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DOCUMENT NUMBER	DOCUMENT TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE OR CORRESPONDENTS	DATE	RESTRICTION
1	Memo	Kissinger to the President MANDATORY REVIEW REQUEST NLN 06-51/10596	March 20, 1971	B
2	Memo w/attach	Laird to Kissinger MANDATORY REVIEW REQUEST NLN 06-51/10597	5 Apr 1971	B
3	Memo w/attach	Laird to Kissinger MANDATORY REVIEW REQUEST NLN 06-51/10598 SANITIZED Per 10/27/2011 5 USC 55(b)(3); 10 USC 424	6 Apr 1971	B
4	Memo w/attach	Laird to Kissinger MANDATORY REVIEW REQUEST NLN 06-51/10599	4 Apr 1971	B
5	Memo w/attach	Laird to Kissinger MANDATORY REVIEW REQUEST NLN 06-51/10600 SANITIZED Per Htr 10/27/2011 5 USC 55(b)(3); 10 USC 424	2 Apr 1971	B
6	Memo w/attach	Laird to Kissinger MANDATORY REVIEW REQUEST NLN 06-51/10601	3 Apr 1971	B
7	Memo w/attach	Laird to Kissinger MANDATORY REVIEW REQUEST NLN 06-51/10602 SANITIZED per Htr 10/27/2011 5 USC 55(b)(3); 10 USC 424(b)(1)(4)	1 Apr 1971	B

FILE GROUP TITLE

National Security Council, Vietnam Subject Files

BOX NUMBER

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Folder Title

[5] VIETNAM Operations in Laos and Cambodia Vol. IV (Folder 2 of 2) (1)

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8	Memo w/attach	Kennedy to Haig MANDATORY REVIEW REQUEST NLN 06-51/99715 DECLASSIFIED per RAC 2008/04/13	March 30, 1971	B
9	Memo w/attach	Laird to Haig MANDATORY REVIEW REQUEST NLN 06-51/106013 SANITIZED per ltr 10/27/2011 5USC 55(b)(3); 10 USC 424	30 Mar 1971	B
10	Memo w/attach	Laird to Haig MANDATORY REVIEW REQUEST NLN 06-51/106014 SANITIZED per ltr 10/27/2011 3.3(b)(1); 5USC 55(b)(3); 10USC 424	31 Mar 1971	B
11	Memo w/attach	Laird to Haig MANDATORY REVIEW REQUEST NLN 06-51/106015 SANITIZED per ltr 10/27/2011 3.3(b)(1); 5USC 55(b)(3); 10 USC 424	29 Mar 1971	B
12	Memo w/attach	Laird to Haig MANDATORY REVIEW REQUEST NLN 06-51/106016 SANITIZED per ltr 10/27/2011 5USC 55(b)(3); 10 USC 424	March 28, 1971	B
13	Memo w/attach	Laird to Haig MANDATORY REVIEW REQUEST NLN 06-51/106017	25 Mar 1971	B
14	Receipt w/attach	SECDEF to Dr. Kissinger & Mr. Elliot MANDATORY REVIEW REQUEST NLN 06-51/106018	'71 Mar 28	B

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15	Memo w/attach	Laird to Kissinger MANDATORY REVIEW REQUEST NLN 06-51/ 10609 SANITIZED per ltr 10/27/2011 3.3(b)(1); 5 USC 55(b)(3) 10 USC 424	23 Mar 1971	B
16	Memo w/attach	Laird to Kissinger MANDATORY REVIEW REQUEST NLN 06-51/ 10610 SANITIZED per ltr 10/27/2011 3.3(b)(1); 5 USC 55(b)(3); 10 USC 424	22 Mar 1971	B

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17	Memo w/attach	Packard to Kissinger MANDATORY REVIEW REQUEST NLN 06-51/10611	21 Mar 1971	B
18	Memo w/attach	Packard to Kissinger MANDATORY REVIEW REQUEST NLN 06-51/10612	20 Mar 1971	B
19	Memo w/attach	Packard to Kissinger MANDATORY REVIEW REQUEST NLN 06-51/10613	19 Mar 1971	B
20	Memo w/attach	Laird to Kissinger MANDATORY REVIEW REQUEST NLN 06-51/10614 SANITIZED per Hr 10/27/2011	18 Mar 1971	B
21	Memo w/attach	Laird to Kissinger MANDATORY REVIEW REQUEST NLN 06-51/10615	17 Mar 1971	B
22	Memo w/attach	Laird to Kissinger MANDATORY REVIEW REQUEST NLN 06-51/10616 SANITIZED per Hr 2/27/2011	16 Mar 1971	B
23	Memo w/attach	Laird to Kissinger MANDATORY REVIEW REQUEST NLN 06-51/10617	15 MAR 1971	B

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24	Memo w/attach	Packard to Kissinger MANDATORY REVIEW REQUEST NLN 06-51/ 10618 SANITIZED per ltr 10/27/2011	14 Mar 1971	B
25	Memo w/attach	Packard to Kissinger MANDATORY REVIEW REQUEST NLN 06-51/ 10619 SANITIZED per ltr 10/27/2011	13 Mar 1971	B
26	Memo w/attach	Packard to Kissinger MANDATORY REVIEW REQUEST NLN 06-51/ 10620 SANITIZED per ltr 10/27/2011	12 MAR 1971	B

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[5] VIETNAM Operations in Laos and Cambodia Vol. IV (Folder 2 of 2) (2)

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2	Memo w/attach	Laird to Kissinger	5 Apr 1971	B
3	Memo w/attach	Laird to Kissinger	6 Apr 1971	B
4	Memo w/attach	Laird to Kissinger	4 Apr 1971	B
5	Memo w/attach	Laird to Kissinger	2 Apr 1971	B
6	Memo w/attach	Laird to Kissinger	3 Apr 1971	B
7	Memo w/attach	Laird to Kissinger	1 Apr 1971	B

FILE GROUP TITLE

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11	Memo w/attach	Laird to Haig	29 Mar 1971	B
12	Memo w/attach	Laird to Haig	March 28, 1971	B
13	Memo w/attach	Laird to Haig	25 Mar 1971	B
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15	Memo w/attach	Laird to Kissinger	23 Mar 1971	B
16	Memo w/attach	Laird to Kissinger	22 Mar 1971	B

FILE GROUP TITLE

National Security Council, Vietnam Subject Files

BOX NUMBER

82

Folder Title

VIETNAM Operations in Laos and Cambodia Vol. IV (Folder 2 of 2)

(3)

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20	Memo w/attach	Laird to Kissinger	18 Mar 1971	B
21	Memo w/attach	Laird to Kissinger	17 Mar 1971	B
22	Memo w/attach	Laird to Kissinger	16 Mar 1971	B
23	Memo w/attach	Laird to Kissinger	15 MAR 1971	B

FILE GROUP TITLE

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Folder Title

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24	Memo w/attach	Packard to Kissinger	14 Mar 1971	B
25	Memo w/attach	Packard to Kissinger	13 Mar 1971	B
26	Memo w/attach	Packard to Kissinger	12 MAR 1971	B

FILE GROUP TITLE

National Security Council, Vietnam Subject Files

BOX NUMBER

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Folder Title

VIETNAM Operations in Laos and Cambodia Vol. IV (Folder 2 of 2)

5

RESTRICTION CODES

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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

6 APR 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. KISSINGER

Subject: Status Report on Operations in Laos

1. (C) Reference is made to your memorandum, dated 11 February 1971, subject as above.

2. (C) In accordance with your request, the 1600 hour daily report is attached.

3. (C) This will be the final report under the code name Operation LAMSON 719.

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Section 3.5
NLN OU-51/10598; per ltr 10/27/2011
By [illegible] NARA, Date 5/1/2012
[p 10 of 5]
Per Sec. (b)(3): 10 USC 424

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Page 1 of 1 Pages

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6 April 1971

Subject: Operation LAMSON 719

1. (U) General: This report covers the period 041600-061100 GMT (042400-061900 Saigon time; 041100-060600 EST) April 1971.

2. (TS) Summary of Current Situation:

a. The level of combat activity in the LAMSON 719 area remained light during the reporting period. Two light contacts were reported. An element of the 2nd Battalion, 506th Airborne Infantry, heard a mechanical ambush detonate. After sweeping the area by fire they found three NVA soldiers killed, two AK-47 rifles, one radio, an aiming circle, and three maps of Camp Carroll. An element of the 3rd/5th Cavalry received an attack by fire while providing security for engineers which resulted in two US soldiers wounded and one bulldozer damaged.

b. A raid into the Laotian salient was conducted by 150 ARVN soldiers from the Reconnaissance Company of the 1st Infantry Division. The raiding force, supported by US helicopters, conducted a combat assault into the objective area at 2050 EST 5 April and searched the area to the north for seven hours until extracted at 0408 EST 6 April. The raiding force found 15 enemy killed by Air Cav elements supporting the raid and destroyed 17 individual weapons, nine tons of rice, one ton of miscellaneous food, two 12.7 machine guns, 16 houses, and two bunkers. There were no friendly casualties or aircraft damages reported in connection with the raid. This raid was the final action connected with Operation LAMSON 719.

c. RVNAF units continued their redeployment from the LAMSON area of operations with the redeployment from Khe Sanh to Dong Ha of the 4th Provisional Cavalry Squadron and the 77th Ranger border Defense Battalion.

d. The parking pad at Mai Loc was upgraded with 7,200 gallons of peneprine and 10 bunkers were constructed by the 2nd Battalion, 94th Artillery, southwest of Mai Loc. Supplies are being issued from the Quang Tri Combat Base FSA.

e. A current troop list of US and RVNAF units in the Khe Sanh area as of 051100 EST is shown below:

US	RVNAF
1st Bde, 5th Mech	54th Inf Regt
2 Inf Bn (1/11, 3/187 Inf)	4 Bns (1/54, 2/54,4/54, 1/2 Inf)
1 Cav Sqdn (3/5 Cav)	Supporting Arty and Combat
1 Tank Bn (1/77 Armor)	Engr Elms

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US	RVNAF
11th Inf Bde 2 Inf Bns (2/1, 4/3 Inf) 1 Cav Sqdn (1/1 Cav) Supporting Arty and Combat Eng Elms	
Total: 2 Bde Hq 4 Inf Bns 2 Cav Sqdns 1 Tank Bn Arty & Engr Elms	Total: 1 Regt Hq 4 Inf Bns Arty & Engr Elms

Attachment
DIA Intelligence Appraisal

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DIA INTELLIGENCE APPRAISAL

Enemy Reactions to Operations LAMSON 719

(SS) The presence of the Headquarters, 3d NVA Regiment, 2d NVA Division has been confirmed in the LAMSON 719 area of operation. This increases the total enemy combat strength to 30,000 personnel and 57 battalions. The 2d NVA Division now has three regiments in the area, indicating that the division will have primary responsibility for the security of the Tchepone area if and when the other divisions return to their normal operating areas.

Approved by:

[redacted]

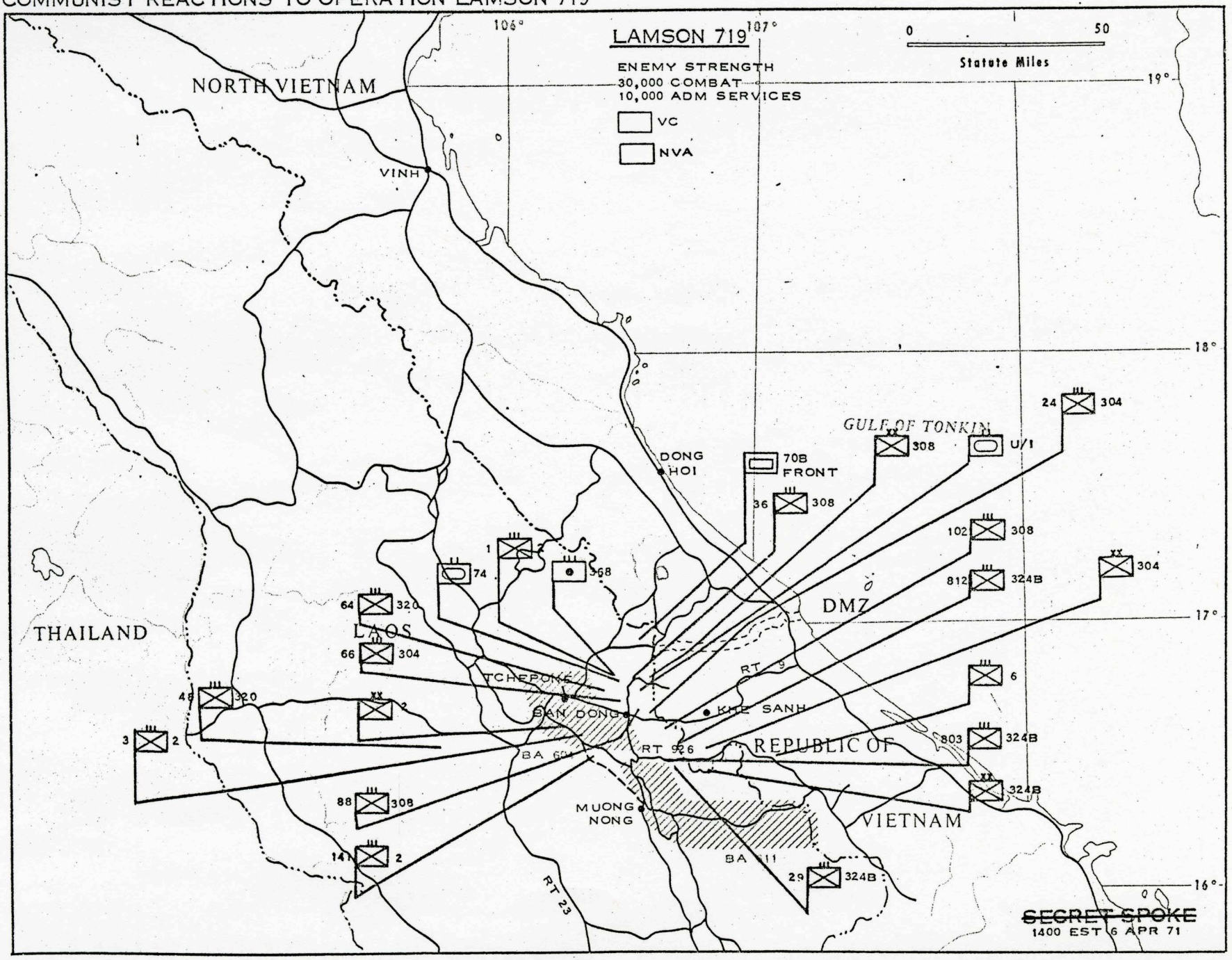
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(b)(3):10 USC 424

Attachment

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COMMUNIST REACTIONS TO OPERATION LAMSON 719



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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

2 APR 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. KISSINGER

Subject: Status Report on Operations in Laos

1. (C) Reference is made to your memorandum, dated 11 February 1971, subject as above.

2. (C) In accordance with your request, the 1600 hour daily report is attached as Enclosure 1. A weather forecast covering particular areas of interest in Southeast Asia has been added as Enclosure 2.

2 Encls
a/s

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E.O. 13526, Section 3.5
NLN 04-51/10600; per ltr 10/27/2011
By ____ NARA, Date 5/1/2012
[1 of 10]
Per Sec. (b)(3): 10 USC 424

1618

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2 April 1971

Subject: Operation LAMSON 719

1. (U) General: This report covers the period 311600 GMT March-011600 GMT April (312400 March-012400 April Saigon time; 311100 EST March-011100 EST April) 1971.

2. (TS) Summary of Current Situation:

a. The level of combat activity remained light during the reporting period. US and RVNAF units in RVN, the VNMC reconnaissance team in Laos, and US reconnaissance helicopters continued operations in previously designated areas of operation with only minor contacts reported. All scheduled resupply missions were accomplished. The Vietnamese unit which conducted the 31 March - 1 April raid on the enemy supply area in Laos has returned to Hue and late reports from the operation indicated additional enemy losses of 11 trucks destroyed by air. Updated reports indicate that five 12.7-mm, five 23-mm and two 37-mm gun sites were also destroyed.

b. In other activity during the period, US units killed 16 enemy (including 10 KBA) in two contacts north of Khe Sanh with no friendly losses, while the 1st ARVN Ranger Group lost one KIA and five WIA as the result of an enemy attack by fire on Ranger positions northwest of Khe Sanh.

c. The period also marked the further reduction of logistical activities and the termination of fixed wing aircraft operations at Khe Sanh. Prior to termination of aircraft operations, 18 C-130 sorties evacuated 108 bundles of matting during the period. Some 420 tons of supplies were evacuated by US forces in the past 24 hours; a total of 2,570 tons of supplies have now been moved from the Khe Sanh area.

3. (TS) Plans for Future Operations:

a. The 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) will continue operations in northwestern Quang Tri Province. On 2 April, in conjunction with RVNAF, elements will begin redeployment of forces east of the Khe Sanh area.

(1) The 3d Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile): Continues tactical surveillance of the central DMZ infiltration corridor. Elements will conduct security, patrol, and ambush operations.

(2) The 1st Brigade, 5th Mechanized Division: Will continue mobile defense operations west and northwest of Khe Sanh and provide security for installations

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and reconnaissance across the northern part of Quang Tri Province. The brigade is scheduled to move to its normal area north of Quang Tri by 7 April.

(3) The 11th Infantry Brigade: Continues security of Khe Sanh base and Route 9 east to the area of the 3d Brigade.

(4) The 2d Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry: Will provide air reconnaissance support to US and RVN forces in Laos and RVN.

b. RVNAF units will continue operations in the LAMSON 719 area and also begin redeployment from the Khe Sanh area.

(1) 1st Infantry Division: The 54th Infantry Regiment continues search and security operations in the vicinity of Khe Sanh.

(2) 1st Airborne Division: Will remain in corps reserve at Dong Ha and Tam My.

(3) Vietnamese Marine Division: The 258th and 369th Brigades continue reconnaissance and security operations south and southwest of Khe Sanh.

(4) 1st Ranger Group: All Ranger elements will withdraw from FSBs PHU LOC, HIEP, and HAI VAN on 2 April. On 2 April, two ranger battalions will move to Cam Lo, and at a time to be announced, the Ranger Group Headquarters and the 21st Ranger Battalion will move from Khe Sanh to Cam Lo.

(5) 4th Provisional Cavalry Squadron: Will continue in reserve at Khe Sanh.

c. The following withdrawal schedule from the Khe Sanh area for units indicated has been proposed by the Vietnamese Commander, General Lam:

2 April - Two ranger battalions will be airlifted to Cam Lo.

3 April - The 258th VNMC Brigade will be airlifted to Mai Loc.

4 April - The 369th VNMC Brigade will be airlifted to an area south of Quang Tri.

5 April - The 4th Armored Squadron (Reinforced) and the 54th Regiment will move to Dong Ha.

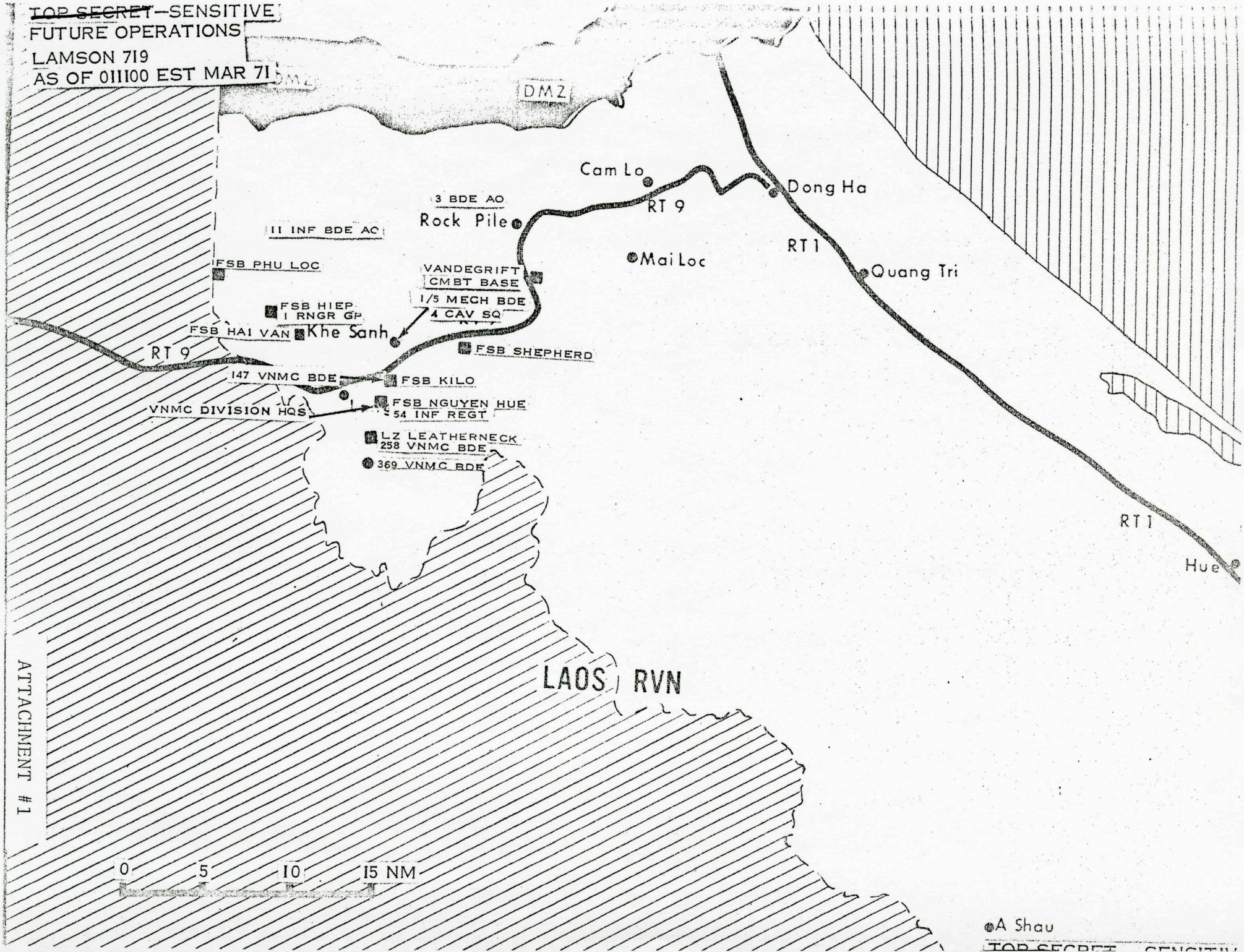
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NLN-09-5-1 #10000 p 30f 107

The XXIV Corps indicates that this schedule can be supported and barring major enemy interference, all temporary bridging on Route 9 can be recovered during the withdrawal.

d. Combat engineer units will continue route maintenance, dust control operations, clearing fields of fire, and protective construction.

Attachments
1. Map
2. DIA Intelligence Appraisal

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NLN-100-51/10600 p4 of 107



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NLN-94-111/5 #10 P96101

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DIA INTELLIGENCE APPRAISAL

Enemy Reactions to Operation LAMSON 719

(S) There have been no significant enemy unit relocations and the threat to friendly forces is unchanged.

Approved by:

[redacted]

SANITIZED
(b)(3):10USC424

APPENDED DOCUMENTS CONTAIN
SPECIAL INTELLIGENCE MATERIAL

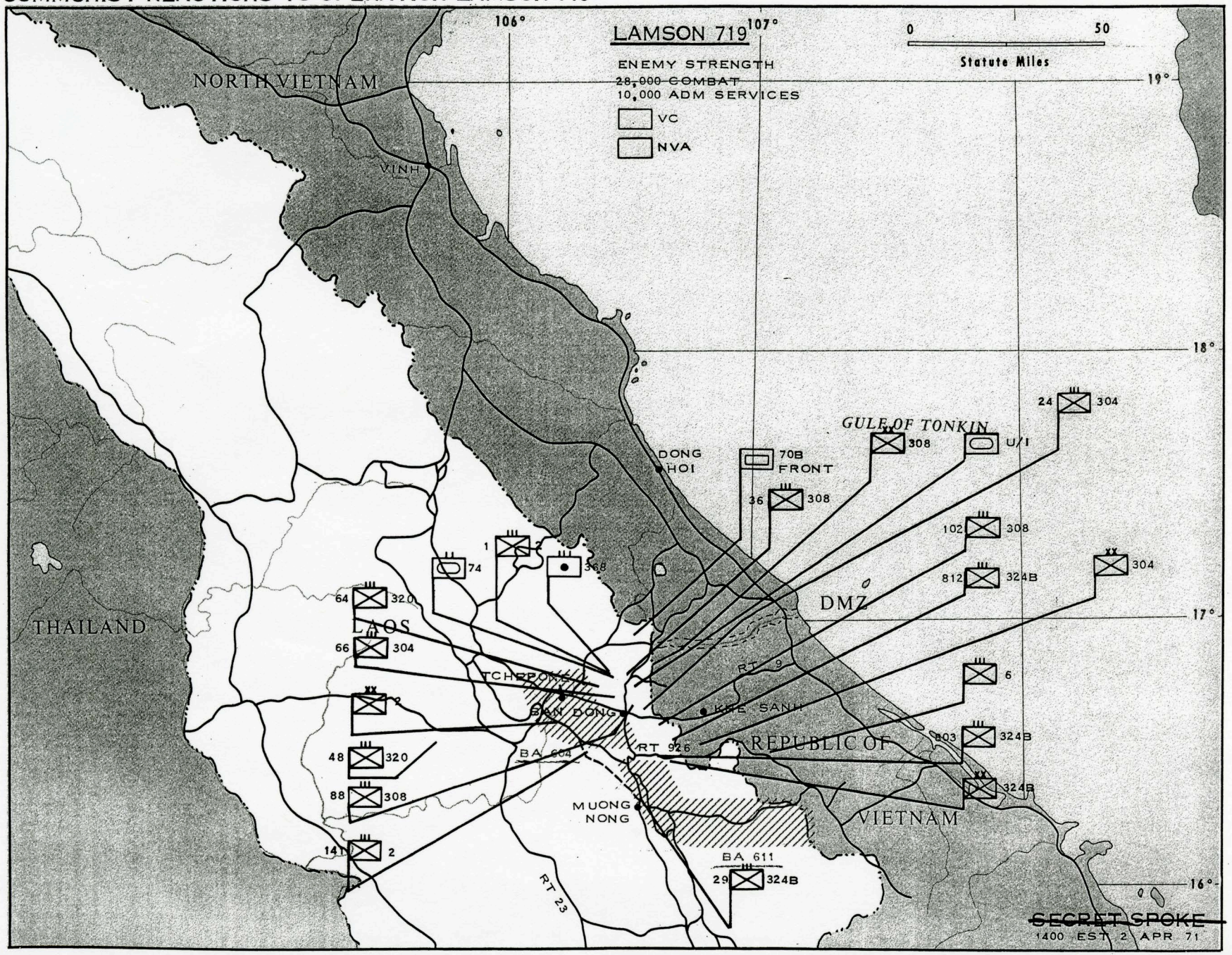
Attachment 2

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COMMUNIST REACTIONS TO OPERATION LAMSON 719



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NLN 96-51 #2900 p 706107

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: 03/0600-04/0600 Saigon time
OUTLOOK: 04/0600-05/0600 Saigon time

NVA PANHANDLE - AREA 1

COASTAL - Cloudy, ceiling 4,000 feet-occasionally 10,000 feet; visibility 5 to 7 miles in haze. During morning hours, patchy low clouds, ceiling 500 feet; visibility 1 to 4 miles in fog. Isolated evening and early morning showers/thunderstorms.

MOUNTAINS - Cloudy, ceiling 4,000 feet; visibility 3 to 5 miles in haze. During morning hours, patchy low clouds, ceiling 500 feet AGL; visibility 1/2 to 2 miles in fog. Isolated evening and early morning showers/thunderstorms.

OUTLOOK - Slight decrease in clouds.

NORTHERN SOUTH VIETNAM - AREA 2

COASTAL - Cloudy, ceiling 10,000 feet-occasionally 3,000 feet; visibility 5 to 7 miles in haze. During morning hours, patchy low clouds, ceiling 500 feet and fog, visibility 1/4 to 4 miles.

MOUNTAINS - Cloudy, ceiling 4,000 feet; visibility 2 to 5 miles in haze. During morning hours, patchy low clouds, ceiling 500 feet AGL and fog/haze, visibility 1/4 to 3 miles. Few evening and early morning showers/thunderstorms.

OUTLOOK - Little change.

KHE SANH - AREA 3

Cloudy, ceiling 10,000 feet-occasionally 4,000 feet; visibility 3 to 6 miles in haze-lowering to 2 to 3 miles in fog/haze during morning hours. Showers/thunderstorms in vicinity during evening and early morning hours.

OUTLOOK - Little change.

TCHEPONE - AREA 4

Cloudy, ceiling 10,000 feet-occasionally 5,000 feet; visibility 2 to 7 miles in haze. Few

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evening and early morning showers/thunderstorms. During morning hours, patchy low clouds, ceiling 500 feet AGL, visibility 2 to 3 miles in fog/haze.

OUTLOOK - Little change.

CHUP PLANTATION - AREA 5

Partly cloudy, ceiling 10,000 feet-occasionally 2,500 feet; visibility 3 to 7 miles in haze. Isolated evening showers/thunderstorms. During morning hours, patchy low clouds, ceiling 1,000 feet and fog, visibility 2 to 4 miles.

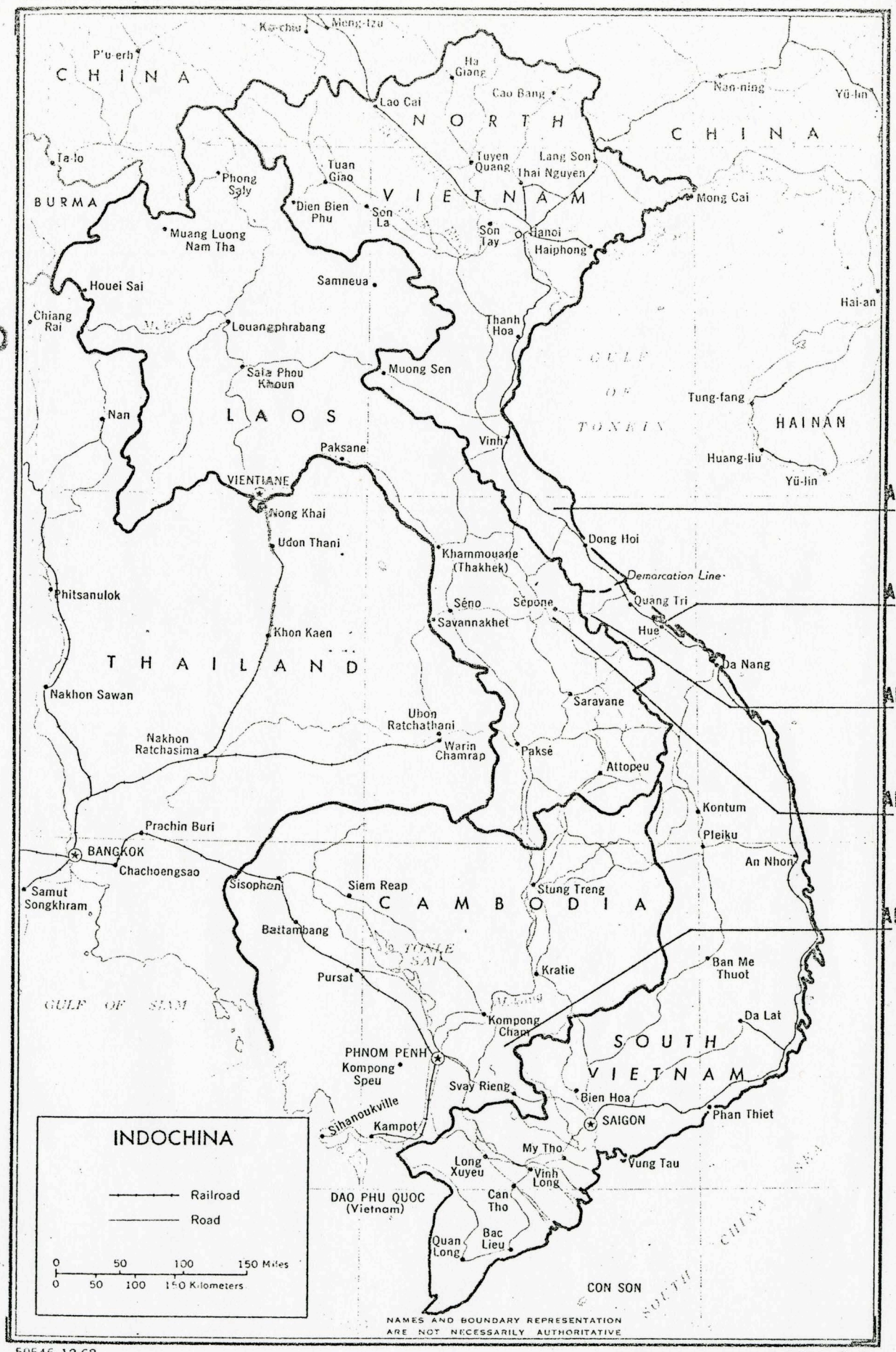
OUTLOOK - Little change.

NOTE: All cloud heights are given in feet Above Mean Sea Level, except those indicating AGL (Above Ground Level).

Attachment
Map

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NLRN04-51102#00090h107

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59546 12-68

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Attachment

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[NLN-10-61-10#23 p10 8107]

NIXON PRESIDENTIAL MATERIALS PROJECT

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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

1 APR 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. KISSINGER

Subject: Status Report on Operations in Laos

1. (C) Reference is made to your memorandum, dated 11 February 1971, subject as above.

2. (C) In accordance with your request, the 1600 hour daily report is attached as Enclosure 1. A weather forecast covering particular areas of interest in Southeast Asia has been added as Enclosure 2.

2 Encls
a/s

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Section 3.5
NLNAC-57/10602; per ltr 10127/2011
By ... NARA, Date 5/2/2012
[1 of 11]
Per Sec. (b)(3): 10 USC 424, (b)(7)(F)

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1 April 1971

Sunject: Operation LAMSON 719

1. (U) General: This report covers the period 301600-311600 GMT (302400-312400 Saigon time; 301100-311100 EST) March 1971.

2. (TS) Summary of Current Situation:

a. Combat activity was light during the reporting period. US and RVNAF units continued search and security activities in their assigned areas of operations in RVN, reporting only one minor ground contact. US helicopters again provided reconnaissance support in the LAMSON area operating over both Laos and RVN. The 300-man Vietnamese raiding party which attacked an enemy supply area inside Laos has been successfully extracted after some 25 hours on the ground, thus leaving the VNMC reconnaissance team of 15-men in the Co Roc area as the only RVNAF unit in Laos. In addition to 86 enemy KIA, the RVNAF raiders also reported the capture or destruction of 57 individual weapons, 1 ton of ammunition, 1 ton of rice and a 1,000 gallon petroleum storage area. One ARVN soldier was wounded in the operation.

b. In other activity during the period, five ARVN soldiers returned to friendly control after successfully evading from Laos as did one US helicopter crewman whose aircraft had been downed in Laos on 19 March. The period also saw additional RVNAF unit relocations and the continuation of retrograde activities in the Khe Sanh area.

3. (TS) Plans for Future Operations:

a. The 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) will continue operations in northern Quang Tri Province.

(1) The 3d Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile), continues tactical surveillance and interdiction of the central DMZ infiltration corridor, and will secure the eastern part of Route 9.

(2) The 1st Brigade, 5th Mechanized Division, will continue mobile defense operations west and northwest of Khe Sanh and provide security for Route 9 and critical installations west of Khe Sanh.

(3) The 11th Infantry Brigade continues security of the Khe Sanh base and Route 9 east to the area of operation of the 3d Brigade.

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NLNSC-5/11/0402 #20 of 117

(4) The 2d Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry will conduct visual reconnaissance operations in Laos and RVN.

b. RVNAF units continue operations in the Khe Sanh area.

(1) The 54th Infantry Regiment, 1st ARVN Division, will conduct operations in the vicinity and to the west of Khe Sanh.

(2) The 147th VNMC Brigade headquarters and the remaining two battalions of the brigade will move from the Khe Sanh area to the Quang Tri area. The 258th and 369th VNMC Brigades will continue reconnaissance operations south and southwest of Khe Sanh.

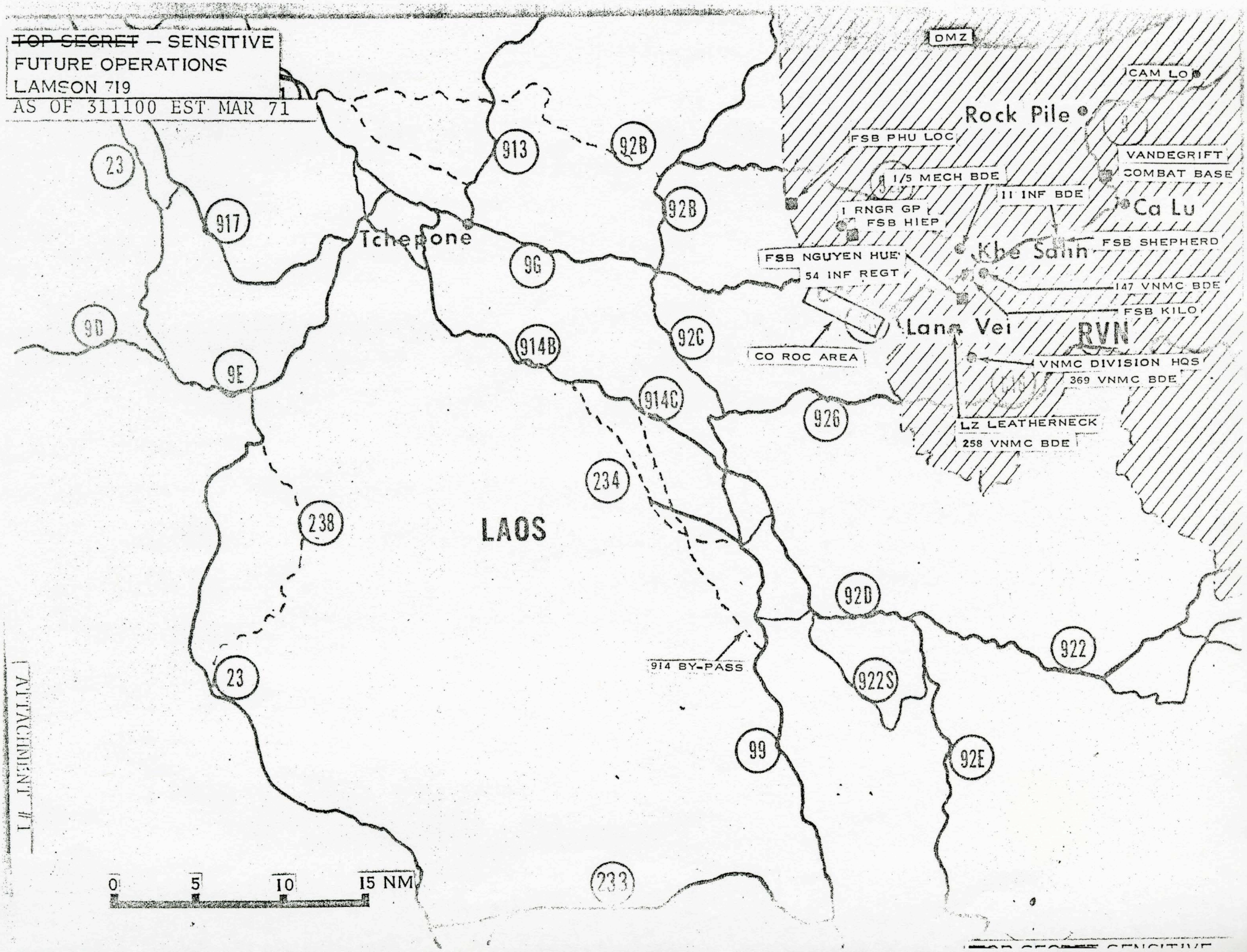
(3) Two battalions of the 1st Ranger Group will continue to conduct operations northwest of Khe Sanh in the vicinity of FSBs HIEP and PHU LOC; one battalion of this group will remain in reserve at Dong Ha and one battalion will move from FSB HIEP to Khe Sanh.

