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Intelligence Information Cable

PRIORITY
41962

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CITE

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0120 1 FEBRUARY 1968

COUNTRY

SOUTH VIETNAM

170 79-129-7

DOI

31 JANUARY - 1 FEBRUARY 1968

SUBJECT

SUMMARY OF VIET CONG MILITARY ACTIVITY IN SOUT
VIETNAM UP TO 1700 HOURS ON 1 FEBRUARY 1968

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ACQ

VIETNAM, SAIGON (1 FEBRUARY 1968)

SOURCE

[Redacted Source Information]

SUMMARY: VIET CONG (VC) TARGETS IN SAIGON INCLUDED THE U.S. EMBASSY, TAN SON NHUT AIRFIELD, AND NUMEROUS OTHER VIETNAMESE (GVN) AND ALLIED INSTALLATIONS. IN ONE ATTACK ON A POLICE STATION, THE VC LOST 100 KILLED. SNIPER FIRE IS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE, BUT AS OF LATE AFTERNOON ON 1 FEBRUARY THE SITUATION IN SAIGON WAS RELATIVELY SECURE. IN I CORPS, THERE WAS ENEMY ACTION THROUGHOUT THE AREA. BY MIDNIGHT OF 31 JANUARY, THE VC HAD LOST 1,653 KILLED AND 1,200 DETAINED, AS COMPARED TO 146 FRIENDLY CASUALTIES. IN II CORPS, THERE WAS ALSO VC ACTIVITY THROUGHOUT THE AREA, ESPECIALLY AGAINST SPECIAL FORCES CAMPS. KONTRUM CITY, NHA TRANG AND PHAN THIET WERE AMONG THE SCENES OF HEAVY ACTION.

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AS OF MIDNIGHT 31 JANUARY, THE VC HAD LOST AT LEAST 954 DEAD. ACTION IN III CORPS WAS

LIGHTER THAN ELSEWHERE, EXCEPT FOR MAJOR FIGHTS IN THE BIEN HOA AREA.

AS OF MIDNIGHT ON 31 JANUARY, ENEMY DEAD TOTALED AT LEAST 1200. IN

IV CORPS THERE WERE VC ATTACKS ON DISTRICTS, TOWNS AND AIRFIELDS

THROUGHOUT THE CORPS AREA. AS OF MIDNIGHT ON 31 JANUARY, VC DEAD TOTALED

413, AS COMPARED TO 56 FRIENDLY KILLED. END SUMMARY.

1. SAIGON - IN ADDITION TO THE ATTACK ON THE U.S. EMBASSY THERE WAS A NUMBER OF ATTACKS WITHIN THE CITY AND IN THE AREA SURROUNDING TAN SON NHUT. THE MACV COMPOUND WAS HIT SEVERAL TIMES; THE ENEMY WAS ABLE TO INSTALL A 50 CALIBER ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUN NEAR THE FIELD. AS OF 31 JANUARY THE ENEMY HAD SUFFERED 100 DEAD IN THE TAN SON NHUT AREA. THE GOLF COURSE AND CHINESE CEMETERY, WHERE THEY HAD HOLED UP, HAD BEEN HEAVILY BOMBED AND STRAFED, AND THE ENEMY WAS LAST REPORTED TRYING TO WITHDRAW TOWARD GIA DINH. DAMAGE TO AIRCRAFT AND FACILITIES WAS SLIGHT AND U.S. CASUALTIES WERE VERY LIGHT. WITHIN SAIGON, THE HEAVIEST U.S. CASUALTIES WERE SUFFERED BY THE 716TH MP BATTALION, WHICH HAD SUFFERED 35 KIA AS OF 0400 HOURS ON 1 FEBRUARY, INCLUDING THOSE LOST AT THE EMBASSY. GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM (GVN) POLICE CASUALTIES MAY BE AS HIGH AS 100 KIA. THE CHOLON POWER STATION WAS KNOCKED OUT AND

