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7/72

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SUBJ: VC Security Activities in Mỹ Tho Province, VC Region 2. (U)

(C-Jun 73) Item 1: (27 pages, handwritten; B-3) Notebook, with entries dated from 23 May to 30 Jun 72, maintained by an unidentified member ((possibly of the Security Section of the VC Region 2 Party Committee, assigned to operate in Mỹ Tho Province, VC Region 2)), contains minutes of meetings, intelligence, and security reports, and excerpts from some directives.

An entry dated 23 May 72 reveals that on the night of 16 May 72, C3, D504 ((possibly the 3rd Co, 504th Main Force Bn, VC Kiến Tường Province Unit)) launched an attack on the 65th ((RVNAF Regional Force)) Inter-Group in Nhôn Hòa Lập Village.

In a directive recorded on 27 May 72, it was noted that more than 50 villages with a total population of 200,000 persons were liberated ((by the VC)) ((in VC Region 2)). Regarding the missions to be performed in the Route 4 area, the directive prescribes that every effort should be made to intensify friendly attacks along the route, especially the sections linking Nhị Bình with Nhị Quí, Bình Phú with An Củ, and Hậu Thạnh with Cái Bè. In the three towns of CL, CB, and VK ((possibly Cái Lậy, Cái Bè, and Vĩnh Kim)), penetration bases should be established in the towns' fringe areas, and destructive attacks should be launched against enemy storage installations and administrative offices.

Notes recorded on 9 Jun 72 contain an intelligence report listing the names of key ((RVN)) police and administrative officials in Cái Bè District and its subordinate villages. It was further noted that the ((Security)) Section of Cái Bè District has Phước as Section Chief, and Năm Tấn as Asst Chief. In addition, there was a 10-member armed security unit, a two-member recon-security unit, and one judicial cadre. Comrade Năm Tý is Chief of the Mỹ Lợi Village Security Section. Currently, Mỹ Thanh Hamlet has three secret security agents; and Mỹ An Hamlet, six secret security agents. Of the 41 ((RVN)) People's Self-Defense Force members in Mỹ Trung Village, six were motivated to join ((VC)) guerrilla elements. The remainder were instigated to desert. Comrade Bảy Dấu is Chief of the Mỹ Tây Village Security Section, and Comrade Tú is Asst Chief. There are five secret security agents in Mỹ Nghĩa Hamlet, three in Mỹ An Hamlet, and two in Mỹ Thanh Hamlet.

CDEC LOG NO.

07-1229-72

6 Jul 72  
WS905771  
Kiến Tường  
Prov  
RVN MR 4  
42nd Ranger  
Bn, RVN MR 4  
Batch No.  
3376/KTTL/72  
887/QD4/P2  
Received CDEC  
20 Jul 72  
Category: C

The record indicates that Vùng ((Sector)) 4 ((possibly of VC Region 2)) is composed of five unspecified villages of KT ((possibly Kiên Thuận Province)); Mỹ An, Kiên Văn and Northern Cao Lãnh Districts of Kiên Phong ((Province)); and CB, CLB, CLN, CTB, and CTN ((possibly Cái Bè, Northern Cai Lay, Southern Cai Lay, Northern Châu Thành, and Southern Châu Thành)) Districts of Mỹ Tho ((Province)).

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An entry dated 12 Jun 72 contains an excerpt from Directive 30 ((possibly originated by the VC Region 2 Party Committee)) which prescribes the goals to be attained by friendly elements in the Đông Tháp Battle Zone. This excerpt calls for increasing military efforts to paralyze F7 ((the 7th RVNAF Inf Div)) and its subordinate battalions. In addition, sustained attacks should be conducted against enemy sectors, sub-sectors, district seats, and towns. Strategic hamlets should be destroyed, and enemy vital communication routes should be cut.

An entry dated 26 Jun 72 depicts a meeting held by the Current Affairs Committee of the ((Cái Bè)) District Party Committee to formulate an activity plan for the coming months. This plan calls for subordinate elements to (1) encircle enemy outposts in the Canal 28 area; (2) destroy the oppressive ((RVN administrative)) control in the Route 4 area; (3) seize control of Route 4; and (4) motivate the population ((in RVN-controlled areas)) to return to their home villages.

