

Hungarian Embassy to North Vietnam, Report, 25 March 1955.
[Summary]

On 25 March 1955, Truong Chinh, the General Secretary of the Vietnamese Workers' Party, informed the East European ambassadors about the last VWP CC session (held on 3--12 March); he had informed the Chinese and Soviet ambassadors previously. Truong Chinh said that international tensions had become more intense since Geneva. The Americans were intervening in the internal affairs of South Vietnam more and more intensely. Therefore, enemy propaganda encouraging Vietnamese Catholics to go south had to be fought "by all means". South Viet Nam could be regained only by the strengthening of North Viet Nam. Therefore, land reform had to be completed before the 1956 elections. In the course of land reform, the Party had to rely primarily on poor peasants and agricultural workers. Landlords who committed sabotage had to be punished harshly. Cadres were often too lenient toward landlords in order not to violate the Geneva agreements. They did not fight determinedly enemy infiltration. Both leftist and rightist deviations had to be fought, but the main threat was from the right. The VWP CC had its VIIIth plenum on 13--20 August 1955. The resolutions of the session (based largely on the speech made by Truong Chinh) declared: The landowners, spies and saboteurs try to undermine the DRV. Cadres are too lenient in treating them. Land reform must be completed by March--April 1956. Counter-revolutionary groups must be divided and played out against each other. Since the Lien Viet's proposal for unification promised compensation to southern landlords for their lands according to the East European (e.g., Polish) model (whereas in North Vietnam the Chinese model is to be followed), some cadres try to slow down the pace of land reform in the North as well. They misunderstand the principle of the wide national front. They are not vigilant enough vis-a-vis counter-revolutionaries.