CONGRESSES AND PLENUMS
OF
THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF VIET NAM

Prepared by Pham Hong Linh
On 3 February 1930 an unifying conference of three main communist organizations in Indochina was convened in Hong Kong under the chairmanship of Nguyen Ai Quoc (Ho Chi Minh). The conference decided to unite these three communist organizations into a single party called "The Communist Party of Vietnam". When it was founded the Party had 211 members.

FIRST PLENUM
The Vietnamese Communist Party held its first plenum in Hong Kong in October 1930 to discuss political program of the Party. The plenum approved the political thesis written by Tran Phu who was elected secretary general of the Party (Nhan Dan 9 January, 1970, p.3). By the order of the comintern, the plenum decided to change the name of the Party into "Indochinese Communist Party".

SECOND PLENUM
The second plenum was convened in March 1931. The plenum considered the organization of communist youth as urgent and important task and the Communist Youth League was founded. (Historic Documents of The Lao Dong Party, JPRS 20 May 1970, p.17).

THIRD PLENUM
The Third plenum was held in March 1933

Notes: To present the Communist Party of Vietnam has held five National Congresses and its members have increased from 211 (in February 1930) to 1,727,784 (by the time the Fifth Party Congress was held in March 1982)

Chairman of The Party: Ho Chi Minh (1951-1969)

Secretary Generals:
- Tran Phu (1930-1931)
- Nguyen Van Cu (1938-1940)
- Truong Chinh (1941-1956)
- Le Duan (First Secretary:1960-1976; Secretary General: 1976-to present)
Date: 27-31 March, 1935
Place: Macao
Delegates: 15 delegates (12 official delegates and 3 alternate delegates)
Election of the Central Committee: comprised of Ha Huy Tap, Phung Chi Kien, Hoang Dinh Giong etc... (Tap Chi Cong San, Jan 1977, JPRS)
Central theme of the congress: Strengthen and develop the Party, to resist the imperialist war. This congress was convened by the oversea leadership committee established in 1934 in Macao headed by Le Hong Phong. The congress passed three important resolutions:

1. Political resolution of the congress established three primary tasks:
   - Strengthening and developing the Party,
   - Winning over and assembling the masses, and
   - Resisting the imperialist war.
2. Resolution on mobilizing workers, farmers and youths...
3. Resolution adopting amended statutes of the ICP.

FIRST PLENUM
Date: Summer 1936
Discussion topic: The plenum was presided over by Le Hong Phong. The plenum decided to establish the Anti-imperialist People's Front with the purpose of mobilizing an anti-fascist and anti-colonialist, demanding democratic freedom and improving standard of living (Historic Documents of the Lao Dong Party, Hanoi 1970, p. 41)

SECOND PLENUM
Date: March 1937
Discussion topic: The plenum decided to change the name "Communist league" into "Indochinese Democratic Youth League"; and exploit all legal means for its activity under democratic rights. (35 Year struggle of the Party, P. 49)

THIRD PLENUM
Date: September, 1937
Discussion topic: This plenum was held in Gia Dinh (Saigon) to discuss Party strategy of using democratic and legal means to lead overt movement of the masses. At this plenum Nguyen Van Cu was appointed to the standing committee of the Central Committee. (Historic Documents, p. 126).
FOURTH PLENUM
Date: 29-30 March, 1938
Discussion topic: Nguyen Van Cu was elected secretary general of the Party. The plenum emphasized the principle of democratic centralism in Party activities; develop legal activity and broaden relation with people. (35 years of Party's struggle, p. 53).

FIFTH PLENUM
Date: September, 1939
Discussion topic: The plenum decided that condition for legal activity of the Party was no longer in existence, the plenum decided to go underground; at the same time strengthening the Indochinese Democratic Front, uniting all democratic forces and using workers and farmers as central force to struggle against fascists and reactionary landlords.

