3 YEARS OF ACHIEVEMENTS
of
PRESIDENT NGO-DINH-DIEM
ADMINISTRATION
On June 25th, 1954 the patriot NGO DINH DIEM, with the gigantic mission of «Saving the desperate situation, retrieving peace in the unification of the country, recovering the National Sovereignty, restoring peace in freedom and in the respect for human dignity and for the family life» has returned home from abroad.

He came back to Viet-Nam at the time when the situation seemed hopeless. At home, war was ravaging the entire country. Abroad, the Geneva Conference had unveiled the plot to partition the country by a group of individuals who, forgetting their own nationality, have betrayed the rights of the people. The small piece of land left to what was called the Nationalist Zone was again subdivided into many smaller sections. In the North, the Dai-Viet and the Viet-Nam Quoc-Dan-Dang were fighting for influence and power. In the Center, Phan-van-Giao, with the help of the Army, was the undisputable master. In the South, it was more tragic: the Binh-Xuyen pirates were masters in the City; the Cao-Dai in the East and the Hoa-Hao in the West imposed more authority than any king on earth.
The Premier came home at the darkest hours in history. While the Viet-Cong possessed a strong and powerful army, always ready to move South, the Head of the Government did not even have a soldier under his command Bao-Dai entrusted the command of the Armed Forces to the Colonialists; and Nguyen-van-Hinh, a Vietnamese with French citizenship, was chief of the General Staff. The Police and Security as well as the monopoly rights of organizing various gambling, and prostitution centers such as the Kim-Chung, Dai-The-Gioi, and Binh-Khang sector, were sold to the Binh-Xuyen.

As for the economic situation of the country, money was still completely tied to the French franc, and the power of issuing banknotes still in the hands of the Bank of Indochina. Rice, the vital resource of the Vietnamese people, was clamped under the control of the greedy-without-limits dissident sects Cao-Dai and Hoa-Hao for more than 10 years. All other basic and important economic activities were controlled by Chinese and French capitalists. In addition, a certain number of Vietnamese businessmen, with the help of colonialists and feudal lords, succeeded to smuggle goods, and therefore have sabotaged the economy of the country.

In spite of these difficulties, and in spite of other obstacles, on July 7, 1954, the first NGO DINH DIEM government was formed. A « combat » cabinet made its appearance with a well planned, realistic, and efficient program.

« The people wish to have justice and security. They can entrust my government with the formation of a just and honest administrative and judicial system.

The people are dying for freedom and democracy. the government will build up a democratic nation capable of winning strongly the heart of all the people.

The people hope to have a more equal social organization, a more efficient system of labor protection, a better standard of
living for the workers which are the primordial force and hope of the nation. In these domains, the government will never stop midway.»

All these promises have been concretely shown in the works done and the results scored have not only surprised the whole world but have been also praised and considered by it as «miracles».

As for the economic situation of the country, more spice was added in the pardon, reform, and the power of issuing bank-notes still in the hands of the bank of the Republic. Rest, the above-mentioned measures of the struggle against inflation, stabilization of the currency andInterpreter / Ruan Xuyen

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The most important work of the government is to recover fully the national sovereignty, and to reserve the decision making power to the people.

On the civil authority plane, the Issuing Institute, the Exchange Office, the Saigon Commercial Harbor, the Civil Aviation Service, the Meteorological Service, the Sea Signal Service, the Chamber of Commerce, the National University, the Independence Palace have been turned over to the Vietnamese Government. The Joint Courts and the Federal Intelligence Service are suppressed.

A Vietnamese « For The People » Judiciary System has been established. The Vietnamese Naturalization Law of December 12, 1955, symbol of an independent nation having full sovereignty, has been promulgated. In 1956, 700 foreigners have enjoyed Vietnamese citizenship.

On the military plane, the government has put under his command all military bases. On April 6, 1956 the Government
declared: «In order to protect the National Sovereignty, and to keep peace, the Republic of Viet-Nam recognizes that it is impossible to allow the presence of any foreign troops on Vietnamese territory, as well as to cede any military base». On April 26, 1956 the last expeditionary division under the command of General Jacquot left the Saigon harbor.

