

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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INFORMATION

May 10, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: HENRY A. KISSINGER
FROM: TOM LATIMER *TL*
SUBJECT: Viet Cong Occupation Policy *HK*

The following interesting item was contained in a CIA daily publication. It details the way the Communists are operating in areas they have seized during this offensive:

Refugees fleeing from Communist-occupied districts in northern Binh Dinh Province are bringing out stories about enemy efforts to consolidate political control there. The Communists are said to be setting up "liberation governments" and executing some government officials. Journalists who have interviewed the refugees report that the North Vietnamese units that spearheaded the attacks in Binh Dinh immediately turned civil authority over to local Viet Cong officials, some of whom are government cadre recruited before the Communist occupation.

The new local governments reportedly are carrying out routine functions such as trying criminals, arbitrating land disputes, and supervising the repair of war damage. They are said to be screening all individuals who were connected in any way with the South Vietnamese government. Some of these officials are being given the opportunity to co-operate with the Viet Cong, but others -- particularly policemen -- reportedly are being shot.

The refugees accounts generally agree with earlier reports of how the enemy proceeded after occupying other areas in South Vietnam, such as Loc Ninh District north of An Loc. The Communists evidently have well-thought-out procedures that they are implementing after completing their military operations. There have been many reports of a "Ten-Point Proselyting Policy" that is to be instituted by Viet Cong cadre wherever access to the population is gained. It is clear that the enemy occupation, carried out with a mixture of benevolence and terror, is oriented for the long term and that the Communists intend to stay in those areas they have seized, using them as springboards for subsequent offensive campaigns.

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