

*Darlac Province*

Mr. Howard W. Hoyt, Chief,  
Police Administration Division

April 1, 1958

George C. Kimball and Carl E. Rumpf, Police Advisors

Staff Visit to Ban-methuot March 24, 1958

On Monday March 24, 1958, Messrs. Kimball, Rumpf and interpreter Nguyen-phut-Tan of MSU departed from Saigon at 05:30 hours for a field trip in the PMS. The MSU team was accompanied by Lieutenant Tran-Quoc-Thanh of the Surete Saigon Direction who acted as coordinator. The first city visited was Ban-me-Thuot arriving at 15:00 hours. Immediately on arrival the MSU team went to the office of the Province Chief where we were cordially received. Mr. Nguyen-van-Tich is the Province Chief. After an explanation of our mission the Province Chief pointed out that no one from MSU had visited his province for quite some time except perhaps for a little hunting. Mr. Tich stated his police services needed equipment badly, that one of his biggest problems was forest fires. He explained that any aid given would be welcome and hoped MSU could assist in procuring some fire equipment. The Province Chief turned the MSU advisors over to his Chief of Surete and Municipal Police for the survey.

Purpose of Trip: To re-survey the city of Ban-me-Thuot, to explain and demonstrate recently issued American Aid equipment,

to promote a better understanding of MSU's Civil Police program.

Geography, population etc.: The population of Darlac province is 115,000. It consists of five (5) districts, 150 cantons and 444 villages. Its principal industry is forestry. There are approximately 5,000 refugees here. The population of the city of Ban-me-Thuot is 20,000. It is located some 360 kilometers North of Saigon.

Demonstration given: Explanations and demonstrations in the care and use of the following equipment was given to both Municipal and Surete personnel at Police Headquarters:

Riot shotgun, .38 caliber Smith and Wesson revolver, peerless handcuffs and tear gas equipment.

Background of Police Chief: Mr. Nguyen-van-Vuu is Chief of Police, occupying this post since 1952. Before coming to South Viet-Nam, Chief Vuu was connected with the Tribunal of Military Affairs in Hanoi. He was active for five (5) years as Assistant Prosecutor here. He is fifty six (56) years of age and spent twenty years of his life in the French army. He is intelligent, progressive and has a fine military bearing. Chief Vuu should be considered for future police training however his age may be against him.

Buildings: The Municipal Police occupy a Headquarters building centrally located. It was old but appeared neat and clean.

It is of brick construction and appeared too small for efficient operations. No quarters are provided for Police personnel or families. All personnel assemble at Headquarters for roll call and assignments.

Budget: The Municipal Police of Ban-me-Thuot are supported entirely from the provincial budget.

Personnel: This department has a personnel strength of a chief and forty five (45) police officers. They are assigned to duty as follows:

In office and specific assignments	10
Active patrol duty	35
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	45

Personnel here work seven (7) days per week with 12 hours on and 12 hours off. There are two (2) fixed posts on the edge of the city which control the highway leading into Ban-me-Thuot.

How Patrolled: Patrols are on foot and bicycle normally. During night hours a jeep patrol is added.

Transportation: This department has one (1) jeep on hand which was described as in fair condition. It was obtained through local purchase. (This police agency was to have received a used jeep in the June 1957 proposed transportation distribution.) No other transportation available.

Training: Ban-Me-Thuot Police Department has ten (10) graduates of the National Police Academy. They are authorized two students per course. The graduates are utilized as instructors in a 3 day per week (4 hour duration) continuous in-service training program. Chief Vuu now intends including firearms training since he has just recently been granted the use of the Military Range.

Uniforms: The standard 600 piasters uniform allowance is authorized this department for two (2) complete uniforms per man per year. Uniforms are made locally. Personnel observed during visit appeared clean and neat.

Ambulance: There is one (1) hospital in Ban-me-Thuot which provides ambulance service when available. In an emergency the military ambulance may be used.