**On the financial plane,** Vietnamese banknotes issued by the National Bank have replaced entirely those issued by the Bank of Indochina.

**On the economic plane,** all economic monopolies so far in the hands of foreigners are gradually abolished.

**On the administration plane,** the government has destroyed all traces of the «Divide and Rule» policy adopted under the French domination. All titles such as Regional Governor, or Imperial Representative have been abolished and cede place to an administration based on the principles of independence and democracy.

On September 15, 1955 the first French diplomatic representative presented his credentials to the President of the Republic of Viet-Nam. And so ended the whole century of French domination.
Defeated on the political field, the feudal lords, the colonialists and the Communists collaborated very closely with each other and tried to use military strength to recuperate back some of their power, but once again in vain!

— September 19, 1954: the Coup d'Etat plot planned by Nguyen-van-Hinh is discovered.

— July 20, 1955: the people manifest and ask that a search for Vietnamese Communist cadres be undertaken, various communist denunciation operations are underway.


— February 28, 1956: the Binh Than Agreement protects and respects the freedom of belief. This has helped the Cao-Dai
Religion get back its influence and also eliminate all undesirable characters who, hiding under the sacred roof of religion, try to sow troubles and to exploit the situation.

— January 1 May 31, 1956: the Dinh-tien-Hoang and Nguyen Hue Operations put under control the Hoa Hao and catch alive their trouble-making leader Ba-Cut.

— Police and Security are no longer the symbols of terror. The private armies of the dissident sects were integrated into the National Armed Forces or demobilized. From now on the people living in the city as well as those in the far remote villages are no more afraid of money extortion or murder.

The judiciary machine is also reformed to concretise the principle of «Justice for the People». Entrusted with the formation of a well-trained personnel, the Ministry of Justice has also prepared a modern judiciary system (a Code of Penal Laws with 625 articles, a Code of Civil Law with 522 clauses, a Code of Trials have been compiled).

— The Government has liberated the regions of Ca-Mau, Dong-thap-Muoii, Phu-Yen, Quang-Nam, Quang-Ngai, Binh-Dinh, Quy-Nhon from Communism; and at the same time the people have discovered tons of arms and ammunitions, and thousands of communist party members have returned to the Nationalist Cause.

Order and security have been restored on all over Free Viet-Nam.
While the Vietnamese people united to wipe out all colonial and feudal vestiges, Bao-Dai always in the name of the chief of state undermined the country. His corrupted and personality-lacked life was a real laugh to the entire world and was a shame to the Vietnamese people. Furthermore he collaborated with colonialists and feudal lords to stop the wheel of progress in order to preserve his illegal authorities, and also played his last card of flirting with the Communists and tried to use the technique of «destroying what one cannot possess».

The reaction of the people has greatly shown in the Referendum of October 23, 1955: 98% of the votes went to the Patriot NGO DINH DIEM, the people recognized him as the Chief of State and entrusted him with the formation of a Democratic Regime.

On October 26, 1956 he read the proclamation and, with the people, concluded: «In unity and determination the great principle of a united, free, and prosperous Viet-Nam will triumph.»
«With that belief which is shown in the October 25, 1955 referendum I solemnly proclaim Viet-Nam a Republic». A new century has opened.

Following the proclamation President NGO DINH DIEM promulgated the Provisional Constitutional Act to fix the means, program, and all basic principles for various national institutions.

The government of the Republic of Viet-Nam was formed on October 29, 1955. President NGO DINH DIEM declared:

«All National Institutions have been actually unified. It is now necessary to clearly define these institutions within the framework of a Constitution guaranteeing independence for the country and freedom for all citizens.

The organization of the election for a National Assembly, closely related to the preparation of a Constitution, is an important job for this cabinet.

The future of the Republic of Viet-Nam depends on our perspicacity in the realization of these two important jobs». 
Faithful to his promises, President NGO DINH DIEM has without delay organized a General Election for the creation of a National Assembly.

On March 4, 1956 in spite of all communist sabotage and terrorization acts, the entire population went to the poll to elect the National Assembly of the Republic of Viet-Nam, entrusted with the duties of preparing a Democratic Constitution.

