Crowded conditions prevailed in North Vietnam hospitals. Two to a bed was the rule rather than the exception.

2.31 - Hospitals

One hundred and five quonset huts* have been provided, contributing approximately 1,500 beds and auxiliary services. The new "Hospital Populaire" at Saigon has 400 beds with another 200 beds planned. American Aid helped with the provision of equipment. The building was constructed with funds provided from local contributions. Considerable equipment has been provided for other hospitals and laboratories, including 36 ambulances, 46 x-ray machines, 25 minimum hospital kits, 52 refrigerators, 18 generators, 4 laundry units and many surgical instruments.

Special attention has been given to improving laboratory facilities in the Associated States. A new laboratory at Hue in Central Vietnam has been completed, using counterpart funds. Seventy-five minimum laboratory kits have been provided to provincial hospitals. Temporary laboratories for training laboratory technicians were established in Saigon and Hanoi for Vietnam and in the capitals of Cambodia and Laos. Both local and American technicians at these schools provide instruction in the use of minimum laboratory kits. About 70 laboratory technicians have been trained in this manner. A blood transfusion center was established in Cambodia and blood banks will be established soon in Vietnam. The general drug distribution program has provided penicillin, anti-malarial, terramycin, dehydrostreptomycin, aureomycin, and chloromycetin and reaches over a half-million people a year.

*This is two less than reported last year because two huts have been switched to non hospital purposes.
Prefab hospital set up at Sontay.

American aid is equipping l'Hopital Populaire in Saigon.

2.32 - Rural Health

First aid kits containing simple drugs are distributed to village first aid stations.

To date, some 3,472 kits have been distributed, benefiting approximately 4,200,000 people per year. Quarterly refills are provided for the kits.

"President BUU-LOC awarding Medal of Vietnam to Mrs. Loretta PARSONS, American nursing consultant, for work in Nursing Demonstration Unit, Hue, April 1954."
2.33 - School Health

A program of health education in the schools has been started in Cambodia, for which American Aid is providing equipment, supplies, and financial support. The World Health Organization furnishes the supervising technicians. At present, the courses are confined to students training to become teachers in the public school system, but it is planned to expand the program to reach the elementary schools.

Dr. Clifford H. Jope, Senior Surgeon came from the United States Public Health Service to Viet-Nam in March 1951 and was appointed Public Health Administrator for Central Viet-Nam, where he served for almost two years. A brilliant physician, he was highly esteemed by all of his American, Vietnamese and French friends and colleagues.

Dr. Jope died February 27, 1953, in Hue, only two weeks before he was scheduled for Home Leave. He is survived by a wife and three children. A Memorial Service was held in his honor in the Saigon Protestant Church on March 5, 1953.

The Governor of Central Viet-Nam, Phan-van-Giao, dedicated the Microbiological Laboratory in the Benh-Vien Trung-Nongq Hospital in Hue to the Memory of Dr. Jope. A bas-relief plaque in honor of Dr. Jope was unveiled at this dedication inscribed as follows:

"To the memory of Dr. Clifford H. Jope, who gave his life in the devoted service of his Country and Viet-Nam on February 27, 1953, this plaque is affectionately dedicated by his American colleagues of the United States Special Technical and Economic Mission."

On April 29, 1953, H. M. Bao-Dai, Chief of State, conferred, posthumously, the Honorary title "Chevalier in the National Order of Viet-Nam" on the late Dr. Jope.
2.40 - Social Welfare Education and Training

Equipment, visual aids, literature, and other teaching devices have been furnished through American Aid to improve the various programs aimed at the education and training of medical care and auxiliary personnel, including doctors, nurses, and technical assistants. The efforts have been directed toward expanding the existing refresher courses.

Class in first aid at Prek Leap Agriculture School, Cambodia.

