

Howard Hoyt

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Information on Security and Police

The following information was taken from the interview reports of the present study of the Field Administration staff.

1. Gia Dinh

District of Nha Be under Viet Minh control from 1945-54 in most sections. Fighting with Binh Xuyen in April, 1955; canton of An Thit still has Binh Xuyen activity.

2. Ben Tre

District of Thanh Fu under Viet Minh control from 1946-51. Situation almost completely under control at present; military posts being cut down in strength. Still need information equipment for propaganda to counteract former Viet Minh control.

District of Ba Tri: "After a short occupation period, the French army withdrew to the city (1950) and left the country to the mercy of Viet Cong terrorism. The aftermath of that policy was that even now the people are still afraid of Viet Cong threats that they will come back after the election stipulated by the Geneva agreement. Therefore, they are indifferent - apparently - to the efforts of the national government in the restoration of peace and prosperity. The secretary said that in some cases to get the village council active the district had to use military pressure...so that the council thought they could tell the Viet Cong, if ever they came back, that they were forced to work for the national government... The major problems of the district are security. Particularly organization of village guards - quality more important than quantity. Propaganda badly needed, but lack of equipment.

Canton of Bao Ngai - can't rely on political leanings of present village guards.

Village of Hiep-Hung, District of Ba Tri:
Still Viet Cong activity in the village. Need
arms for village self-defense units.

3. Baria

District of Xuyen Moc "recently" evacuated
by Viet Minh. Present situation - no sign
of Viet Minh activity. "The population is not
responsive to national policy. They still
believe the propaganda of Viet Cong that the
elections stipulation in the Geneva agree-
ments will be held and they will come back."

4. Go Cong

District of Chau Thanh is fairly secure. Except
for Binh Xuan, Giao Thuan, Than Phuoc which are
villages close to the river or Rung Sat, Viet
Cong or rebels' underground activities are still
going on, but not on a large scale. Village self-
defense organized, but only enough arms for 1/3
of them; more needed.

Village of Long Chanh, Hoa Dong district:
Need arms and ammunition for village self-defense;
guard tower should be constructed too.

5. My Tho

Village of Long Thuan, ChauThanh district:
15 hectares of good rice fields have been con-
fiscated by Cao-Dai troops illegally.

6. Pleiku

1945-54 no security; Viet Minh very active.
Security OK since October, 1954, but Viet
Minh destroyed many villages, etc. when they
left. Still question of Viet Minh activity
and need more military posts for this reason.

7. Kontum

1945-47 under Viet Minh control. 1947-54
continuous fighting between Viet Minh and French.
Most public buildings destroyed during this
time. Especially need security agents and
policemen at this time.

8. Haut Donnai

District of Blao: "Security Police don't work
much, although the security situation here is
alright, but, out of habit, they just sit at their bureau and
make false reports. The trouble is that they do their job not
even informing us of it. So, sometimes, it is very embarrassing
to carry on the administration here, for fear of conflicts....
Still there are problems on political matters (security):
(1) Viet Cong activity in the region of Nui Ong south of the
district. I almost succeeded to control them, when the govern-
ment decided to give that part of land back to Binh Thuan..
There still are many Viet Cong units which operate from Nui Ong
through the three roads toward Blao, Djiring, and even to Dalat,
but not toward Phan Thiet. So, there is no reason why the
government put that region in Binh Thuan; it'll be very hard to
control them from there.

9. Khanh Hoa District of Dinh Khanh needs more information cadres as villagers were severely influenced by Viet Minh propaganda.
10. Binh Thuan Under Viet Minh control in 1945. Some underground activity by Viet Minh at present.
- District of Han Thuan: Troubled by raids and propaganda of Viet Cong hidden in the forest.
11. Ninh Thuan Thanh Hai district: Two elementary schools destroyed by Viet Minh (no date given)
- Village of Du Khanh, Thanh Hai district: Viet Minh propaganda active - two months ago, pamphlets, etc. scattered in village.
12. Quang Tri Under Viet Minh control 1945-54. Area destroyed except for city when they left. Still some infiltration at present. Few Dai Viet remain yet. Lack Civil Guard; would like to double number to 2400 so as to have a few in each village - necessary due to proximity to Viet Minh zone.
13. Thua Thien Under Viet Minh control 1945-47. Possibly few Viet Minh still in mountain areas. Would like more Civil Guard to post in mountains, but no money.
14. Quang Nam Education chief - 1947-54: French in control of 1/4 of education, Viet Minh the other 3/4.
- Election report: Feb. 29 in Hoa Vang district arrests of a thousand plus relatives of Viet Minh to keep situation under control.
- Hoa Vang district: Southwest limit of district, a zone where Viet Minh are extremely active. Requests to the government for assistance the past year have been ignored. Also need more armed forces, security police, information cadres.
- Dien Ban district: Administrative control was in balance between the French and Viet Minh until the cease fire - from 1945-54.
- The Tourane airport is connected to the city by a road running across land belonging to the province of Quang Nam. Such a situation creates difficulties for the Sûreté.

15. Quang Ngai

1945-54 Under Viet Minh control. Need school buildings as most of them were destroyed by the Viet Minh before leaving.

Son Tinh district: Presently, several Viet Minh agents in the mountains living with the tribes.

Village of Tinh Tan, Son Tinh district: Infiltration of Viet Cong agents hidden in the mountains.

16. Tourane

Village of Hai Chau (located just outside the city): The last week in February both the council president and vice-president were arrested as Viet Cong agents.

17. Binh Dinh

District of An Nhon. Need arms for village self-defense units.

Village of Phuoc Nghia, Tuy Phuoc district: Viet Cong subversive activities.

Village of Phong An, Phu Cat district: "Moreover, we are worried about the organizations of Viet Minh such as assassination committees and their threats to the village council members."

Village of Binh Thanh, Tuy Phuoc district: Viet Minh subversive activities.

18. Phu Yen

Village of Hoa Thang, Tuy Hoa district: "We work very hard in the aim of winning the Viet Cong cadres because, you see, in the center they are very active."

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Additions to Report on Police and Security

1. Gia Dinh

District of Thu Duc: "The Viet Minh is still making propaganda but their activities have been cut down since we arrested 5 out of 7 propaganda agents, right in their headquarters; we also confiscated an elementary printing machine. Since then, we do not allow meetings of more than 5 persons.

2. My Tho

"Dong Thap Muoi" is an area of swamp and abandoned land; Viet Minh agents are hiding there.

District of Cai Lay: "There is no problem about administration, but we must face a political problem; since our district is near the "Dong Thap Muoi" area and people have already been accustomed to Viet Cong propaganda. For instance, they still believe that the Viet Cong's agrarian reform regime is better than ours and most of them are still waiting for the coming July when the Viet Minh had promised them to come back.."

3. Go Cong

Village of Tan Nien Dong, Chan Thanh district: "Self defense guards of village have not yet been armed. There are still communist activities (secretly). In these days communist elements provided with arms appear and threaten to fire on villagers if they go to vote."