A BRIEF CHRONOLOGY OF MOMENTOUS FACTS AND EVENTS IN THE HISTORY OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIET-NAM

1945 to 1970

Background

The Political Bureau and the Secretariat of the Central Committee of the Viet-Nam Workers' Party on August 4, 1970, broadcast over Radio Hanoi their directives for the celebration of the 25th anniversaries of the August Revolution (August 19) and the founding of the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam (September 2). The Political Bureau's instructions called for a "political activity phase of holding talks on the history and traditions of the August Revolution." The Secretariat ordered "a drive of political study on the history of the Vietnamese Revolution and on the Party's revolutionary line." Both directives urged an intensification of the "second phase" of recruiting the Ho Chi Minh class of new Party members.

The Politburo directive exhorted Party and "youth union" members to study "a number of documents such as the Selected Works of President Ho, the recapitulative report by Comrade Le Duan on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the Party's founding, Parts 2 and 3 of the report by Comrade Truong Chinh on the occasion of Karl Marx's 150th Birthday, the speech by Comrade Pham Van Dong on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the DRV founding, and documents of the Committee for the Study of Party History that deal with the August Revolution, which will be published for this occasion."(1)
This chronology of "momentous facts and events" is one of publications in the DRV's "National Day Series". It is, one may assume, being used in North Viet-Nam in educational programs for Lao Dong Party and "youth union" members directed by the Politburo.

Early in February, 1970, the Party published "Landmarks in the Party's History" a chronology of its own history, in connection with the celebration of its 40th Anniversary. It commences with February 3, 1930, when "Nguyen Ai Quoc (earlier name of President Ho Chi Minh), standing member of the Eastern Department directly in charge of the Southern Section of the Communist International" presided over a "merger conference" out of which came the Indochinese Communist Party, "now the Viet-Nam Workers' Party." For the next fifteen years, 1930 to 1945, the chronology recounts the history of the Party as it wishes it to be remembered. Then for March 1945 it notes an "enlarged session" of "The Standing Bureau of the Party Central Committee ... in Dinh Bang Village" which issued a document "The French-Japanese Clash and Our Task," giving priority to driving out the "Japanese fascists and their henchmen" and called for "the setting up of revolutionary power."

The chronology published in August, 1970, begins with March 9, 1945, when "The Japanese staged a coup de force in Indochina," and a reminder of a March 12 meeting of the Central Committee of the Indochinese Communist Party which "worked out directives pointing out that the task of our Party at the moment was to launch a large-scale anti-Japanese movement and prepare for a general insurrection." This entry, in the governmental chronology, shows the extent to which Party and national history merge in the minds of the North Viet-Nam's state-party leaders.

For the month of August, 1945, this chronology is the more complete of the two with both of them converging on September 2, 1945 when the Provisional Government of the Democratic Republic

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of Viet-Nam was proclaimed in Hanoi. Surprising, the Party version does not mention August 19, the date of the uprising in Hanoi which was celebrated in 1970 as the anniversary of the August Revolution. The chronology reprinted here is, by far the more comprehensive of the two. Only the occasional note of a meeting of a Party organ which is recorded in the earlier one is omitted here.

The broadcast version of the state chronology, upon with this document depends, shows the Seventh Plenum of the Party Central Committee as having taken place on February 28, 1955. The Party chronology correctly places it in March. The correction is noted in the text. Except in this instance, this text is a verbatim transcription of the three broadcasts specified. "Landmarks in the Party's History" concludes with Ho Chi Minh's funeral on September 9, 1969, while the "National Day" chronology goes on to June 5, 1970, when the DRV National Assembly endorsed the 1970 State Plan.

For the reader's convenience several appendices are added. Beginning on page 52, the 1930 to March 1944 entries in "Landmarks in the Party's History" are reprinted. Anyone wishing to follow the Party-State chronology from 1930 to 1970 may commence with this appendix and then turn to "A Brief Chronology of Momentous Facts and Events in the History of the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam."

Next is a "Calendar of Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam and Viet-Nam Lao Dong Party Dates and Events, 1930-1970." It combines, in calendar sequence, the two preceding Hanoi publications plus a few insertions based upon recent North Vietnamese broadcasts. The calendar begins on page 57.

Finally, there is a reprint of a lunar and solar calendar of "Historic Days & National Holidays" taken from a Hanoi, 1970, pocket calendar and fact book. It lists traditional Vietnamese holidays, observed in the North, and Communist "International Commemoration Dates."
August 1945 in a spell of two weeks, from North to South, from the big cities of Hanoi, Saigon and Hue to the remotest villages, tidal waves rose and swept away the French colonial regime and the pro-Japanese puppet administration like chaff in the wind.

With their own hands the Vietnamese people had effectively recovered their independence, one that would be solemnly proclaimed on September 2 by a beloved and respected patriot—Ho Chi Minh.

Twenty five years have passed by since those historic days. The French and the American imperialists have been persistently assaulting the young Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam, trying in vain to strangle and destroy all the new structures Vietnamese have been able to build. In the last 25 years, the DRVN has not only successfully safeguarded her independence but also succeeded in shaping a new economy, society and culture.

On the occasion of the coming 25th Viet-Nam National Day (September 2) we will, as from today, publish a brief chronology of momentous facts and events, a survey of that historical period.

Part I

FROM THE AUGUST REVOLUTION TO THE DIEN BIEN PHU VICTORY

1945-1954

1945

March:

9 - The Japanese staged a coup de force in Indochina.

12 - The Central Committee of the Indochinese Communist Party worked out directives pointing out that the task of our Party at the moment was to launch a large-scale anti-Japanese movement and prepare for a general insurrection.
August:

15 - Capitulation of Japan.

13 to 15 - A National Congress of the Indochinese Communist Party decided for carrying out a general insurrection.

16 - The National Liberation Committee was founded with Ho Chi Minh as President.

19 - A people's insurrection broke out in Hanoi. A 200,000-strong meeting was held, followed by a declaration on the overthrow of the Tran Trong Kim puppet government and the founding of the people's power.

25 - A people's insurrection broke out in Saigon.

30 - Bao Dai abdicated.

