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3/O/STY/R48-68
25 FEB 68 2100Z
DIST: O/UT
(SEA SIGSUM 48-68)



SOUTHEAST ASIA SIGINT SUMMARY

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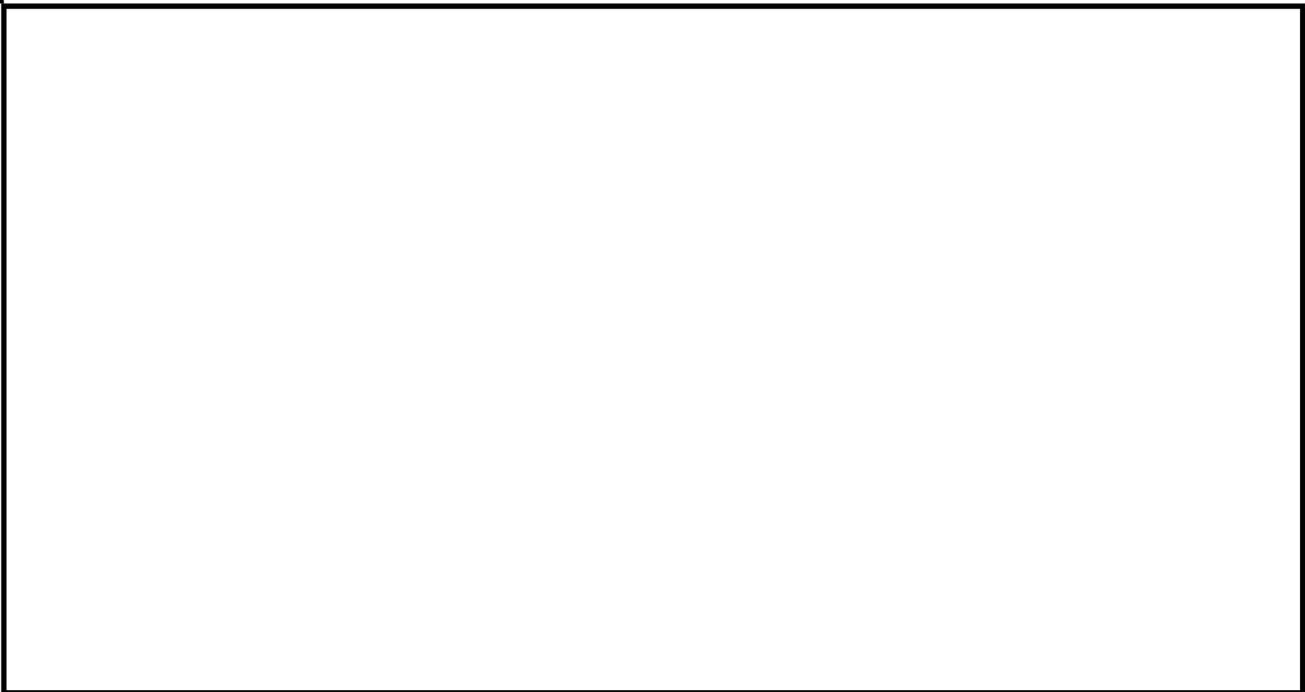
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3/O/STY/R48-68
25 Feb 68 2100Z
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NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY
SOUTHEAST ASIA SIGINT SUMMARY

This report summarizes developments noted throughout Southeast Asia available to NSA at time of publication on 25 February 1968. All information in this report is based entirely on SIGINT except where otherwise specifically indicated.

