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TO: DIRNSA, DEPT OF STATE, DIA, TREASURY DEPT, NPIC,  
WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM, NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL  
STAFF, ZEN/CIA OFFICE OF CURRENT OPERATIONS,  
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI, CINCPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI, CDRWESTCOM FT  
SHAFTER HI, COMIPAC HONOLULU HI, CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI,  
COMSEVENTHFLT, 13AF CLARK AB PI.

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SERIAL: [Redacted]

DIST: 24 NOVEMBER 1982

PASS: [Redacted]

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WARNING: INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE.

REPORT CLASS ~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~--WNINTEL--NOFORN

COUNTRY: KAMPUCHEA/VIETNAM

SUBJ : MEETING OF FRONT 479 COMMANDERS TO DISCUSS DRY SEASON  
OFFENSIVE; VISITS BY HIGH-RANKING PAVN OFFICERS TO  
5TH DIVISION; ASSIGNMENT OF CHEMICAL WARFARE OFFICERS  
TO 5TH DIVISION; ARRIVAL OF TANK REPAIR UNIT AT 5TH  
DIVISION FOR DRY SEASON OFFENSIVE AND EXPECTED ARRIVAL  
OF SPECIAL ACTION BATTALION FROM HANOI; ESTABLISHMENT  
OF REAR HEADQUARTERS OF PAVN 5TH DIVISION

DOI: [Redacted]

SOURCE: [Redacted]

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SUMMARY: IN AUGUST 1982, COMMANDERS OF THE THREE DIVISIONS  
SUBORDINATE TO FRONT 479 MET IN SIEM REAP AT FRONT HEADQUARTERS

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TO DISCUSS DRY SEASON PLANS. THESE PLANS REPORTEDLY INCLUDED

ATTACKS ON DK BASES AT PHNOM CHAT AND IN THE MELAI MOUNTAINS BY PAVN 5TH DIVISION TROOPS. DURING AUGUST SEVERAL HIGH-RANKING DELEGATIONS OF PAVN OFFICERS, INCLUDING DELEGATIONS LED BY PAVN CHIEF OF STAFF LE TRONG TAN, PAVN COMMANDER IN KAMPUCHEA LE DUC ANH, AND THE DEPUTY FRONT 479 COMMANDER, VISITED THE 5TH DIVISION, APPARENTLY TO DISCUSS DRY SEASON PLANS. A TEAM OF ARMORED VEHICLE REPAIR SPECIALISTS ARRIVED AT 5TH DIVISION TO ASSIST IN DRY SEASON PREPARATIONS, AND A SPECIAL ACTION BATTALION FROM THE SRV ALSO WAS REPORTEDLY TO BE SENT TO REINFORCE THE 5TH DIVISION FOR THE DRY SEASON. TWELVE CHEMICAL WARFARE OFFICERS FROM NORTHERN SRV WERE ASSIGNED TO THE 5TH DIVISION IN APRIL-MAY 1982. FIFTH DIVISION WAS ORDERED TO ACTIVATE ITS NEW HEADQUARTERS EAST OF SISOPHON ALONG ROUTE SIX IN MID-SEPTEMBER 1982.

TEXT: 1. IN AUGUST 1982, PEOPLE'S ARMY OF VIETNAM (PAVN) FRONT 479 HELD A MEETING AT FRONT HEADQUARTERS FOR COMMANDERS AND POLITICAL OFFICERS OF THE FRONT'S THREE SUBORDINATE DIVISIONS: THE 5TH, 59TH (AKA 309TH), AND 302ND DIVISIONS. LIEUTENANT COLONEL (LT. COL.) VO ((UT)), DEPUTY 5TH DIVISION COMMANDER FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS AND CHIEF OF THE DIVISION'S POLITICAL OFFICE, WAS AMONG THE 5TH DIVISION OFFICERS WHO ATTENDED THE MEETING.

[REDACTED] THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WAS TO DISCUSS FRONT 479'S PLANS FOR THE COMING DRY SEASON OFFENSIVE AGAINST DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA (DK) AND OTHER KAMPUCHEAN RESISTANCE FACTIONS.

[REDACTED] THE 5TH DIVISION WOULD ATTACK DK FORCES AT HIGH POINT 175 (PHNOM CHAT - TA 6141) AND IN THE NAM SAP-TA KRA NGOC AREA IN THE PHNOM MELAI MOUNTAINS ALONG THE THAI-KAMPUCHEAN BORDER SOUTH OF ARANYAPRATHET, THAILAND.

[REDACTED] THE OFFENSIVE WOULD BE IN ABOUT JANUARY 1983.

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2. DURING AUGUST, SEVERAL GROUPS OF SENIOR PAVN OFFICERS VISITED PAVN 5TH DIVISION FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH SENIOR DIVISION OFFICERS. LIEUTENANT GENERAL (LT. GEN.) LE DUC ((ANH)), COMMANDER OF ALL PAVN FORCES IN KAMPUCHEA, ARRIVED AT THE 5TH DIVISION HEADQUARTERS BY HELICOPTER FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE 5TH DIVISION STAFF. SEVERAL DAYS LATER, LT. GEN. LE TRONG ((TAN)), DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND PAVN CHIEF

