



We found the people very friendly and personable. Children followed us everywhere we went, crowding to get their pictures taken. Children must be the same everywhere for even in the midst of war which might leave them orphans within the next hour, we could always manage to get a smile from them.

South Vietnam is a very poor country. The government is constantly faced with the problem and expense of relocating the people who are forced to resettle due to the war. Sometimes the populations of entire villages have to be relocated. The government is making a constant outlay of money to repair roads, bridges, and communications, or to rebuild small cities and villages. The government has had to build a large army from virtually nothing since 1954. On the international trade level, the value of imports outweigh the value of exports four to one. The gaps between exports and imports and between government expenditures and revenues is covered largely by American aid.

Just as important as financial assistance, however, is medical aid, sanitation, and technology. Many people still use the primitive medical customs of their ancestors, and only the larger cities have an effective sanitation control. Under U. S. aid and supervision, much has been done to curb these problems.

