

Mr. Richard L. Hough, AD/LR

17 November 1969

Marion C. Gross, Land Reform Advisor
ADDP/LR

Field Trip with Lt. Col. Le Van Minh to IV DMAC, IV CTZ and
Phong Dinh, Chuong Thien, Ba Xuyen Provinces on November 10-13

Purpose: Accompany LtC Minh on his new assignment in support of land
reform in IV CTZ, including membership on Corps Pacification
and Development Council.

IV DMAC:

We received very good assistance and support from the CORDS personnel. Mr. Gleason Rohlfs, Ag. Advisor, accompanied us during the trip and continued to accompany LtC Minh to Bac Lieu and An Kuyen on November 14 and 15. We met with Mr. John Vann, Dep.CORDS, and Mr. Robert Craig, Chief of NLD. All are most enthusiastic that LtC will be able to provide liaison from the Ministry of Land Reform and Agriculture and Fishery Development to the IV CTZ Commander and participate in the CORPS Pacification and Development Council meetings. Until other arrangements can be made office space, desk, secretarial assistance and transportation will be provided for LtC Minh in Mr. Rohlfs office.

LtC Minh met and discussed his new assignment with the IV CTZ Commander and CPDC Chairman.

Phong Dinh:

Persons contacted: Nguyen Van Khanh, Dep.Prov.Chief
Nguyen Van Loc, Prov.Land Service Chief
Nguyen Than Son, Team Leader of Engineers
Frank Kelly, PDA
Allen Hove, Asst. NLD

Introductions and brief discussions were held with Mr. Kelly and Mr. Hove.

Re-met with Mr. Loc and Mr. Son on three major areas:

1. Coordination and planning distribution with the province pacification plan. The Land Service had the Province HES report from August. LtC Minh urged them to cooperate closer with the pacification office and CPDC especially since they were located very close. He had already discussed closer cooperation with Colonel Uc of the CPDC.

2. Areas available for distribution in 1970:

<u>District</u>	<u>Village</u>	<u>Area (Ha.)</u>
Thanh Truong	Ngon Thien	1,000
Thanh Truong	Thai Lai	1,000
Phung Hiep	Phung Hiep	1,800
Phung Hiep	Hoa My	200
	Tan Phuoc Hung	150
	Hiep Hung	50
Thuan Nhon	(no village names given for these districts)	100
Phong Thuan		200
Phong Phu		400
Phong Dien		100
Chau Thanh		100
		5,100
	(other remaining villages)	900
	Total:	6,000

The 6,000 ha. coincides with the figure given by Mr. Loc at the meeting in Saigon the end of October. When we asked for a list of the villages projected for 1970, obviously they had laid out a plan yet. We hoped that by asking for the plan and then discussing some of the proposals, it would get them thinking more along such lines. I believe it did help to get things moving. Mr. Hove will contact the Land Service for further planning of areas of distribution in 1970. Three of the villages projected to not have elected officials as of now, but will have during 1970 pacification program. I might add here, that LtC Minh might be able to give valuable assistance to laying out a province distribution plan.

3. Type of reports sent to Saigon: A cable report is sent to MLRAFD and the more detailed monthly report attached to Circular 540 is being sent to DGLA, with a copy to the Province Chief.

We discussed the feasibility of asking villages to report the number of hectares distribution each month along with the number of titles. Mr. Loc and Mr. Son say it is feasible and, in fact, are presently getting such information from most villages.

Other areas that were briefly discussed:

42
- 18 Village Committees are capable of carrying on distribution much on their own.

- 14 Village Committees are not able to carry on distribution by themselves. More training is needed.

- 50% of the photos have been distributed to villages. The balance are not distributed because of security. Village personnel are having difficulty to read maps.

- No coordination has been done on use of RD cadre. Mr. Loc said most training in the province for the cadre had stopped since the 1968 Tet offensive and now they are not trained well enough to be used. This area needs more exploration!

Chuong Thien:

Persons contacted: Col. Nguyen Van Nguu, Prov. Chief
Mr. Duc, Prov. Land Service Chief
LtC T. Lavasseur, PSA
Mr. Norman Olsen, PDA
Lt. Tom Hargrove, Ag. Advisor

Recent infusion of CVN regular troops has increased military activity considerably. Thus, new areas are being served. Such an area is Kien Long District where pacification teams are moving in behind the security forces. They are also planning to follow up with Land Service personnel and try to distribute land. I hope to accompany a DCLA representative to Chuong Thien next week to follow through on this venture.

