

CỔ VẤN MỸ-VIỆT/ĐÔNG ĐÀM Á
BAO CẤP TÌNH HÌNH SỐ 11/MÙA XUÂN, 1991 (Dương Lịch)
SITREP #11/SPRING 1991 (Solar Calendar)

KÍNH CHỨC CÁC BAN ĐÃY HẠNH PHÚC TRONG
NAM TÂN MUI

Counterparts

Post Office Box 40, Circleville, WV 26804



Yes, SitRep is late, reflecting price of progress: greater admin burden coming w/increased membership and multitude of other tasks associated w/growing organization. These will be addressed at Houston Reunion. OK, here's what you need to know: Dates, as previously stipulated, are 8 through 10 March. Location: Holiday Inn near Greenway Plaza, Houston, Tx. At Kirby Exit Many thx to Phil King and Martin Ha for getting ball rolling Houston, here. Counterparts will not, repeat not, be handling reservations. 77098) Members must do this on their own, calling/ mailing in reservations on their own. Rate: \$59.00/Day. Formal program will end Saturday evening, so Sunday checkout is possible. George Davidson has volunteered to serve as telephonic clearing house for anyone wishing to either bunk up w/someone else, and/or share a ride if arriving by POV. \$59.00/day rate gets you room w/two double beds (one king size bed if coming w/spouse). Bunking up permits splitting cost to \$29.50, though room must be rented in one name. Here's how you do it: call George on your nickel (0800-1630 hours @ 214 574-8590; 1730-2200 hours @ 817 283-2645); advise of your needs, either bunk up and/or share ride. George will give you phone number(s) of others having same need, and it's up to you to call them/make arrangements. In fairness to George, please keep calls fairly brief and to the point. HOTEL CONTACT: Holiday Inn National Reservation #: 1-800-HOLIDAY(465-4329). Holiday Greenway: 713 523-8448. Our contact there: Leslie Nannen, with whom Phil King has made arrangements. We have a conference room and hospitality suite for Friday (8 March) sign-in/refreshments. Saturday will be a day-long session addressing our history, direction, objectives, and officer reports. We will also be nominating officers, and accepting yeah/nay votes on by-laws, and/or discussion of proposed by-laws changes. If anyone has proposed changes, please have a concrete alternative prepared. General/indefinite suggestions may generate lengthy discussion exceeding available time. OTHER PROGRAM ITEMS: Mike Little obtained 'draft' copy of Kay Reibold's video, 'Living in Exile', portraying Dega Odyssey and life in US. Martin Ha will have speakers delivering first hand tales of life(?) in re-education camps, and update on anticipated release of prisoners, their condition in VN/SE Asia, and prospects for emigration to US. Anthology status: handouts will be passed out/discussion entertained regarding immediate measures for initiating this program, laying groundwork for a publishable oral history of the Counterpart experience. Historical accuracy: review presentation of sub-optimal (euphemism for idiotic) situation and means to address same. Locator: status report and plans to extend 'reach' into various/sundry contact sources. Human Rights: review of available sources and current situation. Amerasians: same. Anyone having other topics of discussion is encouraged to submit same, earlier the better, to your clerk-typist (B. Laurie, 1462 W. University, Mesa, Arizona 85201) or Paul Rubaker, @ letterhead address.

A Veteran's Association of Advisors in Southeast Asia

Other things: ballot, proxy or otherwise, included on last page of this SitRep. Please fill in and either mail or bring along with you. This will save time. Remember, we need officers to grab hold of admin/misc. tasks currently overwhelming your existing de facto HQ, dispersed and skeletal as it is. We definitely need a CO to drive this thing along faster than it's been moving. Do not nominate, as was done last year, your clerk-typist. It's been said before and is said again: I am neither best qualified nor blessed with sufficient free time to do the job, and will decline if nominated. A CO is needed, as is XO, Historian, and PIO might be useful as word of Counterparts gets around. Also: Recording Secretary for reunion proceedings, in addition to limited term project officers for specific tasks of minimal difficulty, AND a Reunion Project Officer for 1992. We're keeping a 'book' on such chores, so anyone volunteering will already be halfway up the learning curve. So, there is outline of what we'll address, omitting what will prove to be the best part of all-getting together, chewing the fat once all formal business has been addressed. All attendees of last year's inaugural reunion will attest to this. See you in Houston.

On to normal business.....

