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SUBJ: ACCELERATED PACIFICATION CAMPAIGN (REF ID: A112440Z)

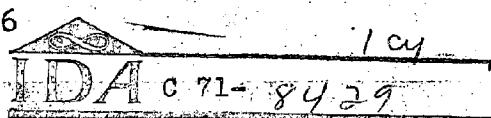
1. (U) THIS IS A PRELIMINARY REPORT. MORE DETAILS WILL BE PROVIDED AFTER RECURRING REPORTS ARE ANALYZED.  
WWM KU) SUMMARY: PRESIDENT THIEU AND PRIME MINISTER HUONG IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS PROCLAIMED ACCELERATED PACIFICATION CAMPAIGN, WHICH ENDED 31 JANUARY, A GREAT SUCCESS. WE AGREE, MAIN CAMPAIGN OBJECTIVES TO EXPAND GVN PRESENCE RAPIDLY AND TAKE PACIFICATION OFFENSIVE WERE ACHIEVED, FOR THE LARGE PART, GOALS SET FOR THE PURPOSE OF CREATING THE DESIRED MOMENTUM WERE MET. LACK OF SYSTEMATIC ENEMY OPPOSITION, MORE THAN ANY OTHER FACTOR, ACCOUNTED FOR MARKED PROGRESS ACHIEVED. ALTHOUGH END-JANUARY HAMLET EVALUATION SYSTEM REPORTS ARE NOT YET COMPILED, IT IS ESTIMATED THAT RELATIVELY SECURE POPULATION INCREASED ABOUT 9 PER, DURING THREE MONTH CAMPAIGN -- A GAIN OF MORE THAN 1.5 MILLION PEOPLE. HIS SECURITY ONLY SCORE WAS RAISED TO AT LEAST 90% IN MORE THAN 1000 TARGET HAMLETS CONTAINING ABOUT 1.2 MILLION PEOPLE. APPROXIMATELY 7000 VC INFRASTRUCTURE MEMBERS WERE NEUTRALIZED. MORE THAN 8,000 HOI CHANH WERE INDUCED TO RALLY. MEMBERSHIP IN PEOPLE'S SELF DEFENSE FORCES GREW TO 1.1 MILLION, OF WHOM MORE THAN 170,000 ARE ARMED. GVN PRESENCE WAS EXPANDED AS ABOUT 15 PER, OF RF/PF UNITS WERE REDEPLOYED, MOSTLY TO CONSTED

INFO: CJCS-1 DJS-3 SJCS-1 J1-2 J3-8 J4-3 J5-2 SACSA-3 NMCC-1

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AREAS, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT WAS ESTABLISHED IN MORE THAN 1250  
 PAGE 2 RHMSMVA2799 C O N F I D E N T I A L  
 TARGET HAMLETS (ALTHOUGH SOME HAD A SEMBLANCE OF LOCAL  
 GOVERNMENT AT THE OUTSET OF THE CAMPAIGN), AS A RESULT OF THE  
 APC, THE PACIFICATION EFFORT IN 1969 STARTS FROM A LARGER AND  
 STRONGER BASE, WITH CONSIDERABLE FORWARD MOMENTUM, AND WITH  
 FULL SUPPORT OF TOP GVN OFFICIALS.

3. (C) OVERALL HES RESULTS: COMPLETE HAMLET EVALUATION  
 SYSTEM FIGURES FOR END OF JANUARY HAVE NOT BEEN COMPILED. BASED ON  
 3.5 PER. GAIN IN RELATIVELY SECURE POPULATION IN IV CTZ DURING  
 JANUARY (WHICH WAS PROCESSED ON EXPEDITED BASIS), WE PROVIDED  
ESTIMATE FOR PRESIDENT THIEU'S USE AT PRESS CONFERENCE OF 79 PER.  
ABC POPULATION, 10 PER, DE AND 11 PER, VC. PRESIDENT, FOLLOWING NEW  
GVN POLICY OF LUMPING A, B, C, D, AND E INTO NEW CATEGORY CALLED  
@POPULATION UNDER GVN CONTROL@ WITH REMAINING @NOT YET FULLY UNDER  
GVN-CONTROL@ ANNOUNCED AT END OF APC THAT 89 PERCENT OF PEOPLE  
WERE GVN CONTROLLED. BUT, BASED ON ESTIMATED 79 PER, ABC  
POPULATION FIGURE, OVERALL GAIN DURING THREE-MONTH APC WAS 9.2 PER,  
OR MORE THAN 1.5 MILLION PEOPLE.

