

#2

LAND REFORM

A PILOT LAND REFORM PROGRAM: THE SELL OF FORMER FRENCH LAND TO THE FARMERS THAT ARE NOW CULTIVATING IT IS BEING CONDUCTED IN CHUONG THIEN. THE PROGRAM WAS DEVELOPED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF LAND AFFAIRS AND HIS STAFF, ALONG WITH USAID ADVISORS. CHUONG THIEN WAS SELECTED FOR THE PROGRAM MAINLY BECAUSE OF THE ATTITUDE OF THE PROVINCE CHIEF AND HIS STAFF TOWARD LAND REFORM, AND THE SUPPORT THEY PLEDGED. CONSIDERED ALSO WAS THE FACT THAT CHUONG THIEN HAVE WITHIN ITS BOUNDARIES THE SECOND LARGEST AMOUNT OF FORMER FRENCH LAND OF ALL THE PROVINCES IN VIETNAM. (30,000 HA.)

BEFORE THE FRENCH LEFT VIETNAM THE LAND OWNERS SOLD THEIR LAND TO THE GVN GOVERNMENT. A FARMER WHO IS PRESENTLY CULTIVATING A PORTION OF THAT LAND, UP TO 5HA. IS ELIGIBLE TO BUY IT. PAYMENTS WILL BE MADE OVER A TWELVE YEAR PERIOD, WITH EACH ANNUAL PAYMENT BEING LESS THAN THE FARMER IS PRESENTLY PAYING TO THE GVN FOR RENT. THE PRICE OF THE LAND IS BASED ON ITS PRODUCTIVE CAPACITY, RANGING FROM 2,500\$p TO 8,500\$p PER HA.

PHASE ONE OF THE PILOT PROGRAM CARRIED WITH IT THE GOAL OF DETERMINING IF THE ELIGIBLE FARMERS WANTED TO BUY THE FARM THEY OPERATE. ON A 1,800HA. TRACT LOCATED IN VI DUC IT IS ESTIMATED THAT 800 ARE CULTIVATING. DURING PHASE ONE 391 OF THOSE FARMERS MADE APPLICATION TO BUY. THE FARMERS SHOULD GET THEIR TITLES IN ABOUT TWO MONTHS.

MR. KHUÊ NEW ACTING LAND CHIEF

OF THE 30,000 HA. OF FORMER FRENCH LAND IN CHUONG THIEN, ABOUT 4,000 HA. ARE LOCATED IN SECURE OR SEMI-SECURE AREAS. WE EXPECT TO SELL 3,000 HA. TO AT LEAST 1,500 FARMERS DURING THE NEXT SIX MONTHS.

THE PILOT PROGRAM WAS A SUCCESS BECAUSE IT WAS SUPPORTED WELL BY BOTH THE PROVINCE AND SAIGON. ONE OLD FARMER MADE THE STATEMENT, "I HOPE THIS GOVERNMENT CAN STAND, BECAUSE IT HAS RECOGNIZED OUR OWNERSHIP."

- ① 9,331 FARMERS ^{REC'D} EXPROPRIATED LAND IN '60/'61/'62, NOT YET REC'D TITLES UNTIL APR '68, ONLY 309 TITLES DISTRIB. - SINCE NEWLY ACQUIRED LAND CHIEF, MR KHUÊ (JUNE 15), ADDIT. 185 TITLES DISTRIB
- B WIN FARMERS CONFIDENCE IN GOVT. - VC CONFUSED FARMERS SAYING THEY STILL ARE TENANTS OF GVN. SOME VILLAGE OFFICIALS COLLECTED RENT ON LAND ALREADY DISTRIB. CONFIRMING VC PROPAGANDA.
- SO FAR 30,000 HA ORDINANCES 7 LAND DISTRIB TO 9,331 FARMERS, 24,000 REMAINS TO BE DISTRIB.

- ② FORMER FRENCH LAND, 30,000 HA. PURCHASED BY GVN 1960 VILLAGE COMMITTEES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR COLLECTING RENT, AND ARE ALLOWED TO KEEP FROM 5% TO 20% OF AMT COLLECTED. THEY DO NOT WANT LAND DISTRIBUTION

* ③ ACTION PROGRAM FOR 1968 (JULY - DEC)

- a. Priority #1 - distrib 1800 HA in Vi Xien village to 800 farmers
- early July, 7 days & 28 working hrs collected 390 applications (30% another 1 HA)
- remainder collected by RD Team #7 in Tân Hòa Tây (Vi Xien)
- b. Priority #2 - distrib. much as possible, 3,900 HA in Vi Thuy village. ^{Tremendous amt of paperwork must be done by special land reform teams} Also, perhaps 75 HA in Vinh Thuận Hông village, and 600 HA in Long Hoi district.
- c. Priority #3 - continue the distribution of ord. 57 land titles. I hope fully by the village administrative committees, under the guidance of Province Land Affairs Office.
- ④ Present ideas, the same as under former Pres Diem. Some say subdividing into small plots not economically sound. VN farmer can live with small holdings.
- ⑤ VC families are applying for titles and applic. to buy land too.
- One 70 year old farmer in Vi Xien village "wishes GVN will win over the Communists, because GVN finally recognizes his ownership of former French land that he has tilled for over 30 years as a tenant."