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INDOCHINA HUMANITARIAN SERVICE PROGRAMS

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This report summarizes the AFSC humanitarian service programs in Indochina since 1966. To date the Quaker Service Indochina programs have provided:

- in South Viet Nam areas under the administration of the Republic of Viet Nam (Saigon):
 - artificial arms and legs and medical care for civilian amputees and burn patients in Quang Ngai Province;
- in South Viet Nam areas under the administration of the Provisional Revolutionary Government (PRG):
 - agricultural production equipment and medical kits for use in rural areas;
- in North Viet Nam: needed medical supplies and surgical equipment to a leading civilian hospital in Hanoi and to the North Viet Nam Red Cross; copybooks for schoolchildren;
- in Laos: agricultural production equipment and sawmills for housing reconstruction and assistance to refugees for construction of a covered market.

In addition, in the United States AFSC has worked for release of political prisoners in South Viet Nam, termination of military and financial support of the Thieu Government, an end to the continuing war, and prevention of future U.S. military involvements in Indochina.

Throughout the Indochina war the American Friends Service Committee has adhered to the policy which it has followed in other civil and international conflicts: to bring impartial, non-political humanitarian aid to civilian victims on each side of the conflict, irrespective of the religion, race or political sympathies of the individuals. The type of assistance chosen in each situation

necessarily varies according to the circumstances to which the Service Committee addresses itself. In the past the AFSC has helped children and adults on both sides in the Spanish Civil War, in Israel and the Egyptian-occupied Gaza strip, in Nigeria and Biafra, in India and Pakistan, and in other countries. The Service Committee has always had a humanitarian concern for prisoners of war, and has visited and provided aid to them in a number of countries in which it has worked over the years. In a small way as circumstances permitted it has maintained this concern in Viet Nam.

On October 10, 1966 the AFSC received United States Treasury Department licenses #B79652-A and -B to transmit \$4,000 to the International Committee of the Red Cross and \$2,000 to the Canadian Friends Service Committee to be used where most needed in North and South Viet Nam for civilian war sufferers. With these funds, the International Committee of the Red Cross sent an X-ray unit and a consignment of surgical equipment to North Viet Nam. The Canadian Friends Service Committee sent medical supplies—anti-biotics, anti-malarials, vitamins and antiseptics—in equal parts to the Republic of Viet Nam, the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the National Liberation Front. This distribution to all three parts of Viet Nam was in accordance with AFSC's requests. The supplies were delivered to the Red Cross Societies of each area.

SOUTH VIET NAM - REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM

Quang Ngai Province, throughout the French occupation, as well as during the years of American involvement in Viet Nam, has militarily been a highly contested area. Its population has been strongly independent; and many of the anti-colonialist leaders came from here. In the last eleven years Quang Ngai Province has been the scene of widespread bombing and heavy fighting. Various parts of the Province have been subjected to spraying with defoliants and herbicides. Extensive mining of fields causes frequent accidents and will do so for years to come. Large numbers of villages have been destroyed; and the American "pacification" program has forced the populations of whole villages into internment camps. Extensive bombing and artillery fire have continued in this area in 1973 and 1974, following the Paris peace accords, as the Saigon Government has tried to maintain control over this part of the country, much of which is claimed by the Provisional Revolutionary Government. These multiple calamities have brought enormous suffering upon the inhabitants of the region.

In May 1966 the American Friends Service Committee established its service programs for civilian war victims in Quang Ngai, South Viet Nam. Here the Committee has conducted:

- a rehabilitation program of physical therapy for amputees and burn patients, making and fitting artificial limbs, and performing necessary surgical stump revision procedures for those requiring them in order to accommodate an arm or leg prosthesis;
- medical care for the inmates of the province prison;
- a Day Care Center for refugee children.

The Quaker Service Rehabilitation Center in Quang Ngai, operated under an agreement with the South Viet Nam Ministry of Health, is the only rehabilitation center in South Viet Nam whose work is directed entirely to civilians. (The four rehabilitation centers operated by the National Rehabilitation Institute are under the Ministry of Veterans Affairs and therefore give priority to soldiers and their families but treat some civilians when they have room to do so.) The AFSC programs in prosthetics, physical therapy and surgery also include the training of Vietnamese aides in these techniques.

The Western staff in the Quang Ngai program has numbered 16 at its peak and is now four. Program representatives for the Quang Ngai project are also stationed in Saigon, dealing with purchasing, shipping and expediting support of the program. The salaried Vietnamese staff in Quang Ngai numbers approximately 60, a third of whom are former patients.

Rehabilitation Center

The Quaker Rehabilitation Center in Quang Ngai City, located only three miles from the tragic village of My Lai and near to countless other scenes of disaster, has been accessible to people who have been brutally injured by this war. The annual patient load at the Center is 1,100 to 1,200. Of the thousands of war-injured civilian patients who have sought the help of the Quaker staff, some come from areas in the control of the Government of the Republic of Viet Nam and some from areas controlled by the Provisional Revolutionary Government.

The Quaker Service Rehabilitation Center is located on the grounds of the Quang Ngai Province Hospital. The three main services offered at the Center are medical and nursing care, prosthetics, and physical therapy.

Prosthetics Service The Rehabilitation Center's staff of prosthetists, brace-makers and trainee prosthetists produce from 80 to 120 artificial limbs, braces and orthotic devices per month. In addition to this, the staff repairs limbs which are brought back damaged or in need of various adjustments. The shoemaker has been trained in the making of orthopaedic shoes; and he makes an average of five pairs of corrective shoes a month.

In the Prosthetics Department there are now 25 Vietnamese prosthetists; and for the first time in 1972 it was operated entirely by the Vietnamese without a Western prosthetist on the staff. They have been trained in the making of artificial limbs by the AFSC staff; and, in turn, they train new student prosthetists. The basis for this training was an academic and in-service course, written and directed in Vietnamese by Roger Marshall, then the Western prosthetist on the staff. This training provided them with a reasonable background knowledge of the field and serves as the basis for the Vietnamese examinations which give them government certification. Two prosthetists have also received specialized training in brace-making in addition to all aspects of limb-making and general training as prosthetists.

The Vietnamese prosthetists continue to introduce innovations in their manufacture of limbs and increasingly use local materials. For instance, canvas straps are being used instead of leather on the prostheses since canvas is less expensive and more durable in the tropics. The staff uses Vietnamese latex to coat the laminated rubber and wood foot, and perfected a special leg for farmers who must spend much of their time in wet, muddy paddy fields. They manufacture a

rubber cosmetic hand, complete with fingernails and lines, that enables the wearer to drive a Honda scooter; and they use a local tree root dye to give artificial legs a medium brown color, virtually matching the color of Vietnamese skin. Also they make knee-joint bolts and hinges from artillery shells and flare casings.

Physical Therapy Service This Department provides physical therapy to an average of 40 patients daily. The Department's principal task is to offer the physical therapy necessary for limb fitting and usage. However, the staff treat other types of cases as well: paraplegics, polio and burn victims.

The Western physical therapists succeeded in providing a thorough preparation of the physical therapy aides and of the physical therapy trainees in both the academic as well as in the clinical aspects of physical therapy. Because of the greatly increased competence of the Vietnamese physical therapy aides, they have taken over the teaching, clinical supervision and clinical work responsibilities of this aspect of treatment. Thus a supervisory role by a Western physical therapist is no longer necessary. In 1972 the American and British physical therapy staff was reduced from three to one, and in 1975 the appointment of Western physical therapists was terminated completely. Quaker Service has supported financially a number of the physical therapy aides who are enrolled in the three-year course at a recently established physical therapy school in Saigon, so that they may become fully qualified physical therapists.

