

**Assistance to
Civil Security Forces
Republic of Vietnam**



**OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY
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AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY

ASSISTANCE TO FOREIGN CIVIL SECURITY FORCES

Approved assistance to civil security forces of less developed countries of the Free World is provided by the Agency for International Development's (AID) Public Safety Program, which began under the International Cooperation Agency (ICA) in 1954. The Public Safety and Military Assistance Programs (MAP) have mutually supporting objectives of improving the internal defense of these countries. The programs are coordinated in the field by the U.S. Country Team and in Washington by interagency program reviews.

Since November 1962, following intensive interagency study and pursuant to Presidential directive, AID has given increased emphasis to the Public Safety Program. At the present time, Public Safety Advisors are providing police assistance in 26 countries with the largest amount of resources in Vietnam. There are about 400 Public Safety Advisors who implement these programs overseas.

It is anticipated that the reader will appreciate that the single most important asset of Public Safety program assistance lies not in commodity support but in the ability of the U.S. technical advisor. While modern techniques find virgin fields in some of the less developed countries, it is the advisor who must be sufficiently knowledgeable to adapt these techniques to the needs and capabilities of the host government. In planning and programming assistance, the advisor must constantly keep in mind his dependence upon those who will be carrying out the job. Without any of his own command authority, the advisor must rely upon those in authority whom he advises.

Individual Public Safety programs, while varying from country to country, are focused in general on developing within the civil security forces a balance of (1) a capability for regular police operations, with (2) an investigative capability for detecting and identifying criminal and/or subversive individuals and organizations and neutralizing their activities, along with the control of militant activities ranging from demonstrations, disorders, or riots through small-scale guerrilla operations. This requires a carefully integrated effort between the investigative element and the regular police or paramilitary elements, operating singly or in conjunction with each other.

American police activities do not include the far-reaching authority and jurisdiction encompassed by most police or security forces in other countries of the world. Among the responsibilities of the foreign police we are assisting are approximately 20 identifiable police functions ranging from off-shore law enforcement (Coast Guard activities); customs, immigration; municipal and rural policing; criminal and security investigative activities through domestic/foreign intelligence; regulatory administrative functions, such as licensing/control of manufacture and movement of goods and a host of

other activities not generally charged to the police in the U.S.

Police advisory assistance does not lend itself to packaging, labeling and shipping. It involves a people relationship as the basic ingredient; until such relationships are established, progress is slowed. It is upon such a meaningful relationship that long term progress is achieved.

The competent, well developed and skilled force performing a satisfactory and humane service for the people does not require or seek U.S. assistance, but it can be available upon request of their government to those friendly forces unable through their own resources to measure up to the needs of the people and the government.

Republic of Vietnam
Public Safety Directorate Program

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PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTORATE PROGRAM

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

I. INTRODUCTION

An effective civil police is a prerequisite to orderly government, economic growth and the nurturing of opportunities for the people of the country to realize their aspirations. The successful achievement of these goals is shared by both the Governments of South Vietnam (GVN) and the United States. For this reason, the United States is significantly engaged in assisting the Government of Vietnam in its efforts to develop the National Police Command (NPC) capability to carry out its responsibilities for the protection of the populace in time of war, and achievement of goals attendant to a future peace.

II. HISTORY OF U.S. ASSISTANCE

Public Safety assistance to the GVN was initiated in 1955. At the time of the French withdrawal from Vietnam in 1954, existing police forces were left disorganized and lacking in trained personnel and essential equipment. At the request of President Ngo Dinh Diem, a team of U.S. technicians conducted an extensive survey of the civil security situations and forces. Subsequently, the United States introduced technical assistance through a team of contract advisors provided by Michigan State University. The program continued from 1955 to 1962.

During 1954, several separate civil police agencies were responsible to the national government. The largest of these were the Surete (nationwide investigative unit), the Gendarmerie (a military police type organization), and the Saigon Municipal Police. Autonomous police forces were located at various provincial levels throughout the country. In late 1954, President Diem, by executive decree, brought together the various existing provincial militia and organized them into a civil police organization called the Civil Guard. The Guard's mission was to provide police protection throughout the largely agrarian rural areas of the country. By 1960, the Guard had grown to about 54,000 personnel. At that time, it was estimated that there were approximately 70,000 police in the country.