Of the 32 villages in the province, only 2 are capable of carrying on distribution alone. Of the 11 Land Registrars recruited 5 were trained by Saigon and 6 by the Land Service personnel. Village personnel can not do the drawings and so applications are delayed because the Land Service must do this work. The only draftsman they had returned to An Giang some time ago. The Land Service Chief plans to train each Village Committee separately on the job.

The Land Service Chief showed us copies of letters he had written in September to the Land Service in Ba Xuyen, Kien Giang and Phong Dinh for transfer of specific documents but has received no reply to date. During later discussions with Col. Nguu we brought up this problem. He then instructed Mr. Duc to prepare letters to each of the three province chiefs for his signature asking their help to get the records transferred to Chuong Thien.

The Province Chief has land available for a new Land Service office. Funds must be provided to move and erect the prefab building now at An Giang or construct a complete new building.

Some photos are in the villages but most are still kept at the province.

Ba Xuyen:

All the information is covered in Mr. Melville's report during our visit there, which coincided with your visit with Vice Minister Anh to Ba Xuyen.

cc: DEPCORDS/Can Tho; NLD CORDS/Can Tho; AGR ADV/Can Tho; PSA/Phong Dinh; LR ADV/Phong Dinh; PSA/Chuong Thien; LR ADV/Chuong Thien; PSA/Ba Xuyen; ER ADV/Ba Xuyen

WLD/CORDS/DEAC
POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT BRANCH (PROVISIONAL)

4000

FIELD TRIP REPORT

November 18, 69

Name of traveler: Tran Van Khoi
Date of trip : November 11 - 12, 1969
Purpose : To check over implementation of Land Reforms Program
Place : My Khanh village, Phong Dien district, Phong Dinh Province

A trip was made to My Khanh village on 11 November 1969 to check over implementation of Land Reform Program in this village. Upon arrival in this village, I went to see the village officials and an interview was made with these people rightly in their office. They are Mr. Lam Ngoc Dan, the Village Council Chairman, - Mr. Tran van Tu, his Deputy, - Mr. Tran van Mai and Mr. Vo van Chau, both are members in the Village Council.

However are informations received from these four men:

Q - Can you let me know something about My Khanh village and the population?

A - Mr. My Khanh village is a small village of Phong Dien district, Phong Dinh Province. This village covers an area of 751 Ha., and the population is 4,136 people.

Q - Among the Village Council staff, is there anyone who is landlord or tenant?

A - Nobody is landlord or tenant.

Q - How is land distributed to farmers since the implementation of the Land Reforms Program?

A - Distribution will be based on the family situation of farmers, i. e. . they are rich or poor, and the number of children they are having at charge.

Q - How many people in this village are entitled to land distribution?

A - Twenty-three people in this village had received their share.

Q - How much land was distributed to each of them?

A - From one hectare to two hectares.

Q - What was the status of land distributed? Is it public land or

expropriated land?

A = Land distributed to farmers is land expropriated from the French. And we did not receive any instruction regarding distribution of public land as yet.

Q = Are recipient farmers working on their land or are they hiring someone to farm for them?

A = Being too poor, they are farming themselves on their lands.

Q = What about renting fees in this village?

A = Renting fees will be 15% over the annual income or 15% over the income of each crop.

Q = Among the Village Committee and the Village Council staff, most of officials are landlords or tenants?

A = Most of them are tenants.

Q = How are they living? And on what source of incomes?

A = They are depending on their salary and on incomes from their crops or their livestock.

Q = Most of tenants/farmers are living in the same village with their landlords or are they living in other villages?

A = They are living in the same village with their landlords.

Q = Can you give me the list of your staff and the Village Committee staff who are landlords or tenants on their lands?

A = Yes. They are:

Village Council

1. Mr. Lam Ngoc Bau, Chairman has 5 hectares
2. Mr. Tran Van Tu, Deputy Chairman has 1 hectare
3. Mr. Nguyen Van Dan, Secretary General has 0 hectare
4. Mr. Bui Van Ty, Member has 0 hectare
5. Mr. Pham Van Tong, Member has 0 hectare
6. Mr. Ho Van Chuc, Vital Statistics Registration Commissioner has 3 hectares
7. Mr. Tran The Hai, Village Clerk has 1 hectare
8. Mr. Tang Van, Information Commissioner has 0 hectare
9. Mr. Nguyen Quang Tru, Tax Commissioner has 1 hectare

According to Mr. Lax Nguo Dan, are considered as landowners only those who have more than 100 hectares of land.

