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Some Characteristics about the Process of Nguyen Empiers Established Vietnam Southwestern Sea and Islands Area's Sovereignty in the 18th Century

Hoang Van Tuan

Thu Dau Mot University, Vietnam

Abstract--In the process of expanding his territory to the South, Lord Nguyen appreciated the importance of the Southwestern sea and islands for the cause of establishing a "kingdom" of his own. The process of establishing sovereignty over the Southwestern seas and islands was carried out from 1708 to 1757 and was completed. The article focuses on clarifying the main features of the process of establishing sovereignty over the Southwestern seas and islands to fully realize: (i) the difficulties and challenges faced by Lord Nguyen and the Mac family, (ii) the strategic vision of Lord Nguyen's strategy for domestic and foreign activities, (iii) the contributions of the Mac family in the process of establishing sovereignty over the Southwestern sea and islands.

Keywords---Lord Nguyen, the Mac family, sovereignty, the Southwestern, sea and islands.

Introduction

In the process of exploring the southern land, Lord Nguyen soon became aware of the strategic position of the Southwestern sea and islands, especially in terms of economy and security. However, it was not until the beginning of the 18th century that the Cochinchina government officially established sovereignty over this sea and island. The landmark event was Mac Cuu (1655-1735) surrendered the entire Ha Tien area to the Cochinchina government in 1708. From this point on, Lord Nguyen, Mac Cuu, and this relationship had a clear impact on the historical situation of the eighteenth century. Particularly for Lord Nguyen, this is a springboard to expand the territory to the South (1) and on that basis gain the right to master the entire land, sea, and southwestern islands.

After taking over the Ha Tien area, from the beginning to the end of the 18th century, with policies that were consistent in purpose and flexible in implementation, the Cochinchina government joined the Mac family to accelerate activities to establish sovereignty over the land Southwestern island waters. Through diplomacy and transfer, Lord Nguyen not only owned most of the Southwest region but also controlled almost the entire southwestern island waters in the Gulf of Thailand. The event that Lord Nguyen received the land of Tra Vang (now Tra Vinh and Ben Tre) and Ba Thac (now Soc Trang and Bac Lieu) from the Chenla king, Nac Nhuan, and then the land of Tam Phong Long (equivalent to with the present-day Long Xuyen quadrangle) from Nac Ton (1757) (2) is a historical milestone marking the basic completion of the work of establishing the sovereignty of the Nguyen lords over the Southwestern sea and islands, after nearly half a century of progress, with characteristics determined by both endogenous and exogenous factors.

Literature review

Learning about the process of establishing sovereignty in the Southwest Sea under the Nguyen Lords has attracted the participation of a large number of historians in Vietnam, as well as internationally. "Phu Bien Tap Luc" by Le Quy Don is the first book in Vietnam that has been preserved until now with records of activities to establish sovereignty over the waters of the Nguyen Lords. Specifically, the establishment of Hoang Sa and Bac Hai teams to regularly follow the king's orders to go to seas and islands to perform the task of establishing, exploiting, and protecting sovereignty. Entering the Nguyen Dynasty, the histories compiled by the National History Quan of the Nguyen Dynasty included "Dai Nam thuc luc", "Dai Nam liet truyen", "Dai Nam nhat thong chi", etc., with records of the Mac family. Destruction of Ha Tien area, events of Lord Nguyen receiving the entire land and sea of Ha Tien island from the Mac family, events of building citadel, building defenses to protect the Southwest sea from neighboring feudal countries Siam and Chenla of the Mac and Nguyen lords, together with the work of suppressing piracy, protecting the sovereignty over the Southwest Sea, especially ensuring a smooth trade route.

"Gia Dinh thanh thong chi" by Trinh Hoai Duc is a set of geographies written about the ancient Southern region in the early 19 century, recorded in quite detail by the author on mountains, rivers, climate, administration, strongholds, customs, habits, characters, and activities of the inhabitants in the ancient Gia Dinh land (originally the name used to use the entire southern region of Vietnam) from the 17th century to the early 19th century. As for the Southwestern sea, the work has records of the geographical position, natural resources of the sea and Ha Tien islands in the Gulf of Thailand, and activities of exploitation and protection of sovereignty over the sea with the Ha Tien sea of the Mac family and the Dang Trong government. However, that record is not much.

In addition to the official histories, so far, there have been quite a few research works on the history of the discovery of the land of Cochinchina related to the establishment of sovereignty over the Southwestern sea and islands during the period Lord Nguyen was announced. Some typical research projects are:

The historical journal 1966 - 1975, issues 19 and 20 - a special monograph on the "Southern advance" of the Vietnamese people with the participation of many authors with many valuable articles related to topics such as: "The village belongs to and exploits the land of Tam Phong Long" by Nguyen Van Hau. The article presents the process of the Mac and Nguyen families taking over the land of Tam Phong Long and some other lands (west of Ha Tien) of Chenla by helping Nac Ton calm the internal affairs and become the king of the country Chenla; "Ha Tien is the key to the southern advance of the Vietnamese people to the Mekong Delta" by Han Nguyen. In this article, the author presents and analyzes the discovery of Ha Tien by the Mac family and the reception of Ha Tien by the Nguyen lords from Mac Cuu. From there, highlight the influence of this event on the "Southern progress" of the Vietnamese people...

Vietnamese history of Dang Trong (Khoang, 2001). The work presented a synthesis about the expansion of the territory of Dang Trong of the Nguyen lords. The study mentioned Mac Cuu's expansion of Ha Tien territory; The battle to protect Ha Tien against the invaders of Chenla in 1715 by Mac Cuu and some activities to build ramparts and fortresses to protect the land and islands of Ha Tien in the Gulf of Thailand of the Nguyen Lords and the Mac family.

Nguyen Cochinchina, Southern Vietnam in 17th and 18th Centuries (Tana, 2013). This is a work that has studied the land of Cochinchina in many ways. Regarding the topic, the author mentioned several issues in the work of opening up the Southwest region of the Nguyen Lords and also mentioned some activities of establishing, patrolling, exploiting, and protecting the sovereignty of the region. Dang Trong sea of the soldiers that Lord Nguyen established in the process of heading to the sea.

