SECRET

COUNTRY VIETNAM

DOI 1 - 4 FEBRUARY 1968

SUBJECT PRISONER'S VIEWS OF VIET CONG (VC) ACTIVITIES AND OBJECTIVES IN SAIGON DURING THE TET OFFENSIVE

ACO VIETNAM, SAIGON (5 FEBRUARY 1968) FVS-16,578

SOURCE INTERROGATION OF NINE VIET CONG SUSPECTS AT THE NATIONAL INTERROGATION CENTER.

1. BETWEEN 1 FEBRUARY AND 4 FEBRUARY 1968, AT LEAST 13 PERSONS WITH VARYING DEGREES OF INVOLVEMENT IN THE RECENT VIET CONG (VC) ACTIVITIES IN SAIGON WERE ARRESTED AT SAIGON. AVAILABLE INFORMATION INDICATES THAT ONLY TWO OF THE PRISONERS HAD BEEN WORKING FOR THE VC LONGER THAN ONE YEAR. ALL PRISONERS ARE LOW-LEVEL, THE MAJORITY CLAIMING TO HAVE BEEN RECRUITED IN MID TO LATE 1967 OR, IN ONE CASE, EVEN AS LATE AS 31 JANUARY 1968. THE MAJORITY OF THESE PERSONS HAD BEEN (CAPTURED, BUT NO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION) AND (NO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION).
2. THE TWO INDIVIDUALS WITH THE LONGEST VC AFFILIATION WERE TWO PERSONS PROVIDED THE ONLY ANSWERS OF SUBSTANCE TO A SERIES OF QUESTIONS REGARDING VC ACTIVITIES AND OBJECTIVES. THE QUESTIONS AND THEIR ANSWERS FOLLOW:

Q. WHAT WERE THE OBJECTIVES OF THE COUNTRYWIDE MILITARY ACTION?

THAT THE AMERICANS WOULD HAVE TO ACCEPT A COALITION GOVERNMENT IN SOUTH VIETNAM (SVN) IN DECEMBER 1967 OR EARLY FEBRUARY 1968 (DURING TET), OR THERE WOULD BE A GENERAL ATTACK BOTH MILITARY AND POLITICAL (ORGANIZED DEMONSTRATIONS) TO DEMAND U.S. WITHDRAWAL AND A "COALITION, PEACE AND NEUTRALIST GOVERNMENT FOR SVC."

THE VC HAD SUFFICIENT FORCES TO ACCOMPLISH THIS.
Q. WHAT FUTURE CONTINUING RESPONSIBILITIES WERE YOU GIVEN BEYOND IMMEDIATE ATTACK ORDERS?

A. ____________________________ THAT AFTER SAIGON WAS LIBERATED THERE WOULD BE A DEMONSTRATION IN WHICH ________ WOULD BE TO PARTICIPATE. THE DEMONSTRATION WOULD EVENTUALLY END AT THE SAIGON MARKET WHERE THE DEMONSTRATORS WOULD ORGANIZE A MEETING CALLING FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF ALLIED TROOPS (ESPECIALLY U.S.) FROM SAIGON. IF THE VC FAILED ________ WAS TO RETURN TO ____________________________ AND IF NO CONTACT WAS ESTABLISHED ________ WAS TO TRY AGAIN ON 4 FEBRUARY AT ANOTHER LOCATION WHEN ________ WOULD BE GIVEN A NEW ASSIGNMENT. ________ WAS TO REPORT THE RESULTS OF THE DEMONSTRATION BACK TO ____________________________ ON THE BASIS OF THE DEMONSTRATIONS, VC POLITICAL CADRES WOULD FORM A RESOLUTION TO HAND TO THE EXISTING SVN GOVERNMENT. ________ SAID THAT THE VC WOULD TRY TO CREATE THIS GENERAL UPRISING THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY IN THE HOPE THAT THEY COULD PRESSURE GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM (GVN) INTO ACCEPTING A COALITION GOVERNMENT.

Q. WERE YOU TOLD AND DID YOU BELIEVE THAT THE POPULATION WOULD JOIN IN A GENERAL UPRISING AGAINST GVN AND AMERICAN FORCES.

A. ____________________________ REPORTED THAT ____________________________ IN SAIGON) HAD SAID THAT THE AMERICANS WOULD COOPERATE WITH VC FORCES.
BY REMAINING SILENT OR INACTIVE, THUS ALLOWING THE VC
TO ATTACK THE GVN FORCES THROUGHOUT SAIGON. THIS
BELIEVED THIS
AND THOUGHT THAT THE SAIGON POPULATION WOULD RESPOND FAVORABLY
TO THE VC UPRISING. THOUGHT THERE WOULD BE A GREAT DEAL
OF SUPPORT FROM THE POPULACE, ESPECIALLY SINCE THE WAR HAD LASTED
SO LONG AND MANY WAR VICTIMS WOULD BE WILLING TO ACCEPT ANY TYPE
OF GOVERNMENT FOR A CESSATION OF THE FIGHTING.
Q. WHAT ACTUAL SUPPORT DID YOU RECEIVE FROM THE POPULACE?
A. NEITHER SAW ANY ACTUAL SUPPORT FOR THE VC FROM
THE POPULACE.
Q. WERE YOU LED TO BELIEVE THAT CURRENT MILITARY ACTION WOULD
BE SUPPLEMENTED BY A MAJOR OFFENSIVE IN THE NORTH- KHE SANH
OR DMZ AREA?
A. HAD HEARD OF NOTHING SPECIFIC - ONLY ATTACKS THROUGHOUT
THE COUNTRY. HAD NOT HEARD OF ANY OTHER POSSIBLE UPRISINGS.
Q. ARE YOU AWARE OF AN EFFORT TO ORGANIZE THE "ALLIANCE FOR PEACE
AND DEMOCRACY" AS A COALITION MOVEMENT TO NEGOTIATE WITH NATIONAL
LIBERATION FRONT (NFLSV)?
A. ANSWERED NO.
Q. ARE YOU AWARE OF ANY PLANS FOR FOLLOW-UP STEPS IN THE CURRENT
STRATEGY? IF SO, WHAT?
A. **[KNEW NOTHING OF ANY FURTHER PLANS. DID NOT KNOW OF ANY FOLLOW-UP STEPS IN THE CURRENT STRATEGY BECAUSE AT THE TIME THE VC WERE SO SURE THEY WOULD WIN.]**

Q. **IF THE CURRENT MILITARY ACTIVITY IS NOT DECISIVE, AND IN FACT THE VC APPEAR TO HAVE ACHIEVED LITTLE MILITARY AS AGAINST PSYCHOLOGICAL RESULTS, HOW DO YOU ANTICIPATE THIS WILL BE EXPLAINED BY THE NFLSV OR HANOI?**

A. **[HAD NO ANSWER TO THIS SPECIFIC QUESTION. STATED THAT THE VC WOULD HAVE TO EXPLAIN TO THE PEOPLE IN THEIR AREA THAT THEY HAD DONE THEIR UTMOST AND THAT THEY WOULD HAVE TO WAIT FOR ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY. HANOI WOULD NEVER DISCUSS FAILURES BUT WOULD PRAISE THE ACHIEVEMENTS.]**