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MEMORANDUM

DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

The Situation in Vietnam

3.5(c)

1 December 1967

WARNING

This document contains classified information affecting the national security of the United States within the meaning of the espionage laws, US Code Title 18, Sections 793, 794, and 798.

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Information as of 1600
1 December 1967
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HIGHLIGHTS

Heavy fighting has been reported near the Marine outpost of Con Thien for the first time in several months.

I. <u>The Military Situation in South Vietnam</u>: Fighting continues near the Cambodian border in northern III Corps (Paras. 1-3). US Marines engaged an enemy company near Con Thien on 30 November. There are suggestions of an enemy buildup near Khe Sanh in western Quang Tri Province (Paras. 4-9).

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III. <u>Military Developments in North Vietnam</u>: There is nothing of significance to report.

IV. <u>Other Communist Military Developments</u>: There is nothing of significance to report.
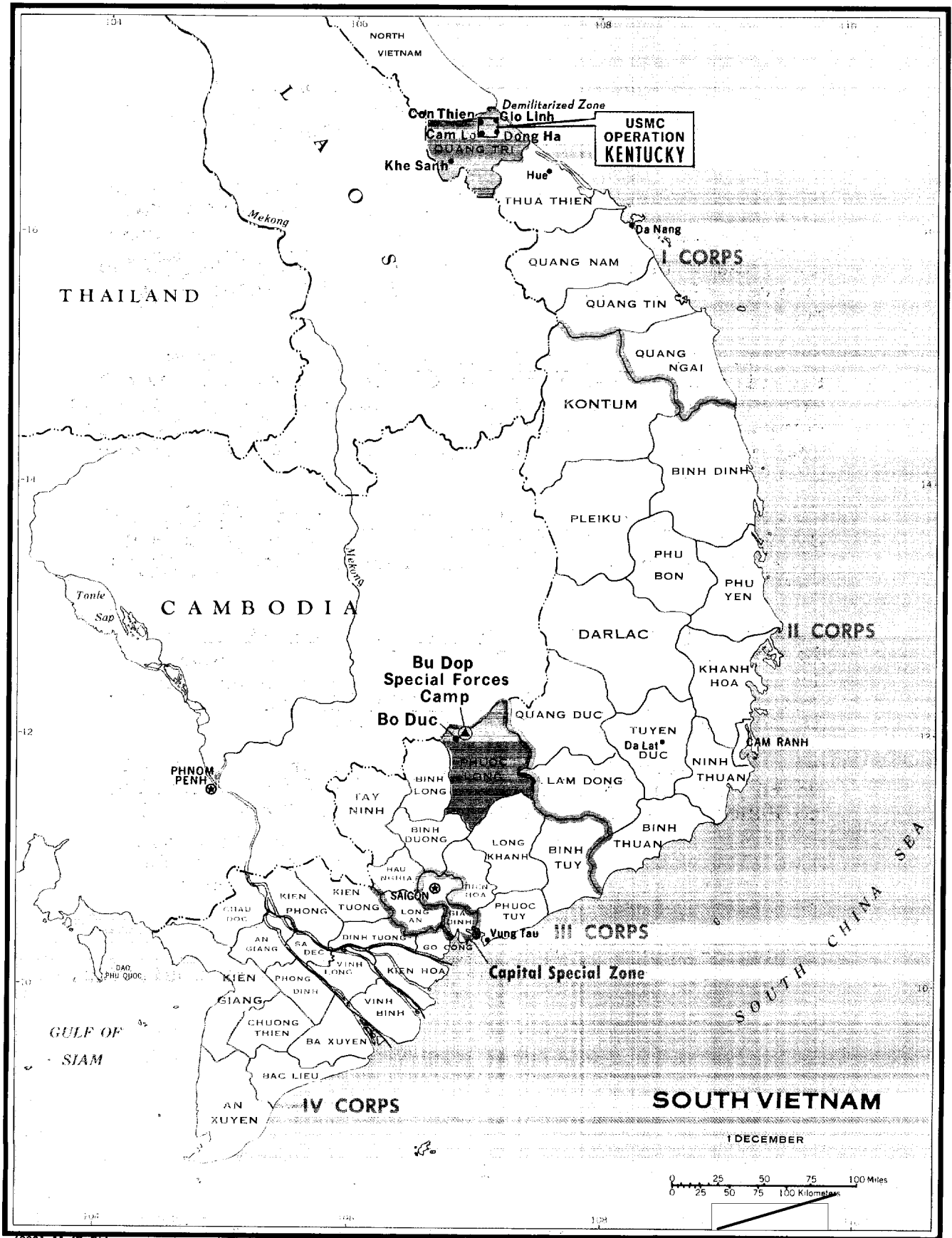
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NORTH
VIETNAM

