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TELEGRAM INFORMATION REPORT TELEGRAM

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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FILE

COUNTRY SOUTH VIETNAM

REPORT NO. TDCS-3/522,229

SUBJECT 1. OPPOSITION IN KHANH HOA PROVINCE TO ARMING MOUNTAIN TRIBESMEN AND TO THE STRATEGIC HAMLET PROGRAM
2. CONFLICT AMONG PROVINCIAL AUTHORITIES

DATE DISTR. 13 SEPTEMBER 1962

PRECEDENCE ROUTINE

REFERENCES

DATE OF INFO. LATE AUGUST 1962

PLACE & DATE ACQ. VIETNAM, SAIGON (3 SEPTEMBER 1962)

APPRAISAL 3

FIELD REPORT NO. FVS 7923

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION. SOURCE GRADINGS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

SOURCE A MEDIUM-LEVEL OFFICIAL (C) IN THE GENERAL CONFEDERATION OF VIETNAMESE

SMITH-BUNDY
DUNGAN
KAYSEN
KILBOFF
PETERSEN
SCHLESINGER
TAYLOR
DEK
JOHNSON
KLEIN
KOMER
RASKIN
SAUNDERS

1. ON 29 AUGUST 1962 BUI BO, GENERAL SECRETARY, KHANH HOA PROVINCE COUNCIL, GENERAL CONFEDERATION OF VIETNAMESE LABOR (CVTC), AND MEMBER OF THE PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE, REPORTED TO CVTC HEADQUARTERS THAT KHANH HOA PROVINCIAL AUTHORITIES ARE STRONGLY OPPOSED TO THE AMERICAN POLICY OF ECONOMIC AID, TRAINING, AND ARMS FOR THE TRIBAL PEOPLE. THESE AUTHORITIES FEAR THAT THE TRIBESMEN MAY INDISCRIMINATELY KILL INNOCENT VIETNAMESE, ESPECIALLY IN CASES WHERE THE VIETNAMESE COMMUNISTS MINGLE WITH THE LOCAL POPULACE.

2. BO ALSO SAID THAT THE PEOPLE IN THE PROVINCE ARE OPPOSED TO THE STRATEGIC HAMLET PROGRAM, BECAUSE THEY ARE REQUIRED TO

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STATE/DIR

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PROVIDE TOO MUCH WORK, MATERIAL, AND MONEY. THIS OPPOSITION HAS BECOME SO STRONG THAT PROVINCIAL AUTHORITIES HAVE ISSUED ORDERS FORBIDDING ADDITIONAL DEMANDS FOR LABOR, MATERIAL, OR CASH.

3. BO REPORTED CONFLICT BETWEEN COMPETING FACTIONS IN THE PROVINCE, WHICH THE PROVINCE CHIEF, MAJOR LE TAP, IS UNABLE TO HANDLE. THE DEPUTY PROVINCE CHIEF FOR SECURITY, BA (FNU), A CLOSE ASSOCIATE OF BRIGADIER GENERAL TON THAT DINH, COMMANDING GENERAL, II CORPS, IS MORE INFLUENTIAL THAN TAP. TRUONG DINH CAC, WHO HOLDS THE POSITION OF DEPUTY PROVINCE CHIEF FOR ECONOMIC MATTERS, A POSITION NOT NORMALLY FOUND IN PROVINCIAL ORGANIZATIONS, IS THE REAL POWER IN THE PROVINCE. CAC WAS ASSIGNED TO THE PROVINCE BY NGO DINH CAN, BROTHER OF PRESIDENT NGO DINH DIEM AND POLITICAL LEADER OF CENTRAL VIETNAM, FOR THE SPECIFIC PURPOSE OF BRINGING ALL MAJOR PROVINCIAL ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES UNDER THE CONTROL OF CAN AND HIS FACTION IN THE CAN LAO PARTY. BO DESCRIBED THE DEPUTY PROVINCE CHIEF FOR ADMINISTRATION, YANG (FNU), AS A GOOD MAN BUT COMPLETELY LACKING IN AUTHORITY.

4. FIELD DISSEM: STATE ARMY NAVY AIR USMACV MAAG USOM CINCPAC PACFLT ARPAC PACAF 9TH FIELD STATION.

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