Letters...(excerpted)

'Application is sent in. ...I will say that I was very impressed with support we got from VNAF. They were excellent Skyraider pilots. Excellent. ...People who say ARVN wouldn't fight never spent time with the ARVN 7th and 9th Divisions. ...The people I flew with never made any derogatory or derisory comments about the 7th or 9th soldiers.' '...They were always quite capable units.' 'I've read more of BRIGHT SHINING LIE; it has turned into a lie itself....a fresh reminder of how the newsmen helped us lose the war by the twist they put on things.' new member Tim Kerr. (Tim was w/335th and 134th Assault Helicopter Co.s, flying slicks and gunships for ARVN, US, and Korean units, spending 2 years, of 4 in VN, in this role).

'Thank you for material received the other day. I am honored to become a member of CVM-V/ĐNA. .. I read w/considerable interest the SITREPS you included... I was very impressed with design(of Counterparts patch), decided to photograph it and make some prints. I have one large 8 x 10 on the wall under my membership certificate. I'd like to offer my services to CVM-V/ĐNA as a photographer to document anything we need. Just let me know. -new member Steve Herberth. Ed.-Many thx Steve, and beautiful job on the photos. We'll be glad to put you and your camera to work.

'I'd like to comment on Phoenix Program(having been in it). ..The PRU was the 'Action Arm' of Phoenix, and has been castrated, screwed, blued and tatooed by not only the North Viet Nameese but by our own holier-than-thou press, anti-war asses and politicians. ...try reading John Cassidy's book, A STATION IN THE DELTA. It is about a CIA case officer in the Delta. John should know, since he was the boss of those guys at the time.' -Jim Baker. Ed.-STATION is, in every sense of the word, an excellent book.

Counterpart quote: 'I've become so involved with the people, it's a personal war for me. I've come to rely on them as much or more than they rely on me.' Sgt. Michael F. Flynn, USMC(CAPs), cited on p. 197, THE BETRAYAL, by William Corson.

Last SITREP mistakenly indicated 'Vestige of Honor', a film on Dega emigration to US, would be broadcast next year. Wrong, it was last December. Sorry, we were given wrong info. Pappy Hicks, who was directly involved with bringing Dega people over, watched CBS film and provided this review: "Story needed telling. Actors playing Don Scott and renegade ex-SF major were excellent. Never heard of the ex-SF major. But, as a personal participant in aiding Degas, I was disappointed in the elaboration of lies and half-truths made into truths by the producers. .. Scott's problems did not come from the Thai officials but from US govt. hired hands in US Embassy, Thailand. .. They did not have to break people out of the camp as shown in movie, nor did they have any real trouble with Thais once US govt. agreed to let the Dega enter US. Don Scott spent a large amount of his personal money to finance the cause. Degas did meet w/USEmb officials in Saigon(in 1975) to discuss continued resistance if given support. Response: need time to consider these developments."

Thx to Pappy for his efforts to help Dega, and for this review. Once again, TV takes particles of truth, and thence embroiders w/ own perceived 'drama', w/end result that factual story is blurred. What else is new?

Added to Members in Memoriam Roster

Sgt. Brian L. Buker, USA/SF
 1st Lt. Robert L. Howard, USA/SF
 LCpl. Miguel Keith, USMC/CAPS
 Sgt. Gordon D. Yntema, USA/SF
 Gen. Đo Cao Tri, QLVNCH
 Gen. Pham Van Phu, QLVNCH
 Capt. Hilliard A. Wilbanks, USAF
 CM3 Marvin Shields, USN
 SSGT Franklin D. Miller, USA/SF
 Spec. 5 John J. Kedenburg, USA/SF
 SFC William M. Bryant, USA/SF
 SFC Eugene Ashley Jr., USA/SF
 David Gitelson, IVS
 Sgt. Michael F. Flynn, USMC/CAPS
 WO Kevin Conway, Australian Army Training Team, VN(AATTVN)
 Chau Sin, QLVNCH, Rank unk.

Remember *Major Michael Davis O'Donnell*

If you are able,
 save for them a place inside of you.

And save one backward glance
 when you are leaving,
 for the places they can
 no longer go.

Be not ashamed to say
 you loved them,
 though you may
 or may not have always.

Take what they have left
 and what they have taught you
 with their dying
 and keep it with your own.

And in that time
 when men decide and feel safe
 to call the war insane,
 take one moment to embrace
 those gentle heroes
 you left behind.

Information on/recollections of all Members in Memoriam now being assembled and compiled in one volume. Those having any material to submit regarding names they've originally submitted are encouraged to do so, the sooner the better. For now, send to clerk-typist for eventual transmittal to Historian we elect(hint) in Houston.

