

~~SECRET SAVIN~~

2/0/VCM/R36-68
 FOLLOW-UP NR 1 TO
 2/0/VCM/R32-68
 SPOT REPORT
 AVC,AVN/OPER-G-H/.
 27 JANUARY 1968 2009Z
 DIST: OSCAR/VICTOR ALFA
 PLUS USM-604, GCU 1 AUSTF
 HCF

FOLLOW-UP NUMBER ONE TOCOORDINATED VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST OFFENSIVE EVIDENCED IN SOUTH VIETNAM(252332Z)

Through at least 27 January, SIGINT has continued to provide evidence of an impending Vietnamese Communist offensive, particularly in the western highlands area. Two messages were passed by the probable Hq, B3 Front authority to a probable PAVN 1st Division element in western Pleiku Province reporting on the reinforcing of the 1st Division element and on the movement of that element to a new position. The first of these two messages, passed at 0155Z on 26 January stated in part: "Everything for victory. Headquarters will reinforce Farmsite 1 [1st Division] with three recoilless rifles and 60 rounds of ammunition. You are to do your utmost to prepare the weapons positions and the firing elements...and to attack the routes of communications in R2 and R3."

The second of these messages stated in part: "In my opinion, you should cross the river tonight. Tomorrow morning, 27 January 1968, rest on that side of the river. On 28 January 1968, after bathing and washing clothes, advance to positions 1 and 2...." This message was passed at 1437Z from the B3 Front authority--located by SIGINT near 14-03N 107-23E (YA 573539) on 24 January--to the probable 1st Division element, last located near 13-51N 107-27E (YA 641312) on the following day.

Meanwhile, at 0329Z on 27 January, a radio station suspected to be associated with the B3 Front, and located in the vicinity of 14-10N 108-21E (RR 126649) on 19 January, referred to "N-Day" in a message passed to an unidentified and unlocated recipient. That message stated in part: "The B-40's [rocket launchers] ...are not to fire at vehicles on the road. They are to be employed to fire at the vehicles...CHOT will open fire after C2 (C-val 2nd Company) shells the road. From 0000 hours on N-Day until C2 opens fire, CHOT is not to strike lone vehicles.... If convoys continue to move during that period, then, after C2 opens fire, CHOT will hit the enemy vehicles as they move by. During the...attack, the mortars at CHOT's location cannot fire on the section of the road under attack. After an hour, if vehicles continue to move picking up bodies along the way, the mortars are to take turns firing...."

While the locale of this particular attack is not specified, it would appear most likely to be planned for areas of northeastern Pleiku Province, judging by the location of the element transmitting the message. That location, moreover, is not far from a concentration of B3 Front elements in the Pleiku-Kontum Province border area to the northeast of Pleiku city.

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