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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Indochina
SUBJECT 1. Viet Minh Losses at Vinh Yen
2. Projected Viet Minh Attack in the Delta area

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1. Viet Minh troops killed during the recent fighting at Vinh Yen totalled 1,750; other casualties totalled 3,600. Fifteen thousand troops participated in the battle. Viet Minh forces had artillery support. Because the attack was launched in order to give Viet Minh troops experience in fighting in the Delta area, no attempt was made to hold ground. The Viet Minh is not discouraged by the results of the battle as French losses equalled those of the Viet Minh.

2. During the next ten days, the Viet Minh plans to cut off 30 kilometers of Route 5 from Hanoi to Haiphong and to stage simultaneous attacks against Phat Diem and Phuly, committing 10,000 men at each place. This attack is planned in order to frighten the French, to propagandize Viet Minh strength among the population, and to seize a supply of rice. Viet Minh forces will not attempt to hold ground nor will they attempt to take the Delta by the Chinese New Year, 6 February. The Viet Minh hopes to rally the people spontaneously to their side and believes that a display of strength will prove the last straw for the population, whose faith and confidence in Bao Dai and the Franco-Vietnamese agreements has already been weakened. Viet Minh agents among civil inhabitants of Hanoi are organizing this uprising.

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3. It is believed that Ho Chi Minh has not requested Chinese Communist ground or air participation in the projected attack. Sixty thousand Viet Minh troops have been armed by the Chinese Communists. The overall Viet Minh strategy is to obtain 40,000 additional arms from Communist China to be sent to South Viet Nam via western routes. With this additional strength, Viet Minh forces could attack North and South Viet Nam simultaneously without active Chinese Communist participation.

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