Dorothy Weller, R.P.T., who for four years was the Quaker Service senior physical therapist, prepared an illustrated Physical Therapy Training Manual, in Vietnamese and English, which was published in 1974. This is one of the texts used in the Saigon physical therapy school. Copies have been given to the South Vietnamese medical authorities, as well as to the Ministries of Health of North Viet Nam and the Provisional Revolutionary Government.

Medical Service and Orthopaedic Surgery The Quaker Service staff physician supervises patient health at the Rehabilitation Center and in the patient Hostel. He also assumes some responsibility in relation to the Prison Ward of the Quang Ngai Province Hospital. Recently he has been working with a Buddhist rural health program advising local health cadre and training them to examine patients for minor medical problems.

Most of the surgery consists of stump revisions, skin grafts, tendon transfers, contracture releases, and debridement of osteomyelitis. These are performed by the three Vietnamese staff members who have been trained by the Western doctors who were formerly on the staff. One of the former surgeons, Dr. Charles Henkel, is presently on a special two-month assignment, performing a number of more complicated operations and providing additional training to the Vietnamese staff. In this connection, the AFSC has also provided additional surgical equipment and supplies for use at the Center.

Hostel The Hostel of the Rehabilitation Center accommodates 80 in-patients whose homes are too far from Quang Ngai City to come to the Center on an out-patient basis. The Hostel operates at near capacity. It is under the supervision of five Vietnamese Quaker Service employees, three nurses and two orderlies. As bed-space and patient care are very limited in the highly overcrowded Quang Ngai Province Hospital, the Hostel substantially increases the ability of the Quaker Service Program to provide efficient and proper care for its patients.

Wheelchair and Crutch Making The Rehabilitation Center staff includes four wheelchair makers, two crutch makers, two custodian-orderlies, a maintenance supervisor and an electrician-mechanic, all Vietnamese. The crutch maker produces about 50 pairs of crutches a month. The wheelchair project is now producing seven wheelchairs needed each month for Center patients. In the past Quaker Service delivered 50 chairs to the government's rehabilitation center in Da Nang. These wheelchairs are made from local materials and are particularly suitable for patients whose homes are in villages where the terrain is rough and muddy.

Social Work The social work program of the Rehabilitation Center has continued to encourage and aid patients to attain full social rehabilitation after their physical rehabilitation. The disruption and destruction of society, communities, families and individuals caused by the war pose many complex obstacles in the way of successful full rehabilitation for many patients. Therefore, Quaker Service has expanded its social work assistance to patients in the last three years. There are currently two Vietnamese staff in this program, one social worker and one supervisor of patient services. One of their major nursing responsibilities is to involve all staff (prosthetists, physical therapists, nursing staff, maintenance crew) at the Center in some of the social work aspects of rehabilitation for the patients.

Through a program of home visits the staff seeks to assure that the patient will receive the proper medical care and physical rehabilitation training at home in addition to his reassuming a productive and meaningful role in the family's work and daily life. To help patients achieve this, modest financial and material assistance is given to the patients according to their needs. The objective of this aid is to facilitate the reentry of each patient into his war-torn society and economy, and thereby to enable him to become self-sufficient and self-sustaining. The aid takes various forms: education, vocational training and placement, small grants for marketing and/or farming endeavors, materials for home-building and/or livelihood enterprises, funds for cooperative projects by several patients and their families, etc. Types of occupations for which training is provided are tailoring, watch repair, embroidering, barbering and radio repair.

Aid to Prisoners in the Quang Ngai Reform Center

For five years the Quaker Service doctor accompanied by another Quaker staff member in charge of the prison visitation program made weekly visits to the prison. This service was begun at the request of the Prison Director, as the prison had no regular medical service for the prisoners. The Quaker Service doctor examined and treated those prisoners he was allowed to see. For prisoners in need of hospitalization and/or treatment at the Quaker Service Rehabilitation Center, a request was made to the prison authorities to obtain from the Province Hospital medicine prescribed for prisoners, and frequently if they had no results the AFSC attempted to provide the necessary medicines. Medical aid to prisoners was controlled and limited by the prison authorities.

Once every two weeks the Quaker Service staff member in charge of prison visits conducted a clinic at the prison for mothers with small children. Children stay with their imprisoned mothers until they are four years old, at which time they must leave their mothers to go and live with relatives if there are any. At these clinics Quaker Service staff tried to provide some form of dietary

supplement (soup, cereal, fish, vitamins, milk) for the mothers and their small children. During the years that the doctor and members of the Quaker team treated patients in the Province prison, they saw no noticeable improvement in general prison conditions nor any significant diminution in the numbers of political prisoners detained: men, women and women with children.

An important by-product of the team's medical work in the Province prison has been that this afforded them direct observation of the results of the treatment of prisoners taken to the Interrogation Center for intensive examination. The Interrogation Center was built with funds provided by the United States Central Intelligence Agency, but is operated by the Vietnamese authorities. During some of the period of its operation American advisers have been there, but American authorities have insisted that the U.S. had no influence on its operation. Tortures of brutal character have been employed on prisoners who have then been returned to the Province prison, where their injuries have been observed by Quaker physicians.

In August 1972 Quaker Service received a letter from the Province Chief withdrawing the permission to work in the Province prison. However, the Quaker staff are still able to work with patients in the prison ward of the Quang Ngai Province Hospital.

Child Day Care Center

In August 1971 the Province Social Welfare Service assumed responsibility for the Child Day Care Center which Quaker Service had conducted since 1966. Four teachers trained by the Quaker Service program and the two domestic staff continued their work at the Center, under the Government of Viet Nam. The devolve-ment was successful since most of the staff was kept on. In that year the Directrice was able to secure the enrollment of 80 new children from among the neediest of Quang Ngai families. She was also able to visit local primary schools and arrange for the enrollment of Day Care Center graduates in the first grades of these various schools. One of the reasons for founding and continuing the Day Care Center had been to provide poor refugee children with an opportunity to learn to read and write so that they would not be excluded from primary school because they had been unable to learn at home. The children in the Day Care Center were provided with clean clothes, a well-balanced noon meal, and an afternoon snack as well as vitamins and immunizations. The Quaker team doctor attended to any children requiring medical treatment. The Child Day Care Center continues to perform a useful service in Quang Ngai as a project of the Ministry of Social Welfare.

Visitation to North Vietnamese POW's in Da Nang

In a small way the American Friends Service Committee was able to manifest concern for 19 North Vietnamese sailors. Captured in July 1966 by U.S. forces in the Bay of Tonkin, they were subsequently sequestered near Da Nang under U.S. Marine control. This was an exceptional arrangement as, according to usual procedure, all DRVN and NLF POW's captured by American forces in Viet Nam were turned over to South Vietnamese authorities. However, as these men were taken in international waters, the U.S. Government retained control over them. In March 1967 two of these prisoners were repatriated, and in March 1968 three more. The remaining 14 were finally repatriated in October 1968.

