

SECRET/SENSITIVE

MAR 25 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Henry A. Kissinger
SUBJECT: Terrorist Activities in Saigon

The daily brief of February 28, 1970, described two enemy terrorist attacks in Saigon as well as the first enemy ground contact in the capital in almost four months. You asked if there were any special significance to these activities and, specifically, whether they were a reaction to our own operations.

Although my checks indicated that there appeared to be no special significance to these activities, I asked Director Helms to investigate because we were involved in [redacted] at the time. Helms' report at Tab A indicates:

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- The ground activities involved a Viet Cong squad on patrol which was discovered on the edge of Saigon's southernmost precinct and engaged by a Regional Force ambush company for an hour before the enemy withdrew, leaving two enemy dead.
- In the terrorist incident involving a ten-pound explosive detonated near the wall of a U. S. barracks, two Americans and two civilians were wounded. Since this building is a well-known priority target of the Viet Cong, the timing of the activity probably had little significance. (Several hours later a second charge was exploded at a Peoples Self Defense Headquarters located near the U. S. barracks but there were no casualties.)

[redacted]

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It is my assessment that these incidents had no special significance and were not meant as a response to U. S. actions.

Attachment

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ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

MORI/CDF
C05099067



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

11 MAR 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable Henry A. Kissinger
Assistant to the President for
National Security Affairs

SUBJECT: Terrorist Attacks in Saigon

REFERENCE: Your Memorandum of March 9, 1970

1. Our Saigon Station reports that the two actions to which you refer consisted of the following:

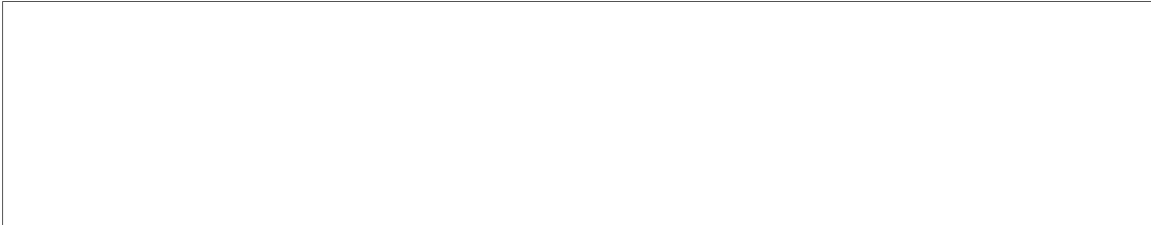
a. A little after midnight on 28 February an ARVN RF company on a patrol operation engaged a Viet Cong squad just inside the southwest edge of Saigon's southernmost precinct. The enemy responded to the RF company's fire. The contact lasted for about an hour at which time the enemy withdrew in a northwesterly direction. Five of the RF company were wounded and two VC were killed in the action. One of the dead VC was identified by documents as a platoon leader from a battalion of SR-3.

b. At 2020 hours on 27 February an estimated ten pounds of plastique explosive was detonated near the wall of the Metropole enlisted billet. Two Americans were wounded and two civilians injured with minor damage to the building.

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2. The incident described in paragraph 1 a. above does not appear to have been a ground assault. The VC unit was on patrol and was discovered by the RF company. The Metropole billet is a well known priority target of the Viet Cong and it seems most likely that the attack against it merely represents accomplishment of a long-standing VC operational goal.



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Richard Helms
Director

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March 14, 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR HENRY A. KISSINGER

FROM: Al Haig

SUBJECT: Terrorist Attacks in Saigon

At Tab B is a copy of the President's daily brief on which he asks if there is any significance to the terrorist attacks and ground contact which occurred on the evening of February 27. In case you desire to send a response to the President's question, there is a memorandum at Tab A which forwards a CIA report concluding that there probably was



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Attachments

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JH:pmh 3/14/70