

Saigon July 7

C O P Y

THE DIRECTOR OF THE PREFECTORAL POLICE

To the Chiefs of Police Precincts
The Police Chief
Chief of General Inspection Div.
Chief of Meat Control Div.
The Police Chief
Chief of the Intelligence Bureau

Re: Co-operation in maintenance of order, security and public hygiene, behavior.

I seize this opportunity to add: The Prefectoral Police have several thousand members (including those stationed in offices) scattered all over the city. If all correctly observe their duties, with a general view to maintaining security, order, and public hygiene, the Prefectoral Police Organization will be well informed so that violations, can be quickly prevented. Every policeman will be an intelligence man, giving information by letters (anonymous or signed, according to his convenience) to Chiefs of Police Precincts or the Direction of Police and stating the spots where smuggled or stolen goods are being kept the houses suspected to be lairs of thieves, brothels, gambling houses, uncontrolled meat stores, etc. To this end, each Precinct and the Police Station can provide a letter box in public rooms.

Moreover, I have noticed that when on duties patrolling or arresting offenders, policemen used a pretext, claiming that this or that matter is under another man, section, division's responsibilities, and then to pass by. The public do not discriminate. They claimed that they usually saw a policeman remain nonchalant at 10 meters from an infraction case, and thus he was supposed to be idle, and that policemen are rather a "quantity" than a "quality". For instance, a traffic policeman and a policewoman stationed at the entrance of Saigon Central market while all around tricycles parked, throttling the entrance (you must order them to park in strict order, otherwise ask the Chief of the Police Station near the market to fine them. Do not claim that this matter is the Market Police Station's duties. Policemen from that station cannot always remain at the same spot to look upon).

Another example: if a policeman who is on a sidewalk to supervise the traffic sees a garbage discharge or a brawl he must reprimand; a vehicle accident, he must spare a little time to intervene, keep off the cars and inform the Police Station. At such a moment, if you stay right in the middle of the road, you have not to fear somebody would arrest you. These are extraordinary duties you must not neglect. The public many times complain that when they ask for a nearby policeman's help, the latter pretexts in a way or in another and causes loss of time or traffic jam.

With regards to informing the station, I shall arrange to have a telephone device installed at every street corner. Another example: while on duties and wearing uniform, the policeman will give an impression of neglecting his duties when he does not reprimand (or fine if he is qualified to) cases of cars and bicycles traveling with no lights, or parallel, or out of regulations and cases of garbage discharge.

Another example: When assigned to raid prostitutes or gamblers, the Morals Control Division car will also give aid when hearing call for help or seeing a chase after thieves, will notify the Police Station when seeing an accident.

So to the question of fines, I am trying to simplify the ways of charging and collecting fines so that the infringer as well as the policeman do not lose much time and a number of men in the fining offices can be spared.

To sum up, each policeman has to bear in mind that besides his own particular duties he also has collective duties, the duties of the ones who bear the name of policemen, the duties of the Police organization, in preventing and stopping what is against security, order, and public hygiene. The Police organization makes efforts in order not to be surpassed by foreign countries police, and to have much prestige upon the public.

Behavior: (a) Neat dressing. I have noticed that a lot of policemen wearing uniforms in a loosening manner. Crumpled trousers and shirts (perhaps wearing the same dress after having strolled all night until the time of service) with badges hanging over the chest and fading (these should be worn right on the shoulders and kept in good colours); they draw out their shirts when entering a restaurant or on going home. A policeman even with the shirtflaps out can be still recognized so, the shirtflaps must be kept inside the belt; it is just necessary to remove the badges, the gun should be worn plainly to give a correct appearance. Never forget this rule. Policemen and soldiers, either on duties or out of duties and civilians as well, always have the duty to cooperate with the authorities when there are troubles. So your responsibilities are not over even after service hours.

Besides, even after service hours, while sitting in a restaurant and seeing a prostitute extravagantly inviting a passer-by, a dealer of pornographic things or uncontrolled meat, a gambling party in the street, a policeman will produce his card and disperse or bring them to the police station. In such a way people will realize the presence of the Police everywhere and everywhen, provided the policeman acts with nice behavior and according to rules.

Bearings: I have had the opportunity to see a policeman when chasing a begger shouted and pushed off a one-legged man. Being aware that beggers used to be quarrelsome and resisting, a policeman must prove to be calm in public. He can take away a begger firmly, but show no sign of force or anger to the passersby attention, because these prefer criticizing to understanding our difficulties. So be calm and patient.

Discipline. The Police is a semi-military organization, having uniforms, armament, discipline. I have always reminded that all the personnel, even working in offices (except suppression and Morals Control Divisions) must wear uniforms when going to work. The public can criticize that they see in a large police station just a small number of men in uniforms and such uniformed men are overwhelmed by the plain clothed lousy civilians and arrested persons. If all the personnel wear uniforms even when in offices, the number of in and out-going uniformed men will be observed to be higher and the public will have an impression of a force, a prestige (like at the military police) and will start to respect that force, that prestige. I ask you, therefore, to order all the personnel to wear uniforms when going to work even right in offices.

REPORT ON SURVEY OF MUNICIPAL POLICE

August 9

Visited the headquarters of Tran-Van-Tu, Directeur de la Police Préfectorale de S. C. On this visit, Do-Van-Minh acted as interpreter.

