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Section IV. National Security

RECOMMENDED FURTHER READING

Among the sources consulted in the preparation of this section, the following are recommended as additional reading on the basis of quality and general availability.


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(In addition to the above sources, the following periodicals were used in the preparation of this section: *Washington Evening Star,* from December 1965 through February 1966; *Christian Science Monitor,* from January through March 1966; *Manchester Guardian,* from August 1965 through February 1966; *Saigon Daily News,* from June through December 1965, and *U.S. News and World Report,* from June 1965 through April 1966.)
GLOSSARY

AID—Agency for International Development.
Annam—Name of former protectorate forming part of French Indochina; its area conformed roughly with that of the Central Lowlands and Central Highlands of Vietnam, between Cochin China and Tonkin.
bang—See congregation.
Binh Xuyen—A political and racketeering organization that flourished during the Bao Dai regime after World War II.
Buddhist Institute for Secular Affairs—See Vien Hoa Dao.
Buddhist Lay Institute—See Vien Hoa Dao.
Can Lao Nhan Vi Cong Mang Dang—The Revolutionary Personalist Labor Party, popularly known as the Can Lao. It was the pro-government party headed by Ngo Dinh Nhu, brother of the late President Ngo Dinh Diem.
Cao Dai—A religious group, commonly spoken of as a reformed Buddhist sect, but in fact it represents a synthesis of tenets drawn from several religious and philosophical traditions. Politically active, its center is in Tay Ninh, northwest of Saigon, but groups of varying sizes are found in all the other provinces of the Mekong Delta.
Cap St. Jaques—See Vung Tau.
CARE—Cooperative for American Remittances to Everywhere, Inc.
CGT—Confédération Générale du Travail (General Confederation of Labor). A Communist-led French labor organization.
Chieu Hoi—Lit., open arms. A government program designed to induce the Viet Cong to shift their allegiance to the government side. Administered by the Department of Information and Open Arms.
Cochin China—Former French colony which formed part of French Indochina; its area comprised roughly what is now the southern third of South Vietnam.
Colombo Plan—The Colombo Plan for Cooperative Economic Development in South and Southeast Asia was published by the Commonwealth Consultative Committee on South and Southeast Asia on November 29, 1950, and was to be effective from July 1, 1951, to June 30, 1957. The terminal date was extended to 1961 and later to 1966. The Plan is an international cooperative effort to assist
countries of the area to raise their living standards. Member na-
tions in 1966 were Afghanistan, Australia, Bhutan, Burma, Camb-
dodia, Canada, Ceylon, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea Laos, Ma-
layisia, the Maldive Islands, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, the
Philippines, Thailand, the United Kingdom, the United States and
South Vietnam. By mid-1966 no action regarding membership had
been announced by the newly formed Republic of Singapore.

Con Son—An island in the South China Sea off the coast of South
Vietnam; formerly called Poulo Condore. Well known as a penal
island, the site of a maximum security prison and historically as a
place for exiling political prisoners. Its status as a separate prov-
ince changed in 1965 when its provincial government was replaced
by an administrative delegation directly subordinate to the central
government in Saigon.

congregation—The name commonly applied by the French to associa-
tions (in Vietnamese, bang) of Chinese in Vietnam. The associa-
tions are based on dialects spoken in the areas in China from which
their members had emigrated, and they usually serve as focal points
for the social, economic and political activities of the respective
groups.

CSTV—Confédération des Syndicats des Travailleurs Viêtnamiens
(Confederation of Unions of Workers of Vietnam). A South Viet-
namese labor organization.

CVTC—Confédération Viêtnamienne du Travail Chrétien (Viet-
namese Confederation of Christian Labor). The largest of the labor
organizations in South Vietnam.

Dang Lao Dong Viet Nam—See Lao Dong Party.

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

dharmma—Ideal truth, especially as taught by Buddha.

FAO—Food and Agriculture Organization. A Specialized Agency of
the United Nations.

franc—Basic unit of French currency. Annual averages of the ex-
change rate for US$1: from September 1949 to August 1957, 350
francs; from August 1957 to December 1958, 420 francs; from De-
cember 1958 through December 1959, 493.7 francs; on January 1,
1960, the par value of the franc per US$1 was established at 4.987
new francs.

hectare—2.471 acres.

ho—Term used to refer to a named descent group—a group consisting
of persons able to trace descent from a common ancestor. Can refer
to either the group or the name.

Hoa Hao—A reformed Buddhist sect founded in 1939. Politically
active, it has gained importance as a religious and political force in the Mekong Delta region, especially in the northwestern provinces of Chau Doc and An Giang, where much of its membership is concentrated.

**huong hoa**—Land set aside; the income from it is dedicated to the support of the Cult of Ancestors.


**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.


**IMF**—International Monetary Fund. A Specialized Agency of the United Nations.

**Institute for the Execution of Dharma**—See Vien Hoa Dao.


**MACV**—Military Assistance Command for Vietnam.

**Mat Tran Dan Too Giai-phong Mien-Nam**—See National Front for the Liberation of South Vietnam.

**matrilocal**—A term used to describe a society in which the husband and wife, at marriage, take up residence in the house or community of the bride’s parents.

