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MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

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From : Minister of Information,  
concurrently Secretary General of  
Mass Info Committee.

To : - Deputy Prime Minister,  
- State Secretaries,  
- Ministers,  
- Undersecretaries,  
- Prefect,  
- Province Chiefs,  
- City Mayors,

Subject : Indoctrination document.

Gentlemen:

I have the honor to forward you the here-enclosed document,  
"HOW TO SELF-DEFEND".

This is the EIGHTH document in the series of 16 others which  
are to be used during the 4-month total victory campaign for  
indoctrination purposes at your respective organizations within the  
frame-work of the Mass Information Program supporting the 1970  
Special Pacification and Development Plan.

Respectfully yours,

s/s NGO KHAC TINH

Copies to:

- The Prime Ministry,  
(Chief of the Special Office)
- "For forwarding to the PM"
- Central DP Coordination Center,
- Director General of Budget and Foreign Aid
- Director General of Planning  
"For Info"

## HOW TO SELF-DEFEND ?

"With the outstanding victories our combatants have just performed, I have decided to launch a Special Pacification and Development Campaign for the second half of 1970 beginning July 1, 1970, to improve security and step up community development in the villages and hamlets" declared President Nguyen van Thieu on the Armed Forces Day, June 16, 1970.

The Special Pacification and Development Program this time also includes 8 criteria, but emphasis is placed on 3 main points:

- To improve security,
- To develop a public information system to undertake a political struggle with the Communists,
- To develop national economic potentials to prepare ourselves for self-sustaining and self-strengthening.

To effectively protect the people, self-defense in the villages and hamlets is vital. What therefore is self-defense? How is it organized?

Question: What is self defense?

Answer : Briefly, self-defense is the use of one's own means and facilities to defend one's own life and property, and on a larger scale, to defend the country against Communist aggression.

Question: What are the elements essential to organize self-defense?

Answer : Self-defense requires a determination to become self-strengthened and particularly to organize the ways and means of self-defense. Spiritual determination is a key to victory, and the ways and means to make the defense effective.

Question: Why should we organize self-defense?

Answer : For three main reasons:

1/ We cannot cross our arms and wait for others to save us. Our Allies can only help us to help ourselves. They cannot replace us. We therefore must have self-respect and take up our responsibilities before the national history.

2/ To fight Communism in order to save the country is a common responsibility of the entire Vietnamese people. Each one of us must contribute to this fight.

3/ We must defend ourselves to allow the Army to devote full time to the destruction of the enemy in bringing about peace.

Question: What is the importance of self-defense?

Answer: Self-defense is one of three national policies, in addition to self-sustaining and self-governing; self-defense is a preliminary step toward self standing and self-strengthening. In the present phase of barring the way to Communist aggression, self-defense is important in that it leads to self-governing, which in turn results in self-standing and self-strengthening.

Question: How should self-defense be organized?

Answer: Self-defense must be organized everywhere, in all fields, and by all means.

Question: Please make it clear.

Answer: Self-defense must be organized everywhere, from the hamlet to the top level, which is the entire country.

Self-defense in all fields requires our vigilance in various military, political, economic, cultural and social activities.

- Self-defense by every means available is necessary to directly prevent the Communist infiltration from within and without.

Question: How is our present defense organized?

Answer: The Government has made appropriate assignments in the defense of the national territory. The army is responsible for the defense from district level upward. The people are responsible for the defense of the villages and hamlets.

Question: Why was the defense of villages and hamlets, instead of Districts and provinces, assigned to the people?

Answer: The Government based the assignments of responsibilities on the efficiency of the defense work. In the present situation, the people are organized into small units closely

related to one another. In such a way, the defense can be better organized and it will be easier for the Government to fully equip them and make the defense more effective.

Question: What should be done in order for the people to be able to defend themselves?

Answer : To organize self-defense, the people must not only be determined to participate in and to carry it out, but also must be organized, trained and equipped militarily, politically, economically, culturally and socially.

Question: What is the purpose of self-defense in the military field?

