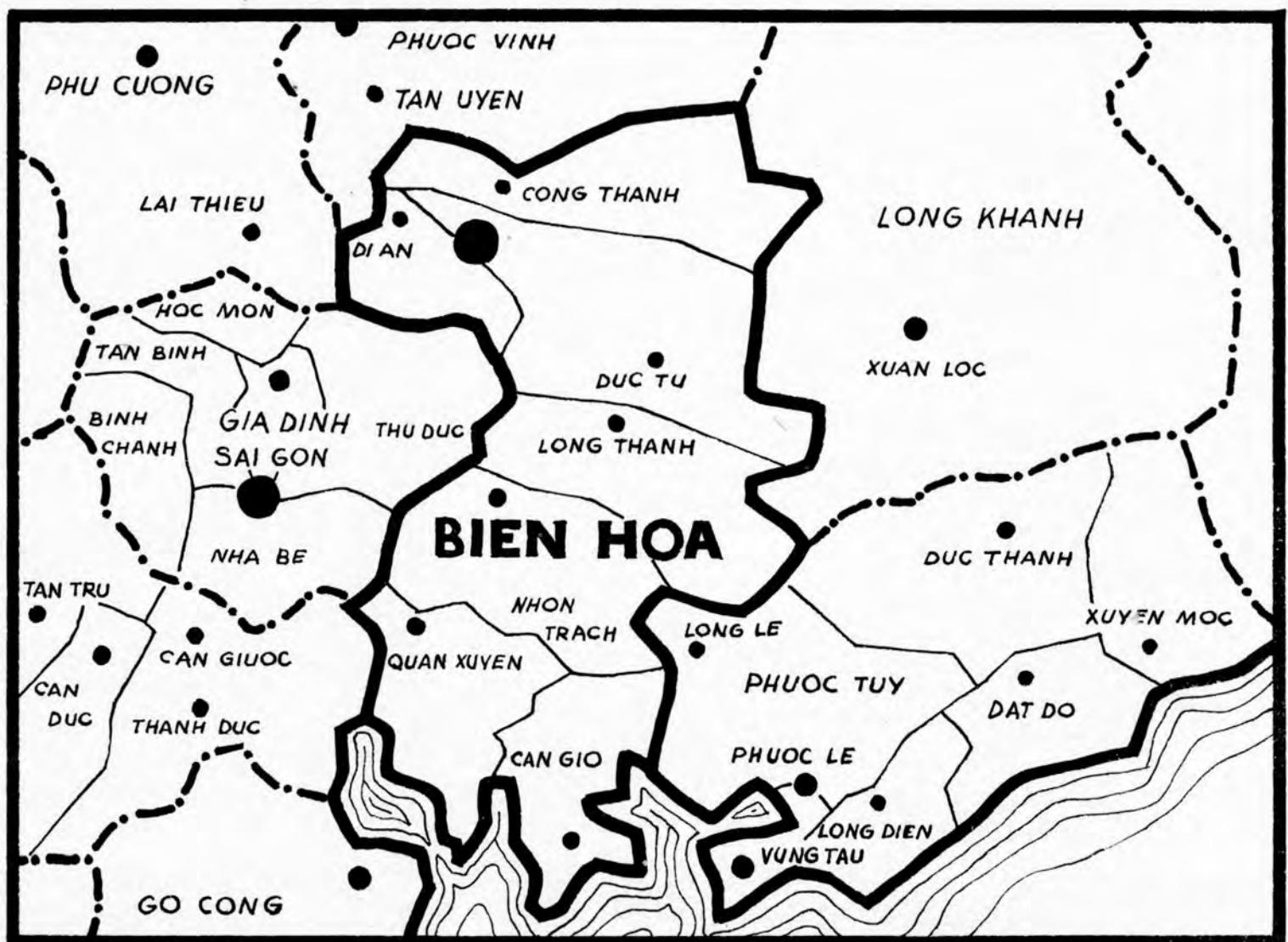


INFORMATION BRIEF

BIEN HOA PROVINCE

VIET NAM



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BIEN HOA PROVINCE

/

A) BRIEF PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Bien Hoa Province, situated in the Dong Nai Valley, is bordered on the east by Long Khanh and Phuoc Tuy Provinces, on the south by Gia Dinh Province, the southwest by Go Cong Province, the west by Long An and Gia Dinh Provinces and on the north and northwest by Binh Duong Province. It has an area of 194,000 hectares of which approximately 70 percent is suitable for cultivation. The balance consists of dense forests, rivers, swamps, mountains, roads and population centers. About half of the 136,000 hectares of arable land in this province is now in cultivation. The average annual rainfall is 1,633 meters.

