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AFP, SAIGON REPORTS ON CURRENT RVN MILITARY SITUATION

AFP Report

Hong Kong AFP in English 1528 GMT 15 Mar 75 BK

[Text] Saigon, March 15 (AFP)--Communist forces in the Central Highlands have captured the government base of Ban Don, 40 km (25 miles) north west of Ban Me Thuot, thereby assuring themselves of almost entire control of Darlac Province, the high command spokesman announced here today.

HISTORY OF THE VIETNAM WAR ON MICROFILM

Radio contact with the defenders of Ban Don has been lost since last night, and their fate was not known.

In Ban Me Thuot, the province's chief town, whose total loss was denied today by the spokesman, contrary to the statement by the Provisional Revolutionary Government (PRG) representative in Saigon, "Fighting is continuing in the streets, between the forces of the two sides, and neither of the two camps has become entire master of that town," the spokesman said.

In Darlac, government forces now only control a sector situated east of Ban Me Thuot, the district of Phuoc An and the chief town of the province, for the control of which communist and government forces have been fighting fiercely since Monday.

In Pleiku Province some 120 km (75 miles) to the north, communist sappers today infiltrated into the airport of the provincial chief town and destroyed a quantity of ammunition, the spokesman said.

Other communist units overnight infiltrated into a munitions depot near Pleiku, but were forced back the spokesman said, with the loss of two communist dead.

At the same time, National Liberation Front troops stepped up pressure on the chief town of Thanh An district, 30 km (18 miles) farther south, attacking strongly in the northwest and west.

The spokesman added however that it was too early to say whether the communists had launched a general offensive against the province.

Near another provincial capital, Kontum 420 km (260 miles) northeast of Saigon, the communists have been continuing their siege of one of the two chief towns to the government troops, Kien Duc, launching a fresh attack last night against the town headquarters.

In communist shelling today of the key government bases of Cam Ranh, on the central coast to the east, and Bien Hoa, which is also an airport, 30 km (18 miles) northeast of Saigon, a civilian was killed--at Cam Ranh-- and 15 others were wounded, the spokesman said.

#### Saigon Report

Saigon Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 15 Mar 75 BK

[Text] The general offensive initiated by communist North Vietnam throughout RVN territory has lasted for almost 2 weeks and communist forces continue to use tanks and big artillery pieces to launch new attacks.

Fierce fighting is continuing on the Ban Me Thuot, Thua Thien and Tay Ninh fronts. In Darlac, tank-supported communist forces yesterday afternoon attacked (Bandong), a camp in an area northwest of Ban Me Thuot provincial capital and met with strong reaction by our combatants there. Radio communications with this camp were interrupted afterward. Meanwhile, at noon yesterday communist forces supported by tanks launched an attack on our position in an area east of Ban Me Thuot Provincial capital and were counterattacked by our combatants. Casualties are being checked.

In Kien Duc, communist forces yesterday morning shelled and attacked Kien Duc subsector but were repulsed, leaving seven bodies and nine weapons on the battlefield.

In Pleiku, communist forces yesterday morning shelled and attacked our positions in area west of Thanh An district capital but were repelled. Seventeen communist troops were killed and 2 weapons seized.

In Kontum, communist forces at dawn this morning attacked a field police camp in an area southwest of the provincial capital but were driven back.

In Binh Dinh, communist forces yesterday morning attacked our positions in an area northwest of Binh Khe district but were repulsed with 20 communist troops killed and some weapons seized.

On the Ban Me Thuot battlefield, since 10 March, 1,101 communist troops have been killed and 4 others captured with 156 assorted weapons seized. Moreover, our combatants have also destroyed 62 tanks, 20 big artillery pieces and 20 trucks of the enemy.

Meanwhile, on the Military Region [MR] I front, communist forces yesterday morning attacked our positions in areas southwest of Nam Hoa district capital and east-southeast of Phu Loc district capital, Thua Thien Province but were repelled leaving on the battlefields 47 bodies and 25 weapons.

Furthermore, 40 communist troops were killed yesterday in various clashes in Quang Nam, Quang Ngai and Quang Tin provinces.

In MR III, in Tay Ninh Province, communist forces yesterday morning attacked our positions in an area northeast of Khiem Hanh district capital but were driven back. Our combatants killed 28 communist troops, captured another and seized 10 weapons. Yesterday afternoon, tank-supported communist forces attacked Tien Thuan post in an area in northwestern Hien Thien district but were repulsed. According to preliminary reports, one enemy tank was destroyed. Moreover, at dawn yesterday communist forces attacked Long Hoa and Rong Queo posts in northwestern and western Hieu Thien district, interrupting communications. Yesterday afternoon communist forces also attacked one of our units in an area in northern Duc Hue but were driven back. Reports on casualties are not available.

On the MR IV front, yesterday our combatants killed 90 communist troops and seized 19 weapons in launching counterattacks to drive back communist offensives in areas southeast of Moc Hoa provincial capital; southeast of Tuyen Binh district, Kien Tuong Province; northwest of Vinh Loi, Bac Lieu Province; and in Kien Hung, Kien Long and Kien Thien, Chuong Thien Province.

Furthermore, communist forces yesterday conducted many terrorist activities against our compatriots--such as shelling Cam Ranh city, the Bien Hoa airfield area and Long Thanh district, Bien Hoa Province, Kien Hung district capital, Chuong Thien Province, Chau Thanh district, Phong Dinh Province, Tra On and Vung Liem districts, Vinh Long Province, and Cai Lay district, Dinh Tuong Province; and mining passenger cars in Kien Thanh district, Kien Giang Province, killing or wounding tens of civilians.

All the above-mentioned incidents are typical of the 291 cease-fire violations committed by communist forces yesterday.

#### PRESIDENT THIEU INSPECTS MILITARY SITUATION IN MR II 14 MAR

Saigon VIETNAM PRESS in English 15 Mar 75 Morning Edition SG

[Text] Saigon, March 14 (VP)--President Nguyen Van Thieu at 10 a.m. Friday flew to MR II to review the local military situation, a correspondent of the national radio and television network reported.

Accompanying the president on the trip which ended at 2 p.m. were the prime minister and the chief of the ARVN Joint General Staff.

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