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VIET CONG TRIES TO SABOTAGE GVN LAND REFORM AND FARM AID PROGRAMS

Saigon -- The Viet Cong is trying to sabotage South Viet-Nam's land reform program, a recently captured Communist document reveals. In an instruction issued in May 1970 to its local committees, a Viet Cong provincial committee ordered them "to indoctrinate backward peasants... not to bid in the auctions of public lands" and to accept as permanent the VC's parceling out of land to its supporters.

Besides interfering with the implementation of the Government of Viet-Nam's (GVN) "Land-to-the-Tiller" program, enacted last spring, the Communists are trying to persuade farmers to boycott GVN agricultural credit programs. South Vietnamese farmers must be urged, the instruction says, "not to accept tractors and water pumps and not to contribute capital for the purchase of tractors and for raising domestic animals... not borrow money from agricultural credit agencies and not to receive cows or pigs to raise."

These instructions are based upon Communiqué 05/TT 70 from the Standing Committee of COSVN -- the Committee for South Viet-Nam, the Communists' high command in South Viet-Nam, the captured document states. The COSVN communiqué has not come into Allied hands.

The provincial committee in a Mekong Delta province that issued the document which has come into Allied possession fears that the land reform and agricultural assistance programs of the GVN will deprive the Viet Cong of whatever support it has left. It acknowledges that "in our province in particular, the enemy has carried out the land reform program in a number of areas." The Communists fear, the document reveals, that when farmers get GVN land titles they will ignore the land distribution the Communists made in areas they once controlled, and reject VC agrarian reform programs.

Farmers must be urged "to initiate a concerted uprising... and to use violence and shed their blood if necessary," says the instruction. They must also be told that "they can only enjoy the products of their land when they have successfully eliminated local tyrants, broken the enemy's oppressive rule, frustrated the enemy's pacification program, and seized control of hamlets and regained power."

Meanwhile, the directive states, farmers should "boycott the so-called cooperatives," "formulate plans for punishing the enemy's obdurate cruel land grabbers and leaders of cooperatives, agricultural credit offices, animal husbandry services, etc." The instruction also suggests that farm animals made available through GVN services be "captured" and agricultural aid offices "destroyed."

There is no evidence that farmers in South Viet-Nam are responding to this May 1970 appeal. Distribution of land titles, to which tenant farmers actually working the land have priority claim, under the GVN's "Land-to-the-Tiller" Bill, began in late August 1970. Some 3000 expert experts are working throughout South Viet-Nam to speed formal title issuance. By the first of October, 2,496 titles has been issued. Loans to farmers from GVN-sponsored rural credit banks, which totalled just under five and a half billion piasters in 1969 are expected to reach eight billion piasters in 1970.

The complete text of the captured Viet Cong document, released by the United States Mission in Viet-Nam, is attached.

Number: 26/CV

From: A J2 [i. e. Ea Ria - Long Khanh Province Party
Committee VC Region 7]

To: Various district, cities, specialized agencies and
civilian organization.

Following Communique 05/TT70 from the standing
Committee of COSVN, concerning the countering of the enemy's
deceitful land reform program, the standing Committee of AJ2
[(possibly Ea Ria - Long Khanh Province Party Committee, Region?)]
further provides a number of specific instructions to implement the
above mentioned communique in our province as follows:

Concerning the enemys dark schemes, these are basically
described in the communique mentioned above. As concerns our
province in particular, the enemy has carried out the land reform
program in a number of areas. For example, in Long Dat
[(District)], the enemy grabbed public lands that the Revolution
had previously distributed to farmers; in the rubber Plantation
area he took away from the workers the fertile lands near posts and
strategic hamlet and distributed to tyrants, local administrative
personnel, Popular Force members, People's Self-Defense members,
Assault Unit members, and their dependents, in an attempt to
motivate these people to oppose the revolution by terrorizing,
oppressing, and massacring the people. In almost all districts of
our province, the enemy conducts demagogic propaganda, and
promises to improve the people's living conditions by setting up
cooperatives, providing capital for the development of animal
husbandry and agriculture, supplying fertilizer, providing capital
to buy tractors and water pumps to improve farm production, etc...
In reality, the enemy's land reform program is aimed at stealing
the people's property and the peasants' land, especially robbing
the Revolution's combatants and cadres and their dependents, and
the families that have contributed to the revolution. This program is
also aimed at creating disturbances and dissension among farmers,
destroying the Revolution's achievements, frustrating the Party's
land policy, and impoverishing the people. It is also aimed at
destroying the Revolution's base organizations and the economic
resources of the Resistance, and inducing the people who have not
yet understood the Revolution to oppose the Revolution.

