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SUBJECT

ENEMY ATTACKS ON FRIENDLY POSITIONS IN SOUTHERN PHONG
SALY AND WESTERN LUANG PRABANG PROVINCESPLACE &
DATE ACQ. LAOS, VIENTIANE (13 APRIL 1965)

REF

IN 44724

SOURCE
AND
APPRAISAL

FIELD REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

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1. (SUMMARY: IN LATE MARCH AND THROUGHOUT THE FIRST WEEK OF APRIL, 1965, ADC UNITS IN SOUTHERN PHONG SALY AND NORTHWESTERN LUANG PRABANG PROVINCES WERE BEING ATTACKED BY ENEMY GROUPS RANGING IN SIZE FROM ABOUT 200 TO NEARLY 800 MEN. THE MAJORITY OF THE ATTACKING FORCES WERE PATHET LAO REINFORCED WITH TROOPS FROM THE PEOPLE'S ARMY OF VIETNAM (PAVN) AN ADC COMMANDER ESTIMATED THAT 200 OF THE TROOPS INVOLVED IN ATTACKS ABOUT 40 KILOMETERS NORTHEAST OF NAM THA TOWN WERE REGULAR CHINESE COMMUNIST FORCES BUT THIS IS NOT CONFIRMED. A LOCAL RESIDENT OF THIS AREA REPORTED THE MOVEMENT OF A CHINESE COMMUNIST BATTALION FROM SHANGYUNG (QD 8058) TO 40 KILOMETERS NORTHEAST OF NAM THA TOWN. THE

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AREAS UNDER ATTACK WERE IN THE VICINITY OF SJ 9038, 65 KILOMETERS NORTHEAST OF NAM THA TOWN, AND IN THE VICINITY OF QD 9323, 41 KILOMETERS EAST OF NAM THA. THE ENEMY HAD OVERRUN THE POSITIONS OF AT LEAST FOUR ADC COMPANIES AND HAD EITHER DISPERSED OR CAPTURED THE ADC TROOPS. BY 12 APRIL BOTH ADC AREAS WERE UNDER HEAVY ENEMY PRESSURE.)

2. AN INFORMANT WITH ACCESS TO MUONG SING (QD 2445) GAVE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON THE ENEMY TO MEMBERS OF A FRIENDLY UNIT:

A. ON 18 MARCH ABOUT 250 ENEMY TROOPS MOVED FROM MUONG SING TO NAM THA (QD 5118) THESE TROOPS WERE DRESSED IN GREEN UNIFORMS AND WERE ARMED WITH THREE UNIDENTIFIED HEAVY WEAPONS. (FIELD COMMENT: THESE MAY HAVE BEEN TROOPS OF THE 408TH PL BATTALION WITH NORTH VIETNAMESE (NVN) ATTACHED WHICH WAS LISTED IN THE 1 APRIL ENEMY ORDER OF BATTLE ESTIMATE FOR LAOS AS BEING HEADQUARTERED IN MUONG SING.)

B. ON 28 MARCH THERE WERE ABOUT 109 ENEMY TROOPS, INCLUDING POLICE, IN MUONG SING. ALL HEAVY WEAPONS EMPLACEMENTS HAD BEEN FILLED WITH DIRT.

C. THE ENEMY PROPAGANDIZED THAT THEY WERE BEGINNING A MAJOR OFFENSIVE AGAINST FRIENDLY TROOPS.

3. A VILLAGER WHO HAD ACCESS TO NAM THA TOWN TOLD A LAO ARMED FORCES (FAR) SERGEANT THAT ON 28 MARCH 120 PAVN/ETHNIC BLACK THAI TROOPS MOVED EAST FROM NAM THA TOWN. THESE TROOPS WERE ARMED WITH ONE 81MM MORTAR AND FOUR RECOILLESS RIFLES. FIFTY COOLIES CARRIED AMMUNITION AND SUPPLIES FOR THIS UNIT. (FIELD COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE INFORMANT IDENTIFIED SOME OF THESE TROOPS AS PAVN, IT IS POSSIBLE THEY WERE

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PART OF THE FORCE REFERRED TO IN PARA 2 A OR WERE FROM THE 5TH PL BATTALION, LISTED IN THE 1 APRIL ENEMY ORDER OF BATTLE ESTIMATE FOR LAOS AS BEING HEADQUARTERED IN NAM THA TOWN.)

