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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 11 March 1968. All information in this report is based entirely on SIGINT except where otherwise specifically indicated.

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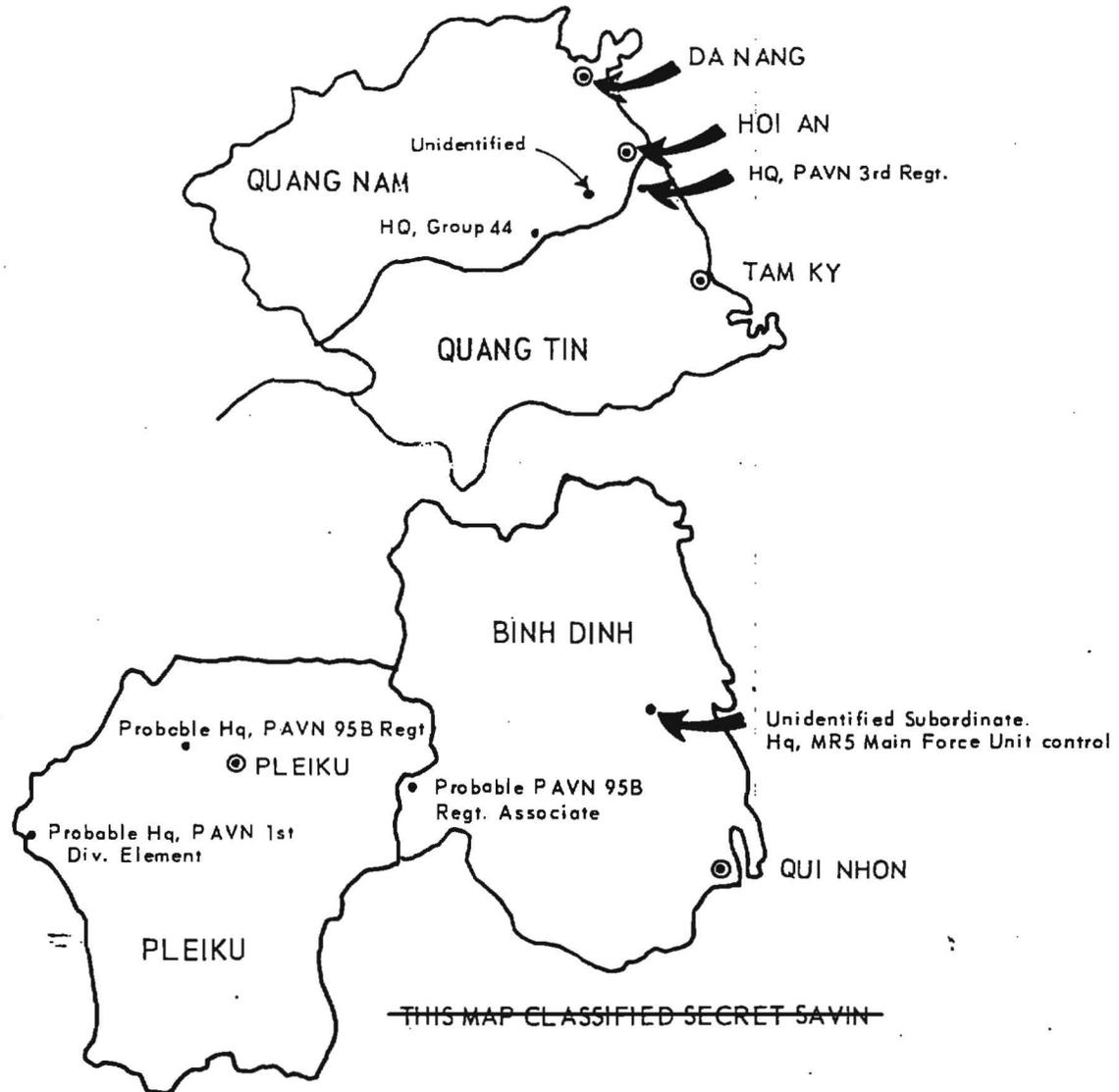
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VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES IN
MILITARY REGION 5



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I. COMMUNIST SOUTHEAST ASIA

A. MILITARY

1. Vietnamese Communist Communications - South Vietnam

Military Region Iri-Thien-Hue

Communications of the PAVN 90th Regiment on 9 March continued to reflect small-scale actions west and southwest of Hue. In an 8 March message concerning supply problems, two placenames, Long Ho (16-16N 107-32E, YD 705186) and Ngoc Ho (16-25N 107-33E, YD 735177), were mentioned. Both places are located on the west bank of the Huong River, the latter being near the eastern terminus of Route 547 from the A Shau Valley. On 9 March plans to surround and isolate Suoc Du (16-26N 107-31E, YD 700188) and to probe Nham Bieu (16-27N 107-31E, YD 698208) were reflected. At 0615Z on 9 March an unidentified element reported that "our communications system will not be used any more."

