

September 29, 1954

Embdesp. 208, November 25, 1953.

## Security in the Transbassac.

M. Gressier, the owner of large rice estates at Xano and Phulec in the Transbassac, told the reporting officer that security conditions in the neighborhood of his estates are better now than they have been for years past. The Viet Minh are behaving themselves, outwardly at least, and although they have kept their cells throughout the area, they have withdrawn their troops into their temporary zone in the Camau peninsula. There have been no recent reports of Viet Minh violence in the area, and one Viet Minh representative even paid a courtesy call on M. Gressier a few weeks ago. The worst offender is the Vietnamese National Army. The company of troops stationed at Xano has made itself detested through brutality and increased extortions.

Despite the improvement in conditions, M. Gressier is not hopeful for the future. He plans to emigrate to Brazil as soon as he can dispose of his property.

M. Gressier believed that much land is available in the Transbassac for refugee resettlement, although hard work was necessary to clear the lands of weeds and prepare it for recultivation. If security conditions are as satisfactory as M. Gressier says, the Transbassac might be given more serious consideration as a refugee resettlement area than it has thus far.

For the Ambassador:

*Francis E. Meloy, Jr.*  
Francis E. Meloy, Jr.  
First Secretary of Embassy

cc: STEM  
Army Attaché  
Pinson Penh

*W*  
WACHapin/chb

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL