

Asia's Outstanding Men, Women Honored

MANILA, Aug. 1 (UPI)—Asia, a region torn by war and political turmoil, takes time out this month to count its blessings. It will honor the men and women who have, in their own special way, worked to ease the poverty and misery besetting most of Asia's one billion people.

The tributes will be handed out in the annual Ramon Magsaysay awards, often described as a modest but no less prestigious version of the nobel prizes.

Named after the late Philippine president who died in a plane crash in 1957, the awards consist of five categories — government service, public service, international understanding, community leadership, and journalism and literature. Each winner gets \$10,000, a gold medal and a certificate.

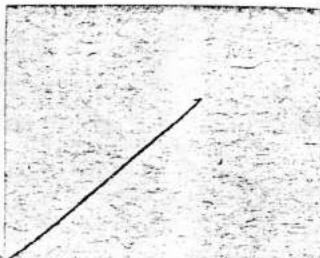
The awards were started in 1958 and the list has since included the names of more than 50 individuals and organizations—Asian and non-Asians. Many of them are well known Asian leaders.

This year's winners will be announced individually starting this week. The formal presentation ceremony is scheduled for Aug. 31, Magsaysay's birth anniversary.

Previous winners include the Dalai Lama of Tibet, Malaysian Prime Minister Tengku Abdul Rahman and his deputy, Tun Abdul Razak, Singapore Defense Minister Lim Kim San, blind American teacher Genevieve Caulfield, Burmese social worker Daw Tee Te, Luce, Korean educator Helen Kim, Vietnamese soldier-priest Father Nguyen Lac Hoa, Japanese film director Akira Kurosawa, the US Peace Corps in Asia, the Bayanihan folk dance troupe of the Philippines and the four-nation Mekong River project committee.

The awards program is administered by the Ramon Magsaysay Foundation in Manila under an initial financing of \$500,000 by the Rockefeller Brother Fund of New York city in May, 1957.

The Rockefeller group bolstered the gift by \$1 million in 1963 and offered a loan of \$2 million continued support of the awards and the construction of a Magsaysay Memorial Center. Private Filipino participation came in the form of \$500,000 in donations.



S. Vietnam information chief to get RM journalism award

406 9 1968

The Manila Daily Bulletin
Ton That Thien, former editor and now South Vietnam minister of information, has been elected to receive the 1968 Ramon Magsaysay award for journalism, literature and creative communication arts.

The award was in recognition of Thien's commitment to free inquiry and debate and his lifting press censorship in Vietnam.

Born at Hue, Central Vietnam, in 1924 Thien from early youth was steeped in the history and classical teachings of his country. After World War II, he earned a degree at the London school of economics. Graduate work at the Institute of International Studies in Geneva was interrupted by a call to join the Vietnamese de-

legation to the 1954 conference that led to independence for his country.

Thien enlisted promptly in the new government in Saigon serving as presidential press secretary. Differing later with the authoritarian conservatism of the Diem regime, he left to complete doctoral stu-

dies in Geneva. Unlike other disaffected idealists who found haven abroad, he returned in 1963 to serve as director general of Viet Nam Press. Moving to private journalism as a political columnist on the Saigon Daily News, he went on to found with like-minded colleagues the Viet Nam Guardian becoming its managing editor.

When the Guardian was suppressed in December, 1966, Thien continued to write for the London Economist, The Far Eastern Economic Review, and Forum World Features among others. He also taught and in 1967, became vice dean of the faculty of social sciences of Van Hanh university where he helped organize the study group that is probing Vietnam's past for guides to the present.

With appointment of Tran Van Huong as premier in April, 1968, signaling more popularly responsive government, Thien accepted the post of minister of information.



TON THAT THIEN

RM award for Vietnam minister



TON THAT THIEN

From page 1
tor, professor and government official."

Other winner

The annual Magsaysay awards, regarded as the Nobel prizes for Asia, commemorate the late President Ramon Magsaysay.

Nationalist Chinese economic affairs Minister Li Kwoh-ting last week won the award for government service. Awards which carry a \$10,000 cash prize, are also given for community leadership, public service and international understanding.

Aug. 31 rites

Winners will receive their awards in formal

ceremonies on Aug. 31.

The statement specifically cited Thien for his lifting of press censorship shortly after becoming South Vietnam's minister of information in April this year.

It quoted him as saying after assuming office: "Why have 25,000 Americans and more than 100,000 Vietnamese died in this war for freedom?"

Censorship

"Many people thought I abolished censorship because I was a victim of it. But there is more to it than that. My job is to educate the public as well as government officials. For too long a privileged minority has held a monopoly on enlightenment

in this country. I want to change that."

The announcement said Thien "relentlessly has sought to digest the essence of western scientific methods and wed it to Vietnamese cultural values."

Educated elite

It added:

"Thien's concern goes beyond form. His aim is to introduce the scientific attitude not only to his country's educated elite but to the peasantry as a means of modernizing life and making society more equal and just.

"But science he insists must only be the means—the values it serves must remain supreme."

Viet Minister Wins Journalism Prize

The Philippines Herald

South Vietnam's minister of information, Ton That Thien, has won the 1968 Ramon Magsaysay Award for journalism, literature and creative communication arts, it was announced yesterday.

The Magsaysay Foundation, in making the announcement, said it was in recognition of Thien's

"enduring commitment to free inquiry and debate that gained added substance through his lifting of press censorship in Vietnam."

The annual Magsaysay awards, regarded as Asia's version of the Nobel prizes, are given to outstanding Asians in the me-

mory of the late Philippine President Ramon Magsaysay. Aside from prestige, the awards carry a \$10,000-cash prize.

Last week, Nationalist China's Economic Affairs Minister Li Kwoh-Ting won the award for government service. Other awards still to be announced are those for community leadership, public service and international understanding. Winners will receive their prizes during formal ceremonies on Aug. 31.

Background

Born at Hue Central Vietnam, Thien, 44, from early youth was steeped in the history and classical teachings of his country. After World War II, he earned a degree at the London School of Economics. Graduate work at the Institute of International Studies in Geneva



Ton That Thien

lifts censorship

was interrupted by a call to join the Vietnamese delegation at the 1954 conference that led to independence for his country.

Thien enlisted promptly in the new government in Saigon serving as Presidential press secretary. Differing later with the authoritarian conservatism of the Diem regime, he left to complete doctoral studies in Geneva.

Unlike other disaffected idealists who found haven abroad, he returned, in 1963 to serve as director general of Viet Nam Press. Moving to private journalism as a political columnist on the *Saigon Daily News*, he went on to found with like-minded colleagues the *Viet Nam Guardian*, becoming its managing editor.

When the *Guardian* was suppressed in December 1966, Thien continued to write for the *London Economist*, *The Far Eastern Economic Review*,

and *Forum World Features* among others. He also taught and in 1967, became vice dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences of Van Hanh University where he helped organize the study group that is probing Vietnam's past for guides to the present.

With appointment of Tran Van Huong as premier in April 1968 signaling more popularly responsive government, Thien accepted the post of minister of information. His first act upon assuming office was to press censorship, explaining: "Why have 25 000 Americans and more than 100,000 Vietnamese died in this war, if not for freedom?"

Thien said: "Many people thought I abolished censorship because I was a victim of it, but there is more to it than that. My job is to educate the public as well as government officials. For too long a privilege minority has held a monopoly on enlightenment in this country. I want to change that."

Thien's concern goes beyond form. His aim is to introduce the scientific attitude not only to his country's educated elite but to the peasantry as a means of modernizing life and making society more equal and just. But science, he insists must only be the means—the values it serves must remain supreme.



TON THAT THIEN

... lifted censorship

Viet Journalist

Wins RM Award

The Manila Chronicle **AUG 9 1958**

The Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation, in what may yet become a controversial decision, yesterday chose South Vietnam's 44-year-old minister of information as this year's winner of the award for journalism, literature and communication arts.

Chosen to receive the award was Ton That Thien, an editor and uni-

versity professor until his appointment to the Vietnamese information ministry in April.

CENSORSHIP

"By this election, the board of trustees recognizes Minister Thien's enduring commitment to free inquiry and debate that gained added substance through his lifting of press censorship in Vietnam," the Foundation said in its announcement.

Censorship has been a thorny issue in the war-torn country, particularly at the height of the Vietcong offensive in recent months.

In giving the award to Thien, the board of trustees recalled that when he accepted the post of information minister, his first act was to lift press censorship in his country.

EXPLANATION

"Many people thought I abolished censorship because I was a victim of it," Thien was quoted as saying.

"But there is more to it than that. My job is to educate the public as well as government officials. For too long a privileged minority has held a monopoly on enlightenment in this country. I want to change that."

