

SECRET NO FORN

*

(4)

AMPHIBIOUS FORCES FILE, SIGN ROLL

* ~~File - Amphibious Forces File, Sign Roll~~
~~File - Amphibious Forces File, Sign Roll~~

DIA (DIAAP-1A1)

(Information Report)

3

a. USNA, Sqn, Rpt # 21-5-56 of 5 Jul 56 (S, NF)

b. do # 70-5-57 of 24 Sep 57 (S, NF)

c. EE 38609 dtd 25 Nov 58 Narrative Statement for file

d. WMA, Sqn IR 2-5-59 of 17 Dec 59 (S, NF)

e. " " 113-59 of 9 May 59 (C, NF)

f. " " 129-59 of 20 May 59 (C, NF)

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(S)

AMPHIBIOUS FORCES FILE, SWA FOLDER

* ~~Sub - 4th Naval Service, (C) (S) (NF)~~
~~File # 100-113-59 of 17 May 59~~

DIA (DIAAP-1A1)

(Information Report)

a. USNA, Sqn, Rpt # 21-5-56 of 5 Jul 56 (S/NF)

b. do " 70-5-57 of 29 Sep 57 (S/NF)

c. EE 38609 dtd 25 Nov 58 Narrative Statement for 11AAB/1(S)

d. WMA, Sqn IR 2-5-59 of 17 Jan 59 (S/NF)

e. " " 113-59 of 6 May 59 (C/NF)

f. " " 129-59 of 20 May 59 (C/NF)

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(A)

UNC.

Cur with H-1, G-2, H-4, H-5
~~-----~~
Some (1) card 41

MAKINE CORPS OF THE WORLD
(Draft)

1961, MLEC, MCS
(Draft order for ~~MCS~~ studies
instructed purps, only) ^{in MLEC}

UNC.

DECLASSIFIED

SECRET NO FORN NO DISEM ABRO (SFC 359243)

40

USN ^{Special} Attache, SMOON

In Car Detail B,
HOME

Ref No 5 903 0056 63 9 19 Apr 63

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UNC
69

STUDIES IN GUERRILLA WARFARE

US Naval Institute
Annapolis Md

1963

(To be pub Oct '63
copies requested f/RTR, HOME lib)

UNC

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SECRET

Nav Hist Archives

(38)

American Legation Saigon (MDAP)

MDAP Monthly Report Number 7

Sept 29, 1950

Foreign Service of the United States of America

SECRET

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SECRET (~~Not for distribution~~)

(37) NO FORN

Nav Hist Archives
Com. Br, Hqmc
G-2

NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SURVEY [Series?]

NIS 43D

SOUTH VIETNAM

Chapter I
Brief

[few good maps]

CIA

Wash DC

Apr 60

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(36)

(SAC 156848)

~~New Hist Review~~
~~Archives~~

CHMAAGU Conf msg 130217Z Apr 56

to CINCPAC

(SAC 156848)

CS -

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25

(SAC 158956)

~~Not to be Released~~
~~(SAC 158956)~~

CH MAAG U^{SEC} MTG 770245 Z Jan.

SB to CINCPAC

▶
▶
▶

SMT

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(34) (SAC 149590) [SAC, Retired]

~~LT~~ Lt Col Victor G. CRUZAT, Jr
17 Sep 55 to Gen. Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr
CMC/HQMC Wash 25 DC

Col. P.

DECLASSIFIED

33

(SAC 148147)

Sec
Retired

CG 30 MAR DIV Sec Mtg 260005 Z Aug 57
to 31 MAR 57

REMOVED AS CG 30 MAR DIV M/260005 Z TO
MULTI INFO ADDRES

REMOVED AS CG FIN PAC M/270005 Z TO
CML AS INFO ADDRES

S 1 T

DECLASSIFIED

(32) SGT (SFC 147601) SFC
Retired

CINCPAC FLT ser msg 132202Z
Aug 55 to ^{ULTI} MADDRES

SGT

(31) (S4C 143589) S4C Retired

CHMITAG I-CH sec msg 060530Z

May 55 to CIRC PAC

30

(S4E 144447)

S4C
Retired

Chief Navy Section
MAAG, ICH, Sp. V/W

sec ltr MAAG/EF6/ALD:rp
P16-1

TO: ONERBC

Ser: 0011

4 Apr 1958

Subj: Revised Ballist Structure, MAAG Sub-China

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(29)

S/Lt Col. V. G. ...

HEADQUARTERS

MAAG V

Syn VN

SAC
Retired

Lt MAAG 310 of 10 Dec 56

Subj: Quarterly Archives Report No. 3, for period

ending 30 November 1956 (U)

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(25)

Get Intel By
HP MC
New Hist Archive -

NIS 43D

NATIONAL INSTITUTE SURVEY
SOUTH VIETNAM

Chapin
ARMED FORCES

CENT INTELL AGENCY

Desk DC

Jan 1959

SECRET NOFORN

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CONF.

(27)

United States Pacific Fleet

Air Force, Pacific Fleet

USS SAMAN (CVL-48)

PO, SP, Conf.

NAV HIST

Archives

CO Itr CVL 48/AG-8
(AG:JSL:jda)

Ser 060

28 April 1954

to: CINCPACFLT

Subj: Del by AU-1 A/c ^{type}

to Fr Fox in Ltrⁿ

report of

signed D. G. DONAHU

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NAVY
ARCHIVES

CONF
26 MARINE ATTACK SQUADRON 324
MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 31, 3D MARINE
AIRCRAFT WING

(C/O F/0 SF (abf))

C.O. 1st FF14/VMA-324
S-2/KHS/fjm

A12
Serial: 014-54

Signed by:
J.W. IRELAND (E-40 CO)

24 May 1954

to:
COMAG 31
Subj: VMA 324
Far East Cruise;
report on; sub-
mission of

DECLASSIFIED

25

ONI REVIEW

New Hist
Archives

Vol 17 No. 10 October 1962

Office of Naval Intelligence

Dept of the Navy

Wash 25 D.C.

SECRET NOFORN

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(94)

RTR
HMC

The Mutual Security Program
Fiscal Year 1959

A Summary Presentation

Dept of State
A.C.A.

Feb-1958

RFR, HQMC

23

The Committee of National Security

National Security

Benjamin H. Williams

Industrial College of the Armed Forces

Wash DC
Jul 1962

17 Oct 1961
G-3, HQ AEC

77
72

1720 Floupien

United States Government

Organization Manual 1961-62

Office of the Federal Register
National Archives and Records Service

General Services Administration
Wash 25 DC
June 1961

21A

DR
HMC

The Mutual Security Program

Fiscal Year 1960

A Summary Presentation

March 1959

Department of State

Department of Defense

International Cooperation Administration

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(21)

TOP SECRET

Safe
SFC, HQMC

SUMMARY OF HIGHLIGHTS

8 Feb 1962 - 7 Feb 1963 (21)

United States Military Assistance Command
Vietnam

dtd 20 Mar 1963

TOP SECRET

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Ident Br
63, 12/2/62



Dictionary of United States
Military Terms for Joint Usage
(Short Title: JD)

JCS JCS Pub. 7

JCS
Work 25 HC
1 Feb 1962

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①

File Case 062612

SPENCER, Amy

Raymond Case (changed by CIA other
19 Sep 55)

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15

And R
HRC

CMD DEY FMF PAC
a: APR 54 - Oct 54 (S)
to JUN 54 - Oct 54 (S)

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in RYR, H/MC

①

~~The~~ Command Group 1 Jul - 30 Sept
3d Mar Div

(Conf)

SECRET NO FORN

Cur Tated By
G-2, HQMC

(16)

SPECIAL REPORT NO. 450

NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY
ORDER OF BATTLE (U)

1 OCTOBER 1962

Headquarters ^{4th Army} ~~3rd Army~~ Pacific
Office of the ^{Chief of Staff} ~~Chief of Staff~~ G-2
APO 958

356602

SFC ~~235123~~

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CONF MHA

Cur Infected By,
G-2, HQ MC

(S)

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

NAMPHLET No 30-53

Hand book on the North Vietnamese

Armed Forces (U)

~~See~~ Hq. D/A, Wash 25 DC Dec 61

SAC 353452

CONF MHA

DECLASSIFIED

(14) Can Rpt, West Br, G-3, HQMC- (DS 557 WS 47)
US ARMY
ALBA HANDBOOK FOR VIETNAM ARMY

Prepared by
Foreign ~~Service~~ Area Studies Division
Special Operations Research Office
The Army Univ
Wash, DC 1962 WNE

⑬ (Personal) UNFC

A POCKET GUIDE TO
VIETNAM

DOD PG-21
DA Pam 20-198
NAVPERS 93, 35
AFP 190-4-3
NAVMC 2593

Armed Forces
TRAFFIC
DOD, 1962

UNFC

109 (in Car Table Br, G-2, HQMC) 12

UNC

The Worldmark Encyclopedia of
Nations

Worldmark Press, Inc

Harper & Brothers

N.Y. 1960

UNC

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11 (On Eur. Intel. Br, G-2, HQ MAC)

UNC DOD PAM 2-92

DA PAM 355-125 NAVPERS 9272.9 NAVMAC 2558

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

COUNTRY STUDY

Distributed by Office of Asst F&V, DOD

Revised Ed, 1959. Orig prepared & published by the
Mil Reserve Trust, Am Insti f/Resrch

UNC

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SOURCE (ID)

6-3
Lt Col HULL

CANCELLED A Trip Rpt (SAC 241 888) 14 Sep 62

Maj LEWIS

Mr MULLENIX

(Full of goodies)

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9

SOURCE (9)

G-3
LT-G HULL

Co Grade Offs Trip Rpts
FMF Pac GW Bu^{#4} 70 Jan 62
(SFC 237 076)

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SOURCE (S)

G-3
LT COL HULL

60 Comb Offs Top Apts

FIMF Rec G-11 Dist # 3 of 11 Jan 62
(SFC 238687)

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SOURCE ①

G-3
LT COL HULL

G Grade Off's Trip Rpts

FM F Doc G-10 Bul #7 of 22 Mar 62
(SFC 236 115)

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SOURCE ④

6-3
LT COL HULL

CINCPAC sec msg R 220111 May 62
to COMUSMACV THY CHSUSMAG/TH

(For detailed info on same subj, see
④. For sim. info see ⑤.)