During 1966, 1967 and 1968 AFSC staff made seven visits to these POW's in Da Nang, the first in December 1966 and the last in September 1968. The primary purpose of this visitation was to convey personal concern for them as individuals. The AFSC representatives inquired about their health and asked if there were special needs or wishes which the Service Committee might fulfill. In accordance with the responses, gifts were taken on three occasions, in February and May 1967 and in January 1968. Two of these sets of gifts consisted of nylon mesh bags for each prisoner, containing pen and pencil, soap and towel, cigarettes, notebook, and a magazine or book; and one set also included four packs of cards, a set of dominoes and a Chinese chess set. During the February 1967 visit the men said they would like to have science textbooks. With the help of the Rector of Van Hahn University in Saigon, a packet of books was delivered to these men at the time of the May 1967 visit. This gift consisted of 35 copies of eight different titles: one title each on chemistry, optics and electricity, two each on mathematics and religion, and a French grammar. A discussion of reading material available to the prisoners led the Service Committee to take out a six-month subscription to the airmail edition of the Manchester Guardian Weekly; and this was renewed at the POW's request in January 1968. The four visits when gifts were not presented were devoted to showing interest and concern for the men; and frequently the ranking Vietnamese officer indicated movingly that this was of even greater importance to them than gifts.

The fiscal year 1974-75 budget for the AFSC Rehabilitation Center and its allied programs in Quang Ngai is \$204,203. Budgets must be raised annually as funds designated for this purpose. From 1966 through the fiscal year 1974-75, the AFSC will have spent \$1,819,203 in the Quang Ngai Programs.

SOUTH VIET NAM - PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT
(formerly National Liberation Front)

1968-69 Program

In 1968 the AFSC decided to investigate possibilities of the Service Committee's giving some help to civilian war victims in areas of South Viet Nam held by the National Liberation Front. In Phnom Penh, Cambodia, the Committee undertook careful discussions with the medical representative of the Front's Commission of Public Health, which dealt with the medical needs of civilian populations in areas under the Front's control.

The American Friends Service Committee was represented in these discussions by Edward F. Snyder, then AFSC's International Affairs Representative for Southeast Asia, and by a prominent Quaker physician, Dr. George A. Perera, who had previously represented the AFSC on important international missions. They undertook to determine what medical supplies would be most appropriate to the needs of civilian injured in areas under the National Liberation Front's control.

They were concerned to find ways to assure, insofar as possible, that any medical aid AFSC might furnish would go to civilians affected by the war. They sought assurance that the Front's representative would acknowledge receipt of the supplies, and they interpreted the importance which the Service Committee felt of receiving an end-use report. They also advanced the request for an AFSC representative to make an on-the-spot visit to see the supplies being used in clinics of the Commission of Public Health.

Following the recommendation of its representatives, the AFSC decided that the most appropriate items for the Committee to contribute were procaine penicillin G suspended in oil and disposable syringes for its injection. The reason that penicillin was chosen is that it has a broad spectrum of use, and would therefore be the most likely drug to be employed for civilians.

Over a period of eight months the AFSC engaged in a series of thorough conversations with the U.S. Department of State with respect to this initiative by the Service Committee to help civilian war sufferers on all sides of the fighting, a step which the Committee felt to be a non-political and humanitarian act. In the course of these discussions the AFSC filed application for a United States Government license to carry out this undertaking. Our government had the AFSC's license application under consideration for a number of months. At the beginning of December 1968 the Department of State informed the AFSC that the government had concluded that it could not grant a license because the area to which the supplies would be destined (parts of South Viet Nam) was an area over which the Government of the Republic of Viet Nam (Saigon) also claimed that it had control. Therefore the United States Government felt that it might be an affront to its ally if the license were to be granted and concluded that our government could not approve the issuing of a license despite the humanitarian purpose of the proposed undertaking.

The Board of Directors of the American Friends Service Committee upon receiving the government's reply deliberated as to the AFSC decision. In view of Friends' concern to minister impartially to civilians on all sides who suffer from war, without respect to their race, religion, politics or national origins, the Board decided that the AFSC should proceed to make the gift, viewing this as a matter of religious compulsion.

Gilbert F. White, then Chairman of the AFSC Board of Directors, met immediately with William P. Bundy, then Assistant Secretary for Far Eastern Affairs, Department of State, and members of his staff to inform them of the steps which the AFSC Board of Directors had decided to take. The Department of State officials responded that they looked upon the American Friends Service Committee's coming to share this information with respect to its plans as a thoughtful step on the part of the AFSC.

At the same time the AFSC sent David W. Stickney, the first field director of the Quang Ngai program, to Saigon to inform the Government of the Republic of Viet Nam of the Service Committee's plans and to interpret the reasons for the Committee's action. David Stickney found a ready understanding of the AFSC's purposes on the part of officials with whom he talked.

The supplies were delivered in three stages in 1968 and 1969 to the medical representative of the National Liberation Front in Phnom Penh, who gave the AFSC written acknowledgement of the Commission of Public Health's receipt of these supplies. However, the Front felt that the military situation was far too

dangerous for them to take the responsibility of an AFSC observer visiting the areas in which the medicine was being used. The AFSC was disappointed but nevertheless understood the Front's reasons; had this step been possible the Service Committee might then have had the end-use observation report which it desired.

Purchase cost of the penicillin and disposable syringes was \$10,580.

1973-74 Program

In each visit to Hanoi for delivery of medical and surgical equipment to the Viet-Duc Hospital, American Friends Service Committee representatives have met with officials of the Provisional Revolutionary Government, using these opportunities to give them an understanding of AFSC's concerns and programs.

In April 1973 a delegation of four AFSC representatives visited Hanoi: Bronson P. Clark, then Executive Secretary, Martin Teitel, Director of Asia Service Programs, David L. Elder, then Indochina Representative, and Dr. Robert C. Stever, a Friend and physician on the staff of the Group Health Cooperative of Puget Sound (Seattle). During the course of this week-long visit, they met twice with three officials of the Provisional Revolutionary Government Mission in Hanoi, including the Head of Mission whom Bronson Clark had met once briefly in Paris.

During the course of these discussions, the AFSC representatives indicated the Service Committee's interest in offering humanitarian assistance to civilians in areas of South Viet Nam under the administration of the Provisional Revolutionary Government. The Head of Mission identified agricultural equipment, fish nets and medical supplies as urgently needed; and he said that lists of the requested supplies with specifications would be provided to the AFSC group. On the day before the Service Committee delegation departed from Hanoi a precise list of items was presented by the PRG officials. It is believed that this was the first time that such a carefully documented request had been received by any American agency from the Provisional Revolutionary Government.

The items requested were as follows: 130 diesel tillers, 50 land-use diesel engines, 20 hand tractors with accessories and spare parts, 1500 lengths of fishing net, and 6000 kilograms of twine. The PRG officials also requested 100 kits of medical instruments for use by rural midwives assisting with deliveries in the villages, and 100 kits for use by rural paramedical workers in villages. Specific items identified for the midwives' kits were: thermometers, needle cases, hypodermic needles, scissors and forceps, hemostats, catheters and stethoscopes. For the rural paramedical workers' kits many of the same items were specified, as well as such supplies as tongue holders, depressors and syringes.

