

Subject: Plan of Action for Research Project in Commissariat of Civic Action

The commissariat of civic action is unique among government departments in that its primary mission is to strengthen the influence of the government by direct contact with the rural population to improve their life and their morale. The commissariat works entirely on the "cadre" system. This commissariat has recently undergone a complete reorganization. In addition, a recent decree increases their responsibility to encompass their activities ^{WITH THOSE} of the representatives of other departments engaged in similar activities. (Information and Guard Civil are effected in particular). It is felt that a good research project at this time can be of great value to the commissariat in preparing to fulfill its major role.

It is contemplated that the study group will conform to the usual pattern with the exception that one province and one village within that province will be given an extensive and detailed survey. This survey will include actual dwelling in a village for a few days by a MSU team. It is obvious that to really know how the Civic Action program is being received in the village we will have to actually live with the people to find out. It is expected that this program can commence on/about the first of November with the initial two weeks being spent at the central office. On or about 15th of November one team will proceed to the selected province for the detailed study mentioned above. As soon as this team, which will consist of one American and one Vietnamese staff member has completed the study of the province as a whole they will select a village in which civic action cadres are operating and live in the village for a period not to exceed five days. At the same time another member of the group will conduct the interview type of research in other provinces that have civic action programs in operation. By the 1st of January it is contemplated that the research phase will be completed and that report writing can commence. A general report will be prepared and in addition, a report will be written on the village study as a separate report.

OPERATION PLAN FOR CIVIC ACTION STUDY



1st phase-- Central Office - 2 weeks

Complete Central Office study - entire group to participate.

2nd phase-- Provincial study - 6 weeks

Teams will visit villages in all provinces where Civic Action Team are operating. All members of the group

3rd phase-- Detailed study of one province

This study will be conducted simultaneously with phase 2. This study will be conducted by a two-man team consisting of one American and one Vietnamese staff member.

4th phase-- Detailed study of one village

This study will be conducted simultaneously with phase 2 by the phase 3 team, a village will be selected for the study. The objective of the project will be to come out with an accurate picture of village life and the spirit and personality of the people. Research will not be confined to the Civic Action program but will include all government programs.

5th phase-- 3 weeks

Analysis of data and preparation of report.