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TO: A. F. Brandstatter, Howard Hoyt, Jack Ryan  
FROM: Ralph F. Turner  
THROUGH: Lloyd D. Musolf  
Ruben V. Austin  
SUBJ: Project Status Report

I am preparing this informal project status report to supplement material which appeared in the last semiannual report. In addition to comments on the current status of various projects, a number of questions are raised which I would appreciate having your reactions to.

1. Training.

The various training programs which were planned for and initiated during preceding years appear to be moving along quite well. Command Officer Schools at the VBI are being held regularly and appear to follow the three-year plan which the Surete training officer showed to the Deans during the fall of 1959. MSU is still giving a limited number of lectures in these courses.

The training program at the National Police Academy at Rach Dua also appears to be moving on schedule. Handville and Shields visit the school regularly to discuss matters pertaining to curricula and to show training films. Some time ago we personally provided them with several rolls of Kodachrome film and urged them to get busy on the matter of making some of their own training slides. They prepared a list of subjects and then went ahead and shot appropriate pictures, had the film

processed themselves, and are using the slides in several of their classes. According to Handville, the slides are quite adequate, considering the fact that we did not have a hand in this particular project beyond indicating what should be done. We are presently awaiting a shipment of movie film from the campus upon receipt of which we will get the Surete busy to try ~~add~~ their hand at making their own training films. We have made arrangements with USIS for them to provide some technical guidance as far as camera work and script writing are concerned.

Before Ryan left in 1959 we had a number of discussions about the establishment of some mobile training units for the field. When this matter was first presented to Ia the idea was generally vetoed on one excuse or another. This was done each time that the matter was revived. However, recently, since Nicol's arrival, and as the result of several discussions with Ia both by Nicol and Adkins, we have gotten an expression from Ia that he is interested in having a mobile team provide some minimum training at some of the province headquarters. Right now we are trying to make the most of exploiting this opening and hope that we can get a package deal put together before Joe leaves and have Handville and Shields give it a try. This may be an opportunity for us to get started in this area by going through the back door.

## 2. National Identity Card Program.

Ever since his arrival, Adkins has taken a good firm hold of this project and things seem to be moving quite well. The equipment (cameras, flashguns, tripods, filing cabinets, typewriters) has either arrived or will be arriving very shortly. Plans have been made to launch

the identity card program on a pilot provincial basis within the next month or two. Adkins and Lieut. Cam are going to make a trip to inspect the sites within the next few weeks. As soon as the program is installed in one province and has run for awhile in order to enable us to evaluate the problems, we then hope to implement the plans for moving into the other Central Lowlands provinces. Security conditions still prevent us from working in the provinces south of Saigon.

The program is moving along very well in Saigon with the teams handling the city precinct by precinct. Some footage has been shot by USIS for a documentary film which will be used for propaganda purposes when the program is launched in the provinces. A script has been written and approved by the Surete for the balance of the film and is currently being readied for shooting by USIS.

### 3. Fingerprint Files.

Adkins has conducted an audit of the fingerprint files with regard to accuracy of classification and filing. The results are a little disheartening and have raised several questions. One, we have some questions about the exact kind of information which Corey Dymond gave to these people in the initial training program. Secondly, there are the usual types of errors which could be expected to creep in as more in-service training was done by the Vietnamese without adequate supervision either by Dymond or Chamberlin. As soon as Adkins finishes writing up the results of the audit, I will send letters both to your office and to Corey Dymond and Chamberlin in an effort to get a more accurate picture of exactly what was done and why. I also plan to have Ba Minh come in and

get his side of the story. Anyway, as a result of this audit it will be necessary to reclassify and refile all of the cards. Some of the errors in classification are due to carelessness and improper supervision by the Vietnamese. Other mistakes seem to be, at this stage of the game, errors due to either having been given wrong information, or having interpreted some instruction in an incorrect manner. Adkins is going over Dymond's original fingerprint training manual and attempting to bring it up-to-date.

Another aspect of the program is that the initial extent of classification training which Dymond gave the people did enable them to take care of a modest ~~file~~ file. Naturally, Dymond was not aware of or could not anticipate the needs of the national identity card program. Therefore, it is necessary for Adkins to expand the fingerprint training manual to enable them to take care of the large volume of cards which is coming in as a result of the identity card program.