In May 1973 the Executive Committee of the AFSC Board of Directors gave approval for the staff to apply for government licenses to purchase these supplies and

to proceed with arrangements for buying and shipping them. On October 23, 1973 the U.S. Treasury Department, with the support of the Department of State, granted the AFSC license No. B-89097 for the purchase abroad of up to \$300,000 worth of medical instruments and food production equipment for civilian use in PRG areas of South Viet Nam. The supplies purchased as of January 1974 under this license consist of the following: 30 diesel tillers, 10 hand tractors of two specified types, 30 land-use diesel engines of two specified types, all with spare parts. The total of 70 units of equipment were all bought in Japan. Because the weight of this equipment would have made air transport very costly, these supplies were sent by ocean freight and reached Haiphong in mid-January 1974. In addition, the following equipment was purchased: 100 midwifery kits, each containing 37 items, and 100 kits for village paramedical workers, each containing 69 items, all purchased in Hong Kong. Personal presentation of the agricultural equipment and the medical kits was made when the next AFSC delegation visited PRG areas in August 1974.

In August 1974 a delegation of three AFSC representatives visited Quang Tri Province, an area of South Viet Nam under the control of the Provisional Revolutionary Government: Louis W. Schneider, Executive Secretary, Ronald J. Young, Peace Education Secretary, and Dr. Marjorie Nelson, who had been a member of the Quang Ngai staff from 1967 to 1969.¹ The purpose of the visit was to present the agricultural and medical equipment, as well as observe conditions in Quang Tri Province and carry a personal message of concern to the Vietnamese people of that area. It was the first time that AFSC representatives had been officially invited to visit PRG territory. They travelled by jeep south from Hanoi, across the Demilitarized Zone and into Quang Tri Province, a journey of two days each way. During their three days in the Province, they visited hospitals, schools, a new pumping station, and a bookstore and market place, as well as Dong Ha City which was totally destroyed in bombing raids in 1972 by U.S. and Saigon forces. They met with officials of the People's Revolutionary Committee, staff of Trien Phong District Hospital, representatives of a number of Ministries, schoolchildren, teachers and members of youth and women's groups. In the hospitals they saw farmers who had recently been injured by unexploded anti-personnel bombs while tilling their rice fields. They were struck by the total devastation of orchards, forests and rice paddies, as well as villages; only three out of 600 villages in Quang Tri Province are intact. Everywhere they saw people working hard to rebuild and restore their livelihoods.

The cost of the agricultural equipment, including shipping from Japan, was \$108,654. The price for the medical kits, including shipping, was \$21,030. Thus, a total of \$129,684 worth of equipment and supplies were bought under U.S. license for this 1974 delivery to the Provisional Revolutionary Government.

¹Dr. Marjorie Nelson, when she was on the Quang Ngai staff, was captured in Hue by the National Liberation Front (now Provisional Revolutionary Government) at the time of the Tet offensive in 1968, and spent two months as a prisoner with NLF forces near Hue in Thua Thien Province before being released.

In the course of this visit, the AFSC representatives discussed with officials of the People's Revolutionary Committee and others ways in which the Service Committee could give additional assistance to help meet the needs of the people. They arranged for the AFSC Indochina Representative, based in Laos, to make a subsequent visit in order to work out details of new aid programs.

1974-75 Program

In December 1974 the AFSC Indochina Representative went to Hanoi to consult with North Viet Nam and PRG officials on further aid programs. At the office of the PRG Special Representative a senior official with whom he dealt presented a letter to AFSC from the PRG Ministry of Health and an attached 15-page list of equipment needed. The request is for AFSC to provide machinery for repair of the medical equipment, including equipment for making prosthetic devices, which has been donated to the PRG from many countries. The repair shop would require 32 items, as specified in the accompanying 15-page list. These items have been checked by engineers who have been consulted by AFSC; and the approximate cost of this equipment would be between \$100,000 and \$130,000. The Service Committee has studied this request and approved going forward to implement it to the extent that substantial additional funds can be raised over and above the \$75,000 budgeted for 1974-75 PRG programs.

NORTH VIET NAM - DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM

1969-71 Program

Heart Surgical Supplies In May 1969 the AFSC sent Professor Joseph Elder, a member of the AFSC Board of Directors and Chairman of the Department of Indian Studies, University of Wisconsin, to Hanoi to ascertain through detailed discussions with the North Viet Nam Ministry of Public Health those medical needs of civilians with which the AFSC might feel led to assist.¹

¹The AFSC had copies of many different lists which DRVN representatives in various capitals around the world had given to compassionate inquirers. As these lists tended to be extensive and somewhat indiscriminate, they were unsatisfactory as a basis for AFSC action. They appeared to have been drawn up more as polite responses rather than as educated and refined lists of specific needs. Therefore, the AFSC felt that the only way in which it could obtain a list which it would regard as truly dependable and satisfactory was to send its own representative to Hanoi to undertake detailed and precise discussions with the Ministry of Public Health concerning civilian medical needs. From Joseph Elder's inquiries there emerged careful, specific and highly knowledgeable requests, prepared by persons who clearly knew exactly what they were doing and requesting. The contrast of this new list with the earlier requests was marked. Furthermore, it was reassuring to the AFSC that the instruments being requested were of a kind to make it extremely unlikely that they would be diverted to the military.

Joseph Elder's passport was validated for this journey by the United States Department of State, which has similarly validated the passports of subsequent AFSC representatives for their travel to deliver the surgery and medical supplies covered by United States Government licenses.

In Hanoi the Ministry of Public Health of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam advised Joseph Elder that heart surgical equipment for the Viet-Duc Hospital was the most pressing civilian need. The Viet-Duc Hospital serves only civilian patients and is the principal teaching hospital for surgery in North Viet Nam; thus, most of the North Vietnamese doctors obtain their surgical training there. The Hospital already had a heart-lung machine but lacked complementary equipment essential for open heart operations, including heart valves.

On July 24, 1969 the U.S. Treasury Department, with the support of the Department of State, granted the AFSC License No. B-85728 for the purchase abroad of \$25,000 worth of open heart surgical equipment, to be consigned to the Ministry of Public Health of North Viet Nam, and to be used for civilian patients in the Viet-Duc Hospital in Hanoi.¹ The equipment purchased under this license was delivered to the Hospital in three lots, the first by Joseph Elder, AFSC Board member, in October 1969; the second by Louis W. Schneider, then Associate Executive Secretary, in January 1970; and the third by Charles R. Read, then Secretary of the International Service Division, in May 1971. Appendix II lists the supplies included in each delivery.

Professor Dr. Ton That Tung, the Médecin-Chef and Director of the Viet-Duc Hospital, is the leading surgeon in North Viet Nam and a man of considerable international renown. Some of his research is cited in certain American texts, for instance Rhoads, Allen, Harkins and Moyer, Surgery, Principles and Practice, 4th ed., Lippincott, Philadelphia, pp. 924 and 946.

Dr. Tung is the surgeon who developed open heart surgery in North Viet Nam. His principal associate and deputy, Dr. Nguyen Duong Quang, is a cardiovascular surgeon, and also a man of international reputation. The medical staff of the Viet-Duc Hospital, and Dr. Tung in particular, have established close professional relationships with leading French open heart surgeons and with surgeons in some other European countries, both eastern and western. Because of the war the physicians at the Viet-Duc Hospital had not been able to develop comparable professional relationships with American medical specialists.²

The Viet-Duc Hospital has 500 beds. During the period of the 1965-68 bombings the hospital was evacuated to the jungle, where Dr. Tung and his associates continued its service in improvised quarters. After President Johnson suspended the bombing in 1968, the hospital reopened in Hanoi.

During tours of the hospital, Dr. Tung has repeatedly pointed out to AFSC representatives various pieces of equipment, saying, "This is something which you gave us. That instrument came from you, etc." One clearly has the impression

¹All of the equipment was purchased and paid for in Hong Kong within the period of validity of the license, although arrangements for the personal delivery of it by AFSC representatives required some additional months.