(4) The 4th Provisional Cavalry Squadron will continue in reserve at Khe Sanh.

c. Engineer maintenance efforts will continue on the old Khe Sanh airstrip until evacuation of the base. Road maintenance efforts will continue on Route 9 from Dong Ha west to Lang Vei. Engineer support, including water production, mine sweeps, clearing fields of fire, and protective construction will continue.

Attachments
1. Map
2. DIA Intelligence Appraisal

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DIA INTELLIGENCE APPRAISAL

Enemy Reactions to Operation LAMSON 719

1. (SS) The Headquarters, 64th NVA Regiment, 320th NVA Division was fixed 10 miles northeast of Tchepone on 31 March. This returns the unit to the general vicinity of its 11 March location.

2. (SS) The enemy appparently anticipated RVNAF plans to reenter Laos east of Base Area 604 and in the vicinity of the junction of Routes 92/925. On 24 March, BT-27 reported that the scheduled "helicopter troop landing at Cha Ky" had been postponed. The BT reported later that the "enemy has retaliatory plans" which include landing possible "kidnappers" in the storage areas and vehicle parks to capture personnel and documents. The reported force would comprise "from one company to one battalion" with helicopters and fighter aircraft support.

3. (SS) A second indication of the enemy's anticipation of renewed Allied operations in Laos was revealed on 29 March, when an unidentified entity in the BT-41 area reported that the "enemy" would conduct a landing in the Ta Beng area on 30 March. The following day, the BT-41 combat operations officer reported from "40 to 50 helicopters and approximately one battalion" had reconnoitered and "suddenly landed at the vehicle park and cache."

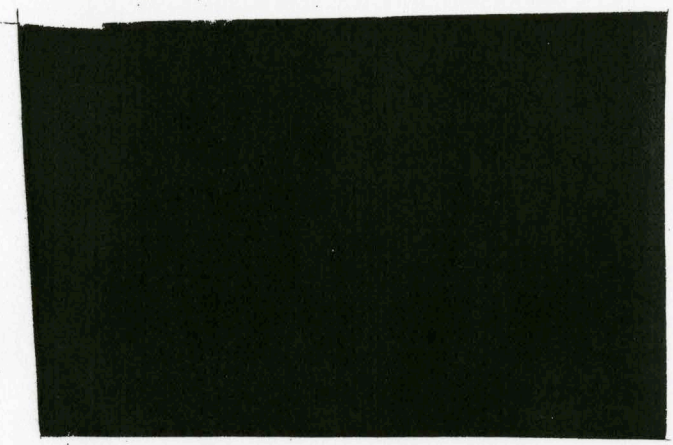
4. (SS) While COMINT of 29 and 30 March from Binh Tram 33 and Binh Tram 41 has revealed an enemy expectation of Allied raids against the enemy logistical system south of Base Area 604, there is no indication that the enemy was aware of RVNAF's precise targets. On 29 March, Binh Tram 33 warned subordinates that Allies would use helicopters to attack vehicle parks, storage areas and command posts on 30 March. On 30 March, Binh Tram 33 informed subordinates that Allied helicopters would probably land troops on highpoints in its area of operation either in early morning or late afternoon. All units were instructed to be vigilant and to have ammunition standing by to engage Allied "Commando raiders." On the same date an unidentified element of Binh Tram 33 announced that helicopters were coming and that the Binh Tram had ordered all forces to protect hospitalized troops at an unspecified surgery unit. On 30 March, Binh Tram 41 warned its forces that Allied raiders would be inserted into its area to "spot for B-52's and jet aircraft."

SANITIZED
)(3):10 USC 424

5. (SS) [redacted] elements in the LAMSON area of operation gives further indications of morale problems. A message

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on 30 March from Binh Tram 32 talks of troops being "worn down because of the wounded soldier situation." As a possible counter-measure to the morale problems, elements of the 282nd AAA Regiment were issued instructions on 28 March to spend at least one hour a day reading the newspaper and listening to the radio in order to "consolidate the victory." This apparent attempt to improve morale is probably a result of losses suffered in operation LAMSON 719 and continuing Allied airstrikes.

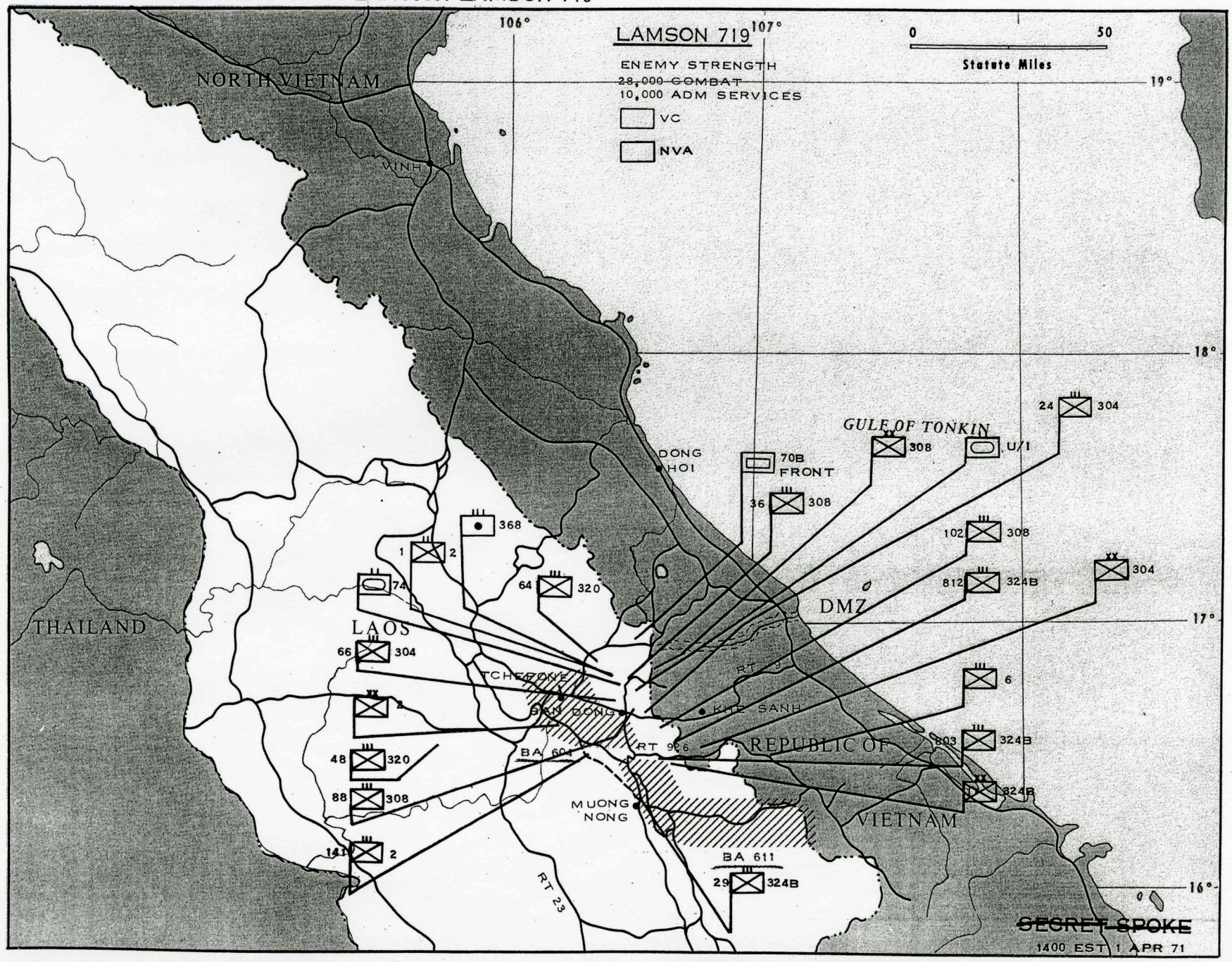


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(b)(3):10 USC 424, (b)(7)(F)

Attachment #2

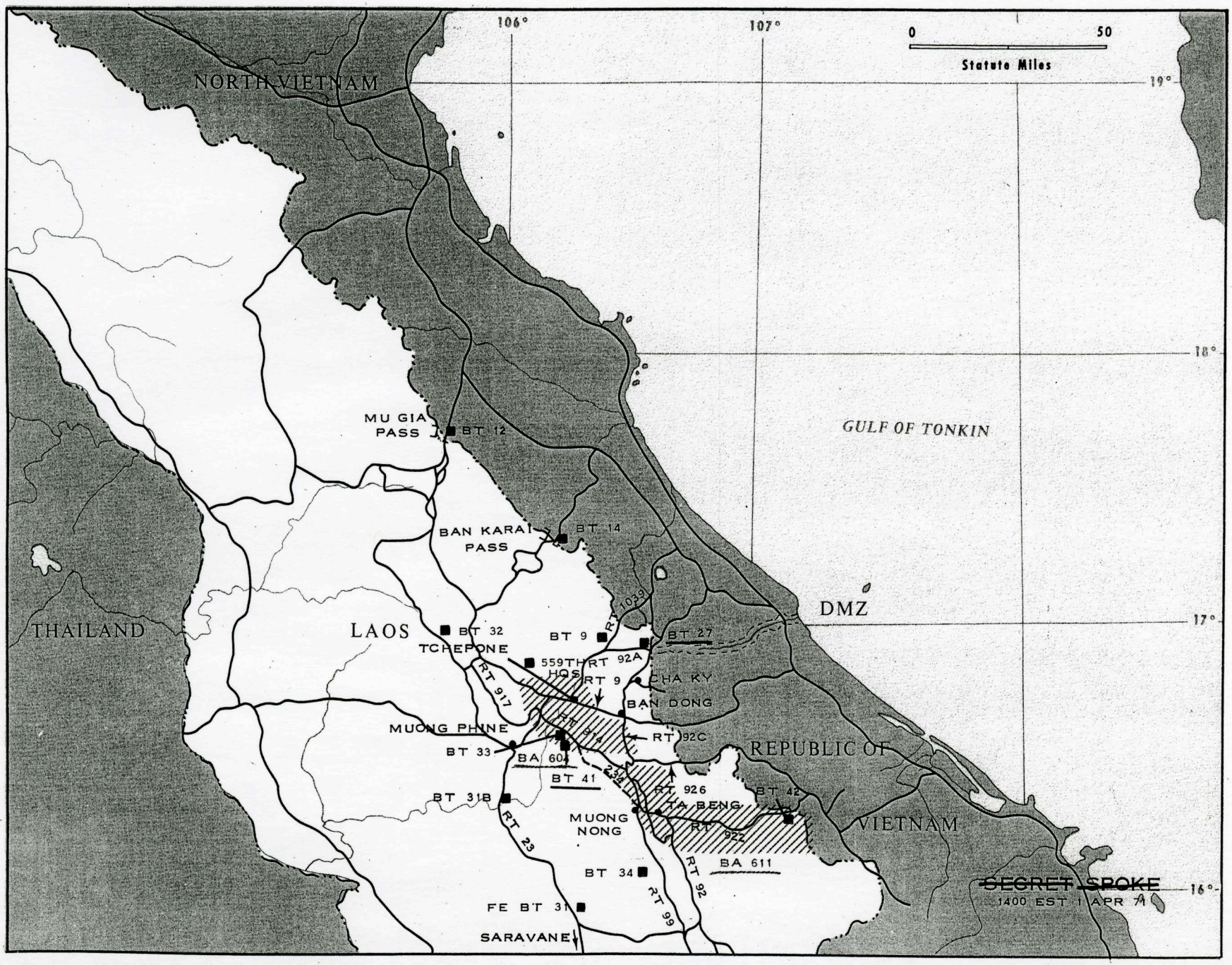
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NLRN-10-51/10402 pleoh12

COMMUNIST REACTIONS TO OPERATION LAMSON 719



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LAMSON 719



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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: 02/0600-03/0600 Saigon time
OUTLOOK: 03/0600-04/0600 Saigon time

NVN PANHANDLE - AREA 1

COASTAL - Cloudy, ceiling 4,000 feet-occasionally unlimited during afternoon hours; visibility 5 to 7 miles in haze. During morning hours, ceiling occasionally 500 feet; visibility 1 to 4 miles in fog.

MOUNTAINS - Cloudy, ceiling 4,000 feet; visibility 4 to 5 miles in haze. During morning hours, ceiling occasionally 500 feet AGL; visibility 1/2 to 2 miles in fog. Isolated evening showers and thunderstorms.

OUTLOOK - Decreasing cloudiness.

NORTHERN SOUTH VIETNAM - AREA 2

COASTAL - Partly cloudy-occasionally cloudy, ceiling unlimited-occasionally 4,000 feet; visibility 5 to 7 miles in haze. During morning hours, ceiling occasionally 500 feet; visibility 2 to 4 miles in fog. Isolated night time showers and thunderstorms.

MOUNTAINS - Cloudy-occasionally partly cloudy, ceiling 10,000 feet-occasionally 4,000 feet; visibility 4 to 5 miles in haze. During morning hours, ceiling occasionally 500 feet AGL; visibility 1 to 5 miles in fog. Few night time showers and thunderstorms.

OUTLOOK - Little change.

KHE SANH - AREA 3

Cloudy-occasionally partly cloudy, ceiling 8,000 feet AGL-occasionally 2,500 feet AGL; visibility 4 to 5 miles in haze. During morning hours, ceiling occasionally 500 to 1,000 feet AGL; visibility 2 to 3 miles in fog. Few night time showers and thunderstorms.

OUTLOOK - Little change.

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TCHEPONE - AREA 4

Cloudy, ceiling 10,000 feet-occasionally 5,000 feet; visibility 4 to 7 miles in haze. During morning hours, ceiling occasionally 500 feet AGL; visibility 2 to 3 miles in fog. Few late afternoon and night time showers and thunderstorms.

OUTLOOK - Little change.

CHUP PLANTATION - AREA 5

Partly cloudy-occasionally cloudy, ceiling unlimited-occasionally 2,500 feet; visibility 3 to 7 miles in haze. During morning hours, ceiling occasionally 1,000 feet; visibility 2 to 4 miles in fog. Isolated night time showers and thunderstorms.

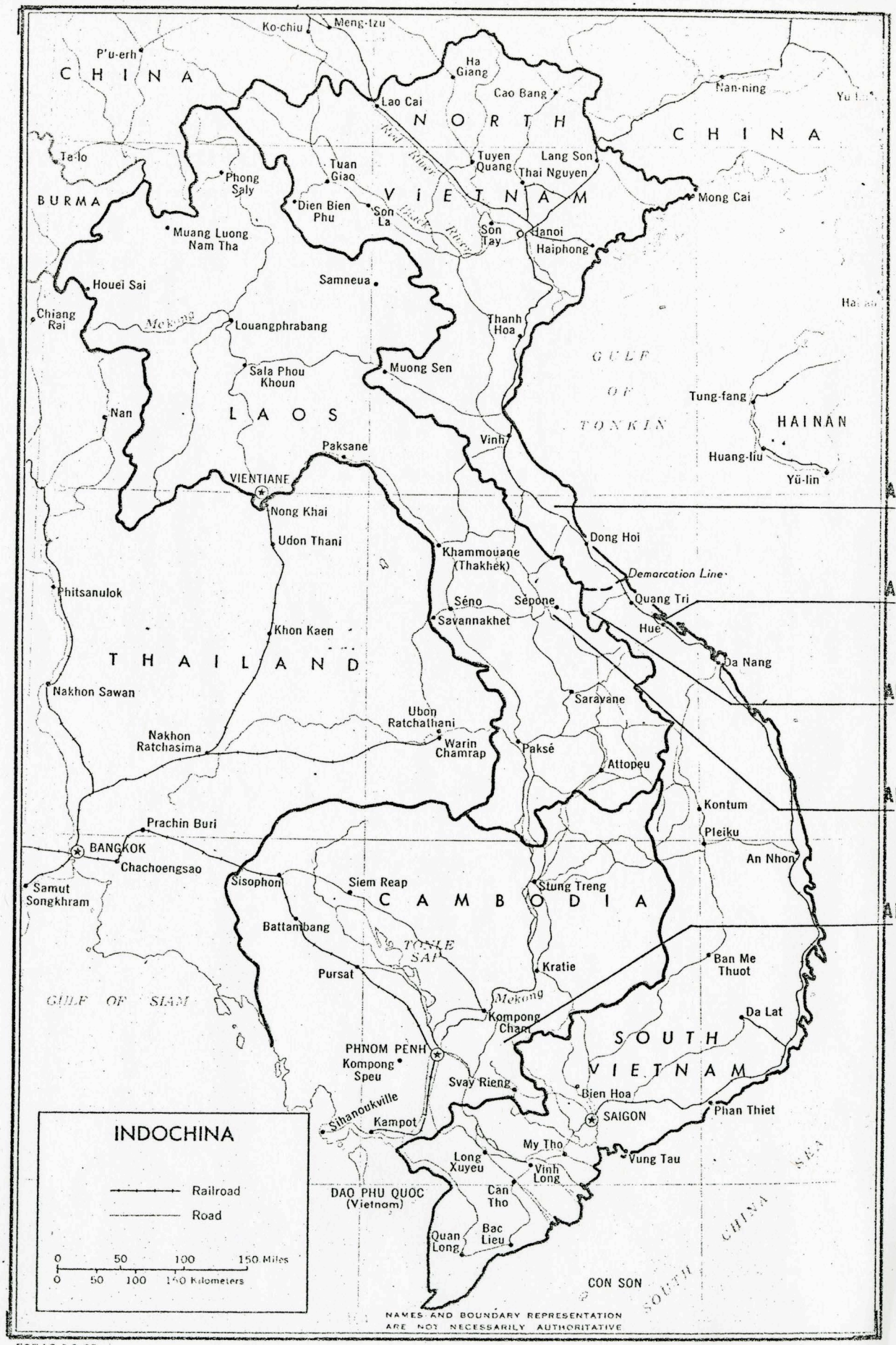
OUTLOOK - Little change.

NOTE: All cloud heights are given in feet Above Mean Sea Level, except those indicating AGL (Above Ground Level).

Attachment
Map

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[82/5/8] Wrtd / Dexed

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

~~TOP SECRET~~ March 30, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL HAIG

FROM: Dick Kennedy

Attached is a paragraph which CIA recommends be added at the bottom of page 4 of the talking points on Lam Son, a copy of which you have.

Attachment

~~TOP SECRET~~

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E.O. 13526, Section 3.5
By ____ NARA, Date 19 Sep 11
Per RAC 2008/06/13
(p. 1 of 2)

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Hanoi will of course want to mask the extent to which its capabilities have been impaired and will therefore endeavor to act as if it is playing from strength. To project this image, the Communists may be willing to spend additional manpower capital in the days immediately ahead by trying to mount a sharp flurry of attacks in the northern part of South Vietnam, and elsewhere if they can get such attacks off the ground. Such attacks may be specifically directed against U.S. units in an endeavor to increase American casualties, whatever the cost to Hanoi. Nonetheless, the Communists probably have lost the ability to mount sustained major offensives and the overall record of Communist activity over the next few months can be expected to support this contention.

(P 242)

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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

30 MAR 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. KISSINGER

Subject: Status Report on Operations in Laos

1. (C) Reference is made to your memorandum, dated 11 February 1971, subject as above.

2. (C) In accordance with your request, the 1600 hour daily report is attached as Enclosure 1. A weather forecast covering particular areas of interest in Southeast Asia has been added as Enclosure 2.

Melvin R. Laird

2 Encls
a/s

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Section 3.5
NLN06-51/10603; per ltr 10/27/2011
By MEP NARA, Date 5/2/2012
[1069]
Per Sec. (b)(3): 10 USC 424

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Page 1 of 1 Pages

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30 March 1971

Subject: Operation LAMSON 719

1. (U) General: This report covers the period 282200-291600 GMT (290600-292400 Saigon time; 281700-291100 EST) March 1971.

2. (TS) Summary of Current Situation:

a. Combat activity remained at a low level during the reporting period. US and RVNAF units continued search and security operations in their assigned areas of operation in RVN while the RVNAF reconnaissance unit in the CO ROC area of Laos reported no contact during the period. US helicopter units continued reconnaissance activity over assigned sectors in Vietnam, the Laotian salients in the Khe Sanh area and into the eastern portion of the LAMSON area in Laos.

b. US units reported five contacts in RVN, all generally north of Khe Sanh. These actions resulted in four US KIA and 20 US WIA, while known enemy losses were five KIA. In addition, one US APC and four trucks were destroyed. A small enemy cache containing grenades, mortar and recoilless rifle ammunition was discovered northeast of Khe Sanh. The 1st ARVN Ranger Group reported seven separate attacks by fire during the period, but reported no casualties as a result of these enemy initiated actions. There were no aircraft losses or major unit moves during the period.

c. Retrograde operations continue in the Khe Sanh area. Additional airfield matting was removed from the assault airstrip and damaged vehicles are being moved to Dong Ha. Since retrograde operations commenced on 25 March, a total of 1,450 tons of supplies have been withdrawn from the Khe Sanh area.

3. (TS) Plans for Future Operations:

a. The 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) will continue operations with three brigades in northern Quang Tri Province. The 3d Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) continues tactical surveillance operations in the eastern AO. The 1st Brigade, 5th Mechanized Division will continue mobile defense operations to the west and northwest and reconnaissance operations north of Khe Sanh. The 11th Infantry Brigade continues security operations in the Khe Sanh area and along Route 9 east of Khe Sanh.

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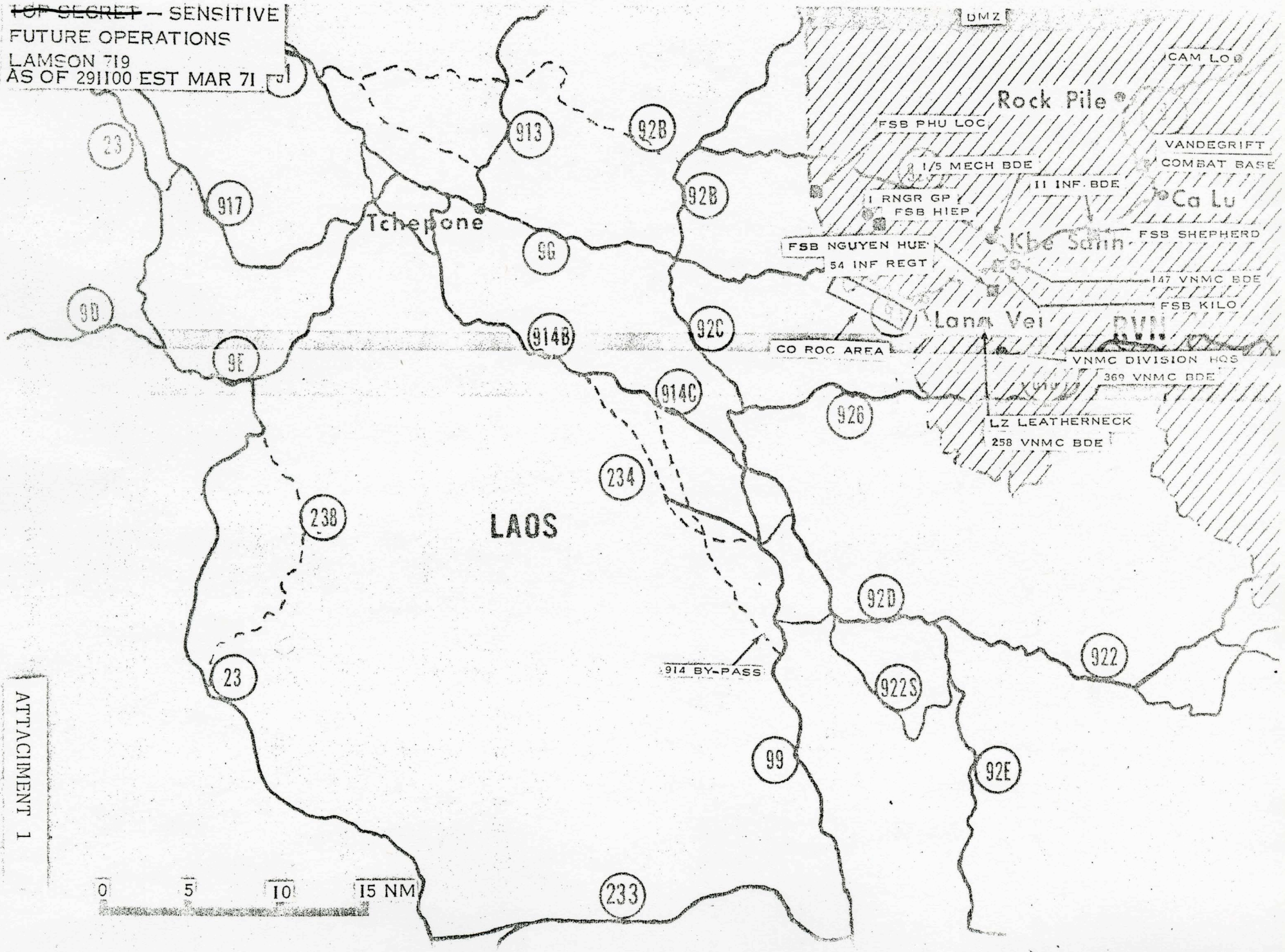
b. RVNAF units continue operations in the Khe Sanh area. The 54th Infantry Regiment, 1st ARVN Division will conduct operations west of Khe Sanh and secure portions of the Khe Sanh area. The Vietnamese Marine Division will continue operations with the 369th Brigade south of Khe Sanh; the 258th Brigade continues operations southwest of Khe Sanh to include reconnaissance team operations in the CO ROC area in Laos. The 147th Brigade and the Division Command Post will move to the vicinity of Quang Tri on 31 March-1 April. The 1st Ranger Group will continue to conduct operations northwest of Khe Sanh, and will move one battalion into the Khe Sanh area on 1 April. The 4th Provisional Cavalry Squadron will remain in Khe Sanh in corps reserve.

c. Engineer efforts will consist of airfield and route maintenance operations and continued dismantling of the assault strip at Khe Sanh.

Attachments
1. Map
2. DIA Intelligence Appraisal

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~~TOP SECRET~~ – SENSITIVE
FUTURE OPERATIONS
LAMSON 719
AS OF 291100 EST MAR 71



ATTACHMENT 1

~~TOP SECRET~~ SENSITIVE

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DIA INTELLIGENCE APPRAISAL

Enemy Reactions to Operation LAMSON 719

(SS) On 28 March, the Headquarters, 29th NVA Regiment, 324B Division was located in the vicinity of Muong Nong. This represents a southward move of 12 miles from its last location.

Approved by:

[redacted]

SANITIZED
(b)(3): 10 USC 424

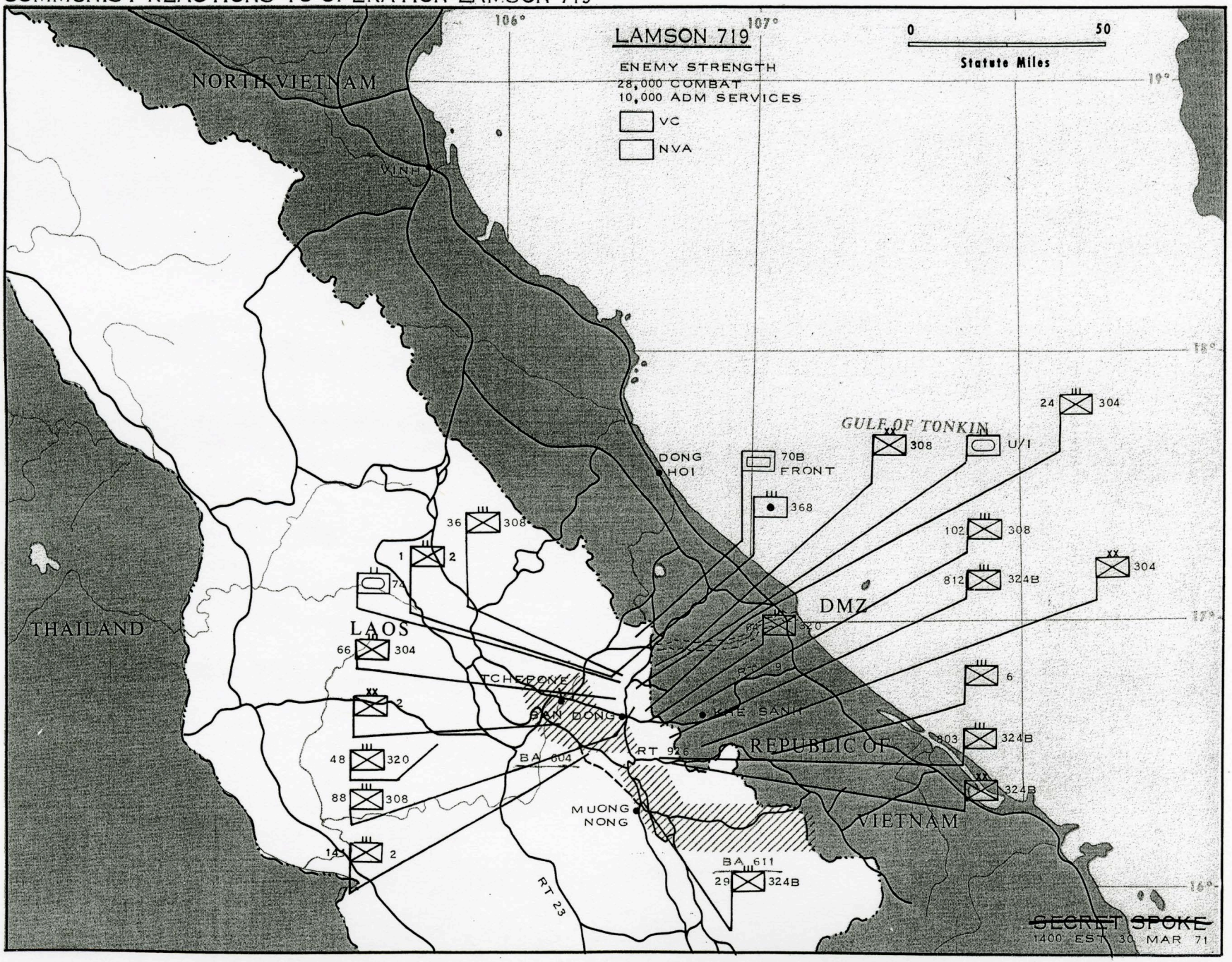
Attachment #2

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COMMUNIST REACTIONS TO OPERATION LAMSON 719



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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: 31/0600-01/0600 Saigon time
OUTLOOK: 01/0600-02/0600 Saigon time

NVN PANHANDLE - AREA 1

COASTAL - Partly cloudy - occasionally cloudy, ceiling unlimited - occasionally 4,000 feet; visibility 5 to 7 miles in haze. Patchy morning fog; visibility 1 mile in fog.

MOUNTAINS - Partly cloudy - occasionally cloudy, ceiling unlimited - occasionally 4,000 feet; visibility 3 to 5 miles in haze. Morning low clouds and fog, in valleys, ceiling 500 feet AGL; visibility 1/4 to 1 mile in fog.

OUTLOOK - Little change.

NORTHERN SOUTH VIETNAM - AREA 2

COASTAL - Mostly clear - occasionally partly cloudy, ceiling unlimited - occasionally 3,000 feet; visibility 5 to 7 miles in haze. Some early morning fog; visibility 2 miles in fog. Isolated evening showers/thunderstorms.

MOUNTAINS - Partly cloudy - occasionally cloudy during morning hours, ceiling unlimited - occasionally 4,000 feet during morning hours; visibility 3 to 5 miles in haze. Visibility aloft, below 10,000 feet, occasionally 2 miles in haze. During morning hours, patchy low clouds and fog, ceiling 500 feet; visibility 1/8 to 5 miles in fog. Isolated evening showers/thunderstorms.

OUTLOOK - Little change.

KHE SANH - AREA 3

Partly cloudy - occasionally cloudy during morning hours, ceiling unlimited - occasionally 500 to 1,500 feet during morning hours; visibility 2 to 5 miles in haze - occasionally 1/8 to 3 miles in fog during morning hours. Isolated evening showers/thunderstorms.

OUTLOOK - Little change.

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TCHEPONE - AREA 4

Partly cloudy - occasionally cloudy, ceiling unlimited - occasionally 4,000 feet; visibility 3 to 5 miles in haze. Morning low clouds and fog in valleys, ceiling 500 feet AGL; visibility 1/2 to 3 miles in fog. Isolated afternoon and evening showers/thunderstorms.

OUTLOOK - Little change.

CHUP PLANTATION - AREA 5

Mostly clear - occasionally partly cloudy, ceiling unlimited - occasionally 2,500 feet; visibility 3 to 7 miles in haze. Isolated evening showers/thunderstorms. During morning hours, patchy low clouds and fog, ceiling 1,000 feet; visibility 2 to 4 miles in fog.

OUTLOOK - Little change.

NOTE: All cloud heights are given in feet Above Mean Sea Level, except those indicating AGL (Above Ground Level).

Attachment
Map

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59546 12-68

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Attachment

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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

31 MAR 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. KISSINGER

Subject: Status Report on Operations in Laos

1. (C) Reference is made to your memorandum, dated 11 February 1971, subject as above.

2. (C) In accordance with your request, the 1600 hour daily report is attached as Enclosure 1. A weather forecast covering particular areas of interest in Southeast Asia has been added as Enclosure 2.

Melvin R. Laird

2 Encls
a/s

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Section 3.5
NLN 04-51/10#04; per ltr 10/27/2011
By DLP NARA, Date 5/2/2012
[10610]
Per Sec. (b)(3): 10 USC 424, 3.3(b)(1)

COPY 1 OF 7 COPIES.

Sec Def Cont Nr. X-1574

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31 March 1971

Subject: Operation LAMSON 719

1. (U) General: This report covers the period 291600-301600 GMT (292400-302400 Saigon time; 291100-301100 EST) March 1971.

2. (TS) Summary of Current Situation:

a. Combat activity was light during the reporting period. In the most significant action of the period, an RVNAF unit conducted a heliborne raid into an enemy supply area in Laos near the Lao/RVN border. The raid was preceded by twenty-two B-52 sorties. The raiding party, utilizing some 40 helicopter sorties for insertion, reported no enemy fire on the landing zone and only light contact as they moved toward an enemy supply depot. One US AH-1G helicopter was destroyed by hostile fire north of the landing zone but the crew was successfully extracted. Reports received thus far indicate enemy losses of 86 KIA, of which 85 were KBA, and 18 AK-47s captured. Some 170 tactical air sorties were scheduled in support of the initial stages of this operation.

b. US and RVNAF units continued search and security operations in their previously designated areas of operation in RVN while the VNMC reconnaissance unit in Laos again reported no enemy contact. US helicopters continued conducting reconnaissance activities over assigned sectors in the LAMSON area operating over both RVN and Laos. The Dong Ha combat base received 12 rounds of 122-mm rocket fire which resulted in one US and one ARVN WIA, three trucks damaged and an unknown amount of fuel destroyed.

c. Other activity during the period included the relocation of two RVNAF maneuver units and the continuation of retrograde operations at Khe Sanh. Engineers have completed the dismantling and recovery of matting from the Khe Sanh airstrips with some matting which is not considered salvageable being left in place. Thus far some 1,730 tons of supplies have been evacuated from the Khe Sanh area.

3. (TS) Plans for Future Operations:

a. The 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) will continue operations with three brigades and one air cavalry squadron in northern Quang Tri Province. The 3d Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile), continues tactical surveillance and interdiction of the central DMZ infiltration corridor, and will secure the eastern part of

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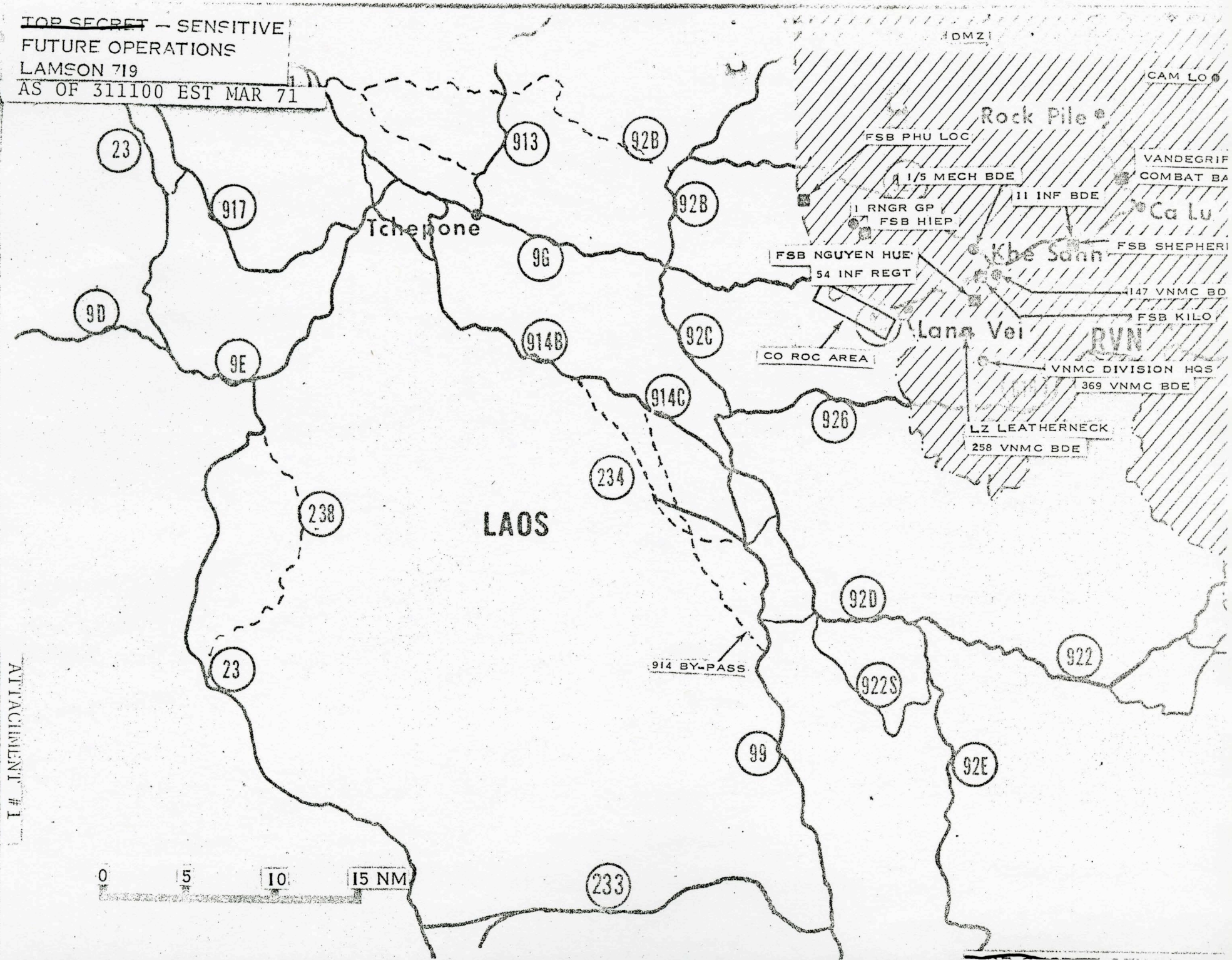
Route 9. The 1st Brigade, 5th Mechanized Division, will continue mobile defense operations west and northwest of Khe Sanh and provide security for Route 9 and critical installations west of Khe Sanh. The 11th Infantry Brigade continues security of the Khe Sanh base and Route 9 east to the area of operation of the 3d Brigade. The 2d Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry will conduct visual reconnaissance operations in Laos and RVN.

b. The RVNAF units continue operations in the Khe Sanh area. The 54th Infantry Regiment, 1st ARVN Division will conduct operations south and southeast of Khe Sanh. The Vietnamese Marine Division Command Post and the 147th VNMC Brigade will move from the Khe Sanh area to the Quang Tri area. The 258th and 369th Brigades will continue reconnaissance operations south and southwest of Khe Sanh. The 1st Ranger Group will continue to conduct operations west of Khe Sanh in the vicinity of FSBs PHU LOC and HIEP; one battalion of this group will remain in reserve at Dong Ha. The 4th Provisional Cavalry Squadron will also continue in reserve at Khe Sanh with one troop moving to FSB HIEP to support the 1st Ranger Group in the extraction of supplies.

c. Engineer maintenance efforts will continue on the old Khe Sanh airstrip until evacuation of the base. Material on this strip and the parking areas will not be recovered because of corrosion and damaged panels. All matting from the assault strip has been recovered and prepared for movement. Road construction will continue to upgrade Route 9 from Dong Ha west to Lang Vei and the Red Devil Road from Khe Sanh south to Route 9. Engineer support including water production, mine sweeps, clearing fields of fire, and protective construction will continue.

