

President's cause as Central Viet-ham's population is. Mr. Trân then finds a political action more needed than an administrative one.

- 2.- Central Government in Saigon often does not realize what really happens in a remote area or deep field level. It mostly does not wonder if field authorities have sufficient means to carry out their functions or not.
- 3.- The total figure for Vietnamese Government employees is 55.000 and 2/3 of them are working in Saigon. Mr. Trân visualizes the Government building as a top-downed pyramid.
- 4.- Out of 22 provinces in South Viet-nam 6 are under the civilian authorities: Mythe, Vinhlong, Tânan, Thudâmôt, Bêntre, Bària. However, the military authorities remain prominent and it happens that the partition line of powers and responsibilities is not clear-cut.
- 5.- As far as Mythe is concerned, the province is the area of a Military Section (Major Le-van-Thu), the headquarters of a Military Subdivision which includes 4 provinces: Bêntre, Mythe, Tânan, Gocông (Major Trân-thanh-Phuong). In addition Operation Theai-ngoc-Hâu (General Minh) over all covers both military and civilian aspects.

Actually the military authorities in Mythe have too much of a tendency to overlap the civilian powers and all the time they show up to the population. They are somewhat entitled to give orders to the province chief. On last October 26th the province chief ordered the memorial monument repainted. Despite the Major

knew it had been done he wrote the province chief to "remind" him so the Major felt he was above the province chief and the latter one lost his face.

- 6.- In theory the province chief is responsible for assuming security in his province. Actually the masterpiece of the security system, the Civil Guard body, stays outside his range as it is under the Army Command. Recently a band of 30 rebels passed over the province boundaries from Tân An. The district chief fled. He could not do more as he had no armed guards.
- 7.- Lack of security in some provinces legitimates the over-powers vested to the military. What is not to be recommended is the duality of powers which generates over-lapping, encroaching, and conflicting.
- 8.- Some comparative figures which speak by themselves

	Nhatrang	Mythe
Population	300.000	423.000
Budget:		
-foreseen	13 million	107 million
-really collected	13 "	7 "
Personnel:		
-province headquarters	74	36
-district staff	15-30	2-3

- 9.- This is a plan to provide more field personnel without the government having to disburse any additional money: by assigning civic action cadres for working in provincial services. C.A. cadres number 2.000. Assigned in 22 province at the average rate of 60 for each one, it will do:

$$60 \times 22 = 1.320$$

It shall remain 680 as reserve teams at the Civic Action Headquarters ready to be sent any place if wanted.

10.- The current process of operating of Civic Action presents the following flaws:

- 500 cadres are assigned for operating in each province for not longer than 1 month and then move over to another province. Such a short timing makes the action too superficial. It also makes the cadres speed up the completion of the monthly schedule and so upset the routine daily life of the rural population.
- Instead of living with the population and gaining its confidence, C.A. cadres request too many facilities and conveniences (boarding, loading...) They also have too much of a tendency to use pression and menace. The result may be opposite to the purpose that the Government aimed at first.

11.- It is pointed out that in the past and under our old emperors, nobody might be minister without having been a district chief, province chief... Nowadays some ministers have no background at all and some of their decisions are a nonsense if not a nuisance. A example: a Finance Minister happened to sign a credit delegation for the chief of province of Quang-Binh. Unfortunately province of Quang-Binh is outside the 17th parallel. Another example: an Interior Minister decreed the province of Ninh-Hoa as a separate electoral division at the last voting campaign but there is no province of Ninh-Hoa just a small district within province of Nha-Trang.

Wesley R. Fishel

November 8, 1956

Walter W. Mode

Preliminary interviews - Provincial Administration Project

You may want to take action on a number of points raised at our preliminary interview at Mythe on the provincial administration project.

Our report of the interview has been broken down by subject and placed on separate sheets (copies attached) for your convenience. The province chief was very willing - in fact eager - to participate in the proposed provincial survey. He will make all provincial resources available to us including copies of some personal letters to the President containing suggestions for improving provincial administration and Saigon-Provincial relationships. It was agreed that he would assemble his top staff, including provincial service chiefs and district chiefs, on Friday November 9, 1956 to meet with the team members and hear an explanation of the purpose of the Project and of our method of operation.

Province: Mythe
Interviewees: Nguyễn-Trần
Nguyễn tân Huong
Titles: Provincial Chief
Deputy Provincial Chief

Project: Provincial Administration
Date: November 6, 1956
Interviewers: Mode,
Rosenfeld
and Quân

Subject: General Administration

1. Secretary of State for Interior should have frequent meetings of provincial chiefs to coordinate policy.
2. No difficulties are foreseen in administering an area even 3 times as large as the present Mythe province (itself a combination of the former Mythe and Go-Công provinces)
3. Responsibilities and authority given to regional governors at present are an empty shell, despite issuance of Ordinance 57-a. President must take dramatic action to convince Saigon ministries that he really means it.
4. The need for getting technicians out from behind a desk in Saigon is becoming very urgent. In all of Mythe province - as richly agricultural as it is, there is only one agricultural technician, and he must spend most of his time in the office handling paper work.
5. While there is reasonable security in Mythe, the population is not entirely enthusiastic about the national program. More political work is required.
6. Province is understaffed; At Nha-Trang with a population of about 300,000 he had a staff of 74, with 15-30 district employees, and an actual budget of 13,000,000\$. In Mythe, with a population of 423,000, he has a staff of 36, with 2-3 district employees, a budget "in principle" of 107 million \$, of which only \$7 million ^{were} ~~was~~ collected.
7. Many high departmental officials do not have field experience and after make ludicrous mistakes (Example: A Finance Minister approved a budget appropriation for the province of Quanh-Binh... which is above the 17th parallel). Believes that a certain number of years experience in the field should be a prerequisite for appointment to high-level position in Saigon.

Province: Mythe
Interviewees: Nguyễn-Trân
Nguyễn-tân-Huong
Titles: Provincial Chief
Deputy Provincial Chief

Project: Provincial Administration
Date: November 6, 1956
Interviewers: Mode,
Rosenfeld
and Quân

Subject: Conflict between civil and military authorities .

1. Civil Guard taken over by military
2. Military attempts to run purely civil functions: Example: Military "ordered" Province Chief to paint monuments for October 26th festival.
3. Responsibility of military and civilian officials in provinces where military operations are in force should be ^{shutly} ~~strutly~~ defined

Province: Mytho
Interviewees: Nguyễn-Trân
Nguyễn-tân-Huong
Titles: Provincial Chief
Deputy Provincial Chief

Project: Provincial Administration
Date: November 6, 1956
Interviewers: Mode,
Rosenfeld
and Quân

Subject: Civic Action Program

1. Believes that there would be greater end result if program were operated in each province on a 50 men for 10 months basis rather than on a 500 men for 1 month basis. Believes that persistent application is required to make sure that good habits are instilled ~~and~~
2. Found that Civil Action cadres spent more time on propaganda than on "good work"
3. It would be helpful if cadres were recruited in the region in which they are going to work. Finds that his people have difficulty understanding C.A. cadres of Northern V.N. origin
- 4.- Civil Action cadres have a tendency to come into a province and demand ~~demanded~~ housing and other conveniences, instead of living with the population in order to gain their confidence.
5. Some Civil Action cadres attempt to achieve their aims by use of pressure and threats, rather than by winning cooperation. This attitude may cripple the program.

PROVINCE FIELD INTERVIEW

Name of Province: MY-THO

Project: Village finances.

Name of Interviewee: DANG-VAN-BINH

Date : November 13, 1956

Title of Interviewee: Chief of the
Village Finances
Bureau.

Interviewers: ROSENFELD and
QUAN.

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1o/ The Bureau includes 3 persons including Mr. BINH.

2o/ For a better understanding of the report let us recall that the village is regarded as an administrative unit which enjoys the juridical personality. The village finances are the mere business of the village council including budget establishing and implementing. However the Province and the District extend an overall supervision and control over the village council. That is why annual draft village budget should go over the District and then the Province to be approved prior to application. Moreover village budget over \$500,000 must go for approval to Saigon. In My-Tho out of 90 villages, 5 have such a budget. Actually the Village Finances Bureau is to care of a close supervision over the village budgetting and taxes collecting.

