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Trigésimo cuarto período de sesiones
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INFORME DEL CONSEJO DE SEGURIDAD

CONSEJO DE SEGURIDAD
Trigésimo cuarto año

Carta de fecha 1.º de octubre de 1979 dirigida al Secretario General por
el Representante Permanente de Viet Nam ante las Naciones Unidas

Tengo el honor de transmitir adjunto, para información de Vuestra Excelencia, un ejemplar del Libro Blanco titulado La souveraineté du Viet Nam sur les archipels de Hoang Sa et Truong Sa, publicado el 27 de septiembre de 1979 por el Departamento de Información y Prensa del Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores de la República Socialista de Viet Nam, y solicito tenga a bien hacer distribuir la presente carta y el documento adjunto como documentos de la Asamblea General, en relación con el tema 11 del programa, y como documentos del Consejo de Seguridad.

(Firmado) HA VAN LAU
Embajador Extraordinario
y Plenipotenciario
Representante Permanente ante
las Naciones Unidas

**VIETNAM'S SOVEREIGNTY
OVER THE HOANG SA
AND TRUONG SA
ARCHIPELAGOES**

**INFORMATION AND PRESS DEPARTMENT
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM
HANOI - 1979**

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**THE HOANG SA AND TRUONG SA
ARCHIPELAGOES
PART OF VIET NAM'S TERRITORY**

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Hoang Sa and Truong Sa are two archipelagoes consisting mainly of coral islands and submerged floors east of Viet Nam. The archipelagoes were once called by a common name of Hoang Sa or Dai Truong Sa or Van Ly Truong Sa. They comprise islands which, though small in size, are of great strategic value and economic importance.

The Hoang Sa archipelago lies off the Gulf of Bac Bo (Tonkin), about 120 nautical miles from Da Nang.

Westerners call it Paracels.

The Truong Sa archipelago lies scattered in the South of the Eastern Sea, 250 nautical miles from Cam Ranh Bay.

Westerners call it Spratly.

Both Hoang Sa and Truong Sa have, from time immemorial, been part of Viet Nam's territory. The Vietnamese feudal state was the first in history to occupy, claim ownership of, exercise sovereignty over and exploit, in the name of the State, these two archipelagoes which had never before come under the administration of any country. This ownership is effective and in conformity with international law and practice. Successive administrations have organized these islands into administrative units belonging to mainland provinces of Viet Nam.

Viet Nam's sovereignty over the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa archipelagoes is indisputable. The Vietnamese people have enough evidence and historical documents to prove their sovereignty. Several western navigators, geographers and missionaries in the past centuries have confirmed this fact.

In spite of this, the Peking authorities have brazenly claimed that these two archipelagoes, which they call Xisha and Nansha,

belong to the Chinese People's Republic. On January 19, 1974, using a large naval and air force, and with U.S. acquiescence, they seized the Hoang Sa archipelago then under the administration of the Nguyen Van Thieu regime.

This is a fragrant act of aggression of the Peking authorities, crudely violating the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Viet Nam and trampling upon the U.N. Charter principles, international law and practice. This act is part of Peking's scheme to gradually establish its control over the Eastern Sea, weaken and subjugate Viet Nam, Laos, and Kampuchea so as to secure a spring-board for expansion to South-East Asia. To whitewash their act of aggression, the Peking authorities have been fabricating and distorting facts in an attempt to justify their claim on the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa archipelagoes.

With the materials presented in this booklet, we are convinced that the peace-and-justice loving people in the world will know the truth: the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa archipelagoes are part of the territory of Viet Nam.

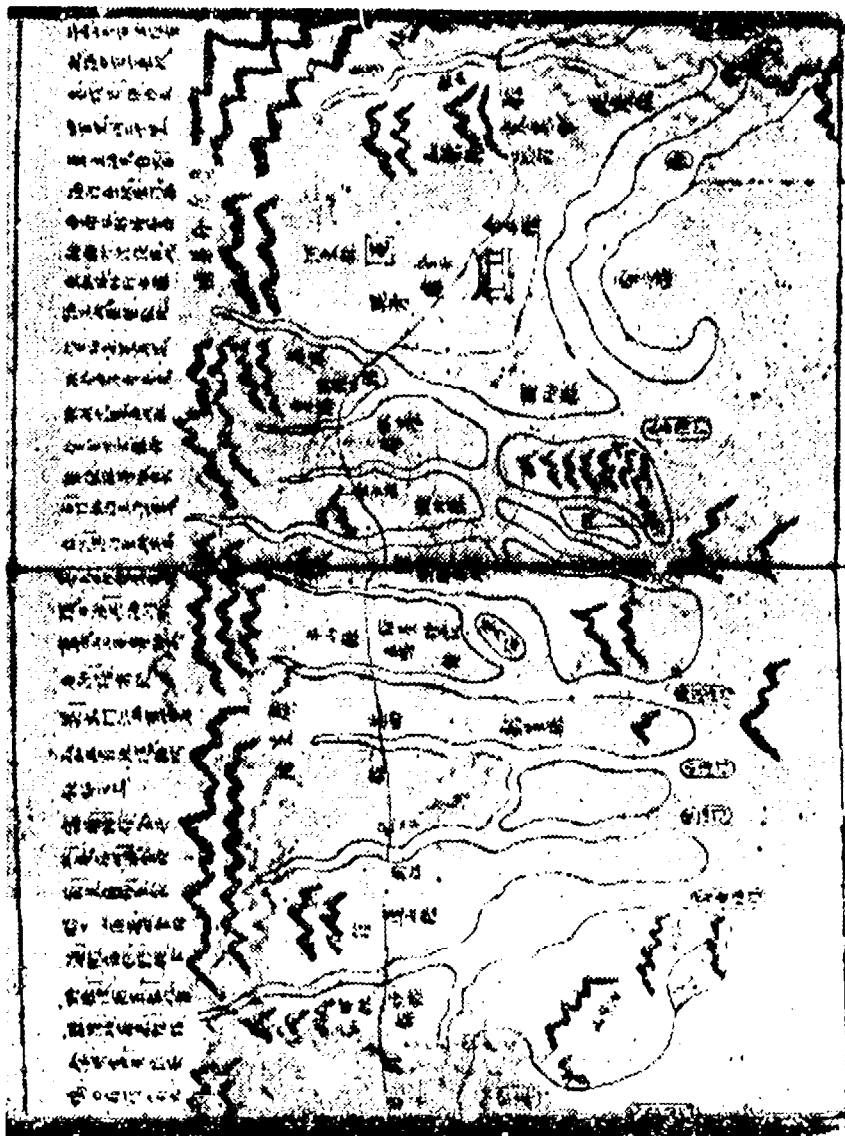
No deceptive manoeuvres of the Peking expansionists can cover up or distort this truth, or justify their acts of aggression and betrayal against the Vietnamese people in the Eastern Sea.

II

**SOME DOCUMENTS
PROVING VIET NAM'S SOVEREIGNTY
OVER THE HOANG SA AND
TRUONG SA ARCHIPELAGOES**

DOCUMENT No 1

A 17th-CENTURY MAP OF VIET NAM



This is a map of the Quang Ngai region from a collection of maps of Viet Nam compiled in the 17th century by Do Ba. In the footnote, the exploitation of Bai Cat Vang⁽¹⁾ by the Nguyen princes⁽²⁾ is clearly mentioned in the following terms :

"... An elongated sandbank, called Bai Cat Vang, 400 dam long and 20 dam wide, lies in the middle of the sea facing the coastline between the Dai Chiem port⁽³⁾ to Sa Vinh port⁽⁴⁾. Every time the South-Western wind arose, foreign trade ships sailing near the coast were blown off course and ran aground on this sandbank, so were those sailing on the high sea from the North when there was a North-Eastern wind. Men on board the ships all starved to death and goods were amassed there. Every year, in the last month of winter, the Nguyen princes sent 18 ships there to recuperate the goods consisting mostly of gold, silver, currencies, arms and ammunition. It takes one day and a half, from the Dai Chiem port, to go there; and only a day if one embarks at Sa Ky... »

(1) Bai Cat Vang: Golden Sandbank.

(2) Nguyen princes (1558 — 1775), of a noble family ruling the region (later called Cochinchina) which is the Southern part of Viet Nam.

(3) Dai Chiem port is now Cua Dai port of Quang Nam — Da Nang province.

(4) Sa Vinh port is now Sa Huỳnh port, in Nghia Binh province.

In the book, *Le Quy Don* wrote :

"... In Quang Ngai district, off the coast of An Vinh village, Binh Son sub-district there is a mountain called Cu Lao Re stretching over 30 dam. The Tu Chinh settlement, as it is called, has been established here and the people there grow beans. It takes half a day to go there by boat. Further still, there is the Dai Truong Sa (1) island, with many sea products and wrecked cargoes which are collected by the Hoang Sa (1) detachment. It takes three days and nights to go there by boat. The island is near the area called Bac Hai.

