

Lloyd D. Musolf,
Chief Advisor

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THROUGH: Ralph Turner, Chief, Police Administration
E. H. Adkins, Jr., Police Advisor

Personal Activities Report - Period of May 22, 1960
through December 31, 1960

This will record that the writer arrived in Vietnam on May 22, 1960 with his family and began work at the post. The writer and family experienced little, if any, adjustment difficulties and so far all have been fortunate in being healthy.

About one month was spent in familiarization. The various officials were met and discussion of their problems was begun. In addition, a rather detailed review of the written history and files of the project was done.

During the period a detailed audit of the Central Identification Bureau was conducted, recommendations were made and agreed upon with the VBI officials.

A new building for the Central Identification Bureau was designed and the basic floor plans completed. It was necessary to develop design criteria utilizing a number of standards from the FBI Identification Bureau in Washington, modified to meet Vietnamese conditions. This involved such things as expected volume of fingerprints, number of filing cabinets and personnel, together with the space requirements for these. Also, it was necessary to develop a new flow chart which would guide the expected operation in the building. The structure of two floors was expanded from 980 square meters originally requested by the VBI, to 1600 square meters, based on the aforementioned studies.

A continuous inspection was conducted of the operations of the mobile teams working in Saigon issuing the National Identity Cards. Also, a new I.D. card was designed and will be printed on safety-type paper. At the end of the period bids were being sought and it is expected the new card will be used soon. In addition, the writer conducted a study involving the various means of plastic lamination of the identification card. Deterioration caused by body

perspiration has been a problem and instances involving counterfeiting of cards were discovered. The plastic currently used involves a cold rolled process and with a little practice it is possible to separate the two plastic sheets from the card without destruction. Machine methods were studied and final recommendations will be made early in the next period.

Two fingerprint manuals, one in Vietnamese and one in French, both based on excerpts from the most recent edition of "Science of Fingerprints", published by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, were completed and are ready for submission to the printer.

Certain technical modifications in the classification of fingerprints were found to be necessary in Vietnam. To classify fingerprints, the patterns are first divided into loops, arches, tented arches and whorls. Numerical values are assigned - depending on the type and finger in which the patterns appear - and a formula for filing and searching purposes is computed. The frequency in which the various patterns appear, their size and ridge counts, largely determines the extension and complexity of the classification formula, just as in an American alphabetical name index there are many more "John Smiths" than less common names and, therefore, they require special treatment. The problem is, then, that 65 o/o of all patterns in the U.S. population are loops, and this frequency of pattern occurrence is the basis for standard practice, whereas in Vietnam preliminary sampling indicates a greater majority fall into the whorl type of pattern. Accordingly, research was begun to determine through large-scale sampling the frequency of all types of patterns to be expected in this area. The literature on the subject indicates that there are some anthropological implications involved in fingerprint patterns and these will be considered in the study. This will be one of the largest samplings of its kind and a paper will be prepared on the subject.

A broad review of the VBI Central Records Bureau was completed. In addition, national practices in the provinces and in the investigative sections of the VBI were studied and early in the next period recommendations for efficiencies of operation, elimination of duplication, and national crime statistical data will be submitted.

Two papers were given to the Command School of the VBI during the period, one entitled "The National Identity Card Program in Vietnam" and the other "Industrial Security in the United States". An article was prepared and at the end of the period was ready for submission for publication, entitled "An Idea

for an International Police Academy."

One field trip was conducted by the writer and Lt. Do Dien Cam, Chief of the Central Identification Bureau, for the purpose of setting up a pilot project for the National Identity Card Program in the provinces. Dalat and Nha Trang were studied and Dalat was selected as a logical place for the pilot project.

The writer spent some five hours per week in French classes and at the end of the period reached a point where on field trips he was able to discuss a great deal of the business in that language. Official agreements were reviewed in Vietnamese, through an interpreter, to insure complete understanding on the part of both parties.

Submitted by:

E. H. Adkins, Jr.