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3/O/STY/R47-68  
23 February 1968  
DIST: O/UT  
SEA SIGSUM 47-68

# SOUTHEAST ASIA SIGINT SUMMARY

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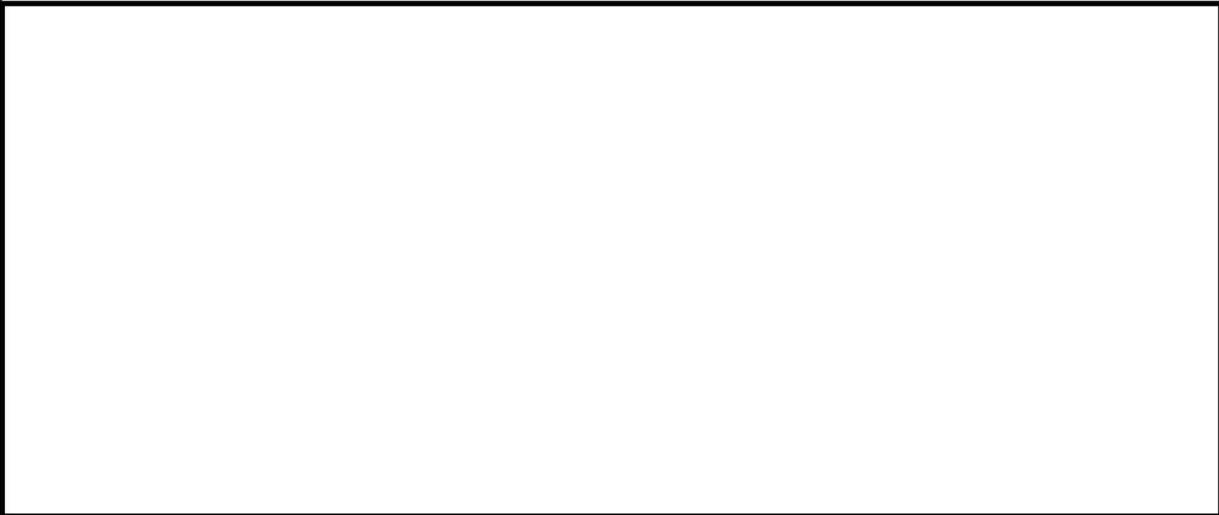
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NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY  
SOUTHEAST ASIA SIGINT SUMMARY

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This report summarizes developments noted throughout Southeast Asia available to NSA at time of publication on 23 February 1968. All information in this report is based entirely on SIGINT except where otherwise specifically indicated.

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SITUATION SUMMARY

The possible completion of a portion of Route 547 by 28 February was indicated in communications serving PAVN engineer elements in the A Shau Valley of South Vietnam's Military Region (MR) Tri-Thien-Hue. Activity in MR 5 was highlighted by reports of intent to move by units in Quang Nam and Binh Dinh Provinces, reflections of Communist troop conditions in the Dak To area of Kontum Province and relocations by units in Pleiku and Darlac Provinces. To the south in MR 1, a subordinate of the Military Intelligence Section, Viet Cong (VC) 5th Light Infantry Division appeared in communications for the first time since May 1967 and an unidentified control authority moved to a position about 15 km northwest of Bien Hoa Air Base.

