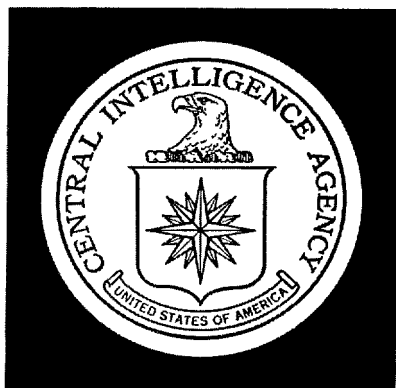


Top Secret

SS

[Redacted]

25X1



DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

MEMORANDUM

The Situation in Vietnam

Top Secret

110

7 April 1967

[Redacted]

25X1

Page Denied

25X1



Information as of 1600
7 April 1967

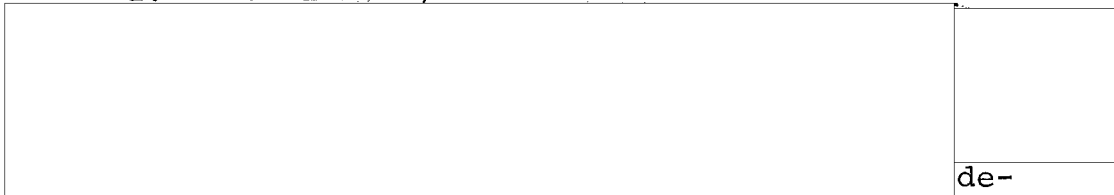


25X1


HIGHLIGHTS

Indications continue to mount that the Communists may be planning further major military activities in the northern provinces of South Vietnam.

I. The Military Situation in South Vietnam:



25X1

de-
tailed information on Communist maritime infiltration activities in northern South Vietnam 

25X1

25X1

II. Political Developments in South Vietnam:

The Constituent Assembly will probably be able to resolve the dispute which has sprung up over the exclusion of the phrase "supreme being" from the constitution without rewording the constitution itself (Paras. 1-3). Former premier Tran Van Huong is expected to announce his presidential candidacy officially this weekend (Para. 4).



25X1

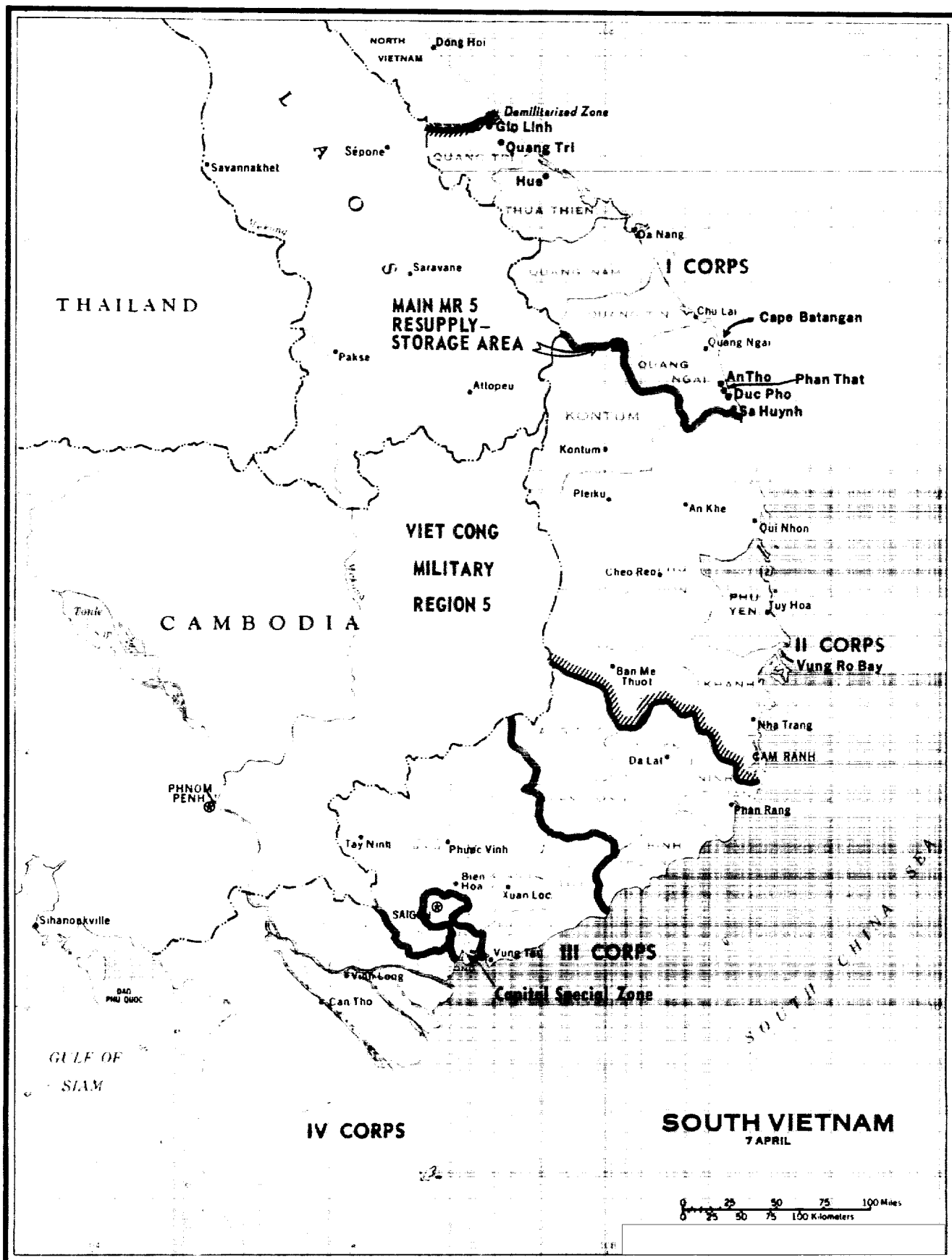
IV. Other Communist Military Developments: There is nothing of significance to report.

