



Department of State

TELEGRAM

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PAGE 01 KUALA 04799 030700Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-00 ADS-00 AID-07 INR-10 SS-10 CIAE-00 EB-08
DODE-00 H-01 IO-15 NSC-01 NSAE-00 HA-06 L-03
TRSE-00 PH-09 PA-01 ANAE-00 RP-10 AGR-01 ACDA-12
ICAE-00 SP-02 SPRS-02
(ADS) W

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R 020900Z JUL 82
FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3907
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY BEIJING
USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED by MAW DATE 11/3/88
 RELEASE () DECLASSIFY
() EXCISE () DECLASSIFY in PART
() DENY () Non-responsive info.
FOI, EO or PA exemptions _____

TS authority to:
() CLASSIFY as _____, OADR
() DOWNGRADE TS to () S or () C, OADR

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E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: SREF, SWEL, PINT, MPOL, VM
SUBJECT: COMMENTS OF FORMER ASSISTANT RECTOR OF HUE
UNIVERSITY

REF: KUALA LUMPUR AIRGRAM DATED 17 FEBRUARY 1982

1. SUMMARY: FORMER ASSISTANT OF HUE UNIVERSITY, A
BIOCHEMIST, CLAIMS OPEN-SOURCE PHOTOS ADMIT VIETNAMESE
CHEMICAL WARFARE CAPABILITY; DESCRIBES SCANDALOUS LACK OF
CONTROL OVER CONTENTS OF FOOD, WINE, AND DRUGS IN SOUTH
VIETNAM; CITES GROSS ENGINEERING INCOMPETENCE IN WATER
CONTROL AND CONSERVANCY PROJECTS AS POOR HARBINGERS FOR
IMPROVEMENT OF VIETNAMESE AGRICULTURE; ASSERTS A LACK OF
FAITH IN COMMUNIST ECONOMIC METHODS AMONG COMMUNIST
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INTELLECTUALS. NEVERTHELESS, HE ADMITS THAT SOUTHERN

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INTELLIGENTSIA IS STILL MORE PRONE TO FLEE THE COUNTRY THAN TO PARTICIPATE IN ACTIVE RESISTANCE TO SRV REGIME. END SUMMARY.

2. VO DANG DAI, A RECENT REFUGEE ARRIVAL AT PULAU BIDONG AND PRESENTLY VIETNAMESE CAMP LEADER THERE WAS INTERVIEWED BY REFOFF DURING MID-JUNE. DAI WAS FORMERLY ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR OF HUE UNIVERSITY AND IS A BIO-CHEMIST OF SOME REPUTE. HE EXPRESSED THE CONVICTION THAT PAVN HAS CONSIDERABLE CHEMICAL WARFARE CAPABILITY, NOTING THAT HE HAD SEEN PUBLIC PICTURES OF TROOPS EQUIPPED FOR SAME IN 1979, CAPTIONED "BO DOI HOA HOC" ("CHEMICAL WARFARE TROOPS"). HOWEVER, HE DID NOT PROVIDE ANY FURTHER DETAIL TO SUBSTANTIATE HIS BELIEF.