3o/ The Bureau has to check the village budget draft presented by village council. It is entitled to recommend any change or alteration it may think advisable. Its action is of a great help as most of village councillors are not used with budgetting process if not even illiterate. It keeps a copy of the approved budget for the Province archives.

4o/ The Bureau sees to it that money over a certain amount should be deposited in the Treasury and booked in a separate account of the

Consolidated Villages Funds. Quartely it works out a report to the Province Chief.

5o/ The Bureau also care for paying Village councillors whose salary is now supported for 60o/o by the Province budget and 40o/o by the Village budget. In fact as village budget is most the time broke the percentage supported by the Province budget is more than 60o/o.

6o/ Mr. BINH would suggest 2 things:

- the share for paying councillors salary shall be:

Village Budget	20o/o
Province budget	40o/o
National budget	40o/o

So the National budget shall be requested to pay too as it much profits of the work done by the councillors.

- the Bureau's personnel must carry out field trip and survey in order to train effectively village councillors in matter of finances.

- the obligation for over \$500,000 village budget to be approved in Saigon is not legitimate as actually Saigon pays so little attention to village affairs and on the other hand the province chief is in more adequate position to decide about.

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However, the Province and the District extend ~~an~~ overall supervision and control over the village council. That is why ^{annual} draft village

budgets ^{To} should go ^{over} the District and then ^{To} the Province ^{for} to be approved ^{at} prior to ^{implementation - further more,} application. ^{of} Moreover, village budgets over \$500,000 must ^{be forwarded} go

for approval to Saigon. ^{five} In My-Tho, out of 90 villages, ^{of} ~~7~~ have ~~such a~~ budgets. ^{over 500,000\$} Actually the Village Finances Bureau ^{exercises} is ~~to care of~~ a close supervision over ~~the~~ village budgetting and tax ~~collecting~~.

30/ The Bureau has ~~to~~ check the village budget draft presented by ^{the} village council. It ~~is~~ ^{may} ~~entitled~~ to recommend any change or alteration it ^{believes} ~~may think~~ advisable. Its action is of a great help ^{since} as most ~~of~~ village councillors are not ^{familiar with the} ~~used with~~ budgetting process, ^{and even some} ~~if not~~ ^{be} illiterate. It keeps a copy of the approved budget for the Province archives.

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competency may

Villagers collectively
 Consolidated Villages Funds. Quarterly it works out a report ~~for~~ the Province Chief.

50/ The Bureau also ~~care for~~ ^{handle the} paying Village councillors whose salary is now supported for 60o/o by the Province ^{ial} budget and 40o/o by the Village budget. In fact, ^{the} as village budgets ^{are without funds} is most the time, ~~back~~ the percentage supported by the Province ^{ial} budget is more than 60o/o.

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- the ~~share~~ ^{source of funds} for paying councillors' salary ^{ies} should be:

Village Budget 20o/o

Province budget 40o/o

National budget 40o/o

So the National budget ~~shall be requested to pay too as it much~~ ^{should contribute to these salaries since it} profits ^{greatly from} of the work done ^{performed} by the councillors.

- the Bureau's personnel ^{should make} ~~must carry out~~ field trips and surveys in order to train effectively village councillors in matters of finances.

- the obligation for over \$500,000 ^{that} village budgets ^{of must} to be approved in Saigon is not ^{unrealistic since} legitimate, as actually Saigon pays ~~so~~ little attention to village affairs and ^{since} on the other hand the Province chief is in ^a more ^{better} adequate position to ^{evaluate it,} ~~decide about.~~

4. Management of Provincial Budget Funds is of course the Province Chief business. However he is bound by some restricting financial regulations such as the 50-60,000\$ limit for all free of higher authorisation expenses, or the obligation of an adjudication or auction for some other.

The interviewees think:

- The limit should be raised up to 100,000\$
- Province Chief should be vested with more freedom in spending money. For example: this process has to be followed so far for all auction or adjudication: Request for by the interested service -----> Approval by the Presidency -----> adjudication -----> Approval by the Presidency of the operation -----> Implementation.

Messrs Trân and Truc fell the 2nd Presidency's approval not necessary. Mr. Phuc, Treasury Chief, thinks so for the 1st approval.

5. Usually suppliers take 6 months to be paid. In theory suppliers are permitted to denounce the agreement if they did not get approval within 50 days.

6. Monthly Mr. Truc is notified by the Treasury of the amount of the fund available.

7. He also cares for the preparing of the annual province.

8. He acts as a pay agent of the province offices personnel.

9. He monthly works out report on the expenditures engaged (at the name of the Province Chief) to the Directorate General of the Budget.

PROVINCE FIELD INTERVIEW

Name of Province: My-Tho

Project: Budget Accounting & Spending

Name of Interviewees: Nguyễn-Trần,
Huỳnh-Truy-Trúc

Date: November 13-14, 1956

Title of Interviewees: Province Chief
Accounting Bureau
Chief

Interviewers: Mr. Rosenfeld
Nguyễn-Quân

1. The Bureau Personnel numbers ^{six consisting of} Mr. Truc, Bureau Chief, and 5 clerks (3 are permanent and 2 daily paid).

Mr. Truc belongs to the regular body of public servants ~~and is paid~~ ^{from} the National Budget. All ^{this} 5 clerks are paid ^{from} the Provincial Budget.

Both payrolls are established in My-Tho.

2. The Bureau manages the expenditures ^{for} 3 budgets:

- National Budget
- Provincial Budget
- Foreign Aid Budget

while the management of the ~~assets~~ ^{of funds} collecting is carried out by the Taxes Bureau (see separate report)

3. National Budget expenditures are managed by way of granting delegated credit. Requests ^{are made} for ~~such a grant~~ ^{occurred} quarterly.

Usually ^{such} requests ^{are} ~~is~~ complied with, though

- + ~~Some~~ ^{there is} cut to the global amount,
- + ~~and~~ ^{too much} delay, ^{Because of the latter,}

Then suppliers are not willing to sell to the Government, or only at an ~~extra price~~ ^{premium} in order to ~~make up for~~ ^{balance} the loss due to the long ~~payment delay~~ ^{sell} ~~and~~.

Some times the province chief uses illegal ^{procedure} ~~by way~~ in order to have the suppliers paid. [For example, the food supply for the convicts, ^{which is} ~~as~~ a

^{from the} French regime, ~~leftover~~ it was primarily supported by the South Vietnam budget. More than a year ago the South Vietnam Delegation was abolished and the expenses thereof are ~~not~~ ^{provided} ~~covered~~ for by the Interior Department.

Six months ago the penitentiary service was ordered to be ^{transferred to} ~~within~~ the Justice Department. [As a boring result for more than 6 months the bill has not been paid at all. Then the Province Chief used a by way: he picked up ~~money from the Incorporated village Funds~~ and paid the Supplier but really it was illegal.

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4. ^{The} Management of Provincial Budget Funds is, of course, the ^{of the} Province Chief business. However, he is bound by some restricting financial regulations such as the 50-60,000\$ limit for all free or higher authority ~~on expenses~~, or the (obligation of an) adjudication or auction for some other.

adjudication

expenditures without approval from

The interviewees think:

- The limit should be raised ~~up~~ to 100,000\$
- Province Chiefs should be vested with more freedom in spending money. For example, ^{at present} this process has to be followed ~~so far~~ for all auctions or adjudications: Request ~~for~~ by the interested service -----> Approval by the Presidency -----> adjudication -----> Approval by the Presidency of the operation -----> Implementation.

adjudication in auction or both

Messrs. Tran and Truc feel ^{that} the ^{second} Presidency approval is not necessary. Mr. Phuc, Treasury Chief, ^{also feels that} ~~the~~ ^{first} approval is *not necessary.*

5. ^{It} Usually suppliers takes 6 months ^{four} to be paid. In theory, suppliers are permitted to renounce the agreements if they ~~are~~ ^{are} not ^{given} ~~that~~ approval within 50 days.

6. Monthly Mr. Truc is notified by the Treasury of the amount of the fund available.

7. He also cares for the preparing of the annual province. *report?*

8. He acts as a pay agent ^{for} of the province offices/ personnel.

9. He ^{prepares a} monthly works out report, on the expenditures engaged (in the name of the Province Chief) ^{for} the Directorate General of the Budget.

