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DIST 12 JUNE 1968

COUNTRY SOUTH VIETNAM

DOI 4-10 JUNE 1968

SUBJECT II CORPS SITUATION REPORT FOR THE PERIOD
ENDING 10 JUNE 1968

ACQ VIETNAM, NHA TRANG (10 JUNE 1968)

SOURCE [REDACTED]

NAME	ACT	INITIALS
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
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SUMMARY. CAPTURED DOCUMENTS, [REDACTED], AND VC PROPAGANDA INDICATED THROUGHOUT II CORPS THAT THERE IS AN IMPENDING ATTACK ON THE AREA'S URBAN CENTERS. DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD, HOWEVER, THE CHARACTERISTIC ENEMY BEHAVIOR WITH RESPECT TO MILITARY ACTIVITY WAS THE AVOIDANCE OF MAJOR ENGAGEMENTS. INTERDICTION OF HIGHWAYS WAS NOTABLE IN THE HIGHLAND PROVINCES, AND STEPS PRELIMINARY TO THE FORMATION OF REVOLUTIONARY OR LIBERATION COMMITTEES WERE REPORTED IN BINH THUAN, PHU BON, AND PLEIKU. FOOD COLLECTION, TAXATION,

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RECRUITMENT/IMPRESSMENT, AND
INTELLIGENCE GATHERING ACTIVITIES WERE OF SUFFICIENT SCALE IN VARIOUS OF THE PROVINCES TO HAVE BEEN SPECIFICALLY NOTED. THERE WAS LITTLE EVIDENCE OF INTEREST SHOWN IN THE ALLIANCE OF NATIONAL, DEMOCRATIC AND PEACE FORCES. THE REACTION OF II CORPS GVN OFFICIALS TO THE PARIS PEACE TALKS APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN EITHER APATHETIC, BASED ON THE BELIEF THAT THEY WILL COME TO NOTHING, OR FEAR, BASED ON THE FEELING THE AMERICANS WILL MAKE MAJOR CONCESSIONS IN ORDER TO GET OUT OF VIETNAM. END OF SUMMARY.

1. CAPTURED DOCUMENTS, [REDACTED] AND VC
PROPAGANDA INDICATED THROUGHOUT II CORPS DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD THAT THERE IS AN IMPENDING ATTACK ON THE AREA'S URBAN CENTERS. DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD, HOWEVER, THE CHARACTERISTIC ENEMY BEHAVIOR WITH RESPECT TO MILITARY

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ACTIVITY WAS THE AVOIDANCE OF MAJOR ENGAGEMENTS.

A. BINH DINH: THERE WERE THE USUAL REPORTS OF ENEMY STRENGTH AND MOVEMENT THROUGH THE COUNTRYSIDE OF BINH DINH BUT NO MAJOR CONTACT. THIS, TOGETHER WITH THE LESSENING OF ACTIVITY IN OTHER FIELDS OF VC ENDEAVOR IN BINH DINH, SEEMED TO LEND CREDIBILITY TO AN ARMY OF VIETNAM (ARVN) MILITARY

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REPORT THAT THE ENEMY HAD RECEIVED ORDERS TO RETREAT TO SAFE BASES IN ORDER TO AVOID CONTACT WITH FRIENDLY UNITS. ACCORDING TO A POLICE INFORMANT REPORT, SUICIDE SQUADS HAVE BEEN FORMED IN EACH VILLAGE WHICH ARE TO COORDINATE WITH VC/NORTH VIETNAM ARMY (NVA) UNITS TO ATTACK THE DISTRICT TOWNS IN THE NEAR FUTURE. THIS REPORT SUPPORTS THE CONTENTION THAT THE VC ARE PLANNING TO ATTACK SOMETIME DURING THE SUMMER. A POPULAR BELIEF WAS THAT VC/NVA FORCES HAVE WITHDRAWN TEMPORARILY IN ORDER TO REGROUP AND REORGANIZE THEIR FORCES FOR JUST SUCH AN ATTACK.

B. TUYEN DUC. RUMORS WERE THAT THE VC HAVE RECEIVED SUBSTANTIAL REINFORCEMENTS FROM NINH THUAN AND A LARGE BATTLE IS EXPECTED. THE VC ACCORDING TO THE RUMOR, INTEND TO INFILTRATE DALAT, OCCUPY THE HIGH GROUND AND TALL BUILDINGS AND ENGAGE IN STREET FIGHTING AS IN SAIGON. THERE WAS SOME EVIDENCE, HOWEVER, OF SOMEWHAT HEAVY INFILTRATION IN THE HAMLETS IN THE SOUTHERN AND NORTHEASTERN PART OF THE CITY.

C. BINH THUAN. MAIN VC PRESSURE CONTINUED TO BE AGAINST OUTLYING VILLAGES AND HAMLETS WHICH WERE SHORT OF SECURITY,

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WITH OCCASIONAL SMALL GROUND AND MORTAR ATTACKS AGAINST THE MAJOR POPULATION AREAS. THE ATTACKS ON RURAL CENTERS SEEMED DESIGNED TO DRAW AS MANY TROOPS AS POSSIBLE OUT OF THE PHAN THIET AREA. THE RECENT ACTIVITY IN THE SONG MAO AREA DID JUST THAT, WITH THE RECENT MOVE OF THE ARVN 44TH REGIMENT TO THAT LOCATION. VC PROPAGANDA EXPOUNDING THEIR LATEST ATTACKS ON SAIGON AND OTHER MAJOR CENTERS IN AN EFFORT TO RAISE THEIR PRESTIGE AND BRING HOME TO THE POPULATION THAT THE VC HAVE THE STRENGTH TO ATTACK PHAN THIET AND THE DISTRICT CAPITALS HAS PROMPTED THE PEOPLE IN PHAN THIET TO PURCHASE SANDBAGS IN ORDER TO BUILD BUNKERS IN HOMES. A LIVELY BUSINESS HAS SPRUNG UP IN THE MARKETING OF FILLED SANDBAGS WITH THE GOING PRICE PER BAG ABOUT VN\$20.00 (U.S. \$.17 ACCORDING TO THE OFFICIAL EXCHANGE RATE OF VN\$118 TO U.S. \$1.00).

D. KHANH HOA : VC PROPAGANDA CONTINUED TO ATTEMPT TO IMPLANT THE IDEA OF THE INEVITABILITY OF A VC VICTORY, AND PRISONER INTERROGATIONS, CAPTURED DOCUMENTS, AND AGENT REPORTS WERE UNANIMOUS IN PREDICTING ANOTHER BIG VC OFFENSIVE, PROBABLY ON THE CITIES. A CAPTURED DOCUMENT OUTLINED IN

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DETAIL A PLAN FOR ATTACKING NHA TRANG WITH A BIGGER (THAN DURING TET) ATTACKING FORCE. SEVERAL PRISONERS HAVE SPOKEN OF PREPARATIONS FOR A NEW ATTACK, BUT THERE WERE NO INDICATIONS OF WHEN.

E. NINH THUAN. THE ENEMY'S ANNOUNCED INTENTION AS REPORTED BY INFORMANTS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE LAST REPORTING PERIOD WAS TO LIBERATE MILITARILY THE REVOLUTIONARY DEVELOPMENT HAMLET OF TU TAN, FIVE KILOMETERS SOUTH OF PHAN RANG, AND THIS THEY ATTEMPTED TO DO DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD. THE HAMLET WAS PARTIALLY DESTROYED AND THE RD PROGRAM RECEIVED A SEVERE SETBACK. THE INTENTION TO ATTACK PHAN RANG STILL STOOD.

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F. KONTUM. [REDACTED] INDICATE THAT THE ENEMY'S INTENTIONS WERE TO CONDUCT SAPPER ATTACKS AGAINST GVN AND ALLIED MILITARY INSTALLATIONS IN KONTUM CITY WHICH WOULD BE FOLLOWED BY A REGIMENTAL-SIZE GROUND ATTACK AGAINST THE CITY. DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD THE ENEMY CONTINUED TO AVOID MAJOR CONTACT BUT CONTINUED TO EXERT PRESSURE ON THE COUNTRYSIDE WITH ATTACKS ON OUTPOSTS, FIRE BASES, AND GVN-DEFENDED HAMLETS.

