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IM-266

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Estimate of the Probable Direction of a Chinese Communist Military Offensive in the Neighboring Countries of Mainland Southeast Asia. (The estimate does not discuss the probability of border clashes, guerrilla operations, or the provision of military assistance to local dissident forces.)

In the highly unlikely event that the Chinese Communist regime feels compelled to launch a military offensive in Southeast Asia in the near future, Indochina would be the primary invasion target with Burma a secondary target of almost equal priority.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Project: **II-266**

OFFICE OF REPORTS AND ESTIMATES

Project Initiation Memorandum

Date: **12 Jan. '50**

To: **D/FE**

From: Publications Division, Projects Planning

Subject: **Probable direction of a Communist military offensive from China.**

Statement of Project:

Origin: DCI (orally to AD/ORE)

*Border clashes, guerrilla operations
or the provision of military assistance
to local dissident forces ~~have been~~
~~excluded from the~~ considered.*

Problem: To estimate the probable direction which a Chinese Communist military offensive would take in Southeast Asia.

Scope: Tibet is expressly excluded from consideration. Non-military offensives are not to be considered; the assumption is that the Chinese Communist military forces will continue to move South after securing their position in China.
Proper. This estimate is to indicate probable targets for such an offensive. Conclusions only are to be presented; no supporting data or argument. Five lines should be ample.

Graphics (if any):

Form: Memorandum from AD/ORE to DCI.

Draft due in D/FE: by 1500; 16 Jan. '50.

Dissemination deadline (if any):

To AD/ORE by 1000 on 17 Jan. '50

Responsible Division: D/FE

Internal Coordination:

Departmental responsibilities: None

Note: It is possible that this memorandum may be expanded at a later date to include discussion.

Classification to be no higher than: TS

Recommended Dissemination: DCI only

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