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PROVINCE FIELD INTERVIEW

Name of Province: My-The Project: Province administration Survey
Name of Interviewee: Mr. Nguyễn-Trần Date: November 13-16, 1956
Title of Interviewee: Province Chief Interviewers: Mr. Rosenfeld and Quân

By Nguyễn-Quân

Mr. Nguyễn-Trần has been assigned in My-The for more than a month. He was formerly province chief of Khanh-Hoà (Central Vietnam) where the National Government and National Cause have been soundly established. Such a background would partly explain his opinion about the situation in My-The. Following recorded are his main statements:

1. The security in My-The is far from being completely assured. Small bands of Binh-Xuyên and Hoà-Mao rebels now operating jointly with Việt-Công cadres continue to underwork the population against the government and squeezing him for supplies or illegal taxes. The population endures the fact without almost any reaction on the other hand legal authorities have not adequate means to deal with: the military rushes over all the time too late, and inaccurately which the civilian has at his disposal no armed forces. On paper 2 bodies of armed forces should operate under the command of the civilian: Bao-An (Civic Guards) and Dân-Vệ (popular guards). Actually Bao-An keep remained under the military and Dân-Vệ are not yet fully armed so that one may rely on them.

On October 10 a band of rebels passed the My-The - Tân-An border and penetrated the district of Bến-Tranh. The District Chief could not do nothing but fly over the My-The military-subdivision for help. But when regular army soldiers arrived the rebels had vanished (1)

2. Uy-Ban Huong-Chanh (village councils) do not match their functions. Most of the members are not progressive at all and feeling even their life is constantly threatened they are prone to compromise with rebels or

Quân's comment: In addition there is conflicting powers between province chief and the Major commanding the military subdivision. I have mentioned in my previous record.

Viet-Công agents by hiding them and paying illegal taxes.

As district chiefs are not able to trust village councils and self-defense guards they have refused a delivery of rifles to arm them.

3. As a result the population stays quiescent and passive. So far all social operations which need first full cooperation of the mass only existed on paper such as inter-family assistance, illiterate education campaign etc...

4. Mr. Trần explains the why of such a situation by stressing the only fact: lack of means for the provincial authorities.

Lack of means here stands for both:

a. lack of personnel. Mythe province chief offices have 36 employees against 74 in Khanh-Hoà province. Districts in Mythe number 50,000 to 112,000 inhabitants and district chief offices have 2 or 3 employees. The province security service (Công-An) numbers 53 personnel for a population of 425,000 (1 for 8,000 against 1 for 2,400 in Central Vietnam) As a result only 3 of 5 districts have a Security Agency and even for these 3 districts the personnel numbering 2 persons are just sufficient for routine and desk works.

Popular guards are not well chosen and the government cannot trust them. Besides their action is spoiled by the duality of responsibility to the Central Direction in Saigon and to the Province Chief. In principle they should be at the Province Chief disposal but actually and because of that duality they rather operate as spies and surveyors of the province chief (1)

b. Lack of clearly definite powers for province chief and authorities. Following the basic organizational decree province chief is overall responsible for the good running of all provincial services. Actually there is too much overlapping by the military (Ref. the previous Quân's Report.)

(1) Quân's comment: In my previous report I have recorded the province chief suggestion of incorporating Civic Action cadres into the province personnel body.

Mr. Trán suggests reducing the Dân-Vê figure from 2130 to 1830. The money saved (180,000\$) will serve to recruit 60 additional "cadres" at 2,000-3,000\$ salary.

5. Central Government in Saigon requires too many periodical reports (monthly and annual reports on general situation, quarterly on economics, weekly on political and security). It seems governing merely through field reports. Mr. Trán states that;

- Most the time reports lie as reporters compete to show everything is running right in their area.
- Central Government does not pay any attention to field reports which are rather bound to be filed in some hidden folder than carefully studied.

6. Mr. Trán wishes the appointment of some specific central level agency which shall work more closely with province authorities and above be able to appreciate good province chiefs in order to promote them. Mr. Trán thinks the existing Interior Department has not "in hand" the field administration and the Directorate General of Political and Administrative Affairs caves mostly of things outside the field. Mr. Châu, Secretary of State for Interior is in charge of too many jobs with no connection to the Interior.

7. Finances matters: Ref. separate report on provincial finances and budgetting.

8. About the consolidating of GoCông province, Mr. Trán is waiting for Implementing directives. Right now he has no plan for carrying out the merger except the idea of asking for the appointment of a 2nd deputy province chief. Anyway GoCông is a small province of 130,000 inhabitants and no difficulty is expected in consolidating it with My-The

9. Mr. Trán keeps emphasize the need of an extensive political action in My-The as the population is not yet fully gained to the National Government. In remote areas the joint V.M. - Rebel action remains strong. In areas where a relative security is assured, people keep be passive.

To my knowledge, Mr. Trán actually trusts his deputy, Mr. Huong who has been in My-The for more than 2 years, for all routine administrative matters and personally caves for what he calls a political action.

10. To many matters ought to be dealt at the province level instead of referring to the higher authorities. The reason of such a situation is the fear of responsibility of a large number of field agents who have not been carefully recruited and did not match their functions. Mr Tràn wishes a clear and definite formal discrimination of power investing each field administration level.

DISTRICT FIELD INTERVIEW REPORT

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Name of district: Chợ Gạo
Name of province: Định Tường
Name of interviewee: La-Khanh-Ha, Lieutenant.
Title of Interviewee:
District Chief.

Project: Provincial Administration
Date: November 14, 1956
Interviewer: Nguyễn Khiêm Hạnh

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Chợ Gạo district has 2 cantons and 13 villages with a population of 53,486 of all ages; a total surface of 200 square kilometers and a cultivated surface of 17,446 hectares.

I have assumed the district chief functions for nearly 6 months. I am also chief of the civil guard post of the district. Formerly, this post was sheltered by a regular army unit. With a small personnel of 2 secretaries and one messenger. I have very little time to go down to the villages to advise and confer with the village councils.

Particularly, for the present time, some military and administrative authorities are ensnared by the "dividing scheme" of the Viet Công. This is my acute concern that a number of the village council members are falsely denounced by the Viet Công agents by way of sending anonymous letter, to the intelligence service or the provincial authorities.

Those council members have a good serving spirit. They are discouraged when they realize that secret investigation is underway against them. Recently, the Chief of Tân Thuận Bình village council was arrested by the military authorities of Mỹ Tho sub-sector.

I would suggest that when receiving any anonymous letters, the upper levels should refer to the district chief who has a good knowledge about his area.

Agrarian Reform.-

Although I have some personnel, I must often settle the Agrarian Reform disputes. Most of the disputes are due to the fact that the landowners want to take back their land and put it up for sale. The priority of purchase is given to the tenant farmers. However, most of the tenant farmers do not have money. Very few of them have money for purchase of the land. They continue to till the land until the expiration of contract.

Education.-

This district has about 10,000 children of school age but only 6000 attend school. Every village has an elementary school of 2 grades.

We plan to build before the next school year. Each village will have a school of 4 grades. The actual primary school (5 grades) of the district has 18 classes. It was made of thatch and bamboo and is liable to crash down if there is a storm. I submitted a request for a new building long before the beginning of this school year but it was unanswered.

There were some popular education classes organized by the civic action team, but were not active shortly after the Civic Action team's departure.

Public Health.-

The infirmary of the district and the maternity room has few drugs and equipment. Sometimes I had to lend my Land Rover for bringing the acute cases to the town hospital.

Report.-

- Irregular report if it is necessary
- Monthly report concerning the general situation of the district.
- Sometimes, I had to answer the requests of the provincial services, for instance: request of conducting investigation for the security service or judicial agency.

Often I must type the report myself because my secretaries are busy on other work. Near to the province chief headquarters, I refer or consult it when there is any difficult problems.

Self defense.-

Since it has a separate organization system, I have some remarks as follows:

- When I need the self defense agents for handling any operation in the district, I do not have the right to use them beyond a time limit of two or three days. But some operations take longer, therefore I meet hindrances.

- Some civil guard units have withdraw from their shelters for creating bigger mobile units. Therefore, those shelters are left vacant. I told the self defense units to occupy those vacant posts. But the central office of self defense did not allow the self-defense units to do so.

