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Oct. 16, 1956

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Visit to Cu Chi Village - Gia Dinh subproject 118 -  
Progress unsatisfactory - Village will be revisited  
shortly (Ref. Field Report 1671, of Oct. 15).

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FIELD REPORT No. FS - 1688

The above Village was visited on October 12 in order to determine what progress has been made in the implementation of that portion of subproject 118 allotted to it.

The visit unfortunately was made without the Provincial Delegate who could not make the trip as scheduled. Because of the incomplete information obtained from the 5-man Committee and Priest leader, a second visit will be made with Mr. Lam the Provincial Delegate, October 18.

Briefly stated, this Village claims to have 8125 (or 1625 families) in population whereas, the subproject agreement carries the population at 5979.

The leaders claim that 591 Hectares of land and 180 of forest have been cleared but that no funds have been received for any work performed or advanced for any items in the subproject. According to the leaders, nothing of any kind or any funds have been received under the subproject agreement; except that 72 out of 200 allotted plows and some second distribution of USOM tools were delivered.

The leaders claim to have built all the road and trails under item 8 but nothing else has been done. In view of the fact that the Provincial Delegate was not present to verify or explain the apparent collapse of this agreement, another visit is being scheduled for that purpose.

As a matter of information based on hearsay, this Village was one of several areas selected by the French authorities during the early post-war period, to serve as a labor reserve for French Rubber Plantations in that area. This and several other locations received a great deal of direct French aid during the early stages of the creation, but the aid decreased in proportion to the increased strength gathered by President Diem's government. The Paris paper "Figaro" gave the Village of Cu Chi a very large well constructed, brick and tile, secondary school and the French

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Field Rpt - Gia Dinh

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Red Cross established a sizeable dispensary in the Village at one time.

The Priest leader at Cu Chi is the selected Chief of Center but he fails (I am told) to take any part in these duties, not only with respect to his own Village but none of the 9 Villages under his supervision. This is another reason for arranging a second visit with the Provincial Delegate.

It is recommended that member of USOM, Resettlement and Rehabilitation Division, and any other section of USOM, interested in this particular subproject agreement, be prepared to visit Cu Chi on Thursday morning October 18, departure from Gia Dinh Chief of Province's office at 7.45 AM. See telegram No. 18 TN of October 15th.

JDN/Vml.