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SANITIZED

COUNTRY SOUTH VIETNAM

DOI 13-14 MARCH 1968

SUBJECT SITUATION IN THE PROVINCES OF IV CORPS AS OF 1300 HOURS ON 14 MARCH 1968

ACQ VIETNAM, [redacted]
SOURCE THIS IS A VIETNAM SITUATION REPORT PREPARED AS OF 1300 HOURS ON 14 MARCH 1968.

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1. THE OVERALL SITUATION IN IV CORPS CONTINUES BASICALLY UNCHANGED, BUT THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM (GVN) IN THE DELTA, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF GENERAL THANH, IS MAKING A CONCERTED EFFORT TO REGAIN THE INITIATIVE. TODAY THE GVN AND OTHER FRIENDLY FORCES ARE CONDUCTING 60 OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS AGAINST THE VIET CONG (VC), 41 OF WHICH ARE BEING RUN OUT OF THE DISTRICTS. THIS VIGOROUS MILITARY ACTION ON THE PART OF THE GVN SHOULD, IF IT IS CONTINUED, HELP TO ENHANCE THE GVN PRESENCE IN THE COUNTRYSIDE WHILE OFFSETTING VC PROPAGANDA CLAIMS CONCERNING THEIR TET OFFENSIVE VICTORIES.

2. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN GO CONG PROVINCE, A CORDON AND SEARCH OPERATION WAS CONDUCTED ON 13 MARCH, USING POLICE FIELD FORCES AND TWO PLATOONS OF THE PROVINCIAL RECONNAISSANCE UNIT (PRU). IT PROVED TO BE HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL AS 57 VC WERE CAPTURED, 11 VC WERE BELIEVED WOUNDED, AND 17 VC WERE KILLED BY BODY COUNT. ALSO, 20 POUNDS OF DOCUMENTS WERE SEIZED. THREE OF THE VC KILLED WERE IDENTIFIED AS DISTRICT LEVEL CADRES. THE PRISONERS RANGED FROM AMMO BEARERS TO DISTRICT LEVEL CADRES (ONE DISTRICT LEVEL CADRE HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AND ANOTHER SUSPECTED DISTRICT LEVEL CADRE IS STILL UNDERGOING INTERROGATION.) TWO OF THE VC DEAD WERE WEARING NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY (NVA) UNIFORMS, HOWEVER IT IS FELT THAT DESPITE THE UNIFORMS THEY ARE PROBABLY LOCAL PERSONNEL.

3. IN LINE WITH THE ABOVE, A NUMBER OF UNVERIFIED REPORTS ARE BEING RECEIVED OF NVA UNIT SIGHTINGS IN THE DELTA AND A GREAT DEAL OF VC PROPAGANDA IS STATING THAT THE VC ARE WAITING FOR THE ARRIVAL OF NVA UNITS BEFORE BEGINNING THE NEXT PHASE IN THE OFFENSIVE. TO DATE NO HARD INDICATIONS HAVE BEEN NOTED TO SUGGEST THAT THIS IS ANYTHING MORE THAN TERRORIST PROPAGANDA AIMED AT THE POPULACE AND MAYBE A MORALE BOOSTER FOR VC TROOPS.

4. HIGHWAY TRAVEL IS BECOMING MORE APPARENT THROUGHOUT THE CORPS AREA EVEN THOUGH THE VC ARE ACTIVELY TRYING TO KEEP THE ROADS INTERDICTED AND THREATENING REPRISALS AGAINST THOSE WHO TRAVEL ON THEM. CONVOY MOVEMENT IS STILL PREVALENT ALTHOUGH SOME INDIVIDUAL TRUCK AND BUS TRAFFIC IS BEGINNING TO OPERATE.

5. FIELD DISSEM: STATE, USAIDC, 7TH AF, CINCPAC, ARPAC, PACAF, PACFLT, [redacted]

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Approved for Release
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