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I CORPS NPA (QUANG NAM)

Very little progress was noted in the NPA, except for certain USAID programs. The 1st Bn replaced the 4th Bn, 51st Inf Regt (ARVN), as the NPA security force. Just after arriving, the battalion was attacked by heavy mortar fire. Friction between Saigon appointed officials and the local political organization, VNQDD, continued to be responsible in part for the lack of progress in the NPA. The Province Chief has been absent since 23 September, and his absence has had a negative effect on RD progress. USMC and RVNAF units conducted limited search and clear operations in addition to rice control operations. VC incidents continued at the same rate and were aimed particularly at village officials and security forces. Agent reports indicate VC Main Force units are providing advisors to local guerrilla and infrastructure units to assist in terrorist activities in the NPA. There were no significant economic changes during this period. Cadre returned from Vung Tau Training Center, and they will be used to augment eight 40-man PAT Teams in three districts within the NPA.

I CORPS (MINUS-NPA)

Some small gains in secured hamlets were realized; however, RD Cadre continue to be ineffective due to poor or non-existent leadership, lack of protection, and political difficulties. GVN is attempting to improve Cadre efficiency by providing local orientation courses and integration of Vung Tau returnees into existing groups. The political situation has stabilized, and GVN officials are held in higher esteem by the populace as a result of the Constituent Assembly elections. VC and struggle groups lost prestige because of their inability to disrupt the elections. Four to five USMC battalions, augmented by ARVN, continued their search and destroy operations in Quang Tri Province. The USMC provided protection for the rice harvest in each province. In Quang Ngai, it is estimated that 70 percent of the crop was secured through this effort. The VC avoided large unit operations, preferring increased guerrilla and infrastructure actions. There was a notable increase in incidents and harassment of Cadre, security outposts and strategic bridges. The current political stability has halted price rises of basic commodities. With the exception of cement, building materials arrived in sufficient quantities.

Handwritten notes and signatures in a box, including "PAN", "12/23/66", and "104-".

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