September:

2 - In Hanoi President Ho Chi Minh solemnly declared that: "Viet-Nam has the right to enjoy freedom and independence, and in fact, has become a free and independent country. The entire Vietnamese people are ready to mobilize all their moral and material force, to sacrifice their lives and possessions for the safeguarding of their freedom and independence."

- Thierry D'Argenlieu was appointed High-Commissioner in Indochina by General De Gaulle.

6 - British troops landed in Saigon with the mission of disarming the Japanese troops South of the 16th parallel.

12 - A detachment of the French Expeditionary Corps, the 5th RIC (sic) landed in Saigon under the protection of the British.

14 - The British occupied the building of Vietnamese Public Services in Saigon.

- General Lu Han, Commander-in-Chief of the Chiang Kai-shek troops coming to disarm the Japanese troops North of the 16th Parallel, arrived in Hanoi.
21 - British troops decreed martial law in Saigon and armed 1,400 French soldiers who had been jailed by the Japanese.

23 - Protected by the British, the French colonialists launched a war of reconquest in Saigon.

25 - The Party's Central Committee defined new tasks: to launch the anti-French resistance, set up the people's power in the political, military, economic and cultural fields.

December:

3 - A Congress of Representatives of the National Minorities was held in Hanoi: Thanks to the August Revolution they could now enjoy equal rights with the majority people in all fields.

1946

January:

6 - General Elections were held: 90 per cent of the electors went to the polls. President Ho Chi Minh was elected in Hanoi with 169,220 votes (98.4 per cent of the total cast).

March:

2 - First Session of the Viet-Nam National Assembly: Ho Chi Minh was elected President of the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam and entrusted with the task of setting up a new government.

6 - A preliminary agreement was signed between President Ho Chi Minh and Sainteny, representative of the French Government.

27 - The French occupied by force the Finance Service in Hanoi.

April:

8 - General Valluy, Commander-in-Chief of the French Forces in Northern Indochina, sent his troops directives for the reconquest of Viet-Nam.
17 - The preparatory Franco-Vietnamese Conference opened in Dalat. Its central problem was Nam Bo. For the Vietnamese delegation, Nam Bo was an integral part of Viet-Nam. On the contrary, the French wanted to separate it from Viet-Nam. After a month of vain discussions, no agreement was reached.

23 - The French colonialists sent to Paris a puppet delegation to prepare for the constitution of an "Autonomous Cochinchinese Government."

May:

25 - The Lien Viet Front (Vietnamese People's National Union) was founded.

27 - The Vietnamese General Confederation of Labour was founded.

31 - A delegation of the Vietnamese government led by Pham Van Dong left for Paris to hold official negotiations with the French.

- On the same day, President Ho Chi Minh took the plane for an official visit to France.

June:

1 - The puppet Cochinchinese Government was set up by the French.

July:

6 - Franco-Vietnamese talks were held in Fontainebleau on:

- The place of Viet-Nam in the French Union and her international relations.

- The organization of the Indochinese Federation.

- The unification of the three Kyo (Tonkin, Annam and Cochinchina) and the referendum to be held in Nam Bo for its reintegration into Viet-Nam.
Economic problems concerning Viet-Nam and France.

The working out of a Franco-Vietnamese treaty.

The stands of the two parties were irreconcilable: for the French, Viet-Nam remained in the French Union and depended on France in all fields: military, foreign affairs, etc. On the contrary, for the Vietnamese, Viet-Nam, while remaining in the French Union, was a free and sovereign country, and Nam Bo was an integral part of Viet-Nam.

August:

1 - The French convened at Da Lat a "Federal Conference of Peoples" (Cochinchina, Laos and Cambodia). As a sign of protest, the Vietnamese delegation walked out of the Fontainebleau conference.

September:

10 - Negotiations were resumed in Fontainebleau. The French delegation put forward a draft agreement with clauses unacceptable to its interlocutors. In face of the Vietnamese delegation's categorical refusal, the head of the French delegation closed the meeting. The Vietnamese delegation returned to Hanoi. During the negotiations, the French had intensified their sending of troops to Indochina.

14 - President Ho Chi Minh, staying on in Paris after the departure of the Vietnamese delegation, signed with the French government a _modus vivendi_ on monetary, cultural and economic questions and on the ceasefire in Nam Bo. Franco-Vietnamese Conference was scheduled for early 1947 to discuss the questions at issue.

October:

10 - The Viet-Nam Women's Union was founded.

28 - The Viet-Nam National Assembly adopted the Constitution of the DRVN and set up a new government presided over by Ho Chi Minh.
30 - The Vietnamese forces abided by the September 14 modus vivendi and stopped fighting in Nam Bo. On the contrary, on November 16 the French forces launched attacks on all fronts.

November:

10 - Nguyen Van Thinh, President of the Puppet Cochin-chinese Government, committed suicide.

20 - The French bombarded Haiphong, causing over 6,000 deaths.


December:

17 - The French carried out a massacre at Vermicelli Street in Hanoi, causing scores of deaths.

18 - French troops occupied the Finance Service in Hanoi. The Hanoi population resisted.

- President Ho Chi Minh proposed to French Premier Leon Blum a settlement and suggested the sending of a French delegation to Viet-Nam as a prelude to future negotiations. His letter was not answered.

- General Morliere sent an ultimatum to the Vietnamese Government demanding that Vietnamese forces be disarmed.

19 - The Party Central Committee decided to launch the nation-wide resistance.

- At 8.30 p.m. in Hanoi, nation-wide resistance started.

20 - President Ho Chi Minh issued an appeal to the people: "We would rather sacrifice all than lose our country and live as slaves."
February:

17 - After two months of fighting, the "Regiment of the Capital" whose mission was to pin down the French in Hanoi withdrew.

March:

6 - Bollaert was appointed High Commissioner in Indochina.

May:

12 - Paul Mus, Bollaert's special envoy, met President Ho Chi Minh and presented to him the "conditions of the French Government for an armistice" which were only the demand for capitulation. The Vietnamese Government refused.

October:

10 - The French launched operation "Lea" against Viet Bac, seeking to annihilate the leading organs of the Vietnamese resistance.

December:

19 - Operation "Lea" ended. On the French side, 3,300 soldiers had been killed, 18 airplanes, 255 armoured vehicles, 16 rivercraft destroyed.

