Approved For Release 2004/06/14 : CIA-RDP80R01720R001100030004-9

FACT SHEET

25 November 1969

25X1

SUBJECT: Phung Hoang/Phoenix Program In Vietnam

PURPOSE

To provide information on the above subject for the Senate Armed Services Committee.

FACTS

1. Phung Hoang is a Government of Vietnam (GVN) Plan with the objective of centralizing and coordinating the efforts of all military and civilian agencies engaged in the neutralization of the Viet Cong Infrastructure (VCI). Open announcement of the heretofore classified program was made by President Thieu on 1 October 1969. This announcement pointed out to the people that Phung Hoang is a policy aimed at protection of the people against terrorism. For example, during 1968 Viet Cong terrorism wounded some 12,000 and killed 5,400 South Vietnamese; so far during 1969 there have been some 14,000 wounded and 5,500 killed. The VCI is defined as that political organization by which the Viet Cong control or seek to control the people of South Vietnam. A more detailed explanation is at inclosure 1. The basic essence of the program is a fully coordinated intelligence effort of all existing GVN and United States agencies targeted specifically on the VCI with the express purpose of neutralizing its effectiveness and control over the people. The word Phung Hoang is derived from the Vietnamese word meaning coordination.

2. To coordinate and manage United States assistance and support to the GVN Phung Hoang Program, the Commander, United States Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (COMUSMACV) has developed an advisory structure known as the Phoenix Program. This advisory and assistance program is under the staff supervision of the Deputy to COMUSMACV for Civil Operations and Revolutionary Development Support (CORDS), Ambassador Colby. There are some 450 United States military advisory personnel involved in the Phoenix Program. Of this number, 262 serve at district and city levels, which are the key operational elements, with the remainder of the personnel serving at the national, regional, and provincial levels.

3. The coordinated intelligence effort against the VCI had its beginning in July 1967, when COMUSMACV established a joint civilian/military advisory activity entitled "Intelligence Coordination and Exploitation (ICEX)" with the specific mission of assisting and supporting the GVN in a coordinated attack on the VCI. Initially this program received little official GVN

Approved For Release 2004/06/14 : CIA-RDP80R01720R001100030004-9

Approved For Release 2004/06/14 : CIA-RDP80R01720R001100030004-9

attention and support. However, in December 1967, recognizing the need for a coordinated intelligence effort against the VCI, the GVN initiated the Phung Hoang Program with the mission of neutralizing the VCI. Accordingly, COMUSMACV changed the name of its advisory activity from ICEX to its current name, Phoenix. With the issuance of a Presidential decree in July 1968, which established formal GVN functions and organizations to implement the Phung Hoang Program, the GVN officially committed itself to the program.

4. To control the overall program and ensure the coordination and cooperation among all elements capable of contributing, the GVN has established a structure of committees from national to province levels. The Chairman of the Central Committee is the Minister of Interior; the Vice-Chairman is the Director General of the National Police.

5. It is at the district level that the concerted intelligence effort against the VCI becomes most concentrated. At this level, the GVN have organized District Intelligence and Operating Coordination Centers (DIOCCs). The DIOCC is the facility where representatives of existing units and agencies are brought together for a coordinated effort of intelligence collection, processing, dissemination, and timely, positive exploitation operations specifically targeted against the VCI. The Vietnamese District Chief is the DIOCC Chief; however, he normally delegates responsibility for daily operations of the DIOCC to his deputy or Chief of Police. The District Senior Advisor (usually a United States Army Major) is the District Phoenix Coordinator. Also assigned to the advisory team is an intelligence trained officer who serves as the full time Phoenix advisor to the DIOCC. This officer advises and assists the District Chief on DIOCC operations primarily in the area of organizational and management techniques and procedures of intelligence collection and files (i.e., Name Index Files, Dossiers, Area Files), first-level analysis and dissemination of intelligence.

6. Ways in which the GVN attempts to neutralize and exploit intelligence on the VCI within the concept of the Phung Hoang Program are, in order of priority, defection, capture and exploitation, and discreditation or compromise. It must be recognized that some VCI are killed unavoidably during the normal course of combative reaction operations; however, the overall percentage is quite low. For example during 1968 when some 15,000 VCI were neutralized, 72 percent were captured, 13 percent defected and only 15 percent were killed. Defection and capture are the preferred methods of neutralization as the individuals often provide highly useful information which leads to additional neutralizations and to locating of arms and supply caches.

Approved For Release 2004/06/14 : CIA-RDP80R01720R001100030004-9

Approved For Release 2004/06/14 : CIA-RDP80R01720R001100030004-9

SUBJECT: Phung Hoang/Phoenix Program in Vietnam

7. The Phung Hoang Program has evolved from many regional programs, some initiated as early as 1962. In July 1968 these programs were pulled together into a single, integrated national program which was indorsed by the GVN leadership and given a high priority in the overall pacification effort. Basic organizational and operational techniques are constantly being refined to improve the overall effectiveness of the program.

FOR THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF FOR MILITARY OPERATIONS:

1 Incl
as

[redacted] 25X1

Brigadier General, GS
Acting Director, International
and Civil Affairs, ODCSOPS

Approved For Release 2004/06/14 : CIA-RDP80R01720R001100030004-9

Approved For Release 2004/06/14 : CIA-RDP80R01720R001100030004-9

VIET CONG INFRASTRUCTURE (VCI)

1. Definition: The Viet Cong infrastructure is defined as the political organization through which the Viet Cong control or seek to control the South Vietnamese people. It consists of the People's Revolutionary Party (PRP) structure (which includes a command/control and administrative apparatus - Central Office for South Vietnam (COSVN) - at the national level), and the leadership and administration of a parallel front organization, The National Front for the Liberation of SVN (NFLSVN), both of which extend from the national through the hamlet level. The PRP is the southern arm of the Lao Dong or worker's party the official Communist Party of North Vietnam. Several high ranking personnel in key positions at the COSVN level hold positions on the Lao Dong Central Committee which interlocks leaders of the PRP and Hanoi.

2. Not Considered to be in the VCI Category:

a. Rank and File Guerrillas

b. Rank and File Members of Front Organizations

c. Soldiers and Members of Organized VC/NVA Military Units

d. Persons Who Pay Taxes to the VC

e. Persons Who Perform Miscellaneous Tasks for the VC

f. Members of the Populace in VC - Controlled Areas

Approved For Release 2004/06/14 : CIA-RDP80R01720R001100030004-9