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

**Vietnamese Canadian Federation  
Fédération vietnamienne du Canada**

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**FEDERATION NEWS**

**Vietnamese Canadians welcome new  
Governor General**

Following is a letter from Her Excellency  
Michaël Jean in response to VCF's  
congratulations upon her appointment as  
Governor General of Canada

November 13, 2005

Mr. Ut V. Ngo  
President, Vietnamese Canadian Federation

Dear Mr. Ngo:

I would like to thank you warmly for your  
kind words following my recent installation  
as Governor General of Canada.

I am buoyed by your support and the  
conviction that Canada will continue to  
achieve great things if we work together for  
the well-being of our population and  
humanity in general. Please know that I plan  
to make this office a place where citizens'  
voices are heard and acted upon, a place  
where the values of tolerance, openness and

sharing - so dear to me and to all Canadians - can flourish.

I am eager to seek out my fellow citizens in this country with its unlimited possibilities, and to engage them in dialogue, because in my eyes, dialogue is the very lifeblood of this country.

Once again, thank you for having written to me.

Yours sincerely,

Michaëlle Jean

### **Vietnamese Canadians celebrating 30 years in Canada**

Following is a Press Release of the Vietnamese Canadian Federation announcing the celebrations of 30 years of Vietnamese in Canada.

#### **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Vietnamese Canadians Celebrating 30 Years in Canada (1975-2005)**

**December 16-18, 2005**

In celebration of the achievements of the Vietnamese community over the last 30 years in Canada, the Vietnamese Canadian Federation - - a national umbrella organization established since 1980 to coordinate the Vietnamese community's social, cultural, and sports activities -- will be holding a three-day national workshop under the theme "**Vietnamese Community Celebrating 30 Years in Canada: Achievements, Opportunities, and Challenges**", from December 16 to December 18, 2005, at the Travelodge Hotel,

1376 Carling Ave., Ottawa. This workshop will provide opportunities for Vietnamese Canadians from across the country to discuss issues on the evolution of the Vietnamese community in Canada, its integration into Canadian society, its achievements, the opportunities that are open to its members, as well as the challenges faced by them in various areas such as culture, business, services, and sciences and technology.

A gala dinner will also be held on Saturday, December 17, at the same location, in conjunction with an exhibition on the community's achievements. The entertainment program of the gala will showcase talented Vietnamese Canadians who are, or will be, the success stories in a wide range of artistic fields.

Following the fall of South Vietnam in 1975 to the North Vietnamese Communists, hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese escaped from their homeland in search for freedom. Most people fled in small, leaky boats in the perilous South China Sea; thousands perished due to starvation, drowning, or at the hands of cruel pirates. In response to their plight, the City of Ottawa under the leadership of former Mayor Marion Dewar formed Project 4000 to resettle 4,000 of these refugees, then known as "the Boat People". Subsequently, the Canadian government responded to this grass-root community effort by accepting 50,000 of the Boat People in 1979, and many more in the following years, thus allowing them an opportunity to re-build their lives in this beautiful country. History has turned to a new chapter for the Boat People since then.

During the past three decades, Vietnamese Canadians have become a permanent part of Canadian society through political and socio-economic integration. The

Vietnamese community as a whole has contributed to the enrichment of Canada's mosaic culture and, at the same time, to the building of this country's future. In this context, Vietnamese Canadians from all walks of life have risen above the difficulties and challenges faced by all refugees, and have achieved great success in their new homeland.

### **Greetings by Prime Minister Paul Martin**

I am pleased to convey my warmest greetings to everyone attending the workshops and celebrations commemorating the 30th anniversary of the arrival of significant numbers of Vietnamese people to Canada.

Our country has been immeasurably enriched by the many men, women and children who have made Canada their home. As you mark this special anniversary, you pay tribute to those individuals who came to Canada in search of a better life, and you express the high esteem in which they are held by their family, friends and fellow citizens. As members of the Vietnamese community, you may all take great pride in your outstanding contributions to the strength and vitality of our great nation.

I would like to commend the members of the Vietnamese Canadian Federation for their efforts in organizing this event. Please accept my best wishes for a most enjoyable and memorable three days.

