

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

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(Classification and Control Markings)

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7. SOURCE: VC Captive NGUYEN VAN TRON (U)	14. APPROVING AUTHORITY: <i>C. A. Youngdale</i> C. A. YOUNGDALE Brigadier General, U. S. Marine Corps ACofS, J2

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DEC 19 1965  
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15. SUMMARY: (C) This report forwards a National Interrogation Center (NIC) Report (SIC Report No. 72/65) pertaining to Viet Cong Captive NGUYEN VAN TRON (NIC Case No. 211). At time of capture, 19 November 1964, Source was a Supervisor of the Youth Proselyting Department of the Saigon/Gia Dinh Special Zone Committee (SGDSZ). Source provides information concerning the Nguyen Ai Quoc Political Training School of the Central Office of South Vietnam (COSVN) which was established in 1962 in TAY NINH Province to train provincial and district level cadre in the REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM.

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17. DOWNGRADING DATA:  
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DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS  
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SUBJ: Nguyen Ai Quoc Political Tng Sch of the Central Ofc of S. Vietnam (COSVN) (U), w/1 Incl: SIC Rept#72/65 (NIC Case #211/6), 20 Apr 65

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CONFIDENTIAL KIN  
**S I C**  
**INTERROGATION REPORT**

THIS REPORT IS THE RESULT OF AN INTERROGATION CONDUCTED AT THE NATIONAL INTERROGATION CENTER OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATION (CIC) UNDER THE JOINT AUSPICES OF THE VIETNAMESE AND US INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITIES IN SAIGON. THIS IS AN UNEVALUATED FIELD INFORMATION REPORT.

COUNTRY	: Republic of Vietnam (RVN)	SIC REPORT NO:	72/65
SUBJECT	: NGUYEN AI QUOC Political Training School of the Central Office of South Vietnam (COSVN)	NIC CASE NO:	211/6
DATE OF INFO	: Jan to Sep 1963	DATE OF REPORT:	20 Apr 65
DATE AND PLACE OF ACQUISITION:	8 February 1965 SAIGON, Vietnam	NO. OF PAGES:	11
		REF:	CIC Report 53 dtd 24 Feb 65

**SUMMARY AND HIGHLIGHTS:**

From January to the latter part of September 1963 the second term of the Political Training Course was held by the Central Office of South Vietnam (COSVN) at the NGUYEN AI QUOC School in TAY NINH Province. This school was established by COSVN in early 1962 to give political training to the Communist Labor Party's provincial and district level cadre in the RVN. The second term was attended by approximately one hundred cadre from all the regional committees in South Vietnam, including COSVN. The school staff was composed of a board of directors, and its subordinate instructors, management, secretariat, base and security, and medical departments. The students were organized into a chapter, which was divided into ten cells. The cells were further broken down into subcells of about three members each to facilitate their studies. The curriculum was extensive and, according to Source, it was too difficult and beyond the educational level of most of the students. Source stated that the material comforts at the school were comparable to schools operated in the plains area during peacetime. Every effort was made to protect the school from aerial observation and RVN troop operations.

**SOURCE DESCRIPTION:**

Source is NGUYEN VAN TRON, aka NGUYEN MINH (secret name), and BA MINH, NIC Case No. 211. He was born on 14 February 1929, at

**DISTRIBUTION :**

US MACV

US EMBASSY (OSA)

CLASSIFICATION  
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 GROUP I  
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**ATTACHMENTS :**

Attachment 1

NOTICE: THIS MATERIAL CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE LAWS, TITLE 18 U.S.C. SECTIONS 793 AND 794. THE TRANSMISSION OR REVELATION OF WHICH IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW.

K I N

SIC REPORT NO. 72/65

C O N F I D E N T I A L Page 2 of 11 pages

NHUAN DUC Village, CU CHI District, HAU NGHIA Province, RVN, He completed elementary school in 1944 and was a member of the Viet Minh group at NHUAN DUC Village from 1947 to 1951. From 1952 to 1954 he worked as a clerk for the French army quartermaster. From 1955 to 1958 he worked in a lumber shop in CHOLON, SAIGON. In 1959 he returned to his native village and joined the Viet Cong. In 1960 he was assigned to the Youth Proselyting Department of the SAIGON/GIA DINH Special Zone Committee (SGDSZC). He was admitted to the Communist Party in May 1962. From November 1963 until his capture on 19 November 1964 he supervised the Youth Proselyting Department of SGDSZC.

