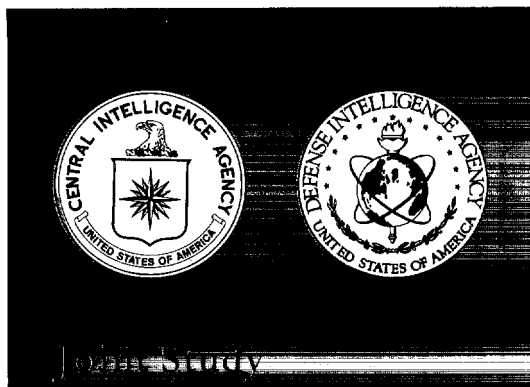


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Communist Violations of the Vietnam and Laos Settlement Agreements and Related Developments

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12 December 1973

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Forty-Second Report

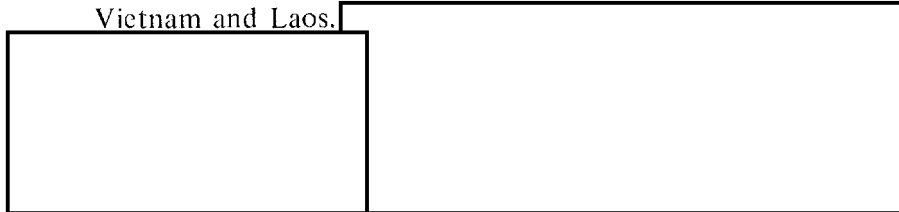
**COMMUNIST VIOLATIONS OF THE VIETNAM AND LAOS
SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS AND RELATED DEVELOPMENTS***

(This report covers the week
from 5 December through 11 December 1973)

The Key Points

- The flow of regular infiltration groups to South Vietnam has resumed after a one-week standdown.
- After increasing markedly last week, logistic activity continued to be very heavy in the panhandles of North Vietnam and Laos.

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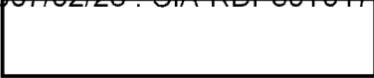


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* This report has been prepared jointly by the Central Intelligence Agency and the Department of Defense.



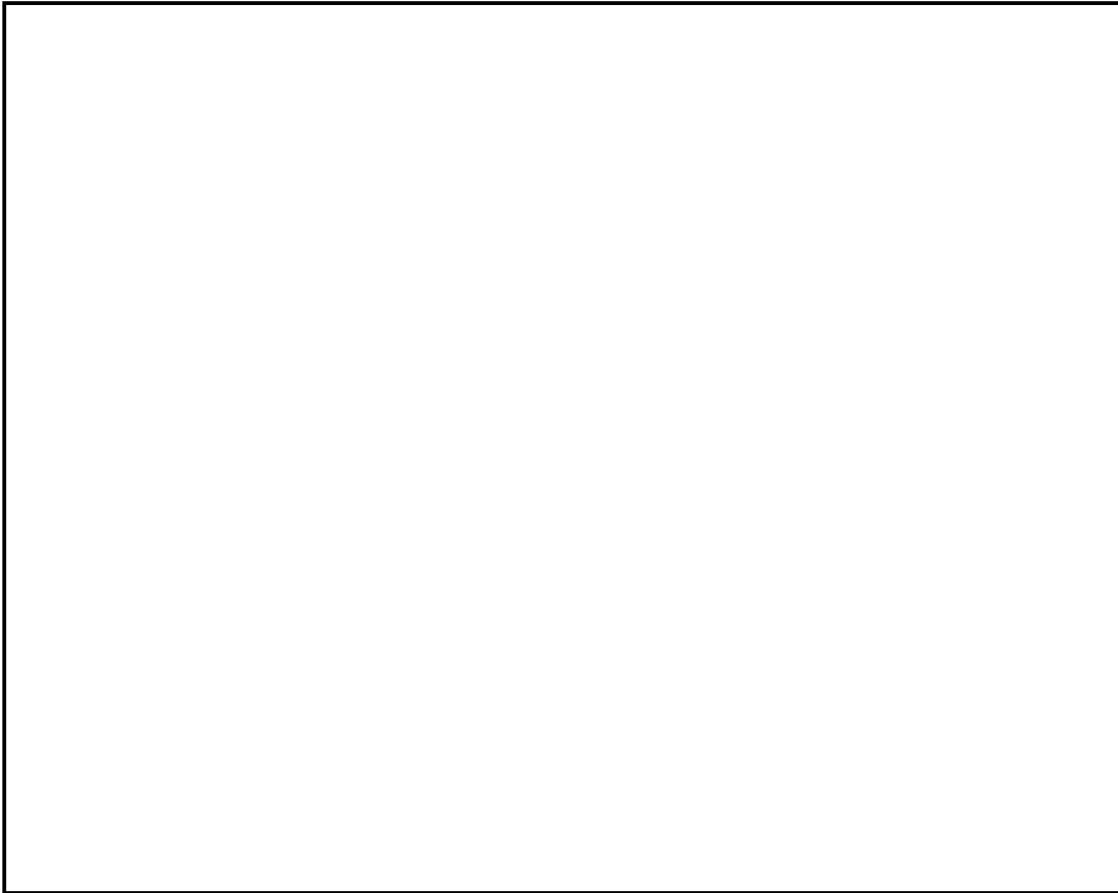
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Preface

