

SA 99 B-354

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

16 MAR 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT  
FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: - Vietnam Post Cease-fire Report, 1600 EST, 16 March 1973

Prisoners of War (PW)

- US Prisoners. Thirty-two US prisoners (27 military and five civilian) were released at Gia Lam Airport in Hanoi at 0045 EST on 16 March and subsequently arrived at Clark Air Force Base at 0340 EST, 16 March.

The 110 men released on 14 and 16 March are continuing their debriefings, medical examinations and administrative processing. There are no anticipated evacuation delays for the returnees. Three C-141 aeromedevac flights are scheduled to return 59 men to CONUS hospitals. Estimated time of arrival for these flights are as follows: Andrews AFB, Maryland 17/1540 EST; Maxwell AFB, Alabama 17/1715 EST; and March AFB, California 17/1545 EST.

One hundred forty-seven US military and civilian prisoners of war acknowledged on DRV, PRG and PLF lists remain to be repatriated.

The PW Subcommittee of the FPJMC did not meet on 16 March, but is scheduled to meet again on the 17th.

The following chart shows the status of returned prisoners as of 0600 EST 16 March.

	Reported for <u>Release</u>	Returned to <u>US Control</u>		At <u>JHRC</u>	Enroute or at CONUS <u>Hospital</u>	Processing <u>Completed</u>
		<u>NVN</u>	<u>SVN</u>			
<u>Military</u>						
Army	76	0	58	19	23	16
Navy	137	114	0	32	52	31
Air Force	325	227	2	74	83	73
Marine Corps	26	8	13	11	9	1
Military Total	564	349	73	136	167	121
Civilian	24	1	16	6	4	7
Total	588	350	89	142	171	128

DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 12356, Sect. 3.4  
NSC F9301187 10/4/93; DOD I-93/54551 10/28/93  
By WKO NARA, Date 1/25/94  
SA 99

COPY 1 OF 7 COPIES.

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- Enemy Prisoners. As of 16 March, a total of 15,295 EPWs (7,448 VC, 7,504 NVA, and 343 Regroupees) had been released/repatriated. This includes 900 VC EPWs who were moved to Thien Ngon and Quang Tri repatriation points from Phu Quoc Island on 16 March. An additional 10,980 VC EPWs have previously been released by the GVN under the "New Life" program. The grand total of EPW releases/repatriations to date is 26,275. The GVN plans to release an additional 3,801 EPWs during the period 17 through 19 March. For the 17 March repatriation, the GVN has requested US airlift of 1,101 EPWs from the CPWC to three sites (Camp Evans in MR 1 and Tay Ninh and Bien Hoa in MR 3).

There are 11,062 EPWs interned in five operational camps in SVN. The majority (10,356) are interned at the Central PW Camp on Phu Quoc Island. The remainder are located in PW camps at Bien Hoa (634), Da Nang (54), Qui Nhon (2), and Can Tho (16). Included in the total are 2,146 NVA, 8,586 Viet Cong, and 330 Regroupees.

Withdrawal and Redeployment of US/FWMAF Forces. The final increment of the Phase III US troop withdrawals began after the 32 US prisoners were released in Hanoi on 16 March.

	<u>In-Country</u> <u>27 January</u>	<u>Reported Withdrawn</u> <u>by 16 March</u>	<u>To Be</u> <u>Withdrawn</u>
US	23,516	16,902	6,433*
ROK	35,396	35,152	244**

\*Excludes DAO and Embassy Marine Security Guard personnel who will remain in SVN beyond X+60 and other personnel who were on leave, TDY and R&R outside the RVN at cease-fire, who did not subsequently return to the RVN but have not previously been dropped from strength reports.

\*\*The withdrawal of ROK forces is complete except for the roll-up force which will redeploy on 23 March 1973.

Assistance to the GVN. No significant developments since the last report.

Defense Attache Office (DAO). The number of DAO civilian positions either filled or committed by name is now 1,099 of the 1,200 authorized.

Four Party Joint Military Commission (FPJMC). The Central Commission of the FPJMC met on 16 March. The DRV and PRG representatives formally protested the alleged assault on a DRV liaison officer on 15 March, while

he was accompanying the ICCS team investigating the Duc Pho incident. The remainder of the meeting was spent reaching an agreement on two more parts of the eleven point draft agreement on security, freedom of movement and privileges and immunities of FPJMC delegations. The Chiefs of the delegations agreed to refer the eleven point draft to the Operational Procedures Subcommittee for final drafting before official appraisal. The FPJMC Central Commission is scheduled to meet again on 19 March.

The following is a recapitulation of US/RVN/DRV/PRG deployments to date:

	<u>US</u>	<u>RVN</u>	<u>DRV</u>	<u>PRG</u>
Saigon	147	184	264	140
Region I	65	78	0	0
Region II	96	88	0	0
Region III	111	112	133	0
Region IV	76	82	88	46
Region V	107	102	46	5
Region VI	67	77	73	5
Region VII	<u>127</u>	<u>102</u>	<u>120</u>	<u>7</u>
Total	<u>796</u>	<u>825</u>	<u>724</u>	<u>203</u>
Authorized--Not Currently Filled	(29)	(0)	(101)	(622)

International Commission of Control and Supervision (ICCS). ICCS PW Teams observed the outprocessing of US prisoners at Hanoi and of the PRG prisoners from Phu Quoc Island. In addition, other teams monitored the release of PRG and RVN prisoners at Quang Tri in Region I and at Thien Ngon in Region I.

The following is a recapitulation of ICCS deployments to date:

	<u>Canada</u>	<u>Hungary</u>	<u>Indonesia</u>	<u>Poland</u>
Saigon	138	145	144	140
Region I	19	14	19	23
Region II	17	13	21	15
Region III	29	27	30	41
Region IV	13	13	13	17
Region V	24	20	25	21
Region VI	12	13	17	15
Region VII	<u>25</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>18</u>
Total	<u>277</u>	<u>260</u>	<u>289</u>	<u>290</u>
Authorized--Not Currently Filled	(13)	(30)	(1)	(0)

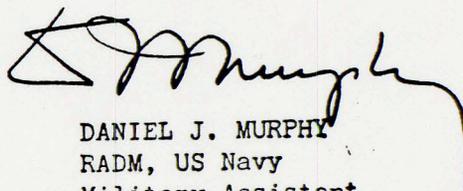
Mine Countermeasures. Airborne mine countermeasures units flew 18 sorties for 57.0 flight hours and 37.6 effective sweep hours in the Haiphong and Hon Gai areas. No mine detonations were observed.

The Subcommittee on Coastal Waterways met on 21 March 1973 in Haiphong. The discussions centered on the positioning of Task Force 78 helicopter control ships in the Haiphong and Hon Gai areas. On Thursday, 22 March 1973, the Inland Waterways Subcommittee is scheduled to inspect the proposed training site and facilities to be used in training DRV personnel in inland waterways mine clearing procedures.

The Soviet surveillance vessel AGI BAROGRAF remains in the area of Task Force 78.

Cease-fire Violations. Nineteen major and 129 minor violations were reported during the period 210701-220700 EST March 1973. The distribution of major violations by Military Region was: MR 1 - 6; MR 2 - 2; MR 3 - 4; and MR 4 - 7. A total of 198 enemy and 37 friendly personnel were reported killed during the period. A description of selected major violations and charts depicting trends in major and minor violations and casualties are attached.

Intelligence. A DIA summary of the Indochina situation is appended.



DANIEL J. MURPHY  
RADM, US Navy  
Military Assistant

### RVN Major Cease-fire Violations

(C) During the period 210701-220700 EST March 1973, 19 major cease-fire violations were reported. The significant violations are described below:

#### Military Region 1

(C) Six major cease-fire violations were reported. The significant violation is described below:

At 210450 EST March, elements of an ARVN infantry battalion, 15 miles northwest of Tam Ky, received an attack by fire consisting of 20 mortar rounds followed by a ground attack. Enemy losses are unknown. Friendly losses were two ARVN soldiers killed and two wounded.

#### Military Region 2

(C) Two major cease-fire violations were reported; however, neither were significant.

#### Military Region 3

(C) Four major cease-fire violations were reported. The significant violations are described below:

During the period 211830-212200 EST March, RVNAF elements in the vicinity of Tonle Cham received two enemy attacks by fire consisting of 200 rounds of mixed ordnance. There were no friendly losses reported.

#### Military Region 4

(C) Seven major cease-fire violations were reported. The significant violations are described below:

At 202110 EST March, elements of an ARVN infantry battalion, 10 miles northeast of Chau Duc, received a ground attack by an enemy force. Enemy losses were 101 soldiers killed and one detained. Friendly losses were nine ARVN soldiers killed and 22 wounded.

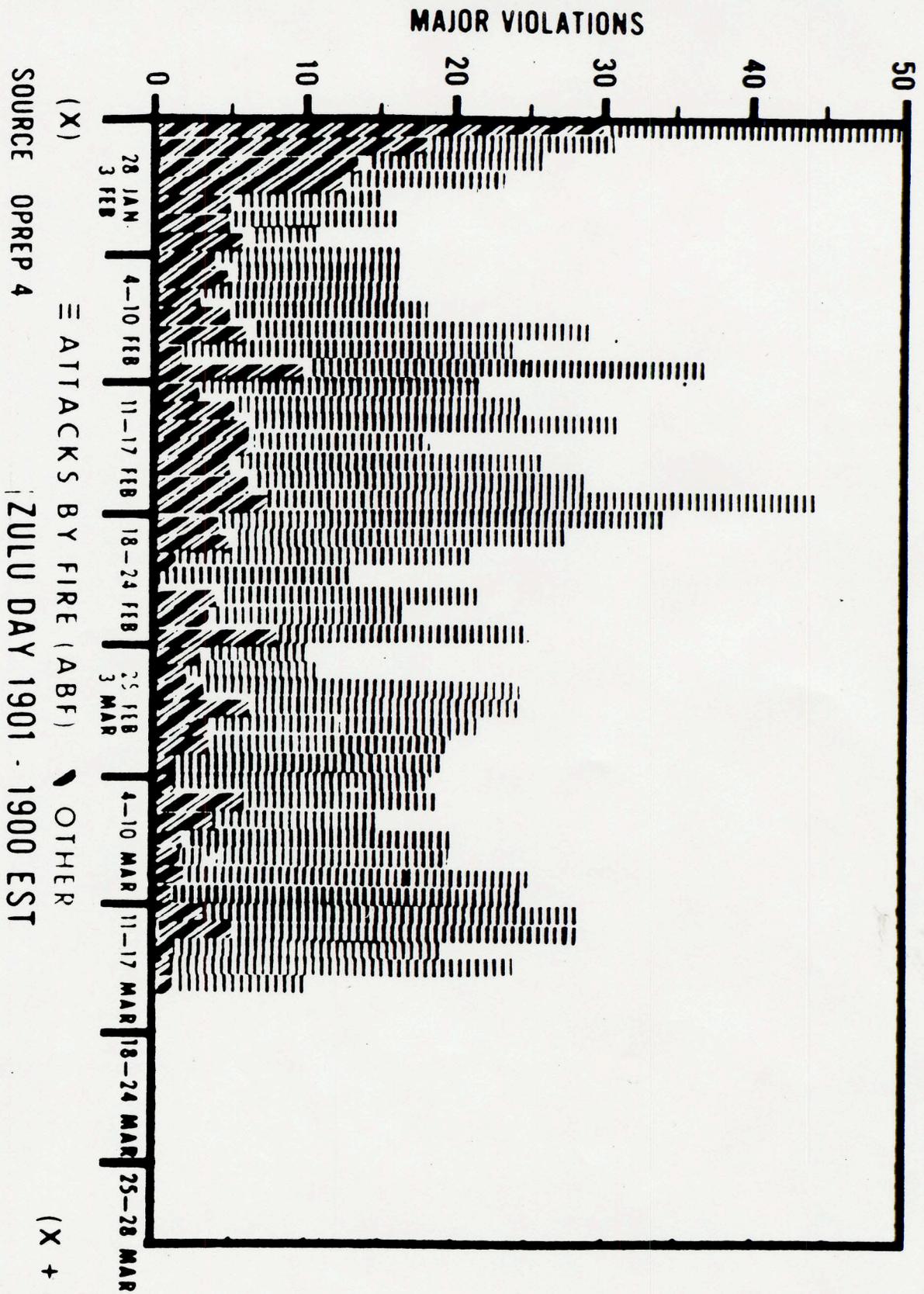
At 201740 EST March, elements of an ARVN infantry battalion, 14 miles northwest of My Tho, received a ground attack by an enemy force. Enemy losses were 47 soldiers killed. Friendly losses were four ARVN soldiers killed and eight wounded.

MILITARY REGION 4

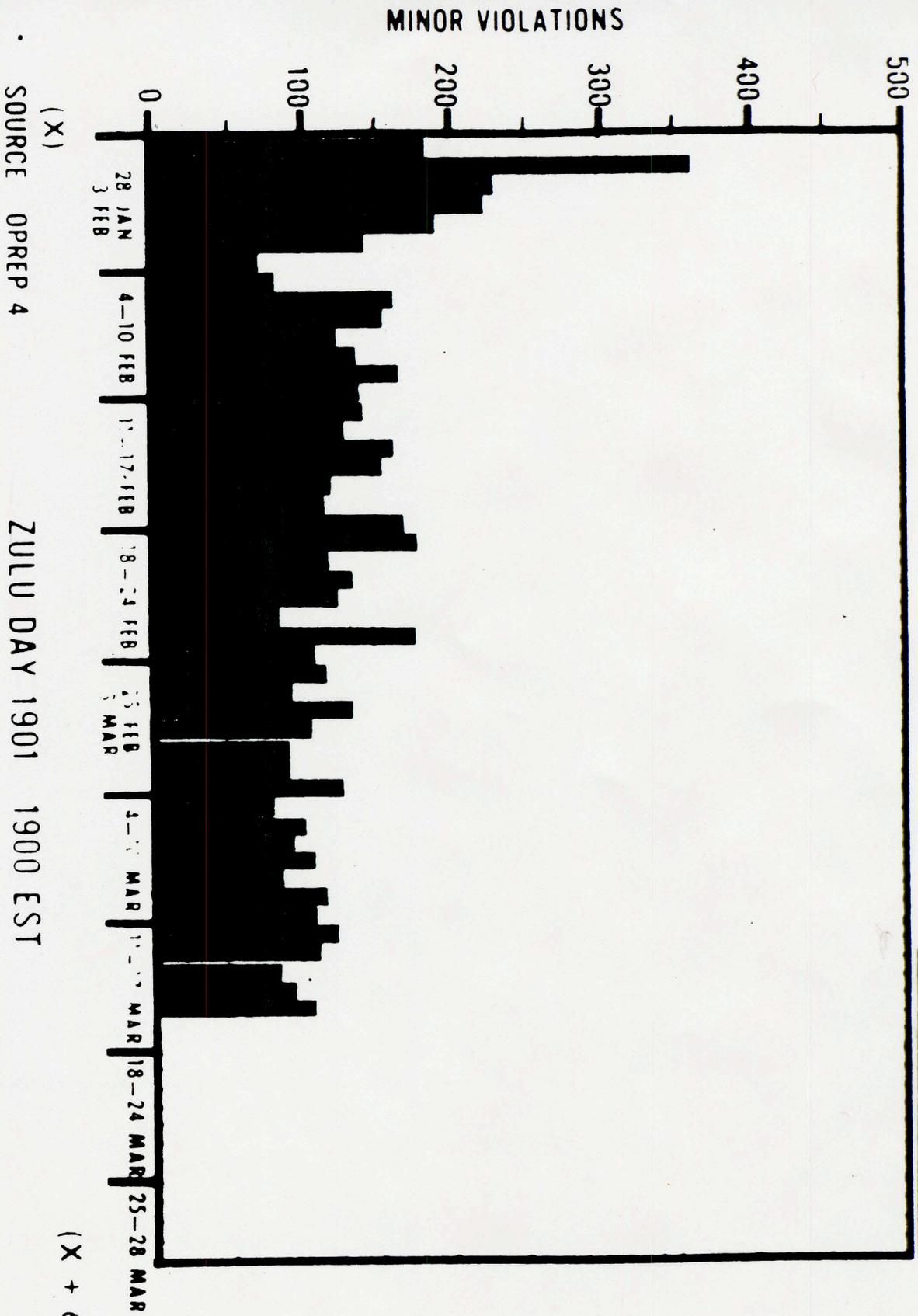
During the period 150701 to 160700 EST March, five major cease-fire violations were reported in Military Region 4. The most significant violation is described below:

At 150930 EST March, 14 miles southwest of Chau Duc, elements of an ARVN armored cavalry squadron and a ranger battalion received an enemy ABF. Results were two ARVN soldiers killed and 11 wounded in action.

# RVN MAJOR CEASE FIRE VIOLATIONS TREND



# RVN MINOR CEASE FIRE VIOLATIONS TREND

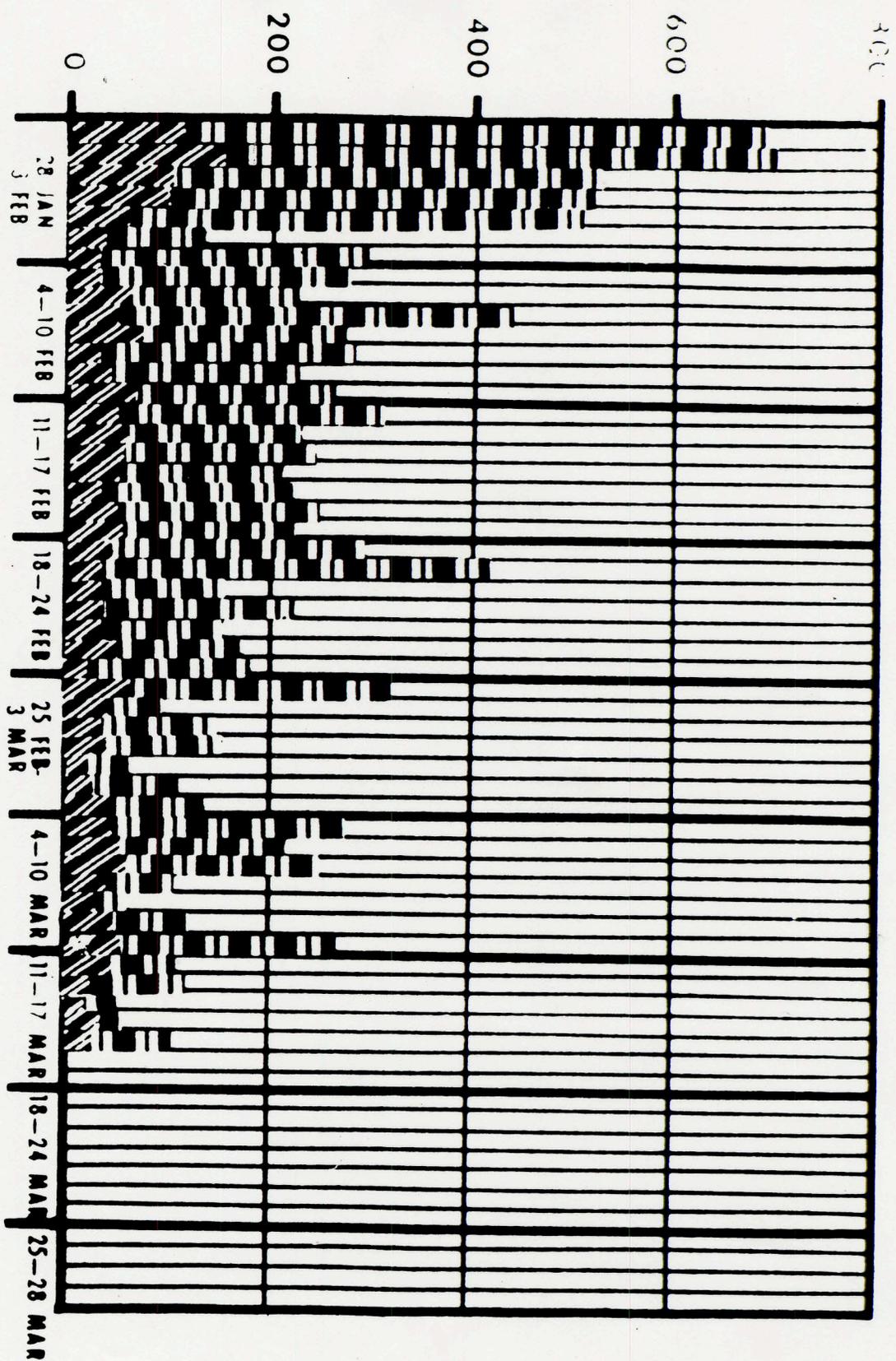


(X)

(X + 60)

# POST CEASE FIRE CASUALTIES (KIA)

## VC NVA-RVN



SOURCE MACV OPRFP 4

VC NVA

RVN

INDOCHINA SITUATION

16 March 1973

ENEMY FORCES

There have been no major enemy unit deployments detected in Indochina since the last report. Maps will be provided when significant changes occur.

SOUTH VIETNAM

CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS

MILITARY REGION	TOTAL SINCE CEASE-FIRE LEVEL OF ACTION			LAST 24 HOURS* LEVEL OF ACTION		
	SER	MAJ	MIN	SER	MAJ (**)	MIN
MR 1	0	572	2,070	0	17 ( 8)	14
MR 2	0	130	761	0	0 ( 0)	8
MR 3	0	142	1,186	0	8 ( 5)	19
MR 4	0	239	2,370	0	5 ( 1)	47
TOTALS	0	1,083	6,387	0	30 (14)	88

\*Included in totals.

