

June 16, 1955

Dr. Le Van Khai
Director General of Health and Hospitals
59 Chausseoup Laubat
Saigon, Vietnam

Dear Dr. Khai:

In order to follow up on our conversation of Wednesday, the 15th, and the result of several discussions with Dr. Le Du, I would like to recommend that someone from your office in conference with the Vietnamese Medical Officer in charge of refugees, displaced persons, and residents of reoccupied areas get together to make a thorough study of the medical needs of these groups.

From a number of reports coming in from the field, there seems to be some difficulty in supplying the medical and sanitary needs of this group. Our present stock of drugs and the Division's present budgetary limitations does not permit us to supply the needs of these groups adequately. You may recall that the medical plans for 1956 began in 1953 and 1954 before the time of partition. After partition, the Division of Health and Sanitation in conference with your office did not immediately make plans to supply the medical and sanitary needs of these groups. We still continued to plan for the supply to the stable population under certain approved projects which do not include refugees and reoccupied areas. Now the need is critical and we are not able to meet it.

I think it would be good if in conference with the individual mentioned above, a program for the needs of these people could be worked out on an annual basis including cost of drugs, supplies, and materials, the place where the purchases could be made, the cost of servicing of these areas, medically and from a sanitary standpoint. We could then submit that as a separate request to the proper authorities and if it is possible get an approved budget or project to cover it. These plans should be made primarily for the purchase of drugs from a plaster fund because the ordering of drugs on an emergency basis from the United States requires too much time.

Sincerely yours,

cc: Levergne
Farrell
Cardinaux
HAPoindexter:hm

Hildrus A. Poindexter
Medical Director
Chief
Health and Sanitation Division