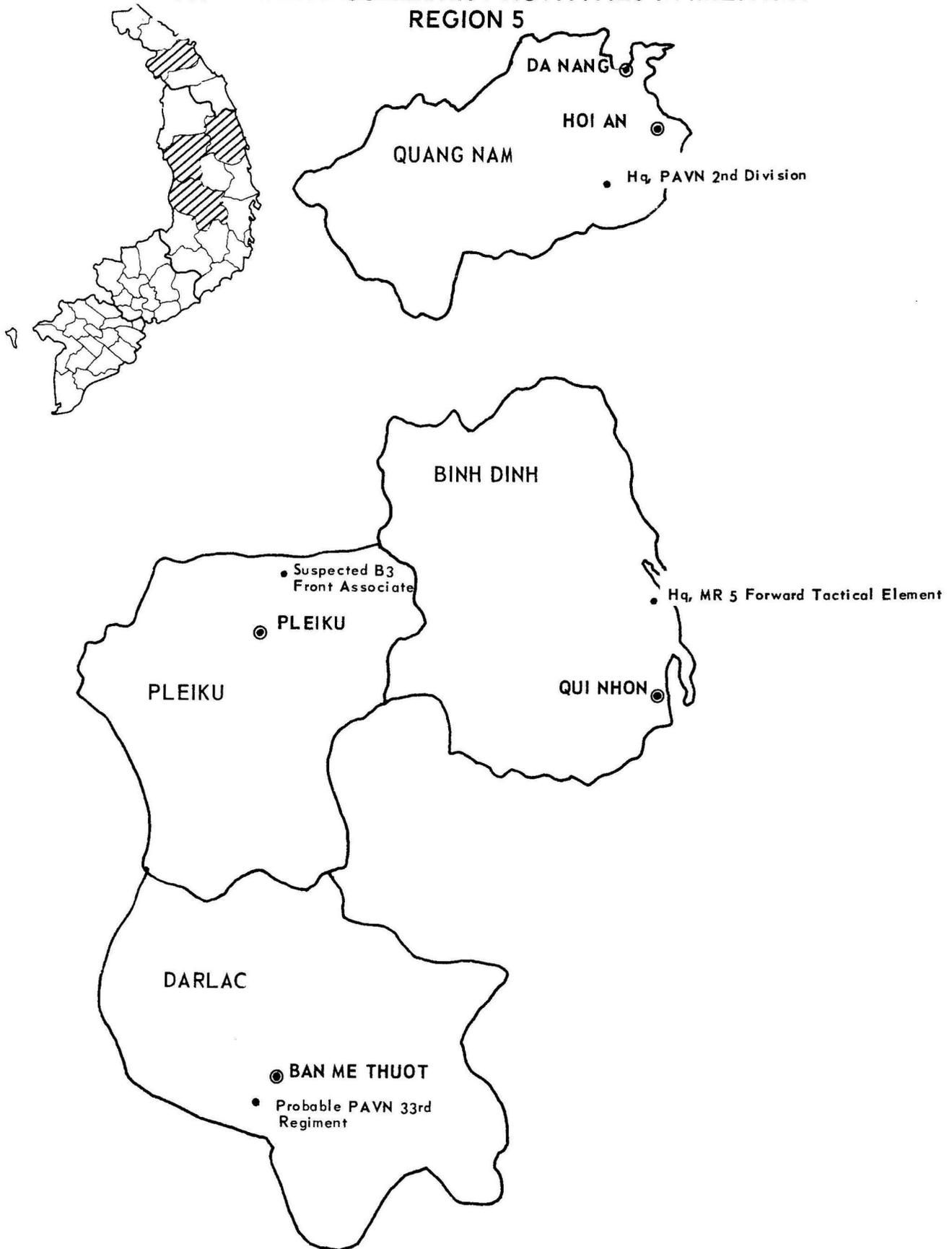
The initial SIGINT reference to N-Day in the Khe Sanh area was revealed in PAVN communications on 22 February. The specific date of N-Day was not disclosed; however, it was revealed that subsequent activity include the use of 140-mm rockets.

Farther east, the 27th Independent Battalion indicated that the Battalion had recently received recruits. Also, the PAVN 803rd Regiment -- operating in the area of Quang Tri city -- indicated that it had received 150 recruits from the 270th Regiment.

