the collapse of parliament and resulted in the government parties being out of office. Also, this would have created difficulties for the followers of the prime minister.

It is said that 10 million baht were spent in the effort to ensure the failure of this no-confidence motion. It can be said that the followers of Gen Prem scored another victory in their efforts to protect Gen Prem and keep him from being criticized. But looking at this more deeply, it can be seen that this "victory" was another major blow to the honor of the prime minister. It does not appear that the country's leader was as afraid of criticism as his followers would have us believe. Actually, the prime minister may not have been afraid at all. Because before the debate, Gen Prem seemed very happy and said that he was "ready" for the no-confidence debate.

As for the House of Representatives, never before has it suffered such disgrace as it did this time as a result of the actions of these traitorous MPs. Everyone knows that they were paid to do this by Gen Prem's followers.

We don't want to give up all hope in the parliamentary system. We still believe that the parliamentary system can lead the country to prosperity. We hope that the people will remember the names of those MPs who betrayed the

trust placed in them by the people and remove them from parliament when they have a chance. At the same time, we hope that both the opposition and government MPs will pause and consider what happened the other day in order to restore parliament's honor. They should not allow the people to become fed up and lose all trust. That would pose a great danger to democracy.

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CSO: 4207/201

VANUATU

BRIEFS

AUSTRALIA TO AID AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT--Australia is to provide more than \$1 million [currency not further identified] to Vanuatu to strengthen the runway at (Bowerfield) airport in Port Vila. The aid package approved by the foreign affairs minister, Mr Hayden, has been announced by the Australian High Commission in Vanuatu. It follows repair work valued at \$1.7 million carried out on the runway earlier this year under Australia's aid program. The re-surfacing of the runway, taxiways, and apron will allow larger aircraft such as the Boeing 767 to land at the Port Vila airport. [Text] [Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 13 May 87 BK] /9274

CSO: 4200/562

FURTHER HANOI REPORT ON NGUYEN DUC TAM ADDRESS

BK201559 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 19 May 87

[Report on opening session of Sixth Vietnam Women's Union Congress held on 19 May at Ba Dinh Conference Hall in Hanoi--portions recorded]

[Excerpt] Dear friends, at the opening session of the Sixth National Congress of Women, Comrade Nguyen Duc Tam made a speech on behalf of the party Central Committee. He praised the spirit of sacrifice and endurance, the capacity for creative labor, and the sense of responsibility displayed by women of all walks of life and the dynamism shown by women's unions at various levels in overcoming all difficulties despite the numerous economic imbalances and contributing their energy, talents, and intellect to the national cause. Comrade Nguyen Duc Tam continued:

[Begin recording] As we are now faced with serious economic difficulties, women throughout the country must, in the next 5 years, make extraordinary efforts to join the entire party and people in overcoming difficulties and shortcomings and develop their intellect and talents in participating in the renovation of the mechanism of management and realizing the various socio-economic targets and chiefly, the three major economic programs.

All union echelons should pay attention to making women deeply aware of our country's socioeconomic situation, realize the actual problems, understand the common difficulties, and feel responsible for carrying out all party and state policies. On this basis, the union must encourage women of all strata to actively engage in productive labor and other work, enhance their sense of discipline in labor, and turn out good quality products at low cost. The union must also coordinate with the trade unions in educating women serving in the distribution and circulation sectors and enhancing their ethical qualities, their sense of responsibility, their professional awareness, and their correct attitude of service so as to create a civilized lifestyle in socialist trade.

To successfully carry out the two strategic tasks of building socialism and defending the fatherland all union echelons should constantly educate women in the concept of all-people national defense so that they will encourage their husbands, sons, and brothers to satisfactorily observe the military draft law, participate in the satisfactory implementation of the army rear service policy, and positively contribute to maintaining political security and social order and safety.

To struggle for the defense of peace and against the arms race and nuclear war is an urgent duty of all mankind. Our country's women must actively participate in this struggle so that the earth--the home shared by all nations--can escape from the scourge of war, so that mothers can live and work in peace, and so that children can study in peace and joy. [applause] [end recording]

/9738

CSO: 4200/581

BRIEFS

NUCLEAR PACT WITH INDIA--Hanoi, 28 Apr (VNA)--The State Council held its regular session today under the chairmanship of President Truong Chinh, says a communique of the council. The State Council has decided to convene the first session of the National Assembly (8th legislature) in mid-June this year. The State Council heard a report of the Council of Ministers on the policies and measures aimed at quickly and firmly implementing the resolution of the second plenum of the Party Central Committee to settle urgent problems relating to goods distribution and circulation. According to the proposal of the Council of Ministers, the communique says, the State Council has ratified an agreement on cooperation between Vietnam and India in using nuclear energy for the purpose of peace. The State Council has also decided to appoint Ho Ngoc Nhuong, vice chairman of the State Planning Committee, to be head of the office of the Council of Ministers, the communique adds. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1520 GMT 28 Apr 87 OW] /9738

CAPITAL WOMEN'S UNION CONGRESS--The paper HANOI MOI today reports that the ninth congress of delegates of the Capital Women's Union was held on 5 May at the Vietnamese-Soviet Cultural, Labor, and Friendship Palace in Hanoi. Attending the congress were 351 delegates. Also attending the congress were Comrades Nguyen Thanh Binh, secretary of the Hanoi Municipal Party Committee; Nguyen Thi Dinh, chairman of the Vietnam Women's Union; Tran Tan, chairman of the Hanoi Municipal People's Committee; representatives of various branches, sectors, mass organizations; heroes of the Armed Forces; and representatives of women's unions from Ha Son Binh and Lang Son Provinces. [Article from the press review from 6 May] [Text] [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 6 May 87 BK] /9738

VIETNAM-CZECHOSLOVAK FRIENDSHIP CHAPTER--Hanoi, 10 May (VNA)--A new chapter of the Vietnam-Czechoslovakia Friendship Association made its debut in Ho Chi Minh City on 8 May on the occasion of Czechoslovakia's 42nd national day. The Czechoslovak ambassador to Vietnam and the consul-general in Ho Chi Minh City were present on the occasion. Addressing the participants, Nguyen Van Nam, vice mayor of the city and president of the new chapter of the association, described the founding of the chapter of the city as a new step of development in the comprehensive cooperation between Vietnam and Czechoslovakia, especially between Ho Chi Minh City and its twinned city of Bratislava in Czechoslovakia. Also on the occasion, a film week and a photo exhibition on Czechoslovakia

were opened in the city. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 0710 GMT 10 May 87 OW] /9738

GREEK COMMUNIST PARTY GREETED--The CPV Central Committee has sent a message of greetings to the Communist Party of Greece [CPG] on the occasion of its 12th congress. The message points out: We are convinced that your 12th congress will usher in a new period in the enhancement of the CPG's strength and role in the struggle of the Greek people. On this occasion, we sincerely thank the CPG and the Greek people for their warm support for the Vietnamese people's national construction and defense. May the solidarity and friendship between the two parties and peoples of Vietnam and Greece be constantly consolidated and developed. [Text] [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 11 May 87 BK] /9738

OUTGOING SRV ENVOY--Hanoi, 11 May (VNA)--Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang received in Beijing on 9 May Vietnamese Ambassador Nguyen Trong Vinh who paid a farewell call on him before leaving China for home for a new assignment. Earlier, the outgoing Vietnamese ambassador had been received by Chinese Minister for Foreign Affairs Wu Xueqian. He attended an informal dinner hosted by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Liu Shuqing. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1500 GMT 11 May 87 OW] /9738

NO PARTICIPATION IN CAMBODIA CONFERENCE--Hanoi, 12 May (VNA)--Vietnam will by no means participate in the so-called "International Conference on Kampuchea" to be held in Bangkok in July 1987, said a spokesman for the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in answering VNA on a report that Vietnam may be invited to that conference. The spokesman continued: "As known to everyone, the so-called 'International Conference on Kampuchea' to be held in Bangkok this July by a number of non-governmental organizations is an ill-intentioned move aimed at breathing life to the disintegrating Khmer reactionaries and coping with the strong public demand for the elimination of the genocidal Pol Pot clique. Obviously, the holding of such a conference is a blatant interference into the internal affairs of the People's Republic of Kampuchea. It only causes confrontation and tension, running counter to common trend for dialogue to solve the differences in the region, and creating obstacles to the search for a political solution to the Kampuchean and Southeast Asia issues." [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1456 GMT 12 May 87 OW] /9738

DELEGATION TO LENINGRAD--At the invitation of the Leningrad Oblast Party Committee, a Ho Chi Minh City delegation led by Nguyen Ngoc An, member of the city party committee standing body and head of the city party economic committee, recently arrived in Leningrad to attend a conference of cities with sworn brotherhood with the city named after Lenin. The conference, which was held 24-26 March 1987, discussed the topic of perfecting party leadership over in-depth economic development. Comrade F. Solovyev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Leningrad Oblast Party Committee, worked with delegation heads prior to the opening of the conference. [Summary] [Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG in Vietnamese 7 Apr 87 pp 1, 2 BK] /9738

SRV EMBASSY LABOR DAY--On 18 April, cadres and employees of the Vietnamese Embassy and representative offices in the USSR and many other embassies of the fraternal countries participated in the Communist Labor Saturday on the occasion of Lenin's 117th birthday. Vietnamese Charge d'Affaires Nguyen Van Quang and more than 100 embassy cadres and employees joined the staffers of the Lao, Cambodian, Cuban, and Nicaraguan Embassies in repairing the Lenin Central Stadium. Our cadres and employees helped move a materials warehouse, dug more than 100 meters of trench to lay cables, and repaired a parking lot. Representatives of the steering committee, administration, party committee, and trade union of the stadium warmly hailed the active labor spirit and the results of work of our embassy cadres which manifested the Vietnamese-Soviet friendship and the internationalist spirit. The Vietnamese community in the Soviet Union including students, trainees, and workers also actively took part in the communist labor day at various Soviet schools and enterprises. [Text] [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 20 Apr 87 BK] /9738

USSR BOOK ON VIETNAM--Hanoi, 13 May (VNA)--The "Polizdat" publishing house in Moscow has published a book on Vietnam titled "The Season of Lotus Blossoms" by Soviet writer A. Voronin who has many times visited Vietnam both in war and peace. The book gives lively descriptions of Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City and several Soviet-equipped projects such as the Hoa Binh and Tri An hydroelectric power plants and the Vung Tau gas and oil center. It also contains interesting information about Vietnam's development and denounces the imperialists' and other reactionary forces' sabotage activities against Vietnam. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1443 GMT 13 May 87 OW] /9738

MEDALS TO SOVIET WORKERS--Hanoi, 14 May (VNA)--Two Soviet workers have been decorated with Vietnam's friendship medals in recognition of their services in assembling a stationary oil rig on Vietnam's continental shelf. The recipients are N. Kuznetsov and M. Mirenkov of the Vyborg shipyard in Leningrad. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1447 GMT 14 May 87 OW] /9738

MOZAMBICAN LEADER RECEIVES SRV ENVOY--Hanoi, 15 May (VNA)--"Vietnam will continue to be a great source of encouragement for the Mozambican people in their struggle against sabotage activities by bandit forces, henchmen of the South African apartheid regime," said Mozambican Premier Mario da Graça Machungo in Maputo recently. While receiving Vietnamese Ambassador Phan Hung on 7 May, the Mozambican leader expressed his satisfaction at the constant consolidation and development of the friendship and fraternal cooperation between the parties and states of Mozambique and Vietnam. He expressed his gratitude to the Vietnamese people for their support and assistance to Mozambique. He also highly commended Vietnamese experts working in Mozambique for their intelligence, creativeness and industriousness. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1503 GMT 15 May 87 OW] /9738

HO CHI MINH YOUNG PIONEERS--Hanoi, 15 May (VNA)--The Ho Chi Minh Young Pioneer Brigade, which marks its 46th anniversary today, has a membership of more than 10 million throughout the country. The brigade has rallied all Vietnamese children and recommended them to love the homeland and their countrymen, study and work well, and be honest, modest and brave. In addition, it has involved

them in social activities. Five thousand "Many Non" (Bamboo Shoot) cooperatives were set up, drawing large numbers of children in tree planting, crop farming and domestic animal raising, thus practically contributing to the building of agricultural cooperatives in their villages. The most prominently social activity of the Young Pioneers is their assistance to wounded and fallen soldiers' families. They came to the families in need and helped them clean the house, do gardening, tend buffaloes and cows, etc. The children have also set up more than 3,000 clubs for cultural activities. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1514 GMT 15 May 87 OW] /9738

VIETNAM-USSR ARCHIVAL COOPERATION--Hanoi, 16 May (VNA)--Archival cooperation between Vietnam and the Soviet Union have been incasingly promoted over the past two decades. During this period, hundreds of Vietnamese archival cadres including holders of candidate doctorates have been trained in the Soviet Union. Archival bodies of the two countries have exchanged their visits to accelerate their mutual understanding and learn experience from each other. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1505 GMT 16 May 87 OW] /9738

VIETNAM-BULGARIAN AMITY GROUP--Hanoi, 20 May (VNA)--The Vietnam-Bulgaria Friendship Association has sent a message of greetints to its counterpart in Bulgaria on the latter's 10th founding anniversary. The message notes that the Bulgaria-Vietnam Friendship Association's activities over the past 10 years have made effective contributions to the solidarity, friendship and cooperation between the peoples of Vietnam and Bulgaria. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1720 GMT 20 May 87 OW] /9738