The Vietnamese Dong was put in circulation. This monetary measure was an integral part of the new economic policy of the DRVN following the August 1945 Revolution.

January:

15 - The Party Central Committee assessed the situation after our victory in Viet Bac, the national resistance had switched over to the stage of equilibrium of forces.
February:

14 - The French launched a large-scale attack on the Plain of Reeds (Nam Bo).

March:

1 - Langa (Nam Bo) the Vietnamese forces destroyed 50 armoured vehicles and killed 150 enemy troops.

18 - The People's Army launched campaign Nghia Lo (North-West of Bac Bo). The French troops evacuated seven posts.

April:

19 - Tam Vu battle in Nam Bo: 200 French soldiers killed and 14 armoured vehicles destroyed.

June:

5 - A Preliminary Convention was signed between the puppet Nguyen Van Xuan and Bollaert: a puppet government would be created for the whole of Viet-Nam.

19 - A patriotic emulation drive was launched: President Ho Chi Minh called on the people to consolidate national unity, step up production and fight even better.

October:

8 - The North-East Campaign (in Bac Bo) was launched by the People's Army.

21 - Pignon replaced Bollaert as High Commissioner.

1949

March:

9 - An agreement was signed between Bao Dai and Vincent Auriol, "solemnly recognizing the independence of Viet-Nam." In fact, "independent" Viet-Nam remained a French neo-colony.
April:

29 - The French forces attacked Phu Tho-Tuyen Quang to hinder the advance of the Vietnamese forces to the midlands. The People's Army riposted in launching a campaign along the River Lo, inflicting a heavy defeat on the French.

May:

General Revers, Chief-of-Staff of the French Army, proposed that the front be shortened and the Bac Bo delta consolidated.

June:

2 - Failure of a French large-scale offensive in the Plain of Reeds (Nam Bo).

July:

14 - Decrees were promulgated on the reduction of land rent and interest rate and on the provisional distribution to the poor peasants of land formerly belonging to the French colonialists and Vietnamese traitors.

August:

9 - The French evacuated Bac Can (Viet Bac).

October:

16 - The French occupied Phat Diem, one of the bastions of the Catholic Church in Bac Bo.

1950

January:

9 - In Saigon 25,000 persons attended the funeral of school pupils killed by the puppet police. January 9 became the national day of struggle of students and school pupils in Viet-Nam.
18 - The USSR people, China and the other socialist countries recognized the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam.

- Vietnamese commando units attacked Bach Mai airfield (on the Hanoi outskirts) and destroyed 25 airplanes.

- The Saigon workers staged great strikes.

February:

2 - The Party's 3rd National Conference decided to "complete preparations to switch over to the stage of general counter-offensive."

7 - The U.S.A. and Great Britain recognized the Bao Dai puppet state.

8 - The People's Army launched Campaign Le Hong Phong I (North-east of Bac Bo).

12 - The watchword "Everything for the front, everything for victory" was launched to mobilize all the national forces.

March:

19 - The Saigon population demonstrated on the arrival of American warships in Saigon.

15 - The People's Army launched Campaign Phan Dinh Phung (Truong Bo) lasting two months.

July:

The People's Army launched Campaign Darlac in the High Plateaux (Trung Bo).

September:

5 - In the Sino-Vietnamese Frontier Campaign nine French battalions with 11,500 men were annihilated, a 4,000 sq-km region with 350,000 inhabitants was liberated. The Sino-Vietnamese
frontier was fully opened and the scheme of isolating the DRVN was frustrated. General De Lattre was urgently dispatched to Indochina (as Commissioner and Commander-in-Chief) to save the situation.

1951

January:

7 - French battalions were annihilated in Campaign Tran Hung Dao launched by the People's Army on December 26, 1950.

February:

11 - The Party's National Congress was held. The Communist Party from now on became the Viet-Nam Workers' Party.

March:

3 - The Viet Minh front merged with the Lien Viet front.

April:

7 - End of the Hoang Hoa Tham Campaign launched on March 20 along road No. 18 (Bac Bo) by the P.A. A French counter-offensive resulted in 2,021 French troops being killed and 1,025 others wounded or taken prisoner.

May:

1 - Promulgation of a system of unified agricultural tax, collected in kind and replacing all former taxes and contributions.

- The National Bank was founded. It issued a banknote—the new dong, worth 10 old dongs.

- The State Trade Service was organized.
June:

20 - End of the Quang Trung Campaign launched on May 28 by the P.A. in Ninh Binh (Bac Bo): More than 3,000 French troops were killed.

July:

15 - Bao Dai promulgated a decree on "general mobilization" to create a puppet "National Army".

- A "De Lattre belt" (no man's land) started to be built along the De Lattre line. It was a zone from 5 to 16 km wide, where all dwelling houses were destroyed, encircling the Bac Bo delta.

September:

The French launched great mopping-up operations in Hung Yen and Thai Binh (Bac Bo) to try to check the ever-growing guerrilla movement.

November:

14 - Five French mobile groups occupied Hoa Binh.

18 - The Party Central Committee decided to attack the enemy on two fronts: two regular divisions would penetrate into the enemy's rear for an offensive in co-ordination with the guerrilla forces, four other divisions would encircle the enemy in Hoa Binh and along road No. 6.

1952

February:

28 - End of the Hoa Binh Campaign. On the two fronts, 22,000 French soldiers had been put out of action. The French Expeditionary Corps had to fall back on the defensive.
March:

10 - Salan replaced De Lattre and concentrated his forces in the Bac Bo delta PVRG (as received). During the year 1952 he launched great mopping-up operations.

May:

1 - National Congress of Elite Fighters.

July:

6 - The enemy launched great mopping-up operations in Thua Thien (Trung Bo) aimed at rounding up Vietnamese youth to reinforce the puppet army.

- The 2nd European battalion of the French Expeditionary Corps demanded its repatriation.

October:

14 - The P.A. launched the North-West campaign lasting more than one month and resulting in 13,800 enemy troops being killed, and a 28,000 sq-km area with 250,000 inhabitants liberated. The French scheme to set up a "Thai Autonomous State" was foiled. The French forces withdrew to Nasan.

