Economic And Social Aid To Vietnam

Republic Of Vietnam
Ministry Of Foreign Affairs

July 1, 1964 - December 31, 1968
CORRIGENDA

THE SECTOR TOTALS CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT IN THE SECTION ON "THE NATURE OF AID" SHOULD READ AS FOLLOWS:

PAGE 7. MEDICAL ASSISTANCE - $31,566,208

PAGE 9. EDUCATION - $24,588,322.

PAGE 12. REFUGEES, RELIEF AND OTHER ASSISTANCE - $16,977,161.
This report by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Vietnam records the economic and humanitarian assistance extended to the Vietnamese people by so many countries during the four and a half years ending December 31, 1968. The current report, like those preceding it, includes assistance from governmental sources, foreign voluntary agencies and professional organizations sponsored by their governments, exclusive of U.S. programs.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Vietnam, I take this opportunity to thank those Governments who have done so much to assist the Vietnamese people. As we earnestly seek to serve our people in a time of peace, we hope that we can count on this continuing understanding and support in the days ahead.

TRAN CHANH THANH
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Republic of Viet-Nam.
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Collectively written by 43 countries, the record of assistance to Vietnam over the past four and a half years has been one of humanitarian response to a people under duress and concerned for the future of the next generation. Every geographic region of the world has responded to this cause—North and South America, Western Europe, Africa, the Middle East, Asia and the countries of the Pacific.

A formal appeal for economic and social aid to assist the Vietnamese people first went out to governments of friendly nations in July 1964. Since that time, goods and services worth almost $94 million, or an average of more than $20 million per year, have been supplied by 43 countries to alleviate the sufferings of the Vietnamese people and bring comfort and moral support in their moment of need. This report summarizes the invaluable assistance furnished over the entire period, with particular focus on 1968.

The year 1968 was particularly important. The TET offensive, because of the innumerable loss of human life and property, has been frequently mentioned. Its effect on economic and social assistance to Vietnam was also tremendous. One ill-fated result was the disruption of the planning and implementation of a number of development projects and training programs. This disruption lasted for many months. The TET offensive was indiscriminate and its projected duration uncertain. Some technical assistance personnel were killed during the offensive, others were wounded. Some countries and the United Nations organizations temporarily withdrew their personnel to safer locations in other countries. Projects were suspended in certain places, among them Hue was a case in point. The construction of a building for the School of Sciences and an auditorium on the campus has been suspended to this day.

But, even before the offensive ended, people and nations around the globe sent substantial help to Vietnam in a swift response to enable the Vietnamese to withstand the strains of war. Medical teams were increased in size. Emergency relief assistance on a large scale in the form of foods, medicines, vaccines, blankets, clothing, building materials, emergency hospital units, and cash poured into Vietnam from around the globe as a manifestation of worldwide concern for the welfare of the Vietnamese people.
Longer range relief and reconstruction projects were also initiated. The Canadian Government came forward to build a 72-unit housing project in Saigon. The British Government pledged nearly $500,000 for the construction of primary schools to replace some of those damaged during the TET offensive and provided highway construction equipment. Private funds from the United Kingdom and New Zealand enabled the “Save the Children Center” in Qui Nhon to triple its capacity. Assistance to municipal water supply improvement in Bien Hoa, Vung Tau and Can Tho and highway construction equipment were provided by Australia.

Additionally, as the offensive subsided, work on most of the suspended projects was resumed. A physical rehabilitation center at Qui Nhon, financed by the Canadian Government, was completed and started to operate in October 1968. Two of the three TB centers in Saigon financed by the Netherlands were completed. Work continued on the neurological surgical ward of the Cho Ray Hospital in Saigon. Likewise, construction was resumed on a new education center for delinquent youth in Thu Duc to enlarge and replace the presently inadequate facilities there. The financing for this project was provided by the German Government, and the project is being executed by the Institute of International Solidarity, drawing partial support from the Konrad Adenauer Fund.