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G. PLEIKU. A RECENT CAPTURED DOCUMENT FROM THE CURRENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF VC GIA LAI PROVINCE COMMITTEE STATED THAT THE SECOND AND THIRD PHASES OF THE GENERAL OFFENSIVE WILL ENCOMPASS VIOLENT MILITARY OPERATIONS COMBINED WITH UPRISINGS OF THE POPULACE. THE MAIN OBJECTIVES WOULD BE CITIES AND THEIR OUTSKIRTS.

H. PHU YEN. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] TENDED TO INDICATE GENERAL OFFENSIVE WAS IN THE OFFING.

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2. THE ECONOMIC SITUATION IN THE CORPS AREA APPEARED TO BE GENERALLY NORMAL EXCEPT IN PHU BON, WHERE THE VC INTERDICTION OF HIGHWAY 7B WAS SPECIFICALLY REPORTED TO

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HAVE CAUSED A RISE IN THE PRICE OF RICE AND OTHER EVERY-DAY COMMODITIES, AND IN QUANG DUC, WHERE VC ROAD INTERDICTION CONTINUED TO BE SO WIDESPREAD THAT THE BULK OF THE PROVINCE'S SUPPLIES HAD TO BE AIR-LIFTED. ROAD INTERDICTION APPEARED TO BE A MAJOR PROBLEM IN THE CORPS' OTHER INLAND PROVINCES, SPECIFICALLY IN THE CASE OF HIGHWAY 14 IN KONTUM AND PLEIKU, HIGHWAY 19 IN PLEIKU, AND HIGHWAY 11 IN TUYEN DUC. THE MAJOR ROADS IN THE COASTAL PROVINCES, BY COMPARISON, WERE GENERALLY CLEAR. REVERSING THIS PATTERN, HOWEVER, WAS A NOTED INCREASE IN THE MINING OF ROADS IN COASTAL PHU YEN, WHILE HIGHWAY 20 THROUGH TUYEN DUC AND LAM DONG WAS REPORTED AS RELATIVELY SECURE.

3. VC INFRASTRUCTURE ACTIVITY GENERALLY CONTINUED UNABATED DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD. RICE-COLLECTION ACTIVITIES ON THE PART OF THE COMMUNISTS WERE SIGNIFICANT ENOUGH TO HAVE BEEN SPECIFICALLY NOTED IN EIGHT OF THE CORPS' TWELVE PROVINCES (ALL EXCEPT LAM DONG, PHU BON, TUYEN DUC, AND QUANG DUC). NEXT IN REPORTING FREQUENCY WERE VC RECRUITMENT AND IMPRESSMENT ACTIVITIES, SAID TO HAVE BEEN IMPORTANT IN BINH THUAN, BINH DINH, DARLAC, KONTUM, AND PLEIKU.

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TAXATION WAS NOTABLE IN BINH THUAN, BINH DINH, PHU YEN, AND QUANG DUC, WHILE AN EMPHASIS ON INTELLIGENCE-GATHERING ACTIVITIES WAS REPORTED IN KHANH HOA, BINH DINH, AND QUANG DUC.

4. GVN OFFICIALS AND THE PUBLIC ALIKE IN II CORPS CONTINUED TO SHOW LITTLE INTEREST IN THE ALLIANCE OF NATIONAL, DEMOCRATIC, AND PEACE FORCES. AN UNEVALUATED REPORT, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] SERVICE IN BINH DINH PROVINCE, REVEALED THE FOLLOWING OBJECTIVES OF THE ALLIANCE: "THE PRESENT VC POLICY IS TO CLEAR THE SOUTH VIETNAM BATTLEFIELD, ELIMINATE MILITARY REGION (MR) 5, OBTAIN SOVEREIGNTY FOR THE PEOPLE SO THAT THE DEMOCRATIC PEACE ALLIANCE FRONT CAN TAKE CONTROL OF MR 5 AND PARTICIPATE IN THE FUTURE COALITION GOVERNMENT." THE ONLY TANGIBLE EVIDENCE THAT SUCH AN ALLIANCE EXISTS IN PHU YEN WAS A PROPAGANDA LEAFLET FOUND ON THE BODY OF A DEAD VC IN TUY AN DISTRICT ADDRESSED TO "U.S. SOUTH KOREAN OFFICERS AND MEN" AND SIGNED BY "THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR DEMOCRACY AND PEACE."

