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DIST: 6 FEBRUARY 1968

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COUNTRY SOUTH VIETNAM

DOI 6 FEBRUARY 1968

SUBJECT ENCOURAGING DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SITUATION SEEN
BY LABOR LEADER TRAN QUOC BUU

ACQ VIETNAM, SAIGON (6 FEBRUARY 1968)

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SOURCE

[Redacted Source Information]

SUMMARY: PRESIDENT OF VIETNAMESE CONFEDERATION OF LABOR

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(CVT) TRAN QUOC BUU IS ENCOURAGED BY ASSURANCE FROM THE MINISTER OF LABOR THAT HIS OFFER TO HELP WILL BE ACCEPTED, DESPITE THE REBUFFS HE RECEIVED EARLIER. HE HAS AN APPOINTMENT TO SEE VICE PRESIDENT KY ON 7 FEBRUARY. BUU IS ALSO ENCOURAGED BY REPORTS THAT THE COMMON PEOPLE ARE SHAKING OFF THEIR APATHY AND REALIZING THEY TOO MUST PARTICIPATE IN THE FIGHT. ACCORDING TO BUU, LUONG TRONG TUONG, HEAD OF THE HOA HAO CHURCH, HAS ACCEPTED HIS ADVICE

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THAT HE BROADCAST AN APPEAL TO ALL HOA HAO TO SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT.
 END SUMMARY.

1. TRAN QUOC BUU, PRESIDENT OF THE VIETNAMESE CONFEDERATION OF LABOR (CVT), HAS REQUESTED AND RECEIVED AN APPOINTMENT WITH VICE PRESIDENT NGUYEN CAO KY ON 7 FEBRUARY. BUU PLANS TO OFFER KY THE COOPERATION OF THE CVT AND ALL ITS AFFILIATED TRADE UNIONS AND THEIR PERSONNEL.

2. ALTHOUGH BUU'S INITIAL OFFERS OF AID MADE TO THE MINISTERS OF INTERIOR, LABOR AND SOCIAL WELFARE WERE REBUFFED, HE IS ENCOURAGED BY SIGNS THAT THE ATTITUDE OF SOME MINISTERS IS BEGINNING TO CHANGE. ON THE AFTERNOON OF 6 FEBRUARY, BUU RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL FROM THE MINISTER OF LABOR, WHO SAID HE HAD SPOKEN TO SEVERAL OTHER MINISTERS AND PERSUADED THEM THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD ACCEPT BUU'S OFFER TO HELP. THE LABOR MINISTER TOLD BUU NOT TO LOSE COURAGE AND ADDED THAT HE PERSONALLY WAS RECOMMENDING THAT THE GOVERNMENT ACCEPT THE HELP AND COOPERATION OF ALL PRIVATE CITIZENS.

3. IN DISCUSSING THE SITUATION WITH A COLLEAGUE ON THE AFTERNOON OF 6 FEBRUARY, BUU STATE WITH SOME EXCITEMENT THAT REPORTS FROM HIS CADRES INDICATED THAT THE PEOPLE IN THE MOST

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POPULATED AREAS OF SAIGON ARE BEGINNING NOT ONLY TO BLAME THE VIET CONG (VC) FOR THE RECENT BLOODSHED BUT ARE COMING FORWARD TO DEMANDANCE TO THE POLICE CERTAIN INDIVIDUAL VC. BUU FEELS THIS COULD BE THE FIRST POSITIVE INDICATION THAT THE POPULACE IS ABANDONING ITS APATHETIC NEUTRALITY AND REALIZING THAT IT TOO MUST BECOME ACTIVE IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST THE COMMUNISTS. HE ADDED THAT SOME OF HIS MORE CAUTIOUS CADRES WERE ALSO ABANDONING THEIR NEUTRALIST STAND.

4. BUU SAID THAT EARLIER THAT AFTERNOON A HOA HAO ARVN OFFICER WHO HAD JUST ARRIVED FROM CHAU DOC PROVINCE BY PLANE HAD TOLD HIM THE HOA HAO IN THAT PROVINCE WERE FIGHTING THE VC WITH "KNIVES AND CLUBS." HE TOLD BUU HE HAD ASKED THE GOVERNMENT FOR WEAPONS SO THAT THEY COULD FIGHT MORE EFFECTIVELY. BUU SAID THAT UPON HEARING THIS HE HAD IMMEDIATELY TELEPHONED LONG TRONG TUONG, HEAD OF THE HOA HAO CHURCH, AND URGED HIM TO MAKE A STRONG STATEMENT OVER VIETNAMESE TELEVISION DENOUNCING THE VC AND URGING HIS PEOPLE TO SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT. ACCORDING TO BUU, TUONG'S REACTION WAS POSITIVE AND DURING THE LATE AFTERNOON HE WENT TO THE STATION TO BEGIN RECORDING THE BROADCAST.

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