CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY





THE SITUATION IN VIETNAM

Information as of 1600 18 August 1966

ARMY review(s) completed.

State Dept. review completed

PREPARED FOR THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL FURTHER DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS **NOT** AUTHORIZED

18 August 1966

HIGHLIGHTS

The Chinese Communists have improved their air defense capability in the Sino-DRV border by bringing two new airfields into operational use. US planes shot down another North Vietnamese MIG in an air engagement northeast of Hanoi.

- I. The Military Situation in South Vietnam: Allied troops continue to sweep the area of southwestern Pleiku Province as Operation PAUL REVERE II now has resulted in 757 Communists killed since it began on 31 July (Paras. 1-3). Light contact between US Marines, participating in Operation PRAIRIE in Quang Tri Province, and Communist forces took place yesterday (Para. 4). Viet Cong guerrillas yesterday attacked South Vietnamese outposts in the delta and a carnival in Hue (Paras. 6-7). The number of Viet Cong incidents for the week of 7-13 August was low (Para. 8). Weekly review of South Vietnam battle statistics (Para. 10).
- A crisis in relations between the government and FULRO has been averted (Para. 1). Ky is in a quandary about handling political prisoners (Para. 2). Analysis of the field of candidates for 11 September elections reveals only 55 military personnel running (Para. 3). Premier Ky fears increase in Viet Cong terrorist activity in Saigon (Para. 4). More government lands are to be released to individual farmers (Para. 5).
- III. Military Developments in North Vietnam: MIG fighter downed northeast of Hanoi (Paras. 1-2).

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V. Communist Political Developments: Hanoi's evacuation order running into the usual troubles (Paras. 1-3). Death of prominent Front official reported (Para. 4).

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ANNEX:

South Vietnam Battle Statistics 7 - 13 Aug
Total Personnel Losses
Cumulative US Combat Casualties
Total Friendly Forces Personnel Losses

South Vietnam Battle Statistics 7 - 13 Aug Viet Cong Incidents Viet Cong Attacks Weapons Losses--GVN/VC

South Vietnamese and Viet Cong Casualties and Weapons Losses: 1962 - 31 July 1966

General Statistical Data
Composite Annual Totals
Viet Cong Incidents

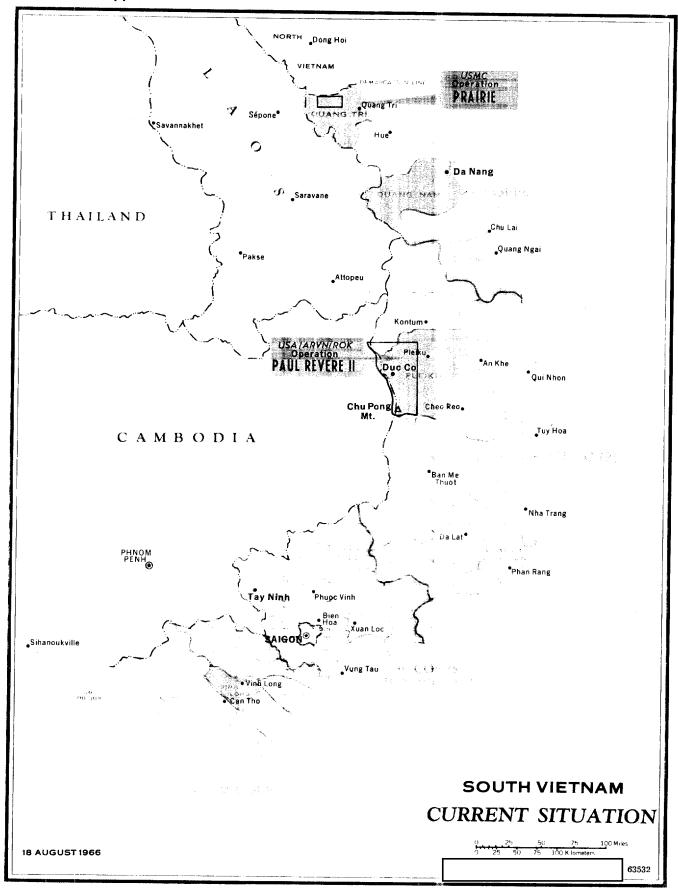
South Vietnam: Battle Statistics -- July 1966

