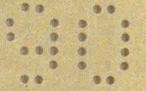


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SOUTHEAST ASIA SIGINT SUMMARY

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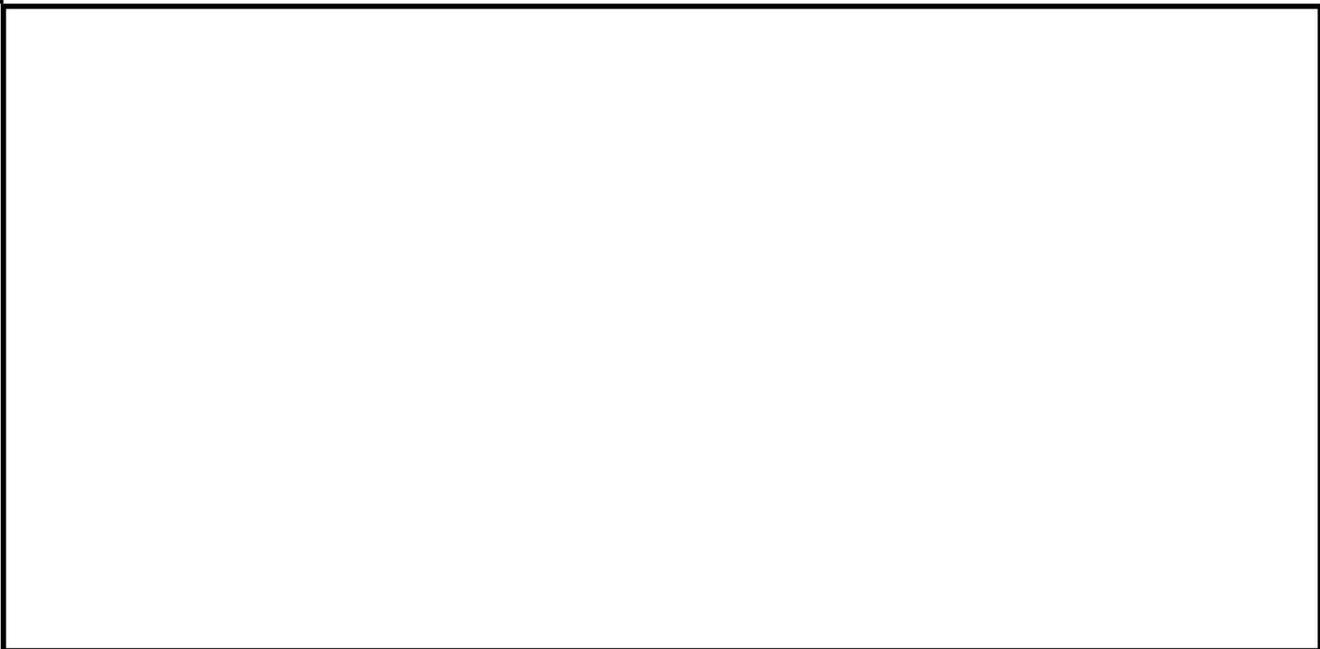
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NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY
SOUTHEAST ASIA SIGINT SUMMARY

This report summarizes developments noted throughout Southeast Asia available to NSA at time of publication on 18 February 1968. All information in this report is based entirely on SIGINT except where otherwise specifically indicated.

