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NATION BUILDING IN VIETNAM

Reader's Digest

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TIME

THE WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE

The
Three-R
War in
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The U.S. industry is also helping to build classrooms, and any large increase in U.S. troop strength in Vietnam is based on the expectation that one third to one half of the men will spend part of their time in similar "make-building" projects.

All this is being accomplished despite Vietnam's "hardship" and "scarcity" of teachers and control of such a population of a million children in all over the school, but by the end of 1969 there will be enough additional schools to meet the needs of the country.

The Detroit Free Press

How U.S. Firms Wage Vietnam War

BY HOWARD A. SIMPSON

International Telephone & Telegraph Corp. New York is the largest U.S. firm to be doing work in Vietnam, according to a survey by the newspaper.

The survey was conducted through the use of a stamp which was mailed to U.S. firms which sell products in Vietnam.

The survey shows that 100 U.S. firms are doing business in Vietnam, and that the total value of U.S. goods and services sold in Vietnam is \$1.5 billion.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

Vietnam pupils given books for first time

We give our

Learn from the children of these teachers. A Viet Nam newspaper reports that the first time in the history of the country that the children of the teachers have been given books for the first time.

At such time, the children of the teachers have been given books for the first time. The children of the teachers have been given books for the first time.

Books are being given to the children of the teachers. The children of the teachers have been given books for the first time.

Family Weekly

The Civilian War That Could Save

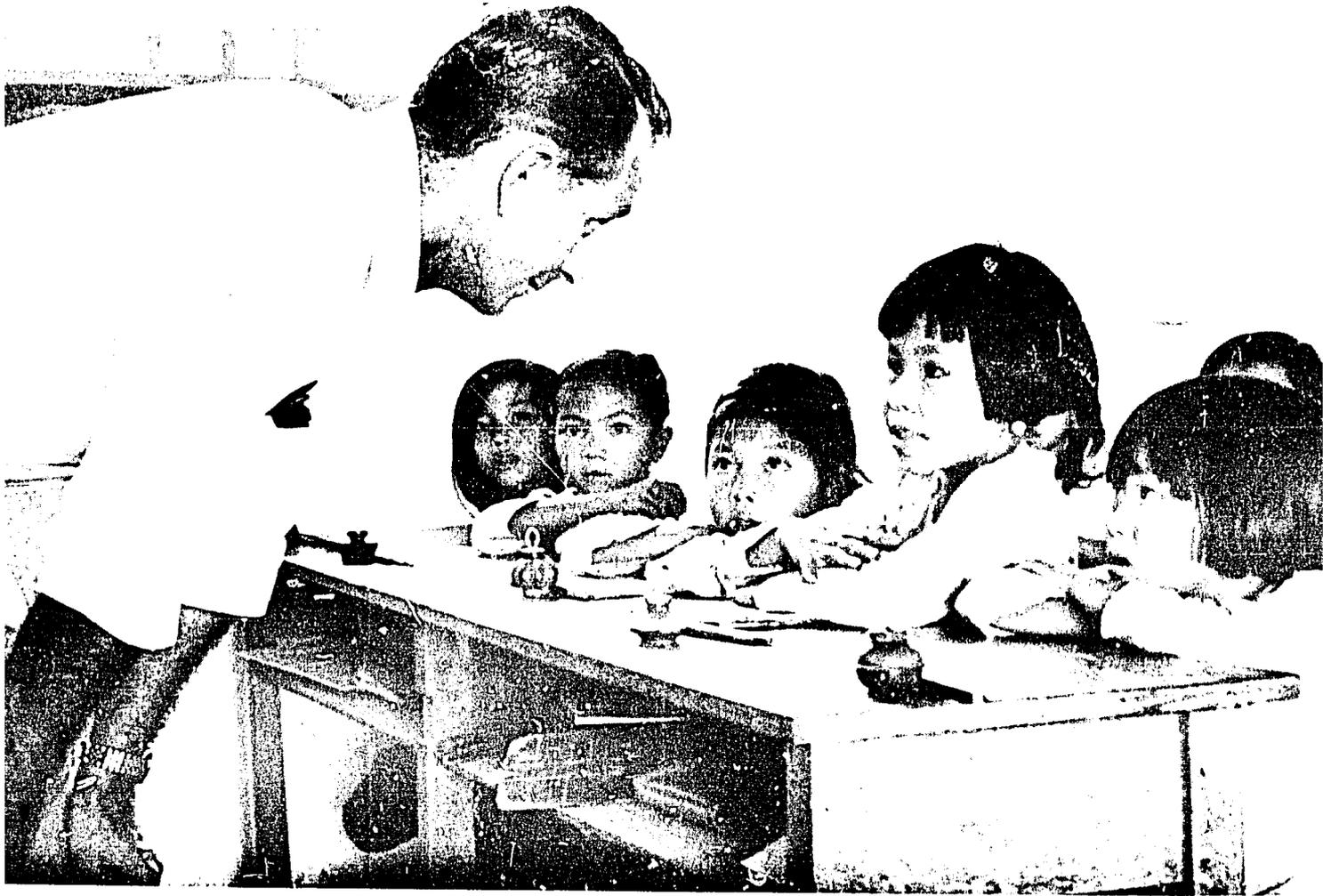
Farm Journal

That second war in Vietnam

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AID Photo

The Quiet Struggle in Viet Nam

U. S. Civilian Employes Working to Show Peasants
The Functions and Fruits of Democracy

Right in the middle of Asia's frontless war—in which Americans fight Viet Cong and South Viet Nameese rioters assail the government the United States is defending—1500 United States civilians work to help make a nation out of South Viet Nam. In a part of old Indochina that is contested by many forces, among a people that has never had a real nationality, the job is formidable. These civilians believe their work must be carried on if the U.S. is ever to achieve more than a military occupation of Viet Nam.

The civilians work for various State Department agencies: there are doctors, engineers, propagandists, farmers and technicians in their ranks, and

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ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

few of them live in the comfort of Saigon. They constitute a kind of heavy-duty Peace Corps, with the stakes high and bullets whizzing around them. They do good works and try to explain to peasants where Saigon is, what a government is, and why they should bear it allegiance.

Some of the civilians joke that the enemy recognizes their importance more than do their own countrymen. One fellow countryman who does, President Johnson, is trying to emphasize the constructive side of U.S. activity in Viet Nam, and recently saluted the men who "labor at the works of peace in the midst of war."

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NATION BUILDING IN VIETNAM

Selected articles from American newspapers and magazines about the U.S. economic assistance program in Vietnam, printed by permission, in their entirety and without change.

**Agency for International Development
Washington, D.C.**

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The Three-R War in Vietnam

By Ruth Sheldon Knowles

Reader's Digest

The paradox in Vietnam is that to win the war, we must first win the peace. And the peace can be won only at the "rice roots," among the rural people in the small hamlets of South Vietnam.

On a recent trip throughout Vietnam, I found that we *are* winning this peace—by means of an unsung and practically unknown program of education drawn up at the request of the Vietnamese people. Indeed, I found the big news of the war's turning tide not just at the battlefield but in hamlet classrooms where for the first time thousands of Vietnamese children have the opportunity to go to school.