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
Situation Summary	1
I. Communist Southeast Asia	
A. Military	
1. Vietnamese Communist Communications - South Vietnam	3
2. DRV Communications	6



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3/0/STY/R48-68

SITUATION SUMMARY

A PAVN engineer element in the A Shau Valley reported on 21 February that an attempt to move artillery down the road presently under construction from A Shau Valley to the Hue area would be made on the night of 25 February. Activity in Military Region (MR) 5 was highlighted by the continued movements of units in Quang Nam and Quang Ngai Provinces and in the western highlands. In MR 1 the Hq, Viet Cong (VC) 274th Regiment on 24 February mentioned the arrival of reinforcements and preparations for an artillery mission. Messages passed by military intelligence elements of the VC 5th Light Infantry Division indicate an attack planned possibly against Bien Hoa Airbase, and interest in the Xuan Loc area in Long Khanh Province.

In the Khe Sanh area, reconnaissance elements of the probable 1st Battalion, PAVN 101D Regiment continue to report on Allied activities. To the east, communications reflect activity of elements of the 27th Independent Battalion along Route 9; attempts to interdict Allied boat traffic on the Cua Viet Channel by elements of the PAVN 803rd Regiment; and increased offensive actions by the PAVN 812th Regiment south of Quang Tri city.

PAVN Rear Services communications on 23 February reflected the issuance of ammunition to the PAVN 204th Artillery Regiment, and instructions to an unidentified element to handle artillery and rocket ammunition shipments with absolute priority.

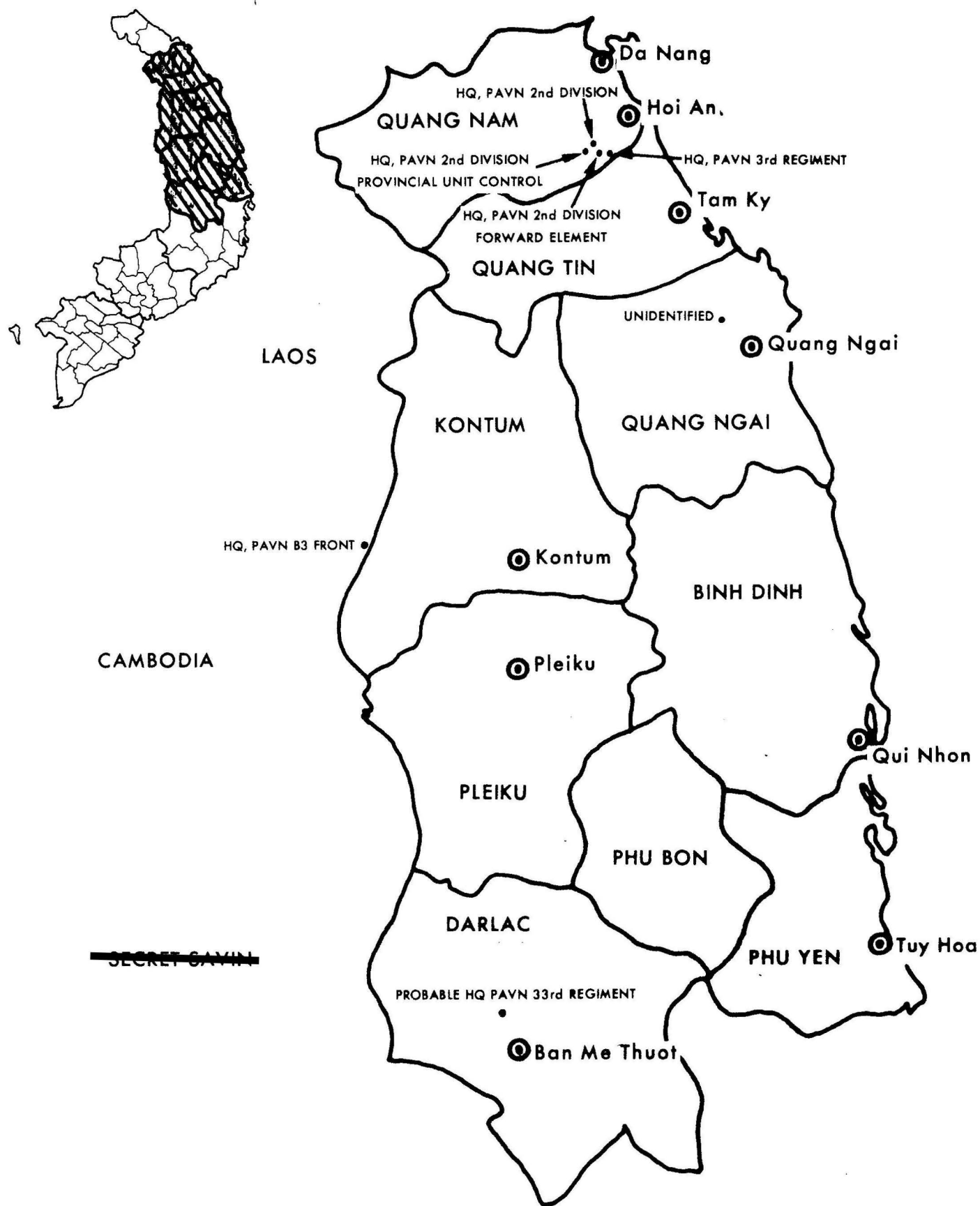
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VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES IN MILITARY REGION 5

