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Mr. Gardner Palmer, Acting Director

August 2, 1955

Mr. M.M.R. Adler, Chief, Field Service

Binh Xuyen Attacks at Phuoc Ly

Mr. Coster and Mr. Frakes attempted to reach the two refugee camps, Bao Ngan and Dai Lam in the Phuoc Ly area which were reported to have been attacked by the Binh Xuyen. The field representatives were unable to reach Phuoc Ly. The ferry at Cac Loi is out of order thereby cutting the most direct route Saigon-Phuoc Ly. Vietnamese army personnel at a post approximately halfway between Long Than and Phuoc Ly, the alternative route, would not permit travel to Phuoc Ly because "it was too late for the Vietnamese Military to establish contact with the Cao Dai Military who are responsible for the Phuoc Ly area."

The field representatives are returning to Bien Hoa this morning and will be escorted by the Chief of Province to Phuoc Ly to investigate the incidents. Information obtainable yesterday from several sources indicate that Bao Ngan was attacked last Friday by persons declared to be Binh Xuyen who held the area by firing mortar shells over the village as young people systematically set fire to 32 refugee pailots. On Sunday Dai Lam was attacked in similar manner resulting in the burning of 67 houses and injury to 7 or 8 people. Young people were again reported to actually set fire to the houses.

Mr. Coster described the area as previously under Binh Xuyen control with the consent of the French Military. A French Seaplane Base on the Son Dong Nai river is relatively close to Phuoc Ly and a French Military unit described as a "pyrotechnic unit" is reported to be adjacent to the village. A priest reported that flood lights which normally are used at night near the villages were not lit up on the nights of the incidents. However, all of this information is definitely third hand.

Mr. Coster and Mr. Frakes both stated the obvious need for some immediate action to direct some American assistance to these villages through the Vietnamese Government. I have instructed them to determine today these needs which might be filled by the Commissioner General or other Vietnamese agencies which are not being met by local authorities.

MHBA/ng

cc: Mr. Rhodes  
Mr. Cardinaux ✓  
Mr. Meloy  
Col. Evans  
Mr. Arderton

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