(2/G11/VCM/T1902-68, 090845Z: T1878-68, 081341Z) ~~(SECRET SAVIN)~~

Military Region 5

Recently available information indicates that the radio station identified as serving Hq, Rear Services Group 44 actually serves a headquarters of higher echelon and that its functions involve more than solely rear services activities. Since late 1967 this station has assumed the function of providing communications between a headquarters entity and all Vietnamese Communist military units operating in the Quang Nam Province area. This headquarters, apparently responsible for all Vietnamese Communist activity in that area, will henceforth be referred to as Hq, Group 44. Hq, Group 44 was last located on 9 March near 15-43N 107-55E (ZC 136392).

In other recent developments in the Quang Nam-Quang Tin Province border area, an unidentified subordinate of Hq, Group 44 was located on 10 March near 15-46N 108-09E (AT 957443), approximately 20 km east of its 4 March position and about 23 km southwest

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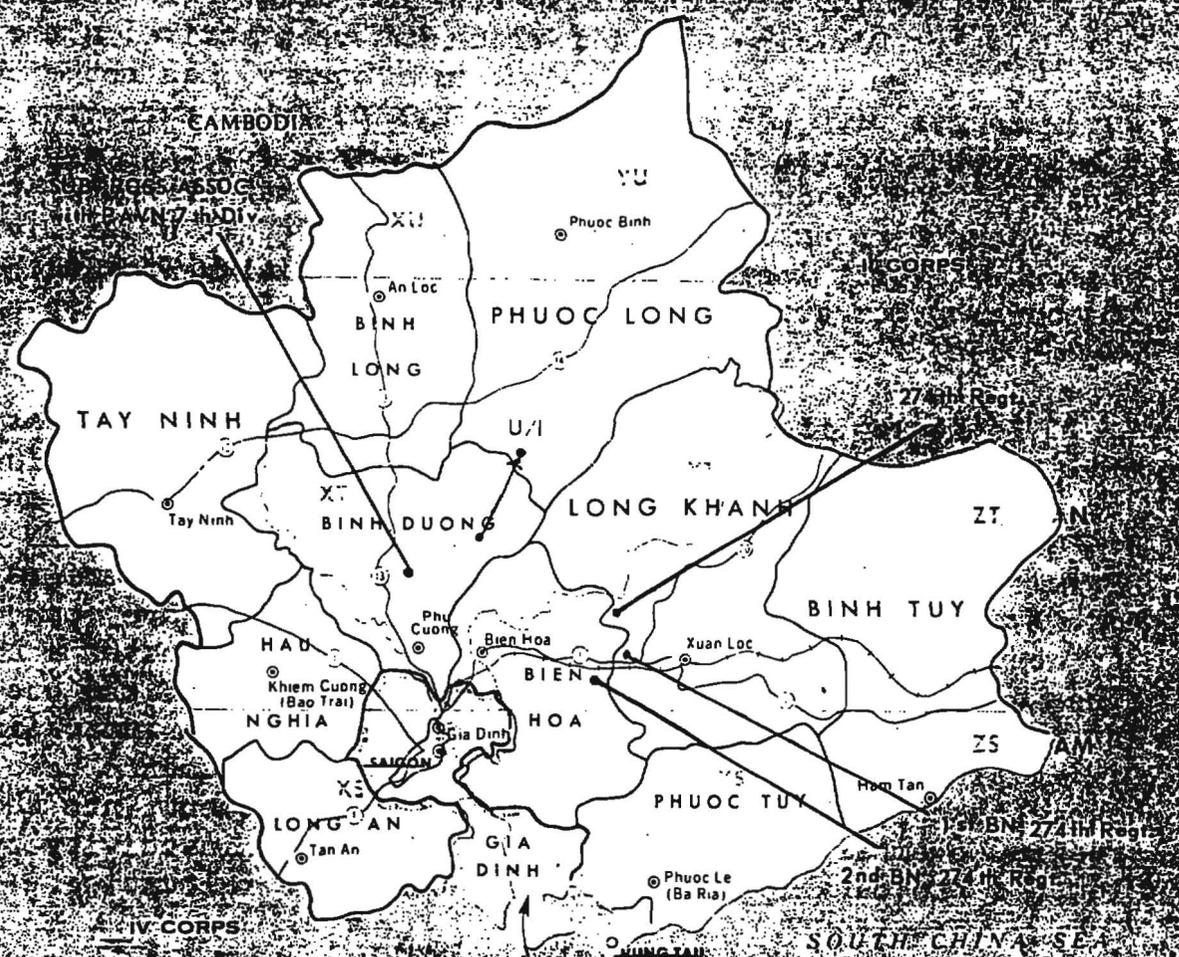
of Hoi An. In this same general area, Hq, PAVN 3rd Regiment, PAVN 2nd Division, last located on 9 March near 15-39N 108-17E (BT 102310), reported on 11 March that it was engaged in combat.

