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HANOI SHOWS CONCERN OVER 'VIETNAMIZATION'

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(BACKGROUND) (780)

(UNDATED) -- THE NORTH VIETNAMESE-VIET CONG COMMAND STRUCTURE'S LATEST OFFICIAL "STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES" ASSESSMENT PROVIDES STRONG BACKING FOR MOUNTING INDICATIONS FROM OTHER SOURCES THAT HANOI IS SERIOUSLY CONCERNED OVER SUCCESSES UNDER PRESIDENT NIXON'S "VIETNAMIZATION" PROGRAM TO SPEED AN END TO THE WAR.

RECENT ACCOUNTS FROM CORRESPONDENTS ON THE SCENE HAVE STRESSED THE INCREASED PARTICIPATION AND STRENGTH OF SOUTH VIETNAM'S MILITARY FORCES, MOUNTING DEFECTIONS FROM THE COMMUNIST SIDE UNDER SAIGON'S CHIEU HOI (AMNESTY) PLAN, THE ALMOST COMPLETE FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT THAT NOW PREVAILS IN AREAS PREVIOUSLY UNDER COMMUNIST CONTROL, AND THE MARKED PROGRESS THAT HAS CHARACTERIZED SOUTH VIETNAM'S "PACIFICATION" CAMPAIGN TO FREE VILLAGES AND HAMLETS AND SAFEGUARD THEM FROM VIET CONG REPRISALS.

HANOI'S CONCERN OVER SUCH TRENDS IS REPEATEDLY UNDERScoreD IN A 1969 REVIEW OF THE WAR ISSUED AS REVOLUTION NINE BY COSVN (CENTRAL OFFICE FOR SOUTH VIETNAM), THE NORTH VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST PARTY'S HEADQUARTERS ORGANIZATION IN THE SOUTH.

THE TEXT OF THIS 75-PAGE SECRET DOCUMENT, A COPY OF WHICH WAS CAPTURED BY ALLIED FORCES IN OCTOBER, IS NOW AVAILABLE IN TRANSLATION.

RESOLUTION NINE HAS A SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE IN THAT, APART FROM THE BOASTS OF PAST ACHIEVEMENTS AND THE EXHORTATIONS FOR GREATER FUTURE SACRIFICES THAT ARE CHARACTERISTIC OF ALL SUCH DOCUMENTS, IT CONTAINS AN UPDATED APPRAISAL OF THE DANGER AND WEAK POINTS THAT THE HANOI LEADERSHIP CONSIDERS MOST DISTURBING.

PAGE 2 -- WAR REPORT

SPECIFIC CONCERN OVER THE "VIETNAMIZATION" PLAN FOR GRADUAL REPLACEMENT OF U.S. UNITS WITH ELEMENTS OF THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE

ARMED FORCES IS INDICATED IN NUMEROUS PASSAGES CALLING FOR THE LAUNCHING OF "FIERCE ATTACKS" AIMED AT FORCING A SPEED UP IN THE WITHDRAWAL OF AMERICAN TROOPS WHILE SIMULTANEOUSLY PREVENTING SOUTH VIETNAMESE SOLDIERS FROM TAKING THEIR PLACES.

AT THE SAME TIME, IT WAS EMPHASIZED, A VITAL PART OF "OUR IMMEDIATE MISSION" IS TO "FRUSTRATE THE ENEMY'S CLEAR-AND -HOLD PLAN AND HIS PACIFICATION POLICY."

"THE MOST IMPORTANT THING," IT WAS STRESSED IN ANOTHER PASSAGE, "IS THAT WE SHOULD CONCENTRATE ALL EFFORTS ON FRUSTRATING THE 'CLEAR-AND-HOLD' AND 'ACCELERATED PACIFICATION' STRATEGY OF THE ENEMY...WE MUST DESTROY ENTIRE COMPANIES AND BATTALIONS OF THE PUPPET (SOUTH VIETNAMESE) ARMY..ANNIHILATE THE PUPPET ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL AND MEMBERS OF THE PACIFICATION TEAM."

