

cut - my thoughts  
Bob

The temporary 120 foot tower is now up. The four one ton air-conditioners are being installed. The on-air date is firmed at 15 August. There are a number of causes for concern. No arrangements have been made for providing fuel or maintenance for the generators at the stations by GVN. The only spare parts available for the generators are those shipped with the units which consist of minor items such as fuel filters, injectors and gaskets. GVN must make arrangements to provide major spares and maintenance personnel. There presently is no vehicle available for use by GVN personnel at Hue. Although the GVN has been informed that it must recruit personnel for the programming and engineering at the station, no tangible action has yet been taken. A contributing factor is that the THVN personnel in authority have been involved in purchasing, checking, and arranging for transport of the Mobile Van from Japan to Saigon.

Mr. Bower is discussing the generator fuel and maintenance problem with Major Do Viet, Director of THVN, who returned from Japan August 4. This has been outlined in detail to the Television Committee by Mr. Cox. Further discussions will be held on the possibility of utilizing GVN counter-part funds for purchase of major generator parts as ways of contracting for maintenance.

Mr. Bower will iterate the urgency of the need for programming and engineering personnel during his meetings with Major Do Viet. This responsibility of THVN was first brought to Major Do Viet on July 25, the day following Mr. Bower's personal inspection tour of the Hue installation. Major Do Viet two days later reported that he was arranging for an announcer, news writer -- and possibly a technician or two to go to Hue. Progress at this time is questionable. The major however, has ordered personnel of his staff to assess requirements for personnel and logistical support and arrange with the Province Chief for quarters and furnishings. He also states that the Vietnamese army will supply vehicles for the Vietnamese staff at Hue. Shipping of programming materials from Saigon has not been arranged in detail at this time. JUSPAO was asked informally to make these arrangements; however, it is considered to be a GVN responsibility and beyond the capabilities of JUSPAO. The use of the Vietnamese Air Force for shipping of program materials and consumable items has been recommended to Major Do Viet. JUSPAO has ordered additional supplies of video tape and Ampex Headwheel assemblies. TSD has recommended that the Agency authorize purchase of tape and headwheel assemblies directly from Ampex International in Hong Kong. An adequate supply of these items would be available in Saigon according to the local sales representative.



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Saigon Station: Progress on the Saigon station is going according to a plan. This plan, called "critical path," shows various stages of construction and the elements of men and materials which have to be in place to complete the project on a particular date. There is concern here that the electrical and air conditioning materials could delay progress and increase costs to the GVN. JUSPAO has not yet received any of these USG items from Sacramento Army Depot. Also included in items from SAAD are the two 200KW generators which should be in Saigon not later than October 1. The beneficial occupancy date (BOD) provided by OICC is November 15. It is expected that electronic equipment installation can commence a month to six weeks prior to this date.

Can Tho Station: Construction is ahead of critical path schedule as far as the buildings are concerned. Again the electrical and air conditioning materials could bring the schedule back to or behind plan. JUSPAO will ship this material to Can Tho upon its arrival in Saigon. Swager Corp. has a tower supervisor in Can Tho checking on the 325 foot stainless tower and the antenna which reportedly has some missing and/or damaged parts. SAAD will be notified by cable immediately upon his findings. Mr. Russel (Swager) is planning the work for erection of the 160 foot supporting tower at the studio site and the tower for the receiving antenna at the transmitter site. Details will be submitted to the Agency in the next report. Neither of the two towers for the microwave link (above) have arrived in country. Of concern is the fact that the generators for Can Tho will not be in Sacramento until October 15. These generators should have been in Saigon by September 15 in order that the transmitter might be installed in the building and checked out along with the air conditioning. It is hoped that this will not delay the November 15 completion date.

The GVN will have to arrange for shipment of films, consumable items, tapes and other items to Can Tho and JUSPAO has advised them of this responsibility many times. The fuel and maintenance of the four generators must also be arranged. Adequate personnel for station operation has not been provided for, and an NBCI engineer for this station should be on board ASAP rather than o/a January 1, 1968.

OICC has provided JUSPAO with the new construction estimate for Saigon and Can Tho. In dollars this amounts to \$213,700 or VN 17,066,000 piasters. JUSPAO will seek these additional funds the need for which has resulted from changes in design, addition of security fences, re-establishing RMK-BRJ, the prime contractor in Can Tho for this construction and a myriad of other factors. Mr. Cox has action on this.



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(Clyde, I think we have addressed ourselves adequately to Hue except in permanent plans.)

Hue will be operational August 15 in the temporary facilities. However, programming is scheduled for August 22. There remains the selection of a permanent location and final design work on the station. As in the case of Qui Nhon, the station was designed to be installed in its entirety in one building. JUSPAO, AFVN and OICC will finalize plans in consort with GVN and NBCI by the 12th of August. It will take about two weeks for OICC to evaluate and make an estimate of construction costs. This will be submitted to GVN for their approval and funding. The TV Committee, headed by the Secretary General, Major Tu, has stated that they desire that JUSPAO make arrangements with OICC to contract for the construction as has been done with Saigon and Can Tho stations.

Under problems:

I think we had better change the second paragraph to indicate that the 300 foot tower to be erected by DOD (Swager) will be delayed until a decision is made where the permanent installation will be. Also we must address ourselves to the problem of whether the AFVN has fulfilled its commitment when the Hue station is installed in its temporary location or whether they will be committed to install it in its permanent facilities. I frankly think this is a USIA/DOD decision and will take it up with Levin and Valentino when I am in Washington August 17 and 18.

During the original planning stages of TV for Vietnam, it was hoped that one station could be utilized to cover the Hue and Danang areas. Since the VC control the mountain range where this transmitter would be located, it is recommended that an additional station be programmed in the 1969 budget for Danang.

Planning for II Corps has proven inadequate also, not from an ability or effort standpoint, but from events and general A&E knowledge subsequent to the original estimates. Therefore, since the Qui Nhon station will not cover the Nha Trang area, JUSPAO will recommend a fifth station, to be located at Nha Trang. This also in the 1969 budget.

RFCox:cf  
August 9, 1967