

fishing and trapping, from 50,691 in 1941 to 34,576, were more than compensated for by the rise in the number of persons in construction from 220,159 in 1941 to almost double that level at 430,366 in 1961 and the 55 percent increase, from 905,516 in 1941 to 1,404,624 persons in 1961, in the manufacturing portion of goods-producing industries.

AGRICULTURAL TRENDS

Occupationally, the decrease in the agriculture industry was reflected in the 46 percent decrease in farmers and farm workers, from 1,056,092 in 1941 to 573,042 in 1961, and a 40 percent decrease in the number of males in primary occupations. In contrast, there was a fourfold increase in the number of female farmers and farm workers, from 18,812 in 1941 to 75,868 in 1961, producing a change of about the same magnitude in primary occupations as a whole. The change from the gainfully-occupied notion of 1941 to the labour-force notion of 1951 and 1961, and the better reporting of female unpaid family workers in agricultural occupations in 1961, were partly responsible.

THE SEARCH FOR PEACE IN VIETNAM

(Continued from P. 2)

being acceptable to the parties on the ground. That was one of the considerations we had in mind when we decided to ask Mr. Chester Ronning, a distinguished former member of our foreign service, to pay special visits to Saigon and Hanoi early last month. On these visits he had a full opportunity of discussing with senior personalities in both capitals their views of the present Vietnam situation and the possibility of the Commission powers playing some part in opening up avenues which might ultimately lead to a peaceful settlement of the conflict. Members of the Committee will appreciate that it would not be helpful for me at this stage to disclose the contents of the discussions which Mr. Ronning had on his visits to Saigon and Hanoi or the possibilities which they may help to open up. All I would like to say is that the results of these visits have in no way seemed to me to foreclose a Commission role in the right circumstances. In the meantime we are continuing our exchanges with our Commission partners in

response to their own indications that they would like to see this dialogue carried forward....

MEETING IN HONOLULU

I think the Committee might wish me to make some comment on the Honolulu meeting which took place in the second week of February. As I see it, the main significance of that meeting was that it laid the groundwork for a comprehensive programme of social and economic reform in South Vietnam. All of us recognize, I think, the very great problems which the implementation of a programme of this magnitude poses in any developing country. These problems are bound to be even greater in a context of continuing armed conflict and in circumstances where positive results can so easily be negated. Nevertheless, we believe that the renewed emphasis that is now being placed on the social and economic aspects of the problem in Vietnam is the right emphasis. It is calculated to contribute to a more stable and progressive society in which the ordinary Vietnamese may be able to feel that his interests are actively engaged.

Recent developments in South Vietnam have underlined once again what I regard as the crucial problem in that country which is that of achieving a stable political basis. Of course, the problem of political instability is not confined to that country. It is an endemic problem in many of the new countries which lack the resources to meet the mounting aspirations of their people for a better life. But it is aggravated in South Vietnam by the disruption which has been caused by subversion and armed conflict.

It is my understanding that the tenor of much of the current protest in South Vietnam is to the effect that only a broadly-based civilian government will provide a basis on which the South Vietnamese can be expected to take the decisions which are certain to face them in the months and years to come. I think we must be careful, however, not to draw false inferences from what is currently going on in South Vietnam. In particular, I think, we would be wrong to conclude that these manifestations of political dissent are based on support for the conception of a government which was composed of representatives of the Viet Cong or which included their participation. There are many strands to the current dissent in South Vietnam but that, according to the best information available to me, is not one of them....