LAND REFORM


BEFORE THE FRENCH LEFT VIETNAM THE LAND OWNERS SOLD THEIR LAND TO THE GVN GOVERNMENT. A FARMER WHO IS PRESENTLY CULTIVATING A PORTION OF THAT LAND, UP TO 5 HA. IS ELIGIBLE TO BUY IT. PAYMENTS WILL BE MADE OVER A TWELVE YEAR PERIOD, WITH EACH ANNUAL PAYMENT BEING LESS THAN THE FARMER IS PRESENTLY PAYING TO THE GVN FOR RENT. THE PRICE OF THE LAND IS BASED ON ITS PRODUCTIVE CAPACITY, RANGING FROM 2,500$p TO 8,500$p PER HA.

PHASE ONE OF THE PILOT PROGRAM CARRIED WITH IT THE GOAL OF DETERMINING IF THE ELIGIBLE FARMERS WANTED TO BUY THE FARM THEY OPERATE. ON A 1,800 HA. TRACT LOCATED IN VI DUC IT IS ESTIMATED THAT 800 ARE CULTIVATING. DURING PHASE ONE 391 OF THOSE FARMERS MADE APPLICATION TO BUY. THE FARMERS SHOULD GET THEIR TITLES IN ABOUT TWO MONTHS.
OF THE 30,000 HA. OF FORMER FRENCH LAND IN CHUONG THIEN, ABOUT 4,000 HA. ARE LOCATED IN SECURE OR SEMI-SECURE AREAS. WE EXPECT TO SELL 3,000 HA. TO AT LEAST 1,500 FARMERS DURING THE NEXT SIX MONTHS.

THE PILOT PROGRAM WAS A SUCCESS BECAUSE IT WAS SUPPORTED WELL BY BOTH THE PROVINCE AND SAIGON. ONE OLD FARMER MADE THE STATEMENT, "I HOPE THIS GOVERNMENT CAN STAND, BECAUSE IT HAS RECOGNIZED OUR OWNERSHIP.

1. 9,331 FARMERS EXPLOITED LAND IN 50-61/62, NOT YET RECO TITLES UNTIL OCT '68, ONLY 309 TITLES DISTRIB. - SINCE NEWING LAND CHIEF MR. KHUE (JUNIOR), ADDIT. 185 TITLES DISTRI.

2. FARMERS CONFERENCE IN GOVT. - VC CONFUSED FARMERS SAYING THEY STILL ARE TENANTS OF GNV. SOME VILLAGE OFFICIALS COLLECTED RENT ON LAND ALREADY DISTRI. CONFIRMING VC. PROPAGANDA.

3. SO FAR 30,000 HA. ORDINANCES 2 LAND DISTRI TO 9,331 FARMERS, 20,000 REMAINS TO BE DISTRI.

4. FORMER FRENCH LAND, 30,000 HA. PURCHASED BY GNV 1960.

VILLAGE COMMITTEES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR COLLECTING RENT, AND ARE ALLOWED TO KEEP FROM 5% TO 20% OF ANY COLLECTED. THEY DO NOT WANT LAND DISTRIBUTION.

5. ACTION PROGRAM FOR 1968 (JULY - DEC)

   1. Priority 1: Distri. 1800 HA. in V. Dic village to 800 farmers.

   2. Priority 2: Distri. another farm 3900 HA. in V. Dic village.

   3. Priority 3: Continue the distribution of undist. land titles. Hopefully by the village administrative committee, under the guidance of the Prov. Land Affairs Office.

6. Present desire the same as under farm. No delays, some may subdividing into small plots not economically sound. VN farmers can live with small holdings.

7. VC families are applying for titles and apply to buy land to.

   One 70 year old farmer in V. Dic village "wishes GVN will work over the Community, because GVN finally recognizes his ownership of former French land that he has tilled for over 30 years as a tenant."