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SITUATION SUMMARY

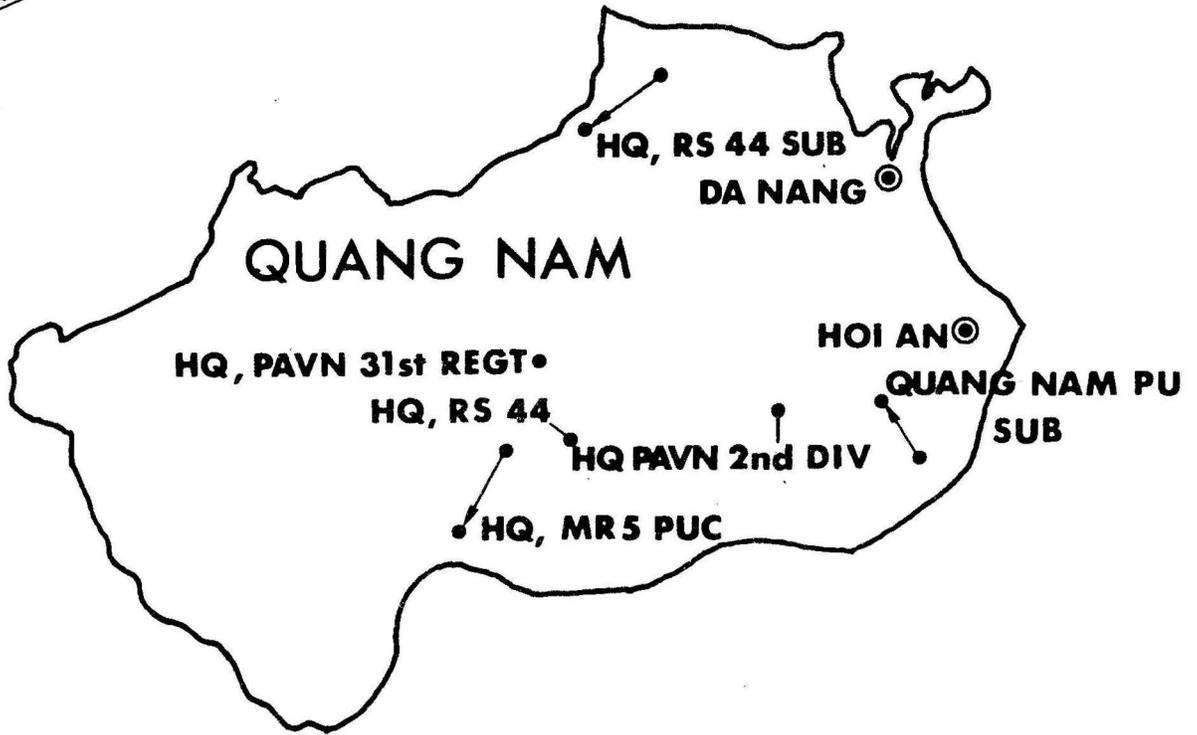
Relocations, indications of impending moves and reflections of Allied tactical activity highlighted activity in South Vietnam's Military Region (MR) 5. Additionally, during 16 and 17 February Hq, MR 5 passed an unusually high volume of messages to several subordinates located in the coastal provinces. In MR 4, a possible element of COSVN was located 9 km east of Saigon on 16 February, the first time that this entity has ever been observed outside COSVN's normal base area in Tay Ninh Province.

In the northwest corner of Quang Tri Province, a probable forward observer -- associated with the PAVN 325C Division in the Khe Sanh area -- was instructed to intensify his observation and report immediately any changes in Allied obstacles, fortifications and emplacements. In the eastern DMZ area communications of the PAVN 27th Independent Battalion indicated a possible impending action in the area of the DMZ. Farther south communications of the PAVN 803rd and 812th Regiments have reflected intensified activity in the area of Quang Tri city and both regiments have mentioned the area of Ngo Xa, 5 km northeast of the city.

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VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES IN QUANG NAM PROVINCE



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I. COMMUNIST SOUTHEAST ASIA

A. MILITARY

1. Vietnamese Communist Communications - South Vietnam

Military Region Tri-Thien-Hue

On 17 February, an element of the probable PAVN 6th Regiment mentioned an attack against Allied forces near Hue at An Hoa (16-29N 107-34E, YD 730232), and the occupying of unspecified positions, and coordinating with Company 9.

(2/G11/VCM/T1327-66, 171520Z) ~~(SECRET CAVIN)~~

Military Region 5

Vietnamese Communist units throughout MR 5 accomplished moves, reported their intent to relocate, and disclosed a variety of difficulties. Concurrently, Hq, MR 5 transmitted an unusually large volume of messages to a variety of subordinates in the region. During the period 1800Z on 16 February through 1659Z on the following day, Hq, MR 5 passed an unusually high number of messages to: Hq, PAVN 2nd Division; Hq, PAVN 3rd Division; the MR 5 Forward Tactical Element in Binh Dinh Province; the Binh Dinh Provincial Unit; the probable Hq, VC 401st Sapper Regiment; the suspected Hq, 1st or 3rd Battalion, 68th Artillery Regiment; the probable Hq, VC 402nd Sapper Battalion; and several other units associated with rear services activities.