The Michigan State University group was primarily concerned with providing assistance to the Surete and it was not until 1959 that a Public Safety Division was established within the U.S. Mission to work with the large rural police Civil Guard.

Acting upon the advice from the U.S. Military Assistance and Advisory Group (MAAG), the GVN, during December 1960, transferred the Civil Guard from the Ministry of Interior to the Ministry of Defense. They became part of the territorial security forces now known as the Regional Forces. Since the Civil

Guard was the only sizeable rural civil security force, its reorientation and training as a military force removed the civil police presence from the rural areas of the country. As the Viet Cong insurgency gained momentum in the early 1960's, no central police structure existed which could spearhead a united civil law enforcement effort. The critical situation was compounded by an almost total lack of police in the rural areas. In order to fill this vacuum, a "Combat Police" unit was formed in 1962. This unit was lightly armed, paramilitarily trained, and mobile; however, it was limited in numerical strength.

In June 1962, President Diem issued a Decree which established a National Police (NP) combining the Surete, the Saigon Municipal Police, portions of the Gendarmerie, the Combat Police, and various provincial forces into one national organization. The new force was initially organized with a total personnel strength of about 17,000. The subsequent major build-up was based on this marginally trained and very minimal force.

During the same year, the Michigan State University group was phased out and complete advisory responsibility for the new National Police was assumed by the Public Safety Directorate, a part of the U.S. Mission. Police advisory efforts and National Police improvements were retarded by continuing organizational changes as well as by severe political unrest which culminated in the overthrow of the Diem government in late 1963. In early 1964, meaningful advisory assistance recommenced. Program urgency necessitated an immediate need for an expanded U.S. advisory staff. The Office of Public Safety, Washington, responded by selecting U.S. Public Safety Advisors who were carefully screened and recruited from U.S. federal, state and municipal law enforcement and related agencies. Academic backgrounds were evaluated, along with practical experience, to bring together and mold a uniquely qualified team of professional advisors. Highly trained and qualified technicians were selected and recruited from the communications field to advise, instruct and assist the Vietnamese in establishing a Combined Telecommunications Directorate (CTD) throughout the Republic of Vietnam. In 1963, an advisor was assigned part-time to assist the Directorate of Corrections with additional advisors assigned in 1967. These were soundly based in the field of modern penology with extensive experience in U.S. penal institutions.

In January 1965, the Field Police was created from the remnants of the Combat Police. Its mission was to provide the NP with an action arm capable of extending police/GVN civil presence into the turbulent rural areas of the countryside. Additionally, the Marine Police was established in 1965 to provide a waterborne law enforcement capability to assist in countering Viet Cong (VC) actions on the more than 3,000 miles of navigable inland waterways. This marine police effort was directed primarily at the Delta area.

U.S./GVN planning had envisaged a civil police force strength of 105,000 by the end of 1970. However, military manpower priorities prevailed and this goal was not attained, although large numbers of military personnel (13,000) were transferred en masse to the national police in late 1969.

During December 1970, the force goal was established by President Thieu at 122,000 for the end of 1971. During 1971, a limited entry into the civilian manpower market was made available for police recruitment. From its inception in 1962 with only 17,000 men, the National Police has now grown to a force of over 116,000 as of June 1971. While originally confined to the urban areas, the force aided by the expansion continued to extend services into the rural areas and serve over 1,933 villages with a goal of placing civil police in over 200 villages.

III. PROGRAM SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE

United States Government support and assistance to the Republic of Vietnam's National Police Command is administered through the Office of Public Safety, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). The program has two additional major functions -- provision of support and assistance to the Combined Telecommunications Directorate (CTD) and to the Directorate of Corrections (DOC). All three agencies are under the GVN Minister of Interior; however, the National Police Commander reports directly to the Prime Minister on operational matters. The U.S. Public Safety Directorate (PSD) in Vietnam is under the supervision of the civilian deputy to the Commander, U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (COMUSMACV) for Civil Operations and Rural Development Support (CORDS).

