

BRIEFING FOLDER

F O R

AN GIANG PROVINCE

1967

---

## P R O V I N C E

TOTAL 38 254 174,394 469,763

CHAU ĐỐC

KIÊN PHONG

SADEC

KIÊN GIANG

PHONG DINH

CHỢ MỚI LONG BIÊN

KIÊN AN

MỸ HÒI ĐÔNG

BÌNH HOÀ

HÒA BÌNH THẠNH

BÌNH DÚC

LONG XUYẾN

MỸ PHƯỚC

MỸ THUẬN

MỘC LỘ

THỐT NÚT

TRUNG NHỰ

THUẬN HƯNG

THANH QUỚI

THOAN HẠ

VĨNH TRẠCH

VĨNH CHÂNG

PHU HÒA

VĨNH TRẦN

VĨNH NHÀN

VĨNH PHÚ

DINH M

VONG THÈ

HUE DUC

THUỐI SƠN

## A N G I A N G P R O V I N C E

### H I S T O R Y

The present boundaries of An Giang Province were drawn in 1964. At that time the former province of An Giang was divided into two provinces--An Giang and Chau Doc. The recent history of this area is closely related to the history of the Hoa Hao Buddhist sect. It was in the village of Hoa Hao located in old province of An Giang (now Chau Doc) that the sect began.

Hoa Hao Buddhism, essentially a reform movement, was founded in 1939 by Huynh Phu So. Because of the popular doctrine of the founder, the sect soon numbered two million well-organized followers.\* This created a force that the government in Saigon (French, Japanese or Vietnamese) has had to deal with. On April 16, 1947, after a brief but unsuccessful flirtation between the Viet Minh and the Hoa Hao, the Viet Minh assassinated Huynh Phu So. Since that day the Hoa Hao have been strongly anti-communist.

Today An Giang and Chau Doc remain the center of strength of the Hoa Hao movement. From 1946 to 1956 the Hoa Hao were the controlling faction in this area. After 1956 they were allied with the central government but cooperation was poor. Following the November 1, 1963 and February 1964 coup d'etats, the sect has been encouraged by the central government and has become a strong supporter of the government.

\* Figure from the official Hoa Hao biography of Huynh Phu So.

# A N G I A N G P R O V I N C E

## PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

### Topography

With the exception of a few low mountains in Hue Duc District, the province is a near sea level plain situated in the Mekong Delta. Bounded on one side by the Mekong River and divided by the Bassac River, the province has an extensive system of rivers and canals used for irrigation and communication. The province has an area of 1,743 square kilometers.

### Communications

While inadequate for the actual and prospective needs of the area, An Giang's intra-province roads still constitute the longest serviceable road network in the country. All season roads link Long Xuyen with the principal towns of nearby provinces such as the Fourth Region Headquarters City of Can Tho, Rach Gia on the coast and Chau Phu toward the Cambodian border. The province's rivers and canals are the most important means of intra-provincial communication. Motorized sampans carry people and produce throughout the province.

# A N   G I A N G   P R O V I N C E

## P E O P L E

### 1. Distribution

The province population is 469,763. With the exception of Long Xuyen and the district towns, the population is stretched along the edges of canals and rivers in the manner characteristic of rural populations dependent upon water transportation.

Population of Long Xuyen	29,324
No. of Districts	4
No. of Villages	38
No. of Hamlets	254

### 2. Religious Composition

Hoa Hao	70.6%
Catholic	11.3%
Buddhist	4.4%
Cao Dai	4.1%
Confucian	5.4%
Others	4.2%

### 3. Ethnic Groups

There are no large minority ethnic groups in the province. Of the total population about 5,000 people are either Chinese or Cambodian descent.

## A N   G I A N G   P R O V I N C E

### GOVERNMENT

The fact that An Giang Province is about 95% secure makes it unique in Vietnam. Because of the security the province enjoys, the government can function normally, the roads and waterways are traveled freely and the vast economic potential of the province can be exploited in a rational manner.

