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SOUTHEAST ASIA SIGINT SUMMARY

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NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY
SOUTHEAST ASIA SIGINT SUMMARY

This report summarizes developments noted throughout Southeast Asia available to NSA at time of publication on 09 February 1968. All information in this report is based entirely on SIGINT except where otherwise specifically indicated.

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SITUATION SUMMARY

Communications serving elements of the PAVN 6th Regiment continue to reflect tactical activity being conducted by Vietnamese Communist forces in Thua Thien Province of South Vietnam's Military Region (MR) Tri-Thien-Hue. In MR 5, a large concentration of Communist forces is currently operating in the vicinity of Da Nang and Hoi An in eastern Quang Nam Province, while military intelligence reporting on airfields at Dak To and relocations by several PAVN B3 Front elements highlighted activity in the western highlands. To the south, results of attacks conducted by Communist forces in Long Khanh and Binh Duong Provinces of MR 1 were reported by military intelligence elements in those areas.

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In the DMZ area, elements of the PAVN 101D Regiment reported heavy air attacks and artillery bombardment northwest of Khe Sanh. An element associated with the 164th Artillery Regiment revealed difficulty in finding suitable emplacements. At the DMZ's eastern extremity, elements of the 803rd Regiment continued to fire on Allied shipping from Cua Viet to Dong Ha. In MR 4 of North Vietnam, SIGINT disclosed the movement of "heavy artillery" by elements of the tentative 66th Battalion, 275th Regiment, believed to be located in Nghe An Province. Finally, unidentified PAVN Rear Services elements reported problems in identifying aircraft and maintaining combat readiness of anti-aircraft personnel.

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I. COMMUNIST SOUTHEAST ASIA

A. MILITARY

1. Vietnamese Communist Communications - South Vietnam

Hanoi Communications

On 7 February, an unusually high volume of messages were noted being passed between the Central Executive Committee (CEC) of the Lao Dong Party in Hanoi and the secondary station of COSVN. Nine messages were originated by CEC and eight were passed by the COSVN secondary station.

Similar high message volumes were previously noted on these communications on 27 and 28 January. During the past month, an average of one message per day has been observed on these communications.

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Military Region Tri-Thien-Hue Area

On 7 February, the 10th Company, PAVN 6th Regiment reported it had killed and wounded 43 "enemy" when attacked by Allied troops and war vessels. The company stated it had not yet been able to attack Le Khe (16-30N 107-35E, YD 750268) or Bao My (16-30N 107-35E, YD 745255) but was later ordered to attack and halt a planned reinforcement of Allied troops in Hue, by boat along the Huong River. On 8 February the company reported that eleven M113 vehicles previously located in Tri Le (16-30N 107-35E, YD 739254), had probably returned to Hue. On 9 February, one platoon of the 10th Company reportedly occupied the blockhouse and waterway at Bao Vinh (16-30N 107-35E, YD 754250), while two other platoons were located at Minh Huong (16-30N 107-35E, YD 150784) and Trieu Son (possibly 16-30N 107-35E, YD 750273).