3. DAI EXPRESSED PARTICULAR CONCERN OVER WHAT HE ALLEGED TO BE A TOTAL ABSENCE OF CONTROL, OFFICIAL OR OTHERWISE, OF THE CONTENTS OF FOOD, WINE, AND DRUGS IN SOUTH VIETNAM. BECAUSE OF THE NEED FOR REVENUE, STATE PHARMACEUTICAL HOUSES WERE BEING PERMITTED TO MANUFACTURE QUACK PATENT MEDICINES OR WORSE ON THE SIDE. AN OFFICIAL ORGAN HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED TO CARRY OUT FDA-TYPE ACTIVITIES; HOWEVER, MOST OF ITS LEADING PERSONNEL WERE THEMSELVES INVOLVED IN BLACK MARKET ACTIVITY, CREATING A FOX-GUARDING-THE-HENHOUSE SITUATION. THERE HAD BEEN A SPATE OF RECENT SCANDALS RESULTING FROM THIS. ONE MILLION AMPULES OF FAKE VITAMIN B-12 HAD BEEN UNLOADED ON AN UNSUSPECTING PUBLIC BY ONE PHARMACEUTICAL HOUSE. UNFORTUNATELY, MORE THAN SIMPLE RIP-OFFS HAD OCCURED. DAI SAID HE WAS AWARE OF AT LEAST ONE INSTANCE OF DEATH AND INJURY FROM ADULTERATION OF POTABLES WITH METHANOL; PLUS THE RELATIVELY WELL-KNOWN POISONING, IN LATE 1981 AND EARLY 1982 OF SMALL
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CHILDREN -- HE ESTIMATED 100 OR MORE HAD DIED -- VIA A BABY POWDER CONTAINING LARGE AMOUNTS OF WARFARINE (SP?) AN ANTI-COAGULANT COMMONLY USED AS RAT POISON. THE POWDER HAD BEEN SOLD IN THE BLACK MARKET AT A VERY LOW PRICE. AN N.D. FRIEND OF HIS HAD SEEN A COMMUNIST SOLDIER CARRYING BOXES WHICH, SEEN FROM AFAR, APPEARED TO BE MARKED "WARFARINE". AN INDICATION THAT THE MILITARY MIGHT HAVE BEEN THE SOURCE OF SOME OF THE SUPPLY OF THIS POTENTIALLY LETHAL SUBSTANCE. TWO PEOPLE (NON-MILITARY) HAD BEEN ARRESTED PRIOR TO DAI'S DEPARTURE (SPRING OF 1982). ONE COMPANY

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HAD LOST ITS LICENSE TO MANUFACTURE "ROSE POWDER", AS THE OFFENDING COMMODITY WAS KNOWN, DESPITE THE CLAIMS OF ONE OF ITS OFFICIALS THAT FAKE SUBSTANCES MANUFACTURED IN CHOLON FOR THE BLACK MARKET, RATHER THAN ITS OWN PRODUCT, HAD BEEN AT FAULT. THE LETHAL CONTENTS OF THE OFFENDING BABY POWDER, INCIDENTALLY, HAD BEEN DISCOVERED BY A FRENCH DOCTOR WORKING AT THE NUMBER TWO PEDIATRICS HOSPITAL IN HO CHI MINH CITY, RATHER THAN BY IVETNAMESE AUTHORITIES.

4. DAI CLAIMED THAT ORTHODOX MARXIST IDEOLOGY WAS DEAD FOR MOST OF THE COMMUNIST INTELLECTUALS WITH WHOM HE HAD RECENTLY ASSOCIATED AT HUE UNIVERSITY. THE MAJORITY OF THEM NOW WANTED TO USE CAPITALIST ECONOMIC DEVICES TO TRY TO TURN THE ECONOMY AROUND. LIKEWISE, THERE APPEARED TO BE LITTLE OR NO BELIEF IN COMMUNISM WITHIN THE ARMY ITSELF, AND STORIES WERE CIRCULATING THAT EVEN A LARGE PORTION OF THE POPULATION OF HO CHIN MINH'S OWN NATIVE PROVINCE OF NGHE AN, LONG REGARDED AS A BASTION OF ORTHODOX BELIEFF AND SUPPORT FOR THE REGIME, HAD LOST ITS BELIEF TO THE POINT OF MOUNTING DEMONSTRATIONS (THOUGH HARDLY COMPARABLE TO THOSE OF 1986). AT THE BOTTOM, THE REGIME HAD FAILED TO OVERCOME TWO FORTHIDABLE INSTITUTIONS: RELIGION, AND THE FAMILY, ; WHILE AT THE TOP, THE OLD GENERATION LEADERS HAD NOT PREPARED REPLACEMENTS FOR THEMSELVES AS IDEOLOGISTS. IN SAIGON/HO CHI MINH CITY, THE AUTHORITIES COULD DO VERTUALLY NOTHING TO

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FURTHER THEIR SOCIALIST AIMS, AND WERE NOW SATISFIED WITH SIMPLY STABILIZING THE SITUATION. CHURCHES AND PAGODAS THERE WERE CROWDED, WHILE COMMUNIST CADRES THEMSELVES WERE ALLOWED TO ENGAGE IN CAPITALIST TRADE.