To the south in eastern Binh Dinh Province, an unidentified subordinate of Hq, MR 5 Main Force Unit Control was located on 10 March near 14-09N 108-53E (BR 716638), 12 km west-southwest of its 7 March position and approximately 36 km south-southwest of Bong Son.

In the western highlands, recent activity has included indications which appear to portend withdrawal of some PAVN elements from the western Pleiku Province area. The probable Hq, PAVN 1st Division element, which has been active in the western Pleiku Province area since mid-January, has not exchanged any messages with the probable Hq, PAVN B3 Front authority since 9 March when it was instructed in procedures for the return of personnel "to headquarters" and indicated, that it would arrive at headquarters on 11 March. The probable Hq, PAVN 1st Division element was last located on 9 March in the Pleiku Province-Cambodia border area near 13-50N 107-29E (YA 688309), approximately 10 km west of its position on 7 March.

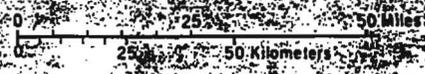
In Kontum Province, preliminary information indicates that military intelligence (MI) elements of the PAVN 1st Division have not been observed in communications since 8 March. Between 26 February and 8 March only the MI Section (MIS) Hq, PAVN 1st Division and a single subordinate were active; they were reporting heavily on the Dak To area in western Kontum Province (through 26 February, there had been at least three subordinates active). Messages passed through 8 March between the MIS and the one subordinate also reflected Communist intentions to attack in the Dak To area. This is the first time these MI elements have all become inactive simultaneously since their movement into the Dak To area in November 1967. In the past, sustained inactivity by these elements has usually indicated that they were relocating.

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In other activity in the western highlands, Vietnamese Communist military elements probably associated with the PAVN 95B Regiment have recently exchanged messages indicating that it is currently engaged in offensive operations apparently along lines of communications to Pleiku City as well as against fixed Allied installations in the area. On 8 and 9 March elements of this formation revealed that they would conduct attacks of squad and platoon size between 10 and 15 March and that on 15 March there would be concentrated attack against an unidentified Allied position. The probable Hq. PAVN 95B Regiment was last located on 1 March near 14-01N 107-53E (ZA 113506) approximately 10 km north-west of Pleiku City while one of the probable PAVN 95B associated elements involved in the recently observed message exchanges was last located on 7 March near 13-52N 108-25E (BR 217330) in the Pleiku-Binh Dinh Province border area.

To the north, continued intensive interest in the Kontum City area by elements possibly associated with the PAVN B3 Front has been noted in messages through 10 March. On 10 March the control authority instructed its subordinate, possibly located in the Kontum city area, to determine into which areas Allied forces had "sent out reaction forces" and "the troop strength in each area." The control authority also requested the dates of Allied withdrawals and the areas involved. These two elements have been reporting on the Kontum city area since early December 1967.

