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3/O/STY/R08-68
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SOUTHEAST ASIA SIGINT SUMMARY

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NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY
SOUTHEAST ASIA SIGINT SUMMARY

This report summarizes developments noted throughout Southeast Asia available to NSA at time of publication on 9 January 1968. All information in this report is based entirely on SIGINT except where otherwise specifically indicated.

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SITUATION SUMMARY

In South Vietnam, the alert posture being maintained by Vietnamese Communist units in the Quang Nam-Quang Tin Province border area of Military Region (MR) 5 continues to be reflected in SIGINT. In the western highlands, the possible Hq, PAVN 1st Division Forward Element reappeared in communications on 7 January and established contact with the suspected Hq, PAVN 174th Regiment in Kontum Province. Military intelligence elements of the 1st Division continue to report on both Communist and Allied activity in the vicinity of Dak To. In MR 1 the possible Hq, PAVN 101st Regiment reappeared in communications with an unidentified battalion-echelon subordinate located in Hau Nghia Province and a radio station serving COSVN apparently moved into Cambodia from Tay Ninh Province on 8 January. The relocation of an unidentified subordinate of Hq PAVN B3 Front into western Binh Long Province highlighted communications activity in MR 10.

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I. COMMUNIST SOUTHEAST ASIAA. MILITARY1. Vietnamese Communist Communications-South VietnamMilitary Region 5

Communications activity near the Quang Nam-Quang Tin border continues to reflect a tactical posture on the part of Vietnamese Communist units in that area. The possible Hq, PAVN 2nd Division Forward Element remains in control of the regiments subordinate to the division headquarters and continues to meet hourly radio schedules. The Hq, 2nd Division Provincial Unit Control (PUC)--located on 31 December near 15-39N 108-05E (AT 872323)--informed the probable Quang Nam Provincial Unit on 7 January that it was in a difficult situation.

In the western highlands, on 7 January the possible Hq, PAVN 1st Division Forward Element appeared in communications for the first time since 18 December 1967 and established contact with the suspected Hq, PAVN 174th Regiment, which had been silent since 2 January. The possible forward element was located in Cambodia adjacent to Kontum Province on 8 January near 14-32N 107-29E (YB 691094), approximately 27 km west of its 14 December location in western Kontum. On 7 January Hq, 174th Regiment was located in western Kontum near 14-30N 107-31E (YB 729041).

B-52 strikes were the subject of two recent messages sent to the Military Intelligence Section (MIS), 1st Division by a subordinate in the Dak To area. A message of 6 January stated that on 5 January at 1400(G) "B-52's bombed to the west of Ngoc Binh [14-37N 107-37E, YB 815180]." According to collateral, there was a B-52 strike in the areas west and southwest of Ngoc Binh on 5 January at approximately 1600(H). A message of 8 January reported "continuous day and night" bombing by B-52's.

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On 7 January, the MIS asked the subordinate if the "ground leveling assignment" had been completed. The subordinate replied that it had finished leveling the ground at Hill 1030 (14-32N 107-37E, YB 820076) and was at that time located "two hours northeast" of the hill. On 8 January, this subordinate was located southwest of Dak To near 1436N 107-33E (YB 760166).

In a 5 January message to a second subordinate in the Dak To area, the MIS Hq, 1st Division mentioned a Communist unit identified as the "Tiger Company of the Crawling Cat Battalion" (not further identified) and stated that the battalion was located at Ngoc Do Lan (14-35N 107-43E, YB 9214). The subordinate was instructed to go to the battalion's location if it needed rice. The MIS also informed the subordinate that two personnel were going to the subordinate's location to receive a "new assignment."

On 6 January, this subordinate reported to the MIS on Communist casualties, stating that "in the course of two clashes, two recoilless rifle comrades were slightly wounded," one by machinegun fire and the other by artillery fire. On 31 December this subordinate was located southwest of Dak To near 14-35N 107-19E (YB 957149).

