CANTHO -- FRAKES (now My-Tho Ben-Tre, with Sykes in charge)

12/7/54 -- Public Transportation in Vinh Long, Tra Vinh, Ben Tre; My Tho: Railroads OK to My Tho, as are roads; Cosara has three flights/week to Soc Trang. Otherwise, only ferry crossings, one-way bridges, and canal transportation. Although official cars take precedence, count on at least one-half hour wait to cross. Recommended that arrangements for road construction be made as soon as possible.

12/7/54 -- Refugee Resettlement Villages at Bung Truong and Ta, Binh in Vinh Long Province: Bung Truong located on Catholic Church property; no land available for farming and refugees not allowed to take fruit from nearby trees. Living on money loaned to priest by Chef de Province. Despite lack of land, sanitation facilities, and lumber for building, no desire to relocate. Tam Binh has 800 refugees located on private land. Chef de Province paying the rent to the landlord. No land available for farming, as well as lack of sanitation facilities and no lumber for building.

12/20/54 -- Access Road Problem Survey in Ben Tre: Access to and from camps limited. Plans under way for building roads. Also water problem due to proximity of the ocean at Tan Thuy.

1/1/55 -- Decision to not Resettle Additional Refugees in Ben Tre Province: Security a problem; bad relations with the local population; land not good in some areas; no land available at all in three camps at Tan Thuy; therefore, decision made not to resettle more refugees in the province.

1/3/55 -- Than Thuy Refugee Village, Ba Tri District, Ben Tre: 600 population; no land available; inadequate water supply; school equipment needed badly.

1/2/55 -- Refugees in Thanh Phu District; Ben Tre Province: Can Huu has 4500 farmers with no available land; local population antagonistic; not enough water or medical supplies; group willing to move. Nga Tu Ho has 800 who have no means of making a living; no land and inadequate water supply; local population antagonistic. Cay Diep -- no information; Khan Bang -- not visited; Giong Bang -- not yet occupied.

1/2/55 -- Bai Ngac Refugee Village, Ba Tri District, Ben Tre: 1700 population; unsatisfactory housing; no available land; local population antagonistic.

1/17/55 -- Present Status of Resettlement of SVN Population in Long My District, Soc Trang Province: Major rebuilding job necessary; Rice Cooperative organized in ten villages; need for DDT spray units, additional drugs, electrical equipment; water supply inadequate.
2/4/55 -- Resettlement at Long Phuoc Than, Giadinh Province:
Inadequate accommodations; camp located on an island and
better water transportation needed; need for tools, drugs,
and medical equipment.

3/7/55 -- Health and Medical Situation at Phu Lam, Cho-Lon:
Tent camp; no first aid kits; no water in camp and can’t use
the village well as local population antagonistic.

3/17/55 -- Resettlement Status of Refugee Camp of Long Thanh My,
Thu Duc District, Giadinh province:
2500 - 3000 refugees; housing and land available; health and
sanitation fair; Jan. 13 fire took 54 homes and requests
for clothes, etc. made to USOM.

3/17/55 -- Resettlement status of NVN Refugees at Tent Camp of Phu-Lam,
Cho-Lon:
1100 refugees; unique as no priest located at camp; include
teachers, tradesmen, miners, clerks, unskilled laborers;
food supply irregular; water problem crucial; housing not
adequate; need DDT, wells, electricity, homes, jobs.

6/2/55 -- Request from Refugee Village of Suoi Da in Tay-Ninh:
Request aid for the third time but as yet have been ignored;
the request is justified, although the Cao Dai have power
in the area and there is some question if the aid will be
given to them as the refugees are afraid.

6/3/55 -- Medical Needs at Xuan-Ninh, Ben-Cat, Thu-Dan-Mot:
Desperate need for drugs as changes in water and climate
causing disease.

6/11/55 -- Resettlement Status, Ba Beo Area, My Tho:
20,000 awaiting resettlement; provincial government relatively
well-organized; problems include house construction, food
and plaster distribution, need for land.

6/13/55 -- Specific Needs of Camp JA", Ba Beo area:
Need rice; subsistence payments; Also Buddhists do not seem
to be receiving the same treatment as the others.

