officer with the rank of major or higher. All are appointed by the Secretary of State for National Defense or his deputy who may also appoint additional military officers as members. An officer in the grade of colonel or higher serves as attorney for the state. If the accused has no defense counsel, the president of the court must procure one. Verdicts are final except in the case of a death sentence which, under the law, cannot be executed until after an appeal for pardon or commutation has been made to the President of the Republic and has been rejected by him.

A presidential decree of May 21, 1962, authorized the creation of so-called frontline military courts to try military personnel, including members of the Civil Guard and Self-Defense Corps, and civilians taken in such acts as banditry, looting and rape. The decree stipulated that the courts would be composed of a president, an alternate and four members, all appointed by the President of the Republic. It also stipulated that the court members must be chosen from among officers and noncommissioned officers stationed in the tactical zone where the offenses were committed and that two of the members must be of higher rank than the accused and the other two of the same rank.

The disciplinary powers of officers and noncommissioned officers in company-sized units are somewhat more extensive than in the United States military service. A company commander may impose up to 15 days' restrictions, including a maximum of 8-days' confinement. The two highest noncommissioned grades may impose a maximum of 4-days' confinement.

Decorations

The Vietnamese tradition emphasized formal honors for achievement and the attitude persists in the military service. Soldiers are proud of their medals and frequently wear the full decoration rather than the ribbon bar on their duty uniforms. Decorations are customarily presented by the President or his representative at a special ceremony held soon—usually within two weeks—after the achievement for which it is awarded.

In 1949, when Vietnam had achieved limited autonomy as a member of the French Union, the government established four special military awards: the National Order; the Medal of Military Merit; the Cross of Valor; and the Medal of Honor and Merit. In addition to personal awards, "honor flags" are presented to units for outstanding combat achievement.

The National Order, the Republic's highest decoration, which resembles the French Legion of Honor, is composed of five classes—from highest to lowest: Grand Cross; Grand Officer; Commander; Officer; and Knight. The medals of the first two are pinned on the left side of the chest below the breast pocket and
are worn with a shoulder ribbon; the third is suspended on a ribbon worn around the neck; the last two are suspended from ribbons pinned on the chest.

The Medal of Military Merit, comparable to the United States Distinguished Service Cross, is awarded to enlisted men and occasionally to officers for exceptional military valor. It may also be awarded to civilians for outstandingly courageous action against an armed enemy.

The Cross of Valor resembles the French Croix de Guerre in appearance and is comparable to the United States Bronze Star. It is awarded in four grades, with bronze, silver and gold stars, and with bronze palms.

Information regarding the Medal of Honor and Merit is not available.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

Strategic Considerations

North Vietnam, on the southeastern boundary of Communist China, occupies an important strategic position astride the historic invasion route from the north into the Indochinese Peninsula. Lying under the eastward bulge of China, this area is also closer to western China than is most of the Chinese coast. From Hanoi to Chunking is less than 600 miles, as compared to 625 miles from Canton to Chunking or 900 miles from Shanghai to Chunking.

The Red River Delta was the historic center of Vietnamese civilization and power, and ethnic ties and old political connections—as well as more recent ones—give the North Vietnamese considerable influence among some of their non-Chinese neighbors. For Communist China, the continued existence of a cooperative regime in Hanoi has important offensive and defensive strategic implications.

The North has a coastline only about a third as long as that of South Vietnam, but it is slightly smaller in area (60,800 square miles) and almost as vulnerable to attack by land, sea or air. The national boundaries with Laos (725 miles) and with Communist China (600 miles) extend through the rugged, jungle-covered, sparsely settled mountains which rim the fan-shaped Red River Delta.

Full-scale conventional military operations within the country would have to be supported from outside sources. Supply by land from the Soviet Union or Communist China would pass over long and tenuous lines of communications vulnerable to air attack. Likewise, sea transport into and through the Gulf of Tonkin would offer favorable targets for submarines, surface warships or ear-
rier-based aircraft. Invaders, however, would soon encounter a restricted road net and swampy or mountainous terrain.

As in South Vietnam, the terrain lends itself to the hit-and-run tactics of guerrilla warfare and is generally unsuitable for conventional military operations. The mountainous region would be particularly favorable as a refuge for groups raiding into the delta lowlands.

