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Case # NLJ 97-27

Document # 211d

TDCS -314/04009-66

COUNTRY SOUTH VIETNAM

DATE OF INFO. 14 - 23 MARCH 1966

DISTR. 24 MARCH 1966

SUBJECT

VIET CONG ORDERS TO STUDENT CADRES TO EXPLOIT UNREST IN DANANG AREA BUT TO FOLLOW DIRECTIONS OF VIET CONG FRONT EXCLUSIVELY

PLACE & DATE ACQ.

VIETNAM, SAIGON (23 MARCH 1966)

REF

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SOURCE AND APPRAISAL

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FIELD REPORT NO.

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: FEB 2001

1. (SUMMARY: VIET CONG (VC) INSTRUCTIONS HAVE BEEN ISSUED TO STUDENT CADRES IN THE DANANG AREA TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF CURRENT UNREST BY INFILTRATING DEMONSTRATION GROUPS AND ATTEMPTING TO CONCENTRATE ALL FORCES AGAINST THE AMERICANS AND THEIR ALLIES IN AN EFFORT TO CAUSE DISSENSION AMONG THEM. AN 18 MARCH CAUTIONARY INSTRUCTION TO VC STUDENT CADRES, HOWEVER, ADVISED THE STUDENTS TO FOLLOW THE DIRECTIVES OF THE VC FRONT ONLY, POINTING OUT THAT ALL POLITICAL ACTIVITIES OF "REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONS" WHICH ARE NOT CONTROLLED BY THE FRONT ARE HARMFUL TO THE FRONT. AS PART OF THEIR INSTRUCTIONS

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FOR INFILTRATING DEMONSTRATION GROUPS, THE STUDENTS WERE TOLD TO INSERT CERTAIN ANTI-GOVERNMENT, ANTI-AMERICAN SLOGANS ON THE BANNERS OF THE GROUPS AND TO ARGUE AT GROUP MEETINGS THAT THE OUSTER OF GENERAL NGUYEN CHANH THI WAS AN AMERICAN CONSPIRACY, BUT TO AVOID ANY MENTION OF THE RESTORATION OF THI TO HIS POST AS I CORPS COMMANDER. INSTRUCTIONS WERE ALSO GIVEN TO INCREASE CLANDESTINE POLITICAL ACTIVITIES IN DANANG AND, SECONDARILY, TO STEP UP ARMED ACTIVITY IN THE CITY.)

2. ON 14 MARCH THE VC DANANG CITY COMMITTEE SENT INSTRUCTIONS TO THE DANANG LIBERATION STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF CURRENT UNREST IN THE DANANG AREA OVER THE OUSTER OF I CORPS COMMANDER GENERAL NGUYEN CHANH THI BY INFILTRATING ANTI-GOVERNMENT DEMONSTRATION GROUPS AND TURNING THEIR MANIFESTATIONS TOWARD AN ANTI-AMERICAN, ANTI-"LACKEY" THEME. THE PRINCIPAL VC OBJECT, THE STUDENTS WERE TOLD, IS A CONCENTRATION OF FORCES AGAINST AMERICANS AND THEIR ALLIES IN ORDER TO SPREAD DISSENSION AMONG THEM.

3. THE VC DIRECTIVE POINTED OUT THAT THE PRESENT TROUBLE IN DANANG IS SYMBOLIC OF THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN GENERALS THIEU, KY, AND THI AND THAT, SINCE THE VC BELIEVE THE CRISIS WILL CONTINUE FOR A LONG TIME, IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO EXPLOIT THE UNREST TO ADVANCE THE "PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT." LIBERATION STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION CADRES WERE INSTRUCTED TO ATTEND MEETINGS OF OTHER GROUPS, ARGUE THAT THI'S DISMISSAL WAS AN AMERICAN CONSPIRACY AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS A SERVANT OF THE AMERICANS, AND ATTEMPT TO INSERT THE FOLLOWING SLOGANS

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"LEGALLY" ON THE BANNERS OF THESE OTHER GROUPS: "DOWN WITH THE
DICTATORIAL GOVERNMENT," "DOWN WITH THE IMPERIALIST ALLIES", "REMOVE
FOREIGN TROOPS FROM VIETNAMESE SOIL," "VIETNAMESE SHOULD SOLVE
THEIR OWN INTERNAL AFFAIRS," AND "THE VIETNAMESE WANT PEACE AND AN
END TO THE WAR."

