

UNCLASSIFIED

INTERNAL ONLY

CONFIDENTIAL

SECRET

### ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional) Project DTPILLAR  
Amendment No. 6

FROM:

ADD/P

EXTENSION

NO.

DATE

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1.

Comptroller

1/30/63

1/31/63

*JAL/200*

2.

3.

DDCI

2/4/63

*MSC/688*

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

DDP/PG/CA  
3 C 37

12 March  
1963

9.

Returned to CA Staff -  
[ ] delivered to PG/CA.

10.

11.

12.

13.

14.

15.

Mr. Bross:

Mr. Karamessines, as a condition of his concurrence in this amendment, has requested that both you and whoever presents it to General Carter (presumably [ ] [ ] are to be advised that the ADD/P concurrence presumes that we are confirming an oral decision already made by the DDCI and the DCI when Mr. Russell Smith was here on 24 January 1963, and this matter was discussed.

[ ]  
[ ]

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2007

HAND CARRY

SECRET

25 January 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: TAF Project in Vietnam Strategic Hamlets

1. At a meeting on 24 January 1963, with DCI and BDCI, Russell Smith, President of The Asia Foundation, explained the background and purposes of subject project. He stated that it represented an effort by the Foundation to make a direct contribution to the success of the U.S. effort in Vietnam. He referred to the fact that AID would be unable to begin a similar program for many months and that the Foundation's trustees, while aware of the need for avoiding action more suitable for AID, felt that the critical timing element involved in this project fully justified Foundation action. Mr. Smith stated his understanding that AID would follow up with a more massive program.

2. Cord Meyer explained that we had secured concurrences on the project from Governor Harriman (for State) and Mr. Fowler (Deputy Assistant Administrator of AID for Far East).

3. DCI stated that he understood the urgency of the program and appreciated that the procedures under which AID must operate could cause an unacceptable delay. He stated that the Foundation should avoid duplication of activity which would be undertaken by official organizations, but that in situations such as the strategic hamlets program the Foundation, because of its flexibility and capacity for speedy action, could and should play an important role in filling gaps and meeting immediate needs.

SECRET

C ]  
C/CA/2

GROUP 1  
Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification

SECRET

This document consists of  
--- page number 2 of  
--- 8 copies, Series A ---.

January 23, 1963

IN REPLY REFER TO NO. 19

MEMORANDUM FOR: [ ]

SUBJECT: Identity A Program for School Construction in  
Selected Strategic Hamlets in South Vietnam

Identity A's project proposal to construct seventy schools in selected strategic hamlets in South Vietnam has been reviewed by Identity B and Identity C. It is understood that the program will function only through early fiscal year 1963-4 by which time Identity D's program of school construction will be well underway. It is further understood that Identity E has approved the Identity A program, that Identity A's and Identity D's programs have been fully coordinated and that these programs will be neither duplicative nor competitive.

Both Identity B and Identity C consider the proposed project an important contribution to the community development aspect of the strategic hamlet program now being pursued by the Government of Vietnam and urge that Icafall approve Identity A's program so that the project may be started as soon as possible.

[ SIGNED ]

Attachment:

Identities.

SECRET

**SECRET**

No. 19 of January 23, 1963

**Identities**

**Identity A = The Asia Foundation**

**Identity B = Governor Harriman, Assistant Secretary  
for Far Eastern Affairs**

**Identity C = James R. Fowler, Deputy Assistant Administrator  
for Far East, AID**

**Identity D = AID**

**Identity E = Ambassador Nolting**

**SECRET**

A

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Deputy Director (Plans)  
Comptroller

