

# Counterparts

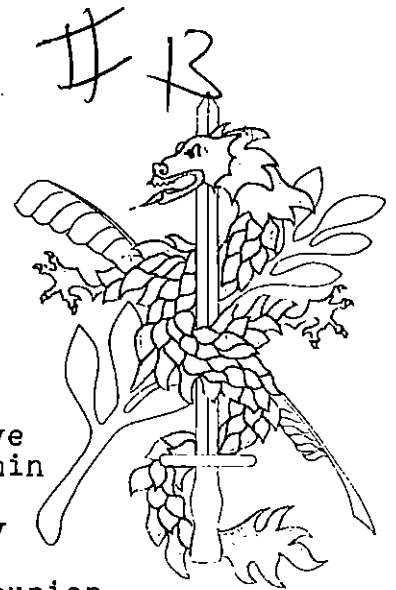
Post Office Box 40, Circleville, WV 26804

Hope everyone is enjoying a nice autumn. There have been many developments since last SITREP, both within this association and in external matters which we have a direct interest in. Some are merely worthy of note, others demand our, and your, attention, thought and response. Recruitment, locator, and reunion efforts are continuing apace, and with admirable results. So, with considerable information to ponder and digest, put on a pot of coffee, light 'em if you got 'em if you smoke 'em and read on....

First order of business is extending condolences to Frank Brown, whose wife passed away following post-operative complications to deal with an aneurysm. Words cannot change what Fate deals out, but can assure that a member does not bear grief alone. Chúng Tôi chia buồn.

Changing of the Guard Grant McClure has assumed position of CO, pro tempore, pending formal nominations and elections for officer positions at the '92 reunion. This came about at the urging of Paul Brubaker and Bill Laurie, and after discussions with several other members. No nominations for this office were forthcoming at Houston Reunion, and we need someone who has time and ability to grab bull by the horns. Grant did two tours in Việt Nam, speaks Việt Nameese and Rhade, and, as all who met him in Houston can testify, is an ideal candidate. Grant's letter of acceptance follows on page 2. This position involves no small amount of work, and it behooves our membership to support Grant in every way. And, to complicate matters, our Adjutant, Paul Brubaker, will be submitting his resignation at the Louisville Reunion, regretably submitting to occupational/educational restraints on available time. Thus, we'll need someone to fill Paul's shoes, so put on your thinking caps, nominating someone else or oneself. Paul will be glad to advise his successor, providing guidance on the multi-faceted requirements of this vital position. These, and other issues, will be addressed in Louisville. Many thanks to Paul for his sterling effort, without which we would not have progressed as far as we have, and to Grant for assuming responsibilities of CO position.

AMERASIAN MATTERS The majority of our members have expressed an interest in doing something, yet there has been no clear articulation of what it is we should do, how it should be done, or an enabling consensus, i.e. majority vote, permitting any actions decided upon. Lacking grass/rice roots mandate, your de facto leaders have decided upon an approach which will not involve association funds, but which will permit COUNTERPARTS, in conjunction with CUVA (Assn. of USMC CAP Units) to sponsor an Amerasian child, via voluntary contribution from individual members. This obviates questions



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Tương Hữu Đồng Nam Á

# Counterparts

Post Office Box 40, Circleville, WV 26804

Ngày 1 Tháng 10 Nam 1991

Thưa Tương Hữu và Chiến Hữu (mutual friends and comrades in arms),

Subsequent to our last reunion in Houston, Texas, I was quite content to step forward and participate at a higher level in the organization by taking on the XO responsibilities. For similar reasons, I am now motivated to gravitate further in my willingness to contribute to the effort by serving as the CO (pro tem) until the next reunion in Louisville where we can all then collectively deliberate on the matter and formality of selecting our officers in conjunction with setting forth our short term and long term organizational objectives.

Having been somewhat in the background, I was becoming somewhat concerned that Counterparts might begin to lose its momentum without the appropriate officers and/or committees to maintain its balance and direction. Awesome responsibilities have thus far rested upon a few individuals. Having a sense of purpose is what Counterparts is all about and gives us all the wonderful opportunity to be 'advisors' to our own organization. If you cannot make it to the entire reunion, please make it a point to try an attend the business session on Saturday. Your input and involvement are vital to our growth and to our purpose.

Counterparts is a fraternity with a unique perspective in that it is comprised of a membership that encompasses a critical period of over two decades of history in Southeast Asia which involved an interesting cross-section of individuals from a wide variety of military and civilian roles. It is through Counterparts that we can continue to serve together with the same level of zeal and cross cultural cooperation that cast us together before. Let's make the reunion, at Tet, a time for all advisory teams to report in and be accounted. Let it be a pilgrimage in which we re-embrace our comrades and give tribute to those who have sacrificed.

Steve Herbearth has done a stellar job in arranging the facilities and events of our reunion. At this juncture, we are pulling together our agenda items and selecting a keynote speaker. An update of this activity will be presented in an upcoming issue of the Sitrep.

With my 'Tương Hữu' I am in my element and I am very proud to be among you. Chào tạm biệt. In Rhade, "Dôk Bi Jăk Bě"....Stay Well!

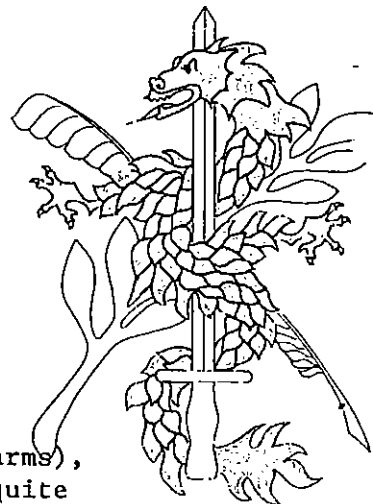
Kính Thu',



Grant A. McClure

CO (pro tempore)

Chỉ Huy Trưởng Tạm Thời



need for formal majority approval, yet does set program in motion and initiates the critical first step. Here's the procedure: all members, of both Counterparts and CUVA, are asked to send in \$25.00, which will in turn be deposited to respective organizational accounts until a total of \$300.00 is obtained, at which point it will be sent to the Pearl Buck Foundation with express wish of sponsoring education, to include food/clothing, of an Amerasian in Viet Nam. We have no other vehicle for achieving this end, and Pearl Buck Foundation has an admirable record in securing educational and subsistence opportunities for Amerasians, in-country. After first year 'tuition' is sent, we have another year to obtain the next \$300.00, again from individual contributions. Every effort will be made to appoint a 'liason officer' to correspond with our sponsored child, relaying all to memberships of both associations. Tom Harvey, member and Liason with CUVA, has been at work, and initial efforts indicate \$150.00, at least, will be forthcoming as soon as we kick this off. All members are strongly encouraged to submit \$25.00, specifically for the Amerasian Project, to Paul, at earliest convenience. All contributions will be carried as a separate deposit item, and sent when our total equals \$300.00. Yes, your leadership has exercised administrative license in initiating this proposal without benefit of majority vote, yet this was undertaken because we want to do something beyond telling ourselves what great guys we were and are, and because of an absence of anything approaching majority approval on a formal basis. So, we're off and running and doing something worth doing. No member will see his/her dues diluted for a project he/she does not support, yet we'll be doing something that needs to be done. Member feedback more than welcome. Preliminary opinion survey, such as it's been, suggests first \$300.00 installment will be sent by December, and if half our membership kicks in, we'll have it funded for about four years.

LOCATOR: J.C. Fischer has been hard at work, and allotted some funds which have covered some of his expenses in trying to locate individuals sought, primarily US native born advisors to host country counterparts, while establishing links with other former advisors whose locator notices have been printed in various publications. Some organizations charge a small fee for forwarding blind drop letters, and general postage consumes additional piastres. In process of all this, J.C. has compiled an impressive foundation for our historical efforts, and may well have begun the definitive organizational histories of various Advisory Teams and contingents. All data/info compiled in printed form and on computer disk. Please remember to help J.C. all you can (he's at 100 Red Oak Circle; Temple, Texas; 76502-3503), sending any data on your advisory team or element, and acting as his eyes and ears on locating those sought by former counterparts. We owe J.C. a debt of thanks for his prodigious effort and dedication. Keep in mind J.C. is primarily looking for native-born US counterparts sought by host-country friends, while Quách Hũyhn (Martin) Hà is helping us find host-country friends, via Việt Nameese publications and through other friends in Southeast Asian community, and has accomplished what has been an elusive goal, the actual reuniting of two counterparts, whose locations were unknown, let alone whether either has survived this long. Martin placed a notice in newspaper for the Đà Lạt Military Academy, citing those of us in search of specific individuals. Your editor, Bill Laurie,

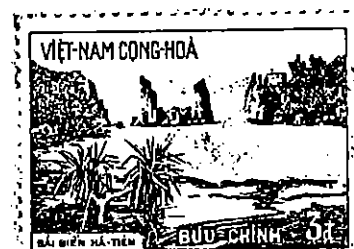
shortly after received phone calls from two individuals not seen since early 1975, just before the wretched end. VNCH TQLC (RVN Marine) Kien Phat called from San Jose, where he's resided since arriving Stateside in 1989, following three years in a Thai refugee camp and a hazardous trek across Cambodia, on foot. I never, in 16 years of painful uncertainty, expected to see or hear from Phat again, and there he was on the phone, having survived and endured a nightmare. He'll be coming to visit this weekend. You can all readily imagine what this represents. Two days later, LTC LÊ Nguyễn Bình called, having also escaped via the open seas. LTC Binh and I talked for some time, with both of us excoriating Sheehan's BRIGHT SHINING LIE. LTC Binh has greater reason than many of us for having disdain if not contempt for BS LIE, as Sheehan interviewed him regarding LTC Binh's having served as G-2, 7th ARVN Div./SD 7 QLVNCH, and thence exercising considerable license in 'interpreting' developments. Simply put, LTC Binh said that many of Sheehan's observations were 'not true'.