- a. Personnel Losses
- b. Viet Cong Incidents
- c. Weapons Losses
- d. Chieu Hoi

18 August 1966

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I. THE MILITARY SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM

- 1. As allied forces participating in Operation PAUL REVERE II yesterday continued their sweep of the jungled Chu Pong massif in southwestern Pleiku Province, a South Vietnamese Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) company established contact with an estimated battalion-size Communist force near the Cambodian border. When two US Army companies reinforced the CIDG force, the enemy retreated. Friendly casualties for this encounter were 31 killed (three US) and nine wounded (one US).
- 2. US Army troops, patrolling the area where heavy fighting took place earlier this week, reported finding an additional 175 North Vietnamese bodies. Many of the newly found dead were believed to have been killed by intense air and artillery fire. This brings to 759 the number of Communists killed since this operation began on 31 July.
- 3. During a two-hour period yesterday morning, Communist automatic weapons fire was directed at friendly forces in Pleiku Province from a position about one third of a mile across the border in Cambodia. In defense, US artillery fire was directed at the enemy positions inside Cambodia from a battery seven miles east of Duc Co.
- 4. A US Marine force sweeping an area just south of the Demilitarized Zone yesterday killed 21 North Vietnamese Army troops as Operation PRAIRIE continued in northernmost Quang Tri Province. There were no American casualties. Cumulative casualties for this multibattalion search-and-destroy operation, which began on 3 August, are now seven Americans killed and 33 wounded. A total of 90 Communists have been killed.

- 5. An allied air observer reported seeing approximately 60 Viet Cong in an area 12 miles south of Da Nang in Quang Nam Province yesterday. One US Marine company, reinforced with tanks, went into the area and, in the brief engagement that followed, 21 Communists were killed. There were no American casualties.
- 6. Viet Cong guerrillas yesterday attacked a South Vietnamese training center and three outposts in an area of Vinh Long Province, about 65 miles south of Saigon, with mortar and small-arms fire. South Vietnamese casualties from the four incidents total 12 killed, six wounded, and 14 missing. Communist losses are unknown.
- 7. Viet Cong terrorists set off a bomb at a pre-election carnival in Hue yesterday, killing 26 persons and injuring more than 150. The carnival, sponsored by the South Vietnamese Government, was being held in a series of temporary structures. All the casualties were Vietnamese.

Viet Cong Incidents

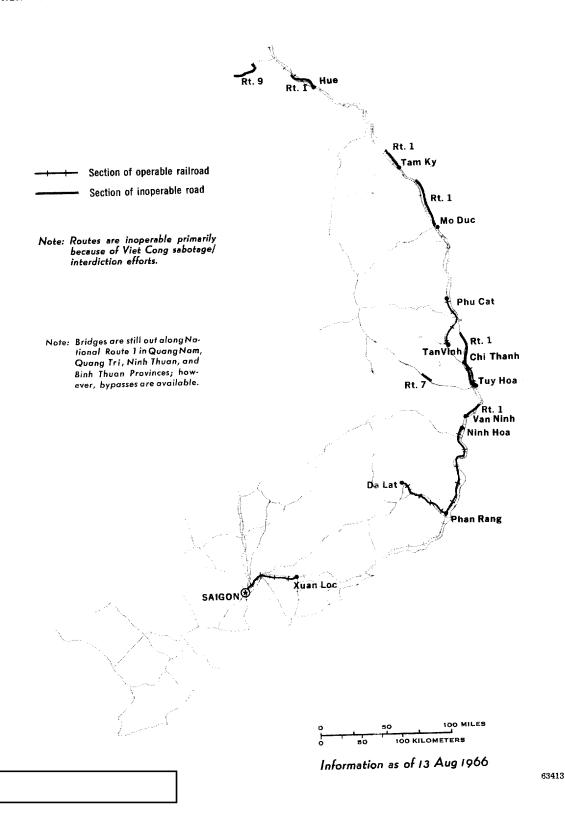
8. The number of Viet Cong incidents, including attacks, terrorism, sabotage, etc., for the period from 7-13 August was low, with a total of only 426 reported. The weekly total is normally more than 600, with over 800 reported in one week last month. This drop in incidents, although unusual, is not unprecedented. Low weekly totals would have to continue for several more weeks before the shift could be considered a possible indicator of a change in Communist strategy. There is some evidence that the number of incidents may be on the rise once again. For example, a flurry of activity was reported on 16-17 August.

