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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.

ACQ         VIETNAM, NHA TRANG (12 FEBRUARY 68)

SOURCE      

DIST 12 FEBRUARY 1968

GROUP I
Excluded from covere (designating and declassification)
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."

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.) 

COMMENT: 

BASED ON THE CONVERSATION BETWEEN BA SON AND PHONG THE ABOVE THREE INDIVIDUALS WERE CONTACTED BY PHONG AND AGREED TO ACCEPT POSITIONS WITH THE FRONT.

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L NO FOREIGN DISSEM
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. DISSEMM: IFFV CORDS II CORPS SAIGON DISSEMM STATE MACV 7TH AF CINCPAC ARPAC PACFLT PACAF REPORT CLASS CONFIDENTIAL NO FOREIGN DISSEMM

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