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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Memorandum



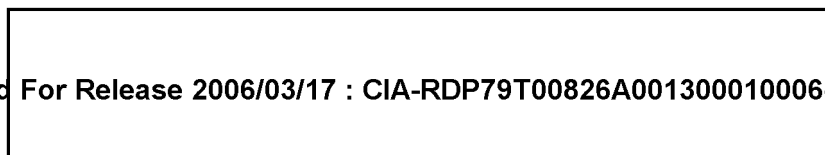
THE SITUATION IN VIETNAM

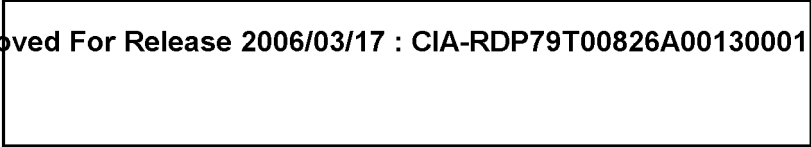
Information as of 1600
29 September 1966

NSA review completed

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PREPARED FOR THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
FURTHER DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION
CONTAINED HEREIN IS **NOT** AUTHORIZED

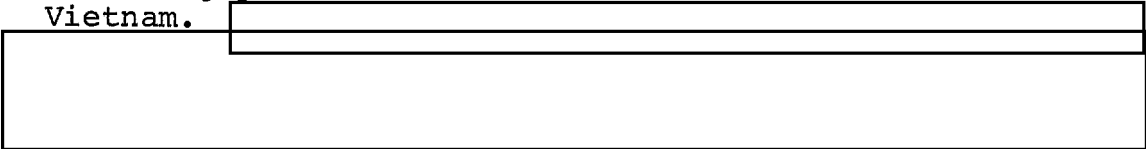




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HIGHLIGHTS

Further evidence has been obtained indicating Viet Cong plans to attack US air bases in South Vietnam.



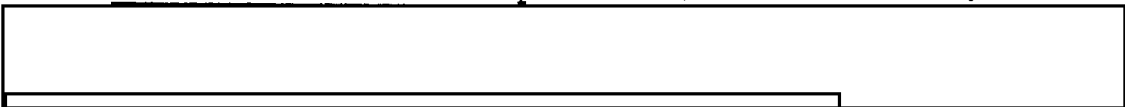
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I. The Military Situation in South Vietnam:

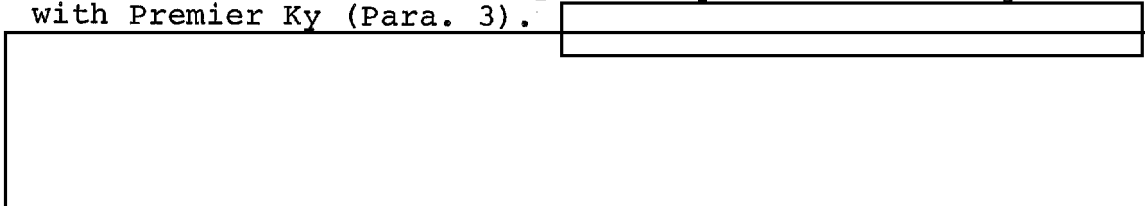
Contact between US Marines and North Vietnamese Army forces continues in the mountainous area south of the DMZ in Quang Tri Province (Paras. 1-3). Search-and-destroy Operation MONTEREY began yesterday in Quang Tin Province in an area where nearly 1,000 Communist troops are reportedly operating (Para. 4). Viet Cong sapper units are planning to attack allied air bases as evidenced by captured maps, documents, and prisoners (Paras. 5-7). Weekly review of South Vietnam battle statistics (Para. 8).

II. Political Developments in South Vietnam:



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According to the press, the special Vatican representative who arrived in Saigon yesterday has requested a meeting with Premier Ky (Para. 3).

