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At the Division Chiefs' meeting on September 30th, Mr. Lavergne, Acting Deputy Director for Refugee Affairs stated:

When the committee was set up we tried to keep it small so that each member would have an opportunity to express himself on material submitted by the various technicians in Public Health, Public Works, Agriculture etc., on the resettlement program.

Mr. Morrison is with us to listen to our discussion so that he will be in a better position to answer questions related to our problem when he returns to Wash.

We have held several exploratory meetings, the idea being the preparation of a report phrasing the situation, ~~but~~ but we could not help but come up with a definite feeling of inadequacy of the operation now in course. If, unfortunately, I make a complete job of criticism it is not intended to be such. We hope to lay this on the table and have the opportunity to thrash it over with a maximum understanding of it. What has happened up to now has just been a hodge-podge of accidents reached by rough informal discussions.

The problem is most striking to those who have gone into the field and visited such areas as Bien Hoa and Bien Kat. Our thinking must be re-oriented because the areas, good as they may be, will not support the concentration of people being placed in them. Statistics show a population of 80,000 at Bien Hoa, a population of which 30,000 live in the chief provincial center. Reports indicated 35,000 people had been moved in and resettled in Bien Hoa Province. The fact that Bien Hoa never carried a large population raises the question of how to absorb this amount. More particularly, the placement of people in this area is going to be more and more in the nature of a secondary reception center and further resettlement

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will have to follow as soon as possible.

It is to the purpose of reassignment and implementation that we must direct our studies and discussions. We rather come up with an idea for consideration and argument, out of which we hope a Mission position will be developed. Whether it be this or something else we urgently need a agency in the Government of Vietnam regarding rehabilitation and development, representing a full-time agency wholly devoted to the purpose of resettling refugees and displaced persons. Four hundred thousand people from the North, coming from agricultural areas, predominately agricultural background; upward a million displaced people in the South and a million ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ idle hectares of rice lands. It has been concluded that these 2 problems cannot be approached separately. Evacuees can be staggered but eventually they must be melted into the economy. Therefore, it would be well to think about proposing to the Government the establishment of a supra-ministerial commission or agency which would be a full time proposition, not meeting intermittently and which would be properly organized with a president, chairman, secretary etc, planning for the re-organization with a view of putting evacuees and displaced persons back to work. Because of the artisians, industrial people, <sup>and</sup> tradesmen that must be represented in the evacuee group, we thought of this agency as being a planning and implementing agency controlling funds and resources placed through American or French Economic Aid Funds; that implementation farmed back through the various agencies be ~~xxxxxx~~ established for this purpose.

Per example: Sector A might be choosen for a likely location or develop a plan for that particularly across the border from A, ~~to his section~~, social action would all be set forth in a plan of action for that particular section; maximum utilization for refugees and for that particular piece

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of land. This should not be our total STEM effort but related to our projects ABC and D. Therefore, to be many of them a reasonable period of time would represent our contribution across the border in all our technical fields. Implementing that sector of the plan as the case may be, sounds complex but I think we urgently need a group to assure complete coordination of Mission efforts. As far as Government is concerned, we have all observed the individual men in the services having a habitual complete lack of co-operation.

A sum of notes, ~~xxx~~ in the rough, was prepared for the basis of our discussion.

#### DISCUSSION

We have altogether too few discussions and maybe individually you may want to elaborate on what has been covered to now. This is the biggest job we've ever been faced with and I believe that it warrants our very best co-operative efforts.

I would like to comment on refugee rehabilitation as to how this thing fits in the overall design. Rehabilitation may be active within its limitations and it could be all inclusive, presumably there is still plenty of activity in Public Health etc. Areas/<sup>potentialities</sup> must be considered by how many hectares.

FALK: Is not the committee's feeling that an organization such as outlined could act fully and begin functioning in time to handle urgent matters ~~xxxxxxxx~~ assembled at the present time?

SCHWARTZ: I think it was the concensus of the group that the Doi set up has served a mutual gain and for some time to come the Doi set up must of necessity function even better than it is functioning now. We have to get away from the idea that these folkes, sent away, have been

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permanently settled. It is to that aspect of the problem that we have

FALKE Actually it is a short term to do a long term job which particularly includes land reform~~xxxx~~ which, of course, raises a very pertinent question immediately. How will the Government <sup>solve</sup> ~~xxxx~~ these urgent problems? <sup>For</sup> Problems not so urgent something could be done very quickly but because of the semblance of permanency <sup>the</sup> of 8,000 at Hoa Dinh or the 14,000 people at Bien Kat cannot be expected to make a living. Some of the areas ~~xxxxxxx~~ available for settlement are not ready because of Vietminh.

