



CIVIL ENGINEER CORPS
100th ANNIVERSARY
MARCH 7, 1967

UNITED STATES NAVY
CONSTRUCTION BATTALIONS
SEABEES IN ACTION

"CONSTRUIMUS, BATUIMUS - WE BUILD, WE FIGHT"
"CAN DO!"



SEABEES
25th ANNIVERSARY
MARCH 5, 1967

JOIN THE SEABEES - SERVE THE WORLD

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION SEVENTY-FOUR
Fleet Post Office San Francisco 96601

Official U. S. Navy News Release
For Immediate Release

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3 July 1967

SEABEES HELP CHRISTIAN SERVICE SOCIETY IN RVN

Ten sewing machines, two and one-half acres of land, a second-hand minibus, an ice cream machine and a dream. These things are what the Vietnamese Christian Service Society of DaNang has to work with, and U. S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Seventy-Four, which is currently serving in the Republic of Vietnam, is doing its best to help fulfill their dream.

The Christian Service Society is a society which was founded by, is administered by, and operated by a group of Vietnamese Protestants, whose major project is to provide for the physical well-being and progress of the Vietnamese people of DaNang.

The Society owns two and one-half acres of ground at Bac Sa, which is five miles north of DaNang. On this ground they plan to construct and maintain an inpatient clinic; a home for the aged, blind, and crippled; a welfare center for refugees; and a health school for youngsters and teenagers, where they will be taught the necessity and means for personal hygiene.

Because of the non-denominational nature of the work done by the Society, the land they are going to use for their center was donated to them by the Buddhist village of Hoa Khanh. This cooperation between the Buddhist and Christian factions of Vietnam, marks a sharp change from the bitter rivalry that existed just a few years ago.

A construction project of this magnitude requires money, not only for the initial building period, but for maintenance, operation and expansion. U. S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Seventy-Four is lending a hand to help this organization to raise money.

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The ten sewing machines that the Society now possesses, were given to them by MCB-74, as part of the Battalion's Civic Action Program. These machines, which the Battalion brought with them from their home-port, Gulfport, Miss., were collected for the Battalion by the Christian Reformed Church of Grand Rapids, Mich.

MCB-74's Chaplain, LT Herbert L. Bergsma, who was the former pastor of the Christian Reformed Church, took possession of the sewing machines in behalf of the Battalion. Chaplain Bergsma was also the man who delivered the machines to the Christian Service Society in DaNang.

The Society plans to use the sewing machines to set up a sewing center where they can teach the people to use the machines, and at the same time manufacture goods that can be sold. The money they make from the sale of these goods will go toward the construction of the Bac Sa Center.

Two other sources of revenue are currently being utilized by the Society to increase their building fund. They use a converted minibus as a taxi in DaNang, and have invested in an ice cream machine. The Society expects the ice cream machine to be their big money maker, making about 100,000 piastres (approx. \$850.00) per day.

This project is a perfect example of how the industrious Vietnamese can and will produce with some external support and the Seabees of MCB-74 will continue the necessary support of this worthwhile program.

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DEAR EDITOR: We Seabees hope you can use this copy and we would appreciate a tear sheet mailed to:

Public Affairs Office 09D2
Yards & Docks Annex 2B-35
Washington, D. C. 20390



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Vietnamese people may be small of stature, but their strength and spirit is amazing. The man carrying the sewing machine, during the transfer of the machines from MCB-74 to the Christian Service Society, illustrates a living example of their strength.



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Many Vietnamese people gathered to watch the transfer of the sewing machines from MCB-74's truck to the Christian Service Society Sewing Center in DaNang, Republic of Vietnam.



CHRISTIAN SERVICE SOCIETY

**Wishes To Thank Chaplain BURG SMA
and American Christians.**

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Although Chaplain Bergsma's name is misspelled on the sign,
the message comes across loud and clear.