

**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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Declassified and Approved For Release 2012/10/15 : CIA-RDP08C01297R000300180007-5

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

Declassified and Approved For Release 2012/10/15 : CIA-RDP08C01297R000300180007-5

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 The Vietnamese people have enough evidence and historical documents to prove their sovereignty.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 Nanshu;

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.

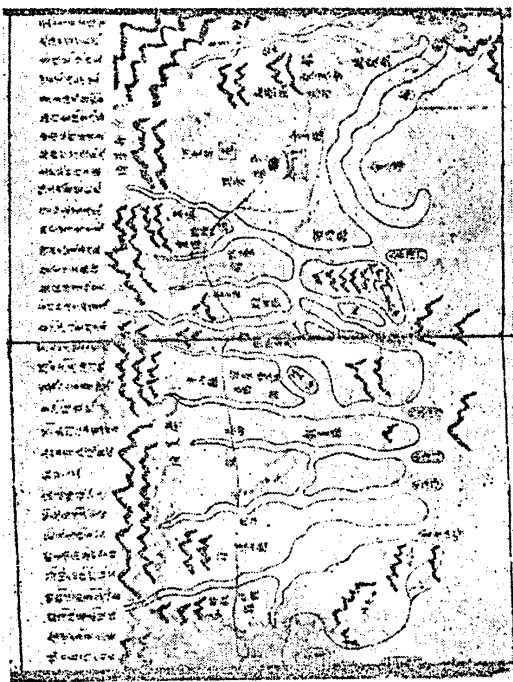
This is a fragrant act of aggression of the Peking authorities, crudely violating the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Viet Nam and trampling upon the U.N. Charter principles, international law and practice. This act is part of Peking's scheme to gradually establish its control over the Eastern 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**

A 17th-CENTURY MAP OF VIET NAM



... 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<sup>(3)</sup> to Sa Vinh port<sup>(4)</sup>. 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 Huynh port, in Nghia Binh province.

DOCUMENT No 2

ACCORDING TO "PHU BIEN TAP LUC"

(Miscellaneous Records on the Pacification of the Frontiers)

This book was written by Le Quy Don (1726—1784), a great scholar. Le Quy Don described in details the topography, natural resources of the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa archipelagoes and their exploitation by the Nguyen princes.

一曰... 二曰... 三曰... 四曰... 五曰... 六曰... 七曰... 八曰... 九曰... 十曰... 十一曰... 十二曰... 十三曰... 十四曰... 十五曰... 十六曰... 十七曰... 十八曰... 十九曰... 二十曰... 二十一曰... 二十二曰... 二十三曰... 二十四曰... 二十五曰... 二十六曰... 二十七曰... 二十八曰... 二十九曰... 三十曰... 三十一曰... 三十二曰... 三十三曰... 三十四曰... 三十五曰... 三十六曰... 三十七曰... 三十八曰... 三十九曰... 四十曰... 四十一曰... 四十二曰... 四十三曰... 四十四曰... 四十五曰... 四十六曰... 四十七曰... 四十八曰... 四十九曰... 五十曰... 五十一曰... 五十二曰... 五十三曰... 五十四曰... 五十五曰... 五十六曰... 五十七曰... 五十八曰... 五十九曰... 六十曰... 六十一曰... 六十二曰... 六十三曰... 六十四曰... 六十五曰... 六十六曰... 六十七曰... 六十八曰... 六十九曰... 七十曰... 七十一曰... 七十二曰... 七十三曰... 七十四曰... 七十五曰... 七十六曰... 七十七曰... 七十八曰... 七十九曰... 八十曰... 八十一曰... 八十二曰... 八十三曰... 八十四曰... 八十五曰... 八十六曰... 八十七曰... 八十八曰... 八十九曰... 九十曰... 九十一曰... 九十二曰... 九十三曰... 九十四曰... 九十五曰... 九十六曰... 九十七曰... 九十八曰... 九十九曰... 一百曰...

