

Summary Report to Assembled Representatives

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on October 12/1965 on Conclusion Reached by
Group that Considered Reorganization of Administration

I. Composition

a) Panel:

Commissioner for the Interior

Messrs. Hong Du Chau	Adm. Assistant Corps I
Le Cong Chat	" " Corps IV
Lt. Col. Tran Van Phuc	Province Chief/Dinh Tuong
Ho Gia Quy	Chairman/Provincial Council Pleiku
Pho Thai Gia	Vice Chairman/Prefecture Council

b) Participants:

31 high level officials from Provinces and cities and representatives of provincial councils.

II. Consolidation of activities

A. Briefing: The Commissioner for the Interior gave an outline of the status of local administration and reviewed the measures applied or being studied in order to improve the administrative machinery in structure, procedure and personnel.

1. Reorganization of structure

a) Characteristics: The role of the zones and districts have become more important under the new circumstances, therefore we have to pay particular attention to them.

b) Measures applied:

- The reorganization of village and hamlet administration by decree No.203-d/NV of May 31/64, which specified the establishment of the elected Village Citizens' Councils and the electoral procedure of Hamlet Chiefs and Deputy Hamlet Chiefs.

- Measures concerning financial subsidy for the operation of villages and hamlets offices particularly the payment of allowances to Village and Hamlet Officials, the payment of death compensation and training costs.

- The establishment and election of prefectural provincial and city councils.

- The creation of the post of deputy district chief (tribesman) in those areas where there is a majority of tribal people.

- The defining of minimal delegation of authority to deputy district chiefs.

- The increase in allowances for Canton Chiefs in the Highlands.

- The reorganization of administrative units: namely the abolition of provinces, districts, and villages that are not essential (example: abolition of Phuoc Thanh, Con Son).

c) Problems already presented that are to be solved or being considered

- Delegation of authority from Central Government to Government Delegates (this has been approved in principle by the War Cabinet).

- Reorganization of provincial headquarters.

- Promulgation of a common statute for all cities.

- Modification of statute of provincial councils such as the change of appellation of Provincial Council members to councillors, the procedure of reelection of a number of members every year ...

- Strengthening the organization of the district offices.

- Help to promote deputy district chiefs who do not belong to category A civil servants but who have worked very hard and conscientiously.

- Modification of composition of Village Administration Committee.

- Standardization of allowances paid to village and hamlet officials in order to maintain the consistency of the grass-root administrative structure.

2. Improvement of procedure

a) Characteristics: the improvement of obsolete procedure is everybody wish but it is necessary to know what and how to improve, in such a manner that it does not impede the security and public order requirements.

b) Already implemented:

- Simplification of procedure relative to the issuance of I.D. card, establishment of family book, and implementation of local budget.

c) Under consideration:

Simplification of procedure concerning compensation against requisition and control of national resources.

3. Personnel improvement

a) Characteristics: The Government tries to shape a new category of personnel dedicated, efficient and honest.

b) Already implemented:

- "Cleaning up" the rank of cadre, particularly key cadre level.
- Buddhism, prevent corruption thanks to the activities of central inspection team.
- The appointment of young, active and honest cadre.

c) Difficulties and worries

- Solving the shortage of managerial officials and lower-level personnel by the following measures:

Managerial level

- Intervention with the Government to obtain deferment.
- Request to increase the number of NIA students every year.

Lower level

- Recruitment in place of Journalier personnel.
- Conversion of floating personnel to Journalier personnel.
- Organization of examination to recruit clerks for assignment in provinces.
- Study of standardizing the statute of cadre and non-technical cadre of different fields.
- Training and in-service training in provinces (training of provincial, district, village and hamlet officials).
- Organization of training courses at NIA for deputy district chiefs and for ex NIA students.

To sum up, the Commissioner for Interior raised a number of problems that need further discussions:

Structure

- 1) It is necessary to increase authority of Govt. Delegates.
- 2) Reorganization of provincial headquarters and district offices.
- 3) Modification of statute of local councils.
- 4) Measures that can be applied to improve village and hamlet administration.