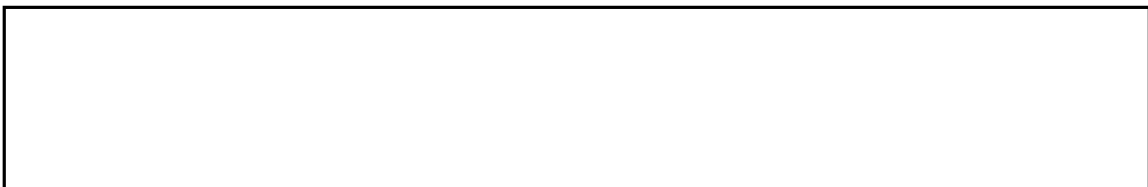


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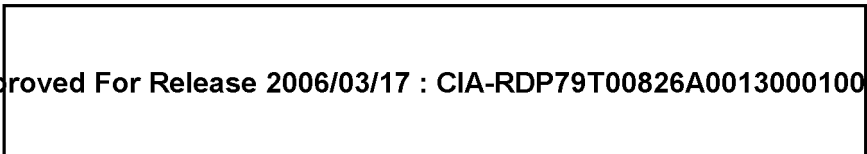
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III. North Vietnamese Military Developments:

There is nothing of significance to report.



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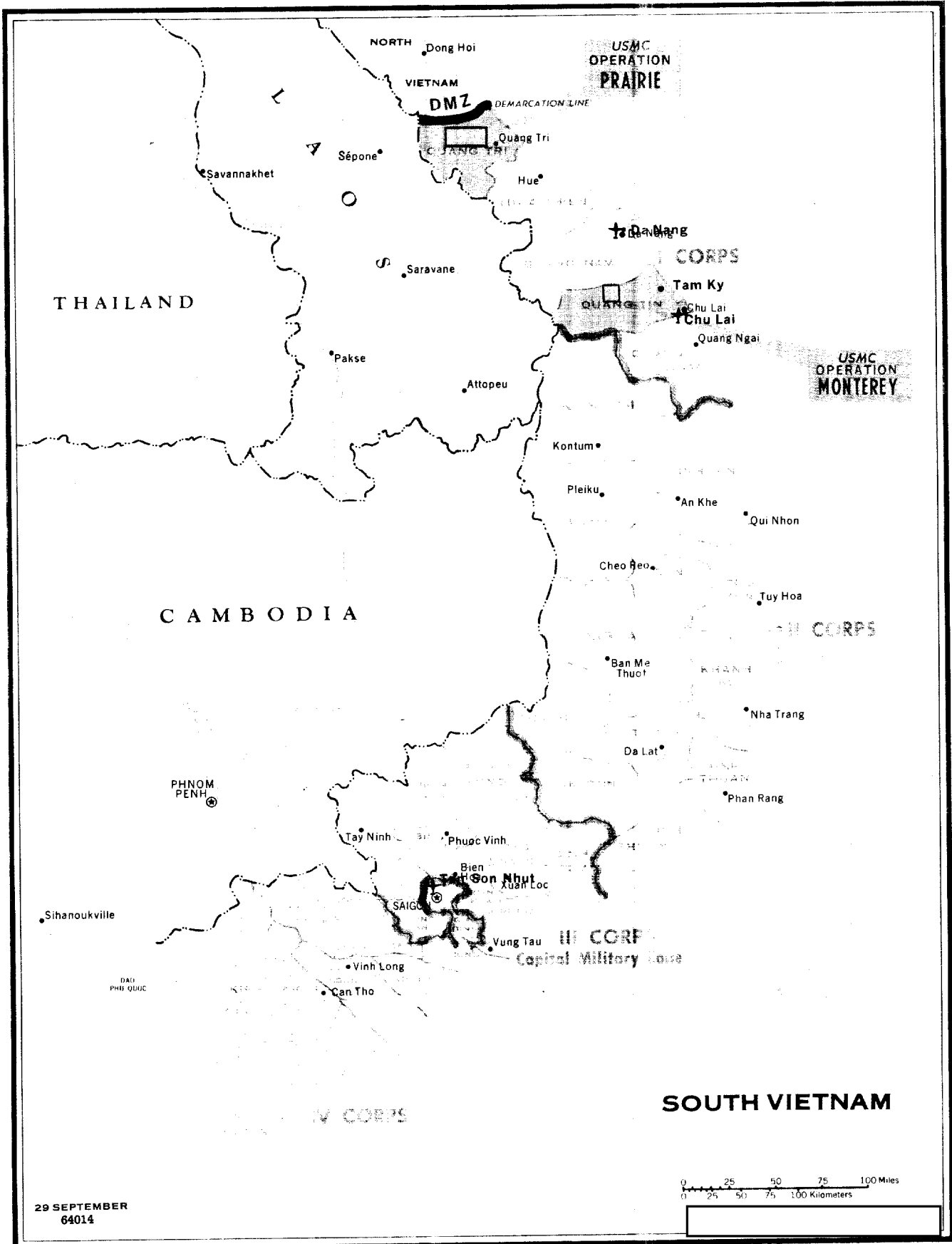
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V. Communist Political Developments; There is nothing of significance to report.

