Approved For Release 2004/10/28 : CIA-RDP80R01720R001100070018-0

SAVA

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

9 December 1971

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

MEMORANDUM FOR: SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Review of the USIS PHUNG HOANG Movie "Peaceful Countryside"

The subject 50-minute film is scheduled for a one-time showing in the Pentagon (Room [redacted]) at 1430 hours, 16 December 1971. The attached fact sheet with summary outline the background, content, purpose and proposed utilization of this film.

Room 5E229

Your office is invited to send (a) representative(s) to attend this review the basic purpose of which is to inform agencies of the Washington community concerned with Vietnam-related programs of the availability of the film.

Request that this office (OX-74689) be advised of interest and as to the number of persons wishing to attend.

DAVID E. FARNHAM
Colonel, USA
Vietnam Task Force

Enclosures
a/s

DISTRIBUTION:

STAT [redacted]
OSD/SA/RP
CIA/Room 6F19 (Mr. Carver)
State/Vietnam Working Group (Mr. Bennett)
State/INR/REA (Mr. Burnett)
State/FSI/VTC (Mr. Jones)
USIA/IEA (Mr. Eney)
AID/Public Safety (Mr. Manopoli)

GAC JFH CJS EFH
JHW [redacted] JFR POO
EKH MEE [redacted] DSS
JKL JES LQP
D E

SVN: Phoenix

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FACT SHEET

MACCORDS-PHD

MAJ Carr/efc/5025
2 November 1971

SUBJECT: PHUNG HOANG Movie "Peaceful Countryside"

DEPCORDS/MACV

PURPOSE: To present a synopsis of the development and contents of the movie "Peaceful Countryside".

FACTS:

1. The National Motion Picture Center (NMPC) of the Ministry of Information (MOI), wrote, produced and directed this movie. It was filmed on location in Phuoc Tuy Province. The original production schedule was delayed over a funding dispute between MOI and the National Police General Directorate (NPGD) and to expedite production, JUSPAO funded the location costs and printed the first 60 copies. The introduction to the film states that it is presented by the NPGD with technical cooperation from the Central PHUNG HOANG Committee and the NMPC.

2. The psychological objective of the movie is to motivate the people of the Republic of Vietnam to actively support the anti-VCI effort of the PHUNG HOANG Program (PHP) by reporting known VCI. The target audience is the peasant living in the villages and hamlets of the rural countryside. The theme emphasizes that by reporting and neutralizing VCI, the village is protected from VC/VCI terrorism and both the prosperity of the village and that of the individual reporting the VCI is markedly improved. The plot contains a love story, humor, gives plugs for the National Police, PSDF, the Chieu Hoi Program, RD Cadre and portrays the VCI as clever but sinister. Significantly, it portrays the GVN as giving kind and fair treatment to captured VCI who appear to be happy under government control.

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3. The film lasts approximately 50 minutes. The dialogue is in Vietnamese but the acting, music and visual presentation in the film are so lucid that non-Vietnamese speaking people will understand and identify with the Vietnamese people in their struggle against the VCI. A summary of the plot, as well as significant scenes and conversations, is attached as Inclosure 1.

for Col. USA
JOHN S. TILTON
Director, PHUNG HOANG

1 Incl
as

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SUMMARY OF PHUNG HOANG MOVIE "PEACEFUL COUNTRYSIDE"

The movie opens with Mr. Tam, a middle class farmer of Hoai An Hamlet, Tan Binh Village, talking with his wife about the misery and poverty in their hamlet caused by the VC/VCI. Visually shown and specifically mentioned are the destruction of his son's school, illegal VC taxes, and the destruction of roads resulting in Tam's poverty because he is unable to take and sell his potatoes in the market.

Tam leaves to see his life long friend, Mr. Thanh, also a middle class farmer, living in Thanh Binh Hamlet of Thoi Thach Village for advice on how to rid his village of the VCI. The visual and musical contrast between Tam's and Thanh's village, which is free of the VCI, is striking.

Tam arrives at Thanh's house and explains that the PHUNG HOANG Program (PHP) failed in Tam's hamlet because the people feared the VC and did not know how the PHP worked. Thanh explains that PHUNG HOANG is a Program of all the people.

Thanh sees the local Chief of Police passing by, states he is a friend, and asks him to come in and to explain the PHP to Tam. The Police Chief states the VC have been defeated on the battlefield and the VCI are retreating to hide in the hamlets like weeds, and that the people, like good farmers must, "uproot" these weeds. A further analogy is made to the VCI as headless snakes.

The Police Chief tells the story of the PHP which includes examples of: cooperation of intelligence agencies, posting of wanted posters, people's intelligence nets, special signals used by the people to show the government forces that communists are present in the village, use of grievance-census letter boxes, etc.

The Police Chief then tells a startled Tam that his friend Thanh helped unmask a VCI. A flashback occurs of a time before Thanh and his wife, the former Miss Bich, were married. Using a subterfuge, Bich left her father's house to see Thanh at their secret meeting place in the country. While there, they heard footsteps. Fearing it was their fathers', they hid. Much to their surprise, a group of VC met Nam Nghe, a village barber, who they discovered was a VCI. Nghe told the VC not to come in the village that night, because government troops were in the area. Nghe told them to report at 1930 hours the next night.

Encl 1

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The next day there is a scene graphically portraying the sinister threat of the VCI. In his barbershop Nghe is propagandizing a local villager while he is cleaning out his ear with a sharp instrument. Thanh reports to the local PSDF leader with his information; Thanh is told his identify will be kept secret but is strongly reminded of the seriousness of accusing someone falsely. Thanh reports there is a witness, and the PSDF Chief says the VCI are like Nghe, the barber - unless neutralized they will cut our throats because we do not suspect them. The process of the operation of the PHUNG HOANG Committee and PH Center are shown. That night the Police Special Branch ambushes the armed VC tax collectors and all are captured alive without violence, except Nghe who escapes. The VC are interrogated with fair and kind treatment; they tell the location of their hiding place. Then the Special Police, PSDF, PF, RD Cadre and some volunteer Hoi Chanh go to the VC secret hiding place. Nghe is found, along with other VC and a weapons cache is located.

A short time later the Chief of the village, while alone with Thanh, praises him, tells him his name will be kept secret and presents him with a letter entitling him to a substantial reward. This enables Thanh to marry Miss Bich.

The flashback ends and the Police Chief tells Tam he must be courageous and not be so pessimistic; that the VC are relatively easy to neutralize when people report them.

Tam then leaves Thanh's house with a determined look to neutralize the VCI in his village.

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