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SOUTH VIETNAM

REPORT ON PLAF MILITARY ACTION IN SOUTH

Gia Dinh Province

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LIBERATION PRESS AGENCY (Clandestine) in English to East Europe and the Far East  
1627 GMT 3 Jan 69 B

[Text] South Vietnam, January 3 GPA--The regional forces and guerrillas in Gia Dinh close to Saigon on December 17 destroyed eight among 12 military vehicles moving from Dong Du post for a probe in the surrounding areas. All the GI's on board were wiped out.

The following day, the regional forces and guerrillas set ablaze eight other vehicles in an ambush against a 15-truck convoy moving from Trung Ho post to take the guerrilla pressure off Highway 7.

On December 20, the liberation fighters wrecked 12 enemy vehicles on Highway 1. At the same time, guerrillas slipped into a strategic hamlet and killed or wounded 16 U.S. troops and destroyed two military vehicles.

Bien Hoa Province

Hanoi VNA International Service in English 1712 GMT 31 Dec 68 B

[Text] Hanoi VNA December 31--In a 1-hour fight on December 19, the regional armed forces in Bien Hoa Province wiped out over 100 American air cavalrymen, G.P.A. reported. The casualties accounted for about one-half of an enemy force raiding the Dac Cat area in the northern part of the province.

In their headlong flight, the remnants of the enemy were overtaken by the patriotic forces, and took many more casualties.

The next day, elements of the U.S. 1st Air Cav again ventured into Dac Cat, and there they were taken under big gun fire. The enemy's losses in men totalled about one company.

In Binh Long Province, the regional forces on the night of December 23 assaulted the Nui Dat position by the side of Highway 13. The surprise attack resulted in one puppet company of 100 men wiped out, and the destruction of two mortars, an ammunition dump, and many tents.

The puppet 5th Paratroop Battalion positioned at the An Vien rubber plantation in Ra Ria Province was attacked by the regional liberation forces, who violently shelled the signal centre and the artillery site, and charged the enemy fiercely.

During 2 hours, the liberation forces wiped out two companies and the battalion headquarters of the enemy. The enemy's fatalities included 15 American advisors and many puppet officers.

Quang Nam Province

LIBERATION PRESS AGENCY (Clandestine) in English to East Europe and the Far East  
1529 GMT 4 Jan 69 B

[Text] South Vietnam January 4 GPA-- The guerrillas and regional forces of Quang Nam Province on December 22 inflicted on the enemy 55 casualties during an attack in the Western part of Hoa Vang district.

Counter-attacking the enemy in the evening, the regional forces in Duy Xuyen district wiped out 11 G.I.'s. The next day, the people's armed forces put out of action a number of enemy troops and destroyed a post north of Vinh Dien bridge, and killed or wounded 85 enemy in an assault in the western part of Dai Loc district.

A U.S. force violating the N.F.L. ceasefire on December 24 in Que Son district was intercepted by the P.L.A.F. and took 40 casualties.

#### More on Quang Nam

LIBERATION PRESS AGENCY (Clandestine) in English to East Europe and the Far East  
1520 GMT 3 Jan 69 B

[Text] South Vietnam, January 3 GPA--In the 9 days ending December 23, 1968, the People's Liberation Armed Forces in northern Quang Nam mounted 120 attacks against 86 enemy positions. Thirteen of the targets hit were inside Da Nang city. Four district capitals and townships, four airfields and the Da Nang military port, and the Da Nang and Nuoc Man airbases were shelled twice by the P.L.A.F.

According to still incomplete figures, in these action the liberation forces put out of action 1,212 enemy troops, including 269 Americans and 59 Pak Chong-hui mercenaries, and destroyed 30 military vehicles, four 105 mm cannon and 106.7mm mortars. They also shot down four aircraft, blew up 15 blockhouses and many barracks, and seized a large quantity of firearms, ammunition and other military equipment.

#### Tay Ninh Province

Hanoi VNA International Service in English 0239 GMT 2 Jan 69 B

[Text] Hanoi VNA January 2--The regional forces and guerrillas in Chau Thanh district, Tay Ninh Province, on December 24, 25, and 26 wiped out three puppet companies and shattered five U.S. aircraft during actions to punish the enemy for sabotaging the National Front for Liberation's order on suspension of military attacks during Christmas, GPA reported.

Fighting American planes which came to raid Ta Pang village in the same district in violation of the ceasefire order, the regional forces and guerrillas knocked down five helicopters, wiping out all the U.S. crew members on board.

On the very morning of Christmas, one puppet commando company conducted a raid in the village, only to be wiped out. All weapons of the raiders were seized.

Next morning, another puppet commando company moved into the Ta Pang area for a sweep, but it was quickly destroyed. Enemy reinforcements were sent to the scene, and took losses totalling one company.

Also according to GPA, the regional forces in Binh Long province at 10:30 a.m. on December 27 ambushed an enemy convoy in An Loc area along Highway 13, 5 km north northwest of Hon Quan provincial capital.

About twenty trucks were destroyed, 140 GI's killed or wounded and five helicopters shot down.

On the afternoon of the following day, an aircraft hunting team of the guerrillas knocked down another helicopter 7 km northwest of Hon Quan.