The process of land opening in the Southwest of Vietnam under the Nguyen Lords (Nga, 2013). This is a rather elaborate and serious study. The work presented, analyzed, and systematically assessed the process of establishing sovereignty over the Southwest region during the Nguyen lord's reign in the 17th - 18th centuries. In it, there is a mention of the process of opening Ha Tien land of the Mac family and the acquisition of the entire land and sea of Ha Tien by Lord Nguyen from Mac Cuu. To a certain extent, the work also presents comments and evaluates some issues related to the topic.

Research Methods

To make this article, the author relies mainly on two historical methods and logical methods. In addition, the author also uses Interdisciplinary and Area methods, statistical methods, comparisons... to clarify the problems posed. To make this article, the authors have relied on rich sources of data, in which there are two main sources, primary data, and secondary data. The main sources include the records of feudal historians, merchants, missionaries and foreigners who came to trade in Vietnam during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Secondary sources are documents of domestic and foreign scholars studying the contents related to the article. From the collected data, we perform qualitative analysis combined with logical, comparative and contrasting methods to determine the reliability of the data source and reproduce recreate the process of

establishing the sovereignty of the Nguyen lords over the Southwestern sea and islands of Vietnam.

Results and Discussion

The process of establishing sovereignty over the southwest island waters goes through many difficulties and challenges

The greatest force for Lord Nguyen and the Mac family was the siamese plot to invade. In the 17th and 18th centuries, Siam implemented a policy of strong expansion to the east; going to the sea, interacting with the sea, controlling the sea and establishing maritime territory were the main trend of the Thais, The sea "provides an environment in which Thais can interact with the world through trade, political exchanges, war, conflict, naval development, and the reception of external actors through maritime communication" (Liem, 2016). This phenomenon is very noticeable and has a strong impact on regional relations. The Gulf of Thailand has become a dynamic environment for political transformations (mainly around the relationship between The Inner - Mac family and Chan And Siam). Accordingly, the Siamese government has attempted to gain control of the southwest island waters. This fact leaves the relationship between the Government of The Inner And Siam basically in a state of tension. In the face of that challenge, Lord Nguyen was very skillful in foreign affairs. The letter that Lord Nguyen responded to the King of Siam in the year of the 16th Hung Scene (1756) clearly expressed this content. Lord Nguyen was flexible in recalling the good traditional relationship between the two kingdoms while demonstrating a resolute attitude against the violations of Siam's sovereignty and arrogance (Don, 2007). With a flexible foreign policy, Lord Nguyen prevented some of Siam's political attempts and caused Siam to make concessions in many cases. However, Lord Nguyen's policy still could not stop the Siamese government's ambition to annex Ha Tien (Kim, 2006).

Notably, towards the end of the 18th century, Siam put even stronger pressure on Lord Nguyen and the Mac family. The evidence is that although there were ambitions to invade Ha Tien since the beginning of the 18th century, it was not until the late 18th century that Siam directly attacked Ha Tien. The main reason for Siam's increasing pressure is due to the vibrant trade activity and the increased economic position of Ha Tien in the region. The openness and creativity in the economic management methods of Mac Cuu and Mac Thien Tu prompted Ha Tien to soon become a rich land and a convergence of many trade flows, where [the Ha Tien port] "quadruple boats from China, Besides, Palembang, Siam poured in so much that it was impossible to count the masts... and it has been dubbed *petit Canton*" (Huy, 2008). However, it seems that Ha Tien's prosperity stimulated Siam's ambitions and made Siam determined to win this land. Indeed, "the outstanding economic position made Ha Tien soon "planned" in the expansion strategy of neighboring countries, especially Ayutthaya. In other words, Ha Tien started at the sensitive stage of the Southeast Asian continental countries: they were rushing towards the sea, about the new, fertile and liberating southern plains..." (Jiang, 2010).

Not only directly attacking Ha Tien, but during the first half of the 18th century, the Siamese government also repeatedly supported and provoked some forces in the Turkish court to invade Ha Korea. In Siam's "*East Forward*" policy, Chan Was the object that was soon "planned" in the kingdom's eastward expansion strategy. For Siam, The Foot of Greece is both a target of invasion and a springboard for encroaching on The Inner. Based on that perception, Siam has actively manipulated the forces of the Greek government, especially when there were conflicts within The Greeks to "profiteer and fight with the Vietnamese", especially through those forces to seek opportunities to invade Ha Tien. However, Siam was unsuccessful because there was not enough strength and strength to hinder the progress of the government (Son, 1954).

In the context of Siam's constant involvement in the interior of Chan Greece to occupy Ha Tien, to protect the sovereignty as well as maintain the stability of political life, Lord Nguyen and the Mac family supported some nobles in the Chan Lang court. Lord Nguyen's attempts to curb Siam's influence on the Chanyuan court and brought back to Nguyen many new territories (including the land and sea of the Southwest Island). This achievement was due to the voluntary transfer of the Chan Greek kings and "created conditions for the Mac family to expand their power to a large area of land, thereby contributing to strengthening a trusting relationship with the Government of Lord Nguyen" (Kim, 2006).

In addition to Siam's plot to invade, Lord Nguyen also had to deal with piracy raging in the waters and islands of the Southwest. In the 18th century, pirates originated in China and from islands and archipelagos off the coast of Southeast Asia (collectively known as Cha Va pirates) operated in the waters of He Tien Island with very high frequency and very dangerous nature. They blatantly plundered the property of people living on the islands, openly preventing the looting of transport or merchant ships passing through the Ha Tien sea. Even their boats were stopped by pirates when they went on a business trip. Piracy has directly and seriously affected the lives of the people living on the islands, the development of the commercial economy and the security ty of the Ha Tien sea. Even more serious is that some forces from China have been hiding under the guise of pirates to carry out plots to rob Ha Tien. Ha Tien is rich thanks to the sea but also difficult because of the sea due to too many pirates raging (Nga, 2013).

The main reason why Ha Tien became the focus of looting by pirate gangs in the 18th century was that the sea had many offshore barrier islands adjacent to the Gulf of Thailand - one of the strategic areas on the island. Southeast Asia sea trade route in particular and Asia in general. Pirate gangs took advantage of the rugged terrain of the deserted islands off the coast of Ha Tien to gather party members and build "bases" with two functions: for defense (including attempts at planning) attacks by the Nguyen lord's army and their Mac army; and to make a shelter to wait for a favorable opportunity to rob the passing ships. Since the Mac family came to explore and build Ha Tien into a large trading port in Cochinchina - the landing place of the East-West merchant ships, the pirate groups paid more attention and increased their plunder. It is likely that the wars between Ha Tien and Siam and the pro-Siamese forces in Chenla also indirectly created favorable conditions for pirate groups to practice (Tien, 2014). The resistance of the rebel

forces in Ha Tien town who wanted to overthrow the Mac government also caused many obstacles to the Nguyen lord as well as the Mac family.