For Fiscal Year 1971, the CORDS Public Safety Directorate was authorized 231 direct hire U.S. civilian advisors, including 6 detailed from the U.S. Bureau of Prisons, and an additional 15 U.S. contract and 147 third-country national personnel. Program dollar costs have varied from \$2.5 million in 1963 to \$29.9 million budgeted for 1971. Program costs reached a peak during 1968 of \$34.6 million and in subsequent years reflected a decrease due to static force level figures and increased participation in Department of Defense funding. Distribution of funds has been as follows: U.S. Personnel, 29.4%; Construction and Commodities, 68.8% and Participant Training, 1.8%.

Funding allocations are representative of three U.S. major avenues of providing police assistance as follows:

1. Advisory Personnel: U.S. civilian and third-country national employees.

2. Commodities: Telecommunication and transportation equipment with spare parts, weapons, ammunition and miscellaneous equipment and supplies (i.e., training aids, police laboratory and photo equipment, supplies and office machinery, etc.). Construction: Structures and/or facilities conducive to implementing or improving management capability, training, equipment operation and maintenance, as well as custodial care and housing of prisoners.

3. National Police Training: In-country police training programs provide basic, command, supervisory, specialized, and technical areas of instruction. Major training centers are located in each of four regional police commands and at capital police command. Participant training for Vietnamese Police refers to training conducted in the United States and other countries for management and specialized training in police science and related technical fields.

Although considerable U.S. assistance is provided, progress of NP development continues to be hampered by manpower and tight budget constraints. The wartime environment produces an overwhelming military requirement that adds to the difficulty in developing police leadership, yet overall police performance and morale are steadily improving and Vietnamese citizen acceptance and recognition of the vital police role is visibly becoming more widespread.

IV. ROLES OF THE NATIONAL POLICE

The purpose for a National Police is perhaps best explained by its role to which the U.S. Government lends assistance. Major police responsibilities are as follows:

1. Provide for the protection of life, property, maintenance of public peace and order, and regulation of social conduct and events as prescribed by law.
2. Execute judicial directives of competent courts and insure compliance with the various executive, administrative, and regulatory laws and orders.
3. Maintain internal security through apprehension of subversive and insurgent activists.

To meet these responsibilities, the National Police Command must provide a sufficient number of properly trained, organized and administered law enforcement personnel throughout the Republic of Vietnam. The force must be capable of developing and maintaining an environment in both rural and urban areas within which those agencies responsible for social, economic, and political development can operate effectively, and within which the people may feel secure in cooperating and participating in government.

V. NATIONAL POLICE ORGANIZATION

To carry out the multitude of varied and complex tasks subordinate to these broad roles, the National Police Command's organization is structured to accommodate both functional and geographical needs. Although administrative control is vested in a single national command, operational control is

decentralized to the regional, provincial, district and village levels of government.

Specialized areas of law enforcement, such as border patrol, immigration, interstate commerce and counterinsurgency are all functions of the National Police Command. At all levels and in all components, the police are tasked with the responsibility of providing and maintaining government presence, law and order as well as internal security in areas considered secured by military forces.

In order to clarify and develop a better understanding of police operations and the scope of the advisory effort, some selected organizational units and their duties are described and summarized in the following section:

VI. SUBORDINATE COMMANDS, DUTIES AND SELECTED RELATED PROGRAMS

A. Regular Police

The present regular or conventional police officially dates back to June 27, 1962, when the National Police Directorate was established by GVN Presidential Decree. It is responsible for maintaining law and order in rural and urban areas (from hamlets to the capital city) through enforcement of legislative and administrative laws, controlling traffic, immigration, human and material resources movements in specified areas, administering the National Identity Registration Project and conducting criminal investigations.

It is interesting to note that it is also responsible for enforcing economic as well as sanitary laws. As areas are pacified, conventional police are being assigned to each village.

B. Rural Policing and Field Police (FP)

The need to provide a police presence in the rural areas with a capability for rapid exploitation of intelligence necessitated the formation of a civil police paramilitary arm. Though police responsibilities in rural areas are generally similar to those in urban areas, the Field Police needed to be trained and equipped to perform extended patrols and civil disturbance control in rural and urban areas. Such an element was organized in 1965 from small existing units of the Combat Police and designated the Field Police. This element currently numbers about 16,000, mostly men in their early twenties and with the physical condition necessary to overcome the rigors of sustained patrol in rugged and difficult terrain.

