

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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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

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: hilburpw
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SAIGON08618
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS WHITEHOUSE
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730547/aaaajzi.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hilburpw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06-Dec-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <14-Dec-2001 by hilburpw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 980219
Subject: PHOENIX GOES UNDERGROUND
TAGS: MARR, PINT, VS, PINT
To: EA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005