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CAPT. JOHN H. KOTHMANN

COMMANDER  
CAPT. DO THUNG TAN

2. If U.S. personnel are responsible for producing an acceptable product as economically and quickly as possible, give them an adequate staff of U.S. personnel and the authority to hire local labor of their own choosing and the authority to fire them when they fail to do the job. This will reduce the total cost of the end product and improve quality.

3. Give U.S. personnel that are willing to work on these special problems in overseas areas a chance at the assignments. Personnel that are interested in Research and Development type work will produce much more effectively than noninterested personnel.

C. Specific recommendations concerning the Dog Program in Vietnam.

1. In order to overcome the problems with the dog handlers, make the dog handlers a select group by asking for applicants accepting only the top 25% on a competitive examination basis. This will eventually overcome the problem of uninterested personnel, and untrained dogs.

2. Alter the VN dog ration supply system so the man is issued food for the dog, rather than money which can be misappropriated.

3. Continue the retraining program of the dogs and handlers that MAAG has initiated.

4. Handlers that do not properly care for their dogs should be removed from the dog program and punished.

D. The following Memos for the Record illustrate some of the professional differences that existed even among good friends. Also illustrated is the typical Vietnamese thinking - present among a nation, not just a few select individuals. No names have been changed.

[REDACTED] Dr. Welch and Dr. Kothmann discovered three puppies with what appeared to be the initial symptoms of Leptospirosis during their inspection of the kennel area at the Military Dog Breeding Center. The VN had neglected to inspect the dogs this morning. Dr. Welch and Dr. Kothmann both agree that suspect Lepto. cases should be treated immediately with massive doses of Penicillin, (50,000 units per lb). The VN do not recognize this method of treatment and have allowed 6 Bloodhound puppies to die in a short absence of Dr. Welch because they did not believe more than 2,000 units per lb. should be used to treat suspect Lept. cases. The three puppies treated by massive doses of penicillin appeared to be normal 24 hours later.

Feb. 7, 1963: Dr. Welch and Dr. Kothmann went to Tan Try Ha to talk to the MAAG personnel at the Military Dog Training and Replacement Center. Met Capt Kotouc, who replaced Capt Stecker as MAAG advisor at the Training Center. Capt Kotouc is very opposed to training the Bloodhounds for tracking

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purposes. He says they have no use in VN and he doesn't have room or personnel to train them. Dr. Welch and Dr. Kothmann noted that less than 20% of the 300 training kennels were occupied by dogs at the Training Center.

Feb. 11, 1963: For several days now, Dr. Kothmann has recommended to Dr. Tan that the water at the Breeding Center be chlorinated with the chlorination chemicals furnished for this purpose. Dr. Tan says that the water is all right, and does not need chlorinated. Finally, Dr. Kothmann took a glass, filled it with the water Dr. Tan says is safe, and asked Dr. Tan to drink it. Dr. Tan declined, and promised the water would be chlorinated by his personnel in the future.

Feb. 12, 1963: Colonel Brooks, Colonel Jacobson, LtCol Lakin, LtCol Simon, LtCol Johnson, Capt Nezvesky, Capt Kotouc, Dr. Welch, Dr. Kothmann, and Sgt Schweitzer attended a meeting in Colonel Brooks office at 0815 hours, to discuss the fate of the Bloodhounds at the Breeding Center. Capt Kotouc, the new MAAG Advisor to the Dog Training Center, told everyone at the meeting that he and Sgt Schweitzer did not think they should train the Bloodhounds. Colonel Jacobson backed them up, and said that his people would not train them unless the VN forced them to. Colonel Jacobson did agree at this time that the Dog Training Center would accept the Dobermans and German Shepherd raised by the Breeding Center. Colonel Brooks stated that if someone did not take the Bloodhounds, he would send them to Bangkok, to the R&D Field Unit, to be tested over there.

Feb. 15, 1963: Brandy B-10 has red eyes, snotty nose, tonsillitis, anorexia, temperature normal. Dr. Kothmann recommended to Dr. Tan that they give this dog massive doses of Penicillin and also massive doses of some broad spectrum antibiotic. This dog has been severely ill twice before, during the month of November 1962. Dr. Welch, Dr. Wiggins, and Dr. Kothmann have all recommended the puppy be put to sleep because it is felt that the animal is a disease carrier.

