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SUBJECT - End-or-Tour Report - Evan C. Thompson

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(Report Control No. U-513)

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REFERENCE -

*Agri - Rural Development*

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Attached is the end-or-tour report of Mr. Evan C. Thompson who has served as Rural Development Advisor in the Province of Cholla-pukto during the past two years.

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Mr. Thompson's report presents a good picture of problem and progress in rural development activities at the local level in one typical province of Korea. It also serves to convey an excellent idea of the broad scope of activity and direct impact value of these generalist provincial advisors, who are making a significant contribution to Korean rural progress. Mr. Thompson has been an able and effective member of this group during the past two years and has assisted materially in the progress made in Cholla-pukto.

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END-OF-TOUR REPORT

Name: Evan C. Thompson Job Title: Rural Development Advisor, Chonju  
 Country of Assignment: Korea Prior Country Assignment: None  
 Tour of Duty Began: July 21, 1965  
 Tour of Duty Ended: July 21, 1967  
 Project Activity (Name and No.): 489-11-110-594 Rural Development Policy Planning and Survey

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A. Statistical information and general observations

This assignment in the Province of Cholla-Pukto, Republic of Korea, was the first foreign assignment for the writer. The population of the province is about 2.5 million people, with 398,000 households. It has three cities with a population of above 50,000, 13 guns (counties), seven ups (towns), 155 myons (townships), 1,674 ri-dongs (districts) and 6,440 natural villages. It has 32 inhabited islands and 28 uninhabited ones. It has a coast-line of 153 miles.

Land status - Forestry land	1.2 million acres - 59%
Paddy Land	400,000 " - 20%
Upland cropland	173,000 " - 9%
Other land	243,000 " - 12%

Population activity -

Agriculture	862,000 - 81%
Industry	201,000 - 19%

Land ownership - 72% of farmers own less than 2.5 acres

Agricultural production - 1965

	Rice	431,000 M/T
	Barley	140,000 "
	Other cereals	311,000 "
	Pulses	18,000 "
	Vegetables (all)	140,000 "
	Potatoes	302,000 "
	Fruits	20,000 "
Livestock -	Cattle	85,000 Head
	Milk cows	125 "
	Horses	1,000 "
	Hogs	149,000 "
	Goats	28,000 "
	Rabbits	63,000 "
	Chickens	2 million "
	Dogs	82,000 "

Industrial development has been very slow reaching Cholla-Pukto. In April 1967 the first major industrial site development was dedicated by President Park Chung Hee. Great progress, however, has been achieved in the field of water storage for irrigation and production of electricity. The Sunjin Dam which was built under the active leadership of the present governor will be a monument to his foresight for many years to come. The huge land development projects; "Honam Hills Development" and the "Tongjin River Basin Project" will utilize the water from this reservoir.

As part of the project a large hydroelectric plant utilizes the difference in elevation to produce electricity. It is this kind of overall coordinated planning and administration that gives great promise to the future of this area. Another comprehensive project is now being planned to be installed on the Kum River. This irrigation water will be used in the northern part of the province in Wanju, Iksan and other guns (counties) and will also produce electricity.

To support the governor in his administration of the provincial program he has a worthy group of bureau chiefs and county chiefs. All these bureau chiefs and country chiefs have proven themselves worthy officers in their own colling. They see to it that the governor's program is carried out effectively and diplomatically.

The change in the pattern of village life and the evidence of increased purchasing power of the farmer has been noted by the writer. Many significant changes have occurred. The changes in food and dress habits have been especially noted. More electric lights, a few TV antennas; the boy operating the foot pump to raise water into his father's rice paddy does his job while listening to a transistor radio. The building methods have changed completely; more cement block for walls, tile for roof, plastic for "ondol" floors, glass for windows - the list is unending. The use of gas motors for water pumps and grain threshers has increased by leaps and bounds. It is thrilling to see these wonderful home improvements and labor saving devices coming into general usage.

Considering the industrial stage of development in this province, the advisor early in his tour believed his best opportunity to be of assistance was in the field of farm management and agricultural production. The program of USOM of

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providing a junior U.S. advisor helped greatly to expedite the progress of these management practices. For one year now the junior advisor has been working with the Provincial Office of Rural Development Director in a full range of the rural development program. He has also been working with the Guidance Section in the National Agricultural Cooperative Federation and Union of Land Improvement Associations.

It was the writer's observation on his first visit to the various guns in 1965 that the opportunity to improve the method of irrigation water management was unlimited. Many acre feet of water were being discharged into the Yellow Sea from the irrigated paddy. This large volume of water was taking uncalculated amounts of commercial fertilizer in solution out to the ocean. The application of commercial fertilizer to the paddy when the soil surface is dry has been urged. In 1966 it was noted that many of the ULIA-managed paddies were using the recommended method. This method carries the fertilizer in solution into the soil where the soil colloids absorb it, holding it in place for the crop as it grows. This program should be continually encouraged. With proper water management a wide variety of crops could be used to supplement the rice crop. This would get the farmer away from the "one-crop" system. Greater production of food, fiber and forage will result. The "duty of water" can be extended by judicious use, thereby increasing the number of acres of cropland that could be irrigated with the present supply.