I suggest the self defense units must be put under the complete disposition of the district chief.

Civic Action.-

One civic action team was in the district a long time ago. But its stay was short (about one month).

Therefore, the foundations and organization left by it fell a short time after its departure.

I also heard a rumor that the civic action agents were Central Vietnam natives who did not have a very good understandable speech for the villagers. Anyway, they were appreciated by the people and during their stay in the district, were very active in handling propaganda.

Besides the routine duties of my office, my main concern for the present time, is to bring more facilities in social welfare to the people and to assist the needy farmers: agricultural loans... These works should be done parallel with propaganda.

According to my opinion, the best way to get rid of the Viet Công influence is to eliminate poverty.

I would like you to know that during the last general election, two ballot boxes were looted and burned by the Viet Công agents, and due to that fact, this district was put under the direction of a military officer.

District field Interview Report

Name of district: Châu Thành Project: Provincial Administration
Name of Province: Định Tường Date: November 14, 1956
Name of Interviewee: Nguyễn trung Long Interviewer: Nguyễn khiêm Hanh
Title of Interviewee: District Chief

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Châu Thành district has two cantons: the first one composed of 9 villages, the second one composed of 13 villages.

Điều Hòa village, formerly My Tho town, was added to Châu Thành district two days ago.

Population: 75,000 all age + 50,000 of Điều Hòa village.
Surface: 21,700 hectares (not included Điều Hòa)
Rice field: 16,000 hectares + about 500 hectares of abandoned land (not included, Điều Hòa village surface).

1o/ According to my opinion, the Agrarian Reform law must be revised by the Government for amendment.

I have been assuming the district chief functions for 7 months. During this period I have settled more than one hundred disputes between tenant farmers and landowners (about land rent, landowner requests to take back his rented land). I have wasted much time on this job because all disputes must be settled on a conciliatory spirit. I would propose that the Government create judicial measures against the obtinate landowners and tenant farmers. Under the Agrarian Reform regulations, the tenant farmer will be exempt from paying land rent to the landowner, in case of loss of two thirds of the crop, due to catastrophe. But there are cases as follows:

The tenant farmer prepares his land badly. Therefore, his crop yield is low and he refuses to pay land rent under the pretext that he lost his crop. In fact he is lazy.

These cases have created many difficulties in the collection of land taxes, paid by the landowners. They say that their tenant farmers did not pay them rent. Therefore, they do not have money to pay taxes.

2o/ I have to refer or to consult the province chief headquarters only when I meet difficult problems, such as political matters.

As for the carrying out of usual duties, I observe the administrative regulations. For instance, the district chief is empowered to spend a sum below 500 piasters any thing above this amount, province chief's permission must be granted.

30/ At present, my office has as personnel, 3 secretaries I need a deputy chief of district or a chief of bureau to represent me during my absence.

According to my opinion, he will take charge of:

- general administration
- judicial matters
- security works
- miscellaneous

The district chief will take care of:

- political matters
- financial matters and accounting, and he must have plenty of time to go down to cantons and villages often, see what they are doing, advise them and talk to the people.

At present, I am setting up the village committees for social action in all villages. This is my initiative, aiming at winning the heart of the people. I am drawing up the plan of action for these committees.

40/ Since the self defense system had a new organization I have some remarks:

The bureau of self defense, established separately from the district headquarters, caused bad feelings to persons in charge of the village and district administration. Sometimes the man in charge of the selfdefense bureau did not refer to the district and village authorities in handling his functions. I deem it unnecessary that this bureau be separate from the district headquarters. Moreover, this man is responsible only for recruitment, salary which can be done easily by the district personnel.

50/ Every month I must submit to the province chief headquarters two separate reports:

- One reporting the carrying-out of the work of winning the hearts of the people,
- The other reporting the trip of the district chief to the cantons and villages and the general situation.

I think the first report can be included in the second one, as an item of the latter. Winning the hearts of the people is a long standing work and the result of it can be acknowledged after a period of 5 or 6 months.

60/ Education.- This school year, my district has 20 schools (elementary and primary grade) in 20 villages. Most of them are narrow covered with thatch, while the pupils are numerous. Number of pupils: 5000; Teachers: 64. Classes: 70. The popular education is almost neglected.

Agriculture: Fertilizers are very much appreciated by the farmers. I would suggest the establishment of storage of fertilizers in each village, in order to spare the villagers a waste of time in purchasing fertilizer in town. The storage of fertilizers must be in keeping with the cultivated surface of each village.

I would propose the cadres of Extension Service come down to the villages to talk to the farmers on the use of fertilizer.

Public Healths:

All villages have first aid room with ordinary drugs. Distribution of drugs are also made when I go to the villages. This district has two maternity hospital (one belongs to the refugees). One more will be established by Thoại Ngọc Hầu operation.

Information:

Formerly, this district had two information agents. But one pro-communist was arrested. The remaining agent is incapable. Therefore, his usual function is the distribution of newspapers, information bulletins and magazines to villages. As for the village information cadres, they are also incapable. I would like them to have a capacity equal to that of a civic action cadre. In this way, the information works would be very profitable.

Civic Action:

One civic action team visited this district a long time ago. They were very active in winning the confidence of the people. They had mobilized the people of a village to build a bridge at a cost of 200,000 piasters.

7o/ Because many villages have no public lands, they lack the budget for carrying out some works, such as: the repair or construction of schools. I have submitted the following plan to the province chief headquarters:

This district has 60,000 persons having census cards. Each month individuals give one piaster that I call "a piaster for construction". Thus, after each month, we have a sufficient sum which will be spent to reconstruct the poor village first; then the others, until all villages benefit by this reconstruction fund.

If this plan is approved, it will be carried out at the beginning of next year with the help of the village committees for social action.

Suggestion:

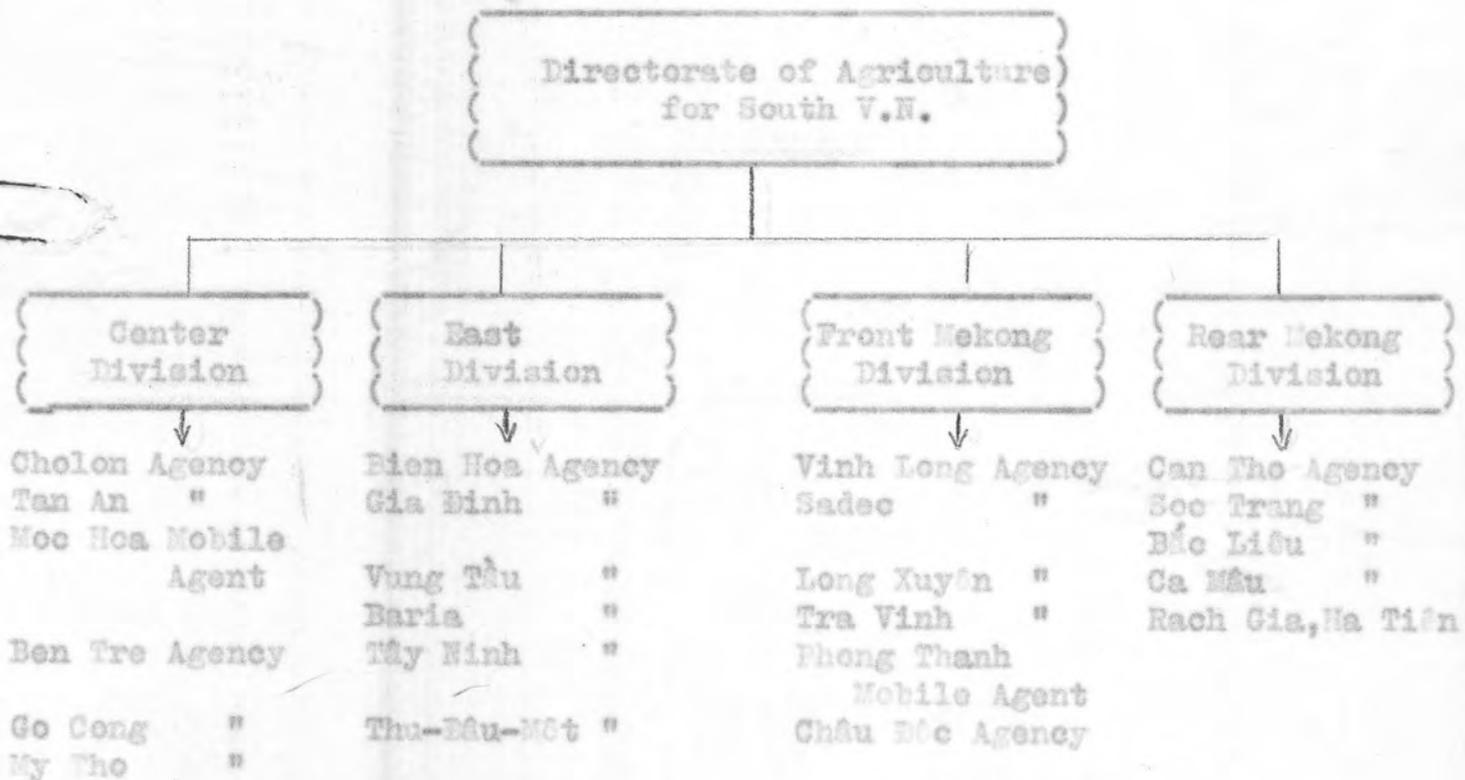
That the additional charge to land tax should be raised to 10 o/o in order to give more money to the village budgets for covering the village's expenditures.

