

Secret



Fifteenth Report

**COMMUNIST VIOLATIONS OF
THE VIETNAM AND LAOS SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS**

(This report covers the week from
25 May through 31 May 1973)

*This memorandum has been prepared jointly by the
Central Intelligence Agency and the Department of Defense*

DIA review(s) completed.

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Approved For Release 2004/07/08 : CIA-RDP80T01719R000100160010-6

Approved For Release 2004/07/08 : CIA-RDP80T01719R000100160010-6

1, June 1973

Fifteenth Report

COMMUNIST VIOLATIONS OF
THE VIETNAM AND LAOS SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS*

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The Key Points

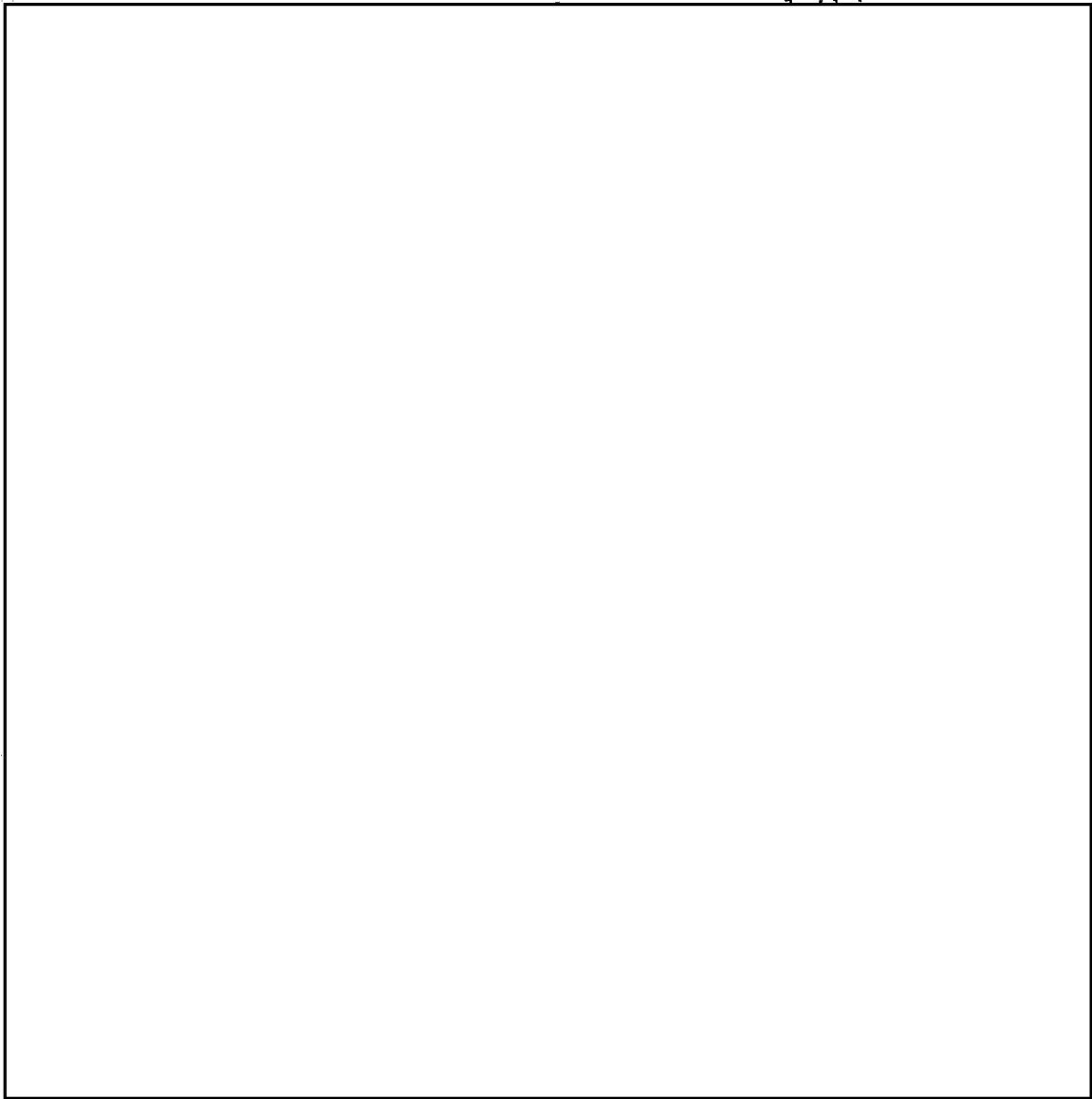
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- With the rainy season now intensifying, North Vietnamese logistical activity in southern Laos and Cambodia diminished further. There is still heavy NVA logistic movement, however, in southern North Vietnam and northern South Vietnam.
- Combat activity in violation of the settlement agreements was at a low level in both South Vietnam and Laos.

