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THE SAIGON POLICE DEPARTMENT

by Le Quan Cao

As it is said above, the Vietnamese Police under the direction of the Secretary of State for the Interior, is headed by a Director General of Police and Security. There is a Directorate of Police and Security forces in each of the regions of South Vietnam, Highlands of Central Vietnam and Midlands of Central Vietnam. In each province and city there is a local service of police and security.

The Saigon Police Department (or Saigon Municipal Police) has the responsibility to maintain public order, control political organization and associations within the City of Saigon. Technically, it depends upon the Director of Police and Security of South Vietnam, but administratively, it depends upon the Mayor of Saigon. It is headed by a Chief of Police called Director of Police of the city of Saigon. Generally he has the rank of Inspector or Superintendent. He is appointed by the President of the Republic upon the recommendation of the Director General of Police and Security and the Mayor.

The City of Saigon is divided into eight areas. In each of these there is a police precinct directed by a commissioner (captain). The chief of a police precinct is appointed by the major on the recommendation of the Chief of Police and with the consent of the Director General of Police and Security.

A. Saigon Police Headquarters Organization

The Saigon Police Department or Headquarters is divided into separate units according to the kind of duty performed by each unit. These may be classified as operative divisions or administrative divisions. The Chief of Police directs the main office called the Secretary's office and most of the operative divisions which the Information Bureau, the Patrol Division, the Intervention Division, the Traffic Division, the Vice Division and the Judicial Office.

He is assisted in his function by an assistant in charge of the administrative division and auxiliary services which consists of screening all matters intended for the attention of the chief and any decisions that should be made by the chief. The assistant has the rank of Commissioner or Inspector and is appointed by the Mayor on the recommendation of the Chief of Police and with the consent of the Director of Police and Security. He directs and controls the following offices and sections: Personnel office, Budget and Accounting Office, Material Office, Arms and Munitions Section, Training Section and Band Section (See Organization chart).

1. Operative Divisions

a. Secretary's Office is headed by a commissioner or captain who is in charge of the correspondence, mail and records, reports to superiors, planning, public relations and public information and typing.

b. Information Bureau is under the direction of a commissioner or captain, who has about seventy men working without uniform. He has the responsibility to collect and gather all information about the subversive activities of the communists within the area of the city of Saigon and make arrests, if possible. Besides this principal aim, the information bureau has to

