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3/O/STY/R40-68
15 February 1968
Dist: O/UT
(SEA SIGSUM 40-68)

SOUTHEAST ASIA SIGINT SUMMARY

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS CODEWORD MATERIAL

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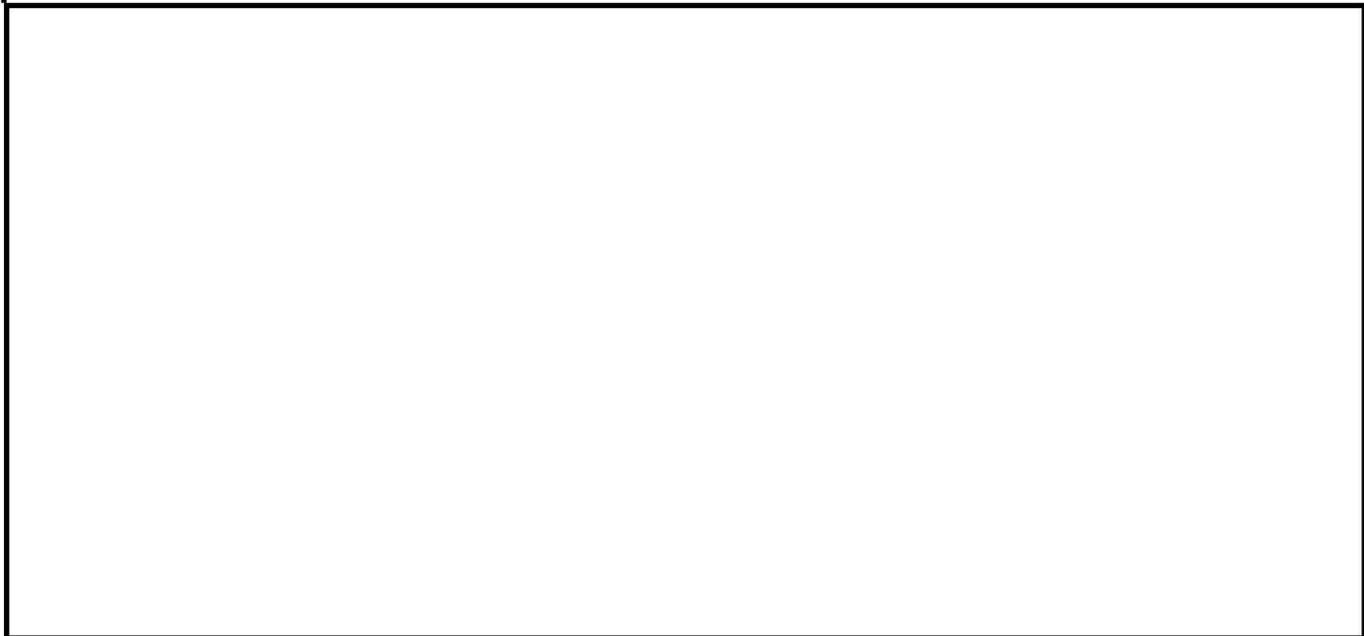
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NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY
SOUTHEAST ASIA SIGINT SUMMARY

This report summarizes developments noted throughout Southeast Asia available to NSA at time of publication on 15 February 1968. All information in this report is based entirely on SIGINT except where otherwise specifically indicated.

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SITUATION SUMMARY

SIGINT continues to provide reflections of offensive operations being conducted by elements of the PAVN 6th Regiment in the Hue area of South Vietnam's Military Region (MR) Tri-Thien-Hue. In the western highlands of MR 5, the probable Hq, PAVN B3 Front Authority instructed the probable PAVN 1st Division element in western Pleiku Province to mortar an unidentified location, probably in the vicinity of Le Thanh. Indications of impending attacks were also noted in messages between unidentified entities believed associated with the PAVN 66th Regiment, 1st Division in Kontum Province. Tentative information suggesting that Hq, Viet Cong (VC) 9th Light Infantry Division is located near the northern Bien Hoa-Long Khanh Province border and the reappearance in communications of two reconnaissance elements serving the division's Military Intelligence Section highlighted activity in MR 1.

PAVN elements in the Khe Sanh area of Quang Tri Province revealed that 193 combat-ready men remained from an original 289; however, the status of the remaining 96 was not revealed. In the eastern DMZ area the 1st Battalion, PAVN 803rd Regiment reported that it was constructing combat fortifications. The 1st Battalion was reported to be located at Vinh Lai, Quang Tri Province.