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### VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES IN MILITARY REGION 5



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I. COMMUNIST SOUTHEAST ASIA

A. MILITARY

1. Vietnamease Communist Communications - South Vietnam

Military Region Tri-Thien-Hue

Communications serving unidentified PAVN engineer elements in the A Shau Valley indicate possible completion of Route 547 by 28 February. On 23 February an unidentified element instructed Battalion 520 and Company 654 to complete repairs of the road from Lang Ngot (possibly Lang Ngoi 16-17N 107-22E, YD 5302 to Ta Luong (16-18N 107-23E, YD 5503) by 27 February. The 4th Company, 4th Battalion was ordered, upon completion of the road from kilometers 22 to 23 (possibly in the vicinity of 16-17N 107-22E, YD 5302), to repair the road from Ta Luong to Binh Dien (vicinity of 16-22N 107-29E, YD 6710), completing the work by 28 February. ~~(SECRET SAVIN)~~

Military Region 5

In Quang Nam Province, Hq, PAVN 2nd Division reported on 23 February that it was about to move. This headquarters was last located on 20 February in southeastern Quang Nam near 15-45N 108-10E (AT 965437). In eastern Binh Dinh Province, Hq, MR 5 Forward Tactical Element also reported on 23 February that it was about to relocate. This headquarters was located near 14-03N 109-10E (CR 026518) on 22 February.

In the western highlands, while in communications with the suspected Hq, PAVN 40th Artillery Regiment, an unidentified station associated with the PAVN B3 Front was located in western Kontum Province near 14-39N 107-32E (YB 731202) on 22 February. This same entity has also communicated sporadically during February with Hq, B3 Front, Kontum Province, and with Hq, PAVN 1st Division. Moreover, the signal plan employed by this station is identical to one used by a B3 Front-associated entity currently operating in the Binh Duong Province area of MR 1.

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In the Dak To area on 22 February, a subordinate Military Intelligence (MI) element, last located on 15 February near 14-39N 107-42E (YB 921229), approximately 3 km south of Dak Ro Keng (14-41N 107-42E, YB 920264), reported to the MI Section (MIS), 1st Division that "There is much fever among our troops and we are out of medicine." The subordinate requested one additional team to complete its assignment stating that it did not have enough troops to reconnoiter the enemy and guard the station at the same time. Earlier, the MIS had instructed this subordinate to report in detail on the area west of Dak To along Highway 512 between Plei Kan (14-41N 107-35E, YB 852256) and Dac Mot (14-39N 107-45E, YB 960235) concentrating on Dak Ro Keng. The same subordinate also mentioned Allied artillery firing "in the direction of 320." According to collateral, 320 is a cover designator for the PAVN 32nd Regiment, 1st Division. The 32nd Regiment was last located by SIGINT on 12 February near 14-40N 107-40E (YB 882215), approximately 4 km southwest of Dak Ro Keng.

In northern Pleiku Province, a radio station suspected to be associated with the B3 Front was located on 22 February near 14-11N 108-05E (AR 841692), 14 km southwest of its position two days earlier and 22 km north-northeast of Pleiku city. To the south, in Darlac Province, the probable Hq, PAVN 33rd Regiment was located 10 km southwest of Ban Me Thuot and 24 km northeast of its position on 14 February.

Finally on 20 February 33 messages were passed by the Region 5 Committee (RC-5), to all subordinates, bringing the total for the period 18 through 20 February to 77 messages. This high volume apparently terminated on 21 February, when only three messages were noted. The normal volume on these communications is approximately 10 messages per day.

(2/G12/VCM/R569-68, 230450Z; R568-68, 230435Z; R563-68, 221305Z; R561-68, 221130Z; T465-68, 222120Z; T463, 221610Z; 2/G12/VCJ/R051-68)  
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Military Region 1

On 22 February, a subordinate of the MIS, VC 5th Light Infantry Division appeared in communications for the first time since May 1967. This subordinate was located on 22 February near 11-06N 106-53E (YT 041289) in northwestern Bien Hoa Province, about 15 km northwest of Bien Hoa Air Base and approximately 75 km northwest of its last known position in central Phuoc Tuy Province.

To the west, on 22 February, an unidentified control authority, possibly controlling tactical elements, was located in northern Hau Nghia Province at 11-04N 106-24E (XT 515233), approximately 12 km south of its 13 February location in western Binh Duong Province and in the vicinity of the last known location of one of its two subordinate elements. The control authority has been noted in communications with these two subordinates since 1 February.

