

~~C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L~~~~NO FOREIGN DISSEM~~~~(classification)~~~~(dissem controls)~~

OFFENSIVE. MOST OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM (GVN) OFFICIALS SPENT THEIR TET HOLIDAYS IN SAIGON AND HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO RETURN TO BIEN HOA BECAUSE OF THE MILITARY ACTION IN SAIGON. MOST GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES IN THE PROVINCE HAVE THUS FAR BEEN UNABLE TO COPE WITH THE EMERGENCY. THE PROVINCE CHIEF, THE CHIEF OF THE PROVINCIAL INTERROGATION CENTER (PIC), THE GHIEU HOI (OPEN ARMS) CHIEF, AND THE VIETNAMESE INFORMATION SERVICE CHIEF, HOWEVER, WERE ON DUTY IN THE PROVINCE THROUGHOUT THE CRISIS.

THE CHIEF OF THE NATIONAL POLICE IN BIEN HOA PROVINCE RETURNED ON THE AFTERNOON OF 4 FEBRUARY AND THE CHIEF OF THE SPECIAL POLICE RETURNED TO DUTY ON THE AFTERNOON OF 5 FEBRUARY. NATIONAL HIGHWAY NO. 1 BETWEEN SAIGON AND BIEN HOA HAS BEEN DECLARED SECURE DURING DAYLIGHT HOURS, BUT TRAVEL HAS BEEN RESTRICTED TO SOLDIERS IN UNIFORM WITH ORDERS, AND GVN OFFICIALS. (THE CONTINUED ABSENCE OF VIETNAMESE INTERPRETERS AND OFFICE STAFF MEMBERS STILL HINDERS OPERATIONS OF LOCAL U.S. AGENCIES.)

2. THE CHIEF OF THE AUSTRALIAN SURGICAL TEAM AT BIEN HOA PROVINCE HOSPITAL STATED THAT HE AND HIS STAFF PERFORMED MORE THAN 184 OPERATIONS DURING THE CRISIS. HE SAID THAT HE WAS UNCERTAIN ABOUT THE NUMBER BECAUSE HE WAS UNABLE TO KEEP ACCURATE STATISTICS

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DUE TO THE PRESS OF BUSINESS. MOST OF THE NEW PATIENTS NOW ARRIVING AT THE HOSPITAL HAVE WOUNDS TWO, THREE OR FOUR DAYS OLD WHICH THE PATIENT AT FIRST CONSIDERED MINOR, BUT WHICH, NOW APPEAR SERIOUS ENOUGH FOR THE VICTIM TO SEEK MEDICAL TREATMENT. A U.S. DOCTOR SAID THAT SOME OF THE LATE ARRIVING PATIENTS MAY DIE BECAUSE THE WOUND OF ENTRY WAS SMALL, BUT MUCH TISSUE WAS DESTROYED AND MORBIDITY HAD SET IN BY THE TIME THE PATIENT SOUGHT MEDICAL TREATMENT. MEDICAL SUPPLIES ARE SUFFICIENT FOR PRESENT NEEDS.

3. IT APPEARS THAT MANY OF THE REFUGEES WHO ARRIVED IN BIEN HOA CITY DURING THE FIRST FEW DAYS OF THE TET OFFENSIVE HAD BEEN DISPLACED FROM THEIR HOMES BY MILITARY OPERATIONS; MOST OF THEM HAVE NOW RETURNED TO THEIR HOMES. ONLY ABOUT 1,000 REFUGEES NOW REMAIN IN BIEN HOA CITY. U.S. ARMY SUPPLIED FOOD STOCKS ALLEVIATED THE FOOD SUPPLY PROBLEM DURING THE OFFENSIVE, AND LOCALLY PRODUCED FOODS ARE AGAIN IN THE MARKET.

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