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Intelligence Information Cable

• PRIORITY

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GROUP 1
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CITE

DIST 11 DECEMBER 1967 3.5(c)

COUNTRY SOUTH . IS. NVA

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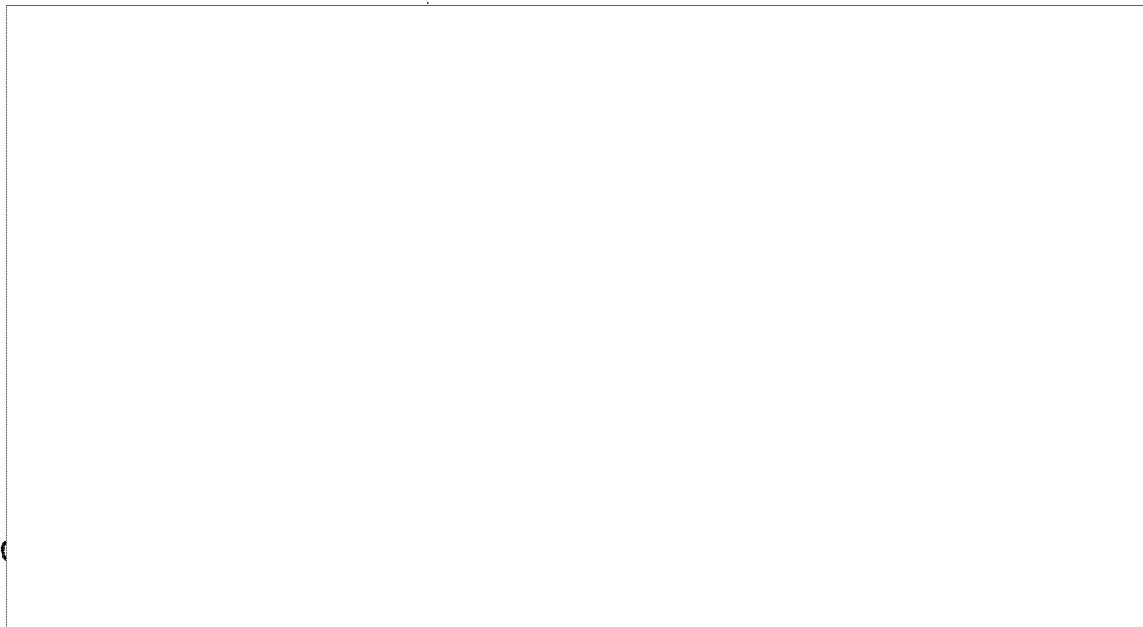
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SUBJECT VIET CONG CLAIMS IN LONG AN PROVINCE THAT
PEACE AND A COALITION GOVERNMENT WILL FOLLOW
THE LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAY.

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SOURCE



SUMMARY: VIET CONG (VC) CADRES IN LONG AN PROVINCE ARE

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TELLING THEIR TROOPS AND SYMPATHIZERS THAT ALL VC OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS IN LONG AN WILL STOP AFTER TET (LUNAR NEW YEAR) AND THAT PEACE WILL BE ACHIEVED THROUGH A COALITION GOVERNMENT IN WHICH THE NATIONAL FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF SOUTH VIETNAM WILL HAVE A VICTORIOUS PLACE. THESE VC PROMISES HAVE BEEN RECEIVED SO ENTHUSIASTICALLY BY VC TROOPS AND VILLAGERS THAT THE CHIEU HOI (OPEN ARMS) PROGRAM IN LONG AN HAS BEEN ALMOST NULLIFIED; VC FAILURE TO LIVE UP TO THE EXPECTATIONS THEY HAVE CREATED, HOWEVER, WOULD RESULT IN LARGE-SCALE DEFECTIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. SINCE EARLY NOVEMBER 1967 VIET CONG (VC) CADRES AND UNIT COMMANDERS IN LONG AN PROVINCE HAVE BEEN TELLING THEIR SUBORDINATES, SYMPATHIZERS, AND ELDERS IN VC-CONTROLLED VILLAGES THAT ALL VC OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS IN LONG AN WILL STOP AFTER THE TET (LUNAR NEW YEAR) HOLIDAYS. THE CADRES ARE SAYING THAT A VICTORIOUS PLACE FOR THE NATIONAL FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF SOUTH VIETNAM (NFLSV) WILL BE ACHIEVED DURING THE AFTER-TET PEACE THROUGH THE FORMATION OF A COALITION GOVERNMENT IN WHICH THE NFLSV WILL FULLY PARTICIPATE. THIS THEME HAS BEEN DISSEMINATED IN VC TROOP