Feb. 16, 1963: Dr. Tan did not administer the medicine recommended the day before, but gave Vit. C and Vit. B Complex. Today, the dog has diarrhea. Recommended that Dr. Tan administer the drugs recommended yesterday, along with an anti-diarrheal "Cerabon".

Dr. Tan also told me that he was going to feed the dog rectally with milk and I told him not to do this because it would cause a severe diarrhea that would dehydrate the dog and cause almost certain death.

Feb. 17, 1963: Brandy B-10 was dead and in the refrigerator when I arrived at the Breeding Center. I asked Dr. Tan if he had tried to feed the dog by rectum with milk and he admitted that he had, but told me that he did not think this had caused death, because this method was used by the French. Post mortem examination of this dog showed: respiratory system very congested; liver showed some fatty degeneration and was very friable; kidney showed some autolysis but the urine sample drawn from the bladder has normal specific gravity of 1.015; digestive track was devoid of contents with the exception of a small amount of milk solids in the large intestine; dehydration was so severe that there were no intestinal fluids at all.

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March 1, 1963: Dr. Kothmann had a long discussion with Dr. Tan about the proposal of Major Du, head of the VN Vet Corps, to open the Breeding Center to the public so that the Center's males could be used for a profitable purpose by breeding private dogs for a stud fee of 3,000-5,000 \$ VN. He told Dr. Tan that this price was obviously too low, and even if it was adequate, the risk was much too great because of the constant danger of introducing disease into a relatively disease-free group of animals. Dr. Kothmann also told Dr. Tan that such a proposal had unhealthy political and financial implications and that he, Dr. Kothmann, would never approve such a scheme under any circumstances.

Dr. Kothmann related this discussion to LtCol Lakin on 2 March 1963.

March 5, 1963: Dr. Tan seems to be taking much more interest in the dogs now. For the first time since Dr. Kothmann's arrival, Dr. Tan has some of the Veterinary technicians make the rounds each morning and examine each dog. This is a tremendous step in the right direction.

March 21, 1963: Dr. Kothmann talked to Capt Nezvesky, O&T, MAAG, about the bloodhounds again and told him that he had just come from talking to LtCol Rawls, MACV-J3, who is writing a report for General Harkins. Dr. Kothmann told Capt Nezvesky that he had asked LtCol Rawls to mention in his report that the Dog Training Center would accept their replacement animals from the Dog Breeding Center. Dr. Kothmann also give LtCol Rawls a brief history of the Dog Program in SVN from its beginning to the present.

March 22, 1963: Mary, the Doberman Pincher, whelped 14 puppies today. Dr. Kothmann warned the VN Technicians and kennel men to be very careful in feeding the puppies on a rotational basis because some would be overlooked if they didn't use at least two containers for the puppies in order to keep them straight. They assured him they know how to look after puppies because they had done this type work before. Brandy A-2 had a severe bloody diarrhea this AM. It was discovered by careful questioning that she had not eaten yesterday, but no one had told Dr. Kothmann and no one had attempted to treat her. Dr. Kothmann asked the VN clinic personnel and Dr. Tan why the dog would not eat, and if they had examined the dog in an attempt to determine the cause. The reply was that they had not examined her, and felt that the dog did not eat because the feed was bad. Dr. Kothmann then questioned why all the other dogs ate the feed since it was bad. Then, Dr. Kothmann opened the dogs mouth and asked the clinic personnel and Dr. Tan what they observed. The Vietnamese admitted the dog had severe tonsillitis. Dr. Kothmann recommended Penicillin, Erythromycin, Oxytetracycline, and Cerabon all be administered immediately. They were. Brandy A-2 ate well that night.

March 25, 1963: Two puppies died during the night. Dr. Kothmann asked the VN clinic personnel if the puppies had been getting enough to eat. The reply was that they were getting enough to eat. Post mortem findings indicated the puppies had starved to death because of confusion and a mix-up at feeding time. The puppies had not developed any diarrhea, yet, their digestive

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tracts were empty, and did not contain any food solids or liquids.

March 29, 1963: Dr. Kothmann is still having a hard time getting the VN handlers to feed the puppies regularly.

March 30, 1963: Dr. Kothmann went to the Breeding Center this afternoon and found that there were no handlers to look after the puppies. This is the third time this has happened in the last week.