5. DAI EMPHASIZED THAT A FEW GOOD HARVESTS WILL NOT BE SUFFICIENT TO TURN THINGS AROUND FOR THE PARTY. AGRICULTURAL METHODS, BY AND LARGE, ARE STILL LITERALLY EIGHTEENTH CENTURY, AND THE KNOWLEDGE AND ENGINEERING SKILLS EN MASSE REQUIRED TO CHANGE THIS ARE SIMPLY NOT AVAILABLE. HE CITED TWO RECENT SPECTACULAR HYDRAULICS WORKS FAILURES AS PRIME EXAMPLES OF SUCH DEFICIENCIES: THE NAM SONG HUONG PUMP PROJECT AT HUE AND THE THACH HAN PROJECT IN QUANG TRI. IN EACH CASE POOR PLANNING AND SITE SURVSYING HAD RENDERED USELESS HIGHLY SCOUTED WORKS FOR WHICH 80,000 TO 100,000 PEOPLE HAD BEEN MOBILIZED.

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THESE WORKS HAD TO BE ABANDONED AFTER AN ENORMOUS EXPENDITURE OF EFFORT.

6. EMBASSY COMMENT: AI'S COMMENTS ARE THOSE OF A REFUGEE AND MUST BE TAKEN WITH THE USUAL CAVEATS APPROPRIATE TO SUCH SOURCES, PARTICULARLY WHEN THEY DEAL WITH TOPICS OUTSIDE PROFESSIONAL SPECIALITIES AND/OR INVOLVE JUDGMENT OF PUBLIC MOODS. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE HIS REMARKS ON LACK OF FOOD AND DRUG CONTROLS MAY BE OF SOME INTEREST, GIVEN HIS PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIALS. IN ADDITION, WHILE HE DID REPEAT THE STANDARD MILITANT REFUGEE'S HEARSAY CLICHE ABOUT THE SRV CAPITULATING HAD WE BOMBED FOR A FEW MORE DAYS IN 1972, HIS GENERAL CREDIBILITY IS ENHANCED BY HIS HONEST ASSERTION THAT MOST SOUTHERN INTELLECTUALS PREFER TO DEAL WITH THE SITUATION BY LEAVING IT BEHIND, RATHER THAN JOINING THE DOWN-AT-THE-HEELS REMANTS, OR WOULD-BE RESURRECTIONS, OF THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PHUC QUOC RESISTANCE. HE ADMITTED THAT ARMED RESISTANCE HAD FAILED ONCE, AND THAT FOR SOUTHERN INTELLECTUALS, THERE WAS NO HOPE OF ANY PRACTICAL ALTERNATIVE TO EXODUS OR TOLERATION FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. HE DID NOT CITE ANY SOUTHERN INTELLECTUAL FASCINATION WITH THE DENGIST CHINESE MODEL, SUCH AS HAS BEEN REPORTED AMONG NORTHERN INTELLECTUALS, AS A FOURTH ALTERNATIVE. PALMER

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ACTION: USAC FCTC DCA DMMA USAMMA AF
153 MED DET USAMRDC USAMITA
INFO: USAC FCTC DCA DMMA USAMMA AFMMA USAMERDL USAMPICD
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R 030713Z JUL 82
FM JCS WASHINGTON DC
INFO RUEORDF/DIRUSAMIAA FT DETPICK MD//SGMI-IS//
RUCJAAA/USCINCPAC MACDILL AFB FL//RCJ2//
R 020900Z JUL 82

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 3907
INFO RUMTSK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 9354
RUMJPC/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 903
RUFHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 1888
RUMJNG/AMCONSUL HONG KONG 6056
RUEHJA/AMEMBASSY JAKARTA 9680
RUEHML/AMEMBASSY MANILA 1161
RUEHGP/AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE 2899
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C O N F I D E N T I A L

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E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: SREF, SWEL, PINT, MPOL, VM
SUBJECT: COMMENTS OF [REDACTED]

REF: KUALA LUMPUR AIRGRAM DATED 17 FEBRUARY 1982

1. SUMMARY: [REDACTED] A BIOCHEMIST, CLAIMS OPEN-SOURCE PHOTOS ADMIT VIETNAMESE CHEMICAL WARFARE CAPABILITY; DESCRIBES SCANDALOUS LACK OF CONTROL OVER CONTENTS OF FOOD, WINE, AND DRUGS IN SOUTH VIETNAM; CITES GROSS ENGINEERING INCOMPETENCE IN WATER CONTROL AND CONSERVANCY PROJECTS AS POOR HARBINGERS FOR IMPROVEMENT OF VIETNAMESE AGRICULTURE; ASSERTS A LACK OF FAITH IN COMMUNIST ECONOMIC METHODS AMONG COMMUNIST INTELLECTUALS. NEVERTHELESS, HE ADMITS THAT SOUTHERN INTELLEGENSIA IS STILL MORE PRONE TO FLEE THE COUNTRY THAN TO PARTICIPATE IN ACTIVE RESISTANCE TO SRV REGIME. END SUMMARY.

