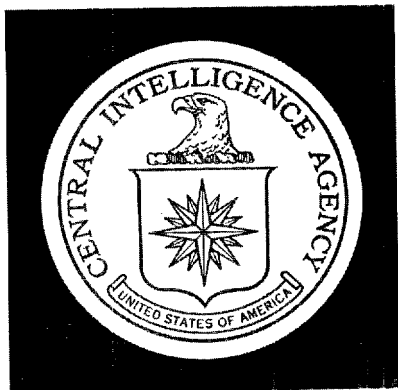


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DIRECTORATE OF  
INTELLIGENCE

# MEMORANDUM

## *The Situation in Vietnam*

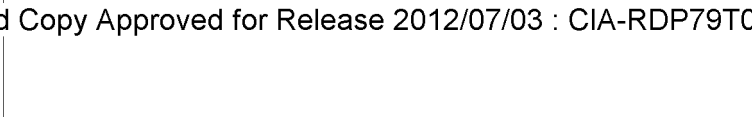
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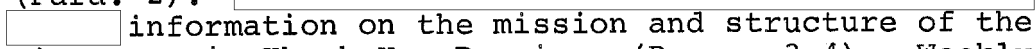


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HIGHLIGHTS

Military operations in both North and South Vietnam remained at a low level for the second consecutive day. Viet Cong forces continued to avoid significant contact with the 33 allied ground operations currently in progress in the South and bad weather continues to hamper US air operations in the North.

I. The Military Situation in South Vietnam: Viet Cong/North Vietnamese Army forces continue to avoid major contact with large-unit allied ground operations currently in progress (Para. 1). ARVN troops sustained moderate casualties on 15 December while reacting to a company-sized Viet Cong attack in Binh Thuan Province (Para. 2).

 information on the mission and structure of the Viet Cong in Khanh Hoa Province (Paras. 3-4). Weekly review of South Vietnam Battle Statistics (Para. 5).

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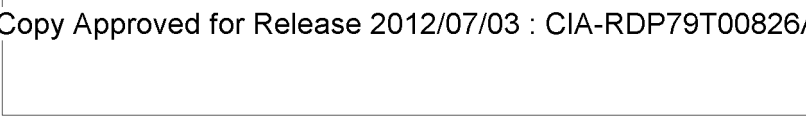
II. Political Developments in South Vietnam: There have been no significant developments in the Constituent Assembly reported since its approval on 15 December of a presidential - prime ministerial system of government (Paras. 1-2). The Peoples - Armed Forces Advisory Council has forwarded a general resolution on national political parties to the Constituent Assembly (Para. 3). Minor trade union officials in Saigon are criticizing allied encroachments on Vietnamese sovereignty in the hope of attracting wider support from labor groups (Para. 4).

III. Military Developments in North Vietnam: There is nothing of significance to report.

IV. Other Communist Military Developments: There is nothing of significance to report.



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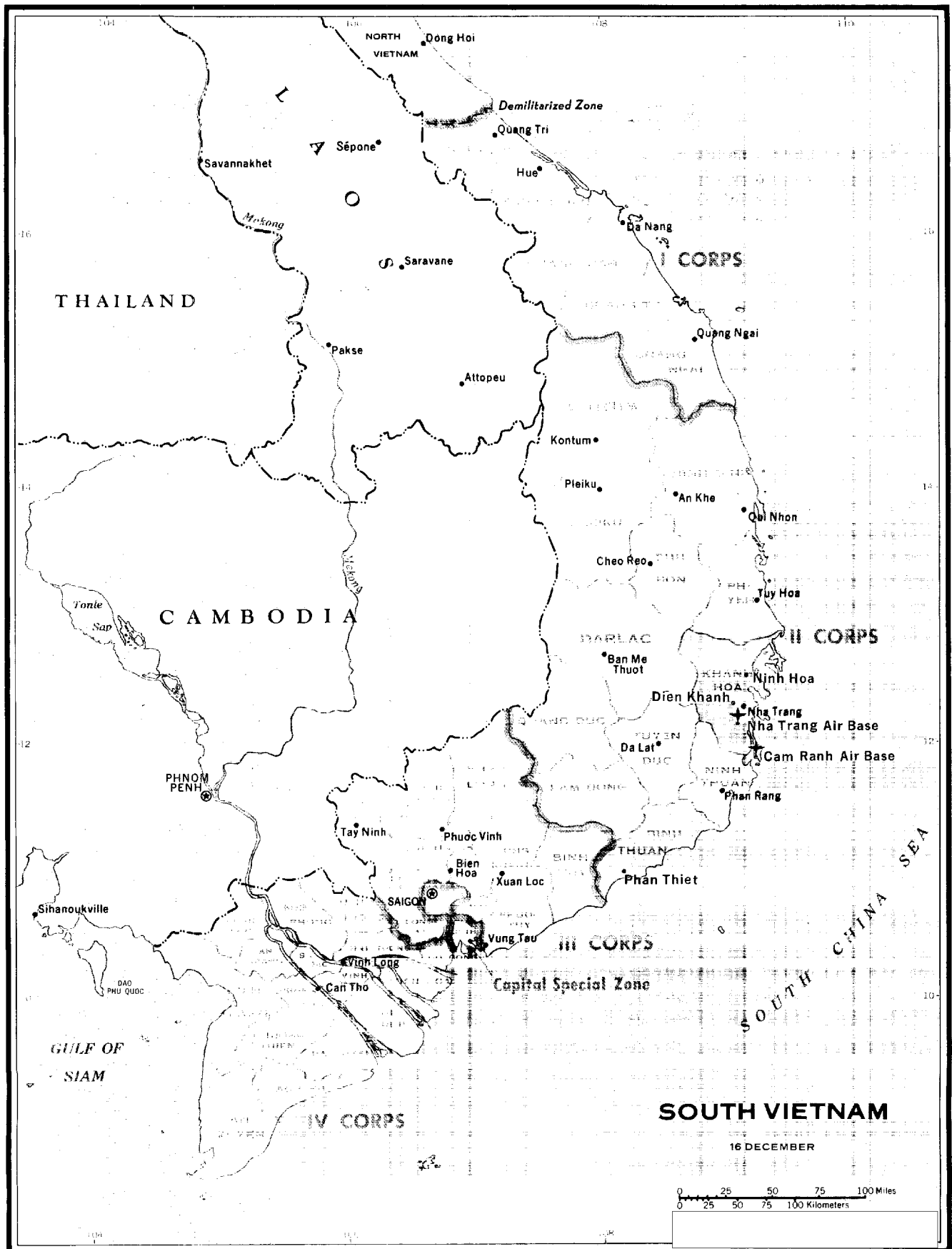


V. Communist Political Developments: The Liberation Front press representative in Phnom Penh discussed the bombings of targets in the Hanoi area and North-South relations (Para. 1). East European press reporting on the US raids on Hanoi is reported (Paras. 2-3).

NOTE: The graphics on weekly South Vietnam Battle Statistics will appear in the issue of 18 December.

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I. THE MILITARY SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM

1. Communist forces continue to avoid significant contact with the 33 battalion-size or larger allied ground operations currently in progress.

2. On 15 December, an estimated Viet Cong company attacked a hamlet four miles northeast of Phan Thiet, the capital of coastal Binh Thuan Province. Two battalions of the 44th ARVN Regiment and one armored personnel carrier (APC) company were dispatched to reinforce the one Popular Forces company defending the hamlet. The APC unit lost nine killed, 36 wounded, and one captured during a four-hour fire fight with the attacking force. Enemy losses included six killed and one captured.

Viet Cong Plans in Khanh Hoa Province

3. Information on the mission and structure of Viet Cong forces in Khanh Hoa Province has been provided

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[redacted] the North Vietnamese Army 18 "B" Regiment had deployed (probably from adjacent Phu Yen Province where it has been carried in MACV's order of battle) to northeastern Khanh Hoa Province in preparation for a dry season offensive campaign against the following potential targets: Nha Trang Air Base, Cam Ranh Air Base, and the district towns of Ninh Hoa, and Dien Khanh.

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4. [redacted] in an effort to strengthen the guerrilla movement in Khanh Hoa Province, the Viet Cong had disbanded their 86th Main Force Battalion in September 1966 and reassigned its members to various district and local force units. This is the first report [redacted] stating that a regular unit has been broken up and reassigned to district units, although there have been a number of recent [redacted] reports that similar steps are being taken in some areas north of Saigon. Some units, however, normally operate as dispersed elements. For example, component battalions of the 165A Regiment are variously located around the capital zone.

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Weekly Review of South Vietnam Battle Statistics

5. The week of 4-10 December compared with  
27 November - 3 December:

I. Viet Cong Incidents

<u>Time Period</u>	<u>At-tacks</u>	<u>Regimental size</u>	<u>Battalion size</u>
27 Nov-3 Dec	13	0	0
4-10 Dec	24	0	3

<u>Time Period</u>	<u>Company size</u>	<u>Harassment</u>	<u>Terrorism</u>
27 Nov-3 Dec	2	285	18
4-10 Dec	2	306	27

<u>Time Period</u>	<u>Sabo-tage</u>	<u>Propa-ganda</u>	<u>Anti-Aircraft</u>	<u>Total Incidents</u>
27 Nov-3 Dec	29	19	170	534
4-10 Dec	23	23	127	530

II. Casualties

	<u>VC/NVA</u>		<u>GVN</u>	
	<u>27 Nov-3 Dec</u>	<u>4-10 Dec</u>	<u>27 Nov-3 Dec</u>	<u>4-10 Dec</u>
Killed	1,181	589	139	216
Wounded	-----	---	373	383
Missing/ Captured	<u>162</u>	<u>235</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>247</u>
TOTALS	1,343	824	526	846

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	US		FREE WORLD	
	<u>27 Nov-3 Dec</u>	<u>4-10 Dec</u>	<u>27 Nov-3 Dec</u>	<u>4-10 Dec</u>
Killed	43	83	8	9
Wounded	521	559	39	26
Missing/ Captured	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTALS	570	649	47	35

III. Weapons Captured

	VC/NVA		GVN	
	<u>27 Nov-3 Dec</u>	<u>4-10 Dec</u>	<u>27 Nov-3 Dec</u>	<u>4-10 Dec</u>
Individual Crew-Served	240 <u>26</u>	Not Reported	102 <u>2</u>	248 <u>3</u>
TOTALS	266		104	251

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II. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTH VIETNAM

1. In reporting the decision of the Constituent Assembly to include a prime minister as well as a president in the future government, the US Embassy has pointed out that it is unclear whether the future legislature would need a majority or two-thirds vote to remove the prime minister from office. There was some indication during the assembly's debate that a two-thirds vote would be necessary for such action. This would give the prime minister a more stable position.

2. On 16 December, the assembly was scheduled to discuss the inclusion of a vice president in the organization of the executive branch, but no reports on this session have been received. Another assembly discussion of Decree Law 21--the assembly's founding law--was scheduled for the afternoon of 15 December, but postponed by chairman Phan Khac Suu because government leaders have not formally replied to the assembly's requested changes in the law.

3. The Peoples - Armed Forces Advisory Council, which is now in session, has forwarded to the Constituent Assembly a resolution affirming the necessity of constitutional provisions dealing with the establishment and regulation of national political parties. Implicit in sending the resolution to the assembly was the council's recognition of the assembly's primacy in this matter, which the embassy interprets as a healthy sign. Earlier, there had been evidence of some rivalry and friction between the elected assembly and the appointed advisory council. The latter was established by government leaders last summer to advise the regime on political, economic, social, and cultural matters.

Labor Faction Critical of Allied Encroachment on Vietnamese Sovereignty

4. Some 250 workers attending a public meeting organized by minor trade union groups in Saigon on

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15 December approved a petition which criticized current US practices which allegedly encroach upon Vietnamese sovereignty. The petition was not distributed, but reportedly contained a specific demand for the removal of allied troops from Saigon because of their "abusive" treatment of Vietnamese, as well as a general demand for respect for Vietnamese sovereignty. The US Embassy has commented that the labor officials behind the meeting and the petition are opposed to the dominant Confederation of Vietnamese Labor (CVT), and apparently are looking for issues to increase their following. They apparently felt they could exploit such issues as the temporary detention last week by US military police of Saigon's mayor and certain labor inequities now in the process of being corrected.

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III. MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS IN NORTH VIETNAM

1. There is nothing of significance to report.

IV. OTHER COMMUNIST MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS

1. There is nothing of significance to report.

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V. COMMUNIST POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

1. Pham Van Quang, the Liberation Front news representative in Phnom Penh, held a press conference on 16 December on the occasion of the sixth anniversary of the founding of the NFLSV. During the course of his talk, which was reported by Western press sources, Pham employed routine language to condemn the recent US air raids on targets in the Hanoi area and promised Viet Cong reprisals "as was the case in similar raids in the past." In discussing relations between Hanoi and the Front, Pham reiterated the usual Communist propaganda that the NFLSV made its own policy independently of North Vietnam, though "Hanoi might eventually become the capital of a united Vietnam." It is very rare for a Liberation Front representative to suggest that Hanoi might at some time in the future be the capital city of a reunified Vietnam. Generally, DRV and Liberation Front officials treat the entire reunification issue with circumspection, alleging only that it will be settled once the war in the South is over.

East European Press on Hanoi Raids

2. The barrage of East European propaganda against the US bombing of the Hanoi area continues to intensify. Formal government statements condemning the raids were issued by Poland on 15 December and by Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Rumania on 16 December. The Rumanian statement, one of the most forceful in recent times, referred to alleged damage suffered by the Rumanian Embassy in Hanoi. Although East European press coverage of the raids was condemnatory in tone, the Polish press admitted that damage to civilian areas of Hanoi may have been the result of "errors and blunders" by the pilots involved and not the result of a deliberate US policy.

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[REDACTED]

3. Thus far, the only demonstration in Eastern Europe against recent US actions in Vietnam occurred in front of the US Embassy in Warsaw on the afternoon of 16 December. A 20-minute incident by some 60 teenagers was relatively subdued and well controlled by about 35 policemen. The embassy suffered no damage and no protest to the Polish Government is planned.

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[REDACTED]

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