(2/O/VCM/R101-68, 220312Z, R118-68, 230630Z) ~~(SECRET SAVIN)~~

2. DRV Communications

DMZ Area

The initial SIGINT reference to "N-Day" in PAVN communications in the Khe Sanh area was observed on 22 February in a message that mentioned the possible use of 140-mm rockets from "N-Day plus 2 to N-Day plus 7." No specific dates were indicated.

Unidentified PAVN 325C Division-associated reconnaissance elements intensified their reporting of Khe Sanh activity on 22 February. One element reported that 12.7-mm machine guns, mortars and artillery were fired during the landing of C-130 aircraft with four rounds hitting the runway. A forward observer was instructed to maintain continuous communications from 0900 to 1500 (GOLF) on 23 February to increase his observation and grasp of the Allied and PAVN situation at Khe Sanh and to spot and report Allied artillery and mortar emplacements.

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To the east, the 7th Company, 27th Independent Battalion, reported that a sniper team had killed two Americans north of Vinh Dai (16-48N 107-02E, YD 178590) on 21 February. Battalion communications of 22 and 23 February reflected considerable concern for weapons redistribution between the companies because of recently acquired recruits. Replacement personnel from Quang Ninh Province were mentioned in 27th Battalion communications on 13 February.

Communications of the PAVN 803rd Regiment on 22 February indicated elements of the regiment would receive 150 recruits from the 270th Regiment. On 23 February a message disclosed that the 3rd Battalion headquarters was located at Thuong Trach (16-47N 107-14E, YD 400577) and SIGINT located the Hq, 803rd Regiment on 22 February at 16-50N 107-12E (YD 358626). Communications of the PAVN 812th Regiment on 22 February contained detailed reconnaissance reports of Allied forces around Quang Tri city.

(2/0/VCM/R102-68, 221846Z; 3/0/STY/R39-68) ~~(SECRET SAVIN)~~

#### Military Region 4

Two companies of the tentative PAVN 66th Battalion, 275th Regiment passed messages containing strength reports on 21 February. The possible third company stated "present at the unit are 82 men. On assignment and at the unit are 45 men." Another unidentified probable company reported "35 men on assignment, 5 men on sick call, 16 men on guard." These units are all believed to be located in Nghe An Province, with the battalion headquarters specifically in the vicinity of Nam Thuong (18-50N 105-24E, WF 4483). ~~(SECRET SAVIN)~~

#### PAVN Rear Services

Recent PAVN Rear Services voice communications have reflected transportation activity in the Laos panhandle in an area west of A Luoi and A Tuc, generally bounded by XD 6513-XD 8913-XC 8990-XC 6590 (16-11N to 16-23N, 106-32E to 106-47E). A 21 February transmission between

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two unidentified PAVN elements made reference to the movement of vehicles that night. The message mentioned some 74 vehicles proceeding to various unlocated points referred to as "F4T", "K50", "F4B2" and "F4B". The units mentioned were Companies 11, 12, 13 and 14 of Battalion 51; Companies 1 and 2 of Battalion 54 and a Company 31. No indication of what was carried on the vehicles was observed, with the exception of four vehicles carrying rice.

(2/G11/VCM/T1467-68, 230243Z) ~~(SECRET SAVIN)~~

On 22 February, a PAVN Rear Services message to the "Bureau of Ordnance" concerning shipments of artillery ammunition to various units reported that three vehicles with 130-mm ammunition had been sent to the 204th Regiment. An earlier reference to 152-mm ammunition for the 204th Regiment was noted in Rear Services communications on 6 February. The first SIGINT reflection of the 204th Artillery Regiment was noted in a 6 October 1967 message in PAVN 90th Regiment communications indicating that the 204th was in the DMZ area.

Collateral sources indicate that a 204th Artillery Regiment is subordinate to the PAVN 351st Artillery Division.

