

02, 11

November 1, 1963

Conversation with Nguyen Dinh Thuan on 1 November 1963

4. Thuan said that a recent development he found most disturbing was the closing of the 2,000 hectare Long Thanh (sic) rubber plantation in Bien Hoa province and the drop off in production at the Terre Rouge and Michelin estates. Directors of both major plantations visited him this week to tell him that they were cutting back operations due to increasing VC harassment - kidnappings and assassinations. Thuan said he had questioned the 5th Division Commander about the increase in VC activity directed at the plantations. The 5th Division Commander claimed that the French owners had been cheating in their pay-offs to the VC and the VC were now retaliating. Thuan said he was not sure that this was true.

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