

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Intelligence Information Cable

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DIST 2 FEBRUARY 1968

COUNTRY SOUTH VIETNAM
DOI 2105 HOURS 1 FEBRUARY - 1545 HOURS 2 FEBRUARY 1968.

SUBJECT II COPRS SITUATION REPORT AS OF 1545 HOURS
2 FEBRUARY 1968 []

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2 FEBRUARY 1968.

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1. NHA TRANG, KHANH HOA PROVINCE

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AS OF 1200 HOURS 2 FEBRUARY

NHA TRANG WAS RELATIVELY QUIET, WITH ONLY SCATTERED SNIPERS
REMAINING IN THE CITY. NUMEROUS SWEEPS WERE BEING CONDUCTED
WITHIN THE CITY BY THE POLICE, POLICE FIELD FORCES AND
GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM (GVN) SPECIAL FORCES TO LOCATE AND

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ELIMINATE ENEMY STRAGGLERS. OVER 40 PRISONERS, MOSTLY NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY (NVA), HAVE BEEN TAKEN, INCLUDING SIX OFFICERS AND ONE MEMBER OF THE KHANH HOA PROVINCE COMMITTEE. THESE ARE JOINTLY INTERROGATED IN THE KHANH HOA PROVINCE INTERROGATION CENTER (PIC) BY GVN SPECIAL FORCES, THE SPECIAL POLICE AND SECTOR S-2.

B. THE SPECIAL POLICE REPORT THE ATTACKERS ARE BEING ASSISTED BY MEMBERS OF THE EXTREME BUDDHIST MOVEMENT IN NHA TRANG. FIVE BUDDHIST NUNS WERE ARRESTED AND THE POLICE ARE ATTEMPTING TO CONFIRM BUDDHIST INVOLVEMENT.

C. ACCORDING TO PIC INTERROGATIONS OF PRISONERS OF WAR (PW), NVA TROOPS WERE TOLD PRIOR TO THE ATTACK THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO TAKE AND HOLD NHA TRANG BECAUSE THE VIET CONG (VC) ORGANIZATION WITHIN THE CITY HAD ORGANIZED THE POPULATION TO ASSIST THEM. NVA OFFICERS, HOWEVER, SAY THEY KNEW BEFORE LAUNCHING THE ATTACK THAT IT WOULD FAIL, BUT THEY HAD TO ATTACK TO SUPPORT THE NATIONWIDE EFFORT AND TO MAKE SUCCESS POSSIBLE ELSEWHERE.

D. THE SPECIAL POLICE REPORT THAT THE VC ATTEMPTED TO ORGANIZE DEMONSTRATIONS IN PRO-VC HAMLETS IN BIEN KHANH

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DISTRICT, 10 KILOMETERS WEST OF NHA TRANG, FOR A MARCH ON NHA TRANG. THE VC SUCCEEDED IN GATHERING ABOUT 200 PERSON, BUT THE NATIONAL POLICE AND THE GVN SPECIAL FORCES INTERCEPTED THEM--THEY WERE UNARMED--AND RETURNED THEM TO THEIR HOMES. THERE HAS BEEN NO OTHER EVIDENCE OF A GENERAL UP-RISING IN KHANH HOA.

3.3(h)(2)

AT 2105 HOURS 1 FEBRUARY THE GVN NAVY TRAINING CENTER AT NHA TRANG WAS UNDER ATTACK. ONE GVN RANGER COMPANY WAS DISPATCHED AT 2120 HOURS. AT 2150 HOURS THE U.S. AIR FORCE INITIATED A RED ALERT AND REVERTED TO THE YELLOW ALERT AT 0810 HOURS 2 FEBRUARY. AT 2235 HOURS 1 FEBRUARY, THE 4TH MOBILE (MONTAGNARD) STRIKE FORCE WAS SENT TO REINFORCE THE KHANH HOA PRISON. AT 2255 HOURS ELEMENTS OF THE 95TH NVA ARTILLERY REGIMENT MOVED FROM PHU YEN PROVINCE TO KHANH HOA PROVINCE. TWO COMPANIES OF THE NVA 9TH BATTALION (BN), 18/B REGIMENT (REGT) MOVED TO NHA TRANG, POSSIBLY TO THE 7TH BN AREA (REPORTED AT 1730 HOURS

