

PREPARED

UNCLASSIFIED

REPORTS OF JUSPAO FIELD REPRESENTATIVES
for the month ending January 31, 1966

TO : Distribution List Below

FROM : Brig. Gen. J.F. Freund, Assistant Director, Field Services, JUSPAO

This document contains portions of **January, 1966**, reports submitted by JUSPAO Field Representatives. Administrative and parochial matters have been eliminated, as well as some details, so that the portions, while presenting the main elements of the Field Representatives' presentation, are relatively concise.

Distribution List:

Office of the Ambassador (2)
Mr. E. G. Lansdale, SLO, Embassy (6)
JUSPAO Director (1)
JUSPAO Deputy Director (1)
JUSPAO Assistant Director for Program Services (2)
JUSPAO Assistant Director for Technical Services (2)
Chief of the U.S. Mission Press Center (2)
Chief of the Planning Staff, JUSPAO (5)
Special Assistants to the JUSPAO, Mr. Madison and Col. Nathan
Chief of the JUSPAO Field Representative Division (35)
Chief of the JUSPAO Field Development Division (3)
JUSPAO USOM Liaison Officer (1)
Embassy Political Section (3)
Embassy Economic Section (1)
OSA Embassy (3)
USOM Director (1)
USOM Deputy Director (1)
USOM Regional Directors (2 each)
USOM ProvOps. Col. Wilson, Messrs Maynard, Perry, Prosser,
Jacobson (1 each)
COMUSMACV (1)
MACV Office of Sector Affairs (5)
MACV J-332 (2)
MACV PolWar (5)
MACV Hop Tac Secretariat, Advisory Team 100 (2)
USIA/IRS/AF Vietnam Units, Washington D.C. (10)
AID/W Office of Vietnam Affairs (10)
AID/W Orientation Branch Room 6829 (3)
JFK Special Warfare Center, Ft. Bragg, N.C. 28307 -
Attn: USIA Advisor (3)
VNCC, Washington, D.C. (Amb. Unger, Gen. Peers, Mr. Desilva)
CINCPAC for POLAD (3)
WSS-C Maxwell AFB, Alabama - Attn: Capt Don L. Mansfield, USAF(3)
Director Psychological Operations Department
US Army Special Warfare School
USAJFKCENSPWAR
Fort Bragg, North Carolina, 28307

QUANG NAM

*

GENERAL SITUATION

Hoa Van District's Pacification Program near the city of Da Nang has not been successful for a variety of reasons, the most conspicuous being the continued lack of security in all but two of the 19 hamlets comprising 5 villages. Cadres originally numbering more than 300 now have dwindled to fewer than 100 because of the security problem.

Da Nang was described by several of my Vietnamese contacts as an R & R Center for V.C. during Tet but with the exception of two minor hand grenade explosions within the city just prior to Tet there was peace and quiet during the official holidays. On the night of the 24th, the Viet Cong dropped 120 millimeter mortar rounds within the city limits but with no serious results. With a range of approximately 6 kilometers, continued mortar fire with these huge NVN weapons could become a demoralizing influence on Da Nang's population.

Vietnamese public opinion in Da Nang and Quang Nam Province seems to lean toward the idea that the Americans are going to be here for an extended period of the time and are adjusting their financial planning accordingly. There is little talk of any peace settlements being taken seriously here.

VIET CONG PROPAGANDA THEMES

This month, the VC have placed heavy emphasis on the destruction of property by Americans and the lack of any display of interest in indemnifying the victims. This is done by word of mouth rather than by written documents, but the theme of American indifference to Vietnamese sensibilities is emerging - and apparently effectively, since the local populace seldom receives even token payment for the destruction of their property until months later, if ever.

When the VC struck the refugee camp near Tam Ky on the night of the 18th, they left leaflets scattered about - in English - appealing to the American military to get out of Vietnam and go back to their loved ones in America.

VIS ACTIVITIES

Although the VIS in I Corps seemed rather indifferent to the JUSPAO Tet Campaign before it began, they were willing to

cooperate in distributing leaflets and posters prior to about the 17th when they dropped everything for their own Tet plans.

STATE OF MEDIA

Da Nang now has its own radio station - 5 KW short wave and 1 KW medium wave - broadcasting seven hours each day, most of the programming coming from VTVN Saigon. However, JUSPAO is paying temporarily the salaries of two of the employees in the hopes of assisting in programming. The station now, of course, receives Saigon's weekly list of available programs.

REFUGEE PROGRAM

The refugees near Tam Ky are somewhat dispirited after the VC killed approximately 30 of them and maimed twice as many more last week. However, these five provinces still have about 180,000 refugees who are receiving assistance generally in direct relationship to their geographical proximity to Da Nang. USOM, CARE, and more recently CRS (Catholic Relief Services) devote money, time, and attention to these unfortunate folk out of all proportion to GVN efforts. The arrival of 300 tons of unsorted miscellany from America last week was handled by a committee which is making a valiant effort to satisfy both the U.S. sponsors of this giant Christmas stocking and needy recipient.

PSYOPS COMMITTEES

The JUSPAO Tet Campaign of leaflets, et al, gave the I Corps Joint PsyWar/Civic Action Center its first real test of true cooperation - and I am very pleased to report that the results were gratifying. Leaflets by the tons came pouring into the Da Nang airport and were handled expeditiously and cooperatively by people from the ARVN 3rd PsyOps Battalion, the MACV 1st PsyOps Detachment, the 5th Air Commandos all under the supervision of JUSPAO - plus an assist at several crucial points from USOM. Two factors contributed to our success; good weather most of the time, and no breakdowns in the aircraft. Everything considered, the campaign was carried out in I Corps as directed by Saigon.

SIGNS OF PROGRESS

The coordination of the dropping of approximately 30,000,000 leaflets as directed by Saigon, plus the distribution of the associated Tet materials through VIS and the I Corps radio stations.

QUESTIONS ASKED

1. Can the Marines find a means of developing an on-the-spot indemnification program for property destruction as a means of showing good faith while the GVN wheels turn slowly in indemnifying victims of these actions?

QUANG TRI - THUA THIEN

*

GENERAL SITUATION

A war of words seemed to have pre-empted the military conflict for the pre-Tet, Tet and past-Tet periods. Both the VC and the GVN concentrated efforts on producing numerous leaflets, posters, and broadcasts emphasizing the Tet themes. There were few strictly military engagements, though the pre-Tet truce period was marked by a VC attack on the outskirts of Hue City, an attack on a PF Platoon in Thua Thien, and an attack on a police unit in the DMZ in Quang Tri. Political calm was evident in both provinces, with the rising cost of living the primary concern of most Vietnamese.

VIET CONG PROPAGANDA THEMES

Public lectures -- which have increased -- and leaflets played on the theme of unification of the family and the nation and the need to drive out the American imperialists who are preventing realization of this goal. Increased pressure is reported on relatives of those serving the GVN to force defections from GVN ranks and from government posts. An increase in the number of English language leaflets also was reported with such leaflets stressing earlier this month that the Johnson Administration faced serious and strong protests by American citizens favoring U.S. withdrawal.

