

KLEI MRAO MRANG #16

Yán Bhang

BÁO CÁO TÌNH HÌNH SỐ 16

Mùa Hè

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SITREP #16

Summer, 1992

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The SITREP is a quarterly publication of COUNTERPARTS/TUONG HUU ĐONG NAM Á, an association of serving in a counterpart role, as part of their assigned duties, during the Indochina Wars of 1954-1975. Full membership is available to anyone having served in this capacity, military or civilian, in what was perceived as an effort to halt militarist expansion on the Indochinese Peninsula. Membership information: Steve Herberth, Adjutant, P.O. Box 22791, Louisville, Kentucky, 40252-0791

Greetings. Hope this finds everyone doing well. Welcome to our thirty three new members(odd how that number pops up every now and then, though most are accustomed to hearing 'Ba Muoi Ba'), and profound and sincere thanks to all who contributed to our best reunion ever, extending this gratitude to those who struggled in our early days and laid the foundation by organizing the first two reunions. Happy tenth anniversary to Curt and Debbie Rich; hope the scuba excursion went well.

As has been the case, we've got more than enough news to exceed a five page newsletter, so, throwing 29¢ postal limitations to the winds.....

CONGRATULATIONS to new members Tran Ngoc Hue and Dave Wiseman. As reported last issue, Dave, Hue and Jim Coolican were able to link up after many years, and on 26 March 1992, Hue was reawarded the US Silver and Bronze Stars earned in the recapture of Hue City, 1968.



Presentation was made by the Commandant, USMC, Gen. Carl Mundy, who cited bravery and combat effectiveness demonstrated by Hue as commander of the 3D 1(1st ARVN Div.) Hac Bao(Black Panther) reaction force, and direct involvement in saving the lives of several U.S. Marines. Member Jim Coolican served with Hue during this period. We are honored to have such men as members.

Joint CUVA/COUNTERPARTS Picnic All members are invited to attend this function at Bob Cunningham's farm in Pratts, Virginia, on 8 August, 1992. For more info, write Bob at P.O. Box 56; Pratts, Virginia; 22731.

Officers

Grant McClure  
Commander

Steve Herberth  
Adjutant

Paul Brubaker  
XO

J.C. Fischer  
Locator/Historian

Quách Huyên Hà  
Locator

Bill Laurie  
Editor

Mike Little  
L.O.  
Highlands Assistance Project

Tom Harvey  
L.O.  
CUVA &  
PSB Foundation

Phil Brick  
Humanitarian Projects

Commander's Advisory Council

Kok Keor  
Phil Brick  
Quách Huyên Hà  
Vang Pobzeb(Pending)

Sincere thanks to Bob and his family for hosting this event. Bring own Cs, LRRPs, or MREs (for 'new age' troop chow). We'll run a write-up and photos of this gathering. Make it if you can. It is not known if Bernie Newson can make the trip back up from 'down under', or whether Bob Patrikios will be in attendance, raising questions as to whether the scintillating intellectual debate at Louisville will be continued. Bernie and Bob treated all to discourse on Plato's Allegory of the Cave as well as relativism in modern literature. It is hoped that someone else will assume this burden. In any event, if at all possible, make the 8 August picnic.

THANKS to our 'cousin' outfit, CUVA, for inviting Counterparts members to share an information table at D.C. Memorial Day ceremonies, with a special cam on to CUVA/COUNTERPARTS members Tom Harvey, Richard Maus, and Bob Patrikios. Next SITREP will have a write-up describing response and/or results from this effort. Thanks also due to Grant McClure and Paul Brubaker for donating their time and effort.

CUVA/COUNTERPARTS AMERASIAN PROJECT: As stated in reunion After Action Report, we were informed, after-the-fact, that the Pearl Buck Foundation no longer runs programs for Amerasians in Viet Nam (no explanation provided), but that it was possible to sponsor a Viet Nameese orphan. It was decided to go ahead, while offering anyone contributing the option to withhold donation as what was promised was not delivered. Our general plan is to follow through with our sponsored orphan, 15 year old Nguyễn Manh Hung, while also looking for means to provide direct assistance to in-country Counterparts who are subjected to discriminatory policies and restrictions. That said, here is a photo of Hung, our sponsored orphan. Anyone wishing to pass a brief note to Hung should route same through Tom Harvey, our Liason Officer (L.O.) for this project (and thank Tom for his efforts): P.O. Box 128; Millboro, Virginia; 24460.

It should also be noted that Tom is one of the very few Ngũđi Mỹ to have ridden a water buffalo. Photo shows Tom, astride his gallant charger, Ap Ba Lang, Sept. '69. COUNTERPARTS is probably the only outfit able to claim, as members, both a con trau jockey, as well as one who took his SCUBA qualification dive in the Mekong River (Jim Vincent).

Members are encouraged to pick up a copy of THE VILLAGE, a factual account of CAPs in Quảng Ngãi Prov. This is a little known yet excellent piece of writing about a unique (unfortunately) and effective program.



Thx to Tom Regnier and Scott Stone for Pearl Buck donations.

THE VILLAGE is available from: Bob Patrikios; 1639 Cone Avenue; Apex, North Carolina; 27502. \$14.00, postpaid. Make checks payable to Bob. It would have been a good idea to have applied the CAP program on a wider basis, letting McNamara count his numbers while dedicated people get down to business.

VIET NAM MAPS: exercising mutual plagiarism agreement between CUVA and COUNTERPARTS, we reprint source/address for Viet Nam area maps, as cited in 'CAP News': National Archives Trust Board; P.O. BOX 100954; Atlanta, Georgia; 30384. Maps reportedly cost \$4.80, postpaid, but it is best to write for map key and order form first.

LOCATOR: J.C.'s diligent efforts bear fruit:

Mr. Fischer,

It was brought to my attention (via 'Military') that Col. Nguyễn Duc Dung was seeking contact with me. I was very pleased to learn that he is alive, as I have wondered for a long while if he survived the collapse in the Central Highlands. Could you please send me his address, as I would very much like to contact him and find out how he is. 'Tis a good service you perform. Thanks!

Joe Shimek  
Sr. Advisor, 3rd ARVN Cav.,  
1968-69.

And: Dear Mr. Fischer,

I am greatly pleased to inform you that I just receive the warm letter from Mr. Shimek.

Indeed I was very impressed and fondly moved reading his letter. I will make close contact with him, and I will tell how our reunion will go.

Again, thanks for helping me.

Nguyễn Duc Dung  
Đại Tá, Thiết Giáp

So, thanks to J.C.'s persistence, and Editor Michael Mark at 'Military', we've scored again. Several others are pending at this moment, and details on two other successful searches will be forthcoming. Beyond locator duties, J.C. is compiling what may well be the most comprehensive history of Advisory Tms. and elements. No further word received from initial TV producer inquiry; any follow-up to be undertaken with caution, as we do not want to be sandwiched between stories of nuclear mutant sex addicts, and other video-vomit TV fare, all too common these days. Incoming search requests:

Rev. Ray Stubbe (USMC Chaplain, Khe Sanh) looking for Capt. Walter A. Gunn, Jr. and his 37 Rgr. BN/BDQ counterparts from Khe Sanh....  
Col. (then Capt.) Do Duc Tien (District Chief, Vinh Long Prov., '65-'68), looking for Adv. Tm members Maj. Earnest Kitchen, Major Duncan, Capt. Bill, or any students at JFK Special Warfare School during Capt. Tien's tour as Liason Officer in 1969. ....  
Ken Jacobsen is looking for Lt. Trung Thanh Tan, LCDR Hon, and Lt. Lien of RAGs (River Assault Group) 31, 26, and 32 respectively..  
.....Martin Ha is looking for Adv Tm 63 members (Ba Xuyen, AKA Soc Trang) Capt. Stone and Maj. Kidd ('68), and SSG West ('65).....  
Vo Van Dai looking for Maj. Hardy Hooks (My Tho, '70-'72)....  
Nguyen Van Ngan is looking for LTC Ingram, Capt.s Beeman, Mullins, Simpson and Child, MSGT Freeman and Maj. Robinson, all of 2nd BN, 12th Cav, 1st Cav (US), '65-'70; Bill Laurie looking for Tran Quang Hach (An Ninh Quan Doi/M33) and Đại Úy Abdul Assiz (S2, Chau Doc):

Thieu Ta Nguyen Minh Chau looking for Maj. Avery Graham and LTC McCoy, both in Di An Dist., Bien Hoa Prov., '67-'69; Jim Baker looking for Trung Tá(LTC) Ton That Dong and Capt. Larry E. Delp(both Vinh Long, '69).....Howard C.H. Feng would like to contact anyone from Adv Tm 155(99 3/3rd Div, ARVN), '71-'72; Đại Tá(Col.) Tam Ngoc Ho looking for LTC Adam Jimenez, Col. Chaffin, and LTC Rossi, all Tay Ninh, '65-'69; and Mr. Francis, Mr. Howard Thomas, and Mr. Scott, all from US ConGen office, Da Nang, '73-'75.

Help J.C., check through your local phone books. Spread the word and take some of the load off J.C. When everyone does a little, no one person has to do a lot.

J.C. has also been contacted by the 519th M.I. Bn. Assn., whose members served in joint intel centers at CMIC, CDEC, CMEC, and CICV, and are now looking for ARVN counterparts.

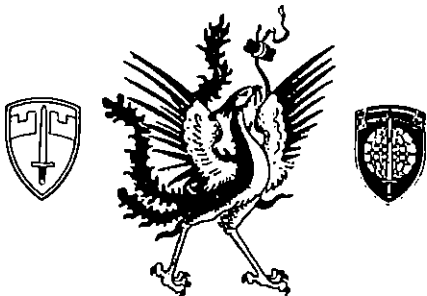
Just in...new member Đại Tá Dương Hieu Nghia is looking for a Mr. Patterson, with whom he served on the Four Party Cease Fire(sic) Commission, as well as the JCRC(Joint Casualty Resolution Commission), '73-'75.