Field Police personnel receive 12 weeks of normal basic police training and eight weeks of military small unit, weapons and riot control training. Weapons and tactics are those related to light infantry, platoon, and squad actions. Indirect fire weapons, such as mortars, artillery, etc., are not provided. Twelve-man squads form the basic operation unit, armed

with M-16 rifles, M-79 grenade launchers and one .30 caliber auto rifle. One forty-man platoon is assigned to each district with a company headquarters staff of 24 men in each province.

The FP, although specialized in riot control and operational techniques, is an intergral part of the National Police Command and fulfills regular law enforcement duties common to all police. Its unique light-military combat capability enables it to cope with armed insurgents.

C. Marine Police

The Marine Police (MP) was established in 1965 to provide a waterborne law enforcement capability to assist in countering VC actions on the more than 3,000 miles of navigable inland waterways throughout the Republic of Vietnam. It provides security, enforcement of civil and maritime law, and renders assistance in other police activities. The basic function is to provide National Police Command with specialized assistance, resources, and the ability to pursue its overall goals on the waterways of Vietnam. Included is the operation of marine checkpoints to regulate the movement of human and commodity resources on waterways, the transportation of police personnel, and support to the National Police Command (including the FP) on operations near and around waterways.

Throughout Vietnam and in the many areas that are most accessible via waterways, the MP has been able to contribute effectively to the detection, confiscation or destruction of narcotics. Their waterborne operations have provided an overall deterrent to the illegal cultivation of marihuana in the most rural and otherwise inaccessible areas. Currently, the MP numbers 2,500 men with 23 bases in all of the four military regions, utilizing 370 boats.

Assigned personnel receive the normal 12 week police training, four weeks of MP training, and such other specialized courses as are related to particular assignments, such as navigation, motor maintenance/mechanics, and boat, weapon repair and maintenance. During 1970, the new MP Headquarters and Training Center was constructed through U.S. support and is now meeting the administrative and training needs of the force.

D. Investigative Police

Investigation and case preparation for court is performed by the Judicial Police. Though related and in many ways similar to the familiar U.S. detective type of operation, its legal and organizational procedures and practices are most nearly related to those police investigative functions found in the French jurisprudence system.

The Judiciary branch of Government endorses certain police officers to serve in the capacity of officers of the court and confers upon these officers limited powers of search, seizure and arrest over those normally possessed by the remainder of the force. With the exception of in-the-act

offenses, police must, for the most part, possess a court order or warrant to effect a search, seizure and/or arrest. The Judicial Police may act on reasonable or probable cause but must justify their actions in court, usually within 24 hours.

Vietnamese criminal courts are made up of three magistrates, one who oversees the investigation and finalizes the case for court presentation, one who presents or prosecutes the case and the third who tries the case and renders a verdict or judgment. The first magistrate described is most closely associated with the Judicial Police. Authority is vested by the judiciary and can at any time be rescinded for cause. Personnel evaluation of Judicial Police officers is made by the magistrate in the jurisdiction to which officers are assigned.

Certain positions within the National Police Command are provided for by law as conveying Judicial Police powers (e.g., province, district, and village police chiefs and certain other specialized positions related to either command responsibility or functionally involved in police investigative operations).

Narcotics Control

As the problem of narcotics abuse by American military forces continued to increase and evidence of drug use by young Vietnamese began to surface, the Public Safety Directorate (during October 1966) assigned its first full-time advisor to assist the newly established narcotics section of the National Police Judicial Service. Advisory assistance was increased to five by 1971. Strong and continuous representation was made at the highest government levels to bring about recognition, understanding, and remedial executive action. Working in close conjunction with the Vietnamese police, Public Safety prepared and implemented a detailed training program. During 1969 and 1970, a formal 35-hour narcotics course was given at each Regional Headquarters and at Saigon. As of June 1971, there were 305 National Police Command Personnel manning countrywide narcotics sections and 52 at the National Police Command Headquarters.

