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Minutes of Interview with Mr. Le Ban Chan, the Acting Chief
of Khanh Hoa Province regarding the American Economic Aid Program.

Question: What have you received from USOM since its inception?
Answer: Since the inception of the STEM Program, our Province
has received much help which has contributed a great deal to the
welfare of the people and the improvement of the Province.

The following is a list of materials that the province
of Khanh Hoa has received within the framework of the Aid Program.

a. General Aid

60,000 M of cotton

6,000 reels of thread and needles

1,200 kgs of powdered milk

1,200 Blankets

30 Cycles

b. Health and Sanitation

170 First Aid Kits (84 had been set up)

150 boxes of D.D.T.

90 boxes of medicine

1 ambulance car

1 Jeep Station Wagon

1 Jeep Willys

1 Chevrolet truck

3 DDT sprayers

2 Prefabricated hospitals

1 X Ray machine and many surgical instruments

- c. Agriculture:
 - 5 Irrigation pumps
 - 720 Tons of fertilizer
 - 1,500 Picks
 - 145 DDT boxes
 - 1 Willys Jeep
 - 5 Tons of prepared Warfarin
- d. Public Works
 - 800 tons asphalt
 - 45 well-pumps
 - 2 trucks
 - 2 electric-generating-sets in NINE HOA
- e. Fishing
 - 2 patrol boats
 - 40 bales of cotton yard
 - 10 bales of jute
- f. Information
 - 1 Radio Cine Car
 - 27 transmitters
- g. Wood and Forests
 - 2 motor-bicycles Peugeot
 - 20 lifting-jacks
 - 200 axes
 - 200 coques
 - 410 saws
 - 1250 files
- h. Education
 - A large number of books and exercise-books newspapers, pencils distributed to poor boys and girls in all schools of the province, setting up a large library, etc.....

Question. What is the status of the program at the present time?
Answer. It is very satisfactory. This is due to the large amount of materials given by the Mission such as cotton, blankets, milk, needles, thread, etc... whereby many poor people have been helped, and many refugees coming from uncontrolled areas have been temporarily helped, while waiting for employment in their occupations. Upto now, there were more than 10,000 families in the province rendered poor and miserable by the war who have been given aid by the USOM in the form of materials, clothing, milk, blankets and medicine.

In the field of Health and Sanitation, rural life has been partially improved; people's health has been cared for by means of First Aid Kits, equipped with up-to-date American drugs furnished throughout the province. The setting up of First aid Kits in the villages is a program that the Authorities are most anxious to carry out. Upto now, this has resulted in the establishment of 84 village-dispensaries.

The anti-malaria program is also progressing satisfactorily, Sanitation agents come to the villages regularly to spray DDT on the filthy areas.

With ultra-modern surgical instruments, an Operating room has been built, called the "Operating-room of Dr. Jope" in memory of a man who made a big contribution to Health & Sanitation in our country. In addition, an X ray room has been equipped and also 2 prefabricated hospitals for patients.

In the field of Agriculture as well as in Health, progress is being made and the aid program in Agriculture has made a great improvement in the economy of Khanh Hoa.

With the help of about 720 tons fertilizer, the agricultural out-look is improving nicely. Outputs have increased, especially rice output. At first, the villagers were inexperienced in using fertilizer, so the results was not up to expectations, but in the long run they become experienced and realize the benefits to be obtained from using fertilizer. Demonstrations were given by the Municipal Agriculture Service and the results obtained are now very satisfactory.

In the province there are many rice-fields and because of their location on high hills and far from rivers irrigation was not feasible. This difficult problem has been solved, thanks to U.S. pumps.

In Ninh Hoa district, at the village of Phu Van and Van Dinh, more than 40 ha. of rice-fields lay fallow for 8 years, they are now ready to be used for cultivation.

The Authorities now plan to irrigate a 2119 ha area comprising 1454 rice-fields and 765 ha fields barren upto now, adjacent to 8 villages situated in the region of Dai Dien, Dien-Khanh district.

A local

A local agriculture Cooperative has been established. All constructions necessary for the use of the pumps will start very soon

Another program which has been of great assistance to Agriculture should be mentioned: the anti-rodent program, utilizing Warfarin powder furnished by American Aid. In the past, crops in Khanh Hoa were sometimes destroyed to an extent as high as 80%.

The results of this program have been very satisfactory. 34,985 rats were killed. Half of the crops have been saved.

Moreover, the Authorities are planning to set up a tobacco cooperative in Khanh Hoa; this cooperative to be subsidized by USOM, for purpose of:

- extending loans to cooperative members to raise tobacco.
- growing tobacco and furnishing seeds to cooperative members
- demonstration to its members how to raise tobacco, dry and conserve it scientifically.
- received tobacco, packed in bags, to sell to tobacco agencies
- suppressing tradesmen who formerly bought green tobacco

The Supervisory Committee has been set up. Farmers have been encouraged to make improvement in raising tobacco, and the main activities of the cooperative will start with the coming crop.

Fishing

Fishing activities have been carried on satisfactorily. USOM has been of great assistance, such as giving jute, cotton yarn for fishing nets. Two patrol boats have been operating at large to discover fishing areas open to fishermen.

Summing up, the general status of the Aid program in Khanh Hoa is very satisfactory, and the Local Government has speeded up its activities in every field towards accomplishment of its goals.

Question. What are your personal ideas and projects for the Aid Program?

Answer. As mentioned above, the USOM provided our province with numerous means to improve the life of the people. Therefore, I suggest that this Aid should be carried on, and if possible to a larger extent.

Arrangements relating to the inquiry into a program for development of handicrafts have been made. In this field, Khanh Hoa has not yet received adequate aid because most of our handicraft activities are not constant and they have been carried out on a small scale. That is why the creation of a cooperative for receiving aid appears to be a complicated and difficult problem. Nevertheless, I am considering appropriate measures to request aid for such development.

There are

There are in Khanh Hoa many manual trades which- if developed and worked out methodically- would bring in considerable benefits to the economy of the province.

Insofar the program for handicraft development is concerned, I intent to set up professional centers whose purpose will be:

- To gather up a number of unemployed or poor workmen who have no means of working accordance with their possibilities.
- To popularize lucrative trades among the working class and train a number of workmen for suitable jobs.
- To supply commodities to the population at a lower price than that of commodities imported from other areas.
- To develop trades within the province in order to progressively build up a self-supporting economy.