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.

一曰... 二曰... 三曰... 四曰... 五曰... 六曰... 七曰... 八曰... 九曰... 十曰... 十一曰... 十二曰... 十三曰... 十四曰... 十五曰... 十六曰... 十七曰... 十八曰... 十九曰... 二十曰... 二十一曰... 二十二曰... 二十三曰... 二十四曰... 二十五曰... 二十六曰... 二十七曰... 二十八曰... 二十九曰... 三十曰... 三十一曰... 三十二曰... 三十三曰... 三十四曰... 三十五曰... 三十六曰... 三十七曰... 三十八曰... 三十九曰... 四十曰... 四十一曰... 四十二曰... 四十三曰... 四十四曰... 四十五曰... 四十六曰... 四十七曰... 四十八曰... 四十九曰... 五十曰... 五十一曰... 五十二曰... 五十三曰... 五十四曰... 五十五曰... 五十六曰... 五十七曰... 五十八曰... 五十九曰... 六十曰... 六十一曰... 六十二曰... 六十三曰... 六十四曰... 六十五曰... 六十六曰... 六十七曰... 六十八曰... 六十九曰... 七十曰... 七十一曰... 七十二曰... 七十三曰... 七十四曰... 七十五曰... 七十六曰... 七十七曰... 七十八曰... 七十九曰... 八十曰... 八十一曰... 八十二曰... 八十三曰... 八十四曰... 八十五曰... 八十六曰... 八十七曰... 八十八曰... 八十九曰... 九十曰... 九十一曰... 九十二曰... 九十三曰... 九十四曰... 九十五曰... 九十六曰... 九十七曰... 九十八曰... 九十九曰... 一百曰...

(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.





DOCUMENT No 3

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

大南實錄卷之三 十五	南朝故也攻禪 南朝必救因併及之釋爾憾矣佛王不可曰首造孽 端非福也必為既謀請以國遜二王遂止後	有 怨匿顧其二王謀於佛王曰匿顧敢侮我特	命水軍及黃沙隊乘船往黃沙探度水程 十之二身稅減十之四
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(Chapter 52)

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".

計大臣雖有長見別項情弊高自舉發傳

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夾立一堆周  
圍三百四十八丈高一丈三尺與沙堆齊名

大清聖祖皇帝實錄卷一百四

四

大清聖祖皇帝實錄卷一百四

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國

家經制有常錙銖之利豈屑計較况私買鐵木之

禁具有嚴條乃敢以此贖隙何也其儆省飭令週

奏實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高船常蔽其害今宜預備

船纜至來年派往建廟立碑于此又多植樹木也

日長大鬱茂則人易識認庶免著淺之誤此亦萬

世之利也

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 perimeter 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 perimeter 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".

<p>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<small>廟在廟之左</small>豎石碑前設屏障旬日工竣而還</p>	<p>廣平省臣奏言省轄夏禾款收試粟輕浮多不成粒諭准本年租粟一半聽民折納一半緩徵又安亦以歲款米費報准本年正供並上</p>
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(Chapter 154)

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即照此處長橫  
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

大南定案三編卷之三十三 三五

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遠僅得一處亦未明  
晰所應年常派往遍探以熟海程請自本年

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".

