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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

July 25, 2000
(House)

STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY

(THIS STATEMENT HAS BEEN COORDINATED BY OMB WITH THE CONCERNED AGENCIES.)

H.J.Res. 99 - Disapproving the Extension
of Jackson-Vanik Waiver Authority for Vietnam
(Rohrabacher (R) California)

The Administration strongly opposes H.J.Res. 99, which would disapprove the extension of a waiver of the Jackson-Vanik freedom of emigration requirements with respect to Vietnam. On June 2nd, President Clinton determined that continuation of the Jackson-Vanik waiver would substantially promote greater freedom of emigration in Vietnam in the future. This determination was based on Vietnam's improved performance over the past year on emigration and on its continued and increased cooperation on U.S. refugee programs. The Administration urges the Congress to defeat H.J.Res. 99 for the reasons explained below.

The Administration's policy since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1995 has been to work with Vietnam to normalize incrementally our bilateral political, economic, and consular relationship. U.S. engagement helps promote the development of a prosperous Vietnam integrated into world markets and regional organizations, which, in turn, helps contribute to regional stability. In addition, U.S. involvement has secured Vietnamese cooperation and engagement on a range of important U.S. policy goals, including achieving the fullest possible accounting of POW/MIAs from the Vietnam War. It is in the national interest for this progress to continue.

While the Administration remains concerned about Vietnam's human rights practices and continues to urge improved respect for human rights, worker rights, and the rule of law, our engagement, along with that of others, has produced some improvements. These include increased openness, modest relaxation of restrictions on personal liberty and religious worship, greater toleration of public criticism, and release of a number of prisoners of conscience.

The U.S. has extended a Jackson-Vanik waiver to Vietnam for each of the past 2 years. This has permitted U.S. businesses operating in Vietnam to make use of U.S. Government programs supporting U.S. exports to and investments in Vietnam. U.S. business views Vietnam, the twelfth most populous country in the world, as an important potential market. The Jackson-Vanik waiver is also a prerequisite for Normal Trade Relations (NTR) trade status, but would not yet confer NTR on Vietnam. Before Vietnam can receive NTR, Congress must approve a bilateral trade agreement (BTA). The United States and Vietnam signed such an agreement on July 13th, after four years of negotiation. In light of the extremely crowded Congressional Calendar and limited number of legislative days remaining

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in the 106th Congress, it does not appear practical for the Administration to transmit the BTA to Congress this session. Only at such time in the future as the Congress approves the BTA will Vietnam receive NTR trade status, which would continue to require annual congressional review.

Since March 1998 when the Jackson-Vanik waiver was first granted, it has been an essential component of the Administration's policy of engagement and has directly furthered progress with Vietnam on a number of U.S. policy goals. The extension of the waiver this year will continue to advance U.S. national interests in Vietnam.

* * * * *



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Mr. William Jefferson Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, DC 20502

February 24, 2000

Dear Mr. President:

In my fifty years, I have witnessed strained relations between the United States and Vietnam too much of the time. As the founder and 1st president of the East Meets West Foundation, I began this organization in 1987 to help heal the wounds of war between the US and Vietnam. To further this cause I started the Global Village Foundation two years ago, a non-profit organization that turns impoverished villages into productive and self-reliant communities.

Many people have helped our foundations achieve their goals, but none more than you. For this reason, you have my respect and admiration. In 1994 you lifted the trade embargo against Vietnam, and in 1996, you helped normalize ties with Vietnam and established full diplomatic relations. Subsequently, the doors have been opened for others and myself to work in my native land thus I am very grateful to you.

Every year since 1989, our foundation has given out the Bridge of Peace Award. Past recipients have been Senators John McCain and John Kerry as well as USAID, which has supported our efforts in Vietnam for 5 years. In appreciation for what you have done, we would be honored by your willingness to accept an award from our foundation in the name of peace and justice.

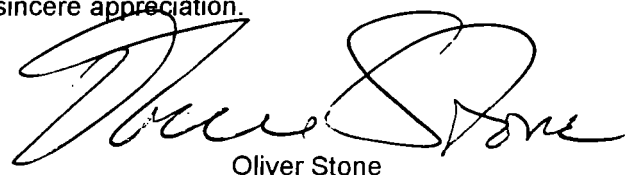
On March 8, 1965, I witnessed the first 3,500 Marines landing on China Beach in Danang, Vietnam, which is out side of my native village. On March 28, 1975, the North Vietnamese liberated the city of Danang from the war with the US. On March 20, 1990, I broke the ground for the Peace Village, a medical center on the same spot the Marines landed over thirty years ago. Next year is a very important year. It will be the 35th anniversary of the first landing and I would like that date to reflect on the bridges of peace that have been built since then. It is also important because, as our Year 2000 Recipient, you can propel us into another century of peace.

Our organization would deeply appreciate the opportunity to present you with our award sometime in the months of March, April or May 2000, at your convenience.

Acknowledgement of your own personal efforts towards expanding trade and normalizing relations between our two countries is long overdue. You opened the door of opportunity for many of us on both sides of the world and for this we are extremely grateful. We hope you will accept this award with our deepest and most sincere appreciation.

Sincerely yours,


Le Ly Hayslip


Oliver Stone

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'Your support is the essence of the good and positive changes taking place in Vietnam.'

—Mark Stewart
Executive Director

The Vision

THE NEWSLETTER OF



FOUNDATION

A humanitarian relief organization

Issue 10

Winter 1997/1998

Medical Center transfers to local administration

I am pleased to provide you with an encouraging update regarding Peace Village Medical Center (PVMC) on China Beach. As you will recall, PVMC was built with donations from EMWF supporters, and opened in March of 1991.

Our intent at the time was to turn the Medical Center's administration and medical aspects over to the citizens of Quang Nam-Da Nang Province within five years or so. We were able to accomplish this transfer six months ago.

After having treated literally thousands of local citizens over the years, PVMC is now being administered by the Health Department of Quang Nam-Da Nang Province and is now

A report by

Dr. Peter Singer

President of the Board



called Marble Mountain Medical Center.

We no longer carry the principle economic and administrative burden for the Medical Center, but continue to work in partnership with the physicians and administrative officials of the Health Department. This seems to be a perfect fit, and I am delighted to inform you that during my visit to Vietnam in May of this year, I found the

Medical Center to be operating efficiently, with energetic and enthusiastic staff.

The local Health Department seems to be doing an excellent job and still wishes to work closely with us, and we are continuing to do so. We intend to continue providing support in the form of in-kind gifts, rotation of physicians and other medical personnel, and some economic support.

The Dental Clinic at PVMC, established by Charles "Fritz" Craft, DDS, continues to function autonomously at PVMC. To Fritz's credit, and that of the Vietnamese dentists and health care workers, patients are receiving first-rate dental care. See the story on Page 6.

SMILING FACES, THANKS TO PEOPLE LIKE YOU



Based on core funding provided by USAID, East Meets West has generated \$2 million in private, corporate and donations-in-kind. This money and material has been instrumental in preventing child abandonment and displacement in the Da Nang Province.

Vietnam Vet fills constructive role

Greetings! For those of you who don't know me, I'll tell you a little about myself and how I came to EMWF.

As a Vietnam Veteran, I always wanted to return to Vietnam in a constructive and giving role. I knew the people of Vietnam as warm, generous, courageous, and not deserving of the brutality of war.

Since the American war in Vietnam, I returned to graduate school, married, and my wife Margaret and I have worked independently for 13 years doing humanitarian development work in Sudan, Nicaragua, and southern Mexico.

After two wonderful trips to

Introducing

Mark Stewart

Executive Director



Vietnam as a volunteer with EMWF/SABAH a few years ago, I knew the time was right for a deeper commitment to Vietnam. When the opportunity to become the Executive Director opened up, with Le Ly's encouragement, I decided to accept.

Due to previous commitments, Margaret still lives in Idaho, which makes both our jobs dif-

ficult, but we are managing because we love the work we are doing and the positive changes we are making for people who are less fortunate that we are.

Being the Executive Director of EMWF since October of 1996 has been one of the most exciting, stimulating, and challenging experiences of my life. I love the concept and mission of EMWF's work, and after having worked in Da Nang with the overseas staff, I have come to love each of them. Their dedication to helping their brothers and sisters and moving their country forward is inspiring.

It is indeed exciting to be part of such a dynamic organization.



Le Ly Hayslip joins Ambassador Pete Petersen — the first U.S. ambassador in Hanoi in over 40 years — at the 1997 July 4th celebration.

A decade of healing the wounds of war

It has been so long since our last newsletter, please forgive me and the Foundation for being out of touch.

The East Meets West Foundation that I founded in 1988 — with the goal of healing the wounds of war between the veterans of Vietnam and America — has been successful in bringing the people of both sides together, on common ground, to provide service and care to the poor and disabled of Vietnam.

A message from

Le Ly Hayslip

EMWF Founder



Ambassador Le Van Bang. What a pleasure I took in seeing the reconciliation between the West and East — the United States and Vietnam.

This past year I have been taking a break from the foundation — savoring the rewards and accomplishments of the past 10 years. As you will read in this newsletter, there has been a great amount of beneficial work accomplished for the people of Vietnam. I want to thank each and every one of you for your love and support that has made the foundation a success.

Mother's Love Clinic has delivered over 1,000 babies (thank you Oliver Stone), the Peace Village Medical Clinic has become the 5th District Hospital working in partnership with the Ministry of Health, "Fritz" Craft from Alaska has provided East Meets West with a dental clinic that provides dental care and education to 1,200 children, and Village of Hope and its 125 children are being supported by more than 200 sponsors from around the world.

As for the future of Le Ly, I must make a move in a new direction. One that will allow me to create a new life for myself. I have spent the past 10 years, and a very large amount of my own money, to provide East Meets West with

Continued on Page 6

EMWF projects needing your support

Village of Hope Child Sponsorship Program

The Village of Hope (VOH), established in 1992, serves the most needy children in Da Nang Province. One hundred twenty five children – including orphans, displaced, abandoned, and disabled – are lovingly cared for by a dedicated staff of house mothers, educators, social workers, and medical personnel.