Paul Martin

### **Workshop Program**

#### **Friday, Dec. 16**

16:00 - 22:00 Registration, networking

#### **Saturday, Dec. 17**

07:30 - 08:30 Registration, continental breakfast

08:30 - 09:00 Opening ceremony

#### **09:00 - 10:15 Session 1 (Plenary): Vietnamese Community in Canada: Background**

Speakers: Dr. Pham Ngoc Tung, Counselor, Toronto Board of Education; Professor Louis-Jacques Dorais, Laval University, Quebec;  
Chair: Mr. Ngo Van Ut; Rapporteurs: Mr. Le Quang Minh & Ms. Le-Do Ngoc Han

10:15 - 10:30 Health break

#### **10:30 - 12:30 Concurrent Sessions : Achievements, Opportunities, and Challenges**

##### **Session 2A: Culture / Business**

Speakers: Mr. Tra Lu, writer, Toronto; Mr. Nguyen Dat, Publisher, Thoi Bao Magazine, Toronto; Dr. Nguyen An Lac, lawyer, Vice-President, N&N Consultants, Montreal;  
Chair: Mr. Trinh Vu Diep; Rapporteurs: Ms. Hong Linh & Mr. Huynh Truc

##### **Session 2B: Science / Technology**

Speakers: Professor Vo Van Truong, Vice-Provost - Research, Concordia University; Professor Hoa Van Suong, Chair, Dpt. of Mechanical Engineering, Concordia University; Dr. Le Xuan Loc, Global Power; Mr. Vu Tiet Hung, Chairman, Third Brigade, Ottawa;  
Chair: Mr. Tran Van Nha; Rapporteurs: Mr. Nguyen Vu & Mr. Vu Quoc Bao

#### **12:30 - 14:00 Workshop Luncheon Banquet**

“Capacity Building in the Vietnamese

American Community”  
Keynote speaker: Dr. Nguyen Dinh Thang,  
Executive Director, Boat People SOS,  
Virginia, U.S.; Host: Dr. Ho Van Thua,  
Representative of the Council of Presidents,  
Vietnamese Canadian Federation;  
Rapporteurs: Mr. Le Quang Minh & Ms. Hong  
Linh

14:00 - 15:30 **Session 2C: Services**  
Speakers: Ms. Hoang Thuy Nhung, Barrister,  
Solicitor; Constable Trinh Quoc Tuan, B. Sc.,  
B. A. Sc., Montreal Police Service; Chair: Dr.  
Tran Dinh Thang; Rapporteurs: Mr. Ly Thanh  
Le & Ms. Julianne Hua

**Session 2D: Medicine/Dentistry/Pharmacy**  
Speakers: Dr. Dao Ba Ngoc, M.D., Montreal;  
Dr. Nguyen Phu Hoa, Dentist, Ottawa; Mr.  
Dao Trong Can, Montreal, Pharmacist,  
Toronto; Chair: Ms. Nguyen Ngoc Dung;  
Rapporteurs: Mr. Vu Quoc Bao &  
Ms. Nguyen Trang

15:30 - 15:45 Health break

15:45 - 17:00 **Session 3 (Plenary):  
Experiences of Other Ethnic Communities**  
Speakers: Ms. Sherin V. Emmanuel, Project  
Manager, Government Information  
Management Office, Library and Archives  
Canada; Mr. Andrew Cardozo, former  
Executive Director, Canadian Ethnocultural  
Council; Mr. Frank Ling, former National  
Vice-President, Chinese Canadian National  
Council; Chair: Mr. Nguyen Minh Hai;  
Rapporteurs: Mr. Ho Huy & Mr. Huynh Truc

17:00 - 18:00 Reception (Beachcomber; cash  
bar)

18:00 - 22:30 **Banquet Dinner**  
(Beachcomber) Musical entertainment  
Host: Mr. Ngo Van Ut, President, Vietnamese  
Canadian Federation

## **Sunday, Dec. 18**

07:30 - 08:30 Continental breakfast

08:30 - 10:00 **Session 4 (Plenary – Panel  
Discussion): Opportunities and Challenges  
– Community Perspective**