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I. COMMUNIST SOUTHEAST ASIAA. MILITARY1. Vietnamese Communist Communications - South VietnamMilitary Region Tri-Thien-Hue

In a message of 21 February, an unidentified possible engineer element in the A Shau Valley reported an attempt would be made on the night of 25 February to send artillery down the road presently under construction from the A Shau Valley to the Hue area. The same message also mentioned that tracked vehicles, possibly prime movers, would be coming down.

(2/G11/VCM/R344-68, 211514Z) ~~(SECRET SAVIN)~~

Military Region 5

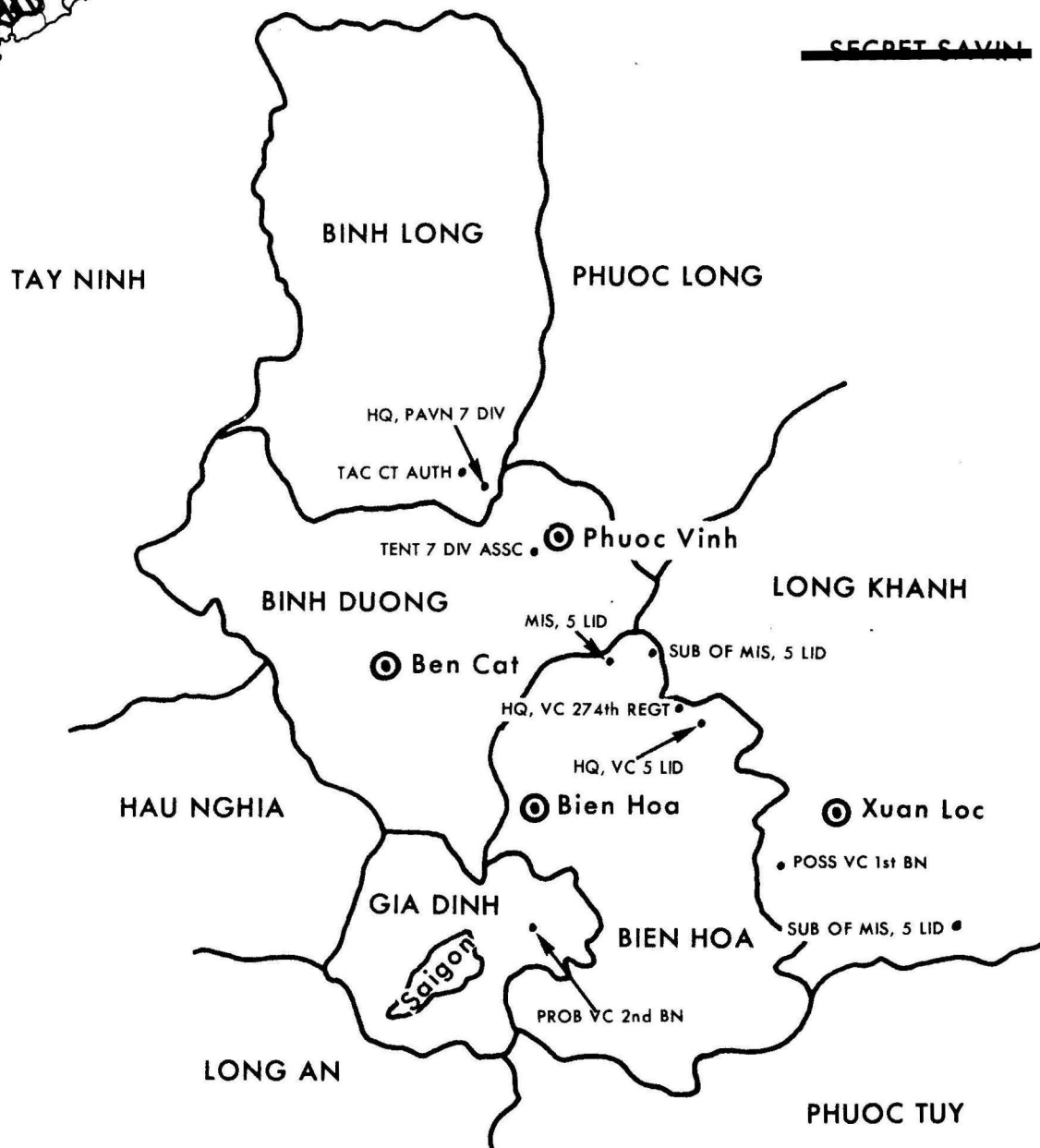
In the Quang Nam Province area both the Hq, PAVN 2nd Division and its provincial unit control indicated on 23 February that they were about to move, while the Hq, 2nd Division Forward Element indicated a similar intention on 24 February. All of these headquarters elements are currently operating in southeastern Quang Nam Province: Hq, 2nd Division, last located on 20 February near 15-45N 108-10E (AT 965437); Hq, 2nd Division Provincial Unit Control, last located on 21 February near 15-45N 109-04E (AT 860430); and the Hq, 2nd Division Forward Element, last located on 21 February near 15-43N 108-11E (AT 985394). Meanwhile, Hq, PAVN 3rd Regiment, 2nd Division was located in eastern Quang Nam Province near 15-42N 108-06E (AT 989371) on 23 February, about 19 km south of its 10 February position.

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VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES IN MILITARY REGIONS 1 AND 4

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In northern Quang Ngai Province, an unidentified subordinate of a Hq, MR 5, Provincial Unit Control associate was located near 15-12N 108-39E (BS 488810) on 23 February, approximately 12 km north of its 28 January position and about 18 km northwest of Quang Ngai city.

In the western highlands, Hq, PAVN B3 Front was located on 24 February in the Kontum Province-Cambodian border area near 14-30N 107-24E (YA 669959). This headquarters has been gradually moving in a southerly direction since mid-February. To the south in Darlac Province, the probable Hq, PAVN 33rd Regiment was located on 24 February near 12-48N 108-00E (ZV 250188), about 13 km north-northwest of Ban Me Thuot city and approximately 26 km north of its 22 February position.

