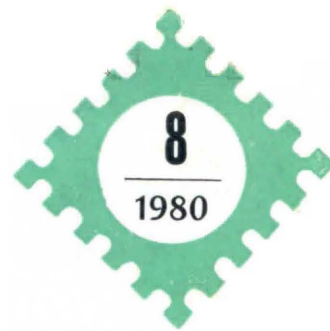
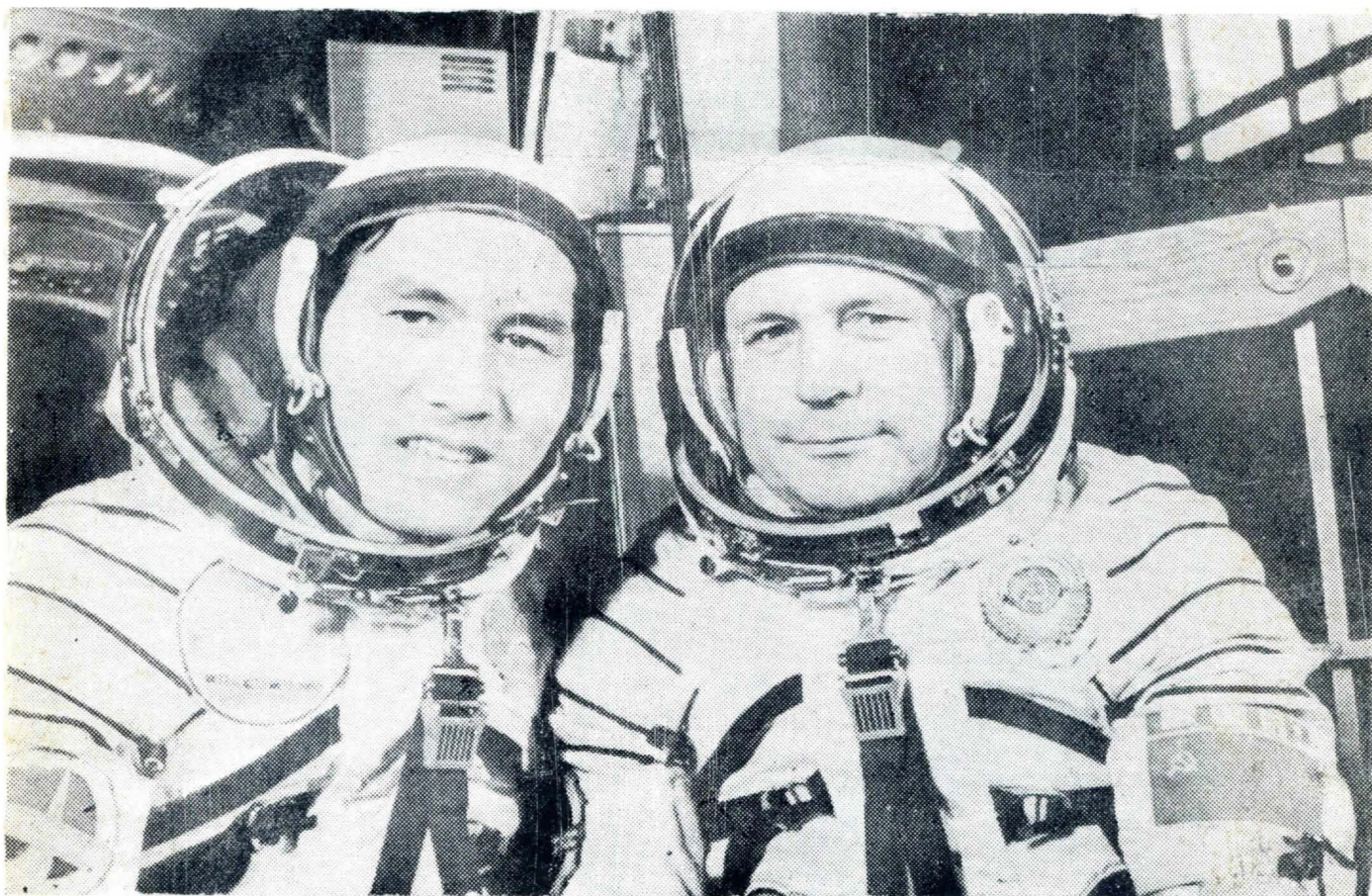