Speakers: Mr. Nguyen Minh Hai, Regional  
Manager - Alberta, Canadian Heritage;  
Professor Le Van Mao, Concordia University,  
Montreal (TBC); Mr. Tuan Tram, Lockheed  
Martin, NJ, U.S.; Ms. Ngo Thuy Van Phuong,  
Lawyer, Gowlings, Ottawa; Chair: Ms. Danh  
Lam Forsythe; Rapporteurs: Ms. Hong Linh  
& Mr. Nguyen Vu

10:00 - 10:15 Health break

10:15 - 11:30 **Session 5 (Plenary - Panel  
Discussion): Reaching out and Building  
Networks**

Panelists: Ms. Christine Nguyen, Toronto;  
Ms. Vo Bich Quyen, U.S. Dept. of Defense,  
Washington, DC; Ms. Ngo Thuy Van Thy,  
Counsel, Department of Justice, Ottawa;  
Chair: Mr. Tran Thai Hoa; Rapporteurs:  
Ms. Le-Do Ngoc Han & Mr. Le Quang Minh

11:30 – 12:30 Resolutions  
Chair: Mr. Nguyen Van Ba

12:30 Adjournment

Afternoon Sightseeing in Ottawa

## **Report**

The activities organized by the Vietnamese  
Canadian Federation in celebration of the 30<sup>th</sup>  
anniversary of the Vietnamese community in  
Canada on December 16-18, 2005 at the  
Travelodge Hotel in Ottawa consisted of a  
workshop, a gala dinner, and an exhibition.

## I. Workshop

In 2000, on the occasion of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Vietnamese community in Canada, the Vietnamese Canadian Federation organized a workshop on April 29 in Ottawa with the theme *The Arrival of Vietnamese refugees in Canada: What have we learned?* The target groups of that workshop were government, social service agencies, and non-profit organizations dealing with refugees and immigrants, as well as researchers working in this area. The targets of the 2004 workshop, with the theme *Vietnamese community celebrating 30 years in Canada: Achievements, Opportunities, and Challenges*, were members of the Vietnamese community, especially the younger ones.

The main purpose of this event was to review the community's achievements, over the last 30 years, in different areas such as culture, business, science/technology, services, and medicine/dentistry/pharmacy, in order to analyze the opportunities that were open to the community as well as to discuss the challenges that its members will face in the future. This was also an opportunity for community members to strengthen or establish links, among different generations and regions, with a view to contributing to the building of community capacity in general and the development of individuals in particular.

The workshop consisted of 5 parts:

1/ Background of the Vietnamese community in Canada

2/Achievements, Opportunities, and Challenges in:

- Culture and Business
- Science and Technology
- Services
- Medicine/Dentistry/Pharmacy

3/ Experiences of Other Ethnic Groups

4/ Panel discussions: Opportunities and Challenges - Community Perspective

5/ Panel discussions: Reaching Out and Building Community Capacity.

In addition, there was a presentation entitled *Building Capacity in the Vietnamese American Community* by the keynote speaker, Dr. Thang D. Nguyen, Executive Director of the Boat People SOS Committee in Virginia, U.S.A.

The speakers in the workshop came from a variety of professional fields, and are in different age brackets, including: Dr. Tung N. Pham of the Toronto District School Board; Professor Louis-Jacques Dorais, Laval University; Toronto Writer Tra Lu; Mr. Dat Nguyen, Publisher of the Thoi Bao Weekly in Toronto; Scientist and Lawyer, Dr. Lac A. Nguyen, Montreal; Dr. Truong Vo-Van, Vice-President of Research, Concordia University; Professor Suong V. Hoa, Head of the Dept. of Mechanical Engineering, Concordia University; Professor Raymond Le Van Mao, Concordia University; Mr. Hung Vu, Chairman of the Board of Directors, The Third Brigade Corp., Ottawa; Lawyer Nhung Hoang, Ottawa; two young sisters / lawyers Van Phuong Ngo (Goslings) and Van Thy Ngo (Dpt. of Justice, Ottawa); Mr. Hai M. Nguyen, Alberta Regional Manager, Canadian Heritage; Dr. Ngoc B. Dao, MD, President of the Vietnamese Physicians Association of Canada, Montreal; Dentist Hoa Phu Nguyen, Ottawa; Pharmacist Can T. Dao, Montreal; Mr. Tuan Trinh, Montreal Police Dpt., also the first Vietnamese-born police officer in Canada; Ms. Bich Quyen Vo, budget officer, U.S. Dpt. of Defense; Mr. Tuan Tram, systems analyst, Lockheed Martin, NJ, U.S.; and Christine Nguyen, medical student, University of Toronto.