4. THE STUDENTS WERE CAUTIONED TO AVOID ANY MENTION AT THE
MEETINGS OF THE RETURN OR RESTORATION OF GENERAL THI AND WERE
FURTHER INSTRUCTED TO STEP UP THEIR ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES THROUGH THE
CLANDESTINE DISTRIBUTION OF LEAFLETS URGING STRIKES AGAINST THE
AMERICANS AND DEMANDING THEIR REMOVAL FROM SOUTH VIETNAM. THE STUDENTS
WERE TOLD, IN ADDITION, THAT ALTHOUGH THE PRINCIPAL EMPHASIS IN THE
PRESENT STRUGGLE IS TO BE ON POLITICAL ACTIVITIES, THERE MUST ALSO
BE INCREASED ARMED ACTIVITY IN DANANG CITY. [REDACTED] COMMENT: ALTHOUGH
HE STATED HE HAD NOTHING DEFINITE ON WHICH TO BASE HIS BELIEF, THE [REDACTED] SOURCE SAID HE FEARED THE VC MIGHT SOON ENGAGE IN NIGHTTIME ACTS OF
TERRORISM.)

5. ADDITIONAL SLOGANS WERE DISTRIBUTED TO STUDENTS IN THE
DANANG AREA ON 23 MARCH. THESE INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING:

A. "DEAR PEOPLE, IN VIEW OF THE SERIOUS SITUATION, WE
REQUEST THAT THE PEOPLE REALIZE THE PLOTS OF THE VNQDD AND THE
PEOPLE'S FRONT IN ORDER THAT ALL PLANS OF THE AMERICAN IMPERIALISTS
AND THEIR SERVANTS, WHO ARE SELLING OUT OUR NATION, MAY BE DESTROYED."

[REDACTED] COMMENT: THE PEOPLE'S FRONT PROBABLY REFERS TO THE POPULAR
STRUGGLE FORCE FOR REVOLUTION.)

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B. "KNOCK DOWN THE AMERICAN IMPERIALISTS, THE GROUP OF VIETNAMESE TRAITORS, AND THE THIEU, CO, KY SERVANT GROUP."

C. "KNOCK DOWN THE SERVANT GROUP, THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE PUPPET GOVERNMENT, AND THE SERVANTS WHO ARE SELLING OUT OUR NATION-- THIEU, KY, CO."

D. "DEAR SOLDIERS, YOU SHOULD NOT SERVE AMERICA AS SERVANTS. LET US FIRE AT THE AMERICAN PIRATES AND THE PEOPLE'S FRONT. /SIGNED/ DANANG LIBERATION STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION."

E. "LONG LIVE THE NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT, LONG LIVE HO CHI MINH. /SIGNED/ THE MILITARY POPULATION OF THE FIRST TACTICAL ZONE."

6. ON 18 MARCH THE DANANG COMMITTEE OF THE VC FRONT ISSUED THE FOLLOWING CAUTIONARY INSTRUCTIONS TO ITS STUDENT CADRES IN DANANG:

A. "ALL REVOLUTIONARY AND LIBERATION ORGANIZATIONS OPERATING IN DANANG AND SOME OTHER GROUPS SHOULD BE DIRECTED AND CONTROLLED BY THE NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT /VC FRONT).

B. "POLITICAL ACTIVITIES OF REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONS /WHICH ARE NOT CONTROLLED BY THE NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT/, AS WELL AS REVOLUTIONARY CADRES WHO ARE NOT STRICTLY CONTROLLED AND LED BY THE FRONT ARE HARMFUL TO THE FRONT'S PRINCIPLE OF REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATION.

C. "ALL FRONT REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONS AND LEGAL AND ILLEGAL CADRES MUST BE GOVERNED BY FRONT LEADERSHIP. CADRES OF ALL

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ECHELONS MUST BE EXAMINED AND APPROVED BY THE FRONT COMMITTEE.

D. "DO NOT UNDERTAKE INDEPENDENT ACTION BY FOLLOWING YOUR PERSONAL OPINIONS OR DISOBEYING THE ORDERS OF YOUR SUPERIORS IF THEY DISAPPROVE YOUR PROPOSALS."

E. "YOU HAVE A DUTY TO REPORT WHAT IS HAPPENING AND TO REMAIN UNITED IN PURPOSE. THIS PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY FOR REVIEW OF YOUR PERSONAL RECORD BY THE FRONT COMMITTEE BEFORE ASSIGNMENT TO CERTAIN TASKS."

7. [REDACTED] DISSEM. STATE USMACV USAID JUSPAO 2ND AIR DIV
CINCPAC ARPAC PACAF PACFLT.

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END OF MESSAGE

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