

VIETNAM-VILLAGES

(no card)

HANDBOOK

1966

No:

THE PEOPLE

IN THE COUNTRYSIDE

FIRMLY STAND UP

TO ABOLISH THEIR OLD LIFE

AND BUILD UP A NEW ONE !

A

HANDBOOK

OF

THE REVOLUTIONARY DEVELOPMENT

CABRES

1

South/Southeast Asia Library Service
The General Library
University of California
Berkeley, California 94720

FOREWORD

We are determined to carry out a social revolution in the countryside, a revolution aimed at abolishing the present miserable life of our compatriots to substitute for it by a new, better off one! The present life of our countryfellows there, is one where mourning, hatred, injustice prevail, and where partisanship rules with the underground communist cadres pulling the wires, assisted by the mischievous, wicked village dignitaries. It is also a life where men live miserably in constant separation, hunger, illness and ignorance.

This life should be abolished! To substitute for it, a new life must be built! The new life is one of security, freedom, democracy, justice and after all, HAPPINESS! It is one which is to be built based on the 11 criteria that will be presented through the following pages of this pamphlet.

For each one of the said criteria, there will be a number of works to be done and the total works are 98. They are all very essential ones which have been planned to fit the general situation in the countryside at the present time of the war. However, in each region, there always are a number of problems which are particular to the local people, and the rural development cadres operating in this area should have initiatives and be able to develop new works to solve these problems in fitting them with the local conditions. Therefore, it is hoped that the rural development cadres will know how to use this small pamphlet as a guide to marry what is written therein with their experiences outside, and with the local requirements to introduce a practical program of action for 1967.

It is the opinion of the Ministry of Revolutionary Development that the rural development cadres can only operate effectively if they do fully assimilate the five following prerequisites before going out to the fields for operations :

1. Reorganization and consolidation of the rural development groups after elimination of the bad elements who are incapable, lack zeal, and have undesirable personality.
2. The rural development cadres have been well trained in their job, fully understand the rural development policy and do believe in the eventual success of same.
3. The cadres should get along well with their colleagues in friendly organizations so as to maintain a good relationship with the local administrative, military and civilian authorities. They should coordinate their works in such a manner that the different gears of the big rural development machine can function harmoniously

and that the following slogan: "What People do, the R.D. cadres help, the Civilian authorities support, and the Military defend" can be carried out effectively.

4. The cadres should eat together, live together, work together, fight together, and build together with the People. Each one should be able to get the sympathy of at least three families in the hamlet, and be loved as if he was a true member of these families. They live with the people as long as possible, but without disturbing them. They should work harder than people do and only rejoice after people have. They must be loved, trusted, and finally accepted as members of the same village!
5. The cadres should not hesitate before hardship or any difficulties. They should firmly carry out assignments given them, and put their minds and their hearts in carrying out these assignments.

Saigon, December 27, 1966

Revolutionary Development Ministry

ANNIHILATION OF THE COMMUNIST UNDERGROUND

CADRES

1. GENERALITIES

The Communist underground cadres are those evil V.C. members who control the enemy's military and political infrastructures in the villages and hamlets; who specialize in stirring up people, exploit and terrorize them. These evil VCs are composed of under-cover elements such as Party unit members, and overt ones such as tax collectors, and village guerillas. They may live in the hamlet under legal status, or hidden in insecure neighboring villages. They are the ears and eyes of the enemy and operate mingled among the masses to serve their superstructural elements who are the communist armed units.

To annihilate these communist underground cadres means to break off the VC superstructures, to separate the VC from the masses. It is our key to victory and also to end the war.

But annihilation of the communists alone is not sufficient. It is necessary that they, or these infrastructures, be shadowed, followed-up for an indefinite period of time. The V.C. forces would try by all means to stand by, get reinforced and reorganized and come back after any defeats. Therefore, in areas where security is restored, we must remain always vigilant to avoid falling into the same tracks of the former Diem's administration by giving the communist time to silently and discreetly reorganize themselves, and develop their bases in the rural areas, South of the 17th parallel in the years of 1955, 1956 and 1957.

2. WORKS TO BE DONE BY THE REVOLUTIONARY DEVELOPMENT CADRES

Work 1a. To make a sketch of the VC infrastructural organizations in the hamlet with emphasis placed on the following ones:

- (1) The Lao Dong Party
- (2) The N.F.L., (National Front of Liberation)
- (3) The Executive Committees
- (4) The military units

Work 1b. To work out a name list, with background data and activities of the VC underground cadres belonging to the above organizations.

Work 1c. To establish a list with background data and activities of individuals who were born in the hamlet, and now work full time for the VCs.

Work ld. To make a census of families having members working for or sympathizing with the VCs.

Work le. To proselyte, make arrest, or annihilate all VC elements mentioned in items (b) and (c) by laying ambush, making raids or patrols, etc. ; to capture their weapons and turn them over to the local administration.

Work lg. To check out and keep under strict control such families as said in (d) to prevent them from having contacts with the V.C.

Work lh. To uncover, make use of or destroy all VC overt and undercover defense works such as hideouts, underground communications and tunnels, liaison posts, etc.

Work li. To draw maps of the hamlet, in paying attention to the position of the buildings, premises, defense works and the topographical situations therein.

Work lk. To make census of the hamlet's natural resources and manpower. To establish a family census booklet system.

Work ll. To coordinate activities with the local administration in establishing regulations governing the movements of the hamlet's natural resources and manpower, day and night. To fix curfew time, organize check-point system.

Work lm. To plant Intelligence cadres to follow-up the undercover activities of the VC infrastructures in the hamlet.

YY

C R I T E R I A No 2

ANNIHILATION OF THE WICKED VILLAGE DIGNITARIES

1. GENERALITIES

They are influential persons, members of the hamlet or village administration, or their relatives, having corruptive and oppressive acts vis a vis the honest villagers. They are known to everybody for their mischievous and oppressive acts against the people, but none dare denounce them for fear of their power and eventual retaliation.

So long as the underground communist cadres and these wicked village dignitaries are given the chance to exist, and to be free to do what they want, honest peasants in the countryside will never believe in the good will of the government and such words as security, freedom, democracy, justice, happiness are no more than empty, insignificant words to them.

The wicked dignitaries in the village are remarkable for their association with one another no matter at what level they are. Those in the village always seek to collude with those in the districts, province or hamlets. To make investigation of their activities, the rural development cadres should go to a higher level than that of their association. This requires much tactfulness, patience and determination to help the people.

However, to replace a wicked executive member of the village by a new, good employee is not enough. This new employee should be followed-up for another indefinite period of time, because he is likely to become corrupted after 3 months or 3 years in service. Therefore, while we seek to keep the enemy's infrastructures under strict control, ours should also be carefully watched.

We do not intend however, to carry out the two above criteria in a blind and mechanical manner. We should first try to proselyte people, and punish intransigent elements only. Meanwhile, vigilance should be our watchword in order for us not to fall into the communist trap of separation in using nationalist elements to kill or suppress the strongest anti-communist ones by sowing suspicion among ourselves.

2. WORKS TO BE DONE

Work 2a. To establish a list of individuals denounced by one or several villagers as being wicked dignitaries in the hamlet.-

Work 2b. To make investigation so as to confirm or deny facts denounced by the accusers, and also to gather more evidence on the case. To establish a file thereof, and study carefully the data pertaining to the association of the accused individuals and their relationship with the accusers in the hamlet, village or at higher echelons. Conclusions

should show that the accused person :

- (1) is innocent.
- (2) is victim of a false accusation.
- (3) does commit a light offense.
- (4) does commit a serious crime.

If no conclusions can be reached, further investigation should be made.

If no conclusions can be reached due to the case being beyond investigative capability of the cadres, the files concerned should be forwarded to the higher echelons for action.

Work 2c. If it is found that the accused person is innocent, and that the denouncer is also sincere and frank in his accusations, the accused person should be exculpated, and explanations should be made public and clear to avoid any further misunderstanding.

If it is found that the accuser intentionally makes false accusations, he should be investigated. If he is found doing so just for the sake of his own benefit, constructive talks with him should be conducted to make him renounce it. If other reasons are involved, the case should be reported to the Province with copies of same forwarded to the Central echelon.

If the accused person does commit light offences, and if the accuser only asks for a warning, corrective action should then be taken with tactfulness.

If he does commit serious offences, his case should be reported to the Province with copies to the Central echelon for appropriate disciplinary action to be taken or for prosecution to the Court if need be. Officials at all echelons of the Department who have contacts with the subject should also be informed of the case.

If decisions of the responsible authorities is too slow to come or are deemed not satisfactory, the case should be taken up to the Central echelon in a periodical meeting.

Work 2d. To plant Intelligence cadres to follow up activities of our own infrastructural cadres in the hamlet.

C R I T E R I A N o 3

ABOLISHING HATRED AND BUILDING UP A NEW SPIRIT

1. GENERALITIES

All hatred, conflicts and disputes among people in the hamlet, no matter how serious they are, and whether they are generated by the nationalist elements or the wicked communists themselves, they should be abolished, and give way to a new spirit:

- (1) A spirit of love and union among people in the hamlet to strengthen the community.
- (2) An open mind among the villagers to safeguard the free rights of the citizens.
- (3) A noble virtue to develop the five Confucius' teachings: Benevolence, Justice, Politeness, Intelligence and Confidence.
- (4) A nationalist spirit to defend the Vietnamese culture, while assimilating the good of foreign ones.
- (5) A scientific spirit to get rid of superstitious customs and traditions, to develop a radical, progressive working method.
- (6) A sense of responsibility for everyone in the hamlet to love the fatherland as if their home village, to abide with the laws of the land and to know how to make use of their rights as a citizen of an independent country.

2. WORKS TO BE DONE

Work 3a. To reconcile people who are in conflict. Hatred and disputes always exist between individuals, families or groups of people due to difference of rights and privileges, to opposition of parties or divergence of religious concepts.

Failure of reconciliation at village level should be brought to the higher one (province) for settlement.

Work 3b. To encourage families in the hamlet to aid one another, and the hamlets in the village to assist one another in big events such as in the harvesting seasons, the community development projects and reconstruction works after a big fire or a flood, etc.

Work 3c. To help the Hamlet's Revolutionary Development Committee organize a "Community Rally" once a month, and for one or two days, gathering people in the hamlet together for collective activities. The program for such a Rally should fit the local conditions. In general, it can be as follows:

(1) Meeting:

- (a) Flag ceremony, National Anthem, celebrations in memory of national heroes or outstanding local combatants.
- (b) Election of Chairman and Secretaries of the meeting.
- (c) Reports on Revolutionary Development operations completed during the period prior to the meeting. Critics, discussions on weak and strong points.
- (d) Studies of Press articles or Circulatory Notes or Memos newly received from above.
- (e) Listening to radio broadcasts on revolutionary development programs. Discussions.
- (g) Planning operations for the following month.
- (h) Make assignments.

(2) Community development projects:

To discuss and make assignments to do works within the pattern of the community development program. Make plans for new constructions. Maintenance and renovations of existing ones.

(3) Military training, physical exercises, sports and entertainments:

- (a) Military training, Renovation or maintenance of existing defense works. Practice of alarm system in the hamlet.
- (b) Sports competitions: table tennis, volley ball, football, etc.
- (c) Parade exercises.
- (d) Shows.
- (e) Slogans and banners.

Work 3d. To organize emulation campaigns amongst hamlets, or with neighboring villages on community development projects, military training, sports or shows.

Work 3e. To give assistance to families who return to the village.

Work 3g. To provide assistance to families having members working for the VCs. Appeal to the latter to return.

Work 3h. To endeavour good and influential personalities in the hamlet to run for elections to leadership positions in the village administration and people's organizations. To organize or assist in organizing free and

just elections.

Work 3i. To endeavour public meetings with large participation of the villagers. To encourage free expression of opinions and discussions in the assignments making. Everyone should have the right to speak, and the duty to attend meetings. No one should oppress anyone, and none should let himself be bought by or try to buy anyone with money.

Work 3k. To educate the little children in civic education. To teach them to be polite toward the adults. Never ask for money, candies from strangers, to be self-respecting and proud of being a Vietnamese citizen.

Work 3l. To make moves for the adults and youths not to run after money by leaving their village for the cities to make their living; instead, to stay at their places to defend their homes and hamlets.

Work 3m. To encourage the adults and youths to be sober in their drinking and not to gamble.

Work 3n. To launch campaigns for the young girls to behave themselves, to suppress prostitution. To advise the bookshops against selling obscene publications.

Work 3p. To encourage large attendance of the villagers, mostly the illiterates and poorly educated, in night classes to learn how to read and write, or to study more on history, geography, and customs and traditions of the country, etc.

Work 3q. To endeavour a movement for speaking, writing and singing only Vietnamese. To advise the shop owners in the village to use Vietnamese on their signs and advertisements. To teach the National Anthem, and patriotic songs to the villagers. To struggle against the diffusion of obscene music, songs and dances.

Work 3r. To endeavour the Hamlet's revolutionary development Committee and the Village executive Committee to build shrines, temples, to name the streets and public buildings in the village after the national heroes or outstanding local combatants, to compose poems, music, songs etc., in memory of these heroes and combatants.

Work 3s. To endeavour the families to save money or to cut short expenses in events such as weddings, funerals, etc.

Work 3t. To assist the Hamlet's Rev. Development Committee in organizing ceremonies such as said in Para.(3c).

Work 3u. To campaign for people to get rid of superstitious customs, and of belief in the existence of ghosts, spirits, fancies and

in the magic acts of the witches. To introduce the use of machines, western medicine and scientific agricultural methods.

Work 3v. To endeavour the youths reaching the drafting age to report for military service.

Work 3x. To urge the youths, boys and girls to earnestly participate in the people's organizations.

Work 3y. To endeavour those who have loans from the Agricultural credits or Taxes services to pay them on due terms. To assist families who are entitled to allowances from the Government to get them as soon as possible.