4. (C) QPPP HAMLET CAMPAIGN: DURING THE COURSE OF THE APC,  
 ADDITIONAL TARGET HAMLETS WERE SELECTED TO MAKE UP FOR ONES THAT  
 FAILED TO MEET THE D OR BELOW CRITERIA ON 1 NOVEMBER ESTABLISHED  
 BY THE PRESIDENT'S DIRECTIVE OR TO EXPAND THE EFFORT IN AREAS  
 SHOWING GOOD RESULTS. THUS, A TOTAL OF 1335 HAMLETS WERE IDENTIFIED  
 AS TARGETS, AGAIN BASED ON PRELIMINARY REPORTS FROM THE CTZ  
 (SINCE COMPLETED HES FIGURES ARE NOT YET AVAILABLE). RESULTS IN  
 RAISING SECURITY ONLY SCORE OF TARGET HAMLETS TO @C@ OR BETTER  
 WERE AS FOLLOWS:

	TARGET HAMLETS	@C@ OR BETTER	PER. ACHIEVING GOAL
I CTZ	202		81 PER
33			
+= \$91			
II CTZ	285	210	74PER
III CTZ	281	279	99PER
IV CTZ	567	403	71PER
TOTAL	1335	1055	79PER

5. (C) PHOENIX/PHUNG HOANG: BEFORE THE APC WAS  
 LAUNCHED, THE NUMBER OF VC INFRASTRUCTURE MEMBERS NEUTRALIZED  
 MONTHLY WAS RUNNING ABOUT 1200. THE RATE APPROXIMATELY  
 DOUBLED DURING THE SPECIAL CAMPAIGN AS ANTI-VCI EFFORTS WERE  
 STEPPED UP IN ATTEMPTS TO ACHIEVE A GOAL OF 3000 PER MONTH.  
 VERIFIED FIGURES FOR VCI ELIMINATED DURING JANUARY ARE NOT PROBABLY

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YET AVAILABLE, BUT, BASED ON PRELIMINARY FIGURES, THE RATE WILL CLOSELY APPROXIMATE THOSE FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER. VERIFIED FUGURES SHOW THE FOLLOWING NUMBERS OF VC1 WERE NEUTRALIZED:

	NOV.	DEC.	TOTAL (LESS JAN)
I CTZ	770	722	1492
II CTZ	295	330	625
III CTZ	496	455	951
IV CTZ	777	865	1642
TOTAL	2338	2372	4710

6. (C) MILITARY OPERATIONS: ONE ELEMENT OF THE APC WAS STEPPED UP MILITARY SPOILING OPERATIONS TO PRE-EMPT ENEMY REACTION AND PROVIDE A SHIELD BEHIND WHICH PACIFICATION COULD TAKE PLACE. NOT ONLY WERE OPERATIONS EFFECTIVE IN PREVENTING CONCERTED ENEMY ACTIVITIES AGAINST TARGET PACIFICATION AREAS BUT A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF MAJOR OPERATIONS INVOLVING US FORCES, ARVN, RF/PF AND POLICE, SUCH AS MEADE RIVER AND RUSSELL BEACH, WERE CONDUCTED WHICH DIRECTLY SUPPORTED PACIFICATION. IN ADDITION, US DIVISIONS WERE ABLE TO LEND CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT TO PACIFICATION BY RECONNAISSANCE IN FORCE OPERATIONS CLOSE TO TARGET AREAS AND BY GIVING A DESIGNATED BATTALION THE MISSION OF CONDUCTING CONTINUOUS OPERATIONS AGAINST ENEMY MAIN AND LOCAL FORCE ELEMENTS, GUERRILLAS, AND VC INFRASTRUCTURE WITHIN A PARTICULAR DISTRICT IN CLOSE COORDINATION WITH THE VN DISTRICT CHIEF. ESSENTIALLY ALL MILITARY OPERATIONS DURING THE APC DIRECTLY SUPPORTED THE CAMPAIGN. THE INVOLVEMENT OF OF BOTH US AND ARVN IN THE CAMPAIGN UNDER THE ONE WAR CONCEPT PROVED HIGHLY BENEFICIAL AND WAS A MAJOR FACTOR IN ITS SUCCESS.