WEST BERLIN LEADER GREETED--Hanoi, 20 May (VNA)--Nguyen Van Linh, secretary general of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, has sent congratulations to Horst Schmidt on his re-election as chairman of the Socialist Unity Party of West Berlin. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1721 GMT 20 May 87 OW] /9738

INTERNATIONAL ART EXHIBITION--Hanoi, 20 May (VNA)--An international graphic art and painting exhibition entitled "for peace and socialism" opened here yesterday. The exhibition, the first of its kind in Vietnam, displays 265 works of 165 artists from the Soviet Union, the GDR, Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Laos, Kampuchea and Vietnam. The exhibits feature the world people's ardent aspiration for peace and against war, particularly the mass destruction of nuclear weapons, and their efforts in socialist construction. Nine entries from the nine participating countries were given prizes by the exhibition jury. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 0707 GMT 20 May 87 OW] /9738

HONORS FOR CUBAN OFFICES--In Havana, on 7 April, the SRV Embassy held a ceremony to present the Friendship Order to three Cuban offices and one individual for their assistance in the printing and distribution of the VIETNAM PICTORIAL magazine in Spanish in Cuba and other Latin American countries. By order of the SRV Council of State, Ambassador Hoang Luong presented the order to representatives of the Osvaldo Sanchez printery of the Cuban Ministry of Culture; the magazine MONCADA of the Interior Ministry; the Post, Press, and Telegraph Enterprise of the Communications Ministry; and Ms Lucia Sardinias, director of the Publishing Department of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee's Cultural Commission. [Excerpt] [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 11 Apr 87 BK] /9738

DEATH OF BUDDHIST NUN--On 17 and 18 April at the Ngoc Phuong nunnery in Go Vap Precinct of Ho Chi Minh City, more than 100 representatives of various organs and mass organizations at the central level and in Ho Chi Minh City and other southern provinces and of various religious groups and many Buddhist followers paid floral tribute to the late nun Huynh Lien, member of the Hi Chi Minh City VFF Committee and head of the Vietnam Mendicant Nuns Religious Order, who passed away recently. Comrade Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the CPV Central Committee, and lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho, chairman of the national assembly, also sent their representatives to pay floral tributes to the late nun. [Summary] [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 20 Apr 87 BK] /9738

CSO: 4200/581

PARTY OFFICIAL, SOVIET EXPERT AT HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

BK110611 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 6 May 87

[Report on 5 May ceremony attended by Ngo Xuan Loc, CPV Central Committee alternate member and director of the Da River Hydroelectric Construction General Corporation, held by Vietnamese and Soviet workers at Hoa Binh hydroelectric power project site to launch a 60-day socialist emulation drive--portions recorded]

[Summary] "In order to ensure safe flash flood control activities in 1987, though faced with numerous difficulties in production and welfare, workers at the Hoa Binh hydroelectric power project have, since early this year, stepped up the socialist emulation movement while building various parts of the project and have attained significant results."

At one site, dam construction has reached 70 and 73 meters respectively at the sluice gate section and at other sections. Over 2 million cubic meters of dirt and stone were used and over 2,800 metric tons of equipment have been installed at various sluice gates.

"Implementing a pledge made to Comrade General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh during the latter's recent visit to the site and in order to ensure flash flood safety control activities in 1987, on the morning of 5 May, at a height of 73 meters at one section of a dam, prior to entering a new work day scores of Vietnamese cadres and workers and Soviet experts representing more than 30,000 workers at the Da River hydroelectric power project site attended a ceremony to begin a 60-day emulation drive to achieve all the 1987 flash flood control targets and to score achievements to mark the 70th anniversary of the Great October Revolution."

In this emulation drive efforts must be made to ensure that the dam will be raised to a height of 81 meters and that almost all dam construction and sluice gate assembly activities will be completed before 1 July 1987.

"Addressing the ceremony, Comrade Ngo Xuan Loc, alternate member of the CPV Central Committee and director general of the Da River Hydroelectric General Corporation said:

[Begin Ngo Xuan Loc recording] "The current schedule does not permit us to be sluggish. All work collectives at the project site must, with the strength of their unity and singlemindedness and with their staunch working spirit and their creative intelligence, participate in exuberant emulation activities, trying to ensure that each passing day and each passing hour of the 60 days is truly the glorious day and hour of successes and that the 1987 flash flood control task is safely carried out. In this way outstanding achievements will be scored to greet the 70th anniversary of the October Revolution and the 42d anniversary of the August Revolution and the 2 September National Day." [applause] [end Ngo Xuan Loc recording]

On behalf of a Soviet team of experts, Mr (Bogachenko), a senior expert, said:

[Begin (Bogachenko) recording in Russian fading into Vietnamese translation] We have no alternative other than to complete all the work before 1 July. On behalf of Soviet experts, I would like to urge all of you, comrades, to demonstrate our sense of responsibility and to devote your greatest efforts to ensuring successful completion of this task, as we have already pledged during CPV Central Committee General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh's recent visit to the project site. [end (Bogachenko) recording]

Some Vietnamese workers, including Nguyen Trong Hieu, Doan Dinh Hai, and Do Duy Tien, also spoke about their determination to carry out this emulation drive.

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CSO: 4200/554

BINH MINH CLOTHING FACTORY SUPPORTED BY CEMA COUNTRIES

Tselinograd FREUNDSCHAFT in German 23 Apr 87 p 3

[Text] The state mark of quality has been awarded to some of the products of the Binh Minh Clothing Factory in the Vietnamese capital. Displaying product samples of the enterprise that received high marks, the factory workers emphasize that thanks for these achievements are owed not only to their work but also to the contributions of the foreign partners. The Binh Minh factory is one of the thus far few Vietnamese enterprises which have established production cooperation with CEMA countries. The Hungarian partners of the Binh Minh factory helped the enterprise retool, introduce modern technology, and deliver materials for it; the products made from the fabric enjoy great demand on the world market.

Production cooperation is something new for Vietnam's light industry, therefore does not yet proceed smoothly for the time being. The initial experiences have, however, convincingly proved the advantages of this form of cooperation: The SRV enterprises achieve the possibility of attaining not only technical modernization but also of creating additional jobs. Aside from Hungary the following countries are now participating in production cooperation with Vietnam: Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, and the Soviet Union.

12356

CSO: 4620/28

ARMY PAPER VIEWS SWEDISH AID TO COUNTRY

BK100902 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 4 May 87

[4 May QUAN DOI NHAN DAN article: "Sweden's Good-Will Program for Vietnam"]

[Text] Located in northern Europe, Sweden, though small in population, is a beautiful country. For many decades now, Sweden has persisted in following an absolutely neutral policy. This has contributed to boosting international development in many respects and to strengthening friendly relations between countries, especially during the time when Prime Minister Olof Palme was in power. He was described by Carl Bildt, chairman of the moderate coalition party, as a great personality in view of Sweden's foreign policy who left his mark and his color on Sweden's international activities.

The Swedish Government has assisted developing countries in all respects--grain, education, public health, and debt payment. Sweden's aid-for-development program is, for the most part, reserved for the poorest countries. Especially, it is chiefly reserved for African countries--about two-thirds of the total aid--such as Tanzania, Mozambique, Angola, and other newly-liberated countries which have suffered many serious consequences from the colonialist system.

Sweden's cooperative programs for development of developing countries have been carried out through many ways direct and indirect. One-third of the aid is provided directly to selected countries; one-third is reserved for bilateral programs; and the remaining one-third--which involves multilateral programs--is contributed to various international organizations, especially UN organizations and the World Bank. Bilateral programs are generally carried out through Sweden's International Development Agency or CIDA. As for those multilateral programs, they are generally implemented through various international organizations. In addition, there are also programs for cooperation in scientific-technical research which are generally carried out through various Swedish agencies for scientific cooperation with developing countries [words indistinct] and the Technical Cooperation [words indistinct].

For many years now, Vietnam has also been given valuable assistance--both moral and material, during wartime as well as during the current national construction--by the people and government of Sweden for many years now. Among the countries in Asia being given Swedish aid, Vietnam is one of

the countries that has received the largest amounts. Since 1973, Vietnam has been given aid under a Swedish program of cooperation for development. Before that, aid came in the form of humanitarian aid. So far, Swedish aid for Vietnam has amounted to \$800 million, a large figure but the largest of all is still the Swedish people's kind-heartedness and the sympathy for the Vietnamese people.

Many Vietnamese-Swedish friendship projects have been built to help our people overcome difficulties. Children going to school are very happy to write on the beautiful white pages of their notebooks which are produced by the Bai Bang paper mill built with Swedish assistance. Every time when they take their children to the Olof Palme Pediatrics Hospital for physical examination or for treatment, Vietnamese mothers cannot but feel deeply moved at the whole-hearted assistance by Swedish experts and doctors who have helped us build four pediatrics hospitals with modern equipment. In addition, the Swedish Government has also assisted us in many other projects such as the Uong Bi and Quang Ninh Hospitals, the Thu Duc Power Plant, and so forth.

These fine successes have been possible thanks to the great efforts of the governments and peoples of Vietnam and Sweden; for beside the majority of the Swedish people who support the program of cooperation with and development for Vietnam, some people have yet to fully understand the situation in Vietnam and the effectiveness of Swedish aid to Vietnam. A few have been reluctant and even refused to approve of aid to Vietnam. However, realities still remain the most convincing proof for those who are in doubt. Therefore, Swedish Government officials and various Swedish organizations, individuals, and journalists have on many occasions visited Vietnam to study the actual situation and witnessed with their own eyes the results of Swedish aid.

Our government and people always clearly show their goodwill toward and highly welcomed the presence of Swedish friends in Vietnam; and they are prepared to create all favorable conditions for the Swedish delegations during their visits and contacts so they can clearly understand the actual situation. Following their visits to various localities and to many projects built with Swedish aid, the various Swedish delegations have been very pleased and noted that the situation is fine.

During her recent visit to Vietnam, Swedish Minister for Development Aid Lena Hjelm-Wallen also toured a number of Swedish-aided projects; and her visit has surely contributed to further strengthening the relations of friendship and cooperation between Sweden and Vietnam. Recently, the Swedish Riksdag approved the Swedish Government's proposal to give 300 million kronor in aid to Vietnam for fiscal year 1987-88. This money will be used in the paper industry, forestry, public health, electricity, and some other sectors in support of production and life.

/9604

CSO: 4200/554

NHAN DAN REPORTS CABINET RESOLUTION ON TOURISM

BK080915 Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 21 Apr 87 pp 1, 4

[VNA report]

[Text] The Council of Ministers on 11 April issued a resolution on the development of tourism and the reorganization of tourist management in our country.

After acknowledging the tourist sector's contributions over the past years, the Council of Ministers pointed out the sector's main standing problems. Because of its failure to fully understand the role and character as well as the political, economic, and social effect of tourism, the sector has not devised a relatively long-term tourist development strategy; nor has it been able to mobilize the potential of various sectors and echelons for the organization and development of tourism. The material and technical bases supporting tourism are inadequate, especially in Hanoi and other well-known tourist centers like Ha Long, Hue, and so forth. Many hotels with relatively adequate facilities have not been managed satisfactorily and have, therefore, been allowed to depreciate quickly. Many famous sceneries and historical relics have not been rehabilitated, preserved, and maintained; and travelling conditions are unfavorable. The contents of tourist promotion activities are poor, and service quality is low, far from meeting the demands of tourists, especially international tourists. Some principles and procedures on entering and leaving the country, on customs, on traveling within the country, and on filming and taking photographs now being applied to tourists are rigid and complicated and do not attract foreign tourists to visit the country.

The Council of Ministers urged the tourist sector to promptly overcome these shortcomings and satisfactorily carry out the following tasks: drafting a long-term tourist development strategy that will acknowledge the fact that in developing tourism economic results must be associated with political, cultural, and security interests; eliminating complicated systems, regulations, and procedures that are limiting tourist activities; and promptly promulgating intersectorial entry and exit and customs regulations and procedures on travelling within the country. It is necessary to create favorable conditions for tourists to film, take

photographs, and have contacts in conformity with the international tourist conventions, charter, and practices, while ensuring national security. There is need to build material and technical bases for the tourist sector, to expand financial autonomy of the sector and other tourist business enterprises, and to quickly reorganize the system of tourist management from central to local levels. As for management and business, 10 foreign tourist centers are to be established in Hanoi, Ha Long, Haiphong, Hue, Da Nang, Nha Trang, Da Lat, Vung Tau-Con Dao, Can Tho, and Ho Chi Minh City.

/9604

CSO: 4200/554

NHAN DAN CALLS FOR INCREASED ATTENTION TO TOURISM

BK120938 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 5 May 87

[6 May NHAN DAN editorial: "Step Up Tourism Activities"]

[Text] In many countries, tourism has become a major sector of great economic and social significance. Traveling inside and outside the country is a growing demand of the people as they wish to view the special scenic spots and significant historical sites of their country and to broaden their knowledge of the history, culture, traditions, and customs of other countries.

Our country, with an age-old cultural tradition, a boisterous revolutionary struggle, and diverse terrain, has great latent potential in tourism. The CPV Central Committee Political Bureau's report presented at the Sixth CPV Congress points out that it is the duty of our tourism sector to quickly exploit our country's favorable conditions to expand tourism with domestic capital investment and through cooperation with other countries.

