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DOCUMENT NUMBER	DOCUMENT TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE OR CORRESPONDENTS	DATE	RESTRICTION
1	Memo	Agnes Waldron to the Secretary re: David Hunter – Historical Footnote and Reevaluation, 2 pp.	11/19/1969	D
2	Memo	Subject: Interview of Ronald Haeberle, Principal in My Lai Massacre Story, 2 pp.	n.d.	D & F
3	Memo	Jack Caulfield to John Ehrlichman re: Participants in Release of Mylai Massacre Story, 3 pp.	12/4/1969	D
4	Report	Edgar B. Stern Family Fund, 3 pp.	12/18/1969	B & F
5	Report	David R. Hunter, 1 p.	12/30/1969	D & F
6	Report	Edgar B. Stern Family Fund, 1 p. (three copies, one annotated)	n.d.	B & F
7	Note	Addresses, 1 p.	n.d.	D

COLLECTION TITLE

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FOLDER TITLE

My Lai (Massacre, 1968; Became Public, 1969)

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TESTIMONY of a City

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The articles reprinted herein are selected for their informative and comprehensive character, representing various shades of opinion. They do not necessarily reflect the views of the Government of the Republic of Viet-Nam.

Introduction

No Vietnamese will ever forget the atrocities of the Communists during their Tet Mau Than offensive in the Imperial City of Hue.

Hardly had the first firecrackers been fired to welcome the New Year, than the Communists already launched a large scale attack which they described as a general offensive against a number of cities in Viet-Nam, during a period of truce that they themselves expressly proposed and advocated.

One recalls that in that so-called general offensive, Communist troops occupied Hue in Central Viet-Nam for about 24 days and that during this short period, the Communist cadres had arrested more than 2000 civilian people including civil servants, school teachers, university professors, clergymen, employees of various American business firms, etc. . .

Upon their arrest, the victims were told to go to a Communist camp for political indoctrination. In fact, herded into groups of 10-15 each and tied to one another with rattan ropes they were led to freshly dug trenches, where they were summarily executed, shot, clubbed or bayoneted to death, and in many cases buried alive. The villagers, who lived next to the site, later reported that the agonizing screams were heard throughout several successive nights. Among the victims were a Catholic priest, Father Urbain, and three German professors at the Medical School of Hue University.

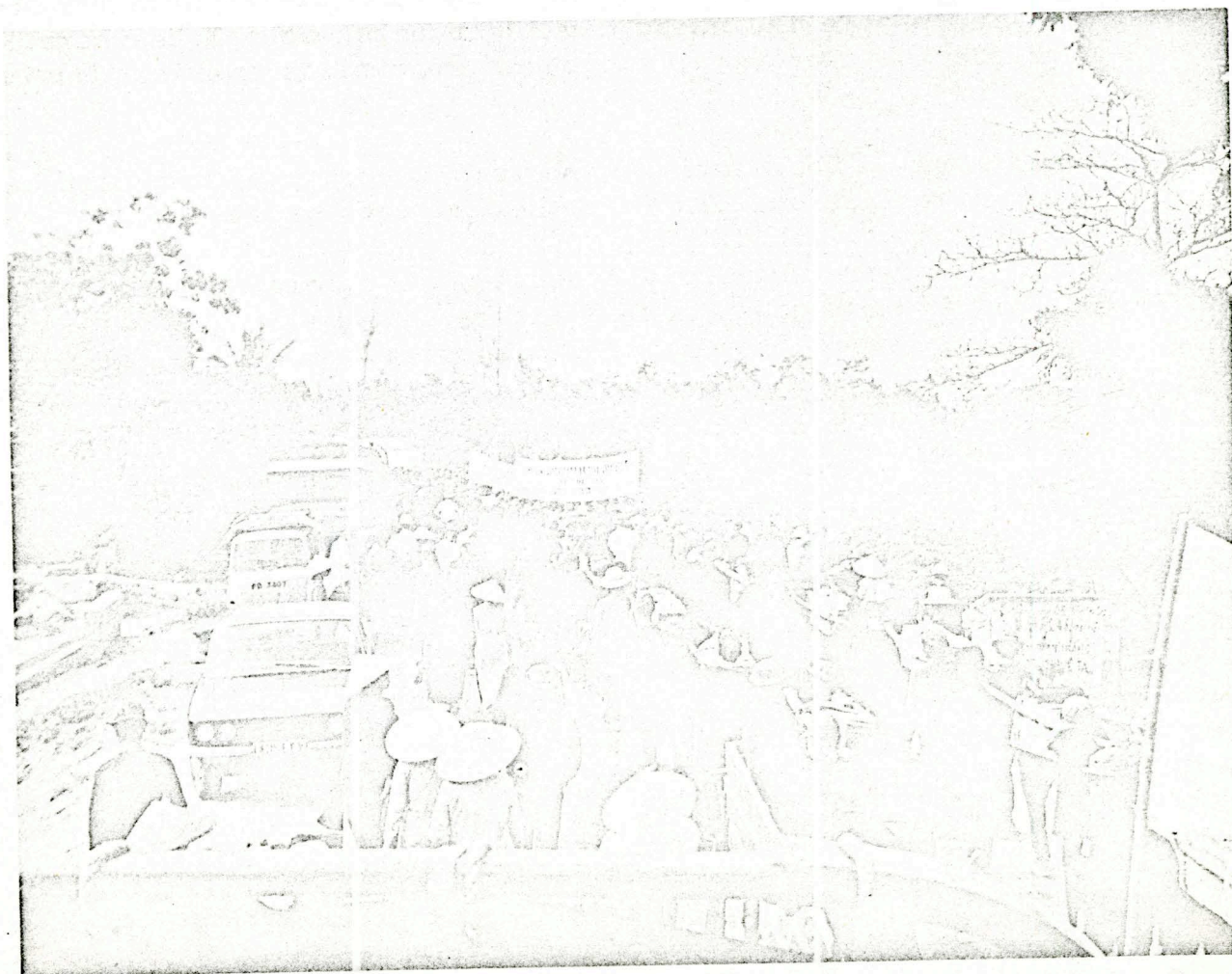
As soon as the Allied forces succeeded in driving the Communists out of the city, people rushed out to search for their missing relatives. Volunteered information from witnesses and foul smell from decomposed bodies brought about the discovery of several mass graves: there were 14 in Gia Hoi, 12 at Tang Quang Pagoda, 3 at Bai dau, 20 at Kings Tu Duc and Dong Khanh Tombs.

In the area which included the beach and some faraway villages that was pacified late last year, it was not until recently that the farmers felt safe enough from Communist reprisals to inform the local authorities about the location of more mass graves.

Until today more than a thousand corpses have been removed. About 200 were identified and returned to their families for reburial. The unidentified dead were given a mass funeral, which was attended by thousands of men and women, whose husbands, sons, fathers or relatives have been missing since the Tet offensive.

In the face of such barbarous war tactics the whole Vietnamese people joins the Government of the Republic in denouncing the Communists to the conscience of the free world. Crimes and atrocities coupled with assassination and terrorism which have been their daily practice ever since aggression against the South began have found in the Hue Massacre a culminating height for a doctrine which pretends to preach peace and happiness but which in reality brings forth only death and destruction.

Such tactics have stigmatized our enemy but have so far failed to demoralize us. Yet the enemy will resort to them again now that they come to a new phase of their sinister plan of aggression by asking for a coalition government which would eventually push South Vietnam into the waiting arms of the Communists.



Mass funeral organized by local authorities for reburial of unidentified bodies.

EMBASSY OF VIETNAM

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Press Release

April 3, 1969

From March 26 to March 30, while helping the villagers to dig irrigation canals, two Revolutionary Development Teams discovered ten collective graves of 150 bodies.

On April 2, Regional and Popular Forces, during an operation discovered four more graves containing the remains of 200 persons including soldiers, civil servants, civilians, women as well as children.

According to the reports of two recently escaped ARVN soldiers, Sergeant Chau and Corporal Doi (they were captured by the Vietcong during the Tet offensive of 1968), who were eye-witnesses, the Communists tied the victims together by groups of two and either shot them or beat them to death by crushing their heads with a hard stick - then buried the bodies in shallow ditches.

The above soldiers affirmed that some of the victims were even buried alive, a fact which was confirmed by doctors and experts upon examination of the remains.

Only 25 out of 350 bodies have been identified. They were returned to the respective families for burial. The remainder were given a collective funeral organized by the local authorities.

All the graves were found at Phu Thu, a small district about 20 kilometers from Hue.

Corporal Doi also revealed that there are many other collective graves, dug by the Communists, along the sea-coast, North-east of Hue.

Efforts are being made by local people and authorities to locate them.

The Press Corps in Viet-Nam, including foreign journalists, radio and television reporters, have been invited to the site to observe these proofs of mass slaughter of defenseless people by the Communists.



A section of the receiving area where the bodies are assembled and examined for possible identification.

HUE MASSACRE

by

James Cary

Washington,--On the night of January 30, 1968, reconnaissance elements of South Viet-Nam's crack 1st Division were on an area surveillance mission in the Viet Cong infested countryside Southwest of the old imperial capital city of Hue.

A regional forces company was probing the area to their East.

Neither expected to find much evidence of Communist activity. The annual lunar New Year or Tet truce was under way.

Suddenly, about 10p.m., a large Communist force hit the regional forces company hard, brushing it aside and driving straight ahead into the inner walled portion of the city called the Citadel.

That was the beginning of the Battle of Hue, highwater mark of Communist strength in the now famous Tet Offensive of 1968.

It was not until 25 days later that the last Communist troops were forced out. And it is only now, after months and months of interrogation of prisoners and survivors, and the finding of mass graves, that the world is learning what happened in and around Hue during those 25 days.

The picture that is emerging is one of massacre, mutilation and terror.

Of 3,000 persons missing, bodies of more than 2,200 have been discovered in shallow trenches at more than 25 locations.

Some were buried alive, standing, eyes open. Some were beheaded. Many were bound and shot in the back of the head. Some had dirt or cloth stuffed in their mouths to stifle their screams.

There were at least three death marches. A number of victims were lined up and machine gunned.

Nationality, occupation or political background was no protection. Scores of Buddhists in Hue's strong, anti-government resistance movement were slaughtered. So too were American and German civilians,

French priests, South Vietnamese Government officials, anyone with relatives in the South Vietnamese army, village chiefs, political leaders, anyone who worked for the Americans, and particularly anyone who was known for his opposition to the Viet Cong.

The Communists have admitted responsibility for the killings. A Communist document, captured in the Delta area last November, who fell into their hands, claiming:

"We paralyzed the enemy machinery when we killed 2,000 reactionaries in Hue."

Again on April 27, 1969, a Hanoi radio broadcast boasted that the bodies then being discovered in the Hue area were "holligan lackeys who had owed blood debts to the . . . Hue compatriots and who were annihilated by the Southern armed (Viet Cong and North Vietnamese) forces . . . (last) spring."

The agony of Hue began almost with the first shots that were fired. After the regional forces company was shattered by the Communist advance guard more and more North Vietnamese battalions, supported by Viet Cong guerrilla and local force units, poured into the city from the South and West.

At 3:40 a.m. two salvos of enemy rockets came shrieking down on the city, setting widespread fires.

By dawn, the Communists controlled all of Hue except their two prime objectives--the 1st South Vietnamese Army Division Headquarters in the Northern corner of the Citadel, and the American Military Assistance compound South of the Perfume River. Attempts to capture both were thrown back with heavy Communist losses.

For two days after that the Communists left the population alone. Then Viet Cong cadres began to move from door to door.

Some confiscated radio receivers. Others, working from prepared lists, sought out South Vietnamese Government officials and invited them to political indoctrination meetings. They never returned, but it is now known what happened to some of them.

At the Gia Hoi High School and in a field behind the Tang Quang Pagoda, 33 mass graves containing 200 bodies have been found. A monk at the Pagoda told South Vietnamese interrogators that during the first two weeks of February he heard Communist execution squads at work nightly. The victims cried out, pleading for mercy. A volley of pistol and rifle shots would follow. Then silence.

Nguyen Ngoc Ky, leader of the Viet-Nam Nationalist Party, was among the victims found here.

Another band of 80 to 100 civilians took refuge in the Redemptorist Church in Hue. On February 8 the Communists forced them to leave and started them marching East, across the Perfume River. Bodies of 20 of the group were found at Ap Lang Xa Con, a hamlet 4 kilometers from the church. National Police said they had been buried alive with hands bound. The body of Tran Dien, one of five elected senators in the National Assembly from Hue, was among them.

At the University of Hue, three German doctors on the medical faculty tried unsuccessfully to wait out the Communist occupation. The Viet Cong arrested them on February 5 at their homes. On April 2, 1968, the bodies of Dr. and Mrs. Horst Gunther Krainick, and Dr. Alois Altkoester were found buried in a common grave in a potato field behind the Tu Quang Pagoda, two kilometers South of Hue. Their arms had been bound with wire. All had been shot.

Two French priests at the Thien An Mission suffered a similar fate. Their monastery was located on a hill top surrounded by pines. When fighting engulfed the area 3,000 to 4,000 peasants sought refuge there. Communists troops suddenly appeared, many of the peasants attempted to flee. Two pleaded with the Communists to spare the building, but as one Vietnamese priest who escaped said later:

" They took over the whole building, firing from the ground level at first, and then mounting into the upper stories." The bodies of the two resident French priests, Father Urbain and Father Guy, were among 201 bodies found later on the slope of a scenic overlook above the Perfume River. Father Urbain, 52, had been bound hand and foot and buried alive with 10 others. His body was identified by a laundry number on his underclothing and by his silver denture and bald head. Father Guy, 48, was stripped of his cassock by the North Vietnamese, forced to kneel, and shot through the back of the head.

Americans suffered similar fates, a U.S. report to the International Committee of the Red Cross reveals:

Stephen H. Miller's hands were bound behind his back. He was shot in the back of the head.'

Kermit J. Krause and Heffrey S. Lundstedt were cornered by the enemy in the bedroom of their house. They were shot in the face. Their bodies were bound in bathtubs.

Thomas M. Gompertz, Bourtney Niles and Robert T. Little were shot in the back of the head, apparently executed. Niles' arms were bound.

It was equally hard with the South Vietnamese.

On February 9, Viet Cong came to the home of Major Tu Ton Khan, commanding officer, Provincial Revolutionary Development (Pacification) cadres. They ordered his wife to tell her husband to report to Viet Cong authorities. They threatened to burn the house if she did not do so. Frightened, Mrs. Khan called her husband and two other revolutionary development workers who were hiding in the attic. Major Khan was tied up and taken away with all his belongings. His body was found February 28, pierced by 200 bullet holes.

There are many similar stories.

Tran Hy, a popular forces member, was arrested by the Viet Cong on February 20 and buried alive with 20 others near the An Ninh Ha Bridge.

On the night of February 18, a Viet Cong group appeared at the home of Ho Tan Sy, a teacher, and invited him to attend a meeting. He was shot and killed as he left his house.

On February 10, Le Van Tru, chief of the Thua Thien program for Communist defectors, was arrested and shot near the Dong Ba gate.

Nguyen Van Dong, resident of the Hue Citadel, was arrested February 17 and buried alive at Gia Hoi.

Viet Cong soldiers broke into the home of Miss Hoang Thi Tam Tuy on February 22, and led her to Gia Hoi High School with four other persons. They were buried alive in the same grave, arms and legs bound. Of 200 bodies found at the school, Vietnamese authorities estimated more than half were buried alive.

By mid-February, the fighting for Hue had turned decidedly against the Communists. The enemy commander had been killed and his replacement, it was learned later, had asked and been refused permission to withdraw. Now the killing became if anything even more vicious as the Communist grip on the city weakened.

A Viet Cong unit assembled more than 200 South Vietnamese civilians and local administrators at the town of Ton Nam Duong. They were started South, bound together in three groups of ten.

Other similar marches began.

Nguyen Tan Chau, of the South Vietnamese Army's Medical Corps, was in Hue visiting his family during the Tet holidays when the Communists attacked. He was captured and held with 30 other prisoners. They were started South, bound together in three groups of ten. He told South Vietnamese investigators later that when the column halted for a rest, he freed his hands and slipped away in the darkness. From a hiding place he witnessed the following scene:

"The larger prisoners were separated into pairs, tied together back to back and shot. The others were shot singly. All were dumped into two shallow graves, including those who had been wounded but were not dead."

Winter and early spring rains washed away the more obvious signs of the slaughter but the bodies were found later in the Phu Thu District about 20 kilometers South of Hue.

A similar story is told by Phan Duy, a key official of Anha Hamlet, seven miles East of Hue. He knew his name was on the Viet Cong's execution list after the Communists seized Hue. He slipped away from the hamlet to a small house on the outskirts of Hue, hoping to escape detection. The ruse almost worked.

It wasn't until Hue was virtually recaptured by U.S. and South Vietnamese forces that enemy troops discovered him as they pulled back through the area where he was hiding.

On February 28, five Viet Cong entered Duy's house, bound his hands and marched him seven miles to a row of houses near an area of sand dunes East of the city. He and four other prisoners were locked in one of the houses for seven days. They were allowed outside only to relieve themselves, but this was long enough for Duy to realize that some 100 prisoners in the other houses were being systematically shot.

On the seventh night Duy and nine other men were lashed to a bamboo pole and marched for 300 yards. Their hands were untied. They were told to remove all outer clothing. As he was undressing Duy heard his guards talking to a group of Viet Cong laborers.

"Did you dig the trench yet?" They asked.

"No, not yet, there are too many people and not enough time," the laborers replied.

Three of the guards left to help dig while the prisoners' hands were retied. Duy managed to work his hands free, then made a run for it.

"I ran about 300 meters and I saw a pool," he said. "I fell into the water and covered myself with reeds."

Hours later, half frozen, he emerged and began walking toward the lights of the Hue radio tower beacon. He stumbled into the Phuvang District headquarters and reported what had happened.

Many others were not so lucky. So far 356 bodies have been found in the sand dune graves that Duy escaped. Investigators have reported

the victims were killed in groups of 25 to 40. Cartridges from Russian-made AK47 rifles used by the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese were found nearby. Some of those who died had been bludgeoned to death. Others had been shot.

Despite all these accounts the story of the Hue Massacres is still not complete. Hundreds of other case histories are already known and reports are still being collected at the combined interrogation centers in Hue.

The investigation has pinpointed the location of many still-unopened mass graves. Consequently there is little hope for the 800 citizens of Hue who are still missing.

They, too, are believed to be a part of the grisly record the Communists left behind the one time they have occupied a South Vietnamese city.

This story of what happened when the Communists occupied the South Vietnamese city of Hue in 1968 was compiled from records made available by the U.S. State Department, Defense Department, South Vietnamese Embassy and South Vietnamese Government.

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June 19, 1969

HUE AND KATYN - A TRAGIC SIMILARITY

The SPEAKER. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. PUCINSKI) is recognized for 30 minutes.

(Mr. PUCINSKI asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PUCINSKI. Mr. Speaker, the discovery of mass graves showing Communist atrocities against South Vietnamese citizens near Hue, South Vietnam, earlier this week is a tragic reminder that the same form of mass murder was committed by the Communists against our allies in the Katyn Forest, near Smolensk, Russia, at the beginning of World War II.

I was the chief investigator of the special congressional committee which in 1952 investigated the Katyn Forest massacre, and I was struck by the tragic similarity between the methods used by the Communists in the Katyn Forest in 1940, and the methods and techniques used by the Communists again earlier this week against the South Vietnamese in Hue.

There is no question in my mind that the entire free world should be shocked by this bizarre discovery of mass graves near Hue earlier this week.

The discovery was made by two South Vietnamese Army noncoms who were captured by the Vietcong during the Tet offensive of 1968. These two men were able to free themselves and found many of the graves by digging.

To date, the mass graves have produced a total of 350 bodies.

Digging is still going on, and the two military men who were witnesses to some of these killings are now trying to identify more of the areas.

These two noncoms are Sergeant Chau and Corporal Doi of the South Vietnamese Armed Forces. They actually witnessed some of the atrocities and mass murders inflicted upon their countrymen.

These men say that some of the victims were pushed down into the grave while still alive, and this has been confirmed by doctors who have examined the corpses.

The victims were killed with a single shot in the back of their head while their hands were tied behind their backs. They were pushed into mass graves. This is precisely the method used by Communist soldiers when they massacred 15,000 Polish Army officers in the Katyn Forest in 1940.

Among the 350 victims found, 25 have been identified. Many are women. The

identified bodies have been returned to their families for funeral and the rest have been taken care of by the Government of Vietnam for burial.

The location of the grave is the village of Phu Thu, about a distance of 15 kilometers from Hue.

According to Corporal Doi there are still many other graves dug by the Vietcong along the seashore and the local authorities are now proceeding to investigate them.

Mr. Speaker, it occurs to me that the free world cannot overlook nor ignore the bizarre similarity between what happened in the Katyn Forest almost 30 years ago and what is now happening in South Vietnam.

I know that all of our hearts cry out for peace in Vietnam and we pray for the day when our troops can be brought home.

I know every resource of our own Government and every effort by the South Vietnamese Government is being made to find some way to resolve this conflict and to bring it to a victorious conclusion. The United States has offered to withdraw its troops from South Vietnam if North Vietnam would agree to a similar withdrawal.

But, certainly, Mr. Speaker, as we look at the discovery of the mass graves and at the brutal techniques being used in Hue in South Vietnam today against the innocent citizens of that country, and compare them to the techniques used against the 15,000 Polish Army officers who were brutally massacred by the Communists in the Katyn Forest 30 years ago, we see that nothing has really changed in the Communist design of mass execution for those who would stand in the way of their pattern for conquest.

I would say, Mr. Speaker, the world has really not given enough attention to the discovery of these mass graves in South Vietnam last week. This discovery of mass graves in South Vietnam, in my judgment, is a prelude to what awaits millions of South Vietnamese if they should falter in their struggle against the Communist Vietcong. I am sure that mass graves and mass executions and the whole business of Katynism, so thoroughly developed by the Communists 30 years ago, will be the order of the day in South Vietnam if the Communists were to emerge victorious.

Mr. Speaker, I would hope that those who would today urge peace at any price in South Vietnam would think about these tragic consequences.

We want peace and I am confident we shall find peace only if we do not waver

in our determination. The South Vietnamese Government has offered to seek a reconciliation with the Vietcong and such moves should be encouraged. But at this critical juncture, when victory is within reach, we must not waver in our defense of freedom in South Vietnam.

Mr. MADDEN. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. PUCINSKI. I yield to the very distinguished gentleman from Indiana who was chairman of the Select Committee To Investigate the Katyn Forest Massacre here in this Congress in 1952.

I have had the highest admiration for the gentlemen since the days when he headed that committee because the Katyn Forest Massacre Committee demonstrated to the world the techniques used by the Communists in mass executions of those who would stand in the way of their aggression.

The gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MADDEN) has rendered a noble service in bringing before Congress the first indictments against the Soviet Union for those mass atrocities against the Polish Army officers who were murdered in Katyn. Mr. Speaker, I deem it a privilege to yield to my colleague, the gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. MADDEN. I thank my colleague for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the gentleman from Illinois for calling the attention of Congress and reminding us of the barbarous atrocities against their victims, the Communist leaders committed during and at the beginning of World War II.

The gentleman from Illinois was one of the real leaders in the work that was done by this committee. We held hearings not only in this country but in England, Germany, and other places in Europe.

The attention of the world was drawn during those hearings to the uncivilized brutality that is embedded in the Communist leaders attitude toward humanity generally. Their leaders crave for power. They have no respect for human life. I remember distinctly when we held our hearings in Frankfurt, Germany, back during the days of the 82d Congress when the television and newspaper reporters and radio communications media packed our committee hearing room.

They sent word all over the globe, revealing that Stalin's barbarity is embedded in the minds of all Communist leaders. That barbarity calls for the extinction of human life, if, in the form of individuals or masses, interferes with their program to enslave the world.

I think the gentleman from Illinois was present along with former Congressman Machrowicz, who is now a Federal judge in Michigan, and myself at the opening of the annual convention, in Berlin Germany, of Eastern and Western European journalists. The gentleman from Illinois, now speaking, Congressman Machrowicz, and myself spoke to the convention of about 200 journalists. There was a lot of opposition from the Communists in adjacent countries to the meeting there being held in Berlin.

At a luncheon at which the gentleman was present along with myself and Congressman Machrowicz, one journalist delegate revealed that the Communist propaganda machine daily published smears that the Katyn Committee was nothing but a tool of capitalism. Notwithstanding the fact that we had invited Stalin and all other Communist leaders to come to Frankfurt and testify—but we had received no answer from them—they proceeded to malign and blaspheme our committee.

These journalists, in speaking to those attending the luncheon, said that in the work of the Katyn Forest Massacre Committee, for the first time in the history of communism placed their propaganda machine on the defensive. They had no answer whatsoever to the avalanche of testimony convicting the Stalin soldiers of the mass murders of Polish leaders in the Katyn Forest.

The hard facts showed their method of human extermination, as the gentleman just stated: They shot almost 4,000 Polish patriot leaders of Poland in the Katyn Forest and two other slave camps. They followed the same pattern which they are using in Vietnam, they tied the victims hands behind their backs and shot them in the back of the head. We remind the people of America not to forget that the Communist technique has not changed one iota since those days at the beginning of World War II, when they massacred and killed millions of people through that method and also through mass starvation in the Ukraine. The people of the world should not become too forgetful of what will happen, God forbid, if ever the Communists succeed in their designs for world domination and to enslave humanity throughout the globe.

I want to thank the gentleman for his statement here today.

Mr. PUCINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the distinguished gentleman from Indiana for his contribution. Certainly we cannot permit the world to overlook this frightening, striking similarity in techniques. I remember the discovery of the Polish Army officers' bodies in mass graves in the Katyn Forest. Their hands were tied behind their backs. There was a single bullet through the nape of the neck. Then these men were dumped, literally dumped, one on top of the other, in the mass graves. Today, 30 years later, we are discovering the identical technique. And who are the victims? Innocent people of South Vietnam, whose only wish, whose only

desire is to be free. Those men and women were dumped into graves without the benefit of a trial, without the benefit of any charges, without the benefit of any defense, picked out by the Communists for only one crime: they are the leaders of the resistance.

And this is important, because here the similarity becomes truly striking. The 15,000 Army Reserve officers who were massacred in the Katyn Forest were the lawyers, the educators, the doctors, the ministers, and the businessmen of Poland. These were, for the most part, the intelligentsia of Poland. These were the people who would have led the resistance to Communist aggression. As early as 1939 the Soviet Union, which professed to be our ally, already was plotting the take-over of all of those countries of Europe. In 1939 and 1940, Communist troops methodically picked the intellectual leaders of Poland from within the Army Officers Reserve Corps whom they imprisoned when Russia invaded Poland on September 17, 1939, so they would not be around when the Communists overwhelmed Poland and destroyed her institutions of freedom.

This is the lesson we see now again in South Vietnam, where people are again being pulled out, picked out. These are the leaders of resistance to the Vietcong. These are the leaders, and these are the people who are holding together the spirit of freedom in South Vietnam.

I tell you this: The discovery of mass graves at Hue proves more than anything else that the Communists have on their drawing boards the blueprint for another Communist "cordon sanitaire" of captive nations in Southeast Asia, identical to the "cordon sanitaire" of captive nations that now remain in Soviet bondage in East Central Europe.

We have right to ask: Where are the great liberal voices in this country, the great defenders of human dignity? Where are their voices in denouncing the kind of genocide—brutal mass atrocities being committed against the innocent people of Southeast Vietnam?

The American liberal has been in the forefront in denouncing genocide and urging a world treaty against mass murder of people. Where are their voices of protest against this genocide of South Vietnamese discovered in Hue last week-end?

There was the same kind of conspiracy of silence in 1940, when the Polish government in exile tried to sound the alarm about Katyn. The investigation of the Katyn massacre by the congressional committee clearly showed there were forces within our own country that did not want to talk about Katyn and the discovery of those mass graves because the Soviet Union was our "gallant ally," and any discussion of the Katyn massacre in the war years would have supposedly driven a wedge between the Allies.

I submit that had the free world been told of the infamy and the brutality of the Communists discovered in Katyn, perhaps the whole course of history

could have been changed.

On Pennsylvania Avenue, in front of the National Archives Building are two monuments. One says:

What is past is prologue.

And the other one says:

Study the past.

I suggest to those who today seek peace at any price and who would let the Communists take over in Southeast Asia, ought study that wise admonition.

Look at Katyn, look at what happened after Katyn, and look at the way the Communists were able to take over 180 million people in Eastern and Central Europe, and then look at what we found in Hue.

We should ask ourselves how long America can remain free, how long can institutions of human dignity prevail in our country if the Communists' juggernaut continues to close in and in and in, as it is doing around the entire world?

The mass grave discoveries in Hue are of monumental importance. I am amazed the mass media and instruments of information have treated these discoveries with such meager attention.

Mr. MADDEN. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. PUCINSKI. I yield to the gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. MADDEN. Mr. Speaker, I might say further that so many of the younger generation do not remember or have not had called to their attention in the schools of America the Katyn massacre and the facts regarding many other mass exterminations of humanity that the Communists inflicted upon central Europe during the dark days before World War II.

I might explain why Congress investigated the Katyn massacre. The congressional investigation of the Katyn massacre was brought about because for the first time in world history the guilt of an international crime was not established to the satisfaction of many people throughout the world. The Soviet Union, through its false mass propaganda, had millions convinced that Hitler had committed those massacres in the Katyn Forest. They were committed in the winter of 1939-40, when both armies were closing in on Warsaw.

When these massacres were committed, the bodies in the Katyn Forest were not found until 2 years later.

Immediately Stalin said that Hitler massacred the Polish leaders at Katyn. Hitler, of course, denied it and said that Stalin massacred them. That is why this Congress, through the pleading of the Polish American Congress throughout the United States, insisted that to settle the question for future history an investigation should be made. That is how the Congress became interested in investigating an international crime when one nation had accused another of committing it.

So we settled for all time that it was the Communists who committed that crime, although Hitler had a different method of exterminating people than

Stalin had. There is no question, Hitler was the most brutal tyrant of our time. Nevertheless, the Katyn Forest Massacre Congressional Committee settled once and for all that it was the Communists who killed the Poles in the Katyn Forest.