Office Equipment: One (1) typewriter was in evidence. It was described as old and unusable. Wooden cabinets are used for correspondence and records.

Communications: There is one (1) telephone located at Police Headquarters for local calls only. Surete however has a radio transmitter at their headquarters which connects with Saigon and Dalat at all hours.

Weapons: In addition to recently issued American Aid equipment this department has the following. All were described as being in fair condition:

10 Rifles Japanese 303	no ammunition
1 Sub-machine gun Bren	5000 rounds
5 Sub-machine gun Sten	1500 rounds

Fire Service: The Municipal Police is also charged with the Fire Service. They have no equipment of any description.

American Aid Equipment: Under MSU's Civil Police program this department has received:

10 Smith and Wesson .38 caliber revolvers  
4000 rounds .38 caliber ammunition  
7 pairs peerless handcuffs  
3 gas masks  
24 dust and gas filters  
48 gas grenades (triple chase)

Chief's comments on needs are:

One (1) jeep, one (1) personnel cargo carrier, one (1) fire truck, one (1) ambulance, weapons and ammunition and office equipment.

Departure time: The MSU team remained over night at Ban-me-Thuot and departed 06:30 hours March 25, 1958 for Pleiku.

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(1)

## 2. Darlac

Physical data. - Located on the table-land bearing the same name, the center of the province area is built on a basaltic platform; the upland is mainly covered with good lumber forest of 1,000 high. It's chopped up by down-hill ending by rare lakes, such as da'lak, or wet land; in some part the upland reaches 1,500m high provided with healthy climate.

The whole area covers 18,886 sq.km. and divided into 444 villages and 4 districts (lak, Buôn-ho, M'Drack, Daksong).

Economical and other aspect. - Rubber plantation of limited area is seen on 500m high. Tea plantation covers an area of 1,500 ha. and is located on upland of around 1,000m high.

Beside these cultures, forestry industry is also an economic activity on small scale in the province (thêm (1) Vào Dây)

The whole population amounts to 202,249 inhabitants (including 35,000 refugees) 1/8 of them is Vietnamese. The tribemen living in this province are in majority Rhade, about 1/2 of the inhabitants; other sub-groups known are; stieng, Jarai, Roglai and Phnong. The Rhade are the most advanced tribemen several of them are secondary school educated (2). In 1941, one batallion of highlanders (most of them are Rhade) was sent to the Franco-siamese war front in Battambang.

They are matrilineal and made up of clan whose head called lo-lan is invested with the authority on their land property. The well-known catholic Leprosy is located in Banmethuot.

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(1) The national center of mechanized claiming of the PMS is located on the main highway and is operating in this province.

(2) One Rhade formerly a clerk is elected to the National Assembly. One deputy to the Chief of province -y-BLIENG- is a Rhade.

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Transportation discrepancies

The following discrepancies were noted during staff visits to cities in the PMS March 24th to March 29th, 1958. Provinces and cities visited are:

<u>Provinces</u>	<u>Cities</u>
Darlac	Ban-me-Thuot
Pleiku	Pleiku
Kontum	Kontum
	Dalat
Donai-Thuong	Di-Linh (Djiring)

Ban-me-Thuot: The Municipal Police Department here was to have received a used jeep in accordance with the June 1957 transportation distribution agreement. None was received. This department has an old jeep which they claim was purchased locally.

Pleiku: This department was to have received a used jeep from Saigon in accordance with the transportation distribution agreement. None has been received. The Municipal Police here are without transportation of any description.

Kontum: This department did receive their used jeep. It was turned over to the Municipal Police when Surete received their new jeep.

Dalat: The Municipal Police here were to receive one (1) Peugeot Sedan, one (1) new jeep, one (1) used jeep and three (3) motorcycles in accordance with the transportation distribution agreement. Vehicles received here were one (1) new jeep and one (1) old jeep.

Bi-Linh: No transportation was considered for the Municipal Police here as this city had only 5000 population in June 1957. This department however has a used jeep which is on loan from the Dalat Direction.

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