

FM 107

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. Three branches of the labor movement in Vietnam are the Confederation Vietnamienne du Travail Chretien (CVTC), the Syndicat Libre Vietnamien,<sup>1</sup> and the Force Ouvriere.<sup>2</sup>

Confederation Vietnamien du Travail Chretien

2. The CVTC has 60,000 members<sup>3</sup>, the majority of which are in South Vietnam, with 12,000 members in the Saigon-Cholon area alone. In North Vietnam, the most recent area to be organized, membership exceeds 6,000. On 1 November 1952, total CVTC membership had been less than 6,000.
3. The creation of the CVTC or, as it was called then, the Association de Defense des Interets Professionels (ADIP)<sup>4</sup>, started the present trade union movement in Vietnam. The organization was established by a group of workers with Christian leanings and was authorized by a decree of the High Commissioner of France in Indochina dated 17 September 1949. At that time, Vietnamese labor was not free to organize and the workers were governed by the decree of 21 February 1941 (as revised by the decree of 11 October 1941) which was promulgated in Indochina on 22 October 1944. The labor laws of Vietnam carried no provision for the defense of labor by the workers themselves. But, in spite of the absence of a labor code and of freedom to organize, the ADIP pledged itself to fight along union lines and soon attracted the sympathy of the workers, thanks to the enthusiasm and effectiveness of its supporters.
4. Always conscious of its illegality, the ADIP sought constantly to obtain as quickly as possible an international guarantor capable of protecting its freedom of action and its very existence against threats of dissolution by the local authorities. In May 1950, the ADIP was recognized by the International Labor Organization (ILO). It then sought affiliation with another international labor organization. With the aim of safeguarding its Christian leanings and its

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freedom of action, it requested affiliation with the International Federation of Christian Unions and was unanimously admitted at its 19th session at Vienna on 23 November 1951. At this time, ADIP's name was changed to the Confederation Vietnamiennne du Travail Chretien or Tong-lien doan Lao-cong Viet-nam. Thus the CVTC became represented in a private organization as well as in such official organizations as the UNESCO and the ILO. Although frowned upon by the Vietnamese government, the CVTC was nevertheless tolerated since the Government itself was seeking recognition by the social organizations of the United Nations.

5. On the basis of Christian morality and the principle of plural unionism,<sup>5</sup> the CVTC stands for the liberation of the working class from both Communism and European-type capitalism. Although the majority of CVTC's directors and adherents are non-Christian, Catholic morality gives the organization a solid anti-Communist base and is analogous to the traditional moral pattern of Vietnam; it presents clear and precise organizational concepts found lacking in the vague traditional Vietnamese moral system, which has not kept pace with modern economic development. The formula of plural unionism offered by the CVTC is more in accord with the wishes of Vietnamese labor than the more rigid formula of liberal unions,<sup>6</sup> which is too preoccupied with unity of action and which thus appears too dictatorial in the eyes of Vietnamese workers.
6. CVTC's principal activities are the formation of union affiliates, the education of its members in the principles of the CVTC (justice and charity), the struggle for a proper legal framework for organized labor and the work to improve the economic situation of the nation. Night classes<sup>7</sup> are held for the better elements, especially the youth, with the aim of providing to the general membership a core of workers firm in their beliefs and capable of eventual assumption of the leadership. Simultaneously, the education of workers and peasants is being undertaken at the local level by means of lectures and tracts. However, the defense of the workers against governmental and employer pressures occupies most of the leaders' time.<sup>8</sup>
7. As an indication of the CVTC's support, the General Assembly of the CVTC of Central Vietnam at Hue on 10 May 1953 was attended by the Governor of Central Vietnam, the Bishop of Hue, the President of the Buddhist Congregation of Vietnam, and two representatives of the Chief Bonze of the Buddhist monastery of Central Vietnam.<sup>9</sup>
8. The leaders of the CVTC are:
  - a. National:
 