With luck, this will only be the first of many reconnections, which are bitter sweet in the extreme. Though Phat survived, his Father died in forced labor camps, and the trans-Cambodian trek came at the price of several comrades who died en route. My greatest personal thanks to Quách Huyhn (Martin) Hà and Mr. Phạm Đình Thừa, editor of Đa Hiệu, for printing our search list, and making this possible. Cảm ơn vạn bội. LTC Binh expressed wish to locate one of his counterparts, Col. James Drummond. Info sent to J.C., and members are asked to check local phone books.

Oops, almost forgot....J.C. will send, free, to any member sending a SASE, a 3" x 12" 'Served with Pride Việt Nam' bumper sticker, the color layout of which resembles the Viet Nam Service Ribbon. Thx again J.C.

Final Locator item: Naval members asked if they recall VNCH HQ (RVN Navy) Lt. Nguyễn Như Vũ, formerly of 33rd Coastal Division. Lt. Vũ, following his post-1975 prison time, remains in Việt Nam and would like to contact former counterparts. Contact him at 1 Nguyễn Thị Minh Khai; Thị xã Hội An; Tỉnh Quảng Nam; Đà Nẵng; Việt Nam. Info sent to J.C., and members encouraged to scout around.

Counterparts quote: (On decision to extend tour) 'I became convinced I had to stay. Going home was not the answer. In the end, after the options were considered in depth, I discovered there was no other choice for me--there never had been. The fact that staying longer could bring my life to an early end was not even considered--which probably explained better than anything else the intensity of my feelings.' Then-Capt. John Cook, as recounted in his book THE ADVISOR.



VIET NAM COMMUNITY Quách Huyhn(Martin) Hà has done an outstanding job, opening up contacts with the Đà Lạt Military Academy Alumni Association, the International Committee for a Free Viet Nam, and in the Việt Nameese community at large. COUNTERPARTS has been invited to send representatives to the Đà Lạt Alumni Reunion(Houston, May '92) and to provide a speaker who will elaborate on our organizational objectives while including insightful commentary on 'Desert Storm'. Martin and Stu Beckley answered in the affirmative; more information provided as it becomes available.

In addition, contact was made with Dr. Le Nghia(Ph D., chemistry) of the International Committee for a Free Viet Nam. Stu and Martin met with Dr. Nghia, who provided us with descriptive literature and a list of committee representatives in US, Australia and Europe. The Committee espouses nothing beyond establishment of human and civil rights in Southeast Asia, expressly and unequivocally avoiding any position on economic/diplomatic matters or other bi-lateral concerns any other country may wish to pursue with Hà Nội. Members include native-born Europeans, Americans, Australians, Southeast Asians, with latter including Hmong, Cambodian and Việt Nameese contingents. Nature of any future combined efforts is under discussion, though several Committee members qualify for COUNTERPARTS membership and have been invited to join. CO Grant McClure will be meeting with Dr. Nghia in D.C. for further talks.

Both the Đà Lạt Alumni Association and the ICFVN have members and contacts throughout the world, and mutual benefit from these introductions is very welcome. Members owe debt of thanks to Martin for his dedication and initiative. Cảm ơn Vạn bội Martin.

Martin also included this clipping, which was carried in a Việt Nameese newspaper. Gen. Ngo Quang Trường had written Gen. Norman Swarzkoph, wishing him well during 'Desert Storm', receiving this letter in response. Both served together with QLVNCH ND(Airborne), with mutual respect and to their mutual benefit. Efforts underway to contact Gens. Trường and Swarzkoph, advising them of this association and inviting their membership.

Looking northwesterly, along Vàm Cỏ Đông River, towards Núi Bà Đen, from Đức Huệ District Town, Hậu Nghĩa Province



COMMANDER IN CHIEF  
UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND  
OPERATION DESERT STORM, APO NEW YORK 91251

26 February 1991

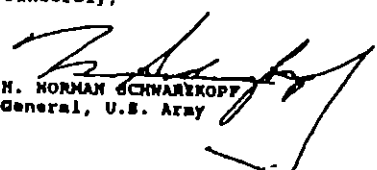
Dear General Trường,

Thank you for your note. It makes me very proud that you are proud of me because you are one of my greatest teachers. Many of the strategies that I use everyday on this battlefield in the Middle East are things that you taught me so well 25 years ago when we were comrades at arms in Vietnam.

It has always brought joy to me to know that you were able to escape to the United States, even though to this day one of the darkest days of my life was when your great country was overrun by the enemies from the north. Nevertheless, some of the proudest memories of my entire Army career have been, and always will be, those days when you and I fought side by side for the cause of Freedom.

I hope that when this war is over we will have the opportunity to see each other some time.

Sincerely,

  
N. NORMAN SWARZKOPF  
General, U.S. Army

General Ngo Q. Trường  
Airborne Division (ARVN)

Further contacts developed via members Ray Battreall and Ken Lord, both of whom introduced us to the Việt Nameese Armor Association and principals Đại Tá (Col.) Han Phong Cao and Đại Tá Ha Mai Viet. Assn. members expected to attend Louisville Reunion.

Thanks to member John Del Vecchio for sending this item, and equal thanks to Mr. Bach Trinh for expressing these thoughts.

Column was carried in the 'Ripcord Report', a newsletter for friends and survivors of FSB Ripcord, a worthwhile and interesting publication. Subscriptions are free, though simple courtesy dictates nominal contribution. Info: Chuck Hawkins, Editor, Ripcord Report, 11614 Belmont Dr.; Oakton, Virginia; 22124. If nothing else, thanks are due for their reprinting this column.

*Bach Trinh*  
**Honoring Other  
 Soldiers**

SATURDAY, JUNE 8, 1991

THE WASHINGTON POST

Today heroic American soldiers will march in Washington as part of the splendid welcome home they are receiving nationwide. For many of us, however, this is also a day to remember equally heroic American soldiers who fought in another war—Vietnam.

Although they had to encounter a different political situation and a different type of warfare, the Americans who fought in Vietnam were no less valiant than those who fought in the Persian Gulf. Those who opposed the war in this country, however, used many different tactics to win their cause. One of these was the demearing of the image of the U.S. troops in Vietnam. Another was the creation of a false impression of widespread anti-American sentiment there.

The truth is that after the war, Eastern Europeans and Russians who went to South Vietnam often found that the only

way to be treated decently by local residents was to pretend that that were Americans. To South Vietnamese and Vietnamese Americans alike, American soldiers were our defenders and heroes.

Victory in the gulf war has restored America's pride and confidence. This is all the more reason to review the psychological and emotional impact left over from the Vietnam War. Through the defeat and victory of these wars, we learned much about propaganda and the credibility of governments that exercise it.

The once-victorious Communist government of Vietnam is now desperately begging for diplomatic relations and dollars from those it formerly called a treacherous enemy. This diplomatic development seems inevitable and will actually benefit both countries. But it still needs more time and consideration. Americans should be skeptical about the motives and actions of the Vietnamese government. We should use this situation to do all we can for the establishment of democracy and basic human rights in Vietnam. That will be the final honor and a true victory for the Americans who fought and died there.

*The writer, an artist who lives in Northern Virginia, emigrated from Vietnam in 1975.*

DEGA Mike Little is definitely shooting a 100 OER in position as our Liason Officer w/Dega Association and Highlands Assistance Group, sending in HAG annual report, and other materials of interest. Summary of 1991 HAG trip report: 127 boxes of medical supplies and textbooks shipped, all of which is targeted for Dega hospitals and leprosariums. Considerable assistance provided by both Buddhist and Catholic charity groups in Saigon, and Dr.s Tran Huu Ngoan and Nguyen Thi Ngoc Phuong, Director of OB/GYN hospital in Saigon. Immediate goals are to raise \$16,000.00 for a Highlander Health Education Training Program, supplies for provincial hospital in Đắk Lắk (AKA Đar Lăc), as well as for orthopedic surgery for a Dega patient paralyzed by a treatable spinal disorder. Health training program will include 40 Dega nurse trainees in the first class which, with luck and hard work, will serve as a model for subsequent instruction. Cooperation from in-country 'civilian' and religious groups sadly contrasted with suspicion, distrust and resultant obstacles posed by government agencies which, in worst cases, see all of this as a veiled FULRO/CIA venture. Worse, diesel generators have been expropriated by government for own use, after having been donated for hospitals/leprosariums. All in all, HAG is deserving of our support and members are encouraged to send spare change. For more info write Mike at 3421 Eden Dr.; Santa Clara, California; 95051.