January:

14 - Winter-Spring Military Campaign in the 5th interzone (Trung Bo).

25 to 30 - The Party Central Committee defined the main tasks for 1953, one of which was to mobilize the masses to complete land reform and the reduction of land rent.

- Salan once more tried to carry out his policy of "pacification" of Bac Bo delta by launching a series of great mopping-up operations.
April:

14 - Upper Laos Campaign: in co-ordination with Vietnamese volunteers, Pathet Lao forces liberated Sam Neua province (28,500 sq.km).

May:

8 - Navarre replaced Salan.

June:

20 - An American Military Mission arrived in Indochina.

July:

17 - The "Navarre Plan" started to be applied: a paratroops battalion was sent to Lang Son (Bac Bo), four infantry battalions landed in Tien Yen and met in on road No. 14. Three days later, the French had to withdraw.

August:

6 - The French evacuated Nansen (North-West of Bac Bo).

October:

15 - Five French mobile groups were sent to Ninh Binh - Thanh Hoa (Bac Bo). The operation lasted nearly one month and cost the French 2,630 killed and 1,170 others taken prisoner.

November:

14 - The Party Central Committee took a decision on the carrying out of land reform starting from 1954.

20 - Navarre sent paratroopers to Dien Bien Phu.

26 - In his reply to the Swedish paper "Expressen," President Ho Chi Minh wrote: ". . . If after drawing lessons from those war years, the French Government wants to conclude an armistice and solve the Viet-Nam question by negotiations, the
The Government of the DRVN are ready to consider the proposals. The basis of an armistice is that the French should really respect the independence of Viet-Nam. It is essential that an armistice concerns essentially the Government of France and that of Viet-Nam."

December:

1 - The National Assembly adopted the law on land reform.

3 - Navarre decided to "accept the North-West Battle—the defense of the North-West will be concentrated on Dien Bien Phu."

12 - Liberation of the provincial capital of Lai Chau.

21 - The Pathet Lao forces launched an attack on Thakhet (Middle Laos) which was liberated on December 25, Navarre sent 12 mobile battalions to Seno (Laos).

1954

January:

20 - 22 - French battalions landed in Phu Yen and Tuy Hoa (Trung Bo).

25 - The Viet-Nam high command replied by launching an offensive in the High Plateaux to attract the main body of French forces and by intensifying guerrilla warfare in the plain region of the 5th Interzone. The whole of Kontum province (14,000 sq. km) was liberated.

26 - Pathet Lao forces launched the Upper-Laos Campaign, forcing Navarre to scatter still more his mobile forces.

31 - In Lower Laos, Pathet Lao forces attacked Attopeu and liberated the Boloven High Plateaux.
February:

4 - The American General O'Daniel visited Dien Bien Phu.

18 - Closing of the Berlin Conference: The Indochina question would be discussed at a Conference to be held in Geneva in April.

March:

12 - Second stage of French Operation Atlante: landing in Qui Nhon.

13 - Opening of the Dien Bien Phu battle which went through three stages: the first offensive lasting from March 13 to 29, the second offensive from March 30 to April 30 PVRG (as received) and the general offensive from May 1 to 7.

29 - In Paris, the war committee met to study operation Vautour which was meant to clear the way for direct American intervention (by the participation of U.S. heavy bombers in the Dien Bien Phu battle).

April:

26 - Opening of the Geneva Conference on Korea and Indochina.

27 - Launching by the French of Operation Condor in Laos.

May:

7 - The French garrison at Dien Bien Phu surrendered.

8 - The Geneva Conference discussed the Indochina question.

- The first drive of land reform was launched in late May.
June:

19 - Mendes-France replaced Laniel, who had been overthrown on June 8, as head of the new French Government.

- During June, French troops evacuated the principal centers of the Bac Bo delta.

July:

21 - Signing of the Geneva Agreements which put an end to the war in Indochina.

(Hanoi VNA August 16, 1970)

PART II
SOCIALIST CONSTRUCTION AND ANTI-U.S. RESISTANCE 1954-1970
First Stage 1954-1964

1954

September:

- The Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Viet-Nam Workers Party put forward immediate tasks.

- Reconstruction of the hydraulic system on the Chu River (Thanh Hoa) began (completion scheduled for March 1955).

- The socialist countries began setting up their embassies in Hanoi.

1955

February:

28 - Inauguration of the Hanoi-Muc Nam Quan Railway Line (on China border).
March:  [Editor's Correction]

- The Seventh Session of the Central Committee of the Viet-Nam Workers Party set forth the following tasks:

  Continue to implement the Geneva Agreements and fight for their strict observance by other parties.
  Consolidate the North in all respects,
  Keep up and step up political movement of the South Vietnamese people,
  Broaden and strengthen the National United Front throughout the country,
  Intensify diplomatic activities and enlist the support and sympathy of the world's people.

April:

  7 - Visit to India and Burma of the DRVN Government Delegation headed by Premier Pham Van Dong.

  18 - The DRVN Government Delegation led by Premier Pham Van Dong attended the Afro-Asian Conference held in Bandung.

May:

  - A decision of the Council of Ministers amended the Land Reform Act.

  7 - Establishment of the Thai-Meo Autonomous Zone.

  16 - Complete liberation of North Viet-Nam after the departure of the last French soldier.

June:

  22 - A Party and Government Delegation headed by President Ho Chi Minh visited the Soviet Union, China and Mongolia.
August:

1 - Inauguration of the railway line linking Viet-Nam to China.

- End of August: Completion of the re-construction of Ben Thuy Port.

- August and the following months: Signing of the first trade protocols between the DRVN and socialist countries and others.

October:

10 - Founding of the Viet-Nam Fatherland Front.

November:

15 - The Haiphong cement plant rehabilitated.

December:

15 - First term of the central minority school.

1956

January:

29 - The Nam Dinh Textile Mill put into operation after a period of overhaul.

- Completion of Land Reform.

August:

7 - Inauguration of the Hanoi - Lao Cai Railway Line.

10 - Setting up of the Viet Bac Autonomous Zone.

September:

- Beginning of the school-year in which the 10-year general education system was to be applied throughout the North.
- Beginning of term in five higher education schools (3,904 students).

- The Viet-Nam Workers' Party defined the task of resolutely correcting the mistakes committed in land reform.

