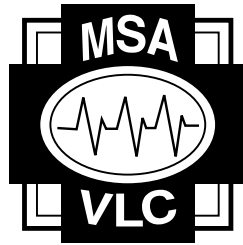


# VIETNAM LAOS CAMBODIA



## MEDICAL & SCIENTIFIC AID NEWS BULLETIN

No. 150 - November 2006

50p

### A RED LETTER DAY IN OUR CALENDAR

**M**SAVLC is very happy to announce the creation of its website, which can be found at [www.msavlc.co.uk](http://www.msavlc.co.uk). The website had been built free of charge by web designer, Nick Wright, with content research and approval by members of the Executive Committee. It is our hope that, over the next year, the

website will become a valuable information portal for the charity and we intend to update it with fresh information as often as possible.

Immediately below is part of the opening page of the website. It is a pity that we cannot show it here in its full eye-catching red. Further pages are packed with useful information

and there will be a gallery of photographs of past and present activities. Opportunities are enormous and it will interesting and challenging to watch its development. In the meantime, do encourage all your friends with internet access to look at it without delay.

The screenshot shows the homepage of the MSAVLC website. At the top left is the MSAVLC logo. The main header reads "Medical and Scientific Aid for Vietnam Laos and Cambodia". Below this is a navigation menu with links for Home, About Us, Newsletter, Projects, Fundraising & Events, Join Us, and Donate. A search bar is located on the right side of the header. The main content area features a large text block on the left and two "Did you know?" boxes on the right. The text block describes the organization's history and current projects. Below the text are two photographs: one showing children in a clinic and another showing a woman examining a child's ears. The footer contains the registered charity number, contact information, and website design credits.

**MSA**  
**VLC**

Medical and Scientific Aid for Vietnam Laos and Cambodia

Tuesday November 21, 2006  
Send page Print page Bookmark

Home About Us Newsletter Projects Fundraising & Events Join Us Donate

**MSAVLC** Search:

"Medical and Scientific Aid for Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia" (MSAVLC) was set up in 1965, and has operated since 1980 with only volunteer helpers. An enabling organisation, providing medicines and medical equipment so that Doctors and Nurses can carry out the work that they are qualified and eager to do. The emphasis is on support for grass-roots, primary health care projects, generally in response to specific requests.

Our support meets a wide range of needs but mostly those of children. It includes repair of hare lip and cleft palate, cataract operations, treatment and prevention of trachoma, training courses in modern methods for "traditional" midwives, provision of equipment for early diagnosis and treatment of congenital abnormalities due to toxic chemicals (predominantly Agent Orange), treatment of TB in the community, and the provision of hearing aids for children.

**The needs are enormous and our response limited only by our bank balance.**

We would like to say a special thanks to Deborah Groves, of Helping Hands in Cambodia, for allowing us to use a selection of her photographs on this website.

**Did you know?**  
MSAVLC stands for Medical and Scientific Aid for Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia.

**Did you know?**  
The president of MSAVLC is Dame Judi Dench.

Anti-Trachoma Project in Thanh Hoa Province, Vietnam

Audiology Projects in Cambodia and Laos

Registered Charity Number: 252906  
FAQ Contact Us Links Privacy Policy  
Website Design by: [www.easyadmin-cms.co.uk](http://www.easyadmin-cms.co.uk)

# A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

I wish you all much joy and pleasure in your preparations for Christmas. Christmas is, of course, a time for giving – and a time for receiving – as we are hoping for MSAVLC!

I should like to thank all those who responded so quickly and so generously to the urgent appeal in my Message in August. As a result, we can breathe a little more easily but we need to boost our income still more. Various supporters have come up with various ways of raising

cash. Some have written to a number of their friends, commending our projects which are such good value for money. Some of our longest-standing supporters are even considering applying for equity release from their homes, so that the charity's future can be assured for the next few years at least!

The launch of our own website should attract wider interest. We are greatly indebted to Faye Wakefield and Siobhan McCarthy – and their colleague Nick

Wright – who have done so much work to put it together. But, since its foundation, MSAVLC has been a cooperative in the way it has worked and we should welcome any suggestions or offers of help.

