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Interministerial Committee on Strategic Hamlets
Subcommittee on Workers and Farmers Affairs
Strategic Hamlet Program
Provincial Development Plans

As the Strategic Hamlet Program moves from its Establishment Phase into its Development Phase, additional plans called Provincial Development Plans will be required. They will be drawn up by special technical teams representing the Interministerial Strategic Hamlet Subcommittee on Workers and Farmers Affairs in collaboration with the Province Chief and his technical services visiting each province just as the Provincial Rehabilitation Plans were prepared.

These technical teams will attempt to visit each province in Vietnam before September 1, 1963. Visits in each province will last approximately four days during which existing Provincial Plans will be studied and a comprehensive Provincial Development Plan drafted. This Draft Plan will then be screened by the Interministerial Subcommittee on Workers and Farmers Affairs and approved for immediate implementation by the Province following the same procedures as for Provincial Rehabilitation Plans.

In order to help the Provinces prepare for the visits of the technical teams, an Outline of Basic Planning Information is being sent together with this notice which should be filled in by the concerned province authorities as quickly as possible.

Those parts of this outline pertaining to specific Provincial Technical Services should be referred to those service chiefs for study and preparation prior to the arrival of the technical teams. Based on the planning information assembled, each province will draft its Provincial Development Plan in such manner as to most rapidly assist the hamlet peoples to improve their social, cultural and economic conditions. The Province Chief should consult with his technical services and coordinate their development of the particular plan for their service which will become parts of the comprehensive Provincial Development Plan. This comprehensive Provincial Development Plan is to be proposed in draft by the provinces prior to the arrival of the technical team, and will be presented to the team upon its arrival.

Plans developed by the Province for inclusion in the comprehensive plan should be practical and realistic, having a maximum benefit for the hamlet population and capable of being completed in one year from September 1, 1963.

Draft plans should take into consideration all resources (funds, materials, foodstuffs) which will be available to the Province including those regularly allocated from the Central Ministries, those from regular programs of foreign aid and voluntary agencies, those from Province Budgets and those from local district, village and hamlet levels. Only after including these resources should special additional assistance be requested in the Provincial Development Plan Draft.

Special additional assistance funds, materials, and foodstuffs to

help Provinces carry out their Provincial Development Plans will be allocated by the Interministerial Subcommittee according to priority need and against initial screening carried out by the technical teams. However, any special additional funds are severely limited and the provinces should understand that their plans must depend mainly on a mobilization of existing Central Government and provincial resources.

Provincial Development Draft Plans should include realistic one year goals utilizing all available resources for education, health, agriculture including forestry, irrigation, fisheries, livestock, etc.; public works, including roads, waterways, electrification; industry including handicraft, food processing; trade and finance, as well as any other fields which the Province believes necessary.

Self-Help Projects will be encouraged in order to achieve maximum utilization of local resources.

It is suggested that the following schedule be adopted by each province for the technical team visit:

First Day

- 0900 - 1200 Briefing by Province Officials presenting all information requested in Outline of Basic Planning Information
- 1430 - 1600 Presentation of Province Development Plan Draft
- 1600 - 1800 Discussion Meetings of Parts of Provincial Development Plan Draft by Concerned Technical Specialists from Visiting Team and Provincial Services.

Second Day

- 0800 - 1200 Continuation of Discussion Meetings of Draft Plan Parts
- 1430 - 1800 Field Observations, if necessary, or continued Discussions of Plan Parts.

Third Day

- 0800 - 1200 Presentation of Plan Parts by Technical Groups to Whole Group.
- 1430 - 1600 Discussion of Plan Parts by Whole Group

Fourth Day

- 0800 - 1200 Finalization of Comprehensive Draft Plan
- 1430 - 1700 Finalization of Comprehensive Draft Plan

Also, sent together with this notice, as a planning guide, is a copy of the Central Level Budget for 1963 for support of the Strategic Hamlet Program Establishment and Development Phases.