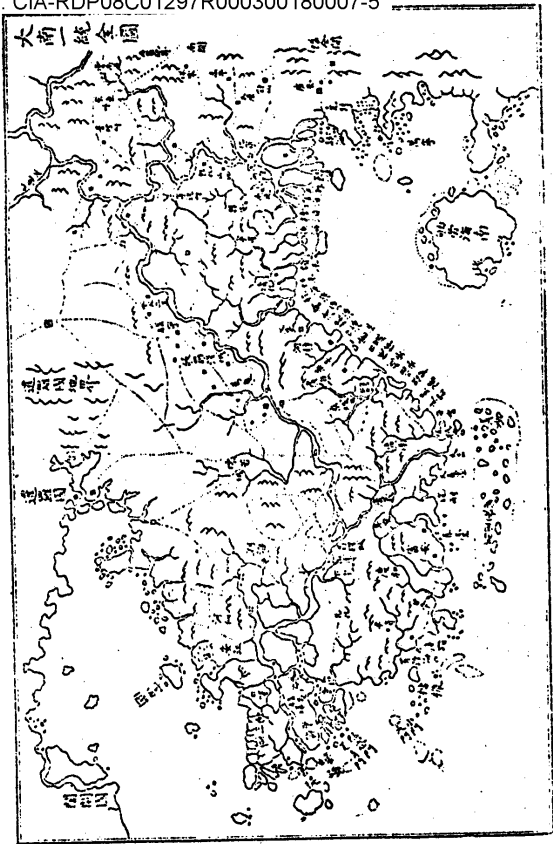
之百六十五  
 岸正對是何省轄何方向斜對是何省轄何  
 方向約略隔岸幾里一一貼說明白遞回呈  
 進  
 帝允其奏遣水軍率隊范有日率兵船往準帶隨木  
 牌十到處豎立為誌牌長五尺闊五寸厚一  
寸面刻明命十七年丙  
 命往黃沙相度至此置誌等字  
 召掌奇充河內領兵段文改南定領兵梁文柳  
 來京既至入見

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.



DOCUMENT M 5

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.

此山在大明... 乃其出則大明... 乃其出則大明... 乃其出則大明...

乃其出則大明... 乃其出則大明... 乃其出則大明...

乃其出則大明... 乃其出則大明... 乃其出則大明...

黃沙... 乃其出則大明... 乃其出則大明... 乃其出則大明...

乃其出則大明... 乃其出則大明... 乃其出則大明...

乃其出則大明... 乃其出則大明... 乃其出則大明...

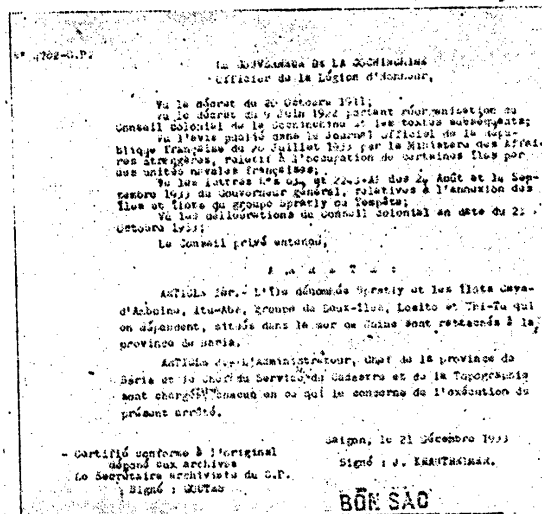
Following is an excerpt from the chapter of the book about the Hoang Sa archipelago :

"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 pebble 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 "Kon" of them.

DOCUMENT N° 6

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



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

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



DOCUMENT M 7

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



King Bao Dai's Decree No 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.

DOCUMENT No 3

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

Le Gouverneur Général de l'Indochine  
N° 1938 G Commandeur de la Légion d'Honneur

Vu les décrets du 29 Octobre 1911, portant fixation des pouvoirs du Gouverneur Général et organisation financière et administrative de l'Indochine;

Vu le décret du 8 Août 1929;  
Vu l'arrêté du 23 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;

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ARRÊTÉ

Article premier. — Une délégation administrative est créée aux Iles Paracels dépendant de la province de Thua-Thien (Annam) sous le nom de Délégation des Paracels. Son ressort s'étendra sur tous les groupes d'Iles 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-Thien résidera à l'Ile 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 8, paragraphe 5.

