

Chiêu Hồi NEWSLETTER



CHIEU HOI DIVISION

OFFICE OF CIVIL OPERATIONS

UNITED STATES MISSION TO VIETNAM

32 Ngo Thoi Nhiem
SAIGON



chieu hoi

NEWSLETTER



CHIEU HOI NEWSLETTER

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In 1967 we are getting twice the number of ralliers who came in in 1966. While this is gratifying, it also could bring about certain problems which we wish to avoid. It increases the danger that the Chieu Hoi Program could degenerate into a mechanical processing of "bodies" and counting of numbers. If this were to happen, our success would be largely on paper, and on paper only.

What is vitally important -- as it has always been important in Vietnam -- is what is going on inside people's minds. If the Hoi Chanh are processed mechanically throughout the Chieu Hoi Program and emerge with no change in their mental and emotional outlook towards the war, the question could easily be raised as to what has really been accomplished. Thus the Chieu Hoi Program should never lose sight of its human side as it attempts to improve the mechanics of administration and processing. I noted recently that the Binh Duong Chieu Hoi Center has started a new ceremony for flag-lowering in which the Hoi Chanh, in formation, sing the National Anthem to the accompaniment of a single guitar. It was felt that this ceremony, carried out in this way, had emotional meaning for the Hoi Chanh.

I would hope that not only our advisors, but also psyops personnel in the Provinces and Regions will be increasingly alert to the psychological, emotional and ideological implications of what we do in the Chieu Hoi Program and how the Hoi Chanh are handled. Management, or administration, is not the same thing as leadership, and we must do everything possible to make the Chieu Hoi experience meaningful and significant to the Hoi Chanh who are increasingly coming to the Government's side in 1967. Otherwise, the Chieu Hoi returnee rates which superficially make it appear that the program is succeeding could in fact cause its defeat.

OGDEN WILLIAMS
Assistant Director for Chieu Hoi
OCO - Saigon

*****ANOTHER TESTIMONIAL FOR THE CHIEU HOI PROGRAM FROM THE VIET CONG*****

**EXCERPTS FROM TRANSLATION OF SOUTH VIETNAM LIBERATION
ARMY POLITICAL DEPARTMENT REFERENCE DOCUMENT ON
COUNTER MEASURES AGAINST ENEMY PSYWAR AND
CHIEU HOI ACTIVITIES ---**

The Chieu Hoi psywar is a vital activity and constitutes the national policy in the neo-colonial war. The "nature" of the U.S. and their lackeys is "reactionary aggression" and lack of a just cause. For this reason, psywar also reflects this nature. The plots and tricks in the current psywar are many. Basically, they are deceptive, demagogic, subversive, and coercive and are intended to deal a blow to our morale, ideology, and ranks.

--We tend to underrate enemy delusive propaganda themes. Many persons commonly listen to enemy radio broadcasts and read enemy publications.

--We are not fully aware of the dangerous and harmful effects of enemy psywar, which is intended to deepen the schools of thought of enjoying life, balking at making sacrifice and enduring hardship. This is attributed to inadequate ideological indoctrination and lax political activity which make some people vulnerable to enemy propaganda.

--Desertion within the ranks of the armed forces are frequent and rise at an alarming rate. Most of the deserters return to their local areas. But deserters-traitors are many and exist everywhere. Some cases of desertion are extremely dangerous, such as desertions taking place prior to the launching of an attack. Such desertions adversely affect the outcome of the battle. (Some deserters, prior to going over to the enemy, assassinated our cadre and men, stole secret documents, and later led the enemy into our area for destruction.)

--The foregoing desertions were motivated by a variety of causes, one of which was the "Chieu Hoi" psywar influence. Little emphasis had been placed on countering this enemy psywar effort when it was still at the beginning stage.

SPECIFIC ACTIONS FOR COUNTERATTACK AGAINST CHIEU HOI PSYWAR ACTIVITIES:

--Point out the dangerous characteristics of the enemy plan which has the ability of ruining us politically and ideologically. It sows among our cadre and soldiers the bad seeds of pleasure-loving, fear of hardships, fear of sacrifice, etc. They dig deep into these erroneous thoughts and try to debase our fighting spirit. This may lead a certain number of persons, who are still politically immature, to abandon the revolutionary ranks, or worse still, to betray the fatherland by serving the interests of the enemy. The struggle against the enemy psywar and Chieu Hoi campaign is also a class struggle on the ideological and

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and psychological plane. This struggle is a long-range, complicated struggle. It consists of indoctrinating the masses to heighten their class-consciousness, pointing out the enemy's fallacious arguments and building a close well-organized ideological leadership among our ranks.

--Conduct regular propaganda and indoctrination activities to heighten the class consciousness and sense of vigilance of the people; strengthen the fighting spirit of cadre and soldiers, imbue them with a high sense of resentment against the enemy and uphold their strong belief in the victory of the revolution. This is the essential point in the basic problem of helping cadre and soldiers to see the difference between friend and foe, and strengthen their viewpoint in combat and their determination to fight.

--When the enemy propaganda themes reach the unit we must be on hand to gather and study documents concerning these themes; on the other hand, we must try to lay bare the enemy's deceitful and fallacious arguments before the public. We should never think that their propaganda is not dangerous - because though their propaganda does not exert an immediate disastrous influence on the masses, its influence is slow and very penetrating and, under certain conditions, it will grow very dangerous.

