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Date 28 JUL 1983

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CITE DIRECTOR

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SAIGON

FOR

1. WE CONTINUE TO NOTE APPARENT ANOMALIES CONCERNING VC WEAPONS CAPTURED. ACCORDING TO MACV TELECON 20442 FROM MACCOC-3 DTG 220300Z JUNE US FORCES IN OPERATION FAIRFAX HAVE KILLED 773 VC AND CAPTURED 227 WEAPONS (RATIO 3:1) WHILE ARVN KILLED 122 VC AND CAPTURED 111 WEAPONS (RATIO ALMOST 1:1). IN OPERATION BILLINGS ON THE OTHER HAND, US FORCES CLAIM 343 VC KIA AND 6 WEAPONS CAPTURED. (RATIO 57:1) WE REALIZE FORTUNES OF WAR ARE ERRATIC, BUT VARIATIONS HERE APPEAR UNUSUAL.

2. IT OCCURS TO HQS THAT US FORCES MAY ACTUALLY CAPTURE MORE WEAPONS THAN REPORTED, BUT THAT MANY GO TO SOUVENIR HUNTERS. QUESTION, IT SEEMS TO US, BOILS DOWN TO THIS. ARE VC CAPTURED WEAPONS COUNTED BEFORE OR AFTER SOUVENIR SCRAMBLE?

3. WE ALSO NOTE NO REPEAT NO ROUTINE REPORTING OF WEAPONS

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CITE DIRECTOR 1415

LOST BY US UNITS. MACV MSG 27132 FROM MAC J42 DTG 260130Z MAY 67, A RESPONSE TO DIA QUERY, HOWEVER, MENTIONED SEVERAL HUNDRED M-16 RIFLES CUMULATIVELY LOST, OR CAPTURED BY THE VIET CONG. ORIGINAL INTENT OF REPORTING WEAPONS LOSSES BY BOTH SIDES WAS TO PROVIDE INDICATOR OF EXTENT TO WHICH VC WEAPONS INVENTORIES INCREASED OR DECREASED THROUGH COMBAT ACTION. APPARENT INCOMPLETE DATA ON VC WEAPONS CAPTURED BY US FORCES AND TOTAL ABSENCE OF DATA ON WEAPONS LOST BY US FORCES RENDERS CURRENT AND RECENT DATA VIRTUALLY USELESS AS INDICATOR.

4. SUGGEST YOU EXPLORE THESE FACTORS WITH APPROPRIATE MACV ELEMENTS WITH VIEW ENCOURAGING REMEDIAL ACTION, AND ADVISE HQS OF RESULTS.

END OF MESSAGE

WILLIAM L. COLBY

GEORGE A. CARVER, JR.
SAVA

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