Status of Major Lines of Communications

9. The operational status of South Vietnam's major highways improved this week with the opening

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CURRENT OPERATIONAL STATUS OF MAJOR TRANSPORTATION ROUTES AND COASTAL RAILROAD



of Route 14 in Phuoc Long and Binh Long provinces and of Route 20 in Lam Dong and Tuyen Duc provinces. The status of the national railroad remained the same as the previous week.

Weekly Review of South Vietnam Battle Statistics

10. The week of 7-13 August compared with the week of 31 July - 6 August:

I. Viet Cong Incidents

Time Period	At- tacks		imental size	Battalion size
31 July- 6 Aug	10		0	0
7- 13 Aug	9		0	0
Time Period	Company size	Harass- ment	Terror-	Sabotage
31 July- 6 Aug	1	443	20	34
7-13 Aug	2	351	9	31
Time Period	Propag	anda	Anti- Aircraft	Total Incidents
31 July- 6 Aug	11		35	534
7-13 Aug	20		6	426

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II. Casualties

	AC\W.i		GVN				
	31 July-6 Aug	7-13 Aug	31 July-6 Aug	7-13 Aug			
Killed Wounded Missing/ Captured	649 	1,436	130 229 <u>54</u>	128 333 <u>28</u> 489			
TOTALS	724	1,720	413				
	US 31 July-6 Aug	7-13 Aug	FREE WO 31 July-6 Aug	RLD 7-13 Aug			
Killed Wounded Missing/ Captured	71 615 <u>28</u>	101 593 5	0 6 <u>0</u>	14 48 <u>0</u>			
TOTALS	714	699	6	62			

III. Weapons Captured

	VC/NV	'A	GVN					
	31 July-6 Aug	7-13 Aug	31 July-6 Aug	7-13 Aug				
Individual Crew-served	Not Reported	Not Reported	114 5	91 _3				
TOTALS			119	94				

II. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTH VIETNAM

- l. Premier Ky today told Ambassador Lodge that he had just signed the agreement meeting all four of the demands for greater montagnard autonomy which had been raised by the FULRO organization. Ky's action today will probably avert a threatened outbreak of FULRO-inspired antigovernment activity by the tribal peoples, and is designed to lead to a gradual rallying of FULRO-controlled troops to the GVN. Ky also told the ambassador that he had given FULRO until 30 August to nominate candidates for montagnard seats in the National Constitutional Assembly instead of 25 August as originally requested by FULRO's negotiators.
- 2. Ky was queried by the ambassador on the prospects for the release of political prisoners in the near future, including both those connected with the Diem regime and those involved in the recent Buddhist "struggle" activity. Ky replied that the situation is quite "complex" and not amenable to a quick, easy solution. Ky said he had also been considering the possibility of turning the whole matter of detainees over to the Peoples Army Council (the civilian and military advisory body to the government) or to a special tribunal. In any event, it is clear that Ky has not made up his mind how to handle this extremely delicate and potentially explosive problem and is not ready to come to a decision in the very near future.

Election Developments

3. Preliminary analysis by the embassy of the 542 Vietnamese and Khmer candidates for the National Constitutional Assembly indicates that 55 active military candidates—mainly officers—will be running for seats. Because of provisions in the election law which are designed to prevent any single group or faction from walking off with the election, it appears that this number of military candidates

will not be enough to become a blocking element in the assembly, as feared by some Vietnamese. Only 17 of the military candidates are running as individuals, while the rest are on lists of candidates. In several instances, entire lists are composed of military men, often in areas where only the head of the list will stand any chance of winning.

