

Vietnam courier



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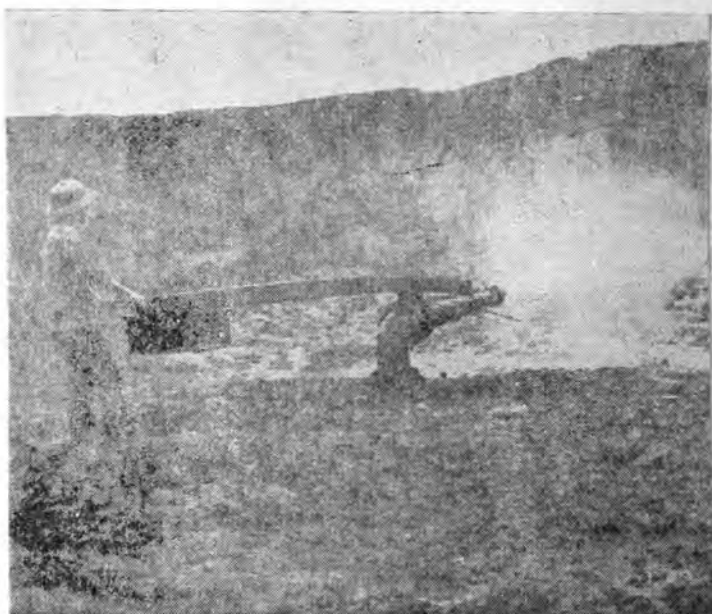
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VIETNAM'S MINERAL RESOURCES

(See article on page 15)



1. An open-cast coal mine in Quang Ninh.

2. The Lao Cai apatite mine.

3. The chromite mine in Co Dinh, Thanh Hoa province.

4. A stone quarry in Dong Nai.

Photos: VNA

THE VICTORY OF MARXISM IN VIETNAM

● The Victory of Marxism in Vietnam	1
● Karl Marx's Works in Vietnam	5
● Communiqué on Indochinese Foreign Ministers' Extraordinary Conference	6
● For the 93rd Birthday of President Ho Chi Minh (19 May 1890) HO CHI MINH	8
● President Ho Chi Minh and the Paper THANH NIEN	10
● More Engineers for Agricultural Cooperatives	12
● Decree on Agricultural Tax	13
● Amendments to Legislation on Industrial and Commercial Taxes	14

Contents

● Vietnam's Mineral Resources	15
● The Institute of Geology and Mineralogy	17
● Economic Regions of Vietnam	19
● 30 Years of the Vietnamese Cinema	23
● Film Star Tra Giang	25
● Vietnam Advances A Comprehensive Atlas about Hanoi	26
● Acupuncture in Vietnam	27
● Again on the Formation of the Vietnamese Nation	28
● Hoa Lu, First Capital of Independent Vietnam	30
● Chronology	32

Front Cover:

Goods for export produced in Thai Binh province.

Photo: VNA

**Vietnam
Courier**

5-1983

On April 2, 1983, at a meeting held in Hanoi in the presence on the Presidium of leaders of the Communist Party of Vietnam and the ambassadors of the USSR and the GDR, to mark the 165th birthday (May 5, 1818) and the 100th death anniversary (March 14, 1883) of Karl Marx, Nguyen Duc Tam, Political Bureau member and Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, delivered an important speech.

After recalling, in the first part of his speech, the life and works of Karl Marx, Nguyen Duc Tam spoke, in its second part, of the victory of Marxism in the world and exposed the manoeuvres of all descriptions aimed at negating Marxism—Leninism in the present era. Stressing that the invincible strength of Marxism—Leninism also springs from its international nature, he particularly condemned Maoism and said:

A dangerous enemy of Marxism—Leninism in our times is Maoism, the theoretical and ideological banner of the reactionary circles in the Chinese leadership—the worst traitor in the history of the international communist and workers' movement. Maoism is an extremely reactionary ideological and political theory opposed to Marxism—Leninism. Its essence is constituted by the great-Han nationalist chauvinism which has developed into great-power hegemonism and expansionism. Maoism denies the leading role of the working class in revolution and gives the peasantry an absolute role. It denies the universal laws of socialist construction and turns proletarian dictatorship into a bureaucratic and militarist dictatorship. It opposes socialism and the Chinese people's interests as well. It opposes proletarian internationalism, the Soviet Union and the entire socialist community, the communist and workers' movement, the national liberation movement, and the movement to defend world peace.

"The present reactionary circles in the Chinese leadership are more and more openly colluding with imperialism, first of all US imperialism, to oppose the revolutionary struggle of nations, and the revolution of the three Indochinese countries, which is an obstacle to their schemes of hegemonism and expansionism in Southeast Asia. They are the direct and dangerous enemy of the Vietnamese revolution. We must continue to lay bare the reactionary nature of Maoism which is donning the cloak of Marxism—Leninism to oppose Marxism—Leninism. At the same time, we must oppose all plans of sabotage and threats of aggression by Chinese hegemonism and expansionism in collusion with US imperialism and other reactionary forces, in order to contribute to the struggle for peace and stability in Indochina and Southeast Asia.

Nguyen Duc Tam then dealt with the victory of Marxism in Vietnam in the third part of his speech:

The history of the Vietnamese revolution during the last half-century and more has demonstrated the invincible strength of Marxism—Leninism and its wonderful power to transform the world. Marxism—Leninism came to Vietnam at a time when the destitute and downtrodden Vietnamese people were looking for a way to throw off colonial bondage. President Ho Chi Minh was the first Vietnamese to introduce Marxism—Leninism into the country. He said: "Marxism—Leninism is to the Vietnamese people what water and food are to a thirsty and hungry traveller." He further said: "To save the country and liberate the nation, there is no other way than to carry out the proletarian revolution." He read Lenin's theses about the colonial question and pondered over the Vietnamese revolution. He pointed out that the revolution of the colonial peoples is an integral part of the world revolution, that the proletarian revolution in the metropolitan country and the national liberation revolution in the colonies are "inter-related like the two wings of a bird".

Marxism—Leninism, after being introduced into Vietnam, generated an unprecedentedly powerful revolutionary tide. The combination of Marxism—Leninism, the most advanced revolutionary thought of our era, with the seething struggle of the working class and the patriotic movement of the Vietnamese people led to the founding of the Communist Party of Vietnam on February 3, 1930. The founding of the Communist Party of Vietnam, a Marxist—Leninist Party, marked a fundamental turning-point in the history of the Vietnamese revolution, placing

it into the orbit of the proletarian revolution. That is the root cause of all victories of the Vietnamese revolution during the past half-century and more.

Right at the outset, the Communist Party of Vietnam charted a correct revolutionary line for the Vietnamese working class and people. It pointed out that the Vietnamese revolution had to go through two stages, proceeding from the people's national democratic revolution to the socialist revolution without going through the stage of capitalist development.

The people's national democratic revolution in our country was waged under the leadership of the vanguard party of the working class and on the basis of a firm worker-peasant alliance and a broad national united front. Adopting flexible but principled tactics for each period, it used revolutionary violence, combining armed with political struggle and the military with the non-military forces of the revolutionary masses, to overthrow the imperialist and feudal rule, and wrest back power to the people. Giving play to the aggregate strength of the whole nation, the Communist Party of Vietnam has also known how to combine the strength of the country with the strength of the revolutionary currents of our era to form a great total force and achieve marvellous exploits in the history of the national struggle against foreign aggression, such as the General Uprising of August 1945, the Dien Bien Phu victory in 1954, and the Ho Chi Minh military campaign in 1975.

As was correctly pointed out in the 1930 Programme, the first programme of the Party, the people's national democratic revolution under the leadership of the working class, once victorious, would inevitably switch over to the socialist revolution without going through any transitional stage. However, due to the tortuous development of history, the people's national democratic revolution in our country could win victory only step by step and accordingly, the socialist revolution in our country, in its initial phase, could be carried out only in North Vietnam. For all the limitations in the achievements in socialist construction in North Vietnam during the first two decades, the North really became a firm revolutionary base for the whole country, the broad rear area of the nationwide revolution during the resistance against US aggression, for national salvation. Those twenty years also provided us with valuable experience on how to travel the direct road to socialism in an economically underdeveloped country.

With the complete victory of the resistance against US aggression, for national salvation, the Vietnamese homeland was reunified and conditions were created for expanding the socialist revolution to the whole of the country in all its depth and scope. However, history is never a smooth and straight path. Once again, the socialist revolution in our country is unfolding in a complex international situation. The warlike forces of imperialism, headed by US imperialism, and the Chinese expansionists and hegemonists join hands in an attempt to counter the world revolution. In Southeast Asia, the Chinese reactionaries, in collusion with the US imperialists and other reactionary forces, are spearheading their attack on the revolution in Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea.

At present, the reactionaries in the Chinese ruling circles are undertaking a multi-faceted war of sabotage against our country, using many forces and very wicked methods. Our country is facing a situation in which our people, although enjoying peace, have to cope with this war of sabotage while preparing to face possible large-scale armed aggression by the Chinese reactionaries.

That is why, as was pointed out at the Fifth Congress of the Party, in the new stage, the Vietnamese revolution has to fulfil simultaneously two strategic tasks, namely, to successfully build socialism while standing ready to fight to firmly defend the socialist Vietnamese homeland.

While not relaxing our vigilance for a single moment, while acutely conscious of the dangerous nature of Chinese expansionism and hegemonism and standing ready to cope with all its schemes and acts of aggression, our people consider it their primary task to carry out socialist transformation and build socialism on a national scale. Socialism is the highest goal of our revolution at present because socialism and the solidity of our socialist regime are guarantee for the independence and freedom of our homeland and the happiness of our people. To advance to socialism is the definite road chosen and charted by the Communist Party of Vietnam as early as the thirties of this century.

Marx, Engels and Lenin all pointed to the inevitability of the period of transition to socialism associated to questions of principle which the socialist revolution has to solve during this historical period. The Conferences of Communist and Workers' Parties held in 1957 and 1960 in Moscow summed up and affirmed the universal laws governing

socialist transformation and socialist construction in our era.

Of course, the socialist revolution in our country also has to solve questions pertaining to these universal laws. However, unlike the case of other countries, the socialist revolution in our country has been taking place in specific conditions, the most important and prominent one being to proceed directly to socialism from an underdeveloped economy where small-scale production is predominant, bypassing the stage of capitalist development. In the present era, this revolutionary process in our country fully accords with objective laws and with the genial prediction of the founders of scientific communism. V.I. Lenin pointed out the conditions in which an economically underdeveloped country, after establishing proletarian dictatorship, could, with the assistance of proletarian dictatorships in developed industrial countries, bypass the period of capitalist development and advance directly to socialism.

Acting in absolute compliance with the Marxist — Leninist theory on socialist revolution and firmly grasping the particularities of the revolution in our country, the Fourth Party Congress laid down the line for socialist revolution in Vietnam in the new stage. The Fifth Party Congress reaffirmed the continuation of this general line and the line for building the socialist economy which had been mapped out. The Fourth Party Congress drew particular attention to the following questions: "Firmly exercise proletarian dictatorship, build the regime of collective mastery of the working people and carry out socialist industrialization." The Fifth Party Congress developed and concretized this line one step further, mapped out the general objectives and the major socio-economic policies for the 1980's, that is, for the immediate stage of the transitional period to socialism in our country. These are:

1. To meet the most urgent, and essential requirements of the task of gradually stabilizing and eventually improving to a certain extent the material and cultural life of the people, first of all to solve the food problem in a steady fashion and better meet the people's needs in clothing, education, health care, transportation, child care and in essential consumer goods.

2. To continue laying the material and technical bases of socialism, aimed chiefly at boosting agricultural production, the production of consumer goods and goods for export; at the same time to increase the technical equipment of other economic branches and prepare for a still more vigorous

development of heavy industry in the subsequent periods.

3. To complete socialist transformation in the southern provinces; to continue strengthening and consolidating the socialist production relations in the North; to strengthen the socialist production relations throughout the country.

4. To meet the needs of national defence, increase our defence capabilities and firmly maintain security and order.

In execution of this line, during recent years, under the leadership of the Party headed by Comrade Le Duan, the Party's General Secretary, an outstanding disciple of President Ho Chi Minh, our people have recorded notable achievements in economic construction, and have created new changes for the better, opening new and very significant prospects in the stabilization and development of the economy and society. Agricultural production has achieved inspiring successes, making important steps forward in the solution of the food problem through domestic production and food procurement. Industrial production has been maintained at its normal level and has shown good progress in some respects, especially regarding local industries, small industries and handicrafts. Capital construction has been initially reorganized; progress has also been recorded in transport, communications and the postal service; a change for the better has also been recorded in the export industries; socialist transformation in the southern provinces continues to be stepped up...

However, the above-mentioned changes and progress have not been uniform and steady. The socio-economic situation is facing major difficulties and posing many urgent problems which need to be solved, in production and in the circulation and distribution of goods, in economic management and in social management. The struggle to solve the question "which will win" — the socialist or the capitalist path — is unfolding in an acute and complex manner.

