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March 12, 1957

G. Shelby and R. Rogers

Field trip to Tourane

The City of Da Nang (Tourane) in the province of Quang Nam lies on the China sea about 200 kilometers south of the 17th parallel.

It covers an area of about eight square kilometers, and has a population of one hundred and twenty thousand persons.

It is a military center and an important sea port, and if international commercial relations with Laos, develop it will become increasently important as a port city.

Because of it size and location, it is an important trade center, with a great many fishing boats docking here to dispose of their catches.

There are many refugee villages in the area, and many business people from the North have settled here, and re-established themselves in their former businesses.

The city has an adequate Air port, and terminal, and more than eighty kilometers of road-ways, within the city limits.

The city government is an entity, independent of the province. The mayor is Mr. Ai. There is an elected council of 16 members;

210 officer

at present the council has been reduced to 12, because four members were elected to the National Assembly. The population is predominately Vietnamese, there being only about 5,000 Chinese in the city.

Within the city there are two small prisons; one housing about 300 prisoners the other about 600 prisoners, the former under the supervision of the Guard Civil; houses all Criminals except the political prisoner, which are confined in the other, under the control of the Sureté. It is my opinion that either of these prisons would tend to promote Communism and anti governmental fillings rather than discourage them.

Interview with Mr. Ai Mayor of Tourane:

We arrived in Tourane at about 9:00 A.M. February 14, 1957 and went immediately to the City Hall, to interview the Mayor. He received us immediately, and through out our stay in Tourane was very interested and cooperative.

He explained his problems, which as far as the police were concerned was the lack of equipment, and training. He stated that the police had very little and that other things necessary, prevented him from providing them with an adequated budget. He pointed out that the police were responsible for providing five protection, but, that they had no fire fighting equipment. It appears that an engine had been given to the city, but the Province Chief had ordered it sent elsewhere. At this time, a city of 120,000 had absolutely no fire fighting equipment.

During this interview the Mayor reluctantly admitted that he was not satisfied with his Chief police, he felt that the Chief was too weak, and explained that this was the result of his having served under many masters, during the preceding ten years (Actually when we later met the Chief Mr. Lê Kim An, we were agreeably surprised to find a capable progressive, individual, with more personal confidence, and bearing than the majority of police officer encountered.)

The Mayor's solution was to have Mr. An transferred to the Province Administration bureau in Hué. The Mayor stated that he would be very glad, to have us put on a gas demonstration and to receive a supply of tear gas, he felt it would be invaluable in an emergency. He also wants to set up a training program, for the police and would welcome, any assistance we could give him.

At this point he picked up the phone and called the Chief of police and drove us to police headquarters, where we were met by the Chief and an honor guard and inspected the buildings, grounds and some of the equipment. Since it was noon we ask for an appointment with the Chief for the afternoon.

Interview with Mr. Lê Kim An, Chief of Police at Tourane.

At 3:00 P.M. Feb. 14, 1957 an interview was had with Mr. An in his office in headquarters. He is 39 years of age, married and has 4 children, he has 7 years in police service; having served two years as chief of mobile Surete before assuming command of the Tourane department. He has completed the secondary degree

in education and has studied at home. He has completed fourteen months of English language training in a school which he and an American - MAAG officer Captain Gremmer-who is stationed in Tourane, organized and which the Captain teaches. The class is made up entirely of police officers, there are 10 students. Mr. An has an exceptionally good command of English for such a period of training.

His military career started in 1938. He served from then until 1945 as a Major Sergeant in the French military forces. When the French were defeated he shifted to the Vietnamese National Army and fought against the VietMinh. Later he was promoted to Adjunct Chief and was sent to an accounting school, after completion of which, he was transferred to the Ordinance Division.

The Chief presents an unusually good appearance, he is pleasant and courteous. He commands the respect of his men. His department shows every evidence of discipline and efficiency. This department did not know that we were coming, yet we found traffic officers and raised platforms with large umbrellas for shade at every main intersection. These presented as fine appearance as those of Saigon today. At the station the men were all in uniform. Clean and neat in appearance; the station was not over staffed. We found the station well located, clean and orderly. The weapons were in a separate building in racks, clean and lightly oiled. The vehicles, 1 jeep and 1 land rover

were in garage at the back of a well kept grounds. The land rover was old and completely worn out, the chief said it was beyond repairing. The jeep while well kept was old. As stated before there was no fire fighting equipment.

During the noon hour the Chief had drawn up a current organizational chart, indicating the number of men assigned to each bureau and division. This as well as a report indicating the population, area, no of motor vehicles (1,000) cyclopuses (800) and an undertermined number of motor cycles and bicycles in the city were written in English for our convenience, and presented to us by the Chief when we returned in the afternoon. A copy is attached as well as a copy of the record of guns and ammunition owned by the department. The department has no communications other than the public telephone.

They have no recruit training as all the men have more than one year service. They have a class of two hours duration each Friday - one half the members attend each week; the Chief and his best informed officers are the instructors. The National Police Academy records show that 5 men from Tourane have received training there and have returned to the Tourane department.

As indicated in this report we were very favorably impressed with the department in Tourane and especially with the Chief Mr. An. We are of opinion that he is the best police officer we have encountered to be sent to the U.S. for a long period of training. He has the personality the appearance the maturity

the experience and the interest. He stated that finances and his family would not stand in his way as his father would be glad to care for them while he was away. Mr. An informed me that he felt that the Mayor was not dissatisfied with his services but wanted his (the Mayor's) brother in as chief of police.

I believe that we should make every effort to enroll Mr. An in the Participant Program, and attempt to serve his relations with the Tourane department. When he returns to VietNam after an extensive training course in MSU use him as an instructor in the N.P.A. if a large institution is operating at that time. If not I suggest that he be sent by the Minister of Interior to such run down departments as Hué, with instructions to reorganize, train and discipline the department.

ORGANIZATION CHART OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT OF TOURANE

Firearms store 2
Cars drivers 2

Town Hall.

Direction of security service in Hué

Court of Just. of Quang nam Quang-ngai

Police Department of Tourane.

- Central Post 18
- Bach Dăng Post. 32
- Hoang diêu 15
- Hoàng hoa Tham post 25
- Ngoại ô post. 9
- Đông giang post. 9

Detention room. 2

- Police orchestra. 15
- Police magazine. 4.
- Detached officers 25.
- Bailiff pursuits. 4.
- Taxes and fines. 3.

Judicial office. 6-7

Special service. 7

Administration office 3-4-7.

Hygiene office 7
Moral squad. 4

Secretariat. 6-4.

Archives.
Materials office.
Personnel Accounting
Military affair
Mail office

Firearms store
Cars drivers 2