J. (U) FOLLOWING STATISTICS FROM JAN 1975 HAMLET EVALUATION SYSTEM (HES) REPORTS ARE RELEVANT TO ONGOING AND POSSIBLE RVNAF REDEPLOYMENT FROM THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS:

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3. (SNFD) MR-3

A. (C) Activity in MR-3 remained high, with primary concentrations in western and eastern parts of region. Tay Ninh, Hau Nghia, Long Khanh, and Binh Tuy provs were sites of most significant activity. Statistics reflect sharp increase in operational activity over past week. Incident total rose from 279 to 542, RVNAF casualties (KIA/WIA) from 434 to 570, VNAF sorties from 320 to 485, and RVNAF arty expenditures from 25,708 to 52,941 rounds, highest since Aug, 1974.
B. (SNFD) Heavy pressure continues in Tay Ninh Prov, with the primary NVA/VC effort in the SW part of the Prov, along QL22 and near Khiem Hanh Dist town, E of Tay Ninh City, 9th NVA Div continues to push in the Khiem Hanh area. Poss coordination exists among 9th Div elements, 201st Regt/3rd Div and 101st NVA Regt. Previous info indicated 2 Regts of 9th Div (35C and 272nd) in E Tay Ninh. In addition, J2/JGS reports RVNAF forces have lost contact with 271st Regt/9th Div, previously in Central Binh Duong Prov. It is now believed moving to N Hau Nghia Prov. Supportive of this move, are indications of a U/I AA unit operating near the Binh Duong/Hau Nghia Prov border and numerous reports of large troop movements through SW Binh Duong.

Presence of additional 9th Div elements in SE Tay Ninh/N Hau Nghia increases the threat to QL-1 and makes isolation of Tay Ninh Prov more likely. RVNAF elements now concentrated in Tay Ninh would also be spread thinner to protect Locs, populated areas NW Saigon and 25th Arvn Div rear base at Cu Chi.
C. (S) THERE APPEARS TO BE A CONTINUING BUILD-UP OF ARTY AND AAA IN TAY NINH PROV. AT PRESENT, 5 ARTY REGTS PLUS INDEPENDENT BNS SUBORDINATE TO 75TH ARTY DIV ARE BELIEVED OPERATING IN THE AREA. ADDITIONALLY, PROBABLE AAA UNITS SUBORDINATE TO 377TH DIV ARE IN SUPPORT OF INF FORCES. APPROX 15 AA BNS ARE BELIEVED TO BE IN THE AREA, SOME OF WHICH PROBABLY HAVE BEEN USED IN A DIRECT FIRE ROLE.

D. (S) LOCAL SOURCES SUSPECT A LARGE BUILD-UP OF FORCES IN THE PARROT'S BEAK AREA. 3RD DIV ELEMENTS COULD COORDINATE WITH 205TH REGT AND ELEMENTS OF 5TH NVA DIV AND CONTINUE TO PUSH TOWARD GO DAU HA AND IN HAU NGHIA PROV W OF THE VAM CO DONG RIVER. RELATED TO THIS BUILD-UP, THE DUC HUE RGR BASE WAS REPORTED OVERRUN ON 21 MAR. J2/JGS BELIEVES 367B SAP REGT/5TH DIV WAS PROBABLY INVOLVED, FURTHER SUGGESTING 5TH DIV PRESENCE W OF VAM CO DONG RIVER. 105MM ARTY AND 120MM MORT FIRE ALSO SUGGEST PRESENCE OF 5TH DIV ARTY ELEMENTS. WHILE SOME 5TH DIV UNITS REMAIN COMMITTED IN GVN MR-4, A SHIFT OF MAJOR ELEMENTS TO MR-3 AND A 3RD DIV MOVE S SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASE THE THREAT TO SW TAY NINH AND W HAU NGHIA.
E. (C) THE OUTLOOK FOR TAY NINH AND SURROUNDING AREAS
IS FOR MAJOR ATKS ON QL-22, A CONCERTED NVA/VC EFFORT
TO OVERRUN GO DAO HA AND KHIEM DIST TOWN AND HEAVY ATKS
IN NORTHERN HAU NGHIA. CURRENT INFO SUGGESTS THAT
MAJOR ATKS MAY START AS EARLY AS THIS WEEKEND. DAO, SGN,
NOW BELIEVES THAT THE SUCCESSFUL DEFENSE OF TAY NINH PROV,
WITHOUT SERIOUSLY WEAKENING OTHER VITAL THREATENED AREAS, IS
NOT POSSIBLE.