The fact that Vietnam was able to recover from the TET offensive and to restore the momentum of progress which had been generated prior to TET is in no small part attributable to the assistance provided by these supporting governments. All in all, about $24 million of goods and services were made available during 1968.

Special mention should be made of the role of private charitable organizations in rendering assistance to Vietnam. Of the total assistance provided, approximately $4 million has been contributed by private organizations in over twenty countries. Private contributions account for a substantial proportion of the assistance from such countries as Belgium, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. In addition, government contributions have, in several instances, been provided through private organizations which have in turn served as the executors of the projects in Vietnam. A list of the principle private organizations giving assistance to Vietnam is included in the Annex.

The Nature of Aid

In almost equal measure, aid has taken the forms of health and medical assistance as well as education and training. Altogether, aid in these fields total over 70% of the almost $94 million provided through December 31, 1968 by the 43 participating countries. Assistance to refugee, relief, and social welfare programs and to public works activities have also been timely and substantial. The table below indicates the approximate value of assistance by category.
Two especially important features of this assistance are the highly qualified personnel who came to Vietnam to carry out specific projects and the significant number of scholarships made available to Vietnamese students.

As of December 31, 1968, approximately 720 professional personnel were in Vietnam under bilateral assistance programs. About two-thirds of this number were provided by France under its cultural and technical assistance programs. The remainder are from eight countries: Germany, Australia, Canada, Iran, Japan, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and Switzerland. All but about 30 of the approximately 245 personnel provided by these eight countries serve in the medical field. The services of these personnel represent a substantial manpower resource to Vietnam at a time when much of its trained manpower is diverted to the war effort.

Training provided by donor countries is also making a significant contribution towards meeting the manpower requirements of Vietnam. Nearly 5,000 Vietnamese since mid-1964 have receive training abroad in fourteen countries at a cost to these countries of almost $12 million. Australia and Canada have each given approximately $4 million in scholarships and training grants, New Zealand has provided about $1 million in scholarships and the balance is divided among eleven other countries.

A brief summary of major projects by sector is contained below.

1. MEDICAL ASSISTANCE – $30,566,208

Approximately a third of all non-military assistance provided since July 1964 has been medical. Medical assistance has been provided by at least 35 of the 43 countries helping Vietnam. Major contributions in the field of medical assistance include:

a. Medical-Surgical Teams

Six countries are currently providing a total of ten medical teams involving approximately 215 professional personnel. These teams from Australia, Germany, Iran, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and Switzerland are stationed in An Giang and Kien Hoa in the Delta; Bien Hoa, Vung Tau, and Saigon in Region III; Danang, Quang Nam, and Qui Nhon in the Central Lowlands; and Kontum in the Central Highlands.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>% of Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medical</td>
<td>31,140,208</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>24,588,322</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training</td>
<td>11,962,613</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refugees and Relief</td>
<td>6,012,581</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Welfare</td>
<td>5,480,797</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Works</td>
<td>3,587,657</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>10,958,580</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$93,730,758</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
b. Medical Facilities

Several medical facilities have been constructed and equipped through foreign assistance. These include:

(I) A regional physical rehabilitation center at Qui Nhon, Bien Dinh Province in Region II. The Canadian Government has pledged over $1,200,000 to construct, equip, and staff this center, which began operation in the fall of 1968. It has a capacity for handling 50 in-patients and 100 out-patients.

(II) TB Clinics. The Canadian Government has provided $369,000 to construct, equip, and staff a TB clinic at the Quang Ngai Provincial Hospital. The Netherlands has donated $1,055,600 for the construction and equipping of three TB centers in Saigon and for the renovation and expansion of the Hong Bang TB Hospital in Cholon. The three centers in Saigon are each designed to treat 300 patients daily. Two of these centers began operation during the second half of 1968.