(2/G12/VCM/R721, 110055Z, R720-68, 101535Z; R719-68, 101425Z; R716-68, 101405Z; T623-68, 101245Z; T622-68, 101220Z; T617-68, 091845Z; T616-68, 091635Z, T609-68, 082045Z; T608-68, 081905Z, T598-68, 080132Z) ~~(SECRET SAVIN)~~

Military Region 1

Hq. VC 274th Regiment, VC 5th Division, and its possible 1st Battalion continue to exchange messages discussing tactical activity in the Bien Hoa-Long Khanh Province border area near National Route 1. On 9 March the possible battalion reported that Allied forces had penetrated its base area, and also reported on Allied positions in the area. Collateral reports that Allied Operation VALLEY FORGE was initiated in the area on 8 March. Hq,

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VC 274th Regiment was located on 9 March on the Bien Hoa-Long Khanh Province border at 11-00N 107-02E (YT 223178) while its possible 1st Battalion was located on 8 March in the same area.

To the west, further plans for attacks by fire on the Lai Khe (11-12N 106-39E, XT 7737) area by elements possibly associated with the possible PAVN 7th Division were indicated in messages of 10 March. In one message, one of the elements instructed a subordinate, located on 10 March near 11-10N 106-38E (XT 780346), to "report immediately the coordinates of the points designated for fire." In an apparent reply, the subordinate discussed firing "delayed action rounds" into three trenches at coordinates "XT 7611936870 [11-11N 106-37E]." The subordinate further stated that between 0800 and 0900 hours (Golf) on 11 March "we will fire into the vehicle park at XT 7570936540 [11-11N 106-36E]." The subordinate reported in two earlier messages of 10 March, that on 9 March it had fired on a vehicle park, an ammunition dump, and Allied infantry forces and that on 7 and 8 March, its fire had collapsed and burned several buildings.

The control indicated in another 10 March message that it would arrive at the location of the "34th Battalion" (not further identified) the next day.

Between 3 and 10 March, the subordinate moved (within Binh Duong Province) from 11-13N 106-34E (XT 729394) to 11-10N 106-38E (XT 780346). Although this move is only 8 km to the southeast, it is the first time that this subordinate has been located east of Ben Cat (11-09N 106-36E, XT 7433) since it began intensive reporting on the Ben Cat/Lai Khe area on 31 January.

(2/G10/VCM/T470-68, 101222Z, T471-68, 101250Z; T468-68, 100708Z; T472-68, 101256Z; T463-68, 091340Z) ~~(SECRET SAVIN)~~

On 7 March the VC radio station serving the probable Ba Bien Provincial Branch of the Liberation News Agency was located at 10-32N 107-04E (YS 265656), in the vicinity of Route 15 near the Phuoc Tay/Gia Binh Province border. This position is approximately 42 km southwest of its location on 7 December 1967

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near the Phuoc Tuy/Long Khang Province border. ~~(SECRET SAVIN)~~

Military Region 10

An unidentified terminal which has been active since 16 October 1967 was located on 8 March in southern Phuoc Long Province at 11-18N 106-52E (YT 041509), approximately 15 km northeast of its 1 March position in eastern Binh Duong Province at 11-12N 106-49E (XT 990387). ~~(SECRET SAVIN)~~

Military Region 3

On 8 March SIGINT indicated that an unidentified VC Party-associated terminal, which is collocated with the Rach Gia Provincial Committee, was located at 09-50N 105-22E (WR 402878), approximately 29 km northeast of its location on 26 January ~~(SECRET SAVIN)~~

2. DRV Communications

DMZ Area

An element associated with the probable PAVN 304th Division in the Khe Sanh area requested 100 rounds be fired on 8 March and reported that one C-130 aircraft had been completely destroyed the preceding day.

In the same area the suspect infantry regiment of the PAVN 304th Division, which split into two elements in late January-early February, relocated to 16-32N 106-45E (XD 863293) by 10 March. This new location is near the split element's 9 March position near 16-31N 106-45E (XD 869261).

On 9 March the other two regiments of the 304th Division-- a suspect infantry and a suspect artillery regiment--which had not been located since late February, were located at 16-40N 106-46E (XD 885425) and 16-25N 106-39E (XD 760160), respectively. The latter location is approximately 15-25 km southwest of the suspect artillery regiment's operating area during the last half

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of February. The division headquarters remains in the area of 16-32N 106-45E (XD 870292) as of 9 March.

In a message to the 6th and 7th Companies, the 27th Independent Battalion reported that Allied forces on 9 March, sweeping from Cua (vicinity 16-45N 106-58E, YD 0952) and Cam Lo (16-49N 107-00E, YD 140600), had approached the bivouac area. The sweep was reportedly repulsed with 32 Americans killed but was expected to continue.