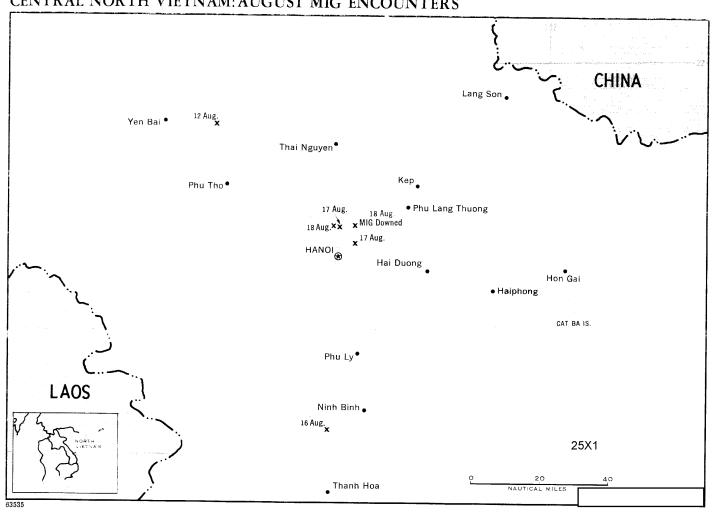
4. Ky, in his 18 August conversation with Ambassador Lodge, expressed alarm that the Viet Cong would increase the tempo of terrorist activity in the capital in order to disrupt the 11 September elections. He foresaw terrorist actitivy directed at Vietnamese as well as high-ranking Americans, and spoke of the possibility of attacks by 100 to 200-man groups to accomplish these ends. In an effort to counter these expected moves by the Communists, Ky has ordered a more intensive security effort on a precinct-by-precinct basis to ferret out possible terrorists.

Land Reform Developments

5. Ky revealed to Lodge today that he had just signed decrees involving the release of more government lands to individual holders in the vicinity of Tay Ninh town. He remarked that part of the problem of land reform seems to be a matter of merely simplifying existing regulations. Ky said the recipients of land titles had not been subject to terrorist action by the Viet Cong. He explained that most of the lands released so far have been in secure areas, but that he hoped to release lands in less secure areas in the future in order to capitalize on the psychological impact.

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CENTRAL NORTH VIETNAM: AUGUST MIG ENCOUNTERS



III. MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS IN NORTH VIETNAM

- l. A North Vietnamese fighter aircraft was downed on 18 August by cannon fire from a F-105 Thunderchief about ten miles north-northeast of Hanoi. In this engagement, two fighters--probably MIG-17 Frescoes--attacked three F-105s which were in the process of striking a SAM installation. The SAM installation had already launched five missiles at the flight, and during the subsequent engagement with the MIGs, one Thunderchief was hit by MIG cannon fire but was not seriously damaged. Moments later a second flight of F-105s flying nine miles north of Hanoi encountered another MIG-17. The Communist fighter was unable to gain firing position, however, and no planes were lost on either side.
- 2. The air actions of 18 August bring to six the number of MIG encounters this month—all of them within the past week. The North Vietnamese planes in each instance have been identified as MIG-17s. No US planes have been lost. This most recent spate of MIG encounters closely follows the pattern of previous DRV fighter activity—a lull of several weeks is followed by a period of intense action.

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indicated that the regime anticipated difficulties in relocating large numbers of urban residents but that the leadership planned to move ahead with the program as rapidly as possible.

Death of a Front Presidium Member Reported

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The Presidium of the National Front for the Liberation of South Vietnam Central Committee -- the top executive body of that organization--

announced on 16 August that one of its members was killed in July "while fulfilling a mission in an area in Western Nam Bo." The presidium member was Buddhist monk Thich Thom Me The Nhem. He was also deputy chairman of the NFLSV Central Committee Presidium, and president of the Bac Lieu Province Buddhist Discipline Council. This is the highest level Liberation Front member known to have been killed in the war thus far. He appears to have been a relatively unknown member of the Buddhist hierarchy, but he was the most prominent Buddhist in the Liberation Front.

