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REPORTS FOR USOM PROVINCIAL REPRESENTATIVES
for the Month Ending 30 April 1965

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This document contains the Unclassified reports of USOM Provincial Representatives for the month ending 30 April 1965. The reports are summaries of the monthly reports submitted by each province and are listed in order from north to south.

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UNCLASSIFIED

30 April 1965

QUANG TRI (1)

The province chief, acting on intelligence gathered from the field, has launched a very large and intensive campaign to "protect the rice". It was ascertained that during the last two weeks of April and the first two weeks of May, the harvesting season for rice in Quang Tri, and for some time after that the VC will make a special effort to "tax" and steal rice from the people. This rice will then be taken to storehouses already built by the VC in the Piedmont and mountain areas of the province.

To counter this scheme, the province chief has mobilized his resources in a campaign with the following three objectives: 1) to protect the people and the rice during the harvest; 2) to inform the people of the VC plan and explain to them the dangers to them; and 3) to get the people to store their rice in secure areas as designated by the village chiefs.

Originally the province chief had requested the Ministry of Interior to supply funds so that the province could buy rice from the farmers at a fair price immediately after the harvest but this request was not approved. It is probably just as well.

To implement the actual campaign the province chief has set up a special committee on psywar and has brought into the capital for a one day meeting over 400 cadres and issued them instructions and background material and sent them out to the rice producing hamlets. Their mission is to help the people harvest their rice and to propagandize. As this program was late in starting it is too early to judge whether this program will actually keep the rice from falling into the hands of the VC.

A second uncorrected problem which has been troubling Quang Tin for some time is that many government employees have not been paid for long periods of time. This includes village health workers, laborers in such places as the agricultural nursery and some of the various cadre. Compensation to families of dead RF and PF men usually reaches the families one year or more after the death occurs.

Effects of the recent drive to expand the military is being felt at the provincial level. Many civil servants are being called on to report to the draft board and all technical services complain that they are losing their staff and cadre to the Army.

30 April 1965

THUA THIEN (2)

The cost of living continues to rise in Thua Thien as there are inadequate imports of commodities to be sold on the local market. This problem exists primarily because most imports must be by road or air and the volume required is too great. The solution of course is greater security and operating the railroad with some degree of dependability but this is not likely to happen in the immediate future. Transport of commodities by sea will have to be significantly increased.

A coincidental problem is the failure of PL-480 corn to reach the rural areas. No NACO corn has entered Danang port for over three months and consequently no corn has gone to pig raisers. There is NACO corn in Saigon. There is a critical shortage of pork in Thua Thien and the supply cannot keep pace with the demand. There is also pleading from the farmers for corn to feed their animals. This problem comes about because of the mistaken idea that corn for animal production is not essential; therefore, other items have priority. It is forgotten that corn for animal production also produces food for immediate consumption as well as for future consumption.

The security situation is improved in the province but there is the possibility of a military attack which would cut off the city of Hue from its sources of supply to the south.

Progress continues at the Chieu Hoi center. 13 returnees of local origin are now in the center, along with 20 previous returnees. Of concern to the province rep for which he has no immediate information at this time is the status of the returnees that have been in the center and now have returned to their villages.

30 April 1965

QUANG NAM (3)

Of continuing interest in the province is the local election campaign which will culminate on May 30 with the election of a Provincial Council. Thus far in the early stages of the campaign there seems to be widespread interest in the election which has received the active intense support of the province chief. The effect of the forthcoming election on the attitudes of the people, as well as the activity of the local VN QDD will bear watching.

The item of most concern is the confusion which surrounds the problem of assistance to the numerous refugees in the province. The local officials charged with this problem have not been able to cope with it in a satisfactory manner.

Travel is still restricted in the province, primarily to National Route L and even this road is periodically subject to harassment by Viet Cong elements. Supply and travel to four districts is restricted to helicopter transportation. There was no significant change from the previous month concerning the prices of commodities on the local market, at least in Hoi An and probably in the communities along Highway 1 as well. However, in the remote areas, prices fluctuate widely in direct relation to the control of transportation routes by the VC.

During the month, five guerrillas and one district force unit member returned to government control in the Chieu Hoi program. The Chieu Hoi office reported that 50 Quy Chanh from Que Son district who had defected since the first of the year were reported to have gone back to their own villages without being indoctrinated or even returned to the VC. The declining security situation in Que Son was given as the reason.

30 April 1965

QUANG TIN (4)

Tam Ky airfield is under constant harassment by VC sniper fire. Information indicates the possibility that a full squad is assigned this task. The province shows no enthusiasm towards correcting this problem. If the situation continues, the province rep suggested that only priority cargo be airfield to Quang Tin. All pilots should be notified of this situation.

The VC are distributing leaflets among the population to discourage them from cooperating with Americans, accepting invitations to their homes, or working for them. The leaflets also are encouraging the population to dig or building bomb shelters, explaining to them that a big battle is coming soon. The leaflets also note the number of battles "won" by the VC rifles captured, people killed, etc.

Self help projects have been at a standstill for a long time. Most of the projects approved last year were annulled. Many of the projects approved received only part of the materials, money was misused, people were discouraged and indicated disappointed. The prov rep believes that much of this was due to a misunderstanding of the projects and a lack of personnel to follow up on their progress. In order to get self help started again meetings were held with the village and hamlet chiefs to explain and popularize projects.

The Chieu Hoi office in Quang Tin has cadres at the district level but not at the village level and they are of the opinion that if they had village and hamlet level cadres the program would be much improved. The province rep does not necessarily concur with this opinion.

30 April 1965

QUANG NGAI (5)

The refugee problem is becoming an albatross around the neck of the province. No sooner are they settled in relocation centers before the problem arises of keeping them busy and providing jobs for them. In some refugee centers there are already indications of apparent restlessness brought about, no doubt, by idleness. The province is unaware of any plans under way to provide jobs for these refugees after the centers are built and their homes established. What little work available in the centers is not enough to keep everyone active. Some of the families have returned to their homes where there is at least land to till but VC to contend with. This is just a small minority, however, and the rest remain behind content to be part of the human flotsam drifting nowhere. In sum, the GVN must formulate realistic plans to create work for these unfortunate people.

Some 2700 people from Nghia Phu village moved of their own accord into the GVN controlled area. They have been provided with food, clothing, and building materials by the provincial government but there is much to be done before the refugees can be called properly settled. Refugees in other districts came at a very thin trickle.

Chieu Hoi is constructing a blacksmith's shop and instruction is underway for this trade. Blacksmith kits have been received and the chief of the Chieu-Hoi service has hired local blacksmiths to instruct the Quy Chanh.

30 April 1965

KONTUM (6)

The Deputy Province Chief for Security was removed and has not yet been replaced. The Deputy Province Chief for Administration retired and was replaced. The Finance Chief may be recalled in the Army, the Police Chief is scheduled for transfer, the Agricultural Services Chief was replaced and it is rumored that the animal husbandry chief will be transferred. It is too soon to assess what effect all these changes of provincial officials will have on the efficiency of the provincial government. Recent visits by the province chief to rural areas and hamlets have boosted the morale of these people. The excellent coordination by the Province Chief with the Deputy Province Chief for Montagnard Affairs in ceremonies and in other programs affecting the Montagnards is bringing the Montagnards closer to the government and is toning down the demands of some for a separate government.

An increasing number of USOM commodities are appearing in the market for resale. Bulk items such as bulgar are not being received in a timely manner and the unavailability of cement is hampering many projects.

There is still a great need for a provincial radio station as there are many areas where the province is not able to make regular visits and maintain communication. A provincial radio station would be valuable in informing the people in the rural areas of the provincial government and its programs.

The Montagnard boarding school donated by Raymond Burr has been completed and dedicated. 200 school kits have been distributed through the schools in Kontum District during annual prize giving ceremonies.

30 April 1965

BINH DINH (7)

Conditions appear to be improving in the districts around Qui Nhon. The people are beginning to show a minute interest in such development projects as self-help. If there are no serious security set-backs during May, there should be strides made towards economic development in the more secure areas.

National Route #1 is now open for commercial traffic the length of the province. Refugee supplies are now being delivered to Bong Son by truck. Travel on roads other than Route 1 and 19 are still hazardous because of Viet Cong capability. There is no activity on the railroad and the rails are out above Phu Cat District and between Tuy Hoa and Qui Nhon to the south.

During the month, there were visits by the Prime Minister and the Chief of State, Mr. SUU, which helped to solidify support for the province chief and for the GVN. The refugees appear to be enthusiastic in their support of the GVN and are strongly anti-communist. One refugee center in Tuy Phuoc District has the religious groups living together in the same housing units. In the past, refugee organizations have kept themselves separate.

Eight Chieu Hoi cadres have been hired and sent to five districts throughout the province to take charge of the Chieu Hoi program. Because of continuous military operations, Binh Dinh has recorded the highest monthly figure of Qui Chanh - 27 for April.

30 April 1965

PLEIKU (8)

The province officials continue to spend most of their time in the headquarters office giving as an excuse the present lack of security for their inability to make visits to the hamlets and villages. Technical service chiefs require direct orders from the Province Chief before they will make any effort to undertake visits outside of the provincial capital. The people appear not to care about the war and are both without spirit and backbone. The VC under such conditions of laxness by the GVN continue to erode the political base at the hamlet level through terror and intimidation. Many hamlet and village chiefs are requesting to be relieved of their duties because they have been warned by the VC that they will be murdered if they continue to aid the GVN.

The province people as well as officials appear to be encouraged by the continued escalation of the war by the US and GVN military forces. The apparent stableness of the present Saigon Government is helping somewhat, several more months of continuing political and military successes will be required before perhaps the people will become more inclined to take a more definite interest in the war effort.

During April there was a 50% reduction in number of VC incidents. However, enemy strength estimates remain unchanged. There are indicators that VC are organizing a regimental size unit in Le Thanh District. Frequent rumors are heard about the enemy recruiting and training small sabotage teams for use in Pleiku City against US and GVN military and civilian targets. Reports also indicate that the enemy is reorganizing and training in the base areas and are planning large scale attacks against the Pleiku garrison installations in support of general attacks throughout the highlands. These widespread attacks will probably be timed to coincide with poor flying weather and periods of poor visibility. Possible future enemy actions will be concentrated against national routes and perhaps again cutting route 19 to the coastal areas. Presently civilian traffic can be interfered with at will on all highways.

Recently Popular Forces have been rapidly losing strength due to desertions having lost a known 180 soldiers during April. The reorganization of PF in Le Thanh District is not as effective as we hoped, due to poor leadership but continued advisory effort may aid in improvement in the future.

Reports are heard about a slow but general increase in the piaster/US dollar exchange rate. From 120\$00 per dollar last summer the rate rose to about 127\$00 in January, and now hold at between 130\$00 to 135\$00 per dollar. Fluctuations coincide with periods of crisis and seem to indicate a lack of confidence. During the month a team of USOM, MACV and GVN officials visited many of the Land Development Centers to try to learn the true situation in these areas and make recommendations concerning future plans for them. These centers were established with Vietnamese refugees and rubber trees were planted to act as a stable future source of income for the people. Due to disinterest among the farmers much of the rubber has been destroyed and the remainder is in

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30 April 1965

PLEIKU (cont'd)

threat of destruction unless some definite action is undertaken by the GVN. The deteriorating security situation threatens the very shaky existence of these sprawling communities.

A beef cattle project is being planned for establishment among villagers. The improved variety of cattle will be sold on credit by the NACA organization at 5000\$ per head, to be repaid at 6000\$ per head in five years. USOM has been asked to provide windmills to provide water for irrigation of pasture, and thus far one has been obtained. A dairy cattle project is planned for the future if the pilot beef cattle project is successful. The supply of food and consumer goods has improved since the national routes 19 and 14 were reopened. Rice is presently selling for 8 - 10 piasters per kilo and meat for 70-90 piasters per kilo. Preparation of fields for the growing season is underway throughout the province.

Psywar activities continued throughout the month. There were seven ground loudspeaker missions in April. Approximately 40,000 leaflets in all of the tribal dialects were distributed to the Montagnard villages and hamlets. General themes were in support of the Chieu Hoi program and information about the GVN's anti -"Peace Movement" campaign. Social Welfare teams combined with USOM Pleiku to make visits to Vietnamese Land Development Centers and Montagnard villages. The MEDCAP team treated over 4000 persons in April. Arrangements are being made for combined visits of GVN technical service representatives, USOM and MEDCAP team and have received fairly good support.

The NACO corn pig program first phase was provided with 1,168 bags of cement and construction of 142 pigs pens started. Construction materials were provided for several self-help spillways. The 200 tons of chemical fertilizer provided by USOM to the Agriculture Service has been entirely distributed to the farmers. It is expected that this year will see better utilization of this fertilizer due to timely receipt by the consumers. Two jeeps were received and turned over to the Rural Health Service. Also 6,000 lbs of medical supplies for the Health Service were received and are being distributed to the villages and hamlets. Education supplies were received and stored by the Education Service since this years school year has terminated. All USOM supported programs are of constructive nature rather than a relief type. It is hoped that these projects will aid the people in helping themselves rather than make parasites out of them.

30 April 1965

PHU BON (9)

Since the Montagnard revolution last October many concessions and promises were made to the Montagnards. A report reached the provincial office listing all the things that are being done for the Montagnards and what is being planned for the future. Phu Bon province is 95% Montagnard and at present there is no evidence or indication that the national government is trying to assist or help the Montagnards in this province any more than they have in the past. The prov rep believes that if only 5 % of the ideas that were put on paper in the last ten years implemented the Montagnard problems would be eased.

Twenty-five hamlets were attacked and burned during the first two weeks of the month. The province badly needs PL-480 supplies due to this large increase in hamlet burnings. At present the province is buying limited amounts of rice for fire victims but PL-480 supplies would supplement these limited amounts. Even though 743 homes were destroyed by the VC, most of the people have refused to go with the VC and have remained in the hamlets to rebuild their homes. Only 273 people were taken or volunteered to go with the VC out of approximately 4,000 people. It was noted that all the hamlets attacked were new hamlets built during the last two years.

It appears that only the Education Service and the Police Service are actually accomplishing anything in Phu Bon. As only Education and Public Safety advisors have visited the province it appears as a correlation between USOM visits and actual accomplishments.

The Chieu Hoi hamlet that was started about 45 days ago will have its official opening in May. The majority of the work on this hamlet has been done through cooperation of the district chief and the Chieu Hoi chief. The plan is excellent and if the service chiefs follow up much can be gained.

30 April 1965

PHU YEN (10)

It was observed that the political situation has improved fairly well in favor of the GVN. This could be attributed to the persistent efforts exerted by the officials of the Provincial Administration in the pursuance of government-sponsored programs which was reinforced by a number of victories scored by friendly forces against the enemy during the month.

The decrease in the number of incidents conducted by the enemy during the month seems to indicate that, compared to the last reporting period, the security situation has improved. However, there is much more to be desired, security-wise, to effectively implement the civilian aspects of the pacification program.

Unfavorable developments indicate that there is a downward tread in the economic situation of the province. This could be attributed to a number of reasons. First, sabotage by VC on roads, railroads and bridges have seriously paralysed commerce and industry, not to mention the inability of GVN public servants to expand their coverage in the pursuance of the economic development program. Secondly, a vast tract of agricultural land had been abandoned by the people due to the security situation.

The series of air raids conducted in North Vietnam by joint US-South Vietnamese Air Forces, further reinforced by a number of successful ARVN operations conducted in the province during the month, have boosted the morale of the people at large, and, conversely, desoralized the enemy and their supporters.

It is heartening to note that despite unfavorable security and the limited coverage of GVN operations, public officials spared no efforts to implement USOM-supported programs and activities. A good number of accomplishments have been realized under the various USOM-supported activities of the province.

30 April 1965

DARLAC (11)

There is a continuous flow of refugees from the VC controlled and threatened areas. As the VC are doing all they can to prevent the people from leaving their hamlets such an exodus is remarkable. Preliminary surveys indicate that most hamlets are willing to consolidate for better support, security, and government protection. The visit of Prime Minister Quat has a stimulating effect upon the provincial officials. He gave the appearance of stability and quiet optimism.

A two day training session was held for all province information cadre. The deputy from the Information Ministry opened the conference. The conference covered a broad range of information subjects. The program had been very poor at the lower levels and hopefully this conference will boost their activities.

The province organized and trained a special Ranger battalion from Popular Forces. Their task will be to partake in political action work but they will also be able to fight if necessary.

30 April 1965

KHANH HOA (12)

The security situation continues to decline. VC activity has increased sharply over the past month. There were 11 "atrocities" compared to 3 during the past three months, including six abductions and assassinations within two kilometers of Nha Trang. Sabotage activities dropped from a record high of 17 to only one. The VC continue to harass hamlets in the outlying areas while probing deeper into the heavily populated areas surrounding Nha Trang.

The VNQDD of Kien Hoa organized a campaign to work against the "Week of Peace" organized by the French. Leaflets were disseminated urging a break in relations with French and the nationalization of French properties in Vietnam. There were a number of other political activities in the province, some urging no negotiations without Vietnamese representation and also criticism of the Quat government for not taking a strong enough stand against the "peace movement".

For the first time the province chief is beginning to show interest in the activities of the technical services in the province. There is still little or no coordination between the province chief and the technical services. The civilian rural reconstruction effort has suffered immensely because of this situation.

30 April 1965

NINH THUAN (13)

There seems to have developed a greater confidence and an uplift in morale among the people in the province. The great factors contributed to this situation:

a) The firm stand taken by the U.S. Government to defend the independence of this country and the freedom of the people confirmed by the bombings of North Vietnam and the increase of U. S. troops;

b) The appearance of a more or less stable Saigon government and its determination to respect the expression of the people through the implementation of election of delegates and the coming election of provincial councils.

The fact that the Province Chief and the Deputy Chief had been in this province for fourteen (14) and ten (10) months respectively, and the sincere desire which they have demonstrated to run a good and effective provincial government likewise contributed to this situation. These two and other GVN officials are popular and well known.

However, what seems to be most unfortunate is the slow comprehension among every class of people as to what the GVN and USOM programs are, their real purpose and accomplishments. Emphasis should be given to the dissemination of information and to the social interaction among various classes of people.