On March 15, 1956 President NGO DINH DIEM officially inaugurated the National Assembly:

«Our democracy has to be a continuous creative evolutionary democracy. Our freedom has to be the results of the people’s sacrifices and the efforts of the Government in the unification of their actions for the liberation of the human being.»
In those hopes, the destiny of our people will and has to be realized. Although the historical situation has limited our range of activities, our direction to establish a democracy as well as our activity center just cannot deviate. That direction aims at the unusual value of the human being, and our center of gravity is nothing else than the place the human being suffers the most: the working class.

« Of course ideas just cannot go far if there is nobody to concretize them. I am counting on you to establish a system capable of helping develop fully the human being, and at the same time not going against the revolution of progress which is bringing humanity to a collective and cooperative way of life.»

The Presidential Message of April 18, 1956 sent to the Constituant Assembly fixing all basic principles for setting up a new regime for the country is not only a literary masterwork but also a bright light to humanity in its way to personalism, a main tool in the building up of freedom, democracy, and peace to the world.

On October 26, 1956, in the midst of the people’s joy and the admiration from the entire world, the Constitution of the Republic of Viet-Nam was proclaimed bringing to the country a real and successful democracy.
NATIONAL UNIFICATION

Only when the people are rich, the country can be strong. In spite of the fact that a certain amount of natural resources has been exploited successively by the Colonialists, Communists, and feudal lords, the government has succeeded to overcome all obstacles, to implement a strong financial policy which not only stabilizes the public finance situation but also answers to the urgent problems of helping and promoting the uninterrupted increase of production of the nation.

1) Agriculture.

The Cai-San, La-Nga, and Pleiku projects are developing very satisfactorily: thousands of hectares of land have been cleared and cultivated, half a million refugees settled, and the unemployment problem solved.

The Dong-Cam Dam, inaugurated on September 17, 1955, guarantees the watering of 23,000 « mau » of rice field.
565,000 hectares at Camau, and Dong-Thap-Muoi have been exploited and the Pleiku-Kontum region is under an intensive clearance operation.

Farming is improving from the choice of seeds to the ploughing method. Agricultural Credit Fund has been set up with a fund of 225 million piastres to help farmers.

Many production and consumption cooperatives have been created.

Many forests and land estates have been reconstituted.

Reforestation, allowing private companies and cooperatives to have funds to mechanize the forest exploitation industry, has been realized.

2) Commerce.

Under the foreign domination, we were not responsible for the economy of our country, our exporting and importing programs have been tied to the economy of other foreign countries and we just could not do anything about it.

But now, we are free in our external commercial relations, i.e., we can regulate it with that of our friendly nations.

Before, customs union took from us a large revenue, we could not organize our own importation, could not guarantee our production and could not formulate our own economic policy.

But now, the application of the customs regulations makes us not only the only beneficiary of these revenues but also gives us the rights to formulate our own economic policy. From now on we can bargain on the imported and exported goods. Commerce in Viet-Nam has entered into the world of free trade.
Before, we were not free to use our own money. The money gained from exported goods, services, or foreign aids, were not in our possession. The concrete examples of that fact were the lack of national banknotes and of control of important parts of the country such as the commercial port of Saigon.

But now, we are free to use financial aids from foreign countries as well as the revenues received from exportation of our goods. This has increased greatly our foreign trade. The most concrete fact of the restoration of this power is the issuing of banknotes and the fixation of foreign money exchange being mostly convenient to our economy and finance. With the control of banknotes and the commercial port of Saigon, we have in our hands all the tools for the independence of our nation.

We have found the markets for these following national products:

— Rice
— Cinnamon
— Fresh fish
— Mats, duck feather, tea, ox and buffalo bones, wood, etc.

As for industry and commerce, the establishment of the National Bank, the Foreign Exchange Office, the National Trade Fund, the Viet-Nam Chamber of Commerce, and many other cooperatives of all kinds are the first step to guarantee and improve the National Financial and Economic situation.

3) Handicrafts and Industries.

Handicrafts are developed, industries are promoted, the Local Products Week in January 1957 marks the restoration of the National Economy.