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

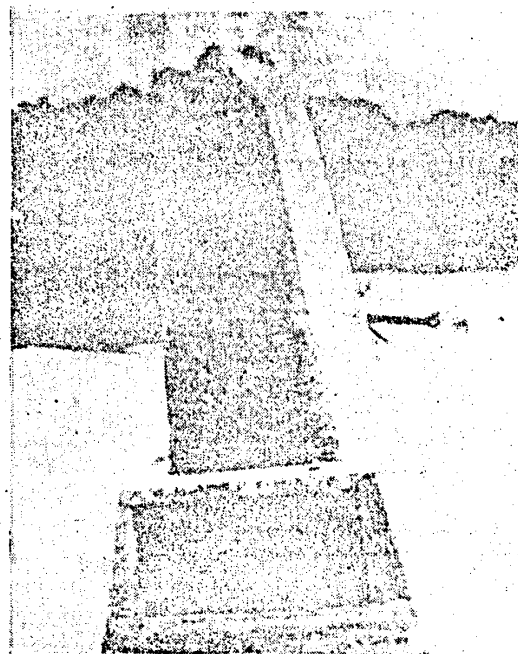
Daté le 15 Juin 1938

Signé : J. BRIÈRE

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" No 12 dated August 9, 1938).

DOCUMENT No 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—Pattie 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..

DOCUMENT N° 10

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

**Le Gouverneur General de l'Indochine**  
N° 1582  
Grand Officier de la Légion d'Honneur.

Vu les ordres du 20 octobre 1931, portant fixation des pouvoirs de l'administrateur local et organisation financière et administrative de l'Indochine.  
Vu l'arrêté du 5 Août 1938.  
Vu l'arrêté du 12 décembre 1938 portant réajustement sur les dépenses et prestations en nature et en espèces.  
Vu l'arrêté N° 1582 du 15 Juin 1939 portant création d'une division administrative des Iles Paracels dépendant de la province de Thanh-Hoa (Annam) devenue l'Indochine des Paracels.  
Sur la proposition du Ministre, Rapporteur et Agent.

**ARRÊTÉ**

Article premier. — L'arrêté N° 1582 du 15 Juin 1939 est modifié ainsi qu'il suit :

Article premier. — Deux divisions administratives sont créées aux Iles Paracels dépendant de la province de Thanh-Hoa (Annam) sous les noms de : **Délégation de l'Indochine des Paracels** et de **Délégation de l'Indochine des Iles**. La limite entre ces 2 délégations est fixée par le décret du 112 novembre 1938, en sa version de réajustement qui est notamment applicable par la délégation de l'Indochine.

Art. 2. — Les fonctionnaires placés à la tête de ces délégations en qualité de **Préfets**, de **Présidents de France** à Thanh-Hoa résident respectivement à Hanoi-Haïphong et à Hanoi.

Art. 3. — Ils auront droit, dans les mêmes conditions, pour frais de représentation et de logement, à l'indemnité annuelle de quatre cents piastres (400.000) prévue à l'article 28 du décret du 28 novembre 1931. Cette indemnité est imputable au budget local de l'Annam, chapitre 12, article 6, paragraphe 3.

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

Hanoi le 5 Mai 1939  
J. B. H. H.

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) 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".

DOCUMENT N° 11

APPOINTMENT OF A NEW COMMANDER OF THE DETACHMENT ON ITU ABA ISLAND (1949)

**LE GOUVERNEUR GENERAL DE L'INDOCHINE**  
N° 1582  
Grand Officier de la Légion d'Honneur.

Vu les ordres du 20 octobre 1931, portant fixation des pouvoirs de l'administrateur local et organisation financière et administrative de l'Indochine.  
Vu l'arrêté du 5 Août 1938.  
Vu l'arrêté du 12 décembre 1938 portant réajustement sur les dépenses et prestations en nature et en espèces.  
Vu l'arrêté N° 1582 du 15 Juin 1939 portant création d'une division administrative des Iles Paracels dépendant de la province de Thanh-Hoa (Annam) devenue l'Indochine des Paracels.  
Sur la proposition du Ministre, Rapporteur et Agent.

