

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY Intelligence Information Cable

PRIORITY

IN 43655

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17091-22-3

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DIST 4 FEBRUARY 1968

COUNTRY SOUTH VIETNAM

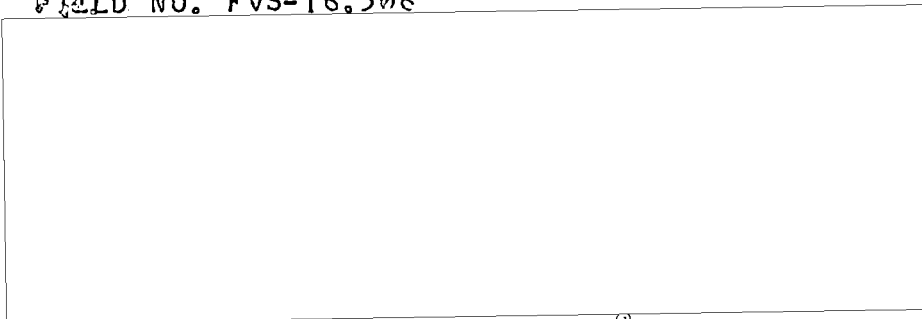
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SUBJECT COMMENTS OF FINANCE MINISTER LUU VAN TINH
ON THE PERFORMANCE OF PRIME MINISTER NGUYEN
VAN LOC DURING TET OFFENSIVE CRISIS

ACQ VIETNAM SAIGON (4 FEBRUARY 1968)

FIELD NO. FVS-16.506

SOURCE



1. MINISTER OF FINANCE, LUU VAN TINH, STATED ON
4 FEBRUARY THAT PRIME MINISTER NGUYEN VAN LOC'S PERFORMANCE
DURING THE PRESENT CRISIS HAS DEMONSTRATED HIS INABILITY
TO DEAL WITH MAJOR PROBLEMS. TINH SAID THAT VARIOUS
MINISTRIES AND DEPARTMENTS SEEMED TO BE UNABLE TO FUNCTION

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PROPERLY. SPECIFICALLY, HE NOTED THAT THE SOCIAL WELFARE AND HEALTH MINISTRIES WERE HANDLING THEIR MISSIONS POORLY AND THAT MINISTER OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND REFUGEES NGUYEN PHUC QUE DID NOT KNOW HOW TO USE THE RESOURCES AT HIS DISPOSAL. TINH ATTRIBUTED THIS SITUATION IN PART TO A LACK OF POSITIVE DIRECTION FROM PRIME MINISTER LOC, AND SAID THAT LOC HAS NOT SHOWN ANY LEADERSHIP QUALITIES DURING THE CRISIS.

2. LOC TOLD TINH ON 4 FEBRUARY THAT HIS PRIMARY CONCERN NOW WAS THAT HIS CABINET WOULD BE DISSOLVED THROUGH MILITARY PRESSURE AND THAT PRESIDENT NGUYEN VAN THIEU WOULD RULE INDEFINITELY BY DECREE.



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