²An interesting interview with Dr. Tung and an account of the work of the Viet-Duc Hospital appears in Anthony Lewis' article, "North Vietnam, a Visit to a Hospital," in the Atlantic Monthly for August 1972.

of the significance of the AFSC contribution to this leading civilian hospital. Dr. Tung reported as of May 1971 that with the equipment which the AFSC had supplied they had performed over 700 heart operations, of which 37 had involved extra-corporeal circulation.

The patient wards are very well cared for, not unduly crowded, very clean and with nursing staff on duty in each. There are, of course, adult patients but also many child patients. Dr. Tung is greeted warmly by the patients and staff wherever he goes.

In the medical library of the hospital there are virtually no books in English. The hospital does have a full bound set of The Lancet, of which, until recent years, Sir (Dr.) Theodore Fox of a British Quaker family was the editor. They also have a few years of the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA), which is forwarded to them by a medical acquaintance in England. They express a great need for complete year sets of any American medical journals, for they have no means of piecing out incomplete years. They also desire any recent U.S. medical studies which have been published. In the library there are texts in French, Chinese, Russian, Czech, Bulgarian and German.

Prisoners of War In addition to the medical aspects of these and later visits each occasion for the delivery of heart surgical equipment provided the AFSC representatives opportunities to present our concern with respect to prisoners of war, to interpret our belief that their release would be an act which would be widely appreciated in the United States, to deliver letters to prisoners from their families and to receive letters from prisoners to bring back for posting to the families. The AFSC was also able to lodge inquiries with respect to the welfare of certain prisoners of whom the Committee had some direct personal knowledge.

A full account of the aid programs for North Viet Nam, "Assessment of 1969-74 Program," appears as Appendix I of this memorandum.

<p>The cost of the heart surgical supplies and equipment in the three deliveries in 1969-71 was \$24,502.</p>

1972-73 Program

AFSC Board Approval of New Program In May 1971 Dr. Tung prepared for the American Friends Service Committee lists of additional surgical equipment and supplies which the Viet-Duc Hospital needed and was unable to obtain from other sources.

On the basis of the visits of the first three AFSC representatives to deliver the open heart surgery equipment, their meetings with the doctors and their direct observation of the AFSC-contributed equipment installed (i.e. having what is tantamount to an "end-use" report), the American Friends Service Committee decided to take steps immediately to apply for new licenses for the further

purchases the Service Committee wished to make. For these purchases it was decided to initiate a special fundraising effort for the amount needed; it was also decided to arrange for the forthcoming deliveries of our supplies to be made by medical specialists. This plan to include medical specialists was made with a view to their possibly serving during the course of the visits as medical consultants, if this were to be desired by the North Vietnamese. Following the decision of the Board of Directors on June 12, 1971, steps were initiated at once to apply for the appropriate government licenses. The licenses were granted on October 26, 1971, in the amount of \$90,000. The U.S. Commerce Department license No. E11021-50041 was in the amount of \$70,000, and the U.S. Treasury Department license No. B-88912 was in the amount of \$20,000.

Since many items in the lists are custom-made and since the AFSC makes purchases as it receives funds to do so, the delivery of these supplies was made in several installments, as was the case with our earlier deliveries.

Fourth Delivery The delivery of the first installment of equipment purchased under the new licenses was carried out by Dr. George A. Perera, who had recently retired as Associate Dean and Professor of Medicine at Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons, and by John A. Sullivan, Associate Executive Secretary of the AFSC. They were in Hanoi from July 15 to 22, 1972.

The air bombardment of North Viet Nam had been intensified beginning the middle of April of that year. During the course of this visit the AFSC representatives experienced 44 air alerts which occurred morning, noon and night, sometimes as often as four times in a single night. At such times they took refuge in man-holes or large concrete underground shelters. During their stay they saw men, women and children, some of them infants, who were injured in these bombardments; and doctors at the hospitals which they visited reported finding both cubic and ball pellet damage to patients who had been hit by anti-personnel weapons. At sites of bomb damage they saw destruction of workers housing flats, several hospitals both in Hanoi and some 100 kilometers south of the city, residential areas, schools, pagodas, factories, dikes, dams, roads and bridges. They were delayed in getting to the airport on the day of their departure because of a raid by several flights of Phantoms. At that time they saw anti-aircraft shells bursting and, while in the shelters, felt the percussion of explosives. John Sullivan testified on the damage they had seen on August 16, 1972 to the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Refugees in Washington.

The two Quaker representatives delivered the surgical equipment to Dr. Tung and his colleagues at the Viet-Duc Hospital, met with officials of the Red Cross of the DRVN, inspected some sites of recent bomb damage (including some of the dikes), visited Saint Paul's Hospital and the Bach Mai Hospital as well as the Viet-Duc Hospital, talked with a number of Vietnamese officials and with diplomatic representatives in Hanoi of several foreign governments. One wing of the Bach Mai Hospital, which had even then been damaged by a United States air raid on July 27, 1972, was still undergoing repairs at that time.

Dr. Perera was asked by North Vietnamese medical authorities to lecture to Vietnamese physicians on current American research on hypertension. On the afternoon of July 18, Dr. Perera met for three hours with 13 of Hanoi's specialists to discuss this subject with them and to answer their questions. Besides this occasion, Dr. Perera had opportunity to examine a number of war-injured patients in hospitals and to review their case histories and prognoses with the

attending physicians. With Dr. Tung he discussed studies which were being conducted at the Viet-Duc Hospital as to the possibility that the dramatic increase in some forms of liver cancer might be caused by certain defoliants which the United States had sprayed extensively in Viet Nam and which contained a constant impurity known as dioxine; in animals dioxine has been shown to produce birth defects and tumors.¹

Dr. Tung reported to the AFSC representatives that promptly after receiving the baby respirator which was part of the equipment which they had brought the Viet-Duc Hospital employed it to save the life of a baby whom they saw in the recovery ward.

At the time of the visit of John Sullivan and Dr. George Perera, the North Vietnamese authorities requested that the American Friends Service Committee in its forthcoming shipments include some medical equipment for the North Viet Nam Red Cross as well as for the Viet-Duc Hospital. The Red Cross has a health responsibility throughout the DRVN, supplementing the work of the Ministry of Public Health. The U.S. Commerce and Treasury Departments amended the AFSC's licenses accordingly.

Fifth Delivery

Some of the supplies and equipment requested for the Viet-Duc Hospital were purchased for inclusion in the fifth delivery in 1973. These included equipment for cardiac surgery, neuro-surgery and related post-operative care, as requested in the course of the fourth delivery. Also purchased were electrocardiograph units and recording paper for the North Viet Nam Red Cross, as requested in 1972.

In April 1973 these supplies were delivered by American Friends Service Committee representatives: Bronson P. Clark, then Executive Secretary, Martin Teitel, Director of Asia Service Programs, David L. Elder, then Indochina Representative, and Dr. Robert C. Stever, a physician with the Group Health Cooperative of Puget Sound (Seattle). They were in Hanoi from April 14 to 21.