\*\*Number of major violations which occurred prior to the last 24 hours.

The number of major violations during the reporting period was 30, 11 more than the previous reporting period. The major violations consisted of two assassinations, two ground attacks, three attacks-by-fire followed by ground attacks, and 23 attacks-by-fire. The number of minor violations was 88, a reduction of 19 from the previous reporting period.

In MR 1, a JMC UH-1H received an estimated 40 rounds of small-arms fire while attempting to land about eight

miles southwest of Tam Ky. Also in MR 1 about ten miles west of Hoi An, the Phong Nhi Hamlet Chief was assassinated. In MR 3 about 30 miles southeast of Tri Tam, the Troung Van Vauc Hamlet Chief was assassinated.

ENEMY INTENTIONS

No change

SECURITY AND POLITICAL SITUATION

No significant developments during reporting period.

LAOS

CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS

There were eight enemy initiated attacks south of Thakhek on 13 and 14 March, the most significant involving a battalion-size enemy force.

ENEMY INTENTIONS

No change

SECURITY AND POLITICAL SITUATION

Enemy units are reacting sharply to government security operations south of Thakhek. Two irregular battalions were recently deployed to the area to assist four other units striving to establish effective government control over villages south of the provincial capital. This area has long been under the influence of the Pathet Lao, and many of the villages in the area are composed of ethnic Vietnamese. At least one North Vietnamese battalion is believed to be operating in the area, assisted by the local Pathet Lao elements. Overland communications with Savannakhet have been threatened for some time by these enemy forces. In order to secure Route 13 to the south, the government must have effective control of the villages in this area.

CAMBODIA

ENEMY INTENTIONS

No change

## SECURITY AND POLITICAL SITUATION

Government forces have made small gains along Route 2, 14 miles south of the capital. Further south, the Cambodian relief force, which is attacking east from Tram Khnar, toward the Chambak area, has made little progress since the initial four-mile advance on 13 March. Two additional battalions have been committed to the operation bringing to six the number of battalions in the relief force.

## LOGISTICAL DEVELOPMENTS

The North Vietnamese are about to undertake another major transportation effort in the Laos panhandle and northwestern South Vietnam beginning on 15 March and lasting until 31 May, the end of the current dry season. The area believed to be the scene for this logistic effort includes the road network in the Laos panhandle south of the entry corridors from North Vietnam, and along areas of the Lao-South Vietnamese border. Rear service units have apparently recently concluded such an effort, conducted principally through the Ban Karai Pass. Units within the logistic system are probably now preparing for the coming push. ~~METHOD~~ detections are reflecting a decrease in truck movements along the entry corridors. Since early March there have been indications that vehicles are returning to North Vietnam to prepare for the new effort. The initial stages of the March-May logistic surge will include engineer efforts to improve ford and bridge crossings and upgrading of road surfaces in Laos to facilitate truck movements. The type and quantity of cargo to be transported has not been identified.

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT  
FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: Vietnam Post Cease-fire Report, 1600 EST, 17 March 1973

Prisoners of War (PW)

- US Prisoners. Three C-141 aeromedevac flights are en route to CONUS with 60 returnees. Arrival times (EST) today are estimated as follows: Andrews AFB (1540); March AFB (1545); and Maxwell AFB (1630).

At the PW Subcommittee meeting today, the US Delegation proposed a special meeting to discuss the return of remains of KIA or PW who died in captivity. DRV and PRG delegates proposed the meeting be held sometime during the week of 19-24 March 1973. The next meeting of the PW Subcommittee is scheduled for 19 March.

The following chart shows the status of returned prisoners as of 0600 EST 17 March.

	Reported for <u>Release</u>	Returned to <u>US Control</u>	At <u>JHRC</u>	Enroute or at CONUS <u>Hospital</u>	<u>Processing Completed</u>
<u>Military</u>		<u>NVN/PRC</u>	<u>SVN</u>		
Army	76	0	58	19	16
Navy	137	115	0	14	36
Air Force	325	228	2	34	79
Marine Corps	26	8	13	10	1
Military Total	<u>564</u>	<u>351</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>77</u>	<u>132</u>
Civilian	24	1	16	5	7
Total	<u>588</u>	<u>352</u>	<u>89</u>	<u>82</u>	<u>139</u>

- Enemy Prisoners. As of 17 March, a total of 17,493 EPWs (9,045 VC, 8,105 NVA, 343 Regroupees) had been released/repatriated. This includes 1,597 VC EPW and 601 NVA EPW who were released/repatriated during the 16-17 March period. An additional 10,980 VC EPW have previously been released under the GVN 'New Life' program. The grand total of EPW releases/repatriations to date is 28,473.

DECLASSIFIED

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NSC F9301187 10/4/93; DOD I-93/54551 10/28/93

By                      NARA, Date 1/25/94

SA 99

Sec Def Cont Nr. X-1114

Cy 1

There remain 9,664 EPWs interned in five operational camps in SVN. The majority (8,955) are interned at the Central Prisoner of War Camp on Phu Quoc Island. The remainder are located in PW camps at Bien Hoa (637), Da Nang (54), Qui Nhon (2), and Can Tho (16). Included in the total are 2,148 NVA, 7,186 Viet Cong, and 330 Regroupees.

During the PW Subcommittee meeting on 17 March, GVN and PRG agreed upon the Phase IV releases of PWs to take place during the period 20-25 March (6,239 PRG PWs will be released and 1,253 GVN PWs will be returned).

Withdrawal and Redeployment of US/FWMAF Forces. The movement of increment three is complete. Increment four is in hold status except for emergency leaves and other approved exceptions.

	<u>In-Country</u> <u>27 January</u>	<u>Reported Withdrawn</u> <u>by 17 March</u>	<u>To Be</u> <u>Withdrawn</u>
US	23,516	17,208	6,127*
ROK	35,396	35,152	244**

\*Excludes DAO and Embassy Marine Security Guard personnel who will remain in SVN beyond X+60 and other personnel who were on leave, TDY and R&R outside the RVN at cease-fire, who did not subsequently return to the RVN but have not previously been dropped from strength reports.

\*\*The withdrawal of ROK forces is complete except for the roll-up force which will redeploy on 23 March 1973.

Assistance to the GVN. No significant developments since the last report.

Defense Attache Office (DAO). The number of DAO civilian positions either filled or committed by name is now 1,102 of the 1,200 authorized.

Four Party Joint Military Commission (FPJMC). The Central Commission of the FPJMC met in a special session requested by the GVN to discuss alleged PRG/DRV cease-fire violations in Binh Duong and Tay Ninh Provinces. The GVN accused the PRG of repeated large-scale attacks at Tong-le-chon and Rach Bap and requested a FPJMC investigation. The US supported the GVN. The PRG, supported by the DRV, blocked the request and a subsequent request for an ICCS investigation. The GVN then announced it would make a unilateral request for an ICCS investigation. The Central Commission will reconvene on 19 March.

The following is a recapitulation of US/RVN/DRV/PRG deployments to date:

	<u>US</u>	<u>RVN</u>	<u>DRV</u>	<u>PRG</u>
Saigon	148	184	264	140
Region I	65	78	0	0
Region II	96	88	0	0
Region III	111	112	133	0
Region IV	76	82	88	46
Region V	107	102	46	5
Region VI	67	77	73	5
Region VII	<u>127</u>	<u>102</u>	<u>120</u>	<u>7</u>
Total	<u>797</u>	<u>825</u>	<u>724</u>	<u>203</u>
Authorized--Not Currently Filled	(28)	(0)	(101)	(622)

(U) International Commission of Control and Supervision (ICCS). ICCS PW teams observed the outprocessing of PRG PWs at Phu Quoc and their release at Loc Ninh, Thien Ngon, and Quang Tri. They also observed the return of RVN PWs at Quang Tri.

Major Muljono, of the Indonesian Delegation, died on 16 March 1973 as a result of injuries sustained when he fell from the 2nd floor of the ICCS headquarters building. His body has been returned to Indonesia.

It is reported that the DRV has deposited its initial payment of 4.5 million French francs for ICCS support and the PRG's payment is expected shortly.

The following is a recapitulation of ICCS deployments to date:

	<u>Canada</u>	<u>Hungary</u>	<u>Indonesia</u>	<u>Poland</u>
Saigon	144	143	141	137
Region I	19	14	19	23
Region II	16	13	21	15
Region III	29	27	30	41
Region IV	13	13	13	17
Region V	24	22	28	23
Region VI	12	13	17	15
Region VII	<u>20</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>19</u>
Total	<u>277</u>	<u>260</u>	<u>289</u>	<u>290</u>
Authorized--Not Currently Filled	(13)	(30)	(1)	(0)

Mine Countermeasures. Airborne mine countermeasure units flew 32.6 hours on 12 sorties and completed 22.8 effective sweep hours in the Haiphong area on 16 March. One detonation evaluated as a MK-36 self-destruction was observed in the Lach Huyen Channel area.

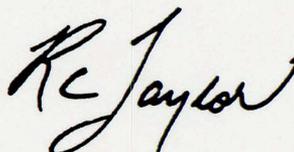
The Airfield Support Subcommittee and the Coastal Subcommittee met on 16 March. Considerable progress was reported during the Airfield Support Subcommittee meeting as tentative agreements were reached regarding security, airfield repair and preparation, aircraft control procedures, communications and emergency procedures. During the Coastal Subcommittee meeting, the DRV agreed to the commencement of MCM operations in the Hon Gai area but did not want RAYDIST antennas installed. Both surface and airborne sweeping operations are planned for this area on 17 March. Without the RAYDIST installation, operations will use shipboard based air controllers.

The Soviet surveillance vessels ANEROID and BAROGRAP continue operations in the vicinity of TF 78.

Cease-fire Violations. Fifteen major and 126 minor violations were reported during the period 160701-170700 EST March. The distribution of major violations by Military Region was: MR 1 - 5; MR 2 - 2; MR 3 - 4; and MR 4 - 4. A total of 65 enemy and 13 friendly personnel were reported killed during the period. A description of major violations and charts depicting trends in major and minor violations and casualties are attached.

Intelligence. A DIA summary covering the Indochina situation is appended.

Late Item. The Homecoming flight scheduled for Andrews AFB was diverted to Scott AFB due to weather. The flight arrived at Scott AFB at 1450 EST.



Robert C. Taylor  
Colonel, USAF  
Military Assistant

## RVN Major Cease-fire Violations

### Military Region 1

During the period 160701 to 170700 EST March, five major cease-fire violations were reported in Military Region 1. None was significant.

### Military Region 2

During the period 160701 to 170700 EST March, two major cease-fire violations were reported in Military Region 2. The significant violation is described below:

At 152050 EST March, 15 miles southwest of Pleiku, elements of an ARVN ranger battalion received an enemy attack by fire (ABF) of 27 rounds of 82mm mortar fire. Friendly losses were one soldier killed and one wounded.

### Military Region 3

During the period 160701 to 170700 EST March, four major cease-fire violations were reported in Military Region 3. There were no significant violations.

### Military Region 4

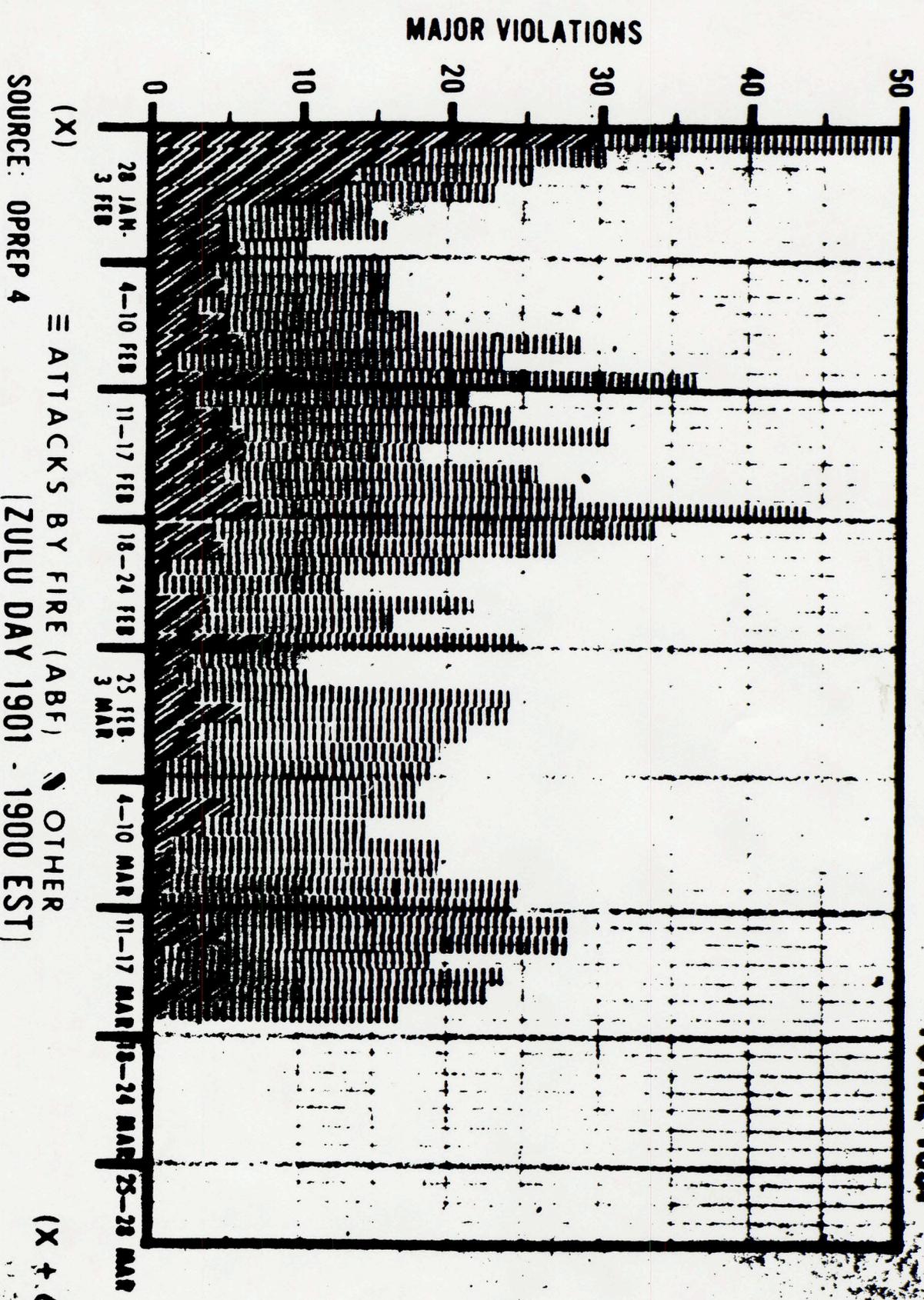
During the period 160701 to 170700 EST March, four major cease-fire violations were reported in Military Region 4. The significant violation is described below:

At 160420 EST March, 27 miles southwest of Tri Ton, elements of an ARVN ranger battalion were subjected to an enemy ABF of 20 rounds of 81mm mortar fire. Friendly losses were one soldier killed and one wounded.

# RVN MAJOR CEASE FIRE VIOLATIONS

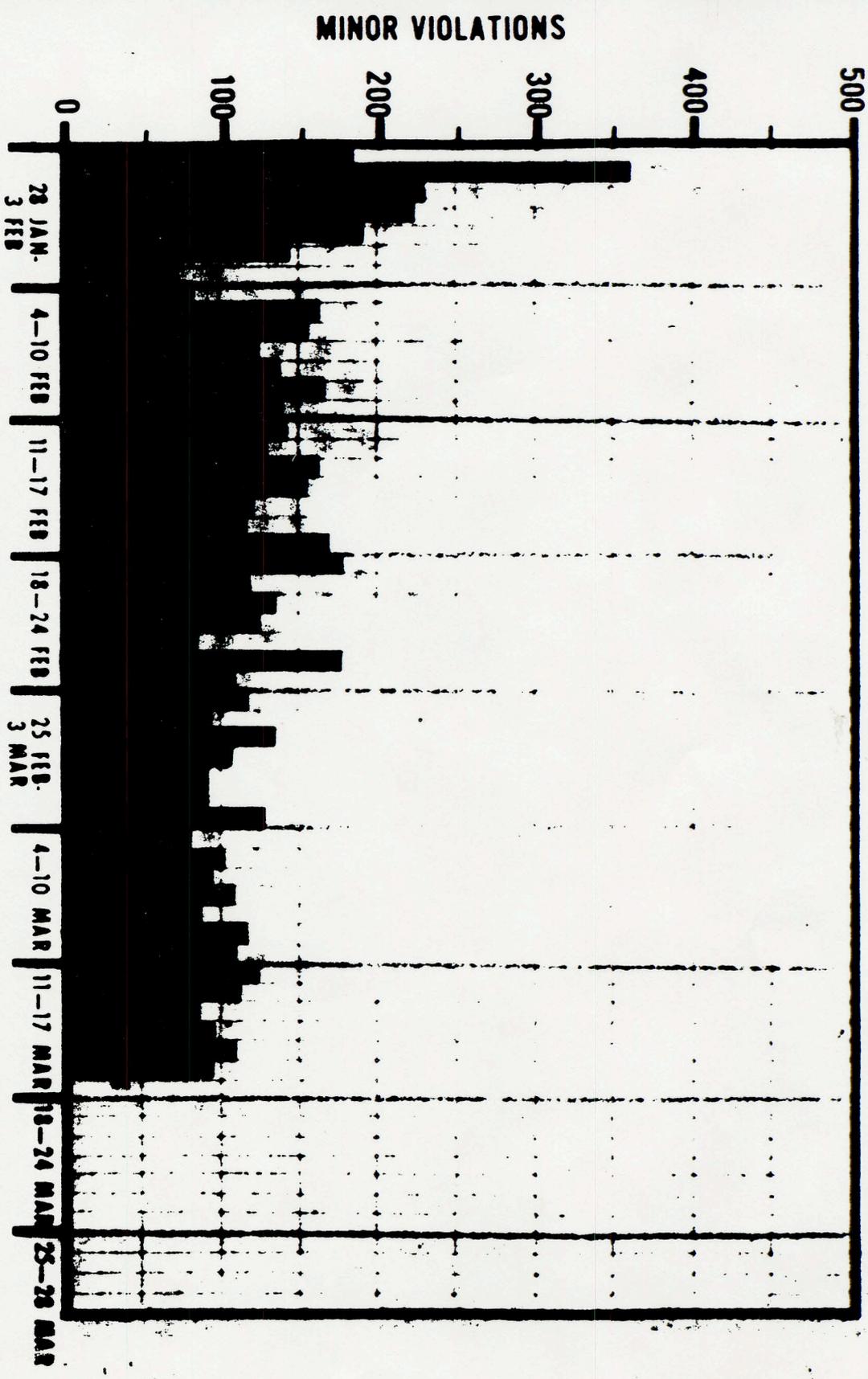
TREND

TOTAL 1091



# RVN MINOR CEASE FIRE VIOLATIONS

TREND TOTAL: 6436



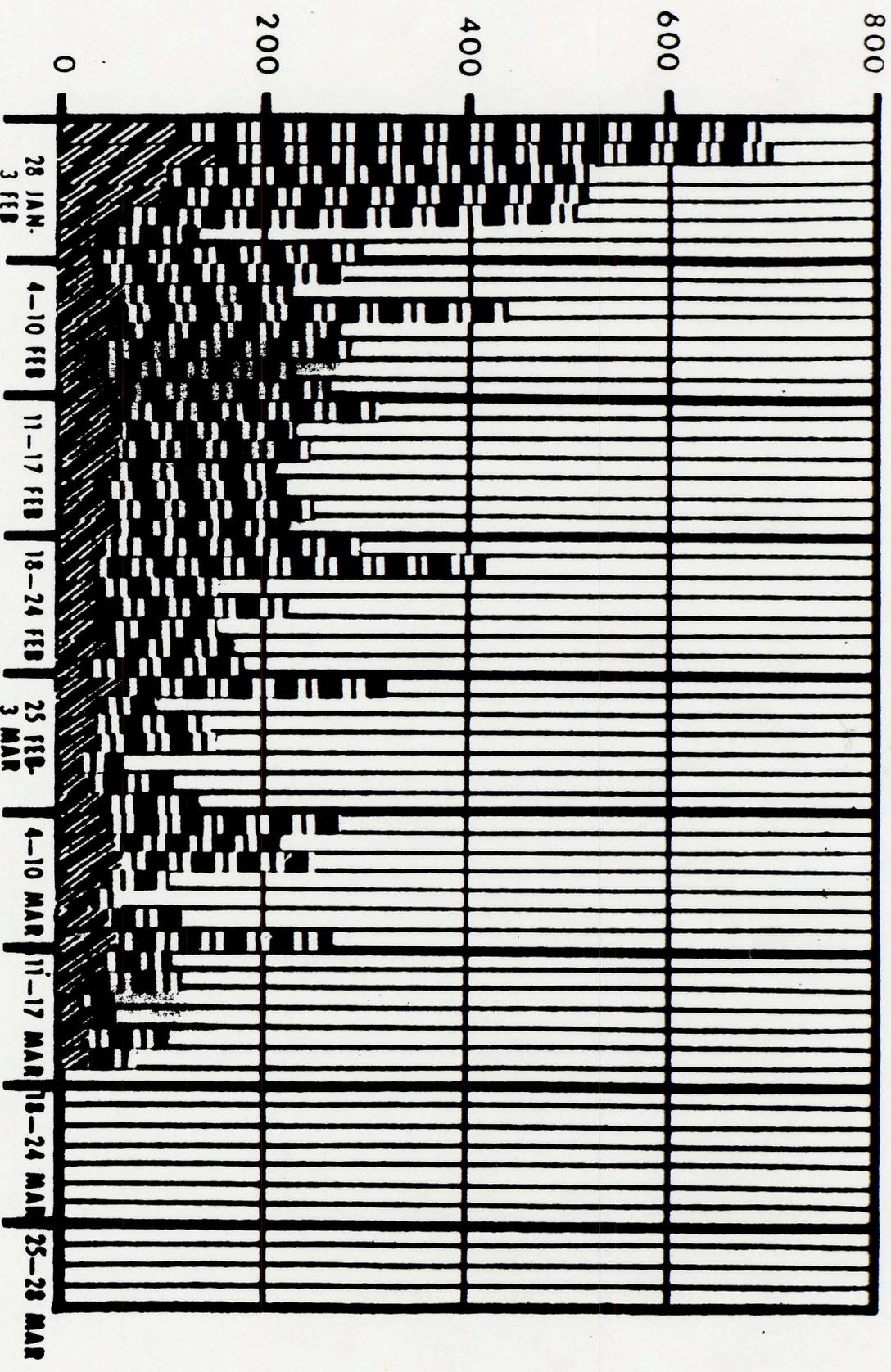
SOURCE: OPREP 4

(ZULU DAY 1901 - 1900 EST)

(X)

(X + 60)

VC NVA-RVN



SOURCE MACV OPRP-4

VC NVA

RVN

INDOCHINA SITUATION

17 March 1973

ENEMY FORCES

There have been no major enemy unit deployments detected in Indochina since the last report. Maps will be provided when significant changes occur.