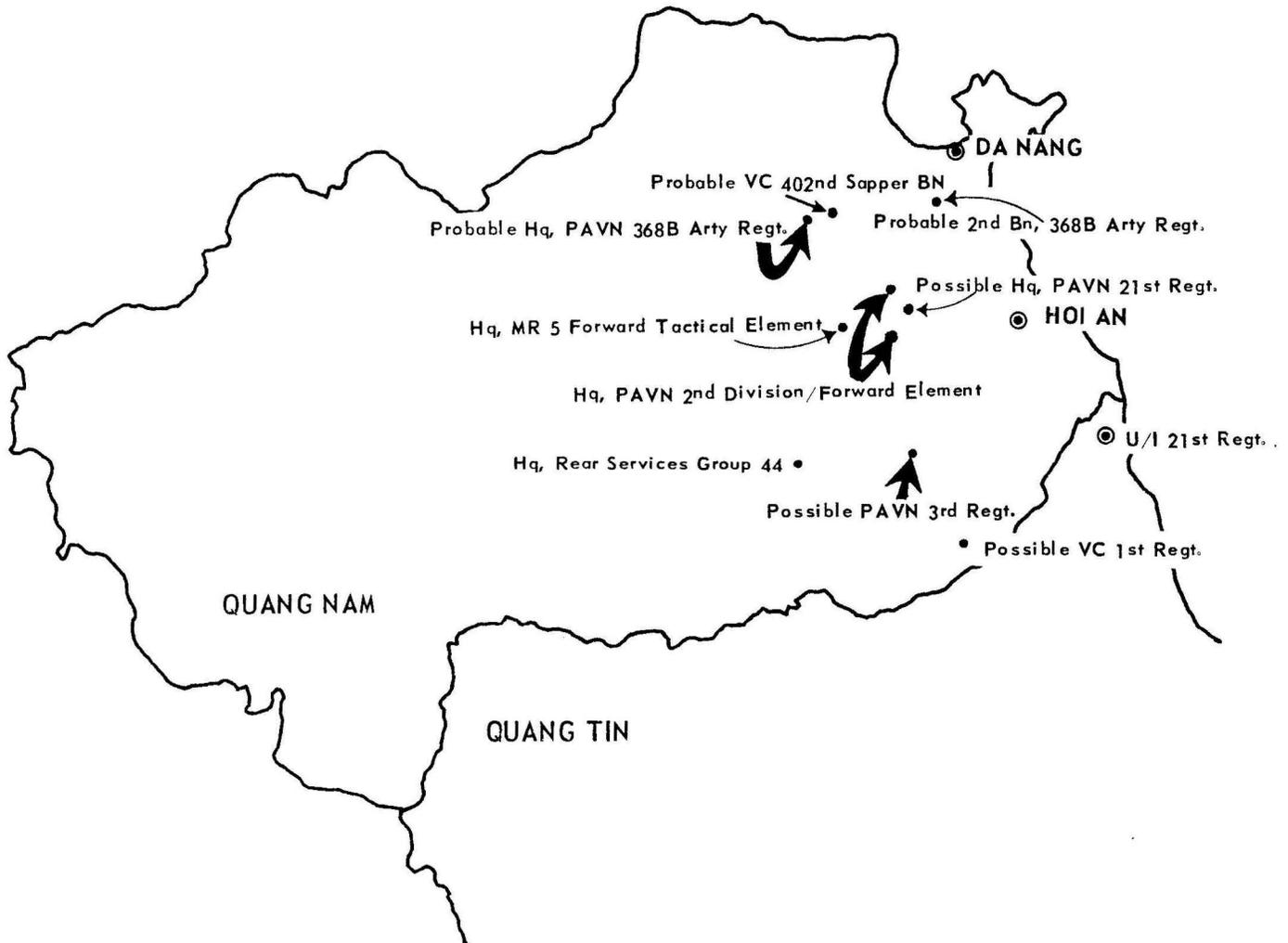
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CONCENTRATION OF VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST FORCES IN QUANG NAM PROVINCE



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Military Region 5

In the eastern Quang Nam-Quang Tin Province area, Vietnamese Communist military communications reflected Allied tactical activity on 7 and 8 February. On 7 February Hq, Rear Services Group 44--last located in eastern Quang Nam Province near 15-49N 108-05E (AT 875491)--reported to High Command, Hanoi that it was in a difficult situation, surrounded, under bombardment by air and artillery and about to move. On the same day an unidentified subordinate of the Quang Nam Provincial Unit operating in northeastern Quang Tin--last located on 31 January near 15-46N 108-24E (BT 222431)--reported that it was in a difficult situation and surrounded. Hq, MR 5 Forward Tactical Element, Quang Nam Province--located on 2 February near 15-47N 108-07E (AT 918461)--reported a similar condition to Hq, MR 5 on 8 February.