--Parallel with indoctrination, it is necessary to draft a "thought control" plan in accordance with the current situation, each individual, and each task. In the struggle against the enemy psychological warfare and "Chieu Hoi" activities, the ideological leadership must be highly emphasized, especially when the unit encounters much hardship and difficulty in combat and the performance of missions, or when the fight between ourselves and the enemy becomes fierce, or the unit sustains great casualties.

--Closely control the ideology of persons who have a complex political background, or poor political knowledge in order to motivate or help them solve their ideological problems.

--When the units operate or bivouac in areas where the political situation is complicated, and enemy psychological warfare and Chieu Hoi activities are being stepped up, cadre are required to constantly examine the enemy psychological effect on our units in an effort to formulate a counter-plan.

--Units operating or bivouacking in a given area must closely coordinate with the local party committee or security element to fully understand the enemy psychological warfare and "Chieu Hoi" schemes in the area. Coordinate with local areas to motivate families with sons working for the revolution, help them to realize the glorious duty of their sons and to develop confidence in the revolution, so that they can encourage their sons.

A successful struggle against enemy psychological warfare and "Chieu Hoi" will contribute to the strengthening of our armed forces and to the accomplishment of the mission assigned by the Party.

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**REGION I's IMPRESSIVE CY-67
CHIEU HOI PROGRAM PLAN**

Around the middle of April Chieu Hoi Division received from Region I a most impressive planning document. A great deal of the credit belongs to the Acting Assistant Director for Chieu Hoi, Region I, Mr. Fernando delos Santos, although many other persons contributed.

This plan establishes precise and attainable goals for all phases of the program: reception, training and rehabilitation, inducement and psyops, tactical use of Hoi Chanh, resettlement, follow-up and administration.

Region I has been asked to make copies of this document available for distribution to the other three regions, including their provinces.

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**NOTES FROM APRIL CHIEU HOI
CONFERENCE - REGION III**

The monthly meeting of the Region III Chieu Hoi Advisors was held in Phan Thiet April 11. These signs of progress were reported:

--Binh Tuy is mounting an active psyops program in the districts by using ex-Hoi Chanh to do the work and paying them with Food for Peace commodities.

--In Long An, the Armed Propaganda Teams have been very active and have done good work.

--Long Khanh has constructed a good well and is benefitting from rice supplies captured from the VC during the Cedar Falls Operations. The Province Chief strongly supports the program. There is no problem about arms, because the Province Chiefs require that all VC weapons brought in by Hoi Chanh be made available to the Chieu Hoi Center.

--In Phuoc Tuy, the Australian forces are giving considerable help to the Center, including a dentist who makes periodic calls. The Aussies also contributed prefab buildings for the Chieu Hoi hamlet. The Hoi Chanh have been busy manufacturing blocks and selling them to various users.

--Tay Ninh fully utilizes its APT, there is a good building program, and there is improvement in follow-up reporting.

--In Vung Tau, English language classes are held for Hoi Chanh, to help qualify them for jobs.

--In Vinh Long, the International Voluntary Service and Special Forces provide English language classes. There may be an opportunity to employ many Hoi Chanh workers at local rubber plantations.

--In Phuoc Long, the returnee rate is improving. The Chieu Hoi Advisor personally visited 40 ex-Hoi Chanh families in the follow-up program and arranged for distribution of OCO materials to them. The possibility of a charcoal-manufacturing project is under study.

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IDEAS FROM REGION III

BINH DUONG Center, for greater security, constructed five bunkers and two outposts, cleared 350 square meters of ground, and built three rows of concentric wire for 4,000 feet around the Center's perimeter.

BINH LONG -- the Chieu Hoi cadre and the APT have been going to both insecure and secure hamlets daily, except Saturday afternoons and Sunday.

BINH TUY * A member of the Chieu Hoi staff, Mr. Phan Tru, was designated by the Chieu Hoi Chief as Chieu Hoi Hamlet Development Worker. His specific job is to work with the villagers on plans for development, and to secure technical and material assistance from the government necessary to implement the plans.

* The Chieu Hoi Chief plans to hold regular monthly meetings with Hoi Chanh in three districts, to organize them to undertake psyops missions, to identify their rehabilitation and welfare problems, and to update the census of ex-Hoi Chanh.

* An active psyops program is being mounted in the districts by using ex-Hoi Chanh to do the work and paying them with Food for Peace commodities.

LONG KHANH * Is benefiting from rice supplies given the returnees from stocks captured in Operation Cedar Falls. All weapons brought in by Hoi Chanh are to be made available to the Chieu Hoi Center for use by the APT.

* All returnees settled in the Dinh Quang District of Long Khanh were called into a meeting at the District Chieu Hoi Office where they were asked to assist in the psyops campaign. This meeting also provided an

opportunity to determine which of them needed jobs.

* Seven pigs were provided to the Center by the S-5 of the 11th Cavalry. Purpose of the project is to teach improved methods of swine culture. The plan is to furnish one weanling to each Hoi Chanh when he leaves the Center. Each Hoi Chanh, in turn, will be expected at some point to return one weanling to the Center.

PHUOC TUY Province * A public rally was held at which four Hoi Chanh spoke of the advantages they derived from coming in to the GVN. The MACV S-5 Advisor provided water purifiers to insure a supply of safe drinking water at all times. These are used in connection with two large drums with welded faucets.

* The Australian Task Force has contributed four prefab houses as the beginning of the provincial Chieu Hoi Hamlet.

* Three members of the APT were awarded silver or bronze medals for their success in tactical operations.