VIS ACTIVITIES

Thua Thien: Leaflets and banners on the Chieu Hoi and Tet themes were produced locally and distributed throughout the districts. Two new signboards were placed on the main street near province headquarters and others will be set up on major thoroughfares in Hue City. JUSPAO - Saigon is producing two posters for VIS and the JUSPAO Rep. is financing two leaflets to be produced locally. One of the major problems is the fact that the VIS Chief is also the G-5 and therefore does not devote the time needed to VIS activities.

Quang Tri: VIS worked closely with the Chieu Hoi service to prepare special Tet leaflets and posters. JUSPAO supported the printing of 20,000 leaflets explaining the presence of Allied forces in Vietnam and production of 40,000 leaflets each on the Ba Long battle and the payment of damage claims.

CHIEU HOI

Thua Thien: Fifty-six Returnees are sitting around the center waiting for some constructive programs to begin. None has. Thirteen returnees were JUSPAO Tet campaign arrivals, with four carrying Tet leaflets. All are low-level VC cadre and no one at the Center holds any real rank in the VC organization. The armed propaganda platoon continues to show good results and currently two units are working in Phong Dien and Quang Dien districts. Five Rallyers have come in because of their efforts. Some 50,000 leaflets in the form of a letter from the Province Chief were distributed during Tet along with 2,000 copies each of eight different banners.

Quang Tri: Eight Returnees are in the Center, one of whom came in with two kinds of Tet leaflets. The Province Chief distributed USOM - supplied commodities to families of 150 returnees in Trieu Phong District and he reportedly has requested Saigon to establish an Armed Propaganda Platoon for the province. Films supplied by JUSPAO are being shown twice a week and text books will be obtained from the elementary school for the Returnees. The Chieu Hoi cadre will serve as the teachers.

STATE OF MEDIA

Both provinces have submitted new cost estimates on proposed newspapers and it is hoped production can begin in the near future. An increasing number of leaflets are being produced locally and wood cuts are used in place of photographic work.

PSYOPS COMMITTEES, S-5 ACTIVITIES

The first PsyOps committee meeting in many months was held in Quang Tri under prodding of the Province Chief based on oft expressed suggestions by the Senior Sector Advisor, the USOM and JUSPAO Reps. Since the Province Chief could not attend the opening session little was accomplished except the expression of generalities. The VIS Chief presided and presented his Tet campaign and plans for the first quarter of the year. Attendance and active interest by the Province chief is a most if those meetings are to be considered worthwhile.

Thua Thien has yet to have a real PsyOps committee meeting. The Province Chief and the VIS Chief do not appear interested and there is little pressure by anyone in authority to consider

PsyOps in a meaningful manner. Genuine PsyOps annexes are non-existent and the S-5 is considered by the Vietnamese of little importance except as an after thought.

SIGNS OF PROGRESS

Production of a quick reaction mimeo leaflet the same day the VC killed two children and wounded other civilians during the attack on the An Hoa bridge on the outskirts of Hue city. The S-5, VIS, PAT and JUSPAO worked together to respond immediately to the situation and provide appropriate propaganda in the village in the form of leaflets, loudspeaker talks, and direct personal conversations.

Coordination of a program involving the Rural Construction Cadre, the U.S. Marine medical unit providing Medcap, USOM - and JUSPAO - supplied commodities and leaflet materials, and civic action by the PAT - led corps of provincial workers in the Gia Le village area about five kilometer from Hue City.

Through the joint efforts of the VIS, Chieu Hoi Service JUSPAO, and the S-5 Advisor a leaflet and taped message was prepared shortly after a Returnee informed the intelligence Section that his comrades also expressed a desire to return to the Government but were afraid to take the necessary steps. An air drop was used to pinpoint the target area and hit it with a leaflet written as a letter by the Returnee to his former comrades. A taped message by the Returnee also was used with the leaflet drop.

QUANG NGAI - QUANG TIN

*

GENERAL SITUATION

VC pressure and action continues in Quang Ngai and Quang Tin. On one occasion recently this Field Rep and Mr. Ho (my Vietnamese assistant) were fired on by VC snipers between Son Tinh and Binh Son, and another time only about a week later we had to turn back at this same spot because of a skirmish between the VC and RF forces. There is continued interdiction of the road, and prices here are continuing to go up in a gradual spiral.

Dr. Bui Hoanh, Quang Ngai Province Chief, feels that the past progress in the rural construction program is the main reason for increasing VC pressure. He also feels the Marines at Chu Lai and Danang are going to have more VC pressure on them forcing them to constrict, rather than enlarge their enclaves. On the PsyWar front, there is progress, but it is - as always, slow. No perceptible results have come from the massive leaflet drops of the Tet period, but only time will tell whether this program will ultimately have an effect. We have received information within the last few days that in VC controlled areas the people, local guerrillas and VC hard core types are - generally speaking - afraid to pick up the leaflets. Though I have seen leaflets picked up while acting as the "dropper" during one of the U-10 missions. The U-10 aircraft, by the way, are flying higher since one passenger was shot and hit by ground fire during an I Corps mission within the last few weeks.

VC PROPAGANDA THEMES

The VC continue to press hard their anti-American campaign on all fronts and to spread false reports of VC victories. Significantly, VC efforts are pressed - not on a large area basis, as is so much of our effort so far - but in very small areas, aimed at people in a given area, tailored to fit a specific audience. This they do through hand distributed leaflets (like the English language leaflets dropped during the recent attack on Tam Ky), through ditto news sheets and through word of mouth propaganda. During a recent Marine operation a request was made to the 27th PsyOps Detachment to produce a tape, telling the people in a given village to stop firing on passing Marine aircraft lest their village be destroyed. I asked Mr. Ho, my Vietnamese associate here, his reaction to this threat (reminiscent of French threats of past years) from

the Marines. Without prompting from me, he immediately took exception to this approach, pointing out that it only supported VC claims that the people had to fight the invading American imperialist forces. He suggested that the appeal to the people to stop shooting at "aircraft" (with no mention of the Marines) should come from the GVN and "Allied Forces."

Incidentally, this Field Rep is getting fine co-operation from the local American intelligence people in trying to get evaluations of material or get ideas for production of written material, tapes, etc.

VIS ACTIVITIES

This Field Rep has during the reporting period attempted to gather together a great amount of broken VIS equipment from Quang Tin and Quang Ngai Provinces, get in on an airplane, then ship it down to Saigon for repair. It took me a week of daily telephone calls to get the aircraft lined up, then - when it did arrive - the equipment (through an unfortunate snafu) was not ready to go. At any rate the 5th Air Commando Squadron has now scheduled a plane to pick up the equipment from both Quang Tin and Quang Ngai, plus some boxes of gear from Radio Quang Ngai to be sent back to Saigon.

In other VIS matters, this Field Rep has been making trips out to the districts in Quang Ngai, meeting the district VIS Chiefs, encouraging them to improve existing VIS reading rooms, offering to help in starting such reading rooms where they do not already exist. So far this effort has resulted in the placement of USIS Libraries (the 50-book sets) in VIS reading rooms in three districts. The same will be done in the Chu Lai area, and another library has been sent to Tam Ky.

