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MEMORANDUM

November 24, 1954.

TO: Operations Coordination Board
L. M. Purnell, Chairman, Indochina Working Group
Sub-Committee on Truce Violations

FROM: U. S. Information Agency
IOP/FE - Francis J. McCarthy ³⁴

SUBJECT: USIA Film Treatment of Vietnamese Refugee Evacuation

The information you requested at the OCB Truce Violations Sub-Committee Meeting of November 23 follows: The Vietnamese refugee story has been presented directly and indirectly by USIA through:

1. A classified weekly newsreel produced by a private company and circulating in commercial movie houses in 14 countries in the Far, Middle and Near East. The newsreel is produced in 16 languages and has carried the refugee story in 5 of its 12 weekly issues since the evacuation began. Footage used in this project is drawn from commercial newsreel pools and from film shot in Indochina by USIS specifically for the project. The latest issue covered the sampan flight of Catholic refugees from the mouth of the Tra Ly river to French ships offshore..
2. A USIA-attributed monthly documentary, "Our Times." OT is produced in the U. S. and treats important stories in depth and detail beyond the reach of a newsreel. It is shown mainly by USIS overseas but also has some attributed commercial showing. OT is produced in 39 languages and seen in 69 countries.
3. A semi-monthly newsreel produced by USIS-Saigon and shown in language versions in Vietnam and Cambodia by USIS, government information agencies and commercial movie houses. This newsreel is so thoroughly local in flavor and treatment that it does not circulate outside Indochina. It is not openly attributed to USIS but its source is not denied to questioners.
4. Two documentaries produced to date by USIS-Saigon, "To Those Who Choose Freedom" and "A Friend in Need." Both of these documentaries have been distributed for showing to other USIS posts in the Far East. A third documentary, "The First Freedom," on escapees is scheduled to begin shooting in Haiphong this week. (Indochina distribution of documentaries is the same as outlined in item 3.)

CC: John MacDonald, OCB.
Andrew Berding, IOP.

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