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Wednesday, August 30, 1967

TEXT OF CIA REPORT

EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)-25Yrs  
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Begin Text

In a letter dated June 9, 1967, a Chinese resident of Haiphong writing to his relatives in Hong Kong made the following comments about effects of the air raids, the costs of evacuating his dependents from the city and other financial complaints:

a. "At the present time, Haiphong is daily being subjected to United States attack. This wild and savage bombardment by the American imperialists, particularly against Haiphong, has resulted in the large scale evacuation of the factories and population, and in turn has brought extreme poverty to the people.

b. "There are ten persons in my family, most of whom have no independent means of support, except my eldest son who has recently obtained a job at a plastics factory where he earns 50 dongs a month which just meets his own expenses. The second son drives an oxcart which is of some help. My third and fourth sons and fifth daughter are at school; my old mother and my wife live with a sixth daughter and seventh son, both of whom are of school age, but unfortunately, because of my financial situation, I cannot pay for their schooling.

c. "We have not been able to send all of our children to safety in the countryside. Three have gone with their school evacuation group but their monthly board and lodging costs 100 dongs. Since I have been unemployed since March (1967), I grow deeper in debt. With no income and no reasonable work, I have volunteered to work in the forest, but while waiting for action on my application, I have been without a cent of income.

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d. "Last month we received your package of medicines by post which helped expenses for a short time, but the money did not go very far towards paying the debts owed to my friends. I again beg you to send more medicine to help me in my present hardship. This time, send two packages, one to my wife and one to my friend. It is important that two different addresses of senders be used. This way I will be able to keep more of the B-12 (vitamins); otherwise, most if not all of it will be purchased by the government. Before sending the packages, first advise me of the name and address of each sender, so that due application to customs can be made." [REDACTED] Comment. Gift packages, particularly drug shipments, are highly valued for the price the drugs can be sold on the blackmarket. It is the standard practice of the North Vietnamese authorities, however, to appropriate as much as ninety percent or more of such scarce goods, reimbursement for which is made at official prices.)

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