In order to further develop the achievements already gained and continue taking the socialist revolution in our country forward, we must firmly grasp the Party's general line on socialist revolution and the line on building the socialist economy, firmly grasp the objectives to be attained throughout the transitional period as well as in the present stage. We must firmly maintain proletarian dictatorship, increase the effectiveness of the State machinery, give full play to the dynamism, initiative and creative power of the revolutionary masses

in order to effectively manage the economy and society and generate a stirring revolutionary movement among all sections of the working people. We must make use of all existing capacities and potentials, step by step overcome difficulties and steadily take the country forward along the line charted by the Fourth and Fifth Congresses of the Party. This is also how we can effectively repress all acts of sabotage by the enemy and all acts of opposition by the elements of the bourgeoisie who refuse socialist transformation.

Internationalism is in the nature of the proletariat and a fundamental content of Marxism. The Communist Party of Vietnam, right from the outset, has been imbued with proletarian internationalist solidarity. Through the various stages of its struggle, the Vietnamese revolution has always won great and effective support from the world's proletariat. In return, by waging their own struggle, our people have contributed to the common struggle of the proletariat and progressive mankind against capitalism and international reaction.

In the present stage of the revolution, our people are deeply conscious of the fact that the solidarity and support extended to us by the world's proletariat, the international communist movement and the world's people as a whole, especially our close solidarity and all-round cooperation with the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Soviet State, the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and the German Democratic Republic State, and the Parties and States of the other fraternal socialist countries, together with our special solidarity with the Lao People's Revolutionary Party and the Lao People's Democratic Republic State and with the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party and the People's Republic of Kampuchea State constitute a primary and indispensable condition for our country to advance directly to socialism without going through the period of capitalist development.

Absolutely loyal to Marxism—Leninism, our people pledge to do all they can to contribute to the strengthening of this proletarian internationalist solidarity.

At present, US-led imperialism, together with other reactionary forces, are frantically pushing the nuclear arms race, bringing mankind to the brink of war. More than ever before, our people should heighten their vigilance and, together with the fraternal socialist countries and the world's people, actively struggle to stay the warlike hands of imperialism. By so doing we shall be making an active contribution to the struggle for the

defence of world peace and the struggle for national independence, democracy and socialism in the spirit of the recent conference of Party secretaries in charge of ideological work in the fraternal socialist countries.

The Communist Party of Vietnam has always set itself the task of studying and firmly grasping Marxism — Leninism, remaining boundlessly loyal to Marxism — Leninism, resolutely defending the purity of Marxism — Leninism and refusing to compromise with any ideology or action opposed to Marxism — Leninism, firmly opposing Maoism and revisionism of all kinds as well as dogmatism and empiricism.

The Party attaches great importance to giving continued systematic Marxist — Leninist education to all its cadres and members, combining instruction in Marxism — Leninism and in the line and

policies of the Party with efforts to foster their revolutionary qualities and virtues and unceasingly raise their cultural, technical and professional standards.

We must step up the Party's theoretical work and direct it toward the study of urgent questions of the Vietnamese revolution and the international communist and workers' movement. Being loyal to Marxism — Leninism also means to firmly grasp Marxist — Leninist theory and creatively use it to work out the line and policies of the Party in conformity with practical tasks in various stages of the socialist revolution in our country.

It is necessary to sum up the experience of the Vietnamese revolution and see that Marxist — Leninist doctrine and the practice of the Vietnamese revolution are organically integrated in all activities of the Party.

KARL MARX'S WORKS IN VIETNAM

To meet the growing demands of Party members, government cadres and the broad masses of the people in political and theoretical study and research in recent years, the *Su That* (Truth) Publishing House in Hanoi has put out a large number of classics of Marxism — Leninism, totalling 598 titles, 3,675,585 copies, and 771,935,085 pages.

Of these, Karl Marx's works account for 40 titles, 312,334 copies, and 115,533,792 pages. In addition, *Su That* has published 26 books written by Marx in collaboration with Engels totalling 171,500 copies, and 48,791,240 pages.

Almost all the main works of Marx have been translated into Vietnamese and gone through many editions. They include: *Manifesto of the Communist Party*; *Capital*; *Critique of the Gotha Programme*; *Wage, Labour and Capital*; *Wages, Price and Profit*; *The Poverty of Philosophy*; *The Pre-Capitalist Forms of Production*; *The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte*; *The Class Struggles in France*; *The German Ideology*; *The Holy Family or Critique of Critical Criticism*; *Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844*, etc.

Many works have been reprinted again and again, each time in more copies. For instance, *The Communist Manifesto*, which first appeared in Vietnamese in 1949, has been republished ten times, each time in tens of thousands of copies. *Critique of the Gotha Programme*, first printed in 1957, has been published three times. *Capital*, the first volume of which appeared in 1957, has been published three times in a complete edition; *Selected Works of Marx — Engels*, in two volumes, was published in 1962 and 1971.

The Collected Works of Marx — Engels, in 50 volumes, a major publishing project in the political and theoretical field, will come out over a period of 20 years. The first volume appeared in 1978, and the second will come off the press this year on the occasion of Karl Marx's 165th birthday and the centenary of his death.

The *Su That* Publishing House and other publishers have put out in translation several books on Marx's life and works and on the ideological content of his major works: *Marx — Engels, Their Lives and Activities* by Auguste Cornu in six volumes; *Introduction to Marx's Capital* by

Rosenberg in three volumes; *Karl Marx Short biography, Introduction to Critique of the Gotha Programme*, etc. On the occasion of Marx's birthday this year, *Our Lives*, by Heinrich Genkop, Deputy Director of the Marxist — Leninist Institute under the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, dealing with the lives and works of Marx and Engels will be available for Vietnamese readers.

The *Su That* Publishing House is also increasing its cooperation with publishing houses in socialist countries in the publication of the classics of Marxism — Leninism.

In this connection, the first volume of *Selected Works of Marx — Engels*, new edition in six volumes, together with an index, will be published in Vietnamese in 60,000 copies. This is an instance of cooperation between the *Su That* Publishing House and the Dietz Verlag Berlin Publishing House of the German Democratic Republic. The whole book will have been published in 1984 under a joint program. A contract has also been signed with the Moscow Progress Publishers for the publication of *Capital* in 11 volumes, each volume in 10,000 copies. The printing is scheduled to be completed by 1985.

COMMUNIQUE ON INDOCHINESE FOREIGN MINISTERS' EXTRAORDINARY CONFERENCE

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Kampuchea Hun Sen, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic Phoune Sipaseuth, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Nguyen Co Thach held an extraordinary conference in Phnom Penh on 12 April 1983.

1. The three Ministers unanimously consider that the success of the Vientiane Summit held last February between Laos, Kampuchea and Vietnam inaugurated a new stage in the relations between the three peoples, these relations being marked by friendship, militant solidarity and close cooperation in all fields. The socialist countries, many non-aligned countries and many peace-loving countries together with world opinion in general highly value the solidarity between Laos, Kampuchea and Vietnam, and the foreign policy of peace, friendship and cooperation pursued by them, and consider the Vientiane Summit to be an important contribution to peace and stability in Southeast Asia and the world.

2. The Conference sets great store by the victory of the Seventh Non-aligned Summit, which constitutes an important contribution to peace, national independence and the economic development of the countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America.

The three countries of Indochina will join with India, Chairman of the Non-aligned Movement, and

other member countries in striving to enhance the success of the Seventh Summit and carry into effect the historic New Delhi appeal and the political and economic resolutions adopted by the conference.

The People's Republic of Kampuchea expresses its profound gratitude to the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam for their resolute effort to get a reasonable resolution adopted on the question of representation of the People's Republic of Kampuchea within the Non-aligned Movement.

The countries of Indochina express their sincere appreciation of the support extended by Non-aligned countries to their victorious struggle against the plot by the imperialist and international reactionary forces to return the genocidal Pol Pot band to the Non-aligned Movement under the cover of Sihanouk.

The Seventh Summit of the Non-aligned Countries adopted judicious resolutions, which were accepted by the non-aligned countries in both ASEAN and Indochina. These resolutions refuse recognition to the Pol Pot band, call on the Southeast Asian countries to negotiate in order to solve their differences and propose an overall solution for the restoration of peace and stability in Southeast Asia.

These resolutions thus disagree with the erroneous UN resolutions on Kampuchea which reflect only

the interests of one group of Southeast Asian countries and have been rejected by the other.

The three countries of Indochina appeal to India, Chairman of the Movement, and to other non-aligned countries to do their best to contribute to a dialogue between the countries of Southeast Asia and to the implementation of the resolutions of the Seventh Summit on Southeast Asia.

The three countries of Indochina request the UN and other countries to drop their recognition of Pol Pot, stop encouraging confrontation in Southeast Asia, and assist in the implementation of the resolutions of the Non-aligned Movement on Southeast Asia.

The three countries of Indochina express their appreciation of those countries which had earlier voted for Pol Pot in the UN but have recently agreed that the seat of Kampuchea be left vacant at the Seventh Non-aligned Summit.

3. The three Ministers have examined the proposal made in New Delhi on 8 March 1983 by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia during his talks with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam relating to the opening of dialogues between the countries of ASEAN and the two countries of Indochina.

They note that this proposal is in conformity with the spirit of the Seventh Summit resolutions and that it has been approved by several ASEAN countries.

The Conference of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the ASEAN countries held on 23 March 1983 in Bangkok took no decision on that matter. The Conference of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the three countries of Indochina strongly condemns China for her frantic opposition to that proposal; this constitutes an act of gross interference in the affairs of Southeast Asian countries and an attempt to pit ASEAN countries against Indochinese countries aiming at sabotaging peace and stability in Southeast Asia.

The three Ministers have also examined the declaration of the above-mentioned Bangkok Conference. They take note of the desire of the ASEAN countries for dialogue but consider that the conditions set by them constitute an obstacle to the dialogue itself.

The countries of Indochina are of the opinion that the dialogue should be conducted by the two groups of Southeast Asian countries, that the agenda should be either left open or decided by mutual agreement on the basis of the resolutions of the Seventh Non-aligned Summit which have been accepted by all concerned.

Differences over the list of participants and the agenda could be solved by negotiation on the basis of equality and mutual respect, in the interest of peace and stability in Southeast Asia.

The three Ministers decide to pursue their efforts to promote dialogue between the countries of ASEAN and Indochina. The three countries of Indochina call on other countries not to hamper dialogue between the countries of Southeast Asia and welcome all contribution from whatever country to such dialogue.

4. Given the secure and stable situation in Kampuchea at present

and in order to implement the declaration of Kampuchea and Vietnam at the recent Vientiane Summit of February 1983 on the annual withdrawal of Vietnamese volunteers from Kampuchea, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kampuchea and his Vietnamese counterpart have informed the Conference that the partial withdrawal for 1983 will take place next May.

5. The Conference has examined the situation at the Kampuchean-Thai border and has categorically rejected the allegations of the American and Chinese ruling circles and of some regional reactionary elements concerning so-called attacks on Kampuchean civilians and violations of Thai territory by Vietnamese troops.

The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the three Indochinese countries strongly condemn the Chinese authorities for acting in collusion with the US imperialists, and using Thai territory to help the Pol Pot forces and other Khmer reactionary forces to oppose the Kampuchean people. They also strongly condemn the USA for stepping up its aid in armaments to Thailand, with the aim of regaining its lost positions in Southeast Asia.

The Conference affirms that the Kampuchean people and their armed forces, with the help of the Vietnamese volunteers, have the right to punish the Pol Pot remnants and other counter-revolutionary forces in order to safeguard the revival of their country.

The three countries of Indochina, while demanding that the Thai authorities put an end to their interference in the internal affairs of Kampuchea and their gross violations of the territorial integrity

and sovereignty of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, reassert their constant policy of respect for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Kingdom of Thailand.

The three countries of Indochina are of the opinion that the urgent question at present is to put an end to military actions along the Kampuchea—Thailand border, find a solution to the problem of Kampuchean refugees and restore peace and security in this border region. They reiterate the proposal put forward by the Conference of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Laos, Kampuchea and Vietnam held in Ho Chi Minh City on 7 July, 1982 on the establishment of a safety zone along the border between Kampuchea and Thailand and appeal to Thailand to respond positively so as to ensure security and stability in that border region.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Kampuchea once again proposes that the Red Cross of the People's Republic of Kampuchea and its Thai counterpart undertake negotiations on the repatriation of the Kampuchean refugees now temporarily living on Thai territory.

The three countries of Indochina are ready to examine any proposal for restoring peace and stability in the border region between Kampuchea and Thailand and all international guarantees acceptable to all parties.

The People's Republic of Kampuchea welcomes all efforts by any country or international organization which, having friendly relations with both the People's Republic of Kampuchea and Thailand, would help them restore peace and stability along their common border.

Phnom Penh, 12 April 1983

For the 93rd birthday of President Ho Chi Minh (19 May 1890)

HO CHI MINH

My first contact with Vietnam goes back to 1930. The Yen Bay massacre revolted me.

A student and an enthusiast, I couldn't accept such an image of my country.

And so I felt true veneration for Ho Chi Minh. I mean veneration.

I've too vigorously protested against personality cult not to weigh my words.