7. (U) CHIEU HOI: THE GOAL OF 5,000 RETURNEES WAS FAR EXCEEDED AS 8646 HOI CHANH RALLIED. NEARLY THREE-QUARTERS OF THE TOTAL RALLIED IN IV CTZ INDICATING A MARKEDLY SUCCESSFUL PROGRAM THERE AS OPPOSED TO SOMEWHAT DISAPPOINTING RESULTS ELSEWHERE, ESPECIALLY IN II CTZ. THE THIRD PARTY INDUCEMENT PLAN ADDED NEW IMPETUS TO THE CHIEU HOI EFFORT AND ACCOUNTED FOR A SIGNIFICANT FRACTION OF FALLERS IN IV CTZ. THE PLAN HAS NOT CAUGHT ON AS WELL ELSEWHERE, ALTHOUGH IT HAS BEEN PUSHED HARDER RECENTLY. THE BREAKDOWN BY MONTH BY CTZ FOLLOWS:

	NOV.	DEC.	JAN.	APC	PER OF RETURNEES
I CTZ	221	287	273	781	9 PER
II CTZ	145	287	273	781	9 PER
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 III CTZ 368 357 323 1048 12 PER  
 IV CTZ 1535 2269 2376 6180 71  
 PER  
 TOTAL 2269 3148 3299 8646 100  
 PER

8. PEOPLE'S SELF DEFENSE DESIGNATING PEOPLE'S SELF DEFENSE AS A MAIN ELEMENT OF THE APC GAVE THE PROGRAM A NEEDED BOOST AND RESULTED IN CONSIDERABLE EXPANSION OF PSDF AND SPURRED PROVINCE AND DISTRICT CHIEFS TO ISSUE ARMS MORE QUICKLY. DURING THE CAMPAIGN A 50 PERSON FORCE, ARMED WITH AT LEAST 10 WEAPONS, WAS SUPPOSED TO BE ORGANIZED IN EACH TARGET HAMLET. BESIDES, PSDF WERE TO BE EXPANDED IN URBAN AREAS AND IN ALREADY RELATIVELY SECURE RURAL AREAS IN ORDER TO RELEASE SOME RF/PF FOR REDEPLOYMENT TO TARGET HAMLETS. DETAILED REPORTS ON THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE 50 PERSON PER TARGET HAMLET GOAL WAS ACHIEVED ARE NOT YET AVAILABLE; HOWEVER, OVERALL PSDF STRENGTHS AS OF 31 JANUARY SHOW THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE GOALS OF ONE MILLION PSDF MEMBERS ORGANIZED, 400,000 TRAINED, AND 200,000 ARMED WERE MET.

	ORGANIZED	TRAINED	ARMED
I CTZ	147,000	98,000	30,000
II CTZ	151,000	100,000	33,000

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III CTZ			
(INCL SAIGON)	513,000	247,000	61,000
IV CTZ	296,000	214,000	40,000
TOTAL	1,107,000	659,000	170,000

PAGE 3 RHMSMVA2800 C O N F I D E N T I A L

DESPITE THESE IMPRESSIVE FIGURES, PSUF IS A BRAND NEW ORGANIZATION WITH LITTLE REAL CAPABILITY FOR PROVIDING TERRITORIAL SECURITY, EXCEPT IN A FEW AREAS WHERE LEADERSHIP, SPIRIT AND TRAINING ARE WELL ABOVE AVERAGE. THE MAIN BENEFIT THUS FAR IS THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE PEOPLE AND THE POLITICAL/PSYCHOLOGICAL GAINS WHICH RESULT.

9. LOCAL GOVERNMENT: AN IMPORTANT ASPECT OF THE APC WAS EXTENSION OF PERMANENT GVN PRESENCE INTO TARGETED AREAS. DEVELOPMENT OF FUNCTIONING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AT HAMLET AND VILLAGE WAS ONE WAY OF DEMONSTRATING THE GVN'S INTENT TO REMAIN AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE APC ALL VILLAGES IN WHICH TARGET HAMLETS WERE LOCATED WERE CONSIDERED TO HAVE FUNCTIONING ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES, EITHER APPOINTED OR ELECTED. MANY NEW HAMLET ADMINISTRATIONS WERE ORGANIZED. SOME WERE ACTUALLY ELECTED, AND THE GVN HAS DIRECTED FURTHER ELECTIONS IN MARCH. IN MANY CASES, FORMER OFFICIALS, WHETHER APPOINTED OR ELECTED, LIVING IN EXILE WERE RE-ESTABLISHED IN THE TARGET HAMLETS. BY THE END OF THE APC, THE STATUS OF ADMINISTRATION IN TARGET HAMLETS WAS AS FOLLOWS:

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GVN ADMINISTRATIONS

TARGET HAMLETS	ELECTED	APPOINTED	NONE	
I CTZ	202	64	138	0
II CTZ	285	168	107	10
III CTZ	281	100	161	20
IV CTZ	267	212	324	31
TOTAL	1,335	544	730	61