## U.S. ADVISOR'S COMMENT:

Source appears to be in good health, is of average intelligence, has a good memory and good reasoning abilities. He hesitates before answering questions but appears to be cooperative with the interrogator.

## MAP REFERENCES:

AMS Series L605, Sheet 210E, Scale 1/100,000, Edition 6.  
AMS Series L605, Sheet 210W, Scale 1/100,000, Edition 7.

## CIRCUMSTANCES OF OBSERVATION

1. Source, who was chief of the Youth Proselyting Department of the SAIGON/GIA DINH Special Zone Committee (SGDSZC), attended the second term of the political training course given by the Central Office of South Vietnam (COSVN) at the NGUYEN AI QUOC School in TAY NINH Province from January to late September 1963.

## BRIEF HISTORY AND FUNCTION

2. Although the school authorities did not disclose the history of the school, Source was able to determine that the school was founded by COSVN in early 1962 in order to give political training to the party's provincial level and district level cadre in the Republic of Vietnam (RVN). The first term was held in 1962 at an unidentified location which was different from that used for the second term, but both terms were conducted by the NGUYEN AI QUOC School.

## LOCATION

3. The second term of the political training course was held in a mountainous area, located in the northeastern part of TAY NINH Province at approximately XT 500680. It was located amid very old trees and was secure from aerial observation. From the school the BA DEN Mountain (XT 280.580) could be seen about 20 kilometers to the southeast.

## TRAINING PERIOD

4. Initially COSVN had scheduled the course to last for ~~six~~ months from 1 January to June 1963; however, because of the following circumstances, the course lasted until the end of September 1963.

- a. The subject matter was too difficult, and, as a result,

C O N F I D E N T I A L - K I N

the instructors and students required more time to cover the subject.

b. The course was interrupted occasionally for from five to ten days by ARVN operations. During this time the students were required to evacuate the area. On other occasions, the students were taken out of class to perform various work details around the school.

#### NUMBER AND COMPOSITION OF THE STUDENTS

5. The course was attended by approximately 100 students who came from the following regions:

Eastern NAM-BO Region (code name I <sup>1</sup> )	- 20 students.
Central NAM-BO Region (code name I <sup>2</sup> )	- 15 students.
Western NAM-BO Region (code name I <sup>3</sup> )	- 10 students.
SAIGON-GIA DINH Region (code name I <sup>4</sup> )	- 15 students.
5th Inter-Region (code name I <sup>5</sup> )	- 5 students.
Central Vietnam Highlands (code name I <sup>6</sup> )	- 3 students.
Region I <sup>10</sup> (provinces located between I <sup>5</sup> and I <sup>3</sup> Regions)	- 5 students.
COSVN	- 25 students.

6. The following individuals from the SGDSZC attended the course:

SAU KHIEM (fnu), chief, Civilian Proselyting Section.  
 BAY AN (fnu), chief, Propaganda and Training Section.  
 BA CA (fnu), member.  
 TU DUONG (fnu), cadre, Propaganda and Training Section.  
 MOT (fnu), cadre, Organization Section.  
 NAM TAN (fnu), chief, Security Section.  
 NAM XE (fnu), chief, Farmer Proselyting Department.  
 NGUYEN VAN TRON (Source).  
 NAM HONG (fnu), aka THANH, member.  
 DE (fnu), member.  
 NAM (fnu), (female), member.  
 UT SON (fnu), secretary of the CU CHI District Committee.  
 NAM THUAN (fnu), secretary of the BINH TAN District Committee.  
 TAM NGHIA (fnu), secretary of the GO MON District Committee.  
 THANH (fnu), aka CA NHOM, secretary of the THU DUC District Committee.

7. Although COSVN had stipulated that the political training course was for provincial and district level cadre, the second term was attended by a number of high level cadre who previously had not attended such a course. Source stated that he should not have attended the course since he did not fully meet the prerequisites - such as length of party membership, ideological maturity, and past achievements. Source was recommended to attend by SAU KHIEM on the basis of his educational level and theoretical knowledge of communism. Source stated that SAU KHIEM was once criticized by COSVN for permitting Source to attend the course.

#### ORGANIZATION OF THE SCHOOL

8. Board of Directors.

Chief: BA (fnu), member of COSVN. (He was present only during inaugural and commencement ceremonies, and once during mid-term).

K I N

SIC REPORT NO. 72/65

C O N F I D E N T I A L Page 4 of 11 pages

Deputy Director: TUAN (fnu), who actually directed the school.

a. Academic Department.

