

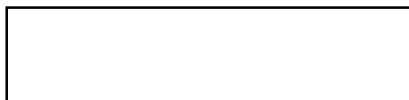
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WEEKLY VIETNAM INDICATORS

Week Ending 8 January 1972

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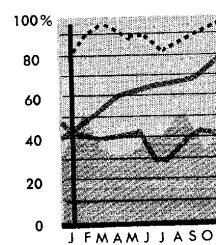
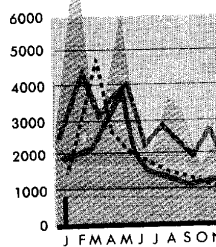
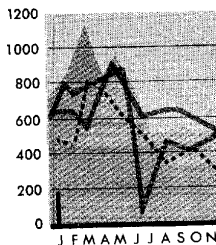
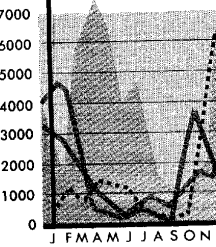
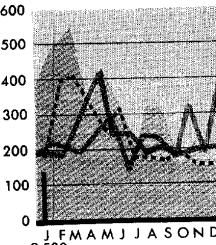
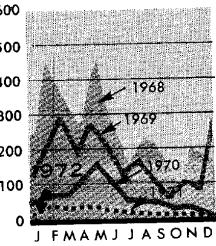


NSA review completed

Top Secret

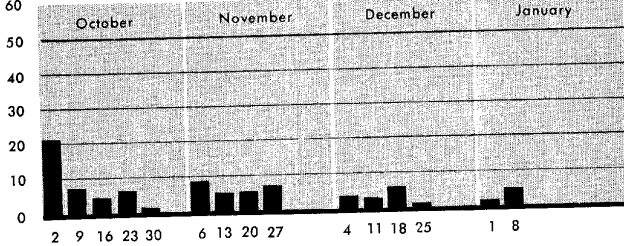
SOUTH VIETNAM WEEKLY INDICATORS

1968-1972
Weekly average for each month



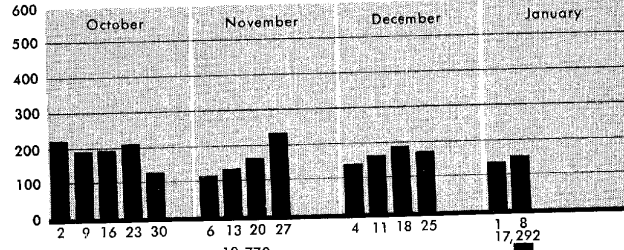
OCTOBER 1971 - JANUARY 1972
Weekly data as reported

US BATTLE DEATHS



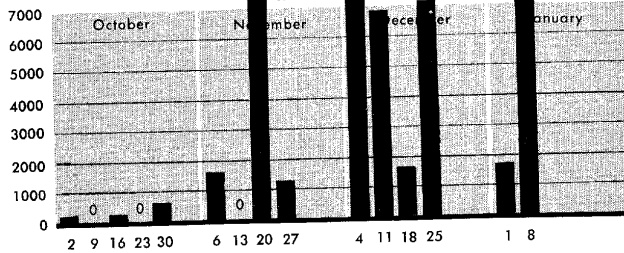
rose to 5 from the 2 reported last week.

SOUTH VIETNAMESE BATTLE DEATHS



increased from last week's 136 to 149. The official total will change as late reports are received and will be lower than the figures released to the press by the GVN.

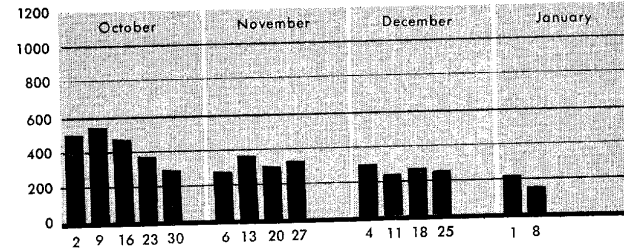
INFILTRATORS DETECTED IN PIPELINE



include 17 regular, [redacted] and 2 small, special purpose groups totaling some 17,292 personnel. The number of infiltrators noted moving toward South Vietnam and Cambodia since 1 October 1971 is now an estimated 55,600-57,600.