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1 FEBRUARY TO BE IN THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF NHA TRANG WITH ELEMENTS OF THE BN TRYING TO EXFILTRATE). AT 2335 HOURS THREE ENEMY PERSONNEL WERE FOUND CRAWLING ON THE BEACH IN FRONT OF THE DUY TAN HOTEL (U.S. OFFICERS BILLET). AT 0310 HOURS 2 FEBRUARY THE U.S. AIR FORCE REPORTED SMALL ARMS FIRE IN THE VICINITY OF THE WHITE BUDDHA (A PROMINENT LANDMARK IN NHA TRANG). [REDACTED] 3.3(h)(2)

[REDACTED] COMMENT: TWO COMPANIES OF THE 9TH BN, 18/B REGIMENT WERE PRESUMED TO BE ENROUTE TO KHANH HOA TO TAKE OVER THE MISSION OF THE 7TH BN.)

2. PHAN THIET, BINH THUAN PROVINCE.

[REDACTED] AS 3.3(h)(2)

OF 0815 HOURS 2 FEBRUARY THE SITUATION IN PHAN THIET WAS UNDECIDED AND PHAN THIET WAS UNDER SHAKEY GVN CONTROL. FRIENDLY TROOPS WERE ATTEMPTING TO COUNTER THIS THREAT. TWO ENEMY BATTALIONS WERE ENGAGED, WITH CONTACT AT THE SOCCER FIELD WEST OF THE CITY AND IN AN AREA 150 METERS EAST OF PROVINCE HEADQUARTERS. A MAJOR CONTACT WAS UNDERWAY ON ROUTES 1 AND 8 LEADING INTO PHAN THIET.

B. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] 3.3(h)(2)

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AS OF 1230 HOURS 2 FEBRUARY MAJOR ACTION WAS IN THE NORTHWEST AND NORTHERN PART OF THE CITY. THE TWO ENEMY BATTALIONS ARE THE VC 482ND AND THE 840TH, AND ONE REPORT INDICATES THEY ARE GOING TO BE REINFORCED BY THE LOCAL 430TH VC COMPANY. DURING THE NIGHT OF 1 FEBRUARY THE CITY WAS HIT BY B-40 ROCKETS, WITH NO SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE. REVOLUTIONARY DEVELOPMENT (RD) TEAMS ARE IN THEIR ORIGINAL LOCATIONS AND ARE OPERATIONAL WITH ONLY ONE WOUNDED IN ACTION. THE QUARTER ZONE TEAMS ARE ALSO OPERATIONAL AND UNHARMED. THE POLICE CHIEF OF THE CITY WITH TWO PLATOONS CONSISTING OF ADMINISTRATIVE-TYPE PERSONNEL ARE IN CONTACT WITH THE ENEMY AT THE SOCCER FIELD. CASUALTIES: 11 U.S. MILITARY WIA; 200 GVN CIVILIANS AND MILITARY WIA WITH NUMBER OF KIA NOT REPORTED; 80 ENEMY KIA (BODY COUNT); AND PRESUMABLY MANY UNDETERMINED CASUALTIES. ONE COMPANY COMMANDER OF THE VC 482ND BN AND ONE EACH B-40 AND B-41 MORTARS CAPTURED.

C.