ANNEX:

South Vietnam Battle Statistics
1963 thru week of 18-24 Sept 1966:
-Weapons and Personnel Losses
-Viet Cong Attacks and Incidents

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I. THE MILITARY SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM

1. More than 50 North Vietnamese soldiers were reported killed yesterday in two sharp clashes with US Marines of the 4th Marine Regiment participating in Operation PRAIRIE in an area just south of the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ).

2. Early yesterday, nine Marines were wounded in an encounter with an estimated company-size Communist force. Tough fighting continued for most of the day in an area known as the "rockpile," a valley with two sharp pinnacles of rock in the center, straddling vital trails leading to North Vietnam and Laos. The Marines, with support from US artillery and tactical air strikes, dislodged the Communist troops from their well dug-in positions.

3. A US Marine command post was shelled on two separate occasions yesterday with an unknown number of heavy mortar rounds. These attacks killed one American and wounded 43 others.

4. One battalion of US Marines began Operation MONTEREY yesterday in an area about 34 miles west of Tam Ky. This search-and-destroy operation will attempt to locate the headquarters of the 3rd North Vietnamese Army Regiment, one subordinate battalion, and one Viet Cong local force battalion--with an estimated total strength of 990 men--believed to be operating in the mountainous area of north-central Quang Tin Province. No contact has been reported with enemy forces.

Communist Intentions to Attack Air Bases

5. Three detailed maps of the Da Nang Air Base were discovered recently during a search of a house in Da Nang. A large weapons and explosive cache were also found. The most detailed map shows all the buildings and roads of the base as well as the surrounding area. The map is keyed with 50 numbers and descriptions of such key areas: as the South Vietnamese Air Force Headquarters, communications towers, and alert crews quarters. The flight line is also outlined in detail.

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6. This is the second such report concerning maps of the Da Nang Air Base. Other captured documents and prisoner reports have indicated that Da Nang, Chu Lai, and Tan Son Nhut Air Bases are targets for destruction.

7. Two well-trained and newly reinforced Viet Cong Sapper Battalions--the 402nd and the 409th--are the units that would probably have the mission of attacking the installations in I Corps. An attack on these bases, if timed to coincide with a major operation in the field, could seriously reduce and disrupt allied reaction capabilities.

