

202

19 June 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJ: Meeting with Mr. Nguyen Dinh Thuan, Secretary of State  
for the Presidency, Friday, June 13, 1958

The above meeting was attended by Secretary of State Thuan, Mr. Don-Them, Assistant to Mr. Thuan, Dr. Smuckler, Howard Hoyt, and Jack Ryan.

An explanation of the role of MSUG in the police field in Vietnam was made by Mr. Hoyt and a presentation was also made of a brief written account of activities since the beginning of the program in 1955. Additional comments were made in this regard by Dr. Smuckler and Mr. Ryan.

Mr. Thuan posed several questions dealing with the types of assistance being given by MSUG to the Municipal Police and to the VBI. A verbal outline was presented relative to the progress which is being made in the development of the Identification Bureau, the Records Bureaus, and the training programs within both of the agencies mentioned above. Mr. Thuan expressed a particular interest in the matter of the development of the fingerprinting program within the VBI.

Dr. Smuckler pointed out that although much progress had been made in many areas at lower levels of operation, he suggested that perhaps the time was approaching when GVN may at last be required to cope with more important problems at higher levels. Among these, for example, are the overall reorganization of the Police and Security Forces and the delimitation agreements which are necessary between the various police agencies in Vietnam. Some of the problems which have resulted from a lack of clearly defined positions on the part of GVN relative to these two particular matters were briefly outlined for the Minister. Mr. Them diplomatically pointed out that when recommendations of this type are made, considerable opposition is generated inasmuch as such recommendations affect the entire government. Both Mr. Thuan and Mr. Them advised that perhaps MSUG should again attempt to encourage GVN action by presenting recommendations to the new Minister of the Interior, Mr. Lam-Le-Trinh.

**SUBJ: Meeting with Mr. Nguyen Dinh Thuan, Secretary of State  
for the Presidency, Friday, June 13, 1958**

---

19 June 1958

Page 2

With regard to the Civil Guard, Mr. Thuan declared that he feels that President Diem's thinking in the matter has not been clearly understood. He advised that it is his opinion that the President desires that the Civil Guard remain a civilian police organization but that it be logistically supported by ARVN. It was pointed out to the Secretary that a letter from the US Embassy was now being considered by the President in this regard.

The meeting with the Secretary was terminated on a very friendly note.

JER/her