DEGA(cont.) Mike also forward a 20 pp. trip report written by Dutch anthropologist Oscar Salemink, describing his March-June 1991 travels and research in Việt Nam and direct contact with Dega people in Lâm Đông, Kontum, and other areas of the Highlands. Report contents are somewhat saddening, describing incipient cultural dissolution of a traditional people by a modern(sic)(?) world, in this instance with blend of 'scientific socialism'. Simply put, the Dega are encouraged to live in reservations, abandoning age old swidden agriculture, along with other customs in order to enter the modern(?) world. Ethnic language training is essentially absent from schools, where pupils are encouraged to become literate in Việt Namese. Worse, in areas on fringe of urbanization, Dega youth are becoming attracted to what some might term mindless frivolity which passes for 'entertainment' in our enlightened day and age: video games, etc. Money is also involved, as provincial party would-be lumber barons are engaged in the distinctly capitalistic practice of logging, and it is a safe bet the proceeds are not forwarded local charity groups. Times change, and people have to change with them, one supposes, but it's a bit nauseating to see yet another traditional culture trashed under the guise of 'progress'(and profit). Mike has graciously offered a copy of this report to any member requesting same.

Another DEGA contact made with the MONTAGNARD FOUNDATION(P.O. Box 17064; Spartanburg, South Carolina; 29301) whose President, Mr. Kok Ksor, sent a very nice letter and 8 pp. summary of Dega struggles for equality and autonomy. Of immediate interest is description of current Hà Nội policies and practices, which have resulted in imprisonment or execution of Dega leaders, confiscation of personal property, imposition of forced labor, elimination of educational opportunities and ethnic language instructional texts, deterioration of previous public health system, imposition of legal system alien to Dega traditions and cultural laws, and destruction of Highland ecosystem with concurrent displacement of established Dega villages. Copies of report available for \$5.00 to cover Foundation costs(Mr. Ksor made no mention of a price, but it's only fair to contribute something). Mr. Ksor concluded his letter by stating 'I know that I don't have anything to give you back in return for what you will be able to do to help the Montagnard people. But I do pray that the Almighty God will richly bless you in every aspect of your daily life and protect you under his care.' Our response to Mr. Ksor was that the DEGA people have already given more than can be repaid, and that God has already blessed many COUNTERPART members with the opportunity to know and serve with the Dega people, and that is blessing enough. Any members receiving a report are encouraged to let their elected officials know of its contents.

'The effect of liberty to individuals is that they may do as they please; we ought to see what it will please them to do before we risk congratulations.' -Edmund Burke



HMONG Contact established with David Mandt of the Hmong American Veterans Alliance of St. Paul. Dave, a Việt Nam Veteran, described objectives/purposes of the Alliance, and associated programs to provide legal advice and assistance to Hmong newcomers who have little understanding of legal intricacies of our society(it's bad enough for native-born Americans). In addition, mention was made of H.R. 3552, objective of which is to expedite citizenship procedures for Hmong and Lao who served in US-funded 'secret army' which battled Hà Nội's legions in eastern and northeastern Laos. Introduced by Rep. Bruce Vento and co-sponsored by Rep.s Gilman, Ritter and Sikorski, the bill now needs additional sponsors and support, and is worthy of our consideration, and that of our elected representatives. Info packet and press release available from your editor(Bill Laurie, 1462 W. University; Mesa, Arizona; 85201). Please send SASE. Hmong people served valiantly on the Plain of Jars and other lethal battlefields, under direct employ of US Govt., and have paid an incredible cost in lives and sorrow. They are entitled to considerations within this proposed legislation, which could encounter resistance from those who are ill-informed(i.e., most people) or those who harbor deep engrained prejudice against our counterparts and allies. Only takes a few minutes to write, and involves less pain and expense than Hmong people have endured. Write your representative.

From SF Assn. publication, the 'Drop': Phua Xiong, a young Hmong girl, arrived in US at age of six, and was thence caught in squeeze between traditional Hmong-women-stay-at-home cultural edicts and fast pace of US 'culture'. Skillfully navigating these waters, she has since become the first Philadelphia area Hmong to graduate from college, and is now off to medical school. Gutsy kid, good show.

Book: HMONG IN TRANSITION 450 pp. study w/25 papers addressing Hmong history, social structure, linguistics, health issues, etc. \$19.50 plus \$3.00 p/h from: Center for Migration Studies, 209 FLAGG Place; Staten Island, New York; 10304-1148. Ph.: 718 351-8800.

Undated/unsourced article on Hmong school children, from unk. Wisconsin publication: 'Wisconsin Policy Research Institute report indicated problems as Hmong had so little understanding of modern economy and American ways, citing problems of unemployment, reliance on welfare, etc. But nobody apparently told this to Hmong children. Their grade scores are usually 40% higher than most native-born students. Almost no one drops out. High school graduation rates close to 100%, with high percentage going on to further schooling. This is an amazing story in the making, the national myth of an immigrant success acted out by new players at blinding speed. Send us more Hmong!'

Forced Repatriation of Hmong from Thai camps: 'The Case of Hmong in Ban Vinai', an occasional paper, series No. 2, from Indochinese Refugee Information Center(IRIC); Institute of Asian Studies; Chulalongkorn University; Phayathai Rd.; Bangkok, 10330; Thailand. 46 pp., \$7.00 bank draft only(airmail). Study revolving around interview of 47 Hmong refugees, none of whom would return to Laos, voluntarily, until 'communist government is ousted and replaced by a friendly government, similar to that existing before 1975.' Political repression rather than economic conditions were primary reasons given, with 'acts of harassment perpetuated by the Hà Nội



and Lao governments cited by refugees ranging from taking of land and produce to arbitrary arrests and even killings.' Author concludes that Hmong people would accept resettlement in a 'special internationally supervised zone' safe from attack by the Lao government, adding that anything short of this, including written guarantees from the United Nations High Commission on Refugees (UNHCR) and Lao government, will be inadequate to convince Hmong of any realistic prospects of safe return. Once again, we find an unpleasant situation well documented yet escaping attention of Peter, Dan, and other news media savants. Members would do well to obtain copy of this study, making contents known to elected representatives.

HMONG PETITION The Air Commando Association is circulating a petition requesting enforcement of the 1973 Paris Accords (remember those?) and attendant attention of urgent needs of Lao people presently residing in Thai refugee camps, 2) prevention of forced repatriation resulting in suffering or death, 3) increase of Lao immigration quotas to allow more political refugees to resettle in US, 4) insist upon UN investigation of Human Rights violations in Lao camps, and 5) request Lao opportunity to testify before the House Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs (chaired by Rep. Steven J. Solarz (D-N.Y.) regarding present conditions imposed on Lao and Hmong people. Copies of petition available from: A.C.A.; Attn.: Heine; 25 Miracle Strip Parkway, S.E.; Ft. Walton Beach, Florida; 32548. World spot light needs to be pointed at this matter, and no one else shows any inclination of doing so, hence it behooves our members to pitch in, once again.

For benefit of new members and old members who may have forgotten, an excellent free newsletter is available, quarterly, providing otherwise unpublished info on SE Asian refugee matters, both overseas and stateside: Southeast Asian Refugee Studies Newsletter; Southeast Asian Refugees Studies Project; University of Minnesota; 330 Humbert H. Humphrey Center; 301 19th Avenue South; Minneapolis, Minnesota; 55455. Contains summaries of other publications, and sells various studies ranging from Hmong language texts, surveys of SE Asian refugee youth, etc. Very informative and useful.

FLASH JUST-IN LOCATOR INFO Former QLVNCH TQLC (RVN Marine) Đại Úy (Capt.) Trần Văn Loan, of 2nd Marine Bn. (AKA Trâu Điền or 'Mad Water Buffalos') is looking for former comrades USMC Capts. Donovan, Carlock and Smith with whom he served in the '72 counterattack and successful recapture of Quảng Trị City. . . . . Trương Tá (LTC) Lê Nguyễn Hoàng wants to make contact with then Capt. Fred Johnston (630 Signal Bn., '67-'68), Capt. John Meyer (later Major) (630 Sig. Bn., '69), and WO Don Arnold (25th Inf. Div./QLVNCH, '74). Info forwarded immediately to J.C. but check your phone books and other contacts and pass any action items to J.C. ASAP. And... Michael Marks, Editor of MILITARY MAGAZINE, has offered to carry our US counterpart search requests in their 'Messages' (locator column). In discussing this matter, Mike said they would welcome stories and photos from counterparts relating experiences in SE Asia.

Here's an open invitation to both tell your story while gaining some favorable publicity. MILITARY is a fine monthly publication reasonably priced at \$14.00/year. Address: 2122 28th St.; Sacramento, California; 95818-1999. Their stated objective is 'to be a beacon of information to veterans, historians, collectors of books and militaria, and those who truly appreciate what our

military forces did for us.' They do a good job of living up to this, and a subscription will put some useful reading material in your mail box. So, if nothing else, ask for sample issue which they'll be glad to send, check it out, and accept their invitation to print your story, your experiences, and your recollections from VN and SE Asia. All photos duplicated by non-chemical process and are returned undamaged (although it'd be smart to have dups made to avoid loss in mail). Here's a ball, run with it.

