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CITE

DIST 3 MARCH 1968

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COUNTRY: SOUTH VIETNAM

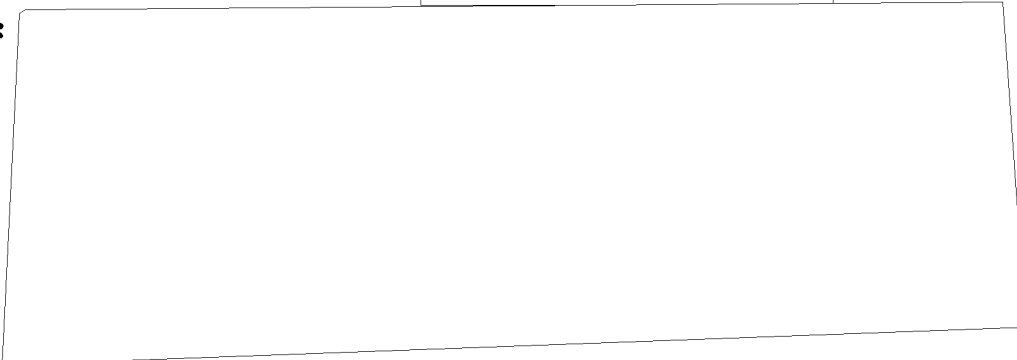
DOI: 19 FEBRUARY 1968

SUBJECT: VIET CONG EXPLANATION TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC  
OF THE REASONS FOR THE TET LUNAR OFFENSIVE

ACC: SIEM HOA (3 MARCH 1968)

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SOURCE:



3.3(h)(2)

1. ON 19 FEBRUARY 1968 TRAN DUC THO, POLITICAL OFFICER OF THE LONG KHANH PROVINCIAL FORCE, TOLD THE SOURCE THAT HE SHOULD BEGIN EXPLAINING THE VIET CONG'S (VC) TET OFFENSIVE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC IN THE FOLLOWING WAY:

A. THE TET OFFENSIVE WAS THE FIRST WAVE OF THE GENERAL UPRISING OF THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE PEOPLE. THE OFFENSIVE WAS CONDUCTED

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THROUGHOUT SOUTH VIETNAM (SVN) TO ILLUSTRATE THAT THE NATIONAL FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF SOUTH VIETNAM'S (NFLSV) MANPOWER AND WEAPONS CAN DEFEAT THE U.S. AND GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM (GVN) TROOPS IN THE MAJOR CITIES. THO SAID THAT BY PROVING THAT THE NFLSV CAN DEFEAT THE FORCES OF THE U.S. AND THE GVN THE NFLSV WOULD GAIN MORE SUPPORT FROM THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD.

B. THE CAMPAIGN WAS ALSO TO BRING PRESSURE TO BEAR ON THE U.S. AND THE GVN SO THAT THEY WILL BEGIN TO THINK IN TERMS OF ACCEPTING A COALITION GOVERNMENT AS SUGGESTED BY THE NFLSV.

C. THE CAMPAIGN WAS ALSO TO GAIN DEEPER SYMPATHY FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WHO ARE PROTESTING AGAINST THE VIETNAM WAR, AND TO SHOW THEM THAT PATRIOTIC PEOPLE IN VIETNAM HAVE THE CAPABILITIES TO DEFEAT THOUSANDS OF AMERICAN AGRESSORS IN VIETNAM. THE CAMPAIGN WILL ALSO CAUSE PRESIDENT JOHNSON'S PRESTIGE TO BE LOWERED IN THE NEXT PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.

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