In addition to the above Vietnamese speaking presenters, there were three speakers from the ethnic groups: Ms. Sherin Emmanuel, Sri Lankan Community; Mr. Andrew Cardozo, West Indies Community; and Mr. Frank Ling, Chinese Community.

Over 200 people attended this workshop, more than double the number anticipated by the Organizing Committee, including the representatives of the Vietnamese communities in Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary, Regina, Winnipeg, Toronto, Sherbrooke, Montreal, and Ottawa.

Among the guests of honour participating were the Honourable Mauril Bélanger, Associate Minister of National Defense; Ottawa Deputy Police Chief Larry Hill; former Ottawa Mayor Marion Dewar; and Mr. Rob Burley, Vietnam Desk Officer, Dpt. of Foreign Affairs.

At the conclusion of the workshop, the participants adopted a number of resolutions to thank Canadian Heritage for its financial support, the speakers for their presentations, VCF member associations for their contribution, and the members of the Organizing Committee for their dedication and hard work. The key recommendations include the following ones:

It was recommended that the Vietnamese Canadian Federation: (1) Establish a Youth Advisory Committee; (2) Implement programs to help youths develop and progress in their careers;

It was also recommended that governments at all three levels and member associations of the Vietnamese Canadian Federation support the Federation in carrying out

its project to build the *Vietnamese Boat People Museum* in Ottawa.

A post-workshop assessment indicated that most of the participants were generally satisfied with the conduct and outcome of this workshop.

The Executive Committee of the Vietnamese Canadian Federation plans to compile the proceedings of the workshop for publication in the Spring of 2006.

## II. Gala Dinner

One key feature of the workshop was the gala dinner held on Saturday December 17 at the same location. About 330 people attended this event, again well above the number expected by the Organizing Committee.

The entertainment program following the dinner features a skit entitled *The 30-Year Journey* played by the Ottawa Music Group, a fashion show by this group in conjunction with the students of the University of Ottawa, performances by Lily Doiron (Canadian singer from Montreal who is well versed in popular Vietnamese songs), Thai Hoa and Thai Son (Sherbrooke), Hong Nhung, Kieu Ly and Ivy (The Vietnamese Canadian Idol) from Ottawa.

The skit *The 30-Year Journey* described the life of a Vietnamese refugee orphan whose parents were killed by pirates in their escape for freedom, who was adopted and raised by a Canadian couple, and eventually graduated from the university as a physician. This is a very moving story, based on the poem *A Vietnamese girl and her pebbles* by Vietnamese Poet Tran Trung Dao in Boston, and brought tears to the eyes of many people in the audience.

In the entertainment program, three guests of honour brought their greetings:

Dr. Andy Kusi-Appiah, representing Mr. Bob Chiarelli, Mayor of Ottawa; Mr. Richard Mahoney, candidate for the Ottawa Centre riding of the Liberal Party of Canada; and Mr. Paul Dewar, candidate of the New Democratic Party of Canada.

Also at this gala dinner, the Vietnamese Canadian Federation launched its project to build a *Vietnamese Boat People Museum* in Ottawa over the next 3-5 years. Mrs. Marion Dewar, former Mayor of Ottawa and the founder of Project 4000 established in 1979 to rescue thousands of Indochina's refugees, including many Vietnamese refugees, was unable to attend, but she asked her son Paul Dear to read her letter of support of the project.

### **III. Exhibition**

Another feature of the celebrations of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Vietnamese community in Canada was an exhibition with the theme *A Journey into where we came from and where we're heading*.

The pictures exhibited were divided into four parts: (a) In Search of Freedom; (b) Resettlement and Integration; (c) Community Building; and (d) Thank You Canada.

Some pictures, such as those of the refugees who fled the Communists in North Vietnam in 1954-1955, and the refugees who fled after the Communist take-over of South Vietnam in 1975, were obtained from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Other pictures were collected by the Federation and its member associations.