Relationship of Strength to Total Population

Of the total population of 16,350,000, it is estimated that about 3,660,000 men are between the ages of 15 and 49 and that about 1,880,000 of these are physically fit for military service. It is believed that the total manpower needed to maintain the economy at its mid-1962 level is approximately 2,860,000 and that about 1,180,000 of these are physically fit for military service (see ch. 13, Labor Force).

Assuming that the effort to meet a large-scale invasion would require a 20 percent increase in the number of physically fit men engaged in essential nonmilitary work (a total of 1,416,000 as compared with the 1,180,000 engaged in nonmilitary activities in 1962), there would remain a surplus of approximately 414,000 men available for military service. Deducting the 300,000 estimated to be already in the regular military service (exclusive of the militia) as of mid-1962, would leave 114,000 still available for mobilization. Accordingly, it would appear that any mobilization of manpower for military units in excess of 100,000 to 150,000 physically fit males would impose a corresponding decrease in the number of persons engaged in activities essential for maintaining the country’s level of economy. The greatest strain would be upon food production, particularly rice. Even with the limited requirements for military manpower in mid-1962, the regime called upon the Army, police, civil servants and other groups to help the farmers harvest rice and process manioc.

Missions

The mission of the armed forces is defined in Article 8 of the Constitution (1960):

Their duty is to safeguard the gains of the revolution, and defend the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, and security of the fatherland, and the freedom, happiness, and peaceful labor of the people.

In practice the armed forces have a three-fold mission: political, military and economic. Politically, military cadres are used by the Lao Dong Party and the government to help carry indoctrination campaigns to the civilian population in support of state farms,
rural cooperatives, the unification of Vietnam, the emulation program and other officially sanctioned policies and goals (see ch. 25, Agricultural Potential; ch. 26, Industrial Potential; ch. 12, Public Information and Propaganda). Military missions include the defense of the sovereignty and territory of the regime, the maintenance of internal security and the suppression of sabotage and subversive activities (see ch. 21, Public Order and Safety; ch. 28, Subversive Potentialities). Economically, the armed forces are called upon to help the farmers during the planting and harvesting seasons, to support the emulation movement aimed at increasing production by stimulating work competition between individuals and groups, to assist in the development of agricultural cooperatives and, in some instances, to operate state farms. The military forces also join civilian groups organized to work on public projects or help villagers increase farm output.

Organization

At the head of the military establishment is Ho Chi Minh, who, as President of the Democratic Republic, the Constitution vests with command of the armed forces (see fig. 21). Actual military control, however, is exercised by the Minister of National Defense, General Vo Nguyen Giap, who is also a Deputy Premier and Commander in Chief of the Army—posts he has held since 1946.

The highest policy-making body, the National Defense Council, has functions similar to those of the United States National Security Council. Its permanent members include President Ho Chi Minh (as chairman), Premier Pham Van Dong and General Vo Nguyen Giap (as vice chairmen) and the following: Nguyen Duy Trinh, a Deputy Premier and Chairman of the State Planning Commission; Tran Quoc Hoan, Minister of Public Security; Nguyen Van Tranh, Minister of Heavy Industry; Senior General Van Tien Dung, Chief of the Armed Forces General Staff; General Nguyen Chi Thanh, former Chief of the Political Directorate of the Army; and Senior General Chu Van Tan, Political Commissar of the Viet-Bac Military Region. The Chairman, the Vice Chairmen and several members of the Council were also members of the Political Bureau of the Lao Dong Party.

The Minister of National Defense, as Commander in Chief of the Army, exercises control mainly through the General Staff, the Political Directorate, the Training Directorate and the Logistics Directorate. The Political Directorate is the most powerful; the other directorates have status about equal to that of the General Staff.

Since there are no navy or air arms, the General Staff is actually the ground forces staff. It concerns itself with overall coordina-
President

National Defense Council

Ministry of National Defense

Commander in Chief of the Army

Political Directorate

Training Directorate

General Staff

Logistics Directorate

Mobilization and Militia

People's Security Forces

Military Regions

Naval Bureau

Figure 21. General Organization of the Military High Command of North Vietnam, 1961.
tion and control of tactical units and services in such matters as operations, planning, liaison, intelligence and personnel.

