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Intelligence Information Cable

• PRIORITY
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DIST 10 FEBRUARY 1968

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COUNTRY: SOUTH VIETNAM

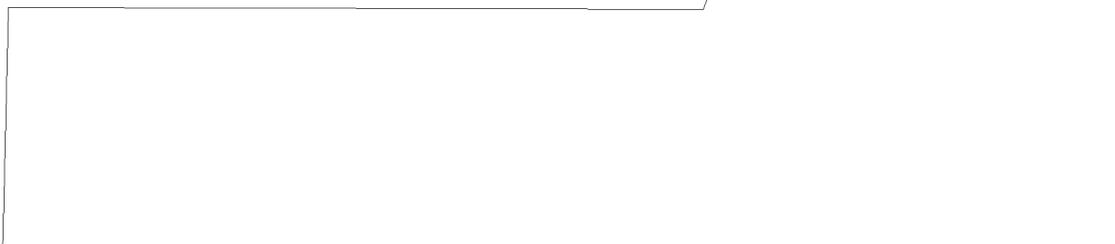
DOI: 31 JANUARY - 7 FEBRUARY 1968

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF VIET CONG POLITICAL AND MILITARY ACTIVITIES
IN QUANG TRI PROVINCE SINCE THE BEGINNING OF ENEMY TET
OFFENSIVE.

ACQ: VIETNAM, DANANG (9 FEBRUARY 1968)

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SOURCE:



(SUMMARY: ENEMY FORCES CONTINUE MOVING IN THE AREA OF QUANG TRI CITY. AIMS OF ENEMY UNITS APPEAR TO INCLUDE INTERDICTION OF THE CUA VIET RIVER SUPPLY ROUTE, SUPPRESSION OF USMC ARTILLERY AT CAMP CARROLL IN CONJUNCTION WITH NVA EFFORTS IN THE KHE SANH AREA, AND POSSIBLY AN ATTACK ON QUANG TRI CITY. REFUGEES FROM RD AREAS, NOW IN QUANG TRI CITY, HAVE COMPLAINED OF VC ATROCITIES, LOOTING, AND FAMILIES HELD HOSTAGE TO FORCE GVN OFFICIALS TO PROPAGANDIZE

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FOR THE VC IN QUANG TRI CITY. THE REFUGEES ARE CRITICAL OF U.S. AND GVN FORCES FOR LACK OF PROTECTION AND FAILURE TO RECLAIM THE AREAS. THEY ALSO HAVE BEEN CRITICAL OF VIETNAMESE NEWS OR LACK OF SAME, ON THE NORTHERN PROVINCES. TALK OF NEGOTIATIONS AND COEXISTENCE GOVERNMENT AND SACRIFICE OF QUANG TRI AND THUA THIEN PROVINCES IS INCREASING, CAUSED IN PART BY THE VC ATTACK ON LANG VEI. THE REFUGEES ALSO REPORT THAT THE VC ARE FORCING YOUTHS INTO CIVIL DEFENSE MILITIA TO FREE VC MAIN FORCES TO RE-ATTACK QUANG TRI CITY. THE PEOPLE ARE BEING TOLD TO MAKE SPEARS AND SWORDS TO BE USED FOR A GENERAL UPRISING. THE REVOLUTIONARY DAI VIETS AND THE VIETNAM NATIONALIST PARTY (VNODD) HAVE OVERCOME THEIR TRADITIONAL ENMITY TO FORM AN ANTI-VC FRONT WHICH HAS PROCLAIMED ITS SUPPORT FOR THE GVN. END SUMMARY.)

1. THE 823TH, 814TH AND 816TH VC/NVA BATTALIONS ARE STILL OPERATING IMMEDIATELY NORTHEAST OF QUANG TRI CITY IN UNKNOWN STRENGTH. [REDACTED]

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THE BA LONG VALLEY IS LITERALLY "CRAWLING" WITH ENEMY FORCES AND THAT THEY ARE WORKING THEIR WAY EAST TOWARD QUANG TRI CITY. A SIMILAR CONDITION IS SAID TO EXIST ALONG NATIONAL ROUTE NO. 9 IN THE VICINITY OF THE CA LU OUTPOST.

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2.

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THE 270TH NVA

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REGIMENT HAS WITHDRAWN TO NORTH VIETNAM, WHILE THE 303RD NVA REGIMENT APPARENTLY HAS THE MISSION OF INTERDICTING THE CUA VIET RIVER SUPPLY ROUTE AND HAS BEEN OPERATING IN THE VICINITY OF YD2667.

3. THE APPARENT MISSION OF THE 320TH NVA DIVISION IS TO SUPPRESS HEAVY USMC ARTILLERY AT CAMP CARROLL IN CONJUNCTION WITH NVA EFFORTS IN THE KHE SANH COMBAT BASE AREA. ON 6 FEBRUARY AN UNKNOWN FORCE OF APPROXIMATELY 400 ATTACKED THE LANG VEI SPECIAL FORCES CAMP JUST SOUTH OF KHE SANH, AND SUCCEEDED IN OVERRUNNING THE CAMP WITH THE AID OF NINE T-34 SOVIET TANKS.

