

Follow-Up Interview  
Prefecture  
Interior Study

Interview with: Mr. Hai, Prefect of Saigon-Cholon  
Interviewers: Rolland and Quan  
Date: November 22, 1955

I. Is there unemployment in the city? If so, how much and how is it being handled? What about unemployed intellectuals?

All questions of unemployment are under the jurisdiction of the Inspection du Travail du SVN. This includes number of unemployed, what is being done for them, strikes, etc.

Mr. Hai also stated that one of the biggest reasons for unemployment in the city at the present time is the departure of the French military and business establishments, especially as far as workmen and clerks and secretaries are concerned.

II. What are the major industries and major sources of income in the prefecture?

Most of the population (Vietnamese) is engaged in administration. Second in importance are employees of private business firms.

One of the biggest problems facing the country is that almost all commerce and business (including banking) is in the hands of foreigners, especially Chinese and French. The government is planning to encourage Vietnamese to go into these areas, thereby supplanting the present businessmen.

III. Personnel questions: How many persons work in each section of the prefecture? How does the prefecture get its personnel?

Police	4600
Education	590 (approximately 500 teachers)
Health	165
Veterinary	67
Fire Department	195
Technical Service	310
Workshops	152
Plantation	133
Administration	588
Total	6800

The total number of personnel includes about 30 Frenchmen, most of whom are in the Police. These will be replaced as soon as their present contracts expire.

Recruitment: The upper two cadres of civil servants come from the Fonction Publique and are sent to the Prefecture by either the national or regional governments. These personnel are paid by those budgets but are at the disposition of the Prefect. Those civil servants in the

subaltern cadre may be recruited directly by the Prefect himself.

IV. Is there any city planning?

There is no long-run city planning at the present time because:

1. The political situation is still unstable.
2. There is no way of knowing whether many of the people who came into Saigon during the fighting will stay after the political situation stabilizes.
3. The prefecture is not sure of future receipts. For example, they receive a subsidy from the national government, but do not know how much they will get in advance.

Short-run planning is done by the Bureau d'Etudes in the Technical Service. This includes:

1. Traffic
2. Construction
3. Street repairs
4. Sewage
5. Electric power
6. Water supply

V. Is there an inservice training program?

There is no special inservice training program in the prefecture. However, civil servants are encouraged to attend the evening and special classes at the Institute. Also, a number of civil servants are being sent to France under scholarships made available by the Ministry of Finance.

VI. Educational set-up: How many students in the schools? What percentage of the children of compulsory school age are in the schools at the present time? Are there any parents' associations? Are there any adult education classes being held?

There are 27 primary schools with a total of 490 classes and 28,000 students. About 95% of the children of compulsory school age are attending school at the present time. Given the lack of classrooms, the prefecture is encouraging private schools; however, he had no figures on the number of students attending private schools.

Adult education classes are held for illiterates in the evenings at the public school buildings.

There are parents' associations in 4 or 5 of the larger secondary schools. There are none in the primary schools; instead there are "Mutuelle Scolaire" which organize school canteens, holiday outings, etc.

VII. If a specific item is needed in one of the districts, how would the mayor of that district go about getting his request approved?

If the mayor of a district decided he needed a new school, for example, he would submit a report to the Prefect directly. The Prefect would then send someone from the Technical Service to survey and make estimates. Then, if there were funds in the budget and the estimates were satisfactory, the Prefect would then approve the request.

VIII. Re: the court system: What courts are there in the prefecture? Under whose jurisdiction are they?

All of the courts are under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice. The Prefect has absolutely nothing to do with them. However, a few of the municipal police are detailed to keep order in the court-room.

IX. Is there ~~xx~~ a city prison? (by this, one that is run by employees of the prefecture with funds provided by it) Chi Hoa?

All prisons are directly under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Interior. There is one exception however, and when the prefect told us of this he prefaced his statement by "C'est une chose bizarre". The exception is that the prison of Chi Hoa is under the jurisdiction of the Regional government of SVN.