

Mr. Fishel, Chief Advisor

10 September 1956

Mr. Sanderson, Field Administration

Report of Meeting with Minister of Information
Friday - 7 September 1956

In company with Mr. Hoc I conferred with Mr. Thanh, the Secretary of State for Information and Youth, in order to bring him up to date on the Progress of our research in his department.

The following items were discussed:

- a. The present organization and its efficiency
- b. The Youth Program and the question as to whether or not it should be a part of the Department of Information
- c. The proper role of psychological warfare and the presence of such a unit in the Department of Information
- d. Observations on the field program to include maintenance of equipment and supply, quality of publications and inadequate distribution of information funds between the provinces.

Presenting the above items point by point to the Secretary he took up each item with the idea of defending or explaining his position.

- a. He said he was happy that we were pleased with the administration set-up and agreed that although it was in good shape some reforms were needed.
- b. He agreed that the Youth Program should be an individual agency and stated that its position both in the central office and in the provinces was with autonomous or becoming autonomous as quickly as he could get the program organized. He stated that the President has personally directed that he take over the over-all direction of the Youth Program and therefore could not willingly agree to its being placed anywhere else. He also pointed out that the program was still in the development stage.
- c. As to the Psychological Warfare Section he said that they were the key section of the Ministry but he did agree that they were misnamed thereby creating the wrong impression as to their role. He suggested that the name might be changed to the Psychological Action Section at which time I suggested that possibly Operations Section might also be a good name.

d. As far as the items pointed out that existed in the field he stated that he was aware of these shortcomings and was taking, or had taken, action to solve these problems.

I thanked the Secretary for his assistance and pointed out that we were very highly impressed with the esprit de corps and morale of the department and that we appreciated very much the wholehearted cooperation we were getting. The interview ended having lasted thirty five minutes.

cc: Mr. Smuckler
Mr. Mode