To protect the sovereignty and security of the Southwestern sea and islands, Lord Nguyen actively provided human and material support to the Mac family. At the same time, Lord Nguyen directed the Mac family to develop their military force and invest in building a defensive fortress system. The defensive fortress system that the Mac family built was relatively solid with two parts: (i) Truc Ban Thanh (Luy Thi Van or Bo Don Lon) was built under Mac Cuu and then reinforced under Mac Thien Tu. This rampart runs from the southern coast to the northern border (adjacent to Chenla) and then pairs with Luy Giang Thanh. The total length of the two ramparts is estimated at 20km. Today, Giang Thanh is no longer a citadel but just a place in Tan Khanh Hoa commune, Kien Luong district, about 10km from Ha Tien town along the way the crow flies; (ii) Luy Phu Dung (Don Small Bank) starts from Kim Du Island and surrounds Phu Dung Mountain (De Liem) to the banks of Thuy Truong River (Rach U) with a length of 2km (Dat, 2001). In the offshore islands, the Mac family built defensive fortresses right on the islands to defend themselves. In particular, the Mac family was most interested in building a defensive fortress system in Phu Quoc because the island was often attacked and plundered by the Cha Va sea invaders (Duc, 2006).

At the same time, they also pay attention to the development of the army. During Mac Thien Tu, the army was multi-ethnic, including the Vietnamese - Chinese - Khmer - Malay ... When coordinating with Lord Nguyen's army, he not only repelled the attacks of foreign invaders but was also very successful in defamation operations. Thanks to the construction of a powerful military force and a system of solid defensive fortifications, Lord Nguyen has a solid basis to protect the sovereignty of the southwest island waters. Although sovereignty and security are maintained, Ha Tien has been repeatedly severely damaged. The attack and seizure of Ha Tien land for three years (1771-1773) is the clearest demonstration yet of the damage that Ha Tien suffered. This event was noted by the book *"Gia Dinh into a press release"*: "When the Siamese invaded, they destroyed the whole ha Tien ramparts, destroyed houses, robbed all their possessions, the people fled only the wasteland mound remained. Tong Duc Hou was inexplicably embarrassed by the desolate scene as the poem Try Ly describes should temporarily reside in Zhenjiang, then sent the Mac Tu Hoang town back to repair the palace" (Duc, 2006).

The process of establishing sovereignty over the southwest island waters reflects the strategic vision of the Nguyen lords

Lord Nguyen's strategic vision is reflected in choosing the right time to carry out the establishment of sovereignty. From the end of the 17th century, based on protecting the newly established territories on the mainland from siamese scrutiny, the waters of the Southwest Island became especially important to the Nguyen government. Controlling and mastering this territorial sea becomes urgent. However, up to this time, Lord Nguyen has not made many moves to establish sovereignty over the southwest island waters.

The reason is that, until now, Lord Nguyen has not yet established sovereignty in the Southeast region. The establishment of sovereignty over the southwest island waters should be carried out sequentially, from easy to difficult and from near to far. On the basis of that perception, Lord Nguyen did not establish sovereignty over the southwest island waters without establishing sovereignty in the Southeast. Lord Nguyen's awareness of this issue is partly reflected in the fact that Ning Yuan offered the two palaces of Tam Tub and Lei Greece to Lord Nguyen in 1756: "Nac Nguyen of Chenla state presented that the robbery of Con Man was caused by General Chieu Chuy Frog, now he wants to donate the land of Tam Bon and Loi Lap and pay the missing tribute three years ago to atone for his sins. Mac Thien Tu brought up the report. The Lord and the officials, ordered to arrest Chieu Chuy Frog and bring it over. Nac Nguyen king replied that Frog had already been executed. Causing his wife and children. Nguyen made excuses for forgiveness. God knows it's a lie, not obeying his request. Nguyen Cu Trinh promptly said: "In the past, the use of troops was only to eliminate the oligarchs and expand more land. Nac Nguyen now knows how to repent and beg to surrender the land, if he keeps pursuing that lie, he was away wast from Gia Dinh palace to La Bich, the road is far away, with thousands of forests and streams, it is not convenient to chase to the end. If you want to expand the land, you should also take these two palaces first to strengthen the back of the two palaces. If you leave the bridge near the bridge far away, fearing that the situation is difficult, the soldiers and people are not consecutive, it is easy to get it, but it is difficult to keep it. In the past, when expanding the Gia Dinh government, it was necessary to open Hung Phuc land, then Dong Nai land, make the people crowded, and then open it to Saigon. It's a plan that silkworms eat gradually. Now the old land from Hung Phuc to Saigon is only two days away, the population is still not stable, the troops are not enough anymore. In the case from Saigon to Lam Bon, it's six days away, the terrain is spacious, the population is tens of thousands of people, the regular army is really afraid. God considered that the Con Man people were good at combat, the Chenla people were very afraid. If giving them that land makes them resist, "taking a Man against a Man" is also winning. So, please let Chenla make atonement, take the land of these two palaces, authorize me to examine the situation, set up barricades to station troops, allocate land to the army and people, clearly define the boundaries, let the law go to Dinh Vien province to collect. whole area. God gave it to him" (National History of the Nguyen Dynasty, 2002).

Although Lord Nguyen's sense of the issue of establishing sovereignty in the Southern lands mentioned in the *"Real Great South"* was in 1756 (the establishment of Lord Nguyen's sovereignty over the South in general and the Southwest in particular is about to be completed) but through the words of Nguyen Thuc Trinh, It can be seen that from the beginning of the public opening of the southern land, Lord Nguyen was well aware that the process must be carried out step by step, on the basis of the benefits brought. In the past, when expanding Gia Dinh government, everyone had to open Hung Phuc land, then Dong Nai land, make the people crowded, and then open it to Saigon. From here, to carry out the work of establishing sovereignty in the Southwest in general and the Southwest island sea in particular, the completion of the establishment of sovereignty in the Southeast is a prerequisite. This activity also helps to promote the process of establishing sovereignty over the southwest island waters. In fact,

in the process of establishing sovereignty over the southwest island waters, the Southeast land has become a turning point for Vietnamese people to the Southwest; and Ben Nghe (since the late 17th century) has been considered an outpost for caravans migrating to the lands in the Southwest.