方離在峇里大江口程自西行... 地無窮一日程... 佛度館... 日自... 橋一日自... 升年... 地... 十... 處... 百三十... 黃... 千... 廣...

(1) During that time, the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa archipelagoes were referred to by a common name as Hoang Sa or Dai Truong Sa or Van ly Truong Sa.

為此... 俗曰... 假招... 安永... 雙... 劍... 傳... 投... 貨... 三... 已... 入... 行... 料... 沙...
為此... 俗曰... 假招... 安永... 雙... 劍... 傳... 投... 貨... 三... 已... 入... 行... 料... 沙...
為此... 俗曰... 假招... 安永... 雙... 劍... 傳... 投... 貨... 三... 已... 入... 行... 料... 沙...
為此... 俗曰... 假招... 安永... 雙... 劍... 傳... 投... 貨... 三... 已... 入... 行... 料... 沙...
為此... 俗曰... 假招... 安永... 雙... 劍... 傳... 投... 貨... 三... 已... 入... 行... 料... 沙...
為此... 俗曰... 假招... 安永... 雙... 劍... 傳... 投... 貨... 三... 已... 入... 行... 料... 沙...
為此... 俗曰... 假招... 安永... 雙... 劍... 傳... 投... 貨... 三... 已... 入... 行... 料... 沙...
為此... 俗曰... 假招... 安永... 雙... 劍... 傳... 投... 貨... 三... 已... 入... 行... 料... 沙...
為此... 俗曰... 假招... 安永... 雙... 劍... 傳... 投... 貨... 三... 已... 入... 行... 料... 沙...
為此... 俗曰... 假招... 安永... 雙... 劍... 傳... 投... 貨... 三... 已... 入... 行... 料... 沙...

In Binh Son sub-district, Quang Ngai district, there is the An Vinh village on the sea. Off the coast of this village, in the North-East lie over 130 islands. The distance between two islands is covered by a voyage of one day or sometimes of only a few hours. There are fresh water springs on some islands. On an island there is a vast and flat golden sandbank, 30 *dam* long, where the spring water is crystal clear. The island swarms with swallows and thousands of other species of birds, which are not frightened by the sight of men. Strange animals abound on the shore. Among them are giant snails, the shells of which can be baked into lime for house building or used as ornaments. Several other species of snails and other molluscs big and small, can be used for food or for ornamental purposes. There are giant tortoises and smaller varieties of turtles, and also sea-slugs abounding near the shore. They are to be treated with lime, and after a clean scrubbing, cooked with pork and shrimp.

Foreign ships hit by storms often take shelter on these islands. Formerly, the Nguyen formed a 70-strong Hoang Sa detachment made up of An Vinh villagers. It is sent on duty in the third month every year, taking along enough food for six months, in 5 small fishing boats and making a three-day-and-night voyage to the islands. There, the men are free to collect things as they like. They find shipwrecked things such as gold, silver, brass valuables, currency, tin, lead, arms, ivory, wax, crockery... and pick up beautiful shells and holothurians. In August, they return to Phu Xuan citadel where they hand over all the recuperated goods, keeping the shells and holothurians for themselves. The quantities of goods picked up vary from year to year. There have been times when the men returned emptyhanded. The notebook of an officer in charge reads: In Nham Ngo year, we collected 30 ingots of silver; in Giap Than year, 5,100 *kan* of tin; in At Dau year, 126 ingots of silver; in each of the five years from Ky Suu to Quy Ty, merely a few tortoise shells, and in other years, a quantity of tin, some ceramic bowls and two bronze cannons.

The Nguyen also formed Bac Hai team made up of people from Tu Chinh, Binh Thuan province, or Canh Duong village. These people were all volunteers, exempted from some taxes and travel expenses by the State. They were sent, under the command of the Hoang Sa detachment commander on small fishing boats to the Northern sea, Con Lon (Poulo Condor) island and the Ha Tien isles to find shipwrecked valuables, tortoise shells, sea-slugs. They got chiefly sea products. Very few gold and silver valuables were found".

ACCORDING TO "DAI NAM THUC LUC CHINH BIEN"
(Official Chronicles of Dai Nam)

十之二身稅減十之四

命水軍及黃沙隊乘船往黃沙探度水程

裴德縉阮金追等還自暹初暹人以撫粟故

怨匿禎其二王謀於佛王曰匿禎敢侮我恃

有

南朝故也攻禎

南朝必救因併及之釋兩憾矣佛王不可曰首造孽

端非福也必為此謀請以國遜二王遂止後

大南正編第紀 卷五十二

十五

Compiled by the National Institute of History of the Nguyen Imperial Court, the "Official Chronicles of Dai Nam" is a history of the Nguyen kings. The chapters of the "official chronicles" on the reigns of Kings Gia Long, Minh Menh and Thieu Tri, record the occupation by King Gia Long of the Hoang Sa islands in 1816, King Minh Menh's decision to build a temple, to install sovereignty markers and to plant trees on these islands, to survey and to draw maps of these islands.

Hereunder are excerpts from those chapters :

Chapter 52 :

"In the year Binh Ty, the 15th year of the Gia Long reign (1816)... on the King's order, naval units and the Hoang Sa detachment travelled in boats to Hoang Sa to survey sea-routes".

定價豈不是徒飽官吏私囊民何所利之有至如
所請十征其一則又屬言利之臣尤為可鄙夫
家經制有常銷銖之利豈屑計較况私買鐵木之
禁具有嚴條乃敢以此囑陳何也其傳旨飭令迴
奏竇惶恐上疏請罪遂降二級

帝謂工部曰廣義洋分一帶黃沙之處遠望之則水
天一色不辨淺深邇來商船常被其害今宜預備
船艘至來年派往建廟立碑于此又多植樹木他
日長大鬱茂則人易識認庶免著淺之誤此亦萬
世之利也

言大臣應有見別項情弊立自舉發俾無滯道

成法永絕弊根

以定安總督鄧文添為河寧總督河內巡撫鄭

光卿陞署定安總督

建廣義黃沙神祠黃沙在廣義海分有一處白

沙堆樹木森茂堆之中有井西南有古廟牌

刻萬里波平四字

白沙堆周圍一千七十丈
舊名佛寺山東西南岸皆

珊瑚石斜造水面北接珊瑚石突立一堆周
圍三百四十丈高一丈三尺與沙堆齊名磐

灘 去年

帝將於此處建廟立碑適因風濤弗果至是乃遣水

軍該隊范文原率監城兵匠與廣義平定二

省夫船運往材料建立廟宇隔古廟七丈廟之左

豎石碑前設屏障旬日工竣而還

廣平省臣奏言省轄夏禾秋收試粟輕浮多不

成粒諭準本年租粟一半聽民折納一半緩

徵又安亦以歲秋米貴報準本年正供並上

Chapter 104 :

"In the eighth month of the year Quy Ty, the 14th year of the Minh Menh reign (1833)... the King instructed his Minister of Public Works in these terms :

"In the territorial waters at Quang Ngai province, there lies the Hoang Sa archipelago.

But how can one know, from afar, whatever lies there in the vast expanse of the sea ? This is why recently, merchant boats often ran aground on sandbanks. Preparations should be made for a team to go there next year to build a temple, to install markers and to plant trees. Trees will grow up into a luxuriant vegetation that would allow navigators to mark the areas and avoid shipwrecks. This will be for the benefit of thousands of generations to come".

Chapter 154 :

"The sixth month of the year At Mui, the 16th years of the Minh Menh reign (1835).

A temple has been built on Hoang Sa (Quang Ngai province). Among the Hoang Sa islands located in the territorial waters of Quang Ngai province, there exists the islet of Bach Sa (white sand) where the vegetation is luxuriant. In the middle of the islet there is a well and in its South-Western corner, an old temple with a signboard bearing the inscription : "Van Ly Ba Binh" (Quiet waves over thousands of *dam*). The perimetre of the islet is 1,070 *truong*. The islet used to be known as Phat Tu Son. To the east, the west and the south of the islet are coral stretches. To the north of this islet is another one formed of corals with a perimetre measuring 340 *truong* and an altitude of 1 *truong* 3 *thuoc*. It is as high as the Bach Sa islet and called Ban Than Thach. Last year, the King intended to build there a temple and a stele, but the project was called off because of unfavourable winds and waves. This year, the King ordered Navy Commander Pham Van Nguyen to head a Royal Guard detachment and a group of boatmen recruited from the provinces of Quang Ngai and Binh Dinh to transport materials for the building of a temple on that islet. This temple is 7 *truong* distance from the old one and has a stone mark to its left and a brick screen in front. Upon completion of the project which took 10 days, they returned home".

