

FACT SHEET

MACCORDS-RAD/A

29 November 1969
LT Clark/2789

SUBJECT: Son My Village

PURPOSE. To provide background information concerning the security situation in Son My Village, Son Tinh District, Quang Ngai in March 1968 and thereafter.

FACTS.

1. Son My village is located in the southeast corner of Son Tinh district Quang Ngai, about 5 miles ENE of Quang Ngai City (see attached map). It is an area of rolling coastal hills just south of the Botangan Peninsula. In March of 1968 the Hamlet Evaluation System (HES) showed that Son My had a population of about 9,000 contained in four hamlets:

	POPULATION	UTM
My Lai	2,433	BS 736724
Tu Cung	1,936	BS 720788
My Khe	1,692	BS 730768
Co Lay	2,604	BS 740778

The above populations were probably only estimates made from aircraft. The HES showed this village to be solidly VC in an area which has been a VC/Viet Cong stronghold for years. Only one-third of the population in Son Tinh district was rated C or above by the HES; even now, after one and one-half years of pacification and consolidation, only 7% of the population in Son Tinh is rated A, B, or C (compared to 92% nationwide).

2. The time period of interest post-3/1968, there were 1,300 Regional and Popular Forces in Son Tinh but none in this village due to the VC. There were both ARVN and US forces in the area. Most of the more secure areas were along Route 1 and in the vicinity of Quang Ngai City with travel considered unsafe over a few kilometers from Route 1.

3. The security situation in Son My as reported by the HES remained static (solid VC) until the end of 1968. No significant population changes were reported as the lack of security made census-taking impossible. In early 1969 the population of Son My was temporarily

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resettled in Trai Thien An, (an island in the mouth of the Song (river) Tra Kiuc) during operation Russell Beach and while US forces again operated in the area. In March they were moved again, to Binh Duc Village in Binh Son District to the north. In May, upon completion of Russell Beach, the population of all 4 hamlets was moved back to a location near the previous location of Tu Cung, now shown as BS 715778. Only 2,300 people moved back; the rest remained in Binh Duc. In August the 48th VC Battalion overran all the Batangan area, including Son My, and were subsequently driven out. Most recent unclassified data on Son My shows it to have an overall C rating; access is unfeasible except by helicopter and under arms. The population is still considered to be refugees living under inadequate conditions.



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