



*The National Liberation Front for
South Vietnam*

*Mặt Trận Dân Tộc Giải Phóng Miền Nam Việt Nam
(Việt Cộng)
1963 – 1969*

*Republic of South Vietnam
Cộng Hòa Miền Nam Việt Nam
1969 – 1976*



Introduction

The area that now comprises the countries of Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam, was conquered by the French in the mid 19th century and established as the colony of French Indo-China. During WWII, the first Indo-China war started, in which each state fought the French for their independence. In Annam, Tonkin and Cochinchina, which later became Vietnam, a communist resistance movement, the Viet Minh, arose in 1941, headed by Ho Chi Minh. The communist Viet-Minh fought the French occupation for several years. In May 1954, in the famous battle of Dien Bien Phu, the French army was defeated by the Viet Minh. This battle marked the beginning of the end of French rule in Indo-China. Following the French defeat, an international convention was convened in Geneva to find a general solution to the region's political crisis. It was agreed upon that French forces would withdraw and Vietnam would gain full independence.

In order to prevent civil war between the communists and their opponents in Vietnam, it was further agreed upon in the convention that Vietnam would be partitioned at the 17th parallel, and under the terms of the convention, civilians were to be given the opportunity to move between the two states. This partition was supported by the superpowers that wanted to keep their interests in the region and to influence the Indo-China politics.

In the northern part of Vietnam, the communist Viet Minh movement established the "Democratic Republic of Vietnam" (North Vietnam) headed by Ho Chi Minh and declared Hanoi as the capital. In the southern part of Vietnam, a non-communist state called the "Republic of Vietnam" (South Vietnam) was established with Saigon as its capital, headed by Emperor Bao Dai and later by the Prime Minister Ngo Dinh Diem, who dismissed the Emperor. South Vietnam was established largely because of the United States administration's desire for an anti-communist state in the region.

According to the Geneva accords, the partition of Vietnam was to be temporary until general elections, to be held by June 20, 1956, would choose a national leader for a unified Vietnam. With the support of the USA, the elections were blocked by Ngo Dinh Diem, the head of South Vietnam, who feared a communist victory. The existence of two Vietnamese states became a fact, and from this point on, the Indo-China region became one of the battlefields of the war between the East and West blocks.

In 1957, the opposition to Ngo Dinh Diem in South Vietnam dramatically increased. A civil war was started between the pro-Western group that opposed the unification of Vietnam and the communists that supported the unification. The latter group was supported by North Vietnam, the USSR and the People's Republic of China. During the fighting, a communist guerilla force began to form. This force was formally established on December 12, 1960 and called the "National Liberation Front for South Vietnam", also known as the Vietcong. The name Vietcong ("Vietnamese Communists") was given to the guerilla force by the South Vietnamese regime and was used by the American troops.

As part of the United States' efforts to block communism from spreading, it continued to support South Vietnam by sending its troops to fight the communists, together with the South Vietnamese army. When the North Vietnamese army, which was supported by the USSR and the People's Republic of China, became involved in the war, the US army launched attacks in North Vietnam. Over the years, the US deepened its involvement in the war by expanding it to Cambodia and Laos, where it attacked the Ho Chi Minh trail, the main supply route from North Vietnam to the Vietcong forces in the South. The North Vietnamese army and the Vietcong forces also expanded their military offensives in South Vietnam and its neighboring countries. On June 6, 1969, the North Vietnamese government declared the government of South Vietnam illegal and established "The Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam".

Due to the huge human cost in terms of fatalities (58,159 US soldiers were killed in Vietnam as well as more than four millions Vietnamese) and the anti-war movement, President Nixon planned to end the US involvement in the war and announced the suspension of military offensives against North Vietnam. The Paris Peace Accords, which were signed on January 27, 1973, officially ended direct US involvement in Vietnam and a ceasefire was declared across North and South Vietnam. Following the Paris Accords, the American Congress prohibited any direct American military activities in Indo-China.