Plans are being made for adequate in-service re-training and the training of additional technicians to handle this increased volume of work.

We have just received a request from USOM/Laos wherein they propose to send three Laotians down to Camp des Mares for training in the Henry system of classification, and also the establishment of such a file in their police department. As soon as Adkins gets his class going, these people will be invited to sit in.

#### 4. Records.

As has been mentioned in previous monthly reports, the

Archives Building is completely filled and Sen has several teams working on a consolidation of the records which were brought over from the Minister of Interior's office. He still seems generally agreeable to the idea of bringing down records from Banmethuot, new regional headquarters, and Hue to further consolidate the central records of the Surete. This will, of course, require planning for additional floor space; however, we will move slowly on this depending how conditions are within the next year or so.

#### 5. Communications.

As you all know, the communications program has been one continual headache. However, with the cancellation of the position for Hemmye's replacement by ICA/W and the transfer of responsibility for completion of the communications project to USOM/PSD, I believe that we will be relieved of some of the irritation. However, I am quite sure that MSU will hear repercussions for some time to come. While this probably sounds a little pessimistic, I should like to review briefly the communications project to date, enumerating its successes and failures.

While MSU was involved with the communications project since 1955, we must recognize that there were some delays over which MSU had no control. Unfortunately the first advisor, Williams, had to be evacuated and his work was not taken up and carried on. The next delay occurred because of the length of time required to find a successor to Williams. When Rundlett arrived in 1957, he was more or less involved in a crash program for the Saigon Municipal Police because of the Colombo Conference, in addition to doing the planning work for the overall



communications system. It should be noted that generally speaking the Saigon Municipal Police have been equipped with an adequate communications system. It appears to be working quite well and we have not had any particular operating difficulties. Expansion of this system is dependent<sup>only</sup> upon the amount of money which either the American Aid program or GVN wishes to put into the system.

Planning for the national network was conducted during the period 1957-59, which resulted in the publication of the Rundlett report. During this time a certain amount of equipment was procured for the national network, the principal items being three teletype stations for Saigon, Banmethuot and Hue. This equipment arrived during the spring and summer of 1959.

The summer of 1959 saw the Colegrove articles and congressional investigations, during which time the so-called Rundlett affair developed. Simultaneously with this, USOM/PSD was established. For all practical purposes one might say that from August 1959 till the early part of 1960, the MSU communications program was attacked, criticized, questioned, probed, etc. MSU advisors presented the reason behind the original MSU proposals; however, the net result was that a Country Team decision, supported by the Ambassador,<sup>was made</sup> to establish an integrated communications system for the Surete and the Civil Guard. Major Khoi of the Civil Guard was named chief communications advisor on the project. This presented many administrative problems in the supervision and implementation of the communications program. It is

believed that these problems will be solved by the transfer of responsibility for the integrated communications system to USOM/PSD.

Aside from administrative difficulties in the communications program, the following points should be noted. It was mentioned above that teletype equipment arrived in Saigon during the summer of 1959. This equipment was installed jointly by MSU and Surete technicians, some of it being done in a hurry in order to get the system working in time for the fall National Assembly elections which were held in 1959. There was another unfortunate episode connected with the teletype equipment, namely, the Westrex Company sent out one technician who was supposed to provide in-service training and some general supervision for installation of the equipment. This technician was completely incompetent and had to be returned to the states. Ultimately a second Westrex technician arrived in 1960. He was technically competent but required constant supervision and prodding in order to get his work completed. All in all, this incident has left an unfavorable impression in the minds of both MSU and USOM. In spite of the fact that the teletype equipment has been installed and checked repeatedly by MSU and USOM technicians, we are still having difficulty in keeping the equipment working regularly. This is brought about in part by the rather adverse conditions under which some of the equipment had to be installed; there were some questions about the quality of the Westrex equipment which was delivered in Saigon; and there is the fact that there are no Vietnamese technicians within the Surete or Civil Guard who are capable of maintaining this equipment. All of which leads to another facet of the communications program, namely,

the fact that this equipment was landed in Saigon and the Surete and Civil Guard are not equipped with trained technicians. While it is true that some technicians supposedly received training at a teletype school in Chicago, the fact is that they are not capable of doing an adequate job of troubleshooting and repair.