Approved For Release 2007/03/06 : CIA-RDP79T00826A001100010036-4 VIETNAM BATTLE STATISTICS

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WEEKLY REPORT 7-13 AUGUST 1966 Total Personnel Losses (Killed in Action, Captured or Missing in Action, excluding Wounded in Action) 3,500 GVN /US/other Free World Viet Cong/PAVN US only 3,000 2,500 2,000 1,500 1,000 500 JUNE JULY MAY APR DEC FEB MAR OCT NOV JAN AUG SEPT 4,000 US Combat Casualties in Vietnam 3,500 (including North Vietnam) Fatalities | Non-fatal Wounds Captured | Missing 1524 255 Cumulative, 1961-1964 3,000 15 136 6110 Cumulative, 1965 1365 44 133 3091 18 452 Cumulative, 1966 to date TOTAL 4711 26096 69 281 2,500 2,000 1,500 1250 1,000 974 500 Total Friendly Forces Personnel Losses

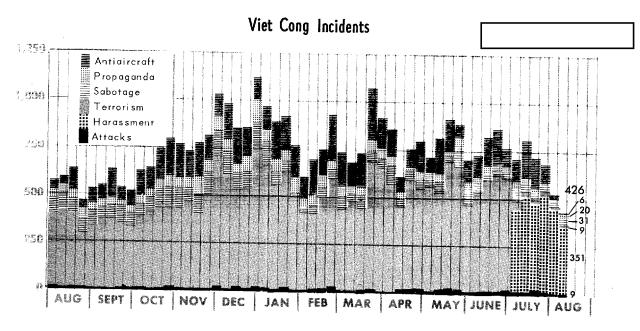
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(US/GVN/Other Free World)

Approved For Release 2007/03/06: CIA-RDP79T00826-01100010036-4 VIETNAM BATTLE STATISTICS

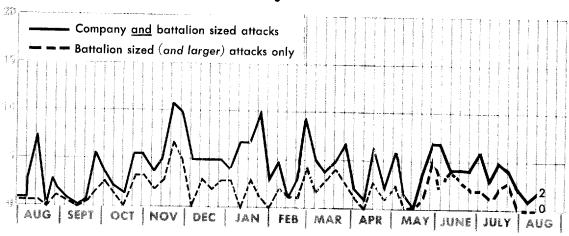
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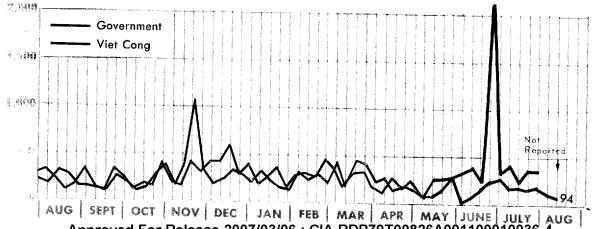


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Viet Cong Attacks



Weapons Losses



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South Vietnamese and Viet Cong Casualties and Weapons Losses: 1962 - 31 July 1966