October:

7 - Inauguration of the Tinh Tuc Tin Mine

November:


December:

- The VNWP laid down financial tasks and directions for 1957.

29 - The National Assembly endorsed: The trade-union law.

- The law on the inviolability of residence and property and privacy of correspondence.

1957

February:

20 - Second Arts and Literature National Congress. Establishment of the Arts and Literature Union.

March:

17 - Visit of a Czechoslovak Government Delegation.

27 - Setting up of the Standing Commission of Scientific and Technical Co-operation with Other Countries.
April:

- Construction of a big hydraulic work in Nghe An province to irrigate 23,000 hectares of crop land.

3 - Visit of a Polish Government Delegation.

May:

20 - Visit of a Soviet Party and Government Delegation headed by Voroshilow, President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet.

July:

6 - Visit of a DRV Delegation headed by President Ho Chi Minh to Korea, Czechoslovakia, Poland, the G.D.R., Hungary, Albania, Bulgaria, Rumania, etc.

September:

6 - Promulgation of 10 policies promoting production in mountain regions.

10 - The National Assembly passed the 1957 State Plan.

23 - Inauguration of the Phu Tho tea-curing plant (supplied by the Soviet Union).

October:

6 - Visit of a Bulgarian Government Delegation.

31 - A delegation headed by President Ho Chi Minh attended the 40th anniversary of the October Revolution, the meeting of Communist and Workers parties of socialist countries (Nov. 14-16), and the meeting of Communist and Workers parties of 65 countries (Nov. 16-19).

November:

20 - Inauguration of the hydro-power stations at Ta Sa and Na Ngan built with Soviet aid.
December:

- 13th session of the Central Committee of the VNWP raised public servants' wage scale.

1958

February:

- 4 - A Government Delegation headed by President Ho Chi Minh visited India and Burma.


April:

- 12 - Inauguration of the Hanoi engineering plant supplied by the Soviet Union.

- 16 - The National Assembly outlined the socialist path to be followed by the North and approved the three-year plan of Economic Transformation and Development and Cultural Development (1958-1968).

June:

- 13 - Provisional regulations on the organization of handicraft cooperatives.

October:

- Starting of the construction of the Bac Hung Hai hydraulic work.

- 9 - Visit of a Bulgarian Parliamentary and Government Delegation.

November:

- 14th session of the Central Committee of the VNWP: acceleration of socialist construction through the three-year plan (1958-1960).
28 - Visit of a delegation of the Korean People's Democratic Republic.

December:

9 - The National Assembly approved the three-year plan (1958-1960).


- End of December: Basic liquidation of illiteracy in the delta and midland of North Viet-Nam.

1959

January:


31 - Inauguration of the first telecommunication system built with Chinese aid.

February:

26 - A Government Delegation headed by President Ho Chi Minh visited Indonesia.

28 - Change of the monetary system: one new dong for 1,000 old dong.

March:

4 - Setting up of the State Scientific Research Committee.

7 - Signing of an economic and scientific co-operation agreement between Viet-Nam and the Soviet Union.

22 - Visit of India's President R. Prasad.

April:

13 - Inauguration of the Dong Xuan Knitwear Factory built with Chinese aid.

19 - Visit of a Hungarian Party and Government Delegation.
May:

- 16th session of the Central Committee of the VNWP defined the line, principles and policies on agricultural cooperation and transportation of private capitalist industry and trade.

4 - Inauguration of the Vinh power station.

June:

24 - Visit of Indonesian President Sukarno.

August:

30 - Visit of a Mongolian Party and Government Delegation.

October:

6 - Visit of a Polish Party and Government Delegation.

November:

4 - Inauguration of the Lao Cai power station built with Soviet aid.

December:

18 - The National Assembly adopts:

- The Constitution of the DRV
- The Marriage and Family Law
- The Election Law.

January:

6 - First Tet when the tree-planting was initiated.

March:

1 - General census in North Viet-Nam returned a population of 15,916,955.
28 - Signing of an agreement for the establishment, with Chinese aid, of eight agricultural farms and an agricultural technical school.

April:

7 - Opening of the first night-class for higher education.

11 - The National Assembly passed the 1960 State Plan and budget, and military draft law.

22 - Conference on sedentarization of nomadic highlanders.

May:

8 - Elections to the National Assembly.

9 - Visit of a Chinese Delegation headed by Premier Chou En-lai.

18 - Inauguration of the rubber, soap and cigarette factories built with Chinese aid.

June:

12 - Visit of an Albanian delegation.

14 - Signing of an agreement under which the Soviet Union granted a loan of 350 million rubles to build some agricultural farms and a fruit-processing factory.

July:

7 - The DRV National Assembly appointed:

- Ho Chi Minh President of the DRV and Chairman of the National Defense Council,
- Ton Duc Thang, Vice President of the DRV,
- Truong Chinh, President of the N.A. Standing Committee, and
- Pham Van Dong, Prime Minister.
August:

- Joint state-private enterprises were joined by 97.2 per cent of capitalists with 97 per cent of invested capital. (figures as received--Ed).

30 - Inauguration of the Hanoi-Thai Nguyen railway line.

September:

3 - Third Congress of the Viet-Nam Workers' Party passed a resolution on the revolutionary tasks in Viet-Nam and the Party's statute. The new Central Committee elected Ho Chi Minh President of the Party and Le Duan First Secretary.

15 - Visit of a Guinean delegation headed by President Sekou Toure.

- Construction of the Thai Nguyen Iron and Steel Complex started.

- Basic completion of low-level agricultural cooperation: 83.27 per cent of peasant households joined cooperatives. (Figure as received--Ed).

October:

- Basic completion of low-level handicraft cooperation: Over 80 per cent of artisans joined cooperatives. (Figure as received--Ed).

November:

- A Party delegation headed by President Ho Chi Minh attended the 43rd commemoration of the October Revolution and the meeting of Communist and Workers' Parties in Moscow.

December:

24 - Ceremony at the Agricultural Institute graduating the first batch of 184 students.
January:

16 - Setting up of the Committee (to--Ed) Harness and Develop the Red River.

31 - Signing of an agreement under which China granted to the DRV a long-loan of 141,750,000 rubles.

