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Memorandum For: Deputy Director for Support

FILE 0 024-4

Subject: Vietnam Situation Report

The following is a survey of cable traffic from close of business 2 February to 0700 hours 5 February 1968.

Personnel:

- 1. The following agency affiliated personnel were reported as unaccounted for on 1 February: Mr. Eugene Weaver, Staff, Mr. David Hayes, Staff, Capt. Robert Hubbard - USMC - Military Detailee, Mr. Virgil Harris, Contract, and [redacted]

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[redacted] These people were located in Hue, SVN prior to 1 February. A cable (in #43753) was received at 0130 hours, 5 February indicating that Virgil Harris, [redacted] and Robert Hubbard were among a unit of individuals who escaped from Hue, SVN and made way to Hung Thuy Sector on 4 February. While enroute the group was hit by the VC. Harris was wounded (condition unknown) and is reported as being in Phu Bai Hospital at the present time. Robert Hubbard was also wounded (condition unknown) and remained behind just South of a small bridge South of Hue. [redacted] who was not reported as wounded or hurt apparently is returning to Hue with a small group of PRUS possibly to pickup the remaining wounded. According to another cable (#43555)

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[redacted] claimed that the CIA employees located in Hue had split up into two groups prior to 3 February and were to attempt to make an escape from Hue. Supposedly based on cable traffic Harris, [redacted] and Hubbard comprised one of these groups. The other group of employees has not been heard from as yet and [redacted] did not know just where they might be headed. A review of other cables suggests the possibility that other U.S. civilians may be holding out at the Hue TV station and at a house near the CORD headquarters in Hue. These reports have not been confirmed as yet and no names of the U.S. civilians have been mentioned in cable traffic. There is also mention on 2 February that 12 American civilians are wounded at the MACV compound in Hue and that of these people 8 have been Medivaced. Again no names of those wounded were given.

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- 2. A PRU advisor went into Hue on 3 February with a Marine convoy in order to conduct a through search for our personnel. The Marines were furnished with the locations of houses in Hue where CIA personnel are housed and asked to avoid shelling these areas if possible. No word has been received relative to this search operation as yet. Incoming cables from Saigon still suggest that Headquarters refrain from notifying the families of those employees still reported as missing.

Physical Security:

- 1. During the weekend there have been various reports of VC attacks on different Police Stations in Saigon especially in the Cholon district. In general these attacks have been repulsed but several policemen have been wounded. Tan Son Nhut airport outside Saigon is reported to be back to normal operation including commercial flights. The Saigon Government will apparently resume normal operation on Monday, 5 February. There is a curfew in Saigon which will be in effect from 1700 hours until 0800 hours. The curfew was previously on a 24 hour basis but it has been lifted from 0800 to 1700.

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2. Military action in Hue is still reported as quite active. Reportedly there are approximately 1000 VC in the city and the Marines are now engaged in house to house fighting. Another battalion of VC are reported as approaching Hue from the South and Southeast areas in an effort to augment the VC troops in the city. We are receiving communications from the city although in an infrequent manner. The VC are reported to have control of the Jail and part of the Citadel. But the Marines are making slow progress in clearing out the Citadel area. The airfield is under ARVN control but no incoming or outgoing flights have been reported. The Route #1 bridge across the Perfume River at the Southeast entrance to Hue has been destroyed by the VC.
3. The situation from a military standpoint is still considered as serious in Kontum, Ban Me Thuot, Ben Tre and Bien Hoa Province. In other areas of SVN fighting has subsided and normal operations are resuming.

Logistics:

1. No serious Logistics problems involving CIA personnel have been reported in cable traffic received thus far.

Communications:

1. Communications in SVN are still considered in excellent condition with the exception of Hue. This situation is caused by the considerable military action in the city which is disrupting normal activity.

The cable traffic received during the weekend from SVN is considered light as compared with traffic received last week.

Howard J. Osborn
Director of Security

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