

Agrarian reform

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Continuation of the Seminar in Agrarian Reform

Attached is a copy of Mrs. An's notes on the discussion on Agrarian Reform. The first session was sent to you at an earlier date.

As you know, we are studying the Department of Agrarian Reform and Land Estates and we have gathered a good deal of information which is available to you if you have any particular interest in the subject.

We hope that a final report will be out within a month or so, and a copy of that will be sent to you.

Outline of Report on A.R. Conference (continued).

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Working on abandoned land (Ordinance No. 7 of 8/2/55)

a/ Census of abandoned land.

b/ Distribution of abandoned land to farmers.

c/ Supply of means for cultivating abandoned land. (Ordinance No 29 a of 25/4/1955)

d/ Results:

	<u>Center V.N.</u>	<u>South V.N.</u>
- Abandoned land	77,530 ha.	397,537 ha.
- Abandoned land that have been cultivated	16,387 ha.	129,082 ha.
- Loans to farmers (1 o/o interest per month)		
South Viet-Nam	800 1 ha. of ordinary rice field	
	500 1 ha. of good rice field.	
Center Viet-Nam	1,600 1 ha. of ordinary rice field.	
	800 1 ha. of good rice field.	

Maximum surface rented: 5 hectares.

- Selling of buffaloes to farmers (buffaloes purchased, 375,000.US\$)

Total of buffaloes sold to farmers: 1,714

Interest: 6 o/o yearly.

Unit Rice per buffalo: 3,500\$

e/ Experiences gathered:

- Delay in sending loans to provinces. Loans to farmers should be sent quickly to meet the farmers' needs in time, that is, at the harvest time, that they will not have to ask for high-interest loans.
- The unit price per buffalo is 3,500\$, for 2-year or 4-year-old buffaloes.

Rice should be reconsidered and separately fixed for 2-year and 4 year-old buffaloes.

Part III. Redistribution of land.

This part is the most difficult and the most important in the A.R. program and on which no ordinance has been applied.

The redistribution of land is very necessary, because land was not rationally distributed:

In South Viet-Nam, the proportion is as follows:

14 farmers for 1 landowner.

In Central Viet-Nam: 5 farmers for 1 landowner.

In North Viet-Nam : 6 farmers for 1 landowner.

- Because of the political point of view
- Because of the social point of view
- Because of the economic point of view

The redistributing of land could be divided into 4 items:

- 1- Limiting the land holding.
- 2- Limiting the land price.
- 3- Reimbursing to landowners.
- 4- Employing methods for assuring the repartition of land.

Limiting the ceiling of land holding.-

Ordinance No. 21 of 4/6/53 fixed the ceiling of land holdings as follows:

From 12 ha. to 36 ha. in North Viet-Nam
 " 15 ha. " 45 ha. in Center Viet-Nam
 " 30 ha. " 100 ha. in South Viet-Nam

The Speaker suggested reducing the ceiling of land holding it we wish the farmers to become small landowners.

If, in South Viet-Nam, the ceiling of land holding is fixed at: 100 ha., the total of landowners of more than 100 ha. have to sell excess land would be: 2,693 people.

The total land in excess that could be redistributed:

400,000 ha.

- 50 ha., total landowners who would have to sell excess land:

6,316 people

Excess land that could be redistributed: 600,000 ha.

- 10 ha., total of landowners who would have to sell excess land:

34,367 people

Excess land that could be redistributed: 1,300,000 ha.

Thus, the ceiling of land holdings should be refixed at 10 ha., to help farmers to become small landowners.

If, in Center Viet-Nam, the ceiling of holding is fixed at 3 ha., the total of excess land that could be redistributed would be: 250,000 hectares.

If, in North Viet-Nam, the ceiling of land holding is fixed at 3 ha., total of excess land in excess that could be redistributed: 320,000 hectares.

Total of excess land that could be redistributed, including land owned by the government:

$$550,000 \text{ ha.} + 450,000 + 1,360,000 = 2,360,000 \text{ hectares.}$$

The speaker suggested that the land be sold to farmers as follows:

1 ha. in North Viet-Nam
1 ha. in Center Viet-Nam
1 ha. in South Viet-Nam

From 7 to 8 ha. in South Viet-Nam for good rice crop. According to the above-mentioned project, the total of farmers that could become landowners would be: 1,600,000 people.

Some listeners thought that the land surface sold to farmers should be reduced so as to increase the total of small landowners.

According to the speaker, a portion of land that could be cultivated by his family, and that could provide its living, should be sold to each farmer.

The speaker thought that this fixing of a ceiling on land holdings should be based on the condition of the land, the method of cultivation with the A.R. program, at each area, and the total population. We can not, aspire to make all farmers landowners, for the land is so limited and the total population so high. In Japan, only 4 out of 80 million people could buy the land.

A listener suggested we should not cut up large areas of 4,000 or 5,000 ha. to give to farmers because they would not be able to take over the work necessary for cultivation (e. g., a large area needs a big dike to prevent water from the sea from overflowing the fields,) and these large surfaces could not be worked by machines.

According to the speaker, there is no A.R. program without the parceling of large areas of land, but we should not forget that the A.R. program is aimed especially at large-scale cultivation, using for this purpose machines and agricultural cooperatives. In Egypt, farmers who buy land must join agricultural cooperatives. The A.R.

program must be consolidated with a cooperative system and a setting up of agricultural credit; otherwise the production of land will be reduced.

To answer the question "What is a ration land system?", raised during the last conference, the speaker says that, according to him, a ration system is one in which:

1.- "land must belong to the tillers". In some countries, the class of absentee landowners has been abolished.

2.- The portion of land sold to each family must be one that could be cultivated by the family itself and on which the family could live.