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UPI-8

(TET TRUCE)

SAIGON--THE COMMUNIST NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT TODAY ORDERED ALL VIET CONG UNITS IN SOUTH VIETNAM TO STRICTLY OBSERVE A SEVEN-DAY LUNAR NEW YEAR TRUCE AT TET BEGINNING FEB. 8.

THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT WAS REPORTEDLY CONSIDERING TODAY WHETHER TO ACCEPT THE WEEK-LONG TRUCE, WHICH WAS PROPOSED BY THE COMMUNISTS SATURDAY.

THE GOVERNMENT DECISION WAS BEING MADE IN VIEW OF SOME 300 COMMUNIST "INCIDENTS" DURING THE TWO 48-HOUR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S CEASE-FIRES.

PREMIER NGUYEN CAO KY, WHO ORIGINALLY SUGGESTED A FOUR-DAY CEASE-FIRE LATER WARNED THE ALLIES MIGHT CANCEL THE TET TRUCE ALTOGETHER BECAUSE OF WIDESPREAD COMMUNIST DISREGARD FOR THE EARLIER ONES.

THE COMMUNIST ORDER TO OBSERVE THE TRUCE WAS BROADCAST BY THE CLANDESTINE LIBERATION RADIO AND REBROADCAST BY RADIO HANOI. IT TOLD VIET CONG GUERRILLAS "TO CEASE MILITARY ATTACKS ON PUPPET (SOUTH VIETNAMESE), U.S. AND SATELLITE TROOPS FROM 7 A.M. SAIGON TIME FEB. 8 TO 7 A.M. SAIGON TIME ON FEB. 15." (FROM 6 P.M. EST FEB. 7 TO 6 P.M. EST FEB. 14.)

NOTING KY'S WARNING THE ALLIES MIGHT CANCEL THE TRUCE, THE RADIO THREATENED "SEVERE PUNISHMENT" AGAINST ANYONE VIOLATING THE TET CEASE-FIRE.

1/3--GE9A

Comment: At present, our side is committed to a four day truce extending from 0700, 8 February to 0700, 12 February.

These comments represent the initial and tentative reaction of the Office of Current Intelligence to the attached item from the news services.