Ho Chi Minh was at the head of a people who even before him had of course become conscious of their dignity—witness the great names of their history and the revolt of the peasants—but he was their catalyst and at the same time their emblem.

Neither power, nor honours, which he refused during his lifetime, could affect him.

To the end, he remained Nguyen Ai Quoc the patriot, then Ho Chi Minh the guide to freedom.

I apologize for evoking some personal memories.

In 1946, as a *l'Humanité* correspondent, I had the privilege and joy of being received by Ho Chi Minh.

I still remember his arrival in my country. I shall never forget that slender figure in austere cotton cloth and especially that face with immense eyes which contained all the reproaches, all the sufferings and also all the hopes of a people.

When welcoming me he asked me news of my country.

He was aware of everything, of our difficulties, of our problems.

I was moved by such an understanding coming from a man who was fighting for that same freedom we had just recovered.

We had got out of the Resistance. He was pursuing that Resistance for which we were, alas, responsible.

When I say "we", I don't mean the French people. Some were indifferent, others were deceived or agreed to be deceived, but as a whole the French people are too fond of freedom to refuse it to others.

Ho Chi Minh had nothing of the mandarin in the full sense of the word. He had the simplicity of intelligence, generosity of heart, and such penetrating lucidity that some wrongly tried to find in it duplicity.

A few days later, I accompanied Ho Chi Minh to the palace of Fontainebleau. I was young but such memories never grow old. In those days I also had the honour of knowing Pham Van Dong, who was one of the best disciples of Ho Chi Minh and whose friendship and advice have been of great value to me over the years.

When I took leave of him, Ho Chi Minh, full of delicate courtesy toward women, offered me a rose, which I still keep, dried, between the leaves of *Prison Diary*.

Beyond courtesy, Ho Chi Minh was the true defender of woman and he fought to free her from that Confucian world which made her a minor for ever.

He also loved children, he who had no family. This is shown in photographs, and the affection which united him to them, as it united him to peasants, workers and soldiers, was genuine. He was really *Bac Ho*, as everybody called him with tenderness.

More than any other man he knew what it meant to be a Communist. But he also knew how to fight for those who were not. He was the founder of

"fronts". Rejecting sectarianism, he knew how to show the greatest understanding in the interest of Vietnam while never relaxing vigilance.

He fought my government, not my country.

He trusted us; alas, we did not always respond to that trust. He loved France, a free France, in a world freed from oppression in any form. His face, his words, his deeds, which already had been proof of this at the Tours Congress in 1920, bore witness all through his life.

A few months ago many of us came to a street in Paris to pay tribute to his memory when a plaque was put on a modest house where he had lived in 1928.

Of him I keep a vivid memory, I who had the great honour of seeing him, hearing him, and consequently loving him.

Some friends asked me to read a poem I had sent to Pham Van Dong in 1969 upon Ho Chi Minh's death.

Let this be only a token of admiration and affection for Uncle Ho and his people.

FRANÇOISE CORRÈZE

HO CHI MINH

He was simple
In words
And in life.
He was simple
For having known,
For having suffered,
For having struggled.
His eyes, kind to children,
Could be steely
Facing shame
And servitude.
That frail tree
Was stronger than a sequoia.
Death cannot cut
Its roots, in our hearts.
Death cannot wither
The leaves
And fruit
It bore.

Darkness recedes.
His death is a sun
Fixing his ideal
On the peoples' horizon.
O Vietnamese
My brothers!
He weeps on the roses,
He weeps on our hands
Which failed to keep him.
His sandals, taken off,
No longer go to the orchard,
His hands no longer plant
The new coconut-palm,
His eyes no longer follow
The new crop of rice.
But his road always is
Where goes Liberty.

FRANÇOISE CORRÈZE
(Poem translated from
French by D. T. B.)

PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH

AND THE PAPER THANH NIEN

The weekly paper *Thanh Nien* (Youth) first appeared on June 21, 1925. It was the central organ of the *Viet Nam Thanh Nien Cach Mang Dong Chi Hoi* (Association of Vietnamese Revolutionary Youth), the predecessor of the Communist Party of Vietnam. Up to April 1927, it published 88 issues. Comrade Nguyen Ai Quoc, founder and manager of the paper, wrote many articles which he left unsigned. He also enlivened it with his poems and cartoons.

Thanh Nien contained many kinds of articles: editorial, comment, interviews, poems, news from home and abroad... The articles written on the basis of documents drawn from actual life were generally short and clear; the authors used comparisons to expound facts. Written in Vietnamese, it was printed in Canton (China) and secretly sent to Vietnam where it was circulated in the cells of the *Viet Nam Thanh Nien Cach Mang Dong Chi Hoi*, and in the revolutionary bases of the Vietnamese living in France and Thailand.

The paper exerted a great influence on the people, so much so that the French security service in Indochina had to admit that "Nguyen Ai Quoc's paper is read by a great number of people who even copy it by hand and distribute it to others."

Propagating the purposes and principles of the *Viet Nam Thanh Nien Cach Mang Dong Chi Hoi*, *Thanh Nien* put forth its strategic and tactical goal as fighting for national liberation, overthrowing French imperialism and its stooges, the king and mandarins, to wrest back independence and freedom and to advance to socialism and communism.

Continuing the work of *Le Pariah* (Pariah), *Thanh Nien* condemned imperialism in Indochina in the economic, political, military, cultural and social fields. It deepened the hatred for the imperialists and highlighted the keen patriotism of our people. To lay bare the French imperialists' exploitation of our people, the paper cited concrete examples:

"In 1925, the French exported from our country 1,319,648,916 kilograms of rice. The export tax netted amounted to 4,609,993.84 piastres..."¹

"In 1926, our country had 20 million inhabitants, but only 200,000 of them were literate; the French earmarked every year only one million piastres for education. Reversely, they obliged our people to smoke 1.5 million kilograms of opium and drink 173 million litres of alcohol..."

"The French imperialists grabbed land from our people. In a few years to come, they will grab all our lands and it is possible that, alive, we shall not have any plot of land to build a house, and, dead, we shall not have any ground to bury our corpse."

Speaking of the exploitation of our workers by the French, the paper pointed out: "A coal miner at Hong Gay has only to work 5 hours a day (one hour is paid 0.1 piastre) to have enough to eat. But if he does so, the capitalist would not get any profit. So the latter obliges his workers to work 10 hours a day. Ten hours for 0.5 piastre. Each worker loses 0.5 piastre and the capitalist who does nothing pockets a profit of 0.5 piastre derived from the labour of a worker. As the Hong Gay coal mine company (in Tonkin) employs 20,000 workers it nets a profit of 10,000 piastres a day or 35 million piastres a year, while its initial capital is 4 million piastres only."

And the paper concluded: "Coal belongs to Vietnam, the workers are Vietnamese. The French grow rich and condemn us to servitude. What a misfortune!" The paper then analysed the contradictions of capitalism and imperialism and pointed out: "Capitalism is sure to collapse, its doom is not very far." And the paper called on our people to make the revolution.

National salvation and liberation is the concern of all. The paper stressed: "The revolution should be waged by the masses as it champions the interest of the masses and not of a few leaders."

After an analysis of the different social classes in Vietnam, *Thanh Nien* ended the article with the following observations. "It is

the people who are the revolutionary forces. The more they are politically minded, the more powerful are these forces... The workers and peasants are the majority in our country; their revolutionary goal is the interest of the entire people; thus those among them who are the most politically conscious, are the most revolutionary."

To help our people at that time to understand that the Vietnamese revolution was part and parcel of the world proletarian revolution, *Thanh Nien* presented Lenin and the Great October Revolution in detail. It emphasized the close relation existing between the October Revolution and the world revolution: "Russia owes its existence to the world revolution; only when the revolution triumphs in the world, will the Russian revolution be completed... For this reason when Russia helps the world to make the revolution, she does not only save the world but saves herself. In their opposition to capitalism and imperialism, the revolutionary forces in the world should support one another; not only must Russia lend a helping hand to the other countries, but the revolutionary forces in the world must give assistance to Russia."

Thanh Nien pointed to the great significance of the October Revolution and its influence on the revolutionary movement in the world and in Vietnam. To triumph, the Vietnamese revolution should follow the trail blazed by the October Revolution.

Through *Thanh Nien*, comrade Nguyen Ai Quoc skilfully combined the propagation of Marxism—Leninism with the line of national salvation charted by him; he closely linked theoretical study to the practical situation of the Vietnamese revolution and present-

ed the experience of history and the law of the revolution; his interpretation had great persuasive power.

The paper affirmed that, to be successful, the Vietnamese revolution should be led by a political Party of the working class, a party armed with Marxism—Leninism.

It pointed out: "Each class has its own party... to represent it: the workers, peasants and oppressed people found the Communist Party. The capitalists and imperialists have their own party to oppress and exploit the people. To oppose them, the workers, peasants and oppressed people must have their revolutionary party to defend their interest".

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Already at the time of *Viet Nam Thanh Nien Cach Mang Dong Chi Hoi*, the paper had spoken of the preparation for the founding of a political party of the working class in Vietnam. It wrote: "For the triumph of the revolution, we must put the question: Is our revolution firmly organized? Is the Party discipline strict? Is the revolutionary plan clearly elaborated? Are our people united?" Introducing the purposes and principles of the Party, the paper wrote: "The goal of the workers and peasants is to overthrow capitalism; the goal of the colonial people is to overthrow imperialism and wrest back independence and freedom for their countries". Meanwhile, it presented the working program of the Party as follows: "To make the revolution, it is necessary to prepare it, that is to work out a plan and a program. The plan of the Party changes with time; it depends on the circumstance and cannot oblige

circumstance to depend on it. It is not elaborated by the whim of a few people, but as the result of long experience drawn from concrete situation; a revolutionary who does anything he chances upon will never succeed."

Insofar as the Party members are concerned, the paper pointed out: "To fulfil his task, the Communist should be public-minded and selfless, chiefly he should make the sacrifice of his personal interests. Without this spirit the revolutionaries can easily let themselves be torn by dissension and spoil their work. A Communist who keeps his particular character is not ready to make sacrifice; he is not a genuine revolutionary. He must know that the revolution is the concern of all, and therefore he must work with a selfless spirit and know that, to triumph, the revolution calls for sacrifice, sacrifice of one's family, of one's interests and of one's life..."

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Together with *Duong Cach Minh* (The Revolutionary Path) and other documents, the paper *Thanh Nien* played an important role in the formation of ideology and logic necessary for the foundation of the Indochinese Communist Party; this is as significant as Lenin's *Iskra* (The Spark) when he made preparations for the establishment of a new party of the working class in Russia.

LE THO and THE TAP

1. The passages and sentences in inverted commas are excerpts from the *Thanh Nien* issues kept in the archives of the Party Central Committee, the Ho Chi Minh Museum and the Institute of Marxism—Leninism.

Our colleges and secondary vocational schools have so far trained 30,000 engineers and 100,000 secondary-level cadres for agriculture, besides 400 doctors and candidate doctors of science. They have contributed a significant part to agricultural development in our country. However, relatively few managerial cadres have been trained compared to the number of technical cadres, and among the latter, few have been trained to serve in

cooperatives at the communal echelon is very small.

Secondary agricultural schools in the provinces have trained 57,000 cadres for farming cooperatives. Instruction is of a rather general character and is focused on technical aspects of crop and animal raising, neglecting management and other questions. Graduates who do not join State organs are sent (or sent back, if they came from them) to agricultural cooperatives. Of them, 10—20% have become heads

An experiment has been jointly conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Higher Education and Secondary Vocational Education. They selected about 300 cadres and members of farming cooperatives and enrolled them in agricultural colleges. After graduation they were sent back to their co-ops instead of becoming State employees. Thus the production bases have been strengthened. In view of the encouraging results obtained, the method has been generalized. However, students for agricultural colleges continue to be recruited from general education school graduates, for high-level technicians are always needed, in agriculture as in other branches.

Each district will try to set up its own secondary agricultural school. So far only 50 districts out of the 400-odd in the whole country have done so. Organized through "joint efforts of the State and the population", these schools, like their provincial counterparts, follow a diversified curriculum comprising both technical and managerial subjects. According to their location, emphasis is laid on agriculture, animal husbandry, or related sectors. These schools train junior cadres for cooperatives and provide some instruction in science and technology to veteran co-op cadres who never went to school.

Graduates from those central, provincial and district schools will mostly be sent (or sent back) to cooperatives at the grassroots. Put on their payroll, their salaries will equal those of graduates who work as State employees at superior echelons.

MORE ENGINEERS FOR AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES

branches related to agriculture such as animal husbandry, fish raising, water conservation, forestry.

At present, only 10% of the 10,000 or so farming cooperatives in North Vietnam have their presidents and chief accountants recruited from among the above-mentioned trainees. The rest of the graduates go to work as State employees at higher echelons. They are furthermore concentrated in large cities and provincial capitals, while only 4,500 engineers have been sent to district centres. The number of engineers working in

and deputy heads of production brigades and 3—5% presidents of cooperatives.