At the same time, the Southeast is also a solid "rear" of Lord Nguyen when it becomes a place to provide human and material resources for the protection of territorial sovereignty in the Southwest. In the self-defense skirmishes, Gia Dinh's officials and elite army contributed to defeating the invasion of Ha Tien by Chan Hui (pro-Siamese forces) and Siam, and effectively supported the Mac government in dealing with the rebellious forces in Ha Tien town and piracy. Typical is the close coordination between the Mac family and Gia Dinh government officials to pursue the end of a gang of pirates:

"August autumn, 10th year of Dinh Mao (1747) reign of The Tong Hieu Vo emperor (Vuong Nguyen Phuc Khoat) (eighth year of the reign of Canh Hung, reign of King Le Hien Tong. 12th year, reign of Emperor Qian Long, Dai Thanh), there were puppet invaders claiming to be Vo Vuong Duc Bel, who robbed Ha Tien's Long Bai boat in the waters of Long Xuyen (Ca Mau). Earlier in April, Tong Duc sent a rider on the Long Bai boat to bring a cup of water and fire jade each, 20 red-headed cranes (20 pearls of cranes attached), 1 turkey, 1 Western mastiff, A five-colored bird of each kind, a Western cloth, a mausoleum mat, a wisteria mat, and precious objects to dedicate to the sutras. The king granted a supplementary diploma: 2 cadres of the captains, 2 of the captains, and brocades and other items. In August, the Long Bai train returned to Long Xuyen waters and met pirates named Vo Vuong Duc Bung (he is from Quy Nhon government, his name is Duc because his belly is big, so he is called Duc Bung). Know in advance should wait in the sea to rob. When Tong Duc heard the news, he immediately sent his son-in-law, Ngu Nhung Cai, to the Ky Tai team, and Tu Huu used 10 large ships to capture 4 members of the party and kill them. Duc Bung fled to Ba Thac beach. Tong Duc to bring this matter to Gia Dinh citadel to ask for the commanding officer to divide the road to find and arrest. Only the following year would he be arrested and prosecuted, and since then the remnants of the party will be quieted" (Duc, 2006).

Entering the 18th century, the establishment of sovereignty over the waters of the Southwest Island was more favorable: (i) the establishment of sovereignty over the Southeast region was completely complete of the Gia Dinh government (in 1698); (ii) the power and power of the Nguyen government is getting stronger in the process of territorial expansion in the new lands; (iii) the Central-to-local Chan Greek government is increasingly weakened and dependent on Lord Nguyen (another part that depends on Siam) ... In the face of the growth of the Nguyen government and besides the fact that the Chan Greek government no longer played an active role in protecting Ha Tien from Siam's attempts to invade, in 1708, Mac Cuu gave the entire Ha Tien region to Lord Nguyen, marking the official advance of Lord Nguyen to the Southwest and creating conditions for the Da Nang government to gradually expand the territory to the southwest.

Since receiving the Ha Tien region, the Da Nang government has gradually mastered the waters of the southwest island. The fact that King Chan Ton offered

the land of Thien Phong Long and then the western town of Ha Tien is Huong Uc, Can Vot, Chan Sum, Sai Mạt, Linh Quynh in 1757 is an event marking the completion of basically the completion of the establishment stability of the Nguyen lords' dominion over the southwest island waters. Thus, before the process of establishing sovereignty over the southwest island waters, Lord Nguyen analyzed and carefully evaluated the advantages and difficulties to make decisions by the actual situation.

Lord Nguyen's strategic vision is also clearly shown by assigning full control of Ha Tien to the Mac family. In theory, after Ha Tien is merged into The Inner City, Ha Tien will be under the management of Lord Nguyen. However, it did not directly manage this land but gave them the right to manage and keep the relationship of tribute with the custom of every three years the great tribute and once a year the tribute. Despite this, the development of Ha Tien has always been under the control of Lord Nguyen. The fact that Lord Nguyen trusted and entrusted the responsibility of managing Ha Tien to the Mac family showed the wisdom and vision of recognizing the people of the head of the Land of Da Nang.

Mac Cuu's talent is a prominent factor. It should also be noted that Mac Cuu not only received the trust of the Inner Government but earlier during his time in Chan Greece and Siam he also soon gained the trust of King Siam the beloved of King Siam. Loyalty, as well as experience in organizing the management and development of the Trade of Mac Cuu, was the basis of his time in Greece and Siam. The department helped the Da Nang government in the lower determination to choose the surname Mac to support the management and protection of the southwest island waters. While Lord Nguyen does not have favorable conditions to directly manage this territory, it is reasonable to choose Mac Cuu as a representative to carry out the control and exploitation of the southwest island waters.

After building Ha Tien into a rich land, Mac Cuu donated all this land to the Government of Da Nang. Consider the reasons that prompted Mac Cuu to choose Lord Nguyen for help to give a fuller view of his intellect. What needs to be affirmed first is the sensitivity before the time of Mac Cuu. In the early 18th century, Ha Tien became the focus of attention of the Authorities of Taiguan and Siam. Well aware that the industry that he built was under threat, Mac Cuu turned to the Government of The Inner Kingdom to rely on when he could not afford to protect this land. Mac Cuu's offering of Ha Tien to Lord Nguyen and not to Siam also reflects Mac Cuu's astute thinking about the power relationship between Siam and the Government of Dang Trong.

Besides, Lord Nguyen also understood that Ha Tien was a territory under the direct management of the Mac family decades before Lord Nguyen reached out and was the land where the New Da Nang government established the administrative system far from the center of the government in Phu Xuan, so Lord Nguyen was not favorable to Direct management. Moreover, in terms of economic and military potential, the Government of The Inner Party is not too clearly dominant over the Outer Government. The deployment of the militia to exploit Ha Tien will cause the military forces to be dispersed. In addition to Saigon - Ben Nghe or Dong Nai and My Tho, there are many areas in the Southern land that

the Government of Da Nang has not strictly controlled. Exploiting the land and sea of southwest islands will be difficult.