While on the subject of ~~the~~ trained radio technicians, it should be mentioned that the same criticism will probably be levelled at MSU for not having an adequate training program for the technicians needed to man the equipment which will be arriving within the next year. We can only hope that the ones currently receiving training at the military schools in the states will be of some benefit when they return. There is a class in session at the Phu Tho Technical College; however, we are having some difficulty with the instructional staff because they are teaching the material at too sophisticated a level. We are presently working with USOM in outlining the training needs for radio technicians to man the integrated communications system. It is quite correct that these matters of training were given consideration in earlier MSU proposals; however, the fact that we do not have trained hands on deck suggests that these programs never got off the ground. Barring unforeseen delays in procurement of present communications equipment, it is quite likely that this equipment will arrive in late 1960 or early 1961 and Vietnam will still be in short supply of trained technicians. Given the level of capabilities of the people with which we have to work, I feel that we will continue to have trouble with the teletype for some time and can only hope that they can manage to keep this integrated network going on their own.



6. Participants.

The participant review conducted by Brandstatter, Strecher and Turner reflects some of the problems concerned with English-language training. These problems are again being encountered during 1960. Every effort was made to select an appropriate group of participants and get them started in a concentrated and expanded English-language training program as soon as possible. This was done; however, it is again apparent that the participants cannot be prepared adequately for stateside work in the time allotted by the USOM and GVN schedule. The result is that participants who originally were scheduled for stateside departure in August and September will be delayed until the latter part of 1960 or early 1961. As a result of this experience, it should be even more evident that if we are going to continue to send participants to the states, we should plan on their having 12 to 18 months of English-language training before departure. In effect, this means that participants will have to be scheduled two years in advance rather than one year. Whether or not this can be accomplished is problematical. I hope that Brandstatter's presentation of the participant review to ICA/W will have some impact on this problem.

7. Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory.

Renovation of the old jail was begun in late 1959 and completed July 1, 1960, coincidental with Nicol's arrival. Equipment from the old Filippini Street laboratory has been moved to the new location and Nicol is supervising the installation of this equipment. In addition to this, he is conducting a series of in-service training

seminars and will prepare a report for additional work to be done in the laboratory.

Depending upon the yardstick which is to be used, it is possible to say that the crime detection laboratory project is completed insofar as the capabilities of the Vietnamese technicians are concerned. In other words, one can say the proposal for the laboratory project was drawn up during Turner's visit in 1956. This eventually was implemented and completed in 1960. In the meantime a number of lab technicians were given stateside training. These technicians have returned to Vietnam and are currently employed in the laboratory. The equipment procured for the laboratory represented a modest investment and does not exceed the capabilities of the technicians. This is to say that with the present technicians and equipment, the laboratory is able to do work up to a certain level of <sup>sophistication</sup> ~~sophistication~~. However, there is considerable room for improvement. Any further expansion of the laboratory will be recommended only when GVN employs personnel who have an adequate university training in the sciences and have had specialized stateside training in criminalistics. Thus, in one sense of the word, the laboratory project can be regarded as completed, if one is not too demanding insofar as excellence and sophistication are concerned.

#### 8. Building Projects.

The following represents a brief resume of building projects which are underway or contemplated for the FY-60 counterpart budget.

a) Scientific crime detection laboratory. This involved the renovation of the old detention center. For all practical purposes, completed.

(b) Detention center. A new detention center was constructed; completed and is currently in use.

(c) Communications center. The communications center was begun in late 1959. The shell was completed in 1960 and the building is partially occupied. Air conditioning equipment has not been installed and permanent electrical power supplies are not connected.

(d) Communications center, Saigon Municipal PD. This building is under construction and has currently reached the stage where plaster finish is being applied to the brick work and some wood framing construction is being completed.

(e) Interrogation center. The interrogation center, begun in 1959, is gradually nearing completion. Some of the buildings are partially occupied at present.

New projects planned for FY-60 counterpart budget.