Despite the Paris Peace Accords, signed by all parties, fighting between the North and South Vietnamese armies continued. In April 1975, the North Vietnamese army and the Vietcong forces took over South Vietnam. The unification of the two parts of Vietnam was officially declared in July 1976.



The National Liberation Front for South Vietnam (Viet Cong) Stamps

Both states, North Vietnam and South Vietnam, issued stamps. The inscription on North Vietnamese stamps reads: *Việt Nam Dân Chủ Cộng Hòa* ("Democratic Republic of Vietnam"). On South Vietnamese stamps the inscription reads: *Việt Nam Cộng Hòa* ("Republic of Vietnam").



Republic of Vietnam



Democratic Republic of Vietnam

On October 5, 1963, North Vietnam issued the first set of stamps for the "National Liberation Front for South Vietnam" (Vietcong) for use by the Vietcong forces in South Vietnam. The stamps were printed in Hanoi and distributed by the official governmental agency, Xunhasaba. The agency issued FDCs that could be obtained in Hanoi but not in South Vietnam. From October 1963 until June 1976, 70 stamps were issued for the Vietcong.

Several changes occurred in the Vietcong stamps over the years:

Until 1969 the inscription on the stamps read: *Mặt Trận Dân Tộc Giải Phóng Miền Nam Việt Nam* ("The National Liberation Front for South Vietnam"). The stamps' denominations were valued in North Vietnamese Dong.



From June 6, 1969, when the "Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam" was established by North Vietnam, the inscription on the stamps read: *Cộng Hòa Miền Nam Việt Nam* ("Republic of South Vietnam"):



From January 27, 1973, when the Paris Peace Accords was signed, the stamps denominations were valued in South Vietnamese Dong.

In April 1976, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South-Vietnam started to plan the official unification of the two parts of Vietnam. The currency was introduced at an exchange rate of one North Vietnamese Xu to five South-Vietnamese Dong (one Dong divided to 100 Xu). On June 24, 1976, the last stamps of North Vietnam and the Vietcong were issued, to commemorate the first conference of the National United Assembly. On July 2, 1976, the two parts of Vietnam officially reunified to become one state named "Socialist Republic of Vietnam". New stamps were issued with the inscription *Việt Nam Bưu Chính* (Vietnam Post). The use of Vietcong stamps that were denominated in dong, ended in 1976. The last 5 stamps, denominated in Xu, continued to be used through 1977. At the end of 1977, the distribution of the North Vietnamese and Vietcong stamps was ceased and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam stamps became the only postage stamps in use.

the dates of issue of many of the Vietcong stamps is uncertain and different dates are indicated in different catalogues. As a reference, I used the Michel catalogue (Michel Briefmarken Katalog - Duetschland) dates of issue.



The National Liberation Front for South Vietnam

3rd Anniversary of the Establishment of the National Liberation Front (I) – 5/Oct/1963



*Independence, Democracy, Peace,
Neutrality*



*Independance, Democratie, Paix,
Neutralite*



*Independencia, Democracia, Paz,
Neutralidad*

3rd Anniversary of the Establishment of the National Liberation Front (II) – 5/Oct/1963



Battle Scene



*Battle of Ap Bac - January 2,
1963*

4th Anniversary of the Establishment of the National Liberation Front – 20/Dec/1964



