

CIVIC ACTION-TEAM II
KHUONG-HOA HAMLET
HOA-PHU VILLAGE
JANUARY 21, 1964

SPECIAL REPORT ON ARROGANT BEHAVIOUR OF HOA-PHU MILITIA POST'S
PLATOON CHIEF.

Mr. Nguyễn, Hòa-Phủ village's militia post chief, on January 18, 1964, was ordered to watch over the Team cadres' security.

While executing his task, Mr. Nguyễn got himself drunk, behaved arrogantly, and squabbled with the village representative before the people. At 2:00 p.m., Mr. Nguyễn ordered the militiamen to return to the post, and at the same time, told us that we should come back, too, because he had already instructed militiamen to withdraw. If we did remain, security would not be guaranteed. At that time, we were carrying out activities at the bottom of Khuong-Hòa hamlet. We told him that our task was not yet over, moreover, we had to wait for orders from our upper level, that is why we could not withdraw from the hamlet. On the other hand, we had to ask local militiamen (living in the hamlet) about some necessary things, but Mr. Nguyễn did not accede to our request.

After that, Mr. Nguyễn gave orders to militiamen to withdraw from the hamlet, leaving us behind, while we were performing tasks at the bottom of the hamlet, a place regarded as dangerous.

Team II Head

Phạm-Văn-Tùng

CIVIC ACTION-TEAM II
KHUONG-HOA HAMLET
HOA-PHU VILLAGE
JANUARY 18, 1964

Before November 1, 1963, armed VC troops invaded the hamlet, mobilized the people to destroy the hamlet fence and opened meetings of the people, urging the latter to move back to their old houses. They pretended that strategic hamlets are hells on earth, and that herding people into strategic hamlets is designed to facilitate pressganging and exploitation of the people. They also deluded the relocated people by the following argument. To move in the hamlet is to abandon one's rice-field, one's garden which one had to toil one's life long to get. One's property is deteriorated, moreover freedom is lost. They also menaced that they will not guarantee properties and life of the relocated people if the latter do not move back.

After many times of such VC study and appeal, a number of people having properties and land on the outside have moved back to their old area, built straw huts to live in and earn their living.

In the night of November 3, 1963, after the successful revolution, about two VC platoons showed up, encircled the Militia post, gathered the people of both Khương-Thạnh and Khương-Hòa hamlets and ordered men and women to pull down roofs and destroy walls of the relocated people's houses, compelling these people to leave the hamlet for their old houses. After house dismantling, they opened a meeting to study about the Revolutionary Military Council's November 1 coup d'état, which is to topple the Ngo family's regime, abolish dictatorship,

repression and exploitation of the people, and end religious discrimination.

Since that day, up to December 1963, local inter-village VC from time to time showed up to open study meetings, and regularly came to each family to popularize news about their military victories in one or another region. It was not until our Town Military Sector (Chi-Khu-Thành) has been re-established and two VC were killed in Bình-Nam hamlet, Bình-Lập village, that the Viet Cong did not show up as often as in the past.

In the past, they used to come to the hamlet at about 5:00 p.m. and quit it at a late hour in the evening. All study meetings were organized in the Buddhist Pagoda, some 600 meters away from the fence and on the outside.

Remarks: Following are the Team's remarks after investigation. If the VC are virtually the masters of this hamlet, that is because there are quite a few relocated families having children who had fled the family and followed the VC, and also many families in the hamlet having members who had followed the VC, such as: Nguyễn-Văn-Đan, Bùi-Văn-Vẽ, Bùi-Văn-Bông, Bùi-Văn-Tiểu, Bùi-Văn-Tảo (Tiểu and Tảo quit their family since October 1963 only), Phan-Văn-Khởi, Phan-Văn-Công; the men: Nam, Y, Xuân, Dũng, Đức (deceased) and Đoàn-Văn-Đa, are at present VC cadres in charge of Khương-Hòa and Khương-Thạnh hamlets.

The result is that, if they want to preserve their children's life, they should be pro-communist, have relations with the VC, provide them with news, enabling the VC to easily enter the hamlet to ambush militiamen, destroy the hamlet and harass the people. The day following the Team's arrival in the hamlet, the VC came in to scatter leaflets.

Team II Head:
Phạm-Văn-Tùng

CIVIC ACTION-TEAM II
KHUONG-HOA HAMLET
HOA-PHU VILLAGE
JANUARY 20, 1964

SPECIAL REPORT ON THE SUCCESSFUL PERSUASION OF ONE VC CADRE
TO RETURN TO THE NATIONAL CAUSE.

While carrying out activities in Khương-Hòa hamlet, Hòa-Phủ village, our Team, besides performing our Civic Action principal duty, has chatted with the people, explained and popularized the Government's line and stand, especially the "Open Arms" (Chiêu Hồi) policy, as an indirect appeal to VC cadres and troops to return to the national cause.

Answering the Team's appeal, in the morning of January 20, 1964, Nguyễn-Văn-Huệ (alias Xuân), VC intelligence and liaison man in charge of Hòa-Phủ and Vĩnh-Công villages, presented himself as a returnee before our Team, and accompanied by our Team, he has reported himself to the Provincial Chiêu-Hồi center.

Team II Head:

Phạm-Văn-Tùng

ORAL DEBRIEFING ON AP KHUONG THANH

Original list had 134 families, but 107 moved away, leaving only 24.

There were 111 relocation families here, but there are only four left. VC brought people from other hamlets to remove roofs from houses and force the 107 families to move.

The last time the VC came to this hamlet was in late September, when they forced the 107 families to move.

The people of Ap Khuong Thanh seem more friendly toward the VC than toward the government. They will turn to VC for help instead of asking the government. The VC has "given" them land, and they will go to them to arbitrate land disputes. In 1945, the VC took this land from rich people and the French and then distributed it to the people.

The people's main complaint against the VC is taxation. Those who were "issued" land by VC have to pay 1,000 piastres a year in tax, but there are also extra taxes.

Among the 111 relocation families, only 18 received money from the government. However, these 18 were not the poorest families. The 18 received 1,000 piastres each.

The Third Civic Action Team repaired a bridge between Ap Khuong Thanh and Ap Khuong Hoa. The people of both hamlets would now like a bridge wide and strong enough to support Tri-Lambretta traffic. Ap Khuong Thanh would also like a first aid station, nurse and well.

Eighty percent of the fence was destroyed. There is no hamlet militia. Some hamlet council members live in Tan An and some have returned to their original homes, so the council does not meet.

This hamlet has three underground VC working in the hamlet area. (See Special Report for names and other information.)

The people said the last time government cadres visited this hamlet was in August 1963, when they came in to inspect the destroyed fence.

They have no complaint against the Bao An and SDC, but didn't like the government taking land for relocation families. The government did not reimburse former owners for this land, but still made them pay taxes to the government on it. The people now hope the new government will pay them for this land, or at least reduce the taxes on it, since they cannot work it.

The cadres say these hamleteers hope the government wins the war; but don't honestly think either the government or the VC will win, and that the fighting will go on indefinitely.

PSYWAR - TEAM I
Khuong-Thanh Hamlet
Phu-Hoa Village

I. ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMUNIST VIET-CONG GUERRILLAS AT THIS
THIS HAMLET AFTER THE NOVEMBER 1 REVOLUTION

A. The Military situation

After the November 1 Revolution, the VC did not launch any military activities in this hamlet. The last 6 times they came to it was in late June, July and August. They then only aimed at destroying its defensive fence.

B. The political situation

In the course of the last 6 times they came to this hamlet, the VC urged the local residents to move and resume their lives at their original residential areas. Only in this way could the VC mix themselves up with the defected hamleteers and continue to infiltrate in the surrounding areas to carry out their subversive activities. Besides, the VC had also tried to vilify the November 1 Revolution and its leaders.

For the time being there are already 107 relocation families that returned to their original houses upon the VC insistence.

Urging the renegade local residents to move back into the hamlets so as to avoid the exploitation of the VC, the local authorities have also tried by their means to ensure the security of these people.

II. GENERAL INSIGHT CONCERNING THE ATTITUDE OF THE HAMLETEERS
VIA-A-VIS THE VC.

Of the whole hamlet population,

A. Four percent support the VC out of fear.

B. Eighty percent show their complete apathy toward both sides. Most of them are poor farmers who have been

threatened by the hamlet underground VC and were forced to pay tax to them. The security of these people is not being ensured by the local authorities, especially at night time.

C. Sixteen percent stand for our cause. The children and relatives of these people are presently working for our government services.

III. THE ACTIVITIES OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN THE INFRA-STRUCTURE

A. The Hamlet Executive Office

For the time being, the Hamlet Executive Office has stopped working. During the working trip of Team I to the hamlet, all the members of the said Office were absent. It was because of poor security that these people have to move to another locality to earn their living. The Hamlet staff used to be threatened by the underground VC.

B. The Hamlet Council

Presently the Hamlet Council has been dissolved, some of its staff were the members of the relocation families. They served as commissars in the Hamlet Council. They all have moved to their original houses.

C. The Militia

The Militia has let down, for the moment, all its activities. Presently there are only 24 families left in the hamlet. Most of them are original residents. All defensive systems and organizations have been completely destroyed by the VC. The spirit of the hamleteers is low and the militia has dissolved itself.

D. The Security Forces

The Combat Youths

Before, there were two squads of Combat Youths at the Hamlet. They all have completed their military training courses. Of these two Combat Youth Squads, one is armed with 5 sporting

guns, 5 Mausers and 1 pistol. But the security is presently not ensured, and the Combat youths have returned their personal arms to the District authorities of Binh Phuoc District. A large number of the combat youths have followed their families and moved to their original houses.

The Self-Defense-Corps

There is presently an SDC Platoon garrisoned at Don-Phu Post, Ap Don-Phu. They all are through-and-through anti-communist patriots, they proved themselves to be honest and gentle during their frequent patrols in the hamlet. The local residents don't have anything to complain about their behaviour.

The Civil Guards

It is a long time since the Bao-An has launched a mop-up in this hamlet.

IV. THE PRESENT SITUATION OF THE HAMLET

A. Its population prior to the November 1 Revolution

Prior to the November 1 Revolution the hamlet had a population of 787, including oldsters and youngsters.

There were 131 houses, of which, 4 relocation families are still living in the hamlet.

Of these 131 families, there were 20 original families and 111 relocation ones. And of the 111 relocation-families, 107 have moved to their original houses.

Eighteen relocation families have received money from the local authorities, the relocated money totaling 18,000 VN\$ (each relocation family received 1,000 piastres).

There are now 93 relocation families that have not received money from the Government. The District authorities said the district funds are running low, and they will deliver the relocated sum of money to the above-mentioned families as soon as their funds are raised.

The relocation families thought the local authorities had done them an injustice, since they all moved at the same

time in the hamlet. Only 18 of them were picked to get the money, and yet, these are not the poorest families.

Of the whole population in the hamlet only 10 percent are rich, the remaining 90 percent can only make a bare living and are bad off.

Presently

There are only 113 inhabitants left. That makes a loss of 774 persons.

Of the original 107 houses, only 24 are left.

The reasons why there is such a decrease of population in the hamlet is that most of the families are the relocation ones that have moved to their original houses, being forced by the VC.

B. The Effectiveness of the Psywar Teams' Activities in the Hamlet.

Following is the effectiveness of the Government services such as: the Information Service, the Youth Organization, the Civic Action, the National Police organs and the Vietnamese Armed Forces.

The Government civil services as well as the Vietnamese Armed Forces have a good reputation among the hamlet population.

Meanwhile, the National Government has failed in ensuring the security of the personnel of the local executive services and of other civic organizations, and as a result of such a state of things, these people got scared and abandoned their works and their responsibilities as hopeless, gap is thus caused by their absence and the hamleteers lose subsequently all their confidence in the government.

Following are the opinions of the hamleteers on different local executive services:

However, it is to be remarked that the local residents have a very high opinion of the above-mentioned services, and

show great respect for their members' righteousness. As a matter of fact, these services have never bothered the hamleteers and rendered their lives impossible.

C. The Aspirations of the Local Residents

Of the whole hamlet population:

Forty-five percent would like to rebuild and consolidate the hamlet, most of these people are rich farmers and are our troops' relatives. They all are original residents of the hamlet.

Fifty-five percent would not like to resettle in the strategic hamlet. Most of them are farmers whose rice-fields are located in far off areas out of the hamlet. To their mind, the reconstruction of the hamlet would hinder their farming works.

The local residents would like to government to ensure their security in the daytime as well as at nighttime. They wished our troops to launch frequent mopping-up operations in the vicinities of their hamlet and to send troops for patrols in their area. This will prevent the VC from coming to their hamlet and levying taxes. As a matter of fact, the hamleteers have to pay 1,000VN\$ a year in tax to the VC.

With regard to the local authorities, the local residents would like for these to be elected by them, and once elected, the representatives of the hamleteers should have a keen sense of justice, to be benevolent and only think of serving the people.

As to the health and social security, the local residents would like to government to have a first-aid station set up for them. They also requested the Government to build a wooden bridge connecting Ap Khuong-Thanh and Ap Khuong-Hoa so as to facilitate the traffic.

V. THE ACTIVITIES OF TEAM I.

Our team has called on 24 families in the hamlet. In distributing the government gifts to them, we have succeeded in gaining their esteem and in studying their cases and their actual aspirations. The gifts include:

- 24 copies of the Free World Magazine, Vietnamese version.
- 24 copies of Huong Que Magazine (Pastoral Favor).
- 20 boxes of tea.
- 24 cans of food and
- 150 leaflets and monthly bulletins.

B. The hamlet defensive network

The hamlet extends on an area of 2,164 square meters.

The 528-meter outer bamboo fence has been destroyed.

There are only 110 meters left.

VI. REMARKS AND SUGGESTIONS OF THE PSYWAR TEAM.

Remarks

There is, to our mind, poor security in the hamlet. The local administrative services and the hamlet militia have been dissolved, this causes the hamleteers to get scared and to lose their confidence in the government. Seventy-five percent of the defense network of the hamlet has been completely destroyed. Most of the relocation families have moved to their original houses.

Suggestions

We should like to ask the authorities concerned to improve the hamlet so as to defend the remaining families. What is needed to do at once is to send our troops and our security forces to the hamlet in daytime as well as in nighttime with a view to cut down the infiltration of the VC, and to prevent them from levying taxes and from terrorizing the local residents.

Team Leader:
Nguyen Dinh Tho

USIS Observer:
Tran Dinh Minh

PSYWAR - TEAM I
Khuong Thanh Hamlet
Hoa Phu Village

January 16, 17 and 21, 1964

I. COMPATRIOTS' ATTITUDE TOWARD THE GOVERNMENT

A number of compatriots complain that allowances for removal of houses into the Strategic Hamlet was not fair and reasonable, since many families did not get any grant although they have actually removed their houses.

The population wishes that the government would not let them down and would give them some compensation.

II. COMPATRIOTS' ASPIRATIONS.

The majority of compatriots at Khuong Thanh and Khuong Hoa Hamlets request the Government to rebuild the bridge which links the two hamlets to make communication of the population easier and safer (the bridge is 8 meters long, 2 meters wide, and is 4 meters deep).

Compatriots also propose that the Government dig a well to supply drinking water to compatriots in the hamlet, because there is a shortage of drinking water because during the season sea water reaches the area.

A majority of compatriots have moved their houses to old places outside of the Strategic Hamlet. These people are greatly concerned that military operations can endanger their lives. Their earnest desire is to ask the Government to assure their security so that they can return to the hamlet and avoid Viet Cong harsh control.

III. SPECIAL NEWS ABOUT CLANDESTINE VC.

Following is the list of clandestine Viet Cong who are operating in the village:

- 1) Nguyen Van Chinh, Secretary of the Village Committee
(one-eyed man)
- 2) Tran Van Ruc, Platoon chief
- 3) Nguyen Van Nay, Second in Command
- 4) Doan Van Da, guerrillero

The first two men are armed, each with a shotgun, while the third and the fourth are equipped each with 1 Mas 36.

Names of other cadres follow:

Trinh Van Vinh, son of Trinh Van Xe from Binh Sam.
Tran Van Chao, son of Le Thi Du from Phu Thanh.
Nguyen Van Be, son of Nguyen Van Cua from Phu Thanh.
Ho Van La, son of Ho Van Manh from Phu Thanh.
Tran Van Bay, son of Tran Van Chau from Binh Chanh.
Tran Van Hoang, armed with a Mauser
Tran Van Voi, armed with a Mas 36

The platoon is equipped with 3 shotguns, 1 Mauser, 3 Mas 36, 1 local-made gun.

Responsible cadres:

Nguyen Dang Mai
Phan Thanh Chau

PSYWAR - TEAM I
Khuong Thanh Hamlet
Hoa Phu Village
January 17, 1964

ACTIVITIES OF THE ENEMY AT KHUONG THANH STRATEGIC HAMLET

The influence of Viet Cong activities in this Strategic Hamlet is very great because the population is placed under the tight control of a platoon of Viet Cong guerrilleros of Hoa Phu Village. This platoon is equipped with 8 weapons.

Furthermore, a Viet Cong regional company, called Company 313, composed of 50 men and armed with good weapons, often goes through the hamlet to control it and to give a helping hand to the guerrilleros.

The Hamlet is still under the control of a Viet Cong administrative organization from the Hoa Phu Village. The Viet Cong Village Committee has a Secretary named Nguyen Van Chinh, a cadre named Doan Van Ba.

In the hamlet there is a Viet Cong agent who belongs to the Provincial Propaganda Forces. The agent's name is Nguyen Van Tuoi, the son of Nguyen Van Chay and Nguyen Thi That.

Following is the composition of the guerrilleros platoon:

1) Commander of Platoon: Rue; 2) Second-in-Command: Nay (a draft dodger); 3) Vinh; 4) Chac (draft dodger); 5) Be (draft dodger); 6) La (draft dodger); 7) Ban (draft dodger); 8) Hoang and 9) Voi.

The platoon is equipped with 3 shotguns, locally-made rifle, 1 Mauser, 3 Mas 36, and often uses these guns to harass the strategic hamlet.

A number of young draft dodgers have joined the guerrilleros in their operation and use sharp weapons such as poniards,

machettes or grenades. They are; 1) Nguyen Van Quan 2) Nguyen Ngoc Chuong 3) Nguyen Van Binh.

In the village of Hoa Phu, there are 2 women who join the Viet Cong and often come to the hamlet with the guerrilleros. The pair is: 1) Nguyen Thi Cam and No. When the Guerrilleros come, they summon the population and tell hamlet people to abandon their houses and leave the SH otherwise their lives would be threatened and their fields could not be cultivated freely. The Viet Cong levy 1,000 piasters of taxes per hectares on rice fields they have controlled since 1945. The Viet-Cong also set up people's court to try petty cases which arise from minor disputes in the hamlet.

PSYWAR - TEAM I
Khuong Thanh Hamlet
Hoa Phu Village

January 7, 1964

SITUATION OF THE POPULATION AT KHUONG THANH STRATEGIC HAMLET

Nearly all families in the Strategic Hamlet are resettled families who come from the old Khuong Thanh Hamlet. The number of resettled families amount to 113 and the members of these families appear to be wavering and even pro-Communist. Only very few people are on the national side; those who have properties, or relatives or sons serving in the Administration or the ARVN.

The destruction of houses in the hamlet by the Viet-Cong gave the population a good excuse to return to their old places where most of them have been granted lands by the Viet Cong since 1945. If they stay in the hamlet, these lands will be allotted to other people.

The number of families which stay in the hamlet after the Viet Cong have destroyed it does not exceed 30. The Viet Cong now rarely come to the hamlet because of the limited number of families and the inhabitants are too poor to pay taxes.

The peculiar thing about the hamlet is the fact that the population still trusts the Viet Cong. Whenever there is a dispute about lands or fields, they bring the matter to the Viet Cong for trial and they have more confidence in the Viet Cong than in the national side.

For instance, a dispute about land arises between two persons. The pair find the Viet Cong authorities to file their suit instead of bringing it to the Village Council.

They also responded to the Viet Cong demand to pay 1,000 piasters for each hectare of land and make a monthly contribution of rice to the Viet Cong guerrilleros.

In our contact and conversation with the hamlet people we notice that they have a pretty good level of understanding and use terms often used by the Viet Cong themselves such as "revolution", "liberation", "cadre" etc.

The Viet Cong have practically no organization in the hamlet since it has few inhabitants after a great number have left. Thus, the hamlet is virtually destroyed both in content and form.

Nguyen Van Hai

OPAL DEBRIEFING ON AP BINH SON

This hamlet consists of 133 families, of which 18 are relocatees. Six families in Binh Son have relatives in the VC.

There is no hamlet council, because the VC threatened the members if it met and they disbanded, at least unofficially.

Ninety-seven percent of the fence has been destroyed.

Some Civic cadres told the debriefing officer the hamleteers were afraid of the VC and wouldn't talk to them about their activities -- even those residents who had relatives in the VC. However, other cadres said the hamleteers did talk about the VC, specifically.

Almost all of the people in the hamlet pay taxes to the VC. The poorest pay about 500 piastres per hectare per year, the rich about 1,000. Number of children and use of land seems to determine actual figure; if a family has many children, taxes are lower -- if the land is worked a lot, taxes are higher.

The VC have a list of land owners, most of whom live in Tan An city.

The people had nothing to say about either the old or new governments, pro or con.

The last time government people came to Binh Son was in April 1963, when the hamlet was constructed. During that month, incidentally, adjacent Ap Xom Nham was also constructed, and while construction teams were working on the latter, they were fired on by VC in Ap Binh Son.

The people of Binh Son would like a water pump, dispensary and nurse. They would also like to borrow money from the National Credit Office (NACO). However, they added that unless the government provided the hamlet with adequate security, all these things could either be taken or destroyed by the VC.

Some of the people think either side has a chance of winning the war, and most don't seem to really care. However, they said they want the government to send soldiers to protect them from the VC.

Others think the government won't win, giving as their reason that since there were no VC in the South following the Geneva Agreements (sic), and there are many now, the government's position has weakened.

They would like the hamlet reconstructed, if the government will provide security. If it is reconstructed without adequate security, they feel it will become a VC combat hamlet.

They said they didn't know their District Chief. Since most of the SDC in Binh Son came from that hamlet, they know and like them. But they said they didn't like SDC from other hamlets, because they steal chickens and otherwise misbehave.

The hamleteers think Binh Son is too big for tight security. The fence is three kilometers long in one place and hard to defend and expensive to repair for some residents whose land fronts a long section. They think more SDC and construction cadres would help solve this problem.

Civic Action Team I

Binh-son hamlet

Binh-quoi village

January 24, 1964

I. ENEMY ACTIVITIES IN THE STRATEGIC HAMLET AFTER NOVEMBER 1, 1963

A. Military

After the November 1 successful revolution, there has been no VC attack against the hamlet. Before November 1, 1963, in the course of August and September 1963, the VC had invaded the hamlet and destroyed the hamlet's fence. Moreover, they had arrested and tied up all the hamlet's administrative committee and council members, and threatened that the latter would be killed if they continued to work for the national government. The VC also killed Mr. Vo-van-Ca deputy security commissioner, in the night of June 5, 1963, after they had unsuccessfully attacked Binh-Tam post.

B. Political

After November 1, 1963, there have been no VC activities on the political field.

II. GENERAL REMARKS ON PEOPLE'S FEELINGS TOWARD THE VC

- A. Pro-enemy - 10 percent, because of fear of the VC
- B. Half way - 65 percent, because of enemy pressure and lack of government's protection.
- C. Pro-government - 25 percent - Made up of rich families, and families having their children now working for our government.

III. GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

A. Hamlet administrative committee

At present, though the hamlet administrative committee is still existing, there are no activities, because of lack of security on the one hand and the VC pressure on the other. All are confused and in deadly fear of the enemy.

B. Hamlet council

The hamlet council is still existing, but there are no activities because of fear of the VC.

C. Popular organizations

Popular organizations in the hamlet are still existing, but there are no activities because of lack of security. The hamlet defense system has been destroyed as much as 97 percent by the enemy.

D. Security forces

Two combat youth squads in the hamlet have had basic military training. One of these two squads was provided with 3 English-made rifles, 6 shotguns and 1 pistol. These weapons have already been given back to the local administration.

Civil guard men show up very rarely in the hamlet.

Militiamen are not stationed in the hamlet. There is only the Binh-Tam militia post, stationed in the Binh-Tam bridge, bordering on the hamlet, and the Binh-quoi post, some 2,500 meters east of the hamlet.

Civil guard and militia forces have never created dissatisfaction among the people.

IV. STRATEGIC HAMLET PRESENT SITUATION

A. Population before November 1, 1963

Population : 551 (including men, women, aged, children)

Houses : 151 (original : 129, relocated : 22)

All of the 22 relocated families received no relocation money from the government.

People's living conditions:

Rich	:	20 percent
Average	:	35 percent
Needy	:	45 percent

B. Present situation

Population : 465 (a decrease of 86 persons)

Houses : 133 (including 4 relocated families still remaining, so a decrease of 18 houses)

The hamlet's population has decreased because there were 18 families which have moved back to their old houses under VC pressure.

V. THE EFFECTIVENESS OF OUR GOVERNMENT SERVICES' ACTIVITIES

It is to be remarked that the Government services, such as the Information Services, the Youth Organization, the Civic Action, the National Police Services as well as the Vietnamese Armed Forces did not bother the local residents, and has thus gained their confidence and their esteem. It can be said that they have exercised constructive influences over the local population.

VI. THE ASPIRATION OF THE LOCAL RESIDENTS

Of the whole local population, 20 percent stand for the improvement of the strategic hamlet, most of these elements belong to the top ten percent of the rich population of the hamlet and/or the relatives of our civil servants or soldiers. To their mind, once consolidated, the strategic hamlets will ensure their security and prevent the VC from coming to the hamlet and levying their so-called taxes. Besides, the hamlet will also defend them from different subversive activities of the underground VC.

Eighty percent of the hamleteers show their complete apathy toward both sides. Most of them are farmers. They said that the hamlet would prevent them from doing their farming works. Besides, the defense network of ditches and fences had rendered the traffic difficult. There are also a certain number of hamleteers that dared not express their opinions openly for fear of possible punishment on the part of the Government. When asked on

the consolidation of the hamlets, they only said vaguely that was up to the Government.

As to the security of the hamleteers, they would like the National Government to ensure their security once it rebuilds the hamlet. Otherwise, they dared not live in the hamlet due to the frequent raid of the VC and the subversive activities of the underground cadres of the VC. They also wished that the government armed forces would make frequent patrols in the vicinities of the hamlet in daytime as well as in nighttime.

With regard to the National authorities, The hamleteers would like the local government services to be composed of members elected by themselves. These must be righteous and only think of the interests of the local residents. Besides, the local authorities should not bother and threaten the hamleteers. So far as the economic questions are concerned, the hamleteers would like the Government to provide them with a water pump to irrigate their rice-fields in the forthcoming harvest. As a matter of fact, this hamlet is essentially an agricultural region, most of the people derive their livelihood from farming, but since their rice-fields are situated in the uplands, they have to hire a water pump to bring water into their fields at the cost of 60VN\$ an hour. This represents quite a great expense for them as they are mostly poor.

In regard to the health and social security, they would like the Government to set up a dispensary or a first aid station run by a nurse so as to treat their sick.

VII. THE ACTIVITIES OF THE PSYWAR TEAM

Our team has visited 133 families in the hamlet and has studied the case of each one of these families and listened to their complaints.

To these families we have distributed 100 copies of the Free World Magazine. (Vietnamese version), 100 copies of Huong Que magazine (pastoral flavor) 160 boxes of tea,

THE DEFENSE SYSTEM OF THE HAMLET

The 3,200 meter defense network of the hamlet, composed of ditches, barbed wire fences and bamboo fences has been almost totally destroyed by the VC. There is only one hundred meters of barbed wire fences left.

VIII. REMARKS AND SUGGESTIONS OF THE PSY WAR TEAM

A. REMARKS

The hamlet Administrative Office as well as the militia have been dissolved, most of their members have been demoralized, they get scared and are now much afraid of the VC. As a result, they lose their confidence in the Government and in the local authorities. They think the local authorities are no longer in a position to ensure, effectively, their security. Ninety-seven percent of the defense network of the hamlet has been destroyed by the enemies. In fact, the hamlet is too large, and the fence stretched on too wide an area, therefore, the hamleteers cannot control it properly. The VC can slip in the hamlet easily.

B. SUGGESTIONS

We think it would be proper to set up a well aligned fence when we rebuild the hamlet so as to facilitate the patrol of the militia.

It is, in our opinion, of utmost importance that the Government representatives as well as the security forces make frequent visit to the hamlet so as to inspire the confidence to the local residents. The mop-ups launched by our armed forces in the vicinities of the hamlet will cut down the infiltration of the VC and will prevent them from levying their so-called taxes. (For each acre, the landowners have to pay the VC 1,000 piasters in tax, and the tenants 300 piasters)

Team chief:

Nguyen Dinh Tho

USIS observer:

Tran Dinh Minh

CIVIC ACTION TEAM II
Ky-Chau Hamlet
Binh Quoi Village
January 28, 1964

I. THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ENEMIES AT THE HAMLET AFTER THE
NOVEMBER 1 REVOLUTION.

A. The Military Situation

Early in November, 1963, the Ap Ky Chau Dan-ve were instructed to maintain their defensive position. It is to be noticed that these are the newcomers, freshly transferred to that Dan-ve Post. The VC being informed of the said situation thus caused by the Revolution, sent a platoon of well armed guerrillas to Ap Ky-Chau. On their arrival at the hamlet, the VC rushed to Ky-Son market place in search of our Combat-youths. They then destroyed the Hamlet office, encircled the Dan-ve Post, set fire on it and mined an iron bridge near the Dan-Ve Post. As a result, the mine has torn away some iron girders of the said bridge. But after the VC retired, we immediately repaired it.

In launching that attack against the Ap Ky-Chau Dan-Ve Post, the VC only aimed at showing up their potential forces to the hamleteers. The attack thus planned will, to the VC mind, demoralize the local population and the Dan-ve. On this occasion they have also urged the Dan-Ve and the hamleteers to defect to their sides and torpedo the strategic hamlet policy of the Government.

In the course of the above attack, the VC emerged from three directions. Their first column came from the direction of Ap Vinh-Hung, Vinh Cong village, the second from Phu Ngai Tri village, and the third one from Ap Thu, Binh.

During that surprise attack, the Dan Ve had to step back to the defensive position and sustain the VC fire to prevent them from reaching the Post. Besides, they didn't have any counter-attack plan.

However, after the above-mentioned event, the Dan Ve have held a meeting and began to talk over their shortcomings and their strong points in the course of the attack. From that day on they have changed their defensive plan and went to the strategic points to mount guard. The Dan-ve post lies between two large rivers and two immense rice-fields. They scattered their men at the embouchure of these rivers. As a result, the VC could not, from that time onward, break into the hamlet easily. They dared only venture in the vicinities of the river banks and fire into the Dan ve Post.

B. The Political Situation

In the course of the said attack, the VC have scattered a great quantity of leaflets. Besides, they did not launch any propaganda campaign, and could not for the same reason exercise any influence upon the hamleteers.

In other hamlets, however, the VC gathered the children and taught them how to recite their songs and told them hand down these songs by word of mouth to their classmates. But the teachers being informed in time of the VC machination, have shown to the pupil the fallacious propaganda of the VC.

II. GENERAL REMARKS ON THE ATTITUDE OF THE LOCAL RESIDENTS TOWARD THE ENEMIES

Of the whole local population, 10 percent support the enemies. (7 percent do so out of fear, 3 percent show an obvious sympathy for the VC), 10 percent show complete apathy toward both sides, and 80 percent stand firmly for our cause.

The reason, why we have gained an overwhelming percentage of the popular support in this hamlet, is that the hamlet is one of the most prosperous in the region. It has a large market with thronging streets. In the past few years, the VC have come to the hamlet and levied their so-called taxes. The hamleteers have now realized the true face of the VC, they cannot suffer any longer their fallacious propaganda version and their heavy taxes.

III. OUR ACTIVITIES IN THE INFRASTRUCTURE OF THE HAMLET

A. It is remarked that all the members of the Hamlet Administrative Office have a high morale and are very diligent in their works. The Village Council staff is, on the contrary, lethargic. In fact, being not firmly supported by the Government, they have lost their confidence. Their morale and their efficiency have thus been lowered.

B. With regard to the militia, these only exist nominally, but have let down all their activities since they are not supported by the local authorities.

C. As to the security forces of the hamlet, it is noticed that the Combat-youth organization has been dissolved. The District authorities have taken back their personal arms. Some of the combat youths resume their civilian lives, others joined the Dan Ve, the third group joined the Civil guard. (There were two Combat youth sections, one was well armed the other was not).

There exists presently only about a platoon of Dan Ve garrisoned in the village post.

IV. THE PRESENT SITUATION IN THE HAMLET

A. Prior to the November 1 Revolution the hamlet had a population of 725 and a total of 154 houses (original houses).

B. Presently, the population remains at the same level since the relocated families did not move out.

Of the whole population of the hamlet, 30 percent are well off, 50 percent can only get a bare living, and 20 percent are poor.

The large percentage of the local population derive their livelihood from trade and are accordingly in an easy condition. Farming works are only of second importance, they largely depend upon their business in the market for their living.

C. The aspirations of the hamleteers

In accordance with our investigation, 80 percent of the hamlet inhabitants stand for the rebuilding and the improvement of the hamlet. In fact, prior to the setting up of the hamlet, the VC used to come to it to launch their propaganda campaign and levy their so-called tax. But from the day when the strategic hamlet was erected, the VC dared not make their appearance, and the hamleteers can earn their living in peace.

Ten percent of the hamleteers proved themselves to be totally apathetic to the government. Taking up a passive attitude, they said all is up to the government, they don't want to take part actively in the programs of the government.

1. In order to improve their economic life, the hamleteers would like the Government to provide them with the credits by means of which they will do their farming works and breed poultry.

2. As to their social welfare, the hamleteers would like to ask the government to have a maternity and a dispensary erected for their sick. They also should like the Government to have new class rooms built for their ever increasing pupils. They also requested the Government to provide the dispensary with medicines.

