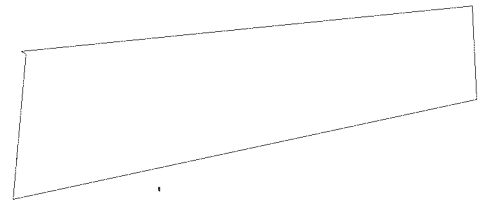


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Vietnam
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Situation report.

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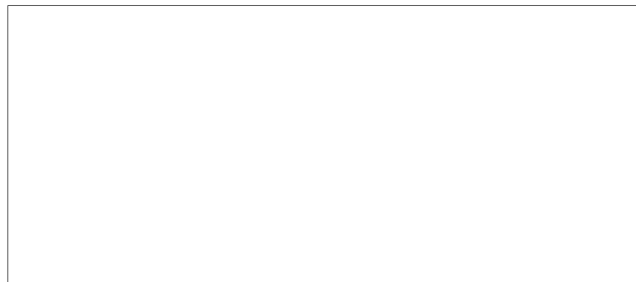
Vietnam

South Vietnam: New fighting broke out southwest of Dak To on 20 November in what was described as the most intensive action in the enemy's two-week-old highlands campaign.

Preliminary casualty reports on this engagement show heavy American losses; there are no figures yet on enemy casualties. The North Vietnamese 174th Regiment was apparently engaged in the largest of the recent actions. This is the first time the unit has been committed to battle in the current campaign.

There has been no evidence of any significant enemy withdrawals from the battle area in the highlands, and it appears that the fighting will continue.

On the political scene, the new administration appears to be getting off to a shaky start.



North Vietnam: In the air war, three more US aircraft were downed on 20 November, bringing to 18 the number of US planes lost during the past five days.

These losses appear to be the result of a vigorous application by Hanoi of its usual air defense procedures, coupled with a large number of US strikes against heavily defended targets in the Hanoi-Haiphong area.

There has been a particularly high level of surface-to-air missile and conventional antiaircraft fire. SAMs accounted for ten of the 18 planes, while conventional antiaircraft fire was responsible for two. The SAM success probably can be attributed to the large number of missiles fired. MIG fighters accounted for two, and possibly four, planes.

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