Based on the actual situation and human factors, the Dang Trong government entrusted the management of Ha Tien area to the Mac family. After Mac Cuu died, his son Mac Thien Tu was appointed by Lord Nguyen to replace his father as the General of Ha Tien town. In addition, the emotional factor further strengthened Nguyen Lord's use of the Mac family. Because his first wife (Nguyen Thi Y Duc) had no son, Mac Cuu married another Vietnamese wife, Bui Thi Lam (from Dong Mon village, Dong Nai province), after she gave birth to Mac Thien Tu. Therefore, Mac Thien Tu is considered a hybrid between Mac Cuu and Bui Thi Lam. In the poem "Giang Thach Da", Mac Thien Tu also did not hesitate to identify himself as a Vietnamese and Dang Trong as his "home country": "Patriots must set the key/ Be prepared when jumping around/ By night with drums and javelin/ As long as the land is safe, God is in control of my body" (Hai, 2000). Bringing in the blood of the Vietnamese people, the fact that Mac Thien Tu brought his talent to build his homeland is completely consistent with natural ethics. From an emotional perspective and what Mac Cuu has devoted to the land of Ha Tien, Lord Nguyen has more and more grounds to trust and respect Mac Thien Tu.

The process of establishing sovereignty over the southwest island waters bears many marks of the Mac family

In the process of establishing sovereignty over the southwest island waters, the Mac family has left a bold mark. First of all, the Mac family offered Ha Tien land and helped the Nguyen government to receive more lands from Chan Lang, because they could not withstand the draconian rule policies of the Qing dynasty, in 1680 Mac Cuu left his homeland to take refuge in The Nam Vang government of Chan Lang. Due to speaking fluently in True Greek and skillful in his behavior, Mac Cuu was soon invited to be an official by the King of The Foot of Chenla. Working as an official in the Court of Chan Lang for a while, realizing that the contradictions within the truth of Chenla could adversely affect themselves, Mac Cuu asked the King of Chan Tong to release the land of Saigon, because it was to recruit traders to bring revenue to the kingdom, Mac Cuu was approved by the King of Chenla and ordained "okna" (Snail) - an official of the land capital of Chan Lang at that time. Here, Mac Cuu has established seven village communes: Can Cuong, Già Khe, Tung Ky, Huong Australia, Ca Mau and Phu Quoc. In 1688, the Siamese army captured Chan Greece and followed it to the land of Saigon. Now, "General Siam saw that he was a brave hero, very affectionate in his stomach, kindly treated and advised him to follow him to the country. He had no way of refusing and following them to the North, and the Siamese king saw his appearance and was happy to keep him. Later, he used the money as bait for the officials who had the power of that country to allow him to reside in the land of Siam on the coast of Van Tue mountain" (Nguyen, 2006). For Mac Cuu, having to go to Siam to live is reluctant. Therefore, by 1699, by the time the Siamese country had the interior of Mo Cuu, they quickly grasped the situation and took advantage of the opportunity to lead the people to the land of Dong Ky. But after Mac Cuu realized that the land of Dong Ky is narrow and uninhabitable, so a year later (1700) moved to the land of Mang Mosaic (Ha Tien) (Hoa, 2005). To reach the land of Ha Tien to settle down, Mac Cuu had to go through many ups and downs.

Under the management of Mac Cuu, Ha Tien is growing but it is also that development that has made this land soon fall into the sights of Siam. To preserve the industry, Mac Cuu contemplated relying on a protective force. Mac Cuu realized that the Da Nang government was the only force that could counterbalance Siam. Mac Cuu also understood that the political situation in Da Nang was more stable than the political situation in Chan Lang and Siam. In terms of geographical distance, the owner of Ha Tien at that time also noticed that the distance from Ha Tien to Dang Trong port was closer than the political situation in Chan Lang and Siam more than the distance from Ha Tien to Chenla or Ha Tien to Siam. The closer geographical distance helps Da Nang In be able to respond in time when the Mac family is in difficulty or danger.

While Mac Cuu was still pondering, a mastermind named Su Quan advised Mac Cuu: "The True Chenla are cunning, less middle-class, can not rely on for long. It is said that the South Korean lord has a voice of humanity, prestige that is enough to believe if only to knock on the door to call the god to cause firm roots. If there are any events, ask God for help" (Nguyen Dynasty National History, 1993). The suggestions of the master surname To and Mac Cuu's awareness of the Government of The Dang Trong City made him determined to rely on Lord Nguyen. In the year of "Mau Ti (1708) in the 17th year, in the autumn, Cuu and his subordinates zhang cau, Ly Xa brought silk pearls to the door to offer the title of god, please be the Chief Ha Tien. The Lord saw the Great Generals look magnificent, forward respectfully, carefully, praised as loyal, and gave the national work to name Ha Tien town, give it to the Nine Generals, give it to the General Army, give the gold seal. Again, the god sent Him out of the city door. Everyone considers it an honor" (Nguyen Dynasty National Palace, 2013). Orientalist Tran Kinh Hoa (1917-1995) stated that the, decision to dedicate the entire Ha Tien region to Lord Nguyen can be seen as the result of political upheavals in Chan Lang and the South (Hoa, 1958)."Mac Cuu's voluntary dedication to the results of the meeting and the establishment of hamlets on mang mosaic land to the Da Nang government is a special case of the process of establishing a business as well as the integration of Chinese immigrants with the Vietnamese community (Vietnam Institute of Science and Development Science, 2006).

The fact that M Mac Cuu offered the entire Ha Tien region to Lord Nguyen and received the approval of Lord Nguyen also reflected the understanding on both sides. While Mac Cuu avoided the unfavorable situation for himself, Lord Nguyen thanks to Ha Tien owned a strategic outpost west of the Hau River and created an unstoppable position in the southern exploitation (Thanh, 2004). Thus, Mac Cuu's act of offering Ha Tien land is the first prominent mark in the process of establishing sovereignty over the southwest island waters of the Nguyen lord.

After Mac Cuu's death (1735), his son Mac Thien Tu was warmly trained by Lord Nguyen as Admiral Tong Duc. In 1757, Mac Thien Tu arranged and helped Lord Nguyen receive more lands from Chan Lang. The book *"Gia Dinh into the press"* specifically noted as follows: "In the 20th year, Dinh Sừ (1757) (the 16th year of the title of Hung Hung of King Le Hien Tong. In the 20th year of the Qianlong king of the Great Qing Dynasty, Cao Hien country had mutinied, and King Nian Ong Ton fled to Ha Tien and asked to be adopted by The Apostle Duc. Tong Duc served

to bring it up, the king ordained Ong Tonto to be king of Cao Hymn, then sent his escorts back to regain the water. After everything was calm, Ning Ong Ton took the land of five covered Sai Mot, Linh Quynh, Can Cuong, and Vung Thom to give to Tong Duc to thank him for raising protection until the day of achievement. Tong Duc served to bring the land to the court, the court approved the land of these 5 palaces but still belonged to the town of Ha Tien. Tong Duc also founded Kien Giang religion in Rach Gia, Long Xuyen religion in Ca Mau and put officials to look after" (Duc, 2006).