Vietcong Autarchic Farm

*Attack on USS "Card" in
Saigon Seaport - May 2,
1964*

*Demonstration for Vietnam
Unification*

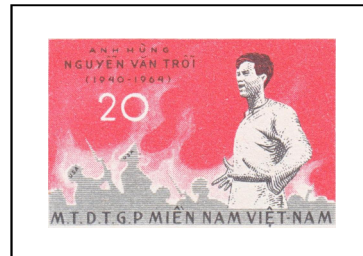


The National Liberation Front for South Vietnam

1st Anniversary of the Execution of Nguyen Van Troi – 15/Oct/1965



*Attack on USAF Aircraft in
Biên Hòa Air Base*



*Nguyen Van Troi
1940 - 1964*

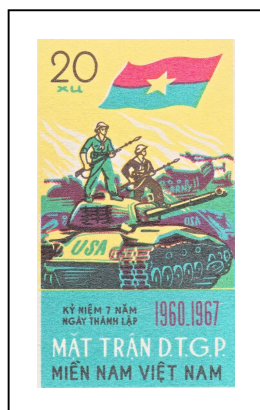
Nguyen Van Troi was a Vietcong fighter captured when trying to assassinate US Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara and Ambassador Henry Lodge who were visiting South-Vietnam. Since Van Troi became the first executed fighter of the Vietcong, he became a symbol of the North Vietnamese campaign for Vietnam unification and of many leftist groups in the world.

5th Anniversary of the Establishment of the National Liberation Front – 20/Dec/1965



Five NLF's Flags

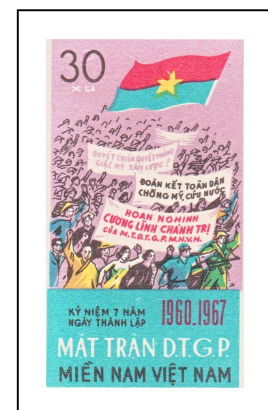
7th Anniversary of the Establishment of the National Liberation Front – 20/Dec/1967



*Vietcong Fighters on
US Tank*



Battle Scene

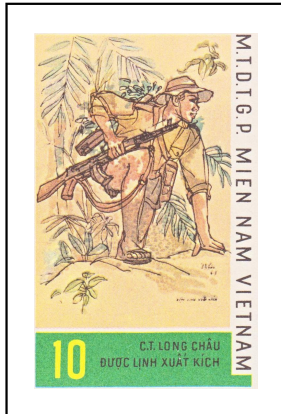


*Demonstration for
Vietnam Unification*



The National Liberation Front for South Vietnam

Paintings by Long-Chau and H. P. Dong: Fight for Freedom – 1968



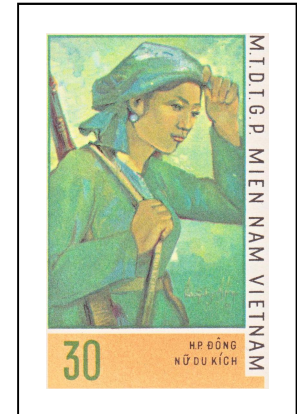
*Long-Chau: Vietcong
Fighter*



H. P. Dong: Forest March



*H. P. Dong: In the Face of the
Enemy*



*H. P. Dong: Woman
Fighter*

8th Anniversary of the Establishment of the National Liberation Front – 20/Dec/1968



Elections



Battle Scene

*Indépendance
Démocratie
Paix
Neutralité
Prosperité*



*Independence
Democracy
Peace
Neutrality
Prosperity*

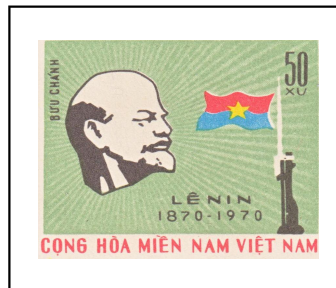
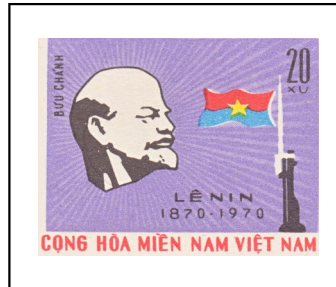


Republic of South Vietnam

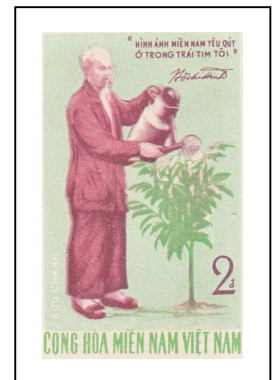
Birth Centenary of Vladimir I. Lenin – 22/Apr/1970

Vladimir Ilyich Lenin (1870-1924) was a Russian revolutionary, a communist politician, the main leader of the October Revolution, the first head of the Russian Soviet Socialist Republic and the first leader of the Soviet Union.

