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INFORMATION

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Thursday, February 8, 1968
5:25 p.m.

Mr. President:

Herewith Ho's order of the day
for the Tet offensive.

I believe he meant every word.

W. W. Rostow

Saigon 18562

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WWRostow:rla

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4(b)
White House Guidelines, Feb. 24, 1983
by ag, NARA, Date 1-31-92



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Thursday, February 8, 1968

TEXT OF CABLE FROM AMBASSADOR BUNKER (Saigon, 18562)

SUBJECT: COSVN Order for Tet Offensive

The following is the combined documents exploitation center translation of a document captured on February 3 in Tay Ninh Province. The document is a carbon copy of what appears to be the general order from COSVN to its military forces for the Tet offensive.

Begin text:

Headquarters, South Vietnam
Liberation Army

Enclosure
B

Order of the Day
of the Headquarters,
All South Vietnam Liberation Armed Forces

To all cadre and combatants,

"Move Forward to Achieve Final Victory"

The Tet greeting of Chairman Ho is actually a combat order for our entire army and population.

And in compliance with the attack order of the Presidium, Central Committee South Vietnam Liberation Front, all cadre and combatants of all South Vietnam Liberation Armed Forces should move forward to:

Carry out direct attacks on all the Headquarters of the enemy, to disrupt the US Imperialists' will for aggression and to smash the Puppet Government and Puppet Army, the lackeys of the US. Restore power to the people, completely liberate 14,000,000 people of South Vietnam fulfill our revolutionary task of establishing democracy throughout the country.

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.3
DA Memo, Jan. 5, 1988
By *af* NARA, Date *1-31-92*

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This will be the greatest battle ever fought throughout the history of our country. It will bring forth world-wide change but will also require many sacrifices. It will decide the fate and the survival of our fatherland and will shake the world and cause the most bitter failure to the imperialist ringleaders.

Our country has a history of four thousand years of fighting and defeating foreign aggression, particularly glorious battles such as Bach Dang, Chi Lang, Dong-Da and Dien Bien Phu. We defeated the special war and are defeating the limited war of the Americans. We resolutely move forward to completely defeat the American aggressors in order to restore independence and liberty in our country.

Dear Comrades,

Our liberation armed units have had many achievements in the past. This will be a good opportunity for you to score more brilliant and heroic victories. Through this opportunity, you will be able to make maximum use of your abilities, demonstrate your devotion to the revolution and your unsubdued will to get even for what has been done to our country and brighten our beloved country.

In the name of our fatherland's independence and liberty, Headquarters of all South Vietnam Liberation Armed Forces orders every cadre and combatant to:

1. Move forward aggressively to carry out decisive and repeated attacks in order to annihilate as many American, Satellite and Puppet troops as possible in conjunction with political struggles and military proselyting activities. Each cadre and combatant must be doggedly determined to accomplish their combat mission. Each local area must also accomplish its assigned mission.
2. Display to the utmost your revolutionary heroism by surmounting all hardships and difficulties and making sacrifices so as to be able to fight continually and aggressively. Be prepared to smash all enemy counter attacks and maintain your revolutionary standpoint under all circumstances. Be resolute in achieving continuous victories and secure the final victory at all costs.

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3. Correctly comply with all combat discipline and the Front policies. Strive to assist and protect the people and motivate them to comply with the Front policies.

It is evident that the American aggressors are losing.

The call for assault to achieve independence and liberty has sounded.

The Truong Son and the Mekong river are moving.

You, comrades should act as heroes of Vietnam and with the spirit and pride of combatants of the Liberation Army.

The final victory will be with us.

- Day - Month 1968

Instruction: This enclosure B will be read to every cadre and combatant prior to departure for attack.

Comment: JUSPAO is processing this document for release February 8 or 9.

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