Don't forget, you are extra eyes and ears for J.C. and Martin Ha. Keep on alert for newspaper articles, and spread word about our Locator service.



17th River Boat  
Company insignia, My Tho  
'68, worn proudly by J.C.  
and Counterparts

## PHUNG HOANG



## ADVISOR HANDBOOK

Why? The late Sam Walton(Walmart) was recently awarded a Medal of Freedom, an honor yet to be bestowed on Martha Raye for her steadfast of allied troops and effort. Mr. Walton was cited by President Bush as 'representing the American dream', which presumes everyone wants to own 1,600, plus or minus 400(?) retail discount stores. Martha Raye, by her actions, embodied what should be an American dream and, for reasons never made clear, has yet to receive the recognition she deserves. Martha Raye was on the spot to support troops in three wars, including 48 hours straight in a VN operating room as a nurse. She was wounded twice. Efforts are underway to correct this inexcusable oversight, and to have a Medal of Freedom awarded to 'Col. Maggie'. Noonie Fortin and Belle A Pellegrino, in conjunction with the Tri-County Council of VN Era Vets, have petition forms and a very nice fund raising 'Medal for Maggie' t-shirt for \$10.00(initially \$15.00) postpaid. Noonie and Belle are at 1 Midway Drive; Albany, New York; 12211(518 869-3206/518 432-7131), and are also pushing a petition drive, following on the heels of an eight year effort by the Special Forces Association. They are also looking for any personal comments, photos, letters etc.,

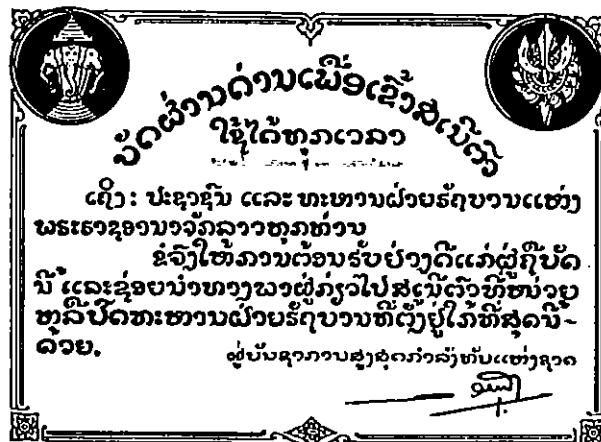
concerning anyone's personal experience with Col. Maggie, as ammunition for their campaign. They also ask people to write our fearless leaders in D.C. requesting their support of HCR 100, and SCR 62, asking House and Senate members to vote for these two resolutions and subsequent Medal of Freedom award for Martha Raye. Time's a wastin'. Petitions are available from Noonie and Belle, or from your editor(1462 W. University; Mesa, Arizona; 85201. SASE please). Do something; no one in D.C. is, which is about par for the course.

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Great Moments in Diplomacy, #87: The self-proclaimed 'Great Leader' (Pharoh, Imperial Potentate, HMFIC) of North Korea, Kim Il-Sing, recently celebrated his 80th birthday. Gifts received: pistols from Hà Nội, a mounted alligator from the Sandinistas, and a stunning piece of art from Prince Norodom Sihanouk, depicting American soldiers swept off a map of SE Asia with a broom. COUNTERPARTS leaders contemplated sending a whoopie cushion and instead decided on a US Dept. of Agriculture Pricing Guide for Cabbage.

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BOAT PEOPLE No change in forced repatriation policies, with many refugees screened out and denied political refugee status. Hong Kong authorities plan to ship 50-60 people back in June, though have denied Hà Nội's request for economic aid in exchange for accepting returnees. The Lawyer's Committee for Human Rights(330 Seventh Ave.; 10th Floor; NY, NY 10001; landline: 212 629-6170) has issued a 34 page briefing paper concluding 'entire screening process and review procedures remain seriously flawed.' Latest news reports indicate buildup of tension in camps, and potential for violence. Overall, this resembles political expediency in action, with result that any number of legitimate political refugees being sent back to an unknown fate. If half the people who viewed Johnny Carson's last 'Tonight' show wrote letters of inquiry and/or protest, policy change might be possible. They won't, and it isn't. Approx. 54,000 Boat People are in Hong Kong; 12,500 are in Malaysia.



Royal Laotian Govt. 'Chieu Hoi' pass for Pathet Lao

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POW/MIA No major developments, and little expectations on any. 2,266 US remain unaccounted for. The Senate Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs recently completed SE Asian visit to VN, Cambodia and Laos, and might not have accomplished as much as some of its members think it did. CSPAN 25 May broadcasts had taped segments of Senators Kerry, Brown, Robb, Grassley and Smith, accompanied by one US interpreter who did his unctuous, obsequious and oleaginous best to ingratiate himself to Hà Nội functionaires, using the same form of address a landless peasant

would use when addressing a mandarin or member of a royal family. 'Thưa ngài', used frequently by US VN Vet interpreter, Andre Sauvegot, is excessively humble, bordering on subservience. The other US interpreter, Garnett Bell (who is viewed with apparent disfavor by Hà Nội ideologues) used the more appropriate and commonly accepted 'Ông', or Mister, when addressing officials. TV is admittedly deceptive, yet viewing entire program left impression that 'search' is inadequate to locate any US who might be in VN, voluntarily or otherwise. Delegates would arrive in an area, ask if anyone had seen or knew of any US in area. Everyone would say no, and that was it. Worse, in an inexcusably inept negotiating effort, Senate delegates informed Hà Nội cadre that the POW/MIA issue would be resolved by year's end (is this why they can't balance a budget?). In Laos, Prime Minister Khamtay Siphandone said 522 US MIA had been killed by angry villagers, then concluded that 'The past should remain in the past.' (Translation: give us \$ now). This assertion is absurd at best, and duplicitous at worst. 526 US are MIA in Laos, and 85% of these occurred in areas under NVA control. Plotting last known locations on then-current map of Laos will show that few US MIA were near any villages when last sighted. If US buys off on this, it would eliminate any need for further inquiry in Laos, and completely avoid unspeakable truth #25: US personnel may have been killed by opposing forces, in violation of Hague and Geneva Conventions. Permanent US-staffed POW/MIA offices are now in VN, Laos and Cambodia, and are reportedly placing high emphasis on 'live sighting' reports. On this side of the pond, members may want to write the Senate Select Committee, John F. Kerry/Chairman; Bob Smith/Vice Chairman; US Senate; Washington, D.C.; 20510-6500, expressing thoughts on the subject, and requesting recent copy of Committee information summary. In addition, a copy of US Govt. 'POW/MIA Fact Book' can be requested from your Senator. Anyone having an opinion on HR 223, introduced by Congressman Dave Camp (R-Mich) should write their representative. HR 223 has 80 co-sponsors, and calls for halt in any normalization efforts until Senate Select Committee has reported its findings of US MIA in SE Asia. Congressman Dante B. Fascell (2345 Rayburn House Office Building; Washington, D.C.; 20515-0919; landline: 202 225-4506) is Chairman of the House Foreign Relations Committee, exercising a great deal of control and influence over fate of this bill. Make your thoughts known, one way or another.

Member Frank Brown has completed a 21 pp. bibliography of POW/MIA non-fiction works dealing w/POW matters in SE Asia. It has over 300 annotated entries; from Congressional Hearings to articles and books, and spanning several decades. Normal cost is \$8.00, postpaid. Counterparts Member special: \$4.75, pp., from: Frank Brown; 18 Reed Avenue; Hamilton Township, N.J.; 08610.



Shoulder insignia, Khmer AF armed recon unit, flying AU-24A Stallions, w/20mm guns, rocket pods. Courtesy of Clem Kelly, VN Insignia Newsletter.

Just-because-I'm-ignorant-it-doesn't-mean-I-can't-open-my-mouth  
 Dept.: Tom Fitzharris, writing a summary article of VN movies in  
 'Sound & Image' describes 'Apocalypse Now' as 'A legitimate vision  
 of what Việt Nam was about.' and 'the best of the Việt Nam movies  
 so far.', surpassing 'Platoon' and others. Mr. Fitzharris is  
 presently editor of the HBO Program Guide.

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HUMAN RIGHTS/Labor camps.

Members Le Nguyen Binh and  
 Duong Hieu Nghia submitted  
 an update list of prisoners,  
 as well as inmates released  
 in recent months. Approx.  
 68 QLVNCH personnel were  
 released during Oct-Nov  
 '91, including personal  
 friends of Member Ray  
 Battreall, BG Trần Quang  
 Khai and Col. Nguyễn Văn  
 Cua. Demonstration of  
 leniency notwithstanding,



others remain, and those released are often under virtual house  
 arrest, while their children are denied educational opportunities  
 upon completion of high school. Under Secretary of State, Richard  
 Soloman, in a 25 May CSPAN broadcast, said he 'thought' all but  
 a few prisoners had been released. When one is paid as much as he  
 is, he is paid to know, unless of course this is not a matter of  
 high priority. It behooves us to make some effort to ascertain  
 actual conditions, letting Hà Nội and policy makers know of a  
 deep concern for well-being of former counterparts, and their  
 families. While some degree of clemency is being extended, this  
 is of little benefit to Dr. Nguyễn Đan Quê, a radiologist recently  
 sentenced to 20 years for 'activities aimed at overthrowing the  
 people's government'. Worse, he was reportedly accused of 'using  
 his capacity as a member of Amnesty International to translate  
 documents into English and send them abroad.'. In 1990, Dr. Quê  
 issued an appeal requesting Hà Nội '..disband the war machine in  
 Hà Nội....an instrument of violence to repress the voice of the  
 Việt Nameese people.', 'accept a pluralist political system', and  
 (permit) 'truly free elections to determine a new system of govern-  
 ment..in tune with the present infrastructure of Viet Nameese  
 society.'. For this, he was accused of 'activities aimed at  
 overthrowing the people's(which people?) government!', found  
 guilty, and sentenced to 20 years in prison, followed by 5 years  
 of house arrest. Amnesty International has launched a publicity  
 campaign to secure Dr. Quê's release, asking that firm yet polite  
 letters be written to:

Vo Van Kiet

Chairman, Council of Ministers  
 Hanoi, Socialist Republic of VN

Ambassador Trinh Xuan Lang  
 SRV UN Delegate  
 20 Waterside Plaza  
 NY, NY 10010  
 212 679-3779  
 212 213-5796

Hà Nội, desiring normalized  
 relations w/US, is very sensitive  
 to public opinion, as evidenced by  
 commutation of Thích Tue Sy's death sentence, release of poet  
 Nguyễn Chi Thiện, author Dương Thu Hương, etc. Additional benefit  
 is fact that such letters ruin a bureaucrat functionare's day

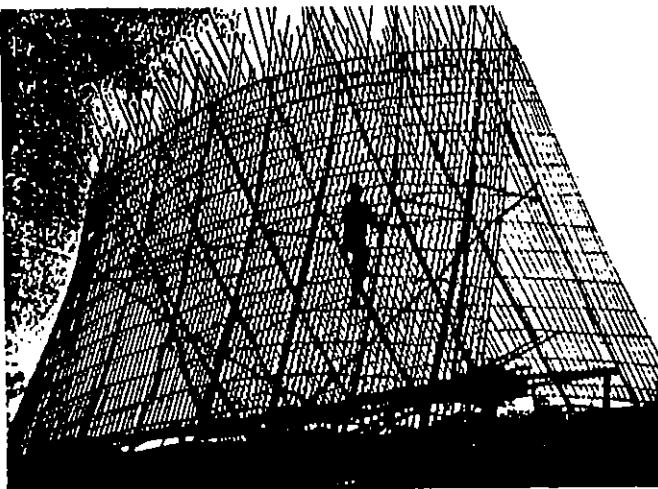
irritate him/her, his/her boss, and let them know they are not getting away with something. Fire off a brief letter. It only takes a few minutes and some spare change for postage. Release of Dr. Que will enhance prospects for political freedom in VN and SE Asia, and be of direct benefit to counterparts still in country. Fighting a war is a lot more difficult than writing a letter, so let fly with some convincing requests.

RADIO FREE ASIA US Congresswoman Helen Bentley has introduced H.R. 5413, to establish a new radio broadcasting service, similar to Radio Free Europe, to serve VN, Laos and Cambodia. No word on present status. For more info: TDTHPH Viet Nam; P.O. Box 2394; Pomona, California; 91769.

INDOCHINA JOURNAL continues to publish insightful articles about present day Human Rights violations in SE Asia. Spring '92 issue discusses Dr. Nguyen Dan Que, Hong Kong Boat People policies, friction between VN Buddhist clergy and Hà Nội, and abysmal state of education in VN, precipitated by bankrupt economy and ideological sloth. Item: there were 900,000 elementary and secondary school students in Sai Gon/Gia Dinh Prov. in 1972. In 1990 the number declined to 682,272. Free public education was available before 1975; contributions from parents are now required in some areas. The JOURNAL is well worth the \$8.00 for three issues a year, and is published by the Indochina Human Rights Group. Available from: P.O. Box 1163; Burlingame, California; 94011-1163.

Postscript: Radio Hà Nội broadcast, 30 Dec 91: 'The imperialists and reactionaries loudly proclaim that the good times for socialism are over..... ...in this era of explosive information, persist in our offensive, refuse to have illusory thoughts on conciliation.' So there.

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DEGA/HIGHLAND ASSISTANCE PROJECT

Mike Little and Highlands Assistance Project Director Kay Reibold visited VN in Feb-March of this year. Mixed results. Good points: three pallets of books and medical supplies delivered, and contacts established with intelligent and sincere medical and charitable organizations serious about bringing badly needed aid to Dega people in the Highlands. Kay and Mike visited several hospitals and leprosariums, but were denied travel to Dega leprosarium, ostensibly due to 'impassable roads'. Uh-huh.

Bad points: Ha Noi suspicion of

US contacts with Dega and perceptions of evil intent; corruption, absence of any meaningful government attention toward Dega people, and continued access denial to Highlands. Next visit planned for summer of this year, with hopes to bring one Dega patient back to US, where he can receive critical spinal surgery he needs.

Donations to Highland Assistance Project: Mike Little; 1731 Technology Drive, Suite 860; San Jose, California; 95110.



As reported in last month's issue, Hà Nội appears intent upon 'phasing out' Dega culture and languages, while undertaking economic development in the Highlands. Similar to Black Hills, when gold was discovered in 1875. Mike Little reports seeing piles of sawn logs on his recent trip, no doubt from inland mountain regions. Worse, ruby bearing deposits have been discovered in Kontum Prov. (Gems and Gemology Magazine, Fall 1991), and gold was found in Phu Yen Prov., precipitating a deluge of prospectors, and all the scrofulous porcine debauchery associated with 'boom towns'. This does not augur well for the Dega people, and their quest for some degree of political and cultural autonomy in the Highlands.

From Paul Brubaker: elements of FULRO flag and what they symbolize: stripes: many tribes; red portion: blood shed for freedom; green portion with moon and star for the earth. Crescent moon and star originally represented Moslem Cham contingent of FULRO, no longer appropriate after Cham people left FULRO, and there is now talk of redesigning the flag.

Repeat info from last issue: Summary of Dega Human Rights struggle available from Montagnard Foundation; P.O. Box 17064; Spartanburg, South Carolina; 29301. \$10.00 donation should cover mailing and printing costs for this 35 pp. study. Remember to write your Senators, Representatives, Hà Nội delegate to UN, State Dept., et al, advising them of your concern for Dega rights and cultural preservation. During CSPAN telecast one caller asked about Dega people, wondering if they were subjected to discriminatory policies; no one could give an answer and the subject was dropped. Typical TV drivel. News media will not cover this unless it is shoved under their nose.

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Something to ponder...

	NVA/Soviet Bloc		US/QLVNCH	
Range(miles)/ Cyclic Rate of Fire for various Arty Pieces...	152 mm	10.5(4 RPM)	105 mm	6.7(4 RPM)
	122 mm	14.6(6-7)	155 mm	8.9(3)
	130 mm	18.9(5-6)	8 Inch	10.2(3)
			175 mm	19.9(3)

In Dec., '71, RVNAF had 1,202 arty tubes. 12 were 175mm, remaining 1,190 were 105mm, m55mm, and 8 inch. Tough to fire counter-battery.

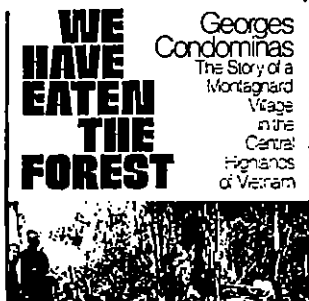
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COUNTERPARTS LIT CUỘC TRIỆT THOẠI CAO NGUYÊN, 1975 (RETREAT FROM THE HIGHLANDS, 1975), by Pham Huan. Author was present when Thieu gave order to abandon Highlands in 1975, and recounts his observations, warts and all, of the event. As was often the case, direction from Sài Gòn was poor, while combat elements often performed valiantly. Newspaper accounts notwithstanding, many elements did not break and run, but rather resisted tenaciously, often against overwhelming odds. The 23rd Regt./23rd Div.

PHẠM-HUÂN **CUỘC TRIỆT THOẠI CAO NGUYÊN 1975**



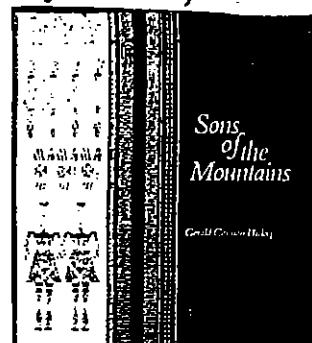
with lethal VNAF support (primarily A-37 Dragonflies), repulsed several NVA atks, until being overwhelmed by superior forces and devastating NVA arty (see range tables above). BÐQ (Rgr.) Bns. also performed admirably, often in the unenviable role of holding rear guard positions until retreat columns had moved on, and then extricating themselves if they could. Stark contrast of proficient combat elements, 'led' by obtuse Sài Gòn leaders, is painfully evident. Book should be translated into English. Published 1987, now out of print.



Georges  
Condominas  
The Story of a  
Montagnard  
Village  
in the  
Central  
Highlands  
of Vietnam

WE HAVE EATEN THE FOREST, Georges Condominas, Hill & Want, 1977. Anthropological account of author's one year stay in a Mngong Gar village, approx. 35 km NW of Đà Lạt, in 1948. Full examination of daily Mngong Gar life, religious beliefs and practices, etc. Many b/w photos. Out of print, available in used book stores if one scrounges. 352 pp. of informative reading.

SONS OF THE MOUNTAINS, Gerald Hickey, Yale University Press, 1982. Magnum opus history of Montagnards from earliest history until 1954. Hickey is recognized as one of the world's foremost experts on, and friends of, the Montagnards, with this voluminous work providing ample testimony for these accolades. Nothing else like it. Maps, b/w photos, bibliography. Believed to be in print and available from Yale. Sequel, FREE IN THE FOREST, to be reviewed next issue.



ALLIED PARTICIPATION IN VIỆT NAM, Lt. Gen. Stanley Larsen and BG James Collins Jr., Dept of Army, US GPO, 1975. As title indicates, this work describes role of Australian, Thai, S. Korean, and other allied contingents in VN, which included Philippine Civic Action Teams and medical elements, Taiwan political warfare Co Vans, and miscellaneous non-military aid (Luxemburg provided plasma and transfusion equipment, Venezuela sent two civilian doctors and 500 tons of rice). Study acknowledges 'insufficient rapport' developed by ROK Marines and VN populace. Out of print.