(one of these days we'll get a word processor and will be able to insert late info in proper order)

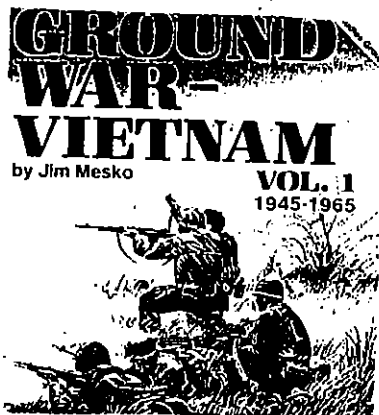
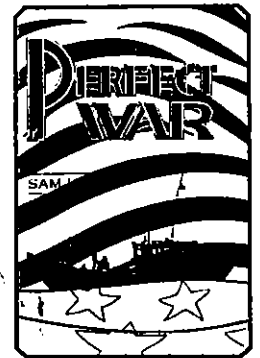
#### LITERATURE/CURRENT PUBLICATIONS



WILL THE SUN RISE TOMORROW by James Hunter Smith, C6 Ván to QLVNCH 35th and 43rd Rgr. Bns. (BĐQ) covers early years of American involvement and three advisors three C6 Váns in Phú Hòa Đông village, 1964. Described on book jacket as 'throwing the early days of the war into perspective and giving fresh viewpoints on the Việt Nameese Army and the people themselves. The Việt Nam was was not as simplistic as it is often presented, and this book contributes to a fuller understanding....' The author's forward states the advisor 'got to know (his counterpart's) families, their women and their rice wine. ..He knew the loss of close friends, both American and Việt Nameese. He stood silently by the wailing widows of those proud

young Việt Nameese men who did not return with their units.' Sounds like a decent read. 132 pp., w/bw photos, from Sun Rise Novel; Box 229; Culver, Indiana; 46511. \$14.95 plus \$2.00 postage (and 75¢ for Indiana sales tax for Indiana orders).

THE PERFECT WAR, By Sam Lee. Story of naval riverine advisor, circa 1970-1971 in lower Delta, and Naval LT. serving as C6 Ván to VN gunboat group, working on interdiction of VC/NVA supplies filtering in from Cambodia into 'obscure confines of U Minh Forest!! US C6 Ván ultimately undergoes his own personal 'Việt Namization'. \$15.95, plus \$1.43 (yes one-four-three) postage and \$1.12 Texas sales tax for Texas orders, from: Chengalera Press; P.O. Box 688; Georgetown, Texas; 78627-9824. Delta Naval C6 Váns should enjoy this one as it may be only VN book, in \* English, mentioning Kinh Vinh Te and the 'Three Sisters'.



GROUND WAR, VIET NAM Vol. 1, 1945-1965, by Jim Mesko. Decent, brief (64 pp.) overview of period, warts and all, with frequent mention of US advisory presence and mission. Many b/w photos. First half of book covers '45-'54. Airborne and Marines cited as proficient, other QLVNCH divisions, in early years, as inconsistent. Squadron Signal Books; 1115 Crowley Drive; Carrollton, Texas 75011-5010. \$9.95 off book store shelf, publisher p/h, tax unk.

\*Author Sam Lee a new member. 'King Vinh Te and 'Three Sisters' also in Member Frank Brown's ADVISOR DIARY.

ĐẠI UY, By Steve Adolph. Novel based on four SEA tours, including duty as A Tm. CO. No info/reviews available. \$9.95, pp., from Philips Publications; Box 168; Williamstown, New Jersey; 08094.

VALLEY OF THE SHADOW, by Capt. Ed Y. Hall. '66-'67 tour in III Corps and infamous Rung Sat w/adv. tm. Not read; review not available. Advertisement (in 'Military') quotes Gen. Wm. C. Westmoreland on book: '...a balanced view of the Viet Nam War advisory effort.' \$6.00, pp., from Honoribus Press; P.O. Box 4872; Spartanburg, South Carolina; 29305. 270 pp., 65 photos/illus. Author Hall is a new member, welcome on board Ed, and thanks for putting your experiences down on paper for all to read.

History of Laotian war being researched by Kenneth Conroy of Heritage Foundation under auspices of Jim Morrison. Any MAAG Laos advisors or others involved invited to contribute. Call 405.691-5103.

US & VN 1787-1941. Traces earliest US perceptions of VN, beginning in 1787 with Thomas Jefferson's unsuccessful attempt to import rice from VN and subsequent vacillations of peripheral interest until fates of two countries converged as tensions grew between US and Japan as latter expanded its 'co-prosperity sphere'. 324 pp. Stock # 008-020-01213. \$10.00, from Dept. 36-JL, Superintendent of Documents; Washington, D.C.; 20402. VISA/Mastercard orders: 202 783-3238.

#### Periodicals-

ARTS OF ASIA, May-June '91. Article 'VN Ceramics: Introduction to Ly and Trần Monochromes' by John Stevenson. Compares period ceramics, from 1009 to 1400 AD, with contemporary Chinese ceramics, showing similarities as well as features distinct to VN art. 6pp color photos. Back issues, @ \$7.95, plus \$2.00 currency exchange charge, plus \$2.00 surface post, or \$6.00 airmail, from: Arts of Asia; 1309 Kowloon Centre; 29-39 Ashley Rd.; Kowloon, Hong Kong.

ARTS OF ASIA, July-Aug 91. Article 'Legacies of the Lanna Thai Kingdoms', by Victor Dove. 12 pp article covering 6th-13th centuries of Thai architecture and art, with color and b/w photos of wats in Chiang Rai, Lamphun, maps of Chiang Mai, interior photos of several temples, Wat Doi Suthep w/dragon staircase, etc. Back issues available as described above.

#### Archival---

'Leatherneck' magazine, July, 1963. Article 'Dateline, Đà Nẵng' depicts USMC UH-34 flight crews flying supply runs and medivacs for QLVNCH forces, primarily for Biệt Động Quân (Rgr.) and Montagnard outposts.

'National Geographic', Oct. '88. Article 'Hmong in America' has numerous photos of Hmong in California, Wisconsin, North Carolina, as they encounter difficulties and/or encounter success in adapting to US life. Thoughtful, well written. Has photo of deceased Hmong headstone reading 'Xay Pao Vang/worked with US Army and CIA, 1962-1975. Photo xeroxed from article on reverse.

'Too many people think they are thinking when all they are doing is rearranging their prejudices.' -William James

'If you believe everything you read, you better not read.'  
-Japanese proverb

SON OF 'COUNTERPARTS' MAKES GOOD, AGAIN.....

Spring edition (No. 11) of SITREP, noted achievements of 'Saigon' Skipper Kelp who won his fourth professional fight. He's still at it, recently scoring a 4th round TKO for his ninth consecutive KO, against no losses. Skipper is expected to be ranked soon, and is following in the footsteps of his Việt Nameese grandfather who reportedly killed a tiger with a spear. Skipper's Mother and Father married during the latter's service in VN in the 1960s.

COUNTERPART QUOTES: 'Somehow, getting home just didn't seem that important anymore. What happened to me had happened to many American advisors before me. As the months of close and continuous contact with the Việt

Nameese passed, the advisor was constantly in an atmosphere of daily physical danger, shared hardships, and repeated exposure to emotion-charged events. In time, many of us found ourselves undergoing an irresistible tendency to identify with our counterparts. We even came to regard their districts and villages as our own, and to resent the Việt Cộng interlopers just as much as if they were threatening our own wives and children.... This process was a subtle one-one that I realized was under way only after it had already run its logical course and I had volunteered to remain in Đức Hệt rather than return to the States. Stuart Herrington, in SILENCE WAS A WEAPON, p. 65. and..

'The strategy of enclaves, while allowing the U.S. troops to 'stay low-key' and avoid casualties would, on the other hand, eliminate one big mistake made by the U.S. Command in Việt Nam. That mistake consisted of letting the U.S. troops assume the major burden in the war and relegating the Việt Nameese Army to a secondary role of pacification and static defense. .... In short, the Việt Nam war should have been fought by Việt Nameese boys, and I am confident that, with adequate logistical and fire support, they could have done the job. The defeat of North Việt Nameese divisions in Quảng Trị, Kontum, and An Lộc in 1972 amply demonstrated that simple face.' Gen. Lam Quang Thi in AUTOPSY, THE DEATH OF SOUTH VIET NAM(pp.87-88), Sphinx Publishing, Phoenix, Arizona, 1986.

Great Moments in Western Civilization, #372: The Sacramento Public Works Dept., in deference to 'politicaly correct' thought, initiated efforts to purge official lexicon of all sexist terms. Suggested replacement for 'manhole': 'person-access chamber'. Another milestone in Maakia Personkind's(oops) inexorable date with destiny.



SMILES OF SUCCESS light Eagle Scouts' faces in all-Hmong Minneapolis Troop 100. Praised as a powerhouse of team spirit and enthusiasm, they bring pride to parents and symbolize hope and achievement to the Hmong community.

POW/MIA Issues: Tough to follow the bouncing ball, looking through smoke and mirrors, as negotiations continue. Many photos recently surfacing now proven to be frauds, extinguishing hopes, again. POW/MIA office to have been established in Hà Nội now revealed to be temporary. Despite public statements expressing willingness to resolve matters, Hà Nội has very recently urged US not to link process of normalizing diplomatic relations with either issues of missing Americans or pace of developments in Cambodia. Huh? But you said..... Rep. Frank McCloskey(D-Ind) returns from SE Asia saying breakthrough may be possible in case of Donald Carr, US SF Capt. lost in Laos 20 years ago. Photo of Carr recently made public, and purportedly show him in Laos, now, bears remarkable resemblance, and has yet to be proven as a fraud. The National Việt Nam Veterans' Coalition, an umbrella group channeling efforts of many Việt Nam Veterans associations, is in the forefront of battle to resolve this issue, and in recommending passage of Senate Bill 82 to attain these ends. As a member organization, Counterparts lends support to the NVVC toward this objective. Unfortunately, closing chapter on POW/MIA issues seems as remote as ever. Members might also be interested recent POW/MIA articles in 'Soldier of Fortune' magazine. 'Rambo' reputation notwithstanding-as viewed by some-two recent editions contain well researched stories regarding POW/MIAs. The October issue's 'Anatomy of a POW/MIA Scam', by Chuch Fremont throws high hard ones at unfounded beliefs passed on as gospel truth, and IDs a few ill-regarded hucksters whose occupation appears to be nothing more than recirculating and embellishing POW/MIA rumors. November issue has very well written commentary by Gerard Calla, which also takes some swipes at flakes and conventional mythology. In addition, Calla utters what has been, to date, an unspeakable truth(if true): If more POWs are not alive, then someone is guilty of War Crimes, and that someone has predilection for flags with hammers and sickles. Both articles vastly superior to recycled and homogenized conventional news media reports. Back issues available from: SOF Magazine; P.O. Box 693; Boulder, Colorado; 80306. SDT/phone/landline: 303 449-3750.

