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Intelligence Information Cable

• PRIORITY

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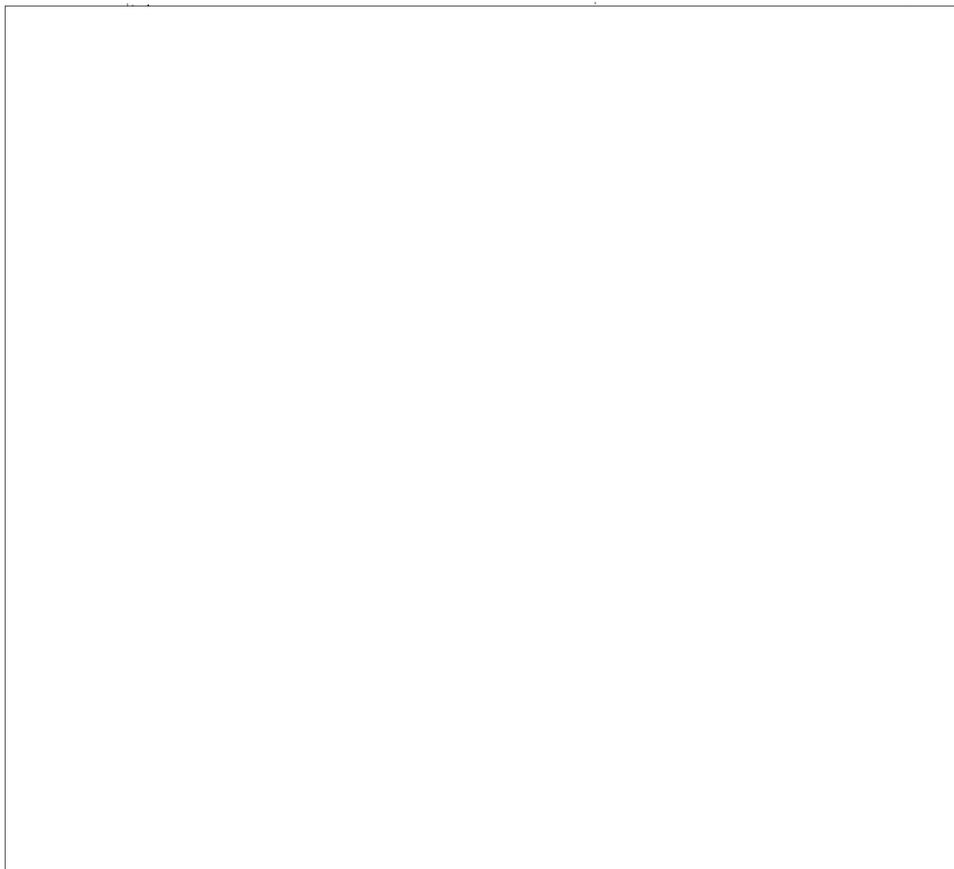
DIST 12 FEBRUARY 1968

COUNTRY SOUTH VIETNAM
DOI AS OF 11 FEBRUARY 68
SUBJECT VIET CONG (VC) INTENTIONS TO ESTABLISH A
"DEMOCRATIC COALITION FRONT" AND MUNICIPAL
GOVERNMENT IN NHA TRANG CITY.

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all

ACQ VIETNAM, NHA TRANG (12 FEBRUARY 68)

SOURCE



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 (classification) (dissem controls)

1. THE VC, IN CONNECTION WITH THE ATTACK ON NHA TRANG, KHANH HOA PROVINCE DURING THE TET OFFENSE IN LATE JANUARY 1968, INTENDED TO FORM A "DEMOCRATIC COALITION FRONT" HEADED BY A SEVEN MEMBER COMMITTEE. THIS GROUP WOULD "STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE AND PEACE AND THE RETREAT OF THE U.S. FROM SOUTH VIETNAM, AND U.S. NON-INTERVENTION IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF VIETNAM. BUDDHIST FORCES WERE TO BE CONSIDERED AS HARD CORE MEMBERS IN THIS DEMONSTRATION OF THE PEOPLE."

2. ON 13 JANUARY 1968, PHONG, A MEMBER OF THE NHA TRANG

MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE IN CHARGE OF ORGANIZING CITY ASSOCIATES, SAID THAT HIS (PHONG'S) TASK WAS TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE FORMATION OF THE FRONT GROUP AND REPORT DIRECTLY TO BA SON, CHAIRMAN OF THE CURRENT AFFAIRS SECTION OF THE KHANH HOA PROVINCE COMMITTEE. ([] COMMENT: THE POLICE HAVE IDENTIFIED PHONG AS CAO VAN DI, AKA PHONG. PHONG IS NOW BEING HELD IN THE KHANH HOA PROVINCIAL INTERROGATION CENTER BUT HAS DENIED ANY KNOWLEDGE OF THE COMPOSITION OF THE FRONT COMMITTEE.)

ON 13 JANUARY PHONG TOLD BA SON THAT THICH NHU Y, SECULAR AFFAIRS MEMBER OF THE PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE OF THE KHANH HOA UNITED BUDDHIST ASSOCIATION; DOCTOR QUYNH, A PROMINENT DOCTOR

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(classification) (dissem controls)

IN NHA TRANG WHO OPERATES A LARGE CLINIC; AND DANG OANH,
LEADER OF THE BUDDHIST YOUNG MEN'S GROUP "DOAN THANH NIEN PHAT
TU", WOULD BE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE. (VIETNAMESE SERVICE
COMMENT: THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT THICH NHU Y OR DOCTOR
QUYNH HAVE ANY CONNECTION WITH THE VC. OANH HAS BEEN
ARRESTED AND IS NOW BEING HELD
IN THE KHANH HOA PROVINCE

INTERROGATION CENTER. HE HAS ADMITTED THAT HE HAS BEEN A
MEMBER OF THE FRONT COMMITTEE. HE HAS ALSO ADMITTED THAT HE
WOULD HAVE BEEN NAMED PROVINCIAL CHIEF OF POLICY BY THE NEW
GOVERNMENT. THE BUDDHIST YOUNG MEN'S GROUP HAS A MEMBERSHIP
OF ABOUT 150 BUDDHIST LAYMEN AND NO PREVIOUS INVOLVEMENT
IN POLITICAL ACTIVITY.) [REDACTED] COMMENT: [REDACTED]

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BASED ON THE CONVERSATION BETWEEN BA SON AND PHONG [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] THE ABOVE THREE INDIVIDUALS WERE CONTACTED
BY PHONG AND AGREED TO ACCEPT POSITIONS WITH THE FRONT.)

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3. TO INITIATE ACTION FOR THE CREATION OF THE FRONT, FOUR DEMONSTRATION GROUPS WERE TO BE SET UP IN NHA TRANG IN THE WESTERN AND NORTHERN PORTIONS OF THE CITY WHERE THE ENEMY ATTACK WAS CENTERED. THE LOCATION OF THE MAIN DEMONSTRATION WAS TO BE AT CONG HOA SQUARE (DOWNTOWN NHA TRANG IN FRONT OF THE VIETNAMESE INFORMATION SERVICE HEADQUARTERS.) VC POLITICAL CADRES WERE TO COOPERATE WITH THEIR VC ASSOCIATES TO MOTIVATE THE PEOPLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DEMONSTRATION. IN ADDITION PEOPLE OF THE HAMLETS OF PHU BINH, XUAN LOC, THAI THONG, CHO MOI AND NHOC HAI, ALL LOCATED WITHIN FIVE KILOMETERS OF NHA TRANG, WERE TO MARCH INTO THE CITY AND PARTICIPATE IN THE DEMONSTRATION. "IN COMBINATION WITH FUSILLADES IN ALL PARTS OF THE CITY, PEOPLE WERE TO BEAT DRUMS AND TOCSINS AND HUNT FOR TYRANTS."

4. [] DISSEM: IFFV CORDS II CORPS SAIGON DISSEM
 STATE MACV 7TH AF CINCPAC ARPAC PACFLT PACAF
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