

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Intelligence Information Cable

IN -53350

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GROUP 1
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DIST 18 FEBRUARY 1968

COUNTRY SOUTH VIETNAM

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SUBJECT SITUATION IN THE PROVINCES OF IV CORPS AS OF
1300 HOURS ON 18 FEBRUARY 1968

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1. ENEMY INITIATED ACTIVITY PICKED UP THROUGHOUT THE IV CORPS AREA ON THE NIGHT OF 17-18 FEBRUARY 1968 WITH 30 INCIDENTS REPORTED CONSISTING OF 26 MORTARINGS, TWO GROUND ASSAULTS AND TWO HARRASSMENTS. ALLIED PERSONNEL SUFFERED EIGHT KILLED AND 73 WOUNDED IN THE ACTIONS WHILE THE VIET CONG (VC) HAD 16 KILLED, 47 VC CAPTURED AND 82 SUSPECTS ARE BEING DETAINED. 18 VC WEAPONS WERE CAPTURED INCLUDING ONE 75MM PACK HOWITZER.

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2. FOLLOWING IS THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME OF ATTACKS WHICH TOOK PLACE IN THE VARIOUS IV CORPS PROVINCES:

A. KIEN TUONG PROVINCE REPORTED THAT AT APPROXIMATELY 0100 HOURS THIS MORNING TWO NEW LIFE HAMLETS IN THE PROVINCE WERE OVERRUN WHILE AT THE SAME TIME TWO OUTPOSTS WERE MORTARED. NO CASUALTY FIGURES ARE AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME.

B. THE CITY OF CAO LANH IN KIEN PHONG PROVINCE WAS MORTARED AND ASSAULTED THIS MORNING FROM ABOUT 0105 HOURS UNTIL 0600 HOURS. THE GROUND ASSAULT WAS MADE BY A VC FORCE ESTIMATED SOMEWHAT LARGER THAN A COMPANY. FOUR VC WERE KILLED AND 8 A50 RIFLES WERE CAPTURED. TWO GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM (GVN) SOLDIERS WERE KILLED AND 16 WERE WOUNDED. THE VC ARE NOW REPORTEDLY TWO KILOMETERS OUTSIDE OF THE CITY AND THE AIRSTRIP IS CONSIDERED INSECURE AT THE TIME OF THIS REPORT.

C. AT 0050 HOURS THIS MORNING THE CHAU PHU AIRPORT, CHAU DOC PROVINCE WAS HIT WITH 82MM MORTAR ROUNDS AND THE CITY OF CHU PHU ALSO MAY HAVE RECEIVED SOME ROUNDS. THE TRITON DISTRICT TOWN IN CHAU DOC PROVINCE WAS HIT AT 0100 HOURS THIS MORNING WITH 30 ROUNDS OF 82MM MORTAR. SEVERAL HOUSES WERE DESTROYED AND THE CASUALTY FIGURE IS UNKNOWN.

D. AT 0100 HOURS THIS MORNING THERE WERE TWO MORTAR

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ATTACKS ON SUB-SECTORS IN DINH TUONG PROVINCE AND A THIRD SUB-SECTOR WAS HIT AT 0250 HOURS. THE CAPITAL CITY OF MY THO WAS HIT WITH POSSIBLY AS MANY AS 100 ROUNDS OF 82MM AND 120MM MORTAR FIRE. THERE WAS ALSO A GROUND ATTACK MOUNTED ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY, HOWEVER IT AMOUNTED TO LITTLE IF ANYTHING. THE RDC COMPOUND IN MY THO TOOK A DIRECT HIT FROM A 120 MM MORTAR CAUSING EXTENSIVE DAMAGE TO THE MAIN HOUSE BUT THE ONLY CASUALTIES WERE TWO FILIPINO TECHNICIANS WHO RECEIVED SLIGHT WOUNDS.

E. BEN TRE CITY, KIEN HOA PROVINCE, WAS HIT AT 0100 HOURS THIS MORNING BY MORTARS AND A MILD GROUND ASSAULT. TWO SUB-SECTORS WERE MORTARED IN KIEN HOA AT 0135 HOURS. TWO FRIENDLY AND TWO VC PERSONNEL WERE KILLED IN THE ACTION AT BEN TRE.

