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ROUTINE
IN -73589

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CITE

3.5(c)

DIST 20 MARCH 1968

COUNTRY: NORTH VIETNAM/

~~SECRET~~
File VN

DOI: 3.3(h)(2)

SUBJECT: NORTH VIETNAMESE TACTICS ON PEACE NEGOTIATIONS

ACQ:

3.3(h)(2)

SOURCE:

[Redacted Source Information]

3.3(h)(2)

1. [Redacted] THE DRV [Redacted]

3.3(h)(2)

3.3(h)(2)

EXPLAINED THE TACTICS BEING FOLLOWED BY THE NORTH VIETNAMESE ON PEACE NEGOTIATIONS AS FOLLOWS:

A. THE DRV FOLLOWS A POLICY OF GRADUALLY CHANGING AND CLARIFYING ITS PEACE TERMS IN ORDER TO CAPITALIZE ON THE APPROACHING AMERICAN ELECTIONS. BY ORCHESTRATING THESE SMALL CHANGES IN THEIR STATEMENTS ON NEGOTIATIONS THEY HOPE TO MAKE

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(classification) (dissem controls)

IT INCREASINGLY CLEAR TO WORLD OPINION (AND IMPLICITLY AMERICAN OPINION AS WELL) THAT IT IS THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT WHICH WANTS TO PURSUE THE WAR IN VIETNAM.

B. AS EXAMPLES OF THIS TACTIC [] RECALLED THE CHANGES 3.3(h)(2)
IN TENSE FROM THE CONDITIONAL "COULD" [] TO THE FUTURE "WOULD"
ON THE QUESTION OF DISCUSSIONS WITH THE AMERICANS. ALSO HE CITED
THE VARIOUS MODIFICATIONS ON THE QUESTION OF HOW LONG AFTER THE
CESSATION OF BOMBARDMENTS WOULD THESE DISCUSSIONS BEGIN; I.E.,
A GRADUAL EVOLUTION FROM "WITHOUT DELAY" TO "RAPIDLY" [] TO WITHIN
"A FEW DAYS". [] ALSO CITED THE GRADUAL CLARIFICATION OF 3.3(h)(2)
WHAT WAS TO BE DISCUSSED UP TO THE PRESENT POINT OF "EVERYTHING WHICH
INTERESTS THE PARTIES IN THE CAUSE". 3.3(h)(2)

2. [] COMMENT: [] TREATED THE ENTIRE QUESTION OF 3.3(h)(2)
PEACE NEGOTIATIONS IN A CYNICAL JOKING MANNER AND LEFT THE IMPRESSION
THAT THE DRV HAD NO SERIOUS INTEREST IN NEGOTIATIONS AT THIS
TIME AND WAS USING THIS SUBJECT SIMPLY AS A PROPAGANDA GIMMICK.

[] 3.3(h)(2)

3. [] DISSEM: CINCPAC PACFLT ARPAC PACAF

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