The Political Directorate is charged with disseminating Party doctrine and policies to all the troops. It oversees the training of political officers who are attached to military units down to and including companies, and it supervises their activities. It is also in charge of recreation and entertainment programs in the service. Its political responsibilities presumably bring it into direct contact with high level Party agencies concerned with Party affairs.

The fact that the Training Directorate is equal in status to the General Staff is an indication of the importance attached to its function. In addition to military training, it is responsible for physical education programs.

The Logistics Directorate is presumably charged with the supervision of procurement, supply, transportation and medical services. Various bureaus and offices in the Ministry of National Defense are concerned with mobilization and militia affairs, with naval matters, with the military training and armament of the Public Security Forces and with coordinating the administration of the military regions. The activities of these bureaus are apparently coordinated and supervised by the Directorates and the General Staff, each within its special field.

For military administrative purposes the country is divided into military regions, each of which comprises one or more provinces. The Thai-Meo and the Viet-Bac Autonomous Regions, for example, are called the Northwest and the Viet-Bac Military Regions, respectively. Information regarding the other military regions is not available. The headquarters of a military region apparently functions as an administrative rather than as an operational center, somewhat in the manner of an army area headquarters in the United States. Information regarding the distribution of the seven divisions in the Army is not available. Army units seem to be under the direct control of the Commander in Chief of the Army, whereas the militia forces which are organized on a provincial basis, apparently are under the operational control of their respective military region commanders.

Military and Civil Order

Political Controls

The military is completely subordinate to the authority of the Lao Dong Party. Even General Giap, as a Deputy Premier and Minister of National Defense, is subject to Party controls which are maintained through the Political Directorate, which reports directly to high Party echelons, and through the National Defense Council, which determines military policy. Moreover, since seven
of the nine members of the National Defense Council are also members of the Party's Political Bureau, conformity of the Council's decisions with Party directives is assured.

Both the military and the civilian population are repeatedly assured that the armed forces belong to the people, as stipulated in Article 8 of the Constitution, and that the will of the people is expressed through the National Assembly, the highest organ of the state (Article 43). The Constitution, in Articles 50 and 53, bestows upon the National Assembly and its Standing Committee extensive authority which could be used to check any action by the military which did not accord with the "people's will."

**Indoctrination**

Political indoctrination is a major feature in the training program and is conducted concurrently with the regular military instruction of troop units. It is supervised and directed by the Political Directorate in the Ministry of National Defense. Specially trained servicemen are assigned to units down to and including battalions; sometimes they are assigned to lower echelons where they work closely with platoons and squads. Provided with pamphlets prepared by the Directorate, they hold study sessions and give lectures in accordance with a programmed course of political instruction which is incorporated in the training schedule. Junior officers apparently attend routine classes with their units. Special conferences, to be attended by all officers and men, may be conducted to explain a new Party or government policy which has military implications.

Indoctrination emphasizes such things as the necessity for "protecting the achievements of the revolution," the armed forces contribution to "the Socialist state," vigilance against "reactionary elements," basic revolutionary theory, and Party policies and government programs. The political specialists are occasionally called to army conferences; in January 1962, for example, they met to receive guidance from the Director General of the Political Directorate on the program for "army-building" and for "consolidation of national defense in 1962." The Director General reportedly enjoined them to concentrate their efforts on strengthening the vigilance and improving the combat readiness of the troops. He also admonished them to adapt their political instruction to the task of carrying out the resolutions of the Third Party Congress and of the National Defense Council.

**Foreign Influence**

The strongest foreign influence on the armed forces has been that of Communist China. Chinese advice and assistance is apparent in training, tactics and weapons. During the last days of
the Indochina War, especially after 1951, up to 20,000 Chinese Communist training troops were in Vietnam aiding the Viet Minh forces. At Dien Bien Phu most of the field and antiaircraft batteries reportedly were manned by Chinese artillerymen.

