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Intelligence Information Cable

STATE/INR JCS/MC (DIA) CIA/NMCC SWS NSA NSC/S SDO NIO CRS PAGE 1 OF 6 PAGES

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DIST 21 JUNE 1976

COUNTRY VIETNAM/INTERNATIONAL

DOI APRIL - MAY 1976

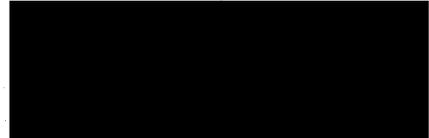
SUBJECT ON DRV POLICY TOWARDS OTHER SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS AND THE UNITED STATES

SUMMARY:

0452-165-6

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APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: OCT 2001

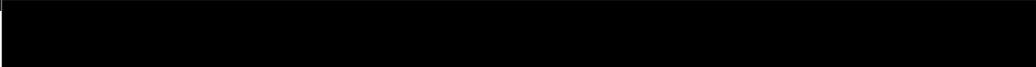


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END SUMMARY.

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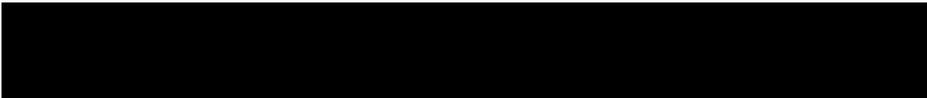
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM (DRV)

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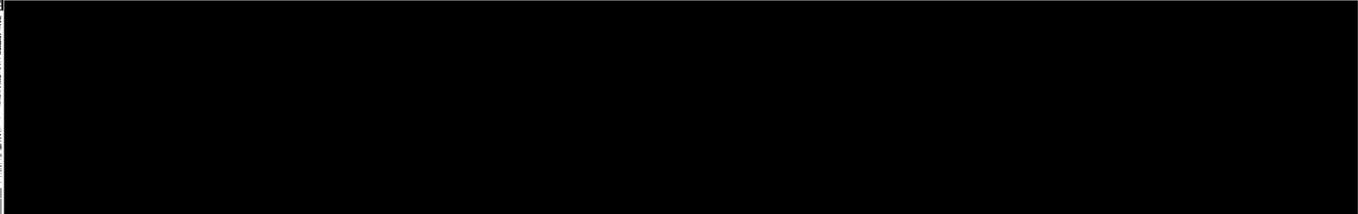
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ASSISTANT FOREIGN MINISTER NGO DIEN SAID THAT HE IS OPTIMISTIC THAT RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. WILL IMPROVE AFTER THE U.S. ELECTIONS. HE SAID THAT ONE MAIN OBSTACLE TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS IS THE AMERICAN INSISTENCE FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MEN MISSING IN ACTION (MIA). HE EXPLAINED THAT THE U.S. DOES NOT REALIZE THE MAJOR EFFORTS THE DRV HAS MADE THUS FAR IN THIS REGARD, OR THE DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED IN OBTAINING THIS SORT OF INFORMATION. DIEN SAID THE DRV EXPECTS SOME SORT OF SMALL GESTURE FROM THE U.S. TO PAVE THE WAY FOR A FURTHER EASING OF TENSIONS BY RESPONDING POSITIVELY TO DRV EFFORTS TO LOCATE AMERICAN MIA'S. DIEN ADDED THAT VIETNAM IS IN FAVOR OF IMPROVING ECONOMIC AND DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE U.S., AND THAT VIETNAM VIEWS THE U.S. AS A MAJOR TRADING PARTNER IN THE FUTURE. DIEN SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED VIETNAM'S IMMEDIATE NEED FOR AMERICAN SPARE PARTS AND PETROLEUM TECHNOLOGY, BUT ADDED THAT VIETNAM WILL MOVE AHEAD WITH OR WITHOUT U.S. ASSISTANCE.

COMMENT: 




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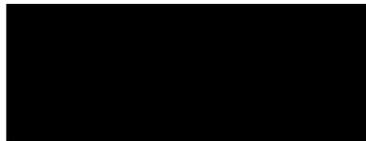
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ALTHOUGH NONE OF THE OFFICIALS WOULD ENUMERATE THE CONCESSIONS THAT THE DRV MIGHT BE WILLING TO MAKE, THEY ALL INDICATED THAT THE U.S. WOULD PROFIT FROM IMPROVED RELATIONS.)

