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THE PRESIDENCY

Special Commissariat
for Civic Action

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No DB/CDV

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REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

Directive

Object: About the Program of Action and System
of Operation in the Highlander villages.

On account of the difference of the situation between the provinces of South Vietnam and those of the PMS on geography, village organization, the existence of many languages which differ from tribe to tribe, an organization and a program of action suitable to the locality is needed. Thus, the special Commissariat for Civic Action has decided as shown below:

I. Organization: Each province has a Provincial Group composing of:

- 1- A Provincial Group Staff as mentioned in Arrêté No....
- 2- Two mobile teams to stimulate activity groups in districts, cantons and villages.
- 3- Two cadres in each district. They will move in that district for one phase: one Vietnamese and one Highlander if that district has Vietnamese villages. If there are no Vietnamese villages, there will be 2 highlander cadres.
- 4- One cadre in each highlander canton.
- 5- One village cadre for every 2 or 3 villages (PMS).

In the Vietnamese village there are no village or canton cadres receiving a salary like the highlanders, but volunteer local cadres trained by activity teams in the villages of South Vietnam. As the political standard and the eagerwillingness of the Vietnamese is higher than those of the highlanders, it is then only necessary to appeal to their volunteering spirit to work without pay.

Only in the municipality of Dalat, is there a Provincial Group Staff supervising directly, and stimulating the 2 mobile teams and assigning 2 persons to each quarter.

II. Responsibility

a/ Provincial Group Staff

The Organization is almost the same as in the provinces in South VietNam, having the duties as clearly mentioned in the report of the directive No Besides the Provincial Group Staff, the PMS provinces have the direct responsibilities of activating local cadres in Vietnamese villages close to the provincial capital.

b/ Mobile team

The organization and number of staff are the same as those of the provincial group of the ~~plain~~ (half of the Group members have to be the highlanders). Their duties are to activate the working organisms in each district, according to the fixed phase.

After the two teams have returned to the district they have the responsibility going to all cantons. Each pair of Cadres, consisting of one highlander and one Vietnamese, will work together with the canton cadres in going to every village. Here they will guide the village cadres in their work, and at the same time, investigate and report the situation and the work in each region. The length of time fixed for each phase of activity is 2 months, just as other provinces in South Vietnam.

c/ District Cadres

Each district has 2 district cadres. Their responsibility is to work with the District chief in order to stimulate the canton cadres in their work, to make permanent reports on the situation of the work progress in the district and training work to canton and village cadres.

This training will be discussed more fully when the mobile team comes to the district. The district cadres only responsibility is to coordinate and guide the team to various units.

d/ Canton Cadres

Each canton has 2 canton cadres. Their responsibility is to contact the canton chief. They are also the group leaders of the village cadres and, at the same time, report orally on various operations in villages to the district cadres.

e/ Village Cadres

Having the duties of realizing operations in the villages, they are responsible for and report orally to the Canton cadre.

Since they are responsible for 2 or 3 villages, 3 to 5km apart, they have to ask help from the Government in getting cadres volunteers from the villages to operate right in the village. These cadres do not have a salary but could ask the Provincial Group staff to make an appeal to the government in order to give them some priorities such as exempting them from insecticide work, having some gifts etc ... or the Provincial Group staff could negotiate with the Government to have the village chief or village civil-guard Commander assuming the work.

III. Operations

It is impossible to have, as down in the plain, so many operations which could be left to the Cadres to realize with flexibility. For the tribemen it must be clear and realistic, so it is not recommended to confide them with many operations but to show them concretely one operation at a time, without discussion but only to show them rightaway the advantages and disadvantages of that operation.

Therefore, the special Commissariat sets up operations as follows and according to the locality the Provincial Group staff has to call a meeting to add or take away various operations suitable to each locality.

For all Vietnamese living in the PMS, the operations will be the same as those of the provinces in South Vietnam. As for the highlanders, the special Commissariat plans these following operations:

a/ Politics: Completely uproot the French influence still existing in order to help them understand the National Government.

To incite hate for the VietMinh, as well as Communism, by concrete facts made by the VietMinh in their own locality and by various plots destructing the things they are attached to or love such as: destruction of Religion, the Family, compulsion of work without pay, high taxation, etc...

b/ Culture - Learn to speak Vietnamese (to make all of our compatriots living in the mountainous villages able to speak the Vietnamese language. There is no need at this time for an anti-illiteracy campaign, when the majority of them do not know the Vietnamese language.

To eliminate or limit customs or harmful superstitions: early marriage, burial in the same coffin, marriage etc... (these problems should be brought to the attention of the Province Chief in order to follow the government's policy)

c/ Improvement of Living standard: concept on Hygiene, to introduce concepts on birth and nursing, use of medicines, General hygiene, prevention of contagious diseases.

Concepts of progress: living sparingly, habit

Concepts of raising production: growing, breeding

Highlander villages near the provincial capital or catholic

parish have already absorbed some concepts of civilization. Now we can "Vietnamize" them, in all aspects, and can launch an Anti-illiteracy campaign.

IV. Living activity

Due to the low standard of knowledge of the highlanders and their passive character, it is necessary, in order to have good results in the operations, to watch them closely and push them in their work. Therefore, it is necessary to give them a regular way of living.

The special Commissariat notices that it is necessary for the highlanders to meet together for reporting and to attend training courses regularly. Therefore:

- every 15 days (2 weeks) the village cadres have to meet together at the Canton headquarters, to report the work being done in the last 2 weeks and receive directives for work to be done in the Coming week. The jobs have to be well instructed and explained in detail before being brought back to the village for realization.

- every 15 days, the canton cadres must have a meeting at the district to report and to receive work-orders for the village cadres. They also must be well instructed each time and given detailed explanations for reassignment to the village cadres. On the day of report and regular training of the Canton cadres in the district, the Provincial Group Staff has to send a cadre from the Provincial Group or from the Mobile Group back to the district for guidance.

Once every 15 days, the cadres have to meet regularly with the Provincial Group staff to report and receive directives, as well as instructions of the work

In order to achieve full attendance of village at these meetings and to stimulate their working efforts, the Provincial Group Staff could give realistic rewards such as: salt, cloth, matches, tobacco, fabrics etc ... in the limit of VN\$ 50 each time for each Canton or district.

V/ Checking

Due to the lack of understanding of self-supporting highlanders, it is then not useful for them to self-criticize, but necessary to watch them closely and cleverly.

They should not be left alone or pushed in their assigned duties or desinterest will occur. Definite responsibilities and jobs must be clear and should not be changed so that they are lost in their work.

As for the Vietnamese cadres, checking is necessary as usual, without any change

VI. Report

Report samples could be only used from the district level up. For highlander cadres at the district level less complex samples would be available. Whether reports are made orally or in writing, the Provincial Group must give the Highlander cadres a concept of clearness and urgency:

- 1) When making special reports
- 2) When making regular reports