The four Quaker representatives delivered the supplies to Dr. Tung and his colleagues at the Viet-Duc Hospital and to the official representatives of the North Viet Nam Red Cross. They were given a tour of the Hospital, including the thirteen operating rooms and the bomb shelter where operations took place during air raids. They had significant consultations with representatives of the Provisional Revolutionary Government (PRG), to ascertain civilian humanitarian needs in areas of South Viet Nam under the administration of the PRG. In addition, during the week they inspected sections of Hanoi which had suffered from the heavy bombing, met with a number of Vietnamese officials, and visited the Bach Mai Hospital to see the substantial damage which, at the time, was still not repaired. In a visit to Haiphong, they saw the effects of saturation bombing in that city, including the damage done to the large municipal Viet-Tiep

¹Dr. George Perera reported his discussions with Dr. Tung about dioxine in defoliants as a possible causative factor in the increased incidence of liver cancers which the Viet-Duc Hospital medical staff were treating. "Vietnam: A Medical Consequence of War," New York Times, September 19, 1972.

Hospital which had been hit on six different occasions. They also visited a rural cooperative community and the city of Hon Gay, both of which had suffered from the bombing.

On one evening, Dr. Robert Stever lectured to 150 members of the staff of the Viet-Duc Hospital on the subject of the "Politics of American Medicine." He discussed the role of the American Medical Association and the fee system generally, and described the Seattle group health plan.

In the course of this visit by AFSC representatives to Hanoi, Dr. Tung requested additional surgical/medical equipment and supplies needed by the Viet-Duc Hospital. Dr. Tung also expressed the hope that AFSC could arrange for a specialist in liver cancer to go to Hanoi to work with him for about a month on his research into the possibility that dioxine in defoliants, sprayed by the United States in Vietnam, may be a cause of the increased incidence of liver cancer in the population. The Service Committee had been interested in his work on this subject since Dr. Tung brought it to Dr. Perera's attention in 1972.¹

The cost of the heart surgical supplies and equipment in the fourth delivery in 1972 was \$30,885, and in the fifth delivery in 1973 was \$24,412. One of these items, the equipment for cardiopulmonary bypass and coronary perfusion, was too large for the doors of aircraft serving Hanoi in July 1972. Therefore, this large piece of equipment was shipped from Hong Kong by sea to the Viet-Duc Hospital in January 1973.

1973-74 Program

Sixth Delivery Supplies and equipment for the sixth delivery to the Viet-Duc Hospital were bought in accordance with requests made to the American Friends Service Committee at the time of the fifth delivery in April 1973. These included equipment for cardiac surgery, neuro-surgery and related post-operative care, as well as chemicals for the enzymology laboratory. Appendix II lists the equipment and supplies in this sixth delivery to the Viet-Duc Hospital. In November 1974 a supplemental shipment consisting of new accessories and replacement parts was sent from the U.S. at a cost of \$4,132.

These supplies were purchased under amended U.S. Treasury License B-88912 and

¹The reader's attention is drawn to an article by John Finney reporting on findings in two studies, one by the National Academy of Sciences and the other by the U.S. Army. These indicate that the American use of chemical herbicides in defoliant spraying in South Viet Nam caused long-term damage to the ecology, and "that dioxin—a toxic, insoluble impurity found in defoliants—can cause liver damage, genetic changes and cancer." "Vietnam Defoliation Scars Expected to Last a Century," New York Times, February 22, 1974.

Commerce License E11021-50041, issued respectively on October 23, 1973 and September 16, 1973. The supplies for the Viet-Duc Hospital in this shipment were all purchased in the United States.

In August 1974 these supplies were delivered by American Friends Service Committee representatives: Louis W. Schneider, Executive Secretary, Ronald J. Young, Peace Education Secretary and Dr. Marjorie Nelson who had served on the staff of the Quang Ngai Center from 1967 to 1969. They were in Hanoi for a total of about one week before and after their visit to Quang Tri, a province in PRG territory of South Viet Nam. On this trip south from Hanoi they observed the destruction in North Viet Nam of almost all the bridges and severe and extensive damage to railroads and Highway #1; but everywhere they saw intensive reconstruction work under way.

In Hanoi and vicinity they visited an urban housing project, a market, a zoo, a district hospital and rural cooperative. They met several times with members of the Viet-My Committee, with officials of the Ministry of Health and PRG officials, and also met a young woman who had been captured and tortured in South Viet Nam before being allowed to return to Hanoi. They had a lengthy discussion with the Editor of Nhan Dan, a leading Hanoi paper, who analyzed the North Vietnamese view of the current situation. They also officially presented the surgical and medical supplies to Dr. Tung at the Viet-Duc Hospital and received from him a list of additional items needed by the Hospital from international sources.

In addition to delivering supplies, the AFSC delegation consulted with DRVN officials on other pressing civilian needs. The request to which the North Vietnamese gave very high priority was for copybooks for their schoolchildren. Their paper mills had been destroyed in the bombings; and they now have an acute paper shortage. As a result, one sixth of their 7,500,000 schoolchildren were without this essential basic equipment when schools opened in early October. The DRVN officials also reported a need for small machines for the production of several consumer items. Arrangements were made by the AFSC representatives for a delegation of North American teachers to go to Hanoi in relation to the gift of copybooks, in order that they might visit schools, meet with students and teachers and learn about the educational system of North Viet Nam. Arrangements were also made for the AFSC Indochina Representative in Laos to visit Hanoi in order to obtain specifications and additional details for further programs of assistance which the Service Committee might be able to undertake.

Appendix II sets forth details of the six deliveries to the Viet-Duc Hospital and North Viet Nam Red Cross from 1969 through 1974.

The cost of the surgical equipment and supplies and of the equipment and chemicals for the enzymology laboratory in the sixth delivery to the Viet-Duc Hospital in 1974, including shipping, was \$37,011.

The total cumulative cost of equipment and supplies to the Viet-Duc Hospital and North Viet Nam Red Cross, including accessories and replacement parts, from 1969 through 1974 is \$120,942.

1974-75 Program

In November and December 1974 the AFSC's Indochina Representative purchased in Hong Kong 1,131,000 school copybooks pursuant to the request of DRVN authorities. The Canadian Friends Service Committee contributed \$2,500 which permitted the purchase of 51,000 copybooks. The additional 1,080,000 copybooks, costing \$50,000, were bought with AFSC funds under U.S. Treasury License B-89152, issued November 19, 1974. Thus the total cost, including shipping, for the 1,131,000 school copybooks was \$52,500. AFSC has selected four American teachers to go to Hanoi for a visit in connection with this copybook project.

In December 1974 the Indochina Representative spent three days in Hanoi, consulting with officials and experts on new reconstruction and rehabilitation programs. He also visited a school on the outskirts of Kham Thien Street, an area of Hanoi which was heavily damaged by the Christmas bombing of 1972, and met again with Dr. Tung at the Viet-Duc Hospital. As a result of these negotiations, the North Vietnamese requested AFSC to provide equipment for up to seven cooperative workshops, to be operated by handicapped people who were victims of the 1972 bombing. These shops, which they listed in order of priority, would manufacture such items as wood screws, felt berets, zippers, metal buttons, and small medical instruments. They also requested equipment for Xa Dan School on the outskirts of Kham Thien Street, which has been built by students and teachers. The school needs equipment for chemistry, physics, mechanics and shop laboratories, tape recorders for language teaching, musical instruments, and art and sports supplies. Some small additional items were requested for the Viet-Duc Hospital. AFSC has studied these requests and authorized an increase in budgeted funds for 1974-75 DRVN programs. Some funds are available, over and above the amount previously budgeted which was totally expended for the school copybooks; but a substantial additional amount will need to be raised.