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I. COMMUNIST SOUTHEAST ASIA

A. MILITARY

1. Vietnamese Communist Communications - South Vietnam

Military Region Tri-Thien-Hue

Combat in the Hue area continues to be reflected in communications serving the PAVN 6th Regiment. On 14 February the 11th Company reportedly crossed Route 1 and the 9th Company attacked the Nha Truong area (unlocated), with one detachment occupying the possible citadel moat north of An Hoa (16-29N 107-34E, YD 730232). It was later reported that the Cuong De crossroads (unlocated) and the crossroads of Route 1 and 6 (unlocated) had been occupied, and the 9th Company was instructed to strike the flank and rear in coordination with a 3rd Company to annihilate Marines that had just entered the citadel. One regimental element was instructed during this period to search for every means to communicate by voice radio.

Communications serving unidentified PAVN elements associated with the PAVN 559th Transportation Group in the A Shan Valley have revealed an interest in the area southwest of Hue. On 15 February unidentified PAVN elements, believed to be constructing roads from the vicinity of the A Shau air strip (16-07N 107-20E, YC 5084) to Ta Luong (16-18N 107-23E, YD 5503), reported that a detachment had gone to Binh Dien (vicinity of 16-22N 107-29E, YD 6710) and that results would be reported later in order to assess the enemy situation. The same element called for an assessment of the road possibly from Lang Ngoi (16-19N 107-24E, YD 5705) to Ta Luong where it reportedly met the "American-constructed road that is passable." A later message mentioned moving near Hue, but no further information was given.

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Military Region 5

In the western highlands the probable Hq, PAVN 1st Division element operating in western Pleiku Province was instructed on 14 February to mortar an unidentified position. The probable Hq, PAVN B3 Front authority--located in Cambodia near the Kontum-Pleiku Province border--gave the following instructions to the probable 1st Division element: "1. In accordance with the specific situation, you are urged to immediately mortar the area A [unlocated and unidentified]. 2. Although [you] have sent out teams to fire at aircraft, your methods of investigation must be positive in attitude. Only then can you find every way to annihilate the enemy. 3. Company and platoon grade cadre are to watch the men continuously during normal times as well as those times when there is a [tense] situation. 4. You must have a plan to reconnoiter again area B [unidentified and unlocated] to find out if the enemy has withdrawn and if there are any traces of artillery, mortars, etc." The probable Hq, 1st Division element was located on 14 February near 13-53N 107-33E (YA 764369), approximately 12 km northwest of Le Thanh. The target of the above mentioned mortar attack is probably in the vicinity of Le Thanh, since the above B3 Front elements have been discussing an impending mortar attack in that area for the past week. In an apparent reply to the above message on 14 February, the probable 1st Division element stated that the artillery attack was not yet possible and gave various reasons for the delay.