The children attend school, receive health and dental care, are instructed in personal hygiene, participate in vocational training programs, and live in a compassionate home environment. A wide range of activities are made available to all children, including sports, music, dance, art, theater training, and English as a Second Language instruction.

During a child's stay (an average of three to five years) at the VOH, East Meets West Foundation provides assistance to the family to help them gain economic independence. In providing substantial housing, agriculture, livestock, or small business loans, EMWF ensures a healthy and stable environment for the child returning home.

To date, 200 children have benefited from the care and love given them at VOH. There have been 77 graduates from the program – returning home to continue their education, or to enter the workplace as a skilled technician.

We continue to seek sponsors in assisting a child's stay at VOH. A yearly \$300 contribution, or \$25 per month, will provide care for one child. As a sponsor, you will receive a picture of and biographical information about your child, twice yearly updates on the child's health and school progress. Frequent correspondence and drawings from your child will be sent to you from Vietnam.

Compassion Home Construction

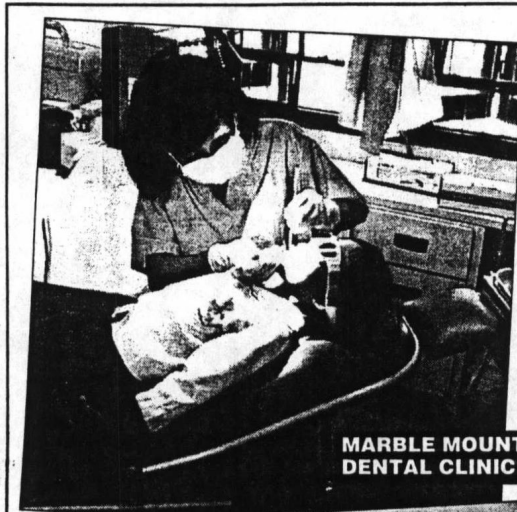
Small and basic homes are built under the supervision of EMWF social workers for the poorest families of children at VOH, and other families qualifying for assistance.

Each compassion home has a plaque indicating the donor's name, and each donor receives a photo of the family in their new home. To date, EMWF has provided 44 homes to families in Da Nang Province.

The donation of \$1,000 will make one Compassion Home a reality!

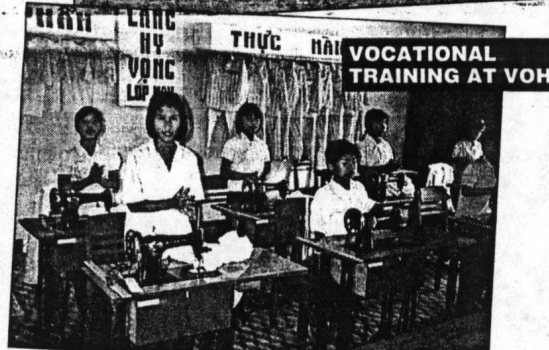
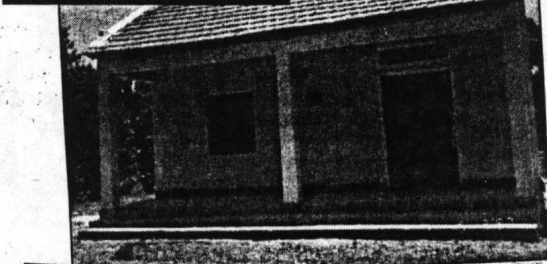
School Renovation and Construction

Education is a priority in Vietnam. Thousands of children



MARBLE MOUNTAIN DENTAL CLINIC

KINDERGARTEN SCHOOL RECENTLY BUILT BY EMWF



VOCATIONAL TRAINING AT VOH



COMPASSION HOME

are deprived of an education because their schools are in ruin following the war.

A six-room school can be built or renovated (new walls, windows, doors, covered walkways, and tile roof) for as little as \$2,500. The school construction

program began in 1996. Since then EMWF has built eight schools and renovated three.

Each renovated or newly constructed school has a plaque installed with the funder's name. Hundreds of children will benefit for years and years from

a safe and permanent school being constructed in their village or hamlet.

Clean Water Projects

Sources of water in rural Vietnam are frequently not reliable or clean, causing much disease and malnutrition. Since 1992, EMWF has provided fresh water to villages either through construction of small community wells or large water delivery systems.

To date, EMWF has constructed 21 community wells and six large water systems. A community fresh water well – providing safe drinking water for up to 60 people – costs as little as \$500, and a large water delivery system for an entire village costs \$5,000-\$10,000.

Wouldn't it be wonderful to know you are playing an integral part in providing fresh water to so many deserving people and to be actively preventing disease through your donation towards constructing a fresh water well.

Dental Clinic and Marble Mountain Medical Center

Although the Peace Village Medical Clinic is now managed and operated by the local Department of Health, and is called Marble Mountain Medical Center, EMWF is still actively involved in financial and material support.

This medical facility is a critical part of the health care system in Da Nang Province, and has provided needed care for thousands of people since its founding in 1991. Marble Mountain Dental Clinic, established in 1996, is the first permanent American dental program in Central Vietnam since the end of the Vietnam/American conflict.

All children at VOH receive full dental and health care and education. Qualified people in need of dental work also receive care. As of this writing, 1,200 children at the school for the blind, disabled, and other orphanages are receiving full dental exams and treatment.

A donation of \$500 supports the operating expenses of the Dental Project for one entire month!

General Support

General support includes office management costs, and oversight of overseas projects. It takes postage, phone calls, faxes, paying office rent and utilities, staff salaries, and a myriad of incidental expenses to provide the background for success of the actual programs with EMWF does so well. We always welcome donations earmarked for general support, as those are what enable us to do the great work we do.



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East Meets West Foundation is a non-profit humanitarian relief organization. Donations are tax-deductible.

A word of thanks... ...to our volunteers

East Meets West Foundation has always deeply appreciated the tireless hours of work that volunteers give to making our organization work so well.

For help in organizing the home office, we take our hats off to Tom Bolan, John Dubpernell, Tyler Moore, Charles Egan, Carol Racine and Brenda Ringwald. Thanks to Sandra Harris of the *San Francisco Examiner*, whose wonderful article about EMWF was instrumental in several generous donations coming our way.

Steve Colwell, Larry Connolly, Bill Larsen, Jim

A special thanks to the *Bluefield Daily Telegraph* in Bluefield, W.Va., for allowing EMWF to produce this newsletter on Daily Telegraph equipment, and to Danny Akers for scanning in the photos.

Toohy, Peter Liefer, and Le Thu Nguyen are all to be commended for their continuous fund-raising and networking on behalf of EMWF. Dan Shaughnessey, and Tom Tauras of Project Concern International have

been exceptionally generous with guidance and counsel.

Thanks to Don Cuppett and Margaret Macdonald Stewart for helping with the newsletter.

And a huge thank you to Megumi Tanaka, who has given untold hours of volunteer time in the home office translating letters, managing the computer data system, and providing computer training for Mark Stewart. Thank you so much, Megumi, for your selflessness and cheerful manner. Your contribution has no equal.



EMWF team members include, from left, Translator/Social Worker Tam, Overseas Director Mark Conroy, Accountant Nguyet and Executive Director Mark Stewart.

...to our overseas staff

I would like to give many thanks to the Vietnamese staff that work at EMWFVN.

Tam, who has been working as translator, office manager, social worker, teacher, guide, cook and just about anything under the sun that needs doing, for her hard work and dedication to the Foundation over the past four and a half years.

Nguyet, our accountant, who also has multiple office functions, including coordinating all of the heart cases. She is dedicated and has worked hard for the past one and a half years to help bring the Foundation to a higher level.

The dental team of Thuy, Viet and Truc have all been dedicated and worked hard to bring the dental program forward by providing an excellent service to more children's centers - such as the blind school, street children center and many others - with top quality dental care and education.

And last, but not least, Mr. Hoc and all of the staff at VOH who do such a wonderful job providing more than basic care and education for so many disadvantaged and needy children in Vietnam.

-Mark Conroy

...to our major donors

Unfortunately, we don't have room in the newsletter to thank each of you who have contributed financial support to EMWF or who have sponsored a child at Village of Hope. Your support is the essence of the good and positive changes taking place in Vietnam.

We do, however, feel it is important to thank those of you who have made significant monetary contributions from February-October 1997 to the ongoing work of EMWF. Thank you to: The Women's Democratic Club of Japan, Aether Works Corp., Bill

Larsen, Dr. Charles "Fritz" Craft, Charles Gilreath, Dr. Margaret Gremli, Deane F. Johnson, Jr., Edwin McClenton, Harold Prince, Oliver Stone, Otto and Martha Wiederkehr, Penelope and Ralph Wilcox, and the ever-present Conroy Family.

1997 sees many changes at EMWF

So many things have happened at East Meets West Foundation since our last newsletter (Winter 1996)!

Our last report to you had Ed and Kathy Oshiro as the new Overseas Directors in Da Nang, replacing Mark Conroy. After a short stint with EMWF, Ed and Kathy decided to return to the States to be closer to their families and pursue work in other areas.

We are thrilled to report that Mark Conroy, Overseas Director extraordinaire, has extended his time with EMWF. Mark has managed EMWF projects in Vietnam for over three years, winning the hearts and confidence of everyone he encounters. The success of EMWF work in Quang Nam-Da Nang Province is a direct result of Mark's dedication to the people of Vietnam.

Mark's work has been made easier and a lot more fun by the support from the Da Nang office staff, two of whom are no longer with EMWF. Cat, who worked as a translator, is going to school and working in the business world. Many thanks to Cat who is going places! Chi, EMWF Da Nang office accountant for two years, has married and is now living in Gainesville, Florida. Thank you, Chi, for your many years of loyalty and hard work.

And now the homefront.

Tom Bolan, Executive Director of EMWF for two years, stepped down to work in his field of administrative social work. We owe Tom an enormous thank you for his tireless efforts at fund-raising, grant-writing, and generally keeping EMWF's rudder in the water.