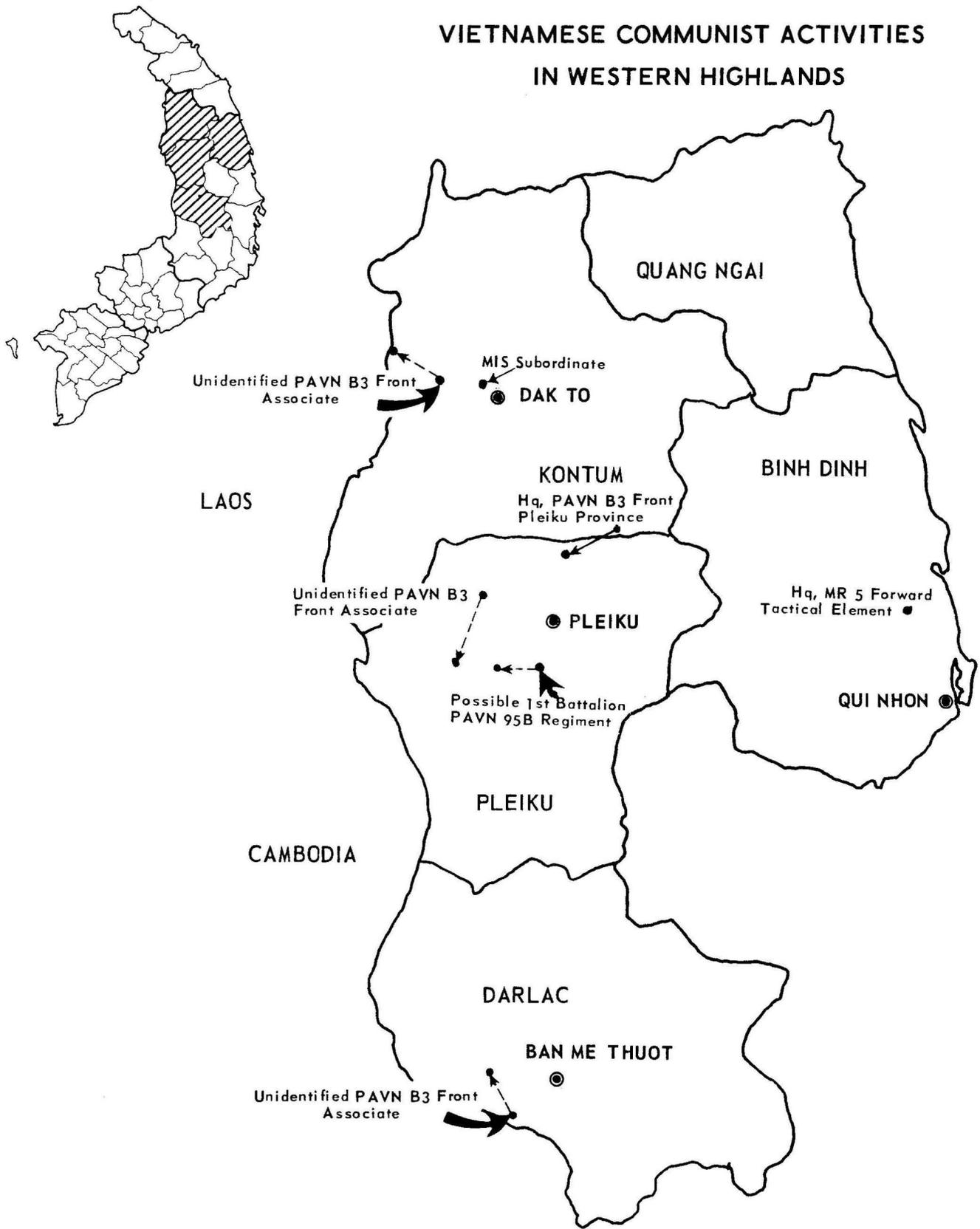
The largest concentration of Vietnamese Communist military forces in the coastal provinces of MR 5 is currently maneuvering in the general area of eastern Quang Nam Province south of Da Nang and east of Hoi An cities. This concentration of forces includes--in addition to the above elements--Hq, PAVN 2nd Division, near 15-55N 108-12E (BT 011594) on 7 February; probable Hq, 2nd Division Forward Element, located on 7 February near 15-54N 108-21E (BT 008585); possible Hq, VC 1st Regiment, and PAVN 3rd and 21st Regiments, last located on 4 February, 30 January, and 7 February near 15-40N 108-12E (BT 069364), 15-49N 108-12E (BT 038490), and 15-55N 108-12E (BT 030595), respectively; probable Hq, PAVN 368B Artillery Regiment, near 15-55N 107-56E (ZC 154622) on 6 February; the probable 2nd Battalion, 368B Artillery Regiment, last located on 2 February near 15-55N 108-12E (BT 022607); and the probable VC 402nd Sapper Battalion, located near 15-57N 108-03E (AT 856667) on 7 February. The Vietnamese Communist forces in this area have been exhibiting an attack posture for the past several weeks.

To the south in east-central Binh Dinh Province, the Hq, MR 5 Forward Tactical Element, Binh Dinh Province was located on 8 February near 14-04N 109-09E (CR 000534), approximately 16 km east of its 5 February position and about 31 km north of Qui Nhon.

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VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES IN WESTERN HIGHLANDS



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In the western highlands indications of increased Vietnamese Communist interest in the Dak To area and reflections of an Allied sweep operation were noted in two messages of 8 February. In one message from the Military Intelligence Section (MIS), PAVN 1st Division to an unlocated subordinate, the subordinate was instructed to report in detail on an apparent Allied sweep through the subordinate's "station." The MIS further requested that the subordinate determine which of the two Dak To airfields was more frequently used by the Allies. According to collateral, there are two airfields in the Dak To area: the main airfield located at 14-39N 107-48E (ZB 015218) and a second at 14-40N 107-50E (XB 043225).

In the second message, another subordinate--located on 3 February near 14-41N 107-48E (ZB 001256)--reported an Allied sweep through a "friendly station." The subordinate stated that it had withdrawn to "Regimental Headquarters" and possibly indicated that it was guarding "the station with the reconnaissance element of E3." "E" is the Vietnamese Communist cover designator for regiment.