In the past, our country's tourism sector has renovated and built a number of material-technical bases. It has trained a contingent of professional cadres, workers, and civil servants; gradually expanded in-country tourism; welcomed a number of foreign tourists; and contributed to introducing the scenic spots of Vietnam and its people to our friends and guests from a number of countries. Our tourism has, however, developed slowly. Many existing problems have to be tackled and many shortcomings promptly overcome. We do not have a long-term strategy for tourism development on the basis of conceiving adequately the position, character, and combined effect of tourism on the political, economic, and social fields. The material-technical bases catering to tourism in a number of key areas remain inadequate and weak. A number of establishments have yet to be satisfactorily managed, so they are declining quickly. Many historical sites and beautiful landscapes have yet to be properly preserved, maintained, and renovated while transport conditions in a number of localities are not yet convenient. The substance of tourism remains too simple and service quality and business efficiency are still low. Cooperation between the tourism sector and other relevant sectors such as foreign affairs, interior, customs, communications and transportation, and civil aviation is not synchronized and the responsibilities of each sector toward tourism have yet to be clearly specified.

To step up tourism and rectify its organization and management, the Council of Ministers recently issued a resolution clearly defining the functions of the tourism sector and the responsibilities of relevant sectors. This is to rectify the organization of the tourism sector and develop tourism uniformly in accordance with the orientation, tasks, and objectives of socioeconomic development.

Tourism must be broadened on the basis of a relatively long-term strategy and a full understanding of the idea of closely linking economic results with the country's political, cultural, and security interests. It is necessary to formulate a plan for cooperation between our tourism sector and other tourism organizations in the world, especially in the areas under the socialist system; determine and quickly form various tourism itineraries for the three Indochinese countries; and gradually create conditions for Vietnamese citizens to travel abroad, especially to various fraternal socialist countries.

As for in-country tourism, it is necessary to pay attention to developing travel between the south and the north and between the mountain and lowland regions and gradually stabilize various tourist itineraries with a high educational character, thereby contributing to instilling the revolutionary tradition in the younger generation and the people at large.

Along with actively building the material-technical bases in accordance with the motto of using short-term plans to foster long-term plans and making satisfactory use of all existing means, the tourism sector must cooperate with relevant sectors in doing away with troublesome systems, formalities, and procedures and in promptly promulgating an intersectorial regulation--including tourism, interior, foreign affairs, and customs--on the entry and exit issue, customs procedures, and other procedures for in-country travel. This is to create favorable conditions for tourists in keeping with various tourism conventions, the international tourism charter, and international tourism traditions.

It is necessary to urgently rectify the tourism management system from the central down to local and grassroots levels in the direction of discarding the system of bureaucratic centralism and state subsidies and shifting completely to the system of economic accounting and socialist business with a determination to ensure the unified management of the central government while developing the dynamism and creativity of the grassroots level.

Reviewing experiences obtained in the past and applying experiences obtained by fraternal countries and other countries with a new dynamic and creative perception, our country's tourism sector will certainly be able to generate a new momentum for development, enabling tourism to flourish vigorously and steadily to meet gradually and effectively the demands for tourism of our people and of our friends worldwide.

/8309

CSO: 4200/557

HO CHI MINH CITY REGULATION ON BUSINESS AUTONOMY

BK121524 Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG in Vietnamese 8 Apr 87 p 2

["Full text" of Ho Chi Minh City People's Committee's 31 March 1987 "Regulation on the Right to Autonomy in Production and Business of Basic State-run Economic Units Under the Management of the City and Its Various Precincts and Districts"--Part 1]

[Text] General Regulations on Basic State-run Economic Units

I. Position and Role of Basic State-run Economic Units

1. Enterprise combines, corporations, united enterprises, and enterprises--the cells of the social economy in the city which belong to industrial, agricultural, marine products, construction, communication and transportation, and other sectors and fall under the management of the city and its various precincts and districts--(hereafter referred to as enterprises) are production-business units under state ownership; they have full status as legal persons and are places where the working class produces material and cultural wealth for society, accumulates capital for the state, and realizes the process of expanded reproduction. Enterprises are schools of socioeconomic management where workers and intellectuals build socialism and carry out the three revolutions with the aim of developing the national economy by developing production forces while perfecting socialist production relations. Enterprises are also places for building and training the new socialist men as well as the strong fortresses and bases for national defense and security in the city.

2. All activities of an enterprise are subjected to the leadership of the party committee echelons and to the direct management and supervision of its director, with workers and public employees participating in management in accordance with the socialist management principles spelled out in Resolution 19 of the city party committee.

The operation of an enterprise must be centered around its plan. The plan of an enterprise is formulated in accordance with the city's programs and plans for socioeconomic development and on the principles of economic accounting and socialist business, self-recovery of capital to ensure production, and profitable business to accumulate capital for expanded reproduction.

II. Duties of Enterprises

--In implementation of Resolution 8 of the party Central Committee (fifth tenure), the city party organization's fourth congress resolution, and the resolution of the Sixth National Party Congress, local state-run enterprises are shifted to carrying out the system of economic accounting and socialist business. Each enterprise must successfully realize the principles of self-supply, self-recovery of capital, self-development, and modernization; fully honor its obligations to the state; improve the livelihood of its labor force, and contribute to refurbishing and developing the infrastructure of the locality where it is located.

--Ensure profitable production-business activities, effectively utilize the capacity of machinery and equipment, turn out products of high quality, modernize technical methods and the organization of production, and assume the leading role of a state-run enterprise in the economic-technological field.

--Study both domestic and foreign market demands, improve technology, apply technological innovations and advanced production techniques to lower production costs and improve product quality, link production with consumption, and rapidly increase the turnover and efficiency of capital investments.

III. Enforce the Mechanism of "Leadership by the Party, Collective Mastery by the People, and Management by the State" and the One-Man Leader System in Economic Management at the Enterprise

1. Observe the CPV Statutes (Articles 35-36), Directive No 49/CTTU on enhancing the militancy and quality of leadership of basic party organizations at state-run economic units, Decision No 48/QDTU on the work procedures for party committees and chapters at enterprises and grassroots economic units belonging to the state sector, and Resolution 306 (draft) of the Political Bureau on guaranteeing grassroots economic units' right to autonomy in production and business.

2. Observe Decree 182 and 217 on the four systems--the system of responsibilities; the system of discipline, the system of protection for public property, and the system of service for the people--Decree 83/CP on regulations for state-run industrial enterprises, and Decision 19 of the Ho Chi Minh City Party Committee on the enterprise system.

IV. Forms of Management for Enterprises

1. Enterprise combines, general corporations ... (hereafter referred to as combines) are production and business organizations comprising various enterprises that are closely interrelated in the economic-technological field; and at the same time, they are the direct higher production-management organs of grassroots production-business units. Apart from implementing and applying fully the mechanism of management prescribed for enterprises, a combine shall also assume the function of management over the economic-technological branch assigned to it.

Internally, a combine shall clearly define the responsibilities of its director general and its various professional offices and sections toward the subordinate enterprises on the principle of fully guaranteeing the right of grassroots economic units' right to autonomy in production and business.

As an immediate step, the city will consolidate enterprise combines, set up new combines, and join the central sectors and the localities in studying the formation of regional combines.

Pilot units for the organization of combines shall include enterprises under central and local management so as to carry out more satisfactorily the principle of combining management based on sectors with management based on localities and territorial divisions.

2. There are four types of enterprises:

a) Enterprises belonging to a combine fully have the status as legal persons; they have all the obligations as do enterprises subordinate to a service, but are subordinate to the enterprise combine in economic-technical branch management and in some administrative aspects.

b) Independent enterprises directly subordinate to a service, precinct, or district--irrespective of their size--all have the status as legal persons; and they must plan to surge forward to become leading enterprises of economic-technical branches.

c) United enterprises set up in accordance with the Council of Ministers' regulations enjoy full status as legal persons. Depending on the character of production, united enterprises may lie within enterprise combines of economic-technical branches.

d) Enterprises or corporations operating as joint ventures with foreign countries (socialist and capitalist) shall be set up in accordance with the agreement reached between the participating parties and with special regulations of the city people's committee.

3. Management at the service level (except for combined services):

--Service is an organ assuming the state management (administrative-economic management) over one or more economic-technical branches belonging to the five economic components under its jurisdiction.

--Management over production-business activities is fully entrusted to production units (combines, united enterprises, and enterprises).

--The service's functions of state management consist of formulating long-term (5-year) programs and plans; developing branch science and technology; transforming and reorganizing production in accordance with economic-technical branches; studying domestic demands and the possibility of joint business with foreign countries; proposing concentrated investments for new production establishments; joining the Planning Commission in guiding enterprises to formulate plans in accordance with the various resolutions; studying policies

and systems for branch development; training and rationally employing the contingent of cadres; and supervising and encouraging the implementation of party and state viewpoints and policies.

The organization of the service must be streamlined to ensure efficiency. The service will not directly intervene in the production-business activities of enterprises. Enterprises are allowed to work directly with the various services and combined organs of the city--including the planning, financial, banking, pricing, supply, scientific-technological, labor, administration, and other organs--to resolve their needs within the scope of the plan norms assigned to them or within the limit of the authorities delegated to them.

Depending on the specific situation of each branch, it is necessary to step by step shift the operation of the various services to the functions of state management as required by the need to renovate the mechanism of management (a decision will be adopted by the city people's committee regarding the organizational and operational rules for each service).

V. Establishment and Dissolution

The establishment of a new enterprise based on an economic-technical feasibility study will be proposed by the director of the service in charge and the precinct or district people's committee concerned to the city people's committee for decision. For large enterprises to be set up with capital loans obtained from foreign countries, the city people's committee will make its decision based on the advice of the city economic-technical council.

Regarding enterprises that run up business losses:

--The higher organ of these enterprises will look into the causes and help them break even and gradually earn a profit. Managerial cadres of these enterprises will be replaced if they are found to be deficient in managerial and supervisory capabilities and unable to operate the enterprises at a profit.

--Enterprises should change their production orientations if they keep running up losses for a prolonged period and are unable to improve their operation because their products are of poor quality and sell at prices higher than those offered by other enterprises.

--If all of the above measures fail, they may be merged with other enterprises of the same branch so as to conduct profitable production-business activities; or bids will be sought from contractors for their restoration in accordance with the plans adopted by the city people's committee for that purpose.

--If these enterprises continue to run up business losses, they will be dissolved. The service in charge and the combined organs concerned will assist in dealing with the consequences arising from their dissolution.

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CSO: 4200/557

HO CHI MINH CITY ADOPTS 'URGENT' ECONOMIC MEASURES

BK121330 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 12 May 87

[Text] The People's Council of Ho Chi Minh City has met to review the implementation of the Socioeconomic Plan during the first 4 months of this year and to set forth urgent measures to unravel the difficulties in production and life.

Since Decision No 80-HDBT was issued by the Council of Ministers, trade activities in Ho Chi Minh City have undergone positive changes, with commodities increasing in both variety and quantity and the prices of many essential articles going down. However, due to the lack of cash and the failure to promptly change the direction of business activities, the amount of goods exchanged on the market by the socialist trade sector has tended to decrease.

In the 2d quarter, the city should concentrate on unraveling difficulties in production while striving to further stabilize the living conditions of workers, civil servants, and the armed forces. In the immediate future, the city will strive to speed up the delivery of supplies and raw materials from the central echelon, including the supplies for use in producing goods under contract for foreign countries, enhance economic cooperation and coordination between industrial enterprises and the city's import-export and internal trade sectors, and implement various plans for direct importation of raw materials for industrial production and for the procurement of foreign currency.

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CSO: 4200/557

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE DISCUSSES CROP CULTIVATION PLANS

BK111409 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 6 May 87

[Summary] "On 5 and 6 May, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry held a conference to review the winter-spring crop production and to discuss plans for the 1987 summer-fall crop and 10th-month crop production in the northern provinces. Attending the conference were directors of agriculture services in provinces from Binh Tri Thien northward.

"According to an assessment by the conference, the entire country has planted 1.805 million hectares of winter-spring rice, with the north alone accounting for 1.38 million hectares--96.3 percent of the planned norm."

The Mekong River Delta is harvesting winter-spring rice with an estimated increase in paddy output of 75,000-80,000 metric tons. The yield of this rice on more than 50,000 hectares in the northern provinces has seriously been affected by northeasterly seasonal winds because it is in flower. "Meanwhile, due to prolonged warm weather, another 350,000 hectares have also been affected by drought."

In addition to difficulties caused by weather conditions, blight and insects harmful to rice have appeared and developed on a relatively large area. These include rice blast, ground beetles, and leafhoppers.

The conference also reviewed shortcomings in production leadership by various sectors, echelons, and localities that have considerably affected the yield and output of winter-spring rice.

"With regard to the summer-fall crop production, the conference unanimously agreed with the plan advanced by the state for the cultivation of 930,000 hectares of rice. The north alone must plant 130,000 hectares."

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry will concentrate on supplying fertilizer and insecticide right from the beginning of the crop season to ensure intensive cultivation.

"As for the 10th-month crop production, the entire country will strive to achieve more than 3 million hectares. The north alone will plant 1.3 million hectares. It is necessary to expand the area of early 10th-month rice to

approximately 300,000 hectares with rice varieties TR-203, KT-10, Nong Nghiep 2, and IR-64 to pave the way for the expansion of the 1987 winter crop season."

The conference also discussed measures to protect 10th-month rice against waterlogging and drought, as well as to supply materials for the 10th-month crop production through the development of the cultivation of subsidiary and industrial crops and expansion of animal husbandry among state-run establishments, collectives, and families of cooperative members.

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CSO: 4200/557

ARMY DAILY VIEWS FRUIT, VEGETABLE EXPORTS

BK091558 Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 21 Apr 87 p 3

[Article by Viet An: "What Have We Seen Through the Export of Fresh Vegetables and Fruits From the Northern Provinces?"]

