

24a

Problems Continue to Plague Enemy Units in Northern I Corps

5. Communist forces deployed in the northern coastal region of I Corps continue to be frustrated by their inability to mount a sustained military effort against allied targets from Hue to Quang Tri city.

6. Allied spoiling operations have probably been the principal problem for the enemy in this sector. A document captured on 19 August near the district capital of Phu Loc in Thua Thien Province, for example, reveals that the morale and effectiveness of the North Vietnamese 5th Regiment has deteriorated sharply because of combat losses, allied airstrikes, and sickness. Significantly, the document was written prior to an allied operation of 26 August which overran the regimental headquarters and inflicted further heavy losses on its subordinate battalions.

7. Critical food shortages, due in part to allied rice denial operations, also continue to plague enemy forces in the northern provinces. A recent

[redacted] based west of Hue has stated that his unit had been forced to redeploy to base areas in the A Shau Valley in order to get rice because none was available in the usually plentiful eastern coastal lowlands. Recently captured documents indicate that the North Vietnamese 812th Regiment and other front line combat units of the Communists B-7 Front are encountering similar food problems in the Quang Tri city area.

8. The damaging effect of "Typhoon Bess" has further complicated the enemy's already critical rice problem, not only in the northern coastal region but also along the eastern DMZ.

9. Because of such difficulties, Communist main force units appear to pose little immediate threat to allied positions and population centers in the Hue - Quang Tri city sector.

16 September 1968

~~TOP SECRET~~

EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)-25Yrs  
(C)

EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)-25Yrs  
(S)

EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)-25Yrs  
(S)

~~TOP SECRET~~ [redacted]

Hue in the Laotian infiltration corridor. This marks the westernmost position the headquarters has even been known to occupy and further reduces the likelihood of major enemy attacks in the coastal lowlands in the near future.

16 September 1968

I-3

[redacted]  
~~TOP SECRET~~ [redacted]