COUNTERPARTS LITERATURE VNAF/South Viet Nameese AF(Không Quân, Việt Nam Cộng Hòa), by Jim Mesko, Squadron Signal publications, 1115 Crowley Drive, Carrollton/Texas, 75011-5010. Very good 64 pp. overview of VNAF, its mission, development and composition. Numerous b/w photos color illustrations of VNAF aircraft. Published 1987, @ \$8.95. Dunno about postage if ordering direct. Worthwhile addition to library.

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Tiếng Lòng Việt Nam(VN slang): Tigers are sometimes referred to as Mr. 30(Ông Ba Mươi), alluding to 30th day, and darkest night, of the lunar month, when stalking advantage is greatest.....

Counterpart Lit. cont.: AUTOPSY, THE DEATH OF SOUTH VIET NAM, By Lam Quang Thi, former CG of ARVN 9th Div, and CG, I Corps South, in '72 Easter Offensive. Cogent and penetrating observations of SVN's demise, from perspective of an experienced participant who takes straight approach in calling a spade a spade. Chapters deal with such subjects as corruption, political instability, US war weariness (and subperfect policies), US news media, etc.

COMBAT RECON, Robert Parrish. As described to right in last edition of Military Book Club flyer. Efforts underway to contact Mr. Parrish. Looks like a good book.

BRIDGE AT ĐÔNG HA, By John Grider Miller. Describes heroic efforts of Cõ Văn John Ripley, and counterpart VNCH Marines, to blow Đông Ha bridge and block NVA armor spearheads in '72 Offensive. Both Miller and Grider served as Cõ Vãs; efforts underway to contact both.

SCARETIME, by Bill Craig. Novel focusing on A team and Mike Force units from '64-'68. To be on shelves Dec '90; pub. by Ballantine Books (201 E. 50th St., NY, NY, 10022). No other info available.

LEE ANN, STORY OF VN-US GIRL, by Tricia Brown, w/photos by Ted Thai (former 'Time' mag photog in VN). Photo essay of young VN girl, arriving in US as four year old, and having to straddle different cultural values in a new life. Putnam Books.

THE TEAM, by Ian McNeill. Encyclopaedic 500-plus pp. history of Australian Army Training Team, Việt Nam (AATTVN), as such histories should be written. Wealth of info, w/very good maps, tactical schematics, b/w photos. Published by Australian War Memorial, Canberra. Approx US price: \$40.00 plus/minus. Author served with AATTVN; '65-'66. Efforts underway to contact.

LAST SECRET OF VN WAR, Charles F. Reske. Two volume 700 pp. of MACSOG Command History, 1971-1972. Advertised (not seen/reviewed) as (formerly) a top secret classified document w/virtually everything you wanted to know about MADVSOG. 2 volume set: \$49.95/\$3.50 p & h; one volume: \$26.95/\$3.50 p & h. From Alpha Publications, P.O. Box 308-VN, Sharon Center/Ohio, 44274. Anyone seen/read? Comments?

XUAN LOC, '68 & '69. A video, described as home movie of 18th ARVN Div. and US Cõ Vãs at Xuan Loc, other areas. Scenes of FB Penney, N(u)i Ti, other areas, and 'one exciting scene w/NVA patrol in distance.'. Footage shot by ARVN soldier. Have not seen/reviewed. Anyone else? \$19.95/\$3.50 P&H. Cassette #9 (repeat, nine), from: Freedom Hill Films, P.O. Box 387, Connellsville, Pa., 15425. Land line: 412 628-1004.



Top: Major Man, a battalion commander in the 5th ARVN Division. Bottom: An NVA machine gun nest is spotted just moments before it opens fire.

Dirt berms, bunkers and barbed wire; life in III Corps, north of Saigon

Combat Recon

My year with the ARVN

by Robert D. Parrish

LT. Robert Parrish didn't want to be an advisor to the Army of the Republic of Viet Nam; he'd heard things about them. The Army didn't care what he wanted; he was assigned to the 5th ARVN Division, an Infantry battalion. A year later, Parrish knew things about these Vietnamese soldiers, he'd fought at their side, and wouldn't have had things any other way.