2. [REDACTED] A RECENT REFUGEE ARRIVAL AT PULAU BEDONG [REDACTED] WAS INTERVIEWED BY REFOFF DURING MID-JUNE. [REDACTED]

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REVIEWED BY *John Kelly* DATE *3/5/86*
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RDN or XDS DATE _____
TS AUTH. *7/1/86* REASON(S) _____
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS
DECLASSIFIED RELEASABLE *in part*
RELEASE DENIED
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS *b-1 (a)-9*

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[REDACTED] IS A BTO-CHEMIST OF SOME REPUTE. HE EXPRESSED THE CONVICTION THAT PAVN HAS CONSIDERABLE CHEMICAL WARFARE CAPABILITY, NOTING THAT HE HAD SEEN PUBLIC PICTURES OF TROOPS EQUIPPED FOR SAME IN 1979, CAPTIONED "BO DOI HOA HOC" ("CHEMICAL WARFARE TROOPS"). HOWEVER, HE DID NOT PROVIDE ANY FURTHER DETAIL TO SUBSTANTIATE HIS BELIEF.

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3. [REDACTED] CONCERN OVER WHAT HE ALLEGED TO BE A TOTAL ABSENCE OF CONTROL, OFFICIAL OR OTHERWISE, OF THE CONTENTS OF FOOD, WINE, AND DRUGS IN SOUTH VIETNAM. BECAUSE OF THE NEED FOR REVENUE, STATE PHARMACEUTICAL HOUSES WERE BEING PERMITTED TO MANUFACTURE QUACK PATENT MEDICINES OR WORSE ON THE SIDE. AN OFFICIAL ORGAN HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED TO CARRY OUT FDA-TYPE ACTIVITIES; HOWEVER, MOST OF ITS LEADING PERSONNEL WERE THEMSELVES INVOLVED IN BLACK MARKET ACTIVITY, CREATING A FOX-GUARDING-THE-HENHOUSE SITUATION. THERE HAD BEEN A SPATE OF RECENT SCANDALS RESULTING FROM THIS. ONE MILLION AMPULES OF FAKE VITAMIN B-12 HAD BEEN UNLOADED ON AN UNSUSPECTING PUBLIC BY ONE PHARMACEUTICAL HOUSE. UNFORTUNATELY, MORE THAN SIMPLE RIP-OFFS HAD OCCURED. [REDACTED] WAS AWARE OF AT LEAST ONE INSTANCE OF DEATH AND INJURY FROM

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ADULTERATION OF POTABLES WITH METHANOL; PLUS THE RELATIVELY WELL-KNOWN POISONING, IN LATE 1981 AND EARLY 1982 OF SMALL CHILDREN -- HE ESTIMATED 100 OR MORE HAD DIED -- VIA A BABY POWDER CONTAINING LARGE AMOUNTS OF WARFARINE (SP?) AN ANTI-COAGULANT COMMONLY USED AS RAT POISON. THE POWDER HAD BEEN SOLD IN THE BLACK MARKET AT A VERY LOW PRICE. AN M.D. FRIEND OF HIS HAD SEEN A COMMUNIST SOLDIER CARRYING BOXES WHICH, SEEN FROM AFAR, APPEARED TO BE MARKED "WARFARINE", AN INDICATION THAT THE MILITARY MIGHT HAVE BEEN THE SOURCE OF SOME OF THE SUPPLY OF THIS POTENTIALLY LETHAL SUBSTANCE. TWO PEOPLE (NON-MILITARY) HAD BEEN ARRESTED PRIOR TO [REDACTED]