In order to smash the above mentioned cruel scheme of the enemy, various echelons, specialized agencies and civilian organizations must carry out the following missions:

1. It is necessary to thoroughly understand the provisions of the above communique, and the specific situation in local areas to motivate our own personnel and the people to hate the enemy. We should conduct extensive indoctrination sessions among cadre, Party members, Group members, soldiers, and the people in various areas, especially among farmers, ethnic minority people and religious people in rural areas, so that they can clearly realize the enemy's wicked, cruel and deceitful schemes under the so-called land reform, cooperatives, credit programs, etc. In this way, we can promote hatred for the enemy, the people's national and class consciousness, the love of independence and freedom, and the determination to defeat the Americans and their henchmen. We should make them understand that only when they have independence and freedom can they have everything and maintain ownership of their land forever. We should immediately motivate the people to initiate a concerted uprising. Make them realize that they can only enjoy the products of their land when they have successfully eliminated wicked tyrants, broken the enemy's oppressive control of the population, frustrated the enemy's pacification program and seized control of hamlets and regained power. On this basis, we should lead the people and peasants in a determined struggle against the enemy's robbery and tyranny. We should motivate them to use violence and shed their blood if necessary to win and protect the ownership of their land. At the same time we should indoctrinate backward peasants who do not have a revolutionary awareness; expose to them the enemy's tyrannical scheme; and tell them not to take the rice bowls from other people and not to bid in the auctions of public lands. We should encourage them to maintain the cultivated area temporarily issued by the Revolution. Indoctrinate, warn and forbid the dependents of enemy personnel and henchmen to accept land that the enemy has robbed from the peasants. At the same time formulate plans for punishing the enemy's obdurate, cruel land grabbers and leaders of cooperatives, agricultural credit offices, animal husbandry services etc. In particular, punish the enemy's local administrative personnel Popular Force members, and local tyrants, because they directly implement the enemy's schemes of despoiling the peasants land and oppressing the population. They are also informers who help the enemy attack and destroy the Revolution's base organizations, who oppress and terrorize the people.

2. It is necessary to make a census of the lands that the Revolution has issued or distributed to revolutionary families and peasants in each hamlet and village in order to motivate the people to be more determined to struggle against enemy land grabbing, and to hold and protect their land. Concerning the uncultivated land of absentees, and public lands that have not yet been issued to the peasants, we must continue to implement the Party's land policy. We must effectively take care of the peasants living conditions and their land rights in order to increase agricultural production, expand the cultivated areas, and motivate the people to break out [of concentration areas] in order to engage in production activities and reclaim abandoned lands.

3. Motivate the people to oppose and expose the enemy's deceitful exploiting schemes to boycott the so-called cooperatives, not to accept tractors and water pumps and not to contribute capital for the purchase of tractors and for raising domestic animals. We should motivate them not to borrow capital from agricultural credit agencies; and not to receive cows or pigs to raise. If necessary, we must work out plans to capture [the animals] and to destroy these enemy installations.

4. We must oppose the enemy's demagogic schemes and motivate the people to return to their former villages and land in order to engage in production activities. We must motivate them to fill the white belt established by enemy forces along Highway 2, such as Long Phuoc, Dong Don, Dong Dau etc. (in Chau Duc district), to tend ricefields of Nai forest, Dong Dang, Long Hoi My; Long Tan, Tam Phuoc, etc (in Long Dat district), the ricefields and former cultivated lands in Xuan Loc, Dinh Quan, Rubber Plantation, Phuoc Buu, Xuyen Moc and Long Son (in Cap) [Cape St. Jacques - the Vung Tau area]. We must encourage the people to plant rice, corn, manioc, and other cereals. We should not follow the production regulations of the enemy, but should produce in accordance with the requirements of the people and the Revolution. All branches, civilian organizations, troops and guerrillas must indoctrinate and motivate the people to increase production, take care of the people's living conditions, and with the people, protect production, counter enemy sweep operations, and oppose the spraying of poisonous chemicals which destroy crops.

We should indoctrinate cadre, soldiers, and workers in agencies and units to implement the civilian proselyting policy properly, to respect and protect the people's property, and absolutely not to violate the people's interests. Indoctrinate them not to take fruit or adversely influence the people's production development. If any cadre or soldier violates these regulations, the commander of cadre of the agency or unit concerned will be held responsible. They must take appropriate measures, including indoctrination, criticism or punishment against the culprit.

5. We should conduct indoctrination sessions to make cadre, soldiers, and the people fully understand the enemy's dark plot and deepen their hatred against the enemy so that they are determined to frustrate the enemy schemes, and at the same time thoroughly understand our land reform policy in rural areas. We should make positive efforts to indoctrinate the people to carry out this policy. We should avoid carelessness or negligence, and we should increase the people's vigilance against the enemy's deceitful plot. We should prevent them from being deceived by the enemy's wily schemes.

Various branches, popular organizations, and especially the Farmers' Associations must work out specific plans in order to help Party Committee authorities exercise close leadership and provide timely guidance for each area.

After each phase of activity, reports on the results should be forwarded to the standing Committee, AJ2, to keep it informed of the activities and assist it to work out measures to cope with the situation.

18 May 1970
For the Standing Committee,
AJ2
[signed]: Pham Van Hy