MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

VIETNAM ADVISORY GROUP

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO:Dr. R. SciglianoDATE: October 3, 1958FROM:Police Administration DivisionSUBJECT:Monthly Report for September.

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1. During the month the Southern Regional Directorate, of the VBI, was dissolved and its operations, personnel and equipment transferred to General Headquarters Saigon. Since July 1956 MSU police advisors have been recommending that organizational changes be made within the VBI. With a total of 16 separate bureaus or services within General Headquarters directly responsible to the Director General through his Chief of Cabinet, this leads to inefficiency because of improper span of control. Field offices are responsible to one of three regional headquarters located at: Saigon (Southern Regional Directorate); Dalat (Central Highlands Directorate); and Hue (Central Directorate). Organizationally, the three directorates are responsible to the General Headquarters at Saigon. In practice, this leads to the creation of three separate VBI organizations within the overall structure; each independent of the other; and each, to a great extent, independent of General Headquarters. This situation permits interference in internal operations by various province chiefs, regional delegues, and other public officials. MSU advisors recommended a

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clear division of responsibilities in administrative matters and operational functions. We further recommended that the three regional headquarters be dissolved and their administrative functions be transferred to General Headquarters, that Viet Nam be divided into six field divisions with six headquarters strategically located, that field offices be divided among the six divisions by population and geography. Each field division director would be directly and personally responsible to Saigon for all VBI matters in the field division assigned to him. This, in part, was the recommended change in organization. The assimilation of the Southern Regional Directorate with the 22 province field offices contained therein into the General Headquarters structure, merely adds to the already extended span of control exercised by the Director General and creates an even more serious bottleneck than experienced heretofore.

MSU advisors will carefully watch the developments created by this change, since this move may be the first step following recommendations submitted two years ago.

2. After extensive preparation, an Instructors' Driver Training School opened at Camp des Mares, the VBI Headquarters in Saigon, on September 22, with 28 students selected from the Police and Security Forces of Viet Nam. The purpose of the School is to train members of the various police branches to

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become instructors in driver training so that they in turn can operate similar courses in various parts of Viet Nam. The need for this type of training is great; inasmuch as American Aid is furnishing several hundred jeeps, which are due to arrive within the near future and which will be distributed to the Police and Security Forces of Viet Nam. The course of instruction in this school, which is of two weeks duration, consists of both classroom lectures and practical field tests. Classroom lectures consist of subjects such as: Preventive Maintenance, Fundamentals of Driving, Skills on the Highway, Skills in the City, Public Relations Driving, Traffic Control, etc. In addition to lectures, written material on the subject was distributed and, with a demonstration table containing various street alignments obtained from MAAG, various driving maneuvers were demonstrated by use of toy automobiles, and traffic films were shown. The automobile motor was described in detail at the Civil Guard Mechanics' School. With the aid of 10 stanchions built by the VBI and 10 traffic cones borrowed from Saigon Traffic Police, a drivers' course was made. Each of the 28 students was required to drive a car through such maneuvers as parallel parking, restricted turns, knowledge of exact location of automobile, figure "8", etc. This is the first drivers' school in which students participated in both classroom activity and field exercises.

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3. For some time the Research Section has been engaged in a comprehensive study of the Municipal Police records systems. This has developed into a complete study of all facets of the Municipal Police organization and every position in it. The first phase of the precinct portion of the study is nearing completion and certain deficiencies have become apparent. The principal weaknesses appear to include: 1) Lack of any card indexing system, 2) Very general and serious decentralization of all records, 3) Extreme problem of duplication of reports, 4) Completely inadequate system of communications of all types, 5) Very weak system of dissemination of information within the individual units and throughout the organization. This is probably a major weakness of the entire police profession in this country.

We can assume that other problems will make themselves known as this study proceeds, but at this time our main efforts are being directed toward the above listed subjects.

4. PIO/C's for FY '58 for all types of equipment including communications have been withheld. The commodities for the communications program will not be purchased until the Director General of the VBI presents an adequate training program for radio technicians. All other types of equipment are being withheld from order pending the receipt of recommendations of the Director General for the distribution of 1957 commodities for Surete and Municipal Police.

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Saigon traffic continues to be one of the major problems. Progress, however, is being made in eliminating many of the bottlenecks created by the original planning of Saigon and its rapid growth in recent years. During the month two streets which were recommended for one-way traffic some time ago, were introduced and are working out very well. The week of 10 November has been designated as Traffic Safety Week by the Mayor of Saigon and plans call for an extensive educational program through the media of newspapers, radio, police activity and the dissemination of 20,000 stop sign pamphlets in color to the users of the streets during this period. Strict enforcement of stop-sign violators will begin following the seven day stress on traffic education. The MSU Traffic Engineer has worked closely with Vietnamese authorities relative to the preparation of a report justifying the purchase of 100 busses, through the Development Loan Fund, to be added to the present fleet. The addition of these busses to the present state-owned bus system will simplify the establishment of properly scheduled and spaced public transportation which will greatly alleviate the heavy bicycle traffic presently encountered on the city streets. A traffic film made by USON Photo Laboratory on police traffic control, etc., will be shown at various points during this designated week.

The acute shortage of adequate ranges in and about the City of Saigon has been the major problem in the thorough training of both Municipal Police and VBI agents in the use of American Aid revolvers and riot shotguns.