SOUTH VIETNAM

CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS

MILITARY REGION	TOTAL SINCE CEASE-FIRE LEVEL OF ACTION			LAST 24 HOURS* LEVEL OF ACTION		
	SER	MAJ	MIN	SER	MAJ(**)	MIN
MR 1	0	577	2,091	0	5 ( 5)	21
MR 2	0	132	781	0	2 ( 2)	20
MR 3	0	146	1,210	0	4 ( 1)	24
MR 4	0	243	2,431	0	4 ( 2)	61
TOTALS	0	1,098	6,513	0	15 (10)	126

\* Included in totals.

\*\* Number of major violations which occurred prior to the last 24 hours.

The number of major violations during the reporting period decreased from 30 to 15 with the largest reduction being noted in MR 1. All of the major violations were attacks-by-fire. The number of minor violations increased from 88 to 126 with the most significant rise occurring in MR 4. Small ground actions and scattered attacks-by-fire characterized the activity throughout the four MRs.

### ENEMY INTENTIONS

The communists are undertaking a massive effort to infiltrate armor, artillery, air defense weapons, personnel, and supplies to reconstitute and bolster their forces in South Vietnam. This action is currently in support of a politically oriented strategy. Integral to that strategy is defense of captured territory, political struggle activities, which also encompass violence, subversion, and negotiations.

### SECURITY AND POLITICAL SITUATION

Organizational efforts for the government's political bodies -- the Popular Front and the Democracy Party -- continue to have a high priority. Both groups have been set up in almost every province, and the organizers are now active at the district and village level.

There are indications that the Front may be designed more to provide a show of unity among non-communist groups than to carry out specific programs. US Embassy officers in Military Region 2 report that often province-level leaders of the Front are also head of the province chapters of the Democracy Party and are confused about what they are supposed to do in their various functions.

In contrast to the Front, the Democracy Party still seems intended to be a lasting and active organization. A possible indication of the importance Saigon attaches to it is the recent replacement of the deputy chief of Phong Dinh Province and the deputy mayor of Can Tho City for inadequately performing their Democracy Party duties. Their removal is now being interpreted as a warning to civil servants not to neglect party responsibilities.

Some anti-government groups are still complaining of pressure tactics by Democracy Party recruiters and are accusing President Thieu of trying to control all non-communist political activity. Many politically aware Vietnamese, however, appear to accept the creation of both the Front and the Democracy Party as practical steps for dealing with the cease-fire period and the political struggle with the communists.

LAOS

CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS

Battalion-size enemy forces hit government positions southwest of Paksong while minor clashes were reported elsewhere.

ENEMY INTENTIONS

No change.

SECURITY AND POLITICAL SITUATION

The separate sessions concerned with resolving military and political questions of the February agreement met on 15 March. Substantive issues were discussed for the first time in several days. As well as agreeing to meet the 23 March deadline for the formation of a coalition government, the political delegations discussed the number and apportionment of cabinet portfolios.

The military delegations also agreed to exchange drafts for a joint protocol on implementing the cease-fire agreement in an attempt to reconcile their differences quickly.

CAMBODIA

ENEMY INTENTIONS

No change.

SECURITY AND POLITICAL SITUATION

One person was killed and several injured when bombs dropped by a Cambodian Air Force T-28 exploded near the President's residence. Preliminary reports indicate that the bombing was an isolated incident. The aircraft was taken by a pilot reportedly disgruntled over having recently being removed from flying status.

South of Phnom Penh, government forces attacking eastward toward Chambak are making slow progress. A total of eight battalions are now committed to the operation.

The insurgents have launched six attacks-by-fire and one ground attack against isolated positions along the banks of the Mekong River below Neak Luong. Cambodian army elements are moving south along the river in an operation that began yesterday.

SA 99 B-352



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

March 18, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT  
FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: Vietnam Post Cease-Fire Report,  
1600 hours, March 18, 1973

Transmitted herewith is the Vietnam Post Cease-Fire Report, as of  
1600 hours, Eastern Standard Time, March 18, 1973.

Enclosure

*Robert C. Taylor*  
Robert C. Taylor  
Colonel, USAF  
Military Assistant

DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 12356, Sect. 3.4  
NSC F9301187 10/4/93; DOD I-93/54551 10/28/93  
By WKC NARA, Date 1/25/94  
SA 99

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SEC DEF CONTR No. X-1115

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT  
FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: Vietnam Post Cease-fire Report, 1600 EST, 18 March 1973

Prisoners of War (PW)

- US Prisoners. Three C-141 aeromedevac aircraft are scheduled to arrive in CONUS (Kelly AFB, Scott AFB, and Travis AFB) today with 56 returnees (5 Army, 13 Navy, 32 Air Force, and 6 Marines). The 26 returnees remaining at Clark Air Base are scheduled to arrive in CONUS aboard two aeromedevac flights at 1555 EST and 1820 EST tomorrow.

The PW Subcommittee did not meet today. A meeting is scheduled for tomorrow.

The following chart shows the status of returned prisoners as of 0600 EST 18 March.

	<u>Reported for Release</u>	<u>Returned to US Control</u>		<u>At JHRC</u>	<u>Enroute or at CONUS Hospital</u>	<u>Processing Completed</u>
<u>Military</u>		<u>NVN/PRC</u>	<u>SVN</u>			
Army	76	0	58	14	25	19
Navy	137	115	0	1	78	36
Air Force	325	228	2	2	149	79
Marine Corps	<u>26</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>1</u>
Military						
Total	564	351	73	21	268	135
Civilian	<u>24</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>7</u>
Total	<u>588</u>	<u>352</u>	<u>89</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>273</u>	<u>142</u>

- Enemy Prisoners. As of 18 March, a total of 18,690 EPWs had been released or repatriated (10,242 VC, 8,105 NVA, 343 Regroupees). Included in this total are 700 VC EPWs released at the Quang Tri repatriation point and 497 VC EPWs released at Thien Ngon repatriation point today. An additional 10,980 VC EPWs have previously been released under the GVN "New Life" program. The grand total of EPW releases and repatriations to date is 29,670.

There remain 8,266 EPWs interned in five operational camps in SVN. The majority (7,758) are interned at the Central Prisoner of War Camp on Phu Quoc Island. The balance are located in PW camps at Bien Hoa (443), Da Nang (47), Qui Nhon (2), and Can Tho (16). Included in the total are 1,953 NVA, 5,989 Viet Cong, and 324 Regroupees.

US airlift was furnished for today's movement of 700 EPWs from Phu Quoc Island to Camp Evans and 500 EPWs from Phu Quoc to Tay Ninh. US airlift has also been requested for tomorrow's scheduled movement of 1200 EPWs.

International Commission of Control and Supervision representatives observed repatriation activities at An Thoi Airfield, at Quang Tri, and at Thien Ngon. Three prisoners refused repatriation at Thien Ngon and were returned to Phu Quoc.

Withdrawal and Redeployment of US/FWMAF Forces. Increment four remains in a hold status except for emergency leaves and other approved exceptions.

	<u>In-Country</u> <u>27 January</u>	<u>Reported Withdrawn</u> <u>by 18 March</u>	<u>To Be</u> <u>Withdrawn</u>
US	23,516	17,206	6,125*
ROK	35,396	35,152	244**

\*Excludes DAO and Embassy Marine Security Guard personnel who will remain in SVN beyond X+60 and other personnel who were on leave, TDY and R&R outside the RVN at cease-fire, who did not subsequently return to the RVN but have not previously been dropped from strength reports.

\*\*The withdrawal of ROK forces is complete except for the roll-up force which will redeploy on 23 March 1973.

Assistance to the GVN. No significant developments since the last report.

Defense Attache Office (DAO). No significant developments since the last report.

Four Party Joint Military Commission (FPJMC). The Central Commission did not meet today. The next meeting is scheduled for tomorrow.

The following is a recapitulation of US/RVN/DRV/PRG deployments to date:

	<u>US</u>	<u>RVN</u>	<u>DRV</u>	<u>PRG</u>
Saigon	148	184	264	141
Region I	65	78	0	0
Region II	96	88	0	0
Region III	111	112	133	0
Region IV	76	82	88	44
Region V	107	102	46	5
Region VI	67	77	73	5
Region VII	127	102	120	7
Total	<u>797</u>	<u>825</u>	<u>724</u>	<u>202</u>

Authorized--Not Currently Filled	(28)	(0)	(101)	(623)
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International Commission of Control and Supervision (ICCS). No significant developments were reported.

The following is a recapitulation of ICCS deployments to date:

	<u>Canada</u>	<u>Hungary</u>	<u>Indonesia</u>	<u>Poland</u>
Saigon	144	143	141	137
Region I	19	14	19	23
Region II	16	13	21	15
Region III	29	27	30	41
Region IV	13	13	13	17
Region V	24	22	28	23
Region VI	12	13	17	15
Region VII	20	15	20	19
Total	<u>277</u>	<u>260</u>	<u>289</u>	<u>290</u>

Authorized--Not Currently Filled	(13)	(30)	(1)	(0)
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Mine Countermeasures. ENHANCE completed surface sweep operations in the approach to the air control anchorage off Hon Gai and then provided services as an air control platform for Airborne Mine Countermeasures Unit CHARLIE operating in the Hon Gai area. No detonations were observed.

Airborne Mine Countermeasures Units flew 43.7 hours on 15 sorties and completed 29.6 effective sweep hours in the Haiphong area and flew 2.7 hours on one sortie completing 1.3 effective sweep hours in the Hon Gai area. One mine detonation was observed north of the Cua Cam River Channel and evaluated as a self-destruct detonation.

At approximately 171015 EST March, while operating off Hon Hai and subsequent to completion of control services noted above, ENHANCE sustained a major fire in her forward engine room. The fire was extinguished at 171243 EST. There were three minor cases of smoke inhalation and two cases of minor cuts and abrasions. All machinery in the forward engine room is out of commission. The cause of the fire is under investigation. It is anticipated that ENHANCE will be towed to Subic for repairs.

At approximately 180306 EST March, a Marine CH-53 helicopter towing sweep gear in the Haiphong area crashed in the water with six personnel aboard. All personnel were recovered by small boats from TF-78 which were in the water at the time of the crash and on the scene within minutes. The personnel have been airlifted to the NEW ORLEANS for treatment. No fatalities have been reported and the extent of injuries is unknown at this time. The cause of the crash has not yet been determined.

A brief meeting of the Coastal Subcommittee was held on 17 March. The US version of a sweep plan for the Haiphong area was given to the DRV.

During a meeting of the Inland Waterways Subcommittee, plans for the school which will teach mine countermeasures techniques on the inland waterways were discussed. It was decided to inspect the school site next week and establish the school soon thereafter.

Cease-fire Violations. Nineteen major and 80 minor violations were reported during the period 170701-180700 EST March. The distribution of major violations by Military Region was: MR 1 - 10; MR 2 - 0; MR 3 - 3; and MR 4 - 6. A total of 47 enemy and 19 friendly personnel were reported killed during the period. A description of major violations and charts depicting trends in major and minor violations and casualties are attached.

Intelligence. A DIA summary covering the Indochina situation is appended.

## RVN Major Cease-fire Violations

### Military Region 1

During the period 170701 to 180700 EST March, 10 major cease-fire violations were reported in Military Region 1. The most significant violations are described below:

At 170130 EST March, 13 miles northeast of Khe Sanh, two ICCS aircraft received ground fire while inspecting ICCS field sites being constructed by the NVA. Two NVA guides were aboard. No damage or casualties were reported.

At 170600 EST March, five miles southwest of Quang Tri City, elements of an airborne battalion received a 32 round mortar attack. Friendly losses were one killed and one wounded.

At 172250 EST March, 16 miles southeast of Quang Ngai, a GVN sub-sector headquarters received a six round mortar attack. Friendly losses were one killed and seven wounded.

### Military Region 2

During the period 170701 to 180700 EST March, no major cease-fire violations were reported in Military Region 2.

### Military Region 3

During the period 170701 to 180700 EST March, three major cease-fire violations were reported in Military Region 3. None were significant.

### Military Region 4

During the period 170701 to 180700 EST March, six major cease-fire violations were reported in Military Region 4. The most significant violations are described below:

At 170925 EST March, seven miles north of Tri Ton, an RVNAF training center was hit with two rockets. Friendly losses were one soldier killed and 13 soldiers and two civilians wounded.

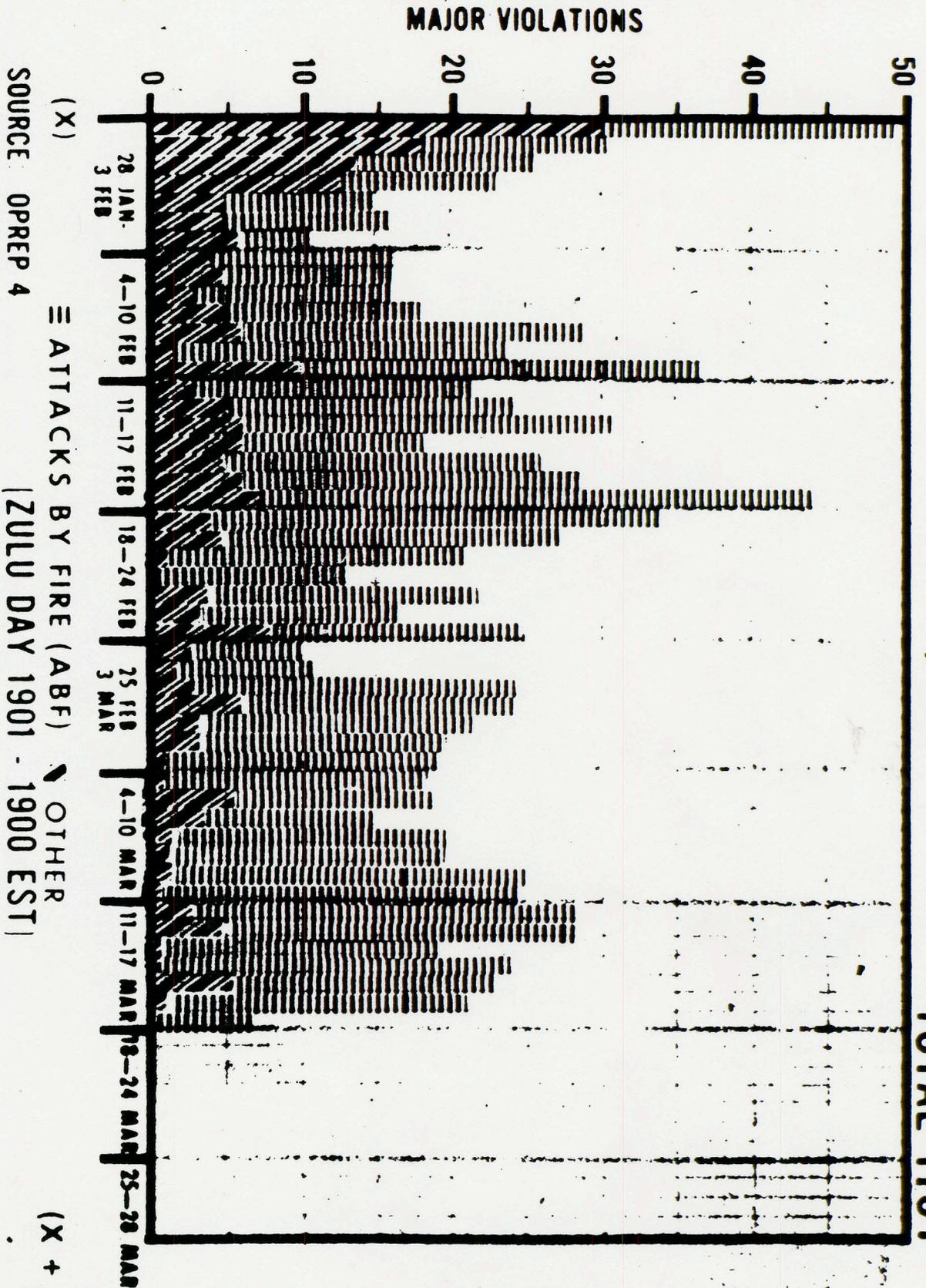
At 161830 EST March, 10 miles southeast of Rach Gia, an RF battalion received a mixed mortar and rocket attack followed by a ground assault. Three enemy soldiers were killed. Friendly losses were one killed and four wounded.

At 170900 EST March, an RF outpost seven miles southwest of Soc Trang was hit with an undetermined number of mortars. Four civilians were killed and five were wounded.

# RVN MAJOR CEASE FIRE VIOLATIONS

## TREND

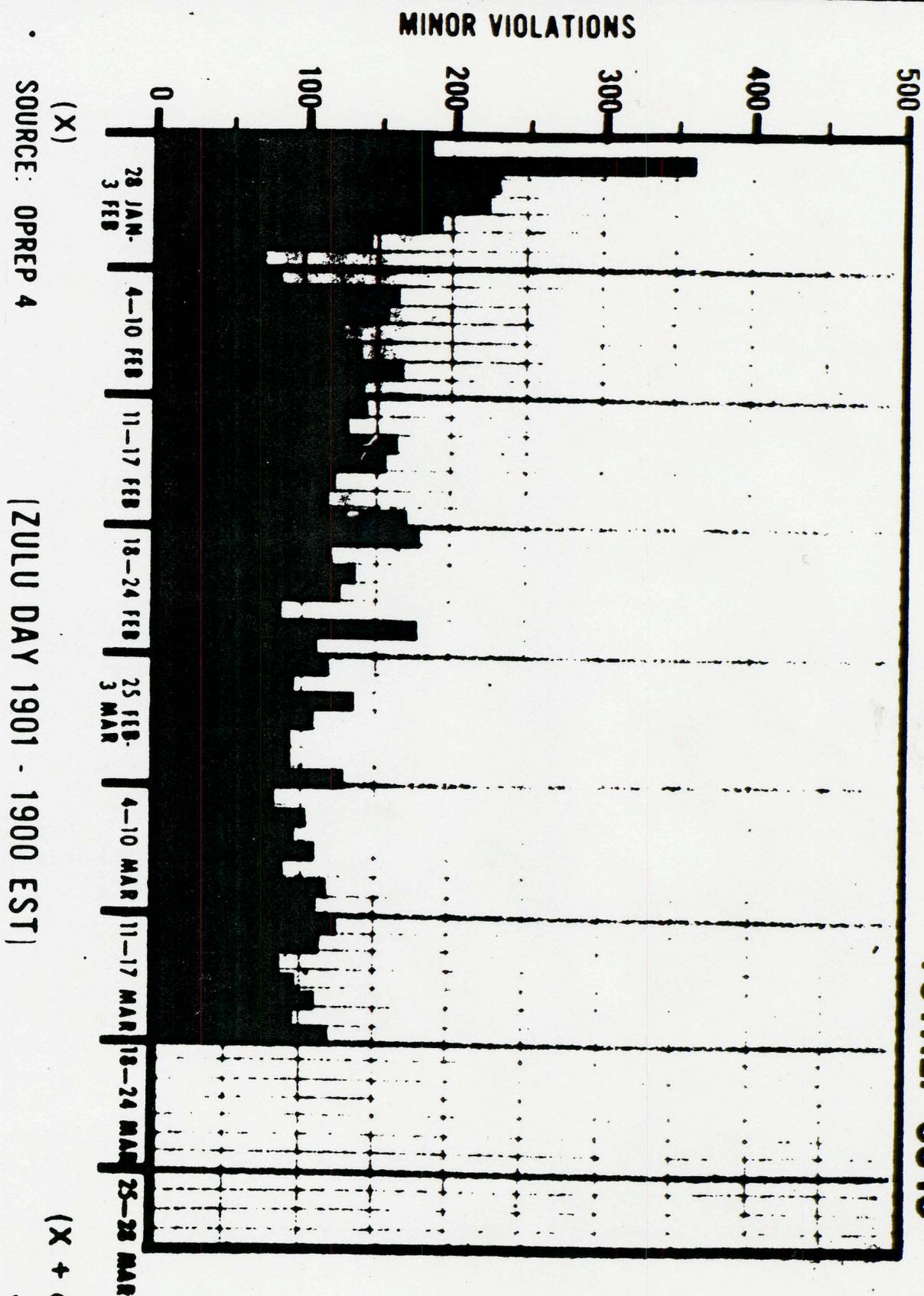
TOTAL 1101



# RVN MINOR CEASE FIRE VIOLATIONS

TREND

TOTAL: 6548



(X + 60)