The relative size of each of its 6 districts is shown below:

<u>District</u>	<u>Hectares</u>
Tan Uyen	37,000
Cong Thanh	19,000
Di An	7,500
Duc Tu	40,000
Long Thanh	48,500
Nhon Trach	42,000

The southern zone of Bien Hoa Province includes part of the district of Nhon Trach. Much of this southern zone is in swamp land, mangroves and muddy watercourses with considerable salt water penetration. It is sparsely settled. Most of the cultivated land in this zone is seeded to rice, but charcoal and fruit production also are important sources of income.

The central zone of Bien Hoa Province includes Long Thanh and the northern part of Nhon Trach District. This is an area of low, level land with dark, sandy-loam soil. Its main crops are rice and rubber. Most of the suitable trees in its forests have been cut for lumber, but as yet this zone has no reforestation program in operation. The principal game are deer, wild pig and wild cow.

The northern zone includes Duc Tu, Di An, Cong Thanh and Tan Uyen Districts. This highland area has coarse soils with deposits of laterite. Rice and rubber are its chief agricultural crops, but sugarcane, fruit, tobacco, corn, peanuts and kenaf are also important. Most of its lumber trees have been cut. A few wild elephants still roam in the scenic, waterfall area near Tri An in northern Cong Thanh District, but at present the most dangerous game in this area is the VC.

B) HISTORY OF PROVINCE

Bien Hoa, which means Land of Peaceful Frontiers, is one of the oldest provinces in Vietnam. Its history is also one of the most colorful and includes events that greatly influenced the shaping of its boundaries.

In 1698, Emperor Nguyen Phuc Chu designated one of his generals, Nguyen Huu Kinh as governor-general of the entire Dong Nai area which covered practically all of Nam Ky or South Vietnam. Incidentally, one of the streets in Bien Hoa City is named after this general. At a later date, the Emperor reorganized the administration of the government and divided the country into two parts. One of these parts included the three districts of Bien Dinh (Bien Hoa), Phien Tran Dinh (Gia Dinh) and Huyen Tan Binh (Saigon).

In 1832, Emperor Minh Mang formally divided the country into six distinct areas of which Bien Hoa was one that gained the stature of a province. One of the first governors of Bien Hoa Province was Vo Quynh.

Though it was in 1811 that the war between France and Vietnam broke out, it was not until 1861 that the French, under General Charner, defeated the Vietnamese decisively. After this battle, most of the Vietnamese soldiers sought refuge in Bien Hoa Province. French occupation of Bien Hoa Province actually began on December 16, 1861 and it was colonized up to the Japanese occupation during World War II. During this period the Viet Minh taking advantage of the general strife, ingratiated themselves with the government and helped expel the French from Vietnam's borders.

In October 1956, two districts, Song Be and Xuan Loc, were separated from Bien Hoa to become two new provinces now called Phuoc Long and Long Khanh respectively. Later the northern area of Bien Hoa was made the separate province of Phuoc Thanh. Present day Bien Hoa Prov. is thus a remnant of these partitions and is now composed eight districts.