Looking over past Bulletins, it is great to see how you have always responded to crises – and to special appeals, as the article about Cambodia illustrates. If the website means that we shall be joined by many more supporters, that will be great. But you have shown the way.

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## PREVIOUS SUPPORTER ACTIVITY SUCCESS

*From Bulletin 82 – February 1990*

### CAMBODIA

It was John Pilger in September 1979 who roused the anger of the British people to what had been going on in that country from 1975 until the Vietnamese helped the Cambodian people to restore some form of order. It should never be forgotten that it was the Vietnamese people who, despite shortages of rice themselves at the time, made great sacrifices to send rice to feed the people of Cambodia and which undoubtedly saved the lives of thousands of Cambodian children. And it should never be forgotten that, between May 1975 and July 1978, thousands of Cambodians fled into Vietnam as refugees. The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees put the number at 320,000, and in August 1978 the Report to the U.S. Judiciary Committee of a special mission sent by Senator Edward Kennedy's Committee to Vietnam stated "The resources of that country are being strained tremendously

in affording help to those refugees. They have shown a very humane and charitable attitude towards the plight of these people who are suffering so badly from the barbaric regime in Cambodia".

John Pilger's reports so moved the British people that they contributed several million pounds to provide material help. MSAVLC, or MACV as it was then, provided three ambulances and much-needed medical aid and we have continued to send medical aid ever since. In 1988 MSAVLC helped to initiate a Rural Midwives Training Scheme following the success of our "Mother and Child" Appeal.

But what is the situation in Cambodia today?

In November 1989, John Pilger's latest film "Cambodia – Year 10" was shown on T.V. Some of the shots were taken of babies and children dying from malnutrition and diarrhoea and lying on the floor in the corridors of the hospital because all the beds were occupied. It was

a distressing scene and MSAVLC immediately made arrangements to send to Phnom Penh, by air, oral rehydration powder sachets to the value of £5,000. At the same time, we invited 50 of our supporters living in different parts of the country to write to their local newspapers appealing to the readers to make urgent donations to MSAVLC in the hope that a further batch could be sent before Christmas. Not all newspaper editors showed interest but, where they did publish the appeal, the response was tremendous and we were able to send a second batch early in 1990, making our total commitment nearly £10,000. Our voluntary workers in the office were overwhelmed (*the first post in 1990 was a mountain of letters containing over £3,000*). Two pharmaceutical firms were especially generous and as a consequence the lives of many babies and children have been saved.

*E. J. Shellard*

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## CONGRATULATIONS AND THANKS

to **Nguyen Duc**, one of conjoined twin boys successfully separated in an historic operation in 1988, on his forthcoming marriage in December. A few members of MSAVLC met Duc at the Tu Dzu Hospital in Ho Chi Minh City during a visit to Vietnam in 1989 and we wish him and his bride-to-be, Thanh Tuyen, a joyful wedding day and many years of happiness to follow.

Mr. Len Aldis, Secretary of the Britain-Vietnam Friendship Society, who was one of those who met him in 1989, has been invited to the wedding.

and to **Malcolm Souza Lewis**, who was a member of the group which visited Vietnam in October last year, on his selection for the British team in the next Transplant Olympics. When he came to Vietnam, he was fresh from a gold medal triumph at the Transplant Games in Canada.

to **Mr. William Suttie of Carnoustie** for the magnificent hand-made leather-bound book containing a selection of MSAVLC News Bulletins. We feel greatly honoured to have been presented with the first example of the work he studied just before retiring.

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Management Committee was held on Tuesday 7th November at the House of Commons, with Chris Mullin in the Chair. Sixteen members attended and fourteen had sent apologies for absence.

The Annual Report for 2005 was presented by the Hon. Secretary and was approved.

The Financial Report for 2005 was presented by the Hon. Treasurer and was approved.

Mr. Peter Lidgard was elected to the post of Assistant Hon. Secretary. All other officers were re-elected unopposed. With two exceptions, all members of the Executive Committee were re-elected, the two exceptions being members from whom no formal agreement to stand for re-election had been received.

