

Report #17  
18 May 1970

INTELLIGENCE RELATED TO CROSS-BORDER OPERATIONS

DIA analysis of messages has revealed that Communist units continue to experience difficulties as a result of Allied cross-border operations.

A 17 May message from a Subregion (SR) 2 subordinate stated:

"For the past few days I have not been able to establish contact. In accordance with the essential request, I am sending Company 2 there to operate. Therefore, you will send a message to regiment or battalion to send forces... to carry two B-40's and enough ammunition to last a long time. The ration fund for June is used up."

This was also borne out by the statements of two prisoners, recently captured near Chi Phu. They claimed that the Headquarters of SR 3 and its Rear Services Section were forced to move deeper into Cambodia when Allied forces destroyed their base area and storage facilities near Ba Thu.

Direction finding revealed that certain elements of COSVN in Kratie Province was in a generally fluid situation. A COSVN element reported to a subordinate on 18 May that it was being seriously threatened by the enemy. It informed all stations to monitor communications closely as it would return to the air when possible.

In Base Areas 350 and 351, documents captured following a Communist attack on Fire Support Base (FSB) READY have identified the attacking unit as the 28th VC Sapper Battalion, 5th VC Division. This unit was last identified on 30 Mar 70 by documents captured northwest of Song Be. It was believed at that time that the 28th Battalion was targeted against the Song Be area. The new location northwest of Bu Dop indicates that Allied cross-border operations have forced the 5th Division to alter its planned tactical activity in northern Phuoc Long Province.

DIA, NSA, ARMY  
reviews completed.

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The 5th Division Headquarters remains located in the vicinity of Bu Dop, two of its major subordinates -- the 174th NVA and 275th VC Regiments -- however, have been conducting operations near the town of Kratie.

In Base Area 704, during the continuing Operation CUU Long I, additional evidence of enemy difficulties was revealed by Headquarters of Military Region (MR) 2 on 16 May. It advised Hanoi that it was under ground attack and about to move. The next night, the watch facility of the MR advised all subordinates that it would cease communications until the 21st.

Farther south near NUI O Mountain, the Forward Element, Hq, 1st NVA Division was fixed southwest of TAKEO and about 20 miles north-northwest of its previous location on NUI O as reflected in COMINT on 16 May. This is the deepest reported penetration into Cambodia by a 1st Division element. It indicates that subordinates of the 1st Division are attempting to avoid contact with forces involved in Operation CUU Long II.

In Cambodia, Kompong Cham remains under government control following an enemy raid, one of the most concerted efforts against a Cambodian town. The fighting, which began on 15 May, reached a peak the following day when an estimated two enemy battalions penetrated Kompong Cham from the northwest. They occupied a portion of the town, but a combined Cambodian air and ground assault forced their withdrawal. Three FANK battalions from Phnom Penh comprised the relief force. The enemy has apparently withdrawn to towns just west of Kompong Cham. A FANK battalion is on the east bank of the Mekong River near Tonle Bet, but the 272d VC Regiment, believed located some 12 miles southeast of Tonle Bet, continues to pose a serious threat.

On the political side, the Cuban Government has asked that representatives of the Lon Nol Government to depart Cuba immediately. They were ordered to leave behind all except their personal belongings. Everything in the embassy belongs to the Sihanouk regime, the only legal government recognized by the Cubans.

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