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UNIT DISCUSSIONS, AND VC MILITARY COMMANDERS AND SENIOR DISTRICT OFFICIALS HAVE BRIEFED VC VILLAGE ELDERS AND NOTABLES ON IT IN AN EFFORT TO GAIN THEIR SUPPORT AND, THROUGH THEM, POPULAR SUPPORT FOR THE VC PROGRAM.

2. SEVERAL VILLAGE ELDERS HAVE STATED THAT SOME VC DISTRICT AND COMPANY CADRES IN VC BEN THU DISTRICT (GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM (GVN) BEN LUC AND THUA THUA DISTRICTS) VIEWED THE COALITION GOVERNMENT PLAN AS APPLYING ONLY TO III AND IV CORPS, WHICH WOULD BE THE PRESERVE OF THE NFLSV. FIGHTING WOULD CONTINUE, THEY BELIEVED, IN I AND II CORPS, WHICH WOULD REMAIN UNDER THE CONTROL OF HANOI.

3. LONG AN VC CADRES ARE ASSURING THEIR TROOPS AND VILLAGE OFFICIALS THAT THEY WILL HAVE POSITIONS OF HONOR AND RESPONSIBILITY IN THE NEW COALITION GOVERNMENT. THIS HAS ALMOST NULLIFIED FOR THE TIME BEING THE GVN CHIEU HOI (OPEN ARMS) PROGRAM IN LONG AN. (FIELD COMMENT: RALLIER FIGURES IN LONG AN DROPPED FROM 59 IN OCTOBER TO 39 IN NOVEMBER.) WAVERING HIGHER-LEVEL VC CADRES NOW DO NOT WANT TO LOSE THE CHANCE TO REAP THEIR REWARDS FOR LONG SERVICE WITH THE VC AND LOW-RANKING VC WILL NOT CHIEU HOI

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AND SUFFER THE LATER INDIGNITY OF SECOND CLASS CITIZENSHIP WHEN BY WAITING UNTIL AFTER TET THEY ARE PROMISED BOTH PEACE AND HONOR.

4. THIS PROMISE OF AN AFTER-TET PEACE HAS BEEN RECEIVED SO ENTHUSIASTICALLY BY VC TROOPS AND VILLAGERS IN LONG AN THAT FAILURE TO IMPLEMENT IT WOULD CREATE CHAOS AMONG VC SOLDIERS AND SUPPORTERS. WHILE HARD-CORE VC WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY ACCEPT WHATEVER REASON THE VC GAVE FOR NOT IMPLEMENTING THE PLAN, MANY VC CADRES, SOLDIERS AND VILLAGERS WOULD BE SO DISENCHANTED WITH THE VC THAT MASS DEFECTIONS AND A SHARP INCREASE IN REFUGEES FROM VC-CONTROLLED AREAS WOULD RESULT.

5. COMMENT: A NUMBER OF VC DOCUMENTS CAPTURED THROUGHOUT SOUTH VIETNAM SINCE EARLY NOVEMBER HAVE REFERRED TO PROSPECTS FOR A COALITION GOVERNMENT AND TO THE PRESENT VC WINTER-SPRING CAMPAIGN AS THE "DECISIVE", "CULMINATING" OR "HISTORIC" PHASE OF THE "REVOLUTION". A SECRET TRAINING DOCUMENT CAPTURED ON 3 NOVEMBER WHICH WAS PROBABLY ISSUED BY A VC LOCAL FORCE BATTALION IN LONG AN CONTAINS THE MOST EXPLICIT DOCUMENTARY REFERENCE TO A TIME FRAME FOR PEACE IN ITS STATEMENT THAT "THE YEARS 1967-68 WILL CONCLUDE THE REVOLUTION IN SOUTH VIETNAM)

6. ~~FIELD DISSEM~~: STATE USMACV USAID DIR/JUSPAD (MR. ZORTHIAN ONLY)
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