Contrary to rumor, the ARVN were an aggressive, tenacious outfit. He and his men averaged contact with the Viet Cong two to three times a week. Usually it meant a fierce firefight, but the "contact" could take more bizarre forms. Fumbling his way through an unfamiliar Buddhist ceremony in a monastery, Parrish noticed some others in attendance were as ignorant of the ritual as he was. He later discovered they were VC. His Vietnamese commander, when asked why he hadn't found the other "worshippers" suspicious, replied, "I'm a Catholic."

Transferred to a Recon Company—made up largely of warrior race Nungs—Parrish fought with them through the intensive weeks of the 1968 Tet Offensive. Wounded at Phu Hoa Dong, he went AWOL to return to his troops; strong testimony to the ARVNs he so respected.

Parrish is an unusual man with a very unusual story to tell. *Combat Recon* is his tribute to the dauntless forces who fought at his side during some of the war's fiercest moments. *Photographs*. Pub. Ed. \$19.95 Members' Edition \$15.95

Another video, as advertised in Viet Nam magazine, p.61, April '91: 'A226, 5th SF in VN'. Features SF CIDG, Phu Bon Prov, with Jarai, Bahnar, Rhade, from '66-'67. Soundtrack has Dega music; footage taken by SF MSgt, Edmund W. Sprague. 31 Minutes. \$19.95/\$3.50 P&H. Edmund J. Sprague, 481 Church St./No. 112, San Bernadino, California, 92401.

Members having seen/read any of above, welcome to send comments.

One more: TALKING WITH VICTOR CHARLIE, by Sedgwick D. Tourison Jr., Ivy Books. Current publication paperback describing author multiple tours with interrogation unit, first in advisory capacity and then as joint team. As was often common, 'advisors' often learned much from 'advisees'. Also sheds light on intel game, esp. subtle art of interrogation (without assistance from electro-mechanical devices). Efforts underway to contact author.

Paul Brubaker reports book titled COUNTERPARTS is, is about to be, published/on the stands. Will follow up. Reportedly factual narrative of advisor's tour.

Products: This is a plug, upfront, outright. New member Tim Kerr, who's VN photo catalog/service was mentioned last issue, has some outstanding color and b/w photos. Send \$1.00 for his catalog. Your clerk-typist did, and promptly ordered some photos, which were just as promptly delivered. Outstanding subject matter and quality. Remember, Tim has been kind enough to offer a 20% discount, off the top, to all Counterparts members. ID yourself as such. Write to: Tim Kerr/CPC PRODUCTIONS, P.O. Box 9342, Seattle/Washington, 98109. Tim also sent in article from Sept. '69 edition of 'Hawk', an in-country publication of 335th HAC, describing operations in which they flew slicks for ARVN 9th Div. Article will be held for our Historian. Thx again Tim, and welcome on board.

Quốc Kỳ, Việt Nam Cộng Hòa, or Govt. of Republic of (South)Viet Nam flags can be ordered from Bien Hoa Productions, P.O. Box 56, Fayetteville, Arkansas (not North Carolina) 72702. Also available: translated propaganda leaflets (both sides) and other interesting artifact reproductions from Viet Nam. Catalog is \$1.00. Owner, Tuck Boys, is VN Vet.

MACV letterheads/notepads/envelopes from D & G, P.O. Box 12105, Columbus, Georgia ('by the shores of the Chattahoochee', for those who may have attended the local school for boys..) 31907-7646. Imprinted w/your name/address. \$2.00 for catalog of this special item/other t-shirts/bumper stickers/etc. All military related. Owner is VN Vet.

COFFEE CUPS: mentioned several SITREPS ago, and generating more response than anything else. Cups, w/our insignia, can run between \$7.00-\$8.25 per, depending on number ordered. OK, we need-do NOT laugh-a coffee cup project officer; your skeletal HQ not yet ready for more admin burdens. Volunteers may contact clerk-typist. Sooner the better. Let's get ball rolling on this one.

Request to Cease & Desist: OK, enough already. All you people who were involved w/Phoenix Program are asked to stop "returning to Viet Nam to do assassination work. ...arriving as tourists, journalists, businessmen, religionists(sic)" and also stop "advocating political pluralism and bourgeoisie-type democracy", or so says Mai Chi Thọ, Hà Nội's Minister of Interior (and brother of Le Duc Thọ) in address to students/faculty of 'People's(sic)(?) Police Academy, on 21 Nov 90. Yeah, just we PRUs dressed up as nuns, priests and reporters. This signals further tightening of screws in VN.

