

~~SECRET SPOKE/EXDIS~~Department of State
Operations CenterNSA review
completed

Supplemental Situation Report No. 41

DOS HAS REVIEWED

SOUTH VIETNAMMORI/CDF
C05135233ARMY
review(s)
completed.A. MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS

The level of Communist shellings and ground attacks has fallen off sharply as both sides appear to be getting ready for future combat. The only significant military action yesterday was the re-opening of Route 22 south of Tay Ninh city, which allowed the remainder of the ARVN 25th Division to withdraw from the city to government lines nearer Saigon.

In MR-3, latest reports indicate that Ham Tan, capital of Binh Tuy province, has in fact fallen to enemy forces. Elsewhere, MR-3 commander Lt. Gen. Toan has decided to deploy the ARVN 18th Division on Route 1 east of Bien Hoa on April 25 to replace the 3rd Armored Group, which will be moved into position as a reserve force for the Bien Hoa area.

AFP Hong Kong carries a report today that ARVN forces have begun using so-called "ultra-lethal asphyxiation bombs" against NVA/VC forces. This most probably refers to cluster bomb units that have long been in ARVN hands which are primarily used for the destruction of underground facilities such as bunkers.

B. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

25X1 four prominent opposition leaders (Father Tran Huu Tnhnh, "Big" Minh, Senator Vu Van Mau, and former Senate chairman Nguyen Van Huyen) met yesterday to discuss means of saving the situation.

--All agreed that a new cabinet must be formed immediately with the participation of the political opposition.

--The four could not agree on how this cabinet would function, but did agree to issue a joint statement calling for a "national unity" government which would be in the form of an ultimatum to President Huong.

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c Attached to Spoke memo from Snyper/Steaman for HAK, 23 Apr. 1975

25X1

25X1 Prime Minister Can [redacted]
[redacted] has issued instructions to prohibit any more
refugees from coming to Vung Tau. Officials there
believe that if the local situation is not resolved
immediately, Vung Tau will be overrun with refugees
and suffer a fate like Danang's.

25X1 [redacted] Can
submitted his government's resignation today.
President Huong accepted the resignation "in principle",
but asked the cabinet to stay in office for several
more days.

25X1 [redacted]

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