

VIET NAM

1972

Our Board is composed of: Mrs. Nguyen Thi Hai, General Secretary; Miss Luu Thi Dau, 1st Assistant General Secretary; Mr. Nguyen Van Minh, 2nd Assistant General Secretary; Miss Le Hong Hanh, Secretary; Mr. Nguyen Tan Tai, Vice-Secretary; Miss Tran Thi Hoanh, Treasurer; Mr. Le Van Hai, Vice-Treasurer; Mr. Nguyen Van Huan, Mr. Truong Khuong, Mr. Nguyen Tien Loi, Miss Pham Thi Phi and Mr. Ha To Thuan, Councillors.

Introduction.—As you know, the Viet Nam war, between the Northern Communists and the Southern Republicans, has lasted from 1945 till now. The warriors came down and demolished our country, destroyed our people. Actually, it is

becoming more terrible, but in spite of that destruction, almost all of our members are in peace, because they trust in Divine laws, and they think, "no injustice here below!" So, they continue to work courageously for Theosophy. They devote themselves to the Masters.

Now it is my great pleasure to present the Annual Report for the year ended 30th September 1972. The number of inquiries has increased considerably, and the state of membership has been steady.

Membership.—During the past year, there were 106 admissions. The total membership on 30th September 1972 stood at 1047, an increase of ten over the previous year.

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There were five deaths, no resignations, one re-admission, and one expulsion.

Lodges.—During the year under report, two new Lodges named Bo De Lodge (or Buddhi Lodge) in Saigon, and Y Chi Lodge (or Atma Lodge) in An Xuyên (at the southernmost part of Viet Nam) have been founded. Y Chi Lodge is still unchartered.

The Section has now seventeen Lodges in good standing.

The Kiem Ai Lodge continues to be the most important center of Theosophical work in Viet Nam, through the devotion of its leaders and by its situation in the middle of the Capital. It has succeeded in giving public lectures for about 200 listeners every Sunday afternoon. Along with weekly study classes, it publishes a magazine, *Anh Dao*, about Theosophy. The Lodge has a well-furnished library containing many books. It has also a new beautiful hall for lectures.

The Phung Su Lodge (Service or Youth Lodge) is the most active Lodge in Viet Nam, with dedicated young members. Carrying on the Seven Year Program (1968-1975) of Young Theosophists, Brother Nguyen vân Luong—Lodge President for 1972—stresses how to spiritualize the daily life of young people and to afford Theosophical guidance to children. Young Theosophists meet at the Headquarters thrice a week, on Saturday afternoons and on Sunday mornings and afternoons too. They have lectures, study and discussion on the writings of Theosophical leaders.

A Meditation Course is being conducted over four years (1971-1975) with meetings early on Sunday morning, twice a month. The subject of 1972 is centered on "Wisdom" in the Series of "Unfolding the Higher Self".

Additional activities are concerned with children's entertainments with the attend-

ance of about thirty boys and girls from Theosophical families and from the Theosophical Orphanage; ample communication with new members and members gone for military duties; publication of *Theosophia*, magazine of Young Theosophists, containing various articles on the aim "Towards 1975"; two English courses for beginners and advanced students. Membership of the Phung Su Lodge increases steadily. Most of the members are very active, having a sound basic knowledge of Theosophy.

The Dung Hanh Lodge (Fine Conduct or Women's Lodge) was founded in 1957; it continues to be an important Lodge in the country with weekly Theosophical courses and discussions. It has a well-stocked library of Theosophical and other books. This Lodge has translated *Practical Theosophy* by C. Jinarājadāsa, from English into Vietnamese, and its members study this book. Its leader is Miss Luu Thi Dau.

The Tu Bi (Compassion) Lodge, the Minh Triet (Wisdom) Lodge, the Saigon Lodge (founded by Mr. Subramaniam) and Bo De (Buddhi) Lodge are also active. Besides their own meetings, every Sunday almost all of their members gather in the Headquarters for attending lectures and discussions given by the Section. The De Bo Lodge has published *The Wisdom*, written by Brother Pham Ngoc Da.

The Dinh Tuong Lodge and the Go Cong Lodge (in the provinces of those names) have courses and discussions every two weeks.

The Chon Ly Lodge (at Hue, in the center of Viet Nam where war is terrible) is still active. The Kien Giang Lodge at Rach Dia which I have visited on 12th September 1972, and which is in the far west of Viet Nam, has weekly meetings. Its leaders are good. The An Giang, Tan Chau, Long Xuyen, Duoi

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Chan Thay and Vung Tau Lodges are also active. The Y Chi Lodge is very recent.

