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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Memorandum



THE SITUATION IN VIETNAM

Information as of 1600
21 October 1966

NSA review completed

PREPARED FOR THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
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HIGHLIGHTS

Viet Cong forces in the Mekong Delta continue a high level of terrorist and military activity.

I. The Military Situation in South Vietnam:

Allied forces are continuing 30 major ground operations against Communist troop concentrations throughout South Vietnam (Para. 1). The recent upsurge of Viet Cong - initiated terrorist and military activity in the Mekong Delta is continuing. (Para. 2). The Viet Cong alert warning system against B-52 attacks is explained (Paras. 3-4). Weekly review of South Vietnam battle statistics (Para. 5).

II. Political Developments in South Vietnam:

There have been no reports of changes in the status of the cabinet crisis (Para. 1). South Korean President Pak was expected in the Da Nang area today for a brief visit on his way to the Manila Conference (Para. 2).

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The Constituent Assembly has completed passage of its procedural rules, and the election of permanent assembly officers will probably begin early next week (Paras. 4-5). Government leaders are planning to extend a "national reconciliation" program to the Viet Cong (Para. 6).

III. Military Developments in North Vietnam:

There is nothing of significance to report.

IV. Other Communist Military Developments:

Changes in communications activity serving Chinese units in North Vietnam may indicate a small increase in these units (Paras. 1-2).

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ANNEX:

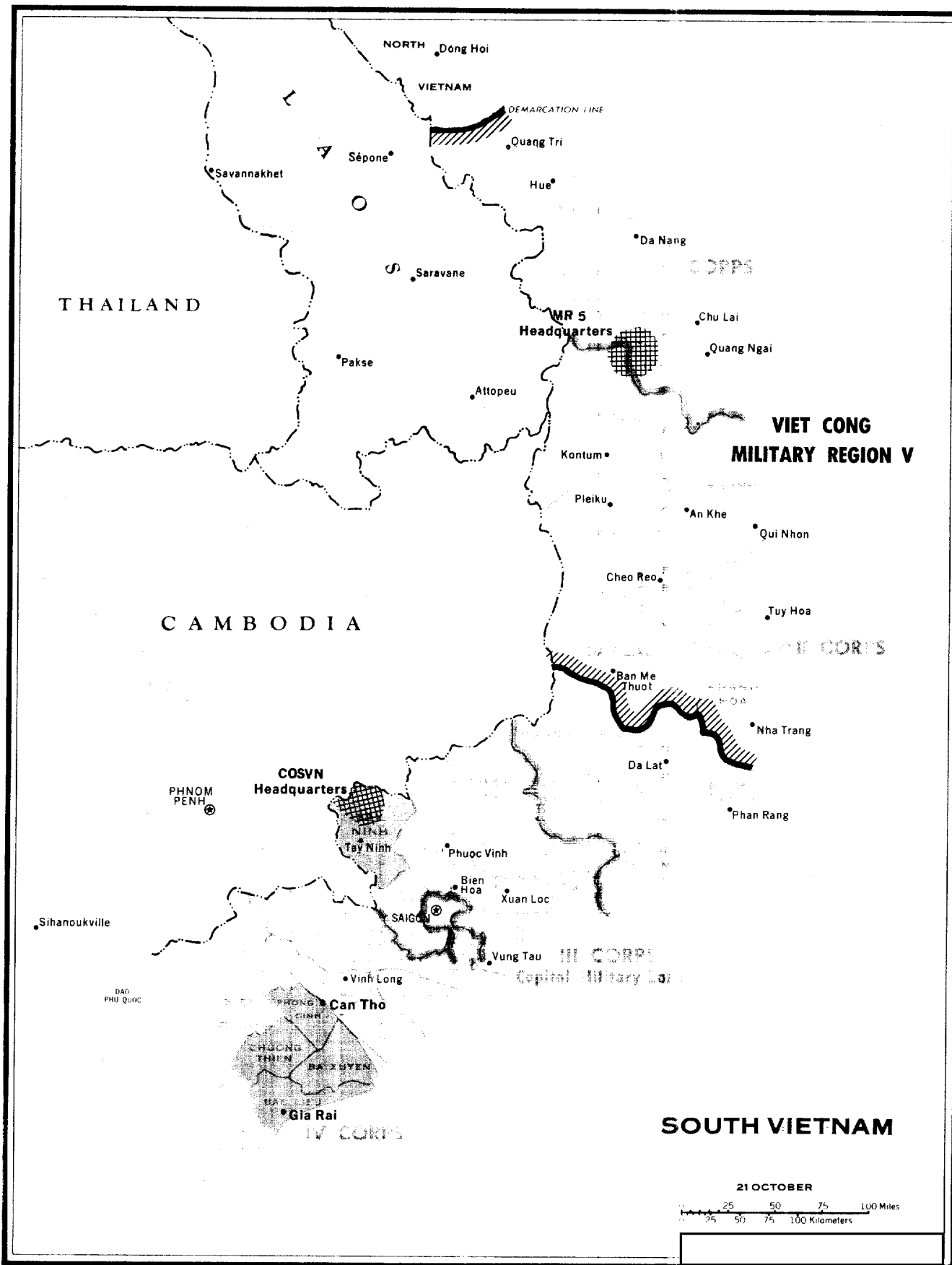
South Vietnam Battle Statistics

1963 Through 9-15 Oct 1966:

- Weapons and Personnel Losses
- Viet Cong Attacks and Incidents

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I. THE MILITARY SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM

1. No major combat has been reported in any of the 30 allied battalion-size or larger search-and-destroy operations currently in progress.

Viet Cong Activity

2. Viet Cong forces are continuing to intensify the pace of their terrorist and military actions in the Mekong Delta. On 20 October, Communist terrorists detonated a fragmentation mine in the central market place of a small town located about 17 miles east of Can Tho, the capital of Phong Dinh Province. Nine Vietnamese were killed (four military) and 48 wounded (15 military). Enemy units also attacked and overran five South Vietnamese paramilitary outposts in the southern delta provinces of Chuong Thien, Bac Lieu, and Ba Xuyen, and shelled the district town of Gia Rai (Bac Lieu Province) with heavy mortar fire. Cumulative government casualties from these actions were 55 killed, 33 wounded, and 27 missing.

Viet Cong B-52 Alert Warning System

3. On 16 August 1966, Viet Cong Military Region 5 Headquarters (MR 5)--the major Communist control authority for the northern half of South Vietnam--activated a special communications group for dissemination of B-52 strike alerts to its subordinates. This action has streamlined the warning system in MR 5 and parallels a similar development observed since 25 August on communications channels of the Military Intelligence Bureau of the Central Office for South Vietnam (MIB/COSVN), which serves all other military regions.

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4. The warning system now employed by Viet Cong military authorities throughout South Vietnam permits dissemination of B-52 alerts via radio communications down to at least provincial unit and main force battalion echelon stations. Information contained in these alerts appears to be limited to date and time of the planned B-52 strikes; specific target information apparently is not included.

Weekly Review of South Vietnam Battle Statistics

The week of 9-15 October compared with the week of 2-8 October:

I. Viet Cong Incidents

<u>Time Period</u>	<u>At-tacks</u>	<u>Regimental size</u>	<u>Battalion size</u>
2-8 Oct	17	0	0
9-15 Oct	37	0	2

<u>Time Period</u>	<u>Company size</u>	<u>Harassment</u>	<u>Terrorism</u>
2-8 Oct	2	358	27
9-15 Oct	6	347	25

<u>Time Period</u>	<u>Sabo-tage</u>	<u>Propa-ganda</u>	<u>Anti-Aircraft</u>	<u>Total Incidents</u>
2-8 Oct	13	12	238	665
9-15 Oct	26	20	153	608

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II. Casualties

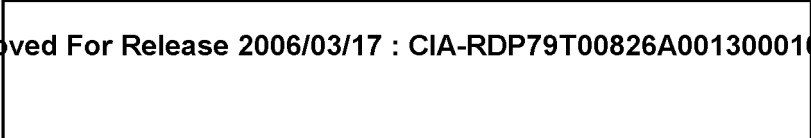
	<u>VC/NVA</u>		<u>GVN</u>	
	<u>2-8 Oct</u>	<u>9-15 Oct</u>	<u>2-8 Oct</u>	<u>9-15 Oct</u>
Killed	1,471	993	160	189
Wounded	-----	---	425	504
Missing/ Captured	<u>658</u>	<u>748</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>85</u>
TOTALS	2,129	1,741	603	778