Copies to: - Chlef, AG/SLD/COADS/DMAC
- USAID/AIDPP/Land Reform
- Economics Advisor, COADS/DMAC
- PBA, COADS/Phong Dinh

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Mr
To: Mr. Hough
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TO : Mr. Richard L. Hough, AD/LR

DATE: November 22, 1969

FROM : Marlan C. Grossz *HCG*
Land Reform Advisor

SUBJECT: Field Trip to Chuong Thien Province on November 19 to 21

PARTICIPANTS: D.N. Nghi Chau, MLRAFD
Cao Thanh Chuong, USAID/ADDP/LR
Marlan C. Grossz, USAID/ADDP/LR

We went to Kien Long District shortly after arriving in the early morning of the 19th and returned to Vi Thanh mid-afternoon. We travelled by sampan to Ninh Phong Village where Land Service personnel were receiving applications for former French land. We were accompanied by Mr. Duc, Land Service chief, the village chief, and Lt. Margrove, Land Reform Advisor.

The situation this time was insecure and had been under VC control for years. On the 1st of November ARVN troops moved into the area to secure it, followed by RD crews on the 13th of November to begin pacification activities. The Land Service personnel moved into the area on November 19th and set up a location to receive applications about 15 minutes by sampan from the village office. The first day a couple of applications were received, the second day, 15 applications and the first half of the third day, while we were there, 42 applications for approximately 80 hectares were received. It is completely a spontaneous response of farmers coming in to apply for the land. While we were there, there were approximately 50 men and women waiting or filing applications for land.

The Village Commissioner for Land Reform, Agriculture and Fishery Development was filling out the applications of the most basic information. Mr. Vui, Deputy Land Service Chief, Mr. Tong, MLRAFD Engineer, and a LS cadre were identifying the parcels on the aerial photos and drawing the sketches.

This is a good example of what can be accomplished by close coordination on pacification activities and the psychological impact that can be gained. Many of the people are moving from insecure areas to this area along the canal. Some are coming from Bac Lieu Province. New houses have been constructed during the past couple of weeks and others are under various stages of construction. The people appear to be quite relaxed and most receptive to the land distribution. It is an encouraging indication that the farmers do want to have ownership to the land they are tilling.

Even with the coordination on this particular project, the area of publicity could be strengthened. There was no advance notification of the Land Service personnel coming. The RD cadre had no leaflets to hand out or information to

pass on to the farmers. Also, the Land Service personnel had only one leaflet to pass out, sent to the province by JUSPAO, copy of which is attached. It is only to gain support for the government and does not mention LR itself. We discussed possibilities of the MLRAFD producing a packet of the most important info such as occupancy, rent and tax freeze, purpose of land distribution, ADB loans available when farmer receives land, etc. The situation in Vinh Phuong would have been ideal for such a handout packet. We noticed the people carefully folded the leaflet given to them and put it in their pocket. Publicity is seriously lacking here. For the immediate future we recommended some information be printed in Chuong Thien for handout in this and other areas. Mr. Chuong drew up a leaflet which outlines the important points of the past decrees and circulars. This will be printed locally and should be available by November 24.

Attempts were made to have a meeting between the LS chief and RD Cadre Chief but were not successful. They will try to meet at a later date to coordinate their activities. We did obtain HES status overlay for which the LS Chief requested and was given a copy.

The LS Chief has drawn up a 1970 land distribution plan for the province pacification plan. If this can be implemented jointly by other agencies which can support him, then more rapid progress can be achieved.

On November 21 the three LS personnel returned to Vi Thanh from Vinh Phuong Village bringing with them the aerial photos, maps, etc. Apparently, at the outset, they had not planned to stay for a long time. After discussing the matter with the LS Chief, he will send some cadre back into the village on November 24. However, the people are now just getting the word and a break in presence of LS personnel could affect their enthusiasm and confidence. It clearly indicates that the LS Chief is having problems of controlling the engineers.

To substantiate this, we asked if he were given extra personnel, (possibly more engineers from MLRAFD) would be practical to locate them on a permanent basis in the district towns. They then could work from there in the villages, making transportation much less of a problem. He readily agreed, but did add that dedicated cadre might be more useful than engineers. This confirmed what we had earlier observed, that some engineers are not willing to accept guidance and direction from the LS Chief. It is a problem that needs to be discussed with the MLRAFD. I am sure Mr. Chau will be reporting on the problem.

The people here would welcome the land-to-the-tiller program. The people who are returning to the village are presently landless people or tenant farmers. Most small landowners have moved out of the area. It is too early to know if they will return, however, it appears doubtful.

cc: Dep CORDS/Can Tho
CORDS/NLD/Can Tho ✓
CORDS AGR/Can Tho

PSA/Chuong Thien
LR Adv/Chuong Thien