

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

EUR-25 IO-12 OMB-01 AID-20 DPW-01 RSR-01 /141 W

----- 074426

R 160510 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1736

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 8618

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINT, MARR, VS

SUBJECT: PHOENIX GOES UNDERGROUND

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON DTD 15 MAY FROM CAN THO

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L CAN THO 0314

E. O. 11652: ADS DECLAS DECEMBER 31, 1974

TAGS: PINT, MARR, VS

SUBJECT: PHOENIX GOES UNDERGROUND

1. AFTER A TWO MONTH RESPITE, THE PHOENIX PROGRAM IS QUIETLY COMING BACK TO LIFE. AT A MAY 11 DELTA PROVINCE CHIEFS MEETING, MR IV COMMANDER, MG NGUYEN VINH NGHI, DIRECTED ALL SECTORS TO SHARPLY INCREASE INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS AND VIGOROUSLY ROOT OUT THE VIET CONG INFRASTRUCTURE (VCI).

2. PHOENIX ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN GENERALLY RESTRAINED SINCE THE CEASEFIRE, PARTLY BECAUSE THEY VIOLATE ARTICLE 3 C OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT, AND PARTLY BECAUSE THE WORKING LEVEL FORCES-- TERRITORIAL UNITS, SUB- SECTOR S-2 S, POLICE, VILLAGE OFFICIALS-- LACKED THE ZEAL TO PURSUE THEIR RISKY BUSINESS. FOR A TIME, THE GVN TRIED TO CONTINUE THE PROGRAM UNDER THE COVER OF CHANGING THE NAMES OF THE TARGETS FROM VC INFRASTRUCTURE TO

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" DISRUPTORS OF DOMESTIC TRANQUILITY." GENERAL NGHI' S RECENT INSTRUCTIONS TO SECTOR COMMANDERS DID NOT PRETEND TO MAKE SUCH SEMANTIC DISTINCTIONS.

3. A PHONG DINH PROVINCE PHOENIX OFFICIAL TOLD A CONSULATE GENERAL OFFICER MAY 11 THAT SAIGON HAD INSTRUCTED ALL PROVINCE PHUNG HOANG (PHOENIX) COMMITTEES TO DOUBLE THE NUMBER OF MONTHLY OPERATIONS AGAINST VCI. THEPROGRAM WILL FUNCTION QUIETLY, WITHOUT THE FANFARE AND PUBLICITY THAT IT USED TO RECEIVE, BUT THE GVN HAS ASSIGNED IT HIGH PRIORITY.

WISNER

UNQUOTE WHITEHOUSE

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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30 JUN 2005

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