



# Intelligence Information Report

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REPORT NO. CS-311/01241-72

DATE DISTR. 3 MARCH 1972

COUNTRY SOUTH VIETNAM

DOI 1969 - EARLY OCTOBER 1971

SUBJECT VIET CONG POLICY ON HANDLING OF VIETNAMESE MILITARY, POLITICAL AND U.S. PRISONERS IN VIET CONG BEN TRE PROVINCE IN THE DELTA

A CQ VIETNAM, CAN THO (EARLY NOVEMBER 1971)

SOURCE

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501-08 VC/MIA handling

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1.3(a)(4)

1. [ ] [ ] REPORTED THAT VIET CONG (VC) MO CAY DISTRICT, VC BEN TRE PROVINCE, OPERATED TWO PRISON CAMPS DURING THE PERIOD 1968 TO 1969. (FIELD COMMENT: VC BEN TRE PROVINCE INCLUDES GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM (GVN) KIEN HOA AND PART OF VINH LONG PROVINCES.) ONE CAMP WAS FOR MILITARY PRISONERS, SUCH AS ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM (ARVN) AND REGIONAL FORCES (RF) TROOPS, AND THE SECOND PRISON WAS FOR PERSONS ACCUSED OF WORKING FOR GVN INTELLIGENCE SERVICES. [ ] KNEW OF NO U.S. PRISONERS IN THESE TWO CAMPS DURING THIS PERIOD. THE CAMP FOR MILITARY PRISONERS USUALLY HELD ABOUT 20 PERSONS AND THAT FOR CIVILIANS FROM 30 TO 40. AS A GENERAL PRACTICE, PRISONERS WERE KEPT IN THE MILITARY PRISON CAMP FOR A PERIOD OF SIX MONTHS TO A YEAR, WERE INDOCTRINATED AND RELEASED. IN THE CIVILIAN PRISON CAMP, THOSE FOUND TO HAVE COMMITTED SERIOUS CRIMES AGAINST THE VC WERE INTERROGATED AND THEN SENTENCED BY A MILITARY COURT. SOME PRISONERS WERE SECRETLY EXECUTED,

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INCLUDING CHIN C U C, HAI M I E N, HAI C A T, CHIN C U O I, YEN S U O N G, NGUYEN VAN T I E P, HOANG V U, HO VAN C A M, NGUYEN VAN H Y AND NGUYEN CAN B E.

2. IN MID-1969, THE CENTRAL OFFICE FOR SOUTH VIETNAM (COSVN) ISSUED A DIRECTIVE TO THE VC MO CAY DISTRICT PARTY COMMITTEE INSTRUCTING IT TO REVIEW THE RECORDS OF ALL PRISONERS AND, BASED ON THE CRIMES WHICH HAD BEEN COMMITTED, TO DETERMINE WHETHER THEY SHOULD BE RELEASED OR EXECUTED. [ ] SAID THAT PRISONERS HELD IN BOTH THE MILITARY AND CIVILIAN CAMPS AT THIS TIME WERE RELEASED AND NONE WERE EXECUTED. COSVN ALSO DIRECTED THAT THE DISTRICT PARTY COMMITTEE ESTABLISH TEMPORARY DETENTION FACILITIES AT THE DISTRICT AND VILLAGE LEVELS TO HOLD PRISONERS. THE DIRECTIVE STATED THAT THE CHANGE WAS NECESSARY TO ECONOMIZE ON FOOD AND TO RELEASE GUARDS FOR OTHER DUTIES. THE DIRECTIVE NOTED THAT A LACK OF SECURE AREAS IN THE PROVINCE WAS EXPOSING THE PRISON CAMPS TO GVN OPERATIONS AND THAT PRISONERS WOULD PROBABLY BE LESS EMBITTERED AGAINST THE VC IF RELEASED THEN, RATHER THAN LATER BY THE GVN FORCES.

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3. [ ] SAID THAT THE PRISON CAMPS IN VC MO CAY DISTRICT WERE NOT AT FIXED LOCATIONS. PRISONERS WERE INITIALLY INTERROGATED IN THE VILLAGE BY A TEAM FROM THE DISTRICT SECURITY SECTION OR SENT TO THE DISTRICT FACILITY FOR QUESTIONING. CHIN G A N G, CHIEF OF THE DISTRICT SECURITY SECTION, DECIDED WHETHER A PRISONER SHOULD BE EXECUTED OR INDOCTRINATED AND RELEASED. AT THE DISTRICT AND VILLAGE TEMPORARY CAMPS, IT WAS THE PRACTICE TO DIVIDE THE PRISONERS INTO GROUPS OF THREE, EACH MAN ROPED TO TWO OTHERS, AND PLACE THEM IN A CAMOUFLAGED TRENCH. TWO GUARDS WATCHED OVER EACH THREE-MAN GROUP AND THE TRENCH WAS SURROUNDED BY BOOBY TRAPS MADE WITH GRENADES. THE GUARDS WERE ORDERED TO MOVE THE PRISONERS IN CASE OF GVN OPERATIONS IN THE AREA, BUT AT TIMES THEY LEFT THE PRISONERS IN THE TRENCH UNTIL THE OPERATION WAS OVER. THEY ALSO HAD INSTRUCTIONS TO SHOOT A PRISONER IF HE ATTEMPTED TO ESCAPE AND, WHEN BEING PURSUED BY GVN TROOPS, A GUARD COULD SHOOT PRISONERS IF NECESSARY IN ORDER TO ESCAPE.

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4. [ ] SAID THAT WHEN A VILLAGE COMMITTEE WANTED TO CAPTURE A PERSON FOR A SPECIFIC REASON, THE COMMITTEE FIRST GOT THE APPROVAL OF THE DISTRICT SECURITY SECTION CHIEF. HOWEVER, IF A PERSON WAS ARMED AND OPERATING IN A VC AREA, HE COULD BE APPREHENDED WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL.

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5. PRISONERS WHO WERE TO BE RELEASED WERE INDOCTRINATED BY VILLAGE SECURITY SECTION CADRES, BUT IF THE PRISONER WERE AN ARVN OFFICER, A CADRE FROM THE DISTRICT SECURITY SECTION WAS SENT TO CONDUCT THE INDOCTRINATION.

6. INSTRUCTIONS FROM COSVN SPECIFIED THAT U.S. PRISONERS WERE NOT TO BE RELEASED OR EXECUTED, BUT RATHER TO BE SENT BY THE MOST EXPEDITIOUS MEANS TO THE MILITARY REGION HEADQUARTERS. U.S. PRISONERS WERE CONSIDERED VERY IMPORTANT FOR PROPAGANDA EXPLOITATION AND WERE NOT TO BE MISTREATED.

7. BETWEEN MID-1969 AND 6 OCTOBER 1971, VC MO CAY DISTRICT HANDLED A TOTAL OF NINE PRISONERS, OF WHOM SIX WERE RELEASED AND THREE EXECUTED.

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8. (FIELD COMMENT: THE JOINT PERSONNEL RECOVERY CENTER HAS COMMENTED THAT OTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE SUBSTANTIATES THE REPORTED COSVN POLICY TOWARD ARVN, U.S., AND VIETNAMESE POLITICAL PRISONERS AS REPORTED ABOVE.)

9. FIELD DISSEM: EMBASSY USAID CORDS 7TH AIR FORCE USARV NAVFORV 1021ST FAS 525TH MI GP OSI AT SAIGON: SENT TO CINCPAC PACFLT PACAF ARPAC

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