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Vietnamese **BULLETIN** vietnamien
Vietnamese Canadian Federation Fédération vietnamienne du Canada

Vietnamese Canadian Federation
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FEDERATION NEWS

VCF and WTO

The Vietnamese Canadian Federation is currently working with representatives of the Vietnamese communities in other countries to lobby the World Trade Organization (WTO) to demand the Vietnamese government allow importation of cultural products from other countries, as a pre-condition for its entry into this crucial world organization. Following is a letter that VCF President, Danh T. Nguyen, sent to the Minister of International Trade in this campaign.

August 12, 2004

*The Honourable Jim Peterson, P.C., M.P.
Minister of International Trade
International Trade Canada
125 Sussex Drive
Ottawa, ON K1A 0G2*

Dear Sir:

I am writing to thank your Department for giving us the opportunity to meet, on August

4, with the officers involved in the current negotiation regarding Vietnam's application for entry into the World Trade Organization (WTO). We are grateful for the background information that these officers gave us on this negotiation.

As we indicated to your officers at the meeting, we strongly urge the Canadian negotiation team to demand Vietnam abolish, as a condition for its accession to WTO, its monopoly on importing all cultural products. This condition, if achieved, would facilitate the exposure of Canadian culture, and the dissemination of Canadian views on human rights, freedom, and democratic values, to the Vietnamese people.

Trusting that our suggestion will receive a positive response from International Trade Canada, I remain,

Yours truly,

Danh T. Nguyen., President

United Way Campaign - 2004

As in previous years, the Vietnamese Canadian Centre has just launched its annual United Way Campaign. The letter reproduced below was recently sent to many federal public servants, followed by a kick-off lunch organized on Friday, September 24 at the Vietnam Palace Restaurant in Ottawa. So far, the response has been quite positive.

Ottawa, September 15, 2004

Dear Friends:

On the occasion of the United Way Campaign 2004, I am writing to solicit your support of the Vietnamese Canadian Centre, a registered charitable organization based in Ottawa, established by the Vietnamese Canadian Federation in 1987 (see background below).

Last year, thanks to the generous contributions of our friends and supporters, we were able to raise close to \$2,000.00 through the United Way Campaign. We hope that you will be able to make a donation to help us meet our target of \$5,000.00 for this year.

*For your reference, our business number -- which should be specified on Part C of the Gift Form (Formulaire de don) -- is **11928 5849 RR0001**.*

I apologize for sending this unsolicited letter to you, and for any inconvenience that it may cause. Should you not wish to receive a similar letter in the future, please let us know and we would be pleased to remove your name from our mailing list.

Thanks a lot for your help.

*Diep Trinh
Executive Director, Vietnamese Canadian Centre*

BACKGROUND : VIETNAMESE CANADIAN CENTRE

The Vietnamese Canadian Centre -- currently located at 249 Rochester Street, Ottawa -- is a registered charitable organization (Business No. 11928 5849 RR0001) established by the Vietnamese Canadian Federation in 1987 for the

following purposes: (1) to provide social services to poor refugees and immigrants; (2) to serve as a resource centre for the Vietnamese community in Canada; (3) to serve as the national office of the Vietnamese Canadian Federation and the focal point of activities in the Vietnamese community in the National Capital Region.

Since its inception, the Centre has participated in numerous community projects including: the Van-Lang Non-Profit Housing Centre (1992), the Vietnamese Commemorative Monument (1995), the exhibition "Boat People No Longer: Vietnamese Canadians" by the Canadian Museum of Civilization (1998), and the 25th anniversary of the arrival of Vietnamese refugees in Canada (2000).

The Centre has hosted numerous public meetings, election debates, and workshops. It has given many courses of common interest, including courses in citizenship preparation, fitness, computer, Vietnamese cooking, flower arrangements, etc. Currently, the Centre employs four part-time social workers to provide resettlement and other referral services to newly-arrived refugees, immigrants, and people with modest income.

Further information on the Vietnamese Canadian Centre and the Vietnamese Canadian Federation is available on the following website: <vietfederatiron.ca>.

MEDIA REVIEW

Japan Lays Out New Aid Policy For Vietnam

AFP, June 3, 2004 Thursday

HANOI: Japan, Vietnam's biggest aid donor, will link future aid for the communist nation to a series of benchmarks that include respect for human rights and its investment climate.

Mitsuru Kitano, Minister at the Japanese embassy in Hanoi, said that under Tokyo's new official development assistance (ODA) charter, the size of its annual aid pledge to Vietnam would depend on five elements.