MEMBERS IN MEMORIAM, new submissions:

SSGT. Richard Allan Fitts,  
USA SF  
Maj. Joseph William Burkett  
USA, Adv. Tm. 81  
LTJG Philip Owen Robinson  
Naval Adv. Tm., Quảng Ngãi  
Trung Tá Rcom Ploi  
QLVNCH, Dega Forces  
Thiếu Tá Rmah Crai  
QLVNCH, Dega Forces  
Thiếu Tá Rmah Jok  
QLVNCH, Dega Forces  
Thiếu Tá Nay Phun  
QLVNCH, Dega Forces  
Thiếu Tá Nay Kueo  
QLVNCH, Dega Forces  
Thiếu Tá Siu Ju  
QLVNCH, Dega Forces

Thiếu Tá Kpa Bang  
QLVNCH, Dega Forces  
Thiếu Tá Ksor Ju  
QLVNCH, Dega Forces  
Đại Úy Rmah Wih  
QLVNCH, Dega Forces  
Đại Úy Y-Trong  
QLVNCH, Dega Forces  
Đại Úy Y-Mut Hwing  
QLVNCH, Dega Forces

Note: Maj. Burkett's daughter, P.J., is in search of anyone who served with her father, just to talk about her Father, of whom she has only distant memories. J.C. hard at work on this one; all members encouraged to scout around.

Also, all honored Dega members cited above were KIA following 'end of the war in 1975'(media phrase #27).

Gandhi's Seven Deadly Sins: wealth without work, pleasure without conscience, knowledge without character, commerce without morality, science without humanity, worship without sacrifice, and politics without principle.

Member  
Tom Harvey  
and Friend,  
Việt Nam,  
1970.



HUMAN RIGHTS Abundance of problems in this area, with disturbing indications that things are getting worse rather than better.

Author Dương Thu Hương arrested in 1991 for having erroneous viewpoints expressed in her 1991 novel, TRIUMPHAL ARCH, in which she condemns the 'useless sacrifice of successive generations of young Việt Nameese in the name of ideological and political goals leading the country to economic, cultural and moral devastation.' Has made public appeals for Human Rights in Việt Nam, resulting in her dismissal from the Party and subsequent arrest and confinement. Admittedly, Mrs. Huong is not a 'Counterpart', yet her situation does not augur well for our comrades. More info: International Committee for Writers & Artists for Liberation of Duong Thu Huong; 25 Rue Jaffeux; 92230; Gennevilliers; France.

Poet/author To Thuy Yen, age 50 plus, arrested for writing anti-government poetry and making contact w/foreign groups 'hostile to government'. Arrest occurred during May 1990 crackdown on dissidents, still in effect. Mr. Yen's case undertaken by Amnesty International's 'Freedom Writer' contingent, through which supporters are asked to write letters requesting his release. Send SASE to your editor and you'll get yours.

Writer Doan Quốc Sỹ remains jailed, as does poet Nguyễn Chí Thiện (32 years in jail and counting), and Human Rights activist Dr. Nguyễn Đan Quế, and many others. One wonders what the 'progressive' Americans think of this or are doing about it? Any demonstrations in your AO? The simple fact of the matter is that far too few Americans are aware of this situation, and, worse yet, probably would not care if they did (Let's see what's on channel 12).

Prisoner camps- in 1988, former QLVNCH officers in Phú Khánh Prison Camp, Phú Yên Province, organized a memorial service on 30 April, during which the national anthem of the Republic of Viet Nam was openly sung. Eight were subsequently executed, while others were given extended 10 and 20 year prison terms. There is nothing unique about this situation and QLVNCH personnel, and counterparts, remain imprisoned, particularly TQLC (Marines), BĐQ ( Rangers) and Nhảy Dù (Airborne). As we go about our daily lives, our former counterparts are enduring heavy labor on meager rations, with no hope of being reunited with their wives and children. Release might be obtained through a 'confession' and vow of obeisance, and instead they sing the national anthem of the Republic of Việt Nam, well aware of the punishment such actions will bring. Again, no news coverage. As our contacts expand in the Việt Nameese community, we will providing further updates of this deplorable situation, while urging members to write many, many letters.

In view of this situation, two Viet Nam Veterans have written encouraging and compelling opinion articles in which Freedom and Democratic Rights of former comrades is deemed of high priority in future negotiations with Việt Nam. Sen. Bob Kerrey (D-Neb.) expressed his thoughts in 15 July 1991 edition of 'US News & World Report'. Kerrey noted, and quite correctly, 'They (Hà Nội) treat our allies as traitors. We ought to stand up for them. ...The freedom of the Việt Name people is still worth fighting for, and you don't have to go to war to do it.' Sen. Kerrey is CMH recipient and an influential member of the Senate. Write him, adding any instances of Human Rights violations you know of, and thank him for his efforts.

James H. Webb takes pen in hand, again, this time in Sept. '91 edition of VFW magazine, asking that US not abandon, once again, our allies still in Viet Nam, and that their political freedoms, and existing limitations thereupon, be made a negotiating point between in US and Hà Nội. Webb also notes that insult has been added to injury with Hà Nội's plowing under QLVNCH cemeteries. Copies of both articles available from your editor. Please send SASE.

On to Laotian matters..... Amnesty International reports some political prisoners have been released, though others remain imprisoned since initial arrests in 1975. In a Reuter news interview, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Soubanh Srithirath, confirmed detention of nine specific prisoners since 1975 but could not offer any reason for their continued detainment: 'I don't remember, but maybe there are some who have committed some crime or committed some illegal action, so we should keep them.' Now there's some 'revolutionary jurisprudence' in action, 'I don't remember why, but maybe.....'. Amnesty also reports that elderly status of some prisoners, along with poor health, has prompted detention camp authorities to demand 'that each prisoner deposit a sum of money sufficient to cover the costs of the disposal of their bodies should they die.' And, as part of the guaranteed employment act for prison guards, Lao authorities recently arrested a number of government officials, one of whom, Thongsouk Saysangkhi had the temerity to state his opposition to 'official malfeasance and putrid old regimes that restrict popular liberties and democracy.' Not content with this zinger, Saysangkhi went to decry the 'system of communist feudalism and Politburo dynasticism.' At last report, Mr. Saysangkhi has taken up residence at Xam Khi Prison, Vientiane.

Members are strongly encouraged to avail to primary sources of information pertaining to Human Rights Violations in SE Asia, among which is the excellent 'Indochina Journal', published thrice a year, for the mere sum of \$6.00. Write: Indochina Journal; P.O. Box 1163; Burlingame, California; 94011-1163.

Other sources:

Lawyer's Committee for Human Rights  
330 7th Ave., 10th Floor  
NY, NY 10001

Asia Watch  
1522 K. St., NW  
Suite 910  
Washington, D.C. 20005-1202

Amnesty International  
322 Eighth Avenue  
NY, NY 10001

Ask for publications  
catalogs, info on Viet  
Nam, Laos, Cambodia.

And if all above isn't enough....Hong Kong and Hà Nội, as of 4 October 1991, have reached an agreement by which VN refugees in Hong Kong will be compelled to return to Việt Nam, based on the argument that these estimated 59,000 people are 'economic refugees', and have not been or will not be subjected to political oppression if returned to VN against their wishes. While some may have fled for economic reasons, many Hong Kong refugees came from families with histories of opposition to communism, or who served with American forces or the QLVNCH, or who are otherwise damned for 'counter revolutionary activities'. Many were subjected to arrest, forced labor and torture, for these reasons, before leaving Việt Nam. To make matters worse, Hà Nội will receive \$1,000.00 for every person sent back(after they previously made a bundle forcing boat people to pay bribes to get out-see THE REFUSED, by Barry Wain, Simon & Schuster, 1981). Hong Kong authorities have hired one of world's largest advertising agencies, Satchi & Satchi to create an in-camp promotion campaign convincing camp inmates and refugees that things are just fine in Việt Nam and no one need fear retribution ever again. Refugee response ranges from threats of forceful resistance to suicides. The Lawyer's Committee for Human Rights, which has documented translated letters verifying denial of political refugee status(including a single petition from 25 Nung, forever stigmatized for collaborating with Americans) has cited Hong Kong and Malaysia treatment of boat people as 'among the worst handling of refugees' throughout the world, adding Malaysia's ongoing 'push them back to sea' policies have resulted in 'hundreds of deaths'. Initial attempts at forced repatriation were halted, in 1989, because of adverse world opinion, and similar outpouring of indignation is in order. Time to send letters:

President George Bush  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.  
Washington, D.C. 20500  
202 456-1414  
202 456-1111  
(Fax) 202 456-2461  
British Embassy  
202 462-1340(in D.C.)  
No D.C. address available

Mr. James Baker  
Secretary of State  
US State Department  
2201 C. St., NW  
Washington, D.C. 20520  
202 655-5000

Your Senators/Representatives

Hong Kong Travel Assn.  
310 208-4582(L.A. Office)

Also, the Indochina Human Rights Group has arranged with Wordlink North America to have prewritten protest letters faxed to: Congressional representatives(letter #1), President Bush(letter #2), Sadako Ogata, UN High Commissioner for Refugees(letter #3), and Hà Nội Prime Minister, Vo Van Kiet(letter #4). \$7.00/letter if billed to Visa/Mastercard, \$9.00/letter if billed to your address. Time is of the essence. Wordlink's number: 1-800-827-2830 or 1-800-827-2831. You may not have time/\$ to write/call everyone, but do something.