SCHWARTZ: Also, we would have been able to implement many farmers on rice lands had the evacuation not come when it did in August, which is past the peak of rice harvesting season. In the South we have all (ideal - idle?) a million hectares, that in the past have been operated temporarily by absentee farmers who will not return until next May or June. Then also, there are a lot of legal and technical questions attached to this thing. A study group presently is going to see what to do in regard to large scale landowners, landlords and tenant relationship. We hope that <sup>by some time</sup> sometime in April or May that a number of these things can be resolved.

#### Re-movement of evacuees and displaced persons

The displaced persons are just as barehanded as the evacuees.

STARR: You made reference to a supra-ministerial board and re-development authority. What is the category of an inter-ministerial committee? A standard governmental form who comments on the kind of situation and problems to be met. We really need an agency representing

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several ministers which can be developed at a later date - being more specific.

HOLIDAY: You would like to have this particular group to be an authority thru which the Government will function in settling the problems across the border in helping the displaced persons and evacuees?

STARR: A real executive authority and not an advisory body. Its technical status is something that would have to be clarified later.

LAVERGNE: This or some other agency would be needed for ownership of property and land.

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SCHWARTZ: Whatever maximum amount of self-help or self liquidation should be inspired. Help can be given a man in building a house or furnishing him with water-buffalo, but sooner or later I would like to see him own that house but at the same time kickback more than just the labor of putting that house together. There should be some recovery. Amalgamation of a million - million and a half in the south, is going to be a long hard job.

There has been a  
LAVERGNE: Concentrated effort on the part of the STEM Mission 1,200,000 to resettle ~~12,000,000~~ people but there is the other population we need to reach in the other overall.

ACKLEY: An overall body of men could develop the natural problems of seeking out ways to dig out mineral resources, given a natural budget, and ministers to do the job there is no end to what could be done for the refugees and displaced persons. This same supra-ministerial committee formed If could be made as a development board. We have provided a happy life for it would the refugees; providing maximum benefit for the country.

ing  
HOLIDAY: Raise the economy of the country to a higher level and it would also ~~benefit~~ benefit the people who have not been uprooted.

ADAMS: Persons in area A, having there needs of that area looked

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feeding payment, a prodigious sum. The alternative is that we try to move them out from the reception centers to secondary centers where they can take ~~part~~ part in some marginal labor to keep body and soul together. ~~Altho~~  
~~thexxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ The danger of this thinking is that secondary centers are thought to be permanent and health,-sanitation, homes would be of a permanent nature, and yet would have to be abandoned in the future because it would not support the natural resources in that area. The Mission could take 2 approaches.

1. We have resettled these people and natural laws of self-betterment should be evidenced. They will move to better areas on there own, through normal fords, without major assistance from the State, or perhaps assistance only as to land.

2. We should keep our expenditures down during this temporary and intermediate program of resettlement. I don't think we could justify to ourselves, or anyone else, the expenditures of this money and then ask for funds for a permanent resettlement.

SCHWARTZ: With 400,000 people here, it may have been shortsighted to underwrite that, but in so doing ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ the cost of bringing them down here and caring for them is almost inherent. Moved individually it would be a long time that we would have to watch out for them, but with organized effort you can get on top of it in 2 or 3 years.

~~HOLIDAY: To find permanent resettlement for that type of~~

FALK: A Planning Board system is good especially when your resources are right as in Vietnam. But I point out the fact that we treat the secondary settlement very temporary without making a major investment and holding back for a permanent establishment.

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ACKLEY: In 1 to 3 years, thereof, it will be necessary to think in terms of sanitation, building their own houses and clearing the land and get some term approaching its marginal which will give a greater border.

FALK: We are talking against ourselves to this point, as one of our efforts here, as I understand it, is to make an impact within the next 2-3 years, ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ <sup>and</sup> We may mitigate the possibility of making a possible impact in a drawn out program.

LAVERGNE: I certainly think Mr. Schwartz and colleagues have done a wonderful job in such a few days time coming up with definite constructive ideas necessary for coordination between Doi and other ministers. How its done is not important but we have to create a

~~Funds are being expended by so many plans being made which are largely taken as permanent solution of creating a~~

SCHWARTZ: We are very much pressed for time, but we ought to wait a day or so before meeting again to try and put this together again. There probably will be much more understanding next time. That we are not satisfied in our own minds indicates the time has come where we have to change the picture.

I am impressed with the fact that this is going to be Mission wide, and the Mission has to approach it as you are in this meeting, across the board basis. Somewhere, very quickly the Government has to be given some some indication of how far we can go or how far we won't go, because we are not in a position to <sup>be in a</sup> luxurious basis or on a tight basis. I think the latter is what we are going to have to do from now on. It could be an extremely large program.

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PETERSON: I urge that we do not make such a super proposal as it is impossible for our compatriots the Vietnamese, to undertake it. The efforts and thinking of the committee should be pulled back to the aims of refugees.

MORRISON: I think we have to think of this in simple terms. Most important things first. This well could amount to a tremendous program involving a great deal of money.

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