Remarks and suggestions of the Civic-Action Team

We have talked over our investigation and think that the above-mentioned aspirations of the hamleteers are legitimate. As a matter of fact, the hamlet population is numerous. Besides, the inhabitants of the surrounding hamlets such as those of the Vinh Cong and Phu Nai Tri hamlets converged also to Ap Ky-Chau to earn their living. The setting up of a maternity and a dispensary and/or a first aid station is of utmost importance. Moreover, this hamlet is situated at an area which is too far from the capital city, and it would take the hamleteers too

much time to move their sick to the capital city. The last nepotist regime has promised too much, and has not, as yet, done anything for the interest of the local population. It is for that reason that the hamleteers have lost all their confidence in the Government. In helping the hamleteers improve their standard of living at the right moment, we will eventually gain their confidence anew, and instill in them the conviction that their struggle is worthwhile.

Team Chief:
Pham Van Tung

USIS Observer:
Do Minh Nhat

SPECIAL REPORT ON THE BINH DUOI
VILLAGE INHABITANTS' ASPIRATIONS

I. The Ky Chau inhabitants would like to ask the Government to have a maternity clinic and a dispensary built for them. They hope that the dispensary will be adequately equipped with all kinds of facilities and run by a nurse.

Reasons - Ky-Chau is the main hamlet of the village, it has a village office run by the Village Council, a Dan-Ve Post, and a thronging market. However, it is located far from the capital city. The absence of a maternity clinic and a dispensary will render the lives of the hamleteers unbearable, since they don't have any other health facilities.

II. They would like to request the Government to set up new schools for their children.

Reasons - For the time being there are not enough classrooms for an ever-growing number of students. As a matter of fact, the present number of classrooms is inadequate and there are not enough rooms to accommodate the pupils that come from the surrounding hamlets, such as the ones of the Vinh-Cong and Phu-Ngai tri villages. As a result, the pupils are being divided into two groups, the first group attend the morning classes, and the second the afternoon ones. They, thus, have only four class-hours instead of eight as before. And yet, there is presently not enough space to enroll all the pupils. To remedy the situation, the local authorities have requisitioned a pagoda to accommodate the pupils. It is to be remarked that the pagoda doesn't have any surrounding wall and cannot give a proper shelter to the pupils in the rainy season.

III. The hamleteers would like to get credit from the National Agricultural Credit Office (NACO) to do their farming

work and to raise their livestock. Without the credit, it would be difficult for them to derive their livelihood from their rice-fields.

Reasons - In 1963, the village inhabitants in general and the hamleteers in particular have not succeeded in getting these long promised credits though they had submitted their application forms to the NACO Office concerned.

The hamleteers were worried about the fact that the Village Council members did not stay in the village. In fact, being afraid of the terrorism of the VC, they had fled to the province. This is why, any time the hamleteers have something to do with the village Council members, they have to join them in the province by buses. This represents an extra expense to the hamleteers, and sometimes they do not meet the village council members. This is quite a time consuming affair, and that's labor lost, (except in cases when the Village Council members come to the village to levy taxes). The hamleteers wondered why the village council members have to flee that way to the province, when the Village seat is situated in the hamlet and in the hamlet there is a Dan-Ve Post, and a thronging market surrounded by densely populated streets.

Besides, the hamleteers became suspicious, they did not have much confidence in the Village Council members. The latters are, to the hamleteers' mind, much too lethargic and in trying to get out of all troubles they became pro-communist.

Reasons - The hamleteers think that the Village Council is formed of puppets picked-up by the VC. The VC have then managed to have their underlings elected or assigned to the Village Council to serve as a screen to cover their subversive activities.

Proofs - The village-head and the Village Police. Officers are rich people. So far, their families live in remote hamlets

that are supposed to be under the VC control. The financial commissar is a rich business man, he owns a fish-sauce factory, which is located in faroff Ap Binh Son. It is to be noticed that the VC came over and over again to Ap Binh Son, in the daytime as well as at Nighttime. The hamleteers wondered why the said Financial Commissar of the Village Council had abandoned his family and his nuoc-mam factory and ran for the election to the Village Council as a financial commissar, whose salary is far lower than his income as the manager of the fish-sauce factory. (For instance, as the manager of his own fish-sauce factory, he can earn at least 15,000 piasters a month. Now that he volunteers to work for the Village Council as a financial commissar, he has to entrust the management of his factory to his relatives. The monthly income can be reduced to 10,000 VN\$, which makes a loss of 5,000VN\$ a month. Meanwhile, as a financial commissar, he can only earn from 1,400VN\$ to 1,700VN\$). And at that time, these elements have to pay money to the VC. According to a well-informed source from some hamleteers. only in Binh Quoi Village, the VC had succeeded in gathering 360,000VN\$ in taxes in 1963, and yet, the VC said they were not successful in that year. We also know from our informers that each enterprise has to pay to the VC from 10,000VN\$ to 30,000VN\$ in tax every month, in accordance with the degree of their importance.

Remarks of the PsyWar Team - In our opinion, following are the reasons why the hamleteers have submitted the above-mentioned requests to the local authorities, and following are also the causes that produce their worry concerning the attitude of the Village Council members:

1) With regard to the setting up of a maternity clinic and new dispensary - This request is to our mind very legitimate, since a large percentage of the population is now living in the

vicinities of such villages as Phu Nai Tri and Vinh Cong, where the maternity clinic and the dispensary and health facilities are completely non-existent. Since these villages are situated in remote areas, it would take the sick, often unaided, a great deal of time and money to go to the province. On the other hand, this hamlet is densely populated, it has a Village seat, a large market, a Dan-ve Post and thronging streets. Before, the Government had promised to have a maternity clinic built for the hamleteers, but so far nothing has been built except a first aid station, that it is not adequately equipped, and there is not enough medicine to be distributed to the hamleteers. Moreover, it is not run by an adequate staff.

2) As to the school - It is remarked that besides the children of the residents of this hamlet, there are also those of the surrounding hamlets that require a school. It's why a great number of these children are not yet enrolled in any of the existing classrooms. And the children that are now studying in the pagoda, requisitioned by the local authorities to accommodate them, may get sick in the rainy season and in the dry season. The pagoda does not have any surrounding wall.

3) In regard to the agricultural credits - During the past few years, the Binh Quoi Village inhabitants in general and the Ap Ky Chau residents in particular, have continuously gotten the credits from the NACO and have paid them back in time. The reason why in 1963 the hamleteers could not get any credit was that Mr. Chuong, the NACO Officer and the then Village head had abused each other. In fact, in 1962, when he came to the village to distribute the NACO credits to the hamleteers, Mr. Chuong, the NACO Officer, had proved himself to be too arrogant toward the hamleteers. There upon, Mr. Thoi, the then Village head, who is now a member of the Civil Status Office, had criticized Mr. Chuong. And from that time onward, Mr. Chuong has always born Mr. Thoi and the whole population of the

hamlet a grudge, and as a result, he refused to deliver the credits in question to the hamleteers.

Now as to the Village Council - It is remarked that the Village Council members show a complete lethargy toward the situation of the hamlet, and as such, they only think of keeping themselves out of trouble and begin, in the long run, to take up a pro-communist position.