SUBJECT: Project DIPILLAR - Amendment No. 6

1. This memorandum contains a recommendation for the approval of DDGI. Such recommendation is contained in paragraph 7.
2. Project DIPILLAR was originally approved on 7 February 1951. It was most recently renewed on 4 December 1962 in the programmed amount ( [            ] ). It covers the operations of the proprietary organization The Asia Foundation.
3. The objective of DIPILLAR is to promote U.S. interests by aiding, encouraging and supporting non-communist Asian individuals and groups working in their own way for Asian goals which strengthen their societies and institutions.
4. Amendment No. 6 provides for an increase of [        ] in FY 1963 funds in response to a request received from the Government of South Vietnam that the Asia Foundation provide funds for the construction of 57 three room primary/secondary schools in 57 strategic hamlets where no educational facilities exist at the present time. If funds are approved, it is contemplated that construction will begin in March 1963. The strategic hamlets program is a vital portion of the overall effort to establish a Vietnamese rural society which will be capable of resisting Viet Cong encroachments. The strategic hamlets are essentially fortified rural villages which are responsive to the GVN. This proposal will initiate the construction of schools and community centers which are essential to the success and integrity of the strategic hamlets. (Tab A contains the detailed proposal.)
5. There is general agreement within the U.S. Government here and in the Field that the success of the entire strategic hamlet program may stand or fall in the final analysis on the extent to which various community services and facilities are incorporated in these hamlets. Recognizing the critical need, AID plans to enter into detailed negotiations with the Government of South Vietnam during the summer of 1963 for the construction of some 600 schools within the hamlets. Slow and sometimes cumbersome U.S. Government procedures will not permit an earlier beginning. Against this backdrop, the Government of South Vietnam has advised The Asia Foundation that it is of the greatest importance psychologically that a start be made at once in the school

construction program in order to demonstrate to the people that it is concerned with their welfare. The U.S. Ambassador and the country team endorse this proposal (See Tab B), and the Far East Division concurs in the importance of the effort (See Tab C). The Asia Foundation's capability to respond speedily to this request is the primary contribution and consideration.

6. Funds in the amount of [ ] are available from within the CA Staff by reducing, with the Comptroller's concurrence, DTPILLAR's revolving fund in that amount.

7. It is requested that Amendment No. 6 be approved in the amount of [ ] increasing the project authorization for FY 1963 from [ ] to [ ] for the purposes set forth above.

[ ]  
Chief  
Covert Action Staff

Attachments:

- Tab A - DTPILLAR Project Proposal
- Tab B - Cable from [ ]
- Tab C - Memorandum from Chief, Far East Division

cc: DCI

CONCUR:

for /s/ [ ]  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief, Far East Division

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Director (Plans)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Comptroller

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

The recommendation contained in paragraph 7 is approved:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**B**



THE ASIA FOUNDATION  
VIETNAM

✓  
A  
DEC 17 1962

MEMORANDUM

NO. V-SX-396

DATE December 14, 1962

TO The President

FROM The Representative, Vietnam

SUBJECT Strategic Hamlet Primary Schools

REF. SX-V-233, V-SX-352, V-SX-389, Our Telegrams 59, 63, 64, 67, 78, 81, 86, Your Telegram 52, L-SX-213.

I regret that there has been such a delay in submitting this project. As I have explained, it has been due to the Department of National Education's slowness in compiling essential supporting information. In any event I trust this reaches you in good time for presentation to the Board meeting in January. If the Board reaches a favorable decision may I ask you to cable me this together with the sum which the Foundation will be able to make available. In view of the great interest expressed by high ranking government officials I would hope that our reply may be given by February first. If this can be done I believe a letter of agreement can be written and signed before the end of that month. Work on school construction could then begin about March 1st.

The time factor in this project is of great importance. As you will note from Sully's comments in L-SX-213 the quicker the program can be started the better from a psychological point of view. I am sure the Vietnamese government will appreciate our giving them a reply as rapidly as possible and, if favorable, making funds available as quickly as possible thereafter.

I have given this project the title "Strategic Hamlet Primary Schools" as I think this is an accurate description of it. It is designed to provide funds for the construction of rural villages schools on a primary, grade school level in strategic hamlets (villages) throughout Vietnam. Strategic hamlets, as you know, are fortified rural villages the construction of which is taking up a very large part of the resources and attention of both the Vietnamese and American governments at this time.