屯堡土目土兵等名色不一請凡土司土豪
給以省憑試差從九品百戶手下土民改爲
堡兵仍舊管率駐守何堡寧帖及緝犯有功
其百戶量與獎賞再諸轄有屯札者亦照此
例行許之

工部奏言本國海疆黃沙處最是險要前者曾
派描繪圖本而形勢廣邈僅得一處亦未明
晰所應年常派往遍探以熟海程請自本年

以後每屆正月下旬遴派水軍弁兵及監城
乘烏船一艘以二月上旬抵廣義據廣義平
定二省雇撥民船四艘向引駛往黃沙的處
不拘何島嶼沙洲凡駛到者卽照此處長橫
高廣周圍及四近海水淺深有無暗沙石磧
險易形勢如何詳加相度描取圖本再照起
行日由何海口出洋望何方向駛到此處據
所歷水程計算約得幾里又於其處望入海

岸正對是何省轄何方向斜對是何省轄何

方向約略隔岸幾里一一貼說明白遞回呈

進

帝允其奏遣水軍率隊范有日率兵船往準帶隨木

牌十到處豎立為誌

牌長五尺闊五寸厚一寸面刻明命十七年丙

申水軍正隊長率隊范有日奉

命往黃沙相度至此畱誌等字

召堂奇光河內領兵段文改南定領兵梁文柳

來京既至入見

Chapter 165:

"In the year Binh Than, the 17th year of the Minh Menh reign (1836) on the 1st day of the first month... the Minister of Public Works reported:

"In our territorial waters, Hoang Sa occupies a strategically important position. In the past we undertook to draw its map but, due to its far-off location, we had only completed part of the project, and it was not detailed enough. It is suggested that we should carry out surveying work every year so as to be able to chart the routes definitively. From now on, in the second half of the 1st month yearly, we should detail some naval units and men of the Royal Guard for a boat trip to Quang Ngai. They will have to reach Quang Ngai by the first half of the 2nd month, and they will ask the administrators of the provinces of Quang Ngai and Binh Dinh to hire pilots and four boats to take them to Hoang Sa. Whatever place they reach, be it an island, an islet or a sandbank, they have to examine the length, the width, the height, the perimeter and the depth of the surrounding waters, ascertain whether there are underwater rocks and reefs and whether the terrain is difficult or not, and they will have to note all these data on their maps. They will have to record the date, the point of departure, the direction they take and the distance they cover. On arrival, they will have to look back to the mainland and try to determine the locations of the provinces they are facing or those which are on their right and left, note down the direction of their view and the estimated distance to the mainland. Upon completion of their tasks, they will have to submit a detailed report".

The King approved these measures and ordered navy Commander Pham Huu Nhat to head a survey team who was given 10 wood boards, each 5 *thuoc* in length, 5 *tac* in width, 1 *tac* in thickness, to be used as markers. On each board the following is inscribed: "In the year Binh Than, 17th year of the reign of Minh Menh, Navy Commander Pham Huu Nhat sent by the King to conduct surveying for map drawing in Hoang Sa has planted this marker so as to perpetuate the memory of the event".

DOCUMENT No 4

A MAP OF VIET NAM

(From "Dai Nam Nhat Thong Toan Do"

Detailed Map of Dai Nam, early 19th century)

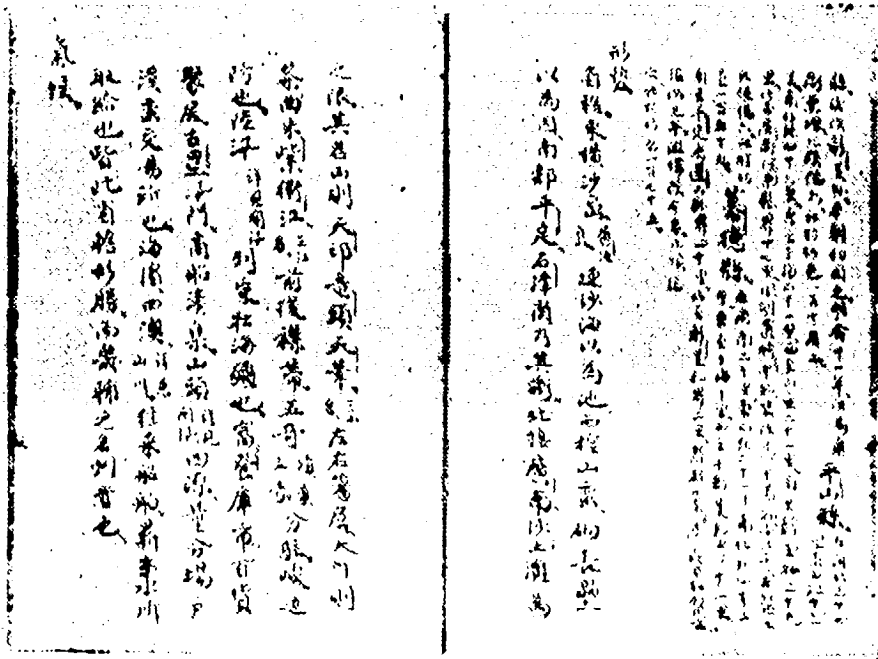
This is a map of Viet Nam drawn under the Nguyen dynasty, in 1838, presenting Hoang Sa or Van Ly Truong, Sa as part of Vietnamese territory.



ACCORDING TO GEOGRAPHICAL BOOK OF
"DAI NAM NHAT THONG CHI"

(Dai Nam Comprehensive Encyclopaedia)

"Dai Nam Nhat Thong Chi" is the official geographical book compiled by the National Institute of History under the Nguyen dynasty from 1865 to 1910. Volume VIII, on Quang Ngai province, mentions the status of the Hoang Sa archipelago as belonging to this province and relates that the exploitation of these islands was continuing. The management was strengthened under the reigns of Gia Long and Minh Menh.



黃沙島

在香山對面山島之東，自此島向東，遂得嶼風，三四日夜，可至其島，其山

巔平，其巔下生平地，廣六倍，植物亦生，其山亦平，其巔下生平地，廣六倍，植

物亦生，其山亦平，其巔下生平地，廣六倍，植物亦生，其山亦平，其巔下生

平地，廣六倍，植物亦生，其山亦平，其巔下生平地，廣六倍，植物亦生，其

茶曲江

在嶼之南，其水清冽，其味甘美，其水清冽，其味甘美，其水清冽，其味甘

美，其水清冽，其味甘美，其水清冽，其味甘美，其水清冽，其味甘美，其水

清冽，其味甘美，其水清冽，其味甘美，其水清冽，其味甘美，其水清冽，其

味甘美，其水清冽，其味甘美，其水清冽，其味甘美，其水清冽，其味甘美，

其水清冽，其味甘美，其水清冽，其味甘美，其水清冽，其味甘美，其水清

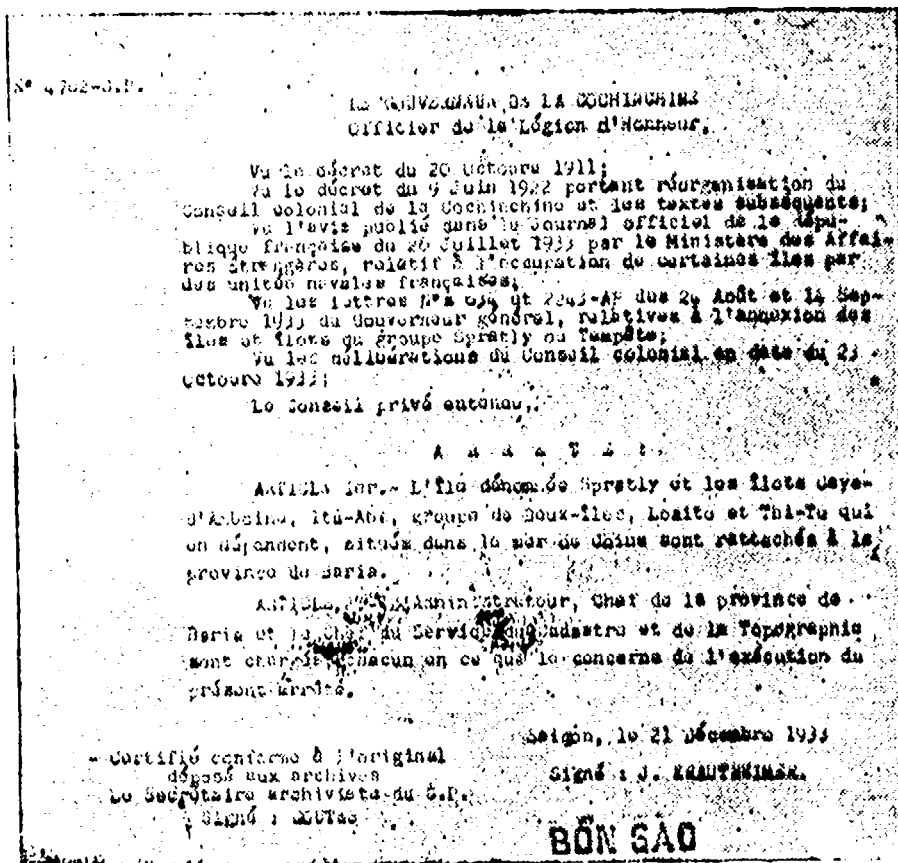
冽，其味甘美，其水清冽，其味甘美，其水清冽，其味甘美，其水清冽，其

Following is an excerpt from the chapter of the book about the Hoang Sa archipelago :

"To the East of Quang Ngai there were sand islands (the Hoang Sa)... In its South-Western mountain region Quang Ngai has a strong bulwark. It borders on Binh Dinh province in the South where Ben Da Pass stands, and on Quang Nam province in the North where the Sa Tho Reef separates the two provinces. In the early years of the reign of King Gia Long, the formation of a Hoang Sa detachment was planned, but the project was later dropped. King Minh Menh, at the beginning of his reign, often sent people to Hoang Sa in boats to explore sea routes. Once a white sand islet was found whose circumference was about 1,070 "truong". There, vegetation was luxuriant. In the middle of the islet there was a well. At its South-West corner there was an old temple whose date of construction was not given, but on a stele nearby were inscribed four words "Van Ly Ba Binh". The sandbank was known as Phat Tu Son. Next to the coral stretch in the North-West was another islet whose circumference was about 340 "truong" and whose height 1.2 "truong". This islet was called "Ban Than Thach". In the 16th year of his reign, Minh Menh sent boats carrying bricks and pebbles for the building of a temple and a stele in the East of the islet. He also ordered the sowing of seeds on three sides—the left, the right and the back—of the temple.