The Minister of National Defense and Commander in Chief of the Army, General Vo Nguyen Giap, has repeatedly referred to the military lessons learned from the experience of Chinese Communist forces in their conflict with the Chinese Nationalists and in their subsequent role in economic development. The concepts contained in General Giap's treatises on the evolution of irregular forces into a conventional national army closely resembles those earlier developed by Mao Tse-tung. Training manuals, organizational patterns and operational procedures all bear the Chinese imprint, and Chinese specialists reportedly continue to work with units of the North Vietnamese Army and with its subordinate naval and air groups.

The Soviet Union's armed forces are praised by the authorities as a worthy example for the Army to follow, but it is apparently recognized that the vast difference in the resources, relative development and general situation of the two states would make unrealistic an attempt to employ the Soviet military model. North Vietnamese delegations have visited North Korea, and some senior officers and specialists have visited the European satellites of the Soviet Union, but Communist China has received the bulk of those who go abroad for study and training.

**Manpower**

North and South Vietnamese differ little in physical characteristics. About 5 feet 4 inches tall and weighing around 120 pounds, the average North Vietnamese male is perhaps 15 pounds heavier and 2 inches taller than the average southerner.

**Conscription**

The Constitution of 1946 empowered the government to require military service of all citizens. In the 1950's a system of provincial conscription committees was established, and a series of limited callups were conducted to test procedures. By the end of 1959 conscription had been further regulated by a number of decrees and the government had published an explanatory pamphlet on national military service. The new Constitution in 1960 reaffirmed the obligation of the citizen to perform military service "in order to defend the fatherland," and in April of that year the National Military Service Law was published.

All male citizens between the ages of 18 and 45, except criminals in prison or persons deprived of their citizenship rights by court
order, are subject to military service. The conscription process involves registration, medical examination, induction and assignment to basic training. Registration occurs annually in January for youths who have reached the age of 18 in the preceding 12 months.

The medical examination identifies those who are physically fit and otherwise qualified for immediate assignment to regular army service. A liberal deferment policy apparently prevails, and among those to whom deferment may be granted are: those who have minor ailments or temporary physical disabilities verified by a village or district administrative committee; students and teachers; chairmen of Party committees and administrative officials; heads of Party and village organizations; workers in state enterprises upon request of their managers and with the approval of provincial conscription committees. Permanent exemptions are given to invalids, those supporting families and clerics.

The period of conscripted service, initially a minimum of 3 years, was later reduced to a minimum of 2. The number actually inducted into the Army each year varies according to the need for specialists and troops. Those who are not enrolled in the Army are placed in the reserves and, in peacetime, fulfill their conscription obligation by working on public projects, enrolling in Militia Units or Self-Defense Units and by participating in local public activities.

Reserves

A growing trained reserve is provided by the conscription process. According to the national service decrees of 1959, the reserve is divided into Class 1 and Class 2 categories. Class 1 is composed of combat-experienced soldiers who, since 1960, have been released from the Army on expiration of their enlistment period and replaced by conscripts. These veterans form the core of the local Militia and Self-Defense Units. Also in Class 1 are former members of guerrilla groups and the young politically reliable conscripts who have not actually been called to active military duty. Class 2 consists of all others who are liable for military service.

Men in the Army are released from their military obligations at the age of 45, but those who are physically fit are encouraged to join their local Militia or Self-Defense Units as volunteers. The 1959 decrees also stipulated that women with special skills—nurses, laboratory technicians, telephone operators, typists, motor vehicle drivers and others—would be registered for the reserves and encouraged to volunteer for the Militia or Self-Defense Units.

The Militia and Self-Defense Units are organized into sections, platoons, companies, battalions or larger formations, depending on local circumstances and on the availability of personnel and
security requirements. To popularize these reserve organizations, military physical training, marksmanship and sports clubs are formed (see ch. 21, Public Order and Safety).

Arms and Equipment

The Army is supplied with an assortment of weapons and equipment of various makes and models. Virtually all materiel is from foreign sources, principally Communist China and the Soviet Union. Considerable materiel of French, British, Japanese and United States origin has also been acquired since World War II, initially from abandoned stocks and later by capture.

Communist China has provided small arms, such as pistols, rifles, automatic rifles and some heavier weapons, such as mortars (60-mm and 82-mm) and recoilless rifles (57-mm and 75-mm). Hand grenades of various types also have been obtained from the Chinese.