F. (S) MAJOR SAP ELEMENTS MAY BE SHIFTING S TO PHU HOA
DIST/BINH DUONG PROV AND COULD CONDUCT ATKS IN COORDINATION
WITH SOME 9TH NVA DIV ELEMENTS AND LF. THE AREA IS NOT PRESENTLY
NVA DIV ELEMENTS AND LF. THE AREA IS NOT PRESENTLY
HEAVILY DEFENDED, AS GVN ATTENTION REMAINS FOCUSED IN
ADJACENT TAY NINH AND HAU NGHIA PROVS. ANY MAJ THREAT
WOULD FORCE FURTHER COMMITMENT OF ALREADY STRAINED RVNAF
IN THIS PART OF 25TH ARVN DIV AO.

G. (S) IN CENTRAL BINH DUONG PROV, ACTIVITY HAS BEEN
FAIRLY LIGHT, PROBABLY REFLECTING A THINNING OF NVA/VC
FORCES, NOW CONCENTRATED IN OTHER AREAS. 7 PW (ONE OF
WHOM HAS SINCE DIED) AND A DOC CONFIRM THE PRESENCE OF A
273RD REGT WHICH THE PW'S MAINTAIN IS OR WAS SUBORD TO
341ST NVA DIV. ONE PW REPORTS THAT THE ENTIRE REGT HAS
DEPLOYED. THE PW'S BN, THE 3RD, WAS APPARENTLY ATTACHED TO
THE 9TH NVA DIV. (SEE DAO IR#G-918-6690-75 FOR FURTHER INFO.)
CURRENT OB HOLDINGS INDICATE 273RD REGT WAS NEVER SUBORDINATED TO 341ST DIV, BUT, RATHER, WAS A SUBORDINATE REGIMENT OF MR-4 IN NVN. ELEMENTS MAY HAVE BEEN TRAINED BY 341ST DIV PRIOR TO MOVEMENT TO SVN.

H. (S/NFD) IN BINH LONG PROV, THE EVACUATION OF AN LOC COMMENCED ON 18 MAR. PRIOR TO DEPARTURE, RVNAF REPORTEDLY DESTROYED FIVE 155MM HOWS AND AIR LIFTED OUT TWELVE 105MM HOWS. TROOPS ARE NOW PROCEEDING TO CHON THANH, APPARENTLY WITH LITTLE RESISTANCE. AFTER ARRIVING IN CHON THANH, ALL RVNAF WILL PROCEED S ON QL-13 TO GVN LINES. THE WITHDRAWAL FROM AN LOC AND CHON THANH CONSTITUTES COMPLETE ABANDONMENT OF BINH LONG PROV.