10. (U) PSYOPS: OVERALL EVALUATION OF PSYOP EFFECTIVENESS IN THE APC IS NOT YET POSSIBLE. HOWEVER, CONCERTED EFFORT RESULTED IN IMPROVEMENT OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS CAPABILITIES IN THE COUNTRYSIDE. FOR EXAMPLE, 285 NEC RADIOS WERE INSTALLED IN TARGET HAMLETS AND 245 TELEVISION SETS WERE PUT INTO OPERATION. 304 INFORMATION OFFICES WERE BUILT; 813 VIS CADRE WERE ASSIGNED TO TARGET AREAS, 570 BULLETIN BOARDS WERE SET UP. PROVINCE OR DISTRICT NEWSPAPERS WERE BEING DISTRIBUTED REGULARLY IN TARGET HAMLETS BY THE END OF THE APC, AND LEAFLETS WERE DISTRIBUTED IN 1159 OF THE TARGET HAMLETS. ONLY 66 TARGET HAMLETS RECEIVED NO SPECIAL EMPHASIS. VIS PERFORMANCE WAS STILL SPOTTY.

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QUITE GOOD IN SOME AREAS, MINIMAL IN OTHERS, ATTITUDE SURVEYS, USING VN-STAFFED RURAL TECHNICAL TEAMS WORKING IN III CTZ, SHOWED THE APC HAD A BENEFICIAL EFFECT ON THE POPULATION IN GENERAL. FOR THE MOST PART, PEOPLE WERE AWARE OF THE CAMPAIGN AND FAVORED IT. IN BINH CHANH DISTRICT OF GIA DINH PEOPLE INDICATED THAT THOUGH THEY FAVORED THE CAMPAIGN THEY WISHED OFFICIALS WOULD STOP BOTHERING THEM ABOUT SELF-DEFENSE AND OTHER CIVIC DUTIES DURING HARVEST TIME. AS WITH PAST DACUFUCATUIB CAMPAIGNS, THE PEOPLE EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE PERMANENCE OF IMPROVED SECURITY AND WONDER IF GVN INTEREST IN THEM WILL WANE AFTER THE CAMPAIGN.

11. (C) ASSESSMENT: THE ACCELERATED PACIFICATION CAMPAIGN STRENGTHENED THE GVN'S POSITION VIS A VIS THE ENEMY'S POLITICAL & MILITARY PRESENCE IN THE RURAL AREAS. GAVE LOCAL GVN LEADERS CONSIDERABLY MORE CONFIDENCE BY DEMONSTRATING THAT PROGRESS COULD BE MADE WITH RESOURCES AT HAND AND INCREASED PACIFICATION MOMENTUM IN ALL CTZ'S AND MOST PROVINCES. ALL GOALS WERE NOT ACHIEVED BUT EVEN IN THESE CASES THERE WAS A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN PACE OVER THE RATE OF EARLIER MONTHS. ENEMY RESISTANCE WAS LIGHTER THAN ANTICIPATED AND THE LACK OF CONCERTED ENEMY COUNTER-MEASURES WAS A MAJOR FACTOR FAVORING THE CAMPAIGN'S SUCCESS. SUPPORT FROM TOP GVN OFFICIALS, INCLUDING PRESIDENT THIEU, WAS EXCELLENT. THE NEWLY ORGANIZED CENTRAL PACIFICATION AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL WAS TESTED AND ACQUITTED ITSELF REASONABLY WELL. ALTHOUGH IT NEEDS MORE STAFF AND A COORDINATOR WHO CAN DEVOTE MOST OF HIS TIME TO THE EXPANDING ACTIVITIES OF THE COUNCIL AND ITS STAFF, (PRESIDENT THIEU HAS INDICATED THAT HE INTENDS TO STRENGTHEN THE PACIFICATION ORGANIZATION SHORTLY) HOWEVER, THE APC DEMONSTRATED THAT THE GVN IS ABLE TO EFFECTIVELY INTEGRATE THE SEVERAL ASPECTS OF PACIFICATION. ALL FOUR CTZ COMMANDERS GAVE THEIR ACTIVE SUPPORT AS DID US FIELD FORCE AND DIVISION COMMANDERS. IN SUM, THE APC WAS HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL, HAS DEFINITELY GIVEN THE GVN PACIFICATION INITIATIVE, AND PROVIDES A STRONG BASE AND FORWARD MOMENTUM FOR THE AGGRESSIVE 1969 PACIFICATION AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN WHICH AIMS TO RAISE RELATIVELY SECURE POPULATION TO 90 PERCENT AND EXTEND GVN PRESENCE TO 100 PERCENT OF THE VILLAGES AND HAMLETS IN SVN. GP4.

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