In so far as USIS publications for VIS are concerned, we have shifted over to working more and more through MACV subsector advisors in getting these materials distributed. This serves a dual purpose: with more American supervision, we are hopeful of getting more widespread distribution. Also, this gets the subsector advisors interested in VIS; in some cases they weren't even aware of the existence of VIS.

CHIEU HOI ACTIVITY

Efforts have been made during the reporting period to get the Chieu Hoi program in both Quang Ngai and Quang Tin Provinces of the ground. The effort in Quang Tin has been to get some kind of adequate Chieu Hoi Center underway. In Quang Ngai, the USOM regional Chieu Hoi man, and I have been trying to get the Chieu Hoi Chief to get going in the erection of an improved center. The money is available, the plans are drawn, but they keep giving excuses (they being the Chieu Hoi Chief and province public works chief) that the contractor can't get materials. The USOM Prov Rep here, says that's not true - it's just that they never seem to get around to letting him know - despite repeated requests, exactly how much cement, roofing and reinforcing rods they need for the job. In short, they've never made the specific requests they must make to get the job going.

STATE OF MEDIA

Despite efforts by members of the 27th PsyOps Detachment and this Field Rep to get the Radio Quang Ngai generator fixed, we have drawn a zero so far. The main problem was communications. The Army people here were able to spot the trouble after I asked their generator technician to go out and inspect. He cleaned up the air filters (which apparently had never been cleaned) and found the trouble with the generator lay with the fuel injectors, which (again because of lack of any basic maintenance) had become clogged with carbon. At any rate, learning from Saigon that the parts could be ordered from Bangkok, perhaps, I took one of the injectors down to Saigon so the part could be properly identified for ordering. All the injectors are now out of the generator, and Mr. Ho will come down to Saigon with them, hopefully, on February 3. The arrangement is to get them serviced, or get vital part of the injectors replaced. Then back they'll come to Quang Ngai, and we may have a 10 kilowatt station at last (assuming some other trouble doesn't develop). In the meantime, the station is busy installing its new soundproof studio with materials supplied by VTVN and JUSPAO Saigon.

During the Tet season, we were able to make use of the radio, taping a special program made up from the JUSPAO drama team program for Tet. This program was taped by the PAT drama team, and the program aired on January 21. Copies of this tape were sent north by USOM aircraft for use on the new Da Nang radio station and by Radio Hue. Another tape recorded by the Quang :

Ngai Province Chief - designed for use on Tet Day on one of the PsyWar aircraft loudspeakers along with a special Tet greeting leaflet from the province chief - was also produced. However, use of this tape was scrubbed on Tet Day because all PsyWar aircraft missions were canceled that day. However, we intend to make more such tapes - using the province chief - since we find some people are afraid to pick up leaflets, but they can't avoid hearing the loudspeaker messages.

As to the drama teams in the second division area, the Joint Studies Group will continue to provide financial support to the PAT drama team in Quang Ngai. This Field Rep will take over support of the drama team in Tam Ky. It is this Field Rep's opinion that any attempt to manage the drama teams out of Saigon and have them operate out of Corps Headquarters will bog down. From a sheer logistics standpoint, it will be almost impossible. There aren't enough airplanes to move drama teams from province to province within a given corps area.

Earlier this week I took up to Danang about 2500 sheets of offset paper for the Marines to print a poster boosting Quang Ngai's "Return to Village Campaign." I had previously requested the Marines to print this job, and they readily agreed to do so. However, on arrival in Da Nang, I found the 3rd Marine Division Repro Unit, which is to do the job, was temporarily out of printing plates for its Harris press. Also, the big electric paper cutter needed to cut the large sheets I supplied was out of commission for lack of a generator. Hopefully, their plates will soon arrive, and they can borrow a generator.

REFUGEE PROGRAM

A new U.S. Army Civic Action Team (consisting of six officers and men) has arrived in Quang Ngai Province and will be working among refugee groups. This team, requested by the U.S. Marines (I am told four such teams have been assigned to I Corps), is a welcome addition to the pacification program. This Field Rep will give his full support to this unit, working with MACV and USOM. There was such a team here, but it was pulled out during the last part of November. With so much of the VIS equipment broken down here, there has been relatively little that could be done in the refugee camps. Hopefully, repair of this equipment will permit us to get cranked into the refugee camps with film showings and other activities.

10. SIGNS OF PROGRESS

During the reporting period JUSPAO in Quang Ngai and Quang Tin has just about exhausted its supply of IOC commodities, including candy and chewing gum. Most of this was spread around very liberally during the Tet period and has come in very handy as a door opener in our efforts to get down to the district level. But, while giving away candy and gum, we've also tried to capitalize on it, using it as a lever to stimulate interest in other programs. It has been mainly a selling job, trying to get the subsector advisors and district chiefs more interested in VIS activities. So far we have failed in getting the VIS Chief to go out and spend a single night in the boondocks. I might add, in this respect, that the JUSPAO house in Quang Ngai will be a most useful tool in getting to know the Vietnamese better; as it is there is no place to which I can invite them. The house should be completed by the end of this coming week, despite repeated requests, however, there's been no sign of furniture for the house. Hopefully, it, too, will be available next week. Mainly I have been concentrating on the Vietnamese and MACV structures. So far as the S-5s and G-5s are concerned, cooperation has improved. More and more the division G-5 has been seeking my help and has been co-ordinating with me.

I have found the new PsyOps detachment here very receptive to suggestions, in general, and responsive to my requests for support from its men.

With the weather improving, it is becoming somewhat easier to get around, and Mr. Ho and I have been doing a bit of travelling, getting all the way from the remote Special Forces camps in the far west to the junk base on the sea. We recently loaned one of two loudspeaker systems (portable) to the junk fleet commander, and he's been talking to people in villages along the shore, trying to get a bit of a message into places he doesn't touch on foot.

Speaking of this junk fleet commander, I think JUSPAO can take credit for having softened the edges of a tragic blunder that took place in Quang Ngai on January 18 when an ARVN artillery battery mistakenly fired into a refugee area, rather than into a VC area. The night this incident occurred the junk fleet commander showed two USIS films to the people in this area, using films and a projector loaned to him by us only a few days before. Since most of the people had drifted up to the north

end of the peninsula where they live, they were fortunately not home when the ARVN shells came whistling in. As a result, only one girl was killed and four adults wounded. As the commander put it, "Things would have been much worse, if the people hadn't come up to watch us show your films." One of the films, by the way, was "Night of the Dragon."

Another incident in this area did not end so smoothly. This involved the 37th Rangers, good fighters but trouble makers among the people, going out and collecting taxes in the same area at the point of a gun (according to my informant). Reportedly, men from the junk base went out and stopped this business forthwith - using their guns to disperse the friendly ARVN "tax" collectors. I am told the 37th Rangers have a bad reputation in Quang Ngai Province.

