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TOT: 161240Z APR 84

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~~SECRET~~ NOFORN WNINTEL  
161240Z [Redacted]

TO: IMMEDIATE NPIC, DIRNSA, DEPT OF STATE, DIA, TREASURY DEPT,  
WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM, NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL STAFF,  
ZEN/CIA OFFICE OF CURRENT OPERATIONS,  
USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI, CINCPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI, CDRWESTCOM FT  
SHAFTER HI, COMIPAC HONOLULU HI, CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI,  
COMSEVENTHFLT, 13AF CLARK AB PI.

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PASS: [Redacted]

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WARNING: INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE.  
REPORT CLASS ~~SECRET~~--WNINTEL--NOFORN

DIST: 16 APR 84  
COUNTRY: KAMPUCHEA/VIETNAM/THAILAND

SUBJ: THAI-KAMPUCHEAN BORDER SITUATION REPORT AS OF 1700  
HOURS LOCAL TIME

DOI: [Redacted]

SOURCE: SEE BELOW.

*CW Koufukien*  
*Possible CW*  
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SUMMARY: AS OF 0900 HOURS ON 16 APRIL 1984, KPRLF FORCES AT BAN SA NGAE STILL HELD THE CAMP, AND THE FRONT LINE WAS WEST OF LAKE AMPIL. THE PAVN ATTACK ON THE BAN SA NGAE AREA BEGAN EARLY ON 15 APRIL WITH ARTILLERY, FOLLOWED BY A TWO-PRONGED ATTACK. SOME RTA OFFICERS SUSPECTED THAT PAVN HAD USED CHEMICAL AGENTS IN THE ATTACK, BUT CONFIRMATION WAS NOT AVAILABLE. AS OF 1700 HOURS ON 15 APRIL, THE EASTERN 25 PERCENT OF BAN SA NGAE CAMP HAD BEEN BURNED. PAVN-DK FIGHTING WAS TAKING PLACE IN THE PAILIN, KAMPUCHEA, AREA AS OF 15 APRIL, AS WAS FIGHTING IN THE PHNOM MELAI-NAM SAP AREA WITH PAVN TRYING TO DISLODGE DK 320TH DIVISION TROOPS FROM ONE LOCATION. ALONG THE NORTHERN TIER OF THE BORDER NEAR BAN TRAWAENG, PAVN FORCES HAD OCCUPIED HILL 450 ABOUT ONE OR TWO KILOMETERS IN THAI TERRITORY, AND RTA 6TH DIVISION FORCES WERE MOVING TO REPEL THE UNIT. IT WAS NOT YET KNOWN WHETHER MISSILE OR ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE HAD SHOT DOWN AN RTAF L-19 OBSERVATION AIRCRAFT ON 15 APRIL.

TEXT: 1. AT 0900 HOURS ON 16 APRIL 1984, [Redacted] KHMER PEOPLE'S NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT (KPRLF) FORCES AT BAN SA NGAE STILL HELD THE CAMP, AND THE FRONT LINE WAS WEST OF LAKE AMPIL. AS OF LATE ON 15 APRIL, KPRLF CASUALTIES WERE FIVE DEAD AND AN UNKNOWN NUMBER OF SOLDIERS AND CIVILIANS WOUNDED. [Redacted] TWO PEOPLE'S ARMY OF VIETNAM (PAVN) REGIMENTS WERE IN FRONT OF BAN SA NGAE, BUT ONLY THREE BATTALIONS WERE INVOLVED IN THE ATTACK. THE MAIN PAVN THRUST, INVOLVING AN ESTIMATED 400 MEN, WAS AGAINST THE KPRLF SOUTHERN FLANK. A SECONDARY ATTACK, INVOLVING ABOUT 300 MEN, CAME DIRECTLY FROM THE EAST. THE PAVN ATTACKS WERE SUPPORTED BY 105-MILLIMETER (MM) FIRE FROM TWO POSITIONS NEAR PHUM THMEI. (TA 8048). [Redacted]

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2. THE PAVN ATTACK AT BAN SA NGAIE BEGAN AT ABOUT 0400 HOURS ON 15 APRIL WITH ARTILLERY, FOLLOWED BY THE TWO-PRONGED GROUND ATTACK AT 0530 HOURS. THE ATTACK NORTH OF LAKE AMPIL CAME TO WITHIN ABOUT TWO AND ONE-HALF KILOMETERS OF THE THAI BORDER, WHILE THE ATTACK SOUTH OF THE LAKE CAME WITHIN TWO KILOMETERS OF THE BORDER BEFORE BEING HALTED. THE KPRLF TROOPS WERE REPORTED TO BE LOW ON AMMUNITION, BUT HAD SUFFICIENT FOOD. THE PAVN RESUMED ARTILLERY SHELLING OF KPRLF TROOPS WITH ABOUT 20 ROUNDS OF 105MM ARTILLERY AT 0630 HOURS ON 16 APRIL, BUT, AS OF MID-MORNING ON 16 APRIL, HAD NOT LAUNCHED ANOTHER GROUND ATTACK. GENERAL ((DIEN)) DEL COMMANDED THE KPRLF TROOPS ON 15 APRIL, BUT GENERAL ((SAK)) SUTSAKHAN RETURNED FROM BANGKOK IN THE EVENING OF 15 APRIL AND ASSUMED COMMAND.