In this regard, the book *"The Great Southern Real Continent"* has also noted: "The Whole Kingdom of Chenla died. Their uncle, Ning Nhuan, took care of the water. The writer asked the person to set up The Leap to show grace, to firmly the frontier. God forced him to donate the two governments of Tra Vinh and The Three Questions, and then he gave them. At that time, the son-in-law of Nac Nhuan, Nac Hinh, killed Nac Nhuan to usurp the throne, and the son of Nac Nhuan, Nac Ton, fled to Ha Tien. Mr. Truong Phuc Du was superior to the fight. Nac Hinh ran to Tăm Phong Xuy, killed by nha wang.' official. At that time, The Heavenly Four also helped The Sun. The Lord ordained Nac Sun as king of The Footy, sending Thien Tu along with the general of the five palaces to escort him home. Qing Dao offered the land of Phong Long. Phuc Du and Thu Trinh Tuong would like to move Long Ho Palace to The Land of Tăm Bào (now Long Ho village, i.e. Vinh Long province). Again, the Dongkou religion in Sa Dec, the Xinzhou religion in Tien Giang, the Chau Doc religion in Hau Giang, took the Long Ho palace to suppress. At that time, Ning Ton again cut the five governments of Huong Australia, Can Cuong, Chan Sum, Saigon Mạt, Linh Quynh to thank Mac Thien Tu, Thien Tu donated to the court. God put that year of government in Ha Tien county, Thien Tu again asked to put Price Khe as Kien Giang religion, Ca Mau as Long Xuyen religion, all put mandarins, recruit people, set up hamlets, make the land of Ha Korea more wide" (National history of Nguyen Dynasty, 2002).

Compared to Trinh Hoai Duc's book *"Gia Dinh into the Excommunication"*, the book *"The Real Great Southern"* has more specifically recorded the events that led to the act of stabbing the land of Ning Sun. However, as for how Ning Sun relied on The Heavenly Four and was helped by The Heavenly Four, Trinh Hoai Duc's book *"Gia Dinh became a will"* made it clearer. The records in *"The Great Southern Real Continent"* and *"Gia Dinh into the Solstice"* are complementary to each other to better understand the issues surrounding the land offering of The Sun and the reception of Lord Nguyen and Mac Thien Tu. With the reception of more of the above lands, here the Nguyen lords have completed the process of establishing sovereignty over the Southern region in general and the southwest island sea in particular. To achieve this achievement, the contributions of The Heavenly Four are great. The above documents also show that Mac Thien Tu actively asked Lord Nguyen for the establishment of new administrative units and the dispatch of officials to re-manage in the discovered lands. Through this, the Mac family has left many marks in the process of establishing sovereignty over the southwest island waters. From the seven communes and villages originally established by Mac Cuu in Phu Quoc, Lung Ke, Can Bot, Vung Thom, Rach Gia, and Ca Mau (early 18th century), the number has rapidly increased with 103 communes,

villages, prostitutes, teams, shopping, streets, belonging, departments, squirrels (early 19th century) (Duc, 2006).

In addition to donating Ha Tien land and helping Lord Nguyen to receive more land from Chan Lang, the Mac family also helped protect the sovereignty of the southwest island waters when repeatedly repelling the invasions of Chan Greece (pro-Siamese forces) and Siam. Examples include the fact that Mac Thien Tu on the basis of Lord Nguyen's support successfully prevented the planned invasion of Ha Tien in 1766 and repelled the three-year occupation of Ha Tien (1771-1773) by Siam. German pirates engaged in looting in the waters of Long Xuyen for two years (from 1747 to 1748). It is noteworthy that, in some cases, without coordination with Lord Nguyen's army, the Mac family's army has also been able to deal with the encroaching forces. It can be mentioned the event in 1739 "The Foot Water Tank encroaching on Ha Tien. He was angry at The Mac Cuu for losing his land. Mac Cuu died, Mac Cuu died, Thien Tu took over his career. Thien Tu brought all the guards to fight, chased to Saigon, day and night to fight the food fever could not keep up. His wife, Nguyen Thi, was the wife of the soldiers who transported the army to feed the army, the army was not undernourished, eagerly tried to destroy the Tank army. The news of winning the battle, God praised, especially for thien 4 admiral generals, gave red robes and belts, ordained Nguyen Thi as his wife. Therefore, Chan Greece does not dare to look at Ha Tien anymore" (Nguyen Dynasty National History, 2002).

Or the fact that Mac Thien Qua defeated the "internal, external" plot to defeat Ha Tien of Mac Sung and Mac Khoan colluded with the exiled Chau chau named Tran Thai. In 1769, "Ha Tien town saw that the neighboring country was changing, so it was more and more guarded by the border guard. Meanwhile, an exiled Chau Chau man named Tran Thai invited to gather bandits in Bach Ma Mountain (in Ha Korea) to try to beat the town of Ha Tien. They secretly colluded with the Mac clan's people, Mac Sung, Mac Khoan, and arranged for the night of June 13 to set fire to the interior. It was revealed, Tong Duc was almost exactly as promised, implicitly letting the soldiers round up and go after the party members in Huong Son Pagoda (known as Mr. Huong Pagoda). Tran Thai fled through The Land of Chan Bon in Siam. On the 20th, the people of Cao Hien in Vong Van squirrel, Ning Bo gathered more than 900 people to try to make a disturbance, but it was also immediately extinguished" (Duc, 2006). In addition, it is also worth mentioning that Mac Thien Quai destroyed the digger Pham Cham who gathered people in Huong Uc and Can Vot with the Cham people and named Vang Ly Ma Lu and the Chan Lang people are Snail Nha Ghê consisting of more than 800 troops and 15 boats (divided into waterways and roads) plotting to capture Ha Tien in 1770 (National History of the Court of the Dynasty Nguyen, 2002).

