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Howard W. HOYT

July 9, 1956

Jack E. RYAN

Meeting at Independence Palace, July 3, 1956,
With Minister of Interior Nguyen-Huu-CHAU.

A meeting was arranged with Mr. Nguyen-Huu-CHAU, who is the Minister of Interior for the Republic of Viet Nam and who also holds the position of Secretary of State at the Presidency which meeting was held at the Independence Palace on July 3, 1956. The following individuals were in attendance:

Mr. Nguyen-Huu-CHAU, Minister of Interior
Mr. Huynh-Duc-Buu, Director General of Political Affairs
Mr. Tran-Van-DAT, Cabinet Director, Ministry of Interior
Mr. Cao-Van-LANG, Director of Immigration
Mr. Tong-Ngoc-CHAC, Chief of Cabinet VBI Headquarters
Mr. Tran-Van-A, Deputy Director of VBI for South Viet Nam
Mr. Nguyen-Dinh-DUY, Chief of Administration of VBI for
South Viet Nam
Mr. Howard W. HOYT, Chief Advisor, Police Advisory Team, MSU
Mr. Jack E. RYAN, Police Advisor, Police Advisory Team, MSU

The following subjects were discussed at this meeting:

I. CONSOLIDATION OF VBI HEADQUARTERS AT THE CAMP DES MARES.

a. Immediate adoption of the complete reorganization plan previously furnished the VBI. Consolidation at the Camp des Mares would be greatly facilitated through the adoption of this plan, since considerable savings could be affected in space and personnel.

It was agreed that adoption and implementation of this plan was not immediately possible since the plan must be studied more completely and since some time will be required in securing favorable acceptance of such a revision among VBI and various governmental personnel. Mr. CHAU stated that he had studied the suggested reorganization and was in favor of its adoption as soon as possible.

b. The removal of the International Control Commission from the Camp des Mares. Mr. CHAU pointed-out that complete

evacuation of this Camp by the ICC would require some time. He stated that there is a possibility that both the French and the Indian members of the Commission may soon be moved from the Camp. As soon as more and more buildings become available, the consolidation of VBI Headquarters in one central location will become closer to complete realization.

c. Move the existing VBI Headquarters to the Camp des Mares immediately, utilizing available vacant buildings. Mr. CHAU pointed-out that this was now being done. It was therefore suggested that after the HQ. had been completely moved to the new site, that a survey be conducted in order to ascertain the number and location of still vacant buildings. Inasmuch as immediate consolidation of the Headquarters of the VBI for Southern Viet Nam with General VBI Headquarters is seemingly impractical, part of VBI Headquarters for South Viet Nam could be transferred into those empty buildings, allowing those sections remaining on Catinat to spread-out thereby eliminating the overcrowded conditions which exist there now. An alternative suggested to Mr. CHAU was the possibility of moving the entire Immigration Division of the VBI to the Camp des Mares and temporarily leave the Headquarters for South Viet Nam where it is. It was agreed that this matter would be more closely studied once VBI General HQ. has been moved to the Camp.

II. CREATION OF A COMMISSION TO STUDY THE MSU REPORT ON THE PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM.

Mr. CHAU recommended that a commission be created for the purpose of studying and implementing the aforementioned report. He asserted that the entire field of law enforcement in Viet Nam is in need of thorough examination and study in order that changes can be brought about which will serve to develop efficient administrative and operational law enforcement agencies. Following a brief discussion, the following persons were placed on this commission:

Mr. Nguyen-Huu-CHAU, Minister of Interior
Mr. Huynh-Duc-BUU, Director General of Political Affairs
Mr. Do-Van-RO, Assistant Cabinet Director, Ministry of Interior

General Nguyen-Ngoc-LE, Director General of the VBI
Mr. Tran-Van-TU, Director of Police, Saigon-Cholon
Mr. Ton-That-TRAC, Director, Civil Guard
Mr. Gilbert SHELBY, Police Advisor, MSU, Police Advisory Team
Mr. Richard ROGERS, " " " " " "
Mr. Jack E. RYAN, " " " " " "

Additional copies of the MSU Report will be furnished each member of this Commission prior to the first meeting to be held in the near future.

III. REORGANIZATION OF THE VBI.

Mr. CHAU remarked that both he and General LE had reviewed the suggested reorganization plan presented by MSU regarding both the VBI Headquarters as well as its field organization. He emphatically recommended that as much of the plan as practicable be placed into effect as soon as possible. Mr. CHAU further recommended, with full approval of those present, that another commission be created to study the MSU plan with the view toward its implementation. The following persons were placed on this commission:

Mr. Nguyen-Huu-CHAU, Minister of Interior
Mr. Huynh-Duc-Buu, Director General of Political Affairs
Mr. Do-Van-RO, Assistant Cabinet Director, Ministry of Interior
General Nguyen-Ngoc-LE, Director General of the VBI
Mr. Tran-Ba-THAN, Director of VBI for South Viet Nam
Mr. ~~NGUYEN-VAN-MAY~~, Director of VBI for the PMS
Mr. ~~NGUYEN-CHU~~, Director of VBI for Central Viet Nam
Mr. Cao-Van-LANG, Director of Immigration
Mr. Tong-Ngoc-CHAC, Chief Cabinet, VBI Headquarters.

Mr. CHAC was delegated the authority to compile copies of all laws and decrees dealing with the VBI for duplication and presentation to all members of this commission prior to its first meeting. No specific date for the initial meeting was set. Mr. HOYT advised that copies of the MSU Reorganizational Plan for the VBI would be made available to each member of the commission before the first session.

IV. MISCELLANEOUS.

During the course of the meeting at the Palace, both Mr. HOYT and the writer informed those present of the thinking of the MSU Police Advisory Team regarding the necessity for the complete elimination of political interference in VBI operations and administration and for the necessity of removing military personnel from the VBI. The comments appeared to be favorably accepted. It was also recommended that the top administrative positions within the VBI be given to the older and more qualified men instead of to young inexperienced military officers.

A lengthy discussion was also had regarding the position of the National Gendarmerie in the overall law enforcement picture.

Here again, Mr. HOYT and the writer expressed the views of the MSU Police Team in that the Gendarmerie should eventually be integrated entirely into the armed forces as purely military police having absolutely no jurisdiction over civilians, or it should be integrated into the Civil Guard or the VBI as civilian law enforcement officers. Again, these proposals appeared to be well received. It should be noted that no final decision was taken since this meeting was not called for that purpose.

Finally, Mr. HOYT urged Mr. CHAU to influence the President in reversing his decision to permit 15 Vietnamese law enforcement people to attend the Malayan Police School this month. The arguments presented by Mr. HOYT were that failure to send these men might create a small diplomatic repercussion in Kuala Lumpur and that the men could certainly benefit from the training. Mr. CHAU appeared to accept Mr. HOYT's reasoning and stated that he would so advise the President.

In closing the meeting, Mr. CHAU expressed his pleasure with the results of the meeting and made known his anxiety to see the two committees at work as soon as possible. The meeting was terminated on an extremely friendly note.