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• PRIORITY

IN 62479

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CITE

DIST 3 MARCH 1968

COUNTRY SOUTH VIETNAM

DOI

23-478-3

SUBJECT VC/NVA PLANS FOR A THREE-PRONGED "SECOND FRONT" FOLLOWING THE TET OFFENSIVE

ACQ

VIETNAM, NHA TRANG (3 MARCH 1968)

SOURCE

1. PRIOR TO THE COUNTRYWIDE TET OFFENSIVE OF LATE JANUARY 1968, VIET CONG (VC)/NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY (NVA) PLANS CALLED FOR A THREE-PRONGED "SECOND FRONT" (POLITICAL ACTION) OFFENSIVE TO BE LAUNCHED THROUGHOUT SOUTH VIETNAM SOON AFTER THE INITIAL TET ATTACKS. THE "SECOND FRONT" CALLED FOR:

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[Redacted]

3.5(c)

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(classification) (dissem controls)

A. CONTINUED SHELLING OF CITIES IN ORDER TO PUT PRESSURE ON DEFENDING FORCES AND A SECOND ATTACK ON TET OFFENSIVE TARGETS BY THE ORIGINAL ATTACKING UNITS AFTER REPLACEMENTS HAD ARRIVE IN THE UNITS;

B. PRESSURE ON THE UNITED STATES TO FORCE IT TO REQUEST AND OBTAIN NEGOTIATIONS;

C. EXHORTATION OF THE PEOPLE TO STAGE DEMONSTRATIONS AGITATING FOR PEACE (ONCE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS BEGIN). THE DEMONSTRATIONS WOULD OCCUR UNDER THE GUISE OF A NEW FRONT ORGANIZATION.

2. THE DATE THE "SECOND FRONT" WOULD BE LAUNCHED WOULD DEPEND OF THE SUCCESS OR FAILURE OF THE INITIAL TET OFFENSIVE. THE ALTERNATE PLAN FOR THE "SECOND FRONT", IN THE EVENT THE TET OFFENSIVE FAILED, CALLED FOR ATTACKING UNITS TO WITHDRAW, RECEIVE REPLACEMENTS AND BE RECOMMITTED.(SOURCE COMMENT: [Redacted] STATED THAT THE REASON NHA TRANG, KHANH HOA PROVINCE, HAS NOT BEEN SHELLED SINCE THE TET OFFENSIVE IS BECAUSE THE UNIT ASSIGNED THAT MISSION HAS NOT YET RECEIVED A SUPPLY OF AMMUNITION.)

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3. AN INDICATION OF A NEW ATTACK ON NHA TRANG WOULD BE THE TRANSFER OF PERSONNEL OF BATTALION (BN) 8/NVA REGIMENT (REGT) 18B, DIVISION 325, TO UNITS THAT TOOK PART IN THE INITIAL ATTACK, AND THE ASSIGNMENT OF BN 9/18B REGT TO REPLACE BN 8 AS A RESERVE FORCE.



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