

055174

~~FILE~~ ~~CAMB~~ ~~FILE~~ ~~SUBJ.~~
 DATE SUB-CAT.
 7/70

SUBJ: Possible Activation of the 11th NVA/VC/Red Khmer Division,
Cambodia. (U)

CDEC LOG NO.
11-1557-70

(C-Jan 71) Item 1: (14 pages, photocopy; B-3) Notebook, with entries dated from 30 Jun to 3 Jul 70, maintained by an unidentified member ((possibly of the 1st Company of an unspecified battalion of the 217th Regiment, 11th NVA/VC/Red Khmer Division)), contains personnel rosters ((4 pages)); information on the situation and activities of his company ((4 pages)); and miscellaneous notes.

17 Jul 70
 VU765613,
 Kompong Chhnang
 Prov
 Cambodia
 FANK
 Batch No.
 FD-31-10-001
 Received CDEC
 10 Nov 70
 Category: A

Entry, dated 31 Jun 70, reveals that the author's company was confronted with considerable difficulties in ((political and military)) training due to the language barrier between its members ((NVA/VC and Cambodian Liberation Army troops)).

Entry, dated 3 Jul 70, relates that the members of the author's company were to study the documents related to the situation in Cambodia from 18 Mar to the end of Jun 70. These documents were originated by COSVN and the Military Affairs Party Committee of Headquarters, SVNLA. Their mission was to intensify attacks on the enemy ((US, RVNAF, and Royal Cambodian troops)) in Cambodia. The 11th ((NVA/VC/Red Khmer)) Division was activated to operate in the Northern part ((of Cambodia)). The author's regiment was designated as the 217th Regiment, subordinate to the 11th ((NVA/VC/Red Khmer)) Division. It was to attack an unstated objective, and would depart from its base camp ((on 7 Jul 70)).

The author's company was composed of B1 and B2 ((platoons)) and Company Headquarters. It had 13 Party members, including five Cambodians and one Chinese.

The names of 12 members of B1, 12 members of B2, and 14 members of Company Headquarters are listed in the document.

(C-Jan 71) Item 2: (11 pages, photocopy; B-3) Notebook, with undated entries, maintained by an unidentified member ((possibly of the 1st Company, see Item 1)), contains personnel rosters listing the names of various Outstanding Emulators of the author's company ((2 pages)), and notes on the situation of the author's battalion ((9 pages)).

The document reveals that the author's battalion was originally a sapper battalion subordinate to an unspecified brigade which was assigned to develop the "international revolution" ((possibly meaning the revolutionary movement in Cambodia)). Although just recently activated ((possibly the author's brigade)), it was credited with brilliant combat achievements, especially during an attack on Kompong Thom ((City, Cambodia)) on an unspecified date.

The composition of the author's battalion was heterogeneous. Its members were from various arms and of different nations. They were not well-trained and were not spiritually prepared for their missions. The language problem between the Vietnamese ((VC/NVA)) and Khmer ((Cambodian Liberation Army)) troops was to be settled by the use of Vietnamese residents in Cambodia as interpreters.

To intensify military operations to pave the way for the ((final)) victory of "K" ((possibly meaning the Cambodian revolution)), the author's brigade was expanded and reorganized into one division designated as the 11th ((NVA/VC/Red Khmer)) Division, composed of infantry and specialized elements. The regiment ((of the 11th NVA/VC/Red Khmer Division)) to which the author was assigned was designated as the 217th Regiment.

The document also contains an excerpt from an unspecified resolution ((possibly adopted by the Military Affairs Party Committee, Headquarters, SVNIA)) ((1 page)). The resolution states that the enemy launched his cross-border operations ((in Apr 70)) to destroy friendly ((VC/NVA)) base camps and logistical facilities ((in the SVN - Cambodia border area)), and cut friendly supply lines ((from NVN)) in an attempt to drive friendly troops out of Cambodia. These operations were intended to negate an agreement reached between Sihanouk ((possibly meaning the former Royal Cambodian Government headed by Sihanouk)) and the friendly side ((NVN Government)) in which Sihanouk agreed to provide economic aid ((to the VC/NVA troops)). Despite the above scheme, the enemy experienced considerable difficulties in Cambodia. To date ((possibly early Jul 70)), more than 60 cities and four provinces were liberated ((by the VC, NVA, and Cambodian Liberation troops)), and Phnom Penh ((Capital)) was besieged. The primary missions ((possibly of subordinate forces of Headquarters, SVNIA, operating in Cambodia)) were to develop revolutionary organizations at all levels and destroy enemy troops.

Item 2

(U) Item 3: (13 pages, photocopy; B-3) Notebook, with entries dated from 27 Jun to 3 Jul 70, maintained by Đinh Văn Hoà, Assistant Company Political Officer of C1 ((possibly the 1st Company of an unspecified battalion of the 217th Regiment, 11th NVA/VC/Red Khmer Division)), contains notes on the biographical data of an unidentified Cambodian teacher in the Thlok Rien area ((possibly in Kompong Thom Province, Cambodia)) ((2 pages)); five oaths of the Cambodian Liberation Army ((1 page)); personnel rosters ((3 pages)); and notes on routine activities of C1 ((7 pages)).

The names of 47 members of C1, including Cambodians, were listed in the document. Key cadre included Lê Văn Bình and Đặng Văn Sôn, Company Executive Officers; Đoàn Xuân Trác and Đinh Văn Hoà, Assistant Company Political Officers; and Trần Xuân Hiệp, Company Commander.

Most of the NVA personnel on this roster infiltrated SVN in 1967, 1968, and 1969. The Cambodians enlisted in Apr and Jun 70.

CDEC COMMENT: (C) The above document provides the first indication at CDEC of the possible existence of the 217th Regiment and the 11th NVA/VC/Red Khmer Division. As stated in Item 2, this newly activated division is composed of personnel from various arms, and different nations. Correlation of the CI roster with CDEC Personality Files indicates that Lê Văn Bình was previously identified as Executive Officer of the 4th Company, 1st Infantry Battalion, 95B NVA Regiment of B3 Front.