(2/G12/VCM/R0581-68, 241042Z; R0580-68, 241100Z; R0579-68, 240829Z; R0575-68, 231529Z; R0574-68, 231527Z; R0572-68, 231407Z) ~~(SECRET SAVIN)~~

Military Region 1/4

In the Bien Hoa-Long Khanh Province area on 24 February, Hq, VC 274th Regiment passed a message to its possible 1st Battalion subordinate concerning the arrival of reinforcements and preparations for a forthcoming artillery mission. On the same date the regimental headquarters was located in eastern Bien Hoa Province at 10-59N 107-03E (YT 249148), and the possible 1st Battalion was located in southwestern Long Khanh Province at 10-52N 107-07E (YT 304016). The probable 2nd Battalion was located on 24 February in eastern Gia Dinh Province of MR 4 at 10-50N 106-49E (XS 997972), west of Saigon and south of Bien Hoa. The location of the possible 1st Battalion is within 15 km of Xuan Loc, which has been the subject of recent intelligence reporting by VC elements. The probable 2nd Battalion is within 15 km of Bien Hoa, which had also been cited as a target for artillery missions in VC 5th Light Infantry Division (LID) associated communications early in February.

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Messages passed by military intelligence (MI) elements of the 5th LID have indicated an attack planned possibly against Bien Hoa Airbase and a high level of Communist interest in the Xuan Loc (10-53N 107-11E, YT 400890) area of southern Long Khanh Province. On 23 February an element identified as the probable Military Intelligence Section (MIS), 5th LID informed a subordinate that 48 rounds of an undisclosed type of ammunition were immediately available for an attack and that five rounds were being forwarded from the "2nd" (possibly battalion). The probable MIS then stated that certain personalities were "on their way back to the command post." The subordinate was located on 22 February in northeastern Bien Hoa Province near 11-05N 106-53E (YT 056279) about 15 km north of Bien Hoa Airbase.

Meanwhile, another subordinate of the MIS, 5th LID, located on 22 February in southern Long Khanh near 10-50N 107-15E (YS 475988), continues to report heavily on Allied installations, forces, and activities around Xuan Loc as it has since mid-February.

In the Binh Duong-Binh Long Province area on 24 February, the possible Hq, PAVN 7th Division was located near the Binh Long-Binh Duong border at 11-22N 106-43E (XT 884568). This location is approximately 20 km north-northwest of its 19 February position in eastern Binh Duong. A possible tactical control authority associated with the 7th Division accomplished a parallel move and was located on the same date near 11-24N 106-42E (XT 843584). A tentative 7th Division associated element was located on 23 February in northern Binh Duong Province at 11-15N 106-42E (XT 867422), approximately 18 km north-northeast of its 19 February position. All of these units are now located to the west of Phuoc Vinh. A watch facility serving the possible Hq, 7th Division has been recently identified. Subscribers on this facility include: the possible unidentified

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Front Headquarters; the tentative Hq, PAVN 141st Regiment; a station associated with the probable Hq, VC 272nd Regiment; and several unidentified stations. The apparent scope of this watch facility which includes 7th Division and 9th LID elements and the possible unidentified Front, suggests that the 7th Division is exerting tactical control authority in the Binh Duong Province area.

(2/G10/VCM/R122-68; 241421Z; R121-68, 241324Z; R120-68, 240715Z; T331-68, 231845Z; T329-68, 231705Z; T328-68, 231630Z; 2/G10/VCJ/R53-68, 231625Z; 2/O/VCM/R108-68, 250140Z; R107-68, 232229Z)

~~(SECRET SAVIN)~~

2. DRV Communications

DMZ Area

Reconnaissance elements of the probable 1st Battalion, PAVN 101D Regiment continued to submit detailed reports of Allied activities in the Khe Sanh area. On 24 February an element reported that C130 aircraft had dropped 61 parachutes between 0300 and 1200 (Golf). It was also reported that the period of most aircraft activity was between 0800 and 1500 (Golf), including landings, take-offs and parachute drops.

Communications of the 27th Battalion reflect continued activity by battalion elements along Route 9 in coordination with local forces. On 23 February an element reported killing two Americans at Dinh Xa (16-48N 107-03E, YD 180595) and on 24 February another element reported shooting at fighter aircraft all day, claiming the shootdown of one and damage of another.