Attachments
1. Map
2. DIA Intelligence Appraisal

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ATTACHMENT #1

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DIA INTELLIGENCE APPRAISAL

Enemy Reactions to Operation LAMSON 719

1. (S) There have been no significant enemy unit relocations and the threat to friendly forces is unchanged.

2. (SS) Communist forces remain concentrated in the LAMSON area of operation. In addition to refitting and reestablishing their LOCs, intelligence indicates their continued presence may be in anticipation of further ARVN operations. A 29 March intercept from the Central Research Directorate (CRD) in Hanoi requested additional intelligence concerning ARVN operations in Laos. The CRD tasked a subordinate, probably located in the Da Nang area, to determine whether the ARVN will pull out their forces or will prepare to counterattack in a new direction to "recoup their losses." If the latter, the subordinate was instructed to report the direction of the objectives, time frame, and the forces to be used. The subordinate was also to report any "enemy" plot regarding North Vietnam.

SANITIZED
(b)(3):10 USC 424

3. (SS) [redacted] elements of some maneuver regiments have been assigned to assist rear service elements in road-clearing operations. Elements of the 64th NVA Regiment, 320th NVA Division and the 102d NVA Regiment, 308th NVA Division were specifically mentioned in the communiques. The reassignment of elements of these two major combat units to rear service functions is an indication of the magnitude of the effort required to restore the enemy's logistical system to a fully operational status. It is also possible that these maneuver elements were assigned to these duties because of the heavy losses sustained by the NVA during LAMSON. In recent messages, BT-33 reported that it had "more than 200 stretcher cases;" an unidentified element of BT-41 stated that it had sustained 180 wounded as a result of ARC LIGHT strikes; a medical battalion near Muong Phine reportedly was to receive "100 wounded men from the Route 9 battle."

SANITIZED
(b)(3):10 USC 424,3.3(b)(1)

4. (SS) In logistic activity, [redacted] BT-32 transported almost 3,300 tons -- 132 tons per day -- to BT-33 during the period 1-25 March. Last month, BT-32 sent about 3,900 tons -- 139 tons per day -- to BT-33.

Approved by:

[redacted]

SANITIZED
(b)(3):10 USC 424

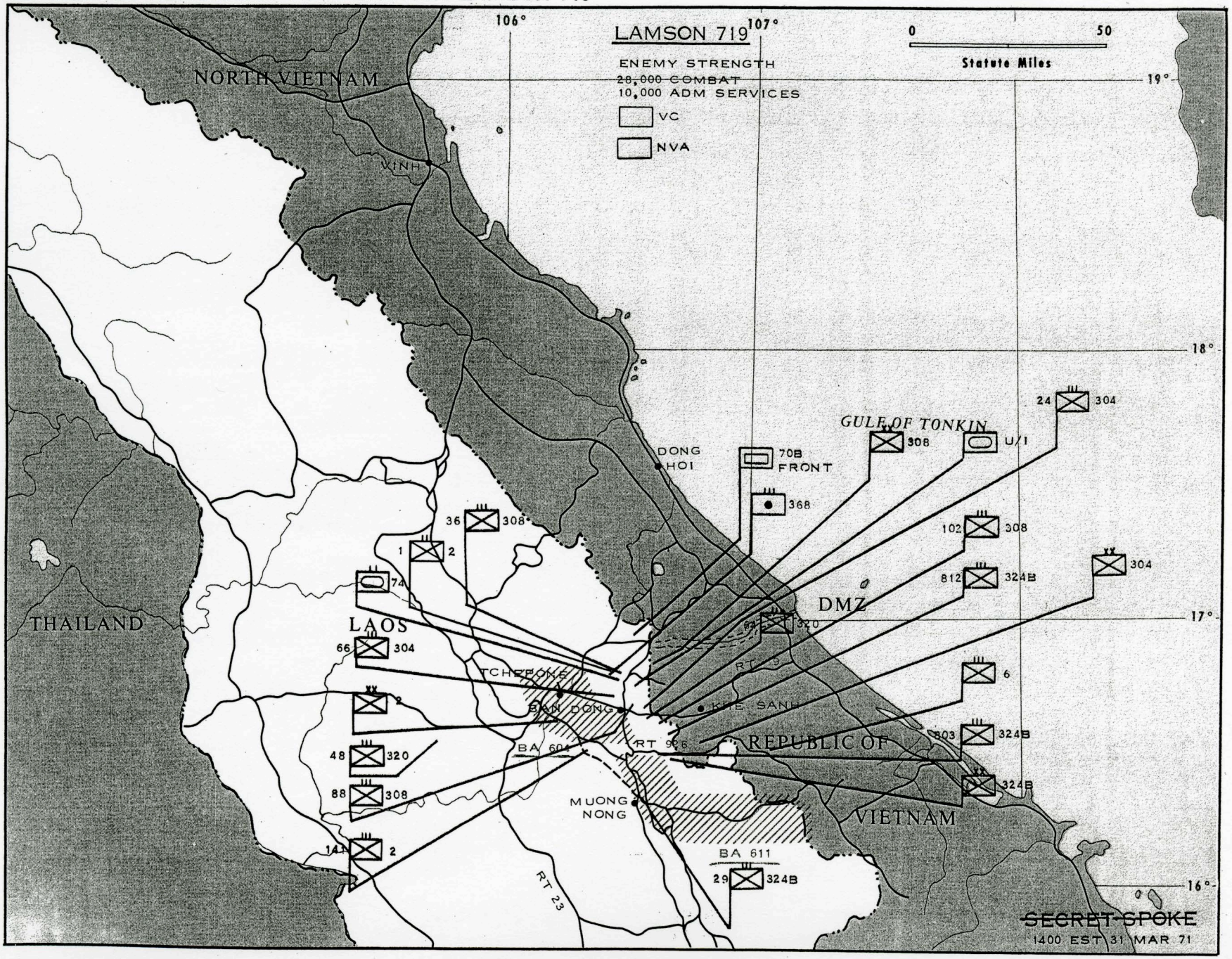
Attachment 2

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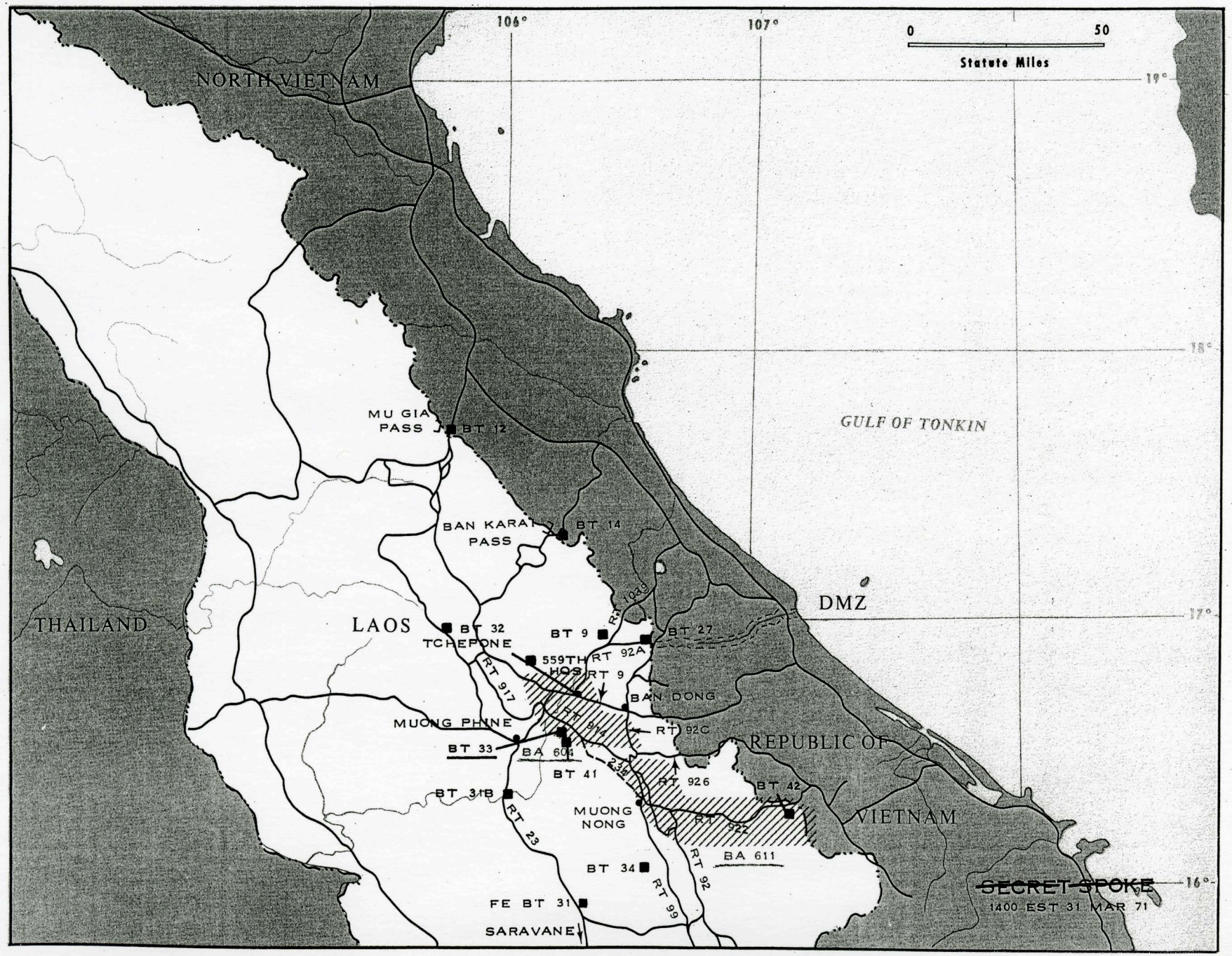
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COMMUNIST REACTIONS TO OPERATION LAMSON 719



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LAMSON 719



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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: 010600-020600 Saigon time.
OUTLOOK: 020600-030600 Saigon time.

NVN PANHANDLE - AREA 1:

COASTAL - Cloudy, ceiling 1000 feet - occasionally 4000 feet; visibility 4 to 7 miles in light rain and drizzle.

MOUNTAINS - Cloudy, ceiling 1000 feet AGL - occasionally 4000 feet; visibility 1 to 4 miles in light rain, drizzle and fog.

OUTLOOK - Little change.

NORTHERN SOUTH VIETNAM - AREA 2:

COASTAL - Partly cloudy - occasionally cloudy, ceiling 4000 feet - occasionally 10,000 feet; visibility 5 to 7 miles in haze. During morning hours, visibility occasionally 2 to 4 miles in fog/haze.

MOUNTAINS - Cloudy, ceiling 4000 feet - occasionally 10,000 feet; visibility 3 to 6 miles in haze. During morning hours, ceiling occasionally 500 feet AGL; visibility 1/2 to 3 miles in fog. Isolated night time showers/thunderstorms. Visibility aloft occasionally 2 miles in haze below 10,000 feet.

OUTLOOK - Increasing clouds.

KHE SANH - AREA 3:

Cloudy, ceiling 2000 feet AGL; visibility 3 to 6 miles in haze. During morning hours, ceiling occasionally 500 feet AGL; visibility 1 to 3 miles in fog. Isolated night time showers/thunderstorms. Visibility aloft occasionally 2 miles in haze below 10,000 feet.

OUTLOOK - Increasing clouds.

TCHEPONE - AREA 4:

Partly cloudy - occasionally cloudy, ceiling 4000 feet - occasionally 10,000 feet; visibility 3 to 5 miles in haze. During morning hours, in valleys, ceiling occasionally 500 feet AGL; visibility 1/2 to 3 miles in fog. Isolated night time showers/thunderstorms. Visibility aloft occasionally 1/2 mile in haze below 10,000 feet.

OUTLOOK - Little change.

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Enclosure 2 to 0004 p 8 of 107

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CHUP PLANTATION - AREA 5:

Mostly clear - occasionally partly cloudy, ceiling unlimited - occasionally 2500 feet; visibility 3 to 7 miles in haze. During morning hours, ceiling occasionally 1000 feet AGL; visibility 2 to 4 miles in fog. Isolated night time showers/ thunderstorms.

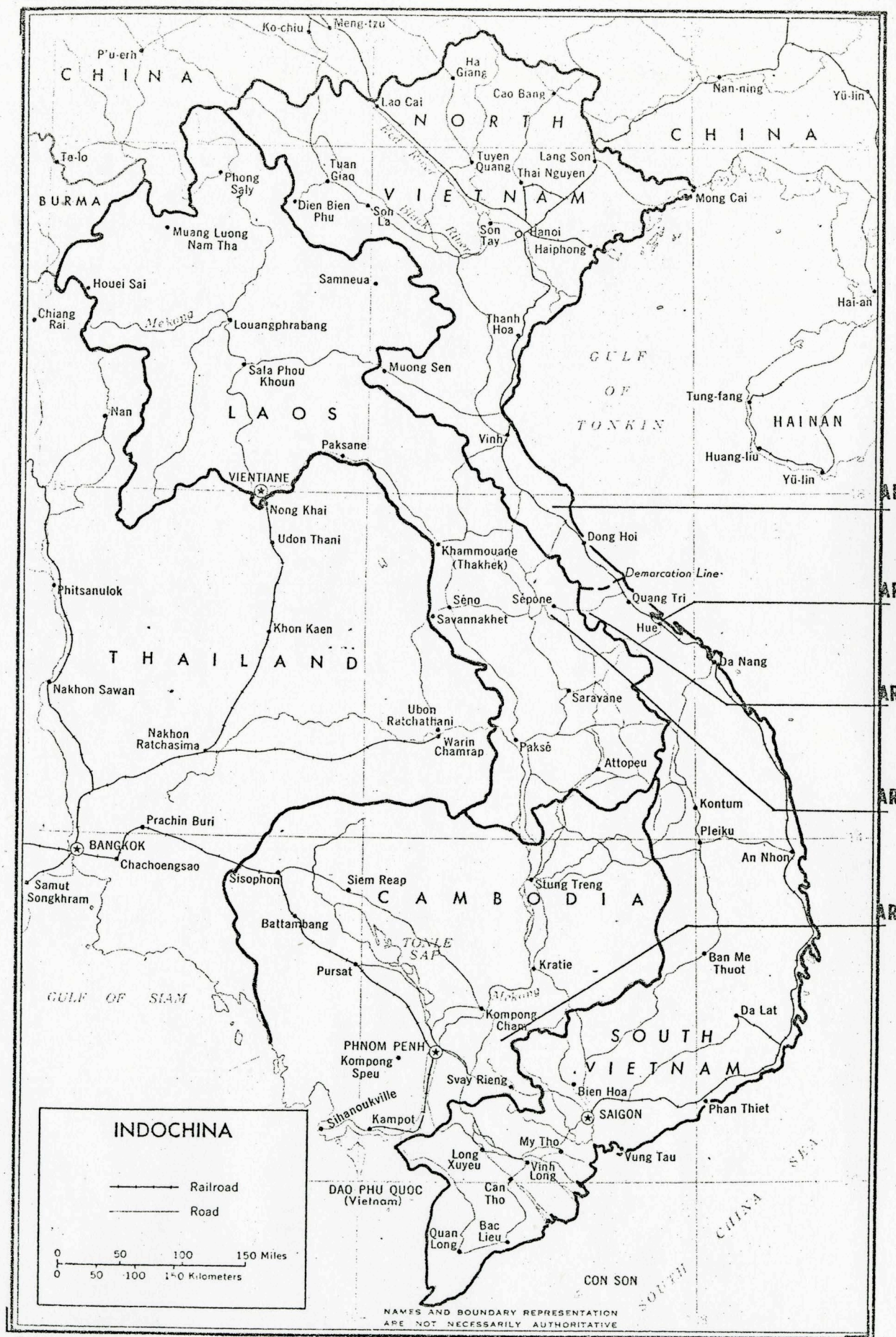
OUTLOOK - Little change.

Note: All cloud heights are given in feet Above Mean Sea Level, except those indicating AGL (Above Ground Level).

Attachment
Map

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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

29 MAR 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. KISSINGER

Subject: Status Report on Operations in Laos

1. (C) Reference is made to your memorandum, dated 11 February 1971, subject as above.

2. (C) In accordance with your request, the 1600 hour daily report is attached as Enclosure 1. A weather forecast covering particular areas of interest in Southeast Asia has been added as Enclosure 2.

2 Encls
a/s

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E.O. 13526, Section 3.5
NLNOU-51/10605; per ltr 10/27/11
By ____ NARA, Date 5/12/2012
[1 of 10]
Per Sec. 3.3(b)(1), (b)(3): 10 USC 424

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29 March 1971

Subject: Operation LAMSON 719

1. (U) General: This report covers the period 280800-282200 GMT (281600-290600 Saigon time; 280300-281700 EST) March 1971.

2. (TS) Summary of Current Situation:

a. Combat activity remained light throughout the period with US and RVNAF units continuing search and security operations in their assigned AOs. The 13 man VNMC reconnaissance team continued to operate in the Co Roc area of Laos with no reported contacts. US air cavalry helicopters performed reconnaissance over Vietnam, the eastern portion of the LAMSON area in Laos, and north and northwest of Khe Sanh with only minor results reported. Twenty-six Vietnamese marines and one ARVN soldier previously missing in the LAMSON area returned to friendly control after successfully evading enemy forces in Laos.

b. US units reported three incidents of ground combat activity in RVN. A series of small-unit contacts southwest of FSB VANDEGRIFT resulted in five enemy KIA while US losses were one KIA and 10 WIA. A second contact north of Khe Sanh resulted in two US KIA and three WIA while an attack on a vehicle along Route 9 southwest of FSB VANDEGRIFT cost two additional US WIA.

c. The US 11th Infantry Brigade Headquarters has moved to FSB SHEPHERD. The Brigade now controls three battalions and continues its mission of securing Khe Sanh, and Route 9 from Khe Sanh to a point south of FSB VANDEGRIFT.

d. The Headquarters of the 1st ARVN Armored Task Force has moved to Dong Ha and the 4th Provisional Cavalry Squadron, consisting of one tank troop and three armored cavalry troops, is being organized and refitted at Khe Sanh.

e. Engineer units continued dismantling matting from the assault landing strip at Khe Sanh. The eastern half of the runway has been dismantled with work progressing satisfactorily on the recovery of the remaining runway matting.

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3. (TS) Plans for Future Operations:

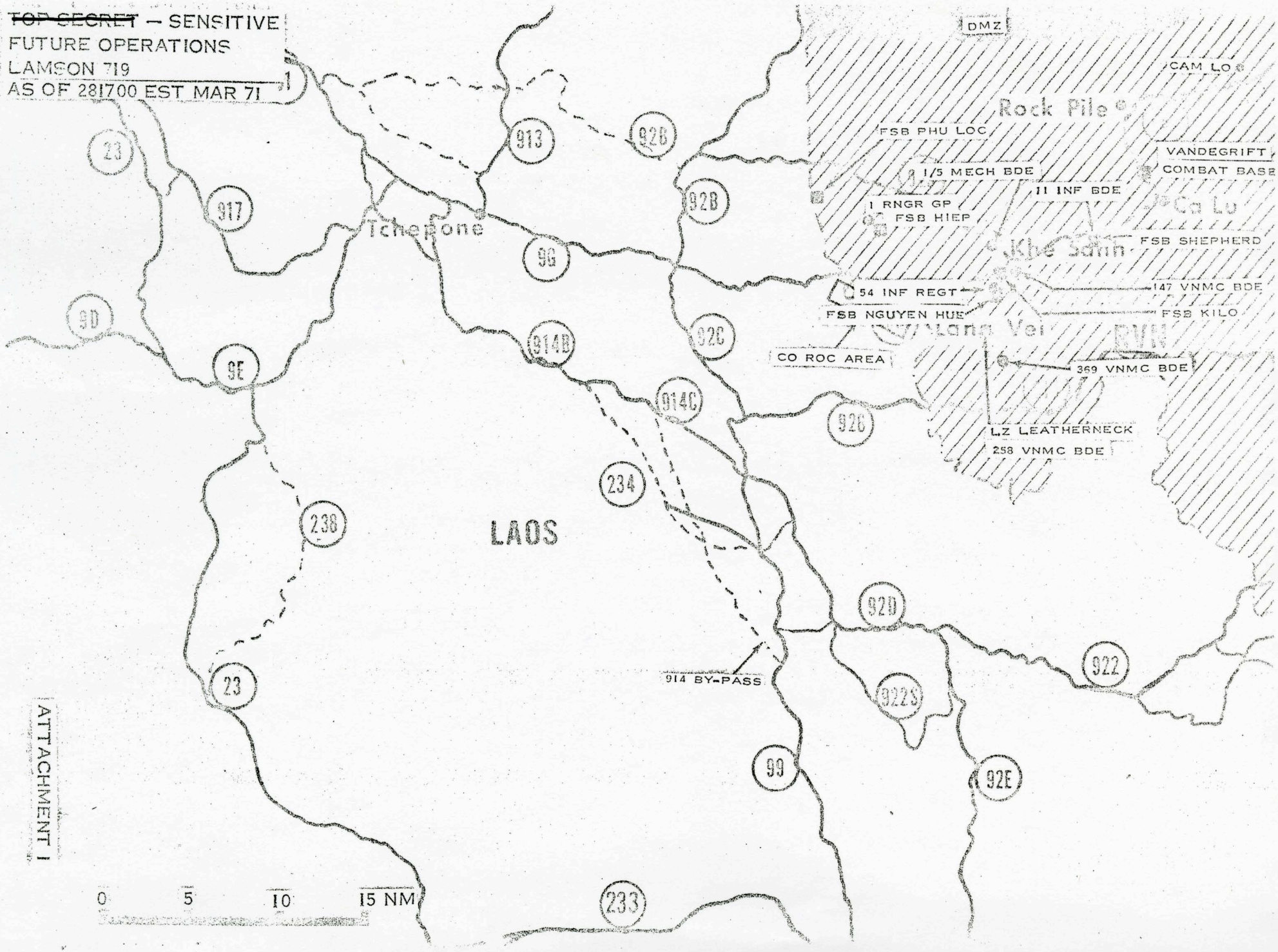
a. The 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) will continue operations in northern Quang Tri Province. The 3d Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) will continue operations in the eastern AO. The 1st Brigade, 5th Mechanized Division will continue operations to the northeast, north, and northwest of Khe Sanh. The 11th Infantry Brigade will continue to secure the Khe Sanh area and Route 9.

b. RVNAF units continue operations in the Khe Sanh area. The 54th Infantry Regiment, 1st ARVN Division will conduct operations west of Khe Sanh and secure portions of the Khe Sanh area. The Vietnamese Marine Division will continue operations with the 369th Brigade south of Khe Sanh; the 258th Brigade continues operations southwest of Khe Sanh to include reconnaissance team operations in the CO ROC area in Laos. The 147th Brigade and the Division Command Post prepare to move to Quang Tri. The 1st Ranger Group will continue to conduct operations northwest of Khe Sanh, and prepares to move one battalion into the Khe Sanh area. The 4th Provisional Cavalry Squadron will remain in Khe Sanh in corps reserve.

c. Engineer efforts will consist of airfield and route maintenance operations and continued dismantling of the assault strip at Khe Sanh.

Attachments
1. Map
2. DIA Intelligence Appraisal

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DIA INTELLIGENCE APPRAISAL

Enemy Reactions to Operation LAMSON 719

1. (SS) The tenuous moves reported Saturday of the Headquarters, 304th NVA Division to North Vietnam and its 24th NVA Regiment to a position northwest of Tchepone have been negated. The Division Headquarters remains nine miles south of Khe Sanh and the 24th NVA Regiment is fixed near the Route 9/RVN border area.

SANITIZED
(b)(3):10 USC 424
3.3(b)(1)

2. (SS) [redacted] communist logistic activity in the Tchepone area continues to remain heavy. A wrapup report from BT-32 revealed that during the period 1-25 March one of its subordinates had received about 2,100 tons of supplies. Included were about 850 tons of probable arms and ammunition and 820 tons of gasoline. Much of the supplies were probably needed for resupply of units engaged in countering LAMSON operation forces. However, some of these supplies will undoubtedly be used to replenish stockpiles drawn down during Operation LAMSON 719, while some will be moved through Laos for destinations in the Republic of Vietnam and Cambodia. On the other hand, enemy supply problems south of the LAMSON 719 area apparently are continuing. On 27 March, BT-34 advised a subordinate AAA unit that 33 vehicles had entered its area. The unit was ordered to increase its strikes to protect the formation but to economize on ammunition because "at the present the ammo situation is very difficult." This ammunition shortage in BT-34's area may indicate the enemy is still finding it difficult to move supplies south of Base Areas 604 and 611.

Approved by:

[redacted]

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(b)(3):10USC424

Attachment 2

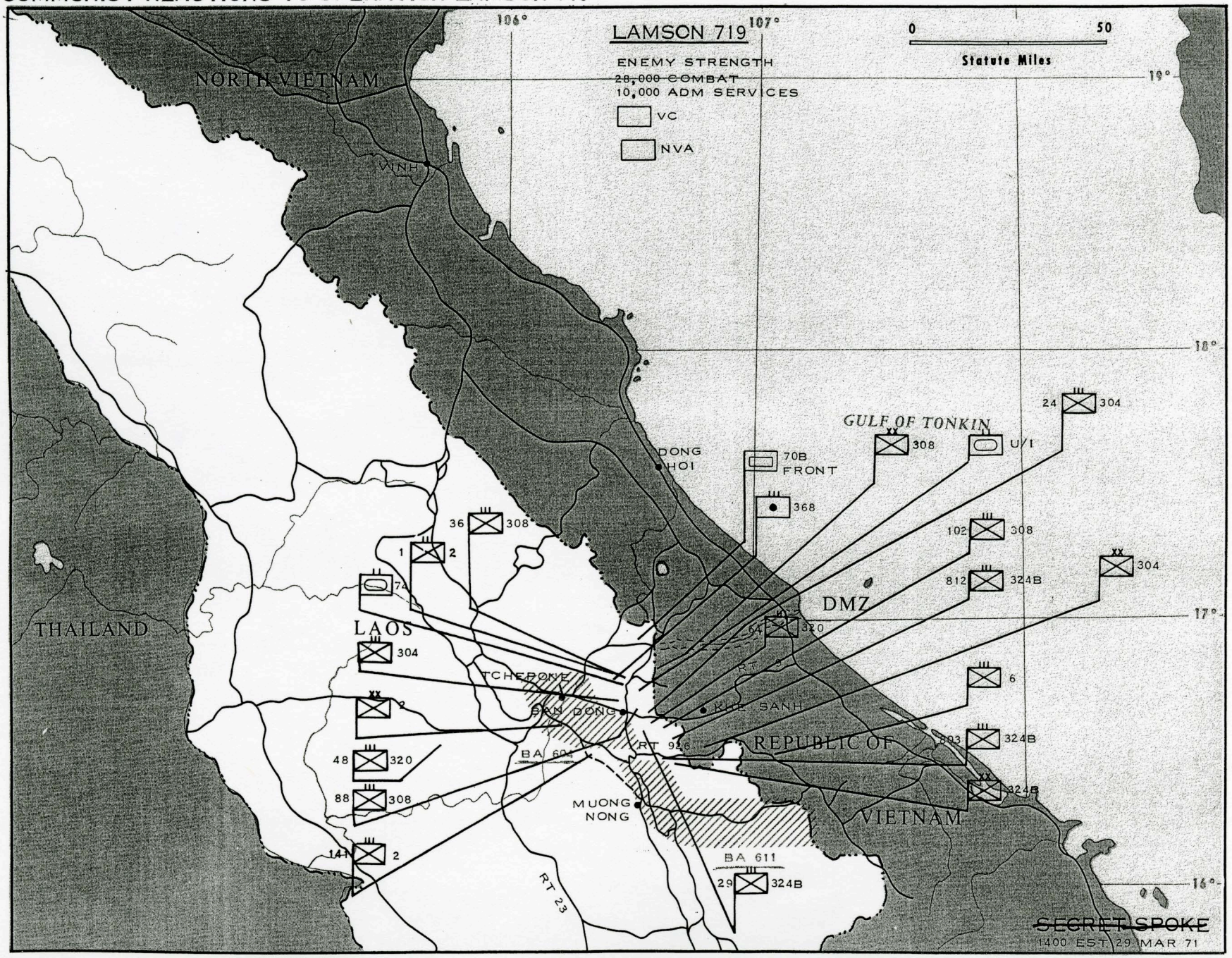
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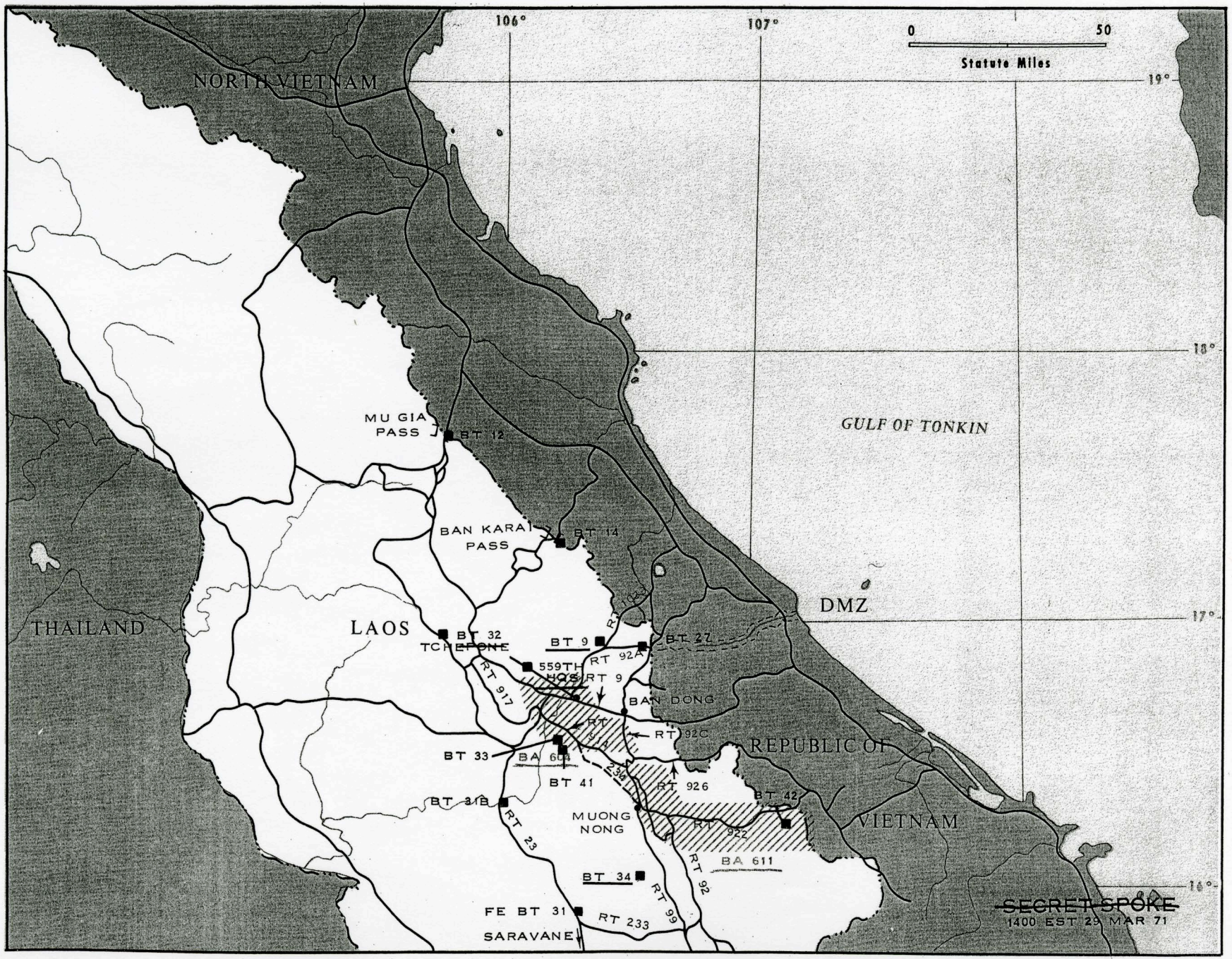
Tchepone 50 of 107

COMMUNIST REACTIONS TO OPERATION LAMSON 719



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LAMSON 719



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NLN-RNP-00-0706107

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: 300600-310600 Saigon time.
OUTLOOK: 310600-010600 Saigon time.

NVN PANHANDLE - AREA 1:

COASTAL - Partly cloudy-occasionally cloudy, ceiling 14000 feet-occasionally 4000 feet; visibility 5 to 7 miles in haze-occasionally 1/2 mile in patchy morning fog.

MOUNTAINS - Cloudy-occasionally partly cloudy during evening hours, ceiling 4000 feet; visibility 3 to 5 miles in haze. Morning low clouds and fog in valleys, ceiling 500 feet AGL; visibility 1/4 to 1 mile in fog.

OUTLOOK - Little change.

NORTHERN SOUTH VIETNAM - AREA 2:

COASTAL - Partly cloudy-occasionally cloudy, ceiling unlimited-occasionally 4000 feet; visibility 5 to 7 miles in haze. Patchy low clouds and fog during morning hours, ceiling 500 feet; visibility 1 to 3 miles in fog/haze.

MOUNTAINS - Partly cloudy, ceiling 4000 feet-occasionally unlimited during afternoon hours; visibility 3 to 5 miles in haze. Patchy low clouds and fog during morning hours, ceiling 500 feet AGL; visibility 1/8 to 5 miles in fog. Isolated evening showers/thunderstorms.

OUTLOOK - Little change.

KHE SANH - AREA 3:

Partly cloudy, ceiling 1500 feet AGL-occasionally unlimited during afternoon hours; visibility 3 to 5 miles in haze. Patchy low clouds and fog during morning hours, ceiling 500 feet AGL; visibility 1/8 to 5 miles in fog. Isolated evening showers/thunderstorms.

OUTLOOK - Little change.

TCHEPONE - AREA 4:

Partly cloudy, ceiling unlimited-occasionally 14000 feet; visibility 3 to 5 miles in haze. Patchy low clouds and fog in valleys during morning hours, ceiling 500 feet AGL; visibility 1/2 to 3 miles in fog. Isolated evening showers/thunderstorms.

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NLN-RNL-84-140005 08ch107

OUTLOOK - Increasing clouds.

CHUP PLANTATION - AREA 5:

Partly cloudy-occasionally cloudy, ceiling unlimited-occasionally 2500 feet; visibility 3 to 7 miles in haze. Few evening showers/ thunderstorms. Patchy low clouds and fog during morning hours, ceiling 1000 feet; visibility 2 to 4 miles in fog.

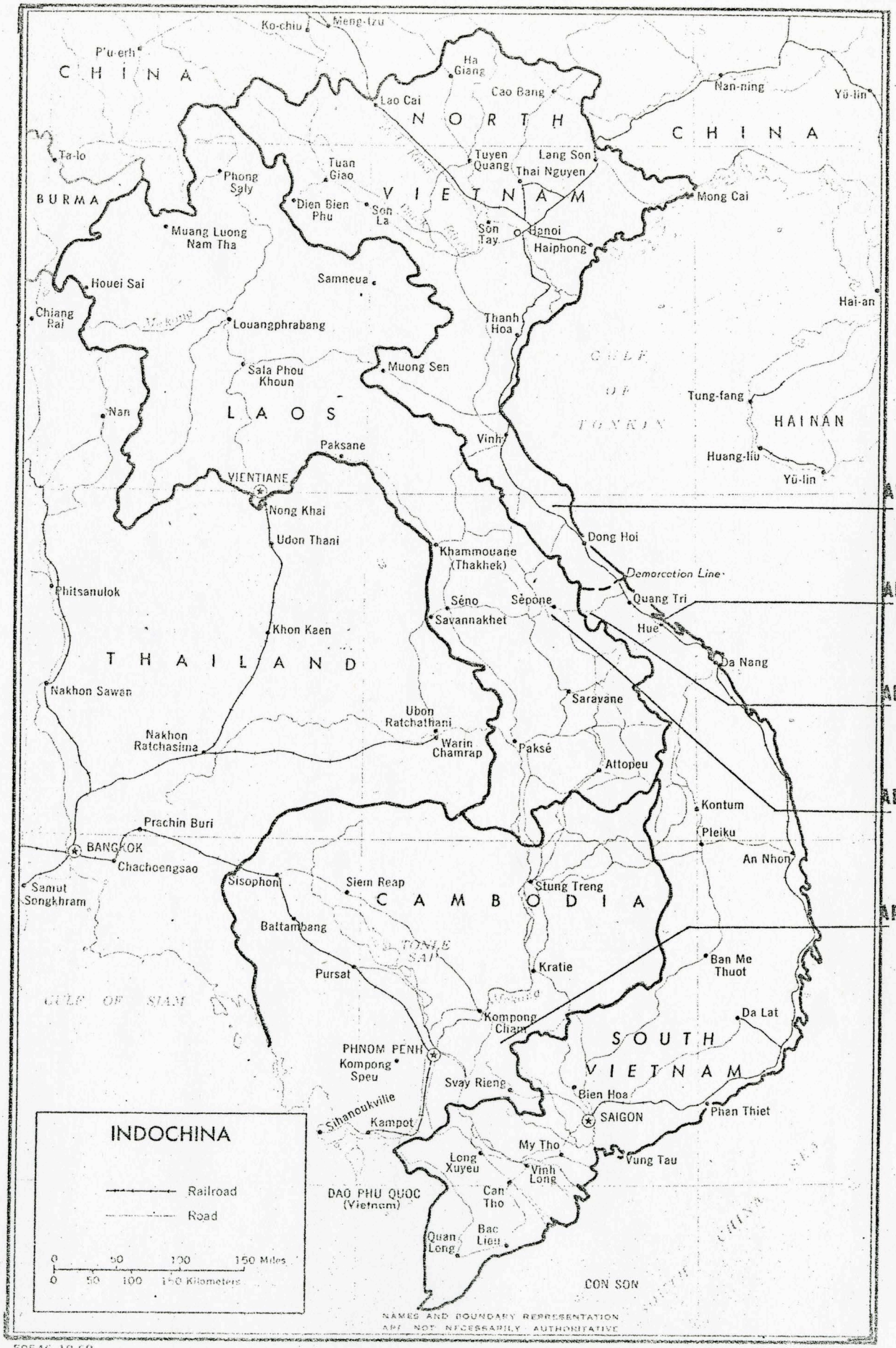
OUTLOOK - Little change.

Note: All cloud heights are given in feet Above Mean Sea Level, except those indicating AGL (Above Ground Level).

Attachment
Map

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[82/5/12]

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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

March 28, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. KISSINGER

SUBJECT: Status Report on Operations in Laos

1. (C) Reference is made to your memorandum, dated 11 February 1971, subject as above.

2. (C) In accordance with your request, the 1600 hour daily report is attached as Enclosure 1. A weather forecast covering particular areas of interest in Southeast Asia has been added as Enclosure 2.

Melvin R. Laird

2 Encls
a/s

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E.O. 13526, Section 3.5
NLN 06-57/100005; per ltr 10/27/2011
By MLP NARA, Date 5/2/2012
[1 of 10]
Per Sec. 7(b)(3): 10 USC 424
Sec Def Cont Nr. I-1508

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28 March 1971

Subject: Operation LAMSON 719

1. (U) General: This report covers the period 270800-280800 GMT (271600-281600 Saigon time; 270300-280300 EST) March 1971.