Several PAVN B3 Front units have effected relocations in the western highlands. An unidentified unit associated with the 1st Division moved 25 km to the west-northwest between 15 January and 7 February, to a position near 14-43N 107-32E (YB 722287) in the Laos-Kontum Province border area. In Pleiku Province, the possible 1st Battalion, PAVN 95B Regiment was located on 9 February near 13-53N 107-50E (ZA 077364), 23 km southwest of Pleiku city and 9 km west of its location on 5 February. Nearby, an unidentified associate of the B3 Front moved 14 km south-southwest between 24 January and 8 February, when it was located in the area of 13-54N 107-45E (YA 981390). In north-central Pleiku, Hq, B3 Front, Pleiku Province, was located near 14-12N 108-05E (AR 851717) on 8 February, 14 km west-southwest of its position on the previous day.

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Finally, in southwestern Darlac on 8 February an unidentified B3 Front-associated element was located near 12-45N 107-55E (ZV 183107), 13 km northwest of Ban Me Thuot and 21 km north-northwest of its position on the previous day.

(2/G12/VCM/R0405-68, 090245Z; R0404-68, 090010Z; R0403-68, 082030Z; R0397-68, 081200Z; R0395-68, 081115Z; R0394-68, 081045Z; R0392-68, 080610Z; R0391-68, 080515Z; T329-68, 082240Z; T328-68, 082210Z) ~~(SECRET SAVIN)~~

Military Region 1

On 7 February, an unidentified control authority was located in southern Binh Long Province border at 11-22N 106-42E (XT 866561). This station, which communicates with a subordinate possibly associated with the possible Hq, PAVN 7th Division, relocated approximately 50 km southeastward from northeastern Tay Ninh Province between 14 January and 4 February.

A subordinate of a watch group, whose control authority may be associated with the unidentified control authority in southern Binh Long, was located on 8 February in northeastern Binh Duong Province near 11-18N 106-37E (XT 756478), about 54 km southeast of its 16 January position in northeastern Tay Ninh. Another subordinate of this watch group was initially located on 8 February in west-central Binh Duong near 11-10N 106-29E (XT 620341). Subordinates on this watch group are associated with the possible Hq, 7th Division; the Hq, VC 9th Light Infantry Division (LID); the unidentified possible Front Headquarters and the probable VC 272nd Regiment, 9th LID. The current relocations may be a further indication of the tactical disposition of 7th Division-associated elements in northeastern Binh Duong Province.

Also in Binh Duong, in an 8 February message to a possible unidentified MI control authority--located on 1 February near 11-12N 106-35E (XT 734373)--a subordinate--located on 5 February near 11-10N 106-34E, XT 705347--reported that it had "killed 18 Americans" and had destroyed an ammunition depot by artillery attacks. American troops were reported to be "outside the fence and to the east and west of the road" (probably Route 13).

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Messages since 1 February between these elements have mentioned a joint operation with the PAVN 7th Division and have indicated that the mission of the 7th Division would be "to contain Lai Khe [11-10N 106-35E, XT 720350]," while VC local forces would attack Ben Cat (11-11N 106-36E, XT 750364). Communications between these entities continue to reflect interest in Allied troop and vehicle movements in the Lai Khe-Ben Cat area. According to collateral, Lai Khe was attacked on 8 February, probably by elements of the PAVN 7th Division.

A radio station serving Detached Element 1 of the Military Intelligence Bureau of COSVN was located on 8 February in central Binh Duong near 11-11N 106-28E (XT 605360), about 12 km southeast of the Michelin Plantation and approximately 57 km south of its 2 February position near the Binh Long-Tay Ninh Province-Cambodia border. This element, which normally controls about 10 subordinates--most of which are located in the Binh Duong-Tay Ninh border area--had not been observed in communications since 28 January. There is evidence that at least one of the detached element's subordinates may have been re-subordinated to the MIS of the unidentified possible Front Headquarters in Binh Long Province.

To the east, high message activity involving the tentative Hq, COSVN Rear Services Group 84 was observed on 7 February. An unidentified station located in northeastern Tay Ninh Province passed 14 messages to the suspected headquarters, and a second unidentified subordinate--located on 11 November in Long Khanh Province at 11-03N 107-21E (YT 577225)--passed 6. The headquarters passed a total of 23 messages to three stations: the two mentioned above, and a third unidentified subordinate located in Bien Hoa Province on 16 November at 10-40N 107-01E (YS 210808). The suspected Rear Services headquarters had relocated from north-central Phuoc Tuy Province to the Phuoc Tuy-Bien Hoa Province border area between 27 January and 2 February.

Finally, in a message of 7 February to the MIS, VC 5th LID, a subordinate (probably located in Long Khanh Province) reported that the "1st Battalion, [ARVN] 43rd Regiment was destroyed" possibly by a Vietnamese Communist attack on an Allied convoy in

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the Tan Phong (10-53N 107-13E, YT 4304). The subordinate further reported that "approximately 60 if the enemy returned to the rear area." In another message of the same date to the MIS, the subordinate reported that it had attacked the provincial township (Xuan Loc, 10-56N 107-14E, YT 4410) and "occupied the market area."