**ARRÊTÉ**

Article premier. — L'arrêté N° 1582 du 15 Juin 1939 est modifié ainsi qu'il suit :

Article premier. — Deux divisions administratives sont créées aux Iles Paracels dépendant de la province de Thanh-Hoa (Annam) sous les noms de : **Délégation de l'Indochine des Paracels** et de **Délégation de l'Indochine des Iles**. La limite entre ces 2 délégations est fixée par le décret du 112 novembre 1938, en sa version de réajustement qui est notamment applicable par la délégation de l'Indochine.

Art. 2. — Les fonctionnaires placés à la tête de ces délégations en qualité de **Préfets**, de **Présidents de France** à Thanh-Hoa résident respectivement à Hanoi-Haïphong et à Hanoi.

Art. 3. — Ils auront droit, dans les mêmes conditions, pour frais de représentation et de logement, à l'indemnité annuelle de quatre cents piastres (400.000) prévue à l'article 28 du décret du 28 novembre 1931. Cette indemnité est imputable au budget local de l'Annam, chapitre 12, article 6, paragraphe 3.

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

Hanoi le 5 Mai 1939  
J. B. H. H.

Le chef de poste pour le détachement administratif à Itou Aba, a l'honneur de vous adresser à l'attention de M. Burolland, votre présence effective de l'Indochine dans son service d'administration. Il vous prie de vouloir bien lui adresser votre avis personnel par votre lettre de confirmation.

Pour confirmation,  
Le Chef de la Section des Attachés  
S. H. H. H.

Le 22 août 1940

P. H. H. H.

Le 22 août 1940

Le 22 août 1940

Le 22 août 1940

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

DOCUMENT N° 12  
APPOINTMENT OF THE HOANG SA ADMINISTRATOR (1941)

LE GOUVERNEMENT GÉNÉRAL DE L'INDOCHINE  
Ministère de l'Intérieur

ARRÊTÉ

M. MAHAMEBHAY MOHSENY, ancien militaire, est nommé pour son titre avec les fonctions de Chef de Poste de l'Amphitrite, en remplacement de M. VUILLAME, qui a été nommé Directeur de l'Administration de l'Amphitrite, par arrêté du Gouverneur Général en date du 22 août 1940.

Le 12 août 1941

Le Chef de la Section des Attachés  
S. H. H. H.

Le 12 août 1941

Le 12 août 1941

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 # 13  
TWO METEOROLOGICAL STATIONS ON HOANG SA  
ARCHIPELAGO IN THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL  
ORGANIZATION NETWORK, 1949

DOCUMENT # 14

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

48860 48859

ASIA - ASIE

48860 - 48859

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

Station	Lat	Long	Alt
Phu Lam	16 22 N	108 02 E	10
Hoang Sa	16 22 N	108 02 E	10

48919 - 48918

ASIA - ASIE

48919 - 48918

Itu ABA station, registration number 48919.  
(WMO documents, 1949)

Station	Lat	Long	Alt
Itu ABA	16 22 N	108 02 E	10

DOCUMENT N° 15

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

CONFERENCE DE SAN-FRANCISCO

Il ne s'agit pas d'accepter, pour l'extinction d'une créance, une monnaie qui n'a pas cours dans ton pays.

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

Le Viet-Nam serait désolé qu'on impute ses demandes à tout autre motif que 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 état 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 Viet-Nam, avec enthousiasme, souscrit à l'attente à cette venue de la Paix.

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 Viet-Nam.

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

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 N° 16

VIETNAMESE STAFF OF THE METEOROLOGICAL  
STATION ON HOANG SA ISLAND

(Partly) in 1952

Extrait du rapport soumis le 26 Mars de Hanoi 1952.