F. IN VINH LONG CITY, VINH LONG PROVINCE, THE VC ATTACKED THE CITY EARLY THIS MORNING AND AT LAST REPORT THERE IS SOME FIGHTING IN THE CITY WITH AIR STRIKES BEING CONDUCTED 200 METERS FROM THE RDC HOUSE. MOST OF THE CIVILIANS HAVE BEEN EVACUATED BY APC FROM THIS PART OF THE CITY, HOWEVER THE RDC PERSONNEL ARE REMAINING IN THEIR HOUSE, BUT HAVE MADE MACV

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AWARE OF THEIR SITUATION SO THAT AN APC CAN BE SENT IN IF EVACUATION APPEARS WARRANTED. THE ATTACK BEGAN AT 0215 HOURS WITH A MORTAR BARRAGE FOLLOWED WITH A GROUND ASSAULT AGAINST THE OUTER PERIMETER OF THE CITY. AT 0205 HOURS AN ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM (ARVN) BOAT WAS HIT BY A B-40 ROCKET ROUND ONE KILOMETER OUT FROM THE CITY CAUSING THREE ARVN SOLDIER TO BE WOUNDED.

G. IN VINH BINH PROVINCE LAST NIGHT ONE OUT_POST WAS ATTACKED KILLING THREE POPULAR FORCE (PF) SOLDIERS AND WOUNDING THREE OTHERS. CANG LONG DISTRICT TOWN WAS MORTARED AND THE VC BLEW UP A NEW BRIDGE IN THE PROVINCE.

H. RACH GIA CITY, KIEN GIANG PROVINCE, WAS MORTARED AT 0015 HOURS THIS MORNING WOUNDING TWO PF SOLDIERS, TWO POLICEMEN AND 10 CIVILIANS.

I. BOTH CAN THO AN BINH TUY AIRFIELDS IN PHONG DINH PROVINCE WERE HIT LAST NIGHT. THE ATTACKS BEGAN AT 0100 HOURS. CAN THO AIRFIELD RECEIVED 20 TO 30 ROUNDS OF MIXED 120MM MORTAR, 82MM MORTAR AND 75MM RECOILLESS RIFLE FIRE. SEVEN U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL WERE WOUNDED. THE U.S. SPECIAL FORCES DISPENSARY AND MEDICAL STOREROOM WAS DESTROYED BY A

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DIRECT HIT. ALSO THREE BARRACKS WERE HIT, THE PX WAS DAMAGED AND TWO TRUCKS WERE HIT ONE OF WHICH WAS HEAVILY DAMAGED. AT BINH TUY ONE U.S. SOLDIER WAS KILLED AND TWO WOUNDED WHEN 15 ROUNDS OF 75MM RECOILLESS RIFLE /^{FIRE}STRUCK THE BARRACKS AREA.

ALSO, THE CHAU THANH DISTRICT CITY OF CAI RANG WAS HIT WITH 20 ROUNDS OF 75MM RECOILLESS/^{RIFLE FIRE}CAUSING TWO ARVN AND TWO CIVILIANS TO BE WOUNDED. AN OUTPOST IN CHAU THANH WAS ASSAULTED BY A 200 MAN FORCE THIS MORNING AT 1000 HOURS.

J. IN CHUONG THIEN PROVINCE THE LONG MY DISTRICT TOWN WAS MORTARED BUT NO DAMAGE OR CASUALTY FIGURES ARE AVAILABLE.

K. AT 0210 HOURS THIS MORNING, SOC TRANG CITY, BA XUYEN PROVINCE WAS MORTARED. NO CASUALTY FIGURES ARE KNOWN, BUT SOME HOUSES WERE BURNED. AT 0305 HOURS THE SOC TRANG AIRFIELD WAS HIT BY RECOILLESS RIFLE FIRE KILLING ONE U.S. SOLDIER AND WOUNDING SEVEN OTHERS. TWO HELICOPTERS WERE DAMAGED AND ONE TRUCK WAS DESTROYED.

L. BOTH THE DONG THOI AND NAM CAN DISTRICT TOWNS IN AN XUYEN PROVINCE WERE MORTARED LAST NIGHT RESULTING IN ONE REGIONAL FORCE (RF) SOLDIER BEING KILLED AND ONE ARVN SOLDIER BEING WOUNDED.

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