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SOURCE (S)

6-3
Lt Col HULL

CMC ltr A03ff... ser 003A15162

95 Jun 62 to Dist List, Subj:

G-W-fore

(See Sources @ [f/detailed info] and

@ [f/~~similar~~ like info])

SOURCE (4) (P)

G-3
LT COL HULL

Trip Rpt (Maj LAURENCE) SF-C237455

(Composite Rpt of MLI [Mobile Training Teams])

SUN Visit w/ Father Hoar

Rd Covered - 17 Feb - 28 Mar 62

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Source #3

Air SAC

GP SUMS

3 - (w/ # of sum or pd cvd)

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Source # 20

Safe

CTU+E Civil Diaries

#

PD covered

~~2-1-~~

~~2-2-~~

~~2-3-~~

~~2-4-~~

~~2-5-~~

~~2-6-~~

~~2-7-~~

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Source # (1) (C)

63
LT Col HULL

Counterinsurgency Lessons Learned

(CINCPAC 1st FF-1 over 3300 ser 00171

of 16 Feb 63)

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SECRET NO FORN
DISSEM

32
7, 8

OVIN
Mil Geo Rgn
For. Islands & Mekong Valleys

Consists of forested hills & mtns w/ deep, steep-sided valleys, under-
lying to hilly surfaces w/ grass & open forest & numerous, sometimes marshy,
basins. Mtn peaks 2-3000 ft; few in north = 5000 ft. Along coast - a
series of pocket lowland plains separated by rugged hill & mtn spurs which
in many places extend into the sea. Sparsely populated except in basins &
open areas of

open areas of
Cons. ops in mtns & hilly parts gen. used. Transport via. VEHIC. restricted to the few
roads & these diff. in wet weather. Mil. construction diff. in hills & mtns. Fair cross-
country mtns in dry season in lowlands. Gen. poor fl. mil. country in this area also.

Best area of good ops - rolls to hilly plateau surfaces among the mtns, where cond. of
vehic. ops fair; except after heavy rains in wet season. No concealment or cover in broad &
basin regions. Fair flying cond. in mountains. Fair fl. mil. country in the valleys among the hills
& mtns. They are more
Fair dtd areas, limit air/armor ops. & sites of fair dtd [vehic. ops] more ~~concealed~~
sev.

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SECRET NO FORN
DISSEM

numerous on the waterway, platform

Condition of rough grass best in UN & parks in ~~the~~ I-Ch in this area.

Beaches line most of the coast. Exits hampered by, dunes, bodies of water
near flats. Beaches die close to main coastal rd & RR.

Mealy Lolo

Mealyrove swamps line much of coast. Vehic movement except on roads diff. esp
w/ mil. constr because diff., except near sea. Land & cover border
present in inhabited areas & swamps.

Entire area largely wooded - f/ air born ops. Best areas f/ heli ops are cul-
tivated areas in dry season. Poor drainage makes mil constr difficult. ~~that~~

Lowest f/ rough grass except f/ heath in Ha Tien area. This region, rough,
had f/ exits in wet season.

SECRET NO FORN

11 UNC

①

INTRO
Byrd + Peoples
Trans + Comm

② ~~35-37~~ 11
35-37

RR

(3' 3 3/8" meter-gauge)

East-coast RR sys = 1400 km, some torn up during 7r-VM war. Repair schedule
14 projects + ahead of schedule. Near eq'ping being used to replace obsolete. All single track, no electric
Hwy - about 10,000 miles.

Only means of access to parts of inter region. Trk's mid. expense + not well organized (low hours)

8700 miles of road

1500 bituminous-surfaced

3400 - gravel-surfaced

3000 - earth-surfaced

Class - national + local

Nat - usually hard surfaced

Loc - earth or gravel surfaced, diff fl travel in rainy season

Costs

UN - current intence + part of reconstruc'n of war-damaged roads

US - Major rpts + new construction

Water

Princ. trans in south. Major river + canal sys = 3400 km, permit med-sized ships to negotiate great distances, + irrigate + drainage functs. Sea major port (45 min up stream)
Small merchant marine (9 ships)

UNC

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Air traffic

1 canal speed carrier - serve to 11 VN cities + to Cam, Laos, + Th.

Airport traff to + from by ^{some} ~~some~~ SE Asian countries, ^{CC) + Fr}

COMM

Teleph, telegraph + radio telephone systems ^{operated} controlled by Govt

Only a few cities interconnected by teleph.

LW teleph Hanoi Saigon + Cl-I

Tele - Sg + Vinh

U.S. assist ^{install + operate} of VII in ~~area~~

1 local internal + external telecomm sys.

Radio broadcasts at Sg; relay stations at Dalat, Da Nang, + Hue.

1 ~~port~~ ^{port} radio sets in area where no elec.

1 ~~port~~ ^{port} relay stn will provide serv to most in area; not know radio ~~sets~~

UNC

SECRET NO FORN

37

~~SECRET~~
H-A

RVN
Trans + Telecomm

12.13

RR - Track structure - 40-60 lbs/yr rails. Ballast & ties well maintained. Axle load limits - 11 to 14 short tons. Primary track & servicing facilities located at stations. Equipment & fuel caches, being replaced gradually

Highway -

Met. Roads - bituminous-treated roads constructed on a crushed stone base, 10-20 ft.

Shoulders - 6-8' above the surface edges w/ drain to center of road

Local - gravel or earth centers, impossible in wet weather except fall during which vehicles

Most highway - Route 1, Saigon to 17th //

BSA N-S roads

#13 - Saigon to Cambodia ~~to Laos~~ & Laos thru Mtg valley

Others - to Cambodia & to Laos

After 1954 repair & then ~~the~~ of roads began

13

Bridges - most of highway steel truss; some reinforced concrete. Some RR ~~highway~~

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//A

bridges span many of large rivers along coast. Impressed, ^{however} bridges serve as temp replacements of damaged structures.

Reverts delay traffic as do slow moving vehicles, narrow bridges, etc.

Ways

2600 miles of navigable ^{internal} ways. Used mostly to move most products of agri, fish & forestry, but delta water frame only means of transport canal. About 1/2 of boats powered. Most vessels loaded draft 9' or less. Anterior & Saigon rivers navigable by large ocean ~~and~~ coastal steamers. Max draft to Spa - 28 ft. Reverts to water travel - heavy silting at mouths of rivers. River of N.E. coast - good for junks & sampans draft 3 to 6'. Rocks & silt.

Ports

1 major (Spa); 1 minor (Da Nang)

Spa - most all foreign trade; can split heavy ^{est} traffic ^{est} of 300 long

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11A3

Civil AF -

AV (Civil) in International. Air Transport Assoc (IATA)
mbr & the only skills air carrier. Oper by Govt since 1959. ~~the~~ NW. ~~help~~
sponsored the gov helped replace the old crew & service period after
~~the~~ removal of Ho ~~interest~~

About 3 day flight circles. Flights to Camb, Laos, Tai & H. Kong also.
B SA airport at Tan Son ~~Nhut~~ Nhut serves sev int. airlines for free
world. About 50 opn civ. a/c., 3x that many pilots; 3 day aff'ds w/;
Best A/F - Tan Son Nhut & ~~Tan~~ Da Nang, Mike Truong.

75-70 Runway (asphalt & concrete)	6000' asphalt runway	11000' x 200'
fuel - 5-way (jetway)	prop runway lightings	200'

TELECOMM

Telecomm facilities in place to meet domestic needs; Eq. old & poorly
maintained; shortage of trained personnel. Best comm in radio; ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~air~~ ~~is~~ ~~very~~ ~~important~~

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11A-4

comm & is μ mag some meas.

All comm. telecomm govt owned & operated. Operates int. radio-telephonic facilities also. ~~the~~ govt has controlling int. in most int. radio telegraph & teleprinter systems. Broadcasts supervised by govt.

Telephone serv in about 25 communities.

55 telegraph offices throughout country; use wire & radio

19 major radio stations

Special networks for aeronautical, coastal, meteorological, military & police comm. 1 spec. network for int. coop assoc of A/C operating agencies.

Int radio comm throughout country

Control below serv between Sp + H Kong.

Int comm between parts of most of Asia, W. & parts of Europe.

A few AM broadcast stations.

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HAZ

two day, No anchorage here in harbor

Danang - mostly f/coastal shipping; help relieve congestion on highway. Minor naval activity; Est. good long trans/day; harbor anchorage flat classes of ships.

Minor - some have small piers, some beach facilities; accommodate small craft only.

Naval facilities & Shipyard

Syn - Shipyard w/ large well-egged shops & drydock facilities f/ ocean-going vessels & small craft. Has 4 shipyards, repair facilities.

Danang - can provide some support & advice spnt to fleet units; 1 Shipyard

Mer Mami

1 dry cargo ship over 1,000 gross register ton (GRT) f/ local trade

16 " about 5,000 "

Dependant upon foreign shipping f/ int. & also coastal trade.

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6 UNC

~~12-11-55~~ 12
1148

INTRO
Banks & Peoples
Economy

... predominantly agric country, a/ about 4/5 ms deriving inv fm/ the land.
Rice & rubber most imp cash crops & principal exports. Most consumer goods imported.
Known mineral resources small. Mining on small scale. Some cotton grown, but textile
industry uses mostly imported fibers. Timber resources largely undeveloped due to poor trans. sys.
Govt seeks to come indep from foreign funds, & trade persal, mostly by export industries,
E.g. dependent heavily upon US aid. Govt has substituted controls on ec.

UNC

7 LINE

~~12~~ 12
1145

INTRO
Buddh Peoples
Ethnic (Pop + M-pur)

These comprise vast majority of inhabitants. Formerly called Annamites (Annamite)
racially related to Chi. These of Chi ancestry largest minority grp, w/ largest group in
Cholon. About 100 tribes of aborigines (70000) people live in high part of GVN.
Other groups - small nos of Indians, Pakistanis, Malays + Arabs. 77 = about 22,000

13-12 Pop - about 14 million (NUN - 16 million)

13-11 in over half million tribes people

13-10 Saigon 1,500,000 (1st)

13-11 Da Nang 1,000,000 (2d)

14-469 Pop - mid '67 - 14,650,000 (NUN - 16,350,000)

U.N.C

9. UNC

INTRO
Bynd + Peoples
Relgr~~12-1146~~ 12
1145-1146

Majority of VNese derived relig. practices from Chi Buddhism, Taoism + Confucianism, + ancestor worship. Few VNese adhere to the relig. Animist beliefs, esp among mtn people. 1146 → 2 mill. R Catholics

⑩-13

Christianity came to VN w/ the very outset of Western penetration in the 16th + 17th Cents; mainly thru the efforts of Sp + Port. Roman Cath missionaries.

⑬-70

Am. Prot. missions have been in VN since war. Activities limited at first to mtn people, but spread to lowlands w/ advent of Am ec. aid.