(III) German Hospital Ship “Helgoland” and Danang Community Hospital. A 3,000 ton hospital ship, the Helgoland, with 150 beds, an ambulance and medical personnel, is being operated in Danang under the auspices of the German Red Cross and with the assistance of the German Government. The annual cost of operating the Helgoland is about $2,500,000. An additional $2,500,000 was made available by the German Government for construction of a 170-bed community hospital in Danang to replace the Helgoland. Construction of the community hospital is expected to begin in the spring of 1969.

(IV) Neurological surgical ward. The Japanese Government is providing $2,000,000 to construct, equip, and staff a neurological surgical ward at the Cho Ray Hospital in Saigon. This project is scheduled for completion in the spring of 1969. Additional assistance for the expansion of the ward is under consideration by the Japanese Government.

(V) Emergency Hospital Units. The Canadian Government has granted twenty 200-bed emergency hospital units worth $1,390,000 to Vietnam.
To provide new hope and a new life to victims of the war is the aim of assistance programs to Vietnam. To this end orphanages and child care centers have been established, social education centers for refugees have been built, low cost housing projects have been initiated, and future leaders have been trained. To the left, a patient at the Rehabilitation Center in Qui Nhon in the Central Lowlands looks to the future as he tries out a new artificial limb. This center was constructed, equipped, and staffed with assistance from the Canadian Government.

2. EDUCATION — $24,321,322
Assistance in the field of education is second in volume only to medical assistance, and ranges through all levels — kindergarten through university, academic and technical. Included are the construction of facilities, the furnishing of materials, particularly textbooks, and the provision of professors. Major projects in the education sector are the following:

a. Technical Schools
(I) The Australian Government has donated $225,000 worth of equipment to the apprentice training center at Nha Trang and provided training to the staff of the center in the use of the equipment as training aids.

(II) The German Government has given $1,750,000 to construct, equip, and staff the Vietnamese-German technical school at Thu Duc, near Saigon.

(III) The French Government has made available more than $226,000 for the construction and equipping of a vocational center for electricians at the National Technical Center in Cholon.

b. Universities
(I) At the University of Hue, an amount of $485,000 was provided by the Canadian Government for the construction of a science building for the Medical Faculty and an auditorium for the Faculty of Science.

(II) The New Zealand Government has given $196,000 to construct a Faculty of Science building at the University of Saigon.

c. Primary-Kindergarten Schools
(I) A school for children from four to seven years of age was constructed in Thu Duc near Saigon, with a contribution of $250,000 granted by the Italian Government through the Salesian Sisters of Holy Mary. The school was opened in December 1967. During 1968 an additional $160,000 was pledged by Italy for the expansion of the school.

(II) The German Institute of International Solidarity constructed a primary school and meeting hall for the refugee village of Nam Hai, near Saigon, at a cost of $100,000.

(III) Following the 1968 TET attack on Saigon, the United Kingdom provided $480,000 for the construction of primary schools in areas devastated in the offensive.

d. Textbooks
Over two million textbooks have been supplied by the Governments of Australia, Canada, China, France, Germany, and the United Kingdom for use in Vietnamese schools. In addition, numerous school kits have been provided to refugee children by various countries.
Over 550 children from four to seven years of age attend classes six days a week at this school in Thu Duc, near Saigon, which was constructed with a grant from the Italian Government. The school is run by the Salesian Sisters of Holy Mary.

Up to 75% of Vietnamese youth under 15 years of age suffer from TB according to some health surveys. The detection and treatment of TB cases is a high priority health goal towards which the Government of Canada and the Netherlands are rendering assistance to Vietnam. Pictured is one of three TB centers in Saigon which has been constructed with Dutch funds.