Let me say something further. This is for so many of these agitators in our country today who are so enthusiastic about letting the younger folks know what a great millennium they would have if communism takes over. I might say it was revealed in our testimony that among some of the mass murders that were committed by the Communists were massacres and murders of some of their own Communist disciples who were taken in with the network that brought in these people from the satellite nations, and they did not have any regard whatsoever for the agitators who were preaching communism, or for their own Communist fellow travelers. Some of them, according to the testimony before our committee, were massacred along with the free victims who were massacred by Stalin and his Communist cohorts.

So I might state to some of the younger folks in this country who are becoming enamoured with this organized Communist propaganda in colleges and other places, if the Communists ever took over they also might be among those massacred. They care not what is the thought of the people they massacre or exterminate. That was proved by the evidence submitted in our committee, that some of the so-called super-Communist propagandists who happened to be wedged in the mass onslaught lost their lives the same as the other unfortunate prisoners in the Communist prisons and slave labor camps.

Mr. PUCINSKI. The gentleman would agree that the Katyn investigation, exhaustively conducted by the Congress of the United States, would be a hollow exercise if we failed to learn the lesson that investigation taught us.

Mr. MADDEN. The gentleman is correct.

Mr. PUCINSKI. The lesson is this: Today, while the Communist leaders are stalling in Paris and refusing to address themselves to the real issues and refusing to talk about peace and refusing to make any forward movement, they are methodically engaging in mass executions of those people in South Vietnam who would constitute resistance to communism if and when some rapprochement is reached. It is quite obvious to us that just as at Katyn, where they methodically destroyed potential opposition, we are witnessing in Hue and the other mass graves all over South Vietnam an identical pattern. They are stalling in Paris because they want first to methodically destroy through these mass executions those elements of resistance which might try to protect the institutions of freedom and dignity in South Vietnam when peace finally comes.

I think that is the lesson that Hue ought to teach us. Those who fail to see that lesson, I believe, have just not read the transcript of Katyn. More importantly, they are looking at the world

through rose-colored glasses.

Mr. FINDLEY. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. PUCINSKI. I yield to my colleague from Illinois (Mr. FINDLEY).

Mr. FINDLEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Illinois for yielding to me.

I want to express my appreciation to him for this timely reminder of the barbaric massacres at Katyn Forest. My colleague, like I, had a part in World War II. I am sure both of us were proud to have had that part and do look back with pride upon what small contributions, at least on my part, were made in that effort against the Nazi tyranny. My colleague and I do disagree on what ought to be done in Vietnam. I am sure this is not the place to go into the bases for a disagreement. However, I would like to enter this one thought here. I have always felt our Government has undertaken a very serious obligation to the people of Vietnam who have fought at our side. Should the day come when we do disengage and withdraw our forces from there, as I hope we will soon, I feel we must measure up to that obligation to those people and invite other nations to join with us in every possible resettlement of those people that can be undertaken.

After the Cuban episode our country opened its doors to refugees from Cuba. I think that was the right thing to do. Now because we have been involved in Vietnam we have a similar obligation there. I do not suggest that this would eliminate or perhaps even materially reduce the possibility of atrocities that might follow such a disengagement. Even so, we should do our best to provide safety and a future for the people who choose to leave their homes in the event that we should extricate ourselves from this position.

Mr. PUCINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I have no quarrel with the gentleman's suggestion that we start a methodical withdrawal of American troops from Vietnam. I would join him in that plea but I would also insist that the free world must insist that the North Vietnamese have a similar withdrawal of North Vietnamese troops from South Vietnam. Premier Thieu has said South Vietnam could carry on with its own army of 700,000 but it would need our continued Air Force support. I am hopeful we can withdraw American troops from South Vietnam but I believe our offer to withdraw our troops if North Vietnam similarly withdraws its troops today offers the best hope for disengagement.

More importantly, Mr. Speaker, it would be my hope that the discovery of these mass atrocities against the innocent citizens of South Vietnam would now finally, at last, shock the sensitivities of those of our allies who have meekly sat back and let the United States and the handful of our allies fighting in Vietnam, including the South Vietnamese, carry the full brunt of the conflict.

The issues in southeast Asia and the issues in South Vietnam affect the whole

free world. It is incredible to me that those free world rulers who espouse the doctrine of freedom cannot recognize what we are witnessing in South Vietnam today is a repeat performance of what we saw in World War II vis-a-vis the captive nations of Europe. If we learn nothing else from the discovery of the mass graves in Hue, it would be my fervent prayer that our allies would finally be shocked into a realization that nothing has really changed in the communist world. Mass atrocities, mass murders, and mass assassinations continue to be their main stock in trade to be used against anyone or any nation which dares to interfere with or interrupt their plans for ultimate conquest.

I would suggest that those here in this country—sincere, honest, patriotic Americans who on many occasions have tended to falter in the fight in Vietnam—take a look at these mass atrocities. These were all innocent people. These were citizens. These were people who had no greater desire than to live and let live, and be free. These are people who are being massacred in mass numbers in a most brutal manner, with their hands tied behind their backs, shot through the head with a single bullet, dumped into mass graves.

This is the true picture of communism.

Mr. Speaker, I would hope that my fellow Americans who have a tendency to waiver will look at this discovery and then ask themselves: "What can we do as Americans, as united Americans, to bring this war to a successful conclusion?"

Mr. Speaker, I say that the course of history is being written in South Vietnam just as it was in the Katyn Forest. There is no question in my mind but that if the American people had known the full facts of the Katyn Forest massacre the whole course of history would have been altered.

Mr. Speaker, I was not here at that time. Like many others, I was in the armed services, fighting the war. We were helpless to say anything at that time. But now I say this: That so long as the good Lord gives me the strength I shall remain in the well of this House and try to point out the true and full, ugly consequences of compromise with communism, if we falter.

Mr. Speaker, I pray for the day when peace will return to Vietnam. I know what it is like to deliver a flag that has flown over this Nation's Capitol to a mother in my district who lost her son in Vietnam. I know the hardships our American boys are suffering in Vietnam.

I say that the tragedy of our time is that the free world wants the United States to carry this burden all by itself. This in itself is an indictment against the nativity of the leaders of the world. We saw these leaders here earlier this week. These are the men who have within their power the ability to call a halt to hostilities in Vietnam. But this they have not chosen to do; they have chosen to stand aside and watch this huge conflict develop.

It would be my fervent prayer, Mr. Speaker, that the discovery of these mass graves somehow or other will reach the conscience of the rest of the world, and that we can stand together united, and bring peace to Vietnam.

We can bring peace very quickly. Right now there are ships going into Hanoi. Many of our allies are continuing to do business with the Communists because the almighty dollar is more important to them than a principle. I am not surprised that the American people are asking more and more questions. I myself question the values of these fair-weather allies.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DABDARIO). The time of the gentleman from Illinois has expired.

(On request of Mr. McCORMACK, and by unanimous consent, Mr. PUCINSKI was allowed to proceed for 10 additional minutes.)

Mr. PUCINSKI. I thank our distinguished Speaker for this extension of time.

So it is my hope, Mr. Speaker, that out of this discovery the conscience of the entire world can be sufficiently aroused so that peace can come.

Mr. Speaker, I believe the words on the

National Archives Building are very important. They state that—

The past is prologue, study the past.

We cannot close our eyes to reality for the sake of expediency.

My colleague from Illinois who spoke a moment ago says that he wants to pull our troops out of Vietnam. Of course we want to pull our troops out. I want to pull the American troops out. I want to get our boys back home just as quickly as possible, but it would be a tragic mistake if, for the second time in recent history we, as a free people, overlooked and failed to understand the full design of the Communists. They are not quitting. There is not an iota of proof that they are in any way quitting. They are today holding fast in Paris. Why, Mr. Speaker, this war could be brought to a conclusion in 24 hours. What does the United States want in Vietnam? Nothing. Do we seek territorial gains? Of course we do not. Do we seek domination over any other nation or group of people? Of course we do not. All we want is for the South Vietnamese to have a chance to be masters of their own destiny as free people. Is this so difficult? Is this so impossible? Is our demand so outrageous?

I think if we could pull together the

resources and the determination of the whole world to make it clear that we are not going to surrender South Vietnam to Communist infamy, this war could be brought to a conclusion very quickly. I do not think the Communists are made of such strength that they do not feel the impact of this war. I think the Communists are having just as much of a problem in Hanoi and in North Vietnam and that there is as much resistance to the continuation of this war over there among the people of North Vietnam as there is among the American people here.

So it seems to me that those who falter and those who would want us to waiver and those who would suggest that somehow or other we walk away before the job is finished, are really prolonging this war and inadvertently they are contributing to false hopes among the Communist rulers.

I hope that the President will look at these mass graves, marshal the forces of the free world in indignation against this form of genocide, and then use whatever means he deems necessary to bring this war to an end in Vietnam.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, Hue and Katyn—they constitute a tragic similarity.



A stretcher team carrying one of the murdered victims to a central collection point.

Hue slayings

Viet Cong pattern broken

By Elizabeth Pond
*Special correspondent of
The Christian Science Monitor*

Saigon

The South Vietnamese currently are getting a grim reminder of the more ruthless practices of the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese troops.

This comes with the almost-daily uncovering of mass graves near the old imperial city of Hue. They contain victims of mass killings by the Communists when Viet Cong and North Vietnamese forces held the ancient capital for 24 days during the Tet offensive of last year. About a thousand civilians were missing and have remained unaccounted for since the battle.

It is still too early to assess the full impact of these discoveries on public opinion. But they have come at a time when mutual suspicion again is clouding the relationship between the Saigon government and many students and Buddhist leaders.

The killing of civilians in Hue on a wide scale was a departure from the general Viet Cong practice of highly selective terrorism.

Before 1968 the classic targets of assassination were the best and the worst government officials in hamlets and provinces — the best to eliminate competition for the National Liberation Front, political arm of the Viet Cong, and the worst to win villagers' gratitude and allegiance.

Attacks indiscriminate

Even when the NLF stepped up the campaign of mining roads it warned civilians to stay off these roads.

With the 1968 Tet attacks on cities and towns, however, the NLF and North Vietnamese deliberately ceased discriminating, at least insofar as indirect fire—shelling and mortaring—on civilians was concerned. This helped achieve the intended shock effect of showing city dwellers, previously immune to the war, that they, too, were vulnerable.

Still, the larger part of the destruction of civilian housing—some 60-odd blocks in Saigon's teeming Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Districts, and substantial portions of several key cities in the Mekong Delta—was accomplished by South Vietnamese and American firepower rather than by the Communist attack. Realizing the public bitterness against the Americans and the government that such destruction entails, the Communists sometimes baited an allied response in the city offensive by sending a few snipers into heavily populated blocks to draw retaliatory fire.

Evacuation spurs shootings

The mass killings in Hue by the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong were thus an exception, even to the pattern of the Tet offensive. Reportedly these troops were relatively discriminating while they held the city.

They killed only anti-Communist leaders at first, but as they were on the verge of being forced out they began the mass shootings. There were still some attempts at discrimination, but personal grudges on the part of informers played a role as well.

In this bedrock country of the old Vietnamese nationalist parties, in central Vietnam, almost everyone has dabbled in politics in some way. But instead of courting these people—many of whom were basically hostile to Saigon—the Communists simply executed them.

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Những hình ảnh thể thảm khốc khai quật các hầm chôn tập thể ở Huế

TẤT CẢ ĐỀU BỊ ĐẬP BỂ ĐẦU bằng cán cuốc rồi lấp vùi dưới cát

● MỘT PHỄ BÌNH CỤT HAI CHÂN CŨNG BỊ HẠ SÁT

SAIGON 11-4.- Các vụ khám phá liên tiếp những hầm chôn xác tập thể nạn nhân biến cố Tết Mậu Thân ở Huế đã làm xôn xao dư luận, làm mỗi lòng đồng bào trong toàn quốc. Phái viên Việt Tân Xã đã tường thuật chi tiết những vụ khai quật các hầm trên như sau:

Ủy ban truy tìm nạn nhân của biến cố Tết Mậu Thân, trong hai ngày 7 và 8 tháng 4 năm 1969 đã tìm được thêm 98 xác chôn tập thể tại vùng liên ranh giữa hai thôn Đông Di và Đông Sơn thuộc Quận Phú Thứ, Thừa Thiên, nâng tổng số nạn nhân tìm được xác lên tới 233 người.

Trước đây, ngày 27-3, Ủy ban này đã tìm được 135 xác chôn tập thể ở cách địa điểm mới lối năm cây số.

Hầu hết bị đập bể đầu bằng cán cuốc

Khác với những nạn nhân được tìm thấy hồi cuối tháng 3, theo đó tất cả những bộ xương khô lẫn n y hầu hết nạn nhân thịt còn đồ hồn và có những dấu vết chứng tỏ họ đã bị đập bể đầu bằng cán cuốc trước khi được chôn một cách cầu thả tại vùng nói trên.

Anh Hồ Đức Thuận, người được coi là nhân vật số 1 trong vấn đề hốt xác các nạn nhân, thuật lại rằng: xác các nạn nhân chỉ được phủ một lớp cát mỏng manh dưới đường rãnh dài hàng 100 thước chạy từ Đông Lộc sang Quảng Xuyên, Quận Phú Thứ.

Có những nạn nhân chỉ được cút phủ kín từ cổ trở xuống trong khi chiếc 'áo dứa' nằm chỉnh ỉnh trên mặt cát. Trong ngày 7-4, Ủy ban tìm được cả thấy 43 xác, và ngày 8-4 Ủy ban tìm thêm được 55 xác. Điều đáng ghi nhận, có ba người trong Ủy ban tìm được xác của thân nhân.

Người thứ nhất nhận được xác của chồng là ông Phan Quỳnh. Ông Quỳnh nguyên là Trưởng Phòng Kế Toán, Tòa Sơ Tòa, Huế.

Người thứ hai tìm được xác của tên Trần thị Hương. Con trai bà Hương tên Nguyễn Văn Đăng, 24

tuổi, nguyên là quân nhân. Hiện người đàn bà này còn một người trong gia đình mất tích. Đó là ông Nguyễn Văn Mai, chồng bà.

Người thứ ba tìm được xác thân nhân là ông Hứa Thọai, Trưởng phòng Tài Chính tỉnh đoàn Xây Dựng Nông Thôn Thừa Thiên; ông Thọai đảm nhiệm chức trưởng ban Nhiếp ảnh của Ủy ban truy tìm nạn nhân, và người ông đã nhận xác chính là thân phụ của ông tên Hứa Thuận năm nay đã 70 tuổi.

Ông Thọai cho biết, bọn VC đã bắt cha ông đem đi hạ sát cùng với hàng ngàn đồng bào ở Thừa Thiên vì chuẩn lữ bắt ông nhưng không được.

Một phỄ BÌNH CỤT HAI CHÂN CŨNG BỊ HẠ SÁT

Trong số những xác nạn nhân, người ta ghi nhận có một phỄ bình đã bị cụt cả hai chân. Người vợ nhận được ra xác của chồng nhờ cặp nạng có khắc tên năm chồng lên xác của anh ta.

Ngoài ra người ta còn thấy 1 cô gái xác còn tươi, trong 'xứ chiếu' có để một sợi giây chuyền vàng tây và một giấy ghi tên Sen, nữ Cảnh sát viên phụ trách điện thoại tại Ty Cảnh Sát Thừa Thiên.

Một số nhân vật tên tuổi ở Thừa Thiên cũng đã được tìm thấy trong số 98 xác được phát giác hôm 7 và 8-4, trong số có ông ông Châu Khắc Tụy, Giáo sư Toán Trường Quốc Học Huế, và ông Tôn Thất Tấn, 62 tuổi, nguyên Quận Trưởng Nam Hòa hồi hưu. Ông này bị bắt cùng với 3 người con đều là Sinh Viên Đại học Saigon, hiện chưa biết là đã bị hạ sát hay còn bị giam tại trại giam nào.

Xác các nạn nhân được đánh dấu rất cẩn thận

Theo thông cáo của Ủy ban truy tìm và an táng nạn nhân bị VC thảm sát trong biến cố Tết Mậu Thân, hiện nay mới chỉ có 99 xác được thân nhân nhận đem về mai táng. Số còn lại, kể cả những xác đã được an táng hôm 30-3 và những xác mới được tìm thấy đề tại Trường Trung học La Sơn, Quận Phú Vang đều được Ủy ban ghi nhận lại những dấu tích rất cẩn thận để thân nhân có thể căn cứ vào các dấu tích đó mà nhận diện.

Hôm Ủy ban khởi sự cuộc tìm kiếm 'đợt hai' ngày 7-4, người ta ghi nhận có hàng ngàn đồng bào đi theo. Những người này đều có thân nhân bị mất tích trong biến cố Tết Mậu Thân nên họ đi theo với hy vọng tìm được xác thân nhân, nhưng thật sự trong thâm tâm chính họ lại không muốn tìm thấy... xác, và hy vọng rằng thân nhân của họ còn được giam giữ ở một nơi nào đó.

Mỗi lần một chiếc xác được tìm thấy là mỗi lần họ giành giật nhau đến gần để... nhận diện, và khi biết chắc đó không phải là thân nhân của mình họ lại cùng thở phào ra một cách nhẹ nhõm.

Thiếu Tá Quận trưởng quận Phú Vang cùng Trung úy Chỉ khu phó của quận này đã phải đích thân yêu cầu đồng bào duy trì trật tự để công cuộc khai quật nắm mộ tập thể khỏi gặp phải trở ngại.

Riêng những đồng bào nhận diện được xác của thân nhân, họ đã nắm phục bên cạnh những xác đó khóc lóc thảm thiết, bất chấp cả mùi hôi thối.

Tiếng khóc của những người này khiến một số người chưa tìm được thân nhân khóc theo, tạo nên một không khí vô cùng nặng nề bi thảm.

PATHETIC EXHUMATION SCENES OF MASS GRAVES IN HUE

(Rough Summary from Chinh-luan, April 12, 1969
on opposite page)

Saigon, April 11, 1969. Vietnamese people throughout the country have been deeply grieved by successive discoveries of mass graves in the vicinity of Hue.

A Special Committee has been set up by the local authorities for the excavation of these graves. Since mid-April, hundreds of bodies, buried in hollow ditches have been found in the area located between Dong Di and Dong Son Villages, of Phu Thu District, Province of Thua Thien.

Mr. Ho Dac Thuan, a key member of the Committee, reported that the victims had been beaten to death on their heads with a hard cane and were buried pell-mell under a thin cover of sand; some victims even had their heads above the ground.

Three members of the Committee had found their relatives remains among hundreds of excavated bodies; the victims were:

Mr. Phan Quynh, husband of one of the Committee members, who was Chief of Accounting Bureau of the Hue Court of Justice;

Mr. Nguyen van Dang, 24, son of Mrs. Tran thi Huong, whose husband, Mr. Nguyen van Mai, was also missed;

Mr. Hua Thuan, 70, who was killed in lieu of his son, Mr. Hua Thoai, Chief of Finance Bureau of Thua Thien Revolutionary Development Team, whom the Communists had tried in vain to capture.

Among the victims were also a disabled veteran, who had lost his two legs, and a young police woman. The former was identified by his wife through the pair of crutches bearing his name; the latter was recognized as Miss Sen, a telephone operator at the Police Headquarters of Thua Thien Province, by her name tag and a golden necklace hidden under her brassiere.

The following well-known personalities in Thua Thien Province were also on the list of identified bodies found on April 7 and April 8: Mr. Chau Khac Tuy, professor of Mathematics at Quoc Hoc High School; Mr. Ton That Tan, 62, former Chief of Nam Hoa District, abducted with his three sons who were students of the Saigon University.

Thousands of people followed the Committee since the excavation started in the hope of finding their missing relatives. As soon as a body was uncovered, people rushed to the site; and when one of them succeeded to identify it, he threw himself on the ground, and mourned in deep grief. Everyone at the site shared his grief.

PHÁI ĐOÀN BÁO CHÍ RA HUẾ QUAN SÁT TẠI CHỖ NHỮNG CÃNH
DÃ MẠN HƠN THỜI TRUNG CỎ, TÀN ÁC HƠN PHÁT XÍT ĐỨC

ĐÃ TÌM THẤY NGỌT 2.000 XÁC CHẮC SẼ CÒN KIẾM ĐƯỢC TRÊN 3.000

● 48 nạn nhân vừa mới tìm được cở đều bị trói với nhau
và hầu hết bị chôn sống dưới một đường mương

● TÂM CHUNG

HUE 12-4 — Người ta lại mới tìm thêm được 48 xác nạn nhân bị C.S. hành quyết trong cuộc tấn công dịp Tết Mậu Thân tại khu Huế. Như vậy cho tới nay tổng số xác tìm thấy đã lên đến gần 2.000 người. Đại Tá Lê Văn Thân Tỉnh Trưởng Thừa Thiên kiêm Thị Trưởng Huế cho biết tổng số nạn nhân có lẽ sẽ lên tới 3.000 hoặc hơn. Ông so sánh vụ hành quyết tập thể này của C.S. với «những hành động dã man nhất trong Thế Chiến 2».

Hầu hết số 48 nạn nhân, kể cả một số đàn bà, đã bị trói vào với nhau và tay còn bị trói ra đằng sau. Một số người bị chôn sống, một số người này vào cở người kia.

Trong tuần lễ 24-3, những người tìm kiếm tìm thấy 135 nạn nhân bị Cộng sản sát hại tại 12 mồ chôn tập thể gần ấp

Vĩnh Lưu. Giới chức cho biết hầu hết những người này đã bị đánh cho đến chết. Những người khám nghiệm y khoa ấn định rằng một vài người đã bị chôn sống.

59 nạn nhân khác được tìm thấy tại làng Xuân Hòa, về phía đông Huế. Khoảng 90 người trong số các nạn nhân đã được nhận diện cho tới nay.

Chứng 1/3 là cảnh sát viên và binh sĩ Việt Nam Cộng Hòa. Một số ít là các viên chức xã ấp số còn lại là dân làng.

Đ.T. Thân cho biết hơn 2.000 thường dân ở Huế đã được ghi như là «mất tích» kể từ cuộc tấn công Tết năm ngoái. Hiện nhiên họ bị cộng sản bắt cóc đem đi. Gia đình họ sống trong hy vọng rằng họ bị bắt đi làm tù binh và rằng họ sẽ thấy lại những người này. «Nhưng sau những phát giác trong ít ngày qua, chúng tôi có thể nói chắc chắn rằng phần đông những người mất tích này đã bị Việt Cộng đem đi thủ tiêu».

Vẫn đang tìm kiếm
Kể từ ngày 7-4 69 đến ngày 10-

4-69, đã có thêm 233 thi hài nạn nhân C.S. được tìm thấy tại Thôn Đông Sơn, quận Phú Thứ. Trong số này có 14 người là Quân nhân. Tới nay chỉ có 59 thi hài được thân nhân đến nhận lãnh; còn bao nhiêu đã được họ Nylon đóng trong hòm tập trung tất cả tại trường La San, để chờ xem có ai đến nhận lãnh nữa không. Nếu không chính quyền sẽ tự động li chôn cất và công việc tìm kiếm vẫn còn đang tiến hành.

Báo chí ra tận nơi

Sáng 11-4, một phái đoàn báo chí đã được hướng dẫn ra tận Huế để mục kích những cảnh khai quật các nấm mồ trên.

Nhân dịp này, chúng tôi có được tiếp xúc với một em nhỏ 14 tuổi, tên Hồ ăn Hà — Theo lời em Hà trong họ em 5 người đã bị VC giết, gồm 2 bác trai, 1 bác gái, 1 anh và 1 chị. Bác gái của em bị giết chỉ vì bà mất già lớn chừng tui, nên chúng giết chết.

Ngoài ra, cha em trước đó cũng bị VC bắt đi giam trên Cồn, trong thời gian này nhờ có người cho biết, nên ở nhà đã gửi tiền lên 3,4 lần và mỗi lần 5,6 trăm đồng. Tuy gia đình biết gửi sẽ không tới tay, nhưng vẫn gửi.

Rồi bình đi một thời gian, tới ngày hôm qua người ta đã tìm thấy cha em nằm bị nát bấy hết, quần áo bị chứng lột hết và chỉ còn thể cằn cước bên bộ xương cùng chiếc quần sa lòn.

Hiện tại em chỉ còn mẹ đi buôn bán nuôi 5 anh em, còn nhỏ cả. Tới quá trưa, phái đoàn Báo Chí đã được hướng dẫn tới một cồn cát rộng lớn, không nhà cửa tại ấp Đông Thanh xã Phú Hộ, Quận Phú Thứ (cách thị xã Huế chừng 13cs) để chứng kiến những nấm mồ tập thể đang được khai quật.

Từ sáng đến 13g trưa (11-4) Ủy ban Truy tìm và cải táng đã tìm thấy thêm được 26 thi hài nạn nhân, trong số này có 4 đàn bà. Giới hữu trách cho biết đây là đường mương của ấp Chiến lược khi xưa, Cộng quân đã dùng để chôn sống đồng bào xuống dưới đó. Trước mắt chúng tôi, tất cả những thi thể đều bị chôn sống và 2 cánh tay đều bị trói khuy về phía sau và làm thi thể còn để lại dấu tích chứng tỏ trước khi bị mang chôn còn vùng vẫy quằn quại rách trộm. Các thi hài người dài theo một hàng luôn 12 xác.

Những đồng bào «bùn thưng bùn mọt» lao động, nghèo khổ có thân nhân bị Cộng Sản tàn sát, bấy lâu nay chưa tìm kiếm thấy xác cũng đã có một quanh chiếc hòm đang được đào xới và cứ mỗi khi thi hài được tìm thấy, những tiếng khóc thảm thiết lại vang lên.

Dã man hơn Trung Cỏ
Tàn ác hơn Phát Xít

Cứ mỗi xác vừa được kéo lên gói vào khăn đưa vào bao lố sơ thứ tự

từ thì được tìm thấy là tiếng khóc lại càng gia tăng mãnh liệt họ khóc thê thảm, khóc lẫn lóc, khóc gào thét đến khản tiếng hụt hơi cứ như thế con xúc động như chờ sẵn nung nấu đồng bào tham dự. Qua các sự quan sát tận chỗ, người ta thấy VC quá dã man, quá đoán hậu «Tiếng đoán hậu» người dân Thừa Thiên dùng để rủa những kẻ tàn ác nhất, vô nhân đạo nhất nay người ta được nghe hàng ngàn người dùng tiếng đó tại cánh đồng tìm kiếm xác này bởi vì lần lượt lấy xác lên người ta nhận thấy có hàng trăm trường hợp bị hành hung đến chết như chém đầu, đâm họng, tra tấn bằng cách xéo tai, cắt mũi mổ bụng chôn sống dã man hơn cả thời Trung Cổ và tàn ác hơn cả Phát Xít Đức đốt người trong các trại tập trung trong Thế Chiến 2.

Tổ chức đám tang tập thể

Theo 1 nguồn tin người ta được biết trong đợt II, UB mới đào tất cả 7 hòm tại Phú Xuân thuộc Quận Phú Thứ Cồn 12 hòm khác đã khám phá được nhưng chưa kịp đào lên vì thiếu nhân công.

Công cuộc tìm xác đợt II sẽ tiếp tục đến thứ hai 14-4 thì tạm ngưng

vì còn phải lo an táng thi hài số nạn nhân về thừa nhận quá nhiều. Trong dịp này, buổi lễ tôn giáo sẽ được tổ chức vào ngày 14-4 trước khi cử hành đám tang tập thể vào sáng thứ ba 15-4-69.

TWO THOUSAND BODIES UNEARTHED

IN HUE

(Rough Summary from Chinh-luan, April 12, 1969
See opposite page)

Hue, April 12--Forty-eight more bodies of victims tortured and murdered by the Viet Cong during the Tet Mau Than Offensive have been uncovered. This number brings the total of bodies found to 2,000.

All forty eight victims, including women, had been tied together either by the necks or by the hands.

After the Tet Mau Than Offensive more than 2,000 inhabitants of Hue were listed as missing. At first, hopes were that these people had merely been captured and taken away. However, as more and more bodies were uncovered, it seemed that most if not all of them were dead.

Medical autopsies reveal that the worst kinds of torture had been inflicted on these poor victims. Many had been buried alive; others had been beaten to death; still others had been decapitated. Missing ears, noses, arms and legs as well as open stomachs are proofs that many had been horribly tortured before being killed.

A young boy of 14, named Ho van Ha, told of how five of his relatives had been murdered by the Viet Cong, a brother, a sister, two uncles, and an aunt. The aunt was killed merely because she had shouted at the attackers for having stolen her chickens.

Besides, Ha revealed that his father had been taken prisoner by these so-called liberators. For months his family had sent food and money, hoping against hope that these necessities would reach him. Then for a time, there was no news.

Yesterday, the battered body of Ha's father was found with nothing on it except his identification card.

SAIGON POST
April 18/69

Over 400 Victims Of Reds Buried

SAIGON (VP)— Some 5,000 residents of the ancient imperial capital of Hue, Tuesday attended one of the biggest mass burials of the Vietnam war held in accordance with traditional rites at the foot of Mount Thien Thai in Ba Don, Nam Hoa district, Thua Thien province.

The funeral cortege, organized by the Thua Thien Search and Funeral Committee, started from La San school in Phu Vang district and moved through the big streets of Hue in a solemn and touching atmosphere. It was the second collective funeral following that held two weeks ago for 135 victims.

The 219 victims were killed by the Communists and buried in sandy fields in Phu Thu, Phu Vang, Vinh Loc, and Huong Thuy districts.

The number of victims reported as missing in the Mau Than Tet offensive has been estimated at 2,000 but so far, only 600 decomposed bodies have been found in mass graves after a month-long search.

Attending the funeral were Mr. Nguyen Ngoc An, Information and Open Arms Minister, representing the Prime Minister, Senator Tran Van Don, representing the Senate's Chairman, Rep. Tran Ngoc Chau, Secretary General of the Lower House, representing the House Speaker and many newsmen and local notables.



Decomposed bodies are being lifted out of the shallow trench for wrapping in plastic sheets.

COMMUNIST ASTROCITY-POLITICAL
ACTION BY MURDER

Hon. John R. Rarick
of Louisiana
in The House of Representatives

Mr. RARICK. Mr. Speaker, despite mutterings of the ultra left that communism is mellowing, Communist atrocities against the innocent in 1969 continue just as in 1917 when the Bolsheviks murdered to gain control in Russia.

While U.S. leftists shout and proclaim a gospel of dissent against all throughout our land, their counterpart, the Communist Vietcong, slaughter thousands of innocent men, women, and children in South Vietnam; if for no other reason than the victims reject communism and are not under party control.