2. (TS) Summary of Current Situation:

a. The level of combat activity remained light during the reporting period. Khe Sanh Base was struck by 21 rounds of 122-mm artillery fire with no casualties or damage reported. Vandegrift Combat Base received approximately twenty 122-mm rocket rounds at 280235 March Saigon time. Three US soldiers were wounded and two helicopters (UH-1, AH-1) were destroyed. In addition, 1,301 rounds of 155-mm artillery ammunition and 976 8-inch artillery rounds were destroyed. Two other helicopter losses were reported during the period: one UH-1 destroyed by mortar fire near Lang Vei and an OH-6 downed by ground fire while conducting reconnaissance over Laos. The crew was extracted unharmed. Two Vietnamese Marine Division reconnaissance teams (total strength 13) remain northwest of Lang Vei in Laos. US air cavalry elements continued to conduct visual reconnaissance of the former Vietnamese Marine Division area of operations in Laos and of Route 9 west of the Laotian border. US and RVNAF elements continued ground operations in assigned areas in RVN.

b. RVNAF personnel missing in previous actions began returning to the Khe Sanh area on 25 March. Since that time a total of 32 RVNAF troops (19 from 2d Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, 10 from 1st Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, three from Vietnamese Marine Division) have returned.

c. Five ground actions in Vietnam and one in Laos were reported. Six US soldiers were killed and 24 wounded in the actions in Vietnam. The Vietnamese Marine reconnaissance teams in Laos engaged an enemy force with no casualties to either side reported. Enemy casualties in Vietnam were nine killed and one enemy soldier captured by US elements. A US infantry battalion was struck by small-arms, machinegun, and mortar fire 4 miles northwest of the Rockpile. Five US soldiers were killed and eight wounded. A US convoy on Route 9, 1 mile north of FSB SHEPHERD, received one round of antitank grenade fire which wounded three US soldiers and killed one. Helicopter gunships, tactical airstrikes, and aerial rocket artillery struck the area and a search of the target

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was in progress at the end of the reporting period. Elements of a US infantry battalion in a night defensive position near the Rockpile heard movement around the position and threw handgrenades. A search of the area at dawn found six enemy soldiers killed, one enemy soldier who was captured, seven individual weapons, an antitank grenade launcher, 20 satchel charges and other explosives. A US reconnaissance team engaged an enemy force 8 miles east of Khe Sanh. Three members of the team were wounded. A medical evacuation helicopter and a UH-1 helicopter troopship supporting the action were hit by ground fire wounding a total of six crewmembers. Ground elements searching the area later found three enemy bodies.

d. The US 11th Infantry Brigade Headquarters and the 2d Battalion, 1st Infantry (US) moved by air from Dong Ha to Vandegrift Combat Base on 28 March. The 11th Brigade assumed responsibility for the defense of Khe Sanh Base and an area of operations along Route 9 east of Khe Sanh. The 1st Ranger Group (ARVN) air-extracted one 155-mm and five 105-mm howitzers from FSB HIEP to Dong Ha.

3. (TS) Plans for Future Operations:

a. The 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) will continue operations in northwestern Quang Tri Province.

(1) 3d Brigade continues search, interdiction, and tactical surveillance in assigned area.

(2) 1st Brigade, 5th Mechanized Division will concentrate its efforts to the west, northwest, and east of Khe Sanh against probable enemy artillery, rocket and mortar sites, and troop concentrations.

(3) 11th Infantry Brigade continues to secure Khe Sanh Base and the area along Route 9 east of Khe Sanh.

b. RVNAF units continue to operate in assigned areas.

(1) 1st Infantry Division: 54th Infantry Regiment will conduct search operations along the Laotian border in RVN with two battalions. The remainder of the Regiment conducts searches in the vicinity of Khe Sanh and assists in securing Khe Sanh Base.

(2) 1st Airborne Division: Division continues to standdown at Dong Ha and Tan My.

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NLN 08-27 #10040 By 30 6/07

(3) VNMC Division: Division conducts search and security operations in assigned areas south and southwest of Khe Sanh.

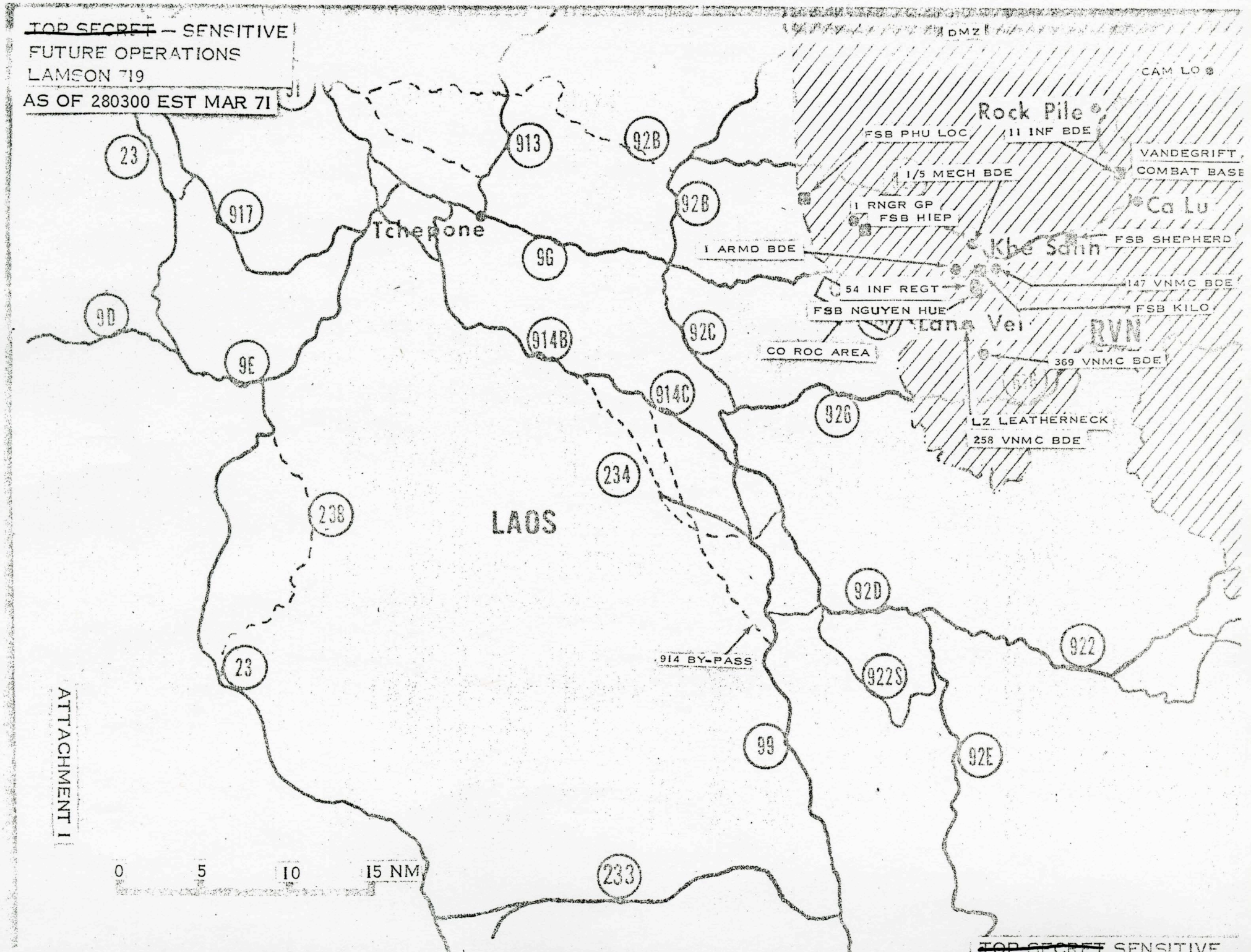
(4) 1st Ranger Group: Group continues to operate around FSBs HIEP and PHU LOC with three battalions. One battalion remains in Corps reserve at Dong Ha.

(5) 1st Armored Brigade: The 4th Provisional Cavalry Squadron, organized from elements of the 1st Armored Brigade, remains in Corps reserve at Khe Sanh. The remainder of the brigade continues to reorganize and refit at Khe Sanh.

c. Engineers: Engineer units continue airfield and route maintenance and dust control operations. Removal and retrograde movement of MX-19 matting from the Khe Sanh assault strip, which began on 25 March, continues with completion estimated for 30 March.

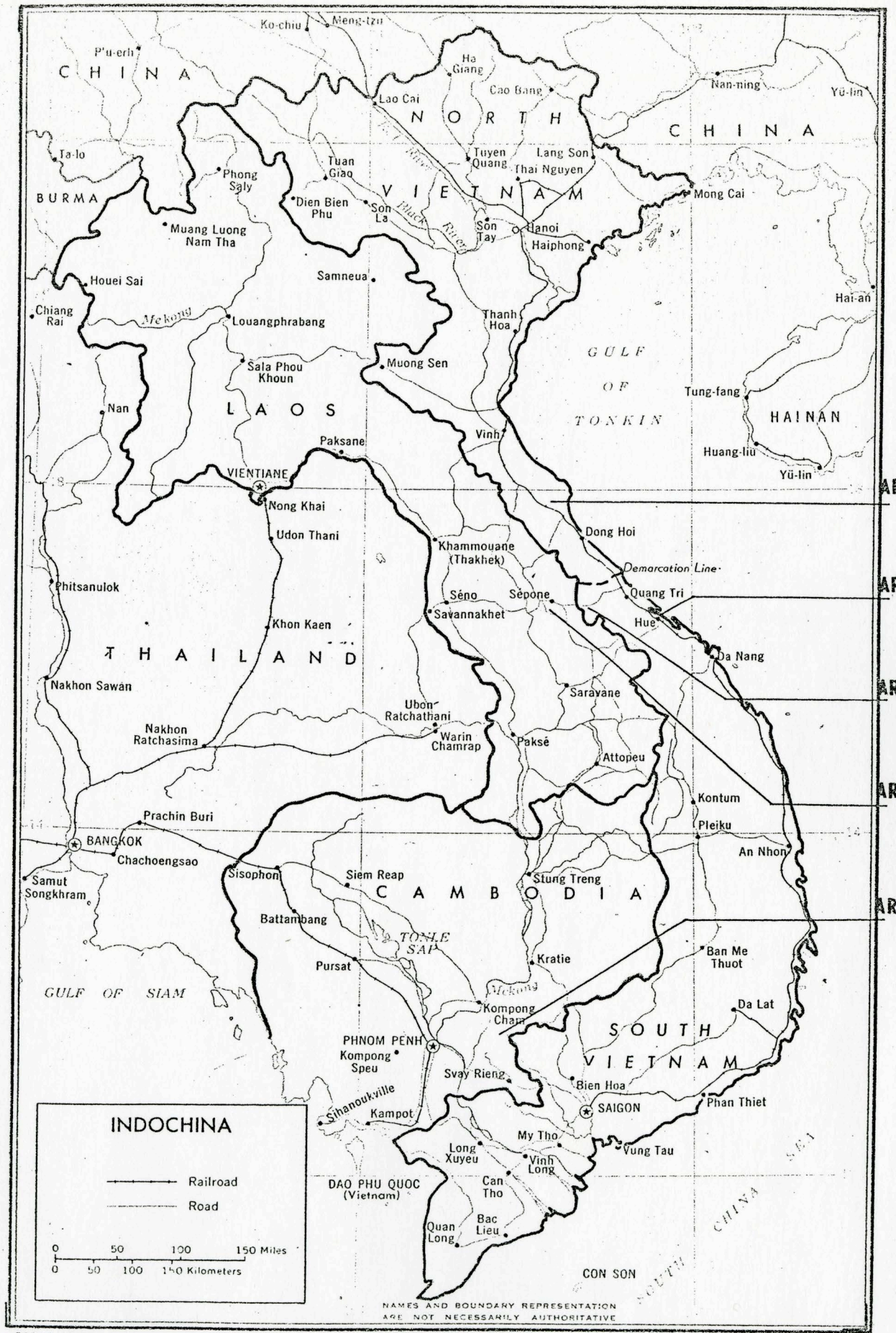
Attachments:
1. Map
2. DIA Assessment

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DIA INTELLIGENCE APPRAISAL

Enemy Reactions to Operation LAMSON 719

1. (SS) The Headquarters, 64th NVA Regiment, 320th NVA Division was located on 27 March 12 miles west of Khe Sanh. This position represents a southeastward move of 18 miles from its 11 March location. This unit was probably involved in the recent fighting with RVNAF units withdrawing from Laos.

2. (SS) On the same day, the Headquarters, 29th NVA Regiment, 324B NVA Division was detected six miles north of its 15 March location.

Approved by:

[redacted]

SANITIZED
(b)(3):10 USC 424

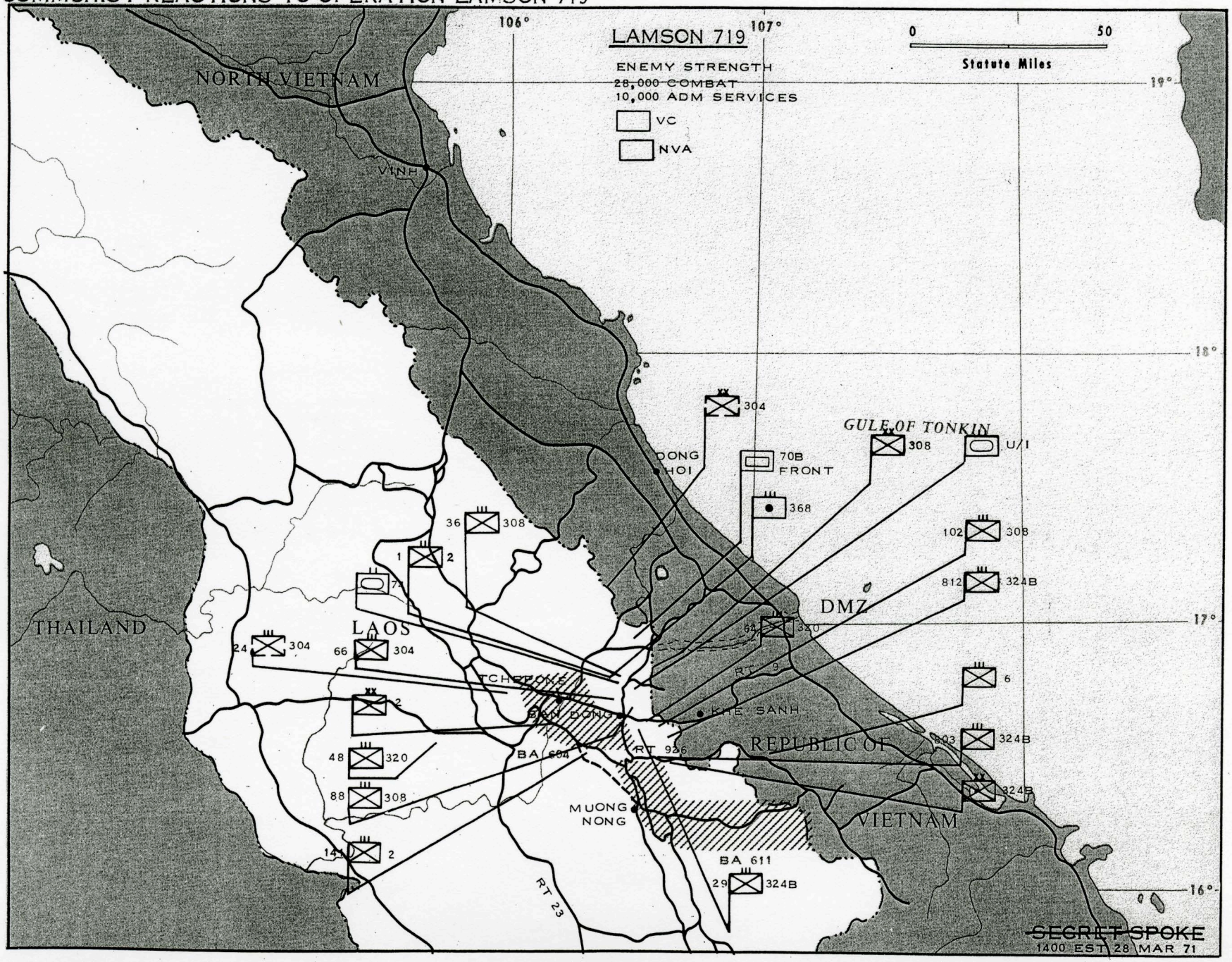
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COMMUNIST REACTIONS TO OPERATION LAMSON 719



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NLNIXON-511 NWDA pt 6 #61

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: 290600-300600 Saigon time
OUTLOOK: 300600-310600 Saigon time

NVN PANHANDLE - AREA 1:

COASTAL - Partly cloudy, ceiling unlimited - occasionally 4000 feet during morning hours; visibility 5-7 miles in haze.

MOUNTAINS - Partly cloudy, ceiling unlimited - occasionally 4000 feet during nighttime and morning hours; visibility 4-6 miles in haze. During morning hours, in valleys, ceiling 500 feet AGL; visibility 1/4-1 mile in fog. Visibility aloft occasionally 3 miles in haze below 12000 feet.

OUTLOOK - Little change.

NORTHERN SOUTH VIETNAM - AREA 2:

COASTAL - Partly cloudy, ceiling unlimited - occasionally 4000 feet; visibility 5-7 miles in haze. During morning hours, ceiling occasionally 500 feet AGL; visibility 1-3 miles in fog.

MOUNTAINS - Partly cloudy, ceiling unlimited - occasionally 4000 feet during nighttime and morning hours; visibility 3-5 miles in haze. During morning hours, ceiling occasionally 100 to 500 feet AGL; visibility 1/8-3 miles in fog. Isolated evening showers/ thunderstorms.

OUTLOOK - Little change.

KHE SANH - AREA 3:

- Partly cloudy, ceiling unlimited - visibility 3-5 miles in haze. During morning hours, ceiling 100 to 500 feet AGL; visibility 1/8-1 mile in fog. Visibility aloft occasionally 2 miles in haze below 12000 feet.

OUTLOOK - Little change.

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Enclosure 2

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NLN-04-51/#006 p96107

TCHEPONE - AREA 4:

- Partly cloudy, ceiling unlimited - visibility 3-5 miles in haze. During morning hours in valleys, ceiling occasionally 500 feet AGL; visibility 1/2-3 miles in fog. Visibility aloft occasionally 2 miles in haze below 12000 feet. Isolated evening showers/ thunderstorms.

OUTLOOK - Slight increase in cloudiness.

CHUP PLANTATION - AREA 5:

- Partly cloudy, ceiling unlimited - occasionally 2500 feet; visibility 3-7 miles in haze. During morning hours, ceiling occasionally 1000 feet AGL; visibility 2-4 miles in fog.

OUTLOOK - Slight increase in cloudiness.

NOTE: All cloud heights are given in feet Above Mean Sea Level except those indicating AGL (Above Ground Level).

Attachment
Map

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NIXON PRESIDENTIAL MATERIALS PROJECT

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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

23 MAR 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. KISSINGER

Subject: Status Report on Operations in Laos

1. (C) Reference is made to your memorandum, dated 11 February 1971, subject as above.

2. (C) In accordance with your request, the 1600 hour daily report is attached as Enclosure 1. A weather forecast covering particular areas of interest in Southeast Asia has been added as Enclosure 2.

Melvin R. Laird

2 Enclosures
a/s

Upon removal of attachments this document becomes
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E.O. 13526, Section 3.5
NLN OU-51/10609; per ltr 10/27/2011
By ____ NARA, Date 5/2/2012
Lp 1 of 10]
Per Sec. (b)(3): 10 USC 424, 3.3(b)(1)
See Def Cont Nr. X-1433

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23 March 1971

Subject: Operation LAMSON 719

1. (U) General: This report covers the period 220800-230800 GMT (221600-231600 Saigon time; 220300-230300 EST) March 1971.

2. (TS) Summary of Current Situation:

a. Enemy activity continued to increase along Route 9 between the South Vietnam/Laos borders and Khe Sanh, and at the Khe Sanh Base. The 147th VNMC Brigade was in heavy contact in the vicinity of FSB DELTA. The ARVN Airborne Brigade and the Armored Task Force have crossed the border into South Vietnam, linked up with US forces, and moved to Khe Sanh.

b. In three separate actions near Lang Vei, elements of a US Armored Task Force suffered 17 US soldiers wounded from enemy indirect and small-arms fire. In another action 10 miles northwest of Khe Sanh, elements of the US 3d Battalion, 187th Airborne Infantry were attacked by an estimated 5 to 15 enemy. A total of five US soldiers were killed and four were wounded. Enemy losses are 3 KIA. A US truck convoy was attacked on Route 9 east of Khe Sanh where 3 US were wounded and 1 truck loaded with ammo was destroyed and 3 trucks damaged. A coordinated sapper and indirect fire attack on the Khe Sanh Base resulted in two US helicopters destroyed, four damaged, three US killed, 13 wounded. The enemy losses were reported as 14 sappers killed and 1 captured. Incomplete reports indicate elements of the 147th VNMC Brigade in the vicinity of FSB DELTA were attacked by an enemy tank/infantry force. The friendly forces moved off of FSB DELTA leaving 13 artillery pieces (nine 105-mm, four 155-mm). 1st ARVN Corps reports all artillery pieces destroyed by the 147th VNMC Brigade prior to leaving FSB DELTA. Elements of the Marine Brigade moved to pickup zones; because of hostile fire, helo lift terminated when 430 marines which included 200 wounded, had been extracted. The remaining elements of the brigade are moving to a new pickup zone at the close of this report. Aerial observer reports two enemy tanks were destroyed in the marine action.

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c. In addition to the three enemy tanks reported destroyed by fighter aircraft on 22 March, west of FSB BRAVO, five additional tanks were destroyed.

d. In addition to the two aircraft destroyed on the ground at Khe Sanh, two other helicopters (UH-1H) were shot down and destroyed and two declared non-flyable, due to hostile fire damage.

3. (TS) Plans for Future Operations:

a. 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) will continue operations in northwestern Quang Tri Province, with emphasis on areas south and west of the Rockpile and north and south of FSB TABAT.

b. RVNAF forces will continue operations in Laos and RVN. The 2d Regiment, 1st Infantry Division remains in the Khe Sanh area as corps reserve.

(1) 1st Airborne Division: 2d Brigade Command Post and 6th and 11th Battalions will remain vicinity of Khe Sanh. The 1st, 8th, and 9th Battalions will complete movement to Dong Ha.

(2) 1st Armored Brigade: Future plans unknown at time of report.

(3) Vietnamese Marine Division:

(a) 147th VNMC Brigade continues movement to the east of abandoned FSB DELTA to secure pickup zone for extraction to Khe Sanh.

(b) 258th VNMC Brigade continues operations with 1st and 3d Battalions to support extraction of the 147th VNMC Brigade. The 8th Battalion continues to secure FSB HOTEL.

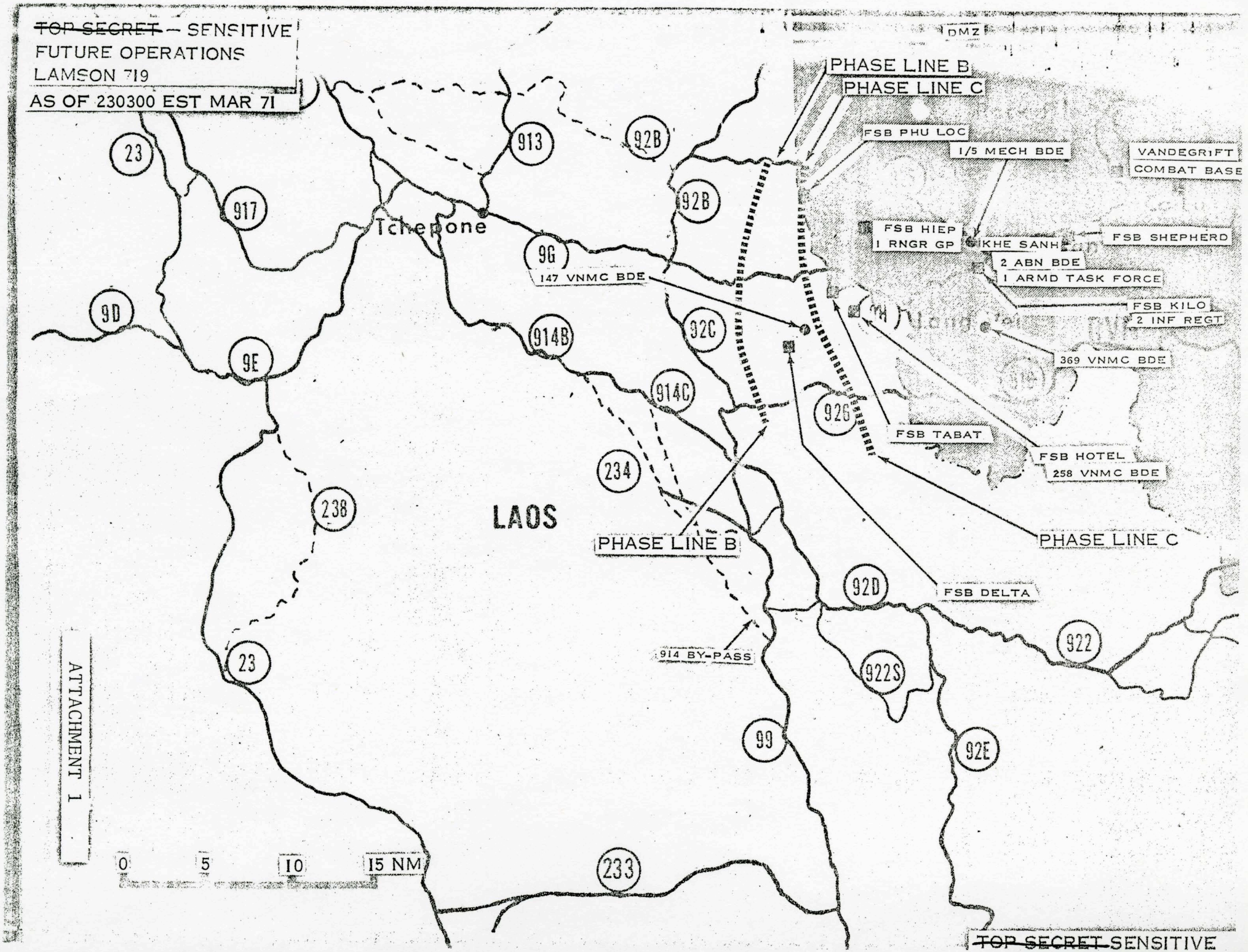
(c) 369th VNMC Brigade continues operations south of Khe Sanh.

(4) 1st Ranger Group continues operations vicinity FSBs PHU LOC and HIEP.

c. Engineers: No change in plans from previous report.

Attachments:
1. Map
2. DIA Assessment

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NLRN 04-51/10609 pg 46 107



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NARA Date 10/9/2008

DIA INTELLIGENCE APPRAISAL

Enemy Reactions to Operation LAMSON 719

SANITIZED (b)(3);10USC424 3.3(b)(1)

1. (SS) In a major headquarters relocation, [redacted] the 308th NVA Division Headquarters placing it immediately south of the western DMZ. While this may be an indication of the return of this unit to North Vietnam, this location near the Cam Lo and Ta Bong River Valleys would place it in an excellent position from which to direct any future operations which the NVA may be planning in northwestern Quang Tri Province.

SANITIZED (b)(3): 10USC 424

2. (SS) In logistic activity, [redacted] the enemy continues to move supplies in the LAMSON area. In the Binh Tram 32 area, an 18 March message disclosed that two subordinate battalions had reached their objectives. One reportedly had eight vehicles which completed five continuous trips. The battalion reportedly made 12 trips to Binh Tram 33 between 10 and 15 March. A 19 March message from the Binh Tram 32 liaison officer at Binh Tram 33 revealed that Binh Tram 33 had received 502 tons of gasoline during the period 1-18 March.

Approved by:

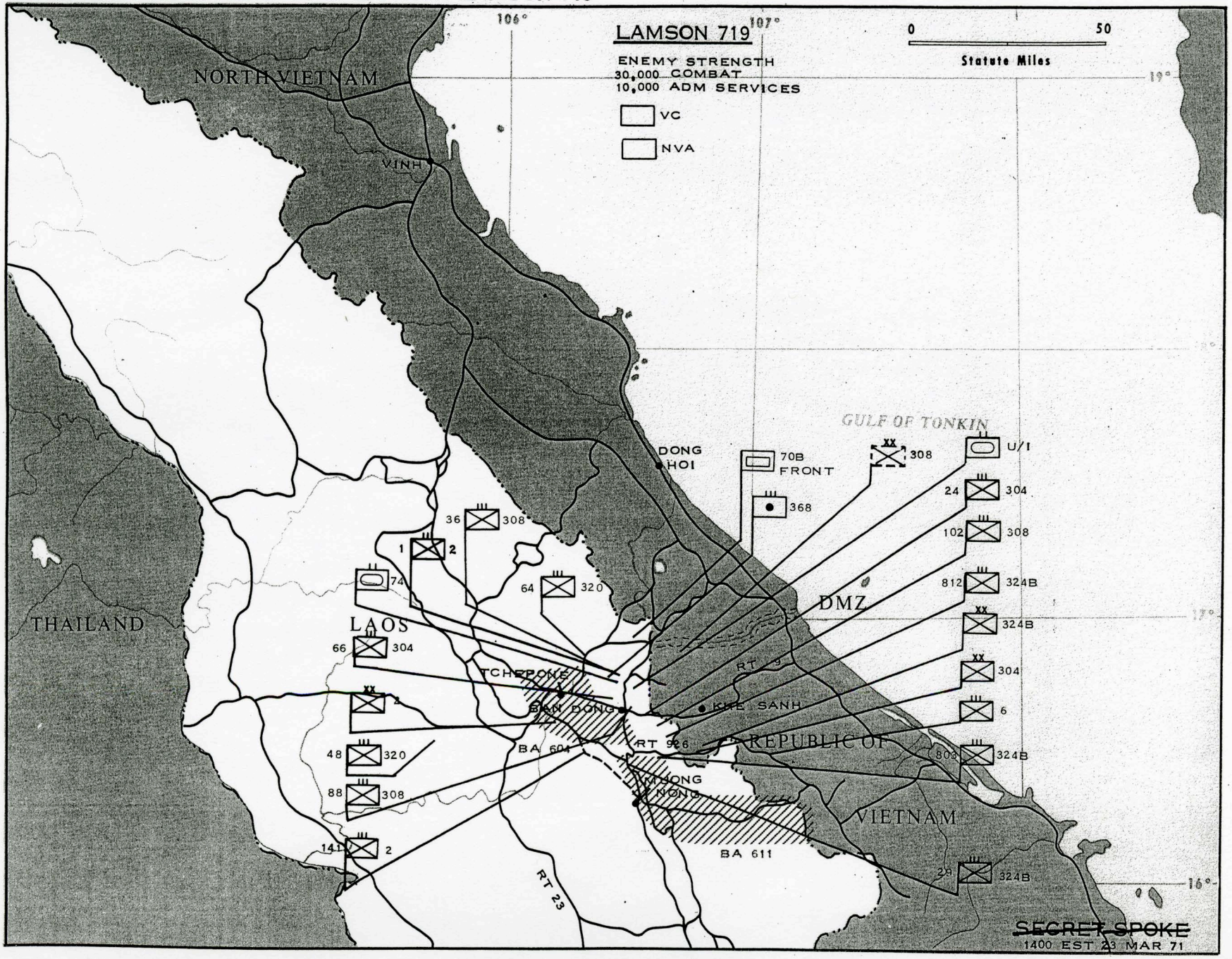
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SANITIZED (b)(3) & 10 USC 424

Attachment #2

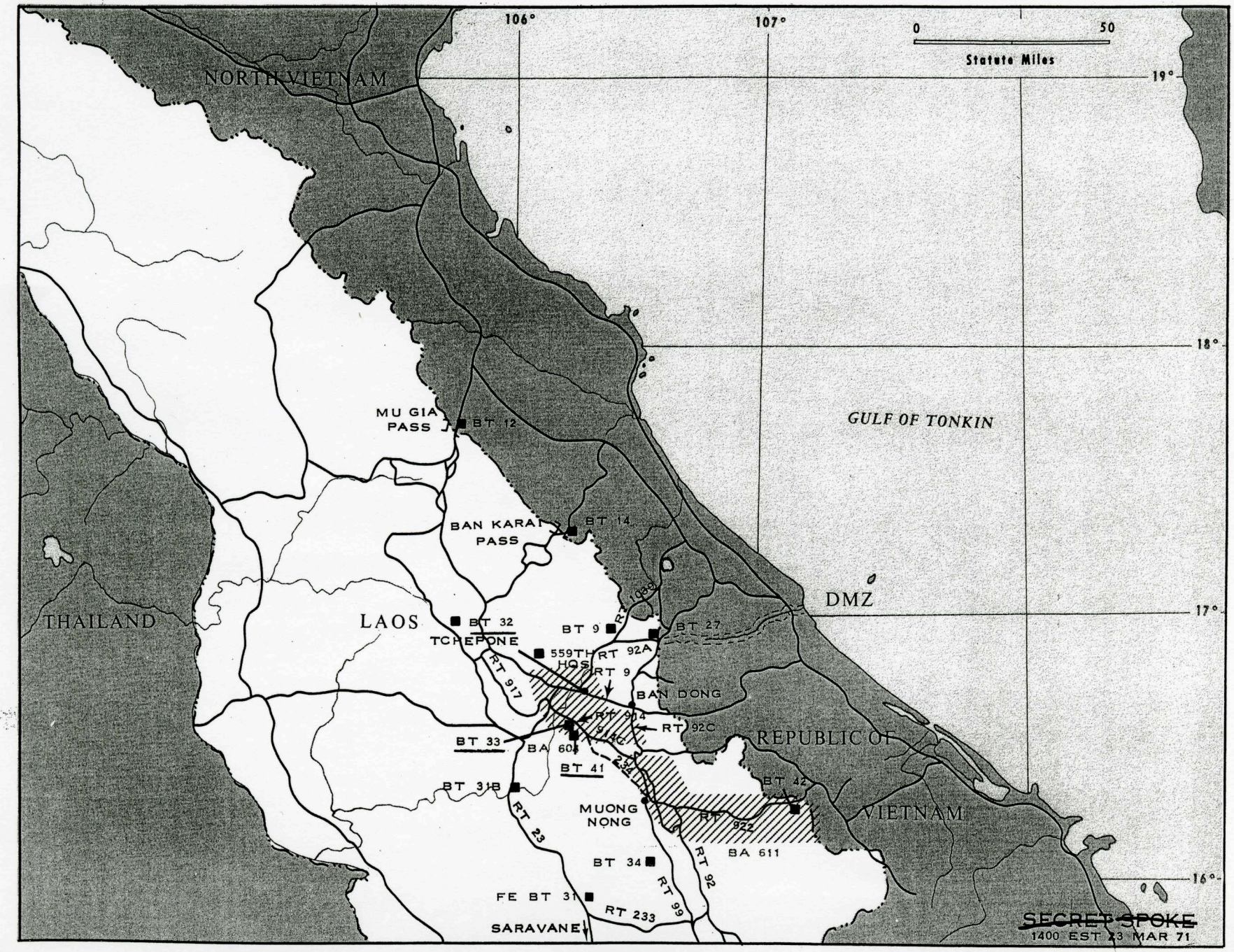
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COMMUNIST REACTIONS TO OPERATION LAMSON 719



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LAMSON 719



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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: 24/0600-25/0600 Saigon time
OUTLOOK: 25/0600-26/0600 Saigon time

NVN PANHANDLE - AREA 1:

COASTAL - Cloudy - occasionally partly cloudy, ceiling 4,000 feet - occasionally unlimited, minimum cloudiness between 1200-1700 Saigon time; visibility 2 miles in fog.

MOUNTAINS - Cloudy, ceiling 4,000 feet, minimum cloudiness between 1200-1700 Saigon time; visibility 5-7 miles. During morning hours in valleys, ceiling 100 to 500 feet AGL; visibility 1 mile in fog.

OUTLOOK - Little change.

NORTHERN SOUTH VIETNAM - AREA 2:

COASTAL - Cloudy, ceiling 3,000 feet - occasionally 1,000 feet during morning hours; visibility 4-7 miles in haze - occasionally 1-4 miles in fog/drizzle during morning hours.

MOUNTAINS - Partly cloudy - occasionally cloudy, ceiling unlimited - occasionally 4,000 feet; visibility 4-7 miles in haze. During morning hours, ceiling 500 feet AGL; visibility 1-4 miles in drizzle and fog.

OUTLOOK - Little change.

KHE SANH - AREA 3:

- Partly cloudy - occasionally cloudy, ceiling unlimited - occasionally 2,000 feet AGL; visibility 4-7 miles in haze. During morning hours (until 0900 Saigon time), ceiling 500 to 1,200 feet AGL; visibility 1-4 miles in fog.

OUTLOOK - Little change.

TCHEPONE - AREA 4:

- Partly cloudy, ceiling unlimited - occasionally 4,000 feet; visibility 4-7 miles in haze. During morning hours in valleys, ceiling occasionally 500 feet AGL; visibility 1/2-3 miles in haze and fog.

OUTLOOK - Little change.

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CHUP PLANTATION - AREA 5:

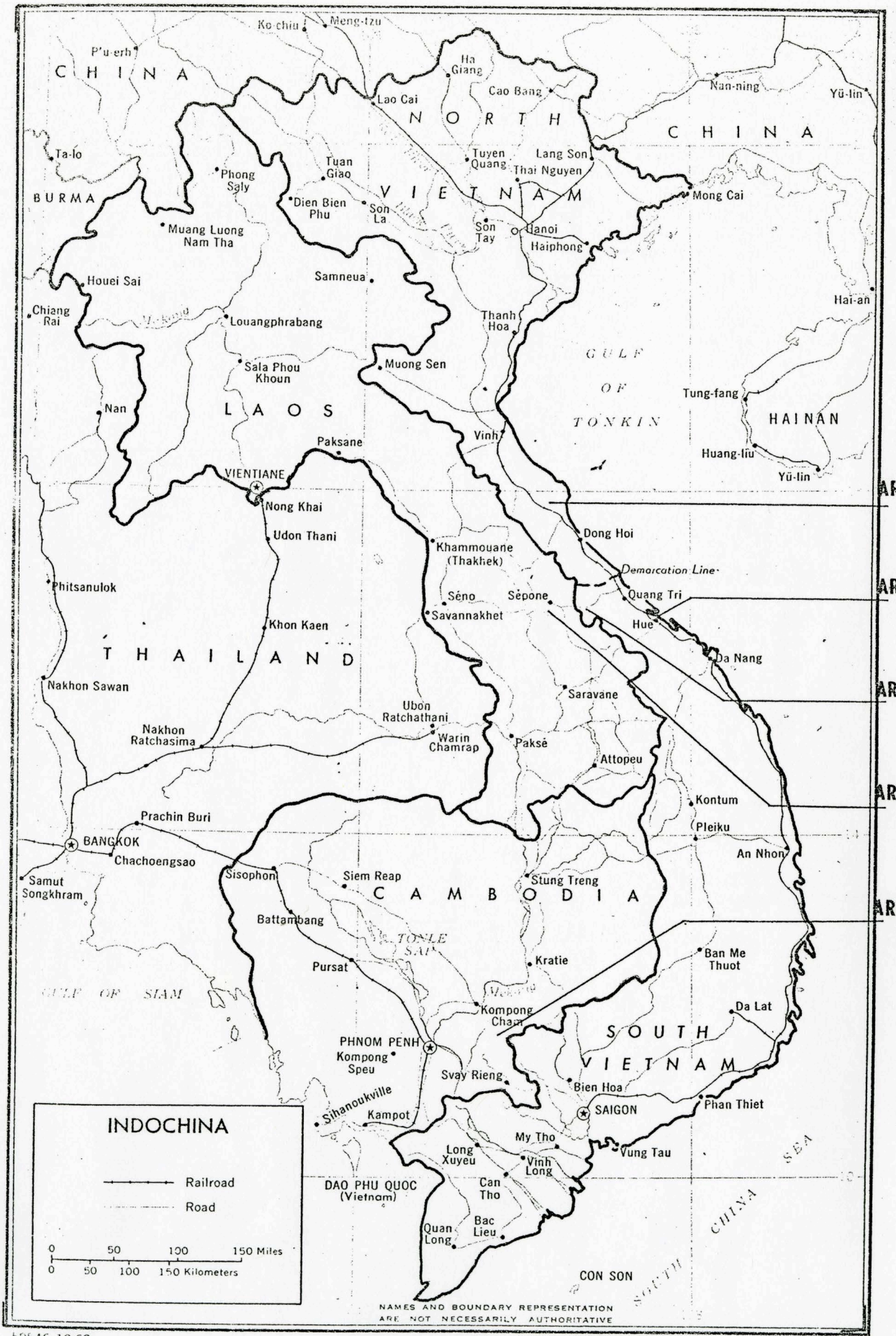
- Cloudy, ceiling 12,000 feet - occasionally 4,000 feet; visibility 3-7 miles in haze. Few night-time showers/thunderstorms. During morning hours, ceiling occasionally 1,000 feet AGL; visibility 2-4 miles in fog.