DEFECTORS OF THE MONTH: Hà Minh Tâm, Hanoi Forestry Ministry Official, now living in Australia; NVA Đại Ủy Nguyễn Thành Ninh, w/Hanoi occupational forces in Cambodia goes over to Sihanouk unit, thence to Cambodia; Phạm Văn Viên author/translator who translated Bulgarian dissident book equating communism w/fascism, an idea not well received by dogmatic ideologues who react to the truth in much the same way vampires respond to a crucifix. Along these lines.....

Here's list of known prisoners of prison camps, euphemistically called re-education camps. Excerpted from 'Indochina Journal', P.O. Box 1163, Burlingame, California, 94011-1163, a quarterly publication by joint US-born and VN-ese Americans, \$8.00/year. Previous editions of SITREP mentioned same, encouraged subscription. Be informed. Recent edition contained petition for release of dissident Buddhist scholars Thích Túc Sỹ and Thích Tri Siêu (Thích: 'Venerable'). Send SASE for copy of petition, circulate and mail. Our in-country counterparts, and their countrymen, must not be overlooked if/when diplomatic relations are discussed w/Hanoi. Write letters.

Also, poet Nguyễn Chí Thiện, imprisoned since 1979 for his 'counter-revolutionary' poetry, is now in his 32nd year of prison, suffering from bladder and kidney failure, held in solitary, beaten and tortured. This man will not quit or give in; those of us blessed to be on the outside have no excuse for inaction. For benefit of new members, the definitive study of Hà Nội's Human Rights Violations is available for \$10.00 from: Aurora Foundation, 177 Toyon Road, Atherton/California, 94027. This wretched situation is entirely overlooked by many who want to schmooze up to Hà Nội.

HISTORICAL OBJECTIVITY DEPT. Michael Janeway, Dean of the Medill School of Journalism, Notre Dame, wrote recent article for New York Times Review of Books in which he indicates 'truth' of Việt Nam was concealed until 'courageous reporters like David Halberstam and Neil Sheehan... Morley Safer, Frances Fitzgerald, Harrison Salisbury.. and Gloria Emerson' revealed it. Oh? In another publication, David Cortright, of Notre Dame's Institute for International Peace Studies, lauds the merits of Sheehan's BRIGIT SHINING LIE, a book of questionable integrity, saying it 'greatly expands our understanding of the Việt Nam tragedy.' Abusing editorial privilege, your clerk-typist emphatically argues to the contrary, contending it muddies the waters even further. Note position and implied sphere of influence these people have. They are 'teaching' our college students. Watch the academic treelines for such drivel.

DOCUMENTS: POLITICAL PRISONERS IN HAM TAN RE-EDUCATION CAMP

The following is the list of political prisoners detained at Ham Tan (Z30-D) re-education camp in Thuận Hải province as of June 20, 1990. The source came from the Free Vietnam Organization based in Germany. The detainees were high ranking officers of the Republic of Vietnam's Army, and the positions listed below are those they held in South Vietnam before April 30, 1975.

Generals:

1. Do Ke Giai, Commander of the Rangers.
2. Tran Ba Di, Superintendent of the Quang Trung Military School.
3. Le Van Thuan, Deputy Commander of Second Military Corps.
4. Le Minh Dao, Commander of the 18th Army Division.
5. Pham Duy Tat, Commander of the Ranger Division, Second Military Corps.
6. Mach Van Truong, Commander of the 21st Army Division.
7. Tran Quang Khai, Commander of Tank Division, Third Military Corps.
8. Pham Ngoc Sang, Commander of the Sixth Air Force Division.

Colonels:

9. Tran Van Do, Associate Director of the Military Security Branch.
10. Nguyen van Sao, Chief of the Military Security Bureau, the Fourth Military Corps.
11. Nguyen Van Han, Chief of the Military Bureau.
12. Nguyen Van Tan, Chief of the Navy Security.
13. Truong Bao Chuong, Deputy Chief of the Military Intelligence Agency, General Staff Headquarters.
14. Pham Van Phu, Chief of the Military Intelligence Office, Second Military Corps.
15. Bui Hop, Assistant to the Director of the National Police Branch.
16. Nguyen Xuan Loc, Chief of the Police Office, the First Military Corps.
17. Nguyen Quoc Di, Psychological Warfare Department.
18. Vinh Bieu, Psychological Warfare Department.
19. Cao Van Uy, Chief of Staff, the Ranger.
20. Pham Duy Khuon, Chief of Local Militia Force, Second Military Corps.
21. Bui Quang Khuong, Commander of the First

Air Force Division.

