

06-1229-70

SUBJ: (C) Situation in the Border Area and Activities of Security Section, COSVN.

30 May 70
XT013898,
Kompong Cham
Prov, Cambodia
III & IV CTZ
B/1/27th Inf,
2/25th US Inf
Div
Batch No.
0489-70
Received CDEC:
1 Jun 70
Category: A

03.01

(C) (5 pages, typewritten; B-3) Report, number 196/BC, classified ((VC)) Top Secret, dated 11 Nov 69, prepared by C.109 ((possibly Security Section, COSVN)), addressed to the Current Affairs Committee of C69 ((possibly COSVN)), pertains to the activities of Doan 180 ((possibly 180th Armed Security Regiment, Security Section, COSVN)) and the situation in base areas ((of COSVN agencies)) and communication corridors in the ((Vietnam-Cambodia)) border area. Document states that Doan 180 was responsible for a border area 90 kilometers long, from Tien Co Stream to the Vam Trang Trau area. Most of the wooded areas in Vietnamese territory had been destroyed by defoliants, and a large area in A ((Cambodia)) had been cleared and cultivated by local Cambodian nationals. This caused billeting and operational difficulties for 28 political agencies subordinate to 269. Most of these agencies were located in A territory and some of them had a large number of personnel, including C71, the Civil Health Section, and the Finance-Economy Section ((of COSVN)) which had 15 to 20 subordinate elements. Each day, 400 to 500 people moved along ((VC/NVA)) communication corridors in the border area. The amount of traffic sometimes increased when ((VC/NVA)) troop movements and supply activities took place in this area. Also located in the border area were 13 ((VC/NVA)) units, and convalescence camps, hospitals, military training schools, depots, and various agencies, including Rear Service Group 82, Doan 94 ((possibly 94th Straggler Recovery and Replacement Regiment)), J20, Doan 69 ((possibly aka Artillery Command)), ((D)) 269, the Psywar Entertainment Section, the Motion Picture Section, the Postal Transportation and Communication ((Office)), transient stations, and one element of F9 ((possibly 9th VC Division)). The Cambodians frequently exchanged food and other items along ((VC/NVA)) communication corridors and in areas surrounding 13 ((VC/NVA)) entry and exit points. This facilitated the improvement of relations with local residents and ((VC)) supply missions. However, an increase in enemy espionage activities in these areas was expected. There were approximately 450 Vietnamese families in the Chang Riec, Tam Phc, and Hoa Hiep areas; and in two hamlets of Ta Pang ((Cambodian Village)). Most of the

03.01

Vietnamese were relatives of ((VC/NVA)) cadre or combatants. A few were people who had formerly served in enemy organizations. It was noted that A2 ((Red Cambodian)) troops were also located in these areas, further complicating the situation.

As of May 68, C109 had only seven cadre in charge of security in the border area. As of Oct 69, this agency had seven border security units subordinate to B4 of Doan 180. Many indoctrination courses had been given to cadre of these border security units, and they had accomplished assigned missions and maintained the relationship between ((VC/NVA)) agencies and Cambodian authorities. More than 200 ((VC/NVA)) stragglers and 100 weapons had been released by Cambodian posts, and all dissension had been settled. In Oct 69, the border security units escorted 200 to 300 ((VC/NVA)) cadre, including some very important personnel, along ((VC/NVA)) communication corridors. Security maintenance had improved, and all ((VC/NVA)) cadre had correctly executed the regulations on the protection of the ((COSVN)) base area in the border area. However, the border security units have encountered difficulties caused by A2 troops in the ((VC)) base areas. To avoid surprise enemy ((US/RVNAF)) attacks and airstrikes, ((VC/NVA)) cadre have given them instructions on security maintenance for their bivouac areas. The A ((Cambodia)) Government also continued to destroy forests in an attempt to limit activities of A2 forces and to isolate ((VC/NVA)) base areas in the border area. As a result, ((COSVN)) agencies could not disperse in a large area, and their activities and locations were vulnerable. Efforts had been made to persuade the Cambodian authorities to stop clearing wooded areas; however, additional money was needed for further arrangements.

Document also criticizes elements of Doan 94, C23 ((possibly element of Group 82, Rear Service Staff Department, Headquarters, SVNLA)), V21, V1/16, and some ((VC/NVA)) combat units for violation of security regulations, and reveals that C23 had contacted Cambodian authorities without permission of the border security units, and that some ~~((VC/NVA)) units had moved an entire battalion through various Phum Cambodia hamlets~~). In conclusion, the document recommends that C109 be permitted to continue controlling the border area and to deal with all incidents on the spot; and that the Border Area Section of the Military Affairs Party Committee, Headquarters, SVNLA, be informed of the current situation and of lessons learned while protecting ((VC)) base areas in the border area.

H - M O O