OUTLOOK - Little change.

Attachment
Map

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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 21, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER HK

SUBJECT: General Abrams' Remarks to the Press on Lam Son 719

In General Abrams' background briefing for the press on March 21, he made the following points:

-- With the exception of TET in 1968, "This certainly has been one of the biggest and toughest single battles since I've been here. I am quite satisfied with the way the ARVN performed."

-- "The ARVN are going to come out of this with higher confidence. They know that they fought top enemy units under the most critical circumstances and that they have done the job."

-- When the planning originally was done for Lam Son 719 it was divided into phases and this current withdrawal phase is one of them.

-- There was no fixed timetable for the operation; it was left flexible. The number of days the ARVN has been in Laos and the current timing of the operation is well within the original planning parameters. Lam Son 719 had to end before the rains came.

-- Some ARVN units were very good, others not so good in communicating with their air support. In future training, stress will be placed on improving communications and liaison between ARVN ground units and U. S. and South Vietnam air units.

-- It is essential in an operation like Lam Son 719 to have a central control point at a forward base with full authority to commit all of the resources required in the operation. There was one for Lam Son 719, but it was not fully operational until the operation was under way for about two weeks.

-- Four of the twenty-two ARVN battalions in Laos are considered to be of questionable combat effectiveness as a result of the heavy fighting.

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Once they receive replacements, a little rest and some training they will be back and will be strong.

-- Some weaker ARVN battalions with poor leadership did withdraw in the face of enemy pressure. The major ARVN units however performed well and did not retreat. They will come out of Lam Son 719 with higher confidence and morale. They have defeated some of the enemy's top units.

-- The poor condition of Route 9 in Laos, the marginal weather, the heavy anti-aircraft fire, and the enemy's capacity to move artillery were the major problems we had to work around.

-- The degree to which the enemy moved SAM's into the Lam Son 719 area and his commitment of T-54 tanks to the battle were not fully expected.

-- The enemy's entire focus is now on interfering with the withdrawal which he knows is under way.

MACV briefers who assisted General Abrams made the additional significant points:

-- "Lam Son 719 has succeeded in disrupting vital portions of the enemy's logistical system, capturing or destroying significant quantities of supplies and inflicting considerable damage on enemy units within the area of operation."

-- "The operation has compounded the enemy's already considerable logistic problem through loss of supplies and disruption of the logistical system in the Laotian panhandle."

-- "The enemy has lost over 11,000 killed. When compared to friendly forces the ratio is at least ten to one in favor of the friendly forces. The enemy has lost the equivalent of 13 of the 33 manuever battalions organic to the 11 regiments committed."

-- "A significant long-term effect of the ongoing operation involves enemy casualties among experienced personnel in units that have been operating the logistical system. Loss of trained rear-service personnel will further degrade the enemy's capability to move supplies through the Laotian panhandle."

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-- "The throughput of supplies into South Vietnam and Cambodia is quite low, only one-fifth of the throughput achieved at this time last year. With the dry season well over one-half gone the enemy will probably experience considerable difficulty in meeting his current logistic goals."

-- "A related form of supply loss is increased consumption. Deployment of additional enemy troops to resist allied interdiction activity resulted in greatly increased food requirements and ammunition expenditures by enemy units committed to the area."

-- "Lam Son 719 has caused the enemy to divert supplies intended for southern Indochina just to defend his lines of communication and has diluted his direct efforts to achieve his goals in the south. It has caused him to defend forces which he could have been using elsewhere in Cambodia and South Vietnam."

-- "The heavy personnel losses inflicted upon the enemy in Lam Son 719 has materially reduced his capability to conduct tactical operations on any significant scale within military region one in South Vietnam."

-- "By seizing the initiative in the Laotian panhandle and Cambodia the ARVN has pre-empted enemy plans for the winter-spring campaign."

-- "Lam Son 719 has been a milestone in the development of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Vietnam. For the first time the South Vietnamese have conducted a multi-division operation against a strong and determined enemy. The ARVN without U. S. advisors, penetrating into an area which had been controlled for years by the enemy, has faced their sternest test to date and acquitted themselves against an aggressive enemy."

-- Lam Son 719 was conducted at the same time a major ARVN operation was underway in Cambodia. In that operation (Operation Thoan Thang) the enemy has lost over 4,400 men killed. Nine battalions of the 27 under-strength manuever battalions the enemy has committed to this action have thus been rendered ineffective for combat.

I will be sending you a retyped copy of the full transcript of the background briefing first thing on Monday morning.

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270 million to be reconfirmed by DOD prior to use.

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URGENT

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Al:—

This is a revised version of the memo which HAK has — reflects (a) the 270 million small arms rounds, and (b) the 55 tank kill confirmation in MACV press conference.

HAK has not counted any reference to US-KIA in the. The President should be prepared on this point however, to avoid embarrassment in my

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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE INFORMATION

WASHINGTON

CONFIDENTIAL March 22, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER

SUBJECT: Enemy Losses in Laotian Operation

The following enemy losses of material and manpower resulting from the Laotian Operation have been reported:

Tanks

-- Nearly 100 tanks. This is the first large-scale use of tanks by the North Vietnamese and resulted in the destruction of an estimated one-third of their total tank force. (Only 55 of the 99 claimed tank kills have actually been confirmed.)

Ammunition

-- An estimated 270 million rounds of small arms ammunition.

-- Thousands of larger rounds, including an estimated 3500 large rocket rounds -- 1300 more large rocket rounds than were captured during the Cambodian operation last year.

Weapons

-- More than 4700 individual and 1700 crew served weapons -- most of which were captured from NVA fighting units.

Food

-- More than 3 million pounds of food.

Trucks and other vehicles

-- Nearly 300 trucks and vehicles -- vital to movement of supplies through this area. (Hundreds more trucks have been reported destroyed during this period by air strikes in other parts of the Trail.)

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Facilities

-- More than 2200 bunkers and structures.

Personnel

-- More than 12,000 NVA killed -- the equivalent of about 13 maneuver battalions and large numbers of the service personnel needed to operate the supply network. (South Vietnamese losses are about 1000.)

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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

INFORMATION

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MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER

SUBJECT: Enemy Losses in Laotian Operation

The following enemy losses of material and manpower resulting from the Laotian Operation have been reported:

Tanks

-- Nearly 100 tanks. This is the first large scale use of tanks by the North Vietnamese and resulted in the destruction of an estimated one-third of their total tank force.

Ammunition

-- More than 550,000 rounds of ammunition, including an estimated 3500 large rocket rounds -- 1300 more large rocket rounds than were captured during the Cambodian operation last year.

Weapons

-- More than 4500 individual and 1600 crew served weapons -- most of which were captured from NVA fighting units.

Food

-- More than 3 million pounds of food

Trucks and other vehicles

-- Nearly 300 trucks and vehicles -- vital to movement of supplies through this area. (Hundreds more trucks have been reported destroyed during this period by air strickes in other parts of the Trail.)

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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

22 MAR 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. KISSINGER

Subject: Status Report on Operations in Laos

1. (C) Reference is made to your memorandum, dated 11 February 1971, subject as above.

2. (C) In accordance with your request, the 1600 hour daily report is attached as Enclosure 1. A weather forecast covering particular areas of interest in Southeast Asia has been added as Enclosure 2.

2 Enclosures
a/s

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NLN 06-51/10410; per ltr 10/27/2011
By MSP NARA, Date 5/2/2012
[10610]
Per Sec. (b)(3): 10 USC 424, 3.3(b)(1)

Sec Def Cont Nr. X-1414

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~~TOP SECRET~~/SENSITIVE

22 March 1971

Subject: Operation LAMSON 719

1. (U) General: This report covers the period 210800-220800 GMT (211600-221600 Saigon time; 210300-220300 EST) March 1971.

2. (TS) Summary of Current Situation:

a. The enemy activity in the US 1st Brigade, 5th Mechanized Division area of operations between Khe Sanh and the South Vietnam/Laos border has increased; however, no major engagements with enemy forces were reported. The ARVN airborne brigade and the armored task force continue retrograde operations toward the east and are attempting to locate suitable crossing sites over the Xe Pon River. The 147th and 258th VNMC Brigades remain in the vicinity of FSBs DELTA and HOTEL, conducting security operations and preparing for the extraction of the artillery at FSB DELTA.

b. All elements of the 1st ARVN Infantry Division have redeployed to South Vietnam, the 1st and 3d Infantry Regiments have returned to their home stations in the vicinity of Quang Tri and Hue. The 2d Regiment is in corps reserve at Khe Sanh. The division command post remains at Khe Sanh. The 1st ARVN Airborne Brigade Headquarters and three airborne battalions are located at Dong Ha. There are currently six marine battalions, five airborne battalions, and four armored cavalry squadrons remaining in Laos. ARVN forces are now occupying only two fire support bases in Laos (FSB DELTA and FSB HOTEL). FSB BRAVO (erroneously reported in the previous report as closed) was closed during this period.

c. There were 23 ground contacts and/or attacks by fire during the period, resulting in 346 enemy killed. The friendly losses were 48 KIA (six US), 80 WIA (31 US), and 25 missing. A late report indicates the 2d and 4th Battalions, 2d Regiment, killed 245 (included in total above) enemy in the vicinity of LZ BROWN prior to extraction to Khe Sanh on 21 March. ARVN losses were 37 killed, 58 wounded, and 15 missing. Another late report indicates that the enemy attacks in the vicinity of FSB DELTA against the 147th VNMC Brigade during the period 19-22 March resulted in over 600 enemy soldiers killed (400 KBA), five prisoners of war, and 200 individual and 60 crew-served weapons captured. Friendly losses reported were 85 KIA and 238 WIA. The Khe Sanh Base area received four separate attacks by fire totaling 59 rounds of 122-mm artillery resulting in two US KIA, 12 US WIA; one UH-1H, four trucks, and the airfield control tower destroyed (secondary tower now in use); three trucks were damaged. Four rounds struck the main runway causing damage and temporary closing of the strip.

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NLN-10-5-1-#1 By NARA Date 8/26/07

d. A USAF forward air controller sighted nine enemy tanks (some of which were T-54s) approximately 4 miles west of FSB BRAVO and engaged with tactical air. The airstrikes destroyed three tanks. A fighter aircraft (F-100) was hit by enemy antiaircraft fire and crashed during this action. Eight additional tanks were reported 25 minutes later at a point approximately 1 mile west of the first sighting. Airstrikes continued against the tank targets at the close of this reporting period.

3. (TS) Plans for Future Operations:

a. 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) units will continue operations in northern Quang Tri Province. Emphasis of operations will be west and south of the Rockpile, north and east of FSB TABAT, and east of Khe Sanh. The 1/1 Cavalry will remain at Khe Sanh in brigade reserve and conduct post combat maintenance. All units will make maximum use of night patrols and ambushes in the vicinity of night defensive positions.

b. RVNAF forces will continue operations in Laos and RVN. 2d Infantry Regiment remains in the vicinity of Khe Sanh as corps reserve. Priority of effort will be directed toward overland extraction of remaining elements of the armored task force and support of FSB DELTA.

(1) 1st Airborne Division: Airborne and armored task force elements will continue attempts to locate crossing site over the Xe Pon River (1 3/4 nautical miles from Laos/RVN borders and 1/2 nautical mile south of Route 9) for subsequent movement east (reason for crossing Xe Pon River was not available at the time of the report). The 1st Airborne Task Force (1st Airborne Battalion and 7th Armored Cavalry Squadron) and 9th Airborne Task Force (9th Airborne and 17th Armored Cavalry Squadron) will act as a rear covering force for other units during the eastward movement. The 6th and 11th Airborne Battalions will block to the north flank.

(2) Vietnamese Marine Division: The 147th Marine Brigade will continue efforts to expand and secure the area around FSB DELTA to provide for safe extraction of artillery by air. After the artillery has been extracted, the 147th Brigade will move overland to the northeast and link up with the 258th Marine Brigade. The 369th Brigade continues operations south of Khe Sanh.

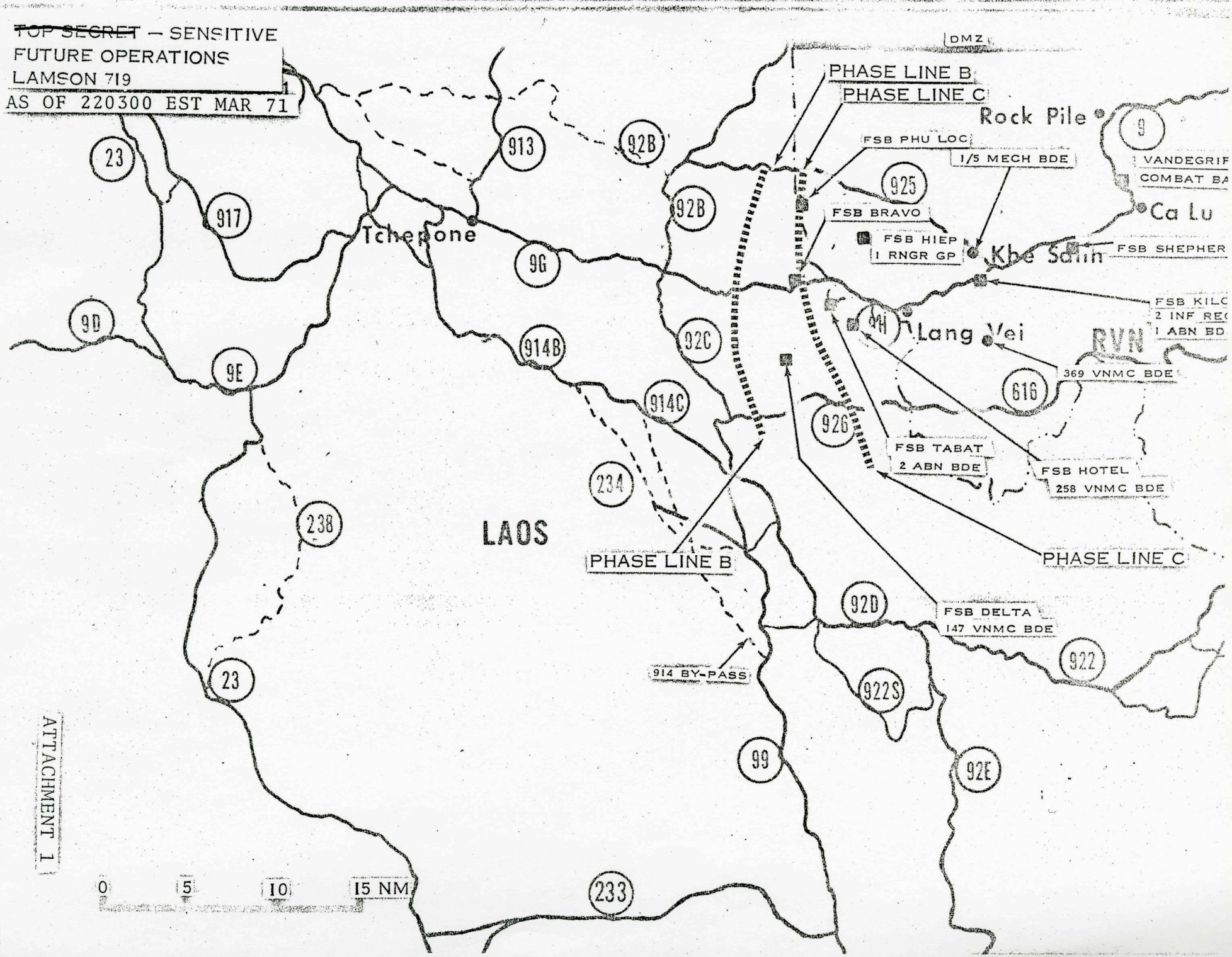
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(3) 1st Ranger Group: Ranger units will continue operations in the vicinity of FSBs HIEP and PHU LOC.

c. Engineers: Units will continue to support with repair and maintenance operations, water production, mine sweeps, clearing fields of fire, and protective construction.

Attachments:
1. Map
2. DIA Assessment

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DIA INTELLIGENCE APPRAISAL

Enemy Reactions to Operation LAMSON 719

1. (SS) The Headquarters, 324B NVA Division was fixed by ARDF nine miles south of Khe Sanh on 21 March. This represents a northeastward move of 20 miles from the unit's last location in Laos. This relocation will enhance command and control of division elements in the vicinity of Khe Sanh and along Route 926.

SANITIZED (3): 10 USC 424 3.3(b)(1)

2. (SS) [redacted] enemy plans to resume supply movements through Ban Dong after the ARVN withdraws from the area. [redacted] an engineer battalion was to guarantee that the bridges and roads were clear and that the road (probably referring to segments of Route 9) was graded. The unit was instructed to "clear away the mines so that when BangDong is liberated from the invaders, transportation can begin immediately." [redacted] construction and repair efforts along Route 9. A more recent message from an unidentified element of BT-9 stated that on 22 March vehicles would begin transporting to BT-41.

SANITIZED)(3): 10 USC 424

3. (SS) Additional information indicates that BT-34 has moved six miles north of its 8 March location, but continues to control logistic activity between Base Area 611 and 612 along Route 99. The Binh Tram is now located about 12 miles from the intersection of Routes 99 and 233.

Approved by:

[redacted]

SANITIZED (b)(3): 10 USC 424

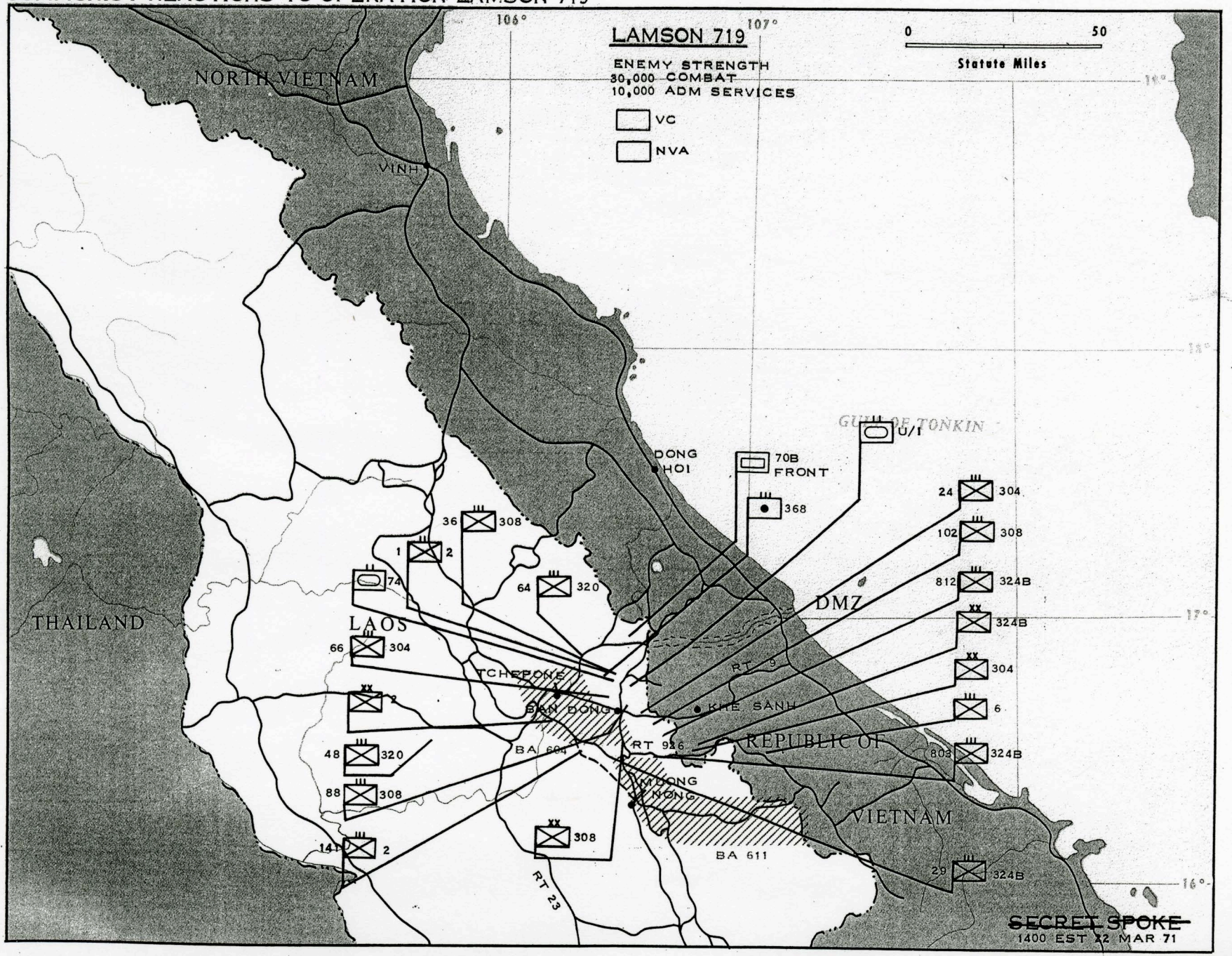
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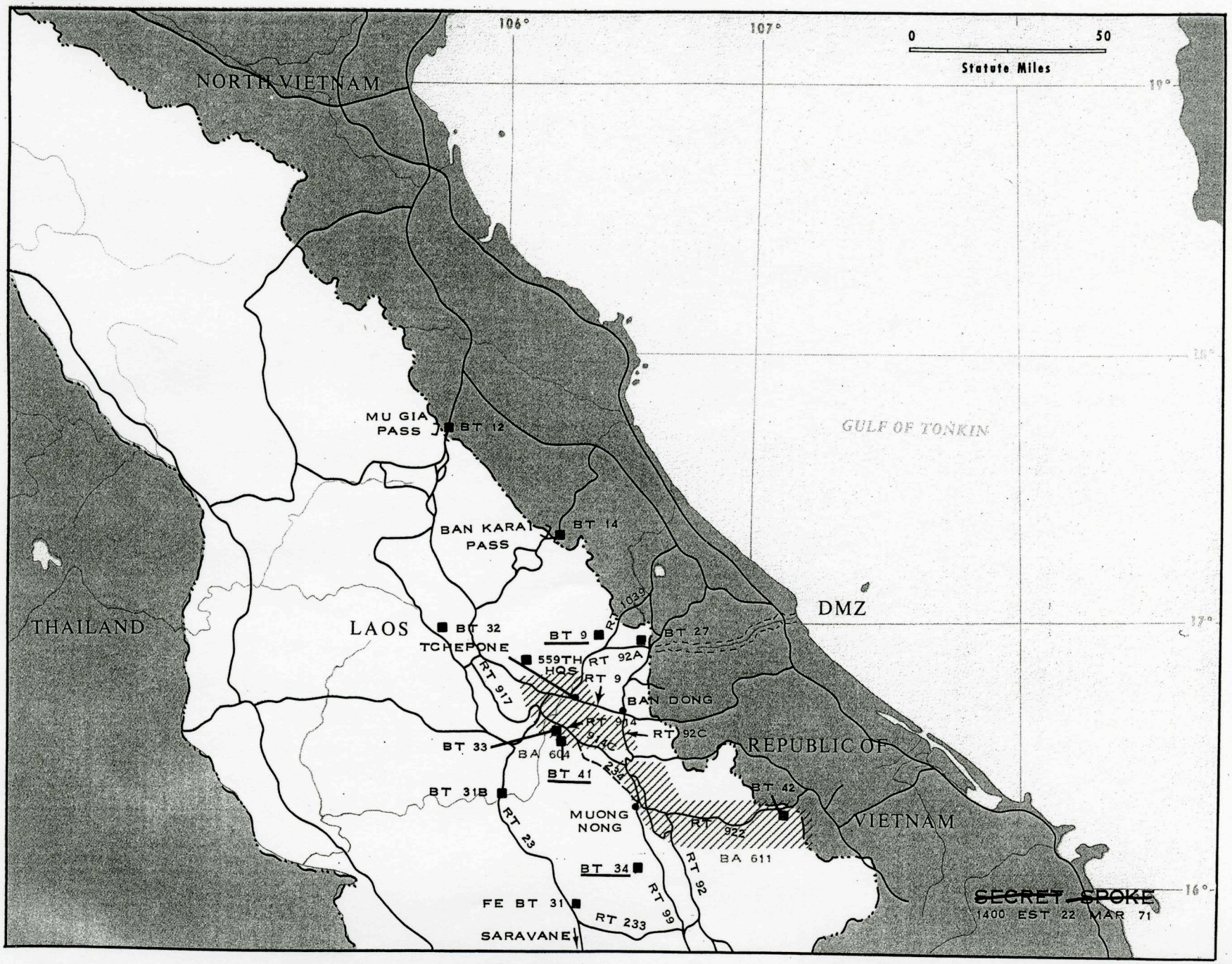
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COMMUNIST REACTIONS TO OPERATION LAMSON 719



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LAMSON 719



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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: 23/0600-24/0600 Saigon time
OUTLOOK: 24/0600-25/0600 Saigon time

NVN PANHANDLE - AREA 1:

COASTAL - Cloudy, ceiling 500 feet AGL; visibility 1/2 - 5 miles in rain/drizzle and fog.

MOUNTAINS - Cloudy, ceiling 100 feet AGL; visibility 1/2 - 5 miles in rain/drizzle and fog.

OUTLOOK - Slight decrease in cloudiness.

NORTHERN SOUTH VIETNAM - AREA 2:

COASTAL - Cloudy, ceiling 4,000 feet - occasionally 1,000 feet; visibility 1 - 5 miles in rain/drizzle and fog.

MOUNTAINS - Cloudy, ceiling 100 to 500 feet AGL; visibility 1/4 - 3 miles in rain and fog.

OUTLOOK - Slight decrease in low clouds.

KHE SANH - AREA 3:

- Cloudy, ceiling 100 to 300 feet AGL; visibility 1/2 - 1 mile in rain and fog.

OUTLOOK - Slight decrease in low clouds.

TCHEPONE - AREA 4:

- Partly cloudy, ceiling 8,000 feet - occasionally 4,000 feet; visibility 2 - 5 miles in haze - except 1 mile in haze near sunrise and sunset. During morning hours, in valleys, ceiling occasionally 500 feet AGL; visibility 1/2 - 3 miles in haze and fog.

OUTLOOK - Little change.

CHUP PLANTATION - AREA 5:

- Partly cloudy, ceiling unlimited - occasionally 3,000 feet; visibility 3 - 7 miles in haze. During morning hours, ceiling occasionally 1,000 feet AGL; visibility 2 - 4 miles in fog. Isolated nighttime showers/thunderstorms.

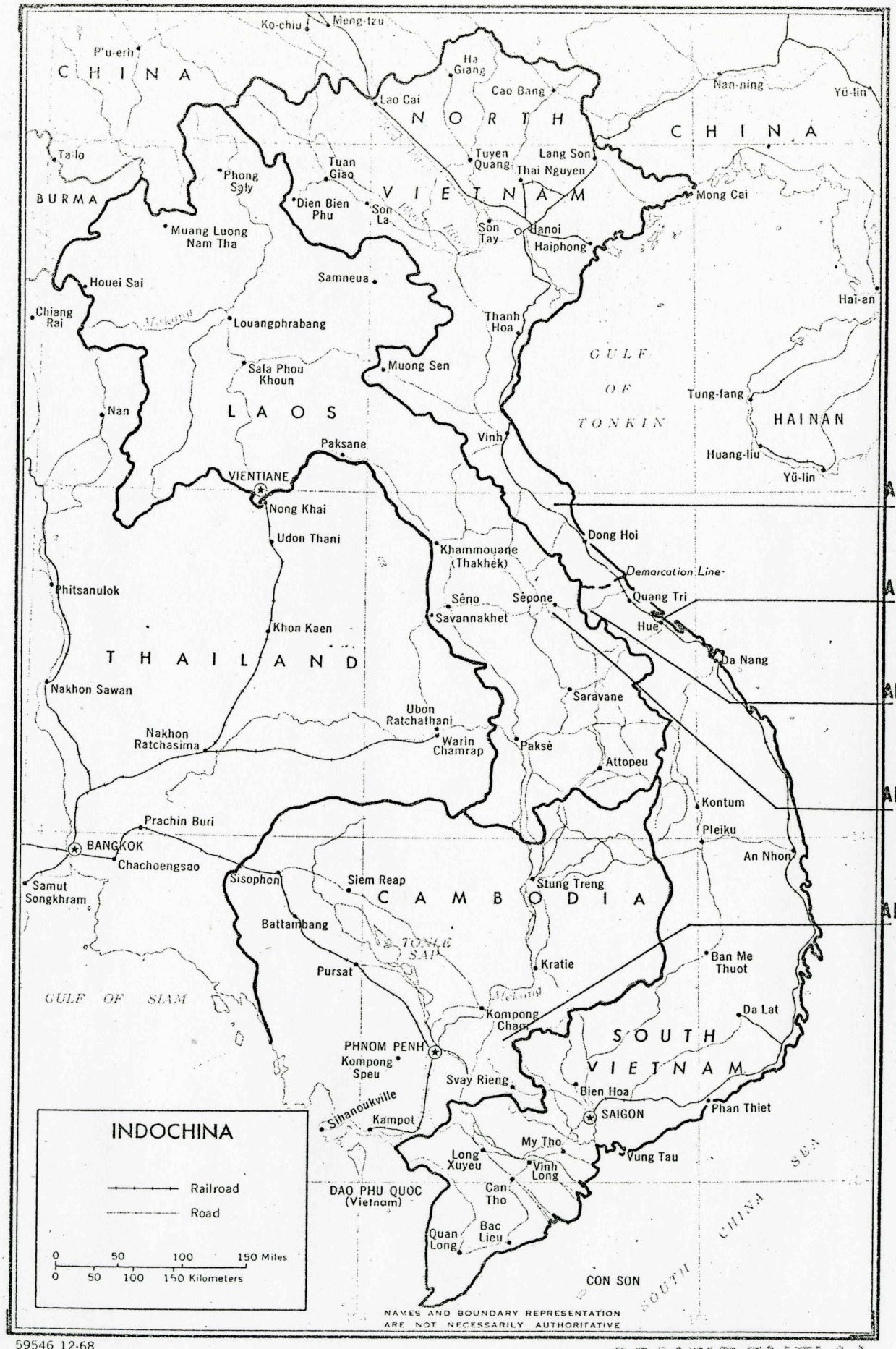
Attachment
Map

Enclosure 2

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[82/5/20]

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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

18 MAR 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. KISSINGER

Subject: Status Report on Operations in Laos

1. (C) Reference is made to your memorandum, dated 11 February 1971, subject as above.

2. (C) In accordance with your request, the 1600 hour daily report is attached as Enclosure 1. A weather forecast covering particular areas of interest in Southeast Asia has been added as Enclosure 2.

Melvin R. Laird

2 Encls
a/s

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Section 3.5
NLNOU-51/10414; per ltr 10/27/2011
By MEP NARA, Date 5/14/2012
[1061']
Per Sec. (b)(3): 10 USC 424
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18 March 1971

Subject: Operation LAMSON 719

1. (U) General: This report covers the period 170800-180800 GMT March (171600-181600 Saigon time, 170300-180300 EST) March 1971.

2. (TS) Summary of Current Situation:

a. Combat activity was moderate during the period as elements in the western portion of the 1st ARVN Division area of operation repositioned for subsequent extraction.

b. There were 20 ground contacts and/or attacks by fire during the period, resulting in 732 enemy killed (adjusted figure based upon updated information), while incomplete information reports friendly forces lost 74 KIA (3 US) and 258 WIA (10 US). Four attacks by fire on Khe Sanh resulted in three helicopters and five trucks being damaged; and the destruction of one truck, 2,500 gallons of JP-4 and 1,000 gallons of MOGAS. In six other attacks by fire, two US soldiers and one ARVN soldier were killed and 16 ARVN soldiers were wounded. One M-41 tank was destroyed. The 4th Battalion, 1st ARVN Regiment was in heavy combat with an unknown-size enemy force resulting in 50 ARVN KIA, 80 ARVN WIA, 567 enemy KIA; and the destruction of 172 AK-47, twenty-nine B-40/41 launchers, twelve 12.7-mm machineguns, seven 82-mm mortars, forty B-40/41 rounds, 3,000 rounds of 12.7-mm ammunition and 120 blocks of TNT.

c. In search operations, 5th Battalion, 2d ARVN Infantry Regiment found 82 enemy soldiers killed by an airstrike. In the same area, they found 66 individual weapons, 43 bunkers, two 82-mm mortars, and one 75-mm recoilless rifle.

d. The 1st ARVN Regimental Headquarters, and four battalions were extracted by helicopter and moved to Khe Sanh. The 5th Battalion, 2d Regiment was airlifted from LZ BROWN to Khe Sanh.

e. In a mortar and ground attack against VNMC units south of Route 9 in Laos, the enemy employed a CS-type gas, delivered by 82-mm mortars. Effects on friendly forces were not reported.

f. During the period of this report, two AH-1Gs and one CH-47 helicopter were destroyed.

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3. (TS) Plans for Future Operations:

a. The 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile): No change in plans from previous report.

b. RVNAF forces continue to direct main effort toward redeploying forces eastward in accordance with planned phased extraction of units from western portion of Laotian area of operations. The 1st Airborne Division continues to secure the northern flank of the area of operations and the Marine division continues to conduct reconnaissance in force operations to the southeast.

(1) 1st Infantry Division:

(a) 1st Infantry Regiment: The entire regiment has been moved to Khe Sanh, it will establish assembly areas and prepare for future operations.

(b) 2d Infantry Regiment: 1/3 Infantry Battalion continues to secure FSB DELTA ONE. The 2/2, 3/2, and 4/2 Infantry Battalions will remain in the vicinity of LZ BROWN until planned relocation of the 1st Airborne Division units from ALOUI to the east are completed. 5/2 Infantry Battalion has moved to Khe Sanh.

(2) 1st Airborne Division: All units will continue current operations. It is anticipated that units located in the vicinity of FSB ALOUI will begin relocation to the east on 19 March.

(3) Vietnamese Marine Division:

(a) 147th VNMC Brigade: Conducts search operations in the vicinity of present position and secures FSB DELTA.

(b) 258th VNMC Brigade: Conducts reconnaissance operations in force in two areas north and northwest of Objective BRAVO and secures FSB HOTEL.

(c) 369th VNMC Brigade: Continues reconnaissance and security operations in an area of operations south of Khe Sanh.

(4) 1st Ranger Group: It is anticipated that the Group command post will move to a new location 3 miles east-southeast of FSB PHU LOC tomorrow.

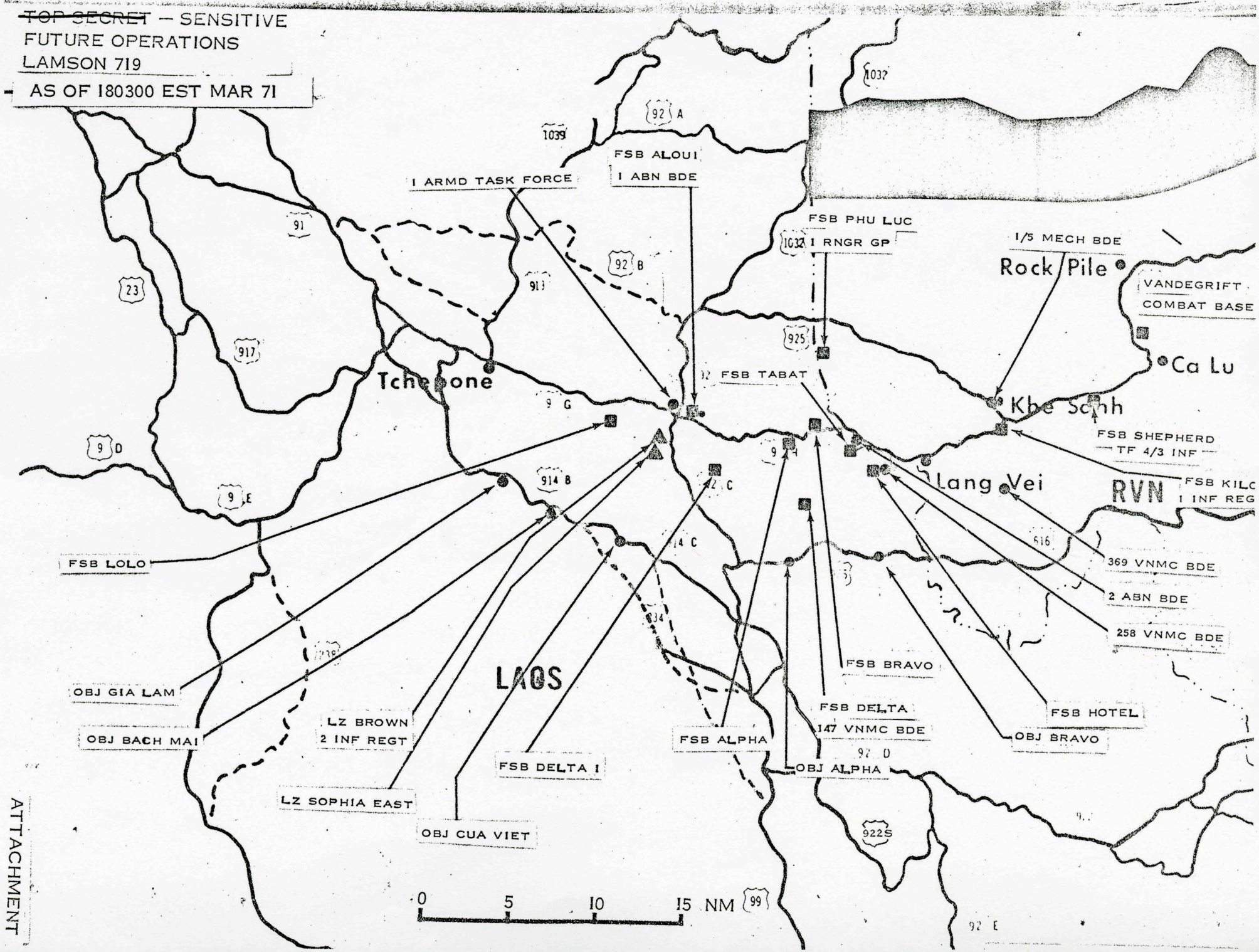
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c. Engineer Effort: Continue work to compact fill at east end of Khe Sanh main runway and replace damaged matting as traffic permits.

Attachments:
1. Map
2. DIA Assessment

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~~TOP SECRET~~ – SENSITIVE
FUTURE OPERATIONS
LAMSON 719
AS OF 180300 EST MAR 71



ATTACHMENT

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DIA INTELLIGENCE APPRAISAL

Enemy Reactions to Operation LAMSON 719 (U)

1. (S) There have been no significant enemy unit relocations reported and the threat to friendly forces remains unchanged.

SANITIZED b)(3):10 USC 424

2. (SS) [redacted] the Communists are keenly aware of the withdrawal of RVNAF from some positions west of Ban Dong along Route 9. Every effort apparently is to be made to prevent friendly forces from successfully accomplishing this mission. Heavy fighting in the vicinity of Fire Support Base Lolo during the period 14-17 March resulted in 66 RVNAF soldiers killed and 190 wounded; the enemy reportedly lost 1,100 killed. The Communist forces involved may have been elements of the 2d NVA Division. ARVN units withdrew from Fire Support Base Lolo on 15 March.

SANITIZED b)(3):10USC 424

3. (SS) [redacted] the enemy's continuing use and development of western LOCs. Between 12 and 14 March, an element of BT 31 reportedly sent 19 supply trucks southward on Route 23I apparently destined for the Forward Headquarters, 968th Front located south of Saravane. A forward element of BT 31 has been identified in the vicinity of the Route 23J/233 junction. Photography and FAC reporting have revealed that Route 233 has recently been upgraded, probably by the 10th NVA Engineer Regiment. Currently, Route 233 is supporting moderate traffic. In related activity, BT 34 recently relocated to the vicinity of Route 922 south of Muong Nong, possibly to support the development of cross-over Route 233.