Minister Thien is a native of Hue, the ancient Vietnamese city often described as Buddhism's answer to Catholicism's Vatican until it was flattened during a Vietcong offensive early this year.

This may partly explain the fact that Thien "from early youth, was steeped in the history and classical teachings of his country."

Thien's selection was the second to be announced by the Magsaysay Award Foundation in five days. The first, announced Sunday, was that of Li-kwo Ting, Nationalist China's economic affairs minister, who was chosen to receive the award for government service.

RM award to Viet writer

AUG 9 1968

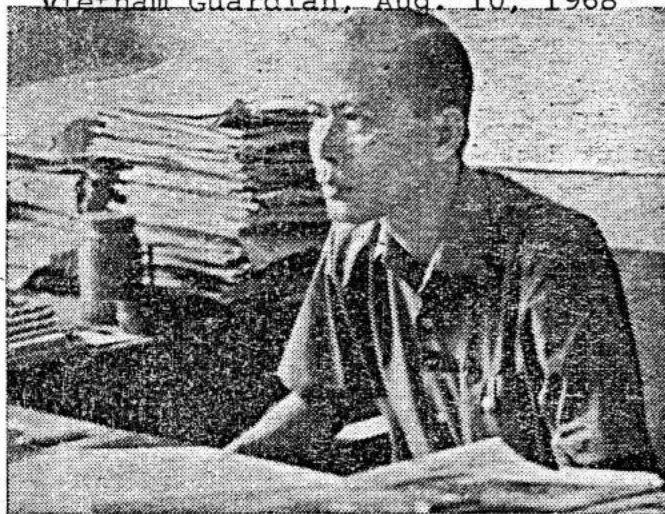
The Daily Mirror
Ton That Thien, editor
and now minister of infor-
mation of the Republic of
Vietnam, has been elected
to receive the 1968 Ramon
Magsaysay Award for Jour-
nalism, Literature and Cre-
ative Communication Arts.

By this election the board
of trustees recognizes Mi-
nister Thien's enduring com-
mitment to free inquiry and
debate that gained added
substance through his lifting
of press censorship in Viet-
nam.

Events engulfing Vietnam
over the past three decades
have compounded the dilem-
ma of concerned intellectuals
seeking sources for their
national inspiration. Tradition-
ally schooled in Nho
hoc, or Confucian learning,
they were cut adrift from
their origins by the system
of education that accompa-
nied French colonial rule. As
this elite was oriented to-
ward France it lost touch
with the peasantry and left
them vulnerable to Commu-
nist persuasion.

TON THAT THIEN WINS MAGSAYSAY AWARD

Vietnam Guardian, Aug. 10, 1968



Dr. Thien while working at the Viet Nam Guardian as
Managing Editor.

MANILA, (AP) — Ten That
Thien South Vietnamese Mi-
nister of Information has
won the Magsaysay Award
for journalism and literature
his «enduring commitment to
free inquiry and debate,» it
was announced Thursday.

A statement from the Mag-
saysay Foundation Board of
Trustees said Thien, 44, was
selected for perceptive
courage and staunch individ-
ualism as writer and editor,
professor and government
official.

The annual Magsaysay aw-
ards regared as the Nobel
prizes for Asia, commemorate

the late Philippine President
Ramon Magsaysay.

Nationalist Chinese Econo-
mic Affairs Minister Li-Kwoh-
Ting last week won the award
for government service.
Awards, which carry a 10,000
dollars cash prize, are also
given for community leader-
ship, public service and in-
ternational understanding.

Winners will receive their
awards in formal ceremonies
on Aug. 31.

The statement specifically
cited Thien for his lifting of
press censorship shortly af-
ter becoming South VN's Mi-
nister of information in April
this year.



Evening News - Aug.

10, 1968
THIEN

Vietnam Minister To Get RM Award

Ten That Thien, editor and now Minister of Information of the Republic of Vietnam, has been elected to receive the 1968 Ramon Magsaysay Award for journalism, literature, and creative communication arts.

By this election, the Board of Trustees recognizes Minister Thien's enduring commitment to free inquiry and debate

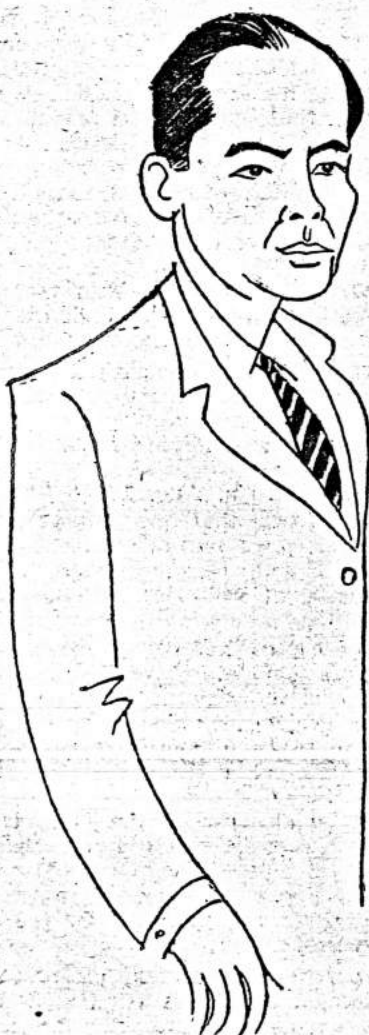
tance through his lifting of press censorship in Vietnam.

Events engulfing Vietnam over the past three decades have compounded the dilemma of concerned intellectuals seeking sources for their national inspiration. Traditionally schooled in Nho hoc, or Confucian learning, they were cut adrift from their origins by the system of education that accompanied French colonial rule. As this elite was oriented toward France it lost touch with the peasantry and left them vulnerable to Communist persuasion.

Minister Thien, by contrast, relentlessly has sought to digest the essence of Western scientific method and wed it to Vietnamese cultural values. Freedom of thought and expression he found were essential to this pursuit. His convictions led him to act with perceptive courage and staunch individualism as writer and editor, professor and government official.

PERSONALITY IN THE NEWS

By GAT



Sunday Chronicle - Aug. 18, 1968

TON THAT THIEN, South Viet Nam's minister of information, is this year's winner of the **Ramon Magsaysay Award** for journalism, literature and communication arts. A former newspaper editor and university professor, the 44-year-old Thien was cited for his "enduring commitment to free inquiry and debate that gained added substance through his lifting of press censorship in Viet Nam." He is expected to receive his prize together with the other awardees on Aug. 31, birth anniversary of the late Filipino President in whose honor the awards were established.

« DANGER LIES WITH OUR FRIENDS », SAYS VIETNAM MINISTER

THE VIETNAM GUARDIAN, Aug. 20, 1968

Fear of diplomatic surrender by U.S.

by BRIAN CROZIER

Part I

A Man of Courage

LONDON — As a journalist, Dr Ton That Thien was rightly known as a man who spoke his mind regardless of the consequences. Now he is South Vietnam's Minister of Information, and he has shown, in a long-distance interview conducted by letter and cable, that his outspokenness has not deserted him.

The circumstances need to be filled in. Saigon is not represented at the American-North Vietnamese talks in Paris, the outcome of which could determine the fate of South Vietnam's 16 million people, many thousands of whom may be on the Vietcong's execution lists (as were those buried in mass graves in Hue during the Tet offensive). The enemy has not merely been knocking at the gates: he has more than once broken into the city and spread destruction and death.

Against this background, Thien:

1. Declares that the danger to South Vietnam now lies with its friends, not its enemies.

2) Says those who claim the press is still censored are « liars ».

3) Defends — with qualifications — the five-year hard labour sentence passed on July 26 on the runner-up in last year's presidential election Truong Dinh Dzu, for advocating negotiations with the Vietcong.

Here are Dr Thien's answers to my questions:

B.C.—There has been much talk in the western press about the possibility of a « coalition » government in

When I first met Ton That Thien, in Saigon in 1956 (writes Brian Crozier), he was spokesman and interpreter for the late President Ngo Dinh Diem. As time went on, he found much to criticise in the way Diem and his brother Nhu were running the country. A graduate of the London School of Economic, he returned to Europe to resume his studies. An outstanding thesis on « India and South-East Asia » brought him a doctorate from the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva.

By this time — 1962 — the situation in South Vietnam was deteriorating fast. Typically, however, he rejected the easy life of academic honours to return to Saigon because he felt he could be more useful there than in London, Paris or Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Again, typically, he decided to stay in Saigon when Diem was overthrown and murdered in November 1963. As managing Editor of the Vietnam Guardian, he became a fearless critic of military rule. The Guardian was suspended three years later, but Thien went on speaking his mind in the foreign press and television.

His acceptance of office in the largely civilian government of Mr Tran Van Huong, in May, was widely regarded as an encouraging sign.