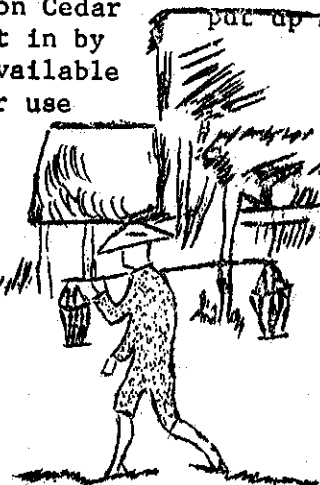
* The OCO Office purchased 4,000 hollow blocks made by Hoi Chanh in Phuoc Tuy.

TAY NINH * The Chieu Hoi Center expanded its barbed wire fence to enclose the entire compound, cleared the surrounding area of brush, and put up more guard posts.

* 45 Hoi Chanh were taken on a field trip to the Thanh Dien Resettlement Project being undertaken by PHILCAGV. 100 homelots, 930 square meters each, are earmarked for returnees.

* Volleyball matches were held between Hoi Chanh and PHILCAGV teams on two Sundays in March.

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DELTA DOINGS

By Major Philip Russell Burns
Region IV - Can Tho

VINH BINH - Hoi Chanh voluntarily constructed a wheelchair for a child who lost both legs in a VC terrorist act in TRA ON District in Vinh Binh during October 1966.

The child now resides in Can Tho and is able to go to and from school with the aid of the wheelchair.

PHONG DINH - At the instigation of the Chieu Hoi Advisor, Ben Fajardo, an Emergency Employment Committee has been set up in PHONG DINH with representatives of the Province Chief, the Labor Service Chief, the Social Welfare Chief, and the Chieu Hoi Chief

The Committee aims to locate employment vacancies and employ Hoi Chanh.

CHOUNG THIEN - A 90-day Home Economics demonstration has been arranged whereby a home economics demonstrator from the Education Service and a health worker will instruct Hoi Chanh women on the proper preparation of food and correct sanitation for kitchen, food-stuffs and utensils.

The team will prepare a demonstration family meal each day for 90 days.

CHAU DOC - To overcome the shortage of beds and the high cost of lumber, the Chieu Hoi Chief has constructed double deck beds from rebar provided by OCO (NLD).

The beds are sturdy and functional. Hoi Chanh cut and shape the rebar and this is then welded down town. Other furniture constructed include desks, tables, chairs and bookshelves.

Through the intelligent use of imagination Mr. HEN has overcome the age old problem of "lack of funds to purchase furniture."

PHONG DINH - Hoi Chanh have developed a thriving "car wash" where vehicles from OCO, ARVN and GVN offices are washed. They are about to construct a concrete "washway."

BAC LIEU - Hoi Chanh who are to live in the Chieu Hoi Hamlet are so anxious that they work at night on the foundation -- their light - the moonlight!

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REGION IV BRINGS THEM IN

During March Region IV led all others in the number of Hoi Chanh, with 1,468 out of the total of 5,557. Major Philip Burns, Assistant Director for Chieu Hoi in Can Tho attributes the unusually successful results to the Ap Doi Moi and Revolutionary Development program, and to the fact that the Armed Propaganda Teams are now more active and becoming increasingly effective. While normal leaflet drops and aerial broadcasts continue, increased emphasis is being placed on the use of the APT and face-to-face contact by Hoi Chanh.

In Bac Lieu the APT were employed in five teams and deployed to the districts to work villages and hamlets. In Kien Giang the joint Chieu Hoi and S-5 (VN) Cultural Team continued to perform in the districts, disseminating Chieu Hoi information along with entertainment. In Kien Hoa the 41st Cultural Drama Team traveled extensively during the period 8-23 March, performing in six villages and 10 hamlets to a total audience of 10,300. Twelve Hoi Chanh

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were utilized to lead an APT operation in the Ba Tri District.

In Kien Phong, Hoi Chanh letters were distributed and three members of the APT were responsible for the return of three Hoi Chanh. In Phong Dinh, the APT distributed 780 inducement letters written by Hoi Chanh and 534 letters written by school children. In Vinh Long, APT and 40 returnees disseminated Chieu Hoi and election information.

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MORE FROM REGION IV

By Paul J. Turner

Region IV - Kien Giang

PONY EXPRESS - Chieu Hoi and Psyops advisors in Kien Giang Province have given a new twist to the famed exploits of America's Pony Express mailmen. Daily, Hoi Chanh at the Rach Gia Chieu Hoi Center have an opportunity to write their personal testimonies about rallying. Each is furnished a pen and blank JUSPAO "Stationery" paper. He writes a brief message on one side of the paper explaining that he has rallied and that the Chieu Hoi program is as stated by the GVN. Each written leaflet is placed into a raffle box and a prize given to the lucky Hoi Chanh at a drawing held the end of each month. (This encourages each to write a maximum number of leaflets. Some write as many as 400, the average is 65.)

