COUNTRY: SOUTH VIETNAM

DOI: 31 JANUARY - 2 FEBRUARY 1968

SUBJECT: VIET CONG PLAN TO SEIZE SAIGON IN SECOND PHASE OF ATTACK

ACQ: VIETNAM, SAIGON (3 FEBRUARY 1968)

SOURCE: 

REF.: 

THE FOLLOWING IS AN ELABORATION ON THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE REFERENCE.

1. FIGURE OF 23 TO 30 BATTALIONS IS BASED ON BATTALION STRENGTH COUNCIL OF 350 PERSONNEL AND MAY NOT BE EXCESSIVE.

   AVERAGE BATTALION

FIGURE SINCE ACCORDING TO THEM LARGE BATTALIONS HAVE STRENGTH OF APPROX 400 AND SMALLER BATTALIONS HAVE STRENGTH OF APPROX 200 LOCAL VC "BATTALIONS" MAY HAVE TOTAL STRENGTH OF ONLY 30 TO 120 PERSONNEL.
2. **STRENGTH** 3.3(h)(2)

OF VC IN MR-4 AREA AS 9500 TO 6000. IF THIS FORCE HAS BEEN AUGMENTED, FIGURE OF 25 TO 30 BATTALIONS EACH OF 550 PERSONNEL MAY BE QUITE CLOSE TO TRUE FIGURE.

3. NOT ABLE AT THIS TIME GET TESTIMONY OR DOCUMENTS WHICH MENTION SECOND STAGE OF ATTACK. INFORMATION CAME FROM TWO POUS, CA VAN TY AKA TU TY WHO WAS COMPANY COMMANDER THIRD COMPANY, SIXTH Bn, 165A REGIMENT AND WHO MADE DEATHED STATEMENT. OTHER POU WAS LE VAN BE AKA BAY KIET WHO WAS POLITICAL CADE OFFICER SAME ORGANIZATION.

POUS INDIVIDUALLY STATED THAT THE ATTACKING VC UNITS WERE TO HOLD THEIR POSITIONS IN PRECINCTS 5, 6, 7 AND 8 UNTIL THE "SECOND STAGE OF ATTACK". THE SECOND STAGE WOULD CONSIST OF TWO VC RESERVE DIVISIONS MOVING DOWN INTO THE CITY FROM THE NORTH FROM THE DIRECTION OF EACH MANG.

IN ADDITION, THE VC CAPTURE OF CHI NGO PRISON WOULD HAVE RELEASED AN ADDITIONAL THREE THOUSAND VC TO TAKE PART IN THE "SECOND PHASE".

4. THESE PRISONERS AND FIVE OTHERS CLAIMED THAT THERE WERE "MORE THAN THIRTY BATTALIONS" IN THE AREA REFERRED TO IN PARA 1 ABOVE.
WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE OBTAIN ANY HARD INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES THAT WOULD HELP IDENTIFY OR CLARIFY "SECOND PHASE OF ATTACK". IT QUITE POSSIBLE THAT THIS WAS VC PROPAGANDA INTENDED TO MAINTAIN THE MORALE OF THEIR OWN TROOPS.