YY
Y

C R I T E R I A No 4

THE ADMINISTRATION AND PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC
ORGANIZATIONS

1. GENERALITIES

Since it has been recognized by all of us that the rural reconstruction and development program must be undertaken by the local people themselves, the people then must be organized into groups whose responsibilities are to reconstruct the village, abolish the present miserable life and build up a new, better off one.

In the hamlet, the rural development cadres are responsible for organizing people into groups such as the Youth (boys) Group for Revolutionary Development, the Youth (girls) Group for Revolutionary Development; the Children Group for Revolutionary Development, the Armed Youth for Revolutionary Development, the Farmer Association, the Struggle Hamlet, etc.

The groups will elect the Hamlet's Revolutionary Development Committee which will play a key and active role in the reconstruction of the village. The Committee should be elected in a democratic way, and permanently supported by the rural development cadres.

Besides, administrative units such as the Hamlet Board of Administration, the Village Executive Committee and the Village Council must be elected by the villagers in free elections. But elections alone are not enough. The cadres should try to introduce to the villagers democratic principles and train them so that they can express freely their wishes and aspirations to the representatives they have selected. In this way, everyone in the village will take part in the village affairs as if they were their own business, and the collective spirit then grow up.

2. WORKS TO BE DONE

Work 4a. To select, establish contact, organize, train and test good elements in the village for them to assume leadership positions in the local administration and the people's organizations.

Work 4b. To organize people in the hamlet into cells, groups, or Youth Associations for Revolutionary Development (to include Children groups, Juvenile groups, Adults groups, etc.).

Work 4c. Election of the Hamlet's Rev. Development Committee whose composition shall be depending on the local situation. In principle, the Committee should include 1 Chairman, 1 Deputy Chairman, 1 Member in charge of military affairs, 1 in charge of Cultural Affairs, 1 in charge of Health, one in charge of Agricultural Affairs, and 1 in charge of Reconstruction.

Work 4d. To assist the Hamlet's Revolutionary Development Committee to organize once a month and for one or two days, a Rally of all the villagers in order for the above groups and associations to meet, receive political and military training, conduct sports events, have entertainments and do community development works (Work 3c). To guide and conduct activities of the groups and associations for an indefinite period of time.

Work 4e. To help the Hamlet's Revolutionary Development Committee work out a Hamlet Charter setting up regulations and disciplinary actions for the hamlet people. The Charter should be abiding with the laws of the country, with the rev. development policy, mostly with the new spirit as described in the Third Criteria.

Work 4g. To assist the local administration to elect the Hamlet's Board of Administration and the Village Council. To endeavour the influential personalities to run for the leadership positions and the voters to go to vote.

Work 4h. To help the district authorities train the elected executive members if so requested.

Work 4i. To organize ceremony for the proclamation of the Hamlet's Charter and oath-taking ceremony for the Hamlet's Board of Administration and the Hamlet's Revolutionary Development Committee. To swear to be absolutely honest and economical, to serve the people and never to withdraw before hardship and difficulties.

C R I T E R I A No. 5

TO ORGANIZE THE STRUGGLE AGAINST V.C.

1. GENERALITIES

The Combat Sections and the Armed Youths For Rural Development are two democratic organizations in the hamlet.

Each hamlet is geographically divided into many sections. Each Combat section is a unit to include all those living in the section together: male, female, old, young, etc., with each one given a clear assignment in the common defense of the section. Each combat section includes many cells such as police cells, combat cells, liaison cell and first aid cell.

The duty of the police cell is to give the alarm when the presence of the enemy is uncovered near the village.

In the event of an attack, each combat cell, (which includes a group of families) has 5 principal duties to carry out:

- (1) To give a chain of alarm throughout the village.
- (2) To set up barricades, mobile and secret, at previously selected locations.
- (3) To close all hamlet gates, houses' back and front doors, etc.
- (4) Those who have active combat mission will join their posts.
- (5) If the VCs come to the village, to practice the three "Don't" rules : Don't know, Don't give, and don't work (for them).

The liaison cell is responsible for alarming the neighboring sections, the Rev. Development Cadres, the Village Self Defense or other Armed Forces operating in the area.

The first aid cell will take care of the wounded persons.

The Armed Youth for rural development includes the best elements of the Youth Groups, being very active and having good will to serve. They are armed and are organized into many combat cells.

The responsibilities of a combat cell, in the event of an attack is to fight from one position to another, from one battle line to another, to shoot isolate gunfires on the enemy, to set booby traps, to throw grenades, scare and wear out the enemy forces. The combat cell should be ready to withdraw into secret underground tunnels or out of the village and serve as vanguard forces of the military units to counterattack in big operations.