

## **Hungarian Embassy to North Vietnam, Report, 17 June 1955. [Summary]**

It notes that in Vinh Phu district (Central Vietnam, a Catholic area), 252 landlords were accused publicly at village meetings, of whom 195 were "senior functionaries" of the VNQDD (Vietnamese Nationalist Party) or French spies. A part of the landlords fled their villages and sought refuge in Hanoi and other cities, but they allegedly left their agents behind and thus class struggle became sharper than ever. Former "puppet" soldiers and old officials were afraid of that they would suffer the same fate as the landlords. A number of such individuals committed suicide out of fear. Around Son Tay, four poor peasants who had testified against landlords were murdered, and soldiers were shot at on seven occasions. Around Quang Binh, an armed guerilla group, composed of male and female teenagers, came into existence. Leftist deviations were quite frequent (middle peasants were declared as kulaks, kulaks as landlords), but the main danger lay in the rightist deviation. It frequently happened that the cadres, anxious not to interfere with the Geneva agreements, did not dare to punish the "treacherous" landlords and their "agents." They frequently neglected the population's "demands" for organizing mass meetings so as to punish these elements. In a number of places the authorities shot these elements after the "masses" informed them about the latter, and they also dismissed the opportunist cadres. In the areas inhabited by national minorities, the land reform would be carried out later than elsewhere. An exception was the region around the railway between Hanoi and the Chinese border. Here, the security of the railway demanded that the rent-reduction campaign would be completed there in the 8th wave of that campaign. Moreover, the population was strongly pro-French there during the Resistance.

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