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TWO POLICE SUBSTATIONS WERE HIT, RESULTING IN SEVEN FRIENDLY KIA AND 100 ENEMY KIA. AN ATTACK ON THE HOC MON POLICE STATION RESULTED IN 100 ENEMY KIA AND 40 DETAINEES WHO WERE DESCRIBED AS "VERY YOUNG." TWO POWS CAPTURED TWO KILOMETERS FROM SAIGON SAID THAT TWO BATTALIONS (D-14 AND D-16) WERE MOVING FROM TAY NINH AREA INTO SAIGON. SNIPER FIRE IS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE, BUT THE SITUATION IN SAIGON IS NOW RELATIVELY SECURE. A FEW BATTALIONS OF THE U.S. 101ST WERE MOVED INTO TOWN, BUT OTHERWISE TROOP MOVEMENTS WERE NOT REQUIRED. NEVERTHELESS, NORMAL FACILITIES IN THE CITY WERE PARALYZED.

2. I CORPS - THERE WAS ENEMY ACTION THROUGHOUT THE CORPS, PRIMARILY IN NORTHERN AND CENTRAL I CORPS. A NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY (NVA) BATTALION PENETRATED QUANG TRI CITY. AN ESTIMATED TWO COMPANIES TOOK AND HELD PORTIONS OF HUE NORTH OF THE RIVER (AND FLED THE NFLSV FLAG OVER THE CITADEL). THE PHU BAI AND DANANG AIR BASES WERE HIT. A SWEEP AT THE DANANG BASE RESULTED IN ONE U.S. KIA AND 85 ENEMY KIA. IN GENERAL, THE ATTACKS WERE CHARACTERIZED AS "LOTS OF SHOOTING BUT NOT MUCH DAMAGE." HOI AN DISTRICT CAPITAL WAS ABANDONED TO THE ENEMY. AN ATTACK ON AN HOA RESULTED IN 100 FRIENDLY KIA AS OPPOSED TO 80 ENEMY KIA. AN NVA REGIMENT AND

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POSSIBLY A SAPPER BATTALION ATTACKED TAM KY, RESULTING IN 27 FRIENDLY KIA AND 226 ENEMY KIA PLUS 65 DETAINEES. A SWEEP NEAR QUANG NGAI CITY RESULTED IN NO FRIENDLY KIA AND 62 ENEMY KIA. AS OF NOON 31 JANUARY, ACTION IN QUANG TIN PROVINCE HAD RESULTED IN 396 KIA, THE MAJORITY OF THEM YOUNG BOYS. AS OF MIDNIGHT 31 JANUARY, THE TOTAL FOR THE CORPS WAS 146 FRIENDLY KIA, 1,653 ENEMY KIA, AND 1,200 DETAINEES. FIVE ENEMY DIVISIONS NOW RING KHE SANH. AMERICAN MILITARY COMMANDERS VIEW ALL OTHER ACTION AS A PRELUDE TO ACTION HERE.

3. POLITICALLY, DAI VIET AND BUDDHIST LEADERS IN DANANG HAVE COOPERATED WITH THE GVN IN PREVENTING VC SPONSORED DEMONSTRATIONS. THE VC CADRES INVOLVED REPORTEDLY CALLED FOR PEACE AND NEUTRALITY AND BELIEVED THAT THEY WERE PARTICIPATING IN THE LIBERATION OF THE CITY. IN AN ATTEMPT TO TAKE OVER A PAGODA IN DANANG, THE VC TRIED TO CONVINCE THE PEOPLE THAT THE VC HAD WON A SIGNIFICANT VICTORY AND TAKEN OVER THE CITY; THERE WAS LITTLE REACTION AND THE GVN MADE A NUMBER OF ARRESTS.