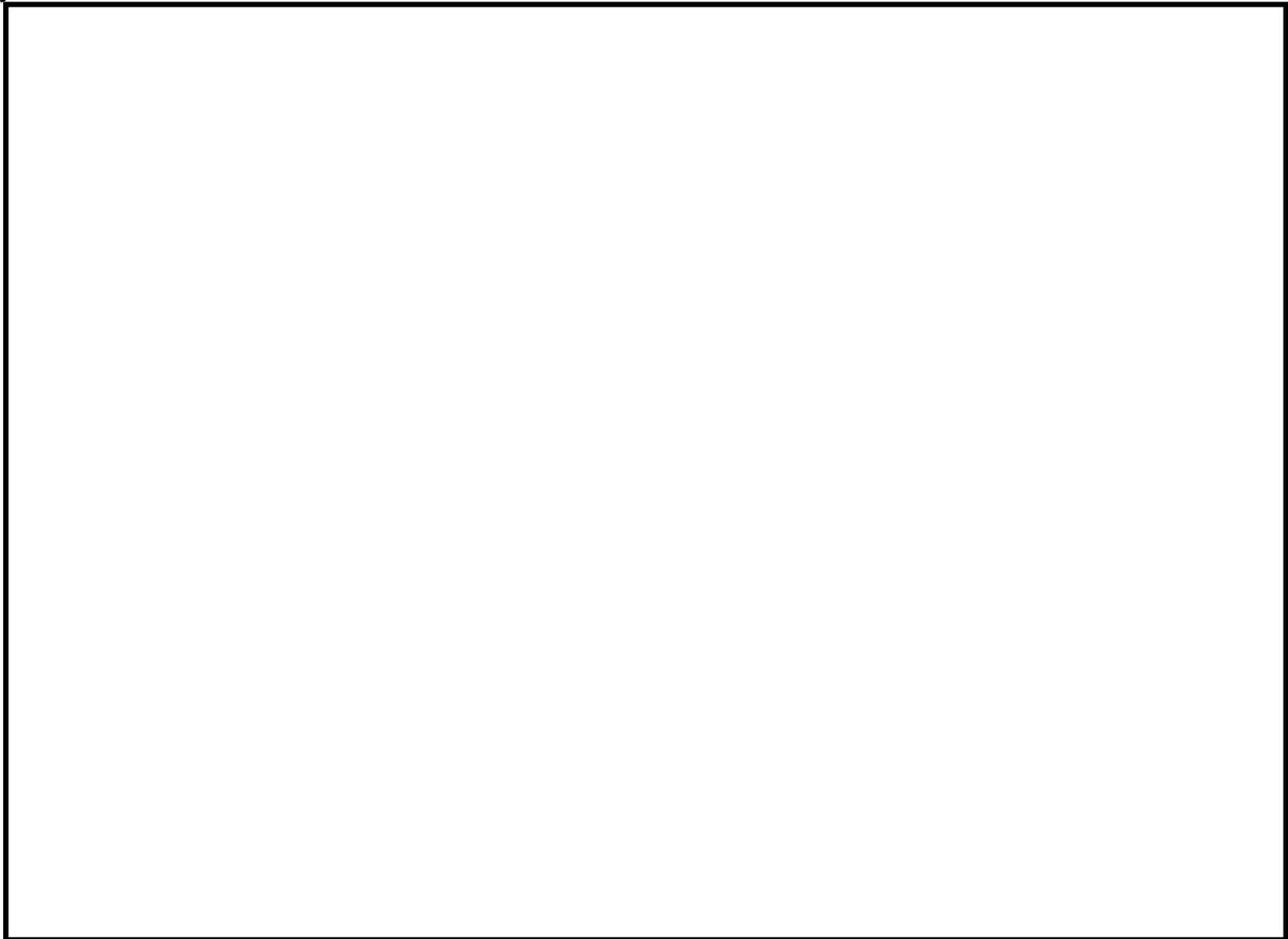
(3/O/STY/R238-67; 2/G11/VCM/T1464-68, 222119Z) ~~(SECRET SAVIN)~~

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