1. General Statistical Data:

Time Period		Viet Cong Inci- dents	· Ac	Killed in Action GVN VC		Wounded in Action GVN VC		Captured or Missing GVN VC		Total Casualties GVN VC		Weapons Losses GVN VC	
Ji	1962 1963 1964 1965 1966	1825 927 1770 2206 3914	299 453 343 904 747	1294 1754 1223 2203 2648	908	212 318 - -	116 102 555 471 450	390 379 240 565 588	890 1463 1811 3313 2754	1896 2451 1463 2768	- 457 917 1700	- 683 532 711	
Fe	1962 1963 1964 1965 1966	1460 788 2078 1982 3100	244 379 374 880 1015	1205 1082 1055 1564 4727	300 656 916 1840 2095	316 303 - - -	124 82 303 1394 477	353 292 289 309 508	668 1117 1593 4114 3587	3236 1874 1677 1344 1873 5235	935 - 253 708 2454 1076	979 - 399 471 620 1219	
Ма	1962 r 1963 1964 1965 1966	1961 1282 2160 2056 3670	523 410 439 751 938	1456 1443 1456 2022 5685	737 851 1249 1633 1961	551 368 - - -	140 66 345 720 466	523 222 531 394 604	1400 1327 2033 3104 3365	2530 2033 1987 2416 6289	467 814 1442 1393	- 367 532 698 1632	
Ap	1962 r 1963 1964 1965 1966	1933 1331 2284 1860 3235	387 506 594 591 573	1596 1660 1671 1909 2818	532 878 1584 1650 1522	292 256 - -	151 96 398 232 121	415 388 245 529 483	1070 1440 2576 2473 2216	2303 2304 1916 2438 3301	797 990 757 594	- 468 424 973 829	
Ma	1962 7 1963 1964 1965 1966	1825 1208 2143 2263 3566	390 435 458 1049 661	1756 1895 1135 1975 4239	509 889 987 2143 1454	352 295 - - -	94 94 202 873 196	524 695 242 548 652	993 1418 1647 4065 2311	2632 2885 1377 2523 4891	- 463 723 1701 493	564 281 831 1087	
Jur	1962 1963 1964 1965 1966	1477 1311 2062 2597 3359	325 389 494 1211 860	1666 1863 1005 2208 4815	613 772 1145 1920 1800	413 310 - -	77 90 313 1260 183	441 437 230 189 752	1015 1251 1952 4391 2843	2520 2609 1235 2397 5567	580 718 2387 735	- 394 387 793 3761	
Jul	1962 1963 1964 1965 1966	1564 1368 3045 2520 2844	384 529 900 1160 1592	1544 1918 1427 2980 5532	686 1071 1812 1591 1800	424 372 - - -	212 306 510 540 196	542 387 219 580 444	1282 1906 3222 3425 3598	2510 2677 1646 3560 5976	- 663 1889 1375 744	374 447 882	

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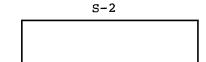
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Time Peri	ođ	Viet Cong Inci- dents		lled in tion VC	Wour ir Acti GVN	n		ured ssing VC	Tot Casua GVN		Wea] Los: GVN	oons ses VC	
Aug	1962 1963 1964 1965	1642 1349 2580 2498	377 411 721 808	2271 1685 1449 3624	626 804 1612 1945	367 237 - -	63 352 478 287	669 482 282 606	1066 1567 2811 3040	3307 2404 1731 4230	- 637 1106 705	- 428 619 1074	
Sep	1962 1963 1964 1965	1375 1763 3091 2473	419 672 819 655	2218 1982 1187 3485	646 1155 1759 1724	365 234 - -	59 566 737 266	446 347 230 838	1124 2393 3315 2645	3029 2563 1417 4323	- 878 1465 778	- 389 525 838	
0ct	1962 1963 1964 1965	1357 1422 2827 3330	365 428 739 961	1967 1520 1617 3874	619 989 1583 2416	286 244 - -	64 398 693 225	373 236 576 660	1048 1815 3015 3602	2626 2000 2193 4534	- 753 1510 762	330 482 1013	
Nov	1962 1963 1964 1965	1311 3182 1982 3638	410 664 574 1034	1982 2333 1747 5516	834 1554 1404 2056	368 373 - -	92 665 410 520	561 252 570 592	1336 2883 2388 3610	2911 2958 2317 6108	- 1595 1104 1126	- 455 515 2164	
Dec	1962 1963	1346 1921	294 389	2203 1440	618 961	289 191	78 320	463 190	990 1670	2955 1821	- 724	- 546	

