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taxes 1 (normass/deepe)

JANUARY 16 -

SAIGON—Viet Cong financial cadre have reportedly told their taxpayers "this is the last year you'll have to pay taxes to us.

"Next year, you can pay your taxes to the coalition government in Saigon."

The Viet Cong tax^l collectors, who also serve in agitation and propaganda activities, did not specify whether the "coalition government" would be set up through a negotiated settlement or through bigger battles favorable to the Communist side.

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taxes 2 (normass/deepe)

However, their overt propaganda offensive within the government-controlled zones and contested areas appeared to be in step with widespread international discussion about peace talks which might result in a "coalition government" of some sort.

Non-Communist The Viet Cong tax collectors also invited their taxpayers to visit their "liberated areas" during the upcoming seven-day lunar new year truce and took pains to explain about the much-discussed 14-point program issued in September, outlining their political posture in the South.

The Communist cadre evidently believed ^{that} the businessmen, who ~~would be~~ ^(More Reuter) happy to hear the war would be settled one way or another; instead, ^{specific} the news sent the taxpayers ~~the taxpayers~~ ^{pirouettes} of either bigger fighting or a "coalition government" generally ~~caused~~ the non-Communist mercantile set into undiluted panic.

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taxes 3 (normass/deepe)

The Vietnamese taxpayers ~~in~~ related this report after paying their ~~annual~~ 1967 annual taxes to the Viet Cong. These taxpayers, including ind included factory owners in Cholon, the Chinese-populated twin-city of Saigon, rubber plantation owners in the provinces and other businessmen. These sources said the Viet Cong were collecting taxes at approximately the same rate as last year—but they seemed to be emphasizing collections at an earlier date. In previous years, Viet Cong tax collections, widespread throughout Vietnam including the cities, were made in January and February; but the collections for 1967 are being made in the first or two weeks of January. The sources said this would presumably give the Viet Cong more ~~propaganda~~ face-to-face propaganda benefits before the lunar new year beginning January 30—a time when Vietnamese ^{traditionally} visit each other in irrespective of frontline frontlines and political considerations.

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taxes 4 (normass/deepe)

The sources said the Viet Cong collectors gave the impression they were confident of their predictions of a "coalition government" next year. They also gave the impression the Viet Cong maintained a formidable "shadow government" in South Vietnam and that their organization had plenty of money.

Government intelligence sources also have reported the Viet Cong seemed to have plenty of currency, and they are suspected of getting generous gifts of both South Vietnamese piastres and hard ~~xxx~~ foreign currency from Communist bloc countries as part of a ~~fore~~ foreign aid program. Government sources also suspect the Viet Cong are setting up their own businesses on the outskirts of Saigon and, in other cases, are supplying large ~~ix~~ percentages of capital for non-Communist businessmen to establish lucrative business businesses.

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taxes 5 (normass/deepe)

Businessmen in the Saigon area reported their annual Viet Cong taxes for 1967 were roughly ten per cent of their net profits--about the same as the taxes for 1966; this tax level is lower than in the countryside, presumably because the Viet Cong are attempting to woo the urban dwellers, as well as culling economic intelligence on Vietnamese government and American activities and plans.

In the countryside, the annual tax rate for 1967 was reported to be forty per cent of the net profit of the business enterprise.

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taxes 6 (normass/deepe)

The annual Viet Cong's annual tax is only one of a multitudes that Vietnamese pay throughout the year; there is also a monthly tax, ~~gener~~ generally paid the first fifteen days of each month; the names of those ~~not-paying~~ refusing the pay are turned over to Viet Cong assassination squads during the last fifteen days each month, reliable sources report. Transportation taxes along even major roads, canals and some rivers are also ~~imposed~~ collected throughout the year.

The Viet Cong maintain a highly personalized Internal Revenue Service of sorts, with a Communist man, woman or youngster calling at the home/^{OR OFFICE} of the taxpayer and personally checking the ~~family's~~ ^{OF THE YEAR} accounting. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

(End Report)