

Special

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SUBJECT: NVA/VC TREATMENT OF PEOPLE IN RECENTLY CAPTURED AREAS

REF: STATE 082738, STATE 087840, AND SAIGON 5276 4/19/75

1. ON THE MORNING OF APRIL 18 LABATT INTERVIEWED MR. NGUYEN HUANG PHO (REDACTED), A CVT CADRE WHO RETURNED FROM DA NANG AT 8 P.M. ON APRIL 16. HIS REPORT FOLLOWS: QUOTE I WAS PRESIDENT OF THE UNION OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS AT DA NANG; I WAS A CLERK IN THE ELECTRICAL PLANT. I PERSUADED THE COMMUNISTS THAT I WAS FROM CAM RANH AND I WAS ISSUED A PERMIT BY THE COMMITTEE OF MILITARY ADMINISTRATION (UY BAN QUAN QUAN) TO LEAVE DA NANG ON APRIL 9 FOR CAM RANH, BUT I LEFT ON APRIL 11 INSTEAD. I WAS IN DA NANG FROM MARCH 29 TO APRIL 11 AFTER THE COMMUNISTS HAD TAKEN OVER THE CITY. I LEFT THERE ON MY HONDA AT 8 A.M. FRIDAY, APRIL 11.

2. THE DOCK WORKERS' UNION, THE TRANSPORT WORKERS' UNION, AND

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ALL OTHER UNIONS OF CVT HAVE BEEN DISSOLVED. THE COMMUNISTS HAVE ESTABLISHED THE COUNCIL OF UNIONS FOR LIBERATION (LIEN HIEP CONG DOAN GIAI PHONG), INSTEAD. THE NON-CVT UNIONS, THE CSTV UNIONS ALSO HAVE BEEN DISSOLVED.

3. EACH PERSON IS REQUIRED TO MAKE A DECLARATION OF HIS POLITICAL AFFILIATION, I.E., CONG NONG PARTY, DEMOCRATIC PARTY, VIETNAMESE KUD HING TAN, OR DAI VIET PARTY.

4. WHEN I LEFT DA NANG, THERE WERE THREE BOATS COMING FROM NVN, EACH TRANSPORTING ABOUT 600 TONS OF RICE. PORT WORKERS ARE PAID A DAILY WAGE OF TWO CANS OF RICE (OR 2/3'S OF A LITER MILK CAN) AND VN\$50 OR THE EQUIVALENT OF 25 CENTS PER DAY. THERE IS NO FORCED LABOR; VOLUNTEER WORKERS RECEIVE THE SAME PAY.

5. THE OFFICERS OF ARVN FROM MAJOR UPWARDS WHO WERE CAUGHT BY THE COMMUNISTS MUST ATTEND THE POLITICAL TRAINING CLASSES AND THEY RECEIVE A HANDFUL OF RICE AND A GRAIN OF SALT EVERY DAY. THE SOLDIERS WHO SURRENDERED AND SUBMITTED THEIR RIFLES REMAIN FREE FOR THE TIME BEING.

6. FOR THE NEXT THREE MONTHS RVN BANKNOTES WILL CONTINUE TO BE USED; AFTER THAT THE PEOPLE MUST EXCHANGE RVN CURRENCY FOR COMMUNIST PIASTERS AT 100 TO 1 WITH EACH PERSON PERMITTED TO EXCHANGE A MAXIMUM OF RVN\$500,000. THE RATE OF EXCHANGE IS NOT THE SAME EVERYWHERE. IN QUANG NGAI, QUI NHON, NHA TRANG, FOR TEN COMMUNIST PIASTERS IN SOME PLACES THEY MUST PAY VN\$1,000 AND OTHER PLACES, VN\$5,000.

7. IN DA NANG, THE FEELINGS OF THE PEOPLE ARE AS FOLLOWS: THEY ARE VERY SAD; THEY ARE VERY MUCH AFRAID; AND THEY MUST ACCEPT THE REGIME. AMONG CLOSE FRIENDS, THEY WISH FOR THE U.S. TROOPS TO COME BACK AND LIBERATE DA NANG.

8. IN DA NANG, THE ELECTRICAL PLANT IS STILL FRENCH AND FLIES THE FRENCH FLAG AND THE PRG FLAG. THE FRENCH MANAGERS OF THE PLANT, MESSRS. MARRO AND GAROU, ARE STILL THERE. MR. ESTIVIE, MANAGER OF THE ELECTRICAL PLANT OF HUE CAME TO DA NANG AND EXPECTED TO RETURN TO HUE. THERE WERE 80 FRENCHMEN IN DA NANG WHEN I WAS THERE, AND THEY EXPECTED TO GO TO HANOI SOON AND TO

LEAVE FROM THERE FOR FRANCE.

9. THE NVN TROOPS TOLD THE PEOPLE IN DA NANG THAT THEY WOULD GO TO SAIGON WITH TEN DIVISIONS TO SURROUND SAIGON, BUT NOT TO ATTACK IT.

10. I DO NOT KNOW ANYONE HOLDING A HIGH POSITION IN THE DA NANG COMMUNIST ADMINISTRATION EXCEPT FOR A FORMER ARVN MEDICAL OFFICER, DR. PHAM VAN LUONG, WHO HAS BEEN APPOINTED MAYOR. (A YEAR AGO DR. LUONG PARTICIPATED IN AN ANTI-CORRUPTION DEMONSTRATION IN FRONT OF THE LOWER HOUSE. I DON'T KNOW WHETHER HE ACCEPTS THE POSITION WILLINGLY OR UNWILLINGLY. PEOPLE ARE TOO AFRAID OF ASKING QUESTIONS.