Yet, loudmouths in the United States continually spout their false propaganda, which is repeated by "cooperative and sympathetic" pinkos in the communications field and passed on to the American public for mental conditioning to accept the promises of winds of change.

The fact that Communist atrocities are not covered by the same media with similar exposure for the same American public is unquestioned.

Brutal acts of slaughter reminiscent of the 1917 Communist revolution continue yet there is no indignant outcry from so-called antiwar protesters, moralists, pacifists, and their sympathetic cronies in the news profession. Do they apply the commandment "Thou shalt not kill" only to those of the Western Hemisphere?

Communists have not changed. They follow their original plan to murder all recognized leaders and all potential leaders in any given community in South Vietnam—just as they have done in Russia, China, and Korea in years past. Murder through infiltration is still murder.

The Reds liquidation for conquest is quite evident—should elections be eventually held the only leaders available for political action will be Communist members, agents, and puppets.

Mr. Speaker, the victims of Communist atrocity should haunt every free man. I insert an eyewitness account of the Hue massacres taken from Chicago's American and an editorial from the Baton Rouge Advocate follow my remarks.

The material follows:

[From the Chicago American, Apr. 12, 1969]
LUCK AND SURVIVAL IN VIETNAM: HIS LIFE
HUNG ON A CORD AND DEATH SQUAD LOST 1
(By Robert Ohman)

HUE, SOUTH VIETNAM.—A Viet Cong death squad was digging his grave when hamlet official Phan Duy escaped execution in the sand dune massacres of Hue.

Few were so lucky. Grave diggers sifting thru three mass graves east of the old imperial capital have found the bodies of more than 500 men, women, and children, clubbed and shot to death by the enemy during the 1968 Tet offensive.

Duy, a key official of An Ha hamlet 7 miles east of Hue, knew his name was on the Viet Cong's execution list. When North Vietnamese and Viet Cong guerrillas seized Hue in February, 1968, he moved away from the hamlet into a small house on the outskirts of Hue, hoping to escape detection in the larger mass of townspeople.

He made it thru one month of enemy occupation, but when United States and South Vietnamese troops recaptured Hue, the enemy pulled back thru the area where he was hiding.

On Feb. 28 five Viet Cong entered Duy's house.

"They said nothing," he said softly thru a translator. "They knew where I was and my duties."

After binding his hands with cord, they asked him to name other people who worked for the government. Duy told them he lived alone and didn't know anything.

The Viet Cong then marched him 7 miles south to a row of houses near the sand dunes, where 135 bodies of slain civilians and unarmed soldiers were found 2 weeks ago. Duy said he was pushed into a house where four other prisoners were confined.

The five men remained locked in the house for 7 days, walking outside only to go to the toilet. On these walks Duy said he saw more than 100 prisoners being shot in other houses.

"One day I saw many people in one house, and the next day it was empty," he said. "I knew they already had been killed."

On the seventh night, Duy and nine other men, all tied together to a bamboo pole, were told they would be taken elsewhere for "communist study." The guards took their watches and money, promising both would be returned.

But this time the march only lasted 300 yards. The prisoners' hands were untied and they were told to remove all their outer clothing because they were going to have to cross a river.

As Duy was undressing he heard his guard talking to a group of Viet Cong laborers.

"Did you dig the trench yet?" they asked. "No, not yet, there are too many people and not enough time," the laborers replied. Three of the six guards then left to help dig the trench, while the other three retied the hands of Duy and his nine fellow prisoners.

"It was very cold. It was about midnight. The three guards they left behind were boys about 15 and they covered themselves with blankets," Duy said. I worked to free my hands because I knew I would be dead in a few minutes."

Duy said he worked loose of the ropes and leaped forward as one guard fired a burst of about 20 shots.

"I ran about 300 meters and saw a pool"

Duy said. "I was so tired I fell into the water and covered myself with reeds."

Soon he saw flickering lights pass by his hiding place as the guards searched for him. About 20 minutes later he heard shots.

"I knew the prisoners I had been with were dead," Duy said.

Hours later Duy emerged from the water and headed toward the lights of the Hue radio tower beacon. He stumbled into the Phu Vang district headquarters and reported what had happened.

"I remember on the second day I was held in prison in that house," he said, "other people from my hamlet told me the Viet Cong had entered my home and killed my mother. When I returned I found her body still in the house. I was her only son."

[From the Baton Rouge (La.) Morning Advocate, Apr. 16, 1969]

THE MASSACRE IN HUE

Evidence of one of the great atrocities in the modern history of warfare has been uncovered by Allied officials exploring the rice fields and sand dunes near the South Vietnamese city of Hue, a center of action during the Tet offensive of 14 months ago. In mass graves they are finding the bodies of hundreds of civilians, slaughtered by the Viet Cong and the North Vietnamese after being forced to dig their own graves. Details of these massacres, now being brought to light, are reminiscent of accounts of the Nazi extermination camps.

The victims were public officials and private citizens, young and old, men and women, whose offense was that of being anti-communist and of having fought or being suspected of having fought to defend their city against the communist attackers.

This monstrous crime has been fully reported by the press, with evidence so complete and circumstantial that its nature cannot be doubted or even questioned. Yet, it has received singularly little attention in some quarters.

It goes unnoticed and unmentioned by the student kooks and the hippie-yuppies who rage against American assistance to the South Vietnamese and libel their country with allegations of vast savageries that no one else seems to know anything about.

The Hue massacre goes unnoticed by the political and social theorists who see the war in Vietnam as a "colonial war" waged by this country and suggest that there has been no attack by Viet Cong terrorists and North Vietnamese invaders on the people of South Vietnam.

It goes unnoticed by those woolly-minded critics who compare Ho Chi Minh with George Washington and the Viet Cong with the American patriots of the Revolutionary War. If any mass graves of slaughtered Tories and loyalists ever were found outside Philadelphia or Boston or New York, history has been extraordinarily silent on the fact.

Intellectual dishonesty can be one of the greatest of crimes.

SAIGON POST
May 3/69

292 More Hue Victims Uncovered

HUE, Vietnam (UPI)--Gravediggers have uncovered the bodies of 292 person executed by the Viet Cong during the Tet offensive in February of 1968, province officials said Thursday.

The mass grave was located in the sandy platlands four mile east of Hue, 390 miles north of Saigon. It brought to 850 the number of dead executed since digging began almost two months ago in the area.

Officials said nearly 2,000 persons, most of them civilians were unaccounted for after the communists held the city of Hue for 24 days. Most of the victims were believed kidnapped and marched to the outskirts of Hue and executed.

The 850 bodies were found in a narrow series of trenches not far from the south China Sea. Some had been shot, others had their skulls crushed. The hands of many had been tied behind their backs.



VIETCONG " JUSTICE"

Crying in utter despair and agony, a young wife keeps vigil next to the body of her husband whom she has just identified.

COMMUNISTS ADMIT MASS MURDERS

300 more bodies found

COMPILED BY THE VIETNAM GUARDIAN

The Vietnamese communists have admitted the cold-blooded execution of thousands of their countrymen during the battle of Hue in last year's tet offensive.

The admission was made in a Hanoi Radio broadcast beamed to South Vietnam. In an attack on Hue's local government officials, the broadcast said in part:

«In order to cover up their cruel acts, the puppet administration in Hue recently played the farce of setting up.»

The admission came as gravediggers uncovered the bodies of 292 more persons executed by the communists in the Hue area, bringing the total number of bodies discovered in the last two months to 850.

«The so-called Committee for the Search for and Burial of the Hooligan lackeys who had incurred blood debts to the Tri-Thien-Hue compatriots and who were annihilated by the southern armed forces and people in early spring.»

In communist terminology the «compatriots» are members of the Viet Cong hierarchy and their sympathizers, and the «Southern Armed Forces» are the Viet Cong troops which attacked Hue.

The «hooligan lackeys» were the 3,000 or more citizens of Hue and the surrounding area, most of them innocent civilians, who were missing after the month-long 1968 battle in and around the city.

More than 1,200 bodies of men, women and children were uncovered in mass graves soon after the communist troops were driven from the city last year.

In recent weeks several other mass graves have been found, yielding the remains of close to 1,000 more victims and Hue authorities fear the final total may exceed 3,000.

From the position and condition of the bodies it is evident that in many cases the victims' hands were tied behind them with wire and some were shot, some bludgeoned to death, and some simply buried alive.

West Berlin Paper Hits Hue Murders

WEST BERLIN— The indiscriminate killing of South Vietnamese civilians during last year's Tet offensive, highlighted gruesomely by the discovery of mass graves at Hue recently, is commented on at length by the Far Eastern correspondent of Berlin's *Tagesspiegel*, Dietrich Mummendey, in an article in the April 27 edition of the paper.

«They were not collaborators, they were not active anti-Communists, but they were victims of a seemingly indiscriminate mass murder, perhaps a punishment for the absence of the Communistdesired popular uprising,» Mummendey says.

He points out that many Vietnamese at that time believed their relatives had been captured but that they have now learned the truth about the cruel fate of their kin.

Mummendey reports that the mass graves were detected a week after South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu had said he was ready to negotiate with the Viet Cong in direct and secret contacts, but the mass graves are bad publicity for the VC.

«Terror has always been the preferred weapon of the Viet Cong,» Mummendey says. «The terror of mighty Viet Cong missile attacks on South Vietnamese cities is designed to demonstrate that neither the government nor the Americans are in a position to protect the population.»

Noting that between Jan. 1 and the first week of April 1969, 2,101 Vietnamese civilians were killed by the Viet Cong, 5,397 wounded and 3,178 abducted, Mummendey emphasizes that the Hue mass slayings were a striking example of indiscriminate Viet Cong terror which may arouse the population against the Communists rather than against the government.

Mummendey considers it one of the greatest disappointments for the Communists that their hope for an uprising did not materialize, nor did South Vietnamese soldiers defect in masses when the Tet offensive began. Just as scantily did the urban population welcome the Viet Cong as liberators, Mummendey says.

The *Tagesspiegel* correspondent sees as one of the most urgent problems the political confrontation with the Communists which is bound to follow the military one.

«Can Saigon dare confront its citizens one day with the alternative of rejecting or electing the Communists?» he asks.

«The Saigon government in the past few days has gone a surprisingly long way since a few months ago when it still tried to boycott the Paris talks because the U.S. had agreed to have the Viet Cong sit at the conference table along

with Hanoi's negotiators. When Saigon later sent a delegation to Paris it continued stubborn on the issue of recognizing the NLF as an independent delegation. This led to the famous dispute over the form of the conference table and the arrangements of seats...

«There is no doubt that President Thieu's change has been accelerated by constant American pressure. On the other hand, diplomats believe, he has smartly adjusted himself to the changed world situation. That this was possible at all is regarded by many in Saigon as an indication that Thieu's political position in South Vietnam is much stronger today than it was a year ago.»

Mummendey adds that «South Vietnam is also militarily stronger than a year ago, while the morale of the Viet Cong is perhaps lower than the present offensive permits (one) to assume. Despite this offensive, more Viet Cong are defecting to the government than ever before.» In the first three months of the year their number totaled 10,000. Most of the defectors come from the government pacification areas and Saigon observers are puzzled by the fact that the Viet Cong seldom use their offensive to attack the pacification centers.

«It is true that retaliatory

terror in the villages has not abated, but the pacification today seems to be more successful than before the Tet offensive, even in areas in which no government official has set foot in years.»

Mummendey says the Viet Cong no longer seem to have objections to the government installing markets, schools, and wells in villages since it is expected that the out-come of the war will be decided at the conference table.

«Saigon and its American allies hope that whoever can prove he controls most villages in South Vietnam will have a strong influence on the results of the negotiations.»

Mummendey cites an American who participated in the pacification campaign, quit the army in protest against Washington's Vietnam policy after the Tet offensive, and recently visited his old friends in the Mekong Delta as confirming the success of the pacification.

«But still it appears futile to ask anyone if he would vote against the Communists so long as he does not know who will prove to be militarily the stronger. The more a man comes to this unfortunate country and the more mosaic pieces he assembles, the more blurred appears the answer to the question if such simple facts still influence what will ultimately happen here,» Mummendey concludes.



Exhausted and overcome with grief a young woman collapses next to the remains of her murdered husband

350 Hue VC Victims Given Mass Funeral

By Robert G. Kaiser
Washington Post Foreign Service

HUE, May 5 — Three hundred fifty nameless citizens of Hue were buried here today in small red coffins. They were victims of the worst Communist atrocity of the war in Vietnam, but only about 30 mourners attended the funeral.

The mourners were joined by hundreds of others—soldiers, distinguished guests, old women selling soap, boys selling ice cream and important local officials. The funeral was planned by the local officials, who also organized two other mass burials in recent weeks.

Mass burials have become regular events in Hue. More than 800 bodies have been found so far in makeshift graves that are little more than a year old.

The graves, more accurately ditches, were dug by the Vietcong early last year during their occupation of Hue, which lasted nearly a month. Perhaps 2000 people were murdered in that month; at least that is the number of residents still unaccounted for since the 1968 Tet offensive.

The victims were murdered on the edges of the ditches that volunteers have been uncovering for the last six weeks. Many were shot in the back of the head. Others

were beaten to death. Every principal bone of one skeleton found two weeks ago was broken. Some of the bodies showed no signs of any injury and presumably were buried alive.

Many were South Vietnamese soldiers and minor government officials. Officials here believe that the names of the dead appeared on Communist blacklists. But this cannot account for the women and children who were slain.

"Some may have just got caught up," Maj. William Johnson speculated today. Fewer than half the bodies recovered have been identified, so the precise pattern of terror remains a mystery.

Trucks Bear Coffins

Today's funeral began with a mass procession down Le-loi, a principal street of Hue that parallels the Perfume River. Policemen in jeeps led the procession. They were followed by 2½-ton U.S. Army trucks decorated with wreaths and flowers.

Each truck carried eight to 12 coffins made of American plywood painted red. Every coffin was numbered and on its top rested a small

bouquet and sticks of burning incense.

It took nearly an hour for the procession to reach the burial ground several miles out of town. This was the second cemetery selected for the murder victims. The first, chosen before officials realized how many bodies would be found, was in a rich rice paddy south of Hue. It has since been decided that this productive land should not be turned into a huge graveyard, so a more barren site was found.

The trucks arrived in a clamor of horns and clouds of dust. The teenage boys and girls riding on them — members of the Peoples' Self-Defense Forces — unloaded the red boxes. They set the coffins beside the graves, and the field looked like a table covered with hundreds of carefully spaced red dominoes.

Later, while the coffins were being lowered by hand into the graves, a religious ceremony began 20 yards away. The service and some speeches were broadcast over a tinny public address system which ran on current from a portable generator that hummed in the background.

The sun was bright and hot. People milled about; boys hawked popsicles to

soldiers who had come as an honor guard. (Other soldiers in armored personnel carriers provided security for the ceremony from behind a ridge half a mile away.)

'Better Organized'

The ceremony ended quickly. ("The first funeral ran 5½ hours; I thought it would never end," an American official commented. "They've gotten better organized.")

The important guests, who had come with Gen. Hoang Xuan Lam, the South Vietnamese commander in the Hue area, started back for their helicopter. Most of the others also started to leave and the trucks began rumbling down the road.

But about 30 women remained, bowing, bending and wailing before the makeshift altar, mourning in the Buddhist fashion. They lingered, tossing handfuls of dirt onto many of the graves.

They had decided that their missing relatives must have been among this batch of bodies, though they could not identify them.

There will be more mass funerals if more bodies are found, but many American officials here want to stop looking. "We've made the point," said one adviser. "We need to spend more time on the problems of the living."

Reprinted by permission from The Washington Post
May 28, 1969

Hue Delegation Tells Of Massacre By Reds

By PETER J. KUMPA
[Staff Correspondent]

Saigon, May 28—A delegation of Hue citizens led by their City Council chairman came here today to complain that they had been misunderstood and massacred by the Viet Cong last year during the Tet offensive and then insulted by Saigon's minister of information earlier this year.

With Nguyen Khac Thieu, council chairman, as their spokesman, the independent-minded citizens of the ancient Vietnamese capital voiced most of their anger against the Communists for the mass killing that they claimed would reach a total of between 3,500 and 4,000 innocent unarmed people. This figure is about twice the previous estimates of the slaughter victims, only about half of whom have been dug out of mass graves.

Allegations Denied

Mr. Thieu angrily denied allegations that the Viet Cong killings were in political reprisal against those who opposed militant Buddhists in a 1966 struggle.

He said the Viet Cong misunderstood the temper of Hue. When they found only small minority support, they turned on the populace in "the most barbarous waves of slaughters," reminiscent of Hitler, to kill Buddhists and non-Buddhists alike.

The Hue delegation proposed in the House of Delegates that they send Madame Nguyen Thi Binh, the Viet Cong deputy leader in Paris, a large, sealed metal box containing a collection of rope, wire and vines that had been removed from trussed-up victims of the Communists.

Madame Binh had told the BBC that the Hue massacres were the result of "Partisan

struggles and internal liquidation" carried out by local South Vietnamese. This explanation clashed with an earlier admission on April 27 by Hanoi Radio. It admitted that "hooligan lackeys" had been "annihilated" by southern armed forces" (Viet Cong) because of alleged previous blood debts.

But while rejecting this view, the Hue delegation defended its "regional honor" against Nguyen minister of information,

But while rejecting this view, the Hue delegation defended its "regional honor" against Nguyen Ngoc An, minister of information, for a funeral oration he delivered April 13.

The minister, now under severe attack from the House of Representatives here, suggested that those in Hue who had taken to the streets in 1966 "must assess for themselves this tragic massacre." He was tying together the old struggle movement with the subsequent slaughter. He proposed unity and support for the Saigon government.

The Hue City Councilman said the speech had made his citizenry "angry and miserable."

Led In 1966 Battle

Mr. Thieu vowed that Hue would continue "struggles" even against the government because "struggles are a form required for real democracy."

"So far," he added, "we have been ill-treated, and victims of so many injustices (by ministers) but we are proud of the achievements of our struggles and manifestations."

The Hue delegation recalled that it was Hue that led in the 1966 battle for a constitutional assembly that came a year later. He said it was from that struggle that the Viet Cong got

the wrong idea of the political inclinations of its citizens.

The Information Minister was criticized two weeks ago in the House of Representatives here for being incompetent, and impolite as well. Out of the total House membership of 176, some 92 members signed a petition for his removal.

Refusal Claimed

Mr. Nguyen Ngoc An is also minister for the Chieu Hoi agency which administers those persons returning from the Viet Cong. The Hue delegation claimed today that he had refused to let them borrow persons who could point out more mass graves of the Tet offensive slaughter. They also complained that they were not given military security so they could search out the hidden burial sites.

The Hue delegation of nine persons, including two City Council members and two widows whose husbands had been murdered by the Viet Cong, had to explain their long delay in coming before the Saigon press.

They said that the Ministry of Information had done nothing about telling their story.

Simplified, the story is a critical one for South Vietnam. As the Hue spokesmen told it, no one was immune from Viet Cong murder squads even though they played no political role, or even if they had opposed the government.

"Never believe," they said, "that the so-called National Liberation Front has a program saying that association will be made with all patriotic nationalist parties for national independence and reconstruction, and that as you are an integral member of this or that party, you may never be killed by the

Viet Cong, if not invited to cooperate."

"In a word," they concluded, "with the Viet Cong, if we are not members of the Communist party, and have not been collaborating with them in a continuous manner for several years, we should never believe that they will co-operate with us by not killing us right away."

The message from Hue was that everyone, political or not, had to choose sides in South Vietnam or face possible death from the Communists.

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June 20, 1969

Diễn văn của Dân Biểu

TRẦN-NGỌC-CHÂU

Tổng-thư-ký, đại diện Ô. Chủ-tịch Hạ-Viện
ĐỌC TRƯỚC Đám Táng Tập Thể Đồng
Bào Nạn Nhân Cộng Sản Tại Huế
NGÀY 15-4-1969

Thưa Ông Chủ Tịch Hội đồng Nhân dân Thị Xã,
Huế,

Thưa Ông Chủ Tịch Hội đồng Nhân dân Tỉnh
Thừa Thiên,

Thưa Đại Tá Tỉnh Trưởng,

Thưa Quý Vị Thân hào, Nhân sĩ.

Thưa toàn thể Đồng bào,

Tôi rất lấy làm hân hạnh được đại diện Ông Chủ
Tịch Hạ nghị Viện đề cùng với Quý Vị Dân biểu địa
phương Nguyễn Ngọc Nghĩa, Nguyễn Lý Tường và
Kiều Mộng Thu trở về Cố đô Huế từ nhiều ngày nay
để tiếp tục chịu tang chung cùng làng ngàn gia đình
trước đây và của trên 500 gia đình vừa tìm lại hài cốt
của thân nhân đã bị Việt Cộng tàn sát trong biến cố
Tết Mậu Thân.

Thưa Quý Vị,

Thưa Đồng bào.

Trước hết, Phái đoàn Hạ nghị Viện chúng tôi xin
thành kính cầu nguyện cho vong linh của các Đồng bào
thọ nạn được sớm giải thoát.

Chúng tôi cũng xin kính gởi đến Quý vị thân nhân
các gia đình có nạn nhân lời phân ưu chân thành của
Hạ nghị Viện Việt Nam Cộng Hòa.

Thưa Quý, Vị,

Thưa Đồng bào.

Kể từ Tết Mậu Thân, hơn 1 năm dài đã trôi qua.

Thế mà di vãng đau thương vẫn không thể xóa
nhòa được.

Lần lượt, tuần này qua tuần khác, nhiều đồng bào
mất tích trước đây đã trở về trong hình hài tan nát,
dưới một vải lớp đất mỏng manh.

Nhưng nỗi đau thương của Tết Mậu Thân chưa lúc
nào lại nổi bùng dậy đến mức độ cao nhất như trong
những ngày hôm nay, với hơn 500 thi hài vừa được tìm
thấy trong các hầm hố tại các Quận Phú Vang và Phú
Thú.

Phải chăng vào lúc Chính quyền và Quốc dân ta
đang bày tỏ Thiện chí hòa giải dân tộc để mong sớm
tìm lại Hòa bình cho Xứ Sở thì sự trở về của các Đồng
bào nạn nhân Cộng sản dưới hình thể của những thi hài
vỡ vụn, bẽ ngực, tay chân bị trói xích vào nhau đang nhắc
nhở cho mọi người chúng ta đừng bao giờ quên được
bản chất hiếu sát và tàn bạo của Cộng sản, ngược hẳn
với luận điệu tuyên truyền êm dịu của họ tại khắp nơi.

Thưa Quý Vị,

Thưa Đồng bào.

Cố đô ta đã từng chứng kiến bao nhiêu lần vùng
đậy của Nhân dân để chống lại đô hộ Pháp, chống lại
bạo quyền của những năm trước đây,

Nhưng chỉ khi quật cường, tinh thần tranh đấu của
Đồng bào ta lúc nào cũng hướng về những mục tiêu xây
dựng.

Xây dựng cho Thế chế Quốc gia được tự do, dân
chủ thật sự, xây dựng cho Đời sống của Nhân dân được
cải thiện.

Xây dựng cho những truyền thống tín ngưỡng thiêng
liêng được tôn trọng.

Nhiều Giới chức lãnh đạo trước đây và một phần
đại diện ngoại quốc đã thường nhận định lầm lẫn về sự
đau tranh của Đồng bào ta cho những mục đích xây

dựng với sự đấu tranh của Cộng sản cho những mục đích trái ngược.

Do đó, họ đã thường kết tội những người đấu tranh tại vùng đất này như có tinh thần tương trợ cho Đối phương.

Chính Cộng sản cũng đã nhận định sai lầm như vậy và với Tết Mậu Thân, nỗi tuyệt vọng, căm hờn của họ đã đổ lên trên hàng ngàn sinh mệnh của những người mà họ tưởng có thể lợi dụng được tinh thần đấu tranh sẵn có để phục vụ cho Tà thuyết Cộng sản.

Thưa Quý Vị,

Thưa Đồng bào,

Biến cố Tết Mậu Thân vẫn còn để lại cho chúng ta những xót thương không bao giờ nguôi được.

Những biến cố Tết Mậu Thân tại Cố đô này cũng là cơ hội để chứng minh cho những người có trách nhiệm trong Quốc gia này và dư luận thế giới là Nhân dân Việt-Nam chúng ta lúc nào cũng sẵn sàng đấu tranh chống lại tất cả mọi Chủ-Nghĩa, hình thức và uy thế bạo tàn bất công bất cứ xuất phát từ đâu.

Và những sự đấu tranh nội bộ trong Cộng đồng Quốc gia giữa những người Quốc gia không nhất thiết sẽ dẫn dắt những người chống đối đấu tranh phù trợ cho Cộng sản.

Thưa Quý Vị,

Thưa Đồng bào,

Đến đây, tôi xin phép được có đôi lời với những người bên kia giới tuyến.

Hỡi những người Cộng sản và những người còn ôm ấp ít nhiều ảo tưởng với Cộng sản,

Biến cố Tết Mậu Thân với sự cam chịu đọa đầy, tàn sát thay vì phục tùng bạo lực, tà thuyết của hàng ngàn đồng bào tại Cố đô này đã chứng minh những điều tôi vừa trình bày.

Cộng sản sẽ mãi mãi không bao giờ còn hy vọng lôi kéo Nhân dân Miền Nam này vào cuộc đấu tranh tuyệt vọng của Cộng sản nữa.

Chúng tôi tha thiết mong rằng đã đến lúc chính những người bên kia giới tuyến phải nhìn nhận thực tế đó, phải sớm hồi tỉnh để trở về với Quốc gia, để đáp ứng lại đề nghị hòa giải dân tộc, tái lập hòa bình của Chính quyền và Nhân dân Việt-Nam Cộng-Hòa. Hầu sớm kết thúc cuộc chiến tranh đau thương và tàn bạo này.

Thưa Quý Vị,

Thưa Đồng bào.

Phái đoàn Hạ-Nghị-Viện chúng tôi một lần nữa xin kính cầu cầu nguyện vong linh những người quá cố được sớm giải thoát.

Chúng tôi xin ghi nhận cái tang của Cố đô như Tang chung của toàn thể Quốc gia chúng ta.

Trân trọng kính chào Quý Vị và toàn thể Đồng bào.



Workers examined the remains of a victim found in one of the mass graves located in Phu Thu District.

SPEECH BY CONGRESSMAN TRAN NGOC CHAU
SECRETARY-GENERAL, Representing the
Speaker of the Lower House, delivered
during the mass funeral for the victims
of the Viet Cong in Hue.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am greatly honored to have been chosen to represent the Speaker of the Lower House so that together with Congressmen Nguyen Ngoc Nghia, Nguyen Ly Tuong and Kieu Mong Thu, I could once again return to this ancient capital of this time to mourn with the thousands of families whose relatives had been cruelly murdered by the Viet Cong during the Tet Mau Than Offensive.

First of all, we should like to extend our prayers for the souls of these victims, that they may soon be liberated. We would also like to extend to the families of these victims the deepest sympathies of the Lower House.

More than a year has passed since the Tet Mau Than, yet the painful memories of the past is still with us. Week in, week out, the battered bodies of those persons listed as missing have turned up covered over by a thin layer of dirt.

But the miseries of the Tet Mau Than have never been shown more clearly than during these past few days when more than 500 bodies have been uncovered in the trenches of Phu Vang and Phu Thu.

Is it because, at this time when our government and our people are showing a conciliatory spirit in the hope that peace will soon come back to our land that these poor innocent victims whose bodies had been savagely ravaged have returned to remind us never to forget the cruel and inhumane nature of the Communists.

Our ancient capital has witnessed many risings by the people in opposition against French colonialism and against the totalitarian regimes of the past years.

But the fighting spirit of our people has always been aimed at constructive goals: How to keep the Nation truly free and democratic and how to make the lives of the people more progressive.

Many former leaders and some foreign observers have erratically confused the struggle of our people whose aim is constructive with that

of the Communists, which is the opposite. Thus, they have accused the fighters of this area as having sympathies with the enemy.

Even the Communists themselves have had these false thoughts and with the Tet Mau Than, their revenge for dashed hopes were heaped on thousands of lives of whom they thought they could take advantage in order to advance the Communist ideology.

The events of the Tet Mau Than leaves us with painful wounds that will never heal. These events in this ancient capital also prove to those in responsible positions in this country and abroad that our Vietnamese people are always ready to fight against all ideologies whose nature is cruel and inhumane, no matter from where they originate.

With your permission, I would like at this time, to address a few words to those on the other side, to those who are Communist or who have sympathies for the Communists.

The events of the Tet Mau Than which brought pain and misery to the thousands of people in Hue are proof of what I have just said.

The Communists no longer have any hopes of ever attracting the people of the South to their hopeless fight. We sincerely hope that by this time those on the other side have realized this reality and will soon awaken and return to the National cause in answer to our call for conciliation so that this savage and painful war will soon come to an end and peace once again restored to our beloved country.

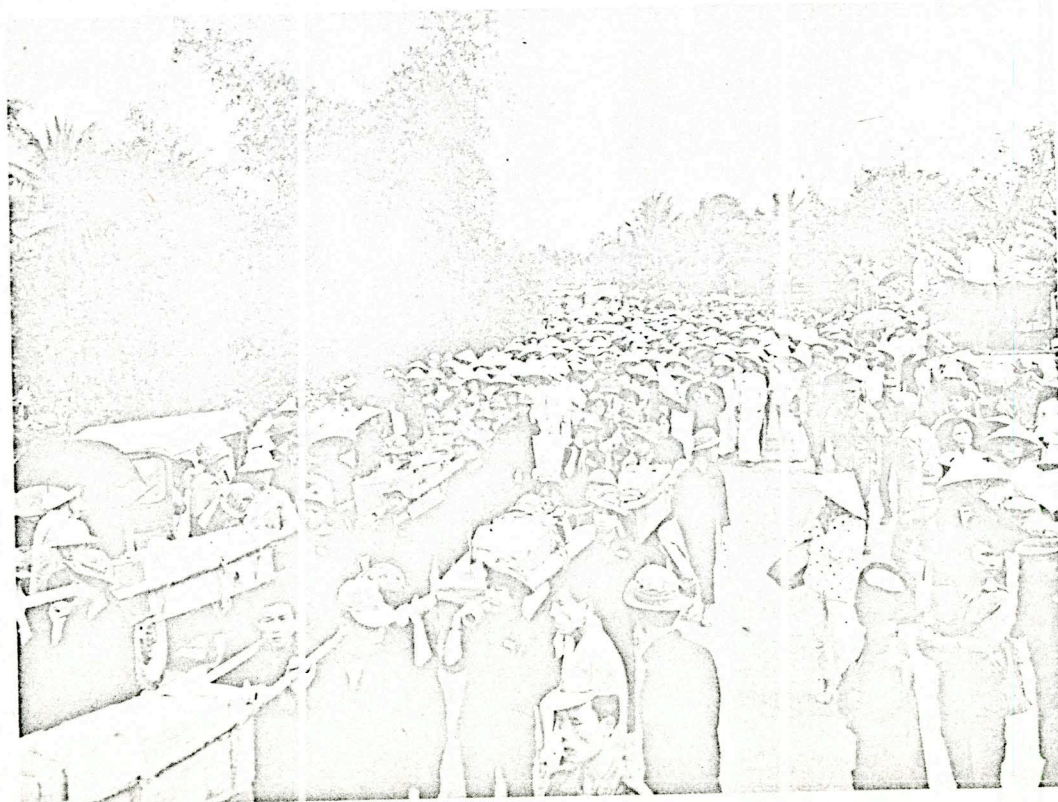
Once again, we would like to send our prayers that the souls of those who have passed from this life will soon be free.

