

Hungarian Embassy to North Vietnam, Report, 15 November 1961.
[Summary]

The document covers the effects of the 22nd CPSU Congress on North Vietnam. While it describes in a detailed way how "Nhan Dan," the party newspaper, tried to avoid the touchy subject of de-Stalinization and how "Hoc Tap," the ideological newspaper, praised Enver Hoxha, the Albanian dictator, it also notes: "In earlier times, China had an immense prestige in Vietnam. However, in recent years this prestige has weakened to a substantial extent. Recently we could repeatedly hear such statements even from leading comrades that it is no more possible to explain Chinese food shortages solely with bad weather. The fault, they say, must lie elsewhere. A lot of complaints can be heard concerning the machines supplied by China; there are a lot of them in Vietnam. They break down very quickly. Concerning this issue, I have heard several such comments from Vietnamese that China should reexamine whether it is worth or not to make machines out of steel produced in the people's furnaces. In the field of practical life, the prestige of the Chinese has already sunk very low."