South Vietnam as part of a settlement of the present conflict. This would imply negotiations of some kind between South Vietnam Government the so-called National Liberation Front (NLF). Please clarify the position.

T.T.T.—I do not understand why people are so obsessed with the word « coalition ». To raise the issue of « coalition government » is to imply that the communists are winning the war, and will have won it at the time the parties involved sit down at the conference table. That view is not warranted by the facts. The communists are not winning the war, and will not have won it when the time for a peace conference comes.

In fact, they would not have accepted to open talks at Paris if they were certain they could the Republic of Vietnam, drive the Americans into the sea, and impose their will on us, including the establishment of a coalition government, or much worse. So let us be clear about it: there will not be any coalition government because the communists are not strong enough — and will be less strong as time goes by — to impose it on us.

Hanoi « is the boss »

Now, the danger does not lie with our enemies, but with our friends. Many Americans, who have been subjected to intense propaganda by a very active minority including communists, fellow travellers and *bona fide* American patriots — may fall victims to panic and bring pressure on the American Government to yield diplomatically to the communists what the latter are not entitled to by their performance on the battlefield, or to impose on the Vietnamese Government a solution which is unjust and immoral — because the Vietnamese forces are far from being defeated and the Vietnamese, as proved beyond doubt during and since the Tet offensive, do not want communism and are prepared to fight and continue to die fighting, against the establishment of communist government, or communist government in disguise, in South Vietnam.

President Nguyen Van Thieu has said several times that any negotiation between the NLF is out of the question. The reason for it is very simple: no government would conduct negotiations with a

consul-general of another country, just as no commander-in-chief of an army would negotiate with a regimental commander of an enemy army since the NLF is but an agent of the Hanoi Government. It is only natural that the Government of the Republic of Vietnam will insist on talking to the NLF's boss, that is the Hanoi Government itself.

I do not see any reason why the attitude of the South Vietnam Government should change, because the above position has the support of the overwhelming majority, who long for peace and favour negotiations, but not any kind of peace.

B.C.—There has been much talk of the « spontaneous » emergence of so-called patriotic alliances in various centres, culminating in the « Vietnam Alliance of National Democratic and Peace Forces », reported by the Liberation Radio in April. Does this alliance differ from the NLF and is it an *interlocuteur valable* in South Vietnam?

(Continued on page 4)

SOUTH VIETNAM READY FOR HANOI'S NEXT BLUFF, SAYS MINISTER

THE VIETNAM GUARDIAN, Aug. 21, 1968

« They're going to throw everything at us »

by Brian Crozier

(PART II)

Part II

B.C. — Although it has been announced that press censorship has been lifted, *de facto* censorship is still alleged. Is this justified?

T.T.T. — I do not know what else I can do to convince people that I have lifted censorship completely, with the full approval of Prime Minister Tran Van Huong. Should I swear it on the head of my (now dead) mother? One need only read the newspapers in Saigon to judge. In fact, the greatest victim of press freedom is myself. But I prefer to suffer unjust (and very fierce) attacks on myself to resorting to my discretionary powers under existing legislation. These powers are very wide, and include arbitrary closure of newspapers.

Those who say there is still *de facto* censorship are liars. I repeat, liars.

Rules of the game

B.C. — Those are strong words. In the light of this defence of freedom of expression would you comment on the five-year sentence on the former presidential candidate, Truong Dinh Dzu?

T.T.T. — Freedom of expression can only mean freedom within some sort of legal framework and always with the survival of the community as a limit. The present constitution, under Article Four, forbids communism and communist-type neutralism, and the existing laws forbid the undermining of the morale of the armed forces. Advocating a coalition government now would mean telling the troops to stop fighting and sit it out at a time when they do better than ever to give Vietnam a strong position at the conference table. Why should a soldier who has fought for year die now fighting communism if he knows that communists are going to sit in the Government soon?

Personally, I am not satisfied with the existing Constitution and legislation,

In the first part of his interview with me, Dr. Ton That Thien dismissed summarily all suggestions that the Saigon Government might negotiate with the NLF (National Liberation Front)

In the second part of this exclusive interview, Dr. Thien continued to emphasise that the communists are not winning militarily. He declares that the increasing rate of defections from the Vietcong ranks gives indisputable evidence of this, even though another desperate offensive could be expected.

but as one favouring peaceful change I have fought for the lifting of the censorship so that everyone may have a chance of working to amend the existing Constitution and change the existing laws. Dzu and others may use press freedom to ask the National Assembly to amend the Constitution and the existing laws. That will take time, but it is the price we must pay if we prefer the democratic to the communist way. Dzu was condemned because he violated those rules. They may be bad rules, but they are the rules by which the political game is being played in South Vietnam.

B.C. — Recent high-level defections from the Vietcong — notably that of Lieut. Colonel Phan Mau (who surrendered near Saigon on May 7) — suggest that the morale of the Vietcong is not as high as has been assumed. Please comment.

T.T.T. — We have very definite information that the Vietcong have a serious problem of deteriorating morale among their troops as well as their officers. The defection of many field-rank officers and the massive defection of troops — so far at company level — is undeniable evidence of that. But one should expect the High Command in Hanoi throw at us everything they have in order to generate the impression in the world, and especially in the United States, that they are still very strong. But that is sheer bluff, and our side is ready to call it.

As regards defections, we should expect more and more sizeable collective defections, as we are more effective in convincing the other side — especially through television and broadcasts of personal appeals on the radio by their former commanders — that they will not be killed or maltreated, but instead will be welcomed and treated honourably and decently by us. **B.C.** — Please give details of the Government's programme to encourage defections.

T.T.T. — As I have stated, we are making a big effort to give greater effectiveness to our « Chieu Hoi » (« defectors ») programme. And we have been rather successful.

From the publicity point of view, especially abroad, much remains to be done. We are working on a plan to tell the full Chieu Hoi story. It will include the showing of films, distribution of literature, as well as presenting Chieu Hoi men and women to the public.

The main agency responsible for the Chieu Hoi programme is the Ministry of Chieu Hoi, which is now headed by Mr. Nguyen Ngoc An. Mr. An has to look after about 80,000 Chieu Hoi of both sexes. It is his responsibility to welcome, feed them, clear them, send them home, find jobs for them, etc... Some have been given high positions in his Ministry. Jobs will be found for others.

Many have volunteered to fight communism and have been given ample opportunity for doing so. In fact some of them have joined commando units and have helped the South Vietnam Army to raid the communists' deepest bases, with tremendous effectiveness.

Driving agents out

B.C. — Are the defectors represented in the National Assembly? What is known of the aspirations of the people in areas controlled by the VC? What is the Government doing to compete with the VC in these areas?

T.T.T. — No Chieu Hoi is yet in the National Assembly, but at the next election, in 1971, there may be some.

The people in the communist-controlled areas long for peace, evasion from forcible draft and labour as well as from crushing taxes imposed by the communists. The Government is offering the population in these areas the chance of escaping into safer areas under government control, while at the same time driving the communist agents out to allow the people to return to their homes. This is the task of the Army and the Rural Reconstruction Cadres.

B.C. — Please clarify the legal basis of the South Vietnam Government. It is often stated that South Vietnam owes its existence to the 1954 Geneva Agreements; surely this is a mistaken view? In addition, do you think that a period of tutelage of the Vietnam people under a benevolent dictatorship would be preferable to further experiments in western-type democracy?

T.T.T. — The present Government — commonly referred to as the Second Republic of Vietnam — is the latest in a series going back to 1948, when at the request of various political groups, Emperor Bao Dai negotiated a series of agreements with France, culminating in the Elysee Agreements in 1949 which led to the creation of the State of Vietnam in December 1949 (reco-

gnised by Great Britain in February 1950). In October 1955 the State of Vietnam became the (first) Republic of Vietnam as a result of a referendum organised by the late Ngo Dinh Diem who was its first President, replacing Bao Dai as Chief of State.

After the fall of Mr. Diem, several military governments followed one another until September 1966, when a Constituent Assembly was elected. This Assembly drew up a Constitution which became effective on April, 1967, bringing into existence the Second Republic of V.N. whose present President and Vice President are Nguyen Van Thieu and Nguyen Cao Ky, and whose Senate and House of Representatives were elected in September and October 1967, respectively. Since May 27 this year, the Prime Minister has been Mr. Tran Van Huong.

Returning to dictatorship in Vietnam under any form is out of the question today.

Fighting Corruption

B.C. — Some last questions of special interest to you as Minister of Information:

(a) The Government's information effort in Paris is noticeably small in comparison with the North Vietnamese. What plans have you to improve this situation?

(b) In general, what plans have you to improve the image of your Government abroad?