(2/G10/VCM/T233-68, 081841Z; T229-68, 080840Z; T228, 080300Z;
2/O/VCM/R73-68, 081525Z; R71-68, 072156Z; R10-68, 062229Z;
3/O/STY/R31-68; R30-68) ~~(SECRET SAVIN)~~

Military Region 3 (South Vietnam)

On 8 February, the possible Hq, MR 3 was located in southern Phong Dinh Province at 09-47N 105-43E (WR 782798), approximately 85 km northeast of its 16 December position near the An Xuyen-Kien Giang Province border. An unidentified entity, possibly associated with the Military Affairs Section of the Region 3 Committee, also relocated into this area on 6 February.

(2/G10/VCM/R072-68, 081457Z; 3/O/STY/R33-68) ~~(SECRET SAVIN)~~

Military Region 4 (South Vietnam)

An unidentified Vietnamese Communist control authority--located on 8 February at 10-52N 106-39E (XT 804029)--has been active since early February in the area immediately north of Saigon. This authority, which is positioned near the MIS, MR 1 communicates with two unidentified and unlocated stations. To the south of Saigon, several unidentified elements continue to be located in the area of 10-40N 106-39E (XS 8080).

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2. DRV Communications

DMZ Area

Communications between elements of the PAVN 101D Regiment disclosed heavy air attacks and artillery bombardments in their area northwest of Khe Sanh. One element reported movement of four Allied

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tanks to Hill 575 (unlocated) and the arrival of eight C-130 flights at Khe Sanh Airfield. Withdrawal of Allied forces from one point of Hill 575 was also reported, as was an incident in which two persons were led away by Americans after waving white flags from the jungle edge.

In a message addressed to "Comrade THAI, political commissar of the 8th Independent Battalion, Front," it was stated that recruits of the battalion would be turned over to Regiment 3/4 (90th Regiment, 324B Division). This is the first SIGINT mention of an 8th Independent Battalion, but several messages of the PAVN 90th Regiment have mentioned recruits in addition to continuous supply movement and combat preparations.

A PAVN 164th Artillery Regiment-associated element reported on 8 February that he could not find emplacements because the incline was too great, the foliage too thick and the Allied guns at Tan Lam (16-46N 106-52E, XD 986552) could not be seen from his position. Artillery fire "from the north" was suggested, a probable reference to guns north of the Ben Hai River.

The 27th Independent Battalion was informed on 8 February by the Front that the enemy, especially the ARVN, were very confused and that the battalion was to actively annihilate probable government-associated and self-defense personnel. A battalion subordinate reported it had killed three Americans and wounded a probable government associated man with sniper fire across the river from Dinh Xa (16-48N 107-03E, YD 180595) to "Kilometer 7" on Route 9. The 7th Company reported it was experiencing difficulty due to casualties of 18 killed--including the Company Executive Officer--and 4 wounded. The company also reported the loss of one sniper rifle to Allied forces.

Subordinate units of the PAVN 803rd Regiment continue to fire on Allied shipping from Cua Viet (16-52N 107-10E, YD 340700) to Dong Ha. The sinking and damaging of several barges and boats by recoilless gun fire has been reflected, and one unit reported the increase of helicopter supply flights from Cua Viet to Dong Ha, probably due to the harassing fire against surface transportation.

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The regiment continued preparations to block Allied sweeps while reconnoitering the area of Quan Ngang (16-53N 107-05E, YD 222678). An observation station was to be established at coordinates 6822 Cell 3 (16-53N 107-06E, YD 228669) and it was reported that Allied forces at Quan Ngang consisted of three infantry battalions with one "agent company."

PAVN High Command

A new subordinate, which is unidentified and unlocated, has been noted since 6 February on the PAVN High Command communications group which serves major headquarters either in or associated with South Vietnam. Other subordinates on this High Command group which receive the same type of messages as those passed to the new subordinate have been located in the general DMZ area.

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Military Region 4

Movement of "heavy artillery" by elements of the tentative 66th Battalion, 275th Regiment was noted on 5 February at 0221Z. On that date the tentative 66th Battalion believed to be located in Nghe An Province passed a message to an unidentified subordinate company which stated, "On the 3rd of February, Company 3 served in sending the heavy artillery across the river." Although the name of the river is unknown, a tentative Company 3 is believed to be located in Nghe An Province.