The project falls mainly under the Rural Development category though it, also, of course, touches on the Education and Civic and Community fields. It is addressed to the following Level II objectives: To contribute to the reform and expansion of the educational system in line with national needs;

To encourage fullest possible participation of competent individuals and organizations in constructive community activities; To assist the nation rapidly enough to counter political attraction of North Vietnam and to demonstrate the merits of a relatively freer society.

The purpose of this particular project is to assist the government, in demonstrating to the rural population that it is really concerned for their welfare and is not interested wholly in them as pawns in the struggle with the communists. It is hoped that the rural population will come to support the strategic hamlet program with more enthusiasm than has been the case up to now once the government demonstrates this concern.

The chief difficulty the strategic hamlet program has encountered has been that the rural people see it is more disadvantageous to them than helpful except in that it protects them from the Viet Cong. They have had to contribute a large amount of their time, labor and meager resources to building the hamlets without seeing any economic and social return up to now. The government is aware of this and now wants to give concrete evidence of its intent to furnish the hamlets with schools, medical and other services which will change peasant resistance to the program to support for it. It has therefore asked the Asia Foundation to provide funds for the construction of one hundred primary schools in strategic hamlets.

The project will be channelled through the Department of National Education which will carry it out through their provincial educational officials. The Secretary of State for National Education, Mr. Nguyen Quang Trinh, will himself assume responsibility for the disbursement and control of any funds made available by the Asia Foundation.

The proposed budget submitted by the Department of National Education calculates the cost per classroom, each accommodating fifty pupils, at VN \$50,000 ( about US \$685) which would not include classroom furniture. Furniture to include benches and tables for students, a desk for the school teacher, a blackboard and a book case would cost about VN \$10,000 per classroom. A completed classroom would therefore cost about US \$825. In most cases the school would have three classrooms though this would depend on the number of school children in the hamlet where it was to be built. In all, the government has asked the Foundation to provide funds for the construction of three hundred classrooms. At a cost of \$685 this represents a total of just under \$250,000 (VN \$18,000,000).

It is the plan of the Department of Education to carry out all construction<sup>a)</sup> contracts would be let by the Education Department through its provincial representatives. A committee composed of the hamlet financial commissioner, the education commissioner and several representatives of the parents of school children who would attend the school will supervise construction. This committee will be appointed by the Chief of Province in each case. Accounting for expenditure will be made by provincial financial authorities to the Department of Education who in turn will render a final accounting to the Foundation. Payment would be in four installments as the work progressed, the final payment not to be made until several months after completion of the school in order to ascertain that construction was carefully done; materials were of good quality and the buildings standing up satisfactorily under normal wear and tear.

a) Within a period of six months after receiving the grant. Construction

The land on which the schools are to be built will be provided free of charge by the village (hamlet) inhabitants. The villagers will also provide a maximum of labor needed for construction. Transportation of building materials will be provided without charge by the government and all building materials used will be exempt from taxes. The teachers will be trained at government expense. In so far as possible the inhabitants themselves will pay the teachers' salaries. Where it is determined that they are not financially able to do so, the government will pay all or part of the salary.

No income from this project is foreseen.

Because of the importance of constructing these schools as rapidly as possible it is recommended that the major part of the Foundation's grant be made available at once. Payment would be made by the Department of Education to the contractors in installments as explained above but the Foundation's grant to the government would be made in one lump sum. Since it is our belief that the government is not in a position to adequately oversee the construction of a large number classrooms in widely separated and isolated communities, it is preferable to divide the grant into two parts, the major part to be given during the present fiscal year and a smaller sum after August 1, 1963. The budget submission for FY 63-64 will reflect this recommendation. Assistance would therefore extend over two fiscal years.