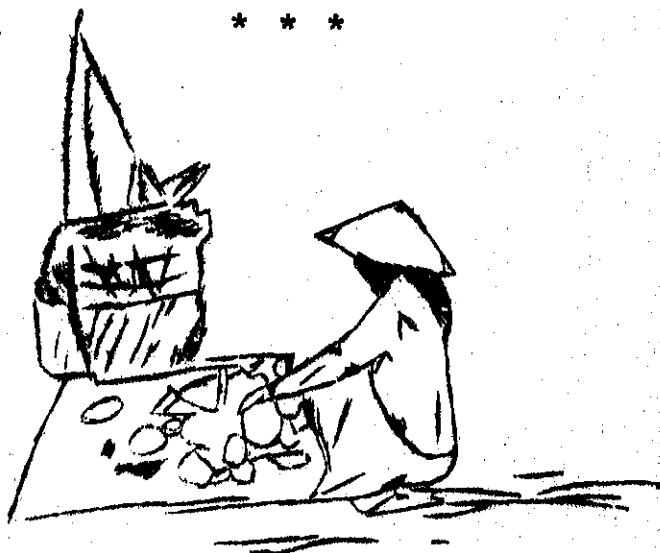
The leaflets, several thousand each month, are re-sorted into individual stacks and marked with the exact location of the man's last home. This location is then converted into the grid coordinates of a pilot's map of the area. Each stack is

wrapped and bound with a rubber band to which a six-foot draw string is attached. The addressed packages are then taken to the air strip from which three Forward Air Control (FAC) pilots operate, and displayed in large flat containers, so each package's coordinates are readily visible. The FAC's use these coordinates as ZIP codes and drop the leaflets precisely on target. The draw string was added to help get the small packages out of the plane's slip stream.

KEEPING IN TOUCH - Another recent innovation at the Rach Gia Center is a simple mimeographed form which each Hoi Chanh completes during his initial processing. The form is printed in Vietnamese on the right half and English on the left. Basic information is easily converted to English to permit monthly studies of trends in age, amount of time spent in Communist ranks, marital status, education, reasons for rallying, effectiveness of psywar materials, etc. Special leaflet appeals that are locally produced use themes based on the trends that are apparent from these studies.

(SEE FOLLOWING PAGE FOR SAMPLE FORM)

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HOI CHANH BASIC INFORMATION FORM

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

DATE RALLIED _____ PLACE _____

DATE ARRIVED CENTER _____ DAYS _____

AGE _____ OCCUPATION _____

DATE JOINED VC _____

JOB IN VC _____

	YES	NO
MARRIED?	_____	_____
CHILDREN?	_____	_____
DID YOU USE WEAPON?	_____	_____
HAVE ALL THE TIME?	_____	_____
ISSUED WHEN NEEDED?	_____	_____
BRING IN WEAPON?	_____	_____
RECEIVE WEAPON AWARD?	_____	_____
SEE LEAFLETS?	_____	_____
BRING IN LEAFLETS?	_____	_____
HEAR SPEAKER AIRCRAFT?	_____	_____
GO TO SCHOOL?	_____	_____
HOW MANY YEARS? _____		
WHY DID YOU RALLY? _____		

(I) WHY COULDN'T YOU BRING WEAPON?

Comments _____

TEN HO _____

DIA CHI CHO O _____

NGAY HOI CHANH _____ TAI _____

NGAY DEN TRUNG TAM _____

BAO NHIEU TUOI _____ NGHE NGHIEP _____

_____ NGAY GIA NHAP VC _____

LAM VIEC GI CHO VC _____

	CO	KHONG
CO VO CHUA?	_____	_____
CO BAO NHIEU CON?	_____	_____
CO XU DUNG VU KHI KHONG?	_____	_____
CO DUOC GIU VU KHI LUON	_____	_____
LUON KHONG	_____	_____
HOAC CHI DUOC V-KHI KHI CAN	_____	_____
CO MANG VU KHI VE HOI	_____	_____
CHANH KHONG	_____	_____
CO NHAN DUOC PHAN THUONG	_____	_____
VE VU KHI CHUA?	_____	_____
CO THAY TRUYEN DON KHONG	_____	_____
CO MANG TRUYEN DON VE	_____	_____
KHONG	_____	_____
CO NGHE PHONG THANH TU	_____	_____
TREN MAY BAY KHONG?	_____	_____
CO DI HOC KHONG?	_____	_____
BAO NHIEU NAM? _____		
TAI SAO ANH HOI CHANH? _____		

(I) LY DO TAI SAO KHONG MANG VU KHI?

GHI CHU _____

WHAT'S THE SCORE?

After exceeding 1,000 per week for seven straight weeks, the returnee intake rate was reduced to 693 during the week ending April 14, 1967. The reduction is attributed to the tapering off of the TET spirit, the end of the special Chieu Hoi/TET psyops campaign, a state of unease during elections, and the slackening of military contact with the VC/NVA during recent weeks as compared to March.

As of 14 April, a total of 12,444 Viet Cong had returned to the GVN since 1 January, compared with 6,481 during the comparable period in 1966. This year's intake is now 61.5 percent of 1966's total, and the 1967 weekly average is 829.6.

For the 15 weeks of 1967, Region IV led with 4,002. Regions III and II were close, with 3,829 and 3,814 respectively, while Region I trailed with 799.

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MEDICAL SERVICE FOR HOI CHANH

The promise to Hoi Chanh, direct or implied, that they will receive medical attention in the Chieu Hoi Centers, is being fulfilled in many or most provinces. Chieu Hoi Advisors in Regions II and IV reported the following medical activity during March:

In Binh Dinh the U.S. Air Force Medical Team held sick calls and examined 500 returnees during the period 8-14 March alone. Dr. Blum of the 85th Evac Hospital treated sick Hoi Chanh three times during the same period.