	<u>US</u>		<u>FREE WORLD</u>	
	<u>2-8 Oct</u>	<u>9-15 Oct</u>	<u>2-8 Oct</u>	<u>9-15 Oct</u>
Killed	91	73	24	26
Wounded	604	432	70	48
Missing/ Captured	<u>17</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTALS	712	507	94	74

III. Weapons Captured

	<u>VC/NVA</u>		<u>GVN</u>	
	<u>25 Sep-10 Oct</u>	<u>2-8 Oct</u>	<u>2-8 Oct</u>	<u>9-15 Oct</u>
Individual	294	371	133	244
Crew-Served	<u>39</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>
TOTALS	333	398	134	247

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II. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTH VIETNAM

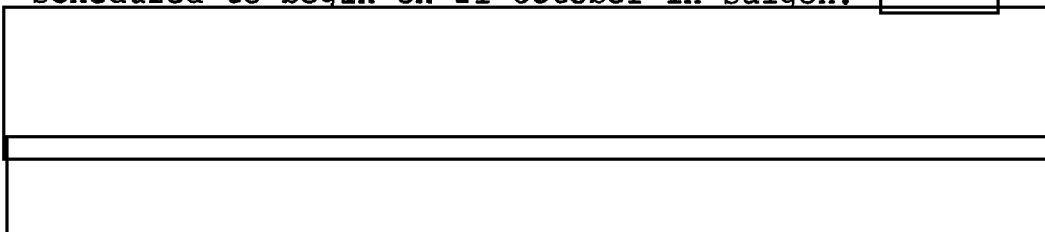
1. There were no significant developments on 21 October in the cabinet crisis. According to an amended list of the Vietnamese delegation to the Manila Conference, Economy Minister Au Truong Thanh, one of the seven resignees, has been replaced by Premier Ky's economic adviser and former economy minister Truong Thai Ton.

2. President Pak of South Korea was expected to arrive in the Da Nang area on 21 October to visit South Korean troops. Chief of State Thieu and Premier Ky were scheduled to confer briefly with him there before he flew to Hong Kong later the same day, and then to Manila on 23 October.

Extraordinary National Buddhist Congress

3. There have been no reports on the actual proceedings of the extraordinary congress of the Unified Buddhist Association (UBA), which was scheduled to begin on 21 October in Saigon. 

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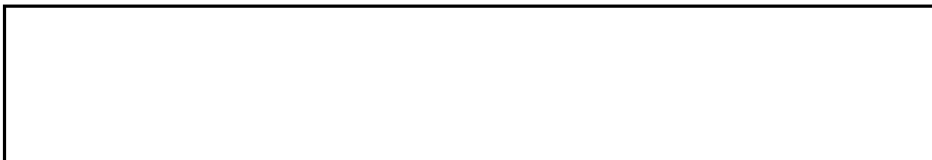
Tam Chau and all members of the Institute council, which acts as the UBA's executive arm for lay affairs, resigned earlier in order to allow the congress to resolve the leadership dispute. Should the militants of Tri Quang control the congress, as now appears likely, the onus for any future organizational split in the UBA would fall upon Tam Chau and his moderates.

Constituent Assembly Developments

4. The Constituent Assembly, which has lately been more businesslike in its working sessions, has

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completed the passage of its procedural rules. It now appears that the election of permanent assembly officers will take place early next week. One of the more controversial rules, however, which has to do with the purpose of the assembly, was scheduled to be reconsidered on 21 October. A version which limited the assembly strictly to drafting a constitution was passed earlier by a narrow majority. Subsequent attempts to reconsider this article led to a general breakdown of parliamentary order on 13 October. Now that some time has elapsed, however, a rules committee official believes that the assembly will adopt a version sufficiently vague to please both those pressing for a more active assembly and those who prefer to stick to the government's decree law.

5. During the past few days, the assembly has approved in principle the formation of formal blocs in the assembly. Each bloc must have at least 12 deputies, and no deputy may be a member of more than one bloc. The assembly has also approved the establishment of four permanent committees: constitution drafting, information and press, budget and finance, and "people's aspirations." The latter committee is to survey popular opinion on constitutional forms, while the press and information committee will apparently attempt to improve the image, which has been somewhat poor to date, of the assembly in the Vietnamese press. The assembly has also officially certified the credentials of 111 of the 117 deputies, with the remainder apparently still awaiting court rulings on charges of election irregularities.