Karen Breidenstein-Howe,



Mark Conroy, shown at a well built by EMWF, has returned as Overseas Director.

Tom's administrative officer, now works in the Bay area. Karen's presence was special and she is missed by all.

And now, Mark Stewart (see newsletter 1996 article, volunteer with EMWF '95-'96 in Da Nang) has stepped into the position of Executive Director. On board since October of 1996, Mark has focused on fund-raising, and strengthening connections with Vietnam-

era veterans and service organizations such as Rotary.

Mark's goal is to strengthen the economic foundation of EMWF through increased child sponsorship, a broader donation base, and increased grants and foundation participation. With more people actively and financially supporting the work of EMWF, we will have the flexibility and strength to carry us into the future, helping the people of Vietnam towards a better life.

Two significant events to make note of are:

1. An anonymous donor has gifted the foundation \$100,000 to be used for development projects such as water systems, loans, school and home construction, and support to the dental, heart care, and medical programs.

2. The child sponsorship program at VOH has grown from 89 sponsors in October 1996 to 205 in October 1997.

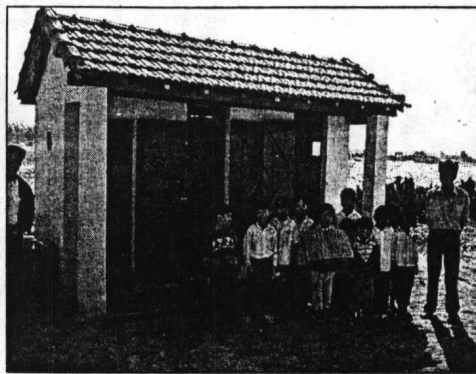
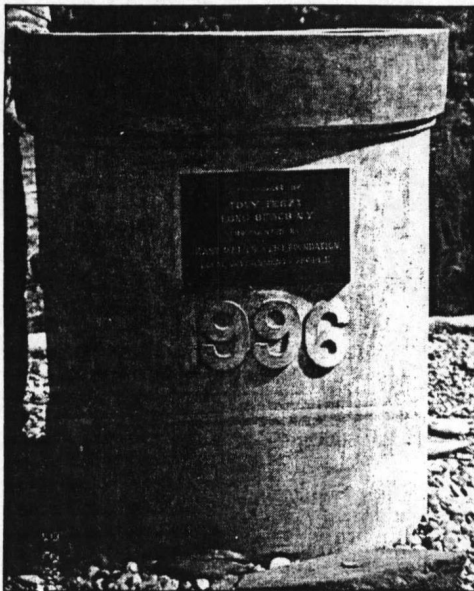
This significant rise in sponsorship support has given the Children's Center the independence and self-sustainability necessary to increase the number of children enrolled in the program and to increase the vocational education programs.

MISSION STATEMENT

EAST MEETS WEST FOUNDATION is a non-profit organization doing humanitarian development work in Vietnam. Our mission is to improve the general health and welfare of people in Quang Nam-Da Nang Province, whose land was devastated during the Vietnam War.

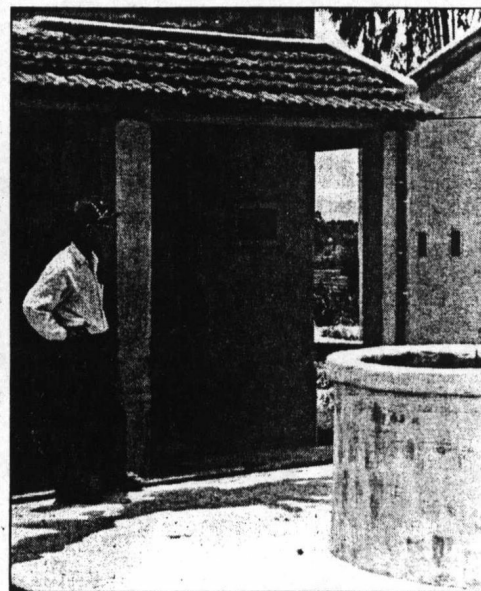
With the goal of self-sufficiency for our projects and those they serve, EAST MEETS WEST FOUNDATION provides quality programs for health and dental care, school renovations, and clean, safe water systems construction. We also provide a nurturing environment for 125 displaced, orphaned and at-risk children at the Village of Hope Children's Center.

Special Projects Update



WATERWORKS

Since its arrival in Vietnam, East Meets West Foundation has been actively involved in upgrading water and sanitation systems in the Da Nang area. The wide variety of projects are represented by these three: well (left), well and latrine (right), and toilets and shower (above).



COMPASSION HOMES

Compassion houses are homes the Foundation started building to assist children at VOH in getting ready to be reintegrated into their communities. In the beginning, we chose two children who were the poorest of the poor who had houses that were barely more than a cattle shed.

Houses were constructed using \$300 from EMWF funds put together with small donations from the CPCC, VOH staff, neighbors and friends. If the family did not have suitable land to build on, land was donated by the local government and free labor was supplied by the community.

In the early days of this program the total cost of a house usually amounted to about \$600, not counting the value of land or free labor supplied by neighbors, relatives and friends.

To date, 34 Compassion houses have been built for children and their families at VOH with construction work overseen by center social workers.

The Compassion house program was expanded in 1996 in order to meet the needs of other poor families in the province along with complying to the request of some of our donors. Implemented out of the EMWF office in Da Nang, since the beginning of 1997 10 Compassion houses have been built.

A report by

Mark Conroy

Overseas Director



tion, along with two private donors, SABAH and Le Thu.

During that year we renovated three schools and built three new ones. Since the beginning of 1997 EMWF has built five schools at a total cost of \$9,718. All of these schools were constructed in remote villages where there is a growing need each year due to population expansion.

Although the Central Government's Department of Education is mainly held responsible for providing the villages with schools, they cannot come close to keeping up with the demands. As a result, many areas go without needed classrooms or conduct classes in old, dilapidated structures that are a risk to students' and teachers' safety.

We have proposals to help replace schools that have collapsed under the weight of storms before we could find funding for construction of new ones.

WELLS, WATER SYSTEMS

My first Special Project, when I arrived in Vietnam in 1994, was to build seven community wells in a poor hamlet in the Duy Xuyen District. During that same year, EMWF went on to build a number of community wells in other districts where there was a great need.

Over the next two years, we

The Heart Program



Nguyen Thi Tuyet

Tuyet, who was 2 years old, and her father had already been to the Heart Institute for an examination and had the institute's address and telephone number with them. So Joanne got the telephone to the Heart Center and made the necessary arrangements for them to receive Tuyet.

We bought Tuyet's father an air ticket and begged the airline to let Tuyet on for free, and gave them enough money to pay for a place to stay and buy food for the necessary time they needed to be in Saigon.

In short, this was the birth of the East Meets West Foundation Heart Program and the relationship with the French-sponsored Heart Institute in HCMC. To date the East Meets West Foundation has coordinated with the Heart Institute and sent dozens of children along with a few adults with heart problems to the center for operations.

We have to thank Nguyen Thanh Hung and his daughter Tuyet for their insistence on getting help from East Meets West Foundation. In doing so, EMWF has helped Tuyet - and many, many others: transportation and living expenses for 35 families of children having heart operations at the French Heart Institute in Ho Chi Minh City. Twenty more were planned this year. Cost is \$250 per case.

-M.C.

built 14 wells, installed two water systems in village medical clinics and constructed a large village water system in Hoa Quy, Le Ly Hayslip's home village.

From the beginning of January 1997, the Foundation has built seven community wells and constructed two village water systems that together serve 110 families.

Currently, we are constructing two village water systems.

The Dien Hong water system will serve 50 families in an area that now has unsafe drinking water for a long distance. The new system consists of a well, water pump, water filter and water tower along with 350 meters of water pipe that will be laid through the village where the local inhabitants will tap on, using a water meter, and bring water into their houses. Total cost: \$2,100 - \$1,800 from EMWF and \$300 from the local people - along with free labor supplied by the villagers.

The second system is under construction in Duy Vinh, a hamlet in the district of Duy Xuyen on one of the Hoi An river delta islands. This filtration system will supply fresh drinking water to 1,700 people. Through free labor supplied by the villagers, a water pipe will be laid from the water tower, which is 500 meters from the village, along the street paths in front of the houses where the villagers will connect, using their own water meter and pipe leading to their houses.

In essence, a water district is being set up with a manager to maintain the system and manage payment from the people to pay ongoing expenses. A charge slightly higher than is necessary to run the system will be

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

The school construction program began in 1996 with funds from the International Founda-

January to September 1997

collected, with extra proceeds going toward further development of the village. Project cost: \$5,000.

Many areas in Vietnam have poor water quality or no readily available drinking water. Because of this, many poor families, fishermen and women spend a lot of time away from their work, hauling precious drinking water. As a result, they are often sick from lack of good or not enough water along with being exhausted from walking long distances – many times for unsafe drinking water! – after a long day working in the fields or fishing in a river with few fish.

GREMLI FAMILY SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

The Foundation has been working with Dr. Margaret S. Gremli, of Singapore, since the middle of 1994 sponsoring families in need. This program, although small, has been providing supplemental income to single mothers with children of school age who financially have a difficult time sending their children to school.

In the beginning, each family received \$20 a month. Since Dr. Gremli's visit to the families in February of '97, the supplement was raised to \$40 per month per family.

On her next visit the program will be expanded to include more families, along with the possible sponsorship of students abroad for higher education. Maggel, as Dr. Gremli prefers to be called, also provided funds to have houses built for each of the sponsored families.

To date \$6,395 has been spent on this program.

VILLAGE OF HOPE

To date, 77 students have graduated from Village of Hope. Most of these children returned to a healthy environment in their communities with education and skills that ensure them to have a better life.

This was accomplished first by the excellent care, education and training provided to them at VOH, and also by working with their prospective guardians, preparing them financially and emotionally before sending the child back to their community.

The children with no relatives to return to focused on vocational training while at the center and were placed with

Office issued permanent license

The East Meets West Office in Vietnam has been issued a new office license. After two years of paper work we finally made it to the ceremony to receive our permanent office license.

