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(90)

~~CONFIDENTIAL NOFORN~~ CITE TDCS-314/03718-68 (ADVANCE)  
COUNTRY SOUTH VIETNAM

SUBJECT II CORPS SITUATION REPORT AS OF 1300 HOURS  
1 MARCH 1968

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1. VIET CONG (VC)/NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY (NVA) UNITS CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN PRESSURE ON THE HIGHLAND PROVINCES OF KONTUM, DARLAC, AND PLEIKU. PLEIKU CITY RECEIVED APPROXIMATELY 15 ROUNDS OF MORTAR FIRE DURING THE NIGHT OF 29 FEBRUARY-1 MARCH. VC/NVA UNITS MADE LIGHT PROBES NORTH AND NORTHEAST OF KONTUM CITY DURING THE DAY OF 29 FEBRUARY.

2. CONTINUING REPORTS AND SIGHTINGS OF LARGE VC/NVA UNITS AROUND BAN ME THUOT CITY, DARLAC PROVINCE, HAVE LED TO INCREASED SPECULATION THERE, THAT THE ENEMY IS PREPARING FOR A NEW ATTACK ON THE CITY. THE LOCAL POPULATION IS ALSO APPREHENSIVE OF FURTHER ATTACKS AND MANY PEOPLE LEAVE THE CITY AT NIGHT AND TAKE SHELTER IN THE REFUGEE AREAS ON THE OUTSKIRTS. NEVERTHELESS SOME REBUILDING OF DESTROYED AREAS OF THE CITY IS BEGINNING. GENERALLY THE PEOPLE IN THE CITY APPEAR TO FAULT THE VC FOR SPOILING THE TET HOLIDAYS, BUT THERE IS ALSO CRITICISM OF GVN TROOPS FOR WHAT IS CALLED INDISCRIMINATE DESTRUCTION OF BUILDINGS AND DWELLINGS. THE VC ARE IN CONTROL OF MOST OF DARLAC PROVINCE EXCEPT FOR BAN ME THUOT AND THE DISTRICT CAPITALS, AND INTELLIGENCE REPORTING INDICATES THEY ARE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THIS SITUATION TO STEP UP THEIR PROPAGANDA AND FOOD COLLECTION ACTIVITIES IN THE VILLAGES AND HAMLETS.

3.3(h)(2)

PEOPLE HAVE BEEN VERY MUCH SURPRISED THAT THE VC/NVA DID NOT STRONGLY ATTACK U.S. BASES OR INSTALLATIONS FOR EXAMPLE, MACV WOODEN BUILDINGS WHICH ARE VERY VULNERABLE WERE HIT ONLY SNIPER FIRE. THIS HAS GIVEN RISE TO RECURRENT RUMORS, ACCENTUATED BY VC/NVA PROPAGANDA, OF COLLUSION BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE VC. SOME PEOPLE HAVE EXPRESSED GRATITUDE FOR ACTION BY U.S. HELICOPTERS AND PLANES WHICH PRESSED THE ATTACK AGAINST ENEMY POSITIONS, BUT AT THE SAME TIME MANY FIRES WERE CAUSED BY THESE AIRSTRIKES AND THERE WAS MUCH DAMAGE TO CIVILIAN AREAS OF THE CITY.

3. THERE WERE NO REPORTS OF ENEMY INITIATED ACTIVITY IN OTHER II CORPS PROVINCES, ALTHOUGH TUYEN DUC REPORTED A GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM (GVN) OPERATION WAS LAUNCHED SOUTH OF DALAT CITY.

4. KHANH HOA PROVINCE OFFICIALS CONDUCTED A CEREMONY ON 28 FEBRUARY HONORING THE NHA TRANG POLICE FORCE FOR ITS EFFECTIVENESS IN ROUNDING UP MUCH OF THE VC INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE WAKE OF THE ATTACK ON THE CITY. MORE THAN 100 MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE HAVE BEEN ARRESTED AND FIRMLY IDENTIFIED.

5. A LOCAL GVN OFFICIAL IN PHAN THIET, BINH THUAN PROVINCE, HAS REPORTED A RISING ATTITUDE OF RESENTMENT ON THE PART OF THE POPULACE AGAINST THE ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM (ARVN) TROOPS BECAUSE OF THE EXTENT OF LOOTING THAT OCCURRED IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE LAST ATTACK ON THE CITY.

6. DISSEM: IFFV CORDS II CORPS  
SAIGON DISSEM: STATE MACV CINCPAC ARPAC PACAF PACFLT 7TH AF  
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