

14
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Monday, July 10, 1967
12:45 p.m.

MR. PRESIDENT:

This prisoner may have been telling us
what he thought we wanted to hear, but there
have been others captured in Laos with a
similar view.

W.H.R.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ attachment

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CITE

DIST 8 JULY 1967

COUNTRY: NORTH VIETNAM

DOI: MARCH 1967

SUBJECT: POOR MORALE AMONG NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS AND
POPULACE: EFFECTS OF BOMBING

ACQ:

SOURCE:

1.3(a)(3)(4)

1. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF SOME SENIOR LAO DONG PARTY CADRES,
MOST OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS ARE DISCOURAGED AND AFRAID.
THE DESERTION RATE AMONG THE COMMUNIST TROOPS IS MOUNTING DAILY

SANITIZED

E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4

NIJ 92-102

By mg, NARA, Date 4-6-93

1.3(a)(3)(4)

(classification)

(dissem controls)

1.3(a)(4)

AND HAS REACHED 40 PERCENT, COMPARED TO FIVE PERCENT IN PAST YEARS. AS FOR THE MONTAGNARD PEOPLES SUCH AS THAI AND MEO IN THE LAI CHAU-SON LA AREA, 80 PERCENT HAVE DESERTED. IN THE CASE OF A COMPANY OF MONTAGNARDS WHICH HAD JUST BEEN FORMED

1.3(a)(4)

ALL THE SOLDIERS DESERTED, LEAVING ONLY THE NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICERS. COMMENT: CONSIDERING THE TIGHT POPULATION CONTROLS IN NORTH VIETNAM, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT SUCH DESERTIONS COULD OBTAIN THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. IT IS POSSIBLE, HOWEVER, THAT IT IS OCCURRING IN THE RUGGED HIGHLAND COUNTRY AND AMONG THE MONTAGNARDS, TRADITIONALLY HOSTILE TO THE VIETNAMESE.)

2. THE NORTH VIETNAMESE POPULACE IS DISGUSTED WITH THE WAR AND WANTS TO HAVE PEACE. THE LIVING STANDARD IS EXTREMELY LOW. FAMINE HAS OCCURRED IN A NUMBER OF LOCALITIES AND THE DAILY RATIONS HAVE BEEN RESTRICTED IN THEM. RELIGIOUS BELIEF IS FORBIDDEN AND THE PEOPLE HAVE LOST THEIR LIBERTY AND ARE FORCED TO SUPPORT THE WAR WHICH THEY FEAR AND HATE.

3. THE BOMBING OF HANOI IN WHICH THE CHINESE COMMUNIST EMBASSY AND OTHER OFFICES ON THE RUE BORGUIS DISBORDE (PHO TRANG TIEN) WERE SERIOUSLY DAMAGED. COMMENT:

1.3(a)(4)

(classification)

(dissem controls)

1.3(a)(4)

AT DIEN BIEN PHU [] THE BOMBINGS []
[] AND OTHER PLACES []
WERE ON TARGET AND CAUSED GREAT LOSS OF MATERIEL. FEW INHABITANTS
OR TROOPS HAVE BEEN KILLED. THE SCHOOL FOR OFFICER CANDIDATES AT
SON LA WAS BOMBED. []

1.3(a)(4)

4. []

5. [] DISSEM: STATE ARMY AIR CINCPAC MACV 7TH AIR FORCE
PACFLT PACAF ARPAC []

1.3(a)(4)