With this license, as Nguyet says, "it gives us power." I don't know if it has to be expressed that strongly or not, but I believe it will make our work here a little easier. Since I have been in Da Nang, Vietnam, working for the Foundation, there has never been any need to flex any muscle, which I do not believe would work very well if we tried.

What it does mean for the everyday work at 35B Tran

Phu is a faster and much easier route to obtain the paperwork we need to maintain a more efficient office. Now we have the right to have a sign hang over the office door, so people can find us.

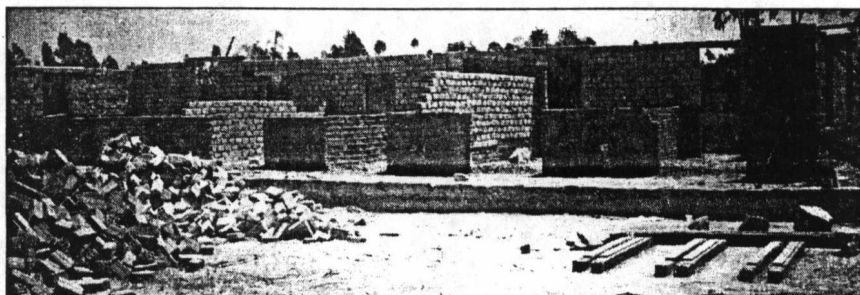
Also, we can make requests directly to immigration for our guests who come to visit and work in Vietnam, import medical equipment, supplies, etc., directly to the EMWF office instead of through other agencies where we sometimes lose control of what we have received.

In essence, a license gives us the right work directly and legally with all Vietnamese government agencies and organizations.

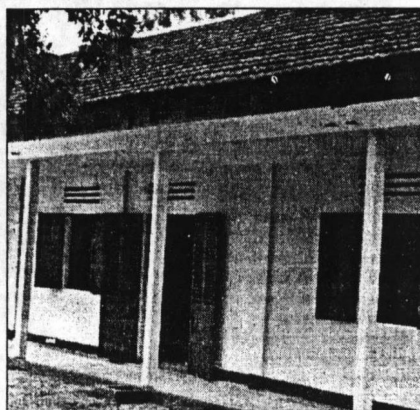
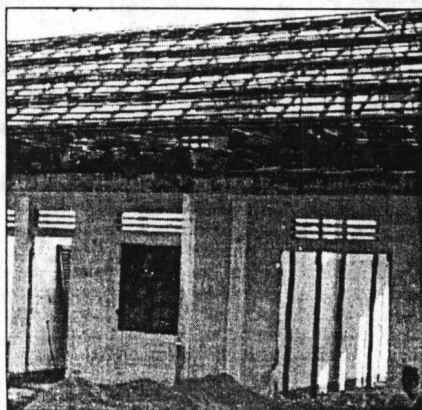
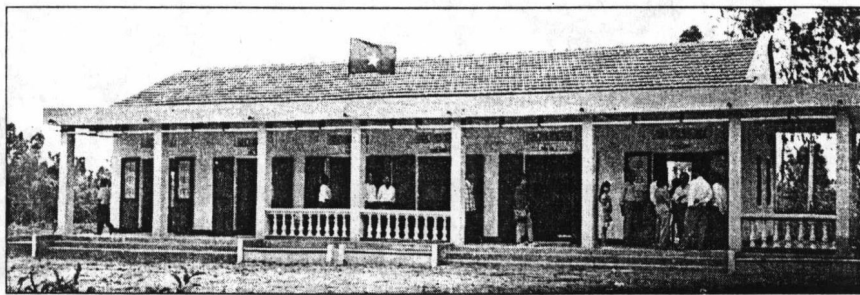
—M.C.



EMWF's Da Nang office, with the help of hundreds of compassionate people like you, has been able to make a difference in the life of this Village of Hope child – and hundreds more just like her.



Before and after: EMWF-sponsored school construction in the Da Nang area.



Before and after: EMWF also helps finance school renovation projects.

families in Da Nang where they were provided with jobs to earn some money while continuing their regular education by attending evening classes.

The program moves forward into a new phase! USAID has made an enormous contribution to Village of Hope by providing them with seed funds, through the EMWF, to open and maintain the center over the last four and a half years. Now that the program is in place it will continue to grow and provide the same high level services to as many children as possible, which will depend on future available funds.

With financial support from the sponsorship program – coming from many countries around the world, managed through the East Meets West Foundation and with support from the Vietnamese government and its people, financially as well as spiritually – this model program in Vietnam will survive into the next century and continue to provide services for many more years to come.

I would like to personally thank all of the people from USAID in Bangkok and the Philippines, along with the staff at World Concern Bangkok with whom I have worked on this project over the past three years, for their help and guidance. It was a pleasure working with all of them – they had a positive effect on developing the East Meets West Foundation's Village of Hope Displaced Children's Program.

Due to technical difficulties caused by recent typhoons in Vietnam, we were unable to receive information necessary to bring you the Mother's Love Clinic update.

Marble Mountain Dental Program a success story

As 1997 comes to a close there are many highlights to report from the Marble Mountain Dental Program. Our excellent dental staff of Dr. Thuy, Dr. Viet, and nurse Truc continue to provide outstanding dental treatment to the children at the Village of Hope (VOH).

When I first visited VOH in 1995, oral exams of the children revealed that 90 percent had dental disease and were suffering from chronic pain due to infection. In 1996, those same children were examined again, revealing 15 percent evidence of dental decay.

This tremendous reduction in disease is due to the terrific efforts of our staff to provide quality treatment and preventative education. I am confident in stating that the VOH children now have some of the best oral health in all of Vietnam!

In May of 1997, EMWF expanded the dental services to include the S.O.S. orphanage, School for the Blind, Center for Disabled Children, Center for Street Children, and the Hoi Hai Primary Schools. Approximately 1,200 children are now being treated by our EMWF dental staff on an

A report by

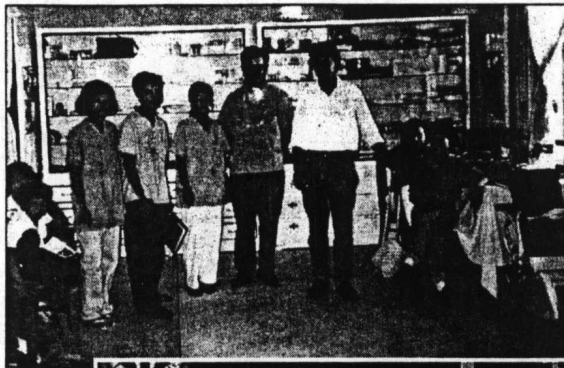
Dr. Charles F. Craft, D.D.S.

annual basis.

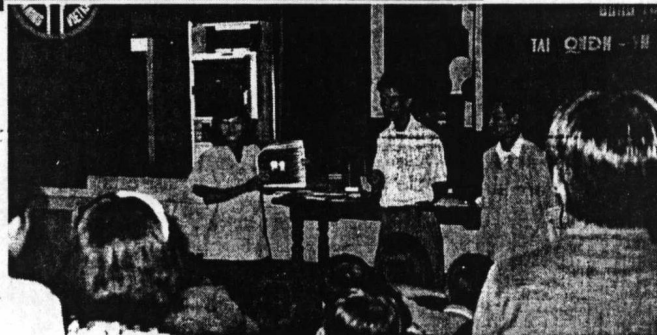
Several volunteers visited the clinic to provide dental services and trainings. They include: Dr. Bill Brown from Alabama, Dorrie Wallis RDH, and Dr. Chuck Hazen and wife, Gail, from Alaska. In March of '98, Dr. My Hang Nguyen of California will join Dr. Craft for the final touches and improvements to the dental project.

A second shipment of dental equipment valued at \$25,000 was sent to Vietnam in February of '97. A third shipment, valued at \$50,000, is scheduled to be sent in November of '97.

With the delivery of these shipments, the X-ray equipment and portable dental unit will allow the dental staff to travel to remote villages and hamlets to deliver their dental care and education. This mobile unit saves EMWF money in that we will not have to provide financial assistance to children needing to come to Marble Mountain Dental Clinic.

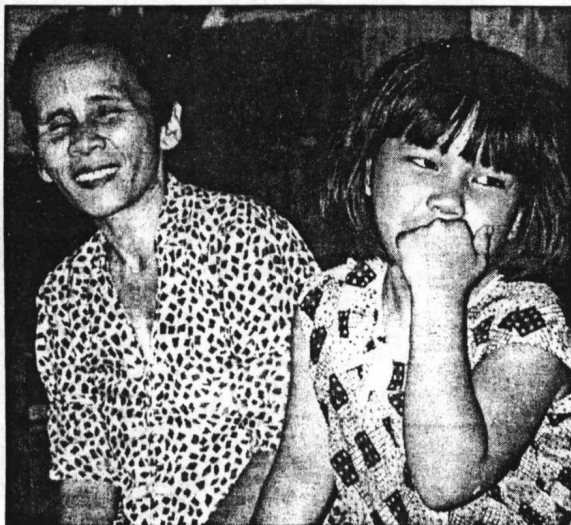
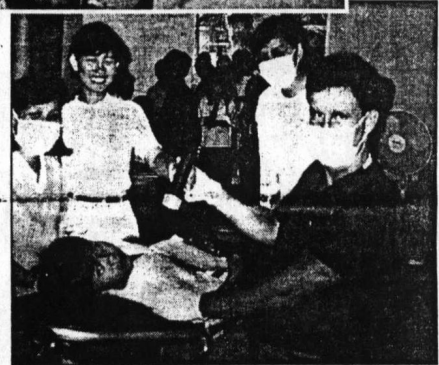


The Dental Program headed up by Dr. 'Fritz' Craft has made great strides in two years. The staff (left) supplements dental treatment with important dental education to VOH children (below) and others.



'I am confident in stating that the VOH children now have some of the best oral health in all of Vietnam!'