PROVINCE FIELD INTERVIEW

Name of Province My Tho
 Name of Interviewees:
 - Nguyễn Phú Kiên
 Agriculture Agency Chief
 - Lê Văn Tot
 Nursery Manager

Project: Province Administration
 Date: 14 November 1956
 Interviewer: Nguyen Quân

1) This is to recall the field organization of the agriculture system in South Viet Nam :



Chief of Center and East Divisions are residing in Saigon.
 Chief of Front Mekong and Rear Mekong Divisions have their office respectively in Vinh Long and Can Tho

2) Routine procedure want the Province Agency to report to the Directorate of Agriculture for South VN through the Division Chief. However in case of emergency (pest or vermine break etc) he addresses straight to the Directorate and sends a copy of the report to his Division Chief.

As it is customary, the province chief extends over him an overall supervision on administrative matter.

3) The My-The Agriculture Agency personnel numbers just 1 person, Mr Kiên. He graduated from the Secondary Agriculture School. His degree is Cultivation Agent. Of course he deems he is overcharged and wishes having an assistant and a clerk appointed.

4) Functions of the agency are to promote agriculture improvement in the province. Actually they most involve in distributing or selling insecticide and fertilizer. He also acts as a feeler in case of pest alert, gives first help and informs the Division level for promoting a vast control action or all preventing ~~measures~~ *spread* measures.

In addition he assists the military in endance officer in purchasing rice for the troops.

5) These are some of Mr Kiên's complaints in fulfilling his duty:

a) insecticide is not supplied in time and in sufficient quantity

b) Short of transportation.

c) Fertilizers are not supplied in time or regularly. For this year it is expected that only tricalcic phosphate will be given.

In addition the distributing process for fertilizers is cumbersome. It is carried out by committees who do not take interest too much in the work and all the time bring delay.

6) Mr Tot, manager of the Plant Nursery, graduated from the Secondary School for Agriculture. His degree is Cultivation Agent. He directly reports to the Directorate in Saigon.

7) The nursery is located in the My-The suburb. It is an orchard of 2 hectares where local hardy stock of fruit trees and plants are grafted to stranger more prolific species.

It was granted \$220,000 in 1955 for carrying out an extension program and purchasing new implements.

Province Field Interview

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Name of Province: My Tho
Name of Interviewee: Trần van Hoa
Title of Interviewee: Chief of the
Cadastre and Agrarian Reform
Service.

Project: Province Administration
Date: November 15, 1956
Interviewer: Nguyễn Quân

o

1o) At the beginning of the Agrarian reform Program, the Agrarian Reform Operation was cared for in My Tho by a Bureau within the Province chief offices. Since June 1955, when a separate Secretariat of State for Agrarian Reform and Land Property Conservation was set up, the Agrarian Reform in My Tho was transferred to the then existing Cadastre Service.

2o) Originally, the Government planned to proceed by 4 phases:

1st phase: implementation of the rent status with reduction of the rent rate and signing tenant-farmer contracts.

2nd phase: partition of the public land.

3rd phase: encouraging the landlords to partition and sell their land to the tenant-farmer.

4th phase: forcing the landlords to sell part of their land over the retention rate.

Actually, the 1st phase was carried out, the 2nd and 3rd ones have been passed over, and now the recent Ordinance No. 57 provides for the application of the 4th phase.

In My Tho 43,384 contracts have been signed (of 3 categories AB and C). That means the 1st phase has been applied for 90 o/o.

3o) Despite the issuance of Ordinance No. 57, it is customary that further detailed instructions be given for its application. Mr. Hoa is waiting for the issuance of instructions of that type. At this time, he forecasts that My Tho province will be involved the most, as it has many large holdings:

From 1 to 5 hectares:	11.549
5 to 10 "	4.574
10 to 20 "	1.228
20 to 50 "	514
50 to 100 "	125
100 to 500 "	37
over 500 "	11

These are some big landlords:

Nguyen van Kiên	4000	hectares
Jacques Lê van Đức	3000	"
Trần nguyên Lương	2000	"
Đỗ van Kha	2000	"
Lê ngọc Chiêu	700	"

All these areas do not include parts of their estate which are on the territory of other nearby provinces.

4o) Mr. Hoa also thinks Ordinance No. 57 will show the unimportance of the Cadastre and the Land Property Conservation. Since 1945, too many changes have been brought to the land ownership without being registered. How can the Government detect the legal proprietor in order to pay him the land price? On the other hand, land to be partitioned shall be allotted first. Should the government fail in carrying out successfully these 2 operations, the final phase of the A.R. program might originate unpredictable social troubles.

5o) In the days just before the Geneva Agreement, most of My Tho province was under day and night or night rules of Viet-Công. Viet Công did not partition the landownership, but merely the rent-tenure and the rent-rate was evenly fixed as 25 o/o.

6o) For all detail pertaining to the Agrarian Reform Service operation, I refer the reader to my previous report on the same subject.

7o) Up to now, 300 conflicts between tenant-farmers and landlords have been recorded. 70 o/o of them have been settled by conciliation, 15 o/o still at the tribunal and 15 o/o self-settled by the parties themselves after too much derangement.

8o) My Tho Agrarian Reform Service has 6 cadres. They are strongly upset by being incorporated into the Civic Action Cadres body. They fear harassing job, and want no change. Their spontaneous and first reaction was to resign in bulk, but no action has been made to date.

Province Field Interview

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In My Tho 43,384 contracts have been signed (*in* of 3 categories A, B and C). That means the 1st phase has been applied for 90 o/o.

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question of how ~~is~~ the ~~land~~ will be able to determine who the legal land owner is

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60) For all details pertaining to the Agrarian Reform Program Service operation, I refer the reader to my ^{see} previous report on the same subject.

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80) My Tho Agrarian Reform Service has 6 cadres. They are strongly upset by being incorporated into the Civic Action Cadres body. They fear ~~harassing~~ ^{harassing} job, and want no change. Their spontaneous and first reaction was to resign in bulk, but no action has been made to date.

Social action and security:

A district committee for social action was set up 4 months ago. It is charged with going down to the villages to visit the needy people, to relieve them and to give them stuff, medicines. Taking this opportunity, this committee has to explain to the villagers the Government's policy.

Parallel with those activities, I direct myself the police operations which were launched often in daytime and night time.

Recently one Vietcong's meeting was caught red-handed in a night police operation. Up to date there are 540 rallied Vietcong.

I would like you to know that Cailay district is a hide-out of the Vietcong agents. In two remote villages, Vietcong agents have still collected taxes.

Report:

I submit irregular report to the province chief headquarters when I deem necessary or at the request of it.

I would suggest periodic report should be made once every three months.

Suggestion - Proposal:

- Actually every village council has a determined number of council members.

Because there are the populous villages, I suggest that the number of village council members should be in keeping with the population in order to facilitate the carrying out of the village affairs.

- To build post for the village self defense guards (each village has a self defense unit ranging from 20 to 30 men).

The military officers have made already an on-the-spot study. But nothing is done so far.