Letters addressing this matter, or others pertaining to Human Rights and POW/MIA issues may also be sent to:

Having successfully used public opinion as a strategic weapon in the past, Hà Nội is clearly aware of its significance and often pivotal role in world events. Sow the wind, reap the whirlwind.....

Ambassador Trinh Xuan Lang  
SRV Representative to the U.N.  
20 Waterside Plaza  
NY, NY 10010  
212 679-377



Another key individual is Representative Stephen J. Solarz, Chairman of House Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs; United States House of Representatives; Washington, D.C.; 20515. Rep. Solarz is well versed in SE Asian realities and appears committed to pursuit of Human Rights in formulation of US foreign policy. Hearings sponsored by his Subcommittee, regarding present SE Asian situation and US foreign policy objectives, specifically referring to normalization of diplomatic relations with Hà Nội, would serve as an excellent forum through which American public might learn of Human Rights violations in SE Asia, and spectrum of US options for mitigating same with existing and ample diplomatic leverage. Simply put, Hà Nội needs US (and US \$) more than US needs Hà Nội (excepting Citibank, AT & T, Mobil, Exxon, Texaco and other major companies in need of another 'profit center').

...and on the subject of normalized relations... A copy of the US State Dept.'s proposed 'road map' of sequential requirements contained in four phases, and leading to full diplomatic relations, has been reviewed. It admirably calls for full resolution of POW/MIA questions, and implementation of recently signed treaty to bring about an end to war in Cambodia, and free, democratic elections are held there. Significant in omission is any mention of existing discrimination against Dega and ethnic Cambodians in Việt Nam (the children of whom are now denied any formal schooling in their native languages), any mention of continuing imprisonment of writers, political dissidents, religious leaders in Việt Nam or Laos, any mention of restoration of civil rights to former members of the QLVNCH or closure of 're-education camps'/release of prisoners, any mention of Hmong refugees in Thailand and arrangement for their safe passage back to, and freedom from discrimination in, Laos.

All in all, a pretty feeble effort at diplomatic horse trading, without even paying lip service to a broad range of important issues. From all reports, State Dept. visualizes culmination of 'road map' process by no later than early 1993, and perhaps before.

This association acknowledges the two opposing schools of thought, i.e. enhancement of Human Rights via normalized relations vs. normalized relations as direct result of demonstrated substantive progress in dismantling what some call a rigid police state (and Cambodian/Laotian 'colonial empire'). Some members advocate one course, some advocate the other. No problem. Our major concern is making our opinions known, citing objective realities of SE Asia and making sure all cards are on the table. As an association, Counterparts takes no formal position beyond urging all members to write many letters as possible, keeping in mind the influence we might have in determining fate of comrades and counterparts still in SE Asia. It is perhaps unfair that those who have served must now shoulder another responsibility, admittedly far less arduous and hazardous, yet the great blob American public is too busy watching TV (and can't/won't read), so.....

..just received at this writing, on p. 10 of local newspaper: 'Hong Kong Boat People Tear-Gassed. Guards fired tear gas Saturday to prevent clash between about 400 stone-hurling Việt Nameese in the fourth incident of violence this week at Hong Kong's largest camp for boat people.' Article would lead ill-informed to assume REFUGEES throwing rocks at each other, and contained no mention of forced repatriation.

A shift to less disturbing yet nonetheless important subject...

1992 'Mother of All Reunions'

Steve and Jeanne Herberth have made great progress and 1992 event promises to be best ever. Hotel already signed up, speakers being contacted, side tours also on tap..

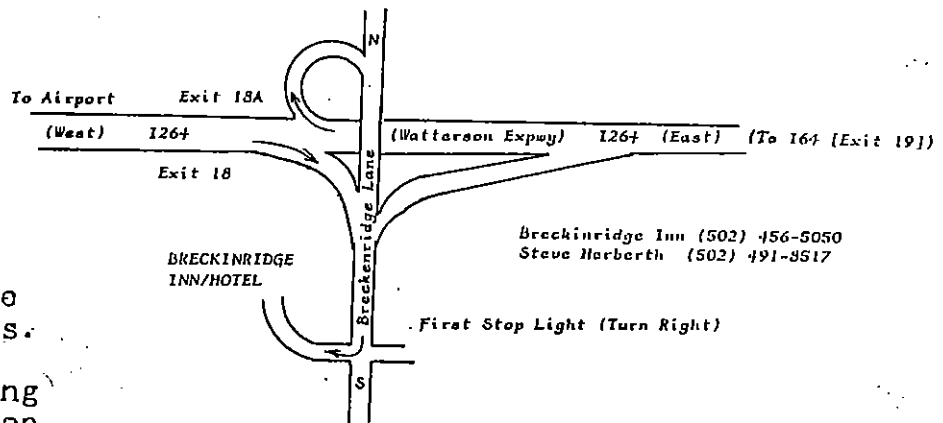
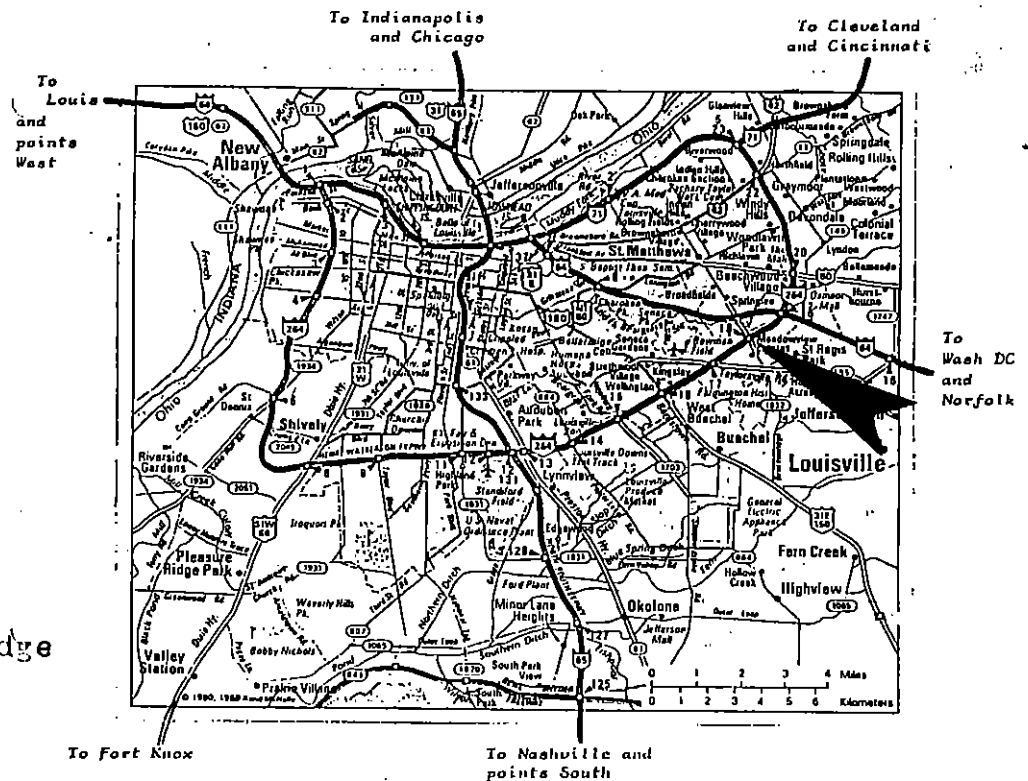
HOTEL: Breckinridge Inn, 2800 Breckinridge Lane; Louisville, Kentucky; 502 456-5050. \$35.00/night, group rate for Reunion. Brochure shows very nice set up with pool, conf. room, lounge, restaurant, etc. AV equipment available.

Reservations must be received by 13 Feb 92 to enjoy group rate and assure availability of rooms.

To facilitate planning and minimize confusion, Steve requests, at earliest possible date, all planning to attend submit following information to him: Name, Nickname, Arrival by car or plane, if plane flight #/time, Wife attending(Name), Unit/period of duty, yes/no answer on willingness to bunk up with other member. Steve's address: P.O. Box 22925; Lyndon, Kentucky; 40252-0925.

It is incumbent on all of us to make things as easy as possible for Steve and Jeanne, who have voluntarily undertaken this very important, and demanding, organizational burden. Do NOT make it any harder by imprompt provision of any but specific responses to requested info. Your assistance in this regard will contribute to the ease(?) with which everything can be arranged. Summon the discipline all of us were once expected to apply, and help Steve and Jeanne help all of us and the association.

CAR RENTAL Covering all bases, Steve and Jeanne have secured group car rental rates for us. Basic info provided here, with full detailed update in next SITREP. Our agency: Budget Car and Truck Rental, Louisville. Reservation Center number: L-800-866-8680. Group Rate



Code: CV1, repeat, CV1. Use rate code to ID your association with COUNTERPARTS. Special rates to apply 'one week before and after the event, 03/05/92 thru 03/08/92'. Those attending without spouse, or perhaps with, may want to double up with another member and cut costs (same-same with bunking up in hotel quarters). Advise Steve, and please send SASE if direct response is requested, as we do not have ample funds to cut Steve and Jeanne an expense account of any magnitude.

