

OUTLINE OF PLAN FOR MANAGING REFUGEE PROBLEM

I. Mission

The mission of the refugee program has the following aspects:

- A. To provide physical security to the refugees from the VC;
- B. To provide immediate needs in food, clothing, housing and medical care to refugees;
- C. To de-brief refugees;
- D. To provide employment until security permits the return of the refugees to their homes.

II. General Description of Organization and Method of Processing Refugees

- A. There should be two types of refugee camps: reception centers and rehabilitation camps.
 - 1. Refugee reception centers should be established in critical provinces to provide physical security, immediate subsistence needs and de-briefing.
 - 2. Rehabilitation camps should be located away from reception centers and in areas that provide some means of gainful employment. Refugees are to remain in the rehabilitation camps until they can obtain employment or until they can return to their homes as a result of the improvement in the security situation.

- B. In the reception centers, refugees are to be registered, interrogated by intelligence personnel and issued a subsistence amount of food and clothing. Housing can be of a dormitory type. An emergency type medical examination should be conducted to prevent the spread of contagious diseases. Registration should show the province, district, village, hamlet of origin and family and where practical, the tribe, to facilitate reunion of family and tribal members and regrouping of hamlet and village residents.
- C. After de-briefing, identification cards are to be issued showing place of origin as well as other useful information, and family and hamlet or tribal groups are to be sent to a rehabilitation camp. Time spent in a reception center should not be more than two weeks.
- D. In the rehabilitation camps, refugees should be organized into five-family groups with inter-groups made up of five groups. Assignment to a five-family group and an inter-group should be based on place of origin. Four inter-groups (100 families) make a compound. A refugee camp would be composed of a varied number of compounds. Chiefs of five-family groups would be elected from the five families, but chiefs of inter-groups and compounds would be GVN officials.

Refugee camps should be planned so that compounds are clearly separate from each other and with an open area which can be used for social and political activities of the compound and for athletics. Each compound should also have its own

market, agricultural area and industrial-handicraft areas. Within a compound, inter-groups and five-family groups should be housed in close proximity. The water supply and sanitary facilities must be adequate for several years.

III. Utilization of Refugees

A. The organization of refugee rehabilitation camps is based on several assumptions:

1. The refugee problem is too complex to be effectively handled by the individual provinces, and therefore becomes a responsibility of the central government;
2. The refugees have no means at the time of their arrival to obtain gainful employment;
3. The refugees in general have a low skill level;
4. It is to the advantage of GVN to keep refugees grouped by place of origin and out of established urban areas;
5. It will be impossible for most refugees to return to their homes for several years. In the meantime they should remain in their own or adjacent provinces until military security is restored, at which time they will be returned to their original homes;
6. Refugees can best be taught useful trades and handicrafts for economic development in well-run rehabilitation camps;
7. The refugees themselves can be used to ameliorate their conditions and to improve their skills;

8. The political, economic and social problems of refugees can best be controlled in such camps.
- B. The first task to be given refugees should be the construction of both the reception centers and rehabilitation camps under the supervision of engineers and refugee cadres who have received some training in the purpose of refugee centers/^{and camps} and in their construction.
- C. While the camps are being built, plans can be made for handicraft work shops and handicraft or trade training facilities. The basic principle to be kept in mind for such planning is that refugees must be kept busy even though the effort may not have economic value.
- D. Five-family group chiefs must undergo a security investigation, and if they are found to be loyal, they are to be trained as cadres who will assist in the development of useful economic activities in their five-family groups.
- E. While many of the refugees will be involved in agricultural activities, as many as possible will be trained in handicrafts and small manufactures. Encouragement and assistance will be given to the organization of producers' cooperatives which can be based on the five-family groups, inter-family groups and the compounds. The objective is full employment while skill levels are being enhanced.

IV. Number and Kinds of GVN Personnel Required

A. Reception Centers

1. One interrogator per 10 refugees per day
2. One dormitory leader per 50 refugees
3. Health staff as recommended by Ministry of Public Health
4. One clerical worker per 100 refugees
5. Custodial and labor force and unskilled or semi-skilled workers are to be recruited from the refugees.

B. Refugee Camps

1. Five-family group chiefs are to be elected from the five families and should receive extra allowances for services.
2. For inter-family groups (five groups of five families each) there should be two ARVN non-commissioned officers or equivalent civilian rank. With four inter-family groups for each compound, that would be eight officials per 100 families or for about each 400-500 refugees.
3. Each compound would be supervised by one officer and a non-commissioned officer in addition to the eight non-commissioned officers assigned to the inter-family groups.
4. Handicraft teachers, agricultural and small-manufactures advisors are required in small numbers to teach the five-family group chiefs and inspect and advise on output. These should come from the Ministry of Economy.

5. Compound or inter-family group school teachers should be selected from the refugees and trained by the Ministry of Education to teach the small children.
6. Psychological Warfare personnel should be assigned to the camp at the ratio of one per compound.
7. Rehabilitation administrative and clerical personnel should number about one per 1,000 refugees.

V. Implementation

Implementation of any plan for resolving the refugee problem is dependent on a precise statement assigning responsibility for the various aspects to the ministries most competent to handle them, and establishment of a coordinating body with over-all responsibility for the refugee problem.

JDKeyes:c

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