[Text] Fresh vegetables and fruits have been exported by Vietnam to the Soviet Union in accord with the bilateral agreement on cooperation in production and export. In the northern provinces (from Nghe Tinh northward), the organization of supply sources and businesses dealing in export vegetables and fruits is the duty of Vegetables and Fruits Export-Import Corporation No 1 (Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry).

In previous years, the northern provinces exported a smaller quantity of vegetables and fruits than the southern provinces. However, recently there have been some changes in both export quotas and the amounts of vegetables and fruits exported. In 1986, the quantity of fresh vegetables and fruits exported by northern provinces increased by 68.68 percent over 1985 and accounted for 57 percent of the total amount of fresh vegetables and fruits exported nationwide. As of 28 March, the quantity of exported fresh vegetables and fruits has already increased by 45.58 percent over the first quarter of 1986. In general, economic results have further increased because losses have decreased in comparison to the state-prescribed rates of 0.3 to 2 percent. The value of delivered and paid-for commodities has increased by 6.3 percent; the volume loaded on each ship has also increased while the time ships wait for loading has decreased. These results are closely connected with the process of renovation and improvement in creating sources of commodities and organizing businesses by localities and the cadres and employees of Export-Import Corporation No 1. They have actively organized production on suitable schedules, concluded economic contracts with localities, organized and guided the harvest and shipment of crops in conformity with delivery schedules, correctly implemented procurement policies to attract sellers, organized quality control at the site of purchases, closely coordinated with related agencies, and instituted proper incentive and punishment systems for cadres and employees who are directly charged with the procurement, shipment, and unloading of commodities.

However, as yet the production and business in fresh vegetables and fruits in the northern provinces have not been stabilized in terms of goods structure and product quality, so that the overall economic results remain low. This situation is caused by many outstanding problems that are considerably hampering the production and export business in vegetables and fruits in localities.

The production of fresh vegetables and fruits is strictly governed by the crop season schedules. The winter-spring crop season lasted from late last year to early this year. The contracts for producing fresh vegetables and fruits for export should have been signed earlier to enable localities to prepare and plan for the winter crop planting. We have signed contracts a little late, usually after production had been organized in localities. As a result, the supply of materials for production has not corresponded with the crop seasons, and the procurement of export commodities fails to meet the demands both quantitatively and qualitatively. As a matter of fact, for several years now, Vegetable and Fruit Export-Import Corporation No 1 has realized many difficulties in preserving and shipping fresh vegetables and fruits. There has always been a definite percentage of damage and deterioration. If the volume of exports is 1, we must procure a volume of 1.2 and produce a volume of 1.5 to turn out enough products to fulfill export contracts. As the supply of materials is inadequate, slow, and unable to ensure timely and stable development of production, the procurement of exports has been directly affected. Although the corporation has exerted every effort, it still has delivered seed 3 or 4 months late as compared to the crop season and has achieved only a volume of 1.2 as compared to the planned volume of exports.

The patterns of our export of vegetables and fruits have not been stabilized for each type of commodity and for the quantity of products for many reasons, including the failure of leading production and business agencies to understand market demands well, since demand for consumption is not steady. Many commodities in great demand one year are less in demand the next. In the past, producers expanded their production according to the large demand the preceding year even though there is no great demand in the current year. This has led to surpluses and stockpiles of products. Then, in the following crop season, they fail to grow crops actively and shortages occur, making it impossible to meet the export plan, which has adversely affected production. The growing of export garlic has thus far left an unforgettable impression on producers. In late 1983, due to the misunderstanding of a great demand for garlic exports, all agencies and production and business units made an all-out effort to call for and develop garlic planting. In 1984, the volume of garlic production was at its peak, but foreign countries signed contracts to purchase only 4,000 metric tons and accepted 3,000 metric tons less than the contracted figure. Due to the stockpile of garlic, the prices decreased, and the producers suffered losses. Since then, many people have stopped growing garlic, and the volume of garlic production has decreased. Until 1986, while nearly all products increased over the 1985 figures, the amount of garlic decreased by 14.7 percent and contracts could not be fulfilled.

In the process of producing and exporting fresh vegetables and fruits, the receiving, packing, shipping, and delivering of products to ports greatly affect economic results and are currently encountering many difficulties. Fresh vegetables and fruits are usually harvested at a definite time of the year (fresh vegetables in the first quarter and fresh fruits in the fourth quarter). The collection and receiving of export products is very difficult because we have not had major areas of production to stabilize both the quantitative and qualitative volume of production. We have to collect and receive products from many localities, involving problems of preservation and transportation. Bags used as containers have not been standardized, while the allocation of timber used in the manufacture of containers has not been adequately balanced on a timely basis. As a result, large amounts of bamboo baskets must be used instead, and these baskets are easily damaged by termites and moss, greatly affecting the quality of commodities and the time for delivery. Scores of metric tons of carrots in Hai Hung Province could not be delivered for export recently because of the problems of transportation and containers. Carrots placed in bamboo baskets were moved on barges to Haiphong port. Arriving late, the carrots could not be transferred to already fully loaded ships. They had to remain on the barges and were covered with canvas. Moss grew and the carrots failed to meet export standard.

Exporting fresh vegetables and fruits under the Vietnamese-Soviet cooperation program not only holds political significance but also bears on the feasibility of bringing about great results in production and export business. To step up future activities on this battlefield, we must first of all and mainly remove all problems and difficulties to advance the fresh fruit and vegetable production and export business a step further.

The demand for exports of fresh vegetables and fruits are ever increasing. Nevertheless, if we want to achieve good economic results, we must study, calculate, and establish proper product patterns to suit the demands of foreign markets and stabilize the development of our strength. We must therefore accelerate the planning and zoning of areas for the specialized and concentrated cultivation of each type of product in combination with the areas of intensive crop cultivation and general business to develop the existing potentials of land and labor in conformity with the demands of markets.

To encourage the production of fresh vegetables and fruits for export, we should consider the conditions and characteristics for growing these products so as to institute appropriate policies on prices and bartering of materials for producers and other incentive policies for various sectors at all levels and in all localities. In the present situation, funds for materials to be advanced to primary production units are badly needed if production and procurement are to be carried out on schedule. The implementation of state policies toward producers of all sectors at all levels and in all localities should also be controlled so that errors can promptly be remedied and the role of these policies can be brought into

full play. At the same time, action should be taken to intensively control and prevent negative practices in the procurement and bartering operations and in the distribution of foreign exchange not in accordance with state regulations. There should also be a system to reduce losses and compensate for expenses by producers who are unable to export their products because of natural disasters or other difficulties.

It is high time to pay attention to the material and technical conditions which support the export of fresh vegetables and fruits. The current delivery of commodities directly to ships, bypassing the depots, has been very limited even when the volume of goods is not large. There should be a plan to build storage depots at ports to preserve the quality of goods for some time. There must also be a system of depots and storage sheds at the procurement and packing stations in localities. Transportation facilities should also be developed toward specialization. As an immediate task, we should concentrate on improving the existing facilities to protect commodities against sun and rain and to have more ventilation. Large containing bags must be standardized and the amount of timber used in manufacturing containers must be increased.

If we can uniformly fulfill the requirements arising from the aforesaid realities, we will create favorable conditions for the production and export of fresh vegetables and fruits, and will help victoriously fulfill the export program set by the Sixth Party Congress.

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CSO: 4200/554

25 APR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION REPORT UPDATE

BK050814 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 2 May 87

[Text] According to the Statistics General Department, as of 25 April, the southern provinces had reaped more than 580,000 hectares of winter-spring rice, with initial figures showing a higher yield than last year. Meanwhile, in the northern provinces, almost 90 percent of the winter-spring rice has entered the blossoming stage with much of it encountering a cold spell. At present, the rice crop in the Red River Delta provinces is being severely damaged by harmful insects and diseases, chiefly brown planthoppers, rice mealy bugs, and rice blast. Despite the recent rainfalls in late April, the 5th-month spring rice in the northern provinces is suffering from drought; and the insufficient supply of electricity for operating water pumps coupled with the low water level in the various rivers has caused difficulties to agricultural production.

In view of this situation, the urgent tasks to be carried out by various localities at present still consist of stepping up the prevention and control of harmful insects and diseases and making full use of all available resources to save the rice crop from drought so as to minimize losses. On the other hand, all localities must now carefully prepare seed for sowing and transplanting the early 10th-month rice before vigorously embarking on the cultivation of winter crops so as to make up for the shortfalls in output caused by natural calamities to the winter-spring crop. At the same time, active preparations must be made for the main 10th-month rice crop with attention given to the crop cultivation schedule, the seed allocation pattern, and technical supplies so that this year's 10th-month rice can be planted successfully right at the beginning of the crop season.

Along with the southern provinces, those northern provinces planting the summer-fall rice should intensively carry out field work to ensure that the area plan will be either fulfilled or overfulfilled. While making preparations for planting rice, all localities must step up the cultivation of various types of summer-fall vegetables, subsidiary food crops, and industrial crops to guarantee fulfillment or overfulfillment of the area plans.

Never before has field work been more urgent than it is now. Inclement weather has caused us many difficulties; and therefore, dynamism and creativity are strongly required of every sector and echelon as well as of everyone of our laboring people in order to surmount such big trials.

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CSO: 4200/554

FISHING INDUSTRY NEEDS CHANGES TO MEET 1990 TARGET

OW081712 Hanoi VNA in English 1452 GMT 8 May 87

[Text] Hanoi, 8 May (VNA)--To achieve the 1990 target of one million tons of aquatic products, it is of paramount importance to reorganize the whole fishing industry, first of all to improve inshore fishing and step by step strengthen deep-sea fishing.

An appropriate structure has to be worked out to increase surface and seabed catch, especially of mollusks and algae. Both the manual and mechanical means of fishing should be better used, and more refrigerating and storing facilities created.

The cooperative and family sector account for 90 percent of the total output of the aquatic service. They should receive more state investments to increase their capacity and form fishing collectives with appropriate sizes, preferably of medium and small sizes in the present conditions. The state-run fishing fleets should be reorganized along the fishing-and-processing line while those run by the army should combine fishing with national defence.

Efforts must be made to produce enough seafoods for domestic consumption and export.

All available water areas should be used for aquiculture. Priority must be paid to shrimp and algae raising. More concrete policies should be worked out to place the sea areas in the charge of individual farmers, or cooperatives and families. More fish and shrimp feed factories shall be built along with the consolidation of fish farms around big cities and industrial centers to increase the supply of fresh fish.

The processing of fish-derived foods and fish pickles should also expand vigorously, especially in the areas with a long tradition in the manufacture of fish pickles. Further efforts should be made to expand the export of quality fishes and shrimps and algae.

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CSO: 4200/554

ARTICLE CALLS FOR CHANGE IN OPERATION METHODS OF TRADE UNION

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 4 Feb 87 pp 3,4

[Article by Pham The Duet, acting chairman and concurrently secretary general of the Vietnam Confederation of Trade Unions: "Changing the Content and Method of Trade Union Operations"]

[Text] Change for our country, as the political report of the sixth Congress stated, is the "urgent requirement of the revolutionary cause, the matter of vital significance." (1) For the trade union federation, this also is an urgent matter for the following reasons:

- The concept of and awareness about socialist transformation, socialist industrialization, the economic structure, the management mechanism, the economic policy, and the social policy in the first stage of the transitional period which the sixth Congress set forth has some new things compared with before. As someone who is responsible for introducing these new things to the working class and mobilizing and organizing workers and civil servants to carry them out, if the trade union does not have the new awareness and the new, correct concept, it cannot serve as the "lever" for introducing the party's policy to the workers and civil servants.

- The trade union's mobilization target, the worker and civil servant in the initial stage of the transitional period, has undergone and is undergoing big changes in qualifications, psychology, professions, and structure which should be recognized and more correctly evaluated.

The consequence of the prolonged bureaucratic and subsidy mechanism not only created losses economically but also gave rise to unhealthy phenomena in the psychology and thinking, the lifestyle, and the behavior of workers and civil servants. The tendency to rely on subsidies from the state and the passive attitude in labor and production are fairly widespread. The aggressive, creative spirit and organizational and disciplined nature are not being brought into full play and heightened. These manifestations, if they cannot be changed and overcome, will create no small difficulties for accepting and implementing new policies and new mechanisms in economic management.

- Change must be from the top down, from within the party out to state agencies and mass organizations; change in every field of social activity. As

the revolutionary leadership class, the working class must take the lead in change. This is not only because of the revolutionary vanguard role which history has entrusted to the working class but also because the economic base and conditions for industrial production make it possible for the working class and trade union to carry out this role. Because of this, labor in general, particularly industrial labor, is constantly dynamic and creative, and will not tolerate delay and conservatism.

Change the thinking of the trade union in order to correctly recognize the function of the trade union in the initial phase of the period of transition to socialism.

Changing economic thinking is paramount for it holds the decisive role. Not only should party cadres and state cadres change their thinking. It also is very essential that trade union cadres change their thinking as well. This is a change in, a rejection of viewpoints which are no longer consistent, and a creation of new viewpoints which are consistent with the economic laws in the initial phase of the transition to socialism in our country; overcome errors in methods and operations. We must recognize and endorse the substance of economic construction and development and socialist transformation as well as build the new economic management system in the remaining years of the initial phase; inevitably the objective must be to resolutely abolish the bureaucratic centralism and subsidy mechanism and build the economic accountability and socialist business mechanism.

In conjunction with changing awareness as stated above, the urgent thing for trade union cadres is to have a more correct and realistic appreciation of the function of the trade union in the initial phase of the transitional period.

