

JAPAN - VIETNAM RELATIONSHIP AND JAPANESE INVESTMENT IN THE SOUTH VIETNAM BEFORE 1975

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The relationship of Japan and Vietnam has been explored by historians of the two countries. However, the studies mainly focus on their relationship in ancient-medieval, modern times and from 1973 upto now. Accordingly, many set aside the link between Vietnam and Japan from 1954 to 1973 in consideration to the fact that in 1954, Vietnam was cut into two halves and in 1973, the formal diplomatic connection between the two countries was knotted. However, it is true that Japan - Vietnam mutual exchange of this time is worth diving into.

Bear in mind, we would like to work on the basis feature of the relationship between Japan and Vietnam during 60s and the early of 70s, through the activities of "Economic Investigation Delegation with Vietnam" (Nov, 1970) of Japanese Government as well as the presence of Japanese companies in the South of Vietnam. Our purpose is to provide the materials on the relationship of Japan and Vietnam.

However, the fact is that Japan travelled further than its mere relation with Southern Vietnam. In the early 70s, M.S. Tomishi, Director of Mitsubishi Trust and Banking Company said: "Japan has to help Indochina recover the economic order after the war ends". On commenting these words, Frank Roderick quoted as saying on American Report on Nov, 6th of 1972: "Obviously, he (here is M.S. Tomishi) meant to talk about both of the North and South of Vietnam. And, right at the time of cultivating the close relation with pro-American Administration in the South of Vietnam, Japan had economic ties with the North. Japan consumed most of anthracite of the North 50 thousand of steel, fertilizer and equipment of transport (Vietnam News Agency, Special Issues, Dec 6th, 1972).

It can be said that Japan-Vietnam relation always "goes in advance of epoch", even when the international political atmosphere doesn't go smooth. Thus, the study on this relation between Japan and Vietnam before 1975 is indispensable, contributing more materials to Japan-Vietnam relation study in the later period.