Lenin was born in 1870. He was influenced by the revolutionary political views and the ideas of Karl Marx. He started his political actions as a socialist and developed his Marxist-Leninist Theory while a young student. He left Russia in 1900 and became the head of the Russian Social-Democratic party. In 1917, he returned to Russia and led the revolution in Petrograd against the Russian Government. The revolution gave the power to the Soviets and led to the creation of the Soviet Union which headed by Lenin until his resignation in 1922.



80th Birth Anniversary of Ho Chi Minh – 19/May/1970



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

Hồ Chi Minh leaded his country in the Vietnam war aimed to unified both parts of Vietnam. As the war continued, he became less involved in the war's decisions and served more as a highly visible figurehead president for the Vietnamese people until his death in 1969.



Republic of South Vietnam

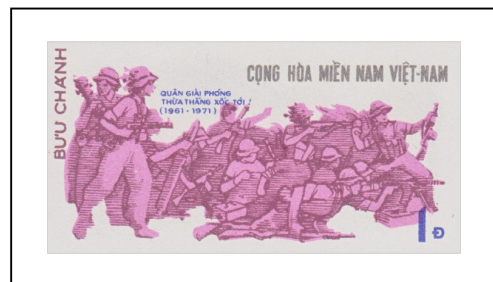
10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the National Liberation Front – 20/Dec/1970



*Symbolic Anti-
American Design*



10th Anniversary of the foundation of the People's Liberation Armed Forces (PLAF) of South Vietnam – 15/Feb/1971



Farmers, Workers and NLF's Fighters



Republic of South Vietnam

2nd Anniversary of the Proclamation of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam – 6/Jun/1971

The “Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam” (PRG) was established on June 8, 1969 as an alternative Communist government opposed to the South Vietnamese government headed by President Nguyen Van Thieu. The PRG was established by North-Vietnam and included delegates of the National Liberation Front (Vietcong) and other groups such as members of People’s Revolutionary Party (South Vietnamese Communist Party and Democratic Party of Vietnam). Huynh Tan Phat was appointed as the Prime Minister of the PRG. The PRG was recognized as the legal government of South-Vietnam by USSR, PR China and other communist and non-aligned states. The PRG was envisioned as a political counter-force that could influence international public opinion in support of the unification of Vietnam and in opposition to the Republic of Vietnam (South-Vietnam) and the USA. The declared purpose of the PRG was to provide a formal NLF governmental structure and enhance its claim of representing the Southern Vietnamese people.

In 1973, the PRG delegates signed the Paris Peace Treaty. Following the military defeat of South-Vietnam and the surrender of Saigon on April 30, 1975, the PRG became the government in South-Vietnam and participated in the re-unification process of the two parts of the country. On July 2, 1976, the PRG and the North Vietnam were unified and formed the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.



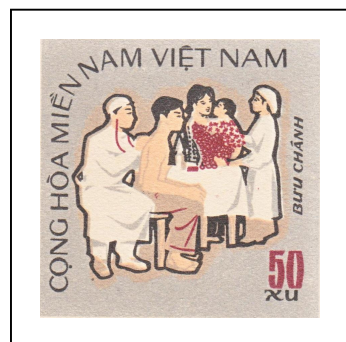
Classroom



Weavers



Workers



Clinic



Farmers



Republic of South Vietnam

5th Anniversary of the Proclamation of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam – 6/Jun/1974



Battle Scene



Farmers

Demonstration

Young Pioneers

Women Fighters

*Nguyen Thi Binh
Foreign Minister*

Nguyen Thi Binh was a Vietnamese Communist leader. She joined Vietnam's communist party in 1948 and took part in various movements against the French colonists. She was arrested and jailed by the French colonial authority for her activities.