This report is the forty-second in a series summarizing evidence received during the reporting period of (I) Communist efforts to infiltrate new manpower and military supplies toward and into South Vietnam, (II) Communist-initiated combat activity in violation of the Vietnam and Laos settlement agreements, and (III) other developments affecting Communist military capabilities in Indochina.

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*Southern Laos*

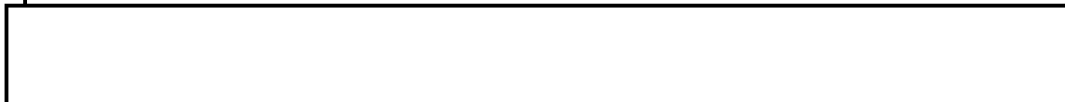
6. The heavy surge of southbound truck traffic [redacted] last week along the central sections of the new dual-lane route through southern Laos has continued. [redacted] revealed clusters and convoys of trucks totaling several hundred vehicles parked or heading north and south between the Muong Nong and Ban Phone areas. [redacted] showed that some of the trucks are now proceeding south toward the tri-border exit routes leading into Kontum Province, South Vietnam. Northbound traffic was somewhat greater this week than last, although most of the trucks observed were heading south. The repeated sightings of hundreds of southbound trucks along the same new route segments south of Muong Nong suggest that many additional trucks entered this area during the week or that the same trucks are making many round trips between staging areas. [redacted]

