

Documents Reflect Allied Disruption of Communist Plans

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12. The disruption by allied spoiling operations of Communist plans for the current round of offensive activity is reflected in several captured documents dating from last month. The documents confirm that the Communists have been forced to revise or postpone attack plans in some areas after experiencing heavy casualties and subsequent morale problems.

13. A letter dated 19 August from a functionary attached to a local force unit in Thua Thien Province, states that the situation of the unit was "deplorable" and that many troops were "completely demoralized." The writer noted that his unit sustained a number of casualties in a recent battle, and that some troops had witnessed the "terrible casualties" suffered by a Viet Cong battalion as a result of air strikes. Other recently captured documents had indicated that the Communists were making plans during August for large-scale attacks in the Hue area.

14. In northern III Corps, a letter from a district-level Communist official stated that he was unable to attend a meeting on 16 August to discuss the initiation of the "third phase" of the "general offensive." He claimed he was unable to reach the village where the meeting was to be held because allied forces were operating in the area.

15. Documents also confirm the disruption of Communist activities in the Saigon area by allied counteraction. A report issued by a Viet Cong authority for a district west of the capital discloses that US Special Forces operations, as well as air and artillery strikes, inflicted "heavy losses" and demoralized local guerrillas during the first half of August. Repeated B-52 strikes prevented the guerrillas from remaining in their normal operating area, according to the document.

16. Psychological warfare activities by the South Vietnamese also affected enemy morale, according to a circular issued on 9 August. Members of the Dong Ngai Regiment, which is based in Subregion 5 north of Saigon, were said to have deserted or refused to go on combat missions. One battalion sustained "collective desertions" which were not discovered for many days due to lack of vigilance.

**Extract from CIA Intelligence Memorandum, 12 September 1968,  
THE SITUATION IN VIETNAM, pp. 1-3-4.**

~~TOP SECRET CODEWORD~~