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A COUNTRY STAYS ALIVE WHEN ITS CULTURE IS ALIVE.

- SACEI Newsletter updates you on the latest news about Vietnamese-America.
- It serves as a link between SACEI members and those who are interested in the Vietnamese or Vietnamese-American culture.

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SAIGON ARTS, CULTURE & EDUCATION INSTITUTE











To Research, Document & Promote Vietnamese Culture

NEWSLETTER # 6

APRIL 2009



2009 SACE/ CONFERENCE WAR & REMEMBRANCE

September 26, 2009 – Dulles, VA



Call for Papers

Thirty-four years have passed since the Vietnam War has ended. Memories are starting to fade away. And unless we write down all these events, the past will forever be gone. SACEI (Saigon Arts, Culture, & Education Institute)—a non-profit organization—invites you to share your experiences with your peers and future generations.



The goals of this meeting are:

- I) to revisit the war and its consequences: injuries, separations, death, diaspora, and reeducation: traumas that have long haunted us and are still haunting many of us today,
- 2) to foster a meeting and cultural exchange between former allies.

This reunion will bring together former Allies who have sacrificed themselves to preserve democracy in Vietnam. It also allows us to acknowledge their valiant efforts and to thank them and their families for their past assistance. It is hoped it will serve as a step toward healing the ghosts of past traumas.

You may submit your proposals to: sacei007@yahoo.com The deadline is May 2, 2009. www.sacei07.org





NEW BOOK: THE LANDS OF FREEDOM (Forum # 5)

After 1975, the Vietnamese used whatever floated to set out on rough seas to flee communism. The Lands of Freedom welcomed them with open arms.

The Lands of Freedom Three decades later, as recent immigrants, the "boat people" have found political freedom and economic security, but success is mostly at an individual level. The ultimate challenge would be to prove their maturity by gaining political and economic leverage through mutual trust and solidarity.

Nghia M. Vo Chat V. Dang Hien V. Ho This Forum retraces their path from the time of their incarceration in reeducation camps until today. It serves as a historical timeline and documents their slow progress toward political freedom and economic stability.

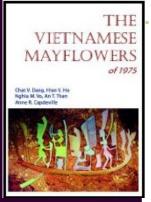
Disclaimer: The listing in this newsletter of a book title or a film does not mean endorsement or approval by SACEI.

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NEW BOOK: The Vietnamese Mayflowers of 1975

By Chat V. Dang, Hien V. Ho, Nghia M. Vo, et al.

Our life is a reflection of the times we lived in. "The Vietnamese Mayflowers" is about growing up within a culturally vibrant society, about losing the only world one ever lived in, about surviving the rigors of reeducation camps, about embarking onto a perilous odyssey, and most importantly, about the poignant rebuilding of professional lives.



Available on Amazon



REPORT FROM THE VIETNAM CENTER CONFERENCE

Texas Tech University

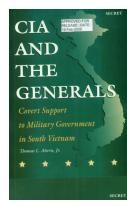
By James Bruton

The CIA has its own internal think tank, the Center for the Study of Intelligence (CSI), several of whose scholars were present. A panel presentation covered the recently declassified works of CIA analyst Thomas Ahern. He collected, organized, and edited the Agency's relevant documentation from the Indochina wars. The University of Kentucky Press will publish this product in a two-volume format. Retired Marine Colonel Andrew Finlayson summarized Ahern's massive work – and critiqued some of Ahern's conclusions. He found Ahern too pessimistic. Ahern stated that the "Communists possessed superior discipline and will making the outcome inevitable." But as Finlayson pointed out the Germans and Japanese also had superior discipline and will, but Axis victory was not inevitable. This inevitability view excuses our own incompetence and stupidity (which Rufus Phillip's book aptly summarizes.)

Several panelists discussed the evacuation of Saigon. The account in Frank Snepp's Decent Interval still stands. The evacuation was not bungled. Ambassador Martin and Chief of Station Polgar were so deluded in their thinking that they never adequately planned for it to begin with. So we abandoned many of the Vietnamese who had worked for us. A month later our principals in Laos repeated the same scenario there. As far as I know, no one has ever been called to account. (Where's Joseph McCarthy

when we really need him?)

Three Vietnamese graduate students from Vietnam spoke on "Vietnamese Perspectives on the War in Laos and Cambodia." One was very candid about his research situation in Hanoi. He said he could access some of the archives there, but that the director of archives would not let him copy certain documents. He was further told he could use the information obtained only outside of Vietnam!



The declassified works are available at:

http://today.ttu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2009/03/01-cia-and-the-generals.pdf http://today.ttu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2009/03/02-cia-and-the-house-of-ngo.pdf http://today.ttu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2009/03/03-cia-and-rural-pacification.pdf http://today.ttu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2009/03/04-good-questions-wrong-answers.pdf http://today.ttu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2009/03/05-the-way-we-do-things.pdf http://today.ttu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2009/03/06-undercover-armies.pdf

Poem: TINH "CHAT"

Trương Ngọc Thạch

Vợ già khuất núi đã lâu,
Ông cụ bảy chục âu sầu bấy nay.
Các con bận rộn cả ngày,
Cháu nói tiếng Mỹ, cụ hay than phiền:
"Nói gì chẳng hiểu được liền,
Mỗi khi muốn biết lại phiền đến con.
Muốn thăm bạn cũ một hôm,
Xe không biết lái, "bus" còn khó hơn."
Bạn bè thấu hiểu nguồn cơn,
Khuyên cụ lên mạng lan man tâm tình.

Một ngày đang đọc linh tinh,
Bỗng ngay góc "chat" thình lình hiện ra:
- "Chào ai trên mạng đây cà? "
+ "Thưa, tôi Trương Nguyễn, tuổi đà bảy mươi.
Còn bạn, tên tuổi? chốn nơi? "
- "Tôi là Mai Vũ, sáu mươi tuổi đời,
Chồng vừa khuất bóng năm rồi
Bổ tôi ở lại chơi vơi một mình. "

Cụ như thấy ánh bình minh,
Bao nhiều tâm sự thình lình tuôn ra.
Nỗi buồn năm tháng vừa qua,
Bỗng đâu biến mất, cụ ca suốt ngày.
Cụ vui, con cháu vui lây,
Mừng cụ: "Ông nội lúc này vui ghê!"
Cụ thưa: "Tháng tới ông về,
Việt Nam yêu dấu, nguyền thề bà yêu.
Từ từ ông tính chi tiêu,
Ông đón bà tới, bà chiều tụi bay.

Đám cưới tổ chức liền ngay, Bà con hai họ xum vầy thật vui, Chúc mừng cầm sắc đẹp đôi, Chúc cho hạnh phúc quãng đời dở dang.

HP-TNT 03/18/2009