The increase of GVN interest and attention is reflected in the increase in drug seizures. In 1969, the NPC reported only 52 grams of heroin seized and in 1970 5.2 kilograms of heroin were seized. However, during the first six months of 1971, over 76 kilograms of heroin have been seized by the National Police Command. Also, and probably more important, many recent cases by the civil police demonstrate their ability and willingness to conduct investigations and make arrests for narcotic trafficking.

E. Police Intelligence

This function of the Force requires establishment of a police intelligence element whose main thrust is to discover and identify organizations and

activities which threaten the internal security of the nation. Additionally, it regularly provides information and enforcement on criminal offenses and suspected perpetrators. Particularly sought out are those members of the Viet Cong Infrastructure (VCI) who form the nuclei of the communist cellular political/military organizations.

The sensitive nature of the work requires a careful selection of personnel, some of whom upon graduation from the basic 12 week course are screened, selected and sent directly to specialized training. The majority, however, are selected from the ranks of experienced and seasoned officers who then receive additional training in intelligence techniques. This police branch is generally regarded as the most singularly valuable source of intelligence within the GVN counterinsurgency program.

F. Policewomen

Experience revealed that a large percentage of the VC logistic effort was accomplished through the use of female personnel. The difficulty of maintaining propriety during detailed searches of suspected female persons at checkpoints was recognized. This factor, in addition to the increasing manpower shortage in the country, dictated a need for the assimilation of women into the National Police Command. The program was started during 1965 and continues on an increasing scale. There are now over 3,000 policewomen personnel in the NPC. Policewomen have proven especially effective not only in resources control functions but also in many administrative duties, such as fingerprint classification, identification and records maintenance and personnel administration. It is anticipated that they will remain a permanent, and integral part of the police structure. --

G. Resources Control

A National Resources Control Program was discontinued as a separate police function in November 1969. The decentralized activity is now known as Security Checkpoint Control. The objective remains the same: to deny material assistance to the VC and to minimize their freedom of movement. Decentralization provided better local control. Program goals and objectives became a part of and were absorbed into routing police operations. Operations are generally both on land and on the waterways. The number of these fixed and mobile checkpoints has been substantially reduced by the GVN from more than 600 to a more realistic number of about 280. The inconvenience to the people was lessened and an improved flow of commerce was realized.

H. Police Records

Automatic Data Processing (ADP) was introduced first as an adjunct to police personnel management. Subsequently, additional ADP procedures have been introduced through the efforts of PSD as a necessary tool in maintaining adequate crime and criminal identification records. A Data Bank

was established to receive and file information from the National Police Criminal Information System (NPCIS), which identifies and consolidates information on wanted persons and the Chieu Hoi Program (accepts and assists enemy defectors)

The information contained in the Data Bank is correlated and disseminated to appropriate agencies. It is also available to respond to special requests. Criminal dossiers, as well as police personnel administration dossiers, are currently being reproduced on microfilm to facilitate record retention and management.

Adequate control of population and resources in areas split by insurgency necessitates proper identification of individuals. An identification program was initiated in 1957 which required all Vietnamese citizens 18 years of age and older to carry registration cards. Time and the exigencies of the struggle in Vietnam indicated that the system did not include sufficient safeguards to prevent tampering and to insure proper controls.

The present National Identity Registration Project (NIRP) was initiated in October 1968. To counter increased use of teenagers by the VC, the registration age was lowered from 18 to 15 years. The new system includes serially numbered cards which provide biographic data, photographs, and thumbprints. The cards now are designed to lessen tampering.

This identification system provides a central national registry of fingerprints, photographs and biographic data. A full 10-finger (Henry system) set of fingerprints of each applicant is placed in the file. The program will provide the NPC with one of the most complete national identification systems in the world.

Allied with this individual identification program is the Family Census Program, which covers the identification of family groups. Family photographs are taken and registered in family booklets. Changes in the family status may be cause for questioning to discern possible illegal residents, VC suspects, or blackmarket activities.

In 1969, a new and expanded National Police Command Criminal Information System was established using automatic data processing (ADP) equipment to insert information on criminal offenders/suspects into a central data bank. To ascertain an offender/suspect's last known whereabouts through all phases of police/judicial jurisdiction, reports are made and fingerprints submitted when the offender/suspect is apprehended originally, when he is transferred to another jurisdiction/facility, enters into or is released from prison, or upon any other final action in the case. It provides an increased capability to evaluate the NPC Judicial and Correction Systems, by revealing abuses of authority, particularly in cases of excessive periods of detention.