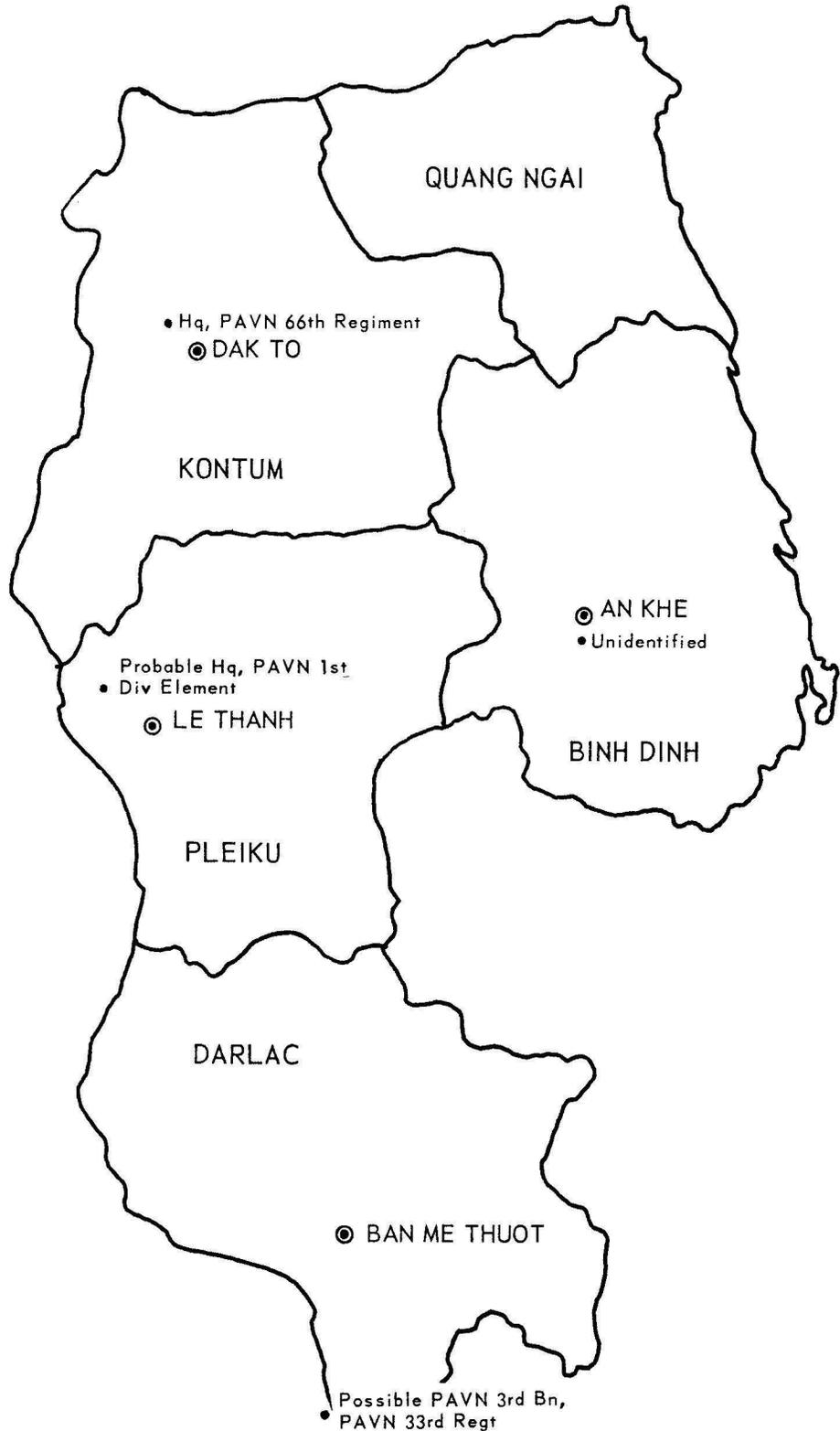
In other activity in the western highlands, messages passed between unidentified entities believed to be associated with the PAVN 66th Regiment, 1st Division--located in western Kontum Province--indicated that elements of that unit may be preparing for attacks in that area. One message of 13 February contained instructions for an unidentified unit to "attack unit 16 (C val 00 hours) [GOLF]" on an unknown date. The Hq, 66th Regiment, 1st Division, was last located on 11 February near 14-42N 107-43E (YB 928284), approximately 10 km northwest of Dak To.

Meanwhile, the possible 3rd Battalion, PAVN 33rd Regiment, was located on 14 February in northern Quang Duc Province, MR 10,

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near 12-23N 107-53E (ZU 132697), approximately 40 km southwest of Ban Me Thuot and about 21 km southwest of its 11 February location.

Vietnamese Communist activity in Quang Nam Province continues to indicate apparent reactions to Allied tactical activity in that area. On 14 February the Hq, MR 5 Main Force Unit Control--located in southern Quang Nam near 15-39N 107-54E (ZC 102332) on the same day 14--indicated that it was about to move. In eastern Quang Nam, an unidentified subordinate to Hq, Rear Services Group 44 was located on 13 February near 15-53N 108-03E (AT 853570), about 29 km west of Hoi An and approximately 18 km northeast of its 12 February location. Additionally, the Hq, Rear Services Group 44, located on 12 February in the central part of the province near 15-42N 107-57E (ZC 177384) possibly reported on 14 February that it was in a difficult situation, under bombardment and attack, and surrounded.

Elsewhere in Quang Nam Province, a radio station observed in MR 5 communications since 26 December 1967 has been identified as possibly serving Hq, PAVN 31st Regiment. This headquarters was last located on 5 February near 15-57N 108-04E (AT 867660), about 20 km southwest of Da Nang, near the headquarters of the probable PAVN 368B Artillery Regiment and the probable VC 402nd Sapper Battalion. A message of 10 February sent by the probable 402nd Sapper Battalion to Hq, Rear Services Group 44 mentioned the 31st and 368B Regiments, indicating an operational relationship between these units. The possible Hq, 31st Regiment presently communicates with Hq, Rear Services Group 44, the tentative Da Nang Municipal Unit, the probable Hq, 402nd Sapper Battalion and the probable Hq, 368B Artillery Regiment. This possible regimental headquarters also communicates with two unidentified terminals, one located on 6 February near 15-25N 108-31E (BT 348049) in Quang Tin Province about 10 km south of Tam Ky, and the other on 6 February near 16-13N 108-04E (AT 866958) in southeastern Thua Thien Province about 23 km northwest of Da Nang.

