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THE WORLD BANK

Washington, D.C.

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Subject files of the forestry program:
Forestry projects – Vietnam 1992

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Subject Files of the Forestry Program: Forestry Projects - Vietnam - Correspondence

ROUTING SLIP		DATE: February 26, 1992
NAME		ROOM NO.
Ms. D. Dowsett-Coirolo		E-8017
APPROPRIATE DISPOSITION	NOTE AND RETURN	
APPROVAL	NOTE AND SEND ON	
CLEARANCE	PER OUR CONVERSATION	
COMMENT	PER YOUR REQUEST	
FOR ACTION	PREPARE REPLY	
INFORMATION	RECOMMENDATION	
INITIAL	SIGNATURE	
NOTE AND FILE	URGENT	
REMARKS: Are you going to send anyone to this meeting? Please respond directly as Raymond Rowe is on leave.		
FROM: Raymond D.H. Rowe's office	ROOM NO.: N-5025	EXTENSION: 38972

Viet Nam

*Re: Vietnam Round
Table*

*Gov't has called the
meeting 9/ until July 1992 -
we will attend at that time.
Dowsett-Coirolo
3/3*



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Via delle Terme di Caracalla 00100 Rome Italy Tel (396) 57971 Tlx 610181

TFAP FACSIMILE No. (396) 5123747

FACSIMILE MESSAGE*Vietnam
File*

TO: Mr Tom Wiens
Principal Agricultural Economist
World Bank, East Asia & Pacific, Reg. Office
Washington, D.C.

FAX No. (202) 477 2733

cc: Mr Chip Rowe (202) 6760007 ✓
Mr A. Contreras (202) 4776391

FM: Matt Heering
Coordinator TFAP
FAX: 512 3747

F/Heering

DATE: 21 February 1992
OUR REF.: FO 24/2 VIE

NO. OF PAGES (INCL. COVER):

VIET NAM TROPICAL FORESTRY ACTION PLAN

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FAX OF 19 FEBRUARY ON THE ABOVE SUBJECT.

PLEASE NOTE THAT WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT THE ROUND TABLE III MEETING FOR VIET NAM HAS BEEN POSTPONED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM TO JULY 1992. THE EXACT DATES WILL BE COMMUNICATED LATER.

WITH REGARD TO THE TFAP DOCUMENTS, COPIES WERE SENT TO THE WORLD BANK AND ONE SET WAS GIVEN TO MR ARNOLDO CONTRERAS WHEN VISITED ROME ON TUESDAY LAST WEEK.

REGARDS.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURAL SUSTAINABILITY FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

A Coalition of Organizations Concerned about Agricultural Development

1709 New York Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006 Telephone: 202-638-6300

Facsimile: 202-638-0036 Telex: 64414 WRIWASH Direct Dial: (202) 662-

*Vietnam
File*

February 6, 1992

Raymond D. H. Rowe
Forestry Advisor (AGR)
World Bank, Room N-8065
1818 H Street, NW
Washington, DC 20433

Dear Mr. Rowe:

I thought you would find the enclosed copy of my letter to World Bank President Lewis Preston interesting. I wrote it to follow up on concerns of people at IRRI about the destructive potential of loans to Viet Nam for the purchase of pesticides. I welcome any comments.

Sincerely,

Robert O. Blake
Robert O. Blake
Committee Chairman

*No
Comments*

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURAL SUSTAINABILITY FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

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1709 New York Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006 Telephone: 202-638-6300

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January 13, 1992

Lewis Preston
President
World Bank
1818 H St., NW
Washington, DC

Dear Lew,

I recently had the pleasure of spending several days at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) at Los Banos. IRRI is doing a good job of attacking two problems: improving rice yields at a time when productivity is in doubt; and helping farmers find practical ways to protect the soil and water on which long run production depends. You might be interested in the enclosed report on IRRI's work that I wrote for my Committee.

My principle purpose for writing, however, is to alert you to a problem which surfaced during my visit to IRRI, namely their concerns regarding a proposed World Bank loan to Viet Nam for, among other things, the purchase of agricultural pesticides. My IRRI sources reported that their Viet Nameese counter-parts were very concerned lest the proposed loan for pesticides swamp their hard won and still unconsolidated success in establishing integrated pest management (IPM) systems. The Viet Nameese were also concerned that pesticide misuse, already serious in Viet Nam, could balloon and could pose new and bigger threats to farm families' health and result in pest resistance buildups.

Viet Nam is just beginning to make the transition from Soviet-sponsored pest control systems that relied on heavy use of dangerous pesticides. A big loan from the Bank, aimed too exclusively at the increase of rice productivity, could damage years of work unless special efforts are made establish a safer and more modern system. The hope of the Viet Nameese with whom IRRI is working is that the Bank will ensure that training in proper pesticide use for Viet Nameese farmers and regulators, the design of appropriate laws and regulations, and support for IPM research and extension will be required by the loan agreement.

Following my return from East Asia, I had several helpful talks with Bank personnel in your South East Asia office. They assured me that they totally share IRRI's concerns and are working with Dr. Peter Kenmore of FAO to make sure that Viet Nameese control over the choice and use of pesticides is appropriate, that farmer

Africare, CARE, Catholic Relief Services, CODEL, Conservation Foundation/World Wildlife Fund, Environmental Defense Fund, Environmental and Energy Study Institute, Environmental Policy Institute, Experiment in International Living, Freedom from Hunger, Global Tomorrow Coalition, Heifer Project International, Institute for Alternative Agriculture, International Union for the Conservation of Nature, National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges, National Audubon Society, National Wildlife Federation, Natural Resources Defense Council, Overseas Development Council, PACT, Pesticide Action Network, Plan International USA, Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Population Crisis Committee, Rodale Institute, Save the Children, Sierra Club, Technoserve, VITA, Winrock International, World Neighbors, World Resources Institute, World Vision Relief Organization, Worldwatch Institute, WorldWIDE

training is provided for, and that IPM practices will be supported and promoted. They also pledged to continue to work closely with IRRI and, if necessary, will not hesitate to reduce pesticide import supply if loan conditions are not met. I have so informed IRRI. We in the Committee are pleased with these reactions which seem to be fully consistent with the Bank's new operational directive on agricultural pest management. We understand that the latter is in the final stages of preparation. We must not lose this opportunity to help the Viet Nameese adopt strong policies promoting sound pesticide management.

More generally, I would like to signal for you a serious and continuing problem with Bank pesticide loans as seen by our Committee and by the environmental community: it has not usually been the design of such loans that causes difficulties, but failure to provide followup that is strong enough and persistent enough to ensure that Bank conditions for pesticide choice and control and farmer training are observed. Loan recipients also need to perceive readiness on the Bank's part to suspend disbursement promptly if loan conditions are not met. I bring this to your attention because Bank toughness and consistency on the observance of pesticide loans is one of those central issues on which the Bank's environmental credibility rides. In this case, we're glad to see things moving along the right channels and hope that they continue in that direction.

As Ever,



Robert O. Blake
Committee Chairman