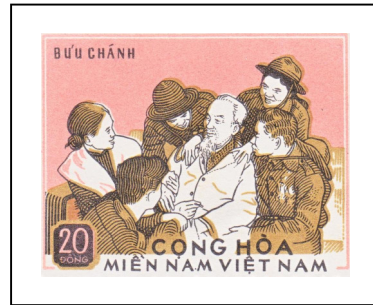
During the Vietnam War she became a member of the Vietcong's central committee and in 1969 she was appointed foreign minister of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam. In 1973, she participated in the Paris Peace Conference on behalf of the Provisional Government and signed the Paris Peace Accords, an agreement on ending the war and restoring peace in Indo-China.

After the Vietnam War, she was appointed Minister of Education and later, as Vice President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

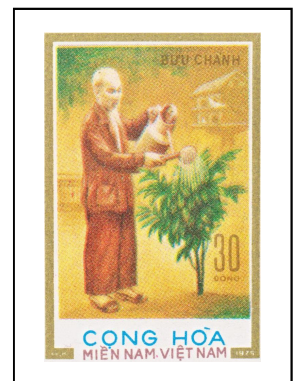
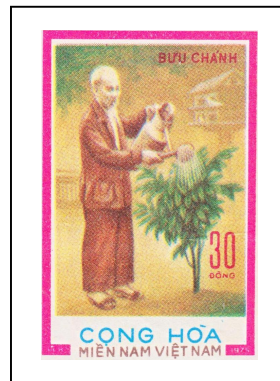
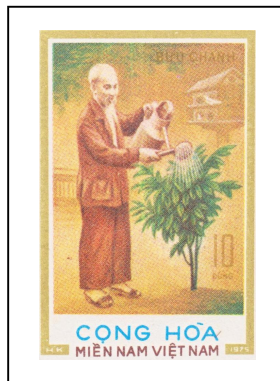


Republic of South Vietnam

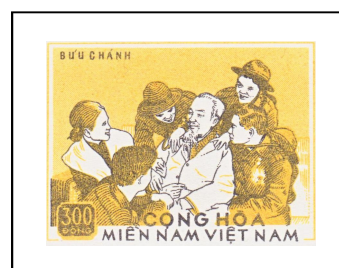
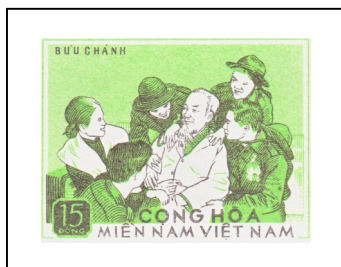
Definitive: Ho Chi Minh – 28/Feb/1975



85th Birth Anniversary of Ho Chi Minh (I) – 7/May/1975 & 16/Jul/1975



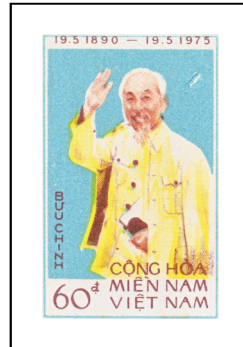
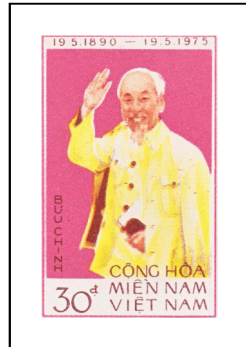
30th Anniversary of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam: Ho Chi Minh – 2/Sep/1975 & 28/Jan/1976





Republic of South Vietnam

85th Birth Anniversary of Ho Chi Minh (II) – 6/Oct/1975



Fruits of South Vietnam – Mar/1976



Coconut
Cocos nucifera



Purple Mangosteen
Garcinia mangostana



Mango
Mangifera indica

1st Anniversary of the Liberation of South Vietnam – Apr/1976



NLF's Flag



Republic of South Vietnam

General Elections for the Unified National Assembly – 25/Apr/1976



Elections

First Session of the Unified National Assembly – 24/Jun/1976



*"Vietnam – the Homeland,
the People"*



*"Vietnam – Independent,
United, Socialist"*



The National Liberation Front for South Vietnam

3rd Anniversary of the Establishment of the National Liberation Front (I) – 5/Oct/1963



