

WYLE / SUBJ
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SUBJ: Message on the General Situation in VC Military Region 3 To NVA /
General Hoàng Văn Thái. (U)

02-1050-71

(C-Apr 71) (13 pages, typewritten; R-3) Message, dated 11 Oct (1970), prepared by Nam ((possibly of VC Region 3 Party Committee)), addressed to Brother Mười Khang ((possibly NVA General Hoàng Văn Thái)), pertains to the general situation in the K3 ((possibly VC Military Region 3)) theater of operations.

6 Jan 71
U Minh Hả
An Xuyên Prov
RVN MR 4
RVNAF IV Corps
Batch No.
125/KTTL/71 &
090/QD4/P2
U Minh
Received CDEC
1 Feb 71
Category: A

The three-part document first reviews enemy ((US/RVNAF)) combat, psywar, and pacification activities conducted from Aug 68 to Sep 70, and especially the recent application of the ((GVN)) "Land for Tillers" policy.

In the second part, the document reveals that various friendly ((VC/NVA)) activities decreased in the third quarter of 1970 as compared with the first several months of the year. The population was 30,000 to 40,000 people in liberated areas, 50,000 to 60,000 in disputed areas, and more than 2,000,000 in GVN controlled areas. There were over 1,000 densely populated hamlets having neither Party members nor guerrillas. Among 149,000 Farmers's Association, 88,300 Women's Association, and 13,000 Youth Group members, only 20% of them participated in routine ((political)) activities. The guerrilla strength in the entire Region was about 7,000. On the average, there were less than two guerrillas in each hamlet. The total strength of district and city units was 2,000 to 2,250 and that of province units was 2,500 to 2,700 persons. On the average, the combat strength of each district was 15 soldiers and that of each province was two companies. There were no replacements for various main force units. From Jun 69 to Sep 70, E273 ((possibly former 273rd, aka D2 Main Force Regiment)) got no replacements. At the beginning of the year, each d ((battalion)) of E10 ((possibly 95A Regiment, 5th VC Division)) had 250 men. They now had 180. The strength of D303/E1 ((possibly 303rd Battalion, D1 Main Force Regiment)) decreased from 150 to 88 members. Troop proselyting activities were poorly conducted because political struggle movements were not given due consideration. The document also mentions the low fighting spirit of cadre and Party members, especially of local force units and province, district, and village agencies. Weaknesses prevailing in the leadership of cadre at all levels were also mentioned.

Mass uprisings were to be instigated and the guerrilla warfare movement was to be stepped up in the area running from north of the Cai Lon River through ((VC)) Vinh Long and Trà Vinh Provinces. The document also asks for 2,000 replacements for 1971 and 1,500 for 1972, and about 200 tons of weapons and ammunition per year.

In conclusion, the document states that it would be many years before the balance of power in the Region turns in the friendly favor. Only when the US Army Forces withdraw from the South and RVN Regular Forces are thinly deployed, can friendly forces win great victories.