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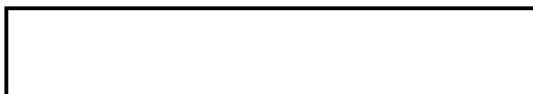
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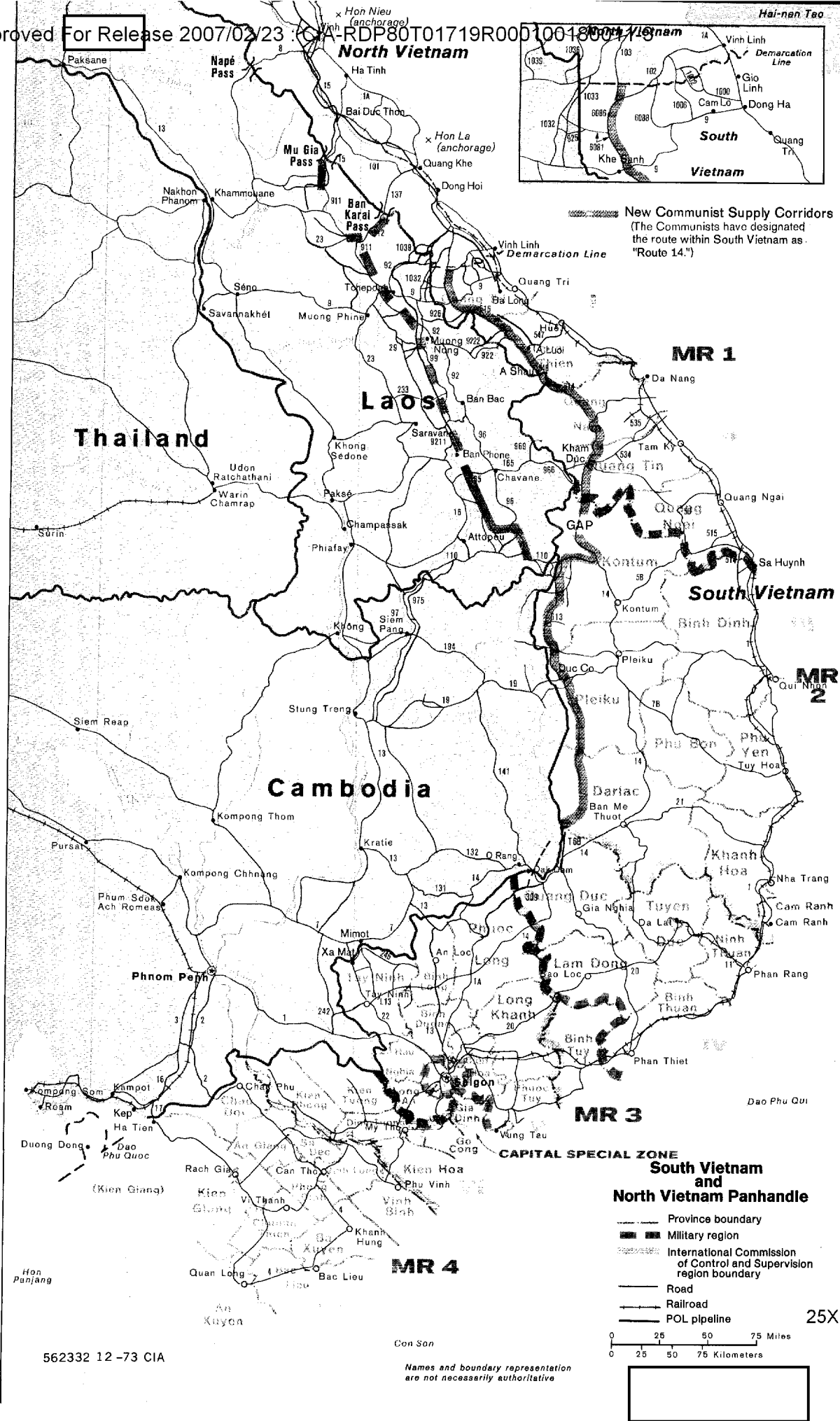
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[redacted]

unspecified period. Vehicle activity along some areas of the dual-lane road, however, is still being hampered because of the effects of recent poor weather.

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[redacted]

South Vietnam

8. Supply movement through northern South Vietnam was light again last week but there were indications that activity would pick up shortly.

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[redacted] most of Route 9 was generally passable but that travel along the western supply corridor was severely restricted by muddy roads. Although the movement of supplies down the Communists' new supply corridor in South Vietnam probably will be very difficult in the weeks ahead because of heavy rains, the North Vietnamese may intend to move supplies westward along Route 9 into southern Laos, where the dry season has just begun. Once in Laos, supplies could then be shipped southward along those segments of the Communists' new dual-lane road that are completed.

II. Communist-Initiated Combat Activity in South Vietnam and Laos

South Vietnam

9. In South Vietnam the total number of Communist-initiated cease-fire violations reported by the South Vietnamese Armed Forces since 27 January, since 15 June, and for the last week (5-11 December) are shown below:

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Military Region	Total Since 27 January Cease-Fire		Total Since 15 June Cease-Fire		Last Week (5-11 Dec)	
	Major	Minor	Major	Minor	Major	Minor
Total	4,172	26,990	1,803	13,035	50 (93)¹	519 (614)¹
MR 1	1,498	5,464	473	2,105	8	71
MR 2	696	4,500	432	2,646	16	75
MR 3	629	4,787	227	2,211	8	112
MR 4	1,349	12,239	671	6,073	18	261

1. Figures in parentheses denote totals of the previous week.

10. Some of these violations may have been initiated by South Vietnamese forces rather than Communist forces, and it is impossible in all cases to determine the actual instigator. The tabulation above and the charts following the Annex, however, show fairly accurately the trend in the amount of combat that has occurred in South Vietnam since the cease-fire. The fact that a combat incident occurred at a particular time and place is generally reported accurately by the South Vietnamese, even though the question of who started it may not always be treated objectively.