Even in time of war, one must build for the future. Almost ready for occupancy is this Faculty of Science building at the University of Saigon’s new campus in Thu Duc where Vietnamese scientific leaders for the era of peace will receive training. The building is being constructed with the assistance of a grant of $196,000 from the Government of New Zealand.
3. PUBLIC WORKS – $3,587,657

Development assistance has been granted by several countries for public works projects. Examples include:

a. A modern water supply system for the city of Bien Hoa, including purification plant, pipes and storage reservoirs, provided by the Australian Government at a cost of $950,000.

b. Road building equipment and spare parts valued at $440,000 sent from the United Kingdom.

c. A 72-family housing unit in Saigon, financed by a Canadian grant of $225,000, being made available to families whose homes were destroyed during the 1968 communist offensive against Saigon. A family unit can be purchased with no down payment at an average rate of $20 per month over a 20 year period. The Canadian Government is planning to finance the construction of an additional 152 housing units, and the Japanese Government has under consideration a major low-cost housing project for Saigon.

d. A 12,500 KVA transformer valued at $218,250, provided by the Republic of China, and installed at Ba Queo.

e. The Government of China is also providing a dredge, dredging equipment, and technical training to 135 Vietnamese as part of a Delta dredging project, a contribution valued at $536,429.
A start on a new and more productive life will be provided to hundreds of youth at the new re-education center for wayward youth in Thu Duc, near Saigon. Construction of the center is a major undertaking of the German Government. Personnel for technical assistance to the director of the center are being provided by the Institute of International Solidarity. The center will have 39 homes, such as the one pictured, plus 15 workshops.

Donations of food supplies serve both the immediate needs of refugees and as an aid to economic stabilization. The Government of Argentina contributed this wheat which arrived in Saigon in September 1968.

4. SOCIAL WELFARE — $5,480,797

Included in this category are those social projects assisted by friendly governments which will be of long-range benefit to Vietnam. Assistance to ad hoc social welfare programs are tabulated under Refugees and Relief. Social welfare assistance provided to date includes the following projects:

a. An Education home for wayward youth being constructed at Thu Duc at a cost of $2,500,000 by the German Institute of International Solidarity. This Center, which is designed to provide social orientation and occupational skills to youth assigned there, will accommodate 450 young boys at any one time.

b. An SOS Children’s Village constructed in Go Vap by the Herman-Gmeiner-Fonds of Munich, Germany, at a cost of $1,000,000. This is the largest SOS Children’s Village in the world.

c. A Children’s Center at Qui Nhon was substantially expanded during 1968 with assistance provided by the Save the Children funds of the United Kingdom ($145,000) and New Zealand ($25,000).

5. REFUGEES, RELIEF, AND OTHER ASSISTANCE — $16,932,161

Aid included in these categories has been substantial (almost $17 million) and has been critical in meeting immediate needs of Vietnamese as well as developing a foundation for the postwar period.

For example, over $2.5 million in emergency food supplies have been donated by 17 countries to meet the needs of refugees of war and floods as well as the economy in general. Other assistance includes an experimental dairy farm established with Australian aid of $315,000, an experimental fishing boat for off-shore research rendered under a Funds-in-Trust Agreement between the Netherlands and the UNDP-FAO, two radio transmitters erected by the Australian Government in the Central Highlands at a cost of nearly $1 million, tin roofing, cement, reinforcing rods, irrigation equipment, hand tools, and dozens of other items of assistance provided by the 43 donor countries to help Vietnam in its hour of need.
Direct United Nations assistance to Vietnam is given through the United Nations Development Programme, the regular programs of the Specialized Agencies, and through UNICEF.

The United Nations Development Programme (U.N.D.P.) consists of Special Fund and Technical Assistance activities. The UNDP is responsible for the initial administration of these funds as well as the evaluation of requests from governments of the developing countries for technical assistance. It is also responsible for the co-ordination of the technical assistance activities of the United Nations, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Specialized Agencies.

Special Fund projects are designed to assist in carrying out projects of a preinvestment nature, including surveys for the development of natural resources, applied research and training. During 1968, two UNDP Special Fund projects were operational in Vietnam. One, which is being executed by UNESCO, has as its purposes the improvement and up-grading of technician training facilities, the raising of the level and quality of instruction at the National Technical Center in Saigon and the integration of the National Technical Center and the Phu Tho Polytechnic into a National Technical Institute. Expenditures for this project in 1968 were about $363,000, including the cost of four experts provided to the Center.

