

rcp3rd

**From:** "rcp3rd" <rcp3rd@cox.net>  
**To:** "Tran Ngoc Chau" <tranchaung@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 14, 2005 5:37 PM  
**Subject:** Another request

Dear Chau,

I trust you got my previous e-mail concerning the name for the anti-terror teams. In thinking about what happened during your first time in Kien Hoa, two other questions came into my mind.

The first question is raised by a claim by Neil Sheehan in his book, "A Bright Shining Lie" on page 312, (which he sources to a Captain J. Lapsley Smith who was the intelligence officer of the Sector Advisory Team in Kien Hoa Province in 1963 ), that after the battle of Ap Bac the VC recruited 2,500 guerrillas in the spring of 1963 right out of the strategic hamlets in your province. I seriously doubt this claim and wonder what you think about it? It could be possible that 2,500 guerrillas were recruited out of the areas in Kien Hoa which were still controlled by the VC but not out of the hamlets. You may wish to address this issue in your book for the obvious reason that, if true, it would mean the SH program under your leadership was not the success we all believed.

My second question is this. Kien Hoa was reported to be fairly well pacified under Pham Ngoc Thao who you replaced. Now that we know for certain that Thao was a North Vietnamese agent, it seems to me possible that he had made a kind of accommodation with the VC in the province. What is your view on this? Did you develop any suspicions after you took over the province that the situation was not nearly as pacified as Thao claimed? Did that make you suspicious of Thao himself?

12/10/05

Best regards,

Rufe

Pham Ngoc Thao *for Pham*  
Fact (functioned as reporter for NSC and  
 a year before going to Kien Hoa)-  
 Influenced by his Catholic family  
 Influence of Catholic concept of  
 honorable personal behavior - dignity,  
 protection, & Belief in Catholic good  
 of Vietnamese people - about all  
 Catholics had saved French system -  
 Shut them - personal and social  
 concept - don't understand it.

Drive Stress on character - family background.  
 Kien Hoa strongly Catholic protection - Le Roy - controlling  
 small, wealthy, paying not paying taxes, etc, so  
 heavily pro-communist (French interests) - reported  
 problem to Diem - so he had resignation didn't  
 think he could do the job. Anglicized in Kien Hoa. -  
 Diem "stay for another year" - Deputy, Admin area - It will  
 keep him (Chau) - very slowly not work Kien Hoa -

10 days after sending him to Hien Hao  
6 weeks to reflect on Thao - give me  
a report. Thao had close connections - very  
influential - was Major in Civil Guard - but ~~but~~  
in difficult position - Report - 570,000 inhabitants  
Wky Col. Thao requested Hien Hao to Civil guard, but  
Christo, from Long Kien to Hien Hao. People like him  
good polit. relation. - "some reject gave into to  
VC" - ARVN ~~army~~ suddenly under Co-Duan -  
undesirable ~~elements~~ - some neutral VN.

Nguyen Van DR (Phuoc Tuyet Province) - Lt.  
Col. in NV <sup>now</sup> Intelligence Service

Almost whole personnel from French  
system - VC are their right in the hau kinh -  
Nhu - Rounding of production - ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~hau kinh~~ - Chau among  
the hau kinh - ~~but~~ <sup>more</sup> Nhu asked up to 1000  
Thanh - Long An - "I know" - Chau  
~~so~~ <sup>high</sup> ~~center~~ <sup>center</sup>.

Chau slowly replaced ~~of~~ <sup>Ho Huu</sup> ~~of~~ <sup>of</sup> 9 Drift  
Chieu replaced

undesired agents in hau kinh - Consic base area  
work in families who call them back - didn't  
trust them as criminals - <sup>3 more years ~~now~~</sup> <sup>last 3 years</sup>  
Center - fewer teams - ~~center~~ <sup>center</sup> in area  
Consic - galleries team - ~~center~~ <sup>very person</sup>  
- big block - open their strategy to part  
part part -  
Then VC start to move out

When he comes back had to start over.  
Later put Consic - base under police control

- 1) What happen in your hau kinh recently
- 2) Who you think created that problem
- 3) What do you want + see  
small things good. The government to do + help you in  
The hau kinh.