

~~SECRET SAVIN~~

2/0/VCM/R69-68
 FOLLOW-UP NR 29 TO
 2/0/VCM/R32-68
 SPOT REPORT
 AVC,AVN/OPER-G-H,MTRL/B.
 7 FEBRUARY 1968 1850Z
 DIST: OSCAR/VICTOR AIFA
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 WHITE HOUSE
 HCF

FOLLOW-UP NR 29 TO

COORDINATED VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST

OFFENSIVE EVIDENCED IN SOUTH VIETNAM (252332Z JAN)

SIGINT has disclosed Communist plans for attacks on Chu Bok (13-52N 107-41E, YA 8833) in western Pleiku Province and on Cam Chinh township (16-52N 106-59E, YD 1151) in northern Quang Tri Province probably to commence on 8 or 9 February. Other evidence has revealed that the current phase of operations in the western highlands is referred to as "Phase Two," and that another phase is about to commence.

On 6 February at 0532Z, a probable PAVN 1st Division element in western Pleiku Province was informed, "One squad with yourself in command is to stay close in the Chu Bok or Sung Le [13-54N 107-40E, YA 8939] area to prepare a weapons position. I will take the 82mm mortars across to conduct a mortar attack. When preparations are completed, turn around and go back to PHAT's old location. Hand over the position to Comrades TRUONG and MUON who will come across for the mortar attack. Report the areas of activity in great detail." This message was passed to the probable 1st Division element by the probable Hq, PAVN B3 Front authority that has been discussing offensive operations since 16 January, and that was last located on 6 February near 14-03N 107-21E (YA 543547). The probable 1st Division element--located near 13-53N 107-34E (YA 782371) on 6 February--was later informed, "...thus on 8 or 9 February, Comrade QUANG's element [the probable 1st Division element] is to be at the present location in order to report on the enemy at Chu Bok for Comrades MUON and THUONG who are coming in to conduct a mortar attack. Since this is an attack order, you must be accurate (the positions, ranges, enemy situation, and terrain in detail)...."

Coincidentally, in northern Quang Tri Province, elements of the PAVN 27th Independent Battalion indicated that one platoon from the battalion in conjunction with guerrillas and local forces would "annihilate" the government personnel and self-defense force of Cam Chinh township. The estimated time of the attack was indicated as 8 or 9 February. Perhaps related, was a request by the 3rd Battalion, 803rd Regiment, for 82mm recoilless gun ammunition in order to interdict boat traffic on the Qua Viet estuary as well as Allied tank activity in the general area of Quan Ngang (16-53N 107-05E, YD 222678).

Meanwhile, Military Intelligence elements of the PAVN B3 Front operating near Kontum city made mention on 6 February of an "upcoming

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phase" and intensive surveillance of Allied transportation activity. The elements that exchanged these messages--control authority located on 15 January near 14-32N 108-02E (AS 806091) and the subordinate located on 25 December near 14-28N 108-08E (AS 860026)--have been reporting on Allied transportation activity in the Kontum city area since early December 1967.

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