



Not only was an immense Rose-Parade-like float prepared to take the statue from helicopter (above) to the main temple (top right), but in the center of the plaza of the Holy See (bottom right) a high structure was erected, with invocations to Our Lady of Fatima inscribed about the top, under which the great float was driven for all to see...and to venerate Our Lady. It is shown below.

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Caodaists Open Forbidden Gates of Holy

by J. M. Haffert

The one word we heard pronounced most awesomely and repeatedly during the visit of the Queen of Peace in South Vietnam was the word **MIRACLE**.

TENS OF THOUSANDS

The statue of Our Lady of Fatima traveled on massive floats along roads lined with thousands of people. Giant streamers spoke of prayer for peace. Bushels of confetti flowed from helicopters in the sky. Everywhere the crowds were so staggeringly large that one could only know they were counted in the tens of thousands. A government official put the total participants in the three days at over two million. It was considered *the greatest demonstration ever seen in the history of the country*, with heads of ALL political parties and ALL major religions participating.

NEAR CAMBODIA

But in the minds of our delegation from the U.S., Canada and England, which accompanied the statue, the most impressive reception was at the Holy See of the Caodaists just a few miles from the Cambodian border.

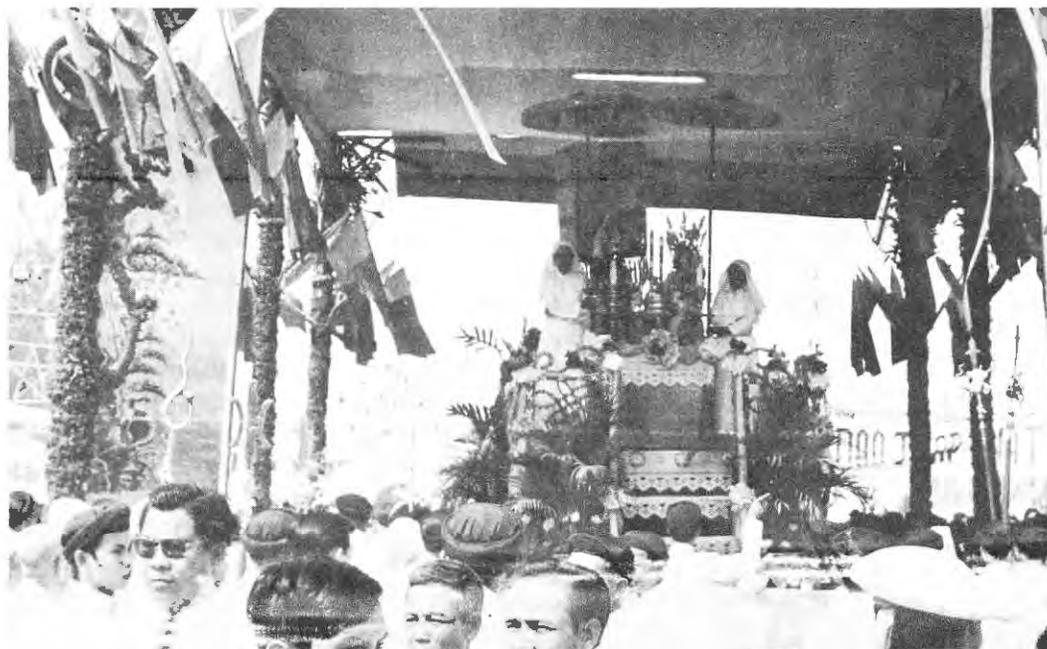
The bus carrying the delegation was rocked by artillery fire as it neared the site. A truck passed with

the dead bodies of South Vietnamese soldiers draped with flags as the pilgrims weaved along between barbed wire barriers on what had been the principal highway between Saigon and Phenom Penh to the Holy See of the Caodaists in Tay-Ninh.

The Caodaists believe in love and justice as primary virtues. Two hundred and forty thousand of their two million members in South Vietnam came from their 52 provinces to honor the Queen of Peace despite artillery and gunfire. And their Holy See was to be opened for the first time to delegations of other faiths in honor of the "Lady of Peace".