Proofs - The village council members have been elected by popular vote in accordance with the decree 45/NV of the Ancient Regime. This decree has also its shortcomings owing to which the VC can easily put their underlings in the key posts of the Village Council so as to protect their underground cadres. The proofs showed that in the past, (when the Village Council members were not in exile) any time the VC came to the hamlet, they did not go and search for the Village Council members but for Mr. Bay, the silversmith and other elements. Happily these had succeeded in escaping. Moreover, it is quite a strange thing that the present Village council members who are now "in self-imposed exile" in the capital city of the province, used to return to their original homes in faroff villages which are now supposed to be under the VC control, in the daytime as well as at nighttime. And what is stranger is that these people were not arrested and bothered by the VC. Such is the case of the Financial Commissar who got home usually so as to look after the management of his "nuoc-mam" factory at Ap Binh-Son. The PsyWar teams were often sent to faroff field trips thru Ap Binh Son. At their departure, the team members did not see anything at Ap Binh Son, but upon their return, they saw all kinds of leaflets and banderoles spread by the VC. Then one has to ask, where do the VC emerge from other than Ap Binh Son itself?

In short, the fact that the Village Council members feigned that they were afraid of the VC and that they had to take refuge

in the province is only a mere trick aiming at deceiving their superiors while they are actually covering the destructive activities of their Red masters!

Suggestions - We think it would be proper for the Government to gratify the aspirations and the requests of the hamleteers so as to win them over again from their present apathy toward our cause and to gain their confidence anew. As a matter of fact, the last nepotist regime has lost the support of the hamleteers by promising too much, and by doing nothing. Besides, we also think it is of utmost importance to change or replace the corrupted members such as the NACO Officer by the righteous ones. Such a black sheep is very dangerous to the reputation of a whole government organization. This is also one of our shortcomings in our present struggle aiming at working up the population and at uniting them in the common struggle against the communists.

Cadre in charge:
Pham Van Tung

USIS Observer:
Do Minh Nhat

CIVIC ACTION TEAM I
Ky-Chau Hamlet
Binh-Quoi Village
January 28, 1964

2

I. GOVERNMENT SITUATION

The people complain about the village police commissioner who lacks the spirit for serving the people. Since the day he replaced Police commissioner Phuong, the people rarely see him present at the village's office. He spends his time every-day to attend to his own family business. At long intervals, he made his appearance in the village's office for a while, then hurried out. If some provincial or district representative looked for him people in permanence at the office; according to his instructions, would say that he was going to collect taxes with the village council members. From time to time, there are people who had the good fortune to meet with him and request him to settle some affair in the village, but he deliberately refused to take the affair into consideration.

The people are worrying very much about the three Binh-Quoi village administration's members: village representative, finance commissioner and police commissioner. They don't know why the three have left their working place for their home area to earn their living - i.e. Binh-Thuy hamlet which is regarded as under total VC domination - while their working place is considered relatively more secure. The three afore-mentioned men have stood for election in the village's council, that was under VC incitation, so that they could conceal their true activities with regard to the upper levels.

II. PEOPLE'S ASPIRATIONS

The majority of the hamlet's compatriots request the Government to build up a maternity hospital in the hamlet, and

appoint a mid-wife to take charge of this hospital. This would be of great help to the hamlet's people. Expecting women would no longer have to go to the chieftown.

The majority of people in the hamlet having children going to school earnestly request the government to repair the road linking the village gate to Binh-Quoi market, near the elementary school (400 meters long, 5 meters wide), so that the road is not muddy in the rainy season. This would prevent the schoolboys from trudging along when going to school, and make the market cleaner. In this way, the people will be fully satisfied with the government's help.

Cadre in charge:
Nguyen Dang Mai

CIVIC ACTION TEAM I

Ky-Chau Hamlet

Binh-Quoi Village

January 28, 1964

Subject : Peoples' worries about the village council...

After investigation among the people in Ky-Chau hamlet, we are given to know that the local people are worrying very much about the Binh-Quoi village council's working method, because its members rarely come to work in the village. They make their appearance once or twice every week, but never enter into contact with the people. People asking for necessary papers should go to the council members' private houses they hire in Long-An, spend too much time - sometimes all day long - in waiting and money in displacement

Asked by people, the village council members replied that, because of security reasons, they could not come to the village and 50 people having affairs have to go to Long-An to meet with them. The people also inform that the village council members' homes are at Binh-son and Binh-Thuy hamlets are regarded as insecured places, nevertheless, they regularly went home without fear. Meanwhile, they feared to come to the village's headquarters in Ky-Chau hamlet, a place considered secure in the course of the day, and relatively secure at night; moreover, they could sleep in the post.

The people request the upper authorities to order the village council members to come to work regularly in the village's headquarters.

Nguyen Van Hai

CIVIC ACTION TEAM I
Ky-Chau Hamlet
Binh-Quoi Village
January 28, 1964

Subject : Request for a maternity hospital in the hamlet.

Up to now, hamlet women, on the point of confinement should have gone to the provincial chieftown. Ky-Chau hamlet, at present is the one located in the village town where the population is dense enough, nevertheless, the people there never got government's help to build a maternity hospital so that expecting women are not obliged to go away from the hamlet, especially in the present time where security is lacking, making displacement very difficult.

In the past, the hamlet's managerial committee and whole population have requested the District authorities to build a maternity hospital for the benefit of the hamlet, an estimate of quantities and costs is enclosed in the request, but it did not get District's approval, because of lack of money.

At present, the people in the hamlet earnestly hope that the government will help the hamlet build a maternity hospital 9 meters long, 7 meters wide, covered with "fibro-cement". Such a construction will fully satisfy a long-standing aspiration of the hamlet's compatriots.

Cadres in onarge:
P.T. Chau
Nguyen Dang Mai

CIVIC ACTION TEAM I
Ky-Chau Hamlet
Binh-Quoi Village
January 28, 1964

Subject: People's aspirations.

The common aspiration of the compatriots in Ky-Chau hamlet is that the government will help the hamlet build up a maternity hospital with enough facilities for expecting women's confinement, and a rural mid-wife. Up to now, expecting women in this hamlet had to go to the provincial chieftown which is 5 kilometers away from the hamlet. The road to the chieftown is not in good condition and traffic is very difficult, especially at night.

In this work, the hamlet only requests the government to provide it with construction materials, the local people will supply manpower.

The local people earnestly expect the government to help them in this work, which would be a great favor toward the needy people in the hamlet.

Signed: Nguyen Van Hai

CIVIC ACTION TEAM I

Hòa-Diêu Hamlet

Hòa Phú Village

February 7, 1964

I. Enemy activities situation in the strategic hamlet after November 1, 1963

A. Military

The enemies showed up regularly and virtually controlled the whole hamlet. They dug booby traps and planted "Death Spot" placards (our Team has brought back two such placards). The hamlet's defense system has been totally destroyed; its fence razed to the ground.

