

1.00 Refugee Report

M. H. B. Adler, Chief, Field Service

J. A. Hackett

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Field Report FS-5

The purpose of this trip was to become acquainted with as many of the local officials as possible, in company with Mr. Dymaza, and to visit refugee resettlement centers in the area.

Officials accompanying or contacted on this trip were:

William A. Dymaza, USOM, Saigon (former Acting USOM Representative, CVN)
Le van Dam, regional administrator of ASA, CVN
Ton that Duong-Van, Director of Social Action, CVN
Le Ta, Mayor of Tourane
Tran Dien, Chief of Province of Quang-Tri
Le Trung Chi, Chief of Province of Quang-Nam
Bui Quang-Son, Assistant for Refugee Affairs, Mayor of Tourane
Bui Quang Uyen, Assistant for Refugee Affairs, Quang-Tri
Nguyen Tu, Assistant for Refugee Affairs, Quang-Nam

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT CENTERS VISITED:

A. Quang-Nam Province (Faifoo area)

The refugee centers in this area are under the jurisdiction of the Chief of Province. The following centers were visited.

1- HUAN LAM : There are 96 people, comprising 20 families, at this center which is located on the Northwest outskirts of Faifoo. The center consists of 5 quadruple unit structures. These structures are built of G.I. roofing, wood framing, 1/2 concrete block and 1/2 bamboo lattice siding, and cement finished dirt floors. Each of these units is purported to have cost I.C.\$8,500. At present there are no wells or pit-prives in the center. I was informed that a well would be finished in two weeks and that pit-prives would be finished in one week.

The refugees are fishermen from Dong-Hoi. They seemed happy and contented with their new environment and condition.

2- DE-VONG : This center is still under construction. The work is being done by a contractor. The structures are of the same type of construction as those at Xuan Lam and when completed will consist of 8 quadruple-unit houses costing I.C.\$8,500 per unit. The center is located on the Southeastern outskirts of Faifoo.

It is planned to move 32 families presently housed on church property or now in scattered quarters into this center. These families will represent a mixed group comprised of fishermen, small merchants, skilled laborers, and coolies.

3- THANH-HA : There are 34 double-unit structures in this center. Construction is of the same type as in the two previous centers visited and the cost per unit was the same. One open well has been finished and it is planned to construct two more. There are seven pit-prives with plans for two more. This center lies on both sides of the provincial highway between Faifoo and Quang-Nam situated on National Route N° 1.

370 people, comprising 68 families, have been settled here. They are all farmers. There are 8 hectares of rice land available to them in the immediate neighborhood of the site with 49 hectares more available 4 kilometers away. The local officials believe that this land is sufficient. The immediate needs of this center is money and agricultural tools in order to start planting. If these items were forthcoming they say they could start right away and make a harvest in May. In the meantime they are making a living doing odd jobs. All have gardens already planted and seem happy and contented.

B. Tourane city.

The refugee centers here are under the jurisdiction of the Mayor of Tourane. The following centers were visited.

1- THACH-THANG : This center consists of 400 single-unit houses constructed of "paillote" type siding and G.I. roofing. Each unit is said to have cost the Government I.C.\$ 6,000. The center is on the Northern outskirts of the City of Tourane.

The population is approximately 2,000 and comprises 400 families. They represent practically the entire former inhabitants of Dong-Hoi, and are made up of fishermen, coolies, small merchants, barbers, tailors, and such like.

The parish priest and leader is a Pere Ai, who sees very much on the ball. He has already built a church and

school.

There were only 3 open wells in the center and no pit-privies. Additional wells are definitely a must. The center looked and smelled clean in spite of the lack of pit-privies. The sea adjoins.

Pere Ai would like additional money to construct a clinic and maternity ward, and a village market. The father expressed concern about finding sufficient work for his parishioners.

The center on the whole, however, looked as if it were well on its way to becoming absorbed as a part of Tourane.

2- TREM N° 1. This center consists of 133 housing units of variable sized structures. General construction characteristics: siding-wood or bamboo matting or both; framing-wood, floor-dirt, roofing G.I. (90%) and grass. The water supply consists of one shallow well utilizing 3 barrels as lining. At present the constant rains/nearness to Tourane eliminate the possibility of a problem. There are no pit-privies.

The population of the center is 1,300 comprising a total of 258 families. 133 families are living in the housing units while 125 families are living in "junks" on the bay. These people are originally from Hatinh-Vinh.

Their priest is Pere Trieu. He is building a small church. There are no other communal facilities in the center.

3- TREM N° 2. This center consists of 115 housing units. The construction is the same types as Trem N° 1. There are no standard type wells or pit-privies. Water is obtained from seven shallow barrel type wells.

The population of the center is 700 and comprises 140 families. These people are originally from Quang-Binh and are mostly fishermen. Their parish priest is Pere Hoa.

The only communal facilities contemplated are a church that is almost completed and a school which is still in the early stages of construction.