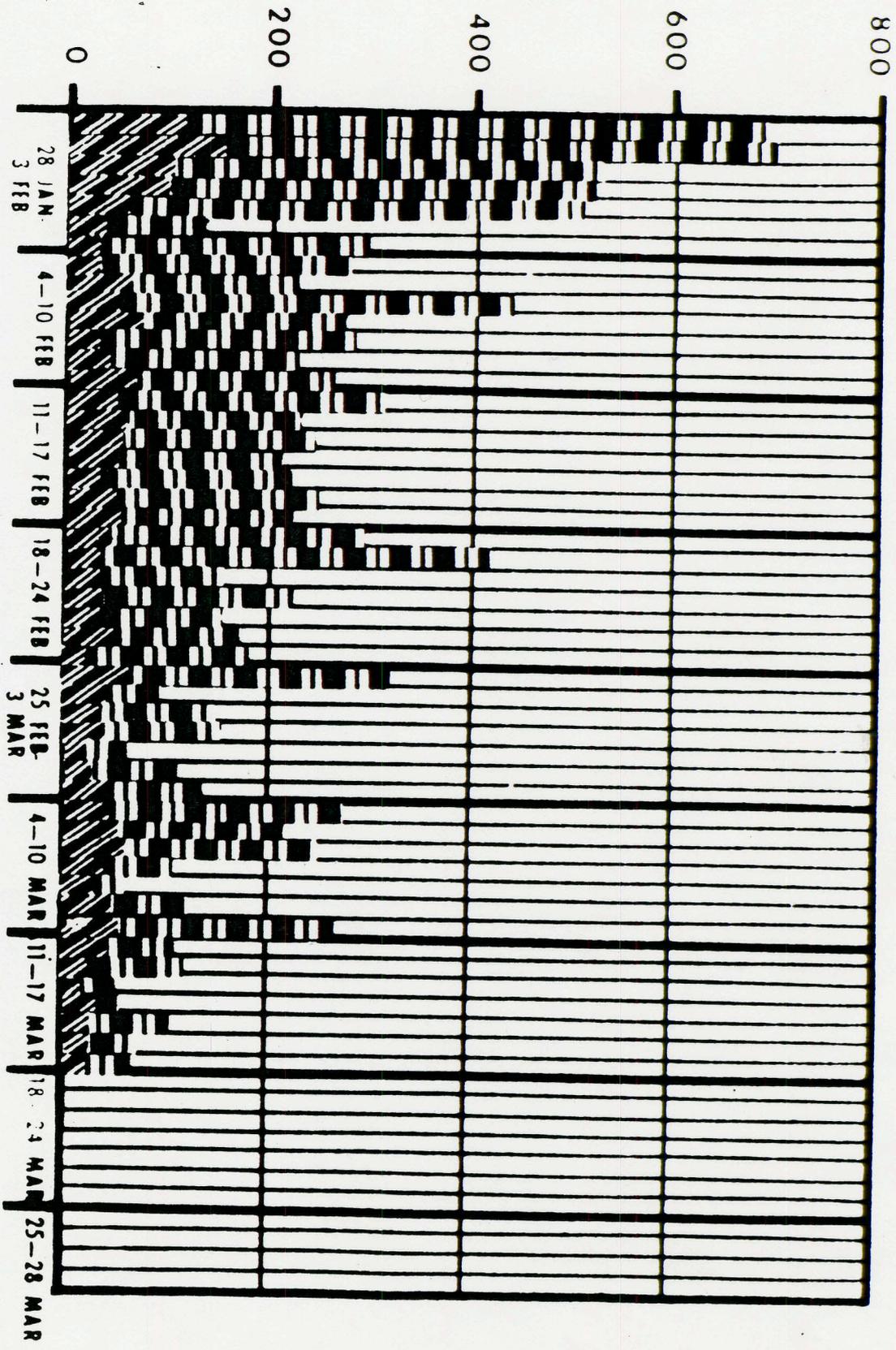
SOURCE: OPREP 4

(ZULU DAY 1901 - 1900 EST)

(X)

POST CEASE FIRE CASUALTIES (KIA)

VC NVA--RVN



SOURCE MACV OPRREP 4

VC NVA

RVN

INDOCHINA SITUATION

18 March 1973

ENEMY FORCES

There have been no major enemy unit deployments detected in Indochina since the last report. Maps will be provided when significant changes occur.

SOUTH VIETNAM

CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS

MILITARY REGION	TOTAL SINCE CEASE-FIRE LEVEL OF ACTION			LAST 24 HOURS* LEVEL OF ACTION		
	SER	MAJ	MIN	SER	MAJ(**)	MIN
MR 1	0	587	2,117	0	10 ( 6)	26
MR 2	0	132	781	0	0 ( 0)	0
MR 3	0	149	1,230	0	3 ( 2)	20
MR 4	0	249	2,465	0	6 ( 2)	34
TOTALS	0	1,117	6,593	0	19 (10)	80

\* Included in totals.

\*\* Number of major violations which occurred prior to the last 24 hours.

The number of major violations during the reporting period increased from 15 to 19. The number of minor violations decreased from 126 to 80. Small ground actions and scattered attacks-by-fire characterized the activity throughout the four MRs.

ENEMY INTENTIONS

No change.

SECURITY AND POLITICAL SITUATION

There were no significant intelligence developments during the reporting period.

LAOS

CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS

Major NVA attacks occurred near Paksong and Saravane while fighting continues south of Thakhek. Clashes were also reported in the Dong Hene area.

ENEMY INTENTIONS

No change.

SECURITY AND POLITICAL SITUATION

Enemy forces are challenging the government presence near Paksong. On 16-17 March, government elements lost ground in four separate NVA attacks, including one battalion-size assault. A similar size attack drove friendly forces from a position north of Saravane.

In the central panhandle, the NVA kept up pressure against government forces south of Thakhek. Renewed fighting occurred northeast of Dong Hene where two enemy attacks occurred on 16 March.

CAMBODIA

ENEMY INTENTIONS

No change.

SECURITY AND POLITICAL SITUATION

The eight-battalion government relief force moving eastward from Tram Khnar have retaken the town of Chambak on Route 2. Plans call for the force to turn south toward

Takeo in an effort to clear the southern portion of Route 2. The Mekong River convoy is holding its position in South Vietnam until Cambodian army forces can secure the river banks below Neak Luong. President Lon Nol has proclaimed a state of emergency as a result of the bombing attack on the presidential place yesterday.

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

19 MAR 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT  
FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: Vietnam Post Cease-fire Report, 1600 EST, 19 March 1973

Prisoners of War (PW)

- US Prisoners. Three C-141 medevac aircraft with a total of 56 returnees aboard arrived at Kelly AFB, Travis AFB, and Scott AFB yesterday as scheduled. Two medevac aircraft with 25 returnees aboard are scheduled to arrive at Travis AFB and McGuire AFB today. One returnee (PFC Mehrer, USA) was retained at Tripler General Hospital for medical reasons.

The following chart shows the status of returned prisoners as of 0600 hours EST 19 March.

	<u>Reported for Release</u>	<u>Returned to US Control</u>	<u>At JHRC</u>	<u>Enroute or at CONUS Hospital</u>	<u>Processing Completed</u>	
<u>Military</u>		<u>NVN/PRC</u>	<u>SVN</u>			
Army	76	0	58	14	38	20
Navy	137	115	0	1	78	37
Air Force	325	228	2	2	143	87
Marine Corps	26	8	13	4	20	1
Military Total	564	351	73	21	280	144
Civilian	24	1	16	5	10	7
Total	588	352	89	26	290	151

- Enemy Prisoners. As of 19 March, a total of 19,189 EPW (10,741 VC, 8,105 NVA, and 343 Regroupees) have been released or repatriated. Included in this total are 499 VC EPW released at the Thien Ngon repatriation point today. One prisoner refused repatriation. An additional 10,980 VC EPW have previously been released under the GVN 'New Life' program. The grand total of EPW releases/repatriations to date is 30,169.

DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 12356, Sect. 3.4  
NSC F9301187 10/4/93; DOD I-93/54551 10/28/93

By MMO NARA, Date 1/24/94

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There remain 7,068 EPW interned in five operational camps in SVN. The majority (6,554) are interned at the Central PW Camp on Phu Quoc Island. The remainder are located in PW camps at Bien Hoa (450), Da Nang (47), Qui Nhon (2), and Can Tho (15). Included in the total are 1,953 NVA, 4,791 Viet Cong, and 324 Regroupees.

US airlift was furnished for today's movement of 700 EPWs from Phu Quoc to Camp Evans and 500 EPWs from Phu Quoc to Tay Ninh. US airlift support has also been requested for tomorrow's scheduled movement of 1,300 EPWs.

Withdrawal and Redeployment of US/FWMAF Forces. Increment four remains in a hold status except for emergency leaves and other approved exceptions.

	<u>In-Country 27 January</u>	<u>Reported Withdrawn by 19 March</u>	<u>To Be Withdrawn</u>
US	23,516	17,214	6,121*
ROK	35,396	35,152	244**

\*Excludes DAO and Embassy Marine Security Guard personnel who will remain in SVN beyond X+60 and other personnel who were on leave, TDY and R&R outside the RVN at cease-fire, who did not subsequently return to the RVN but have not previously been dropped from strength reports.

\*\*The withdrawal of ROK forces is complete except for the roll-up force which will redeploy on 23 March 1973.

Assistance to the GVN. No significant developments since the last report.

Defense Attache Office (DAO). The number of DAO civilian positions either filled or committed by name is now 1,111 of the 1,200 authorized.

Four Party Joint Military Commission (FPJMC). During today's meeting of the Central Commission, the Chiefs agreed on the following agenda for the week of 19-24 March: The eleven point draft agreement on privileges, immunities, and security; additional issues concerning privileges and immunities on which there have been disagreements; phase IV prisoner return; termination of the FPJMC at X+60; FPJMC expenditures and equipment/facilities transfer to the Two Party Joint Military Commission; and the agenda for the final meeting of the FPJMC at X+60.

In subsequent discussion, agreement was reached on the final three points of the eleven point draft agreement on privileges and immunities. The three points deal with medical treatment, transportation support, and arrangements for liaison trips.

The following is a recapitulation of US/RVN/DRV/PRG deployments to date:

	<u>US</u>	<u>RVN</u>	<u>DRV</u>	<u>PRG</u>
Saigon	148	184	264	153
Region I	64	78	0	0
Region II	96	88	0	0
Region III	111	112	133	0
Region IV	76	82	88	44
Region V	107	102	46	5
Region VI	67	77	73	5
Region VII	<u>125</u>	<u>102</u>	<u>120</u>	<u>7</u>
Total	794	825	724	214

Authorized--Not				
Currently Filled	(31)	(0)	(101)	(611)

International Commission of Control and Supervision (ICCS). ICCS PW teams observed the processing and release of PRG prisoners at Quang Tri and Thien Ngon and the return of RVN prisoners at Quang Tri today.

An ICCS team with representatives of the four parties of the JMC visited the Cua Viet area of Quang Tri Province on 18 March 1973 to begin investigation of two cease-fire violation complaints.

The following is a recapitulation of ICCS deployments to date:

	<u>Canada</u>	<u>Hungary</u>	<u>Indonesia</u>	<u>Poland</u>
Saigon	144	143	141	133
Region I	19	14	19	23
Region II	16	13	21	19
Region III	29	27	30	41
Region IV	13	13	13	17
Region V	24	22	28	23
Region VI	12	13	17	15
Region VII	<u>20</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>19</u>
Total	277	260	289	290

Authorized--Not				
Currently Filled	(13)	(30)	(1)	(0)

Mine Countermeasures. No surface sweep operations were conducted on 18 March.

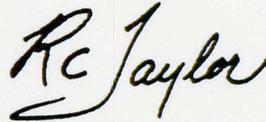
Airborne mine countermeasures units flew 34.7 hours on 12 sorties completing 21.3 effective sweep hours in the Haiphong and Hon Gai areas. No detonations were reported.

ENHANCE is under tow to Subic for repairs due to fire damage.

No technical discussions were held with the DRV yesterday.

Cease-fire Violations. Eighteen major and 80 minor violations were reported during the period 180701-190700 EST March. The distribution of major violations by Military Region was: MR 1 - 5; MR 2 - 1; MR 3 - 6; and MR 4 - 6. A total of 100 enemy and 15 friendly personnel were reported killed during the period. A description of major violations and charts depicting trends in major and minor violations and casualties are attached.

Intelligence. A DIA summary covering the Indochina situation is appended.



Robert C. Taylor,  
Colonel, USAF  
Military Assistant

## RVN Major Cease-fire Violations

During the period 180701 to 190700 EST March 1973, 18 major cease-fire violations were reported.

### Military Region 1

Five major cease-fire violations were reported in MR 1. The most significant violation is described below:

At 180830 EST, eight miles northeast of Quang Tri City, elements of an ARVN infantry battalion received a mortar attack followed by a ground assault. Three enemy soldiers were killed. There were no friendly losses.

### Military Region 2

One major cease-fire violation was reported in MR 2. The incident is described below:

Eight miles west of Phan Thiet, elements of an RF battalion received a mortar attack followed by a ground assault. Two enemy soldiers and one RF soldier were killed.

### Military Region 3

Six major cease-fire violations were reported in MR 3. The most significant violation is described below:

At 180900 EST, five miles west of Song Be, elements of an ARVN ranger battalion were subjected to an enemy ground attack. Fifteen enemy soldiers were killed. Friendly losses were one killed and eight wounded.

### Military Region 4

Six major cease-fire violations were reported in MR 4. The most significant violations are described below:

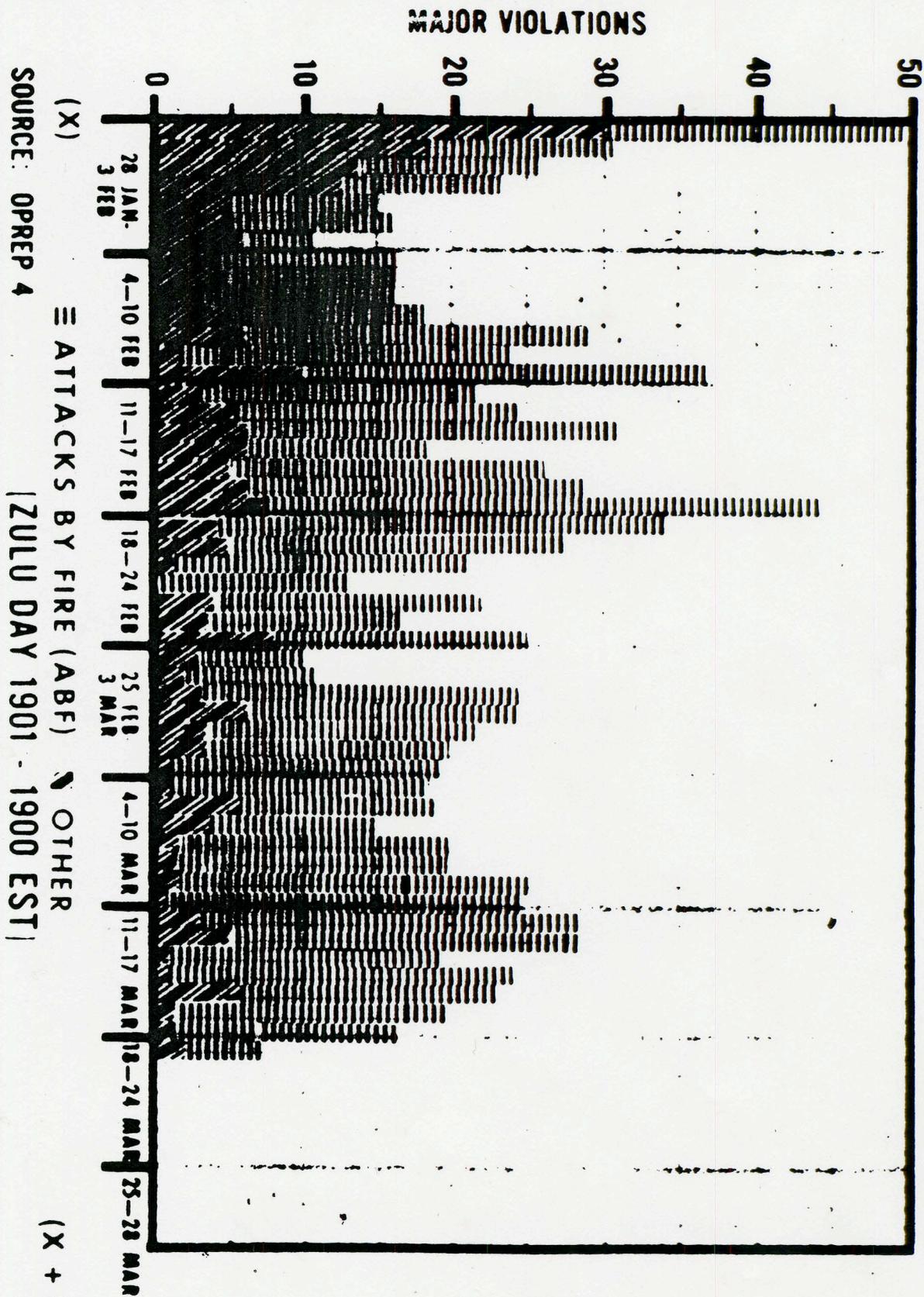
At 181730 EST, 21 miles northwest of Vinh Long, elements of an RF battalion received an attack by fire followed by a ground assault. Enemy losses are not known. Friendly casualties were two killed and three wounded.

At 180300 EST, 16 miles northeast of Vinh Long, an RF company was subjected to an enemy ground attack. Thirty-six enemy soldiers were killed. Friendly losses were three killed, six wounded and 16 missing.

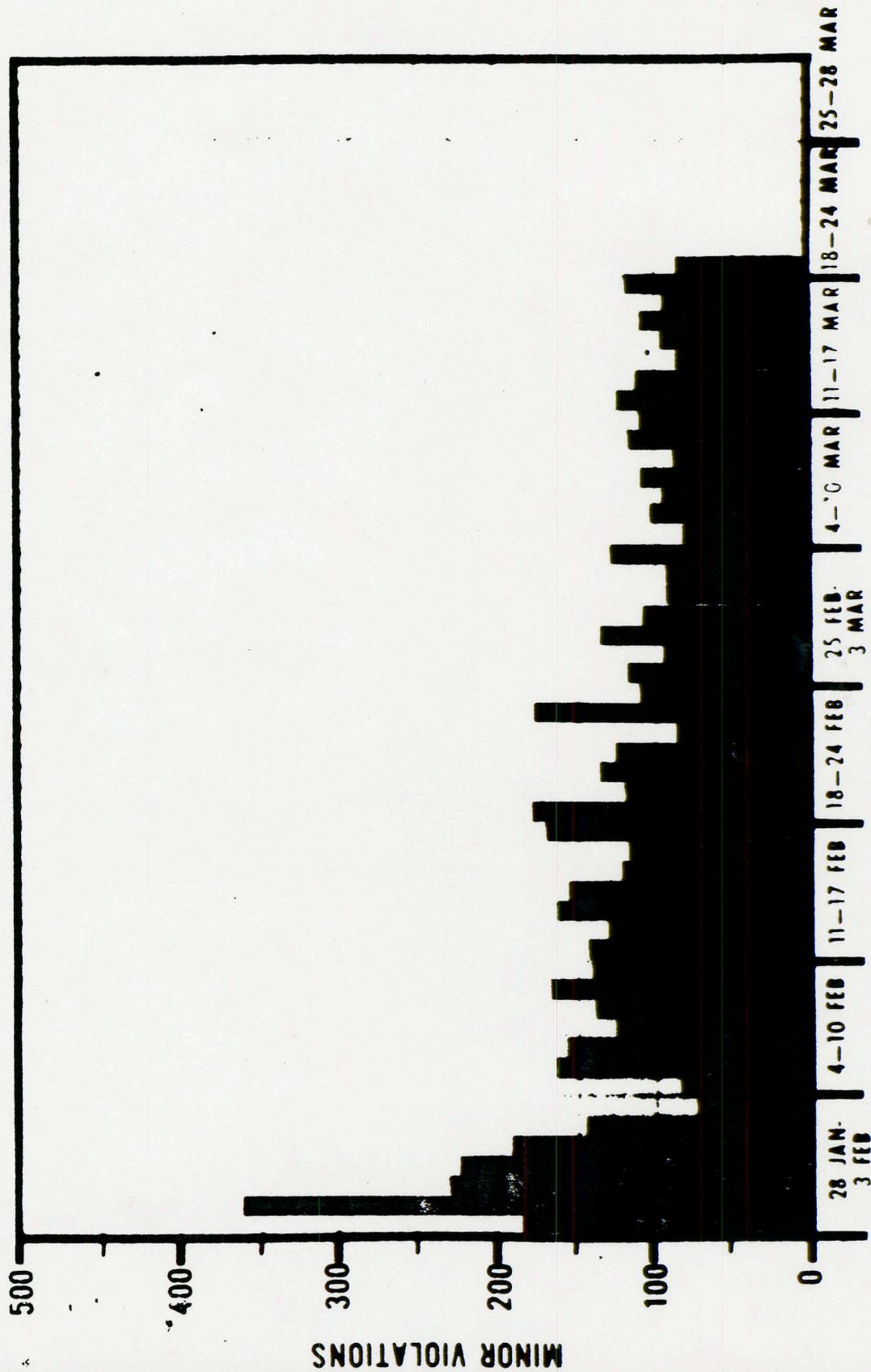
In An Xuyen Province, a hamlet chief was assassinated.

