STANDARD FORM NO. 64

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : AmEmbassy BANGKOK
ATTN: Mr. Getz

DATE: February 12, 1960

FROM : AmConsul CHIENGMAI

SUBJECT: Vietnamese in Chiengmai

There are no Vietnamese refugee camps in the Chiengmai consular district or refugees who would be eligible for repatriation under the Thai-Vietminh Red Cross agreement. The only Vietnamese in this area are permanent residents possessing alien resident permits and Vietnamese born in Thailand who possess Thai nationality. (In the past some Vietnamese refugees from Northeastern Thailand have come to Chiengmai and Farng to visit relatives but they returned to the Northeast.)

Some 25 Vietnamese are resident in Chiengmai. One owns a garage, another a sausage factory. A few are garagemen, tailors and dry cleaners. One is an itinerant "boot black" (possibly cobbler) who, reportedly, travels to the border areas. A former Chiengmai resident, Dr. Bui Dinh Buyet (also known as Dr. Prasong), went to Saigon about two years ago where he is, reportedly, a cabinet minister at present.

The Embassy will recall that twelve Vietnamese("Annamese" according to local press reports) were arrested in May 1959 on charges of an alleged Communist conspiracy. All were released three months later, however, for lack of evidence confirming any such conspiracy.

The above information was obtained from local sources including the Immigration Officer at Mae Taeng.

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