The Soviet Union, besides furnishing some rifles and pistols, has provided heavier weapons. These include machineguns (7.62-mm and 12.7-mm), mortars (82-mm), bazookas (3.5 inches), artillery (76-mm guns), antitank guns (100-mm) and antiaircraft guns (37-mm).

Naval vessels and equipment, some of which reportedly were furnished by Communist China, include a limited number of small gunboats, armed junks, troop carriers and landing craft. The military establishment is believed to be without aircraft of its own, but approximately 20 airfields, some of which are equipped with radar installations, have been constructed since the 1954 Agreement. Soviet airplanes and crews reportedly have been used for troop transport and other military air missions.

Ranks and Insignia

Regulations prescribing army ranks and their corresponding insignia were published in a governmental decree on June 20, 1958. The ranks of officers and noncommissioned officers are denoted by epaulets worn on the dress uniform and by collar tab insignia worn on the field uniform (see fig. 22). Privates wear collar tabs bearing silver stars, two for privates first class and one for privates second class. Privates also wear the insignia of their respective arms which consists of a metal disc about 1.3 inches in diameter embossed with a gold star superimposed on a device representative of the arm. On the army insignia, the star surmounts a gear wheel segment; the background is red and the disc is bordered by rice paddy stalks. On the naval insignia, the background is sea blue and the star is superimposed on an anchor. On the insignia for the air contingent, the star is superimposed on two wings on a
sky-blue background. Technical branches, such as artillery, engineers and signal communications, are indicated by metal devices representative of their respective branch functions. The devices are worn on the collar tab alongside the rank insignia.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vietnamese Title</th>
<th>Literal Translation</th>
<th>United States Equivalent</th>
<th>Rank Insignia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OFFICERS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dai Tuong Tong Chi Huy</td>
<td>Superior General</td>
<td>General</td>
<td>(1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dai Tuong</td>
<td>Senior General</td>
<td>Lieutenant General</td>
<td>(2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trung Tuong</td>
<td>Intermediate General</td>
<td>Major General</td>
<td>(3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thieu Tuong</td>
<td>Junior General</td>
<td>Brigadier General</td>
<td>(4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dai Ta Nhat</td>
<td>Superior Senior Grade Officer</td>
<td>None(2)</td>
<td>(5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dai Ta</td>
<td>Senior Grade Superior Officer</td>
<td>Colonel</td>
<td>(6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trung Ta</td>
<td>Intermediate Grade Superior Officer</td>
<td>Lieutenant Colonel</td>
<td>(7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thieu Ta</td>
<td>Junior Grade Superior Officer</td>
<td>Major</td>
<td>(8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dai Uy Nhat</td>
<td>Superior Senior Grade Junior Officer</td>
<td>None(4)</td>
<td>(9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dai Uy</td>
<td>Senior Grade Junior Officer</td>
<td>Captain</td>
<td>(10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trung Uy</td>
<td>Intermediate Grade Junior Officer</td>
<td>First Lieutenant</td>
<td>(11)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thieu Uy</td>
<td>Junior Grade Junior Officer</td>
<td>Second Lieutenant</td>
<td>(12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chuan Uy</td>
<td>Student Officer</td>
<td>Cadet Officer</td>
<td>(13)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| ENLISTED MEN     |                     |                          |               |
| Thuang Si        | Superior Grade Non-commissioned Officer | First Sergeant  | (14)         |
| Trung Si         | Intermediate Grade Non-commissioned Officer | Sergeant      | (15)         |
| Ha Si            | Junior Grade Non-commissioned Officer | Corporal       | (16)         |
| n.a.             | ----                | Private First Class     | (17)         |
| n.a.             | ----                | Private Second Class    | (18)         |

(1) Epaulets: yellow base with red border; gold stars and gold button.
(2) A rank between colonel and the lowest rank in the category of general; sometimes called senior colonel.
(3) Epaulets: yellow base with red border; silver cross stripes, silver stars and silver button.
(4) A rank between captain and the lowest rank in the field grade category, sometimes called senior captain.
(5) Epaulets: red base with yellow border; silver button.
(6) Epaulets: silver base with red border; red cross stripes, silver button.
(7) Collar tabs: silver stars on red base.

