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2 May 1962

APPROVED FOR RELEASE  
DATE: MAR 2001

STATUS REPORT  
ON  
COVERT ACTIONS IN VIETNAM  
(Keyed to 2 May Report)

1. a. Montagnard (Highlander) Program:

On 24-25 April several of the fortified hamlets built by the Rhade ethnic tribesmen in the Buon Enao area of Darlac Province were again attacked by Vietnamese communists (VC) under the leadership of a NVN captain who was in uniform. Vietnamese National Army reinforcements helped the fortified village repulse the attack.

On 28 April approximately 3,000 Rhade from north of Buon Ho, which is in the 38 hamlet Rhade defense complex, came to Buon Enao seeking refuge from the Viet Cong and volunteered for resettlement and training against the Viet Cong.

An additional 330 Montagnard (Highlander) Commandos were recruited to be trained as commando teams in six of the CVN provinces; the provinces of Phu Yen, Khanh Hoa and Tuyen Duc were included.

b. Rural Reconstruction Operations:

200 additional civic action ministry cadres arrived at the Thu Duc training center (near Saigon) for a weapons familiarization course

c. Para-Military/Intelligence Operations Against Viet Cong [REDACTED]

At the Danang training center near Tourane, 350 members of the force populaire, an organization of the elite youth of CVN, also began a weapons familiarization course.

[REDACTED] American special force team departed for Soc Trang, near the mouth of the Bassac River, to open another civilian irregular defense training group there on 21 May.

[REDACTED]

EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)>25Yrs  
EO 12958 3.4(b)(6)>25Yrs  
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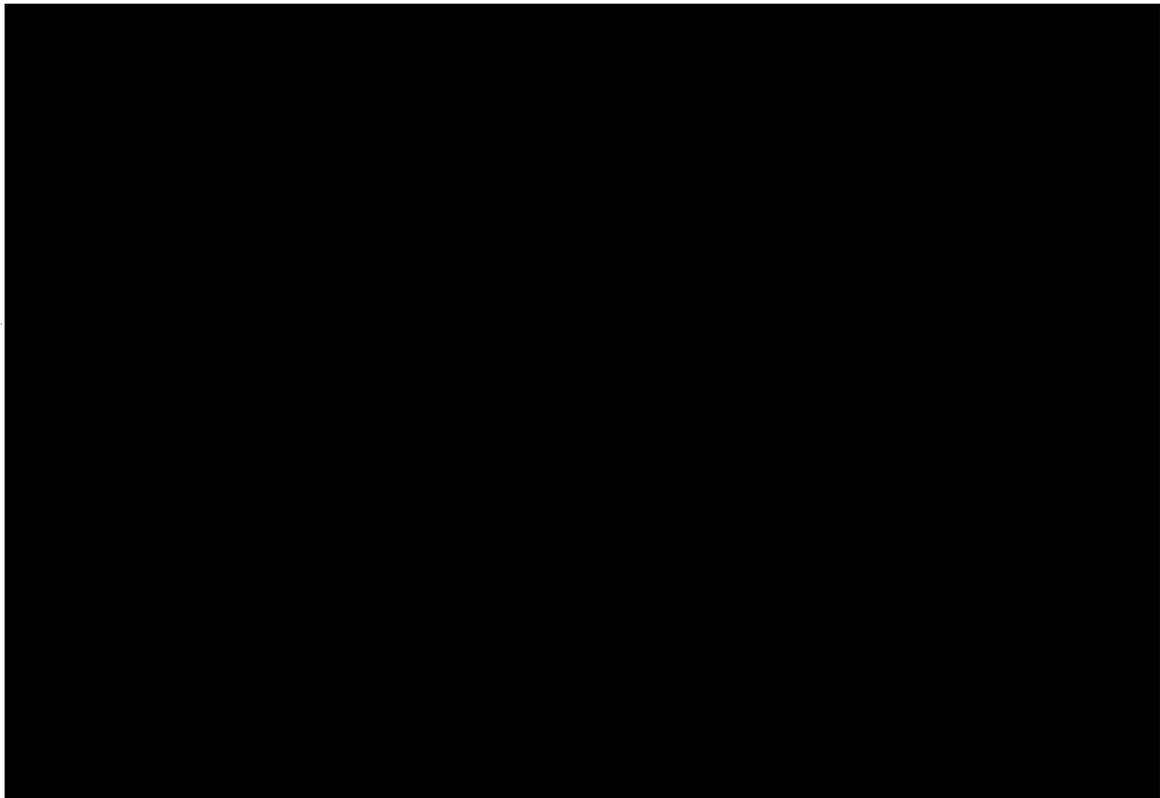
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Contact was made with the enemy of approximately one company strength on 29 April, and an additional skirmish occurred on 30 April at YD [REDACTED] No casualties were reported.

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EO 12958 3.4(b)(6)>25Yrs  
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D. Joint Penetration Operations with National Police and Security Services (NPSS):

The first course for 73 Domestic Intelligence Service officers (DIS) was graduated the last week of April and further on-the-job training is carried out in the Saigon area.

Dr. Tran Kim Tuyen, Director of SEPES, stated that some coolness had developed between President Diem and his political advisor and brother, Ngo Dinh Nhu, which resulted in delays and confusion in the implementation of joint programs. Further Dr. Tuyen described a developing mistrust by Diem of key government figures such as Assistant Minister of National Defense Nguyen Dinh Thuan. Minister for Civic Action, Ngo Trung Hieu has also described differences in policy in the President's family.

Buildings were obtained and renovation will be started for the future headquarters of DIS and the National Interrogation Center. Temporary quarters have been obtained in order that interrogation center work could begin.

2. through 4.: No significant change.

5. Provincial Survey:

27 of the 39 surveys scheduled of provincial NPSS units have now

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been completed.

6. 

No significant change.

7. Other Activities:

After considerable prodding through CAS liaison and unilateral channels, the GVN was influenced to permit the formation of the National Student Congress representing all university students. This is a reversal of policy heretofore strictly limited and monitored activities of a small national union of students.

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