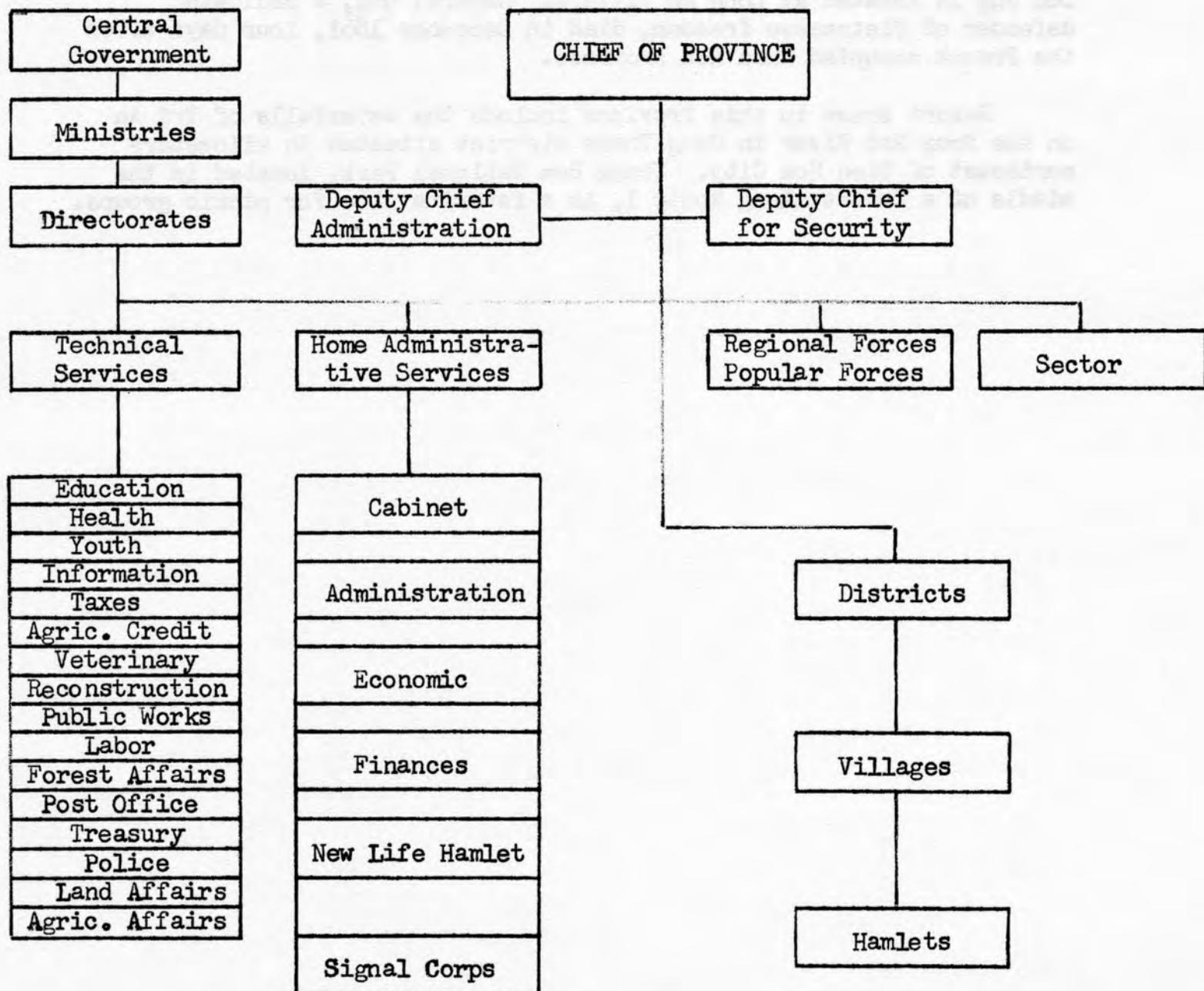
Bien Hoa's southern boundary was extended to the South China Sea in 1961. In 1965, when Phuoc Thanh Province was dissolved, Tan Uyen District was added to Bien Hoa the latest change was the loss of Can Gio and Quang Xuyen districts to Gia Dinh Province in November 1965.

Famous tombs and temples located in the Province included some of the most historic and beautiful spots in the country: Thanh Long Pagoda in Binh Truoc Village is one of the largest and most ornately decorated with a Buddha having 18 arms. Dai Giac Tu Pagoda built in 1837 and Buu Son Tu Pagoda built on the top of Long An mountain never fail to attract tourists and sightseers. The tomb of General Nguyen Duc Ung is located at Long An Village. General Ung, a dedicated defender of Vietnamese freedom, died in December 1861, four days after the French occupied Bien Hoa Province.

