

*Mr. LIAVERGNE*

U.S. OPERATIONS MISSION

Saigon, Vietnam

FIELD TRIP AND INSPECTION REPORT

To: Chief, Program Support Division  
From: J. Fozdar, Electronic Engineer  
Subject: Report on Trip to Cap St. Jacques to install P.A. systems  
in refugee camps.  
Dates: September 17, 18, 1954

Personnel: Major Don. Poling, MAAG  
Mr. Tuong, Officer of Ministry of Information  
Mr. Mung, Radio Technician, Ministry of Information  
One wire man and one chauffeur.

Specific Purpose: To install three public address systems in the  
following three camps: Phuoc Ly (pop. 9000),  
Ho Nai (pop. 8000) and Bien Hoa (pop 4500).

Note: Exact information concerning the location of Phuoc Ly and  
Ho-hai was unavailable from the Ministry of Information and  
all that we could learn from our own office was that these  
camps were in the vicinity of Cap St. Jacques.

Specific Work Done:

We started off early on Friday morning with three public address  
systems and power supplies and one extra generator. We could not  
provide for emergency in case of receiver fault developing, due to  
travel, as only three receivers had been repaired and made ready.  
As it turned out, one receiver developed serious faults and had  
to be brought back to Saigon the next day.

The road we took passed through Bien Hoa and is the main highway  
from Saigon to Cap St. Jacques. Our inquiries at Bien Hoa and  
Baria concerning the location of Phuoc Ly and Ho-hai met with  
blank stares. We kept on the road to Cap St. Jacques and on the  
way we saw 3 refugee camps but none of considerable size. Just  
a mile from Cap St. Jacques we came to a huge refugee camp by  
the name of Rach Dua. The camp commander, a Mr. Ky, spoke English.  
He gave us to understand that even though he had one Lorenz P.A.  
system, yet he needed two more P.A. systems, as the one he had was  
on loan from the Chief of Province in Cap St. Jacques. I inspected  
the camp and was surprised to learn that this camp with 17,194  
persons was not even listed on the Ministry of Information's list  
of refugee camps. As the purpose of our program with the Vietnam  
government is to help them establish some sort of a population  
control of the refugees, this camp, Rach Dua, exceeded only by  
Phu Tho in population, immediately assumed first priority and we  
agreed to install the two P.A. systems. The camp commander, how-  
ever, could only locate one responsible tent leader and also one  
of our receivers seemed to have developed a serious fault, hence  
only one P.A. system was installed by us at Rach Dua. This com-  
mander also seemed to be the only one who knew the general direc-  
tions of Phuoc Ly, which to our regret lay on a by-road between  
Long Thanh and Saigon some 40 miles south of Bien Hoa. As there

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was a storm coming up, we went on to Cap St. Jacques. Next day we stopped at Rach Dua to instruct them to build a "dog house" for the generator.

Then we went in search of Phuoc Ly, which we located after nearly six hours over bad roads which slowed us down, due to our equipment. The actual refugee camp of Phuoc Ly is divided into three sections, separated from each other by nearly a mile, but having one camp commander, a Catholic priest, Rev. Nguyen Van Lang, and the three camps, I am given to understand, are populated by all Catholic refugees. The total population of the three camps is 8852. We installed the remaining F.A. system in the Camp Commander's tent and hope to take two more down there soon. Phuoc Ly is a re-settlement center while Rach Dua is a reception center.