MIKE FORCE, LTC L.H. 'Bucky' Burrus, 1992, Pocket Books. Burrus served two tours with Cham and Montagnard strikers ('67-'68, '69-'70), telling his tale in this book, pulling no punches in praising his Cham and Dega troops, bashing US news media and war protestors, slamming ethnic VN treatment of Degas and Chams, and eventually finding no home in a post-VN peacetime army ('..a time of strange priorities and weird values.'). In print, worth \$4.50 price.

IN THE MIDST OF WARS, Edward Lansdale, Fordham University Press, Box 6525, Ithaca, NY, 14850. New reprint of Lansdale's adventures during the Huk Rebellion in the Philippines, and later in Việt Nam, where he arrived in 1954 in hopes of replicating earlier success. Welcome reissue of book, and intriguing view of VN, from Ha Noi to Sai Gon in the early days. \$19.95, \$3.00 postage.

.....'On Uncle Hồ's own soil, life's sadder than a tomb...  
In the black night of his regime, light flashes  
only when guns bark...'

Nguyễn Chí Thiện in 'Sundry Notes'

BAN VINAI, The Refugee Camp, Lynellyn D. Long, Columbia University Press; 136 S. Broadway; Irvington, NY; 10533. Ban Vinai, as many know, is a quasi-permanent refugee camp on the Thai border, where Lao and Hmong refugees, obviously unhappy with socialist nirvana in Laos, have subsisted in limbo for many years. Author traces lives of five families over a year, and effect of uncertainty on family stability, social roles, etc., concluding that isolation, dislocation and powerlessness adversely affect camp residents. \$16.50(paper), \$45.00(hardbound), both w/\$3.00 postage.

Periodicals Viet Nam Magazine, April 1992 has personality profile of Col. Le Van Than and his efforts as mayor of Hue during recovery after Tet atks. Thomas W. Bowen, author and Col. Than's counterpart, describes the shared labors of himself and Col. Than, as they combined respective skills as 'counterpartners' in making order from chaos. Bowen met Than shortly after Hue was retaken, and was told 'I'm glad you are here. There is much to do'. Neat story of good people doing a good job. Military History Magazine's Great Battles(July, '92) has story on Battle of Ap Bac (with which several Counterparts members were involved). Familiar story of tactical paralysis imposed from above, though photo caption states 'ARVN officers at company and battalion level were second to none...'. Guns & Ammo(May '92) has brief overview of 'Secret Guns for Secret Warriors', describing individual wpns used by SF, SEALs: Stoner MK23, Swedish M45 'Carl Gustav', etc. Archeology(May/June '92) article 'Land of the Cham' provides brief history of Central VN Cham empire, defeat by VN, and summary description of existing Cham ruins, expressing hopes that archaeological examination and restoration can be undertaken in near future. ...Natural History(Nov, '91) has article on current excavations in NVN and China producing fossil remains of 'Gigantopithecus', an oversize orangutan-like ape which stood approx. 8', and has been extinct for 200,000 years.

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Your tax dollars at work: Western Michigan University was awarded a \$1.3 million federal grant to research office waste recycling. Not to be outdone, the University of Connecticut was funded \$3.5 million to study urban gardening programs. With the FAA having determined nose length of typical female flight attendant is 2.18"(this is NOT made up), and these two newer projects underway, we can sleep well, knowing frontiers of knowledge are extended beyond the length of a flight attendant's nose.

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Tax dollars, cont.: Following congressional edict, the IRS developed an Earned Income Credit(EIC) for low income families. The EIC form is two pages, w/5 pages of instructions to be applied with two pages of tables. Few people used it so the IRS sent out EIC refunds it calculated, with no means of verifying eligibility.

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'Roman development had reached a point where the selfish incompetence of old ruling class, combined with the demoralization of the city population, had proved fatal to a free state.' H.J. Haskell

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'Life is something to be waged rather than relied on.'  
-Deborah Eisenberg



HMONG/LAO Vang Pobzeb, of the Lao Human Rights Council (P.O. Box 100960; Denver, Colorado; 80250), recently returned from northern Thailand, where he and Congressional aids of Don Ritter and Bill McCollum interviewed residents of Ban Vinai camp. Their findings contrast sharply with other reports suggesting, A.Hmong are happy to go back to Laos, and B.Hmong will not be subjected to discriminatory Pathet Lao policies upon return. Findings are submitted in a 41 pp 'White Paper' and a 10 pp. exec. summary of same. Full report cites total border area refugee population at 64,389, with 19,500 in Ban Vinai, the largest camp. 2,662 Hmong were repatriated in 1991. Refugees at Chiang Kham, second largest with 18,000,

submitted a petition with 15,000 signatures requesting Human Rights and cessation of forced repatriation, calls for which have apparently fallen on deaf ears. Thai and US Govt. officials, along with UN refugee functionaires have all acquiesced to this situation, raising question as to whether the 'old fixeroo' is in. There is no means to monitor situation of repatriates, and, from safe confines of Vientiane offices, UNHCR and US Embassy officials 'did not see any evidence or problems of returnee persecution.' (are these the same guys who had oversight over S & L lending practices?). Mr. Pobzeb has sent 'White Papers' to Congress and President Bush; response to date: O. Guess it doesn't pay to be politically inconvenient. 30,000 Hmong were KIA before 1975, and many others died afterward. Official 'benign neglect' has same smell as corresponding silence regarding Dega, Human Rights in VN, etc. What the hell, let's get on with things and get those fast food restaurants built in Saigon, Ha Noi, etc. Meanwhile, Dr. Jane Hamilton-Merritt, Yale Law School, testified before Congress on 2 October, 1991, enlightening our fearless leaders on this subject, and advising them of injustices characterising entire matter. Text available from US GPO, stock # 552-070-11918-3, cost unk. (write Senator and/or representative and if their desperate for votes they'll get you one.). Dr. Hamilton-Merritt has long been an advocate for Hmong rights, and has written a book to be published in late '92, TRAGIC MOUNTAINS. (Indiana University Press). If enough members want a copy, we will obtain for sale through COUNTERPARTS 'Village Market'; please advise. Cost unk., but discount probably available if 5 or more copies are desired. In the interest of objectivity and balance, we include the comments of Khamsay Souphanouvong, son of the 'Red Prince' Souphanouvong and presently acting Minister of Finance in Laos, as reported in NY Times: '...the only Laotians who have fled the country were urging creation of opposition parties and 'so called' human rights. They do it to disturb our government and security. .... The people see who represents their interests. It is not we who impose ourselves on the people. They impose leadership on us and want no other party.' (Item: a greater percentage of Laos' population has fled than corresponding percentages of either VN or Cambodia.) Mr. Thongsouk Saisankhi, who previously expressed disgust with 'official malfeasance and putrid old regimes' and 'communist feudalism', along with two other dissident former govt. officials, remains a guest of Houaphan Penal Hospitality Suites.



CAMBODIA Nothing new that's all that good to hear. As if Cambodia didn't have enough troubles, a new strain of malaria has been identified, and is apparently resistant to all known anti-malarial drugs. Additional fear is that it could be 'exported' by returning UN troops. Other news.....UN officials report elite Ha Noi troops, in Cambodian uniforms, were operating in Siem Riep area (near Angkor Wat), in March of this year; David Burns, Brit Ambassador to Phnom Penh, stated that Ha Noi has left cadre structure intact with intent of exerting control and influence. Employment of 'stay behind' cadre previously reported by Lawyer's Committee for Human Rights and Amnesty International. Refugee relocation to have begun in March of this year, bringing first contingent of 375,000 Cambodian refugees back home, from Thai border camps. Repatriation jeopardized by sporadic fighting in

hinterlands. Khmer Rouge reportedly control ruby/sapphire mines near Pailin (Western Battambang Prov.), with gems sales funding military operations. 18 May 92 edition of 'New Yorker' magazine contains lengthy and detailed, and very morbid, Cambodian article by Steve Sesser, who cites rampant official corruption and malfeasance, along with some heavy handed response (murder) to opposition candidates pushing for reform. Discontent fueled student protests and near riots, with several killed in ensuing government 'law and order' efforts. If all this isn't bad enough, Prince Sihanouk appointed his son, Sihamoni, ambassador to the UN, no doubt in view of his previous qualifications and experience as a dance teacher in Paris. Great moments in diplomacy, #82. To date, we still have not signed on a Cambodian member, due in equal parts to there never having been a sizable advisor contingent in Cambodia, and mass killings of anyone who might have been a counterpart. Initial contact has been made with a former Cambodian Bde. CO and further discussions are to follow. The individual in question personally knew the late Col., and Prince, Chantaransay, generally viewed as a capable and competent leader. Should have more info by next SITREP.

