

December the 7th

To: D.C. Lavergne
From: J.P. Thelen *J.P. Thelen*
Subject: NEW COMMISSION FOR REFUGEES

Minister Pham Van Huyen took over as Commissioner General for Refugees at a brief ceremony during our regular Monday afternoon meeting held at the Commission's Headquarters.

Colonel Leroy, of the French Military Liaison office, and myself, briefed the new Commissioner on the outstanding problems - The need to legalize the refugees' right to dispose of the wood which they cut on forests lands allotted to them, and the necessity of securing a Government Enactment to make abandoned farm and rice lands available for cultivation by the refugees and displaced persons.

Minister Huyen promised to study these questions carefully and announced that he was working on a basic plan which he hoped to offer to us soon.

This ended our initial meeting with the new Commissioner.

The reorganisation of the Commission and the departure of all of Doi's key men, necessitates a complete new build up of our relations at the Liaison level - thanks to the flattening testimony given by the departing officials, the new group appears willing to accept the various Liaison Officers favorably and seem to lean on us for advice and information.

Having been invited to continue using my desk in the Resettlement office, I have had the opportunity to talk to several of the new officeholders, and explain to them some of our aims and policies. Amongst other things, I briefed them on our Field Representatives and learning they were planning a mobile group of technicians to go in the field, I suggested they send one of their people along with our men, in order to achieve closer collaboration in solving some of the problems.

I also recommended they assign a man to take visiting reporters and other officials, on tours of the various Reception and Resettlement Camps.

Both suggestions were accepted and an engineer detached to accompany Mr Frakes and our own technicians when they inspect a road problem in Bentre Province on Saturday.

Attached hereto is a preliminary Chart showing the names and titles of the new officials. I will keep you informed when new appointments are made and a complete Chart will be drawn up when all posts are filled.

REORGANIZATION CHART OF COMMISSION FOR REFUGEES

