REPORT on the Conference of the Commissariat for Refugees on October 12, 1955

The conference starts at 3 p.m.

The nine provinces of the Center (listed below) made their report:

I. Life of the resettled.

1. Quang tri (9 camps) (10,930 refugees) established on July 1, 1955
2. Thua thien (12 camps) (? refugees)
3. Da nang (5 camps) (? refugees)
4. Quang Nam (4 camps) (2,204 refugees)
5. Quang ngai : 1,041 refugees
6. Phu yen : ?
7. Khánh hoa : 5,000 refugees lived in 5 camps
8. Ninh thuận : 3,140 refugees

The main occupations of the resettled are farming, fishing. But for lack of adequate means to carry on their work (lack of work animals, field implements) they lived a hard life.

A number of camps such as Quảng nam, Đà-nang, Phú-yen are less geographically gifted than the others. Consequently a number of refugees are jobless and have to leave the camp to take up job as docker, maker in factory and lived a very precarious life.

II. Security. The security of the refugees camps is assured by self-defense organization. Those with no self-defense organization are taken care of by nearby military posts. However, it is suggested that self-defense organization would be best organized if the self-defense received grants in compensation for their guard and patrol services which took up quite a great deal of time.
III. Aspirations.

a) abolition of Bao-Dai

b) Since most of the refugees lived on farming and fishing, they wished to be given adequate means (work animals, field implements, fishing boats, nets) to carry on their work effectively.

c) A number of Refugees centers with handicraft such as wood-coal making, lime-making (Thua-thi'en) and (Quangnam) wished facilities be given them in doing their jobs: cars for transportation stone, forest implements, simplification of forestry formalities.

d) every refugees center is in need of teachers for the education of the children.

e) establishment of official hospitals, school, information hall and an official local.

f) as the harvest approaches, the price of rice rises. Inflation facing the refugees of the center is all the more serious since it is further complicated by the problems of transportation from the South. Therefore, it is proposed the Commissariat for Refugees would help out by transporting rice to the center and sell to refugees with low price.

g) since the refugees have great hardship in turning the incultivated land into good account, they wish to be officially made the owner of the land.

h) cooperative organizations. Such an organization is very strange to the refugees. So they should like to be helped by means of guidance, providing and funds lending from the Commissariat General for Refugees.

i) An administrative problem. The refugees who have something to declare (declaration of birth, death) don't know where to turn for the registry officier is exclusively in charge of the inhabitants of the local. It is proposed that a council of notables will be created to take care administratively of the refugees.

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Report of the P.M.S. Refugee center

The refugee center of P.M.S. is composed of 33 camps scattered in Dalat, Djiring, Bammethuot with 33,092 refugees. Life here is relatively easier for the weather is very healthy and also because it is a long-time established camp (over ten months).
The refugees living on farming are classified as follows:

1) Refugees resettled over 10 months and capable of getting self-sufficient their own living within 1 month.

2) Refugees resettled since 6 months and capable of getting self-sufficient their own living within 5 months.

3) Refugees recently resettled who require special help from the C. for R.

Their aspirations are nearly the same as that of other provinces but as the center is located on the high region, it is faced with the water-supply problem. It is therefore proposed that more well mill be dug.

After a short break, the Commissioner General for refugees gave his answers to the refugee requests:

1) A budget chapter of 400 millions piasters (Loan made by Americans as part of their assistance) will be designed to cover all the expenses in the resettlement achievement program (program designed to make the refugees self-sufficient as soon as possible) including:
   - To provide the farmers with work animals, water pumps, immigration system etc...

2) A loan of 8 millions has been made by Monsignor Harnett for cooperative funds, at the same time the C. for R. will provide guidance by training resettled cadres:

3) Every refugees center with a population of 1,500 will be given a hospital, an information hall, an common official local and a school with a monthly grant of 4,000 $ for payment of teachers.

4) The grant of the self-defense member is decided as follows:
   - Chief of groups : 300$
   - Chief-adjoint : 200$
   - Member : 150$

5) There are no ground of approving the establishment of Refugees center council of notables since there must be uniformity in the administration. The Refugees are supposed, within the near future, to identify themselves with the local people.

6) The rice-supply problem will be settled in collaboration with Ministry of Economy.

7) The property right of land involves several other ministries, the C. for R. cannot handle it itself.