I. (S) IN EASTERN MR-3, VC/NVA FORCES LAUNCHED MAJOR COMBINED ARMS ATK'S ALONG QL-20 WITH LARGE ATK'S ALSO OCCURRING ALONG QL-1, LTL333 AND AGAINST HOAI DUC DIST TOWN, BINH TUY PROV. ALONG QL-20, DINH QUAN DIST TOWN APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN LOST. RVNAF HAVE PULLED AWAY FROM THE LA INGA BRIDGE (YT4834) AND HEAVY PRESSURE IS CONTINUING AGAINST RVNAF POSITIONS FURTHER SOUTH. ATKG FORCES MAY INCLUDE 209TH REGT AND 210TH ARTY REGT/7TH NVA DIV. 141ST REGT ELEMENTS ALSO MAY HAVE BEEN INVOLVED AT DINH QUAN. RVNAF LOSSES HAVE BEEN HEAVY. ONE RF BN AND 2ND BN/43RD REGT/18TH ARVN DIV, WHO DEFENDED DINH QUAN, WERE ROUTED AND MOST OF THE OFFICERS IN THE ARVN BN WERE REPORTED AS BEING WIA OR KIA. TWO BNS OF 52ND ARVN REGT AND 1ST BN/ 43RD REGT ARE ATTEMPTING TO PUSH N OF KIEM TAN DIST TOWN, BUT HAVE BOGGED DOWN DUE TO HEAVY RESISTANCE. IN NORTHERN BINH TUY PROV, RADIO CONTACT WITH GVN DEFENDERS AT HOAI
DUC DIST TOWN WAS ALSO LOST FOLLOWING 2000 ROUND ABF AND A GND ATK. LOSSES TO SUBSECTOR DEFENDERS AND 3RD BN/
43RD ARVN REGT ARE BELIEVED TO BE HEAVY. LOSSES SUFFERED BY ATTACKING 812TH VC REGT ARE UNKNOWN. FURTHER S, RVNAF POSITIONS ALONG LTL333, INCLUDING GIA RAY, WERE OVERRUN BY 33RD AND 274TH REGTS/6TH NVA DIV. RVNAF DEFENDERS ARE REPORTED TO HAVE ABANDONED CHUA CHAN MTN, JUST E OF XUAN LOC. LONG KHANH PROV, FOLLOWING SEVERAL DAYS OF HEAVY SHELLINGS AND GND PROBES. XUAN LOC. DIST TOWN HAS ALSO RECEIVED SEVERAL ABF'S INCLUDING 105MM ARTY. VC/NVA ARE EXPECTED TO KEEP QL'S 1 AND 20 CLOSED FOR THE NEAR FUTURE. 7TH NVA DIV FORCES WILL PROBABLY ATTEMPT TO PUSH ARVN ELEMENTS DOWN QL-20 AND ATK KIEN TAN DIST TOWN.
6TH NVA DIV FORCES ARE NON EXPECTED TO TURN THEIR ATTENTION TO XUAN LOC, LONG KHANH PROV. ARVN HAS MOVED ONE BN OF 48TH REGT AND 5TH ARMORED CAV FROM TAY NINH TO LONG KHANH

J. (C) IN THE SAIGON/GIA DINH AREA, ON 18 MAR, A TERRORIST THREW AN EXPLOSIVE DEVICE ON A BUS CARRYING U.S. CONTRACTOR PERSONNEL TO BIEN HOA AIRBASE. A PASSENGER KICKED THE DEVICE OUT, BUT 11 AMERICANS WERE WOUNDED BY THE EXPLOSION, NONE SERIOUSLY. SAPPERS ALSO HIT A SMALL POL STORAGE AREA IN GIA DINH, DAMAGING FOUR POL TANKS AND WOUNDING 10 GVN PERSONNEL.
K. (S) The GVN Mr-3/4 border is a potential trouble spot. Although major elements of 8th and 5th NVA Divs are believed to be deployed elsewhere, elements of these Divs could deploy to the TGT areas in a very short time. Current RVNAF commitments elsewhere would seriously strain the GVN's defensive capabilities in this area.

L. (S) In the coming week, major atks are expected in Tay Ninh, northern Hau Nghia and Se Binh Duong provs. The Communists will continue their pressure along QL-1 and 20 in eastern Mr-3. ABF's and Gnd Probes against Xuan Loc are possible. Sappers will increase atks against major logistical, ammo and pol storage areas shortly. In the near term increased pressure is expected in southern Long An near QL-4.
A. (C) The Highpoint continued throughout the Delta as Communist forces demonstrated their capability to sustain OPNS following RVNAF Preemption during the preceding lull. The durability of the VC/NVA strongly suggests that the flow of supplies and infiltration CPS has been unimpeded. Statistics reflect activity level comparable to Jan Highpoint. Incident total rose from 655 to 863, RVNAF Casualties (KIA/WIA) from 622 to 1,261, and RVNAF ARTY expenditures from 38,368 to 48,032; there were 193 VNAF Sorties.
B. (SNFD) KIEN PHONG AND KIEN TUONG PROVS BOTH
REPORTED INCREASES IN COMBAT ACTIVITY, WITH THE FORMER
REACHING ITS HIGHEST LEVEL IN ALMOST A YEAR. PROBABLE
512TH BN ELEMENTS, WITH LF SUPPORT, TGTD OP'S IN HONG
NGU DIST. TO THE S, Z.18 REGT FORCES BEGAN A WESTWARD
DRIFT TOWARD MY AN DIST TOWN, APPLYING PRESSURE TO OP'S
AND OVERRUNNING A KEY FIRE SUPPORT BASE (FSB) ALONG
THE KIEN PHONG-DING TUONG PROV BORDER.

