

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Indochina/Thailand

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SUBJECT Villification of Nguyen Duc Quy

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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1. A pro-Bao Dai group of Vietnamese in Bangkok headed by Phuoc San* has recently issued a pamphlet denouncing the private life of Nguyen Duc Quy, head of the Ho Chi Minh Government delegation in Bangkok. The pamphlet contained photographic reproductions of a number of letters written by Quy to his mistress Pham Thu Kinh between July 1947 and December 1948. These letters indicated that Quy had given his mistress 5000 ticals and later sought to have the money returned after he had broken their relationship. Miss Kinh became bitter and resentful at Quy and sold the letters to Phuoc Sanh. Aim of the publication of this pamphlet was to expose the debauchery of Quy's private life and to charge that his extravagance was at the expense of the Vietnamese people in Thailand, whose funds he had embezzled.**
2. The reaction of the Viet Minh in Bangkok to the publication of this pamphlet was immediate. Tran Mai, chief of the Viet Nam News Service, wished to write an article in the Vietnamese language bulletins of the Viet Nam News Service answering the charges and accusing those responsible for making them as being tools of the French. Kom counseled against taking this step, feeling that it would give more publicity to the accusations. He wished to take more discreet measures while waiting for the charges to die a natural death. To counteract the pamphlet Kom instructed the various Viet Minh Com-bos to orally answer the charges by pointing out that Quy's private life and his public life were two separate things, that his activities and courage in the face of adversity over the past few years had been of great assistance to the Vietnamese cause, that the Government had complete faith in him and his attackers were traitors in the pay of the French.***
3. According to Phuoc San's assistant, the pamphlet attacking Quy is only the beginning of a campaign designed to discredit various Viet Minh leaders. Similar revelations regarding other leaders will be made in the future.

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* [REDACTED] Comment. [REDACTED] gives additional information on Phuoc Sanh.

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** [REDACTED] Comment. The publication of this attack on Quy's private life had considerable effect on the Vietnamese population of Bangkok. Viet Minh members in Bangkok commented unfavorably on Quy's conduct pointing out that Quy was derelict in his duty in allowing himself to become deeply involved in a love affair and to have lent his mistress large sums of money. In this connection it is rumored that the 5000 ticals mentioned in the letters represents

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only a small part of the sums spent by Quy on his mistress. This has raised the suspicion that "certain foreign powers" may have been secretly giving money to Quy. There is no proof that the money spent by Quy on Miss Kinh was improperly obtained. Quy's parents in Hanoi were wealthy and when he was in Hong Kong in 1947 he had a substantial personal account there. Despite the possible explanations of a proper source for the money, the unfavorable rumors concerning Quy continue to circulate.

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** ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ Comment. Xom's counter-propaganda has already achieved considerable success. Whether it has yet completely neutralized the effect of the pamphlet cannot be determined at present. Xom is apparently prepared to give Quy full support.

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