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The Details

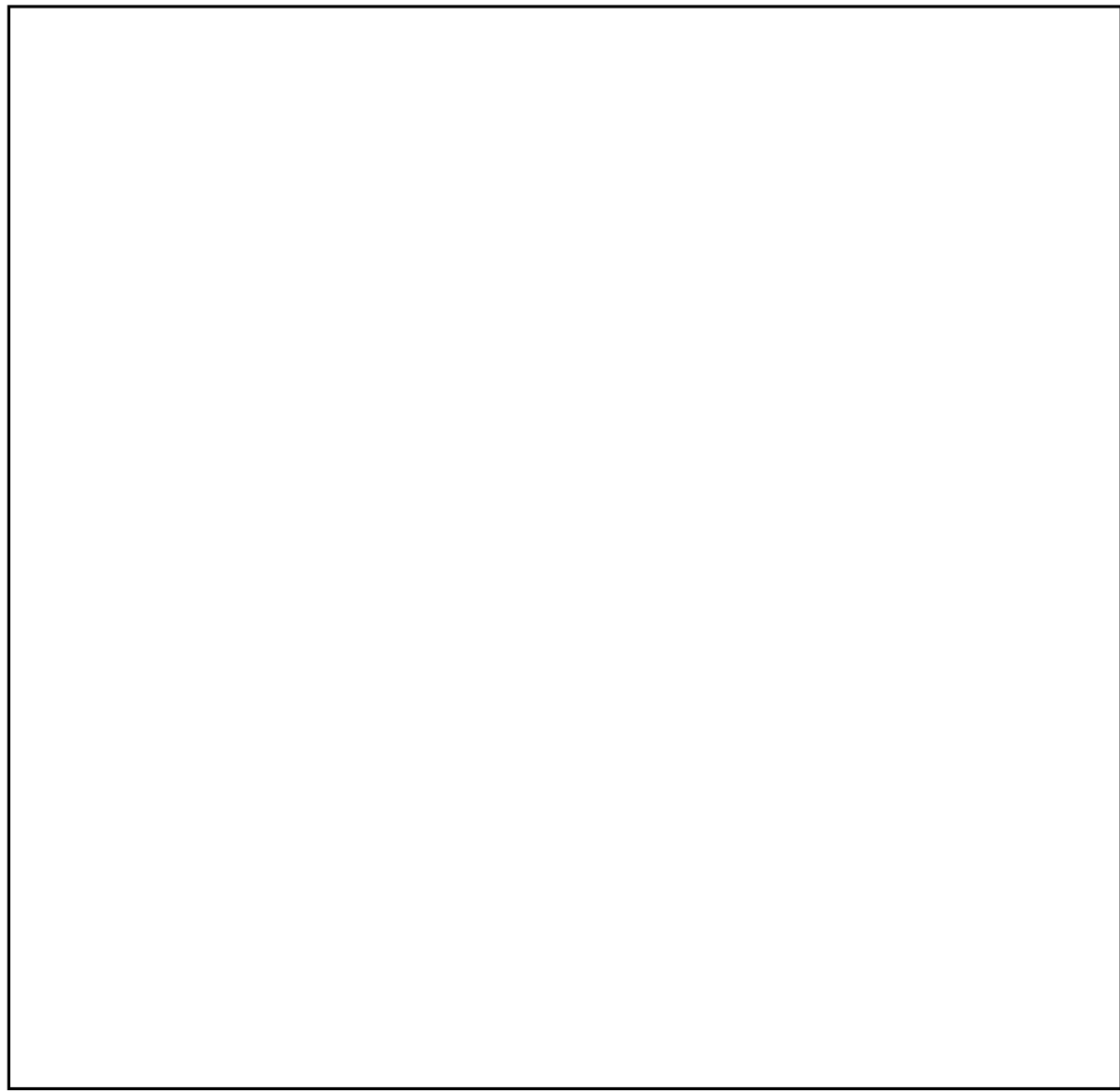
NOTE: This is the Fifteenth in a series of reports detailing recently received evidence of (a) Communist efforts to infiltrate new manpower and military materiel toward and into South Vietnam, and (b) Communist-initiated combat activity in violation of the Vietnam and Laos settlement agreements.