One of these, he said, includes the "principles" of respect for human rights and the environment, as well as progress made by the Vietnamese government towards democracy and a market economy.

The new aid programme would also take into consideration the overall bilateral relationship and Vietnam's "policy and institutional environment".

Although Japan is the third largest investor in the country, investment ties were strained in 2002 when Hanoi slashed import quotas on motorcycle parts, forcing Japanese manufacturers Honda and Yamaha to temporarily suspend production at their Vietnamese factories.

Alarm bells were set off again in Tokyo last year after Hanoi announced a series of tax hikes on foreign-invested vehicle manufacturers.

Kitano said the other factors that will be taken into account when determining assistance for Vietnam are its development

needs and its "absorption capacity of development aid".

Japan has repeatedly expressed its frustration at the slow disbursement of aid and warned last December at the annual meeting of donors to Vietnam that it could cut future donations unless Hanoi picks up the pace.

Kitano said that although Japan had taken into account such issues in the past, for the first time the size of Tokyo's annual aid pledge will be directly linked to these five "ODA elements".

"Although our old ODA charter has always addressed these issues, the linkage of these five elements to the actual size of our ODA is new," he told AFP in a telephone interview.

"We will make a systematic examination of our ODA to Vietnam in relation to these principles."

His comments came as Vietnamese Prime Minister Phan Van Khai, speaking in Tokyo, called for stronger regional cooperation to help poorer nations develop.

In December, Japan announced that it would maintain its 2003 level of funding for this year, pledging 91.74 billion yen (846 million dollars).

This came despite cuts in Tokyo's overseas aid budget over the past few years and amounted to nearly 30 percent of the total

amount pledged by donors to help poverty reduction and economic growth efforts in Vietnam.

Japan has traditionally been reticent about linking human rights concerns to its vast international aid programme but last May it cut off new aid to military-ruled Myanmar after it detained democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi.

The ban was partially lifted in August to provide emergency and humanitarian aid but Tokyo has said it will not resume large-scale assistance to the country unless it sees an improvement in the situation there.

Kitano was not able to comment on whether Japan's ODA to Vietnam for 2005 could be cut as a result of continuing international concerns over its human rights record but he said that the issue would be taken into account.

"Are we going to pay attention to human rights (in Vietnam)? Yes we will," he said.

At the donors meeting in December, the European Union stressed the "promotion and protection of human rights should go hand-in-hand with the sustainable development of a country," while the United States urged "greater tolerance of dissent".

US House OKs Linking Vietnam Aid To Human Rights

DOW JONES NEWSWIRES
July 19, 2004 7:17 p.m.

WASHINGTON (AP)--The House voted Monday to restrict U.S. aid to Vietnam if that country fails to improve what lawmakers said was a deplorable human rights record.

"Vietnam needs to come out of the dark ages of repression, brutality and abuse and embrace freedom, the rule of law and respect for fundamental human rights," said Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., sponsor of the legislation that passed 323-45.

Under the measure, U.S. non-humanitarian aid to Vietnam would be capped at levels of the current fiscal year, which ends Sept. 30, unless the President certified substantial progress by Vietnam in releasing political and religious prisoners and respecting religious freedom. Certification would be renewable annually.

Total U.S. aid to Vietnam in 2004 is almost \$40 million, with money going to projects including removal of land mines left from the Vietnam War, disaster relief and food and health programs.

The bill also approved money for non-governmental organizations that promote democracy in Vietnam and for work toward overcoming Vietnamese jamming of Radio Free Asia.

The House approved a similar Vietnam human rights bill in 2001, coinciding with passage of legislation promoting trade with the communist nation. The Senate never voted on the human rights bill.

Rep. Lane Evans, D-Ill., said he opposed Smith's bill because it "will only embolden hard-liners within Vietnam."

He said Vietnam has cooperated fully toward recovering soldiers' remains from the war and is working hard to protect

intellectual property rights better. He noted President Bush also named Vietnam last month as a focus country for the U.S. HIV/AIDS initiative. These efforts, he said, "would be endangered by the shift in relations under this legislation."

Smith said money to fight AIDS in Vietnam would not be reduced by the legislation.

The bill is H.R. 1587.

The many faces of courage

Aug 07 01:00 - CIT - The Ottawa Citizen -

By: Dan Gardner

In March, 2003, Dr. Nguyen Dan Que complained on the Internet that there is no real freedom of expression in Vietnam. Four days later, he was arrested and jailed.