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PAVN Rear Services

Problems in identifying aircraft and in maintaining combat readiness of antiaircraft personnel have been reported in a message passed by an unidentified PAVN Rear Service element on 8 February. The message disclosed that personnel had been engaged in cutting camouflage and were absent when alerts were called. It was also reported that prior knowledge concerning "friendly" aircraft in the area was not being disseminated to all antiaircraft personnel. On at least one occasion, an aircraft resembling a

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C-121 had been spotted and the order had been given to "go on alert and prepare for combat." The message indicated that, in this instance, a DRV "friendly" aircraft had been mistaken for an "enemy" aircraft.

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Overland Infiltration

Non - Responsive

Communications activity of unidentified PAVN elements located in the A Shau Valley, which recently reflected the impending arrival of a propeller-driven aircraft to A Shau (16-07N 107-20E, YC 5084), have revealed construction activity in the area of Ta Luong (16-18N 107-23E, YD 5503) and possibly in other areas of Thua Thien Province. Since late December, activity and unit locations have been noted in the areas of Ta Luong, A Shau airstrip, Be Luong (16-09N 107-25E, YD 5889), A Luoi (16-16N 107-13E, YD 3800) Ta Bat (16-13N 107-15E, YC 4296) and Khe Tre (possibly 16-09N 107-44E, YC 9489). Numerous mentions have been made of engineers and an unidentified 6th Engineer Battalion plus unidentified Companies 645 and 648, which have been noted active in constructing and surfacing a road in the vicinity of Ta Luong.

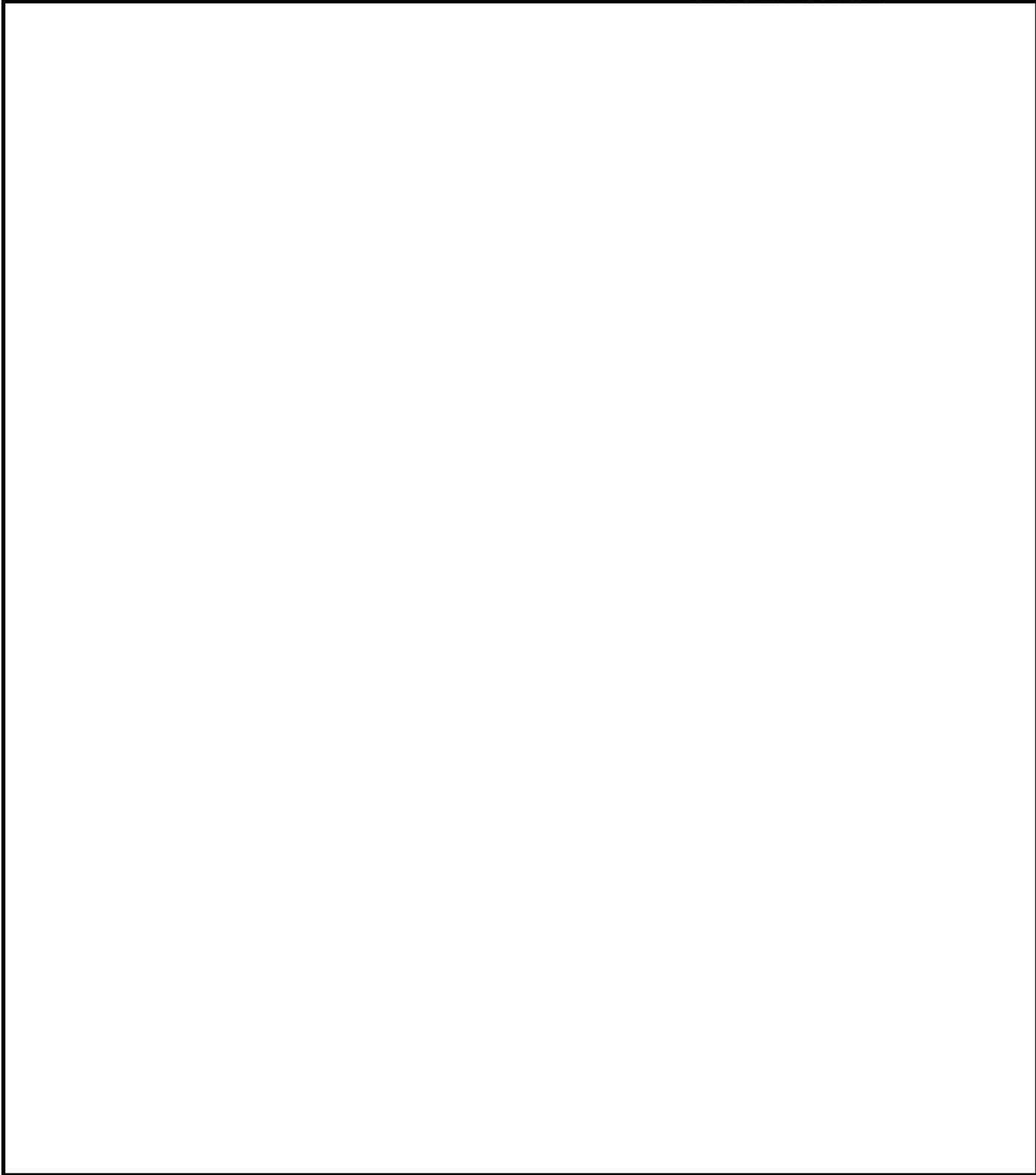
(2/G11/VCM/R266-68, 061125Z) ~~(SECRET SAVIN)~~