*Figure 22. Rank Structure and Rank Insignia of North Vietnam's Army, 1961.*
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GLOSSARY

abaca—Fiber plant from which jute is harvested.
agroville—A type of rural settlement developed by the government of South Vietnam in the early 1960’s to provide villagers with improved social services and protection from Communist guerrillas.

AID—Agency for International Development.

Annam—Name of former French protectorate forming part of French Indochina; its area conformed roughly with that of the Central Lowlands of Vietnam.

arrondissements—Administrative districts in South Vietnam cities, similar to precincts in the United States.

Baie de Cam Ranh—See Vinh Cam Ranh.
Baie de Tourane—See Vung Da Nang.

bang—Chinese mutual aid society.

Bao An—South Vietnamese Civil Guard
Bassac River—See Song Hau Giang.
Batangan Cape—See Mui Batangan.
Ben Tre—See Truc Giang.

Binh Xuyen—A political and racketeering organization that flourished during the Bao Dai regime after World War II.

café—Traditional hirer of laborers for a particular enterprise under a contract arrangement.

Camau Point—See Mui Bai Bung.
Cam Ranh Bay—See Vinh Cam Ranh.

can bo—The lowest level political staff official or specialist in the North Vietnamese Communist government agencies.

Can Lao Nhan Vi Cach Mang Dang—The Revolutionary Workers’ Party, popularly known as the Can Lao. It is the progovernment party headed by Ngo Dinh Nhu, brother of the President.

Cao Dai—popular name for the Dai Dao Tam Ky Pho Do (Third Amnesty of God). A politico-religious sect that controlled Tay Ninh and neighboring provinces during Bao Dai regime following World War II.

Cao Nguyen Dac Lac—A plateau in the Central Highlands formerly called Plateau du Darlac.

Cap Batangan—See Mui Batangan.
Cap Padaran—See Mui Dinh.
Cap St. Jacques—See Vung Tau.
Cap Varella—See Mui Dieu.

CARE—Cooperative for American Relief To Everywhere, Inc.

Cochinchina—Former French colony which formed part of French Indochina; its area conformed roughly with what is now South Vietnam.
Col des Nuages—See Deo Hai Van.

Colombo Plan—The Colombo Plan for the Cooperative Economic Development in South and Southeast Asia. An organization for coordinating aid of Western nations and Japan to Asian nations and through which Asian nations also provide aid to each other.


Con Son—An island in the South China Sea off the coast of South Vietnam, formerly called Poulo Condore.

crachin—Drizzling rain which prevails in the Red River Delta area during most of the winter months.

CSTV—Confédération Syndicale des Travailleurs Vietnamiennes (Confederation of Unions of Workers of Vietnam). A South Vietnamese labor organization.

CTG—Confédération Générale du Travail (General Confederation of Labor). A Communist-led French labor organization.


Da Nang—A city in the Central Lowlands portion of South Vietnam formerly called Tourane.

Dan Nang Bay—See Vung Da Nang.

Dang Cong San Dong Duong—The Communist Party of Indochina. Established in 1930 by Ho Chi Minh (then known as Nguyen Ai Quoc) and formally dissolved by him in 1945.

Dang Lao Dong Viet Nam—The Workers’ Party of Vietnam, the Communist party of North Vietnam which is usually called the Lao Dong Party.

Dan Ve—South Vietnamese Self-Defense Corps.

Dao Phu Quoc—An island in the Gulf of Siam formerly called Ile de Phu Quoc or Phu Quoc Island.

Demarcation Line—The line dividing South and North Vietnam. It does not coincide exactly with the 17th parallel but approximates it closely enough so that the terms are used interchangeably in many contexts throughout this book.

Deo Hai Van—A headland forming the northern rim of Vung Da Nang formerly called Col des Nuages.

Di Linh—A town on the road between La Lat and Saigon formerly called Djiring.

Djiring—See Di Linh.

dong—See dong viet and plaster.

dong viet—The basic unit of currency in North Vietnam, usually called the dong (both singular and plural). The dong came into
existence in December 1946, replacing the Bank of Indochina
piaster. In 1948 the Viet Minh regime announced that the cur-
rency was backed by 375 milligrams of gold per dong, but this
claim was without substance. Since then the dong has been
devalued twice. In January 1953 a new dong replaced the for-
mer issue at the conversion rate of 100 old to 1 new. Another
issue in 1959 introduced a dong valued at US$0.263 and called
the existing currency at the rate of 1,000 old to 1 new.