UNC

8 UNC.

~~42-1145-12~~
1145

INTRO
Byrd & Peoples
LARA

Learn is Vietnamese, similar to Cambodian, Thai, & Chi & at least 1/3 derived from latter. Formerly, Vietnamese written in Chi characters, had no national script (Quốc ngữ) now uses romanized alphabet. Chi speak own dialects, as do other people. Fr in commerce & by many govt affairs.

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37

116

INTRO
Brief
Mil' Geo

3, 4, 5

Geo Char - Location Size Shape + Gen. geo. condit.

At 100. Area covered on East + South about 1000 miles long + fronts on the S. Ch. Sea + Gulf of Siam.

Mount + rugged hills ^{settlement + development} ~~covering half of pop. in~~ mostly to coast ^{highlands}

Coastal edge of S. Ch. also provides the major land routes for N/W to the rest of S. Ch. S. Ch. coast. therefore, become either a ~~strong~~ ^{strong} ~~opponent~~ ^{opponent} ~~Com. aggressor~~ ^{Com. aggressor} for the ~~rest~~ ^{rest} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~country~~ ^{country} seeing the ~~Comm~~ ^{Comm} in their effort to transform the ~~country~~ ^{country} of S. Ch. into ~~satellites~~ ^{satellites}

By air. S. Ch. is within 1200 n. miles of Singapore, Rangoon, Bangkok, Hanoi, Manila, &

Djakarta, Hong Kong + S. Can. Ch.

4 Climate - tropical monsoon - Wet - mid-May, Oct ^{early}; Dry - early Nov - mid Mar.

Extreme wet temps - 90° to 108° ^{throughout} most of country, w/e. coast the hottest (Jan - Aug)

Rain - Mean ann - 30 (S. coast) to 125 (highest peaks of the highlands)

Frequent in wet season, infreq in dry. Clouds in - most in wet season, except S. Ch. coast.

Wet in dry season. Humidity - 70-95%. T. storms (w/leak?) Apr + May in highlands

Coastlines - Land bodies total about 950 miles + except for those w/ Can. are

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11604 observed & stratified. Typhoon 3/40, Jul-Nov.

Coast - 600 mi. Eng. Corps placed obstacles across with country being built
wants readjustment to boundary.

Laos - 300 mi, poor off crossing (no good routes over mts)

NUN - not fortified (other great, either) but demil zone. ~~Not stopped~~ ^{No} free movement across it.

5 Approaches - Air - Best for secret a) not severe typhoon chief hazard, mult- trap storms. Other
approaches beset by mtn + weather hazards

Sea - poor hydro info vic Paracels. Coast - most frequent ^{early thru} ~~ADCT~~ Tides - 1-3' n.

part of E. coast + by Siam; elevation - over 3' to max of 12' near many mouths of Mekong + Dong Nai Rivers.

Naval approach obstructed by shoals reefs, islets, rocks & flanked by rocky headlands. Numerous beaches, but
most interrupted by streams & rocky points & sep. by rocky headlands & backed by lagoons, rivers, ^{bays} ~~traps~~. Best approach
land area flares to E, near than Thien. LOS E, ~~UN~~

SECRET NO FORN

10 UNC

~~11-1~~ 11
1

INTRO
Byrd & Peoples, SUN
Geo

700 x 150 miles (① 31 - ^{via 150} 130 miles) (37) 3 700 x 120

DR-VN-Mali; East Cambodia-West; S. Chi Sea - S. East

65,726 mi² (little less than Spain Wash) (① 31 = 66,200 mi²)

Landform divisions

① - 38 describes this area as the Central Lowlands

② S. by the rugged Chaine Annamitique, ② coastal plain, ③ Mekong Delta

① Heavily dissected hill lands, rolls to hilly plateaus

Hills gently rounded & 300-600 ft higher than surrounding broad valleys

Plateaus - rolling surfaces & are 1000-3000 ft above sea level, ^{dominated by} stands of evergreen forests

② Gently low Pan 25 mi wide

Soil ~~is~~ gently level, but rolling broad highlands

In places, mtn spurs extend to the sea & the est plain into sections

Sand dunes, 10-60 ft hi, common

③ Flat, poorly drained surface, crisscrossed by numerous tribs of Mekong & other network of canals & smaller streams. Elev - not above 20 ft. One of world's leading rice producers

UNC

100 UNC

~~11~~ 11
1-2

~~FAIR~~
Climate - (Hot & humid, tropical, monthly mean temp about 80°F (month yr) (14-31))

Reg

Regions

North

Event

South

Winter (Nov Dec Mar)

Rainier season

(24 Nov (up to 50" rain (total))

Fair weather

light rain

Summer months (Jan Dec Sep)

Reversed

Reversed

Typhoons

Severe along the coast ea yr in Jan July & Nov.

Temps

90°F mean daily temp

← Jun; Apr → mean daily max

95°F (Sgn)

72°F "

Jan

" " min

70°F (Sgn)

absolute min

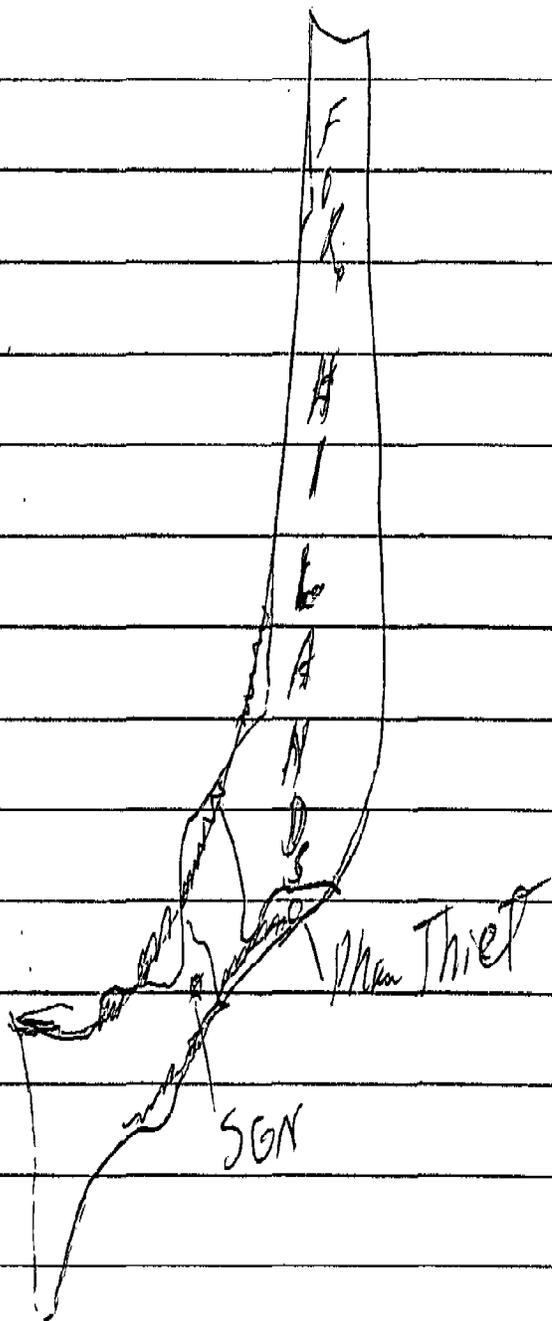
57°F (Sgn)

UNC

92-A

Mi RVN
(Geo Regions)

37
7



82 SECRET NOFORN

37
2

INTRO

Background

Some views of Mid ~~(~~east~~)~~ ^{analysis of a land}

Significance of Area

Mil Geo

Geo Char

Location, size, shape, + gen geo context

Boundaries

Approaches

Ar, Land Sea

Mil geo regions

Forested Highlands

Mekong Lowlands

Forested Plains

Strategic Area + internal routes

Strategic Area

Internal Routes

Comments on principal sources

Views + Telegrams

SECRET NOFORN

SECRET NO FORN

82-1

General

R.I. H. Transp; Aikens; Le-ung; Post, New Facilities, & Shipyard; Mr. Marini; Civ Air;
~~Programs~~; Comments on Forked Surveys

Sociological

Gen

Pop & Manpower

Welfare & health

Structure & Change of the society

Cultural Expression

Lean, Religion, Ed, Pub. info, Artistic & Intellectual expression

Comments on

SECRET NO FORN

SECRET NO FORN
DISSEM137
5PUN
Mil Ber Rgn
Forested Plains

Plains, hilly to nearly level, well-drained covered w/dense or open forests. In open forests are scattered areas of grass or dry crops. See roads + a RR therein.

Good fl ground ops in dry season except in dense forests, where cover + concealment are best. Heavy rain + floods near rivers, limit ops in wet season. ~~Not~~ Air - borne ops in non-forested areas only, there also best fl mt control; Air ops - heavy cloud cover in wet season.

Air ops possible on narrow beaches along coast. ~~Not~~ At the eastern edge of this area along the coast is best place for amphib ops; backed by coast rd + RR here. Elsewhere rd + RR further inland, making ex. ops more diff, esp in wet season.

SECRET NO FORN

155 SECRET

INTRO

37
~~27~~9Brief, SVN
Stry of Area. Strategic Area; Ind. Routes

Center on
Sgn - capital + largest city 1.5 to 2 mil.; city & vice parking area,
focus of maj. trans routes & telecomm. in country; largest port in S.E. A;
shipt & RR spp facilities; largest concentration of ind. estab. in Dutch zone
& extensive port storage. Ind. prod. primarily mostly, but chem & rbr
plants & some engineering estab. Don't see bases for AF

Coastal Rd. fr. 17th/1 to Sgn, all weather but subj. to floods in monsoons &
RR // the h-way. Off rd dispersal & C.C. vehic. movement difficult all yr w/
stretches of the rd. in mts & even when in lowlands in wet season. Movement
off rd in lowlands in dry season diff owing to canals, ditches, swamps, lagoons, streams.
R routes fr. Cambodia to Sgn mostly over lowlands. Some diff. routes above
for lowland roads.

SECRET

SF

SOURCES
DOCU

(M)

Trip Rpt (Col Marshall 20 Aug 62)

(G-3)

Summary & Conclusions

Concepts of CI (~~for~~ Perception)

Gen Mil Organs (friendly)

Air Ops

Navos + CAS

Marines - Navy

Marines (VN)

Org + Employment

Amph Ops

Summer Sp/rt Boats

A New Amph Concept

SIL IT

Mr. ...

SOURCES
DOCUS

(P) (4)

Trip Rpt, Mr. LAWRENCE (SIC 237 455 17 Feb - 25 Mar 62)

(Composite Rpt of MTT SVA Visit w/ Father Hoan, etc.)