In laying the foundation of the temple, the recruits found bronze and iron plates and dug out 2,000 "Kan" of them.

TRUONG SA ARCHIPELAGO, PART OF
BA RIA PROVINCE (1933)



Cochinchina Governor's Ordinance of December 21, 1933 annex-
ing the Hoang Sa archipelago to Ba Ria province :

"Article 1: The island called Spratly and the small dependent
islands Caye d'Amboine, Itu Aba, Hai Dao, Loaï To and Thi Tu, in
the Eastern Sea are to be annexed to Ba Ria province".

HOANG SA ARCHIPELAGO, PART OF
THUA THIEN PROVINCE (1938)

PROVINCIALE
DE ANNAM
BULLETIN OFFICIEL
LANGUE ANNAMI
SOUT INDOCHINE
ANNAMITE

南 朝 國 語 公 報
NAM-THIEU QUOC-NGU CÔNG BÁO

NAM 1938 -- NO 8

Cung luc DU số 10 ngày 29 tháng 2 năm
Bao-Dai thứ 12 (20 Mars 1938)

Chiều chỉ các Cù-lao Hoàng-sa (Archipel des Iles Paracels) thuộc về chủ-quyền nước Nam đã lần lần và dưới các tên triều, các Cù-lao ấy thuộc về địa hạt tỉnh Nam-Sơn (còn đời Đức Thủ-Tô Cao-Hoàng-Đông) như cũ là vì người trước tự giao thông với các Cù-lao ấy đến do các cửa Tả tỉnh Nam-Ngãi.

Hiện nay sự tiến bộ trong việc hàng hải của việc giao thông ngày nay có thay đổi và tại viên Đại-diện Chính phủ Nam-tiền tự phải ra lịch-lý các Cù-lao ấy cùng quan Đại-diện Chính phủ Bắc-bộ có lần rằng nên thắp các Cù-lao Hoàng-sa vào địa hạt tỉnh Thừa-thiên mới được thuận tiện hơn.

Đặt :

Đặt khoản -- Tự do chiếm thắp nhập các Cù-lao Hoàng-sa (Archipel des Iles Paracels) vào địa hạt tỉnh Thừa-thiên; về phương diện hành chính, các Cù-lao ấy thuộc dưới quyền quản Tỉnh hiện tỉnh ấy.

Khoảng thời

King Bao Dai's Decree № 10 of the 29th of the Second month of the 13th year of his reign (March 30, 1938) severing the Hoang Sa islands from Nam Ngai province and annexing them to the territory of Thua Thien province. The Decree said: "...Considering that the Hoang Sa Islands (Paracels archipelago) have long been under Viet Nam's sovereignty, and under the previous dynasties the said islands were part of Nam Ngai province; under the reign of the founder of our dynasty, no change was made to that order as communications with these islands were still assured through the ports of Nam Ngai province.

Owing to progress made in sea navigation, communications have been improved. Besides, the representative of the Viet Nam Royal Government, after an inspection of the island, has joined the representative of the Protectorate Government in proposing that the Hoang Sa islands be annexed to Thua Thien province.

We have decided: The Hoang Sa islands (Paracels Archipelago) shall be annexed to Thua Thien province and put under the administration of the authorities of the said province.

**ORGANIZATION OF THE HOANG SA ARCHIPELAGO
INTO AN ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT (1938)**

Le Gouverneur Général de l'Indochine

N° 1563.6 *Commandeur de la Légion d'Honneur*

Vu les décrets du 20 Octobre 1911, portant fixation des pouvoirs du Gouverneur Général et organisation financière et administrative de l'Indochine;

Vu le décret du 8 Août 1930;

Vu l'arrêté du 28 décembre 1934 portant règlement sur les indemnités et prestations en nature et en deniers;

Sur la proposition du Résident Supérieur en Annam;

La Commission du Conseil du Gouvernement entendue;

— 857 —

ARRÊTÉ :

Article premier. — Une délégation administrative est créée aux Iles Paracels dépendant de la province de Thua-thiên (Annam) sous le nom de Délégation des Paracels. Son ressort s'étendra sur tous les groupes d'îles et îlots compris sous la dénomination d'Iles Paracels.

Le fonctionnaire placé à la tête de cette circonscription en qualité de Délégué du Résident de France à Thua-thiên résidera à l'île Pattie.

Art. 2. — Il aura droit en cette qualité, pour frais de représentation et de tournées, à l'indemnité annuelle de quatre cents piastres (400.00) prévue à l'arrêté du 28 décembre 1934. Cette indemnité est imputable au Budget local de l'Annam, chapitre 12, article 6, paragraphe 3.

Art. 3. — Le Résident Supérieur en Annam est chargé de l'exécution du présent arrêté.

Daté, le 15 Juin 1938

Signé : J. BRÉVIE

Indochinese Governor General's Ordinance of June 15, 1938 instituting an administrative unit on the Hoang Sa archipelago annexed to Thua Thien province (Published in "Bulletin administratif de l'Annam" N° 12 dated August 9, 1938).

DOCUMENT № 9

**VIET NAM SOVEREIGNTY MARKER
ON HOANG SA ARCHIPELAGO (1938)**



Sovereignty marker posted by the French in 1938. The inscription reads: "French Republic, the Kingdom of Annam, Paracels Archipelago, 1816 — Pattle Island — 1938" (1816 is the year when King Gia Long began to exercise his sovereignty over the archipelago; 1938, the year when the marker was erected).

DIVISION OF HOANG SA ARCHIPELAGO INTO TWO ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS (1939)

- 372 -

Le Gouverneur Général de l'Indochine
N° 222 *Grand Officier de la Légion d'Honneur*

Vu les Arrêts du 26 Décembre 1911, portant fixation des pouvoirs du Gouverneur Général et organisation financière et administrative de l'Indochine.
Vu le Arrêt du 5 Août 1906.
Vu l'Arrêt du 28 Décembre 1934 portant réajustement sur les indemnités et prestations en nature et en deniers.
Vu l'Arrêt N°156-SC du 15 Juin 1932 portant création d'une délegation administrative aux Iles Paracels dépendant de la province de Thuan-Kien (ANNAM) dénommée Délégation des Paracels.
Sur la proposition du Résident Supérieur en Annam.

ARRÊTÉ

« Article premier. — L'Arrêt N°156-SC du 15 juin 1932 est modifié ainsi qu'il suit :

« Article premier. — Deux délégations administratives sont créées aux Iles Paracels dépendant de la province de Thuan-Kien (ANNAM) sous les noms de « Délégation du Croissant et dépendances » et de l'« Amphyrith et dépendances ». La limite entre ces 2 circonscriptions est tracée par le trajet du 112° méridien, sauf en sa traversée du récif Vudodoire qui est totalement englobé par la délégation du Croissant.

« Art. 2. — Les fonctionnaires placés à la tête de ces Délégations en qualité de Délégués du Résident de France à Thuan-Kien résideront respectivement à l'île Hainé et à l'île Poine.

« Art. 3. — Ils auront droit chacun, en cette qualité, pour frais de représentation et de tournées, à l'indemnité annuelle de quatre cents piastres (400\$00) prévue à l'Arrêt du 28 Décembre 1934. Cette indemnité est imputable au budget local de l'Annam, chapitre 12, article 6, paragraphe 3 a.

« Art. 4. — Le Secrétaire Général du Gouvernement Général de l'Indochine et le Résident Supérieur en Annam sont chargés, chacun en ce qui le concerne, de l'exécution du présent arrêté.

Hanoi, le 5 Mai 1939
Signé : BREVIE

Indochinese Governor General's Ordinance of May 5, 1939 constituting two administrative units on the Hoang Sa Archipelago (Published in "Bulletin administratif de l'Annam N° 9, 1939. (1)

(1) There is an error in Article 1 of that Ordinance. The mention of 'No. 156-SC, June 15, 1932' should be read 'No. 156-3-6, June 15, 1938'.