The project will have an intimate relationship with other projects which will be included in the budget submission and which have already been outlined briefly in V-SX-352. These are: The project for expanding community school teacher training facilities at the Tan An Fundamental Education Center, the Popular Cultural Association's program of organizing courses for illiterates in rural areas, the Association of Parents of Students of the High Plateau rural school construction project, the mountaineer teacher training center at Ban Me Thuot and the French Catholic Mission's school construction project for primary schools in mountaineer villages. We are endeavoring to encourage the government to increase its teacher training capacity as at the present rate it will be a long time until all rural schools will have adequately trained teachers. We are also encouraging private groups to join in the school construction program in the countryside especially in mountaineer villages which have been somewhat neglected by the government up to now. You will note for example that this request made of us is for the most part for Vietnamese-inhabited hamlets. One reason for this is the great shortage of mountaineer teachers; hence the Ban Me Thuot project.

The public relations aspects of this project were discussed briefly at the annual conference at Hong Kong. It was the consensus of opinion at that time that undue publicity not be given the project. With this we are in complete agreement but it may be difficult to restrain the government from issuing the normal press releases and other publicity matter on the project. However every effort will be made to hold this to reasonable proportions. We intend especially to keep the amount of the grant as confidential as possible. No press releases will be made by this office.

A study is now being undertaken to determine whether it might not be cheaper to purchase certain construction materials not produced in Vietnam, such as cement and galvanized metal roofing, in nearby countries and import

they rather than purchase/ them locally. If this turns out to be the case, purchase of materials might be made directly by the Foundation and the sum deducted from the total given the Department of Education. Locally available materials will be used wherever possible, however, particularly wood. The Department of Education is making a survey to determine costs of various materials as well as construction costs in each area where building is contemplated, and which materials are the most resistant to climate and insect pests.

Cost estimates furnished us by the Department of Education we believe to be reasonable. We have been assured by the Minister that he will insist that they be respected and held to in every case. Though there may be some variance in the price per school from one area to another, the total cost of all schools will average out to the estimate furnished. These costs have been checked with the Education Division of the Agency for International Development and the UNESCO Representative. They tally very closely with the estimates of these two organizations as to school construction costs in Vietnam at the present time and are in fact slightly under AIF estimates.

All schools will be of permanent construction. Material used for the foundation and floor and walls will be cement or brick. Roofing will be of galvanized sheet metal. Fibreboard will be used for room ceilings and wood for window and door frames. The schools will be adequately ventilated but not screened or glassed-in. No provision has been made for lighting since in most cases there is no electricity in the villages where they are to be built.

If purchasing is to be done outside Vietnam further information concerning this will be provided.

Since this is a sizeable request I am including further details, not all precisely called for in submitting project proposals, but which may be useful in replying to questions from Board members.

The origin of the request was SX-V-233. Following receipt of this memorandum conversations were held with the Secretary of State for National Education and officials of his ministry. Consultation with AID and UNESCO Officials also took place. At the time of Mr. Sullivan's visit a detailed discussion with Mr. Trinh, the Secretary for Education was had. This is summarized in L-SX-213.

The project has been discussed on several occasions at Interministerial Council meetings presided over by the Political Councillor, Mr. Ngo Dich Nhu, the brother of the President. At his orders and those of the Education Secretary detailed information was obtained from provincial authorities. Final selection of the villages (hamlets) where the schools were to be located was made by them with the agreement of the Department of Education and the Strategic Hamlet Campaign Directorate on which military and security officials as well as education, health and rural development ones are represented. In all cases these villages are in maximum security (Zone A) areas where a guarantee of their protection and that of the school children can be given. The strategic hamlets in this area are traditional villages which have existed on the same site for generations and which have recently been fortified. No newly created villages of rural people who have moved from their original homes, often reluctantly, are involved in this list. We feel therefore that

there is no danger of the Asia Foundation becoming associated with the more unpopular aspects of the strategic hamlet program.

