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Vietnam: Situation report. (Page 1)

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North Vietnam: Short-range, surface-to-surface missiles intended for coastal defense may have been introduced into North Vietnam. If confirmed, they could endanger US warships conducting shore bombardment operations along the coast.

Photography of 19 December 1967 reveals two positions just south of Thanh Hoa which contain camouflaged equipment, including one object identified as probably an SS-N-2 (STYX) missile and several possible rail-type launchers. Both sites contain six revetted positions that initially appeared to be intended for surface-to-air missile operations.

The sites were struck repeatedly by US Navy aircraft on 5 and 6 January and operational reports indicate that extensive damage was inflicted. There is no firm evidence from photography or pilot reports, however, that either site was occupied at the time of the attacks.

If North Vietnam has received STYX missiles to oppose US naval operations near its coast, the locations of the sites noted in photography are well-suited to this purpose. This missile has a range of about 20 miles and was the weapon used by the Egyptian Navy on 21 October 1967 to sink the Israeli destroyer Eilat. US aircraft carriers customarily operate beyond the range of a STYX missile fired from the Vietnamese coast.

South Vietnam: Vice President Ky claims that he and senior army generals have urged President Thieu to exercise more dynamic leadership.

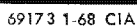
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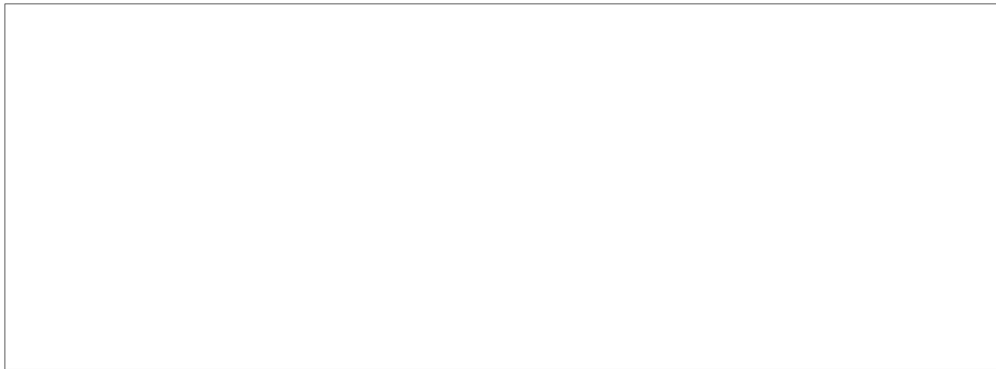


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Government administrative centers and Allied outposts in various parts of the country have been subjected to enemy assaults during the past several days.

In Thua Thien Province on 6 January, the Communists conducted a series of coordinated attacks against Phu Loc District headquarters, three adjacent Combined Action Platoons and a US Marine reaction force. Friendly forces suffered 34 killed and 80 wounded in these actions while the enemy lost 91 killed. On 5 January in Quang Tin Province, the enemy assaulted a US fire support base near a district town which had been attacked on 3 January. These two incidents cost the Allies 46 killed and 113 wounded while the enemy is reported to have lost 80 killed.

Other district headquarters in Quang Ngai and Quang Nam provinces of I Corps have been recent Communist targets, while in II Corps, there were several coordinated mortar barrages in and around the capital of Darlac Province. A district headquarters in Tuyen Duc Province of II Corps also received mortar fire on 5 January.

During the night of 6 January enemy forces appear to have coordinated a number of incidents in the III Corps provinces of Binh Duong and Bien Hoa. The brunt of this effort was directed against a Vietnamese Army regimental

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headquarters at Tan Uyen in Bien Hoa Province. The Communists did not succeed in overrunning the army compound, but they appear to have held the town for several hours. Almost simultaneously, at least four other engagements occurred in the adjacent areas of Bien Hoa and Binh Duong provinces. Preliminary casualty reports from all incidents indicate Allied losses of 12 killed and 45 wounded. Enemy losses were unknown.

In southernmost IV Corps, the Viet Cong on 6 January hit a military training center, an army convoy and a Revolutionary Development area in Vinh Long Province. In adjacent Vinh Binh Province, two villages were assaulted and in Ba Xuyen Province, a district capital outpost apparently overrun. This flurry of enemy activity cost the Vietnamese at least 42 killed, 98 wounded and 67 weapons lost. Enemy casualties are unknown.

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