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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

~~SECRET/SENSITIVE~~

INFORMATION

March 6, 1975

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MEMORANDUM FOR: SECRETARY KISSINGER  
FROM: WILLIAM L. STEARMAN *WLS*  
SUBJECT: Communist Helicopter Operations  
in Indochina

Within the last month there has been a new development in Communist military and political operations in Indochina: the use of helicopters outside of North Vietnam.

There have been seven flights by NVAF MI-8 helicopters from Dong Hoi across the DMZ into South Vietnam. The most recent of these flights occurred on March 5. The purpose of these flights remains unclear. The NVAF inventory of MI-8's is currently 6, with 13 others reportedly being assembled in North Vietnam.

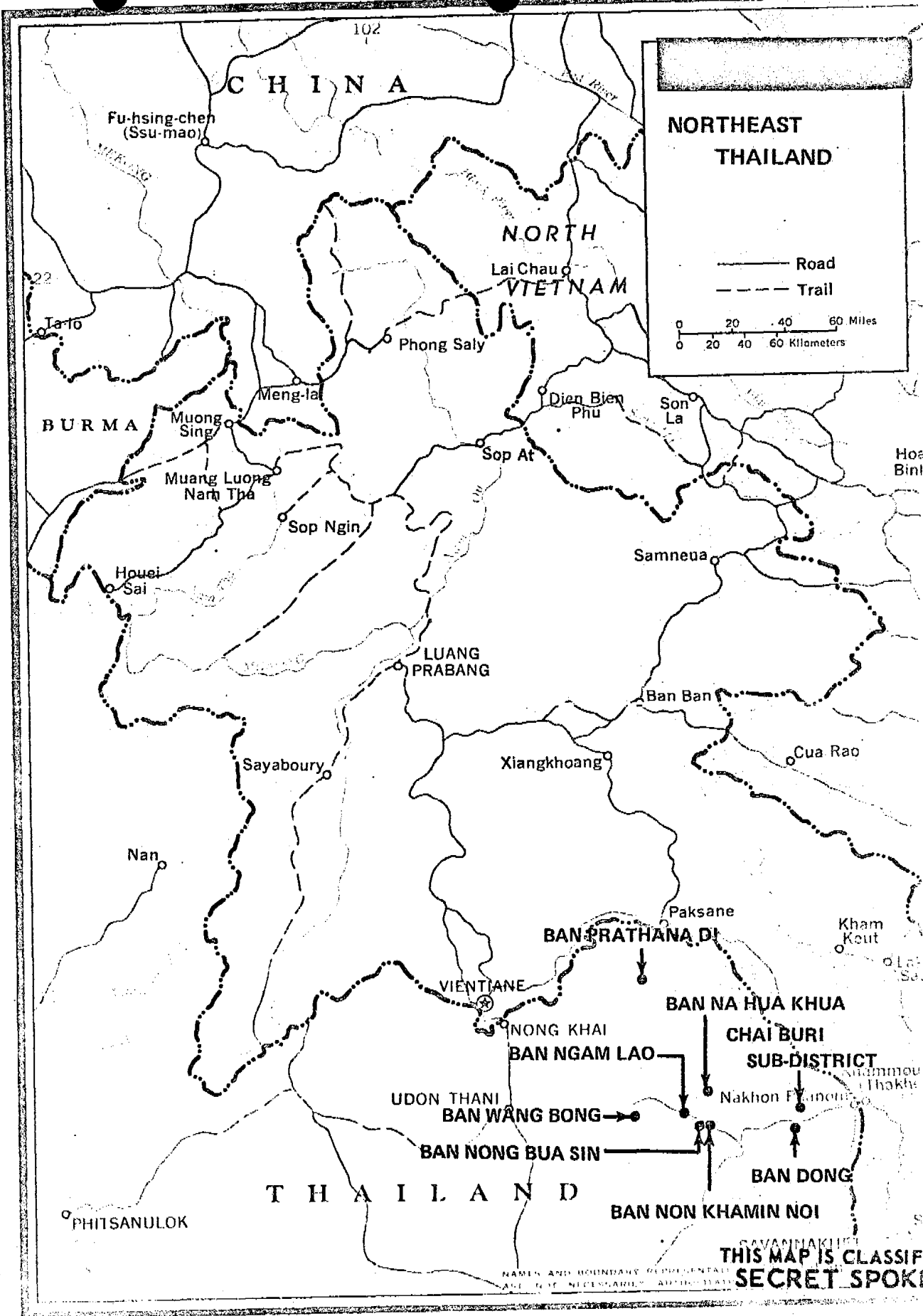
There has recently also been a large number of flights and landings by unidentified helicopters and aircraft along the Lao-Thai border and into three provinces of northeast Thailand: Nong Khai, Nakhon Phanom and Sakon Nakhon. (See map at Tab A.) Communist insurgents have been active in this area in recent years. A list of these incursions as reported by NSA is at Tab B.

NSA review completed

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INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

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DIA review completed.



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## VI. CAMBODIA

### MILITARY SITUATION

During the past week, Cambodian Communists (KC) reportedly sank a number of FANK barges containing 100 tons of ammunition, possibly on the Tonle Sap River and are reportedly salvaging this materiel. Also, along the lower Mekong east bank, KC forces claim to have sank a MNK craft transporting munitions south of Prek Dach.

Initial reference to KC tactical-related communications between a Northern Region official west of the Mekong and an Eastern Region official east of the river was recently disclosed. These two entities summarize tactical activities in Kompong Cham Province.

Troops from the KC Northern Region will reportedly deploy to the Phnom Penh area. In addition to the 300 district forces that have already been sent from Siem Reap Province, mobile forces from two KC battalions were expected to arrive at Tang Krasang on 3 or 4 March to go possibly to Phnom Penh.

KC forces in Phnom Penh have been directed to capture high ranking officials of the Government to demand the release of KC youths being held by the Government. If the youths are not released, KC forces are to kill the captured officials.

(SECRET SPOKE)

## VII. LAOS

### MILITARY SITUATION

#### 1. Northern Laos

NVA units operating in the Plaines des Jarres continued to discuss training, the status of "enemy" forces, and supply activities during the past week. (SECRET SPOKE-ISHTAR)

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-- On 9 February, one helicopter, flying from the direction of Laos, landed at the village of Ban Dong. One person of unknown nationality and two Thais from the helicopter informed the villagers that they would aid Communist insurgents in Thailand with ground and air support and would drill their members in the use of modern weapons. They also stated that they would permit the villagers to buy or barter for weapons to protect themselves.

-- Another helicopter, with no lights, circled various villages in the Chai Buri Subdistrict area on 12 February, then flew away toward Laos.

-- On 18 February, two unidentified aircraft entered the area of Bung Kan and Seka Districts from the area of Wanon Niwat District, Sakon Nakhon Province.

-- Two unidentified aircraft flew from Van Non Khamin Noi on the night of 18-19 February and disappeared north and east of Si Songkhram District, Nakhon Phnom Province.

-- Two more aircraft reportedly flew from east of Van Nong Bua Sin and from southwest of Ban Hua Khua and disappeared north and northeast of Seka District of Sakon Nakhon Province.

-- Another aircraft flew from west of Ban Ngam Lao, Sakon Nakhom Province and disappeared north of Van Phaeng District, Nakhon Phanom Province.

-- Still another aircraft flew from Ban Wang Bong, Wanon Newat District, Sakon Nakhon Province and disappeared northeast of Ban Prathana Di, Bung Kan District, Nong Khai Province.

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