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November 16, 1955

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100 Well Organized and Fully Armed Bandits Attacked Tay Ninh
Refugee Camp (Reference FS-331, November 5, 1955)

FIELD REPORT NO. FS - 543

Shortly before 7:00 P.M. on Nov. 2, 1955 the Priest leader of Phung Soc Refugee Camp in the Trung Lon group was alerted by the Chief of Province, in person, that an imminent pillage of the camp would be perpetrated by a group of bandits and that the Provincial Guard was assigned to give protection. A short time after this warning was received, gunfire and shell explosions were heard and it was then known that fighting developed between the bandits and the first section of the Provincial Guard who were assigned to protect the camp. The fighting went on until about midnight.

It was learned after the fighting ceased that the first section of the Provincial Guard had to be reinforced by half a battalion of the National Troops who endeavored to surround the area in an effort to capture the bandits. The attacking force was equipped with machine guns and "lance-grenades". The bandits initially lined one side of the main road, on the outskirts of the nearby rubber plantation before attacking. The National Troops explored and surrounded the area until 5:00 a.m. of the following day, discovering many blood stains in the bush but no victims were found. It was reported that the refugee casualties were 1 death and 5 seriously wounded, including one man from the neighboring camp who was shot dead by the bandits before they opened the full attack because he was travelling to visit the refugee camp scheduled for attack. The dead man's companion ran but was shot in the back and seriously wounded. Four others were also seriously wounded by a grenade or shell which landed in their house.

The looting, according to the camp's leaders, amounted to about 100,000 piasters, representing the receipt realized that day by some tradesmen of the camp who sold their stock of pigs.

As a result of the attack, a group of officers from the Deuxieme Bureau of the VN National Army in Quan-Tre (Headquarters) arrived early in the morning of Nov. 3 to arrest three refugees living in the camp. The following day, Nov. 4, they released these 3 but arrested a fourth who was known as a former Interpreter in the French Army and suspected as acting for the Binh Xuyen. The 4 refugees concerned were members of the Administrative Committee of the camp and they had made irregular (evidently unnecessary) inspections of many of the camp houses during four days preceding the attack. The 4th refugee to be arrested was also released a week ago according to the Priest leader.

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It was further.....