The food problem now having top priority, emphasis has been laid on the development of agriculture and related branches. The development of cooperatives and strengthening of the district echelon have received great attention. While giving due importance to the technical aspects of agriculture, one must focus on its managerial problems—but also avoid overstaffing. The above considerations provide guidelines for the formation of agricultural cadres.

DECREE ON AGRICULTURAL TAX

On 3 March this year State Council President Truong-Chinh promulgated a decree of the State Council dated 25 February on agricultural tax.

Agricultural tax was instituted in Vietnam in 1951 during the war of resistance to French colonial aggression, and as land reform was being prepared. Both these measures were aimed at mobilizing the resources of the country, which essentially came from agriculture, with a view to taking the independence war to victory.

More than 20 years have passed and the rules then enacted for the collection of agricultural tax and playing a positive role in those days no longer meet the present requirements: to ensure fair contribution from the people, the stepping up of agricultural production through intensive cultivation, the extension of the cultivated areas, and the multiplication of crops.

The basis for tax assessment is now changed. In the past, what was taken into account was the average income per capita from land of a given peasant household, tax being collected only from a certain size of income. And so the

household concerned would try to increase its membership, thereby minimizing the amount of tax paid. The rules favoured neither the bringing of more land into cultivation nor the limitation of births. Tax assessment based on the number of active members of peasant households conformed neither to the principle of remuneration in proportion to the work done nor to the managerial system now being applied to agriculture. It made no distinction between land belonging to collectives and land worked by individuals, thus providing no encouragement to collective production.

The new rules take into account only the area and quality of land. All collectives and individuals tilling land must pay agricultural tax. The principle is that the same amount of tax is to be paid for lands of equal area and fertility. The number of people working each of those lands is not taken into account. Encouragement is thus given to the pursuit of high yields, the laying out of investments and provision of care, and the improvement of cultivation techniques with a view to augmenting output. To encourage the clearing of new land and the cultivation of land

left fallow, important tax exemptions may be granted. In the highlands, the ethnic minorities pay less tax than the people in the plains.

The decree fixes a tax scale for land tilled by collectives: farming cooperatives or production collectives (in the South). Soil quality is graded from 1 to 7: 1 for land yielding an yearly average of 50 kilograms of paddy per 100 square metres; 7 for land giving less than 15 kilograms. The amount of tax to be collected is 7 kilograms for 1st-rate land and 1 kilo for 7th-rate land in the plains. Households which are not members of production collectives will pay higher taxes.

Until now, the total agricultural tax collected has represented but 6.2% of the annual agricultural output (average for the period 1976-80) and 5% of the State budget. With the new rules it may account for as much as 10% of the yearly agricultural output. The peasants, however, still have 80% of the fruits of their labour left to them, after payment of agricultural tax and delivery of food grain within the framework of procurement by the State through "delivery-purchase" at prices fixed by it.

AMENDMENTS TO LEGISLATION ON INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL TAXES

On 11 March last, State Council President Truong-Chinh signed the act of promulgation of the decree of the State Council dated 26 February 1983 containing amendments to the legislation on industrial and commercial taxes.

Legislation on industrial and commercial taxes was first enforced in 1966 following the completion of socialist transformation in North Vietnam. Although amended on several occasions, in 1980 in particular, it remained essentially unchanged. Hence the necessity for a radical revision.

Indeed, in the past period, while in the South the State-run sector and cooperative sector of the economy have only been making initial steps, in the North there has been a surge in the private sector. The free market accounts for as much as 70% of the volume of goods in circulation, thus outstripping the organized market. The number of traders and caterers has quickly increased. Seeking profit by fair means or foul, some consumer and buying-and-selling cooperatives engage in illegal trading over long distances, between North and South in particular. Even some administrative services have set up trading departments of their own without due authorization. All this has contributed to sending prices up and bringing about market disturbances.

The old legislation on industrial and commercial taxes is no longer

adequate. It made no clearcut distinction between the various activities, those which should be encouraged and those which should not. It exempted from tax some undeserving activities. The tax scale discriminated insufficiently between small and big enterprises, hence its insufficient regulatory role in the distribution of incomes.

The new amendments aim at restoring socialist order in the circulation and distribution of goods — a major target mentioned in the resolutions of the 3rd Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPV of December 1982. They will contribute to stepping up production in certain sectors and the socialist transformation of the economy. At the same time, tax collection is to be improved to cope with tax evasion, still quite common now and subjected to severe sanctions in the new legislation.

On the basis of the above considerations, there are four aspects to the new amendments:

1. To the existing industrial and commercial taxes (tax on the turnover of enterprises, tax on profits, tax on goods) is added the licence, a tax collected annually which makes it possible for the State to register and control all individuals and units engaged in industrial, commercial, or service activities (besides the State-run enterprises), either of a permanent, temporary, or itinerant character.

2. The scale of the turnover tax is revised in order to differentiate enterprises according to their nature and scope, encourage certain types of activity while discouraging others, and regulate income distribution. Thus traders and caterers are more heavily taxed than other service providers, who in their turn pay heavier taxes than producers.

3. The scale of the tax on profits gained by enterprises is also revised for the same purpose. This aims in particular at regulating income distribution in especially lucrative sectors (trade and catering services). Small producers and owners of small enterprises are exempted. Only incomes superior to the average salaries and wages of government employees and workers in State-run enterprises in the same branch of activity are taxed. Less tax is paid by people or collectives engaged in activities connected with the State economy.

4. The scale of the tax on goods is likewise revised. Some goods are now tax-exempted while others, so far exempted, are now subject to tax. There are changes in the amount of tax paid for some goods, and also for goods involved in non-commercial exchanges.

As said in the *Nhan Dan* editorial of 12 March, the new decree on industrial and commercial taxes is part of the struggle between the socialist and the capitalist paths.

Since long, in Vietnam, the phrase "forest of gold and sea of silver" has been used to evoke the richness of our forests in precious woods, game and other wealth, and the abundance of fish and other marine products in our waters.

In the last few years, the question of the extent of our natural resource has again been raised and given a new content. Our soil is rich in ores, some say, and we have many mineral deposits of great economic value. Others, however, object that our mineral reserves are neither large nor of very high quality and that most of the deposits lie in regions that are difficult of

access. In fact this is a question that is hard to answer, for the following reasons:

How rich a country is is a relative question: we cannot compare our country with smaller ones that are poor in natural resources and say that we are rich. Nor can we compare it with much larger ones and then say that we are poor.

Geological surveying in our country has barely begun. In the developed countries this work has been going on for centuries while we have been conducting it for barely twenty years in the North and six years at most in the South. The 1/500,000-scale geological map generally used in mineral exploration covers only 5% of our national territory. According to the experi-

ence of many countries, even such a map may overlook the existence of much mineral wealth.

We must understand that mineral wealth is a technical and economic concept.

Some kinds of ores, now valueless, may turn out to be precious minerals in a few years' time.

Keeping this in mind, let's see what wealth our subsoil contains.

Before the August 1945 Revolution, the French and the Japanese had conducted many geological investigations in Vietnam. However, geological surveying is a difficult work requiring large investments.

This is in contradiction with the goal pursued by the colonialists, who were interested only in exploiting our resources in the quickest way, and so could not do any serious geological work. After discovering some mining resources toward the end of the 19th century, the French immediately set to work to extract them. First they extracted coal, gold, silver, copper, lead, zinc, and some time before the start of World War II, apatite, chromium, bauxite, barite, asbestos, talc, molybdenum, phosphorite, graphite, kaolin, manganese, tin, iron. Except for coal, tin, lead and zinc, which were extracted on a relatively large scale, the mining of other ores was insignificant. With regard to the coal mines at Hong Gai and Dong Triem, the French

exploited them extensively, but had mined only about 50 million tonnes by the time of the country's liberation. Given the important reserves that have now been estimated, this quantity is quite small. Due to lack of investment in geological survey, the French could neither fully assess our mineral reserves nor accurately grasp the geological data concerning the mines they exploited.

After the liberation of the North in 1954, our Party and Government decided that geological surveys be urgently conducted. Our geological department immediately received

devoted assistance from the Soviet Union and other socialist countries.

We first proceeded to re-evaluate the existing mines with a view to rational exploitation and future development. Then we carried out systematic surveys to grasp the laws governing the formation of ore deposits and their distribution in the subsoil of our country. We also explored new sites using our own techniques. The mineral resource map of Vietnam became a completely different one from that drawn up some dozen years ago.

Today this map is dotted with thousands of points signalling the presence of mineral wealth. Hundreds of these dots are potential mining sites for about 50 kinds of ores. About 200 sites have been

VIETNAM'S MINERAL RESOURCES

surveyed in detail, and exploitation has been planned for many.

Now we have specimens of almost all energy-producing minerals. In the Northeast a coal basin extends from Pha Lai to Ke Bao and the high-grade anthracite seams contain reserves of billions of tonnes. The major mines there are located at Mao Khe, Vang Danh, Ha Tu, Ha Lam, Nga Hai, Khe Tam, Khe Cham, Coc Sau and Deo Nai. In the Northwest the soft-coal seams running from Lai Chau, Son La to the vicinity of the Ma river, present a high economic value though reserves are only modest. Besides, in many regions of our country there are deposits of other coals such as lignite, peat, etc.

It is a certainty that petroleum and gas deposits exist in our country. But it is still too premature to evaluate their importance. However, reserves in the mainland and continental shelf are certainly sufficient to meet our home needs, with a surplus for export. The overall geological structure of our country as well as some outward signs raise hopes of the presence of radio-active ores, existing either separately or blended with other minerals.

With regard to ferrous metals we have discovered mines of iron, chromium, titanium and manganese. Generally speaking, however, they are of small size, except for iron and chromium.

Of the non-ferrous metals, we have copper, nickel, lead, zinc, and important reserves of bauxite. Our copper deposits are of large or medium sizes. Other metals exist only in small quantities.

With respect to rare metals, we have tin, wolfram, molybdenum, gold, silver, antimony and rare earths. In this group, tin and particularly rare earths are our fortes.

Vietnam is among the few countries possessing tin mines, with important reserves in the North and also potentially in the South. Our rare earths are used in metalurgy, electronics, coloured-glass making, etc. They exist in large quantities, with a high degree of concentration.

Mica, talc, asbestos, piezoelectric quartz, and chiefly graphite are also found in our country.

For the making of earthen and porcelainware, we have many deposits of kaolin and feldspar. Kaolin exists in large quantities and its quality is quite good.

With regard to materials used in the making of fertilizers and other chemicals, we have pyrite and big reserves of apatite and serpentine.

For the making of refractory materials, we have limestone, dolomite, quartzite, and fire-clay.

Building materials include clay (to make bricks, tiles, cement), sand (for glass), and various kinds of stone (for decoration, paving). They exist in practically inexhaustible quantities, yet are scarce in some regions, particularly in the plains.

With regard to precious and semi-precious stones for making jewelry and art objects we have run into fairly abundant deposits, but no systematic survey has yet been made.

Finally, we must mention this group of liquid minerals—underground water and mineral water—which are indispensable for industry and the people's life. The industrial centres of Hong Gai, Cam Pha, Thai Nguyen, Viet Tri, many economic regions and factories and to a certain extent Hanoi and some other cities are supplied with water from underground sources. Many sources of mineral water have been found for both

drinking and medical treatment, but not much has yet been done to exploit them.

From this short survey we can conclude that our country possesses almost all the important minerals, some of them with very large reserves. But this is only an initial estimation. Surely our geologists will find many more deposits of ores. With our own mineral resources we have the possibility to build key industries: energy, metallurgy, chemicals, building materials... Of course, at present and in future, we still have to import a number of minerals as no country in the world, however large and rich, can have all the minerals they need.

Our present problem is how to exploit our mineral resources as quickly as possible. First, we must recognize that though we have important mineral wealth, we cannot live off it alone, as is the case with the oil-rich countries in the Middle East. It is one of our fortes, but it needs investment in capital and technology, which are our weak points. Basing themselves on the concrete conditions of our country, many Vietnamese researchers think that we must proceed as follows:

1. Exploit a number of minerals urgently needed by our economy, such as pyrite, soft coal, lead, zinc, manganese, clay, limestone, peat (used as fuel and fertilizer). We can extract them with our present material and technical means and our abundant manpower. The exploitation of our own pyrite and soft coal will make it possible for us to reduce or even stop their import, save foreign exchange, and increase the production of consumer goods.

2. Step up the exploitation of minerals so far neglected such as graphite, mica, baryte, glass sand,

ilmenite, ornamental stone. Their extraction calls for no large investments. Yet, it creates jobs and goods.

3. Reorganize the exploitation of gold, precious stones, and mineral waters. At present, gold and precious stones are extracted mainly by people using illegal means. We can combine the efforts of the State and those of the population for their extraction, but the products must go to the State alone.

Mineral waters are a gift of nature. They are of great utility and their exploitation is not expensive. Yet, we have not tapped them and have instead been importing them from abroad.