For a long time now, from recognition to action, it seems the machinery has existed to introduce the entire substance of the trade union's function in socialism into the initial phase of the transitional period in our country. Universally, the direction remains general, the form remains simple, and the amount remains imprecise. Consequently, the work set forth in terms of extent, scope, and condition for accomplishment is not consistent with the country's real capability and level of development. Because of incomplete and incorrect analysis of the special characteristic of the ranks of the working class in the initial phase of the transition, and simple, unilateral recognition and, to a certain extent, "idealization" of the unity of interest between the state and the working class, there has been a failure to satisfactorily carry out the function of educating and training ranks of workers and civil servants and to protect the laborer's legitimate interests.

Alongside simultaneously carrying out the functions of educating, participating in economic management, and managing the state, the trade union must, during the years immediately in the future when economic policies are undergoing new changes and the bureaucratism of state agencies and cadres remains widespread and serious, be very attentive to carrying out the function of protecting the legitimate interests of the worker and civil servant and controlling the operations of state agencies. The carrying out of these functions must be tied to and aimed toward supporting the campaign to cleanse the party and boost the fighting strength of party organizations; to cleanse

and boost the management effectiveness of the state, and drive back and abolish negative instances.

The trade union operation must have practical impact on the three large economic programs and the strategy for building an increasingly stronger working class and party.

The content of the trade union's worker and civil servant campaign in the socialist revolution is aimed toward successfully carrying out socialist industrialization and building a working class on a par with its historical destiny.

Socialist industrialization is the essential path our country must take. Immediately, however, the party's sixth Congress affirmed: the all-encompassing task during the remaining years of the initial stage is to stabilize every aspect of socioeconomic situation and continue to build essential prospects for stepping up socialist industrialization in the succeeding phase. (1)

To stabilize the socioeconomic situation, the congress set forth 10 policies which primarily are to successfully carry out the three large economic programs -- grain-food, consumer goods, and export goods.

Thus, to bring about changes in the trade union movement on the economic front, first of all, trade union cadres must have a more correct appreciation of socialist industrialization and a correct recognition of the socioeconomic objective in the years immediately ahead. In the meantime, the most important matter is to somehow make the trade union's operation have a practical and effective impact on the three large economic programs.

The decisive force in carrying out the three economic programs is the worker class, the farmer class, ranks of socialist intellectuals, manual laborers, and other strata of laborers. The trade union now consists only of laborers in the state sector, i.e., workers and civil servants in state enterprises and agencies, and workers and laborers in joint state-private and private capitalist enterprises. So, what is the content and method of the trade unions' impact on these three economic programs; where does the trade union need to extend the scope of its campaign objective; how do you not limit the scope of the campaign objective without contravening the current statutes of the trade union organization? These are the practical questions posed. Only trade union cadres with new awareness can determine the content and way of doing which are effective.

In conjunction with carrying out the economic strategy, we must be very mindful of the strategy of man and the strategy of building the working class. This is the responsibility of party committee echelons, of state agencies, and of the trade union organization because building the class is both the objective of social policy and the motivating force in socioeconomic development. What is worthy of attention is to somehow determine the direction for the things to be done by and the way they are to be done by the trade union with respect to this strategic task.

The ranks of our working class are in the process of building and growing; there should be coordination between the trade union and state agencies in conducting inspections, research, and accurate analysis. For our working class presently, all strata should receive attention. Immediately, however, a great deal of concern must be placed on high level technicians, which are the key element of the working class, and the force of scientific-technical cadres, which is the intellectual rank of the working class. We must simultaneously be concerned with the laborer's economic interests and material life, and foster and improve his skills as well as his cultural and spiritual life.

Change the method of trade union operations in order to attract numerous workers and laborers into the socialist emulation movement and involvement in social activities.

The question posed is why are members, workers, and civil servants not intimately attached to the trade union organization as before and what has blown "cold air" on the trade union "family"? Why are many stipulations about trade union power not guaranteed and carried out? Could it be that the relationship between the trade union and member, worker, and civil servant is loose because the trade union organization does not fulfill the role, function, and duty as the representative for the rights of the laborer, and because of bureaucratism and not being close to the aspirations and life of the member? Consequently, the viewpoint "rely on the people as the crux" according to the motto "the people know, discuss, do, and inspect" must be concretized and systemized in the management efforts of enterprises and agencies and well as in the operations of the trade union. The direction of the change in the method of trade union operations must be aimed toward attracting numerous workers and laborers to join the socialist emulation movement and other social activities, and bring about new vitality in trade union operations as well as in the worker movement. The trade union's basic method is that education and persuasion must be soft in everything done by the trade union organization and by the trade union cadre.

The content and standard of the emulation movement must be aimed toward attracting a large number of people to participate in each form consistent with the trade, qualifications, and psychology of the laborer; we must create real "competition" among laborers in the same trade, mobilize spirit hand in hand with stimulating material benefits, resolutely overcome the way of mobilizing and organizing emulation according to subjectivism, voluntarism, and disregard of real, objective conditions. We should review organization of emulation by the trade union while conducting emulation campaign reform.

Together with changing methods, we must simultaneously change organization and somehow make the trade union organization truly the voluntary organization of the member; reduce intermediaries and duplication according to the requirement "above intelligence, below action" so all of the party's policies get to the member as fast as possible and all thoughts and aspirations of the member are reflected upward as fast as possible.

Uplifting the position and viewpoint of the working class and the operational capability of trade union cadres is the primary content of changing ranks of trade union cadres.

To change the content and method of trade union operations, changing the thinking and improving the operational capability of trade union cadres are of very great significance.

Changing the thinking of trade union cadres, as stated above, primarily requires creating a new, correct awareness about the country's real situation and about the socioeconomic objective and policy during the remaining years of the initial phase; about the new, special characteristic presently of the ranks of workers and civil servants; about the nature and content of the trade union function presently. From that, boost the enthusiasm and operational capability of the trade union cadres, and determine the direction for improving their qualifications.

Among the class viewpoint, work enthusiasm, and work capabilities, what is more serious for trade union cadres in the immediate future? In work capabilities, how is the relationship between political-social knowledge and economic-technical knowledge? What about the ranks of trade union cadre growing younger?

These are questions which should be studied and analyzed so there is a basis for change. For trade union cadres in the immediate as well as the long-term future, we must simultaneously be concerned with forging the working class position, the mass viewpoint, scientific, technological, economic, theoretical, and professional understanding and relatively systematized trade union working methods because 50 percent of the key trade union cadres at various levels, more or less, have not had basic training. Whether one aspect or another is better or worse depends on the specific situation at a given level in a give sector.

The changing of the trade union lies in the overall changing of the party and state; at the same time, there is an impact on this change. Consequently, to make it possible for the trade union organization to really change, we recommend that party committee echelons undergo change in leadership and that state agencies undergo change in coordinating work with trade unions at various levels with a view toward ensuring the independent nature of the trade union organization and developing the role and responsibility of the trade union in carrying out the socioeconomic tasks of the country.

FOOTNOTES

(1) NHAN DAN paper, 17 Dec 86

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CSO: 4209/346

CHECKPOINT CLOSURE AFFECTS TAX COLLECTION

BK090919 Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 23 Apr 87 p 1

[Text] Since checkpoints along roads have been dismantled, the circulation of goods between the southern provinces and Ho Chi Minh City has expanded. The prices of many industrial goods and agricultural products and foodstuffs have dropped.

Alongside the expansion of goods circulation, however, some difficulties and loopholes have begun to emerge. Due to a lack of specific and uniform measures, the basic-level collection of trade and industrial taxes in many provinces has declined. The taxation of temporary business has decreased by 20-30 percent as compared to previous periods. Cases of tax evasion and dodging have been noted in many localities.

To overcome this situation, the trade sector and the trade and industrial taxation sector of provinces have tried to renovate their operating procedures to cope with the new situation.

The state-owned trade sector of Long An and An Giang provinces has promptly lowered the prices of some commodities. As a result, the number of buyers has increased and the amount of trade has increased by one and a half times over last month. In Ben Tre, Cuu Long, Tien Giang, and Kien Giang provinces, the sale of kerosene, fabrics, monosodium glutamate, soap, metal wares, electric appliances and building materials have been stepped up to collect hundreds of millions of dong, partly resolving the problem of cash for the local purchase of agricultural products. Many provincial and district trade corporations have consolidated their organization and sent their cadres to primary agricultural production installations to sign contracts and advance thousands of metric tons of materials for the purchase of hundreds of metric tons of legumes, sesame, peanut, and meat. Moreover, they have also signed contracts for the purchase of consumer goods from 8,000 installations of collectivized and private production.

The trade and industrial taxation sector has reorganized its operational network, gathered up its forces, closely watched primary production installations, and collected taxes at markets, traffic terminals, and trade centers. The state regulations on tax rates and tariffs are publicly

and adequately posted. The operations of personnel in taxation sub-departments, offices, and stations have been controlled and those employees found to have engaged in malpractices have been severely dealt with. In Chau Thanh District, Tien Giang, since the Tan Huong checkpoint was disbanded the trade and industrial taxes have been satisfactorily collected as usual and even with an increase of 50 percent over last month collection. In the eastern Nam Bo provinces and Ho Chi Minh City, control action has been intensified at terminal areas. More than 800 cases of tax evasion and dodging have been detected and dealt with. In Hau Giang Province, all businesses have been registered again in order to ensure the full collection of taxes in line with the increases in prices and the amount of trade. Cases of unlicensed trade businesses, tax evasion, and smuggling have been promptly dealt with.

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CSO: 4200/554

VO NGUYEN GIAP ATTENDS SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY SEMINAR

BK120910 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 7 May 87

[Text] The State Commission for Science and Technology, in coordination with the Vietnam Institute of Sciences and the Vietnam Association of Sciences, held a seminar 6-7 May on science to contribute ideas to the formulation of objectives and contents of various main policies and measures to implement the three major economic programs on grain and foodstuffs, consumer goods, and export goods set forth by the Sixth CPV Congress.

Almost 200 scientists from various ministries, sectors, research institutes, and some universities have contributed many concrete views at the seminar. The various scientific reports and lectures delivered at this seminar are relatively diversified, dealing with many pressing problems and concentrating on four main issues. On the basis of various published documents on anticipated scientific and technological advances, the seminar agreed on many common viewpoints, especially on those that need to be integrated quickly to fulfill the concrete contents of various projects. We must integrate scientific and technological activities by choosing, first of all, various proven research findings. Various new products, new technical transfers, and new standards must be promptly and effectively used and applied.

We must, on the basis of various projected objectives, reexamine technical research and development systems, scientific and technological cooperation activities with foreign countries, and other special issues that have recently emerged to integrate materials and capital to accelerate and effectively exploit various research projects. Along with carrying out these tasks, we must examine and supplement various policies aimed at developing science and technology, strengthen scientific potentials, and encourage scientific and technical personnel and other workers to apply quickly and extensively various technological advances to production development to turn out more products for the society.

Vice Chairmen of the Council of Ministers Vo Nguyen Giap and Tran Duc Luong attended and addressed the seminar.

/8309

CSO: 4200/557

BRIEFS

SOVIET-DESIGNED POWER LINE--A high-tension electric line linking the Hoa Binh Hydroelectric Power Plant some 80 km southwest of Hanoi to its receptacle is being designed with Soviet assistance. Discussions are under way between Vietnamese architects and their Soviet colleagues of the Designing Institute of Hydropower Works of Leningrad, the Soviet Union, on the completion of the electric grid in Vietnam by the year 1990. [Text] [Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 11 Apr 87 BK] /12858

MARINE PRODUCT EXPORTS--In the 1st quarter of this year, the 40 companies under the Seafood Ministry known as Sea Products got \$17.5 million for seafood products. The amount of seafood exported by Sea Products has been growing and its quality ensured. The companies have won an international prize called Tradition and Prestige 1986 from the magazine INTERNATIONAL TRADE. [Text] [Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 11 Apr 87 BK] /12858

HA TUYEN RESETTLEMENT--By the end of the first quarter, more than 190,000 people of various ethnic minority groups in Ha Tuyen Province had adopted a life of settled farming. However, the movement for settled farming life in the province has not yet vigorously been carried out. As many as 860,000 people in the province still follow a life of nomadic farming and continue the practice of destroying forests for cultivation purposes. [Summary] [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 17 Apr 87 BK] /12858

TRI AN POWER PLANT--Enterprise No 45 of the Ministry of Building has completed the installation of part of the first generator unit at the Tri An Hydroelectric Power Plant 4 days ahead of schedule in an effort to put this generator unit into operation by the end of 1987. This is the goal of the emulation between cadres and workers of Enterprise No 45 and Soviet experts at the construction site to mark Lenin's birthday on 22 April and President Ho Chi Minh's birthday on 19 May. [Summary] [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 18 Apr 87 BK] /12858

FAMILY PRODUCTION TEAMS--Dong Da Ward of Hanoi has encouraged the development of small industrial-handicraft production cooperation teams among local families. During the first 3 months of 1987, these teams have attained a value of gross output of consumer and export goods that is as high as that of cooperatives and twice as much as that in the same period last year. Thanks to favorable conditions that have been created by various subwards,

as many as 47 percent of small industrial-handicraft laborers in Dong Da Ward have joined these production cooperation teams. [Summary] [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 18 Apr 87 BK] /12858

LABOR RELOCATION--According to reports from 32 of the 39 provinces and cities that are duty-bound to relocate labor, as of 31 March another 55,250 people, including 26,720 laborers, had been sent to build various new economic zones. Compared with the same period last year, the number of people increased by more than 10 percent and the number of laborers 17 percent. However, compared with the plan for the first quarter of 1987, the number of people represents only 56 percent and the number of laborers 59 percent. [Summary] [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 19 Apr 87 BK] /12858

