

Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff, CORDS

MACCORDS-CH

1 March 1968

Colonel Volney Warner
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Volney,

As you see, I finally was able to return to Vietnam. One of the first things I did was to check on your report that Hoi Chanh from the National Center had redefected and helped the VC. My instincts about Vietnam developed over a long time led me to have some doubt about the accuracy of your information while still in Washington and I am pleased to report that there is no foundation whatsoever for the story according to the people who were on duty all during this period. On the contrary, we have been unable to confirm any specific cases of redefection throughout the country, although admittedly our information is not yet fully precise. We do know that the Armed Propaganda Teams acquitted themselves outstandingly in all areas except Dalat where the so-called team consisted of five tired Montagnards who could not read or write.

I attach a copy of a Ministry document which illustrates some of the achievements of Chieu Hoi personnel during the recent emergency. From what our people know to date, the Chieu Hoi program has not been substantially damaged by the VC attacks. Like other pacification elements, Chieu Hoi Centers were only singled out for attack when they lay in the path of a general VC offensive towards a town or city. At the moment, one does not know what the next VC move will be. If they attack again and fail again, then the psychological reaction could bring us in a lot of returnees.

You may be interested to know that my impression of Saigon on returning confirms what has universally been my experience in six years here, and that is that local events are inevitably blown up by the press so that they appear out of all context in the States. Life in Saigon seems to go on much as before.

I would appreciate anything you can do to correct the apparent misinformation concerning the performance of Hoi Chanh, which is unjust to them and reflects badly on a program which should be supported.

Yours sincerely,

Ogden Williams

Encl. a/s