In Binh Dinh a MEDCAP Team conducts consultations on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings at the Center, in coordination with the local Health Service, which provides attendants to help distribute medicines. This team gave anti-cholera shots to all Hoi Chanh and the Chieu Hoi cadre. Organized groups of Hoi Chanh perform daily policing in and around the Center to maintain sanitation. The 1st Cavalry Civic Action Team helped spray insecticides all over the place once a week during March to insure that no epidemic spreads in the Center. The 1st Cav men also provided potable drinking water to the Center twice a week.

In Darlac a mobile medical unit of the Provincial Health Service, composed of three medics and three nurses, now includes the Chieu Hoi Center and Hamlet in its rounds. The unit distributes medicines and insecticides, and administers anti-cholera and anti-plague shots.

In Phu Bon returnees are reported to receive satisfactory care by medics from the provincial hospital. In Phu Yen the 39th U.S. Engineer Battalion Medical Team and the Korean Medical Team held sick calls at the Center on 9 and 13 March. In Pleiku, U.S. and GVN health personnel take turns in treating Hoi Chanh at the Chieu Hoi Center and emphasize to Hoi Chanh the importance of sanitation. Personnel of Pacific Architects and Engineers, Inc., have assisted with spraying and dusting, and by instructing returnees in the fine art of ridding quarters and clothing of lice.

In Ninh Thuan the Chieu Hoi Cadre reciprocated by assisting medics of the 101st Airborne Brigade in conducting sick calls in four districts.

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In Ba Xuyen a medical assistant was assigned to the Center

In Kien Hoa all returnees were inoculated against cholera, and in Kien Phong several returnees were treated for old bullet wounds by a MILPHAP team.

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BINH DUONG PROVIDES COMPLETE MEDICAL SERVICE FOR HOI CHANH

Binh Duong may not provide medical service for its Hoi Chanh from the cradle to the grave, but this province does offer the most complete medical service to its returnees yet reported to Chieu Hoi Division.

Every Thesday the PHILCAGV medical-Surgical Team, consisting of a doctor, nurse, medical technician and attendant, visits the Binh Duong Chieu Hoi Center and conducts sick call. The PHILCAGV Dental Team visited the Center three times during March, and its work was augmented by a dental team from the U.S. Army's 1st Division which visits the Center every Thursday and Saturday to provide additional medical care and instruct the returnees on personal hygiene.

The PHILCAGV teams also extend their services to Hau Nghia, visiting the Center there twice a week with a combination medical-dental team. A Seabee medical technician also helps look after the medical needs of the Center. And, of course, the Filipino medics take care of their home province, visiting the Tay Ninh Center with a medical-dental team every Sunday. During March, 20 returnees were sent to the Tay Ninh Provincial Hospital for further care

by Filipino doctors, and daily medical treatment is provided by two members of the Armed Propaganda Team.

The Korean Medical Team lends its services to Chieu Hoi, conducting a Clinic in the Chieu Hoi Hamlet in Binh Tuy every Monday, in the Phuoc Tuy Center every Thursday, and at the Vung Tau Center once a week. The 34th Battery of the 83rd Artillery (U.S.) which recently has chosen the Chieu Hoi program as a Civic Action project, provides a medical checkup for returnees at the Phuoc Tuy Center every Monday and Thursday, while the Australian Task Force sends its dentist every Tuesday morning.

In Long An a USAID doctor conducts sick call once a week, and Long Khanh is served once a week by a medical team from the U.S. Special Forces once a week.

Region IV reports that the medical services afforded the returnees continues at a high standard. An additional medical assistant has been assigned to the Center.

In Binh Dinh Province of Region II, the U.S. Air Force Medical Team held sick call and examined 500 returnees during the period 8-14 March alone, while Dr. Blum of the 85th Evacuation Hospital treated sick returnees three times during the same period.

In Binh Thuan, a MEDCAP Team conducted medical consultations Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings at the Center, in coordination with the Public Health Service.

In Darlac a mobile medical unit of the Provincial Health Service, composed of three medics and three nurses, has



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included the Chieu Hoi Center and Hamlet in its rounds. The team distributes medicines and insecticides and administers anti-cholera and anti-plague shots to one and all.

In Pleiku U.S. and GVN health personnel took turns treating Hoi Chanh at the Center and impressed upon them the importance of sanitation.

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ID CARD PROBLEM SOLVED IN TWO PROVINCES

One of the toughest problems in the Chieu Hoi Program, securing issuance of permanent ID Cards to returnees within sixty days from the time they rally, evidently can be solved. Tay Ninh Province reported in March that, for the first time permanent ID Cards were issued to returnees upon their release from the Chieu Hoi Center. Long An reported issuance of 66 permanent ID Cards during one month; however, this evidently did not include all Hoi Chanh who were released during the month.

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FIND JOBS FOR HOI CHANH

Chieu Hoi Division is mounting a stronger effort, beginning in April, to find jobs for Hoi Chanh now in the Centers and for ex-Hoi Chanh released from the Centers at any time in the past. A successful program will require cooperation among many GVN/FWMAF agencies and a great deal of hard work.

The necessity for an improved employment program is clear. Many returnees have said that many other Viet Cong wish to take advantage of

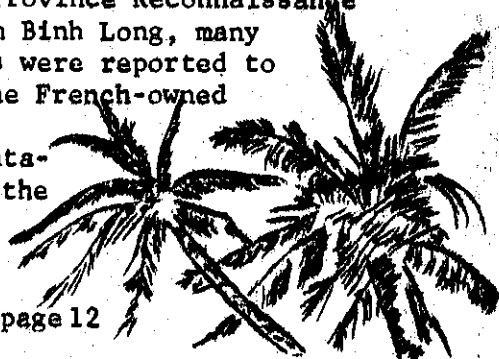
the GVN's Chieu Hoi offer, but do not come in because they have heard that they would experience difficulty in finding a means of earning a living. If employment is not provided, the word will inevitably get back to the VC through the jungle grapevine, and the returnee rate will remain below its potential.