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Elements of the PAVN 203rd Regiment continue attempts to interdict Allied boat traffic on the Cua Viet Channel. On 23 February an unidentified personality was praised for sinking two large boats at a range of 150 meters. Another message indicated the role of the 2nd Battalion as probably supplying the other regimental elements and pointed out the supply route which extends through a series of villages from Thuy Ban (17-00N 107-07E, YD 250798) to Dai Loc (16-41N 107-25E, YD 585455).

Communications of the PAVN 812th Regiment reflect increased offensive actions south of Quang Tri City. On 22 February the 6th Battalion, in counter sweep operations, reportedly killed 154 Americans near Cau Nhi (16-36N 107-19E, YD 478365), and 30 Americans at My Xuyen (16-36N 107-19E, YD 481369). Plans for an attack against Cau Ngang (probably 16-42N 107-14E, YD 382489) were discussed in a message which specified the amount of explosives needed for destruction of the protective wire, bunkers and bridge at this location. In a message to the regiment on 25 February the 5th Battalion mentioned the 90th Regiment and difficulties concerning supply. The PAVN 90th Regiment was last noted in tactical communications on 7 February and is now possibly resupplying the 812th Regiment elements south of Quang Tri City via the Ba Long Valley. (2/G11/VCM/R361-68, 241435Z; R366-68, 251033Z) ~~(SECRET SAVIN)~~

PAVN Rear Services

Some 500 rounds of 152-mm high explosive ammunition and 100 rounds of "concrete penetrating" ammunition were issued to the PAVN 204th Artillery Regiment according to a 23 February message from an unidentified Rear Services element. Recent SIGINT indicated 130-mm ammunition was also issued to the 204th. This regiment, possibly subordinate to the PAVN 351st Artillery Division, was last located by SIGINT in the eastern DMZ area in October 1967; no current SIGINT location is available.

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Also on 23 February, an unidentified Rear Services element instructed an unidentified recipient to handle shipments of "D74" (122-mm artillery) and "A12" (140-mm rocket) ammunition with "absolute priority". The amount or destination of this ammunition was not disclosed in the messages although one message mentioned Relay Station 8 with regard to priority ammunition shipments. Relay Station 8 is unlocated but suspected to be near a rail line. Flares and slow burning fuses were also mentioned as included in the "absolute priority" shipments.

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DRV Civil Communications

Crops and livestock in the North Vietnamese province of Ha Tinh have been affected by disease and cold weather according to a 21 February message from the Provincial Executive Committee to the Agricultural Secretariat of the Office of the Prime Minister. Can Loc, Duc Tho, Cam Xuyen, Ky Anh, and Huong Son Districts were cited as the districts in Ha Tinh Province which were experiencing difficulties with harmful insects. The Executive Committee stated that 2,812 hectares had been damaged by blight. The message also disclosed that numerous cattle had died in four districts due to the cold rains and that cholera had broken out in one hamlet of Cam Xuyen District and spread to Huong Son District where 52 animals out of 150 had contracted the disease.

This message was probably in response to an earlier message of 7 February from TRAN HUU DUC, a minister attached to the Office of the Prime Minister, which was sent to all provinces and the Vinh Linh Special Sector. In the 7 February message all Executive Committees were advised to protect the cattle and new-born calves against the cold. DUC added that less cattle had died this year than during the same period last year and concluded with a request for a report every five days on any difficulties encountered by the provinces. On 8 February NGUYEN CHUONG, Vice Minister of Agriculture, reminded the executive committees and departments of agriculture to combat the cold. He mentioned that temperatures in the mountain regions had fallen very low.

During this same time in 1967 crops in North Vietnam also suffered from blight and intense cold. Harmful insects affected the 1967 fifth month rice crop from the seedling stage in December 1966 until the harvest in May 1967.