(63)

✓ Brog in Father Hoan

✓ Speech by Fr Hoan

✓ Drawing of outline of Fr Hoan's village

✓ Description of Fr Hoan's village & what they are doing ^{people there}

✓ Org + Trng of Fr Hoan's force (The Swallows)

✓ Map of S. coast of VN

✓ Brief of Opns 23 Feb - 24 Mar

(Excerpts of this rpt are in COMC INR A03H, ... 003A15162

of 5 Jun 62 to Dist List) Subj: G-U-fare and in

COMC PAC Sec msg R 220411Z May 62 to COMUSMACV, TH + CHJUSMACV, TH

SECRET NO FORN

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N. A. SOURCES

(9)

DOCS

(6-3)

Trip Rpts (SFC 236 115)²² Mar 62
(FMF Pec GRA W-PAGE Bul #1)

6 grade off rpts (6) of trips to VN & L.

✓ DO-

Bul # 3 (SFC 238 687) of 11 Jun 62 (Secret)

✓ DO-

Bul # 4 (SFC 239 076) of 20 Jun 62

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SECRET NO FORN

SOURCES

Cur Intel Br,
G-2, HQMC

INTELL

WPMC Recon

FMF Pac ltr 2A/jwr over 00300 62 g 10 May 62 to
CMC (Code AD2) (SAC 353328)

(Includes ref to FMF-PAC # 16x ser 0203-62 g
22 Mar 62 + 00279-62 g 30 Apr 62,

SECRET NO FORN

SOURCES

DOCS

(4)

Intell Info (in 6-2 ~~Form~~ CL Br)

1. DOD (AF Inf + 65) pamphlet - Country Study: Repub. of V.N. (UNC)

Fairly detailed w/ chronology and map and major sections on land and people, hist. & govt, resources & ec, law and order, religious sects and in the armed forces

2. The Worldmark Encyclopedia of the Nations. (1960) (UNC)

SVN - pp 1145-1154; very detailed with treatment of all aspects of hist, govt, people, culture, ec, ~~and~~ armed forces, etc

3. ONC TNEO Rpt (Post Rpt) ser # 110-61 of 28 Apr 61 (UNC)

Detailed - Econ, cli, customs, hist.

4. Dept of St Post Rpts (UNC)

✓ City of Hanoi (Post Rpt of 6 Nov 61) Very detailed. Bibli. - Econ & soc. life, Gen. descript. -

✓ Saigon (Post Rpt of 2 Apr 62) Very detailed. Bibli. - Gen. descript.; Econ & soc. life -

SOURCES
DOCS

(P)

Intell Info (in G-2 CI Br)

✓ Info avail (such as WIDE PACOM) and USARPAC Int Bnd)
on RVN and VM armed forces.

CONFIDENTIAL SOURCES

(j)

DOCUS

Rpt of CI in VN (Aug 62)

(63)

By Mr. Rufus Phillips, FE/VN (Consultant to A.I.D.)

Emergency Site
(VC + RVN)

VN CI Efforts

Conclusions

USOM CI Prog FY 63

Proposed USOM CI Organs

CONFIDENTIAL

BOOKS

AINLEY, Henry (p11)

An Order To Die 1955 Fr For Lgn vs VM

COLE Allan B, ed (p6)

Conflict in Indochina & International Perspectives 1956 (covers 1945-54)~~CONRAT, D.M. (p11)~~~~Cas Study in C. W.~~

- FALL, BB (p9)

St. v/o Jay: Indochina at War, 1946-1954 (1961)

GIAP Gen V.M. (p10)

People's War, People's Army (1961) covers 1945-54) VM side

MOSSMAN, James (p20)

Indochina's Civil War

PARET & SHY (p21)

Events in the 1960's (1961)

RIESEN, RENE (p22)

Jungle Mission (1957) Fr vs VM

TANHAM, R.G.K. (p25)

Communist Revolutionary Warfare ~~1961~~ (p25) VM vs Fr

ARTICLES

- (33) CURTIN, Lt Col E.P. Armored Cav Jnl, ^{Jan-Feb} 59, ~~87~~ 81, 34-35
 Am Advisory Corp Bids in War on G's
- (35) ENNIS, T.E. Cur Hist Dec 61, ~~335~~ 335-340
 Light & Shadows on VIN
- (35) FARR, B.B. ~~8~~ Mil. Rev Oct 56, 3-11
 Indoctr - In Test Yr. of The War ~~8~~
- Pul-Relief Sects in VN Pac Affrs Sep 55, 235-253
- (45) PARET & SHY - Mc Graw-Hill, 24-32
 G.W. & U.S. Mil. PR: A Study
- (53) US News & World Rpt - 24 Apr 61, 54-56
 U.S. Front W/ U.S. G's in Bca - An Equivocal Rpt
- (54) WARNER, D.
 In Lessons of Indo-Ch New Republic 14 Dec 59, 10-11,

Du Arn Docco
Weekly rpts

(b) (7)(E)

T.Y. 79, 3.5
Sect# 246 022

~~Entire~~ Drg
smry Rpt

Cmd Dunes (in West also)
Udorn Folder

SFC
243 883

CG 1MAW L of I

246 314 TU 79.3.5 [1st MAW] CD 319 - 5 MW 62, 12 Dec 62

(246 022 " " CD 12 Oct 62

244 268

ACC @ 3000.2 (Op Admin Rpts)

SAC Documents

①

S 231 595	Log Posture	Aug 61 Aug 61
S 235 147	Red Rpt CDTC RUNAF f/Mar 62	14 Apr 62
	Attch 2	14 Apr 62
* ✓ C 238 539 R&D	Personal Ltr to Gen. Brockmuhl	26 Apr 62
S 239 396	Red Rpt CDTC RUNAF f/APR 62	29 May 62
S 238 607	Strg Rpt VN (CINCPAC)	2 Jun 62
✓ C 239 252 ✓	MAGAR-OT (CS) Lessons Learned	15 Jun 62
S 239 113	Strg Rpt VN (CINCPAC)	16 Jun
✓ C 239 384 ✓	MAGAR-OT (CS) Lessons Learned	19 Jun
✓ C 239 549 ✓	dg	25 Jun
C 238 685	Tell g Dist	1 Jul
S 239 550	Strg Rpt VN (CINCPAC)	2 Jul
✓ C 240 359 ✓	MAGAR-OT (CB) Less's Cond 15 (L)	24 Jul
✓ C 240 828 ✓	MAGAR-OT (CB) Less. Cond	31 Jul
S 240 969	Str Rpt VN (CINCPAC)	10 Aug
S 241 558	CHI to MACV O/B VC Force SUN	16 Aug
S 241 844	Str Rpt VN (CINCPAC)	10 Sep

SAC Done

(Signature)

* ✓	C 241 829	Train Deviation	G-3	10 Sep 62
✓	C 241 967	Lesson Lrad (CI ops in SWM)	✓	12 Sep
	S 243 082	Str Rpt, UN/CINCPAC		9 Oct

SOURCES

Diaries

Marine Corps

(T) (b)

(2)

✓ Unit Rpts

✓ Unit weekly summaries - in ~~Box~~ ^{DCS (A)} SAC (Rm 2125)

✓ (E) ~~Unit~~ Diaries - (in safe)

UNC

SOURCES

CI (Malaya, 1948-1954)

Geo. Pol. ~~of~~ Subdivisions + Demography
Post WTC Reorganisation

Port Canal Policy

Post War Policy Malayan Union

Federation of Malaya

Ali Tammats & the Emergency 1948-1951

Emer. under Sir Gerald Temple, 1951-1954

Conclusions

Map

Bibliography (Appendix)

Counterinsurgency in Malaya 1948-1954

As War College Paper No 2368

Lt Col Henry A. McCartney, O13381, USMC

Apr 1963

1 copy only (RFR, Post Box 6-3 HQMC)

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SOURCES
~~DOCS~~

(11)

Doccs 2

L.L. (MAAG, V)

(63)

Folders of L.L. info put out by MAAG, V

(see (C) thru (N) f/ ~~part of~~ doccs on ~~part of~~ some of
these same doccs)

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SECRET

SOURCES
DOCS

(k)

CI LESSONS (U)

(G-3)

(CINCPAC Ltr 33000 Ser 00263 of 19 Mar 63 to JCS)

(First such ltr was CINCPAC Ltr ser 00745 of 8 Nov 62)

DFLPL-C

Encl (2) in PACAF Ltr ~~AFEDC~~ of 26 Feb 63 - Subj CINCPAC INS 03300.3

of 8 Jan 63

OPNS - TAFDS; use of MAP-provided facilities; need for prefab & mobile housing;

MATRL
PLANS

C. ENRG

COMM-ELEC

SECRET

SECRET

SOURCES

Docu

VNMC Weekly Ops

ACUSNA (Syn) Weekly Intell Rpts

SECRET

~~SECRET~~ SALLIES (Navy-held)

Jones
Intell

National Intell. Survey - 43 series
(CIA)

SOURCES (Wing-held)
Dobson
OHL Rivers

SECRET

PERSONL (f/interve)

(A)

7. LEWIS, CH Maj (MCLFDC - sum, '62 - visited TU approx 1 mo.)

- CAREY, J, F. Col TU Cdr at MCS (MAAS Co.)

CLAPP, AL, Lt Col TE-1 Cdr (to 3rd Div)

ELDRIDGE, W, Lt Col TE-2 Cdr (to 3rd Div)

White, Robt Col CO ~~MAAS Co~~ VMRG-152

CONDON, J. P., Maj Gen CG, 1 MAW

- BOLISH, Col - (Dun/Am Sher-Fly folder man) Du/Am, Rm 2312

- HATHCOCK, Col Sgt - (Ker) in UK, now in Du/Am, Rm 2316

- WARREN, J. L., Col - 1 MAW G-4 Now Log, Dred/Am.

IRELAND, JW Col, TU CO

RATHBUN, RL, Lt Col - TE-1 CO 1 AWG

DAVIS, RR, Lt Col, CO TE-2

- WAGNER, J. F., Col COMM-Elec, 1 MAW

- FARRELY, R. B., Col, S.O. 1 MAW (at Phila)

BRYSON, R. L., Col - G-4, 1 MAW (after Col. WARREN)

ELMINGS, Gred Col 404 61766 Bu Ship

SECRET

~~SECRET~~ Vietnam
Mil Issue Card
C/S MGen WEDF RG

+ MABG

CONFIDENTIAL

30 Jun 62

(B)

- Ast C/S ^{Col} SMITH, Frank L 014157
- Ast J-2 Col WEBSTER, Geo. D - 06940
- J-3 Col MURKIN, L.E 011816
- P4P, J-4 Col WARREN, C.E., 06662
- Ast J-5 Lt Col THOMPSON, R H 013291
- J-6 Lt Col GIDDENS, R M 019433

ck
 Lt. Col SIMS, W.L. 013219, Ch Plans Br
 May Personal Col 06260
 Lt Col BROWN, R.E 09522 Sr Mater Adscr D/C/S

VE 23.2
N121422

(C)

CONFIDENTIAL

SOURCES

Deans, Etc

General Bebbie

A Col Bebbie (U)

SCRO, Am Uni 1963 (1 copy in RTR)

SECRET

SOURCES

OPMS + LL

Cur. Intel Br,
G2, HQMC

Program being made to insure US. Captives in Viet. receive
lessons learned

CMC Ltr A0344- down over 003B11562 of 1 May 62 to Asst Dir
Subj: LL in VN (SFC 353170)

SECRET

SECRET

SOURCES
Intell

②

⑥-3

En after actn Rpt (SAC 246 506 in 63 safe)

No ref to USMC but a good account of VC decision making, intel gathering, and minute delineation & assignment of tasks and objectives.