Report :

- a monthly report on the general situation of the district.

Proposal :

- to build the district headquarters. At present the district office is located in a private house.
- to build 12 class-rooms for the district capital's primary school which can receive only 1700 of 3000 school age children

Province Field Interview Report

-+noont-

Name of province: ~~Định Tường~~
South Vietnam
Name of Interviewee: ~~Lê Văn Dữu~~
Title of interviewee: Provincial
Inspector of primary education

Project: ~~Provincial adminis-~~
tration
Date: ~~November 19, 1956~~
Interviewer: ~~Nguyễn Khiêm Hạnh~~

1o) Concerning the communique of the Presidency dated June 1st, 1956 and that of the Secretary of State for Education stipulating the anti-illiteracy campaign, I have the following remarks:

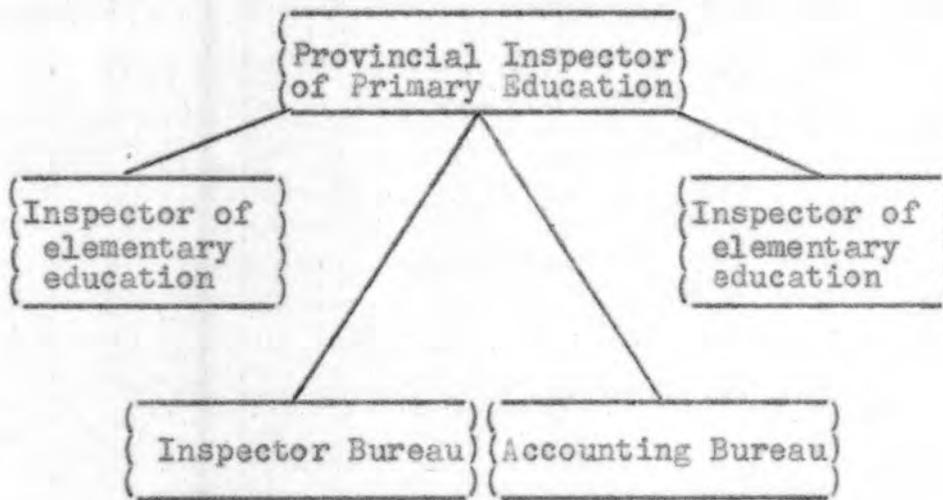
- The curriculum of the popular education class is too much for the illiterate persons who begin learning. As defined in the communique, the curriculum is consisted of: history and geography, civic education, usual hygiene,
- With a class term of 3 months, I think the teacher is able only to teach the illiterate persons to read, to write and to do the four simple operations of calcul (addition, multiplication, division...),
- As the communique pointed out that the anti-illiteracy campaign would be launched as soon as possible.

But now, the census of the illiterate persons in the province is carrying out by the five family system.

2o) As usual, before transforming an elementary school (three grades) into a primary one (five grades), I must request the approval of the regional Directorate in Saigon at the end of the school year. Even the summer holiday is expired and at the opening of the new school year, I do not receive yet the approval.

I would suggest, this can be done by the provincial education service with the help of the province chief headquarters.

30) Actual organization of the service:



In addition to the supervision of the whole service, I have to perform inspection trip to the primary schools. I planned to operate inspection trip twice a week, but for lack of transportation means I made only 3 trips from September to now.

One inspector of elementary education takes charge of the in-service training course, the time-table of the provincial schools, the organization of the teachers' meetings the establishment of new classes and schools.

The other inspector takes care of making the periodic reports submitted to upper levels, studying the reports sent from the provincial schools, organizing the ceremonies.

Besides, they have to operate inspection trip to elementary schools.

The inspector bureau run by 4 secretaries. In principle, I have only 2 secretaries but I take more who were teachers of Châu Thành district's school.

Their functions:

- Records and files of the teachers of the whole province,
- apportionment of stationery to the provincial schools.
- Correspondence
- Records, files and certificates of the graduated pupils.

The accounting bureau has an accountant and a secretary. They take care of:

- Keeping payroll of the schoolmasters
- Paying salary to the teachers and making payment bills to the mobilized teachers.
- Drawing up projected budget of the provincial education which will be included in the provincial budget.

Every month, they submit a payroll to the province chief headquarters for requesting payment bill with which they go to the provincial treasury to get money.

4o) All functions pertaining to technical matters of the provincial education can't be performed by district or village levels. Except; in case of need of help from them for getting people to construct or repair schools etc...

5o) Every month, my office has to draw up two kinds of reports which will be sent to Department of Education, regional directorate of South Vietnam, Province Chief headquarters.

- General situation of the provincial education
- report on inspection trip

I deem both reports are necessary.

6o) Following is the actual situation of the provincial education:

Number of primary schools (5grades): 16

Number of elementary schools (3 or 2 grades): 62

These numbers do not mean the number of classes. Each grade has from 2 to 7 classes.

Refugee primary schools: 2

Refugee popular classes: 2

One home-economic school

One workshop school

	Number	
	Male	Female
Primary school masters	53	45
Elementary schoolmasters	200	90
Teachers of home economic school	no	4
Teachers of workshop school	3	no
Probationary schoolmasters	49	37
Refugee schoolmasters	2	no
Gymnastics trainers	1	1
Primary and elementary pupils	(16,538	11,437

At the end of the last school year 1955-1956, I submitted request to Saigon to provide My the province 40 schoolmasters and an amount of 4,564,780 piasters for construction, repairing of schools, purchase of furnitures, but we receive only 10 schoolmasters (7 of them were transferred from other provinces). It should be pointed out that thanks to the administrative levels (particularly the province chief headquarters) our office had the following achievements:

- establishment of 22 new schools for this school-year 1956-1957 constructed with thatch roof, bamboo wall
- the provincial budget alloted an amount of 95.000\$ for repairing the schools.

- the province chief headquarters gave 284 pupil desks, 32 teacher desks, 30 chairs, 33 blackboards.

Our main problem is the lack of teacher. At present a teacher must take charge of 2 classes a day (morning and afternoon classes) although we have locally recruited 120 schoolmasters with the province chief headquarters' approval.

25 of these newly recruited teachers are hesitating in going to their assigned schools. They complained of low salary (1500\$ per month paid by provincial budget); remote schools lacking of security. Someone send back their mission order to my office and resigned. Someone worked for few days then returned to my office to ask for nearer schools to the town.

I think the education career is a toiling profession and it is not well-treated by the Government. Therefore young persons do not cherish it. Someone practice this profession for earning their money provisory and most of them are in a position of flirting another careers. They complained of low salary, slow promotion (from a daily schoolmaster it takes often a long time -(6 to 7 years) to be a cadre schoolmaster, while in administration, promotion is very regular.

7o) At present, many rooms are overcrowded (80 pupils in one room) and the teachers closed the lists and did not accept new applicants. In order to meet the demand of the pupils, new school would be built, and more teachers recruited.