6/13/55 -- Emergency Needs at Long Dinh:
400 need rice and medical attention.

6/14/55 -- Land Rent Contract Problems in My Tho:
Landlords either want rent in advance or sale in cash; Chef
de Province not much help as agrees with landlords; land
imperative to survival.

6/20/55 -- Educational Status of Refugee Resettlement Areas:
Need for teachers and supplies; integration in local
schools difficult due to language problems and lack of
space, etc.
7/26/55 -- Comigal Commitments for Refugees:
Demoralizing aspects of unfulfilled government promises in resettlement areas.

8/11/55 -- Flagrant Abuse, Misuse, and Waste of Material and Equipment at Ba Beo Camps, My Tho:
1) Tents either tossed aside on completion of home or cut up to be used as roofs and walls; but Comigal did not keep promise to provide money for them.
2) Unneeded house frames, 6000 of them, delivered despite order to stop delivery.
3) Also unused frames being used for fuel and being stolen by local villagers.
4) Two earth-block making machines abandoned to weather as they were not suitable and had not been desired by the refugees.

8/2/55 -- Resettlement Status, Ba Beo Area, My Tho Province:
1) Relocation necessary at Long Dinh Appendix.
2) Lack of housing.
3) Lack of buffalo and seedlings, although adequate land.
4) Buddhists are left out re: piasters and other aid.
5) Relocation necessary in Ba Beo since there isn't enough land for all the refugees located there.
6) Roads are very poor.
7) Situation very bad re: giving aid and several Comigal reps have been discharged.
3/6/55 -- Reorganization of Local Government in PMS; Agrarian Reform Law: Land Reform proceeding relatively well; for reorganization see field report of March 14.

3/15/55 -- Failure to Inform Field Reps of Important Decisions and Actions: Emphasis on necessity to contact field reps before informing local officials of USOM action.

3/14/55 -- A. Present Changes in Administration of PMS
B. Government Communications from Province to Region:
   A. New local head delegate of Central Government not of Imperial Cabinet; Handling of refugee affairs to Delegate for PMS of Commissioner General for Refugees -- Mr. Phong.
   B. Liaison somewhat sporadic; No regular conferences but many cases of irregular correspondence when particular problems arise. Due to insufficient administrative training of provincial authorities.

3/15/55 -- Administrative Units of Local Government in PMS -- Provinces and Districts:
   Names of province and district chiefs including Mr. Cao Minh Hien, mayor of Dalat.

3/15/55 -- Procedure for Obtaining American Aid in PMS -- Deficiencies and Evaluation:
   Administrative procedures extremely cumbersome; the large number of steps required before aid can be approved is one the major reasons why no requests are made in many areas.

3/15/55 -- Administrative Problems of Refugee Resettlement: Urgent Need for Cadres of Medium - Level Technicians:
   Lack of these technicians is hampering the attempts of the refugees to attain self-sufficiency.

3/24/55 -- Establishment of Cadres of Trained Technicians for Refugee Resettlement:
   Debate as to how technicians should be recruited -- by USOM from the states or volunteers in Vietnam to be paid by the Central Government with American funds.

5/6/55 -- Forest Fires:
   Educational films on prevention and fighting of forest fires sent to Dalat for use in the PMS.

5/9/55 -- Transfer of Credits Approved for Hospitals in Pleiku and Kantum to Hospital in Dalat:
   Request refused as not being needed since a hospital is already available.

5/10/55 -- Availability of Lumber for Refugee Housing:
   As lumber is not available in the vicinity, it was recommended that the request for funds to buy same be approved.

5/11/55 -- Medical Supplies for Refugees:
   These should be provided as soon as possible as the need is urgent.
5/14/55 - Conference re: Needs of Medium Level Technicians for Refugee Resettlement:
This policy is in the process of implementation as several of these technicians have already gone to work in some areas.

5/17/55 - Construction of Concrete Dam for Refugee Center and Ordinary Village of LacLam:
This project has been ok'ed by all the necessary authorities.

6/3/55 -- Medical Supplies for Refugees:
There is still an emergency situation in this area.