TO HONOR "HOLY MOTHER"

A giant float completely covering a heavy, six wheel truck, received the statue when it arrived by helicopter to travel just from the helicopter to the interior of the holy grounds, first to the main temple in honor of God and then to a nearby secondary temple in honor of the Caodaists "Holy Mother" who is not a deity but is one designated by God as having jurisdiction over each man's life span. From their great reverence it seemed obvious that to them the Holy Mother and the Queen of Peace were the same.



This is team of Dragon which danced before Our Lady.

Right: The main temple in the vast compound of the Holy See of the Cao daists.

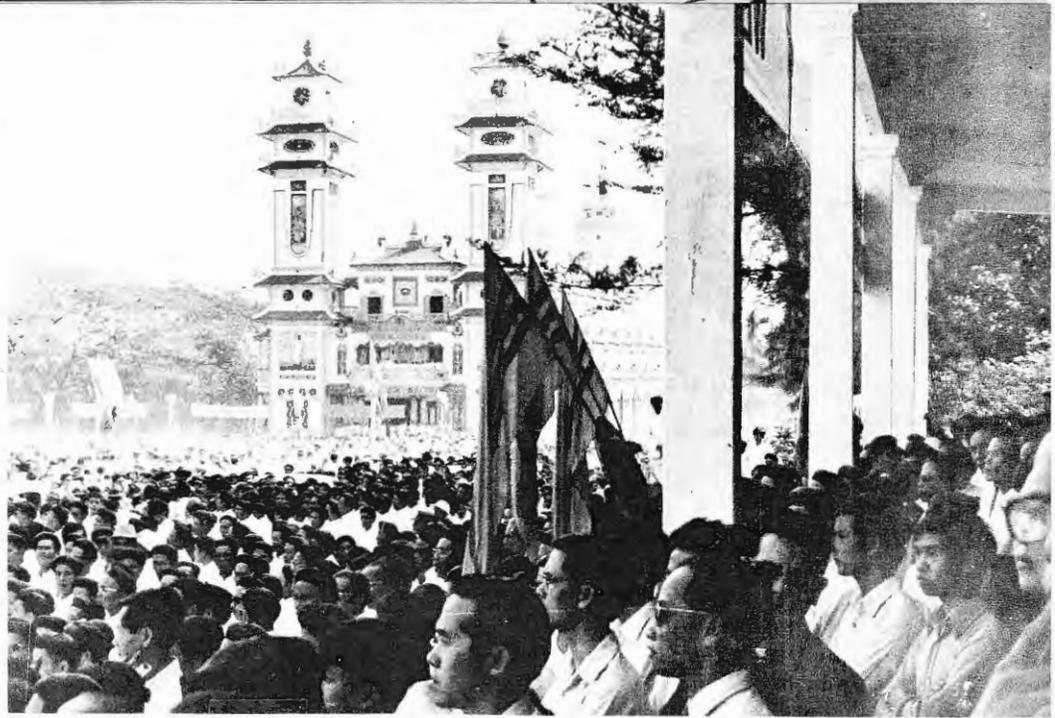
See

Tens of thousands of Cao daists (in white robes for the occasion) lined the path. Their Pope and high officials from all over South Vietnam walked behind the float. The journey ended in a vast square in front of the main temple where a pavilion two stories high had been erected to receive the float carrying the statue.

"Today we have felt the great love of the Queen of Peace. She has brought us the hope that the whole world can achieve peace and live in peace."

As leader of the Anglo-American delegation I then spoke in the name of the delegates and of the worldwide Blue Army of Our Lady of Fatima:

"The Lady represented by this statue before us appeared at Fatima in 1917 and foretold the rise of atheistic communism which would cause further wars if men did not turn to God. She is not God. But She is so loved by God that He performed a miracle at Her request in Fatima in 1917 'So that everyone may believe'. We ask Her intercession as we pray together to our God and your God for that miracle of peace which is possible only through justice and love. . .the miracle for which we all hope as individuals but for which we now pray together."



Below, under a banner invoking the intercession of Our Lady of Fatima for peace, is the Cao daist "Pope" (just to right of canopy). A Cardinal stands in the center, to the right of whom is a Monsignor from the Nunciature, representative of the Catholic Apostolic Delegate to Vietnam. By coincidence this Monsignor is Portuguese (from Braga) and said his second Mass after ordination at Fatima. Hidden by the canopy, to the left of the pope is the Auxiliary Bishop of Saigon and Haffert. The bottom picture looks in the opposite direction from the temple towards the main gate.