Procedure

5) In addition to procedure stated, what kind of administrative procedure is required in order to serve the people more efficiently. (procedure which does not hamper the security requirements).

Personnel

6) What other aspects of personnel are needed to improve the local affairs, particularly in rural areas.

B. Discussion

The assembly made known the following remarks and proposals. Most of the proposals were accepted, and a certain number will be submitted to the chairman of the Central Executive.

B1. Recommendations that have been made

a) Structure

1. Zone level:

It is necessary to increase the authority of Government Delegates: the related project has been presented to the War Cabinet by the Ministry of Interior.

2. Province, city level

- The standardization of statute of cities: the related project has been presented to the War Cabinet by the Ministry of Interior, and it will be promulgated if approved by the Directory.

- Reorganization of the Prefecture: it is desired that an over-all reorganization project be presented to the Ministry of Interior for study (instead of

miscellaneous and separate proposals).

- Placing the Directorate of Prefecture Police under the jurisdiction of the Prefecture as before: the Ministry of Interior has drawn the attention of the Directorate General of Police to this matter.

- Increase the availability of provincial budget by reviewing the tax organizations:

(Will transmit the related problem to the responsible Ministry).

- Use the profits from the Reconstruction management Fund to assist the Province in investment purposes.

The Provincial Council with its authority to pass the budget, may direct the Provincial budget towards investment purposes if deemed necessary.

- Define the relationship between the Province Chiefs and technical services in provinces:

There has been a clear principle of authority of Province Chiefs concerning their responsibilities of general administration of provincial public agencies.

- Propose to abolish provincial technical services and to incorporate them into an unique public agency under the direction of Province Chiefs: this measure is not practical due to its failure in meeting technical requirements.

- Designate additional assistants to Province Chiefs in charge of Rural Construction and religious activities: this is not feasible because it will only render provincial administration more burdensome.

- Propose to establish pacification areas: the Ministry of Interior has authorized one province to establish a number of pacification areas for use as pilot areas.

- Statute of Provincial Councils:

- Change of appellation of members to councillors: will consider again; however, the appellation of Provincial members will convey an idea of democracy and popularity.

- Abolish the procedure of reelection of 1/3 of members every year: This procedure is aimed at bringing in vitality and stimulation to the new members of the elected organization. However, the term of the council is 3 years, the Ministry of Interior will study and review this procedure to make it convenient for operational purpose.

- Procedure on election of standing office (Provincial Council) maintain the annual election.

- Allowance and Per diem: with regard to payment of allowance and per diem, the Ministry of Interior has already issued clear instructions.

- Raise the allowance rate or change it to monthly standard allowance: Provincial Councillors are reminded that the financial situation is meager, the Provincial Administration have the duties to assist them in providing transportation, housing facilities (in particular those councillors living far from the Provincial headquarters).

- Authority: pursuant to Article 9 of subject decree, Provincial Councils have the right to vote. This provision remains unchanged.

- Propose to authorize Provincial Councils to participate in the Security Council: this has a political and secrecy character. Provincial councils have the right to intercede with the Security Council or the Province Chiefs in case they discover a case of unjust arrest or transgression of laws.

- Propose to give Province Councils the right to vote on Rural construction budget: this will be transmitted to the responsible ministry for consideration.

3. Villages, Hamlets

Concerning the control of the implementation of the village budget: as a matter of fact, the Village Citizens' Councils are empowered to control the Village Budget (by voting the annual balance sheet - decree No.203-d/NV May 31/65). In addition, Provinces and districts still control the implementation of the village budget through periodic reports of the Village Administrative Committee and through on-the-spot inspection.

b) Procedure

The Assembly have agreed on the following points:

- It is desirable to have handbooks prepared by Technical Ministries to guide newly recruited personnel at the localities on the technical responsibilities of the Ministries concerned.

- It is advisable to have a Central Committee coming to the localities to conduct a study of simplification of procedure so as to meet the requirements of the situation.

- The allocation of land in Corps II should be pushed -- in accordance with the policy of helping the poor -- in particular the Montagnards. Allocation of land is made with the concurrence of the Ministry of Agriculture.

c) Personnel

The Assembly agreed on the following: