

TELEGRAM INFORMATION REPORT TELEGRAM

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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CLASSIFICATION — DISSEMINATION CONTROLS

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

NO FOREIGN DISSEM

COUNTRY	SOUTH VIETNAM	REPORT NO.	[REDACTED]	(b)(3)
SUBJECT	STRATEGIC HAMLET SITUATION IN CENTRAL VIETNAM	DATE DISTR.	5 OCTOBER 1962	
DATE OF INFO.	[REDACTED]	PRECEDENCE	ROUTINE	
PLACE & DATE ACQ.	VIETNAM, SAIGON (4 SEPTEMBER 1962)	REFERENCES	IN	(b)(3)
APPRAISAL	3		[REDACTED]	(b)(3)

FILE

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION. SOURCE GRADINGS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

1. HOANG DINH GIANG, KHANH HOA DEPUTY CHIEF OF PROVINCE FOR ADMINISTRATION SAID IN EARLY SEPTEMBER 1962 THAT MOST OF THE PROVINCES HAVE PLACE THE ENTIRE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE STRATEGIC HAMLET PROGRAM (SHP) ON THE INDIVIDUAL DISTRICT CHIEFS, FEW OF WHOM ARE EQUIPPED TO COPE WITH IT. IN TURN, THE DISTRICT CHIEFS DEPEND ON THE LOCAL POPULATION TO FINANCE THE PROGRAM, INCLUDING THE PROVISION OF FOOD AND LODGINGS FOR THE CIVIC ACTION TEAMS AND SELF-DEFENSE CORPS MEMBERS CHARGED WITH SHP RESPONSIBILITIES. AFTER PAYING THE COST, THERE IS USUALLY VERY LITTLE LEFT OVER FOR THE OTHER ASPECTS OF THE PROGRAM. THE VILLAGERS, MOREOVER, BECOME IRRITATED AT BEING FORCED TO CONTRIBUTE TO SOMETHING THAT PRODUCES NO TANGIBLE RESULTS. HOWEVER, IT HAS NOT BEEN DIFFICULT TO PREVENT THE GOVERNMENT FROM FINDING OUT THE TRUE SITUATION. PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS AND OTHERS CONCERNED

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GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

STATE/INR	DIA	ARMY/ACSI	NAVY	AIR	JCS	SECDEF	NSA	NIC	AID	USIA	OCI	ONE	OCR	ORR	OBI	OO	EX
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WITH THE SHP SYMPATHIZE WITH ONE ANOTHER AND CAN BE COUNTED ON NOT TO REVEAL THE TRUE SITUATION. FURTHERMORE, VISITORS DO NOT RELISH THE PROSPECT OF TRAVELING GREAT DISTANCES FROM THE PROVINCIAL CENTERS AND THEREFORE, CAN BE GUIDED TO ONLY THOSE AREAS WHICH THE LOCAL OFFICIALS WISH THEM TO SEE.

2. PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS OF CENTRAL VIETNAM CLAIM THAT MOST VILLAGES ARE TOO POOR TO PROVIDE MORE FUNDS FOR THE SHP, BUT THE OFFICIALS CONTINUE TO COOPERATE WITH THE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS DIRECTLY CONCERNED WITH THE PROGRAM. THEY SUBMIT PERIODIC PROGRESS REPORTS AND ATTEND SHP OR RELATED TRAINING COURSES AS DIRECTED. THE REPORTS SHOW THAT OVER 250 STRATEGIC HAMLETS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED, WHEREAS ONLY FOUR ACTUALLY EXIST, AND ONLY ONE OF THE FOUR MEETS MOST OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A STRATEGIC HAMLET. THE FOUR HAMLETS ARE LOCATED IN TERRITORY CONTROLLED BY THE GOVERNMENT. MOST OF THE HAMLETS LISTED AS COMPLETED MEET ONLY ONE OR MORE OF THE VERY BASIC REQUIREMENTS, SUCH AS HAVING A FENCE AROUND THE HAMLET. WITH THE ADVENT OF THE POPULAR FORCES PROGRAM, LITTLE NOTICE IS BEING PAID TO THE SHP.

3. FIELD DISSEM. STATE ARMY NAVY AIR USMACV MAAG AID 9TH FIELD STATION CINCPAC ARPAC PACAF PACFLT.

END OF MESSAGE

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