

Bohannon

Chieu Hoi Support Committee Meeting

1. Meeting with Thoai, Khac, several assistants of Thoai, Aspirant Dinh translator, and self, 1600 hours this date, at Ministry of Civic Action, called for purpose of discussing Chieu Hoi magazine (proposed) Told Thoai believed it agreed at Chieu Hoi SubCommittee that no magazine, but newsletter. He claimed decision left up to committee of himself, Khach, and I. Presented proposal for magazine (when translated will be attached) costing VN\$ 60,000 per month. After my screaming died away, (and my counter-proposal for mimeo newsletter) came up with suggestion made, he said, by Min Hieu, for preparation of 2 page supplement to a regular commercial newspaper, of which paper MinCivAction would buy 500 copies an issue, for dissemination to cadres in the field. After discussion it was agreed that, after learning name of proposed paper, I would seek policy approval for the expenditure of the amount named, to secure an insert perhaps twice a week, in return for 1500 copies of the whole paper which could then be distributed in the provinces.

2. Nothing done yet about setting up a news bureau. After discussion agreed by committee to authorize VN\$15,000 (they swore adequate help would cost that much) for an editor, a reporter, and a typist, to start getting news together, making news releases. Quite a bit of discussion on types, etc., of releases; Thoai and Khac both believe that newspapers will not carry stories unless they are paid to do so. I committed USIB to getting out a six-eight page newsletter, 1000 copies, if they would come up with good material, until such time as decision on the insert idea.

3. Next topic was furnishings for the Chieu Hoi office at 15 Hong Thap Tu, and for operating expenses for 6 months -- all totalling VN\$1.2 million. Thoai

\$120 P.A. via

(after discussion my view that IMSE expected departments and offices to generate administrative equipment required) stated flatly that MinCivAction could spare absolutely no furniture. Agreed to study matter, but stated my view that under such circumstances I could only suggest to him that the proposed budget, with such justification as he might think necessary, should be submitted to the IMSE with request for special appropriation.

4. Discussed reimbursement for materials for 13 training courses for 400. Their view that everybody must be trained, and, anyhow, training forced on them by Ministry of Interior. Absolutely no enthusiasm generated by suggestion that bill be sent to MinInterior. Discussed my quaint idea that training 100 people adequately, ^{-should be more than enough.} with perhaps 150 pages of mimeographed material, / Finally agreed, upon receipt of copies of all material issued, to approve expenses for 4 courses already held. Also agreed that might provide for training 40 or 50 more, if selection of student body, and materials to be taught, and materials to be distributed, were agreed upon in advance.

5. Discussed principles of reciprocity in these matters, pointing out that these procedures had been agreed upon, by the presidency, as a means of short-cutting normal government red tape. Believ got some parts of idea across, when got into discussion of payment of travel expenses for inspectors - and why they (and other expenses) should be agreed upon in advance. Agreed, en principe, to reviewing travel already performed, with an idea to possibly reimburse, and to previewing future trips.

6. On note of good feeling thus engendered, brought out ECCOI PIOT. Maybe.

7. Meeting adjourned at 1900.