There is no significant change in the security situation in the province, although there was an increase in hamlet attacks and harassments and the stopping of vehicles on Highway #1 North of Phan Rang.

The flood of December caused an economic setback for the province. Although significant economic recovery has been achieved since then, recovery of economic losses will require several years in some areas such as the tobacco producing areas wherein the fields were covered by sand. Likewise, economic recovery in livestock will take time. This phenomenon offers a justifiable reason for the launching of more programs designed to meet the individual needs of this province. Too, it has already been proven that programs in which the individuals received some direct material benefit are most effective, such as land reform and land distribution, most particularly the poor landless farmers who comprise the majority of the people in this province.

Favorable psychological reaction on the part of the people in the province has been observed because of the exhibited interest of the provincial government in enhancing and improving the welfare of the people,

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30 April 1965

NINH THUAN (cont'd)

There is slow comprehension of the GVN and USOM programs, purpose and accomplishments due to lack of publicity. The psy-war teams and the Social Welfare Service have contributed much to the creation of a real feeling of government concern for the people such as the veterans, flood victims and the families of VC victims. Military civic action performed by some soldiers in the province (e.g., help given to the people in the resettlement area in constructing their houses and other odd jobs) has created a mutual cordial relationship between the people and the soldiers.

However, no program has yet been conceived and implemented which will accelerate and improve assimilation among the various ethnic groups inhabiting this province.

With the approval of the 1965 reconstruction budget and the completion of most of the 1964 programs, the province appears to be on the threshold, based on its own potential and capabilities and the good security situation, of launching a program that could offer significant economic and social improvements, and to develop a sound foundation of population support for the GVN.

At My Nghia resettlement center the 100,000 piasters maternity and the six room school has been started, using USOM roofing and cement. Three wells have been dug. Three hundred and fifty families have moved to the area. All of these families have each received 20 sheets of roofing. Because of a cement shortage, only one thousand bags of cement has been distributed thus far. Each family is scheduled to receive ten bags.

37 ? A shortage of cement slowed down the Da Nhim irrigation project during April. However, quantities received at the end of April has been given for this project. Chinese Technical Agricultural Team Activities: The first Montagnard irrigation project in this province was started in Du Long District under the supervision of a Chinese technician. USOM furnished a 6 Horse Power water pump and some pipes to irrigate seven hectares of dry land jointly farmed by 11 Montagnard farmers. The Chinese technician will help train the farmers and supervise the planting and irrigation of several different crop varieties.

The Chinese Team has selected Hiep Hoa as a pilot hamlet to carry out several projects. A $2\frac{1}{2}$ hectares of public land has been granted to 29 poor farmers for the purpose of growing beetle nut. A small irrigation project involving several farmers and four hectares of land will be supervised and carried out in a similar manner. With USOM furnishing the pumps and cement for wells. Efforts will be concentrated in the improvement of the pig-corn program in the same hamlet and also testing will be done in artificial insemination of pigs.

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30 April 1965

NINH THUAN (cont'd)

The decorticator machine for the removal of fiber from sisal leaves has been moved to the Buu Son farmers Association. One hundred fifty kilos of dry fiber has been processed at a total cost of 1,800 piasters to the Farmers Association. Twenty-five kilos of this has been carried to a My-Tho rope manufacturer by the Taiwanese fiber specialist in order to determine a suitable price.

The Chinese have also supervised the building of a pit in Van Son that utilizes both human and animal wastes for the production of methane gas which can be used for cooking or for lighting lamps.

Seabee Team: The Seabee Team which will be replaced by a new team at the beginning of May have completed three more projects. The Dong Ba wooden bridge, the bridge approach to the 3,000,000 piastre Du Khanh bridge, and the Agricultural nursery warehouse are all finished.

30 April 1965

TUYEN DUC (14)

The political situation has remained relatively stable since March but has improved substantially over February. The Province has been generally effective in its political efforts. Trend is towards more stability and population has more confidence because of North VN bombings. The political aspirations of the Montagnard can be heard among the young educated class but much of it is under the surface. Question of land title for them is very critical.

All populated areas are under GVN control but VC move freely through the unpopulated regions of the province. Security situation remains generally the same, except in Duc Trong District where isolated Montagnard hamlets are being harassed. Several hamlets have requested permission to relocate, however, the Sector is attempting to strengthen the areas and defend these hamlets. GVN operations increased in number and effectiveness during the month. Rainy season crops now planted. Hail storms seriously damaged vegetable crops. An average of 25 trucks export about 150 M/T of produce from the province each day. Over 90% of the rice is imported into the province. Using new construction and improvement of farmers home's as criteria. Economic improvement is very noticeable.

The social/psychological situation is improving slowly. Military civic action is appearing and student-group civic action is showing success. Substantial increase in numbers of schools shows very positive social development. The psychological advantage is still not taken effectively on GVN successes and VC failures. VIS and NACO radio sales programs now underway.

Because of good security, all provincial and ministerial programs are being implemented and will increase in effectiveness when funded in 1965. Self help continues to be most effective and reaches a large part of the population. Montagnard are being influenced through the DamPao Training Center and through grant fertilizer program. The experimental station, agriculture, plant protection, animal husbandry, fishery, roads, bridges, dams, well drilling, education, rural health and social welfare programs continue to progress even though only slightly in some cases. With security remaining the same, time is on the side of the Government of Vietnam.

30 April 1965

QUANG DUC (15)

The district chief have seldom been getting out to the villages and hamlets. Frequently hamlet chiefs and local inhabitants have been coming directly to USOM or IVS for assistance and on requests for security, indicating the people do not have sufficient confidence in their own government. There is one notable exception in a district chief from Khiem Duc. He does go into the various hamlets, examines their needs and attempts to help the people. He has begun two refugee hamlets in which the Regional Forces are helping with the construction and USOM is supporting them with commodities.

The people's sympathy apparently is with the GVN but the inability of the government to protect the hamlets at night renders this sympathy useless. Pang Sim hamlet has requested troops to protect them. The government has none available so the inhabitants may leave for Cambodia. Many of the resettlers are growing restless as there has been no cement available to construction housing for them. There were no Chieu Hoi returnees during the month. The new Chieu Hoi center was completed but does not appear to be acceptable.

30 April 1965

LAM DONG (16)

On April 15, the provincial officials promoted a pro-government anti-neutralist demonstration. Although news releases in Tu Do newspaper indicated 8,000 people participated there were actually less than 500 and most of these were children, students, and civil servants. No real fervor was noted. However, there is an underlying fear by North Vietnamese refugees that the talk of a negotiated settlement will lead to neutrality.

The province chief has organized a hamlet inspection team comprised of the various service chief, representatives of the new life hamlets office, and the district chiefs. The Deputy Province Chief for Security is in charge. Visits to hamlets are scheduled for two full days each week but for various reasons trips have been cancelled during this first month of operation and have actually averaged less than one a week. For security reasons the day is changed every week making scheduling even more difficult. The inspection team concept appears to be effective. Various officials, including the province chief, have remarked how much they have learned because of the visits and the number of problems that have been uncovered and corrected.

Leaders from the students' associations in Saigon visited the province to determine what types of projects could be carried out during the summer. Cadres from the Social Welfare team assisted the students in making a survey. Some of the projects selected were well digging and repairs of hamlet and village offices and other public buildings. A weekend work program has been initiated by the students of the National Secondary School of Agriculture under the sponsorship of IVS. Five teams of 12 students have been working in the hamlets during the past two weekends. Two of these teams were observed in operation this past week and the first impression was very favorable. The students were eager to work and had established good relations with the people in the hamlet. The students were handicapped, however, by poor coordination on the part of the faculty advisors and a lack of tools and materials. It is now planned to provide cement and roofing for self help projects carried out by the students as long as the people in the hamlets are willing to furnish other materials.

30 April 1965

BINH THUAN (17)

It appears that the VC are beginning to zero in on our greatest weakness--paper work. For example, the courier from province headquarters to the northern districts was captured last week along with a number of documents. The necessitated the remaking of all documents, increasing the action time on all projects by ten or more days.

Hamlet health have not been paid their salaries since December, 1964. Saigon Ministry of Health has assured payment before the 15th of May. Provincial health officials doubt that this will be done. The prov rep finds it extremely embarrassing to be queried by health workers concerning their salaries and have to give weak excuses for the inefficiency of the system. The health workers seems to feel that since the money apparently comes from the US, why doesn't the US representative have something to say about its payment?

The prov rep has been advised that there have been 2500 families relocated in the province between 1962 and 1964 under Phase 2 of the relocation allowance plan and that these families have not been paid. DGRR has advised the province that these people will not be paid and the prov rep feels that this is an apparent gesture of bad faith.

Campaign is being waged by the Social Welfare office to eliminate professional begging. The Social Welfare teams are now repairing the home for the aged and needy so as to absorb these paupers.

The prov rep feels that the province should be provided with a once-weekly L-19 equivalent for courier service to the northern districts, precluding thereby the loss of documents and expediting the movement of same.

30 April 1965

BINH TUY (18)

For the first quarter of 1965, the political situation has deteriorated enormously due to less and less GVN contact with the people in contested areas. Provincial officials apathetically continue to take things slow and easy. They offer no active resistance to VC aggression. They refuse to even visit areas not under VC control. This is only to be expected from career-happy officials. They maintain the idea "Play it safe by doing nothing!"