AS OF 1415 HOURS

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2 FEBRUARY PHAN THIET WAS QUIET, THE POLICE HAD INCREASED

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CHECK POINT ACTIVITY, AND THE CITY WAS STILL UNDER A 100 PER CENT ALERT. U.S. AND GVN MILITARY UNITS WERE OPERATING IN THIEN GIAO DISTRICT. PROVINCIAL RECONNAISSANCE TEAMS (PRU) OPERATING IN THIEN GIAO DISTRICT HAVE BEEN HIT BY AIR STRIKES; CASUALTIES UNKNOWN. PRISONERS REPORT THAT THE VC, IN BATTALION STRENGTH, ARE DUG IN AT THE VC THIEN GIAO DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS LOCATED AT AN 824117. PRISONERS ALSO REPORT THAT TWO (UNIDENTIFIED) VC BATTALIONS HAVE SUFFERED HEAVY CASUALTIES. IN HAI LONG DISTRICT, THE DISTRICT CHIEF REPORTS THAT A FLEET OF 30 VC SAMPANS HAS BEEN SIGHTED OFF THE HAI LONG COAST, EAST OF PHAN THIET.

3. DALAT, TUEY DUC.

3.3(h)(2)

AS OF 1230 HOURS 2 FEBRUARY, DALAT HAS BEEN HIT HARD, BUT WAS RELATIVELY QUIET, AND THE SITUATION WAS UNDER GVN CONTROL. FOUR UNIDENTIFIED NVA UNITS WERE IN THE CITY. ALL AREAS WEST OF THE LAKE WERE BEING CONTESTED. THERE

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WAS INTERMITTENT SMALL ARMS FIRE THROUGHOUT THE CITY AND SPORADIC MORTAR FIRE ON THE AIRFIELD, BUT NO SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE. THE ENEMY ATTACKED SECTOR HEADQUARTERS, BUT DID NOT HOLD IT, AND MORTARED THE PROVINCE CHIEF'S HOUSE. THEY TEMPORARILY OCCUPIED THE PALACE AND THE HOSPITAL. NO ENEMY ACTIVITY WAS REPORTED IN THE DISTRICTS AT THIS TIME. CASUALTIES: 12 U.S. MILITARY WIA; 3 GVN KIA; 22 VC/NVA KIA; 10 VC/NVA CAPTURED.

4. BAN ME THUOT, DARLAC PROVINCE.

AS OF 1130

3.3(h)(2)

HOURS, 2 FEBRUARY, THE SITUATION IN BAN ME THUOT REMAINED ESSENTIALLY UNCHANGED. DURING THE NIGHT OF 1 FEBRUARY, ENEMY TROOPS INITIATED THREE MORTAR ATTACKS FOLLOWED BY AN INFANTRY ASSAULT ON PROVINCE OFFICES. THEY ALSO LIGHTLY MORTARED THE U.S. 155TH HELICOPTER BATTALION (PREVIOUSLY ERRONEOUSLY IDENTIFIED AS THE 155TH AVIATION COMPANY.) CONSENSUS OF U.S. OBSERVERS WAS THAT TWO NVA REGIMENTS WILL RENEW THEIR ATTACKS IN FORCE AND TRY TO HOLD THE CITY. ALL THREE OUTLYING DISTRICTS HAVE BEEN ATTACKED, AND BAN ME THUOT WAS SURROUNDED.

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ENEMY UNITS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AS THE 33RD NVA REGIMENT (CONFIRMED) AND THE NVA 17B REGIMENT (UNCONFIRMED). ACCURATE ASSESSMENT OF CASUALTIES WAS NOT POSSIBLE. UNCONFIRMED ESTIMATES PLACED VC/NVA KILLED AT ABOUT 400. ALL PARTS OF THE TOWN HAVE BEEN BADLY DAMAGED FROM MORTAR FIRE AND B-40 ROCKETS. THE ROOF OF SECTOR HEADQUARTERS HAS BEEN DESTROYED. AIRFIELDS REMAINED OPERATIONAL, BUT LANDING AIRCRAFT WERE SUBJECT TO SMALL ARMS FIRE.

