

Record of meeting  
with Mr. Tran Ngoc Lien, Director of the  
National Agricultural Credit Agency.

by Nguyen Quan

Date: May 25, 1957  
Present: Messrs Tran Ngoc Lien of N.A.C.A.  
Rosenfeld and Quan of MSUG.  
Subject: After 6-months Survey of the Implementation of  
the Report on Land Registration and Agrarian  
Reform.

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On page 4, point 1-C, the MSUG Report states:

"We recommend the consolidation of the Directorate of National Agricultural Credit and Producer's Cooperatives, with the now independent Directorate of People's Agriculture Credit and Directorate of Control of People's Agriculture Credit, into a new Bank for Agriculture and Cooperatives to be affiliated with the Department of Agriculture."

"Pending establishment of the Bank and as an interim organizational step thereto, the credit activities should be consolidated in an Agricultural Credit Directorate to be established in the Department of Agriculture."

The suggested consolidation has come into effect. A Presidential Decree, No. 67DTCCDD, of April 1, 1957 provided for the establishment of a National Agricultural Credit Agency. The Agency Chief, Mr. Tran Ngoc Lien, has been given the rank of a Director General. However, the Agency reports to the Department of Land Registration and Agrarian Reform.

"I do not find this line of responsibility sensible" Mr. Lien said, "I would rather see my agency within the Department of Agriculture..."

He added:

"Anyway the Government plans to set up one Bank of Credit which will serve all 3 branches of economic activity of the country: Agriculture, Industry and Commerce. Thus my Agency, the existing National Agency for Investment and National Bank for Commerce and Industry will disappear in the near future as separate organisms. Such Bank, when it is established, should surely report to the Presidency."

Mr. Liên sees, in the present location of his agency within the Department of Agrarian Reform, an intention of the Government to show its concern for a fundamental reform which thus far has been commented on by the Viet Cong propaganda as a masterpiece of the Communist regime in North VN.

The following are Mr. Liên's main statements regarding his agency:

- 1o) Special attention is being given at this time to extending field agencies; 8 have just been established; each of which will cover more than one province.

Agency	Competence extention
Hoi An Khanh Hoa	Province of Quang Nam Province of Khanh Hoa Ninh Thuận Phu Yên
Gia Định	Province of Gia Định Bình Dương Tây Ninh
Can Tho	Province of Phong Dinh Vinh Binh Vinh Long
My Tho	Province of Dinh Tường Long An Kiên Hoa
Quảng Long Long Xuyên	Province of An Xuyên Province of An Giang Kiện Giang
Cao Lanh	Province of Kiện Phong Kiến Tường

The total number of field agencies needed would be 16.

- 2o) A body of controllers are now working in the field to supervise those agencies.
- 3o) Personnel assigned to field agencies have been trained in Saigon. Thus far, 100 agents have completed training. This training has no connection with the In-Service Training Division at the National Institute.

- 4o) When consolidating the various credit agencies, Mr. Liên has encountered difficulties with the Department of Agriculture. The latter could not comprehend the implementation of the 5 plans without the management of the Credit funds. When ordered to transfer all the existing agricultural credits to the new agency, Mr. Liên offered to transfer the management of the 5 plans too. This has been settled by an intervention of the Vice-President, himself.
- 5o) The only difficulty Mr. Liên has to deal with at present is: too many requests for loan and insufficient funds.
- 6o) To speed up the procedure, some trustworthy chiefs of province have been given the power of attorney to grant loans. For example: the province of Phu-Yên has 5 million piasters on hand; the province of Camau recovered 97 o/o of the loans granted; provinces of "Plaine des Joncs" (formerly a den of Viet Cong), recovered 3.290.000\$ of 3.300.000\$ loaned....
- 7o) In commenting on the government's policy in regard to personnel, Mr. Liên thought that more "fonctionnaires" should be assigned to work in the field, instead of staying in Saigon.