Please know that the mourning of this ancient capital is the common mourning of the whole nation.

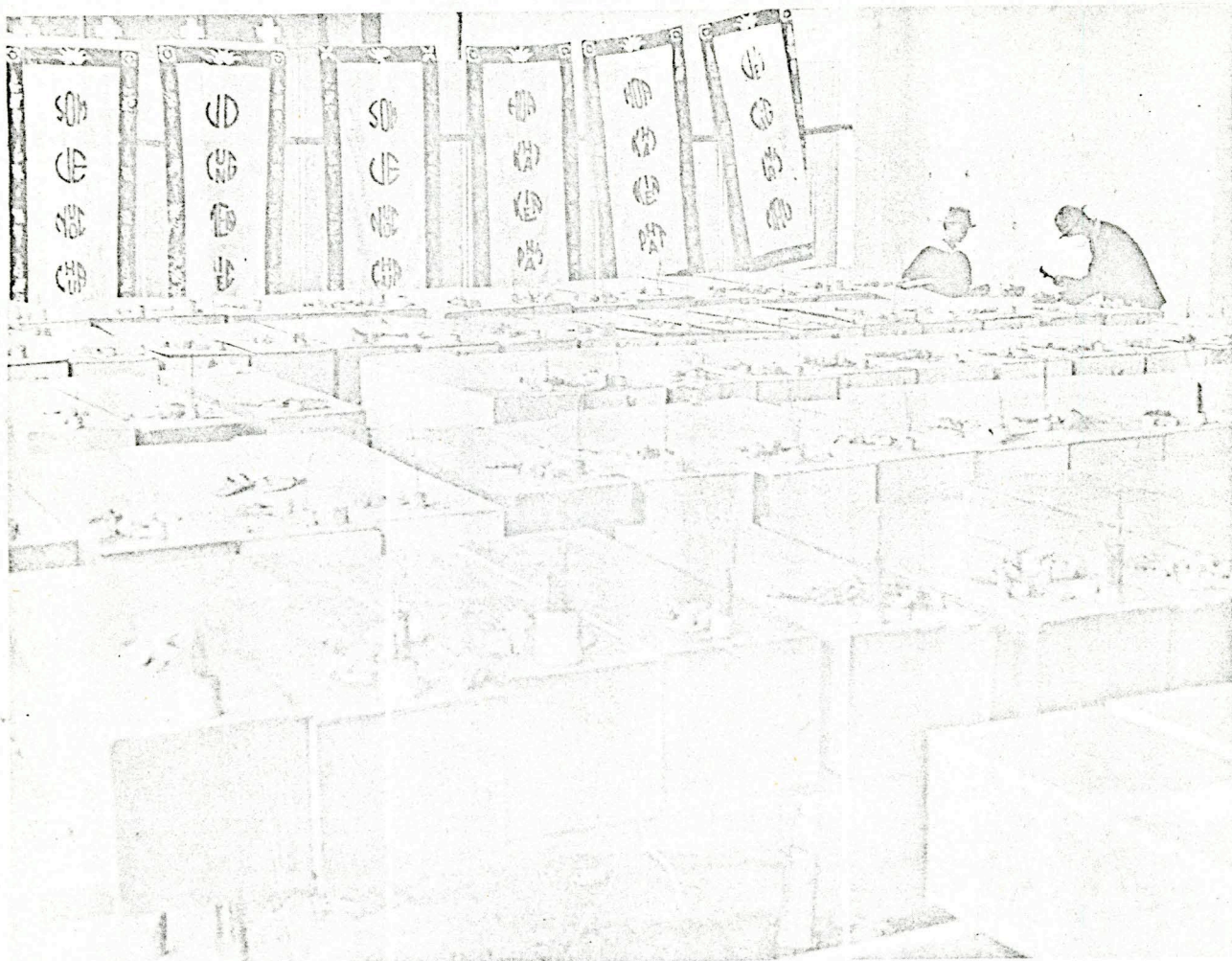
Thank you.



Grieving over the loss of their loved ones



Mass funeral organized by local authorities for proper re-burial of unidentified bodies: Thousands of people participated in the ritual procession to the cemetery



The "liberation" of graves by the NLF

RUNDOWN ON HUE MASSACRE / COMMUNISTS ADMIT TO COLD-BLOODED EXECUTION.

FOLLOWING IS RUNDOWN ON HUE MASSACRE. AN IPS STORY WHICH WRAPS-
UP NVN ADMISSION OF THE MASSACRE IS ALSO INCLUDED. HOPE THIS WILL
SUFFICE.

THE VIET CONG OCCUPIED PARTS OF THE CITY OF HUE DURING THE TET OF-
FENSIVE IN MARCH 1968. DURING THE OCCUPATION, THE VC ROUNDED UP CITY
AND PROVINCE OFFICIALS, MILITARY PERSONNEL, TEACHERS, PERSONS BELIEVED
TO BE ANTI-COMMUNISTS, AND POLICE. THESE CAPTIVES WERE MARCHED
OFF BY THE VC -- AT THE TIME TO DESTINATIONS UNKNOWN BY FRIENDS AND
RELATIVES AND KILLED THEM. WHEN THE ENEMY WAS DRIVEN FROM THE CITY
AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES, THERE WERE MORE THAN 2,000 PERSONS (PROB-
ABLY MORE) INCLUDING WOMEN AND CHILDREN UNACCOUNTED FOR.

SHORTLY AFTER THE BATTLE FOR HUE HAD ENDED, 19 MASS GRAVES WERE FOUND
IN THE CITY HOLDING THE BODIES OF MORE THAN 1,200 MEN, WOMEN AND
CHILDREN. MANY OF THE VICTIMS HAD BEEN SHOT, SOME BEHEADED. A
NUMBER OF THE BODIES SHOWED SIGNS OF MUTILATION. MOST WERE
FOUND WITH THEIR HANDS BOUND BEHIND THEIR BACKS. SINCE THERE
WERE SO MANY STILL UNACCOUNTED FOR AND WITH MORE INFORMATION
BECOMING AVAILABLE FROM VARIOUS SOURCES - (AND THE ANXIETY OF
FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF THOSE MISSING), A NEW SEARCH WAS BEGUN
IN MARCH 1969. DURING THE WEEK OF MARCH 24 THE SEARCHERS BEGAN
FINDING THE MASS GRAVE SITES AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS AROUND THE CITY -
SOME AS FAR AWAY AS 20 KILOMETERS IN MARSHLANDS AND ALONG SANDY
BEACH AREAS.

COVERED DURING MARCH-APRIL 1969 PERIOD NUMBERED 802. EFFORTS WILL BE RESUMED IN EARLY JUNE. EXAMINATION OF THE REMAINS OF THE INDIVIDUALS INDICATE MANY WERE BURIED ALIVE AFTER HAVING BEEN CLUBBED AND THROWN INTO THE SHALLOW GRAVES. OF THE MANY WOMEN VICTIMS SOME WERE FOUND TO HAVE BEEN PREGNANT. IDENTIFICATION OF THE REMAINS IS DIFFICULT. THE GREAT MAJORITY WILL NEVER BE KNOWN. IN MOST CASES ONLY SKELETONS, BITS OF CLOTH AND PIECES OF JEWELRY WERE FOUND IN THE GRAVES.

SAIGON, APRIL 30 -- THE VIETNAMESE COMMUNISTS HAVE ADMITTED TO THE COLD-BLOODED EXECUTION OF THOUSANDS OF THEIR COUNTRYMEN DURING THE BATTLE OF HUE IN LAST YEAR'S TET OFFENSIVE. THE ADMISSION WAS MADE APRIL 27 IN A HANOI RADIO VIETNAMESE LANGUAGE BROADCAST BEAMED TO SOUTH VIETNAM. THE BROADCAST WHICH ATTACKED FUND-RAISING PRACTICES IN HUE, SAID IN PART: "ACCORDING TO LPA (THE NLF'S LIBERATION PRESS AGENCY), IN ORDER TO COVER UP THEIR CRUEL ACTS, THE PUPPET ADMINISTRATION IN HUE RECENTLY PLAYED THE FARCE OF SETTING UP THE SO-CALLED COMMITTEE FOR THE SEARCH FOR AND BURIAL OF THE HOOLIGAN LACKEYS WHO HAD INCURRED BLOOD DEBTS TO THE TRI-THIEN-HUE COMPATRIOTS AND WHO WERE ANNIHILATED BY THE SOUTHERN ARMED FORCES AND PEOPLE IN EARLY MAU THAN SPRING."

IN COMMUNIST TERMINOLOGY THE "COMPATRIOTS" ARE MEMBERS OF THE VIET CONG INFRASTRUCTURE AND THEIR SYMPATHIZERS, AND THE "SOUTHERN ARMED FORCES" ARE THE VIET CONG TROOPS WHICH ATTACKED HUE. THE HOOLIGAN LACKEYS WERE THE 3,000 OR MORE CITIZENS OF HUE AND THE SURROUNDING AREA, MOST OF THEM INNOCENT CIVILIANS, WHO WERE MISSING AFTER THE MONTH-LONG 1968 BATTLE IN AND AROUND THE IMPERIAL CITY.

MORE THAN 1,200 BODIES OF MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN WERE

UNCOVERED IN MASS GRAVES SOON AFTER THE COMMUNIST TROOPS WERE DRIVEN FROM THE CITY LAST YEAR. IN RECENT WEEKS SEVERAL OTHER MASS GRAVES HAVE BEEN FOUND, YIELDING THE REMAINS OF CLOSE TO 1,000 MORE VICTIMS, AND HUE AUTHORITIES FEAR THE FINAL TOTAL MAY EXCEED 3,000.

FROM THE POSITION AND CONDITION OF THE BODIES, ACCORDING TO HUE OFFICIALS, IT IS EVIDENT THAT IN MANY CASES THE VICTIMS' HANDS WERE TIED BEHIND THEM WITH WIRE AND SOME WERE SHOT, SOME BLUDGEONED TO DEATH AND SOME SIMPLY BURIED ALIVE.

OFFICIAL SOURCES IN VIETNAM SAY ADMISSIONS OF THIS KIND BY THE COMMUNISTS ARE VERY RARE BECAUSE THEY USUALLY TRY TO PLACE THE BLAME FOR THEIR MORE BLATANT AROCITIES ON THE ALLIES. SUCH AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT DOES LITTLE TO ENHANCE THE BENEVOLENT IMAGE THE NLF AND HANOI HAVE BEEN SO CAREFUL TO CREATE FOR U.S. AND INTERNATIONAL CONSUMPTION



TESTIMONY
in a City

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The articles reprinted herein are selected for their informative and comprehensive character, representing various shades of opinion. They do not necessarily reflect the views of the Government of the Republic of Viet-Nam.

Introduction

No Vietnamese will ever forget the atrocities of the Communists during their Tet Mau Than offensive in the Imperial City of Hue.

Hardly had the first firecrackers been fired to welcome the New Year, than the Communists already launched a large scale attack which they described as a general offensive against a number of cities in Viet-Nam, during a period of truce that they themselves expressly proposed and advocated.

One recalls that in that so-called general offensive, Communist troops occupied Hue in Central Viet-Nam for about 24 days and that during this short period, the Communist cadres had arrested more than 2000 civilian people including civil servants, school teachers, university professors, clergymen, employees of various American business firms, etc. . .

Upon their arrest, the victims were told to go to a Communist camp for political indoctrination. In fact, herded into groups of 10-15 each and tied to one another with rattan ropes they were led to freshly dug trenches, where they were summarily executed, shot, clubbed or bayoneted to death, and in many cases buried alive. The villagers, who lived next to the site, later reported that the agonizing screams were heard throughout several successive nights. Among the victims were a Catholic priest, Father Urbain, and three German professors at the Medical School of Hue University.

As soon as the Allied forces succeeded in driving the Communists out of the city, people rushed out to search for their missing relatives. Volunteered information from witnesses and foul smell from decomposed bodies brought about the discovery of several mass graves: there were 14 in Gia Hoi, 12 at Tang Quang Pagoda, 3 at Bai dau, 20 at Kings Tu Duc and Dong Khanh Tombs.

In the area which included the beach and some faraway villages that was pacified late last year, it was not until recently that the farmers felt safe enough from Communist reprisals to inform the local authorities about the location of more mass graves.

Until today more than a thousand corpses have been removed. About 200 were identified and returned to their families for reburial. The unidentified dead were given a mass funeral, which was attended by thousands of men and women, whose husbands, sons, fathers or relatives have been missing since the Tet offensive.

In the face of such barbarous war tactics the whole Vietnamese people joins the Government of the Republic in denouncing the Communists to the conscience of the free world. Crimes and atrocities coupled with assassination and terrorism which have been their daily practice ever since aggression against the South began have found in the Hue Massacre a culminating height for a doctrine which pretends to preach peace and happiness but which in reality brings forth only death and destruction.

Such tactics have stigmatized our enemy but have so far failed to demoralize us. Yet the enemy will resort to them again now that they come to a new phase of their sinister plan of aggression by asking for a coalition government which would eventually push South Vietnam into the waiting arms of the Communists.



Mass funeral organized by local authorities for reburial of unidentified bodies.

EMBASSY OF VIETNAM

2251 "R" Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20008

Tel.: (202) 234-4860

Press Release

April 3, 1969

From March 26 to March 30, while helping the villagers to dig irrigation canals, two Revolutionary Development Teams discovered ten collective graves of 150 bodies.

On April 2, Regional and Popular Forces, during an operation discovered four more graves containing the remains of 200 persons including soldiers, civil servants, civilians, women as well as children.

According to the reports of two recently escaped ARVN soldiers, Sergeant Chau and Corporal Doi (they were captured by the Vietcong during the Tet offensive of 1968), who were eye-witnesses, the Communists tied the victims together by groups of two and either shot them or beat them to death by crushing their heads with a hard stick - then buried the bodies in shallow ditches.

The above soldiers affirmed that some of the victims were even buried alive, a fact which was confirmed by doctors and experts upon examination of the remains.

Only 25 out of 350 bodies have been identified. They were returned to the respective families for burial. The remainder were given a collective funeral organized by the local authorities.

All the graves were found at Phu Thu, a small district about 20 kilometers from Hue.

Corporal Doi also revealed that there are many other collective graves, dug by the Communists, along the sea-coast, North-east of Hue.

Efforts are being made by local people and authorities to locate them.

The Press Corps in Viet-Nam, including foreign journalists, radio and television reporters, have been invited to the site to observe these proofs of mass slaughter of defenseless people by the Communists.



A section of the receiving area where the bodies are assembled and examined for possible identification.

HUE MASSACRE

by

James Cary

Washington,--On the night of January 30, 1968, reconnaissance elements of South Viet-Nam's crack 1st Division were on an area surveillance mission in the Viet Cong infested countryside Southwest of the old imperial capital city of Hue.

A regional forces company was probing the area to their East.

Neither expected to find much evidence of Communist activity. The annual lunar New Year or Tet truce was under way.

Suddenly, about 10p.m., a large Communist force hit the regional forces company hard, brushing it aside and driving straight ahead into the inner walled portion of the city called the Citadel.

That was the beginning of the Battle of Hue, highwater mark of Communist strength in the now famous Tet Offensive of 1968.

It was not until 25 days later that the last Communist troops were forced out. And it is only now, after months and months of interrogation of prisoners and survivors, and the finding of mass graves, that the world is learning what happened in and around Hue during those 25 days.

The picture that is emerging is one of massacre, mutilation and terror.

Of 3,000 persons missing, bodies of more than 2,200 have been discovered in shallow trenches at more than 25 locations.

Some were buried alive, standing, eyes open. Some were beheaded. Many were bound and shot in the back of the head. Some had dirt or cloth stuffed in their mouths to stifle their screams.

There were at least three death marches. A number of victims were lined up and machine gunned.

Nationality, occupation or political background was no protection. Scores of Buddhists in Hue's strong, anti-government resistance movement were slaughtered. So too were American and German civilians,

French priests, South Vietnamese Government officials, anyone with relatives in the South Vietnamese army, village chiefs, political leaders, anyone who worked for the Americans, and particularly anyone who was known for his opposition to the Viet Cong.

The Communists have admitted responsibility for the killings. A Communist document, captured in the Delta area last November, who fell into their hands, claiming:

"We paralyzed the enemy machinery when we killed 2,000 reactionaries in Hue."

Again on April 27, 1969, a Hanoi radio broadcast boasted that the bodies then being discovered in the Hue area were "holligan lackeys who had owed blood debts to the . . . Hue compatriots and who were annihilated by the Southern armed (Viet Cong and North Vietnamese) forces . . . (last) spring."

The agony of Hue began almost with the first shots that were fired. After the regional forces company was shattered by the Communist advance guard more and more North Vietnamese battalions, supported by Viet Cong guerrilla and local force units, poured into the city from the South and West.

At 3:40 a.m. two salvos of enemy rockets came shrieking down on the city, setting widespread fires.

By dawn, the Communists controlled all of Hue except their two prime objectives--the 1st South Vietnamese Army Division Headquarters in the Northern corner of the Citadel, and the American Military Assistance compound South of the Perfume River. Attempts to capture both were thrown back with heavy Communist losses.

For two days after that the Communists left the population alone. Then Viet Cong cadres began to move from door to door.

Some confiscated radio receivers. Others, working from prepared lists, sought out South Vietnamese Government officials and invited them to political indoctrination meetings. They never returned, but it is now known what happened to some of them.

At the Gia Hoi High School and in a field behind the Tang Quang Pagoda, 33 mass graves containing 200 bodies have been found. A monk at the Pagoda told South Vietnamese interrogators that during the first two weeks of February he heard Communist execution squads at work nightly. The victims cried out, pleading for mercy. A volley of pistol and rifle shots would follow. Then silence.

Nguyen Ngoc Ky, leader of the Viet-Nam Nationalist Party, was among the victims found here.

Another band of 80 to 100 civilians took refuge in the Redemptorist Church in Hue. On February 8 the Communists forced them to leave and started them marching East, across the Perfume River. Bodies of 20 of the group were found at Ap Lang Xa Con, a hamlet 4 kilometers from the church. National Police said they had been buried alive with hands bound. The body of Tran Dien, one of five elected senators in the National Assembly from Hue, was among them.

At the University of Hue, three German doctors on the medical faculty tried unsuccessfully to wait out the Communist occupation. The Viet Cong arrested them on February 5 at their homes. On April 2, 1968, the bodies of Dr. and Mrs. Horst Gunther Krainick, and Dr. Alois Altkoester were found buried in a common grave in a potato field behind the Tu Quang Pagoda, two kilometers South of Hue. Their arms had been bound with wire. All had been shot.

Two French priests at the Thien An Mission suffered a similar fate. Their monastery was located on a hill top surrounded by pines. When fighting engulfed the area 3,000 to 4,000 peasants sought refuge there. Communists troops suddenly appeared, many of the peasants attempted to flee. Two pleaded with the Communists to spare the building, but as one Vietnamese priest who escaped said later:

" They took over the whole building, firing from the ground level at first, and then mounting into the upper stories." The bodies of the two resident French priests, Father Urbain and Father Guy, were among 201 bodies found later on the slope of a scenic overlook above the Perfume River. Father Urbain, 52, had been bound hand and foot and buried alive with 10 others. His body was identified by a laundry number on his underclothing and by his silver denture and bald head. Father Guy, 48, was stripped of his cassock by the North Vietnamese, forced to kneel, and shot through the back of the head.

Americans suffered similar fates, a U.S. report to the International Committee of the Red Cross reveals:

Stephen H. Miller's hands were bound behind his back. He was shot in the back of the head.'

Kermit J. Krause and Heffrey S. Lundstedt were cornered by the enemy in the bedroom of their house. They were shot in the face. Their bodies were bound in bathtubs.

Thomas M. Gompertz, Bourtney Niles and Robert T. Little were shot in the back of the head, apparently executed. Niles' arms were bound.

It was equally hard with the South Vietnamese.

On February 9, Viet Cong came to the home of Major Tu Ton Khan, commanding officer, Provincial Revolutionary Development (Pacification) cadres. They ordered his wife to tell her husband to report to Viet Cong authorities. They threatened to burn the house if she did not do so. Frightened, Mrs. Khan called her husband and two other revolutionary development workers who were hiding in the attic. Major Khan was tied up and taken away with all his belongings. His body was found February 28, pierced by 200 bullet holes.

There are many similar stories.

Tran Hy, a popular forces member, was arrested by the Viet Cong on February 20 and buried alive with 20 others near the An Ninh Ha Bridge.

On the night of February 18, a Viet Cong group appeared at the home of Ho Tan Sy, a teacher, and invited him to attend a meeting. He was shot and killed as he left his house.

On February 10, Le Van Tru, chief of the Thua Thien program for Communist defectors, was arrested and shot near the Dong Ba gate.

Nguyen Van Dong, resident of the Hue Citadel, was arrested February 17 and buried alive at Gia Hoi.

Viet Cong soldiers broke into the home of Miss Hoang Thi Tam Tuy on February 22, and led her to Gia Hoi High School with four other persons. They were buried alive in the same grave, arms and legs bound. Of 200 bodies found at the school, Vietnamese authorities estimated more than half were buried alive.

By mid-February, the fighting for Hue had turned decidedly against the Communists. The enemy commander had been killed and his replacement, it was learned later, had asked and been refused permission to withdraw. Now the killing became if anything even more vicious as the Communist grip on the city weakened.

A Viet Cong unit assembled more than 200 South Vietnamese civilians and local administrators at the town of Ton Nam Duong. They were started South, bound together in three groups of ten.

Other similar marches began.

Nguyen Tan Chau, of the South Vietnamese Army's Medical Corps, was in Hue visiting his family during the Tet holidays when the Communists attacked. He was captured and held with 30 other prisoners. They were started South, bound together in three groups of ten. He told South Vietnamese investigators later that when the column halted for a rest, he freed his hands and slipped away in the darkness. From a hiding place he witnessed the following scene:

"The larger prisoners were separated into pairs, tied together back to back and shot. The others were shot singly. All were dumped into two shallow graves, including those who had been wounded but were not dead."

Winter and early spring rains washed away the more obvious signs of the slaughter but the bodies were found later in the Phu Thu District about 20 kilometers South of Hue.

A similar story is told by Phan Duy, a key official of Anha Hamlet, seven miles East of Hue. He knew his name was on the Viet Cong's execution list after the Communists seized Hue. He slipped away from the hamlet to a small house on the outskirts of Hue, hoping to escape detection. The ruse almost worked.

It wasn't until Hue was virtually recaptured by U.S. and South Vietnamese forces that enemy troops discovered him as they pulled back through the area where he was hiding.

On February 28, five Viet Cong entered Duy's house, bound his hands and marched him seven miles to a row of houses near an area of sand dunes East of the city. He and four other prisoners were locked in one of the houses for seven days. They were allowed outside only to relieve themselves, but this was long enough for Duy to realize that some 100 prisoners in the other houses were being systematically shot.

On the seventh night Duy and nine other men were lashed to a bamboo pole and marched for 300 yards. Their hands were untied. They were told to remove all outer clothing. As he was undressing Duy heard his guards talking to a group of Viet Cong laborers.

"Did you dig the trench yet?" They asked.

"No, not yet, there are too many people and not enough time," the laborers replied.

Three of the guards left to help dig while the prisoners' hands were retied. Duy managed to work his hands free, then made a run for it.

"I ran about 300 meters and I saw a pool," he said. "I fell into the water and covered myself with reeds."

Hours later, half frozen, he emerged and began walking toward the lights of the Hue radio tower beacon. He stumbled into the Phuvang District headquarters and reported what had happened.

Many others were not so lucky. So far 356 bodies have been found in the sand dune graves that Duy escaped. Investigators have reported

the victims were killed in groups of 25 to 40. Cartridges from Russian-made AK47 rifles used by the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese were found nearby. Some of those who died had been bludgeoned to death. Others had been shot.

Despite all these accounts the story of the Hue Massacres is still not complete. Hundreds of other case histories are already known and reports are still being collected at the combined interrogation centers in Hue.

The investigation has pinpointed the location of many still-unopened mass graves. Consequently there is little hope for the 800 citizens of Hue who are still missing.

They, too, are believed to be a part of the grisly record the Communists left behind the one time they have occupied a South Vietnamese city.

This story of what happened when the Communists occupied the South Vietnamese city of Hue in 1968 was compiled from records made available by the U.S. State Department, Defense Department, South Vietnamese Embassy and South Vietnamese Government.

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HUE AND KATYN - A TRAGIC
SIMILARITY

The SPEAKER. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. PUCINSKI) is recognized for 30 minutes.

(Mr. PUCINSKI asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PUCINSKI. Mr. Speaker, the discovery of mass graves showing Communist atrocities against South Vietnamese citizens near Hue, South Vietnam, earlier this week is a tragic reminder that the same form of mass murder was committed by the Communists against our allies in the Katyn Forest, near Smolensk, Russia, at the beginning of World War II.

I was the chief investigator of the special congressional committee which in 1952 investigated the Katyn Forest massacre, and I was struck by the tragic similarity between the methods used by the Communists in the Katyn Forest in 1940, and the methods and techniques used by the Communists again earlier this week against the South Vietnamese in Hue.

There is no question in my mind that the entire free world should be shocked by this bizarre discovery of mass graves near Hue earlier this week.

The discovery was made by two South Vietnamese Army noncoms who were captured by the Vietcong during the Tet offensive of 1968. These two men were able to free themselves and found many of the graves by digging.

To date, the mass graves have produced a total of 350 bodies.

Digging is still going on, and the two military men who were witnesses to some of these killings are now trying to identify more of the areas.

These two noncoms are Sergeant Chau and Corporal Doi of the South Vietnamese Armed Forces. They actually witnessed some of the atrocities and mass murders inflicted upon their countrymen.

These men say that some of the victims were pushed down into the grave while still alive, and this has been confirmed by doctors who have examined the corpses.

The victims were killed with a single shot in the back of their head while their hands were tied behind their backs. They were pushed into mass graves. This is precisely the method used by Communist soldiers when they massacred 15,000 Polish Army officers in the Katyn Forest in 1940.

Among the 350 victims found, 25 have been identified. Many are women. The

identified bodies have been returned to their families for funeral and the rest have been taken care of by the Government of Vietnam for burial.

The location of the grave is the village of Phu Thu, about a distance of 15 kilometers from Hue.

According to Corporal Doi there are still many other graves dug by the Vietcong along the seashore and the local authorities are now proceeding to investigate them.

Mr. Speaker, it occurs to me that the free world cannot overlook nor ignore the bizarre similarity between what happened in the Katyn Forest almost 30 years ago and what is now happening in South Vietnam.

I know that all of our hearts cry out for peace in Vietnam and we pray for the day when our troops can be brought home.

I know every resource of our own Government and every effort by the South Vietnamese Government is being made to find some way to resolve this conflict and to bring it to a victorious conclusion. The United States has offered to withdraw its troops from South Vietnam if North Vietnam would agree to a similar withdrawal.

But, certainly, Mr. Speaker, as we look at the discovery of the mass graves and at the brutal techniques being used in Hue in South Vietnam today against the innocent citizens of that country, and compare them to the techniques used against the 15,000 Polish Army officers who were brutally massacred by the Communists in the Katyn Forest 30 years ago, we see that nothing has really changed in the Communist design of mass execution for those who would stand in the way of their pattern for conquest.

I would say, Mr. Speaker, the world has really not given enough attention to the discovery of these mass graves in South Vietnam last week. This discovery of mass graves in South Vietnam, in my judgment, is a prelude to what awaits millions of South Vietnamese if they should falter in their struggle against the Communist Vietcong. I am sure that mass graves and mass executions and the whole business of Katynism, so thoroughly developed by the Communists 30 years ago, will be the order of the day in South Vietnam if the Communists were to emerge victorious.

Mr. Speaker, I would hope that those who would today urge peace at any price in South Vietnam would think about these tragic consequences.

We want peace and I am confident we shall find peace only if we do not waver

in our determination. The South Vietnamese Government has offered to seek a reconciliation with the Vietcong and such moves should be encouraged. But at this critical juncture, when victory is within reach, we must not waver in our defense of freedom in South Vietnam.

Mr. MADDEN. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. PUCINSKI. I yield to the very distinguished gentleman from Indiana who was chairman of the Select Committee To Investigate the Katyn Forest Massacre here in this Congress in 1952.

I have had the highest admiration for the gentlemen since the days when he headed that committee because the Katyn Forest Massacre Committee demonstrated to the world the techniques used by the Communists in mass executions of those who would stand in the way of their aggression.

The gentleman from Indiana (Mr. Madden) has rendered a noble service in bringing before Congress the first indictments against the Soviet Union for those mass atrocities against the Polish Army officers who were murdered in Katyn.

Mr. Speaker, I deem it a privilege to yield to my colleague, the gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. MADDEN. I thank my colleague for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the gentleman from Illinois for calling the attention of Congress and reminding us of the barbarous atrocities against their victims, the Communist leaders committed during and at the beginning of World War II.

The gentleman from Illinois was one of the real leaders in the work that was done by this committee. We held hearings not only in this country but in England, Germany, and other places in Europe.

