

644-TU/VP/M

SAIGON, May 23 , 1956

SECRET

From : The Commissioner for Refugees

To : The President of the Republic of Vietnam

TRANSLATION - N°. FS. 152/M

Honorable President,

I have a great honour to inform you of the mental status of the refugees in Cai-San.

According to some observers, the refugees were not arduously building up the foundations of their lodgings, they tried to delay the work, in order to ask from the Government other help for their physical viewpoint.

But after careful observation, my Office has found that: the refugees knew that Cai-San is a place having many possibilities to provide them an easy & well fed life. They have volunteered to settle in Cai-San and some of them, for fear of loosing out, had come to Cai-San, by their own ways.

circumstances

Thus, there were false observations, made by the observers, especially the foreigners, because there was, in effect, a delay in the construction of houses, so the refugees were disappointed & anxious. This delay was not due to the refugees, but to the contradiction of standpoint, at first, between the Director General of Plan & the Secretary State of Land Registration & Agrarian Reform (The Direction General of Plan wanted to dig the canals ; before the constructions of houses).

So the personnel, who were in charge of land reparation & fixing the poled for the refugees buiding up the foundations, had hesitated & executed their work without aim so as to avoid a delay.

In spite of these shortcomings, up to May 17, 1956 the status of work progress had reached:

- N° of foundations fixed with poles : 3.563
- N° of foundations built up : 1.157
- N° of foundations almost done : 1.619
- N° of house-frames given to the priests : 2.312
- N° of houses constructed : 139
- N° of temporary shelters : 314

My Office had tried to explain to the refugees, the importance of the constructions, which must be done before the rainy-season, and we also required their spiritual leaders to encourage them in this work. Now, the refugees continued

to build up the foundations & construct their houses.

Because, the rainy-season had come sooner than in preceding years, the refugees, as they constructed their houses, were anxious about the coming harvest. A secret source informed me that, the refugees are meeting to make a demand, sent to the President, with the purpose of asking the help for the ploughing of a lot of 3 ha ricefields for each family, behind their houses, or show them the ploughed field belonging to them, even if it is far from their houses, but the most important thing is that they do not miss this crop.

While introducing this information to your Excellency, I had only the thought of proving that the refugees were interested only their resettlement in Cai-San.

This subject was brought up & resolved in a meeting which took place at Cai-San, between the concerned authorities: The Ministry of Agriculture, The Secretary of State for Land Registration & Agrarian Reform, the Board of Public-Works, the Direction General of Plan, The Comigal for Refugees. The Ministry of Agriculture was in charge of purchases of seeds, and the Ministry itself will sow these seeds, after the fields are ploughed. The Secretary of State for Land Registration & Agrarian Reform promised to finish the works of ploughing in time, as shown in the project.

So, we can hope for the successful results of the resettlement in Cai-San, unless there are unforeseen changes of weather or disasters.

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Please accept, your Excellency, my respectful consideration & my devotion.

BUI VAN LUONG
(Signed & sealed)

COPY SENT TO:

- Messrs: - Secretary of State to the Presidency.
 - President of the Board of Public-Works
 - Secretary of State for Land Registration & Agrarian Reform.
 - Minister of Agriculture.
 - Government Delegate for SVN
 - Director General of Plan to the Presidency.

INFORMATION:

- Messrs: - Director of Resettlement Section at the Comigal.
 - LAVERGNE, Assistant-Director of USOM