2. DIEN SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN VIETNAM AND THAILAND IS CONTINGENT UPON THE REMOVAL OF U.S. MILITARY BASES, THIS IS NOT THE CASE WITH THE PHILIPPINES. HE EXPLAINED THAT VIETNAM DOES NOT REGARD THE PHILIPPINES AS HOSTILE TO VIETNAM, AND THE PRESENCE OF AMERICAN BASES THERE WOULD NOT INHIBIT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FORMAL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. DIEN STATED THAT VIETNAM HAS NO MILITARY DESIGNS UPON ITS NEIGHBORS, AND EXPLAINED THAT THAILAND IS USING THE POSSIBLE THREAT FROM VIETNAM AS AN EXCUSE TO DRAW ATTENTION AWAY FROM ITS OWN INTERNAL PROBLEMS. HE SAID THE PRESENT POLITICAL SYSTEM IN THAILAND IS AT FAULT, AND THAT SYSTEM MUST BE CHANGED IN ORDER TO BRING IMPROVEMENT IN THE COUNTRY.

3. WHEN QUESTIONED ABOUT THE DISPUTE BETWEEN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND VIETNAM OVER THE PARACEL AND SPRATLY ISLANDS, DIEN BRUSHED THE QUESTION ASIDE AS BEING UNIMPORTANT. HE SAID THE PRESS HAS BLOWN THE PROBLEM OUT OF PROPORTION AND THAT THE DRV WANTS NO MORE

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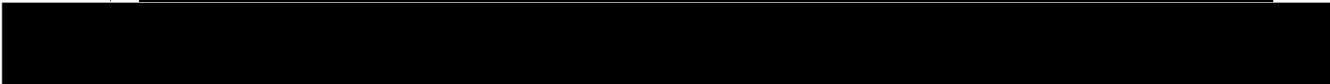
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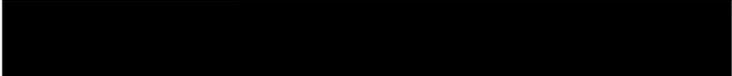
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PUBLICITY CONCERNING THE AFFAIR. HE TERMED THE PROBLEM AS "ONE BETWEEN BROTHERS," AND DENIED THAT DRV RELATIONS WITH THE PRC HAVE DETERIORATED BADLY.

4.



THE IDEA OF VIETNAM JOINING WITH COUNTRIES SUCH AS THAILAND AND INDONESIA IN A SOUTHEAST ASIAN COLLECTIVE SECURITY PACT IS RIDICULOUS.

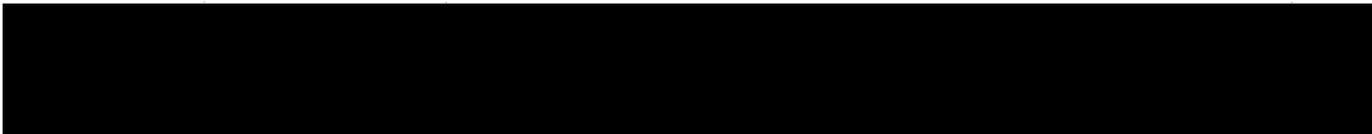


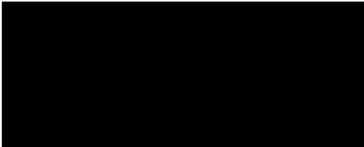
WHEN ASKED WHY THE NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY IS NOT BEING DEMOBILIZED, HE REPLIED THAT IT IS BEING DEMOBILIZED TO A CERTAIN EXTENT, BUT THAT THE EVENT IS NOT BEING PUBLICIZED. HE SAID THE FIRST TO BE RELEASED FROM THE ARMY WERE THE AGED TROOPS AND STUDENTS.



COMMENT: DECLINED TO GIVE ANY DEMOBILIZATION FIGURES TO SUPPORT HIS STATEMENT.)

5.





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