Weekly Review of South Vietnam Battle Statistics

8. The week of 18-24 September compared with the week of 11-17 September:

I. Viet Cong Incidents

<u>Time Period</u>	<u>At-tacks</u>	<u>Regimental size</u>	<u>Battalion size</u>
11-17 Sep	26	0	2
18-24 Sep	18	0	0

<u>Time Period</u>	<u>Company size</u>	<u>Harassment</u>	<u>Terrorism</u>
11-17 Sep	3	600	50
18-24 Sep	1	394	18

<u>Time Period</u>	<u>Sabo-tage</u>	<u>Propa-ganda</u>	<u>Anti-Aircraft</u>	<u>Total Incidents</u>
11-17 Sep	40	42	192	950
18-24 Sep	19	16	165	630

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II. Casualties

	<u>VC/NVA</u>		<u>GVN</u>	
	<u>11-17 Sep</u>	<u>18-24 Sep</u>	<u>11-17 Sep</u>	<u>18-24 Sep</u>
Killed	725	1,165	172	98
Wounded	---	-----	424	280
Missing/ Captured	<u>108</u>	<u>242</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>71</u>
TOTALS	833	1,407	649	449

	<u>US</u>		<u>FREE WORLD</u>	
	<u>11-17 Sep</u>	<u>18-24 Sep</u>	<u>11-17 Sep</u>	<u>18-24 Sep</u>
Killed	96	142	3	8
Wounded	583	825	18	28
Missing/ Captured	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTALS	684	970	21	36

III. Weapons Captured

	<u>VC/NVA</u>		<u>GVN</u>	
	<u>11-17 Sep</u>	<u>18-24 Sep</u>	<u>11-17 Sep</u>	<u>18-24 Sep</u>
Individual	284	Not	184	39
Crew-Served	<u>18</u>	<u>Reported</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTALS	302		191	39

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II. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTH VIETNAM

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Vatican Representative Seeks Meeting with Premier Ky

3. Archbishop Pignedoli, Pope Paul VI's special envoy to South Vietnam, today requested a meeting with Premier Ky, according to the press. Vietnamese Government sources reportedly indicated that Ky would probably agree to meet the Vatican representative, but that no specific date had been set. The archbishop, who arrived in Saigon yesterday, apparently intends to sound out government as well as clerical leaders on the papal encyclical on peace. He is scheduled to attend a conference of South Vietnamese Catholic leaders tomorrow.

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III. MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS IN NORTH VIETNAM

1. There is nothing of significance to report.

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7. A recently captured North Vietnamese officer reports that Chinese engineers are constructing coastal defense sites on Cat Ba Island near Haiphong. His statements have been supported by analysis of photographs of the northeast coastal area. Chinese units may also be participating in road construction and improvement in the North Vietnam - South China border area.

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8. All the evidence continues to point to a logistic support role for the Chinese forces in North Vietnam. As the construction projects are completed the Chinese engineering-type units may return to China. There is some evidence that a few of the smaller units already have gone.

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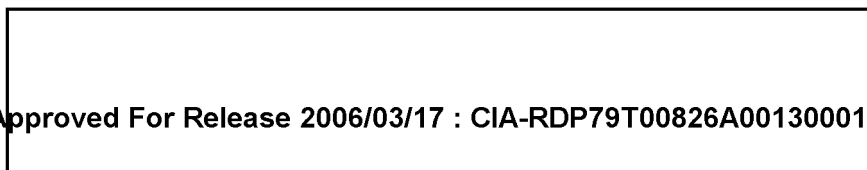


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V. COMMUNIST POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