GIFT FROM USSR--Hanoi, 19 April (VNA)--Vietnam has received a transport ship as a gift from the Ministry of Merchant Marine of the Soviet Union. The ship, named "Sergey Bostin" with a capacity of 7,560 tons, is the second presented by the Soviet Ministry of Merchant Marine to the Vietnam Marine Transport General Department. The handover ceremony was held in the Haiphong Port in the presence of Tran Van Chap, deputy director of the General Department, and V.V. Petrovich, Soviet consul general in Haiphong. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 0702 GMT 19 Apr 87 OW] /12858

SOVIET-BUILD TRANSFORMER STATION--A kick-off ceremony was held on 22 April by the Ministry of Energy, the Thanh Hoa People's Committee, and a group of Soviet electric specialists to begin construction on a 220-kilovolt transformer station in Thanh Hoa Province with Soviet equipment and construction assistance. The second largest transformer station in northern Vietnam, after completion in June 1988 it will receive electricity from the Hoa Binh Hydroelectric Plant and supply it to two 110-kilovolt stations at Nui Mot and Tho Xuan. It will also increase to a safe level the supply of electricity to the Bim Son cement plant and a transformer station at Quynh Luu, Nghe Tinh Province. [Summary] [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 22 Apr 87 BK] /12858

COFFEE FOR EXPORT--The (Krong Ana) Coffee Joint Enterprise in Dac Lac Province is implementing an international cooperation project with the GDR in planting some 3,000 hectares of coffee for export. The enterprise has worked out plans with cooperatives, production collectives, and peasants' households on using land to plant coffee. [Summary] [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 24 Apr 87 BK] /12858

SOCIALIST EMULATION IN MINING--Five units participating in building an enlarged pyrite mining project in Vinh Phu Province, comprising a Soviet specialist group, the project management board, the pyrite mine's construction board, the H-76 assembling enterprise's construction board, and the mine planning corporation of the Chemicals General Department, are engaging in a socialist emulation phase aimed at devising valuable initiatives in improving techniques, saving materials and fuel, and ensuring a smooth work flow. This will help exploit as many raw materials as possible for the production of fertilizer for agriculture. [Text] [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 26 Apr 87 BK] /12858

SOCIALIST EMULATION IN ENGINEERING--Cadres and workers of an engineering plant of the Ministry of Energy's engineering-mining corporation in the Cam Pha Center are joining the Soviet specialists working there in a Vietnamese-Soviet friendship emulation phase, during which they will strive to complete eight technical projects and accelerate the repairs of vehicles and machines as part of their achievements to honor the 70th anniversary of the Soviet Union's Great October Revolution. [Summary] [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 27 Apr 87 BK] /12858

HO CHI MINH CITY PRODUCTION--According to the Ho Chi Minh City Statistics Department, industrial and small industrial and handicraft production in the city achieved only 7.27 billion dong during the first quarter of 1987, representing 18.3 percent of the yearly plan. What is worrying is that, compared to the first quarter of 1986, industrial and small industrial and handicraft production in the city developed slowly. The difficult situation in terms of cash, materials, energy, and prices has adversely affected production, especially in the small industry and handicraft sector. [Summary] [Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG in Vietnamese 4 Apr 87 p 1 BK] /12858

SALT PRODUCTION UP--Hanoi, 4 May (VNA)--The coastal province of Thuan Hai in southern Vietnam is the biggest producer of industrial salt of Vietnam. With two state-run enterprises and a number of cooperatives, Thuan Hai now produces about 100,000 tons of salt, including 70,000 tons of industrial salt for export. The Ca Na Salt Enterprise in the province alone has 450 ha of salt fields, producing some 60,000 tons of industrial salt together with other products such as gypsum, sodium sulfate, magnesium oxide, magnesium chloride, magnesium sulfate... Thuan Hai plans to expand its salt acreage to 3,000 ha with the target of 300,000 to 350,000 tons of industrial salt by 1990. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 0701 GMT 4 May 87 OW] /12858

FORESTRY MINISTRY REVIEWS AFFORESTATION--The Ministry of Forestry recently reviewed the progress of afforestation over the past 30 years or so. As yet, nearly all cooperatives and villages countrywide have organized tree planting and have established sapling nurseries. In 1986 alone, the Mekong Delta provinces had an area of 1,469 hectares of plant nurseries. In many localities, training in tree planting techniques have been emphasized. The whole Mekong Delta region has had 953 technical cadres and 3,018 specialists who have received short-term training. In the 2,868 cooperatives of the region, there have been 3,463 teams and units of 93,406 people specializing in tree planting. Some of the cooperatives have invested 20 to 30 percent of their main labor in tree planting. [Summary] [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 4 May 87 BK] /12858

NGHIA BINH GETS SOVIET FERTILIZER--Nghia Binh Province recently received 10,750 metric tons of chemical fertilizer from Soviet ships moored at Qui Nhon Port. This amount of fertilizer has been moved to storage depots and user units one day ahead of schedule. Transportation companies of Nghia Binh and Gia Lai-Cong Tum provinces have coordinated with the Qui Nhon Port

authorities to receive and transport the aforesaid amount of fertilizer to depots and primary production installations to support the planting of summer-fall crops. In only nine and-a-half days, some 7,550 metric tons of remaining fertilizer aboard the ships were unloaded. [Summary] [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 4 May 87 BK] /12858

LONG AN SENDS RICE TO NORTH--In compliance with a decision of the Council of Ministers, the party and people's committees resolve to procure 80,000 metric tons of grain for the northern provinces on schedule. As an immediate step, the province has delivered 10,000 metric tons of rice. The surplus rice in Tan Thanh, Moc Hoa, and Vinh Hung Districts has been mobilized for delivery to the state beyond the plan norm by 25,000 metric tons. A large amount of cash and thousands of metric tons of cement and steel have been gathered for the procurement of grain. [Summary] [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 7 May 87 BK] /12858

RAILWAYS SECTOR TRANSPORTS RICE--In May, the railways sector accepted to transport 10,000 metric tons of grain from southern Vietnam and 8,000 tons of grain from Haiphong to Hanoi and other northern provinces. A train daily transports more than 300 tons of grain from Ho Chi Minh City to Hanoi. The first train of 350 metric tons of grain from Ho Chi Minh City arrived in Hanoi on 7 May. This amount of grain has been delivered to various grain supply companies to serve the people in the capital. [Summary] [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 8 May 87 BK] /12858

BAUXITE DEPOSITS--Hanoi, 9 May (VNA)--The bauxite deposits on the Central Highlands of Vietnam greatly interested the participants in the First International Conference on Indochinese Geology held in Ho Chi Minh in late 1986. Large mines of quality bauxite have been discovered at Di Linh in the southern part of the Central Highlands. New mines have been found in the northern part, some of which will be exploited in the near future. At present, a bauxite mine is being exploited in Bao Loc District, Lam Dong Province, to supply alumina for the paper industry and for water filtering in Ho Chi Minh City and the neighbouring provinces. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 0701 GMT 9 May 87 OW] /12858

WRK FOR YOUNG PEOPLE--Hanoi, 11 May (VNA)--The Hanoi Young Labour Volunteer Brigade (YLVB) is a state-run economic organisation. It consists of eight enterprises with a total workforce of 3,000 people specialising in coal extraction, lake digging, building, forestry and tea and coffee planting. An 800-member enterprise of the Hanoi YLVB is engaged in coal extraction at the Quang Ninh Coal Mine. A 400-member forestry enterprise of the brigade is regreening bare hills in Ba Vi District, 50 kilometres west of Hanoi. Other groups of the brigade are taking part in jute planting in the coastal area of Ha Nam Ninh Province, south of Hanoi, and in tea and coffee farming in the Central Highlands province of Lam Dong, 100 kilometres south of Hanoi. The aim of the labour volunteers' production organization is to train young economic managers with a high political sense and high skills. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 0723 GMT 11 May 87 OW] /12858

HO CHI MINH CITY MANUFACTURING--Hanoi, 11 May (VNA)--The Union of Tailoring Enterprises in Ho Chi Minh City has filled a contract on cutting and tailoring 200,000 shorts for Hong Kong. Its products have been highly appreciated by the clientele for their high technical standard and prompt delivery. The Saigon wool-knitting enterprise has turned out nearly 200 fashionable models of woollen blouses with a high artistic and technical standard. Thanks to its renewal of equipment and stable supply of materials, the rate of its high-quality products has amounted to 95 to 97 percent. Another workshop furnished with advanced equipment is expected to be commissioned at the end of this year, thus increasing the enterprise's capacity of manufacturing more woollen garments for export. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 0713 GMT 11 May 87 OW] /12858

HYDRO-METEOROLOGICAL PROGRESS--Hanoi, 12 May (VNA)--In the 1980-85 period, the Institute of Hydro-Meteorology conducted five state-level research projects in service of national construction and defence. They included the building of Vietnam Atlas, the new sources of energy, the development of industrial plants, the redistribution of workforce, and the general survey of the Mekong River Delta (second phase). These projects have helped the state carry out land zoning and better extraction of the country's water resources and its climatic conditions. They have also facilitated feasibility studies of foodgrain production industrial development and environmental protection. Alongside scientific research, the institute has taken part in the topographical survey of the bed of the Da River before it was dammed up to build the Hoa Binh Hydro-Electric Power Plant, in the research of the Mekong River, and in the study of Vietnam's estuaries and coastal areas in service of coastal traffic, exploitation of aquatic products and building coastal projects. To better function its duties, the institute has maintained its good contacts with provincial gauging stations and helped them in hydro-meteorological forecasts. At present, the institute is conducting 35 research projects including 26 state-level projects and six others in cooperation with the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1459 GMT 12 May 87 OW] /12858

NEW REFRIGERATING WAREHOUSE--Hanoi, 13 May (VNA)--A system of refrigerating warehouse capable of storing 150 tons has been put into commission in the central Vietnam province of Quang Nam-Danang. The system, built with the assistance of the Hanoi Refrigerating Equipment Factory, comprises 11 big and small projects including an electric transformer station and a freezer with a daily capacity of 10 tons. After a period of trial operation, the system has proved satisfactory in all technical norms required. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 0703 GMT 13 May 87 OW] /12858

CASH CROPS EXPAND--Hanoi, 9 May (VNA)--The Highland District of Dac Linh in the central Vietnam coastal province of Thuan Hai has more than 8,000 hectares of basaltic soil propitious for cash crops like coffee, pepper, cashew, cacao and other beans. It has marked off hundreds of hectares for these crops including 120 hectares under pepper, 700 hectares under coffee, and 100 ha under cashew. This year, the district plans to produce 250 tons of pepper, 200 tons of coffee beans and hundreds of tons of cashew for export. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1522 GMT 9 May 87 OW] /12858

PROVINCIAL AGRICULTURAL NEWS--Hanoi, 15 May (VNA)--A new variety of cotton codenamed TH2 has been developed by the Nha Ho Cotton Research Centre. The new cotton is being test grown in nine different localities in Vietnam from the Mekong Delta in the south to the Plain in the north. Its adaptability to different soils and climates has made it one of the most promising varieties in Vietnam. Its output varies from one ton in the south to 0.7 ton in the north. It is resistant to many kinds of insects. Large-scale rearing of mesopodopses (a kind of shrimp) has begun in Quang Nam-Da Nang Province. Between 30,000 and 60,000 breed shrimps can be raised in each hectare of water area. After 90 days, the shrimp is big enough for export. Cu Chi, an outlying district of Ho Chi Minh City, has brought in 4,000 tons of groundnuts on 2,700 ha, the biggest harvest so far for both output and acreage. The provinces from Quang Nam-Da Nang southernwards are harvesting the winter-spring rice. Phu Khanh obtained 4.5 tons/ha. Hau Giang and Dong Thap Muoi, 4.2-5 tons/ha. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 0716 GMT 15 May 87 OW] /12858

COASTAL DISTRICT EXPANDS AGRICULTURE--Hanoi, 15 May (VNA)--With 52 km of coastline and about 2,380 ha of water area, Ky Anh District in the central Vietnam province of Nghe Tinh has been designated as a major producer of seafood, especially shrimps and lobsters, of the province. In 1986, Ky Anh netted 1,050 tons of shrimps from its rivers and coast. Ky Anh has marked off 1,600 ha of water area for raising valuable marine products such as shrimps, algae and hearder [as received], 500 ha of which for lobster rearing. The district hopes to bring its marine products from both natural fishing and shrimp farms to 2,500 to 3,000 tons a year by 1990. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 0719 GMT 15 May 87 OW] /12858

TEXTILE EXPORTS TO USSR--Hanoi, 16 May (VNA)--Textile and tapestry enterprises in Hanoi, whose products are mainly exported to the Soviet Union, have met here to find ways to fulfill state plans, including contracts on export goods. They plan to boost their output by at least 2 percent in anticipation of the coming 70th anniversary of the Russian October Revolution. [Excerpt] [Hanoi VNA in English 1456 GMT 16 May 87 OW] /12858

SRV-USSR ECONOMIC COOPERATION--The national daily NHAN DAN on Sunday [17 May] gives wide coverage on the comprehensive cooperation between Vietnam and the Soviet Union. On the newspaper's front page are photos depicting some major projects being built with Soviet assistance in Vietnam, notably the Hoa Binh Hydroelectric Power Plant in the north and the joint USSR-Vietnam oil and gas venture in the south. The newspaper of the CPV notes that manifestations of friendship and cooperation between Vietnam and the Soviet Union are seen in all aspects of life in Vietnam. The Soviet-Vietnam relations, the paper says, is making decisive contributions to the revolutionary achievements of the Vietnamese people. NHAN DAN also points out the will of all working Vietnamese to carry out well instructions of the party Central Committee on the renewal and raising of the effectiveness of Soviet-Vietnam economic cooperation. [Text] [Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 17 May 87 BK] /12858