Instructors: NAM GIA (fnu)  
BINH (fnu)  
LAM (fnu)  
HUONG (fnu)

b. Management Department.

Number and names of cadre are unknown. This department was responsible for transportation, supply, and messing.

c. Secretariat.

Number and names of cadre are unknown.

d. Base and Security Department.

Number and names of cadre are unknown.

e. Medical Department.

Four unidentified doctors who specialized in different branches of medicine.  
Two unidentified specialists.  
Three unidentified nurses.

ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDENTS

9. Chapter. In accordance with the principle of self-leadership, the students were organized into a chapter which was supervised by a committee appointed by the Board of Directors. The committee was staffed by the following individuals:

Secretary: MUOI (fnu), member of the Western NAM-BO Region.

Deputy Secretary: SAU KHIEM.

Member, Standing Committee: HANH (fnu), member of the Central NAM-BO Region.

Committee members: MUOI VOI RONG, a cadre of COSVN.

BAY (fnu), a cadre of COSVN.

BAY HA (female), a provincial committee member from the Western NAM-BO Region.

RAC (fnu), a montagnard and cadre from I<sup>6</sup> Region.

10. Cells. The chapter was divided into 10 cells which were composed of students from the different regional committees. These cells were led by the chapter committee members; each cell leader had two assistants: one, entrusted with the studies, and the other, with the guidance of the material and spiritual life of the cell members. In addition, the cells were broken down into subcells of three members each in order to enable the members to assist each other in their studies and to protect themselves in the event to an alert. In order to impress the students with the significance of the war effort, each cell was considered to be a squad with the cell leader assuming the post of squad leader. Three squads constituted a platoon, which was led by a platoon leader, an assistant platoon

C O N F I D E N T I A L - K I N

K I N

SIC REPORT NO. 72/65

C O N F I D E N T I A L Page 5 of 11 pages

leader, and a political officer, who were elected from among the three squad leaders. This type of paramilitary organization was used only when there was an alert and it became necessary to evacuate the area. Normally, the students studied under the party cell system.

11. Party activities.

a. The Chapter Committee met once each month while the members of its Standing Committee met once each fortnight. Special meetings were also held depending on the scholastic progress of the chapter.

b. Each day after supper a fifteen-minute period was devoted to a meeting of the subcells to discuss and review the progress of the day. In addition, each Sunday evening, the entire cell met to discuss the scholastic progress, the unity and cooperation among the cells, and any problem that might have come up pertaining to the meals, lodging, and observation of the school regulations.

TRAINING PROGRAM

12. The following subjects were included in the curriculum:

- a. Basic Philosophy.
- b. Dialectic.
- c. The Theory and Realization of Dialectic.
- d. Development Pattern of Social Production.
- e. The Social Classes and Their Struggles.
- f. Government.
- g. The Role of the Masses and the Individual in History.
- h. Production and Surplus Values in Capitalism.
- i. The Crisis of Capitalism.
- j. Imperialism.
- k. The Two Revolutionary and Strategic Stages of the Proletariat.
- l. The Leadership Role of the Worker Class.
- m. The Farmer Class.
- n. The Ethnic Minorities.
- o. Religions.
- p. The United National Front.
- q. The Revolutionary Policies of Vietnam in General and South Vietnam in Particular.
- r. Troop Proselyting Operations in South Vietnam.
- s. Psycho-Entertainment and Guidance for Psycho-Entertainment.
- t. The People's War and the Army.
- u. Establishment and Development of the Communist Party.
- v. The Communist Philosophy of Life.

13. Copies of the aforementioned subjects were distributed to the students in order to facilitate their studies. They were required to return the documents at the end of the course. They were permitted to note only the main points of the various subjects and the opinions of the instructors; and they were forbidden to take notes on subjects that pertained to party affairs, such as: "Policies and Stratagems of the Party", "Civilian Proselyting Operations in South Vietnam", "Military Buildup", "Security Tasks", "Development of the Party", etc. In order to enable the students to understand the subjects thoroughly, the course was conducted in five stages - known as the "five steps of study".