DESPITE LOSSES OF TROOPS AND
EQUIPMENT, RVNAF HAVE SINCE RETAKEN THIS POSITION, WHICH
ALLOWS THEM TO REESTABLISH AN ARTY FAN COVERING NVA/VC
BASE AREA 307 IN LOWER KIEN PHONG, SOUTHERN STRETCHES OF
RTE 1-A AND PORTIONS OF QL-4 IN NEIGHBORING DINH TUONG
PROV. RVNAF CURRENTLY FEEL THAT Z.18 AND 24TH REGTS/8TH
NVA DIV ARE MOVING TO ATK MY AN DIST TOWN AND HAVE DEPLOYED
ARVN UNITS TO THWART THE VC/NVA. IN KIEN TUONG PROV, 5TH
NVA ELEMENTS KEPT A FAIRLY LOW PROFILE; HOWEVER, ELEMENTS
OF 275TH (E-1) REGT/5TH NVA DIV FINALLY MANAGED TO OVER-
RUN BA THANH MINH FSB WHICH HAD LONG WITHSTOOD EARLIER EFFORTS
INITIATED BY 367B SAP REGT. BA THANH MINH, LOCATED ABOUT 14 KMS SE OF MOC HOA, WAS THE SOLE ARTY POSITION FROM WHICH FIRE COULD BE DIRECTED AGAINST EASTERN AND NORTHERN APPROACHES TO MOC HOA AND RTE 1-B. REMAINING ACTIVITY CONSISTED OF ROUTINE SHELLINGS NW OF MOC HOA AND TUYEN NHON DIST TOWN. AVAILABLE INFO SUGGESTS THAT ELEMENTS OF 174TH AND 367B SAP REGTS/5TH NVA DIV MAY HAVE JOINED 6TH REGT IN WESTERN GVN MR-3. IF VALID, THE VC/NVA APPARENTLY HAVE REORDERED PRIORITIES, AND THE THREAT TO MOC HOA AND NORTHERN KIEN TUONG COULD TEMPORARILY ABATE. THESE FORCES COULD, HOWEVER, RETURN TO KIEN TUONG IN LESS THAN A HALF DAY AND THE SITUATION RETAINS THE POTENTIAL FOR A FLARE-UP.

C. (SNFD) THE UPSURGE CONTINUED IN DINH TUONG PROV. 8TH NVA DIV FORCES BEGAN A WESTWARD DRIFT. THE PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED MOVES OF Z.18 AND 24TH REGTS WERE ACCOMPANIED BY THE RELOCATION OF Z.15 REGT FORCES TO THE RTE 29 CORRIDOR. RVNAF REACTION RESULTED IN OVER 60 VC/NVA KIA AGAINST MINOR LOSSES. WHETHER BY INTENTION OR NOT, THE COMMUNISTS ARE FORCING ARVN 7TH DIV ELEMENTS TO REACT BY APPROACHING SIGNIFICANT TGTS SUCH AS MY AN DIST TOWN AND RTE 29. PROBABLE VC/NVA INTENTIONS MAY NOT BE SEIZURE OF THESE OBJECTIVES AT THIS TIME, BUT RATHER TO KEEP RVNAF ON THE MOVE AND PRECLUDE DISRUPTION OF ONGOING SUPPLY/INFILTRATION ACTIVITIES. REMAINING INCIDENTS CONSISTED
LIMITED DISTRIBUTION

OF SHELLINGS AND HARASSMENT ATKS THOUGHOUT THE PROV, WITH
PROV BN'S AND LF UNITS CARRYING MOST OF THE LOAD. ANTICIPATED
MEASURES AGAINST MY THO CITY AND ITS ENVIRONS HAVE FAILED TO
MATERIALIZE, AND EXTREME EASTERN DISTS OF THE PROV WERE
RELATIVELY QUIET.