ECAFE—Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East.

emulation program—North Vietnamese movement designed to in-
crease production by stimulating work competition between
individuals and groups.

FAO—Food and Agriculture Organization. A specialized agency
of the United Nations.

five-family units—Units organized in urban areas of South Viet-
nam to cooperate with police in detecting and preventing sub-
version and other illegal activities.

Fleuve Bassac—See Song Hau Giang

franc—Basic unit of French currency. Annual averages of the
exchange rate for the United States dollar: from September
1949 to August 1957, 350 francs; from August 1957 to December
1958, 420 francs; from December 1958 through December 1959,
493.7 francs; on January 1, 1960, the par value of the franc
per US dollar was established at 4.937 new francs.

giap—Formerly an administrative subdivision of a village, but in
South Vietnam it is now a type of mutual aid society.

hectare—2.471 acres.

Hiep Hoi Nong Dan—South Vietnamese farmers' associations de-
signed to supplement cooperatives.

ho—Family and, by extension, mutual association. In South Viet-
nam a ho is often formed by women to combine speculation with
mutual assistance.

ho hieu—A filial piety association similar to burial insurance socie-
ties in the United States.

Hoa Hao—A political-religious sect dominant in provinces located
southwest of Saigon during Bao Dai regime following World
War II.

IAEA—International Atomic Energy Agency. A specialized agency
of the United Nations.

IBRD—International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. A
specialized agency of the United Nations.

ICA—International Cooperation Administration.

ICAO—International Civil Aviation Organization. A specialized
agency of the United Nations.

ICC—International Control Commission. A commission appointed
under the provision of the Geneva Agreement of 1954 to check on the observance of its clauses by the contending sides.


**Ile de Phu Quoc**—See Dao Phu Quoc.


**IMF**—International Monetary Fund. A specialized agency of the United Nations.

**ITU**—International Telecommunications Union. A specialized agency of the United Nations.

**kenaf**—An East Indian hard-fiber plant grown in Vietnam; also known as ambary.

**Krong Pha**—See Song Pha.

**Lao Dong Party**—See Dang Lao Dong Viet Nam.


**montagnards**—Collective name for tribal peoples of various ethnic origin living in the mountainous regions of both North and South Vietnam.

**mui**—Vietnamese word for cape or point.

**Mui Bai Bung**—A point of land at the southern tip of South Vietnam which was formerly called Pointe de Ca Mau or Camau Point.

**Mui Batangan**—A cape in the Central Lowlands south of Da Nang which was formerly called Cap Batangan or Batangan Cape.

**Mui Dieu**—A cape in the Central Lowlands near Vinh Cam Ranh which was formerly called Cap Varella or Varella Cape.

**Mui Dinh**—A cape located south and east of Da Lat which was formerly called Cap Padaran or Padaran Cape.

**National Front**—National Front for the Liberation of South Vietnam (Mat Tran Dan Tac Giai Phong). The political arm of the Communist subversive effort in South Vietnam, sometimes referred to as the NFLSV. Its nominal leaders, who are South Vietnamese, represent themselves as non-Communists.

**NFLSC**—See National Front.

**Ngo Dinh Diem**—President of the Republic of Vietnam; is referred to throughout text as “President Ngo,” the correct Vietnamese usage, rather than as “President Diem,” the form most often adopted by American journalists.

**nuoc mam**—A pungent fish sauce.

**Padaran Cape**—See Mui Dinh.

**Pathet Lao**—Lao State. The name given by the Communists to a state in northern Laos formed in 1950 and sponsored by the Viet
Minh of North Vietnam; it is headed by Prince Souphanouvong of Laos.

Phu Quoc Island—See Dao Phu Quoc.

