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309 page, original handwritten.

VIETNAMESE DOCUMENT

Summary

07-1196-66
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Diary of Doctor LUONG NGOC WAI. He arrived in North Vietnam on 29 March 1955 aboard a Polish ship which sailed from Gdansk. WAI started his diary in Hanoi on 19 April 1955 with the following sentences:

"There is no greater happiness for a man than when he lives in a community, works collectively, and realizes that he labors for society and the people's benefit."

Following is a summary of the information contained in the diary:

After being warmly welcomed by the people of Ha Long, Bac Ninh and Hanoi, LUONG NGOC WAI participated in the 100-day agricultural reform operation as a medical cadre (nurse) in Thai Binh Province where he witnessed many denunciation sessions in which landlords and tyrants were sentenced to death by the populace and executed (Average: One landlord or tyrant was killed each day).

In March 1956, upon completion of a 4-month medical refresher course, WAI was assigned to Ha Dong Province. When July approached, he was somewhat frustrated since there was no general election in sight for the reunification of Vietnam as provided by the terms of the Geneva Accords.

In November 1956 he passed the competitive examination for the selection of medical students, but didn't go to school until October 1957. The Medical Course lasted 3 years. One of his professors was a Czech doctor named KISGC. After his graduation, he worked in various hospitals and dispensaries and was assigned to several special medical survey missions by the Public Health Department of North Vietnam.
He traveled extensively and worked very hard, but was also thinking of his beloved wife and daughters living in South Vietnam. He also missed his parents and sisters. He was stunned, when he heard news of one of his sisters' deaths.

Each time he felt homesick, he talked to them in his diary as if they were living with him. Each time he achieved something, he told them in his diary, he remained faithful to his wife and always tried to pretend that he was living with her in perfect happiness, in spite of thousands of miles that separated them. He did hear from her once in a while and her letters were his treasures.

- On 22 Feb 64, he wrote in the diary that he had submitted 3 requests to the Party and the Secretary for Public Health, soliciting an assignment in South VN where he was born, but all his requests had been rejected for some reason or just filled with no action whatsoever. He submitted his 4th request on 23 Feb 65, in which he wrote he would write to Uncle Ho (President Ho Chi Minh) if his request was not considered by competent personnel, no matter what might happen to him.

- Mai attended an intensive surgeon's course in April 64 and successfully passed the graduation examination in Feb 65. During the course, he had to practice surgery and once he was ordered to perform abortions for 10 girls from 25 to 27 years of age.

- Mai changed his name into MAI DINH THAO on 22 Apr on order of the Medical School Board of Hanoi.

- In May 65 he started the physical conditioning in preparation for his new assignment in South Vietnam as completed in May. On May 23th he received news that he was on the list of a contingent of infiltrators. He started his trip to South Vietnam on the 1st of Jun 65 at midnight. He and his 40 comrades travelled by train only. For the first day of their long trip, the infiltration route went through Laos and was full of bomb craters. On July 25th, 1965, they found 2 time bombs on the infiltration trail, but they succeeded in bypassing them without any accident. They spent almost a month walking on Laoistan territory and crossed the Laoistan border to enter South Vietnam on the 27th of Jul 65. The infiltration trip lasted 3 months, three months of hardship and labor.

- The diary discloses that during the 3 month infiltration trip, Mai and his 40 comrades did not have any meat in their daily diet and, in South Vietnam, no cadres and troops had to carry their own rice supply (usually enough for one week to 10 days) when their duties or missions required travelling from one place to another. Their only means of transportation were their two feet.

- Before receiving his new assignment, Mai attended a four-day reorientation course. His first mission in South Vietnam was to build and maintain a provincial hospital (possibly Vinh Dinh Province) in the woods with the help of 10 girls and a few boys from 18 to 19 years old.
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**Summary**

- Finally, at the end of 1965, i.e., after eleven years of absence and separation, H1 was given permission to visit his family. On his way home he was thrilled to learn from an acquaintance that his beloved wife had been admitted to the Party and had been working hard for the “Revolutionary Cause”.

- Four months after the day he left North Vietnam, due to the lack of decent food in the forests he wrote in his diary that he was missing the good food and the relatively easy life in North Vietnam. He confessed that due to the shortage of meat, he had to learn to eat dog meat for which he rapidly developed a liking. When the enemy (allied troops) was expected to come to the area where his hospital was located, the first thing he wanted to carry with him when leaving the place was a cooking pot full of dog meat.

- Last it’s very scarce in areas controlled by the VC and, consequently, it was carefully rationed. However, they did not need sugar since honey was plentiful.

- The diary ended without making any reference to M1’s meeting with his wife and daughter, but an encircled letter, dated 3 Jan 66 which he did not have the opportunity to send to his wife, clearly indicated that he had met her. It also reveals that the end their daughters were living in the woods due to frequent sweep operations by the allied troops in the village of Xin Hoang Province.

**Chief Evaluation Branch, CDEC**