Vietnam courier



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- ECONOMICS
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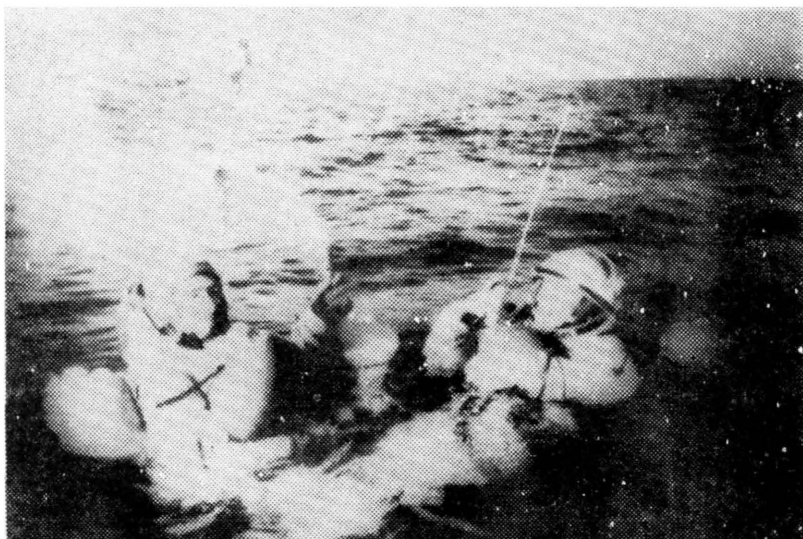
THE USSR—SRV JOINT SPACE FLIGHT



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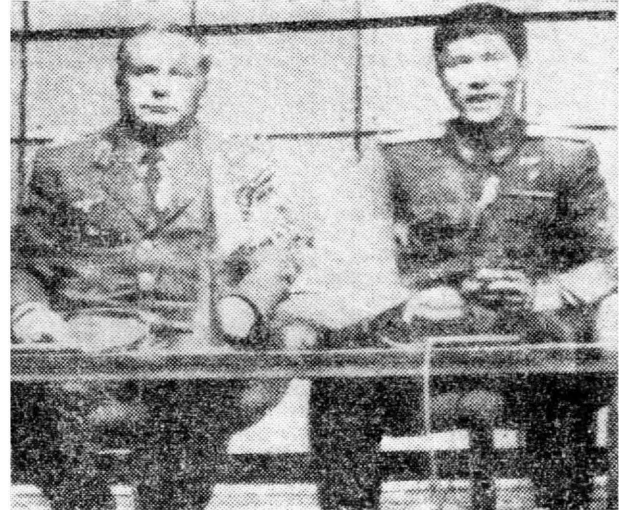
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1. Vietnamese cosmonauts Pham Tuan and Bui Thanh Liem (stand-by) undergoing training.
2. Training in weightlessness.
3. Training for sea landing.
4. Gorbatko and Pham Tuan in a mock-up module.

Photos: TASS and VNA



THE FIRST VIETNAMESE



A press conference of the cosmonauts at Star City

Photo: THE TRUNG - TRAN DUNG

AT 21.33. 03 hrs on 23 July 1980 (Moscow time) or 01.33. 03 hrs on 24 July 1980 (Hanoi time) the Soviet Union successfully launched into orbit the Soyuz-37 spaceship from the Baikonur cosmodrome.

The international crew includes the commander of the ship, pilot-cosmonaut Victor Vasilievitch Gorbakto, twice Hero of the Soviet Union, and cosmonaut-researcher Pham Tuan, Hero of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Under the flight programme the Soyuz-37 will dock with the Salyut-6 - Soyuz-36 orbital complex, and will conduct a series of scientific researches and experiments for peaceful purposes

The joint flight of the Soviet and Vietnamese cosmonauts is a brilliant expression of the friendship and allround cooperation between the two countries.

To the entire Vietnamese people, this flight is a historic event of great political, scientific and economic significance. It takes place in 1980 - the year of the 50th found-

ing anniversary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, the 35th National Day of the SRV and the 90th birth anniversary of President Ho Chi Minh.

This space flight demonstrates the intellectual power of the Vietnamese people. Thirty-five years ago they still lived in slavery and were mostly illiterate but now they have proved capable of scaling the peaks of science thanks to the assistance of the Soviet Union and the other countries in the socialist community.

*

A press conference was held in Star City on the outskirts of Moscow before the joint space flight of an international crew composed of two cosmonauts, a Russian and a Vietnamese, aboard the Soyuz-37 spaceship.

