

~~SECRET SAVIN~~

2/0/VCM/R27-68  
 SPOT REPORT  
 AVC,AVN/OPER-G-H/B.  
 24 JANUARY 1968 1714Z  
 DIST: OSCAR/VICTOR ALFA  
 PLUS USM-604, WHITE HOUSE  
 HCF

POSSIBLE IMMINENT VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS

IN COASTAL PROVINCES OF MILITARY REGION 5

A message transmitted from Hq, Military Region (MR) 5 Main Force Unit Control to the possible Hq, PAVN 21st Regiment, PAVN 2nd Division on 23 January signed by MINE SON (MINE SOWN, signal chief of Hq, MR 5) and addressed to "the signal chiefs (C-val of) all units" stated, "The situation is very tense. The Section 3's [i.e., signal sections] are to urge stations to abide by the stipulated communications [4 gr G, M] all schedules and call the watch regularly in order to receive orders and to report. I have stipulated the signal 303 as [QUOTE] have opened fire [UNQUOTE] for reporting purposes."

Though the above message was observed being transmitted to only the possible Hq, PAVN 21st Regiment, last located on 23 January near 15-28N 108-19E (BT 132104) in eastern Quang Tin Province, the internal address of the message "the signal chiefs (C-val of) all units" suggests that it may have also been transmitted to, or intended for, all Vietnamese Communist military units operating in the coastal provinces of MR 5 (Quang Nam, Quang Tin, Quang Ngai, Binh Dinh, Phu Yen, and Khanh Hoa) controlled by the Hq, MR 5 Main Force Unit Control.

SIGINT indicates that elements of the PAVN 2nd Division currently operating in the Quang Nam-Quang Tin Province area are currently in an attack posture.<sup>1</sup> Recent developments observed in communications of the PAVN 3rd Division operating in the Binh Dinh Province area indicate that the 3rd Division also may be repositioning. Hq, PAVN 3rd Division was last located on 23 January in eastern Binh Dinh Province near 14-13N 108-57E (BR 835725).

Recent information also suggests that Hq, MR 5 Main Force Unit Control has activated forward tactical elements in the PAVN 2nd and 3rd Division areas of operations. Activation of Hq, MR 5 forward tactical elements have, in the past, preceded Vietnamese Communist offensive operations.

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 1. 3/0/STY/R15-68

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