The recent deterioration of the political situation can be directly attributed to superior VC agents and a long string of successes in the Hoai-Duc and Tanh-Linh districts. The number of hamlets now under GVN control is 27, and we are not too sure that even that many exist. Administrative areas in the two northern districts took the worst beating with only 7 out of 48 hamlets presently under GVN control. If hard and fast military offensives are at once initiated and vigorously pursued, we can have some hope of a few victories over the VC in Binh-Tuy.

To keep alive what little economic activity now exists in Binh Tuy, the local merchants and traders continue to pay exorbitant taxes to VC finance agents and guerrillas along National Route 1, in Long Khanh province, and in Binh Tuy province itself. However, the decline in provincial economic life is not entirely the fault of VC taxation. GVN has contributed its share by having the Directorate of Agricultural Machinery refuse to plow land in Binh-Tuy--even in secure areas. We can expect mass emergency relief during the spring of 1966, unless we plow rice land now.

As far as the American agencies in the province are concerned, the morale of the people and the para-military forces is almost as low as it can get. This does not suggest that all is lost. Quick and effective action on the part of regular and para-military units under proper and coordinated leadership could be the answer. What do we tell the people when they ask: "When are we going to start to win against the VC?" The people are quickly losing that little confidence they have in the ability of GVN to protect them.

Bighearted as always, the joint Provincial Committee, with the advice of the USOM Rep. continue to allocate and distribute PL 480 commodities to hundreds of refugees now resettling in GVN controlled areas.

Other USOM supported programs as the National Police, Popular Forces, Mobile Action-Cadre, continue to be supervised by individuals who seem to be more interested in their proper career and in gaining recognition than in giving service to their country. This is only to be expected in what has been described as an inward-looking, peasant, family society.

30 April 1965

LONG KHANH (19)

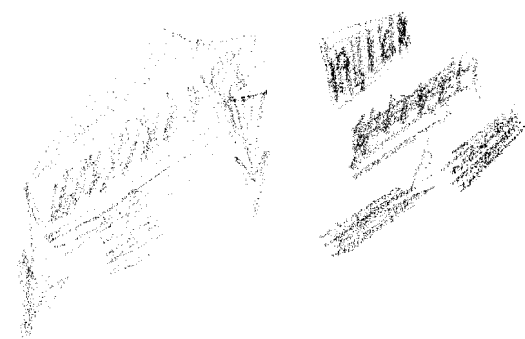
Detailed plans and careful preparations have been made by Provincial officials for the May elections in which 6 candidates will be elected to represent village people at the Province level and eventually to represent Long Khanh province in the National Assembly. Previously, Long Khanh Province was allowed only one delegate. The populace remains generally favorable to the GVN, and no anti-American trends are in evidence.

While armed attacks by the VC declined in size and number from last month, the strength of Provincial VC units has increased. Also there has been a marked increase in VC tax collections and propaganda lectures. Security has not been regained in the areas from which refugee families fled last month.

Usual activities of this season are taking place in regard to agricultural production. The new manioc precessing plant in Xuan Loc has been an encouragement for an increase in the number of hectares to be devoted to this crop; USOM will furnish cement selected manioc producers for making concrete drying slabs. A rice mill was established in Gia Kiem and 2 charcoal kilns in Gia Ray. Fifteen new brick business buildings were completed and 3 brick homes. The price of construction materials has increased about 20 percent during the past two months. There is practically no unemployment in the province except for the situation of the 1,200 refugee families awaiting relocation.

The social welfare team is becoming more active and coordinated with the various province services. Excellent cooperation and motivation is being provided by the MACV in civic action activities. The VIS has inaugurate a popular, bi-monthly province newspaper. MIDCAP funds finally have been shaken lose for various approved uses.

Self-help and CinVaRam activities have shown considerable progress. The first monthly meeting of service and district chiefs was held on April 30 to report progress and problems encountered with the projects authorized in the Pacification budget and to discuss means of avoiding bottlenecks and how to speed up progress. This meeting was quite profitable. The pacification budget was approved in principle, but unfortunately does not have an item for "Unforsee Expenses".



PHUOC THANH (20) 30 April 1965

The rumor persists that the province is due to be broken up. This rumor, no matter how unfounded, is having an adverse effect on the performance of the province officials, especially in regard to provincial development. No official word has been received, no documents produced which substantiates or punctures the rumor.

Security and the inability of administrators to travel from province to village to hamlet continues to be a major block in efficiency. Travel by helicopter is almost a necessity. However, there are not enough helicopters nor enough security so that everyone can get to where they must go. This problem also includes travel to and from Saigon for provincial officials who find it necessary to go to Saigon in order to get results. A conservative estimate would be that a province official loses a week's time for every trip he makes to Saigon. Officials, there is no transportation for him. If he takes the bus he runs the risk of capture or assassination by the VC. Travel by military aircraft is uncertain. Since his trip is usually made as a result of pressures and on short notice this precludes the use of a USOM provided "chopper" which requires considerable lead time before arrangements can be made. A possible solution may be the assignment of officials government personnel carriers (aircraft). Some thought should also be given to providing intra-provincial transportation for province officials.

30 April 1965

PHUOC LONG (21)

The attitude of the people towards the GVN is only slightly improving. The province chief is constantly striving to win over the people and has been encouraging his district chiefs to do the same.

Resettling of the ethnic Vietnamese was completed this month. Development progress in the new hamlets is very encouraging. Most of the homes have been completed, the rice fields are ready for planting, and many hand-dug wells have been completed. Seeds and fertilizers have been distributed but more are needed. Health conditions continue to be the biggest problem in these new communities. Montagnard resettlement has been postponed until November.

Nine Chieu Hoi came in this month with a total of 7 weapons. Hardship and the lack of food were the reasons given for their return.

30 April 1965

BINH LONG (22)

The political situation in Binh Long is stable. There is no obvious involvement in national politics, but the local population is beginning to show some interest in provincial government. The security situation is also good and improving but there is a need for more Popular Force personnel. On the economic scene, private construction continues and the majority of the people seem to be able to enjoy a decent standard of living. The province must still depend on convoys for rice, however.

During the past 7 months, and probably longer, there has been no personnel trained or paid by the Chieu Hoi Directorate working in Binh Long province. There have been no visits from anyone from Saigon. In fact, there has been no real direction or real support from Saigon for this program. The province center cannot offer the training or the educational opportunities suggested by the national program.

Other than a continued shortage of sanitary workers, district health workers, mid-wives, delayed salaries, shortage of gasoline, shortage of injectable medicines and instruments, and delayed construction, the Public Health Program is proceeding satisfactorily.

30 April 1965

BINH DUONG (23)

As far as politics is concerned, the people of Binh Duong will generally follow the lead taken by the Saigonese, perhaps unfortunately so. The Buddhist leaders still maintain the strongest direct influence upon the majority of the rural population. The visit of Thich Tam Chau, the Secular Buddhist Leader, to Binh Duong in April was one of purely religious reasons in an effort to solicit stauncher support of the masses for same.

Security is still a prime factor in reconstruction in Binh Duong as it is throughout Vietnam. In general however, it appears improvements have been made in organization, planning, supervision, and recruiting at Division (5th Inf. Div.), work (32nd DTA) and Province.) are continuously in evidence. The US/GVN/ARVN combined, are becoming a more professional machine, better able to cope with major VC efforts. The attacks on North Vietnam by VNAF at strategic level as well as the establishment of Sub-Sector Advisory Staffs at the local level may not effect security now or tomorrow, but the amount of work being done toward improving the capacity to cope with this problem is noteworthy.

Where security is assured the activity in farm fields and on routes of communication shows increase. The annual, or bi-annual cycle where fertilizer and seed are delivered to the retailer and the farmer, and later in the cycle the observance of merchants going to the countryside with huge trucks to pick up the harvest is one real indicator of a local economic situation. Just as the police study the traffic problems from the air, we have made a study of the economic situation in Binh Duong from a helicopter. The results were, as we had expected, and just as has been described above with perhaps a broader impact since it's nearer home.

The Socio-Economic Division of Province have done an excellent job in administration. In fact, the USOM Field Office can soon phase out of the mechanics or practical work we were previously compelled to do or the job would never have been done. This division now has the capability to make survey, plans and sound recommendations to the Provincial Committee for necessary action. As they gain experience in this previously untried field of activity, the program will be extended and refined.

As we gain in experience, so do the various provincial division chiefs and staffs, It's a pure case of salesmanship, or a pure case of need or necessity followed by sometimes not so simple mechanics. We believe that most of our programs are accepted when presented in their proper prospective.

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30 April 1965

BINH DUONG (cont'd)

The Sector, and more recently the Sub-Sector Advisors have aided greatly in stimulating interest and physical effort in our programs. Sometimes glaring errors crop up and it takes a Central Committee decision to solve or eliminate, i. e. cement for pig-pens when it should be retained for home improvement, or a recommendation by the Central Committee that USOM provide 270 bags of cement for a maternity/dispensary when 150 to 200 bags is minimum respectively needed. The USOM programs and affiliated activities by New Zealand Engineers, third country Surgical Teams, etc., are still being well received despite minimum propaganda, with great interest and appreciation by the people of Binh Duong.