This security status was not gained by military means alone. A combination of factors—the land is generally devoid of cover, a system of manned outposts strategically situated, a preponderantly ~~anti-communist~~ population (largely Hoa Hao and Catholic) and a favorable outlook for increased economic development—have combined to produce the conditions necessary for the exclusion of the Viet Cong. The military role is that of alertness and prevention.

To take advantage of the favorable situation the Provincial Government, with the assistance of Government of Vietnam and the United States, has begun a long range development program.

The 2½ years development program (July 1966 - 1968) goals call for the increase of real per capita income by 30%; providing elementary education for all children; and improving local administration to promote honest, dedicated government.

The province is administratively divided into 4 districts comprising 6 cantons, 38 villages and 254 hamlets.

A N G I A N G P R O V I N C E

G V N O F F I C I A L S

Province Chief

Name: Lt. Col. Ly Ba Pham

Age: 46

Language Ability: English, French

Lt. Col. Pham was assigned to his present position on February 8, 1966. His previous position was Province Chief of Chau Doc Province.

Deputy Province Chief for Administration

Name: Tran Duc Thanh

Language Ability: English, French

Mr. Thanh is a graduate of the National Institute of Administration. He was assigned to the province in May, 1966. Previously, Mr. Thanh served as the Deputy Province Chief for Administration in Ba Xuyen. He has also served as District Chief in Ba Xuyen and An Xuyen.

Chau Thanh District

District Chief	Capt Truong van Ta	Language Ability:	French
Deputy for Administration	Le Huu Nghia	" "	French

Cho Moi District

District Chief	Capt Le Ba Long	Language Ability:	French
Deputy for Administration	Doan Nhut Chi	" "	French

Hue Duc District

District Chief	Capt Nguyen ngoc Diep	Language Ability:	French
Deputy for Administration	Ha Tan Hoanh	" "	French

Thot Not District

District Chief	Maj Nguyen Minh Tam	Language Ability:	French
Deputy for Administration	Hua van Kien	" "	French

## A N G I A N G P R O V I N C E

### MACV/CORDS OFFICIALS

Provincial Senior Advisor . . . . .	LtC William J. WHITENER
Provincial Advisor for Mil. Affairs . . . . .	Maj. William L. COLE
Cho Moi District Senior Advisor . . . . .	Maj. William E. BONNSTETTER
Chau Thanh District Senior Advisor . . . . .	Maj OTTE
Thot Not District Senior Advisor . . . . .	Maj Sam C. SETO, Jr
Hue Duc District Senior Advisor . . . . .	Maj WILKINSON
RF/PF Advisor . . . . .	Maj Edward R. GEAR
S-2 Advisor . . . . .	Capt Ronald J. MEYER
Psywar Advisor . . . . .	Capt Fidencio R. BARRERA
Provincial Advisor for NLD . . . . .	Abel VELA
Assistant Deputy for CORDS . . . . .	Bliss H. GROFT
Assistant Provincial Officer for NLD . . . . .	Charles L. MUSICK
Assistant Provincial Officer for NLD . . . . .	Charles L. DARIS
Assistant Provincial Officer for NLD . . . . .	Stephen H. WHILDEN
Assistant Provincial Officer for Agriculture . . . . .	James H. LIVINGSTON
Provincial Advisor for Public Safety . . . . .	Frederick H. JANZEN
Provincial Advisor for Info/Psyops . . . . .	Thompson GRUNWALD
Provincial Advisor for Info/Psyops . . . . .	Thomas M. MARTIN, Jr
Land Reform, Soil Scientist . . . . .	Allen H. REIMER
Land Reform, Corps of Engineers . . . . .	Elon H. BOMBERGER
Land Reform, Corps of Engineers . . . . .	Elvin Z.W. COMFY
Provincial Advisor for NRECA . . . . .	M. Earl MOODY
Provincial Advisor for Rev. Dev. Cadre . . . . .	Skip. WEST
MILPHAP Commander . . . . .	Capt. Ellist C. MOON
SEABEE Commander . . . . .	Lt. (jg) SCOFIELD