11. Fighting continued in Quang Duc Province of Military Region 2 during the week. ARVN reinforced the provincial capital of Gia Nghia on 5 and 6 December with the 45th Regiment of the 23rd Division. ARVN forces have reoccupied the town of Kien Duc, which had fallen to the Communists on the 5th. Current enemy activity consists of limited ground probes and attacks-by-fire.

Laos

12. There was no significant military activity in Laos last week.

III. Other Developments Affecting Communist Military Capabilities in Indochina

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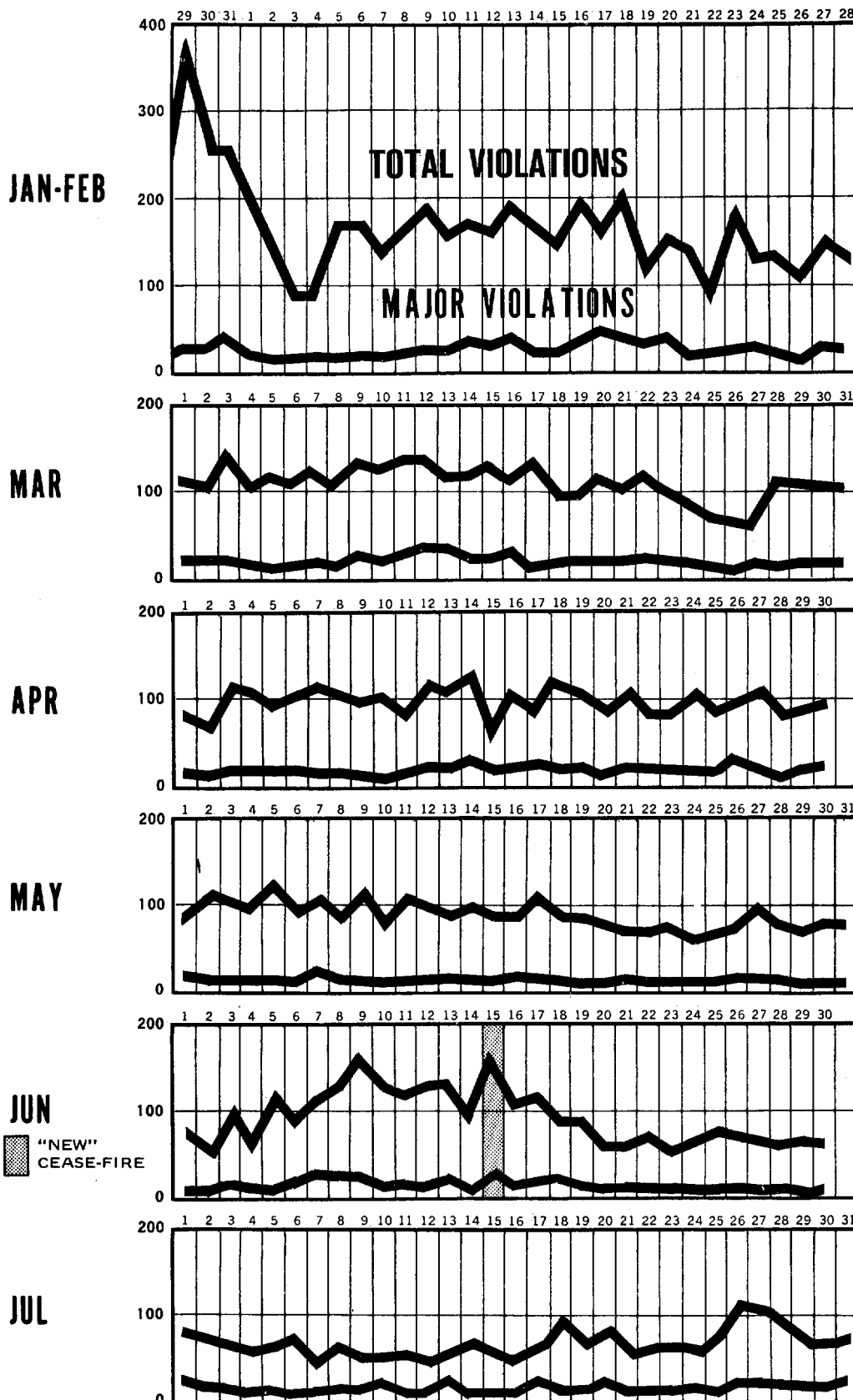
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CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS IN SOUTH VIETNAM AS REPORTED BY RVNAF