The program has come a long way since dental personnel relied on flashlights to do their work!



FAMILY REUNIONS

Village of Hope children are reunited with their mothers for home visits. VOH, a home for orphaned, disadvantaged, displaced and at-risk children, provides them with the skills necessary to live a life of dignity and self-sufficiency.



Le Ly Hayslip's message...

Continued from Page 1
the beginnings necessary for its initial success. I can no longer afford to be a "volunteer" full time. I will continue to play a major role in the decisions surrounding East Meets West as a member of the board of directors, and as the founder of the foundation.

From the bottom of my heart, I am grateful to you all for your support which has provided invaluable services to humanity, healing the wounds of war, reconciliation between the U.S. and Vietnam, and most importantly having the opportunity of meeting and getting to know many of you. Our friendship can never be changed or forgotten. I will always be here for you and will

keep you in my heart.

Thank you for your orders for the cooking video "Kitchen of Heaven and Earth," that I produced with Hiep T. Le. I sincerely hope you have been enjoying many of the dishes prepared in the video.

I promise to keep everyone informed of my activities and you can contact me on my E-mail at: lhayslip@aol.com. My address is 6965 El Camino Real, Suite 105, Box 101, La Costa, CA 92009.

Have a wonderful and healthy holiday season and a bright future in 1998.

With Love and Peace,
Le Ly Hayslip
Founder
East Meets West Foundation

The Rotary Club of Arcata, Calif., is funding a water system that will provide fresh and safe water to two hamlets - 1,300 people. The \$12,000 project will be completed in early 1998. EMWF thanks club members for their generous contribution.

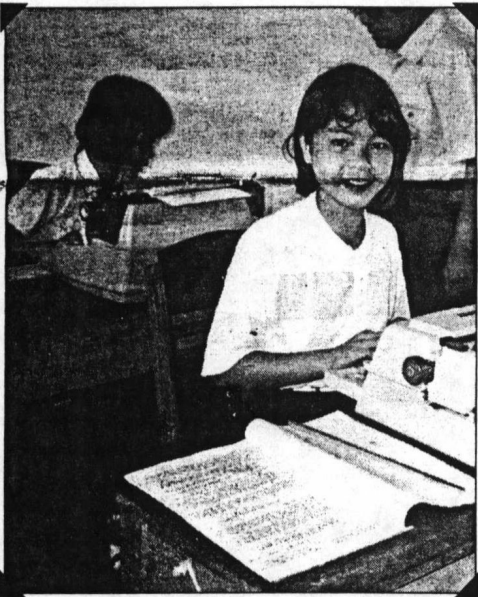
'An Opportunity For A Better Life...'



The Village of Hope Choir: VOH children are well-versed in the arts – singing, dancing and the theater. They also enjoy sports, holidays and making new friends.

Village of Hope

A PHOTOGRAPH ALBUM



Vocational training maps children's future.

EXCERPT FROM A SPONSOR'S LETTER...

"...My involvement in the Child Sponsorship Program has been, without a doubt, one of the most positive life-changing experiences in my whole life. I have benefited by this more than EMWF, Village of Hope and possibly even more than Hieu herself. While she is getting an opportunity for a better life by my financial help, I feel that anyone could have done this for her. The real winner in this scenario has been myself. This sweet child has provided me with a level of personal growth that, on my own, I could not have even hoped to realize. Hieu also gave me something that I needed badly. During the most painful period of my entire life, following the death of the woman I loved, Hieu gave me the most precious gift a person can ever receive. The love of a child. That gift and her beautiful smile gave me back something that I had feared was lost forever. The ability to give love again..."

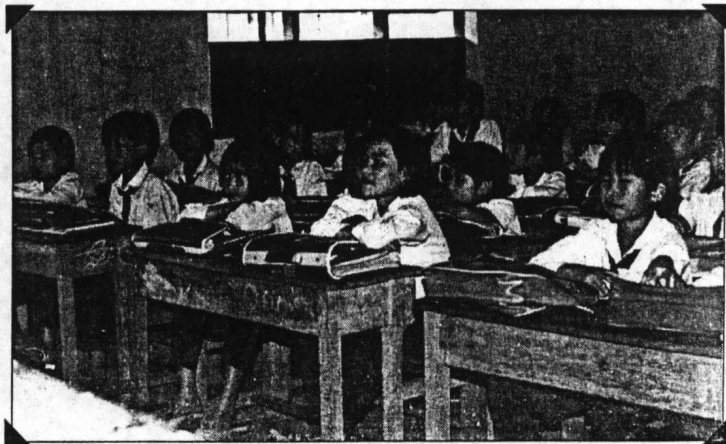
Love and understanding, Bill Redden



A sponsor's gift sparks a happy smile.



New children arrive at the Village of Hope in September 1997.



School plays a vital role in the VOH's structured schedule.



Film director **Oliver Stone**, award recipient, **Le Ly Hayslip**, founder of East Meets West Foundation, and actress **Hiep Thi Le** at the 1992 annual "Bridge of Peace" Award banquet.



United States Senator **John Kerry**, recipient of the 1991 "Bridge of Peace" Award, and **Le Ly Hayslip**, founder of East Meets West Foundation and Global Village Foundation.



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Ten years ago, Ms. Le Ly Hayslip authored the critically-acclaimed book, When Heaven and Earth Changed Places, based on her troubled life as a child growing up in a small village outside of Danang city, Vietnam during the US/Vietnam war. This extraordinary American memoir was translated into 17 languages and revealed to the world the consciousness of villagers innocently thrust into bloody turmoil.

Her second book, Child of War, Woman of Peace, chronicled her journey from pain to healing, from war to peace. Both books inspired director Oliver Stone to make "Heaven and Earth", the first movie about the Vietnam War from the unique perspective of a Vietnamese woman.

Since then, Ms. Hayslip, an American citizen who has lived in the United States for thirty years, has made over 45 trips to Vietnam, campaigning for peace and better relations between the peoples of the United States and Vietnam. She created East Meets West Foundation in 1987 as a bridge to healing the wounds of war through humanitarian projects including the building of schools, orphanages, and medical centers.

Having accomplished the goals of that foundation, Ms. Hayslip embarks on a new mission with the creation of the Global Village Foundation whose goal is to build self-sustaining model villages in the war-torn regions of Vietnam, empowering the rural peoples with skills for the 21st century. Leaving the United States in mid-March 2000, Ms. Hayslip will return to her birthplace for the next three years as managing director, coordinating all project activities of the Global Village Foundation.

As the 25th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War arrives in April 2000, we invite you to accompany Ms. Le Ly Hayslip to Vietnam to document her humanitarian accomplishments in the past ten years and to witness the celebration of the 25th anniversary of independence by the Vietnamese government. At the same time, Global Village Foundation will celebrate the grand opening of its first cooperative efforts between American and Vietnamese artisans, a vocational training center, in Danang on April 1, 2000.

To honor his leadership in this humanitarian and economic bridge-building, the foundation has designated President William Clinton as the recipient of this year's "Bridge of Peace Award" for his effort in lifting the embargo on Vietnam and establishing full diplomatic relations between the two countries. Past recipients of this award include Senators John McCain and John Kerry, and film director Oliver Stone.

If you are interested, please contact the Global Village Foundation.

Phone: (760) 929-9174 Fax: (760) 929-9735 Email: Lhayslip@aol.com.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For further information contact:
Ann Pham (760) 929-9174

“VIETNAM 2000”

Twenty-five years after the fall of Saigon, how has Vietnam changed, and what do these changes mean for Vietnamese-American relations?

In March 1965, the first American marine landed on China Beach, Danang, Vietnam.

In March 1975, control of the South Vietnamese city, Danang, was taken over by the North Vietnamese. A month later, control of the entire country of South Vietnam also changed hands. The American Army left and the isolation of this small country began.

In March 1990, ground was broken for a peacetime initiative, the Peace Village Medical Center on China Beach, the same spot where the first American marine landed twenty-three years earlier. Humanitarian workers from BOTH countries, once enemies, cooperated in building a medical center to treat neglected war victims, and sought to heal the wounds of the Vietnam-American conflict.

This remarkable joint effort was initiated by Le Ly Hayslip, founder and past director of the now 10 years old East Meets West Foundation and author of When Heaven and Earth Changed Places and Child of War, Woman of Peace. The two books inspired director Oliver Stone to tell Hayslip's unique story in the critically acclaimed film, "Heaven and Earth". In 1989, Stone also funded and recruited American Vietnam veterans to build Mother of Love Clinic in Hayslip's village, Ky La.

Twenty-five years after the war's end, the humanitarian work of Le Ly Hayslip entered a new phase with the creation of the **Global Village Foundation**. On March 31 and April 1 of 2000, the foundation will present the grand opening of its **vocational training center** in once war-torn Danang. With the cooperative effort of American and Vietnamese artisans, the center will train Vietnamese villagers in the manufacture of arts, crafts and Central Vietnamese regional products for distribution to the United States and throughout the world.

Journalists, academics, professionals, interested individuals, and representatives from business and trade organizations are invited to accompany Ms. Hayslip to Vietnam and explore the issues and changes of the last twenty-five years:

- Economic growth and foreign investments since 1986.
- The impact of Western tourism on Vietnamese culture, especially its youth.
- The opening of the U.S. embassy in Hanoi and consulate in Ho Chi Minh City.
- Why trade agreement between the U.S and Vietnam has yet to be signed.
- The striking accomplishments of the East Meets West Foundation, and the mission of Le Ly Hayslip and the new Global Village Foundation.
- As the popularity grows for Southeast Asian Studies at American colleges and universities, what will be the impact of cultural and arts exchange programs both in Vietnam and the US.

A quarter of a century later what lessons have we learned about war and the common threads which bind humanity?



Vietnam Democracy is published monthly by the Free Vietnam Alliance (FVA), a coalition of 35 Vietnamese democratic movements worldwide. Its purpose is to inform the international community of news and developments in Vietnam — especially those that do not make it to the outside world — and to share the Vietnamese effort and dream for democracy. We welcome all support and comments to make this a valuable forum.