# RVN MAJOR CEASE FIRE VIOLATIONS TREND

TOTAL 1120



**RVN MINOR CEASE FIRE VIOLATIONS  
TREND  
TOTAL 6636**

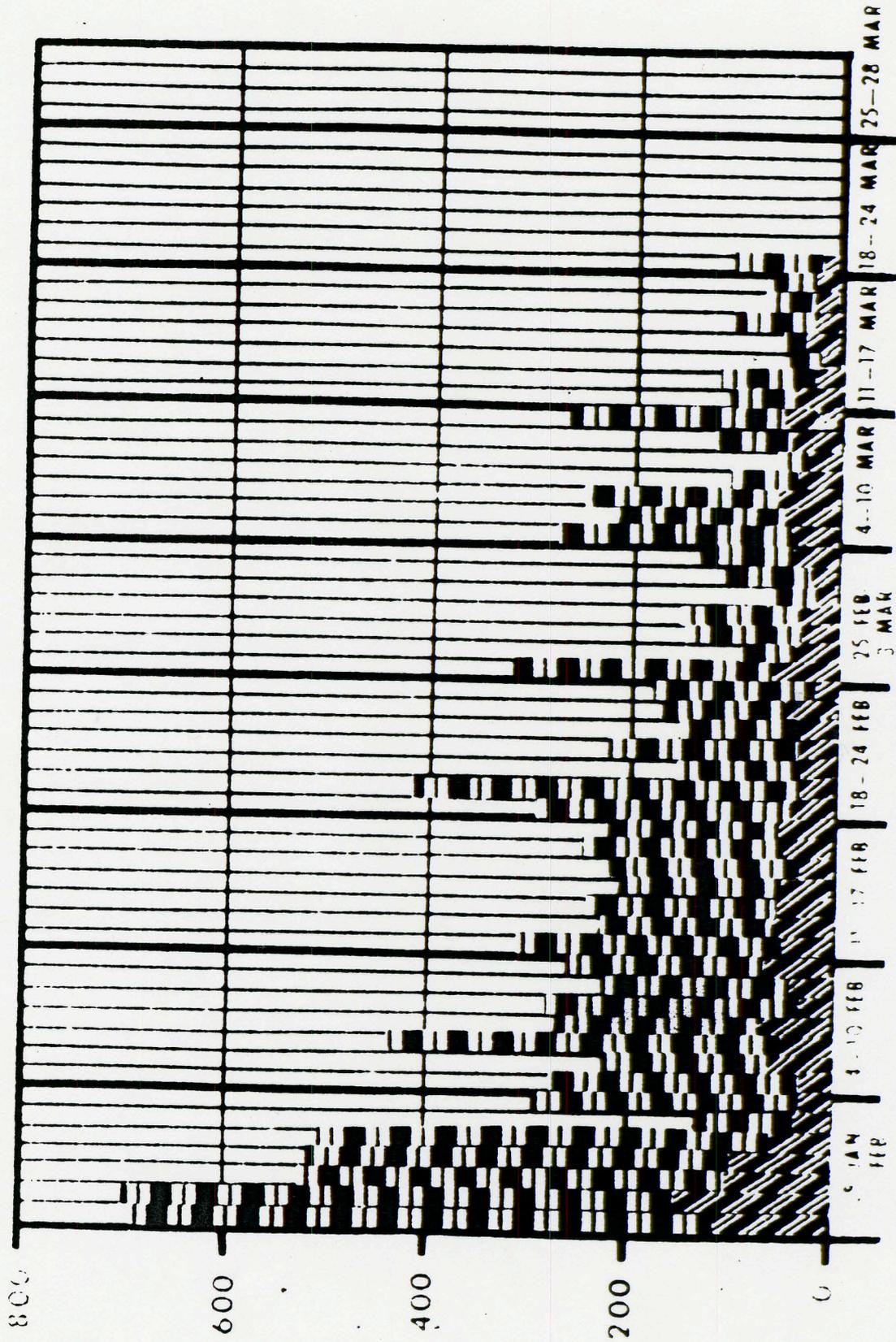


(X + 60)

(X) SOURCE OPREP 4 | ZULU DAY 1901 - 1900 EST

POST CEASE FIRE CASUALTIES KIA

VC NVA - RVN



SOURCE MACV OI REF 4

VC NVA

RVN

INDOCHINA SITUATION

19 March 1973

ENEMY FORCES

There have been no major enemy unit deployments detected in Indochina since the last report. Maps will be provided when significant changes occur.

SOUTH VIETNAM

CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS

MILITARY REGION	TOTAL SINCE CEASE-FIRE LEVEL OF ACTION			LAST 24 HOURS* LEVEL OF ACTION		
	SER	MAJ	MIN	SER	MAJ (**)	MIN
MR 1	0	592	2,136	0	5 (2)	19
MR 2	0	133	786	0	1 (1)	5
MR 3	0	155	1,248	0	6 (2)	18
MR 4	0	254	2,503	0	6 (3)	38
TOTALS	0	1,134***	6,673	0	18 (8)	80

\* Included in totals.

\*\* Number of major violations which occurred prior to the last 24 hours.

\*\*\* Cumulative total was reduced by one due to MACV's deletion of one violation in MR 4.

The number of major violations during the reporting period was 18, the same total as during the previous reporting period after the subsequent deletion of one major violation from MR 4's total. The major violations consisted of 10 attacks-by-fire, two ground attacks, five attacks-by-fire followed by ground attacks, and one assassination.

The number of minor violations remained at 80 which was also the total reported during the previous reporting period.

In MR 3, 15 enemy were killed in a ground action five miles northwest of Phuoc Binh. In MR 4, 20 miles northeast of Vinh Long, 36 enemy were killed in a ground action. Also in MR 4 in the vicinity of Cai Nuoc, a hamlet chief was assassinated.

#### ENEMY INTENTIONS

No change

#### SECURITY AND POLITICAL SITUATION

In MR 3, recent enemy activity focused on government outposts at Tonle Cham in Tay Ninh Province eight miles southwest of An Loc and Rach Bap in Binh Duong Province four miles southwest of Ben Cat. Operational reports indicate that enemy tactics at both locations are designed to force voluntary evacuation of these bases. The enemy has maintained pressure on the camps through attacks-by-fire and initiated a propaganda campaign urging friendly forces to surrender or withdraw. Presently, the Ranger base at Tonle Cham is unable to acquire supplies or to evacuate its wounded.

The ARVN 7th Regiment was deployed to the field on 17 March in preparation for operations to relieve enemy pressure on the Rach Bap area, and military officials have indicated that heavy attacks-by-fire and air strikes against enemy forces have been ordered and will continue until the NVA pull back. Earlier, the South Vietnamese protested the enemy actions before the Four Power Joint Military Commission (FPJMC), but according to the US Embassy, communist delegates on the Commission successfully prevented an investigation of the fighting. The loss of these outposts would give the enemy free passage from the Cambodian border along the Saigon River corridor into Binh Duong Province and maximize their claims of area control in eastern Tay Ninh and northwestern Binh Duong.

LAOS

CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS

There were minor clashes southeast of the Plaine des Jarres, near Paksong and northeast of Khong Sedone.

ENEMY INTENTIONS

No change

SECURITY AND POLITICAL SITUATION

No significant developments.

CAMBODIA

ENEMY INTENTIONS

No change

SECURITY AND POLITICAL SITUATION

Phnom Penh is relatively calm following the bombing near the Presidential Palace on 17 March. There is still confusion over the motives of the pilot, who has been identified as a son-in-law of Prince Norodom Sihanouk, and reportedly was suffering from mental problems. There is as yet no evidence, specifically linking him with the insurgents or any political conspiracy. His whereabouts, and that of the plane, remain unknown. Casualties from bombing of the housing area within the Palace compound are now reported as 33 killed and 28 wounded.

Along Route 2, Khmer insurgents offered only light resistance as the Cambodian 7th Division recaptured Chambak yesterday and turned south to clear the road to Takeo. Only two small sections of Route 2 north of Takeo remain to be cleared. These clearing operations should encounter little resistance as enemy forces are expected to pull back in the face of numerically superior Cambodian forces.

Enemy units have continued to harass government troops attempting to secure the banks of the Mekong south

of Neak Luong. Cambodian naval forces, supported by US air strikes, are assisting in the clearing operations.

The departure of the river convoy from Tan Chau, South Vietnam, originally scheduled for 17 March, remains delayed pending improved security along the Mekong south of Neak Luong.

The enemy fired several rounds of mortar and recoilless rifle fire into Takhmau, a suburb of Phnom Penh, causing minor damage. . Additional harassment in the environs of the capital and other populated centers can be expected as the enemy attempts to exploit the current tension throughout the country.

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

20 MAR 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT  
FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: Vietnam Post Cease-fire Report, 1600 EST, 20 March 1973

Prisoners of War (PW)

- US Prisoners. Though neither the DRV nor PRG has yet officially set forth the timing and circumstances of their Phase IV PW release, the news media are quoting a PRG press officer as having stated that all US prisoners still remaining in PRG hands will be released by Sunday, 25 March. It is expected that official discussions concerning the Phase IV returns will resume during the FPJMC meeting scheduled for tomorrow, 21 March. The 147 Americans previously acknowledged as remaining Communist captives include 95 Air Force, 22 Navy, 18 Army, 5 Marine Corps, and 7 civilians.

All former US prisoners freed in the 14-16 March releases are now in CONUS. The following chart shows their status as of 0600 hours EST 20 March:

	Reported for <u>Release</u>	Returned to <u>US Control</u>			At <u>JHRC</u>	Enroute or at CONUS <u>Hospital</u>	Processing <u>Completed</u>
		<u>NVN</u>	<u>SVN</u>	<u>PRC</u>			
<u>Military</u>							
Army	76	0	58	0	0	37	21
Navy	137	114	0	1	0	78	37
Air Force	325	227	2	1	0	139	91
Marine Corps	26	8	13	0	0	18	3
Military Total	564	349	73	2	0	272	152
Civilian	24	1	16	0	0	10	7
Total	588	350	89	2	0	282	159

- Enemy Prisoners. As of today, a total of 20,388 enemy PWs have been released or repatriated (11,441 VC, 8,604 NVA and 343 Regroupees). As an additional 10,980 PWs were previously released by the GVN under its "New Life" program, the grand total of former enemy prisoners set free is now 31,368. There are still 5,770 enemy PWs interned in GVN camps who are scheduled for return to the DRV/PRG in Phase IV.

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12356, Sect. 3.4

NSC F9301187 10/4/93; DOD I-93/54551 10/28/93

By WKO NARA, Date 1/24/94

SA 99

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Withdrawal and Redeployment of US/FWMAF Forces. Except for emergency leaves and other especially-approved departures, US Forces left in SVN remain in a hold status until tandem arrangements are set up for Phase IV US PW returns and final US Forces withdrawals.

	<u>In-Country 27 January</u>	<u>Reported Withdrawn by 20 March</u>	<u>To Be Withdrawn</u>
US	23,516	17,217	6,118*
ROK	35,396	35,152	244**

\*Excludes DAO and Embassy Marine Security Guard personnel who will remain in SVN beyond X+60 and other personnel who were on leave, TDY and R&R outside the RVN at cease-fire, who did not subsequently return to the RVN, but have not previously been dropped from strength reports.

\*\*The withdrawal of ROK Forces is complete except for the 244-man roll-up force which will redeploy on 23 March.

Four Party Joint Military Commission (FPJMC). The FPJMC Central Commission did not meet today, but has a session scheduled for tomorrow, 21 March.

The following is a recapitulation of US/RVN/DRV/PRG deployments to date:

	<u>US</u>	<u>RVN</u>	<u>DRV</u>	<u>PRG</u>
Saigon	148	184	264	153
Region I	64	78	0	0
Region II	96	88	0	0
Region III	111	112	133	0
Region IV	76	82	88	44
Region V	107	102	46	5
Region VI	67	77	73	5
Region VII	<u>125</u>	<u>102</u>	<u>120</u>	<u>7</u>
Total	<u>794</u>	<u>825</u>	<u>724</u>	<u>214</u>
Authorized--Not Currently Filled	(31)	(0)	(101)	(611)

International Commission of Control and Supervision (ICCS). On 19 March, three 82mm mortar rounds impacted approximately 600 meters from the ICCS compound at Tri Ton (Region VII), but no injuries were reported. Two rockets also hit within about 250 meters of the ICCS team site at Hong Ngu (Region VI), killing one Vietnamese woman and wounding four other Vietnamese civilians. Only the Canadian and Indonesian team personnel had deployed to Hong Ngu and both these elements are prepared to evacuate that location if local security conditions do not improve.

The following is a recapitulation of ICCS deployments to date:

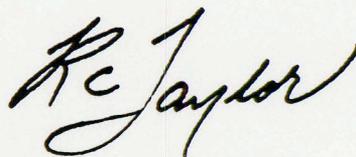
	<u>Canada</u>	<u>Hungary</u>	<u>Indonesia</u>	<u>Poland</u>
Saigon	144	143	141	133
Region I	19	14	19	23
Region II	16	13	21	19
Region III	29	27	30	41
Region IV	13	13	13	17
Region V	24	22	28	23
Region VI	12	13	17	15
Region VII	20	15	20	19
Total	<u>277</u>	<u>260</u>	<u>289</u>	<u>290</u>
Authorized--Not Currently Filled	(13)	(30)	(1)	(0)

Mine Countermeasures. The Subcommittees on Inland Waterways and on Coastal Waterways both met in Haiphong on 19 March, with discussions in the latter body centering around the proposed US-DRV agreement regarding Haiphong mine clearance.

Airborne mine countermeasures units flew about 40 hours in sweep operations in the Haiphong and Hon Gai areas, but no detonations were observed.

Cease-fire Violations. Thirteen major and 104 minor violations were reported during the period 190701-200700 EST March. The distribution of major violations by Military Region was: MR 1 - 6; MR 2 - 2; MR 3 - 4; and MR 4 - 1. A total of 80 enemy and 15 friendly personnel were reported killed during the period. A description of major violations and charts depicting trends in major and minor violations and casualties are attached.

Intelligence. A DIA summary covering the Indochina situation is appended.



Robert C. Taylor  
Colonel, USAF  
[unclear] [unclear]

## RVN MAJOR CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS

(C) During the period 190701 to 200700 EST March, 13 major cease-fire violations were reported; they are broken out by Military Region as follows:

### MILITARY REGION 1

(C) Six major cease-fire violations were reported; the most significant is described below:

At 192130 EST, four miles south of Hue, elements of an ARVN infantry battalion were subjected to an enemy attack by fire (ABF) of 80 rounds of mixed 60-mm and 82-mm mortar fire, followed by a ground assault. Results were two enemy soldiers killed, two friendly soldiers wounded and one missing.

### MILITARY REGION 2

(C) Two major cease-fire violations were reported. The more significant is described below:

At 190630 EST, three miles south of Bong Son, elements of an ARVN infantry battalion were subjected to an enemy ground attack. Results were 19 enemy soldiers killed, with friendly forces losing one soldier killed and three wounded.

### MILITARY REGION 3

(C) Four major cease-fire violations were reported, but descriptive details are not currently available.

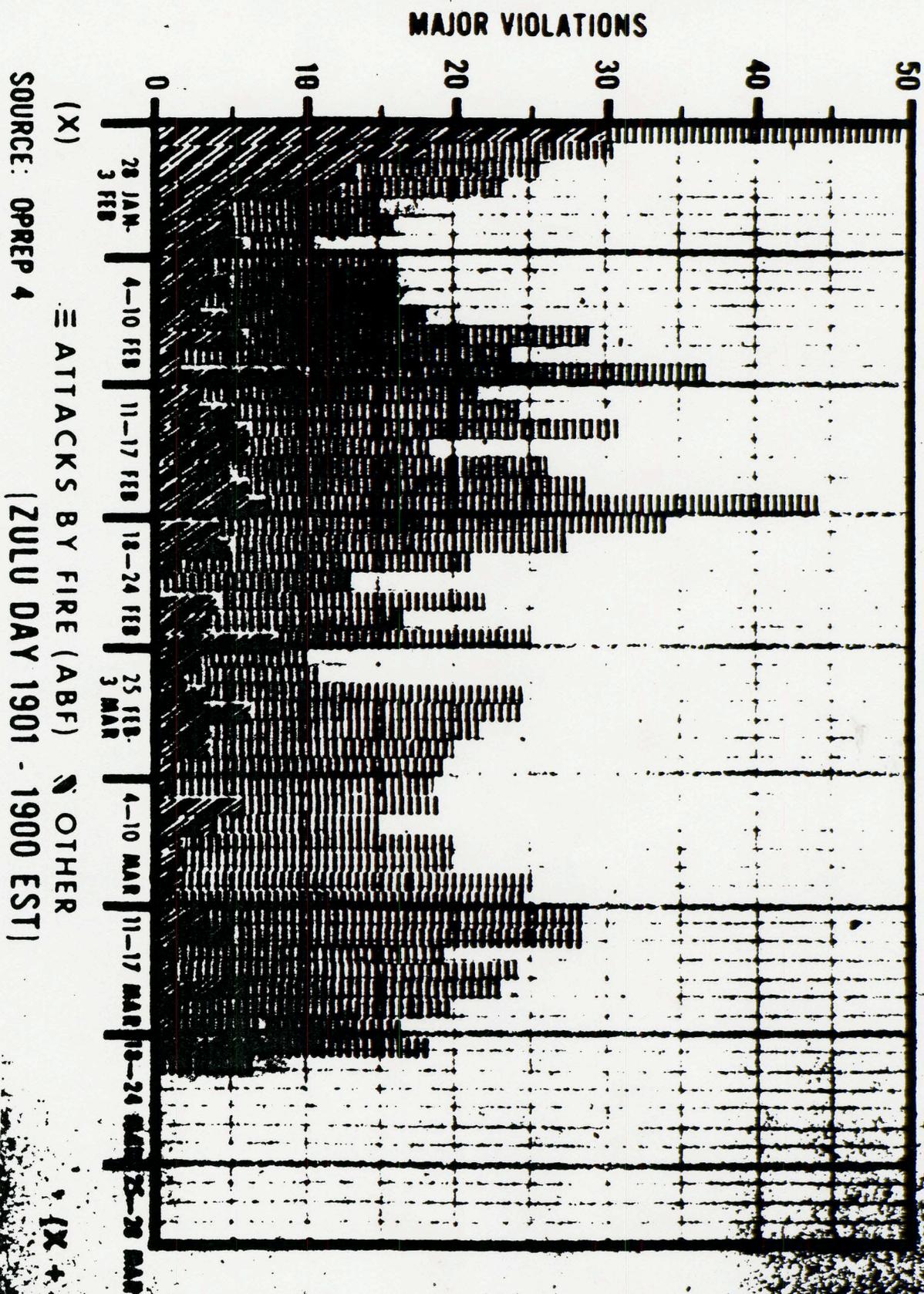
### MILITARY REGION 4

(C) Only one major cease-fire violation was reported.

