

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Intelligence Information Cable

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GROUP 1
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CITE [REDACTED]

~~SECRET~~

DIST 15 SEPTEMBER 1967

COUNTRY NORTH VIETNAM/FRANCE

EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)>25Yrs
(C)

DOI EARLY SEPTEMBER 1967

SUBJECT NORTH VIETNAMESE OFFICIAL'S COMMENTS ON PEACE NEGOTIATIONS

EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)>25Yrs
(C)

ACQ 13 SEPTEMBER 1967

FIELD NO.

SOURCE [REDACTED]

EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)>25Yrs
(C)

1. LE DINH NAHN, THE NORTH VIETNAMESE DIPLOMAT IN PARIS WHO HANDLES LIAISON WITH THE FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY ON PROPAGANDA MATTERS, MADE THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS IN EARLY SEPTEMBER 1967 ON PEACE NEGOTIATIONS [REDACTED]

A. THE PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVE IN PROPAGANDA ACTIVITY CONTINUES TO BE THE ADVOCATION OF COMPLETE AND UNCONDITIONAL CESSATION OF BOMBARDMENTS OF NORTH VIETNAM BY THE UNITED STATES. THIS OBJECTIVE MUST CONTINUE TO STAND BY ITSELF AND SHOULD NOT BE TIED TO ANY QUO PRO QUO ON THE PART OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT.

B. IF THE BOMBARDMENT OF NORTH VIETNAM BY THE UNITED STATES CEASES, NORTH VIETNAM WOULD BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES. HOWEVER, THE NORTH

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VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT WOULD TAKE NO POSITION ON THE FORM THESE NEGOTIATIONS WOULD TAKE PRIOR TO THE UNCONDITIONAL CESSATION OF BOMBARDMENTS.

C. THE NORTH VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT IS OPPOSED TO ANY NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT. THE UNITED STATES MUST NEGOTIATE DIRECTLY WITH NORTH VIETNAM.

EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)>25Yrs
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D. THE NORTH VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT IS OPPOSED TO ANY NEW GENEVA CONFERENCE ON VIETNAM. [REDACTED] COMMENT. [REDACTED] THIS NORTH VIETNAMESE POSITION, WHICH IS SHARED BY THE SOVIET UNION, REFLECTS THE NEED FOR EXCLUDING COMMUNIST CHINA FROM ANY ROLE IN NEGOTIATIONS ON THE VIETNAM WAR. COMMUNIST CHINA, [REDACTED] IS OPPOSED TO THE PRESENT NORTH VIETNAMESE POSITION ON NEGOTIATIONS.)

2. LE DINH NAHN COMMENTED THAT THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE ELECTION RESULTS CAUSED INCREASED DISUNITY IN SOUTH VIETNAM AND THAT HE EXPECTED THAT ALL SORTS OF PROPOSITIONS ON PEACE NEGOTIATION WOULD SOON BE FORTHCOMING AS A RESULT. NONE OF THESE PROPOSITIONS WOULD BE CONSIDERED, HOWEVER, UNLESS THERE WAS FIRST AN UNCONDITIONAL CESSATION OF BOMBARDMENTS OF NORTH VIETNAM.

3. LE DINH NAHN EXPRESSED GRATIFICATION THAT IN FRANCE AND THE UNITED STATES PUBLIC OPINION WAS INCREASINGLY FAVORABLE TO NORTH VIETNAM'S POSITIONS. IN HIS VIEW, THERE APPEARS TO BE ALMOST COMPLETE UNITY OF OPINION THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD CEASE ITS BOMBING OF THE NORTH. NAHN ATTACHED PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE TO THE FAVORABLE TREND HE BELIEVES IS DEVELOPING IN AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION.

4. SOURCE COMMENT. [REDACTED] NAHN IS VERY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT NORTH VIETNAM'S POSITION ON NEGOTIATIONS.

EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)>25Yrs
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VIETNAMESE PROSPECTS FOR SETTLING THE VIETNAMESE WAR ON ITS OWN TERMS, AND HE APPEARS TO EXPECT THAT THE UNITED STATES, IN RESPONSE TO PUBLIC OPINION, WILL SOON STOP ITS BOMBING OF NORTH VIETNAM.

5. FIELD DISSEM. STATE (AMB, DCM, POL COUNSELLOR ONLY), CINCPAC, ARPAC, PACAF, PACFLT (ALSO SENT SAIGON, PARIS, BANGKOK, HONG KONG).

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