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TO : Mr. M.H.B. Adler, Chief, Field Service DATE: August 16, 1955
 FROM : William H. Coster, Jr., Field Representative
 SUBJECT : Subversive Activities - Thanh Hoa Village (Honai) - Bien Hoa
 Province

FIELD REPORT NO. FS - 372

Location of Village: 14 kms east of Bien Hoa, on Route Nationale Number 1.

During a resettlement survey in the subject refugee village on 12 August 1955 the following information was reported by the Priest-in-Charge of Camp, R.F. Nguyen-Tri-Thuc:

1. On August 11, while cutting wood in the forests near the camp, the refugees encountered a "great number" of French troops carrying arms and equipment, apparently moving from one location to another. The troops were not specially identified by the refugees as Legionnaires or other Corps. The troops told the refugees to continue cutting their wood and not to worry about their presence. The fact that the troops should be using the forests for moving purposes instead of the passable roads seemed strange to the refugees and their priest.

2. A short while ago (exact time could not be determined) a French Army jeep carrying two French and two Vietnamese soldiers passed the Highway at the camp during the night dropping anti-National Government leaflets. Copies were not available to me but I was told samples of these leaflets have been forwarded to the Ministry of Defense.

3. Living nearby this camp there are approximately fifteen (15) families of local people, mostly woodsmen and laborers. These local people are reported to possess fire arms. Until the refugees formed their own police and enacted a 9 p.m. curfew these people used to come to the village and provoke the refugees by anti-government talk and action. This conduct was especially apparent when the locals were drunk. At one time when the refugees invited the locals to share some newly distributed flour they refused on the grounds they had been given some by the refugees of the nearby village of Bui Chu. However, a check made by Thanh Hoa with Bui Chu revealed this to be untrue. The priest seemed to think this indicated the local people were being supplied with staples from an unknown source. The refugees and the priest believe these locals are members of the Cao Dai Sect.

4. The Chief of Chef-Lieu District in which Thanh Hoa is located is said by the refugees to be pro-French. This opinion results from his requirement that all slogans and other manifestations for the 7 July Celebration be submitted to him for inspection prior to public view. Any anti-colonialist slogan was not permitted to be displayed.

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5. Secret recruitment....

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5. Secret recruitment of workers in the camp by unknown Vietnamese are also reported by the priest. The refugees were offered 250 \$ IC per day. Those who were interested were told to be prepared at any time to be taken to an airbase from which they would be transported by plane to the place of work, which was unknown. About 20 refugees were ready to leave but were dissuaded from doing so by the priest.

6. The refugees are afraid that, in spite of the fact Government Intelligence Service has been installed in the Honai resettlement area, the Viet Minh are going to attempt to create some trouble on or before the 19th day of August, which date is the commemorative day of their revolution.

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