2.41 - Medical Education

The Royal School of Medicine in Cambodia is nearing completion. American Aid contributed assistance in the construction of the school and in the procurement of considerable equipment. This school will accommodate approximately 125 Cambodian and Laotian students, graduating some 20 each year. Since it is not a complete medical school, some of the students will continue training abroad.

Phnom-Penh medical School
2.42 - Nurses Training

Consisting of nursing education, in-service training, and scholarship training, this program will train 225 student nurses per year in Vietnam, of which approximately 110 will be graduated annually. A three year course for 80 student nurses has been approved in Cambodia. Seven health centers have been established giving in-service training to nurses, and this last year 74 nurses completed training. Twenty-eight others are continuing the work. In scholarship training one midwife has completed one year in the U.S., two have been accepted for a year's work in Canada, and one application is pending. Three study tours to nearby Eastern countries have been made with 24 nurses participating.

2.43 - Health Education

One hundred and one Health Education teams reach 2,000,000 people per month. The program trains health educators who work at the village level and provides them with periodic refresher courses. Forty-five special classes have been given to Buddhist Priests.

2.44 - Public Health Administration

To combat the problem of a shortage of personnel in the Ministries of Health, technical assistance is being given to this personnel, and officials at all levels are encouraged to take observation trips to the United States, or to countries adjacent to the Associated States, to
improve their knowledge of administrative procedures. One official has returned after spending a year in the United States, and another is presently in the United States taking an 18 month training course in Public Health. The Director General of Health for Vietnam, together with a Regional Director of Health, recently returned from a 60 day observation tour of public health facilities in the United States. Aid is also provided to defray the additional personnel costs necessitated by American Aid work.
Rice land as seen from the air. Rice is Indochina's most important crop. Great strides have been made in improving quality and production.

3.00 - AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

As has been pointed out previously, the economy of the three Associated States is basically agricultural with rice being grown on 85% of the land under cultivation. Production of corn, coffee, tea, pepper, copra, kapok, rubber and several other crops, as well as fish, all contributed to the prosperity of the countries before World War II. With much of the area disturbed as a result of civil war and guerrilla activity, production of all crops except rubber was greatly reduced during the years 1946 to 1950. For an idea of production levels see the Economic Review section of this report.

GENERAL PROGRAM ACTIVITY

It is essential that production be increased if the economy of the countries is to be stabilized and a basis established for the support of independent governments. It has, therefore, been the objective of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Division to assist the participating countries in increasing their production and in stabilizing their populations on the land.

At the beginning of the program, it was found necessary to meet the immediate needs of producers by providing fertilizers, seeds, hand tools, plow shares and harrows; to resettle displaced cultivators, and to give emergency assistance to fishermen and forest laborers.
Technical assistance, training fertilizers, burlap bags, seeds, Peeling machine, rice mills, refrigerators, Quonset huts, trucks jeeps, carterpillar tractors, bulldozers, levellers, motorcultivators, Diesel motors, electric pumps, insecticides.

Technical and lab. instruments, incubators, serums & vaccines, meteorological equipment, propulsor, soil testing kits, hoes harrow teeth, plough - shares, rootrakes, lodging arches, saw mills.

Patrol boats, drift trawlers, draglines, outboard motors.
It was also necessary to strengthen and support the governmental agencies responsible for program implementation. Assistance was provided for employing additional personnel and to permit on-the-job and in-service training of agricultural technicians. Necessary supplies and equipment required for proper functioning of the agencies was furnished.

Gradually, the program was developed to include assistance in meeting the more fundamental needs of the agricultural economy. These activities include rehabilitation of irrigation and drainage works, development of animal breeding stations, organization of cooperatives and credit institutions and development of agricultural education, training, and research facilities.

