

8. - The present war - The National Government or the Viet-Cong will win this war ?

The schoolboy's opinion - To win this war the National Government can not use "only force"... the Government must pay great attention to "persuading" the people by explaining the "just cause" and carrying out "just actions". The people are very angry at the Viet-Cong's actions,... sometimes. The Viet-Cong also have made the people's living conditions and life uneasy. Sometimes they compelled the people to serve them over the people's capacity. That is why the Operations of the Government must be organized with discipline. No soldier can be permitted to steal, even a plant, from the people, not to mention a duck or a hen. The discipline of such Operations will win the people over to the National Government's side, and the Viet-Cong will lose this war.

TRANSLATION AND SUMMARY OF
INTERVIEWS WITH THE PEOPLE IN THE COUNTRYSIDE
(Phu-Khuong Strategic Hamlet)

The interview begins with a woman peasant about :

1. - The government soldiers' behavior.

According to the woman peasant, the people praise the behavior of the 7th Division soldiers and paratroopers. On the contrary, number of redscarfed-soldiers have troubled the people very much. These men used to search for the people's hens, ducks, coconuts, etc., regardless of the people's protestations. The people are very unhappy. The Liberation troops (The Viet-Cong) also always compell the people to leave the Strategic Hamlet.

2. - The maternity and the people's aspiration.

According to a peasant, the people are in need of a Maternity hospital. Some months ago, an Inspector came to the village and promised to help the people build a Maternity hospital but the Maternity hospital is not built, though the province has given the village council a delivery order of 100 bags of cement. Ironically enough, no bag has been transported to the village.

3. - The Viet-Cong's tax.

According to the peasant, the Viet-Cong used to come to the village at the beginning of the harvest to collect paddy and money. (from the tenth month to this present time). The Viet-Cong's tax is 20 bushels of paddy and 500 piastres. Most VC tax-cadres are the natives of Dong My Phuc village. The peasant says that, in this village, there is a squad of Moi Son, a Viet-Cong military cadre. Besides, there is also a company of Hoang-Gia (a secret name). The squad of Mr. Moi-Son has the duty to work in this village while Mr. Hoang-Gia's company is a mobile unit, working in a broader sphere.

4. - The Village Council.

The village council is partial. Those being friends of the village council's members are served well, encountering no difficulty, and vice-versa. To have a permission the people must pay 20 piastres. This fee is a heavy tax for the people to endure.

5. - The Strategic Hamlet indemnity.

According to the peasant, the indemnity is always paid to the people having buffaloes and rice-fields, that is to say the rich people. There is a strange case where one man, coming from another area, was granted indemnity. In brief,

there were unjust and illegal actions in the distribution of the Strategic Hamlet indemnity.

TRANSLATION AND SUMMARY OF
INTERVIEWS WITH THE PEOPLE IN THE COUNTRYSIDE.
(Ky-Chau Strate, id Hamlet)

The interview begins with a peasant about:

I. THE LOW SPIRIT OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL.

According to the peasant, the Village Council seldom pays visits to the villagers, - especially since the Military Revolution. Moreover, the people suspect that the Council Representative, the Financial Commissioner and the Police Commissioner could be "stooges" of the Viet-Cong. The Council Representative and the Police Commissioner have their houses in the Viet-Cong controlled area - and they remain safe and sound. So, the peasant says that:

a) The village Council works only for its own benefit, that is to say, for the benefit of the Council Representative and Commissioners.

b) The Council Representative, the Financial Commissioner and the Police Commissioner can be considered as "secret agents of the Viet-Cong" disguised as Government high-officials to protect the Viet-Cong's sympathizers and cadres from being arrested or "exploited for informations" by the Government's Security force.

According to the peasant, the Police Commissioner must be a soldier.

II. ON THE VIET-CONG'S TAX.

The peasant discloses that in this year the Viet-Cong has collected 363,000 piastres of tax from the people in this area, yet the Viet-Cong still complain that "it is a failure". The Viet-Cong used to come to this area for propaganda in the night and sometimes in the daytime they appear at the other end of

the bridge. Usually about 4 or 5 men with rifles, and the... are all village guerrillas. According to the peasant, in order to capture or kill those guerrillas, one must reconstruct that frail bridge.

III. THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE STRATEGIC HAMLET.

According to the peasant, the people want to live in peace and security. So, the people in this area will agree with the reconstruction of the Strategic Hamlet. There would be about 80 percent all of the people agreeing actively with the reconstruction of the Strategic Hamlet. Only 10 percent of the people disagree with the reconstruction because they have relatives living in the Viet-Cong controlled area or they are indoctrinated by the Viet-Cong's propaganda. The other 10 percent is of non-active people. If forced to build the Strategic Hamlet, they will.

