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SUBJ: VC/NVA Stragglers and Deserters in Hoai Nhón District, Binh Dinh Province, VC Region 5. (U)

CDEC LOG NO.  
09-2180-70

(U) (3 pages, typewritten) Letter, dated 11 Aug 69, prepared for the signature of Thanh Tung, President of the People's Revolutionary Committee, Hoai Nhón District, ((possibly of Binh Dinh Province, VC Region 5)), forwarded to all subordinate village People's Revolutionary Committees, outlines instructions for handling ((VC/NVA)) stragglers and deserters who are located in different piedmont villages such as Hoai Sơn, Hoai Châu, Hoai Mỹ, Hoai Hảo ((possibly of Hoai Nhón District, Binh Dinh Province)), and other areas in Hoai An District, ((Binh Dinh Province)).

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Document states that many stragglers or deserters who lived illegally in houses of local inhabitants became robbers and swindlers who earned their living by stealing property of local inhabitants. Those who lived in the forest or in caves became smugglers, hijackers, and murderers. These criminals constitute a constant threat to the welfare of the local population and adversely affect the reputation of the Revolution.

Therefore, the addressees were directed to make an investigation of these cases by collecting essential information on these individuals, and to take appropriate measures to cope with their criminal acts. These personnel should be convinced to return to their parent unit or report to the nearest straggler recovery station. Local inhabitants should be motivated to advise these servicemen to return to the army, and not to assist these personnel in their unlawful acts. Coordination should be closely maintained among all branches and sections of P ((possibly district headquarters)), particularly security sections of P ((district)) and village units for proper implementation of this directive.

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The author also cited some typical cases as follows: (1) Hồ Sĩ Liên went to South Vietnam to fight the Americans; but, due to his fear of hardships and death, deserted and lived in local inhabitants' houses in Phu Mỹ ((District)), Hoai Mỹ ((Village)), and Hoai Nhón ((District)). He conspired with some local inhabitants to cheat other people of hundreds of kilograms of rice and 50,000\$ ((SVN)) ((118\$ SVN = \$1.00 US)) through the use of forgery and misuse of the name of being a cadre of the Liberation Army. He also deceived some ((VC/NVA)) wounded personnel into stealing a certain amount of gold to make a return trip to North Vietnam; but, he actually guided these wounded personnel to the seashore and turned them over to a group of seamen ((no further information)). (2) Trần Đức Hạnh, a deserter, lived in different hamlets in Hoai Hảo ((Village)) and tried to defect to the enemy ((FWMAF/RVNAF)) after stealing some radios from local inhabitants. (3) Huỳnh Hồi returned to South Vietnam ((after being regrouped in North Vietnam)) and deserted his unit due to his fear of death. He mingled with local inhabitants in Bình Dê Hamlet, Hoai Châu ((Village)), and An Hội Hamlet, Hoai Sơn ((Village)), and attempted to contact his family for the purpose of defecting to the enemy.

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[Signature]