We have tried to anticipate all possible problems, failure, to solve <sup>which</sup> could render the project unsuccessful. For example, we have requested the Education Secretary to see that an official government order is issued forbidding that these schools be used for any purpose other than an educational one. We have construed the term "educational" broadly here. Agreement has been reached that this can include primary and secondary education; vocational education, adult education, agricultural and technical training, classes in health, hygiene, sanitation and child care. The Department of Education plans in fact to use the buildings outside class hours to a maximum, local means and interests taken into account. They are especially interested in adult education classes, for illiterates to be held in the evening or when school is not in session. We have encouraged them in this.

An architectural plan of the general type of school to be constructed is enclosed with this project proposal though construction materials will vary from place to place. This shows the type of school which the Education Department is now constructing in rural areas throughout Vietnam and indicates the type of material to be used, and other specifications. There are three variations on this basic plan. That decided upon in each case will be the one which fits best into the size of the plot and its configuration and faces the direction from which bad weather is less likely to come. When possible the school is arranged so that classrooms benefit as much as possible from natural sunlight coming in through windows in the side walls. The architect who drew up the plans recently visited Taiwan and the Philippines on a Asia Foundation grant and was able to observe rural community schools in those countries. It has not unfortunately been possible to obtain information from the UNESCO rural school construction office in Indonesia up to this time though a mission from that office is due in Vietnam shortly.

Contracting will be let out on a competitive bid basis by provincial education authorities. Procedures followed are those prescribed by the General Directorate of Reconstruction and Planning. We have been told that the Education Department will give orders to its provincial offices to oversee bidding closely to prevent collusion. In instances where a bid is considered questionably low in the light of the standards of quality which must be met a higher bid may optionally be selected.

In addition to the building each school will also have sufficient adjoining land for a playground and a modest garden plot. Elementary notions of gardening and agriculture will be taught the children using this garden plot. There will also be a school museum constructed out of local materials and including plant and animal life collected by the pupils. The book cases will house this museum which has proved to be one of the most successful of any teaching aids introduced into the Vietnamese educational system at the primary school level.

Classroom materials will be supplied by the Department of Education. This will include a limited number of text books and teaching aids though teachers are encouraged to make their own aids of local materials. CARE (Committee for American Remittances Everywhere) will supply class kits for each student. These include pencil, notebook, eraser and colored pencil.

It is the aim of the government that all schools constructed with Asia Foundation funds will eventually become community education type of schools. At present there are not enough community education trained teachers to staff all rural schools so that it is not possible to introduce this program throughout the country yet. However plans are to expand the number of this type of teachers trained annually as we stated earlier. The government plans to give a modest introductory course in community education pedagogical methods to all teachers of rural primary schools who have not had this training.

A start in training the vast number of rural teachers who will be required to staff the schools which will eventually be built in each strategic hamlet has already been made. A recent grant made by this office (V-SX-389) to the Department of Education enabled them to organize the first strategic hamlet school teacher training session here in Saigon. This group of sixty teacher "trainers" from thirty provinces will be followed by another of similar size at the end of December. By the Spring a nucleus of teacher "trainers" will have been formed in each province. These individuals will then set up similar training courses in pedagogical methods in provincial capitals through which all teachers in the province will eventually pass. This will include the teachers in schools to be constructed with Asia Foundation funds. The training will be minimum however - three months, only one month of which will be in the provincial capital. The other two months will consist of on-the-job training and observation in already existing schools near the strategic hamlets. The directors of these schools will have the responsibility of overseeing and counselling the new hamlet school teachers.

The teachers for the Strategic hamlet schools, including the Asia Foundation ones, will be recruited from among the ranks of the nearly 35,000 annual primary school graduates many of whom are unemployed. Where possible they will be from the village where the school is to be built. Selection will be by provincial educational authorities on the recommendation of the strategic hamlet committees (now popularly elected).