Also.. We have been invited for a group tour of Armor Museum at Ft. Knox..... special 10% discount at US Cavalry Store, whose catalog many have seen (military/outdoor/recreational goodies) for those coming as group at either Louisville Store or main store south of Ft. Knox... Saturday night banquet arrangements being made at local VN/Chinese restaurant w/banquet room (US rations also on menu)... Martin Hà has been distributing registration forms and poop sheets in Houston and California VN communities.... Mr. Kok Ksor of Montagnard Foundation, and others, hope to attend... Saturday afternoon, following proposed Sat. AM old/new business, to feature speakers on various subjects, including report on counterparts remaining in SE Asia, refugee situation, Locator operations, Counterparts bibliography/historical compilations, Highlands Assistance Group operations, and so on. Anyone having further suggestions invited, on these or other general matters is invited to submit same to Steve and Jeanne. We'll have Thursday PM hospitality room enabling all to become acquainted and submit items of discussion.... Banquet guest speakers being approached, and we are swinging for the fences on this one. Not appropriate to list candidates at this time, but rest assured some highly regarded and experienced people are to be contacted.

So, pencil in 5-8 March 1992, and look forward to a very rewarding and memorable occasion. Please be as prompt, specific and thorough as humanly possible in responding to Steve and Jeanne's info requests. It'll make things a lot easier for them.

Great Moments in Western Civilization, #86: The Public Relations Society of America

will be holding its annual national convention, addressing the question which has baffled mankind for eons: 'What's Right?' There will no doubt be panel discussions on operational efficacy of such erudite doctrines as 'Do unto others....' or perhaps 'Honesty is Best Policy'. One hopes aforementioned firm of Satchi & Satchi will be in attendance.



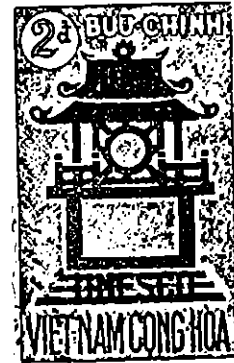
FYI: In January 1968, less than 2% of the QLVNCH was equipped with M-16 rifles. WW II vintage wpns. were used by remaining personnel.

-The blue, red, yellow, white and orange Buddhist flag of Viet Nam was designed in 1888 by Col. H.S. Olcott, an American expatriate and Confederate Civil War Veteran living in Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) as regalia to celebrate Buddha's birthday-

PRODUCTS Note accompanying photo, courtesy of Steve Herberth, of Counterparts coffee cups, now in stock, \$10.00, pp. from our HQ in Circleville. Prodigious thanks to Paul for assuming role of 'coffee cup task officer', reviewing product catalogs, etc., and to Steve for his welcome donation of photos. We've got a chunk of assn. funds tied up in this inventory, so if you're inclined to buy a cup, please do so at earliest convenience.

BELT BUCKLES Continuing above and beyond the call, Steve Herberth tracked down manufacturer of some very nice large enameled belt buckles, which they can design to our specifications. Price, at quote which may not be now in effect, would be \$15.00-\$16.00 to members. Not having funds to spring for initial order, and maintain any semblance of fiscal sanity, decision was made to hold off pending response on coffee cups and/or clear indications that sufficient members are interested allowing assn. to commit to 100 item minimum order. If interested, advise.

DESERT STORM ribbon bumper stickers: Member Nevin Williams has 3" x 6½" vinyl decals in Desert Storm campaign ribbon color scheme. Assn. members may not be eligible though decal may be nice gift to friends/relatives who are. \$3.00 each, pp.; \$10.00 for four, pp. (plus 6.5% tax for California orders. ID self as Counterparts member and Nevin will donate 10% of purchase price to Counterparts finance office. Order from: Nevin Williams (checks payable to 'Nevinco') 4678 Pedersen Way, Suite 202; Carmichael, California; 95608-1165



VIET NAM VETERANS RESTORATION PROJECT Member Mike Peterson has been directly involved with this undertaking, a program of Việt Nam Veterans returning to Việt Nam to build small clinics in outlying rural areas. Four have been constructed, and a fifth is scheduled for sometime in 1992. This is a people-to-people effort and of benefit to rural villagers rather than a government of what some might call debatable legitimacy. Mike returned to Việt Nam to construct a medical clinic outside of Long Hải (nw of Vũng Tàu) and welcomes any and all member inquiry from members, or other Vets, who may be interested in participating. This program parallels efforts of the Dega, and Counterparts publicized Highlands Assistance Group, as well as Member David Keen's Safe Return medical support project. People-to-people, bypassing some inanities of diplomatic cesspool. Interested? Contact Mike Peterson at 1621 Escalante; Eugene, Oregon; 97404.

-- 'Shallow understanding from people of goodwill is more frustrating than absolute misunderstanding from people of ill will.'

-The Rev. Martin Luther King

JUST-IN, OUT OF NEWSLETTER SEQUENCE PRODUCT INFORMATION: Petitions have long been circulated to US Postal Service for a POW/MIA commemorative postage stamp, and have for as long been rejected (even though we'll probably have an 'Elvis' commemorative soon). Eagle Spirit Productions; P.O. Box 92113; Los Angeles, California; 90009; has both t-shirts and sweatshirts, of very good quality with good front-only design advocating a POW/MIA commemorative. White or black t-shirts (item #101) s, med, l, xl, \$12.50; xxl, \$14.50. Sweatshirts, white or black (item #201) s, med, l, xl, \$21.50; xxl, \$24.50. P/h: \$3.00 first item, \$2.00 second, \$1.50 each additional item. Copy of POW/MIA commemorative stamp petition available from your editor, right here at 1462 W. University; Mesa, Arizona; 85201. Please send SASE for four copies. NO checks on t/sweat shirts. Money order only.

UPCOMING ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES: Paul Brubaker and Grant McClure will be attending National Viet Nam Veterans Coalition Leadership Breakfast on 9 Nov, 1991, and cousin Association CUVA will also have delegate in attendance. Dr. Le Nghia will be our guest. Principal speaker: Col. (Ret.) Millard A. Peck, who will discuss controversy surrounding his recent allegations of malfeasance in resolving POW/MIA issues. Recent NVVC newsletter addressed and evaluated considerations for normalized relations, positions held by various congressional dignitaries, medical benefits for children believed to be suffering from Agent Orange maladies, etc. Special thanks to Chairman Thomas Burch Jr. and NVVC for printing notice of COUNTERPARTS Reunion. Grant and Paul will provide summary report for next SITREP. .... On 8 Nov, Grant McClure has been invited as a speaker at the CUVA Reunion in Washington, and will address common objectives of CUVA and Counterparts, deriving from similar experiences and outlook, as well as opportunities for future coordination and joint activities ..... This will all have occurred after Grant attends inauguration of International Committee for a Free Viet Nam (ICFVN) at invitation of Dr. Lê Nghia and Mr. Lê Văn Phú. Also in attendance: Sen. David Durenberger, Sen. Robert Borski, Sen. Robert K. Dornan.

COUNTERPARTS members are invited to attend TET Reunion, 31 Jan-2 Feb, '92, Richmond, Virginia. This an all-veterans function, with events planned for entire weekend. Registration: \$20.00/person, \$10.00/person under 18. Tet '68 has raised funds for and awarded 21 \$500.00 scholarships for children of Viet Nam Veterans. Info and registration form from: TET '68, Inc.; c/o William E. Kirkland, President; P.O. Box 31885; Richmond, Virginia; 23294. 804 550-3692.

OPEN REUNION for all RVN Military advisors, in conjunction w/ Native American Indian RVN Veterans and VN Veterans of New Mexico. 21-26 May, 1992, in Albuquerque ending with Memorial Day Assembly at DAV VN Memorial in Angel Fire, New Mexico. This is an open event, not officially affiliated with Counterparts, though members are more than welcome to attend. Contact Marcario Sanchez for info/registration form: 11100 Gibson S.E.M-307; Albuquerque, New Mexico; 87123. Marcario has offered to pass on word of Counterparts at the Reunion, and provide us with names of others who might be interested, for which we extend gracious thanks. DAV Memorial at Angel Fire (approx. two hours north of Albuquerque) is an inspirational edifice in a beautiful mountain valley, and final Memorial Day ceremonies should an occasion to remember, honoring those who have paid the highest price.

Whew! More stuff, dribbling in at last minute.. hang in there, only a few more pages....

Chợ Thanh  
Quít (Thanh  
Quít Market)  
March, '68,  
from Tom  
Harvey's  
photo file



Free lance author Max Friedman is attempting to gather information on treatment of military and political prisoners detained since 1975. Having co-edited a 1972 titled 'The Human Cost of Communism in Việt Nam',

Friedman is no stranger to news of harsh prison conditions, maltreatment, torture and summary executions within confines of 'People's' 'correctional facilities'. His present need and objective is to objectively document, as accurately as possible, all that has transpired since 1975, using factual data submitted by former QLVNCH prisoners as well as prisoners formerly serving in a civilian capacity. Friedman hopes that documentation and verification will eventually contribute to a situation, such as has occurred in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, in which new generations are willing to admit past transgressions. Friedman also wants a full accounting of Việt Nameese POW/MIAs. All former prisoners of Hà Nội's camps are asked to send for, fill out, and return his questionnaire, available from: Max Friedman; 2009 S. Randolph St.; Arlington, Virginia; 22204. Mr. Friedman is being contacted by Counterparts for further information.