For 16 months, Dr. Que was held incommunicado. Last week, a Vietnamese court convicted the 62-year-old physician of "abusing democratic freedoms" and sentenced him to 30 months in prison.

Dr. Que knew perfectly well what would happen if he dared to say what was true. A long-time human rights activist and Amnesty International member, he has spent 19 of the last 26 years in prison. His health is poor. Vietnam's prisons are filthy holes. And yet this frail man went to an Internet cafe in Ho Chi Minh City and wrote the truth, knowing that it would mean prison and that prison might kill him.

That is almost unfathomable courage. We celebrate soldiers for the indisputable bravery it takes to stand amid bullets. But it is one thing to summon the strength to fight

when the blood is hot and the body strong; it is quite another to find courage late at night in a cold cell, when nothing lies ahead but grey months and grinding years. To fight through sickness and despair, to fight even as you watch your body sag, your face grow lined and tired, your time in life slip away -- that takes a mighty courage.

In my work as a journalist, I've had the chance to see that courage on occasion. It is always a humbling experience.

In Russia, I saw it in Aleksandr Nikitin, a former submarine engineer who had embarrassed the authorities by providing a Norwegian group with non-classified information about environmental threats posed by nuclear submarines. He was charged with espionage, jailed, threatened and defamed. His family fled the country. Months dragged into years, but even when prosecutors offered to drop the whole thing if he would go into exile, he refused. In the end, Nikitin won a full acquittal. It was the first legal defeat suffered by Russia's secret police in their 80-year history.

In Egypt, I saw that courage in a young man I cannot name because he is gay and his work is defending gay men from the persecution they face at the hands of the police -- everything from shakedowns to prosecution, torture and murder. This man is bright, multilingual and educated. He could go anywhere and do anything. Yet he chooses to stay and spend his nights visiting police stations, working the rusty levers of Egypt's legal system to rescue gay men from the hands of their tormentors -- all while knowing he is as much at risk as the men he saves.

In Mexico, I saw it in Jesus Blancornelas, a newspaper publisher who had barely survived an assassination attempt by gangsters angry about his muckraking. He could have quit and lived a comfortable retirement, but he refused and kept writing even though that meant spending every hour of the day and night surrounded by a platoon of heavily armed soldiers and never going anywhere but his home or office.

In Uzbekistan, I saw it in Tamara Chikunova, the mother of a young man who had been arrested, tortured, convicted on bogus charges and shot. For a time, she was suicidal, but letters of support from Amnesty International gave her hope, and an idea. She found other relatives of torture victims and formed a group that gathers information about torture and delivers it to foreign embassies and journalists. Their homes are bugged and they are constantly threatened, but still they keep at it.

If there's one thing that unites all these human-rights defenders, and so many more like them, it is the persecution they suffer for stepping between the powerful and the powerless. Harassment and threats are standard. Arrests, charges and prison are common. And every year in countries around the world, human-rights defenders are tortured and murdered.

The tightest security screening I've ever gone through wasn't in an airport or a presidential palace. It was at the entrance to the modest offices of a Colombian human-rights group in Bogota. Bomb-proof shielding, metal detectors, remote-controlled steel doors: all necessary because in Colombia's three-way civil war, all sides hate human-rights defenders.

Human Rights Watch keeps an updated list of attacks on human-rights defenders on its website (www.hrw.org). China. Thailand. Sudan.

Burma. Indonesia. On and on it goes for pages. Tunisia. Cambodia.

Nigeria. It is a relentless litany of human cruelty.

But it is something else, as well. It is proof that no matter how ruthless the powerful may be, there is always someone who cannot be silenced. There is always someone who will fight no matter how long the struggle or awful the cost. There is always someone like Dr. Nguyen Dan Que -- someone who has that mighty courage.

Dan Gardner is a Citizen senior writer.

From Vietnam to freedom

My parents and I embarked on a dramatic journey nearly 25 years ago, on a tiny fishing boat carrying 100 adults and 95 children.

By CAT-DAN LAI

The Toronto Globe & Mail, Thursday,
September 16, 2004 - Page A22

On the drizzly night of June 1, 1979, a young couple huddled at the small harbour in Qui Nhon, central Vietnam. Tuan Hoang Lai, a 21-year-old national swimming athlete, held a blanket around the slight shoulders of 22-year-old Mai Xuan Dang, trying to protect her from the cold.