Province Field Interview Report

-+noon+-

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Title of interviewee: Provincial
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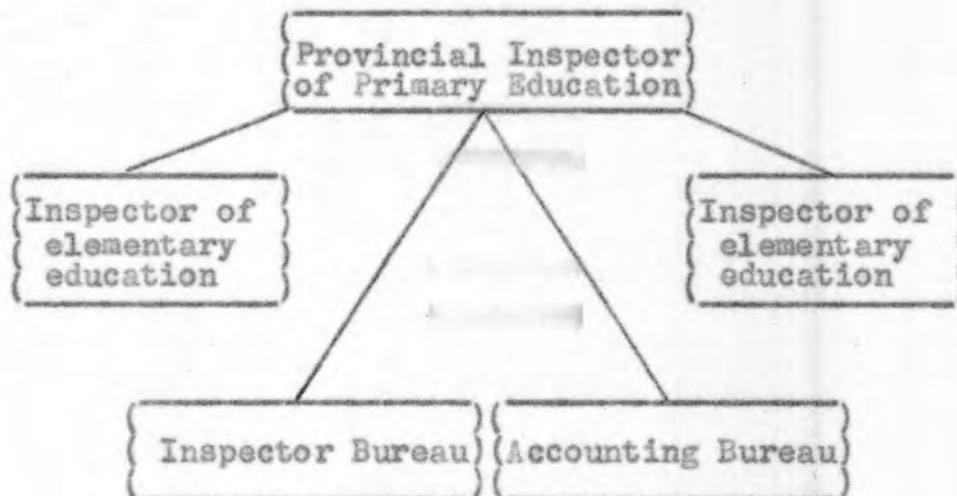
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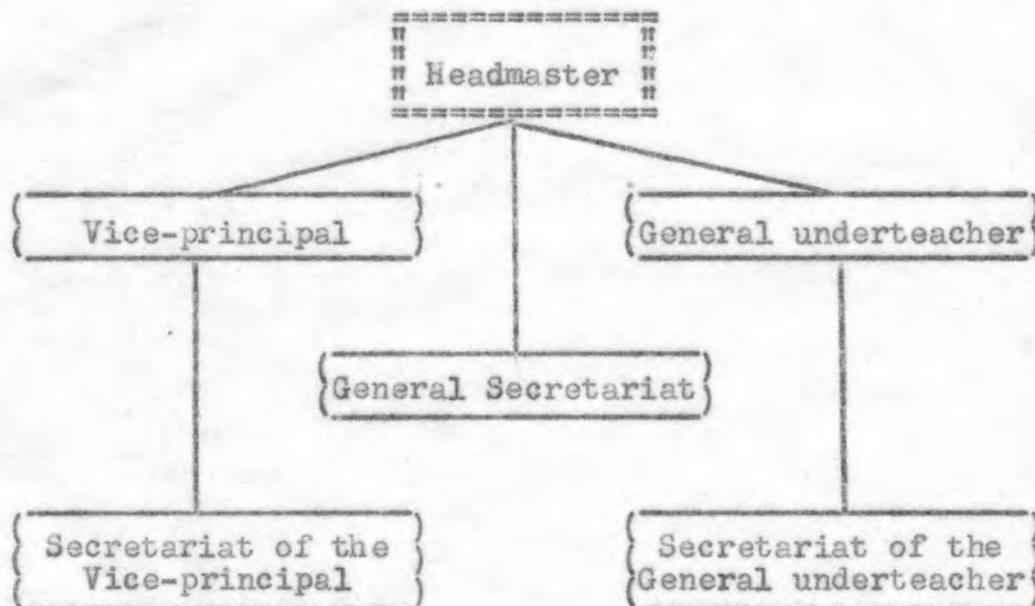
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PROVINCE FIELD INTERVIEW REPORT

Name of province: Định Tường
Name of interviewee: Phạm van Lược
Title of interviewee: Headmaster
of Nguyen Dinh Chieu secondary school

Project: Provincial Administration
Date: November 19, 1956
Interviewer: Nguyễn Khiêm Hanh



General secretariat is in charge of:

- correspondence
- accounting: payroll, salary, allowances
- relations with the administratives levels, with the pupils who apply for grant of scholarship.

Secretariat of the Vice-principal:

- Time table of the teachers and pupils
- To supervise the teachers' instructions given to the pupils.
- To look after the pupils' study

Secretariat of the General underteacher takes care of:

- the discipline of the pupils, the school
- the activities of the pupils' organizations.

Number of pupils

		{ Schoolboy }	{ Schoolgirl }
First cycle	1836	1174	662
Second cycle (1st part of Baccalaureat)	<u>449</u>	<u>307</u>	<u>142</u>
Total:	2285	1481	804

Number of classes

First cycle (four grades): 38 classes
 Second cycle (two grades): 11 classes

Number of teachers and personnel

First cycle: 36 teachers (2 mistresses)
 Second cycle: 2 masters
 One male trainer of gymnastics (for schoolboy)
 One female trainer of gymnastics (for schoolgirl)
 Nineteen underteachers (7 female)

Problems:

- a) Lack of class-rooms: At present my school building has only 33 rooms for 49 classes of both cycles. Only 17 of 33 rooms were made for class-room, the others were remodeled from dormitory, dining room.

Therefore, the class hours must be divided into morning class and afternoon class. The pupils must attend their classes for four consecutive hours which will make them tired.

- b) Lack of class teacher: There are only two teachers for 11 classes of first second cycle and 36 teachers for 38 classes of second cycle. The teachers have overworked and the underteachers have to teach very much supplement hours. Therefore the results did not attain the standard as expected by the Department of Education.

In principle, each first cycle class has 31 class hours a week, but due to the lack of teacher, it has only 24. In order to meet the demand, I would propose the Department to appoint at least 12 teachers for this secondary school.

c) Scholarship:

- The disbursement of money to the recipient pupils is carried on very late. The scholarships of school year 1955-1956 were disbursed at the beginning of school-year 1956-1957.

Therefore many pupils abandoned their study because of that lateness.

I would propose that:

- The amount of a scholarship should be raised in keeping with the cost of living.
Full scholarship: 200 piasters per month
Half scholarship: 100 piasters per month
- The disbursement of scholarship should be done once every three months
- The departmental committee for grant of scholarship should work at the opening of the school year in order to avoid slow down.

The formalities of recruitment of teacher should be simplified in order to have new teacher in time. Usually it takes 3 or 4 months for the each recruitment.

Reqs:

- one at the opening of the school year
- one monthly report
- one trimestrial report
- one at the end of the school year

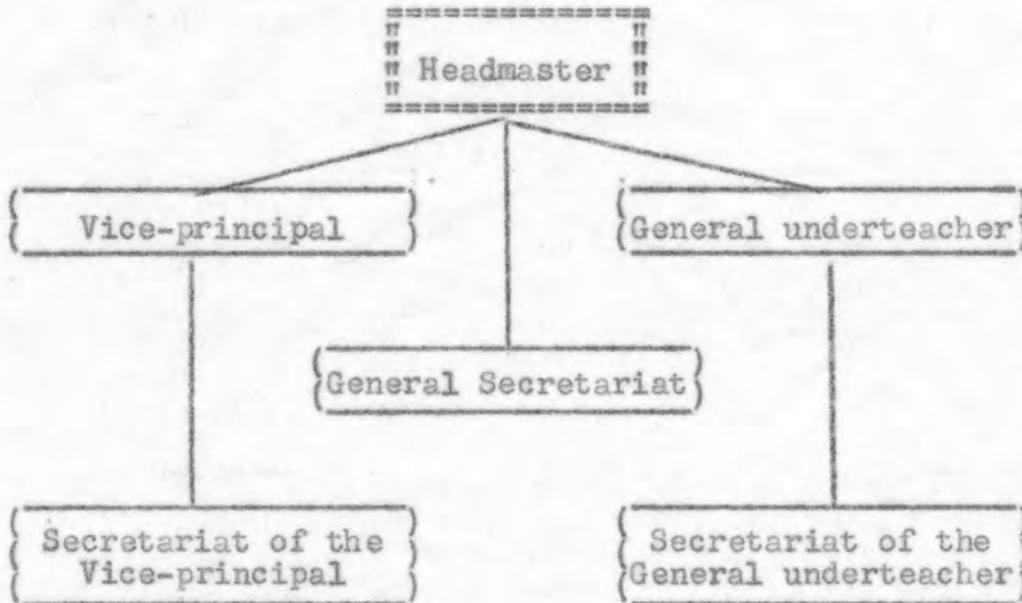
Each report is made in 3 copies: one goes to the National Department of Education, one goes to the South Vietnam Directorate of Education, one goes to the province chief headquarters.

- It is not necessary that all matters must go through the South Vietnam Directorate of Education. It is only a transmission of official papers of the national Department of Education. Some lateness (recruitment of teacher, request for supply of materials...) is due to that channeling.

PROVINCE FIELD INTERVIEW REPORT

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- correspondence
- accounting: payroll, salary, allowances
- relations with the administratives levels, with the pupils who apply for grant of scholarship.

Secretariat of the Vice-principal:

- Time table of the teachers and pupils
- To supervise the teachers' instructions given to the pupils.
- To look after the pupils' study

Secretariat of the General underteacher takes care of:

- the discipline of the pupils, the school
- the activities of the pupils' organizations.