4. THE COMMANDER OF AN ADC UNIT AT QD 9323, 41 KMS EAST OF NAM THA TOWN, REPORTED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON THE ENEMY:

A. ON 31 MARCH ABOUT 300 PL/PAVN TROOPS ATTACKED AND CAPTURED AN ADC COMPANY POSITION AT QD 9019, 39 KILOMETERS EAST OF NAM THA TOWN. EIGHT ADC SOLDIERS WERE KILLED OR WOUNDED. THE ENEMY TROOPS SHOUTED IN VIETNAMESE DURING THE ATTACK.

B. ON 4 APRIL AN ENEMY FORCE OF UNDETERMINED SIZE ATTACKED AND CAPTURED AN ADC COMPANY POSITION AT QD 9228, 40 KILOMETERS EAST OF NAM THA. TWO ADC SOLDIERS WERE KILLED. THE ADC COMPANY RETREATED TO QD 9331, THREE KILOMETERS TO THE NORTH.

C. ON 5 APRIL AT 1920 HOURS ABOUT 200 ENEMY TROOPS ATTACKED AND OVERRAN AN ADC COMPANY'S POSITION AT QD 9334, 45 KILOMETERS NORTHEAST OF NAM THA. THE ADC SOLDIERS WERE DISPERSED AND ONLY 18 ARRIVED AT THEIR HEADQUARTERS AT QD 9323.

D. ON 8 APRIL AT 2000 HOURS ABOUT 300 ENEMY TROOPS WITH 400 LOCAL VILLAGERS AS COOLIES ATTACKED AND OVERRAN AN ADC COMPANY AT QD 9339, 48 KILOMETERS NORTHEAST OF NAM THA. THE ENEMY CAPTURED THE ENTIRE COMPANY AND FORCED IT TO CARRY SUPPLIES.

E. ON 9 APRIL THE ADC HEADQUARTERS AT QD 9323 MOVED TO RD 0121, 11 KILOMETERS TO THE EAST.

F. ON 10 APRIL THERE WERE APPROXIMATELY 400 CHINESE COMMUNIST

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AND PAVN TROOPS AT QD 9331. (FIELD COMMENT: FURTHER EVIDENCE ON THE PRESENCE OF REGULAR CHINESE COMMUNIST TROOPS AT QD 9331 WITH THE PATHET LAO IS LACKING AND THIS IDENTIFICATION OF THE UNIT AS A REGULAR UNIT FROM CHINA SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WITH RESERVE AT THIS TIME.)

5. THE ADC BATTALION COMMANDER AT DOI SANG (SJ 9038) HAD THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON THE ENEMY:

A. ON AN UNREPORTED DATE A TOTAL OF 779 ENEMY TROOPS ARMED WITH ONE 120MM MORTAR, TWO 75MM HOWITZERS, THREE 82MM RECOILLESS GUNS AND THREE 57MM RECOILLESS RIFLES ATTACKED AND ROUTED ADC TROOPS IN THE VICINITY OF QD 9431. (FIELD COMMENT: THIS IS PROBABLY THE ACTION REPORTED IN PARA 4 C.)

B. ON 7 APRIL AN ENEMY FORCE OF UNREPORTED SIZE WAS MOVING TO SURROUND DOI SANG.

6. THE ADC COMMANDER FOR THE NORTHERN LUANG PRABANG AREA REPORTED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

A. AN ADC COMPANY IN THE VICINITY OF RD 0239, 64 KILOMETERS NORTHEAST OF NAM THA TOWN, WAS ATTACKED AND DISPERSED ON AN UNREPORTED DATE IN THE SECOND WEEK OF APRIL. ONLY THREE MEN FROM THE COMPANY REACHED ADC TROOPS IN THE VICINITY OF RD 1138.

