

# How the Viet Cong views the future

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By Gareth Porter  
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PARIS—As the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam — the so-called Viet Cong — stands on the verge of victory, its spokesmen are emphasizing that it will establish a tolerant rule in Saigon and not “monopolize power.”

Ambassador Dinh Ba Thi,

the PRG's chief representative to the dormant Vietnamese political talks, dismissed as “just an invention” the allegation the PRG will suppress political opposition.

“The future government of South Vietnam,” he said, “will be a government of national reconciliation and concord, that is, a govern-

—Turn to Page 28, Col. 1

—From Page 1

ment representing all the political tendencies, all religions, etc.”

Thi indicated the so-called “Third Force” — Buddhists and other non-Communist opponents of the Saigon government — will play a permanent part in the new political structure of South Vietnam.

“We consider the Third Force has a very important role in resolving the problem of South Vietnam under the Paris agreement as well as reconstructing the country in the future,” Thi said.

He said Third Force “struggle organizations” led the opposition to the evacuation of Da Nang and Qui Nhon, when the South Vietnamese army started to withdraw.

He said those non-PRG organizations formed the “core of the post-liberation governments in areas vacated by Saigon troops.

Sources here said a Third Force leader and former National Assembly deputy,

Phan Xuan Huy, has been named the new mayor of Da Nang.

PRG officials say they recognize the differences between the land-tenure system in South Vietnam today and that which prevailed in the north when the program of collectivization of agriculture began in 1958.

Most farmers in the south, they point out, now have sufficient land to support their families and may feel antagonistic to collectivization.

“If the situation develops that farmers demand collectivization, a PRG delegate said, “it could take place over the next two decades. But if they are satisfied with individual ownership, that system will remain.”

This official seemed much more confident that eventually there would be a popular demand for the abolition of private ownership of industry. But for the time being, he said, there would be no move to expropriate private property.

The officials with whom I spoke also reaffirmed the

long-standing PRG and North Vietnamese position that reunification of North and South Vietnam will have to be a long and gradual process, which may take well more than a decade.

Even as it stands on the verge of power in Saigon, the PRG faces a substantial minority of the population that has long actively opposed the imposition of Communist or Communist party rule, and a much larger number who are afraid of it.

The party leaders have long accepted that the intellectual elite in the south was for the most part anti-Communist.

Thus the party and the PRG must be concerned with how to minimize political opposition to a postwar, Communist-dominated government in the south.

One method, which U.S. and Saigon officials have warned would follow a takeover, is the physical elimination of hundreds of thousands of persons identified as dangerous because of past political activities or

service for the U.S. or Saigon governments.

A Communist party directive to cadres, obtained last year by American volunteer workers in Quang Ngai province, said:

“National concord is not merely a tactic to divide the U.S. puppets, but also our fundamental policy toward the masses of the people living in the U.S.-puppet zone of control.

“The realization of national concord is the correct class standpoint and line of our party at the present time . . .

“With regard to those who participated in the political and armed organizations of the enemy our policy will be to carry out a general amnesty in the spirit of national accord.”

Last month the PRG publicly reiterated a policy of amnesty and Ambassador Thi said any Saigon officials or soldiers who “sincerely repent and work like others, they will be considered like all others.”