1. There is nothing of significance to report.

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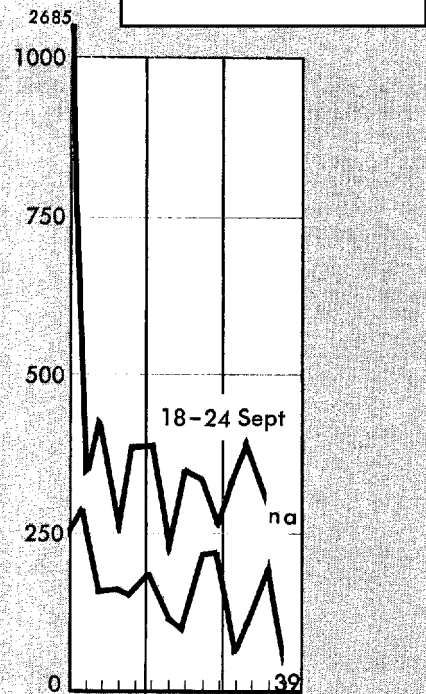
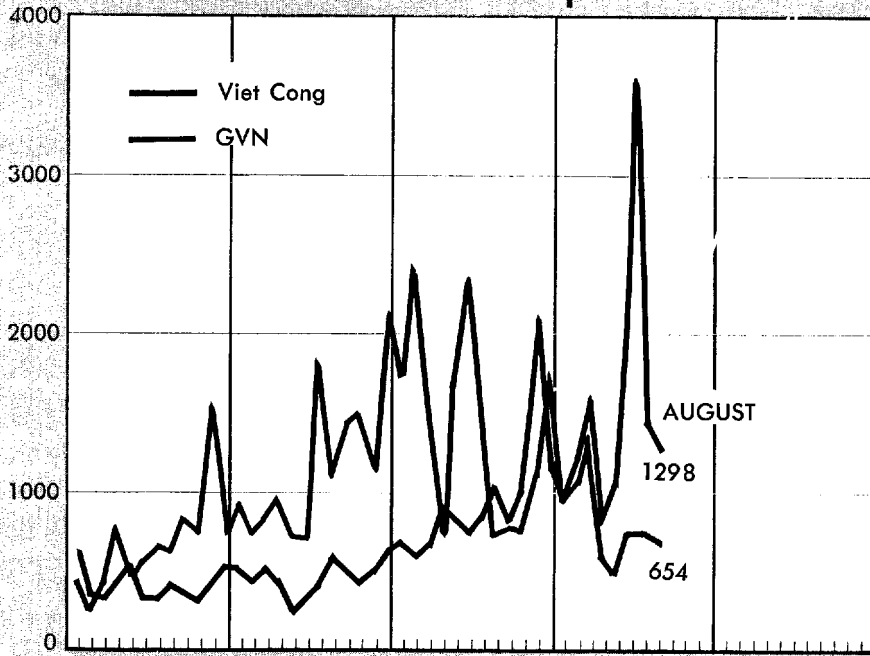
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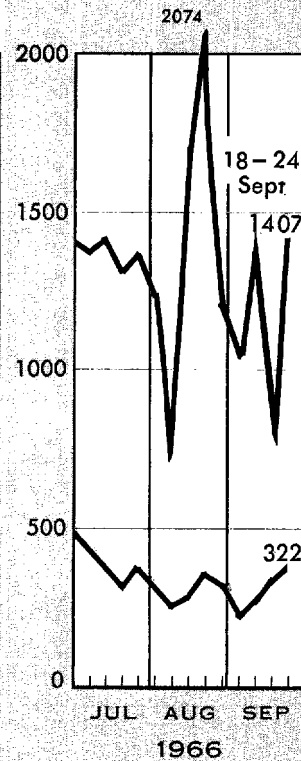
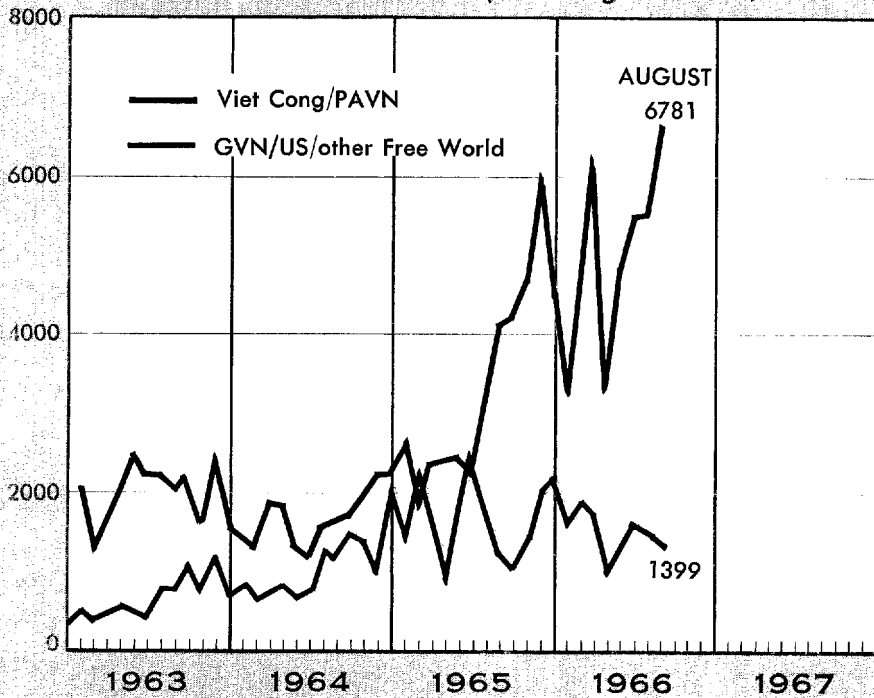
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Weapons Losses