In South Vietnam, parents are as eager to have their children in school as you or I. Education is so highly prized that on opening day hundreds of fathers and mothers gather to see if some child fails to show up—in which case *their* child may get a seat. Nine years ago, there were only 600,000 children in school. Today there are more than 1,700,000. Since 1963, the U.S. Agency for International Development has helped build 8500 hamlet classrooms, trained approximately 8000 teachers and distributed 7,500,000 textbooks. The U.S. military is also helping to build classrooms, and any large increase in U.S. troops sent to Vietnam is based on the expectation that one third to one half of the men will spend part of their time in similar "nation-building" projects.

All this is being accomplished despite Vietcong bombing and burning of schools, despite the kidnapping of teachers and control of roads. Regrettably, almost a million children are still out of school; but by the end of 1970 there will be enough additional schools and teachers to cut that number in half.

One of the major driving forces behind the hamlet-school program is an American woman, Mrs. Gladys Oakes Philpott. A former professor of education at Northern Illinois University, she arrived in Vietnam in 1957 as a teacher-education adviser for AID. Her first two years were devoted to training teachers for urban centers and setting up a demon-

stration elementary school. She traveled all over the country steeping herself in Vietnam's history and customs; and meeting province education chiefs.

In 1962, an AID survey found that the one service that rural Vietnamese wanted more than any other from their government was education for their children. This insatiable desire can be understood in terms of the educational vacuum which existed when the French left in 1954. Ninety percent of the people were illiterate—more than when France took over in the 1890's. The French cut back the free-education system of the Vietnamese emperors, under which learning had been accessible to poor and rich alike and was the path to mandarin office, which was neither hereditary nor for sale. Under the French, only a few were educated, for jobs that the French wanted them to have.

When Vietnam became independent, the educational attitude was still so French-oriented that in 1960 a study made for AID reported that "few persons in government positions at the ministry level consider elementary education important." Until 1958, all instruction was in French, which effectively prevented rural education. The chief aim of education officials seemed to be to keep the majority of children from attending school, and to concentrate on producing an elite who would administer the country.

The Vietcong made the situation worse by murdering teachers and sabotaging buildings. By 1960 they had forced 200 South Vietnamese primary schools to close, depriving 25,000 students of schooling. When Mrs. Philpott and a team of education advisers took hold, everything was lacking, schools, teachers, books, money, plans.

Where to begin? Mrs. Philpott initiated the idea of sending small groups of provincial education chiefs to the United States for six weeks' training at the University of Illinois, with tours of community development programs in Detroit and of Berea College, the celebrated self-help school in Kentucky. The edu-

education chiefs returned to Vietnam with heightened prestige, held seminars, wrote and published papers, gradually upgraded the education system. By 1963 a framework existed for launching the rural hamlet-school program.

Mrs. Philpott went to the education chief of Binh Dinh province, which had the most difficult problem of all because its 700,000 population had been swollen by 100,000 refugees. "He was a particularly good education chief," Mrs. Philpott relates. "And I wanted the leadership of the program to come from that group. I asked him to make a survey of provincial needs and the ability of the villages to support schools. I also asked him how he felt the program should be developed. With a committee which he chose, we worked out the first year's program. A master plan for all Vietnam evolved from this."

Thousands of people in the hamlets constructed their own school buildings—altogether one third of all the new classrooms—under the U.S. AID Self Help program, which supplies materials and food for those working. Vietnamese and U.S. Army units helped on the projects together. Americans naturally don't consider a school complete without a playground. Members of the famed Green Berets, who used their jungle-warfare ingenuity to build playground equipment, told me how much they enjoyed doing it—they discovered that Vietnamese children had never seen swings or seesaws before!

In the Central Vietnam highlands, where the fiercest battles were being fought during late 1965, the school program had equal priority with the military. Every military supply plane carried at least 75 bags of cement, enough to build one classroom. Armed convoys delivering food to beleaguered hamlets always carried cement for schools also.

"The big push of 1965 was due to Gladys Philpott's unremitting efforts," a U.S. AID official stated. "She spends approximately 95 percent of her time in the field, living under dangerous conditions." Mrs. Philpott's many Vietnamese friends warn her in advance when they consider an area unsafe, but safety in Vietnam is never predictable. In one area which she was told was "95-percent safe," 25 people were killed by a mine on a road along which she travels frequently.

In the beginning, the Vietcong warned hamlet officials that they would destroy anything the government gave them. In one hamlet, when the gov-

ernment built a school, the Vietcong blew it up the next day. The people themselves immediately built another school. The Vietcong did not touch it, realizing that they had turned the hamlet against them. Recently, school bombings and kidnapping and harassment of teachers have been decreasing. Vietnamese and U.S. officials attribute this to the success of the school program in rallying the people to the government side.

One of the outstanding achievements of the program has been among the Montagnards ("mountain people") in the Vietnam highlands, 800,000 members of a racial mosaic of primitive tribal groups. Montagnards live in a world of hunger, cold, fear, ignorance and disease. Both the French and the Vietnamese treated them somewhat as strange animals. But the war has made them important, because geographically they occupy almost half of South Vietnam—the mountainous jungle highland area between North Vietnam and the great rice bowl of the Mekong River Delta.

Because of the remoteness and small size of Montagnard communities, boarding schools in central areas were the only feasible means of education. U.S. AID had sparked the first one in 1958. "Fifteen- and sixteen-year-olds started in the first grade," Mrs. Philpott recalls. "They came in breech cloths and sarongs, and with no idea about combing their hair. They were from seven tribes, and the first year we just taught them a common tongue so that they could understand one another. Within two years you wouldn't have known they were the same young people. They knew how to wash and to eat with chopsticks. They were eager to learn."

To the rural people, the greatest miracle of the education program is that for the first time the children have textbooks. Before, there were only slates, and teaching was entirely by rote. A joint Vietnamese-American educational committee has designed modern, attractive, illustrated textbooks which, in addition to the "three R's," teach greatly needed health principles, science, history and geography. The textbooks, in Vietnamese, bear the message on the back cover: "This is a gift to the Vietnamese people from the American people."

To meet the need for skilled industrial workers, AID has sponsored the establishment of four coeducational polytechnic schools. Today, approximately 10,000 students are enrolled in technical and agricultural schools. Seven rural trade schools are in opera-

tion for youths who might not be able to continue education beyond elementary school, and another seven will be opened later this year. More are planned.

"The Vietnamese children are truly bright," Mrs. Philpott says. "This accelerated education is helping to prepare them for self-government. Democracy needs mass education."

I learned how eager the Vietnamese are to fill that need when I stopped at a hamlet in the mountains where every able-bodied person was working on a one-classroom school. When I asked the hamlet chief what the rush was, he explained that the

province education chief would be there in a few days to dedicate it. "This is the most important thing that ever happened to our hamlet," he said proudly.

In the long run, education is the only way in which freedom can be achieved. The base for freedom in South Vietnam has already been laid. Textbooks don't make flashy headlines today, but the cumulative effect of the educational effort in Vietnam will create the headlines of tomorrow.

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AID's Elite

'Soldiering' for Peace

By Frederic J. Farris

World Journal Tribune

Washington—At 2:30 p.m. last July 25, civilian Norman Clowers from Tacoma, Washington, delivered a jeep load of building materials to a South Vietnamese hamlet a few miles from his home base of Nha Trang. About 20 minutes later he was returning south along Coastal Highway No. 1 and suddenly found the road blocked by a jeep trap.

As soon as he saw the two four-foot-deep parallel trenches in the asphalt highway, with two four-foot-high dirt barriers raised in his path, Clowers must have known what was coming. The road had been clear only 40 minutes before.