In accordance with the request which Dr. Tung of the Viet-Duc Hospital made of the Service Committee in April 1973, two American specialists in liver cancer have been designated by AFSC to go to Hanoi for a visit, to work with Dr. Tung and his scientific colleagues on his research into the possible cause of increased incidence of liver cancer in North Viet Nam. Dr. Tung renewed this request during the December visit of the Indochina Representative. The two specialists are prepared to go as soon as a mutually satisfactory time can be determined.

LAOS

Indochina Representative

With the possibility of expanded service programs in Viet Nam and Laos and in order to keep closely informed as to conditions in other war torn countries of Indochina, the AFSC in February 1973 appointed an Indochina Representative, based in Vientiane, Laos. David Elder served in this capacity in 1973-74. In addition to overseeing and developing programs in Laos, the Indochina Representative has responsibility for consulting with North Vietnamese and PRG officials to explore and document reconstruction and rehabilitation programs in both areas. He also keeps in touch with the staff in Quang Ngai and in Saigon. Pursuant to the AFSC delegation visit to North Viet Nam and PRG territory in August 1974, Martin Teitel, then Indochina Representative, visited Hanoi in December 1974. Succeeding Martin Teitel in this position are Louis and Eryl Kubicka, each of whom has served on the staff of the Quaker Rehabilitation Center in Quang Ngai.

Laos Program

With the cease fire in Laos in 1973, the American Friends Service Committee's Indochina Representative entered into negotiations with government officials in Vientiane to ascertain major needs of civilians who have suffered as a result of the war. In January 1974, following the establishment of the Provisional Government of National Union, an agreement was reached for AFSC to work with both the Vientiane and Pathet Lao sides of that Government.

As a result of these initial discussions in Vientiane, the Indochina Representative received specific requests. The Vientiane authorities asked for deep disc plows to be used to restore and develop agricultural production. The Pathet Lao officials asked for sawmills to use in the reconstruction of village housing which had been extensively damaged by the bombing of Laos. In response to these requests, the Service Committee purchased two large deep disc plows with accessories and spare parts at a cost of \$7,783, and three portable sawmills costing \$14,342. On inquiry to the State Department, AFSC was advised that export licenses are not needed for shipments to Laos since the U.S. had not been officially at war with that country. As part of the sawmill project, the Service Committee also provided training in the use, maintenance and repair of the mills to Laotians selected by the Lao officials, so that they could then train others. In early 1974 AFSC sent Holmes Brown to Vientiane for this purpose. He spent four months there, conducting the training program with the help of an able Laotian interpreter, and preparing an illustrated instruction handbook in the Lao language, based on the manufacturer's operational manual. The Pathet Lao authorities selected nine Laotians to receive the training; and classes were held morning and afternoon on each week-day. Following this initial training, the Lao authorities assumed responsibility for maintenance and operation of the sawmills and for further training of other operators. AFSC supplied three sets of tools for repair and maintenance of the sawmills, at a cost of \$1,272. At the present time a more comprehensive and detailed manual, in the Lao language, with annotated illustrations, is being prepared; and AFSC will publish it and provide copies to Laotian authorities.

In the January 14, 1974 issue of the Far Eastern Economic Review, published in Hong Kong, the following item appeared:

The AFSC has quietly achieved a small first in post-war aid to Indochina by getting both Vientiane and the Pathet Lao to accept aid under a common agreement (ploughs for Vientiane, sawmills for Sam Neua). Prince Souphannouvong is said to have personally approved the AFSC's offer.

An official of the Pathet Lao told an AFSC staff member that the AFSC was the first American group to deliver much needed assistance to the Pathet Lao people.

The AFSC Indochina Representatives in Vientiane are continuing to explore other needs of civilians whose lives have been damaged and disrupted by the war and to consult with officials of both the Vientiane and Pathet Lao sides of the Provisional Government of National Union. One project underway is a \$5,000 grant to Hmong refugees located on the Vientiane Plain, to permit them to build a much needed covered market. It is to be constructed near the villages where the refugees live and at a point accessible to the main road.

The total costs of equipment, training and grants provided to the Laotian people in 1974 and of the Indochina Representative in the same year were \$61,067. The budget for operations in Laos for 1975 is \$48,625.

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APPENDIX I

ASSESSMENT OF NORTH VIET NAM PROGRAM
1969-1974

An integral part of the AFSC's decision to undertake a series of programs of assistance to the Viet-Duc Hospital was an assessment of the initial 1969-71 program. Each year's initiatives have been studied following deliveries. In considering what we have accomplished through the North Viet Nam programs from 1969 through 1974, the following observations emerge:

- 1) We have provided life-saving equipment and supplies which have restored to health many hundreds of civilian heart patients.
- 2) Through continual re-interpretation and maintaining a persistent position, the AFSC has succeeded in conveying to the North Vietnamese authorities the fact that we are unwilling to send supplies unless they are personally accompanied so that we see them delivered to the ultimate recipient, thus in effect enabling us to have an "end-use" report.
- 3) In the surgical equipment program we have been able to make six separate delegation visits to North Viet Nam, each of which has offered a breadth of contacts with various ministries and a range of officials.
- 4) We have established progressively deep and ever more extensive contacts with a number of the leading physicians in North Viet Nam who, because of their education and professional eminence, are personages of considerable consequence in the life of their country.
- 5) As the Viet-Duc Hospital is the leading teaching hospital in North Viet Nam, we are indirectly relating to many of the doctors in training; it is likely that our contributions are mentioned to them by the senior physicians.
- 6) We delivered to Hanoi letters from families and friends of American prisoners of war held there; and on several occasions we were given letters from a number of POWs to bring back to their families: Joseph Elder took in 250 letters; Louis Schneider took in 587 letters and was given 69 to bring out (17 of which were from men who had not been heard from before); and Charles Read took in 28 letters on behalf of the Committee of Liaison and was given 28 letters to bring out, one of which was from a prisoner from whom a letter had never before been received.
- 7) We had opportunities in Hanoi to make inquiries concerning the welfare of a number of individual American prisoners shot down over North Viet Nam or captured in South Viet Nam. Unlike the atmosphere in which these inquiries are usually advanced, the circumstances surrounding our inquiries were open, friendly and non-defensive on the part of our hosts. We know from experience in other situations in which individuals are held prisoner that the very fact of their being inquired after has had some beneficial effects. We hope that this was true in this instance.
- 8) We were enabled through these visits to meet with officials in Hanoi of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Viet Nam and to lodge requests for information concerning the welfare of several American civilians who were captured by NLF/PRG forces.
- 9) Similarly, the delivery of each shipment of supplies has presented to Quaker representatives opportunities for meetings and relatively extensive discussions

with a wide spectrum of major North Vietnamese officials. These have included Prime Minister Pham Van Dong, Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Nguyen Duy Trinh, Minister of Higher Education Dr. Ta Quang Buu, Minister of Culture Hoang Minh Giam, two successive Vice-Ministers of Health (Dr. Nguyen Van Tin and Dr. Hoang Dinh Cau), the President of the North Vietnamese Red Cross Society (Mme. Tran Thi Dich), the Mayor of Hanoi (Dr. Tran Duy Hung), etc., as well as many North Vietnamese diplomats stationed in various world capitals. The discussions we are able to have with these officials are cordial but at the same time substantive; they are by no means pleasantries or pro forma exercises. Although we of course do not presume to enter into the field of negotiations, the conversations customarily touch upon major issues.