SANITIZED b)(3):10 USC 424

4. (SS) [redacted] during the previous 10 days, 140 tons of supplies -- primarily arms and ammunition -- were sent to the 29th NVA Regiment, 324B NVA Division. Prior messages stated that BT 33 was actively resupplying the 29th Regiment with anti-aircraft, 82-mm mortar, 60-mm mortar, anti-tank, artillery, and small arms ammunition during this period although the total tonnage was not specified.

Approved by:

[redacted]

SANITIZED (b)(3):10 USC 424

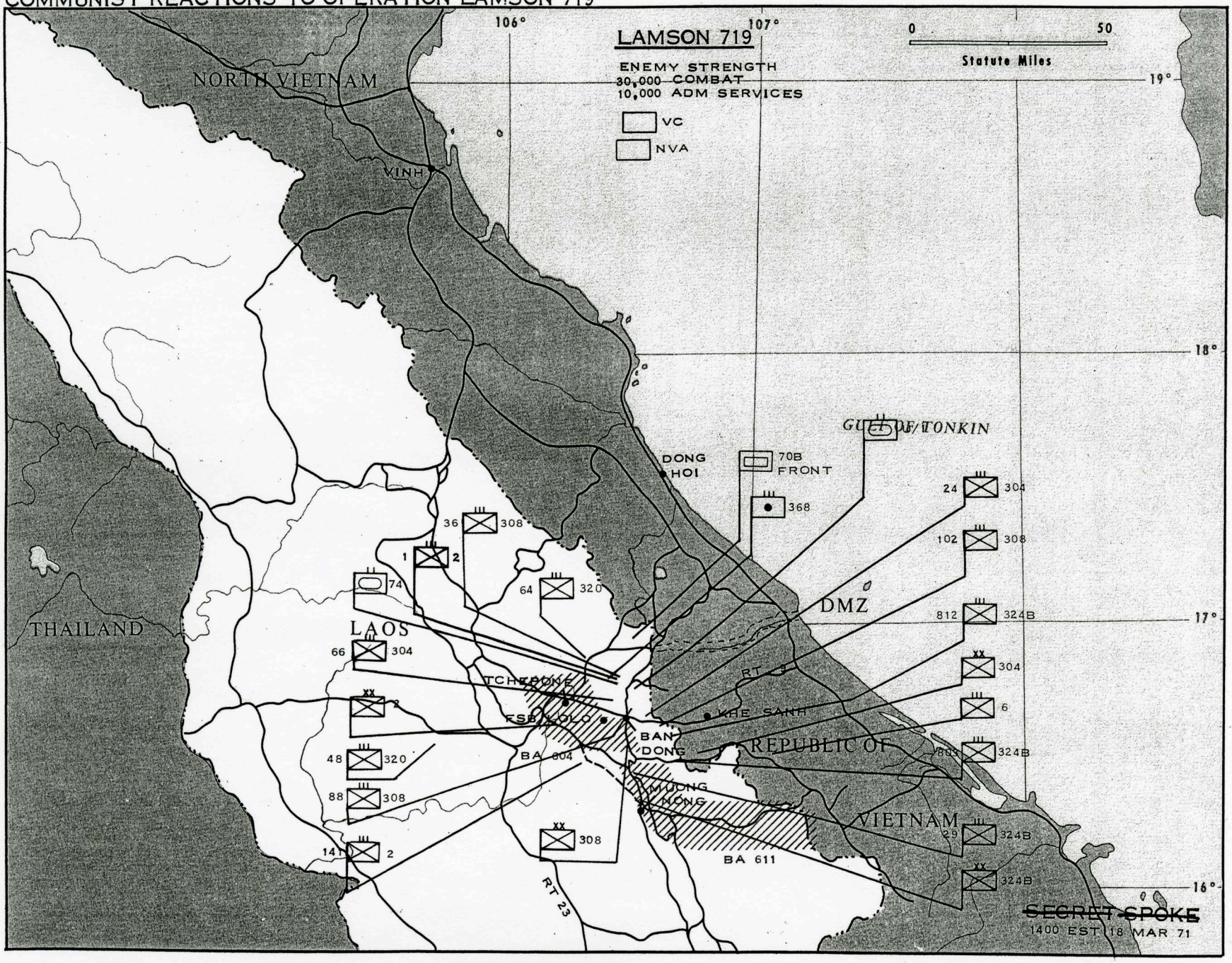
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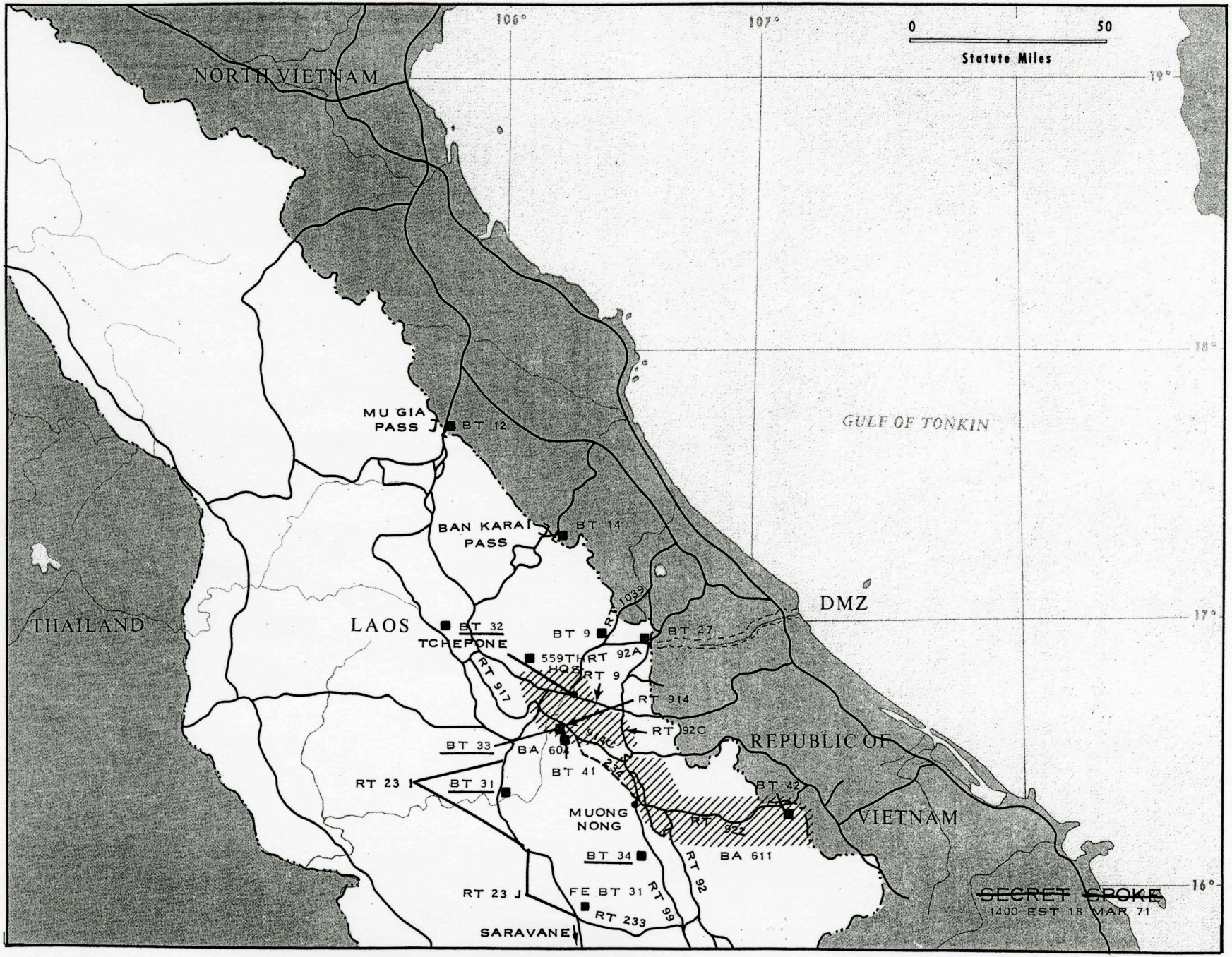
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COMMUNIST REACTIONS TO OPERATION LAMSON 719



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LAMSON 719



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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: 19/0600-20/0600 Saigon time
OUTLOOK: 20/0600-21/0600 Saigon time

NVN PANHANDLE - AREA 1:

COASTAL - Cloudy, ceiling 4000 feet; visibility 3 to 7 miles in fog.

MOUNTAINS - Overcast, ceiling 4000 feet lowering to 500 feet AGL in valleys during morning hours; visibility 3 to 7 miles in fog - occasionally 1 to 3 miles in fog during morning hours.

OUTLOOK - Little change.

NORTHERN SOUTH VIETNAM - AREA 2:

COASTAL - Cloudy, ceiling 3000 feet - occasionally lowering to 1500 feet during morning hours; visibility 5 to 7 miles in haze.

MOUNTAINS - Cloudy, ceiling 300 to 1000 feet AGL; visibility 1/4 to 3 miles in fog improving to 3 to 6 miles in haze during afternoon hours.

OUTLOOK - Slight increase in cloudiness.

KHE SANH - AREA 3:

Cloudy, ceiling 300 to 500 feet AGL - lifting to 1000 feet AGL during afternoon hours; visibility 1/4 to 2 miles in fog - improving to 5 to 6 miles in haze during afternoon hours.

OUTLOOK - Slight increase in cloudiness.

TCHEPONE - AREA 4:

Partly cloudy, ceiling unlimited - occasionally 4000 feet; visibility 7 miles. In valleys morning broken low clouds 500 feet AGL; visibility 1/2 to 3 miles in fog.

OUTLOOK - Decreasing cloudiness.

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CHUP PLANTATION - AREA 5:

Cloudy, ceiling 10000 feet - occasionally 3000 feet; visibility 3 to 7 miles in haze - occasionally 2 to 4 miles in fog during morning hours. Isolated evening showers/thunderstorms.

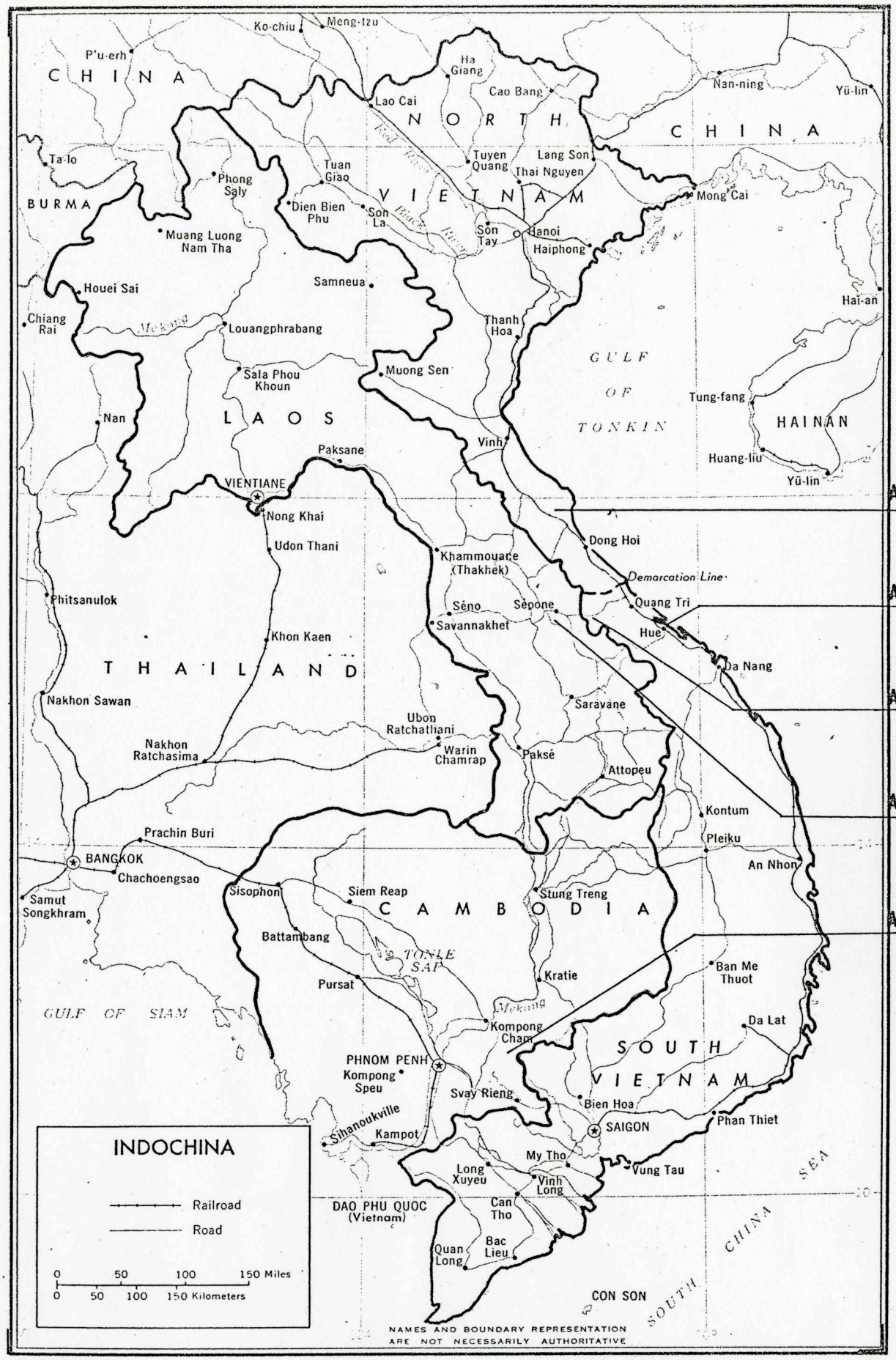
OUTLOOK - Little change.

NOTE: All cloud heights are given in feet Above Mean Sea Level, except those indicating AGL (Above Ground Level).

Attachment
Map

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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

16 MAR 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. KISSINGER

Subject: Status Report on Operations in Laos

1. (C) Reference is made to your memorandum, dated 11 February 1971, subject as above.

2. (C) In accordance with your request, the 1600 hour daily report is attached as Enclosure 1. A weather forecast covering particular areas of interest in Southeast Asia has been added as Enclosure 2.

2 Encls
a/s

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E.O. 13526, Section 3.5
NLN00-57/10001#; per ltr 10/27/2011
By ____ NARA, Date 5/4/2012
L 10811
Per Sec. (b)(3): 10 USC 424, 3.3(b)(1)
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16 March 1971

Subject: Operation LAMSON 719

1. (U) General: This report covers the period 150800-160800 GMT March (151600-161600 Saigon time, 150300-160300 EST) March 1971.

2. (TS) Summary of Current Situation:

a. Combat activity remained light except for the attacks by fire at Khe Sanh and FSB LOLO. The Khe Sanh Base received approximately 186 rounds of mixed 122-mm rocket and artillery fire causing light casualties and resulting in minor damage to 10 helicopters (all are flyable) and four trucks. FSB LOLO was evacuated at 0900 hours (EST), 15 March, following an attack by fire; the 1st ARVN Infantry Regimental Command Post, and the 3d Battalion, moved southeast 3 1/2 miles to the high ground. Results of the FSB LOLO attack were four 105-mm howitzers and one 155-mm howitzer damaged beyond use by enemy fire and three 155-mm howitzers were destroyed in place by ARVN.

b. There were 20 enemy contacts and attacks by fire during the period, resulting in 204 enemy killed, while friendly forces lost 14 KIA (five US) and 37 WIA (24 US). In a ground action, elements of the 2d Battalion, 2d ARVN Infantry, received 120 rounds of 82-mm mortar fire, and engaged an unknown-size enemy force, killing 15 enemy and capturing five individual weapons. One ARVN was killed.

c. In search operations in three different areas, elements of the 2d Regiment found an enemy complex of 200 bunkers, 38 enemy KBA, 10 tons of (copper/tin) wire, nine switchboards, five crew-served weapon barrels, and two crew-served weapons. Three hundred 55 gallon drums of POL, 230 barracks, and 30 tons of rice were destroyed by airstrikes.

d. Air cavalry elements received automatic weapons fire and engaged the area with gunships and observed 15 large secondary explosions and a large flame which burned for 1 1/2 hours. Tactical air and artillery were employed in the same area and an additional 26 secondary explosions were observed.

e. 2d Battalion, 2d ARVN Infantry Regiment, continues to attack south, lead elements are approximately 3/4 of a mile from Route 914.

f. The 3d ARVN Regimental Command Post, one engineer company, and the 4th Battalion, 3d Regiment, moved from field locations in Laos to Khe Sanh.

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This document has been reviewed pursuant to Executive Order 13526 and has been determined to be declassified.

3. (TS) Plans for Future Operations:

a. The 101st Airborne Division: No change in future plans since previous report.

b. RVNAF forces will continue operations in assigned areas in RVN and Laos. Priority effort will be towards search operations.

(1) 1st Infantry Division:

(a) 1st Infantry Regiment: 3/1 and 4/1 Infantry Battalions continue moving from FSB LOLO to secure high ground between LOLO and LZ BROWN. 1/1 and 2/1 Infantry will screen this movement and conduct searches in the vicinity of their night defensive positions.

(b) 2d Infantry Regiment: 2/2 Infantry Battalion will attack into Objective CUA VIET, reinforced by 3/2 and 4/2 Infantry Battalions, if required. 5/2 Infantry Battalion secures LZ BROWN and LZ SOPHIA EAST. 1/2 Infantry Battalion continues security mission in the vicinity of Khe Sanh.

(c) 3d Infantry Regiment: 1/3 Infantry Battalion secures FSB DELTA ONE and will pass to operational control of the 2d Infantry Regiment.

(2) 1st Airborne Division:

(a) 1st Airborne Brigade will continue search operations in the area north and northeast of FSB ALOUI.

(b) 2d Airborne Brigade: 5th Airborne Battalion attacks to the west in an area 1 1/2 nautical miles north of Route 9. The 4th Composite Tank Battalion continues to secure Route 9. The remainder of the Brigade will conduct company-size operations in area and secure FSB BRAVO.

(c) Armored Task Force will conduct search operations west of FSB ALOUI and security of Route 9.

(3) Vietnamese Marine Division:

(a) 147th Marine Brigade: The 4th and 7th VNMC Battalions will continue to attack toward the south and the 2d Battalion will secure FSB DELTA.

(b) 258th Marine Brigade will conduct reconnaissance operations in force in the vicinity of Objective BARVO.

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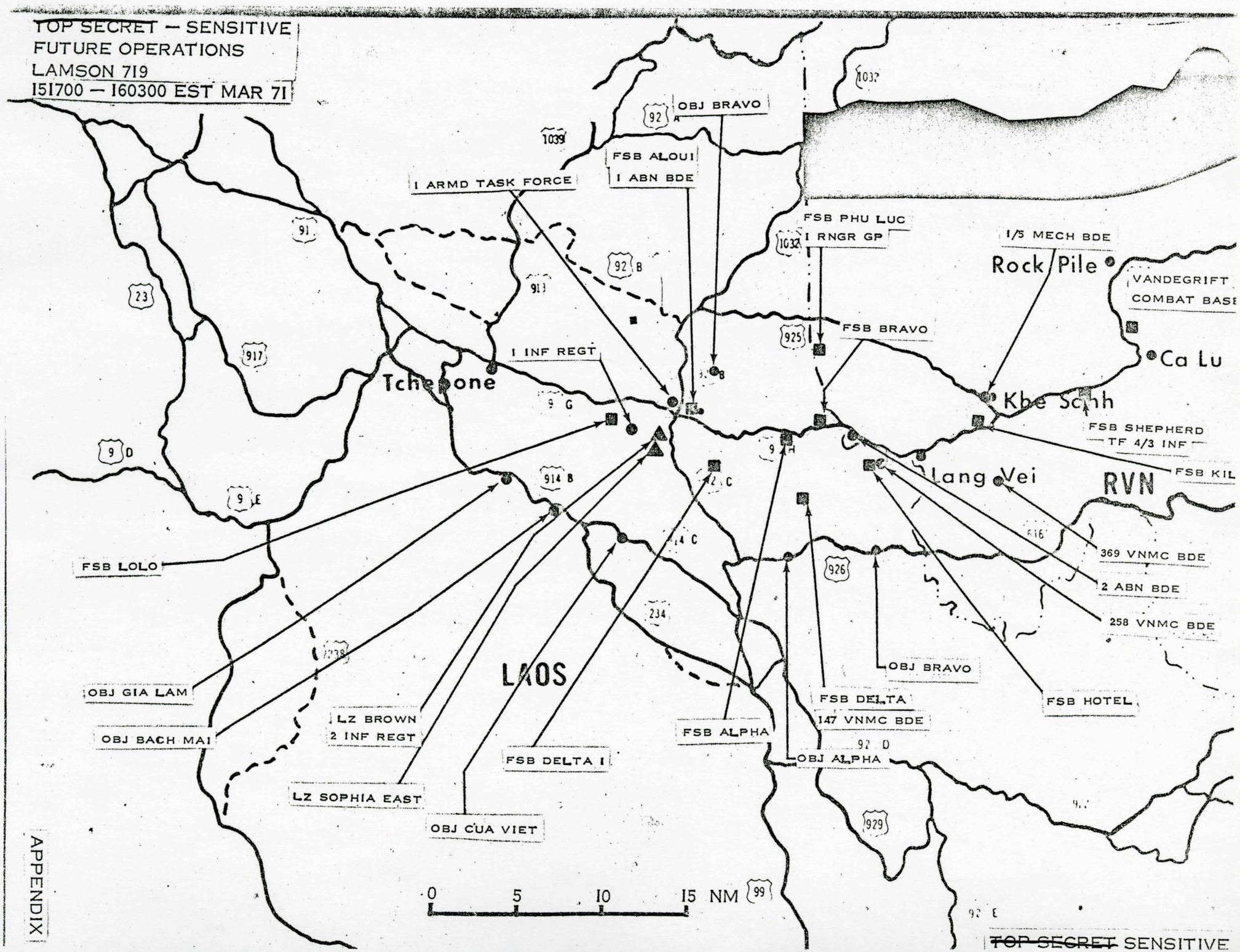
(c) 369th Marine Brigade will conduct security operations south of Khe Sanh and one company will conduct reconnaissance in the vicinity of LZ VIC.

(4) 1st Ranger Group will continue reconnaissance and security operations in vicinity of night defensive positions.

c. Engineer effort: No changes in plans from previous report.

Attachments
1. Map
2. DIA Assessment

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DIA INTELLIGENCE APPRAISAL

Enemy Reactions to Operation LAMSON 719 (U)

1. (S) There have been no major enemy unit relocations and the threat to friendly forces is unchanged.

2. (SS) The enemy continued his attacks on Allied rear area resupply bases on 15 March when 186 rounds of mixed 122-mm rocket and artillery fire were launched into Khe Sanh. Initial reports indicate that casualties and damage were light. Elements of the 84th NVA Artillery Regiment were probably responsible for the attack.

SANITIZED
(b)(3):10 USC 424

3. (SS) [redacted] B-52 strikes and ARVN artillery were preventing the battalion from accomplishing its mission. In a 13 March message, the battalion reported that its headquarters and parking area, located south of the junction of Route 914C/234, had been hit and it was no longer able to receive cargo due to recurring strikes. Additionally, all food and water reportedly had been consumed. In a related item, [redacted] truck activity on Route 914C during the night of 15 March, further indicating that interdiction of the route by Allied forces has had disruptive effects.

SANITIZED
(b)(3):10USC 424
3.3(b)(1)

Approved by:

[redacted]

SANITIZED
(b)(3):10 USC 424

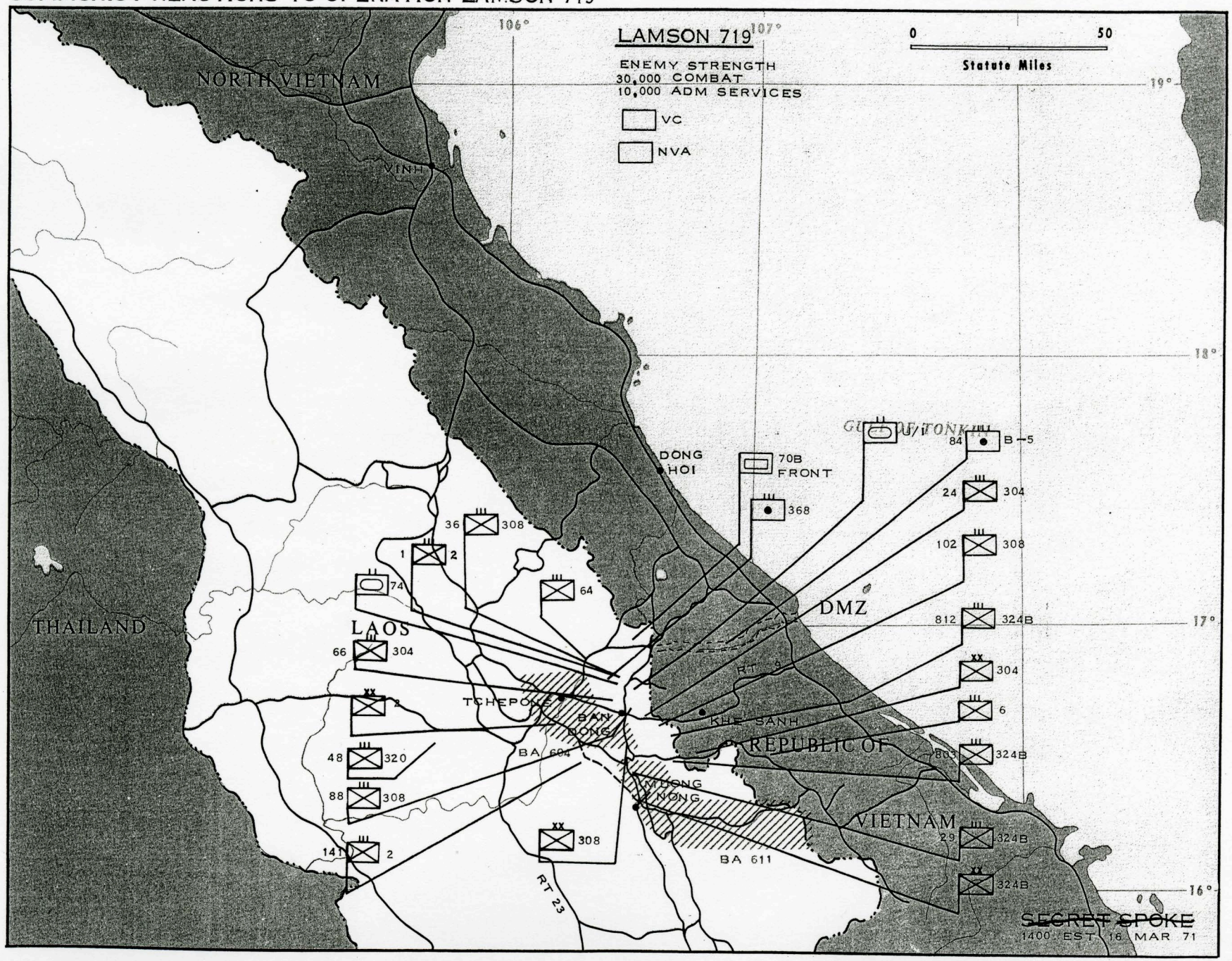
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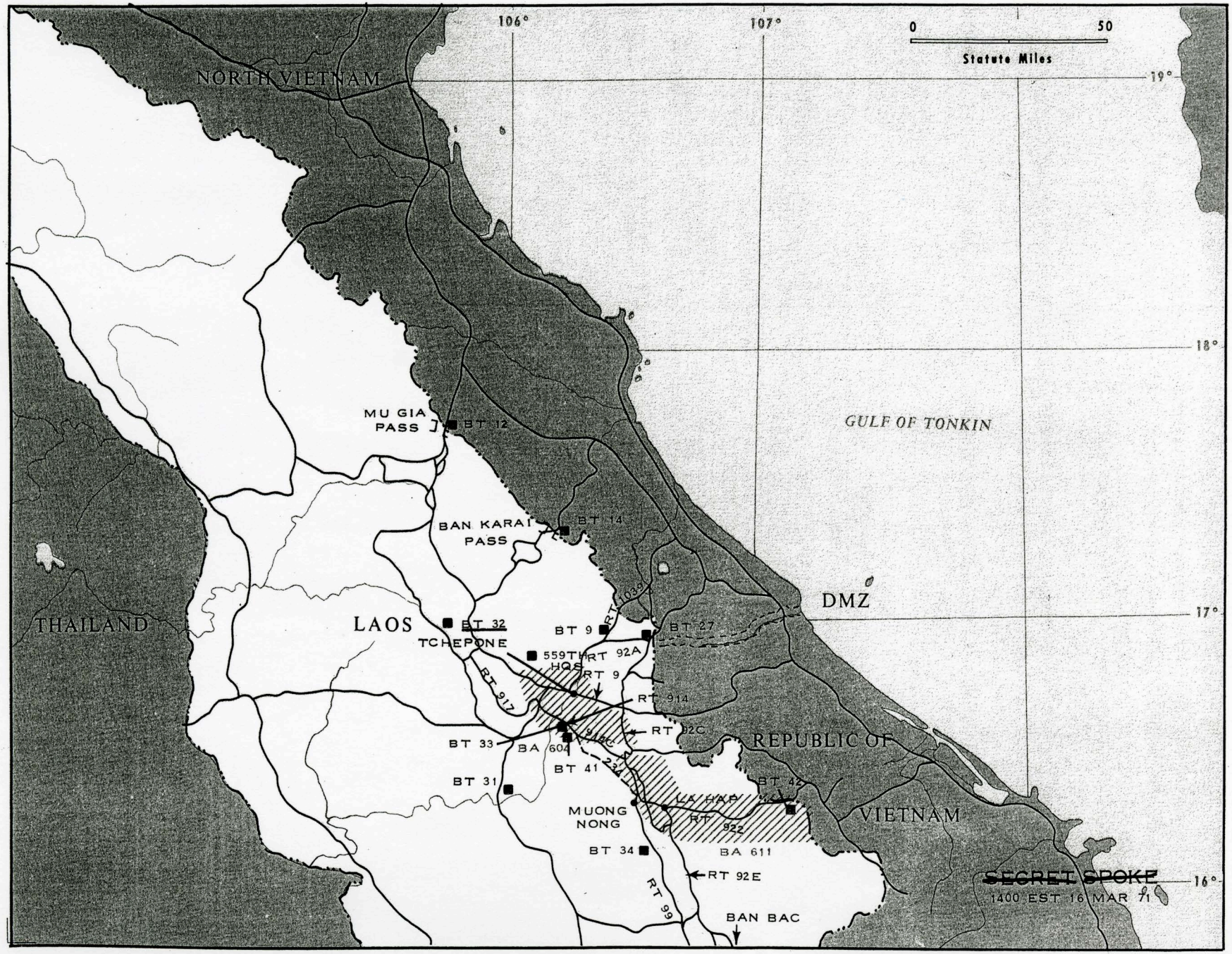
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COMMUNIST REACTIONS TO OPERATION LAMSON 719



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LAMSON 719



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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: 170600 - 180600 Saigon time
OUTLOOK: 180600 - 190600 Saigon time

NVN PANHANDLE - AREA 1:

COASTAL - Cloudy occasionally partly cloudy during daylight hours, ceiling 3500 feet patchy unlimited during daylight hours, visibility 4 to 7 miles in fog/haze.

MOUNTAINS - Cloudy occasionally partly cloudy during daylight hours, ceiling 3500 to 4000 feet patchy unlimited during daylight hours, visibility 3 to 7 miles in fog/haze.

OUTLOOK - Little change.

NORTHERN SOUTH VIETNAM - AREA 2:

COASTAL - Cloudy occasionally partly cloudy during afternoon hours, ceiling 2000 feet lowering to 1500 feet at night and patchy unlimited during afternoon hours, visibility 5 to 7 miles in haze occasionally 2 miles in fog/haze at night and during morning hours.

MOUNTAINS - Cloudy occasionally partly cloudy during afternoon hours, ceiling 3500 feet lowering to 1000 feet AGL, in valleys at night and patchy unlimited during afternoon hours, visibility 4 to 7 miles in haze occasionally 1 to 3 miles in fog/haze at night and during morning hours.

OUTLOOK - Little change.

KHE SANH - AREA 3:

Cloudy, ceiling 1000 to 1500 feet AGL lowering to 200 to 800 feet during night and morning hours, visibility 4 to 7 miles in haze lowering to 1/2 to 4 miles in fog and occasional drizzle during night and morning hours.

OUTLOOK - Little change.

TCHEPONE - AREA 4:

Partly cloudy, ceiling unlimited patchy 4000 feet, visibility 7 miles except occasionally 1/2 to 3 miles in valley fog during morning hours.

OUTLOOK - Little change.

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Enclosure 2

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[NLN-JCS-81-100014 p 9 of 11]

CHUP PLANTATION - AREA 5:

Partly cloudy, ceiling unlimited occasionally 10000 feet, visibility 7 miles except occasionally 3 to 4 miles in patchy fog during morning hours.

OUTLOOK - Little change

NOTE: All cloud heights are given in feet Above Mean Sea Level, except those indicating AGL (Above Ground Level).

Attachment
Map

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[82/5/24]

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

14 MAR 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. KISSINGER

SUBJECT: Status Report on Operations in Laos and Cambodia

1. (C) Reference is made to your memorandum, dated 11 February 1971, subject as above.

2. (C) In accordance with your request, the 1600 hour daily reports are attached as Enclosures 1 and 2. A weather forecast covering particular areas of interest in Southeast Asia has been added as Enclosure 3.

David Packard

3 Encls
a/s

Upon removal of attachments this document becomes
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E.O. 13526, Section 3.5
NWDO-51/10018; Per Ltr 10/27/2011
By MEP NARA, Date 5/4/2012

COPY 1 OF 7 COPIES.

Per Sec. (b)(3):10 USC 424, 3.3(b)(1)

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14 March 1971

Subject: Operation LAMSON 719

1. (U) General: This report covers the period 130800-140800 GMT March (131600-141600 Saigon time, 130300-140300 EST) March 1971.

2. (TS) Summary of Current Situation:

a. Reported combat activity remained light during the period with ARVN units continuing search and clear operations as they moved toward assigned areas. Scheduled resupply missions for ARVN units in Laos were completed with the exception of FSB DELTA, ALOUI, and LOLO, which were taking fire. The period was highlighted by the BDA of previous B-52 strikes which revealed significant enemy losses. Weather hampered tactical air operations and rain prevented completion of the damaged assault airstrip at Khe Sanh.

b. Twenty ground contacts/or attacks by fire occurred during the period. These resulted in 27 known enemy losses, while friendly forces lost 16 (three US) KIA and 50 (four US) WIA. Twenty enemy killed by artillery fire were discovered by ARVN Marines and in the same area 30 tons of rice and 14 rice storage facilities were destroyed.

c. The most significant event of the period was the BDA of an ARC LIGHT strike at a point approximately 2 miles northeast of FSB BRAVO. In addition to finding 70 enemy dead, ARVN units reported four 82-mm mortars, 500 82-mm mortar rounds, two 57-mm recoilless rifles, 200 57-mm rounds, four radios, seven telephones, and 1,000 pounds of rice all destroyed by ARC LIGHT.

d. Forty-nine C-130 aircraft landed at Khe Sanh utilizing the 3,200 feet of main operational runway.

3. (TS) Plans for Future Operations:

a. The 101st Airborne Division will give priority of effort to location/destruction of mortar and rocket sites north and east of Khe Sanh, security for Highway 9, and reconnaissance of the area south of Lang Vei.

b. RVNAF forces continue operations in RVN and Laos with priority of effort to attacks toward Route 914.

(1) 1st Infantry Division.

(a) 1st Infantry Regiment: In a change from previous plans, the 4/1 Infantry Battalion will

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NARA Date 2011

attack toward Objective BACH MAI. 1/1 Infantry Battalion will conduct search operations in the vicinity of its NDP and be prepared to reinforce 4/1 Infantry Battalion, if required. 3/1 Infantry Battalion will secure FSB LOLO and conduct searches in that area. 2/1 Infantry Battalion will conduct searches southeast of FSB LOLO.

(b) 2d Infantry Regiment: 2/2, 3/2, 4/2 Infantry battalions will attack south toward Objective CUA VIET. 5/2 Infantry Battalion and Reconnaissance Company secure LZs SOPHIA EAST and BROWN. 1/2 Infantry Battalion will continue security operations in the vicinity of Khe Sanh.

(c) 3d Infantry Regiment: 1/3 Infantry Battalion will secure FSB DELTA ONE and conduct searches in that area. 4/3 Infantry Battalion will search an area along Route 92 south of FSB DELTA ONE.

(2) 1st Airborne Division.

(a) 1st Airborne Brigade: No change in future plans since the last report.

(b) 2d Airborne Brigade will continue to secure Route 9 in zone, secure land clearing operations along Route 9, and conduct company-size operations in vicinity of present locations. Two company-size combat assaults are scheduled. The 4th Composite Tank Battalion will secure Route 9 from FSB ALPHA to Laotian border. The 11th Airborne Battalion will continue attacks to the west.

(c) Armored task forces will continue search operations near FSB ALOUI and continue security of Route 9 from FSB ALOUI to FSB ALPHA.

(3) Vietnamese Marine Division.

(a) 147th Marine Brigade: The 2d and 4th Marine Battalions will attack to the south to secure intermediate objectives en route to Objective ALPHA. The 7th Marine Battalion will conduct reconnaissance in force and security operations in the vicinity of FSB DELTA.

(b) 258th Marine Brigade: The 1st and 3d Marine Battalions will attack to the south to secure intermediate objectives en route to Objective BRAVO. The 8th Marine Battalion will secure FSB HOTEL and conduct searches in that area.

(c) 369th Marine Brigade: Brigade continues security operations in the vicinity of Khe Sanh.

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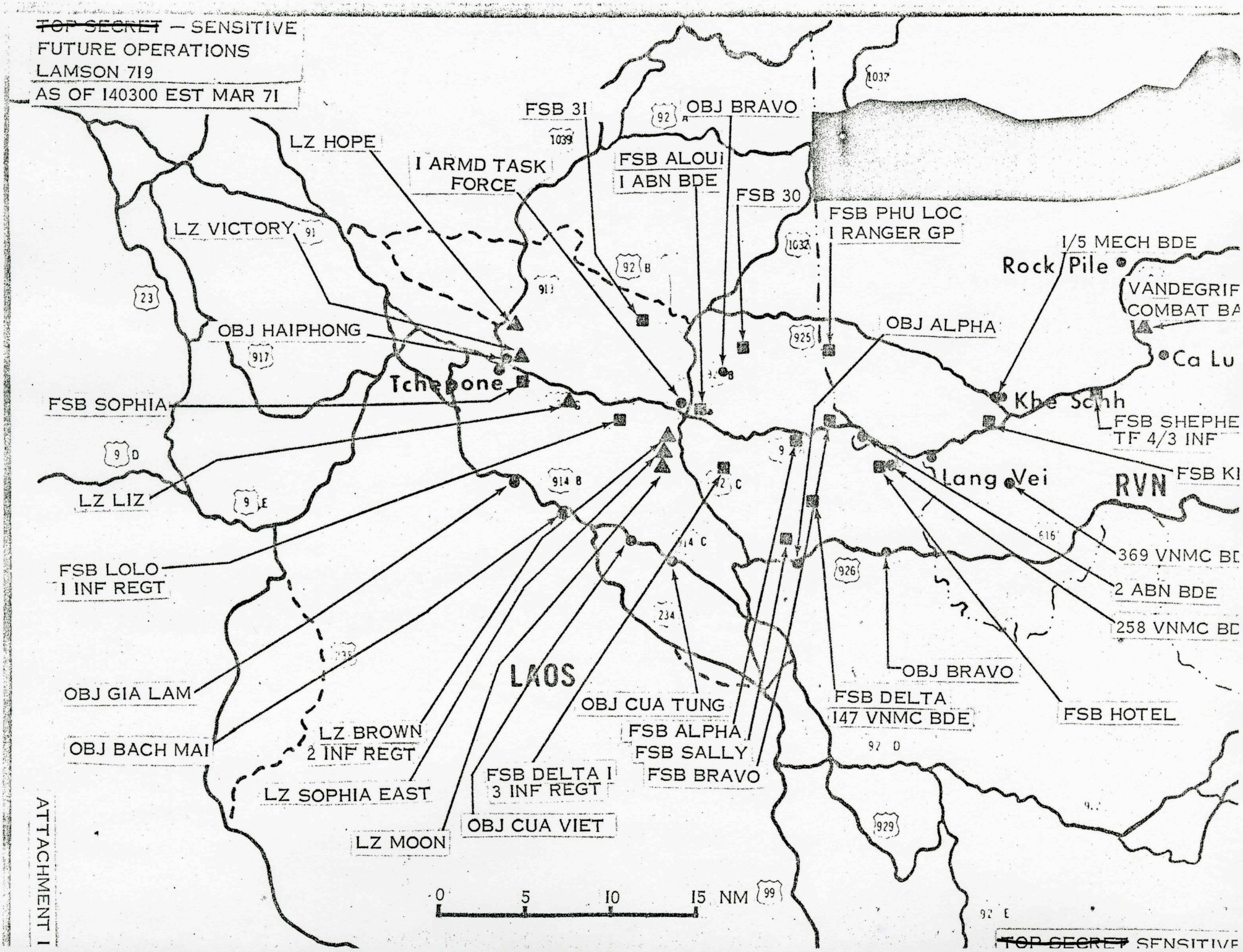
One company of the 9th Marine Battalion will be inserted in an area 6 miles south of Khe Sanh to conduct reconnaissance operations.