The other UNDP Special Fund project is designed to explore off-shore fisheries resources and to study the feasibility of introducing modern craft and fishing methods to exploit those resources. Off-shore fisheries research was initiated in December 1968. The Governments of the Netherlands and the United States of America are providing support to this activity through Funds in Trust agreements with the UNDP. A number of UNDP Technical Assistance Activities were also carried out in Vietnam during 1968. Included was assistance in physiotherapy, taxation, statistical training, plant breeding, educational planning, and tuberculosis control.

Additional technical assistance was provided to Vietnam under the regular programs of the Specialized Agencies. Included was assistance in the fields of mother and child welfare provided under the United Nations program, social security under the International Labor Organization program, health laboratory services, plague control and Venereal Disease Control under the WHO program, and assistance by the International Atomic Energy Agency to the radio-isotopes in agriculture project.

UNICEF was active in 1968 in providing drugs, milk and equipment for a maternal and child health project. In addition, equipment and supplies were furnished for leprosy control, TB control, and BEG vaccination projects.

Additional details on U.N. assistance to Vietnam may be found in Annex V.

Asian Regional Assistance

While impossible to quantify, the Government of Vietnam has nevertheless drawn significant benefits from its membership in Asia regional institutions. Such benefits include a wide variety of training programs for Vietnamese, research in education and agriculture, participation in numerous seminars and conferences, planning for regional development in transportation, communication and agriculture, and the beneficial discussion and exchange of ideas at the ministerial level.

Some current examples of Vietnamese benefits are:

Asian Development Bank — Technical assistance mission to study industrial development financing institutions approved July 1968 at cost of $89,000.
Asian Vegetable Research and Development Center — research on new varieties of vegetables and training farm employees in the results of research.

Colombo Plan — extensive range of technical assistance and student training abroad.

COORDCOM — Regional Transport and Communications Survey under direction of Asian Development Bank to provide basis for coordinated development of the transportation networks of SEA.

Mekong Coordinating Committee (MCC) — the development of the Mekong River will assist Vietnam through flood control and irrigation; the Mekong Resources Atlas has now identified physical and social characteristics of the Lower Mekong; Mekong Tug and Barge program will improve the quantity and quality of the tug and barge fleet, and studies for the development of the Delta are being planned.

South East Asia Ministers of Education Council (SEAMEC) — Vietnam is or will draw benefits from institutions under this organization including:
(a) Asian Institute of Technology — Vietnamese students have attended this graduate school of engineering in Bangkok; increased enrollment is anticipated.
(b) Tropical Medicine — research and training in this field, including post graduate training and teaching at five national centers.
(c) Graduate study and research in agriculture — an applied research program at the College of Agriculture, Los Baños, Philippines.
(d) Regional Center for Education in Science and Mathematics — the Malaysian Training College in Penang is to provide in-service training for teacher educators, supervisors, and key educators for teaching science and mathematics.
(e) Regional English Language Center — training courses for key personnel in English language teaching in the Center located in Singapore.
(f) Regional Center for Educational Innovation and Technology — to train personnel and conduct research in development of new approaches to solving educational problems in SEA at a Center to be established in Saigon.
The data reflected in this report was provided by embassy officials in Saigon and by other personnel representing donor governments. As such, it is provided in accordance with national financial accounting procedures and is reported in accordance with their respective fiscal years. It is not possible, therefore, to present a precise total of amounts expended and delivered in any given calendar year or any given twelve month period. Estimates have been made of the total contributions including commitments for 1968; however, many countries increased their assistance during that year in response to an appeal of the Government of the Republic of Vietnam following the TET offensive of February and the later heavy attacks of May 1968.