30 April 1965

TAY NINH (24)

There were a number of demonstrations during the month to complain against GVN and US policies. These were in Ngu Long, Loc Ninh and Thanh-Tien, outside of the New Life Hamlets.

The Deputy Hamlet Chief of Xon Ruong was assassinated on 6 April. In Thanh Dong the Civil Defense Group Leader was kidnapped. In Bau Don IV the block chief was taken to a spot 15 meters from his house and killed on the night of 15 April. In Hiep Truong the Hamlet Chief and his assistant barely escaped Viet Cong attempts to capture them. Four others were kidnapped during the Viet Cong attack on the hamlet of Ninh Hiep.

The National Legislative Council Delegates sampled opinions in Tay Ninh regarding the forthcoming national convention. Most persons interviewed appeared in favor of the idea.

Of 111 health workers, 41 have not been paid since January. Four locally hired interpreters assigned to the Philippine Surgical Team have also not been paid since January. Of the 6 provincial Chieu Hoi cadres, 5 have been paid but 38 village cadres have not been paid as yet.

30 April 1965

HAU NGHIA (25)

The most significant political event was the assignment and reporting of a Province Chief to Hau Nghia on 26 April, one day prior to a visit by the Chief of State, Mr. SUU. The new Province Chief, Major Nguyen Tri Hanh, has not officially taken over in that a change of command ceremony had not been scheduled as of 5 May. A potentially valuable source of political pulse taking, the Armed Political Action Cadre, have their activities so closely and separately arranged that little or no information is being received by MACV or USOM personnel. In response to a direct query, it was only revealed that the people are expressing dissatisfaction at the frequent and indiscriminate use of artillery fire - a fact self evident by the volume of unobserved, coordinate firing, that goes on from Bao Trai alone (600-1000 rounds a month). A previous survey by the Embassy political section in November 1964 indicated that Hau Nghia was "a politically inarticulate area, more a geographical expression than a true community". It is believed that this quotation still represents the political situation in the province, tempered slightly more favorable by the continued existence of the current government in Saigon, the bombings of North Vietnam, and the arrival of additional U.S. Forces. Offsetting influences continue to be the failure of District Chiefs to look for or to receive guidance or assistance from the provincial capitol, the almost total lack of security outside the province and district capitols, misbehavior of GVN armed forces both in garrison and on operations, and the lack of any considerable GVN initiative during the period when VC activity waned. It is extremely difficult, by reference to previous records, to determine a trend in a favorable or unfavorable direction; suffice it to say that discernible progress during the reporting period was not such as to match the objectives or phasing of Hop Tac.

MACV personnel, while admitting that security continues to be a serious problems, are under the impression that some improvement has been realized during the month. Regardless of this, it is evident that every road in the province can be interdicted or closed at will by the Viet Cong, and that the capability exists to overwhelm any outpost and some district towns. An example, of the latter occurred the night of 27 April when elements of the 506th VC battalion, assisted by regional and local forces, mounted simultaneous mortar attacks on two district towns and the provincial capitol, and overran Ranger Company post at So Do, 2 km's NW of the Provincial Capitol, killing (altogether) 46, and wounding 35. This was accomplished with only 2 VC KIA reported. Additional significant VC incidents during the month were two minings within 1 km of the capitol on the Bao Trai - Cu Chi road, the ambush of nine policemen on Highway 1 at XT 552172 resulting in 4 KIA and 2 WIA, two abductions and assassinations in Trang Bang District town, the ambushing of the Cu Chi District Chief and the USOM Ass't Prov Rep on the edge of the District town on Highway 1 (no casualties), and the frequency of road blocks and harassing fires on roads in the province.

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30 April 1965

HAU NGHIA (cont'd) 2

As opposed to this, there was a greater frequency of friendly military operation reported in the province, but nearly all of them were without contact or other significant results. The assignment of 190 additional policemen during the period (to a province total of 506) should result in some security improvement. As a side note, the USOM representatives continue to travel all roads but touch base with both the MACV sector or sub-sector advisors before each trip, and also get a daily road condition report from the police chief. The road from Bao Trai to Hiep Hoa is only traveled after a security check by troops on the road.

No significant economic trends could be detected during the month, other than a rise of from 6-10% in the price of rice and other basic food-stuffs, and a 15% increase in the local price of cement. NACO activity consisted of loans totalling 290,000\$VN to 128 farmers to purchase fertilizer and cattle, and collections of 159,000\$VN. During the period, 200 families were selected to participate in the 1965 pig-corn program, and USOM cement and corn support was promised. The first quarter statistics dealing with the Hiep Hoa Sugar Mill reflected a raw sugar input of 71, 876 tons and a white sugar production of 5,154 tons. The tax situation within the province remains wholly unsatisfactory (for GVN) with commercial licenses making up nearly half the total tax monies, and only a tiny fraction of land and crop taxes being collected. GVN statistical reports do not reflect any significant changes in the quantity, quality or productivity of the few manufactory activities located in the province. Resources control continue to be ineffective, but progress is expected in this area now that a PSD Advisor is again working in the province.

Civic action and psywar activities continued at their previous level. Approximately 18 hours of aerial loudspeaker broadcasts were coordinated by MACV, the majority with a Chieu Hoi theme, and approximately 200,000 leaflets were dropped. The traveling psywar company provided entertainment at all district towns and at the provincial capitol. VIS personnel worked in conjunction with the psywar company shows, also with the MilCap program and at some food distributions. During the month there were 30 Chieu Hoi returnees, although only 9 were found to be long term members of regular or guerrilla units. Planning was also made, with the Duc Hoa District Chief, to support a program designed to send 200 secondary school students to Cap St. Jacques for a five day vacation. Working jointly with MACV, plans are underway to secure operations for up to 15 of the worst hairlip cases among children in the province.

Other than food distribution, the majority of USOM supported activities continued to drag during the reported period. This was due principally to the non-arrival of a new province chief before the end of the month.

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30 April 1965

HAU NGHIA (cont'd) 3

The non-receipt of the pacification budget until 29 April had negligible effect since less than two thirds of the imprest fund of 3,000,000\$VN was obligated by 30 April. Despite the reluctance of the Deputy Province Chief for Administration to approve new projects, special emphasis was placed on all projects requested by the Cu Chi Pilot District Chief, and full USOM support was rendered all outstanding requests in April.

Although there were an extensive number of visits to the Cu Chi Pilot District by USOM officials during the period, visits to the provincial capitol were limited to PSD, to Jim Mott in connection with Hop Tac, and to two III Region visits. It is considered desirable that more representation by USOM Public Health, Public Administration, Agricultural, and Public Works be made to Bao Trai. In this connection, visits can made much more profitable if advance notice of the visit is received so that preparation of appropriate discussion topics can be arranged.

30 April 1965

GIA DINH (26)

There were a number of small military actions in Gia Dinh during the month, indicating an attempt on the part of the Viet Cong to discredit the security provided by the Capital Military District.

The self help projects approved have been for well digging and culvert laying. There is also consideration to replace the old monkey bridges with new bridges wide enough for three-wheeled carts.

Because of the simplification of funding procedures, construction is beginning right away on the 97 classrooms. The beneficiary districts and hamlets are responsible for job site security and the progress of the construction. There is difficulty in obtaining sufficient workers and there is a shortage of materials, cement, lumber, sand, etc., but the project can be completed before the beginning of the next school year.

The Tac Roi Chieu Hoi center built in 1963 can hold about 60 returnees with its dormitories, auditorium, kitchen and sanitation facilities. Previously the center was under the supervision of the provincial Internal Security Service and the returnees, when completing necessary procedures, were sent directly to Saigon. On April 1, the provincial Chieu Hoi Service was established. The center will be used to a greater extent in the future because the Central Chieu Hoi will not receive unimportant returnees, such as draft dodgers, militia, or Popular Forces, etc. They will not be taken care of by the Tac Roi center and returned to their homes.

30 April 1965

BIEN HOA (27)

The 2216 persons who fled to the province from Phuoc Thanh in December are now temporarily resettled at An Binh hamlet in Duc Tu District. A request has been made to the Social Welfare Ministry for a subsidy for these refugees.

No mobile cadre were recruited during the month but seven resigned, leaving a balance of 72 on duty at the end of the month. Because of their low salaries, a number of them requested to be transferred to GAMO. The province chief lectured them by saying "everyone stays where he is". Consequently some AWOLs have graduated to the Army.

The Chieu Hoi center printed 100,000 leaflets written by a former Viet Cong and disseminated them in critical areas throughout the province by plane and 30,000 posters were pasted up in busses, lambrettas, and other conspicuous places to appeal to prospective Quy Chanh. A number of airborne loudspeaker flights were conducted over enemy areas. 48 hamlet seminars drew an aggregate of 12,000 persons who listened to the aims and programs of Chieu Hoi. 384 families with relatives in the Viet Cong were visited. The number of Quy Chanh for the month was 17.

30 April 1965

PHUOC TUY (28)

There appears to be an increase of Viet Cong military strength in the province. This may be a result of the heavy bombings of the safe areas. The actual increase is not known as much of it is taking place in the VC Bat Sich zone. Political strength of the VC remains about the same but there is increased pressure being applied to An Ngai village in Long Dien district.