A public-safety adviser to the South Vietnamese government learns in just days the hazards of operating in territory where the Viet Cong menaces the effort to make South Vietnam free and self-sustaining. And 50-year-old former policeman Clowers, just such an adviser, had been in Vietnam for the U.S. AID program since February.

As he maneuvered his jeep in the swiftly-dug cul-de-sac, trying to back it up to return to the hamlet he had just left, Norman Clowers knew his life might end at any moment.

While he backed slowly, several Viet Cong ma-

terialized behind the earthen barriers and fired their burp guns at him through the windshield. Silver-haired Clowers died instantly—the eighth AID official to lose his life in South Vietnam.

HASTILY BURIED

The guerrillas hastily buried him in a trench and stripped his jeep of useful parts. His body was recovered later by a military sweep sent in after villagers told of his fate.

While the daily headlines report U.S. soldiers, Marines and airmen killed fighting the tough, ruthless Viet Cong, a more humane "war" goes on daily in villages and towns in South Vietnam. This war too claims its victims—a price, in microcosm of the cost of throwing back Communist military aggression, a price paid for trying to help South Vietnamese peasants help themselves.

Other unarmed civilians who carry out America's \$2.5 billion Vietnam AID program have paid this deadly price—in plane crashes, in ambushes, while escaping from Viet Cong captors. Sixteen other U.S. AID people have been wounded, five kidnapped. Two were released later, but three are still captives, despite long secret efforts to free them.

Yet:

"It's an amusing thing," an AID official mused the other day. "You'd think that fewer people would be volunteering for Vietnam duty. We make no secret of the dangers out there in our recruiting effort."

But despite the hazards, Americans from all over still volunteer to serve with AID in Vietnam and the esprit among these select people is very high indeed.

HELP WANTED

As the U.S. commitment expands, however, and AID people complete 18-month duty tours there, the list of needed skills grows longer and job openings mushroom. For example, right now medical technicians, economists and secretaries are wanted. So are auditors, farm advisers and public-safety advisers like Clowers, who can help create and train police forces.

Altogether some 300 jobs are open and the Agency for International Development is mounting recruiting drives around the country to fill them. They do not disguise the risks involved, yet officials return from these recruiting trips exuberant at the outpouring of response from Americans wanting to help.

Take Seattle, for example. In five recent recruit-

ing days, 1,206 applicants signed up for jobs in Vietnam. Of these, 82 were cleared for security, language adaptability, and professional qualifications. Of these 71 now are about to take their oath of service and begin training. Or take San Francisco, where 3,400 people volunteered, and 339 of these now are being cranked into the system.

Some who have served a tour in Vietnam immediately volunteer for a second 18 months. Many volunteers are college-age youngsters fired with a Peace Corps idealism. Most are men, but some women nurses and secretaries come forward.

Some leave successful careers in the United States to join AID. Clowers ran a personnel investigating business after being chief of police training in Laramie, Wyo.

These sport-shirt clad "soldiers" in a humanitarian war—there are 1,000 of them—are the "elite" of America's foreign aid program. Like the returned soldier they speak of "when I was in Vietnam." And most of them would do it again—and again, even were it not for the 25 percent extra incentive pay they received for living and working in the Viet Cong-infested countryside of Southeast Asia.

From the New York Herald Tribune, August 31, 1966. Reprinted by permission from the World Journal Tribune.

See-Saws Any Way to Win a War?

Sure, Says Williamson Man

By Larry Jolidon

In one South Vietnamese village so small it isn't even on maps of the country, the current struggle often balances on an old-fashioned kind of see-saw.

A wooden one.

The village is Hau Bon, and the see-saw is on a playground built in a cleared field near the center of town with the help of Daniel Leaty of Williamson.

Leaty, 28, is provincial representative for the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID) in Hau Bon, capital of Phu Bon province in South Viet Nam's central highlands.

It is the same area where, in an up-and-down struggle for political power, rebellious Buddhist elements for the past week have been demonstrating against the U.S.-sponsored military junta in Saigon.

Democrat Chronicle

"Building a playground may seem a strange way to help a country at war," Leaty says. But he believes the recreation area has become an "important factor in keeping up the spirits of the people in the midst of war and virtual isolation."

The people of Phu Bon province who cooperate with Leaty and other Americans there virtually are sealed off from the rest of the country by the control guerrillas have over traffic on roads leading from the settlements.

Under the guerrillas' scrutiny, however, Leaty, with the help of the Vietnamese provincial chief, Col. Dong, and U.S. servicemen, has transformed a vacant lot into a noisy playground where players kick up dust on a soccer field and volleyball courts while other children use the tennis court, ping-pong table, sandbox, swings, and see-saws.

For the children of Hau Bon, Leaty says, it was a success from the start—a Madison Square Garden in miniature.

Col. Dong organized competition among teams of local soldiers, teachers, government workers, students, and civilians and brought in teams from other provinces on weekends for added competition and special athletic exhibitions.

But with a new playground, what child—including, of course, a Vietnamese child—needs school.

When Leaty discovered that many children were skipping classes and spending their time at play, he brought in U.S. materials and supervised the construction of an elementary school nearby. Two Vietnamese girls now both teach in the school and watch over playground activities.

Leaty describes the psychology behind his method this way: "When you give the kids a place to stay and something to eat, you can be sure they will attend school."

The method seems to work. Eleven hundred of Hau Bon's young children are pupils at the U.S.-built school.

And the list of projects the Williamson resident has undertaken since his return to the Vietnamese highlands for his second tour in August 1964 is still longer.

He instituted a self-help program, under which rice-drying floors were built and wells were dug.

Three boarding schools in the mountains of the province beyond the village capital were given AID

financial assistance for the children of Vietnamese tribesmen unable to come to the village for classes.

With tin sheeting furnished by AID, cement and lumber contributed by local merchants, and muscle power from Vietnamese soldiers, Hau Bon's central market place was rebuilt from the shambles it was after a mortar shelling. The new market was such a success more than 100 people asked permission to build new shops there.

An information hall was built with AID-furnished cement and roofing where the Vietnamese Information Service could show films, and Col. Dong had the village's main street and market square paved. In the evenings, the market is crowded with audiences watching an open-air movie.

Training in animal husbandry and demonstrating the proper care of farm animals are done under Leaty's supervision at a local agricultural school.

His next planned project is an addition to the province hospital and a new medical dispensary, which will begin when the necessary cement becomes available.

Leaty already has spent a total of nearly three years among the Vietnamese, and he says life in Phu Bon province is "not easy."

"But I keep busy," he says, "and I like working with the Vietnamese, especially the mountain tribesmen."

The son of Mr. and Mrs. E.W. Leaty, 1268 Ridge Road W. in Williamson, the U.S. AID official holds a bachelor of science degree in horticulture from Delaware Valley College. He speaks Vietnamese as well as the dialect of Koho spoken by the mountain tribesmen with whom he comes in constant contact.

When he visited his parents in Wayne County 20 months ago, between assignments in Viet Nam, the husky, young volunteer said victory over the Communists there might take another eight years, "but we've got to stay until it's done."

Despite new local unrest, he still is confident of the effect of his work there.

"These innovations are producing good results," he says. "They started the people working together and gave them something to be proud of and enjoy."

Reprinted by permission from the Rochester (N.Y.) Democrat and Chronicle. April 11, 1966.

Show Place for Vietnam Aid: An Giang Province

CHICAGO DAILY NEWS

Long Xuyen, South Vietnam—The U.S. AID program is using An Giang Province in the Mekong Delta as a demonstration site in the hope that it can so improve life for the peasants of An Giang that other Vietnamese will get the message and throw in their lot with the Government.

