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Mr. Angus Thurmer  
Assistant to the Director  
GACarver, Jr.

Mr. Elden Aldridge

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[ ] gave me a copy of Mr. Aldridge's 26 October letter and asked for guidance on how to respond. My ever efficient associates have looked into the matter and prepared the attached response. In this case, I think they were probably too efficient since in my view it would be better for the response to go out over your signature rather than mine. In any event, the facts are as set forth in the attached draft letter which you can handle as you see fit.

George A. Carver, Jr.  
Special Assistant for Vietnamese Affairs

Attachment

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1- Mac Chono  
1- VAS Chono

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

15 November 1971

Mr. Elden Aldridge  
Bidili Press  
P.O. Box 1107  
Austin, Texas 78767

Dear Mr. Aldridge:

Your letter of October 26 was referred to this office for reply and we apologize for the delay in handling your request.

"The Committee for the Denunciation of U. S. - Puppet War Crimes in South Vietnam," an affiliate organization of the so-called National Front for the Liberation of South Vietnam, was founded in March 1966.

Its members include: Chairman: Thich Thien Hao  
Secretary General: Ung Ngoc Ky  
Members: Nguyen Ngoc Thong  
Ito Thu  
Nguyen Van Cu  
Le Van Huan  
Tan Duc  
Bui Thi Me

The full text of the requested statement, as released by Hanoi's Vietnam News Agency (VNA) on 16 August 1968, is enclosed.

We hope to have been of service to you.

George A. Carver, Jr.  
Special Assistant for Vietnamese Affairs

Enclosure

SOUTH VIETNAM

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II. 16 Aug 68

I take advantage of this occasion to convey, on behalf of all fighters and officers of the liberation army and the South Vietnamese people's armed forces, most heartfelt greetings to all soldiers and officers of the People's Army of Fraternal Bulgaria.

WAR CRIMES COMMITTEE DENOUNCES U.S. ACTS

Hanoi VNA International Service in English 0547 GMT 15 Aug 68 B

[Text] Hanoi--The committee to denounce war crimes committed by the U.S. imperialists and their henchmen in South Vietnam has issued a statement denouncing the crimes perpetrated by the United States and its puppets since the beginning of 1968 in South Vietnam. The statement, dated 12 August and released by LIBERATION PRESS AGENCY, said:

In their frantic attempts to save themselves from complete defeat in South Vietnam, the U.S. imperialists and their henchmen since the beginning of 1968 have made all-out efforts to step up their war of aggression, committing many more bloody crimes in defiance of the stern condemnation of our people and the peace-loving and justice-loving people of the world, including progressive people in the United States.

The U.S. aggressors have been pouring more troops into South Vietnam, bringing the U.S. expeditionary corps of 389,000 as of the end of 1967 to over 550,000 at present. They have allocated tens of billion of dollars more toward the war in Vietnam and introduced into South Vietnam thousands of additional satellite troops, hundreds of aircraft and warships, and millions of tons of weapons, ammunition, and other war material. They have ordered the Thieu-Ky-Huong puppet clique to launch a general mobilization to squeeze more manpower and material from the people in an attempt to revive the moribund puppet army and use it as an instrument to prolong their war of aggression here.

At the same time, the U.S. imperialists and their henchmen have become more and more rabid in their acts of genocide and destruction, piling up towering crimes against the South Vietnamese people. Since February, they have wreaked destruction with explosives on more than 130 towns, cities, and provincial capitals throughout South Vietnam, including Saigon, Hue, Dalat, Phan Thiet, Kontum, Pleiku, Ban Me Thuot, Can Tho, Ben Tre, My Tho, Chau Doc, Vinh Long, and Ca Mau. In 42 urban centers in the Mekong Delta, more than 10,000 homes have been ruined, and equal number of civilians killed or wounded, and 30,000 others rendered homeless.

The U.S. aggressors have increased to an unprecedented degree their use of explosives and various weapons banned by international law to massacre the people. They have used B-52 strategic bombers to make systematic attacks on almost all the regions of South Vietnam, especially heavily populated areas and adjoining the towns, including Saigon. In May alone, B-52's made more than 1,800 sorties in South Vietnam. According to AP, the bomb tonnage used by the United States within a 40-day period over areas surrounding Saigon equaled that used for all of South Vietnam in 1962, 1963, and 1964 put together.

U.S. bombers of other types have also caused heavy destruction to many heavily populated areas in the provinces of Quang Tri, Thua Thien, Quang Nam, Khanh Hoa, Binh Dinh, Phan Thiet, Vinh Long, Tra Vinh, Can Tho, Long An, and Rach Gia.

16 Aug 68

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SOU VIETNAM

Approved For Release 2006/02/10 : CIA-RDP80R01720R000700030080-0

The use of high concentration chemicals has been increased to an unprecedented degree against more than 20 provinces to destroy vegetation on thousands of square kilometers, thus depriving the people of their means of living. The chemicals have affected, in many cases mortally, thousands of civilians, mostly women, aged people, and children. In Ben Tre Province alone, 100,000 hectares of ricefields and orchards have been ravaged by U.S. toxic chemicals. On 15 May 1968, the United States dropped poison gas bombs on Da Phuoc Roi and An Thanh villages in (No Cay) district, Ben Tre Province. As a result, more than 500 old folks and hundreds of children were asphyxiated and vomited blood. In Gio Linh district, Quang Tri Province, the United States has destroyed with toxic chemicals crops and vegetation covering 540 square kilometers. In Hue, Saigon, and many other cities, poison gas of various kinds has been used by the United States to terrify and massacre South Vietnamese people.

The U.S. aggressors and their henchmen are applying ever more ferociously the "burn all, kill all, destroy all" policy and herding people into concentration camps. They have launched innumerable sweeps and bloody operations in both towns and countryside, killing and looting many people. In Gio Lo district, Quang Tri Province, the U.S. aggressors have reduced to ashes 268 out of the 316 hamlets of the district. In northern Quang Nam, Pak Chong-hui troops from 2 to 18 March 1968 raided a number of villages in Dien Ban district, killing 734 civilians.

On 16 March 1968 troops of the U.S. 3d Brigade, 82d Paratroop Division, raided Son My village, Son Tinh district, Quang Ngai Province, massacring 502 persons, including more than 170 children and hundreds of women and old and weak people. In Pleiku, Kontum, Quang-Tri, Thua Thien, Quang Nam, Quang Ngai, Binh Dinh, Phu Yen, and other provinces, the U.S. aggressors and their lackeys conducted many sweeps during harvest time. They drove tanks across tens of thousands of hectares of ricefields, burned the people's houses, massacred the inhabitants, and set fire to or plundered thousands of tons of the people's rice. Looting operations have been carried out right in the cities and provincial and district capitals. On 26 July 1968, hundreds of GI's in Cam Ranh town plundered the population in broad daylight.

The U.S. aggressors and their flunkys have systematically destroyed many cultural and religious projects and age-old historical relics of our people, and are continuing to do so. The world knows that they have bombed and strafed Hue, the former imperial capital, turning into rubble more than 80 percent of the walls, palaces, places of worship, historical projects, and dwelling houses of the people. They have ruined hundreds of churches, pagodas, and other places of worship, schools and hospitals, such as the Du Sinh Church, the Virgin Mary Church in Dalat, the An Quang Pagoda in Saigon, the Bao Quoc and Dieu De pagodas in Hue, the Phat An and Pho Duc pagodas in My Tho, the Cao Dai Holy See in Ben Tre, the Samacum Pagoda in Soc Trang, Hue University, the Dalat bacteriological institute, and so forth.

In the area under their control, the U.S. aggressors and the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique of traitors have frantically terrorized, arrested, imprisoned, tortured, and massacred patriots and those who advocate peace and neutrality, including members of the puppet army and administration who are opposed to them.

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The capital punishment of the members of the central committee of the Vietnam Alliance of National, Democratic, and Peace Forces (workers), intellectuals, students, and personnel of the puppet administration, and most recently, the coldblooded murder of Tran Quoc Chuong, a student, on account of his ideas about peace, have laid bare the fascist nature of the U.S. aggressors and their henchmen.

The statement pointed out that these criminal acts have also revealed the deceitful, hypocritical character of the U.S. contentions about its desire for peace, restraint, deescalation, and so forth. The statement earnestly called on the people, governments, mass organizations, and democratic and progressive personalities, including progressive people in the United States, to condemn more severely the crimes of the U.S. aggressors and their lackeys against the Vietnamese people, take urgent and energetic action to check the bloody hands of the U.S. aggressors and their lackeys, and give stronger support and assistance to the Vietnamese people.

The statement expressed the determination of the Vietnamese people to fulfill their just cause of liberating the south, defending the north, and achieving the peaceful reunification of the country, thus making an active contribution to the safeguarding of world peace.

#### STUDENT MEMBERS OF ALLIANCE INTERVIEWED

Hanoi in Vietnamese to South Vietnam 0800 GMT 14 Aug 68 S

[Student interviews on sentencing of alliance leaders--read by announcer]

[Text] Recently, Liberation Radio interviewed representatives of youths and college and high-school students to the central committee of the Vietnam Alliance of National, Democratic, and Peace Forces concerning the death sentence in absentia passed on leaders of the alliance by the U.S.-Thieu-Ky-Huong clique.

Answering a question on his first impressions upon learning of the pronouncement of the sentence on the leaders of the central committee of the Vietnam Alliance of National, Democratic, and Peace Forces, among whom are representatives of youths and high-school and college students, Tran Trieu Luat said:

"Not till now had the U.S. aggressors and their lackeys sentenced youths and high-school and college students to death. Now they have implemented a mobilization policy to send many of our youths and high-school and college students to die in their place. They have just passed a death sentence on youths of all ages by enforcing a general mobilization. With this death sentence facing me, I have ignored the death sentence in absentia they have just passed on me."

Le Huu Dang stated: "Upon learning of the death sentence in absentia, I immediately thought of those youths and high-school and college students who previously engaged in the struggle and were sentenced to death by the lackey Saigon administration. They were Le Quang Vinh, Le Hong Tu, and others. This thought caused me to feel somewhat proud. Struggling against the Americans for national salvation is not only a sacred duty, but also a great honor for youths. I felt greatly honored when I was sentenced to death by the U.S.-Thieu-Ky-Huong clique."

Executive Registry

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P.O. Box 1107

Austin, Texas 78767

October 26, 1971

Mr. Richard M. Helms, Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D. C. 20505

Dear Mr. Helms:

During the past three years I have researched and written a book on our first 130 Medal of Honor recipients for the Vietnam War. When the War ends and all awards of the Medal have been made, I will prepare a second volume.

In the course of my research I have consulted both US and North Vietnamese sources. In a North Vietnamese document entitled Vietnamese Studies No. 22, The Year 1968 (Chronology), available from China Books & Periodicals, 2929 24th St., San Francisco, California 94110, there appeared an item on pages 222-223 (see attached xerox copy) which I wonder if your Agency could verify. Did the Commission for the Denunciation of US War Crimes in South Viet Nam actually issue that Communique on 12 August 1968 which referred in part to the My Lai (Son My) massacre?

I would appreciate it if you could tell me anything about the Commission, who its members are, and, if possible, supply a copy of the alleged Communique.

Sincerely,

*Elden Aldridge*

Elden Aldridge

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Enclosure

can greatly contribute to ending a tragic adventure of the United States.

— Senator McGovern says he stands for election to the US presidency with two aims: to stop the war and put an end to division within the nation.

— 280 pacifists of Japan and other countries hold a three-day conference in Tokyo to discuss peace in Viet Nam.

#### AUGUST 12

— *Communique of the Commission for the Denunciation of US War Crimes in South Viet Nam:*

Massive increase of the US expeditionary corps (from 381,000 men at the close of 1967 to 550,000 at present), of mercenaries from satellite countries and of puppet troops. Intensification of massacres and devastations (since February 1968, 130 towns and urban centres devastated, 10,000 habitations destroyed, over 10,000 civilian casualties and over 300,000 homeless persons in 42 towns and urban centres in the Mekong delta). Massive bombings even of populous regions (1,800 sorties of B-52 super-bombers in May 1968; in 40 days, the tonnage of bombs dropped in the vicinity of Saigon equals that used against the whole of South Viet Nam from 1962 to 1964.) Massive use of toxic chemicals. Systematic destruction of villages and crime of genocide against the population: 268 hamlets out of a total

of 316 in Camle district, Quang Tri province razed to the ground, 502 persons — 170 children, the rest being women and old people — massacred on March 16, 1968 at Son My, north of Quang Ngai, 734 others massacred by Korean mercenaries south of Da Nang (from March 2 to 18). Crimes of vandalism against the Vietnamese people's cultural heritage (destruction of more than 80% of ancient monuments in Hue, former imperial capital of Viet Nam.) Fascist terror against the urban populations.

— An important US signal centre in Qui Nhon attacked.

— The journal *Chinh Luan* of Saigon remarks: "North Viet Nam has been making a formidable effort in the cultural field... During that time, South Viet Nam can export only pornographic novels, cheap love stories, detective novels copied from foreign publications... In this absence of national roots, a new activity is developing: propaganda for American culture. But this propaganda remains poor in content."

— 534 American writers demand cessation of the bombing of North Viet Nam.

— The Cambodian Government issues a statement vigorously condemning articles published by some American newspapers (among them the *Washington Post* and *New York Post*) on the alleged "presence of North Vietnamese planes and 11 Vietnamese bases on Cambodian territory." Rather US planes have brazenly violated Cambodian air space.

17 November 1971

Mr. Elden Aldridge  
Bidili Press  
P.O. Box 1107  
Austin, Texas 78767

Dear Mr. Aldridge:

This is in reply to your letter of 26 October concerning a communique issued by the Communist side in Vietnam.

"The Committee for the Denunciation of U.S.-Puppet War Crimes in South Vietnam," an affiliate organization of the so-called National Front for the Liberation of South Vietnam, was founded in March 1966.

Its members include: Chairman: Thich Thien Hao  
Secretary General: Ung Ngoc Ky  
Members: Nguyen Ngoc Thong  
Ito Thu  
Nguyen Van Cu  
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Tan Duc  
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The full text of the requested statement, as released by Hanoi's Vietnam News Agency (VNA) on 16 August 1968, is enclosed.

We hope to have been of service to you.

Sincerely,

(/s/) Angus MacLean Thuermer

Angus MacLean Thuermer  
Assistant to the Director

Enclosure