PERSONNEL

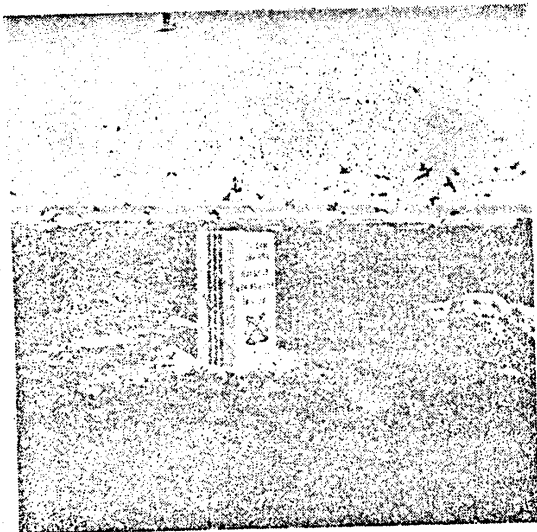
LISTE DU PERSONNEL DE SERVICE à partir du 29 Février 1952.

NOM ET PATRIE	FONCTIONS	ÂGE	SITUATION DE FAMILLE
TRUONG VAN HUU	Chargé station	52 ans	Marié avec 3 enfants.
NGUYEN VAN THUAN	Radiotelegraphiste	48 ans	Marié avec 2 enfants.
NGUYEN VAN THUAN	Observateur	stagiaire	Marié avec 2 enfants.
NGUYEN VAN THUAN	Observateur	journalier	Célibataire
NGUYEN VAN THUAN	Radiotelegraphiste	journalier	Célibataire

Hanoi, le 26 Mars 1952  
Le Chef de Station: NGUYEN VAN THUAN  
(signature)

DOCUMENT No 17

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



DOCUMENT No 18  
HOANG SA METEOROLOGICAL STATION IN THE WORLD  
METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION NETWORK (APRIL 1973)

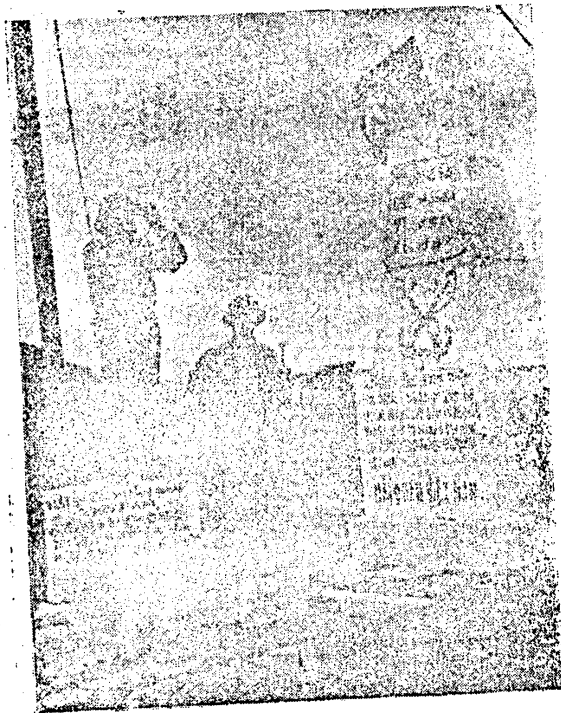
TABLE No. 18-1 / 1973  
Hoang Sa Meteorological Station in the World Meteorological Organization Network (April 1973)