USMAC V, 29 Jan 63

SECRET

SOURCES (Navy-held)
DOCS

MAED Daily Summary

SOURCES (Navy held)
DOCS

ACUSNA (Sgn) Weekly Rpts

SOURCES (Navy-held)
Focus
Apr 54

SAILORS USS Post Jan 46
OP RPTs

~~Includes~~
Rpt of Jerns ops at T.

DECLASSIFIED

SECRET

149

SVN Pol Strat
1/2-1963
En Action

CIA CurIntell Wkly Sum
16 Aug 63, p. 5

During the first half of 1963, large scale - co of Bn size -
VC ~~was~~ ~~also~~ dropped out ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~percent~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~level~~ ~~sustained~~
by the Coms during the same pd in 1962. Sabotage & propaganda
activities were also off about one half, while acts of terrorism
declined about 20%.

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED

SECRET NO FORN

153

1963 Pol Hist SVN

(2) ~~SECRET~~ (2) CIA CUK INTEL DIS
 (2) CIA CUK INTEL W/KEY SIGN

1. a. @, 12 Sep, p5 - VC step up mil action in SVN (10 Sep)

2. b. @ 13 Sep p6 - Unrest continues in SVN... Heavy U.S. attacks suggest possible attempt to exploit the pol. rift

3. a. @, 16 Sep, p7 in briefing of martial law on 16 Sep & the scheduling of Natl Assembly elections for 27 Sep are further moves by the govt to claim that the pol. crisis has ended... On sev. recent engagements w/ U.S. NLF & SVN govt troops have noted incrd use of rifles & heavy mortars.

4. @, 20 Sep, p5 The source claims that 90% of the studs are now unaffected

5. @ 23 Sep p6 U.S. attacks reached the highest # last week of any wk. this yr.

6. b. 1 Nov p8 SVN Nat Day passed w/o major incident... President's Nat.

SECRET NO FORN

SECRET NO FORN

153-

Day speech stressed need of self reliance & self sufficiency

7. @ 4 Nov, p6 Mil ldrs have restored order in Sg. The gens. apparently favor a largely civ. cabinet w/ former VP Tho as Prime Minstr. Cabinet would be under a mil. committee headed by camp ldr MG. Duong Van Minh

8. @ 5 Nov p6 The generals who overthrew Diem regime in SVN on 1-2 Nov have moved quickly to impose order & create the machinery of a prov. govt. Declaring they acted to "save the country" from an increasingly self seeking regime. They have pledged to pursue the fight against Com. gils, to respect rel. freedom, & return the govt to civ. control. They have released studs & Buddhists ~~which~~ the former regime had detained. Press censorship & censors have ~~been~~ ^{were} lifted on 7 Nov.

Mil hold control of govt despite largely civ cabinet under Premier Nguyen Ngoc Tho, Diem's V.P. Cabinet is subordinate to Mil. Executive Comm

SECRET NO FORN

SECRET NO FORN

~~#0~~

153-2

- headed by coup leader M.G. Duong Van "Big" Minh as Chg State. --
w/ sup ex & leg. authority.

9. @ 15 Nov, p 2 VC gila widespread aggression at record high levels
during 5-11 Nov (highest to date).

10. @ 20 Nov, p 4 New security minister, Gen Tran That Dinh, may be
using his posit to build up an indep. pd base. He has kept... [his] name
before the public & tends to identify the o-throw of the Diem govt w/ his
personal action.

11. @ 12 Dec 63, p 4 New govt has made little progress in estab. new policies
or develop'g new programs. Com gila activity has declined.

12. @ 15 Dec, p 3 SON Worried About Possible Growth of Neutralist Sentiment
in SUM.

SECRET NO FORN

SECRET NO FORN

#4

153-B

@ 13/10/4 p 3

Son and rulers apparently hope to revive cooperation of once-powerful politico-religious sects in an effort to boost the counter-insurgency effort in the delta. The armed strength of the sects was largely crushed by Diem in 1955 when they attempted to challenge his authority.

@ 27 Dec, 64 The Gen. Lib. Front has reportedly proposed [a neutralist] solution [to the VN civil war]. A long-range pacification prog. has been launched in one of the most troublesome provinces [in the N part of the country].

SECRET NO FORN

80 UNC

14
482-483

INTRO
Oppress Forces
RVN - For. influ. upon

US.

... strongest foreign influence ... since departure of Fr in 1954 ... A considerable no. of Am. mil. officers in Viet Nam ... all staff & command echelons. For. influ. upon to co-ord. wanted of all components of the A-F. Many are teachers in six schools & this category of instructors in the open & nature of tech. eq. A sizable no. of these officers have attended mil. schools in US, or have been sent on orientation visits to Am. mil. install. ... all mil. work here. No info comes from US.

Fr.

Many of ~~the~~ ^{noncommissioned} officers, some of whom had ... as you see in Fr. for. cont. to hold the dog & cat concepts ... Def. equip. (Col. G.) also that time ... in 1957, 600 Vietnamese were in Fr (200 in US). Even in 1962 ... Vietnamese officers not infrequently could be heard voicing their doubts about value of ^{US} mil. tech. methods as compared w/ the more formal Fr. ones. Some were frankly reluctant to make the changes & their feelings were heightened by the necessity of shifting from Fr. to Eng. as the lang. of mil. instruction ... AF, which had relatively few few Fr. trained officers.

20a UNC

Others:

Brit

against the U.S.

Methods employed by the U.S. are much to Brit entente tactics in Malaya - particularly the strategic hamlet concept. The discipline & high standards of the Brit troops & Brit-type American counterpart in the occupation force in 1945 also won the admiration of many... y/ke a-f-50

Chi. Mats

The Chi. Mat. forces are generally regarded by many rank & file, some who have attended mil. courses in Taiwan. Many authors reportedly have requested the services of a Chi. Mat. team to org. a course of mil. specialties in Japan. Genissimo Chiang Kai-shek is also admired as a mil. ldr, esp. of the manner in which his troops are indoctrinated & controlled.

UNC

21 UNC

INTRO
Oppos for
RVN - Qual of Manpower

14
483-484

The ave. adult male in SVN is 5'2" x 105 lbs. ... he finds some diff. in us'g many items of Am. eq. The standard ht. of stk is too low; the BAR too heavy; parachutes too large, heavy ... to descend slowly, the scattered ^{over} wide areas on landing.

... a SVAFese sold ^{gen. sturdy} is ^{very} apt to have good stamina. Active & manually dexterous he is readily ^{trnd. in the use of mod. eq.} Most recruits are accustomed to work out of doors in trop. heat, humidity & monsoonal rains. They can live in the fld for extended pd on a daily rot of 2 lbs rice & a portion of nuoc mam (a pungent fish sauce).

Males in the mil. age grp. (18 to 45) ... est'd to be approx. 50 percent ^(physically fit for mil duty).

On the whole amenable to discipline & resourceful in carry'g out orders, the SVAFese sold. manifests little initiative & tends to assume responsal w/ reluctance. Reactions under fire are varied & seem to depend upon the ^{circumstances} type & experience of the troops. Am. advisors genly regard the troops as being effective, ⁽⁴⁵⁴⁾ but ^{dislike} the ^Y ^{carriage} under fire. There have been ~~some~~ instances of abandonment of eq. & heavy losses have occurred, but, almost w/o exception, there have been confided to untrained, poorly-led SDC units undergoing surprise attk.

UNC

19 UNC

14
476-477

INTRO
Omni-Force
AF of VN (General)

476 Pres of Rep is Cdr-in-Ch of the AF Forces. Since Pres Ngo's ^{investigation} in 1955, he has reserved for himself the part of his Secy of Staff of Nat. Def., as well as an umbrella. New policies require (some) approval of Secy of Staff of Nat. Def.

Understandly, created by 21 staff jobs ^{which} make up a cabinet; headed by a Gen. Director of the Cabinet. Cdr. is into Central Agencies, Departmental Secs, & Log. Secs. [Under 1st. Lt. in the AF Gen Staff, headed by a Chief of Gen Staff, assisted by a C/S of the AF. Gen Staff. The principal activities are:

AFFM Cdr - responsible for all planning

Cdr of AF, N & AF as Asst. Chg of Staff of AF, N & AF

477 ~~In mid 1962 the~~

The Gen Staff, theoretically as its staff is organized into J-1 thru J-5 (psychological warfare & social succs.)

The sections are composed mostly of army personnel, but, being the largest component of the AF, the staff in effect, serves as the Army Gen Staff which also performs staff functions of the AF & AF.

UNC

18 UNC

14

475, 479-480

INTRO
Oppos's Forces
Air Force (Misu + Ogph)

475 The AF, besides providing cars for the good troops - attacks guer groups + installs; transport
good forces + their supplies; circulate in base troops; [perform] general recon; [provide] search (res oppo).

479 The AF, org'd in 1952, remained under Fr control until 1958 when it became a component of the
A. Forces... consists of small staff sect + four sqd's - fighter, LSA, trans + heli; all based in
Sgn area primarily on a portion of the isolated airport, Ton Son Nhut, just River Hoa, 15 km NE of Sgn.

480 Some based at Da Nang + Nha Trang

UNC

17 UNC

14
475, 479

INTRO

Opposing Forces

GVN - Navy (Main Orgz)

475 The gen. mission of the Navy is to provide for the security of the sea approaches to the country, and the protection of the inland waterways in the Mekong Delta. It may also be called upon to furnish water transport for the Army personnel and material. It is charged with the mission of a marine group capable of conducting operations either alone or in conjunction with Army forces. The Navy also is responsible for maintaining coastal and inland waterway patrols to assist, when called upon, customs officials or internal security matters, especially against smugglers or others in illegal activities.

