

07-1029-70

SUBJ (U) Morale Deterioration, 9th VC Division, Headquarters, SVNLA.

(U) (8 pages, typewritten; B-3) Report, dated 10 Nov 69, signed by Dong Thanh Lam, Assistant Chief of the Political Staff of Doan 54 ((possibly 9th VC Division, Headquarters, SVNLA)), concerns the results of study of Resolution 9 ((adopted by COSVN)) by low-ranking cadre and combatants of the division.

Document states that 1,389 personnel (including 105 company cadre and 133 platoon cadre) of F59C ((possibly 95C Regiment, 9th VC Division)) and nearly all the personnel of F51 ((possibly 271st Regiment, 9th VC Division)) had attended reorientation courses designed to study Resolution 9. All personnel were reported to have thoroughly understood the resolution, to have strengthened their belief in Party leadership, and to have realized that the Vietnamization plan would be defeated.

Document states that the majority of the division's personnel failed to accurately assess the overall military situation of the "Mien" ((meaning SVN)), and were concerned only with difficulties of their own units. Some had raised the following questions during reorientation courses: (1) "The enemy still has 1,200,000 troops. Why did we ((the VC)) say that many enemy troops had been killed during the past?" (2) "We usually say that three-fourths of the land and fourth-fifths of the SVN population have been liberated, but why are enemy troops found everywhere instead the the ((VC liberated)) people." In a reorientation course conducted by a battalion for 197 personnel, 67 were criticized because they feared to make self-critique statements; 50 for having illusions of peace and showing too much concern for their own future; and 27 for having retreated without orders when facing the enemy. Most were reported to have withdrawn quickly to avoid being assigned to carry wounded and dead soldiers. There was a growing tendency among cadre and members to balk at hardships and to fear the rigors of combat. In addition, the following personal feelings were reported as common among the divisional personnel: "A wait-and-see attitude, fear of a protracted war, willingness to rest in Cambodia after each battle, and especially a fear of being sent back to SVN."

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