C O N F I D E N T I A L - K I N

K I N

SIC REPORT NO. 72/65

C O N F I D E N T I A L Page 6 of 11 pages

- a. The first step. Copies of the subject matter were distributed to the students who were given from one to three hours to read the documents before the class began. During the reading sessions the students were required to write down all questions they had relating to the subject and to submit the questions to the Board of Directors through their respective cell leaders.
- b. The second step. Lectures were held by the instructors at the auditorium during which time the various questions submitted by the students were explained. These lectures usually lasted from one half of a day to a whole day. The students were required to take notes of the important phases of the lectures for further study and discussion at the cells.
- c. The third step. After the lectures, the students returned to their cells to study the lesson and to answer the numerous questions put forth by the lecturers. During this time the students also prepared questions on problems to be discussed at the cell meeting. The students' study period usually lasted from one to one and one half days.
- d. The fourth step. The discussion sessions at the cells usually lasted from two to three days and were presided over by the cell leader or his assistant. The entire cell participated in the discussion of questions raised by the presiding chairman. Problems that could not be resolved at the cells were presented to the lecturers for clarification.
- e. The fifth step. The instructors explained in detail all the questions presented by the cells with special emphasis on the important phases in the subject. The answer session by the lecturer marked the completion of a particular subject. This method of study was applied to all subjects throughout the entire course.

## LIVING CONDITION AT THE SCHOOL

14. Quarters. The male students were quartered in 10 buildings, one for each cell, and the female students, in two buildings. The buildings had no walls and were constructed of poles and thatched roofs. Each building was furnished with 10 bamboo beds and one wooden desk.
15. Monthly allowances. Each student at the school was granted a 300 RVN piaster food allowance and a 50 RVN piaster medical allowance per month. This sum was not given to the students but was presented to the management department by the parent organization of the students. The students from the SGDSZC were given an additional 70 RVN piasters to pay miscellaneous expenses. Source believed that the students from other regions also received additional allowances, but the amounts varied with the financial status of the various regions.
16. Food. The students were provided with adequate meals. The menu included dried fish, fresh fish, wild animal meat, vegetables, and manioc, etc. Occasionally pork, beef, or poultry were served. The school also received a monthly supply of tobacco, rice wine, beer, fresh water, stationary, fish sauce, and salt; however Source was not aware of the origin of these supplies.
17. Medical treatment. The students were given a thorough

C O N F I D E N T I A L - K I N

K I N

SIC REPORT NO. 72/65

C O N F I D E N T I A L Page 7 of 11 pages

physical examination on their arrival at the school. Those who were ill were given prescriptions by the doctor. In most cases the drugs prescribed were not available at the school, and the students had to wait until their return to their parent organization for the drugs. Malaria, dysentery, colds, influenza, stomach disorders, toothaches, etc., were treated by specialists. The school dispensary was a simply constructed building with ten bamboo beds and was equipped with a small number of medical instruments and medicines. The walls were made of a gray nylon cloth which could be rolled up when there were no patients in the dispensary.

18. The students were required to abide by the following regulations:

a. They were not to go beyond the surrounding fence or enter the quarters of the members of the Board of Directors, the instructors, or the school secretariat.

b. They were not to attempt to find out the name or location of the school or the source of the study material used at the school.

c. They were not to pry into the affairs of the other students (their area of operation, mission, family status, etc.).

d. They were not to leave any material in the open which might reflect light.

e. In the event of an air raid alarm, they were to gather all clothing being dried in the open; if the alarm was sounded during the hours of darkness, they were to extinguish all lights. The lights were to be relighted only after the all clear signal was given.

f. The mess section was forbidden to light a fire during the hours of darkness; during daylight hours every attempt was to be made to prevent smoke from rising and thereby enabling the RVN planes to discover the school.

h. The students were required to observe the following whistle signals:

- (1) Three long calls - reveille.
- (2) One long call - meal time.
- (3) Two long calls - start or end of the classes.
- (4) Three long wavering calls - alarm signifying the approach of enemy aircraft.
- (5) One long uninterrupted call - air attack imminent, remain in the trenches.
- (6) One long interrupted call - all clear.

19. The students were permitted to correspond with people outside the school. However, all letters were subjected to censorship by the chapter committee. The students were not permitted to write about their studies but were instructed to say that they

C O N F I D E N T I A L - K I N

K I N

SIC REPORT NO. 72/65

C O N F I D E N T I A L Page 8 of 11 pages

were traveling on official duty. The school's postal number had four digits. Source could recall only the first two digits which were 14.

#### PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE SCHOOL (See Attachment 1)

20. The school occupied about 1,200 square meters of land. For security all the buildings were constructed under dense trees and were connected to each other by small trails. Buildings that were not completely hidden by the trees were camouflaged with rattan vines. The buildings had no walls and were constructed of logs and thatched roofs. The school compound was surrounded by several pickets, constructed of tree branches, whose overall width was about 10 meters. Spike boards, mines, and traps reportedly were placed along the picket to hamper the approach of ARVN troops.