At present only about 20% of the strategic hamlets have schools. In some cases there are schools nearby not included in the hamlet fortified area but these are the exception rather than the rule. In the case of the villages on the list of the government has selected for school construction if funds are received from the Foundation there are no schools nor any in the vicinity.

By the end of 1962 there will be 8,000 strategic hamlets with another 8,000 scheduled for construction next year. From these figures, it can be seen that about 12,000 will lack schools. The

United States Operations Mission in Vietnam (AID) plans to construct about 600 schools beginning in the summer of 1963. Slow and cumbersome government procedures, though considerably simplified for this country because of the emergency, will not permit a beginning being made before this date. The government feels that it is of the greatest importance psychologically that a start be made at once to show the people that ~~the government~~ is concerned for their welfare. This is the main importance of an Asia Foundation contribution.

The combined efforts of the Foundation and AID, plus the government's own school construction program, now running at the rate of less than 1,000 schools being built annually, cannot hope to meet this need except over a period of years. I think therefore that we must consider making more than a symbolic contribution which might suffice to impress people even though we have been assured repeatedly that the government will be grateful for help of any size. Though the Foundation with its limited resources will of course never be able to meet ~~the~~ <sup>in</sup> extenso, we should do as much as we possibly can. There is no doubt but that in the government's eyes this is the most important request it has ever made of the Foundation.

The Department of Education's plans to eventually place all rural schools on the community education system is an interesting one. We feel also that it is eminently realistic for it educates rural people for the environment in which most of them will spend their lives and emphasizes what they will need to know later in life rather than overeducating them in matters with which they will be little concerned. Thus agricultural basic notions are stressed and also diet, hygiene and sanitation, child care, handicrafts and vocational training of an elementary sort in addition to the usual academic subjects. We feel that the government is to be congratulated and encouraged in this development. The fact that it is planning to apply this type of education throughout rural Vietnam is official recognition of the need for differentiating between the education of the rural and urban child.

The Secretary for Education has assured us that these schools will in no case be confused with schools constructed by government funds or AID funds. They will be considered as a separate program in themselves and their construction will be supervised as such. This office will be given complete freedom to visit contemplated construction sites and oversee construction. Afterward we will be able to question members of the local hamlet supervisory committee and provincial authorities as to construction quality, costs, utilization of the school, teaching standards, curriculum content etc... While the number of schools involved will prevent us from doing more than spot checking we feel sure that this will permit us to determine relatively accurately the wisdom with which the funds have been used and whether they are going for the purpose for which they were intended. We also hope to visit some of these hamlets prior to starting construction with a member of the Strategic Hamlet Directorate (Lt. Col. Pham Ngoc Thao) and talk with some of the inhabitants to learn their attitude toward a future school and whether they are really interested enough to make some sacrifices in order to have one for their children.

At each school the plan is to have both morning and afternoon classes so that twice as many children can attend as would otherwise be the case. This is common in Vietnam and of course means also that a teacher can handle twice as many pupils. One teacher would be needed for each classroom which the Asia Foundation agrees to build. In Vietnam statistics indicate that there are about eight school age children in school (primary level) for every 100 people, though there are about fifteen school age children per 100 of the population. Half the school age children in school may seem a bit high for a rural area but in a strategic hamlet with a school readily accessible the number that are able to attend might be higher on the average than elsewhere. Economic factors often usually weigh against this. However, Hamlets in which Asia Foundation schools would be built will have a minimum population of 1000 which should provide about 80 school pupils. Whenever possible the school site will be chosen where several strategic hamlets are closely grouped and children from other hamlets could also attend the school. Since a three classroom school running in two shifts could accommodate 300 children per day this is important.

All school operating costs will have to be met by the local people for the near future but since these will be new schools, costs should be at a minimum for the first few years. After that time it is hoped that the government will be able to contribute necessary repairs though some participation of the local people will always be necessary, especially for major improvements or expansion of facilities.

