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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
4 May 1972

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

The Situation in South Vietnam
(As of 0530 EDT)

1. There was no significant enemy military action on the major battlefronts on 3 May.
2. South Vietnamese Marines completed their withdrawal from Fire Base Nancy--the last government strongpoint in Quang Tri Province--and are forming a new defensive line south of the Tach Ma River near the northern border of Thua Thien Province. Seven 122-mm. rockets were fired at the US base at Phu Bai, but no casualties or damage was inflicted.
3. North Vietnamese forces have been pressuring South Vietnamese Rangers defending Polei Kleng, 12 miles west of Kontum City, during the past few days. Battalion-sized attacks, involving elements of the North Vietnamese 52nd Regiment, have taken place in an apparent enemy effort to eliminate the position and provide easier enemy access to Kontum from the west.
4. The morale of the more elite South Vietnamese forces in the highlands including the Rangers, Airborne troops, and armored units is reported to be high, while other units including the regular army, territorials, and the local populace is reported to be demoralized and psychologically oriented for defeat. The Communists are egging this situation on by spreading rumors of deals made between the US and the Communists. The South Vietnamese are moving slowly in preparing their defensive positions around Kontum City and there are new reports of abandoned positions and weapons.

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5. South Vietnamese forces continue to encounter difficulties in moving north on Route 13 toward An Loc and in resupplying and evacuating wounded from the provincial capital. In MR 4, enemy activity continues with some attacks on outposts

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