OPPOINTMENT OF A NEW COMMANDER
OF THE DETACHMENT ON ITU ABA ISLAND (1940)

1940-1/77
 MOUANG KAI
 Mouang KAI, le 22 août 1940

LE GOUVERNEMENT GENERAL DE L'INDOCHINE

à Messieurs le Résident-supérieur au Tonkin
 le Résident-supérieur au Laos
 le Résident-supérieur au Cambodge
 l'Administrateur Chef du Territoire
 de Kouang-Tchéou-Sou

à Messieurs le Résident-supérieur au Tonkin
 le Résident-supérieur au Laos
 le Résident-supérieur au Cambodge
 l'Administrateur Chef du Territoire
 de Kouang-Tchéou-Sou

J'ai l'honneur de vous faire connaître que le commandant actuel
 Capitaine de la Marine marchande, recruté par contrat administratif
 depuis 1938 pour remplir les fonctions de chef de notre détachement
 à ITO ABA (Iles Spratly) vient de cesser ses services à l'expiration
 de son contrat.

En vue de pourvoir à son remplacement, je vous serais obligé de
 vouloir bien faire rechercher dans le pays que vous administrez un
 candidat euro, éh, fonctionnaire, agent de l'administration ou militi-
 aire, capable de remplir la mission à ITO ABA. Il doit à cet égard
 remplir les conditions suivantes:

- être solennel, très énergique, expérimenté et de caractère calme
 capable de résister aux incertitudes des chances de la mer et de
 la navigation.
- le candidat à recruter serait engagé par un contrat adminis-
 tratif qui assurerait sa situation définitive.
- si le candidat n'est pas fonctionnaire, il sera recruté
 dans les conditions prévues à celles précédemment mentionnées à
 ce sujet.
- salaire à 5000 par mois.
- durée du contrat au moins renouvelable.
- engagement au point de vue général des administrations de cette
 zone.
- soumis dans les conditions prévues au décret du 14/10/1938.
- si le candidat est fonctionnaire, il sera placé dans la
 position de chef de poste prévu aux règlements sur le poste.
- il devra être titulaire de l'indemnité de zone de ITO ABA.
- il devra être titulaire des expéditions de cette indemnité pour
 la durée de son engagement, lesdites expéditions à plaider en
 justice.
- les conditions du contrat à intervenir devra de plus prévoir
 l'indemnité de zone, l'engagement à titre de fonctionnaire ainsi que la con-
 dition de l'indemnité de zone, l'engagement à titre de fonctionnaire, la
 durée du contrat, l'indemnité de zone, l'engagement à titre de fonctionnaire
 et ne sera pas inférieur à l'indemnité de zone prévue en pareil
 lieu pour les fonctionnaires.
- tout candidat recruté devra être le moins âgé possible de
 l'engagement avec un renouvellement de contrat par l'administration
 de vivre par les soins de l'administration indochinoise.

En tant que tel, le candidat fonctionnaire à I-tu-aba ne peut
au point de vue des droits à pension et à l'avance ont, malgré
la présence effective de l'intéressé dans son service d'attente,
réserve des prévisions pour le cas qu'il doit avoir sur son avenir
pécuniaire.

Je vous prie de bien vouloir agréer, Monsieur le Gouverneur,
l'assurance de ma haute estime personnelle et de ma haute
confiance en votre sagesse et en votre compétence.

Par délégation
Le Gouverneur Général
du Gouvernement Général de l'Indochine
Monsieur BENOIST

Par délégation
Monsieur le Gouverneur Général
signé: BENOIST

Monsieur BENOIST - Monsieur BENOIST Cette copie conforme à l'original est
à destination de l'Administration des Services Locaux, des Services des
Communes, des Services des Gouvernements Locaux, des Gouvernements
de Gouvernement provinciaux et des Chefs de Poste
de la Résidence Supérieure, sur l'archipel de
l'Indochine Française.

Bureau le 22 août 1940
Le Président-Ministre et P.C.
L'Administrateur, Chef de Cabinet,
Monsieur BENOIST

Cette copie conforme à l'original est destinée aux Gouvernements
et aux Administrations des Services Locaux, des Services des
Communes, des Services des Gouvernements Locaux, des Gouvernements
de Gouvernement provinciaux et des Chefs de Poste de la Résidence
Supérieure, sur l'archipel de l'Indochine Française.

Bureau le 22 août 1940

Le Président-Ministre et P.C.
L'Administrateur, Chef de Cabinet,
Monsieur BENOIST

Indochinese Governor General's decision of August 22, 1940 on
the appointment of a new commander of the detachment on I-tu-aba
island (Truong Sa Archipelago) in replacement of M. Burollaud, who
had completed his term.

APPOINTMENT OF THE HOANG SA ADMINISTRATOR (1941)

N° 2044

LE RESIDENT GUYOTON EN SON
 Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur.

VU.....

A R R E T E

Art. 1er. - M. MOHSEINE MAHAMEBHAY, Jarda principal contre-
 maître de la Garde-Indigène, est désigné pour remplir sous les
 ordres du Résident de France à Tchu-Tchién, les fonctions de
 Délégué administratif à la Délégation de l'Amphitrite et
 dépendances avec résidence à L'île Soine, en remplacement
 de M. V. VILLIERS, Inspecteur hors classe de la Garde-Indi-
 gène, rempli à d'autres fonctions.

Art. 2. - M. MOHSEINE MAHAMEBHAY aura droit, en cette qua-
 lité et à compter du jour de sa prise effective de service
 à l'indemnité annuelle pour frais de représentation et de
 tournées de quatre cents piastres (400/00) prévues à l'ar-
 ticle de la Décret 1934 sur les dépenses du budget loca-
 l de l'annexement 1941.

Art. 3. - L'Administrateur Chef de Cabinet de la Résidence
 Guyotona en Annam et le Résident de France à Tchu-Tchién
 sont chargés, chacun en ce qui le concerne de l'exécution
 du présent arrêté.

Vlad au G.F. le 9/8/41 N° 2044

Ann, le 12 août 1941
 Signé GUYOTON

Pour ampliation,
 Le Chef de la 1^{re} Section du Cabinet
 Signé LUCAS

N° 2044 Pour copie conforme
 Ann, le 13 août 1941
 Le Chef de Bureau du Personnel
 Signé LILLIABLE

Annexe au décret n° 2044

A. H. M.

Annam Governor's Ordinance of August 12, 1941 appointing Mahamebhay Mohsine in place of Vuillame as administrator of the Amphitrite Islands (Hoang Sa Archipelago).

DOCUMENT No 13

TWO METEOROLOGICAL STATIONS ON HOANG SA
 ARCHIPELAGO IN THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL
 ORGANIZATION NETWORK, 1949

4850-4885

ASIA - ASIE

1900 - 1999

Indo-China - Indochine

Yongking Yarkou

Station No.	Station Name	Lat.	Long.	Alt.	Reg.
4850	Yongking	21 01	101 57	100	1949
4851	Yarkou	21 21	101 49	100	1949
4852	Yarkou	21 30	101 31	100	1949
4853	Yarkou	21 30	101 28	100	1949
4854	Yarkou	21 27	101 49	100	1949
4855	Yarkou	21 40	101 31	100	1949
4856	Yarkou	21 15	101 21	100	1949
4857	Yarkou	21 04	101 31	100	1949
4858	Yarkou	21 19	101 31	100	1949
4859	Yarkou	21 30	101 31	100	1949
4860	Yarkou	21 06	101 31	100	1949
4861	Yarkou	21 12	101 31	100	1949
4862	Yarkou	21 06	101 31	100	1949
4863	Yarkou	21 07	101 31	100	1949
4864	Yarkou	21 03	101 31	100	1949
4865	Yarkou	21 34	101 31	100	1949
4866	Yarkou	21 32	101 31	100	1949
4867	Yarkou	21 28	101 31	100	1949
4868	Yarkou	21 46	101 31	100	1949
4869	Yarkou	21 31	101 31	100	1949
4870	Yarkou	21 30	101 31	100	1949
4871	Yarkou	21 23	101 31	100	1949
4872	Yarkou	21 20	101 31	100	1949
4873	Yarkou	21 31	101 31	100	1949
4874	Yarkou	21 27	101 31	100	1949

Sumatra - Sumatra

Station No.	Station Name	Lat.	Long.	Alt.	Reg.
4880	Sumatra	11 16	101 42	100	1949
4881	Sumatra	11 20	101 37	100	1949
4882	Sumatra	11 17	101 37	100	1949
4883	Sumatra	11 18	101 40	100	1949
4884	Sumatra	11 17	101 34	100	1949
4885	Sumatra	11 20	101 35	100	1949
4886	Sumatra	11 14	101 33	100	1949
4887	Sumatra	11 15	101 33	100	1949
4888	Sumatra	11 15	101 34	100	1949
4889	Sumatra	11 15	101 32	100	1949
4890	Sumatra	11 16	101 31	100	1949
4891	Sumatra	11 16	101 31	100	1949