There have been several attempts by the VC to kidnap some of the province service chiefs. The modus operandi is a telephone call whereby the service chief is requested to assist one of his superiors from Saigon or region who has had an "accident" or car trouble. To date such attempts have been unsuccessful, as the province chief has alerted all the provincial officials to this ruse.

Several people were taken from Binh Ba in Duc Duc Thanh District for a period of two weeks to supply labor for the VC. Recently a member of the administrative council of Kim Hai hamlet was kidnapped by the VC.

Construction of the province warehouse is still underway. Progress has been slowed by the loss of a mason and two carpenters who have found better wages working for the U.S. military in Vung Tau.

The Chieu Hoi program has a new chief and he appears to be more capable than his predecessors. However, the Chieu Hoi center remains a pitiful place. A new center is to be constructed but with a regional center being established in Bien Hoa there is some question as the need for one in Phuoc Tuy; the small number of returnees bears this out.

30 April 1965

GO CONG (29)

When given a choice, the people appear to prefer GVN control over VC control. In the pacified areas the people are outwardly very friendly. In the contested area there are indications that more and more people are anticipating GVN control as word of the GVN programs filters into the areas.

The security situation has improved considerably in the last two months. There are more roads open to travel, VC incidents are down, and the people are moving more freely and in greater numbers on rural roads and on Highway #24. This is not necessarily due to increased ARVN capabilities but rather that the VC have chosen to remain inactive.

The conomic situation is improving as well. More produce is moving into the markets and there are prospects of increased rice exports this year. Construction is evident in the cities and in the hamlets. There remains a shortage of manpower to significantly increase this economic growth. Officials are talking in more optimistic terms and there is an increased desire on the part of the people to have self help projects. Some of the old problems still remain however. The Psywar Service is unsatisfactory, the provincial hospital development is unsatisfactory, and the rural health service is a flop. The support of paramilitary dependent housing is progressing. USOM supports the construction of homes.

The province will lose over 50% of their mobile action cadre in June to the draft, with no prospect of recruitment. Many other cadre will be drafted also.

The Chieu Hoi program is about to get off the ground with the completion of the new Chieu Hoi center. The Quy Chanh will be used to fix up the center for its formal opening. During April 44 Quy Chanh returned to government control, which is a three-fold increase over the previous months. The province is in the process of organizing a Quy Chanh Center propaganda platoon.

30 April 1965

LONG AN (30)

There is an air of confidence that the war will end during the current calendar year. This situation has been evidenced by some persons in high military position within the province making preparations for return to civilian life and engaging in private enterprise.

There is no overall general change in the security situation. In some areas the situation has improved, and in others it has deteriorated.

The most significant trend in the economic situation has been in the area of new construction of all kinds. The cost of building materials has gone up considerably during the past three months. For example, cement during the period of about January and February averaged about 80 piasters per bag. The cost now has gone up to an average about 130 piasters per bag. Clay tile bricks during the earlier period were about 90 sous per brick has gone up to 150 sous. The cost of sand, lumber, gravel, as well as labor has gone up accordingly. The Province Chief reports that many friends of his in Saigon who are suppliers are unable to meet demands placed upon their various businesses. According to the Province Chief, this situation has been created by an increased construction activity brought about by USOM activities and the importation of foreign engineers, e.g., Korean Engineers, New Zealand Engineers, etc. It is considered that this trend could have a very dangerous inflationary effect upon the economy of the Government of Vietnam if it is permitted to continue without some remedial action.

USOM supported programs continue to progress satisfactorily. It is considered that some difficulty may arise in the area of construction of school classrooms and maternity dispensaries in view of the inflationary trends in building materials.

30 April 1965

KIEN TUONG (31)

Kien Tuong's only route connecting it to the rest of the country is Route 29 and the Kinh 19 canal which parallels it. This route extends from Moc Hoa to Cai Lay in Binh Tuong province. The province itself ties up a large force to keep this road open from Moc Hoa to the Dinh Tuong border. Supplies coming into the province reach Cai Lay without too much trouble and once they have moved across the Kien Tuong border they can proceed to Moc Hoa with relative security. The problem is travel from Cai Lay to the Kien Tuong border. There have been a number of minings on this stretch of road holding up the transport of materials as much as ten days. The protection of Route 29 is a priority item in Kien Tuong but it does not appear to enjoy the same priority in Dinh Tuong. Unless equal efforts are made in this regard it is senseless to have Kien Tuong extend such a large effort on it.

Instruction was received from Saigon (reference CPC/BDTU/TTK/TV/DD/CT/K) which requires the Provincial Committee to seek approval from CRRC and the tactical zone before relocating large groups, i.e., more than 20, into new hamlets or relatively new areas. This is now being done in the case of 30 families. The people came in as a direct result of an attack and the destruction of one of our posts. How long it will take for final approval remains to be seen. What is most disagreeable about this instruction is that after setting up the Provincial Committee, and providing funds for this purpose on the grounds that the Committee knows the local situation and can handle the problem best at the local level, the CRRC and the tactical zone reverse themselves and say that the Committee is not capable of making such decisions. It was presumed that the expansion of the pacification budget was to grant greater flexibility and authority to the Provincial Committee to deal with local problems. Now this flexibility and initiative on a local level is being taken away.

30 April 1965

KIEN PHONG (32)

There has been little VC activity in Kien Phong during the last month. According to MACV Sector intelligence reports indicate a massing of units in the Province for some sort of attack. In addition documents and reports indicate that there will be increase in attempted assassinations and harassments of Americans in the Province.

There seems to be an inflationary trend in the province. This is especially true of Building materials such as bricks and cement. Province costs of Cement is up to 110 per bag. Bricks have increase up to 20-25% in costs. Also beer is being sold 1 piaster higher than the legal price, the long distance from Saigon being given, as the reason for the extra costs.

There is still an attitude of do nothing prevailing in Kien-Phong. Although there are some operations (Military and Civilian) ongoing in the province there is a lack of spark to push ahead and make significant gains. Many people are hoping that the bombing of the north will force the VC to negotiate for a peaceful settlement. In discussions, some people stated that they believed negotiations were going on right now. This optimistic hope for a settlement is one of the major reasons that programs are drifting along.

30 April 1965

DINH TUONG (33)

The province officials and some service chiefs are not visiting enough districts to keep them informed on the current situation. The USOM rep is encouraging them to accompany him to the districts on his regular trips and especially when the USOM chopper is available. There is little critical thinking on behalf of these officials in regard to project requests and they appear to almost mechanically recommend approval for every item submitted. The USOM rep is trying to encourage critical thinking on these things and the establishment of priorities.

The province is only scheduled to use the helicopter twice a month, which is not nearly as much as they could effectively use it. Occasionally, as was the case in April, it was cancelled for one of these two trips.

The Cao Dai school which was 30% completed was investigated and found to be substandard by the USOM Public Works advisor and it has been ordered that the schools be torn down and rebuilt. This action had earlier been recommended by the USOM prov rep and created some hard feelings. Two district chiefs were ready to resign as they were responsible because the schools had been built via "forced account" under the supervision of the districts. Now that most of the repairs are completed there is a new interest on the part of both provincial and district officials in the construction of USOM/GVN projects. The maternity-dispensaries and the construction of all self help projects have immeasurably improved. The district chiefs also make frequent inspection trips to see that good construction standards are being adhered to.

During April the Dinh Tuong Chieu Hoi center received 70 returnees. The center continues to rank as one of the most successful in the Republic. 42 Quy Chanh returned to their hamlets this month and 81 are still in the center. 17 have gone to Saigon for vocational training and 2 have finished and have returned to the provincial center. The improvement in the Chieu Hoi activities is felt to be due to the five district level leaders that were recently trained in Saigon.

30 April 1965

KIEN HOA (34)

The principal problem that remains at the village level is that the village chief and other village officials received pay that is not commensurate with the responsibilities given to them, their living conditions and the personal risks involved. The successful operation launched in Thanh Phu district at the end of the month was highly publicized locally and has given local morale a great boost. The Government's fairly rapid response to the refugee problem in the same district has also resulted in increased favorable attitude toward the GVN.

On the other end, the announced policy of recruiting some 160,000 men into the Army has had an unfavorable effect. There are fears that the GVN will extend the draft age beyond 30 years to include those from 31 to 36 in spite of large families.

VC propaganda remains largely ineffective. They began a "celebrate Dien Bien Phu" campaign which may mark a break in the two month lull. They remain to "tax" heavily and this continues to alienate the population. The USOM prov rep and his assistant sustained minor injuries when their vehicle was destroyed by a VC mine. The mine was followed up by small arms fire from a group of Viet Cong. Local sources continue to indicate that VC terrorists still plan to bomb the area housing MACV and USOM.

In order to meet the recent influx of refugees (estimated at over 3,500 people) into Thanh Phu district town, the following assistance has been given:

1. Fund of 200,000\$VN was drawn from the advance fund to aid in the construction of a refugee center.
2. USOM contributed 200 bags of cement and 3,000 sheets of roofing for the center.
3. 50 bundles of clothing were air dropped in the area for distribution by the Catholic Relief Services and USOM distributed 750 cans of cooking oil and 750 bags of bulgar wheat.

