

**THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAAD YAO DETENTION CENTER  
FOR HOODLUMS**

*by Pol. Col. Srisuk Dhamuraks*

The Vocational Training and Reform Center at Laad Yao, Bangkok District in Bangkok, is the first organization set up by the Ministry of Interior which authorizes the Commissioner of Metropolitan Police and the Governors of all the provinces, except Bangkok and Thonburi, to issue orders sending to this Center those persons suspected of being hoodlums. The Laad Yao Vocational Training and Reform Center occupies a part of the compound and prison buildings of the Klong Prem Central Penitentiary. On January 12, 1959, a committee for supervising the Center was appointed by the Ministry of Interior with the Director-General of the Penitentiary Department as chairman to reform and to provide vocational education to those under detention. On February 3, 1959, a committee for release of the well-behaved prisoners was appointed, with the Under-Secretary of State for the Ministry of Justice as Chairman, to release those under detention who seem to show signs of becoming good citizens.

In the provinces, provincial police are responsible for maintaining vocational training and reform centers, with the provincial governor as director and the superintendent of provincial police stations or chief inspectors of the district police as sub-directors. The Ministry of Interior has also set up a vocational training and reform center at Nong La-Lorg, Ban Khai District, Rayong Province, for those who have been released but have neither habitation nor property of their own. Each family is given plot of 15 rai of land (two and a half rais make an acre). A sum of 2,000 baht is also granted as a loan to each, under the condition that when the debt is paid ownership of the land is to be transferred to the occupant. A parole-system is also employed in releasing those considered to be of good behaviour.

In addition to the center at Nong La-Lorg, the Ministry of Interior has provided another center of the same kind at Rontong, Bang Span Yai District, in Prachuab-Kiri-Khand Province.

This thesis attempts to describe the administration of the Center at Laad Yao. It concludes that there is a need for more careful planning. Although daily reports of the work done and occasional evaluations help to improve the execution of functions, it is advisable for the committee supervising vocational training to check more closely on the performance of the officials

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assigned to carry out plans and programs. The most important factors in improving administrative procedures lie in the system of educational development and office management, as well as the enthusiasm for the work shown by administrators.

The question of justice is also considered. The writer doubts that administrative officials and police have always been just and fair in investigating and interrogating hoodlums who have committed offences. There have been cases where innocent persons have been put under detention. Numerous complaints had been submitted to the Prime Minister for consideration in connection with unjust arrests.

It is quite true that once the reasons of persons becoming hoodlums are definitely known, the methods of prevention and suppression of hoodlums may be carried out with greater simplicity. If, on the contrary, the sources enabling them to become hoodlums have not yet been entirely eliminated absolute suppression of these hoodlums can not yet be attained. The present government's drive on educational and economical developments may be considered as very important in the elimination of causes. But the greater problem of wider scope lies in producing good and intelligent citizens with high standards of morality.

Finally the writer is of an opinion that the Vocational Training and Reform Center at Laad-Yao has successfully attained its end, in accord with the intentions of the Revolutionary Party.

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