

~~SECRET SAVIN~~

2/0/VCM/R58-68
FOLLOW-UP NUMBER 18 TO
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SPOT REPORT
AVC,AVN/OPER-G-H/.
2 FEBRUARY 1968 1724Z
DIST: OSCAR/VICTOR ALFA
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WHITE HOUSE
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FOLLOW-UP NUMBER 18 TOCOORDINATED VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST OFFENSIVEEVIDENCED IN SOUTH VIETNAM (252332Z JAN)

Indications of Vietnamese Communist plans to attack in the Ben Cat (11-11N 106-36E, XT 750360) and Lai Khe (11-10N 106-35E, XT 720350) areas in Binh Duong Province--possibly involving elements of the PAVN 7th Division--were contained in a 1 February message passed to a possible Communist military intelligence (MI) control authority from a subordinate. The authority and the subordinate were located on 1 February near 11-12N 106-35E (XT 734373) and 11-09N 106-34E (XT 713349), respectively.

The message from the subordinate states that Communist forces in Ben Cat District were to have interdicted Allied traffic, apparently in conjunction with an attack on an undisclosed Allied target, but that several Allied vehicles managed to come to the rescue from Lai Khe (11-10N 106-35E, XT 720350) and Kien Dien (11-08N 106-34E, XT 710300) "causing numerous difficulties" for the Communists. The message further asserts that the present Communist military plan is to corner three companies of the U.S. 1st Infantry Division and to join infantry elements of the PAVN 7th Division in "reattacking Ben Cat." The message also mentions bringing artillery reinforcements.

A possible association of these elements with the PAVN B3 Front is indicated by the fact that they are employing a signal plan and passing messages in a system previously used by an MI element of the PAVN 1st Division, B3 Front, through August 1967 when it was last observed in communications.

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