In Quang Nam Province, Hq, MR 5 Provincial Unit Control was located on 16 February near 15-35N 107-49E (ZC 003256), 12 km south-southwest of its 15 February position. A subordinate of Hq, Rear Services Group 44 moved 24 km southwest between 8 and 17 February, when it was located near 16-03N 107-57E (ZC 172776) in the northeastern portion of the province. In east-central

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VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES IN MR 5



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Quang Nam, a subordinate of the probable Quang Nam Provincial Unit was located in the area of 15-52N 108-14E (BT 035536), 18 km northwest of its 13 February position. Other elements in Quang Nam reported a variety of difficulties, or their intent to move. Hq, Rear Services Group 44 reported on 15 February that it was surrounded; it was located at that time near 15-41N 107-57E (ZC 173368). On the same date, the Hq, 2nd Division--located on 14 February near 15-39N 108-02E (AT 825310)--indicated that it was under attack. The Hq, 2nd Division reported plans to move on 17 February. The possible Hq, PAVN 31st Regiment informed Hq, Rear Services Group 44 that it intended to move on 16 February; two days earlier it had been located in the vicinity of 15-54N 107-52E (ZC 062593). On 17 February, an unidentified radio terminal--last located on 9 February near 15-44N 108-10E (AT 972406)--reported that it was in combat.

In Binh Dinh Province, the Hq, MR 5 Forward Tactical Element informed the Hq, MR 5 Main Force Unit Control on 17 February that it was under attack. This element, located on 17 February near 14-04N 109-10E (CR 010536), also reported that it had been on the move during the period 15-17 February. In the central portion of the province, the Hq, PAVN 3rd Division, last located near 14-09N 108-54E (BR 733630) on 15 February, indicated on 17 February that it was about to move.

In Quang Ngai Province, the suspected Hq, 38th Local Force Battalion, located on 14 February near 14-57N 108-55E (BS 766521), reported that it was in a difficult situation on 17 February. In central Quang Ngai, the probable Hq, 401st Sapper Regiment also reported a difficult situation on 18 February. This unit was located near 15-07N 108-34E (BS 389722) on 16 February.

In Kontum Province, the suspected Hq, PAVN 174th Regiment was located on 16 February proximate to 14-23N 107-31E (YA 739915), 15 km south-southeast of its 11 February position. Also on the same day, an unidentified associate of the PAVN B3 Front was located near 14-17N 107-55E (ZA 155800), 15 km southwest of Kontum city, and 44 km north-northeast of this unit's 8 February position.

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A subordinate of the PAVN 1st Division was located in that same general area on 16 February, in proximity to 14-14N 107-56E (ZA 171758), 40 km northeast of its 8 February location. A suspected artillery unit moved about 27 km south-southwest between 9 and 17 February, when it was located near 14-31N 107-28E (YB 675068), in Cambodia near the Kontum Province border. Hq, PAVN 66th Regiment, 1st Division, was located on 17 February near 14-44N 107-38E (YB 856302), 17 km northwest of Dak To and 11 km northwest of its 15 February position.

In north-central Pleiku Province, an unidentified associate of the B3 Front was located near 14-09N 108-05E (AR 845641), 19 km north-northwest of Pleiku City and 15 km north of its 4 February position.

In the Darlac Province area, three units accomplished movements. An unidentified associate of the B3 Front was located on 16 February near 12-25N 107-53E (ZU 134715), approximately 20 km southwest of its 11 February location, and 38 km south-southwest of Ban Me Thuot. Another B3 Front associate was located nearby on 16 February at 12-26N 107-53E (ZU 133730), having moved there from a point 18 km to the northeast between 11 and 16 February. A radio terminal which is subordinate to the Hq, MR 5 Provincial Unit Control was located on 17 February near 12-29N 108-07E (AP 855806), approximately 32 km southeast of its 10 February position and 28 km southeast of Ban Me Thuot.

(2/G12/VCM/R518-68, 180410Z; R517-68, 180240Z; R513-68, 180150Z; R516-68, 172308Z; R515-68, 172200Z; R514-68, 172115Z; R512-68, 171858Z; R510-68, 171625Z; R509-68, 171550Z; R508-68, 171421Z; R506-68, 171113Z; R505-68, 171019Z; R503-68, 170743Z; R502-68, 170030Z; R499-68, 162050Z; R498-68, 161700Z; R497-68, 161635Z; R493-68, 161307Z; R489-68, 161215Z; R490-68, 161130Z; R488-68, 161045Z; R486-68, 161000Z) ~~(SECRET SAVIN)~~

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Military Region 1

On 16 February the radio station serving the Main Office of the Liberation News Agency (MLNA) was located near 11-42N 106-16E (XT 393932), about 2 km south of the Cambodia-north-central Tay Ninh Province border and approximately 52 km east-northeast of its 17 January location. COSVN was located on 16 February near MLNA at 10-42N 106-16E (XT 387915), the first time that SIGINT has located these two entities in this area of Tay Ninh Province.