A third subordinate, located on 7 January west of Dak To near 14-40N 107-41E (YB 905233) received a message from the MIS commending it for its communications work. The MIS stated that "the battalion sends its regards" and "on behalf of the commander of the battalion, I commend Station 1 for its recent record in assuring communications." This is the first SIGINT indication that the MIS, 1st Division may be composed of--or at least includes--a battalion-sized unit. A similar situation has been noted in the communications structure of the VC 9th Light Infantry Division (LID), in which the probable Hq, C95 Reconnaissance Company is part of the MIS, Hq, 9th LID and is responsible for tactical intelligence collection and reporting for the division.

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In southern MR 5, an unidentified subordinate of the Khanh Hoa Provincial Unit was located on 8 January in the central coastal region of the province near 12-19N 109-11E (CP 010620), 15 km north of its 13 December location.

To the south in the MR 10 area, an unidentified entity associated with the PAVN B3 Front was located on 8 January in the Quang Duc Province-Cambodia border area near 12-25N 107-35E (YU 807729), about 10 km southeast of its 3 January position within Cambodia. Also in the MR 10 area, recently available information indicates that the probable Darlac Provincial Unit moved into northern Quang Duc Province by at least 6 January to a position near 12-26N 107-54E (ZU 151761). Subsequent SIGINT locations obtained on 7 and 8 January have confirmed the relocation of this unit. This entity had been located on 26 December about 46 km to the northeast in southeastern Darlac Province near 12-29N 108-18E (BP 066811). Additional entities located in the provincial unit's new area of operations include an unidentified terminal associated with the B3 Front and a deployed element of the Hq, B3 Front PUC. The Darlac Provincial Unit has not been observed in communications with the deployed Hq, B3 Front PUC element since 2 January, possibly as a result of their relocations.

(2/G12/VCM/R0081-68, 082050Z; R0080-68, 081504Z; R0078-68, 081400Z; R0077-68, 081315Z; R0076-68, 081300Z; R0075-68, 081038Z; 2/G12/VCM/T78-68, 081031Z; T70-68, 071459Z; T[?]-68, 0711?5Z; T64-68, 070215Z; T63-68, 062135Z; T61-68, 061431Z; T53-68 051205Z) ~~(SECRET SAVIN)~~

Military Region 1

SIGINT of 8 January indicated that the radio terminal used by the Military Affairs Section (MAS) of COSVN to communicate with VC provincial units has moved approximately 20 km to the southeast to a position in northern Tay Ninh Province

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near 11-42N 106-17E (XT 410934). This move places the station in the same general area of other MAS COSVN radio terminals which communicate with all the MR headquarters; the Hq, VC 5th LID element operating in Long Khanh Province, and its subordinate regiment; and the Hq, VC 9th LID and its subordinate regiments.

On 8 January at 0223Z, a radio station serving COSVN was located in northern Tay Ninh Province near 11-42N 106-05E (XT 174930). Subsequently, at 0744Z, this station was located in Kompong Cham Province, Cambodia near 11-46N 106-21E (XT 473991), 30 km east northeast of its previous location.

According to collateral, Allied Operation YELLOWSTONE began on 8 December 1967 and continues to be conducted in northern Tay Ninh.

In other developments, on 7 January the possible Hq, PAVN 101st Regiment reappeared in communications with an unidentified battalion-echelon subordinate that is located in northern Hau Nghia Province. During this communications activity--the first contact observed between these two entities since 28 November 1967--the regiment received four messages from its subordinate. The subordinate previously attempted to establish contact with the regiment on several occasions throughout December. Additionally, between 4 and 12 December the possible Hq, 101st Regiment attempted to establish communications with another unidentified and unlocated subordinate, which was first noted on 14 November 1967. The possible regimental headquarters was last observed in communications with the tentative Hq, PAVN 7th Division Forward Element on 30 September 1967.

The possible Hq, 101st Regiment was last located on 13 December near 11-14N 106-26E (XT 560414) in western Binh Duong Province. The subordinate in Hau Nghia Province was

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located on 2 January near 11-06N 106-30E (XT 641258).