They peered over the harbour, hoping to see into the water below. Fear seeped into the silence while they waited in the darkness. The couple took turns holding their baby daughter, who had been dosed with codeine to keep her silent throughout the clandestine escape from Vietnam. But the terror of being caught paled beside the torment of remaining behind in a land that was no longer theirs.

The country they both knew vanished after the Vietnam War ended with the U.S. retreat and the subsequent capture of Saigon, now Ho Chi Minh City, by Communists. The new government implemented cruel regulations and strict reforms throughout the country - curfews, forced labour and the removal of everything representing individual rights. From the time the young couple first met - in 1977, at a youth labour camp in the jungles of Central Vietnam - they shared the same passion for a better life.

It became urgent to escape after they married. Mai was pregnant and forced to comply with state labour regulations. Any opposition meant re-education camps, from which people rarely returned.

So began the dramatic journey on which my parents and I embarked nearly 25 years ago, on a tiny fishing boat, its small deck cramped with a human cargo of 100 adults and 95 children.

My father stayed on deck with the captain and acted as his navigator, messenger and mechanic. Having a strong swimmer on board proved crucial for this desperate journey when the rains began and the full force of the monsoon threatened to destroy our tiny boat. My father regularly dived deep down to fix snags in the boat's propeller, which got ensnared in fishing nets or stuck on sand dunes.

Intense seasickness reduced the passengers to barely breathing corpses as we floated listlessly on through hostile waters. However, the morning of the 10th day brought a different sight. Land! An official-looking ship slowly approached, with its loudspeaker voice announcing in both Cantonese and English that we had arrived in waters belonging to Hong Kong.

We were detained at camps in Kowloon. There, we were cleaned and deloused. Usually fashionable, my mother never felt so filthy, standing there in her vomit- and excrement-stained clothing. My father didn't fare better - his clothes and skin reeked of the refugee waste he'd dived into.

A month stole by without any word from the world outside. Then one day, a tall and movie-star-like stranger with light-brown hair and a good sense of humour visited our camp.

This clean-shaven and soft-spoken young man began to describe a country called Canada. He explained how just as Vietnamese owned bicycles, Canadians owned cars. Everyone especially enjoyed his story of occasionally driving home to have lunch with his parents, who lived hundreds of kilometres away from him back home. Imagine living in a country so large that you had to travel by car for hours just to have lunch with your family!

Pleased with the language abilities of my father and the captain, and by the enthusiasm of the rest of their fellow passengers, the man extended an invitation for our entire group to be sponsored by the government and citizens of Canada.

While growing up, my father had opted to study English. French belonged to the age of his parents and antiquated colonialism,

whereas English belonged to the more upbeat and progressive era of the 1970s. He also found it much more useful for befriending ex-pat Americans in Vietnam.

Touched by Canada's compassion to open its borders to us, we gladly accepted and excitedly waited to begin our next journey towards a real home, a new identity and a peaceful life once again.

So it was on Monday, Oct. 10, 1979, that my parents and I arrived in Edmonton. My parents dreamed of starting their new lives in a big city like Vancouver. It turned out that several Dutch families in the port city of Sarnia, in Southern Ontario, had sponsored us. The customs official assured my parents that Sarnia was a very large city that was right on the edge of the Great Lakes.

Pleased with the description, my parents and I embarked on the next journey by plane, and arrived at a tiny airport. At first, my parents thought there had been some mistake, glancing anxiously at the single light bulb illuminating the small building. A welcome group and two Asian-looking men stepped up.

My parents waited as the Canadians spoke to one man who in turn relayed the message in Chinese to the second man who then welcomed my parents in Vietnamese.

Immediately grasping the situation, my father responded in English and was met with surprised laughter.

We were then introduced to one of our private sponsors, Alyce and Peter Loerts, a kind, Dutch couple who owned and operated a turkey farm just outside Sarnia.

We shared our very first Canadian Thanksgiving turkey dinner with them at their home.

My family remained in Sarnia for the next 16 years, during which my two brothers and younger sister were born. My father worked his way through college and eventually came to own his own industrial company. My mother opened and managed her own restaurant and a specialty food business.

We had arrived from a distant country with nothing more than tattered clothes. From nothing, my parents succeeded in realizing the dream that had comforted them while they toiled in a Communist labour camp and compelled them to risk a dangerous, watery trek to keep it alive.

Cat-Dan Lai is a Canadian writer on her way to England.

Reunion with a lifesaver

Westminster man catches up with the captain who rescued him from a fishing boat 19 years ago.