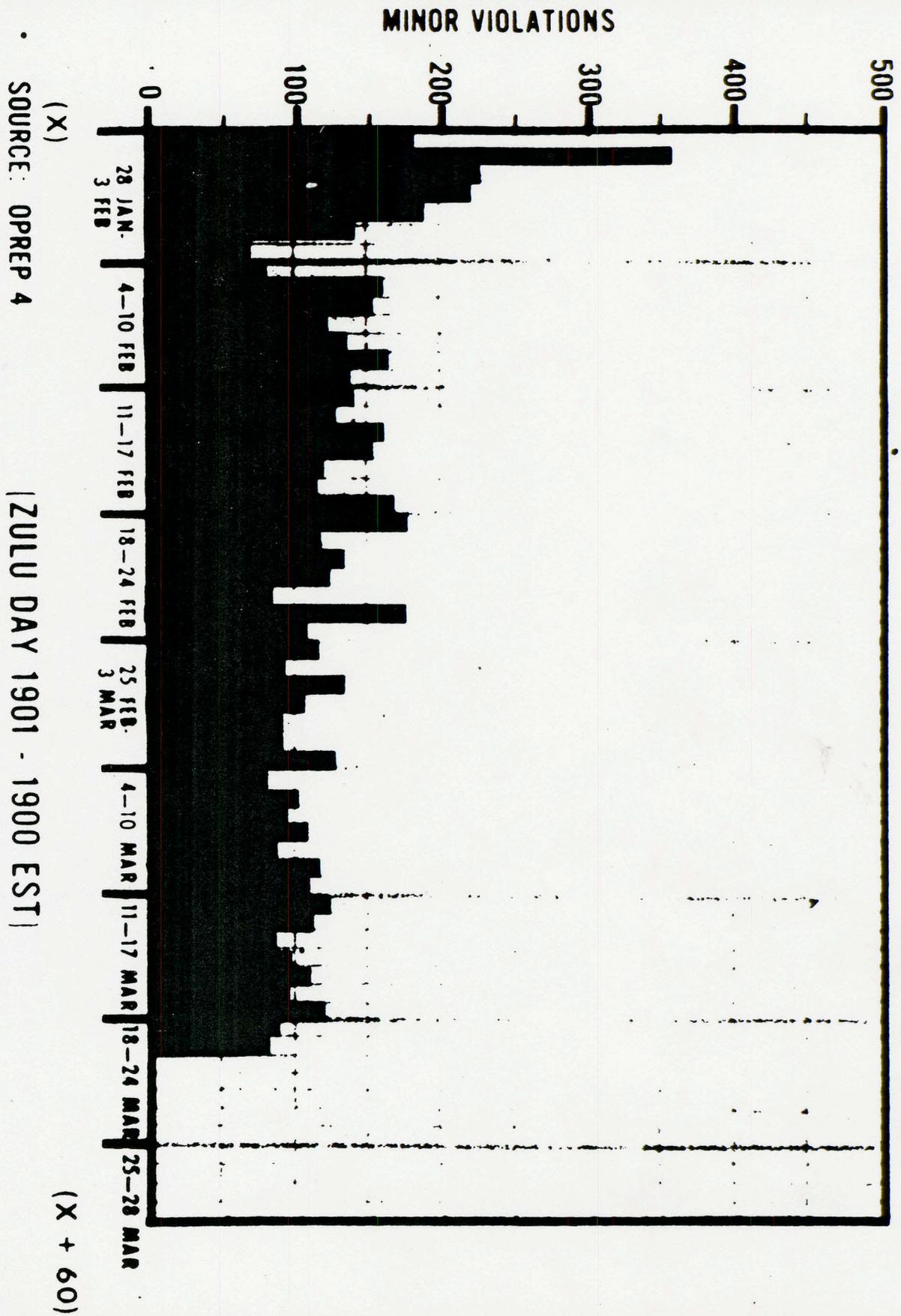
At 192110 EST, eight miles northeast of Chau Doc, a RVN district headquarters received an ABF of one 122-mm rocket. Friendly losses were one civilian killed and 12 wounded.

# RVN MAJOR CEASE FIRE VIOLATIONS

TREND TOTAL 1137



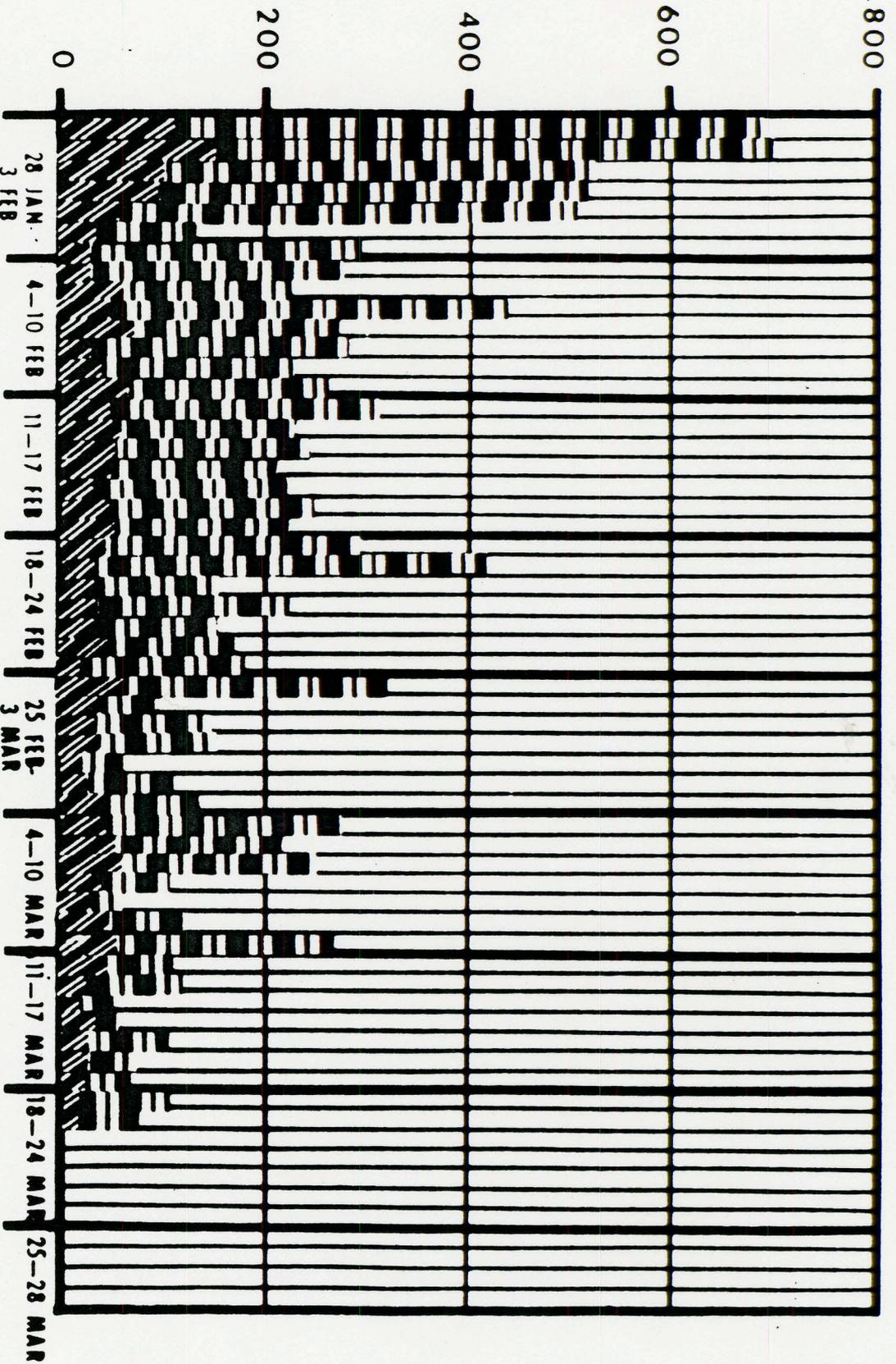
**RVN MINOR CEASE FIRE VIOLATIONS  
TREND TOTAL 6705**



(ZULU DAY 1901 - 1900 EST)

POST CEASE FIRE CASUALTIES (MIA)

VC NVA-RVN



SOURCE MACV OPRREP-4

VC NVA

RVN

INDOCHINA SITUATION

20 March 1973

ENEMY FORCES

There have been no major enemy unit deployments detected in Indochina since the last report. Maps will be provided when significant changes occur.

SOUTH VIETNAM

CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS

MILITARY REGION	TOTAL SINCE CEASE-FIRE LEVEL OF ACTION			LAST 24 HOURS* LEVEL OF ACTION		
	SER	MAJ	MIN	SER	MAJ (**)	MIN
MR 1	0	598	2,172	0	6 (4)	36
MR 2	0	135	798	0	2 (2)	12
MR 3	0	159	1,264	0	4 (2)	16
MR 4	0	255	2,543	0	1 (0)	40
TOTALS	0	1,147	6,777	0	13 (8)	104

\* Included in totals.

\*\* Number of major violations which occurred prior to the last 24 hours.

The number of major violations during the reporting period declined to 13. Minor violations numbered 104, an increase of 24. The most significant major violation occurred in MR 2 where 19 enemy were killed in a ground action five miles southwest of Hoai Nhon.

ENEMY INTENTIONS

No change

## SECURITY AND POLITICAL SITUATION

In MR 3, communist forces are maintaining pressure on the government outpost of Tonle Cham through attacks-by-fire. Operational reports indicate the enemy has constructed trenches to within 1,000 yards of its perimeter. However, the camp remains in friendly hands. In the south, enemy activity around Rach Bap in Binh Duong Province has slackened.

A COSVN three-point circular was sent to Viet Cong regional and provincial party committees on 13 March. It stated that after prisoner exchanges and US withdrawal, renewed main-force operations were anticipated in support of the political struggle and negotiations with Saigon. In addition, attacks in response to government operations that violated the cease-fire would help expand territorial and population control.

The circular cautioned that assassinations and armed attacks to back up political activities must be selective in order to avoid popular alienation against the communists. The policy of national concord and reconciliation would be followed to generate popular support for the communists.

COSVN also instructed all party committees to master five tasks to back the political struggle. They are to motivate and rally the populace, convert popular support to political action, adapt themselves to new situations, strengthen the revolutionary government, and improve their internal structures. They are also to prepare specific plans of action based on local conditions.

## LAOS

### CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS

There were no significant cease-fire violations reported.

### ENEMY INTENTIONS

No change

SECURITY AND POLITICAL SITUATION

No significant developments.

CAMBODIA

ENEMY INTENTIONS

No change

SECURITY AND POLITICAL SITUATION

Despite continued resistance along the east bank of the Mekong River, the enemy was forced out of key positions 9-12 miles south of Neak Luong. A river convoy from South Vietnam arrived at Phnom Penh this morning without encountering any significant attacks. Its safe arrival should reassure the increasingly reluctant ship captains and help bolster the government's sagging morale.

Elsewhere, no significant ground contacts with the enemy were reported. Reports, however, continue to reflect enemy intentions to interdict major lines of communication leading to Phnom Penh. According to recent reports, the Khmer insurgents are particularly interested in mounting renewed efforts along Route 1 in the vicinity of Neak Luong.

In Phnom Penh, strict security measures are being enforced as the government continues to tighten its control of the population. Sixteen members of the royal family related to Sihanouk have been placed under house arrest, and several lesser members were suspended from their duties with the air force on 18 March. Also, some civil liberties have been suspended, such as freedom of the press, assembly, and speech. Unconfirmed reports indicate that soldiers and police have taken strong measures against teachers and students who have been the primary agitators during the current civil unrest.

SA 99 B-346

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

21 MAR 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT  
FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: Vietnam Post Cease-fire Report, 1600 EST, 21 March 1973

Prisoners of War (PW)

- US Prisoners. DRV and PRG representatives to the FPJMC reiterated to US representatives to the FPJMC their intention to return all US and foreign PW's prior to 28 March 1973. In addition, PRG has advised that 2 PWs (1 US and 1 ROK) captured just prior to the cease-fire and not included on the Paris list, would be released. A total of 280 returnees (270 military and 10 civilians) are now located in 29 CONUS hospitals. A total of 161 returnees have completed processing.
- Enemy Prisoners. A total of 21,683 EPW have been released or repatriated (9,104 NVA, 12,236 VC, and 343 Regroupees). Included in this total are 795 VC released 20 March at Quang Tri and 500 NVA repatriated on 21 March at Thien Ngon. An additional 10,980 VC EPW have previously been released under the GVN "New Life" program. Eighteen EPW have refused repatriation. The grand total of EPW released or repatriated to date is 32,663.

There remain 4,579 EPW interned in five operational PW camps in SVN. The majority (4,055) are interned at the Central PW camp on Phu Quoc Island. The rest are located in PW camps at Bien Hoa (458), Da Nang (49), Qui Nhon (2), and Can Tho (15). Included in the total are 1,456 NVA, 2,799 Viet Cong, and 324 Regroupees.

Withdrawal of US and ROK Forces. US withdrawals remain in a suspended status, except for approved exceptions, pending arrangements for Phase IV US PW releases.

	<u>In-Country 27 January</u>	<u>Reported Withdrawn by 21 March</u>	<u>To Be Withdrawn</u>
US	23,516	17,220	6,115*
ROK	35,396	35,152	244**

\* Excludes DAO and Embassy Marine Security Guard personnel who will remain in SVN beyond X + 60. Also excludes personnel who have departed SVN but who are carried on strength reports for administrative reasons.

\*\* Roll-up force scheduled to redeploy on 23 March.

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Sec Def Cont Nr. I-1208

DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 12356, Sect. 3.4  
NSC F9301187 10/4/93; DOD I-93/54551 10/28/93

By MKO NARA, Date 1/24/94

SA 99

Four Party Joint Military Commission (FPJMC). At the 21 March 1973 meeting of the Central FPJMC, the US protested the introduction by DRV and PRG into the RVN of substantial quantities of war material and military personnel in violation of the agreement and demanded an explanation. The PRG and DRV rejected the US accusations and alleged the US and GVN had violated the agreement by shipping war material into the RVN. The US emphasized that records were being maintained to verify that replacement of GVN war material was being made in scrupulous adherence to the agreement and protocols. The establishment of twice weekly liaison flights from Saigon to Hanoi was also discussed; no agreement was reached, however. The following is a recapitulation of US/GVN/DRV/PRG deployments to date:

	<u>US</u> <u>Deployed</u>	<u>GVN</u> <u>Deployed</u>	<u>DRV</u> <u>Deployed</u>	<u>PRG</u> <u>Deployed</u>
Saigon	174	184	264	153
Region I	64	78	0	0
Region II	96	88	0	0
Region III	111	112	133	0
Region IV	76	82	88	44
Region V	105	102	46	5
Region VI	67	77	73	5
Region VII	124	100	120	7
Total	<u>817*</u>	<u>823</u>	<u>724</u>	<u>214</u>

\* All delegates present - shortfall is support personnel.

International Commission of Control and Supervision (ICCS). The ICCS investigation of alleged cease-fire violations at Tonle Cham (Region V) has been obstructed by lengthy discussions on procedural matters between ICCS delegations at Region V headquarters. It has been reported that the main obstructionists are the Polish.

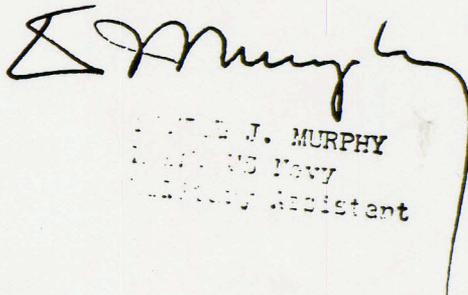
The following is a recapitulation of ICCS deployments to date:

	<u>Canada</u>	<u>Hungary</u>	<u>Indonesia</u>	<u>Poland</u>
Saigon	144	143	141	133
Region I	19	14	19	23
Region II	16	13	21	19
Region III	29	27	30	41
Region IV	13	13	13	17
Region V	24	22	28	23
Region VI	12	13	17	15
Region VII	20	15	20	19
Total	<u>277</u>	<u>260</u>	<u>289</u>	<u>290</u>

Mine Countermeasures. Both the Subcommittee on Inland Waterways and the Subcommittee on Coastal Waterways met on 20 March 1973 in Haiphong. The DRV asked for detailed information on sweep plans for the Haiphong area, and specific locations of mine drops, numbers and types of mines and DRV presented a plan outlining procedures for C-130 aircraft to use Cat Bi Airfield for movement of logistic materials for Inland Waterway mine sweeping. The Coastal Subcommittee is scheduled for technical discussions on Wednesday, 21 March 1973. Airborne mine countermeasures units continued sweep operations with no detonations observed.

Cease-fire Violation. Twenty major and 66 minor violations were reported during the period 200701 - 210700 EST March 1973. The distribution of major violations by Military Region was: MR 1 - 10, MR 2 - 1, MR 3 - 4, MR 4 - 5. A total of 28 enemy and 9 friendly personnel were reported killed during the period. A description of selected major violations and charts depicting trends in major and minor violations and casualties are attached.

Intelligence. A DIA summary of the Indochina situation is appended.

  
JAMES J. MURPHY  
US Navy  
Military Assistant

## RVN Major Cease-fire Violations

### Military Region 1

During the period 200100-202035 EST March, elements of the 1st Division, west-southwest of Hue, received seven enemy attacks by fire (ABF) consisting of 348 rounds of mixed ordnance. Two ABFs were followed by ground attacks. No enemy losses were reported. Friendly losses were eight ARVN soldiers wounded and two missing.

### Military Region 3

During the period 192330-202130 EST March, RVNAF elements in the vicinity of Tonle Cham received three enemy ABFs consisting of 226 rounds of mixed ordnance. Five RVNAF soldiers were wounded.

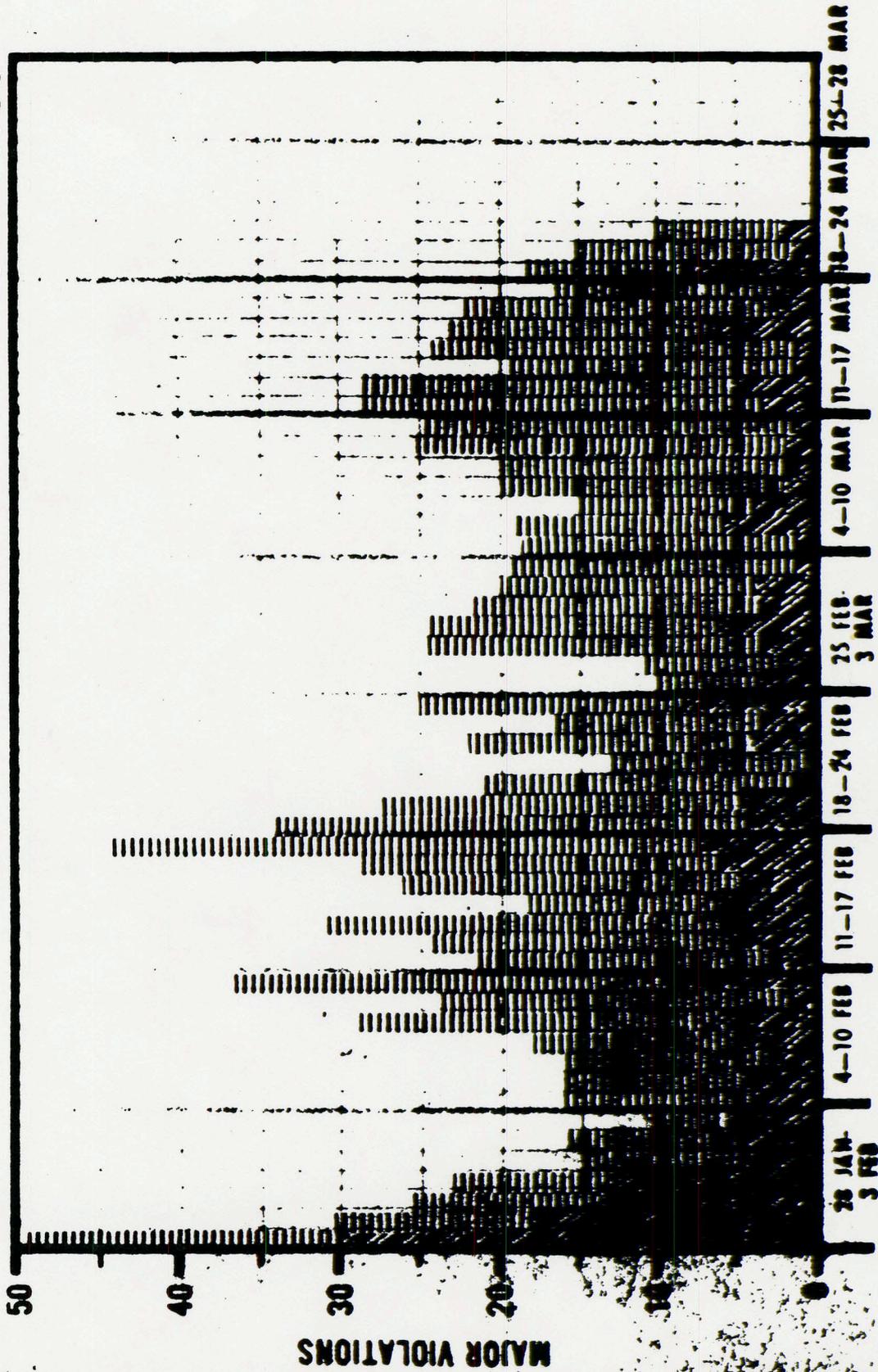
### Military Region 4

At 202145 EST March, the GVN JMC office at Tri Ton received an enemy ABF consisting of one 122-mm mortar round. Friendly losses were one soldier killed and 13 wounded, including two ARVN JMC officers wounded.