3.11 - Fertilizer Distribution

Approximately 45,490 tons of fertilizer have been purchased for distribution, mainly to rice growers. This figure includes 12,460 tons which are being delivered and distributed during the 1954 fiscal year. Approximately 600,000 families who are located principally in North and South Vietnam, where rice production is concentrated are being benefited. Ammonium sulfate fertilizer is being used on rice seedbeds. Cultivators report an increase in yield of 25 to 30 per cent from the use of this fertilizer. A National Fertilizer Commission is being organized in Vietnam which will determine fertilizer needs and handle the purchase, allocation, and distribution of fertilizer in the future.

3.12 - Crop Production

The crop production program provides for assistance to refugees and poor farmers by supplying hand tools, improved seeds, insecticides, and other agricultural supplies so that they can produce crops for their own requirements and for sale to provide a cash income. Over 197,000 small farm tools and 900 tons of improved crop seeds have been distributed. Progress is being made in establishing or rehabilitating breeding stations for rice, tropical fruits, pepper, tobacco, vegetables and silkworms. This involves the selection, testing and distribution of improved varieties and strains for increased yields and improved quality. Over 200,000 farm families are receiving direct benefits from these programs.

3.13 - Livestock Production and Improvement

The three governments have been assisted in providing vaccines and serums for protecting cattle from contagious diseases and 250,000 cultivators are estimated to have been reached through this program. Counterpart credits have also been available for reestablishing and rehabilitating cattle, swine and poultry breeding.
stations, and for the importation of purebred swine and poultry. Offspring from the stations are now being distributed to cultivators. The veterinary services have been provided with essential equipment and credits for employment of technicians in order that they may reach larger numbers of cultivators with their services.

3.14 - Irrigation and Drainage

The program for the rehabilitation of irrigation and drainage works in South Vietnam is now nearing completion. Realization of this project will provide 11,000 hectares of drained rice cropland to meet the urgent needs of Free Vietnam.

In Cambodia, the project for rehabilitating the Baray Occidental Irrigation system, utilizing a 50 million cubic meter storage reservoir built by the Khmers 10 centuries ago, is more than sixty percent complete.

Left: Sodding main irrigation canal to stabilize slopes. Barai, Cambodia. Right: Enlarging main irrigation canal to convey 459 cu. ft. per second. Dragline was furnished by USOM.

Diversion and control structures for handling the flood runoff on the Siem Reap River are ready for testing. The principal canals and lateral ditches in more than half of the irrigated area are ready for use.

3.15 - Rural Organizations (Agricultural Credit & Cooperatives)

Agricultural Credit

A total of 7,371 farmers received short-term production loans totalling 7,8 million plasters under the one Mission project in this field. Those farmers planted over 12,000 hectares of rice land in six provinces in South Vietnam. As of June 30, 1954, 2,122 farmers had repaid loans amounting to 2,444,600 plasters. Insecurity conditions in most rural areas of South Vietnam prevented efficient operation of the collecting agencies during the first six months of calendar 1954.
An increase of 5 million piasters over the original 5 million given to the "Office du Crédit Populaire" of Cambodia was approved by the Mission. Very satisfactory results have been shown by that organization in its short-term production credit activities, and this additional fund will enable it to widen its activities in that field.

Cooperatives: Insecurity in South Vietnam also interfered with implementation and operation of the three rice mill and storage cooperatives. Rice mills, trucks, quonset storage buildings and other equipment received for these cooperatives have been stored in Saigon pending an improvement in the security situation. The construction of storage warehouses at two locations has been completed and one of the cooperatives has been able to fill these newly constructed warehouses to capacity (880 tons) with members' paddy.

At the storage location the cooperative's 400 members have stored over 700 tons of last year's rice crop in its FOA-financed warehouse. In the area where the second rice mill cooperative is located, the village notables were forced to move to the provincial center because of insecurity and threats upon their lives. Since those notables make up most of the cooperative dictatorship, it has been impossible in their absence to carry on the routine business of the association in the rural areas.

Some 600 members of the Mission-financed tobacco farmers cooperative produced 210 tons of leaf tobacco which was processed, fermented, classed and stored in the cooperative warehouses. These 210 tons are worth over 4 million piasters at present Saigon prices and the cooperative management is proceeding with sale arrangements with the Indochina tobacco syndicate.