National Reconciliation Program

6. Vietnamese Government leaders are planning to put new emphasis on programs designed to increase Viet Cong defections. The program, called "national reconciliation," will consist of an expansion and high-level emphasis of the present "open arms" policy. Specific and more attractive appeals will be made to the Viet Cong rank and file, middle-level cadre, and high-level leaders. The program will be officially unveiled on 1 November, a major national holiday.

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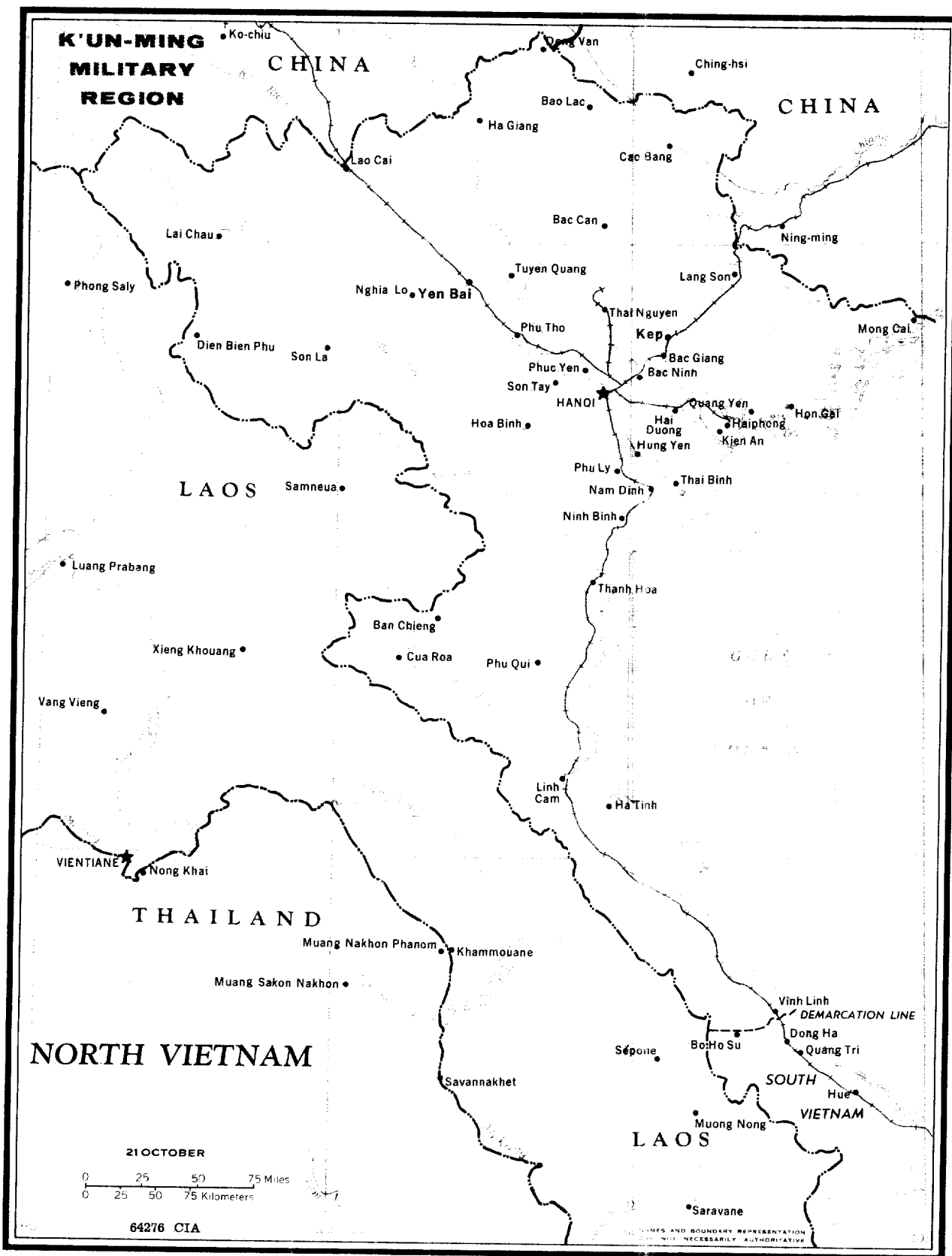
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III. MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS IN NORTH VIETNAM

1. There is nothing of significance to report.

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IV. OTHER COMMUNIST MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS

1. The appearance of new units in intercepted Chinese Communist communications as well as other unusual communications activity may indicate an increase in Chinese logistical support in northwest North Vietnam. During the past week, two previously unobserved units were tentatively identified in association with Chinese Communist forces in North Vietnam. Routing instructions in intercepted messages indicated that one of these units, [redacted] may be located either in the [redacted] or in northwest North Vietnam. The other unit, [redacted] may be located in the Yen Bai area, where Chinese units are engaged in construction activities.