The data shown represents program values and costs to donor countries and excludes, therefore, related costs to the Government of Vietnam or the U.S. to support some of these activities. Also excluded is, of course, military assistance extended to Vietnam by six countries. Part of this assistance is indistinguishable from the programs described herein, but is listed as military aid because it is being supplied through national Defense Department channels. Examples are: The Spanish Medical Mission of twelve doctors and paramedical personnel assigned to the Go Cong Provincial Hospital and financed through the Spanish Ministry of Defense and the Philippine Civic Action Group, composed of doctors, nurses, dentists, engineers, etc., which is providing medical, construction, and other civic action assistance to the people of Tay Ninh and other provinces. Other 13,000 man-days were expended by Free World Military Assistance Forces personnel on civic action projects in December 1968 alone.

U.S. assistance to Vietnam is also excluded from this tabulation as it is fully described in other readily available public documents, such as the 1968 Report to the Ambassador from the Director of the United States Agency for International Development — Vietnam. The comprehensive U.S. program includes activities in virtually all the areas for which assistance is supplied by other donors as described herein. The U.S. program is fully coordinated with these donors. In addition, a substantial number of U.S. social, religious and charitable organizations, both public and private, are also assisting to Vietnam.

It should also be noted that the dollar values of assistance donated by contributing countries as detailed in this report tend to understate the true total of such assistance by at least $1 million. In some cases cost estimates are only partial, omitting dollar costs of certain training, engineering surveys, technical assistance, and/or subsidies to Vietnamese institutions or institutional personnel. Thus, total assistance to Vietnam from sources listed in this report approaches $95 million for the past four and a half years.
## ANNEX I

Estimated Value of Economic and Social Aid Extended to Vietnam for the Period July 1964 – December 31, 1968

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Value</th>
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<td>Argentina</td>
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<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
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<td>Austria</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>329,760</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>183,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>9,303,508</td>
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<tr>
<td>People's Republic of China</td>
<td>2,679,422</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costa Rica</td>
<td>7,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>86,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecuador</td>
<td>2,160</td>
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<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>21,649,381</td>
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<tr>
<td>Federal Republic of Germany</td>
<td>25,732,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>15,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guatemala</td>
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<tr>
<td>Honduras</td>
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<tr>
<td>India</td>
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<td>Iran</td>
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<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
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<td>Japan</td>
<td>4,822,820</td>
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<td>Republic of Korea</td>
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<td>Laos</td>
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<td>Liberia</td>
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<td>Luxembourg</td>
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<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>2,744,400</td>
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<td>New Zealand</td>
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<td>Norway</td>
<td>11,650</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>79,700</td>
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<tr>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>14,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>34,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sweden 11,000
Switzerland 944,300
Thailand 461,170
Tunisia 48,000
Turkey 6,000
United Kingdom 5,971,843
United States *
Uruguay 21,500
Venezuela 100,000

Total $93,730,758

*For information on economic and social assistance to Vietnam from the United States of America, refer to the 1968 Report to the Ambassador from the Director of the United States Agency for International Development – Vietnam.
ANNEX II

Principle Private Organizations Providing Assistance to Vietnam*

1. Carl - Duisberg - Gesellschaft (Germany)
2. Catholic Relief Services/Caritas (Australia, Belgium, and France)
3. Christian Aid (UK)
4. Council of Relief Services Overseas (New Zealand)
5. Foundation for Developing Countries (Germany)
6. Friederich-Ebert Foundation (Germany)
7. Hermann - Gmeiner - Fonds (Germany)
8. German Trade Unions Federation
9. Institute of International Solidarity (Germany)
10. International Rescue Committee (Germany)
11. Malteser Hilfsdienst (Knights of Malta - Germany)
12. Oxford Committee for Famine Relief (UK)
13. Red Cross (Canada, Germany, Honduras, India, New Zealand, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, and United Kingdom), International Red Cross Committee, and League of Red Cross Societies.
14. Red Lion and Sun Society (Iran)
15. Salesian Sisters of Holy Mary (Italy)
16. Save the Children Fund (New Zealand and UK)
17. Terre des Hommes (Belgium and Swiss)
18. War on Want (UK)

* Excludes US or US-financed private organizations
ANNEX III

Aid Throughout the Provinces of Vietnam

Nearly every province in Vietnam has received aid in one form or another under the assistance programs of the 43 countries providing economic, technical, social and humanitarian aid. Emergency supplies, such as food, medicines, vaccines, blankets, clothing, etc., have been provided to refugees, flood victims and other needy Vietnamese whenever and wherever the need existed to the extent contributions were available.