(4) The 1st Ranger Group will continue operations in the vicinity of FSB PHU LOC.

c. Priority of engineer efforts will continue to be given to repair of the airstrip at Khe Sanh and improvement of Route 9.

Attachments
1. Map
2. DIA Assessment

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NLNAO-51/10610 p4of11 J



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DIA INTELLIGENCE APPRAISAL

Enemy Reactions to Operation LAMSON 719

1. (SS) The Headquarters, 803d NVA Regiment, 324B Division has been tenuously located approximately 16 miles southwest of Khe Sanh. If this relocation is valid, it represents a westerly move of approximately 45 miles and places all the maneuver elements of the 324B Division (29th, 803d and 812th Regiments) in the vicinity of northwestern Base Area 611.

SANITIZED
b)(3):10USC424;
3.3(b)(1)

2. (SS) [redacted] the 29th Regiment, 324B NVA Division received 30 tons of 82-mm mortar, antitank, recoilless rifle, antiaircraft, and small arms ammunition on 12 and 13 March.

3. (SS) Recent COMINT from the Binh Tram 9 area has revealed that the enemy may be sending additional armor elements into the LAMSON area of operation.

SANITIZED
b)(3):10USC424

[redacted] there were 28 vehicles waiting at an unlocated point to move, since the road was blocked. In addition, the message stated, "There were still 12 tanks," and indicated that the 17th AA Battalion (unlocated) was to protect the vehicles. The 17th AA Battalion is believed to be deployed in the vicinity of the Route 1039/92A road junction.

Approved by:

[redacted]

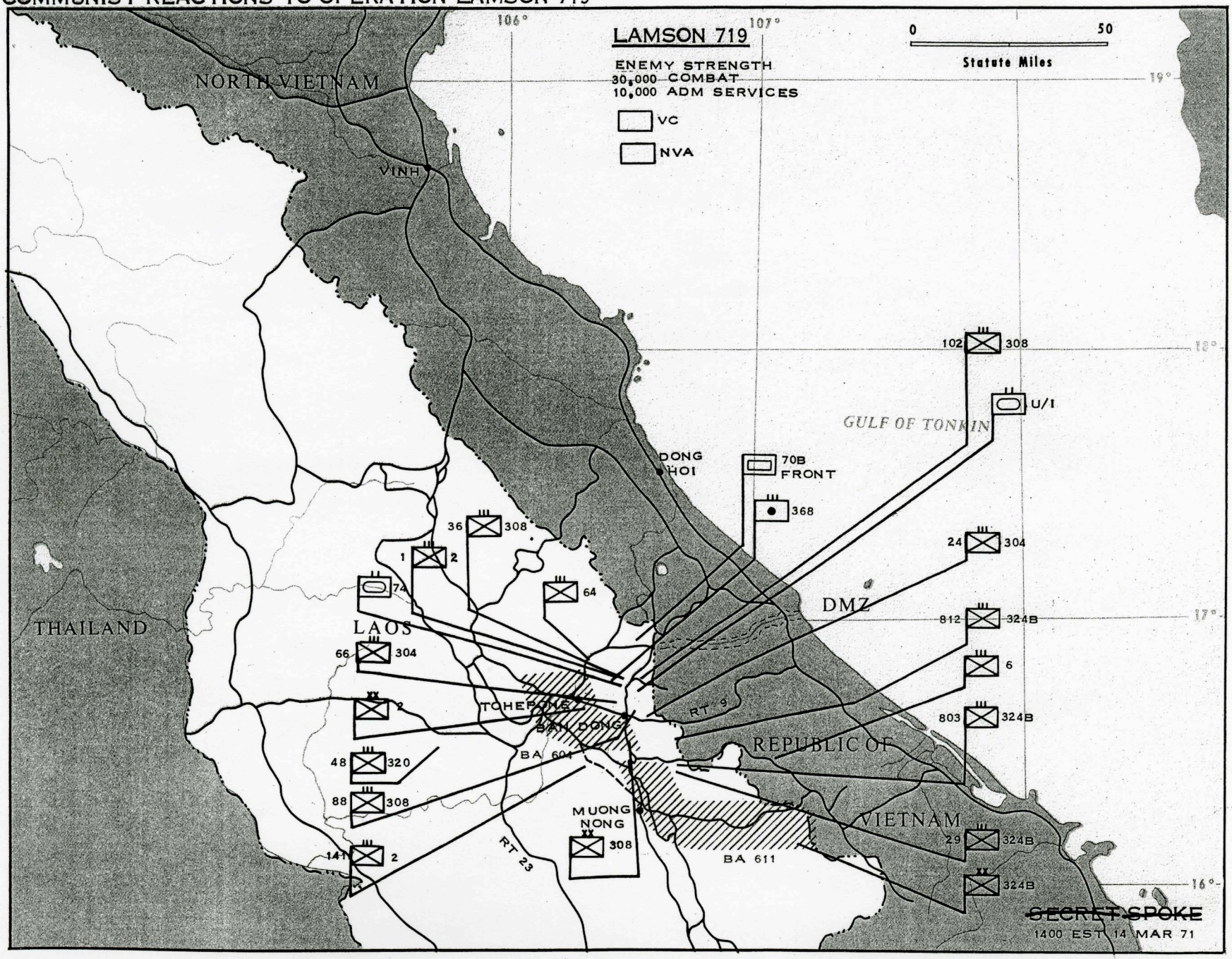
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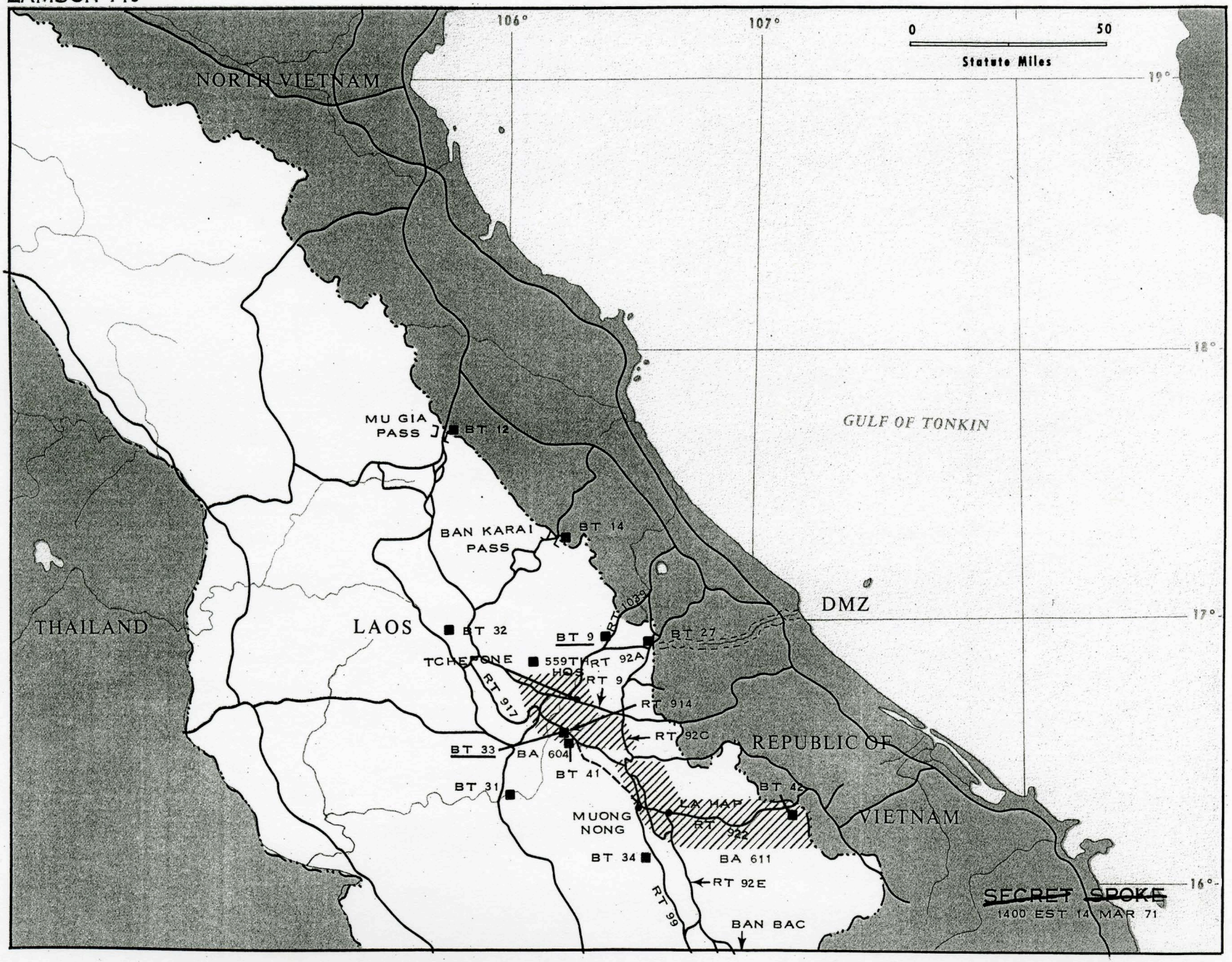
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COMMUNIST REACTIONS TO OPERATION LAMSON 719



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LAMSON 719



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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: 150600-160600 Saigon time.
OUTLOOK: 160600-170600 Saigon time.

NVN PANHANDLE - AREA 1:

COASTAL - Cloudy, ceiling 3500 feet occasionally 1000 feet, visibility 1 to 6 miles in rain/drizzle and fog.

MOUNTAINS - Cloudy, ceiling 3500 feet, 1000 feet AGL in valleys, visibility 1/2-4 miles in rain/drizzle and fog.

OUTLOOK - Little change.

NORTHERN SOUTH VIETNAM - AREA 2:

COASTAL - Cloudy occasionally partly cloudy, ceiling 3500 feet occasionally 1000 feet, visibility 5 to 7 miles in haze.

MOUNTAINS - Cloudy, ceiling 4000 feet occasionally 1000 feet, visibility 5 to 7 miles in haze, occasionally 1 to 3 miles in rain/drizzle and fog.

OUTLOOK - Slight decrease in clouds.

KHE SANH - AREA 3:

Cloudy, ceiling 1200 feet AGL, occasionally 400 feet AGL, visibility 5 to 7 miles in haze occasionally 2 to 4 miles in rain/drizzle and fog.

OUTLOOK - Slight decrease in clouds.

TCHEPONE - AREA 4:

Partly cloudy occasionally cloudy, ceiling unlimited occasionally 4000 feet, visibility 7 miles. Between 150600-1100 Saigon time, in valleys, patchy broken stratus, 500 feet AGL and fog/haze, visibility 1/2 to 4 miles.

OUTLOOK - Slight decrease in clouds.

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Enclosure 2

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CHUP PLANTATION - AREA 5:

Cloudy, ceiling 8000 feet occasionally 3000 feet, visibility 7 miles occasionally 3 miles in rain. Isolated afternoon/ night showers/thunderstorms.

OUTLOOK - Little change.

NOTE: All cloud heights are given in feet Above Mean Sea Level, except those indicating AGL (Above Ground Level).

Attachment
Map

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Attachment

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[02/5/25]

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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

13 MAR 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. KISSINGER

SUBJECT: Status Report on Operations in Laos and Cambodia

1. (C) Reference is made to your memorandum, dated 11 February 1971, subject as above.

2. (C) In accordance with your request, the 1600 hour daily reports are attached as Enclosures 1 and 2. A weather forecast covering particular areas of interest in Southeast Asia has been added as Enclosure 3.

David Packard

3 Encls
a/s

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NLN OU-51 10019; Per ltr 10/27/2011
By [illegible] NARA, Date 5/4/2012
[1 of 10]
Per Sec. (b)(3): 10 USC 424, 3.3(b)(1)

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13 March 1971

Subject: Operation LAMSON 719

1. (U) General: This report covers the period 120800-130800 GMT March (121600-131600 Saigon time, 120300-130300 EST) March 1971.

2. (TS) Summary of Current Situation:

a. Adverse weather continues to hamper air operations. However, scheduled helicopter resupply missions were completed with the exception of those for FSB DELTA ONE. Resupply of FSB DELTA ONE was terminated due to incoming fire on the landing zone.

b. There were 10 enemy contacts or attacks by fire during the period. Forty-five enemy were reported killed. This compares with nine friendly killed (three US) and 31 wounded (five US). Associated with one of the contacts by an airborne battalion approximately 3 miles northeast of FSB ALOUI, 10,340 rounds of machinegun, mortar, and rocket ammunition were seized along with 4 tons of unpolished rice. During one attack by fire, a US artillery unit in RVN near the Laos border suffered major damage to a 175-mm gun as the result of a direct hit from a 130-mm Soviet made field gun.

c. A battalion of the 1st ARVN Infantry Regiment, continued search and clear operations in the vicinity of Route 914. During this reporting period, the unit reports finding one truck destroyed by air at coordinates that establishes its location on Route 914 approximately 1 1/2 miles southeast of Objective GIA LAM.

d. The assault airstrip at Khe Sanh, previously reported as damaged by a landing C-130 aircraft, is in the process of being repaired. A firm date for completion of repairs has not been reported. However, the 3,200 feet of operational runway of the main airstrip is being used by C-130 aircraft for logistic operations. During the period, there were 27 C-130 sorties flown into Khe Sanh.

e. RVNAF troop strength in Laos is 17,104. The increase over the previously reported 16,884 is the result of the movement into Laos of the 4th Composite Tank Battalion.

3. (TS) Plans for Future Operations:

a. The 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile). No change in future plans since last report.

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b. RVNAF units continue operations in RVN and Laos with effort directed towards search operations and redeployment of forces in preparation for two attacks toward Route 9.

(1) 1st Infantry Division:

(a) 1st Infantry Regiment: 1/1 Infantry Battalion will attack toward Objective BACH MAI. 4/1 Infantry Battalion will conduct searches vicinity of Objective GIA LAM. 2/1 Infantry Battalion will search in present location and 3/1 Infantry Battalion will secure FSB LOLO and search that area.

(b) 2d Infantry Regiment: On order, two battalions (NFI) will attack south toward Objective CUA VIET. 5/2 Infantry Battalion will secure FSB SOPHIA EAST and search that area. 1/2 Infantry Battalion will continue security operations in the vicinity of Khe Sanh. Plans for the remaining battalion are not known.

(c) 3d Infantry Regiment: 1/3 Infantry Battalion secures FSB DELTA ONE and searches that vicinity. 4/3 Infantry Battalion will move by foot to the southeast from present location to prepare for future operations to the south.

(2) 1st Airborne Division:

(a) 1st Airborne Brigade will continue searches in present location north of Route 9 with four battalions.

(b) 2d Airborne Brigade will continue to secure Route 9 in zone, secure land clearing operations along Route 9, and conduct company-size operations in vicinity of present locations. Two company-size combat assaults are scheduled. The 4th Composite Tank Battalion, under the OPCON of the 2d Airborne Brigade, continues to close FSB ALPHA and assume security mission for Route 9 from FSB ALPHA to the RVN/Laotian border. The 11th Airborne Battalion will continue attacks to the southwest.

(3) Vietnamese Marine Division:

(a) The 147th Brigade will secure FSB DELTA with one battalion and continue to attack to the south toward Objective ALPHA with two battalions.

(b) The 258th Brigade will continue to attack to the south toward Objective BRAVO with two battalions and secure FSB HOTEL and conduct searches in that vicinity with one battalion.

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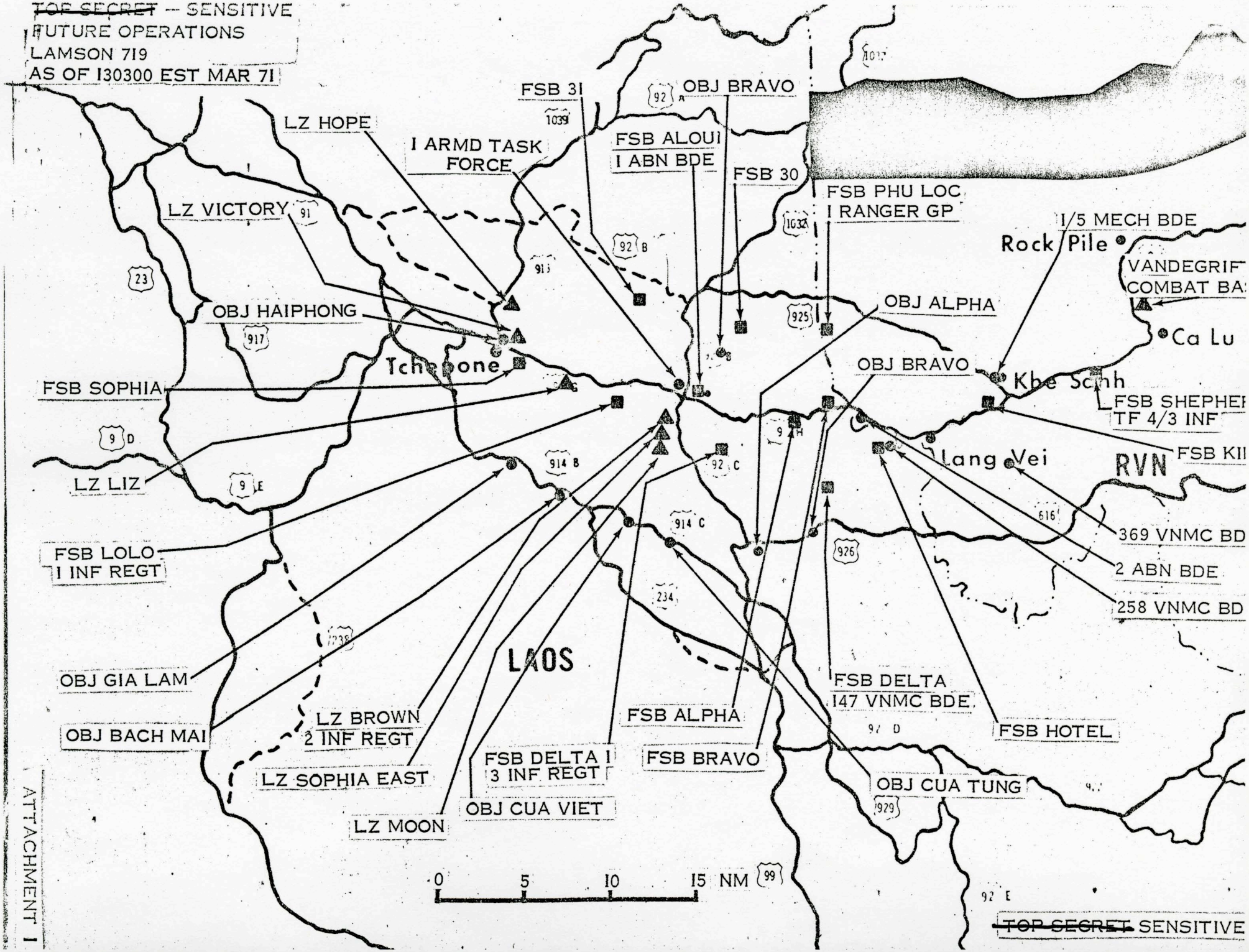
(c) The 369th Brigade will continue security operations south of Khe Sanh with two battalions.

(4) The 1st Ranger Group will continue operations in the vicinity of FSB PHU LOC and new FSB established 2.5 miles east-southeast of FSB PHU LOC. The 1st Ranger Group CP will move to the new FSB when heavy helicopter lift and prime movers become available.

c. Engineer priority effort will be on the repair of the damaged Khe Sanh assault strip and on upgrading of Route 9 from Ca Lu to the Laotian border.

Attachments
1. Map
2. DIA Assessment

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ATTACHMENT I

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DIA INTELLIGENCE APPRAISAL

Enemy Reactions to Operation LAMSON 719 (U)

1. (SS) There have been no major enemy unit relocations and the threat to friendly units remains unchanged.

SANITIZED (3): 10 USC 424

2. (SS) [redacted] attacks are planned against friendly positions along Route 9 between Tchepone and Ban Dong in the immediate future. [redacted] the regimental headquarters notified "all stations" that "large attacks" would take place from the 13th through the 16th of March.

3. (SS) Reflecting the problems presented to the enemy resulting from personnel casualties and materiel losses were messages from various Binh Tram 32 elements. One unit reported that one of its subordinates was being replaced due to the high number of recent casualties, and that "enemy" artillery and B-52 strikes had killed the assistant commander of this force and damaged weapons and fortifications. Another associate of Binh Tram 32 noted that if his forces "take care of the wounded and dead, we won't have anyone left to fight."

SANITIZED (3): 10 USC 424 3.3(b)(1)

4. (SS) [redacted] the enemy is experiencing transportation and logistical problems. [redacted] 10 vehicles were "pulled out of action" due to lack of diesel fuel and POL products. An expected shipment of oil had not arrived. [redacted] to "fortify the trenches and carefully safeguard weapons and ammunition." A "Company 12," which apparently had encountered some difficulties was told to "try harder" and move the weapons to the new position.

SANITIZED b)(3): 10USC 424 3.3(b)(1)

5. (SS) There are additional indications that the operating area of BT-41 has been significantly reduced. [redacted] BT-41's area of responsibility along Route 922 would be transferred to BT-42. [redacted] BT-41's operating area down to La Hap was to be transferred to BT-33. [redacted] this activity has probably been reduced to local unit resupply and suggests that BT-41 is not now engaged in the movement of supplies through Laos toward RVN.

Attachment 2

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SANITIZED
(b)(3):10USC424

6. (SS) [redacted] the BT had received about 3,950 tons during the month of February, transported by 1,071 vehicles. This BT handles supply input from both Mu Gia and Ban Karai Passes. Sensor indications have provided information that 7,120 tons of supplies have passed through Ban Karai and Mu Gia Passes during that same time frame.

SANITIZED
(b)(3):10 USC 424

7. (SS) South of the LAMSON area, [redacted] the movement of truck convoys carrying food and ammunition to "H-2" -- a large storage area -- and that the trucks were probably moving down Route 92C (also known as "Route 128"). "H-2" is a probable reference to a new storage area in the vicinity of BT-35. The "H-1" storage area, which was located in the vicinity of BT-35, was in large part destroyed as a result of Allied air attacks during late December 1970 and early January 1971.

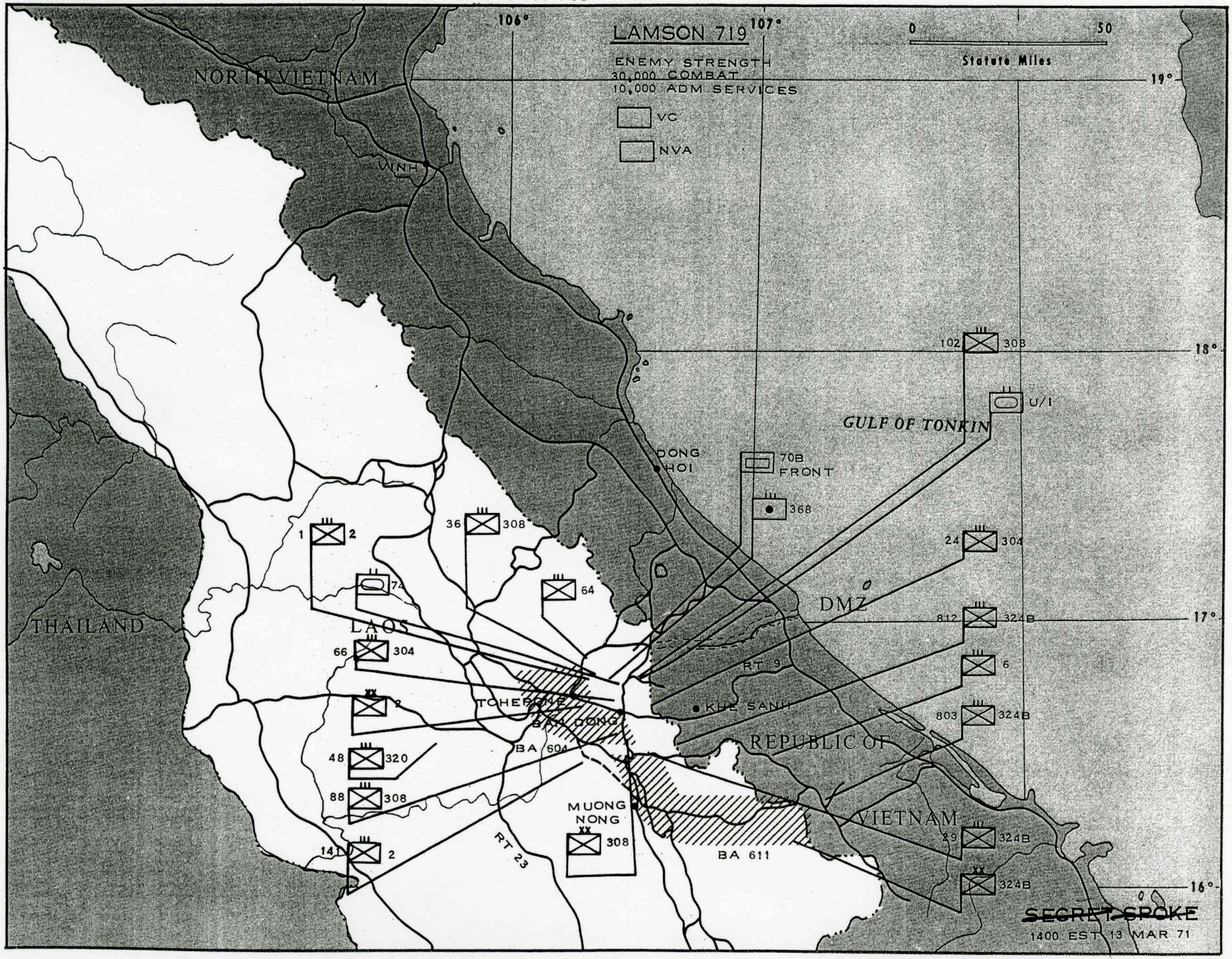
Approved by:

[redacted]

SANITIZED
(b)(3):10 USC 424

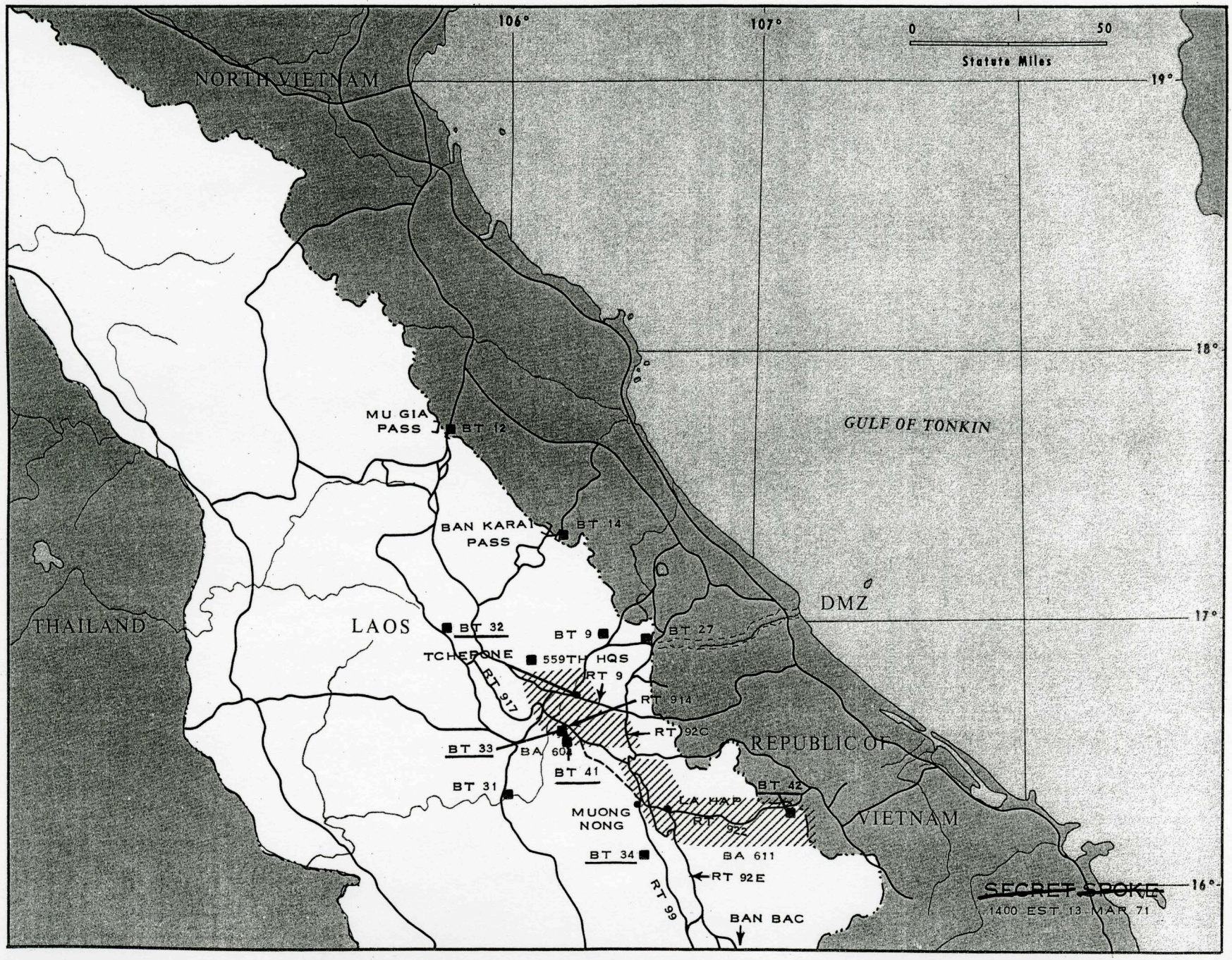
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COMMUNIST REACTIONS TO OPERATION LAMSON 719



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LAMSON 719



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NLN 08-119 #91 by NLN, Date 12/2/08

13 March 1971

Subject: Operation TOAN THANG 01/71 NB

1. (U) General: This report covers the period 120800-130800 GMT March (121600-131600 Saigon time, 120300-130300 EST) March 1971.

2. (TS) Summary of Current Situation:

a. The level of activity in the TOAN THANG area of operations continues very light with no significant contacts reported by the RVNAF. A US Army air cavalry troop, while conducting aerial reconnaissance and bomb damage assessment in the area where an Army OH-6A was downed on 10 March, observed the bodies of 10 enemy soldiers killed by airstrikes. One crewmember reported missing in the above OH-6A loss, walked into a Task Force 9 position on 12 March and was evacuated to RVN.

b. Task Force 3 continues offensive operations SW of Dambe and east of the Chup Plantation. Other force elements are continuing route security and search operations in their respective areas.

c. During this period 65 enemy were killed in this operation (64 TACAIR KBA). BDA also includes 25 bunkers and three structures destroyed.

3. (TS) Plans for Future Operations:

a. 18th Infantry Division:

(1) TF 3 will continue operations around the eastern portion of the Chup Rubber Plantation.

(2) TFs 43 and 48 will continue route and local security operations.

(3) TFs 5, 52, and 333 will continue route security along Routes 7 and 78 with limited reconnaissance operations off the roads.

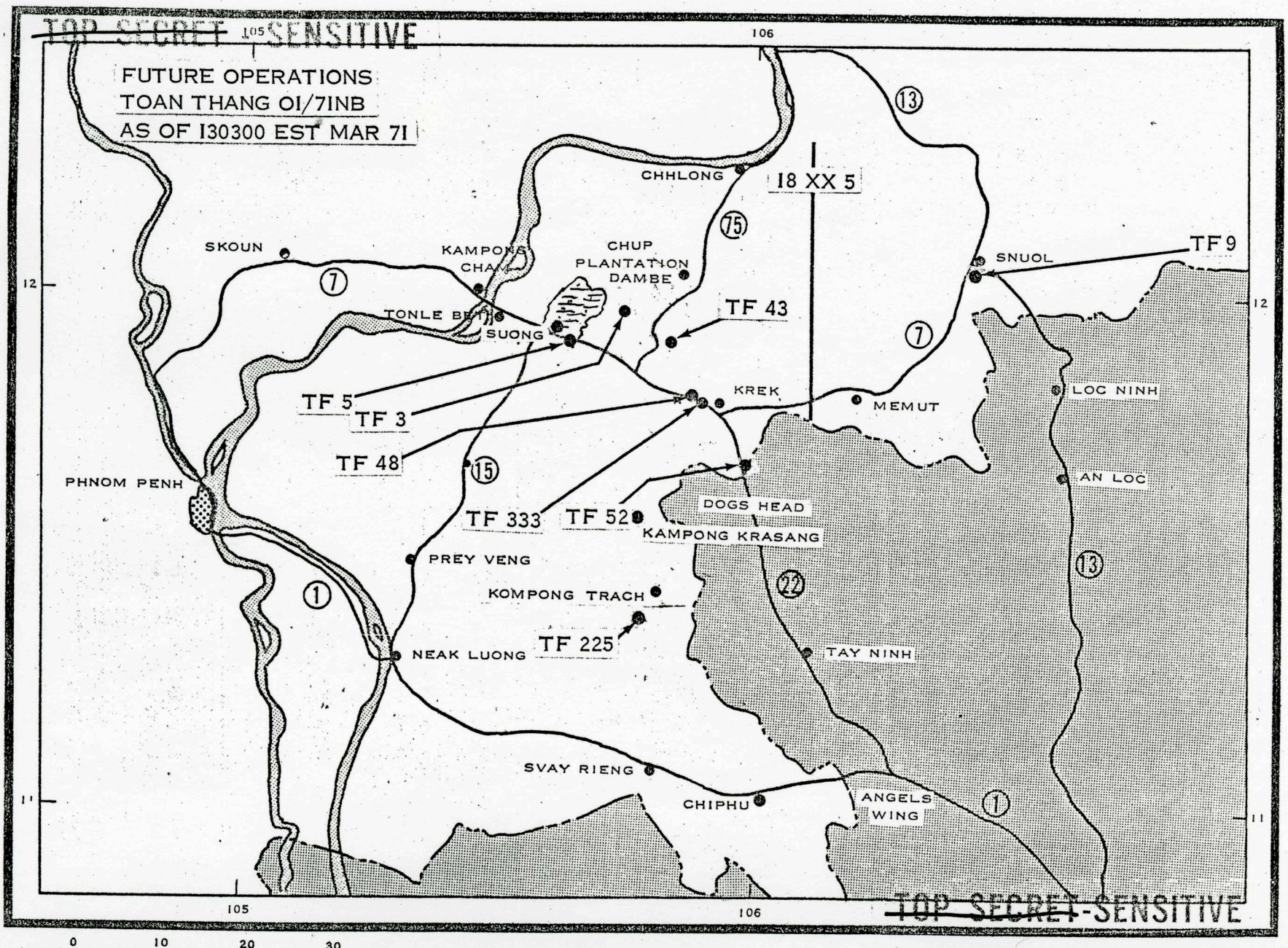
b. 5th Infantry Division: TF 9 will continue search operations around Snuol.

c. 25th Infantry Division: TF 225 will continue reconnaissance operations in the vicinity of Kompong Trach.

Attachments
1. Map
2. DIA Assessment

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[Enclosure 2 to JCS 1064/104 of 10 Mar 71]

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ATTACHMENT

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DIA INTELLIGENCE APPRAISAL

Enemy Reactions to Operation TOAN THANG 01/71 (U)

1. (SS) On 12 March, the Headquarters, 174th NVA Regiment, 5th VC Division, was located 11 miles northeast of Mimot, negating the earlier fix of this unit north of the Chup Plantation.

2. (SS) On the 10th, the Headquarters, 209th NVA Regiment, 7th NVA Division, was noted in an 11-mile northeastward move from its 9 March location in Base Area 711. This positions the unit nine miles southwest of Snuol.

Approved by:

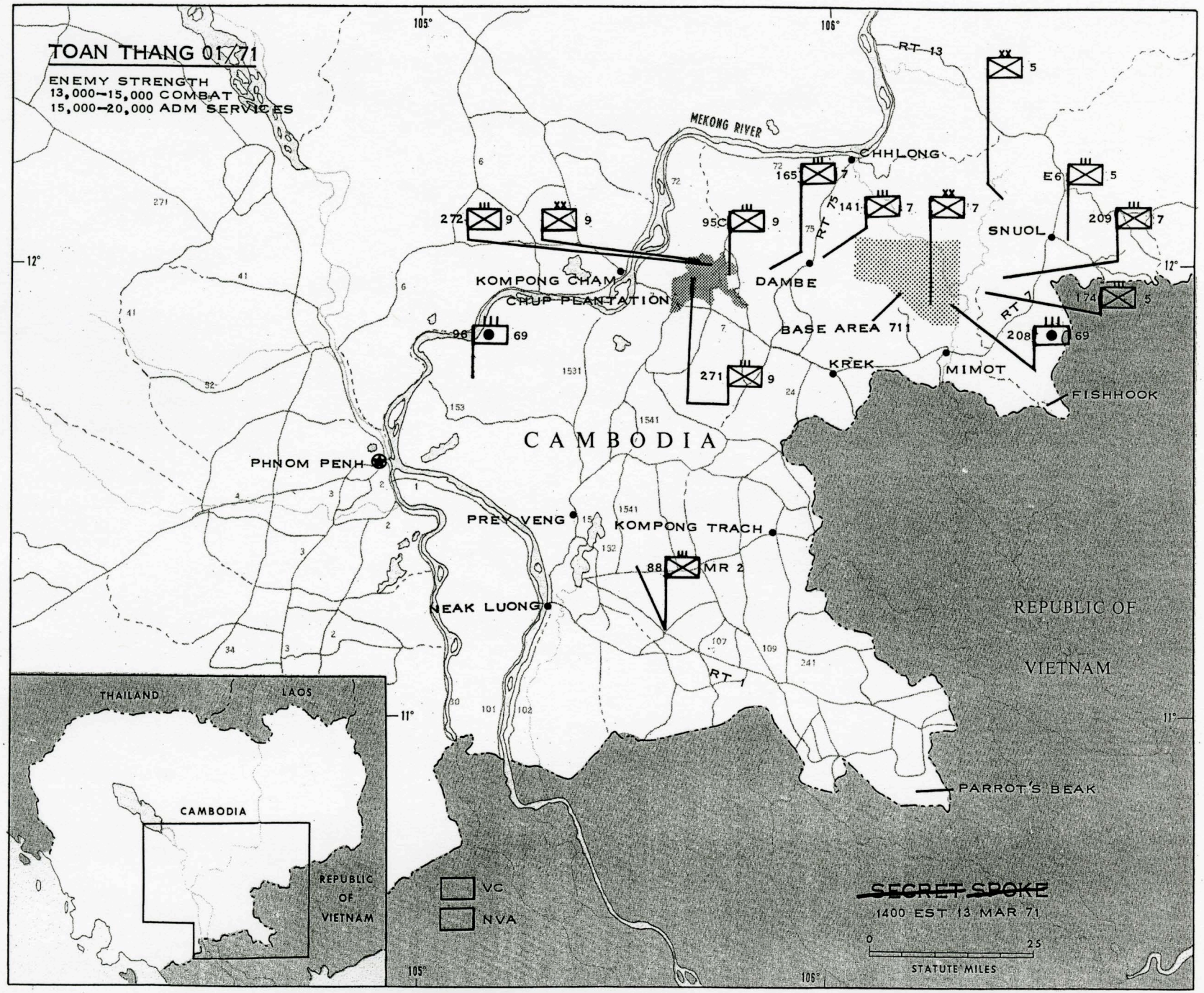
[redacted]

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(b)(3):10 USC 424

Attachment 2

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NLN-RS-M-01-126 #1

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: 140600-150600 Saigon time.
OUTLOOK: 150600-160600 Saigon time.