(Continued on page 4)

Dr. Thien Fears Diplomatic Surrender by the United States

Saturday Chronicle - Aug. 24, 1968

By BRIAN CROZIER

AS a journalist, Dr. Ton That Thien was rightly known as a man who spoke his mind regardless of the consequences. Now he is South Vietnam's Minister of Information, and he has shown, in a long-distance interview conducted by letter and cable, that his outspokenness has not deserted him.

The circumstances need to be filled in. Saigon is not represented at the American-North Vietnamese talks in Paris, the outcome of which could determine the fate of South Vietnam's 16 million people, many thousands of whom may be on the Vietcong's execution lists (as were those buried in mass graves in Hue during the Tet offensive). The enemy has not merely

been knocking at the gates: he has more than once broken into the city and spread destruction and death.

Against this background, Thien:

1. Declares that the danger of South Vietnam now lies with its friends, not its enemies.

2. Says those who claim the press is still censored are "liars."

3. Defends—with qualifications—the five-year hard labor sentence passed on July 26 on the runner-up in last year's presidential election, Truong Dinh Dzu, for advocating negotiations with the Vietcong.

Here are Dr. Thien's answers to my questions:

B.C.—There has been much talk in the western press about the possibility of a "coalition" government in South Vietnam as part of a settlement of the present conflict. This would imply negotiations of some kind between the South Vietnam Government and the so-called National Liberation Front (NLF). Please clarify the position.

T.T.T.—I do not understand why people are so obsessed with the word "coalition." To raise the issue of "coalition government" is to imply that the

communists are winning the war, and will have won it at the time the parties involved sit down at the conference table. That view is not warranted by the facts. The communists are not winning the war, and will not have won it when the time for a peace conference comes. In fact, they would not have accepted to open talks at Paris if they were certain they could crush the Republic of Vietnam, drive the Americans into the sea, and impose their will on us, including the establishment of a coalition government, or much worse. So let us be clear about it: there will not be any coalition government because the communists are not strong enough—and will be less strong as time goes by—to impose it on us.

Now, the danger does not lie with our enemies, but with our friends. Many Americans, who have been subjected to intense propaganda by a very active minority—including com-

munist, fellow travellers and bona fide American patriots—may fall victims to panic and bring pressure on the American Government to yield diplomatically to the communists what the latter are not entitled to by their performance on the battlefield, or to impose on the Vietnamese Government a solution which is unjust and immoral—because the Vietnamese forces are far from being defeated and the Vietnamese, as proved beyond doubt during and since the Tet offensive, do not want communism and are prepared to fight and continue to die fighting, against the establishment of communist government, or communist government in disguise, in South Vietnam.

President Nguyen Van Thieu has said several times that any negotiation between the NLF is out of the question. The reason for it is very simple: no government would conduct negotiations with a consul-general of another country, just as no commander-in-chief of an army would negotiate with a regimental commander of an enemy army; since the NLF is but an agent of the Hanoi Government, it is only natural that the Government of the Republic of Vietnam will insist on talking to the NLF's boss, that is the Hanoi Government itself.

I do not see any reason why the attitude of the South Vietnam Government should change, because the above position has the support of the overwhelming majority, who long for peace and favor negotiations, but not any kind of peace.

B.C.—There has been much talk of the "spontaneous" emergence of so-called patriotic alliances in various centers, culminating in the "Vietnam Alliance of National Democratic and Peace Forces," reported by the Liberation Radio in April. Does this alliance differ from the NLF and is it an interlocuteur valable in South Vietnam?

T.T.T.—If the NLF itself is not spontaneous, then the so-called Alliance is still less so. If you don't want to talk to the son (of Hanoi), you should be expected to be less willing to talk to the grandson.

B.C.—Will you please define your Government's attitude towards the current talks between the Americans and North Vietnamese in Paris?

To be continued

A MAN OF COURAGE

When I first met Ton That Thien, in Saigon in 1956 (writes Brian Crozier), he was spokesman and interpreter for the late President Ngo Dinh Diem. As time went on, he found much to criticize in the way Diem and his brother Nhu were running the country. A graduate of the London School of Economics, he returned to Europe to resume his studies. An outstanding thesis on "India and Southeast Asia" brought him a doctorate from the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva.

By this time—1962—the situation in South Vietnam was deteriorating fast. Typically, however, he rejected the easy life of academic honors to return to Saigon because he felt he could be more useful there than in London, Paris or Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Again, typically, he decided to stay in Saigon when Diem was overthrown and murdered in November 1963. As Editor of the Vietnam Guardian, he became a fearless critic of military rule. His paper was suspended three years later, but Thien went on speaking his mind in the foreign press and television.

His acceptance of office in the largely civilian government of Mr. Tran Van Huong, in May, was widely regarded as an encouraging sign.

Magsaysay Award Winner

Fears US 'Surrender'

Sunday Chronicle - Aug. 25, 1968

By BRIAN CROZIER

T.T.T.—As of now, the talks are still deadlocked. In any case they are still in the marginal phase and do not concern us directly. When the time comes, that is when the interests of the Republic of Vietnam proper (i.e. South Vietnam) are involved, we must play an active and major part.

B.C.—What in your opinion are the conditions for a long-term settlement in South Vietnam? In particular:

(a) Could any peace settlement be guaranteed without a continuing American military presence?

(b) Is the neutralization of South Vietnam possible while the North remains under communist rule?

(c) Has any thought been given to a long-term deal with North Vietnam, on these lines:

(i) All deliveries of arms and personnel from North Vietnam to cease.

(ii) The security of South Vietnam to be guaranteed, either by the United States or by the UN.

(iii) Normal trade between North and South Vietnam, in particular in rice from the South.

(iv) Acceptance by North and South of President Johnson's offer of regional economic assistance.

T.T.T.—(a) Could any settlement in Europe be guaranteed without an American military presence? Vietnam is smaller, poorer and less developed than Germany or Great Britain, for example, yet you need an American military presence on your soil. Why do many British wish to deny American guarantees, or military assistance to Vietnam? Few British people have insisted on Americans pulling out of Great Britain. But many British people have insisted on Americans pulling out of Vietnam. That is something we find hard to understand. That is not fair play at all.

(b) Why should you not put the question the other way around, that is: is the neutralization of North Vietnam possible, or desirable?

(c) Of course we must give thought to this problem. (i), (ii) and (iv) are only natural, (iii) will have to be examined more carefully and the term "normal" must be defined clearly first.

B.C.—Although it has been an-

nounced that press censorship has been lifted, *de facto* censorship is still alleged. Is this justified?

T.T.T.—I do not know what else I can do to convince people that I have lifted censorship completely, with the full approval of Prime Minister Tran Van Huong. Should I swear it on the head of my (now dead) mother? One need only read the newspapers in Saigon to judge. In fact, the greatest victim of press freedom is myself. But I prefer to suffer unjust (and very fierce) attacks on myself to resorting to my discretionary powers under existing legislation. These powers are very wide, and include arbitrary closure of newspapers.

Those who say there is still *de facto* censorship are liars. I repeat, liars.

B.C.—Those are strong words. In the light of this defense of freedom of expression, would you comment on the five-year sentence on the former presidential candidate, Truong Dinh Dzu?

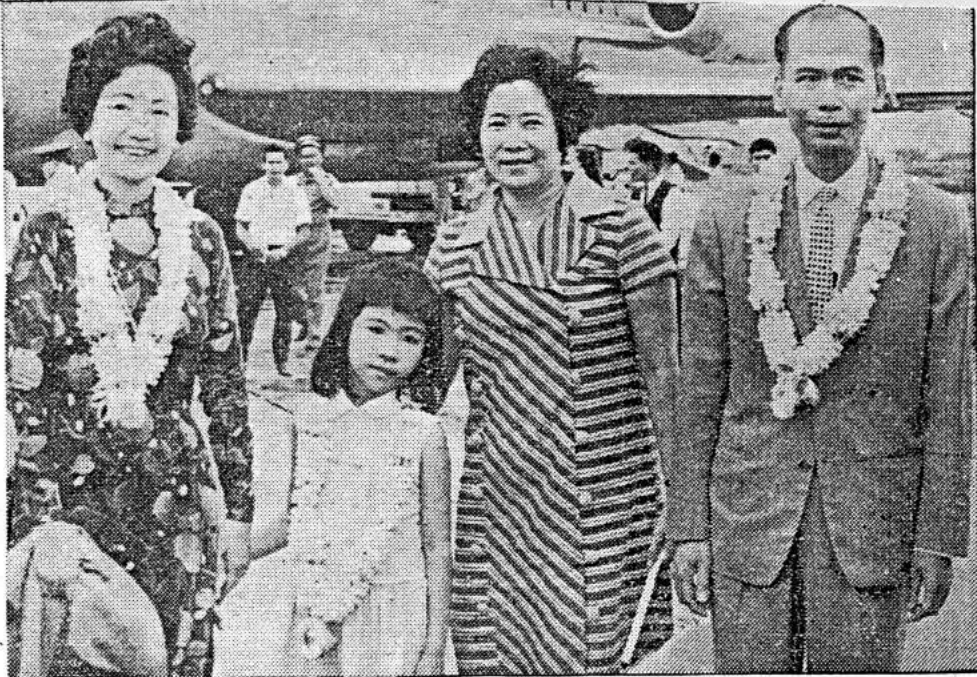
T.T.T.—Freedom of expression can only mean freedom within some sort of legal framework and always with the survival of the community as a limit. The present Constitution, under Article Four, forbids communism and communist-type neutralism, and the existing laws forbid the undermining of the morale of the armed forces. Advocating a coalition government now would mean telling the troops to stop fighting and sit it out at a time when they do better than ever to give Vietnam a strong position at the conference table. Why should a soldier who has fought for years die now fighting communism if he knows that communists are going to sit in the Government soon? Personally, I am not satisfied with the existing Constitution and legislation, but as one favoring peaceful change I have fought for the lifting of the censorship so that everyone may have a chance of working to amend the existing Constitution and change the existing laws. Dzu and others may use press freedom to ask the National Assembly to amend the Constitution and the existing laws. That will take time, but it is the price we must pay if we prefer the democratic to the communist way. Dzu was condemned because he violated those rules. They may be bad rules, but they are the rules by which the political game is being played in South Vietnam.—(FWF, London)



