

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Intelligence Information Cable

ROUTINE 3.5(c)

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DIST 28 DECEMBER 1967

COUNTRY SOUTH VIETNAM 3.3(h)(2)

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SUBJECT SUMMARY OF VIET CONG ACTIVITIES IN DARLAC PROVINCE DURING NOVEMBER 1967

ACQ VIETNAM, NHA TRANG (16 DEC 1967)

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SOURCE THIS IS A VIETNAM SITUATION REPORT PREPARED AS OF 30 NOVEMBER 1967 BY A CAS OFFICER IN DARLAC PROVINCE BASED ON ALL INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO HIM, INCLUDING VIETNAMESE INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY FIELD OFFICE REPORTS, AND ON PERSONAL OBSERVATION.

SUMMARY. DURING NOVEMBER THE VIET CONG /VC/ INCREASED THEIR REQUISITIONING OF FOODSTUFFS IN DARLAC PROVINCE, IN SPITE OF SOME RESISTANCE FROM VILLAGERS. THE IMPORTANCE OF FOOD TO THE VC WAS ALSO EVIDENT IN REPORTS OF FOOD PURCHASES AND INSTANCES OF FORCED LABOR TO GROW CROPS. INFORMATION REPORTS DESCRIBED VC INDOCTRINATION, MILITARY TRAINING AND THOUGHT REFORM COURSES. A SUCCESSFUL PROPAGANDA TEAM OPERATED IN BAN ME THUOT AND THE VC HAVE REORGANIZED BUONS /VILLAGES/, WHILE DRAFTING VILLAGERS FOR MILITARY AND SUPPORT DUTIES. END SUMMARY.

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1. DURING NOVEMBER, THE VIET CONG /VC/ INCREASED THEIR EFFORTS TO LEVY RICE AND FOOD REQUIREMENTS ON VILLAGERS OF DARLAC PROVINCE. ACCORDING TO A VIETNAMESE SECURITY SERVICE FIELD REPORT, VILLAGERS OF TU CUNG LAND DEVELOPMENT CENTER /LDC/ WERE ORDERED TO CONTRIBUTE 50 PERCENT OF THEIR PRODUCE AND SOME FARM UTENSILS. IN A JOINT REQUEST, THE VILLAGERS ASKED THAT THE CONTRIBUTION OF UTENSILS BE DROPPED AND THAT THE RICE CONTRIBUTION BE REDUCED TO 30 PERCENT. THE VC REFUSED THEIR REQUEST. OTHER REPORTS INDICATED THAT THE VILLAGERS HAD REJECTED VC FOOD REQUISITIONS WHILE FACED WITH THREATS OF THEIR HAMLETS BEING BURNT AND OF BEING ASSIGNED TO THOUGHT REFORM COURSES.

2. ALTHOUGH THERE HAS BEEN SOME LOCAL RESISTANCE TO FOOD REQUISITIONING, THE VC WERE VERY SUCCESSFUL DURING THE MONTH. VIETNAMESE SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE SERVICE FIELD REPORTS INDICATED THAT LARGE AMOUNTS WERE COLLECTED. ALTHOUGH IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO ESTIMATE THE TOTAL AMOUNT, ONE REPORT STATED THAT 34 ELEPHANTS WERE REQUIRED TO TRANSPORT CORN AND RICE FROM ONE LDC TO A CACHE, WITH A LOAD OF FOUR 100-KILO BAGS ON EACH ELEPHANT.

3. THE VC DO NOT ALWAYS CONFISCATE RICE FROM VILLAGERS. MANY VIETNAMESE INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY SERVICE REPORTS HAVE INDICATED AN INCREASE IN CROP AND LIVESTOCK PURCHASES. ONE

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VILLAGE RECEIVED NEW 500 AND 200 PIASTRE BILLS FROM THE VC TO PURCHASE SALT, FISH SAUCE, DRIED FISH AND TOBACCO IN BAN ME THUOT. SOME VC COMPANIES, AFTER SPLITTING INTO GROUPS OF FOUR OR FIVE MEN, WERE DISPERSED TO VARIOUS FARMS TO HELP HARVEST CROPS IN AN EFFORT TO GAIN POPULAR SUPPORT.

4. IN ONE AREA OF DARLAC, THE VC FORCED 120 VILLAGERS FROM THREE DIFFERENT HAMLETS TO GROW AND HARVEST RICE IN AN ABANDONED LDC. A VIETNAMESE INTELLIGENCE SERVICE SOURCE REPORTED THAT THE AREA WAS DIVIDED INTO SECTIONS-- A 4-HECTARE SQUARE AREA RESERVED FOR SOLDIERS OF THE H-4 DISTRICT COMMITTEE, A 2-HECTARE SQUARE AREA RESERVED FOR VILLAGERS WHO HARVESTED THE CROPS, AND A 4-HECTARE SQUARE AREA RESERVED FOR THE H-4 DISTRICT COMMITTEE. AT HARVEST TIME ADDITIONAL VILLAGERS WERE ORDERED TO HELP WITH THE CROPS.

5. VC CHECKPOINTS, POPULATION CONTROL AND TAX COLLECTION STATIONS APPEARED FREQUENTLY ON NATIONAL ROUTE 14 AND 21 DURING NOVEMBER ALTHOUGH THEY WERE HARASSED BY U.E. AIRCRAFT, OBSERVATION PLANES AND VIETNAMESE SECURITY FORCES. TAXES LEVIED ON TRAVELLERS WERE IN DIFFERENT FORMS -- MONEY, PRODUCE, AND LIVESTOCK.

6. THE VC REMAINED ACTIVE IN INDOCTRINATION, MILITARY TRAINING AND THOUGHT REFORM COURSES. A VIETNAMESE SECURITY SERVICE REPORTED THAT THE H-4 DISTRICT COMMITTEE ORDERED ALL BUONS /VILLAGES/

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IN ITS AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY TO SEND TWO YOUTHS TO A 15-DAY MILITARY TRAINING COURSE. THIS ORDER WAS CARRIED OUT BY THE VILLAGE AUTONOMOUS ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD. FORTY VILLAGERS FROM ONE BUON WERE FORCED TO ATTEND A MILITARY TRAINING COURSE WITH SPECIAL INSTRUCTION ON WEAPONS AND IN OTHER INSTANCES VILLAGERS WERE USED AS FORCED LABORERS IN HELPING THE VC PREPARE BRIDGE DESTRUCTION OPERATIONS, ROAD AMBUSHES AND MORTAR SITES. A VIETNAMESE INTELLIGENCE SERVICE REPORTED THAT THE H-4 DISTRICT COMMITTEE INSTRUCTED ITS CADRES IN THE FOLLOWING TASKS-- TO URGE PEOPLE TO RESIST THE GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM, TO STIMULATE YOUTH TO FOLLOW THE VC, TO MOTIVATE PEOPLE TO PRODUCE FOOD FOR THE VC, TO APPEAL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS AND TO URGE PEOPLE TO WORK FOR THE VC AS LABORERS.

7. VIETNAMESE SECURITY SERVICE SOURCES HAVE REPORTED ON A NEW PROPAGANDA TEAM OPERATING IN BAN ME THUOT CITY. THE TEAM IS TARGETED AGAINST ARMY OF VIETNAM /ARVN/ PERSONNEL AND HAS HAD SOME SUCCESS. AT LEAST 14 MILITARY DESERTIONS HAVE BEEN ATTRIBUTED TO THE INFLUENCE OF THIS TEAM ALTHOUGH ARVN OFFICIALS HAVE NOT CONFIRMED THIS ALLEGATION.



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