04 1949

04 1949

Phu Lam station, registration number 48859.
 Hoang Sa station, registration number 48860.
 (WMO documents, 1949)

DOCUMENT No 14

METEOROLOGICAL STATION OF ITU ABA (HOANG SA
 ARCHIPELAGO) IN THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL
 ORGANIZATION NETWORK, 1949

48882 - 48928

ASIA - ASIE

Station No.	Station Name	Latitude	Longitude	Height (m)	Year
48882	Phnom Penh	N 11 29	E 103 00	10	
48883	Phnom Penh	N 11 29	E 103 00	10	
48884	Phnom Penh	N 11 29	E 103 00	10	
48885	Phnom Penh	N 11 29	E 103 00	10	
48886	Phnom Penh	N 11 29	E 103 00	10	
48887	Phnom Penh	N 11 29	E 103 00	10	
48888	Phnom Penh	N 11 29	E 103 00	10	
48889	Phnom Penh	N 11 29	E 103 00	10	
48890	Phnom Penh	N 11 29	E 103 00	10	
48891	Phnom Penh	N 11 29	E 103 00	10	
48892	Phnom Penh	N 11 29	E 103 00	10	
48893	Phnom Penh	N 11 29	E 103 00	10	
48894	Phnom Penh	N 11 29	E 103 00	10	
48895	Phnom Penh	N 11 29	E 103 00	10	
48896	Phnom Penh	N 11 29	E 103 00	10	
48897	Phnom Penh	N 11 29	E 103 00	10	
48898	Phnom Penh	N 11 29	E 103 00	10	
48899	Phnom Penh	N 11 29	E 103 00	10	
48900	Phnom Penh	N 11 29	E 103 00	10	
48901	Phnom Penh	N 11 29	E 103 00	10	
48902	Phnom Penh	N 11 29	E 103 00	10	
48903	Phnom Penh	N 11 29	E 103 00	10	
48904	Phnom Penh	N 11 29	E 103 00	10	
48905	Phnom Penh	N 11 29	E 103 00	10	
48906	Phnom Penh	N 11 29	E 103 00	10	
48907	Phnom Penh	N 11 29	E 103 00	10	
48908	Phnom Penh	N 11 29	E 103 00	10	
48909	Phnom Penh	N 11 29	E 103 00	10	
48910	Phnom Penh	N 11 29	E 103 00	10	
48911	Phnom Penh	N 11 29	E 103 00	10	
48912	Phnom Penh	N 11 29	E 103 00	10	
48913	Phnom Penh	N 11 29	E 103 00	10	
48914	Phnom Penh	N 11 29	E 103 00	10	
48915	Phnom Penh	N 11 29	E 103 00	10	
48916	Phnom Penh	N 11 29	E 103 00	10	
48917	Phnom Penh	N 11 29	E 103 00	10	
48918	Phnom Penh	N 11 29	E 103 00	10	
48919	Phnom Penh	N 11 29	E 103 00	10	
48920	Phnom Penh	N 11 29	E 103 00	10	
48921	Phnom Penh	N 11 29	E 103 00	10	
48922	Phnom Penh	N 11 29	E 103 00	10	
48923	Phnom Penh	N 11 29	E 103 00	10	
48924	Phnom Penh	N 11 29	E 103 00	10	
48925	Phnom Penh	N 11 29	E 103 00	10	
48926	Phnom Penh	N 11 29	E 103 00	10	
48927	Phnom Penh	N 11 29	E 103 00	10	
48928	Phnom Penh	N 11 29	E 103 00	10	

Central Asia - Cochin-China

48929	Hanoi (Quang)	N 21 40	E 105 38	120	40
48930	Tu dai Phai	N 18 55	E 103 30	3	10
48931	Saigon	N 16 57	E 106 48	3	10
48932	Saigon (Johnson-Nhuti)	N 16 57	E 106 48	2	30
48933	Cap-St-Jacques (Ahar) (Beacon)	N 16 53	E 107 05	100	60
48934	Mai Son	N 16 39	E 103 20	3	10
48935	Ka. Ngai	N 13 00	E 106 00	3	10
48936	Chau Son	N 10 42	E 107 07	8	30
48937	Chien	N 01 00	E 106 47	3	10
48938	Benhe (Benh)	N 00 50	E 106 47	2	7
48939	Saigon	N 00 30	E 106 30	4	12
48940	Camau	N 00 10	E 105 40	2	7
48941	Phuoc Thuan	N 00 41	E 104 40		
48942	Phuoc Thuan	N 00 25	E 104 40	300	100
48943	Phuoc Thuan	N 00 00	E 104 40	5	10
48944	Phuoc Thuan	N 00 2	E 104 40	4	10

48945 - 48948

48945	Hanoi (Sai)	N 21 40	E 105 38	120	40
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Itu ABA station, registration number 48919.
 (WMO documents, 1949)

STATEMENT OF THE VIETNAMESE DELEGATION AT THE
SAN FRANCISCO CONFERENCE (1951)

CONFERENCE DE SAN-FRANCISCO

à accepter, pour l'extinction d'une créance, une monnaie qui n'a pas cours dans son pays.

Nous avons ainsi amenés à demander, que d'autres formules de paiement efficaces soient étudiées et que, notamment, nous puissions compter, en cas de moyens provisoires, sur une indemnisation normale le jour, que nous espérons proche, où l'économie restaurée du Japon le mettra en mesure de faire face à ses obligations.

Le Viêt-Nam serait dévoré qu'on impute ses demandes à tout autre motif qu'à celui de la nécessité pour notre pays de se relever économiquement, comme de réaliser pour notre peuple d'importantes améliorations sociales. Ce dernier objectif ne pourrait être atteint que par la mise en jeu d'importantes ressources qui sont à l'heure actuelle consacrées en grande partie à la sauvegarde de nos libertés et au service de la Paix.

Ainsi nous apparaît souhaitable, en ce qui concerne notre zone, un régime de sécurité collective qui compléterait nos efforts.

Je suis heureux, à ce sujet, de constater que mes préoccupations rejoignent celles que l'éminent Représentant de la France a exposées hier à cette même tribune.

Un traité d'assistance mutuelle, pour la défense de tous les pays exposés aux mêmes dangers, serait de nature à assurer une paix stable dans cette partie du monde.

Le Viêt-Nam, avec enthousiasme, souscrit à l'avance, à cette suite de

Et comme il faut franchement profiter de toutes occasions pour étouffer les germes de discord, nous affirmons nos droits sur les îles Spratly et Paracel qui de tout temps ont fait partie du Viêt-Nam.

Sous le bénéfice de ce qui vient d'être exposé, nous aimons à recon-

On September 7, 1951 at the San Francisco Conference, Tran Van Huu, Prime Minister of the Bao Dai Government reaffirmed Vietnamese sovereignty over the Hoang Sa archipelago and the Truong Sa archipelago: "As we must frankly profit from all the opportunities offered to us to stifle the germs of discord, we affirm our right to the Spratly and Paracel islands, which always belonged to Viet Nam".

(The statement was published in the "France-Asie" magazine N° 66 — 67, November, December, 1951).

DOCUMENT No 16

**VIETNAMESE STAFF OF THE METEOROLOGICAL
STATION ON HOANG SA ISLAND
(Pattle) in 1952**

BULLETIN - RAPPORT ANNUEL DE PATTELE DE SAISON DE FÉVRIER 1952.

RÉSUMÉ

LISTE DU PERSONNEL EN SERVICE À PATTELE LE 29 FÉVRIER 1952

NOM ET NOMS	FONCTIONS	GRANDE	SITUATION DE FAMILLE
TRAN-VAN-HANH.	Chargé station	Obs. de 3 ^{ème} classe avec 5 enfants.	
NGUYEN-VINH-KHONG.	Radiotélégraphiste	de 3 ^{ème} classe	avec 2 enfants.
VU-VAN-THAN.	Observateur	stagiaire	avec 2 enfants.
TRAN-HIEU-DAT.	Observateur	journalier	Célibataire
NGUYEN-VAN-SON.	Radiotélégraphiste	journalier	Célibataire

