

# Viet Neutralists in Paris Issue Reconstruction Plan

1/18/73  
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Washington Post Foreign Service

PARIS, Jan. 17 —A group of a dozen South Vietnamese neutralist exiles today published the outline of a postwar reconstruction and development plan on which they have worked for more than three years.

At a news conference, the group expressed hopes that their own experience of working together despite often differing political opinions would serve as an example for postwar cooperation.

"We purposely chose this grave moment when the fate of our country is going to be decided to raise our voices," said chairman Au Truong Thanh, a former Saigon finance minister often mentioned as a possible member of the tripartite transition organ called the National Reconciliation Council.

He said the group speaks for "those Vietnamese who have no right to speak in the negotiations, but have proved that coexistence among political tendencies is absolutely necessary, perfectly possible, not at all adventuresome, and, in the final analysis, constructive."

Participating in the study group were economists, lawyers, an historian, statistician, engineer, doctor, journalist, a musicologist and an education planner.

Much of their thinking, soon to be published in a 300-page book, is subordinate to the still far off goal of providing South Vietnam with permanent postwar political institutions which they stressed must be strong and stable, but still respect dissent and non-violent opposition.

An 11-page outline favors a central planning ministry allowing great regional decentralization, "coexistence" of government, private and joint economic ventures, regional cooperation with other Indochinese and Southeast Asian states, priority for agriculture and international aid and cooperation based on "mutual profit and respect for political and economic independence."

Although the group put no price tag on their plans, foreseeing three years of reconstruction and seven years of development, Thanh referred

to a 1969 figure of \$7.5 billion mentioned by American economist David E. Lilienthal.

The most immediate priority is to improve farming conditions in the south of the country to allow the millions of refugees now crowded in and around Saigon and other cities to return to their ancestral land, the group said.

The group favors allowing peasants to keep the land which, in some cases, both the Saigon and the Vietcong administrations have handed out in land reform programs, leaving disputes to a special court.

Absentee land owning would be abolished, indemnization guaranteed; and ownership limited to roughly seven to

45 acres of rice or cereal-growing land, depending on the region and land values. New smallholders would be tax exempt for the first three years.

Another recommendation encourages peasants to join cooperative farms, but of their own free choice.

Mines, silk works, salt flats and other businesses hurt by the war would be helped and limits imposed on foreign-owned monopolies such as soft drinks, breweries and cigarette factories.

Although the outline—apparently on purpose—avoids mentioning a socialist economy, its recommendations clearly favor it in many cases.