



Overcrowding and poverty still force people to sleep on the sidewalks of Saigon (now officially Ho Chi Minh City).

When the shooting finally stopped, most Americans' last glimpse of Vietnam was the sight of U.S. helicopters taking the final evacuees from the roof to Saigon's American Embassy.

Since then -- April 1975 -- there have been rumors and sketchy reports as to what has happened to Vietnam since war's end. Few have had a chance to see the reality.

But in December 1977, Jon Alpert, Keiko Tsuno and Karen Ranucci of New York City's Downtown Community Television Center became the first American television journalists allowed in Vietnam since war's end. For more than a month, with an unprecedented amount of access to the country's people, they traveled through North and South Vietnam, now united under Communist rule.

The result is a revealing, 60-minute videodocumentary, VIETNAM: PICKING UP THE PIECES. Produced with the Television Laboratory at WNET/THIRTEEN, New York, VIETNAM: PICKING UP THE PIECES will be distributed nationally by the Public Broadcasting Service to its member stations, Tuesday, April 11, 1978, 9:00 P.M. ET (Check local listings for correct area broadcast time).

In the North, Alpert and his associates found people rebuilding, repairing the damages from massive American bombing. In the South, they found people readjusting, adapting to the new Communist government.

Although now officially named Ho Chi Minh City, it is still Saigon to those who live there, and you can still buy Johnny Walker Red and American razor blades in the open-air markets.

But many of Saigon's problems remain as well. There are more than one million unemployed, with disease, drug addiction, prostitution, slums and shantytowns yet to be eradicated.

In the South, the production crew also visited state and private factories, rehabilitation centers for drug addicts, and one of the controversial "reeducation camps" for former officers of the South Vietnamese army. Many believed when the Communists took over there would be a bloodbath of the South's army. Alpert and others have been unable to find

evidence of massive reprisals.

The pace is less hectic in the North and its capital, Hanoi. "It's hard to believe that this is the capital of the only country ever to defeat the United States in a war," Alpert said. "It's also hard to believe that anything's still standing."

Evidence of the American bombing of Hanoi is everywhere. Women construction crews work to rebuild schools and apartment houses. The badly-bombed Bach-Mai Hospital is trying to get back on its feet. And at the Army Museum, the wreckage of shot-down B-52 bombers is proudly pointed out by guides.

VIETNAM: PICKING UP THE PIECES visits other parts of the North as well, including Hong Gai, the coal-mining area of Vietnam (whose port, Hong Gai City, has the look and lawless appearance of an Old West frontier town); and Tai Binh province, once the North's poorest province, but now a model for the creation of collective farms.

Also seen are a medical school, a prize state pig farm, a Vietnamese circus, and a session of the Vietnamese National Assembly.

VIETNAM: PICKING UP THE PIECES returns to Saigon at Christmastime. Thousands still crowd the streets around the Catholic cathedral for Christmas Eve Mass. Children gather with their families for Christmas dinner and presents.

Others are not as lucky. There are 800,000 orphans in Vietnam, more than half of whom were fathered by Americans. VIETNAM: PICKING UP THE PIECES concludes with a visit to the Manon Dockai Orphanage, where one child breaks into tears because Alpert reminds her of her American father.

VIETNAM: PICKING UP THE PIECES was produced with the assistance of funds from public television stations and a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation. Produced, written and directed by Jon Alpert and Keiko Tsuno. Executive Producer for the Television Laboratory at WNET/THIRTEEN: David Loxton. Production consultant: Patricia Sides. Chief engineer John Godfrey. Associate producer: Karen Ranucci.

"A DAY IN THE CITY"

I rise each morning
Knowing I got to face the man.
A hassle. Hassle, down to the smallest degree
Always they wreck my day, upsetting my nerve
Making me irritable
Making me angry.
Onver the most trivial transactions
Of a day in the city.
Just like it is their divine duty
To wreck the well being of Black Freedmen.
Yes each day I meet them
To be sabotaged.

By: Robert Louis Jimerson

UNTITLED

The man who rules is great
The man beneath is strong
The wise will change his fate.

Enrollment of children in kindergarten declined by about 300,000 between 1976 and 1977, according to a report issued today by the Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce.

This was the first decline reported for kindergarten enrollment since these data were first collected in the Bureau's monthly Current Population Survey 30 years ago and partially reflects the fact that birth rates, in general, have been declining in the U.S. Eighty percent of the children enrolled in kindergarten were 5 years old.

The report points out that the total number of persons 3 to 34 years old enrolled in school in October 1977 was 60 million; down 1 million from 1975. The decline was largely due to an overall decrease in elementary school enrollment which dropped 1.2 million between 1975 and 1977. In 1970, elementary school enrollment was 56 percent of all enrollment; by 1977 it had dropped to 49 percent.

The report shows that students in private schools made up 11 percent of all elementary school students in 1977, down from 15 percent in the mid-1960's. High school enrollment was about the same in 1977 as in the previous two years.

Survey results contained in the report showed about 10.2 million persons under 35 enrolled in college in 1977, not significantly different from the number enrolled in 1976. In addition, there were 1.3 million persons 35 years old and over enrolled in 1977. Among students under 35 years old the number enrolled part time increased about 9 percent between 1976 and 1977, while the number enrolled full time did not change. The number of women in college remained at about 47 percent of all college students; they constituted half of students of traditional college age (under 22 years old) and 44 percent of those 22 to 34.

The report notes that the significant changes in total college enrollment by age were among students 25 years old and over, as colleges continued to attract more persons above traditional college age. The number of students 25 years old and over increased from 3.7 to 4.1 million from 1976 to 1977.

The number of black students enrolled in college in 1977--1.1 million--was twice the number enrolled in 1970. For whites, the increase during the same period was about 30 percent. Blacks in the fall of 1977 constituted about 11 percent compared with 7 percent in the 1970.

As in all sample surveys, the data in this report are subject to sampling variability and errors of response, including underreporting and nonreporting. A detailed explanation appears in the report.

Copies of the report, School Enrollment--Social and Economic Characteristics of Students: October 1977 (Advance Report), Series P-20, No. 321, are available for 70 cents from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, or from Commerce District Offices in major U.S. cities.



People Who Understand,
An Explanation Is Not
Necessary;

People Who Don't Understand,
An Explanation Won't
Survive