

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: MAR 2001

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COVERT ANNEX
TO
STATUS REPORT OF TASK FORCE VIETNAM
(29 May to 12 June 1962)

I. SOUTH VIETNAM

A. Counterinsurgency Programs

1. Citizens Irregular Defense Groups (CIDG's)

a. The Vietnamese Communist (VC) attack of 29 May at Kinh Quoc Gia in Father Hoa's area resulted in 27 "Sea Swallows" killed in action, 18 wounded in action and the loss of two BAR's. While only 17 VC bodies were found, an investigation revealed 60 new graves north of the Tan Hung Tay market, presumably VC victims of the battle with the "Sea Swallows".

b. Six steel matting helicopter pads were installed at Binh Hung and will be used for training Father Hoa's "Sea Swallows" in helicopter-borne operations and for delivery of supplies and transportation of personnel.

c. As of 10 June, a total of 1,580 Rhade villagers had been trained at Buon Eno. This brings the total of defended villages to 69, of which 35 have medical specialists trained at Buon Eno. Two ARVN platoons completed training and returned to their units in Darlac Province, making a total of six such platoons trained. Another two ARVN scout platoons and one Surete platoon entered training.

d. A group of 300 raw recruits provided by the Presidential Liaison Office are being processed at the [redacted] Thu Duc training center to enter training. After completion of training they will be assigned to form two new Clandestine Action Service Airborne Companies (ARC), the 5th and 6th.

2. Joint Operations with GVN Intelligence and Security Services

a. The preliminary interrogation of a North Vietnamese Army Signal Corps Lieutenant who defected to the GVN on 24 May has been completed [redacted] A

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[redacted]

[redacted]

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National Security Agency expert has arrived in Saigon to debrief this defector jointly with [REDACTED]

b. As of 12 June 1962, all provincial intelligence surveys have been completed. A total of 27 finished reports have been forwarded to Commissioner Nguyen Van Y, leaving 17 in various stages of completion.

c. A contract was signed for the construction of the CIO Interrogation Center and work has begun. The contract calls for completion of the main interrogation facility in eight weeks.

B. Covert Intelligence

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1. Various [REDACTED] assets have reported projected changes in the Ministry of Civic Action. On 5 June Minister Ngo Trong Hieu stated that President Diem had directed that the three major elements of youth, civic action, and information revert to their former status of autonomous entities and that the Ministry Secretariat be abolished. Diem also directed that Civic Action teams cease functioning as aggressive combat units and be used only for self defense. The exact date for implementing these changes is not yet known but the changes are regarded as a blow to the prestige of Hieu.

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2. One [REDACTED] asset has reported that the Vietnamese Air Force (VNAF) was quite impressed and pleased with the establishment of the Joint Operations Center (JOC) and resultant improvement in operational effectiveness.

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3. Limited public opinion sampling in Phong Dinh Province (SW of Saigon) confirms previous reporting that the peasant, for the most part, is hostile or has adopted a "wait-and-see" attitude toward the regime. Reasons were: injustices of GVN officials, shelling of village by GVN forces, inadequacy of GVN aid to villages. These reports constitute initial results of a continuing unilateral program designed to better determine rural attitudes and reactions. [REDACTED] Saigon will attempt to determine the reaction of the population to aerial strikes.

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II. SOUTH LAOS (Paramilitary Operations)

On 5 June a special Clandestine Action Service six-man team with two Laotian guides was launched to conduct reconnaissance and harassment operations in the vicinity of Muong Nong, located about 15 miles south of Route 9 (XD 605100).

III. NORTH VIETNAM

A. Intelligence

1. A singleton agent was put ashore by junk in the Phat Diem area on the night of 1 June. The agent is to proceed overland to Hanoi to reestablish former contacts with Catholic groups and report on possible sabotage targets, as well as political and economic conditions. The agent is scheduled to return in one month.

2. Another singleton agent was put ashore by junk in Thanh Hoa Province on 10 June. This agent is also to proceed overland to Hanoi in an attempt to recontact persons formerly employed with him in intelligence activities. Targets are order of battle and political and economic information.

B. Paramilitary

A [redacted] junk transporting a team of underwater swimmers (UDT) was launched on 30 May on a mission whose objective was to destroy one or more Swatow class gunboats moored near Ba Don, located approximately 75 miles north of the 17th parallel. Within 35 kilometers of the target the junk was challenged and then pursued by two larger enemy vessels. The junk escaped but was unable to reach the target. Excellent reconnaissance support was rendered by COMSUBPAC.

C. Psychological Warfare

A black radio, purporting to be voice of the Front for the Liberation for South Vietnam (FLSVN), but long off the air for technical reasons, again began broadcasting. Its objective will be to sow discord between the FLSVN and the Vietnamese communist party (Peoples Revolutionary Party). Thematic guidance and technical help has been provided by [redacted]

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Highlights (29 May to 12 June)

1. The preliminary interrogation of a North Vietnamese Army Signal Corps Lieutenant, who defected to the GVN on 24 May, has been completed (paragraph I A 2a).

2. Limited public opinion sampling in Phong Dinh Province (SW of Saigon) confirms previous reporting that the peasant, for the most part, is hostile or has adopted a "wait-and-see" attitude toward the regime. (Paragraph I B 3)

3. Construction of the Central Intelligence Organization (CIO) Interrogation Center has begun (paragraph I A 2c).

4. Two singleton agents were infiltrated via junk into North Vietnam on 1 June and 10 June respectively (paragraphs III A 1 and 2).

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