By ERIC CARPENTER

The Orange County Register

Friday, August 6, 2004

LOS ANGELES – Cuong "Peter" Nguyen immediately recognized the man in the white shirt and tan pants as he emerged from a crowd of weary passengers at Los Angeles International Airport on Thursday afternoon.

Nguyen, 60, of Westminster, rushed toward him, embraced him and began to cry.

He won't ever forget the face of Jeon Je Yong, the Korean merchant captain he credits with saving him and 95 other Vietnamese "boat people" as they fled their homeland in 1985 in search of freedom.

The tears fell as he repeatedly thanked Jeon.

"I love you so very much," Nguyen said.

It was a moment he had hoped for, prayed about, for 19 years. Finally, a chance to say thank you in person.

It was a reunion shared between two men, but also widely celebrated by Orange County's Vietnamese and Korean communities.

The story of Jeon's act of courage and kindness has spread over the years, especially in the last two weeks in anticipation of the reunion.

Sunday, more than 500 people are expected to pack a Westminster banquet hall to celebrate their story as a symbol of friendship between Koreans and Vietnamese. And to hear the men tell the story that began in darkness in a Vietnamese rice field.

A BOAT TO FREEDOM

Nguyen, who served as a military interpreter during the Vietnam War, was imprisoned for six years after the 1975 fall of Saigon.

When he got out, he and his wife, Nancy, and their three boys had no money, no future. A few years later, at age 41, Nguyen went in search of a better life for them.

He found an underground network of people offering to help him flee by boat. Although he couldn't afford to pay, the boat operators knew he spoke English. So they let him aboard the 45-foot fishing vessel that launched the morning of Nov. 10, 1985, toward international waters.

Conditions aboard the boat were abysmal. Men jostled for space on deck. Women and children huddled below. They ate lemons for

the liquid and dry noodles to fight off hunger.

There were no toilets.

On the third day, the boat reached open ocean. A ship soon appeared in the distance but offered no help.

Then another ship. And another. An entire day went by. The tiny boat went ignored.

A solemn silence overtook the boat. Hope faded by the minute.

At 5 p.m. on the fourth day, storm clouds swirled overhead. The boat was too small to withstand an ocean storm. The passengers - some Christian, others Buddhist - began to pray aloud.

Then, in the distance, a silver dot emerged, closer and closer until it appeared like a mountain. Nguyen and others waved like mad. Crew members aboard the giant ship nodded back as the ship slowed - then went on its way.

Some refugees began to cry. They knew that ship was their last hope. They would die in the storm.

After an hour of agony as waves pounded the refugees' boat, the silver dot emerged again. It was the same ship.

"We all yelled and yelled with joy," Nguyen said. "They were coming back for us."

Nguyen stood at the stern of his boat and shouted in broken English, "What nationality you are?"

The answer: "Korean."

More cheers went up. Nguyen climbed aboard first, then helped the other 95 passengers to safety. Captain Jeon ensured

that everybody got dry clothes. He invited Nguyen, the apparent leader, to take a bed in his quarters.

He poured Nguyen a glass of whiskey.

"It tasted perfect. It was the first whiskey I had had since the fall of Saigon," Nguyen said. "I knew then we would be safe."

The ship arrived about two weeks later in Pusan, on the southern tip of the Korean Peninsula.

Nguyen and the other refugees were herded into a Red Cross camp, where they would remain until granted asylum.

Jeon paid a surprise visit but could stay only one hour.

It was late December 1985, so Nguyen hurriedly prepared the only gift he could think of. He drew the words "Merry Christmas" and a Korean flag on a sheet of paper, folded it into a card and enclosed a photo of the 96 refugees.

And just like that, Captain Jeon was gone.

A STORY TO TELL

Nguyen was granted asylum to the United States and arrived in San Francisco in November 1987.

In 1992, he became a U.S. citizen and was able to bring his family to live in Westminster.

Feeling fortunate to have found the freedom he'd set out for, Nguyen told his story to everybody who would listen.

On a lunch break at Fairview Developmental Center, where he works as a psychiatric technician, he told it to nurse Soonja Kim.

Touched by the story, she vowed to help him find Jeon.

And in May 2002, the call came. Jeon had been found. Nguyen cried when he heard that she'd located his savior. He penned a letter.

"I am so excited to be in touch with you again," the letter read. "I am personally writing to you on behalf of all my friends to convey to you and your crew how much we are grateful."

Jeon sent a return letter, which included a copy of the Christmas card he'd kept all those years. It also included a story Nguyen had not known.

