FOLLOW-UP NUMBER 15 TO
COORDINATED VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST OFFENSIVE
EVIDENCED IN SOUTH VIETNAM (252332Z)

The Military Intelligence Section (MIS), Hq, PAVN 1st Division in a 1 February message ordered a subordinate located by SIGINT on 28 January near 14°47'N 137°41'E (XH 894361) to "complete the combat mission immediately" and then return to join other Communist elements at Ngoc Tu (14°42'N 137°41'E, ZB 013259), the "river piers" and the "road back to the southeast" (possibly Route 14).

In messages of 29 and 31 January, possibly passed to the same subordinate, the MIS ordered an attack possibly involving mortars and recoilless rifles against an unnamed target on an undetermined date. The MIS said, "maintain secrecy, get ready to fight" and "light up the other hills in order to disperse the fire power of the enemy and puppets [i.e., ARVN]." The message indicated that Communist mortars would be fired from a hill position designated "Al" and contained references to "blockhouses" and Allied aircraft landings. In a 31 January message the MIS exhorted this subordinate to "emulate K3," apparently in shooting down Allied aircraft. "K" is a common Vietnamese Communist designator for battalion. According to collateral, the PAVN 174th Regiment, 1st Division, has a 3rd Battalion. SIGINT located the suspected Hq, PAVN 174th Regiment on 12 January in the Kontum Province-Cambodia border area.

In another 31 January message possibly passed to the same subordinate, the MIS stated "the cadre and party members combat determination is good. They have a aggressive spirit about performing their assignment." The MIS also apparently said that some wounded Communist enlisted personnel were demoralized and that some reconnaissance personnel were reluctant to stay close to the "enemy."