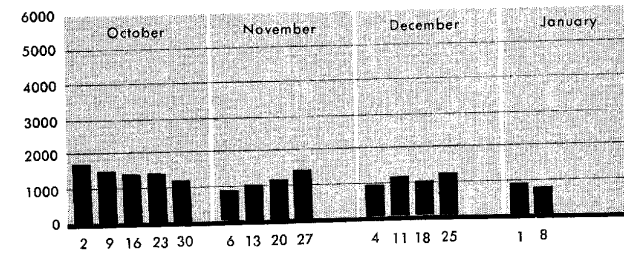
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ENEMY-INITIATED INCIDENTS



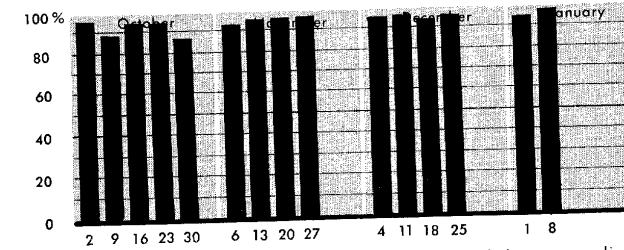
declined to 177 from last week's 204.

ENEMY KILLED IN ACTION



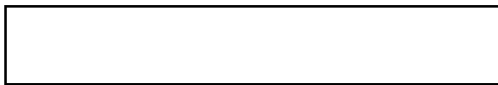
dropped to 803 from the 874 of last week.

SOUTH VIETNAMESE EFFECTIVENESS



as measured by the percentage of enemy killed by GVN forces climbed to 98% from the 94% reported last week.

Statistics for the latest week shown are preliminary



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In north Laos, both captured documents and interrogation of prisoners indicate that the enemy is determined to take Long Tieng, and during the past week the North Vietnamese have moved some of their 130mm artillery pieces closer to the base. On 6 January, a sapper team finished the destruction of the Long Tieng ammunition dump begun by the 130's the previous week. On 8 January, an irregular battalion engaged an estimated 200 NVA on the ridge just two kilometers northeast of Long Tieng, killing at least 18 of the enemy. On the night of 8-9 January, 40-50 NVA infiltrated the Long Tieng valley and stirred up five fire fights, including one in Vang Pao's old headquarters' compound. The intensity of incoming 130mm artillery has, however, diminished somewhat: 140-160 rounds last week compared to 370-400 the week before. With Vang Pao sick, his deputy is directing the defense from a headquarters to the southwest, while local air and logistical support is coming from Ban Son, farther to the southwest. North of the Plain of Jars (PDJ), the friendly position at Bouam Long has received sporadic harassment and some ground probes, but there as yet has been no sign of a major enemy effort to capture the site.

Fighting in southern Laos has been heavy along the major approach to the BoTovens Plateau between Pakse and Paksong, which was abandoned under fire by friendly forces on 27 December. Friendly units at Ban Gnik have come under heavy attack, and a relief column from Pakse was attacked and brought to a halt several miles to the west of Ban Gnik. The remainder of Laos has been relatively quiet, although enemy probes northeast of Luang Prabang have been increasing in number.

In South Vietnam, enemy activity has continued at low levels during the past week, but all source intelligence continues to reflect Communist intentions to initiate major tactical operations about mid-February (Tet).

In Cambodia, both enemy and friendly activity has been at low levels. At this point, the Communists seem more interested in garnering as much of the current rice crop as possible than in fighting, and for the next few weeks, assuming FANK remains quiescent, there is not likely to be much change in the situation. Most ARVN forces are withdrawing from the Krek area of Cambodia to strengthen South Vietnamese forces in Military Region 3, and a renewal of ARVN operations in this part of Cambodia is unlikely until later in the dry season.

Enemy Infiltration

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High levels of personnel infiltration were noted during the past week as 17 regular groups and two small, special purpose groups were detected moving southward. The acceptance of [redacted] raised the weekly estimate of infiltrators to some 17,300 and the number of infiltrators moving toward South Vietnam-Cambodia since 1 October 1971 to some 55,600-57,600. This range could well be low in that the sequential numbers of the groups suggest that another 11 groups with some 6,300 personnel have entered the system undetected. If these suspected [redacted] are accepted, the estimated number of infiltrators destined for South Vietnam-Cambodia would be raised to 61,900-63,900. While the flow of enemy supplies through the Panhandle also increased this week to a new high for this dry season, the estimated cumulative total of materiel still remains well behind that reached last year at this time. The Communists have, however, expended considerable effort thus far to assure their capability to sustain high levels of activity by improving their transportation and command and control posture this season. Roads have been built or improved in Laos, the DMZ, and northeastern Cambodia, and an expanded apparatus to control the movement of men and materiel in the Laos Panhandle and northeastern Cambodia now appears to be operational.

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