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# VC Preparing Villagers for Postwar Period

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TANAN, South Vietnam — While negotiations in foreign capitals suggest problems in reaching an immediate accord, Communist cadres a few miles from Saigon are continuing to hold nighttime meetings telling villagers to prepare for an imminent cease-fire.

According to residents near this provincial capital 25 miles southwest of Saigon, the first meetings were held Oct. 15. Villagers were then told that a cease-fire was coming Oct. 31, but when nothing happened on that day, cadres said the date had been changed to some time in November.

The informants said cease-fire preparations were completed by Oct. 31 and were not affected by the change in date.

Villagers were given detailed instructions, the residents said. They called for the organization of demonstrations against the South Vietnamese government, preparation of lists of people absent from their home villages, burial of heavy weapons and display of Vietcong flags after the cease-fire.

The instructions generally appeared designed to tap and accelerate ill feeling toward the South Vietnamese government without violating the letter of the proposed cease-fire accord announced by Radio Hanoi Oct. 26.

## Communist Presence

The northeast boundary of Longan Province, of which Tanan is the capital, is only 10 miles from the center of Saigon. Longan extends another 25 miles to the southwest. The informants said meetings had taken place in all of Longan's seven districts and in other provinces in the Mekong Delta and around Saigon as well. This seems plausible, since other sources have reported a renewed Communist presence in these areas recently.

The details which the villagers gave of the meetings and their unusual openness in describing them suggest that once again in these areas there are now two

administrations: the South Vietnamese government, which functions in the daytime, and the Vietcong, or National Liberation Front, which appears at night. For the moment, the two sides seem to be coexisting within a fabric of at least tacit mutual accommodation.

The informants said that more than a month ago Communist soldiers had received instructions to avoid all contacts with South Vietnamese troops and to fight only when there was no alternative. But they said villagers were told to expect heavy fighting in the period after a cease-fire accord is signed and before it goes into effect.

They said Communist forces would then launch an "all-out attack" on South Vietnamese military headquarters, warehouses, gas depots, air strips and information centers.

## Instructions Listed

The informants said that beginning Oct. 15 Vietcong cadres told villagers to do the following:

- People in each village and hamlet were to make lists of local Vietcong cadres including biographical information; locally born Vietcong prisoners of war and political prisoners, with their serial numbers; locally born students in Saigon and abroad, local doctors practicing oriental medicine;

- Vietcong trained nurses and midwives, and rice paddies and other land destroyed by herbicides for which the government made no repayment.

- Groups were to be organized to rebuild and plant flowers around the tombs of Vietcong soldiers after the cease-fire.

- A delegation was to be chosen in each village and hamlet to visit Vietcong prisoners being held in South Vietnamese prisons.

- After the cease-fire, war widows and families of dead soldiers were to be encouraged to hold demonstrations demanding that the government either give them pensions and houses due them or else return their husbands and sons; if police threw grenades at the demonstrators, others were to come to their support. Other persons were to demand that taxes be lowered and that sons and husbands in the South Vietnamese armed forces be returned home.

- Villagers were to begin campaigns to get government troops to desert and turn in their weapons to the Communists. Government soldiers were to be told that the war was almost over and that they could stop fighting.

- People in each village and hamlet were to make contacts with families of Communist soldiers who had rallied to the government side. Villagers were told that while some had rallied for ideological reasons, others did so simply out of fear and were still sympathetic to the Communist cause.

- People were to be chosen to be responsible for burying heavy weapons. Once the cease-fire is announced, guerrillas were to use only small arms.

- When government soldiers returned to their homes after the cease-fire, they were not to be given land. Villagers were told to struggle in a legal way to keep the land given them in the government land-to-the-people program.

The informants said that after the cease-fire, some Vietcong cadres will go to North Vietnam for political indoctrination while North Vietnamese soldiers take their places.

In addition, children and students over 9 years old may go to North Vietnam if they wish, the residents said.

## To get free books

Cadres said students who want to continue their education in North Vietnam would receive free books, classes and meals there.

The residents said a program of sending students to North Vietnam had already been in effect for a year.

Asked whether Communist plans included assassination of local government officials, one resident said: "No, that is government propaganda."

The informants said that when villagers asked why there was no cease-fire Oct. 31, Cadres told them:

"The deceitful Americans have tried to delay the agreement, but they cannot betray the peace-loving people of the United States and Vietnam. This plot of the American leaders will be crushed soon, because if there is no cease-fire, we will go on fighting, and 17 million people in South Vietnam cannot defeat 19 million in North Vietnam and 800 million in China."