(2/G10/VCY/R050-68 SPOT REPORT, 171429Z) ~~(SECRET SAVIN)~~

Military Region 2

From 1 through 10 February, the alternate Hq, MR 2 passed an unusually high volume of 122 messages to the suspected My Tho Provincial Unit (MTPU), a limited number of which were also being passed on one lane of the recently isolated communications group located within MR 2. During the comparable time frame in January, only 22 messages were observed being passed by the alternate headquarters to the suspected MTPU. The normal volume of messages passed on this lane is 4 to 10 daily.

The alternate Hq, MR 2 was located on 7 February in northern Chau Doc Province near the Cambodian border at 10-54N 107-02E (WT 229064), and the suspected MTPU was located on 13 February in central Dinh Tuong Province at 10-27N 106-08E (XS 259545).

Military Region 4

A possible element of COSVN has been located near Saigon, the first time this entity has been noted outside COSVN's base area in northwestern Tay Ninh Province since its first observance in June 1963. On 16 February, SIGINT located this radio station in Gia Dinh Province at 10-47N 106-49E (XS 983924), approximately

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9 km east of Saigon and about 126 km southeast of its
3 September 1967 location within the COSVN base area.

(2/O/VCY/R12-68 SPOT REPORT, in preparation) (~~SECRET SAVIN~~)

2. DRV Communications

DMZ Area

In the Khe Sanh area a probable forward observer associated with the PAVN 325C Division was instructed on 17 February to intensify his observation and report immediately any changes in Allied obstacles, fortifications, emplacements and the direction of aircraft landing at the air strip. The observer was queried specifically about the presence of "enemy" on Hill 595 (16-39N 106-41E, XD 825425). Messages from the observer indicated considerable difficulty due to fog in the area.

Messages by the PAVN 27th Independent Battalion on 16 February indicate possible impending action in the eastern DMZ. Companies 6 and 7 were informed that the Front would attach one company of the battalion to Bach Dang (possible PAVN 320th Division) for one battle. The time and location were unspecified. Another message on 16 February disclosed that a battalion detachment was ambushed on the night of 15 February at Khe Can (unlocated) but that Comrade KIEU (a high ranking individual of the Front) was safe.

On 16 and 17 February, communications of both the PAVN 803rd and 812th Regiments reflected intensified tactical activity near Quang Tri city with elements of both regiments mentioning Ngo Xa (16-46N 107-15E, YD 392543), 5 km northeast of the city. On 16 February, an element of the 803rd Regiment reported on Allied force of 321 men and 10 M41 tanks in the Bo Bang (16-50N 107-12E, YD 335627) area. The 1st Battalion, 803rd Regiment reported it would attack an American company at My Khe (16-46N 107-15E, YD 404555) if that company remained the night of 16 February. On the 17th, the 3rd Battalion reported it "did not wish to make

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further night attacks because the battlefield problems could not be resolved after the fighting." The 3rd Battalion later submitted a detailed reconnaissance report of an unspecified Allied position with a thickly planted mine field 40 meters wide, four fences of various types, and three blockhouses within the position. The 812th Regiment reported its 6th Battalion had killed 80 Americans and collected much equipment while resisting an Allied sweep operation. In a message of 17 February in which Ngo Xa was mentioned, an element of the 812th Regiment stated it would strike continuously to annihilate the "enemy" company by company in the townships of Hai Xuan, Hai Quy and Hai Trieu (all unlocated--probably near Quang Tri City).

Military Region 4

On 15 February, a message passed to the 66th Battalion, 275th Regiment (possibly AAA associated) from its subordinate probable 3rd company disclosed that nine vehicles belonging to "Regiment 290" had arrived. The 290th Regiment is carried in collateral as an AAA regiment, subordinate to the 367th Air Defense Command. On 28 and 29 January SIGINT indicated that a 238B Regiment was possibly passing through the tactical area of responsibility of the 66th Battalion. Both the 66th Battalion and its subordinate 3rd company are believed to be located in Nghe An Province, while the battalion headquarters is located in the vicinity of Nam Thuong (18-50N 105-24E, WF 4483).

(3/O/STY/R25-68; R26-68) ~~(SECRET SAVIN)~~

MR Northwest

Cumulative SIGINT since 27 December 1967 suggests that an element of the Hq, PAVN 316th Division and its two division subordinates are no longer active in North Vietnamese MR Northwest and may currently be in the process of operational deployment.