"We're trying to show here what life in Vietnam can be like in an area where the people have turned their backs on the Vietcong," said Cliff Nelson, deputy director of the AID (Agency for International Development) program in the delta region south of Saigon.

To get the job done, An Giang and a couple of districts in neighboring Chau Doc Province have been designated the "An Giang priority area" and the AID program for An Giang has been allotted a budget larger than that of any other province in the country.

The program here is a joint effort of the U.S. and the Vietnamese Revolutionary Development Ministry. It is guided by a bulky detailed plan covering everything from distributing land to peasants to dredging canals, doubling hog production and building a college.

The plan covers a 30-month period from last July 1 to the end of 1968 and calls for total U.S. expenditures of just under \$5 million.

An Giang was chosen for the model program for obvious reasons.

First of all, it is the most "pacified" province in the country—95 to 98 percent under Government control. Its 440,000 people are 80 percent Hoa Haos, a religious sect strongly anti-Communist, and they are skilled, hardworking people.

The province also is basically rich in resources—fertile land, plenty of water and transportation, a willingness among the people to try new methods.

According to Cal Mehlert, provincial representa-

tive for the AID program here, 80 percent of the farmers in An Giang are tenants of big landlords. The priority program calls for distributing more than 2,000,000 acres of land to peasant ownership in the next two years.

There also is heavy concentration on boosting per capita income, hopefully by 30 percent over the next two years.

One method is to coach farmers in how to get two crops a year out of their land, and to diversify with such crops as soybeans, corn and melons, which bring a higher price than rice.

To help in the agriculture program, seven Nationalist Chinese technicians have been brought to An Giang because the land and climate are pretty much like those on Formosa. Improved varieties of seed are also being brought in from Formosa.

There are also plans to increase production of the province's limestone quarries by as much as 500 percent in the next couple of months, with introduction of rock-crushing machines provided with U.S. AID money.

The educational side of the plan calls for providing hamlet schools for all children in the province, building vocational schools and an agricultural college and developing a hamlet literacy program.

The idea is to make it look as though it is the Vietnamese Government doing all these wonderful things for the people—and not the United States, whose officials try to stay in the background.

It's too early to tell whether the program will succeed.

But if revolutionary development is going to work anywhere, it would seem it has the best immediate chance in An Giang.

Reprinted courtesy of the Chicago Daily News Wire Service. September 4, 1966.

The Real Revolution

TIME

THE WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE

For 20 years the 1,000 villagers of Tau Nghia off the South China Sea had been the helpless pawns of war: used and abused, taxed and conscripted, sheltered and then shelled by first one army and then another in the march and countermarch of Viet Nam's wars. Only last fall Saigon troops recaptured the hamlet after it had been in Viet Cong hands for six months. Tau Nghia's fortunes abruptly changed. First the Korean Tiger Division arrived and set up its headquarters in nearby Qui Nhon, providing a visible and powerful shield of security. And last January a 66-man Vietnamese pacification team rolled in to bring Tau Nghia back to life.

It was a team with teeth: every man was armed and trained to fight. But it was something else as well. "At first it had to be hamlet chief, schoolteacher and doctor," says a U.S. official, "a surrogate government in effect." A census of the villagers' grievances and needs was taken, and within weeks they were being met. Roads were repaired, loans granted to fishermen for larger boats, new motors, new nets. A school was set up, a health center built, fertilizer trucked in, a new sewing machine sent from Saigon after the women were organized into sewing groups.

Nobody talked. Gradually the village was organized to protect itself in a way that gave every villager a sense of participation. Old women went to work constructing punji sticks and booby traps for protective barriers around the village. Teenage boys manned klaxon alarms. Should they sound at night, the women were taught to gather in the center of the village with flaring pitch torches, while the men held back in the shadows with their guns to ambush Viet Cong intruders. Last March a small Viet Cong propaganda team came, and nearly every villager went to his assigned post. The Reds asked who the leaders were. No one would talk to them, and the baffled and frustrated V.C. organizers withdrew. So, too, has the pacification team, its mis-

sion accomplished, with Tau Nghia now a village thriving, alive and ready to kick hard at any Communist attempt to reinfiltate it.

The example of Tau Nghia is a model of what pacification ought to be—of the goal of "social revolution" to which President Johnson pledged the skills and resources of the U.S. last February in the Honolulu Declaration. It represents the real revolution, recapturing not only real estate but people, which alone can make military victory in Viet Nam meaningful. Last week in 76 villages, scattered among all 43 provinces of South Vietnam, the first post-Honolulu 59-man teams of "revolutionaries" were out to create Tau Nghias everywhere.

Plus 14%. Officially called the Revolutionary Development Cadre, its teams were recruited from the regions in which they were working, and were trained for 13 weeks in the arts of "self-defense, self-help and self-government" at seaside Vung Tau. Skilled in everything from using a grenade launcher to digging a well and administering first aid, they are Saigon's—and the U.S.'s—first wave of shock troops in elemental nationhood. Already, 5,000 more cadres are in training; by the end of the year hopefully 15,000 will be in the field. Some will be old hands at pacification retrained to bring new skill to their job. They are the manpower legacy of previous programs, from President Diem's Strategic Hamlet Cadre through the New Life Cadre to the highly competent, current Political Action Teams (TIME, Feb. 18), which already comprise some 16,000 workers in rural areas.

But where once the programs were fragmented under provincial control, the activities of all the revolutionaries today are coordinated from Saigon under able, energetic General Nguyen Duc Thang, the Minister of Revolutionary Development, with the aid and advice of the U.S. For 1966, Saigon has allotted Thang nearly \$9,000,000 and the U.S. through AID plans to spend some \$400 million. The year's tangible targets: securing 987 hamlets,

building 2,500 classrooms, resettling 41,000 families, building 150 bridges and 600 miles of road, and adding an additional 14% of South Viet Nam's population to the 50% now securely held by Saigon.

One-Man Gang. When a team fresh from Vung Tau in their black pajamas and black berets arrived in Binh Phuoc, an inland hamlet of rice and manioc farmers, they started from the ground up—and slowly—to win the confidence of the villagers. First project: drawing a crude map of the village, its homes and road accesses. They ate in the local restaurants as a means of getting acquainted, took guard duty at night, began a census, used part of their first paychecks to buy cigarettes to give away. Working in three-man cells, they visited huts during the day, passing out sewing needles to the women, or went out to work beside the men cutting manioc root in the fields. The medical cadre, with white armbands, distributed aspirin, nose drops, scrubbed down children. Within a month the team will feel sufficiently part of the village to call its first formal town meeting to

mobilize against the Viet Cong.

The best measure of the promise of the pacification effort is that the Viet Cong is worried—and reacting. In the village of Binh Nghia, the team from Vung Tau got off to a fast start thanks largely to the support of Police Chief Nguyen Van Lam, 35. After the villagers, many with blood ties to Viet Cong guerrillas, held a meeting in which they enthusiastically burned a Viet Cong and a North Viet Nam flag and pledged allegiance to the Saigon government, the Viet Cong machine-gunned Police Chief Lam as he sat at tea. In Binh Dinh province, where 14 teams have already secured 14 hamlets, got 34 village self-help projects under way and resettled 6,500 people, five officials have been assassinated by the Communists. But, says former U.S. Marine Major Richard Kriegel, the spark behind Binh Dinh's pacification thrust: "The reaction of the people now is that this is going to happen, but they're ready to live with it, accept it—and fight back."