The two centers Trem N° 1 & 2 are adjoining, and are on a narrow sand bar (or ridge) bordering the bay on the Northeastern outskirts of Tourane. The priest were given lump sum amounts to build the housing units based on I.C.\$ 6,000 per unit. The money was used to purchase materials and the refugees supplied the labor. Both priests requests additional aid. They need money for more wells and a clinic

and maternity ward. They also ask for net making materials, cloth, blankets, and boats.

4- THANH BINH (PLAGE TOURANE). The parish priest at this center is Pere Can. The population of the center is 600 people. 83 individual housing units have been completed and 6 more are in process. Pere Can was given an advance of I.C.\$4,000 on 89 units and was promised the balance of I.C.\$2,000 per unit when all were completed. The population of the center includes people from Tonkin and Dong-Hoi and consists mostly of coolies with some skilled workers and general merchants.

The construction of the housing is being done by a contractor and is of a slightly better quality than the other centers in the Tourane area. Pere Can says that it is costing I.C.\$8,000 with the refugees paying the difference.

No provision has been made for wall, pit-privies, church, clinic or school. Pere Can is requesting additional money for these items. He also wishes additional money to enlarge his center to 200 units as he expects more refugees from Haiphong.

The location of the center is not bad. It is in a grove of trees on the outskirts of Tourane between Trem N° 2 and Thach Thang.

At present the center seems to be getting along very well. The future problem may be water supply, sanitation, and employment for the population.

C. Thua-Thien Province (Lang Co area).

1- AN HAO. The parish priest here is Pere Antoine (formerly Tran Van Duc). This center is located a short distance North of Lang Co. It consists of 388 people comprising 65 families. They are at present quartered in 12 tents. Pere Antoine contemplates building only 61 units at present as he is limited by space. He has received I.C.\$240,000 for 60 units at I.C.\$4,000 per unit. His buildings will be 2-unit structures and he claims they will cost him I.C.\$6,500 per unit for materials alone as the refugees will furnish the labor. They are to have G.I. roofing, wood framing, bamboo lattice siding, and dirt floors. He says that the refugees will pay the difference. The refugees have levelled the ground themselves and it was quite a job as the site is on a slight ridge between the highway and the sea. Most of the framing is up and about 80% of the roofing. The people should be moved into their new homes in two or three weeks. One open well has been finished on the sea side of the ridge. Pere Antoine would like to put down two more wells, but needs more

well casings. He used seven 1-meter R.C. well casings for his present well finding water 4 meters from the surface. He asks for 13 more casings.

A church has been completed but there was no signs of any other communal structure. Lack of money was given as the reason.

The refugees at this center are from the neighborhood of Dong-Hoi, and are mostly farmers. They have been allocated 30 hectares of rice land on the other side of the lagoon about 5 kilometers distant. They now walk this distance and could use two boats. They need animals, tools, seed, and money. They are apparently earning a small living by gathering and selling firewood.

In spite of their present hardship these people seemed happy and glad to be where they were.

2- LOAN LY. This center consists of 113 single housing units. Type of construction is pure "paillote" with grass roofing throughout. Location is on the West side of the highway, bordering the Lang Co Lagoon, and about two kilometers North of AN HAO.

The population is 388 comprising 65 families. These refugees are from the province of Quang Tri, North of the 17th parallel. They are mostly fishermen but have 21 farmers with them.

Pere C8 (pronounced Kuhr) is their priest and leader. He appears to have initiative and to be very capable. He says he received I.C.\$6,000 per unit as a lump sum and has spent an average of I.C.\$3,000 per unit using the balance for wells, nets, and other things. He has bought one large fishing net for I.C.\$ 35,000 and many small nets.

The camp has three standard open shallow wells (R.C. casings) and 12 small primitive wells. There are no privies or communal buildings in the center. Pere C8 next intends to build a substantial concrete church. He says he will get rock and cement from the French Army engineers for the church. His next projects will be a school and clinic.

When asked how he liked it in his new location Pere C8 stated that his people never were so well off. That they are doing better now than they ever did in North Quang-Tri. They are making a good living, at present, gathering firewood and fishing. The refugees had brought 27 boats with them from the North.

D. Quang-Tri Province.

The centers in this province are under the jurisdiction of the Chief of Province. The following locations were visited:

1. LAVANG-DROITE, LAVANG-GAUCHE, LAVANG-COUVENT AND LONG-HUNG. These four centers are all grouped in one immediate area and, when approached appear to be one large village or town.

- a. Lavang-Droite. This center has 259 single-unit houses completed. The population is 1,132 and comprises 279 families. The parish priest is Pere Dien. He has received lump sum housing allotment for 259 units at I.C. \$6,000.
- b. Lavang-Gauche. This center has a population of 750 persons. Already constructed are 110 single-unit houses for which their parish priest, Pere Thang, has received I.C. \$6,000 per unit.
- c. Lavang-Couvent. This center has 23 single-unit houses and has a population of 115. This population consists wholly of sisters of the order of "Aimant de la Croix". These units also cost I.C. \$6,000.
- d. Long-Hung. This center now has a population of approximately 1,100 people and consists of 220 families. 185 single-unit houses have been built for which their parish priest, Pere Truong van Thien, received I.C. \$6,000 per unit.