SIXTH PLENUM
Date: November, 1939
Discussion topic: This plenum was held in Hoc Mon, Gia Dinh (Saigon), chaired by Nguyen Van Cu; it discussed the change of Party strategy in order to mobilize every patriotic force to drive a revolutionary wedge into the number of enemy—the fascist imperialists and their lackeys. It established the Indochinese Anti-imperialist National Front which temporarily took up the slogans of the land revolution (reduce rents, interest rates, and confiscation of land owned by imperialists and Vietnamese traitors. (Historic Documents, p. 42).

SEVENTH PLENUM
Date: November, 1940
Discussion topic: This plenum was held in Bac Ninh Province (NVN) to discuss the question "how to drive out Japanese and French and how to achieve successfully the revolution for national liberation". The plenum decided to establish revolutionary base zone, to expand guerrilla movement, to build armed guerrilla units for scattered activities. (35 Years of Party's struggle, p. 62)

EIGHTH PLENUM
Date: 10-19 May, 1941
Discussion topic: This plenum was held at Pac Bo in Cao Lang Province (NVN) to discuss the question of raising the banner of national liberation and
advocating the establishment of a broad, unified national front (The Viet Minh), organization of liberation people's armed forces. Truong Chinh was appointed Secretary General. (35 Years of Party's Struggle, pp. 65-66; Summary of Party's History, p. 47).

Other conferences of the Party Central Committee:

- 13 August, 1945 Party held a national conference at Tan Trao (Tuyen Quang Province) to prepare agenda of the national congress of Viet Minh delegates to provide the new government with a firm legal basis and to eliminate opposition forces. The conference also promulgated the principle and policies relating to the conduct of internal and external affairs following the success of the uprising. (Duiker, Communist Road To Power In Vietnam, p. 87).

- March 1946 a major conference of the Central Committee convened in Ha Dong Province (NVN) to review the current situation and pass a peace offer to the French in order to avoid an extreme unfavorable fighting condition. (35 Years of Revolutionary Struggle of Our Party, op.cit p. 209-9).

- 15 January 1948 a general conference of the Central Committee was convened to deliberate on the world situation and national affairs. It concluded that that the victory achieved in northern Vietnam had produced a significant change in the resistance war. The conference drew up big project for military activity; emphasized on increasing economic production. (Historic Documents of The Lao Dong Party, JPRS 20 May, 1970, p. 44).
THE SECOND CONGRESS OF THE VCP

Date: 11-19 February, 1951
Place: Tuyen Quang Province, North Vietnam
Delegates: 191 delegates (158 official delegates, 53 alternate delegates)
Election of CC: 29 members
Election of the politburo: 7 members: Ho Chi Minh, Le Duan, Truong Chinh, Pham Van Dong, Vo Nguyen Giap, Nguyen Chi Thanh, Hoang Quoc Viet, and one alternate member: Le Van Luong.
Central theme of the congress: Resistance Congress; the congress made following important decisions:
- Change the name of the Party to Lao Dong Party (Vietnamese Worker's Party)
- New Party principles and rules were promulgated
- Ho Chi Minh was elected Party Chairman
- Truong Chinh was elected Secretary General of the Party
- The congress passed two important resolutions: Resolution on president Ho Chi Minh's political report and resolution on Vietnamese revolution by Truong Chinh.

FIRST PLENUM
Date: February 1941
Discussion topic: to elect the politburo, the secretary general and the central executive committee,

SECOND PLENUM
Date: early October, 1941
Discussion topic: Discussed the question of promoting opposition to the enemy plots to "use war to breed war and use Vietnamese to fight Vietnamese"; the plenum decided to build and consolidate guerrilla bases (Historic Documents, Hanoi 1970, p. 46).

THIRD PLENUM
Date: April, 1952
Discussion topic: The plenum set 3 main tasks: destroy the enemy reserves, expand guerrilla warfare, and build up the strength of the people.

