1. RESPONSE TO REFERENCE A AND PER REFERENCE B HAVE LIBERATED MEMO FROM J-2'S IN-BOX. FORMAL MEMO BEING PREPARED. CIRCLED OFFICIAL ANSWER FOLLOWS:

A. TENT QUOTE - NOTEBOOK A (CODE 01-13-35-67) CONTAINS RECORD TAKEN BY AMK SON, PROBABLYappy FOR KONG CHI TAI. CONTAINS SUFFICIENT PASSAGE "AS FOR THE MILITARY FORCE, WE HAD PREVIOUSLY AROUND 330,000 GUERRILLAS (250,000 WOULD BE GOOD) AND 300,000 MILITIA. THEY MUST BE INCREASED, BOTH IN QUALITY AND QUANTITY." ORIGINAL DOCUMENT NOT CURRENTLY AVAILABLE AT CODE FOR EXAMINATION.

B. NOTEBOOK B (CODE 01-23-32-67) HAS EXCERPTS FROM COSUV CURRENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE RESOLUTION ON SITUATION IN RURAL AREAS. SUMMARY OF DOCUMENT CODE BULLETIN 2175 STATED "QUALITY AND QUANTITY"
GUERRILLA - MILITIA HAS DECREASED. CRITERIA SET FOR THIS YEAR (1966) IS TO ACQUIRE TOTAL OF 300,000 BUT ONLY 133,933 ARE AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE. IN LATER FULL TRANSLATION OF PARAGRAPH, WAS TRANSLATED AS: "GUERRILLAS DROPPED TO 180,000 THE REQUIREMENT OF THIS YEAR IS 302,000. THE DECREASE OF QUANTITY ALSO INVOLVED A DECREASE IN QUALITY." EXAMINATION ORIGINAL REVEALS ACTUAL WORDS WERE "DAN QUAN DU KICH." ACCORDING CHIEF TRANSLATOR CDEC SHOULD BE TRANSLATED AS "MILITIA-GUERRILLA."

C. ANOTHER DOCUMENT (CDEC 61-1593-66), TEXT OF CONFERENCE HELD AT "R" (COSVN) EARLY 1965, STATES: "EFFORTS WILL BE MADE TO INCREASE MILITIA-GUERRILLA STRENGTH IN ENTIRE SVN TO 253,232-300,000.

D. CDEC BELIEVES ABOVE DOCUMENTS GENUINE AND NOT FABRICATIONS. HOWEVER, NATURE NOTEBOOKS A AND B INDICATE INFORMATION CONTAINED THEREIN INTENDED FOR USE AS INTERNAL PROPAGANDA AND NOT NECESSARILY ACCURATE.

E. TOTAL 336,300 GUERRILLA AND MILITIA QUOTED IN NOTEBOOK A IS INACCURATE. HOWEVER, EVALUATION MANY CAPTURED DOCUMENT INDICATES INCREASING DIFFICULTY IN RECRUITING AND DECLINING STRENGTH FURTHER LEAD US TO BELIEVE THAT THIS FIGURE IS INFLATED.

580
F. THOROUGH REVIEW ALL INFORMATION AVAILABLE CONCERNING VC IRREGULARS RECENTLY COMPLETED. RESULTANT STUDY CONTAINS PROVINCE BY PROVINCE ESTIMATION IRREGULAR STRENGTH BASED ESTIMATES SUBMITTED BY U.S. SECTOR ADVISORS AND REVIEW ALL CAPTURED DOCUMENTS AT COEO. STUDY MAKES SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO NOTEBOOKS A AND B. REVISED ESTIMATE FOR IRREGULAR STRENGTH APPROXIMATELY 198,000. THIS ESTIMATE MAY BE SLIGHTLY CONSERVATIVE BUT IS BEST DOCUMENTED ESTIMATE AVAILABLE.