The attention of the world was drawn during those hearings to the uncivilized brutality that is embedded in the Communist leaders attitude toward humanity generally. Their leaders crave for power. They have no respect for human life. I remember distinctly when we held our hearings in Frankfurt, Germany, back during the days of the 82d Congress when the television and newspaper reporters and radio communications media packed our committee hearing room.

They sent word all over the globe, revealing that Stalin's barbarity is embedded in the minds of all Communist leaders. That barbarity calls for the extinction of human life, if, in the form of individuals or masses, interferes with their program to enslave the world.

I think the gentleman from Illinois was present along with former Congressman Machrowicz, who is now a Federal judge in Michigan, and myself at the opening of the annual convention, in Berlin Germany, of Eastern and Western European journalists. The gentleman from Illinois, now speaking, Congressman Machrowicz, and myself spoke to the convention of about 200 journalists. There was a lot of opposition from the Communists in adjacent countries to the meeting there being held in Berlin.

At a luncheon at which the gentleman was present along with myself and Congressman Machrowicz, one journalist delegate revealed that the Communist propaganda machine daily published smears that the Katyn Committee was nothing but a tool of capitalism. Notwithstanding the fact that we had invited Stalin and all other Communist leaders to come to Frankfurt and testify—but we had received no answer from them—they proceeded to malign and blaspheme our committee.

These journalists, in speaking to those attending the luncheon, said that in the work of the Katyn Forest Massacre Committee, for the first time in the history of communism placed their propaganda machine on the defensive. They had no answer whatsoever to the avalanche of testimony convicting the Stalin soldiers of the mass murders of Polish leaders in the Katyn Forest.

The hard facts showed their method of human extermination, as the gentleman just stated: They shot almost 4,000 Polish patriot leaders of Poland in the Katyn Forest and two other slave camps. They followed the same pattern which they are using in Vietnam, they tied the victims hands behind their backs and shot them in the back of the head. We remind the people of America not to forget that the Communist technique has not changed one iota since those days at the beginning of World War II, when they massacred and killed millions of people through that method and also through mass starvation in the Ukraine. The people of the world should not become too forgetful of what will happen, God forbid, if ever the Communists succeed in their designs for world domination and to enslave humanity throughout the globe.

I want to thank the gentleman for his statement here today.

Mr. PUCINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the distinguished gentleman from Indiana for his contribution. Certainly we cannot permit the world to overlook this frightening, striking similarity in techniques. I remember the discovery of the Polish Army officers' bodies in mass graves in the Katyn Forest. Their hands were tied behind their backs. There was a single bullet through the nape of the neck. Then these men were dumped, literally dumped, one on top of the other, in the mass graves. Today, 30 years later, we are discovering the identical technique. And who are the victims? Innocent people of South Vietnam, whose only wish, whose only

desire is to be free. Those men and women were dumped into graves without the benefit of a trial, without the benefit of any charges, without the benefit of any defense, picked out by the Communists for only one crime: they are the leaders of the resistance.

And this is important, because here the similarity becomes truly striking. The 15,000 Army Reserve officers who were massacred in the Katyn Forest were the lawyers, the educators, the doctors, the ministers, and the businessmen of Poland. These were, for the most part, the intelligentsia of Poland. These were the people who would have led the resistance to Communist aggression. As early as 1939 the Soviet Union, which professed to be our ally, already was plotting the take-over of all of those countries of Europe. In 1939 and 1940, Communist troops methodically picked the intellectual leaders of Poland from within the Army Officers Reserve Corps whom they imprisoned when Russia invaded Poland on September 17, 1939, so they would not be around when the Communists overwhelmed Poland and destroyed her institutions of freedom.

This is the lesson we see now again in South Vietnam, where people are again being pulled out, picked out. These are the leaders of resistance to the Vietcong. These are the leaders, and these are the people who are holding together the spirit of freedom in South Vietnam.

I tell you this: The discovery of mass graves at Hue proves more than anything else that the Communists have on their drawing boards the blueprint for another Communist "cordon sanitaire" of captive nations in Southeast Asia, identical to the "cordon sanitaire" of captive nations that now remain in Soviet bondage in East Central Europe.

We have right to ask: Where are the great liberal voices in this country, the great defenders of human dignity? Where are their voices in denouncing the kind of genocide—brutal mass atrocities being committed against the innocent people of Southeast Vietnam?

The American liberal has been in the forefront in denouncing genocide and urging a world treaty against mass murder of people. Where are their voices of protest against this genocide of South Vietnamese discovered in Hue last weekend?

There was the same kind of conspiracy of silence in 1940, when the Polish government in exile tried to sound the alarm about Katyn. The investigation of the Katyn massacre by the congressional committee clearly showed there were forces within our own country that did not want to talk about Katyn and the discovery of those mass graves because the Soviet Union was our "gallant ally," and any discussion of the Katyn massacre in the war years would have supposedly driven a wedge between the Allies.

I submit that had the free world been told of the infamy and the brutality of the Communists discovered in Katyn, perhaps the whole course of history

could have been changed.

On Pennsylvania Avenue, in front of the National Archives Building are two monuments. One says:

What is past is prologue.

And the other one says:

Study the past.

I suggest to those who today seek peace at any price and who would let the Communists take over in Southeast Asia, ought study that wise admonition.

Look at Katyn, look at what happened after Katyn, and look at the way the Communists were able to take over 100 million people in Eastern and Central Europe, and then look at what we found in Hue.

We should ask ourselves how long America can remain free, how long can institutions of human dignity prevail in our country if the Communists' juggernaut continues to close in and in and in, as it is doing around the entire world?

The mass grave discoveries in Hue are of monumental importance. I am amazed the mass media and instruments of information have treated these discoveries with such meager attention.

Mr. MADDEN. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. PUCINSKI. I yield to the gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. MADDEN. Mr. Speaker, I might say further that so many of the younger generation do not remember or have not had called to their attention in the schools of America the Katyn massacre and the facts regarding many other mass exterminations of humanity that the Communists inflicted upon central Europe during the dark days before World War II.

I might explain why Congress investigated the Katyn massacre. The congressional investigation of the Katyn massacre was brought about because for the first time in world history the guilt of an international crime was not established to the satisfaction of many people throughout the world. The Soviet Union, through its false mass propaganda, had millions convinced that Hitler had committed those massacres in the Katyn Forest. They were committed in the winter of 1939-40, when both armies were closing in on Warsaw.

When these massacres were committed, the bodies in the Katyn Forest were not found until 2 years later.

Immediately Stalin said that Hitler massacred the Polish leaders at Katyn. Hitler, of course, denied it and said that Stalin massacred them. That is why this Congress, through the pleading of the Polish American Congress throughout the United States, insisted that to settle the question for future history an investigation should be made. That is how the Congress became interested in investigating an international crime when one nation had accused another of committing it.

So we settled for all time that it was the Communists who committed that crime, although Hitler had a different method of exterminating people than

Stalin had. There is no question, Hitler was the most brutal tyrant of our time. Nevertheless, the Katyn Forest Massacre Congressional Committee settled once and for all that it was the Communists who killed the Poles in the Katyn Forest.

Let me say something further. This is for so many of these agitators in our country today who are so enthusiastic about letting the younger folks know what a great millennium they would have if communism takes over. I might say it was revealed in our testimony that among some of the mass murders that were committed by the Communists were massacres and murders of some of their own Communist disciples who were taken in with the network that brought in these people from the satellite nations, and they did not have any regard whatsoever for the agitators who were preaching communism, or for their own Communist fellow travelers. Some of them, according to the testimony before our committee, were massacred along with the free victims who were massacred by Stalin and his Communist cohorts.

So I might state to some of the younger folks in this country who are becoming enamored with this organized Communist propaganda in colleges and other places, if the Communists ever took over they also might be among those massacred. They care not what is the thought of the people they massacre or exterminate. That was proved by the evidence submitted in our committee, that some of the so-called super-Communist propagandists who happened to be wedged in the mass onslaught lost their lives the same as the other unfortunate prisoners in the Communist prisons and slave labor camps.

Mr. PUCINSKI. The gentleman would agree that the Katyn investigation, exhaustively conducted by the Congress of the United States, would be a hollow exercise if we failed to learn the lesson that investigation taught us.

Mr. MADDEN. The gentleman is correct.

Mr. PUCINSKI. The lesson is this: Today, while the Communist leaders are stalling in Paris and refusing to address themselves to the real issues and refusing to talk about peace and refusing to make any forward movement, they are methodically engaging in mass executions of those people in South Vietnam who would constitute resistance to communism if and when some rapprochement is reached. It is quite obvious to us that just as at Katyn, where they methodically destroyed potential opposition, we are witnessing in Hue and the other mass graves all over South Vietnam an identical pattern. They are stalling in Paris because they want first to methodically destroy through these mass executions those elements of resistance which might try to protect the institutions of freedom and dignity in South Vietnam when peace finally comes.

I think that is the lesson that I ought to teach us. Those who fail to see that lesson, I believe, have just not read the transcript of Katyn. More importantly, they are looking at the world

through rose-colored glasses.

Mr. FINDLEY. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. PUCINSKI. I yield to my colleague from Illinois (Mr. FINDLEY).

Mr. FINDLEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Illinois for yielding to me.

I want to express my appreciation to him for this timely reminder of the barbaric massacres at Katyn Forest. My colleague, like I, had a part in World War II. I am sure both of us were proud to have had that part and do look back with pride upon what small contributions, at least on my part, were made in that effort against the Nazi tyranny. My colleague and I do disagree on what ought to be done in Vietnam. I am sure this is not the place to go into the bases for a disagreement. However, I would like to enter this one thought here. I have always felt our Government has undertaken a very serious obligation to the people of Vietnam who have fought at our side. Should the day come when we do disengage and withdraw our forces from there, as I hope we will soon, I feel we must measure up to that obligation to those people and invite other nations to join with us in every possible resettlement of those people that can be undertaken.

After the Cuban episode our country opened its doors to refugees from Cuba. I think that was the right thing to do. Now because we have been involved in Vietnam we have a similar obligation there. I do not suggest that this would eliminate or perhaps even materially reduce the possibility of atrocities that might follow such a disengagement. Even so, we should do our best to provide safety and a future for the people who choose to leave their homes in the event that we should extricate ourselves from this position.

Mr. PUCINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I have no quarrel with the gentleman's suggestion that we start a methodical withdrawal of American troops from Vietnam. I would join him in that plea but I would also insist that the free world must insist that the North Vietnamese have a similar withdrawal of North Vietnamese troops from South Vietnam. Premier Thieu has said South Vietnam could carry on with its own army of 700,000 but it would need our continued Air Force support. I am hopeful we can withdraw American troops from South Vietnam but I believe our offer to withdraw our troops if North Vietnam similarly withdraws its troops today offers the best hope for disengagement.

More importantly, Mr. Speaker, it would be my hope that the discovery of these mass atrocities against the innocent citizens of South Vietnam would now finally, at last, shock the sensitivities of those of our allies who have meekly sat back and let the United States and the handful of our allies fighting in Vietnam, including the South Vietnamese, carry the full brunt of the conflict.

The issues in southeast Asia and the issues in South Vietnam affect the whole

free world. It is incredible to me that those free world rulers who espouse the doctrine of freedom cannot recognize what we are witnessing in South Vietnam today is a repeat performance of what we saw in World War II vis-a-vis the captive nations of Europe. If we learn nothing else from the discovery of the mass graves in Hue, it would be my fervent prayer that our allies would finally be shocked into a realization that nothing has really changed in the communist world. Mass atrocities, mass murders, and mass assassinations continue to be their main stock in trade to be used against anyone or any nation which dares to interfere with or interrupt their plans for ultimate conquest.

I would suggest that those here in this country—sincere, honest, patriotic Americans who on many occasions have tended to falter in the fight in Vietnam—take a look at these mass atrocities. These were all innocent people. These were citizens. These were people who had no greater desire than to live and let live, and be free. These are people who are being massacred in mass numbers in a most brutal manner, with their hands tied behind their backs, shot through the head with a single bullet, dumped into mass graves.

This is the true picture of communism.

Mr. Speaker, I would hope that my fellow Americans who have a tendency to waiver will look at this discovery and then ask themselves: "What can we do as Americans, as united Americans, to bring this war to a successful conclusion?"

Mr. Speaker, I say that the course of history is being written in South Vietnam just as it was in the Katyn Forest. There is no question in my mind but that if the American people had known the full facts of the Katyn Forest massacre the whole course of history would have been altered.

Mr. Speaker, I was not here at that time. Like many others, I was in the armed services, fighting the war. We were helpless to say anything at that time. But now I say this: That so long as the good Lord gives me the strength I shall remain in the well of this House and try to point out the true and full, ugly consequences of compromise with communism, if we falter.

Mr. Speaker, I pray for the day when peace will return to Vietnam. I know what it is like to deliver a flag that has flown over this Nation's Capitol to a mother in my district who lost her son in Vietnam. I know the hardships our American boys are suffering in Vietnam.

I say that the tragedy of our time is that the free world wants the United States to carry this burden all by itself. This in itself is an indictment against the naivety of the leaders of the world. We saw those leaders here earlier this week. These are the men who have within their power the ability to call a halt to hostilities in Vietnam. But this they have not chosen to do; they have chosen to stand aside and watch this huge conflict develop.

It would be my fervent prayer, Mr. Speaker, that the discovery of these mass graves somehow or other will reach the conscience of the rest of the world, and that we can stand together united, and bring peace to Vietnam.

We can bring peace very quickly. Right now there are ships going into Hanoi. Many of our allies are continuing to do business with the Communists because the almighty dollar is more important to them than a principle. I am not surprised that the American people are asking more and more questions. I myself question the values of these fair-weather allies.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DABARIO). The time of the gentleman from Illinois has expired.

(On request of Mr. McCORMACK, and by unanimous consent, Mr. PUCINSKI was allowed to proceed for 10 additional minutes.)

Mr. PUCINSKI. I thank our distinguished Speaker for this extension of time.

So it is my hope, Mr. Speaker, that out of this discovery the conscience of the entire world can be sufficiently aroused so that peace can come.

Mr. Speaker, I believe the words on the

National Archives Building are very important. They state that—

The past is prologue, study the past.

We cannot close our eyes to reality for the sake of expediency.

My colleague from Illinois who spoke a moment ago says that he wants to pull our troops out of Vietnam. Of course we want to pull our troops out. I want to pull the American troops out. I want to get our boys back home just as quickly as possible, but it would be a tragic mistake if, for the second time in recent history we, as a free people, overlooked and failed to understand the full design of the Communists. They are not quitting. There is not an iota of proof that they are in any way quitting. They are today holding fast in Paris. Why, Mr. Speaker, this war could be brought to a conclusion in 24 hours. What does the United States want in Vietnam? Nothing. Do we seek territorial gains? Of course we do not. Do we seek domination over any other nation or group of people? Of course we do not. All we want is for the South Vietnamese to have a chance to be masters of their own destiny as free people. Is this so difficult? Is this so impossible? Is our demand so outrageous?

I think if we could pull together the

resources and the determination of the whole world to make it clear that we are not going to surrender South Vietnam to Communist infamy, this war could be brought to a conclusion very quickly. I do not think the Communists are made of such strength that they do not feel the impact of this war. I think the Communists are having just as much of a problem in Hanoi and in North Vietnam and that there is as much resistance to the continuation of this war over there among the people of North Vietnam as there is among the American people here.

So it seems to me that those who falter and those who would want us to waiver and those who would suggest that somehow or other we walk away before the job is finished, are really prolonging this war and inadvertently they are contributing to false hopes among the Communist rulers.

I hope that the President will look at these mass graves, marshal the forces of the free world in indignation against this form of genocide, and then use whatever means he deems necessary to bring this war to an end in Vietnam.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, Hue and Katyn—they constitute a tragic similarity.



A stretcher team carrying one of the murdered victims to a central collection point.

Hue slayings Viet Cong pattern broken

By Elizabeth Pond
Special correspondent of
The Christian Science Monitor

Saigon

The South Vietnamese currently are getting a grim reminder of the more ruthless practices of the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese troops.

This comes with the almost-daily uncovering of mass graves near the old imperial city of Hue. They contain victims of mass killings by the Communists when Viet Cong and North Vietnamese forces held the ancient capital for 24 days during the Tet offensive of last year. About a thousand civilians were missing and have remained unaccounted for since the battle.

It is still too early to assess the full impact of these discoveries on public opinion. But they have come at a time when mutual suspicion again is clouding the relationship between the Saigon government and many students and Buddhist leaders.

The killing of civilians in Hue on a wide scale was a departure from the general Viet Cong practice of highly selective terrorism.

Before 1968 the classic targets of assassination were the best and the worst government officials in hamlets and provinces — the best to eliminate competition for the National Liberation Front, political arm of the Viet Cong, and the worst to win villagers' gratitude and allegiance.

Attacks indiscriminate

Even when the NLF stepped up the campaign of mining roads it warned civilians to stay off these roads.

With the 1968 Tet attacks on cities and towns, however, the NLF and North Vietnamese deliberately ceased discriminating, at least insofar as indirect fire—shelling and mortaring—on civilians was concerned. This helped achieve the intended shock effect of showing city dwellers, previously immune to the war, that they, too, were vulnerable.

Still, the larger part of the destruction of civilian housing—some 60-odd blocks in Saigon's teeming Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Districts, and substantial portions of several key cities in the Mekong Delta—was accomplished by South Vietnamese and American firepower rather than by the Communist attack. Realizing the public bitterness against the Americans and the government that such destruction entails, the Communists sometimes baited an allied response in the city offensive by sending a few snipers into heavily populated blocks to draw retaliatory fire.

Evacuation spurs shootings

The mass killings in Hue by the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong were thus an exception, even to the pattern of the Tet offensive. Reportedly these troops were relatively discriminating while they held the city.

They killed only anti-Communist leaders at first, but as they were on the verge of being forced out they began the mass shootings. There were still some attempts at discrimination, but personal grudges on the part of informers played a role as well.

In this bedrock country of the old Vietnamese nationalist parties, in central Vietnam, almost everyone has dabbled in politics in some way. But instead of courting these people — many of whom were basically hostile to Saigon — the Communists simply executed them.

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Những hình ảnh thể thảm khốc khai quật các hầm chôn tập thể ở Huế

TẤT CẢ ĐỀU BỊ ĐẬP BỂ ĐẦU bằng cán cuốc rồi lấp vùi dưới cát

○ MỘT PHÉ BÌNH CỤT HAI CHÂN CŨNG BỊ HẠ SÁT

SAIGON 11-4. - Các vụ khám phá liên tiếp những hầm chôn xác tập thể nạn nhân biến cố Tết Mậu Thân ở Huế đã làm xôn xao dư luận, làm mũi lòng đồng bào trong toàn quốc. Phái viên Việt Tân Xã đã tường thuật chi tiết những vụ khai quật các hầm trên như sau:

Ủy ban truy tìm nạn nhân của biến cố Tết Mậu Thân, trong hai ngày 7 và 8 tháng 4 năm 1969 đã tìm được thêm 93 xác chôn tập thể tại vùng liên ranh giữa hai thôn Đông Di và Đông Sơn thuộc Quận Phú Thứ, Thừa Thiên, nâng tổng số nạn nhân tìm được xác lên tới 233 người.

Tức đây, ngày 27-3, Ủy ban này đã tìm được 135 xác chôn tập thể ở cách địa điểm mới lối năm cây số.

Hầu hết bị đập bể đầu bằng cán cuốc

Khác với những nạn nhân được tìm thấy hồi cuối tháng ba, theo đó tất cả những bộ xương khô lấm lết hầu hết nạn nhân thịt còn đỏ hồng và có những dấu vết chứng tỏ họ đã bị đập bể đầu bằng cán cuốc trước khi được chôn một cách cầu thả tại vùng nói trên.

Anh Hồ đắc Thuận, người được coi là nhân vật số 1 trong vấn đề bắt xác các nạn nhân, thuật lại rằng: xác các nạn nhân chỉ được phủ một lớp cát mỏng manh dưới đường rãnh dài hàng 100 thước chạy từ Đông Lộc sang Quảng Xuyên, Quận Phú Thứ.

Có những nạn nhân chỉ được cát phủ kín từ cổ trở xuống trong khi chiếc «sọ dừa» nằm chính lỉnh trên mặt cát. Trong ngày 7-4, Ủy ban tìm được cả thảy 43 xác, và ngày 8-4 Ủy ban tìm thêm được 55 xác. Điều đáng ghi nhận, có ba người trong Ủy ban tìm được xác của thân nhân.

Người thứ nhất nhận được ra xác của chồng là ông Phan Quynh. Ông Quynh nguyên là Trưởng Phòng Kế Toán, Tòa Sơ Tòa, Huế.

Người thứ hai tìm được xác của tên Trần thị Hương. Con trai là Hương tên Nguyễn Văn Đăng, 24

tuổi, nguyên là quân nhân. Hiện người dân bà này còn một người trong gia đình mất tích. Đó là ông Nguyễn Văn Mai, chồng bà.

Người thứ ba tìm được xác thân nhân là ông Hứa Thoại. Trưởng phòng Tài Chánh tỉnh đoàn Xây Dựng Nông Thôn Thừa Thiên, ông Thoại đảm nhiệm chức trưởng ban Nghiệp ảnh của Ủy ban truy tìm nạn nhân, và người ông đã nhận xác chính là thân phụ của ông tên Hứa Thuận năm nay đã 70 tuổi.

Ông Thoại cho biết, bọn VC đã bắt cha ông đem đi hạ sát cùng với hàng ngàn đồng bào ở Thừa Thiên vì chúng lừa bắt ông nhưng không được.

Một phé bình cụt hai chân cũng bị hạ sát

Trong số những xác nạn nhân, người ta ghi nhận có một phé bình đã bị cụt cả hai chân. Người vợ nhận được ra xác của chồng nhờ cặp nạng có khắc tên năm chông lên xác của anh ta.

Ngoài ra người ta còn thấy 1 cô gái xác còn tươi, trong «xú chiêng» có để một sợi giây chuyền vàng tây và một giấy ghi tên Sen, nữ Cảnh sát viên phụ trách điện thoại tại Ty Cảnh Sát Thừa Thiên.

Một số nhân vật tên tuổi ở Thừa Thiên cũng đã được tìm thấy trong số 93 xác được phát giác hôm 7 và 8/4, trong số có ông ông Châu Khắc Tự, Giáo sư Toán Trường Quốc Học Huế, và ông Tôn Thất Tào, 62 tuổi, nguyên Quận Trưởng Nam Hòa hồi hưu. Ông này bị bắt cùng với 3 người con đều là Sinh Viên Đại học Saigon, hiện chưa biết là đã bị hạ sát hay còn bị giam tại trại giam nào.

Xác các nạn nhân được đánh dấu rất cẩn thận

Theo thông cáo của Ủy ban truy tìm và an táng nạn nhân bị VC thảm sát trong biến cố Tết Mậu Thân, hiện nay mới chỉ có 99 xác được thân nhân nhìn nhận đem về mai táng. Số còn lại, kể cả những xác đã được an táng hôm 30-3 và những xác mới được tìm thấy đề tại Trường Trung học La San, Quận Phú Vang đều được Ủy ban ghi nhận lại những dấu tích rất cẩn thận để thân nhân có thể căn cứ vào các dấu tích đó mà nhận diện.

Hôm Ủy ban khởi sự cuộc tìm kiếm «đợt hai» ngày 7-4, người ta ghi nhận có hàng ngàn đồng bào đi theo. Những người này đều có thân nhân bị mất tích trong biến cố Tết Mậu Thân nên họ đi theo với hy vọng tìm được xác thân nhân, nhưng thật sự trong thâm tâm chính họ lại không muốn tìm thấy... xác, và hy vọng rằng thân nhân của họ còn được giam giữ ở một nơi nào đó.

Mỗi lần một chiếc xác được tìm thấy là mỗi lần họ giành giật nhau đến gần để... nhận diện, và khi biết chắc đó không phải là thân nhân của mình họ lại cùng thờ phào ra một cách nhệ nhảm.

Thiếu Tá Quận trưởng quận Phú Vang cùng Trung úy Chỉ khu phó của quận này đã phải đích thân yêu cầu đồng bào duy trì trật tự để công cuộc khai quật nắm mộ tập thể thể khỏi gặp phải trở ngại.

Riêng những đồng bào nhận diện được xác của thân nhân, họ đã nắm phục hồi lại những xác đó khác lóc thê thảm, bất chấp cả mũi hái thối.

Tiếng khóc của những người này khiến một số người chưa tìm được thân nhân khóc theo, tạo nên một không khí vô cùng nặng nề bi thảm.

PATHETIC EXHUMATION SCENES OF MASS GRAVES IN HUE

(Rough Summary from Chinh-luan, April 12, 1969
on opposite page)

Saigon, April 11, 1969. Vietnamese people throughout the country have been deeply grieved by successive discoveries of mass graves in the vicinity of Hue.

A Special Committee has been set up by the local authorities for the excavation of these graves. Since mid-April, hundreds of bodies, buried in hollow ditches have been found in the area located between Dong Di and Dong Son Villages, of Phu Thu District, Province of Thua Thien.

Mr. Ho Duc Thuan, a key member of the Committee, reported that the victims had been beaten to death on their heads with a hard cane and were buried pell-mell under a thin cover of sand; some victims even had their heads above the ground.

Three members of the Committee had found their relatives remains among hundreds of excavated bodies; the victims were:

Mr. Phan Quynh, husband of one of the Committee members, who was Chief of Accounting Bureau of the Hue Court of Justice;

Mr. Nguyen van Dang, 24, son of Mrs. Tran thi-Huong, whose husband, Mr. Nguyen van Mai, was also missed;

Mr. Hua Thuan, 70, who was killed in lieu of his son, Mr. Hua Thoai, Chief of Finance Bureau of Thua Thien Revolutionary Development Team, whom the Communists had tried in vain to capture.

Among the victims were also a disabled veteran, who had lost his two legs, and a young police woman. The former was identified by his wife through the pair of crutches bearing his name; the latter was recognized as Miss Sen, a telephone operator at the Police Headquarters of Thua Thien Province, by her name tag and a golden necklace hidden under her brassiere.

The following well-known personalities in Thua Thien Province were also on the list of identified bodies found on April 7 and April 8: Mr. Chau Khac Tuy, professor of Mathematics at Quoc Hoc High School; Mr. Ton That Tan, 62, former Chief of Nam Hoa District, abducted with his three sons who were students of the Saigon University.

Thousands of people followed the Committee since the excavation started in the hope of finding their missing relatives. As soon as a body was uncovered, people rushed to the site; and when one of them succeeded to identify it, he threw himself on the ground, and mourned in deep grief. Everyone at the site shared his grief.

PHÁI ĐOÀN BÁO CHÍ RA HUẾ QUAN SÁT TẠI CHỖ NHỮNG CÀNH
DÃ MẠN HƠN THỜI TRUNG CỖ, TÀN ÁC HƠN PHÁT XÍT ĐỨC

ĐÃ TÌM THẤY NGÔI 2.000 XÁC CHẮC SẼ CÒN KIẾM ĐƯỢC TRÊN 3.000

○ 48 nạn nhân vừa mới tìm được cổ đều bị trói với nhau
và hầu hết bị chôn sống dưới một đường mương

● TÂM CHUNG

HUE 12-4 — Người ta lại mới tìm thêm được 48 xác nạn nhân bị C.S. hành quyết trong cuộc tấn công dịp Tết Mậu Thân tại khu Huế. Như vậy cho tới nay tổng số xác tìm thấy đã lên đến gần 2.000 người. Đại tá Lê Văn Thân Tỉnh Trưởng Thừa Thiên kiêm Thị Trưởng Huế cho biết tổng số nạn nhân có lẽ sẽ lên tới 3.000 hoặc hơn. Ông so sánh vụ hành quyết tập thể này của C.S. với «những hành động dã man nhất trong Thế Chiến 2».

Hầu hết số 48 nạn nhân, kể cả một số đàn bà, đã bị trói vào với nhau và tay còn bị trói ra đằng sau. Một số người bị chôn sống, một số người này vào cổ người kia.

Trong tuần lễ 24-3, những người tìm kiếm tìm thấy 13 nạn nhân bị Cộng sản sát hại tại 12 chỗ chôn tập thể gần ấp

Vĩnh Lưu. Giới chức cho biết hầu hết những người này đã bị đánh cho đến chết. Những người khám nghiệm y khoa ấn định rằng một vài người đã bị chôn sống.

59 nạn nhân khác được tìm thấy tại làng Xuân Hòa, về phía đông Huế. Khoảng 90 người trong số các nạn nhân đã được nhận diện cho tới nay.

Chương 1/3 là cảnh sát viên và binh sĩ Việt Nam Cộng Hòa. Một số ít là các viên chức xã ấp số còn lại là dân làng.

D.T. Thân cho biết hơn 2.000 thường dân ở Huế đã được ghi như là «mất tích» kể từ cuộc tấn công Tết năm ngoái. Hiện nhiên họ bị cộng sản bắt cóc đem đi. Gia đình họ sống trong hy vọng rằng họ bị bắt đi làm tù binh và rằng họ sẽ thấy lại những người này. «Nhưng sau những phát giác trong ít ngày qua, chúng tôi có thể nói chắc chắn rằng phần đông những người mất tích này đã bị Việt Cộng đem đi thủ tiêu».

Vẫn đang tìm kiếm
Kể từ ngày 7-4-69 đến ngày 10-

4-69, đã có thêm 233 thi hài nạn nhân C.S. được tìm thấy tại Thôn Đông Sơn, quận Phú Thứ. Trong số này có 14 người là Quân nhân. Tới nay chỉ có 59 thi hài được thân nhân đến nhận lãnh; còn bao nhiêu đã được họ Nylon đóng trong hòm tập trung tất cả tại trường La San, để chờ xem có ai đến nhận lãnh nữa không. Nếu không chính quyền sẽ tự động đi chôn cất và công việc tìm kiếm vẫn còn đang tiến hành.

Báo chí ra tận nơi
Sáng 11-4, một phái đoàn báo chí đã được hướng dẫn ra tận Huế để mục kích những cảnh khai quật các nấm mồ trên.

Nhân dịp này, chúng tôi có được tiếp xúc với một em nhỏ 14 tuổi, tên Hồ Văn Hà — Theo lời em Hà trong họ em 5 người đã bị VC giết, gồm 2 bác trai, 1 bác gái, 1 anh và 1 chị. Bác gái của em bị giết chỉ vì bà mất gà lờ chửi tại chúng, nên chúng giết chết.