**MEDCAP**—Medical Civic Action Program.

**Mekong River Project**—A project for developing the irrigation, hydroelectric and navigational potentials of the Mekong River. Preliminary surveys were initiated in 1957 when Laos, Cambodia and South Vietnam joined Thailand and formed a four-nation Mekong Committee to direct planning for the project. Besides maintaining a year-round office in Bangkok staffed by United Nations technicians, the Committee has held several meetings a year in the capitals of the four countries, despite military operations or diplomatic difficulties. By mid-1965, 18 non-Communist nations as well as some United Nations agencies supplied funds or technical assistance to the Project.

**MILPHAP**—Military Public Health Assistance Project of the United States Army.
montagnard—Mountaineer. A French word frequently applied to the ethnically diverse peoples of the Central Highlands region.

mui—Vietnamese word for cape or point.

Nam-bo—A term initially used to denote the Cochin China area; now used by Vietnamese, North and South, to mean South Vietnam as a whole.

National Front for the Liberation of South Vietnam—Mat Tran Dan Toc Giai-phong Mien-Nam. Commonly known by the English contraction, National Front, or by the abbreviation NFLSV. A Communist political-front organization set up in December 1960 by North Vietnam and used by the Communists to give the appearance of popular non-Communist support to their insurgency activities in South Vietnam. Not given recognition or credence by the governments of South Vietnam or the United States.

NFLSV—See National Front for the Liberation of South Vietnam. Most often adopted by American journalists.

nuoc mam—A pungent fish sauce.

ong lang— Chinese traditional medicine.

Open Arms Program—See Chieu Hoi.

patrilocal—A term used to describe a society in which the husband and wife, at marriage, take up residence in the house or community of the bridegroom’s parents.

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. The official rate of exchange, established in May 1953, 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 to the ordinary transfers of funds. As before the 1962 modification, the controlled rate of 73.5 piasters to US$1 applies to certain specified transfers of funds.

Poulo Condore—See Con Son.

quoc ngu—A system of writing Vietnamese in Roman letters. Originally devised by a French missionary, it is now the common method of writing the language.

sangha—Any order or community of Buddhist monks. Sometimes used to refer to the total body of Buddhist monks everywhere.

SEATO—Southeast Asia Treaty Organization. Member nations (Australia, France, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines, Thailand, the United Kingdom and the United States) are committed to resist aggression to the treaty area. Established in September 1954.

song—Vietnamese word meaning stream or river.

tonkin—Name of former French protectorate forming part of French Indochina; its area conformed roughly to the basin of the Red River System.

truong too—The head of a lineage.


Unified Buddhist Church of Vietnam—Formed at Saigon in January 1964 by a group of Buddhist leaders, the most active of whom were Thich Tam Chau and Thich Tri Quang; it is the primary organization behind the Buddhist movement in South Vietnam.

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


USIA—United States Information Agency. Its representatives in embassies overseas form the USIS (United States Information Service).

USIS—United States Information Service. See USIA.


Vien Hoa Dao—The Institute (or High Council) for the Execution of Dharma, an agency of the Unified Buddhist Church of Vietnam. Also known as the Buddhist Institute for Secular Affairs and as the Buddhist Lay Institute.

Viet Cong—Condensed from the term Viet Nam Cong San, meaning Vietnamese Communists (sometimes translated as Vietnamese Communism). It is the term generally applied to the supporters and participants in the Communist-controlled subversive insurgency in South Vietnam. Communists, including the insurgents themselves, avoid use of the term, preferring to operate under the guise of nationalists.

Viet Minh—See Viet Nam Doc Lap Dong Minh.

Vietnam Buddhist Force—The political arm of the Unified Buddhist Church of Vietnam.

Viet Nam Cong San—Vietnamese Communists; usually contracted to Viet Cong, q.v.

Viet Nam Doc Lap Dong Minh—The Vietnam Independence League, usually called the Viet Minh. A Communist-led organization, rep-
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 the early years of the Indochina War; in 1951 it incorporated its key elements into the newly formed Lào Đồng Party.

**Vietnam Nationalist Party**—See **Viet Nam Quoc Dan Dang**.

**Viet Nam Quoc Dan Dang**—Vietnam Nationalist Party, formed in 1927. Commonly known by the abbreviation, VNQDD. It advocated a program for Vietnam similar to that of the Chinese Nationalist Party, the Kuomintang.

**vinh**—Vietnamese word for bay. See vũng.

**VNQDD**—See **Viet Nam Quoc Dan Dang**.

**vũng**—Vietnamese word for bay. See vinh.

**Vũng Tàu**—A town on the coast about 75 miles south of Saigon, formerly called Cap St. Jacques.


**Workers’ Party of Vietnam**—See Lào Đồng Party.
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