10) The AFSC representatives who have visited Hanoi in order to effect delivery of the open heart surgical equipment have found it striking that the North Vietnamese authorities have manifested keen interest in the humanitarian work which the AFSC is carrying out for civilian patients in Quang Ngai, South Viet Nam. The questions which they ask on this subject have all been strictly related to substantive aspects of the AFSC program and our methods of carrying it out and are not politically or militarily related questions.

11) These visits for the delivery of supplies have presented opportunities for the AFSC representatives to raise questions about the common assumption that most North Vietnamese hold that "the American people are all good and the American government is all bad." We have been able to point out to them that in our judgment this is an oversimplified view and tends to distort the true picture of the relation of the American people to our government. The North Vietnamese have always been very much surprised and interested in a somewhat incredulous way when the AFSC representatives have told them that the United States government had licensed the purchase and sending of these supplies. They find this difficult to fit into their stereotyped view of the "evil officials in Washington." We have welcomed these opportunities to help them glimpse what a pluralistic society may be: it is not all one thing or all the other.

12) We have made clear to the North Vietnamese authorities, just as we have made clear to American authorities, that we are ready to talk openly with all parties to the conflict but that we are unwilling to take part in any clandestine activity. This appears to pose no problem to the North Vietnamese who seem to welcome the fact that the AFSC is in open and direct communication with all parties. In May 1971 Dr. Tung said to an AFSC representative: "It saddens me to have to tell you that you are the only Americans whom we have ever known personally; and we feel that you represent the best in the American people. The only other Americans whom we have seen are those who have bombed us from the skies."

13) Just as our visits for the delivery of the surgical and medical equipment have provided occasions for AFSC representatives to present a more balanced interpretation of the American people and government to the North Vietnamese, so too have the visits enabled us to present to American officials a first-hand interpretation of the North Vietnamese with whom we have met. This, we believe, helps somewhat to cut through the stereotypes and to convey the more human characteristics of those from whom the war separated us.

14) We are not primarily a supply agency but one through whom a message of understanding and compassion is transmitted along with material assistance. Thus we have borne witness to our Quaker testimony that every man, woman and child is a member of the human family and one of God's children; we have again shown that compassion speaks an international language and can transcend man-made barriers.

APPENDIX II

Summary of AFSC Deliveries of Surgical and Medical Equipment
for Viet-Duc Hospital, Hanoi and North Viet Nam Red Cross
Purchased under U.S. Treasury and Commerce Department Licenses

Each lot of equipment was accumulated by AFSC in Hong Kong and/or Vientiane, pending arrangements for personal delivery in Hanoi by AFSC representatives. The only exceptions were some pieces of laboratory equipment in the fourth lot and a centrifuge in the sixth lot which were too large for the plane from Vientiane to Hanoi and which were shipped by ocean freight from Hong Kong via Haiphong.

1. First lot delivered by Professor Joseph Elder, special AFSC representative, October 1969.
2. Second lot delivered by Louis W. Schneider, then Associate Executive Secretary of the AFSC, January 1970.
3. Third lot delivered by Charles R. Read, then Secretary of the International Service Division of the AFSC, May 1971.
4. Fourth lot delivered July 1972 by John A. Sullivan, Associate Executive Secretary of the AFSC, and George A. Perera, M.D., a Quaker and formerly Associate Dean of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University.
5. Fifth lot delivered April 1973 by Bronson P. Clark, then Executive Secretary of the AFSC, Martin Teitel, Director of AFSC Asia Service Programs, David L. Elder, then AFSC Indochina Representative, and Dr. Robert C. Stever, a Quaker and physician with the Group Health Cooperative of Puget Sound (Seattle).
6. Sixth lot delivered August 1974 by Louis W. Schneider, Executive Secretary of the AFSC, Ronald J. Young, Peace Education Secretary, and Dr. Marjorie Nelson who served on the Quang Ngai Center staff from 1967 to 1969.

* * * * *

1. First lot delivered October 1969
 - (a) Electronic manometer, Nihon Kohden model MP-4 complete with carrier amplifier model RP-3 and power supply unit model RUP-10.
 - (b) 30 mitral C.R. cloth covered heart valves (10 each No. 75 and 80, 5 each No. 85 and 90), 4 mitral valve holders (sizes 75, 80, 85 and 90), 4 mitral valve obturators (sizes 75, 80, 85 and 90).
 - (c) 97 units catheters and related equipment (infusion catheters, coronary catheters, closed end catheters, percutaneous catheters, rotoflector handle, pilotip catheter guides, vessel dilator teflon, cone tips to female Luer Lock fittings, male Luer Locks to male Luer Lock fittings, Paley manifold, valve core replacement, female Luer hub replacement, spring guides, detergent).
 - (d) 50 sterilized oxygenator sets (30 standard size, 10 low priming, 10 small size).
 - (e) Battery-operated portable pump and power supply.

2. Second lot delivered January 1970

- (a) 30 mitral valves (10 each Nos. 75 and 80, 5 each Nos. 85 and 90).
- (b) 84 units catheters (acoustic, injection, pediatric, etc.) and related instruments, including guides, tips, Luer Locks, dilators, needles, adapters, stylettes, etc.
- (c) 50 sterilized oxygenator sets (30 standard size, 10 low priming, 10 small size).

3. Third lot delivered May 1971

- (a) 1 set direct current amplifier, Nihon Kohden model AD2-22, 2 channel, with accessories for 220 volt 50 cycle A.C.
- (b) 1 set ink writing oscillograph, Nihon Kohden model W1-260, 2 channel combination, with accessories for 220 v. 50 c. A.C.
- (c) 100 folds recording paper, 180mm wide x 40m long, for above oscillograph.
- (d) 150 meters silicone rubber sterilizable in autoclave 12/8.
- (e) 1 gallon silicone.
- (f) 101 units catheters (caval, extra-corporeal circulation, arterial, aortic perfusion, coronary perfusion, carotid by-pass, hemodialysis) and related instruments, including drains and fittings.

4. Fourth lot delivered July 1972

- (a) Infant ventilator (baby respirator).
- (b) Catheters, grafts, felts, instruments.
- (c) 30 dozen needle sutures.
- (d) Oscilloscope.
- (e) 30 heart valves and 29 Fogarty catheters.
- (f) Equipment for cardiopulmonary by-pass and coronary perfusion (shipped from Hong Kong, as it was too bulky for our representatives to take to Hanoi in July 1972).
- (g) Surgical cleansing preparation.

5. Fifth lot delivered April 1973

to Viet-Duc Hospital

- (a) bedside monitor
- (b) Electromanometer accessories
- (c) Esophagofiberscope
- (d) 100 pledgets
- (e) 2 external demand pacemakers
- (f) 80 biopsy needles
- (g) 102 dozen needle sutures
- (h) 2 turbobits
- (i) Electrocardiograph unit and 100 rolls recording paper
- (j) defibrillator cardioscope

to Society of the Red Cross

5 electrocardiograph units and 2000 rolls recording paper

6. Sixth lot delivered August 1974

- (a) pacemaker
- (b) 3 electrocardiograph units
- (c) defibrillator
- (d) 3 monitors
- (e) monitor scope
- (f) oxygenation equipment
- (g) spectrophotometer and accessories
- (h) centrifuge
- (i) electrophoreses unit
- (j) 10 packages paper strips
- (k) 3 tissue grinders
- (l) pestle
- (m) chemicals for enzymology laboratory
- (n) defibrillator capacitor

