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Mr. W.H.H. Idler, Chief, Field Service *W.H.H.*

Refugee Camp Tien-Thuan Don-Gau, Tay-Minh.

For your information there are enclosed below excerpts from Field Report FS- 585.

"Father Nguyen Huu Tong leading the camp stated that he does not believe that he will be able to prevent the refugees much longer from abandoning the camp. There are according to the Priest, two reasons why the refugees do not wish to remain at the present camp site, the first is political and the second is economic."

"Politically the camp claims to be poorly located, as they are all Catholics surrounded by Cao-Dai who are not pleased to have them in their midst and would like to have the refugees leave the area."

"According to Father Tong the Vietnamese Government established several camps in the Cao-Dai area under the jurisdiction of General Trinh Minh The as a political experiment in an effort to show that the Vietnamese Government wanted complete unification of the different political groups. General The rose to the occasion and contributed greatly but following his death the same Cao-Dai army elements are in charge of the area but the reasonable and leveling attitude of General The is noticeably missing. In other words since General The's death the refugees are not so keen to stay as they distrust the present Cao-Dai military leaders. The Priest believes that both the National Army and Cao-Dai military in Tay-Minh feel the same way fearing that some political disturbance may cause one to attack the other. Father Tong could not cite specific facts to substantiate his feeling but gave every indication that he and his flock are convinced that the present conditions are not stable."

"Some time ago Father Tong discovered the following message or warning posted on the door of his Church in the refugee camp. This information was withheld from his followers. Translated from Vietnamese it reads:"

"This is to remind you of the several messages I have sent you previously asking you to move the refugees out of this area and also to tell you that I just returned from Soai-Minh (Phuoc-Ly as interpreted by the Priest) where I burnt the refugees' houses after 10 days' warning. This time if you do not satisfy my request I must tell you that the refugees will suffer the same fate of Soai-Minh. I give you 15 days' grace and I swear that I'll do what I say."

cc: Mr. Anderton, Embassy  
Mr. Helm, Embassy  
General Williams, MAAG

Mr. Meley, Embassy  
Col. Evans, Army Attache

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