Indications of deployment by the division have included a possible split of the division headquarters, lack of communications

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between the division and PAVN High Command since 6 February, and the use of operational-type messages between the division and its subordinates from 27 December to 31 January. Although the current status and location of the PAVN 316th Infantry Division is not confirmed, both SIGINT and collateral suggest at least elements of the 316th are active in Laos.

(2/0/VCM/R92-68, 16----Z) ~~(SECRET SAVIN)~~

MR Viet Bac

Although the Hq, possible PAVN 305th (Airborne) Brigade has not been noted in communications with its three subordinates since late January, the possible headquarters was active in communication with Hq, MR Viet Bac as late as 12 February. Two of the subordinates were last located in the vicinity of 21-26N 106-21E (XJ 2452) in the Bac Giang area of MR Viet Bac, while the third was believed to be in Bac Thai Province. No explanation for the silence of the internal Brigade radio group is apparent.

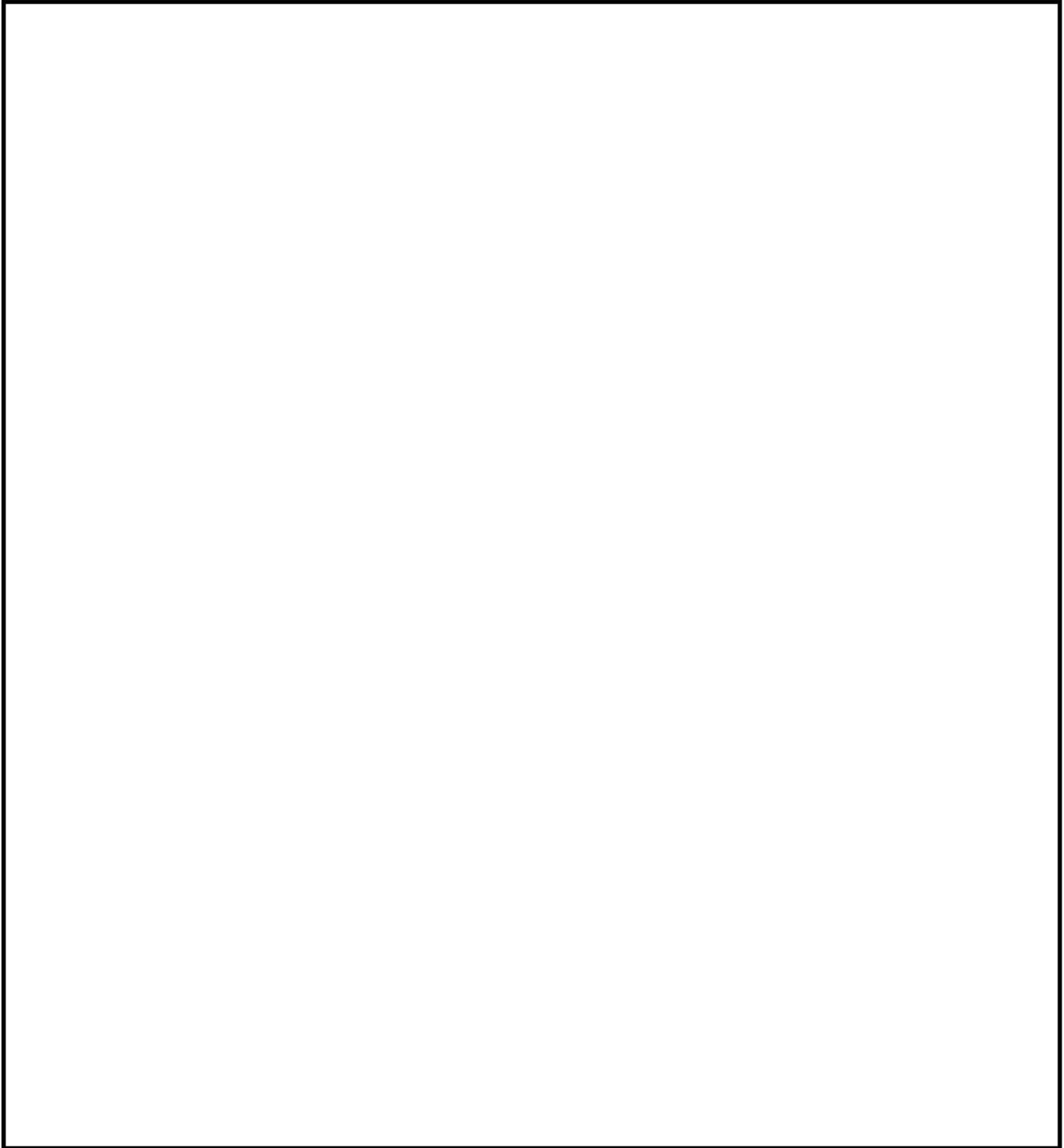
(2/0/VCM/R94-68, 162218Z) ~~(SECRET SAVIN)~~

