

Many South Viet Nam Villages Peaceful by Day, Horrible by Night

By ARTHUR J. DOMMEN
 Cho Gao, South Viet Nam—To reach this village in the Mekong river delta one drives along a narrow, bumpy road between flooded rice fields where black-clothed peasants are busily transplanting the new rice crop. Thatched-roof huts dot the flat land, connected with the road by a maze of pathways along the tops of dikes. Peaceful enough by day, Cho Gao and many other villages and hamlets like it have become, by night, the scene of acts of bloodshed and terror. This correspondent visited Cho Gao to talk with the people who are most directly involved in the two-way struggle now going on in the South Vietnamese countryside, where the farmer and the civil servant often have to make the decision: The Viet Cong (the name for local Communist agents and guerrillas) or the government of President Ngo Dinh Diem.

It is a life and death decision, and for many it is their last. The name Cho Gao means literally "rice market." The village lies along both banks of Viet Nam's most heavily traveled inland waterway, a wide canal used by junks and barges carrying the produce of 13 southern provinces northward to Saigon, half a day's journey away.

Proud Little Town
 Cho Gao is a proud little town, with its modern, corrugated iron-roofed school buildings, its army post and its ferry that is pulled across the canal by a fixed cable. On one side of the street are shops stocked with 100-pound bags of Tunisian phosphate for sale to farmers who want to make the effort to fertilize their fields to obtain a second annual rice crop. They bear the red-white-and-blue clasped hands symbol of the American aid program.



ANYONE FOR CAKE?—Evansville, Ind.'s Fellowship cake, the world's largest, was fed to some 15,000 at the city's municipal stadium. The cake took many days to prepare and fed an estimated 250,000 people. It measured 38 feet

long, 8 feet wide and 12 feet high. After the stadium group was fed, the remainder was distributed throughout the city to passing motorists. (UPI Telephoto)



...and let us also give thanks

for the human dignity which we enjoy as free individuals... for the preservation of the peace... for the prosperity of our great Nation... for its thrifty and self-reliant citizens... for our homes and the family happiness they bring... for the challenge of the unlimited opportunities which lie ahead.

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Progress Inspected
 Inside the house, one of the district officer's assistants told of having spent the morning inspecting progress at an agglomerate community being built at the other end of the province. The government has placed much hope in its far-reaching plan to build agglomerations, or "agrovilles," throughout the south. The Viet Cong have concentrated their efforts against the agrovilles, trying to sabotage them and intimidate their inhabitants.

Units Formed
 However, two units of Republican Youth have been formed and armed with French rifles. These youth, between the ages of 18 and 25, can act as a militia in aiding regular troops in case of a serious engagement with the Viet Cong. Such engagements are rare, though, and the dread presence of the Viet Cong makes itself felt in small, individual acts against civil servants and those accused of "collaborating" with them.

Changed Quarters
 Only a few weeks ago a hamlet chief in another district in the same province was reported assassinated. His name was Bay Nhie, and he was well regarded by his neighbors and had the reputation of making good collections on loans made by the government's Agriculture Credit agency. He had the premonition that

Viet Cong have been ambushing and assassinating government officials when they get the opportunity.

Viet Cong terrorism has not been much of a problem in Cho Gao district itself. Things have been quiet here. The district is considered "safe" and there is no need for pacification by the army, as in other areas.

Inspectors Get Award From State For Suggestion
 Six shipping point inspectors for the state department of agriculture who live in Jackson county have been awarded \$500 through the state's employee suggestion awards board.

The six are Roy M. Harrison, Harold A. Clement, Lloyd O. Sutton, L. W. Monroe and Walter D. Jensen, all of Medford, and David W. Turner of Central Point. They suggested a table for sorting and sizing pears. The table, according to the state department of agriculture, has proven to be more accurate and has more than doubled the tonnage an inspector can examine. It also will eliminate the hiring of part time personnel.

Viet Cong was determined to kill him, so he moved from house to house at night, each time sleeping in a different place.

On the night the Viet Cong went for him, even his wife did not know where he was. A short time later he was found sleeping in a hut. The nine Republican Youths in the hut with him were armed only with sticks and were ordered to clear out.

How was he killed? He was strangled. A note listing his "crimes" accused him of doing his job too well. The Viet Cong also set fire to the roof of the hut so the blaze could be seen in all the district, the usual way of indicating they have assassinated someone.

These are the facts of life today in South Viet Nam's villages.

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Mrs. B. M. Linger, 135 South Keene Way dr., has been appointed to a La Verne college. La Verne, Calif., counseling committee in the field of wills, annuities, and estate planning.

CLAIMS JET RECORD
 Chicago—UPI—Trans World Airlines today claimed one of its Boeing 707 jetliners piloted by Capt. Buddy Hagins, Los Angeles, Sunday set a new commercial Los Angeles-to-Chicago record of two hours, 49 minutes—four minutes less than the previous record.