4. Exploit the major mineral resources: oil and natural gas, coal, iron, chromium, rare earths, bauxite, copper, tin, apatite, building materials. Many of the deposits have been explored but plans for their exploitation have not yet been elaborated. This is due to many reasons, the main ones being lack of capital and technology. Large- and medium-sized mining and processing enterprises are being built with the cooperation of foreign countries, but the tempo of construction is rather slow, thus having a bad effect on the rate of development of other economic branches. Many deposits have been surveyed in detail but are not yet exploited. A good approach now is to export our ores, and then use the proceeds to build processing facilities. Vietnam has every condition to become a country with an important mining industry. We shall be able to extract enough of our mineral wealth to satisfy the major requirements of our industry and, besides, produce a large quantity for export.

PHAM XUAN HOANG
Engineer

THE INSTITUTE OF GEOLOGY AND MINERALOGY

The forerunner of the present Institute of Geology and Mineralogy was the Geological Research Team No. 45 formed in 1965. Eighteen years is not a long period in the life of a research institute, yet this period has witnessed many successes won by Vietnamese geologists in their studies and discoveries, which have provided the first scientific bases and data for research into the laws of geological formation and the distribution of mineral resources in our subsoil.

Soon after the founding of the Geological Research Team, our people had to cope with the US air war of destruction. Three times the team had to be on the move on account of American air raids. Each time its members had to get hundreds of tonnes of machinery, laboratory equipment and documents to a different place. The team's first concern upon arriving at a new place was to quickly organize itself in order to resume work. Many fruitful projects were undertaken in those hard years.

In June 1976 the Government Council issued a decision on the

founding of the Institute of Geology and Mineralogy, to be formed on the basis of the Geological Research Team No. 45. This was a major event in the history of the young Vietnamese geological science.

The Institute immediately set out to lay the foundations and define guidelines for research. Subjects were listed and the necessary personnel recruited throughout the country.

To learn from foreign experts, to learn foreign languages, to consult foreign publications while conducting in-depth surveys in the country has been the slogan guiding the work of the staff of the Institute. After several years, they completed a mineral-genesis map of Tuyen Quang province on a 1/200,000 scale (of tin genesis in Tam Dao) under the direction of Nguyen Nghiem Minh, now a Doctor of Geomineralogy and Deputy Director of the Institute. This was the first map of its kind ever drawn up by the Vietnamese geological service. Nguyen Xuan Tung, Candidate Doctor of Geology and acting Head of the Geology Department, after several years of research done jointly with some colleagues, com-

pleted a map on the distribution of magma in North Vietnam according to their active cycles, ages and mineral contents. Tran Van Tri, Candidate Doctor of Geology and Deputy Director of the Institute, working jointly with some colleagues, completed in 1973 the first geological map of Vietnam (Northern part) on a 1/1,000,000 scale. It is much richer in data than previous maps, and has been rated highly in the country and abroad.

Geo-chemistry is a separate branch of study in the Institute. Nguyen Khac Vinh, Candidate Doctor of Geology and Deputy Director of the Institute, working together with a group of researchers, has written many valuable reports and set down rules for surveying and prospecting, using the geo-chemical method.

The present researchers in geo-chemistry have matured in those initial undertakings. Associate Professor Duong Xuan Hao, Director of the Institute, and Vu Khuc, Candidate Doctor of Science and Head of the Paleontology Section, are among the first paleontologists of Vietnam. Many fossil animals found in Vietnam have been named after them and figure in geological documents abroad.

After the liberation of South Vietnam in 1975 the scope of activity of the Institute was broadened and many new subjects have been added to its programme of research. Research conducted on a national scale has led to new discoveries of great scientific and practical value. For instance, our geologists have discovered bituminous coal deposits in the Northwest, evaluated the reserves and quality of the brown coal deposits in the Red River delta, discovered a string of titanium deposits along our coastline, deposits of precious stones in the Central

Highlands, of bentonite in the Central Highlands and in Dong Nai province; of antimony, bismuth and iron in the Northwest, the North, and the northern part of Central Vietnam; underground water resources in the Hanoi area, etc.

The Institute has also reaped remarkable successes in the study of regional geology. For instance, in paleontology, it has discovered new groups of fossils — families, genera and species — and has reassessed the ages of some sediment deposits and reclassified some geological strata. The publication of a series of papers on paleontology in Vietnam assumes a major significance for the study and description of extinct animals in Vietnam and neighbouring regions.

The Institute has also undertaken research in the structure and formation of the crust of the earth, geomorphology, quaternary sediments, magma, sedimentary and volcanic rocks, mineralogy, geomathematics, geo-chemistry and geo-physics. The scope of study has gradually broadened, contributing to progress in the young science of geology in Vietnam. The Institute's reports presented at seminars in the country and abroad have received due attention for both their scientific and practical value. Some have been published in major scientific publications in the world.

Since mid-1981, in implementation of the resolution of the Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee on science and technology, the Institute has begun research on five State-level programmes of the 140 subjects listed in research programmes for the whole branch, the Institute is focussing its efforts on 47.

While continuing research on major questions, the Institute has not lost sight of relatively minor but urgent ones raised by various localities, and related to production and the people's life.

Like the other departments and services of the geological service, the Institute of Geology and Mineralogy has grown up in all fields, in its material bases as well as in the number and quality of its personnel.

Today, analysts and laboratory workers, who account for a sizable part of the work undertaken at the Institute, are equipped with modern apparatuses, such as the 1,500-degree capacity Derivatograph thermo-analyser and the TS 206-Sa mass-spectrograph, the first of its kind ever used in Vietnam and even in Southeast Asia. With them Vietnamese geologists are now able to determine with absolute certainty the ages of rocks and minerals without the assistance of foreign laboratories. Many other sophisticated apparatuses are also being effectively used in geological research in our country, such as the electronic microscope, the Rontgen analyser, equipment for sorting minerals and determining the physico-mechanical properties of rocks, equipment for modern chemical analyses, etc. Modern equipment has in fact become a prominent feature of the Institute.

The staff of the Institute has grown both in number and quality, comprising nearly 30 doctors and candidate doctors of science and more than 250 engineers. Since 1982, by decision of the Government, the Institute has been authorized to run post-graduate courses in four disciplines.

TRAN DUC THUAT
Engineer

ECONOMIC REGIONS OF VIETNAM

1. Provinces of Western and Eastern Nam Bo (in the South)

There are great potentialities in rice growing, animal husbandry, industrial crops (both annual and perennial), fruit tree, fisheries (river and sea), export of agricultural and fishing products. Weaknesses relate to shortage of building materials, housing, school and health facilities, means of transport.

The exploitation of those resources calls for:

— The stepping up of socialist transformation together with the reorganization and zoning of production; a rational structure for the raising of crops and animals with a view to high yields; the efficient use of manpower for land reclamation, intensive cultivation, crop multiplication, the setting up of high-yield rice-growing areas which will supply large amounts of marketable food grain. Planned food grain production: 6.5 million tonnes in 1983; 8 million tonnes by 1985. With regard to the eastern provinces, intensive cultivation should be practised for rice and dry food crops so as to achieve

self-sufficiency in food and make unnecessary relief shipments by the central administration.

— The intensive growing of industrial crops depending on local conditions: soya, sugar cane, groundnuts, tobacco, sesame, etc., and especially rubber in the east and jute in the west for supply to industrial plants and for export.

— The development of cattle breeding (oxen and buffaloes) for draught power and meat; the raising of pigs and poultry (ducks in particular), vegetables and fruit trees for supply to Ho Chi Minh City and the industrial centres of Bien Hoa and Vung Tau.

— The concentration of sea fisheries and the raising of lobsters and prawns in salt water in Minh Hai, Kien Giang, Tien Giang and Cuu Long provinces; the development of fishbreeding in fresh and brackish water.

— The protection of mangrove forests, the plantation of trees for timber and fuel.

— The restructuration of industrial enterprises, the development of small industry and handicrafts;

cooperation with Ho Chi Minh City for the processing of agricultural and fishing products, the making of furniture, pottery, porcelainware, building materials, consumer goods and export items; restoration and development of sericulture; cooperation with the General Rubber Department for extending rubber plantations over large areas; stepping up the construction of the Tri An hydro-power project.

— The increase of exports to cover the import of fertilizers, insecticides, fuel, etc., for agriculture.

2. Provinces of the Delta and Uplands of Bac Bo (in the North)

While they present many weaknesses: overpopulation, small size of cultivable areas, frequent natural calamities (flood, drought, typhoons), they are not without many strong points: abundant manpower, large number of water-conservation works serving intensive cultivation and crop multiplication; diversified agricultural activities: growing rice, dry crops, industrial crops, vegetables and fruit; raising livestock, fish, poultry, etc.

The exploitation of those potentials requires:

— The extension of high-yield rice-growing areas; the large-scale cultivation of new rice strains; the quick completion of water-conservation projects now under construction. Planned food production: 4.5 million tonnes in 1983 and 5 million tonnes by 1985 for supply to the regions concerned and the cities and industrial centres of the North.

— The intensive cultivation of industrial crops and fruit trees: tea, sugar cane, soya, jute, rush, castor-oil plants, lacquer trees, pineapple, banana, etc., for supply to processing plants and for export.

— The intensified raising of pigs, oxen, buffaloes, poultry and fish.

— The continued redeployment of manpower and redistribution of the population; extended cooperation with the highland provinces for the exploitation of forest products and with the southern provinces and the Central Highlands for the creation of new economic zones.

— The reorganization of regional industries; the development of small industry and handicrafts; the restoration and promotion of sericulture and traditional fabric-weaving; cooperation with the centrally-run industries and with Hanoi for production and subcontracting with a view to export; consolidation and promotion of salt-making in the coastal provinces.

— The development of river and coastal transport, first of all of the non-mechanized means so as to economize fuel.

3. Provinces of the Former Fourth Zone (Thanh Hoa and Nghe Tinh)

Strong points: industrial crops, forest and marine products, potential for cattle raising. A serious handicap is food shortage.

The following measures should be taken:

— Develop food production through large-scale intensive cultivation, aiming at self-sufficiency while exchanging industrial crops and forest products with other regions for paddy. Planned production: 1.8 million tonnes of food in 1983 and 2.2 million tonnes by 1985.

— Develop industrial crops (groundnuts, tea, coffee, citrus fruit, pepper, garlic, cotton, flax, mulberry for silkworm breeding) for supply to local industries and for export.

— Continue population redistribution within the provinces for increased efficiency in sea fishing, forest exploitation, soil cultivation and diversification of trades and crafts; reorganize sea fishing; hand over forestland and forests to farming cooperatives and peasants for exploitation, protection and maintenance.

Produce large amounts of salt for local consumption and supply to northern provinces.

4. Coastal Provinces in the Centre and Central Highlands (Tay Nguyen)

They have great potentialities in industrial crops, forest and sea products, food and animal husbandary. To turn them to account, the following needs to be done:

— Large-scale intensive cultivation of rice and dry crops, aiming at obtaining 2.02 million tonnes of food in 1983 and 2.46 million tonnes by 1985.

Stepping up the cultivation of industrial crops: rubber, coffee, tea, castor-oil plants, cinnamon, sugar cane, tobacco; restore and promote the growing of cotton and mulberry (for sericulture) in order to meet the needs of the population, at least partially.

— Promote industry, small industry and handicrafts, for the processing of food and export farm products.

— Promote fishing and fish raising, especially the breeding of lobsters, prawns, cuttle-fish for export.

Make the most of pasture land and dry crops to boost the raising of pigs, cattle and poultry.

— Intensive reafforestation; restoration and maintenance of forests; stepping up the settlement of nomadic ethnic minorities to a sedentary life.

5. Highland provinces in the North

They present three strong points: their forests, industrial crops, and livestock raising. On the other hand, they suffer from a serious shortage of food and the cultural level of the population is relatively low. These border provinces occupy an important position in national defence.

Things to be done:

— Develop food production through intensive cultivation of existing fields; check forest destruction and settle nomadic groups to a sedentary life. Make priority investments for the creation of high-yield rice-growing areas totalling about 350,000 hectares. Emphasis to be laid on intensive cultivation of food crops, rice and maize in particular (terraced fields). Food production should rise to 1.1 million tonnes in 1983 and 1.3 million tonnes by 1985, so as to lower reliance on the central administration.

— Boost the cultivation of industrial crops and the production of high-grade export items: tea, cinnamon, aniseed, tung oil, tobacco, soya, groundnuts, shellac...; grow more medicinal plants and oil-bearing plants for supply to processing industries and for export.

— Promote livestock breeding, especially the raising of oxen and buffaloes, for supply of draught power to the region and to delta provinces of the North.

— Pay great attention to education, health and cultural work.

— Improve transport and meet the development needs of the population.

— Build roads and dams; exploit forest products and reafforest; maintain order and security and heighten vigilance, working together with the forces of national defence and security.

6. Hanoi, the capital, and Ho Chi Minh City

These two cities are the political, economic, cultural, scientific and technical centres of the country. They hold key positions in the national economy and their activities are bound up with economic construction and the improvement of the people's living standards.

Hence the necessity to do the following:

— Combine the efforts of the central administration, the various sectors and regions to stabilize production and living conditions; progressively develop the two cities, Hanoi in particular.