Answer : Military self-defense prevents a direct infiltration of Communists personnel, and defends national territory. People in the countryside will constitute a barrier to the Communist tax collectors, sappers, terrorists...

Question: From the military standpoint, how is an efficient self-defense organized?

Answer : As has been said above, an efficient military self-defense requires, three essential elements: organization, training and equipment in response to three main factors: personnel, morale and weapons...

Question: Please clarify your statement.

Answer : People must be organized into groups, or units, which fit their capabilities so as to obtain a maximum of efficiency in the defense work.

- The people must be trained to avoid duplication of work, to respond to the current changes, to familiarize themselves with combat tactics so as to raise their combativeness and morale.

- People must be adequately equipped so as to be able to resist infiltrators.

Question: With the present equipment, is the people's self-defense of the villages and hamlets strong enough to stop the Communist infiltration? Why?

Answer : The People's Self Defense Force is now strong enough to resist enemy attacks. This is in accordance with our Government's assignment of responsibilities: Regular troops are to prevent all Communist concentrations of forces from battalion-size upward; the provincial and district regional forces are to smash all Communist forces at company and platoon levels; down at the villages or hamlets level, the enemy is thinly divided: only isolated guerrillas who have been gathered together to form a squad at the maximum. The People's Self Defense Forces are strong enough to eliminate them. In case they are outnumbered, there will be immediate support from the Army.

Question: What is the purpose of self-defense in politics?

Answer : Political self-defense is organized to prevent the Communist doctrine from developing within our own ranks. There are for us two ways to defend ourselves politically:

- To prevent infiltration and elimination of all existing anti-Communist destructive ideas.

- To prevent the Communist doctrine from taking roots.

Question: How is Communist infiltration prevented?  
How are Communist destructive ideas eliminated?

Answer : The Communist usual tactics are to place the wrong emphasis on the facts and to fabricate facts to distort the truth, lower the prestige of the Government, create confusion among the masses, encourage defeatists and, of course, to praise Communism. People in the villages or hamlets must remain highly vigilant, turn a deaf ear to their propaganda, and denounce them to the public officers.

Question: How are Communist thoughts prevented from developing?

Answer : The most effective way to prevent Communism from developing is to support fully the people and to strengthen the people-elected administration in the village. Also, political training must be given on national policy, the Government's line of action to improve the people's knowledge of their position so as to unify their determination to fight the aggressors. Communism then will have no ground to develop.

Question: What is economic self-defense?

Answer : Economic self-defense means to prevent our economic resources from falling into Communist hands.

Question: How is economic self-defense organized?

Answer : Each person, each family, in the village must:

- Refuse to house, support, or pay taxes to the Communists.
- Work to increase the family incomes, to promote social welfare by participating in public organizations, and to build an economic way of life, to be well-off enough to be able to say "no" to any Communist promises.

Question: What is the purpose of social and cultural defense?

Answer : To prevent infiltration by the Communist inhuman, up-rooted culture, and their policy of social impoverishment.

Question: What should be done then?

Answer : Cultural self-defense includes:

- Prevention of Communist atheistic ideas which conceive men as merely productive mechanical equipment without thinking ability.
- Development of national traditions, religious faith and respect of individual freedoms.

Question: How is social defense organized?

Answer : From the social standpoint, the people must carry out the following basic policies of the Government to defend themselves against the Communist aggression:

- Strongly condemn the Communist impoverishment policy and their attempt to assimilate the people with the international Communists.
- Carry out social justice by suppressing the village oppressors and bullying elements, and bannish all unjust and feudal remnants, and organize mutual assistance in emergencies. Participate eagerly in social welfare associations for self-defense.

Question: In brief, how should self-defense be organized in all of its aspects?

Answer : To defend ourselves against Communist aggression, we must:

1/ Be efficiently and closely organized,

Be adequately and appropriately equipped,

Be physically and spiritually trained,

2/ Stop infiltration from without,

Prevent infiltration from within,

Destroy any existing Communist ideas at their roots,

3/ Organize defense in the military, economic, social and cultural fields.

- Organize the defense everywhere, beginning with the basic unit, which is the village.