

~~SECRET~~  
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SENT  
WHCA

38

1967 JUL 8 18 47

*Free file*  
67 JUL 8 PM 3:05  
SATURDAY

VZCZCEEA331  
OO WTE19  
DE WTE 1500

FROM WALT ROSTOW  
TO THE PRESIDENT  
CITE CAP67715

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

JULY 8, 1967

AS YOU KNOW, THE MILITARY COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE VIET CONG AND NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS AND CHIEF POLITICAL OFFICER OF THE VIET CONG IN SOUTH VIET NAM IS REPORTED DEAD OF A HEART ATTACK. HIS NAME WAS GENERAL THANH. HE AND GENERAL GIAP WERE THE ONLY FOUR-STAR GENERALS IN NORTH VIET NAM. THEY WERE LONG REPORTED TO BE RIVALS, WITH THANH BELIEVED FROM HIS WRITINGS AS WELL AS HIS REPUTATION TO BE THE LEADER OF A HARD-LINE RATHER THAN A FLEXIBLE POSITION. THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY IS SPECULATING THAT HIS DEATH MAY NOT HAVE BEEN NATURAL AND COULD REFLECT OR CAUSE A SHIFT IN THE BALANCE OF HANOI'S POLICY.

BUT THERE IS NOT ONE SCRAP OF EVIDENCE BEYOND THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF HIS DEATH AND TOP-DRAWER HANOI FUNERAL ON JULY 7.

DTG: 081815Z JULY 1967

GPS: 130 IMI 130

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4

NJ 91-437

By ing, NARA, Date 12-2-92

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

COPY LBJ LIBRARY