— Turn to full account the potentialities of the two cities, especially their industrial capacity (including small industry and handicrafts) to turn out consumer goods, their capacity in the field of science and technology; promote cooperation and mutual assistance with the various regions of the country for economic and cultural

development; promote economic integration in industry, agriculture and export trade, turning each of these cities into a veritable regional economic centre.

— Expand cooperation and exchanges between the two cities with a view to simultaneous development in industry, science and technology, and export trade.

For these purposes, the following measures must be carried out:

— Conduct a division of labour and industrial reorganization in each city so as to develop agriculture in the suburbs; cooperate with neighbouring provinces to ensure supply of materials to industrial enterprises; boost export and promote sub-contracting with foreign countries. Boost the production of such goods as bicycle parts, electric fans, porcelainware, canvas shoes for export, cotton and silk fabrics, hosiery and other consumer goods.

— Promote small industry and handicrafts, especially embroidery, tapestry making, wickerwork, and art objects in Hanoi; sub-contracting related to high-grade export items in Ho Chi Minh City.

— Make the best use of the land, manpower and technical personnel in the suburban districts to step up agricultural production through crop multiplication and intensive cultivation. Promote the raising of cattle and poultry, fish, vegetables and fruit; create "green belts"

which will supply the cities with vegetables and animal products (fish, meat, eggs, milk). Promote industrial crops for export and for supply of materials to industry; promote job-generating activities for city people.

— Create jobs, first of all for young school graduates and demobilized soldiers, especially in small

industry and handicrafts, the building industry, the service sector, and agricultural development in the suburbs. Promote cooperation between Ho Chi Minh City and the rubber plantations, the State logging-camps, and the new economic zones, supplying them with manpower. Organize Hanoi manpower for reafforestation and tree plant-

ing on barren hillsides of the suburban districts of Ba Vi, Soc Son, etc.

— Improve electricity and drinking water supply as well as housing. Build 300,000 square metres of new housing in Hanoi between 1983 and 1985. Pay great attention to the maintenance and repair of existing buildings in the two cities.

— Step up socialist transformation of private industry and trade. Consolidate the trading services for centralized circulation and distribution of goods and adequate supply of food and other necessities to workers, government employees and the population at large. Convert small traders to productive activities, and ensure good market and price management so as to establish a new order on the front of goods circulation and distribution. Expand public-interest activities and services.

Of the above-mentioned economic regions, priority treatment is to be given to the deltas in the North and the South and the two major cities of Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City. In the three years to come, the State will reserve for them priority means for their development.

Excerpt from the report presented by Vo Van Kiet to the December 1982 Session of the National Assembly.

Just out

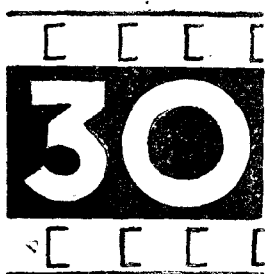
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YEARS OF THE VIETNAMESE CINEMA

Thirty years ago, on 15 March 1953, in the resistance maquis in Viet Bac, President Ho Chi Minh signed a decree setting up the Vietnam State Enterprise for Cinematography and Photography. This was the birth certificate of the Vietnamese cinema. (Photography became a separate branch soon after the restoration of peace in 1954).

In the 1930's a group of Vietnamese artists had to go to Hongkong to shoot a feature film, the first in Vietnam. This *Canh Dong Ma* (Field of Phantoms) was of only mediocre artistic value. By the time of the August Revolution (1945) there was not a single professional film-maker in the whole of Vietnam. National independence was proclaimed, yet, 95% of the population was illiterate. No one had any experience in building a film industry. Between 1945 and 1953, a few newsreels and documentaries were made, with make-shift means. Old cameras and other equipment were collected, repaired and used. In many cases, the film-makers were at the same time scenarists, directors, cameramen and technicians. The first sequences were shot on battlefields, and some cameramen laid down their lives. Such were the beginnings of the Vietnamese cinema.

During the Dien Bien Phu campaign in the spring of 1954, with assistance from Soviet film-makers, we shot a full-length film: *Vietnam on the Road to Victory*. It was followed by films recording events at the National Congress of Art Workers and at the

liberation of the capital city, Hanoi (1954).

In early 1956 there was founded in Hanoi the Central Newsreel and Documentary Studios, which later became the Central Documentary and Science Film Studios. In 1959 the Vietnam Feature Film Studios came into existence with a small staff comprising former makers of newsreels and documentaries and workers in the drama. At about the same time the Vietnam Animated Cartoon Studios produced the first animated cartoon in Vietnam. It was the first such studios in Southeast Asia. In 1960 the film-making services of the security and armed forces were merged into the People's Army Film Studios. And one year after the liberation of the South (30 April 1975) a universal film studio was set up in Ho Chi Minh City, on the basis of the Liberation Army Film Studios which had been functioning in South Vietnam. It turns out feature films, newsreels, documentaries, science films and animated cartoons.

Studios have also been founded in various regions and branches of activity: Hai Phong city, the ministries of Education, of Transport and Communications, of Public Health, of the Interior, etc. All told, we turn out 15—16 feature films each year, together with 100—110 documentary and science films and 15—16 animated cartoons.

We have also an enterprise for developing 35-mm. film which can process seven million metres of film each year. Recently, develop-

ment facilities for colour films and 16-mm. films have also begun functioning at the Central Documentary and Science Film Studios. In future these facilities will go into the setting up of a modern enterprise for film developing. We can now produce film projectors and power generators as well as spare parts in the country.

Organs for the popularization and distribution of films comprise the Company for the Export, Import and Distribution of Films (FAFIM) and film-projection companies in cities and provinces throughout the country. Starting in 1982, FAFIM has also taken in hand the organization of cooperation between Vietnamese and foreign film-making enterprises.

In 1955 the first would-be film directors were sent to the Soviet Union for training. Others were later sent to the German Democratic Republic. Also in 1955, short-term courses were organized in Vietnam for the same purpose. In 1979 the training of cinema artists started at the Cinema Department of the College of Cinema and Drama. Managers and technicians have been mostly trained in the country since the restoration of peace in North Vietnam in 1954. In the years of resistance to the American air war of destruction, a secondary school for cinema workers was set up with various departments: film distribution; film commentary; film projection. Each year about one hundred trainees graduated. A similar school was founded in Ho Chi Minh

City following the liberation of the South. The graduates go to work in the southern provinces of the country.

In 1979 the Cinema Archives was founded in Hanoi and in 1981 the Institute of Cinema Technique, which conducts research and designs cinema equipment to be made with locally available materials.

All in all, there are about 30,000 cadres working in the cinema in Vietnam in various capacities: artistic, technical, managerial and economic. Among them are 73 film directors, 58 scenarists and script-writers, 90 camera operators, many actors, actresses and decor specialists.

Film making is no easy endeavour in a little industrialized country such as ours. The figures cited below give but an imperfect idea of the great efforts exerted by our film-makers: over the past 30 years there have been produced 2,766 newsreels, documentaries and science films, 168 feature films and 147 animated cartoons. In former times, very few people, especially in the countryside, had occasion to enjoy film shows. Now great changes have come in the people's cultural life. There are now in the whole country 1,220 film-projection units comprising 298 motion-picture theatres, 67 open-air theatres and 855 mobile projection teams. On an average, there is one film-projection unit for every 3,000 people (one for every 367,000 people in 1939). Each year, over 100 feature films are screened together with hundreds of documentaries and science films (home-produced and imported). Films are shown even in remote mountain villages and off-shore islands. In 1982, average film attendance per person was 5.7 times.

The most seething activities take place on the occasion of national film festivals, held once every three years (the first in 1970, the second in 1973, both of them in Hanoi; the third in Hai Phong in 1975; the fourth in Ho Chi Minh City in 1977; the fifth in Hanoi in 1980).

On these occasions the best films are screened and subjected to critical appreciation, and awards (Golden and Silver Lotuses) are granted.

By now 55 countries have established relations in this field with Vietnam. Films are exchanged, bought and sold. Vietnamese films have been screened in 91 countries. Feature films, animated cartoons and documentaries from Vietnam have been sent to international film festivals held in 14 countries. Among the venues are Moscow, Karlovy Vary, New Delhi, Jakarta, Nantes, etc. At those festivals, 84 Vietnamese films have received various distinctions: 16 gold medals, 13 silver medals, and 55 other awards. In the field of documentaries, 14 films have received gold medals, the first being *Water Has Come to Bac Hung Hai* (Moscow festival, 1959) and the latest *The Line to the Da River* (Leipzig, 1981). The first Vietnamese feature film to receive a gold medal at a Moscow film festival was *Wild Field* (1981), a film about the anti-American war of resistance in South Vietnam. At the Leipzig film festival a Golden Dove was awarded to the Vietnamese animated cartoon *Ong Giong*, a film about a legendary national hero at the dawn of national history, 2,000 years ago.

*
* *

In spite of the backwardness of our economy and the continual state of war, the Vietnamese cinema has matured and holds an honourable place in the Third World. Indeed, in a number of countries, a national cinema is still inexistent. The leaders of Vietnam, headed by President Ho Chi Minh, who signed the birth certificate of the Vietnamese cinema, have had a clear understanding of the role of this art in social life.

Right at the beginning, the Vietnamese cinema assigned to itself a definite task: to serve the people. The objective of the Vietnamese

cinema (feature films, newsreels, documentaries, science films and animated cartoons alike) is to serve the struggle for national defence and construction. Pride of place has been held by films serving national defence (films about the wars of resistance to French and American aggression) and still is, owing to the aggressive actions and machinations of the Beijing expansionists. Many films supply invaluable historical testimony: as such they have been procured by many countries for showing or research. Starting in 1960, cinema workers were sent to the maquis in South Vietnam, where they worked in extremely hard conditions. They were able to record truthful and eloquent sequences, which have gone into the making of such films as *The Guerillas of Cu Chi*, awarded a gold medal at the 1967 Moscow Festival, and *The 17th Parallel — Day and Night*, which received a special award at the 1973 Moscow Festival. Other films recorded episodes of the American air war over North Vietnam, including the B.52 raids at Christmas 1972.

Following the liberation of North Vietnam in 1954, socialist construction began in half of the country and the proportion of films on national construction gradually increased. A few years later science films started to be made, bearing witness to the growing role played by science and technology in our society. With the liberation of the South in 1975, the whole country embarked on the road to socialism, and films on national construction have occupied an ever more important place. They not only record processes of transformation and building in the political, economic, and cultural fields but also point to, and help solve, problems which arise in the struggle between the old and the new, between collective and individual undertaking, between private interest and public interest. Films about such topics as the thoughts and actions of peasants as they decide to join farming co-operatives and as the contract system begins to be applied in those

cooperatives are viewed with keen interest for they reflect burning problems.

Vietnamese film-makers have grown ever more conscious of the need for great artistic quality if their works are to attain their objectives. For a number of years, the Vietnamese cinema has made clumsy steps: stereotyped screen-plays, shallow characterization, artificial situations. Even photographic work has stuck to the beaten track. But gradually increasing attention has been paid to criticism by film-goers, and lessons have been learnt from experience gained abroad. The infantile ailments have been treated and overcome to a large extent.

In 1982, as if to prepare for its 30th birth anniversary, the Vietnamese cinema showed noticeable progress. The Central Feature Film Studios alone produced eleven films (one in cooperation with Laos), 40% of which were graded A (good) by the Technical Council of the Cinema Department. (None received that distinction in 1981). The subjects treated include: war, with such films as *The Town, Is Within Reach*, about the resistance to Chinese aggression in Lang Son, *Gunfire in the Plain of Jars*, *The Wanderer* and *Back to Sam Sao*, a two-part film about the "Golden triangle", the first in colour: peaceful construction with such films as *Those Who Hate and Those Who Love*, *The Unlonesome Land*; sports with such films as *The 89th Minute*. Also in 1982 *Vu Dai Village of Yore* was made, based on a novel and two stories written by Nam Cao, a critical realist writer, before the August Revolution. The first Vietnamese film of this kind was *Chi Dau*, made in 1981 and based on the novel *When The Light Is Out* by Ngo Tat To.

Although the output of feature films in 1982 did not surpass that of 1981 in number, progress was recorded in content and technique. Analysis and characterization went deeper and creative efforts were made to avoid superficiality and formalism.

From 1975 onward, film-makers of the former Saigon regime have been welcomed into the ranks of

Film Star

TRA GIANG

Tra Giang, one of the first cinema actresses of Vietnam, has just celebrated her 41st birthday. Her film career began 22 years ago.

Tra Giang was born and grew up in the town of Phan Thiet, now in Thuan Hai province in South Vietnam. Her name, however, is that of a river in Quang Ngai, her father's home province. Her father was a cultural worker in the anti-French resistance. For many years he was a stage actor and the leader of an art troupe. Not surprisingly, Tra Giang was initiated into the performing art when still a child. At the restoration of peace in 1954, Tra Giang went to the North as a regroupee under the Geneva Agreements and was sent to the first cinema school ever set up in Vietnam.

She has so far starred in 11 films, acting the main roles in most cases. As Diu in the film "The 17th Parallel, Day and Night" she won the "best actress" award at the Moscow International Film Festival in 1973.