It began: "Dear friend, I can now confess with big shame to you that I have buried in my mind one thing during the last 17 years."

He went on to say that after picking up the refugees, Jeon radioed his company to tell what he'd done. His bosses ordered Jeon to drop off the refugees at the nearest island. The crew prepared a raft made from empty oil barrels attached to wooden planks.

But in the end, Jeon ordered his men to throw the empty raft overboard and keep his passengers.

"I am human," Jeon, now 62, explained Thursday. "In that moment, the only thing I cared about was 96 lives."

For his defiance, Jeon got a 2 1/2-year suspension from piloting a boat. He now operates a fish farm in South Korea.

Local Vietnamese and Korean community leaders went to LAX on Thursday so they, too, could show gratitude.

"This happened at a time when the shipping industry was almost entirely ignoring boat

people, and this man made a difficult decision to help," said Lan Nguyen, a Garden Grove attorney.

"For him to have made that kind of courageous, compassionate decision, that needs to be celebrated."

The people Jeon saved have begun new lives all over the world. Only one other person on that boat is expected to attend the luncheon Sunday.

"I wish more of us could come together to welcome him," Nguyen said. "But I am glad for our reconnection, to let him know we all love him."

Jeon was overwhelmed.

"To think we were only 11 hours away all this time, and it took 19 years," Jeon said. "This is my happiest day."

Adams was haunted by his famous photo

Pulitzer Prize-winning U.S. photographer covered 13 wars in his half-century career

By RICHARD PYE
Associated Press

The Toronto Globe and Mail
Monday, September 20, 2004 - Page A9

NEW YORK -- Eddie Adams, a photojournalist whose half-century of arresting work was defined by a single frame -- a Pulitzer Prize-winning photo of a guerrilla being executed in a Saigon street during the Vietnam War -- died yesterday at the age of 71.

Mr. Adams died at his Manhattan home from complications of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, better known as Lou Gehrig's disease, assistant Jessica Stuart said. Diagnosed in May, he quickly lost his

speech but remained alert and worked into his final days.

"Eddie Adams was an enormous talent and an inspiration to generations of AP photographers and staffers," said Tome Curley, president and CEO of the Associated Press, for whom the photographer was working when he took the famous picture. "His courage and creativity left a mark that will live forever."

In addition to his photographs of 13 wars, Mr. Adams's images of politics, fashion and show business appeared on countless magazine covers and in newspapers around the world. His portraits of presidents ranged from Richard Nixon to George W. Bush, and those of world figures included Pope John Paul II, Deng Xiaoping, Anwar Sadat, Fidel Castro and Mikhail Gorbachev.

But fame -- instant, enduring and discomfiting -- resulted from a single photo taken Feb. 1, 1968, the second day of the Communist Tet Offensive, in the embattled streets of Cho Lon, the Chinese quarter of what is now Ho Chi Minh City.

Drawn by gunfire, Mr. Adams and an NBC film crew watched South Vietnamese soldiers bring a handcuffed Viet Cong captive to a street corner, where they assumed he would be interrogated.

Instead, South Vietnam's police chief, Lieutenant-Colonel Nguyen Ngoc Loan, strode up, wordlessly drew a pistol and shot the man in the head.

Mr. Adams caught the instant of death in a photo that made front pages around the world. It would become one of the Vietnam's War's most indelible images, shocking the U.S. public and used by critics to dispute official claims that the war was being won.

In later years, the photographer found himself so defined -- and haunted -- by the picture that he would not display it at his studio. He also felt it unfairly maligned Col. Loan, who lived in Virginia after the war and died in 1998.

"The guy was a hero," Mr. Adams said, recalling the chief's explanation that the man he executed was a Viet Cong captain responsible for killing the family of his closest aide a few hours earlier.

"Sometimes a picture can be misleading because it does not tell the whole story," Mr. Adams said in an interview for a 1972 AP photo book. "I don't say what he did was right, but he was fighting a war and he was up against some pretty bad people."

Mr. Adams won a 1969 Pulitzer Prize for the Saigon execution picture, among the more than 500 honours he received in his career. Others included a 1978 Robert Capa Award and three George Polk Memorial Awards for war coverage...

The Vietnamese Bulletin *vietnamien* is a quarterly newsletter published by the Vietnamese Canadian Federation.

The Federation welcomes contributions to this publication from its member associations and from the public, as well as suggestions or comments that may help improve its format or enrich its content.

Additional copies can be obtained by writing to:

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