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TELEGRAM INFORMATION REPORT TELEGRAM

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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CLASSIFICATION — DISSEMINATION CONTROLS

COUNTRY	SOUTH VIETNAM	REPORT NO.	[REDACTED]
SUBJECT	[REDACTED] THE STRATEGIC HAMLET PROGRAM	DATE DISTR.	3 JULY 1962
DATE OF INFO.	[REDACTED]	PRECEDENCE	ROUTINE
PLACE & DATE ACQ.	VIETNAM, SAIGON [REDACTED]	REFERENCES	IN 21416
APPRAISAL	[REDACTED]	FIELD REPORT NO.	[REDACTED]

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION. SOURCE GRADINGS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

SOURCE [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]

STRATEGIC HAMLETS IN CENTRAL VIETNAM AS AMERICANS WERE LARGELY CONTROLLING THE PROGRAM THERE AND WERE ESTABLISHING THE HAMLETS ON AN EXPERIMENTAL BASIS WHICH WAS NOT PROVING SUCCESSFUL. [REDACTED] CONCENTRATE ON THE MEKONG DELTA AREA WHERE THE HAMLETS REPRESENTED THE REAL GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM EFFORT.

- [REDACTED] THE ENTIRE STRATEGIC HAMLET PROGRAM IS BEING

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SABOTAGED BY MILITARY FIELD COMMANDERS AND, MOST DANGEROUSLY, BY THE PROVINCE CHIEFS. [REDACTED] THE MILITARY VIEW THAT THESE HAMLETS FORCED TOO MUCH OF THE ARMED FORCES INTO STATIC DEFENSE, [REDACTED] OPPOSED TO THE PRACTICE OF IGNORING CHAINS OF COMMAND AND PROPER COORDINATION PRACTICED BY THE MILITARY COMMANDERS, PARTICULARLY THE FIELD GENERALS AND THE REGIONAL AND ZONE COMMANDERS. [REDACTED] THE INDEPENDENT APPROACH OF THE PROVINCE CHIEFS, RATHER THAN THE MILITARY ATTITUDE, IS WHAT MAY WRECK THE WHOLE STRATEGIC HAMLET PROGRAM. [REDACTED] AS AN EXAMPLE THE FIRST CLASS OF TRAINEES AT THE THI NGHE STRATEGIC HAMLET TRAINING CENTER FOR WHICH PROVINCE CHIEFS SELECTED PERSONNEL FROM THE LOWEST ELEMENTS POSSIBLE. THE TRAINEES WERE ILLITERATE PEASANTS, THE LOWEST RANKS OF THE SELF DEFENSE CORPS AND THE CIVIL GUARD, CRIMINAL ELEMENTS, JUVENILE DELINQUENTS, AND OTHERS WHO CONSTITUTED A CONTROL PROBLEM OR WERE PERSONS OF WHOM THE PROVINCE CHIEFS SIMPLY WANTED TO BE RID. THIS INDICATED THAT THE PROVINCE CHIEFS HAD PAID NO ATTENTION TO THE INITIAL REQUESTS FOR TRAINEES IN GOOD STANDING IN THEIR COMMUNITIES AND HAVING ENOUGH PRESTIGE TO INFLUENCE THE PEOPLE WHEN THEY RETURNED FROM THE TRAINING COURSE. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THE PROVINCE CHIEFS SELECT TRAINEES OF THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE CALIBER

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FOR THE SECOND TRAINING CLASS, SPECIFYING THAT THEY BE CHOSEN FROM AMONG DISTRICT CHIEFS, ASSISTANT DISTRICT CHIEFS, AND GOVERNMENT BUREAU CHIEFS. IF SUCH PERSONS COULD NOT BE DESIGNATED TO ATTEND THE CLASS, TRAINEES WERE TO BE DRAWN FROM RESPECTED ELEMENTS OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY OR FROM THE EDUCATED CLASSES. [REDACTED] THE PROVINCE CHIEFS HAD POINTEDLY IGNORED [REDACTED] ORDERS AND THAT THE SECOND CLASS AT THE NGHE WOULD PROBABLY PROVE TO BE LITTLE BETTER THAN THE FIRST.

3. [REDACTED] THE PRESIDENCY IS CONCERNED OVER THE CONTINUED MISUSE OF THE PEASANTS BY THE PROVINCE CHIEFS IN BUILDING THE STRATEGIC HAMLETS. THE FAILURE HERE IS NOT SO MUCH A QUESTION OF THE NECESSITY FOR USING THE PEOPLE AS IT IS OF THE HARSH, DICTATORIAL APPROACH BY THE PROVINCE CHIEFS, WHICH IS TURNING THE PEASANTS MORE AND MORE AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT AND ENCOURAGING A DEEP-SEATED HATRED AMONG THE PEASANTS AND THE ENTIRE CONCEPT OF STRATEGIC HAMLETS. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THERE HAS BEEN EXTENSIVE CORRUPTION IN THE USE OF FUNDS AND SUPPLIES PROVIDED THE PROVINCE CHIEFS FOR SETTING UP THE HAMLETS.

4. [REDACTED] PRESIDENT DIEM IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY FRUSTRATED WITH THE STRATEGIC HAMLET PROGRAM AS CONCEIVED AND IMPLEMENTED. [REDACTED] DIEM IS ALSO CRITICAL OF [REDACTED] APPROACH TO THE PROBLEM IN CENTRAL VIETNAM AND [REDACTED] HE DOES NOT REALLY CARE WHAT THE AMERICANS DO. DIEM RECENTLY TOLD [REDACTED] THAT

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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HE IS BECOMING TIRED OF HEARING ABOUT THE DOCTRINE OF PERSONALISM AND REMARKED THAT HE APPARENTLY WAS EXPECTED TO BELIEVE WHAT HE REFERRED TO AS "THIS NONSENSE."

5. [REDACTED] DISSEM. STATE ARMY NAVY AIR USMAC USOM MAAG CINCPAC PACFLT PACAF ARPAC.

END OF MESSAGE

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[REDACTED]