

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA OPERATIONS MISSION
(Special Technical and Economic Mission)
TO CAMBODIA, LAOS AND VIETNAM

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HANOI, VIETNAM
February 4, 1955.

Office of the Special Representative
of the Mission Director
for North Viet Nam

Weekly Report - Haiphong

General:

You will note that this report will not be as long as is my custom due to individual reports on a variety of subjects. Some I have not classified, but leave it up to you as you have the only copy. Thank you for the approval of the additional clerk. I intend to use him in a variety of ways, and he will be kept busy. Things are picking up in Haiphong, and the days are passing too quickly. On the other hand, we are making real progress in both the refugee work and in the removal of AEA equipment.

In case you do not have the shipping situation, here it is.

Two TAP from 22 Feb. to the end

One TAP on alert from May 1 to come only on request

Two TAK indefinitely

One LSD to February 28

Four LST arrive May 1 till end.

Refugees:

The Evacuation Committee has decided to evacuate Cement Camp to use it as a Transit Center only. The refugees now there will be moved to Pagode. As I have told you, some of the people there have been there for at least a four month period, and it might well be that some never will go south. The actual move has not taken place yet, and the Committee is a little worried about possible riots. I'll keep you posted on developments.

The numbers have dropped off somewhat. So far, no post Tet influx is apparent, and it should begin to show by now. There was some talk about sending the TAP back that is on the way from the States, but that will not be done.

The Commissioner for Refugees, Pham Van Huyen was in town last week-end and talks centered on methods to encourage movement from the camps and problems within the Evacuation Committee. The Mayor had a fine dinner in his honor, with all appropriate people present. An assistant is being left for Mr. Ham which should materially strengthen the work of the group.

We tried for about four days to load the Marine Serpent, and got a final group as you know of 2,700. Only 700 came on Monday morning after working all Sunday on getting a good turn out. Camp population dropped to about 7,000 which is at the "hard corps" figure. We load again on Monday or Tuesday. It cannot possibly be a full load or anything near it from the camps, so this will be a city ship. Look for baggage.

Material:

I sent you a wire telling of our failure to pick the five Frigidaires from the hospital. Major Walker and I went at siesta time and got them loaded onto the truck, talked with a Col. there, apparently got him to recognize it was O.K., and then tried to drive out. The gates were closed, a Foreign Legion boy standing with fixed bayonet and there we were. Ralph looked at me, I at him, and we retreated to look for the Col. He had gone "to lunch and was not available". So, with the possibility of a crowd

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gathering with each passing moment, we ordered the truck back to the point where we got the things and unloaded. We then returned to the gate, and after a look to ensure we did not have the Frigidaires in our pockets, the portals were swung wide and we got the ___ out. While we were a bit shaken at the nearness of a possible incident, we were more than a little annoyed at the stupidity of the French when we had the approval to ship the items. Next morning I went boiling into the office to get an appointment with Col. Riner. Got it the next afternoon which is the subject of a different report enclosed. He was sorry for the error - the military had not been informed. I told him one experience like that was enough, he agreed, and now the military pick everything and deliver dockside at no expense to us.

The situation on AEA equipment for the future is a subject of a separate report enclosed. You will also note in the report on the Col. Riner meeting that private equipment is touched. I will elaborate when I come down in a few days.

Well, in view of my early arrival in Saigon, I suggest this is adequate for this week.

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