In each school, the regularly prescribed national primary school curriculum will be used and those who complete their primary schooling successfully will be awarded the certificate of primary studies. This is needed for entrance into secondary school. Theoretically these completing schools of this type could go on to higher schooling, though, for economic reasons, it is doubtful that many would. Of course it is unlikely that the level of instruction would be up to that received by the city dwelling child. Nevertheless the curriculum that will be offered is, on paper, the same as that given in comparable schools throughout Vietnam.

We have taken special care to see that construction of schools with any funds the Foundation might supply will be in entirely different areas from that in which AID plans to build at a later date. AID has selected twenty provinces for the first part of its school construction project. We have been asked to build in seventeen others. Eight provinces are not included in either of the two programs but the government itself plans to start building in some of these. In the remainder relatively good school facilities exist or the area is thinly populated. We have enclosed a map compiled by the Department of Education in which the provinces in which it is hoped to build schools with Foundation funds are outlined in red. The figures in green are the priorities the Department attaches to school construction in each locality. On the chart in the right margin the provinces (names in red) are divided into districts (names in blue).



The figures in the boxes are the priorities and correspond to those on the map itself in green, each placed at approximately its correct geographic location. The figure written in blue next to the district name is the number of classrooms per district it is proposed to construct.

From this plan it will be seen that the government proposes to build 44 schools, or 132 classrooms, in the extreme south and Mekong Delta area alone; 9 schools, or 27 classrooms, in the area east of Saigon; 16 schools, or 48 classrooms, in the south central coastal area; 21 schools, or 63 classrooms, in coastal Central Vietnam and but 6 schools, or 30 classrooms, in the Plateau area. This heavy emphasis on rural south Vietnam (about 45% of the total request) is an interesting one. It is the area where the strategic hamlet program has been pushed the most rapidly, where educational facilities have been neglected in the past, where a very large part of the rice crop is grown and where the Viet Cong are the strongest with the exception of the area around Saigon. Of the total of 300 classrooms about 40 will house montagnard students, the rest Vietnamese.

The government has attached first priority to the construction of 171 classrooms out of a total of 300. I feel we should address our attention to these first and make funds available for this purpose upon approval of the project. About \$140,000 would be needed for this purpose.

Eighty four classrooms have been given a number two priority. Cost of building these would amount to about \$70,000. A sum of \$140,000 could be made available at once and \$70,000 additional after August 1st. The total grant therefore would be \$210,000 over two fiscal years, the final \$70,000 of which would come out of the regular country program budget for FY 63-64. The \$140,000 for the present year would need supplemental funds. If we could make a contribution of this order it would permit construction of 255 classrooms out of the 300 requested of us. This represents eighty five schools in most cases of three classrooms each.

The sum is large - \$210,000. I think it could be reduced to \$200,000 by making all possible economies and still be sufficient for building eighty five schools. The total grant could be made in two parts (\$135,000 and \$65,000) in the same manner as outlined above.

I do not feel that it would be wise to reduce this figure much further as careful study has obviously been given by the government to determining the size of its request in relation to overall needs, its own resources and what it can count on receiving from others. I feel that we are under some obligation to the government to provide them with enough to permit the construction of more than a token number of schools, though a number in line with our own means and which would not cause serious imbalance in the country program. The figure I have proposed I believe would meet government expectations. Any less, though fully appreciated, would not be a contribution in keeping with what we should do in the light of the high priority attached to the request by all concerned.

