

~~SECRET SAVIN~~

2/0/VCM/R17-68  
 AVC,AVN/OPER-G-H/.  
 17 JANUARY 1968 2329Z  
 DIST: OSCAR/VICTOR KILO  
 PLUS USM-604, USM-626  
 HCF

EXPANDED ROLE OF MAJOR VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST AUTHORITY

IN NORTHERN BINH LONG PROVINCE INDICATED

Communications developments since early January suggest that the possible Hq, Unidentified Front located in northern Binh Long Province, Military Region (MR) 10, is assuming a more prominent role in the Vietnamese Communist military apparatus in South Vietnam. Since at least 10 January, the possible Unidentified Front Headquarters has been observed on one or more occasions attempting to establish contact with Hq, MR 2 and the possible Hq, MR 4 (South Vietnam).<sup>1</sup> In addition, activity on the radio links joining PAVN High Command (HC) in Hanoi with the probable Hq, MR 3; Hq, MR 5; and Hq, PAVN B3 Front suggests that communications between the latter authorities and the possible Unidentified Front Headquarters have either been or are in the process of being established. There also has been an indication that the Front Headquarters has attempted to establish contact with Hq, MR 6.<sup>2</sup> Further, on 10 January, HC sent messages to Hq, MR Tri-Thien-Hue with routing instructions indicating that they had been originated by the Unidentified Front Headquarters.

The possible Hq, Unidentified Front was last located on 15 January in northern Binh Long Province near the Cambodian border at 11-59N 106-31E (XU 653267). Prior to early January, the Front Headquarters maintained communications with HC; the Military Affairs Section of COSVN; the possible Hq, MR 10; the Hq, VC 9th Light Infantry Division (LID); a Hq, VC 5th LID element; the possible Hq, PAVN 7th Division; and the possible Hq, PAVN 88th Regiment.<sup>3</sup>

In the meantime, it appears that since early January control responsibility for certain region level subordinates of the Military Intelligence Bureau of COSVN (MIB COSVN) has been transferred to an MI authority--located in northern Binh Long Province near the possible Front Headquarters. This authority which may represent the MIS of the front communicates with the MIS's of MR's 1, 2, 4, 5, and possibly 6. It also may be communicating with the Central Research Directorate in Hanoi as well as MIB COSVN. Through December 1967, an element previously identified as the possible MIS of the front communicated only with lower level elements. On 16 January, this MI control authority was located near 11-58N 106-28E (XU 594245) less than 5 km from where the possible Unidentified Front Headquarters was located on 15 January.

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1. 2/G10/VCJ/R13-68 and 2/G10/VCJ/R14-68
  2. 2/G10/VCJ/R13-68
  3. 3/0/STY/R13-68

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2/0/VCM/R17-68  
SUPPLEMENT 1  
AVC,AVN/OPER-G-H/.  
23 JANUARY 1968 2210Z  
DIST: OSCAR/VICTOR KILO  
PLUS USM-604, USM-626  
HCF

SUPPLEMENT 1 TO

EXPANDED ROLE OF MAJOR VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST AUTHORITY

IN NORTHERN BINH LONG PROVINCE INDICATED (172329Z)

An additional shift of Viet Cong (VC) military intelligence (MI) control authority has apparently occurred in conjunction with the recent resubordination of certain major MI elements from the Military Intelligence Bureau (MIB) of COSVN to the possible Military Intelligence Section (MIS) of the unidentified possible front in northern Binh Long Province.

Specifically, between 17 December 1967 and 12 January, control authority for at least six of the seven elements below region level previously subordinate to the possible MIS of the front was apparently transferred to a new authority located in the Binh Long-Binh Duong Province border area. This control authority was located on 16 January near 11-22N 106-28E (XT 614548), just east of the Michelin Plantation. On 17 December, the possible MIS of the front ceased communications with the seven subordinates, and on 12 January the new control authority, utilizing the same signal plan formerly used by the possible MIS of the front, began to communicate with six of the seven subordinates. All of the subordinates are located in the Binh Long-Binh Duong Province area.

With the emergence of this control authority, there are now at least four major VC MI authorities in the Tay Ninh-Binh Long Province area. The other three are: the possible MIS of the Unidentified Front; MIB COSVN, located on 21 January near 11-35N 106-14E (XT 345812) in northern Tay Ninh, and controlling approximately 15 subordinates; and MIB COSVN Detached Element One, located on 19 January near 11-35N 106-20E (XT 446793), and controlling nine subordinates.

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