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B. Movement of Military Equipment and Supplies
Toward and Into South Vietnam and Laos.

5. NVA logistic activity in southern Laos continues to decline as the rainy season advances over the area. There is still considerable traffic on the north-south routes in the central part of the Laotian Panhandle, but the level is well below

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[redacted]

that of late April. (Moreover, a significant north-bound bias has been evident during the past week.) In contrast, high levels of resupply activity are continuing in northern South Vietnam where [redacted]

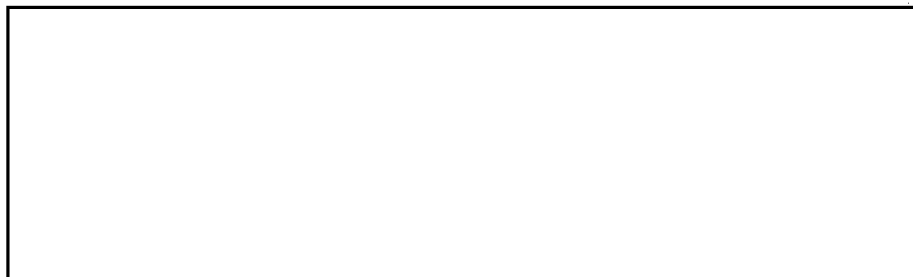
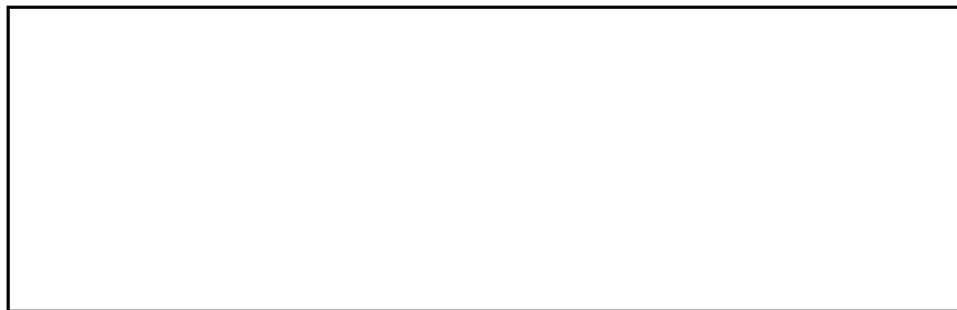
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[redacted] heavy vehicle traffic continues. Farther north, substantial logistic flows also continue through Vinh and the southern part of the North Vietnamese Pan-handle.

6. The following instances of Communist logistic activity were observed in South Vietnam during the period. Activity observed in South Vietnam probably reflects supplies which have recently entered the country. (The map on the following page shows the roads and route numbers which appear below.)