5. PLEIKU, PLEIKU PROVINCE.

[REDACTED] AS OF 1000 HOURS, 2 FEBRUARY, ENEMY ATTACKS HAD RESUMED ON PLEIKU CITY. THE HELICOPTER LANDING AREA AND AMMO DUMP WERE HIT DURING THE NIGHT OF 1 FEBRUARY BUT NO REPORTS WERE AVAILABLE ON THE EXTENT OF DAMAGE OR NUMBER OF CASUALTIES.

3.3(h)(2)

6. QUI NHON, BINH DINH PROVINCE.

[REDACTED] THE SITUATION IN QUI NHON AS OF 0835 HOURS, 2 FEBRUARY WAS RELATIVELY QUIET. THE MILITARY SECURITY SERVICE (MSS) STATION, GVN RADIO

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STATION AND RAILROAD STATION HAD BEEN RETAKEN BY FRIENDLY FORCES. AS ESTIMATED ONE LOCAL VC SQUAD WAS STILL IN TOWN OPERATING AS SNIPERS. THE AIRFIELD WAS OPEN. CASUALTIES WERE 55 VC/NVA KIA, WITH 36 WEAPONS CAPTURED; 8 US MILITARY KIA AND 5 US CIVILIANS KIA; 3 U.S. WIA; 18 ARVN KIA; 13 ARVN WIA; 2 ROK KIA; 9 ROK WIA. NONE OF THE US CIVILIAN CASUALTIES HAD BEEN IDENTIFIED.

2. KONTUM, KONTUM PROVINCE.

3.3(h)(2)

KONTUM CITY WAS

AGAIN UNDER MORTAR ATTACK THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT OF 1 FEBRUARY. AS OF 1030 HOURS, 2 FEBRUARY, CONTROL OF THE SITUATION REMAINED IN DOUBT.

3. TUY HOA, PHU YEN PROVINCE.

3.3(h)(2)

AS OF 1545

HOURS, 2 FEBRUARY, SMALL ENEMY UNITS REMAINED INSIDE TUY HOA, BUT THEY DID NOT CONTROL ANY PORTION OF THE CITY. THE ENEMY FORCE HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS THE 5TH BATTALION, 95TH NVA REGIMENT. THERE WERE UNCONFIRMED REPORTS THAT THE BATTALION COMMANDER AND STAFF OF THE 5TH BN HAVE BEEN KILLED. THERE WERE 20 U.S. KIA AND 54 WIA. THERE HAVE BEEN NO CIVILIAN CASUALTIES REPORTED. RD TEAMS HAD ENCOUNTERED ONLY LIGHT


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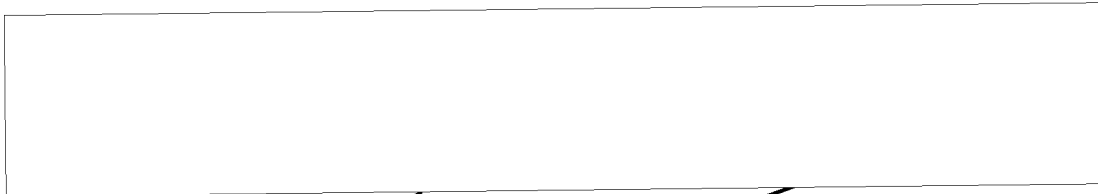


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ATTACKS AND APPEARED TO BE IN LITTLE TROUBLE. AIRCRAFT WERE STILL ABLE TO LAND AT THE CITY FIELD, BUT THE AREA JUST SOUTH OF THE STRIP WAS CONSIDERED INSECURE. AMERICAN OBSERVERS EXPECTED THE ENEMY TO ATTACK MACV HEADQUARTERS AND THE PROVINCE CHIEF'S HEADQUARTERS ON NIGHT OF 2 FEBRUARY.

9.  COMMENT: THERE HAS BEEN NO INDICATION IN THE AREAS OF II CORPS THAT THE POPULATION IS RALLYING TO NVA/VC CALLS FOR SUPPORT. 3.3(h)(2)



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