PLEIKU-KONTUM-PHU BON

*

GENERAL SITUATION

The presence of large numbers of US troops in Pleiku Province during January contributed to a widespread feeling of security among the populace altho placing certain strains on the local economy. The 1st Cav. conducted a search operation for about 2½ weeks west of Pleiku city working north out of Duc Co. And the 3rd Brigade of the 25th division, US Infantry, was airlifted from Hawaii between 24 Dec. and 23 Jan... setting up camp on the outskirts of Pleiku City. Widespread complaints about rising prices - noted in the December report - were mitigated somewhat as Highway 19, from Quy Nhon to Pleiku, was open for more than three weeks. This was counteracted by the customary price increases which is the merchant contribution to the spirit of Tet.

Reaction to the FULRO trials, conducted in late December by a 3 man court headed by General Manh and convened in Pleiku, was moderate in Pleiku - somewhat more pronounced in Phu Bon and barely distinguishable in Kontum. Of the 3 or more leaders on trial, 4 were sentenced to death, more than a score received long prison terms, and five were acquitted. Two of the condemned men were executed in the New Market in Pleiku - and two in a similarly public place in Hau Bon, Phu Bon province.

VIET CONG PROPAGANDA THEMES

The recurrent theme of driving out the Yankee imperialist predominated, altho most of the VC leaflets recovered during the period were relatively old. VC propaganda teams were reported working the road from Pleiku to Kontum explaining to villagers their proposed truce for Tet. And one rallier reported that the VC teams have been warning people not to pick up GVN leaflets since the ink has been poisoned and they will die if they touch them.

VIS ACTIVITIES

In Pleiku I was favorably impressed by their participation in the planning and execution of a series of special Tet programs at the Chieu Hoi Center, in the town, and a kind of memorial day service at the cemetery for fallen GVN soldiers. VIS Pleiku provided components of the PsyOps teams that worked with the 1st

Cav sweep and reports are they performed well. VIS Kontum seems to me very effective - as result of enlightened leadership by both the VIS Chief and the new Province Chief.

CHIEU HOI

During a 48 hour period, Jan 23 and 24th, the Chieu Hoi center at Pleiku had 26 Quy Chanh. The total for the period since January 1st being 69. The total number currently at the Pleiku Center is 102 Quy Chanh including four PAVN - and 32 relatives.

Conditions at the Chieu Hoi center, Pleiku, have improved notably since I arrived here a month ago - but still leave much to be desired. My first visit to the center in late December was the occasion of dismay - since so much of our Tet and other campaigns aim directly at filling the centers and I did not believe the product was equal to the advertising. But the USOM province rep. and the Chieu Hoi chief moved quickly to effect repairs - and a substantial improvement program is now in the working stage. On January 17th a large Tet Celebration was held at the center for Quy Chanh. The day long program featured speeches by province officials, games for the children, entertainment by the Montagnard cultural team, a fine lunch, and a considerable number of presents - with USOM providing new clothing and JUSPAO candy, calendars, and publications. A new building at the center has space reserved for a library and reading room.

Another JUSPAO suggestion that was accepted, and I believe important, was that the Chairman of the elected Province Council be made one of the official hosts and deliver the opening address on behalf of the people of Pleiku.

STATE OF MEDIA

This is my thorniest problem to date. There is no Province paper in Pleiku, and has been none for several months. I have yet to locate a Cultural/Drama team - except for the one operated by the Montagnard Welfare Center - and if I have another, I don't yet know it. Negotiations are underway for the reviving of the Pleiku paper, but the MOI budget for VIS for the paper has been halved - as the printing cost tripled - and I see a rocky road ahead. This subject will be dealt with in a separate memo - out the solution of the problems involved is my number one priority for February.

REFUGEES

Pleiku province currently has 8 thousand refugees - down from a high of ten thousand. Of these, 363 are recently generated by the 1st Cav activities to the West. Two thousand refugees are out of the program and resettled - and the GVN refugee department - with USOM cooperation - is working effectively in the area. Schools in the resettlement areas are being built - and JUSPAO assistance in stocking libraries has been requested.

PSYOPS COMMITTEES

No meetings in January - with Tet the principal factor. Groundwork has been effectively laid by my predecessor, and I expect this program will get off the ground in February. But there have been fairly regular meetings among those who constitute this committee, even the committee, such as was never formally convened. Of those involved - three of us are new to the province and to the Second Corps.

POLICY QUESTIONS

I have been asked repeatedly why I have no posters and leaflets in Montagnard dialects - and why I don't arrange for publication of a newspaper in a Montagnard language - and, finally, why none of the Tet leaflets was aimed at the Montagnards.

DARLAC - QUANG DUC

**

The enemy presumably continued to be interested in the two provinces primarily for the infiltration and exfiltration of troops

Economic conditions for both urban and rural masses were bleak due to the interdiction of roads by the enemy, lack of security in the countryside, unemployment, inflation, commodity shortages, and a variety of other unfavorable factors.

The number of refugees in Darlac province continued to increase and to be a major burden of the provincial administration.

The PsyWar potential of the GVN was only partially utilized to gain more widespread popular support for the GVN in the countryside.

There were continued evidences of disaffection among ethnic minorities, but tensions appeared to abate progressively during the period.

Visits by the Darlac province chief to district capitals during the reporting period presumably had a stabilizing effect on both the civilian population and the military by reflecting government concern with local problems and the intention of the GVN to maintain and extend its control of the areas. The province chief of Quang Duc traveled extensively in his province, impressing observers with his vitality and ability to mix with the people. Both province chiefs directed their attentions during these trips to ethnic Vietnamese as well as Montagnards, with the emphasis being on the latter.

VC PROPAGANDA THEMES

Most of VC propaganda in the two provinces is a variation on the anti-Americanism and GVN lackey themes. Additionally the VC tries to exploit ethnic differences by claiming that the GVN is attempting to divide Vietnamese and Montagnards.

There was voluminous evidence, particularly in such forms as captured enemy documents and propaganda, that the VC is conducting intense organizational and propaganda activity in the countryside. Fragmentary evidence indicates that extensive use is made of female cadres in these efforts.

VIS ACTIVITIES

VIS Quang Duc was far more active than in previous month. This was due to the interest shown by the province chief in VIS activities and to his strong efforts to vitalize the organization. The Quang Duc province chief is a firm believer in and supporter of Psychological Operations. Much of the VIS activity centered on the provincial capital of Gia Nghia. Improved servicing of the districts will not be possible until VIS Quang Duc improves its organizational set-up at the provincial headquarters. JUSPAO has given major assistance in this direction by having arranged for the repair of all broken mimeograph machines, generators and projectors belonging to VIS Quang Duc.

In Darlac province a relatively new VIS Chief was engaged principally in trying to reorganize what has been a very lethargic VIS. During the reporting period he also accompanied the province chief on a series of one-day trips to the district capitals.

In both province VIS effort was concentrated on preparations for the observance of Tet. While aware of the national Tet campaign to appeal for returnees, VIS personnel showed little interest in the campaign. It was clear that other activities ranked far higher in priority, particularly those of a local nature.

CHIEU HOI ACTIVITY

Indoctrination of Quy Chanh in Darlac province has made unspectacular but steady and encouraging progress during the past two months. During the past month there were eight political lectures, seven film showings, and two performances by a drama team given for the Quy Chanh. In addition, a reading room is maintained for the Quy Chanh.

