

Gen Lansdale

Was with
Document

Doc 617
WN 46A

23x65

bo

Rural Construction Cadre Reorganization

1. Min Rur Const -- specifically one Mr Nhi -- is boiling out papers on reorg an-
izing the cadre like mad. To some extent they follow the guidelines establish ed
in the MLG-staffed paper "Strengthening the Rural Cadre Program" (or approx title)
but have a tendency to go off on ill-considered tangents in other ways. It is
commendable energy, apparently under pressure from Thang, but needs active US
participation and guidance. Unless it is happening as I write, there is nothing
set in concrete yet, but the mix is indubitably stiffening.
2. The principal question as relates to the GVN is, "How much pressure is on,
with how many pre-conceived ideas, from whom?" There are all kinds of possible
implications, including the rumor that this whole thing is part of a Southern
Dai-Viet -Catholic effort to build a cadre to bring back Nguyen Ton Hoan. Believe,
however, we can participate at the working level without getting mixed into such
political imbroglios, particularly if we know something about who admits to
current concern, and directions in the RCC.
3. The US side is an even bigger question -- how do we do something effective to
help, without getting into another inter-empire coordination dispute. [
4. USOM cadre man, Ivan Asey, new here, is most cooperative and desirous of doing
what is right, but is not operationally minded -- needs guidance, and wants it.
Hudson, who has had long contact with cadre programs, alerted me last night to
the feverish pace on the GVN side. He and Asey are at RC now, trying to find
out how much heat, and how we may best help directly. They also have a small
stack of suggested changes, and questions, based on the approved paper referred
to above. I will see them again about 1230, and probably be in touch with them
through the week-end, trying to work out on non-controversial aspects, and
perhaps getting some informal JUSPAO and, perhaps, MAC-V, input, unless otherwise
directed.
5. Orders and informations, please.

AS 15
Chronicle
no refly