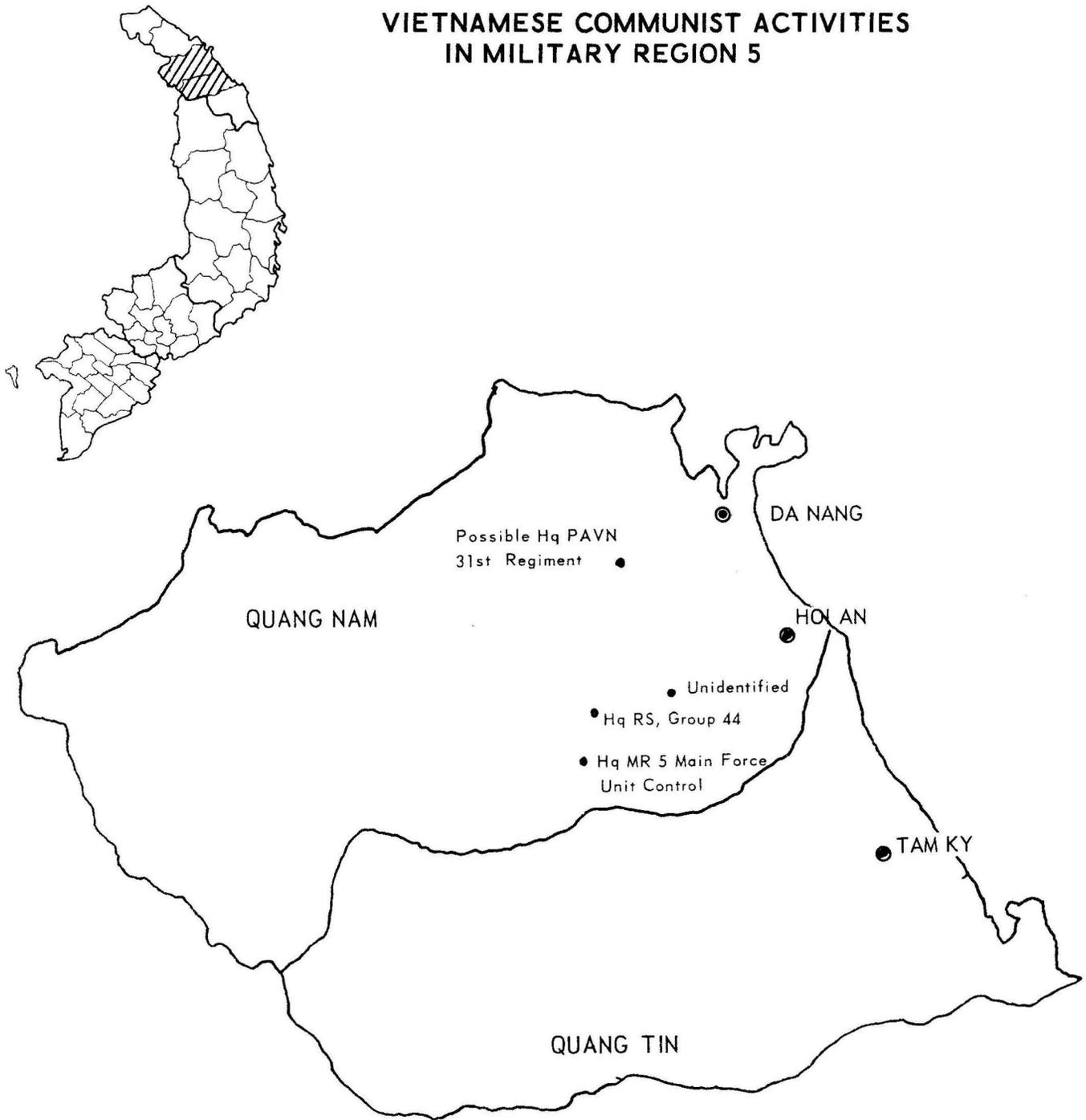
To the south in central Binh Dinh Province, a possible rear services element, subordinate to Hq, MR 5, was located on 14 February near 13-51N 108-37E (BR 447310), about 11 km south

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of An Khe and approximately 70 km south-southeast of its 26 December 1967 location.

(2/G12/VCM/R0477-68, 142047Z; R0476-68, 141934Z; R0475-68, 141500Z; R0472-68, 141145Z; R0471-68, 140835Z; T380-68, 150445Z; T378-68, 141550Z) ~~(SECRET SAVIN)~~

Military Region 1

Tentative information of 14 February suggests that Hq, VC 9th Light Infantry Division (LID) may be located in the general vicinity of the northern Bien Hoa-Long Khanh Province border area. The last firm location of this headquarters was on 5 February in the Cambodia-Binh Long-Phuoc Long Province border area at 12-00N 106-44E (XU 895283). Communications activity between the division headquarters and its subordinates--the probable VC 271st, 272nd, and 273rd Regiments--has been sporadic since early February, with the last contact noted on 7 February.