FOURTH PLENUM
Date: 25-30 January, 1953
Discussion topic: Resolved to gain further involvement of the masses, the plenum decided to reduce rents, interest rates and prepare for land reform campaign.

FIFTH PLENUM
Date: November, 1953
Discussion topic: Discussed landreform and approved landreform policies.

SIXTH PLENUM
Date: July, 1954
Discussion topic: Discussed matters concerning peace negotiation in Geneva and resolved concepts and strategy for the phase of struggling to consolidate the peace, achieve national unity and to win independence and democracy for the entire country. (Historic Documents of The Lao Dong Party, Hanoi 1970, p. 47)

SEVENTH PLENUM
Date: March, 1955
Discussion topic: decided to complete landreform, to suppress reactionaries, and renew efforts towards economic rehabilitation and improving production. (Historic Documents, p. 47)

EIGHTH PLENUM
Date: 13-20 August, 1955 (Duiker, p. 175)
Discussion topic: Response to Diem's refusal to hold consultation conference with the North. The Plenum decided that for the time being, the Party was favor of political struggle to unify the country.

NINTH PLENUM
Date: mid of April, 1956
Discussion topic: Aproved a continuation of the policy of placing priority on political struggle for unification of Vietnam (Duiker, p.176)

TENTH PLENUM
Date: Se-tember, 1956
Discussion topic: to asses policy in south Vietnam in light of the international situation and the Diem regime's refusal to hold consultation conference with the North on national election. The plenum also discussed the errors of landreform policies, set for policies, methods and plans for correction these errors. (Nhân Dan, 35 Years of Revolutionary Struggle of Our Party, p. 209-19)
ELEVENTH PLENUM
Date: December, 1956
Discussion topic: to discuss Le Duan's proposal "The Path of Revolution In The South" on the issue of unification of Vietnam (between peaceful mean advocated by Truong Chinh and Le Duc Tho and strong measures with military approach by Le Duan). The Plenum did approve a new policy of punishing selected enemies of revolution in the South. The purpose of this policy was to protect party southern apparatus. (Duiker, p. 178)

TWELFTH PLENUM
Date: March, 1957
Discussion topic: To discuss plan to modernize the armed forces, to consolidate national defense. (Duiker, p. 180)

THIRTEENTH PLENUM
Date:
Discussion topic:

FOURTEENTH PLENUM
Date: November, 1958
Discussion topic: To set down general tasks of Vietnam revolution: exert all efforts to consolidate North Vietnam; Take aggressive action to bring more socialism to northern VN and to resolute in the effort to win the national democratic revolution in the South (History of the VN Lao Dong Party, JPRS 2/17/1970, p. 92)

FIFTEENTH PLENUM
Date: January, 1959 (the communique of the plenum was made public in May, 1959; but most of communist materials referred to this plenum cited January, 1959)
Discussion topic: Analyzed the situation in general and set following tasks for VN revolution: strengthen the North and lead the North towards socialism; on the other hand the Vietnamese people must determinedly pursue the revolution in the South to throw off the oppressive yoke of imperialism and feudalism.
SIXTEENTH PLENUM

Date:

Discussion topic:

SEVENTEENTH PLENUM

Date: October, 1959

Discussion topic: Decided to hold the third Party congress in September, 1960 and prepared documents to be presented at the third Party congress.
Date: 5-12 September, 1960
Place: Hanoi
Delegates: 576 delegates (525 official delegates, 51 attending delegates)
Election of the CC: 43 permanent members, 28 alternate members.
Election of Politburo: 11 members, 2 alternate members.
Secretariat: 9 members.
The central theme of the congress: "Socialist construction in the North and struggle for national unification"
- The congress approved "the Party by law"
- Ho Chi Minh was reelected chairman of the Party
- Le Duan was elected first secretary of the Party replacing Truong Chinh (forced to resign in 1956 after land reform campaign 1953-1956)
- The Congress set the goal and direction for the first 5 year plan (1961-65)

FIRST PLENUM
Date: September, 1960
Discussion topic: to elect the politburo, the secretariat, the chairman, first secretary, and the central control committee.