## A N   G I A N G   P R O V I N C E

### E C O N O M Y

The major economic activity of An Giang Province is agriculture. The primary crop is floating rice. Last year, with 174,000 hectares under cultivation, approximately 220,000 metric tons of rice were produced. Of this amount almost 100,000 tons were exported. With the introduction of modern farming methods and improved seed, rice production in the province can be doubled.

Secondary crops, such as mung beans, soy beans, fruit trees, and corn are an important source of money for the farmers. In this area, with the introduction of improved seed and better method of cultivation, almost unbelievable increases in cash income are possible. The recent introduction of an improved type of soy bean seed combined with better cultivation methods resulted in an increase of up to 3 times the yield of previous years. This type of progress is possible with other secondary crops and an expanded program to increase production of such crops is now underway.

Quarrying is an important industry in the province. Nui Sap, in Hue Duc District, is one of the few sources of rock in the Delta area. Presently forty-two contractors are working at the quarry site. A program to expand rock production (involving both private contractor and the Vietnamese Public Works Ministry) is now being implemented. This program, to introduce modern methods of rock production and the opening of a new rock face, will be carried out as a joint Vietnamese - U.S., - Chinese project. In one year rock production is expected to be 500,000 cubic meters which is double the 1966 production.

Industries related to agriculture will be an important economic activity in the near future. Plans to encourage the expansion of such industries are now being considered.

## A N G I A N G P R O V I N C E

### REVOLUTIONARY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The 1967 Revolutionary Development budget for An Giang Province is the largest in the country. Over 150 million piasters have been programmed for the development of agriculture, schools, roads and bridges, public health, self-help and to improve the administrative capacity of the local government.

When An Giang was designated a national priority area the provincial officials began work on a long range program. In Dec. 1966 a meeting was held in Long Xuyen to present this program to representatives of the National Government. At this meeting the expanded program, the first of its type ever prepared in Vietnam, was approved in principle.

The expanded program was then refined for submission to the Ministry of Revolutionary Development. The final long range development program for An Giang Province consists of twenty different sections covering all activities of a provincial government. These programs are designed to increase the standard of living of the people, raise their real income levels, and to better prepare the provincial government to be of service to the people of An Giang.

During the period 1966-1968 over 350 million piasters will be needed to finance the expanded Revolutionary Development Program.

THE PROPOSED AN GIANG REVOLUTIONARY  
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

GOALS:

- . A Land Reform Program which will carry out within 2 years all outstanding reform measures under existing laws and develop further ways to secure some land ownership for remaining tenants.
- . Increase real per capita income 30% in 2 years.
- . Improve educational opportunities to provide:
  - elementary education for all children in 2 years
  - vocational high schools in each district in 1 year
  - an A & M college
- . Improve local administration to promote honest inspired government for the people.
- . Maintain and improve existing security conditions.

ACTION AREAS:

LAND REFORM

Status and Proposed Activities 1966-1967

A. Rental Contracts (Ordinance #2 Jan. 1955)

. No. existing to be investigated	48,352
. No. already renewed	2,419

B. Land Redistribution (Ordinance #57 Oct. 1956)

. Farmers' Title Status	
- No. with Provisional Titles	7,452
- No. with Final Titles	297
- Waiting for Final Titles	7,155

- . Expropriation Status
    - Area expropriated 1,360 Ha.
    - Area awaiting expropriation 11,580 Ha.
  - . Distribution of Former French Lands
    - Annexed to Cai San 1,988 Ha.
    - To be distributed 5,720 Ha.
  - . Distribution of GVN land to squatters
    - No. of cases identified: 994 for 19,150 Ha.
    - Claims made to GVN : 410 for 2,396 Ha.
  - . Distribution of Land Titles at Cai San, Status
    - No. awaiting: 4,530 of which 3,000 are ready
- Action on above can be completed in 2 years at estimated cost of 25,000,000 VN\$.
- C. Explore additional ways to redistribute land since large majority of An Giang farmers will still be tenants after action B above are completed, i.e. purchase, law revision, etc.

