

Police rpt.

Facilities for Police

I had a meeting this morning with the Minister of Interior Bui Van Thinh, on the matter of the police taking over Camp de Mares. He advised me that General Le received a letter yesterday from General Ky, advising him that the Camp de Mares was being turned over to the Civil Police authorities and that effective Monday, April 30, 1956, General Ky would remove the company of military that is now protecting it.

I pointed out to him that it was necessary for us to justify the use of all the vacant buildings for civil police services. He had a meeting called immediately, which Jack Ryan and I attended, which included General Le, Tran Ba Tan, Mr. Ro, Chief of Cabinet for the Secretary of Interior, Mr. Ton Ngoc Choc, Chief of Cabinet for General Le. They produced a file that had all the details worked out of the number of square meters that are now being used by the various services but summarizes as follows:

Police in the security headquarters; this includes the jails, garages, motor pool, Gen'l. Le's hdqtrs...	80,684 sq. me
Security offices, South Viet Nam; this includes all of Tran Ba Tan's administrative offices now at the Catinat headquarters	9,500 " "
Administrative and Judicial offices; this includes the laboratory and identification offices that are now at Filippini St.....	2,000 " "
National Police Academy	55,474 " "

Also will be included the administration and headquarters of the C.E. work that is now being carried on at 42. (Obviously some of the activities of 42 will have to continue outside of Camp de Mares but the main offices will be headquartered within this compound.)

The reorganization plans will call for the consolidation, in Saigon, of the present regional offices of Central Viet Nam in Hue, and the PMS headquarters in Dalat. I believe he proposes that these Directors become assistants to him and head up certain sections of the National Police.

The National Police Academy will be expanded to include driver training course, firearms training, (the actual firing range of course will have to be placed in some safe location) special training for leadership, for fingerprints, traffic direction, criminal investigation specialist, etc.

The Central Records Bureau will also be added but this has not been completely sold to them as being a very essential unit owing to the lack of ability to demonstrate, so far, its value. We visualize many other activities for the future, utilizing some of the area as a drill field and an athletic field and propose to maintain in this camp a limited number of troops for emergencies. These will have to be housed in what are now some of the barracks. In addition to receiving special riot control training they will serve as a service company for the area.

They agreed to set up a committee, very soon, which will study the facilities available and the needs listed above with a view of allocating the buildings in the most efficient manner. There is no question in my mind but what the entire area, now vacant, can be put to immediate use. As the Central Police become more effective and expand into other areas, such as communications, taking over the direction of the services of the Civil Guard, the Gendarmerie, etc., then the police can eventually make effective use of other parts of this camp as it is vacated by the I.C.C.