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# Intelligence Memorandum

POPULATION CONTROL MAP OF SOUTH VIETNAM

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8 July 1972  
No. 0791/72

## WARNING

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

8 July 1972

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

POPULATION CONTROL MAP OF SOUTH VIETNAM

1. Attached to this memorandum is a map depicting those hamlets of South Vietnam which the best available evidence indicates were wholly or largely under Communist control in June 1972. The map shows, accurately though with some oversimplification, the limited population control gains achieved by the Communists in the first two months of their current offensive. It does not show changes which are now occurring in the control status of certain areas--specifically, it does not show those changes resulting from the counteroffensive of the GVN in northern MR 1. When we are in a position to judge the effects of this counteroffensive on population control, a new edition of the map can be prepared.

2. Any map of this type must oversimplify. Gradations of partial control by either side cannot be presented without unduly cluttering up the map. We have chosen to depict only two main types of information. First, we have shown--on a base map of South Vietnam giving population densities--those Districts of the GVN which are carried by MACV as being under Communist control as of 22 June 1972. Second, we have shown all South Vietnamese hamlets which are rated "V" (under the physical control of the Communists) or "E" (marginal or ineffective GVN presence) by the Hamlet Evaluation System. The latest HES data available in Washington when the map was prepared had a cut-off date of 30 April. (Preliminary HES data for May of this year have since been received, and we have determined that the May data would not change the categories illustrated on the map significantly. HES data for June probably will not be available for several weeks.)

3. We have not selected "V" and "E" rated hamlets as a measurement of population control in order to create yet another definition of what constitutes control. We have used this definition because it yields a relatively unambiguous picture of the populated areas held by the Communists. "V" and "E" rated hamlets are those in which the Communists are the only, or at least the primary, source of administrative and/or military authority. In addition, we have used this definition because

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it probably represents the minimum of population control which the Communists might claim in any cease fire negotiations. (We, of course, do not have to offer them even this much. At the least, the US and/or GVN could initially claim the "E" hamlets for the GVN side.)

#### The Statistics Behind the Map

4. On 29 February 1972, a month before the present North Vietnamese offensive began, 86,000 individuals, or less than one-half of one percent of the total South Vietnamese population of 18,823,000, were living in "V" and "E" rated hamlets, according to HES data. At the end of April, a month after the offensive got underway, 755,000 people--still only four percent of the population--were living in "V" and "E" hamlets. The Communists captured the Quang Tri provincial capital on 3 May, shortly after the cut-off date of our information. Now, in early July, the question of who holds Quang Tri is again being contested on the field of battle. The outcome of the battle, however, will impact more on territorial than population control, since the bulk of Quang Tri Province's population fled southward during the initial North Vietnamese Army advance. (The same situation obtained at An Loc and in other areas of heavy combat.) In areas of South Vietnam other than Quang Tri, however, the status of population control is not in general vastly different from what it was at the end of April, although the Communists have made some further gains in areas of northeastern MR 4 to which they have moved a number of the troops previously engaged around An Loc.

5. Presented on the next pages is a table listing, for each South Vietnamese province, the total population and that portion of the population living in "V" and "E" hamlets, both before the present North Vietnamese offensive (29 February 1972), and at the time when that offensive had almost reached its furthest advance (30 April 1972). The inexactness and deficiencies of some of the HES data do not require reiteration here. The data are, in our opinion, of sufficient accuracy to assist us in contingency planning for a possible cease fire.

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POPULATION OF SOUTH VIETNAM UNDER PREDOMINANT COMMUNIST CONTROL 1/

Province or Autonomous Municipality	29 February 1972			30 April 1972				
	Total Population	Percent of Population in "E" Hamlets	Percent of Population in "V" Hamlets	Percent of Pop- ulation in "V" and "E" Hamlets Combined	Total Population	Percent of Population in "E" Hamlets	Percent of Population in "V" Hamlets	Percent of Pop- ulation in "V" and "E" Hamlets Combined
Quang Tri	317,000	0	0	0	95,000	0	100	100
Thua Thien	557,000	0	0	0	572,000	3.7	0	3.7
Quang Nam	565,000	.2	0	.2	565,000	1.1	0	1.1
Quang Tin	410,000	.2	0	.2	402,000	2.0	2.2	4.2
Quang Ngai	728,000	2.1	0	2.1	756,000	3.7	6.6	10.3
Hue	196,000	0	0	0	98,000	0	0	0
Danang	451,000	0	0	0	747,000	0	0	0
MR 1	3,226,000	.5	0	.5	3,234,000	1.9	4.8	6.7
Kontum	117,000	2.6	0	2.6	118,000	22.9	26.3	49.2
Binh Dinh	752,000	.4	.7	1.1	755,000	2.4	36.8	39.2
Pleiku	214,000	10.7	0	10.7	214,000	9.8	0	9.8
Phu Bon	69,000	1.4	0	1.4	69,000	1.4	0	1.4
Phu Yen	334,000	.3	0	.3	344,000	1.2	.3	1.5
Darlac	244,000	.4	0	.4	248,000	.4	0	.4
Khanh Hoa	252,000	0	0	0	249,000	0	.4	.4
Ninh Thuan	203,000	0	0	0	202,000	0	0	0

1/ Based on Hamlet Evaluation System (HES) of 29 February and 30 April 1972.