30 April 1965

VINH BINH (35)

In the areas of Cang Long, Tra On and Cau Ke, there were heavy concentrations of artillery fire into the VC areas during the month. This action caused approximately 780 persons to seek refuge and leave their homes. The majority of these people were women and children. The Social Welfare Service rendered assistance to these people and provided them with almost 40,000\$VN to subsist on. These refugees did not express any desire to relocate in GVN controlled areas. It is likely that their husbands, ^{are} fathers and sons/still in the VC areas and the refugees want to return to them as soon as the firing stops.

Because of the military operations in Vinh Binh during April, over 200 tons of rice were brought out of the VC controlled area and moved into markets.

Twelve hamlet health cadres were drafted in April and the remainder are very poorly paid. It is difficult to keep them on the job. Many have found jobs in order to support themselves and their families.

30 April 1965

VINH LONG (36)

The 1965 procedure for relocation requires that any group of more than 20 families must have the approval from Corps and from the DTA. The prov rep feels that this policy will reduce the effectiveness of the relocation program. When families come out of an area they bring very little with them. They need immediate assistance and each delay reduces the amount of favorable impact that can be gained by the GVN. Requiring that a plan be submitted and then waiting for inspection teams will cause considerable delay. This will cause the people to lose faith in the GVN and in many cases will force them back into the hands of the Viet Cong. The prov rep suggests that his plan be changed to allow the province to initiate the relocation process immediately without prior approval. A plan can be submitted simultaneously and a team sent later to inspect. At least by the time the team arrives there will be something concrete to see.

A meeting was held by the provincial fertilizer committee to discuss fertilizer sales for 1965. The NACO chief stated that anyone who had not repaid his loan in full for 1964 could not buy on credit this year. It was explained to him that this strict course of action would hurt the fertilizer program. It was finally agreed to accept additional requests from farmers for postponement of loan payment. An additional problem concerning fertilizer is that none has as yet been received in the province. This is especially serious in the three floating rice districts where dates for application are growing near.

The province submitted a request to the Chieu Hoi Directorate requesting 300,000\$VN to build a Chieu Hoi center. Word has been received on the approval of 100,000\$VN. This is considered to be too little to build the type of center needed to carry out an effective program. At the present time the returnees are housed in an old pagoda which is dirty and cramped and located in the center of town. Classes are held in the same pagoda by pushing the beds aside and filling in with benches. There were 44 returnees this month, many more than can be properly cared for under existing conditions. The Chieu Hoi program for Vinh Long has improved considerably and concrete plans exist for further improvements. However, it is important that a new center can be constructed to handle the expanded program.

30 April 1965

AN GIANG (37)

An opportunity was offered to the Province to demonstrate its loyalty to the Central Government when Prime Minister Phan Huy Quat visited the province on 7 April. He was assured of the support of the various political and religious groups in the province, primarily the sizeable Hoa Hao group.

In its tour of the western provinces, a 3-man National Legislative Council delegation came to Long Xuyen on April 16 with a view to sound out the population opinion on the form and procedures to adopt for the convention of the National Congress. The delegation was led by Mr. Trinh Quoc Khanh, a well-known An Giang politician and leader of the "Vietnam Social Democrat Party" (Viet Nam Dan Chu Xa Hoi Dang) (Hoa Hao). In this connection, a worksheet in the form of a questionnaire was prepared and distributed by the province one week ahead of the delegation's arrival, to advise the population of the problem and assist in obtaining a practical solution.

Another significant aspect was the return, through a skillfull political maneuver, of two hamlets previously lost to Phong Dinh Province. Although the decision was made on an administrative basis, the addition of these two primarily Hoa Hao populated hamlets has no less a political meaning and in adding strength to the province Hoa Hao group.

Venerable Thich Tam Chau, Head of the Buddhist Institute, visited the province on April 1. His one-day visit was reported to be political rather than religious.

The West German Ambassador to Vietnam visited An Giang on 20 April. Although no specific reason was given for his visit, the impression was that he was searching for ideas and ways in which West Germany might increase her assistance to South Vietnam.

No major VC incidents during the month. Travel by road from Long Xuyen to the districts and on toward the province limits offered no difficulty. No VC attempt was reported to stop (for plundering, taxation, propaganda purpose) the busy traffic transporting rice on the waterway net work that criss-crosses the country in all directions within the Province and out to the neighbouring areas.

The Population and Resources Control Program is proceeding slowly. The first major P and R control operation in An Giang was conducted during April. A joint regional operation coordinating elements of the National Police, the Navy, and the Regional Forces was conducted to blockade the Bassac River within the province boundaries.

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30 April 1965

AN GIANG (cont'd)

The blockade, which was in force for 24 hours, included two LCN's, two LCUP's, and two FOM's from the 26th River Assault Gp; these were accompanied by one RF platoon, and a squad of National Police to form Group A. Group B consisted of 3 RF LCUP's accompanied by a squad of National Police. The results of the operation were the arrest and detention of 5 VC suspects and two draft dodgers. This shake-down operation revealed several needs in the P & R control program, the primary one being unity of command. At present, the Province Chief recognizes no individual as having overall authority for control of P & R operations, the cause of confusion among the participants in the Program. National Police checkpoints have been active on major roads within the Province. The Province Chief has provided direction to the National Police in the villages and hamlets on each of his visits in the Province.

Progress toward advanced economic development continues slowly but steadily. The harvest has ended. Most of the farmers are holding their rice for reserve; nevertheless, the province has been able to ship out, as of today, 53,000 tons of paddy. This is less than half of the normal total export. Fishery was at normal rate for local consumption. Handicraft and industry marked a slight slow down as labor was mobilized for the harvest. Commerce and trade were normal, except a sharp demand for construction materials. No impediment was reported in the flow of goods by roads as well as waterways in both directions between Saigon and the province capital.

Psychological situation is good. Morale of the troops and population is increasing. More returnees are turning themselves to the provincial government, which to some extent explains the progress of the pacification program thus far carried out in the province. Civic action activity is at a higher level now than at any previous time. Prospects for further improvement seem good, and this is generally a positive relationship between military and civilian elements in the province.

The Budget Committee met with the Provincial Officials and the data presented was in keeping with the existing guidelines. The Province was reduced in the Pacification Budget due to the generally pacified situation here. The general feeling was that the Province is now ready for the early phases of economic development and should be receiving a larger percentage of ministerial supported projects. This image is correct and the problem created is now one of seeing that Ministry level people are informed and are programming development projects such as high schools, primary roads, large bridges, water and electrification, etc. for the province. The recent visits by several Ministers and the Prime Minister should focus some attention on the fact that since the Pacification budget has been cut for this province the gap must be filled by the Central Government.

KIEN GIANG (38)

30 April 1965

The GVN political base in Kien Giang remains strong with no opposition. As far as can be determined, no opposition is developing to GVN rule and none of the religious groups have manifested any dissatisfaction with current political trends. The Province Chief frequently meets with Rev. Danh Bao, the Chief Cambodian Buddhist monk, Father Huynh Tan Hoi, the Catholic leader, and minor factions, however, the results of these meetings are never discussed.

During the month the overall security situation improved. There were fewer incidents which were mostly confined to small harassments to outposts. The rural population has been advised by the VC that they were leaving the area and would return in about 8 months. This, the population was told, accounted for the high taxes that were collected during the tax collection season.

The overall economic situation in the province, from all indications, appears to be satisfactory. Construction of private housing is on the increase, along with business construction and general repairs. Rice continues to flow into the province from the countryside and out of the rice mills to Saigon. Fishing continues to show excellent results. Procuring laborers in and around Rach Gia for construction is quite difficult because all people are working either as day laborers, regular jobs or farming.

The attitude of the population toward GVN has improved since bombing of North Vietnam and the increase of American troops in the country. The departure of the VC from the area has led to a feeling of security on the part of the rural population even though the VC advised the people that they would return in 8 months. There is also a slight increase in the willingness of the population to give good information about VC activities.

Progress of USOM-supported activities has generally been satisfactory. A few of the programs have been slow in their implementation. Activity is expected to pick up in the coming month.

30 April 1965

GVN political influence extends to the areas where troop strength is present in enough quantity to allow continued activity in the area concerned. This specifically is as follows: province town, district towns, a few village towns and a small number of hamlets immediately adjacent to the preceding. Sixty to seventy percent of the people in the province are unconcerned with the outcome of the war and are in search of only peaceful living.

Presently much can be done to extend the political base but there has been very little exploitation of the province in military victories or of the international reaction to the bombings of North Vietnam. Also, an increased awareness to the whole subject of pacification is needed in order to bring the GVN politically to the rural people. We are presently holding our own.

Security improved slightly during the month, but this is not an indication of a change marked by permanency. The VC still maintain the capability province- and region-wide to conduct any operation against a target in Chuong Thien of their choosing. Recent military operations here have been very successful but their effect is not to be overestimated.

A definite increase in activity is expected in the months to come during the rainy season.

There has been no basic change in the economic situation and no large-scale change is expected. Certainly the use of fertilizer will prove beneficial in the areas concerned as will increased emphasis on pig development. These programs will assist many of the rural people in kind, but large-scale economic changes are not forecast.

We are only holding our own in the psychological area but there has been improvement in the overall effort during the past six months and with the increased coordination at province level. The rural people remain basically unchanged socially and psychologically and this situation will persist until we are able to extend our influence and activity into areas that will prevent the people in present pacification areas from having contact with the VC. This situation does not exist at present.