OCO's Regional Directors and Provincial Representatives have been asked to organize some kind of a working group to devise a system for vocational placement of Hoi Chanh. The working group might consist of a high-ranking representative of the Province Chief, the Chief of the Chieu Hoi Service, the Chief of whatever GVN employment service may exist, and representatives of the National Police, and the OCO/ProvRep, including the Chieu Hoi Advisor. The job of this group would be to establish an organized employment system for placing Hoi Chanh in contact with prospective employers. They should hold meetings with representatives of all prospective employers in the area, governmental or private, to solicit their cooperation.

Details are provided in Chieu Hoi Division, OCO, Operational Memorandum No. 33-67, dated April 13, 1967.

Provinces are beginning to demonstrate that jobs can be found for returnees. Binh Duong Province reports that 1,500 vacancies exist at the Quan Loi Rubber Plantation, 15 with a Province Reconnaissance Unit. From Binh Long, many vacant jobs were reported to exist at the French-owned Red Earth Rubber Plantation, with the company agreeing to

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furnish houses in relatively secure areas, and not requiring permanent ID Cards.

In Long An Province, released Hoi Chanh were hired as laborers and carpenters by a U.S. Sea Bee Team to work on construction projects. In Vung Tau OCO agreed to employ one Hoi Chanh as a driver and another as a mechanic.

A study in Binh Duong shows that 135 returnees released from the Center in March, 17 resettled in the Chieu Hoi Hamlet, 14 joined the Popular Forces, 9 joined the APT, 8 joined ARVN, 5 went into training as Chieu Hoi cadre, 3 joined the U.S. Army's 1st Division labor force, and 15 were being trained as medical technicians for work with MEDCAP. OCO hired one as a driver and was considering another as a gardenar.

In Chau Doc, 30 Hoi Chanh were employed in the Rural Reconstruction Service. OCO Kien Phong employed 3 as security guards.

In Phong Dinh the Province Chief has requested selection of 20 Hoi Chanh to serve as a Provincial Information Team; 33 are to be employed in the Rural Reconstruction Service; and the Public Health Division of OCO has requested two Hoi Chanh to be trained as Medical Equipment Mechanics, with this number later to be increased to 6.

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ARTICLE VII (CONSTRUCTION) FUNDS RELEASED BY MINISTRY

During the last week of April, checks from the Ministry of Information and Chieu Hoi finally began flowing to the provinces to finance expansion of existing Chieu Hoi Centers

and construction of a few new ones. A total of \$VN 55,875,000 is available for this purpose. This is almost six times the amount available for this purpose in CY-1966.

Amounts allocated to provinces range from \$VN 250,000 to \$VN 9,250,000. Chieu Hoi Division/OCO urges that construction expansion projects be started immediately and completed as early in the year as possible.

With the funds now available, Chieu Hoi services in the provinces will be able to construct Centers capable of handling approximately 42,000 returnees and dependents per year. Adequate Centers can be constructed if the Public Works Service of the province assumes responsibility, if OCO/USAID commodities are provided in requisite quantities, and if Hoi Chanh labor is used.

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AUSTRALIAN SUPPORT OF CHIEU HOI

This month in two separate presentations to the Ministry of Information and Chieu Hoi, Ambassador Edwards of the Australian Embassy commented in part that:

"At the Manila Summit Conference in October 1966, the Australian Government, with other participating nations, welcomed the Government of Vietnam's announcement that it was preparing a programme of national reconciliation and its declaration of determination to open all doors to those Vietnamese who had been misled or coerced into casting their lot with the Viet Cong.

"Australia has given assistance to the Chieu Hoi program for some time. Major Burns and Major Briers are at present working with Vietnamese officers in Regions III & IV,

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and Major Salas recently ended his tour of duty with this program."

The two presentations of equipment by the Australian Government to the Government of Vietnam included:

4 vehicles
25 mimeograph machines
hundreds of first aid packets.

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CHIEU HOI IN THE NEWS

Dr. Bernd Nielsen-Stokkeby of West German Television will go aloft to film a leaflet dropping expedition the last weekend in April; also hopes to get film coverage of airborne loud-speaker campaign designed to bring in returnees from the Viet Cong. He will also visit a Chieu Hoi Center for TV coverage of how returnees spend their 45-60 day rehabilitation period.

Correspondents from round the world visit the Chieu Hoi Saigon office to get a briefing on the program, and the results of their efforts show up later in articles appearing in newsprint and magazines -- that produced by the gentleman who visited us this week from the Vatican we will probably never see -- but the following have come our way:

From the NEW YORK TIMES --

"A specialist who has spent two years interviewing several hundred Vietcong defectors has made a convincing case that in his Mekong River delta province increasing Vietcong hit-and-run attacks on pacification workers and Government-held towns and provincial capitals are acts of desperation-- a prelude to disintegration."

The NEW YORK TIMES also compares the estimated \$322,000 we spend to kill each enemy with the \$150 per Hoi Chanh in 1966.