The Mac family "really became the outpost that held the frontier of the Fatherland, resilient against foreign invaders" (42). In recognition of the great merits of Mac Cuu and Mac Thien Tu, King Gia Long allowed Mac Tu Thiem (1802) and Mac Cong Du (1816) to continue to conquer the land of Ha Tien. Besides, many descendants of the Mac family also hold important positions in the government apparatus in Ha Tien. Typical is the fact that Mac Tu Sanh was appointed general by Lord Nguyen Phuc Anh and knighted as Ly Chief Servant. Before the addition of Mac Tu Sanh, The Lord was heartbroken: "When before The

Apostolic Servant and his descendants were harmed, only the second child, Tu Sinh, Tu Tuan and Death Thiem because he was young, he was loved by Cao La (Cao Hy as an official in Siam) to carry the mark. And we are Cong Binh, Cong Du, Cong Cong, Cong Tai at the age of carrying and following our people to be exiled to the remote border, then called back and raised by the new King of Siam. At this time, the king thought of the descendants of the duke, so he appointed Tu Sanh as General, ordained as Ly Chief Servant" (Duc, 2006). In 1818, King Gia Long sent Mac Cong Du to seek the relics of Ha Tien to bring into history because of the scattering of recorded documents due to the war and because Ha Tien - according to King Gia Long - "is the new realm expanded by the saints and the old land of your ancestors, Mac Cuu and Mac Thien Tu, who was ordained". The king said, "The land of Ha Tien is the new realm expanded by the saints and the old land of your ancestors, Mac Cuu and Mac Thien Tu, who was ordained. From the previous court onwards there were books and notebooks. From the rebellious Tay Son, the books scattered, nowhere to follow but to call for help. Now starting to settle down, the previous people are still there, you should wholeheartedly seek to collect the old work, record forward, I will put into the history, leave the next life" (National history of Nguyen dynasty, 2002).

In 1833, Mac Cong Du, his brother, Mac Cong Tai, and their two sons, Mac Hau Hi and Mac Hau Dieu, rebelled, so they were both found guilty. The book *"Great Southern List"* notes: In the 14th (1833) summer, the le Van Khoi party seized into Session An. Cong Du, Cong Tai and his son Hau Hi, Hau Dieu all accepted officials of the enemy. The discovery, the king of chromatic errors arrested about the interrogation sutra. Gong Du, the duke was sick and died. I'm Hou Hi and Hou Dieu are both imprisoned in sutras. After that, spared Hou Dieu to send a siamese detective, not to see back for a long time. Again spared Hou Hi to go to the upper part of Nghe An detective, go without work, return, thin, sick and die in Nghe An prison" (Dat, 2008). After this incident, the descendants of the Mac family were unable to settle in Ha Tien. The dead could not build beer and the living had to fly away and even change their names to escape the court. It was not until 1845 that King Thieu Tri ordered amnesty for the descendants of the Mac family, and at the same time, there was an order to find the descendants of the Mac family and to respect the talented.

The reason for King Thieu Tri's order of amnesty for the descendants of the Mac family was because earlier, Truong Dang Que University after going to the résumé to reorganize the rule in the localities that had just been at war (including Ha Tien region) told the king that: "At the beginning of the opening of Ha Tien land, Mac Thien Tu had good merit, so considering his descendants. He asked the descendants of Mac Thien Tu, who had the talent to use, just picked up. After that, Ha Tien's Lingu Nguyen Luong Nhan selected the main lineage as Mac Van Phong, which was standard for the main loss of the chief of staff, according to the wrong faction in that province" (Nguyen Dynasty National History, 2007). In this regard, the book *"The National Court of The Weak Border"* also noted the following: "In March, making the question to find the descendants of the Mac family. because Dr. Truong Dang Que University said: When previously expanding Ha Tien province, The Shogunate of Thien Tu was very much; Please use the descendants of the Mac family, do you make the question of the descendants of Mac Thien Tu have any names used? Ha Tien Government Leader Nguyen Luong

Nhan named Mac Van Phong as the main grandson of The Thien Tu faction. He gave The Warmth the dignity of the wrong provincial captain" (National history of the Nguyen Dynasty, 2013). Thus, although Mac Cong Du, Mac Cong Tai, Mac Hau Hi and Mac Hau Dieu committed a great sin of treason, in the end, because of thinking about the work of expanding the land of Mac Thien Tu, king Thieu Tri pardoned the descendants of the Mac family.

The process of establishing sovereignty over the waters of the Southwestern Island is in accord with international law and the principles of international law on sovereignty today

The southern land from very early on was the residence of many communities of different races. Around the beginning of AD, the people living in the South built the Phu Nam State. During the most prosperous period of development (V-VI century), Phu Nam rose to become a vast empire with many territories distributed in the southern Indochinese Peninsula and the Malacca Peninsula. In the early 7th century, at the time of Funan's decline, Chan Greece (which belongs to the kingdom of Phu Nam) attacked and invaded part of the empire's territory in the lower Mekong River. That part of the territory is equivalent to the land of the South today. It captured almost all of the southern lands, but over the next ten centuries (from the 7th to the 16th centuries) Greece failed to fully exercise its sovereignty over the land, causing the land to gradually demarcate. In the southern island sea and especially the southwest island waters due to the favorable natural conditions for agricultural production as well as the exploitation of natural resources, there are a small number of villages of the Khmer people or a few villages of the Vietnamese and Cha and Cha And live. It is worth noting that even if Chan Greece had developed into a strong nation and created a brilliant Angkorian civilization Chan Greece did not show any interest and conducted the probaton of the Southern lands (Le, 2001).

As evidenced by the fact that a Chinese diplomat (under King Thanh Tong, yuan dynasty) named Chau Dat Quan described the characteristics of the Southern lands in his memoirs after his porcelain trip to Chan Greece in 1296-1297: "Most of them were low forests. The river is long and wide, stretching for several hundred miles, the neck is dense, the clouds are overgrown, the birds are crowded with each other... The buffalo gathered in flocks of hundreds of thousands gathered there. Again, there is a land full of bamboo hundreds of miles long. That bamboo burned with thorns, bamboo shoots are very bitter" (Quan, 2006). The results of archaeological research also show that the archaeological relics bearing the footprints of The Foot of Greece on the Southern land are not much and the effects of Angkor civilization on the Southern land are not very bold. This is an important basis to affirm that the reception of the southwest island waters of Lord Nguyen from Chan Lang in the 18th century and legalization into his territory is right. This is because, according to the method of territorial gain due to appropriation as stipulated in current international law, the establishment of the sovereignty of a state is recognized as legitimate when it establishes or exercises its power over a territory that is not yet under the sovereignty of any state or an already owned territory that was then abandoned and returned to its original derelict state (Khai, 1998).