Many programs in direct relation to the pacification effort are not being implemented properly with the exception of the Agriculture and Animal Husbandry Services. It appears that GVN interest is lacking since pushing the programs from province level is the key required to success in pacification. Increased interest is expected since certain steps have been undertaken to correct the present situation.

The visit of representatives of the National Legislative Council (NLC) to Can Tho brought with it an unusual insight into provincial political thinking. The mission of this group was to explain the GVN's desire for participation by interested and qualified citizenry in the Provincial Council. While many persons from all strata of provincial society attended the meeting, a surprisingly small number indicated willingness to compete as candidates for election to the council. Further, the meeting vividly pointed out the lack of understanding, heretofore strongly suspected, of the provincial people, in the organization, functions and purposes of government. It may be concluded that there continues to be a pronounced hesitancy to become politically committed, either from fear of reprisal or a lack of confidence in the stability of government at National level. While the continued hesitancy of the citizenry to participate in government, as evidenced, is significant, it is just as important to recognize that actions such as that taken by the Prime Minister when he issued his circular letter of 24 March 1965 (Number 16/TTP/VP) tends to reassert the civilian role in government and therefore should ultimately serve to encourage a change in the political hesitancy of the populace. This hopeful outlook will prevail only to the extent that the Armed Forces Council (AFC) continues to keep "hands off" from purely political affairs.

Despite the visit of Prime Minister Quat to Can Tho, there continues to be no overt evidence of establishment of a firm political base in the province. The Hoa-Hao and Cao Dai sects appear to display little public interest in political activity.

The Committee to Control National Resources and Population did not meet in April. Every effort will be exerted to have this committee meet and discuss this vital topic with participation by the 7 Provincial Agencies charged with the study of this problem, in order to establish feasible working plans and policies. This is especially important in view of the anticipated permanent departure of the Province Chief in the very near future to attend schools in Saigon and ultimately CONUS (US C&GSC, Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas, Fall Associate Course).

An increase of 105 National Policemen, with a large percentage (74) stationed at district level, may help to improve the enforcement of population and resources control measures on land and waterways. However, as of this date, measures generally continue desultory and largely ineffective.

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30,644 tons of rice were shipped to Saigon from this province during the period November 1964 to mid-April 1965. This, together with the 16,731 tons of rice currently estimated to be in process of being milled, closely approximates the 40,000 ton export estimate mentioned in the February report. Data concerning extent and effect of Viet Cong rice harvest taxation activity in this province will be summarized in the next report.

Numerous requests continue to be received from religious groups, for commodity support. All of these requestors have been informed that the Ministry of Social Welfare through its local staff is the cognizant agency to appeal to in this regard. It is interesting to note the look of disbelief on the requestor's face when told that USOM cannot furnish the desired support. Provincial people are of the opinion USOM is the panacea -if USOM cannot do it, no-one can. In our efforts to strengthen the position of the GVN, mention is continually being made that the government is the prime factor in providing assistance to the people.

The Provincial Radio Committee has not had a chance to meet during the reporting period, because of the absence of key members. However, we are confident of disposing of the radios now on hand and due in. Upon completion of the GE program, the Transaires (NACO sponsored) will be disposed of.

All programs receiving support from USOM are generally making satisfactory progress with the exception of the provincial Public Works which is far below par.

30 April 1965

BA XUYEN (41)

There remains a pressing need for greater budgetary flexibility at the province level and the lessening of GVN restrictions in Saigon. If local government is to be the backbone of our effort in Vietnam, then there must be greater liberalization of provincial procedures. Crucial timing exists for many projects as the rainy season is beginning. At the end of the reporting period the 1965 budget was still not approved and released to the province. Without it the service chiefs have refused to act on previous or future projects. Meanwhile, everyone paces the floor like expectant fathers. In Khanh Hung projects burn while Saigon fiddles.

Even though VC military activities have not greatly increased, there are still numerous VC terroristic actions. It appears that the VC pressure and military strength have lessened during the month, even though an estimated 1200 hard core VC were seen passing through Ke Sach district on their way to Vinh Binh. There was an attack on the Thuan Hoa canal a month ago. An estimated company of VC attacked three platoons of Popular Forces guarding 200 laborers digging the canal. Ten PF were killed and 7 wounded. Since the attack, the local laborers have stopped digging on the canal. The province chief has urged that the Khanh Hung district chief call upon the rural people to finish digging the canal.

Ever since the support function for the hydrojet was transferred to the Ministry of Public Works there has been little success in this program. At the present time, a list of 15 well sites for 1965 have been submitted to Public Works in Saigon but there has been no approval for over a month. Meanwhile, five of the fifteen sites have been approved by a joint committee composed of the Chief of Public Works/Khanh Hung and USOM Public Works. This suggests that it may be advisable to move the hydrojet responsibility from the Ministry of Public Works and return it to USOM Public Works.

The Chieu Hoi program has been stepped up this month, mainly due to the aggressive planning of the new Chieu Hoi chief. A new Chieu Hoi training center will be located next to the demonstration center and will facilitate future programming and training of Quy Chanh. During the month 37 Quy Chanh rallied to the GVN. Only a few of them are not professional soldiers and they all wish to utilize further their military skills.

30 April 1965

AN XUYEN (42)

The problem of the Hai Yen Special Sector still exists and takes up much USOM time in the province. Both sides are reluctant to change their attitudes toward each other. This problem is also complicated by strong prejudices, one way or the other, even among the Americans dealing with the problem. There is hope in the new province chief who is well aware of the situation. The transport of hydrojet rig to the Special Sector village of Tan Hung may also strengthen the bonds between the GVN and the Special Sector. At any rate, the situation is considered to be far from hopeless.

Resources control in An Xuyen appears to be a leaky proposition. It is understood that Saigon does not approve of a concept for certificates of cargo origin for canal traffic. Since An Xuyen is a water commerce province, much VC-produced merchandise finds its way into GVN markets without such certificates. This problem must be resolved on the Saigon level; otherwise we will be fighting the war with one hand and with the other hand allow the VC to finance its forces by local production sold to the GVN. The coastline of An Xuyen is also poorly guarded, allowing fishing produce to be sold abroad, thus bringing the VC hard currency. Extensive investigation of VC industry and export capabilities in An Xuyen is planned.

A persistent problem in the province is the dependence on MACV choppers for transport. Often they do not show up, forcing the district program one week backwards.

The improvements planned for the Chieu Hoi Program did not take place due to a shakeup in personnel but Quy Chanh continue to come in -- 23 in April.

30 April 1965

BAC LIEU (43)

Intensive aerial bombing of the coastal areas of Gia Ria District has produced a number of civilian refugees, many of them wounded. They are being treated at the provincial hospital and released. Many of them have decided to remain in the GVN controlled areas. They appear to be receiving adequate assistance from the Gia Ria district chief. Approximately 200 families are involved. There is no Social Welfare Service established in Bac Lieu as yet and the province remains dependent on Ba Xuyen.

On April 26, a 65 year old man was apprehended while placing a two kilo mine on the windowsill of the Vinh Loi district chief's house. The mine was the same size, shape and color of a brick and was to be detonated by an acid-activated spring-driven firing pin. The next morning approximately 500 men and women of all ages demonstrated in front of the Province Chief's office asking that the VC be executed for his attempted act of terrorism. It is believed that this demonstration was conceived and organized by the Vinh :Loi district chief. Be that as it may, he didn't have any trouble rounding up people for the demonstration.

It appears that the National Police resources control program is increasing in effectiveness in Bac Lieu. This month the police captured a sampan loaded with material destined for a VC installation in Gia Ria District. The sampan contained one metric ton of lead, 80 rolls of lamp cord wire for electrical mines, a quantity of various sized iron pipe for mortars and Bangalore torpedoes, a quantity of brass tubing and brass bar stock and many miscellaneous items. In a separate incident, a quantity of medicine was captured by the police.

April was another record breaking month for Chieu Hoi returnees. There were 17. The province is still utilizing the Ba Xuyen facility but definitely needs its own center for lodging, training, and rehabilitation.

30 April 1965

CHAU DOC (44)

Two successive storms hit An Phu and Chau Phu districts this month with a total damage of approximately two million piasters. There were 185 houses damaged and 160 hectares of vegetable crops ruined. The local Social Welfare office extended immediate relief assistance in the form of cash to rebuild the homes destroyed. The USOM office released 1030 sacks of bulgar wheat for distribution to the calamity victims. USOM also loaned cement to the provincial government for the repair of damaged government property as there was no cement available through local procurement.

There has been a series of "orientation of rural development" which covers the fields of self help, public administration and intergovernmental coordination. As a result of these orientations there has been an increased appreciation of the tasks before the public officials in their efforts to create an effective local government. Key provincial officials have had the opportunity to see for themselves existing local conditions in the rural areas and they have a better understanding and knowledge of the problems confronting rural people.

The Chieu Hoi program in Chau Doc has been doing a good job. There is some limitation in providing the returnees with the proper technical vocation but the Chieu Hoi office has recommended to Saigon that returnees take up vocational courses upon request. The average number of returnees per month is 11 and most of them were in combat status with the VC.