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Province or Autonomous Municipality	29 February 1972			30 April 1972		
	Total Population	Percent of Population in "E" Hamlets	Percent of Population in "E" and "V" Hamlets Combined	Total Population	Percent of Population in "E" Hamlets	Percent of Population in "E" and "V" Hamlets Combined
Tuyen Duc	116,000	1.7	1.7	115,000	0	0
Quang Duc	39,000	2.6	2.6	40,000	0	0
Lam Dong	91,000	0	0	93,000	0	0
Binh Thuan	290,000	0	0	294,000	0	0
Nha Trang	195,000	0	0	195,000	0	0
Qui Nhon	194,000	0	.5	194,000	0	0
Cam Rahn	111,000	0	0	111,000	0	0
Da Lat	87,000	0	0	87,000	0	0
MR 2	3,309,000	1.0	.2	3,328,000	2.1	11.5
Binh Tuy	74,000	1.4	1.4	75,000	1.3	1.3
Long Khanh	167,000	0	0	167,000	0	0
Phuoc Long	47,000	0	0	44,000	0	2.3
Binh Long	77,000	0	0	61,000	0	75.4
Binh Duong	256,000	0	0	266,000	.7	1.4
Tay Ninh	396,000	0	0	396,000	0	3.8
Hau Nghia	235,000	0	0	231,000	0	0
Bien Hoa	498,000	0	0	502,000	0	0
Phuoc Tuy	128,000	0	0	128,000	0	0

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Province or Autonomous Municipality	29 February 1972			30 April 1972		
	Total Population	Percent of Population in "E" Hamlets	Percent of Population in "V" Hamlets and "V" Hamlets Combined	Total Population	Percent of Population in "E" Hamlets	Percent of Population in "V" Hamlets and "V" Hamlets Combined
Long An	383,000	0	0	383,000	0	0
Gia Dinh	1,349,000	0	0	1,347,000	0	0
Vung Tau	105,000	0	0	105,000	0	0
Saigon	1,797,000	0	0	1,800,000	0	0
MR 3	5,512,000	.03	.03	5,505,000	.05	1.25
Go Cong	202,000	0	0	203,000	0	0
Kien Tuong	55,000	0	0	52,000	0	0
Kien Phong	408,000	0	0	434,000	0	.7
Dinh Tuong	489,000	0	0	499,000	0	0
Kien Hoa	624,000	2.2	2.2	630,000	4.9	4.9
Vinh Binh	413,000	.2	.2	418,000	.2	.4
Vinh Long	566,000	0	0	579,000	0	0
An Giang	610,000	0	0	618,000	0	0
Kien Giang	388,000	0	0	408,000	0	0
Chuong Thien	291,000	0	0	289,000	4.5	11.4
Phong Dinh	373,000	.3	.3	375,000	.3	.3
Ba Xuyen	446,000	0	0	465,000	0	0
An Xuyen	299,000	3.3	3.3	308,000	2.3	5.9
Bac Lieu	350,000	0	0	354,000	0	0