NVN PANHANDLE - AREA 1:

COASTAL - Overcast, ceiling 1000 feet occasionally 3000 feet, visibility 1 to 6 miles in rain/drizzle and fog.

MOUNTAINS - Cloudy occasionally overcast, ceiling 1000 feet AGL, visibility 1/2 to 4 miles in rain/drizzle and fog.

OUTLOOK - Little change.

NORTHERN SOUTH VIETNAM - AREA 2:

COASTAL - Cloudy occasionally partly cloudy, ceiling 3000 feet occasionally 1000 feet, visibility 5 to 7 miles in haze.

MOUNTAINS - Cloudy, ceiling 1200 feet AGL occasionally 300 feet AGL, visibility 7 miles occasionally 3 miles in showers. Between 140600-1100 and 150400-0600 Saigon time, broken stratus 300 feet AGL and drizzle, visibility 1-2 miles.

OUTLOOK - Little change.

KHE SANH - AREA 3:

Cloudy, ceiling 1200 feet AGL occasionally 300 feet AGL, visibility 7 miles occasionally 3 miles in showers. Between 140600-1100 and 150400-0600 Saigon time, broken stratus 300 feet AGL and drizzle, visibility 2 miles.

OUTLOOK - Little change.

TCHEPONE - AREA 4:

Partly cloudy occasionally cloudy, ceiling unlimited occasionally 5000 feet, visibility 5 to 7 miles in haze. Between 140600-1100 Saigon time, in valleys, patchy broken stratus, 500 feet AGL and fog/haze, visibility 1/2 to 4 miles.

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OUTLOOK - Little change.

CHUP PLANTATION - AREA 5:

Partly cloudy, ceiling unlimited, visibility 5 to 7 miles in haze. Between 140600-1000 Saigon time, visibility 3 to 4 miles in haze.

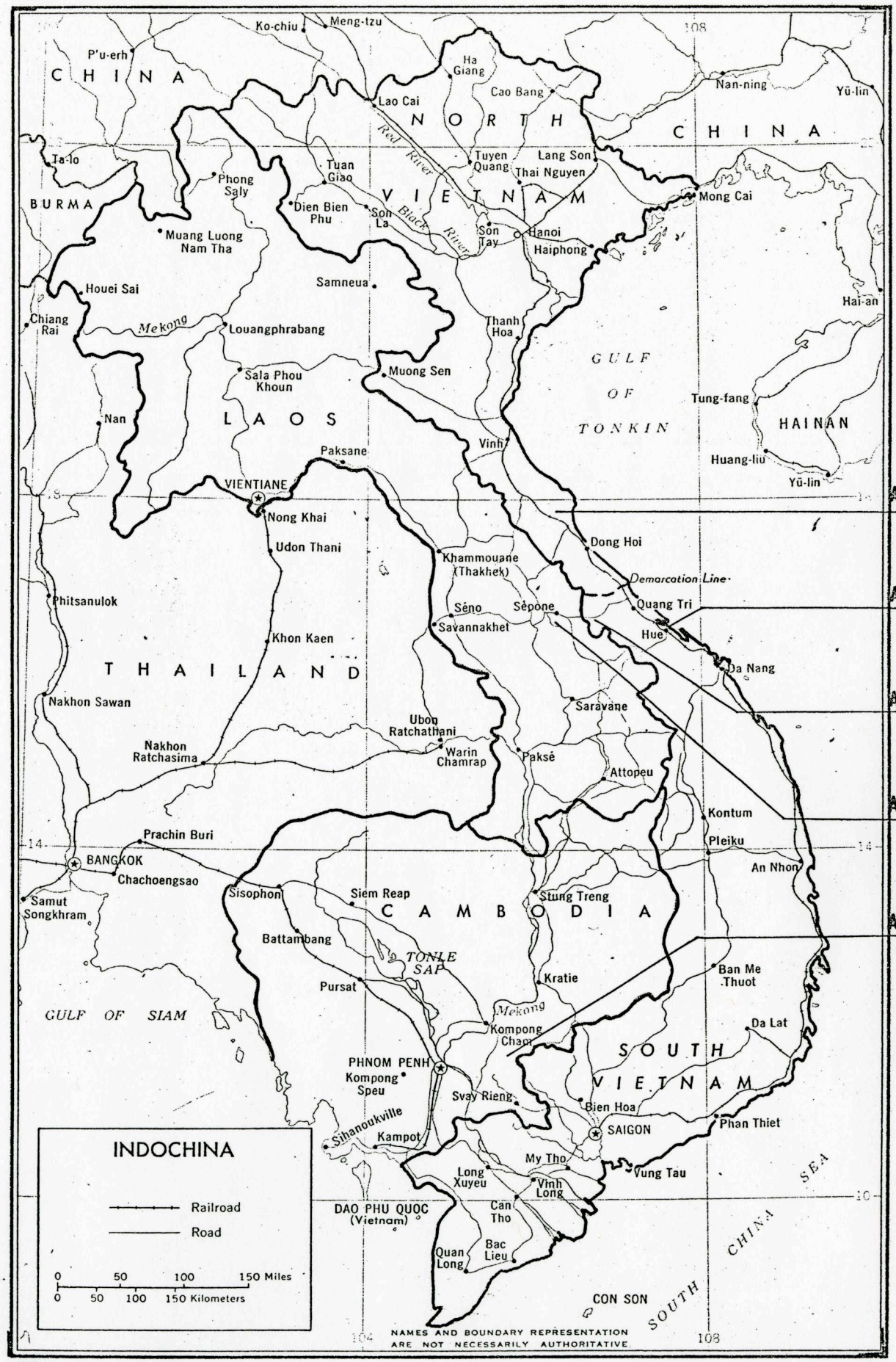
OUTLOOK - Increasing clouds and showers.

NOTE: All cloud heights are given in feet Above Mean Sea Level, except those indicating AGL (Above Ground Level).

Attachment
Map

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NARA Date 12/31/10 NLN 09-150-16-2

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Attachment

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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

12 MAR 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. KISSINGER

Subject: Status Report on Operations in Laos and Cambodia

1. (C) Reference is made to your memorandum, dated 11 February 1971, subject as above.

2. (C) In accordance with your request, the 1600 hour daily reports are attached as Enclosures 1 and 2. A weather forecast covering particular areas of interest in Southeast Asia has been added as Enclosure 3.

David Packard

3 Encls
a/s

Upon removal of attachments
this document becomes
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DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Section 3.5
NLN 06-51/10420; per ltr 10/27/2011
By MLD NARA, Date 5/4/2012
[106 15]
Per Sec. (b)(3): 10 USC 424, 3.3(b)(1)
Sec Def Cont Nr. X-1265

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12 March 1971

Subject: Operation LAMSON 719

1. (U) General: This report covers the period 110800-120800 GMT March (111600-121600 Saigon time, 110300-120300 EST) March 1971.

2. (TS) Summary of Current Situation:

a. There are no friendly forces north of Route 9 west of Route 92. The 2d ARVN Regiment in the vicinity of FSB SOPHIA relocated 12 miles southeast by combat air assault into Landing Zones MOON and SOPHIA EAST. A battalion of the 1st ARVN Regiment conducted search operations in the objective GIA LAM area which incorporates a segment of Route 914. There were no significant results reported as a consequence of the search operations. A Vietnamese Marine battalion destroyed 718 82-mm mortar and B-40 rocket rounds. Search and clear operations resulted in a moderate level of combat activity. There were 15 light contacts and enemy attacks by fire reported during the period. The largest resulted in one ARVN killed and 21 wounded during an enemy attack by fire.

b. Eight damaged 105-mm howitzers belonging to units of the 2d ARVN Infantry Regiment were abandoned on FSB SOPHIA. These were destroyed by US tactical air.

c. Air operations during part of the reporting period were hampered by adverse weather conditions including low hanging fog. During the first half of the period, 22 aircraft were hit by hostile fire. Of these, five UH-1 helicopters were destroyed. There were no aircraft losses during the last half of the period.

3. (TS) Plans for Future Operations:

a. The 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) will continue operations in assigned area with major effort directed to the north and east of Khe Sanh and security of Route 9 from 2 nautical miles east of the Rockpile to the Laotian border. The reconnaissance effort will continue near Lang Vei.

b. RVNAF units will continue operations in RVN and Laos with emphasis on relocating units to facilitate search operations along Route 914.

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(1) 1st Infantry Division:

(a) 1st Infantry Regiment will conduct security operations vicinity FSB LOLO continuing to expand the secure zone around the base. Two battalions will continue to attack to the west and southwest to cut Route 914.

(b) 2d Infantry Regiment. Two battalions will conduct security operations vicinity LZ SOPHIA EAST. One battery of 105-mm howitzers will continue movement by air from Khe Sanh to LZ SOPHIA EAST. The 3d Battalion will secure LZ MOON. All four battalions of the regiment will attack south toward objectives CU VIET and CUA TUNG..

(c) 3d Infantry Regiment. No change in future plans since last report.

(2) 1st Airborne Division:

(a) 1st Airborne Brigade will continue searches in present location with four battalions.

(b) 2d Airborne Brigade. No change in future plans since last report.

(c) The 4th Composite Tank Battalion will continue movement to FSB ALPHA and secure Route 9 from FSB ALPHA to Laotian border.

(3) Vietnamese Marine Division: No change in future plans since last report.

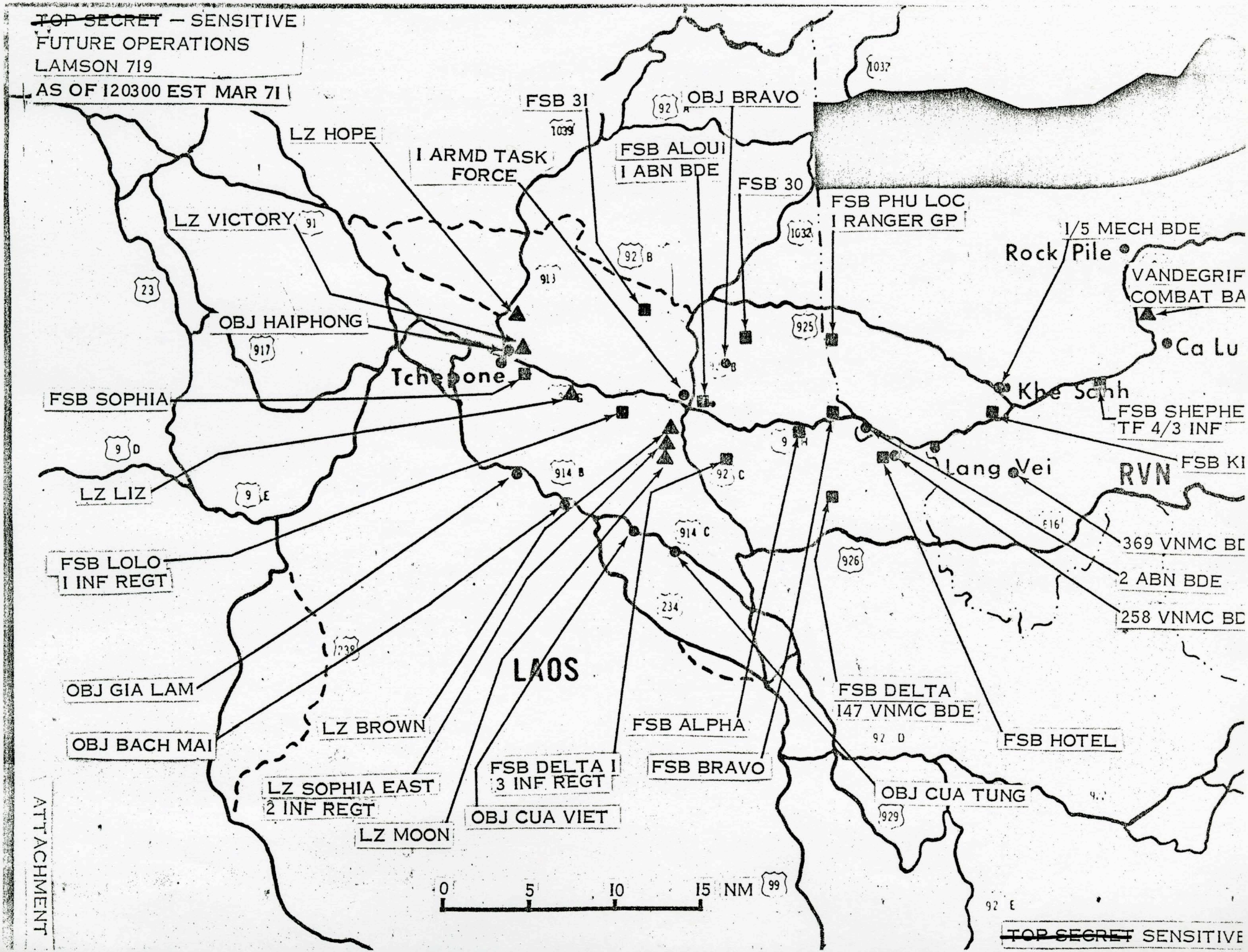
(4) 1st Ranger Group: No change in future plans since last report.

c. Engineer effort. No change in future plans since last report.

Attachments:

1. Map
2. DIA Assessment

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ATTACHMENT

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NLN-RNPM-2016-5-1

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DIA INTELLIGENCE APPRAISAL

Enemy Reactions to Operation LAMSON 719 (U)

1. (S) There have been no major enemy unit relocations and the threat to friendly units remains unchanged.

2. (SS) In logistic activity, [redacted] vehicular activity in the BT-32 area for the first eight days of March. According to the report a total of 259 vehicles transited the area, however, the direction was not disclosed. Also reported was the planned transfer of 12 drivers from BT-33 to BT-32. This move could be to help in the transportation effort being made west of Tchepone. BT-32 handles supply input through both Mu Gia and Ban Karai Passes. Route 917 would normally be the route used for movement of the supplies to Base Area 604.

SANITIZED
)(3):10 USC 424;
3.3(b)(1)

3. (SS) Supply problems continue to be noted in the LAMSON area. According to a 9 March message, activity at a storage area, probably along Route 92C north of Muong Nong, was to be "temporarily suspended" because it was "not secure." Moreover, requested supplies from BT 33 had not yet arrived in the Muong Nong area.

4. (SS) [redacted] the southward movement of the Headquarters, Binh Tram 34. On 8 March, the Headquarters, BT 34 was fixed about 18 miles southwest of its previous location. If valid, this move reflects a reaction to the LAMSON operation and an effort by the North Vietnamese to improve command and control of supply movement along Route 99.

SANITIZED
(b)(3):10 USC 424;
3.3(b)(1)

5. (SS) Substantial logistic activity south of the LAMSON area continue to be noted [redacted] On 10 March, a logistic element south of Ban Bac reported that on the third day of the crash transportation program, its subordinate units had accomplished 120 per cent of their transportation goals.

SANITIZED
)(3):10 USC 424;
3.3(b)(1)

[redacted]

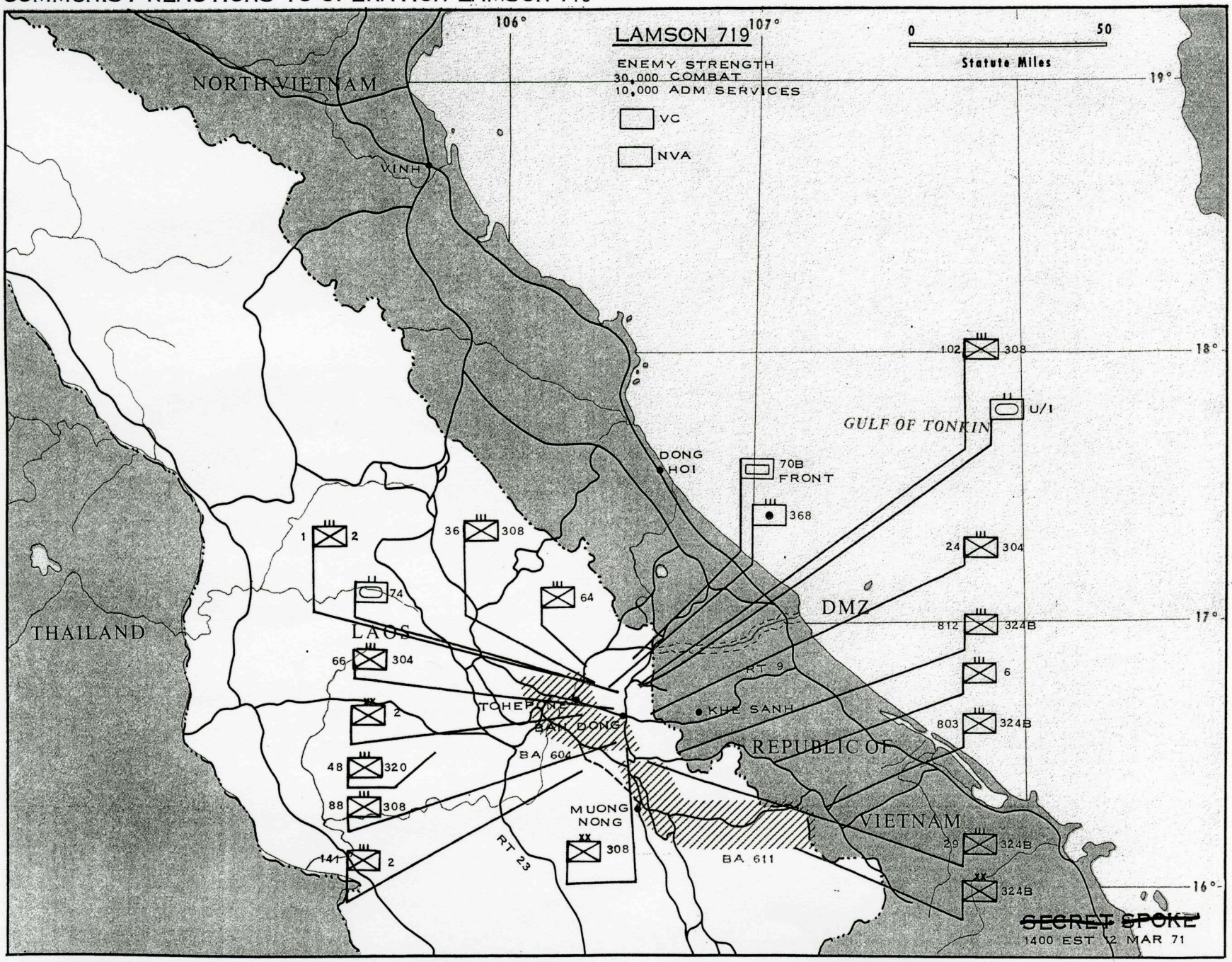
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(b)(3):10 USC 424

Attachment 2

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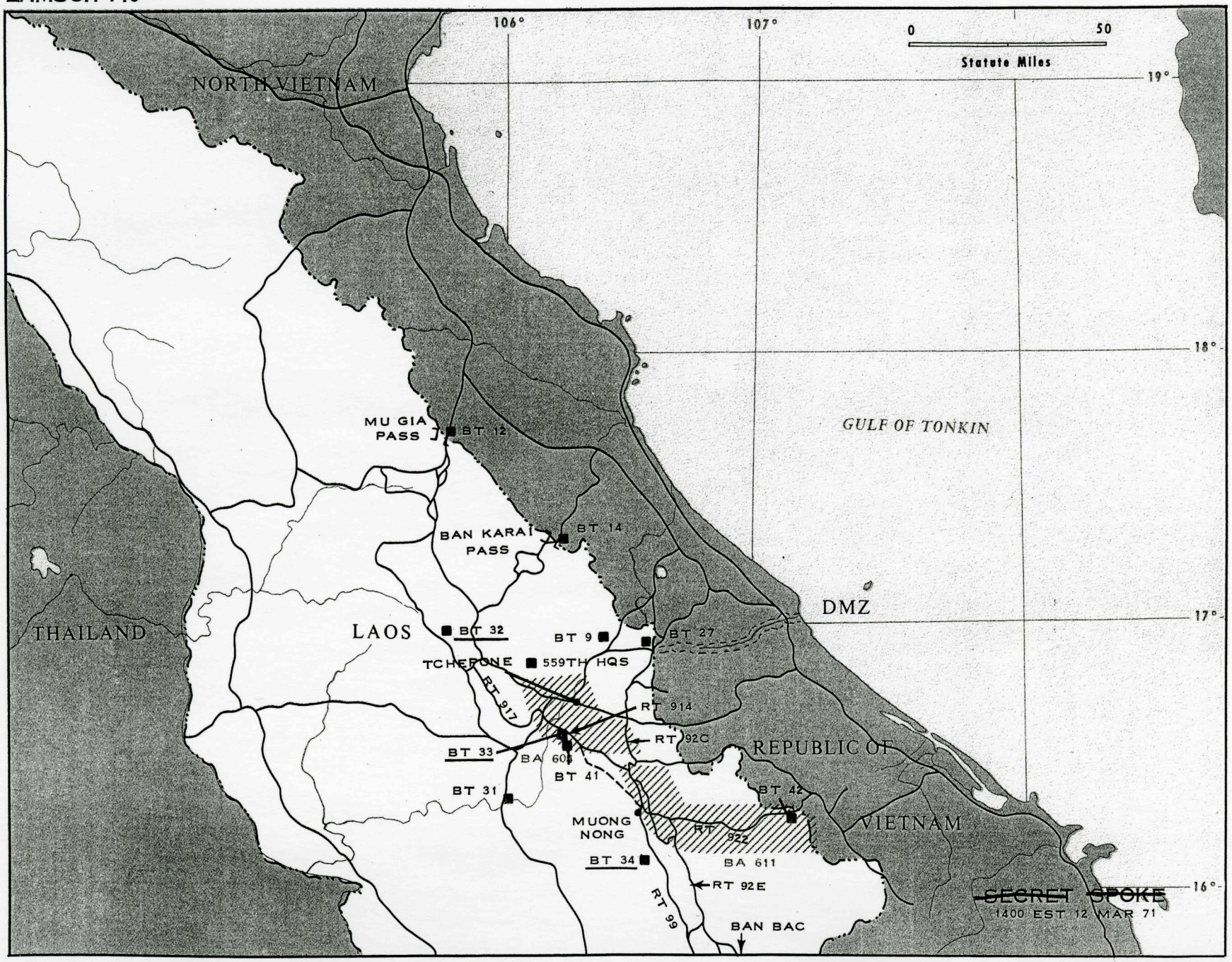
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COMMUNIST REACTIONS TO OPERATION LAMSON 719



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LAMSON 719



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12 March 1971

Subject: Operation TOAN THANG 01/71 NB

1. (U) General: This report covers the period 110800-120800 GMT March (111600-121600 Saigon time, 110300-120300 EST) March 1971.

2. (TS) Summary of Current Situation:

a. The level of activity in the TOAN THANG area of operations continued to be very light during the reporting period. No significant contacts were reported by RVNAF. US air cavalry elements reported two engagements. A US Army helicopter on a visual reconnaissance mission 14 miles north-northeast of Snuol engaged and killed four enemy soldiers. Airstrikes in the area resulted in 3,400 pounds of rice, 40 bicycles, 15 bunkers, a large amount of truck and bicycle tires, and an unknown amount of POL destroyed. In another engagement 3 miles north of Kompong Trach, a US air cavalry element engaged enemy soldiers in a bunker complex. One enemy was killed but a cobra gunship attacking the bunker complex was hit by small-arms fire and crashed. Two US crewmen were KIA.

b. Task Force 3 is conducting search operations east of the Chup Plantation. Task Force 43 and Task Force 48 are conducting security operations along Route 76. Task Force 225 continues to search the area south of Kompong Trach and Task Force 9 conducts operations northwest of Snuol. Task Force 5, Task Force 333, and Task Force 52 continue security operations along Highway 7 from Tonle Bet to the RVN border.

c. Following last week's withdrawal from the Dambe area, General Minh broke contact with the enemy and established defensive positions along Highway 7 to reorganize and refit. The battalions of TF 333 remain below authorized strength and General Minh is dissatisfied with Ranger Command replacement support. Otherwise, replacement of both personnel and equipment has been satisfactory. During the pause in ARVN operations north of Highway 7, the enemy likewise regrouped and redeployed his forces following his heavy losses to B-52 strikes and in the engagements around Dambe. During this pause, the enemy executed 33 attacks by fire on ARVN defensive positions and base camps. These attacks culminated just after midnight on the night of 7-8 March, with coordinated mortar and rocket attacks on nine separate locations along Highway 7, and a ground attack against a battalion of TF 43 by elements of the 271 and 272 NVA regiments. TF 43 had four KIA and 40 WIA. The enemy had 81 KIA and four captured.

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d. General Minh is currently conducting operations west from Dambe into the Chup against the 9th VC Division. Minh's success will largely depend on the rapidity and aggressiveness with which the 18th ARVN Division Commander carries out the operation.

3. (TS) Plans for Future Operations:

a. 18th Infantry Division:

(1) TF 3 will continue operations around the eastern portion of the Chup Rubber Plantation.

(2) TFs 43 and 48 will continue current security operations.

(3) TFs 5, 52, and 333 will continue route security along main supply routes.

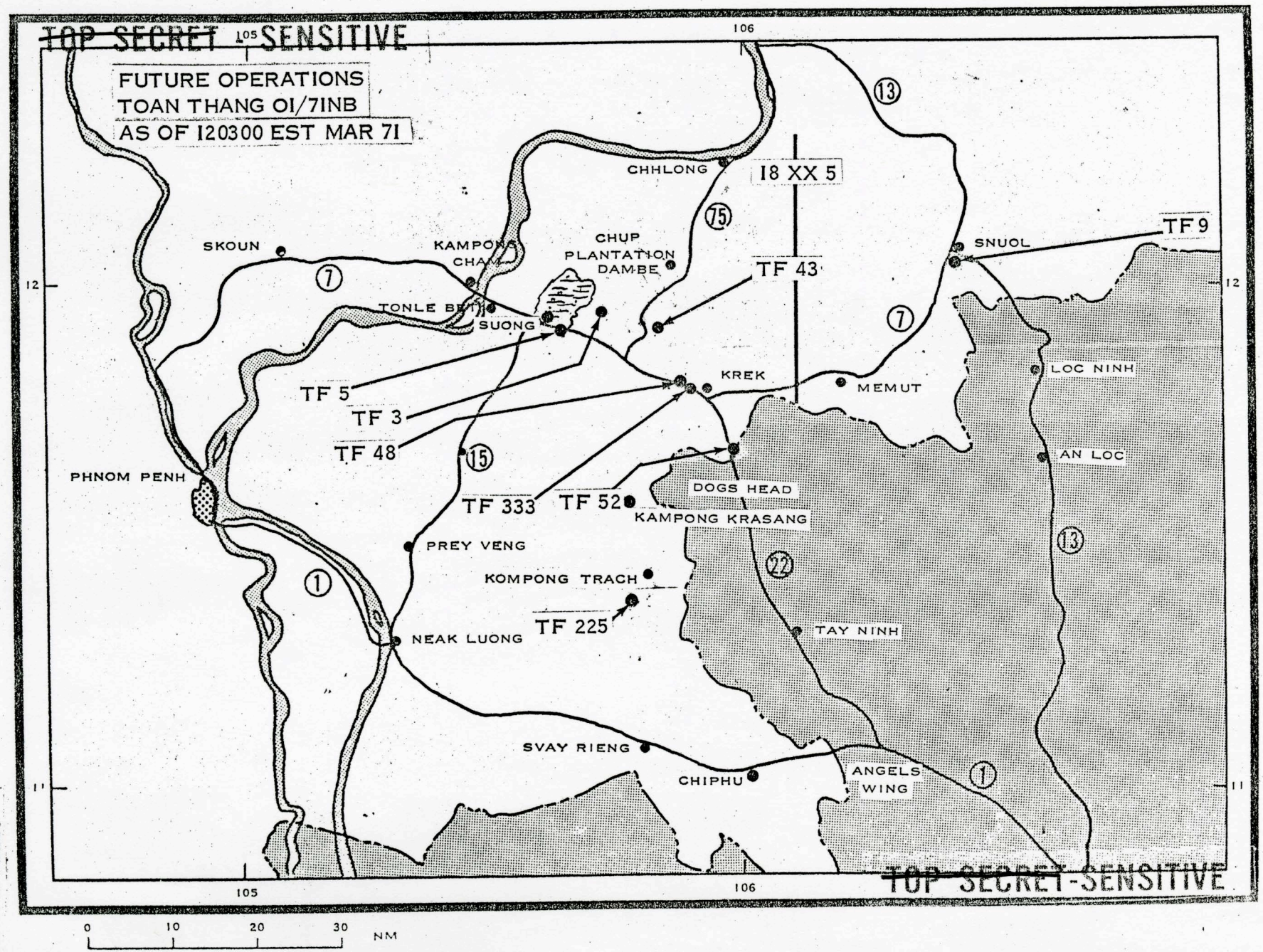
b. 5th Infantry Division: TF 9 will continue search operations around Snuol.

c. 25th Infantry Division: TF 225 will continue search operations in the vicinity of Kompong Trach.

Attachments:
1. Map
2. DIA Assessment

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CMR Nov 5104820 09 06 15

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ATTACHMENT I

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DIA INTELLIGENCE APPRAISAL

Enemy Reactions to Operation TOAN THANG 01/71 (U)

1. (SS) There were no significant enemy relocations during the past 24 hours.

2. (SS) There are indications that an alert facility has been established in Chup/Dambe area. The newly activated watch net has been noted communicating with elements of all three VC/NVA divisions in that vicinity. The establishment of such an alert facility in the Chup/Dambe area suggests the enemy may require a more effective system for providing early warning of ARVN operations in order to avoid contact and reduce casualties. It may also indicate a renewed effort to increase resistance to future RVNAF offensive activity.

SANITIZED
(b)(3):10 USC 424

3. (SS) [redacted] an unidentified entity in the vicinity of Chup requested a station near Kamchay Mea to take care of a southbound group, probably North Vietnamese infiltrators. The reasons given were: they are all "new hands" and "they are carrying a great deal of important supplies." Apparently, the enemy is attempting to move personnel and supplies south, through the TOAN THANG operational area.

Approved by:

[redacted]

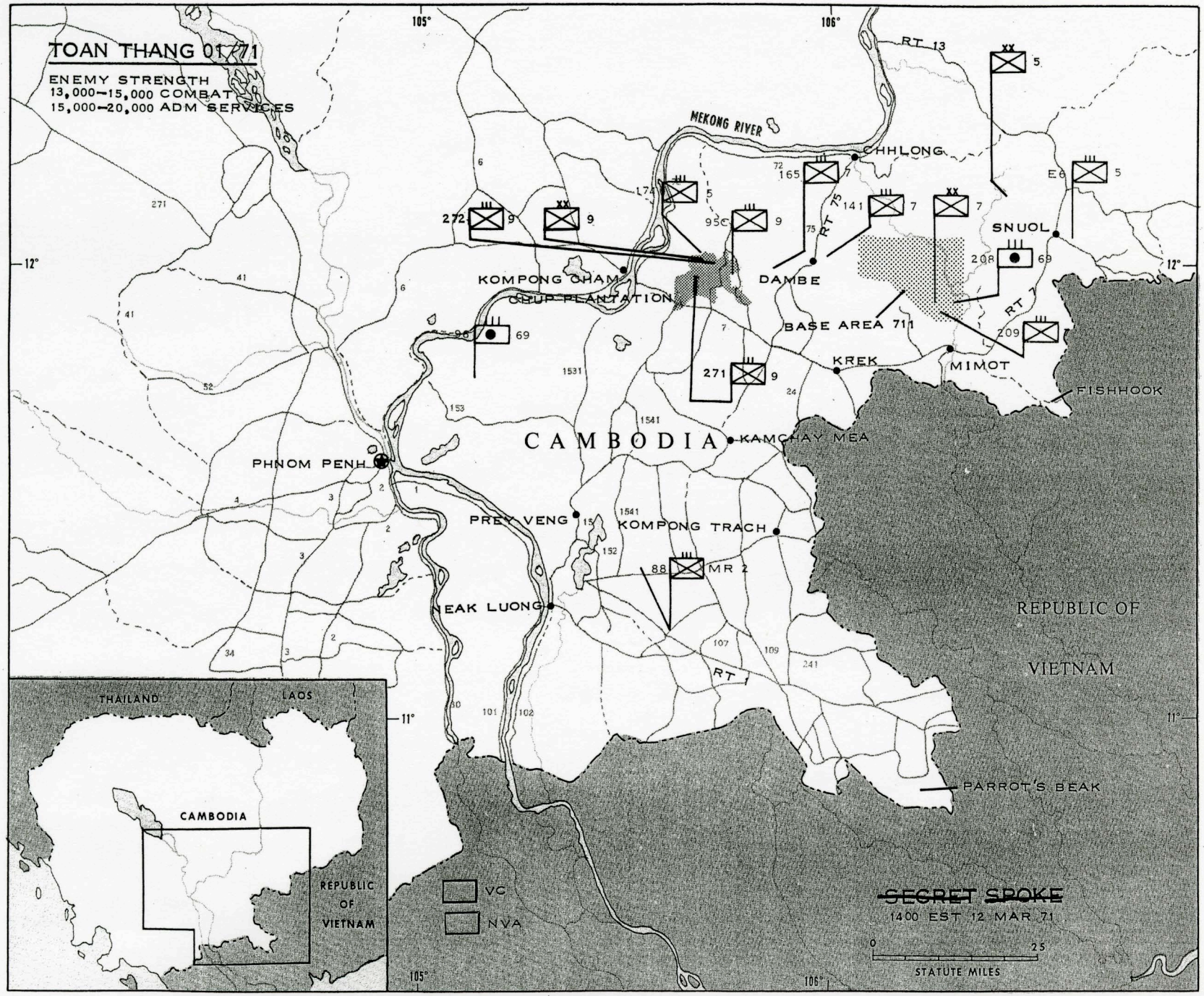
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(b)(3):10 USC 424

Attachment 2

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: 130600-140600 Saigon time.
OUTLOOK: 140600-150600 Saigon time.

NVN PANHANDLE - AREA 1:

COASTAL - Overcast, ceiling 1000 feet, visibility 6 miles occasionally 1 mile in rain/drizzle and fog.

MOUNTAINS - Cloudy occasionally overcast, ceiling 1000 feet AGL, visibility 1/2 to 4 miles in rain/drizzle and fog.

OUTLOOK - Little change.

NORTHERN SOUTH VIETNAM - AREA 2:

COASTAL - Cloudy, ceiling 3000 feet occasionally 1000 feet, visibility 7 miles occasionally 2 to 3 miles in rain/drizzle.

MOUNTAINS - Cloudy, ceiling 1000 feet AGL occasionally 4000 feet. Visibility 7 miles occasionally 1 to 3 miles in rain/drizzle and fog. Between 130600-1000 and 140500-0600 Saigon time broken stratus, 200 to 500 feet AGL and fog, visibility 1/2 to 2 miles.

OUTLOOK - Little change.

KHE SANH - AREA 3:

Cloudy occasionally overcast, ceiling 1000 feet AGL, visibility 6 miles in haze occasionally 1 to 3 miles rain showers. Between 130600-1000 and 140400-0600 Saigon time, broken stratus, 200 to 500 feet AGL and fog, visibility 1/2 to 2 miles.

OUTLOOK - Little change.

TCHEPONE - AREA 4:

Cloudy occasionally partly cloudy, ceiling 5000 feet occasionally unlimited, visibility 5 to 7 miles in haze. Between 130600-1100 and 140500-0600 Saigon time, in valleys, patchy broken stratus, 500 feet AGL and fog/haze, visibility 1/2 to 4 miles.

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OUTLOOK - Little change.

CHUP PLANTATION - AREA 5:

Mostly clear, ceiling unlimited, visibility 5 to 7 miles in haze. Between 130600-1000 Saigon time, visibility 3 to 4 miles in haze.

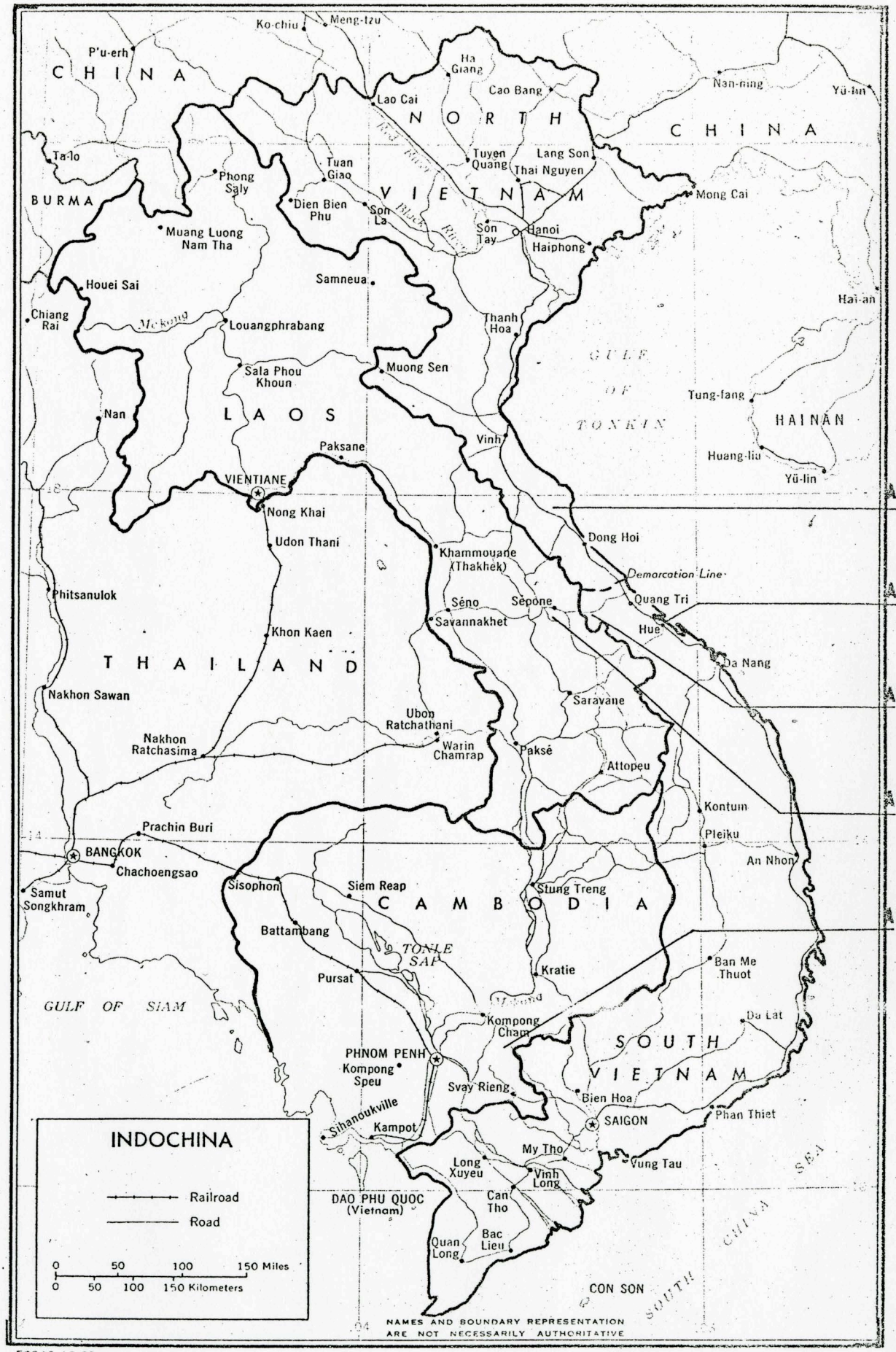
OUTLOOK - Little change.

NOTE: All cloud heights are given in feet Above Mean Sea Level, except those indicating AGL (Above Ground Level).

Attachment
Map

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