22. Le Tung Luan, Chief of the 101 Task Force.
 23. Nguyen Van Cua, Chief of Chau Doc province.
 24. Nguyen Kim Tay, Regional Commander of the Ranger.
 25. Vinh Duc, Commander of sub-division.
- Lieutenant Colonels:
26. Ho Van Kiet, Central Intelligence Office.
 27. Nguyen Luu Hai, Deputy Chief of the Secret Police, Second Military Corps.
 28. Le Huu Tung, Chief of a provincial police office.
 29. Tran Van Xuan, Intelligence School.
 30. Truong Van Ty, Assistant Chief of the 101 Task Force.
 31. Nguyen Van Sang, Group Leader, 101 Task Force.
 32. Nguyen Thieu Sang, 101 Task Force.
 33. Tran Van Dat, Commander of the 2nd Sub-Division of the Ranger.
 34. Ho Duc Sung, Chief of a provincial Military Security Office.
 35. Huynh Kim Hieu, Chief of a provincial military Security Office.
 36. Tran Ngoc Diem, Chief of a provincial Military Security Office.
 37. Nguyen Than, Chief of a provincial Military Security Office.
 38. Tran Van Man, Chief of a provincial Military Office.

Majors:

39. Phan Trung Vi, 101 Task Force.
40. Ho Viet Tung, 101 Task Force.
41. Tran Chanh Tri, Military Security Branch.
42. Huynh Minh Chieu, Military Security Branch.
43. Dao Thanh Phong, Secret Police Branch.
44. Vi Khi Ba, Secret Police Branch.
45. Pham Quang Nghiep, Secret Police Branch.
46. Pham Tan Ngoc, Secret Police Branch.
47. Nguyen Cong Quan, Secret Police Branch.
48. Duan Ba Loc, Chief of a provincial Intelligence Office.
49. Tran Vong Quoc, son of the human rights lawyer Tran Van Tuyen, sentenced to 10 years to prison for allegedly plotting to overthrow the communist government.

And continuing... Recent books VIET NAM WARS, 1945-1990, by Marilyn Young, a history professor at New York University, and WHERE THE DOMINOES FELL, by James Olsen (chairman, History Dept. Sam Houston State) and Randy Roberts, history professor, Purdue, come to some 'politically correct' conclusions. Young asserts 'war continues to be primary instrument of American foreign policy' (Dear Ms. Young: Hanoi started the war.... US went to absurd lengths to negotiate out of it...) while Olsen/Roberts cite books MY LAI (Seymour Hersh), BRIGHT SHINING LIE (Sheehan), Karnow's VIET NAM: A HISTORY, are singled out for praise. Again, note positions/spheres of influence authors have. Historical inquiry appears to have degenerated into intellectual gossip, with each layer of mental fungus generating and feeding yet another. Some people need to heed words of Khổng Tử (Confucius) 'If language is not correct, then what is said is not meant; if what is said is not meant, then what is to be done remains undone; if this remains undone, morals and art will deteriorate; if morals and art deteriorate justice will go astray; if justice goes astray, people will stand about in helpless confusion.' And that, as the farmer said to the game-warden, ain't no s__t.

Final item: Film rights to BRIGHT SHINING LIE (which better describes book than subject it purports to) has been purchased by film production company headed up by everyone's least favorite Hà Nội AAA gunnerette/PR agent, and peddler of exercise videos. Watch what is taught in your schools, and demand equal time if you see fit. Write letters to editors refuting 'conventional wisdom' passed off as pure fact. Your history is being sullied, mutated, and stolen. Do something about it, incessantly and tenaciously.

AMERASIANS Here's the latest info on hand: →
If you cannot help out personally, check with local Catholic Social Services, Tolstoy Foundation, etc. to see what donation needs are—clothes, furniture, etc. Many, if not most, Amerasians arrive with their mothers, and have a tough time making it. Do what you can.

DEGA: logjams apparently being broken down, splinter by splinter. Mike Little, our diligent Dega Liason Officer, sent update indicating photos documenting receipt of medical supplies at Ea Ana leprosarium have been received, finally. Also, \$10,000.00 grant received from Mary Lynn Richardson Fund; medical supplies and diesel generator, accompanied by Lutheran Family Services delegation, scheduled for April 91 delivery to Ea Ana, near Pleiku. For more info, or to send \$: Mike Little, 3421 Eden Drive, Santa Clara/California, 95051. A worthy cause for worthy people, and perhaps model for eventual program to help out disabled former counterparts in VN, Laos, Cambodia, if/when Hà Nội permits.