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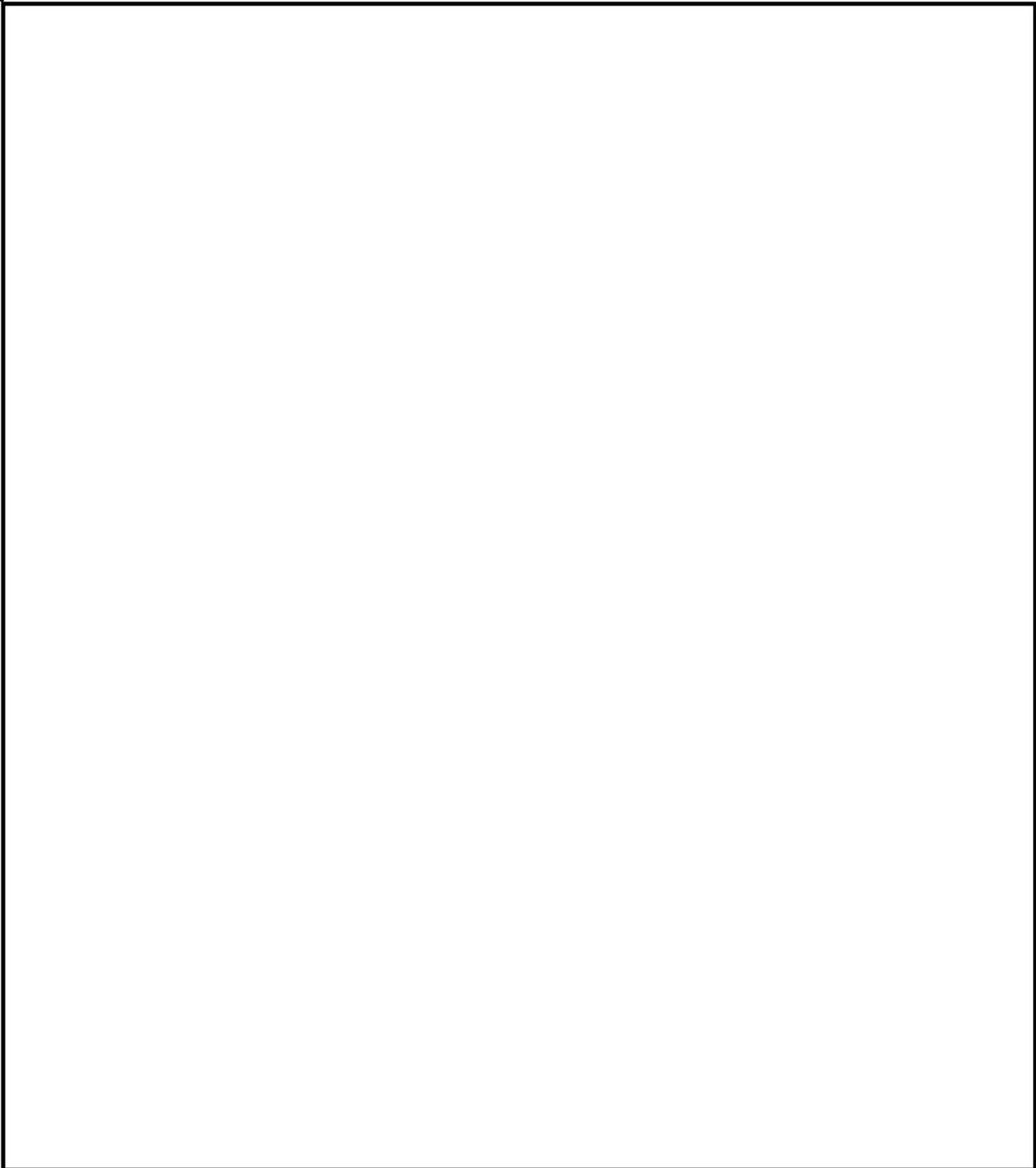


