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COUNTRY SOUTH VIETNAM

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Mandatory Review

Case # NLJ 97-27

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TDCS- 314/03895-66

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SUBJECT

VIEW OF THE [REDACTED] PROVINCE CHIEF [REDACTED]
THAT AGITATION IN CENTRAL VIETNAM WILL CONTINUE
UNTIL THE GOVERNMENT IS REPLACEDEO 12958 3.4(b)(1)>25Yrs
(C)PLACE &
DATE ACQ.SOURCE
AND
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IN 80263

FIELD REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

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1. (SUMMARY. ACCORDING TO [REDACTED] PROVINCE CHIEF, AGITATION IN CENTRAL VIETNAM WILL CONTINUE UNTIL THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT IS BROUGHT DOWN. HE THINKS THE VIETNAM NATIONALIST PARTY (VNQDD), MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY, AND "RESPONSIBLE" CATHOLICS WILL JOIN THE BUDDHISTS IN THIS AGITATION. [REDACTED] CLAIMS THAT MILITARY MORALE AND DISCIPLINE HAS DECLINED SINCE THE DISMISSAL OF I CORPS

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STATE/INR DIA ARMY/ACSI NAVY AIR JCS SECDEF NSA NIC AID USIA OCI ON [REDACTED]

EXO

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: FEB 2001

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IN 80263

TDCS-314/03895-66 PAGE 2

COMMANDER GENERAL NGUYEN CHANH THI AND THAT THE RURAL RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAM IS SUFFERING. HE ASSERTED THAT THE SITUATION IS KEEPING CENTRAL VIETNAM PROVINCE CHIEFS SO BUSY THAT THEY WILL BE UNABLE TO ATTEND THE GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION MEETING IN SAIGON 23 TO 25 MARCH.)

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2. ON 21 MARCH [REDACTED] PROVINCE CHIEF [REDACTED] EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE "UNANIMOUS BIAS" AGAINST OUSTED I CORPS COMMANDER GENERAL NGUYEN CHANH THI SHOWN BY UNITED STATES NEWS MEDIA WAS ADVERSELY AFFECTING THE PEOPLE OF CENTRAL VIETNAM (CVN). [REDACTED] SAID THE PEOPLE OF CVN WOULD NOT ACCEPT THE MILITARY'S HEAVY-HANDED MANNER OF DISMISSING THI OR OF HANDLING OTHER MATTERS.

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[REDACTED] REMARKED THAT AGITATION WOULD CONTINUE AGAINST DIRECTORATE CHAIRMAN NGUYEN VAN THIEU AND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER NGUYEN HUU CO. ACCORDING TO [REDACTED] THE PEOPLE WANT TO AVOID SEEMING TO ATTACK THE SPIRIT OF HONOLULU AND THE REVOLUTIONARY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM WITH WHICH PRIME MINISTER NGUYEN CAO KY IS SO CLOSELY IDENTIFIED AND HAVE THEREFORE SINGLED OUT THIEU AND CO FOR ATTACK AND EXCLUDED KY. HE SAID THAT THE PEOPLE KNOW, HOWEVER, THAT AN ATTACK AGAINST THIEU AND CO IS AN ATTACK AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT AND THAT THE PEOPLES' EFFORTS WOULD CONTINUE UNTIL THEIR OBJECTIVE HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED, THAT IS, - A CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT. [REDACTED] CLAIMED MEMBERS OF THE VNQDD WOULD JOIN WITH THE BUDDHISTS AS WOULD SOLDIERS AND RESPONSIBLE CATHOLICS.

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4. [REDACTED] REMARKED THAT THE MILITARY SITUATION IN QUANG NGAI AND QUANG TIN PROVINCES HAS DETERIORATED SINCE THI'S DISMISSAL. HE

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IN 80263

IDCS-314/03895-66 PAGE 3

SAID DISCIPLINE AND MORALE OF SECOND DIVISION SOLDIERS IS AT A LOW EBB, A SITUATION WHICH WAS KEPT IN CHECK WHILE THI WAS COMMANDER OF I CORPS, BECAUSE THI COULD BE DEPENDED ON TO SHOW UP PERIODICALLY AT UNEXPECTED TIMES AND TO IMPOSE DISCIPLINE. [REDACTED] SAID THAT THE MILITARY ARE NOW PLAYING CARDS, GAMBLING, DRINKING, AND RUNNING AFTER WOMEN. IN ADDITION, HE CHARGED, THEY ARE SELLING MATERIAL AND FUEL TO THE VIET CONG.

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5. [REDACTED] ASSERTED THAT THE REGIONAL AND POPULAR FORCES ARE "EVEN MORE DISORGANIZED THAT EVER." HE ALSO SAID THAT THE RURAL CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM IS BEING SET BACK. FURTHERMORE, THE I CORPS PROVINCE CHIEFS ARE TOO OCCUPIED TO BE ABLE TO ATTEND THE THREE-DAY PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION MEETING IN SAIGON 23 TO 25 MARCH. HOWEVER, PROVINCIAL REPRESENTATIVES WOULD BE SENT.

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6. [REDACTED] DISSEM. STATE USMACV USAID JUSPAO 2ND AIR DIV CINCPAC ARPAC PACAF PACFLT.

END OF MESSAGE

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