In Cambodia the first of two cooperative rice mills furnished by American Aid began operating in early February 1954 and has been in continuous operation since that time. The management of this newly formed FOA-financed cooperative has been successful in fulfilling a large portion of a recent government request for a large rice export order. At the second rice mill cooperative financed for Cambodia all storage and mill buildings are completed. The mill machinery and power unit are erected and milling operations are expected to begin by the end of September.
3.16 - Agrarian Reform and Resettlement

An increase of 8 million piasters to the original agrarian and resettlement project for South Vietnam was approved by the Mission in December 1953. Up to March 1954 a total of 8,700 farm families had been resettled on 21,200 hectares of abandoned rice lands. However, deteriorating security conditions over most of the area resettled forced suspension of those activities during the spring of this year.

Mechanical equipment ordered for the pilot cultivator center in South Vietnam arrived in Saigon but has not as yet been delivered to the resettlement area pending improvement in security conditions.

3.18 - Agricultural Education & Training

The Governments have been assisted in organizing training courses for agricultural, veterinary and fishery technicians, and for in-service training of technical personnel. Assistance has also been given to the two agricultural schools in Cambodia to improve their facilities. Preliminary plans have been made for the organization of an agricultural school in Vietnam and credits have been made available for this purpose. During FY 1954, groups of technicians visited the Philippines and Thailand for observation and study. Two agricultural technicians were sent to the United States during the past year.

3.20 - Forestry

Previously approved projects providing funds and equipment for forestry exploitation were continued, but additional emphasis was placed on more complete surveys of the forestry production problems with the result that two new projects were developed and implemented covering material and credit assistance to forestry "exploitants". This took the form of tractors and logging equipment to step up log production for sawing, and trucks for the transport of logs and wood for charcoal production. Credit assistance was extended to enable small and inadequately financed forestry "industrialists" to expand and modernize their milling
equipment and provide additional capital resources for log purchase. Substantial improvement is be noted in the modernization and expansion of mechanical sawmilling industries. The heavy demand for lumber for military and rehabilitation purposes served to stimulate the development and expansion of the sawmill industry. Initial steps were taken to develop a program of assistance in bamboo production and marketing.

3.30 - Fisheries

The four patrol boats which were allocated to Cambodia during the past two years are used for enforcing the regulations concerning the taking of fish from the Grand Lac (Tonle Sap), for collecting taxes, and, during the open season, for protecting the fishing fleet from pirates and guerrillas. The patrol boats allocated to Vietnam, by operating on a regular schedule with the fishing fleet, have opened up large new areas for fishing along the Central Vietnam coast which were formerly insecure. Four of the six drift trawlers allocated to Vietnam have been sold to private fishermen for offshore fishing and are being operated successfully. Negotiations are also under way for the sale of the two remaining trawlers to private operators.

A Japanese training crew, consisting of a supervisor, two captains and two engineers, all under contract, are operating two purse seine boats off the south coast of Vietnam. Twenty-eight Vietnamese fishermen are participating in this training and exploratory activity. In addition to the boats and gear, twenty government technicians and officials have been given an observation course in methods of commercial fishing. Considerable information is also being obtained from the exploration of the fishing grounds by the combined crews working with purse seine gear. While primarily a training and exploratory project, considerable quantities of fish, mostly tuna, have been caught for the local market.

Fifty thousand small tilapia have been produced from the 400 breeders brought from Thailand six months ago. About 15,000 fingerlings have been distributed to local pond owners and cultivators in Cambodia and about 30,000 in Vietnam. Small provincial breeding ponds to be supplied by the Central stations are being planned to facilitate distribution. Initial delivery of breeding stock to isolated points will be made by air.

Road construction at Siem Reap, Cambodia.

Prek Leap Agriculture School, Cambodia.