If by the 16th century, the South is still a desolate land, from the 17th century onwards has become a gathering place for many classes of people to settle down. "The most important component is the poor farmers and craftsmen in the outer provinces who are extreme, tormented by the scourge of war, because they are brutally exploited by the oppressed feudal class, unable to live, forced to leave their village homelands ... emigrate into distant new lands in search of a way to live" (Lua, 1987) in the hope of a good prospect. Besides, it is also necessary to mention "those who evade the draft, the exiled benefactors, the deserted or demobilized soldiers, the poor healers, the poor teachers ... and also those who are already wealthy but still want to find new land to expand their business" (Lua, 1987). In the new land, they have stepped up land exploration, agricultural economic development (mainly rice cultivation), villages and living I with Khmer communities.

In 1700, a Chinese man named Mac Cuu (Le Guo commune, Hai Khang district, Leizhou government, Guangdong province, China) after many years of living in Chan Lang and Siam came to the land of Mang Mosaic (Ha Tien) to gather the scattered population and set up villages. During the capture of The Hexi region, the Chan Greek government knew very well first but did not take any official protest action. This reinforces the notion that the Greek government has no conditions to exercise sovereignty over the land, or no longer cares or, more likely, no longer considers the Southern lands to be under its sovereignty. Under the management of Mac Cuu, Ha Tien "is increasingly prosperous, the people are settled, Ha Tien society is a civilized society" (Hoa, 1958). Despite having created a socio-economic base for Ha Tien, Mac Cuu frequently faced difficulties stemming from instability within the Himalayan dynasty as well as the growing threat of aggression from Siam. Mac Cuu donated the entire Ha Tien region to Lord Nguyen for the protection of the Da Nang government. Before the land offering of Mac Cuu, Lord Nguyen took over and placed Ha Tien town and then ordained Mac Cuu as general soldier to govern.

After receiving Ha Tien, the right domestic and foreign policies have helped the Da Nang government to accelerate the establishment of sovereignty over the southwest island waters. As a result, through the reception of the territories from the Chan Greek government, Lord Nguyen took turns controlling and mastering the entire southwest island waters. Typical can be mentioned the fact that King Chenla, Nac Nguyen, asked to donate the land of the two governments of Tăm Bon and Loi Lap to Lord Nguyen for atonement three years ago that had not yet submitted the tribute ceremony in 1756. Or the event in 1757, to repay the grace of Lord Nguyen who helped him to be crowned King of Nac Nhuan (heir to the throne of Nac Nguyen) to dedicate the land of Tra Vang (now Tra Vinh and Ben Tre) and Ba Tien (now Soc Trang and Bac Lieu) to Lord Nguyen (Hau, 1970). After that, Lord Nguyen continued to receive the land of Tam Phong Long (equivalent to the present-day Long Xuyen quadrangle) from Nac Ton. With the land offering of Nac Ton (1757), it seems that the entire Southern land was completely under the rule of Lord Nguyen, i.e. under the sovereignty of Vietnam. Also in 1757, Lord Nguyen Phuc Khoat received another year of the western town of Ha Tien from Chan Lang: Huong Uc, Can Vot, Chan Sum, Sai Mat, Linh Quynh. These palaces were originally offered thanks to Mac Thien Tu by The Sun after hey "Heavenly Four donated to the court" (Nguyen Dynasty's National History, 2002). Before the

transfer and reception of these territories between Chenla and Dang Trong, there were many times when Lord Nguyen's army had to cross the forest to wade streams to be present in the foot of Chenla and sometimes to get involved in the internal affairs of the Chenla people. Luo and against the pro-Siamese forces at the request of the Foot of Chenla kings (Oanh, 2008). Thus, by the middle of the 18th century (in 1757), when Lord Nguyen took over the lands west of Thuy Chan Lap, the whole land of Thuy Chan Lap was in fact under the rule of Lord Nguyen. The process of establishing Lord Nguyen's sovereignty over the southwest island waters took place with a peaceful and constructive nature. Therefore, it is impossible to simply conceive that the Vietnamese "take" the waters of the Southwest Island from Chenla people, in the context of the region and the world, there is no specific regulation or legal document regulating the issue of territorial sovereignty; and issues related to two or more countries are resolved on the basis of consensus between the governments of the parties (Hoang, 2009), the process of establishing sovereignty of the Nguyen lords over the southwest island waters is in line with historical practice. Moreover, in the context that the vast majority of countries in the world use military means to expand their territory, the efforts of the Dang Trong government should be viewed positively. On the other hand, if comparing the process of establishing the sovereignty of the Nguyen lords with the provisions of contemporary international law, this process is right. Current international law stipulates that, in the transfer of territory, the transferring state completely loses its sovereignty over the transferred territory and the transferring state begins to have full sovereignty over the transferred territory from the time of transfer (Tin, 1997). Therefore, the process of establishing the sovereignty of the Nguyen lords over the waters of the Southwest Island is by historical practice and by the provisions on sovereignty issues in international law today.

Conclusion

At the beginning of the eighteenth century, along with the process of expanding its territory to the Mekong Delta, the Nguyen lords' government simultaneously merged the Southwestern sea and islands into the territory of Dang Trong, Vietnam. It opened with Mac Cuu, the Chinese leader who "betrayed the Thanh to restore the Minh", offering the land of Ha Tien, which he had discovered, to the Nguyen Lord (1708) for protection; Until 1757, when Tam Phong Long area (the southernmost tip of Vietnam today) belonged to Lord Nguyen, the process of territorial expansion down to the Southwest was basically completed. It can be seen that in a century, the Nguyen lords had many flexible and clever policies in attracting Chinese forces to migrate in the context of the late Ming and early Qing dynasties, taking advantage of the conflict between Chenla and Siam, encouraging the Vietnamese to migrate, exploit the land... when the conditions are right, the government conducts mergers and acquisitions of administrative units.

That process bears a strong impression from the policies of Lord Nguyen, and at the same time, there are great contributions of the Mac family. From Mac Cuu, who had openly discovered the land of Ha Tien (now Ha Tien, Rach Gia, Ca Mau, Phu Quoc) and voluntarily merged that land into the territory of the Nguyen Lords, then Mac Thien Tu continued to be loyal to the Nguyen lords and played

an important role in completing the Southern cause of the Cochinchina government.

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