

SPECIAL BULLETIN

O F F I C E O F T R A I N I N G

11 December 1967

To: Training Officers of the Clandestine Services

THE VIETNAM AREA COURSE

The Vietnam Area Course (VAC) is a new program which the Office of Training, in collaboration with Vietnam Operations of the Far East Division, will offer for the first time during the week of 15 - 19 January 1968. The course will be held in Room 1 A 13, Headquarters Building.

The Vietnam Area Course is essentially an examination of the physical, societal, and cultural context within which the present Vietnamese struggle has arisen and in the light of which U. S. foreign policy must largely be formulated and executed. This examination will, therefore, include the physical and political geography of Vietnam, the operative factors in Vietnamese history, the structure and diversity of Vietnamese social groups, and several perennially relevant aspects of culture such as peasant life, religion, attitudes and values, and politics and administration. Within this framework major attention will be given to nationalism, colonialism, communism, and basic developmental problems. The topics will be capped by a brief consideration of the current scene and, in particular, of the role of the United States. The course will encompass both North and South Vietnam and will include several hours of instruction and drill in the Vietnamese language.

The VAC is introductory as far as the subject-matter is concerned. Because it is intended to serve job-related needs rather than careers, it is offered to all employees actively engaged in work related to the problems of Vietnam. Those who attend are expected to have read,

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Approved For Release 2001/07/28 : CIA-RDP78-03090A000100090024-5

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