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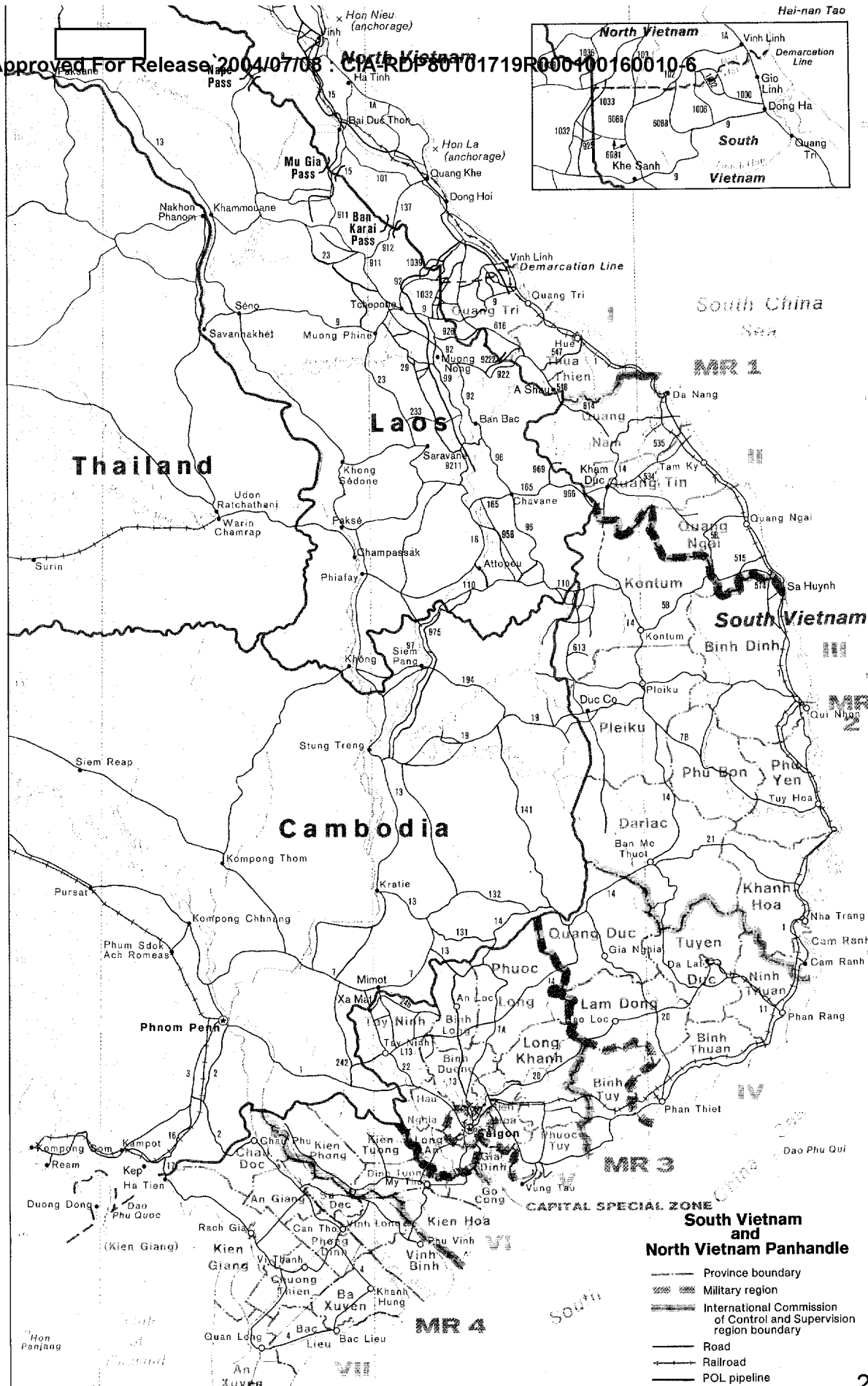


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- c) On 25 May, 168 cargo trucks were observed on Route 9 between Dong Ha and the Laos/South Vietnam border (70 eastbound, 74 westbound, 24 parked).
- d) On 29 May, 47 cargo vehicles were seen on Route 9 between Dong Ha and the Laos/South Vietnam border (20 eastbound, 12 westbound, 15 parked).