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ONE COMPANY HAD LOST ITS LICENSE TO MANUFACTURE "ROSE POWDER", AS THE OFFENDING COMMODITY WAS KNOWN. DESPITE THE CLAIMS OF ONE OF ITS OFFICIALS THAT FAKE SUBSTANCES MANUFACTURED IN CHOLON FOR THE BLACK MARKET, RATHER THAN ITS OWN PRODUCT, HAD BEEN AT FAULT, THE LETHAL CONTENTS OF THE OFFENDING BABY POWDER, INCIDENTALLY, HAD BEEN DISCOVERED BY A FRENCH DOCTOR WORKING AT THE NUMBER TWO PEDIATRICS HOSPITAL IN HO CHI MINH CITY, RATHER THAN BY VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES.

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4. [REDACTED] ORTHODOX MARXIST IDEOLOGY WAS DEAD FOR MOST OF THE COMMUNIST INTELLECTUALS WITH WHOM HE HAD RECENTLY ASSOCIATED AT HUE UNIVERSITY. THE MAJORITY OF THEM NOW WANTED TO USE CAPITALIST ECONOMIC DEVICES TO TRY TO TURN THE ECONOMY AROUND. LIKEWISE, THERE APPEARED TO BE LITTLE OR NO BELIEF IN COMMUNISM WITHIN THE ARMY ITSELF, AND STORIES WERE CIRCULATING THAT EVEN A LARGE PORTION OF THE POPULATION OF HO CHIN MINH'S OWN NATIVE PROVINCE OF NGHE AN, LONG REGARDED AS A BASTION OF ORTHODOX BELIEFF AND SUPPORT FOR THE REGIME, HAD LOST

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ITS BELIEF TO THE POINT OF MOUNTING DEMONSTRATIONS (THOUGH HARDLY COMPARABLE TO THOSE OF 1956). AT THE BOTTOM, THE REGIME HAD FAILED TO OVERCOME TWO FORMIDABLE INSTITUTIONS: RELIGION, AND THE FAMILY; WHILE AT THE TOP, THE OLD GENERATION LEADERS HAD NOT PREPARED REPLACEMENTS FOR THEMSELVES AS IDEOLOGISTS. IN SAIGON/HO CHI MINH CITY, THE AUTHORITIES COULD DO VIRTUALLY NOTHING TO FURTHER THEIR SOCIALIST AIMS, AND WERE NOW SATISFIED WITH SIMPLY STABILIZING THE SITUATION. CHURCHES AND PAGODAS THERE WERE CROWDED, WHILE COMMUNIST CADRES THEMSELVES WERE ALLOWED TO ENGAGE IN CAPITALIST TRADE.

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6. EMBASSY COMMENT: [REDACTED] REFUGEE AND MUST BE TAKEN WITH THE USUAL CAVEATS APPROPRIATE TO SUCH SOURCES, PARTICULARLY WHEN THEY DEAL WITH TOPICS OUTSIDE PROFESSIONAL SPECIALITIES AND/OR INVOLVE JUDGMENT OF PUBLIC MOODS. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE HIS REMARKS ON LACK OF FOOD AND DRUG CONTROLS MAY BE OF SOME INTEREST, GIVEN HIS PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIALS. IN ADDITION, WHILE HE DID REPEAT THE STANDARD MILITANT REFUGEE'S HEARSAY CLICHE ABOUT THE SRV CAPITULATING HAD WE BOMBED FOR A FEW MORE DAYS IN 1972, HIS GENERAL CREDIBILITY IS ENHANCED BY HIS HONEST ASSERTION THAT MOST SOUTHERN INTELLECTUALS PREFER TO DEAL WITH THE SITUATION BY LEAVING AS DENIED REFUGEES THAN JOINING THE DOWN-AT-THE-HEELS REMNANTS OF THE RESURRECTIONS OF THE PHUC QUOC RESISTANCE. HE STATED THAT ARMED RESISTANCE HAD NO HOPE OF ANY PRACTICAL ALTERNATIVE TO EXODUS OR TOLERATION FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. HE DID NOT CITE ANY SOUTHERN INTELLECTUAL FASCINATION WITH THE DENGIST CHINESE MODEL, SUCH AS HAS BEEN REPORTED AMONG NORTHERN INTELLECTUALS, AS A FOURTH ALTERNATIVE. PALMER

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