April 1, 1963: One of Mary's puppies was stepped on during the night. This indicates the handler was not looking after the puppies. Dr. Kothmann spoke to Col Lakin about the lack of interest the Vietnamese continued to demonstrate in the Dog Breeding Program. Sissy, a German Shepherd female, started whelping at 1700 hours. Because of her extreme nervousness, viciousness, and the previous experience of Dr. Welch, Dr. Kothmann recommended that the kennel she was in be off limits to everyone except her regular handler and the Veterinarians. The VN agreed, since most of them were afraid of her anyway.

April 2, 1963: Sissy whelped 9 puppies by 0800 hours today. Dr. Kothmann asked why a different handler was taking care of her, and was informed that the regular handler was taken by Sgt Co to help load crushed rock. Dr. Kothmann told Dr. Tan this was in direct contrast to their agreement the day before. During the absence of the regular handler, Sissy had bitten the substitute handler and two of the puppies.

April 3, 1963: One of Sissy's puppies died at 0400 hours. Post mortem examination by Dr. Tan and Dr. Kothmann indicated the puppy died from the bite wound incurred the day before. There was a severe bruise on the left abdominal wall. The muscle tissue contained a large hematoma and the left kidney was severely bruised. The lungs, liver, heart, and digestive tract did not show any pathology.

April 4, 1963: TSgt Mercier has done an excellent job training the Bloodhounds. Today, he put on a demonstration of basic obedience and tracking capability for LtCol Rawls of J3, MACV, and Major Sheehy, the MAAG Veterinarian. Major Sheehy told Dr. Kothmann about some of the experiences he had with Major Du, Chief of the VN Vet Corps. Major Sheehy said he was writing letters to Major Du now, because it did no good to talk to him. He desires something writing to protect himself and the U.S. effort by MAAG in the Veterinary field. Dr. Kothmann related at this time to Major Sheehy how Major Du had submitted a budget to the Quartermaster for 624,643\$, VN, to feed the dogs at the Breeding Center. This was almost 300,000\$, VN, in excess of the amount Dr. Welch and Dr. Kothmann had calculated would be necessary food. Major Du has increased the budget by showing on paper dogs that did not exist, and by double funding. Dr. Kothmann has given Dr. Tan another set of figures for the budget and instructions to tell Major Du to please not juggle the figures this time when he resubmitted the budget for the Breeding Center.

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April 5, 1963: The Breeding Center has not had adequate water for clinic needs and cleaning purposes for two days now, but Capt Khoat, CDTC-V, promised Dr. Tan he would send the Breeding Center a water truck full of water.

April 7, 1963: Still no water. Dr. Tan and Dr. Kothmann finally reached a verbal agreement that all the dogs would be exercised every day. This is a great improvement as this matter has been under discussion for over two months. Dr. Kothmann has recommended since his arrival that all dogs be exercised daily, including Sundays and holidays.

April 8, 1963: Private Trang, Dr. Kothman's interpreter at the Breeding Center, related to him that Dr. Tan and Sgt Co had instructed him not to pass on any information to Dr. Kothmann or Sgt Mercier about any sick dogs unless he was asked specifically about a certain dog. The Vn evidently feel that this man has been too helpful and is disclosing their faults and deficiencies.

April 12, 1963: Sgt Co has sent some of the Vn dog handlers away from the Center again during the time Sgt Mercier intended to train the Bloodhounds. Sgt Co laughed at the fact that Sgt Mercier was very disturbed about all the handlers being gone. Dr. Kothmann standing nearby told Sgt Co that he might laugh about sending the handlers away now, but that when the end of the month came, Co would be walking, because Dr. Kothmann was not going to give them the extra gasoline they needed to run their vehicles. The VN Quartermaster does not give the Breeding Center enough gasoline, so in the past, about every two months the U.S. project officer has given the Breeding Center enough gasoline chits to provide about 100 gallons of gasoline extra for their trucks. Dr. Kothmann feels the time has come to get some cooperation in return for all the supplies and support the U.S. has been putting into the Dog Breeding effort in Vietnam.

April 22, 1963: It is interesting to note the fine cooperation the Vn have given Dr. Kothmann and Sgt Mercier the last ten days. Dr. Tan and Sgt Co have appointed nine men as full-time handlers and trainers for the nine Bloodhounds Sgt Mercier has been training, and they have not switched handlers, or sent them off during the scheduled training time.

May 1, 1963: Dr. Tan says the VN Quartermaster will send a commission to the Breeding Center at 0930, May 7 to accept the Bloodhounds for training at the Military Dog Training and Replacement Center. Dr. Tan and Dr. Kothmann will spay the bitches after the Commission has agreed to accept the dogs.