D. (C) KIEN HOA PROV REPORTED A SECOND WEEK OF HIGH ACTIVITY,
MUCH OF WHICH TOOK PLACE IN BA TRI DIST, LONG A PARAGON OF
SUCCESSFUL GVN PACIFICATION. CONTACTS WERE COSTLY FOR BOTH
SIDES, WITH THE GVN LOSING 1 KIA, 54 WIA AND 17 MIA AGAINST
VC LOSSES OF 58 KIA. OTHER AREAS OF THE PROV WERE SUBJECTED
TO ONLY SPORADIC SHELLINGS AND HARASSMENT ATKS. THE MOVE OF DT.1
REGT. TO VINH LONG PROV BROUGHT SOME STABILITY TO DON NHON
AND NO CAY DISTS. VC/NVA UNITS HAVE BEEN MORE ACTIVE SINCE
THE DEC HIGHPOINT AND WILL PROBABLY TRY TO KEEP UP SOME
MOMENTUM DESPITE DIFFicultIES ENCOUNTERED WITH KIEN HOA RF/PF.

E. (SNPD) THE LOWER DELTA EXPERIENCED TYPICAL VC/NVA HIGH-
POINT PRESSURE. CONCERN CONTINUES OVER COMMUNIST PRESENCE
IN PHONG DINH PROV. RESULTANT RVNAF CONCENTRATION OF FORCE
FAILED TO PRODUCE ANY MAJOR CONTACTS.

F. (SNPD) VINH LONG REPORTED ITS MOST ACTIVE WEEK SINCE
MOVED INTO CHO LACH DIST FROM ADJACENT KIEN HOA PROV. DT.1
ELEMENTS HAVE BEEN HITTING OP'S; HOWEVER, RATIONALE FOR MOVING INTO VINH LONG REMAINS UNKNOWN. TRA ON DIST HAD A TROUBLED WEEK, WITH THE DIST TOWN BEING SHELLED ALMOST DAILY. RVNAF EFFORTS TO CLEAR RTE 37 COST 39 KIA, 131 WIA, AND 11 MIA AGAINST ONLY 33 VC/NVA KIA. ALL ELEMENTS OF D.1 AND D.3 REGTS ARE NOW IN TRA ON AND HAVE FORCED THE ABANDONMENT OF ONE FSB AND PREVENTED THE DEPLOYMENT OF 7TH ARVN DIV BNS TO TROUBLE AREAS IN DINH TUONG PROV. THE OUTLOOK FOR THE COMING WEEK IS UNCERTAIN, BUT THE PRESENCE OF TWO REGTS WILL REQUIRE UNPRODUCTIVE ARVN DEPLOYMENT IN AREA.

G. (SNFD) PHONG DINH PROV ALSO EDGED UP TO THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF ACTIVITY SINCE THE CEASEFIRE, AS RVNAF 21ST DIV FORCES PROBED THE CENTRAL PORTION OF PROV TO BLOCK 1SB AND 95A REGTS AND TAY DO 1, 2 AND 3 BNS. CRITICALITY OF AREA REQUIRES RVNAF DEPLOYMENT; HOWEVER, IT HAS YET TO PRODUCE ANY MAJOR CONTACTS AND KEEPS ARVN LOCKED INTO A REACTIVE POSTURE. WHILE THE POTENTIAL FOR INCREASED COMBAT REMAINS HIGH, VC/NVA INTENTIONS ARE NOT CLEAR AND IT IS NOT CERTAIN THAT COMMUNISTS ARE WILLING TO ENGAGE IN COSTLY DECISIVE COMBAT AT THIS JUNCTURE. VC/NVA COULD HARASS ALONG RTES 4 AND 31, WHILE ATTEMPTING TO SHELL BING THUY AIRFIELD AND CAN THO CITY. THE PSYCHOLOGICAL FACTOR WOULD EQUAL THE MILITARY ASPECTS OF THE THREAT AND KEEP ARVN 21ST
DIV FORCES TIED DOWN AND AWAY FROM OTHER TROUBLE SPOTS.

