



Intelligence Information Cable

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DIRECTORATE FOR PLANS

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DIST 18 FEBRUARY 1971

COUNTRY: NORTH VIETNAM/USSR

DOI: EARLY FEBRUARY 1971

SUBJECT: [REDACTED]
DECEMBER 1970 TRIP TO NORTH VIETNAM

[REDACTED]

1. [REDACTED] IN EARLY FEBRUARY 1971,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] SAID THAT HE HAD SPENT TWO TO THREE WEEKS IN NORTH VIETNAM (NVN) DURING DECEMBER 1970. HE SAID THAT HE WAS PERMITTED FULL FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT DURING

[REDACTED]

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APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: FEB 2001

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HIS VISIT AND WAS PERMITTED TO WANDER AROUND HANOI UNACCOMPANIED.

2. [REDACTED] SAID THAT HE WAS PARTICULARLY WELL TREATED SINCE THE [REDACTED] NVN GRADUATES [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] NOW ALL OCCUPY INFLUENTIAL POSTS IN THE NVN REGIME. HE WAS ASSIGNED A "ZIM" AUTOMOBILE FOR HIS STAY.

3. THE MAJOR PURPOSE OF [REDACTED] VISIT WAS A SURVEY OF THE NVN EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM. HE WAS IMPRESSED BY MEASURES BEING TAKEN BY THE REGIME TO ELIMINATE ILLITERACY. NVN SCHOLARS ARE PREPARING STANDARD DICTIONARIES AND GRAMMARS IN THE HOPE OF STANDARDIZING AND SIMPLIFYING LANGUAGE USAGE. THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM IS IN THE HANDS OF FRENCH-TRAINED CADRES.

4. [REDACTED] SAID THAT HE FOUND THE POPULATION HAPPY AND "HABITUATED" TO THE WAR. ON THE OTHER HAND, SOME OF THE LEADERS WITH WHOM HE SPOKE SEEMED PESSIMISTIC.

5. WHILE THERE WERE TRACES OF BOMBING DAMAGE ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF HANOI, [REDACTED] SAID HE SAW NO SUCH DAMAGE IN THE CENTER OF THE CITY. A BRIDGE IN HANOI WHICH HAD BEEN DESTROYED BY BOMBING WAS BEING RESTORED AND WAS JUST ABOUT READY TO RESUME VEHICLE AND TRAIN TRAFFIC AT THE TIME OF [REDACTED] DEPARTURE, JUST

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BEFORE NEW YEARS DAY.

6. [REDACTED] OBSERVED THAT A SYSTEM OF ONE-MAN CONCRETE BOMB SHELTERS AT INTERVALS OF ABOUT TWO METERS HAD BEEN CONSTRUCTED ALONG THE MAJOR STREETS IN HANOI. HE WAS TOLD THAT THESE WERE OF RECENT FABRICATION.

7. [REDACTED] WAS TOLD BY NVN LEADERS THAT BOMBING OF IRRIGATION SYSTEMS HAD BEEN MUCH MORE HARMFUL TO NVN THAN BOMBING OF INDUSTRIAL AND URBAN TARGETS.

8. [REDACTED] SAID THAT HE NOTED MUCH HISTORIC HOSTILITY TO CHINA. HIS GUIDES POINTED OUT STREETS NAMED AFTER FOLK HEROES OF RESISTANCE TO THE CHINESE AND A PLAY WITH AN ANTI-CHINESE THEME, STRESSING VIETNAMESE INDEPENDENCE, WAS BEING PRESENTED IN HANOI WHILE HE WAS THERE. ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE APPEARED TO BE NO POPULAR HOSTILITY TOWARD CHINESE CURRENTLY PRESENT IN NVN.

9. [REDACTED] NOTED THAT HE HAD ATTENDED CHRISTMAS MASS AT A CATHOLIC CHURCH IN HANOI AND HAD BEEN ASTONISHED BY THE THRONG OF PRACTICING VIETNAMESE AND OVERSEAS CHINESE CATHOLICS.

10. [REDACTED] SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN TOLD BY NVN LEADERS

[REDACTED]

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(classification)

(dissem controls)

THAT THEY HAD HAD ADVANCE WARNING OF THE 20 NOVEMBER
AMERICAN RAID ON A POW CAMP AND HAD THUS BEEN ABLE TO
REMOVE THE AMERICAN POWS PRIOR TO THE RAID.

11.



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