11. A CENSUS WAS TAKEN AND THE PEOPLE WERE DIVIDED INTO THREE CATEGORIES: PUBLIC SERVANTS, SOLDIERS, POLICE AND SECURITY AGENTS. PEOPLE ALSO WERE DIVIDED INTO THE POOR, MIDDLE AND RICH CLASSES. THE COMMUNIST HAVE FINISHED THE CENSUS OF THE POPULATION IN DA NANG. THEY ASKED THE CHIEF OF EACH QUARTER TO MAKE THE CENSUS. I WAS CHIEF OF MY QUARTER SO I MADE THE CENSUS FOR THEM. BECAUSE OF DOING THAT, I THOUGHT IT SAFER FOR ME TO LEAVE DA NANG.

12. IT TOOK ME THREE DAYS TO GO FROM DA NANG TO NHA TRANG AND THREE MORE DAYS FROM NHA TRANG TO PHAN RANG. I TRAVELED BY HONDA TO BONG SON WHERE THE COMMUNISTS CONFISCATED MY HONDA. I SHOWED THEM MY PERMIT BUT THEY SAID IT DID NOT PROVIDE FOR A HONDA, BUT THEY LET ME CONTINUE ON MY WAY ON FOOT. I TRAVELED FROM QUI NHON TO NHA TRANG BY BUS AND WALKED FROM NHA TRANG TO PHAN RANG. I BEGGED FOOD ALONG THE WAY AND SLEPT IN THE OPEN AIR. WHEN I WAS IN BA NGOI, CATHOLICS FROM XUAN NINH VILLAGE (NEAR CAM RANH) ASKED ME IF I WOULD LIKE TO GO BY BOAT TO VUNG TAU FOR 30,000 PIASTERS. I TOLD THEM I HAD NO MONEY. I GAVE THEM MY WATCH IN PAYMENT. I AM A BUDDHIST.

13. WHILE IN NHA TRANG I DID NOT MEET EITHER CVT VP TO DAM OR SECRETARY BUI BO. I DID MEET THE OFFICIALS OF THE ELECTRICAL WORKERS' UNION LE DINH NHO AND MAI KIM KHANH. KHANG HAS BEEN APPOINTED MANAGER OF THE ELECTRICAL PLANT OF NHA TRANG AND NHO, DEPUTY MANAGER.

14. WHILE I WAS IN DA NANG, I MET LE HONG TAM WHO IS FROM HUE. HIS FAMILY IS IN DA NANG. MR. TRAN HOA, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE

CVT COUNCIL OF DA NANG, WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE IN JAIL SOON. I HAVE MET BROTHER LE DUC TAN, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL, AFTER THE TRANSFER OF THE CVT TO THE COMMUNIST UNION MOVEMENT. DURING ALL THE TIME OF THE TRANSFER, BROTHER MUI, PRESIDENT OF THE UNION OF TRANSPORT WORKERS, WAS VERY CHEERFUL. WE DON'T KNOW ABOUT HIS RELATIONS WITH THE NLF. THE FRENCH CONSULATE STILL IS OPERATING IN DA NANG. THERE IS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CONSUL.

15. I DID NOT LEARN IF ANY ONE OF US (CVT) WAS ARRESTED OR KILLED. PEOPLE ARE TOO AFRAID TO ASK QUESTIONS. BUT I KNOW THAT BROTHER PHUNG OF THE UNION OF RAILROAD WORKERS OF DA NANG WAS BEING SOUGHT BY THE COMMUNISTS BECAUSE OF HIS COOPERATION WITH THE AMERICANS. HIS HOUSE WAS NEAR MINE, SO THAT IS THE REASON I KNOW. THE COMMUNISTS HAD HIS PICTURE TO IDENTIFY HIM.

16. WHEN THE COMMUNISTS TOOK OVER DA NANG, THEY OPENED THE RICE WAREHOUSE AND ALLOWED PEOPLE TO TAKE AS MUCH RICE AS THEY WANTED. THE COMMUNISTS HAVE CONFISCATED ALL AUTOMOBILES (NOT HONDAS, BUT HONDAS CANNOT BE USED SINCE THERE IS NO GASOLINE), THE BGI (BEER) PLANT WAS COMPLETELY DESTROYED.

17. I AM LIVING NOW IN CHOLON. MY WIFE, TWO DAUGHTERS AND A SON IN THE MILITARY SERVICE IN SAIGON, AND TWO GRANDSONS ARE WITH ME. THEY HAVE BEEN HERE A LONG TIME.

18. AT THE TIME OF THE MASS EVACUATION OF DA NANG, I COULD NOT REACH THE PLANES. I WAS AT SON TRA, THE DEEP WATER PIER, BUT WENT HOME SINCE THE COMMUNISTS WERE SHELLING THE PIER AND MANY PEOPLE WERE KILLED. BOATS COULD NOT COME ALONGSIDE THE CHINA BEACH BECAUSE THE WATER IS NOT DEEP ENOUGH FOR THEM. END QUOTE
MARTIN

