

05-2133-70

SUBJ: (C) Report on the Situation on the Vietnamese-Cambodian Border in March 1970. Border Defense Unit, Armed Security Regiment, Security Section, COSVN.

(C) (10 pages, handwritten, B-3) Situation report, undated, prepared by a member of Đới 7 BP ((possibly aka Border Defense Unit of Đoàn 180, aka Armed Security Regiment, Security Section, COSVN)), pertains to the situation of Đới 7 in Mar 70. Document first outlines activities of the US and Puppet ((RVNAF)), forces on the Vam Cỏ Đông River, and in the Bả Tra and Bền ((ferry landing site)) Tháp areas from 23 Feb to 24 Mar 70. One member of C23 was wounded in an airstrike on 2 Mar 70 while transporting rice, on the Vam Cỏ Đông River. On 12 Mar 70, Comrades Sau Độ and Ba Thắng ((of Đới 7 BP)) were informed by CPT Chut of Bả Tra Post ((in Cambodia)) that according to an order from the Cambodian Revolutionary Government, all friendly ((VC/NVA)) units were to withdraw from Cambodia before 15 Mar 70. Many meetings were held between representatives of Đới 7 (Comrades Sau Độ, Chin Hoc, Ba Thắng, and Thông) and the local Cambodian authorities from 12 to 19 Mar 70. The local Cambodian authorities suggested to Đới 7 that this unit move one or two elements out of the local area temporarily. However, cadre of Đới 7 were reluctant to move their elements and said that Đới 7 was waiting for orders from ((VC/NVA)) higher headquarters. During the cited period, the local Cambodian forces conducted a sweep operation in the ((VC/NVA)) base area, but no engagements were reported. On 17 Mar 70, the main element of the local Cambodian force withdrew to the Cây Giầu area, and left 10 Cambodian Popular Force members at the Ta Ki area. This element moved out of this area on 19 Mar 70. According to a report prepared by Xiéc, Commander of the ((Cambodian)) Ta Ki Post, on 24 Mar 70, the ((VC/NVA)) units were still in the local area ((possibly in the vicinity of the Vietnamese-Cambodian Border)).

Document also records the personnel and weapons status of Ta Ki Post, and states that Đới 7 had increased

patrols in Area 1, especially in critical areas such as Bền Tháp and the Vietnamese quarters. Concerning shortcomings of friendly ((VC/NVA)) units operating in this area, document reveals that B100 of C23 ((possibly subordinate to Đới 7 BP)) and C84 of Đới 7 lost four AK's on 7 and 17 Feb 70 ((cause unspecified)). Document also reveals that since the coup d'etat staged by General Lon Nol, the situation on the ((Vietnamese-Cambodian)) border had remained calm, and that relations between the Cambodian local authorities and friendly units remained unchanged. The commander of Ta Ki Post and Cambodian Buddhists appeared to side with the Sihanouk clique. Local ((Cambodian)) nationals were afraid of a fierce war, and always listened to Khỏ Me ((Cambodian)) language broadcasts on the ((Red)) Chinese and ((VC)) Liberation Radio networks instead of to the Phnom-Penh Radio broadcasts.

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