

~~SECRET SAVIN~~

2/0/VCM/R61-68
 FOLLOW-UP NR 21 TO
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 SPCT REPORT
 AVC,AVN/OPER-G-H-I,HIGH-M-U/.
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FOLLOW-UP NUMBER 21 TOCOORDINATED VIETNAMESE COMMUNISTOFFENSIVE EVIDENCED IN SOUTH VIETNAM (252332Z JAN)

PAVN communications on 2 February reflected increasing tactical activity in the DMZ area from Khe Sanh to the coast. An artillery forward observer in the Khe Sanh area was informed that there would be much firing into an unidentified position the night of 2 February. The observer was instructed to report the results and to quickly survey probable artillery azimuths in preparation for further bombardment.

An element of the PAVN 164th Artillery Regiment in the central DMZ reported it had fired 27 rounds, had safely withstood several bombardments by the Camp Carroll (16-46N 106-55E, YD 067549) artillery, and that 199 rounds remained.

A PAVN 90th Regiment element, unobserved in communications since 11 January, began submitting reconnaissance reports on 2 February. Reports have included detailed accounts of helicopter flights from Dong Ha to the Khe Sanh combat base and Allied road traffic in the general Rockpile area (16-46N 106-52E, XD 980559). One specific mention of a vehicle at the foot of Hill 380 (16-43N 106-50E, XD 969500) indicates the reconnaissance team is probably located in that general area. Communications of the 9th Battalion, 90th Regiment have suggested its supply transportation mission was completed on 31 January or 1 February. The shift from a transportation to a reconnaissance role probably indicates impending tactical action by the 90th Regiment.

The 27th Independent Battalion reported it had two missions for the night of 2 February: to surround the self-defense forces of Cam Thai township (16-48N 107-01E, YD 1459), and, in coordination with a political detachment, to take over the administration of the district. If completely successful the battalion stated it would deploy from Cam Lo (16-49N 107-00E, YD 140600) to Bich Giao (probably Bich Giang at 16-49N 107-02E, YD 179601) on 3 February.

The 1st Battalion, PAVN 803rd Regiment, moving south toward Lam Xuan (16-54N 107-09E, YD 285688) in the southeastern DMZ, encountered difficulty on 2 February. The battalion reported at 0105Z that Company 3 was being delayed by Allied artillery and mortar fire and was surrounded at 0212Z. Several requests for artillery support were sent and at 0730Z the "enemy" had reportedly been repulsed. The battalion was then instructed to reconnoiter the terrain in preparation for an attack by the entire regiment. A three-pronged attack was planned: east into Bac Vong (16-53N 107-09E, YD 303680); northeast into Tay Giap (16-53N 107-08E, YD 292684); and northeast into Hoang Ha Thuong (16-54N 107-10E, YD 300685), Trung An (16-53N 107-08E, YD 296681), and Dai Loc (16-51N 107-08E, YD 298679).

Meanwhile in Pleiku Province, messages of 2 February passed from the probable Hq, PAVN 1st Division element in Pleiku Province to the probable Hq, B3 Front element discussed contacting local guerrillas in the Lang Beng (13-53N 107-38E, YA 8436) area, conducting an ambush at an undisclosed point, and ". . . going to fire on aircraft at Chu Kram [13-50N 107-36E, YA 8131] and Chu Ngot [13-51N 107-33E, YA 7632]." In one message the subordinate indicated that it had not opened fire on

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the aircraft because ". . . the aircraft did not arrive at the prepared position." Other messages mentioned ensuring "the military operations plan" and "carrying out the mission." The subordinate stated that it was attempting to contact the guerrillas in the Lang Beng area for information on Allied forces at Le Thanh (13-49N 107-40E, YA 8930) and Sung Le (13-54N 107-40E, YA 8812), but had been hampered by the lack of a letter of introduction from Communist authorities in "the province or district." The subordinate was located on 31 January near 13-57N 107-28E (YA 675432).

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