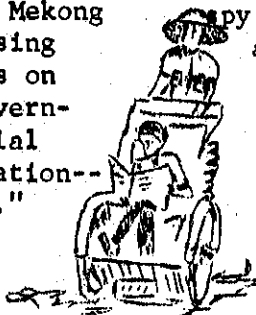
NEWSWEEK closes a two-column article titled "With Open Arms" by saying: "Let's face it," says one American. "Most defectors come in because they feel they are more likely to get killed with the VC." But whatever its causes, the surge in Viet Cong defections seems to be open to only one interpretation. "This trend," says a U.S. official flatly, "means that the Viet Cong know they are not winning the war."

STARS & STRIPES under the heading "Former VC May Form Work Units," says: "With Viet Cong defections running at more than double last year's rate, the South Vietnamese government is studying plans to use them temporarily in 'national service battalions' on road repairs and other public works projects."

THE ARMY REPORTER, Tan Son Nhut, Vietnam, April 1, reports on the 72 Montagnards who turned themselves in to military authorities here recently in what was termed one of the largest single groups of persons to take advantage of the Chieu Hoi program in Binh Dinh Province.

THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS picked up the story of the Vietnamese girl who came into a Chieu Hoi Center on assignment to seduce the center's director and serve as a Viet Cong spy, but who failed in her advances and instead became a Hoi Chanh.

Major Robert Salas of the Australian Army attached an article from the front page of THE AGE of Melbourne titled "Record 5557 Leave Viet Cong



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Ranks." His letter commenting on the article states:

"The attached from the front page of one of our leading dailies gives an idea of the growing interest here in Chieu Hoi. In one media or another I should say that the programme gets a mention in Australia about once weekly. Six months ago they'd never heard of the bloody programme.

"The Chieu Hoi idea seems also to nonplus the anti-Vietnam mob ("Vietniks") who are used to regarding all foreign soldiers serving in Vietnam as blood crazed murderers. The idea of the Chieu Hoi programme as an attempt to save lives or prevent killing buggers them completely. I suggest that you get your mob to emphasize the programme much more in official world wide publicity releases."

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EX-VIET CONG HELP DEFEAT VC

During March Chieu Hoi returnees in all four regions continued to provide intelligence and tactical assistance to the military forces of the GVN and its Allies. Reporting of specific incidents of assistance were spotty, but sufficiently widespread to show that returnees are being utilized effectively in the military effort.

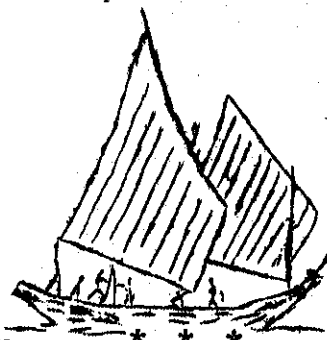
A returnee loaned by Khanh Hoa to Cam Ranh identified five VC among refugees in Cam Ranh, and their names were passed on to the Special Police Branch. In Kontum returnees were sent out on missions with the APT. In Pleiku units of the 4th Division conducted daily interrogation of returnees for combat intelligence purposes and an intelligence net was organized in the Chieu Hoi Village by intelligence units operating in provinces.

In Long An ten returnees were used as guides in GVN/US military operations resulting in several VC killed and the capture of ammo and explosives from the enemy. Returnees also furnished information of tactical value with regard to VC units and activities in VC-controlled areas.

In Long Khanh two returnees were utilized for several days as guides in military operations. A 10-man APT operated in cooperation with the 18th ARVN Division for one week, and on one day encountered a VC unit, killing two VC and wounding one. In Phuoc Long, returnees are now being used as guides by troops engaged in pacification operations in the Duc Phong District.

VUNG TAU * MACV provided insecticides and soap to the Hoi Chanh enabling them to keep the Center clean. The mayor sold American rice to the Center at \$VN 460 for 46 kilograms, or \$VN 10 per kg. Returnees are taken to the Vung Tau beach for recreation, and arrangements have been made for them to attend shows at a local theater -- gratis.

* Returnees are being taught English to help them get good jobs. English classes are held in Binh Long by the International Voluntary Service and Special Forces.



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In Phuoc Tuy an ex-VC gave information to provincial authorities on a cache of VC supplies and a follow-up operation netted a cache of rice, four VC were captured, and valuable documents were obtained in an operation in the mountains around Phuoc-Loi village. In another instance the First Australian Task Force escorted a returnee to the jungles where there were suspected VC forces and had him broadcast a call to his comrades to return -- some did.

In Tay Ninh, two Hoi Chanh were utilized as guides, one by the 196th Light Brigade, and one by Special Forces. During one month 21 returnees were utilized for military and tactical purposes.

In Binh Duong a team of experienced interrogators were 1st Division, U.S. Army is presently assigned to the Chieu Hoi Center where it operates in a newly-constructed building modelled after a Provincial Interrogation Center.

During March the APT, along with sub-sector soldiers engaged in clearing operations, captured three VC suspects. Two returnees are being used by 1st Division to pinpoint enemy tunnels and probable caches along the boundary of Binh Duong and Bien Hoa Provinces. In Binh Tuy, during March, one returnee was used as a guide, five as locators of VC bases; and three furnished intelligence information of value to military operations.

Region IV reported that in An Xuyen two returnees were utilized as guides by ARVN in an operation which led to the capture of 28 weapons. In Ba Xuyen, five returnees were recruited into a Province Reconnaissance Unit and five more were undergoing probation. In Bac Lieu, returnees were being extensively exploited in operations in Vinh My area. Hoi Chanh gave information resulting in 35 VC killed in action. These Hoi Chanh later identified leading VC cadre among the PWs. In Kien Giang, two returnees guided a Popular Forces unit to a cache of 500 bags of VC rice, and a Hoi Chanh was cited for his cooperation with the 9th Infantry Division in an operation which resulted in five VC KIA, two taken as PWs, and the seizure of five rifles.

