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HEREWITH A CIA SUMMARY OF A LONGER TEXT ON THE ENEMY THREAT TO KHE SANH.

IN THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF INDICATIONS THAT THE ENEMY IS BUILDING UP ITS FORCES IN THE LAOTIAN PANHANDLE WEST OF THE DEMILITARIZED ZONE.

THE TARGET PRIMARILY THREATENED BY THESE FORCES APPEARS TO BE THE ALLIED BASE AT KHE SANH IN WESTERN QUANG TRI PROVINCE OF SOUTH VIETNAM. ENEMY RECONNAISSANCE AND PROBING ACTIVITY NEAR KHE SANH HAS INCREASED MARKEDLY IN THE LAST FEW WEEKS.

THE COMMUNISTS COULD BE USING THE TIME BETWEEN NOW AND THE TET HOLIDAYS TO COMPLETE THEIR CONCENTRATION AROUND KHE SANH IN PREPARATION FOR AN OFFENSIVE AFTER TET.

THE COMMUNISTS COULD MUSTER A TOTAL FORCE OF OVER 26,000 SHOULD THEY DECIDE AT SOME POINT TO COMMIT ALL PERSONNEL FROM THE ELEMENTS OF THE FOUR DIVISIONS NOW IN THE GENERAL AREA. THIS IS CONSIDERABLY MORE THAN THEY WOULD NEED MERELY TO TAKE KHE SANH. THEIR PRIMARY OBJECTIVE IN ATTACKING KHE SANH WOULD BE TO DRAW US REINFORCEMENTS INTO THE AREA, TIE THEM TO STATIC DEFENSIVE POSITIONS, AND INFILCT MAXIMUM CASUALTIES ON US FORCES OVER A PERIOD OF TIME.

THE BUILDUP OF FORCES IN LAOS AND WESTERN QUANG TRI PROVINCE ALSO STRENGTHENS NORTH VIETNAMESE DEFENSE OF THE LAOS CORRIDOR.

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