## Gia Lai Province

LIBERATION PRESS AGENCY (Clandestine) in English to East Europe and the Far East  
1546 GMT 2 Jan 69 B

[Text] South Vietnam January 2 GPA--In a surprise attack on a U.S. officers' base camp in Hon Cong area, some 2 km west-north-west of Lai Khe base, the liberation forces in Gia Lai Province, on the high plateaux, on the night of December 22 killed or wounded nearly 100 GI's, mostly officers. They destroyed or captured a large quantity of weapons and other military equipment.

The same night, the liberation forces shelled the enemy position at Tan Tao, north of the Hon Cong camp, burning down many barracks and ammunition storages.

## Thu Dau Mot Province

LIBERATION PRESS AGENCY (Clandestine) in English to East Europe and the Far East  
1536 GMT 5 Jan 69 B

[Text] South Vietnam January 5 GPA--The People's Liberation Armed Forces on January 3 assaulted elements of the U.S. 1st Infantry Division near Hon Quan township in northern Thu Dau Mot Province, causing to the enemy many casualties, Western sources reported.

The same day, the P.L.A.F. in Bich Hoa Province intercepted 3 freighters transporting U.S. military material on Long Tau River, southeast of Saigon.

At night, the P.L.A.F. shelled 2 puppet positions in Cu Chi district, Gia Dinh Province.

LAM: SAIGON RECOGNIZES NFLSV AS A 'REALITY'

Paris AFP in English 1550 GMT 7 Jan 69 C (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

[Text] Paris, Jan 7-(AFP)--South Vietnam recognizes the National Liberation Front as a reality among others and is willing to discuss with it NFL participation in the country's political life, Ambassador Pham Dang Lam, head of the Saigon delegation to Paris peace talks, said here today. Addressing a luncheon of the Diplomatic Press Association, Ambassador Lam said: Now we agree to examine with the front the conditions in which its members could rejoin the national community and later participate in the political life of South Vietnam.

Mr Lam went on to say that the Vietnamese problem could "not be solved unless the Laotian issue and that of the borders of Cambodia were also settled." The borders of these two countries must be controlled so that these countries do not become sanctuaries of the communists, he said. I do not want to criticize these governments, but to settle the Vietnamese problem, an effective control must be established. In Laos there has been a flagrant violation of Laotian neutrality by North Vietnam and there are now permanently no fewer than 40,000 North Vietnamese soldiers there. This figure does not come from me, but was cited by the Prime Minister of Laos, Prince Souvanna Phouma.

## Further Details

Paris AFP in French 1551 GMT 7 Jan 69 C (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

[Excerpt] In answer to a question, Ambassador Lam stated that the military problem [in Vietnam] was not only of interest to Washington and Hanoi, but essentially concerned South Vietnam.

The political problem in general, he added, is the concern of Saigon and Hanoi. As for the internal problem of South Vietnam, it is a question of the National Liberation Front's rejoining the national community.

The ambassador recalled that heretofore his government had opposed all recognition of the NFL as a whole, but had always been ready to receive its members as individuals in the national community. Now we agree to examine with the NFL the conditions in which its members could rejoin the national community and later participate in political life. We recognize the NFL as a reality among others.

Asked about the demands of the NFL for the formation of a peace government in Saigon, Ambassador Lam replied that the communist demand for the establishment of a peace government only had the result of delaying the opening of the talks.

Mentioning then a possible neutralization of South Vietnam on the pattern of Laos, the head of the South Vietnamese delegation declared that the example of Laos was not very convincing. The neutrality of Laos, guaranteed by the 1954 and 1962 agreements of Geneva, did not protect that country from the invasion of North Vietnamese troops or insure the security it required.

In a preliminary statement the ambassador expressed support for peaceful coexistence between South Vietnam and North Vietnam once peace is reestablished. For our part we are ready for it, and we hope the north will sincerely subscribe to this, he said, but we reject any hastily arrived at peace which contains the germs of an even longer and more deadly conflict later.

#### Ky Statement

Singapore AFP in English 0605 GMT 8 Jan 69 B (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

[Text] Saigon, January 8 (AFP)--Vice President Nguyen Cao Ky, supervisor of South Vietnam's delegation at the Paris talks, has said he is prepared to sit down at any shape of table at the conference, the government-run VIETNAM PRESS news service reported here today. Ky said "he had gone to Paris to discuss the ending of the war waged by the communists, not to sit at a square or round table", the news service said.

The vice president announced this apparent concession when he received a delegation from the National Assembly's foreign affairs committee. Ky added, however, that he opposed the communists "exploitation of the shape of a table to make propaganda".

The 38-year old fighter pilot also called for an international military force to guarantee South Vietnam's security after the withdrawal of North Vietnamese and American troops from the country. As soon as this force was in operation, "the problem of the so-called South Vietnam Liberation Front will become an internal issue which can be easily solved", Ky was quoted as saying.

He was also sure Hanoi would withdraw its troops from South Vietnam because the battlefield was becoming "more and more unfavourable."

Ky said the date of his return to Paris depended on President Nguyen Van Thieu and that he was still awaiting Thieu's decision. He denied a report that he and his staff were now to set up their headquarters not in Paris, but in Geneva.