SECOND PLENUM
Date: 
Discussion topic: 

THIRD PLENUM
Date: January, 1961
Discussion topic: Establishing guideline for the future direction of the revolution; calling for intensifying both armed and political struggle to bring about the uprising in the South. (W.J. Duiker, The Communist Road To Power In Vietnam, 1981, p. 195).

FOURTH PLENUM
Date: April, 1961
Discussion topic: discussing the issue of strengthening the leadership
of the Party, particularly in regard to organizing and supervising implementation.

FIFTH PLENUM
Date: July 1961
Discussion topic: To define the tasks and direction for agricultural development in the first 5 year plan (1961-65) with the aim of strengthening agricultural production and making agriculture the secure foundation for industrial development. (US Department of State: 1968, Working paper on North VN role in the War No. 209, translation of Nhan Dan's series of articles: 35 years of revolutionary struggle of our Party, p. 209-24)

SIXTH PLENUM
Date: April, 1962

SEVENTH PLENUM
Date: June, 1962
Discussion topic: Industrial development in North Vietnam (Fourty Five Years of Activities of The VWP, JPRS, p. 47)

EIGHTH PLENUM
Date: April, 1963
Discussion topic: Discussed state plan for economic development (35 Years of Revolutionary Struggle of Our Party, p. 209-25).

NINTH PLENUM
Date: December, 1963
Discussion topic: Discussing world situation and Party's international obligations and policies; decided to respond to the challenge and escalate the level of armed violence in the South; the immediate task was to strengthen PLAF in order to effect a basic change in the balance of forces in the South; set strategic lines to defeat US aggressors. (Historic Documents of the VWP, p. 47).

TENTH PLENUM
Date: December, 1964.
Discussion topic: Resolved matters relating to distribution and circulation of goods and prices; defined the tasks of the domestic and foreign trade sectors. (Historic Documents, p. 47; Vietnam Courier January/1965)
ELEVENTH PLENUM
Date: August, 1965
Discussion topic: To analyze the situation whereby the entire country was then in war: urgent tasks and needs were to build up the economy, to bolster the national defense forces and to be resolved to win complete victory over American aggressors. (Historic Documents, P. 47).

TWELFTH PLENUM
Date: December, 1965 (Duiker, Communist Road To Power, p. 241)
Discussion topic: How to respond to war situation: discussed issues concerning fighting US aggression in the South and fighting against war of sabotage in the North. In responding to US build up in South VN, the plenum decided to send more troops to the South.

THIRTEENTH PLENUM
Date: April, 1966
Discussion topic: Discussed war situation and decided that "as present the situation was not yet ripe for negotiation", clearly the plenum was convinced that peace talk would not be useful until the situation on the battle field had become more favorable.

FOURTEENTH PLENUM
Date: Late 1967 (Duiker, Communist Road To Power, p. 263)
Discussion topic: Decided to call for a general offensive in rural areas combined with a popular uprising in major cities; ordered "Tet offensive campaign".

FIFTEENTH PLENUM
Date:
Discussion topic:

SIXTEENTH PLENUM
Date:
Discussion topic:
SEVENTEENTH PLENUM

Date:

Discussion topic:

EIGHTEENTH PLENUM

Date:

Discussion topic:

NINETEENTH PLENUM

Date: January, 1971

Discussion topic: Discussed the issue of making new efforts to wage revolutionary war in the South and to fight shoulder to shoulder with fraternal Laotian and Kampuchean people to drive US aggressors out of Indochina. The plenum decided that "national salvation resistance" was still the main task of the entire Party and people. The Plenum also solved a number of problems concerning line, policy and organization with the view to guide North Vietnam's economy to gradually move towards large scale socialist production. (45 Years of Activities of of The VWP, P.74)

TWENTIETH PLENUM

Date: February, 1972 (Duiker, Communist Road To Power, p.292)

Discussion topic: Decided to launch the offensive campaign at the end of March, in the middle of the dry season, to prepare for negotiation. Approved the 1972 state economic plan, emphasis was put on agricultural sector.