The following new projects have been programmed for the FY-60 counterpart budget. Every effort will be made to complete the planning so that financial subobligations may be made before the close of the GVN fiscal year December 31, 1960. These projects are:

(a) Renovation and improvement of pistol range at Binh Thoi.

(b) Construction of the training building for Saigon Municipal PD.

(c) Construction of a new building to house fingerprint records, consistent with the growth and development of the national identity card program.

(d) Improvement of the National Police Academy at Rach Dua.

This includes the blacktopping of the drill field, improvement of the pistol range, construction of tiers for the lecture auditorium, and improvement of the electrical system.

(e) Blacktopping of the area between the crime detection laboratory and the communications center at Surete headquarters, to minimize the damage to equipment by dirt and dust.

9. Civil Guard.

Responsibility for support of the Civil Guard was turned over to USOM/PSD July 1, 1969; MSU has continued to work in cooperation with USOM/PSD in some matters concerning the Civil Guard. A most recent development within the month of July is as follows. Since USOM/PSD has begun working with the Civil Guard, emphasis has been on equipping the Civil Guard with materiel above and beyond that originally recommended by MSU in 1957 and 1958. There is also emphasis on the military aspects of the Civil Guard as reflected by the nature of the USOM/PSD staffing pattern and the Civil Guard's involvement in actively combating Viet Cong. However, in July USOM/PSD was suddenly ~~added~~ advised of the fact that a judicial police unit was to be set up in each province and operated by the Civil Guard. Training for these units is scheduled to begin August 1, each class containing 200 students. MSU has been asked to participate in the training of these students in view of the fact that USOM/PSD has a minimum number of experienced police officers on its staff.

10. Gendarmerie.

We have just had a meeting with Col. Grant, the new liaison

officer between MAAG, Civil Guard and Gendarmerie. The purpose of the visit was to discuss the future of the Gendarmerie. The reason for discussing the future of the Gendarmerie was the fact that approximately in 1957, military assistance program support for the Gendarmerie was withdrawn by MAAG. However, MAAG has continued to provide money for the payroll of the Gendarmerie. It appears that the budget officer of MAAG is now questioning the legality of this procedure. All of which has raised the question, what about the Gendarmerie when ICA/W is supporting the Surete and Civil Guard? There are several proposals in the mill as far as what <sup>to</sup>/do with the Gendarmerie. However, President Diem has insisted that the Gendarmerie will remain as an individual unit. Incidentally, it was increased from 1000 to 1200 men a few months ago.

During the course of our discussions and obviously having the benefit of hindsight, Col. Grant raised the question as to why the Gendarmerie was not supported by MSU in the initial program of 1954 instead of the Civil Guard, considering the fact that the Gendarmerie was the established law enforcement agency and did have, and still does have, a feasible number of well-trained officers. Continuing the thinking along this line, the discussion included the possibility of why didn't MSU recommend that the Gendarmerie be used as the nucleus of a rural national police and be expanded to an appropriate size, in other words, forgetting completely about the Civil Guard. Naturally, I could not answer this question and appeal to you for some assistance. In the meantime, the Gendarmerie question is not our responsibility; however we are being consulted about this problem.



11. Special Question to Hoyt and Ryan.

In working on the contemplated building projects for FY-60, I obtained a blueprint of the entire Camp des Mares layout. In the course of discussing present and future building plans with various people, I noted two ~~44~~ parallel diagonal lines running across the blueprint. This excited my curiosity and after consultation with people at Camp des Mares and the Department of Public Works, I learned that this is the projected road which is to connect two important traffic arteries on each side of Camp des Mares. The interesting thing is that this road runs right through a part of Lieut. Luan's quartermaster depot, nearly all of the scientific crime detection laboratory, about one-third of Mr. Sen's new archives building, and a portion of Cam's identification bureau. Beyond this at least, Camp des Mares is in pretty good shape. What I want to know is, did you guys know about this before the archives building was built and the word given to remodel the jail for the crime lab? If so, why am I left holding the bag? If not, I trust you can appreciate the fact that I <sup>will</sup> have to do a lot of thinking about this particular problem if the road ever goes through. In the meantime all future construction is being planned to be kept out of the stream of moving traffic.