Tra Giang is a brilliant star of the Vietnamese cinema. Her successes are due first of all to the depth of her interpretation, the freshness of her style, and her graceful acting. They also spring from hard work, perfect communion with the film directors, and finally diligence and imagination.

Tra Giang is a deputy to the National Assembly.

our cinema workers. Recently-made films have testified to the resulting harmonious combination of their efforts as the country as a whole advances on the road of progress. With the consolidation and strengthening of our economy, the headway made in various technical fields, and the raising of the

political level and aesthetic standards among the masses, it is certain that the growth of the Vietnamese cinema will continue. The successes achieved in the past thirty difficult years are guarantee of it.

NGUYEN TRI

Over the past twenty years fundamental surveys have been conducted on Hanoi by central as well as city departments. The data gathered are to be checked, reviewed and collected. An initial outcome will be a comprehensive atlas on Hanoi, which will be used in various endeavours: zoning, planning, working out economico-technical premises for eventual exploitation of the city's potentials, ecological protection, etc.

outline has so far been worked out, and three maps have been drawn, destined for three chapters in the book.

The map "Hanoi in the victorious battle against the Chinese Qing occupiers in the spring of the year Ky Dau (1789)" illustrates that historic event: in five days and nights of valiant fighting, Tay Son troops led by Quang Trung routed the enemy and liberated Thang Long (Hanoi).

Acupuncture, as an ancient practice carried out over the centuries and in many countries, has become well known all over the world as an effective way of treating diseases.

At conferences held in France, many professors of Western medicine and concurrently practitioners in acupuncture such as Jean Bassy, Jean Claude Darras (France), Roccia, Lanza (Italy) Mann Hauss (USA)... evaluated Vietnamese acupuncture as "original acupuncture sticking to Vietnamese tradition with the golden hands of Vietnamese acupuncturists".

Acupuncture plays an important role in Vietnamese traditional medicine, based as it is on the philosophy of considering man and nature as a whole, and of viewing the various parts of the human body as forming an organic whole. In this regard it is written in ancient medical books that: "The *phu*¹ and *tang*² in the human body are connected with one another through *kinh* and *lac*³. These *kinh* and *lac* maintain and regulate all functions of the organs of the human bodies."

Acupuncture therapy dates back to the Stone Age when ancient people used stone needles in acupuncture therapy. Since then, acupuncture has known continual development. Brass needles appeared with the Bronze Age and were replaced by needles made of precious metals such as gold and silver or steel.

Vietnam was one of the first countries in Asia and the world to practise acupuncture, to popularize it through official establishments and to train a contingent of practitioners in acupuncture. Ac-

Vietnam Advances

A COMPREHENSIVE ATLAS ABOUT HANOI

The atlas will be a bound collection of maps, pictures, statistics, diagrams, charts and also narrative and descriptive text (history, landscape, economy, society, science and technology...). It will prove useful to managers, guides, teachers...

In early 1982, more than 200 researchers (professors, scientists, technicians, artists...) began cooperation in this work with the Department of Fundamental Surveys under the State Commission for Science and Technology. An

The map "Temperatures in Hanoi" supplies data on mean annual temperature, highest mean temperature, lowest mean temperature, etc., together with charts showing their evolution.

The map "Population of Hanoi" shows the population growth in successive periods of history, population distribution in various areas, manpower potentials, traditional trades and crafts...

The atlas is expected to be completed in a few years' time.

ACUPUNCTURE IN VIETNAM

According to our annals, Au Ky Sinh and Thoi Vi were practitioners in acupuncture respectively under the dynasty of the Hung kings (from the beginning of the 2nd millennium to the middle of the 3rd century B.C.) and under King Thuc An Duong Vuong (from the middle of the 3rd century to 179 B.C.). The contingent of Vietnamese practitioners in acupuncture has continually increased in number and quality, and they are playing an important role in the treatment of diseases throughout the country.

Starting from rudimentary instruments, Vietnamese acupuncture has not ceased to develop with the help of modern technology. Besides instruments for detecting *kinh lac*, instruments for acupuncture with electric stimulation, etc., we have developed new machines and instruments for diagnosing of chills and fevers, observing the movement of *khi*⁴ in the *kinh mach*⁵, making diagnosis by feeling the pulse, etc. These and the highly-developed forms of acupuncture in our country—filiform needles in acupuncture, electric stimulation, acupuncture with medicinal injection, ear acupuncture, digipressure...—have contributed to the treatment of common illnesses such as cephalalgia, insomnia, lumbago, rheumatism, asthma, changes in blood pressure, colic, goitre, paralysis of the nerves; bed-wetting,

sciatica, trouble of the vegetative system, tinnitus, giddiness, blurred vision, nausea, hiccups, etc. Acupuncture can treat a number of diseases considered as difficult to cure or incurable such as aphonia, dumbness, deafness, poliomyelitis, sequelae due to accidents of the cerebral arteries, paralysis due to encephalitis or meningitis, paralysis of the limbs, paraplegia due to trauma of the spinal column, etc.

Acupuncture is well known as a therapy, but it is also used as an anaesthetic. Patients can lie awake while undergoing lung surgery with acupuncture anaesthesia. They do not feel any pain when the ribcage is being sawn. In the last 10 years we have used acupuncture anaesthesia in 13,000 cases, in many military and civilian hospitals from North to South. These included more than 60 types of surgical operation, even the most complicated: gastrectomy, nephrectomy to remove renal calculi or nephrectomy, pneumonectomy, incision of the gall bladder to remove biliary calculi, brain surgery, hysterectomy, amputations, etc. Thanks to acupuncture anaesthesia we have conducted successful operations on traumatic sequelae due to bomb explosions. In general, all surgery has been successful in these cases, no accidents occurred during or after the operation. We have also demonstrated acupuncture anaesthesia in many countries without mishap.⁶

Books and pamphlets on Vietnamese acupuncture have been published in Vietnam and France. They are of great help to Vietnamese and French practitioners in acupuncture in doing research work and in developing their skills.

Acupuncture practitioners from France, Britain, USA, Canada, Germany, Italy, Belgium, Australia, Austria, Indonesia, Japan, India, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Sweden, Madagascar, etc., who had the opportunity of meeting our practitioners at conferences and seminars on acupuncture, held in France between 1979 and 1982, all praised Vietnamese acupuncture. They referred to Vietnamese acupuncture as "theoretically based on traditional medicine" and as having "an original technique". They all expressed their hope of coming to Vietnam to improve their knowledge.

We have exchanged our experience in acupuncture with many countries in the world. To this end we have attended seminars on acupuncture held in France, Japan, Czechoslovakia, Switzerland, Cuba, Italy, Bulgaria, Belgium, Sri Lanka and the Philippines. We organized crash-courses on acupuncture together with the Soviet Union, France, Czechoslovakia, Cuba, the Netherlands and Laos. We have also opened a few training courses in France, Switzerland, Italy, Belgium, etc.

The development of acupuncture in the world calls for greater efforts from Vietnamese practitioners in acupuncture. Vietnam is recognized by many countries as one of the pioneers of acupuncture in the world. At the conference on world acupuncture held in Geneva on 12 July 1982, many countries suggested that "efforts should be pooled to help Vietnamese acupuncture, for it is hoped that in the future it will become the cradle of world acupuncture."

Doctor NGUYEN TAI THU
Director of The Institute of
Acupuncture

1. Lục phủ: the "six vital organs" of the human body, namely the bladder, the gall bladder, the stomach, the intestine, the small intestine and tam tiêu (the three visceral cavities housing the internal organs).

2. Ngũ tạng: the five "internal organs": heart, liver, spleen, lungs and kidneys.

3. Kinh lạc: main and collateral channels, regarded as a network of passages, through which vital energy circulates and along which the acupuncture points are distributed.

4. Khí: vital energy; energy of life.

5. Kinh mạch: passages through which vital energy circulates, regulating bodily functions.

6. During his visit to Italy last February, Doctor Nguyen Tai Thu cooperated with Professor Cariati in a liver operation at Genoa. Dr. Thu planted eight needles at different points of acupuncture in the feet of the patient, Ms Santina Sertina, aged 41. Without feeling any pain, Ms S. Sertina was fully conscious while undergoing the operation, which lasted eight hours. Professor Cariati praised this "miracle" of Vietnamese medicine.

AGAIN ON THE FORMATION OF THE VIETNAMESE NATION

By Professor DAO DUY ANH

The problem of the formation of the Vietnamese nation has for long been the focus of historians' attention and the object of heated debates over the past quarter century. The discussions have not ended but opinions have edged ever closer to each other and many people now hold the view that the Vietnamese nation came into existence at a very early date. This point is quite important for it explains the survival of a nation in the face of the most terrible trials of destiny and history, when it stood up to colossal and barbarous enemies and firmly maintained its own original features. At the conference commemorating the 25th founding anniversary of the Vietnam Institute of History, in 1980, I had occasion to present once again some of my key ideas on the issue, of which I would like to give a summary below.

Those ideas had been expressed as early as 1955, at the very start of the debate. I had held that in

the 10th century, after freeing itself from Chinese domination, the Vietnamese nation began to take shape and reached maturity in the early 15th century¹. Unlike a number of authors who held fast to classical Marxist definitions concerning the formation of a nation and denied that any nation could have come into existence in whatever form before the emergence of capitalism, I was cognizant of the fact that while in western Europe nations were born at the same time as capitalism, in eastern Europe they took shape while capitalism was still quite weak and feudalism had not yet disappeared and in Asia there was a possibility of their coming into existence while capitalism had not yet appeared and feudalism was still dominant. Many Vietnamese researchers at first reacted strongly to those views but more and more of them came to express opinions close to my own. Indeed, in the late 1960's, some historians pushed the date of the formation of the

Vietnamese nation even further back. In order to clarify the issue, I think it necessary to recall some ideas expressed by researchers at home and abroad who had held views similar to my own.

Soon after the publication of the views expressed above, I received a letter from the late Phan Nhuan, a Vietnamese scholar then living in Paris, in which he wished to make some amendments and corrections to them. I have not made this letter public until now. First, Phan Nhuan stated his approval and affirmed that "even in the days of Ngo Quyen (938 — 944) the Vietnamese were a nation in the full sense of the word". However, he disagreed with my opinion that in Ngo Quyen's times the Vietnamese were a people, not a nation, that "when one looks at the history of the Vietnamese as a people, one discerns something that evokes a nation while being not yet a nation."

According to Phan Nhuan, at the beginning of the Christian era, a large-scale revolution occurred in the system of material production in the lower reaches of the Red River. By that time, in the whole of South Asia, from southern China to Indonesia and the Indian Ocean, there existed a common cultural substratum founded on a pre-Chinese situation with various political and social manifestations: Chinese *tieu bang* (small state), Yunnan *chieu* (Thai state), Van Lang *lac tuong*, Lam Ap *raja*, and such ethnological forms as Muong *chau* and Indonesian and Indian *raja*. It was the time when throughout the world many states had come into being and many linguistic streams had developed (Haudricourt), the main ones being the prevalent languages of the areas with a common economy (in our case the basins of the Red River and the Ma River), a time

of vigorous development and change, when the deep-lying characteristics of nations were taking external shape. The Vietnamese by that time had a common *language* and a common *culture*.

A sudden migration then took place from the north, lasting from Chin to Han times (3rd century B.C. to 3rd century A.D.). Iron tools and new techniques made it possible to open up unwholesome areas hitherto occupied by swamps and forests. One result of that revolution in agriculture was that formerly deserted regions were turned into most prosperous ones. The economic centre of gravity moved from the narrow strips of the uplands to the delta of the Red River and the Ma River, and in that territory which lay in one piece without a break two political powers could not exist. Water control (building of dams, digging of channels, washing of aluminous soil, etc.) lay at the centre of the Asiatic mode of production: it was an important and urgent problem which had to be solved over a whole large area, transcending tribes and localities.

With the Asiatic mode of production, a kind of 'authority for social management was born at an especially early date to meet the immediate requirements of production, which preceded those of class struggle. In the basins of the Red River and the Ma River, something emerged which strongly resembled a nation. This explains why, right at the beginning of the Christian era, the Vietnamese already had a common language, an "area of earth and sky", a common culture, although they still lived under Han domination. It was not yet a nation because the economy remained quite a primitive one. It was a village economy based on wet-rice growing. And the Vietnamese village was nothing but the form

of dissolution of the Muong tribe following the abolition of the matriachate.