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3. SOME RTA OFFICERS SUSPECTED THAT CHEMICAL AGENTS HAD BEEN USED BY PAVN FORCES IN THE ATTACK. ABOUT 35 KPRLF SOLDIERS ENGAGED WEST OF LAKE AMPIL REPORTEDLY WERE WOUNDED IN A CHEMICAL ATTACK; THEIR PRIMARY SYMPTOM APPEARED TO BE THE VOMITING OF BLOOD. FIVE CASES WERE CONSIDERED "SERIOUS," AND THE SOLDIERS WERE HOSPITALIZED AT THE KHAO I DANG REFUGEE HOSPITAL. AN UNIDENTIFIED DOCTOR INITIALLY BELIEVED THE WOUNDED SOLDIERS WERE SUFFERING FROM A TEAR GAS ATTACK BUT LATER TOLD THAT THE CAUSE WAS A MORE "SEVERE" FORM OF UNSPECIFIED CHEMICAL.

COMMENT: NO FURTHER DETAILS ARE AVAILABLE.)  
[Redacted]

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4. CIVILIANS AT BAN SA NGAIE HAD BEEN EVACUATED AS OF 1400 HOURS ON 15 APRIL. THAI AUTHORITIES PLANNED TO HAVE ALL CIVILIANS MOVED TO A REFUGEE ASSEMBLY AREA IN THE VICINITY OF BAN SAN RO CHANANG (TA 7562) BY NIGHTFALL, BUT THERE WERE INDICATIONS THAT LARGE NUMBERS OF REFUGEES WERE INSTEAD CHOOSING TO GO TO THE REFUGEE CAMP AT DONG RUK.

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7. THE FIGHTING IN THE PHNOM MELAI-NAM SAP AREA ON 15 APRIL INVOLVED PAVN TROOPS TRYING TO DISLodge DK 320TH DIVISION TROOPS FROM THE VILLAGE OF DOM NAK CHEK (UNLOCATED). THE VILLAGE STRADDLED AN IMPROVED TRAIL LEADING FROM BAVEL WESTWARD THROUGH DK-HELD TERRITORY TO THE THAI-KAMPUCHEAN BORDER. AS LONG AS THE DK HELD THIS VILLAGE, RTA OFFICERS BELIEVED THE PAVN APPARENTLY WOULD BE PREVENTED FROM BRINGING ARMOR AND ARTILLERY INTO THE DK AREA.

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8. IN THE FIGHTING ALONG THE NORTHERN TIER NEAR BAN TRAWAENG, AS OF LATE ON 15 APRIL, THE PAVN HAD OCCUPIED HILL 450, ABOUT ONE OR TWO KILOMETERS IN THAI TERRITORY NEAR CHONG PHRIK PASS (UA 8686), WITH ABOUT ONE PLATOON OF TROOPS. THE SECOND BATTALION, 23RD REGIMENT, RTA 6TH DIVISION, WAS MOVING TO REPEL THE PAVN UNIT, BUT HAD NOT ESTABLISHED CONTACT AS OF EARLY 16 APRIL. THERE HAD BEEN EXCHANGES OF ARTILLERY FIRE FROM POSITIONS LOCATED NEAR BAN CHAWAT (UNLOCATED), APPROXIMATELY EIGHT KILOMETERS FROM THE BORDER IN KAMPUCHEA.

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10. [Redacted] THE PILOT OF THE ROYAL THAI AIR FORCE (RTAF) L-19 AIRCRAFT THAT WAS SHOT DOWN IN THE BAN TRAWAENG AREA PARACHUTED TO SAFETY. HOWEVER, THE OBSERVER, WHO WAS WITHOUT A PRACHUTE, PERISHED. [Redacted] COMMENT: THE FOREGOING CONFLICTS WITH EARLIER INFORMATION TO THE EFFECT THAT TWO PILOTS AND ONE OBSERVER WERE SEEN EXITING THE AIRCRAFT BY PARACHUTE.) EXAMINATION OF THE WRECKAGE TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE PLANE HAD BEEN BROUGHT DOWN BY MISSILE OR ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE HAD NOT BEEN COMPLETED AS OF THE MORNING OF 16 APRIL [Redacted]

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REPORT CLASS S E C R E T--WARNING NOTICE-INTELLIGENCE SOURCES OR METHODS INVOLVED--NOT RELEASABLE TO FOREIGN NATIONALS--FGI.

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ALL

PORTIONS CARRY CLASSIFICATION AND CONTROLS OF OVERALL DOCUMENT.

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