

CIVIL OPERATIONS AND
REVOLUTIONARY DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT

HEADQUARTERS, I FIELD FORCE

VIETNAM

APO SAN FRANCISCO 96350

Miss Elizabeth Landon
HLD/BOON/IND
CORDS, III CTZ

Dear Miss Landon,

After several memorandums and visits I am now prepared to speak more knowledgably about apiarism activities in Tuyan Dao. At one time honey production was a rewarding activity with many keepers of bees scattered about the province. Conditions of the past few years have combined to reduce this to an insignificant part of the economy. There has been steady deterioration to the present low point of production.

The largest apiary in Dalat consists of about 20 hives. It is a one man operation with no plans for expansion. It is enough to give him something to do and still leave time for other things. He extracts the honey and bottles it, selling some in Dalat but most of it in Cholon at 500:VN a fifth (it is bottled in old Johnny Walker bottles). When asked if he would sell some bees to people who wanted to start some hives in another province he was reluctant to commit himself to a definite sale but thought he might have a few to sell. No particular kind of wood is used exclusively in the hives or the honey cone frames. The twenty or so hives were about evenly divided between single and double deck and were like the type used back home. During the periods of prolonged rain the bees are fed a sugar-water syrup. He suggested that the best place to get starting hives would be at a big place near Saigon where about one thousand hives are kept. I could not get any more explicit information from him about the location of this large apiary.

Present conditions make Dalat a very limited source for the purchase of bees. First suggestion would be to try the large apiary near Saigon assuming that such a place exists. If that does not prove satisfactory then a trip to Dalat might be in order but as I have said the availability is limited.

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Wanted you to know we had not passed lightly over your request for information and assistance and that we will be glad to assist if you decide to visit Dalat.

Sincerely,

LAWRENCE M. FLANAGAN
Economic Officer
CORDS, Region II