Recently Phan Nhuan's views were further developed by the linguist Phan Ngoc in his paper on the foundation of Nguyen Trai's thoughts². Phan Ngoc's survey of the formation of the Vietnamese nation is based on his examination of the behaviour of a community of people with an economy focused on wet-rice growing, and in one respect he goes even further than Phan Nhuan: the behaviour of the Viet people, he declares, is completely different from that of the Chinese, and the Vietnamese nation made its appearance and ensured its survival in a manner which was just the opposite of that governing the formation of the Chinese nation. Says he:

"The essential territory of Vietnam is the delta of the Red River, which is lower than the level of the river water when it is in spate, hence the necessity of dykes.(...) In order to survive the Vietnamese people had to have a unified administration. This was *voluntary unity*, in which violence played no part. For that reason, ever since Ngo Quyen founded the nation in the year 938, Vietnam has been a unified country and will always remain so, this unity springing from the will of the people to ensure their continued existence, even before the days of feudalism. In that delta the mode of farming was wet-rice growing, which called for water conservation and control through a sophisticated system of irrigation and drainage. This mode of production did not admit of any division among the Vietnamese, nor did it allow the central administration to do away with the village communes, for the villages were the foundation of the water control system in Vietnam. For that reason

the history of Vietnam is the history of compromise between the central power and the villages. The latter had to rely on the former for resistance to foreign invasions and for flood control, while the former drew its human and material resources from the latter and relied on it to check any separatist tendency from the local nobility. These two systems have existed throughout history and make for the original characteristics of the Vietnamese."

In his analysis of the thoughts of Nguyen Trai, the representative of Vietnamese ideology in a period of national maturity (15th century), Phan Ngoc should be credited with the discovery of one of the national constants on the ideological plane, which also governed the formation of the Vietnamese nation. It was stated right at the beginning of the Proclamation of Victory over the Wu:

Our country Dai Viet has long
since been a
Land of old culture,
With its own rivers and mountains,
ways and customs,
Different from those of the North.
The Trieu, Dinh, Ly, Tran built
up our independence
And stood as equals of the Han,
Tang, Sung, Yuan.
We have known both days of
greatness and times of decline
But never have we lacked heroes.

The formation of the nation is thus presented as the result of four factors: culture, territory, customs, political power. This is different from the formula cited by classical Marxist authors. The original feature in the mode of formation of the Vietnamese nation is the fact that Nguyen Trai con-

sidered the country as the property of the people, i.e. the village communes, not of the king, i.e. the imperial dynasties, as was the case with China³. The village commune, the form of dissolution of the primitive commune, weathered the tempests of history and created the original feature of the nation, indeed its genius, which Nguyen Trai, that archetypical national hero, was the first to understand in his efforts to save the country and build for it a fine culture based on humanity and justice, his aim being to bring lasting peace and happiness to his nation and the world.

1. Dao Duy Anh, History of Vietnam (in Vietnamese), Xay Dung Pub., Hanoi, 1955.

"The national problem in the history of Vietnam," in Bulletin of the Hanoi Teacher-Training College, No. 4, November—December 1955.

"Major steps in the formation and development of the Vietnamese nation", op. cit. No. 5, January, February, March 1956.

The Problem of the Formation of the Vietnamese Nation, Xay Dung Pub., Hanoi.

2. Phan Ngoc, "A tentative survey of Nguyen Trai's thoughts based on an examination of the behaviour of the Vietnamese", paper read at the Conference on Nguyen Trai, Paris, 1980.

3. The thinker Han Fei Tse of ancient China said: "When people say that the State of Qi was lost, they did not mean that its territory was lost, but simply that it was no longer governed by the Lu dynasty but the Tien dynasty; when they say that the State of Qin was lost, they did not mean that its territory was lost but simply that power was now in the hands of three courtiers."

Hoa Lu, an ancient capital of Vietnam, lies in Truong Yen Thuong and Truong Yen Ha communes in Gia Vien district, Ha Nam Ninh province.

Dinh Bo Linh, who later became King Dinh Tien Hoang, made it a military base in 951 A.D. After nearly twenty years of continual warfare which ended in his victory over the twelve *su quan* (seigneurs), in 968, Dinh Bo Linh¹ officially set up his capital at Hoa Lu and it remained the capital for the next 60 years.

As he was born, and grew up in the area, Dinh Bo Linh was familiar with the terrain and able to make the best use of it for military operations and agricultural production.

Dinh Bo Linh deserves to be called a great strategist and builder in choosing Hoa Lu as his capital.

According to geographers and geologists, Hoa Lu lies in a region of limestone mountains covered with virgin forest. This vegetation has since disappeared. Generally speaking, this kind of vegetation-clad mountain is now rare.

Hoa Lu is a karstic region similar to Karat, a locality in the Dinak mountain range separating Yugoslavia and Italy (In Croatian, Karat means Karst). But Dinak is a denuded mountain whereas Hoa Lu was formerly covered with green vegetation. The flora which grows there has powerful roots which enable it to cling fast to the rocks to draw out nutritive elements.

This detail was a determining factor in the building of Hoa Lu citadel.

According to geologists Hoa Lu Karst was formed during the Triassic period, that is about 230 million years ago. This several thousand metres thick layer is constituted by the formation of billions of dead animalcula deposited at the bottom of the sea. Their bodies are in effect the calcium drawn from sea water. When they die their protoplasm emits carbonic gas after decomposition and speeds up the solubility of part of the calcium carbonate which becomes calcium bicarbonate. This soluble calcium seals together the tiny animals and becomes limestone. Over 200 million years, these reactions have been repeated a great number of times in Hoa Lu Karst.

HOA LU, first capital of independent VIETNAM

Legend has it that since his boyhood, Dinh Tien Hoang was gifted in the military art. He enacted sham battles with other buffalo-boys and made flags from the reeds which abound there. Once, after a victory he killed a buffalo which he tended for his uncle and inserted the buffalo's tail in a crevice of the karstic rock and told his uncle that the animal has fallen into the hole.

Botanists affirm that the two regions which supplied timber for the construction of Hoa Lu capital are Ma Yen mountain (also called Nui Yen Ngua—Horse Saddle where Dinh Tien Hoang's tomb lies) and Cuc Phuong forest.

According to legend the citadel and Dinh Tien Hoang's palaces were defended by hundreds of thousands of sacred unicorn claws and thus could not be destroyed.

To meet the military requirements of that time, Dinh Tien Hoang chose Hoa Lu to build his fortress. The reason was that this karstic region, difficult of access, became an easy place to defend and from which to attack. The King gave orders to build his fortifications and palaces defended by many gates which were quite far from each other. Then he reared tigers and panthers and installed big oil jars as a means of enforcing law and order.

To build his citadel and palaces, Dinh Tien Hoang made use of the precious woods found in the region. The trees here grow on the decayed rock. That is why they have powerful roots which enable them to cling to the rocks through the crevices and emit an acid capable of turning limestone into a nutritive element necessary for their growth. Due to the effects of physiological and chemical decompositions, a thin layer of earth appeared, contributing to the growth of a luxuriant vegetation, amongst which are these ancient trees. Here the tropic rain plays a very important role: it is reckoned that in 200 million years, to corrode a tonne of stone, 30,000 tonnes of water are needed, and through this long process of decomposition many caverns and hollows were formed.

The flora growing in this karstic region include precious timber trees such as: *dinh* (Markhamia stipulata), *trai* (Dalbergia tonkinensis), *nguyen* (Pentace tonkinensis), *cho chi* (Parashorea stellata), *lat hoa* (Chukrasia tubularis), *hoang dan* (Dacrydium pierrei), *truc da* (Arundinaria), *kim giao* (Pedacarpus fleury). They were much appreciated by our ancestors because of their solidity and beauty. It is possible that these woods were used since the establishment of the Dinh dynasty. At that time, our

ancestors knew the qualities of these woods but did not have the necessary knowledge to differentiate between them.

However, it is not by chance that our people singled out the four woods: *dinh*, *lim* (Eurythrophloeum fordii), *sen* (Madhuca pasquieri), *tau* (Vatica tonkinensis) which they call *tu thiet moc* (four iron woods). At the time of Dinh Tien Hoang, all trees like *dinh*, *trai*, *nguyen*, *cho chi* were called *dinh* only.

Recent investigations at Truong Yen show that a great number of *cho xanh* (Terminalia myriocarpa) and *cho chi* were used as stakes for the foundation of citadels and palaces in the Dinh and Early Le dynasties. More than one thousand years have elapsed, yet these stakes, driven deep underground, are not yet decayed. They truly deserve to be called "sacred wood."

There are people who believe that Hoa Lu means the habitat of *lau* (reed) with which Dinh Bo Linh made flags in his childhood, and perhaps the name Hoa Lu is a derivative of Hoa Lau (Reed Flower).

However, in my opinion, it is not so. In the books in Chinese published in Vietnam, the word *lau* also means *cong lang* (village gate). Perhaps they were the gates of the fighting villages built by Dinh Tien Hoang. These gates were really inaccessible as they were built in the *quen* (limestone gorges) which, in order to attack Hoa Lu, the eventual enemy had to go through. Even today the roads leading to Hoa Lu have to pass through these gorges, for instance *Quen Oi*, which is 4 kilometres from Hoa Lu, and *Quen Voi* which leads to Cuc Phuong forest.

The face of Hoa Lu may have changed over the years but it remains historically and geographically significant for Vietnam.

NGO THE THINH

1. After the death in 944 of Ngo Quyen, the national hero who put an end to the one-thousand-year-old domination over our country by Chinese feudalists, centralized power disintegrated. The 12 seigneurs fought one another and tried to consolidate their own fiefs. Following his victory over those 12 su quan, Dinh Bo Linh reunified the country, mounted the throne in 968 and changed the name of our country to Dai Co Viet.

CHRONOLOGY

(March 16 — April 15)

MARCH

17. A delegation of the Ethiopian Government ends its friendship visit to Vietnam, begun on March 11.

20. A delegation of the Vietnam Federation of Trade Unions, headed by Nguyen Duc Thuan, President of the Federation, pays a visit to France. A joint communiqué is signed by the trade union organizations of the two countries.

22. The Ministry of Public Health, under the sponsorship of the Vietnam Committee for the International Year of the Elderly, holds a symposium on geriatrics in Hanoi from March 22 to 23.

23. Opening of the second course by the Nguyen Du School of Writing attended by 29 learners.

25. The Central Committee of the Vietnam Women's Union holds a meeting of women of minority nationalities in southern Vietnam, in Ho Chi Minh City.

26. Founding of the Vietnam Federation of Scientific and Technological Associations.

— The Vietnam Institute of Marxism—Leninism and the Nguyen Ai Quoc Party School hold a symposium on "Karl Marx and Our Era" on the occasion of the 165th birthday and 100th death anniversary of Karl Marx.

— A delegation of the Japan—Vietnam Friendship Association pays a visit to Vietnam.

27. French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson pays an official visit to Vietnam.

28. Holding in Hanoi of a competition for workers and managerial cadres of the building branch.

31. A French Communist Party delegation pays a visit to Vietnam.

— A Greek Communist Party delegation pays a visit to Vietnam.

APRIL

1. Signing in Paris of an agreement on French relief shipment of wheat flour to Vietnam.

2. Holding in Hanoi (from March 28 to April 2) of the fifth session of the Sub-committee for Scien-

tific and Technological Cooperation between Vietnam and Bulgaria.

3. Hanoi: Closing of the national table-tennis championship for 1983, begun on March 26.

— Holding in Ha Nam Ninh province of a symposium on the improvement of the diet.

5. The Vietnamese Foreign Ministry issues a statement rejecting Thai authorities' slanderous allegation that Vietnam has attacked civilians in refugee camps along the Thai—Kampuchean border and intruded into Thai territory.

6. Opening in Hanoi of an international seminar on mechanics.

— Ending of a visit to Japan by Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Ha Van Lau, begun on March 27.

— Signing in Phnom Penh of a Vietnam—Kampuchea agreement on economic cooperation and aid for 1983.

7. Holding of a conference of bank directors from cities, provinces' and special regions throughout the country to discuss measures for improving banking operations.

8. Opening in Bac Thai province of the 5th conference on education for the national minorities by the Ministry of Education.

9. A spokesman for the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry makes a statement protesting against the United States for intensifying military aid to Thailand.

— The Vietnamese Foreign Ministry hands a memorandum to its Thai counterpart on Vietnam's attitude regarding the recent situation on the Kampuchean—Thai border, reaffirming Vietnam's respect for Thailand's territorial integrity and calling on Thailand to respond to Vietnam's goodwill for peace.

12. Holding in Phnom Penh of an extraordinary conference by Foreign Ministers of Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea. A joint communiqué is published, announcing a partial withdrawal of Vietnamese volunteer troops from Kampuchea in May.

— The Vietnamese Foreign Ministry sends a note to its Chinese counterpart protesting against China's launching of repeated armed provocations and harassment operations into Vietnamese northern border provinces.

13. A Finnish economic delegation ends its visit to Vietnam begun on April 8.

VIETNAM'S MINERAL – GEOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES



Erecting a drilling-rig.



Operating a drill.



Analysing ore samples at the Institute of
Geology and Mineralogy. (See article on
page 17)

Photos : VNA



Poster for 5th National Film Festival held in Hanoi in May 1980.

Film Star Tra Giang.

30 YEARS OF THE VIETNAMESE CINEMA

(See article on page 23)



Shooting the film *The Town Is Within Reach*, a film on the fight against the Chinese aggressors in Lang Son provincial capital.



A still from the animated cartoon *Mother Is Pleased*.

Photos: FAFIM

Vietnam
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HOBOCTB
ВЬЕТНАМ

Le courrier
du Vietnam

El correo
de Vietnam

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