Manila Daily Bulletin - August 25, 1968

THE RAMON MAGSAYSAY CENTER, a new landmark along Roxas boulevard, was built as a living memorial to the late President Ramon Magsaysay whose ideals have been an inspiration to his fellow Filipinos and Asians. Every year on his birth anniversary, August 31, the Ramon Magsaysay Awards are given to those who've given outstanding contributions in the field of community leadership, journalism and literature, government service, international understanding and public service. The RM Center was designed to combine monumentality in a modern facility using latest construction concepts.

The center complex, recessed from surrounding streets by wide sidewalks, rests on a pedestal rising a few feet above street level. The main structure, fronting Roxas boulevard, is a 14-storey tower supported by its enclosed central core and 12 massive, sculptured columns. Free standing to a height of 25 feet the columns open a view through the tower base from the boulevard to the plaza. The broad steps from Militar street lead to a landscaped plaza where the bust of Ramon Magsaysay is the central feature.



RM Journalism Awardee

South Vietnamese Minister of Information Ton That Thien, winner of the 1968 Ramon Magsaysay award for journalism, arrived yesterday from Saigon. He was accompanied by

his wife and daughter. Among those who welcomed the Thiens at the airport was Mrs. Belen Abreu (second from right), of the R.M. Foundation. The awards will be given Saturday.

Vietnamese RM Awardee

Here for Rites Philippines Herald

Aug. 29, 1968
South Vietnam information Minister Ton That Thien said yesterday that he considered "a very great honor" his selection as 1968 Ramon Magsaysay awardee for journalism, literature and creative communication arts.

Thien arrived yesterday afternoon with his wife, Le Van, and their eight-year-old daughter, Thuy

Lan, aboard an Air Vietnam jetliner amidst a raging controversy over his selection.

The Ramon Magsaysay Foundation said the award was in recognition of Thien's "enduring commitment to free inquiry and debate" that gained added substance through his lifting of press censorship in Vietnam.

The controversy revolved mainly on two issues: that Thien, having been always in the service of his government, was never a journalist; and that he has never lifted a finger to defend foreign newsmen in Vietnam at the height of the Ngo Dinh Diem regime.

Thien told a press conference at the Manila International Airport that it was not true that he did not go to the defense of foreign journalists, adding that during the Diem regime he was not in Vietnam.

Thien mentioned the case of a New York Times correspondent whom he said he helped when the newsman was "in hot water in Vietnam."

Thien also said he was instrumental in helping a Filipino journalist land a job in South Vietnam with a local press agency.

"I hope he wins the Magsaysay Award next year," Thien said.

Censor

Thien denied he ever censored press dispatches. He admitted, however, that there were those which had to be cleared because Vietnam was in a state of war and there were laws concerning the security of the state and the public welfare.

Thien, 44, a native of Hue, Central Vietnam, is a graduate of the London School of Economics. He did graduate work at the Institute of International Studies in Geneva.

"If people object to me, the more they should give me the chance to give my side," Thien told newsmen.

Asked how he intends to spend the \$10,000 prize that goes with his award, Thien said he will use part of it for the education of his daughter and the rest to establish scholarships in Van Hanh University where he is the vice dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences.

The Magsaysay Awards presentation ceremonies will be held on Aug. 31 in commemoration of the birth anniversary of the late President.



Evening News - August 29, 1968

RM AWARDEE

Vietnamese Minister of Information Ton That Thien (lft), 1968 Ramon Magsaysay Foundation awardee in journalism, arrived yesterday by Air Vietnam from Saigon to receive

his award on Saturday. He was met at the airport by RMF officials and Vietnam charge d'affaires Nguyen Van Loc. (PNS)

RM Journalism

Awardee Arrives

Manila Chronicle - Aug. 29, 1968

MANILA, Aug. 28 — (UPI) — South Vietnamese Minister of Information Ton That Thien, whose selection as the 1968 Ramon Magsaysay award winner for Journalism touched off a furor in the Manila press, said Tuesday his critics should hear his side.

Thien, 48, arrived from Saigon with his wife and daughter to receive his award at the presentation ceremony on Saturday.

He told newsmen he was aware of the controversy about his selection and that Saigon newspapers had published dispatches from Manila on the criticism levelled against him.

He said however, he was not aware that his scheduled appearance as guest speaker at the Manila Overseas Press Club next week had caused a protest resignation by the



TON THAT THIEN

... controversial choice

club's program committee chairman.

FAIR CHANCE

"Well, we are all democrats and it's up to the majority in the first place," he said.

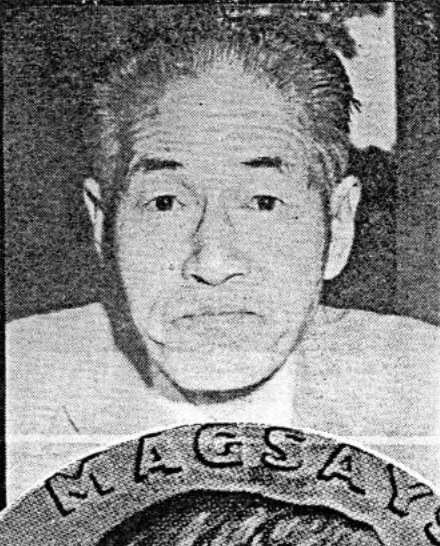
The Asia Newsweekly

EXAMINER

SEIICHI TOBATA (Japan)



TON THAT THIEN (Vietnam)



LI KWOH-TING (China)



CARE



CARE (United States)

ROSARIO and SILVINO ENCARNACION
(Republic of the Philippines)

Asia's 'Nobel Prize' Winners

By Ben Javier

We, the people

RM awardee gives side in controversy.

Manila Times - August 31, 1968

Sir:

Since I arrived in Manila, my attention has been drawn to what had been written about me not so much by Messrs. Doronila, Tatad and Granada — since they did not know the facts first hand — as Mr. Soliven who had been in Vietnam several years and could be considered more reliable by the public here. I have found myself in a rather embarrassing position, as I had come here as a guest of this country, and it would be improper for me to engage in any controversy. However, I feel the people of the Philippines must be told the truth, and there can be no way of getting the truth other than hearing both sides and checking the facts. Mr. Soliven has presented his views and facts through your paper and I would like to present mine, also through your paper.

I shall not question Mr. Soliven's views. I only wish to rectify certain errors of facts in Mr. Soliven's column so as to enable the public to judge in all fairness after checking those facts, if necessary. And I urge every reader to take the trouble to do the checking, so as to arrive at the truth themselves.

As everyone concerned with the survival of Vietnam in the wake of Geneva in 1954, I supported President Diem, just as the overwhelming majority of Filipinos did. I still remember the warm welcome accorded to him by the Philippines — and its press — as late as March 1959, when he officially visited this country. In fact the welcome was such that people in the streets broke up the cortege and I, as a member of the official party, was unable to follow the President's car to Malacañang Palace.

Then, in October 1959, I left the government and went to Europe where I stayed until July 1963. I can therefore not be held responsible for what happened in Vietnam in those years, in particular to Mr. Soliven.

That was the general background. Now on some major specific points.