Paper, weaving, sugar, cement, tea, glass, phosphate factories, and rubber, iron industries, etc..., have been and are established by the Government: Khanh-Hoa white sand, Nong-son coal mines...
have been exploited. Besides, the Danhim Hydroelectric project will provide enough water and electricity for the entire South.

4) Rehabilitation and Reconstruction.

A special Department has been established to study and realize the development and urbanization of the cities and towns by building up low-cost houses for the people.

Roads and bridges have been improved and developed. Only in 1956, more than 1700 kilometers of roads have been repaired, more than 3,000,000 cubic meters of irrigation have been dug, three 62-kilometer sections of railroad have been built. Tan-Son-Nhat, Phu-Bai, and Nha-Trang airfields have been improved, and 2 airfields at Banmethuot and Phu-Quoc have been constructed, etc...

The 5-year plan with its great program is drawn to build up an independent economy, to develop public institutions and to improve society.

The Banmethuot Fair marks the first step in the restoration of the National Economy. This has scared the opposition so much that they have to play their last and most coward trick, that of assassinating the President of the Republic. But thanks to his own destiny, and to the still bright Destiny of Viet-Nam, he escaped the attempt and once again the opposition suffered big defeat.
IMPROVEMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S LIVING STANDARD

Justice and Democracy just cannot last in a poor, illiterate and corrupted society.

The first improvement work of the Government of Viet-Nam is to close down the two gambling centers Kim Chung and Dai the Gioi (January 15, 1955), and to wipe out the Binh Khang prostitution sector, and to launch a fight against the four vices on all over Viet-Nam. The activities of various social committees on the reparations of road, on the digging of ditches, on the installation of water and electricity, on the elimination of unhygienic houses, on the construction of well-lighted houses, etc... have changed entirely the views of various popular sections. The establishment of the Vuon Lai and Thu Duc Orientation Centers for the reeducation of «public» girls, and juvenile delinquents, as well as the elimination of the «shark» profession, the organization of credit funds, and of
popular pawnbroker shops have contributed greatly to the social improvement.

Agrarian Reform has brought a pleasant life to the farm people and therefore killed down to the roots all Communist false propagandas. The Government has reorganized the irrigation system, has helped the farmers and tenants in the cultivation of their lands. Ordinance 57 aiming at making the tenants their own landowners, and directing the big landowners in industrialization marks a further step toward the realization of the «lands for tenants», builds the country in justice and charity, makes the number of the class A contracts jumping from 287,851 (July 1956) to 457,767 (July 1957), and 14,500 tenants have been given 26,120 «mâu» of land.

After establishing all necessary conditions for agricultural development, on November 24, 1956, the President ordered the establishment of Agricultural Development Centers, the development of the Dong Thap Muoi, An Xuyen, Ba Xuyen, U Minh Thuong centers; and the Highland Centers — Plei Bang Yam, Choudron, Pleipiom, Bounkroa, Daknong, Phuoc Long — succeed to feed thousands of families. The movement for improving the countryside has been wholeheartedly appreciated by the people’s, administrative, and military agencies and with their collaborations, has been very active. Millions of meters of dike have been repaired, thousands of wells dug, and thousands of village schools, and dispensaries, etc., built.

The Community Development Program is progressing and aiming at creating among the people a constructive and progressive spirit, giving the citizens a good conception of their responsibilities in the building up and improvement of the people’s standard of living which is guided by the Government.

Cadres at Provincial level, being formed at the Central Office, are intensively trained and sent back to their headquarters to help, and guide the people in the improvement of their standard of living.
12 ordinances, arretes, and statutes have been promulgated to protect the citizens’ rights.

In order to realize the policy for the improvement of the working class, many labor and economic laws, procedures, and programs have been applied and aimed at helping the working class have a consciousness of their rights and responsibilities, and at the same time at creating the necessary conditions for the application of these rights and responsibilities.

All necessary economic procedures have been taken to stop all speculations, and price increase which undermine the national market.

The government have applied all procedures to encourage the investments of foreign capitals in Viet-Nam in order to develop the industries in Viet-Nam and at the same time to provide jobs for the local people.

Credit funds, dispensaries, and popular restaurants have been established to help the poor people from being exploited.