The writer has called to the attention of the local government, as well as USOM, the large area of good soil and gently sloping land that is in a low-producing tree cover. A master plan has been advocated whereby these areas would be cleared

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(leaving a certain amount of land in "green belts"), bench terraced, limed and fertilized properly and turned over to needy farmers. This is an opportunity for an accelerated program, using PL 480 Food for Freedom as a means of encouragement.

A continuation of the bench terracing program, however, should be accompanied by an increase in trained technicians. Bench terracing is one of the most important phases of the PL 480 Food for Freedom program. The technical requirements of field personnel must be up-graded and men given permanent status. The field representative from USOM has called attention to this feature on all his visits to Cholla-Pukto, beginning in 1965. Thirty per cent of the bench terrace technicians have changed their jobs already in 1967. Under such conditions a truly effective program cannot be expected. The writer has observed many poorly planned and improperly constructed terraces as a result of this policy of training and tenure of employment. The Korean farmer expects a good job on his terraces but he will be disappointed.

Certain phases of the proposed industrial development as now planned appear to run counter to good agricultural management. The proposed use of barley and rice straw as a source of raw material for a paper industry places another weight on the already unbalanced farming operation. At present it is estimated by experts that 70% of the straw is burned for fuel or other purposes and only 30% is used as compost for soil improvement. This feature should be given serious thought by the economic planners. Another feature of industrial development that has been considered by the writer is the disposal of toxic effluents from industry. The shellfish and other marine life in the tidal basins are extremely valuable and should be protected from the toxic wastes.

The problem of finding good drinking water for the villages in the tidal reclamation projects is serious. The wells they drill provide only brackish water. The water in the irrigation canals is heavily loaded with insecticides and commercial fertilizer in solution. The preparation of an overall survey of needs and possible solution has been advocated by the writer to the Provincial Government. The fishing village of Komso is taking positive action. They are fortunate as to location. They have a source of potable water  $2\frac{1}{2}$  kilometers above the village on a mountainside. The villages located in the huge areas of reclaimed tideland are not as fortunate. Not only is the drinking water of poor quality but much of the shellfish and other fish found in these tidal basins are carriers of liver fluke. This problem can only be solved by cooperative action involving numerous villages and will require leadership of the highest caliber.

My work with the Forestry Section has been pleasant and rewarding. They are to be complimented on their tree and shrub planting program in 1967; 153 million trees and 40 million erosion control shrubs were planted this year. A 90% survival is expected. Management of the planted areas is recognized as a serious problem. They have helped organize and enlisted the aid of the local forestry eyes (cooperatives) in both planting and management. Too early harvesting of fuel trees is apparent wherever you travel over the hills. Local responsibility, coupled with an effective guidance program to show the villager the proper cutting program, is necessary. Progress in this field is being made, however basic research is necessary to determine proper cutting programs. Information has been requested from various state universities. Cornell provided us the results of their studies, however their

information does not cover our problem. Their yield tables and harvest program for black locust commence on trees 4" at diameter-breast-high. Very few black locust are permitted to reach anywhere near that size in Korea. Total growth studies are needed.

The livestock program has received much attention from this advisor the last two years. Forage studies and production have not advanced as rapidly as the plans for the increase in livestock numbers. This is another program closely associated with the fuel problem. Thousands of tons of kudzu vine and mountain grasses are harvested for fuel in Cholla-Pukto each year. If this forage were harvested and treated properly it would make hay and silage of adequate quality for the use of the Korean cow. The Provincial Livestock Section at one time planned to establish a breeding station for Korean cows on a tideland reclamation project. It was urged that this station be relocated in the Honam Hills area. This change has been made. This coincides with the writer's recommendation that this hill country be encouraged to become a center for livestock production.

The sericulture production is being increased on a well planned program of acceleration. They are following all the most modern methods advocated by the sericulture expert - grafted mulberry stock, central hatching of silk worm eggs, and the use of the fast growing heavy producing species of silk worm.

The Provincial Government is also encouraging the expansion of mushroom production. Canneries are being built to take care of the increased production.

Another phase of farm management the writer has sponsored is the proper use of the common Korean commodity of night soil. In the first staff meeting attended

the suggestion was advanced to pour the night soil in a furrow and cover it with soil. This would prevent the loss of 50% of the nitrogen that is now evaporating into the air. It has been calculated that this one practice would conserve each year in Cholla-Pukto Province 3,109 metric tons of urea which has a value of 85 million won. Later in my tour it was noted in a publication of the World Health Organization that larvae of most of the internal human parasites would be rendered inviable if they came in contact with warm moist earth for a period of 90 days. This is an important item when you consider that 80 to 90% of the people in Korea have these internal parasites in their systems. The proper management of night soil would save vast amounts of nitrogen as well as assist in the control of the human parasites. I was delighted to note the Office of Rural Development at Suwon sponsored this new idea in a publication distributed nation-wide last spring.