On 13 February, the Military Affairs Section (MAS) of COSVN attempted to establish contact with the probable Hq, 271st and 273rd Regiments. Preliminary information suggests that MAS COSVN sent two messages to the 271st Regiment without establishing contact. On 14 February, MAS COSVN attempted to establish contact with the 272nd and 273rd Regiments and sent nine messages to the 273rd Regiment without establishing contact.

Meanwhile, preliminary information indicates that on 14 February a subordinate of the probable Hq, C95 Reconnaissance Company of the Military Intelligence Section (MIS), Hq, 9th LID attempted to contact the company headquarters. These two reconnaissance elements had not been noted in communications since 23 January. The subordinate was located on 22 January near 11-29N 106-24E (XT 526677) in Binh Duong Province, following a 20 km move south from northeastern Tay Ninh Province. When last noted in communications, the probable Hq, C95 Reconnaissance Company was also communicating with a second subordinate located in northeastern Tay Ninh. The reconnaissance company was located in early December 1967 in northern Phuoc Long Province.

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Collateral indicates that elements of some regiments of the VC 9th LID were involved in recent Vietnamese Communist tactical activities in the Saigon-Bien Hoa area.

In other activity, on 14 February a new unidentified subscriber was initially observed in communications with an unidentified control authority located in northeastern Tay Ninh. Other subscribers on this watch facility include MAS COSVN, the possible Front Headquarters in Binh Long Province, and terminals associated with the 9th LID and the possible PAVN 7th Division.

A new radio group, consisting of an unidentified control station and three subordinates, appeared on 1 February. The control station and one subordinate were located on 8 February in central Binh Duong Province at 11-12N 106-29E (XT 615390) and 11-05N 106-36E (XT 746265), respectively. The signal plan employed by this group is similar to that used by another unidentified group, isolated on 7 January. The control stations of both groups are located in the same general area.

(2/G10/VCM/R090-68, 141710Z; R088-68, 141525Z; R085-68, 131640Z; R06-68, 060618Z) ~~(SECRET SAVIN)~~

Military Region 10

The possible Hq, MR 10 has moved from Quang Duc Province into northwestern Phuoc Long Province. Two radio stations believed to be serving that headquarters have been located by SIGINT in the northwestern sector of Phuoc Long since 10 February.

One station was located on 14 February at 11-50N 106-47E (XU 950089), approximately 60 km southwest of its 2 February position in western Quang Duc. Prior to 14 February, this station had not been noted in communications since 9 February. MAS COSVN, which normally communicates with the possible Hq, MR 10 on a daily basis, was not observed in contact with the MR headquarters from 9 through 13 February; on 14 February, however, MAS COSVN passed eight messages to the possible Hq, MR 10. These messages appeared to be relays of the type previously observed in activity involving the possible Front Headquarters in northern Binh Long Province.

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The second station, also believed to be serving Hq, MR 10, relocated to northwestern Phuoc Long between 30 January and 10 February, to a position near 11-50N 106-48E (XU 976098).

(2/G10/VCM/R91-68, 142116Z) ~~(SECRET SAVIN)~~

Military Region 3

The Region 3 Committee (RC-3) has moved from central An Xuyen Province into the southeastern area of Phong Dinh Province (VC Can Tho). On 13 and 14 February, RC-3 was located in the vicinity of 09-45N 105-45E (WR 835786) approximately 103 km northeast of its location on 7 February. This recent relocation places RC-3 in the vicinity of Hqs, MR 3, the Western Nam Bo Branch of the Liberation News Agency, and an unidentified station associated with MAS RC-3.

(3/O/STY/R33-68, R39-68) ~~(SECRET SAVIN)~~

2. DRV Communications

DMZ Area

A PAVN element noted in tactical voice communications in the Khe Sanh area on 12 February reported 193 combat-ready men remaining from an original 289. The element also expressed a desire for "all the artillery rounds you can supply" and not just 330.

On 13 February a PAVN artillery observer in the Khe Sanh area was instructed to report the coordinates of possible allied emplacements including the number of personnel in each. The observer was ordered to send down an agent if this information was not available. On 14 February the observer was requested to reinspect coordinates for unlocated targets 13, 38 and 42.