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MEMBERS IN MEMORIAM

USAF/Ravens(Laos)

Capt. Henry L. Allen  
Maj. Charles D. Ballou  
Cpt. Joseph K. Bush  
LTC Joseph L. Chesnut  
1Lt. Daniel R. Davis  
Capt. Samuel M. Deichleman  
1Lt. Charles E. Engle  
Capt. Paul V. Jackson III  
Capt. Harold L. Mischler  
Capt. Gomer D. Reese III  
Capt. Marlin L. Siegwalt  
1Lt. W. Grant Uhls

Capt. John J. Back Jr.  
Capt. Park G. Bunker  
Maj. John L. Carroll  
Capt. James E. Cross  
Maj. Richard H. Defer  
Capt. Richard G. Elzinga  
Capt. Richard W. Herold  
Maj. Edward E. McBride  
Capt. Dennis E. Morgan  
1Lt. Charles P. Russell  
1Lt. George H. Tousley

USMC/CAP

Cpl Francis M. Allen  
PFC Michael V. Bludworth  
LCPL William J. Durham  
LCPL Mark Foster

Cpl William A. Aspinall  
LCPL John C. Calhoun  
LCPL David M. Dyer  
CPL Frank Garcia

LCPL Gilberto Garcia  
 CAPT. Howard Joselane  
 CPL Joseph J. Molloy  
 LCPL Ronald H. Pfeuffer  
 PFC William J. Schmidt  
 LCPL Leonard P. Sparkman  
 CPL Michael D. Wessel  
 HM3 Michael L. White

LCPL Charles V. Green  
 LCPL Kenneth R. McLeese  
 CPL Peter J. Morka  
 SGT Phillip O. Richardson  
 PFC Mark A. Smenyak  
 LCPL David L. Strait  
 PFC John E. White  
 CPL John C. Whiteside

PCPL Thomas A. Williams

USA/SF(Mike Force)

SFC Raymond Allen  
 SP5 Phillip T. Stahl  
 Capt. Joe C. Samiara  
 SFC Ben M. Davan  
 SFC Otis Parker  
 Capt. Frank E. McNutt

SSG Billie A. Hall  
 SSG Monte R. Busby  
 SGT John M. Greene  
 SGT Brian L. Buker  
 SSG Timothy C. Drake  
 SSG James L. Taylor

QLVNCH/LLDB

Dai Uy Tran Hu Hung

USN

LCDR Robert J. Allen

CDR Aaron 'Arnie' Levine

CDR Jerome Ashcroft

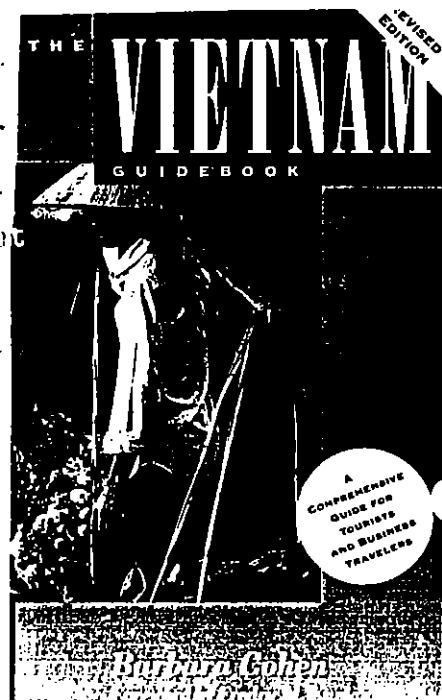
Do honor to their names by conducting yourself in a manner which would earn their respect, and which emulates their strengths and virtues.

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VN/SE ASIA Travel Guides With VN/SE Asia travel now approaching 'in thing' status, a number of travel books have been published. As a member service, four of these titles are briefly summarized.

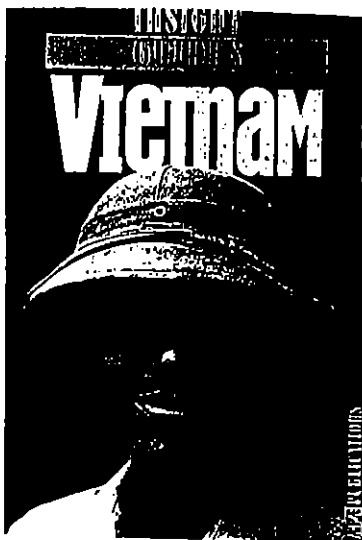
VN GUIDEBOOK, Barbara Cohen. Houghton Mifflin. \$18.95. 430 pp. Author served as US Army Maj., Medical Corps, Da Nang, 1970-1971, and has assembled best of the lot. Good cultural/historical overview with balanced text and abundance of practical travel info. B/w photos. Major city maps. Cohen has good grasp of cultural/societal milieu, and includes sections on Cambodia. Good info and details for those contemplating business ventures in VN.

VIET NAM, LAOS AND CAMBODIA. Daniel Robinson and Joe Cummings. 552 pp. Lonely Planet Publications. P.O. Box 2001A, Berkeley, California; 94702. \$15.95. (Photo on next page). City maps. B/w and color photos. Useful travel tips, historical and cultural sites, descriptions of little-visited locations such as Lang Vei. Basic language phrases and cultural/historical miscellanea. Good enough to get you around, while pointing out side jaunts others don't cover.

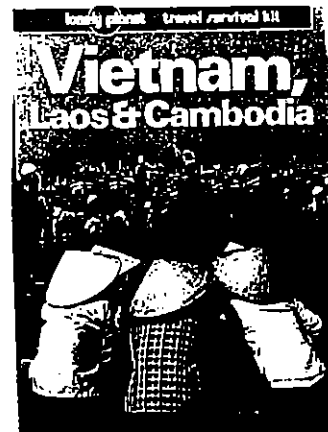


INSIGHT GUIDE TO VIET NAM

Edited by Helen West.



APA Publications, Hong Kong. 341 pp., \$19.95. Best of all for abundance of good color photos, including reproductions of old b/w photos from 60-80 years ago. If you can overlook cover photo of grinning Bo Doi, this is not a bad work, although truly outstanding photography comes at expense of detailed cultural/historical exposition. Good listing of local shrines and temples.



Worst of the lot honors to:

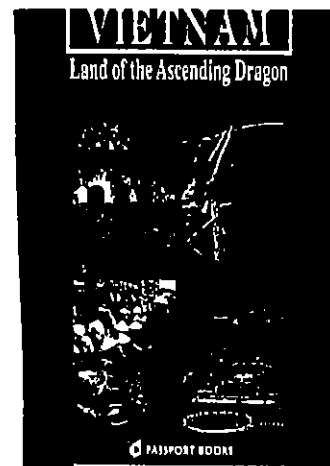
VIET NAM, LAND OF THE ASCENDING DRAGON, Jason

Nepote, Passport books; Lincolnwood, Illinois.

293 pp., \$15.95. Passable travel book with

various and sundry travel tips. Some good color

photos and cultural commentary, though some will gag and vomit and author's blind adulation for 'liberation forces' who opposed US 'Imperialism' and all that rot. Does not compare favorably with others as a travel book, and emits distinct odor of a rabid political tract. All others are superior to this one. If you're going to get one, and they're all available at local book stores, recommendation here is to select between the first two.



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On a related subject, Bruce W. Burns is now licensed by the US Treasury Dept. to legally associate with attorneys and law firms in VN on immigration and refugee matters. As indicated in earlier SITREP, Bruce is a VN Vet, and attorney already experienced in dealing with Ha Noi byzantine bureaucracy, and has had direct dealings in Amerasian emigration and related matters. Special thanks to Bruce and his multi-lingual staff for providing Laotian and Cambodian script translations of 'Counterparts' and 'Sitrep'. Keep address on file, it may come in handy: Bruce W. Burns; 95 S. Market Street, Suite 300; San Jose, California; 95113. Land lines: (English) 408 995-3225; (VN) 408 995-3227; (Cambodian) 408 995-3228; (Chinese) 408 995-3229; and (Laotian) 408 995-3226.

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Lost In Translation Dept.: Signs for English-speaking travelers:

In a Japanese hotel: 'Guests are invited to take advantage of the chambermaid.'

In a Norwegian cocktail lounge: 'Ladies are requested not to have children in the bar.'

In a Tokyo bar: 'Special cocktails for the ladies with nuts.'

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS Jim Barker, an established distance runner, entered the first Sai Gon marathon, competing against local contestants, as well as runners from the US. Coverage in numerous newspapers, as well as recent edition of 'Runners World' magazine. Speaking VN as well as he does, and being a half-way decent guy on top of that, Jim was a hit with the local people, and wore running shirt with US flag emblazoned on the front.



Creating new ties: Vietnam vet Jim Barker receives warm greetings from a group of Vietnamese after the marathon.

Ed Hall, previously cited as author of VALLEY OF THE SHADOW, an account of Ed's '66-'67 advisor tour (\$6.50, at Honoribus Press; P.O. Box 4872; Spartanburg, S.C.; 29305) has completed another book, this one a factual account of the 303rd Bomb Group, as told by Samuel P. Fleming, B-17 navigator over Europe, '43-'44. Fleming's 30 mission tour, and encounters with German fighters and flak, is illustrated w/30 photos. \$7.50(p/h included), from Honoribus Press.

Flying With The  
*Hell's Angels*



Scott Stone's book on Pearl Harbor was sent to your adle-minded editor, who promptly misplaced it in mounds of sh research material, and cannot, at this point, provide ordering info. Apologies to Scott and interested members. Will cover in next SITREP. Anyone visiting Hawaii and Pearl Harbor is sure to find it on local book shelves.

Curt Rich is seeking publisher for his latest manuscript, a Viet Nam novel titled UNDER DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES. Publishers and agents being what they are (Try writing a book and getting it published, without 'editorial coercion'), UDC is a hangfire at present. Curt previous wrote THE ADVISORS, which received one print run from Zebra Books, and none since, as a matter of policy. Will keep all posted of future developments.

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You may be a Redneck if....

- Your front porch collapses and kills more than four dogs
- Your mother doesn't remove the Marlboro from her lips while telling the state patrolan to kiss her a\_\_s.
- Your wife's hairdo has ever been ruined by a ceiling fan
- You prominently display a gift you bought at Graceland
- Less than half the cars you own run
- Your lifetime goal is to own a fireworks stand

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'What the law does not forbid, then let shame forbid.'

-Euripides



NEW QUARTERLY of possible interest to members: 'Horizons', a Journal of Viet Nameese thought and experience since 1975, in English and Tieng Viet, published by Horizons Publishing/ 45 S. Park Victoria, Suite 350; Milpitas, California; 95035. \$12.00/year(quarterly), \$8.00/year students and senior citizens. Inaugural issue in Spring 82, w/ 70 pp. of articles ranging from child's odyssey across Cambodia, VN educational beliefs, VN econ development situation and potential, cultural preservation in a modern(?) society, and short stories. Write before subscribing, as editors acknowledge problems in financing a special interest publication. Issue reviewed well worth \$3.25 cover price

NGUOI VIET INC.(14891 Moran St.; Westminster, California; 92683) Has copies of WRITERS AND ARTISTS IN VN GULAG, by Tran Da Tu, for \$14.00, pp. Large list of other titles, though all in VN. They also publish a weekly paper, in both English and VN, covering VN matters in US and in VN. 3rd class delivery, \$40.00/ 3 months. Has abundance of VN/SE Asian news not found in generic US press.