CASH, FOREIGN CURRENCY PROBLEMS--The banking sector recently held a meeting of provincial and city bank directors throughout the country to discuss ways to resolve the problems of cash, foreign currency, investment and credit policies in the service of the three major economic programs, policies on interest rate for bank loans and bank deposits, and the policy regarding savings deposits. This is aimed at positively switching all banking activities to the system of socialist economic accounting and business, and using money as a means to promote the development of production and the circulation of goods, thereby contributing to reducing the rate of inflation and budget deficits. [Text] [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 19 May 87 BK] /12858

KY LUA BRIDGE REOPENED--Hanoi, 20 May (VNA)--The Ky Lua Bridge on Highway 1A across the Ky Cung River in the northern border province of Lang Son has been rebuilt. The new 116-metre bridge was completed ahead of schedule in honour of President Ho Chi Minh's birthday (19 May). The old bridge was blown up by the Chinese invaders in 1979, and after repair, was washed away by a big flood last year. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 0704 GMT 20 May 87 OW] /12858

NEW RICE STRAINS--On 15 April in Hanoi, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry announced its decision to recognize and put into production another eight rice varieties. These include C37, CN-2, 415, 1548, C-10, U-14, 1820, IR-50 rice varieties. [Summary] [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 15 Apr 87 BK] /8309

MAIZE-GROWING AREAS ZONED--Hanoi VNA April 21--Vietnam has surveyed and marked off seven areas totalling more than 400,000 hectares for maize growing. The survey was undertaken by the Song Boi Maize Research Centre under the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry. The largest area covers 150,000 ha in the six northernmost provinces of Cao Bang, Lang Son, Hoang Lien Son, Ha Tuyen, Quang Ninh and Bac Thai. In the deltas of the Red and Thai Binh Rivers 45,000 ha are under maize, another 200,000 ha may be added through multi-cropping. Another major area is the Mekong Delta and the eastern provinces of southern Vietnam where the maize acreage has increased quickly in the past ten years. In Dong Nai Province in particular, it was expanded from 10,000 to 50,000 ha. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1453 GMT 21 Apr 87 OW] /8309

DONATION FROM FRANCE--The French Government has donated 200,000 francs to the Food and Agriculture Organization (F.A.O.) to buy insecticide to help Thanh Hoa and Nghe Tinh Provinces in central Vietnam fight crop pests. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1503 GMT 27 Apr 87 OW] /8309

HO CHI MINH CITY EXPORTS TO USSR--By mid-April, Ho Chi Minh City delivered 9,000 tons of watermelon to the Soviet Union, 3,000 tons more than in the same period last year. The city and nearby provinces plan to export to the Soviet Union 20,000 tons of watermelon a year to the Soviet Union. [Text] [Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 5 May 87 BK] /8309

VIETNAM AT PARIS FAIR--Vietnam attended the annual international fair held in Paris, France, from 30 April to 10 May. Many Vietnamese art and handicraft articles are displayed at the pavilion built by the Vietnam Diffusion Company. French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac, director of the Paris Chamber of Commerce, and the fair director, has visited the Vietnamese pavilion. [Text] [Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 5 May 87 BK] /8309

SRV GOODS SOLD IN LAOS--A shop was opened in Savannakhet Town, central Laos. The shop is jointly run [by] Laos' Savannakhet Province and Vietnam's Ho Chi Minh City. This is the second shop opened in this province to sell consumer goods from Ho Chi Minh City to the local people. [Text] [Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 5 May 87 BK] /8309

AGRICULTURE NEWS BRIEFS--Hanoi VNA May 6--Eight high-yielding rice varieties and four other staples will be grown on a large scale throughout the country. These rice strains, of which five are hybridized by Vietnamese agronomists, yield from 4-6 tons per hectare on experimental fields. Maize acreage has been expanded markedly in northern Vietnam thanks to the wide use of high-yield strains and technical advances. On an average, each province has annually grown from 29,000-71,000 hectares of maize. Farmers in the northern border province of Lang Son have striven to replant the rice and other-crop fields devastated by hailstorms last month. In the first quarter of this year, the agricultural service netted 112,600 tons of fish and shrimps, representing a 10.5 percent increase over the corresponding period last year. Ha Nam Ninh Province in the Red River Delta, in the current winter-spring cropping season, has harvested 45,000 tons of food in paddy equivalent, up by 10 percent over the same period last year. The central highlands province of Darlak, with the assistance of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, has successfully produced heat tolerant cabbage seeds which were imported in the past. A group of researchers at the Ho Chi Minh City Polytechnic have grown water hyacinth and "chlorella" lentil along the Tham Luong canal to purify its water polluted by industrial waste, this method has improved the ecological environment to expand fish raising in the canal and the surrounding lakes. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1510 GMT 6 May 87 OW] /8309

NORTHERN PROVINCES' SEVERE DROUGHT--The Ministry of Water Conservancy has reported that the acreage of 5th-month spring rice, of key rice-planting areas in the northern provinces that badly needed water, as of 30 April was about 300,000 hectares, mostly in areas equipped with water pumping stations. The 5th-month spring rice is fully growing ears and is badly in need of water. Meanwhile, areas ravaged by harmful insects, especially brown plant hoppers, are on the increase. These areas are also in need of water. Less rainfall was recorded in the coastal and former fourth zone areas, so a vast amount of rice acreage is in need of water. In Ha Nam Ninh Province 46,000 hectares of ricefields are facing drought. To create favorable conditions for localities to have sufficient water for ricefields, the electric power and water conservancy sectors are coordinating closely to supply electricity to various water pumping stations with a capacity of 60,000 kilowatts. The electric power sector has also supplied Ha Nam Ninh and Thanh Hoa provinces with 15,000 and 8,000 kilowatts of electricity respectively to help them cope with the present severe drought and serious threat by brown plant hoppers. [Text] [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 6 May 87] /8309

RICE HARVEST--Farmers in southern Vietnam have by now harvested some 700,000 hectares of winter-spring rice, 90 percent of the cultivated acreage. Besides, efforts are being made on soil preparation for the coming crops and fighting crop pests. In the same period, farmers in northern Vietnam have started reaping winter-spring rice while watering some 200,000 hectares hit by drought. Key rice-producing provinces in the Red River Delta such as Thai Binh and Ha Nam Ninh are pooling efforts to fight crop pests. [Text] [Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 12 May 87] /8309

HEAT TOLERANT CABBAGE--Hanoi VNA May 7--Darlac Province in the central highlands has begun mass production of the seeds of a heat-tolerant cabbage strain cultivable in all seasons. Cabbage, a vegetable traditionally grown in temperate climates, was introduced into Vietnam more than one hundred years ago. But it has been grown only in the northern part of the country during the cold season. The new cabbage strain developed by the province in collaboration with the genetics centre of the Ministry of Agriculture, has a growth period of 165-170 days and yields 150kg of seeds per hectare. It can grow normally at temperatures ranging from 24 to 30 degrees centigrade, the normal temperature of southern Vietnam. Darlac plans to considerably expand the cultivation of this cabbage right in this year. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 0709 GMT 7 May 87 OW] /8309

FAMILY ECONOMY--The Hanoi People's Committee has adopted some regulations to encourage the development of family economy. These regulations allow all agricultural cooperatives on the outskirts of Hanoi to spare part of their cultivable land for family economy. They also have the right to find outlets for their food, foodstuffs, and other farm produce without paying tax. All those who are engaged in family economy have asked for loans from state credit banks to buy materials and machines. Hanoi will reserve 10 percent of its materials for family economy. [Text] [Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 12 May 87] /8309

RICE PRODUCTION--Hanoi VNA April 14--The Red River Delta, one of the two biggest rice producers of the country, is formed by the Hong (Red) River and the Thai Binh River. Rice is the main crop grown, yielding more than three million tons a year. Since the green revolution began in the late 60's, major changes have taken place in rice growing. Short-term and high-yielding varieties have replaced long-term and low-yielding ones. As a result, many districts in the delta have reaped 10 tons or more per hectare in a year. In particular, Xuan Phuon agricultural cooperative in Ha Nam Ninh Province recorded the highest yield: 12.4 tons/ha per crop. According to recent studies, the Red River Delta could yield 15.8 tons/ha/year (8.7 tons in the winter-spring crop and 7.1 tons in the summer crop). Productivity of the whole region at present is only 2.9 ton/ha/crop. To reach the target of 15.8 tons-ha-year, intensive farming is crucial, especially with regard to rice strains, fertilizer and irrigation work. Equally important are the application of measures against pests and insects and an efficient plant protection network. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 0704 GMT 14 Apr 87 OW] /8309

PHU KHANH MARITIME PRODUCTS--In the first quarter of this year, Phu Khanh Province has purchased 354 metric tons of maritime products for export. This figure, which includes 176 metric tons of shrimps, shows an increase of 154 percent over the same period last year. Various localities in the province have begun to set aside a certain amount of foreign currency for producers to expand operation. [Summary] [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 21 Apr 87 BK] /6662

CSO: 4200/574

NGUYEN BA INTERVIEWED ON MALFEASANCE IN POSTAL SERVICE

BK191221 Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON CIAI PHONG in Vietnamese 21 Apr 87

[Interview by VAn Quang and Quoc Vinh with Nguyen Ba, director of Ho Cho Minh City Postal Service, on the question of mail mishandlings--date of interview not given]

[Summary] Reporter: "We would like to go directly to the question as to why is it that many letters and postal parcels sent from abroad were opened, ripped up, or missing?"

Nguyen Ba: "There are two causes, within the postal service and without, specifically during air shipment."

Reporter: Then, roughly, what percentage of the mail mishandling cases was the postal service responsible for?

Nguyen Ba: About 5-10 percent.

Reporter: Does this mean that the airline was responsible for the remaining 90 percent?

Nguyen Ba: "From December 1985 up to now, the number of mailbags and post parcels sent to Ho Chi Minh City from the United States and other countries in North America were usually handled by the Thailand-owned Multi Air Services Co Ltd at the Bangkok Airport before they were flown to Tan Son Nhut Airport by the Thai Airline and Air Vietnam. Many cargo shipments, on arriving at their destination, were already wet, damaged, or torn open."

According to statistics, since December 1985, based on receipts for air cargo delivered by the Thai Airline to Ho Chi Minh City at Tan Son Nhut Airport, "There have been more than 1,000 torn mail sacks, many with their cords cut. Their contents were completely or partially stolen. Countless personal letters were opened or ripped up to search for dollars. It is typical that according to air cargo delivery slips, in the two mail deliveries by the Thai airline at Tan Son Nhut Airport on 10 and 17 October 1986, there were a total of 648 mail sacks. But in reality, only 647 sacks were received. One sack was missing. Of the remaining 647 sacks, 196 were badly torn. Their cords were cut off and their contents were switched."

Reporter: "Why did the city postal service agree to accept torn mail sacks and 'emptied' postal parcels without rejecting them and returning them to the Thai airline?"

Nguyen Ba: "We did protest and they replied: 'When we received these goods, they were already torn like this. If you, gentlemen, refuse to accept them, we will take them back....' So, we eventually had to accept these goods because if we did not, they would take them away and we would lose them for good. This would mean a loss for the recipients."

Reporter: Is there any international organization supervising this situation?

Nguyen Ba: Yes, the International Postal Organization. We have filed a protest note with it concerning this situation but no measures have been taken so far.

Reporter: "From what we know, a number of postal service officers have also stolen and switched the contents of postal parcels and have torn open personal letters to look for dollars. Two personnel of the Fifth Precinct Postal Office have been caught red-handed for these actions. Could you, comrade, tell us how you have dealt with them?"

Nguyen Ba: "They are Le Quoc Dung and Phan Anh Kiet of the Fifth Precinct Postal Office. They stole nearly 100 personal letters and brought them home to look for dollars." They were kept under surveillance and were later caught red-handed. The city postal service forced them to resign and they were sentenced to 5 months imprisonment.

Reporter: "It is too light a sentence!"

Nguyen Ba: That is not our business but the court's.

Reporter: A number of our readers who are intellectuals told us that many printed materials, including valuable scientific-technical books sent as gifts from friends or relatives abroad were missing.

Nguyen Ba: As for printed materials received at the postal service, those with decadent or reactionary contents have been confiscated by the Cultural and Information Service.

Reporter: Many of our readers have complained about having to give "tea money" to mailmen whenever they have a letter from abroad.

Nguyen Ba: We have not heard any complaints about this.

Reporter: Could you, comrade, give us a brief evaluation of the antinegativism movement within the postal service?

Nguyen Ba: Thanks to the application of many integrated measures, "daily phenomena have reduced by 80 percent as compared with the preceding years." The state of goods being stolen has decreased sharply.

Reporter: Thank you, comrade.

/6662

CSO: CSO: 4200/573

HEALTH CARE IMPROVEMENTS DISCUSSED

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 27 Feb 87 p 3

[Article by Dang Hoi Xuan, PhD, minister of public health: "Public Health Sector and Three Major Economic Programs"]

[Text] To stabilize the socioeconomic situation is not only an encompassing goal, but also an earnest aspiration of our people in the coming years. The Sixth CPV Congress has decided to concentrate manpower and material wealth on three major economic programs--grain and food production, consumer good production, and export production.