Subscription is US\$12 plus US\$12 postage for outside the USA. Please contact the respective offices for more information or change of address:

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DEMOCRACY

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July
1999

A Monthly Publication of the Free Vietnam Alliance

Suppression of Hoa Hao Buddhism in Vietnam

Vietnam: About a million believers of the besieged Hoa Hao Buddhism flocked to Phu My, An Giang province, a remote Mekong Delta township for their first reluctantly permitted major festival in 24 years. The faithful held a week-long religious service beginning July 1 to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the founding of their indigenous sect.

The U.S.-based Overseas Hoa Hao Buddhist Association (OHHBA) said the influx of Hoa Hao faithful to Phu My had reached a critical mass, and government authorities invoked security reasons to flex their control, going back on promises to allow multiple food supply sites. The restriction of food supply created particular problems for the gathering. In addition, the OHHBA indicated that Hoa Hao followers were required to go through a long sign-in procedure to discourage attendants.

The document added that many people had ignored the demand, and flooded to To Dinh — the birthplace of the sect's founder — with truck- and boat-loads of food to help feed the pilgrims.

Hoa Hao — which counts three to four million adherents in Vietnam — is a neo-Buddhist sect which emphasizes home worship, and amalgamates Buddhism, Confucian doctrine and other indigenous practices. The sect is particularly known for its advocacy of patriotism.

The sect was persecuted by French colonial rulers prior to 1945. Later, the Viet Minh — Vietnamese communists — executed Hoa Hao's founder, Prophet Huynh Phu So.

Since the end of the Vietnam War in April 1975, the communist authorities confiscated thousands of Hoa Hao properties, abolished its management structure and banned its major celebrations, including the annual Founder's Day festival.

Top Vietnam Dissident Seeks to Publish Newspaper

HANOI, July 12, 1999 (Reuters): Vietnam's leading dissident, retired General Tran Do, has applied to publish a newspaper in his latest joust with the country's communist authorities, sources said on Monday.

But the Foreign Ministry, without referring directly to Do, indicated the former revolutionary's application would not be approved. He lodged the application recently at the Ministry of Culture and Information, sources close to Do said.

"As far as we know, according to regulations in the Press Law applicable to Vietnam, individuals are not yet permitted to establish a press organ," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement in response to questions from Reuters.

Do, believed to be in his late 70s, was expelled from the Communist Party last January after publicly urging the party to "change or die" and ditch socialism if that would boost economic growth. He was a party stalwart for nearly 60 years.

Diplomats said Do would never have expected to obtain permission to publish a newspaper, but that his move was intended to annoy the party.

All media in Vietnam is controlled by the state.

Hanoi, which has previously said Do's views would lead to chaos, rarely tolerates dissenting political opinions.

Do has not been arrested despite his outspokenness, mainly because of his stature among some senior members of the military, diplomats have said.

However, Do has complained of harassment and surveillance of his Hanoi residence. Because of official restrictions, few foreign journalists have been able to contact him.

Vietnam Dissident Refused Media Permit

BBC, 12/7/99: A leading Vietnamese dissident, retired General Tran Do, has been refused an application to publish a newspaper.

General Do says he's been told by the Ministry of Culture and Information that the law only allows organizations to hold licences, and not individuals.

General Do told the BBC he'd wanted to publish a paper which would be the voice of the Vietnamese people, but correspondents say he must have realized he would not be given permission.

They say General Do's main aim was to annoy the Communist party, which expelled him in January after many years' membership, when he publicly urged it to reform. □

Permission for the gathering came after Hoa Hao was finally given its official status in May. The authorities also appointed the 11-person Hoa Hao Buddhism Representative Committee, which includes a number of communist party members, but excluded Le Quang Liem, the sect's chosen leader.

Venerable Pham Van Kham, a representative of the Interfaith Committee at the May 18 meeting of nearly 700 members and guests in Vietnam strongly protested the Hanoi regime for orchestrating the state-controlled Hoa Hao Buddhism Representative Committee, and for assigning party member Muoi Ton to chair the Committee. Muoi Ton held a long record of killing many Hoa Hao Buddhists. Ven. Pham Van Kham also denounced decree 26/199/NDD/CP which tightens control on religions and permits permanent confiscation of religious properties. This decree led to the order to reduce the Hoa Hao teaching bible from 480 pages down to 100 pages. Other cases of harassment against Hoa Hao members were also documented.

On June 1, Hoa Hao leaders sent out thousands of letters calling for their members to gather to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the founding of their indigenous sect on July 1 regardless of govern-

ment restrictions.

Local authorities had expected around 100,000 according to an official of the Fatherland Front, the Communist Party umbrella organization for mass movements. The large crowd posed a threat to the already unstable political situation in Vietnam. Many "hot spots" exist where religious followers and peasants have protested en masse for religious freedom and against government corruption.

Hanoi's limitations on freedom of worship and imprisonment of people for the peaceful expression of their religious or political beliefs have been widely condemned by the international community; most noticeably in a human rights report by UN representative Abdelfattah Amor, who visited Vietnam last year.

A big celebration of the anniversary of the Prophet Huynh Phu So's birth based on the lunar calendar is also planned for January 1, 2000.

Vietnamese overseas have joined the protest of Hoa Hao Buddhists against state oppression by demonstrations before the Hanoi consulate in San Francisco on July 9, 1999, and by raising awareness of religious oppression in Vietnam with petitions to the United Nations and international organizations. □

Civil and Political Rights, Religious Intolerance in Vietnam

Excerpts of Report submitted by Mr. Abdelfattah Amor, Special Rapporteur, in accordance with Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/18

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Fifty-fifth session Item 11 (e) of the provisional agenda

Introduction

At his request and at the invitation of the Vietnamese Government, the Special Rapporteur visited Viet Nam from 19 to 28 October 1998 in the exercise of his mandate (resolution 1998/18 of the Commission on Human Rights).

The Special Rapporteur regrets that he was not enabled to have talks with certain political leaders and with representatives of the Hoa Hao, Hindu, Confucianist and Taoist religious communities.

Some major and serious obstacles were encountered in connection with private interviews and movements. The Special Rapporteur was not enabled by the Vietnamese authorities to visit Danang and the hamlet of Nghia in Quang Ngai province; he was thus not able to meet the Patriarch of the Unified Buddhist Church of Viet Nam (EBUV), Thich Huyen Quang. He was also prevented — physically — by several individuals in plain clothes, claiming to represent the local authorities but refusing to identify themselves, from meeting Thich Quang Do, Thich Tue Sy and Thich Tri Sieu, members of the EBUV who had recently been released within the framework of an amnesty declared by the Vietnamese authorities.

At his request, the Special Rapporteur was able to visit re-education camp No. Z30A, at Zuan Loc, Dong Nai province, to hold talks with three members of the EBUV, Thich Khong Than, Thich Nhat Ban and Thich Tien Minh. On his arrival, the Special Rapporteur was informed of the release, the previous day, of Thich Nhat Ban, within the framework of a second amnesty measure decided upon by the Vietnamese authorities.

The private interview with Thich Khong Than and Thich Tien Minh was able to take place in accordance with United Nations rules only after long discussions on the spot with the camp com-

mander; the interview had, however, to be cut short by the Special Rapporteur because the camp commander kept coming in and, finally, stayed in the room, thus destroying the private nature of the interview. Moreover, the camp commander said, after checking, that a member of the EBUV, Thich Hue Dang, and three Catholics, John Bosco Pham Minh Tri, Bernard Nguyen Viet Huan and Michael Nguyen Van Tinh, were not in his establishment, whereas several concordant and trustworthy sources of information had confirmed their presence there (see para. 76 below).

The representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, although asked by the Special Rapporteur, have not transmitted a list of the religious prisoners released, stating that the competent authorities had not supplied that information to the Ministry. The Special Rapporteur was able to organize a private interview, in Ho Chi Minh City, with a Protestant religious leader, the Reverend Paul Ai.

It will therefore be realized that the circumstances and conditions of his visit have limited the amount of information that the Special Rapporteur has been able to collect and include in this report.

The Special Rapporteur wishes to add that, prior to his visit, he welcomed the positive amnesty measures since they formed part of a policy of dialogue and development that augured well for his visit. While thanking the Government of Viet Nam for its invitation, the Special Rapporteur wishes to recall the need to respect the rules and guarantees linked to his mandate, particularly freedom of movement and freedom to meet any person likely to supply him with relevant information, without any constraints or negative consequences. □

Radio Broadcasts to Vietnam run by Free Vietnamese:

1. New Horizon (*Chân Trời Mới*): 9965 khz 31m broadcasts at 9pm - 9.30 pm Vietnam time daily.
2. Radio Free Asia (*Á Châu Tự Do*): broadcast schedule:
Mornings: 7:30-8:30am, VN time (or 4:30 - 5:30 pm California time). Frequencies: 5865 and 7415 khz
- Evenings: 9:00-10:00pm, VN time (or 6:00-7:00am, California time). Frequencies: 5865, 6240 & 7520 khz.
RFA Internet address: <http://www.rfa.org>

Jackson-Vanik Waiver Fact Sheet

March 1998 President Clinton waived the Jackson-Vanik provisions of the Trade Act of 1974 for Vietnam on the premise that the waiver would substantially promote free and open emigration in Vietnam. The statutory definition of free and open emigration is that no citizen should be denied the right or opportunity to emigrate, and that no citizen should be made to pay more than a nominal fee on emigration or on the visas or other documents required for emigration.

The 1998 waiver has not substantially promoted free and open emigration as expected by the President. In fact, the situation with emigration has worsened. The amount of bribes demanded by Vietnamese authorities in exchange for access to US refugee programs has skyrocketed over the past 12 months. An average emigrant now must pay \$1,000 in bribes on the average for access to these programs--more than 3 times the average annual salary of a Vietnamese worker. In a number of instances, eligible refugees have been demanded tens of thousand US dollars for exit permission. As these refugees have such money, they have been forced to leave their wives and children behind and take substitutes assigned to them by the authorities; these substitutes have agreed to pay the bribes to these same authorities.