4. THE BATTLE FOR QUANG TRI HAS PRODUCED ABOUT 3,000 NEW REFUGEES TO DATE, PRIMARILY FROM THE RD AREAS IN TRIEU PHONG DISTRICT. AT LEAST THREE NEW LIFE HAMLETS HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY DESTROYED. REFUGEES FROM THESE HAMLETS HAVE BEEN STREAMING INTO QUANG TRI CITY WITH STORIES OF VC ATROCITIES, I.E., SHOOTINGS, LOOTINGS, AND TORTURE OF CIVILIANS. MANY OF THESE REFUGEES HAVE BLAMED ARVN FOR NOT AIDING THEM IN RECLAIMING THE RD AREAS. THEY SAY THE VC/NVA CAME THERE EIGHT DAYS AGO AND NOTHING HAS BEEN DONE TO DRIVE THEM OFF. THE AMERICANS HAVE ALSO BEEN CRITICIZED FOR NOT INITIATING MORE OPERATIONS IN THIS AREA, AND PARTICULARLY

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FOR NOT BRINGING ANY AIR STRIKES. (COMMENT: SINCE THE TET SEASON BEGAN, THE WEATHER IN QUANG TRI HAS DETERRED GREATLY AIR OPERATIONS.)

5. ALTHOUGH TALK OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE AMERICANS AND THE NFLSV FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COALITION GOVERNMENT WAS SLIGHT FOR THE PAST FEW DAYS, THERE IS INCREASING EVIDENCE THAT THIS IS GAINING MOMENTUM. MANY PEOPLE FEEL THAT THE ATTACK ON LANG VEI SPECIAL FORCES CAMP IS PROOF THAT THE AMERICANS ARE GOING TO GIVE QUANG TRI AND THUA THIEN PROVINCES TO NORTH VIETNAM TO PRECIPITATE PEACE TALKS. ALONG THE SAME LINES, A GOOD DEAL OF COMMENT HAS BEEN HEARD ABOUT THE CONTRAST IN NEWS REPORTING BY RADIO SAIGON AND THE VOICE OF AMERICA (VOA) AND THE BRITISH BROADCASTING COMPANY (BBC), THE FACT THAT RADIO SAIGON INITIALLY REPORTED THAT QUANG TRI WAS IN COMPLETE CONTROL OF THE NVA AND THEN REPORTED LESS AND LESS NEWS ABOUT NORTHERN PROVINCES, AND LACK OF ACCURATE INFORMATION ABOUT THE CONDITIONS IN HUE ARE CITED AS EXAMPLES. THE VOA AND THE BBC, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAVE BEEN REPORTING MORE AND MORE ABOUT THE NORTHERN PROVINCES AND THE PEOPLE HAVE CONFIDENCE IN THESE REPORTS. (COMMENT: THE ACCURACY OF THIS ALLEGATION IS NOT KNOWN, BUT THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT PEOPLE BELIEVE IT.)

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6. IN THE RD AREAS, WHERE AT LEAST THREE ENEMY BATTALIONS ARE STILL LOCATED, REFUGEES REPORT THAT HAMLET YOUTH ARE BEING FORMED INTO CIVIL DEFENSE MILITIA FOR THE PURPOSE OF FREEING THE VC MAIN FORCE BATTALIONS TO RE-ATTACK QUANG TRI CITY. THE HAMLET PEOPLE ARE BEING CONTINUALLY PROPAGANDIZED THAT THE VC/NVA ARE WINNING IN QUANG TRI, CITING THE LACK OF ARVN OPERATIONS AS PROOF THE PEOPLE ARE BEING TO MAKE SWORDS AND SPEARS FOR A GENERAL UPRISING. A FEW REPORTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED OF THE MURDER OF HAMLET OFFICIALS AND POPULAR FORCE SOLDIERS. REPORTS THAT THE FAMILIES OF GVN OFFICIALS ARE BEING HELD AS HOSTAGE WHILE THE HUSBANDS ARE FORCED TO GO INTO QUANG TRI CITY EITHER TO BUY FOOD STUFFS OR TO SPREAD VC PROPAGANDA TO THEIR FRIENDS IN THE GVN ARE MORE NUMEROUS.

7. TRADITIONAL ENMITY BETWEEN THE REVOLUTIONARY DAI VIETS AND THE VNQDD SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN ELIMINATED BY THE PRESENT CRISIS. SOME KIND OF A JOINT ANTI-VC FRONT HAS BEEN FORMED WHICH HAS PROCLAIMED ITS SUPPORT FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM. NO PROGRAM OF SPECIFIC ACTION HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED TO DATE, BUT THIS FRONT IS ENJOYING A GOOD DEAL OF POPULAR SUPPORT, WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN THE REASON FOR ITS FORMATION IN THE FIRST PLACE.

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