

SECRET (When Filled In)



Intelligence Information Cable

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DIST 15 OCTOBER 1976

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COUNTRY: VIETNAM/CHINA/SOUTHEAST ASIA

DOI: [REDACTED] OCTOBER 1976

SUBJECT: STATEMENT OF VIETNAMESE FOREIGN POLICY, PARTICULARLY REGARDING CHINA AND SOUTHEAST ASIA, BY A VIETNAMESE FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL

[REDACTED]

1.

[REDACTED]

(FNU) DIEM, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, ASIAN DIVISION, VIETNAMESE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, [REDACTED]

DIEM SAID THAT VIETNAM HAD ASKED THE UNITED STATES (U.S.) TO MEET TO DISCUSS THE LIST OF AMERICAN MISSING IN ACTION (MIA) PERSONNEL TOGETHER WITH U.S. AID FOR VIETNAM'S REHABILITATION.

HOWEVER, THE U.S. UNILATERALLY RELEASED THE NEWS ABOUT THE 12

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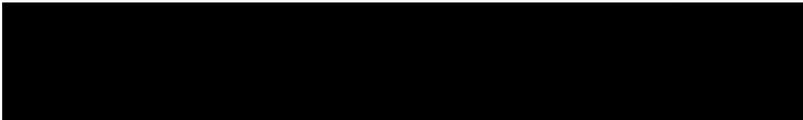
(classification)

AMERICAN MIA'S PRIOR TO AGREEING TO HOLD THE MEETING. DIEM SAID THIS U.S. ACTION HAD SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED VIETNAM'S DISTRUST OF THE U.S. AND DAMAGED PROSPECTS FOR IMPROVING RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

2. DIEM SAID ALTHOUGH BOTH THE USSR AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA (PRC) HAD PROVIDED MORAL AND MATERIAL SUPPORT FOR VIETNAM'S LIBERATION, VIETNAM HAD ALWAYS PERSISTED IN MAINTAINING ITS INDEPENDENT LINE, WHICH WOULD CERTAINLY BE CONTINUED AFTER UNIFICATION. ACCORDING TO DIEM, BECAUSE OF THE MUTUAL SUSPICION BETWEEN THE USSR AND THE PRC, NEITHER WOULD HAVE HELPED VIETNAM IF VIETNAM HAD NOT ADOPTED AN INDEPENDENT LINE.

3. DIEM SAID VIETNAM'S FRIENDLY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PRC WOULD BE UNAFFECTED BY THE DEATH OF MAO TSE-TUNG. HE SAID WESTERN REPORTS THAT CHINA HAD STOPPED ITS AID TO VIETNAM SINCE THE END OF THE WAR WERE FALSE. HOWEVER, HE ADMITTED, THE NATURE OF CHINESE AID TO VIETNAM HAS CHANGED SINCE LIBERATION. FOR INSTANCE, THERE HAS BEEN MUCH LESS FOOD FROM CHINA AS COMPARED TO THE WAR DAYS. DIEM ADDED THAT THE PRC DID SUPPLY VIETNAM WITH ALL THE FOOD PROMISED IN CONTRACTS CONCLUDED BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

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4. DIEM SAID THAT VIETNAM WOULD SUPPORT INDEPENDENCE AND LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN OTHER SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES; HOWEVER, VIETNAM WOULD NOT INTERFERE IN THE DOMESTIC AFFAIRS OF THOSE NATIONS. HE SAID THE REVOLUTIONARY FORCES OF THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES HAD ASKED VIETNAM TO PROVIDE THEM WEAPONS BUT VIETNAM HAD TURNED DOWN THEIR REQUESTS, BECAUSE VIETNAM BELIEVES THAT TO PROVIDE ARMS FOR REVOLUTIONARY FORCES IN OTHER COUNTRIES WOULD BE INTERFERING IN THE DOMESTIC AFFAIRS OF THOSE COUNTRIES.

5. DIEM SAID VIETNAM IS INTERESTED ONLY IN ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION WITH LAOS AND CAMBODIA AND HAS NO INTENTION OF FORMING MILITARY ALLIANCES WITH THEM. VIETNAM'S POLICY TOWARD INDOCHINA WOULD BE TO COOPERATE WITH LAOS AND CAMBODIA SO THAT INDOCHINA CAN ACHIEVE ECONOMIC PROSPERITY. VIETNAM HOPES THAT BOTH LAOS AND CAMBODIA WILL ADOPT A POLICY OF NEUTRALITY, INDEPENDENCE AND PEACE.

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