

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Intelligence Information Cable

ROUTINE
IN 64890 *68a*

PAGE 1 OF 4 PAGES

STATE/INR DIA ARMY NAVY AIR JCS SECDEF NSA NIC AID USA SDO ONE OCR ORR DCS CGS CIA/NMCC

This material contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Laws, Title 18, U.S.C. Secs. 793 and 794, the transmission or revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

~~NO FOREIGN DISSEM~~

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CITE TDCS

EO 12958
6.1(c)-25Yrs

DIST 4 OCTOBER 1967

COUNTRY VIETNAM

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: JUN 2001

DOI MID-SEPTEMBER 1967

SUBJECT COMMENTS OF MEMBER OF NORTH VIETNAM DELEGATION IN PARIS ON VIETNAM WAR

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

ACQ

(29 SEPTEMBER 1967)

FIELD NO.

SOURCE

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

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

1.

5
4
3
2
1

2. THE FOLLOWING IS THE SUBSTANCE OF TRAN'S REMARKS: "WE HAVE THE INITIATIVE IN THE SOUTH AND WE CONTINUE TO STRIKE. THE SUCCESSES THERE ARE OURS. (US SECRETARY OF DEFENSE) MCNAMARA'S STATEMENT IS THE BEGINNING OF

5
4
3
2
1

~~CONFIDENTIAL/NO FOREIGN DISSEM~~
(classification) (dissem controls)

~~C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L/NO FOREIGN DISSEM/~~

(classification) (dissem controls)

REALISTIC INSIGHT--BOMBING THE CITIES WILL CHANGE NOTHING. IN THE LONG RUN THE WILL POWER OF THE UNITED STATES WILL BE SUFFICIENTLY UNDERMINED, THEIR PUBLIC OPINION TIRED, AND THEY WILL GIVE IN."

3. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION REGARDING THE BOMBING OF THE DYKES, TRAN HESITANTLY REMARKED WITH A SHRUG: "THE RAINY SEASON WILL SOON PASS AND THEN THE DANGER IS NOT GREAT ANYMORE."

4. TRAN SAID "WE HAVE NO ILLUSIONS; IT WILL TAKE A LONG TIME TO OBTAIN COMPLETE VICTORY. THE AMERICAN ELECTIONS WILL SOLVE NOTHING--THE REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES ARE ALL GOLDWATERITES. ONLY AFTER THE ELECTIONS CAN THE WAR'S IMPACT BE FELT SUFFICIENTLY WHEREBY IT WILL BEGIN TO INFLUENCE EVENTS IN THE UNITED STATES."

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

5. UPON [REDACTED] QUERY REGARDING THE SUFFERING OF THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE, TRAN MADE AN ANALOGY BY REFERRING TO THE GERMAN OCCUPATION OF SMALL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES DURING WORLD WAR II. "THE SUFFERINGS AND HUMILIATIONS FORCED UPON THESE PEOPLE BY THE GERMANS DID NOT DETER THEM FROM FIGHTING BACK."

6. ACCORDING TO TRAN, THE UNITED STATES WISHES TO STAY IN VIETNAM AND THEREFORE ANY COMPROMISE IS IMPOSSIBLE.

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

7. "WE ARE SUPPLE ENOUGH", TRAN REMARKED IRONICALLY. "YOU KNOW HOW CLUMSY AMERICAN DIPLOMACY IS. THEY (THE AMERICANS) ONLY UNDERSTAND COARSE MANEUVERS." [REDACTED] COMMENT: APPARENTLY TRAN MEANT TO IMPLY THAT SOME DELICATE MANEUVER OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE HAD MISFIRED BECAUSE OF "CLUMSINESS"

~~C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L/NO FOREIGN DISSEM/~~

(classification) (dissem controls)

5
4
3
2
1

~~CONFIDENTIAL/NO FOREIGN DISSEM~~

(classification)

(dissem controls)

OF THE AMERICANS.)

8. THE SEPTEMBER 1967 ELECTIONS IN SOUTH VIETNAM HAVE NOT PROVED ANYTHING, INASMUCH AS THEY ARE ONLY THE OUTCOME OF AMERICAN PRESSURE ON THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE POPULATION.

9. CONCERNING THE PROBLEM OF UNIFICATION IN VIETNAM, TRAN SAID IT WAS A PROBLEM FOR THE VIETNAMESE TO SETTLE THEMSELVES. WHEN REMINDED THAT THE NORTH IS ALREADY STABILIZED AND CONSOLIDATED AS A COMMUNIST COUNTRY AND THAT IT FOLLOWS THAT UNIFICATION COULD MEAN THAT THE WHOLE OF VIETNAM WOULD BECOME COMMUNIST, TRAN RESPONDED AS FOLLOWS: "UNIFICATION WILL BE BROUGHT ABOUT GRADUALLY--IT MAY TAKE TWENTY YEARS AND WHO CAN PREDICT WHAT THE NORTH WILL LOOK LIKE AFTER TWENTY YEARS?" [REDACTED] COMMENT: DURING THE CONVERSATION, TRAN CAME BACK REPEATEDLY TO THIS PREMISE, BUT EMPHATICALLY STATED THAT UNIFICATION WAS THEIR (THE VIETNAMESE) BUSINESS AND THAT HE NEED NOT DISCUSS THE ISSUE WITH OTHERS. TRAN BECAME HEATED AND PROBABLY EMBARRASSED.)

10. TRAN SAID THAT NORTH VIETNAM IS INDEPENDENT--ALSO FROM COMMUNIST CHINA. "CHINA IS A GOOD ALLY BUT HAS NO DIRECT INFLUENCE." THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION, ACCORDING TO TRAN, HAS NOT SHAKEN CHINA SO MUCH THAT--AT THIS MOMENT--IT CAN NO LONGER PLAY A ROLE IN WORLD POLITICS. "MAO WILL WIN AND IS ALREADY WINNING."

11. TRAN DEFENDED THE GENEVA ACCORD OF 1954 BUT WITHOUT MUCH WARMTH. HOWEVER HE OBVIOUSLY THINKS THAT IT IS THE BEST SOLUTION FOR THE PRESENT.

~~CONFIDENTIAL/NO FOREIGN DISSEM~~

(classification)

(dissem controls)

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

5
4
3
2
1