

Hungarian Embassy to North Vietnam, Report, 7 December 1955. [Summary]

Subject: Pieces of information about the execution of land reform, received from comrade Pham Thieu, deputy head of the Press Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and from comrade Do Hoai, member of the Land Reform Committee.

Translated quotations from the document:

[...] The activity of hostile elements has caused a lot of harm. It hindered, among others, the execution of land reform. The execution of the fourth stage of the land reform is already late by more than one month, because it should have been completed by November according to the plan. [...] The vigilance and good work of the state security organs has revealed 80% of the hostile wreckers and saboteurs.

[...]

The 8th wave of the reduction of rents and interest rates affected 1,875 settlements (7,775,386 inhabitants, 63% of the whole population). In the course of that, 44,444 landlords were forced to lower their rents and interest rates and to pay compensation to the poor peasants they had robbed and exploited. The cases of 3,939 landlords were tried by people's courts (at public hearings, in the presence of the settlements' whole population), and of these, 1,175 were executed for their serious crimes.

[...]

The land reform proper has been hitherto carried out in four stages, in 1594 settlements (altogether 4,079,000 inhabitants, 31% of the whole population). Now, in the course of the land reform's execution it was revealed that 18,738 landlords (in these areas) had concealed their wealth in the course of the reduction of rents and interest rates and disguised themselves as kulaks or even middle peasants. [...] Of them, 3,312 were tried for their serious crimes by the people's courts, and the people's courts sentenced 162 landlords to death at public hearings.

A great lot of these landlords, but mainly of the kulaks, had wormed themselves into the party. In the course of reorganizations carried out in the four stages of the land reform 4,780 landlords and kulaks were expelled from the party.

[...]

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