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

VI. Other Major Aspects: Photography confirms that Route 922 is now motorable into South Vietnam as far as A Chau (Para. 1).



25X1



66244 4-67 CIA

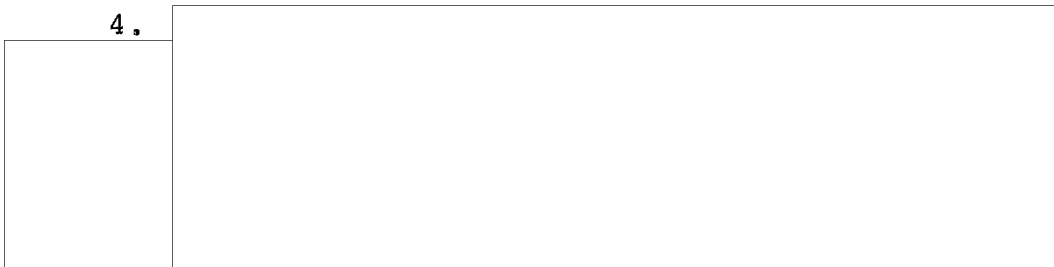
I. THE MILITARY SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM



25X1

Communist Maritime Resupply Activities Revealed

4.



25X1

5. During his preliminary interrogation, the rallier provided detailed information concerning

7 April 1967

I-1



25X1

[redacted]

the organization and command structure of Military Region 5. In addition, he revealed Communist plans for a major offensive this summer designed to prevent the expansion of the GVN's Revolutionary Development program in the provinces of Quang Ngai, Quang Tin, and Quang Nam. [redacted] confirmed that Hanoi directs operations in South Vietnam's two northernmost provinces, Quang Tri and Thua Thien, and stated that this area would constitute the main battlefield in the summer campaign.

25X1

25X1

6. [redacted]

25X1

[redacted] more than 50 percent of MR 5's supplies were infiltrated by sea during 1965 and 1966. During the first two months of 1967, however, this level was reduced to 20-30 percent.

7. Hoa Hiep village in Phu Yen Province was reportedly the main point of entry for infiltrated supplies until it was occupied by South Korean troops in 1966. Other primary entry points were located along the coast of Quang Ngai Province near Cape Batangan, Duc Pho, and Sa Huynh. The enemy's most recent major maritime resupply operations have been centered around Phan That village, in southern Quang Ngai, [redacted] the destination point for a Communist trawler which was destroyed by its crew after it was run aground by US Navy coastal surveillance patrols on 14 March 1967.

25X1

8. MR 5's principal resupply stockpile area is reportedly located in the Kontum/Quang Tin/Quang Ngai tri-border area. Intermediate storage points for sea infiltrated supplies are located in southern Quang Ngai Province. The main supply point for fish and rice in MR 5 is Sa Huynh.

9. The rallier further states that in 1966 three large trawlers attempted to conduct major resupply infiltration operations in the MR 5 area, but that two of the three were destroyed by allied forces. US military officials confirm only one of these infiltration efforts, in the vicinity of An

7 April 1967

I-2

[redacted]

25X1

[REDACTED]

Tho, Quang Ngai Province, during late November 1966. Two other major attempts to deliver supplies to MR 5 in large steel-hulled trawlers were detected, one at Vung Ro Bay in Phu Yen Province in February 1965 and another north of Cape Batangan in Quang Ngai Province in March 1967.

[REDACTED]

25X1

7 April 1967

I-3

25X1

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

II. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTH VIETNAM

1. Constituent Assembly officers met with various religious leaders on 5 April in an attempt to resolve the dispute--which has involved public demonstrations by Catholic groups--over the deletion of the phrase "supreme being" from the preamble of the constitution. Father Tran Du, leader of the Catholic Citizens bloc, insisted that the phrase be reinserted and remained adamant throughout the meeting. Other religious leaders, however, appeared to recognize that it was too late to reword the constitution, and were satisfied that they had made their point.

2. In its first plenary session since the constitution's promulgation, the assembly agreed on 6 April not to change the constitution. Instead, a committee was appointed to draft a resolution which would affirm the assembly's respect for the supreme being and deny that deletion of the phrase from the preamble was the result of pressure from any quarter. The resolution will be submitted for assembly approval on 8 April, at which time the assembly will also make some changes in its internal rules and, time permitting, begin the election of new assembly officers.

3. There were reports that the assembly, without much debate, deleted the now controversial phrase from the preamble at the request of moderate Buddhist leader Thich Tam Chau, a move which more or less automatically invited a response from militant Catholic quarters. The embassy now believes that the forthcoming resolution in the assembly should satisfy most religious leaders including the Catholics. It is not yet clear, however, whether Father Tran Du himself will attempt to exploit the issue, further.

Announcement of Tran Van Huong's Presidential Candidacy Expected Soon

4. Former premier Tran Van Huong plans to announce his presidential candidacy officially this weekend, although it will be made contingent upon satisfactory safeguards in the forthcoming electoral

7 April 1967

II-1

regulations. Former youth minister Vo Long Trieu, who has been acting as Huong's unofficial campaign manager, presented the embassy on 7 April with a copy of Huong's press release, which has already been sent to Huong for his approval. The release points out that Huong decided to be a candidate when he first heard that there would be an elected government, and that his decision was prompted by a sense of responsibility and duty. It concludes, however, that Huong's candidacy depends upon fair election laws.

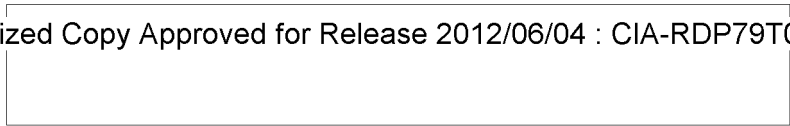
7 April 1967

II-2

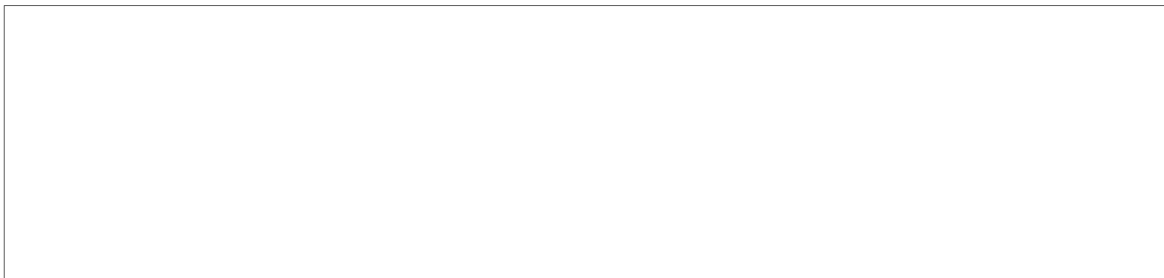
25X1

Page Denied

Next 1 Page(s) In Document Denied



25X1



7 April 1967

III-2



25X1

IV. OTHER COMMUNIST MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS

1. There is nothing of significance to report.

V. COMMUNIST POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

1. There is nothing of significance to report.


7 April 1967

IV-V-1

25X1



VI. OTHER MAJOR ASPECTS

1. Analysis of photography  confirms that Route 922 is motorable as far south as A Shau in South Vietnam. Road clearing was observed under way extending about one mile south-southeast from A Shau. Since 1 March, observers near Route 922 have reported only a small number of trucks moving in Laos along this route toward the border.

25X1

7 April 1967

VI-1

25X1



Top Secret



Top Secret