

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Assistant Director for Rural Affairs, USOM DATE: July 12, 1963

FROM : Robert Burns, Phu Yen Provincial Representative, Rural Affairs/USOM

SUBJECT: Unobserved Artillery and other Firing into Hamlets in Phu Yen

1. Despite objections posed to the 9th Division Senior Advisor, Colonel Anita, by the Sector Advisor and the USOM representative in Phu Yen, the following actions are typical of the behavior of certain units of the 9th Division operating in this province.

a. Unobserved artillery fire. Approximately 6 weeks ago in the village of Dong My, 5 people in one house were killed by a 105 round of unobserved artillery fire about 1500 in the afternoon. The local Protestant Minister was informed by the villagers and observed the bodies.

b. Approximately 3 months ago at Long Cao a village was ordered to evacuate. Two people were shot for being too slow. This was observed by the same Protestant Minister.

c. Continued reckless driving by 9th Division truck drivers in Phu Yen Province has resulted in the last two months in the death of one villager and in the injuring of others. This reckless driving continues unabated not only in Phu Yen but in Binh Dinh.

2. It appears miraculous that no more villagers have been hit by fire, since the artillery batteries follow the practice of moving their pieces out of, and then back into, prepared positions, without registering after each time the piece is moved. They simply use the old aiming stakes and fire their old concentrations on call without observation or registration.