At this press conference, Lieutenant General V.A. Shatalov, deputy commander of the cosmonaut training centre named after Yuri A. Gagarin, reported that the crew

had satisfactorily completed the training programme in both theory and practice. Soviet cosmonaut Victor Vasilievitch Gorbakto, who has already flown into space twice, will conduct new scientific experiments and provide coordination and guidance for his companion, Lieutenant Colonel Pham Tuan. To further highlight the excellent results of the training, another deputy commander of the centre, Major General A. Nicolaiev, reported that both V.V. Gorbakto and Pham Tuan had obtained five marks - the highest mark - in all subjects, in both theory and practice.

Asked about the mission of this joint Vietnam - Soviet flight, Soviet cosmonaut, Colonel V.V. Gorbakto, commander of the ship, said they would conduct a comprehensive programme of studies and experiments in various fields of medicine, biology and physics. In their programme of survey of the earth surface they will take more photographs of the earth by means of the MKF-6M multispectral camera, co-produced by the German Democratic Republic and the

COSMONAUT IN SPACE

USSR. Colonel Gorbato said that the Soyuz-37 space craft will dock with the Salyut-6 - Soyuz-36 orbital complex then, together with the other Soviet cosmonauts who have been working in the complex, they will continue their research and experiments under the Inter-cosmos programme. For its part, Vietnam has submitted its own programme of research and experimentation such as the Ha Long experiments; the experiments on tropical plants, on bio-medicine and on specimens of *azolla pinnata*; the photographing of Vietnam's territory for the exploration of its natural resources... In all, the crew will carry out 24 scientific and technological experiments while in orbit

About the difficulties encountered and the successes achieved by the first Vietnamese cosmonaut, the flight commander said, "Lieutenant Colonel Pham Tuan joined the training centre only in April 1979 but he has proved a very able cosmonaut, intelligent, modest and hard working. He has quickly mastered the technique of cosmic flight in spite of the language barrier. It should be noted that cosmic terminology is quite different

from everyday spoken Russian. The abbreviations, for instance, are unintelligible even to ordinary Russians. For the Vietnamese pilot this was twice as difficult. Nevertheless, Pham Tuan has gained perfect knowledge of all subjects: space navigation, celestial mechanics, structure of spaceships and booster rockets. He has also satisfactorily completed the training programme in a simulator space craft as well as with special and general training apparatuses."

Pham Tuan confided that his selection as the first Vietnamese to go into space came to him as a complete surprise. When he joined the army in 1965 he was deemed not physically fit enough to become a jet fighter pilot and consequently was sent to a school for ground crews. However, thanks to persevering training, he was eventually recognized physically fit for piloting jet aircraft.

He said the experience he had gained in training and particularly in combat was an invaluable help to him in cosmic flight training.

Asked about Soviet assistance to his historic flight, Lieutenant Colonel Pham Tuan said the Soviet Union had created the best training conditions for him and many other

candidate cosmonauts from the fraternal socialist countries. The Soviet Party and Government have also cared for every detail of the cosmonauts' life with their families in Star City.

The first Vietnamese cosmonaut then brought out the great significance of this flight in the present conditions of Vietnam which has just victoriously emerged from more than thirty years of continuous fight against foreign aggression, and is now engaged in socialist construction and national defence. Thanks to Soviet assistance Vietnam is the first developing country to join the astronauts' "club". He said the other developing countries and non-aligned countries will not regard this as a success for Vietnam and the Soviet Union alone but as a common success of mankind in scientific research.

He said he hoped that in future interplanetary manned flights there will be cooperation not only among the socialist countries but also among all countries. This cooperation, he added, will increase man's potential abilities in the conquest of space for peaceful purposes and for the interests of the whole of mankind.

STATEMENT OF...

(Continued from page 3)

ing those related to the border between the two countries, with a view to normalizing relations between Laos and Thailand.

4. The Foreign Ministers of Vietnam, Kampuchea and Laos strongly condemn the reactionary Beijing ruling circles who are stepping up anti-Vietnam activities, increasing armed provocation and violations of Vietnam's territorial sovereignty on land, in the air and on the sea, threatening aggression and attempting to cause violent disturbances within Vietnam and stubbornly and unilaterally delaying the third round of Vietnam-China talks.

The Lao People's Democratic Republic and the People's Republic of Kampuchea fully support the fraternal Vietnamese people's just and resolute struggle to defend their independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, a struggle bound to end in victory; they support the correct

position and goodwill of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam which seeks to settle through negotiations the problems in the relations between Vietnam and China in keeping with the aspirations and interests of the two peoples, thus contributing to the defence of peace and stability in Asia and the world; they demand that the Chinese authorities put an immediate end to all hostile schemes and acts against Vietnam and agree to an early holding of the third round of Vietnam-China talks as repeatedly proposed by Vietnam.

