During the past few months the public and press in the South have been aroused because of the shortage of schools. According to the Saigon Press, Saigon-Cholon is inhabited by more than two million inhabitants; there are about fifteen thousand children who are ready to go to school, yet only one thousand five hundred have managed to get in. On the other hand, with a population of four hundred thousand this year Hanoi was able to accept seven thousand children for the first grade alone. The Saigon press also says the Southern and refugees students from more than twenty private schools requested the opening of more classrooms. The Truong Vinh Ky school, the largest school in Saigon, because of the shortage of classrooms had to shorten its class periods, and omit many subjects. Why do the Southern authorities not open more schools? According to the information given by the Saigon Press, the reason is very simple: it is because the Southern authorities depend on the American Aid for their living. Therefore they cannot satisfy the aspirations of the people. The American Aid to South Vietnam does not aim at the opening of more schools in order to raise the cultural standard for the Southern people. But aims at transforming South Vietnam into a military base, into a market to consume American surplus goods. The Southern authorities cannot do as they wish; Their budget must be reserved for military purposes, according to the New York Times of November nineteen fifty five, seventy three percent of the total budget of that year was used for military purposes. The nineteen fifty six Saigon Cholon budget devotes three hundred eight million piasters for the expense of the police corps, and only fourteen million to cultural and educational purposes. By restricting education, the Southern authorities aim to force the youths of the South to enter military schools, or to join their army, directed and trained by the Americans.

Pointing up the advantage of hiring local soldiers, the New York "Times" on July fifteen pointed out: "During a congressional hearing on American Aid, the Administration told congress that if American Aid is cut out the United States will lose a large sum of money for its own national defense. For instance, to maintain an American soldier costs six thousand dollars yearly, while maintaining an allied soldier, a soldier from an American satellite, costs only seven hundred dollars."

This article not only unmask the manoeuvrer of the American imperialists of forcing the youths of the South to fight for them, but also proved that they despise the value and the lives of the youths in the South, as well as in their other satellites. They refuse to educate the youths simply because they want to hire soldiers at a cheap price.
No wonder the American imperialists are opposed by everybody. In the Philippines, in a speech made by the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee on July twenty one asking the American troops to withdraw, the chairman said: "The American Military bases bring us only prostitution, gambling and other vice". The same conditions are seen in the South today, and the Southern people are well aware of this. The Southern people also realize that unless they unite to kick the imperialists and their lackeys out of the country, their schools cannot develop. This truth can be proved by the example taken from the North. In the nineteen fifty six nineteen fifty seven school year, the popular educational service is teaching six hundred forty thousand school children. Three thousand seven hundred eighty five students are attending normal schools, polytechnic schools, the Faculty of Pharmacy and Medicine, and the Agricultural Forestry school. Besides there are thousand of other students taking vocational courses. The total number of students this year is six times larger than that of the best school year during the French domination, nineteen forty nineteen forty one. At present, the urgent request of the Southern compatriots is to have more schools for their children. But the Southern authorities cannot meet the need of the people. Because of this reason, on the coming October twenty six, themselves, the people will not let themselves be received.

In the September issue of the Official Gazette, the first issue, the Government of the Democratic Republic published its people's education plan. This deals with the people's education which rests on the fundamental ideas of the Marx-Lenin doctrine, which are to bring up and care for the young generation, to make our children into good citizens, good workers, good cadres, and good employers and to develop the People's Democratic regime, build up socialism and at the same time bring about national unification.

As needed, the people's education must provide our children with a complete and adequate curriculum to allow them to serve the Fatherland efficiently or to continue on in higher schools. To accomplish this, we must give them an intellectual, and artistic education, with moral science and physical training. Our new educational program has three degrees stretching over a period of ten years. The first of four years, from class one to class four; the second of three years from class five to class seven and the third one of three years from class eight to class ten. But an exemption is made for the mountainous people whose first degree takes five years instead of four.

Our school-year includes nine months divided into four study periods. Schools open each year on September one and close on May thirty one of the next year. This is calculated in a way to make it correspond with the school year of other countries and to facilitate the studies of our students who want continue
their education abroad and to give our children a vacation during the hottest months of June, July and August.

As for age-limits, the children of class one must be seven years of age on September one, eight years old for class two and so forth. Schoolgirls enjoy a one year-age differential compared to boys and the mountainous children have a differential of two years.

The main role of the teachers is to explain lessons to the children, but beside this they can take them to visit various places and explain lessons on the spot so as to make them understand quicker, remember longer and progress more rapidly. All forms of physical punishment are considered as illegal.

The examinations, whose aim is to check the pupils' work as well as the school instruction will be organized on the completion of class four and class seven, a final examination for graduation will be held at the end of class ten.

The training as well as the care given to the teaching staff must receive out utmost attention. The teachers must engage in political and professional studies. They must have a high sense of duty for service to the people and the Fatherland in order to bring up a new and strong generation, the future builders of our country. Their role is a glorious one, so they must love their profession and people must pay them special respect. Proper compensation must be provided for the teachers. On the other side, the professorial branch is also an important phase in the formation of teachers, it must have our best attention.

At the end, the plan deals with study programs, school books, the improvement in leadership and the organization of schools.