B. Political

The hamlet has been submerged with enemy leaflets, posters and slogans. Following are some categories that our Team has brought back:

1. Leaflet dealing with instructions to be followed by government units or individuals leaving the national ranks for the communist side.

2. Leaflet enhancing enemy victories.

3. Slogans calling upon soldiers not to go to mopping up operations during the Lunar New Year, urging them not to work during this period.

4. Cartoon about Ngo-Dinh-Diem's overthrow on November 1, 1963.

5. Drawing dealing with people's welcome of government deserted soldiers.

The enemies regularly organized study meetings to call upon youths to enlist in their armed forces, persuade the hamlet's compatriots to oppose the army's and government's line and stand and fly away when we come in.

As a result, the people are disturbed and afraid.

As for us, we have no plan to cope with the situation. Our voice did not reach the hamlet, so the people there have been leaning toward the enemies.

II. General remarks on the people's attitude with regard to the enemies.

- A. Siding with the enemies out of fear of them, 75 percent.
- B. Following the enemies because of liking them, 25 percent.

III. Government activities at the hamlet level.

A. Hamlet managerial committee.

Has voluntarily disintegrated; slipped away when government officials or army came in.

B. Hamlet council.

No more activities. Has voluntarily dispersed.

C. Popular organizations.

Have voluntarily disintegrated after insecurity again reigned over the strategic hamlet, and the hamlet's system of defense had been destroyed by the enemies.

D. Security forces.

There are no more combat youth's activities. Before, there was 1 combat youth squad, but it already has voluntarily dispersed.

Militiamen - Came to the hamlet at very long intervals.

Civil guard forces - Came to the hamlet only on the occasion of military operations.

Work influence.

All government offices (administrative authorities, Information, Youth, Civic Action, National Police, Army branches) rarely have their representatives coming to the hamlet, so there is no bad influence among the people.

IV. Strategic hamlet present situation.

A. People's life

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| 1. Rich and fairly rich | 25 percent |
| 2. Enough to live on and needy | 75 percent |

B. People's aspirations

At present, the majority of the people in the hamlet don't want the strategic hamlet to be re-built. They think that to live in a strategic hamlet is to incur VC menace to their life. All those who think so are of the peasant class...

About security

The compatriots in the hamlet earnestly hope that government officials and army men coming to the hamlet will not create difficulties against them, make them disquieted, confused. They should rather serve the people, make the compatriots have confidence in the government.

About social welfare

The people earnestly hope that the government will endow the hamlet with a health station and a male nurse to help the compatriots in case of sickness, because the hamlet is far

away from the provincial chieftown and the village as well.

The people request the government to endow the hamlet with an elementary school so that their children will not have to go to school too far from their homes.

V. Team's activities

The Team has paid a visit to each family and sought to understand the compatriots' aspirations. In addition, the following gifts have been distributed to the compatriots in the hamlet.

- | | |
|---|------------|
| 1. Thẻ Giải Tự Do | 100 copies |
| 2. Hương Quê | 100 copies |
| 3. "Vietnam in progress" exercise books | 100 copies |
| 4. Leaflets and newspapers | 200 copies |

Defense system

Communication trenches and barbed wire fence have been destroyed by the enemies over a length of 2,500 meters.

VI. Team's remarks

All hamlet's organizations have ceased activities and voluntarily disintegrated; the people are leaning toward the enemies.

The hamlet's defense system has been totally destroyed by the enemies.

Team Head:

Nguyễn-Bá-Tùng

CIVIC ACTION TEAM II

Hoa-Dieu Hamlet

Hoa-Phu Village

February 2, 1964

I. GOVERNMENT SITUATION

The people complained about the attitude of enlisted men belonging to Platoon 32 P4, under the command of Platoon head Nguyen-van-Bay. They came to see Mr. Pham-van-Chua, a hamlet resident and required the latter to pay land rent amounting to 2,010\$VN, pretending that Miss Sau, the land owner, had allowed Mr. Nguyen-van-Bay to collect land rent for her. But, Mr. Chua had already paid land rent to Miss Sau, and he explained the fact to Mr. Bay's men. The latter, however, closed their ears to Mr. Chua's explanations, and despite Mr. Chua's supplications, confiscated his identity card and that of his wife. Mr. Chua had then to sell his furniture, and five days later, came to pay 2,010\$VN to Mr. Bay to recover the confiscated identity cards. He was handed a receipt bearing the number 3 and dated February 25, 1963, signed by Mr. Bay. Later, it was found that Mr. Bay has spent all this sum.

The people in this hamlet also complained about Mr. Bay's enlisted men's bad behaviour. Each time these men came in, they forced the hamlet residents to provide them with cooked rice and alcohol. After feasting, they made an infernal row

and blazed away with their weapons, causing disturbance and fear among the hamlet residents. Before leaving the hamlet, they used to rob hens and ducks to organize feasting again in the post.

II. COMPATRIOTS' ASPIRATIONS

Requesting the government to build up an elementary school with 3 classes in the hamlet. Reason - Children are many in the hamlet, but the village school is too far away from it, so the majority of them have to quit school. The few children who continue to go to school have to endure great pains, especially in the rainy season. Thus, it is earnestly requested that the government will help build an elementary school in the hamlet to answer its residents' aspirations.

The majority of families with children having served in the government's armed forces such as Combat Youth and Militia, and been killed in the exercise of their duties, earnestly ask the government to help them by granting them expropriated land or public land, so that they could earn their living. Such is, for example, the case of the family of Mr. Nhi, Combat Youth Squad Head, who was killed in fighting the VC.

III. SPECIAL NEWS

A. In Hoa-Dieu hamlet, the VC have planted many "death spot" placards. We have fired many shots at these "death spots" and

brought back two such placards.

B. There are too many VC leaflets in the hamlet, with various propaganda themes. Leaflets about South Vietnam National Liberation Front's policy, Ho-chi-Minh's New Year greetings and leaflets calling upon soldiers and officers in the Vietnamese army to stand up to struggle for peace. These propaganda documents were handed over to the USIS observer.

Cadre in charge:

Nguyen-dang-Mai

CIVIC ACTION TEAM II

Hoa-Dieu Hamlet

Hoa-Phu Village

Subject: Aspirations of the hamlet's compatriots.

1. Building an elementary school. Because the hamlet is 4 kilometers away from the Binh-Quoi Elementary School, and the accomodation road to the school is not in good condition, a great number of children in the hamlet do not go to school or do go only from time to time.

That is why the people in the hamlet earnestly request the government to help build up an elementary school so that their children do not become illiterate just because they are not given, in view of the circumstances, a chance to go to school from their childhood.

There are some 50 children here who cannot go to the village elementary school.

The people only request the government to provide them with building materials, they will contribute manpower to the construction.

2. Establishing a health station. Also because the hamlet is too far away from the village, the people here request the government to set up a health station in the hamlet.

A hamlet youth would receive necessary training so

that he could take charge of the hamlet's health problem and of maintaining medicine for the hamlet residents' sake.

The people had already made those suggestions to the former regime in the report on the setting up of a strategic hamlet, but they got no answer.

Signed: Nguyen-Van-Hai