Number of pupils

		{ Schoolboy }	{ Schoolgirl }
First cycle	1836	1174	662
Second cycle (1st part of Baccalaureat)	<u>449</u>	<u>307</u>	<u>142</u>
Total:	2285	1481	804

Number of classes

First cycle (four grades): 38 classes
 Second cycle (two grades): 11 classes

Number of teachers and personnel

First cycle: 36 teachers (2 mistresses)
 Second cycle: 2 masters
 One male trainer of gymnastics (for schoolboy)
 One female trainer of gymnastics (for schoolgirl)
 Nineteen underteachers (7 female)

Problems:

- a) Lack of class-rooms: At present my school building has only 33 rooms for 49 classes of both cycles. Only 17 of 33 rooms were made for class-room, the others were remodeled from dormitory, dining room.

Therefore, the class hours must be divided into morning class and afternoon class. The pupils must attend their classes for four consecutive hours which make them tired.

- b) Lack of teacher: There are only two teachers for 11 classes of second cycle and 36 teachers for 38 classes of first cycle. The teachers have overworked and the underteachers have to teach very much supplement hours.

Therefore the results did not attain the standard as expected by the Department of Education.

In principle, each first cycle class has 31 class hours a week, but due to the lack of teacher, it has only 24. In order to meet that demand, I would propose the Department to appoint at least 12 teachers for this secondary school.

c) Scholarship:

- The disbursement of money to the recipient pupils is carried on very late. The sholarships of school year 1955-1956 were disbursed at the beginning of school-year 1956-1957.

Therefore many pupils abandoned their study because of that late~~n~~ness.

I would propose that:

- The amount of a scholarship should be raised in keeping with the cost of living.
Full scholarship: 200 piasters per month
Half scholarship: 100 piasters per month
- The disbursement of scholarship should be done once every three months
- The departmental committee for grant of scholarship should work at the opening of the school year in order to avoid slow down.
- The formalities of recruitment of teacher should be simplified in order to have new teacher in time.
Usually it takes 3 or 4 months for the each recruitment.

Report:

- one at the opening of the school year
- one monthly report
- one trimestrial report
- one at the end of the school year

Each report is made in 3 copies: one goes to the National Department of Education, one goes to the South Vietnam Directorate of Education, one goes to the province chief headquarters.

- It is not necessary that all matters must go through the South Vietnam Directorate of Education. It is only a transmitter of official papers of the national Department of Education. Some late~~n~~ness (recruitment of teacher, request for supply of materials...) is due to that channelling.

6	Indirect Taxes on business rice milling, ice consumption, oil products consumption, entertainments	100\$			100\$
7	Commerce Licence	100\$	100\$	100\$	300\$
8	Income Taxes	100\$			100\$

3o) In the above breakdown the official way of calculating the share might appear surprising to a western collector who is rather used with a certain amount of percentage. However, it: - is simple and easy to operate for the Village Council most members of which are half illiterate; - better stresses the final and principal beneficiary of a given tax, for example:

	National	Provincial	Village	TOTAL
Land Taxes	100\$	10\$	5\$	115\$

instead of:

	National	Provincial	Village	TOTAL
Land Taxe	87 o/o	8,7 o/o	4,3 o/o	100 o/o

The former shows at once that Land Taxes should in fact go to the National Budget. The Province and Village shares are merely what officials call "additional hundredths"

4o) Following the french tax administration system, direct taxes are those collected upon list (number 1,3,4,5 and 7) while indirect taxes are collected upon declaration (number 6 and 8).

5o) As far as direct taxes are concerned, the list which remains the masterpiece of the collecting process, is established by the Village Council, first checked by the district chief and finally by the Bureau. Then the Province chief gives his approval

which stands for authorization for implementation. Village authorities actually collect money and ask the Bureau for a payment bill which entitles them to prefer the money to the Treasury Provincial Agency.

In brief in the matter of direct taxes, the Bureau has not to handle the cash.

6o) On contrary, as far as indirect taxes are concerned, the Bureau receives both declaration and money the taxpayers. Every week Mr. Hiên bring the money to the Treasury.

7o) Weekly too Mr. Hiên send a wire to the Finances Ministry to let the latter informed of the amount of taxes collected and monthly he send a written report to the same department. Or rather the Province Chief does it as all operations are said carried out on his name.

8o) To the light of his experience, Mr. Hiên express the following very interesting comments on the current provincial taxes system:

- a. The Exceptional Taxe of Pacification hits the outing and coming of merchandises between My Tho and other provinces. In fact it constitutes a kind of internal cystem duties, a leftover of the French during the Independance war (1945-1954) in order to impose products passing over the demarcation line of 2 zones. Logically it is to be abolished. However, it now provides nearly half the amount of the receipts of My Tho and the Government should think over.
- b. Prior to 1945 Land Taxes constituted the main source of income for the then Cochinchina (South VN) Government. Since

1945 as most of landlords collected no rent, similarly the government collected no taxes. So far it was so. The Province chief has just received directives to make the farmers pay taxes from now on.

c. In normal peace time failing tax payers are liable of the following successive procedures:

- warning
- free summons
- charged summons
- legal prosecution
- legal seizing
- adjudication of the land.

Since 1945 none of landlords was involved in any of these procedures. It means a great deal of landlords owe the government for a pretty big amount of money. On the other hand the Agrarian Reform Program is now moving over its decisive phase which consists in purchasing the land from the landlords and distributing it to the farmers. The Government then may recall the owed taxes and deduct them from the land purchase price.

d. Declarations on which the Bureau base to collect indirect taxes, are false most the time. The Bureau needs a team of checkers.

e. Up to a very recent date taxes on entertainments were collected on contractual base. They are now collected by stamping the tickets. They profit to the paupers.

f. Mr. Hiên foresee a dropping down of the receipts for 1957 because:

- the rice quotations are going down
- the aliens are forbidden to hold 11 professions. A great deal of the Chinese are involved in this prohibition.

DISTRICT FIELD INTERVIEW REPORT

Name of district: Bến Tranh
Name of province: Định-Tường
Name of interviewee: Nguyễn đình-
Xuông
Title of interviewee: district Chief

Project: Provincial Administration
Date: November 20, 1956
Interviewer: Nguyen khiem Hanh

Bến Tranh district was created 3 months ago. Formerly it was a part of Chợ Gạo district.

It has 2 cantons, 15 villages with a population of 72,000 all age living on a surface of 24,000 hectares.

Personnel of the district office

- a chief of district
- two secretaries
- a messenger

Very often I must take the messenger to do the secretary's jobs.

According to my opinion, the district level has much prestige over the villagers. This is proved by the fact that the people did not trust in the village council or canton for settling their disputes even the small one. Therefore they brought their disputes to the district headquarters for settlement. The loss of the village council's prestige is due to the fact that the council members dare not take drastic action in handling their functions for fear of the Viet Công agents' threats.

I would like to have 4 secretaries:

- one chief secretary
- one charged with taxes
- one takes care of general administration
- one charged with correspondence and judicial matters.

Agrarian Reform.

The settlement of the Agrarian Reform disputes becomes almost a daily job of my office.

During wartime the Viet Công distributed the landowners' ricefield to the farmers in several portions. Therefore tenant farmer and landowner dispute about the surface of the rented land. Other reasons of the disputes are: land rent, the landowners want to take back their rented land.

Public healths and Education

At present, 6 of 15 villages have first aid room. I am planning to send the self defense agents to attend training for creating first aid room at 9 villages left.

This district has:

- one public maternity hospital (one midwife)
- two private maternity hospitals, (two midwives)

The acute cases must be brought to My Tho hospital.

- sixteen schools (3 of them are primary schools of 5 grades)
- sixteen night popular classes.

Security.

A training course is just open for 400 district's self defense agents. I am in charge of giving political instructions to them and military training is entrusted to the district's civil guard post.

Here we have a good mutual understanding between district office and self defense agency. Therefore I don't have any worry similar to that of other districts.

Actually, the main concern of my office is the winning of the people's heart. This immense problem is set forth by the fact that:

- this district was newly created. It was formerly a neglected part of Chợ Gạo district.
- this district was deeply influenced by Viet Công. During last general election there was manifestation organized by Việt Công.

Report.

Every month I have to submit to the province chief headquarters:

- a report on the district's general situation.
- a report on my inspection trip.

Proposal. According to the administrative regulations, the district office is empowered to spend a sum below 500 piasters. I would suggest this amount should be raised to 1000 piasters in order to avoid:

- waste of time in asking for the province chief's permission
- sometimes the request for permission is laid forgotten in the drawers.

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