OF STAFF, ARRIVED AT 5TH DIVISION WITH A DELEGATION OF ABOUT 20 MINISTRY OF DEFENSE OFFICERS FOR TALKS WITH THE 5TH DIVISION COMMANDER. LE TRONG TAN AND HIS DELEGATION ARRIVED IN A LARGE SOVIET-MADE HELICOPTER. TWO DAYS LATER FRONT 479 DEPUTY COMMANDER NAM ((THUOC)) ARRIVED FROM SIEM REAP BY HELICOPTER. NAM THUOC TRAVELED TO VISIT SEVERAL 5TH DIVISION SUBORDINATE REGIMENTS, INCLUDING THE 174TH REGIMENT NEAR SVA CHEK (TA 8027). DIVISION HEADQUARTERS PERSONNEL BELIEVED THESE VISITS WERE RELATED TO PREPARATIONS FOR THE DRY SEASON OFFENSIVE. FOLLOWING THE VISITS, THE DIVISION STAFF BEGAN HECTIC PREPARATIONS OF PLANNING DOCUMENTS AND OPERATIONS ORDERS FOR THE OFFENSIVE AND THE DIVISION SUBORDINATES WERE ORDERED TO INCREASE PREPARATIONS AND TRAINING FOR DRY SEASON ACTIVITIES. AS OF MID-SEPTEMBER, PLANNING DOCUMENTS AND OPERATIONS ORDERS HAD BEEN DRAFTED AND PRINTED BY DIVISION STAFF ELEMENTS BUT HAD NOT YET BEEN DISSEMINATED TO SUBORDINATE UNITS.

3.

[REDACTED] A 20-MAN TEAM OF ARMOR REPAIR SPECIALISTS FROM THE Z-75 MILITARY REPAIR UNIT IN HO CHI MINH CITY ARRIVED IN SISOPHON IN LATE AUGUST-EARLY SEPTEMBER TO ASSIST IN PREPARING THE UNIT'S ARMORED VEHICLES FOR THE COMING DRY SEASON OPERATIONS.

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[REDACTED] A SPECIAL ACTION BATTALION WHICH WAS SUBORDINATE TO THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE WOULD BE SENT FROM NORTHERN SRV TO REINFORCE THE 5TH DIVISION FOR THE DRY SEASON CAMPAIGN.

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4. IN APRIL-MAY, 12 CHEMICAL WARFARE OFFICERS FROM NORTHERN SRV ARRIVED AT THE 5TH DIVISION FOR ASSIGNMENT. THE OFFICERS, ALL SECOND LIEUTENANTS, RECENTLY HAD COMPLETED SEVERAL YEARS OF CHEMICAL TRAINING IN NORTHERN SRV. ONE OF THE OFFICERS WAS ASSIGNED TO 5TH DIVISION STAFF OFFICE, ONE TO THE 5TH DIVISION STAFF OFFICE'S ENGINEER SECTION, AND THE OTHER TEN TO THE REGIMENTS OF THE DIVISION. PRIOR TO THE ARRIVAL OF THESE OFFICERS, THE DIVISION HAD HAD NO CHEMICAL WARFARE SPECIALISTS ASSIGNED TO IT. THE DIVISION HAD SUPPLIES OF GAS MASKS ISSUED TO THE SUBORDINATE REGIMENTS. THE NATURE OF THE DUTIES OF THESE NEW CHEMICAL WARFARE OFFICERS WAS UNKNOWN.

5.

[REDACTED] ORDERS HAD RECENTLY BEEN RECEIVED FROM LT. GEN. LE DUC ANH IN PHNOM PENH FOR THE 5TH DIVISION TO ACTIVATE ITS NEW HEADQUARTERS AT "CHUP" EAST OF SISOPHON ALONG ROUTE SIX ON 15 SEPTEMBER 1982. [REDACTED] COMMENT: "CHUP" IS THE PAVN TERM FOR THE AREA NORTH OF ROUTE SIX AT TA 0208.) SENIOR OFFICERS OF THE DIVISION POLITICAL OFFICE CONFIRMED THE RECEIPT OF ORDERS TO ESTABLISH A NEW DIVISION HEADQUARTERS IN THE CHUP AREA. BUILDINGS FOR THE NEW HEADQUARTERS HAD BEEN CONSTRUCTED BY EARLY SEPTEMBER 1982, AND SOME DIVISION ELEMENTS HAD BEGUN TRANSFERRING TO THE NEW LOCATION. DIVISION HEADQUARTERS PERSONNEL WERE INFORMED THAT ALL SUPPLY DUMPS AND WAREHOUSES WOULD BE MOVED TO THE NEW HEADQUARTERS, BUT THAT THE DIVISION WOULD CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN A FORWARD HEADQUARTERS IN SISOPHON. [REDACTED] COMMENT: MANY DIVISION HEADQUARTERS PERSONNEL BELIEVED THE NEW DIVISION BASE CAMP AT CHUP WAS BEING CONSTRUCTED TO ALLEVIATE THE DANGER OF THAI BOMBING RAIDS DURING THE DRY SEASON CAMPAIGN. THE DIVISION HEADQUARTERS AT SISOPHON WAS KNOWN TO BE VULNERABLE BECAUSE TWICE IN 1982 (APRIL AND LATER IN JUNE) THAI F-5 AIRCRAFT HAD OVERFLOWN THE DIVISION HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX WITHOUT BEING HIT BY PAVN ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE.)

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REPORT CLASS C O N F I D E N T I A L--WARNING NOTICE-INTELLIGENCE SOURCES OR METHODS INVOLVED--NOT RELEASABLE TO FOREIGN NATIONALS. [REDACTED] ALL PORTIONS CARRY CLASSIFICATION AND CONTROLS OF OVERALL DOCUMENT.

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END OF MESSAGE

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