Corruption has excluded thousands of victims of persecution from US refugee programs specifically designed for them. At a meeting with Vietnamese-American community leaders and congressional staffers in 1997, Ambassador to Vietnam Douglas "Pete" Peterson estimated that some 20,000 potential refugees had been excluded. This situation has not changed since the last waiver: none of these potential refugees has gained access to the program. On February 16, 1999 Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez wrote to Ambassador Peterson to remind him of his promise to address this most blatant violation of the Jackson-Vanik Amendment. No action has been taken.

By rewarding Vietnam regardless of its lack of cooperation, its serious abuses of human rights, and its rampantly corrupt government, our Administration sends the wrong message to the Vietnamese leaders. Over the past 12 months Vietnam has regressed on many fronts, including labor rights, religious freedom, freedom of the press,

copyright...

Starting this year foreign firms conducting businesses in Vietnam are no longer allowed to hire Vietnamese employees directly but must go through the government's Employment Service Organizations. This practice gives rise to graft and excludes victims of persecution from the only potential source of employment available to them. (*Source: Vietnam to tighten grip on jobs at foreign firms, Reuters, Nov. 6, 1998*)

Last April the government issued a new decree on religion instituting additional restrictions on religious activities. This decree permanently appropriates religious properties confiscated from the different Churches, establishes a government agency to determine which religion is authorized, and specifies religious functions needing pre-approval by the Prime Minister. (*Source: New Vietnam religion decree sets state controls, Reuters, Apr. 21, 1999*)

German Ambassador to Vietnam Wolfgang Erck, representing the European Union, recently observed that "[Vietnam's] reform policy has been slowed down and economic policy is less courageous than it was at the beginning of the '90s... We have the impression there is less tolerance now, more limitations for the press (and) religious communities, and we have concerns over sectors... (such as) political prisoners." (*Source: "EU says aid to Vietnam depends on reforms," Reuters, June 10, 1999.*)

Following a one-year study, the General Accounting Office has concluded in its report to the US Congress that economic data provided by Vietnam are often unreliable for lack of transparency in the methodology employed for data collection and reporting. In many areas, there is total absence of data. For example, the International Monetary Fund has reported that state-owned enterprises (SOEs) make up 40 percent of Vietnam's GDP. The government releases practically no information on these SOEs and their true financial conditions. (*Source: Vietnam Economic Data: Assessment of Availability and Quality, GAO, June 1999*)

In its November 1998 report, the Hong Kong-based Political and Economic Risk Consultancy (PERC) noted that Asia's economic crisis has resulted in greater transparency for most Asian economies. Vietnam, however, remains far in the negative end of the spectrum:

scoring 8.50, where 0 is the best possible score and 10 the worst. (Source: *Asia crisis results in greater transparency-PERC*, 05:57 a.m. Nov. 30, 1998 Eastern)

From its recent internal review of government agencies, Vietnam's Ministry of Finance revealed that 5.8 billion dollars, or one third of the country's total civil service assets, are unaccounted for. Most of the money went into luxury items for high-ranking officials. (Source: *Vietnam Sets Stage for New Government Purge*, *Stratfor's Global Intelligence Update*, May 25, 1999)

To silence popular criticisms against such high-level corruption, last month the communist official media announced the politburo's order barring communists from speaking out publicly against the party or inciting others to do so. (Source: "Vietnam clamps down on free speech," Associated Press, June 7, 1999)

According to Business Software Alliance and the Software & Information Industry Association, 38% of all software applications installed in 1998 were pirated, with Vietnam posting the highest piracy rate of 97 percent, followed by China's 95 percent, and Indonesia's 92 percent. (Source: *Two-fifths of installed software pirated-survey*, Reuters, 09:57 a.m. Jun. 07, 1999)

In fact, economic privileges unconditionally bestowed on Hanoi might have slowed the much economic reforms. Edouard Watzet, the United Nations Development Program representative in Hanoi, noted that economic reforms would have proceeded faster without the billions of dollars in international aid to Vietnam from the international community. "In some respects, the past five years might appear to have been rather a period of reform on paper, often without effective and systematic implementation," he said at a forum in Ha Noi on November 25. Of the \$5 billion already disbursed, a mere 5.5 per cent is going for basic social services to Vietnamese citizens. (Source: *Cash handouts slow economic reform process*, *South China Morning Post*, Nov. 25, 1998)

Contrary to claims made by its proponents, the waiver has not substantially promoted free and open emigration in Vietnam. In many aspects, emigration has become less free and less open because of increasingly rampant corruption. Over the past 12 months Vietnam has increasingly violated the basic human rights of its citizens, including labor rights, freedom of the press, and freedom of religion. The waiver did not work and its renewal can not be justified. Our government should not give away one of the few leverages left without demanding, as preconditions, that Communist Vietnam make emigration truly free and open, respect its citizens' basic human rights, and reform its fundamentally corrupt system. □

PEN Proposes Resolution on Vietnam

• By the Polish PEN Centre,
seconded by English Centre,
Swiss Italian Centre and Swiss Roman Centre.

The Assembly of Delegates of International PEN, meeting at its 66th International Congress, held in Warsaw, Poland, from 15-21 June 1999 Appreciates Vietnamese authorities' decision to amnesty some of the country's best-known prisoners of conscience in August 1998;

Concerned, however, that the recent economic changes are not accompanied by similar changes in the approach to the problem of human rights and freedom of expression;

Distressed by the fact that several Vietnamese intellectuals, writers and journalists still remain in prison;

Deplores the very poor conditions of detention (in prisons and hard labour camps) under which these prisoners of conscience are currently held;

Appeals to the Vietnamese authorities to release immediately and unconditionally all individuals imprisoned for exercising the right of freedom of expression, among them:

Nguyen Dinh Huy, eminent journalist, press editor and leading figure in the pro-democracy movement who is suffering from Parkinson's Disease. He is now held in Ham Tan hard labour camp. Formerly held in 1975 for 17 years in re-education camps, he was arrested again in November 1993 and sentenced to 15 years imprisonment in August 1995. He is a recipient of the 1997 Hellman/Hammett award for freedom of expression and an honorary member of the Polish and English PEN Centres;

Nguyen Ngoc Tan (pen-name Pham Thai), journalist and poet, now held in Ham Tan hard labour camp. Previously detained in 1975 and held for 15 years in a re-education camp. Arrested again in July 1995 and sentenced to 11 years imprisonment for his involvement in Nguyen Dinh Huy's pro-democracy movement. An honorary member of the Polish and English PEN Centres;

Nguyen Ngoc Dai (other name Nguyen Ngoc Dai and religious name Thich Hue Dang), Buddhist intellectual and humanist scholar, now held in Xuan Loc hard labour camp. Arrested for writing forbidden work as "Essay on Humanism" and sentenced on May 27, 1992 to 20 years imprisonment;

And calls upon the Vietnamese authorities to observe the principles and rights set out in their own Constitution, as well as in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, particularly Article 19, which deals with the right of freedom of expression. □

U.S., VIETNAM IN 'SERIOUS' RIGHTS TALKS

•By Dean Yates

HANOI, Vietnam, July 13 (Reuters): The United States has handed Vietnam a list of prisoners of conscience it wants released and urged Hanoi to improve the country's overall human rights situation, a senior U.S. official said Tuesday.

Bennett Freeman, U.S. deputy assistant secretary in the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, said he had productive talks so far during the seventh round of bilateral human rights dialogue between Washington and Hanoi.

Freeman told Reuters he had discussed individual cases of Vietnamese jailed for their political or religious views and given to government officials a list of inmates Washington would like freed. He gave no names.

"Our discussions so far have been serious and substantive. We attach importance to our relationship with Vietnam but we look forward to further improvement on human rights," said Freeman, who was scheduled to fly to Cambodia Wednesday.

"I emphasized the importance of continuing progress on human rights and labor as an important part of the bilateral relationship," added Freeman, who said Hanoi had demonstrated a willingness to address the issues.

In a February report on human rights worldwide, the State Department cited sources that put the number of prisoners held for political reasons in Vietnam at 100-150. Rights group Amnesty International put the figure at 40, the report said.

Freeman has been accompanied to communist Vietnam by Robert Seiple, U.S. ambassador at large for religious affairs. Seiple has been focusing on the issue of religious freedom in Vietnam, although he has not yet been available to comment.

The visits throw the spotlight on Vietnam's human rights and religious record at a time when Hanoi has been inching closer to reaching a landmark trade agreement with the U.S.

Some analysts have said Vietnam's poor human rights record could hinder approval of the agreement by the U.S. Congress. A trade deal would incorporate Normal Trade Relations (NTR), once called Most Favored Nation trade status, and also help Hanoi's bid to join the World Trade Organization.

Freeman said he had discussed with Hanoi a 1997 directive on "administrative detention," which allows authorities to detain people without trial for up to two years.

Freeman also praised Vietnam for last year's mass prison amnesty, which saw a number of well-known dissidents walk free, but he urged Hanoi to take similar

steps soon. -- In addition, Freeman asked Hanoi to focus on the state of the country's prison conditions, which have been criticized by Western governments and human rights organizations.

Nearly 8,000 prisoners were released in two separate amnesties last year. But some of those dissidents have since complained of harassment by security officials.

Hanoi, which tolerates little internal dissent, denies that Vietnamese are jailed for religious or political beliefs.

Hanoi Rebuffs U.S. over Rights, Religious Issues

HANOI, July 14 (Reuters): Vietnam on Wednesday scolded the United States for trying to impose its human rights values on other countries and urged Washington to cooperate on unresolved wartime issues.

The Foreign Ministry, in a statement following bilateral talks earlier this week on human rights and religion, also indicated communist-ruled Vietnam would ignore a U.S. request that certain prisoners be freed.

Vietnamese officials held talks on Monday and Tuesday in Hanoi with Bennett Freeman, U.S. deputy assistant secretary in the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor along with Robert Seiple, U.S. ambassador at large for religious affairs.