Some areas have been harder hit by the war than others, and assistance programs have tended to concentrate in those areas. Two areas in particular have been the recipients of relatively large assistance programs involving more than one major type of aid. These two areas may be grouped as the seven northernmost provinces of Vietnam (the five provinces in Region I plus Kontum and Binh Dinh) and secondly, the capital of Saigon, and its immediate surrounding provinces. These two areas contain over 30% of the land area and nearly 50% of the population of Vietnam. These areas have been the scenes of some of the fiercest fighting, heaviest casualties, and greatest destruction of the war.

1. ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN SEVEN NORTHERN PROVINCES

Assistance to the seven northern provinces has been relatively extensive and varied. Five of the ten civilian medical teams provided to Vietnam, including the 46 member Knights of Malta team which renders both medical and social welfare assistance to refugees, operate in this area. The German hospital ship Helgoland is stationed at Danang and the German Government has pledged $2.5 million towards the construction of a community hospital in Danang, the second largest city in Vietnam. A TB hospital was constructed in Quang Ngai with the assistance of the Canadian Government. Canada has also constructed, equipped and is staffing a rehabilitation center at Qui Nhon.
The University of Hue was the recipient of two construction grants provided by the Canadian Government—one for a science building for the Medical Faculty, the second an auditorium for the Faculty of Science. Regrettably, work was suspended on these facilities during the TET offensive, and the projects were subsequently cancelled. Canada and Germany have provided faculty assistance to the University, and several scholarships have been awarded for study abroad to promising young graduates of the University. In the social welfare field, the Save the Children Funds of the United Kingdom and New Zealand made substantial contributions during 1968 to the expansion of the Children’s Center at Qui Nhon.

2. SAIGON AND VICINITY

Saigon, being the largest city in Vietnam, the seat of the government and also one of the principal targets of communist aggression during 1968, has, together with its surrounding provinces, been another major recipient of foreign assistance. Among the major projects undertaken in this area are the following:

a. The construction and equipping of a neurological surgical ward at Cho Ray Hospital in Cholon by the Japanese.

b. The assignment of a United Kingdom pediatric team to Saigon’s Nhi Dong Children’s Hospital and Australian medical teams at Vung Tau in Phuoc Tuy Province and at Bien Hoa.

c. The construction and equipping of three TB centers and the renovation and expansion of the Hong Bang TB hospital in Cholon granted by the Netherlands Government.

d. The construction and equipping of a Vietnamese-German Technical School in Thu Duc by the German Government and the provision by France of an electrician’s training center in Cholon.

e. A Faculty of Science building at the University of Saigon at Thu Duc financed by New Zealand.

f. A school for children, ages four to seven, constructed in Thu Duc by the Italian Government through the Salesian Sisters of Holy Mary.

g. Funds for the construction of primary schools provided by the United Kingdom to replace schools damaged during the 1968 TET offensive.

h. A modern water supply system for Bien Hoa realized with the financial and technical assistance provided by Australia.

i. A home for wayward youth at Thu Duc and an SOS Children’s Village at Go Vap provided by Germany.

j. A 72-family housing unit in Saigon financed by the Canadian Governments.

Thousands of Vietnamese in I Corps in the northern part of the Republic of Vietnam have suffered as war refugees. Active in bringing relief and providing services to these refugees is a 46-member Knights of Malta team operating in An Hoa, Hoi An, and Danang in Quang Nam province. Pictured is the headquarters of the Knights of Malta in Hoi An.