#### AGRICULTURE

- . Extend secondary crops production by 10,000 ha. in two years, soybeans, melons, corn, vegetables, etc.
- . Double hog production, increase sheep, beef and poultry production 50% in two years.
- . Extend farmers organizations to all villages in one year.
- . Improve processing of agricultural products, especially rice and sugar milling; encourage through loans new processing facilities, feed mills, etc., by private investors + farmers groups.
- . Strengthen farm handicraft production.

- . Ensure that agricultural supplies are freely available in the market to farmers at fair prices.
- . Ensure fair prices to farmers for rice and other crops.
- . Carry-through Kien Tan Project and complete Kien Ha Project study.
- . Coordinate with Mekong Committee concerning effect of Mekong development on An Giang.
- . Study and implement new ways to increase floating rice productivity as well as double cropping with paddy and floating rice.
- . Select 200 local farmers, provincial workers and artisans for 3rd Country Training, predominantly short courses.

#### EDUCATION

- . Extend Hamlet School Program to all school-age children.
- . Establish vocational schools in villages.
- . Establish vocational high schools in Districts, extending secondary education.
- . Help establish A & M College - possibly Hoa Hao sponsored.
- . Provide mobile science exhibits.
- . Institute a hamlet literacy program.

#### PUBLIC WORKS

- . Increase present quarry production 500% in 60 days. Provide for sale 50 M/T of dynamite + drill rod, bits, etc.
- . Open new quarries in next 45 days (Hue Duc)

- . Increase Provincial Government Public Works personnel.
- . Rural electrification - light 38 villages.
- . Add extra generator for NRECA Program to cover 15,000 extra families.
- . Build more roads moving PW equipment from provinces where security precludes use and coordinate National and Provincial Road Programs, i.e. use national bridge beam plant.
- . Procure and assign 2 dredges to the province for canal-digging, cleaning and reclamation.
- . Effect technical study of canals and develop long-range water conservancy plans.
- . Improve ferries.

#### GENERAL

- \* Need to extend program to contiguous provinces.
- \* Program requires direct Saigon Level backstopping.
- \* Involve Third Countries, vol-agencies and people-to-people support.
- \* Establish complete program understanding with Hoa Hao, utilize the youth.
- \* Employ maximum self-help project efforts.
- \* Initiate Food-For-Peace work programs including possible support of land reform, substitute for relief.

#### PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

- . Establish position of Permanent Village Secretary to provide continuity in village administration.

- . Rectify acute disparities in pay scales at village level.
- . Improve Ministerial coordination
- . Seek solution of problem posed by draft of civil officials.
- . Reform postal service.
- . Train and utilize revolutionary development cadre for overall program support.

#### PUBLIC HEALTH

- . Strengthen, complete and staff existing facilities.
- . Deploy MILPHAP Teams to Districts.

#### PUBLIC SAFETY

- . Bring Police up to strength-formula for Pacified-Areas and improve mobility.
- . Prepare for transfer of security responsibilities from military to civil.
- . Institute effective police public relations.
- . Insure an effective resources control program.

#### INDUSTRY, HANDICRAFT AND COMMERCE

- . Promote private enterprise.
- . Provide local loan funds for improving equipment and financing new industries.
- . Have Chinese technicians make small industry and handicraft study.
- . Revive sericulture program.
- . Assist Fisheries.
- . Insure CIP permits sufficient stocks of farm machinery, pumps and agricultural chemicals, etc., in commercial channels.