"Vietnam repeated its principle for dialogue based on... non-interference in each others' internal affairs," the ministry statement said.

"(Vietnam) emphasized that it's unacceptable for America to try to impose its law on other countries..." it added, referring to a U.S. law passed last year that calls for sanctions on countries engaged in religious persecution.

Hanoi, which tolerates little dissent, is regularly criticised by some Western governments for its poor human rights record and restrictions on religion.

Vietnam rejects those accusations and denies people are jailed for their religious or political beliefs.

Freeman told Reuters on Tuesday he had handed over a list of prisoners of conscience whom Washington wanted released and he urged Hanoi to improve human rights conditions.

In a February report, the U.S. State Department cited sources that put the number of prisoners held for political reasons in Vietnam at between 100 and 150. Rights group Amnesty International put the figure at 40, the report said.

The Foreign Ministry statement also referred to U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War, which ended in 1975.

It said Washington should cooperate in dealing with problems associated with the chemical defoliant Agent Orange, which was sprayed over parts of Vietnam to stop infiltration by communist forces using jungle cover during operations.

Attempts by Hanoi to get compensation from the U.S. for people believed to have suffered from exposure to Agent Orange have stalled. Washington has said the issue needed more study. □

VOICE OF THE MASSES

Following are excerpts of dissident Duong Thu Huong's latest article, dated May 1999, on the condition of human mind in Vietnam today.

*Duong Thu Huong, currently living in Vietnam, was known to the outside world after the French government bestowed on this writer its highest national literature award for her novels - *Paradise of the Blinds*, and *Beyond the Brim of Illusion*. Both of them bared the souls of human lives in this socialist society.*

The Flapping Sound of a Flock of Crows **By Duong Thu Huong**

...In our country, 25 years after the war, there is still no sound of piano through the windows and people only started timidly to learn the first lessons of democracy while enduring severe oppression. War in this place left a difference wake [than that in Europe]. War did not make people more mature, wiser, and bolder in making their civil rights count. In contrary, it made people more cowardly, easier to accept humiliation, and more ready to look down in the face of evils.

The devastating wars throughout the unfortunate history of Vietnam seem to have exhausted its people of bravery. Like any other characteristics [of human beings], the source of bravery is not limitless... Bravery was summoned to the maximum during the turbulence of the country. Once the turbulence subsides, people accept easily anything just to survive. Regardless of the degree of suffering, they console themselves with "still better than the time of war and death". They rationalize indignity with "still better than death". The low value of human lives during war time does push some people closer to committing capital crimes, but conversely, make the rest more submissive and passive. Researchers on Vietnam are often bewildered by the puzzle: how such a fearless people in war could be so fearful in peace. It is not a surprise to me at all. Where the democratic institution has not been erected and people have yet realized their innate rights as human beings, any brave soldier can return to a dull and frightened citizen.

In the absence of the sound of piano, there is only the kind of moaning music to console the dreamy minds that still reminisce the long lost glory over the far away horizon to cover up the bitterness in present daily life. Needless to say, the authorities love to bask themselves in and take full advantage of that psyche. In other words, the government is supported by the specter of war while the rulers are both taking full advantage of and being chased by those ghosts. Another contradiction, isn't it?

Our ancestors used to say "gold disappears quickly, only soil stays". Indeed, the war must have taken away the noblest, the bravest, the most honorable. Left behind are the cunning, the beggars, the ones that shout far in the back and pretend to wield their swords just enough to avoid the front line... How much conscience is left in such people?... How much conscience is left in those national smugglers, in the thieves of the monopolizing Party, in the children of the apparatchiks frequently flying to Hong Kong for prostitution and gambling at hundreds of thousands of dollars each time?

In the absence of light, darkness expands. In the absence of dignity, treachery flourishes. The motive for every policy and conduct no longer roots in patriotism but in self-interest. The rationality of greed silences those of conscience and ethics. To serve the quest for personal wealth, the past is used as a temple, no longer sacred but still enough to lure and deceive those dreamy and trembling souls. [Behind such temple is] a government built on the gun barrels. It readily wields the ax across the necks of those who, out of anger or curiosity, dare to raise the curtain to see how the daytime robbers divide their spoils.

Foreign reporters often questioned why [the Vietnamese government chose to protest NATO role in Kosovo] after investing so much effort in luring the US and the West back. Well, dear reporters, it will cost you a lot more time and research to find the truth on this land. Because the truth is [the people in power] do not have pre-defined logic or motive. They go with the benefit at hand. Knowing their own incompetence and lack of characters to exist, they have to dig into the past and feed on the ghost of the war against Americans. They must lean on the temple and people's mindlessness to prolong their rule.

At any opportunity to bring back the potion: "The Glorious Party Led the People to the Victory over the American Imperialists", they will take full advantage of it. NATO was the most recent opportunity. At the same time, being too weak to stand on their own and too weak to flip the page of history - or out of reluctance to do so, they must take hold of their neighbor's coattail, hanging on to the floating debris of socialism after the ship [of the communist bloc] had been smashed into pieces. Only under the sign of socialism could they easily rob the population and transfer national properties into personal accounts in foreign banks. For such gain they must bow their heads in silence after the flashing slaps by their northern neighbors. It has always been true the greedy knows no shame.

Almost a quarter of a century has passed since the end of the War, on this land there still is only the flapping sound of a flock of crows over the graveyards from North to South, from South to North.

That dove with the olive branch still hides at some cloudy sky on a far away shore... waiting for a new dawn.

Amnesty International Report

• June, 16th 1999.

At least 56 prisoners of conscience and possible prisoners of conscience continued to be held throughout the year. At least 15 prisoners of conscience were released. At least a further 10 possible prisoners of conscience were arrested, tried and sentenced. A further 40 people were imprisoned for political offences following unfair trials. Fifty-three new death sentences and 18 executions were reported, but the actual numbers were believed to be much higher.

The government announced that revisions to the criminal code would be introduced; no details were given. Some senior members of the Vietnamese Communist Party publicly issued letters critical of the party's policies and calling for reform. Social unrest in Dong Nai province, prompted in November 1997 by local anger against perceived official corruption and land disputes, continued in January. President Tran Duc Luong approved two major prisoner amnesties in September and October, which included some political prisoners.

In October the U.N. Special Rapporteur on religious intolerance visited the country. He was prevented from meeting most religious dissidents. Viet Nam became an official member of the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation in November.

Lack of official information and restrictions on freedom of expression made obtaining details of human rights violations difficult.

At least 56 prisoners of conscience and possible prisoners of conscience arrested in previous years and known to Amnesty International continued to be detained. During the year, it was learned that 17 members of the People's Action Party (pap) who were expelled from Cambodia to Viet Nam in December 1996 (see Amnesty International Report 1997), remained in detention without charge or trial in Ho Chi Minh City. Two others expelled at the same time were quickly released. It was also learned that four other members of the pap who visited Viet Nam from Cambodia had been arrested in 1997 and were still detained. All were possible prisoners of conscience.

The trial of newspaper editor Nguyen Hoang Linh, a prisoner of conscience who was arrested in October 1997 (see Amnesty International Report 1998), took place in October. He was found guilty of taking advantage of democratic freedoms to damage the interests of the state, social organizations and the public and sentenced to one year and 13 days in prison. He was released after the trial, having served his sentence in pre-trial detention.

Nguyen Dinh Huy, a former professor of English and history serving a 15-year prison sentence for his leadership of the Movement to Unite the People and Build Democracy (mupbd — see Amnesty International Reports 1996 and 1998), remained in prison throughout the year, as did 78-

year-old Nguyen Ngoc Tan, a fellow mupbd member. Other elderly prisoners of conscience serving sentences for their peaceful political activities included Do Van Hung and his brother Do Van Thac, members of the Greater Viet Nam People's Party.

Prisoners of conscience remained in detention for their religious beliefs. Among them were the Supreme Patriarch of the unofficial Unified Buddhist Church of Viet Nam (ubcv) Thich Huyen Quang, held without charge or trial for almost 14 years; and four members of the Catholic Congregation of the Mother Co-Redemptrix, including Brother Mai Duc Chuong (Nghi), who was serving a prison sentence of 16 and a half years for holding training courses and distributing religious books without permission. The government denied that it held any political prisoners.

At least 15 prisoners of conscience were among more than 7,000 prisoners who were released in two amnesties in September and October. They included Dr Nguyen Dan Que, an endocrinologist serving a 20-year prison sentence for founding the High Tide of Humanism Movement which called for peaceful political and economic change (see Amnesty International Reports 1991 and 1997). Membership of Amnesty International was the basis for one of the charges against him at his trial.

Doan Viet Hoat, a former English professor serving a 15-year prison sentence for his involvement in the Freedom Forum newsletter, was released and forcibly exiled to the USA.

Nguyen Van Thuan, a writer and former teacher imprisoned for his involvement in both the High Tide of Humanism Movement and the Freedom Forum, and who suffered serious health problems in prison, was released.

ubcv monks Thich Tri Sieu and Thich Tue Sy, who had been in detention since 1984 and were convicted in 1988 of conducting activities to overthrow the people's administration, were released in the September amnesty. Thich Quang Do, Secretary General of the ubcv, and Thich Nhat Ban, both of whom were convicted in 1995 of involvement in an unofficial charitable mission to flood victims in 1994, were also released. So too were Brother Nguyen Chau Dat and Reverend Dinh Viet Hieu (Thuc) from the Catholic Congregation of the Mother Co-Redemptrix, who were both serving long sentences for holding training courses and distributing religious books without permission. Ten followers of a Taiwan-based religious group were sentenced to prison terms of between 10 months and two years by a court in Bac Lieu province for engaging in heretical propaganda and taking advantage of the people's rights to freedom and democracy to transgress state and public interests.

At least 40 people were sentenced to prison terms of up to 11 years after unfair trials for offences relating to social unrest in Thai Binh province in 1997 (see Amnesty International Report 1998). The group — believed to include some public officials — was charged with disrupting public order, abuse of power while carrying out a public mission, and illegal arrest. It was believed that some of the defendants were involved in protests against local official. □