G. WHEN COORDINATION WITH COMPLETED AND OUR STRENGTH ESTIMATE FINALIZED, IT WILL BE INCLUDED IN OB SUMMARY. IN ADDITION, WILL PUBLISH COMPLETE STUDY INCLUDING VC GOALS AND STRENGTHS QUOTED IN ABOVE CAPTURED DOCUMENTS. FIRST UNQUOTE ABOVE ANSWER REFERENCE C. PARAGRAPH 3 QUERY.

2. UNOFFICIAL ANSWERS TO REFERENCE, C. PARAGRAPH 2 FOLLOWS:

A. ASSAULT YOUTH MEMO BEING REVIEWED BY CI&GV ALONG WITH CAPTURED DOCUMENTS ON SUBJECT. COL. HAWKINS NOTES SOME JUNCTION CITY CAPTURED DOCUMENTS MAY BE OF INTEREST.

B. ASSAULT YOUTHS WILL BE INCLUDED IN OB WHEN SUFFICIENT DATA AVAILABLE TO MAKE REALISTIC ESTIMATE. INITIAL FEELING MACH THAT ASSAULT YOUTH PROBABLY FALL UNDER POLITICAL CADRE CATEGORY AND NOT MILITIA OR GUERRILLA.

COMMENT: FEEL
Paragraph 18: Paragraph 18 gives the new official upper estimate. Political and military factors still need to be considered before decisions are made. The new estimate is about 9,000. The old estimate was 6,000. The new estimate is the result of revising the old estimate as shown in the above paragraph. The new estimate is based on all available information and will be subject to revision as more information becomes available.

Paragraph 21: Paragraph 21 addresses the problem of estimating the number of casualties. The new estimate is based on the above estimate and will be subject to revision as more information becomes available.

Paragraph 22: Paragraph 22 gives the new estimate of regulars and irregulars. The new estimate is 7,000 for regulars and 2,000 for irregulars. This estimate is based on the above estimate and will be subject to revision as more information becomes available.

Paragraph 23: Paragraph 23 addresses the question of whether the new estimate of regulars and irregulars should be used as the basis for recruiting and combat support. The new estimate will be used as the basis for recruiting and combat support. The new estimate will be subject to revision as more information becomes available.
SECRET 233717Z CITE SAIGON 4307 [XXXX] ACTING
DIRECTOR INFO XXXXX

REFS: A. DIRECTOR 80732
     B. SAIGON 4230 (IN 26248)
     C. DIRECTOR 85123
     D. DIRECTOR 85394

1. RESPONSE TO REFERENCE A AND PER REFERENCE B HAVE LIBERATED
MEMO FROM J-2'S IN-BOX. FORMAL MEMO BEING POUCHED. GIST OF
CITABLE OFFICIAL ANSWER FOLLOWS:

A. GIST QUOTE - NOTEBOOK A (CDEC 02-1346-67) CONTAINS RECORD
SPEECH BY ANH SON, PROBABLY AKA FOR NGUYEN CHI THANH. CONTAINS
SIGNIFICANT PASSAGE: "AS FOR THE MILITARY FORCES, WE MUST ORGANIZE
AROUND 330,000 GUERRILLAS (250,000 WOULD BE GOOD) AND 300,000 MILITIA.
NOW WE HAVE 180,000 GUERRILLAS AND 150,000 MILITIA. THEY MUST BE
INCREASED, BOTH IN QUALITY AND QUANTITY." ORIGINAL DOCUMENT NOT
CURRENTLY AVAILABLE AT CDEC FOR EXAMINATION.