During discussion, the fall in income

first referred to at last year's AGM was again discussed and measures to boost income suggested. The Hon. Treasurer

and September's income had allowed the Hon. Treasurer to breathe more easily but October's had again fallen back. Hon.

Sec. wondered what had to be done to get new sympathisers to translate sympathy into practical action. Great hope was expressed that our website [www.msavlc.co.uk](http://www.msavlc.co.uk), about to become operative, would stimulate interest and attract financial support.

Following formal business, the twelve minute BBC documentary "Inside Out" was shown and Faye Wakefield, one of those responsible for the compilation of material for the

website, showed this on her laptop. It was met with acclamation and she and her colleagues were thanked warmly for the many hours of work which this represented.



*Standing: Francis Khoo, Brian Stenson, Sheila Lacy, John Cooper, Peter Lacy, Pat Larkin, Chris Mullin, Peter Lidgard, Pat Edwards, Valerie Souza-Lewis, Malcolm Souza-Lewis, Faye Wakefield  
Sitting: Susmita Ghosh, Madeleine Sharp, Margaret Methley, David Smart*

pointed out that the travelling expenses of the nine who visited Vietnam in October, had been more than covered by donations from the nine. The appeal by Margaret Methley in Bulletin 148 had borne fruit

## A LETTER FROM KY ANH

*In a letter dated 31st October, Dr. Nguyen dinh Lan writes to Margaret Methley and Madeleine Sharp:*

'October reminds me of the visit to Great Britain ten years ago and everything both of you had done for me before and during the visit.

'I knew that the arrangement both of you and Professor Shellard had made for me was the most complicated and troublesome work. In fact, I had never gone abroad before so I felt strange to everything. The greatest difficulty was my English: I could read and write a little but was very bad in listening and speaking. This made me worry deeply. However, when I met you both at Heathrow airport, little by little my worries were diminished.

'I have never forgotten ten days I stayed at 49 Baginton Road and Madeleine served me many delicious meals that made me fatter quickly, of which one at Margaret's house was included. Recently, seeing that I have been quite thin, my wife often jokes with me

that I must be sent to England to get fat. I still remember you both took me to interesting places around Coventry, especially the visit to Oxford. I have never forgotten the day you drove me to Scotland. It rained "cats and dogs". (Mr. Stanton taught me these words during the rainy night I stayed with him and his wife at their house in Oxford.)

'Once again, I hope you will accept my heartfelt thanks for everything you had done for me before and during my visit to make it successful. I have never forgotten.'

*There was a full report of Dr.Lan's four week visit in Bulletin 110. There are lots of*



*Dr. Nguyen dinh Lan with Canon Paul Oestreicher (a founder member of MACV) in the ruins of Coventry Cathedral, in front of Reconciliation, the statue by Josefina de Vasconcellas*

*photographs showing many friends and supporters, many of whom have since died. Copies may be had from the Hon. Sec.*

# OBITUARIES

## DR. PHILIP HARVEY

It was with the deepest regret that we learned of the death of Dr. Philip Harvey who has been a great friend of Vietnam and a supporter of MSAVLC since its beginning.

I first met Dr. Harvey, who was Consultant Physician at St. Stephen's Hospital, Fulham, in April 1967 when he got in touch with me at Chelsea College, asking me if I could help arrange a meeting of the Students union where he could speak about his recent visit to Vietnam. He had gone to Hanoi, as a medical witness with a group of distinguished lawyers from the International Commission of Democratic lawyers, where they were caught up in heavy bombing raids over North Vietnam, which were being denied by the US forces. On his return, he decided to organise a campaign in support of Vietnam among Universities, Colleges, Polytechnics and Medical Schools.

But he did much more than this. When in Hanoi, he had been invited by Dr. Thach, the then Minister of Health, to give a few lectures to health workers on British Medicine and, as a result, he decided as a by-product of his talks to students, to get volunteers to collect medical books and journals which he could send to Vietnam. He wrote to all medical journals seeking contributions from their readers and to the main medical publishers, libraries, medical schools and teaching hospitals, drug companies

and charities asking for help.