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Names and boundary representation are not necessarily authoritative

- e) On 29 May, 26 cargo vehicles were noted on Route 1 north of Dong Ha (23 northbound, 3 southbound).

7. During the reporting period the following indications of North Vietnamese logistic activity in southern Laos were noted. Historical precedent would suggest that much of this activity probably involved supplies destined for South Vietnam.

- a) The table below lists observed NVA vehicle activity on selected routes in the Laos Panhandle during the reporting period.*

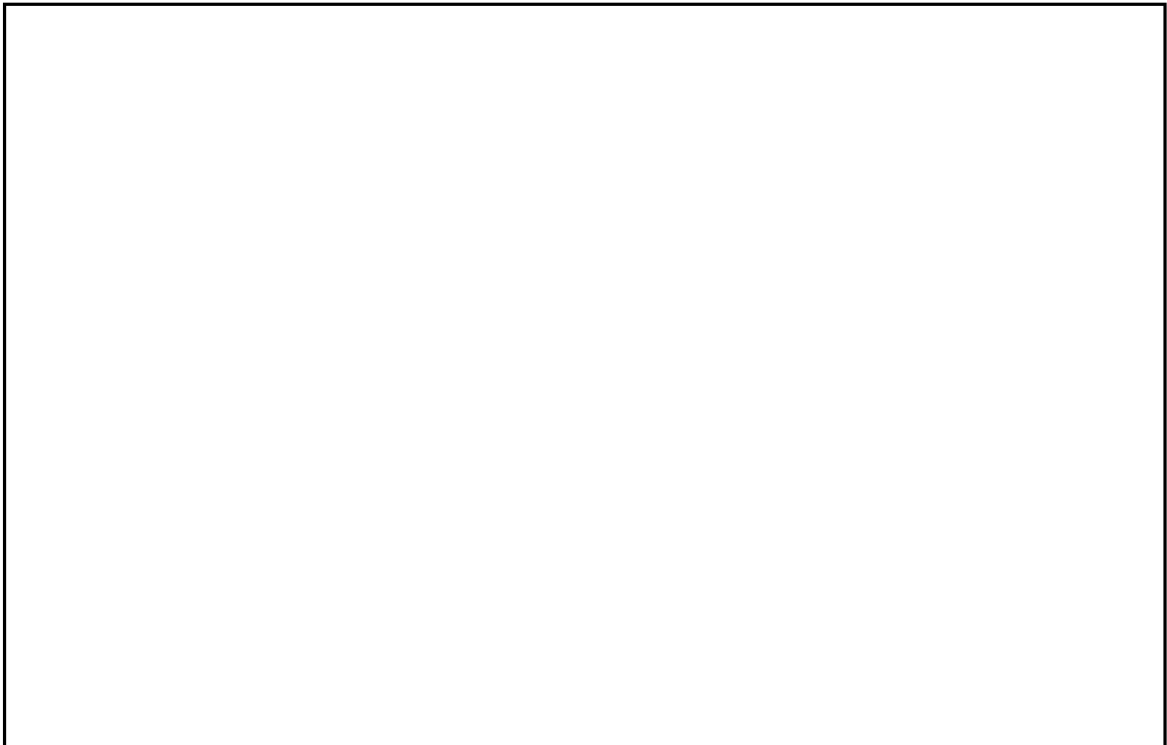
<u>Date</u>	<u>Route 99</u>	<u>Route 9211</u>	<u>Route 958</u>
24 May	142 (95-N, 24-S)	31 (6-N, 1-S)	NC**
25 May	127 (70-N, 0-S)	85 (42-N, 19-S)	15 (1-N)
26 May	34 (26-N, 2-S)	31 (21-N, 2-S)	9 (2-N)
27 May	77 (26-N, 9-S)	49 (38-N, 3-S)	9 (1-N)
28 May	12 (4-N, 1-S)	21 (5-N, 6-S)	6 (4-S)
29 May	14 (Parked)	8 (8-N)	1 (1-S)
30 May	10 (5-N, 5-S)	NC**	NC**

* The first number in each entry is the total number of vehicles. Of these totals, the number of trucks moving north (N) or south (S) are noted in the parentheses after each total. The remainder of the vehicles detected were parked along the roadway.

