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10 October 1966

DCI BRIEFING FOR  
RIVERS SUBCOMMITTEE

SOUTH VIETNAM

I. You are no doubt aware that in South Vietnam the Marines have moved stronger forces toward the Demarcation Line between the North and South, and that U. S. Army troops have been deployed into the Da Nang area for the first time to back up the Marines.

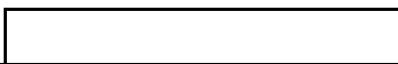
A. This is in answer to a number of indications over the past five or six weeks that North Vietnamese forces have been engaged in an intensive build-up of troops and supplies for offensive operations immediately south of the so-called De-militarized Zone, in Quang Tri Province.

B.

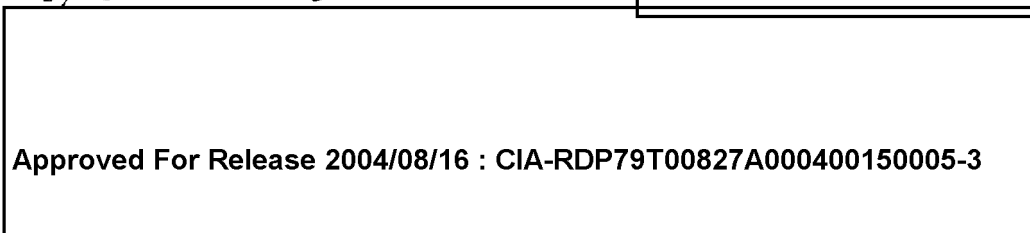


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II. This build-up has been disrupted to some extent by US air and ground operations



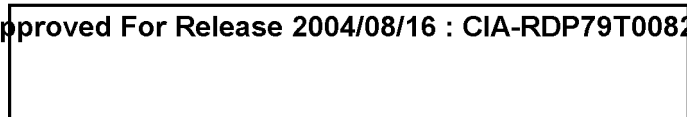
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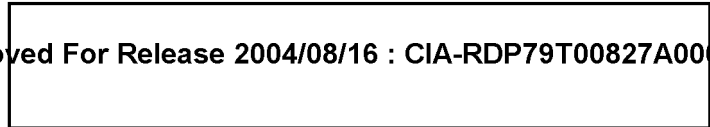


- A. For example, the US Marine operation code-named PRAIRIE, which has been under way in Quang Tri Province since early August, has killed more than 950 enemy troops by actual body count, and taken several hundred prisoners.
  - 1. There have also been two unusual instances of group surrenders by North Vietnamese troops--more than 60 in one case, and 35 in another.
- B. US air operations in this area and over the DMZ have caused numerous secondary explosions and fires, indicating that they are hitting supply and ammunition dumps.
- C. Nevertheless, the enemy build-up is continuing.

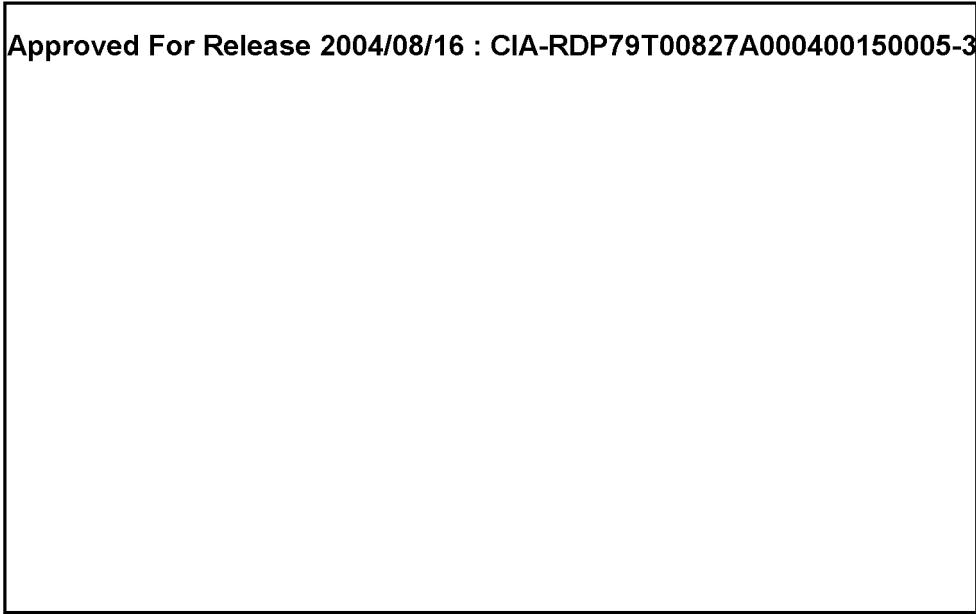
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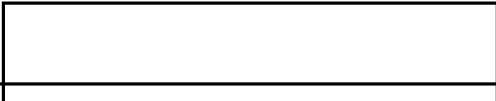