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The Municipal Police Range at Binh Thoi (Cholon) which is in use daily for revolver, rifle and machine gun training, is inadequate, having at the most 10 revolver shooting positions. While rifle training is being conducted only three positions are available and the rifle training eliminates the revolver positions. Plans for the building of a modern rifle and revolver range at the Binh Thoi site have been under consideration for several months. This month additional property adjacent to the present range has been purchased and the Director General of Police and Security Services has indicated that he is giving his approval to a complete remodeling of the range. Plans call for 30 handgun positions or, if rifle training is conducted simultaneously, 10 rifle positions and 20 handgun positions. The VBI in its revolver training has had the use of a range located at the Cuang Trung military range about 15 miles from Saigon. The present range, when remodeling is completed, will be used jointly by the Municipal Police and VBI personnel.

On October 22, at the invitation of General Nguyen van Ia, Director General of Police and Security Services, Mr. Leland Barrows, Director and Mr. Arthur Gardiner, Deputy Director of USOM, made an inspection of the facilities of the VBI installation at Camp des Mares. After a briefing at headquarters in which present activities and future plans relative to a new Records building and other planned construction were discussed, General Ia conducted the visitors on a tour of the Central Fingerprint Bureau, consisting of two new buildings, and thoroughly explained the functions of the Bureau and the flow of work. The Arms and Ammunition warehouse, Command Officers' School, and the future Central Garage, presently under construction, were shown.

Mr. Brandstatter's copy

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General Ia, Director General of Police and Security Forces, has given his approval to the comprehensive plan for the training of Vietnamese radio technicians, submitted by the Communications Section. The presently planned police radio and teletype network for Viet Nam calls for a total of 170 trained radio technicians to be used in the maintenance and operation of this network. There are no Vietnamese at present who are capable of maintaining or operating a radio communications system such as is contemplated for Viet Nam. Thus, the need for trained technicians, operators and supervisory personnel is great. With the assignment of a room located in the new garage building at VBI Headquarters as a classroom, it is planned to begin classes on January 5, 1959 to an initial group of 16 students, with Mr. Jerome Hemmye, assistant communications advisors who arrived on 18 November, ONE OF the asfinstructor 5. In conjunction with the practical on-the-job training in the maintenance and repair of radio equipment, the Communications Section is setting up a correspondence study program, material for whith was received during the month. This program will also begin in January. A screening test for radio technicians has been developed and will be given to all VBI and police personnel selected to work in the communications field.

With the anticipated arrival of the first orders of communications equipment within the next several weeks, arrangements have been made for the storage of this equipment in a room at the VBI garage which is being air conditioned for that purpose.

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On 4 November 1958, Messrs. Smuckler, Hoyt and Newman met with the Secretary of State for Public Works, Mr. Tran le Quang, relative to a request that MSUG assist Public Works in revamping their system of motor vehicle registration. Mr. Quang stated that they do not know how many motor vehicles are in actual use on the highways, although they know how many have been registered since 1900. Also, that they would like to know the number of different makes of vehicles in order to authorize the import of spare vehicle parts, and the different sizes and weights of vehicles for the building of roads and bridges. Mr. Quang was informed that Mr. Newman would work on this project and if more help was needed at the stage of actual implementation, MSUG would try to secure such assistance. Mr. Quang further advised that his Charge de Mission, Mr. Nguyen van Meo, would temporarily act as counterpart until the return of Mr. Bui nuu Tuan, an engineer who is in Bangkok at the present time. Mr. Newman has set up frequent weekly meetings in order to study the problem.

The work plan is (1) to study needs and deficiencies; (2) to make recommendations for needed changes in cooperation with counterpart; (3) to implement changes agreed upon by top authority.

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The greatest single needs of the police in Viet Nam has been in the field of training. With a 6,000 man police force in Saigon and with the VBI organization and municipal police of the remaining 33 cities in Viet Nam numbering nearly 10,000, the problems of training have been considerable. The opening of the National Police Academy in November 1955 and the subsequent graduation of nearly 2000 students helped to ease the lack of trained personnel and, with the recent opening of a permanent academy with a greatly increased enrollment, the training picture becomes still brighter. In an attempt to bring training into the field, top students of each academy class were recommended to their respective superiors for the starting of in-service training within the respective jurisdictions. In many instances this was done with gratifying results. However, with the normal job turnover within such a large organization but little headway is being made, considering the total number of personnel yet to be trained.

A number of police schools have been in operation for some time with classes devoted to specialized fields and directed toward the supervisory and command officer level of personnel. These schools will continue but this training is not reaching the patrolman level. The Saigon Municipal Police for the past two years have instituted a continuing in-service training school whereby each patrolman must spend several hours weekly in classroom and practical problems work. Due to this school the Saigon police, as a whole, are the best trained police in Viet Nam. Director of Saigon Police, Mr. Tran van Tu, has just received approval from the Director General of Police and Security Forces for the exchange of

trained officers from the Saigon Police with untrained officers from the cities and provinces outside Saigon. This plan, which will begin January 1, 1959, calls for the untrained men in the distant cities to be brought to Saigon where they will be given on-the-job training and training in the in-service training school, while trained Saigon officers will replace them during the period they are away. After several months of training the men will return to their respective cities. It is believed that this move will assist considerably in the improvement of police efficiency and morale within the police ranks of the cities within Vietnam.