H. (C) THE LOWER COASTAL PROVS OF BA XUYEN, BAC LIEU AND AN XUYEN REPORTED HEAVY TO MODERATE HIGHPOINT PRESSURE.

HEAVIEST CONCENTRATIONS IN BA XUYEN TOOK PLACE IN KE SACH AND THUAN HOA DISTS AND REPRESENTED A MORE TIGHTLY FOCUSED PATTERN OF COMBAT ACTIVITY THAN USUALLY EXPERIENCED. THE COMMUNISTS MAY BE ATTEMPTING TO PUSH GVN OUT OF THESE POCKETS PERMANENTLY, RATHER THAN GRADUALLY WEARING DOWN RVNAF, AS BEFORE. IN BAC LIEU, VC FORCES FOLLOWED THE USUAL HIGH-POINT PATTERN BY SHELLING OP'S AND CONDUCTING HARRASSMENT ATKS ACROSS PHUOC LONG AND GTA RAY DISTS. VULNERABLE PHUOC LONG DIST TOWN WAS SPARED. CONCERTED COMMUNIST PRESSURE AND ITS LEASE ON LIFE EXTENDS ANOTHER WEEK. AN XUYEN'S HIGHPOINT WAS WELL BELOW THE NORM AND CONSISTED ALMOST ENTIRELY OF SHELLINGS IN DAM DOI AND THOI BINH DISTS. THE QUIESCENCE OF THE VC RAISES THE POSSIBILITY THAT THEY ARE PREPARING FOR A BIG EFFORT SOMEWHERE IN THE FUTURE. IT MAY INCLUDE THE LONG EXPECTED ATKS ON DAM DOI, SONG ONG DOC AND POSSIBLY HAI YEN DIST TOWNS.

I. (SNPD) CHUONG THIEN PROV RECEIVED STEPPED UP SHELLINGS ALONG THE RTE 31 CORRIDOR AND AGAINST KIEN HUNG DIST TOWN. CURRENT INFO SUGGESTS THAT THE PARTIALLY REHABILITATED D.2 REGT MAY BE MOVING TO ATK KIEN HUNG WHILE SEVERING RTE 31 AND AMBUSHING RVNAF REINFORCEMENTS BOUND FOR KIEN HUNG.
KIEN LONG DIST TOWN REMAINS UNDER PARTIAL BLOCKADE AND LOCAL SOURCES REPORT THE VC/NVA INTENTION TO OVERRUN THE TOWN. THE REVIVED THREAT IN CHUONG THIEN HAS FORCED ARVN TO DEPLOY SOME 21ST ARVN DIV ELEMENTS TO COUNTER EXPECTED ATKS, BUT THIS HAS YET TO PRODUCE ANY MAJOR CONTACTS. CURRENT STRENGTH OF D.2 IS UNKNOWN, BUT THE UNIT HAS HAD SUFFICIENT TIME TO INTEGRATE FILLERS AND COULD BE READY TO ASSUME AN ACTIVE ROLE ONCE AGAIN.

J. (C) KIEN GIANG PROV CAME THRU THE HIGHPOINT RATHER LIGHTLY, WITH ONLY TWO SIGNIFICANT CONCENTRATIONS OF COMBAT REPORTED. SHELLINGS AND MINOR GND CONTACTS INCREASED AROUND HIEU LE DIST TOWN, BRINGING TO QUESTION EARLIER REPORTS THAT THE COMMUNIST WOULD IGNORE HIEU LE, AS IT DOES NOT INTERFERE WITH VC/NVA ACTIVITIES. IN KIEN BINH DIST, VC/NVA UNITS TGTD RVNAF POSITIONS 5 KM W OF THE DIST TOWN, WHICH REMAINS HIGHLY VULNERABLE TO A CONCERTED COMMUNIST DRIVE. THE REMAINING AREAS OF THE PROV WERE RELATIVELY QUIET, BUT INFILTRATION OF MHN AND MATERIEL IS PROBABLY TAKING PLACE.