1. Mr. Soliven wrote: "He (Thien) started criticizing the local military leadership of South Vietnam only at a time when the presence of sympathetic military brass gave him some reasonable safety." I am not aware that I was the protege of any "sympathetic military brass" — American or Vietnamese — as until May 1968, when I entered the government, I had no relations with the military — either American or Vietnamese — whatsoever. There are hundreds of journalists in Saigon, some in residence there for over a decade.

They can disprove Mr. Soliven's assertion.

2. Said Mr. Soliven: "Ton That Thien was President Ngo's foremost apologist, defender, and chief censor. Every foreign dispatch passed his desk. Wire service stories which even remotely mentioned the word 'Vietnam' had to be cleared by Thien's office before being released to the public by the government owned news agency, the Vietnam Press."

— As a supporter of Mr. Diem from 1954 to 1959, I naturally defended him. Didn't Mr. Soliven at the time?

— As regards Vietnam Press, the director general in those years were Mr. Nguyen Thai, and I had nothing to do with how Thai ran his agency.

— It is simply not true that foreign dispatches passed my desk for censorship. My job as a press officer to the President had nothing to do with censorship, but was only to brief the President on what appeared in the press after it had appeared in print. Every correspondent living in Saigon at the time, and still there now, will confirm this.

3. Mr. Soliven wrote: "In early 1960, there was one particular UPI dispatch about the tri-partite Mekong River development project which casually pointed out . . . The story (perhaps without Thien's personal knowledge, to be fair to him) was held up for these days by the Presidential Press Office before being 'cleared.'"

— Well! Too bad that Mr. Soliven, who was in Saigon at the time — and should have known better as an honest journalist seeking after truth — did not know that I had left Saigon for Europe in October 1959 and was away for the next four years and could not have any desk in Saigon. Moreover, before I left there was the usual round of farewell parties, press announcements, a lot of speculation among the press corps as to why I left and all that. How could Mr. Soliven ignore it? It is a mystery to me! Likewise, I could not have known or stopped Mr. Soliven's expulsion, or be held responsible for it simply because I was no longer in the government or in Vietnam at the time.

I regret to have written such a long letter. But I feel the Filipino people are entitled to know the truth, and to be given a fair chance of hearing both sides, checking the facts, and judging only thereafter.

Lastly, I feel compelled to say that freedom is a fine thing, but it should be exercised in the respect of truth, and for the people's right to be told the true facts.
— TON THAT THIEN, Manila

A PRIME mover in Taiwan's economic miracle has finally acquired universal acclaim for his work. He is Li Kwoh-ting, minister of economic affairs of the Republic of China, honored for his contribution to government service.

Japan's eminent agriculturist-economist Seiichi Tobata has likewise been singled out. He has been hailed as outstanding in the field of public service.

From South Vietnam comes this year's awardee for journalism, literature and creative communication arts. Ton That Thien is his country's minister of information.

For international understanding, the honor has gone not to one man but to an entire organization, the Cooperative for American Relief Everywhere, Inc. It is simply known to its numerous beneficiaries as CARE.



The Ramon Magsaysay Foundation seal.

Magsaysay Awards

trial rehabilitation. Following Chinese Communist seizure of much of the mainland, he transferred to Taiwan. Here he put to excellent use his valuable know-how in industrial production. Later, in 1958, he took charge of coordinating American economic assistance.

This task was an immense success. By 1965 the Republic of China was able to effect a minor miracle: it was able to dispense with US aid altogether.

As economic planner, Li went through successive posts, framing policies that attracted domestic and foreign capital and loans. He based the nation's economy on a balanced promotion of both agriculture and industry.

Today, largely through his efforts, Taiwan is famed for its agricultural development as well as for its industrial growth. It has hosted some 4,000 foreign

Asia's 'Nobel Prize' Winners

By Ben Javier



Vietnam's THIEN



Japan's TOBATA

The Philippines this year has its contribution, this time in the field of community leadership. A humble couple in a Central Luzon town merited the recognition. They are Mr. and Mrs. Silvino Encarnacion, officers of a small community cooperative credit union.

All of these individuals and this entity have been elected to receive the prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award for this year, the 61st birth anniversary of the man after whom the award is named. They will receive their awards at simple, fitting ceremonies this Saturday at the Philamlife auditorium on United Nations Avenue in Manila.

There has been a long line of Magsaysay awardees since they were first given out 11 years ago. All the honorees have stood out in their respective fields of endeavor. They have done honor to the virtues and goals for which the late great RM is known. Without exception, they have fully merited the award of Asia's Nobel Prize.

This year's crop is no less impressive. Take the case of Minister Li Kwoh-ting.

"Minister Li," according to the Ramon

Magsaysay Award Foundation board of trustees, "is recognized for his vigorous, rational guidance of Taiwan's economy, generating one of the world's most rapid rates of industrial growth."

His expertise is effective government service in prosecuting his country's amazing economic build-up. A native of Nanking, he schooled there and in England. He went back to China before the war to teach physics. During the Sino-Japanese war he was drafted to spur defense production in the interior of the Chinese mainland.

Li helped plan China's postwar indus-



SOUTH VIETNAMESE refugees make use of self-help tools provided by CARE.



RP's ROSARIO and SILVINO ENCARNACION

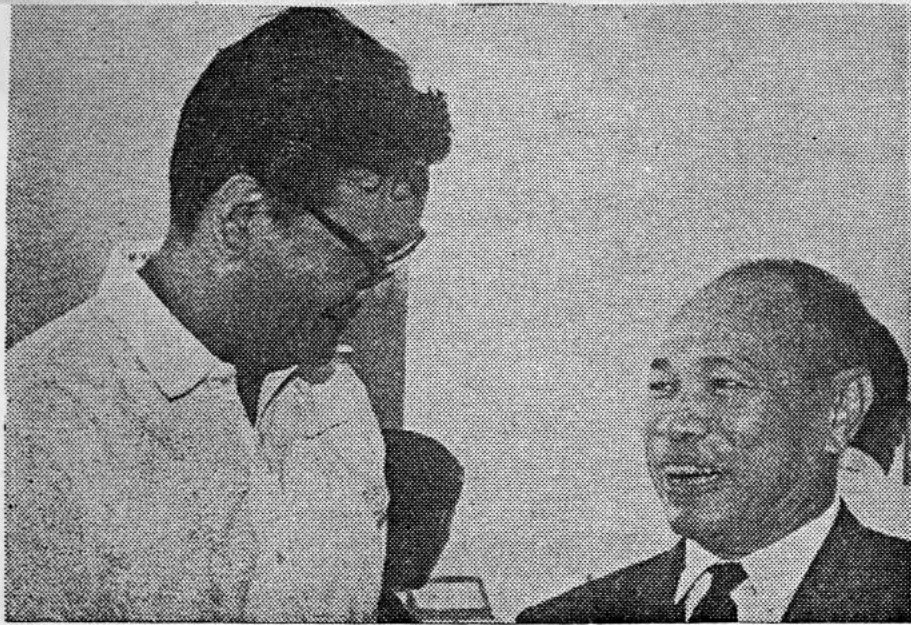
technicians from developing countries of Asia, Africa and South America who have observed the techniques used in Taiwan's farms and factories. On the other hand, more than 30 teams of Chinese experts are sharing their know-how with the peoples of some 20 countries.

Almost a parallel case is that of Japan's Seiichi Tobata. His award is that for public service. This stems from his incisive contribution towards the modernization of Japan's agriculture and the sharing of this experience with developing nations.



Taiwan's LI

Tobata, an ardent scholar, is president of Japan's Institute of Asian Economic Affairs. The son of a landowning family. (Please turn to page 28)



MAGSAYSAY FOUNDATION Trustee ex-Sen. Manuel P. Manahan, left, greets Snoh Nilkamhaeng, president of the Thailand Rural Reconstruction Movement.

'Nobel Prize' Winners

(Continued from page 3)

ly, his interest has always been in agriculture. He taught the subject after graduating from Tokyo University. After continuing his studies in England, Germany and the US, he returned home to pioneer in agricultural economics.

As a primary task, Tobata, seeing the deleterious effects of the feudal land tenure system, championed land reform. This was finally realized shortly after the allied occupation of Japan in 1945. Along with land reform, Tobata helped promote the new democratic wave through cooperatives, education and motivation.

A corollary beneficiary was the Japanese woman. Tobata worked for her acceptance as a co-equal partner in family decision-making. Now the Japanese farmer's wife is no longer known by the derisive appellation "hornless cow."

Tobata now seeks to expand his work beyond Japan's frontiers. Through the Institute of Asian Economic Affairs, he and his associates began assembling data on the potentials and problems facing farmers of Asia, Africa and Latin America.

"Professor Tobata's career," noted the Magsaysay Award Foundation's board of trustees, "has been distinguished on all counts, including his determination to shun wealth and public prominence." But one can't hide one's light under a bushel for long. It was inevitable that the world would learn of his invaluable work.

