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UNITED STATES OPERATIONS MISSION  
Public Administration Division  
176 Hai Ba Trung  
Telephone 23142, 23961

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Politico-Administrative Improvement in Rural Government

On May 3, 1963, the GVN promulgated Decree No. 45-NV pertaining to the composition of Village Councils and Hamlet Administrative Committees, their administrative responsibilities and the election procedures for electing the Council and Committee members. Although there have been previous official decrees governing village organization and administration, this is the first decree officially setting forth the basis for hamlet elections and organization.

The village continues to be the lowest echelon of government with a legal personality. The village is to be governed by a council consisting of 5 members namely:

Village Representative  
Economic and Finance Member  
Police Member  
Youth Member  
Civil Status and Health Member

Although the villages are given a certain degree of autonomy, this autonomy is restricted by the necessity for approval of routine matters by the Province Chief or his representatives and in some cases by the Secretary of State for Interior. The Village Council which holds office for two years is elected by an electoral body consisting of all members of Hamlet Administrative Committees and all presidents of popular groups as defined in the hamlet Community Charter. One interesting feature of the decree is that the candidate who receives the largest number of votes becomes the Village Representative but the other elected officials choose among themselves on the basis of their capacity the position which they will hold.

Under the new decree hamlets continue to be considered as administrative subdivisions of the village and therefore do not have a separate legal personality. Consequently, hamlets have neither independent budgets nor taxing power. However the decree provides that a hamlet shall be converted into a village if it becomes self-supporting. No further details as to the requirements to be met are given.

The Hamlet Administrative Committee as set forth in the decree represents the Village Council in the hamlet and assumes responsibility for carrying out laws, regulations and instructions from all levels of the Government.

The Members of the 5-Member Hamlet Administrative Committee are elected by direct and secret universal suffrage except for the Youth Member. The Youth Member is elected by the members (both sexes) of the Republican Youth in the hamlet. The hamlet Community Charter provides for the following popular groups:

- The older men's group, including all male citizens fifty-one years old and above
- The older women's group, including all female citizens fifty-one years old and above
- The able-bodied young men's group, including all male citizens from 18 to 50 years old
- The women's group, including all female citizens from 18 to 50 years old
- The youth group, including all young men from 14 to 18 years old
- The girls' group, including all young women from 14 to 17 years old
- The children's group including all children from 8 to 13 years old

The administrative responsibilities of the Hamlet Administrative Committee are stated to be:

1. Carrying out the laws regulations and instructions of the Government and of all local administrative levels
2. Implementing the Community Charter drafted and voted by the people of the hamlet.

These rather vague statements lack the necessary implementing procedures and inasmuch as the hamlets are in general lacking in their own funds it will be difficult for them to accomplish much on their own responsibility.

While the decree leaves much to be desired in the development of political democracy at the local level and lacks certain implementation procedures, it is a major step forward in re-defining the organization of the villages and hamlets.

Copies of Decree No. 45-NV translated into English are available at the Public Administration Division.

### Training Material

"Improving the Public Service Through Training" prepared by Lynton K. Caldwell, Director of the Institute of Training for Public Service, Indiana University, for the Public Administration Division of A.I.D. is an excellent new publication in the field of training. The nature of the material is well described in the Foreword:

"The purpose of this monograph is to interpret the function of training in present day government. It is addressed to a world-wide audience that includes public officials, political leaders, and civic-minded people everywhere who are concerned with improvement of the public service. It is intended to be useful to officials engaged in international technical assistance, to personnel, planning, and training officers, and to people interested in education for development administration.

This monograph is not a handbook for trainers. It does not describe training techniques, nor does it deal with all aspects of training. Instead, it sets forth principles and concepts that are basic to enlargement of the human resources needed in national development.

Throughout this volume the term "training" is used in a broad sense. It is not sharply distinguished from other aspects of learning or education. The closest definition that can be given to "training" as it is used here, is purposeful development of human resources."

English copies of this monograph are available at the Public Administration Division. RTAC is translating this material into French and copies will be available later. Also a local training officer is considering translating it into Vietnamese.

Copies of the new GVN manual "Bilan des Realisations Gouvernementales" covering the period 1954 to 1962 are available in P.A.D.

New Regional Representative for Central Vietnam Lowlands

Mr. Nguyen xuan Khuong has replaced Mr. Ho Dac Khuong

New Mayors

Lt. Col. Tran ngoc Chau for the City of Da Nang.

Mr. Nguyen van Ha for the City of Hue (simultaneously Chief of Thua Thien Province).

New Province Chiefs

Mr. Nguyen van Ha in Thua Thien Province (simultaneously Mayor of the City of Hue).

Major Le huu Duc (Acting) in Kien Hoa Province.

Lt. Col. Do van Kien, Chief of Phuoc Long Province, also serves as Acting Chief of Phuoc Thanh Province.

Corrections to Reference Documents

Provinces of Vietnam

<u>Page</u>	<u>Paragraph/Line</u>	<u>Delete</u>	<u>Insert</u>
Page 19	Para. A	Ho dac Khuong	Nguyen xuan Khuong
Page 19	Para. B	Ha thuc Luyen	Lt. Col. Tran ngoc Chau
Page 19	Para. B	Nguyen van Dang	Nguyen van Ha
Page 19	Para. C/17	Tran ngoc Chau	Major Le huu Duc
Page 19	Para. C/29	Nguyen huu Man	Lt. Co. Do van Dien
Page 20	Para. C/38	Nguyen van Dang	Nguyen van Ha