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Military

GEN. LAM ON I MILITARY REGION SITUATION

Saigon, September 9, 1970--Lt. Gen. Hoang Xuan Lam, Commander of the First Corps and First Military Region recently affirmed that the Communists failed in their attempt to occupy O'Reilly and other RVNAF bases in the vicinity.

Lt. Gen. Lam disclosed that two large NVN units - the 304th divisions - recently concentrated South of the Khe Sanh area to initiate the attempt but they could not.

The 304th division, for having sustained heavy casualties, escaped to the Laotian Vietnamese border area.

Meanwhile, the enemy division 324-B only launched insignificant shelling attacks on the above said allied and RVNAF military bases.

Deeper in the Southern part of the First Military Region, after some fierce engagements with the RVN 2nd Infantry Division and the Quang Da Special Sector Forces at Hiep Duc and Thuong Duc, the Communists also withdrew to the Western mountainous areas for re-organization.

According to Lt. Gen. Lam, about 15 NVN regular regiments were spotted in the First MR waiting for opportunities to advance into the coastal area, from their concentrating points in the mountains.

Dealing with the ARVN activities, Lt. Gen. Lam said that the 2nd Infantry Division has been tirelessly launching pursuit operations along the Laotian Vietnamese border.

area especially in Kham Duc and A Ro valleys and has thus far succeeded in destroying many Communist logistics facilities.

Last Saturday, the 2nd Infantry Division seized a Red arms cache in Quang Ngai containing about 50 tons of ammunition, the First Corps and First MR Commander said.

He also predicted that, the Communists will step up their terrorist actions to bolster their lowering prestige.

However, he added, the enemy could not aspire to their black schemes. Even in Da Nang, he said, in the past two months, about 45 Communist infrastructure cadres and terrorist agents were captured.

According to the First Corps Commander, the Communists are in low fighting spirit since they have been continuously defeated on all battlefields.

Moreover, owing to the shortage of foods, medicines people's support, the enemy combat efficiency is being growingly affected.

The First Corps and First MR Commander also disclosed that many Communist cadres preferred to be captured by the RVNAF better than to rally the RVN government side for fear of reprisals by their leaders who condemned defections.

A recently captured document of the enemy indicated that a high-ranking officer of the Communist 5th division asserted that the fighting spirit of several subordinate combat units "is going downhill".

On this occasion, Lt. Gen. Lam made it known that in order to reinforce their strength in the First MR an estimated force of three North Vietnamese divisions were believed having crossed the Ben Hai River in small groups.

However, according to the First MR Commander all those enemy groups which succeeded in crossing the 17th parallel, have been annihilated by air bombings and tactical air strikes upon their entrance in Quang Tri territory and only a few reached the Southern border area.