South Vietnam's Ton That Thien has acquired prominence chiefly through his lifting of press censorship in his country. Considering wartime conditions there, this is not an easy thing to do.

His career has embraced four stages: writer, editor, professor and government official. He has shown remarkable competence in all of them.

The 44-year-old Thien has a degree from the London School of Economics. While doing graduate work at the Institute of International Studies in Geneva, he joined the Vietnamese delegation at the 1954 conference that led to Vietnamese independence.

With the new government in Saigon, he served as presidential press secretary. He took issue later with the Ngo Dinh Diem regime and left for Geneva to complete doctoral studies. Returning to Saigon in 1963, he accepted the post of director general of Viet Nam Press.

He quit the government news agency to become political columnist of the Saigon Daily News. From this work, he went on to found with others the Viet Nam Guardian, serving as its managing editor.

This newspaper did not last long. It was suppressed by the authorities late in 1966. Thien then became correspondent for the London Economist, the Far Eastern Economic Review and Forum World Features, among others. He also taught, becoming vice dean of social sciences of Van Hanh University.

Last April, this year, his good friend, Tran Van Huong, was appointed Premier. This signalled a more popularly responsive government. Thien was offered the post of minister of information, which he accepted. His first act upon assuming office was to lift press censorship.

Thien succinctly explained his reason for the move. "Many people thought I abolished censorship," he said, "because I was a victim of it, but there is more to it than that. My job is to educate the

public as well as government officials. For too long, a privileged minority has held a monopoly on enlightenment in this country. I want to change that."

The Filipino couple, Silvino and Rosario Encarnacion, are treasurer-manager and chairman of the credit committee of Barrio Bantug Community Cooperative Credit Union in the town of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija. This couple, unheard of and humble as they come, has proven that even small, unknown individuals have a chance to win international recognition.

They were chosen to receive the coveted award for community leadership for their "scrupulous and zealous management of a credit cooperative that soundly improves life in their low-income barrio without incurring bad debts."

Credit unionism first came to their barrio in 1960. Silvino Encarnacion, a tailor who was then barrio lieutenant, and his wife, Rosario, an elementary school teacher, plunged into the movement.

Starting with 17 members and 73 pesos in cash deposits, the Bantug Community Cooperative Credit Union now has 181 members and over 26,000 pesos in assets. Small though it is, it is singularly distinguished by its integrity and creativity.

The union's success has permeated nearly all aspects of barrio life. It's 4,000 inhabitants have learned to save and plan. With capital from their own "bank," members of the credit union finance small businesses, invest in better seeds and fertilizers, send their children to college, and build better homes. They have thus shown that barrio folk can be encouraged to learn new habits.

And for international understanding, the Foundation board of trustees chose an organization on which to bestow the Asian Nobel Prize. CARE was a logical choice.

The board awarded CARE for its "constructive humanitarianism, fostering dignity among the needy in Asia and three other continents for over 22 years."

The relief organization was formed in 1945 by American private charitable and service groups for the purpose of sending food parcels to the starving in war-ravaged Europe. CARE soon broadened its scope, changing the "e" in its name to "Everywhere."

In addition to food, it expanded its shipments to plows, farm equipment, technical books. This move was in response to the need for self-help tools in the developing countries.

In the Philippines, CARE, along with the Bureau of Public Schools, provides a free lunch program for some four million schoolchildren yearly. They study in some 27,000 elementary and pre-schools. The lunch is of powdered milk and corn meal, a nutritious supplement



Manila Daily Bulletin - September 1, 1968

MAGSAYSAY AWARDEES. The 1968 Ramon Magsaysay awards were presented to winners last night at ceremonies held at the Philamlife auditorium. The awards were 'in recognition of greatness of spirit shown in service to the people.' Shown are, John T. Thacher, who received the award in behalf of the Committee on American Relief Everywhere (CARE); Ton That Thien,

for journalism; Mrs. Luz B. Magsaysay, Mrs. Silvino Encarnacion and Mr. Encarnacion, for community leadership and K. T. Li, government service. Seiichi Tobata, Japanese awardee for public service was absent. The awards presentation was marred by youthful demonstrators who staged a rally in protest against the selection of Thien, South Vietnam's minister of information.



THE SUNDAY TIMES

September 1, 1968

RAMON MAGSAYSAY AWAR-

DEES, holding their medals, pose with the late President's widow, Mrs. Luz Banzon Magsaysay, third from left, after the award rites at the Philamlife au-

ditorium last night. From left are John Thacher of CARE, Ton That Thien of South Vietnam, Mr. and Mrs. Silvino Encarnacion of the Philippines, and K. T. Li of the Republic of China.

5 CHOSEN FOR 1968 RM MEMORIAL AWARDS



KWOH TING LI
Government Service



SEIICHI TOBATA
Public Service



TON THAT THIEN
Journalism, Literature



CARE ORGANIZATION
International Understanding



ROSARIO ENCARNACION
Community Leadership

**Outstanding
contributions in
Asia are
recognition by
Foundation made after
late President.**

EVERY year on August 31, on the occasion of former President Magsaysay's birthday, five Asians are honored for "greatness of spirit in service to the people." The award is named after the late Filipino President whose life has been linked with the aspirations of peoples in this part of the world.

The awards are given to persons in Asia regardless of race, creed, sex or nationality. Since the awards were first given 11 years ago, 51 individuals and four organizations from 15 countries and one colony in Asia and three non-Asian countries have been singled out for signal achievements in community leadership, government service, international understanding, public service and journalism and literature.

The awards carry a prize of \$10,000 each and are presented at a ceremony held in Manila. This year's presentation will mark the 61st birthday of the late President Magsaysay.

The Ramon Magsaysay Awards Foundation charged with selecting the awardees has the following for its officers:

Dioscoro L. Umali, chairman; Manuel P. Manahan, vice chairman; Filemon Rodriguez, treasurer; Jesus Magsaysay, Frisco San Juan, Oscar Ledesma, directors and Belen H. Abreu, executive trustee.

The awardees this year are —
1) Kwoh Ting Li, minister of economic affairs, Republic of China — for Government Service

2) Seiichi Tobata, president of Japan's Institute of Asian Economic Affairs — for Public Service

3) Ton That Thien, South Vietnam's minister of information — for Journalism and Literature

4) The Cooperative for American Relief Everywhere (CARE) — for International Understanding.

5) Silvino and Rosario Encarnacion — for community leadership.

Kwoh Ting Li, sometimes described as "the chief architect" of China's "industrial miracle," is not an economist but a physicist, recruited by the government four years ago to the vice chairmanship of the Council for International Economic Cooperation and

Development. Li was born in Nanking in 1909 and was a professor at the National Wuhan University when tapped for government work.

The citation for Li's award reads:
1) Making possible the ending of US economic assistance to China through his post as coordinator for the aid.

2) Chartering the sound policies which attracted private domestic and foreign capital and management and international loans to share in the ever-expanding economy.

3) Accelerating China's foreign trade from \$420 million in 1959 to \$1,173 million in 1966.

Seiichi Tobata was given this year's Magsaysay award for public service for "his incisive contribution to the modernization of Japan's agriculture."

Tobata, 69, has been described as "a champion of land reform" and responsible for having Japan's agricultural experience spread and shared with developing nations.

Ton That Thien, 44, has been cited for his "enduring commitment to free inquiry and debate... his perceptive courage and staunch individualism as writer and editor, professor and government official."

Thien was specially cited for lifting press censorship after becoming South Vietnam's minister of information in April this year.

On the subject of censorship, Thien said, "Many people thought I abolished censorship because I was a victim of it. But there is more to it than that. My job is to educate the public as well as government officials. For too long a privileged minority has held a monopoly on enlightenment in this country. I want to change that."

Thien has also been praised for having "relentlessly sought to digest the essence of western scientific methods and wed these to Vietnamese cultural values."

The award citation further says: "Thien's concern goes beyond form. His aim is to introduce the scientific attitude not only to his country's educated elite but to the peasantry as a means of modernizing life and making society more equal and just."

Care was chosen to receive the RM awards for international under-

standing for "its constructive humanitarianism in fostering dignity among the needy in Asia and on three continents over 22 years."

Care is a huge relief organization which has given some \$1 billion in assistance since 1945. It is a cooperative of private American charitable and service organizations and is largely engaged in sending food parcels to the starving in war-ravaged countries, medical care and self-help projects to developing countries.

In the Philippines Care maintains a free lunch program for four million children in 27,000 elementary and prep schools. It has also provided farmers with sprayers for fruit and tobacco crops; some 3000 transistor radios to the barrios, woodworking tools for vocational schools and vitamin enriched foods for orphan institutions.