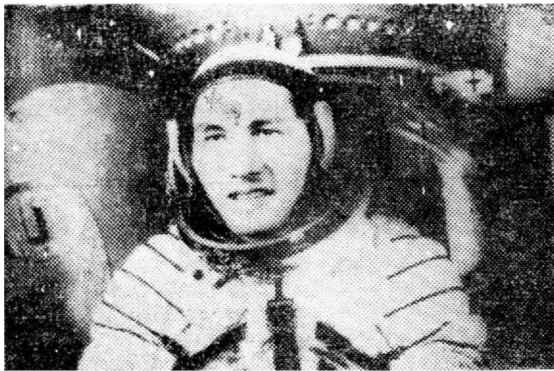
This Statement affirms once again the correct position of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the People's Republic of Kampuchea and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, resolved to defend the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of their respective country, and their wish to contribute to the maintenance of peace and stability in Southeast Asia and the world. The three countries are firmly confident that now as before, this position will enjoy the understanding, approval and strong support of the peoples of the world.

Vientiane, 18 July 1980



VIETNAM, THE 7th SOCIALIST COUNTRY TO SEND A MAN INTO SPACE

- Soviet Union : On 12 April 1961, Yuri A. Gagarin made the first manned flight into space.
- Joint space flight between the USSR and the Socialist Republic of Czechoslovakia : 2 March 1978.
- Joint space flight between the USSR and the People's Republic of Poland : 27 June 1978.
- Joint space flight between the USSR and the German Democratic Republic : 26 August 1978.
- Joint space flight between the USSR and the People's Republic of Bulgaria : 10 April 1979.
- Joint space flight between the USSR and the People's Republic of Hungary : 26 May 1980.
- Joint space flight between the USSR and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam : 23 July 1980.



Back in the country, Pham Tuan was promoted second lieutenant and became a jet fighter pilot in the Red Star Regiment.

In November 1968 he was admitted to the Communist Party of Vietnam.

In the fight against the brutal air war of destruction waged by the United States, Pham Tuan proved himself an excellent, resourceful and courageous pilot and was credited with downing many US aircraft. In particular, he shot down a B.52 strategic bomber in late December 1972 when the Americans launched an air blitz against Hanoi and Hai Phong.

In 1976 Pham Tuan was made deputy commander of the Red Star Regiment and promoted to the rank of major.

In 1978 he was sent to study at the Yuri Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Centre in the Soviet Union. He was promoted Lieutenant Colonel in the same year.

In April 1979 he became one of the Vietnamese pilots chosen to take part in joint Soviet-Vietnamese space flights.

Pham Tuan has been made a Hero of the People's Armed Forces by the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and has received many army decorations.

He is married and has a four-year-old daughter.

Pham Tuan was born on 14 February 1947 into a peasant family in Quoc Tuan commune, Kien Xuong district, Thai Binh province, the rice granary of the Red River Delta.

In his childhood, Pham Tuan was an excellent schoolboy with good moral qualities. In 1963 he was admitted to the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union.

In September 1965 he joined the Vietnam People's Army. After some time he was admitted to the Air Force. Afterwards he was sent to study in the Soviet Union and in May 1968 graduated from the Air Force Technical School of the Soviet Union.

VIETNAM'S INITIAL STEPS IN SPACE EXPLORATION FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES

Prof. Doctor NGUYEN VAN HIEU
Vice - President of the Vietnam
Space Research Commission

IN the history of scientific development in Vietnam 1980 marked a new period when outer space began to be explored for peaceful purposes and with a view to serving the building of socialism, within the framework of *Intercosmos*, the international cooperation programme for space research of the socialist countries.

The Intercosmos programme was worked out in 1967. A decade earlier, after the Soviet Union had successfully launched the first earth satellite, the socialist countries had already begun their cooperation in space research. Due to the war, Vietnam could not take part in the programme at that time. Nevertheless, in view of the needs for economic development, some Vietnamese scientific and technological establishments began studying questions related to regions in outer space near Vietnamese territory. Among these establishments was the Hanoi Ionospheric Station.

The Ionospheric Station was founded in 1962 and entrusted with the main task of gathering data on the ionosphere serving radio communications. Since 1969 researches at the Ionospheric Station has been conducted in three main sectors: Geo-ionospheric magnetism in Vietnam, solar physics and solar-geomagnetic-ionospheric relations, radio transmission, methods of radio forecast and methods of forecasting conditions of radio transmission.