Name	Code	Lat.	Long.	Station Type	Operating	Country
Hoang Sa	4102	16° 30' N	110° 30' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Phu Khanh	4101	17° 00' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan An	4103	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Truong Sa	4104	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Binh	4105	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Thanh	4106	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Hoa	4107	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Phu	4108	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Thuy	4109	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Lam	4110	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Son	4111	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan My	4112	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Thien	4113	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Dat	4114	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Kim	4115	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Ngọc	4116	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Bình	4117	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Hưng	4118	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Thịnh	4119	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Phong	4120	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Hòa	4121	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Lạc	4122	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Ninh	4123	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Kiều	4124	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Quý	4125	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Đan	4126	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Phú	4127	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Thọ	4128	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Xuân	4129	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Hồng	4130	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Ngọc	4131	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Bình	4132	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Hưng	4133	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Thịnh	4134	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Phong	4135	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Hòa	4136	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Lạc	4137	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Ninh	4138	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Kiều	4139	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Quý	4140	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Đan	4141	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Phú	4142	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Thọ	4143	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Xuân	4144	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Hồng	4145	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Ngọc	4146	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Bình	4147	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Hưng	4148	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Thịnh	4149	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Phong	4150	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Hòa	4151	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Lạc	4152	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Ninh	4153	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Kiều	4154	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Quý	4155	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Đan	4156	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Phú	4157	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Thọ	4158	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Xuân	4159	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Hồng	4160	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Ngọc	4161	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Bình	4162	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Hưng	4163	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Thịnh	4164	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Phong	4165	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Hòa	4166	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Lạc	4167	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Ninh	4168	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Kiều	4169	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Quý	4170	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Đan	4171	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Phú	4172	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Thọ	4173	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Xuân	4174	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Hồng	4175	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Ngọc	4176	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Bình	4177	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Hưng	4178	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Thịnh	4179	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Phong	4180	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Hòa	4181	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Lạc	4182	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Ninh	4183	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Kiều	4184	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Quý	4185	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Đan	4186	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Phú	4187	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Thọ	4188	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Xuân	4189	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Hồng	4190	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Ngọc	4191	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Bình	4192	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Hưng	4193	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Thịnh	4194	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Phong	4195	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Hòa	4196	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Lạc	4197	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Ninh	4198	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Kiều	4199	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam
Thuan Quý	4200	16° 15' N	109° 45' E	Surface	X	Vietnam

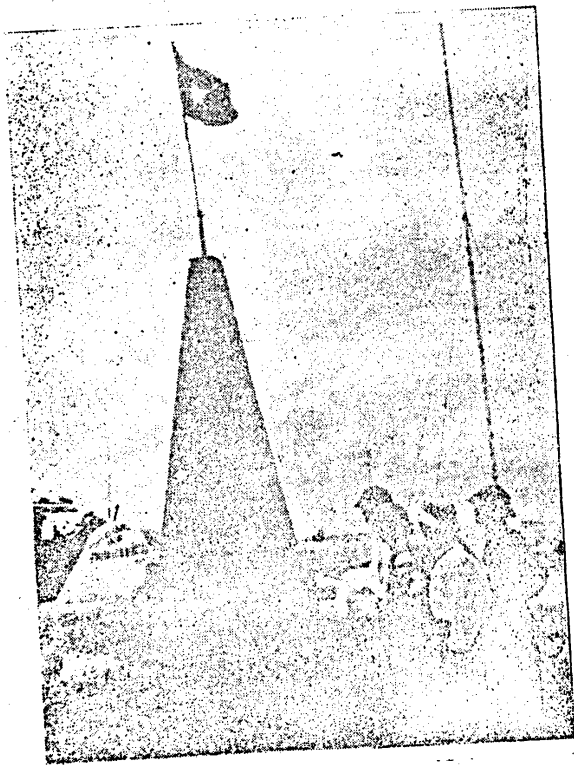
(WMO documents, 1973)

**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**

Declassified and Approved For Release 2012/10/15 : CIA-RDP08C01297R000300180007-5

17th Century: Do Ba, a Vietnamese geographer, compiled a book for 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 archipelagos 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 meteorological station on Itu Aba (Truong Sa Archipelago).
- 1939: By Ordinance of May 5, 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 archipelagos 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 archipelagos of Hoang Sa and Truong Sa.

1973: By decree Declassified and Approved For Release 2012/10/15 : CIA-RDP08C01297R000300180007-5 Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam liberated a number of islands in the Truong Sa archipelago.

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".

— 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)**

Declassified and Approved For Release 2012/10/15 : CIA-RDP08C01297R000300180007-5

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 South-east 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.*