Ngoài ra, cha em trước đó cũng bị VC bắt đi giam trên Cồn, trong thời gian này ông có người cho biết, nên ở nhà đã gửi tiền lên 3,4 lần và mỗi lần 5,6 trăm đồng. Tuy gia đình biết gửi sẽ không tới tay, nhưng vẫn gửi.

Rồi bỗng đi một thời gian, tới ngày hôm qua người ta đã tìm thấy cha em thân bị nát bấy hết, quần áo bị chúng lột hết và chỉ còn thấy xương bên bộ xương cùng chiếc quần xà lỏn.

Hiện tại em chỉ còn mẹ đi buôn bán nuôi 5 anh em, còn nhỏ cả.

Tới quá trưa, phái đoàn Báo Chí đã được hướng dẫn tới một cồn cát rộng lớn, không nhà cửa tại ấp Đông Thanh xã Phú Hộ, Quận Phú Thứ (cách thị xã Huế chừng 13cs) để chứng kiến những nấm mồ tập thể đang được khai quật.

Từ sáng đến 13g trưa (11-4) Ủy ban Truy tìm và Cải táng đã tìm thấy thêm được 26 thi hài nạn nhân, trong số này có 4 đàn bà. Giới hữu trách cho biết đây là đường mương của ấp Chiến lược khi xưa. Cộng quân đã dùng để chôn sống đồng bào xuống dưới đó. Trước mắt chúng tôi, tất cả những thi thể đều bị chôn sống và 2 cánh tay đều bị trói khuy về phía sau và lăm thi thể còn để lại dấu tích chứng tỏ trước khi bị mang chôn còn vùng vẫy quằn áo rách tươm. Các thi hài ngời dài theo một hàng luôn 12 xác.

Những đồng bào «bùn thúng bán mẹt» lao động, nghèo khổ có thân nhân bị Cộng Sản tàn sát, bấy lâu nay chưa tìm kiếm thấy xác cũng đã có một quanh chiếc hòm đang được đào xới và cứ mỗi khi thi hài được tìm thấy, những tiếng khóc thảm thiết lại vang lên.

Dã man hơn Trung Cỗ
Tàn ác hơn Phát Xít

Cứ mỗi xác vừa được kéo lên gói vào khăn đưa vào bao hồ sơ thứ tự,

từ thi được tìm thấy là tiếng khóc lại càng gia tăng mãnh liệt họ khóc thê thảm, khóc lẫn lóc, khóc gào thét đến khản tiếng hệt hơi cứ như thế con xác động như chờ sẵn nung nấu đồng bào tham dự. Qua các sự quan sát tận chỗ, người ta thấy VC quá dã man, quá đoán hậu «Tiếng đoán hậu» người dân Thừa Thiên dùng để rủa những kẻ tàn ác nhất, vô nhân đạo nhất nay người ta được nghe hàng ngàn người dùng tiếng đó tại cánh đồng tìm kiếm xác này bởi vì lần lượt lấy xác lên người ta nhận thấy có hàng trăm trường hợp bị hành hung đến chết như chém đầu, đâm bụng, tra tấn bằng cách xéo tai, cắt mũi mổ bụng chôn sống dã man hơn cả thời Trung Cỗ và tàn ác hơn cả Phát Xít Đức đốt người trong các trại tập trung trong Thế Chiến 2.

Tổ chức đám tang tập thể

Theo 1 nguồn tin người ta được biết trong đợt II, UB mới đào tất cả 7 hòm tại Phú Xuân thuộc Quận Phú Thứ. Còn 12 hòm khác đã khám phá được nhưng chưa kịp đào lên vì thiếu nhân công.

Công cuộc tìm xác đợt II sẽ tiếp tục đến thứ hai 14-4 thì tạm ngưng

vì còn phải lo an táng thi hài 48 nạn nhân về thừa nhận quá nhiều. Trong dịp này, buổi lễ tôn giáo sẽ được tổ chức vào ngày 14-4 trước khi cử hành đám tang tập thể vào sáng thứ ba 15-4-69.

TWO THOUSAND BODIES UNEARTHED

IN HUE

(Rough Summary from Chinh-luan, April 12, 1969
See opposite page)

Hue, April 12--Forty-eight more bodies of victims tortured and murdered by the Viet Cong during the Tet Mau Than Offensive have been uncovered. This number brings the total of bodies found to 2,000.

All forty eight victims, including women, had been tied together either by the necks or by the hands.

After the Tet Mau Than Offensive more than 2,000 inhabitants of Hue were listed as missing. At first, hopes were that these people had merely been captured and taken away. However, as more and more bodies were uncovered, it seemed that most if not all of them were dead.

Medical autopsies reveal that the worst kinds of torture had been inflicted on these poor victims. Many had been buried alive; others had been beaten to death; still others had been decapitated. Missing ears, noses, arms and legs as well as open stomachs are proofs that many had been horribly tortured before being killed.

A young boy of 14, named Ho van Ha, told of how five of his relatives had been murdered by the Viet Cong, a brother, a sister, two uncles, and an aunt. The aunt was killed merely because she had shouted at the attackers for having stolen her chickens.

Besides, Ha revealed that his father had been taken prisoner by these so-called liberators. For months his family had sent food and money, hoping against hope that these necessities would reach him. Then for a time, there was no news.

Yesterday, the battered body of Ha's father was found with nothing in it except his identification card.

SAIGON POST
April 18/69

Over 400 Victims Of Reds Buried

SAIGON (VP)— Some 5,000 residents of the ancient imperial capital of Hue, Tuesday attended one of the biggest mass burials of the Vietnam war held in accordance with traditional rites at the foot of Mount Thien Thai in Ba Don, Nam Hoa district, Thua Thien province.

The funeral cortege, organized by the Thua Thien Search and Funeral Committee, started from La San school in Phu Vang district and moved through the big streets of Hue in a solemn and touching atmosphere. It was the second collective funeral following that held two weeks ago for 135 victims.

The 219 victims were killed by the Communists and buried in sandy fields in Phu Thu, Phu Vang, Vinh Loc, and Huong Thuy districts.

The number of victims reported as missing in the Mau Than Tet offensive has been estimated at 2,000 but so far, only 600 decomposed bodies have been found in mass graves after a month-long search.

Attending the funeral were Mr. Nguyen Ngoc An, Information and Open Arms Minister, representing the Prime Minister, Senator Tran Van Don, representing the Senate's Chairman, Rep. Tran Ngoc Chau, Secretary General of the Lower House, representing the House Speaker and many newsmen and local notables.



Decomposed bodies are being lifted out of the shallow trench for wrapping in plastic sheets.

COMMUNIST ATROCITY-POLITICAL
ACTION BY MURDER

Hon. John R. Rarick
of Louisiana
in The House of Representatives

Mr. RARICK. Mr. Speaker, despite mutterings of the ultra left that communism is mellowing, Communist atrocities against the innocent in 1969 continue just as in 1917 when the Bolsheviks murdered to gain control in Russia.

While U.S. leftists shout and proclaim a gospel of dissent against all throughout our land, their counterpart, the Communist Vietcong, slaughter thousands of innocent men, women, and children in South Vietnam; if for no other reason than the victims reject communism and are not under party control.

Yet, loudmouths in the United States continually spout their false propaganda, which is repeated by "cooperative and sympathetic" pinkos in the communications field and passed on to the American public for mental conditioning to accept the promises of winds of change.

The fact that Communist atrocities are not covered by the same media with similar exposure for the same American public is unquestioned.

Brutal acts of slaughter reminiscent of the 1917 Communist revolution continue yet there is no indignant outcry from so-called antiwar protesters, moralists, pacifists, and their sympathetic cronies in the news profession. Do they apply the commandment "Thou shalt not kill" only to those of the Western Hemisphere?

Communists have not changed. They follow their original plan to murder all recognized leaders and all potential leaders in any given community in South Vietnam—just as they have done in Russia, China, and Korea in years past. Murder through infiltration is still murder.

The Reds liquidation for conquest is quite evident—should elections be eventually held the only leaders available for political action will be Communist members, agents, and puppets.

Mr. Speaker, the victims of Communist atrocity should haunt every free man. I insert an eyewitness account of the Hue massacres taken from Chicago's American and an editorial from the Baton Rouge Advocate follow my remarks.

The material follows:

[From the Chicago American, Apr. 12, 1969]
LUCK AND SURVIVAL IN VIETNAM: HIS LIFE
HUNG ON A CORD AND DEATH SQUAD LOST 1
(By Robert Ohman)

HUE, SOUTH VIETNAM.—A Viet Cong death squad was digging his grave when hamlet official Phan Duy escaped execution in the sand dune massacres of Hue.

Few were so lucky. Grave diggers sifting thru three mass graves east of the old imperial capital have found the bodies of more than 500 men, women, and children, clubbed and shot to death by the enemy during the 1968 Tet offensive.

Duy, a key official of An Ha hamlet 7 miles east of Hue, knew his name was on the Viet Cong's execution list. When North Vietnamese and Viet Cong guerrillas seized Hue in February, 1968, he moved away from the hamlet into a small house on the outskirts of Hue, hoping to escape detection in the larger mass of townspeople.

He made it thru one month of enemy occupation, but when United States and South Vietnamese troops recaptured Hue, the enemy pulled back thru the area where he was hiding.

On Feb. 28 five Viet Cong entered Duy's house.

"They said nothing," he said softly thru a translator. "They knew where I was and my duties."

After binding his hands with cord, they asked him to name other people who worked for the government. Duy told them he lived alone and didn't know anything.

The Viet Cong then marched him 7 miles south to a row of houses near the sand dunes, where 135 bodies of slain civilians and unarmed soldiers were found 2 weeks ago. Duy said he was pushed into a house where four other prisoners were confined.

The five men remained locked in the house for 7 days, walking outside only to go to the toilet. On these walks Duy said he saw more than 100 prisoners being shot in other houses.

"One day I saw many people in one house, and the next day it was empty," he said. "I knew they already had been killed."

On the seventh night, Duy and nine other men, all tied together to a bamboo pole, were told they would be taken elsewhere for "communist study." The guards took their watches and money, promising both would be returned.

But this time the march only lasted 300 yards. The prisoners' hands were untied and they were told to remove all their outer clothing because they were going to have to cross a river.

As Duy was undressing he heard his guard talking to a group of Viet Cong laborers.

"Did you dig the trench yet?" they asked. "No, not yet, there are too many people and not enough time," the laborers replied. Three of the six guards then left to help dig the trench, while the other three retied the hands of Duy and his nine fellow prisoners.

"It was very cold. It was about midnight. The three guards they left behind were boys about 15 and they covered themselves with blankets," Duy said. I worked to free my hands because I knew I would be dead in a few minutes."

Duy said he worked loose of the ropes and leaped forward as one guard fired a burst of about 20 shots.

"I ran about 300 meters and saw a pool"

Duy said. "I was so tired I fell into the water and covered myself with reeds."

Soon he saw flickering lights pass by his hiding place as the guards searched for him. About 20 minutes later he heard shots.

"I knew the prisoners I had been with were dead," Duy said.

Hours later Duy emerged from the water and headed toward the lights of the Hue radio tower beacon. He stumbled into the Phu Vang district headquarters and reported what had happened.

"I remember on the second day I was held in prison in that house," he said, "other people from my hamlet told me the Viet Cong had entered my home and killed my mother. When I returned I found her body still in the house. I was her only son."

[From the Baton Rouge (La.) Morning
Advocate, Apr. 16, 1969]

THE MASSACRE IN HUE

Evidence of one of the great atrocities in the modern history of warfare has been uncovered by Allied officials exploring the rice fields and sand dunes near the South Vietnamese city of Hue, a center of action during the Tet offensive of 14 months ago. In mass graves they are finding the bodies of hundreds of civilians, slaughtered by the Viet Cong and the North Vietnamese after being forced to dig their own graves. Details of these massacres, now being brought to light, are reminiscent of accounts of the Nazi extermination camps.

The victims were public officials and private citizens, young and old, men and women, whose offense was that of being anti-Communist and of having fought or being suspected of having fought to defend their city against the communist attackers.

This monstrous crime has been fully reported by the press, with evidence so complete and circumstantial that its nature cannot be doubted or even questioned. Yet, it has received singularly little attention in some quarters.

It goes unnoticed and unmentioned by the student kooks and the hippie-yippies who rage against American assistance to the South Vietnamese and libel their country with allegations of vast savageries that no one else seems to know anything about.

The Hue massacre goes unnoticed by the political and social theorists who see the war in Vietnam as a "colonial war" waged by this country and suggest that there has been no attack by Viet Cong terrorists and North Vietnamese invaders on the people of South Vietnam.

It goes unnoticed by those woolly-minded critics who compare Ho Chi Minh with George Washington and the Viet Cong with the American patriots of the Revolutionary War. If any mass graves of slaughtered Tories and loyalists ever were found outside Philadelphia or Boston or New York, history has been extraordinarily silent on the fact.

Intellectual dishonesty can be one of the greatest of crimes.

SAIGON POST
May 3/69

292 More Hue Victims Uncovered

HUE, Vietnam (UPI)--Gravediggers have uncovered the bodies of 292 persons executed by the Viet Cong during the Tet offensive in February of 1968, province officials said Thursday.

The mass grave was located in the sandy platlands four miles east of Hue, 300 miles north of Saigon. It brought to 850 the number of dead executed since digging began almost two months ago in the area.

Officials said nearly 2,000 persons, most of them civilians were unaccounted for after the communists held the city of Hue for 24 days. Most of the victims were believed kidnapped and marched to the outskirts of Hue and executed.

The 850 bodies were found in a narrow series of trenches not far from the south China Sea. Some had been shot, others had their skulls crushed. The hands of many had been tied behind their backs.



VIETCONG " JUSTICE"

Crying in utter despair and agony, a young wife keeps vigil next to the body of her husband whom she has just identified.

COMMUNISTS ADMIT MASS MURDERS

300 more bodies found

COMPILED BY THE VIETNAM GUARDIAN

The Vietnamese communists have admitted the cold-blooded execution of thousands of their countrymen during the battle of Hue in last year's tet offensive.

The admission was made in a Hanoi Radio broadcast beamed to South Vietnam. In an attack on Hue's local government officials, the broadcast said in part:

«In order to cover up their cruel acts, the puppet administration in Hue recently played the farce of setting up.»

The admission came as gravediggers uncovered the bodies of 292 more persons executed by the communists in the Hue area, bringing the total number of bodies discovered in the last two months to 850.

«The so-called Committee for the Search for and Burial of the Hooligan lackeys who had incurred blood debts to the Tri-Thien-Hue compatriots and who were annihilated by the southern armed forces and people in early spring.»

In communist terminology the «compatriots» are members of the Viet Cong hierarchy and their sympathizers, and the «Southern Armed Forces» are the Viet Cong troops which attacked Hue.

The hooligan lackeys were the 3,000 or more citizens of Hue and the surrounding area, most of them innocent civilians, who were missing after the month-long 1968 battle in and around the city.

More than 1,200 bodies of men, women and children were uncovered in mass graves soon after the communist troops were driven from the city last year.

In recent weeks several other mass graves have been found, yielding the remains of close to 1,000 more victims and Hue authorities fear the final total may exceed 3,000.

From the position and condition of the bodies it is evident that in many cases the victims' hands were tied behind them with wire and some were shot, some bludgeoned to death, and some simply buried alive.

West Berlin Paper Hits Hue Murders

WEST BERLIN—The indiscriminate killing of South Vietnamese civilians during last year's Tet offensive, highlighted gruesomely by the discovery of mass graves at Hue recently, is commented on at length by the Far Eastern correspondent of Berlin's *Tagesspiegel*, Dietrich Mummendey, in an article in the April 27 edition of the paper.

«They were not collaborators, they were not active anti-Communists, but they were victims of a seemingly indiscriminate mass murder, perhaps a punishment for the absence of the Communist-desired popular uprising,» Mummendey says.

He points out that many Vietnamese at that time believed their relatives had been captured but that they have now learned the truth about the cruel fate of their kin.

Mummendey reports that the mass graves were detected a week after South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu had said he was ready to negotiate with the Viet Cong in direct and secret contacts, but the mass graves are bad publicity for the VC.

«Terror has always been the preferred weapon of the Viet Cong,» Mummendey says. «The terror of mighty Viet Cong missile attacks on South Vietnamese cities is designed to demonstrate that neither the government nor the Americans are in a position to protect the population.»

Noting that between Jan. 1 and the first week of April 1969, 2,101 Vietnamese civilians were killed by the Viet Cong, 5,397 wounded and 3,178 abducted, Mummendey emphasizes that the Hue mass slayings were a striking example of indiscriminate Viet Cong terror which may arouse the population against the Communists rather than against the government.

Mummendey considers it one of the greatest disappointments for the Communists that their hope for an uprising did not materialize, nor did South Vietnamese soldiers defect in masses when the Tet offensive began. Just as scantily did the urban population welcome the Viet Cong as liberators, Mummendey says.

The *Tagesspiegel* correspondent sees as one of the most urgent problems the political confrontation with the Communists which is bound to follow the military one.

«Can Saigon dare confront its citizens one day with the alternative of rejecting or electing the Communists?» he asks.

«The Saigon government in the past few days has gone a surprisingly long way since a few months ago when it still tried to boycott the Paris talks because the U.S. had agreed to have the Viet Cong sit at the conference table along

with Hanoi's negotiators. When Saigon later sent a delegation to Paris it continued stubborn on the issue of recognizing the NLF as an independent delegation. This led to the famous dispute over the form of the conference table and the arrangements of seats...

«There is no doubt that President Thieu's change has been accelerated by constant American pressure. On the other hand, diplomats believe, he has smartly adjusted himself to the changed world situation. That this was possible at all is regarded by many in Saigon as an indication that Thieu's political position in South Vietnam is much stronger today than it was a year ago.»

Mummendey adds that «South Vietnam is also militarily stronger than a year ago, while the morale of the Viet Cong is perhaps lower than the present offensive permits (one) to assume. Despite this offensive, more Viet Cong are defecting to the government than ever before.» In the first three months of the year their number totaled 10,000. Most of the defectors come from the government pacification areas and Saigon observers are puzzled by the fact that the Viet Cong seldom use their offensive to attack the pacification centers.

«It is true that retaliatory

terror in the villages has not abated, but the pacification today seems to be more successful than before the Tet offensive, even in areas in which no government official has set foot in years.»

Mummendey says the Viet Cong no longer seem to have objections to the government installing markets, schools, and wells in villages since it is expected that the outcome of the war will be decided at the conference table.

«Saigon and its American allies hope that whoever can prove he controls most villages in South Vietnam will have a strong influence on the results of the negotiations.»

Mummendey cites an American who participated in the pacification campaign, quit the army in protest against Washington's Vietnam policy after the Tet offensive, and recently visited his old friends in the Mekong Delta as confirming the success of the pacification.

«But still it appears futile to ask anyone if he would vote against the Communists so long as he does not know who will prove to be militarily the stronger. The more a man comes to this unfortunate country and the more mosaic pieces he assembles, the more blurred appears the answer to the question if such simple facts still influence what will ultimately happen here,» Mummendey concludes.



Exhausted and overcome with grief a young woman collapses next to the remains of her murdered husband

350 Hue VC Victims Given Mass Funeral

By Robert G. Kaiser
Washington Post Foreign Service

HUE, May 5 — Three hundred fifty nameless citizens of Hue were buried here today in small red coffins. They were victims of the worst Communist atrocity of the war in Vietnam, but only about 30 mourners attended the funeral.

The mourners were joined by hundreds of others—soldiers, distinguished guests, old women selling soap, boys selling ice cream and important local officials. The funeral was planned by the local officials, who also organized two other mass burials in recent weeks.

Mass burials have become regular events in Hue. More than 800 bodies have been found so far in makeshift graves that are little more than a year old.

The graves, more accurately ditches, were dug by the Vietcong early last year during their occupation of Hue, which lasted nearly a month. Perhaps 2000 people were murdered in that month; at least that is the number of residents still unaccounted for since the 1968 Tet offensive.

The victims were murdered on the edges of the ditches that volunteers have been uncovering for the last six weeks. Many were shot in the back of the head. Others

were beaten to death. Every principal bone of one skeleton found two weeks ago was broken. Some of the bodies showed no signs of any injury and presumably were buried alive.

Many were South Vietnamese soldiers and minor government officials. Officials here believe that the names of the dead appeared on Communist blacklists. But this cannot account for the women and children who were slain.

"Some may have just got caught up," Maj. William Johnson speculated today. Fewer than half the bodies recovered have been identified, so the precise pattern of terror remains a mystery.

Trucks Bear Coffins

Today's funeral began with a mass procession down Le-loi, a principal street of Hue that parallels the Perfume River. Policemen in jeeps led the procession. They were followed by 2½-ton U.S. Army trucks decorated with wreathes and flowers.

Each truck carried eight to 12 coffins made of American plywood painted red. Every coffin was numbered and on its top rested a small

bouquet and sticks of burning incense.

It took nearly an hour for the procession to reach the burial ground several miles out of town. This was the second cemetery selected for the murder victims. The first, chosen before officials realized how many bodies would be found, was in a rich rice paddy south of Hue. It has since been decided that this productive land should not be turned into a huge graveyard, so a more barren site was found.

The trucks arrived in a clamor of horns and clouds of dust. The teenage boys and girls riding on them—members of the Peoples' Self-Defense Forces—unloaded the red boxes. They set the coffins beside the graves, and the field looked like a table covered with hundreds of carefully spaced red dominoes.

Later, while the coffins were being lowered by hand into the graves, a religious ceremony began 20 yards away. The service and some speeches were broadcast over a tinny public address system which ran on current from a portable generator that hummed in the background.

The sun was bright and hot. People milled about; boys hawked popsicles to

soldiers who had come as an honor guard. (Other soldiers in armored personnel carriers provided security for the ceremony from behind a ridge half a mile away.)

'Better Organized'

The ceremony ended quickly. ("The first funeral ran 5½ hours; I thought it would never end," an American official commented. "They've gotten better organized.")

The important guests, who had come with Gen. Hoang Xuan Lam, the South Vietnamese commander in the Hue area, started back for their helicopter. Most of the others also started to leave and the trucks began rumbling down the road.

But about 30 women remained, bowing, bending and wailing before the makeshift altar, mourning in the Buddhist fashion. They lingered, tossing handfuls of dirt onto many of the graves.

They had decided that their missing relatives must have been among this batch of bodies, though they could not identify them.

There will be more mass funerals if more bodies are found, but many American officials here want to stop looking. "We've made the point," said one adviser. "We need to spend more time on the problems of the living."

Reprinted by permission from The Washington Post
May 28, 1969

Hue Delegation Tells Of Massacre By Reds

By PETER J. KUMPA
[Staff Correspondent]

Saigon, May 28—A delegation of Hue citizens led by their City Council chairman came here today to complain that they had been misunderstood and massacred by the Viet Cong last year during the Tet offensive and then insulted by Saigon's minister of information earlier this year.

With Nguyen Khac Thieu, council chairman, as their spokesman, the independent-minded citizens of the ancient Vietnamese capital voiced most of their anger against the Communists for the mass killing that they claimed would reach a total of between 3,500 and 4,000 innocent unarmed people. This figure is about twice the previous estimates of the slaughter victims, only about half of whom have been dug out of mass graves.

Allegations Denied

Mr. Thieu angrily denied allegations that the Viet Cong killings were in political reprisal against those who opposed militant Buddhists in a 1966 struggle.

He said the Viet Cong misunderstood the temper of Hue. When they found only small minority support, they turned on the populace in "the most barbarous waves of slaughters," reminiscent of Hitler, to kill Buddhists and non-Buddhists alike.

The Hue delegation proposed in the House of Delegates that they send Madame Nguyen Thi Binh, the Viet Cong deputy leader in Paris, a large, sealed metal box containing a collection of rope, wire and vines that had been removed from trussed-up victims of the Communists.

Madame Binh had told the BBC that the Hue massacres were the result of "Partisan

struggles and internal liquidation" carried out by local South Vietnamese. This explanation clashed with an earlier admission on April 27 by Hanoi Radio. It admitted that "hooligan lackeys" had been "annihilated by southern armed forces" (Viet Cong) because of alleged previous blood debts.

But while rejecting this view, the Hue delegation defended its "regional honor" against Nguyen minister of information,

But while rejecting this view, the Hue delegation defended its "regional honor" against Nguyen Ngoc An, minister of information, for a funeral oration he delivered April 13.

The minister, now under severe attack from the House of Representatives here, suggested that those in Hue who had taken to the streets in 1966 "must assess for themselves this tragic massacre." He was tying together the old struggle movement with the subsequent slaughter. He proposed unity and support for the Saigon government.

The Hue City Councilman said the speech had made his citizenry "angry and miserable."

Led In 1966 Battle

Mr. Thieu vowed that Hue would continue "struggles" even against the government because "struggles are a form required for real democracy."

"So far," he added, "we have been ill-treated, and victims of so many injustices [by ministers] but we are proud of the achievements of our struggles and manifestations."

The Hue delegation recalled that it was Hue that led in the 1966 battle for a constitutional assembly that came a year later. He said it was from that struggle that the Viet Cong got

the wrong idea of the political inclinations of its citizens.

The Information Minister was criticized two weeks ago in the House of Representatives here for being incompetent, and impolite as well. Out of the total House membership of 176, some 92 members signed a petition for his removal.

Refusal Claimed

Mr. Nguyen Ngoc An is also minister for the Chieu Hoi agency which administers those persons returning from the Viet Cong. The Hue delegation claimed today that he had refused to let them borrow persons who could point out more mass graves of the Tet offensive slaughter. They also complained that they were not given military security so they could search out the hidden burial sites.

The Hue delegation of nine persons, including two City Council members and two widows whose husbands had been murdered by the Viet Cong, had to explain their long delay in coming before the Saigon press.

They said that the Ministry of Information had done nothing about telling their story.

Simplified, the story is a critical one for South Vietnam. As the Hue spokesmen told it, no one was immune from Viet Cong murder squads even though they played no political role, or even if they had opposed the government.

"Never believe," they said, "that the so-called National Liberation Front was a program saying that association will be made with all patriotic nationalist parties for national independence and reconstruction, and that as you are an integral member of this or that party, you may never be killed by the

Viet Cong, if not invited to cooperate."

"In a word," they concluded, "with the Viet Cong, if we are not members of the Communist party, and have not been collaborating with them in a continuous manner for several years, we should never believe that they will co-operate with us by not killing us right away."

The message from Hue was that everyone, political or not, had to choose sides in South Vietnam or face possible death from the Communists.

Diễn văn của Dân Biểu

TRẦN-NGỌC-CHÂU

Tổng-thư-ký, đại diện Ô. Chủ-tịch Hạ-Viện

ĐỌC TRƯỚC ĐÁM TÁNG TẬP THỂ ĐỒNG
BÀO NẠN NHÂN CỘNG SẢN TẠI HUẾ
NGÀY 15-4-1969

Thưa Ông Chủ Tịch Hội đồng Nhân dân Thị Xã,
Huế,

Thưa Ông Chủ Tịch Hội đồng Nhân dân Tỉnh
Thừa Thiên,

Thưa Đại Tá Tỉnh Trưởng,

Thưa Quý Vị Thân hào, Nhân sĩ.

Thưa toàn thể Đồng bào,

Tôi rất lấy làm hân hạnh được đại diện Ông Chủ
Tịch Hạ nghị Viện đề cùng với Quý Vị Dân biểu địa
phương Nguyễn Ngọc Nghĩa, Nguyễn Lý Tường và
Kiều Mộng Thu trở về Cố đô Huế từ nhiều ngày nay
để tiếp tục chịu tang chung cùng hàng ngàn gia đình
trước đây và của trên 500 gia đình vừa tìm lại hài cốt
của thân nhân đã bị Việt Cộng tàn sát trong biến cố
Tết Mậu Thân.

Thưa Quý Vị,

Thưa Đồng bào.

Trước hết, Phái đoàn Hạ nghị Viện chúng tôi xin
thành kính cầu nguyện cho vong linh của các Đồng bào
thọ nạn được sớm giải thoát.

Chúng tôi cũng xin kính gửi đến Quý vị thân nhân
các gia đình có nạn nhân lời phân ưu chân thành của
Hạ nghị Viện Việt Nam Cộng Hòa.

Thưa Quý, Vị,

Thưa Đồng bào.

Kể từ Tết Mậu Thân, hơn 1 năm dài đã trôi qua.

Thế mà dĩ vãng đau thương vẫn không thể xóa
nhòa được.

Lần lượt, tuần này qua tuần khác, nhiều đồng bào
mất tích trước đây đã trở về trong hình hài tan nát,
dưới một vài lớp đất mỏng manh.

Nhưng nỗi đau thương của Tết Mậu Thân chưa lúc
nào lại nổi bùng dậy đến mức độ cao nhất như trong
những ngày hôm nay, với hơn 500 thi hài vừa được tìm
thấy trong các hầm hố tại các Quận Phú Vang và Phú
Thủ.

Phải chăng vào lúc Chính quyền và Quốc dân ta
đang bày tỏ Thiện chí hòa giải dân tộc để mong sớm
tìm lại Hòa bình cho Xứ Sở thì sự trở về của các Đồng
bào nạn nhân Cộng sản dưới hình thể của những thi hài
vỡ vụn, bẽ ngực, tay chân bị trời xích vào nhau đang nhắc
nhở cho mọi người chúng ta đừng bao giờ quên được
bản chất hiếu sát và tàn bạo của Cộng sản, ngược hẳn
với luận điệu tuyên truyền êm dịu của họ tại khắp nơi.

Thưa Quý Vị,

Thưa Đồng bào.

Cố đô ta đã từng chứng kiến bao nhiêu lần vùng
đậy của Nhân dân để chống lại đồ hộ Pháp, chống lại
bạo quyền của những năm trước đây,

Nhưng chỉ khi quật cường, tinh thần tranh đấu của
Đồng bào ta lúc nào cũng hướng về những mục tiêu xây
đựng.

Xây dựng cho Thế chế Quốc gia được tự do, dân
chủ thật sự, xây dựng cho Đời sống của Nhân dân được
cải thiện.

Xây dựng cho những truyền thống tín ngưỡng thiêng
liêng được tôn trọng.

Nhiều Giới chức lãnh đạo trước đây và một phần
dư luận ngoại quốc đã thường nhận định lầm lẫn về sự
đấu tranh của Đồng bào ta cho những mục đích xây

dụng với sự đấu tranh của Cộng sản cho những mục đích trái ngược.