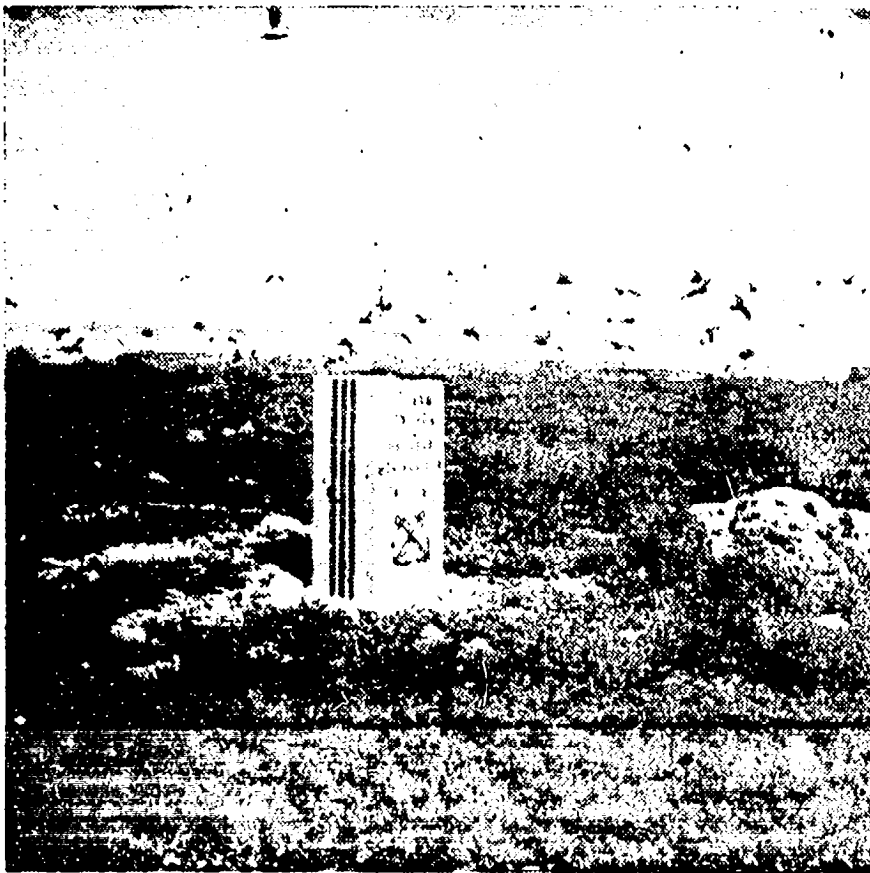
Fait à Pattelle, le 29 février 1952
Le Chargé de Station, Radiotélégraphiste,

Signé - TRAN-VAN-HANH
(cachet)

SERVICE MÉTÉOROLOGIQUE
DE L'INDOCHINE

DOCUMENT № 17

**SOVEREIGNTY MARKER ERECTED IN 1961
ON TRUONG SA ISLAND (TRUONG SA ARCHIPELAGO)**

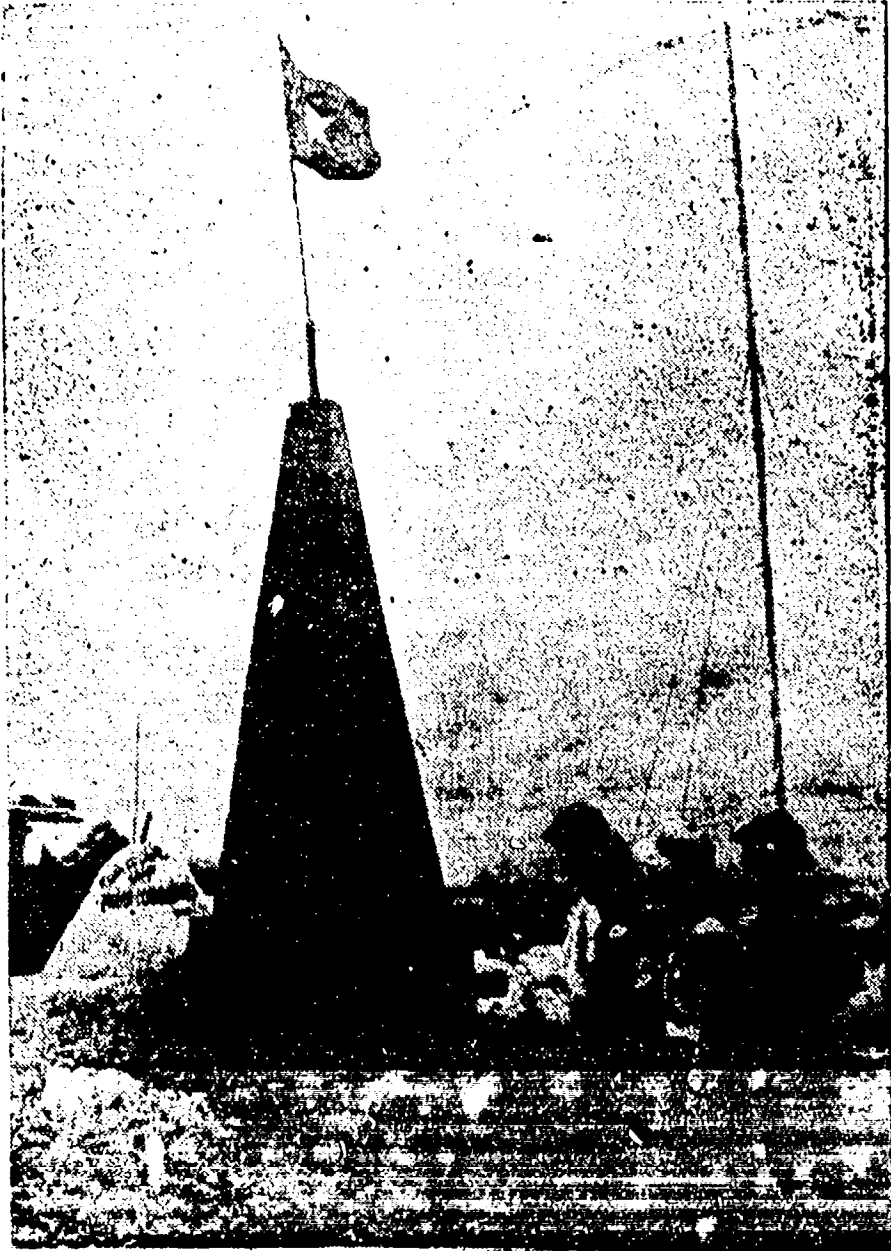


DOCUMENT № 19

**TROOPS OF THE VIET NAM PEOPLE'S ARMY
ON THE TRUONG SA ARCHIPELAGO**







III

**SIGNIFICANT EVENTS RELATING
TO VIETNAMESE SOVEREIGNTY
OVER THE HOANG SA
AND TRUONG SA ARCHIPELAGOES**

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- 17th Century:** Do Ba, a Vietnamese geographer, compiled a book of maps of Viet Nam. In volume I, the author mentioned "Bai Cat Vang" (the Golden Sandbank).
- 1701:** In letters of a Western missionary aboard S/s Amphitrite from France to China, the Hoang Sa archipelago was referred to as belonging to the Kingdom of Annam.
- 1776:** In his book "Phu Bien Tap Luc", Vietnamese scholar Le Qui Don wrote about the organization by the Nguyen Princes of Hoang Sa and Bac Hai detachments for the exploitation of Hoang Sa, Truong Sa archipelagoes and other islands.
- 1816:** On King Gia Long's order, Vietnamese naval units and the Hoang Sa detachment carried out the measurement of sea-routes from the mainland to the islands in the Hoang Sa.
- 1820:** Jean Baptiste Chaigneau, a Frenchman who was king Gia Long's adviser, wrote a "Report on Cochinchina" in 1820. In this report, Chaigneau notes that King Gia Long had officially established sovereignty over the Hoang Sa archipelago in 1816.
- 1821:** In his work "History of Dynasties", Vietnamese historian Phan Huy Chu wrote about the Hoang Sa and its exploitation by the Nguyen Princes.
- 1833:** King Minh Menh instructed his Ministry of Public Works to get facilities and materials ready for carrying out projects of stele installation, temple construction and tree-planting in the following year on the Hoang Sa.
- 1835:** Navy Commander Pham Van Nguyen led naval units with building materials to Hoang Sa to install a stele and build a temple.
- 1836:** Navy Commander Pham Huu Nhat led a detachment to by King Minh Menh when they left for home.
- 1836:** In December, a British ship sank off Hoang Sa. 90 sailors were brought to Binh Dinh province and were given foodstuff by King Minh Menh when they left for home.
- 1838:** Archbishop J.L. Taberd published his Latino-Annamiticum Dictionary to which a map of Annam was annexed. In This map the Hoang Sa archipelago was marked with its traditional name of "The Golden Sandbank" along with its international appellation of Paracel.

