Việt Nam Độc Lập Đồng Minh Hội

League for the Independence of Vietnam

1945 - 1946
League for the Independence of Vietnam

The League for the Independence of Vietnam (Việt Nam Độc Lập Đồng Minh Hội) known as Việt Minh, was a national independence coalition formed by Hồ Chí Minh on May 19, 1941, initially formed to seek independence for Vietnam from the French Empire.

During World War II, Japan occupied French Indochina. In late 1943, the Việt Minh forces, led by General Võ Nguyên Giáp, began to infiltrate Vietnam to launch guerrilla operations against the Japanese. The Việt Minh forces liberated considerable portions of northern Vietnam. After the Japanese surrender to the Allies, Việt Minh units seized control of Hanoi and Hồ Chí Minh proclaimed the Democratic Republic of Vietnam on September 2, 1945. Negotiations between the French and Việt Minh broke down quickly. What followed was nearly ten years of war against France, known as the First Indochina War or, to the Vietnamese, the French War.

During the war, The Việt Minh took control over many rural areas of the country and began to advance towards the French occupied areas. Following their defeat at the Battle of Điện Biên Phủ, in 1954, the French began negotiations to leave Indo-China. As a result of peace accords worked out at the Geneva Conference in Switzerland, Vietnam was divided into North Vietnam and South Vietnam until unifying elections could take place in 1956. Hồ Chí Minh was appointed Prime Minister of North Vietnam, which would be run as a socialist state. Ngô Đình Diệm, who was previously appointed Prime Minister of South Vietnam by Emperor Bảo Đại, eventually assumed control of South Vietnam.

Some time after the declaration of independence, on September 2, 1945 and until December 1946, the new government overprinted several Indo-Chinese stamps for use by the Việt Minh forces and in their controlled area. The common overprinted inscriptions are “Việt-Nam Dân-Chủ Cộng-Hoa” (“Democratic Republic of Viet Nam”) and “Việt Nam - Độc lập – Tự do – Hạnh phúc” (Viet Nam - Independence, Freedom, Happiness). Usually, the colony name INDOCHINE is covered by a black strip overprint. Several of these stamps were also surcharged by local currency. Since the process methods used to issue these stamps were relatively primitive, many varieties of these stamps are known like double overprint, inverted overprint, missing letters, etc.

Examples of the common overprints printed by the Việt Minh on the Indochinese stamps:
Overprinted Indochinese Stamps – 1945 – 1946

Alexandre Yersin

Alexandre de Rhodes

Juvenile Sport

Marshall Philippe Pétain
Overprinted Indochinese Stamps – 1945 – 1946
Việt Minh

Philippe Pétain

Admiral Charner

Admiral Rigault de Genouilly

Revalued Indochinese Stamps – 1945 – 1946

King Norodom Sihanouk
Overprinted and Surcharged Indochinese Stamps – 1945 - 1946
Surcharged with New Value

Nam–Giao Festival

Pierre Pasquier

Cathedral of Orléans, France
OP: “Bình sĩ België” – Fund for War Wounded

Doudart de Lagrée

Admiral Pierre Paul Marie de la Grandière

Leutnant François Garnier
Semi-Postal: Overprinted Indochinese Stamps – 1946
Surcharged with New Values for various charitable Purposes

Cathedral of Orléans, France
OP: “Cựu Đói” – Famine Relief Campaign

Alexandre Yersin
OP: “Bao Anh” – Child Welfare

Pigneau de Behaine
OP: “Bình sĩ bị nạn” – Fund for War Wounded
Việt Minh

Semi-Postal: Overprinted Indochinese Stamps – 1946
Surcharged with New Values for various Charitable Purposes

Saigon Fair
OP: “Chống nạn mu chử” – Anti Illiteracy Campaign

National Revolution
OP: “Đời sống mới” – New Life Movement

Nam-Giao Festival
OP: “Quốc Phòng” – For the National Defense

Empress Nam Phuong
OP: “Đan Sinh” – For People's Livelihood

Emperor Bảo Đại
President Hồ Chi Minh – 1946

Hồ Chí Minh (1890 - 1969) was a Vietnamese Communist revolutionary and statesman. He served as prime minister and president of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

In 1929, Hồ Chí Minh founded the Indochinese Communist Party. Later, he established the Việt Minh movement that struggled against the Japanese occupation regime and the Vichy French Government members. In 1945, after the Japanese surrendered, the Việt Minh established the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and elected Hồ Chí Minh as president. The French Union refused to recognize the new state, hence the Việt Minh fought them resulted in the French withdrawal from Indochina after their defeat in Điện Biên Phủ. The Geneva conference decided to divide Vietnam to North Vietnam and South Vietnam. The former remained under the Việt Minh control headed by Hồ Chí Minh.

President Hồ Chí Minh – 1946 – 1948

Semi-Postal Stamps with Inscription:
“Phó Thủ Cựu Quốc” –
For National Defense
# Việt Minh

## Varieties

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