6/9/55 - Lack of Instructions for Use of Resettlement Credits in PMS:
At this point, the procedure is sufficiently clumsy and unclear so as to hinder the distribution of the credits.

6/9/55 - Deficiencies in American Aid Procedures in PMS—Approval of Contracts and Lack of Qualified Personnel:
Again, the procedure is cumbersome enough to slow down the processing of requests for aid, etc.

7/19/55 - Cattle offered for Sale for Refugee Use:
This offer from a private citizen sounds reasonable and should be looked into further and given serious consideration.

6/30/55 - Agricultural Proposals: (1) Fertilizers; (2) Fruit and Tea Tree Nurseries; (3) Purchase Cooperatives:
All three of these proposals should be adopted as they seem to be sound, adequate, and necessary.

8/8/55 - Failure of Provincial Health Authorities to Distribute Drugs to Resettlement Villages:
Clarification of Responsibility an absolute necessity.

8/8/55 - Strong Desire to Learn English in Dalat:
This desire was expressed to Bruhns on several occasions.
Reports originated by Mr. Hackett from Field (No. 1): The region
#5—Field Trip Dec 8-10, 12, 1954
A) Discursive account of visits to refugee resettlement centers and personal contacts with local officials.
B) Areas visited included Quang-Nam province, Tourane city, Thua-Thien province, Quang-Trí province.
C) Morale of refugees seemed uniformly high despite physical inconveniences. Energetic priests had led in self-help projects such as digging wells.
D) Some centers were already self-supporting; others would need relief in form of blankets and clothing.
E) In some fishing centers money was needed to buy fish and rice in order to become self-supporting.
F) In some farming communities agricultural tools, non-animal seed were needed to become self-supporting.

#9—Proposed Transit Center at Tourane, Dec. 18, 1954
A) Hackett recommended opposition to French proposal that the airlift of refugees from Haiphong terminate at Tourane. Use of Tourane as transit center would complicate existing problem of processing refugees already there.
B) Instead, Hackett recommends that airlift be suspended until such time as it is clear that U.S. Navy transports could not cope with numbers involved. Reception in Saigon is said to be more orderly in case of refugees arriving by sea.
Reports originated by Mr. Vackett from field (No. 1>: The region
64 - First Group Meeting on Refugee Rehabilitation (Mar. 55)

A) On Feb. 28, meeting was held in HCM at regional level to establish coordination and eliminate waste resulting from duplication of efforts on part of Regional Commissioner for Refugees, Regional Admin. for AEA, and Chief of Regional Fisheries Service.

B) Despite general desire for co-operation, duplication and waste had previously resulted from transmission of requests to higher headquarters at national level without consultation and coordination at region.

C) Agreement to co-ordinate requests for aid to refugees (e.g., fishermen) at regional level would make possible quicker action on specific matters.

D) It was agreed that Regional Commissioner would initiate aid requests and furnish info copies to co-operating agencies.
#143 - New Wave of Refugees Crossing 17th Parallel (April 5, 55)
A) Movement began March 25 with arrival of 109 at Hue. Scheduled to go to Phan Thiêt.
B) 406 arrived March 29. Intend to go to Phan Thiêt. Housed first in Hue Stadium, then moved to Reception Center in Hue.
C) 168 sent to Tourane March 31
D) 32 sent to Tourane April 2
Each one received 7 1/2 kilograms of rice and 150 C$ for Regional Commissioner for Refugees who expects influx to average 200 per day and expects to receive 13 million C$ for relief from Commissioner General.

#230 – Refugees Entering NC VN and Resettlement, June 6, 55
A) Refugees began crossing 17th Parallel March 1. Between March 1 and May 16 a total of 8,040
B) Upon arrival each one received IC$ .30 in cash and IC$ .30 for rice as daily subsidy to be continued until resettlement.
C) Security problem presented by ex-POW's (1,400 in no.) whom French returned to Communist control in Northern Vietnam. After brain-washing, Communist sent them south to their place of origin. Guarded by Vietnamese army in reception centers at Tourane. Security Service is checking for Vietminh agents.