- 1849 : In his article "Geography of the Cochinchinese Empire", Dr. Gutlafz, an Englishman, wrote about the taking possession by the King of Cochinchina of the Hoang Sa archipelago and about the formation of merchant fleets and of military squads to help in levying tax on foreign fishermen and defending local ones.
- 1862 — 1884 : France established colonial rule over Viet Nam. (from the time when the French occupied three Eastern Nam Bo provinces to the time when the Patenotre Treaty was signed).
- 1910 : The National Institute of History under the Nguyen dynasty completed the official geographical book "National Geography". In this book, Hoang Sa was once again referred to as part of Viet Nam's territory.
- 1925 : Than Trong Hue, Minister for Military Affairs of the Hue Imperial Court, in face of a Chinese claim of Hoang Sa, reaffirmed that the archipelago had constantly been part of Viet Nam.
- 1927 : A. Krempt, Director of the Indochinese Oceanographical Institute conducted a scientific survey in the Hoang Sa archipelago.
- 1933 : The French Foreign Ministry issued a communiqué published on the Official Journal of the French Republic on the taking possession of the islands in the Truong Sa archipelago (7-1933); Cochinchina Governor Krautheimer issued an ordinance annexing the archipelago to Ba Ria province (Ordinance No 4762-CP of December 21, 1933); France built a meteorological station and a radio transmission station on Itu Aba in the Truong Sa archipelago.
- 1937 : Chief civil engineer Gauthier arrived in Hoang Sa to find places where a lighthouse and a port for amphibian aircraft could be built and to study the possibility of settlement in Hoang Sa.
- 1938 : By Decree of March 30, 1938, King Bao Dai severed the Hoang Sa archipelago from Nam Ngai province and annexed it to Thua Thien province; by Ordinance of June 15, 1938, the Governor General of Indochina J. Brévié made the archipelago an administrative unit; the French colonial administration installed sovereignty markers, built a lighthouse, a meteorological station and a radio-transmission station on Pattle

Island (Hoang Sa Archipelago) and a meteorological station on Itu Aba (Truong Sa Archipelago).

1939: By Ordinance of May 8, 1939, the Indochinese Governor General J. Brévié divided the administrative unit of Hoang Sa Archipelago into two smaller units.

1946: The French re-occupied the Hoang Sa Archipelago. In this operation, they used the ship "Savorgnan de Brazza" (During World War II, Japan occupied the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa archipelagos).

1950: France handed over to the Bao Dai Government the administration of the Hoang Sa archipelago.

1951: At the San Francisco Conference, Tran Van Huu, Prime Minister of the Bao Dai Government made a statement reaffirming Vietnamese sovereignty over the archipelagoes of Hoang Sa and Truong Sa. The statement did not arouse any protest.

1955: Under the Saigon administration a marine company was garrisoned in Hoang Sa in replacement of French troops who were withdrawn from Indochina and a hydrological team arrived in Hoang Sa to conduct researches. The Saigon administration later allowed a Vietnamese industrialist to exploit phosphate on this archipelago.

1956: The Saigon administration sent warships to Truong Sa to effect control over this archipelago and decreed the annexation of Truong Sa to Phuoc Tuy province.

1961: By decree, the Saigon administration made the Hoang Sa archipelago a village, gave it the name of Dinh Hai and placed it under the administration of Hoa Vang district, Quang Nam province and installed sovereignty markers on the Truong Sa Archipelago.

1969: By decree, the Saigon administration annexed Dinh Hai village (Hoang Sa Archipelago) to Hoa Long village, Hoa Vang district, Quang Nam province.

1971: Tran Van Lam, Foreign Minister of the Saigon administration, at the ASPAC Conference in Manila, on July 13, reaffirmed Vietnamese sovereignty over the two archipelagoes of Hoang Sa and Truong Sa.

1973: By decree of September 6, 1973, the Saigon administration annexed the Truong Sa Archipelago to Phuong Hai village, Dat Do district, Phuoc Tuy province.

1974:

— January 12, 1974: the spokesman of the Foreign Ministry of the Saigon administration protested the Chinese statement of January 11, 1974 claiming Chinese sovereignty over the two archipelagoes of Hoang Sa and Truong Sa.

— January 16, 1974: In a statement, the Foreign Ministry of the Saigon administration reaffirmed Vietnamese sovereignty over the Hoang Sa archipelago and sent the President of the U. N. Security Council a message requesting him to take action to cope with the situation.

— January 19, 1974: China occupied the Hoang Sa archipelago.

— January 20, 1974: The Foreign Minister of the Saigon administration sent an urgent message to the President of the U. N. Security Council requesting him to call an emergency meeting to consider the occupation by the People's Republic of China of the Vietnamese archipelago of Hoang Sa.

— January 26, 1974: the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam made public its position on the occupation of the Hoang Sa archipelago by China as follows:

a) Sovereignty and territorial integrity are questions sacred to every nation.

b) As regards territorial border questions, there often exist between neighbouring countries disputes left by history which may be extremely complicated and should be thoroughly studied.

c) The countries concerned should consider this question in the spirit of equality, mutual respect, friendship and good neighbourliness and settle it by negotiations.

— June 28, 1974, At the U.N. Conference on the Law of the Sea, held in Caracas, the Saigon delegation reaffirmed: "The archipelagoes of Hoang Sa and Truong Sa are part of Vietnamese territory" and "Vietnam has indisputable and inalienable right to sovereignty over these archipelagoes despite unjust claims or illegal occupation of certain islands among the "by neighbouring countries".

1975: — In May, the armed forces of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam liberated a number of islands in the Truong Sa archipelago.

— On September 24, 1975: at the talks with the Vietnamese Party and Government delegation on a visit to China, Chinese Vice-Premier Deng Xiao-ping admitted that there were disputes between the two sides on the problem of the paracels and spratly archipelagoes and that the two sides should later discuss with each other to settle the problem.

1978: In a statement on December 30, 1978, the spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam refuted the allegations made in the statement on December 29, 1978 of the spokesman of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the question of Truong Sa archipelago, reaffirming Vietnamese sovereignty over the two archipelagoes of Hoang Sa and Truong Sa and reiterating Viet Nam's position which advocated the settlement of all disputes or disagreements through peaceful means.

1979: In its statement of August 7, 1979, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam refuted the distortions made by China in publishing a number of Vietnamese documents concerning the archipelagoes of Hoang Sa and Truong Sa, reaffirmed Vietnamese sovereignty over them and reiterated Viet Nam's position on the settlement of the dispute between the two countries over these two archipelagoes through peaceful means.

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IV

**STATEMENT
BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM
ON THE HOANG SA AND TRUONG SA
ARCHIPELAGOES**

(AUGUST 7, 1979)

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On July 30, 1979, China made public in Peking some documents in an attempt to justify its claim of sovereignty over the Paracels and Spratly archipelagoes.

As regards this issue, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam declares:

1. The Hoang Sa and Truong Sa archipelagoes are part of Vietnamese territory. The Vietnamese feudal states were the first in history to occupy, organize, control and exploit these archipelagoes in their capacities as States. This ownership is effective and in conformity with international law. We have sufficient historical and legal documents proving Viet Nam's indisputable sovereignty over these two archipelagoes.

2. The Chinese interpretation of the September 14, 1958 note by the Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam as recognition of China's ownership over the archipelagoes is a gross distortion since the spirit and letter of the note only mean the recognition of a 12-mile limit for Chinese territorial waters.

3. In 1965, the United States intensified its war of aggression in South Viet Nam and launched a war of destruction by air and naval forces against North Viet Nam. It declared that the combat zone of the U.S. armed forces included Viet Nam and an adjacent zone of about 100 nautical miles from Viet Nam's coast line. At that time, in their anti-U.S. struggle for national salvation the Vietnamese people had to carry out their fight in all forms to defend their territorial integrity. Moreover, Viet Nam and China then maintained friendly relations. The May 9, 1965 Statement by the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam had its *raison d'être* only with this historical background.

4. Since 1972, following the Shanghai Joint Communiqué, the Chinese rulers have colluded with the U.S. aggressors and betrayed the Vietnamese people, causing more and more obstacles to the war of resistance of Viet Nam. Early in January 1974, just before the Vietnamese people won complete victory in Spring 1975, China occupied by armed forces the Hoang Sa archipelago then administered by the Saigon administration.

The Republic of South Viet Nam then clearly stated its position as follows:

— Sovereignty and territorial integrity are questions sacred to every nation

— As regards territorial border questions, there often exist between neighbouring countries disputes left by history, which may be extremely complicated and should be thoroughly studied.

— The countries concerned should consider this question in the spirit of equality, mutual respect, friendship and good neighbourliness and settle it by negotiations.

5. At the talks held on September 24, 1975 with the Vietnamese Party and Government Delegation on a visit to China, Chinese Vice-Premier Deng Xiaoping admitted that there were disputes between the two sides on the problem of the Paracels and Spratly archipelagoes and that the two sides should later discuss with each other to settle the problem.

6. By illegally occupying the Hoang Sa archipelago by military force, China has encroached upon the territorial integrity of Viet Nam and trampled underfoot the principles of the United Nations Charter which calls for settlement of all disputes by peaceful negotiations. After launching a large-scale war of aggression against Viet Nam, the Chinese side again raised the question of the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa archipelagoes while creating an increasingly tense situation along the Vietnamese border and refusing to discuss urgent measures to ensure peace and stability in border areas of the two countries. It is clear that the Chinese rulers have not given up their attempt to attack Viet Nam once again. Their actions pose a serious threat to peace and stability in Southeast Asia and expose more clearly their expansionist ambitions, big-nation hegemonism, bellicose nature, their volte-face and their traitorous character.

Ha Noi, August 7, 1979.