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3/75

SUBJECT: AFP REPORT ON BAN ME THUOT FIGHTING

3/13/75
1. WE WISH TO CALL THE ATTENTION OF ADDRESSEES TO AN AFP
ITEM DATED MARCH 12 FROM SAIGON. IT CONVEYS THE
COMMENTS OF A VIETNAMESE PRIEST WHO ESCAPED THE
FIGHTING AT BAN ME THUOT. ACCORDING TO HIS ACCOUNT AS
REPORTED BY AFP, THERE WERE VIRTUALLY NO NORTH VIET-
NAMESE TROOPS IN THE INITIAL ATTACK. VIET CONG TROOPS
AND MONTAGNARDS OF THE FULRO MOVEMENT WERE THE ATTACKERS,
HE SAID. THE PRIEST DID, HOWEVER, TESTIFY TO THE
PRESENCE OF TANKS SUPPORTING THE ASSAULT.

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