L A O S

Demilitarized Zone

Con Thien • Gio Linh

Cam Lo • Dong Ha

QUANG TRI

Khe Sanh

USMC
OPERATION
KENTUCKY

Hue •

THUA THIEN

Da Nang

I CORPS

QUANG NAM

Mekong

THAILAND

QUANG TIN

QUANG
NGAI

KONTUM

BINH DINH

PLEIKU

PHU
BON

PHU
YEN

Tonle
Sap

C A M B O D I A

DARLAC

II CORPS

KHANH
HOA

CAM RANH

Bu Dop
Special Forces
Camp

Bo Duc

QUANG DUC

TUYEN
Da Lat •
DUC

NINH
THUAN

PHNOM
PENH ⊕

PHUOC
LONG

LAM DONG

BINH
LONG

TAY
NINH

BINH
DUONG

BINH
THUAN

LONG
KHANH

BINH
TUY

HAU
NGHIA

BIEN
HOA

KIEN
PHONG

KIEN
TUONG

SAIGON ⊕

LONG
AN

GIA
DINH

PHUOC
TUY

CHAU
DOC

DINH TUONG

Vung Tau

III CORPS

AN
GIANG

SA
DEC

VINH
LONG

GO CONG

Capital Special Zone

DAO
PHU QUOC

KIEN
GIANG

PHONG
DINH

KIEN HOA

VINH
BINH

GULF OF

SIAM

CHUONG
THIEN

BA XUYEN

BAC LIEU

AN
XUYEN

IV CORPS

SOUTH VIETNAM

1 DECEMBER

SOUTH CHINA SEA

0   25   50   75   100 Miles
0   25   50   75   100 Kilometers

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I.   THE MILITARY SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM

1.   Sharp fighting was reported near the Special Forces Camp at Bu Dop for the third consecutive day on 30 November. A 1st Infantry Division patrol came under heavy enemy fire while moving into the rubber tree groves adjacent to the Bu Dop airstrip. No casualty figures have been reported in this latest flare-up. Bu Dop is located along the Cambodian border some 80 miles north of Saigon.

2.   Delayed reports reveal that South Vietnamese irregulars and their US Special Forces advisers have had several sharp contacts during the past three days while patrolling in the vicinity of Bu Dop. In these clashes, the South Vietnamese claim to have killed 40 enemy troops while losing 18 men killed and 12 wounded. In addition, one US adviser and 41 irregulars are listed as missing in action.

3.   During the past three days nearly 150 Communist troops have been reported killed near Bu Dop and in an assault on the nearby Bo Duc district capital.

Increase in Enemy Activity in Quang Tri

4.   A US Marine rifle company on patrol about two miles northeast of Con Thien, just south of the Demilitarized Zone, on 30 November encountered an estimated company-size Communist force in well-fortified camouflaged positions. Three additional Marine companies were committed and a co-ordinated assault was made against the enemy positions.

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5. Fighting raged for more than four hours during which 15 Americans were killed and 53 wounded. The enemy unit--believed to be a subordinate of the 803rd Regiment of the North Vietnamese 324B Division--lost 26 killed and nine weapons which were picked up after the battle.

6. The American forces are part of Operation KENTUCKY which began on 1 November. Four US Marine battalions have been patrolling the areas surrounding the US strongholds at Con Thien, Cam Lo, Dong Ha, and Gio Linh. The operation is geared to provide security for these bases, to seek out and destroy enemy infiltrators and to prevent further incursions by enemy main force units into Revolutionary Development areas. Maximum air, sea, and ground firepower is being directed at Communist base camps and supply points in the area.

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9. On 29 November, enemy forces to the north and west of the American garrison at Khe Sanh staged five separate incidents including mortar attacks on friendly partols. This increase in enemy military activity,   suggest the Communists may be planning a large-scale assault in the Khe Sanh area soon.

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III. MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS IN NORTH VIETNAM

IV. OTHER COMMUNIST MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS

1. There is nothing of significance to report.

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