These centers obtain water from natural wells. There is one year round spring in the area and several others that will go dry in the dry season. Water at present is no problem. Pit-privies have not yet been constructed.

The housing units in these centers are all similar having packed dirt floors, mud-plastered bamboo-lattice siding, wood framing, and C.I. roofing.

The village, consisting of these four centers, has been a planned layout for which the Assistant Chief of Province, Mr. Bui Quang Uyen, should be commended. It is the best layout of a resettlement area I have yet seen in Viet-Nam. The rows are orderly and the houses are distantly separated giving ample space for farming (sweet potatoes, bananas, etc..) around each house.

The various parish priests would like to obtain ad-

ditional money to build churches, school, and dispensaries. One school has already been built for the four centers. One of the sisters is being trained at Quang-Tri as a first aid dispenser.

The population of these centers are all from the district of Vinh-Linh in that part of Quang-Tri just North of the 17th parallel and seem very much satisfied with their changed condition. They are mostly farmers with a some woodcutters. Although they have already started truck farms around their houses these farmers will need help to farm on a larger scale. There is abundant rice land from 4 to 8 kilometers Southeast of the location. There is also about 100 hectares of developed rice land to the Southeast. In both cases they will need animals, tools; seed and money which they would be glad to get as a loan. With regard to the 100 hectares of developed land they would have to repair a dam which would enable them to make 2 crops a year. Mr. Dam, AEA Administrator, suggested making this a project under VI-VP-6. Once the dam is repaired they could start planting in March or April.

The immediate need is blankets and clothing. It is very cold and damp at present and will get colder. The blankets furnished were insufficient and inadequate. They appeared to be thin, cheap, cotton blankets. The Chief of Province estimates that 20% of the refugees in the province are sick from cold.

2- THUONG-XA. This center consists of 265 housing units (single and double unit houses). Construction is similar to that in the Lavang area. The cost per unit was I.C.\$6,000.

The population is 1249 and comprises 265 families. They are mostly farmers from the district of Vinh Linh in Quang-Tri and are led by their parish priest, Pere Buu Dong.

Their water supply consists of three holes in the ground and they have not yet built privies. There are no communal buildings.

This center has the same general needs as those in the Lavang area.

Their immediate need is blankets, clothing, and medicine.

On the whole they seemed happy and contented in their new homes and away from the Viet-Minh.

3- AN DON. 235 housing units have been completed in this center. The parish priest, Pere Tran Khoi, has received I.C.\$6,000 per unit for the first 220 units and I.C. \$3,000 for the last 15 units. Construction type is similar to that in the Lavang area except that each building consists of 3 or 2 housing units.

The population of the center is now 1,080 persons 180 people having come in from the North since October 31st. These new arrivals have received no allowances.

The center has two old village wells and wants two more. There are no pit-privies. Has a school house and parish house but no church or dispensary.

The center is on high, well drained land and is very neat and orderly although quite compact. The population consisting of approximately 40% farmers, 30% woodcutters and the rest of miscellaneous profession, are from Cua-Tung, just North of the line.

The farmers can work rice lands belonging to private owners. They will need money to tide them over until the next harvest, and animals, tools, and seed. A loan would be gladly accepted.

The immediate need is blankets, clothing and medicine. Many are suffering from the cold and several old ones and babies have died.

In spite of the cold the people I talked to seemed to be glad to be where they were and contented with their changed status.

While at this center I noticed about 200 civil guards getting ready to leave for the Western part of the province. They looked and acted like a well-disciplined and determined group. There was a market scarcity of guns and no uniforms as such.

4- VILLE DE QUANG-TRI. This center is located in the town of Quang-Tri in what was the former stadium. It consists of barracks like structures containing 423 housing units. Construction is same type as that used in the Lavang area; and cost I.C.\$6,000 per unit.

The population is 2,011 persons and comprises 423 families consisting of miscellaneous skilled workers and coolies. They are from Quang-Tri, North of the 17th parallel.

This center is run by a committee of four headed by a President, Ho Duy Tinh.

There are no pit-privies, wells, or communal buildings. Being in the city they have access to the local hospital and schools. The location is flat and not too well drained.

The local authorities expressed no concern in regard to finding work. The people seemed happy and did not hesitate to say they were content with their new status.

Their immediate needs are blankets and clothing.

COMMENTS:

1- The refugees at Thanh-Ha center at Faifoo will definitely need immediate help if they are to get a crop in and ready for harvest by May, 1955.

2- The two centers at Trem, in the Tourane area, are in need of immediate assistance in the form of money to buy nets or material to make nets. Making a living will be a problem here.

3- I was only able to visit two centers at Lang Co in Thua Thien. I was informed that the other centers at Lang Co were similar. An Hao needs help to get a crop in, but Loan Ly already seems self-sufficient.

4- In order to get a better picture of the situation at Quang Tri I made a supplemental trip to that province on December 13. In addition to aid for the farmers, the centers here need immediate aid in the form of blankets and clothing. These items should be expedited. I suggest that blankets shipped to Hue for Quang-Tri or Thua Thien be fairly heavy, in any event ship what is available. The Chief of Province of Quang-Tri told me that he could use 10,000 blankets.