IV. ON THE AGRICULTURAL CREDIT OFFICE.

The peasant complains that the Agricultural Credit Office has failed in supporting the people. Moreover, the Office cadres have always made difficulties with the people. In other villages, the Agricultural Credit Office cadres are very easy and the people encounter no difficulties. According to the peasant, even the present Agricultural Credit Office Chief gives no support to the peasant.

V. ON THE VIET-CONG'S INFLUENCE TOWARD THE PEOPLE.

Only the people in remote areas are "influenced" by the Viet-Cong's propaganda. On the contrary, the people living in the district, near the market always side with the Government. For example, in this Hamlet (Ky-Chau) about 80 percent of the people follow the Government. While 80 percent of the people in 4 other hamlets (in the Viet-Cong controlled area) is "influenced" by the Viet-Cong and follows them.

VI. ON THE PEOPLE'S OPINION TOWARD THE GOVERNMENT.

The people living in the district or near the market, far from the Viet-Cong, always follow the Government. But sometimes, the people show dissatisfaction about the Government's cadres. Only "promises", no realizations.

VII. ON THE VIET-CONG'S PROPAGANDA AND INFORMATION.

According to the peasant, in their controlled area, the Viet-Cong organize "Theatrical groups" and use "dancing and singing performances" to win the children over to their side by taking advantage of these performances to distort the Government's actions and news. The pupils in the Viet-Cong controlled area are very satisfied with these performances because the Viet-Cong "Theatrical groups" always are composed of teenage groups. On the contrary, the pupils living in the district and near the market show no interest.

VIII. ON THE GOVERNMENT'S PROPAGANDA AND INFORMATION.

The people in this Ky-Chau Strategic Hamlet for a long time, have received no film-showing from the Government's Information Service. They receive no more pamphlets, posters books leaflets, etc. - They also have no radio set and no loudspeaker. In brief, they are cut off from the Government's propaganda and information --.

BINH XUYEN HAMLET

People's feelings about strategic hamlet:

Through the interview, a hamlet inhabitant disclosed that there were three families who moved to live outside the hamlet. According to him, he prefers to live outside the hamlet for the following reasons:

1. Living within the hamlet, he could only build a house and could not do other works such as planting and breeding which help him to get more money.
2. Living outside, he can plant rice, breed chickens or plant fruit trees thanks to the large space, and that will bring him more income to extend the acreage of his cultivated land,

He didn't like to live within the hamlet, but because he is a citizen of the national government, he has to obey the authority's order asking him to live within the hamlet.

Security conditions

In the daytime the hamlet is under the government's control, but at night, the hamlet belongs to Viet Cong

Help from the government

Since he moved to live into the hamlet, he didn't receive any help from the government.

Agricultural credit loans

The NACO grants loans to farmers once a year. Last year-none

Taxes: He keeps to pay taxes for the government, about 100 piasters per hectare. Meanwhile, he has to pay taxes for the Viet Cong if they come to collect them. He paid from 200 up to 300 piasters per hectare. Most of the hamlet inhabitants have to pay VC taxes, but they never give receipt.

Soldiers' behaviour: Some of them are very helpful, but there are some who, taking advantage of helping people to remove houses, stole money or jewelry. Sometime we have to offer or prepare meals for them, but none of us dares to complain for fear of reprisals.

DESCRIPTION

The following reports are follow-up visits to the
Harlot Survey during Phase 1-15.

PSYWAR TEAM I
Long An Province
February 6, 1964

During their first operation at Binh Tam hamlet, the PsyWar cadres had distributed books, magazines and food to the hamlet inhabitants. This time, at their second visit, members of Psywar Team I were warmly welcomed by the people who were sympathetic toward them.

After talking to the hamlet inhabitants, the team obtained very good results. Thus, thanks to the efficient assistance of the government, people in this hamlet have great confidence in the cadres.

Following are details gathered by the team during the second operation in the hamlet:

1. At Binh Lap and Binh Tam hamlets, people are very cheerful and seem to believe in the new government because it has built a bridge which makes the communication between Binh Dong, Xom Vuon and Binh Lap much easier and quicker than before.

Although the hamlet inhabitants are happy and have confidence in the new government, they still wish to see their other requests fulfilled. (The team had already submitted their aspirations to the authorities).

In brief, the team has won people's sympathy during this operation.