Resort areas in this Province include the waterfalls of Tri An on the Dong Nai River in Cong Thanh District situated 36 kilometers northeast of Bien Hoa City. Trang Bom National Park, located in the middle of a forest along Route 1, is a favorite site for picnic groups.

c) ORGANIZATION

In Bien Hoa Province, there are 6 districts, 72 villages and 199 New Life Hamlets. Following is an organizational chart of the Province Government:



D) POPULATION FACTS

Bien Hoa Province 306,483

Districts:

Cong Thanh.....	15,892
Duc Tu	153,565
Di An	30,019
Long Thanh.....	25,909
Nhon Trach.....	54,460
Tan Uyen	26,638

Principal Towns or Cities;

Bien Hoa (Duc Tu District) 60,000

Number of Buildings or Worship:

Buddhist temples	108
Catholic churches.....	57
Cao Dai Temples	14
Protestant church	1

Chinese and Cambodian Origin:

Duc Tu	142
Cong Thanh.....	13
Di An	164
Long Thanh	42
Nhon Trach	178

Foreigners Living in Bien Hoa Province:

From France.....	37
" China	19
" Italy	8
" India	4
" United States	1

Villages:

New Life Hamlets:

Completed the 6 requirements	119
Well on way to improvement	50

E. ECONOMY

<u>Main Occupations</u>	<u>Persons</u>
Farmers	229,907
Brick & Tile Industry	1,600
Transportation Workers	1,200
Factory workers	2,403
Rubber plantation workers	4,640
Quarrymen	456

Agriculture

Most of the cultivated land (46807 hectares in cultivation) in Bien Hoa Province is in rice and rubber. Listed below are the areas of most important crop production:

<u>Crop</u>	<u>Hectares</u>	<u>Quantity of production</u>
Rice	26,567	55,573 tons
Rubber	11,290	6,305 "
Sugarcane	1,505	60,200 " (4,816 tons sugar)
Corn	500	750 "
Pomelo	500	1,500,000 fruits
Areca nut	10	6.30 tons
Tobacco	400	320 "
Peanuts	406	325 "
Kenaf	10	10 "
Coconuts	40	220,000 fruits

Industry

Industries and Mills in Bien Hoa Province:

- 48 Power operated brick kilns
- 29 Stone grinding mills
- 37 Rice mills
- 25 Saw mills
- 26 Sugar cane presses
- 7 Ice factories
- 1 Crepe rubber factory
- 1 Jute bag plant
- 1 Tannery
- 1 Starch manufacturer
- 1 Malt factory
- 1 "COGIDO" Paper and Chemical Products Company
- 1 "CMICO" Chemistry Company
- 1 "VINACO" Chemistry Company
- 1 Auto Battery Manufacturer
- 1 "NAMICO" Company
- 1 Rubber materials manufacturer

1 "DUTACO" Company (Bicycle tires and tubes)
 1 "SOVINAC" Company
 1 Fish manure factory
 4 Manioc Presses
 20 Charcoal Kilns

Transportation:

<u>Routes:</u>	Paved highway and roads	193 Kms
	Gravel roads	186 "
	Dirt roads	19 "
	Railways	53 "
<u>Types:</u>	National routes	85 Kms
	Interprovincial routes	108 "
	Provincial routes	57 "
	Vicinal	78 "

Airports: Bien Hoa
 Long Thanh District (SIPH Rubber Plantation)
 Binh Son (SIPH Rubber Plantation)
 Trang Bom, Duc Tu District (LCD Rubber Plantation)

Primary School Enrollment

	Number enrolled		Number classes		Average Number Students per class	
	1964	1965	1964	1965	1964	1965
Fifth	9,986	11,520	157	189	64	61
Fourth	8,162	9,397	160	163	51	57
Third	6,872	8,693	121	147	57	59
Second	5,346	6,517	90	109	59	60
First	4,534	5,384	83	97	55	56
Total	34,900	41,511	611	705	57	58

Educational Data
Primary 1-5

	Public		Private	
	1964	1965	1964	1965
Number of schools	95	105	38	39
Number of classrooms	357	407	134	172
Number of teachers	589	868	98	109
Number of students	34,900	41,511	6,217	6,724

Secondary Schools

	Public	Semi-Public	Private
Number of schools	5	2	12
Number of classrooms	22	10	55
Number of teachers	92	42	115
Number of students	2,495	1,695	6,184

Provincial Health Facilities

Hospitals:

Bien Hoa Provincial Hospital, Bien Hoa City

Inpatient Maternity-Dispensaries:

Di An District
Long Thanh District
Nhon Trach District
Tan Uyen District

Inpatient Maternity/Outpatient Dispensaries:

Duc Tu District
Di An District
Long Thanh District
Cong Thanh District
Nhon Trach District
Tan Uyen District

Health Stations:

80 stations.