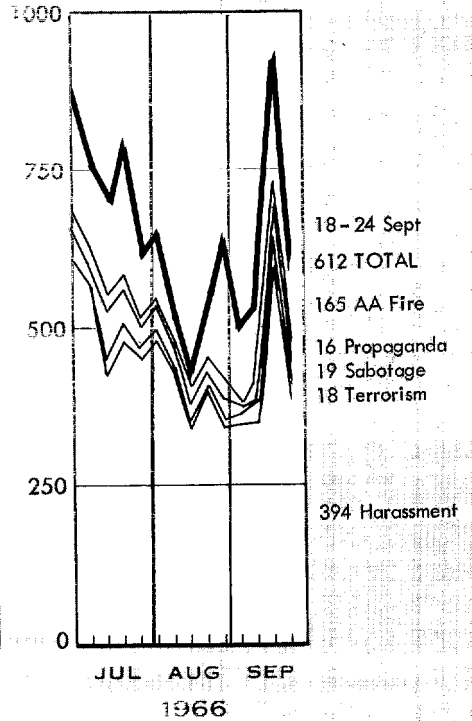
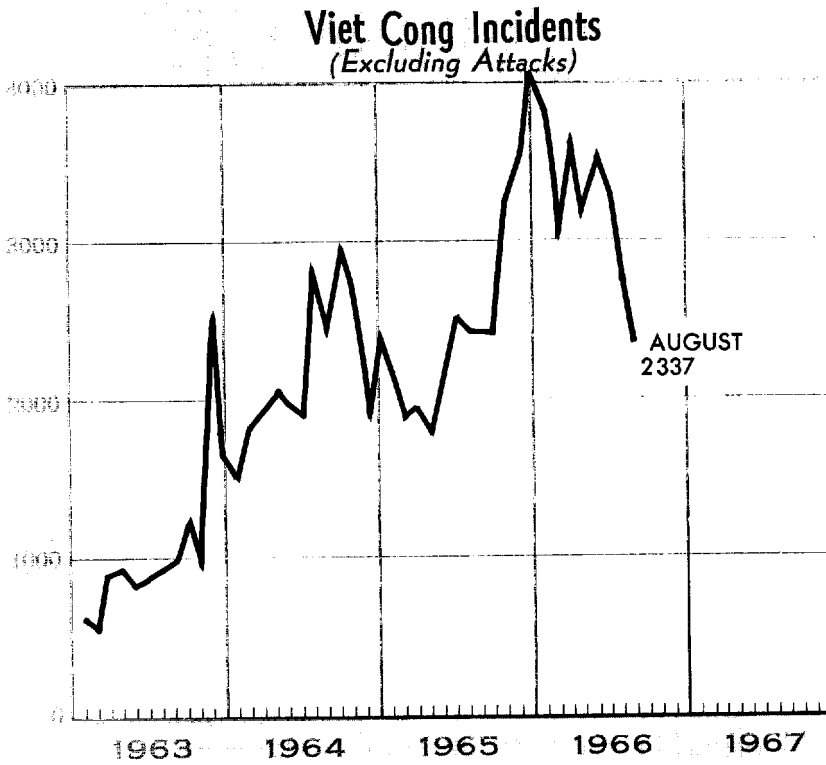
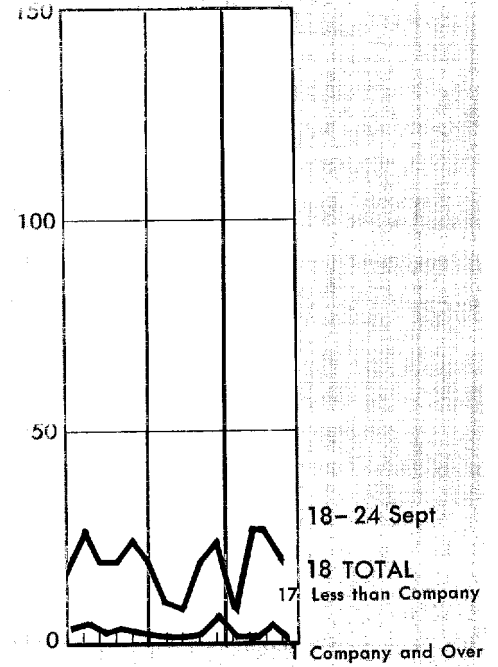
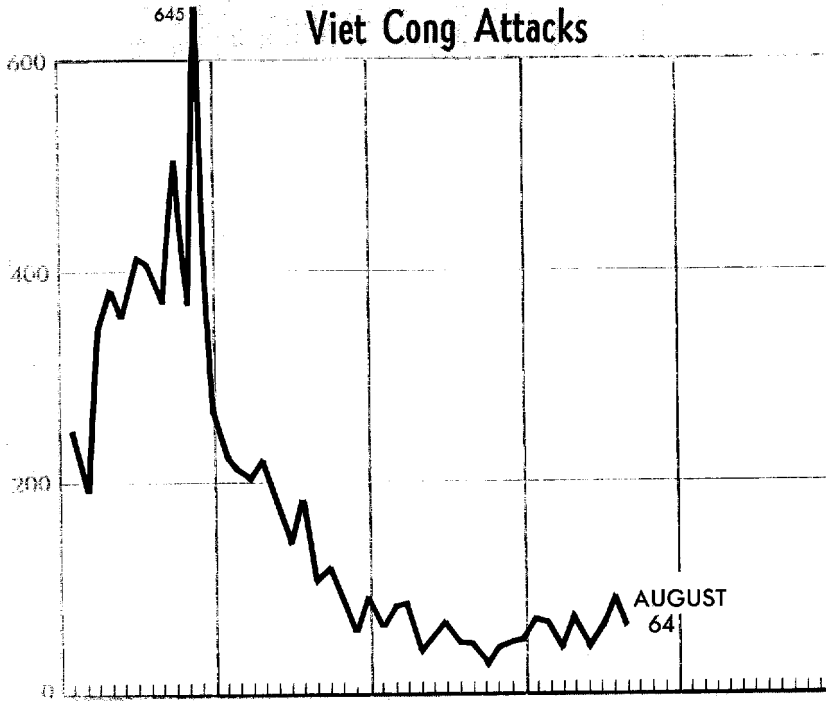
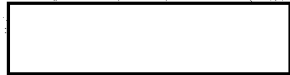


Personnel Losses

(Excluding Wounded)



US Casualties to Date: Killed 5222 Wounded 29548 Captured 74 Missing 311



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