#### FACILITIES

21. The School was equipped with one generator which was installed underground some distance away from the school. The generator provided electricity for the microphone, loudspeaker, and electric lights in the auditorium. The barracks were illuminated with oil lamps.

#### SECURITY

22. Defense. The three entrances to the school compound were guarded day and night. According to the members of the Board of Directors, who were responsible for the security of the school, a reconnaissance-intelligence team reconnoitered the area some distance from the school. Armed units also patrolled the school's perimeter to prevent surprise attacks by ARVN units and to afford the school personnel ample time to seek shelter or to evacuate the area in the event of an attack. In April or May 1963 it was rumored that ARVN units were planning to launch large-scale operations in the area; therefore all the students were evacuated to another area for about ten days. Source and the students from the first, second, and third cells were formed into a platoon and followed an armed squad in a northeasterly direction for more than five hours until they reached their destination in the woods. They remained there until they were recalled by the school authorities.

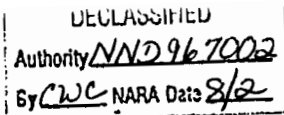
23. Emergency preparations. Each student was instructed by the Board of Directors to keep a reserve of seven milk cans of rice for an emergency. The rice was supplied by the mess section. After a certain period of time, the students were required to bring the rice to the duty officer and exchange it for a new allotment in order to prevent mildew. In addition to the rice, each student was required to prepare "roasted salt" as part of his emergency food ration.

24. Air defense. A cell from the school's security unit was responsible for sounding the air raid alarm during the daylight hours while the students themselves guarded the school compound during the nights. No aerial attack occurred during the period that Source attended the school.

#### SUMMARY OF THE COURSE

25. Based on his personal observations, discussion with members

C O N F I D E N T I A L - K I N



K I N

SIC REPORT NO. 72/65

C O N F I D E N T I A L Page 9 of 11 pages

of the other cells, and the consensus of the members of the Board of Directors during the commencement ceremony, Source concluded the following regarding the course:

a. Subject. The subjects were too difficult and beyond the educational level of the majority of the students. Initially, the students had great difficulty in understanding the texts; however, because of the encouragement and guidance of the instructors and the chapter committee members, the students were able to overcome these difficulties. The cultural and political levels of the students varied, but, in general, all students were able to learn something new about the theories of Marx and Lenin. They gained a thorough knowledge of the policies and aims of the Communist Party. This helped to consolidate their ideological viewpoints. Due to this knowledge of the policies and theories of Communism, the students were able to discover the errors in their previous thoughts and acts; and, consequently, they acquired more confidence of the ultimate triumph of international Communism, in general, and the Vietnam Communist Labor Party, in particular.

b. Material comforts. Although the school operated on a wartime footing and was located far from populated areas, the material comforts at the school were sufficient and were comparable to the schools operated in the plans areas during peacetime because of the careful arrangements made by COSVN. Source stated that the school was well organized in almost every phase. He had not expected the party to be able to organize such a large-scale, efficient training course in South Vietnam under wartime conditions. The school definitely enhanced Source's enthusiasm and confidence of the victory in the revolution.

c. Morale. At the beginning of the course there was dissension and discord among the students. This situation was brought about by the conceitedness of the individual students who considered themselves to be a good cadre, of high political knowledge, and firm ideological principles, who were superior to the other average students. However, these sentiments were soon dispelled through the efforts of the Board of Directors and the chapter committee members. Subsequently, the solidarity of the students was strengthened, and all strove to assist each other in an effort to make the course a success.

#### BIOGRAPHICAL AND PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE CADRE AT NGUYEN AI QUOC SCHOOL

26. BA (fnu), approximately 50 years of age, a native of South Vietnam, a member of COSVN, an excellent lecturer and speaker, about 1.7 meters tall, dark complexion, and gray hair.

27. TUAN (fnu), approximately 45 years of age, a native of South Vietnam, Deputy Director at the school, an excellent lecturer and speaker, a returnee from regroupment to DRVN, about 1.65 meters tall, slightly stout, dark complexion.

28. LAM (fnu), approximately 45 years of age, a native of North Vietnam, an instructor at the school, a good lecturer, quiet, about 1.7 meters tall, medium build, dark complexion.

29. BINH (fnu), about 35 years of age, native of South Vietnam, instructor at the school, good lecturer, pleasant, reported to be a regrouped cadre, about 1.6 meters tall, medium build, dark complexion, mole on left cheek.