During the period, I talked fairly extensively with a number of Quy Chanh, as a result of which I became more convinced than before that leaflet drops are having an effect on enemy morale in this area. Quy Chanh have stated that leaflets have been dropped in such number on their villages that political cadres made no effort to have them policed up, although instructions were given to the population not to read them. Persons violating such instructions were to be reported. One Quy Chanh stated that he had hidden three different leaflets in the ceiling of his house. His descriptions of the leaflets permitted identification

to be established. Leaflets with illustrations and photographs appeared to attract more attention than plain text leaflets, judging by the testimony of these Quy Chanh.

STATE OF MEDIA

The most significant media news in this area is that Radio Banmethuot will officially inaugurate a new 55kw transmitter on February 1, 1966. This development has far reaching implications since the station should have a strong signal throughout most of central Vietnam, parts of neighboring countries, and possibly in parts of north Vietnam, the station may become the single most important GVN medium for mass communication in a wide area of the country.

REFUGEE PROGRAM

Refugees continue to be one of the major problems and concerns of the provincial administration and USOM in Darlac province. Approximately one-ninth of the population of the province now has refugee status. The problem is far less serious in Quang Duc province where it has been possible to resettle refugees in their home villages following clearing operations.

Despite the fact that on paper a number of organizations have responsibilities for dissemination information to refugees, in actuality little is being done in this regard. VIS has a limited capability for dealing with the problem because of insufficient resources and inadequately trained and motivated personnel.

PSYOPS COMMITTEES, ETC.

In Quang Duc province a PsyOps Committee is meeting regularly once a week with some success in achieving improved personal relationships among members and a better coordinated effort. The S-5 advisor has been instrumental in maintaining the existence of the committee by attending all meetings and by giving advice and encouragement.

RADIO SALES

Darlac province has begun distribution to the four district capitals of 4E transistorized radios to be sold to persons having a low income. The number of these radios is 992 (or 1,000 minus eight which disappeared before delivery to VIS Darlac).

SIGNS OF PROGRESS

The repair of all motion picture equipment belonging to VIS Quang Nam was an important forward step. There was also fairly large-scale (in provincial terms) exploitation of the GVN Regional Forces victory at Bu Prang in Quang Duc Province and of the defection of four VC forced laborers who cut off their index fingers in the vain hope of being released from VC control.

Another hopeful sign is that, for the first time, VIS personnel in both provinces are acknowledging the responsibility of VIS to extend its activity to the countryside and tailor its operations for the rural population.

QUESTIONS

Most questions dealt with economic problems. People wanted to know if the U.S. is aware of the seriousness of inflation and shortages and what is being done to improve the situation.

BINH DINH
(From Advisor 60 1st Air Cav.)

GENERAL SITUATION

Military operations during the first part of the month included search and clear operations in Binh Dinh Province north-east of Binh Khe. Essentially, these consisted of saturation patrolling which kept the Viet Cong off balance, produced a limited number of VC and VCS and provided increased intelligence.

During this period, I requested and obtained access to the ML Detachment while interrogations were in progress. While the interrogations were very thorough regarding combat intelligence and order of battle, I felt that certain area information essential to an effective Division PsyWar Program was not always being developed. I suggested the inclusion of certain questions regarding methods of VC control of an area, techniques of indoctrination, attitudes of inhabitants, state of media, percentage of illiteracy in the area, etc. I also requested that the interrogators attempt to determine exactly what the inhabitants think about our leaflets and broadcasts - that is, whether the content is meaningful and appropriate to the area.

I also implored the interrogators to let me know immediately when VC, VCS or ralliers have our leaflets with them. During this operation, four of the persons brought in for interrogation had leaflets with them. One of the leaflets turned out to be an appeal to inhabitants not to fire on our aircraft. I had written and produced that tract only four days previously.

I might add that this operation had a fairly complete PsyWar annex to the operations order. This has become standard operating procedure.

Later in January, a search and clear operation covered an area from Chu Phong north into Kontum Province, along the Cambodian border. Much of this area had never been penetrated by French or Vietnamese forces. The VC had considered it a sanctuary and used it as a way-station for the movement of supplies and troops throughout the Central Highlands. By means of air-assault techniques, our forces were lifted into an area which appeared to have no landing zones. The VC custodial forces seemed to have been thrown into a state of confusion by the unexpected appearance of the troops. They threw down their arms, hid in the jungle or escaped into Cambodia. There are substantial indications that VC morale has deteriorated in the area from Duc Co to Plei Djereng.

One factor is a reported high incidence of malaria and some cholera. As a result of this operation, the GVN presence is being extended into areas defaulted many months ago.

Meanwhile, back at Division base, a mushrooming problem has been resolved - at least temporarily. An Khe Village - the lusty step-child of the 1st Cavalry Division - has been placed off-limits indefinitely. I applaud this decision. It has become a mecca for hundreds of prostitutes, unscrupulous restaurant and bar owners, narcotics peddlers and other flotsam and jetsam. The VD rate in the Division was increasing. The conditions of food preparation and serving were revolting. General Kinnard said that the restriction will continue until some effort is made to improve conditions. The very able District Chief, Mr. Vu, was fully informed of the reasons for the decision. He is in complete agreement. I have suggested a meeting of the Friendship Council to discuss this problem. There is another grave source of tension in An Khe. Some Vietnamese troops have been provoking disorders in the bars. The most serious incident this month involved the throwing of a handgrenade by a Vietnamese ranger outside a bar. One Vietnamese civilian was killed and several injured.

I might mention in passing that on the night of January 18, someone threw a handgrenade into the USOM-MACV compound where I sleep. No one was injured.

The 1st Cavalry Division continues its extensive civic action program. Additionally, some film showings were conducted in outlying villages and hamlets to the northeast to accent the fact that these areas are secure.

On January 11, the first meeting of the Friendship Council took place. It was attended by representatives of 1st Cav., Sub-Sector, Special Forces, JUSPAO, and Vietnamese leaders in the community. The District Chief, Mr. Vu, made a moving speech explaining the US presence in Vietnam. Various Vietnamese representatives made long, impassioned speeches about the high cost of living. All felt the US troops were responsible. All in all, it was a remarkable meeting and one in the best traditions of democracy. The Council is expected to meet hereafter on a regular basis.

VIET CONG PROPAGANDA

During the operation north of Duc Co, the following themes made their appearance:

- a. American robbers and rapists, go home!
- b. 250,000 Frenchmen are buried here.
- c. There were very crude leaflets describing riots at the University of California.
- d. There were signs arranged in "Burma Shave" style directing the VC cadre to treat the inhabitants well.
- e. Other leaflets called for the destruction of strategic hamlets and liberation of the people.

VIS ACTIVITIES

VIS continues to distribute printed material throughout the district. They keep the JUSPAO-financed bulletin boards current. The VIS Chief prepared a leaflet for me in Bahnar during an operation when we were trying (unsuccessfully) to persuade a Montagnard squad to surrender.

