

SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM

Date of Elections: April 25, 1976

Purpose of Elections

Elections were held for all the members of Parliament representing the reunified nation.

Characteristics of Parliament

The unicameral Parliament of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, the National Assembly, has 492 members, or one for every 100,000 inhabitants. Of these, 249 represent the northern part of the country and 243 represent the south. All deputies are elected for 4 years.

Electoral System

All Vietnamese citizens at least 18 years old were entitled to vote in the **1976** elections, with the exception of the insane and persons deprived of this right by law or court decision.

Electoral registers are revised before each election. Voting is not compulsory. Persons confined to hospitals or to their homes because of illness or paralysis are permitted to vote in their place of confinement.

All qualified electors at least 21 years of age are eligible to be elected to the National Assembly. The parliamentary mandate is not deemed incompatible with any other function or office.

In the 1976 elections for the reunified Assembly, candidates appeared on fists presented by the Viet Nam Fatherland Front in the north, and the National Liberation Front and Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peaceful Forces in the south; in both areas, the amount of candidates exceeded the number of seats to be filled.

Deputies are elected in 79 constituencies on the basis of absolute majority, with each elector voting for as many candidates as there are seats to be filled in his constituency and crossing out names of those listed on the ballot paper whom he does not favour. If, within a constituency, not enough candidates to fill the available seats obtain an absolute majority on the first ballot, or if less than an absolute majority of the total number of registered electors have voted, a second ballot is held.

On decision of the Permanent Committee of the National Assembly, by-elections are held to fill seats of the Assembly which become vacant between general elections.

General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

The 1976 legislative elections represented the first nation-wide balloting in Viet Nam since 1946.

During the two-week election campaign, the electorate was called upon to strengthen the soon-to-be unified State by supporting candidates who could advance the cause of socialism and who had been active contributors to the revolutionary movement. The Viet Nam Fatherland Front (the mass political organization embracing the Viet Nam Workers' Party (*Lao Dong*) and other political groups) nominated 308 candidates for the 249 northern seats, while the National Liberation Front and the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peaceful Forces proposed 297 names for the 243 southern seats, from amongst citizens of all social strata.

Voter turnout was high on polling day; 100% participation was reported in certain localities, and a 95% turnout in the south.

The elections set the final stage for formal reunification of the country. At its first session, which commenced on June 24, the new National Assembly, which *inter alia* was to adopt the Constitution and appoint the State organs, declared the reunification of Viet Nam, henceforth to be known as the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

Statistics

1. *Results of the Elections*

Number of registered voters.	23,387,940
Voters.	23,099,655 (98.76%)
Blank or void ballot papers.	204,054
Valid votes.	22,895,611

2. *Distribution of Deputies according to Professional Category*

_____	141
_____	100
_____	98
_____	80
_____	54
Representatives of religious denominations	13
_____	6
	^92

3. *Distribution of Deputies according to Sex*

Men	360
Women	132
	492

4. *Distribution of Deputies according to Age Group*

21-35 years.	127
36 and over.	<u>365</u>
	492