Self-Help Projects

Type of Project	1965				1964		
	Funded	No. of	Unfunded	No. of	Funded	No. of	
	*	Units	*	Units	*	Units	
Classroom construction	43	56	5	12	2		3
Classroom repair	6	15	7	16	-		-
Bridges	4	4	-	-	3		3
Bridge repair	4	4	-	-	-		-
Road repair	16	16	-	-	12		12
Drainage/Curves and Gutters	2	2	-	-	-		-
Fish ponds	2	2	-	-	3		3
Drying courts	2	2	-	-	-		-
Electrification, Rural	4	4	-	-	-		-
Buffalo multiplication	11	43	-	-	3		3
Wells	9	28	1	3	21		21
Wells repair	2	6	-	-	-		-
Pumps (including Irrigation Pump)	3	3	-	-	8		8
Markets	3	3	-	-	6		6
Wharf	1	1	-	-	-		-
Waiting shed	1	1	-	-	-		-
School furniture	3	5	Classr.	-	-		-
School toilets	4	12	-	-	-		-
School library	1	1	-	-	-		-
Maternity clinic	3	3	-	-	-		-
Dispensary repair	1	1	-	-	-		-
Principal's office	2	2	-	-	-		-
Communal Poultry Farm	6	600	chickens	-	-		-
Hamlet offices	-	-	-	-	4		4
Market repair	-	-	-	-	1		1
Water reservoir	1	1	-	-	10		10
Land clearing	-	-	-	-	3		3

* Approved, as of 1 January 1965.

F) REFUGEES:

Bien Hoa has accommodated-in round figures - some seven thousand refugees between January 1964 and November 1965 - approximately four thousand during 1964 and three thousand during 1965. The refugees have come primarily from Phuoc Thanh and Binh Tuy Provinces, and there has been some relocating within the province itself. The refugees have been absorbed into communities or at the edge of earlier refugee settlements, rather than being settled into camps. Normally they have followed relatives or friends so that immediate provision was made for them and the longer task of making a home near friends was facilitated.

There has been no problem in handling refugees in this Province and it is seldom that USOM is called upon to assist in these matters. This speaks highly of the Provincial Social Welfare Service and other Provincial officials who are well organized and responsive to refugee needs whenever they arise.

Situation of Refugees at Bien Hoa Province as of October 1965

District	Village	Number of families	Number of people	Former Address
Duc Tu	Trang Bom (Bau Ca)	361	2,145	Zone D
	Ho Nai (Suoi Dia)	281	2,230	Vo Dat Binh Tuy Tanh Linh
	An Binh	29	166	
Cong Thanh	Dai An)		Phuoc Thanh
	Thien Tan)		Tri An
	Tan Phu)		Thuong Lang
	Binh Thanh	131	433	Tan Tich
	Binh Y)		Tan Hoa
	Binh Phuoc)		
	Binh Hoa)		
Tan Uyen	Uyen Hung	83	290	Zone D
	Thai Hung	62	367	
Long Thanh	An Loi	418	1,941	Tam An

G. SUMMARY:

In summary, Bien Hoa could well be considered one of the more progressive of Vietnamese Provinces. The heavy influx of US Military personnel has considerably stimulated business and industry with the usual inflation that normally follows such a rapid expansion but there are some signs that the cost of living index may be leveling off. The close proximity to Saigon should eventually lead to solid industrial expansion in the Bien Hoa area. Excellent building sites are available on one of the best highways in Vietnam which provides direct access to Saigon. When peace is restored, the future of Bien Hoa Province should indeed be bright.