Mr. Tu is the director of all municipal police in Saigon-Cholon. All the work is carried on from his headquarters on rue Gallieni and seven sub-stations called "commissariats."

Each commissariat has its own supervising staff, vehicles, equipment, and area to police. Commissariats are further divided into posts. There are 39 such posts in Saigon-Cholon. These posts are manned by personnel from the commissariat in which they are located and to which they are connected by phone. A log is kept in each post in which all entries in reference to personnel assignments, incidents, accidents, work performed, fines collected, and arrests made are kept in chronological order.

The population of Saigon-Cholon, as quoted by Mr. Tu, is 2,420,000. The number of policemen is 3,400. They are assigned as follows: #1, 350; #2, 400; #3, 630; #4, 580; #5, 280; #6, 230; #7, 380; headquarters, 100; and circulation (traffic), 300. These total 3,250 men.

On the first visit to headquarters, a detail of traffic officers were observed receiving their assignments. The Traffic Division works out of headquarters. They were assembled in a military manner, answered roll call, and received their assignments with every indication of a well-organized and well-disciplined body.

At 3:00 p.m., we visited Commissariat #2 in company with Mr. Tu and interpreter Minh. The commanding officer was away at the Philippines in training. We were escorted through the station by Mr. Tu who explained its operation. In this, as in all stations visited to date, it appears that writing letters, compiling records in longhand, one copy at a time, and interviewing people who come to the station and collecting fines occupy practically all the staff's time.

We observed that furnishings were old and worn. This is true of all offices and buildings visited. Their files consist of upright wood cabinets provided with shelves on which records and books are stacked. The only modern touch in #2 was an auxiliary gasoline-driven electric generator to supply current when the power is off. The station was equipped with an obsolete radio broadcaster. Its rolling stock consisted of two jeeps and a light truck reportedly borrowed from the Army. None of these vehicles were equipped with radio receivers. About 100 well-battered and obsolete rifles of various makes and models and vintage, and quite a few machine guns similarly described, were in racks in the station.

Under an open shed in the court, a number of destitute men, women, and children were assembled, picked up from the streets, awaiting transfer to an institution where they would be cared for. No court action is required for

this operation. The action is taken at the direction of the prefect of police. We noted that men, women, and children were locked in the same detention room opening on this court.

August 12, 1955

Mr. Nguyen Van No, Secretary in the Court Section of Mr. Tu's office, has been assigned to escort us through the various commissariats we desire to visit. From him, we learned that before the recent war, Mr. Tu had operated a training school near his headquarters where all recruits were sent. The classes were for three months, and 80 men were taught in each group. Mr. No. and a police officer of rank constituted the entire faculty. We question the accuracy of this information as the interpretation was very poor. The school was destroyed by enemy fire and has not been reactivated.

August 16, 1955

Visited Commissariat #4. Commissaire 1st Class Trink-Van-Ca is in charge. This man studied medicine in France. He is a forceful man, has tact, and appears to operate efficiently and with discipline. He formerly operated Commissariat #2 which was the first station turned over by the French. He has been in command of #4 since March, 1954.

This station polices a population of 450,000 people. It has 587 officers assigned to it. Mr. Ca has a small truck, a van with board seats on each side, used to transport squads of officers or prisoners. He also has two jeeps, one for his own use and one for service. None of these vehicles are radio equipped.

At this station, minors, females, and adult males were held in separate cells.

August 17, 1955

Met Director Tu at Commissariat #3. This station is commanded by Commissaire 5th Class Nguyen Thanh Qui. Commissariat #3 was described as the oldest station in Saigon. It polices a population of 200,000 and has 644 men assigned. The mobile equipment consists of two trucks; three jeeps, one equipped with a two-way radio.

Mr. Qui has a deputy, one Albert Theut, half French, half Vietnamese. He is a French national, under contract which expires shortly after the first of the year. At that time he will go to France, where he will receive a pension for his services in the Saigon police department. This pension is guaranteed by the French government.

The building, grounds, and equipment here are poor and poorly kept. The men show lack of discipline. The commander complains of lack of space, yet he and his brigadier in charge of active service have their homes in the main building, first floor, and occupy about one half of the desirable floor space.

at this station. There are also three agents with their families living in quarters in the rear of the building. There is plenty of available undeveloped space at this station.

August 18, 1955

Spent the day at Commissariat #3, studying conditions.

August 19, 1955

At 3:45 a.m., accompanied officers of Commissariat #3 on a raid of an area on which a separate report was made.

August 22, 1955

Spent the morning in criminal court. This court is conducted in French; however, physical arrangements are very similar to American courts.

In the afternoon, visited 134 Champagne Street, the Champagne Street post. Here, three brigades of officers operate under three brigade commanders. Each brigade consists of three or four men and the commander. They work twelve-hour shifts, one brigade being off duty 24 hours each day. The post is a small two-room house, with a telephone, a desk, and a chair and two cots. The commander remains inside at all times. He answers the phone and keeps the log book. At intervals this book is taken to the main station where copies are made of the entries by clerks; and in longhand, more formal reports of the matters entered are made.

August 23, 1955

To headquarters to study organization there. Escorted through building by Mr. Tu's deputy. Conditions much the same as in the sub-stations. Mr. Tu provided maps of Saigon-Cholon, indicating locations of all police buildings.