Do đó, họ đã thường kết tội những người đấu tranh tại vùng đất này như có tình thần tương trợ cho Đối phương.

Chính Cộng sản cũng đã nhận định sai lầm như vậy và với Tết Mậu Thân, nỗi tuyệt vọng, căm hờn của họ đã đổ lên trên hàng ngàn sinh mệnh của những người mà

họ tưởng có thể lợi dụng được tình thần đấu tranh sẵn có để phục vụ cho Tà thuyết Cộng sản.

Thưa Quý Vị,

Thưa Đồng bào,

Biến cố Tết Mậu Thân vẫn còn để lại cho chúng ta những xót thương không bao giờ nguôi được.

Những biến cố Tết Mậu Thân tại Cố đô này cũng là cơ hội để chứng minh cho những người có trách nhiệm trong Quốc gia này và dư luận thế giới là Nhân dân Việt-Nam chúng ta lúc nào cũng sẵn sàng đấu tranh chống lại tất cả mọi Chủ-Nghĩa, hình thức và uy thế bạo tàn bất công bất cứ xuất phát từ đâu.

Và những sự đấu tranh nội bộ trong Cộng đồng Quốc gia giữa những người Quốc-gia không nhất thiết sẽ dẫn dắt những người chống đối đấu tranh phù trợ cho Cộng sản.

Thưa Quý Vị,

Thưa Đồng bào,

Đến đây, tôi xin phép được có đôi lời với những người bên kia giới tuyến.

Hỡi những người Cộng sản và những người còn ôm ấp ít nhiều ảo tưởng với Cộng sản,

Biến cố Tết Mậu Thân với sự cam chịu dọa dẫm, tàn sát thay vì phục tùng bạo lực, tà thuyết của hàng ngàn đồng bào tại Cố đô này đã chứng minh những điều tôi vừa trình bày.

Cộng sản sẽ mãi mãi không bao giờ còn hy vọng lôi kéo Nhân dân Miền Nam này vào cuộc đấu tranh tuyệt vọng của Cộng sản nữa.

Chúng tôi tha thiết mong rằng đã đến lúc chính những người bên kia giới tuyến phải nhìn nhận thực tế đó, phải sớm hồi tỉnh để trở về với Quốc gia, để đáp ứng lại đề nghị hòa giải dân tộc, tái lập hòa bình của Chính quyền và Nhân dân Việt-Nam Cộng-Hòa. Hầu sớm kết thúc cuộc chiến tranh đau thương và tàn bạo này.

Thưa Quý Vị,

Thưa Đồng bào.

Phái đoàn Hạ-Nghị-Viện chúng tôi một lần nữa xin kính cầu cầu nguyện vong linh những người quá cố được sớm giải thoát.

Chúng tôi xin ghi nhận cái tang của Cố đô như Tang chung của toàn thể Quốc gia chúng ta.

Trân trọng kính chào Quý Vị và toàn thể Đồng bào.



Workers examined the remains of a victim found in one of the mass graves located in Phu Thu District.

SPEECH BY CONGRESSMAN TRAN NGOC CHAU
SECRETARY-GENERAL, Representing the
Speaker of the Lower House, delivered
during the mass funeral for the victims
of the Viet Cong in Hue.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am greatly honored to have been chosen to represent the Speaker of the Lower House so that together with Congressmen Nguyen Ngoc Nghia, Nguyen Ly Tuong and Kieu Mong Thu, I could once again return to this ancient capital of this time to mourn with the thousands of families whose relatives had been cruelly murdered by the Viet Cong during the Tet Mau Than Offensive.

First of all, we should like to extend our prayers for the souls of these victims, that they may soon be liberated. We would also like to extend to the families of these victims the deepest sympathies of the Lower House.

More than a year has passed since the Tet Mau Than, yet the painful memories of the past is still with us. Week in, week out, the battered bodies of those persons listed as missing have turned up covered over by a thin layer of dirt.

But the miseries of the Tet Mau Than have never been shown more clearly than during these past few days when more than 500 bodies have been uncovered in the trenches of Phu Vang and Phu Thu.

Is it because, at this time when our government and our people are showing a conciliatory spirit in the hope that peace will soon come back to our land that these poor innocent victims whose bodies had been savagely ravaged have returned to remind us never to forget the cruel and inhumane nature of the Communists.

Our ancient capital has witnessed many risings by the people in opposition against French colonialism and against the totalitarian regimes of the past years.

But the fighting spirit of our people has always been aimed at constructive goals: How to keep the Nation truly free and democratic and how to make the lives of the people more progressive.

Many former leaders and some foreign observers have erratically confused the struggle of our people whose aim is constructive with that

of the Communists, which is the opposite. Thus, they have accused the fighters of this area as having sympathies with the enemy.

Even the Communists themselves have had these false thoughts and with the Tet Mau Than, their revenge for dashed hopes were heaped on thousands of lives of whom they thought they could take advantage in order to advance the Communist ideology.

The events of the Tet Mau Than leaves us with painful wounds that will never heal. These events in this ancient capital also prove to those in responsible positions in this country and abroad that our Vietnamese people are always ready to fight against all ideologies whose nature is cruel and inhumane, no matter from where they originate.

With your permission, I would like at this time, to address a few words to those on the other side, to those who are Communist or who have sympathies for the Communists.

The events of the Tet Mau Than which brought pain and misery to the thousands of people in Hue are proof of what I have just said.

The Communists no longer have any hopes of ever attracting the people of the South to their hopeless fight. We sincerely hope that by this time those on the other side have realized this reality and will soon awaken and return to the National cause in answer to our call for conciliation so that this savage and painful war will soon come to an end and peace once again restored to our beloved country.

Once again, we would like to send our prayers that the souls of those who have passed from this life will soon be free.

Please know that the mourning of this ancient capital is the common mourning of the whole nation.

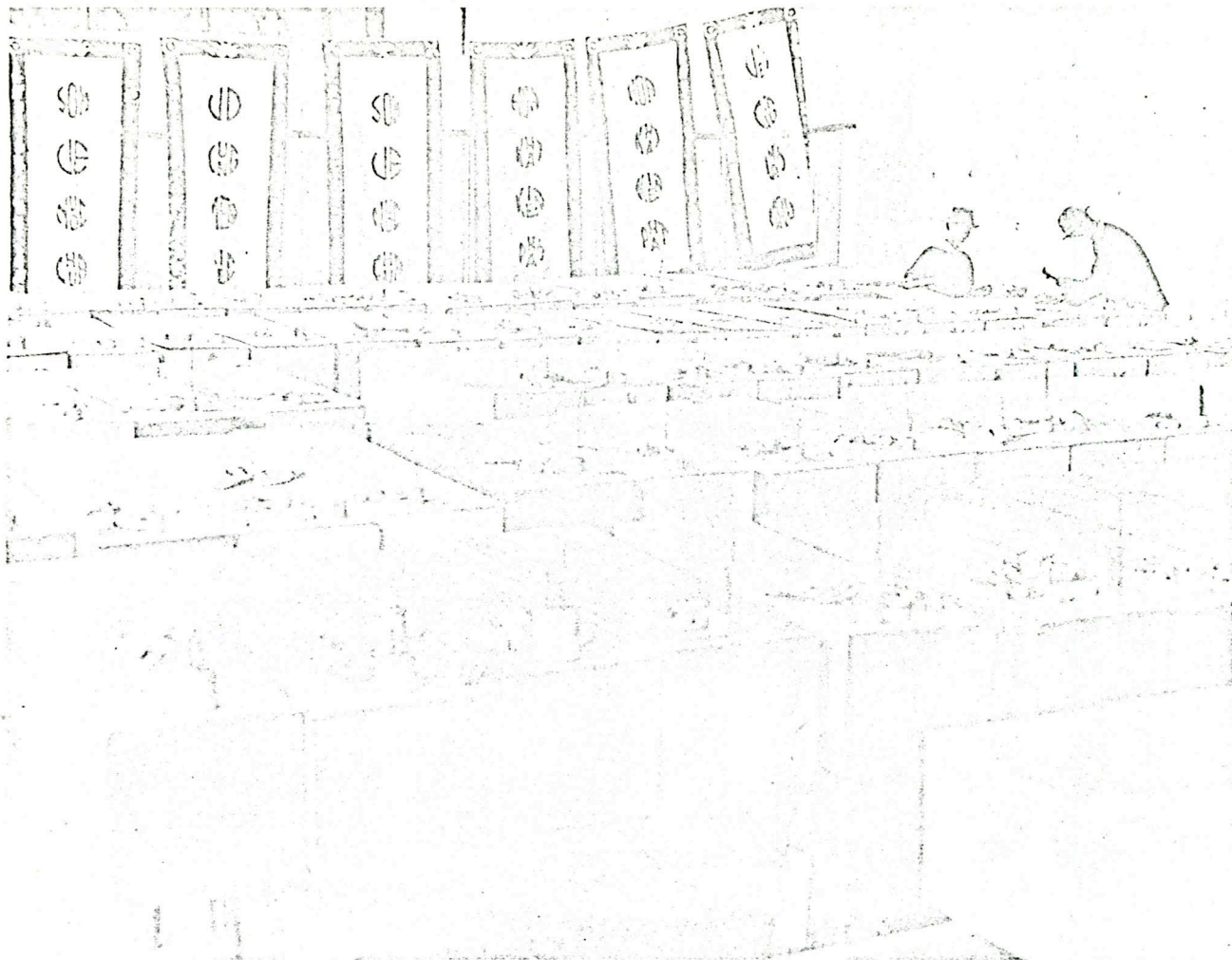
Thank you.



Grieving over the loss of their loved ones



Mass funeral organized by local authorities for proper re-burial of unidentified bodies: Thousands of people participated in the ritual procession to the cemetery



The "liberation" of graves by the NLF

FOLLOWING IS RUNDOWN ON HUE MASSACRE. AN IPS STORY WHICH WRAPS-
UP NVN ADMISSION OF THE MASSACRE IS ALSO INCLUDED. HOPE THIS WILL
SUFFICE.

THE VIET CONG OCCUPIED PARTS OF THE CITY OF HUE DURING THE TET OF-
FENSIVE IN MARCH 1968. DURING THE OCCUPATION, THE VC ROUNDED UP CITY
AND PROVINCE OFFICIALS, MILITARY PERSONNEL, TEACHERS, PERSONS BELIEVED
TO BE ANTI-COMMUNISTS, AND POLICE. THESE CAPTIVES WERE MARCHED
OFF BY THE VC -- AT THE TIME TO DESTINATIONS UNKNOWN BY FRIENDS AND
RELATIVES AND KILLED THEM. WHEN THE ENEMY WAS DRIVEN FROM THE CITY
AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES, THERE WERE MORE THAN 2,000 PERSONS (PROB-
ABLY MORE) INCLUDING WOMEN AND CHILDREN UNACCOUNTED FOR.

SHORTLY AFTER THE BATTLE FOR HUE HAD ENDED, 19 MASS GRAVES WERE FOUND
IN THE CITY HOLDING THE BODIES OF MORE THAN 1,200 MEN, WOMEN AND
CHILDREN. MANY OF THE VICTIMS HAD BEEN SHOT, SOME BEHEADED. A
NUMBER OF THE BODIES SHOWED SIGNS OF MUTILATION. MOST WERE
FOUND WITH THEIR HANDS BOUND BEHIND THEIR BACKS. SINCE THERE
WERE SO MANY STILL UNACCOUNTED FOR AND WITH MORE INFORMATION
BECOMING AVAILABLE FROM VARIOUS SOURCES - (AND THE ANXIETY OF
FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF THOSE MISSING), A NEW SEARCH WAS BEGUN
IN MARCH 1969. DURING THE WEEK OF MARCH 24 THE SEARCHERS BEGAN
FINDING THE MASS GRAVE SITES AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS AROUND THE CITY -
SOME AS FAR AWAY AS 20 KILOMETERS IN MARSHLANDS AND ALONG SANDY
BEACH AREAS.

THE SEARCHING CONTINUED THROUGH APRIL 20TH. THE TOTAL BODIES RECOVERED DURING MARCH-APRIL 1969 PERIOD NUMBERED 802. EFFORTS WILL BE RESUMED IN EARLY JUNE. EXAMINATION OF THE REMAINS OF THE INDIVIDUALS INDICATE MANY WERE BURIED ALIVE AFTER HAVING BEEN CLUBBED AND THROWN INTO THE SHALLOW GRAVES. OF THE MANY WOMEN VICTIMS SOME WERE FOUND TO HAVE BEEN PREGNANT.

IDENTIFICATION OF THE REMAINS IS DIFFICULT. THE GREAT MAJORITY WILL NEVER BE KNOWN. IN MOST CASES ONLY SKELETONS, BITS OF CLOTH AND PIECES OF JEWELRY WERE FOUND IN THE GRAVES.

SAIGON, APRIL 30 -- THE VIETNAMESE COMMUNISTS HAVE ADMITTED TO THE COLD-BLOODED EXECUTION OF THOUSANDS OF THEIR COUNTRYMEN DURING THE BATTLE OF HUE IN LAST YEAR'S TET OFFENSIVE. THE ADMISSION WAS MADE APRIL 27 IN A HANOI RADIO VIETNAMESE LANGUAGE BROADCAST BEAMED TO SOUTH VIETNAM. THE BROADCAST WHICH ATTACKED FUND-RAISING PRACTICES IN HUE, SAID IN PART: "ACCORDING TO LPA (THE NLF'S LIBERATION PRESS AGENCY), IN ORDER TO COVER UP THEIR CRUEL ACTS, THE PUPPET ADMINISTRATION IN HUE RECENTLY PLAYED THE FARCE OF SETTING UP THE SO-CALLED COMMITTEE FOR THE SEARCH FOR AND BURIAL OF THE HOOLIGAN LACKEYS WHO HAD INCURRED BLOOD DEBTS TO THE TRI-THIEN-HUE COMPATRIOTS AND WHO WERE ANNIHILATED BY THE SOUTHERN ARMED FORCES AND PEOPLE IN EARLY MAU THAN SPRING."

IN COMMUNIST TERMINOLOGY THE "COMPATRIOTS" ARE MEMBERS OF THE VIET CONG INFRASTRUCTURE AND THEIR SYMPATHIZERS, AND THE "SOUTHERN ARMED FORCES" ARE THE VIET CONG TROOPS WHICH ATTACKED HUE.

THE HOOLIGAN LACKEYS WERE THE 3,000 OR MORE CITIZENS OF HUE AND THE SURROUNDING AREA, MOST OF THEM INNOCENT CIVILIANS, WHO WERE MISSING AFTER THE MONTH-LONG 1968 BATTLE IN AND AROUND THE IMPERIAL CITY.

MORE THAN 1,200 BODIES OF MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN WERE

UNCOVERED IN MASS GRAVES SOON AFTER THE COMMUNIST TROOPS WERE DRIVEN FROM THE CITY LAST YEAR. IN RECENT WEEKS SEVERAL OTHER MASS GRAVES HAVE BEEN FOUND, YIELDING THE REMAINS OF CLOSE TO 1,000 MORE VICTIMS, AND HUE AUTHORITIES FEAR THE FINAL TOTAL MAY EXCEED 3,000.

FROM THE POSITION AND CONDITION OF THE BODIES, ACCORDING TO HUE OFFICIALS, IT IS EVIDENT THAT IN MANY CASES THE VICTIMS' HANDS WERE TIED BEHIND THEM WITH WIRE AND SOME WERE SHOT, SOME BLUDGEONED TO DEATH AND SOME SIMPLY BURIED ALIVE.

OFFICIAL SOURCES IN VIETNAM SAY ADMISSIONS OF THIS KIND BY THE COMMUNISTS ARE VERY RARE BECAUSE THEY USUALLY TRY TO PLACE THE BLAME FOR THEIR MORE BLATANT AROCITIES ON THE ALLIES. SUCH AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT DOES LITTLE TO ENHANCE THE BENEVOLENT IMAGE THE NLF AND HANOI HAVE BEEN SO CAREFUL TO CREATE FOR U.S. AND INTERNATIONAL CONSUMPTION

FACT SHEET

Shortly after the TET offensive in February, 1968, nineteen shallow mass graves were found in and around the city of Hue, containing the bodies of 1,200 men, women, and children who had been methodically assassinated by the enemy during its occupation of the city. The

victims were city and province officials, national policemen, military officers, military personnel, teachers, missionaries, medical personnel, and others with a reputation for anti-communism, Catholic refugees from North Vietnam, etc.

American and South Vietnamese investigation teams report that almost half of the victims were found in conditions indicating they had been buried alive. A great many others had apparently been shot in the back of the head after their arms had been bound behind them.

Since the discovery of the first graves last year more than 800 more bodies have been found in the sandy marshes near Hue. Officials believe that another 1,000 and possibly 2,000 will be uncovered.

The series of photographs attached was taken in spring, 1969, during the reburial of some of the 800 bodies found in the marshy areas near Hue.

Viet Cong Strikes by a Scalpel

How Tactics of Terror Are Used Against the South Vietnamese

Continued From Page One

harmd in the attack, the attempt was a major news item.

"It might not even have been as complicated as that," says one analyst of the daily terrorism roundup. "The attack was carried out in such an amateurish fashion that it could have been a disgruntled Vietnamese civilian employe of the Navy."

Early one morning, a terrorist tossed a hand grenade into the government's central post office and telegraph office opposite Saigon Cathedral, just a few blocks from the Caravelle and Continental Palace hotels, in the very heart of downtown Saigon. Why? Again, an attack on such an installation is newsworthy and conveys, momentarily at least, the impression that the Viet Cong is ubiquitous. Moreover, the Viet Cong constantly urge the citizenry to stay away from such government installations. The grenade was a reminder.

Death on a Cholon Bus

Two women terrorists boarded a bus in Cholon, the working-class and Chinese section of the city, shot the driver, and set fire to the vehicle, the driver and a passenger perishing in the flames. Senseless? Probably not, in the Viet Cong view.

"The bus was probably owned by a Chinese businessman," says the analyst. "Now every commercial vehicle moving on the roads in Vietnam pays 'taxes' to the VC or to crooks who claim they are VC. The Chinese are pretty foxy; the businessman probably tried to get out of paying off."

Adding to the terror mix are straightforward attacks upon targets such as police stations and military installations in which innocent bystanders are inevitably killed and wounded. Terrorists casually wheeled a cart up to a police station in Cholon at midday last week and fled when suspicious policemen approached. Seconds later, a 40-pound explosive in the cart ripped through the police station, killing one woman and wounding 26 bystanders.

Another nervy terror squad was surprised in the process of setting up a 60mm. mortar in a school house within range of the heavily guarded Presidential Palace. National police killed one of the mortar-men and arrested two others.

'Senseless' Acts

Regardless of the rationale, Westerners find many acts of terrorism "senseless" in view of the extremely heavy toll of innocent persons. Terrorists one recent morning concealed a powerful bomb in a container and placed it on a street corner in front of a coffee shop in the most congested section of the market in Ben Tre, a city south of here. The bomb killed 6 persons and wounded 42; among the dead were two 60-year-old women and two girls, aged 3 and 12.

Equally horrible, in Western eyes, are the indiscriminate rocketings of market places, hospitals, and shacks of the poor in cities such as Saigon and Da Nang. Such actions are seen as attempts at mass terrorization. They fail because the enemy is not strong enough to send rockets and mortars over in sufficient quantity to induce this effect. As a result, the rocketings have had a tendency to backfire, infuriating many people who had often as not been indifferent to either the Viet Cong or the government. The rocketings have even converted some opponents of the Thieu government.

"Some militant Buddhists came to me in shocked surprise and righteous indignation," says one U.S. official. "They said, as though they had just discovered a great new truth: 'Why, they are killing innocent people with these rockets here in Saigon!' It was all I could do to keep from replying: 'Yes, you're at least getting a dose of what the people in the villages have been living with for nearly 15 years. Maybe now you'll wake up.'"

By far the most grisly, and significant, chapter in the history of Viet Cong and North Vietnamese terrorism in South Vietnam is still unfolding in the city of

May 14 1968

Ave

National Observer

Hue where, since the end of the Tet offensive last year, more than 2,000 bodies of persons methodically assassinated by the enemy have been dug up from shallow mass graves. Volunteer gravediggers, many of them teen-agers, are still finding bodies, and officials believe that another 1,000 and possibly 2,000 will be uncovered.

"It was the beginning of the 'night of the long knives' that is standard operating procedure after a Communist takeover," says a U.S. State Department man who has made a study of the Hue massacre. "The North Vietnamese held Hue for nearly a month, and they had planned to hold it permanently as an enclave. The assassination squads worked from prepared lists, just as the Nazis and the Stalinists did. What happened in Hue is just a smattering of what you can expect if the Communists succeed in taking over South Vietnam."

There is reason to believe that President Nixon had Hue in mind when he said in his Vietnam speech last week: "When we assumed the burden of helping defend South Vietnam, millions of South Vietnamese men, women, and children placed their trust in us. To abandon them now would risk a massacre that would shock and dismay everyone in the world who values human life."

When the enemy was finally dislodged last year from the thick-walled Citadel of Hue where they made their last stand, 19 mass graves were found containing the bodies of 1,200 men, women, and children. Many of the dead were the usual victims: city and province officials, national policemen, military personnel, others with a reputation for anticommunism, Catholic refugees from North Vietnam.

Reds Turn on Their Allies

But what came as a shock to many was the fact that the Communists also assassinated militant Buddhists who had been involved in earlier attempts to overthrow the Saigon regime, men who had worked with the Communists toward this end. They eliminated, as well, members of numerous antigovernment political parties, foreign missionaries, and medical personnel.

Among the foreigners killed were Father M. Cressonier, 59, and Father Pierre Poncet, 36, of France, who belonged to the Societe des Missions Etrangeres de Paris, Father Cressonier having lived in Hue for 25 years. Two other French priests, members of the Benedictine Order, were also assassinated.

Students and faculty of Hue University were appalled at the murder of three German professors of medicine and the wife of one of them.

"They were discovered April 2, 1968," says a U.S. Government report. "They had been dumped into a single shallow grave in a freshly plowed potato field behind a rural pagoda not more than 1½ kilometers south of the walled city. All had been shot in the back of the head, their hands trussed behind them with wire. The victims were: Dr. Horst Krainick, 59, professor of pediatrics, and his wife Elizabeth (whose body had been mutilated); Dr. Raimund Discher, 44, professor of internal medicine; and Dr. Alois Altekoecker, 36, professor of general medicine.

"These people had never done anything warlike or hurtful to the VC," said Dr. Nguyen The Anh, professor of history and rector of Hue University. "And Frau Krainick was a gracious lady. We simply don't understand it."

Buried Alive

American and South Vietnamese investigating teams report that "almost half of the victims were found in conditions indicating that they had been buried alive. Many were found together in groups of 10 to 15, eyes open, with dirt or cloth in their mouths. Evidence also was discovered of victims having been clubbed unconscious prior to being buried alive."

In one official report of the massacre there appears this item: "Tang Quang Tu Pagoda. Coordinates: YD 764-240. Number of graves: 13. Number of bodies: 67. Date

discovered: From 3/1/68. Comment: Victims shot. Buddhist monk in Pagoda heard nightly executions by pistol and rifle shots in plowed field behind pagoda during first two weeks in February, with victims pleading for mercy. Leader of Vietnam Nationalist Party Nguyen Ngoc Ky, was among victims found here."

In March of this year, a new search for bodies was begun at the instigation of a diminutive 40-year-old widow, Madame Ton That Lang of a neighboring district. Her husband, a school teacher, had been taken from their home by six Viet Cong soldiers six days after the city's occupation.

Madame Lang prevailed upon her district chief to ask for volunteers and trucks to begin a search for bodies in the sandy marshlands not far from Hue. The search was successful. Other committees were formed, other searches were begun, more bodies were found.

"One set of graves was discovered when someone noticed that the grass in that particular field was greener than it was in the next field," says an American official.

Identification, most of the time, has been impossible, for the enemy destroyed the victims' identification cards. One woman obviously had a premonition of her fate: She wrote her name, ID card number, and address in ink on the inside of her underwear.

The first batch of 1,200 bodies found last year was buried in a paddy. But the new finds, totaling 800 bodies so far, are so numerous that it was decided not to waste any more valuable rice-growing land with a cemetery; hence a new burial ground has been established in sandy scrubland.

The bodies are placed in plywood coffins, which are painted red and given numbers. Then mass funerals are held. Among the mourners at a recent funeral was Madame Lang. She hasn't found her husband's body yet. But she hasn't given up the search.

—PETER T. CHIEW

The Toll of Terror

Each evening at the briefings in Saigon's National Press Center, the Vietnamese national police release a list of terrorist "incidents" for the previous 24 hours, a list prepared with the assistance of the United States' Public Safety Division of the Agency for International Development (AID), which provides civilian police advisers to the Vietnamese. Herewith is a random sampling of thousands of incidents that have taken place since Feb. 23 of this year when the Communists kicked off their most recent offensive.

- VC mined the train from Nha Trang to Thap Cham in Cam Lam District of Khanh Hao Province, killing 4 civilians, wounding 13 other civilians, derailing three wagons and destroying one.

- VC terrorists exploded an undetermined number of plastic bombs in two restaurants in Cao Lanh City, Kien Phong Province, killing one 13-year-old girl and wounding 43 other civilians.

- One civilian was killed and three others wounded when they stepped on a VC mine in Vinh Phuh Hamlet, Vinh Kim Village, Long Dinh District of Dinh Tuong Province.

- A truck hit a VC pressure mine on Inter-Provincial Road No. 149, near Tan My Hamlet in Tan Nhuan Dong Village, Duc Ton District of Sadek Province, wounding five civilians. The truck was demolished.

- One VC company attacked My Thanh Hamlet, Ba Xuyen Province, killing one civilian. The victim was

a candidate for hamlet chief in the forthcoming elections.

- One child was seriously wounded when the VC mortared the market place in Nga Nam Hamlet, Ba Xuyen Province.

- VC assassinated a 50-year-old civilian in his home in My Thanh Hamlet, Phong Dinh Province.

- An unknown-size force of VC attacked the Quang Ngai City Hospital, Quang Ngai Province, blowing a hole through a security wall and destroying two ambulances, including one UNICEF Volkswagen. One maternity patient was killed.

- VC burned down 25 civilian homes in Thai Dong Hamlet, Quang Tin Province.

- A VC team of six men invaded Hamlet II, Binh Thanh Dong Village, Go Cong Province, captured a civilian male named Pam Van Ho, aged 38, took him to the center of the village, then killed him by cutting his throat open to the abdomen. The VC left his body in the village square and told the townsfolk he was assassinated because he was a government of Vietnam "agent."

- An unknown number of VC broke into the local Catholic Church in Binh Son District of Quang Ngai Province and assassinated Priest Nguyen Duc Diem and his house boy.

- VC fired five rounds of 82mm. mortars into the Buddhist Orphanage in Quang Ngai City, Quang Ngai Province, killing one orphan and wounding 21 other orphans.

November 18, 1969

SCHOOLCHILDREN NUMBERED AMONG VICTIMS OF HUE MASSACRE

HUE, Nov. 18 - The farmers of Duong Mong village near Hue still remember the nights of 20 months ago.

"They marched the children to the bank of a stream," said one elderly farmer. "We could hear their cries and screams. Then they killed them "

The bodies of 15 schoolchildren were discovered on November 12, in Phu Thu District, 14 kilometers southeast of Hue, along with 51 other victims of the communist massacre. A total of 230 bodies have been recovered since November 8.

The children, all about 16 years old, were kidnapped by communists from various Hue schools during the battle for the city during Tet 1968. The communists were driven out of Hue in late February, but for the inhabitants of near-by Phu Thu district the "nightmare" was just beginning.

The communists marched several hundred of these schoolchildren to Phu Thu district with the purpose of converting them into Viet Cong. They held the children for three months, indoctrinating them. When most of the children refused to cooperate, the communists began killing them in groups of five or six, district authorities said.

"The Viet Cong buried these children in small foxholes," said Phu Thu district chief Major Vu Ngoc Tung. "We have a report that in Ha Tru Mot hamlet about 100 children were killed and then buried near a stream."

Major Tung said that the communists remained in Phu Thu district for about three months following the original Hue massacre. The Viet Cong infiltrated the villages and forced the local people to feed them. At night they murdered those people who remained loyal to the Government.

"Before escaping to Truoi Mountain in May," said Major Tung, "they assassinated as many of their captives as they could. Vien Trinh hamlet once held 300 Vietnamese prisoners. The communists killed all of them."

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The bodies of six of the recovered schoolchildren have been identified by surviving relatives. The small bones, the small-sized clothes, and a few tattered identification cards helped confirm the grisly events of nearly two years ago.

The story was further pieced together by recent Hoi Chanh (returnees) in the area. Several of them were among the schoolchildren at the time of Tet, and had been successfully recruited by the communists. They saw the murders with their own eyes.

On November 14, these victims of the communists were buried, along with approximately 170 others found recently in Phu Thu district. The funeral procession consisted of 50 vehicles, and more than an estimated 50,000 persons lined the roads to Hue, many of them crying openly.

Only eight days before the skeletons of the children were discovered, President Nixon, in his speech on Vietnam, referred to the Hue massacre as "the nightmare of a nation", and promised that the United States would stand by its commitments to South Vietnam to prevent a possible recurrence.

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May 3, 1969

IPS Correspondent

HUE GRAVES REFLECT VIET CONG'S INDISCRIMINATE TERROR, GERMAN SAYS

WEST BERLIN -- The indiscriminate killing of South Vietnamese civilians during last year's Tet offensive, highlighted gruesomely by the discovery of mass graves at Hue recently, is commented on at length by the Far Eastern correspondent of West Berlin's Tagesspiegel, Dietrich Mummendey, in an article in the April 27 edition of the paper.

"They were not collaborationists, they were not active anti-Communist but they were victims of a seemingly indiscriminate mass murder, perhaps a punishment for the absence of the Communist-desired popular uprising," Mummendey says.

He points out that many Vietnamese at that time believed their relatives had been captured but that they have now learned the truth about the cruel fate of their kin.

Mummendey reports that the mass graves were detected a week after South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu had said he was ready to negotiate with the Viet Cong in direct and secret contacts, but the mass graves are bad publicity for the VC.

"Terror has always been the preferred weapon of the Viet Cong," Mummendey says. "The terror of mighty Viet Cong missile attacks on South Vietnamese cities is designed to demonstrate that neither the government nor the Americans are in a position to protect the population."