In short, every Lodge in Viet Nam is willing to work for improvement.

Publications.—The Phung Su Lodge has issued a bi-monthly Theosophical bulletin named *Theosophia* with much information, for free distribution to the members. It published also ten pamphlets on Theosophy for the training leaders. We continue to issue by roneo *Talks on At the Feet of the Master*, second volume, translated from English into Vietnamese by Mrs. Nguyen Thi Hai, *The Causal Body* written by this lady, and *The Ancient Wisdom* by A. Besant, and the first volume of *The Secret Doctrine* by H.P. Blavatsky, both translated into Vietnamese by Mrs. Nguyen Thi Hai. Chapter by chapter, these books are lectured on at the Headquarters, before copies are distributed to members.

Conventions.—The 20th Annual Convention was held on 30th April 1972 and it was a very inspiring one. Some 200 members took part. Besides the usual business meetings, a symposium was held on "The Higher Self and the Lower Self". A fraternal banquet ended this Convention.

The Summer School—Our Summer School was held in the "Pure Heart Centre" at Vung Tau City, a seaside resort about eighty miles from Saigon, from 30th July to 6th August 1972. In spite of the danger from a great battle taking place on the way to Vung Tau, we had 118 participants! More than any previous year! The program included meditation (directed by Mrs. Nguyen Thi Hai), lectures and discussion in the morning, excursions to the hills and the City, and entertainments in the evening with bonfire, music and songs, etc. Our symposium was: "Discrimination, Contentment, Tolerance and Love".

Our Visits.—Five members from the Council of Directors (Mrs. Nguyen Thi Hai, Miss Tran Thi Hoanh, Mr. Truong Khuong, Mr. Nguyen Tan Tai and Mr. Ha To Thuan) have visited four Lodges in the far West. It was a great pleasure to see again our old friends and to greet the new members. Everywhere, our members have been appreciated by the people and the authorities. The President of An Giang Lodge, Mr. Huynh Ba Nhe, is the Head of the Buddhist Movement in the Province of Chau Doc, and he is very much appreciated by the people. The President of Kien Giang Lodge is Mr. Nguyen van Vinh, also the Head of a great shrine in Rach Gia, a remote province on the Thailand Gulf.

Headquarters Activities.—The members came and worked at the Headquarters every Sunday morning from 7 o'clock to midday. Four Lodges, Tu Bi, Saigon, Dung Hanh and Phung Su, met in the auditorium of the Headquarters to study Theosophical courses from 8.30 a.m. to 9.30 a.m., and from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. the Section gave lectures. At the end, from 11 a.m. to 12. noon, the young people directed discussions.

Orphanage.—Our Orphanage, with sixty-four orphans, continues to go fairly well. We received help from the Theosophical Order of Service in Australia and in the U.S.A., but from March 1972, the help decreased, although it is still needed because the Vietnamese people are poor. The Head of that Orphanage is Mrs. Nguyen Thi Hai.

Anniversaries.—We celebrated two anniversaries: one of H.P. Blavatsky and one of Annie Besant. On the 17th November 1971, we organized a feast for the Foundation Day with a big gathering.

Brotherhood Foundation:—Our final arrangements for the Brotherhood Foundation have been realized. By the Masters' help we could realize what we

had hoped. In one year we arranged the rules; we called the General Assembly, and had prolonged discussions; and now (from 1st July 1972) we are able to create a Brotherhood Foundation (meaning a Theosophical Heritage) of 1,627,000 Vietnamese Piastres as capital, with an official annual interest of more than 370,000 VN.

Year after year, we shall receive valuable interest for publishing Theosophical books; by the Rules we cannot touch the Capital. If—for any reason—our Section is closed, this “Theosophical Heritage” will come to The Theosophical Society at Adyar.

Visit of Mr. John Coats.—Mr. J. B. S. Coats’ visit constituted a special event. He remained in our country a fortnight

from 26th Febuary to 15th March 1972. He gave to us energy and knowledge.

Thanks.—If the Theosophical work in Viet Nam is going fairly well, it is due to the common effort of all members for good cooperation, and for their ready assistance in all matters connected with the work of the Section.

Conclusion.—In spite of the terrible war in our country, we try to be a channel for Theosophy. There are many people in our country, who have never heard of the Ancient Wisdom. We worked in this direction, to make Theosophy widely known to all. May the Masters help us!

NGUYEN THI HAI,
General Secretary.

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