What should the public health sector, with its medical and pharmaceutical activities, do to support and contribute to implementing these three programs? This is a heavy responsibility and great honor for Vietnamese medical doctors and public health cadres at present.

As we all know, despite a considerable public health effort, there has been a decline in the health of the people, an increase in environmental pollution, and a recurrence of epidemics in the past few years, affecting production and living standards of the laboring people in rural, urban, and major industrial areas.

To redress that situation in keeping with party views, we should address the following major issues:

1. Consolidate and perfect the public health network at the basic, district, and ward levels, ensuring proper primary care to prevent and fight epidemics and ameliorate the health of the people, particularly in key areas engaged in three major economic programs. This is an extremely important undertaking that draws increased attention of echelons, sectors, and mass organizations.

Experience from many areas in the Mekong River Delta, Red River Delta, Central Highlands, and major industrial zones indicates clearly that, in places where the basic public health network was weak and where assistance from upper echelons was unsatisfactory, epidemics broke out frequently, directly impeding production growth. Therefore, we should promptly strengthen and refine the basic public health network in villages, subwards, construction sites, state farms, state forests, enterprises, and small industry and

handicraft cooperatives; first to be strengthened should be those in key areas which produce grain, food, consumer goods, and export goods.

We should carry out appropriate measures and policies for paying wages and allowances and allocating staple commodities to cadres; on linking public health work with the effort to educate and train cadres politically, technically, and vocationally; and on ways to dispense good primary care to meet the needs of individual installations and areas. We should coordinate with sectors and mass organizations to conduct propaganda and stimulate the masses to keep water clean; prevent pollution; handle manure, discarded water, and trash correctly; accelerate the movement to promote sanitation and exterminate flies, mosquitoes, and rodents; conduct a broad inoculation program; and promptly detect and stamp out pockets of contagion whenever an epidemic erupts. We should care for mothers and children while encouraging family planning. We should set up a rational nutritional system, improve daily meals, manufacture an adequate quantity of drugs (mainly traditional drugs), and use nondrug methods including acupuncture, acupressure, massage, and hygienic lifestyle to prevent and treat diseases and to make people healthy. We should pay attention to priority targets and should identify and treat diseases promptly at health care installations and at home. We should do well on primary care by applying effective prophylactic measures, blending modern medicine with traditional national medicine, and implementing the motto of "the state and people working together" at the grassroots level to serve production and living standards with realism.

2. Strive to improve the quality of medical exams and cures--an important endeavor aimed at keeping the work force in good shape. However, that activity is being marred by difficulties, which should be overcome to achieve progress, from the basic level up to walk-in clinics and higher-level hospitals.

As difficulties and hardships grow bigger, it is more imperative to strengthen political indoctrination, improve work spirit and behavior, stimulate people to work with responsibility and fervor, and single out for praise excellent models, outstanding people, and achievements in each unit throughout the sector. We should resolutely fight attempts to give ourselves airs, see health care as charity, and despise patients, and should punish vigorously instances of irresponsibility and negative phenomena at health care installations.

We should strengthen management, guidance, and control over compliance with regulations on asepsis, standby emergency care, patient medical records, collective diagnosis during clinical rounds, and rational and safe dispensation of drugs.

The medical sector should draw up plans for effective coordination with localities to ensure that the supply of drugs, usual provisions, and critical lab facilities is adequate and does not affect the life-saving process. It should find proper measures and ways to provide for rooms, board, and care, thus gradually limiting with the intension of eliminating, the practice of hospitalized patients being looked after by their own relatives. At the same time, it should bend over backward to introduce more appropriate policies and procedures toward hospital cadres and personnel.

By opening more zonal polyclinics, traditional medical clinics, and exam tables at health care installations to treat outpatients, by managing the latter, and by instituting at-home care, we will help ease difficulties for the laboring people and benefit production, especially in the Mekong River Delta and new economic zones.

3. Plant and raise more medicinal materials and produce more drugs and medical equipment to meet domestic needs and increase exports to earn foreign exchange for importing those commodities which we are not yet able to produce.

In light of the motto of "using the pharmaceutical industry--with a focus on raw material production--as a core, medicinal materials as a foundation, scientific research as a mainspring, and export as a lever," the pharmaceutical sector should tackle the following major problems with a vengeance:

--Produce enough drugs for domestic use in keeping with economic conditions and drug use policies, with an emphasis on emergency drugs, ordinary drugs, drugs for social diseases, and special drugs. We should manufacture more drugs from homegrown and imported materials and should refine the import process.

--Accelerate drug production with a focus on raw materials. At first, we should manufacture antibiotics, the chemicals. Afterward, we should process more medicinal plants. Along with drug production, we should pay attention to and accelerate the pace of production of medical equipment, mostly ordinary implements for domestic use.

--Raise and plant more medicinal agents, making the most of local strengths to set up major medicinal crop areas gradually. We should take steps to strengthen medicinal material enterprises at the central level, develop essential oils of cajuput, menthol, and elsholtzia, create favorable conditions for international cooperation, and continually speed up the movement to plant and use traditional drugs.

--Expand drug exports and imports, and international cooperation on drugs, paying attention especially to expanding cooperation within the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance.

This is an important task, the implementation of which requires vigorous and dynamic measures, as well as close cooperation, association, and coordination between the pharmaceutical and other economic and technical sectors and between the central and local governments in the fields of production, business, export, and import under unified management and concentrated guidance in order to attain the highest degree of efficiency.

4. Renovate our ways to thinking and doing, linking public health with the economy, and mobilizing the masses, sectors, and mass organizations to take part in nursing, protecting, and improving the health of the people. Appropriate investment policies should be adopted to meet the people's health care needs.

The Sixth CPV Congress indicated emphatically that "the people's health and the nation's future are a daily preoccupation of our party and state, a

responsibility for all sectors and mass organizations, and a responsibility and vital interest for every citizen."

Always staying close to economic development, mostly to the implementation of three major economic programs, the public health sector should submit appropriate health care proposals to party echelons and administration officials in due time for consideration, and should go out of its way to enlist the participation of the masses, sectors, and mass organizations, particularly trade unions, the women's union, the youth union, and the Red Cross.

We should draw on various sources and capabilities--central and local budgets, state and people, domestic and foreign alike--to invest more in medical and pharmaceutical activities aimed at caring for people's health. A change in the investment policy is required to prevent health care installations from degrading further and to meet the rising need for providing basic and advanced training to cadres and for manufacturing enough drugs and medical equipment to serve the people's health needs.

9213/12951

CSO: 4209/379

SOCIAL

VIETNAM

WOMEN PARTICIPATE IN PARTY, STATE LEADERSHIP

OW190855 Hanoi VNA in English 0702 GMT 19 May 87

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 18--Women have always been elected or appointed to the leadership of the Vietnamese party and state from the centre to grassroots levels.

Seven women were elected to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam 6th Congress and six others, alternate members of the CPV Central Committee. These figures make up 5.5 percent and 12 percent of the total of full and alternate members respectively of the high party leading staff.

One hundred and eight women were elected to the National Assembly, seventh legislature, accounting for 21.8 percent of the total number of the N.A. deputies. Mrs. Y Mot is vice chairwoman of the National Assembly and Mrs. Nguyen Thi Dinh, member of the State Council.

Sixteen women are holding ministerial or equivalent posts and nearly 200 others are department heads of the party Central Committee and state offices.

Two hundred and thirtyone women are members of municipal or provincial party committees, accounting for 11 percent of the total of the personnel staff of these leading bodies.

More than 1,000 women have been elected to provincial or municipal people's committees, making up 28 percent of these organizations' staff. Of this figure, 17 are vice-chairwomen of the provincial and municipal people's committees.

About 2,530 women have taken part in the party leadership of almost 500 urban precincts and rural districts across the country. Of them 13 are secretaries of the district party committees.

There are 5,211 women elected to district people's councils of 19 percent of the total of district cadres. Two hundred and eighty others are members of district people's committees, 44 of them are elected presidents or vice presidents of these committees.

Women participating in the party committees at the communal or ward level total 6,975. Among them, 163 work as secretaries, accounting for 18 percent of the total party officials at this level.

More than 50,280 women are members of communal or ward people's councils, representing 19.5 percent of the personnel at this level.

Of the people's committees at this grassroots level, 4,619 members are women including 928 presidents or vice [incomplete sentence as received].

/6662

CSO: 4200/573

BRIEFS

HAIPHONG FERTILIZER MISAPPROPRIATION--PHAP LUAT [LAW] journal recently reported that (Le Quang Thien), operator of Barge SK-100, and crew members (Vu Van Chanh), (Mai Dang Hung), and (Trinh Van Binh) had sold, without authorization, 13 bags of nitrate fertilizer to private merchants for 5,200 dong which they shared among themselves. The three crew members later sold another 44 bags for their own benefit. In another case, (Bui Van Nua), operator of Barge SK-104, and crew members (Pham Van Nghe), (Nguyen Duc Xuong), and (Pham Van Lap) sold 35 bags of nitrate fertilizer to private traders. In yet another case, (Dao Dinh Sang), operator of Barge SK-118, and crew members (Le Huu Tiet) and (Nguyen Van Hanh) misappropriated 15 bags of nitrate fertilizer and caused the loss of 15,538 kg of fertilizer. The people's organ of control of Haiphong has prosecuted the culprits for embezzlement of socialist property. [Summary] [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 11 Apr 87 BK] /9738

SOVIET LANGUAGE, TEACHING AID--A ceremony was held in Hanoi on 22 April by the Hanoi Vietnamese-Soviet Culture, Labor, and Friendship Palace [cung vawn hoas lao dqoongj huwux nghij viet-so] to receive two rooms with listening and recording devices for the teaching and study of foreign languages at the palace. A gift from the Soviet-Vietnamese Friendship Association, these modern listening and recording devices will help perfect the teaching and study of foreign languages in general, and Russian in particular, using new methods. The two rooms can accommodate 50 students at a time. [Summary] [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 22 Apr 87 BK] /9738

RELIEF TO VIETNAMESE CHILDREN--Hanoi, 14 Apr (VNA)--The World Council of Churches (HEKS) of Switzerland has decided to grant an aid worth U.S. \$116,200 to buy medicines and schooling facilities for hospitals and schools in Tien Hai District, Thai Binh Province (South of Hanoi), which was heavily devastated by storm "Wayne" last year. The decision is contained in a letter enclosed with a planned inventory of the gifts which was handed over to Dr Pham Minh Hac, Vietnamese minister of education by Belser Edward, member of the Swiss Parliament, and three HEKS representatives during their recent friendship visit to Vietnam. The Vietnamese Ministry of Education was also informed by Gunilla E. Larsson, representative of the Raddar Barnen Children's Fund, a Swedish non-government organization, that a consignment of more than 4 tons of children's clothing is being delivered from Sweden to Vietnam. These things are sent as aid from the Raddar Barnen Organization to a newly-built creche in

Viettri Town, Vinh Phu Province (north of Hanoi), and some other creches and kindergartens in Vietnam. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1458 GMT 14 Apr 87 OW] /9738

AGRICULTURE EXPANDS IN HANOI--Hanoi, April (VNA)--Agriculture is making headway in Hanoi, involving more and more people of various social strata, especially retired cadres and workers. It has become a sideline occupation since 1963 when only dozens of bee swarms were raised by a handful of apiarists. Now Hanoi's annual output amounts to 3-50 tons of honey gathered from more than 3,200 swarms. Thousands of apiaries have taken shape in 12 state-run and collective production units in 12 rural districts and urban precincts. Many of them keep from 50 to 100 swarms with the pattern of close-cycle production to harvest dozens of tons of honey a year. Blessed by nature and a wide variety of wild and fruit trees whose blossom seasons last all year round, the agriculture of Hanoi and Vietnam as a whole is very promising. In the coming period, Hanoi plans to keep 10,000 bee swarms to produce 100 tons of honey a year. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1455 GMT 14 Apr 87 OW] /9738

FAO EMERGENCY AID TO VIETNAM--Hanoi, 14 Apr (VNA)--Edouard Saouma, director general of the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, has decided to grant 150,000 dollars as emergency aid to Vietnam to fight against insects harmful to crops. The money will be used to buy insecticides, sprayers, and other equipment for the central provinces of Thanh Hoa and Nghe Tinh whose food crops are being devastated by stinkbugs. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1530 GMT 14 Apr 87 OW] /9738

IMMUNIZATION CAMPAIGN--Hanoi, 4 May (VNA)--Last year, 81.5 percent of the child population in Ha Bac Province, north of Hanoi, were vaccinated against measles, polio, diptheria, tetanus, whopping cough and tuberculosis. An expanded program on immunization was carried out in 313 of its 333 villages and city wards. In particular, 71 percent of the children in the four mountain districts were vaccinated against all the six major child killers. The incidence of these diseases has dropped sharply over the past two years: 80 percent for measles and whopping cough. This year, Ha Bac plans to expand the program to all its 333 villages and city wards and vaccinate 91 percent of the children under three against these diseases. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1524 GMT 4 May 87 OW] /9738

HO CHI MINH CITY-PARIS FLIGHT--Hanoi, 10 May (VNA)--Vietnam Airline and Air France have agreed to have another flight from Ho Chi Minh City to Paris every Monday in addition to the one on Thursday. Now Air France flies twice a week from Paris to Ho Chi Minh City and return. Recently the international terminal of the city's Tan Son Nhat Airport has been reconditioned and extended to receive flights by day and night. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1503 GMT 10 May OW] /9738

CSO: 4200/582

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