K. (SNFD) FOLLOWING THE NORMAL PATTERN, THE COMMUNISTS HAVE BEGUN TO GEAR DOWN THEIR ATKS. THE HIGHPOINT MAY TAPER OFF NEXT WEEK. THE APPARENT OVERALL OBJECTIVE DURING PAST WEEK HAS BEEN TO EXPAND AND CONSOLIDATE VC/NVA TERRAIN HOLDINGS, WHILE PLAYING UPON SCARE FACTOR TO KEEP ARVN REACTION
FORCES LOCKED INTO POTENTIALLY CRITICAL TROUBLE SPOTS.
THEY HAVE SUCCEEDED SOMEWHAT ON BOTH COUNTS AND HAVE
FORCED RVNAF TO UTILIZE ITS ENTIRE MONTHLY ALLOTTED AIR
SUPPORT BY THE 13TH OF THE MONTH. THE MR-4 CG, MG NGUYEN KHOA NAM,
RECENTLY STATED THAT COMMUNIST FORCES CAN REPLACE MEN
AND EQUIPMENT WITH LESS TROUBLE THAN RVNAF, AND IT IS
JUST THIS FACTOR, AMONG OTHERS, THAT THE VC/NVA WILL
TRY TO EXPLOIT. THEIR ABILITY TO CONTINUE THE DETERIORATION
PROCESS IS UNDERSCORED BY THE FACT THAT A RESPECTABLE HIGH-
POINT WAS LAUNCHED FOLLOWING OVER THREE WEEKS OF PREEMPTIVE
RVNAF STRIKES.
5. (C) INTENTIONS

A. (C) COMMUNIST ACTIVITY IS EXPECTED TO REMAIN AT A HIGH LEVEL IN ALL MR'S OVER THE NEXT WEEK, BUT MAY TAPER OFF IN THE DELTA.

B. (C) NVA FORCES IN NORTHERN MR-1 WILL PROBABLY INTENSIFY PRESSURE IN AND AROUND HUE. THE PHU LOC/HAI VAN PASS AREA CAME UNDER ATK ON 21 MAR. IF THE COMMUNISTS ARE SUCCESSFUL IN ISOLATING HUE, REMAINING RVNAF FORCES IN THE AREA WILL BE UNDER INTENSE PRESSURE AND MAY BE ROLLED UP. TO THE SOUTH, COMMUNIST FORCES WILL MAINTAIN PRESSURE AGAINST THANG BINH DIST AND TAM KY IN QUANG TIN PROV. CONTINUED LF HARRASING ATKS ARE PROBABLY IN QUANG NGAI PROV.

C. (C) IN MR-2, THE CURRENT UNSETTLED SITUATION PRECLUDES A CLEAR INSIGHT CONCERNING WHAT OPTION(S) COMMUNISTS MAY PURSUE IN LIGHT OF RECENT ASTOUNDING SUCCESSES. WITHDRAWING RVNAF COLUMNS REMAIN HIGHLY VULNERABLE AND, IN MANY CASES, AT THE MERCY OF THE NVA. THE NVA MAY ENTER A CONSOLIDATION PHASE ENTAILING A GENERAL DECLINE IN MILITARY ACTIVITY. DISARRAY OF GOVT FORCES, HOWEVER, PRESENTS NUMEROUS OPPORTUNITIES FOR NVA TO EXPAND ON RECENT GAINS.

D. (C) IN MR-3, INTENSE PRESSURE AIMED AT OVERRUNNING OR ISOLATING TAY NINH WILL REMAIN THE DOMINANT FEATURE OF NVA STRATEGY, WITH SUPPORTING HEAVY ATKS ALONG QL-1 AND QL-20 IN EASTERN PART OF REGION. HEAVY LOSSES ON BOTH SIDES ARE
INEVITABLE IF THE GVN DECIDES TO HOLD TAY NINH AT ALL COSTS.
IN LINE WITH THE GENERAL INTENSIFICATION OF ATKS, AN UP-
SURGE IN SAPPER/TERORIST INCIDENTS IN THE SAIGON/BIEN HOA
AREA APPEARS LIKELY.
E. (C) IN THE DELTA, COMMUNIST FORCES MAY SLACKEN PRESSURE
IN GENERAL, BUT THE POTENTIAL FOR SHARP GND ACTIVITY IN TRI-
BORDER AREA OF DINH TUONG, KIEN TUONG AND KIEN PHONG PROVS
REMAINS.
F. (C) AT THIS POINT, A GREAT POTENTIAL DANGER LOOMING
BENEATH THE SURFACE IS THAT OF POLITICAL TURMOIL. POLITICAL
DISSENSION IS ALMOST CERTAIN TO INCREASE AND BE EXACERBATED
BY COMMUNIST ACTIONS AND PROPAGANDA.
### OPERATIONS STATISTICAL SUMMARY

(WEEK OF 14 MAR - 20 MAR 75)

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