

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY Intelligence Information Cable

• ROUTINE
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GROUP 1
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CITE TDCS-314/18390-67

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DIST 29 DECEMBER 1967

COUNTRY SOUTH VIETNAM

DOI 1-30 NOVEMBER 1967

SUBJECT SUMMARY OF VIET CONG ACTIVITIES IN ^{20 21 30 7} ~~CHUONG THIEN~~
PROVINCE DURING NOVEMBER 1967

3.3(h)(2)

ACQ

SOURCE

SUMMARY. REPORTS FROM VARIOUS SOURCES INDICATE THAT THE VIET CONG /VC/ IN CHUONG THIEN PROVINCE ARE ATTEMPTING TO MOBILIZE AS MUCH OF THE POPULATION IN THEIR AREAS AS POSSIBLE TO SUPPORT THEIR WINTER-SPRING CAMPAIGN. THE VC INCIDENT RATE DURING NOVEMBER QUADRUPLED WHEN COMPARED TO THE INCIDENTS REPORTED IN OCTOBER. VC MILITARY UNITS CONTINUE, FOR THE MOST PART, TO OPERATE IN COMPANY-SIZED OR SMALLER UNITS. THE VC HAVE BEEN TIGHTENING

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THEIR CONTROL OVER THE CANALS LEADING OUT OF THEIR AREAS AS A MEASURE FOR CONTROLLING THE POPULATION AND INCREASING REVENUE. THE EMPHASIS ON RECRUITMENT CONTINUES, WITH AT LEAST ONE REPORTED INSTANCE OF VC ABDUCTION OF YOUTHS FROM THEIR VILLAGE. VC PROBLEMS REMAIN LACK OF FUNDS AND SUPPLY AND MANPOWER SHORTAGES. END SUMMARY.

POLICY

1. DURING NOVEMBER, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE WINTER-SPRING CAMPAIGN THE VIET CONG /VC/ IN CHUONG THIEN PROVINCE WERE IMPLEMENTING CENTRAL OFFICE FOR SOUTH VIETNAM /COSVN/ DIRECTIVES CALLING FOR THE MOBILIZATION OF ALL MANPOWER BETWEEN THE AGES OF 15 AND 35.

[REDACTED] IN VC HONG DAN DISTRICT, VC SOC 3.3(h)(2)

TRANG /GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM /GVN/ BAC LIEU AND PORTIONS OF CHUONG THIEN AND BA XUYEN/ PROVINCE, THE VC WERE INSTRUCTING THE POPULACE ON DIRECTIVES PASSED DOWN FROM THE VC WESTERN ZONE COMMITTEE WHICH CALLED FOR THE MOBILIZATION OF ALL MANPOWER BETWEEN THE AGES OF 16 AND 35.

[REDACTED] IN SOME AREAS WOMEN AND 3.3(h)(2)

CHILDREN ARE BEING MOBILIZED TO PERFORM LIAISON AND COURIER

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MISSIONS AND THAT MANPOWER NOT USED IN MILITIA/GUERRILLA OR MAIN FORCE UNITS WILL BE USED IN FIELD LABOR OR REAR SERVICE GROUPS. REPORTEDLY THE VC ARE ALSO USING PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED PEOPLE IN SUPPORT FUNCTIONS.

OPERATIONS

2. DURING NOVEMBER 1967, THE VC VIGOROUSLY RENEWED OFFENSIVE MILITARY ACTIONS AND ALSO STEPPED UP SABOTAGE AND TERRORISM. INCIDENTS DURING THE MONTH TOTALLED 73, COMPARED WITH ONLY 18 INCIDENTS DURING THE PREVIOUS MONTH. FOR THE MOST PART THESE ACTIONS TOOK THE FORM OF HARASSMENTS, WITH NO REPORTED ATTEMPTS TO OVERRUN A MAJOR MILITARY INSTALLATION IN THE PROVINCE. AMERICAN AND VIETNAMESE INSTALLATIONS IN VI THANH, THE PROVINCE CAPITAL, WERE TARGETS OF 75MM RECOILLESS RIFLE FIRE. THE VIETNAMESE 31ST REGIMENT GARRISON AREA IN VI THANH WAS THE TARGET FOR MORE THAN 100 ROUNDS OF RECOILLESS RIFLE FIRE ON 5 NOVEMBER. THERE WERE OTHER SUCH INCIDENTS THROUGHOUT THE MONTH. AMERICAN PILOTS REPORTED THAT GROUND FIRE DIRECTED AT AIRCRAFT IS INCREASING.

3. FOR THE MOST PART IT IS FELT THAT VC MILITARY UNITS CONTINUE TO OPERATE IN COMPANY-SIZED OR SMALLER UNITS, ALTHOUGH REPORTS INDICATING THE PRESENCE OF VC UNITS OF UP TO 400 MEN

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CONTINUE.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
THAT A REGIONAL VC ENTERTAINMENT TEAM SHOWED MOVIES FOR 3.3(h)(2)
APPROXIMATELY 400 MEN OF THE VC 306TH BATTALION AS A WELCOMING
GESTURE ON THEIR RETURN TO THE AREA.

4. TAX COLLECTION CONTINUES AT A RAPID PACE. IN ORDER TO
INCREASE TAX REVENUES, THE VC HAVE TIGHTENED UP CONTROL ON CANAL
TRAFFIC TO ENSURE THE COLLECTION OF MAXIMUM REVENUES. VIETNAMESE
WHO SAMPAN IN AND OUT OF VC-CONTROLLED AND CONTESTED AREAS REPORT
THAT BARRIERS HAVE BEEN ERECTED ACROSS A CANAL IN THUAN HUNG
VILLAGE, LONG MY DISTRICT, TO FACILITATE MORE POSITIVE TRAFFIC
CONTROL. OTHER TRAVELERS HAVE ALSO REPORTED ON VC TIGHTENING OF
CANAL TRAFFIC IN VARIOUS AREAS OF THE PROVINCE. THESE TRAVELERS
STATE THAT BEFORE PEOPLE ARE PERMITTED TO PASS THESE CONTROL
POINTS THEY MUST GIVE REASONS ACCEPTABLE TO THE VC.

5. APPARENTLY THE VC ARE ALSO TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE
BUSINESS SKILLS OF THE CHINESE TO ACQUIRE SUPPORT IN THE FORM
OF SUPPLIES. [REDACTED] 3.3(h)(2)

[REDACTED] THE VC VINH THUAN DONG VILLAGE PARTY CHAPTER HAD
RECRUITED TWO CHINESE TO PURCHASE SUPPLIES AND MEDICINES
IN GVN-CONTROLLED AREAS AS WELL AS TO COLLECT INTELLIGENCE

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INFORMATION. IN ANOTHER CASE, TWO CHINESE REPORTEDLY PURCHASED ANIMALS IN VC-CONTROLLED AREAS, TRANSPORTED THEM TO VI THANH CITY, HAD THEM SLAUGHTERED, AND THEN SOLD THEM TO AN ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM REGIMENT. THE PROCEEDS FROM THIS SALE REPORTEDLY WERE USED TO PURCHASE MEDICAL SUPPLIES WHICH WERE THEN TRANSPORTED BACK TO THE VC.

6.

VC 3.3(h)(2)

PARTY CHAPTERS HAVE CONSIDERABLE LATITUDE IN CHOOSING METHODS AND TECHNIQUES FOR GAINING POPULAR SUPPORT WHEN IMPLEMENTING MISSION DIRECTIVES FROM HIGHER ECHELONS. OFTEN, WHEN INDOCTRINATION AND PROPAGANDA METHODS FAIL, COERCION IS EMPLOYED.

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SOME HAMLETS, WHEN THE PEOPLE FAILED TO REACT TO A VC APPEAL FOR MANPOWER SUPPORT, YOUTHS, SOME NOT MORE THAN 14 YEARS OLD, WERE ABDUCTED.

3.3(h)(2)

THE VC CONTINUE TO LEVY ON THE POPULACE SPECIFIC SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS, AND OFTEN THREATEN DEATH IF THEIR REQUIREMENTS ARE NOT SATISFIED.

PROBLEMS

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7. SOME OF THE MAJOR PROBLEMS FOR THE VC CONTINUE TO BE A LACK OF FUNDS TO SUPPORT THEIR PROGRAMS, THE LACK OF AN ADEQUATE SUPPLY AND TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM TO SUPPORT MOBILE MILITARY UNITS, AND A SHORTAGE OF VOLUNTARY RECRUITS TO CARRY OUT THEIR AMBITIOUS PLANS.

[REDACTED] UNIT WAS UNDERSTRENGTH AND THAT

3.3(h)(2)

REPLACEMENTS WERE SELDOM FORTHCOMING.

3.3(h)(2)

MORALE WAS LOW AMONG THE TROOPS IN [REDACTED] PARTICULAR BATTALION.

3.3(h)(2)

8. [REDACTED] DISSEM-- STATE USMACV CORDS USAID DIR/JUSPAO /MR. ZORTHIAN ONLY/ CINCPAC PACFLT ARPAC PACAF.

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