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CITE

DIST 23 FEBRUARY 1967

COUNTRY: NORTH VIETNAM JAPAN

DOI: DECEMBER 66 - JANUARY 67

SUBJ: NORTH VIETNAM'S RESERVATIONS CONCERNING THE
PLANNING FOR THE BERTRAND RUSSELL "WAR CRIMES"
TRIBUNAL AND ITS INTENTION TO COORDINATE WITH
THE JCP ON COLLECTION OF "EVIDENCE"

Collins

M. S. Burg

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11-2-02 BY SP-8 ALM/ELAL

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classified per
66A letter of
2-4-02.

ACQ:

FIELD NO.

SOURCE:

[Redacted]

1. (SUMMARY: ACCORDING TO HO CHI MINH AND OTHER RANKING NORTH VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS, NORTH VIETNAM IS AT ODDS ON A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT POINTS WITH PLANS OF THE BERTRAND RUSSELL SECRETARIAT IN PREPARATION FOR ITS "WAR CRIMES" TRIBUNAL. THEY DID, HOWEVER, EXPRESS HIGH REGARD FOR THE WORK OF THE JCIWCV IN COLLECTING EVIDENCE FOR USE AT THE TRIBUNAL, AND SAID THEY

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INTENDED TO COORDINATE FULLY WITH THE JCIWCV IN THIS ACTIVITY. THEY ADDED THAT NORTH VIETNAM WILL ENCOURAGE AN INCREASING NUMBER OF VISITS OF INVESTIGATING DELEGATIONS FROM NATIONAL TRIBUNAL SUPPORT COMMITTEES FROM NOW ON.)

2. DURING DECEMBER AND JANUARY, PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH AND OTHER HIGH RANKING NORTH VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS, IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE VISITING SEVEN-MAN DELEGATION OF THE JAPAN COMMUNIST PARTY (JCP)--CONTROLLED JAPAN COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE WAR CRIMES IN VIETNAM (JCIWCV), EXPRESSED THE FOLLOWING VIEWS:

A. NORTH VIETNAM DOES NOT HAVE HIGH EXPECTATIONS FOR THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE TRIBUNAL, BUT WILL SUPPORT IT NEVERTHELESS.

B. NORTH VIETNAM WANTS THE TRIBUNAL TO OUTDO THE NUREMBURG TRIALS IN CHARGING CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY.

C. NORTH VIETNAM WANTS THE TRIBUNAL TO PASS SENTENCES ON THE AMERICAN WAR CRIMINALS, AND IS DISSATISFIED THAT THE PRESENT PREVAILING VIEW IN THE RUSSELL SECRETARIAT OPPOSES THIS.

D. NORTH VIETNAM WANTED TO SEND AN OFFICIAL DELEGATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TRIBUNAL, BUT WAS REFUSED BY THE RUSSELL SECRETARIAT.

E. NORTH VIETNAM HAS REFUSED THE RUSSELL SECRETARIAT

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REQUEST THAT 300-400 INJURED AND VICTIMIZED VIETNAMESE PEOPLE BE SENT TO THE TRIBUNAL SITE TO TESTIFY AS WITNESSES, AND BELIEVES THAT NO MORE THAN 3 OR 4 SUCH WOUNDED VICTIMS SHOULD GO, IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THE AUSTERE ORDERLINESS OF THE TRIBUNAL PROCEEDINGS AND PREVENT IT FROM BEING TURNED INTO A KIND OF CIRCUS SIDE-SHOW.

F. NORTH VIETNAM WANTS THE TRIBUNAL TO CONVENE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, AND BELIEVES THAT IT WOULD BE MORE EFFECTIVE TO HAVE THE DURATION OF THE TRIBUNAL PROCEEDINGS MUCH SHORTER THAN THE PERIOD OF APPROXIMATELY THREE MONTHS PRESENTLY CONTEMPLATED BY THE RUSSELL SECRETARIAT.

G. NORTH VIETNAM HAS DEEPEST CONFIDENCE IN THE TRIBUNAL'S JAPANESE PREPARATORY ACTIVITIES LED BY THE JCIWCV.

3. NORTH VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS PRAISED THE WORK OF THE JCIWCV, AND WANT THE JCIWCV TO TAKE THE LEAD IN MAKING THE BEST POSSIBLE PRESENTATION OF ITS REPORT TO THE TRIBUNAL, COMPLETE WITH DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE, FILMS AND PHOTOGRAPHS, AND MATERIAL EVIDENCE. NORTH VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS ASKED THE JCIWCV ALSO TO TRY TO GATHER ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE FROM VARIOUS PUBLICATIONS ORIGINATING IN THE UNITED STATES AND SOUTH VIETNAM. NORTH VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS ACCEPTED THE JAPANESE PROPOSAL THAT THE JCIWCV REPORT

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TO THE TRIBUNAL SHOULD INCLUDE AN INDICTMENT OF AMERICAN MILITARY BASES IN JAPAN AND OKINAWA, SINCE THESE BASES ARE USED TO SUPPORT AMERICAN AGGRESSION IN VIETNAM.

4. NORTH VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS WERE GRATEFUL FOR THE DOCUMENTARY BACKGROUND MATERIALS ON TRIBUNAL WORLD-WIDE PREPARATIONS BROUGHT BY THE JCIWCV DELEGATION TO HANOI, AND COMPLAINED THAT SUCH MATERIALS FURNISHED TO DATE TO HANOI BY THE RUSSELL SECRETARIAT HAVE BEEN QUITE INSUFFICIENT AND UNSATISFACTORY. THE NORTH VIETNAMESE PROPOSED FUTURE, CONTINUING EXCHANGE OF MATERIALS AND LIAISON BETWEEN THE JCIWCV AND THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED NORTH VIETNAM RUSSELL TRIBUNAL SUPPORT COMMITTEE.

5. NORTH VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS SAID THAT FROM NOW ON THERE WILL BE AN INCREASING NUMBER OF INVESTIGATING MISSIONS COMING TO NORTH VIETNAM FROM VARIOUS TRIBUNAL SUPPORT COMMITTEES AROUND THE WORLD. NORTH VIETNAM, WHICH PREVIOUSLY HAD NOT BEEN ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT EXPANDING THE SCOPE OF SUCH VISITS, NOW IS IN FAVOR OF BRINGING MORE INVESTIGATING DELEGATIONS TO NORTH VIETNAM, AND IS ALSO ENCOURAGING THE INTERCHANGE OF SUCH VISITS BETWEEN NATIONAL COMMITTEES SUPPORTING THE TRIBUNAL, ALL WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF STIMULATING PUBLIC OPINION AND SYMPATHETIC SUPPORT AROUND THE WORLD

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FOR THE NORTH VIETNAMESE CAUSE.

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