Composite Annual Totals

Time	VC Inci-	KIA		WIA		Captured or Missing		Total Casualties		Weapons Losses	
Period		GVN	VC	GVN	VC	GVN	VC	GVN	VC	GVN	VC
1962	19076	4417	21158	7195	4235	1270	5700	12882	31093	5195	4049*
1963	17852	5665	20575	11488	3501	3137	4307	20290	28383	826 7	5397
1964	28526	7457	16785	17017	_	6036	4157	30510	20942	14055	5881
1965	31529	11243	35436	23118	_	7848	6326	42209	41762		11755
**1966	23688	6386	30464	12189	-	2099	4031	20674	34495	5970	9507

^{*}Monthly data unavailable for 1962 Weapons Losses. **Through 31 July 1966

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2. Viet Cong Incidents: 1962 - 31 July 1966

				Атт	ACKS					
Tir		Viet Cong	Small-		Bn. Size					
Per	riod	Incidents	Scale	Co. Size	or Larger		Harassment &		Propa-	Anti-
				OU. DIZC	lor rarger	Total	Terrorism	Sabotage	ganda	Aircraft
	1962	1825	528	21	•					TITTOTALL
Jar	1963	927	242	8	0	549	839	180	25 7	_
	1964	1770	218	2	2	252	447	49	179	
	1965	2206	57	2 5	3	223	1244	129	174	_
	1966	3914	42	23	1	63	1489	272	170	212
			72	23	5	70	2490	312	299	
	1962	1460	480	20					233	743
Feb	1963	788	181	20	0	500	613	137	210	
	1964	2078	211	13	1	195	433	69	91	-
	1965	1982	73	3	3	217	1389	210	271	-
	1966	3100		6	3	82	1411	267		
	->00	2100	50	10	9	69	1829	201	91	131
	1962	1961	563				2023	201	172	829
Mar	1963	1282	561	27	0	588	.660	290	400	
	1964	2160	333	11	0	344	653	131	423	~
	1965	2056	198	4	1	203	1632		154	_
	1966	3670	80	3	3	86	1476	158 240	167	-
	1900	3670	32	10	10	52	2332		90	164
	1962	7022					2332	212	154	920
Anr	1963	1933	470	27	0	497	1024	222		
MPL	1964	1331	371	9	3	383	688	220	192	-
	1965	2284	211	6	3	220	1738	105	155	-
	1965	1860	38	1	4	43	1407	169	157	-
	T300	3235	61	7	9	77	2238	149	96	165
	1962				-	, ,	4430	252	110	513
M		1825	490	28	0	528	892			
мау	1963	1208	344	13	Ö	357	608	154	251	_
	1964	2143	170	3	2	175		93	150	_
	1965	2263	40	7	11	58	418	217	140	193
	1966	3566	37	9	7	53	1558	365	115	170
					•	23	2552	295	106	560
	1962	1477	339	23	0	362	706			•
	1963	1311	398	11	1		736	157	222	_
	1964	2062	128	10	2	410	652	107	142	-
	1965	2597	62	i	6	140	1390	176	162	194
*	1966	3359	47	10	11	69	1784	469	103	172
			•		11	68	2382	211	110	588
										-00

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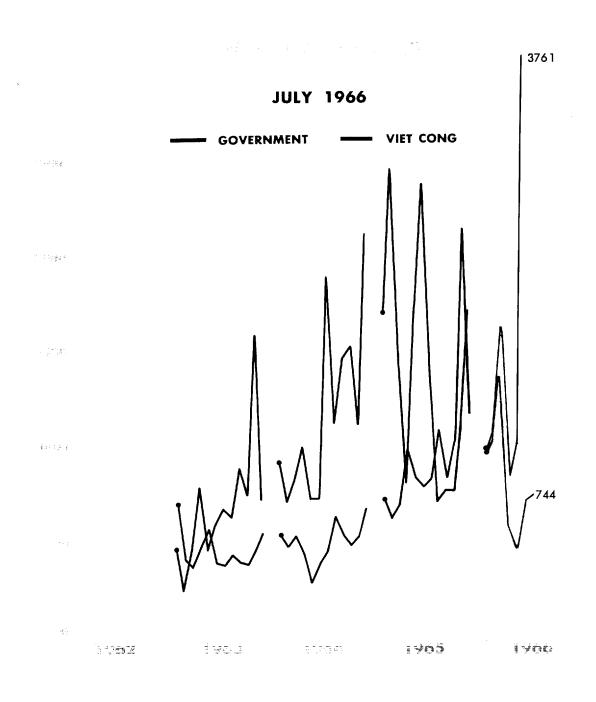
ATTACKS Bn. Size Harassment & Propa-Anti-Viet Cong Small-Time Size and Larger Total Terrorism Sabotage ganda Aircraft Co. Period Incidents Scale Jul 1963 Aug 1963 _ Sep 1963 Oct 1963 3 Nov 1963 _ Dec 7 Composite Annual Totals No Data No Data 1879 *1966