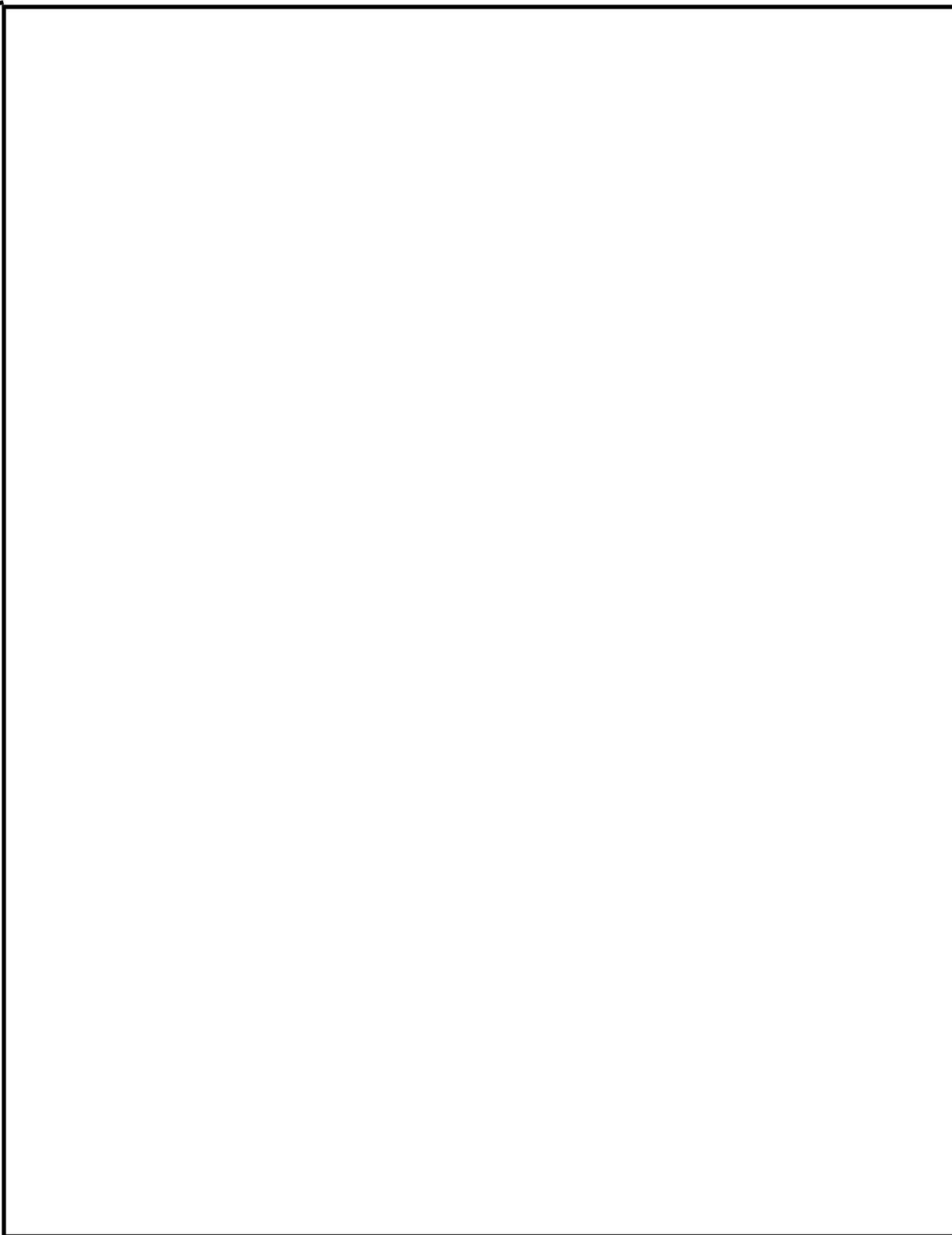
(2/G11/VCY/R09-68, 2212Z; 2/O/VCY/R75-67) ~~(SECRET SAVIN)~~

