

South Vietnam is now concerned with rebuilding

WINNIPEG (CUP) -- The Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam is now mainly concerned with restoring production, building security, and healing the scars of war, PRG representative Truong Tan stated here last week.

Truong, of the Ministry of Information and Culture, visited Winnipeg as part of a cross-Canada tour.

Last April's victory was unexpected, Truong told reporters Wednesday. "We are now faced

with the task of creating a united, independent, and powerful Vietnam."

Twin problems facing the new government are high unemployment in urban areas and the neglect of agricultural land under the old regime. Bombing forced some 10 million peasants into towns, cities, and camps. Land was defoliated, and destructive weeds, called "American grass", were sown.

The PRG plans to send 3 1/2 million people - 1 1/2 million from

Saigon alone - back to the countryside. But homes, food, implements, medical supplies, draft animals and transportation must be provided. Truong expressed hope that Canada would aid materially in the task of reconstruction.

On the other hand, the wartime foraging policy of the PRG, and the quickness of last spring's victory, has paid off in the conservation of factories, airports, and scientific offices.

Referring to those refugees who now wish to return, Truong said: "The PRG understands the feelings of people who have left. Thanks to the mass media and public opinion, the refugees realize now that there was no bloodbath. The refugees can put forward requests to return, and the PRG will consider each case separately."

After answering questions in Campo on Thursday afternoon, Truong outlined the present organization of village life.

Private ownership still exists among the peasant. Communal farms have been established "for the peasants to help each other", but agriculture has not been collectivized.

"Collectivization is only possible under the following conditions", Truong said. "First, production must develop and living conditions improve. Those in charge of agriculture must know how to organize the work. Equipment must be available." Because these conditions do not exist, Truong explained, the PRG's agrarian policy has been to foster "co-operation", rather than collectivization.

The PRG is not a single ideological unit, but reflects many political trends. Truong foresees a widening of the composition of the government "so that different social stratas will be represented, in order to build national unity."

The two Vietnams, though officially united, are making separate application to the United Nations because Truong said, the country has two governments.

"The PRG controls its own territory. The PRG would like to do something to strengthen international development and peace. The PRG also seeks economic, scientific and technical co-operation with other countries, as well as cultural and informational contact."

Though Canada and South Vietnam have established diplomatic relations, the PRG has no embassy in Ottawa as yet.

Truong, originally from Bac Lieu, the southernmost province of Vietnam, first fought against the Japanese in 1945. Later, due to poor health, he was transferred to the Ministry of Information and Culture of the National Liberation Front.

Education not tied to community says Broadbent

EDMONTON (CUP) -- The whole educational system in Canada should be much more closely tied to the needs of the communities it serves, says Ed Broadbent, Federal leader of the New Democratic Party.

In an exclusive interview with Canadian University Press yesterday, Broadbent said, "What is

needed is a reciprocal system of responsibility."

Arguing that "the public already pays 80 percent of the costs per student" of Canadian post-secondary education, Broadbent said that "the student has an obligation to work for his or her community."

Although referring specifically to post-secondary education,

Broadbent said, "This should hold right through the educational system."

He said that the community should assume complete responsibility for educating Canadians.

What is needed, said Broadbent, are provincial and federal government programs to "guarantee tuition, a living allowance, and jobs that would provide productive

labour for the community" during a student's education.

Referring to the ROTP program, he said, "We have already done it for students being specifically trained for military purposes."

"The justification holds in even greater force for people who would be doing future non-military work."

As for financing a program including free tuition, a living allowance and guaranteed employment, Broadbent pointed out "once a university student graduates, they almost automatically become members of society paying higher than the average income tax. It is at this point that the student pays for the cost of his or her own university education."

It is unreasonable, he said, to expect students to shoulder the burden of tuition fees and living expenses while at university, precisely the time when students are in their worst income position."

Women are underpaid at Western

LONDON (CUP) -- Women at the University of Western Ontario are paid less, promoted less, and hired less than their male counterparts, says the recently completed report issued by the president's advisory committee on the status of women.

The report says female faculty members are behind men's salaries by as much as \$2,231 a year for senior positions.

The number of female faculty members is declining, the report

states, because few women are granted tenure or responsible positions.

There are 154 women on a teaching staff of 1,250 about 12.3 percent of the total. Only 14 percent of women staff were "offered tenure, while 46 percent of male professors were offered that security."

The report claims the lack of women in high administrative positions could be due to a lack of

experience in administration, and calls for more female students to become involved in student government.

The report also asks that the university pay women the same pensions as men, because, as the report says, the idea that women live longer is no longer true.

Pregnant staff members should receive the same benefits as employees on leave of absences, the report says.



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