# RVN MAJOR CEASE FIRE VIOLATIONS

TREND

TOTAL 1156

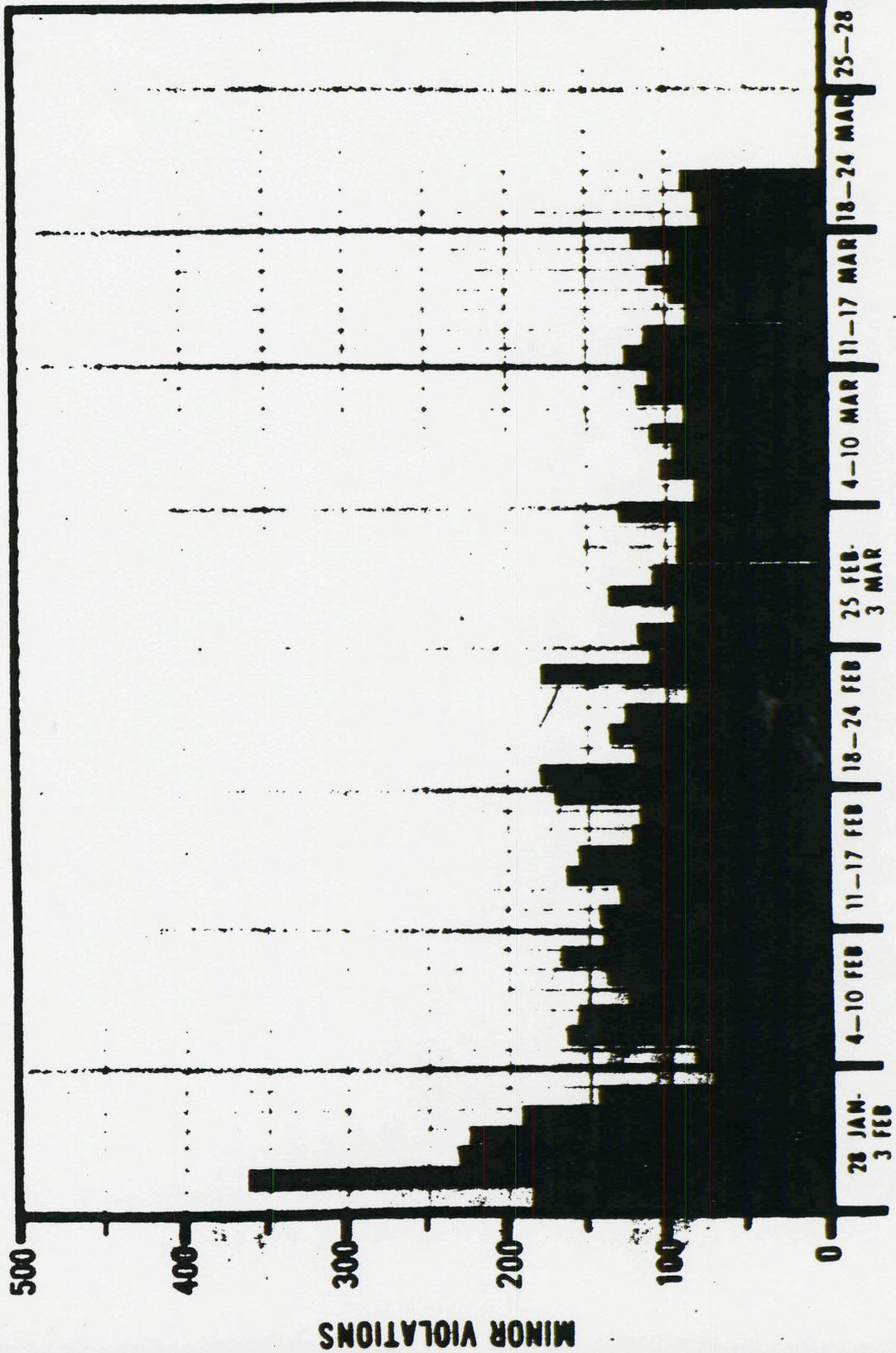


(X) ≡ ATTACKS BY FIRE (ABF) ≡ OTHER  
 SOURCE: OPREP 4 (ZULU DAY 1901 - 1900 EST)

(X + 60)

# RVN MINOR CEASE FIRE VIOLATIONS

TREND TOTAL 6798



(X + 60)

(X)

SOURCE: OPREP 4

[ZULU DAY 1901 - 1900 EST]

# POST CEASE FIRE CASUALTIES (KIA)

## VC / NVA - RVN



INDOCHINA SITUATION

21 March 1973

ENEMY FORCES

There have been no major enemy unit deployments detected in Indochina since the last report. Maps will be provided when significant changes occur.

SOUTH VIETNAM

CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS

MILITARY REGION	TOTAL SINCE CEASE-FIRE LEVEL OF ACTION			LAST 24 HOURS* LEVEL OF ACTION		
	SER	MAJ	MIN	SER	MAJ (**)	MIN
MR 1	0	608	2,185	0	10 ( 6)	13
MR 2	0	136	805	0	1 ( 1)	7
MR 3	0	163	1,286	0	4 ( 3)	22
MR 4	0	260	2,567	0	5 ( 2)	24
	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	0	1,167	6,843	0	20 (12)	66

\* Included in totals.

\*\* Number of major violations which occurred prior to the last 24 hours.

A total of 20 major violations were reported. Minor violations totaled 66, a decrease of 38 from the previous period. In MR 4, the GVN JMC Office at Tri Ton was hit by a mortar round that resulted in one friendly killed and 15 wounded. Two of the wounded were ARVN JMC officers.

ENEMY INTENTIONS

No change

## SECURITY AND POLITICAL SITUATION

In southern MR 1, elements of the 711th NVA Division continue to defend against ARVN operations in the Que Son area. A prisoner from the division disclosed that 30 armor vehicles, probably tanks, had recently arrived in the Hiep Duc area. These are believed to be part of the 90-110 tanks previously reported destined for southern MR 1. The 30 tanks will probably be subordinated to the 572d Tank Artillery Group which provides support for the 711th NVA Division.

In northern MR 3, the friendly situation at Tonle Cham is now critical. Attacks-by-fire by elements of the 7th NVA Division have destroyed the ammunition dump and the garrison is now low on ammunition.

In response to a letter from the US member of the Four Power Joint Military Commission, the ICCS has ordered an investigation of complaints of violations of the cease-fire by the communists at Rach Bap in Binh Duong Province and Tonle Cham in Tay Ninh. If investigations are expedited, they could serve to reduce combat activity around the two outposts.

## LAOS

### CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS

A low-level of military activity persists throughout the country as small-unit clashes continue to be reported, primarily in the south near Thakhek, Dong Hene, Keng Kok, and Khong Sedone.

### ENEMY INTENTIONS

No change

## SECURITY AND POLITICAL SITUATION

There were no significant developments.

## CAMBODIA

### ENEMY INTENTIONS

No change

### SECURITY AND POLITICAL SITUATION

Activity remains focused along the major lines of communication surrounding the capital. Khmer insurgents attacked four company-size positions 9-12 miles south of the provincial capital of Kompong Chhnang yesterday and cut Route 5. Farther south, enemy resistance stalled a government task force on Route 2 just north of Chambak. However, friendly forces along the highway are making steady progress and should clear the road between Phnom Penh and Takeo soon.

### LOGISTICAL DEVELOPMENTS

No reduction in enemy logistic activity has been detected since 15 March when the President publicly referenced Hanoi's continued high resupply rate into South Vietnam. Sensor detections in southern Laos since then show that supply movement continues at rates comparable to those observed during the two weeks prior to the announcement.

Other sources confirm continued activity. In the Laos border area of Quang Tri Province, earlier reported to be the scene of a transportation offensive scheduled to begin on 15 March, shipments of over 100 tons were reported en route into South Vietnam. In addition, <sup>METHOD</sup> nearly 70 trucks engaged in logistic activity along cross-border routes leading toward Khe Sanh and the A Shau Valley.

Supplies also continue to be reported en route from Laos to both the central highlands and COSVN area of South Vietnam. Aerial reconnaissance reports continued transport activity along primary enemy routes through Cambodia as well.

SA 99

B-344

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

22 MAR 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT  
FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: Vietnam Post Cease-fire Report, 1600 EST, 22 March 1973

Prisoners of War (PW)

- US Prisoners. A total of 439 US military and civilian PWs have been returned by the DRV/PRG. In addition, two military and one civilian who were detained in China have been released.

All those released have been processed through the JHRC at Clark AB. Two hundred seventy-two men are presently in CONUS service hospitals and 169 have completed processing and are on convalescent leave. (Figures do not include Mr. Downey who was processed at a civilian hospital.)

The following shows the status of returned prisoners as of 0600 EST 22 March:

	Reported for <u>Release</u>	Returned to <u>US Control</u>			At JHRC	Enroute or at CONUS <u>Hospital</u>	Processing <u>Completed</u>
		NVN	SVN	PRC			
<u>Military</u>							
Army	76	0	58	0	0	34	24
Navy	137	114	0	1	0	78	37
Air Force	325	227	2	1	0	132	98
Marine Corps	26	8	13	0	0	18	3
Military Total	564	349	73	2	0	262	162
Civilian	24	1	16	0	0	10	7
Total	588	350	89	2	0	272	169

- Enemy Prisoners. There are 3,378 EPWs interned in five operational PW camps in SVN. The majority (2,852) are interned at the Central PW camp on Phu Quoc Island. The remainder are located in PW camps at Bien Hoa (460), Da Nang (49), Qui Nhon (2), and Can Tho (15). Included in the total are 650 NVA, 2,598 Viet Cong, and 130 Regroupees.

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12356, Sect. 3.4

NSC F9301187 10/4/93; DOD I-93/54551 10/28/93

By M/KC NARA, Date 1/24/94

SA 99

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Sec Def Cont Nr. I-1236

A total of 22,882 EPWs have been released/repatriated (9,410 NVA, 12,935 VC, and 537 Regroupees). Included in this total are 699 VC released at Quang Tri on 21 March, 306 NVA and 194 Regroupees repatriated at Thien Ngon on 22 March. An additional 10,980 VC EPWs have previously been released under the GVN "New Life" program. The grand total of EPW releases/repatriations to date is 33,862.

On 21 March, an EPW refused repatriation and was returned to CPWC. The 10 PWs reported as refusing repatriation have been processed as Hoi Chanh.

Withdrawal of US and ROK Forces. US withdrawals remain in a suspended status, except for approved exceptions, pending arrangements for Phase IV US PW releases.

	<u>In-Country</u> <u>27 January</u>	<u>Reported Withdrawn</u> <u>by 22 March</u>	<u>To Be</u> <u>Withdrawn</u>
US	23,516	17,227	6,108*
ROK	35,396	35,152	244**

\*Excludes DAO and Embassy Marine Security Guard personnel who will remain in SVN beyond X+60. Also excludes personnel who have departed SVN but who are carried on strength reports for administrative reasons.

\*\*Roll-up force scheduled to redeploy on 23 March.

Assistance to the GVN. Support of VNAF C-130A aircraft continues to be an area of concern. Maintenance and supply support requirements are receiving increased emphasis to improve operational ready rates.

Overall stocks of ammunition are adequate. Ground ammunition issues have been reduced since the cease-fire. Since the cease-fire, five ammunition vessels have completed discharge. One is currently off-loading, two are due in. In-country petroleum levels are adequate.

Defense Attache Office (DAO). The number of DAO civilian positions either filled or committed by name is now 1,140 of the 1,200 authorized.

Four Party Joint Military Commission (FPJMC). The DRV, on 21 March, presented a proposal that the US would receive all US PWs held by the DRV/PRG by 25 March if US forces and forces of foreign countries allied with the US and RVN were withdrawn by the end of the day, 25 March. The US, on 22 March, informed DRV and PRG:

- The withdrawal of US military forces and allies from South Vietnam will be completed in accordance with terms of the Agreement and coincident with the release of all, repeat, all US PWs held throughout Indochina.

- Withdrawal of US and allied forces will commence after: (1) US has been provided a complete list of all US PWs including those held by the Pathet Lao; (2) US receipt of the date/time and place of release; and (3) the first group of PWs has been physically transferred to US custody. Withdrawal would be completed on 28 March.

No response to the US position has been received.

The following is a recapitulation of US/GVN/DRV/PRG deployments to date:

	<u>US</u>	<u>RVN</u>	<u>DRV</u>	<u>PRG</u>
Saigon	175	184	268	153
Region I	64	78	0	0
Region II	97	88	0	0
Region III	112	112	129	0
Region IV	76	82	88	44
Region V	103	102	46	5
Region VI	66	77	73	5
Region VII	126	100	120	7
Total	819*	823	724	214

Authorized--Not Currently Filled	(6)	(2)	(101)	(611)
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\*All delegates present--shortfall is support personnel.

International Commission of Control and Supervision (ICCS). ICCS PW teams observed the processing and release of PRG PWs at Quang Tri and Thien Ngon and the return of RVN PWs at Quang Tri.

The following is a recapitulation of ICCS deployments to date:

	<u>Canada</u>	<u>Hungary</u>	<u>Indonesia</u>	<u>Poland</u>
Saigon	144	143	141	133
Region I	19	14	19	23
Region II	16	13	21	19
Region III	29	27	30	41
Region IV	13	13	13	17
Region V	24	22	28	23
Region VI	12	13	17	15
Region VII	20	15	20	19
Total	277	260	289	290

Authorized--Not Currently Filled	(13)	(30)	(1)	(0)
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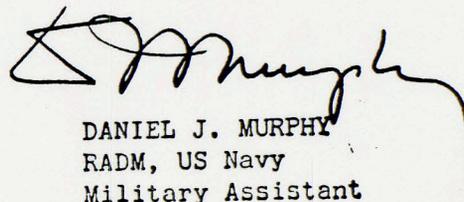
Mine Countermeasures. Airborne mine countermeasures units flew 18 sorties for 57.0 flight hours and 37.6 effective sweep hours in the Haiphong and Hon Gai areas. No mine detonations were observed.

The Subcommittee on Coastal Waterways met on 21 March 1973 in Haiphong. The discussions centered on the positioning of Task Force 78 helicopter control ships in the Haiphong and Hon Gai areas. On Thursday, 22 March 1973, the Inland Waterways Subcommittee is scheduled to inspect the proposed training site and facilities to be used in training DRV personnel in inland waterways mine clearing procedures.

The Soviet surveillance vessel AGI BAROGRAF remains in the area of Task Force 78.

Cease-fire Violations. Nineteen major and 129 minor violations were reported during the period 210701-220700 EST March 1973. The distribution of major violations by Military Region was: MR 1 - 6; MR 2 - 2; MR 3 - 4; and MR 4 - 7. A total of 198 enemy and 37 friendly personnel were reported killed during the period. A description of selected major violations and charts depicting trends in major and minor violations and casualties are attached.

Intelligence. A DIA summary of the Indochina situation is appended.



DANIEL J. MURPHY  
RADM, US Navy  
Military Assistant

### RVN Major Cease-fire Violations

(C) During the period 210701-220700 EST March 1973, 19 major cease-fire violations were reported. The significant violations are described below:

#### Military Region 1

(C) Six major cease-fire violations were reported. The significant violation is described below:

At 210450 EST March, elements of an ARVN infantry battalion, 15 miles northwest of Tam Ky, received an attack by fire consisting of 20 mortar rounds followed by a ground attack. Enemy losses are unknown. Friendly losses were two ARVN soldiers killed and two wounded.

#### Military Region 2

(C) Two major cease-fire violations were reported; however, neither were significant.

#### Military Region 3

(C) Four major cease-fire violations were reported. The significant violations are described below:

During the period 211830-212200 EST March, RVNAF elements in the vicinity of Tonle Cham received two enemy attacks by fire consisting of 200 rounds of mixed ordnance. There were no friendly losses reported.

#### Military Region 4

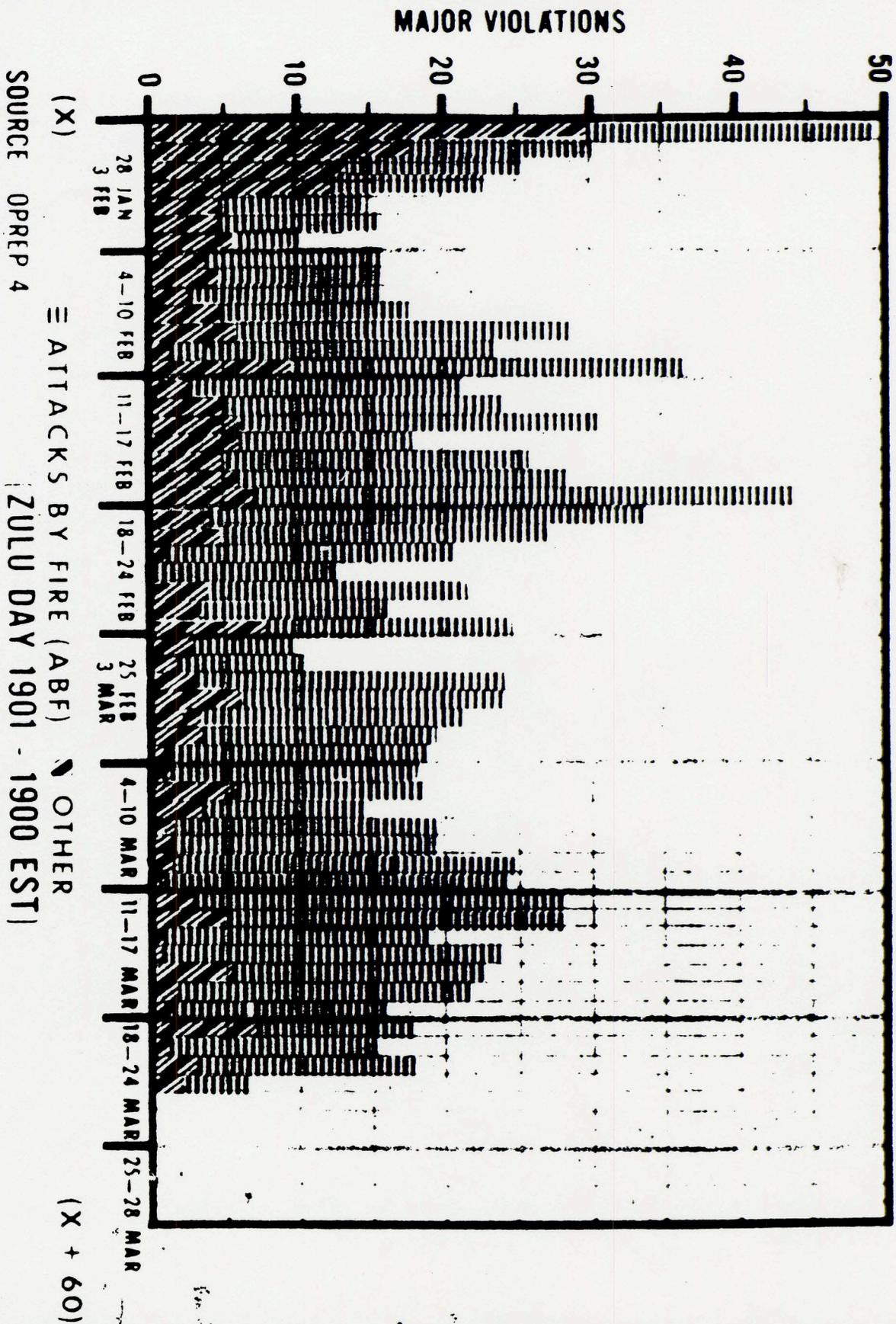
(C) Seven major cease-fire violations were reported. The significant violations are described below:

At 202110 EST March, elements of an ARVN infantry battalion, 10 miles northeast of Chau Duc, received a ground attack by an enemy force. Enemy losses were 101 soldiers killed and one detained. Friendly losses were nine ARVN soldiers killed and 22 wounded.

At 201740 EST March, elements of an ARVN infantry battalion, 14 miles northwest of My Tho, received a ground attack by an enemy force. Enemy losses were 47 soldiers killed. Friendly losses were four ARVN soldiers killed and eight wounded.