Piaster—The basic unit of currency in South Vietnam. Called the dong in Vietnamese, it is referred to as the piaster in all other languages and throughout this volume to distinguish it from the North Vietnamese dong viet which is also referred to as the dong. The official rate of exchange, established in May 1958, is 35 piasters to US$1. The exchange system was modified in January 1962 and a new rate established which, in effect, devalued the piaster. Technically the official rate stands, but a premium of 25 piasters to US$1 on purchases of foreign exchange and a tax of 25 piasters to US$1 on piaster sales introduced an effective rate of 60 piasters to US$1. This rate was made applicable to all trade transactions and certain transfers of funds. As before, a controlled rate of 78.5 piasters to US$1 applies to other specified transfers of funds.

Plateau du Darlac—See Cao Nguyen Dac Lac.
Pointe de Ca Mau—See Mui Bai Bung.
Poulo Condore—See Con Son.
Quoc ngu—A system of writing Vietnamese in Roman letters. Originally devised by Portuguese and French missionaries, it is now the common method of writing the language.
Rouie—An Asian fiber plant recently introduced to Vietnam.
Riviere de Saigon—See Song Sai Gon.
Ruble—Basic unit of Soviet currency. From 1954 to January 1961 valued at US$0.25; since January 1961 valued at US$1.11.
Salgon River—See Song Sai Gon.
SEATO—Southeast Asia Treaty Organization. Member nations (United States, Great Britain, France, Thailand, Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines and Pakistan) are committed to resist aggression in the treaty area.
Song—Vietnamese word meaning stream or tributary.
Song Hau Giang—The southern branch of the Mekong River which was formerly called the Fleuve Bassac or the Bassac River.
Song Pha—A molybdenite mining site in South Vietnam formerly called Krong Pha.
Song Sai Gon—A river flowing past the city of Saigon formerly called the Rivière de Saigon or Saigon River.
Song Vaico—See Song Vam Co.
Song Vam Co—A river near Saigon formerly called the Song Vaico or Vaico River.

**tinh**—First-level administrative division, translated herein as province.

**TLD**—See Viet Nam Tong Doan Lao Dong.

**Tonkin**—Name of former French protectorate forming part of French Indochina; its area conformed roughly with what is now North Vietnam.

**Tourane**—See Da Nang.

**Truc Glang**—A coastal area in the Mekong Delta where copra is grown. Formerly called Ben Tre.

**UNESCO**—United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.


**UOV**—Union Ouvrière du Vietnam (Vietnam Labor Union). A South Vietnamese labor organization.

**UPU**—Universal Postal Union. A specialized agency of the United Nations.

**USIA**—United States Information Agency.

**USIS**—United States Information Service.


**Vaico River**—See Song Vam Co.

**Varella Cape**—See Mui Dieu.

**Viet Cong**—Derogatory contraction of term meaning “Vietnamese Communist.” It is used everywhere, except in North Vietnam, in reference to Communist guerrillas and terrorists operating in South Vietnam.

**Viet Minh**—See Viet Nam Doc Lap Dong Minh Hoi.

**Viet Nam Doc Lap Dong Minh Hoi**—The Vietnam Independence League, usually called the Viet Minh. A Communist-led organization, represented as a coalition of nationalist groups, which actively opposed the French and Japanese during World War II and spearheaded Vietnamese resistance to French rule in early years of Indochina War; in 1951 it incorporated its key elements into the newly formed Lao Dong Party.

**Viet Nam Tong Doan Lao Dong**—General Confederation of Labor of Vietnam, usually called the TLD. The only legal labor organization in North Vietnam.


**VINATEXCO**—Vietnam Textile Company in South Vietnam.

**vinh**—Vietnamese word for bay.

**Vinh Cam Ranh**—A bay north of Nha Trang in the Central Lowlands, formerly called Baie de Cam Ranh or Cam Ranh Bay.
VNQDD—Viet Nam Quoc Dan Dang (Việt Nam Nationalist Party). A nationalist organization formed in 1927 which advocated a program for Vietnam similar to that of the Chinese Nationalist Party, the Kuomintang.

VTVN—Vo Tuyen Viet Nam (the National Broadcasting System of Vietnam), also called Le Radiodiffusion National du Vietnam.

vung—Vietnamese word for bay.

Vung Da Nang—A bay near the city of Da Nang, formerly called Baie de Tourane or Da Nang Bay.

Vung Tau—A town on the coast about 75 miles south of Saigon, formerly called Cap St. Jacques.


By Order of the Secretary of the Army:

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Official:

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