

Press Release # 15-69

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V-C AUTHORITIES WORRIED ABOUT INDISCRIMINATE TERRORISM

Viet Cong authorities in one district of Military Sub-Region One, which includes Binh Duong Province, are worried about losing popular support because over-zealous cadres and combatants have wrongly arrested, killed, or confiscated the property of innocent residents of the area.

This was revealed in a directive issued by the Security Section of the People's Revolutionary Committee of the district, and captured in Binh Duong Province by a unit of the 25th U.S. Infantry Division on December 3, 1968.

Viet Cong forces in the district are credited with having "arrested and exterminated more than 100 cruel enemy henchmen" and having "educated and repressed thousands of others", but a number of major mistakes have been committed, the directive says. Because the terrorists did not check with higher authority, "receptive civilians or people who did not deserve the death punishment have been wrongly liquidated" and the personal property of the victims' dependents has been confiscated.

Such arrogance toward the masses has "diminished their confidence in our virtue", the directive warns.

It prescribes certain rules to govern this situation. They include the following:

- 1) "...our cadre and combatants must be courteous and flexible toward the masses, and be very firm with enemy elements."
- 2) "We should absolutely refrain from wantonly arresting and killing people whom we have not yet condemned..."
- 3) "[We should] only confiscate enemy belongings and evidence for the purpose of turning them over to higher authorities...and not take them for our personal use."

The directive was dated November 20, 1968, and was approved by the Current Affairs Committee of the Viet Cong authority in the district.

Trang Bang District

"Special" Circular

Security Section

VF #

A/- To correctly carry out the Party's political task and enlighten the people on the Party's policy and line, several forces in the whole district have repeatedly conducted attacks with a view to heading off enemy reaction and securing greater successes. In the recent past, we have arrested and exterminated more than 100 enemy cruel henchmen who were guilty of many crimes against the people and the revolution; educated and repressed thousands of others, extensively disrupt puppet administrations at the infrastructure, and paralyzed the enemy intelligence and spy network. We have broken the enemy ~~intelligence~~ control grip in many places such as Cau Van and Suoi Sau poss. hamlets and, in many other places within our district, prospects of clearing out the enemy in the near future are very bright.

However, we have committed a number of major mistakes which should be corrected. For instance, we have killed or arrested people without reporting to and seeking advices from higher echelons and, because of that, our sympathizers or people who did not deserve the death punishment had been wrongly liquidated as had happened, through the fault of the military intelligence section, in Gia Loc, An Hoa villages, and other places.... In other instances, armed reconnaissance agents confiscated personal properties of the culprits' dependents; sometimes we had to call in the latter to give them back the confiscated properties. We had been arrogant toward the masses, and such a behavior has brought confusion among the people living under enemy temporary control and diminished their confidence in our virtue.

B/- In the near future, we must ~~correctly~~ correctly, fully and clearly carry out our Party's policy and line with a view to efficiently supporting the implementation of the Party's political task while concentrating our forces

in the climax phase for securing complete victory.

We should therefore:

1/- rely on people of all strata, particularly those of the basic social class and motivate them to arise and join action with us in annihilating dishonest and cruel elements. To satisfactorily realize these [above-mentioned objectives] our cadre and combatants must be courteous and flexible toward the masses and be very firm with enemy elements.

2/- insure the correct observation of procedures on reporting and seeking advices in matters of arresting and executing people. We should absolutely refrain from wantonly arrest and kill people whom we have not yet condemned as had been previously done in some places, and, any repetition of such misdeed in the future will be liable to the [application of the] Party's disciplinary sanctions.

3/- only confiscate enemy belongings and evidences for the purpose of turning them over to higher authorities in charge of handling them, and not take them for our personal use. We are not allowed to seize personal belongings or property of the culprits' dependents since parents, wives and children of the culprits are not guilty and violations against them will lessen their confidence in our policy.

c/- this circular has been approved by the Standing Committee. All addressees must carefully study and discuss it so as to uniformly and correctly implement it. In particular, the People's Security network, from the upper to the lower echelon, is charged with the task of following up the ~~impact~~ implementation of this circular by various addressees and ~~■~~ exemplarily, thoroughly and very correctly carrying it out.

20 November 1968

/S/Hoai An

and the seal reading "South-Viet-Nam People's Revolutionary Committee-Security Section,
Trang Bang District, Sub-Region I."

other places within our area... enemy)) in the ((near)) future are very bright.

However, we have committed a number of major mistakes which should be corrected. For instance, we have killed or arrested people without reporting to and requesting directives ((from higher echelons)), and, because of that, receptive civilians or people who did not deserve the death punishment have been wrongly liquidated, as has happened, through the fault of the military intelligence section, in Gia Lộc, An Hòa villages, and other places ... In other instances, armed reconnaissance ((agents)) confiscated personal property of the culprits' dependents; sometimes we had to call in the latter to give them back the confiscated property. We have been arrogant toward the masses, and such a behavior has brought confusion among the people living under temporary enemy control and diminished their confidence in our virtue.

B- In the near future, we must correctly, fully and clearly carry out our ((Party's)) policy, and line with a view to efficiently supporting the ((implementation of the)) Party's political task while concentrating ((our forces)) in the climax phase for securing complete victory.

(We should therefore:)

1- Rely on people of all strata, particularly those of the basic social class and motivate them to arise and join action

(C) Elements of Trang Bang Party Committee, Sub-Region (SR) 1, COSVN

(C) Item #1: Special Directive, dated 20 Nov 68, signed by Hoai An, Asst Chief for the Security Sec, People Revolutionary Council, Trang Bang Dist, SR 1, ((COSVN)), directs subordinate agencies to strictly observe the Party policy. Document states that subordinate agencies were very active and had made significant progress. To date ((period unspec)), they had killed 100 "reactionaries", indoctrinated many others and paralyzed several GVN admin agencies such as those of Cau Van and Suoi Sau ((poss Hamlets)). However, they committed several mistakes which seriously impaired the reputation of the Party. They were reported to have killed the reactionaries without thorough investigation and seized properties from the culprits and their dependents without valid reasons. Document recalls that these acts are completely against security regulations and in the future, higher HQ will not tolerate any violation of the Party policy. Document also points out that strong actions are to be taken against stubborn reactionaries without losing the sympathy of the villagers. It should be said that in the coming climax phase, the villagers will play a major role in the decisive polit struggle.

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