** No coverage.

- b) On 27 May, 22 cargo vehicles were observed parked along Route 9 west of the Laos/South Vietnam border.

- c) On 28 May, 27 cargo vehicles were observed on Route 9 west of the Laos/South Vietnam border (13 westbound, 2 eastbound, 12 parked).



C. Combat Activity Initiated by Communist Forces in South Vietnam Since the Ceasefire

9. In South Vietnam, the total number of Communist-initiated ceasefire violations reported by the South Vietnamese Armed Forces since 27 January and for the last week (25-31 May) are shown below:

<u>Military Region</u>	<u>Total Since Ceasefire Level of Action</u>		<u>Last Week (25-31 May) Level of Action</u>	
	Major	Minor	Major	Minor
MR 1	959	3,177	21	75
MR 2	227	1,689	7	59
MR 3	367	2,285	19	96
MR 4	593	5,552	28	266
Totals	2,146	12,703	75 (50) <u>1/</u>	496 (489) <u>1/</u>

1/ Denotes totals of previous week.

10. Some of these violations may have been initiated by GVN forces rather than Communist forces, and it is impossible in all cases to determine the actual instigator. The table above and the chart on the following page, however, do show fairly accurately the trend in the amount of combat that has occurred in South Vietnam since the ceasefire. The fact that a combat incident occurred at a particular time and place is generally reported accurately by the South Vietnamese, even though the question of who started it may not always be treated in objective fashion. In some cases, the Joint Military Commission (GVN/PRG) also reports violations of the ceasefire.

11. The following is a chronological listing of only the most significant "major" Communist violations of the ceasefire in South Vietnam that were reported by the South Vietnamese Armed Forces during the past week.

MILITARY REGION 1

- a) No significant activity.

MILITARY REGION 2

- a) No significant activity.

MILITARY REGION 3

- a) On 28 May, ARVN Forces 5 miles southwest of Phuoc Vinh received a ground attack.
- b) On 31 May, enemy sappers destroyed some 3,700 tons of mixed ordnance in an ammunition storage depot five miles southeast of Bien Hoa.

MILITARY REGION 4

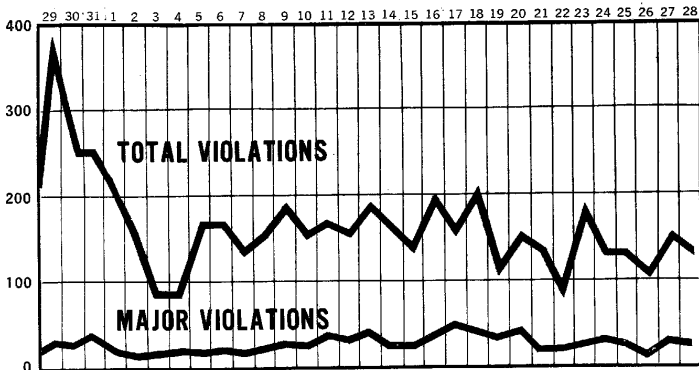
- a) On 25 May, a friendly unit 5 miles southwest of Quan Long received a ground attack.