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30 April 1972

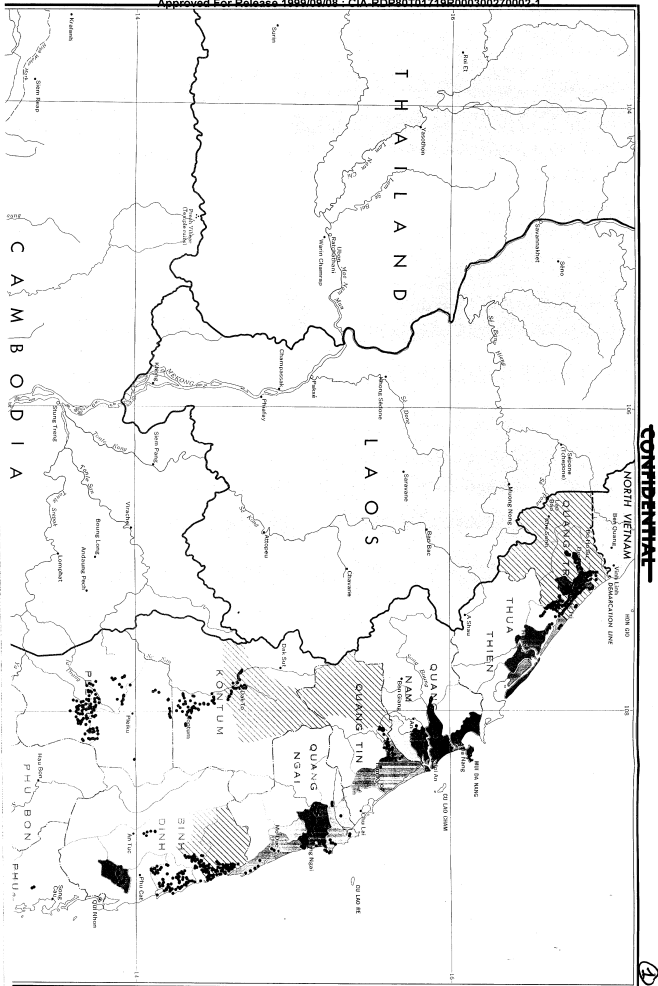
29 February 1972

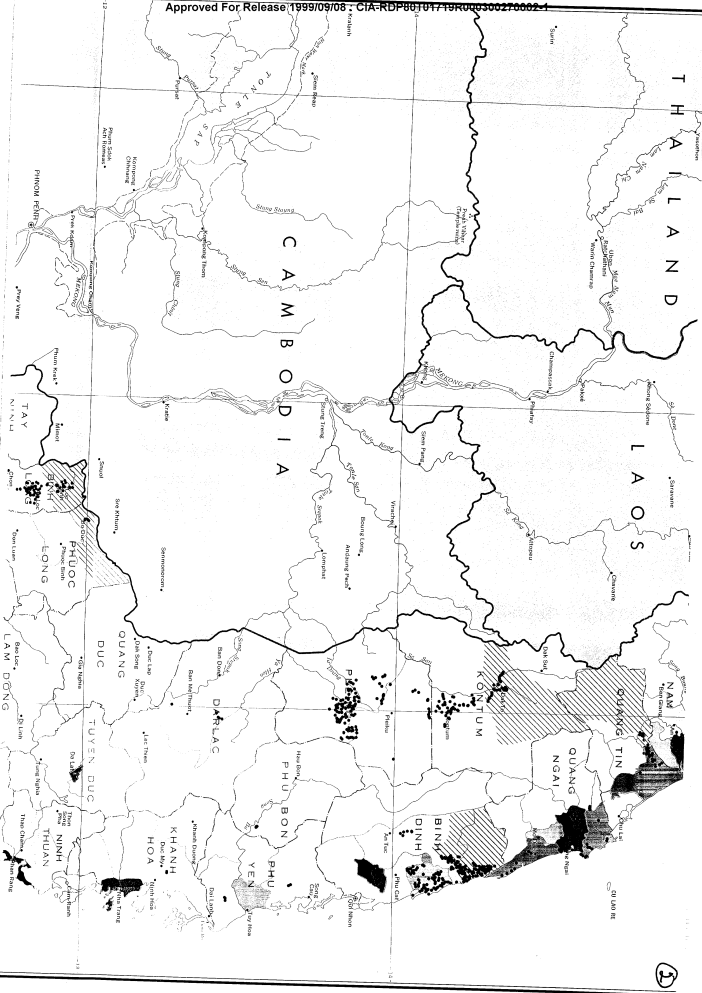
Province or Autonomous Municipality	29 February 1972		30 April 1972	
	Total Population	Percent of Population in "E" Hamlets	Total Population	Percent of Population in "E" Hamlets
Chau Doc	578,000	0	581,000	0
Sa Dec	316,000	0	317,000	0
Rach Gia	104,000	0	104,000	0
My Tho	110,000	0	110,000	0
Can Tho	154,000	0	160,000	0
MR 4	6,777,000	.4	6,905,000	.75
Total South Vietnam	18,823,000 <u>2/</u>	.42	18,972,000 <u>2/</u>	1.0
				.52
				1.27
				2.97
				3.97

2/ HES data frequently show small but unexplained differences in the total population of the GVN from one month to another.

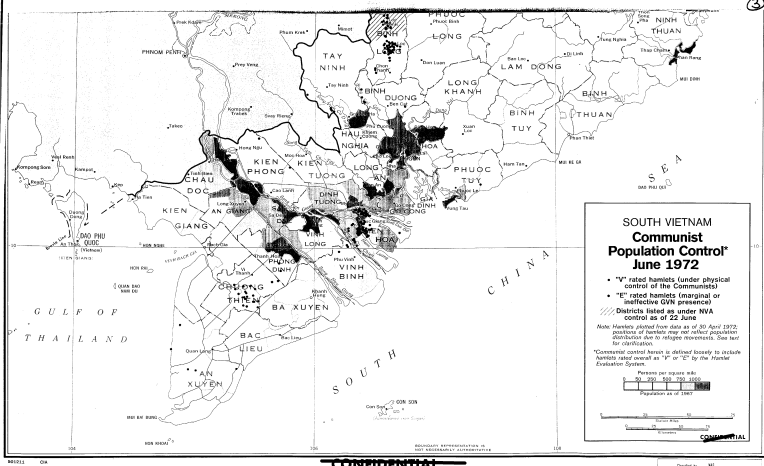
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