C O N F I D E N T I A L - K I N

K I N

SIC REPORT NO. 72/65

C O N F I D E N T I A L Page 10 of 11 pages

30. HUONG (fnu), about 35 years of age, native of South Vietnam, instructor at the school, good lecturer, pleasant, reported to be a regrouped cadre, about 1.67 meters tall, slightly stout, dark complexion.

31. NAM GIA (fnu), about 55 years of age, native of South Vietnam, instructor at the school, good lecturer, quiet, reported to be a regrouped cadre, about 1.70 meters tall, slender, dark complexion.

32. NUOI (fnu), about 40 years of age, native of South Vietnam, member of the Western NAM-BO Region, speaks eruditely, quiet, about 1.67 meters tall, medium build, dark complexion.

33. HANH (fnu), about 40 years of age, native of South Vietnam, member of the Central NAM-BO Region, pleasant character, about 1.6 meters tall, slightly stout, dark complexion.

34. NAM KIEM (fnu), about 50 years of age, native of South Vietnam, believed to have completed the RVN 2nd Form (equivalent to U.S. 4th Grade), member of a provincial committee in the Central NAM-BO Region, an uneducated farmer, pleasant, about 1.6 meters tall, medium build, dark complexion.

35. NAM MA (fnu), about 40 years of age, native of South Vietnam, education about RVN 2nd Form, a cadre of COSVN, a simple, uneducated farmer, pleasant, about 1.67 meters tall, medium build, dark complexion, square face.

36. TU NAM (fnu), about 35 years of age, native of South Vietnam, secondary school education, a cadre of COSVN, pleasant, about 1.65 meters tall, medium build, fair complexion.

37. QUYEN (fnu), about 35 years of age, native of South Vietnam, believed to have completed the RVN 3rd Form (equivalent to U.S. 3rd Grade), a cadre of ILO Region, a simple, uneducated farmer, pleasant, about 1.65 meters tall, slender, dark complexion.

C O N F I D E N T I A L - K I N

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

ATTACHMENT 1

Sketch of the NGUYEN AI QUOC School.

SIC REPORT NO. 72/65

Page 11 of 11 pages

LEGEND

A.B.C. : Gates.

1 : Dispensary.


2 : Quarters of the student cells.

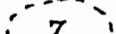
3 : Quarters of the female students.

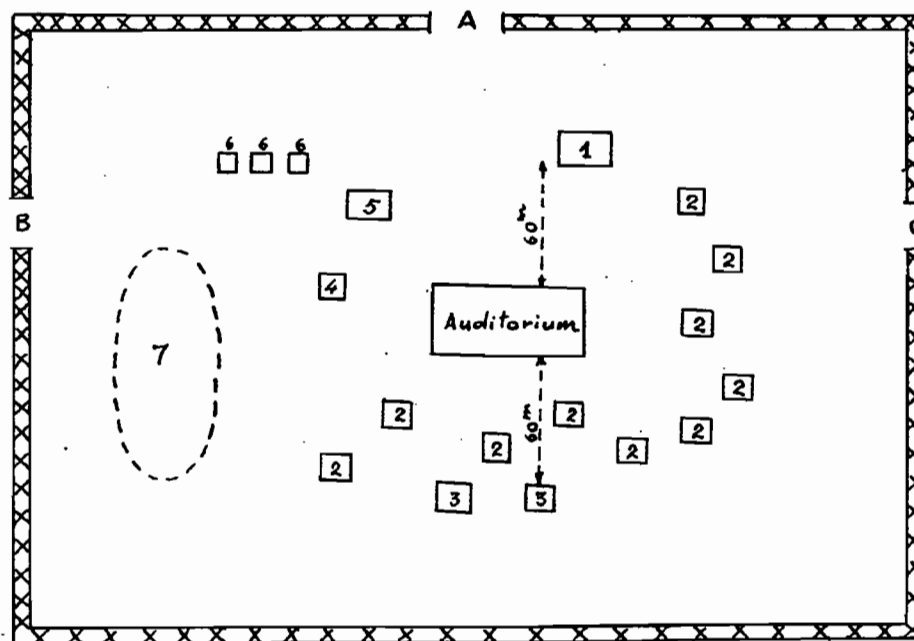
4 : Board Room of the Board of Directors.

5 : Food warehouse.

6 : Kitchen.

 : Fence (10m wide)

 : Board of Directors area.



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