After being shown in Ottawa, this exhibition will be moved to other major cities by the Vietnamese Canadian Federation, similarly to

the exhibition mounted in 2004 on the occasion of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Project 4000.

### **VI. Reaction by the Media**

The above events were features prominently by a wide range of media: the CBC (Dec. 16), Radio Canada (Dec. 17), the Ottawa Citizen (Dec. 16 and 18), the Ottawa Sun (Dec. 20), the SBTN Television Networks, Thai Boa Weekly (Toronto), the Internet Newspaper Dan Chime Viet (Europe), Vietnam Review (Washington, DC, Dec. 27), Cal Today (Dec. 29), the Overseas Vietnam Television Networks (Washington, DC, December 2005), and the SBTN Television Networks (U.S., Canada, and Australia, December 2005).

### **V. Conclusion**

The consensus of the participants of the celebrations of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Vietnamese community in Canada organized by the Vietnamese Canadian Federation was that they were successful beyond everyone's expectations. The main factor contributing to this success was the enthusiastic participation of the young volunteer professionals and students, from planning the workshop, participating as reporters, arranging for the facilities and the banquet of the gala dinner, preparing the entertainment program, and welcoming out-of-town speakers and delegates. In addition, mention should be made of the invaluable participation by the Federation's member associations in preparing the slide show in the entertainment program, contributing to the exhibition, providing the workshop speakers and chairs, and especially in making arrangements for the young professionals to attend, and advertising these events in their respective communities.

The success of the celebrations of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Vietnamese community in Canada underscores its maturity in Canadian society. It also reinforces the common belief that the community is well on its way to become a strong force in Canada.

## **Resolutions of the Workshop Participants**

### **I. General Resolutions**

1. The Vietnamese community acknowledges with gratitude the invaluable support of the Government of Canada, in particular the Department of Canadian Heritage, and many sponsors, for the celebrations of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Vietnamese community in Canada;

2. Conference participants wish to express their special thanks to the workshop organizers, presenters, and volunteers for their efforts contributing to the success of these events.

### **II. Specific Resolutions**

It is recommended that

#### **The Federal Government**

- Provide support to the preservation and promotion of Vietnamese language and culture;
- Actively recruit and appoint qualified Vietnamese Canadians to various boards and agencies of the federal government;
- Express deep concern of the Canadian government and people on the blatant and continuing violations of human rights in Vietnam, especially the repression of the freedom of religion by the Vietnamese Communist regime;

- Support the Vietnamese Canadian Federation in its efforts to represent the voice and interests of the Vietnamese community in Canada;

- Provide post-secondary internship opportunities in different federal departments and agencies for Vietnamese Canadian youth;

- Provide support and financial assistance to the **Vietnamese Boat People Museum Project**

#### **The Vietnamese Canadian Federation (VCF)**

- Proceed with the project to build the ***Vietnamese Boat People Museum*** in Ottawa;

- Work with member associations in providing resources and tools in the areas of community development, media relations, fund raising, and anti-racism;

- Support member associations in their effort to engage youths in community development activities;

- Set up a special committee to review and propose strategies to preserve and promote Vietnamese language and culture;

- Form networks of Vietnamese Canadian professionals and youth organizations in order to promote a positive image of the Vietnamese community in Canada;

- Establish lobby groups to provide input to the development of Canadian foreign and trade policies towards Viet Nam;

- Establish a ***Youth Advisory Committee*** to promote youth participation in community activities.

**Vietnamese Canadian Federation's  
Member Associations:**

- Provide opportunities for Vietnamese youths to become actively involved in community activities and to assume leadership roles;
- Enhance relationship with local law enforcement agencies and media;
- Prepare an Action Plan to address the challenges in the integration process and to seize opportunities for community development;
- Cooperate with VCF in the implementation of the *Vietnamese Boat People Museum Project*;
- Establish a mentorship program to provide guidance and advice to Vietnamese youths at risk; and
- Set up a *Vietnamese Youth Advisory group* to enhance local youth activities.

