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COUNTRY: Vietnam

SUBJECT: Nationalistic Attitudes Towards French Colonialism, Communism, and the US Pages: 2

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nation by [REDACTED]

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1. After being in the US for three years, I have begun to realize that US citizens cannot comprehend the feeling in Vietnam concerning Communism and Colonialism in Vietnam. They do not realize that the very word "Indochina" is an insult to a Vietnamese. In the eyes of the Vietnamese, the US is now identified with French colonial policy, and US prestige is rapidly decreasing. The Vietnamese wish to be a free nation; they hate French colonialism more than Communism which they do not fear. Vietnamese realize that the US fought Japan for Southeast Asia as well as for its own protection, that the US forces are fighting Communistic aggression in Korea, but that they are not fighting for the freedom of the Vietnamese. In my opinion the US should deal directly with Vietnam-not through the French Commissioner.
2. The Vietminh forces in Vietnam are obviously sponsored by Communist arms and money. Ho-Chi-Minh and a small group at the top of the Vietminh Army are true Communists, but the rank and file are motivated by nationalism and anti-colonialism. Once the French withdraw from Vietnam, I think the Communistic influence in Vietminh will be immediately purged.
3. The US press completely distorts the problem of Vietnam by referring to the concept that the French are fighting Communism in Vietnam; rather Nationalists are fighting French Colonialism. The US press never prints the truth about Vietnam if it is anti-French. How many Americans know that Ho-Chi-Minh was bought from Chiang-Kai-Shek for US\$4 million in order to counter the nationalistic sentiment and create a coalition government which would never be strong enough to defeat French forces? Did not the French assassinate ex-emperors of Vietnam before they installed Bao-Dai? Did not French forees in attacking the diocese of Phat-diem destroy Catholic churches and convents belonging to the native clergy in Vietnam? Did not French forces rape whole convents of nuns in Phat-diem in retaliation for Catholic support of Ho-Chi-Minh? Do not attempt to equate native clergy support for Ho-Chi-Minh as pro-Communist activity; if the Vatican viewed it as pro-Communist, excommunication would result.

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4. The anti-US sentiment in Vietnam is rapidly increasing. In time, I think that it will reach the climax of destroying US arms that are shipped to French forces. If US forces replaced French forces in Vietnam and gave Vietnam a promise of complete independence, I think enough Vietminh forces would surrender to cause a termination of hostilities in six days. Vietnamese are aware that at any moment, Chinese Communists might invade Vietnam in large numbers; but Vietnamese feel that public opinion would at least be unified and the invader could be defeated with US military aid.
5. Bao-Dai has recently increased in favor among the Vietnamese because of his recent strong attitude toward the French. The formation of the new staff of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs may continue to increase Bao Dai's prestige in the eyes of the Vietnamese.

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