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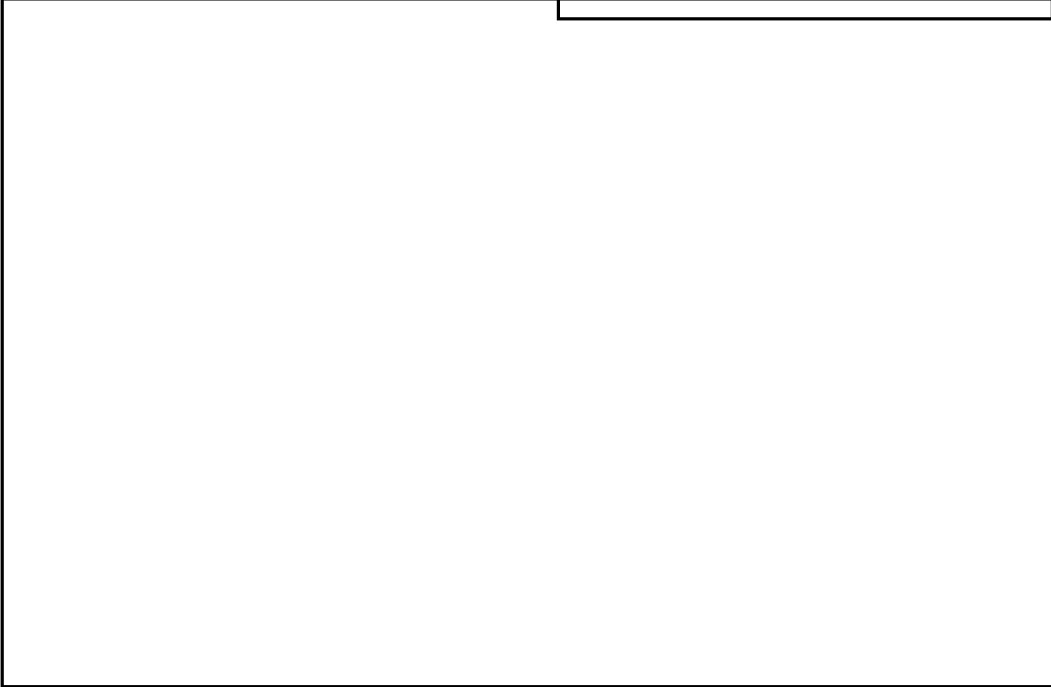


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III. Enemy forces in the Quang Tri Province - Demilitarized Zone area include



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B. Moreover, there apparently is an extensive logistics force supporting these troops in the DMZ area.



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D. Against these Communist forces in Quang Tri Province, at present we have six US Marine Battalions in Operation PRAIRIE--about 8,100 men--and another six battalions of South Vietnamese in the adjacent operation, comprising about 2,250 troops.

1. It is to back up these committed forces that the Marines have moved more units toward the DMZ.

V. It is our present assessment of the Communist build-up that they are not likely to attempt a major offensive before the rainy season sets in around the end of the month. Until that time, US air and firepower superiority should be able to successfully stave off any large scale push.



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A. It is important to remember, however, that the Communists have gone for a considerable period of time without any sort of a significant military victory. [Redacted]

have indicated that the Communists are preparing for just such a needed victory in the I Corps area--preferably to come before the US elections in early November.

1. Moreover, past Communist practice has shown that they are not adverse to throwing large numbers of troops into a battle if they believe they can achieve a significant objective. In the present circumstances, the buildup that has already taken place--clearly the most significant current event in the war--gives rise to the possibility that they may "go for broke" in northern South Vietnam to gain that elusive victory so necessary to their morale.

B. In any case, it is estimated that Communist forces in Quang Tri Province still retain the capability to launch a multi-regimental offensive in the coming weeks. Such a push could be aimed at the series of towns along Route 9 in central Quang Tri Province.

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STATUS OF PETROLEUM IN DRV

- I. DRV is believed to have a 70-100 days petroleum stockpile. Recent deliveries by sea, and some transshipments through China, are believed to have been adequate to meet consumption requirements to date -estimated at 16,000 tons monthly.
- II. About ~~70~~ <sup>50 to 75</sup> percent of the DRV's ~~total~~ <sup>PRESENT</sup> petroleum storage capacity of 75,000 tons is full.

A. ALL IN THE HANOI-HAIPHONG AREA EXCEPT ONE AT VINH  
8 principal storage sites -- account for about

30,000 tons of this capacity.

B. Up to 100 dispersed through north VIETNAM small tank sites -- account for another 20,000 tons capacity.

C. About 130 thousand 55 gallon drums and an unknown number of small military and industrial sites -- account for some 25 thousand tons capacity.

III. Since the bombing of petroleum facilities in Hanoi and Haiphong in late June, no single petroleum storage area can accept a fully loaded tanker carrying 10,000 tons.

A. Oil jetties at the Haiphong petroleum facilities still are available, but the destruction of storage tanks prevents use.

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DATA SHEET

1. Destruction: about 3/4 of DRV <sup>principle</sup> oil storage facilities have been destroyed by US air attacks, and a small portion of other dispersed storage areas have been destroyed.

2. Consumption: Requirements at current level of activity- 16,000 tons per month - Basis - Estimated consumption of civilian and military transport sectors, agriculture, and industry.

3. Rates of import:

Prior 1 Sep 1965	-	12,000 tons/ month
1 Sept 1965-28 Jun 66	-	20,000 tons/month
28 Jun 66-present	-	11,000 tons/month

4. Estimated days supply on hand on 1 October 66 at current consumption levels - not less than 70 days and may be as much as 100 days.

5. Current Source of Supply:

USSR - 95%; 5% from Rumania/Hungary  
Tanker shipments and dry cargo shipments from Black Sea - Probable rail shipments across China.



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