**MEDIA REVIEW**

**European Union's Resolutions Regarding  
the Human Rights Situation in Vietnam,  
Laos, and Cambodia**

For immediate release  
Paris, 1st December 2005

**European Parliament Resolution calls for  
multi-party reforms in Vietnam,  
condemns recent repression against the  
UBCV and calls for release of  
Thich Huyen Quang & Thich Quang Do**

Following a debate in the Plenary session of the European Parliament in Brussels on Wednesday, the 730-member EP today voted a Resolution on "The Human Rights Situation in

Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam" strongly condemning the lack of political reforms in the three countries and the ongoing violations of freedom of expression and religion. The Resolution, which was widely supported by all the EP's political groups, demanded that the European Council and Commission review EU cooperation in the light of the "human rights clause" (Article 1) which founds EU-Vietnam cooperation agreements on "respect for democratic principles and fundamental rights".

Regarding Vietnam, the Resolution condemned, in very strong terms, the Vietnamese government's repression of all non-recognized religious communities, notably the recent harassment against UBCV representative boards in 9 provinces. It called on Vietnam "to end all forms of repression against members of the UBCV and officially recognize the latter's existence, and that of other non-recognised churches in the country", and to release all prisoners of conscience, "in particular Thich Huyen Quang and Thich Quang Do".

This is first time the human rights situation in Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam has been debated together in the EP. The debate was formally requested by the EP Foreign Affairs Committee and the Sub-Committee on Human Rights following an EP Hearing on September 12, 2005 on Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam. At this hearing, which marked the 30th Anniversary of the End of the Vietnam War and the advent of communist rule in these three countries, Mr Vo Van Ai, President of the Vietnam Committee on Human Rights, called on the EP to adopt a common resolution on the grave human rights situation in these three countries.

"It is deeply significant that the EP adopts a Resolution today on the grave situation in Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam. Just 30 years

ago, when the Vietnam war came to an end, a particularly brutal period of repression began in our three countries. 30 years later, our people still do not enjoy fundamental freedoms and rights. We are very encouraged by the firm position taken by the EP on freedom of expression and religion. This is a formidable gesture of support for all Vietnamese who are suffering repression simply for advocating fundamental freedoms and democratic reforms, and Vietnam cannot ignore this strong signal from the EU, one of its major trade partners. Vietnam should respond by undertaking political reforms, beginning by abrogating Article 4 of the Constitution (on the mastery of the Communist Party) so it can fulfill the EP's call for multi-party democracy and thus move towards a true national reconciliation of all religious and political currents in Vietnam. Also, it should reestablish the legitimate status of the Unified Buddhist Church of Vietnam and all other non-recognised religious bodies, as called for in the EP Resolution " said Vo van Ai.

The paragraphs on Vietnam are published below. The full text is on the Vietnam Committee's website:

The European Parliament,

A. welcomes the adoption by Vietnam in June 2005 of a " Master Plan on its Present and Future Relations with the EU" as well as the increased willingness by the Government to discuss human rights issues;

B. recognizes the substantial progress made by the Socialist Republic of Vietnam towards economic and social rights as indicated by the social indicators and the UNDP Human Development Index;

C. whereas the Vietnamese authorities are still

putting restrictions on freedom of expression and the freedom of the press, in particular by establishing a police force in 2004 to censor the Internet and imprisoning cyber-dissidents for espionage simply for having circulated information on the Internet, for example Nguyen Dan Que, Pham Hong Son, Nguyen Vu Binh and Nguyen Khac Toan,

D. whereas the indigenous minorities of the high plateaus (Centre and North) in particular the Montagnards, suffer from discrimination and measures such as confiscation of ancestral lands or religious repression;

E. whereas since 1975, the Unified Buddhist Church of Vietnam (UBCV) has been systematically persecuted for its commitment to religious freedom, human rights and democratic reform, that it has been banned since 1981, its property confiscated, its schools, universities, social and cultural institutions destroyed, and that UBCV Patriarch Thich Huyen Quang and his Deputy Thich Quang Do have been arbitrarily detained for almost twenty-five years,

F. whereas the members of UBCV local committees set up in 2005 in 9 provinces of central and southern Vietnam have been systematically harassed by police for providing aid to people in these poor provinces, and that UBCV monk Thich Vien Phuong has been sentenced to pay a fine equivalent to 43 months' basic wage simply for filming an appeal for human rights and democracy in Vietnam addressed by Thich Quang Do to the UN Commission on Human Rights in April 2005;

G. takes note of the testimony given by the Buddhist monk Thien Minh who recently left a re-education camp after 26 years in detention, concerning the terrible conditions endured by prisoners in the Z30A camp in

Xuan Loc, in particular the Roman Catholic priest Pham Minh Tri, Nguyen Duc Vinh held for more than 18 years and a member of the Buddhist Hoa Hao sect, Ngo Quang Vinh, aged 87.

