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DATE: MAR 2001

18 April 1962

STATUS REPORT  
ON  
COVERT ACTIONS IN VIETNAM  
(Keyed to 28 November Report)

1. a. Montagnard (Highlander) Program:

According to reports received by the Vietnamese Army tactical area commander, the VC in Darlac Province are disturbed over progress being made in the highlander village defense program and its eventual reduction of their operational freedom. The VC have decided on two countering measures: to overrun the villages by force, or convert the villagers to their side after they have been trained and armed.

A program to recruit a company of highland trail watchers in Quang Tri Province was initiated, and CVN authorities agreed to use the graduating class of the highlander school of the social action directorate at Hue for use as civic action cadre in conjunction with this trail watcher program.

b. Rural Reconstruction Operations:

On 13 April the second five-week civic action ministry paramilitary training course at Danang Training Base graduated 100 civic action cadres and 100 youth leaders. Most of the civic action group were then assigned to Binh Duong Province for duties with operation SUNRISE.

c. Para-Military/Intelligence Operations Against Viet Cong

[REDACTED]

In a field training exercise at An Chau near the Danang Training Camp, U.S. Special Forces training teams operating with some local republican youth trainees lost two men killed and two captured by a company of approximately 130 VC regulars on 8 April. The four Special Forces personnel had been assigned by MAAG to CAS to conduct these and other similar training exercises.

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[REDACTED]

d. Central Intelligence Organization (CIO):

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[REDACTED] on 23 March President Diem signed a decree directing all ministries and other components of the GVN to channel all information usable in intelligence to the Vietnamese CIO. [REDACTED] President Diem ordered the CIO section responsible for centralized document study and exploitation to furnish documents needed in GVN psychological programs to the Directorate General of Information (DGI) and the Directorate of Army Psychological Warfare.

e. Joint Penetration Operations with National Police and Security Services (NPSS):

An additional 900 NPSS personnel completed psychological testing in five centers throughout the country during the past week. The tests were designed to provide better selection and placement of NPSS and DIS personnel.

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Tradecraft seminars were begun for case officers of the NPSS Special Division which will concentrate on establishment and improvement of joint operations against local VC elements.

f. through i.: No significant change.

2. through 4.: No significant change.

5. Provincial Survey:

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Four additional surveys of provincial units of the National Police and Security Service (NPSS) were completed by [redacted] CIO teams: two in the southwest, one in the south central area, and one in the highlands.

6. Use of Chinese Nationalist Personnel:

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[redacted]

7. Other Activities:

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Some 16,000 pounds of ammunition airdropped to [redacted] at Binh Hung on 4 and 7 April. In addition, [redacted] received map support from ARVN to equip with rifles an additional six full civil guard companies, approximating 800 men.

On 23 March, the plans service of the Directorate of Information was ordered to formulate plans for covert action to improve the public image of President Diem and the Nhus, and to popularize the women's paramilitary forces in the strategic hamlet forces.

Plans were drawn up for a joint attack by 77th Group (Vietnamese Special Forces) and civil guard against a VC training camp in the Thanh Tri area of Ba Xuyen. The VC Phu Loi Battalion, augmented by 676 men, has been operating into Sakeo from that area. Additional weapons were dropped to Catholic youth groups there and in other points in the delta where the 77th Group continues to train the groups.

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An additional 7,500 pounds of miscellaneous gear were airdropped to [redacted] on 14 April by C-46's, and USAF C-123's also airdropped five tons of rice and 1500 pair of shoes.

[redacted]

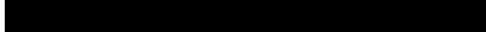
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 Son Ngoc Thanh, Cambodian dissident leader, was being provided limited material and training assistance by Tran Quoc Buu, head of the CVTC Labor Federation. The aid was limited to Vietnam, however, and primarily designed, With Ngo Dinh Nhu's approval, merely to keep Thanh on a string in case the political situation in Cambodia were to deteriorate.

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