

If Reds Won

An Estimate on Viet Bloodbath

Washington

An independent study made for the Pentagon estimates that a minimum of 100,000 persons would be executed if the communists were permitted to set up a regime in South Vietnam.

Should the Communists attempt collectivization, the report released yesterday said, this would swell the number of potential victims and "the likelihood of an extensive bloodbath would be very great indeed."

The May 19 report, based on captured documents, was written by Stephen T. Hosmer of the Rand Corporation of Santa Monica, Calif., for the Defense Department's Advanced Research Projects Agency and was released by the Pentagon.

Hosmer said some analysts have estimated that the Viet Cong, through its 230 "district security sections," is currently executing as many as 5000 persons a year.

In the event of a Communist regime, he said "the number of executions alone (not counting assassinations) could well total many tens of thousands."

"One can only guess at what the minimum would be,

but this author finds it difficult to believe that the number would be much less than 100,000," he continued.

If the Communists attempted "a radical and rapid transformation of society (including collectivization)," he said, his estimates would soar.

"If this were to happen, the addition of the 'landlords' and of the mercantile class would swell the number of potential victims," he said.

The report said captured documents show that the Viet Cong is preparing "blacklists" of current enemies to be dealt with after the war.

The report said those in the greatest danger of execution would be Viet Cong defectors, whose names appear on special lists; intelligence agents, national police, government officials, officers and non-coms in the South Vietnamese army, and officials of political parties.

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