An unidentified personality associated with the PAVN 101D Regiment reported on 14 February that his team was located with a squad of the PAVN 304th Division. Elements of the regiment continue to report aircraft activity into the Khe Sanh airstrip and PAVN artillery rounds falling in the area. Two rounds reportedly fell near a helicopter pad and two near the head of the runway.

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In the eastern DMZ, on 14 February the 1st Battalion, PAVN 803rd Regiment reported it was constructing combat fortifications, indicating that the 12th and 14th Companies had cut down over 100 trees for use in building one such fortification. It was also discussed that the 1st Battalion of the 803rd Regiment was located at Vinh Lai (16-51N 107-11E, YD 325635).

To the south, communications of the PAVN 812th Regiment continue to reflect activity between Quang Tri city (16-45N 107-11E, YD 348534) and My Chanh (16-38N 107-01E, YD 459402). Messages indicated the regiment's mission is to threaten Quang Tri city and interdict routes of communications. On 14 February, messages reflected considerable interest in the "My Chanh post" and the Nhung Bridge (16-48N 107-13E, YD 382489).

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PAVN High Command

On 14 February five new subscribers were noted on the High Command broadcast group serving units/personnel infiltrating into South Vietnam. Neither the locations nor the identities of the new subscribers are known at this time. All messages noted to date have contained characteristics which suggest that the elements involved are either outside North Vietnam or are preparing to leave.

One unidentified subscriber on this group was first noted on 11 February and located on 14 February in the vicinity of 16-14N 106-58E (YC 055979) in Laos, near the border of Quang Tri and Thua Thien Provinces, South Vietnam. It is not known if this subscriber is one of the five new subscribers mentioned above.

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PAVN Rear Services

The existence of a warehouse in the area of Kien Giang River (possibly near 17-25N 106-36E, XE 7526), was disclosed in a message passed on 13 February by an unidentified PAVN Rear Services

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element. On the same date two messages exchanged between unidentified entities reflected air-strike activity. In the first message an unidentified gun emplacement revealed that 161 bombs had been dropped in its area and that the four guns at emplacement 97 had expended 169 rounds of ammunition. It also mentioned that from 2100 to 2110G, four B-57s struck, with no report of damage. The second message disclosed an air-strike with a salvo of anti-personnel (cluster) bombs and 10 probable fragmentation bombs. One bomb hit 100 meters from B1 (unidentified, possible gun emplacement). The four guns defending the area expended 236 rounds of ammunition. Bombs also struck 10 meters from the cooking area resulting in the loss of a number of tools/implements and food supplies. The landlines of two gun emplacements at position 96 were cut; however, there was no damage to personnel or weapons.