Silvino and Rosario Encarnacion, treasurer-manager and chairman of the Barrio Bantug Community Cooperative Credit Union, Muñoz, Nueva Ecija, credit union pioneers, won the community service award for "scrupulous and zealous management... greatly improved the lot of their low-income barrio-mates."

The couple started their cooperative credit union in May 1960 with 17 members and P73 in cash deposits. Today, the credit union has 181 members and P26,447.52 in assets.

In citing the couple, the Foundation noted:

"Neither the largest nor the wealthiest among credit unions in the Philippines, it is distinguished by its integrity and creativity. Most consequential are the changes members are prompting in their barrio of some 4000 inhabitants. From chronic habits of dependence and borrowing from money lenders to pay for illness, baptisms, rice until the next harvest and even gambling debts, Bantug is changing as residents learn to save and plan ahead."

The citation likened the Encarnacions to the 28 English pioneers who started the first credit union in Germany 104 years ago. The couple's prize money which is \$10,000 is more than the combined assets of the credit union they started.



Cocktails for RM Awardee

Philippines Herald - September 2, 1968

Nguyen Van Loc (left), charge d'affaires of the South Vietnamese embassy, hosted a cocktail party yesterday at the Army and Navy Club in honor of South Vietnam's minister of information Ton That Thien, this year's winner of the Ramon Magsaysay journalism award. Others in photo are (from left) Miss Thuy Lan, daughter of the awardee, Madame Ton That Thien and Madam Nguyen Van Loc.



Addressing RP Economic Writers

South Vietnam's ministers of information, Ton That Thien, reads text of speech during luncheon yesterday with Filipino economic writers at Alta Vista restaurant. Others in photo

are (from left) Miss Belen Abreu, of Ramon Magsaysay Foundation; Tazie Vittachi, Asia Press Foundation; and newswoman Ileana Maramag.

Philippines Herald - September 3, 1968

There's Press Freedom In Vietnam, Says Thien

Vietnamese Information Minister Ton That Thien said yesterday there is freedom of the press in South Vietnam today.

He made this statement in an open forum that followed his speech delivered at a luncheon with Asian economic writers currently attending a seminar in Manila.

"There's no press censorship in my country," Thien, winner of the 1968 Ramon Magsaysay Award in journalism, literature and communication arts.

"As a matter of fact, I have received phone calls from certain influential quarters asking my office to suppress this or that story in the newspapers," he said. "But I did not give into their demands knowing that it is only through a free press can we stamp out graft and corruption."

Closed

Asked why a Saigon newspaper, the *Vin Minh* (the Dawn), was closed over the weekend by the information ministry,

Thien said the paper's editor violated a law prohibiting the transfer of his newspaper to another.

"Don't blame the ministry. If the law needs amendments, then Saigon newspapers should persuade the National Assembly to change the law," he said.

He also admitted existence of rampant graft in the government.

"But we are doing our best to minimize graft and corruption," Thien said.

Controversy

In his prepared speech before the business writers, the Vietnamese information minister whose award triggered a controversy that culminated with the picketing of the awards presentation ceremony at the Philamlife auditorium Saturday evening, said that on the part of South Vietnam, the people could not ask too much of the government because "the communist threat forces every nation to devote much of

its meager resources to national security."

Because of this, Thien added, "we therefore look beyond our shores, to countries whose productive capacities are such that they can enjoy both security and comfort, and still have something to spare."

"American is naturally one of them, and the one to which people would turn instinctively because, instinctively, American is generous," he said.

Thien added, however, that there is more to America's generosity. "There is also a problem of responsibility and leadership involved," he said.

"Whether we like it or not, and whether the Americans want it or not, America, by its fantastic achievements in science and technology, and above all, by the possession of a vast amount of capital and managerial skill, is going to be the economic leader and organizer of the non-communist world," Thien said.



Center of Storm

Ton That Thien, South Vietnam's Minister of Information and 1968 RM awardee for journalism, gestures to emphasize a point during press conference yesterday at the Ramon Magsaysay Center. The awardee has been severely criticized by some sectors of the local press. Thien was cited by the Magsaysay Foundation for having lifted press censorship in South Vietnam.

Thien Talks on Vietnam Press Freedom

'I BELIEVE IN EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY'

Manila Chronicle - September 3, 1968

By ROSALINDA I. OROSA

"I am the first victim of press freedom in Vietnam," laughingly commented Vietnamese Minister of Information Ton That Thien after giving a press conference yesterday at the Ramon Magsaysay Center. "Even when I am attacked by our newspapers, I cannot write anything in my defense," he added.

Last Saturday, Minister Thien received the Magsaysay Award for Journalism, which award was the object of stinging criticism from some sectors of the Manila press.

"Freedom means responsibility," Minister Thien asserted earlier at the press conference. "I don't say there has been

no abuse of press freedom in Vietnam but there are laws which limit it: news stories or articles may not be published if they endanger national security, are against morals or favor the communists."

ILLUSTRATIONS

Giving actual illustrations of how press freedom is limited in Vietnam, Minister Thien said that one particular paper is expected to be suspended and its editor sentenced to jail for publishing reports that Americans have trampled on the Vietnamese flag, abused or looted or killed the Vietnamese, etc.

Although the newspaper in question was not di-

rectly asked to suspend publication of those reports, they were greatly looked upon with disfavor by the Ministry of Information. With tension running high, such stories could have led some hot-tempered Vietnamese to start shooting at the Americans; these Americans in turn could have shot back. And during the shooting, the Viet Cong could have slipped into the city and done their worst, Minister Thien continued by way of explanation.

"We must always prevent the Communists from taking advantage of the situation," he added.

FIRST ACT

Minister Thien's first

act upon assuming his post last May was to lift press censorship. "By having done so, I honestly believe the quality of the newspapers has improved since the reporters, not having to submit their stories to the censors for approval, feel freer to write as they wish," Minister Thien said.

"I believe in lifting press censorship as a member of the privileged class in Vietnam which enjoys the benefits of education. The majority of our people do not enjoy these benefits, and while I do not believe in the equality of men — some are born more intelligent or more affluent

than others — I believe in the equality of opportunity," Mr. Thien said.

Speaking on his problems as Minister of Information, he said that it was not his duty to "cover everything." "If I receive calls from private groups asking me to stop publication of this or that story, my standard reply is: 'If the story is not true then you take your case to court; if it is true, then do something about it.'"

INSTRUMENTS

According to Minister Thien radio and television in Vietnam are considered instruments of national policy, not instruments of

the present government. For instance, religious or political groups may not bicker over radio or television. But they can air their debates through the press as much as they like.

At present, there is a strong feeling against senators and congressmen who engage in the publishing trade as they enjoy immunity denied other publishers.

Commenting tangentially on local criticisms levelled at him for his being a recipient of the RM award, Minister Thien said: "I have been accused as a Communist in my country; here placards claim I am a CIA agent. So I guess I'm even."

Passion for enlightenment

When upon assuming office last April he unexpectedly lifted press censorship in the Republic of Vietnam, Minister of Information Ton That Thien surprised few colleagues in newspaper and university circles. «Conformity and timidity,» said one newsman, «appear to come in little doses in the man's life.»

Indeed, it would seem that courage and outspoken frankness have played dominant roles in Minister Thien's life judging by his experiences in recent years: his resignation as press secretary to the late President Ngo Dinh Diem over differences with the «authoritarian conservatism» of the latter's regime, suppression by the government in 1956 of *The Vietnam Guardian* of which he was managing editor, and the closing of the Vietnamese mass-circulation daily *Song* by his office.

To talk that he abolished censorship because he was a victim of it, Thien explains that there is more to it than that. «My job is to educate the public as well as government officials. For too long a privileged minority has held a monopoly on enlightenment in this country. I want to change that.»

In this connection Thien pledges that he will never restore press censorship because that would

For Dr. Thien a distinguished award

With Republic of Vietnam national colors as backdrop, Dr. Ton That Thien is shown with RM Award presented him at the Phil-Am Life auditorium in Manila last Aug. 31 for significant achievement in Journalism, Literature and Creative Communication Arts. Recipients of this year's RM Award pose with Mrs. Luz B. Magsaysay (third from left), widow of late Philippine President, after whom the award is named. From left: John Thatcher of CARE, cited for International Understanding; Dr. Thien, Mrs. Rosario Encarnacion and Mr. Silvino Encarnacion, Community Leadership; and Li Kwoh-ting, Minister of Economic Affairs of the Republic of China, Government Service. Awardee Prof. Seiichi Tobata of Japan, Public Service, was unable to go to Manila due to illness, will accept his award next year. Bust of President Magsaysay in background is by famed Filipino sculptor Guillermo E. Tolentino, a gift of RVN Ambassador to the Philippines Cao Tai Bao, Vietnam-Philippine Association of Saigon, and Philippine-Vietnamese Society of Manila.