I. Police Logistics

A modern logistical system was designed and implemented by the NPC with the assistance of PSD. To accommodate the new system, an appropriate logistics training and advisory guidance program was provided.

Currently only minimal logistics advisory assistance is provided, particularly to upgrade secondary logistical depots at region level and to ensure proper end use of U.S. supplied commodities. Recent audits of the system indicate a good quality of performance with an increasing rate of Vietnamization.

J. Police Training

Perhaps the most singularly important contribution that can be made in assisting the National Police Command over the long term is in the field of training. While the advisory effort itself is essentially a constant training program, assistance must be directed specifically toward the development and implementation of desirable curricula, teaching techniques and educational facilities. There is also a need to develop within a short term necessary technical skills over a broad range to ensure force viability.

Specialty training is available to enable police to cope with modern techniques and hardware. Existing training curricula, orders, laws, etc., have been translated into English, revised, rewritten, and translated back into Vietnamese to provide meaningful and updated law enforcement courses. These are now in universal use throughout the entire force. Training facilities have been constructed to accommodate basic, specialized, advanced and command curricula at centralized and regional centers (annual training capacity, 20,000 basic; 5,700 advanced). In-country training has been supplemented in the more specialized areas through the use of participant training courses in both third country institutions and the United States. (Total trained: outside Vietnam, 2, 414; in-country, 136,054)

K. Police Jail Administration

Police jail administration has been upgraded in improved facilities, personnel staffing, inmate training and welfare. These short term pretrial detention facilities accommodate both civil and criminal suspects as well as VCI suspects. U.S. and third country training is currently utilized for police personnel assigned to those duties. Though the number of persons in police custody may vary sharply from day to day the average detainee population is normally about 5,000. Custodial spaces in excess of this average have necessarily been provided to accommodate the fluctuation and still maintain a minimal standard of sanitary and humane custodial care.

VII. COMBINED TELECOMMUNICATIONS DIRECTORATE (CTD)

The primary objective of the CTD established by the GVN in 1960, is to develop and maintain a nationwide civil telecommunication service for the National Police Command and other security and administrative agencies. These communication links extend from Saigon through the regions, provinces, cities and districts to the villages and hamlets.

Fast, efficient and reliable telecommunications are required to enable the National Police Command and other government security agencies to maintain effective law and order operations. Wartime requirements, inadequate public telephone service and the almost complete lack of rural telephone services necessitated urgent U.S. assistance to the program.

In 1959, the Public Safety Directorate assumed responsibility for a communications advisory effort to provide communications support to civil security efforts. The concept included the establishment of a single integrated civil security telecommunications network. In 1961, CTD was given the added requirement to implement a system of radio-phone communications between villages and districts. This administrative/security system, known as VHRS (Village-Hamlet Radio System) established a major communications network of more than 34,000 radios.

During the early years of the project, efforts for the most part, were directed toward training personnel and establishing and equipping a nationwide communications system. The planned communications net was to reach from Saigon to Region, Province, District and ultimately to Village and Hamlet. New and innovative radio equipment was designed under the auspices of the Public Safety Program to accommodate topography, climatic conditions and available power sources. Bids were let and during the early part of 1962, the first HT-1 and TR-5 radio sets began to be distributed. The system continued to be enlarged and efforts were accelerated to extend security communication capability to the village and hamlet levels.

In 1964, it was apparent that the National Police would play a more important role in the pacification effort. Joint CTD/PSD plans were prepared to provide appropriate telecommunications training, equipment and facilities for a rapidly expanding National Police. Specifications were prepared by Public Safety specialists which led to the development and procurement of a line of Very High Frequency/Frequency Modulated radios (FM-1 and FM-5). Currently over 14,000 of these sets including the more powerful Motorola "Motran" sets are in use and are extending the Police Radio Telephone System down to village level.