~~(SECRET SAVIN)~~Overland Infiltration

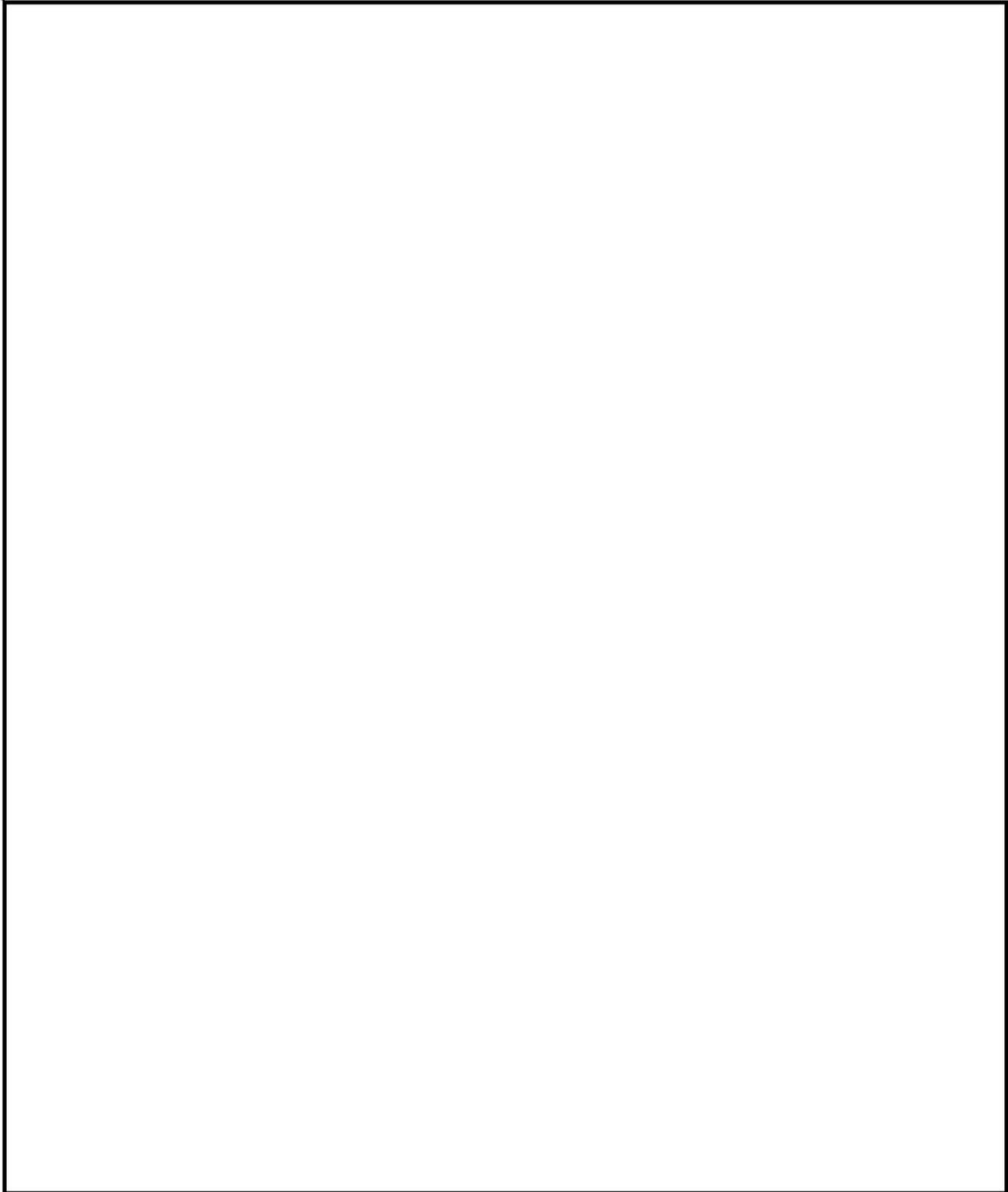
On 12 February the General Directorate of Rear Services (GDRS) Forward reappeared in communications with a terminal suspected of serving the Hq, Khe Sanh Area Front (KSAF) after a silence of 30 days. Prior to this communications silence, the GDRS Forward had maintained sporadic communications with Hq, KSAF since 21 December 1967. The GDRS Forward is located in Ha Tinh Province, North Vietnam and the Hq, KSAF was located on 12 February in the vicinity of 16-53N 106-24E (XD 502684).

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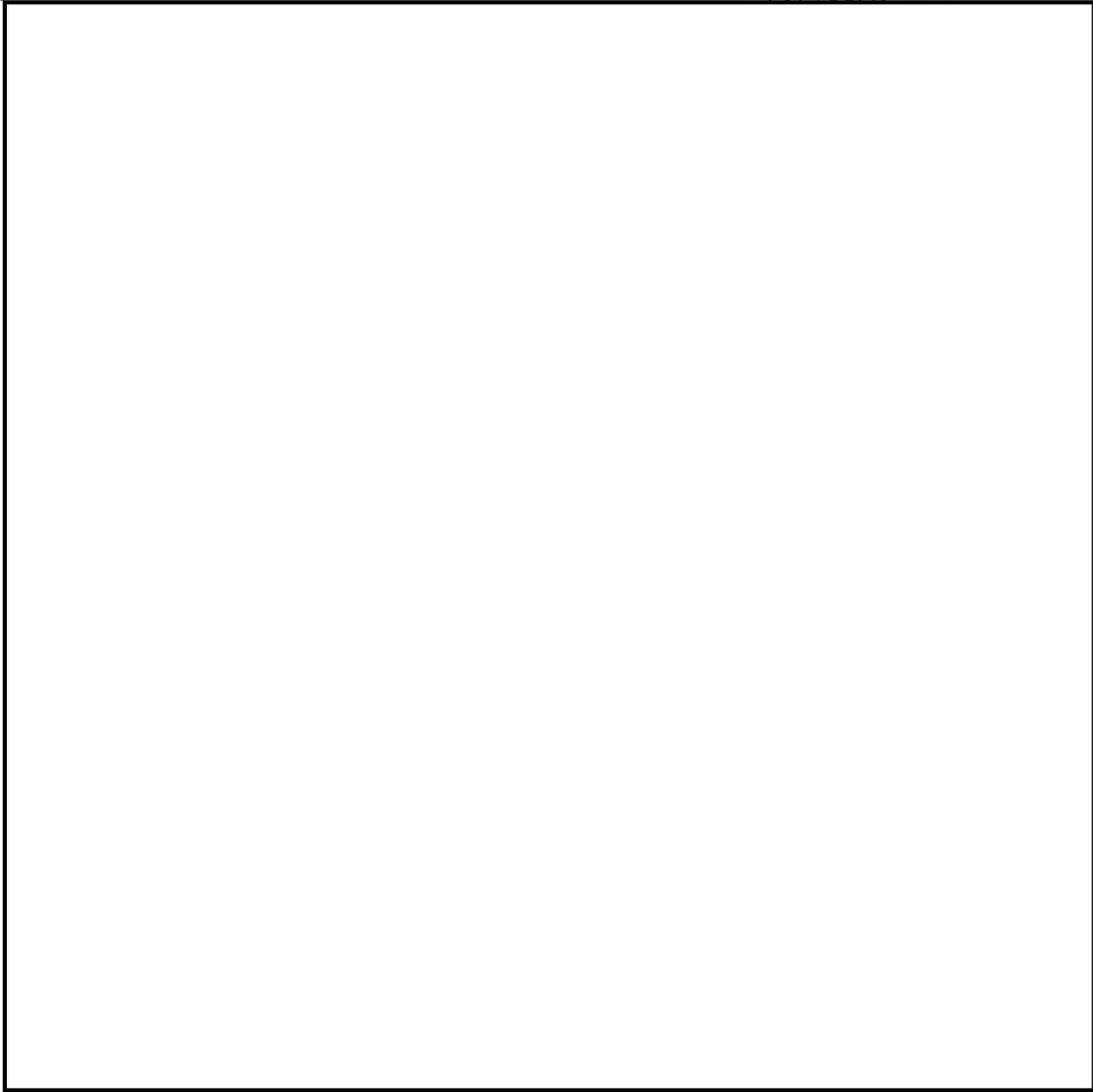