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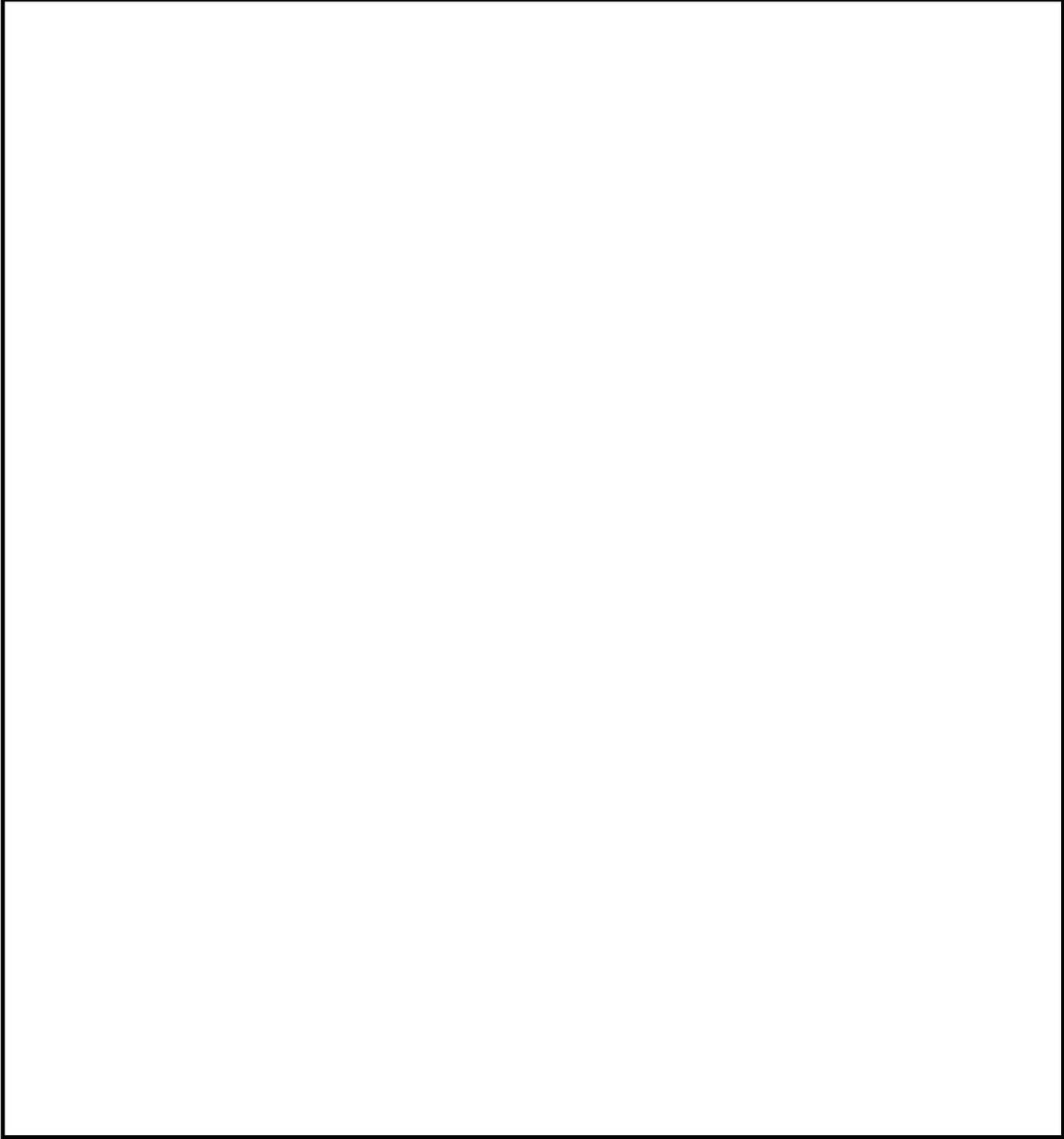


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D. SOUTH VIETNAM

South Vietnam to Receive Aid for Victim of VC Attacks

The South Vietnamese Government is to receive aid from several countries for the civilian victims of last week's VC attacks, according to recent Vietnamese diplomatic messages. On 5 and 7 February the Foreign Ministry instructed all posts to request aid for these victims, estimated at 500,000, with 100,000 in Saigon alone.

The following actions on the request have been reported:

- (1) Nationalist China has promised rice and clothing;
- (2) Japan has sent an unspecified amount of money and one ton of medical supplies; more medical supplies and possibly construction materials are on the way;
- (3) The Embassy in West Germany reports that the Red Cross and various ministries have pledged donations of medicines and food products;
- (4) Thailand has been requested to donate corrugated iron and cement;
- (5) A committee for aid to South Vietnam is being organized in Laos, and

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(6) Malaysia had promised a donation of vaccines.

(2X/O/VND/T17-68; 081540Z; 2X/O/VND/T18-68; 081647; 2X/O/VND/T20-68;
in preparation; 3/O/VND/T36-68; 071859; 3/O/VND/T37-68; 081532;
3/O/VND/T38-68; in preparation; 3/O/VND/T40-68; in preparation;
3/O/VND/T42-68; in preparation) (~~TOP SECRET TRINE~~)

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