In Kien Hoa, 12 Hoi Chanh were utilized in leading APT operations in Ba Tri District, while 14 members of the APT in a 7-day operation accomplished three VC KIA, captured three PWs, seized one rifle, 300 rounds of ammo, a mine, two grenades, 500 items of medical supplies and three kilos of documents, and destroyed 29 tunnels and trenches. In Kien Tuong the APT ambushed a squad of VC, killing four and capturing two weapons, while in Phong Dinh eight Hoi Chanh were used as guides in separate operations.

Late in March the Assistant Director for Chieu Hoi, Region IV, inquired of Vietnamese members and U.S. Advisors of the three ARVN Divisions as to whether Hoi Chanh enlisted in ARVN were proving to be good soldiers and were employed in special roles. The consensus was that Hoi Chanh are good soldiers, although not necessarily outstanding, and that invariably every operation employs Hoi Chanh as guides and scouts. The returnees receive equal pay and stand in the same pay and mess lines as the soldiers. U.S. forces from the 9th Division in Dong Tam and Dinh Tuong were expected to employ returnees at the point where more extensive operations are launched.

GVN PROCLAMATION OF NATIONAL RECONCILIATION POLICY

(A translation of Prime Minister Nguyen-Cao-Ky's message on the National Reconciliation Policy - April 19, 1967, follows:)

My dear fellow Vietnamese,

Today on Hung Vuong day, when the entire nation is reminded of its origins, the Government solemnly announces its course of action and its policy concerning the National Reconciliation Program to be put into effect throughout the country.

With the Constitution as a base, the National Reconciliation Program is a part of a campaign for the attainment of our national objectives. This objective is to accomplish reforms within the framework of historical continuity to liberate the nation and to free the people. The three guiding principles of the National Reconciliation Program are National Community, National Concord and National Progress.

The principles of National Community is based on the fact that our ties of blood demand us to have tolerance rather than hatred. This principle aims at bringing together all the Vietnamese into a tightly-knit bloc to defend the country, to preserve the spiritual heritage bequeathed on us by our forefathers, and at the same time to strive and keep up with the rate of progress of mankind in this second half of the Twentieth Century. This principle requires that we reject the communist-proposed divorce from our traditions. For indeed this denial of the past will bring the nation and the individual into the pit of extermination and slavery.

The principle of National Concord, which aims at restoring the life of harmony that had been worked out by our ancestors after so much hardship, will establish the foundation of our democratic regime. In an atmosphere of peace and harmony, all disagreements and differences will be expressed, not through the use of steel and not at the cost of bloodshed, but rather through democratic procedures.

The principle of National Progress will guide our people to move forward and with greater expectations. Based on this principle, the social revolution which is being carried out by the Republic will bring about progress and social justice. All citizens, without discrimination, will have equal opportunity to develop their capabilities and to enjoy the fruit of the progress, to the achievement of which everyone will have a chance to contribute his share.

The three principles of National Community, National Concord and National Progress will strengthen our unity of purpose and action within the national community and thus will create the essential conditions for the Vietnamese people to be the masters of their own destiny.

In recent days, the Government of the Republic of Vietnam has many times set forth proposals for the restoration of peace and has stated its readiness to meet North Vietnamese authorities either at the demilitarized zone or at any other place. Such initiatives on the part of the Government have no other purpose than to safeguard the supreme interests of the Vietnamese race.

In the Field of Chieu-Hoi - Open Arms - action, these three principles provide the Government and the people

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three ways to implement the National Reconciliation Program.

First, all those who decide to leave the ranks of the communists and reintegrate in the national community will be warmly welcomed as citizens with full rights of citizenship. All returnees will be protected by the Government, which will also provide them facilities to build a new life. In other words, every citizen who abandons the communist ranks will enjoy the rights set forth in the Constitution, including the right to have the law protect his freedom, his life, his property and his honor; the right to vote and to run for office; the right to go back and live within one's family; the right to choose his place of residence and the right to enjoy the national assistance in the pursuit of his profession.

Second, the citizens who rally to the national cause will be employed in accordance with their ability so that every Vietnamese, without distinction, will have the opportunity to contribute positively to the reconstruction and development of the country.

Third, the citizens who rally to the national cause, but who have violated the law under communist coercion or deception, whether they have been convicted or not, will enjoy all the guarantees set forth in the Constitution. The country will be tolerant to the utmost so that they have the opportunity to put their ability and determination to serve and redeem themselves.

The Government hereby orders all cadres at all levels, civilian, military and administrative, and

calls on the entire people to disseminate and carry out the National Reconciliation policy and program.

The realization of this policy will help shorten this destructive war initiated by the Communists and will soon bring about the day which has been yearned for by the entire people for more than twenty years: the day of a lasting and genuine peace.

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CHIEU
HOI
NEWSLETTER



The CHIEU HOI NEWSLETTER is published by the Chieu Hoi Division of the Office of Civil Operations for OCO Regional Directors, Provincial Representatives and Chieu Hoi Advisors. The purpose of this newsletter is to serve as a source of information and ideas to those involved in the Chieu Hoi Program. Contributions from readers, on a regular or occasional basis are welcomed.

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L. G. Geiger
Editor

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