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INTERROGATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	: SOUTH VIETNAM (SVN)	NIC REPORT NO	: 228/68
SUBJECT	: Prior Warning of Suspected B-52 Strike in KONTUM Province.	NIC CASE NO	: 027/1/68
DATE OF INFO	: 14-16 January 1968	DATE OF REPORT	: 2/3/68
DATE AND PLACE	: 26 February 1968 (W -N) SAIGON, Vietnam	NO. OF PAGES	: 2
		REF:	None 3.3(h)(2)

S U M M A R Y

At approximately 1700 hours sometime during the period 14-16 January 1968, Independent Sapper Battalion 406 received warning of an impending B-52 strike on its base camp located about 3 kilometers south of KON GUN Hamlet (AS 805105), KONTUM Province. The notification was delivered by a messenger from the VC's KONTUM Province Committee. It announced the expected time of the strike and ordered the battalion to move south towards KONTUM City. At 0400 hours the following day, the battalion abandoned its camp leaving some equipment behind and departed the area. There was no evidence that such an attack actually took place. (Source believed the warning had been intentionally false in order to move the battalion nearer to its target during the Tet Offensive.)

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None

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MAP REFERENCE

AMS Series L7014, Sheet 6638III, Scale 1/50,000, Edition 1.

1. At approximately 1700 hours sometime during the period 14-16 January 1968, Independent Sapper Battalion 406, directly subordinate to the VC's KONTUM Provincial Committee, received warning of an impending B-52 strike on its base camp. At that time, the battalion was located about three kilometers south of the Montagnard hamlet of KON GUN (AS 805105), KONTUM Province.
2. The notification of the attack was delivered to the battalion commander by a messenger from the KONTUM Provincial Committee (location unknown). It announced the expected time of the air strike on the following day and ordered the battalion to move south towards KONTUM City to a specified location. The journey took one day to complete. (Source had no knowledge of any means by which the VC/NVA obtained information concerning B-52 strikes.)
3. While many trenches and foxholes had been prepared in the battalion's base camp area, they were not considered adequate protection for personnel in the event of a B-52 strike. Members of the battalion had been previously told that if a bomb hit within 10 meters of the trenches and foxholes they were hiding in, they would be killed.
4. At 0400 hours on the following day, Independent Sapper Battalion 406 abandoned its base camp and traveled by foot throughout the day to the new area designated by the KONTUM Provincial Committee. (Exact location unknown.) Members of the battalion had not been ordered to carry all their equipment with them and some cooking utensils and weapons were left behind. Several days later, a few personnel from the battalion returned to the old base camp area to retrieve the equipment which had been left there. There was no evidence that such an attack had actually taken place. Upon returning to the battalion's new base camp, they reported that the area had not yet been bombed.
5. (SOURCE COMMENT: The warning of a B-52 strike had been false and had been intentionally sent to the battalion in order to have it move nearer to KONTUM City in preparation for its attack there during TET. He based his opinion upon the fact that no one had seen any enemy aircraft flying over their former position during the period immediately prior to the receipt of the warning notification. He was convinced that the KONTUM Province Committee had used this means to move the battalion closer to KONTUM City without having to inform its members of the upcoming attack on the province capital.)

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