30 - Promulgation of the Presidency's decree instituting specific regulations on the organization of the People's Supreme Court and local people's tribunal.

April:

- Visit of a Lao delegation headed by Princess Souvanna Phouma and Souphanouvong.

June:

10 - Setting up of a National Committee to Fight Malaria.

- A delegation headed by Premier Pham Van Dong visited China, the Korean Democratic People's Republic, Mongolia, China, Czechoslovakia and Poland.

July:

30 - Graduation at the Polytechnic College of the first batch of 633 engineers and industrial branches.

September:

11 - National Conference on Hydraulics.

20 - First successful operation on the liver.
October:

16 - Launching of an emulation drive in the educational branch.

24 - The National Assembly passed a resolution on the world situation and the DRV diplomacy, and appealed to the National Assemblies of various countries to support our effort against U.S. aggression.

November:

8 - Conference on rural popular cultural work.

27 - Projects of the Tay, Nung, Thai, Meo scripts approved by the DRV government.

December:

14 - Inauguration of the 110-Kw-high-tension line from Viet Tri to Dong Anh (52 km).

January:

2 - Inauguration of the Ban Thach Hydro-Power Station built with Soviet help.

February:

3 - Inauguration of the local broadcasting station of the Viet Bac Autonomous Zone.

March:

5 - Completion of the 110-Kw-high-tension line between Dong Anh and Thai Nguyen.

18 - Inauguration of the Viet Tri Industrial Center.
April:

18 - The National Assembly endorsed:
- The 1962 State Plan.
- A declaration condemning U.S. armed aggression in South Viet-Nam.

June:

- The Central Committee of the VNWP adopted a resolution on socialist industrialization in the North.
- Inauguration of the Lam Thao Super-Phosphate Mill built with Soviet aid.

July:

- The DRV signed the Geneva Agreement on Laos.

August:

- Conference on agricultural production in mountain regions.
- (Date as received--Ed) Fifth session of the National Assembly (Second Legislature) welcomed the visiting South Viet-Nam NFL delegation headed by Prof. Nguyen Van Hieu.

1963

January:

- The coasting-vessel Hai Phong built by the DRV made her maiden voyage.

- Visit of the President of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic.

February:

- The Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the VNWP passed a resolution on "improvement of management of cooperatives and technical improvement."
March:

Laos: Visit of Laos' King Sri Savang Vatthana.

April:

- The National Assembly passed the 1963 State Plan.

May:

- Visit of the Chairman of People's Republic of China.

June:

- First Congress of the Viet-Nam Scientific and Technical Popularization Association.

July:

- A resolution on the strengthening of economic and financial management, technical improvement and fight against corruption, waste and bureaucracy.

September:

- Inauguration of the Ha Giang - Dong Van bus line.

October:

- Setting up in Hanoi of the International Trade Union Committee of Solidarity with Vietnamese Workers and People Against Imperialist Aggression.

November:

- Two years' hydraulic work (1964-1965) started at Saigon.

December:

- Conference on improvement and mechanization of agriculture.
December:

20 - Inauguration of the first blast furnace of the Thai Nguyen Iron and Steel Works.

- The ninth session of the Central Committee of the VNWP passed a resolution on the world situation and the Party's internationalist duty.

1964

January:

14 - Congress of advanced agricultural coops and production teams held in Thai Binh.

16 - Inauguration of Uong Bi power station (first part) built with Soviet help.

27 - A Party delegation headed by Le Duan, First Secretary, had talks with the Communist Party of the Soviet Union on the friendly relations and fraternal cooperation between the two Parties and peoples, on current international affairs and on the communists and workers' movement in the world. The delegation also held talks with the Chinese Communist Party.

February:

3 - Inauguration of the Ap Bac-Nam Hong Hydraulic Work in Hanoi suburbs, irrigating 14,000 hectares of crop land.

March:

17 - A conference of women cadres of mountain regions.

27 - At a special political conference convened in Hanoi, President Ho Chi Minh called on the Vietnamese people to "redouble their efforts to compensate for the sacrifice made by their blood brothers in the South."
April:

13 - Congress of advanced cooperatives and agricultural production teams in the uplands and midlands.

26 - Elections to the National Assembly (3rd Legislature).

May:

18 - Inauguration of the Ham Rong bridge and the 156 km Ham Rong-Vinh railway line.

19 - Completion of the Uong Bi-Dong Anh high-tension line (184 km).

- Completion of the Viet Tri-Thac Ba high-tension line (70 km).

June:

27 - First Session of the National Assembly (Third Legislature) appointed Ho Chi Minh President of the DRV and Ton Duc Thang Vice President, Truong Chinh Chairman of the Standing Committee of the N.A., and Pham Van Dong Prime Minister.

August:

One of the most important economic projects in the region for the coming years, the Vinh-Ben Thuy power project began.
October:

18 - Visit of President Modibo Keita of the Republic of Mali.

November:

25 - International Conference of Solidarity with the Vietnamese People Against U.S. Imperialist Aggression and for the Defense of Peace in Hanoi was attended by 169 members of 64 delegations representing 12 international organizations and people of 50 countries.

December:

- Promulgation of the DRV legal measurement system.

- 10th plenary session of the Central Committee of the VNWP approved a resolution on commercial and price policies.

(Hanoi VNA August 21, 1970)

Second Stage 1965-1970

1965

January:


February:

6 - 7 - Visit of a Soviet Party and government delegation headed by Kosygin.

7 - Beginning of U.S. bombardment, Dong Hoi, Con Co, Vinh Linh hit.
March:

1 - 9 - DRV delegates attended Indochinese People’s Conference in Phnom Penh.

8 - Inauguration of the "March 8th" textile mill built with Chinese aid.

15 - First U.S. plane downed in the North by rifles of Nghe An militia.

April:

3 - 57 U.S. planes brought down in two days. First engagement of DRV air force.

7 - A Party and government delegation headed by Le Duan left Hanoi for visit to the Soviet Union and China.

8 - DRV’s four points put forth as bases for peaceful settlement of the Viet-Nam problem.

14 - A Government delegation led by Pham Van Dong left Hanoi for a visit to Indonesia and attended the 10th anniversary of the Bandung Conference.