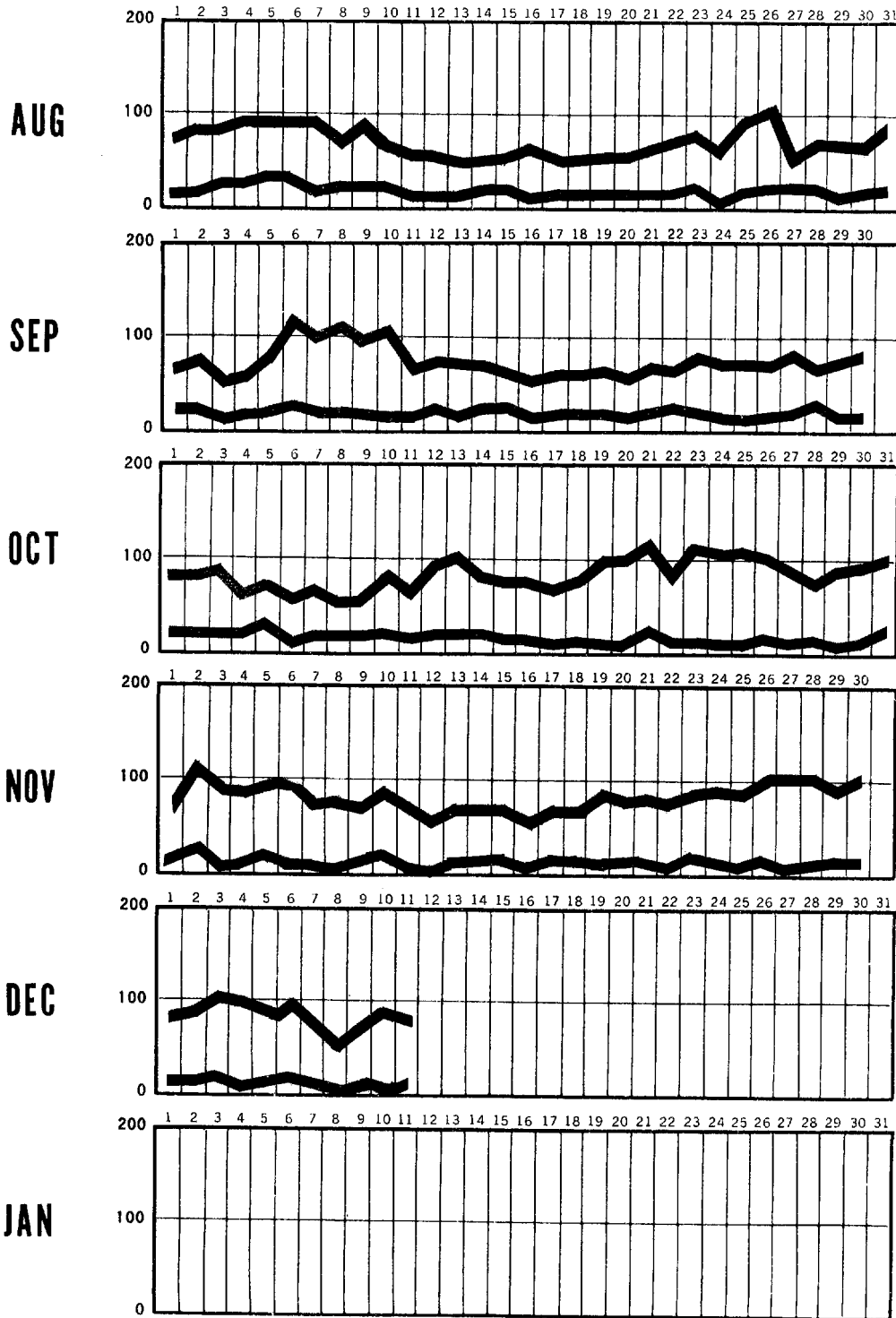
(28 JANUARY THROUGH 31 JULY 1973)





CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS IN SOUTH VIETNAM AS REPORTED BY RVNAF

(1 AUGUST 1973 TO THE PRESENT)



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