B. ONE ADC COMPANY AND A LARGE NUMBER OF CIVILIAN REFUGEES WERE AT QD 9525, 35 KILOMETERS NORTHEAST OF NAM THA, WERE ALMOST CUT OFF FROM ADC FORCES TO THE EAST ON 12 APRIL.

C. ON 12 APRIL ENEMY CONTROL EXTENDED TO A LINE RUNNING FROM TJ 0527, 78 KILOMETERS EAST OF NAM THA TOWN, SOUTHWEST TO MUONG LA

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(TJ 0111) TO MUONG SAI (RC 1290), 67 KILOMETERS SOUTHEAST OF NAM THA.

(FIELD COMMENT: [REDACTED]) REPORTED A PROBABLE ENEMY ATTEMPT TO CUT OFF THE ADC HEADQUARTERS AT DOI SANG FROM ADC UNITS TO THE SOUTH.)

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D. BY 12 APRIL ABOUT 800 ENEMY TROOPS WERE IN THE QD 9331 AREA, 43 KILOMETERS NORTHEAST OF NAM THA TOWN. THE SUPPLY LINE FOR THESE TROOPS RAN FROM BATENE (QD 7744), 36 KILOMETERS NORTHEAST OF NAM THA.

E. AN ESTIMATED 200 REGULAR CHINESE COMMUNIST TROOPS TOOK PART IN THESE ATTACKS. ACCORDING TO THE ADC COMMANDER, THE CHINESE TROOPS WERE IDENTIFIED BY THEIR UNIFORMS AND THEIR LANGUAGE. ADC TROOPS INVOLVED IN CLOSE QUARTERS COMBAT SAID THAT THE CHINESE WORE UNIFORMS WITH FOUR INCH LONG RED STRIPES ON THE RIGHT EPAULET AND GREEN OR BLUE BERETS. THE ADC SOLDIERS CLAIMED THEY HEARD SHOUTS IN CHINESE. (FIELD COMMENT: ADC TROOPS IN THIS AREA HAVE PREVIOUSLY REPORTED HEARING CHINESE WHEN THE LANGUAGE INVOLVED WAS UNFAMILIAR TO THEM. FURTHER EVIDENCE ON THE PARTICIPATION OF REGULAR CHINESE COMMUNIST TROOPS IN ATTACKS IS LACKING AND THE INFORMATION SHOULD BE TREATED WITH RESERVE UNTIL VERIFICATION IS POSSIBLE.)

7. ACCORDING TO A VILLAGER WITH ACCESS TO THE AREA DESCRIBED, ON AN UNREPORTED DATE ONE BATTALION OF CHINESE TROOPS MOVED FROM SHANG-YUNG (QD 8058) IN CHINA, 49 KILOMETERS NORTHEAST OF NAM THA TOWN, TO VANG NA TOUI (QD 7631) IN LAOS, 28 KILOMETERS NORTHEAST OF NAM THA TOWN AND JOINED WITH TWO PL COMPANIES WHICH ATTACKED FRIENDLY TROOPS IN THE QD 9323 AREA.

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(FIELD COMMENT: FURTHER EVIDENCE ON THE PARTICIPATION OF REGUALR CHINESE COMMUNIST TROOPS IN ATTACKS WITH THE PATHET LAO IS LACKING AND THE INFORMATION SHOULD BE TREATED WITH RESERVE UNTIL VERIFICATION IS POSSIBLE.)

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8. FIELD DISSEM: STATE ARMY AIR USAID CINCPAC PACFLT ARPAC PACAF
USMACV-SAIGON 2ND AIR DIVISION SAIGON [REDACTED]

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