TWENTY FIRST PLENUM

Date: October, 1973 (Duiker, p. 304)

Discussion topic: To consider a possible change of policy so that communist forces would be instructed to respond if attacked by ARVN forces and in cases where the enemy was vulnerable. The plenum also planned for general offensive and uprising in the South.
TWENTY SECOND PLENUM
Date: December, 1973 (45 Years of Activities of The VWP, pp. 85-86; but according to Duiker, the 22nd plenum was held in early 1974, probably January, 1974, see Duiker op.cit p. 304)
Discussion topic: Decided on the tasks and guidelines for post war economic restoration and development; approved a plan for economic restoration and development in 1974-1975 in the North. (45 Years of Activities of the VWP, p. 85-86)

TWENTY THIRD PLENUM
Date: December, 1974
Discussion topic: Discipline and law enforcement: strictly enforce the laws and heighten state discipline; emphasize on Party development task and discipline to build successfully socialism and unify the country. (Saigon Giai Phong, 11 September, 1976, JPRS translation).

TWENTY FOURTH PLENUM
Date: August, 1975 (held in Dalat, South Viet Nam)
Discussion topic: Decided to hold the Fourth Party Congress and discussed problems of unification and socialization of all Vietnam. (Saigon Giai Phong, 9 November, 1975).

TWENTY FIFTH PLENUM
Date: September, 1976
Discussion topic: Decided to hold the Fourth Party Congress in mid December 1976 and prepared documents to be presented at the 4th congress.
THE FOURTH CONGRESS OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF VIETNAM

Date: 14-20 December, 1976
Place: Hanoi
Delegates: 1000 representing 1,550,000 members (by December 1976)
Election of Central Committee: permanent: 101; alternate: 32 (total: 133)
Election of the Politburo: permanent: 14; alternate: 3 (total: 17)
Secretariat: 9 members
Secretary General: Le Duan
Number of resolutions passed: 6 resolutions
1. Resolution on changing the name of the Party to the Communist Party of Viet Nam.
2. Resolution on the Party Central Committee's political report.
3. Resolution on the main guidelines, tasks and objectives of the 5 year plan.
4. Resolution on the report on the review of the Party building task and amendment of the Party statutes.
5. Resolution on the Party statutes.
6. Resolution on the general resolution of the fourth Party Congress.

FIRST PLENUM
Date: 19 December, 1976
Discussion topic: To elect the politburo, the Secretariat, the Secretary General and the Central Control Committee.

SECOND PLENUM
Date: 22 June to 3 July 1977
Discussion topic: Agricultural development; increase agricultural production (Nhan Dan, March 6, 1982; August 8, 1977)

THIRD PLENUM
Date: 6-16 December, 1977
Discussion topic: Economic issues, economic development of 1978 (Nhan Dan, March 8, 1982)
FOURTH PLENUM
Date: 1978
Discussion topic: Strengthen Party organizations, effectuating a profound organizational change in order to strengthen Party leadership and management, especially in economic domain, consolidating the Party bases. (Hanoi domestic service 31 December, 1980, translated by FBIS).

FIFTH PLENUM
Date: December, 1978
Discussion topic: Socialist construction and protecting socialism; stabilizing people's life and reinforce national defense. The plenum set forth three main tasks: stabilize and ensure the people's life; strengthen national defense and security to defend the fatherland; and to build material-technical bases for development in the coming years. (Hanoi Tap Chi Giang Vien, No, 5, Sept-Oct 1979, pp. 5-28, translated by JPRS).

