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REPORT CLASS

COUNTRY: SOUTH VIETNAM

SUBJECT: SITUATION REPORT IN I CORPS AS OF 1000 HOURS ON 3 FEBRUARY

ACQ: VIETNAM, DANANG (3 FEBRUARY 1968)

SOURCE: THIS IS A SITUATION REPORT ON 3 FEBRUARY PREPARED BY CAS.

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SUMMARY. I CORPS WAS GENERALLY QUIET THE NIGHT OF 2/3 FEBRUARY. THE INFUX OF REFUGEES IN QUANG TRI AND QUANG NAM WAS CREATING PROBLEMS OF HOUSING AND FEEDING. THE VIET CONG (VC) WERE SPREADING RUMORS IN QUANG TRI THAT THE AMERICANS WOULD "SELL THE PEOPLE OUT" AND IN DANANG ATTEMPTING TO AROUSE THE PEOPLE TO DEMONSTRATE AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM. POCKETS OF VC REMAIN IN AREAS AROUND HOI AN AND QUANG NGAI CITIES, BUT THESE ARE BEING CLEARED OUT. VC PRESSURE PROBABLY WILL CONTINUE FOR A FEW DAYS IN QUANG NAM, QUANG TIN, AND QUANG NGAI PROVINCES. MORALE IS REPORTED TO BE GOOD IN

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QUANG NGAI AND QUANG TIN. END SUMMARY.

1. ON THE NIGHT OF 2/3 FEBRUARY QUANG TRI CITY REMAINED QUIET. REFUGEES CONTINUED COMING INTO THE DISTRICTS AND QUANG TRI CITY, CAUSING PROBLEMS IN FEEDING AND HOUSING. THE VIET-CONG (VC) ARE SPREADING THE PROPAGANDA AMONG THE PEOPLE THAT THE AMERICANS ARE GOING TO "SELL THEM OUT" AND ABANDON THE WAR. TO COUNTER THIS THE GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM (GVN) AND AMERICANS IN THE PROVINCE ARE LAUNCHING AN INTENSIVE PSYWAR OPERATION.

2. SINCE THE ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM (ARVN) REVOLUTIONARY DIRECT SUPPORT BATTALIONS ARE NOW ENGAGED IN MAINTAINING THE INTEGRITY OF QUANG TRI CITY, THE QUANG TRI REVOLUTIONARY DEVELOPMENT (RD) TEAMS HAVE BEEN RELOCATED TO PROVIDE THEM WITH THE BEST POSSIBLE SECURITY UNDER EXISTING CIRCUMSTANCES. THE TEAMS HAVE ENCOUNTERED FEW VC ATTACKS AND SUSTAINED FEW CASUALTIES, BUT THEIR FIELD STRENGTHS ARE LOW DUE TO THE CONFUSION RESULTING FROM THE LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAY (30 JANUARY) AND THE CURRENT VC OFFENSIVE. THE TEAMS HAVE BEEN RESUPPLIED WITH AMMUNITION WHERE REQUIRED. THE RD CADRE CONTROL HAS SHOWN DEFINITE INEPTITUDE IN

REORGANIZING TEAMS. EXPLOITING THE PSYWAR OPPORTUNITIES, AND CONDUCTING REQUIRED ADMINISTRATION. CAJ

3. ACCORDING TO REGIONAL POLICE OFFICIALS, THE POLICE HAVE DETAINED MORE THAN 400 PEOPLE IN THEIR SEARCH OF THE DANANG CITY AREA TO ROUND UP PERSONS WHO DO NOT HAVE PROPER IDENTIFICATION. ACCORDING TO A RETIRED ARVN MAJOR, AN EMPLOYEE OF CAS, RUMORS ARE CIRCULATING IN DANANG THAT THE VC AGENTS ARE ATTEMPTING TO PERSUADE THE POPULATION TO MUSTER A DEMONSTRATION TO PROTEST AGAINST THE GVN. ALSO THE VC ARE SPREADING RUMORS THAT THERE WILL BE VC SAPPER ATTACKS AGAINST VIETNAMESE WORKING FOR AMERICAN INSTALLATIONS.

4. INFORMATION FROM HOI AN, QUANG NAM PROVINCE, STATES THAT THE VC ARE STILL HIDING IN THE CITY IN SOME STRENGTH. THE PROVINCE CHIEF IS ATTEMPTING TO CLEAR THESE POCKETS OF VC. ON 2 FEBRUARY REPUBLIC OF KOREA (ROK) FORCES, IN A SWEEP TWO KILOMETERS NORTH OF HOI AN, ENCOUNTERED A VC UNIT AND KILLED 100 BY BODY COUNT. SEVERAL ALLIED OBSERVERS HAVE NOTED THAT EARLIER ARVN OUTSHONE ROK TROOPS IN REPULSING THE ATTACK ON HOI AN CITY. DISTRICTS AND HOI AN, ARE RECEIVING MASSES OF REFUGEES. THIS CAUSES PROBLEMS IN FEEDING AND HOUSING, AND THEIR

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PRESENCE IS SLOWING DOWN POLICE SCREENING AND OTHER SECURITY FUNCTIONS IN THE CITY. ACCORDING TO CENSUS GRIEVANCE REPORTS, THE VC PLAN TO CONTINUE PRESSURE IN THE PROVINCE. ONE INDICATION OF A RETURN TO NORMAL SITUATION WAS THE APPEARANCE OF BREAD ON THE MARKET. THE PROVINCE CHIEF STILL HAS A 24-HOUR TRAVEL BAN ON ALL EXCEPT SECURITY TROOPS.

5. IN QUANG NGAI PROVINCE ONLY THREE RD CADRES HAVE BEEN REPORTED KILLED IN ACTION, BUT THIS FIGURE MAY INCREASE WHEN ALL REPORTS ARE IN. MORALE OF THE LOCAL PEOPLE AND ESPECIALLY SVN FUNCTIONARIES IS HIGH. THIS IS DUE TO THE OBVIOUS HEAVY VC LOSSES AND THEIR INABILITY TO REMAIN IN THE CITY. SCATTERED VC POCKETS REMAIN IN THE VILLAGES AROUND QUANG NGAI CITY AND DISTRICTS REPORT SOME VC HARASSMENT STILL. PROVINCE SECURITY ELEMENTS ARE SWEEPING TO CLEAR THESE AREAS OF VC. A CAS OFFICER BELIEVES THAT VC PRESSURE WILL CONTINUE AT LEAST TWO MORE DAYS. THERE ARE NO FIRM REPORTS OF A MASSIVE VC ATTACK.

6. THE FEELING OF FEAR STILL HOLDS THE POPULACE OF TAN KY, QUANG TIN PROVINCE; HOWEVER, ON 3 FEBRUARY THE PEOPLE APPEARED TO BE MORE RELAXED. THE PEOPLE ARE APPRECIATIVE OF

THE PRESENCE OF ALLIED FORCES AND THE MANNER IN WHICH THEY REPULSED THE VC ATTACKS. IN FACT, THEY WOULD LIKE TO SEE ALLIED FORCES LAUNCH STILL MORE ATTACKS AGAINST THE VC. THE PEOPLE WERE ANGERED BY THE VC FOR BREAKING THE LUNAR NEW YEAR TRUCE.

7. FIELD DISSEM: STATE USMACV CORDS III MAF 7TH AF USARV - COMNAVFORV USAID DIR JUSPAO (MR. ZORTHIAN ONLY) CINCPAC ARPAC PACAF.
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