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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

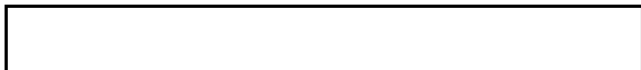
Memorandum



THE SITUATION IN VIETNAM

Information as of 1600
15 August 1966

PREPARED FOR THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
FURTHER DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION
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HIGHLIGHTS

Heavy fighting is reported in Pleiku Province.

I. The Military Situation in South Vietnam:

US forces participating in Operation PAUL REVERE II report heavy contact yesterday with Communist troops in the Chu Pong Mountain area of Pleiku Province (Paras. 1-2). One-day reaction Operation EL DORADO, acting upon information provided by a Viet Cong defector, kills seven Viet Cong (Para. 3). South Vietnamese forces kill 18 Viet Cong in two separate actions (Paras. 4-5).

II. Political Developments in South Vietnam:

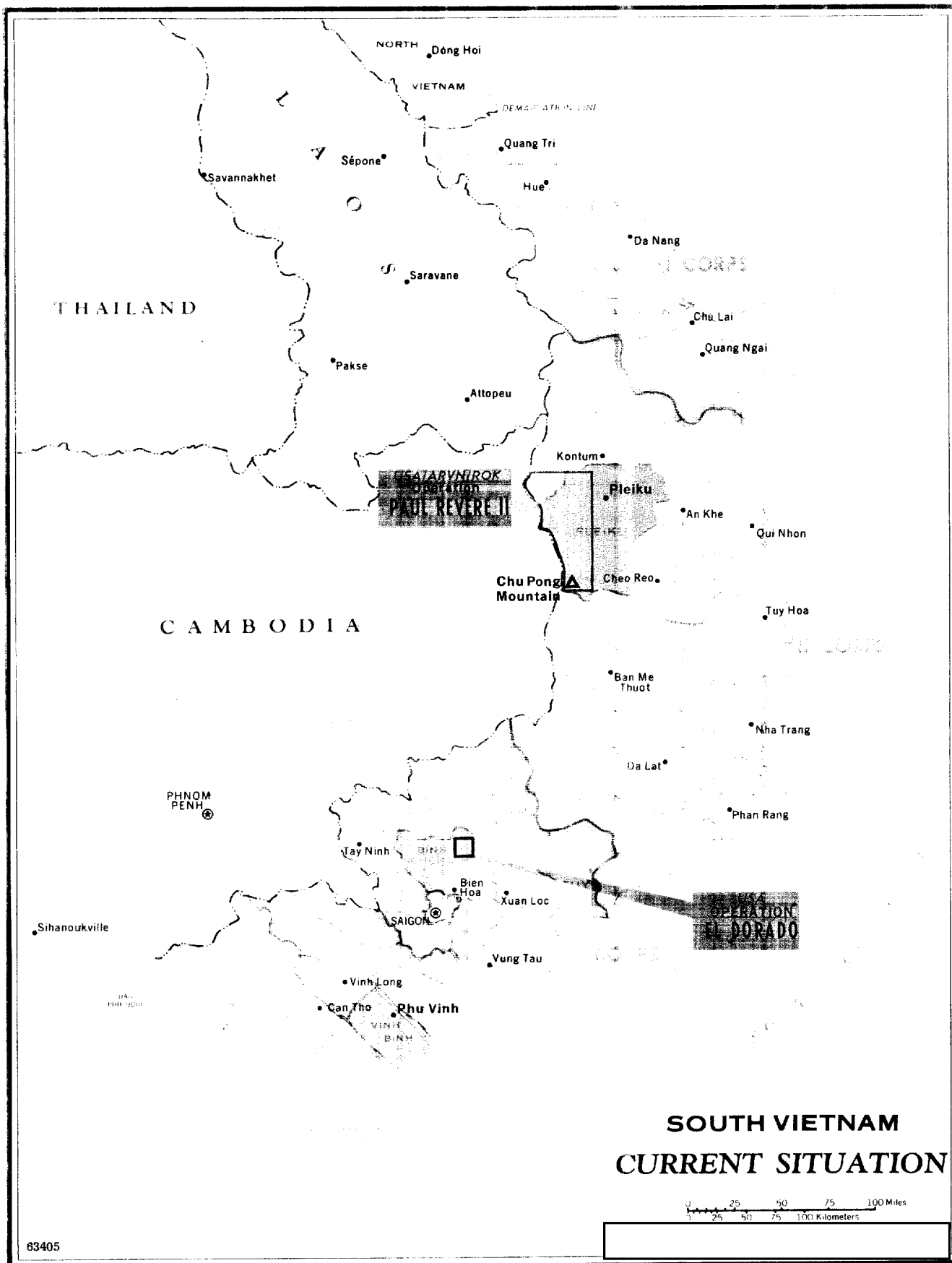
There is nothing of significance to report.

IV. Other Communist Military Developments:

There is nothing of significance to report.

V. Communist Political Developments:

There is nothing of significance to report.



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I. THE MILITARY SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM

1. US forces participating in Operation PAUL REVERE II reported heavy enemy contact for nearly five hours yesterday in the Chu Pong Mountain area of Pleiku Province, about 45 miles southwest of Pleiku town. Late reports indicate sporadic contact with the Communist troops is continuing. Rain, mud, and a thick jungle canopy, however, has hindered US efforts to encircle a North Vietnamese unit--possibly a 500-man battalion-size force.

2. American casualties in these engagements have been light, with four killed and three wounded in yesterday's contact. Communist losses have not been reported. Cumulative casualty figures for the second phase of this operation, which began on 31 July, indicate allied losses as 77 killed (70 US) and 288 wounded (246 US). A total of 558 enemy troops have been killed and 86 captured.

3. Three battalions of the US 1st Infantry Division began Operation EL DORADO on 13 August in an area about 18 miles northwest of Saigon in Binh Duong Province. This reaction operation was launched in response to information provided by a Viet Cong defector that an enemy battalion was operating in the area. Contact was made with an enemy force and seven Viet Cong were killed and two captured in the five-hour battle. Four Americans were killed and 19 wounded in this action. The operation ended yesterday without additional contact or casualties reported.

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4. According to a delayed report, South Vietnamese troops engaged a Viet Cong force of undetermined size in an area about 15 miles north of Saigon on 13 August. A total of 11 Viet Cong were killed and 1,300 pounds of ammunition were captured. There were no South Vietnamese casualties reported.

5. A South Vietnamese Army platoon raided a Viet Cong unit of undetermined size yesterday in an area about 20 miles southwest of Phu Vinh in the delta province of Vinh Binh. Communist losses included seven killed and 13 weapons, 100 mines, and three tons of small arms ammunition captured. There were no friendly casualties.

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II. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTH VIETNAM

1. There is nothing of significance to report.

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IV. OTHER COMMUNIST MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS

1. There is nothing of significance to report.

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V. COMMUNIST POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

1. There is nothing of significance to report.

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