Noting that between Jan. 1 and the first week of April 1969, 2,101 Vietnamese civilians were killed by the Viet Cong, 5,397 wounded and 3,178 abducted, Mummendey emphasizes that the Hue mass slayings were a striking example of indiscriminate Viet Cong terror which may arouse the population against the Communists rather than against the government.

Mummendey considers it one of the greatest disappointments for the Communists that their hope for an uprising did not materialize, nor did South Vietnamese soldiers defect in masses when the Tet offensive began. Just as

scantly did the urban population welcome the Viet Cong as liberators, Mummendey says.

The Tagesspiegel correspondent sees as one of the most urgent problems the political confrontation with the Communists which is bound to follow the military one.

"Can Saigon dare confront its citizens one day with the alternative of rejecting or electing the Communists?" he asks.

"The Saigon government in the past few days has gone a surprisingly long way since a few months ago when it still tried to boycott the Paris talk because the U.S. had agreed to have the Viet Cong sit at the conference table along with Hanoi's negotiators. When Saigon later sent a delegation to Paris it continued stubborn on the issue of recognizing the NLF as an independent delegation. This led to the famous dispute over the form of the conference table and the arrangements of seats...

"There is no doubt that President Thieu's change has been accelerated by constant American pressure. On the other hand, diplomats believe, he has smartly adjusted himself to the changed world situation. That this was possible at all is regarded by many in Saigon as an indication that Thieu's political position in South Vietnam is much stronger today than it was a year ago."

Mummendey adds that "South Vietnam is also militarily stronger than a year ago, while the morale of the Viet Cong is perhaps lower than the present offensive permits (one) to assume. Despite this offensive, more Viet Cong are defecting to the government than ever before. In the first three months of the year their number totaled 10,000. Most of the defectors come from the government pacification areas and Saigon observers are puzzled by the fact that the Viet Cong seldom use their offensive to attack the pacification centers.

"It is true that retaliatory terror in the villages has not abated but the pacification today seems to be more successful than before the Tet offensive, even in areas in which no government official has set foot in years.

Mummendey says the Viet Cong no longer seem to have objections to the government installing markets, schools, and wells in villages since it is expected that the out-come of the war will be decided at the conference table.

"Saigon and its American allies hope that whoever can prove he controls most villages in South Vietnam will have a strong influence on the results of the negotiations."

Mummendey cites an American who participated in the pacification campaign, quit the army in protest against Washington's Vietnam policy after the Tet offensive, and recently visited his old friends in the Mekong Delta as confirming the success of the pacification.

"But still it appears futile to ask anyone if he would vote against the Communists so long as he does not know who will prove to be militarily the stronger. The more a man comes to this unfortunate country and the more mosaic pieces he assembles, the more blurred appears the answer to the question if such simple facts still influence what will ultimately happen here," Mummendey concludes.

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April 2, 1969

IPS Correspondent

HUE, South Vietnam, April 2 -- One hundred and thirty-six Viet Cong victims of last year's Tet offensive were buried during the last weekend in a mass funeral here.

The Viet Cong victims of the 1968 occupation of Hue were located since March in mass graves about 20 kilometers south of the city along a sandy beach.

Vietnamese officials said 25 of the bodies have been identified. Two were women.

The half-mile-long funeral cortege started at Nam Ngoc School, about five kilometers south of Hue. The school has been used as a morgue during the recent search operations.

Led by the Civil Defense Band of Thua Thien Province -- Hue is the provincial capital -- the procession moved three kilometers over Route 551 to the cemetery of the Viet Cong's. The cortege traveled the same road Viet Cong and North Vietnamese troops used as their major attack route to Hue.

The first bodies were uncovered two weeks ago. However, a full-scale search of the area could not be organized until last Wednesday.

Phu Vang District Chief Le Ba Trung reported there were rumors that more than 1,000 persons had been murdered along the sandy stretches of beach while the VC occupied this former royal capital.

Major Trung said bodies which have been located so far are in areas reported by three survivors of the mass murders. Two of the three were identified as Sergeant Nguyen Tan Chau and Corporal Doi. They said they had been captured and marched in groups of 30.

The District Chief said that Chau reported he had broken loose from his group and escaped into the darkness. However, Chau said there was enough light for him to witness the murder of his fellow prisoners by the VC.

He reported that they were bound, back-to-back, shot in the head and dumped into shallow graves. According to Major Trung, Corporal Doi told him his group was informed by the VC that they were going to the beach area for training. However, when Doi saw the shallow trenches he realized they were prepared graves. He managed to untie the wire binding his arms and escaped after seeing others struck down with heavy clubs. He reported that all were then pushed into the open trenches and covered with sand. He said all the victims were not dead when they were pushed

Officials who have been examining the bodies report that many of the victims

THIS FINAL THIRD OF THE 20TH CENTURY."

MEANWHILE, HOWEVER, THE PRESIDENT SHOWED HIMSELF READY TO BEGIN THE EFFORT TO RELAX TENSIONS, DESPITE CONTINUING IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES. IN ORDER "TO PREVENT DETENTE FROM BECOMING DELUSION," HE SAID, THERE WOULD NEED TO BE "SOME CHANGE OF MIND ABOUT POLITICAL PURPOSE." BUT THE UNITED STATES IS PREPARED TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES, STARTING WITH THE PROPOSED U.S.-SOVIET TALKS ON STRATEGIC-ARMS CONTROL.0

IF THESE SHOULD YIELD "ANY SORT OF BROAD-BASED ARMY AGREEMENT WITH THE SOVIETS," PRESIDENT NIXON POINTED OUT, THE EFFECT

WOULD BE TO "CODIFY THE PRESENT BALANCE" IN NUCLEAR POWER. AND IF THAT DEEP FCJ2.443-38 STABILITY COULD BE INTRODUCED INTO INTERNATIONAL POLITICS, THE RESULT SHOULD BE TO GAIN ADDITIONAL TIME TO CONTINUE THE EVOLUTION OF THE PAST 20 YEARS. TIME-- TIME TO BUILD ON THE ELEMENTS OF HOPE THAT DO EXIST-- REMAINS, IN PROFESSOR HALLE'S WORDS, "THE ONLY CURE." ITEM

4-11-69 R/440P

EPF-102

COMMUNIST EXECUTION VICTIMS AT HUE NEAR 2,000 MARK (330)

BY JOSEPH L. DEES,

IPS CORRESPONDENT

HUE, SOUTH VIETNAM -- SOUTH VIETNAMESE VOLUNTEER WORKERS

APRIL 11 UNCOVERED THE REMAINS OF 48 ADDITIONAL VICTIMS

EXECUTED DURING LAST YEAR'S COMMUNIST TET OFFENSIVE IN THE HUE AREA.

THE LATEST DISCOVERY BROUGHT TO 472 THE NUMBER OF VIET CONG EXECUTION VICTIMS FOUND SINCE MARCH 24, AND TO NEARLY 2,000 THE TOTAL DISCOVERED SINCE LAST YEAR.

MORE THAN 1,200 BODIES OF MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN FROM HUE AND THE SURROUNDING AREAS, EXECUTED BY THE COMMUNISTS, WERE RECOVERED IN 1968, IN THE WEEKS IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE TET OFFENSIVE.

COLONEL LE VAN THAN, MAYOR OF HUE AND CHIEF OF THUA THIEN PROVINCE, SAID THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VICTIMS MAY WELL RISE TO 3,000 OR MORE. HE COMPARED THE COMMUNIST MASS EXECUTIONS

TO "THE WORST ATROCITIES OF WORLD WAR TWO."

MOST OF THE 48 VICTIMS, INCLUDING SEVERAL WOMEN, WERE TIED TOGETHER WITH ROPE AND THEIR ARMS WERE BOUND WITH WIRE. SOME WERE BOUND NECK-TO-NECK.

PAGE 2--COMMUNIST EXECUTION

IN THE WEEK OF MARCH 24, SEARCHERS FOUND 135 COMMUNIST EXECUTION VICTIMS IN 12 MASS GRAVES NEAR THE HAMLET OF VINH LUU. OFFICIALS SAID PRACTICALLY ALL HAD BEEN BEATEN TO DEATH. MEDICAL EXAMINERS DETERMINED THAT SOME HAD BEEN INTERRED WHILE STILL ALIVE.

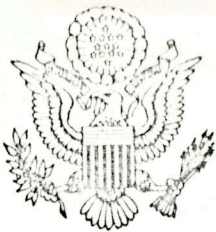
FIFTY-NINE OTHER VICTIMS WERE UNCOVERED AT THE VILLAGE OF XUAN HOA, EAST OF HUE.

ABOUT 90 OF THE VICTIMS FOUND THUS FAR HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED. ABOUT ONE-THIRD WERE POLICEMEN AND REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM SOLDIERS. A FEW WERE VILLAGE AND HAMLET OFFICIALS AND THE REST WERE VILLAGERS.

COLONEL THAN SAID MORE THAN 2,000 CIVILIANS IN AND NEAR HUE HAD BEEN LISTED AS "MISSING" SINCE LAST YEAR'S TET ATTACK. THEY APPARENTLY WERE SEIZED BY THE COMMUNISTS AND TAKEN AWAY.

"THEIR FAMILIES HAVE LIVED IN HOPE THAT THEY WERE TAKEN AWAY AS PRISONERS AND THAT THEY WOULD SEE THEM AGAIN," COLONEL THAN SAID. "BUT AFTER WHAT WE HAVE DISCOVERED IN THE PAST FEW DAYS, WE ARE QUITE SURE THAT MUST IF NOT RPT NOT ALL OF THESE MISSING PEOPLE WERE TAKEN AWAY AND EXECUTED." ITEM.

4-11-69 APA444P



141. NGUYEN-HUE SAIGON

Tel: 92.026 - 92.031

PRESS RELEASE

United States Mission in Vietnam

Release #47-82

March 9, 1968

NEW COMMUNIST EXECUTIONS REPORTED IN HUE

HUE, March 9 -- New reports of Communist executions of men, women and children in Hue and the surrounding area came today from the Combined Interrogation Center here. At this Center, military intelligence officers for the past ten days have been questioning hundreds of Viet Cong prisoners and suspects and have been receiving scores of reports from South Vietnamese who were eyewitnesses to the communist outrages.

The latest reports follow discovery of three mass graves in the Gia Hoi district in the northern part of Hue, containing a total of just over 100 bodies. Government officials earlier this week were led to the third of these graves by families living in the area; it was located five hundred yards from the northeast wall of the Citadel and contained in shallow graves the bodies of ten persons. Some of the bodies were found tied up, with their hands secured behind their backs.

Officials of the Combined Interrogation Center reported from different sections of the Hue area the following stories they have substantiated from eyewitness accounts:

Phu Cam (on the south side of Hue): local officials estimate that at least three hundred persons lost their lives to communist execution squads in this heavily Catholic neighborhood. Two French priests who had gone into the area to retrieve a sacred Tabernacle on February 25, were reported shot to death.

Ap Tong Gi Tay (five and half miles east of Hue): A Viet Cong unit which had assembled more than 200 South Vietnamese civilians, many of them local administrators, at the nearby town of Ton Nam Duong, and marched them to this town, took seventy-five of their captives to a nearby rice paddy and shot them.

In Hue itself Viet Cong executioners seized and murdered four officers of the Central Executive Committee of the Quoc Dan Dang political party and, in an area west of the Citadel wall, they decapitated local villagers who refused to be collaborators.

"The NVA (North Vietnamese Army) and the VC had the names and addresses of the people they wanted to get," an officer of the Combined Interrogation Center said, "and they had their own order of priorities for the ones they wanted to kill. Their victims were mainly police, political leaders, government and local civil servants, anyone who worked for the Americans and anybody who was known for his active support of the Government."

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(Note to correspondents: We have available photographs taken of some of the Hue victims.)

ANDREALISTIC PRINCIPLE OF A MUTUAL WITHDRAWAL OF TROOPS, OUR
SIDE IS READY TO DISCUSS WITH YOU THE PROCEDURES FOR SUCH A
WITHDRAWAL." ITEM

5-9-69 APA425P

EPF-113

HUE HALTS GRIM SEARCH FOR COMMUNIST VICTIMS (600)

BY THOMAS R. ELLISTON,

IPS CORRESPONDENT

HUE, SOUTH VIETNAM -- THE PEOPLE AND OFFICIALS OF
THUA THIEN PROVINCE HAVE TEMPORARILY HALTED THEIR SEARCH
FOR THE BODIES OF VICTIMS OF THE 1968 TET MASSACRE.

ACCORDING TO THE PROVINCE CHIEF, LIEUTENANT COLONEL
LE VAN THON, WHO DECREED THE HALT, "THERE ARE MORE VICTIMS
OF THE COMMUNISTS TO BE FOUND, AND WE PROBABLY
WILL BEGIN AGAIN EARLY NEXT MONTH."

NO RPT NO REASON WAS PUBLICLY GIVEN FOR STOPPING
THE BODY SEARCH.

THE BODIES OF MORE THAN 800 COMMUNIST VICTIMS WERE UNCOVERED
RECENTLY NEAR HUE, AND IT IS BELIEVED THAT ANOTHER
200 OR MORE BODIES ARE YET TO BE FOUND.

WHEN THE COMMUNISTS ATTACKED HUE AND THE NEIGHBORING VILLAGES
DURING TET, 1968, THEY ROUNDED UP CITY AND PROVINCE
OFFICIALS, MILITARY PERSONNEL, TEACHERS AND OTHERS
KNOWN TO BE ANTI-COMMUNIST.

A WHOLESALE BUTCHERING FOLLOWED, AND MORE THAN 2,000
PERSONS ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN SLAUGHTERED.

THE FIRST MASS GRAVES WERE UNCOVERED IN HUE SHORTLY
AFTER THE BATTLE FOR THE ANCIENT CITY ENDED IN MARCH, 1968, BUT
ONLY ABOUT HALF OF THE MISSING PERSONS WERE FOUND.

PAGE 2 -- HUE HALTS

BOTH IN 1968 AND AGAIN THIS YEAR, BODIES WERE DISCOVERED WITH THEIR ARMS TIED BEHIND THEM, CHAINED TOGETHER, AND IN MANY INSTANCES WITH GAGS SHOVED IN THEIR MOUTHS, INDICATING THAT SOME OF THE VICTIMS WERE BURIED ALIVE.

THE NEW SEARCH FOR BODIES BEGAN IN MARCH AT THE INSTIGATION OF A DIMINUTIVE 40-YEAR-OLD WIDOW, MADAME TON THAT LANG, OF PHU VANG. HER HUSBAND, A VOCATIONAL TEACHER, WAS CAPTURED BY SIX ARMED VIET CONG WHO BURST INTO THE LANG HOME SIX DAYS AFTER THE FIRST ATTACK ON HUE.

MADAME LANG ORGANIZED A COMMITTEE OF PHU VANG DISTRICT WIDOWS AND WENT TO DISTRICT CHIEF MAJOR LE BE TRUNG TO ASK FOR VOLUNTEERS AND TRUCKS TO BEGIN A SEARCH IN THE SANDY MARSHLANDS OF NEIGHBORING PHU TU PROVINCE.

MAJOR TRUNG SAID: "SHE CONVINCED ME SHE KNEW WHERE SOME OF THE BODIES WERE BURIED AND I AGREED WITH HER REQUEST. WE SENT OUT SEARCH PARTIES AND SOON BEGAN FINDING BODIES."

MEANWHILE, A SIMILAR COMMITTEE WAS ORGANIZED IN NEAREY HOANG THUY PROVINCE UNDER ITS DISTRICT CHIEF, MAJOR TRAN TIEN DAO.

AS THE BODIES WERE UNCOVERED FROM THEIR ROUGH HAND-SCOOPED GRAVES THEY WERE SENT BACK TO COLLECTION POINTS IN BOTH PHU VANG AND HOANG THUY. IN MOST CASES, ONLY SKELETONS, BITS OF CLOTH AND PIECES OF JEWELRY WERE FOUND IN THE GRAVES, AND IDENTIFICATION BECAME A DIFFICULT TASK.

PAGE 3 -- HUE HALTS

IN PHU VANG, THE COLLECTION POINT WAS AT THE LE UAN HIGH SCHOOL, WHILE IN HOANG THUY IT WAS ON THE SITE OF A FORMER VILLAGE OFFICE WHICH HAD BEEN BURNED BY THE VIET CONG.

TEAMS OF TEEN-AGE REVOLUTIONARY DEVELOPMENT CADRE--BOTH BOYS AND GIRLS--WORKED LONG HOURS PLACING THE BODIES IN PLYWOOD COFFINS WHICH HAD BEEN PAINTED RED. EACH CASKET WAS GIVEN A NUMBER. THEY WERE LAID OUT IN LONG LINES AND DECORATED WITH FLOWERS AND JOSS STICKS.

AT BOTH LE UAN AND THE HOANG THUY AREA, ALTARS WERE ESTABLISHED AND THE VILLAGE ELDERS CONDUCTED FUNERAL SERVICES.

A

MASS FUNERAL, THE SECOND HUE HAS SEEN IN A MONTH, WAS HELD MAY 5. FORTY EIGHT TRUNGMYZGONFOLGSED TO CARRY THE COFFINS FROM THE COLLECTION AREAS TO A NEW CEMETERY, ABOUT FIVE KILOMETERS FROM THE CENTER OF HUE.

HERE ADDITIONAL FUNERAL CEREMONIES WERE CONDUCTED BY CATHOLIC AND BUDDHIST DBGESTS FOR THE UNKNOWN VICTIMS OF THE TET SLAUGHTER.

ONE OF THE HUNDREDS OF PERSONS ATTENDING THESE SERVICES ON THAT HOT MONDAY MORNING WAS MADAME LANG, WHO HAS NOT YET FOUND THE BODY OF HER HUSBAND. ITEM

TUCUMVXNEAPM
M

ZEFF-114

PEKING PLOTS OVERTHROW OF INDIAN GOVERNMENT, LABOUR LEADER SAYS (350)

BOMBAY -- THE PEKING GOVERNMENT HAS INSTRUCTED ITS AGENTS TO INFILTRATE INDIA'S DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT, POLICE FORCES AND POLITICAL PARTIES TO WORK TOWARD THE OVERTHROW OF THE GOVERNMENT, ONE OF INDIA'S FOREMOST LABOUR LEADERS HAS CHARGED. IN A STATEMENT TO THE PRESS MAY 8, S.R. KUT RWI,

PRESIDENT OF THE 150,000-MEMBER ALL-INDIA PORT AND DOCK WORKERS' FEDERATION, SAID THE INSTRUCTIONS WERE ISSUED THROUGH THE CHINESE EMBASSY IN NEW DELHI. HE SAID HIS STATEMENT WAS BASED ON "RELIABLE REPORTS" RECEIVED AT HIS BOMBAY HEADQUARTERS.

CIM KULKARNI SAID PEKING ACTIVISTS HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO INFILTRATE 1. THEMSELVES RECRUITED INTO THE ARMED FORCE DEFENSE

ESTABLISHMENTS AND POLICE FORCES "IN ANY CAPACITY.", 2. INFILTRATE POLITICAL PARTIES, IRRESPECTIVE OF

THEIR IDEOLOGIES, ESPECIALLY THE INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS, AND TO CREATE TROUBLE FOR NON-CONGRESS PARTIES IN POWER IN SUCH STATES

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CE

SERVICES AND ESCAPE ARREST OR DETENTION.

THE PROPOSAL FOR A NATIONAL OCEANOGRAPHIC PROGRAM IS CONTAINED IN A 317-PAGE REPORT # "OUR NATION AND THE SEA," ISSUED IN JANUARY BY DR # STRATTONUSS COMMISSION.

PAGE TWO -- NEW U.S. AGENCY

T CONGRESS ESTABLISHED A MARINE SCIENCE COMMISSION IN 1966 TO MEET AMERICA'S NEEDS IN THE MARINE SCIENCE FIELD.

THE NEW AGENCY MUST BE CREATED "PROMPTLY IF THIS NATION IS TO MOVE FORWARD EFFECTIVELY IN ITS USE OF THE SEAS," DR. STRATTON SAID.

THE MORE THAN 100 RECOMMENDATIONS PUT FORWARD IN THE COMMISSION REPORT INCLUDE:

- 5
- # PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE COASTAL ZONE AND ESTUARIES.
 - # DEVELOPMENT OF LIVING AND NON LIVING SEA RESOURCES.
 - # EXPLORATION OF THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT.
 - # ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE OCEANS#

DR # STRATTON STRESSED THE NEED TO DEVELOP THE TECHNICAL CAPABILITIES TO REACH THE DEEPEST REGIONS OF THE OCEAN.

THE REPORT, HE NOTED, RECOGNIZES HUMAN NEEDS BY FOCUSING ON SUCH PROBLEMS AS THE RESOURCES OF THE OCEANS, THE PRESERVATION AND USE OF THE SHORES, THE POLLUTION OF LAKES AND THE MONITORING OF THE ENVIRONMENT. ITEM

4-29-69 AP4536P

EPF-45

HUE GRAVES REFLECT VIET CONG'S INDISCRIMINATE TERROR, GERMAN SAYS
(700)

WEST BERLIN -- THE INDISCRIMINATE KILLING OF SOUTH VIETNAMESE CIVILIANS DURING LAST YEAR'S TET OFFENSIVE, HIGHLIGHTED GRUESOMELY BY THE DISCOVERY OF MASS GRAVES AT HUE RECENTLY, IS COMMENTED ON AT LENGTH BY THE FAR EASTERN CORRESPONDENT OF WEST BERLIN'S TAGESSPIEGEL, DIETRICH MUMMENDEY, IN AN ARTICLE IN THE APRIL 27 EDITION OF THE PAPER.

"THEY WERE NOT II NOT COLLABORATIONISTS, THEY WERE NOT II NOT ACTIVE ANTI-COMMUNISTS, BUT THEY WERE VICTIMS OF A SEEMINGLY INDISCRIMINATE MASS MURDER, PERHAPS OF A PUNISHMENT FOR THE ABSENCE OF THE COMMUNIST-DESIRED POPULAR UPRISING," MUMMENDEY SAYS.

HE POINTS OUT THAT MANY VIETNAMESE AT THAT TIME BELIEVED THEIR RELATIVES HAD BEEN CAPTURED AND THAT THEY LEARNED THE TRUTH ABOUT THE CRUEL FATE OF THEIR KIN.

MUMMENDEY ASSERTS THAT THE MASS GRAVES WERE DETECTED A WEEK AFTER SOUTH VIETNAMESE PRESIDENT VAN THIEU HAD DECLARED HIS READINESS TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE VIET CONG IN DIRECT AND SECRET CONTACTS THAT MIGHT ONE DAY LEAD TO ELECTIONS IN WHICH THE VIET CONG MIGHT APPEAR AS A POLITICAL PARTY, BUT THE MASS GRAVES ARE BAD PUBLICITY FOR THEM.

"TERROR HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE PREFERRED WEAPON OF THE VIET CONG," MUMMENDEY SAYS. "THE TERROR OF MIGHTY VIET CONG MISSILE ATTACKS ON SOUTH VIETNAMESE CITIES IS DESIGNED TO DEMONSTRATE THAT NEITHER THE GOVERNMENT NOR THE AMERICANS ARE IN A POSITION TO PROTECT THE POPULATION."

NOTING THAT BETWEEN JAN. 31 AND THE FIRST WEEK OF APRIL 1969 2101 VIETNAMESE CIVILIANS WERE KILLED BY THE VIET CONG, 5397 WOUNDED AND 3178 ABDUCTED, MUMMENDEY EMPHASIZES THAT THE HUE MASS SLAYINGS WERE THE HITHERTO MOST STRIKING EXAMPLE OF INDISCRIMINATE VIET CONG TERROR WHICH MAY AROUSE THE POPULATION AGAINST THE COMMUNISTS RATHER THAN AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT.

MUMMENDEY CONSIDERS IT ONE OF THE GREATEST DISAPPOINTMENTS FOR THE COMMUNISTS THAT THEIR HOPE FOR AN UPRISING DID NOT II NOT MATERIALIZE, NOR DID SOUTH VIETNAMESE SOLDIERS DEFECT IN MASSES WHEN THE TET OFFENSIVE BEGAN. JUST AS LITTLE THE URBAN POPULATION WELCOMED THE VIET CONG AS LIBERATORS, MUMMENDEY SAYS.)

THE TAGESSPIEGEL CORRESPONDENT SEES AS ONE OF THE MOST URGENT PROBLEMS THE POLITICAL CONFRONTATION WITH THE COMMUNISTS WHICH IS BOUND TO FOLLOW THE MILITARY ONE.

PAGE TWO -- HUE GRAVES

"CAN SAIGON DARE CONFRONT ITS CITIZENS ONE DAY WITH THE ALTERNATIVE OF REJECTING OR ELECTING THE COMMUNISTS?" HE ASKS.

"THE SAIGON GOVERNMENT IN THE PAST FEW DAYS HAS GONE A SURPRISINGLY LONG WAY SINCE A FEW MONTHS AGO IT STILL TRIED TO BOYCOTT THE PARIS TALKS BECAUSE THE U.S. AGREED TO HAVE THE VIET CONG SIT AT THE CONFERENCE TABLE TOGETHER WITH HANOI'S NEGOTIATORS. WHEN SAIGON LATER ON SENT A DELEGATION TO PARIS IT REMAINED STUBBORN ABOUT RECOGNIZING THE NLF AS AN INDEPENDENT DELEGATION. THIS LED TO THE OFACUS DISPUTE OVER THE FORM OF THE CONFERENCE TABLE AND THE ARRANGEMENTS OF SEATS...

"THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT PRESIDENT THIEU'S CHANGE HAS BEEN ACCELERATED BY CONSTANT AMERICAN PRESSURE. ON THE OTHER HAND, DIPLOMATS BELIEVE, HE HAS SMARTLY ADJUSTED HIMSELF TO THE CHANGED WORLD SITUATION. THAT THIS WAS POSSIBLE AT ALL IS REGARDED BY MANY IN SAIGON AS AN INDICATION THAT THIEU'S POLITICAL POSITION IN SOUTH VIETNAM IS MUCH STRONGER TODAY THAN IT WAS A YEAR AGO."

MUMMENDEY ADDS THAT "SOUTH VIETNAM IS ALSO MILITARILY STRONGER THAN A YEAR AGO, WHILE THE MORALE OF THE VIET CONG IS PERHAPS LOWER THAN THE PRESENT OFFENSIVE PERMITS ONE TO ASSUME. DESPITE THIS OFFENSIVE, MORE VIET CONG ARE DEFECTING TO THE GOVERNMENT THAN EVER. IN THE FIRST THREE MONTHS OF THE YEAR THEIR NUMBER TOTALLED 10,000. "MOST OF THE DEFECTORS COME FROM THE GOVERNMENT PACIFICATION AREAS AND SAIGON OBSERVERS ARE PUZZLED BY THE FACT THAT THE VIET CONG SELDOM ATTACK THE PACIFICATION CENTERS WITH THEIR OFFENSIVES.

"IT IS TRUE THAT RETALIATORY TERROR IN THE VILLAGES HAS NOT YET NOT ABATED, BUT THE PACIFICATION TODAY SEEMS TO BE MORE SUCCESSFUL THAN BEFORE THE TET OFFENSIVES, EVEN IN AREAS INTO WHICH NO GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL HAS SET FOOT FOR YEARS."

PAGE THREE -- HUE GRAVES

MUMMENDEY SAYS THE VIET CONG NO LONGER SEEMS TO HAVE OBJECTIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT INSTALLING MARKETS, SCHOOLS, AND WELLS IN THE VILLAGES WHEN IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE WAR WILL BE

DECIDED AT THE CONFERENCE TABLE.

"SAIGON AND ITS AMERICAN ALLIES HOPE THAT HE WILL HAVE A STRONG INFLUENCE ON THE NEGOTIATIONS, WHO CAN PROVE ONE DAY THAT HE CONTROLS MOST VILLAGES IN SOUTH VIETNAM."

MUMMENDEY CITES AN AMERICAN WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE PACIFICATION CAMPAIGN, QUIT THE ARMY IN PROTEST AGAINST WASHINGTON'S VIETNAM POLICY AFTER THE TET OFFENSIVE, AND RECENTLY VISITED HIS OLD FRIENDS IN THE MEKONG DELTA AS CONFIRMING THE SUCCESS OF THE PACIFICATION.

"BUT STILL IT APPEARS FUTILE TO ASK SOMEONE IF HE WOULD VOTE AGAINST THE COMMUNISTS AS LONG AS HE DOES NOT KNOW WHO WILL BE MILITARILY STRONGER. THE MORE OFTEN A MAN COMES TO THIS UNFORTUNATE COUNTRY AND THE MORE MOSAIC STONES HE ASSEMBLES, THE MORE BLURRED APPEARS THE ANSWER TO THE QUESTION IF SUCH SIMPLE FACTS STILL HAVE AN INFLUENCE ON WHAT WILL ULTIMATELY HAPPEN HERE," MUMMENDEY CONCLUDES. ITEM

4-29-69 APA600P

EPF-47

YOST, SHAW TO ADDRESS WOMEN'S MEETINGS ON PEACE KEEPING (300)

NEW YORK, APRIL 29 -- PEACE-KEEPING THROUGH THE UNITED NATIONS AND SOUTHEAST ASIA WILL BE SUBJECTS OF TALKS WHEN TWO U.N. AMBASSADORS -- CHARLES W. YOST OF THE UNITED STATES AND PATRICK SHAW OF AUSTRALIA -- ADDRESS MAY MEETINGS OF THE PAN PACIFIC AND SOUTHEAST ASIA WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (PPSEAWA).

AMBASSADOR YOST WILL BE THE PRINCIPAL SPEAKER AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF PPSEAWA TO BE HELD MAY 23 AT THE CHURCH CENTER FOR THE UNITED NATIONS. HE WILL SPEAK ON "PEACE MAKING AND PEACE KEEPING THROUGH THE UNITED NATIONS."

ON MAY 22 THE PPSEAWA'S
Z A DAY AT THE UNITED NATIONS"

COMMITTEE WILL SPONSOR AN ALL-DAY PROGRAM ON THE THEME "SOUTHEAST ASIA TODAY AND TOMORROW." SPEAKERS WILL BE AMBASSADOR SHAW MAKING THE KEYNOTE ADDRESS; RICHARD BAW-U OF BURMA WHO IS