Team I leader:
Pham Van Tung

BINH TAY HAMLET

This is a brief interview with an old woman in the hamlet, through which she said that recently, a medical team from the 3rd paratrooper battalion came and gave care for people. The team members are very kind they prepared themselves meals and didn't ask the hamlet inhabitant to furnish them anything even fish sauce or pepper.

They really gained the inhabitant's sympathy.

Later, a second team including about 5 nurses and a few soldiers came. After caring for people, at night, they organized music entertainment and trifled with the soldiers making disturbance of the peace at night so that people could not sleep. Moreover they used people's kitchen tools to cook sweet soup to eat with the soldiers. They used people's spoons to make rhythm and broke them.

The next day, they quietly prepared their things to leave the hamlet without cleaning people's kitchen tools.

The interviewer said that she detested and didn't have sympathy for these girls.

PSYWAR TEAM II
Binh Tay Hamlet
February 6, 1964

SUBJECT: People's aspirations not yet fulfilled by the
Strategic hamlet reconstruction Team.

During its operation at Binh Tay hamlet, the strategic hamlet reconstruction group had fulfilled some of the people's requests addressed to the Government, such as the construction of a wooden bridge and the consolidation of the hamlet fence. Unfortunately, the Team has been transferred to another hamlet before completing many other projects:

1. The hamlet fence was not completed; about 300 meters of the hamlet back side has to be fenced.
2. The hamlet office has not been constructed yet.
3. The team had promised to repair Mrs. Chay's house and to recover her roof because she is very poor. The team was transferred before starting the work.

The above projects were mentioned among "people's aspirations" transmitted to the authorities through the Psywar Team after its first operation in the hamlet. The accomplishment of the above projects will bring security to the hamlet and will improve people's standard of living.

Cadre in charge:
Phan Thanh Chau

PSYWAR TEAM II
Binh Tay Hamlet
February 6 1964

SUBJEC: People's attitude toward the Teams in operation at the Hamlet.

The hamlet inhabitants were very pleased to see the PsyWar Team and to receive books and magazines. They were mostly happy to see some of their aspirations fulfilled such as the construction of a bridge to facilitate means of communication. In less than two months, the government had finished building that bridge and this quick and efficient assistance has brought joy and confidence to the people.

After the PsyWar Team left came the Strategic Hamlet reconstruction Team. The inhabitants were very pleased to see the cadres doing all the work by themselves (instead of forcing the hamlet people to do the work for them) such as planting the iron stakes and making the hamlet fence with barbed wires.

As for the soldiers of the air-borne unit who were at the hamlet as security forces, there were no complaints about their behaviour.

Here are a few complaints concerning the Medical Cell of the Paramilitary-group:

On February 2, 1964, the working team stayed at Mrs. Ba Ngan's home. At 11:00 p.m., five paramilitary women borrowed pots, bowls, etc. to make some "sweet soup" to eat in open air. After eating, they organized a singing party with a few soldiers using spoons to beat time, thus, some of the spoons were broken. After the "cultural hours", they flirted behind the haystacks, leaving the food in disorder in the yard.

According to Mrs. Ba Ngan the hamlet inhabitants have lost their sympathy toward those paramilitary women who "seduced" the soldiers and who "flirted" at night.

Other people said. "those prostitutes made noise by beating the spoons"

We were very tactful in our interview. -- Everybody in the hamlet claimed that the paramilitary women started all the trouble there.

Tran Van Ba

Nguyen Van Hai

BINH DONG Strategic Hamlet:

Tape almost inaudible.

According to the few that can be heard, it is of an informal chat with a hamlet resident who complained about the criticizable behaviour of a group of (presumably artistic) female cadres carrying out activities in the hamlet.

It is also of an incident between the interviewed people and one of these female cadres. Due to her inattention, the latter was made afraid by the former, then on guard duty. She made a lot of fuss over the incident and threatened to make complaints against him.

People's opinion concerning the Army at Binh Dong hamlet

During the second operation in this hamlet, the Team has won people's sympathy and confidence. Here are some complaints about the Army.

A month ago, an airborne unit stationed at this hamlet was replaced by the airborne unit which supported the team during the reconstruction of the hamlet. Upon their arrival, the soldiers (of the 1st unit) borrowed a pot from a family living near the Binh Lap "assembly house" to cook rice. The family in question had told them: "We are only two in our family, and we own only one pot but, if you wish to borrow it, go ahead and take it". To that answer, one of the soldiers immediately swore and said: That's all right, you don't have to lend us the pot, just wait and see, I will shoot you to death.

That airborne unit was stationed at the hamlet only two days and two nights. After its departure, the families living near by lost about 10 chickens and they were sure that the soldiers of that unit had stolen them.

Team I Leader:

Pham van Tung