

LETTERS



Communism a colossal disaster to mankind

Re. Proposed monument
offends Communist Party,
Oct. 9.

The Vietnamese Canadian Federation applauds the decision of the National Capital Commission to finally approve the title "A Memorial to Victims of Totalitarian Communism — Canada, a Land of Refuge" after some lively debates.

It's too bad the Communist Party of Canada hasn't recognized what a colossal disaster communism has been to mankind. More than 100 million people were killed by Communist regimes all over the world.

Since 1945, the Vietnamese people have been victims of countless atrocities committed by the Communists.

The most notorious of these include the "Land Reform Campaign" of 1951-1953 — modelled after a similar campaign in China — in which 50,000 people were executed for being "land owners"; the massacre of 5,000 people in Hue, Central Vietnam, by Communist troops when they briefly occupied this city in 1968; and the imprisonment and brutal treatment of hundreds of thousands of public servants and military personnel of the Republic of Vietnam, as well as religious leaders, intellectuals, and businessmen, follow-

ing the fall of South Vietnam in 1975.

Over the last few years, Vietnamese Communist authorities imprisoned many religious leaders and political dissidents including some very young lawyers who were brave enough to voice their concerns over the lack of freedom and democracy, particularly over the government's decision to let the Chinese mine bauxite in central Vietnam, with potentially disastrous environmental consequences to millions of people.

They also blatantly confiscated the lands and buildings belonging to the Catholic church.

Just last month, they expelled monks and nuns from the Bat Nha Temple in Lam Dong province.

The crimes against humanity committed worldwide by the Communists are well documented in the book *Le livre noir du communisme — Crimes, terreur, repression* (Robert Laffont, France, 1997; *The Black Book of Communism*, Harvard University Press).

It'd be a good eye opener for members of the Communist Party of Canada, if there is anyone left.

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