POW/MIA: Hà Nội Foreign Minister Nguyễn Cơ Thạch, meeting with John Vessey in D.C. raised possibility of opening POW/MIA liason office in Hanoi; US first proposed in '86. Proof of pudding is in the taste; we shall see. Also, some response to last issue's questioning veracity of book, KISS THE BOYS GOODBYE. J.C. Fischer sent in copy of report prepared by Sen. Helm's staff, which concluded high probability

ECHOES FROM ANOTHER WAR

About 15,000 Amerasian children and their families will be allowed to resettle in the U.S. in 1991, a Vietnamese Foreign Ministry official said. ✓31/91

The agreement came after four days of meetings in Hanoi between teams of U.S. and Vietnamese experts, said Le Bang, deputy chief of the American department of the Foreign Ministry. He said 18,000 former employees of the U.S.-backed South Vietnamese government and their families would also be resettled in the U.S. this year in accordance with agreements between the two countries.

Since the resettlement program began in September 1986, more than 30,000 of about 50,000 Amerasians, the children of Americans who served during the Vietnam War, have gone to the U.S. About 13,000 former members of the Saigon government and their families have been resettled since September 1989.

Mr. Bang said the two countries hoped to complete the resettlement program by the end of 1992.

of POWs in VN/SE Asia, and asserting US govt. efforts have been less than forthright/competent. For your copy: 'Interim Report on the Southeast Asian POW/MIA Issue', write: Senator Jesse Helms United States Senate, Committee on Foreign Relations, Washington/D.C., 20510-6225. Central point in this discussion isn't a debate as to whether POWs are held or not, but rather reliability of book mentioned. Clerk-typist will plead ignorance in not yet having read book, but will assert that one of book's sources, Scott Barnes, is borderline pathological liar. Christic Institute, another source, not far removed. Still, even a broken clock tells right time, twice a day, and all of us need to weigh this material on its own merits. Info must be hard, not conjectural. Please remember to consider intent in disagreeing on this or other issues. All want full resolution of POW/MIA issue. Intensity of commitment can lead to aggravation/antagonism when different avenues of approach are deemed best. Whatever your individual position/views on nature of situation, and appropriate means to resolve same, make them known via letters to Senators, Representatives, newspapers, US State Dept., Hà Nội delegate to UN, etc.

COUNTERPARTS BIBLIOGRAPHY: interim progress report to be included in next edition. End product available to members for expense equal to photocopy/ mailing cost. Get one for yourself, one to give out to any educators, writers, etc. you may come across with interest in the subject. Sooner or later you'll hear 'I've never heard that before. This is very interesting.', and get a warm fuzzy feeling.

Cố Vấn quotes 'I do not accept any guilt about an 'immoral war' in Việt Nam. I do not believe it was an immoral war at all, rather a decent cause gone terribly wrong. I have few regrets about our collective, or my personal experience in Viet Nam. ...I hold the cause of the South Việt Nameese people in my heart. I yearned for their freedom. I fought with them.....' David Donovan, in his book ONCE A WARRIOR KING.

CONDOLENCES: To family and friends of Viet Nameese publisher Nguyễn Kim Bang, who immolated himself in protest of communist rule in Việt Nam. Bang had served in the QLVNCH (SVM military); his grandfather, father, uncle and younger brother were all killed in the war. Since arriving in US, he began his publishing career and persistent efforts to shed light on human rights violations in VN, and plight of the Boat People. His death was briefly noted, on either pages 5 or 13 of US newspapers, if at all, underscoring a still unpleasant situation: most US people simply don't care, nor does US news media which-let's face it-had such a ball with front page photos of Buddhist immolations in 1963.

And...Don Colin, who spent many years in Việt Nam as StateDept. Prov. Rep. and Buddha/God knows what else, passed away of heart attack, age 55. Don wore sandals, smoked Ruby Queens, and was an iconoclastic free spirit sorely needed. He was active in Amerasian matters, and unswerving advocate for human rights in Viet Nam. If things had turned out differently, Don might yet be living on his wife's small farm in Tra Vinh (AKA Vinh Binh), playing cò tướng, drinking rượu đế, and laughing uproarously at ribald jokes with local friends in the countryside. Like many, Don was probably more at home enjoying life's simple delicacies in Việt Nam, than he was in modern day US. Take it easy Don, we'll hoist a glass of nước mắt què hường to you, hoping they sell Ruby Queens in your current AO.