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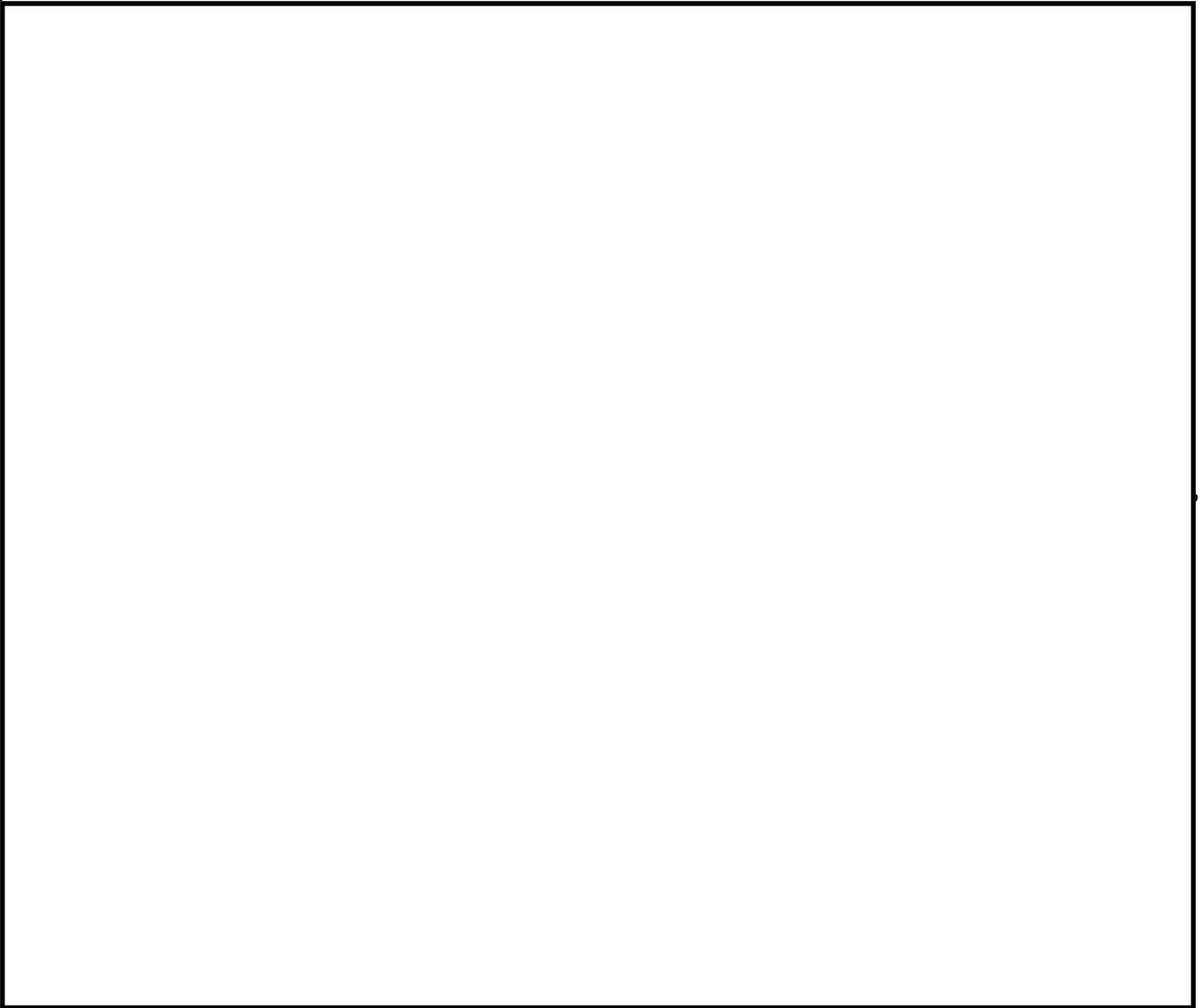
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