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REPORT CLASS

COUNTRY: SOUTH VIETNAM
DOI: 31 JANUARY 1968
SUBJECT: BACKGROUND ON 31 JANUARY ATTACK AGAINST TAM KY CITY,
QUANG TIN PROVINCE

ACQ: VIETNAM, DANANG. (2 FEBRUARY 1968)
SOURCE:

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THE TRANSLATIONS OF TWO DOCUMENTS RECOVERED FROM THE BODY OF A WOUNDED VIET CONG (VC) WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE 31 JANUARY ATTACK ON TAM KY CITY, QUANG TIN PROVINCE, DISCLOSED THAT THE ATTACK WAS TO BE UNDERTAKEN FROM THREE SIDES, WITH TWO-PRONGED CONCENTRATIONS ON PROVINCIAL HEADQUARTERS. THE VC 70TH MAIN FORCE (OR POSSIBLY THE 70TH BATTALION OF THE 21ST NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY (NVA) REGIMENT), AND THE 72ND AND 74TH LOCAL FORCE BATTALIONS WERE AMONG THE UNITS THAT

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PARTICIPATED IN THE ATTACK. THE DOCUMENTS GAVE INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE VC TO DESTROY THE BUS STATION, TRY TO OCCUPY THE AIR FIELD (THE 74TH), AND TO TRY TO OCCUPY PROVINCE HEADQUARTERS. AMONG THE NOTATIONS WERE CAUTIONS AGAINST WEARING BLACK CLOTHES AND SIGNAL PLANS AND TIMES CERTAIN ELEMENTS, SUCH AS SAPPER UNITS, WERE TO CARRY OUT THEIR TASKS. INCLUDED WAS A SKETCH OF THE LINES OF INFILTRATION FOR THE ATTACK. LETTERS TAKEN FROM THE VC, WHO LATER DIED, REFER TO THE HARDSHIPS SUFFERED FROM UNITED STATES BOMBING AND MOURN FRIENDS WHO HAD BEEN KILLED. ONE WRITER SAYS HE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE REVENGE FOR THOSE KILLED UNJUSTLY BY UNITED STATES AGGRESSORS. (FIELD COMMENT: THE VC SUFFERED A HIGH KILLED IN ACTION RATIO DURING THIS ATTACK AND APPARENTLY HAVE NOT INFLECTED HEAVY DAMAGE IN SUBSEQUENT ATTACKS AGAINST TAM KY AND THE SIXTH ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM (ARVN) REGIMENT.)

2. IN ONE INCIDENT OF THE VC ATTACK ON 31 JANUARY PROVINCIAL RECONNAISSANCE UNIT (PRU) MEMBERS CAPTURED 19 VC INDIVIDUAL AND CREW-SERVED WEAPONS, INCLUDING ONE 57MM RECOILLESS RIFLE. THE PRU'S KILLED 23 VC (UNITED STATES ADVISOR BODY COUNT) AND CAPTURED ONE VC. TWO PRUS WERE SLIGHTLY WOUNDED AND DAMAGE TO THE

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PRU CAMP WAS MINIMAL. THE ATTACK BEGAN AT 0445 WHEN APPROXIMATELY TWO BATTALIONS OF VC SUPPORTED BY AN UNKNOWN NUMBER OF LOCAL VC COMPANIES ATTACKED THE QUANG TIN PROVINCE HEADQUARTERS COMPOUND UNDER COVER OF A MORTAR BARRAGE. ONE BATTALION OF VC ATTACKED FROM THE NORTHWEST, STRIKING AT THE PRU COMPOUND AND AN ARVN COMPANY ON COMPOUND'S EAST FLANK. THE ARVN COMPANY SOON WITHDREW TO THE PROVINCIAL INTERROGATION CENTER, LEAVING THE FLANK OPEN. THE PRU'S PUT THE AREA UNDER FIRE WITH THREE MACHINE GUNS AND FIVE M-79'S, PLUS THEIR INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS. AT ABOUT 0515 HOURS THE PRU'S BEGAN TO RECEIVE INTENSE MACHINE GUN FIRE FROM THE AREA ABANDONED BY ARVN. AT 0645 HOURS A THIRTY-MAN PRU TEAM MOVED TOWARD THE AREA FROM WHICH THE MACHINE GUN FIRE AND CAPTURED THE MACHINE GUN, WHICH LATER TURNED OUT TO HAVE BEEN LEFT BEHIND BY THE ARVN UNIT.

3. FIELD DISSEM: STATE USMACV III MAF CORDS.

REPORT CLASS

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