Concurrent with these developments have been the implementation of both a wire and radio teletype net, increased decentralization of maintenance and supply facilities and establishment of improved and modernized relay stations to handle the increased radio traffic. Voice telephone service, though still far from adequate, has been introduced in nearly all of the large urban areas

and in some cases provides limited inter-city links.

USAID, along with all GVN government agencies, has received operational support from CTD through utilization of the system since 1964. A security interface with U.S. military and other Free World Forces, including the GVN Armed Forces, is provided at all levels of the system and facilitates rapid and coordinated military response to enemy attack.

Over 32,000 sets are now in operation and provide not only essential government communication with the people but enhance its ability to respond and provide needed security for the large numbers of people living in the remote and rural areas of the countryside.

While technician training and administrative advice continue at a high priority, radio operator training has become nearly 100% Vietnamized.

It is anticipated that U.S. assistance will continue a gradual phase-down as GVN capabilities develop and improve until such time as the goal of the total Vietnamization can be realized.

VIII. DIRECTORATE OF CORRECTIONS

Among its many war-created problems, the Government of Vietnam (GVN) has had to cope with increased pressure on its prison facilities through the need to confine civilians charged with offenses against national security, including sabotage and assassination.

At the request of the Government of Vietnam, U.S. assistance to the Directorate of Corrections (DOC) was first begun during 1961. In its initial stages, the program was limited to providing small amounts of vocational training equipment and the part-time services of a Public Safety Advisor.

The prison facilities had become severely overcrowded by 1967 and were a prime target for Viet Cong assaults. Attacks on prisons in May and September of that year and during the 1968 TET offensive freed several thousand criminals (90 others were killed or wounded in those attacks). As a result, an intensified joint effort toward the development of an effective, secure GVN correctional establishment with sufficient facilities for administration and rehabilitation of sentenced prisoners was initiated in April 1968 at the request of the GVN.

The following priorities were established for the Correction Project:

1. Improve, to an acceptable minimum standard, living conditions, food, sanitation, health, welfare and security of inmates.
2. Develop a humane correction system designed to prepare an offender for release as a responsible member of a free society.

A joint effort to achieve these priority goals developed the following objectives:

- a. Security and Prisoner Control.
- b. Expansion and renovation of 41 correction centers. (Subsequently a National Juvenile Correction Center was programmed and is now operational.)
- c. Establishment and improvement of prisoner ID classification and records systems at DOC and 41 centers to initiate individual accountability and status.
- d. Provide adequate daily prisoner food allowances.
- e. Provide in-service training for all employees.
- f. Establish religious, recreational, educational, and vocational training programs for all confined prisoners.
- g. Introduction and enactment of legislation governing all aspects of penology for all categories of civil prisoners.
- h. Establishment of a system of parole within the correctional system.

Unlike a normal penal system the Vietnamese Directorate of Corrections had to function while under attack and harassment by the enemy. Despite these handicaps, assistance has enabled the DOC to make substantial progress in providing suitable accommodations for committed prisoners. Today, South Vietnam operates four major national prisons, 37 provincial prisons and one juvenile correction center. The capacity of these 42 centers was 36,525; as of June 1971, the prisoner population was approximately 31,304. Some 3,600 prisoners are released each month and approximately as many are received.

Although action has been initiated on these programs, continuing effort is being expended by furnishing necessary advisory and financial support to assist with their development and completion.

U.S. assistance has helped the GVN to develop a more humane correctional system and to establish an inmate rehabilitation program. Significant improvements have been made, particularly in sanitation, health and housing. There has been major progress in alleviating crowded prison conditions and in separating inmates by sex and type of crime. Prisoners are now better fed, housed and medically treated than they were two years ago. This is reflected by the drop in the overall monthly inmate mortality rate from 1.56 per thousand in 1967 to .36 per thousand in 1970. Literacy, vocational and skills training programs are now provided in all centers. An executive decree establishing a parole system should soon be implemented. In June 1971, six penologists from the U.S. Bureau of Prisons were detailed to the Public Safety Directorate to assist in providing advice and support in furtherance of the correctional improvement program.

The correction system continues to be monitored to effect corrective action through regular periodic inspections by the GVN as well as International Red Cross inspection teams. Inspection reports are carefully re-

viewed and remedial follow-up action by DOC is mandatory.