STATE OF MEDIA

I have gotten the permission of the District Chief to start a newspaper I have drawn up the format. I plan to get out a trial issue next month. It will be a one-sheet affair, printed on the JUSPAO-supplied paper which has the Vietnamese colors on one side.

SIGNS OF PROGRESS

I already have described the Friendship Council. The separate brigades of the Cav all have their civic action projects. I am beginning to receive requests from S-5's for JUSPAO-financed bulletin boards in outlying hamlets. I am judging the validity of such requests by making queries among officials familiar with the areas.

I suppose the major accomplishment has been the development of a first-class working relationship with the G-3 and G-5 Sections. I am consulted on virtually all PsyWar matters, including the preparation of the annexes.

I am often consulted on matters relating to the Vietnamese. I now am welcome at all major briefings. I have lectured the newly arrived Civil Affairs Teams on how they can develop area information while on operations. The Division, Special Forces and SubSector all cooperate in keeping me informed on attitudes as well as VC propaganda themes.

BINH DINH

**

GENERAL SITUATION

The situation in Binh Dinh is no longer static. The number one priority in the Province is the Rural Reconstruction and Pacification Program. This program was started early in January with the graduation ceremony for the 1256 cadresmen. Note that these people had been collected and trained prior to 1966. The day after the graduation ceremony the Province Chief came up with a field Command Post and moved to Tuy Phuc District to personally supervise these operations. Simultaneously the Koreans conducted their most successful operation north of the pacification area in Tuy Phuc District. It is estimated that over 2,500 refugees have moved back into the newly pacified hamlets. Although it is much too early to evaluate the overall program the early successes are impressive indicators.

Previous comments on the difficulties of coordination between the Province and the Koreans appear to be ironed out also. The Koreans participating in an operation and having great success, of course, has helped improve the relationship. But most of the liaison difficulties appear to be being solved due to the efforts of Col. Kim, the ROK G-5. He has sold the ROK Division Commander on a staff augmentation that includes a liaison officer to Province for Psywar and Civic action as well as a G-5 staff officer in each regiment and in each battalion. This is a distinct improvement over anything U.S. forces have in this field. The ROK Division also has several good programs operational. One is the "Respect to Elders" program where the regiments give dinners for the village elders. Another is where Korean soldiers, who are rice farmers, help the Vietnamese farmers. The Division also has a three year PsyWar program.

VC PROPAGANDA THEMES:

VC propaganda appeared to be the same line during most of the month. The line aimed at Vietnamese soldiers is to stop fighting for the American imperialists. In one instance leaflets in English were dropped on the battle scene where only VC and RF/PF troops were engaged.

VIS ACTIVITIES

VIS is still the weakest link in Binh Dinh Province however there are encouraging signs. Bulletin boards that used to be bare in Qui Nhon now have signs, posters and news in chalk posted on them. The VIS chief does get around to inspect his District offices. The TET "calico horse poster", which arrived two days before TET was visible in all districts except An Khe, where the District VIS man is very slow. Although a good deal of the credit goes to JUSPAO and sector who dropped the posters in which mail sacks at several inaccessible locations.

CHIEU HOI ACTIVITY

Throughout the pacification area Chieu Hoi have been coming in with 117 the last week. It appears that the best way to get Chieu Hoi is to have an effective operation. Both the Korean and Province operations in Tuy Phuc contributed to this large number of new Chieu Hoi. District Chiefs have climbed on the Chieu Hoi bandwagon. In the past week two District Chiefs have written their own Chieu Hoi messages and requested a leaflet printing of their own message.

STATE OF MEDIA

TET brought out special editions of all the District papers. And although received very late the JUSPAO TET message apparently got included in all of them. The Deputy Province Chief's Monthly also included the TET message in about half of its print run as the message was received after the printing started. Once again Qui Nhon and An Khe fall behind with no local publications.

The Province Chief wrote his special Rural Reconstruction and Pacification message which told the people they must actively support the program if it was to be a success. 500,000 leaflets with his message were printed with JUSPAO assistance.

Radio Qui Nhon participated in the TET campaign by playing the taped song. This is the first instance Radio Qui Nhon has contributed to anything that I know of. Radio Qui Nhon's programming does not greatly appeal to the people. Most of the people I have spoken with prefer Radio Saigon.

PSYOPS COMMITTEES

There has been no meeting of the Province Psyops Committee this month. The program calls for organization of the District Psyops committees during the month of February. There has never been a lack of interest in psychological operations in the Province. As mentioned previously the Province Chief after a little JUSPAO pushing published his Resettlement Statement. He is now going to publish his Refugee Statement. The request by two District Chiefs for specific psyops missions in the districts is impressive.

A Psyops Committee Meeting was finally held in Phu Yen Province. This occurred the end of December after many postponement due to various causes. Although the Province Chief could not attend at the last minute and the Deputy Province Chief for Administration conducted the meeting. The Deputy Province Chief was stunned by the lack of coordination between services and left wanting to have weekly meetings.

SIGNS OF PROGRESS

Although no longer my Province, the Psyops Committee meeting in Phu Yen was an accomplishment. Perhaps this will be the start of a coordinated program.

Although only a small effort, thus far, the realization by District Chiefs that they can employ psywar on a local level with local appeals on basic themes is a step forward.

Again only a minor step, but the reaction by VIS to using JUSPAO TET posters and publishing the TET statement is significant because all was accomplished in such a short time.

POLICY AND PROGRAM QUESTIONS

The biggest question being asked is by the people north of Bong Son who want to know when an operation, particularly American Forces, will be in their area so they can get out from under VC control?

PROBLEMS

At least at the Provincial level the lack of readily available support that can be planned and counted upon prevents putting any plan into operation. This support that is missing includes getting aircraft when wanted, adequate supplies of leaflets in quantity, tape recorder and useable and blank tapes. A supply of leaflets ordered in November is still missing and now presumed forgotten. Instead of a coordinated, thought out program I work by handouts. Handouts of JUSPAO leaflets, and handouts of aircraft when nothing else gets them first. This is not necessarily a complaint at anyone; the resources are just not available in quantity.

Hamlet, Phu Hoa village the team sacked out without security. The VC lobbed in a few grenades resulting in seven killed and 17 wounded. The showing of movies by the PAT teams has been temporarily suspended.

The following information was given on 30 Dec. by a captured VC working in the field of finances. The VC decided to sell VC money bonds in the province of Vinh Long. The VC prepared the people for the sale of the bonds through the use of the following appeals:

1. The VC forces are strong and very abundant.
2. The VC need money to fight against the US imperialists and RVN forces in order to guarantee the security of the people.
3. Present RVN money was inflated currency (not secured by gold).

The bonds were to be sold in denominations of VN\$200, VN\$1000, VN\$2000 and VN\$5000. The VC were to pay back the loans in 5 years. About August 1965 the central level Communist party ordered the cadre from provincial, district and village level to study and carry out the regulations. The above planned action was never carried out because RVN authorities discovered the VC theme and printed many similar bonds, which were dropped in the VC areas. This plan was dropped for Vinh Long.

QUESTIONS ASKED

1. After the American returns to the US does he really remember the Vietnamese people and all of their problems?
2. Are the Americans sentimental about Vietnam?
3. When will there be peace in Vietnam and the fighting will stop?

