

Mr. Lavergne's notes on his conversation with
Mr. Suu - Jan. 5, 1955

BEN TRE

- 2,000 houses @ ~~1,200~~ 1,200 p. b. people constructed
4 - 5 houses each.
- 6 - 10 wells 3-4 meters - good water if deeper you'll get salt water.
Need cement culverts -
- Health sand bothers eyes - windy
need medical aid soon
- Need boats for fishermen - need planks from Tay Ninh - by truck -
pre cut planks - give to villages - local carpenters build
- Lots of rice-land - plenty water - one crop -
- Roads priority. Asphalt to villages from Chief Lien to villages in
and about villages rocks
- Schools 2 already - need 1 per village already 6 villages
- Militaire - No batalion VN - Chef d'Arondissement GVNS only - secure but
but some Vminh. Assemble VM - do you want stay South or go North
- you are marked - if you accept stay - if not go north or in
concentration camp - many communists - some sects.
- Pop. 200,000 VN - few chinese
- Leader from there - don't send people from elsewhere . Very few leader
there. Must work with people not tell them.
- 80% pop. rural -
middle sized farms.
- Houses, bridges, schools, community buildings, roads destroyed by VM but
they never controlled province.
- 96 towns
- Crops rice, coconut, fruit, vegetable, wood for fire, water palm, fish
shell fish too, (trucked to Saigon)
- People have - fish, wood - buy cloth, rice, petrol. - every piastre spent
spent up to 30 on will bring double in 1 year.
- cooperative - consumption, production - cloth - at Jap prices
twins etc...
- lots of fish - more than Cap.
60,000 p. per boat repay in 6 months.
People pay 50% interest.