HONG KONG UPDATE Last two editions cited hardline attitude of Hong Kong authorities in refusing to classify Boat People as real refugees, downgrading them to 'economic refugees' faced with prospects of forced repatriation to Viet Nam. No apparent change in situation. Letters from refugees requesting appeal and intervention of international human rights organizations are replete with examples of an Orwellian nightmare. Forced repatriation viewed by some as equivalent to death sentence. US newspapers and news media carry little of this.

DESERT STORM LETTERS: If you haven't written, you should, and now. Write a few, and sooner or later you'll get a very grateful response, from an appreciate serviceman/woman. You didn't join Cố Vấn Mỹ-Việt/Đông Nam Á to do nothing, so do something. Address in your local papers for 'Any Serviceman/woman', as well as recent edition of SitRep (one more reason to keep all editions in one folder or three ring binder). Speaking of which, efforts underway to work into a new format, find economical means to this end. Will check into possibility of prepunching holes for ease of filing.

CAMBODIAN COUNTERPART MAKES GOOD: Sichan Siv worked for a US relief agency in Cambodia, only to be swept into vortex of Khmer Rouge madness. Surviving by his wits, and escaping into Thailand, Siv finally made it to use, worked menial jobs, scrimped/saved, went Columbia University, later picked up a master's degree later working at the U.N., thence to Institute of International Education, campaigning for George Bush. On 13 Feb 89, Sichan Siv was sworn in as deputy assistant to the President, as liason to public interest groups.

SON OF 'COUNTERPARTS' MAKES GOOD: 'Saigon' Skipper Kelp was born in-where else?-Saigon about 20 years ago, coming to the US w/his US Army Sgt. Father and Viet Namese mother, now residing in Colorado Springs. After successful amateur boxing career, he turned pro, fighting his third welterweight fight recently in Vegas, winning as opponent's trainer threw in the towel in third round. Fight was a donnybrook (a clean one). Boxing fans take note.

CỐ VẤN QUOTE '..as a grossly inexperienced and unblooded inf. capt., I was assigned as senior advisor to an ARVN Inf. Bn. CO who'd been leading his Bn. for 27 months. ..I was supposed to advise him. On What? I wondered. My marvelous middle class life of 24 years? My Western education (he spoke three languages). military training? (He'd already been wounded three times).. Who was the advisor? Had I insisted on giving advice where not needed I would have missed out on one of the greatest learning experiences of my life...' LTC Bruce Caine, 'Army' magazine, Jan 91, p. 16. Letter/Sitrep/application sent.

OK, end of this edition. Reverse side has more Houston info, as well as poor photocopy rendition of knife being raffled. BUY tickets! Either from Fall SitRep pages or at Reunion. Win raffle, go home, place knife in teeth, walk up/down street. Neighbors will never, ever, bother you again. If you don't need it buy ticket and win anyhow, give to Desert Storm troop when you meet one. Newsmembership posters and finance report to be distributed at reunion, mailed out to non-attendees wanting same. We have some very fine people coming on board in a constant flow, joining equally fine roster of existing members. If/when we ever get all in one place, it will be quite an experience. Stay well. See you in Houston. It will be good.

RD

YOU MAY USE THIS AS YOUR BALLOT, OR DRAW UP OWN SHEET CONTAINING SAME INFORMATION. This may serve as your actual ballot, or as a proxy. In either case will simplify vote count. Any parliamentarians out there? You may be called upon.

BY-LAWS, As drafted _____ A _____ DO NOT ADOPT

Specific proposals for revision(use extra paper if needed):

OFFICERS I hereby nominate

_____ for office of _____
" " "

Add as you see fit. We need to get moving, now, w/historian position, and need a C.O., now. Situation ripe for capitalizing on momentum and critical mass we've built up, in spasmodic fashion. No shrinking violets. Feel free to nominate self. 1992 Reunion will probably be in either midwest or east next year. Anyone in either region hungry to ramrod a reunion? (Better be)

Proxy Authorization: I hereby empower Houston Reunion Recording Secretary to submit my vote(s), nominations and by-law proposals, if any.

Curt Rich is our Houston letter box. Mark CVM-V/DNA ballot in lower left hand corner of envelop. You may seal proxy ballot in envelop within, with name on if you so wish.

Curt Rich
734F Country Place Drive
Houston, Texas 77079

Please, ballots only, in fairness to Curt. Direct questions to clerk-typist(602) 962-4347(night), 948-4866(day) if any arise. Above all, show up in Houston. It will be worthwhile.

The Ek Bowie Knife