President:	Phan Van Dang, Commercial employee
Vice President:	Ho Van An, Commercial employee, in charge of CVTC doctrinal purity.
Secretary General:	Tran Quoc Buu, former political prisoner (10 years of forced labor, 10 years of exile, deported to Puolo Condore Island <sup>10</sup> in 1940).
Assistant to the Secretary:	Tran Huu Quyen, former political prisoner (20 years of forced labor, deported to Puolo Condore Island in 1942)
Advisor:	Maurice Jouan, appointed by the French High Commissioner
  - b. Central Vietnam:
 

President:	Le Van Vinh, private school teacher
Secretary:	Bui Thuy, printer
2nd Secretary:	Miss Pham Thi Nga, teacher
Office:	83B Tran Hung Dao Street, Hue.
  - c. North Vietnam:
 

Office:	7 Thi Sach Street, Hanoi
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## 9. Unions affiliated with the CVTC are as follows:

## a. South Vietnam:

Saigon

Federated Union of Saigon  
 Civil Aviation Employees  
 Bus and Streetcar Employees  
 Health Service and Medical Employees  
 Match Factory Employees  
 Tailors  
 Shoemakers  
 Glazers  
 "Casque" Brand Hat Factory Employees  
 Felt Hat Renovators  
 Masons  
 Joiners  
 Tai Conh Lighterers  
 Musicians  
 French-Indian Employees  
 Tugboat operators  
 Hairdressers  
 Terre Rouge Plantation Employees  
 Weavers  
 Road Transport Workers  
 Bakers  
 Journalists  
 Photographers  
 Employees of Commerce and Industry  
 Union Sections: Port of Commerce Workers  
 Motor Cyclo Operators  
 Cyclo Operators  
 Central Electric Employees  
 Caltex Employees  
 Ca-bac Pickle Works Employees  
 Caric Employees  
 Scama Employees  
 Macadi Employees  
 Malthausen Employees  
 U.F.E.O. Employees  
 S.I.R.A. Employees  
 N.S.E.F.O. Employees

Cholon

Junkmen (boat operators)  
 Employees of Commerce and Industry:  
 Union Sections: Rice-Mill Workers  
 Saw-Mill Workers  
 Distillery Workers  
 Food Handlers  
 Household Utensils Workers

Gia Dinh

Day Laborers of Gia Dinh Public Works  
 Donnai Ceramics Workers  
 Gia Dinh Sawmill Workers (Union Section)  
 Binh Phuoc Sugar Refinery Employees

La Thieu

Potters  
 Lai Thien Ceramics Workers  
 Teamsters

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Sugar Industry Workers  
 Clogmakers (wooden shoes)  
 Road Transport Workers  
 Thu Dau Mot Potters (Union Section)

My Tho

My Tho Public Works Employees  
 My Tho Dredging Employees  
 Employees of Commerce and Industry  
 Agricultural Workers  
 Health Service Employees  
 Bakers  
 Junkmen (boat operators)

Vinh Long

Public Vehicle Drivers  
 Cyclo Operators  
 Tilbury Operators

Can Tho

Agricultural Workers of D.A.O. Plantation

Go Cong

Construction Workers  
 Road Transport Workers  
 Employees of Commerce and Industry

## b. Central Vietnam

There are 15 unions in Hue and 10 in Tourane (Da Nang). Of these, the most important are Dockers, Railroad Employees and Road Transport Workers. Others include: tailors, smiths, commerce and industry employees, hair-dressers, joiners, masons, shoemakers, metal workers, agricultural workers, heavers, construction work employees, sawyers, cyclo operators and private teachers.

## c. North Vietnam

Hanoi Area Trade Unions: Health Service Employees  
 Bus Depot Food Handlers  
 Cyclo Operators  
 Coppersmiths  
 Tailors  
 Joiners

Maritime Zone Trade Unions: Health Service Employees  
 Dockers  
 Graphic Arts

Phat Diem-Ninh Binh Unions: Tailors  
 Bus Depot Food Handlers  
 Junkmen (boat operators)  
 Weavers  
 Joiners  
 Masons  
 Shoemakers  
 River Fishermen  
 Hairdressers  
 Transport Maintenance Workers

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