479 is composed of a small staff section and the Naval Command. The Staff Sect, headed by the Comdr of the Navy, consists of branches of operations (log, comm + intel) Log & Psychological Warfare

Naval Command composed of Opposing Forces & Shore Establishments.

Opposing Forces - Sea Force, River Force, Marine Corps, and a paramilitary group, Shock Force.

Sea Force - escort vessels, minesweepers & shallow draft LCs

River Force - armoured & armored LCs & some plastic motor-powered light vessels to supplement the LCUP which are too heavy to be carried a-land.

Marine Corps Group - High Sea - Sea Base, sea support group, & recon element, similar to USMC units.

UNC

17a

Junk Force - small flt of locally constructed boats armed by Japs + Soviet AGs,
manned mainly by former fishermen, supervised by a few men of the reg. Navy. Patrols inlets
& head of beaches to prevent ^{entry of} landings of troops & supplies.

16 UNC

INTRO

Oppos Forces

ARVN - MSN + Organs

14
475, 478

475 The Nat. Army is expected to strike the main khmer in off. ops against the V.C. and at the same time act as a ready res. in sp of ops of the Cu Lon + SDC against the V.C. In addition, also give army perform night fracs - insert small groups of men; clear land & work on irrigation ditches; public products & other community health projects & treat sick in some areas; distribute insecticides & fertilizers.

... Civil Guard is to enforce the law & maintain public order & security in rural areas. It is also responsible for other components of the armed forces in the protection of the nat. terr.

The local SDC groups are charged w/ helping the villagers & other admin units in which they are organized to maintain public order & security. They fight against subet. & terrorist activities & protect pub. works. They are also used on emer. relief work in local areas stricken w/ fire, flood & storms.

... apprehension of offenders & handing over to the police.

478 The country is organized into three corps areas and, for police & security matters, the 5th Special Sector. The Corps designations: I Corps, De New - northern & central coastal provinces; II Corps - Pleiku & central highland provinces; III Corps, southern part of VN, including 5th Special Sector. No Army seven divisions

[UNC]

16a UNC

are allocated to corps areas generally in proportion to the density of population and the seriousness of the threat. The province chief, charged by law w/ respons. of security w/in his prov., may request the army adm in his sec. of additional troops to meet a threatened VC attack.

UNC

14a UNC

virtually in place. Defense against threats from the north or south would risk encirclement.

Most of the people live mainly on local resources, requiring little from the outside. Knowledge of any particular area, except possibly the San Mateo district and the surrounding provinces, would not necessarily bring about the capitulation of the entire country.

Terrain, weather, and logistic considerations would present difficult problems to any ^{over-}land force operating in the

No terrain lends itself to ambush. The hot and run tracks of the highland are generally unsuitable for conventional troops. The dense vegetation throughout the country provides good concealment for air and ground forces

except for road parties.

473 Foothills, ~~interior~~ rapidly in the hot, humid climate. During the wet season, fog, low clouds, and humid conditions frequently interfere with operations.

474 ~~MSM~~ ~~UNC~~ of armed forces.

The chief reason of the armed forces is to defend the nation's sovereignty & to bring about the preservation of the highland. Since the withdrawal of the forces in June 1956, the principal task of the highland has been the internal one of ending threats to the security of the state -- first by armed religious sects and guerrillas and currently by the VC.

UNC

23 UNC

14
487-488

INTRO
Oppos Fors
RPN - Logs

487 | Transport, terrain, weather + limited industrial facilities create special difficulties w/ respect to supply, distribution, (488) troop movement, + evac. In many places, shallow draft ~~boats~~ river craft + barges are the only practical means of transport for extended periods... In the face of these difficulties -- terrain, weather, transport, limited industrial facilities, the tendency has been to concentrate supply + log. services to Corps areas + to keep supplies in depots to relieve military units as far as possible of the burden of storage + transport.

UNC

96-1
NAVAL MESSAGE

(COMMITTEE)
Date (When filled in) to (Add full name)
SECRET

NAVY DEPARTMENT

PRECEDENCE	(ACTION)	RELEASED BY	DRAFTED BY	EXT. NO.
PRIORITY				
PRIORITY	(INFO)			

7 P 140712Z

FM CINCPAC

TO RBEPW/JCS
RUEYDA/JACE AJCC FT RITCHIE

INFO RJHPKM/PACAF
RBHPB/CINCPACFLT
RUHPFS/CINCUSARPAC
RUMSC/COMUSMACV
RBHPH/ADMINO CINCPAC

READDRESSED PRIORITY 142229Z
FM CINCPACFLT
INFO CNO
CMC
CGFMFPAC

CGAIRFMFPAC
COMSEVENTHFLT
CG FIRST MAW
COMNAVAIRPAC

SVI

SECRET

TANGO 88 FOR ADMINO CINCPAC

ADDITIONAL HELO CO FOR SVN

1. GEN HARKINS AND I HAVE EXPLORED CAREFULLY MATTER OF ASSIGNING ADDITIONAL US HELOS TO SVN. APPRECIATE ACTION TAKEN BY DA TO READY ANOTHER ARMY HELO CO TO SHIP OUT ON 13 APR. WE HAVE DETERMINED, HOWEVER, THAT IT IS MORE DESIRABLE TO MOVE A MARINE HELO SQDN NOW PART OF 7THFLT IN WESTPAC TO SVN. WE CAN HAVE THIS SQDN IN PLACE APPROXIMATELY 15 APR AT CONCLUSION OF SEATO EXERCISE TULUNGEN. WE WOULD STATION THIS SQDN IN THE DELTA AREA AND LEAVE THE ARMY HELO CO IN PLACE IN THE I CORPS AREA FOR THE TIME BEING. ALTHOUGH THE I CORPS AREA IS THE NATURAL PLACE FOR THE MARINE HELO SQDN BECAUSE OF LIFT CAPABILITY OF HUS HELO AND BECAUSE THIS IS THE PLANNED DEPLOYMENT AREA FOR THEM IN CASE WE IMPLEMENT PLAN 32. HARKINS WOULD INTERCHANGE AT A LATER DATE AND SHORTEN ARMY HELO LOGISTIC AND SUPPLY LINES.

ACT... JCS/J3 CJCS-2 DJS-3 SJCS-3 J2-1 J3-7 J4-3 J5-2 J6-3 SAMAA-1 JWR-1 JWRA-1 RRA-1
SECDEF-5 W HOUSE-2 FILE-1.....(36)

COG... CNO/jmc

CSA CSAF *me* /CNO/

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CONTROL NO <i>89143</i>	CIRCUIT NO.	PAGE	OF	PAGES	TIME OF RECEIPT	DATE TIME GROUP
06990/JF/EN/4	A 054	1		2	1730Z/14 MAR	140712Z/MAR 62

SECRET

(When filled in)

(When filled in)

NAVAL MESSAGE

SECRET

NAVY DEPARTMENT

PRECEDENCE	(ACTION)	RELEASED BY	DRAFTED BY	EXT. NO.
	(INFO)			

2. CINCPACFLT CONCURS WITH ABOVE. CINCUSARPAC NOT-CONCURS AT THIS TIME STATING THAT "33RD ALREADY ALERTED AND MOVEMENT ORDERS ISSUED WITH RESULTANT FAMILY GYRATIONS IN THIS, TOGETHER WITH BRINGING ANOTHER SUPPLY AND MAINTENANCE FEATURE INTO THE III CORPS AREA, SEEMS TO ME TO OUTWEIGH ADVANTAGE OF FAMILIARIZATION WITH TERRAIN IN I CORPS AREA AT SOME FUTURE DATE. SINCE HARKINS HAS REQUESTED MARINE CHOPPER OUTFIT, I SEE NO OBJECTION TO IT REPLACING 93RD WHEN HE IS READY TO RELEASE 93RD OR HAVING MARINE UNIT GOING IN AS ADDITIONAL UNIT THEN AND IF NEEDED IN THAT AREA." I AM NOT IN POSITION TO ASSESS EFFECT OF FAMILY GYRATIONS WHICH MAY HAVE COMMENCED. INTRODUCTION OF ANOTHER SUPPLY AND MAINTENANCE FEATURE IS SOMETHING THAT CAN BE HANDLED RELATIVELY EASILY BY MARINES. -THERE IS CONSIDERABLE MERIT IN RECOMMENDATION CONTAINED IN PARA 1 ABOVE TO UTILIZE ASSETS WHICH ARE ALREADY IN WESTPAC.

3. HARKINS WILL CONTINUE EXAMINING HELO REQUIREMENTS WITH VIEW OF REQUESTING STILL ANOTHER SQDN IF HE DETERMINES THIS TO BE DESIRED. IN THIS CASE, I WILL NOMINATE 81ST HELO CO FROM HAWAII WHICH IS TRAINED IN MOUNTAIN, JUNGLE AND TROOP TRANSPORT OPERATIONS WITH THE 25TH DIV. I WILL RECOMMEND THAT 33RD HELO CO NOW AT FT ORD SHIP OUT TO REPLACE 81ST IN HAWAII AND COMMENCE TRAINING FOR TROOP TRANSPORT OPERATIONS AND JUNGLE WARFARE.

4. MY RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING SMALLER HELOS SUCH AS HU-1A WILL FOLLOW AFTER FURTHER EXAMINATION OF THE PROBLEM WITH HARKINS.

SCP-4.

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CONTROL NO.	CIRCUIT NO.	PAGE	OF	PAGES	TIME OF RECEIPT	DATE TIME GROUP
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SECRET

(When filled in)

13 UNC

14
21-24

INTRO
Pol Sem - WII ~~...~~ (Includes report of Com activity for 1930)
(Refers also to cards 142)

After the fall of FV in June, 1940, the Vichy govt was forced to accede to Jap demands which ultimately led to the estab. of Jap. Cont. over all of Indochina. While these negotiations were in progress there were clashes between Fr. & Jap forces along the N. border of Indochina. But after the Vichy govt. signed an agreement w/ Jap permitting Jap. to station troops in the area, the Fr. colonial admin., which had remained loyal to Vichy, did not offer further milit. opposition.

The understanding between Jap & Fr kept the Fr. colonial govt. structure intact. Fr. troops could their traditional position better.

As a result of earlier repressive measures by the Fr. govt. members of these were in pol. exile. Many of these - both Com & ^{anti-} Com nationalists - had been serving in China.

Nguyen Ai Quoc (Ho Chi Minh) a Comrade since 1920 and founder of the Indochina Com Party in 1930, he had persuaded some of the nationalist exile groups to join the Com in a united front against the V.I. Independence League (Viet Nam Doc Lap Dong Minh Hoi) later called the Viet Minh. One of the first activities was to begin the formation of guer. bands.

