FOLLOW-UP NUMBER 9 TO
COORDINATED VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST OFFENSIVE EVIDENCED IN SOUTH VIETNAM (2523322)

Most recently available Vietnamese Communist military and military intelligence message activity of elements operating in the western Kontum and Pleiku Province areas continue to discuss the impending offensive in that region.

A message transmitted at 1015Z, 29 January, from the probable Hq, PAVN 1st Division element, last located on 25 January near 13-50N 107-26E (YA 641312), to the probable Hq, PAVN B3 Front authority, last located in the same general area on 25 January near 14-03N 107-22E (YA 559941), stated, "The enemy: from 0600 [Golf] hours to the present, L19s, helicopters and Cl30s were continuously active, with great strength in the areas of Chu Ba [13-53N 107-35E, YA 6436] and Chu Ngot [13-50N 107-33E, YA 7632] and at the river bank. The enemy is still located at Chu Ba and Chu Ngot. At present I have sent someone to stay close and confirm the area. We are at our former position. Artillery has fired on it but we have not been able to find a new position. You can rest assured as we vow to complete the mission. The problems continuously nourish us and give us additional strength with which to confidently carry out the mission."

In the western Kontum Province area the Military Intelligence Section (MIS, PAVN 1st Division, last located on 29 January near 14-43N 107-31E (YB 713288), instructed one of its subordinates, last located on 26 January near 14-34N 107-47E (YB 906128) as follows: "An element of K5 will also control B3 along with you. Be sure to work together resolutely, but be extremely calm in order to handle things. Mobilize the men to stretch out the rice supply as a precaution against hunger. Reply immediately concerning the location of the rice and route to follow to pick up so that headquarters can have it sent out. Comrade IDC [TWCJ] is to get in contact with Kl to obtain the investigation data and to indoctrinate the cadre and fighters."

On the same day this subordinate transmitted a message to the MIS which stated, "If there is any change in the time to open fire inform me immediately so that I can act at the right time. The enemy here has not had a cease-fire. They are continuing to search and fire. I am worried that we will not enter in time to open fire. We are determined to enter on time. The troops continue to move by night. Reply immediately." Another message of 29 January from the MIS to an unidentified and unlocated subordinate instructed that subordinate to report the enemy situation at his position every day and to maintain good communications.