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2. Since 2 October, there has been an increase in communications activity of [redacted] the suspected special engineer division in the Yen Bai area. This unit has made initial contact with engineer headquarters at Peking and has also contacted an out-of-area rear services element, routing the message addressed to one of the new units, [redacted]. There is also a tenuous possibility that an element of the 1st Railway Engineer Division may have deployed to this area from the vicinity of Kep.

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[redacted]

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V. COMMUNIST POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

1. The gathering of East European, Cuban, and Mongolian Communist leaders in Moscow apparently ended on 21 October

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Moscow continues to withhold official comment on the discussions, but a communiqué on the meeting may be released shortly.

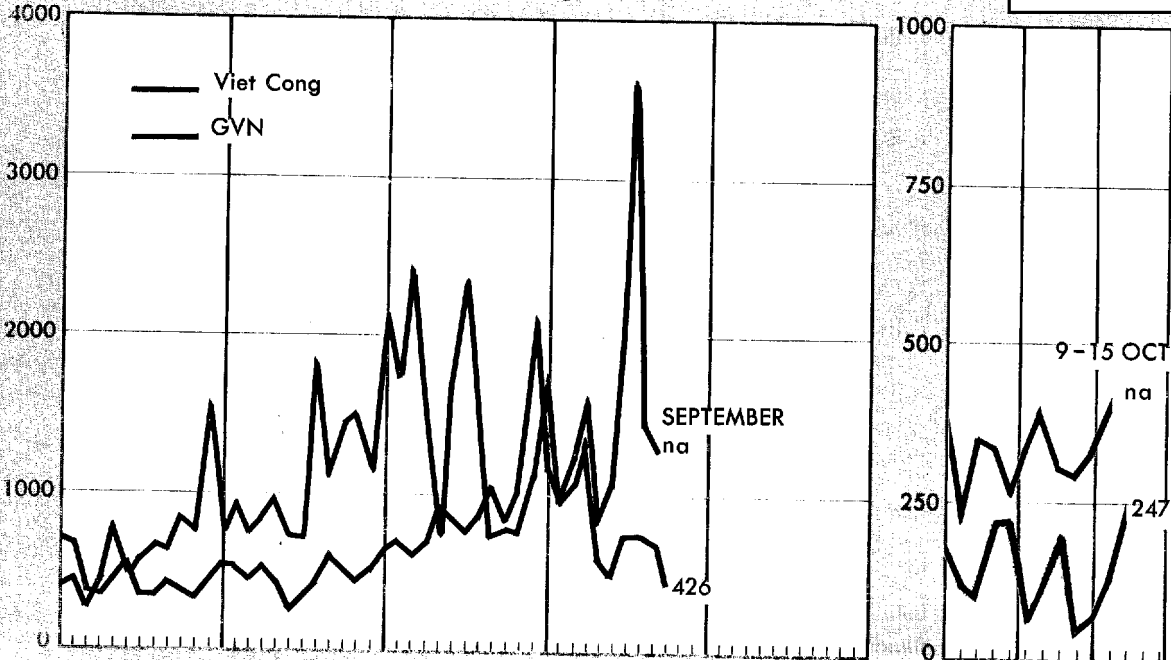
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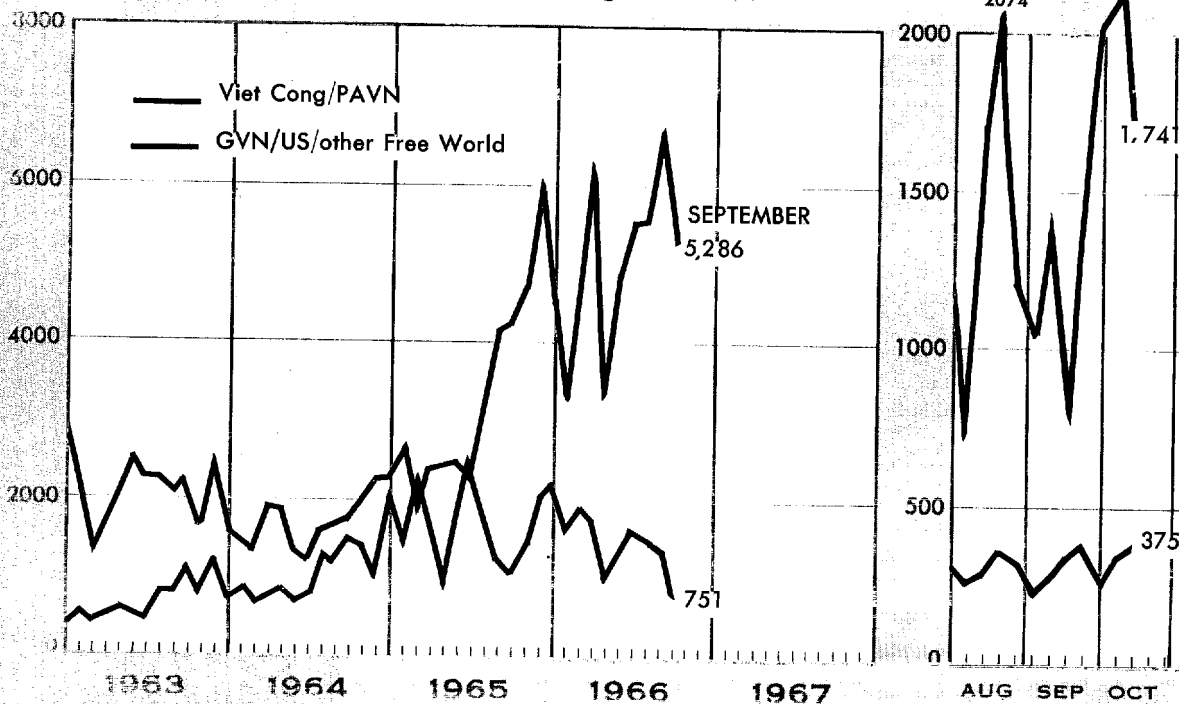
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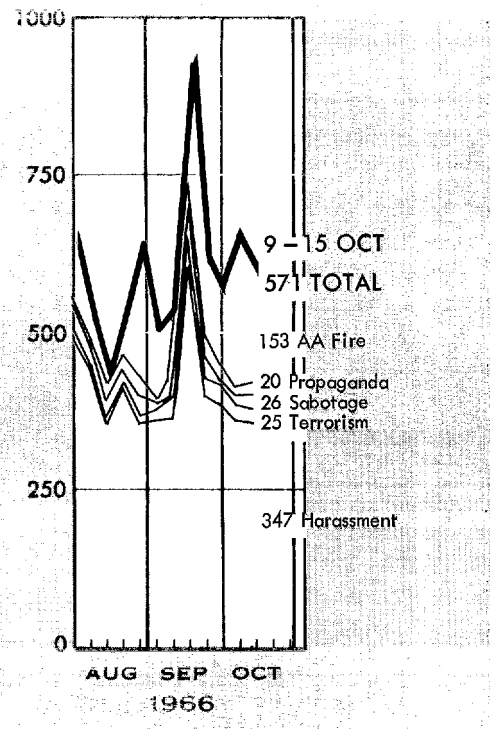
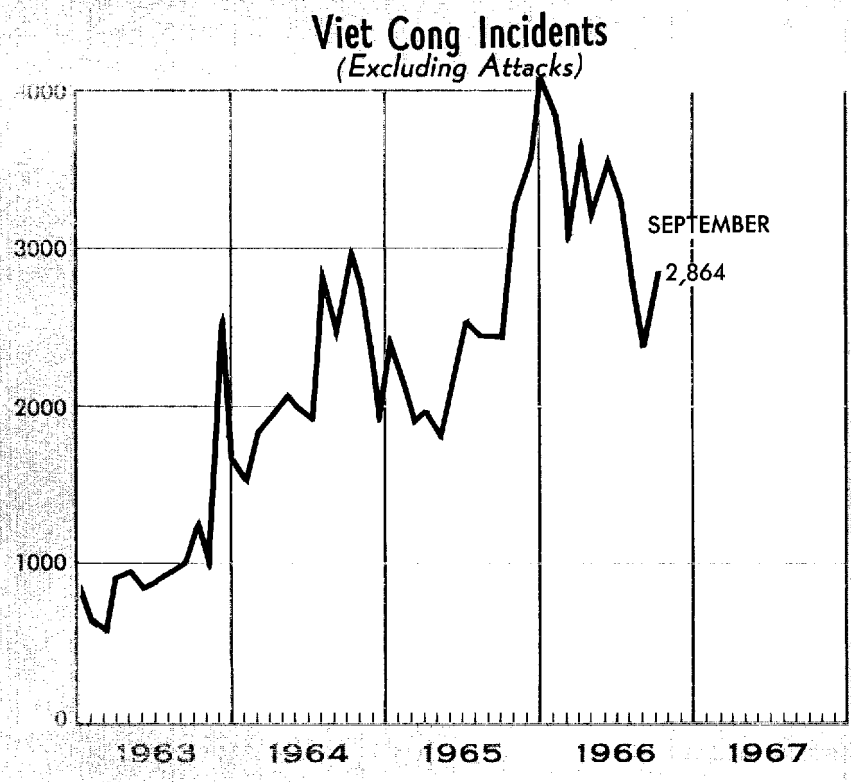
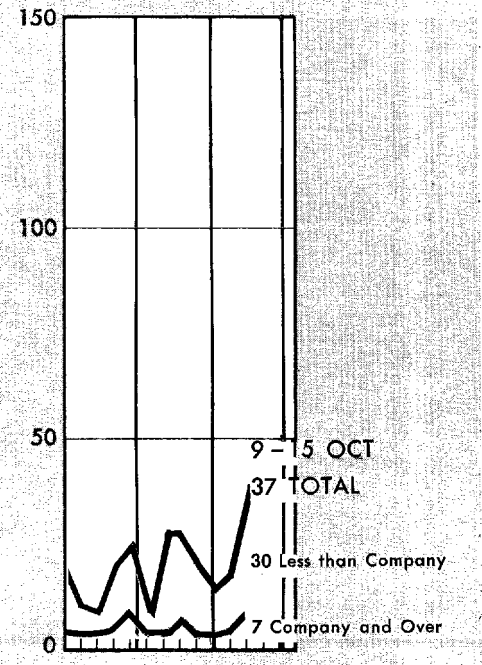
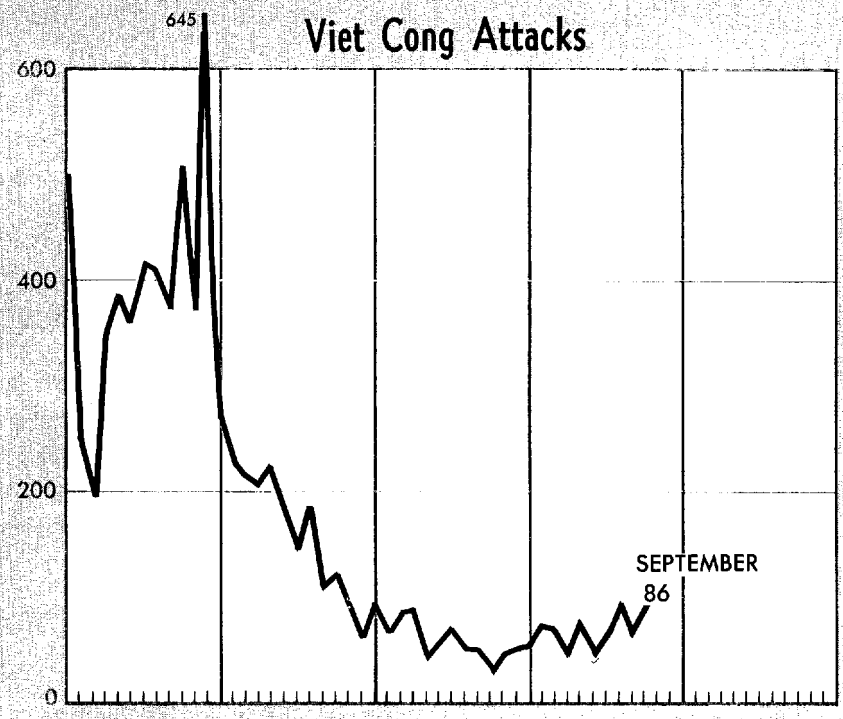
Weapons Losses



Personnel Losses (Excluding Wounded)



US Casualties to Date: Killed 5,485 Wounded 31,409 Captured 78 Missing 334



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