# Horizons

OF VIETNAMESE THOUGHT AND EXPERIENCE  
Vol.01 No.01 SPRING 1992

Premiere Issue

How do the Vietnamese regard the visiting Vietnamese? A first-hand look.

Remember high school? A Vietnamese-American girl reminds us of the pains and discoveries.

What are the prospects now for economic development? Benefits and risks for multinational corps.

What happened in lives after Saigon fell? We cross generations and continents to give you five stories.

PLUS

Articles, poems, and stories by both young writers and their old predecessors.

Published by Horizons Publications

\$1.25



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Welcome to new members.....

Wilmer Johnson/Adv Tm 58	Nguyen Van Xuan/G-4, 18th SD(Tm 87)
Nguyen Van Chinh/37th Rgr. Bn.	John C. Gillespie/USMC CAP
Lonnie W. Patten/USMC CAP	Robert T. Richmond/1st ARVN Abn Bn.
Tran Ngoc Hue/SD 1	David L. Wiseman/Adv Tm 3
Hua Yen Len/SD 7, SD 18	Nay Rong/Pleiku Prov. Dega Staff
Kok Ksor/QLVNCH-Dega	Trinh Dinh Bon/5th Air Div(SD KQ)
Willard B. Esplin/Adv Tm 41,42	Bernard O. Williams/TRIM
Jerry W. Hughes/Adv Tm 44	Kenneth C. Jacobsen/RAG 31, Adv Tm 52
Byrd Shepherd/Adv Tm 2	James Honl/Adv Tm 67
Daniel M. Klinedienst/CG 43	James C. Hunter/Adv Tms 79, 91
Robert L. Flesher/Quan Canh	James W. Benson/USN AD, MACSOG
Joseph B. Mucelli/Proj 404	Duane McFarland/USA SF
Nga T. Le/TD 52 BDQ(Rgr)	Charles L. Rogers/Adv Tm 85
Richard N. Maus/USMC CAP	Nguyen Tue Tri/MSS(ANQD)
Raymond Ytzaina/Chieu Hoi Center	
David J. Ray/Adv Tms 95, 14	Theodor P.C. Mikkelsen Jr./Adv Tm 56
Duong Hieu Nghia/4 Party Commission & JCRC	
Michael N. George/Adv Tm 162(SD ND)	
Ronald E. Norris/Vinh Long Adv Tm	

(SD: Sư Đoàn: Division; ND: Airborne; BDQ: Biệt Động Quân: Ranger; Quan Canh: MP; CG: Coastal Group; RAG: Riverine Assault Grp; MSS: Military Security Service/An Ninh Quân Đội)

Sincere thanks to new members for their trust and confidence in this outfit, and our heightened commitment to live up to our stated objectives.

More detailed bio data will be included in roster update. Our newest members served across a wide span of time, from the mid-1950s to the late 1980s in concentration camps. Several undertook near epic journeys for weeks and months. Once again, thanks for coming on board. As Louisville clearly demonstrated, you're all among good friends again. Congratulations also due Nguyen Van Chinh, whose daughter Phuong has been nominated for 'Who's Who in American High Schools', after having been in this country for just over a year.

MEMBER PROFILE This issue features Max Lund, in his own words: 'I entered the service as a draftee, kicking and screaming. By graduation from OCS, I was volunteering for Viet Nam; being tapped for the Phoenix Program told me my enthusiasm had paid off. My first assignment was to a five man district team in the Central Highlands, putting me 'where it was happening.' Our time was divided between constructing defensive positions in the morning, advising in the afternoon, and repelling attacks at night. There were very few Viet Nameese in the province. We were shoulder to shoulder with the Dega 24 hours a day. We came to rely on them for nearly everything. Perhaps it was my small town background, but I was immediately trusting and comfortable with the tribespeople. Their openness and enthusiasm for living really got to me. Their life was so hard and nearly every family had suffered from the war, yet they were able to smile and press on. I transferred to RF/PF work and was the only advisor in the area to go alone on patrol with the Dega. It was these operations that I learned about the legends and folk tales and the rules of tribal society. It was about then I was accused of having 'gone native'. After a short stint as DSA I became the Ethnic Minorities advisor. My counterpart went on to become the Minister of EM. I stayed back and worked with the other tribal leaders. We spent our time trying to unify the tribes and teaching them how to work within the system. Our goal was to retain control of the tribal lands through land reform and politics. It was gratifying to see how quickly these 'primitive' people caught on to playing the game by the other man's rules. When Viet Nam fell it was these same leaders, who had been my friends, who organized a resistance force and led thousands of unified tribesmen against the NVA. That force still fights today. Now the NVA has retaliated with a program of genocide of the Dega. These are our ooyal honest friends. They worked with us, and we fought alongside each other. We owe them our political support and much more. I appeal to everyone to help stop the communists before it is too late. Since I returned home to my native northern Michigan, I've worked 14 years as a court adminstrator, and am now a great lakes sailor aboard the historic steamship, JB FORD, pursuing my lifelong goal to 'mess around in boats.' I'm also very pleased with this association, its goals, and very much enjoyed the Louisville Reunion. God Forbid we should every become 'normal people'.



301st CIDG Co.

(Courtesy Clem Kelley'  
VN Insignia Newsletter)

So, here's another one of your fellow members. Max declined to send a photo, indicating his desire to eliminate spousal discord if any of our better halves were to gaze upon his debonaire visage. Ever the gentleman.

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QLVNCH BDQ/Ranger.  
Shoulder Patch

(Courtesy Clem Kelley's  
VN Insignia Newsletter)

TIDBIT FROM THE PAST Nothing came in from the ranks so will go with non-event related by Warren Parker(USA, ret), then-USAID PROVREP, Kien Hoa(Ben Tre) Prov., summer, 1974: A VC assassin(command mine detonator) was apprehended in Ben Tre. During interrogation she stated her standing orders including the stern and inviolable admonition not to detonate her mine underneath any USAID Scouts. Reason: local USAID doctor and rural health advisor, who always traveled backroads in a Scout, had won the admiration, praise and gratitude of rural villagers. If the VC had been responsible for his death, and resultant decline in village health standards, their credibility among village people would have suffered an irreparable setback. All roadside mine-blowers were issued similar orders-do not blow away the USAID doctor.

So, will be sending notes out to the ranks, requesting other recollections of people, places, events. Put your retrospective thining caps on....

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REUNION COMMENTS 'As one of the few who attended our first 'reunion'in San Jose in 1990, and having missed Houston in '91, I was struck by the dramatic contrast in the '92 Louisville reunion. The term 'reunion' was really a misnomer in 1990 since most of us had never met before. 'Union' is a more accurate term for the first coming together of no more than a dozen of us with shared goals of preserving the history of what really happened in SE Asia, and of helping our former counterparts in whatever ways available. We didn't need a meeting hall, just a hotel room in which to hash out what we were trying to accomplish and how we might best go about it. We apparently didn't do too bad a job, but it wasn't all work. We had the pleasure of new friendships and, courtesy of two or three former counterparts, the finest Viet Nameese fease any of us had enjoyed since leaving VN. In sharp contrast, Louisville '92 showed all

the hallmarks of an organized reunion: special rates on rooms and rental cars, registration, hospitality and meeting rooms, planned agenda, guest speakers. Further, over half our number, still over twice as many as at San Jose, enjoyed a truly impressive and informative all-day tour of Ft. Knox, laid on by the CG, MG Tom Foley, one of our members. Saturday's business meeting was well attended, well organized, and quite lively. Steve and Jeanne deserve our thanks for all their work, and our newly elected officers are to be commended for their conduct of the meeting.

Since our '93 reunion will also be in Louisville, I hope it will be possible to arrange another Ft. Knox tour.

-Ray Battreall

It's a good bet Ray speaks for all, as Louisville '92 was a memorable and positive experience. Mark your calendars now for 10-14 March, 1993, sending any and all comments and suggestions to our Adjutant, Steve Herberth, his CO Jeanne, both of whom doubling up as reunion ramrods once again.

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OTHER REUNIONS publicized for fellow vet groups.....

GAMEWARDENS OF VN

(Brown Water Navy & attached/supt. units)  
30 Jul-5 Aug, 1992, St. Louis, Missouri, with ADM Elmo Zumwalt, Jr., as Special Guest. Info: Cliff Clifton, reunion coordinator, 1-800-248-5366.

25th Inf. Div

27-30 Aug, 1992, Valley Forge, Pa. (Louisville in '93)  
Info: Andy Ansell; R.D. #1; Box 336; Acme, Pa.; 15610.

Southern Wisconsin/Northern Illinois VN Vets

26-28 June, 1992, Monroe, Wisconsin.  
Info Jim Bartelt, 608/325-7905; or Gary Eisenhower, 815 232-7954. Probably too late for anyone to get in on this one, but just in case, here it is. Keep names/phone No.s for future reference.

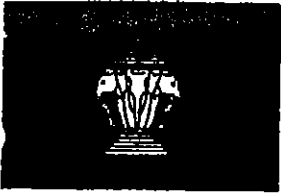
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PRODUCTS Cumberland Marketing International; P.O. Box 40461; Nashville, Tennessee; 37204 has has catalog with over 70 VN videos(along w/Korea, WWII, Desert Storm videos) covering wide spectrum of multi-dimensional conflict in VN. Most are \$29.95 w/\$2.50 p/h, and run from 15-35 minutes. Conventional war and US units/airpower/etc. predominate, though a number of counterpart-related tapes are available: 'The US Army Unit Advisor in VN', 'Operation Montagnard', 'Eye of the Dragon'(USN Co Vans and Counterparts), 'The Gentle Hand'(USN medics and civil ops in Rach Gia). Write for catalog. Feedback welcome as none of these videos have been previewed by editor.