Encl. : three

*Howard C. Thomas, Jr.*  
Howard C. Thomas, Jr.  
Representative

PROPOSAL LIST OF DISTRICTS REQUESTING STATE SCHOOLS  
AND PROVINCE CAPITAL ASSISTANCE FOUNDATION

-1-1-1-1-1-

PROVINCE	DISTRICT	TYPE	NUMBER OF CLASSES TO BE OPENED BY	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	REMARKS
1) An-Kyên	Quần Long	1	6 classes		no existing school.
2) Ba-Kyên	Đông Khê	1	6	-	
(24 classes)	Lê - Sách	2	6	-	
	Thượng Tri	3	6	-	
3) Biện Sơn	Châu Thành	1	6	-	
(1 classes)	Đông Trạch	2	6	-	
	Quần Sơn	3	6	-	
4) Chương	Đức Sơn	1	6	-	
(1 classes)	Đông Khê	1	6	-	
	Liên Hồng	1	6	-	
	Phước Long	1	6	-	
5) Kiên Bình	Kiên Thành	1	6	-	
(21 classes)	Kiên Tân	2	6	-	
	Kiên Bình	3	6	-	
	Phú Lộc	4	6	-	
6) Kiến Phong	Hồng Nguyên	1	21	-	
(30 classes)	Đào Lãnh	1	6	-	
	Kiến Văn	3	6	-	
7) Kiên Tiến	Châu Thành	1	6	-	
(9 classes)	Kiên Bình	2	6	-	
8) Long Khánh	Xuân Lộc	1	6	-	
(9 classes)					
9) Phong Bình	Khắc Nhon	1	6	-	
(21 classes)	Khắc Trung	2	6	-	
	Phụng Hiệp	3	6	-	
	Phong Phú	4	6	-	
10) Phước Thành	Phước Giáo	1	6	-	far from schools at province capital.
(9 classes)					
11) Khánh Hòa	Vạn Ninh	1	6	-	majority of people far from schools
(27 classes)	Ninh Hòa	1	6	-	
	Khánh Lương	2	6	-	
	Vĩnh Xuân	2	6	-	
	Diên Khánh	3	6	-	
	Cam Lâm	3	6	-	

PROVINCE	DISTRICT	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	CLASSES	TEACHERS
11) Vinh-Tan	Thanh-Hai	1	18 classes	10 teachers
(21 classes)	Thái-Son	2	-	-
12) Quang-Nam	Quy-Hoang	1	21 classes	-
(21 classes)				
14) Quang-Cin	Son-Nguy	1	11 -	-
(21 classes)	Thang-Binh	2	6 -	-
15) Thanh-Thien	Phong-Dien	1	6 -	-
(21 classes)	Huong-Trà	2	15 -	-
16) Phu-Bon (Phu-Kho)	Lê Thanh	1	12 -	-
(21 classes)	Lê Trung	2	9 -	-
15) Quang-Duc	Thien-Loc	1	5 -	-
(21 classes)				need more schools

Sai Gon, November 29, 1952

ORIG: [ ]  
UNIT: G/CA/2  
EXT: 6041  
DATE: 7 JANUARY 1963

CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

SECRET

ROUTING	
1	4
2	5
3	6

10 JAN 63 23 16z

TO: [ ]  
FROM: DIRECTOR  
CONF: CA/04  
INFO: CA 2, FE 6, S/C

NEO  
FILE

DEFERRED
ROUTINE
PRIORITY

TO: PRIT [ ] INFO CITE DIR 09411  
DTPILLAR

HQS CONSIDERING SPECIAL MEANS OBTAIN DTPILLAR FUNDS FOR STRATEGIC  
HAMLETS SCHOOL PROPOSAL STATED DTPILLAR VSK 396 OF DECEMBER 14 TO HIS HQS.  
URGENTLY NEED FROM [ ] ASSURANCES THIS PROPOSAL ENDORSED BY AMBASSADOR  
AND COUNTRY TEAM MEMBERS. ALSO REQUEST [ ] CONFIRMATION HQS VIEW THAT  
ALTHOUGH THIS ACTION NORMALLY MORE APPROPRIATE AID CRITICAL TIME ELEMENT  
JUSTIFIES DTPILLAR ACTION.

END OF MESSAGE

[ ]  
CHIEF, FE  
RELEASING OFFICER

C/CA [ ]  
C/FE/VCL [ ]  
COORDINATING OFFICERS  
SECRET

GROUP 1  
Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification

[ ]  
C/CA/2  
AUTHENTICATING  
OFFICER