KHANH HOA

**
*

GENERAL SITUATION

Khanh Hoa Province was somewhat quieter during this reporting period. There was less VC activity (perhaps because of the Christmas and Lunar New Year holidays?); the local government was doing its best to arrest inflation by issuing a list of fair prices for commodities; and the population was pre-occupied with preparations for TET.

For JUSPAO, too, this could be called a TET period. The major part of our time and energy and muscles were spent on TET plans, problems and implementation. I figure I tossed enough tone of leaflets around various airport runways and warehouses and in and out of trucks and airplanes for Jimmy Hoffa to owe me at least three years stevedore's pay.

We had a general feeling of amazement and satisfaction that the TET campaign went as well as it did, especially in view of the short preparation time and the enormous communications and logistics problems. Directives from Saigon to the local VIS were tardy and sketchy; the VN instructions to the military concerning the new Safe-Conduct pass were all but non-existent. Of the 70 Vietnamese men in uniform interviewed on the pass, exactly one had ever seen or heard of it. (The Allied record was better, but not sensational. Our summary showed that not more than 40 per cent of the servicemen in this Command knew of it).

VIET CONG PROPAGANDA THEMES

There was an emphasis during this period on the Christian Christmas and Lunar New Year cease-fire declarations, played up as "grand gestures" on the part of the National Liberation Front. After an explosion in a Nha Trang Special Forces compound, a VC leaflet claimed "over 200 Americans killed or wounded." The actual count was five servicemen injured.

VIS ACTIVITIES

As already indicated, the VIS TET program was hampered by lack of specific instructions, and material, from Saigon. Song sheets didn't arrive until schools had shut down for the holidays, leaflet cliches came after the Province newspaper had gone to press, the MOI leaflets came late and sporadically and without

an indication as to when and where they were to be dropped, etc. Nonetheless, millions of leaflets and thousands of calendars did get out; there were slide and movie showings; letters were written to North Vietnam; we did manage to get out a special TET supplement for the Province Newspaper; there were some culture/drama performances by the VIS and Sector teams; flags, lanterns, banners and slogans did fly; and there were visits to soldiers and hospitals and the Chieu Hoi Center. Because VIS couldn't handle all of the hand distribution of the leaflets, we distributed many thousands through Sector, Special Forces, USOM, OAS, etc.

CHIEU HOI ACTIVITY

No progress to report on a new, or improved, Chieu Hoi Center. Hopefully early in 1966. VIS, USOM and JUSPAO joined to give the Center inhabitants some modest extras during the TET season -- clothing, blankets, a radio and, of course, sweet tarts. There was no great influx yet of Quy Chanhs as a result of the TET leaflet drops.

STATE OF MEDIA

All media were hitting on some cylinders, if not always with 100 octane gas, during this period. The Province newspaper, the radio station and the drama/cultural teams managed to get in TET programs just before the holiday began, and there were leaflets enough for every man, woman, child and water buffalo in II Corps - it was just a matter of getting them all distributed.

I want to record that the 24th PsyOps Detachment, with its presses located in Nha Trang, conquered its equipment problems, and its millionth leaflet was printed a few days ago. The unit and the 5th Air Commandos will take up new quarters shortly, side by side at the airfield, so that leaflets can go from the presses to the aircraft in a matter of minutes.

QUESTIONS ASKED

- a. Will the Americans bomb North Vietnam again? When?
If not, why not?
- b. Will the holiday truces be meaningful? Will we see our relatives?

BINH THUAN - NINH THUAN - LAM DONG

GENERAL SITUATION

There has been little military change in this area during the month of January. In Lam Dong Province ARVN continues to protect the capital city (Bao Loc) while the Viet Cong harass the surrounding areas with leaflets, sabotage, and tax stations. In Ninh Thuan great numbers of American troops insure the protection of Phan Rang and the Buu Son airstrip, but the Viet Cong remain secure in their four secret mountain bases thanks to an almost total absence of air strikes in that province. In Binh Thuan the hope of a GVN offensive is still in the air (and in the abstract) while the Viet Cong step up somewhat the boldness of their activities. Nonetheless, January has been a month of unusual activity and some coordination in the field of PsyWar. In Lam Dong and Ninh Thuan provinces, JUSPAO -- with excellent cooperation and assistance from USOM and MACV -- induced provincial VIS, Chieu Hoi, and Sector S-5 Chiefs to join forces in carrying the Tet campaign out into the hamlets.

VIET CONG PROPAGANDA THEMES

In Lam Dong Province this month Viet Cong propaganda took on a threatening tone by promising to burn a montagnard refugee village to the ground. The refugees, located just three or four kilometers southwest of Bao Loc, are guarded by a Popular Forces company and have been assisted by USOM. The VC propaganda was spread in great quantity along Highway 20 just a kilometer or so away from the refugee village.

In Ninh Thuan the theme continues to be the brutality of the Americans. Viet Cong leaflets in Binh Thuan generally both address the Americans, exhorting them not to fight for the Washington financial interests, and the Vietnamese government officials and soldiers, telling them of Viet Cong generosity in providing a cease-fire so that they may travel to visit their families over Tet.

VIS ACTIVITIES

In all three provinces the VIS teams have been occupied almost solely with various propaganda and information programs relating to Tet. Two other VIS activities deserve mention here:

The Binh Thuan VIS Chief's vision of a team of young ladies to provide medical services in the hamlets while simultaneously acting as spokesmen for the government, has been realized. The MACV medic in this province has just concluded an excellent three-week course of medical training for sixteen female volunteers; and, acting on the advice of JUSPAO, the

VIS chief has had a spokesman for each of the provincial services address the trainees on the programs and projects of their respective offices. After considerable prodding and encouragement from JUSPAO -- and under critical scrutiny from the Province Chief and the PsyWar Ministry -- the Ninh Thuan VIS chief has finally launched the first issue of his province newspaper. It will appear initially as a bi-monthly in 10,000 copies per issue; later, says the VIS chief, weekly. The printer's cost is 1,400VN per copy, for which JUSPAO will subsidize the first two issues.

CHIEU HOI ACTIVITY

JUSPAO and the Chieu Hoi chief of Binh Thuan have completed two posters which are being forwarded to Saigon for printing immediately; one depicting the life of one Quy Chanh at the Chieu Hoi Center, the other covering a Chieu Hoi "graduation" ceremony. In this venture the load has been carried by JUSPAO, but the Chieu Hoi chief has been cooperative and helpful. He is still uninspired and badly in need of direction, but as this project has proven, he is willing to be guided into a useful expenditure of energy.

PSYOPS COMMITTEES

With considerable assistance from USOM and the American S-5 Advisor, we have spent some time this month developing a plan for a more workable PsyOps committee for Ninh Thuan province. We hope to present it to the Province Chief for his approval within the next month. In general the plan envisages a reorganized and enlarged PsyOps committee which, under the chairmanship of the province chief, meets only once a month to certify the work of two permanently active subcommittees: a survey and evaluations subcommittee and a plans and operations subcommittee.

