

INFORMATION REPORT

SUBJECT: Suicide and Self-Amputation Movement spreading in Communist
Banks in South Vietnam.

I/ Fact:

A Communist document captured by a friendly unit revealed that a suicide and self-amputation movement was spreading among the Communist hospitalized in the VC dispensaries and hospitals in SVN.

The document discussed a case of suicide by Communist Cadre Nguyen Trong Dang who hung himself while he under treatment in a rear-line hospital of the Communist Sub Division #5. According to the report and comments of the hospital personnel, Communist Nguyen Trong Dang committed suicide because he was pessimistic about his illness; but according to statements of witnesses, subject committed suicide because he was undernourished and the ill treatment by official personnel. Subject complained before his suicide: "I'd rather die than live on being ill and undernourished. The hospital's report also disclosed that Subject consumed one can of rice a day, and when rice was short, his ration was reduced one half.

The Communist hospital report dodged the details of the case; but based on other cases of suicide and self-amputation the VC are fearful of going out to the battlefield; a common situation in all communist units. It can be easily understood that the real motive is shortage of foods, suffering and desperation.

II/ Remarks:

There are many noteworthy details to be drawn from the above fact:

21/ Under the Communist regime, to squeeze out the lemon and to throw away the rind has been considered a common policy vis a vis members who have served devotedly the Party and have become disabled. Anyone who has lived with the Communists must recognize that ill-treatment of those who stop being useful to the party is a Communist common policy. The Communists, therefore, try to destroy or to give a coup de grace to those who get wounded on the battlefield to get rid of the burden of taking care of them later...

22/ The Communists are having trouble with their economy which is nearing collapse. They do not have enough to feed their troops. Even the wounded who are hospitalized do not have enough to eat.

23/ Desperation of the Communist military personnel is spreading everyday: Not only do those who are fighting at the front feel desperate with the situation, but also those taking treatment at the hospitals have lost confidence in the "bright future". Reasons: partly because of the far below average living means and partly because of extreme confusion and low morale.

III. How to exploit this information:

31/ Deal with the morale of the Communist troops by pointing out the inhuman Communist treatment of their wounded and disabled members. Make them understand that the Communists are nearing collapse due to shortages of weapons, ammunition, medicine and food. Even those who fight at the front do not have enough to eat, what about those who need overnourishment in the hospitals? Make them understand that their sacrifice is only useless and inefficient before the growth of the people and Army of RVN.

32/ Appeal to the Communist troops and cadres to rally to the GVN to enjoy freedom, happiness and easy life.

33/ Hail the GVN's lenient and kind policy toward those who have sacrificed their lives in their anti-Communist struggle. Hail the moral and physical treatment reserved for the anti-Communist fighters and their families by the GVN through Law No. 08/70 which provides for a better life for the war veterans and their families.

Saigon, 4 September 1970

Assistant to the Minister

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