



# Intelligence Information Cable



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DIST 27 MAY 1972

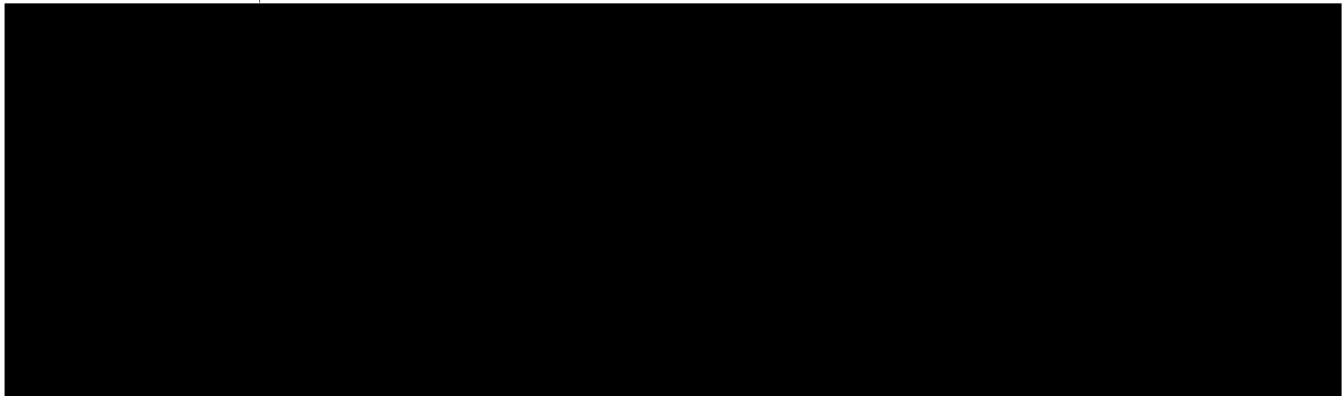


DOI: [REDACTED] MAY 1972

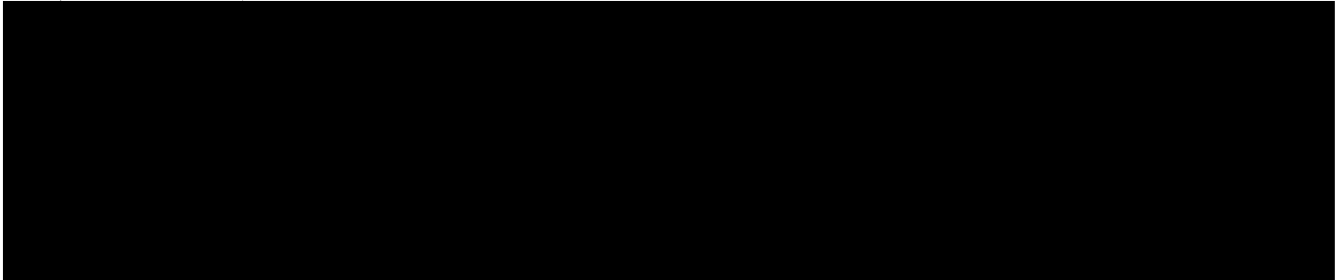
SUBJECT:



THE COMMUNIST OFFENSIVE IN SOUTH VIETNAM, CHINESE AID TO HANOI AND TREATMENT OF POW'S AND POLITICAL PRISONERS IN SOUTH AND NORTH VIETNAM



1. [REDACTED] COMMENT: [REDACTED]



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DATE: FEB 2001

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2. [REDACTED] SAID THAT THE OFFENSIVE OF THE LIBERATION FORCES IN SOUTH VIETNAM IS PART OF A STRUGGLE FOR "TOTAL VICTORY" AND HAS FORCED THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH VIETNAM (GVM) INTO A "PASSIVE STRATEGY." ALTHOUGH MAJOR MILITARY FORCES ARE CURRENTLY FOCUSED ON AN LOC, KONTUM AND HUE, [REDACTED] NO PARTICULAR BATTLE IS OF GREAT SIGNIFICANCE BECAUSE SOUTH VIETNAM IS LIKE A SIEVE AND IF ONE HOLE IS STOPPED UP BY GVM FORCES, OTHERS WILL BE OPENED BY THE LIBERATION ARMIES UNTIL VICTORY IS ACHIEVED.

3. [REDACTED] HANOI HAD ANTICIPATED RESUMED BOMBING OF THE NORTH, INCLUDING HAIPHONG, AND WAS PREPARED FOR THIS CONTINGENCY. HE SAID 40,000 "ADDITIONAL" CHINESE ARE IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM (DRV) TO ASSIST THE NORTH VIETNAMESE IN REPLACING BRIDGES AND REBUILDING BOMBED ROAD FACILITIES. HANOI IS CONFIDENT THAT SUPPLIES CAN BE MAINTAINED VIA RAIL ROUTES FROM THE USSR THROUGH MONGOLIA AND CHINA.

4. WITH REFERENCE TO PRISONERS OF WAR, [REDACTED] THAT THE PRG AND DRV ARE AS CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR PRISONERS IN THE HANDS OF THE T H I E U GOVERNMENT AS THE AMERICANS ARE ABOUT THEIR POW'S. [REDACTED] CLAIMED THAT THIEU HAS MADE ARRANGEMENTS

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TO KILL ALL POW'S AND POLITICAL PRISONERS IN THE SOUTH IF HIS GOVERNMENT FALLS. ON THE CONTRARY, [REDACTED] THE POLICY OF THE PRG AND DRV TOWARD ENEMIES WHO SURRENDER OR ARE CAPTURED IS TO INFLICT NO REPRISALS EXCEPT ON THOSE GUILTY OF ATROCITIES. GVN MILITARY FORCES HAVE BEEN ADVISED THAT DEFECTORS WILL BE TREATED HUMANELY AND THAT OFFICERS WILL RETAIN THE SAME RANK IN THE LIBERATION FORCES THAT THEY ENJOYED IN THE ARVN.

5. [REDACTED] STRESSED THAT THE PRG IS SEEKING THE RESIGNATION OF THIEU AND A CHANGE IN GVN POLICY. [REDACTED] SUGGESTED THAT THIEU COULD CLAIM SOME "DIPLOMATIC ILLNESS" WHICH WOULD PERMIT HIM TO RESIGN WITHOUT LOSING FACE. [REDACTED] SAID THE PRG IS LOOKING FOR A WAY FOR THE U.S. ALSO TO LEAVE SOUTH VIETNAM HONORABLY. ASKED IF THE PRG IS IN CONTACT WITH THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT CONCERNING THE WAR, [REDACTED] REPLIED THAT THE PRG IS IN CONSULTATION WITH THE FRENCH "ALL THE TIME."

6. [REDACTED]

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