May 7, 1963: The VN Quartermaster Commission came and accepted 8 Bloodhounds and 3 German Shepherds from the Breeding Center stock as War Dogs. The commission's representative from the Dog Training Center was told by Dr. Kothmann that the dogs should be picked up one week after the bitches had been spayed, which would probably occur on May 9 and 10. The Training Center representative said he did not know if they could come for the dogs.

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that soon or not because they did not have adequate kennels at the Training Center for Bloodhounds. Dr. Kothmann asked what was wrong with the 300 kennels that remain 60% empty all the time. He said that nothing should keep them from tying the Bloodhounds up to some of the empty birdhouse type kennels at the Training Center. The representative replied that this type of kennel was too hot for the Bloodhounds. Dr. Kothmann then inquired why the kennels were suitable for German Shepherds, who have much longer hair, and not for the Bloodhounds. He then told the representative that if the dogs were not received on time then the Breeding Center should receive the 19\$ VN per day that the Quartermaster paid each day to the Training Center for each of the dogs, since the Breeding Center was feeding the dogs. He commented that if the Training Center wanted the Breeding Center to feed the dogs, then the 209\$ VN per day should go to the Breeding Center, not in someone's pocket. It was interesting that Lt Chanh, from CDTC-V, was at the dog transfer. This man is Dr. Kothmann's counterpart at the CDTC-V, yet this is his first visit to the Breeding Center since Dr. Kothmann's arrival in Vietnam. The following office memorandum was approved by Dr. Tan today and signed by all Vietnamese clinic personnel. It is felt that this is a real victory, since the items have been under discussion for more than a month. It was placed on the bulletin board after all concerned had signed.

1. All dogs will be exercised every day. Sundays and holidays are included.
2. Any dog that does not eat will be reported to the U.S. Advisor immediately upon his arrival at the Center.
3. Any dog that has diarrhea will be reported to the U.S. Advisor immediately upon his arrival at the Center.
4. Any dog that has an injury will be reported to the U.S. Advsiior immediately upon his arrival at the Center.
5. Any dog that exhibits any abnormal behavior or symptoms will be reported to the U.S. Advisor immediately upon his arrival at the Center.

May 13, 1963: One of Mary's puppies died of a severe hook worm anemia today. Efforts to treat it with DNP four days ago have proved ineffective against so severe an infestation.

May 14, 1963: Colonel Pedone and Dr. Kothmann went to talk with Colonel Trach (Vietnamese Director of CDTC-V) about the R&D decision to get out of the dog business. He was told that R&D had gained the information necessary to complete the purpose of the task as originally proposed. Now that the objectives are almost complete, he was informed that the time had come for R&D to retire from the business. Colonel Trach was informed that he would receive an official document after some definite decisions had been received from MAAG and Washington on the R&D recommendations.

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May 18, 1963: The only puppy not still born that Hilda has whelped died today with a severe respiratory and intestinal infection.

May 22, 1963: The Vietnamese Quartermaster picked up eight Bloodhounds and 3 German Shepherds that had been officially transferred to the Vietnamese on 7 May 1963. At this time, papers were completed for the transfer of 9 Dobermans and 5 more German Shepherds to the Training Center for use as War Dogs.

May 29, 1963: U.S. and Vietnamese personnel gave a special briefing to President Diem today. Dr. Kothmann was permitted to give a brief summary of the Dog Training Program in Vietnam, and show some of the dogs raised in-country.

June 2, 1963: The Vietnamese were not exercising the dogs this morning. Dr. Kothmann had a discussion with Dr. Tan about their agreement to exercise the dogs every day. The dogs were exercised shortly.

June 3, 1963: Hand carried Colonel Pedone's letter to MAAG concerning the meeting with MAAG personnel on June 1, 1963, regarding the termination of the Dog Breeding Program by R&D.

June 17, 1963: MAAG delivered their reply to R&D's proposal to discontinue the dog breeding program.

June 20, 1963: A message to Washington was written concerning MAAG's views on the termination of the breeding program. The message was given to Colonel Trach for his information and concurrence.

June 21, 1963: Colonel Trach concurred with the contents of the message, and it was sent to Washington.

June 22, 1963: A memorandum from Colonel Pedone to Colonel Trach outlined the future status of the Dog Breeding Program. This included items which had already been coordinated and agreed upon by Colonel Trach.

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