UNC

136 UNC

When it became obvious in Mar 1945 that they were being thrown out, the Japs suddenly interned all Fr officials and soldiers bringing an abrupt end to Fr rule in Indoch. At the instigation of the Japs, the Emperor Bao Dai (then in Fr) proclaimed the indep. of VN under Jap "protection". He formed a new govt at Hanoi and attempted to create a VN admin to replace the Fr admin that had been suddenly withdrawn. However, differ. of comm. due to allied bombings, famine throughout the North as a result of the rice crop failure, lack of financial resources and the continued presence of the Japs made it impossible to set up an eff. govt.

Meanwhile, at Hanoi, the VM went into action. Minh began to refer to the VM guerrillas as the "National Liberation Army" and announced the formation of a "Committee for the Liberation of the New People" w/ himself as leader. Although the Japs had handed over admin. control, with the exception of Bao Dai's monarchy, VM partisans and agents took over control by a show of force.

While these events were taking place, Tran Trong Kim (the warrior) composed... Bao Dai, unable to form a new govt, decided to abdicate in the belief that a united & independent Vietnam offered the only possibility of preventing the return of Fr. control. Recognizing only the nationalistic character of VM & expressing that it had killed govt, he abdicated on Aug 23, 1945 to Minh.

The VM, in gen., were strongly opposed to a continuation of Fr. rule after WWII & expected the Allies to grant their independence. Nevertheless, all opposed Fr return, w/ favored first a form of international trusteeship; Fr,

UNC

13C YNC

however, spirit of both, prevailed in Allied Councils, & it was agreed that it would rectify the error.

YNC

2 UNC

~~107~~
1147

INTRO
Dignity & Peoples
1st Sum since WWII
(Up to Jul 54) see card #1 ^{info} A to 6 Mar '46
" " 13 ^{info} from WWII

1946
~~1945~~ 1946 war with Fr begins upon VM attack on Hanoi

5 March 49 - Agreement when Fr & VM regard VN as "independent w/in the Fr Union"

1 May 54 - VM successful siege of Dien Bien Phu results in capit. of that place & end of war.

21 Jul 54 - ~~Agreement~~ Cease-fire agreement at Geneva by Fr & VM, provisional partition of VN at 17N // pending gen. election, to work about unification of VN.
set for Jul 56

(SVN refused to sign agreement since no more popular than under VM influence & 2 yrs before the scheduled election, requested instead a VN trusteeship pending gen. election under UN supervision & control.)

Elections never held because SVN premier Ngo Dinh Diem, believed conditions unfair. Referendum held in SVN 23 Oct 55 to choose a form of govt & dir of st. Diem elected & in Dec 57 proclaimed the Rep of VN.

UNC

1, UNC

~~vi-vii~~ 18
vi-vii

INTRO

Byrd & Peoples
History (1957)

See card 13 also
G/dope 1989

CHRONOLOGY

3000 BC circa Legend of founder of nation which eventually became VN

213 BC " China's incursion of Tonkin area began

167 BC " Chinese complete domination of Tonkin area; ¹⁹⁰⁰ ~~1900~~ Vietnam

111 BC China expanded southward & overran the kingdom of Nam Viet. The long period of Chi. domination had a strong cultural impact on VN, & as a result the country has more soc characteristics in common w/ the Chi than does any other country in SE Asia.

938 AD Chi. occupation of VN came to an end when Ngo Quyen defeated Chi forces & formed a state whose independence was maintained, w/ few exceptions, until the late 19th cent.

1854 - Fr has control of all VN (& by 1900 all Indochina as well)

1940- During the first yrs of WWII, the Japs. who occupied Ind in 1940, left nominal control of VN in hands of rees of Fr. Vichy regime. In 1945 Japs removed Fr. but advised set up puppet govt. w/ Bao Dai (emp. of Annam) as nominal ruler.

Sep 1945, League of Nations for the Relief of VN (Viet Nam Doc Lap Dong Minh) known

UNC

1a UNC

as Viet. Minh... led by a Com, Nguyen Ai Quoc (who had taken the name of Ho Chi Minh in 1943) proclaimed the Dem. Rep of VN (in Hanoi)

Sept 1945 - Fr troops return to Hanoi ^{sporadic} fighting followed

Mar 1946 " " " " " Hanoi

(147) 6 Mar 1946 Fr. recogn. VN as a "free state" w/in the "French Union"

UNC

12 UNC

INTRO
 Bonds Peoples
 1954 Partition

~~14/1/54~~
 31,28-29

131. The Demer. Line runs along a small river, the Song Ben Hai, from its mouth to the village of Bo ~~Su~~ Ho Su, and from there due west to the S. border. Because the Song Ben Hai is very close to the 17th N, the Demer. Line is usually referred to as the 17th N!

132. ST (Gen. Aug 20, 54) also provided of the total evac. of V.M. north of the 17th N by the NLF forces of the N. and the ST of VM as well as for the evac. of the South by the VM forces...
 ... Despite the Geneva Agreement, a well-organized VM underground network remained in the South...

UNC

4 UNCLASS

~~By the people~~
INTRO
By the people
Local Govt

~~12114712~~
1147

RCM : into 36 provinces (tinh) each governed by a provincial administrator or chief of province, appointed by & directly responsible to the Pres. Provinces divided into cantons which in turn are divided into villages, cities, & towns, etc. comprising a no. of precincts or zones. Local Govt in handling of locally-elected officials; larger towns by "councils & mayors"; all supervised ^{of coordinated} by the Secy of ^{the} Interior

See cards #8 & 14

UNCLASS

5 UNCLASS

~~11~~ 11
27INTRO
Bynd & People
Local Govt

in VN: with 36 provinces which contribute the 2^d level of govt |
orgztn, + 4 cities, Saigon, Hanoi, Da Lat, & Danang (Tourane) which have provincial status

At the local level the village is the signif. organ of govt; to at least 2000
10 VNese, the govt is the adminis which runs ^{his} village. This is the adminis which
controls the taxes he must pay, the pub. works he must maintain - the roads, the dikes, the
telephone lines - & decrees which young men in the village shall undergo mil. duty when
25 → conscription quotas must be filled.

UNCLASS

3 UNCLASS

~~1147~~ 12
1147

INTRO

By people & Peoples

Pres Govt

exec. Const. of India proclaimed 26 Oct 56. Draft Law Com. 3 Sep. Branches of nat. govt. -
 legis. & jud. Broad powers to Pres, giving him prepond. of strength. Pres & V Pres elected directly
 by universal secret ballot, & a cab. apptd by pres. Pres = head of st, ch. of govt, & supreme
 Cdr of armed forces. Term - 5 yrs, can do 3 terms.

123 mbr unicameral Natl Asstly elected by univrs sec. ballot. All legis subj
 to pres veto. Const. helpe guarantee of individual rights

UNCLASS

SECRET NO FERN
154

Pol West
A.M.
Prov. Govt

RACOM WID 3-64

pp 45

of provinces, Dec 1963

42 (Does not include any provincial
states that cities may have)

SECRET NO FERN

~~SECRET~~ NOFORN
152

CIA Cur Intel Dig
29 Aug 63, p.1

SVN Pol West
7/2/1963
Council of Govt Assets

... Ngo Dinh Nhu wants to take steps to consolidate the regimes position in SVN.

~~Internal~~

Civ & mil efforts in Viet Nam are mustering forces of allegiance to the govt. ... coordinated plan worked out by Nhu ...

- 1. Atk on prejudices & elim. of dissident Buddhist ldrs
- 2. Obtain statements from some arrested Buddhist ldrs disavow Buddhist extremists.
- 3. Rallying of pop. support
- 4. Formation of a coalition govt, w/ trusted oppositionists; w/

Dien a Pres
& Nhu as Prime Minister

Note: Our Intel check (p 4) of 8 Sep noted things ~~about~~ back to normal (Secret) remained tense

SECRET NOFORN
~~SECRET NOFORN~~

DECLASSIFIED

SECRET NO FORN

SVN Pol Hist

CIA CUR INTEL D16

151

2/2 1963

22 Aug 63 p3

Declaring Mar. Law

US officials have been told that the martial law decree was prompted by concern over spreading disorders & troop disaffection. The govt also is seeking to justify the crackdown on the Buddhists on grounds of VC penetration of the Buddhist movement.

Army Lt. Tran Van Don has been ~~promoted~~ made over-all ^{mil} cdr. Gen. have been placed in control of Saigon & Hue, E

The sit. in SVN is outwardly calm w/ the mil. mainstay fight security under the martial law decree.

SECRET NO FORN

DECLASSIFIED

SECRET

150

SUN Pol West

7th Aug, 1963

Relig. Demos

CIA CONTACT ~~UNCLASSIFIED~~ DIGEST

19 Aug 63, p3

Buddhist demonstrators in SVM appear to be gaining the sympathy of
increasing numbers of the ^{urban} general public. It (Govt) will begin to receive
Buddhist complaints this week.

SECRET

SECRET
41

INTRO
Oppos Forces
Mil Forces in DMN (Change of)

21
95

On 26 Nov 1962 The Pres of the Rep of VN issued 512 decrees ... pertaining to the reorg of RVNAF ... These decrees describe reorganization of the force structure & strengthening the chain of command. ...

Decree No 213/QP divided territory of RV into four Corp/Tactical Zones and a Capital Military District. ...

~~to~~
Order No 1249/QP restructures the IV Corps

SECRET

SECRET NO FORN
33INTRO
BEGUN $\frac{25}{463}$

Feb 1961-2

Formation of ~~the~~ new provinces

Third new province in SVN - The formation of the province of Phu Boi in SVN gives substance to the govt's recent promises to the Montagnard ethnic minority & should reassure the rest of the pop as to other promised reforms ~~accepted~~ accepted in Houh Kom ... pop ... about 40,000 - mostly Montagnard highlanders. It is the 7th or 8th since Nov 61

Although a mil. officer will probably be appointed chief Prov. Ch., Mi. ~~in~~ in are expected to be appointed to key prov, dist & sect. posts. Secret

SECRET NOFORN

81-1 SECRET NO FURN

- Apr 55 Binh Xuyen bandit group takes armed action against SVN Army & security units in Saigon, spreading ultimately into large-scale disturbance in the S. provinces w/ Cao Dai & ~~Hoa Hao~~ ^{participate} Hoa Hao.
- Apr 55 Nakhon repudiation deposes Diem in favor of Diem (Ngao) who proclaims SVN a rep. & self as Pres.
- Mar 56 1st gen elects ^{give} ~~form~~ project parties & electing majority in Constituent Assembly.
- Sept 56 1st constituent promulgated & Constituent Assembly transformed into National Assembly.
- Jun 57 Fr withdraws all for. lang. ~~mass~~ dissolved, completely withdrawn of Fr. for. from VN.
- Jun 58 Fresh talks along Cambodian border strain relations w/ Cambodia.
- Aug 59 2nd gen elects give project parties & electing majority again in National Assembly.
- Jan 60 Large Communist force band attacks SVN army ^{regime} ~~regime~~ in Tay Ninh.

