



# Intelligence Information Cable

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STATE/INR JCS/MC (DIA) CIA/NMCC SWS NSA TREAS NSC/S SDO NIO [Redacted]

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DIST 8 MARCH 1977

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COUNTRY VIETNAM

DOI DECEMBER 1976

SUBJECT VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST PARTY LEADERSHIP ASSERTION TO VISITING FINNISH COMMUNIST PARTY CHAIRMAN THAT NO INFORMATION EXISTS ON AMERICANS STILL MISSING IN ACTION; POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC POSITION OF VIETNAM

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## C O R R E C T I O N

1. A FOUR-PAGE INFORMATION REPORT WITH THE ABOVE NUMBER AND

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1.  COMMENT: DURING THE PERIOD 11-17 DECEMBER 1976, AARNE S A A R I N E N, CHAIRMAN OF THE FINNISH COMMUNIST PARTY (FCP), ACCOMPANIED BY FCP FUNCTIONARIES URHO J O K I N E N AND IRINA L I N D E B E R G, VISITED THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM (SRV) TO ATTEND THE FOURTH CONGRESS OF THE VIETNAMESE WORKERS

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PARTY WHICH WAS HELD IN HANOI.)

2. DURING CONVERSATIONS WITH THE LEADERSHIP OF THE VIETNAMESE WORKERS PARTY, SAARINEN BROUGHT UP THE QUESTION OF AMERICANS MISSING IN ACTION. THE VIETNAMESE RESPONDED THAT THEY HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF ANY FOREIGN SOLDIERS MISSING NOT PREVIOUSLY ACCOUNTED FOR. THEY EXPLAINED TO SAARINEN THAT IN A CIVIL WAR SUCH AS THAT FOUGHT IN VIETNAM WHICH INVOLVED SEVERAL NATIONALITIES INCLUDING AMERICANS, SOUTH KOREANS, FILIPINOS, ETC, MANY GUERRILLA TYPE ACTIONS TAKE PLACE IN REMOTE AREAS AND THE DEAD ARE NEVER ACCOUNTED FOR. THIS WAS ESPECIALLY TRUE IN SMALL VILLAGES WHERE VILLAGERS WERE NEVER SURE WHO THE COMBATANTS WERE AND SIMPLY BURIED THE DEAD FOLLOWING MILITARY ACTIONS. THE VIETNAMESE ASSURED SAARINEN THAT THEY MAINTAIN NO PRISONER OF WAR CAMPS AND THAT SUCH CAMPS WOULD BE UNFEASIBLE FROM AN INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL STANDPOINT.

3. REGARDING MEMBERSHIP IN THE UNITED NATIONS, THE PARTY OFFICIALS INFORMED SAARINEN THAT THEY COULD NOT UNDERSTAND U.S. OPPOSITION TO THEIR ENTRY. THEY MAINTAINED THAT THE U.S. WAS SIMPLY CREATING PROBLEMS FOR ITSELF AS U.N. MEMBERSHIP WAS NOT THAT IMPORTANT TO VIETNAM EXCEPT AS A SYMBOL OF RECOGNITION.

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4. SAARINEN DESCRIBED THE SRV ECONOMIC SITUATION AS EXTREMELY BAD. RECONSTRUCTION WAS PROGRESSING AT A SLOW PACE AND AID, BOTH FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL, WAS DESPERATELY NEEDED IN EVERY SECTOR. HE ADDED THAT THE VIETNAMESE SHOWED A CERTAIN RETICENCE TO ASK FOR SPECIFIC TYPES OF AID AND ASCRIBED IT TO THE PECULIAR ASIAN CHARACTER. WHEN REQUESTING ASSISTANCE, THEY SIMPLY STATED THAT "ANYTHING WHICH COULD BE CONTRIBUTED WOULD BE APPRECIATED." THEY CONFIDENTLY CONTENDED TO SAARINEN THAT THE SRV GOVERNMENT HAS DEVISED A PLAN FOR NATION-WIDE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WHICH WILL WHEN IMPLEMENTED MAKE VIETNAM THE MOST INDUSTRIALIZED NATION IN ASIA IN 15-20 YEARS. WHILE VISITING IN THE UPPER REGION OF WHAT WAS SOUTH VIETNAM, SAARINEN WAS TOLD THAT ONE OF THE MAJOR PROBLEMS WITH WHICH THE SRV MUST COPE IS THE RE-EDUCATION OF THE POPULACE, ESPECIALLY THE YOUNG GIRLS WHO HAD BEEN MISTRESSES TO AMERICAN SOLDIERS AND HAD BECOME USED TO A "SOFT LIFE" AND HAD NO DESIRE TO WORK IN THE FIELDS OR ON RECONSTRUCTION PROJECTS. THEY, ALONG WITH THE FORMER BLACKMARKETEERS, WERE HAVING THE MOST TROUBLE ADAPTING TO THE "SOCIALIST SOCIETY." REGARDING REFUGEES RETURNING TO THE SRV, THE OFFICIALS SAID THAT THEY ARE WELCOME BUT ONLY ON THE PRECONDITION THAT THEY ARE COMMITTED TO MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO

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ADJUST TO THE SOCIALIST WAY OF LIFE. THEY ESTIMATED THAT THERE ARE NOW APPROXIMATELY ONE MILLION VIETNAMESE LIVING OUTSIDE THE HOMELAND.

5. SAARINEN ASKED THE OFFICIALS HOW THEY VIEWED THE PRESENT SINO-SOVIET IDEOLOGICAL QUESTION. THEY REPLIED THAT THEY WOULD ACCEPT AID FROM BOTH COUNTRIES BUT AT PRESENT REFUSED TO TAKE SIDES. ONCE ECONOMIC RECOVERY IS ACCOMPLISHED, THEY WILL STUDY THE QUESTION OF SINO-SOVIET DIFFERENCES.

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