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The Weekly Newsmagazine; Copyright
Time Inc. 1966. July 1, 1966.*

That Second War in Vietnam

**An Eye-Witness Report
By Carroll P. Streeter,
Editor of Farm Journal**

As this is written—April 11—the scene in Vietnam is changing hourly. No one can say whether a stable government can emerge which we or anybody can prop up. As I reported from that country last month, there is no front. There are probably 100,000 Viet Cong right in Saigon, to say nothing of those elsewhere in "our" part of Vietnam.

Militarily we are winning, but whether the South Vietnamese can pull themselves together remains to be seen. If they can—

Vietnam could be one of the garden spots of the

world, and ironically the war could help it become just that.

If so, a valiant band of American ag specialists, ex-county agents, educators, doctors and other civilians will have had a large hand in it. Their deeds are one of the great untold stories of the war.

Some of our ag scientists over there say that the fabulous Mekong Delta, one of the great rice bowls of the world, could produce *eight times* more. If the war will allow they'll show how. They've done a lot already. The highland plateaus of the interior,

Farm Journal

practically unfarmed now except for an occasional rubber or tea plantation, could be raising good grain crops and grazing a lot of cattle.

The farmers are hard-working, intelligent and "just pretty wonderful people," says Jim Linn of New Jersey, one of our International Voluntary Services boys who lives and works out among them.

Most Vietnamese would like to be on our side and will be anytime (1) we can convince them we are going to be the winners (nobody here dares be caught among the losers), (2) when their own government can give them security and a safe bed at night, and (3) when they see that we can really bring them a better life. Last month I discussed the military and village security aspects. Now let's look at the "farm war," equally important.

We've shipped mountains of supplies—fertilizer, insecticides, seed, feed, cement, galvanized roofing, reinforcing bars, pumps, windmills, knapsack sprayers, Rhode Island Red roosters, Yorkshire and Berkshire hogs, Santa Gertrudis bulls, and rat poison.

We have sent over 25 excellent, hard-working ag scientists, who are exposed to danger daily. (We need three times that many, but more are on the way.)

Also, we have 13 IVS boys there and we're aiming to have 40 more. International Voluntary Services, a non-governmental outfit of fellows in their 20s, pre-dated the Peace Corps by several years and furnished the pattern for it. "They're absolutely tops," says Carl Van Haeften, chief of our ag mission in Vietnam, and I agree.

Other countries are in this second war with us, too. The Chinese, from Taiwan, have 72 men here in agriculture (300 in all counting industrial projects), and do a great job. These men are Asiatics, not white Americans. They know Asiatic farming. They've plowed with water buffaloes. Barefooted, they get right in the field alongside Vietnamese farmers.

The Japanese have helped boost Vietnam's fish harvest from the sea and farm ponds *five times* over since 1959, have motorized 10,500 sampans, introduced nylon nets and bigger boats. We have built bigger wharfs and cold storage.

Americans in Vietnam are working a dozen unpublicized miracles.

Let's start with rats, which in 1962 in some areas were gobbling 35% of all the grain. It was estimated there were 1,000 rats per person!

When Ray Russell of U.S. AID tried to move out a big cache of rice captured from the VC he couldn't find a single gunny sack in the whole province without a rat hole in it. He flew in 50,000 bags.

We shipped in ten tons of rat poison, organized village rat-control committees, with no less than the village chiefs as chairmen, paid 10¢ per tail for all tails over 100.

In three years, some 88 million rats were exterminated. The savings in food were enough to feed all Vietnam for 18 days. Bubonic plague, carried by rat-borne fleas, subsided. And the whole campaign cost only \$100,000 of U.S. AID.

There's a catch, though. Rats still abound in farm country held by the VC (and that's most of it), and reinfested the rest.

Vietnamese farmers are enthusiastic about fertilizer. They're clamoring for more—at least three times more—and will gladly pay for it. We don't have to give it to them. Trouble is we can't deliver it because most roads are controlled by the VC. We're about to land it on beaches by the same landing craft that brought the Marines in.

Till now, farmers there have accepted insects as an act of God. Now everywhere you see men and women with knapsack sprayers, poisoning bugs on crops. And nowhere have I seen so many to poison.

One thriving project interrupted by the war was the pig-corn deal. We shipped in cement to build thousands of floors for little pig sties, plus a great pile of our surplus corn (much of it wormy, incidentally).

A good many pig sties are empty now because the VC blocks the supply of feed. Open the roads, and you'll soon find a lot of hogs in Vietnam. Good hogs, too. The native pig is a pathetic little creature with a sway back and a belly nearly dragging the ground, but the good Berks and Yorks brought in from the U.S., Taiwan and Japan are fixing that.

Incidentally, the biggest hog operation I saw is owned by a Catholic priest, Father Vinh Loc of Can Tho. He has 150 head.

The increase in crop yields has been phenomenal—25% to 100%, and in the case of a yam (Okina 100) it is 250%. We brought in 74 varieties of gar cane and from them finally selected three. The eight experimental stations in the country have tried 800 varieties of rice, settling on 25.

The Chinese and the U.S. have introduced seven

entirely new crops that are now good money-makers: Irish potatoes, strawberries, avocados, big white onions, garlic, cow peas and sorghum.

Lloyd Clyburn, our agricultural advisor for five northern provinces, discovered that almost no one had a garden. Using Extension methods from back in Texas, he now has 7,000 gardens. They look good, too.

Chuck Simmons of IVS, a Negro boy from North Carolina, has pushed better poultry. The native hen is the size of a prairie chicken and almost as wild. Chuck brought in Rhode Island Red roosters and doled them out to farmers who promised to kill their native roosters. The one thing in which the native cocks are far superior is fighting. They can kill a meaty Rhode Island Red in a hurry.

All this works because Vietnam has a fairly good Extension Service.

It also helps that Vietnam has 1,200 4-T Clubs (modeled on our 4-H) with 46,000 members, all the way from school children to 40-year-olds.

Even among one primitive mountain tribe, Don Wadley of Pleasant Valley, Utah, has 300 girls learning to sew on 32 machines.

Our personnel are careful to see that the Vietnamese know these are *their* programs, and that we are there only to advise.

"We welcome your help and need more of it," Lam Van Tri, the able Minister of Agriculture told me. "Please convey to the farmers of America our deep gratitude in our struggle in this difficult time."

Self-help projects—where we furnish the materials and the Vietnamese do the work—have built hundreds of schools, warehouses, village wells, landings along canals, etc. It's a good idea. What they build is theirs, not ours. The VC know how the people feel and are careful not to destroy these objects of community pride.

Our aid to education has been brilliant. Here, as everywhere, the quickest way to win a friend is to do something for his children. Moreover, the Viet-

namese, like the Chinese, have a deep respect for learning. The man most admired is not the richest but the wisest.

Since early 1963 we have furnished materials for 5,500 classrooms and money to train 5,600 teachers. We've distributed six million textbooks—*the first school books these kids ever had*. Some of these children proudly showed me their new books and read for me.

Our "Doctors in Vietnam" project is keeping 30 to 40 American physicians over there for two months each. "At home I'm a surgeon," Dr. J. C. McBratney of South Dartmouth, Mass., told me, "over here I'm a country doctor."