Nguyễn Chí Thiện's opus, FLOWERS FROM HELL, is available in bi-lingual edition from: Yale SE Asia Studies, Box 13A, Yale Station; New Haven, Connecticut; 22204 (Price, p/h unk., though probably less than \$12.00). FLOWERS was compiled during and in-between Thien's various prison terms, spanning a total of 32 years. Upon completion, Thien threw his manuscript into British Embassy grounds in Hà Nội, after he had been denied political asylum in 1979. FLOWERS contains 337 poems of a man who possesses incredible conviction and depth of character, who has 'lived a life half lived, and a death half died'. Buy a copy for your local high school library, so our young students can read of true heroism borne of honor and integrity, and moral courage unsustained by adrenaline rush of physical action.

Honest to God, this just came in on the phone.... former Trúng Ủy (1st Lt.) 'George' Đò, of G2, Can Tho, would like to hear from Capt. (BOB?) Ryan, also of G2, Can Tho, with whom he served in 1970-1971. George had not heard of Counterparts, other than our Locator efforts, and requested any/all information and membership application after hearing brief rundown of assn. objectives. Things are clicking...Info passed to J.C.

CLOSING COMMENTS As can be inferred from length of this SITREP, we have been and will be quite busy dealing with favorable developments in our association's growth and capabilities to attain stated objectives. It's been several years of plodding effort, sometimes drugery, but we may well have attained the long desired threshold of very definite forward momentum. Dealing with new opportunities also involves

accepting greater administrative burden, and hopes that some members can assume positions on a one-time, 'task force' basis, as well rise to occasion in filling permanent positions such as adjutant. Prior to Grant's acceptance of CO slot, pending official vote at '92 Reunion, your association has been run by what might be called an executive committee, which itself merely evolved without benefit of election or formal mandate. No committee members live within even a day's drive from each other, many have never met face to face, and most communication is via mail, phone, or cassette tape. It must also be acknowledged that many, many others have volunteered to help, and/or taken individual initiative in arranging publicity, organizing prior reunions etc. All in all, we've done damn well for a bunch of people, plodding away at cleared kitchen table tops, scattered all over the country. All directly involved have made the collective decision to provide membership with the most for their dues. We could go with a slimmed down SITREP, pay less postage/printing etc., but have felt the high quality of assn. membership deserves nothing but the best. Yes, so far still working on this Paleolithic 'typewriter from hell', but are also working to improve format and put out a first class, polished piece of work. We're also poised to apply for bulk mail permit, cutting costs, once adequate mailing list is developed. Financial situation is good, with, at this writing, approximately \$1,800.00 in the bank, and another \$1,500.00 recoverable from sales of coffee cups. Included with this mailing is updated roster of new members, which no doubt excludes several more who have joined in the interim.

Word-of-mouth is becoming increasingly valuable as recruitment source, and contacts within spectrum of groups and communities representing our component membership ethnic groups has increased. Simply put, things are looking good. The Assn. does want and need more member feedback, and for this reason a separate questionnaire is included in this mailing, along w/SASE for convenience of member return. Please fill it out, send it back, giving candid responses and any/all suggestions. Thx in advance.

Having waded through so many pages, it's time to carry the monthly 'letters' column....

'...now that I am located in SW US, and within driving distance(moving from Alaska) of the functions, I plan on taking a more active role in Counterparts. I feel it would be in our best interests if I became a Life Member. Please send needed forms.

-Darryl Nelson.

-Thx Darryl, your support and membership very appreciated.

'Just a note to express my deep appreciation for the new 'membership goodies' and the opportunity to join such a fine organization and group of people. My tour of duty in Viet Nam, in '64-'65, was the highlight of my Army career in terms of a most gratifying experience and the attendant self-satisfaction of being in a position to render needed and professional assistance to a worthy cause. ....congratulations for dedication involved in sustaining the tribute to our present and fallen comrades in that conflict. I am looking forward to joining membership at the Louisville Reunion. Chào Ông.

-Edward J. Gotthelf, III

-You speak for many Ed, and thanks for commitment to Louisville.

'..thank you for the letter on 'Counterparts'. I'm looking forward to joining, and meeting some old friends at next year's reunion in Louisville. It's good to know that the friendships forged during that time have been rekindled through this group.

XXXXX XXXXXXX

Maj. Gen., US Army

(Note: this from personal letter received by one of our members, for which we had not received permission to reprint. Courtesy dictates exclusion of name, though there's no doubt permission would have been granted.)

'Please find check for \$24.00. \$12.00 for my dues, and please use remainder as you see fit. If any counterpart needs it please pay his dues.... My wife and I plan on going back to Việt Nam to live. California is too much of a rat race. .. This won't happen for at least 7 years yet. Thanks for Counterparts; my head is back on straight again.'

-Neal Spencer

-Thx for your membership Neal, and kind offer to help out someone who may not have spare change for dues. You'll feel very much at home in this outfit, and will help others feel the same.

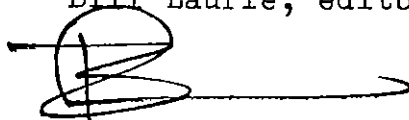
'..I was given a copy of the Spring '91 SITREP by Australian Viet Nam Veteran Lex McAulay. He pointed out the kind remarks you made about THE TEAM(ed.-Encyclopaedic history of Australian advisory effort in Viet Nam). .. I found the SITREP very interesting with many useful news items. ..I saw with regret that a former commander of the 18th ARVN Div., Le Minh Dao, is still in a 're-education camp' in Ham Tân. The 18th, based at Xuân Lộc, is the formation which Gen. Westmoreland, in 1966, told the 1st Australian Task force to work with. I served with AATTV, July '65-July '66, based in Đà Nẵng... as senior Australian adviser in I Corps, and G3 Training at I Corps HQ. ... As a civilian(now), I am a member of the Official History Unit attached to the Australian War Memorial ....Australia sent its first handful of advisers to Việt Nam in 1962, then a Bn. group in 1965.. then an independent Task Force under command of 2FFVN in 1966. ...How do I subscribe? Ian McNeill

ed.-Mr. McNeill has been sent further info indicating Counterparts is not a subscription publication, but official organ of an association to which he is entitled membership.

One more news item:Replacing Gen. N. Schwarzkoph as CIC Central Command is USMC Lt. Gen. Joseph Hoar, who previously served as Cố Vấn, on Bn. and Bde. levels, to QLVNCH TQLC(RVN Marines).

All for now. All members are encouraged to heed various calls to action in support of former counterparts whose well being is still in jeopardy. Few of us can do everything, but all of us can do something, especially if it only involves writing a few letters, or making a few phone calls. Such efforts are far less difficult than our 'in-country' duties, yet are of vital importance, and a responsibility we cannot ignore.

Van sự như ý  
Bill Laurie, editor pro tem





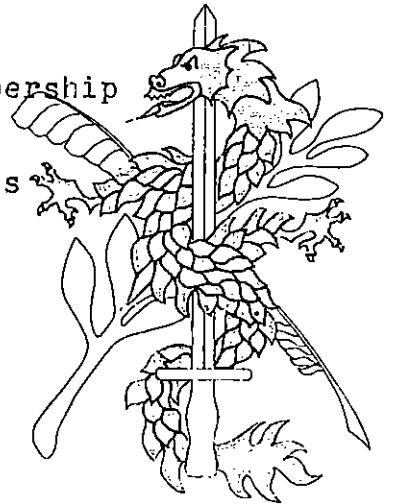
## QUESTIONNAIRE

(feel free to use additional pages in answering these questions, or raising others. Our membership

# Counterparts

has intellect, energy and vast experience, and is a brain pool that needs to be tapped.)

Post Office Box 40, Circleville, WV 26804



1. What's in a name? Plenty it would seem. We went through intensive back and forth discussion in arriving at our two names, one in English, one in Việt Name. There were ample and worthy arguments for and against any suggested name. After ample and further discussion with SE Asian members, it is has been suggested that our name become 'Tường Hữu Đông Nam Á', or, very roughly translating, 'Comrades in Arms who served in SE Asia'. 'Tường Hữu' connotes, in VN War English lexicon, 'tight', someone you've been to dark side of Hell with, or would be willing to go. All of your officers agree to this name change, while still hanging on to 'Counterparts' as English name, for lack of anything better. A membership mandate is desired to ratify this change.

I vote \_\_\_\_\_ (yes or no) to accept name change.

2. Lacking mandate from members, your cluster of pro tem leaders used administrative field expediency in implementing an Amerasian sponsorship program. Your response to this:

3. Gripes. Continue on another page if necessary.

4. Commendations. What we doing right?

5.SITREP. We have tried to balance past, present, future aspects of advisor/counterpart experience, and have assumed a forceful position on conditions under which former counterparts must exist. Comments/suggestions/recommendations/gripes:

6.REUNION: Aside from new/old business, what subjects would you like addressed and discussed in a formal presentation?

7.FUTURE PROJECTS We have undertaken an Amerasian Sponsorship project, are assembling a Counterparts/Tương Hữu bibliography and Advisory Tm./element history(in combination with Locator efforts). Ideas for other specific projects:

8.IN-COUNTRY COUNTERPART ASSISTANCE Our counterparts are now damned and stigmatized; some are still in camps and their families are in dire straits. Should we establish a counterparts assistance fund or special fund raiser to contribute to individual families with whom direct contact can be firmly established?