THE RESOLUTION ALSO CALLED FOR INCREASED EFFORTS TO HALT THE BUILD-UP OF SOUTH VIETNAM'S MILITARY STRENGTH BY "RECRUITING FIFTH COLUMNIST," SABOTAGING EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES AND APPLYING PRESSURE ON FAMILIES TO URGE THEIR RELATIVES TO LEAVE THEIR ARMY POSTS.

THE DOCUMENT IS LIBERALLY INTERSPERSED WITH ADMISSIONS OF WEAKNESS THAT APPEAR TO INDICATE THAT THE ACCUMULATED HARDSHIPS OF THE LONG AND BLOODY COMMUNIST MILITARY CAMPAIGN ARE HAVING TELLING EFFECTS ON MORALE. THE LIST OF SHORTCOMINGS, FOR EXAMPLE, INCLUDED "LACK OF BELIEF IN PARTY POLICY AND ITS STRATEGIC DETERMINATION...PASSIVITY...FEAR OF THE RIGORS OF WAR...FEAR OF DEATH...PEACE ILLUSIONS...LACK OF AGGRESSIVENESS...POOR SENSE

OF ORGANIZATION AND DISCIPLINE."

"IN ADDITION," THE RESOLUTION WARNED, "A NUMBER OF PARTY MEMBERS HAVE EVEN GONE SO FAR AS TO SURRENDER TO THE ENEMY AND BETRAY THE NATION, CAUSING A DISASTROUS EFFECT ON THE PARTY AND PEOPLE...THE WAR HAS BECOME MORE FIERCE AND COMPLICATED. ENEMY PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN INCREASINGLY INTENSIFIED AND YET THERE HAS BEEN NO RPT NO SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT MADE IN THE IDEOLOGICAL FIELD ON THE PART OF (OUR) PARTY COMMITTEES."

TO OVERCOME THESE AND RELATED DEFICIENCIES, THE COMMUNIST FORCES WERE ENJOINED TO "INITIATE A LARGE-SCALE POLITICAL INDOCTRINATION MOVEMENT...WE MUST COMBAT PASSIVITY, RIGHTISM AND THE FEAR OF THE ATROCITIES OF WAR AND DEATH...WE MUST COMBAT OUR DESIRE TO REST, GUARD AGAINST SLACKENING OUR COMBAT WILL, NURTURING ILLUSIONS OF PEACE, RELYING ON OTHERS AND WAITING FOR THE WAR TO TERMINATE SOON."

COMMUNIST CONCERN OVER LARGE-SCALE DEFECTIONS TO THE SOUTH IS FURTHER UNDERSCORED BY RECENT REPORTS FROM SAIGON QUOTING TWO CAPTURED NORTH VIETNAMESE SOLDIERS AND A VIET CONG GUERRILLA. THESE MEN REVEALED THAT SPECIAL VIGILANCE MEASURES HAD BEEN INTRODUCED BY NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOP COMMANDERS. ONE OF THE SOLDIERS SAID HIS UNIT HAD BEEN PLACED UNDER GUARD AFTER 35 MEN DESERTED ENROUTE TO THE SOUTH. OFFICERS OF ANOTHER UNIT SHOT TEN SOLDIERS ATTEMPTING TO ESCAPE. SUMMARY EXECUTIONS, IT WAS ADDED, HAVE BEEN ORDERED AS STANDARD PUNISHMENT FOR ALL PERSONS ATTEMPTING TO DEFECT.

ACCORDING TO THE LATEST CHIEU HOI STATISTICS, 43,599 COMMUNIST MILITARY AND POLITICAL PERSONNEL WERE GRANTED AMNESTY UNDER THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE PROGRAM IN THE FIRST ELEVEN MONTHS OF THIS YEAR. THE CUMULATIVE TOTAL SINCE THE PROGRAM WAS STARTED IN 1963 REACHED 136,979 IN NOVEMBER. ITEM

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