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TELEGRAM INFORMATION REPORT TELEGRAM

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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CONFIDENTIAL (When Filled In) CLASSIFICATION — DISSEMINATION CONTROLS [REDACTED]

COUNTRY SOUTH VIETNAM REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

SUBJECT ACCEPTANCE OF HOA HAO OFFER TO JOIN THE RANKS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM DATE DISTR. 5 OCTOBER 1962

PRECEDENCE ROUTINE

DATE OF INFO. [REDACTED] REFERENCES IN 34476

PLACE & DATE ACQ. VIETNAM, SAIGON [REDACTED] FIELD REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

APPRAISAL [REDACTED]

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

1. IN EARLY OCTOBER 1962 THE GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM (GVN) ACCEPTED AN OFFER FOR TROOPS OPERATING UNDER HOA HAO COMMANDER HUYNH CONG CUNG IN THE AREA FROM LONG XUYEN, AN GIANG PROVINCE, WEST TO THE CAMBODIAN BORDER, TO JOIN THE GVN. THE GVN ALSO ACCEPTED THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS STIPULATED BY THE HOA HAO IN CONNECTION WITH THE OFFER:

A. THEY WOULD BE PERMITTED TO RETAIN THEIR ARMS AND TO FIGHT AGAINST THE VIETNAMESE COMMUNISTS (VC). THE HOA HAO WOULD AGREE TO FIGHT IN ZONES DESIGNATED BY THE GVN AND WOULD ACCEPT GVN MILITARY OR OFFICIAL PERSONNEL AS INSTRUCTORS OR COMMANDERS.

B. HOA HAO MEMBERS JOINING THE GVN FORCES WOULD RECEIVE, WITHOUT DISTINCTION FOR RANK, 900 PIASTERS PER MONTH, THE SAME

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SALARY PAID TO SELF DEFENSE CORPS MEMBERS.

C. MUNITIONS WOULD BE FURNISHED THE HOA HAO AS REQUIRED.

D. THE APPROXIMATELY 30 HOA HAO SOLDIERS RECENTLY CAPTURED BY GVN FORCES WOULD BE RELEASED.

2. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THE REASON GIVEN FOR THE HOA HAO DESIRE TO JOIN THE GVN RANKS WAS THE HOA HAO COMMAND'S BELIEF THAT IT COULD NOT SURVIVE THE CONTINUED AND INTENSIFIED VC ATTEMPTS TO INCORPORATE OR DESTROY HOA HAO MILITARY UNITS. THE VC HAVE BEEN SENDING REPRESENTATIVES TO CUNG SEEKING TO PERSUADE HIM TO SUPPORT THE FORMATION OF A NEUTRALIST COALITION GOVERNMENT WHICH WOULD SHORTLY REPLACE THE NATIONAL FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF SOUTH VIETNAM.

3. HOA HAO FORCES SEEKING TO JOIN THE GVN TOTALED APPROXIMATELY 300 PEOPLE AND 500 ARMS, INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING: APPROXIMATELY 80 UNDER CUNG, ARMED WITH ONE MACHINE GUN, EIGHT SUBMACHINE GUNS, AND 180 RIFLES; BATTALION NUMBER 118 UNDER NGUYEN TRONG NHAN, WITH 35 ARMED TROOPS; BATTALION NUMBER 116 UNDER PHAM HONG CHIEU, WITH 6 ARMED TROOPS; AND A LARGE NUMBER OF POLITICAL CADRE.

4. THE REASON THE HOA HAO WANTED TO RETAIN THEIR ARMS WAS THAT PREVIOUS GROUPS JOINING THE GVN HAD BEEN FORCED TO TURN IN THEIR ARMS AND RETURN TO CIVILIAN LIFE WHERE, HAVING NO

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PROTECTION, SOME OF THEM WERE ASSASSINATED BY THE VC, OR WERE FORCED TO JOIN OR TO SUPPORT THE VC.

5. [REDACTED] DISSEM: STATE ARMY NAVY AIR USMACV MAAG USOM CINCPAC PACFLT ARPAC PACAF 9TH FIELD STATION.

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