In 1972 Vietnam began monitoring information from earth satellites for weather forecasting. These data are particularly important for the sea areas where no meteorological station can be set up. The photographs sent by satellites at the rate of one per 12 hours have helped in the detection and assessment of the effect of weather forming conditions, more particularly in the tracking of tropical storms.

Following the conclusion of the war and the reunification of the country, Vietnam entered the period of socialist construction on a national scale. This provided more favourable conditions for

scientific and technological research, including the use of outer space for peaceful purposes, and for quicker progress. On the other hand, the national economy required a better use of the results of space research as well as of outer space itself. It was in these circumstances that Vietnam joined the Intercosmos programme and became its 10th member beginning in May 1979. Subsequently the Vietnam Space Research Commission was founded and officially began operating in early 1980.

Composed of representatives of various branches of science and technology the Vietnam Space Research Commission was assigned the task of defining the direction and the plan for applying the results of space research to the national economy, studying the use of outer space for peaceful purposes, coordinating the work of scientific institutions in the country and mobilizing scientific and technological workers throughout the country for implementing this plan.

Under the 5-point Intercosmos programme, Vietnam's space research programme embraces research subjects in five areas.

In space physics, research will be conducted on the material components and the physical processes in the lower stratospheres over Vietnamese territory to serve as basis for research and application in the domain of astrometeorology, space communications and exploration of natural resources from outer space. Vietnam's participation in research on the chemical composition and structure of meteores and lunar soil will help promote research on highly sensitive and accurate methods of analysis serving geology, agriculture and other branches. Participation in research on cosmic material industry will greatly contribute to the development of Vietnam's materials science to meet the needs of such technical branches as engineering and electronics.

In space bio-medicine Vietnam will take part in research projects on space medicine and at the same time will conduct research on the growth in cosmic conditions of

some Vietnamese biological subjects such as *azolla pinnata*. The implementation of these research projects will enable Vietnamese biological and medical scientists to follow closely the latest achievements of world science in these domains for application in the study of practical questions in the country.

In space meteorology, research subjects aim to establish accurate and long-term methods of weather forecasting on the basis of satellite-fed data.

In space communications, research projects will promote the development of radio and television communications between Vietnam and the other socialist countries.

Finally, the exploration of natural resources from outer space is very important for the application of the achievements of space science to the national economy. Thanks to photographs supplied by the MKF-6M multispectral camera coproduced by the German Democratic Republic and the Soviet Union, the exploration of natural resources in Vietnam will not only be promoted but will also yield new results, thus effectively contributing to the development of the national economy.

In the space research cooperation plan among socialist countries under the Intercosmos programme a joint Soviet - Vietnam international cosmic flight will be conducted in the near future (1). The Vietnam Space Research Commission has set forth a comprehensive programme of scientific research during this flight. This programme embraces subjects in the following domains: space physics, space bio-medicine and exploration of natural resources. As a new manifestation of Soviet-Vietnam militant solidarity this joint flight will certainly give a new and vigorous impetus to the space research programme of Vietnam.

(1) We received this article before the launching of the Soyuz-37 space-ship - Ed.

THE USSR—SRV JOINT SPACE FLIGHT

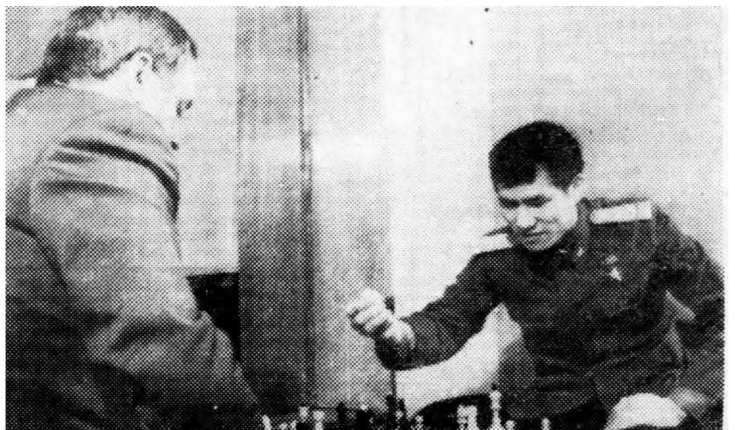
Prime Minister Pham Van Dong receives Pham Tuan, Bui Thanh Liem, and their families, before the cosmonauts' departure for the Soviet Union.



Gorbatko and his wife visit Pham Tuan and his family in Star City



Relaxing



Photos: TASS and V.N.1