Communications of the probable 164th Artillery Regiment have reflected several recent bombardments of Allied positions in the Dong Ha area. On 8 March a probable forward observer was informed that firing would take place from 1100 to 1600G with an initial 15 rounds for each target, followed by a heavy concentration if any target burst into flame. On 9 March an element reported artillery and 140-mm rockets would fire into an unspecified location from 0500 to 0600G the next day. The forward observer reported on 10 March that "enemy" forces had increased the number of sentries and restricted civilian movement for an undetermined reason. The same message requested a heavy concentration be fired into the troop and radar area at coordinates 60915 23403 (16-49N 107-06E, YD 242598)

(3/0/ R46-68; 2/G11/VCM/T1919-68, 101253Z) ~~(SECRET SAVIN)~~

PAVN Rear Services

A priority dispatch of arms and ammunition shipments to MR 4, North Vietnam, was disclosed in a 9 March message from an unidentified PAVN Rear Services authority in MR 3. The items of priority nature were 37-mm anti-aircraft weapons and ammunition and 122-mm ammunition to be shipped in amounts of six-to-ten cases per night. (2/G11/VCM/T1912-68, 092256Z) ~~(SECRET SAVIN)~~

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II. NON-COMMUNIST SOUTHEAST ASIA

A. LAOS

1. Communists Capture Installation at Phou Pha Thi

The expected Communist attack against Phou Pha Thi (20-26N 103-43E, UH 6860) was launched on 10 March, according to Royal Laotian Army (RLA) messages. The radar station at Pha Thi was reportedly seized by an enemy force of "10 battalions" on the morning of 11 March. The RLA reported that the enemy has ascended Phou Pha Thi and contact was lost. Friendly forces have withdrawn to the Operations Headquarters at the base of the mountain. The RLA did not know where their forces would go from there.

Several other RLA guerrilla positions in the immediate vicinity of Pha Thi have also been attacked.

(3/01 [] R60-68, 2 [] /LSA/T0180-68, 101026Z; 3 [] /LSM/T0488-68, 101700Z, T0489-68, 100840Z; T0490-68, 102000Z; T0491-68, 102001-68; T0492-68, 110545Z, T0494-68, 110731Z; T [] 68, in preparation)

~~(SECRET SAVIN)~~

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36

2. Communist Activity In Thakhek And Lao Ngam Areas

PAVN forces attacked RLA positions less than 10 km east of Thakhek on 11 March, according to RLA messages. RLA troops were forced to withdraw from Ban Tham, VE 8726 (17-26N 104-53E). On the same day, two PAVN companies attacked the RLA position at VE 9622 (17-26N 104-58E), where fighting still continued at last report. Communist troops (of undisclosed strength) are deployed in a line stretching from 3 to 25 km east of Thakhek which the enemy reportedly intends to attack "in the future."

In MR 4, a column of an estimated 600 Pathet Lao/PAVN troops were reported on 9 March to be located north of Lao Ngam, intending to "attack and destroy" the Neutralist Mobile Group 802 at Lao Ngam "on or about 23 March." New routes to bring

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tanks into the Lao Ngam area reportedly have been cut north of the town. As recently as 9 March, four tanks were reported supporting a PAVN regiment in an area 9 to 18 km north of Lao Ngam. Earlier, on 7 March, 30 tanks were observed 27 km north of the Neutralist position.

(3/0/[]/R60-68; 2/[]/LSM/T506-68, 110356Z; 2/[]/LSA/T0178-68, (b) (3) - P.L. 86-36
100913Z; 2/[]/LSM/T0495-68, 100955Z; 2/[]/LSY/R09-68, 111153Z;
2/[]/LSM/T__-68, in preparation) ~~(SECRET SAVIN)~~

B. CAMBODIA

Liquidation Of Red Cambodians

All recognized Red Cambodians and prisoners captured in skirmishes with Red Cambodians, except for those who wish to return to the government's side, are to be "discreetly" shot, according to a Cambodian message on 10 March from G2, Koh Kong Military Subdivision.

(2/[]/CEY/5363-68, 101545Z) ~~(SECRET SAVIN)~~

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(2X/0/[]/T__-68, in preparation) ~~(SECRET SAVIN)~~

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