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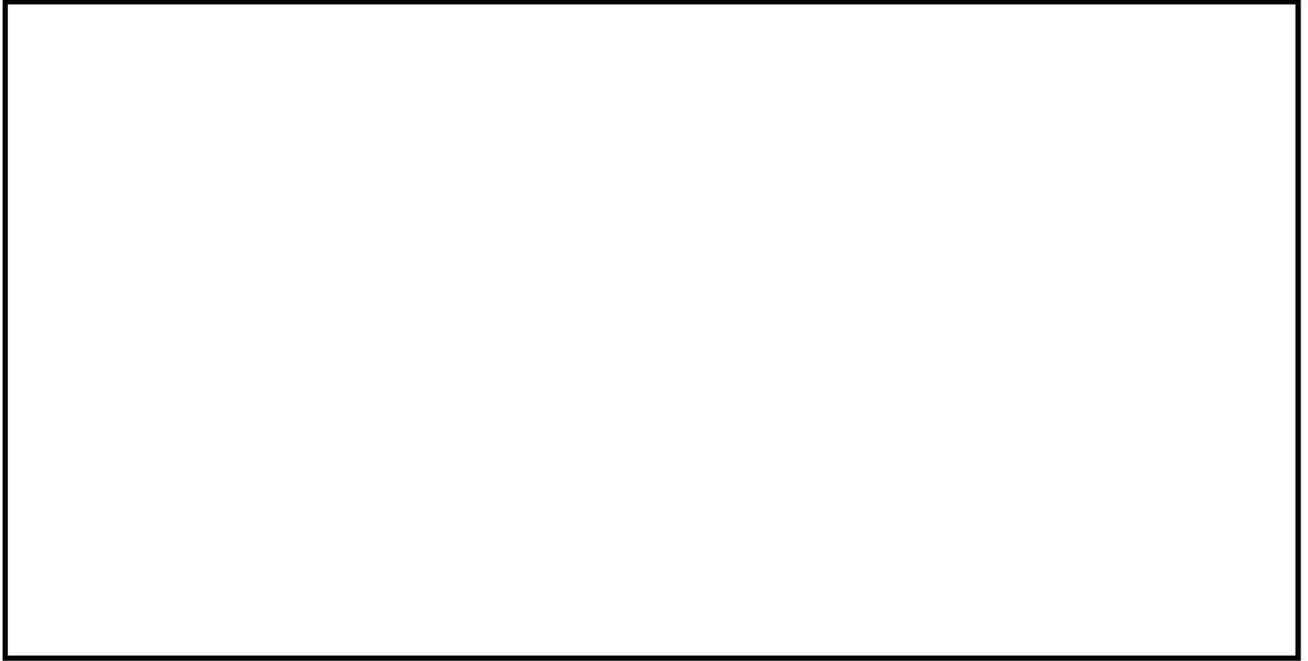
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Correction to 3/O/STY/R39-68, Section A IA2, DMZ Area, Para 4

Change line one to read: "The PAVN 90th Regiment has not been observed in tactical communications since"

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