*Independence, Democracy, Peace,
Neutrality*



*Independance, Democratie, Paix,
Neutralite*



*Independencia, Democracia, Paz,
Neutralidad*

3rd Anniversary of the Establishment of the National Liberation Front (II) – 5/Oct/1963

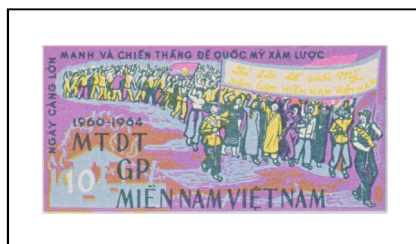


Battle Scene

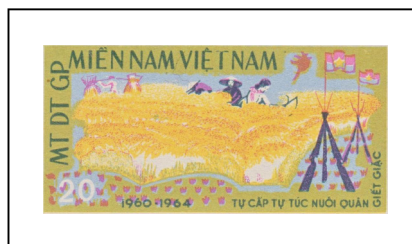


*Battle of Ap Bac - January 2,
1963*

4th Anniversary of the Establishment of the National Liberation Front – 20/Dec/1964



*Demonstration for Vietnam
Unification*



Vietcong Autarchic Farm

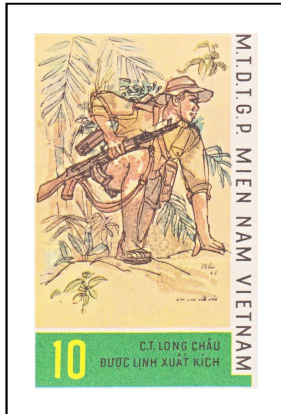


*Attack on USS "Card" in Saigon
Seaport - May 2, 1964*



The National Liberation Front for South Vietnam

Paintings by Long-Chau and H. P. Dong: Fight for Freedom – 1968



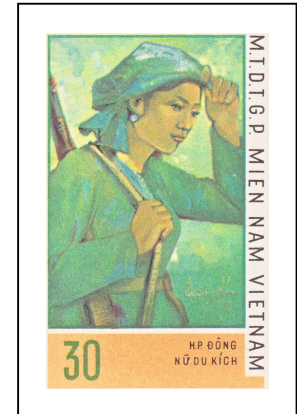
*Long-Chau: Vietcong
Fighter*



H. P. Dong: Forest March



*H. P. Dong: In the Face of the
Enemy*



*H. P. Dong: Woman
Fighter*

8th Anniversary of the Establishment of the National Liberation Front – 20/Dec/1968

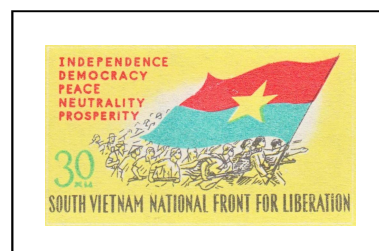


Elections



Battle Scene

*Indépendance
Démocratie
Paix
Neutralité
Prosperité*



*Independence
Democracy
Peace
Neutrality
Prosperity*



Republic of South Vietnam

5th Anniversary of the Proclamation of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam – 6/Jan/1974



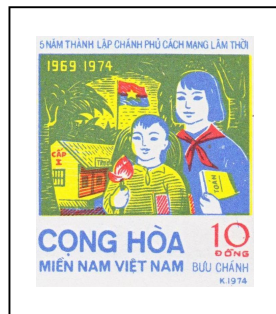
Battle Scene



Farmers



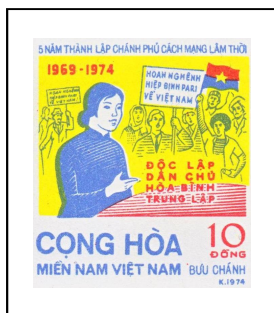
Demonstration



Young Pioneers



Women Fighters



Nguyen Thi Binh

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The National Liberation Front for South Vietnam



Republic of South Vietnam