The following LBNs are listed in the document: ((LBN)) 40102 aka the Security Section of the Mỹ Tho Province Party Committee, and ((LBN)) 37483 aka the Security Section of ((VC)) Region ((2)).

(C-Dec 72) Item 2: (30 pages, handwritten; B-3) Notebook, with entries dated from 23 May to 26 Jun 72, maintained by an unidentified member of LBN 37483 ((See Item 1)) ((possibly assigned to operate in, Mỹ Tho Province, VC Region 2)), contains minutes of meetings, activity plans, and security notes.

An entry dated 23 May 72 states that the area encompassing the three villages of Mỹ Tây, Mỹ Lợi, and Mỹ Lương are to be regarded as a sensitive area where the bulk of friendly ((military and security)) efforts should be focused during an upcoming campaign ((unspecified)). A leadership committee ((for the cited sensitive area)) is to be activated with Bay Phước, Năm Tân, Bảy Học, and Tám Trên as key members.

Notes taken on 28 May 72 reflect a meeting held by HUCCB ((possibly the Cái Bè District Party Committee)) to work out an activity plan for Jun 72. During this month, the following are to be implemented within the district:

In the southern area of the district, steps should be taken to overrun a number of enemy outposts and seize partial control of Route 4. In the northern area ((of the district)), it is imperative to seize control of Route 20, Canal 28, and Mỹ Lợi Village. In addition, Route 30 should be continually harassed.

The sections of Route 4 between Hòa Khánh and Mỹ Thiện, Mỹ Tây and Hội Cú ((areas)) should be occupied by friendly elements for a prolonged period. In the district's various towns, a steady effort should be made to frustrate enemy conscription activities and the enemy's plan to activate People's Self Defense Force units.

An entry dated 12 Jun 72 prescribes that during the first months of the ((1972)) Spring-Summer Campaign, friendly forces ((in VC Military Region 2)) should be capable of destroying one-third of the enemy's regular units. The same entry further notes that an eventual defeat on the part of the enemy in the Mekong River Delta would mean sheer failure of the Vietnamization plan. Thus, it is vital for friendly forces to disintegrate enemy regiments and task forces, and in the meantime, destroy enemy communication routes linking ((VC Region 2 with)) Saigon.

(C-Oct 72) Item 3: (5 pages, handwritten; B-3) Letter 45/TM, dated 9 Apr 72, signed by Tu Phúc ((possibly of the Security Section of the My Tho Province Party Committee)), addressed to the Security Section of CT ((possibly Châu Thanh District, My Tho Province)), instructs the addressee to strictly adopt the ((NFLSVN's)) 10-point policy in dealing with enemy officials and their relatives. In addition, the addressee was to immediately disrupt the enemy's administrative control in various villages and hamlets. This could be achieved through the establishment of a people's front which is to be composed of various ((VC)) associations and political agencies. Emphasis should be placed on the elimination of ((RVN)) underground agents and special police elements. In conjunction, additional secret security members, armed reconnaissance personnel, armed security agents, informants, and fifth columnists should be urgently recruited. The rural areas should be employed as a base in which preparations for future attacks on ((RVN)) cities could be carried out. Also, secret armed reconnaissance teams should be sent into cities and towns to suppress tyrants ((RVN officials)).

(C-Aug 72) Item 4: (13 pages, typewritten; B-3) Directive, dated 28 Feb 72, prepared by the Current Affairs Committee of CL2 ((unidentified)), provides guidance on the intensification of mass uprisings in various villages and hamlets during the forthcoming period. The directive states that the present time is "ripe" for a new mass uprising drive throughout the district rural area. During Phase 1 of the drive, all the villages and hamlets where the ((VC)) influence is strong should be liberated. In disputed villages and hamlets however, it is vital to motivate various strata of the population to rise up and suppress the ((RVN)) local administrative control. In conjunction, the guerrilla warfare movement should be intensified, and enemy outposts should be encircled. In the villages and hamlets where friendly ((VC)) influence is weak, a steady effort should be made to recruit additional underground agents, develop the people's ((struggle)) movement, establish penetration bases, and impede enemy ((RVN)) conscription activities. Recent developments in the political and military situations ((in SVN)) made it imperative to resort to new tactics and concepts in the conduct of upcoming mass uprisings. Thus, the ((NFLSVN's)) ten-point policy should be regarded as a basis for the promotion of a solidarity among the ((Vietnamese)) people. A broad coalition between the ((RVNAF)) patriotic servicemen ((and VC associations)) should be established. In a subsequent stage, this coalition is to be materialized into a popular front which will be employed against the enemy's oppressive machinery ((RVN administrative control)), and especially against four principal objectives, namely ((RVN)) People's Assault Self Defense Forces, stubborn police elements, enemy outposts, and regular and Regional Force units. One of the most vital requirements to be fulfilled by various subordinate village ((units)) is the instigation of armed revolts inside People's Self Defense Force units. In the event these armed revolts turn out to be successful, the pertinent units should be "coverted" into ((VC)) guerrilla units. In all villages having weak ((VC)) infrastructures, particularly in the Hoà Hảo Religious Sect's areas, harassing activities should be launched against People's Self Defense Forces. The goal to be attained in these areas is the establishment of a ((VC)) administration which is to operate parallel with ((the RVN local administration)).