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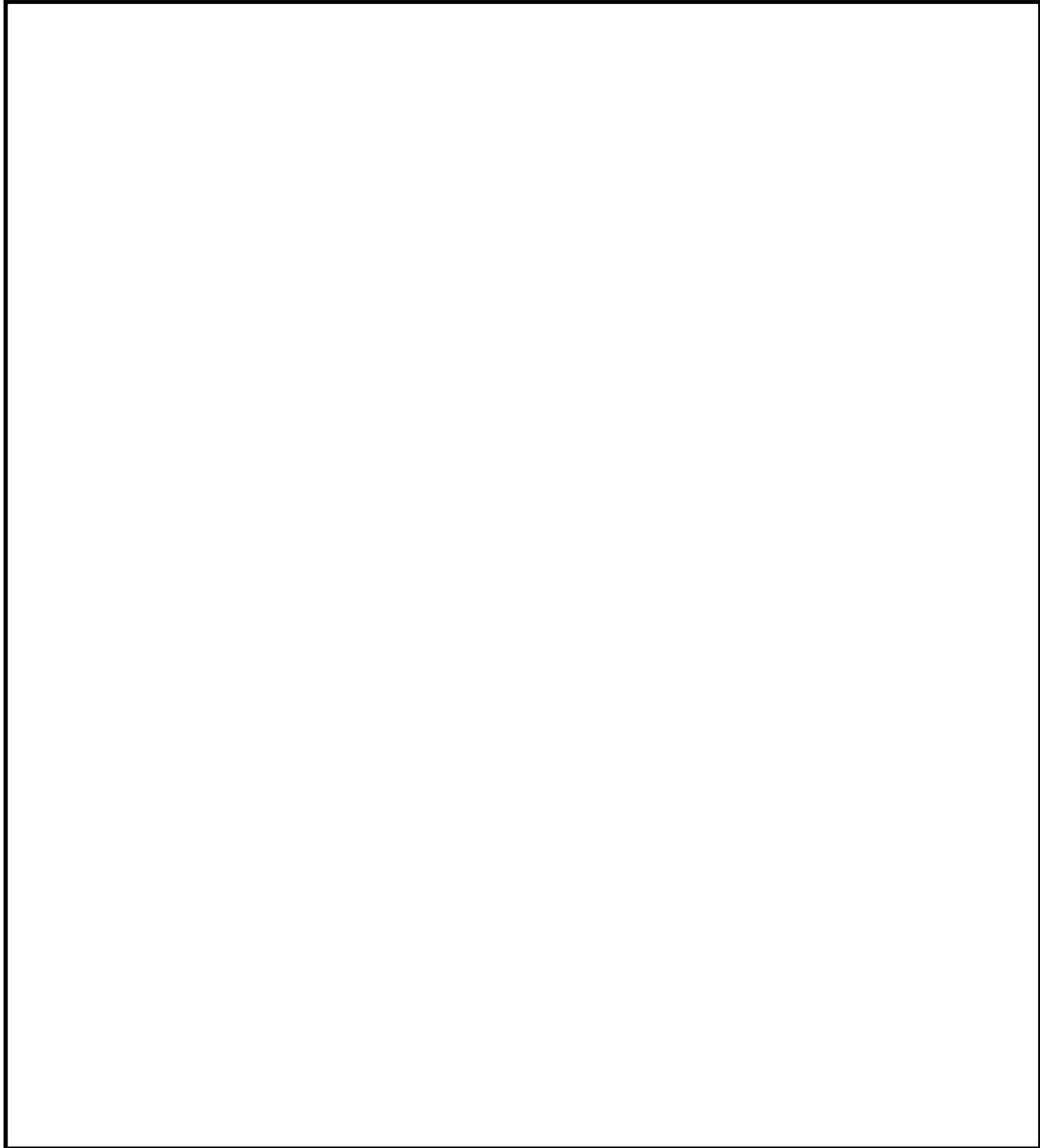


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