SIXTH PLENUM
Date: 13 August, 1979
Discussion topic: This plenum concentrated on economic issues; the plenum marked the launching of a series of economic policies which are credited with the relatively swift economic improvement-including a contract system, greater autonomy for local administration, greater initiation for local enterprises.

SEVENTH PLENUM
Date: 1980
Discussion topic:

EIGHTH PLENUM
Date: 4-10 September, 1980
Discussion topic: Examining the draft constitution of the SRV and discussing measures to ensure the scrupulous implementation of the new constitution once it is adopted by the National Assembly. (Hanoi domestic service, 31 Dec., 1980, FBIS 12/31/80, p. k1).
NINTH PLENUM

Date: 3-10 December, 1980

Discussion topic: Evaluating the implementation of the sixth plenum's resolution and resolution 26 of politburo on distribution and circulation of goods; set forth economic tasks of 1981 and decided to hold the fifth Party Congress by the end of the fourth quarter of 1981. (Hanoi domestic service, 27 Dec., 1980, translated by FBIS).

TENTH PLENUM

Date: 9 October to 3 November 1981


ELEVENTH PLENUM

Date: 7-16 December, 1981

Discussion topic: Discussed and decided on main tasks and targets of the 1982 state plan; step up agricultural production, industrial production and improve distribution and circulation of goods. Prepared documents for the fifth Party congress.

TWELFTH PLENUM

Date: 1982

Discussion topic: Decided to hold the fifth Party congress on 27 March 1982 and prepared political report to be presented at the congress.
THE FIFTH PARTY CONGRESS OF THE VCP

Date: 27-31 March, 1982
Place: Hanoi
Delegates: 1033, representing 1,727,784 members (by March 1982)
Election of the Central Committee: permanent: 116; alternate: 36
Election of the Politburo: permanent: 13; alternate: 2
Secretariat: 10 members
Secretary General: Le Duan
Number of resolutions passed: 3 resolutions
1. Resolution on the Party Central Committee's political report.
2. Resolution on the orientations, tasks and main targets in the
economic and social fields for the 1981-1985 five year period
and for the 1980's.

FIRST PLENUM
Date: March, 1982
Discussion topic: To elect the Politburo, the Secretariat, the Secretary
general and the Central Control Committee.

SECOND PLENUM
Date: July, 1982
Discussion topic: To discuss work plan of the Central Committee in order
to implement successfully the fifth Party congress' decisions. Emphasis
was put on the improvement of working methods to enhance Party leadership.
(VNA, 9 July, 1982 by FBIS)

THIRD PLENUM
Date: 3-10 December, 1982
Discussion topic: Evaluating the implementation of socio-economic tasks
over the past years and making important decisions on socio-economic
tasks and orientations for 1983 and targets until 1985. Emphasis was
put on the building strong socialist economy and increase agricultural
production, especially on problem of distribution and circulation of goods.
(Vietnam Courier, Feb, 1983).
FOURTH PLENUM
Date: 18-24 June, 1983
Discussion topic: Discussing "urgent problems in ideological and organizational fields with a view to fulfilling immediate economic and social objectives. (Vietnam Courier 6/1983; To Quoc No. 8, August 1983, pp. 1-4, JPRS translation)

FIFTH PLENUM
Date: November 29 to December 8, 1983
Discussion topic: Examining two main problems: the orientation and tasks of the socio-economic plan for 1984 and targets for 1985; and the measures to be taken in order to improve goods circulation and distribution. (VN Courier Feb-1984, pp. 1-4).

SIXTH PLENUM
Date: 7-10 July, 1984
Discussion topic: Discussing urgent tasks to improve economic management. The plenum discussed two major issues: to promote the people's right of collective mastership over society, reorganize production so as to gradually set up a new structure of economic management; and to resolve a number of urgent problems related to goods circulation and distribution, especially markets, prices, wages and monetary, so as to correctly handle the problem of distribution in the national economy. (The SRV Permanent Mission to the UN Weekly Bulletin, July 19, 1984).