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• ROUTINE

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GROUP 1
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~~SECRET~~

Oct 10 20 51Z

DIST 10 OCTOBER 1967

COUNTRY : VIETNAM

DOI : [REDACTED]

SUBJECT : STATEMENTS BY VO VAN SUNG, POLITICAL COUNSELOR
OF THE DRV GENERAL DELEGATION IN PARIS, ON THE
VIETNAM WAR

EO 12958 3.4
(C)

ACQ : [REDACTED]

SOURCE : [REDACTED]

EO 12958 3.4
(C)

SUMMARY : DURING AN INTERVIEW [REDACTED] VO VAN SUNG, THE
POLITICAL COUNSELOR OF THE GENERAL DELEGATION OF
THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM (DRV) IN PARIS

EO 12958 3.4
(C)

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: MAR 2001

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MADE THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON THE VIETNAM WAR:
THE DRV HAS NO FALSE ILLUSIONS CONCERNING THE
EFFICACY OF INTERNAL US OPPOSITION TO THE VIETNAM
WAR. THE DRV WILL COMMENCE NEGOTIATIONS WHEN THE
US STOPS BOMBING NORTH VIETNAM. ALTHOUGH THE
DRV FEARS THAT THE US WILL TRY TO BOMB THE DIXES,
THE DRV BELIEVES THAT ANTI-AIRCRAFT DEFENSE WILL
PREVENT THIS. THE DRV WILL DEFEAT THE US IN
ANOTHER "DIEN BIEN PHU". END SUMMARY.

1.

[REDACTED] THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TO VO VAN SUNG. SUNG'S
REPLIES WERE AS SHOWN. QUESTION: WHILE I WAS IN THE UNITED
STATES I LOOKED CAREFULLY INTO THE QUESTION OF INTERNAL US
OPPOSITION TO THE WAR. I FIND THAT, PERHAPS, YOU ARE BANKING
TOO MUCH ON THE EFFICACY OF THIS OPPOSITION. ANSWER: NO,
I CAN ASSURE YOU WE HAVE NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT THIS. WE HAVE READ
THE POLLS AND WE ARE HAPPY WITH WHAT WE SEE. HOWEVER, WE
RECOGNIZE THAT, DESPITE THE EXTENT AND VOCIFEROUSNESS OF THE
OPPOSITION, WE KNOW THAT IT REMAINS INEFFECTIVE AS LONG AS
JOHNSON REMAINS UNCONVINCED.

EO 12958 3.4(b)(1) (C)

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(classification)

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2. QUESTION: HAS IT OCCURRED TO YOU THAT YOU ARE DRIVING JOHNSON INTO A CORNER; THAT, AS LONG AS YOU PERSIST IN YOUR REFUSAL TO USE DIPLOMATIC TOOLS TO END THE WAR, HE HAS NO ALTERNATIVE TO CONTINUING TO PURSUE THE WAR.

ANSWER: ALL JOHNSON HAS TO DO IS TO STOP THE AGRSSION. WHEN THE BOMBING STOPS, WE WILL REACH OUR HAND OUT TO HIM. WE WILL THEN BEGIN TO TALK IN A QUIET AND RATIONAL WAY. JOHNSON OFFERED NOTHING NEW IN HIS LATEST SPEECH. THE BOMBING MUST STOP BEFORE WE TALK.

3. QUESTION: SALISBURY, IN HIS BOOK, CITES SOME QUESTIONS HE WAS ASKED IN HANOI WHICH INDICATE THAT YOU MAY SERIOUSLY UNDERESTIMATE THE VASTNESS OF UNITED STATES RESOURCES. ANSWER: OH NO. WE ARE NOT FOOLS, WE KNOW THE POWER OF THE UNITED STATES.

4. QUESTION: THEN YOU KNOW THAT YOU ARE FACED WITH ONLY TWO ALTERNATIVES: THE US CAN ESCALATE THE WAR TO YOUR DISADVANTAGE OR, IF THE US DOES NOT CHOOSE TO DO THIS FOR FEAR OF ADVERSE WORLD PUBLIC OPINION, THE BEST YOU CAN HOPE FOR IS AN INTERMINABLE CONTINUATION OF THE PRESENT SITUATION - A STALEMATE IN OTHER WORDS. YOU SURELY CANNOT

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HOPE FOR ANOTHER DIEN BIEN PHU. ANSWER: BUT YES. WE ARE PREPARING FOR A DIEN BIEN PHU AND IT WILL HAPPEN MUCH SOONER THAN YOU THINK. MORE THAN THAT I CANNOT TELL YOU.

5. QUESTION: WHAT ABOUT FURTHER US ESCALATION. IS THERE ANYTHING YOU REALISTICALLY FEAR? ANSWER: THE US COULD BOMB THE DIKES. QUESTION: I DON'T THINK THEY WOULD DO THAT FOR FEAR OF ADVERSE WORLD PUBLIC OPINION IN VIEW OF THE DIRE CONSEQUENCES OF SUCH ACTION. ANSWER: BUT THEY HAVE BOMBED SOME DIKES ALREADY. QUESTION: IF THEY HAD REALLY WANTED TO DESTROY THE DIKES, THEY COULD HAVE DONE SO. ANSWER: I DON'T THINK SO. OUR AIR DEFENSES ARE VERY EFFECTIVE.

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COMMENT: SUNG'S DISCUSSION ON POTENTIAL BOMBING OF DIKES WAS EVASIVE. HE DID NOT WISH TO DISCUSS THIS SUBJECT IN DETAIL. HAD IMPRESSION THAT THE QUESTION OF BOMBING DIKES WAS OF SERIOUS CONCERN TO SUNG.)

6. DISSEM: CINCPAC, PACAF, ARPAC, PACFLT () REPORT CLASS: SECRET/NO DISSEM ABROAD/ CONTROLLED DISSEM/ NO FOREIGN DISSEM

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