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5. DURING THE PAST WEEK, [REDACTED] REPORTS AND A CAPTURED DOCUMENT REVEALED THAT THE ENEMY WAS ATTEMPTING

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OR PLANNING TO ESTABLISH REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEES IN PHU BON, BINH THUAN, AND PLEIKU, RESPECTIVELY:

A. IN PHU BON, A VC/NVA PROPAGANDA TEAM WAS NOTED CONDUCTING AN INDOCTRINATION COURSE IN A THUAN MAN DISTRICT HAMLET ON THE SUBJECT OF "THE PEOPLE'S" COMMITTEE FOR THE LIBERATION OF VILLAGES AND HAMLETS. IT WAS STATED AT THESE SESSIONS THAT VILLAGE COMMITTEES WOULD HAVE 5 TO 10 MEMBERS, HAMLET COMMITTEES WOULD HAVE 1 TO 5, AND THAT BOTH WOULD FUNCTION TO UNITE THE PEOPLE "FOR ALL TYPES OF MISSIONS."

B. IN BINH THUAN THE VC THUAN PHONG DISTRICT COMMITTEE SENT CADRES TO HOA VINH AND TUY HOA VILLAGES, THIEN GIAO DISTRICT, WHERE THEY CONDUCTED POLITICAL STUDY SESSIONS WITH A CAPTIVE AUDIENCE AND DISCUSSED AN ELECTORAL PLAN AND THE SELECTION OF CANDIDATES FOR THE FORMATION OF REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEES.

C. A RECENTLY CAPTURED DOCUMENT OF THE VC GIA LIA CURRENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE STATED THAT THE "MASSES" WERE DIRECTED TO SET UP A "PEOPLE'S" REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE" OR A "REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL" IN THE NAME OF THE NATIONAL FRONT

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FOR THE LIBERATION OF SOUTH VIETNAM'S "WESTERN HIGHLANDS AUTONOMOUS MOVEMENT" IN WHICH VC CADRES MUST HOLD ALL KEY POSTS. THIS STRUCTURE WAS TO BE SET UP WITHIN THREE DAYS AFTER THE VC SEIZED POWER FOLLOWING A GENERAL OFFENSIVE AND UPRISING.

6. OFFICIAL REACTION IN II CORPS TO THE PARIS PEACE TALKS RANGED FROM APATHY TO FEAR--THERE WAS LITTLE ENTHUSIASM EXPRESSED ON THE SUBJECT. OFFICIALS IN DARLAC AND BINH DINH WERE NOTED AS BEING UNINTERESTED IN THE SUBJECT BECAUSE OF THE LACK OF ANYTHING CONCRETE COMING OUT OF THE TALKS SO FAR. INFLUENTIAL CITIZENS OF PLEIKU EXPRESSED THE FEAR THAT THE U.S. MIGHT AGREE TO CEDE THE GVN'S NORTHERN PROVINCES TO THE NORTH VIETNAMESE IN ORDER TO GET A SETTLEMENT, WHEREAS OFFICIALS IN KONTUM WERE AFRAID THAT THE AMERICANS WOULD AGREE TO A COALITION GOVERNMENT FOR THIS SAME REASON. JUNIOR OFFICERS IN QUANG DUC APPARENTLY RELATED THEIR FEELING THAT AMERICAN MILITARY ADVISORS DID NOT WANT TO REMAIN IN VIETNAM TO A FEAR THAT THE TALKS PRESAGED A U.S. PULL-OUT UNDER SOME-WHAT LESS THAN DESIRABLE CIRCUMSTANCES.

7. FIELD DISSEM: STATE USMACV 7TH AIR FORCE CINCPAC ARPAC PACAF IFFV CORDS II CORPS (ALSO SENT [REDACTED] REPORT CLASS ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ NO FOREIGN DISSEM

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