SECRET NO FURN

27 CONF MHA

 $\frac{15}{5}$

INTRO

Oppos. Forc.

PAVN Strengths & Weaknesses

... The most imp. of these [weaknesses] in terms of conventional warfare, are the nations primitive EC, material deficiencies, a limited urban capacity, a shortage of tank facilities & qualified instructors, a dearth of tech. skills, a lack of armored units & air support, and an inadequate trans sys. of effectively sustaining conventional warfare.

... strengths of the PAVN are its dedicated leadership, combat proven, cohesive & disciplined organization, high cross-country mobility, ease of employ. & unconv. tactics & proximity to foreign support bases.

CONF MHA

CONF MHA
26

15
1,3-5

INTRO.
Opposing Force.
PAVN - Post Development

Origin of PAVN

in 1944 when a group of ^{North} Viet fighters entered Indochina with a view to establishing a small force to fight the Japanese under the command of Vo Nguyen Giap. ~~After~~ After establishing contact with local groups & minority, they built up a Comm-controlled organization which was more concerned with its own expansion & consolidation than in the fighting. The Japanese of the arms they which the Allies had provided for their purpose.

As a result, the Coms were organized to institute operations against the Japanese after the Japanese surrender. This date (May 1945) marked the end of the loosely organized but formidable guerrilla force & the beginning of the more tightly organized, formally organized PAVN.

Gen. Giap, 1946-1949

Gen. Giap began Indochina war with a heterogeneous, equipped force of about 50,000 men. Emphasis placed on the development of guerrilla bases, initially in the traditional ^{North} Viet ~~land~~ in the mountainous regions of the Tonkin Delta. Efforts were made to develop areas of "popular resistance" in the densely settled delta regions where conventional mil. ops. were hampered by numerous rivers.

CONF MHA

a b a CONF MHA

channels, canals, streams, & dikes. Small, well-trained mobile detachments sought out & attacked weak or sensitive pts. in the Tr. def. sys, while local gva detachments harassed Tr. outposts, patrols, & lines of comm. By these methods, and by withdrawing or dispersing when faced w/ superior Tr. forces, the rebel forces absorbed & frustrated the vigorous Tr. offensive in the 1947-48 dry season & inflicted heavy losses on the Tr. ...

3) Development of the Battle Corps 1950-1951

The constant end purpose of the Viet Minh (Vietnam doc lap dong minh hoi, Southern Country Independence Alliance Association, or The League of Independence of ~~the~~ Vietnam) appears to have been to establish centrally-controlled means for coordinating major ops, while local gva detachments attacked Tr. outposts & patrols.

With the arrival of the Vietnamese Chi Coms from the banks of the NV in late 1949 & early 1950, the military forces of these Coms were greatly enhanced. The Chi Coms brought plenty of weapons, supplies, advisors & other assistance. In addition, these Coms influenced large numbers of gvas from Chh zone, formed them into cadres of regts & divs, & sent them into the CTs in S.Ch. By autumn 1950, the nucleus of what has become known as the "battle corps" had been formed and armed w/ numerous auto weapons, mortars, & some Lt. arty, most of which the Chi Coms had captured from the Chi Nats. These new units were first tested in battle in Oct 1950, when they routed numerically inferior Tr. forces at gva posts on the NV-Th border. Impressed w/ their victories, the

CONF MHA

CONF MHA

26c

When Fr. air born force estab'd a new base at Dien Bien Phu in Nov. 1953, the PAVN
 15 determined to make an all-out effort to destroy this 14 Base of the Fr. which was committed in that
 area. After lengthy log prep. & meticulous development of flt fortis, the PAVN on 13 March 1954
 initiated a series of strong attacks which led to the decisive Fr. defeat & collapse on 7 May.
 No other were attempted by intensive arty & mortar bombardments on a scale previously unknown in
 the Indoch. War. Following its victory at Dien Bien Phu, the PAVN reorganized its "battle
 corps" to the Red River Delta & steadily inv. No tempo of its attack throughout the 1954 Gen. Conf
 until the Armistice was signed on 20 July.

CONF MHA

28 CONF MHA

15
20

INTRO

Oppos. Force.

PAVN - Org'n of FLD Force

Control & Composition

The FLD force are under the opnl cont. of the Admin Ch. of the PAVN, ... The PAVN is still primarily an inf. Army & the div. is the highest terr. unit.

The PAVN is stratified into 3 diff levels of troops, depending on man & armament

Reg. divs + regt battal force. They are known as the Main Force (Chu-luc) & constitute the main body of the PAVN.

2d grp is composed of numerous semi-regular units, which would fight primarily at the provincial level. Their eq. is lighter & less uniform, & their range of ops is limited generally to their own province. They are known as the Regional Troops (Bo Dai Dai ~~Di~~ Dia Phuong). They rarely operate above regional level and their basic unit is the provincial Bn (tieu don tap trung Tinh)

Lastly, there are the militia troops estab'd in every village or district, activated & senter into action only when needed for particular ops. The local militia (or "popular troops") are known as Du-kich. They operate at district or village level.

CONF MHA

25 CONF MHA

 $\frac{15}{1}$

INTRO

Oppos Forces

DUN (PAVN - Composite + Cont)

Composite

The A.F.s of Comm. NVN, known as the People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) consist almost entirely of ground forces. There is a small naval force which performs a coast guard role and a civil air element. The overall strength is approx 3,000,000 men.

Control

Control of the A.F. is exercised by the Pres. thru the Ministry of Nat. Def. Policy at the highest level is determined by the Nat. Def. Council [USA = Nat Sec. Coun] & put into effect by the Min. of Nat. Def., who is also the Com in Ch of the A.F.

CONF MHA

32 CONF MHA

15
19

INTRO
Oppos. Force
PAVN - Tactics & Speeches

Arbitration

During the war [31] infit. was the common method of access to exiled terr. These Comd units fighting in their ~~home~~ home terr. carry blanket of the pop by denying cv. clothes. The captive attitude of the pop, the impotence of the ^{com. force} terr. & their ineffective state sys. of defense all combined to favor these tactics.

The West Coms carefully plan this type op, take into account the terr. The proximity of clandestine outposts when the op is under the vigilance of PAVN. Nearly all ex-held points are considered capt. of some degree of infit. Ops usually conducted at night & may involve for 500-1000 men to a regt. Close 100 members of paramil troops who cover the perimeter pts & who may make a diversionary atk why infit. is going on. Once inside on base, the infit. unit reassembles at a designated village or point.

CONF MHA

15 UNC

469 14

INITIALS
Opp's Forces
PAVN

1. The People's Army of VN, organized officially in 1946, developed out of the Com-led forces, which after WWII, took no offensive against the F. side.

UNC

31 SECRET MIA

16
8-9,15

INTRO
Oppos. Fers. & Great based
PACM (X see note)

I. Ogh

9 Regular Fers.

Militia (Dan Quan) + Self-Defense Forces (Dan Quan Tu Ve)

15 Militia (small militia units)

Self Def Fers. (urban & industrial militia units)

It seems now that the only [Militia] is to be the head one of the trained res.
that will result from the introduction of conscription in a large scale.

* 27 provisions in NVN - ② (15) - 10

SECRET MIA

24 UNC

JULIO
Oppos For
DUN - (PAVN - General)

14
494-495

Strategic Considerations

... coastline about 1/3 that of SVN, but depth smaller in area (60,800 mi²) & absent as vul. to attack
for land ^{or} sea & air.

Border - L (725) Com Ch (600 miles)

Full-scale convent. mil. ops, ^{with the country} would have to be supported for outside sources. Supp by land air (The Solinas
Com Ch would have to pass over long & tenuous lines of comm. vul. to air attack. Likewise, sea transport into
495) & thru the Gulf of Tonkin would offer favorable targets for subs, surf ships, or carrier-based attack. Moreover, however,
would encounter a restricted road net, land swamps or inhosp. terrain.

As in the South, the terrain lends itself to the hit-&run tactics of guerrilla warfare. It is generally unsuitable for
convent. mil. ops. The interior region would be particularly favorable for a refuge of road's into the border lowlands.

UNC

29 CONF MHA

15
16, 18

INTRO
Oppos; Force
PAVN - Tactics

Ambush (Spec/Opns)

Term of Ambush is extremely serious & dangerous, which are among the most common
When com. methods of attack. Ambush not only lets the other retain the initiative, but also permits him
to acquire ^{other} info & booty. In addition, ambush tactics often involve the use of "throw him off-balance"
results in few cases of the others.

When com. ambushes:

Detached platoon, close to, patient wait, rigid discipline, & extensive training. Most
imp. consideration is split of local pop, up which more intelligence data & reports would be impossible.
Proposed → Tactics against FF (Ambushes by Co. or larger unit)

Tracks set up along open road flanked by bushes, rice paddies or a few villages.

Hand-triggered mines used to control lead vehicle & rear vehicle, thus control the enemy.

Prior to ambush, the unit often placed up mines or other devices in the ditches or paddies along the
road to keep the enemy from road band. As consequence it became standard FF. tech. to fight for position
the vehicle of the enemy. When com. usually well protected in behind paddy walls & dikes.

CONF MHA

CONF MHA
29a

After the trap had been sealed, but before the air had a ^{time to} ~~change~~ recirculate, the 3rd sk. sounded its ctk for under the cfr of the runway.

1st sk usually 5 to 30 gals fuel used

Side ... 1200-1500 " " , started moving to parts of air rear of runway when 1st sk heard

Side ... 1500-2500 ... , moved rapidly, apparently when entered.

Location of the 2nd & 3rd sk also a good hint for fuel used to sound detectors. Their rapid movement was key to success of the ambush

16 Think on water band kicked the passage was restricted to lateral movement, on wings. Usually at a restricted passage of the water water bottom to further restrict movement of w/ under ctk.

CONF MHA

SUNDAY

1963 NOVEMBER 1963						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

10

NOV. 1963

Handwritten signatures and scribbles, possibly including the name "Lester".

MONDAY

OCT. 1963						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

11

NOV. 1963

DEC. 1963						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

APPOINTMENTS

7 a.m. *Geo*

8 a.m. *Res*

9 a.m. *Gut*

10 a.m. *Mt /, includ, emergency*

11 a.m.

12 noon

1 p.m.

2 p.m.

3 p.m.