Current Intelligence Digest

DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

Secret

8 November 1967
No. 0223/67
Page Denied
CONTENTS

(Information as of 1200 EST)

GENERAL

Vietnam
(Page 1)

Situation report.

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Page Denied
Heavy fighting was reported in the western highlands on 6 and 7 November. US forces fought a series of engagements with elements of two North Vietnamese regiments of the 327th Regiment, 96th Division, Special Forces camp adjacent to enemy infiltration routes in Kontum Province. In these engagements 26 Americans were killed while enemy losses were set at 116 killed.

At Loc Ninh, the scene of heavy fighting last week, 18 wounded in engagements with US soldiers were killed and 38 wounded in engagements with enemy forces on 6 and 7 November. Communist propaganda suggests that the enemy hoped the attacks would carry maximum psychological impact. The communists may believe they have been successful in demonstrating the difficulty under which allied forces still operate in providing sustained security for the population in an area only some 72 miles from Saigon.

The intensity of the communist propaganda on the subject of their attacks around Loc Ninh coincides with the beginning of the "winter-spring" campaign in South Vietnam. Meanwhile, continues to assert that the enemy attacks around Loc Ninh constitute retaliation for US air strikes on the commandos in the "winter-spring" campaign in South Vietnam.
Page Denied
Page Denied
Page Denied
Page Denied
Page Denied
Page Denied
Page Denied
Page Denied
Page Denied
Page Denied