To expand ((VC)) liberated areas, supreme effort should be made to overrun enemy outposts or compel them to surrender. These goals could be attained through the employment of the following tactics and methods: (1) Sapper-type raids with the cooperation of fifth columnists, (2) guerrilla attacks with the cooperation of fifth columnists, (3) armed revolts or mutinies inside enemy ranks, (4) people's struggle movements in coordination with enemy soldiers' armed revolts, and (5) encirclement tactics designed to compel the defenders to surrender or withdraw.

The directive further calls for various villages and hamlets to promote the three following major popular movements during the forthcoming period: (1) A movement to oppose enemy conscription and terrorist activities; (2) a movement to motivate the villagers to return to their native lands to assume production and combat activities; and (3) a movement for the elimination of tyrants and for the destruction of the enemy's oppressive control.

(U) Item 5: (4 pages, handwritten; B-3) Self-critique statement, dated 30 Jan 72, prepared by Phan Mạnh, Ldr of Đ<sup>o</sup>i ((Unit)) X77 ((possibly an armed reconnaissance unit operating inside Mỹ Tho City)), lists Mạnh's achievements and shortcomings. Mạnh stated that even though he has displayed and unswerving determination to overcome all difficulties, he has failed to recruit ((VC)) underground agents and informants as required. Furthermore he has been unable to consolidate and develop his armed reconnaissance unit ((meaning Đ<sup>o</sup>i X77)), and to eliminate the ((RVN local)) officials as instructed. Mạnh further admits that all these shortcomings can be attributed to his inexperience in city affairs. Moreover, most of the members of his unit are natives of rural areas who are assigned to operate in ((Mỹ Tho)) City. Thus they had not been familiarized with their operating areas as yet. Đ<sup>o</sup>i X77 is organized into two cells, each of which is headed by a cell leader. Mạnh also states that he did not indulge in any licentious acts during a TDY mission in Mỹ Tho City on 29 Sep 71 with Comrade Hồng Thanh as charged.

(C-Aug 72) Item 6: (2 pages, handwritten; B-3) Letter, dated 2 May 72, signed by Chinh Đức ((possibly of the Security Section, VC Mỹ Tho Province Party Committee)), addressed to SACL 2 ((unidentified)), informs the latter of Comrade 4 Hoà's achievements while he operated in Thanh Hoà Village, CL Nam ((possibly Southern Cai Lậy District)). Comrade Tú Hoà had supplied the province with adequate intelligence information on Thanh Hoà Village.

(C-Sep 72) Item 7: (8 pages, handwritten; B-3) Record, dated 28 Jan ((72)) maintained by an unidentified member of A205 ((unidentified)), contains fragmentary notes on the missions of Khu Vực ((Area)) 1, Khu ((Sector)) 4 ((possibly of VC Region 2)). The records refers to a seven-member leadership committee of Khu Vực 1 which is to implement the resolutions adopted by KU ((possibly meaning the VC Region 2 Party Committee)). This Committee is placed under the direct leadership of the Current Affairs Committee ((possibly of the VC Region 2 Party Committee)). Its primary missions during the forthcoming period are to motivate the populace to rise up; carry out security missions ((possibly assigned by the VC Region 2 Party Committee)); and to compel the enemy ((RVNAF)) to abandon the Bà Khanh Ngã Tú, Đ<sup>o</sup>ông Cui, Đ<sup>o</sup>u Trâm, and B<sup>o</sup>ng Lăng Positions.