H. takes note that despite a new Act on Belief and Religion introduced in 2004 to codify all aspects of religious life numerous restrictions placed on the Unified Buddhist Church of Vietnam and the protestant churches, including the Mennonite church, have remained in place;

I. whereas the United Nations Human Rights Committee has made recommendations (Ref. CCPR/CO/75/VNM of 26 July 2002) to the Vietnamese authorities with regard to the Legal System Development Strategy, a 10-year plan partly funded by donor countries, among which some Member States of the European Union,

Calls on the Vietnamese authorities to:

- undertake political and institutional reforms leading to democracy and the rule of law, starting by allowing multi-party system and the right of all currents of opinion to express their views;

- apply the Legal System Development Strategy in accordance with the recommendations made by the UN Human Rights Committee and the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

- end all forms of repression of members of the Unified Buddhist Church of Vietnam and officially recognise the latter's existence and that of other non-recognised churches in the country;

- release all Vietnamese political prisoners and prisoners of conscience detained for having legitimately and peacefully exercised their rights to freedom of opinion, freedom of

expression, freedom of the press, freedom of religion, in particular Thich Huyen Quang and Thich Quang Do who are regarded by the United Nations as victims of arbitrary detention (Opinion 18/2005, Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, 26 May 2005);

- guarantee full enjoyment of the fundamental rights enshrined in the Vietnamese Constitution and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, in particular by allowing the creation of a genuinely free press;

- ensure the safe repatriation, under the Cambodia-Vietnam-UNHCR agreement, of the Montagnards who fled Vietnam and allow proper monitoring of the situation of the returnees by the UNHCR and international NGOs.

## BOOK REVIEW

### *Whitewash / Blackwash: Myths of the Viet Nam War*

By Bill Laurie and R.J. Del Vecchio  
54 pages

*"No event in American history is more misunderstood than the Vietnam War. It was misrepresented then, and it is misremembered now. Rarely have so many people been so wrong about so much. Never have the consequences of their misunderstanding been so tragic." (Richard Nixon, No More Vietnams, p. 9)*

As the generation that experienced the long years of conflict and communism in Viet Nam grows older it becomes increasingly important to ensure that younger generations have access to historical information that

allows them a complete, truthful understanding.

**Whitewash / Blackwash** is a concise, factual, readable analysis of sixteen myths that have become embedded in the world's understanding. It includes an excellent bibliography and a list of websites for further reference. The co-authors are veterans who have written the booklet as a way of reaching high school and college students, but it is a valuable resource for anyone seeking to understand the conflict.

The booklet can be ordered through [TechConsultServ@Juno.com](mailto:TechConsultServ@Juno.com);

Topics covered include the domino theory, the 1956 election controversy, the Viet Cong, the U.S. role, the 1968 Tet Offensive, anti-war activists, South Vietnamese resolve, and the aftermath of the war.

If there are any doubts as to the need in Canada for this kind of booklet it is only necessary to check the entry on the Viet Nam War in the Canadian Encyclopedia ([www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com](http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com)), Historica Foundation of Canada. The passage is authored by Victor Levant, a Montreal university professor of political science.

The description of the war therein repeats many of the myths which **Whitewash / Blackwash** convincingly repudiates. Most incredible of all is that Professor Levant presents the war without a single reference to the Viet Nam Communist Party, the context of the Cold War, or the tragic consequences of communist victory. Instead, the war is explained as a case of American imperialism and Canadian complicity. This is a clear example of the willful whitewashing of Vietnamese history by Western political activists. **Whitewash / Blackwash** is an

excellent propaganda-remover for uncovering the truth of what happened.

Jeff McMurdo

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**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.**

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