June:

1 - An economic delegation under Vice Premier Le Thanh Nghi toured the Soviet Union, China and some other socialist countries and signed aid agreements with them.

2 - Second meeting in Hanoi of the International Trade Union Committee of Solidarity with Vietnamese Workers and People against U.S. Imperialist Aggression.

9 - Visit of an Algerian National Assembly and Government delegation.

12 - U.S. planes destroyed the Quynh Lap Leper-Sanatorium.
29 - First U.S. air raid on Hanoi.
- Setting up of Shock Youth brigades in the anti-U.S. struggle. (As received, no date--Ed).

July:

20 - President Ho Chi Minh launched an appeal to the nation in which he said: "We are determined to fight till final victory even if we have to go on fighting another five years, 10 years or even longer."

August:

2 - DRV Government statement on the massive landing of U.S. troops in South Viet-Nam and stepping-up of U.S. aggressive war.

9 - The National Assembly Standing Committee approved the 1965 plan of economic development.

29 - The 500th U.S. plane shot down in North Viet-Nam (over Nghe An).

October:

- Instructions of the Secretariat of the Central Committee of the VNWP giving a new turn to the movement of improvement of management of agricultural cooperatives, improvement of technique and development of agriculture in the delta and Midlands.

- Visit of a Hungarian Socialist Workers Party delegation.

November:

15 - Visit of a delegation of P.L.A.F. heroes and emulation fighters to North Viet-Nam.

January:

4 - Conference in Hanoi of 650 Vietnamese intellectuals against U.S. aggression.

24 - President Ho Chi Minh addressed to many Heads of State a message denouncing U.S. aggressive scheme and the Johnson administration's "search of peace" trick.

March:

- A Party delegation led by Le Duan left Hanoi for a visit to China and to attend the 23rd Congress of the CPSU in Moscow.

April:

12 - First B-52 raid over North Viet-Nam.

16 - The National Assembly approved the two-year plan of economic development (1966-67) and the 1966 State Plan, and issued a statement on the new situation.

29 - The 1,000th U.S. plane downed in North Viet-Nam (over Bac Thai).

May:

5 - Visit of a Rumanian Party and Government delegation.

June:

7 - Meeting of the National Defense Council outlined major policies on the acceleration of the patriotic war against U.S. aggression.

July:

- President Ho Chi Minh signed a decree on partial mobilization.
- Setting up of the Commission of Investigation of U.S. War Crimes in Viet-Nam.

17 - President Ho Chi Minh sent a message to the people in which he said "Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom."

August:

18 - A Government economic delegation headed by Le Thanh Nghi visited the socialist countries to sign aid agreements.

- Resolution of the Political Bureau of the VNWP on the training and fostering of scientific and technical cadres.

September:

23 - Visit of a Czechoslovak Party and Government delegation.

October:

10 - Visit of a Bulgarian Party and Government delegation.

14 - The 1,500th U.S. plane was downed in North Viet-Nam (over Nghe An province).


December:

12 - The South Viet-Nam NFL Special Permanent Delegation set up in Hanoi.

January:

4 - Congress of heroes and emulation fighters in the anti-U.S. struggle met in Hanoi.
13 - Meeting of the Light Industry Branch to consider means to serve the regional economy and production of consumer goods.

6 - Thai Binh recognized as the first province in North Viet-Nam to harvest 5 tons of paddy per hectare on all its acreage of ricefields, some cooperatives yielded up to seven tons per hectare.

9 - In his reply to Pope Paul VI, President Ho Chi Minh condemned U.S. aggression in Viet-Nam.

- All North Viet-Nam Hydraulic Conference stressed resolve to develop irrigation work for intensive culture under any circumstances.

- Conference on the protection and improvement of the people's health.

March:

1 - Resolution of the Central Committee of the VNWP stressing the role played by women, and putting forth the policy of employing, promoting, training and fostering women cadres.

- Conference discussing the protection and education of children.

20 - President Ho Chi Minh's reply to President Johnson's letter made public; "As the U.S. has kindled the war, the road to peace is that the U.S. ends aggression."

April:

11 - Promulgation of a law on elections and institution of people's councils and administrative committees at all levels in war time.

- Resolution of the Party Secretariat on the development of scientific and technical work in the new situation.

23 - Elections to people's councils in all provinces, districts and villages in the North.
May:

2 - The Bertrand Russell International Tribunal to try U.S. war crimes in Viet-Nam held its first hearing in Stockholm. President Ho Chi Minh sent a letter to Lord B. Russell and Jean Paul Sartre, President of the Tribunal.

18 - Statement of the DRV Government on the massive landing of U.S. and puppet troops on the DMZ.

June:

5 - The 2,000th U.S. plane downed in North Viet-Nam was shot (down--Ed) by Thanh Hoa province.

8 - DRV Government statement recognizing present boundaries of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

July:

18 - The Ministry of Education held a press conference on the success of the 1966-1967 school-year: 5.6 million people attended school including 1.2 million adults in complementary classes.

20 - Decree issued by the Council of Ministers amending some regulations dealing with servicemen, cadres, factory and office workers and civilians wounded or killed or disabled when discharging their duty in the anti-U.S. struggle.

30 - The Council of Ministers decided to push up cultural and artistic work in the anti-U.S. struggle.

August:

- Resolution of the Council of Ministers on measures taken to maintain the people's living standard in war time.

26 - Premier Pham Van Dong's statement expressing staunch support of the Vietnamese people for the righteous struggle of the Afro-American people.
September:

2 - The Council of Ministers approved a decision on the use of the Gregorian calendar.

4 - DRV Government statement expressing full support to the South Viet-Nam NFL Political Program (passed by an Extraordinary Congress of the NFL in August 1967).

17 - The first two B-52 strategic bombers shot down over Vinh Lanh.

20 - 525th anniversary of the death of Nguyen Trai, an outstanding writer, statesman, thinker and national hero of Viet-Nam.

October:

1 - Conference on the training and fostering of scientific and technical cadres and economic managerial cadres and on educational work.

30 - Government protest against U.S. repeated air raids on Hanoi.

November:

6 - The 2,500th U.S. plane downed in North Viet-Nam over Hanoi.

7 - Celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the October Revolution.