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*Through 31 July 1966

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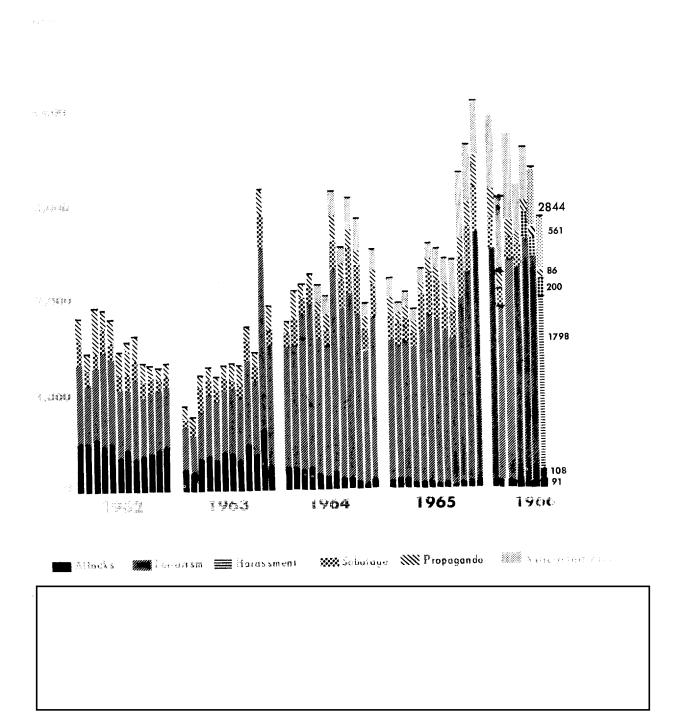
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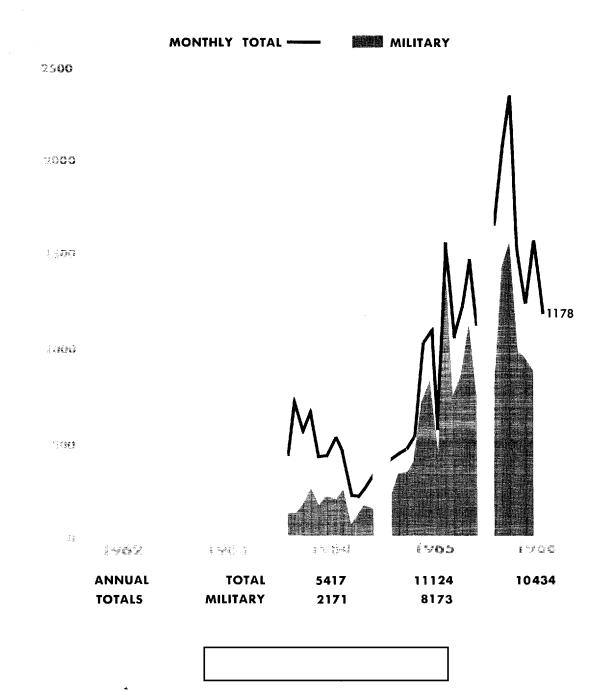
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JULY 1966



CHEU HOI RETURNEES

JULY 1966



TOP SECRET
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