4. II CORPS -- THERE WAS ENEMY ACTIVITY THROUGHOUT THE CORPS AREA, ESPECIALLY ATTACKS ON SPECIAL FORCES CAMPS. KONTUM CITY WAS HIT WITH 400 MORTAR ROUNDS AND REPULSED 19 ATTACKS; AT ONE

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TIME, 50 PERCENT OF THE CITY WAS UNDER VC CONTROL BUT POCKETS WERE BEING CLEANED UP AT DAWN ON 1 FEBRUARY. THERE WAS RELATIVELY LITTLE ACTIVITY IN PLEIKU. BAN ME THUOT AIR FIELD AND THE MACV COMPOUND WERE ASSAULTED BUT THE CITY WAS QUIET BY MIDNIGHT 31 JANUARY, ALTHOUGH THERE WERE TWO TO THREE ENEMY BATTALIONS AROUND THE CITY. THERE WERE MORTAR ATTACKS ON SEVERAL CITIES IN BINH DINH PROVINCE; AN ATTACK ON THE TUY HOA AIR FORCE BASE RESULTED IN 14 FRIENDLY KIA AND 76 ENEMY KIA, WITH 12 DETAINEES. NHA TRANG, ONE OF THE FIRST CITIES TO BE HARD HIT, SUFFERED A MORTAR ATTACK AND A REGIMENT-SIZED ATTACK ON THE AIR FORCE BASE. PHAN THIET WAS MORTARED AND ATTACKED BY TWO BATTALIONS (IN A UNIQUE CASE, ACCORDING TO REPORTS THUS FAR, THE VC HERE SWITCHED TO CIVILIAN CLOTHES INSIDE THE CITY). THE TOTALS FROM 29 JANUARY TO MIDNIGHT 31 JANUARY WERE 179 FRIENDLY KIA AS AGAINST 954 ENEMY KIA, 160 DETAINEES, AND MANY WEAPONS CAPTURED. ENEMY LOSS STATISTICS WERE RISING SHARPLY AS DAYLIGHT PERMITTED BETTER COUNT AND REACTION.

5. III CORPS -- ACTION IN THIS AREA WAS APPARENTLY LIGHTER THAN IN OTHER CORPS EXCEPT FOR MAJOR ENGAGEMENTS IN THE BIEN HOA AREA, RESULTING IN AN ESTIMATED 2,000 ENEMY KIA BUT VERY

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LIGHT FRIENDLY LOSSES. THREE MAIN FORCE AND THREE LOCAL FORCE VC REGIMENTS WERE REPORTED IN ACTION. AS OF MIDNIGHT 31 JANUARY, U.S. CASUALTIES WERE 45 KIA AND 313 WIA. TOTAL ENEMY CASUALTIES WERE 1,201 KIA (THESE FIGURES ARE "ZOOMING UP" AS DAYLIGHT PERMITTED A BETTER COUNT AND AS A RESULT OF THE BIEN HOA ACTION), WITH 94 DETAINEES.

6. IV CORPS -- THERE WERE VC ATTACKS ON DISTRICTS, TOWNS, AND AIRFIELDS THROUGHOUT THE CORPS. CHAU DOC CITY WAS OVERRUN; TWO CITIES IN DINH TUONG PROVINCE WERE SHELLED; TWO CITIES IN KIEN HOA PROVINCE WERE SHELLED; VINH LONG CITY AND THE AIRFIELD WERE SHELLED; CAN THO CITY WAS MORTARED AND AN ESTIMATED BATTALION INFILTRATED THE CITY, RESULTING IN 95 ENEMY KIA AS OPPOSED TO 10 FRIENDLY KIA. FROM 29 JANUARY TO MIDNIGHT 31 JANUARY THERE WAS A TOTAL OF 56 FRIENDLY KIA AS OPPOSED TO 413 ENEMY KIA, 138 DETAINEES AND MANY WEAPONS CAPTURED.

7. FIELD DISSEM: STATE USMACV 7TH AIR FORCE CINCPAC PACFLT ARPAC PACAF

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