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'The mind of a bigot is like the pupil of the eye, the more light you pour upon it, the more it will contract.'

-Oliver Wendell Holmes



# AIR LAOS

(commercial)  
1968 - 1985

Sam Neua  
Phong Saly  
Muong Sing  
Nam The  
Sayaboury  
Ban Houei Sai  
Phong Savan  
Savannakhet  
Long Tieng  
Vientiane

ACTION ITEM Member Nay Rong has been trying to get his family out of Viet Nam for several years, and is having little luck. From all that can be gathered, his known opposition to Ha Noi ideology, amplified by Ha Noi's enmity towards those who would preserve Dega culture,, have all

combined to produce a mysterious embolism in admin machinery, and repeated, unexplained delays in processing paperwork for Rong family emigration. Time is of the essence as Nay's son is approaching 21 years of age. Once past this threshold, he will have to go back to the end of the line and reapply.

Little more need be said. Write letters to Senate and House Foreign Relations Committees, SecState James Baker, and forward a copy to Senator Frank Murkowski, member of Senate Banking Committee who favors relaxation of trade embargo. In this and many other instances, our counterparts are subjected to discriminatory policies and practices, 17 years after the war supposedly stopped. The hatchet may be buried, but plenty of dirks and boot knives are apparently still wielded. Do something. Also, The Mountagnard Foundation (address cited previously) is in need of \$ for postage and photocopy expenses needed in campaign to publicize Ha Noi's 'mission civililatrice', or eradication of Dega culture and language. Anyone with spare change is encouraged to send some along. Write and/or send some \$. Do something so Ha noi will get the message that the war is over, and that our Counterparts are entitled to fundamental civil and human rights.

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BEGGING NOTICE Steve Herberth requests anyone winning a lottery, and/or marrying and then divorcing Madonna, emerging with a fat settlement, is encouraged to donate \$ for a computer/word processor. Steve recently had to turn down a hot, and legit, deal on an IBM compatible electronic word box and letter banger for want of spare \$. Be it known that Darryl Nelson is also working on this, and with our deep appreciation. Yes, we're still encountering growth pains, with each month of new members and progress generating additional admin requirements.

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## LETTERS

'I'd like to take this delighted opportunity to send greetings to all those gathered for the Louisville Reunion. I'm very sorry and I apologize for not coming to take part. As members of COUNTER-PARTS we are very proud of our heroic days in the past, when we shared our big sacrifice in the Freedom cause we so cherished. We have also fostered and reaffirmed a greater sense of today's pride and friendship among ourselves in the Association that is symbolized by this Reunion.

Sincerely, Ly Huu Nguyen  
(LTC, Thiet Giap/Armor)

'Many of us missed some of the best reporting and photos of Viet Nam while preoccupied with our duties. My interest was aroused by SITREP #12, which listed four Natl. Geo-graphics with VN/SE Asia articles.

The local Salvation Army proved to be a good source of back issues, with excellent articles and photos. I did some research and compiled a bibliography of National Geographics dealing with VN/SE Asia, and would be glad to send it to anyone who sends along a self-addressed-stamped-envelop(SASE). The April 68 issue dealt with the Montagnards, and should have won a prize for its 120 outstanding photographs and 44 pp. narrative on SF role in working with the Dega.

(Ed. note: Bibliography lists 41 issues of NG dealing w/VN & SE Asia, from March 1912 to February 1991.)

James Honl  
102 Coventry Rd.  
Greenville, S.C.  
29615



Advisory Team 43, Hau Nghia

Shield divided red, blue and white with a yellow map of the province containing three red stripes. Pink arms, black outlines, green rice plant, black borders, HAU-NGHIA and ADV TM 43. Hand embroidered.

-Many thx for your offer to send copies to interested members Jim. Photos alone are worth the price for these thrift store bargains.

'I am a new member, only joining in late 1991. I regret I was unable to attend the Louisville gathering but will try to make the next one. I enjoy the wealth of information in the SITREP and in that regard am passing along a recent NYT article about ROK veterans of VN and problems they face. I was on Adv Tm 70(SD 5, QLVNCH) and we had an ROK officer and NCO attached to train ARVN in martial arts. I was impressed with these professionals. Let me know if there is ever anything I can contribute to the betterment of COUNTERPARTS

Mike McNunn

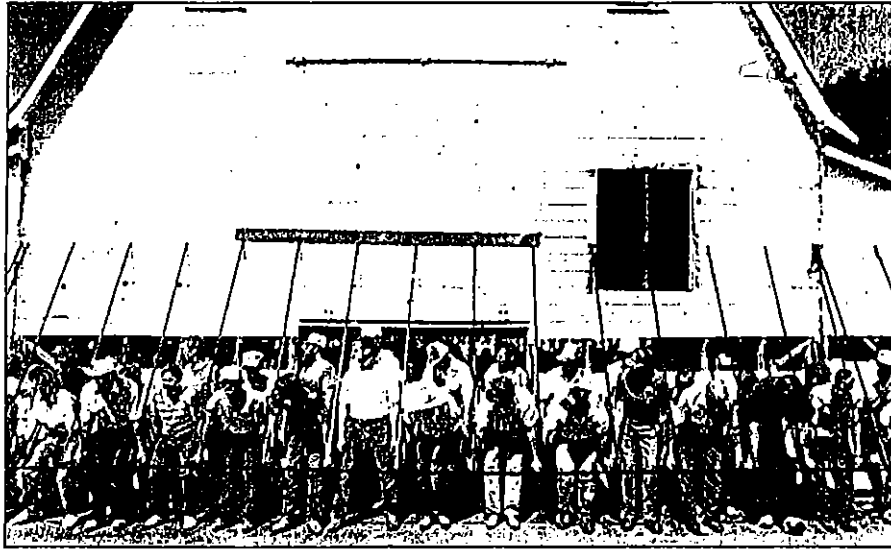
Thx for article Mike. 9 May 92 NYT story (James Sterngold) covers present status of ROK's VN Veterans (312,853 ROK troops served in RVN, w/4,687 listed as KIA), and recent spate of books and movies, some critical, covering this subject. Copy of article available from editor. Please send SASE. All members invited to follow Mike's lead and send in news items, articles, etc.

-0-

Please note attached letter from Trần Ngọc Đóa, reprinted in its entirety. Đóa is president of the QLVNCH Veterans Association. We thank Mr. Đóa for his support and kind words, and look forward to developing closer ties with our counterparts and friends in this sister association.

-0-

Martin Ha is to be congratulated, again, for his appreciated and incessant efforts on our behalf. During a recent trip to California, Martin spoke with publishers of three VN language publications, getting all to agree to carry our locator search list., greatly increasing our odds of finding long lost friends, quite possibly enhancing membership ranks in the process. Martin has also advised that COUNTERPARTS/THDNA is formally invited to send a contingent to the Da Lat Military Academy Alumni Association, 4 July 92, in Houston. Short fuse on this, but calls will be made to area members in hopes they can attend. Once again, sincere thanks to Martin for making this happen.



Volunteers lift the 60-year-old barn. The average load for the movers was more than 50 pounds.

The Associated Press

## 9-ton barn plus 328 pairs of hands equals 110-foot move

**The Associated Press**  
BRUNO, Neb. — Still energetic after 100 years, this town helped a farmer relocate his barn by picking it up and moving it about 110 feet. At Bruno's centennial celebration

Saturday, 328 volunteers grabbed steel poles that Herman Ostry and his sons had placed beneath their barn. As several hundred spectators cheered, the volunteers lifted the 60-year-old structure, moved it sev-

eral feet and set it down. And they repeated the feat for 20 minutes until the barn was 10 feet to the east and 100 feet to the north.

Ostry estimated that the barn weighs nearly nine tons, so each

volunteer had to lift more than 50 pounds, he said.

After moving the barn to its new home, the volunteers turned the structure until the side that had been facing west faced south.

Teamwork does it again.

### LETTERS(cont.)

My name is Howard Feng. I have a Master's Degree in Asian History(1987), and am currently an archivist with the US National Archives as well as a Capt. in the Army Reserve. I am currently working on a book regarding activation of 3rd ARVN Division in late 1971, and its involvement in the '72 Offensive. I would like to contact any US or VN veterans who were in any way involved with the 3rd, and other units in I Corps(MR I) during this period, to include US Army Adv Grp, I CTZ, MACV J-3 and J-4, SD 1/QLVNCH, etc. Any help would be very much appreciated.

Howard Feng 8150 Lakecrest/#300 Greenbelt/Maryland 20770.

Ed. note: Howard's initial work has been read and reviewed, and is a much better example of objective, comprehensive military history than many of the more famous and-for some reason-highly regarding cliché compendiums. It's thorough, analytical and readable, and a valuable addition to history. Also, we owe Howard one, as it was he who sent in article describing Member Dave Wiseman's long 18 year search for Tran Ngoc Hue, which in turn led to contact by COUNTERPARTS, and two very welcome new members. Anyone having experience/insight into 3rd Div. formation and fate is encouraged to write Howard, who still helps us out by spreading the word amongst former Cõ Váns he meets.

'Men hate those to whom they have to lie'

Victor Hugo

(Please stay current with dues so Steve won't have to spend too much time sending reminders)

Closing things out  
for this issue.....

Sympathy and  
Condolences to Phil  
Brick whose Father  
passed away on 2 April,  
less than a year after  
Phil's Mother died.  
We are sorry to hear of  
this painful news, and  
wish that mere words  
could convey our sent-  
ments. To make matters  
worse, Phil was a victim  
of corporate 'downsizing'  
(People who invent these  
euphemisms should be heavily fined) and new position with another  
company forces Phil to regrettably resign his position as Humanitarian  
Project Officer which Phil, in his own words, 'believes very strongly  
in.' Here's wishing Phil smooth sailing for the rest of '92, with  
thanks for his efforts to get this position established. Anyone  
interested in volunteering for vacant slot can contact Grant or  
Steve.