B. NOTEBOOK B (CDEC 01-2552-67) HAS EXCERPTS FROM COSVN
CURRENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE RESOLUTION ON SITUATION IN RURAL AREAS.
SUMMARY OF DOCUMENT CDEC BULLETIN 2179 STATED "QUALITY AND QUANTITY
GUERRILLA - MILITIA HAS DECREASED. CRITERIA SET FOR THIS YEAR (1966) IS TO ACQUIRE TOTAL OF 300,000 BUT ONLY 180,000 ARE AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE." IN LATER FULL TRANSLATION OF PARAGRAPH, WAS TRANSLATED AS "GUERRILLAS DROPPED TO 180,000 THE REQUIREMENT OF THIS YEAR IS 300,000. THE DECREASE OF QUANTITY ALSO INVOLVED A DECREASE IN QUALITY." EXAMINATION ORIGINAL REVEALS ACTUAL WORDS WERE "DAN QUAN DU KICH." ACCORDING CHIEF TRANSLATOR CDEC SHOULD BE TRANSLATED AS "MILITIA-GUERRILLA."

C. ANOTHER DOCUMENT (CDEC 01-1593-66), TEXT OF CONFERENCE HELD AT "R" (COSVN) EARLY 1965, STATES: "EFFORTS WILL BE MADE TO INCREASE MILITIA-GUERRILLA STRENGTH IN ENTIRE SVN TO 250,000-300,000___."

D. CDEC BELIEVES ABOVE DOCUMENTS GENUINE AND NOT FABRICATIONS. HOWEVER, NATURE NOTEBOOKS A AND B INDICATE INFORMATION CONTAINED THEREIN INTENDED FOR USE AS INTERNAL PROPAGANDA AND NOT NECESSARILY ACCURATE.

E. TOTAL 330,000 GUERRILLA AND MILITIA QUOTED IN NOTEBOOK A IS PLAUSIBLE. HOWEVER, EVALUATION MANY CAPTURED DOCUMENTS INDICATING INCREASING DIFFICULTY IN RECRUITING AND DECLINING STRENGTH FIGURES LEADS US TO BELIEVE THAT THIS FIGURE IS INFLATED.
F. Thorough review all information available concerning VC irregulars recently completed: resultant study contains province by province estimation irregular strength based estimates submitted by U.S. sector advisors and review all captured documents at CDEC. Study makes specific reference to notebooks A and B. Revised estimate for irregular strength approximately 198,000. This estimate may be slightly conservative but is best documented estimate available.

G. When coordination with XXXXX completed and our strength estimate finalized, it will be included in OB summary. In addition, will publish complete study including VC goals and strengths quoted in above captured documents. Gist unquote. Above answer reference C, paragraph 3 query.

2. Unofficial answers to reference, C, paragraph 2 follows:

A. Assault youth memo being reviewed by CICV along with captured documents on subject. Col. Hawkins notes some junction city captured documents may be of interest.

B. Assault youths will be included in OB when sufficient data available to make realistic estimate. Initial feeling MACV that assault youth probably fall under political cadre category and not militia or guerrilla. XXXXXXXXXXXXX comment: feel
ASSAULT YOUTH DO NOT FALL UNDER POLITICAL CADRE. QUESTION IS MORE WHETHER REGULAR OR IRREGULAR. REGULAR LINE COMBAT ORGANIZATION AND FULL TIME STATUS OF MEMBERS SEEMS INDICATE REGULAR WHILE METHOD RECRUITMENT, BASIS TRAINING AND COMBAT SUPPORT ROLE ARGUES FOR INCLUSION IN IRREGULAR CATEGORY.

C. MACV NOT SUFFICIENTLY INTO PROBLEM TO ATTEMPT ESTIMATE NUMBERS ASSAULT YOUTH AT THIS TIME.

3. REGARDING REFERENCE D, PARAGRAPH 2: PARAGRAPH 1G ABOVE GIVES NEW MACV OFFICIAL IRREGULAR ESTIMATE. POLITICAL CADRE NUMBERS STILL UNDER REVIEW BUT "UNOFFICIAL PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE" IS ABOUT 90,000. WILL ADVISE WHEN ESTIMATE FIRMS UP.

4. XXXXXXXX IN SAIGON SO ALL ABOVE SUBJECT TO REVISION AS ESTIMATES COORDINATED. WILL ADVISE ANY CHANGES.

S XXXXXXXX

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