

06.06.1991

Montreal

AN APPEAL TO CANADIANS

By Ton That Thien

This week, through the arrangements of the Caisse Populaire Desjardins, a number of Canadians are meeting with high Government officials of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, including the chairman of the State Committee on Cooperation and Investment, to discuss investment in Vietnam.

On this occasion, we deem it necessary to bring the following to the attention of those Canadians:

1) The present regime of Vietnam is the most dictatorial, cruel, incompetent, corrupt, and deceitful regime in recent memory. It is using the catchword "renovation" to cover up its stubborn refusal to abandon the Stalinist brand of socialism, and to continue denying the fundamental human rights to the Vietnamese people while increasing democratisation is being adopted all over the world, including the Soviet Union.

In the past year, this regime has arrested and jailed tens of thousands of people, including prominent writers, artists, intellectuals, who, out of concern for the destiny of the country, have urged the leaders of the Communist Party of Vietnam to adopt greater democratisation. The whole country has in fact become a huge prison from which no Vietnamese can escape, except by braving death at sea.

The incompetence and corruption of the regime has been vigorously denounced by prominent Party members whose loyalty to the Party cannot be questioned, like Colonel Bui Tin, deputy-editor of the Party's paper Nhan Dan; Dr. Nguyen Khac Vien, well known chief of Hanoi's foreign propaganda during the war; Hoang Minh Chinh, a former director of the Party's Institute of Philosophy; Phan Dinh Dieu, deputy-director of the National Science Institute.

Dr. Nguyen Khac Vien has summarised the country's situation as follows: "The State machine has become completely impotent. This has led to chaos in the entire society and blocked all progress." Hoang Minh Chinh has denounced "the infantile dogmatist leftist deviation" of the present Party leadership which has led to "the waves of violent elimination of the intellectuals, artists and writers holding progressive views; to the waves of neutralisation, elimination, imprisonment of intellectual cadres of various levels inside and outside the Party who had openly criticised dogmatic leftist Maoism and demanded freedom, democracy and improvement of the people's welfare and reforms of the State and Party machines".

On the "reforms" proposed by the Party, Colonel Bui Tin said that they continued to "peddle the same old subjective, voluntarist views using flowery and bragging language

utterly unrelated to reality. They used resounding words, but these words could not conceal a situation which was very critical.”

Regarding the economy, Phan Dinh Dieu said that the maintenance of a centralised system with monopoly of management by the Party “is characterised on the one hand by impotence and has led to the Government adopting subjective, unrealistic policies resulting in extensive wastage, and on the other hand, in social chaos, illegality, fraud, and sabotage.”

2) In view of the above situation, any attempt at helping the Hanoi present rulers cling to power by enabling them to give the impression that their regime has international support, of which foreign investment is a key element, would only encourage these rulers to persist in their present course and inflict further sufferings on the Vietnamese people and accelerate the destruction of Vietnam.

Helping the Hanoi present ruling clique would therefore be an extremely inhuman, un-Christian act.

We therefore urge you, instead of embracing the present communist government of Vietnam, to demand the release of all political prisoners, and an extensive democratisation of the regime **before** seriously considering any project of investment in Vietnam or economic cooperation with the present Vietnamese Government.

Committee For The Release Of Dr. Nguyen Dan Que
And Of All Political Prisoners Of Vietnam
(Information Section)

Montreal
6 June 1991