

**INFORMATION REPORT**

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. 25X1X

COUNTRY Indochina  
SUBJECT Political and Military Situation in  
25X1A Khanh Hoa and Phan Rang

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KHANH HOA

- Administration. The administration of Khanh Hoa Province is in the hands of a Provincial Assembly, composed of thirty members; 25 of whom are elected and five of whom are appointed by the Chief of the Province, Mr. Hai.
- Economic Conditions. Economically, the province operates on a cooperative basis, each family placing its rice in a central village barn. Rice may be sold freely, but each transaction must be reported to prevent sales to the Viet Minh. A two percent tax is imposed on the volume of business and a 50 piaster tax on each quintal of rice imported into Khanh Hoa. Three hundred tons of rice are imported each month from Cholon.
- Because all the rice is under guard, there are few Viet Minh raids on villages in Khanh Hoa. Nha Trang was under Viet Minh control for only about two months in 1945 and there has been practically no destruction in the town since that time.

PHAN RANG

- Administration. The administration of the provincial militia and intelligence services of Phan Rang is supervised by a committee of four persons, including Ho Tranh Chanh, Chief of the Province, Van Kinh, Deputy Chief of the Province, and the head of the Surete, (Nguyen Van?) Hai.
- Quoc Gia Lien Hiep. According to Ho Tranh Chanh, the province has strong Dai Viet leanings. Chanh appears to veil his Dai Viet connections, however, as his party still bears the name of Quoc Gia Lien Hiep. The Quoc Gia Lien Hiep was originally founded for the purpose of bringing Bao Dai back to Viet Nam and theoretically ended its mission upon his return.
- Provincial Militia. The provincial militia, the Bao Ve Quan, is organized into eight companies, each commanded by a second lieutenant. Each company also includes a political commissar with rank equivalent to that of an

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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officer and who acts as second-in-command. The militia numbers 900 trained noncommissioned officers and men and 100 recruits.

7. The militia is equipped with the following arms:

- 25 automatic rifles
- 600 old rifles
- 40 Sten or similar submachine guns
- 1 Japanese mortar (knee mortar type)
- 900 grenades
- 100 rounds of rifle ammunition

The force also has one truck and two fairly old jeeps.

8. A new battalion, to be incorporated in the Vietnamese National Army, is currently being formed at Ninhchun (109-00, 11-35). This battalion is commanded by Commandant Grimaud, an inspector of the former Garde Indochinoise, which was at one time the equivalent of the present suppletif troops. Because the battalion is to include French cadres for an indefinite period, Ho Thanh Chanh has refused a request for the incorporation of 340 of his men into the battalion. Chanh is opposed to the presence of French troops in the Vietnamese National Army except as technical advisors or instructors.
9. A letter from Phan Van Giao, Governor of Central Viet Nam, to the three provincial chiefs in south Annam, "earnestly invited" them "to take no part in present military planning." The chief of Khanh Hoa, however, has contributed some men from his militia to this or a similar battalion. The battalion is still unnumbered and will take its place in the Vietnamese National Army only after it has been fully trained.
10. Viet Minh Forces. There are four Viet Minh battalions in the hilly regions of Khanh Hoa, two around Vinh Ky and Thai An (109-10, 11-40), and two near Cap Padaran.

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