The National School of Nursing, the Training School for Sanitary Technicians have been established in order to form a number of Health Cadres to be sent to various villages to look after the people’s health. Medicine in Viet-Nam which is directing toward the General Public and the Country has been democratized. The number of hospitals has increased from 40 (in 1956) to 44 (in 1957) in the towns and the number of dispensaries in the villages from 116 to 120, and the number of patients from 1,842,047 to 2,072,720.

In the City clearing program, 40,000 houses with all necessary comforts have been and are being built to replace small and unhygienic wooden and thatched houses.
A budget of 43,399,400 piastres for the fiscal year of 1957 used for the improvement of the people’s living standard and for the social improvement is a concrete proof of the government’s interest in its people.

Parallel to these physical improvements, spiritual improvements are of greater interest to the Government.

Popular Education Classes are opened all over Viet-Nam. In only 3 years, 8,730 classes are opened with an enrolment of 312,493 students.

Besides the 41 secondary schools with a total enrolment of 27,691 students, and 2,177 elementary schools with an enrolment of 461,442 pupils, the Government have also helped and promoted private schools, opened many semi-public schools with a total enrolment of 33,810 students, and 794 elementary schools with an enrolment of 120,304 pupils.

This does not include such schools as the Radio School, the Viet-Nam Navigation School, the Engineering School, the National Normal School, the Commerce Superior School, the National Music Conservatory, the School of Linguistics, the School of Girls’ Professions, and especially the National Institute of Public Administration, and the University of Hue which are established to form technicians for the service of the nation.

The life of these future leaders of the nation has been given a great attention: 39 restaurants for students and 163 students’ cooperatives with a total number of 32,659 members have helped the students greatly in their daily life. 137 Mutual Assistance Associations have been established with a total number of 52,544. A tuberculosis center for students has been also established.

In order to popularize the concept of democracy, to help the people, especially the country side people and the working class,
in their understanding of world affairs and of the government's policy, reading rooms, radio stations, and information booths have been established everywhere, from the working class sections in the city to the most remote villages.

The National Cultural Conference held on January 7, 1957 opened a new scene in the Cultural Revolution; the renovation of the original Vietnamese Culture based on personalism and the traditional virtue of the people.
DIPLOMATIC TRIUMPHS

3 years ago, if the situation in Viet-Nam was followed closely, it was convinced that the plot of going South set up by the Communist Viet Minh at the Geneva Conference would be realized by July 1956. But 3 years have passed, reality has killed all predictions. At present, while the Viet Minh are having all kinds of troubles in the North, the Republic of Viet-Nam is maturing every day, and is more stable in all fields.

As soon as the Republic is proclaimed, 48 countries have recognized it, 17 have commercial relations, and 22 have established embassies, consulates, and legations. The Republic of Viet-Nam is member of more than 30 international organizations, has been invited to 80 Conferences, have opened 16 embassies in many countries in Europe, Asia, and America, and is defended as a front line garrison in the fight against Communism in the Far East.

The state visit of the President to the United States in May this year is another triumph. President Eisenhower has personally
come to the airport to meet and welcome «Mr. NGO DINH DIEM, statesman, great politician, patriot, as the President of the Republic of Viet-Nam... a courageous leader, conscientious, and ready to sacrifice all for the principle of the Free World».

The American people welcomed him with great joy. As undifferent as the New Yorkers, there were also more than 250 thousand people lining on both sides of the official road to throw flowers and welcome «a courageous, wise, and honest leader who is greatly admired by the people of Asia and of all the Free World».

Today the people of Viet-Nam joyfully celebrate the anniversary of the third year of the President in office, and promise to unite closely under the enlightened leadership of the President in the fight against Communism in order «to defend the fatherland and the people’s happiness in INDEPENDENCE and UNIFICATION.»
The American people welcomed him with open arms. A most profound result of the New York Peace Conference was the more than 500 prominent people lining up to show their appreciation. The conference was of great importance to the peace-loving and progressive peoples everywhere. Today, the people of Vietnam joyfully celebrate the anniversary of the victory over the enemy and proclaim the unity and independence of Viet-Nam and the people's happiness in INDIPENDENCE and UNITED-TION.

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