In other activity, a 6 January message passed to the MIS, MR 1, by a subordinate in the Long Khanh-Bien Hoa Province border area reported that "the enemy from Song Thao conducted an ambush on our road" but that the subordinate had suffered no ill effects. According to collateral, the Song Thao River runs from 11-00N 107-01E (YT 2117) to 10-57N 107-04E (YT 2612). The subordinate further reported that during "the recent sweep operation," its base camp was not "upset" and that no property was damaged.

In an earlier message on 6 January, the subordinate reported to the MIS that "the enemy seized our rice and poured it out" along an undetermined road. The subordinate was located on 8 January in the Bien Hoa-Long Khanh Province border area near 10-53N 107-06E (YT 299043).

(2/G10/VCM/T42-68, 061520Z; T40-68, 061247Z; 2/G10/VCY/R09-68, 082140Z; 2/G10/VCJ/R08-68, 081619Z) ~~(SECRET SAVIN)~~

Military Region 10

An unidentified subordinate of Hq, PAVN B3 Front was located on 1 January in western Binh Long Province near the Cambodian border at 11-45N 106-26E (XT 561996), approximately 75 km southwest of its 14 December position in Phuoc Long Province. This element continued to communicate with the B3 Front through 4 January, and the Front attempted unsuccessfully to contact the subordinate on 5 January. SIGINT reveals that this unit was formerly located in the Kontum-Pleiku-Darlac Province area and began its southward movement in November 1967.

In other activity, in a message of 6 January a subordinate of the probable Hq, C95 Reconnaissance Company, MIS, VC 9th LID reported that because of artillery fire, it was having difficulty counting Allied vehicle traffic on an unspecified highway (probably Route 13) in central Binh Long Province. This

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subordinate--located on 7 January near 11-39N 106-34E (XT 700874)--continues to report on Allied air and ground activity to the west of Hon Quang (11-39N 106-36E, XT 7487) through at least 8 January.

(2/G10/VCM/T45-68, 070300Z; 2/G10/VCJ/R08-68, 081619Z;
2/O/VCM/R272-67, 212156Z DEC; 3/O/STY/R299-67) ~~(SECRET SAVIN)~~

Military Region 2

On 7 January Alternate Hq, MR 2 was noted passing high volumes of 44 messages to the tentative Long An Provincial Unit, 12 messages to the tentative Kien Tuong Provincial Unit and 12 messages to the My Tho Provincial Unit (MTPU). The normal message volume to these provincial units is about four per day. The element of Alternate Hq, MR 2 which communicates with VC main force units moved from its normal base area on the Cambodian-northern Kien Phong Province border to western Dinh Tuong Province near 10-25N 105-58E (XS 058525) between 22 December and 1 January.

Recently, three other Vietnamese Communist units have also relocated to western Dinh Tuong: the tentative MTPU; an unidentified Party-associated element; and the tentatively identified VC 263rd Battalion.

In Dinh Tuong Province on 7 and 8 January two unidentified VC Party-associated elements were located in the western portion of the province at 10-23N 106-02E (XS 1151), approximately 14 km west of their former location near 10-25N 106-08E (XS 2654) on 31 December 1967 and 5 January.

(2/O/VCM/R03-68, 082203Z; 2/G10/VCM/R011-68, 081334Z;
2/G10/VCJ/R007-68, 071621Z; 3/O/STY/R07-68) ~~(SECRET SAVIN)~~

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Military Region 3

On 8 January the Probable Vinh Long Provincial Committee (VLPC) a subordinate of the Region 3 Committee, was located by SIGINT in central Vinh Long Province at 10-05N 105-59E (XS 009148), approximately 16 km southeast of its 6 December location at 10-11N 105-51E (WS 949268). The VLPC was previously located in this area, from June through November 1966.
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2. DRV communicationsPAVN High Command/304th - 320th Divisions

On 7 January a message originated by an unidentified entity associated with MR 3 North was passed by Way Station BRAVO, indicating that this entity is located in the general area of station BRAVO in the DMZ. Messages originated by this same entity were also passed by station BRAVO on 20 and 29 December, and on 27 November the entity was noted in message activity on the watch group serving the DMZ Front. Recent SIGINT has associated this entity with the PAVN 320th Division, which prior to its deployment had been garrisoned in MR 3 North.