A military adviser, Lt. Col. Bob Storm of Avon, Conn., saw so many children with harelip and cleft palate that he induced Dr. Joseph O'Malley to journey from Danang up to Quang Tri to demonstrate 28 cleft palate operations in three days before local doctors. One grateful father told O'Malley, "You have just given each little girl a husband and each little boy a wife."

Has all this a chance? Can our good works prevail over terrorism, war-weariness and civil war?

That will depend on whether the government, whatever it turns out to be, wants us to go on or happens to invite us to get out of the country!

We can win the military battle, in fact we are winning it. But whether it is possible to build a viable country on the political and religious sands of South Vietnam is still a good question. It's too early to tell. Also, it's too early to despair. The news is disconcerting, even discouraging, but the game is by no means up.

One thing sure: whatever happens, Vietnam will forever be better off because a valiant band of Americans have been showing the people there how to raise food, keep well, and educate their children. That much will last.

Reprinted by permission from Farm Journal. May 1966.

The Civilian War That Could Save Vietnam

By James H. Winchester

Family Weekly

In the primitive emergency room of the Danang Province Hospital, up near the dividing line between North and South Vietnam, a young American doctor examined a little girl.

A Viet Cong bullet had mutilated her leg.

"We'll have to amputate, and she's going to need some blood," decided 32-year-old Dr. Joseph Bryant, a surgeon from Lebanon, Tenn.

"Okay, take some of mine," replied Dr. Adam Kindar, an elderly general practitioner from Amsterdam, N.Y.

When the job was done, the girl's leg was gone but her life was saved.

These two dedicated medics are volunteers in a program under which U.S. doctors go to South Vietnam to work without pay for 60 days, treating the nonmilitary ill and wounded. They are part of a growing army of Americans fighting a "civilian war" in Southeast Asia. Their weapons are schoolbooks, medicine, rice, pigs, fertilizers, and hope. Their foes are disease, illiteracy, poverty, and despair.

When President Johnson met South Vietnam's leaders earlier this year in Honolulu, one of his prime goals was to increase the effectiveness of this civilian war. "It is the most important battle of all," the President remarked recently.

Since 1954, when South Vietnam was created, the United States has spent more than \$2.5 billion there for a whole range of peaceful projects designed to conquer communism through humanitarian and social and economic reforms. The program is run by the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID). Now the rate of spending in this battle to rebuild the country from the roots up is being boosted to an estimated \$750 million a year.

But more important than these massive funds are the selfless people engaged in this unsung but decisive work. They do not wear the uniforms of fighting men, but they are heroes nonetheless.

There was Peter Hunting, a tall, lanky, likable young man of peace from Oklahoma City. He was helping rural authorities in a remote South Vietnamese province establish schools for the children of farmers and fishermen. It was his first job, and he was being paid something like \$8 a month. When his initial two years in the country were completed, he elected to stay on.

Last November he was driving alone on a delta road. The Viet Cong ambushed him. When he was found, he had 15 bullet holes in his body. He was 24 years old when he died.

Joe Grainger was a soft-spoken, scholarly 39-year-old civilian from West Hartford, Conn., who had studied at Yale. He represented AID in a province 250 miles north of Saigon. One day, driving to an experimental farm, he and his Filipino assistant were kidnapped by Viet Cong.

For five months Grainger was held captive. Much of this time he was kept manacled, bound, and hidden in a cave. Early last year he escaped. Two days later, a Viet Cong patrol recaptured him in the jungle and shot him on the spot.

Not long afterward, John Cone, another AID employee, whose parents live in Parkdale, Ark., was killed by the Viet Cong as he rode on his motor scooter near Bien Hoa. The list of murders is long and keeps growing. Many Americans also are being held prisoners.

In the face of these casualties and captives, American civilians continue their work, and steady gains are being made. In public health alone, more than half of the country's 16 million people have been vaccinated against cholera and other diseases. Health stations have been built in more than 12,000 villages.

A medical school, started with U.S. money and know-how, will soon be graduating as many doctors in a single year as now serve the entire South Vietnamese population. Scores of American nurses

also are working in hospitals and health centers throughout South Vietnam.

A typical medical civilian group is the U.S. surgical team in Rach Gia, a fishing town. It consists of two doctors, a male anesthesiologist, an X-ray technician, an administrative assistant, and two nurses. They serve a civilian population of more than one million persons in the Rach Gia area. More than half of their patients are nonmilitary war casualties.

The two nurses—Ruth Pojcky, 43, of Detroit, and Bernadette McKay, 36, of Chicago—have found that their role in a South Vietnamese hospital is quite different than that of a nurse in the United States.

In Vietnam, the members of a patient's family come to live with him while he is in the hospital, and they perform much of the housekeeping. The American nurses (and the Vietnamese girls they are training) perform only such medical duties as giving injections, changing dressings, and administering medication. The families give all the personal care—and often even prepare the patient's food and feed him, as well.

One of America's most visibly effective programs in rural Vietnam is that of the three little pigs. The plan calls for eight bags of cement, three small pigs and a supply of surplus corn to be distributed to farmers throughout the countryside.

The cement is used to build sty-compost pits for the animals. Later, one of the pigs is marketed and the money turned over to AID to cover the initial costs. The other two pigs are kept by the farmer for breeding.

Now, three years later, Carl Van Haeften of Santa Cruz, California, head of AID's agriculture division, is justly proud of the fact that three million Yorkshire pigs—from an original stock of 150,000—are growing fat on thousands of Vietnamese farms.

In the past five years, American aid in South Vietnam has helped to erect 5,000 new classrooms, drill some 2,000 fresh-water wells, distribute more than eight million textbooks, inspire the establishment of more than 700 new manufacturing plants, and apportion fertilizer, medicines, and food.

Three national highways have been built, an AID loan has kept the South Vietnam railway system in operation despite sabotage, and electrical generating plants have been constructed.

In addition, a national police force has been trained. A typical civilian working in this program is Roger Robinson, a former detective from Alameda County, California. He is the public safety adviser for the central coastal province of Binh Thuan and Ninh Thuan.

To help South Vietnam organize and carry out its rural construction program, U.S. civilian advisers encourage self-help projects. One result is a youth corps set up roughly along the lines of the U.S. Peace Corps. After a 10-week training course, young South Vietnamese corpsmen—most of them in their early 20s—go back to their villages to build roads and bridges and teach sanitation classes.

"There is a new spirit among these young people," reports a U.S. official. "They are giving this a fresh, new thrust. There is no taint of corruption or phony statistics here."

Not all of the compassionate civilians at work in South Vietnam are Americans nor is all the help coming from the U.S. Government.

For example, CARE, a private organization, this year is buying enough rice, salt, and fish sauce to fill 200,000 packages to help feed South Vietnam's 500,000 war refugees. CARE is also providing agricultural equipment, vocational tools, and school supplies for needy groups.

Among the non-American civilians involved are Australian civil engineers who work on water supply and road projects. Canada has contributed tremendous amounts of flour and is helping in the civilian medical care and teaching programs. And, since 1956, France has provided \$111 million in civilian aid. In all 34 nations have joined the U.S. in helping South Vietnam with important civilian aid.

The broad purpose of all this is to build a nation. Vice President Humphrey, completing a tour of South Vietnam, said: "Military victory over an enemy such as we're fighting there is futile unless the people who have won can have a little more food to eat, receive medical care, educate their children, think and talk freely, and enjoy the benefits of the 20th century."

That is what the war in Vietnam is about.

Reprinted by permission from the August 7, 1966, issue of Family Weekly Magazine.

Vietnam Pupils Given Textbooks For First Time

By David K. Willis
Staff correspondent of
The Christian Science Monitor

THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

Washington—The stick of chalk squeaks and crumbles against the rough cement wall as the teacher writes the day's lesson on a black-painted square.

Solemn children copy it down on rough tablets. Their high, sing-song voices chant it back.

The only book in sight belongs to the teacher.

For centuries, this has been a typical Vietnamese elementary schoolroom. Very few children saw inside another; only 17 percent of South Vietnamese move past the first five grades.

South Vietnam badly needs more educated people. So a small group of American officials is trying to work a revolution in the schools. They work for the Agency for International Development (AID), and one of their main "weapons" is books.

Two years ago, the officials say, not a single South Vietnamese elementary pupil possessed a textbook of his own.

But by the end of this year, every child should have five books to take home with him on geography, history, and mathematics.

More than 7 million of the books already have been handed out. Seven million more will come this year.

'A HUGE EFFORT'

"It has been a huge effort," Dr. Scott Hammond, just back in Washington after four years in Saigon as chief American adviser to the Ministry of Education, told this newspaper.

"We have helped the Vietnamese Government, but the books are entirely written and illustrated by Vietnamese educators."

For several years, teams of men and women have been sitting around tables in a two-story center in Saigon, drawing up plans for 37 different books.

Each team included two or three teachers, a Viet-

namese expert on curriculums, a Vietnamese illustrator, and an American adviser.

As each book was completed, AID arranged for printing in bulk. Manila and Hong Kong are handling most of them, with funds provided by AID. Formosa paid for and printed 500,000 mathematics books; Australia is paying for and turning out 1,200,000 books to be delivered in June, each costing about 23 cents.

AID officials in Saigon are pleased. "For the first time, children have books they can read to their parents," Dr. Hammond said.

BOOKS CITE HERITAGE

"History books tell of their national heritage. The family looks at drawings of ancient heroes, of graves and temples. They read the stories. North and South Vietnam are included so we don't mind at all if the books fall into Viet Cong hands."

Do the Viet Cong attack new classrooms and warn against the new books? "At first they did, yes," Dr. Hammond said, "but not nearly so much now. The attacks are counterproductive, you see. The Vietnamese love to read, and to learn; the books are straight-forward and factual, not propaganda, as the Viet Cong would have the people believe."

Normally, American help is given behind the mask of the Saigon government. Books are an exception. On the back cover of each is an inscription in Vietnamese:

"From the people of the United States through the cooperation of the Ministry of Education, Republic of Vietnam, to the schools of Vietnam."

The peasant is so keen for his children to go to school that he will leave his fields at harvest time to help build a new classroom.

LEARNING REVERED

"The Vietnamese revere the man of learning," Col. Samuel V. Wilson, chief of AID operations outside Saigon, says. "It's up to us to help them along as much as we can, for their sakes, and to get them to help us against the Viet Cong."

Slowly, new classrooms are being built: 4,500 so far, Dr. Hammond says. New teachers are being trained; 5,400 to date. Targets for 1966 include 4,000 more teachers, 2,500 more classrooms.

Washington already has provided \$40 million for education since 1955. In the current fiscal year, the figure is likely to be about \$4 million.

AID has been forced to introduce something of a social revolution to help boost the supply of teachers. In the past, all teachers, even those for small children, have been men. But now, men are needed for the Army.

"So we're persuading women to teach," said Dr. Hammond. "Eighty percent of the new teachers are now women."

Ninety-day teacher-training courses now are given in each of the provinces. Where possible, teachers are recruited from local hamlets.

Two months of the 90 days are spent listening; the final month on the job in classrooms the trainees learn to develop a school garden, teach simple hygiene, and so on.

Currently, normal-teacher schools graduate from 1,200 two-year-trained people a year. Four new schools have been built, to train 2,100 more.

AID has learned to be careful. The usual practice is for villagers to help build, using cement and roofing from AID in Saigon.

But in some areas in the past, the French forced peasants to build against their will. When officials find places like this, they bring in outside labor.

"We have got to remember not to promise too much," Dr. Hammond said. "The way to build confidence among the Vietnamese is to get a goal, then attain it. If you fail, you tend to lose them.

"In 1963, for instance, we said we'd build 1,320 classrooms. We actually built 1,303—98 percent. We've got to keep this up."

Undoubtedly, AID could be doing more. But within its budget limits, it is doing a great deal, more so with the impact of its new ideas, perhaps, than with actual construction.

100 BEING TRAINED

About 100 secondary schoolteachers now are being trained in the United States. AID has built four polytechnic schools, each to accommodate 800 students.

Twenty rural trade schools for 12- and 13-year-olds are planned, with 400 pupils in each. They are to teach motor repair, blacksmithing, carpentry, and other skills. Two of the schools are completed; five more are to come soon.

Vocational teachers are being trained at The Saigon Polytechnic.

More teacher training is being planned at the Universities of Saigon and Hue, with the emphasis on programs of high quality. It will be years before they are ready.

Two model secondary schools are being developed. But again, they will not graduate a student for six or seven years.

"The Vietnamese are not reluctant to work in these programs," Dr. Hammond said. "But don't forget: the country has had nine education ministers in four years. That school assistance South Vietnam now has makes it hard to keep up momentum. . ."

In any shooting war, long-term education programs necessarily take a back seat. United States help to South Vietnam has been slow, and still is small.

But it is picking up speed.

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How U. S. Firms Wage Vietnam War

By Roger A. Simpson
Free Press Business Writer

The Detroit Free Press

International Telephone & Telegraph Corp., New York, is being honored by a postage stamp for its work in communications. The honor isn't as unusual, though, as the country issuing the stamp—South Vietnam.

The stamp, which will depict an ITT tower, points up the growing involvement of U.S. businesses—including Detroit and Michigan companies—in the economic war being waged in Vietnam.

A CONSORTIUM of U.S. contractors is building both civilian and defense installations in Vietnam. Some 25 trading and manufacturing firms, as mixed as Foremost Dairies, Inc., San Francisco, Columbia Pictures Corp. and a book importer, have invested more than \$5 million in the Asian country.

Some of the firms are in the war-torn nation solely on their own initiative. Many others are working for the U.S. government agencies, including the State Department's Agency for International Development (AID).

AID officials are in Detroit this week to recruit for some 700 civilian positions open in Vietnam. Wednesday noon, they reported more than 1,500 inquiries from Michigan residents, the largest share of them presently employed in private business.

The agency's spokesmen here and in Washington said U.S. firms are engaged in a number of projects aimed at giving Vietnam a stronger economic base.

A NEW YORK COMPANY, Johnson International Development Co., owns Vietnam American Textile and Finishing Mills, Ltd., which is building cotton textile mills.

A \$3 million expansion of the country's only integrated pulp and paper mill was begun in June. It's owned jointly by the Vietnamese government and Parsons & Whittemore, Inc., New York.

Other U.S. companies import foodstuffs, build motor vehicles, sell electronics gear, provide air transportation, and sell insurance, to name only a few business activities. A Portland, Ore., firm is studying the potential for a sawmill in Vietnam.

A number of Michigan firms are participating indirectly in Vietnam by meeting AID orders for goods. Chrysler Corp., for example, received a \$6.4 million order this year for trucks, diesels and air conditioning equipment, much of it destined for Vietnam.

OTHER DETROIT firms with current orders for Vietnam-bound goods include Ford Motor Co., General Motors Corp., Great Lakes Steel Corp., and Lafayette Steel Corp.

In all, Detroit-area firms received \$7.5 million in orders under the U.S. foreign aid program in the first half of this year.

Growing numbers of U.S. civilians are working in Vietnam, figures indicate. At latest count, said an AID spokesman, more than 2,600 civilians were in the country, including at least 700 who aren't working for the government.

AID alone employs 910 persons and has added 219 persons in Vietnam under individual service contracts.

Reprinted by permission from the Detroit Free Press. August 25, 1966.

As Ky Bolsters His Rule, An American 'Ark' Sealifts A Village

By Sam Angeloff



At the very time Premier Ky was fighting for his political survival, most Vietnamese were busy at the ever-more-complicated task of just trying to stay alive. Last week, getting some benevolent help from the U.S. to this end, one whole community—the village of Ban Thach—was in the process of being picked up and put down in a new place farther away from the fighting.

In all, 850 men, women and children, together with their pigs, chickens, dogs, cats, bikes, boxes, even the roof thatching from the houses, were loaded aboard a latter-day Noah's Ark. Their destination was Cam Ranh Bay, some 80 miles down the coast, where they would find sanctuary and employment near the huge and growing U.S. military supply depot.

As dramatic and disruptive as the move itself might seem, the villagers, who are mainly Catholics, approached it with aplomb. They had already made one such mass exodus—from North Vietnam—to escape political persecution after the French evacuation in 1954. Beyond that, years of close proximity to war had taught them to be adaptable. This became instantly visible aboard the U.S. *Page*, the 338-foot-long B.D.L. (Beach Discharge Lighter) which the U.S. Army put at their disposal.

Scarcely had the *Page* put out to sea than grass mats appeared on deck, a tarpaulin roof was strung, family areas were staked out and cook fires were started. These people looked as if they were planning to stay aboard ship forever. They strung hammocks from standpipes and lifeboat lines; built shelters out of boxes, chairs, tables and old wooden doors. Long before the voyage ended, the deck resembled a typical street in Ban Thach.

This dusty hamlet near the South China Sea had long been under the protection of South Vietnamese

forces. But like so many government-held villages, the outskirts and the land beyond belonged to the enemy, who followed the usual practice of impressing young men into the Vietcong, levying heavy taxes on the crops and from time to time blowing up truckloads of villagers on their way to till these crops. Last winter units of the U.S. 101st Airborne Division moved into the area to protect the rice harvest, and ever since the village and its environs have been known chiefly for the ferocity of the fighting between Americans and the Vietcong, with the rich black earth absorbing the blood of both sides.

Things finally got so bad that the villagers began moving into the nearby city of Tuy Hoa, where thousands of other homeless and jobless refugees had already congregated. They choked its back alleys, and camped out in drainage pipes and packing crates. Only the lucky ones could find relatives who would take them in, or had the money to pay the high rents the strangers demanded for floor space. Somehow they managed to stay in touch, under the leadership of their parish priest, who had been with them ever since they left North Vietnam.

The proposal to round them up and send them to safer surroundings was not made for any reasons of tactical necessity. During the war hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese have fled battle areas and V.C.-controlled territory, posing tremendous problems of employment, feeding and housing in the government-protected localities where they find sanctuary. For humanitarian reasons the U.S. does its best to help, in both evacuation and resettlement.

The offer to resettle the Ban Thach people had been made by officials of U.S. AID (Agency for International Development). As it happens, the

operation, however complicated it was to prove from the standpoint of logistics, could at least be carried out without the spiritual complications that would have arisen had the refugees not been Catholic. The majority of Vietnamese, including most Buddhists, are ancestor worshippers and refuse to move away from family burial plots. Any government attempt to improve the lot of the people is looked upon darkly by the Vietcong, and one can hardly imagine a more ambushable target than a convoy of refugees. Since the starting point and the destination are on the coast, a landing craft seemed ideally suited.

To make sure that the *Page* could get in safely, a member of the advance party checked the off-shore depth at the designated embarkation point north of Tuy Hoa by asking a Vietnamese to wade out up to his neck—a risky way of sounding since the fellow was only three-fourths of a fathom tall. He failed to wade out far enough to discover the sand bar that the *Page* found all too quickly when it tried to approach the beach. In the end the ship had to give up and steam off to an alternative loading site south of the town, with the refugees tagging along with all their chattels.

The 44 Americans who manned the *Page*, of course, had some knowledge of Vietnamese village life and so had come prepared for anything. Anticipating a considerable cargo of livestock, including cows and water buffalo, the crew had blocked off and sanded a large portion of the deck to serve as a seagoing barnyard.

The villagers, however, had been given to understand that the heavier four-footed beasts would have to be left behind, and so had sold off all their cattle. Nonetheless they did manage to show some considerable shrewdness. No self-respecting Vietnamese would think of traveling without checking market prices at his destination. When the refugees heard that the price of poultry at Cam Ranh Bay was inflated, suddenly everyone was a chicken farmer.

Shortly after the *Page* began her run down to Cam Ranh, a huge pig died (heaven knows of what; some said fright) and was promptly hacked

to pieces for an on-deck barbecue. The American ship's cook was horrified ("Say, man, what he die *from*, anyway?") but the Vietnamese had no intention of throwing such valuable meat away merely because it had come to a mysterious demise.

While the barbecue was in progress, a member of the crew took a turn around the deck and suddenly pulled up short before one of the family areas.

"Hey!" he shouted. "There's somebody having a baby . . ."

"Damn," moaned an AID official. "She told me that she wouldn't do that." The AID people had done their best to screen out all late-term pregnant women so that special arrangements, perhaps a helicopter lift, could be made in their behalf later. Here obviously was one on whom they had miscalculated. With her labor pains coming rapidly, medics barely had time to rush her down to a vacant bunk in the crew's quarters. There a Vietnamese doctor and a U.S. colleague cooperated on what turned out to be a fine, normal birth. The baby, a five-pound boy, was named Page, a strange-sounding name in Vietnamese. But his mother agreed that he could do worse than to bear the name of the ship that carried her entire village away from the hardships and the terror of the Vietcong—toward what she hoped might be a better life for her family.

By midnight on the overnight voyage the ship was quiet save for the steady rumble of the diesel engines, the splash of waves against the bow and the chirping of crickets that had smuggled themselves aboard with the animals. A predicted squall had failed to materialize and the clouds peeled back, layer by layer, to reveal millions of the brightest stars in the universe. The villagers were curled up under mats, on top of tables and folding cots, in hammocks and under piles of furniture.

A member of the crew on watch noticed something curious; though in deep slumber, nearly all the villagers were frowning. For the rest of the voyage he would ponder the question: Will there ever come a time when these people might smile in their sleep? Perhaps that's what this trip was all about.

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AID URGENTLY NEEDS DEDICATED, SKILLED MEN AND WOMEN TO SERVE IN VIETNAM. IF YOU CAN QUALIFY AS A PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR, ECONOMIST, AUDITOR, ENGINEER, REFUGEE RELIEF SPECIALIST, TEACHER EDUCATION ADVISOR, REGISTERED NURSE, SECRETARY, OR PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISOR, PLEASE WRITE FOR DETAILS. THE PAY IS GOOD, THE HOURS ARE LONG, AND WORKING CONDITIONS MAY BE HAZARDOUS. BUT THE SATISFACTION OF BEING WHERE THE NEED IS GREAT IS FOR MANY THE BEST COMPENSATION POSSIBLE.

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