

## EXPERTS SEE MODEL FOR ASIA IN SUCCESSFUL LAND REFORM PROGRAM COMPLETED IN FORMOSA

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Catholic social experts here believe that the **land** reform program successfully completed on Formosa can serve as a model for those countries of Asia where inequitable distribution of **land** has been a traditional cause of discontent and a factor aiding the spread of communism. The Philippines, Thailand, Cambodia, Japan and South Korea have all sent groups to study the **land** reform program here. Wolf Ladejinsky, U.S. agricultural expert who was formerly **land** reform advisor to the government here and is now advising the Vietnam government, said that he intends to 'borrow' the Formosa **land** reform program for Vietnam.

"The **land** reform as carried out on Formosa has been fair and Just," says Father Rene Petit, S.J., head of the Social Department of the Catholic Bureau here, "in contrast to the so-called agrarian reform of the communists, there have been no violent liquidation of landlords, no confiscation of **land**, no oppression of peasants. The former tenant farmers have obtained real benefits, the landlords have received a fair deal. The **land** reform, which the Nationalist government already had a blue-print while on the mainland of China, but which civil war with the communists made impossible to effectively implement comprised the following phases:

1. Farm rent reduction.
2. Sale of public, or government owned **land**.
3. Government purchase and resale of private tenanted **land**.

In the first phase, initiated in 1949, rents were uniformly reduced to 37.5% of the main crop. Previously tenant-farmers had been paying an average .of 60% of the main crop. This phase also included provisions of tenure security. Formerly tenure could be terminated at the will of the landlord. In the second phase 63,000 chla (one chla equals a little more than 2 acres) of public **land** were sold to 120,000 tenant families. The farmer paid for the **land** a price equal to 2 times the annual value of the main crop. He pays off the debt over a period of ten years in 20 semi-annual installments.