SIGNS OF PROGRESS

Three programs stand out as major signs of progress:

1. The naissance of a newspaper for Ninh Thuan province after months of prodding, careful explanation, and persuasion.
2. With the cooperation of the MACV medic, our success in channelling the efforts of the Binh Thuan VIS Chief away from the creation of just another type of VIS cadre to the training of a group of girl volunteers knowledgeable in medicine and in the service programs of the provincial government.
3. VIS, Chieu Hoi, and S-5 in Lam Dong and Ninh Thuan provinces have for first time -- and solely as the result of American efforts -- developed together a coordinated program for informing hamlet residents of the Tet Chieu Hoi program and of the anticipated dropping of a special safe-conduct pass.

LONG KHANH -- BIEN HOA

GENERAL SITUATION

The high cost of living, the arrogance of the ARVN soldier, and the Tet festival were the principal topics discussed by most of the people in Bien Hoa and Long Khanh provinces during this reporting period. People complained that prices have risen over 150% in the past fourteen months and over 50% in the past three months. Some examples of the recent price increases are: pork 120 to 180 piasters per kilo, fish 80 to 150 piasters per kilo, shrimp 120 to 180 piasters per kilo, chicken 200 to 300 piasters per kilo, sugar 30 to 50 piasters per kilo and a one hundred pound block of ice 120 to 200 piasters.

The moral of the people in both provinces continues to rise. The news of the victories at Courtenay plantation and in Hau Nghia province brought much delight to the people with whom these events were discussed. Most of the people have expressed the hope that the war will be over in the year of the horse but when asked if they would accept a settlement with the VC under the existing conditions, they emphatically stated that they will definitely not accept any VC in the areas where they live at the time of a settlement. Through these discussions I got the impression that the Vietnamese citizen expects the GVN to win this war and soon but is extremely hesitant in making a public statement to that effect. During one week I kept a poll of the attitudes expressed on this subject. Of the 53 people talked to 39 believed the GVN was winning the war and would win soon, the other 14 were not sure who was winning but stated additional allied troops were necessary if the GVN expected an early victory. In no case did any of these people believe that the VC were winning the war.

VIET CONG PROPAGANDA THEMES

On the nights of 24 and 30 December and 22 January the Viet Cong distributed leaflets, by hand, in the city of Bien Hoa. This is, according to many, the first time the VC have distributed leaflets in this city. On the night of 24 December the leaflets, and there were just seven of them distributed, were in English addressed to the American officers and men in South Vietnam telling them that the U.S. government has been defeated, not to obey orders and sympathize with the people of South Vietnam by demanding that they be returned home. The pledge, with the names of several Americans of draft age who refused to fight in Vietnam, was printed on one side of the leaflet. The names, eighty seven of them, and the pledge appeared to have come from an article in an American newspaper. The leaflet is of superior printing quality, not like those normally produced by the VC. A copy of this leaflet is attached at Inclusion 1.

In propaganda meetings conducted by the VC in Nhon Trach district, Bien Hoa province, they constantly speak of taking over the district capital and subsequently the entire province. In Xuan Loc district in Long Khanh province the VC continue to preach the American imperialist theme and that they, meaning the VC, will win this war and soon. In Duc Tu and Tan Uyen districts of Bien Hoa province the VC have been attempting to separate the various religious groups by condemning one group to another. They have been saying that the GVN furnished more support to the Buddhists when talking to the Catholics, and more to the Catholics when talking to the Buddhists.

VIS ACTIVITIES

The psychological campaign sponsored by the Bien Hoa VIS in Di An district concluded on 4 January and could be termed a success. The timing of this operation, just before Tet, worked in well with the overall objective, to win as much support as possible for the GVN in this district. Although it will be some time before the total results can be realized there are many indications that the program was highly successful. In two of the four villages where this operation was conducted the cadre were not welcome at the beginning of the operation. At the conclusion of the operation the cadre were given large elaborate dinners in both villages. The people had more than just accepted them, they liked them and didn't want to see them leave. A list of the propaganda materials distributed in this operation is as follows:

5,000	slogans
2,581	posters
21,881	leaflets
1,363	newspapers (in addition to the 40,000 weekly newsheets distributed)
1,602	magazines
74	banners

The cadre visited 1830 families, talked to 3973 adults, distributed medicine to 692 people, conducted joint study periods 17 times with 2189 people attending, showed numerous films, had cultural teams perform, broadcasted over 250 hours of loudspeaker programs and presented many gifts to needy people. A complete after action report is attached at Inclosure 8. Most of the publications distributed in this operation were furnished by JUSPAO as well as the films and per diem for those cadre who were visiting the district for this operation. A similar operation is planned to begin in early February in Long Thanh district.

Also with assistance from JUSPAO the VIS in Bien Hoa produced a much better newspaper just prior to Tet than this VIS office had been producing. This newspaper contained more local interest stories and was written to meet the needs of the average Vietnamese citizen of Bien Hoa province. It should be pointed out however that the paper still needs improvement.

In Long Khanh the VIS produced its first monthly poster which has a picture of most of the services of the province performing one of their functions for the people of the province. This is to be a continuing project with a poster of this type being produced each month. A new reading room, with a TV box, has been built at Gia Kiem by the VIS of Long Khanh. It is a very attractive building. It was built with materials furnished by USOM and the labor from VIS. JUSPAO furnished several new publications for the reading room and numerous films for the TV box.

The VIS chiefs in both Bien Hoa and Long Khanh provinces have requested following the advice from JUSPAO, additional movie projectors to be used in the villages where district headquarters are located in conjunction with permanent movie screens which will also be constructed in these villages. This will permit the Tri-Lambrettas of the VIS to go into the hamlets and get out of the district towns where too many of them are presently being used to show movies.

CHIEU HOI ACTIVITY

The construction of the new Chieu Hoi Center at Xuan Loc, Long Khanh continues. The Quy Chanh will move into the new buildings in early February if construction of the new center continues on schedule. Of the thirty three Quy Chanh in this center twenty nine are members of the recently organized Chieu Hoi platoon. Presently the platoon is training in the Xuan Loc area, assuming small, three or four person size missions. These missions include going to a specific area, talking to the people, explaining the difference between the objectives of the GVN and the VC, using themselves as examples of individuals who saw the right way, rallied to the GVN and are now very happy. In each case when a team went out it brought back more Chieu Hois.

In Bien Hoa the situation is much different. There the Quy Chanh, and there are 70 of them, sit around with little or nothing to do each day. The interior of their living quarters is filthy. There are 14 bunk beds, and the top bunk is broken out of four of these, for the 70 people.

STATE OF MEDIA

Both Long Khanh and Bien Hoa are continuing to produce their bi-monthly provincial newspapers. As previously stated the Bien Hoa newspaper has improved greatly whereas the Long Khanh paper is improving but not quite as fast. The local appeal of both papers has increased with the appearance of more local news and interest stories.

All districts in both provinces, except one in Bien Hoa, continue to prepare mimeographed district newsheets on a weekly basis. Those prepared for Tet were very good, showing a great deal of thought and ingenuity. The art work in most was particularly outstanding.