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02-A-0404

Approved For Release 2000/05/18 : CIA-RDP82-00457R004100

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO

CD  
418

CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY Indochina

DATE DISTR. 13 JAN 50

SUBJECT Viet Minh Activity in Hanoi Area

NO. OF PAGES 1

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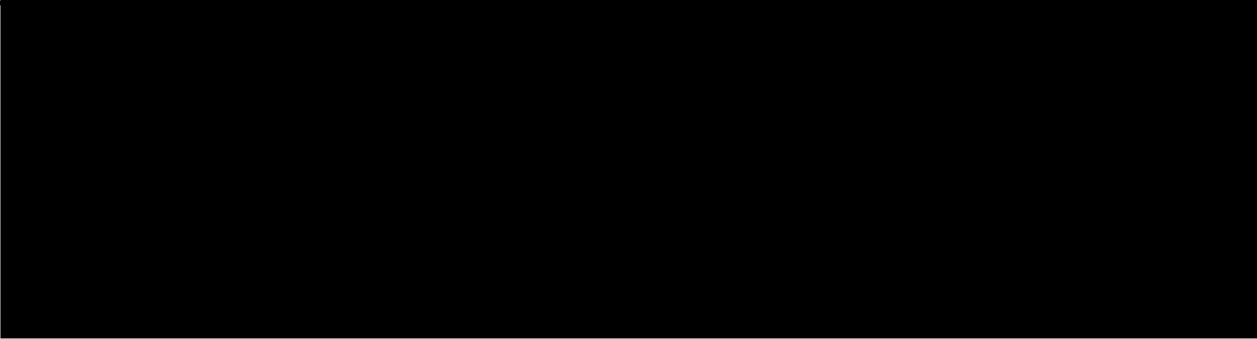
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DATE OF

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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1. There is little overt evidence of Viet Minh propaganda activity in the immediate area of the city of Hanoi and comparatively little evidence of other types of overt activity. The existence of a Viet Minh organization in Hanoi is known but the identity of its members is not. There are believed to be Viet Minh elements within the Vietnamese police force and among the employees of the Bao Dai Government in Hanoi. It is believed that several of the Vietnamese leaders now residing in Hanoi who have refused to participate in the Bao Dai Government have access to information originating from Viet Minh sources.\* On the surface these individuals continue to maintain an "attentists" ("wait and see") attitude.
2. The daily broadcasts of the Viet Minh radio are heard in Hanoi. These broadcasts are mainly composed of news about military conquests, which have about as much foundation in fact as some of the more extravagant French claims; news of the wonderful progress being made by the zones under Viet Minh control; fanciful plans for the improvement of the lot of the Vietnamese people; and exhortations to the people on all subjects, stressing the defeat of the French invader. How large an audience is reached by these broadcasts is a matter of conjecture. Most of the Vietnamese in the French-controlled cities have radios but there are very few among the people in the countryside. Much of what is broadcast by the Viet Minh radio is believed by those Vietnamese who hear it.

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Next Review Date: 2008

Document No.                       
 NO CHANGE in Class.   
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 Class. CHANGED TO: TS S C  
 DDA Memo: 4 Apr 77  
 Auth: DDA REG. 77/1763  
 Date: 1 JUN 1978 By: 22

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