The program of community planning and development has been encouraged by the writer. Dr. Moon from Chon-Puk University has been very active in this field. His studies show the speed with which a village with well-trained, unselfish, forward-looking leaders can advance their community compared to the average. You can recognize these villages whether they occur in Namwon, Puan, Sunchang or Iksan or any of the other guns. A well-advanced community in Iksan Gun is the village of Ije. It is my favorite. We have taken several car loads of government officials and men from other villages to Ije. They have a community well, laundry, cultural hall (at times used for cottage industry) toilet, electricity and a community sericulture project. The individual farmers in these advanced villages do a "better" job in other fields, for example, they finish off a 200 lb. hog in eight months when the usual time

required in the average village is 12 months. Another item of interest is the large number of effectively operating "methane gas burners". In this case animal manure is used as raw material for the production of methane gas. Four pigs can produce enough methane gas to cook the food and heat water for an average family. This will replace the forage for fuel needed to feed  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 cows. The Erosion Control Section groups were very much interested in this project. They are anxious to reduce the use of mountain forage for fuel. We were pleased to help them. We advanced the idea of covering these units with several layers of clear plastic. By the use of this plastic the "burners" functioned throughout the winter, although with a reduced output of gas.

The fishery and horticulture problems have gone largely unattended by the writer. The writer lacked knowledge in these two important fields and USOM technicians found Cholla-Pukto too remote and isolated to give these problems suitable attention. Cholla-Pukto is the most remote province in Korea with regard to the communication system as it now exists. This condition has increased the complexity of the problems in many respects.

B. Summary

Things I have encouraged and tried to accomplish:

1. Management of night soil for conservation of nitrogen and reduction of human internal parasites.
2. Improved irrigation water management to:
  - a. Use water more effectively and extend the use of storage facilities.
  - b. Permit application of commercial fertilizers on dry paddy to reduce loss in the waste water.

- c. Permit the growth of a more varied crop rotation.
- d. Devote ~~existing~~ rain-fed paddy to crops of greater drought tolerance

than rice.

3. Effectuate the present erosion control program to:

- a. Provide other sources of fuel to reduce necessity of raking mountains by developing local coal supplies. Recent coal mine explorations have located deposits near Chonju. Experts state one-third of the fuel needs of Cholla-Pukto could be met if these deposits were developed.
- b. Give forestry kyes more responsibility in management.
- c. Coordinate all reforestation, erosion control and land reclamation and development under one head.
- d. Urge the elimination of burning crop residue.
- e. Research the woodland management problems.

4. Livestock program:

- a. Use of the forage produced for feed rather than using it for fuel.
- b. Develop the known coal resources to provide needed fuel.
- c. Relocate the livestock breeding station.
- d. Concentrate livestock production in the hilly country of Honam.

5. Community planning and development programs.

6. Urged strict control of toxic industrial wastes in this great agricultural province.

C. Observed differences between the Korean and American cultures

The basic differences are a result of natural causes - racial, historical, economic, traditions developed under various types of government, religious beliefs, location and many other influences.

The writer coming from the wide open, relatively young country of the inter-mountain west was astonished at the similarity of basic emotions, reactions and general outlook by the Koreans with whom he came in contact. As education facilities are extended to a greater number of people, and as the rank and file of citizens come in contact with the new gadgets used by upper-class Koreans and foreigners this gap will be further reduced.

However there are a few noticeable differences in behavior:

1. Reluctance on the part of the Korean to discuss technical subjects other than at formal appointments. There is no casual chit-chat regarding a technical subject except under the proper conditions.
2. Very few written reports by Korean to their superiors, for example trip reports or monthly reports. It is largely oral. This leads to lack of continuity of administration.
3. The Korean employee accepts decisions from higher authority with more grace than his American counterpart. We tend to question decisions and policy with greater freedom than our Korean friends. History also tells us the Korean citizen has for many generation been under a strict authoritarian system of government. They are also influenced by the universal military training to which all Koreans have been exposed and by the fact that most Korean officials were at one time military officers.
4. The vast proliferation of employment in the government offices. Many men are employed without a real job existing. It has been estimated by other Koreans that the Korean government work could be accomplished by thirty to fifty per cent fewer workers if they were properly trained and administered. Many men are hired

because of family connections rather than for real ability. Too many people in office have had inadequate training both in the technical field as well as in administration. As more capable men become available through training and education this situation will improve.

5. Many projects are started with a dedication ceremony and then not followed up to completion. Foreigners with a Korean background tell me the occurrence of this practice is diminishing.

6. The policy of moving men seemingly indiscriminately every two years or less tends to confuse the men as well as lose the training and knowledge which they have accumulated. In other words a definite personnel management plan for upgrading, and training of personnel is needed.

7. The necessity of a livestock breeding station to be more or less self-supporting has been questioned by many experts. For example the Iri Breeding Station sells eggs from the new hybrid chicken breeds to military establishments to pay for a portion of their operating expenses.

RDD:ECThompson:lhm  
July 21, 1967