-0-

Gleaned from various news sources.....Australia has extended a \$76.4  
(US equiv.) 4 year aid package to VN New VN constitution reaffirms  
centralized political monopoly, yet attempts to extend wider economic  
latitude in deference to 'market forces'(mixing oil and water...?)  
ATT opens direct phone line service to VN, US lifts travel ban...  
VN scientists, employing admirable ingenuity in face of minimal  
research facilities and equipment, may have developed a vaccine for  
Hepatitis B, as well as an anti-malarial drug from the Thanh Hao  
tree, found only in VN ... VN holds first state gem auction,  
peddling 198 lbs of uncut rubies and other gem stones to international  
buyers. Future auctions to be held every 2-3 months(rumor mill has it  
that Vo Nguyen Giap's daughter is by-passing 'official auctions' and  
involved with a little 'free lance export' on the side) ROK oil  
company signs drilling agreement to search for more oil off south VN  
coast.. Health care takes a beating in VN(NYT article, 4 June 92),  
with malnutrition and archaic health facilities all found wanting..  
Dr. Dương Quỳnh Hoa, former VC and former health minister, stated  
Ha Noi's rice export policies is simply 'exporting the health of the  
people.' Studies show pre-WW II height of average VN was taller  
than Japanese average. Presently, average VN height of 5' 6" is  
10" below average in Japan.... A used Ford Falcon can be sold for  
3.5 ounces of gold, or \$1,250.00 in Saigon.... Hà Nội, alarmed at  
rate of deforestation, has reportedly banned logging in forest preserves,  
and reportedly called a halt to lumber exports(but may not be able to  
rein in enterprising local cadre).

OK, dazit for this issue. Little bit late in getting out, but we'll  
keep plugging away. Keep cards/letters/suggestions/comments coming  
in.

Chào tạm biệt

THANKS AGAIN TO  
BUI QUANG LAM FOR ABSORBING  
PRINTING COST





**TỔNG HỘI CỰU CHIẾN SĨ QUÂN LỰC VIỆT NAM CỘNG HÒA**  
**FEDERATION OF VIETNAMESE (A.F.R.V.N.) VETERANS ASSOCIATION**

P.O. BOX 498 - BARKER, TX 77413-0498 . (713) 392-2107

Katy, March the 1st, 1992

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ỦY VIÊN TT BÁO CHÍ (Inf.Off)

Nguyễn-Thử-Ơi

From: Tran-Ngoc-Doa  
President of The Federation of VN Veterans Association

To: Mr. Chairman  
Counterparts Chapter.

Dear Mr Chairman  
and Counterparts Members,

I regret of being unable to attend the Louisville Reunion as Colonel Ha Quach has insisted me to. However I request the privilege to extend some of my thoughts regarding the Vietnam cause as followed:

While the beloved sons and daughters of USA and VN have voluntarily accepted the sacrifice of defending the Freedom cause in our country, mistakes from our governments as well as from allied countries, on different fields and levels have lead to the allied support withdrawall against our will. And that has caused VN to fall to the VN Communist domination which deprives our nation from Freedom, Democracy and Human Rights.

From then people are trying to turn the VN page in history... Even, after the glorious victory in Persian Gulf War people were so delighted to easily remove the Viet Nam syndrom from their mind and forget the Viet Nam Lesson. But, you and us, we strongly acknowledge that the Conscience of Viet Nam still exists in every responsible human being until this Conscience Stigma is healed.

Looking at the international and national political activities as of today, the VN cause is raising as one of the important political and consciencious issues that no one can disregard. And that is the true and real reason of the existence of our Chapters.

In memory of those heroic sons and daughters who have sacrificed their life for the VN cause and recognizing the great lost for their love ones as well as to acknowledge the Friends In Arms who have heartily helped the VN Armed Forces in defending their Homeland, I would pray for the success of the Louisville Reunion.

To liberate Viet Nam from the Communist domination is our goal, because this lovely population deserves it. In pursuing this goal I will cooperate with you in my effort and capacity.

God Bless the USA, God bless VN and all of us.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Tran-Ngoc-Doa



*Tran Ngoc Doa*

President of FVVA

# Counterparts

**Tướng Hữu Đông Nam Á**

ADJUTANT

Post Office Box 22791  
Louisville, KY 40252-0791



YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND  
THE MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL  
COUNTERPARTS PICNIC

SATURDAY, 8 AUGUST 1992

NOON UNTIL .....

WALNUT LAWN FARM, PRATTS VIRGINIA  
(Directions on reverse)

MEMBERS OF CUYA ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO JOIN IN THE FUN

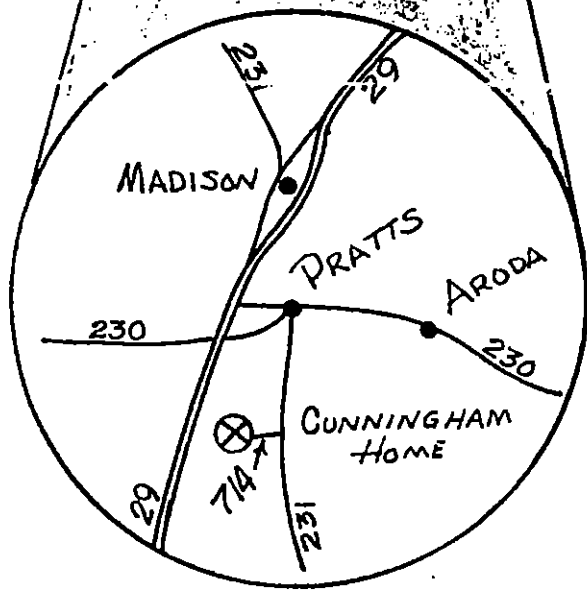
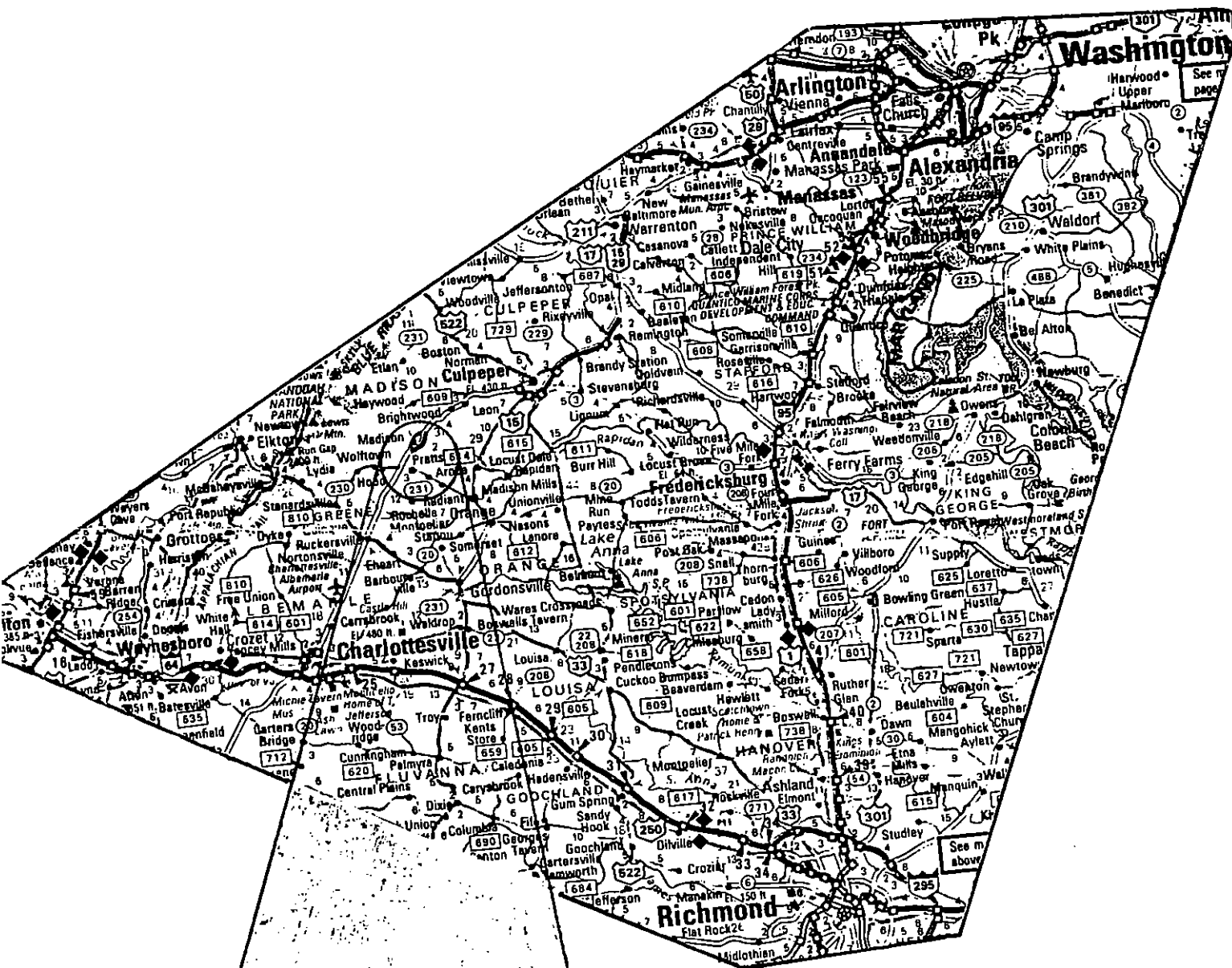
FAMILY AND FRIENDS ARE WELCOME

BRING SOME FOOD AND DRINK, A BLANKET OR CHAIR

BRING GOOD CHEER FOR SHARED FELLOWSHIP!

R.S.V.P.

Bob Cunningham  
PO Box 56  
Pratts VA 22731  
(703)948-6542



If all else fails ....  
 Bob Cunningham (703)948-6542