The response was tremendous. By the end of 1967, some 25 tons of medical literature had been sent to him. He made many journeys to different parts of the country, often to collect whole libraries given by retired consultants, some of whom were very well known. By the time he retired in 1981, he had sent an average of 20 - 25 tons each year and, what is more, he had personally packed everything in tea chests and arranged, first of all for the Polish Red Cross and later the Russian Red Cross to send them. He also made all the arrangements to get them to Tilbury, where they were put on the ship, so that there was never any cost to MSAVLC.

In 1979, following the retirement of Dr. Thach, the Vietnamese Ministry of Health established the Central Institute for Medical Science Information (CIMSI) with a staff of 30 to house all the material. In 1983, Dr. Harvey and his wife Leah went to Hanoi and on their return sent sufficient bed linen for one of the largest hospitals. Dr. Harvey continued to send medical publications to CIMSI until well into the 1990's.

Unfortunately, we lost touch with him in 2005, but we would like to send our deepest sympathy to Leah who, we believe, is now in a nursing home.

*E. J. Shellard*

## Other generous and loyal supporters of MSAVLC who have died are

Mr. Bernard Whittaker, Mrs. Ethel O'Grady and Rev. John Forsyth.

**We shall miss them but feel it has been a privilege to know them and we send our deepest sympathy to their families and friends.**

# WHEEL-CHAIRS

## FOR KY ANH

The £1,000 which was handed to the representatives of VAVA during their visit to Coventry in December last year was used to buy Vietnamese-made wheel-chairs for severely handicapped Agent Orange survivors.

VAVA decided to present them on the occasion of the formation of a Ha Tinh branch (Ky Anh is the most southerly district of Ha Tinh Province) in October and we have just received notification, with full details, from VAVA but all in Vietnamese! So we have asked the Vietnamese Embassy if they will kindly give us a translation, which will appear in our Bulletin 140 and in the Coventry Telegraph.

It is possible that this announcement may coincide with the opening of the two new galleries at the Herbert Art Gallery, one of which is to be devoted to the display of artefacts connected with Peace and Reconciliation. This is where the vase will be displayed – the vase made from metal from a shot-down U.S. bomber and presented to the city by Mme Nguyen thi Binh on Easter Sunday 1968, when she was Foreign Minister of the government-in-exile of Vietnam and one of her country's negotiators at the Paris Peace Talks. Today, she is President of VAVA

# MSAVLC PUBLICATIONS

## Forty years of Devoted Support

*(E. J. Shellard)*

**£5.50 (postage included)**

## Thirty-five years of Devoted Support

*(E. J. Shellard)*

Part 1 (1965 – 1990)

Part 2 (1990 – 2000)

**£3.50 each**

**£5.00 for both**

## Children of Vietnam

*(pub. 1968 by MACV)*

*Reprinted 2003*

**£5.00 (£2.50 concession)**

This is an excellent publication which, although it was published 48 years ago, is still highly relevant today. As well as

describing the suffering of the people during the war, it gives a brief history of Vietnam, explains the Geneva Conference of 1954 and the Accords which were its outcome but whose flouting led inexorably to conflict.

## Short History of MSAVLC

(1965 – 1985)

*(Joan McMichael-Askins)*

**£3.50**

(1985 – 1990)

*(Madeleine Sharp)*

**£1.50**

(1990 – 1995)

*(E. J. Shellard)*

**£1.50**

## Notelets – scenes of Vietnam

**Packet of six - £2.50**

## Adhesive labels:

### Medical and Scientific Aid for Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia

For information see

[www.msavlc.co.uk](http://www.msavlc.co.uk)

Registered Charity No. 252906

## Sheet of 24 - £1

*All may be obtained from the  
Hon. Secretary, 49 Baginton Road,  
Coventry, CV3 6JX.*

*Please make cheques payable to MSAVLC*

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Editor: Margaret Methley

22 Barnack Avenue, Coventry, CV3 6LA.

Telephone/Fax: 024 7641 6399