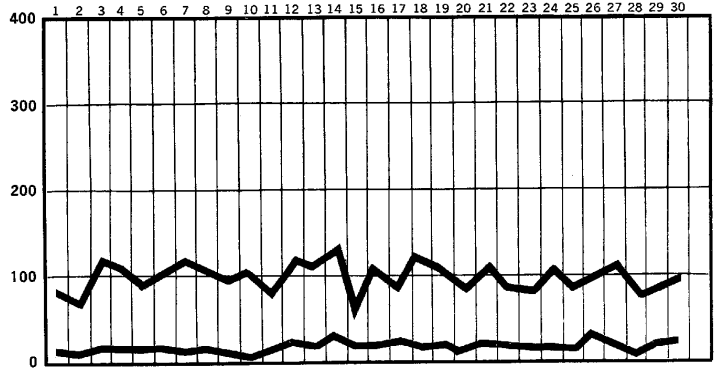
CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS IN SOUTH VIETNAM AS REPORTED BY RVNAF

(28 JANUARY 1973 TO THE PRESENT)

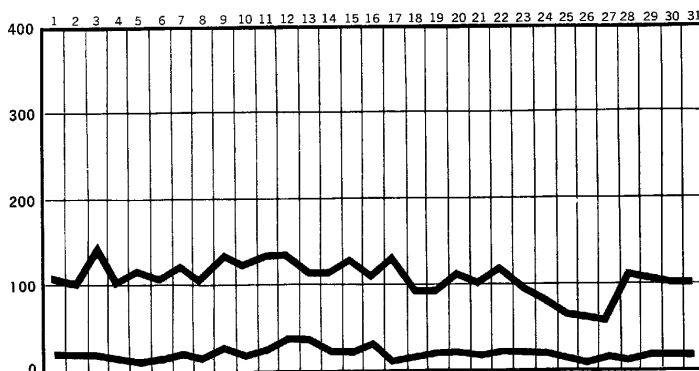
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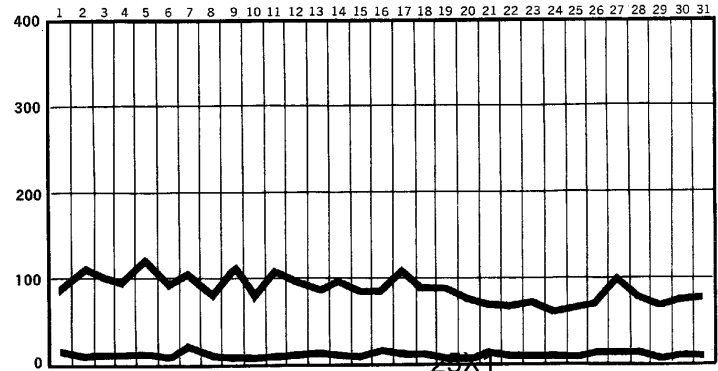
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- b) On 27 May, ARVN Forces 10 miles south of Vi Thanh received a ground attack.
- c) On 30 May, ARVN forces some 20 miles northeast of Soc Trang received a ground attack.

D. Combat Activity Initiated by Communist Forces in Laos During the Week from 25 through 31 May

12. Twenty-five small combat incidents were reported in Laos during the period, but none were significant. A spate of minor incidents and a suspected Communist troop buildup in the San Soak area near the Khammouane/Xieng Khouang Province border have raised fears of a possible Communist attempt to eliminate this Royal Lao Government enclave. Over 350 civilians have evacuated the area. Another Communist troop buildup has been reported northwest of Ban Houei Sai in Houa Khong Province, where the Pathet Lao have been attempting to stem the flow of refugees from the Nam Yu area to Government-controlled territory along the Mekong River.

13. Communist forces have constructed a bamboo and barbed wire fence in an area 29 kilometers north-east of Khong Sedone in northern Military Region IV of Laos. The fence runs for a distance of six kilometers, and apparently was built to delineate the boundary of territory claimed by the Pathet Lao.

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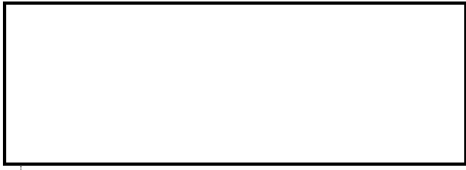
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