

~~SECRET SAVIN~~

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FOLLOW-UP NR 3 TO
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FOLLOW-UP NUMBER 3 TO

COORDINATED VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST OFFENSIVE

EVIDENCED IN SOUTH VIETNAM (252332Z)

Additional indications of an impending Vietnamese Communist offensive in the western highlands were provided in messages exchanged between the Military Intelligence Section (MIS), Hq, PAVN 1st Division, and a subordinate during the period 24 to 26 January. These messages indicate that a movement of Communist troops and artillery is underway.

On 24 January a subordinate of MIS, Hq, PAVN 1st Division, last located by SIGINT on 6 January in western Kontum Province near 14-33N 107-42E (YB 930127) stated that it was beginning a six day march. On the following day the MIS told the subordinate to "try to enter rapidly and stabilize your position. Prepare to carry out your assignment because the situation is very urgent."

On 25 January the subordinate asked permission to begin communicating "...directly with the station at the headquarters" as of 1600 hours (Golf) on 26 January. In a 26 January message the MIS stated that it did not concur with the request and that the subordinate should continue communicating with the MIS as in the past. The MIS, however, apparently added that the subordinate could communicate with the headquarters after it has completed its move.

In a later message of 26 January the subordinate said, "The troops are still moving and have not yet arrived at the [possibly sapper] position and that movement [possibly near the border] was safe. In another message of 26 January the subordinate reported that it was collaborating with "...the unit which is still four hours on this side of the river" and remarked that "The artillery is cumbersome and the movement is difficult."

The ferrying of troops across a river--possibly the Ton Le Son River which forms the border between Pleiku Province and Cambodia--has been discussed in recent messages exchanged by the probable Hq, PAVN B3 Front authority and its subordinate probable Hq, PAVN 1st Division element operating in the western Pleiku Province-Cambodia border area. It is possible that the above military intelligence activity concerns Vietnamese Communist operations in this same area and is related to a build up of forces in the Pleiku Province area in preparation for an offensive.

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