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TELEGRAM INFORMATION REPORT TELEGRAM

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	SOUTH VIETNAM	REPORT NO.	[REDACTED]
SUBJECT	1. LAND DEVELOPMENT CENTERS IN CENTRAL VIETNAM; 2. THE BUON ENAO STRATEGIC HAMLET COMPLEX	DATE DISTR.	8 OCTOBER 1962
DATE OF INFO.	[REDACTED]	PRECEDENCE	ROUTINE
PLACE & DATE ACQ.	VIETNAM, SAIGON [REDACTED]	REFERENCES	IN
APPRAISAL	[REDACTED]	FIELD REPORT NO.	[REDACTED]

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

SOURCE [REDACTED]

1. THE 74 LAND DEVELOPMENT CENTERS IN KONTUM, PLEIKU, DARLAC, AND QUANG DUC PROVINCES WERE SUPPOSED TO QUALIFY AS STRATEGIC HAMLETS BY THE END OF SEPTEMBER 1962. THE BASIC PLAN WAS THE SAME FOR ALL THE CENTERS, WHICH ALREADY HAD SCHOOLS AND DISPENSARIES. BAMBOO SPIKES, POINTING OUTWARD, WERE STUCK IN THE GROUND OUTSIDE THE FENCE SURROUNDING EACH CENTER, FOR A DEPTH OF TWENTY METERS. THE FENCE WAS MADE OF SHARPENED LOGS THREE INCHES IN DIAMETER PLANTED IN THE GROUND, ONE LOG POINTING SLIGHTLY OUTWARD, THE NEXT STANDING STRAIGHT UP, THE THIRD POINTING SLIGHTLY INWARD, WITH PATTERN REPEATED FOR THE ENTIRE FENCE. LOGS WERE USED BECAUSE THEY LAST ABOUT TWO YEARS, WHEREAS BAMBOO HAD TO BE REPLACED ABOUT EVERY SIX MONTHS. INSIDE THE FENCE, AROUND THE ENTIRE CENTER, WAS A DENSELY SPIKED TRENCH TWO METERS DEEP, TWO AND ONE-HALF METERS WIDE AT THE

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TOP, AND ABOUT TWO METERS WIDE AT THE BOTTOM. A SMALL BAMBOO SPIKE FENCE FORMED THE INNERMOST DEFENSIVE RING. THE HOUSES WERE IN ROWS, WITH A BAMBOO FENCE SURROUNDING EVERY TWO HOUSES, SO THAT, IF THE ATTACKERS PENETRATED THE DEFENSE OF ONE SET OF HOUSES, THE RESIDENTS COULD MOVE INTO THE NEXT DEFENSIVE UNIT. BETWEEN EACH PAIR OF HOUSES WERE COVERED PITS, WHERE THE WOMEN, CHILDREN, AND OLD PEOPLE COULD HIDE DURING A BATTLE.

2. THE PROGRAM WAS NOT BEING COORDINATED AND DID NOT FALL UNDER THE STRATEGIC HAMLET PROGRAM FOR THE 23RD TACTICAL ZONE, WHICH WAS UNDER COLONEL LE QUANG TRONG, COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE 23RD INFANTRY DIVISION. THE 74 LAND DEVELOPMENT CENTERS RECEIVED SOME WEAPONS FROM THE PROVINCE CHIEFS, BUT MOST OF THE WEAPONS CAME FROM ARMY UNITS IN THE AREA. THE ARMY WAS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR TRAINING THE MALE INHABITANTS OF THE CENTERS. WHEN A CENTER QUALIFIED AS A STRATEGIC HAMLET, IT WOULD BE UNDER THE STRATEGIC HAMLET PROGRAM FOR THE 23RD TACTICAL ZONE FOR SUPPORT, AND WOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE OVER-ALL STATISTICS OF THAT SECTOR FOR COMPLETED STRATEGIC HAMLETS.

3. A 12 SEPTEMBER AGREEMENT SPECIFIED THE GENERAL LINES FOR MERGING THE BUON ENAO VILLAGES WITH THE STRATEGIC HAMLET DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE SECTOR. THREE OF A GROUP OF THIRTY DEFENDED VILLAGES OF BUON ENAO, IN AN AREA EAST AND SOUTH OF BAN ME THUOT, WERE CLASSIFIED AS STRATEGIC HAMLETS, AND WERE INCLUDED IN THE TWELVE COMPLETED STRATEGIC HAMLETS IN DARLAC PROVINCE.

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THE
DARLAC PROVINCE CHIEF, MAJOR HOANG TRONG, WAS TRAVELING ALMOST CONSTANTLY DURING
MID-SEPTEMBER IN CONNECTION WITH THE STRATEGIC HAMLET PROGRAM.

4. [REDACTED] DISSEM. STATE ARMY NAVY AIR USMACV MAAG AID 9TH FIELD
STATION, CINCPAC ARPAC PACFLT PACAF.

END OF MESSAGE

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