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INFORMATION REPORT CD NO.

COUNTRY Thailand/Indochina/Burma

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SUBJECT Viet Minh Guerrilla Activity in the Thailand-Laos-Burma Border Area

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Viet Minh Activities in Thailand

1. There are approximately 2,000 Viet Minh guerrillas in Thailand who frequently cross the border to take part in attacks against French forces in Indochina. Officers attached to these groups carry small caliber pistols and revolvers, because they are easily concealed when travelling through Thai cities. Noncommissioned officers are armed with pistols or Thompson submachine guns. Privates are expected to supply their own arms and usually carry old rifles.
2. Viet Minh troops in Thailand expect to obtain sufficient French and American weapons through guerrilla warfare to eliminate the necessity of spending large sums of money on arms.
3. The main communications channel between the Viet Minh in Thailand and in Annam is through Ban Bung Khan (Amphur Chaiburi, 103-35, 10-25), south of Hongkhai on the Thai side of the Mekong River, to Paksane (103-39, 19-25). From Paksane, couriers walk for seven days through Viet Minh-controlled territory to a Viet Minh-controlled motor road in Annam.
4. Bang,* a Viet Minh arms trafficker, was apprehended by the Thai police at Prachinburi (101-25, 15-05) in the act of transporting arms and ammunition to the Cambodian border. Bang left Bangkok in December 1950.
5. Viet Minh troops attacked French forces at Savannakhet during December 1950 from sampans in the Mekong River. Also in December twelve Viet Minh guerrillas were killed by the French in the jungles near Savannakhet. The guerrillas were in possession of two generators and one radio transmitter.

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6. Four young Vietnamese, Tien (fnu), Duy (fnu), Khan (fnu) and Ky (fnu), are Viet Minh radio operators at Sisaket, near Ubon. The number of transmitters maintained by the Viet Minh at Sisaket is unknown.
7. A number of important Viet Minh members in northeastern Thailand, including the head of the Vietnamese community in Sakhon Nakhon, arrived in Bangkok on 21 January 1951. It is believed that the purpose of their trip was to attend a Viet Minh meeting in Bangkok and possibly to receive orders from the Viet Minh delegation there.
8. A European deserter from the French Army in Vientiane was caught recently in Tha Dien and shot.

Viet Minh Activity in Laos

9. Viet Minh propaganda in the Lao provinces have been very successful. The current propaganda line is that Thai Premier Phibun and the United States have signed a secret treaty for the return of the four lost provinces to Thailand.
10. Vietnamese merchants in Thakhek expect a Viet Minh attack soon and are planning to evacuate to Thailand. Some have already bought land in Hongkhai for this purpose.
11. The President of the Viet Minh-sponsored Free Lao Government is Prince Petcharat; Prince Souphanavong is vice president.*** Petcharat is being financed by Nguyen Duc Quy, Ho Chi Minh representative in Bangkok.
12. The leader of the Free Laos in southern Laos is Sri Thon, whose headquarters are near Pakse.*** Sri Thon is a Kha whose father was killed by the French some years ago. His extreme antipathy for the French is a result of his father's death.
13. Mai The Chau, commander of the Viet Minh-Free Lao troops in Muong Len, (100-09, 20-44), northern Burma****, has received instructions from Ho Chi Minh to return to headquarters (sic). Mai The Chau may possibly be sent to Rangoon as director of the Viet Nam News Service***** or to India to open a branch of the Viet Nam News Service there. It is also possible, however, that he will receive orders to return to Muong Len.

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* [REDACTED] Comment. According to a usually reliable anti-Viet Minh Vietnamese resident of Bangkok, Dang is one of the several Viet Minh members who accompanied Son Ngoc Minh on his recent trip to Bangkok.

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*** [REDACTED] Comment. Previous reports have indicated that Prince Souphanavong was head of the Lao Provisional Government. [REDACTED] 25X1A
 25X1A [REDACTED] reported that Prince Petcharat had made up his differences with Souphanavong and would probably return to Laos to take part in a Viet Minh-sponsored government. According to this report, however, Petcharat planned to return after the Viet Minh and Souphanavong had gained control of Laos.

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**** [REDACTED] Comment. This information is also reported in [REDACTED] from a different source. Mai Sri Thon has also been reported as Zee Toon.

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ Comment. [redacted] is a recent report on Viet Minh forces in Huong Len. Mai The Chau has not been mentioned previously in connection with Viet Minh guerrilla activities and has had little military experience. In view of his past history as an important Viet Minh political can-bo, it is probable he is in the area as a courier between Burma and Indochina rather than as a military leader. [redacted] for background information on Mai The Chau.

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ Comment. [redacted] the former editor of the Viet Nam News Service bulletin in Bangkok, Hcang Thanh Trai, has gone to Rangoon to make arrangements for publishing the bulletin there.

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