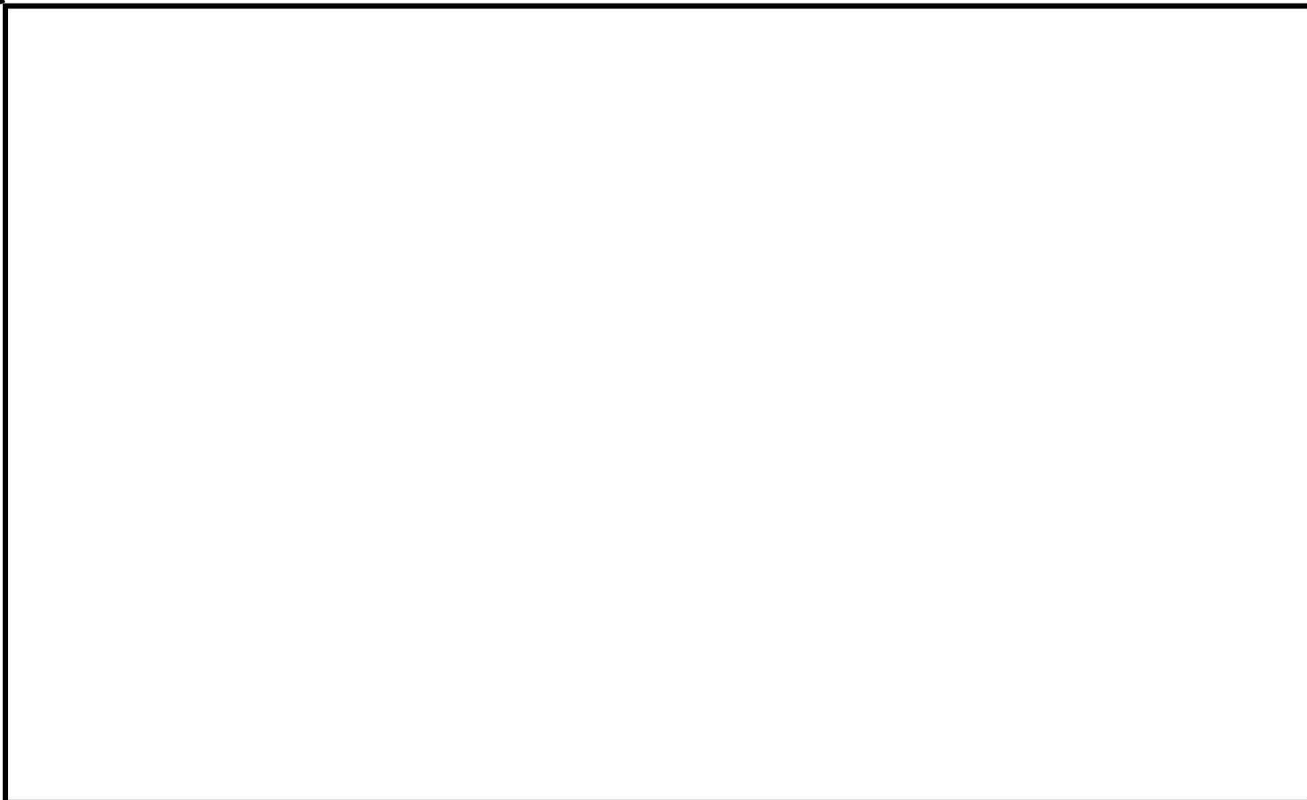
(3/O/STY/R283-67, R06-68) ~~(SECRET SAVIN)~~

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