

~~SECRET SAVIN~~

2/0/VCM/R48-68
 FOLLOW-UP NUMBER 11 TO
 2/0/VCM/R32-68
 SPOT REPORT
 AVC,AVN/OPER-G-H/.
 31 JANUARY 1968 1637Z
 DIST: OSCAR/VICTOR ALFA
 PLUS USM-604, GCU 1 AUSTF,
 WHITE HOUSE
 HCF

FOLLOW-UP NUMBER 11 TO

COORDINATED VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST OFFENSIVE EVIDENCED

IN SOUTH VIETNAM (252332Z)

Messages exchanged between the probable Hq, PAVN B3 Front authority and a probable element of the PAVN 1st Division on 30 January suggest that the 1st Division element is to accomplish a "feinting maneuver," apparently to divert U.S. forces into areas of western Pleiku Province.

A message passed by the B3 Front authority at 1758Z on 30 January ordered the 1st Division element to "send out teams as a feinting maneuver," and to "light fires one hour's distance away in order to attract enemy artillery or L19 and helicopter fire." Later, the message instructed the 1st Division element to "maneuver the assault teams to fire at the aircraft and enemy commandos and confuse him into thinking we have him surrounded. This will compel him to send reinforcements or to launch heavy air and artillery strikes."

Earlier, at 1453Z on 30 January, the 1st Division element had passed a report to the B3 Front authority which outlined the activities of 30 January. This message reported that L19's and helicopters were operating in the Chu Ba (13-53N 107-35E, YA 8036) and Chu Ngot (13-50N 107-33E, YA 7632) areas and that artillery at Sung Le (13-54N 107-40E, YA 8939) had been firing at Chu Ba and Chu Ngot "...right onto our position." At this time, SIGINT located this probable element of the 1st Division near 13-52N 107-32E (YA 740347), 13 km northwest of Duc Co. This message continued "helicopters have been circling around. L19's have been operating and artillery has been firing all over the area. There has been constant air and artillery bombardment in order to block the Chu Ba-Chu Ngot-Chu Kram (13-50N 107-36E, YA 8131) road(s). At 1130, the enemy fired phosphorous shells on the road... The enemy still has forces and artillery at Chu Ba and Chu Ngot in order to interdict us." The message concluded with, "Tomorrow, we will send forces to probe the summits of Chu Ngot and Chu Ba to determine the enemy situation and to open fire on the enemy mortars. We will hunt for aircraft...."

The probable Hq, PAVN B3 Front authority has continued to maintain its position in the Cambodia-southwestern Kontum Province border area, and was last located there by SIGINT on 30 January, near 14-03N 107-21E (YA 538555).

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS 1 PAGE

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