

20

TELEGRAM INFORMATION REPORT TELEGRAM

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

31

This material contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Laws, Title 18, U.S.C. Secs 793 and 794, the transmission or revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

CONFIDENTIAL

(When Filled In)

CLASSIFICATION — DISSEMINATION CONTROLS

COUNTRY SOUTH VIETNAM

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

SUBJECT PROGRESS OF FREE ELECTIONS IN STRATEGIC HAMLETS

DATE DISTR. 26 NOVEMBER 1962

PRECEDENCE ROUTINE

DATE OF INFO. [REDACTED]

REFERENCES

IN 24323

PLACE & DATE ACQ. VIETNAM, SAIGON [REDACTED]

APPRAISAL [REDACTED]

FIELD REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

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

SOURCE [REDACTED]

1.

[REDACTED] THE MOST SIGNIFICANT LONG TERM ASPECT OF THE STRATEGIC HAMLET PROGRAM MAY WELL BE THE CONCEPT OF FREE ELECTIONS AT THE HAMLET LEVEL, AND THE EVOLUTION OF THE ELECTED ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES AND ADVISORY COUNCILS INTO THE FIRST ORGANIZED ADMINISTRATIVE ENTITIES BELOW THE VILLAGE LEVEL. THE PROGRAM IN EACH AREA WILL BE ADVANCED OR RETARDED ACCORDING TO THE ABILITY OF THE INDIVIDUAL CIVIC ACTION PERSONNEL SENT INTO THE HAMLETS TO ORGANIZE INSTITUTIONS, INCLUDING ELECTIONS. MUCH ALSO WILL DEPEND ON THE ABILITY OF THE PROVINCE AND DISTRICT CHIEFS TO ADAPT THEIR THINKING TO THE NEW CONCEPTS. THUS, WITH

CONFIDENTIAL

CLASSIFICATION — DISSEMINATION CONTROLS

STATE/INR DIA ARMY/ACSI NAVY AIR JCS SECDEF NSA NIC AID USIA OCI ONE [REDACTED] ORR OBI OO [REDACTED]

STATE/DIR [REDACTED]

TELEGRAM INFORMATION REPORT TELEGRAM

31

JAN 1963

CONFIDENTIAL

(When Filled In)

TM 24323

PAGE 2

DEARTH OF HIGHLY CAPABLE ADMINISTRATORS FREE FROM TRADITIONAL AUTOCRATIC PROCEDURES, THE PROBLEM WILL BE ONE OF TRAINING AND INDOCTRINATION. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] NOT YET SURE WHETHER THE STRATEGIC HAMLET TRAINING SCHOOL AT THINGHE WAS GETTING ACROSS TO THE STUDENT ADMINISTRATORS THE FULL SCOPE AND INTENT OF THE PROGRAM. [REDACTED]

2. AS FOR IMPLEMENTING THE ELECTORAL PROCESS IN STRATEGIC HAMLETS, [REDACTED] CANDIDLY ADMITTED THAT RESULTS HAVE BEEN UNEVEN. IN SOME AREAS ELECTIONS HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN THE DESIRED SPIRIT OF FREEDOM, WHEREAS IN OTHER AREAS ADMINISTRATORS HAVE BEEN OVER-ZEALOUS IN EXERTING CONTROL EVEN AFTER COMPLETION OF THE SECURITY SCREENING PROCESS. WHILE THEIR INSTRUCTIONS REQUIRE A CLEAR CHOICE BY SECRET BALLOT BETWEEN INDIVIDUAL CANDIDATES ON AT LEAST TWO SLATES, THEIR ARBITRARY ACTIONS HAVE IN SOME INSTANCES VITIATED THE SPIRIT OF EDUCATING THE PEOPLE ON THE PRIVILEGES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF FREE ELECTIONS.

3. ELECTIONS OF ANY TYPE HAVE BEEN HELD IN ONLY ABOUT 600,

CONFIDENTIAL

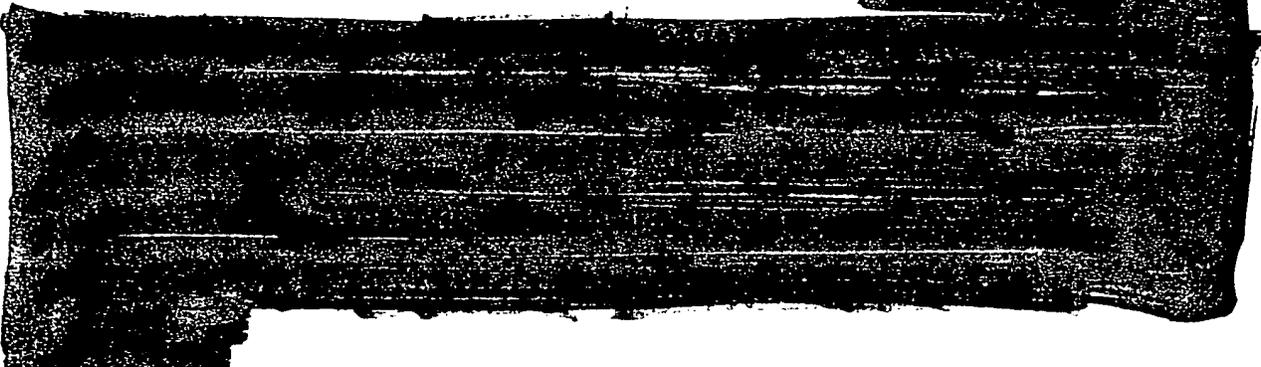
CONFIDENTIAL

(When Filled In)

IN 24323

PAGE 3

AND NOT MORE THAN 700, OF THE APPROXIMATELY 1800 STRATEGIC HAMLETS THAT MAY ACTUALLY BE CONSIDERED AS COMPLETED, I.E., WHERE PERIMETER DEFENSES HAVE BEEN CONSTRUCTED AND WHERE BASIC ORGANIZATIONAL TASKS HAVE BEEN ACCOMPLISHED.



4. [REDACTED] DISSEM. STATE ARMY NAVY AIR USMACV MAAG USOM
CINCPAC PACFLT ARPAC PACAF 9TH FIELD STATION 2ND AIR DIV USIS.

END OF MESSAGE

CONFIDENTIAL