December:

4 - With an average yearly yield of 5,479 kilograms of paddy per hectare, Thai Binh outranked for the second time all the other provinces in North Viet-Nam in rice output for the whole acreage of ricefields. Hanoi suburbs and 40 districts also harvested 5 tons of paddy per hectare per year.

II. Resolution of the Central Committee of the VNWP: "Prepare the workers' movement and T. U. activities to meet the present situation."
January:

- 500 local industrial enterprises commissioned.

- Outstanding achievements were recorded in 1967 by state agricultural farms: tea, coffee, pepper increased by from three to 43 per cent, cotton 47.7 per cent; acreage of perennial trees and fruit-trees increased by 3.6 per cent over 1966, (? oxen) by 2.9 per cent.

- 1967 state plan of salt production overfulfilled by 12.34 per cent, output increased by 16.63 per cent over 1966.

5 - The Forest Department reviewed its 1967 work: Tree-planting work overfulfilled target by 20 per cent. In 1967, 150,000 tree planting teams were set up by agricultural cooperatives (an increase of 114 per cent over 1966).

13 - The Council of Ministers passed new regulations on rewards to armymen's families in the anti-U.S. struggle.

February:

4 - President Ho Chi Minh sent a message commending the South Viet-Nam people and army for the general offensives and concerted uprisings at Mau Than Tet festival.

March:

14 - Ceremony to hand a gift from the North to the South; 50,000 tons of rice, 10 million meters of textiles, 100 tons of medicines.

April:

3 - DRV Government statement on "U.S. limited bombing of North Viet-Nam."

- Resolution of the Council of Ministers on persuasion (as received) work for sedentary life combined with agricultural cooperation in mountain regions.
May:

3 - Statement of the Foreign Ministry on the level, place and time of official talks between the DRV and the U.S.

7 - Minister of State Xuan Thuy, DRV representative, left for Paris.

22 - First Congress of Communication and Transport Valiant Fighters (as received).

- A government economic delegation headed by Vice Premier Le Thanh Nghi toured the socialist countries and held talks with them on economic and military aids.

25 - The 3,000th U.S. plane was shot down by Quang Binh province.

July:

20 - The Heavy Industry Branch convened a conference on measures to be taken to speed up the fulfillment of the 1968 state plan.

October:

- Beginning of term, President Ho Chi Minh sent to teachers and pupils a message urging them to "teach well and learn well,"

November:

3 - The DRV Government issued a statement on the U.S. unconditional cessation of bombing of North Viet-Nam. An appeal was made on this occasion by President Ho Chi Minh.

December:

2 - Conference of "Hanoi intellectuals resolved to defeat U.S. aggressors,"

31 - 3,598 production teams and brigades in North Viet-Nam recognized as Socialist Labour Units in 1968.
10 - Establishment of diplomatic relations between the DRV and the Kingdom of Sweden.

18 - The quadripartite Paris Conference on Viet-Nam held its first session.

February:

- In response to President Ho Chi Minh's appeal, in the past 10 years (1959-1968) 1,440 million trees of different kinds were grown.

14 - The Agricultural Ministry launched an emulation drive to achieve the "three goals" : five tons of paddy, two pigs and one man-year per hectare of crop land.

26 - Visit of South Viet-Nam NFL delegation headed by Dr. Phung Van Cung, Vice-Chairman of the Front.

March:

24 - The Party Secretariat made public a resolution on the youth's activities.

April:

27 - Elections to people's city and town councils on the whole of North Viet-Nam.

28 - The Standing Committee of the National Assembly endorsed a constitution for agricultural cooperatives. Afterwards discussions and dissemination of it were organized in all localities of the North.

May:

10 - The Central Committee of the Viet-Nam Fatherland Front released a statement expressing its wholehearted support for the May 8 ten-point overall solution of the SVNNFL on the Viet-Nam issue.
June:

11 - President Ho Chi Minh and Premier Pham Van Dong sent a congratulatory message to the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of Viet-Nam on its founding (June 8).

18 - President Ho Chi Minh signed a decree awarding the title of "Hero Unit" to 17 units and that of "Hero of the People's Armed Forces" to 12 officers and men.

July:

8 - The Politbureau of the VNWP passed a resolution on the commemoration of four important anniversaries in 1970.

- The 40th founding anniversary of the Party (Feb. 3).

- The 100th anniversary of V.I. Lenin's birthday (April 22).

- The 80th anniversary of President Ho Chi Minh's birthday (May 19).

- The 25th founding anniversary of the DRV (Sept. 2).

27 - Visit of a delegation of American people's movements against the Viet-Nam war.

- The Architectural Branch held discussions on measures for stepping up the rate of civil and industrial construction.

- The all North Viet-Nam breeders' conference strengthened their determination to attain the "two pigs per hectare of crop land" goal.

August:

5 - The Premier's Office convened a symposium on building and developing local industry.

13 - Visit of a delegation of the Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces of Viet-Nam headed by its Chairman Trinh Dinh Thao.
September:

3 - President Ho Chi Minh passed away at the age of 79.

- A funeral ceremony for President Ho Chi Minh was solemnly held in Hanoi. Present were over a million Hanoians, South Viet-Nam delegations, local representations and more than 40 foreign delegations. 22,000 messages and letters of condolence came in from 121 countries on the occasion. [September 9--Ed]

23 - The National Assembly unanimously elected Ton Duc Thang President and Nguyen Luong Bang Vice President of the DRV.

October:

7 - A Party and government delegation headed by Premier Pham Van Dong attended the commemoration of the 20th National Day of the German Democratic Republic.

10 - Visit to the U.S.S.R. by the delegation headed by Premier Pham Van Dong.

November:

6 - Government statement severely criticized the "peace" protestations contained in President Nixon's November 3, 1969 speech.

17 - All North Viet-Nam Conference of Dao Nationality Representatives.

December:

4 - The Ministry of Culture held a symposium dealing with the national and modern traits in Viet-Nam music.

22 - On the occasion of the 25th founding anniversary of the Viet-Nam People's Army (Dec. 22), the National Assembly Standing Committee commended the exploits of the people's armed forces.

29 - The Information Office of the Lao Patriotic Front was set up in Hanoi.