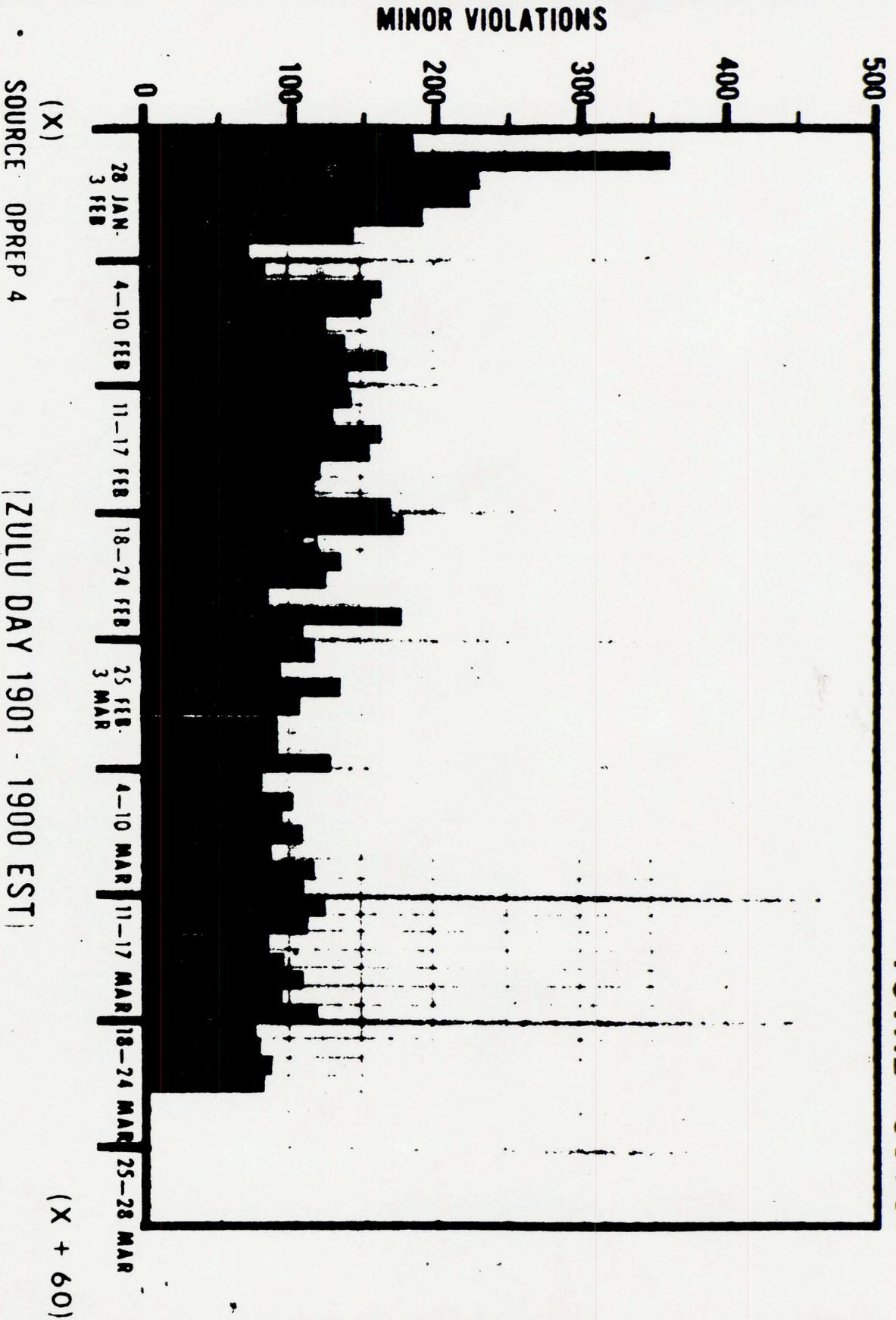
# RVN MAJOR CEASE FIRE VIOLATIONS

TREND TOTAL 1171



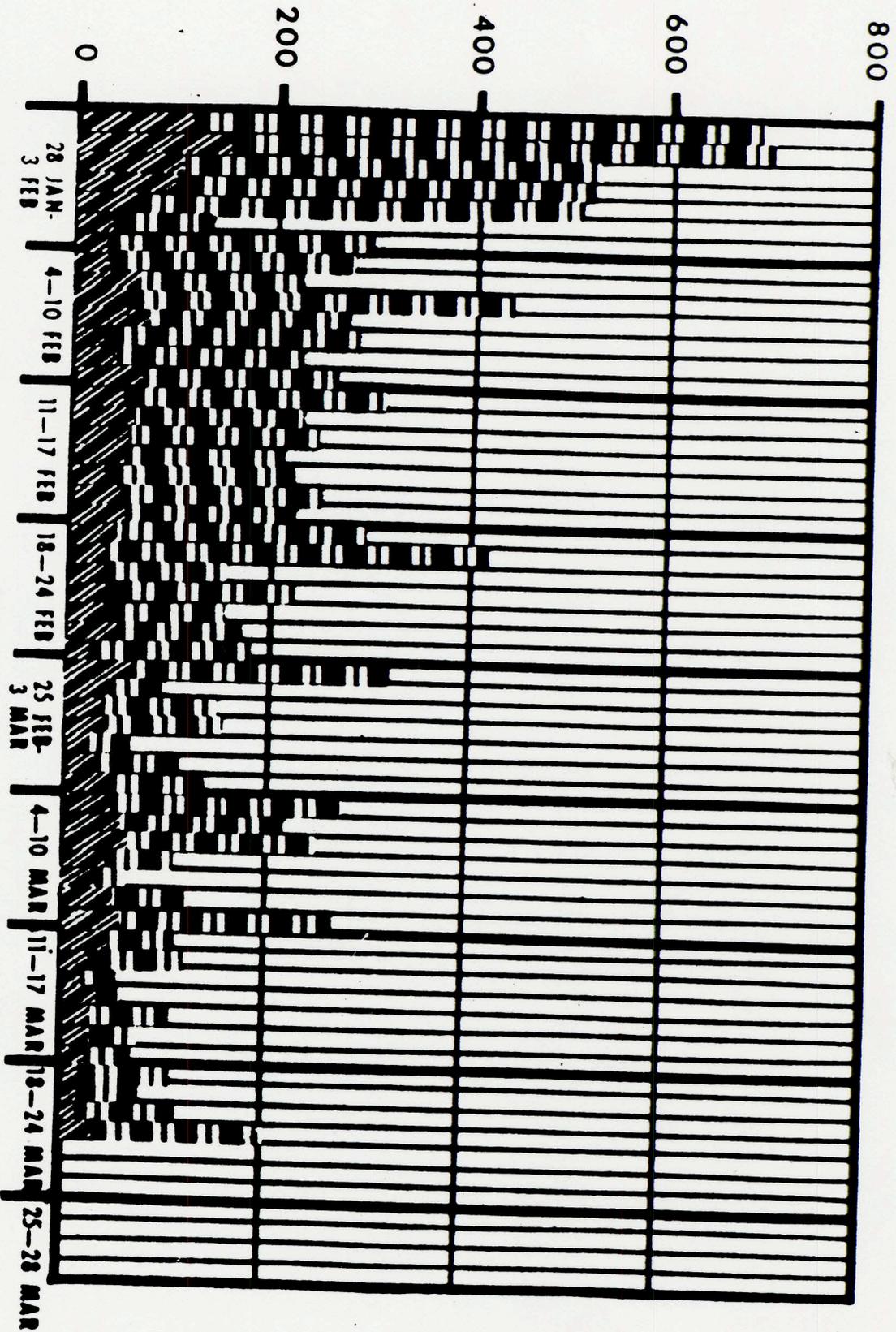
# RVN MINOR CEASE FIRE VIOLATIONS

TREND TOTAL 6879



# POST CEASE FIRE CASUALTIES (KIA)

## VC/NVA-RVN



SOURCE: MACV OPREP-4

VC/NVA

RVN

INDOCHINA SITUATION

22 March 1973

ENEMY FORCES

There have been no major enemy unit deployments detected in Indochina since the last report. Maps will be provided when significant changes occur.

SOUTH VIETNAM

CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS

MILITARY REGION	TOTAL SINCE CEASE-FIRE LEVEL OF ACTION			LAST 24 HOURS* LEVEL OF ACTION		
	SER	MAJ	MIN	SER	MAJ (**)	MIN
MR 1	0	614	2,210	0	6 ( 3)	25
MR 2	0	138	822	0	2 ( 2)	17
MR 3	0	167	1,307	0	4 ( 1)	21
MR 4	0	267	2,633	0	7 ( 4)	66
TOTALS	0	1,186	6,972	0	19 (10)	129

\* Included in totals.

\*\* Number of major violations which occurred prior to the last 24 hours.

The number of major violations was 19, a reduction of one from the previous reporting period. Minor violations totaled 129 compared to 66 during the previous period. The largest increase was noted in MR 4. One hundred one enemy soldiers were killed in a ground action eight miles northwest of Hong Ngu. Also in MR 4, 47 enemy were killed in a ground contact 18 miles northeast of Vinh Long.

ENEMY INTENTIONS

No change

## SECURITY AND POLITICAL SITUATION

### METHOD

one of the three North Vietnamese SAM units earlier deployed in the Khe Sanh area. This is the first concrete evidence that these units, unlocated since the 6th, were not withdrawn from the immediate area. The SAM site detected was in a new location and occupied by a complete firing battalion with a SPOONREST acquisition radar, a FANSONG missile-control radar, and at least three launchers, two with possible SA-2/GUIDELINE missiles in place. So far, neither of the other two battalions has been detected, but the newly occupied site suggests that the SAM operating area remains basically unchanged.

Air defense force levels in Quang Tri Province are unprecedented. They presently include the SAM regiment, 14 reinforced AAA regiments with over 800 guns, and an early-warning radar company.

In MR 3, enemy attacks against Tonle Cham continue, and the situation remains critical. At last report, the communists had moved to within 500 feet of the base. The US-requested ICCS investigation into the situation there is reported to have become bogged down by objections, primarily Polish, on procedural matters.

### LAOS

#### CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS

There were no significant cease-fire violations reported.

#### ENEMY INTENTIONS

No change

#### SECURITY AND POLITICAL SITUATION

The official delegations of the Lao factions have made some progress in recent days but have yet to settle the makeup of a coalition government. At their weekly

meeting yesterday, the negotiating committees admitted that a decision on a new cabinet would depend on talks at "higher echelons."

Phoun Sipraseuth, chief of the Pathet Lao delegation, commented that in the "unlikely" event a new cabinet was not formed by tomorrow, the cease-fire "would still be in force." His remark suggests that the communists still consider a cease-fire in their interests but are in no hurry to set up a new government. Their delaying tactics may result from pressure by Hanoi, which may not be ready to set in motion the military provisions of the cease-fire, which call for international supervision and the withdrawal of foreign troops within 60 days after a coalition government is established.

#### CAMBODIA

##### ENEMY INTENTIONS

No change

##### SECURITY AND POLITICAL SITUATION

In Cambodia, north of the capital, about 150 insurgents are maintaining pressure against government positions along Route 5 south of Kompong Chhnang where the road remains cut. Recent information indicates that the Khmer insurgents intend to mount additional attacks along Route 5 in order to divert government units from the fighting south of the capital.

Yesterday, the enemy began operations against Route 1, 20 to 30 miles southeast of the capital. An insurgent force attacked six government positions and cut the road in two locations. Just to the east along the Mekong River, enemy units harassed the river convoy returning to South Vietnam from Phnom Penh. Only minor damage was sustained, however, and the convoy arrived intact.

Recent information reveals enemy intentions to resume attacks-by-fire against Phnom Penh and the southern suburb of Takhmau. The enemy also plans to

employ a 105-mm artillery piece to shell the Presidential Palace. While the enemy has not employed cannon artillery in Cambodia to date, he probably has that capability.

SA 99

B-343

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

23 MAR 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT  
FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: Vietnam Post Cease-fire Report, 1600 EST, 23 March 1973

Prisoners of War (PW)

- US Prisoners. A total of 270 military and civilian personnel are undergoing processing in CONUS service hospitals. 171 returnees (including 7 civilians) have completed their processing. Details of the next release of US PW have not been received, nor has the other side provided a list.

The following shows the status of returned prisoners as of 0600 EST 23 March:

	Reported for <u>Release</u>	Returned to <u>US Control</u>			At <u>JHRC</u>	Enroute or at CONUS <u>Hospital</u>	Processing <u>Completed</u>
		<u>NVN</u>	<u>SVN</u>	<u>PRC</u>			
<u>Military</u>							
Army	76	0	58	0	0	32	26
Navy	137	114	0	1	0	78	37
Air Force	325	227	2	1	0	132	98
Marine Corps	26	8	13	0	0	18	3
Military Total	564	349	73	2	0	260	164
Civilian	24	1	16	0	0	10	7
Total	588	350	89	2	0	270	171

- Enemy Prisoners. There are 2,181 EPW interned in five operational PW Camps in SVN. The majority (1,652) are interned at the Central PW Camp on Phu Quoc Island. The remainder are located in PW Camps at Bien Hoa (462), Da Nang (49), Qui Nhon (3), and Can Tho (15). Included in the total are 381 NVA, 1,741 Viet Cong, and 59 Regroupees.

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12356, Sect. 3.4

NSC F9301187 10/4/93 ; DOD I-93/54551 10/28/93

By MMK NARA, Date 1/24/94

SA 99

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Sec Def Cont Nr. I-1255

As of 231100Z March, a total of 24,081 EPW had been released/repatriated (9,688 NVA, 13,794 VC and 599 Regroupees). Included in this total are 699 VC EPW released at Quang Tri on 22 March, and 160 VC, 278 NVA, and 62 Regroupees released/repatriated at Thien Ngon on 23 March. Ten EPW previously reported as refusing repatriation and one EPW who was hospitalized have subsequently been released under the GVN "New Life" program. The total EPW released under the "New Life" program now stands at 11,000. The grand total of EPW releases/repatriations since 25 January 1973 is 35,081. On 22 March, one EPW refused repatriation at Camp Evans. To date, a total of 20 EPW have been reported as refusing release or repatriation. International Commission of Control and Supervision (ICCS) representatives observed release/repatriation activities at Quang Tri and Thien Ngon on 22 and 23 March. On 24 March, GVN plans to release 700 EPW at Quang Tri and 500 EPW at Thien Ngon.

Withdrawal of US and ROK Forces. US withdrawals remain in a suspended status, except for approved exceptions, pending arrangements for Phase IV US PW releases. Redeployment of ROK Forces was completed today. ROK LST 815 sailed from Newport for Korea at 0830 (Saigon time), 23 March 1973. The remaining elements of the ROK roll-up force departed by air from Tan Son Nhut at 1000 (Saigon time), 23 March 1973.

	<u>In-Country 27 January</u>	<u>Reported Withdrawn by 23 March</u>	<u>To Be Withdrawn</u>
US	23,516	17,232	6,103*
ROK	35,396	35,396	0

\*Excludes DAO and Embassy Marine Security Guard personnel who will remain in SVN beyond X+60. Also excludes personnel who have departed SVN but who are carried on strength reports for administrative reasons.

Assistance to the GVN. No new developments since last report.

Defense Attache Office (DAO). The number of DAO civilian positions either filled or committed by name is now 1,152 of the 1,200 authorized or 96.0% of total authorized.

Four Party Joint Military Commission (FPJMC). The Central FPJMC met on 23 March 1973. US protested the installation of a new missile site at Khe Sanh and reserved the right to take appropriate action. PRG/DRV rejected the US protest and warned against threats of war. The Chiefs discussed release of all US PWs, to include those held by the Pathet Lao, with regard to related issue of troop withdrawals. PRG objected to "the excessive" number of US troops remaining after X+60 (i.e., DAO--50; US ELM FPJMC--825; Embassy Security Detachment--159). RVN and PRG agreed to a 2-hour cease fire at Tong Le Cham to allow the RVN to evacuate KIA/WIA personnel.

The following is a recapitulation of US/RVN/DRV/PRG deployments to date:

	<u>US</u>	<u>RVN</u>	<u>DRV</u>	<u>PRG</u>
Saigon	174	184	267	153
Region I	64	78	0	0
Region II	97	88	0	0
Region III	112	112	129	0
Region IV	76	82	88	44
Region V	103	102	46	5
Region VI	66	77	73	5
Region VII	<u>126</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>120</u>	<u>7</u>
Total	818*	823	723	214
Authorized--Not Currently Filled	(7)	(2)	(102)	(611)

\*All delegates present - shortfall is support personnel.

International Commission of Control and Supervision (ICCS). The Polish and Hungarian representatives of the ICCS team at Tri Ton (Region VII) withdrew from the team site. The Polish representatives of the ICCS team at Ben Cat (Region V) withdrew from the team site. ICCS PW teams observed the processing and release of PRG and RVN PWs at Thien Ngon and Quang Tri.

The following is a recapitulation of ICCS deployments to date:

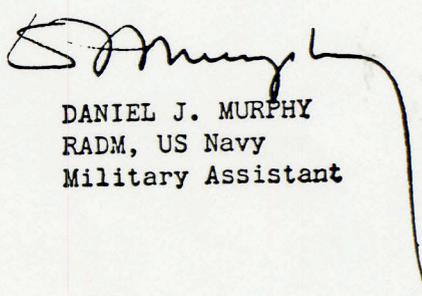
	<u>Canada</u>	<u>Hungary</u>	<u>Indonesia</u>	<u>Poland</u>
Saigon	147	143	141	133
Region I	18	14	19	23
Region II	15	13	21	19
Region III	28	27	30	41
Region IV	13	13	13	17
Region V	24	22	28	23
Region VI	12	13	17	15
Region VII	<u>20</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>19</u>
Total	277	260	289	290
Authorized--Not Currently Filled	(13)	(30)	(1)	(0)

Mine Countermeasures. The Soviet surveillance vessel AGI BAROGRAF remains in the area of Task Force 78. AMCM Units ALFA and BRAVO conducted sweeping operations in the Haiphong area on 22 March. The other two AMCM units did not fly since most of the CH-53 helicopters were temporarily unavailable while awaiting a required ultrasonic test of the rotor heads.

The Inland Subcommittee inspected the site for the school to be used to instruct DRV personnel in the procedures for the clearance of inland waterways. While austere, the site was considered adequate in all respects. The Inland Subcommittee will continue discussions on 23 March.

Cease-fire Violations. Nineteen major and 77 minor violations were reported during the period 220701-230700 EST March 1973. The distribution of major violations by Military Region was: MR 1 - 5; MR 2 - 1; MR 3 - 7; and MR 4 - 6. A total of 37 enemy and 54 friendly personnel were reported killed during the period. A description of selected major violations and charts depicting trends in major and minor violations and casualties are attached.

Intelligence. A DIA summary of the Indochina situation is appended.

  
DANIEL J. MURPHY  
RADM, US Navy  
Military Assistant

## RVN Major Cease-fire Violations

(C) During the period 220701-230700 EST March 1973, 19 major cease-fire violations were reported. The significant violations are described below.

### Military Region 1

(C) Five major cease-fire violations were reported. The significant violation is described below:

At 221600 EST March, 15 miles south-southwest of Da Nang, a bridge secured by an RF company received a ground attack by an enemy force. One span of the bridge was dropped and the bridge is closed to traffic. Enemy losses are unknown. Friendly losses were not reported.

### Military Region 2

(C) One major cease-fire violation was reported and is described below:

At 211705 EST March, nine miles south-southwest of Kontum City, elements of a ranger border defense battalion received a ground attack by an enemy force. Enemy losses are unknown. Friendly losses were 48 soldiers wounded and 20 missing.

### Military Region 3

(C) Seven major cease-fire violations were reported. The significant violations are described below:

During the period 220530-222150 EST March, RVNAF elements in the vicinity of Tonle Cham received four enemy attacks by fire consisting of 386 rounds of mixed ordnance. Four RVNAF soldiers were wounded.

### Military Region 4

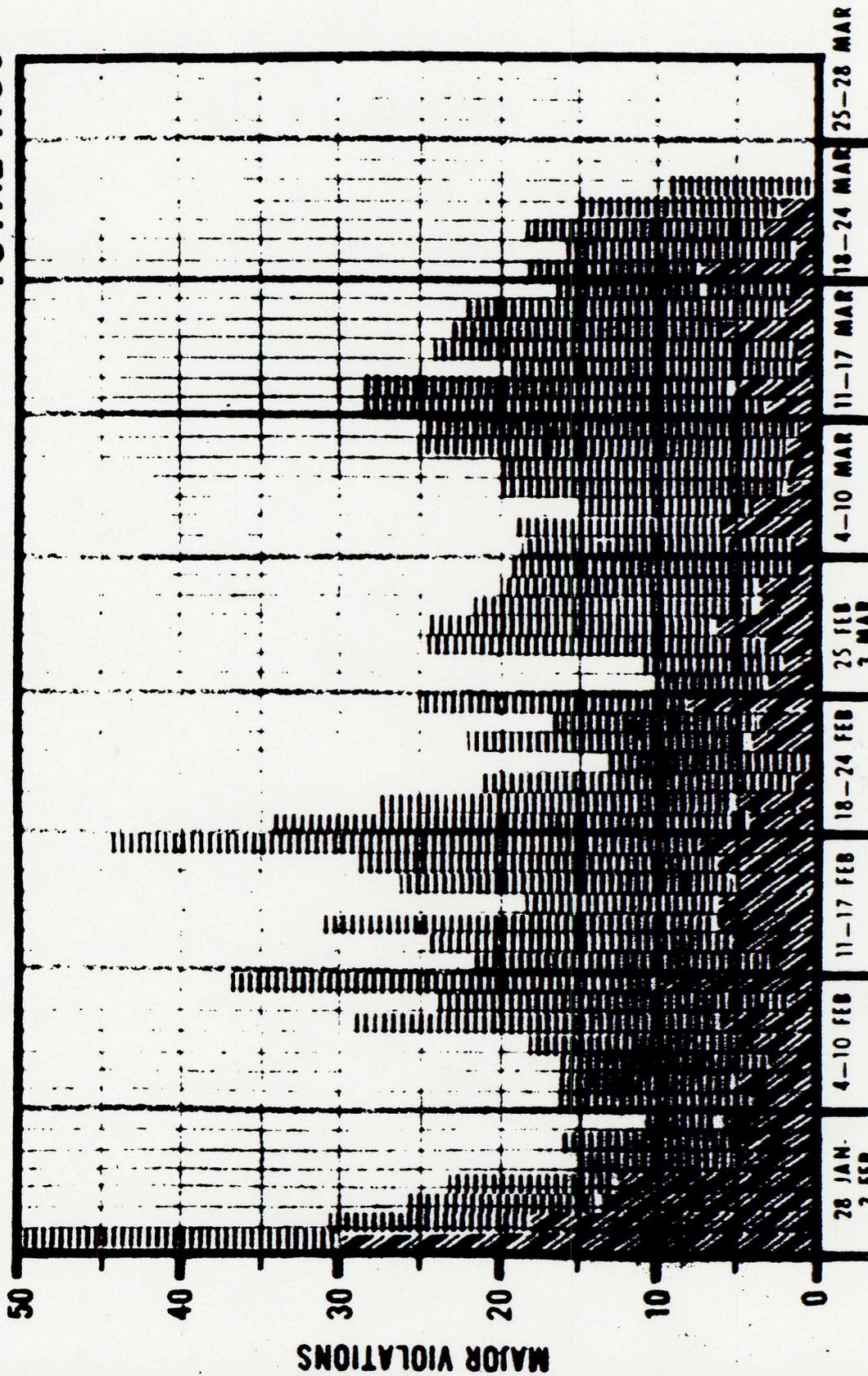
(C) Six major cease-fire violations were reported. The significant violations are described below:

At 220330 EST March, 10 miles northeast of Chau Duc, elements of an ARVN infantry battalion received an enemy attack by fire consisting of 20 mortar rounds. Seven ARVN soldiers were killed.

At 221840 EST March, eight miles northeast of Chau Duc, a Cambodian refugee camp received an attack by fire of one 122mm rocket. Friendly losses were 24 civilians killed and 40 injured.

# RVN MAJOR CEASE FIRE VIOLATIONS

TREND  
TOTAL 1189



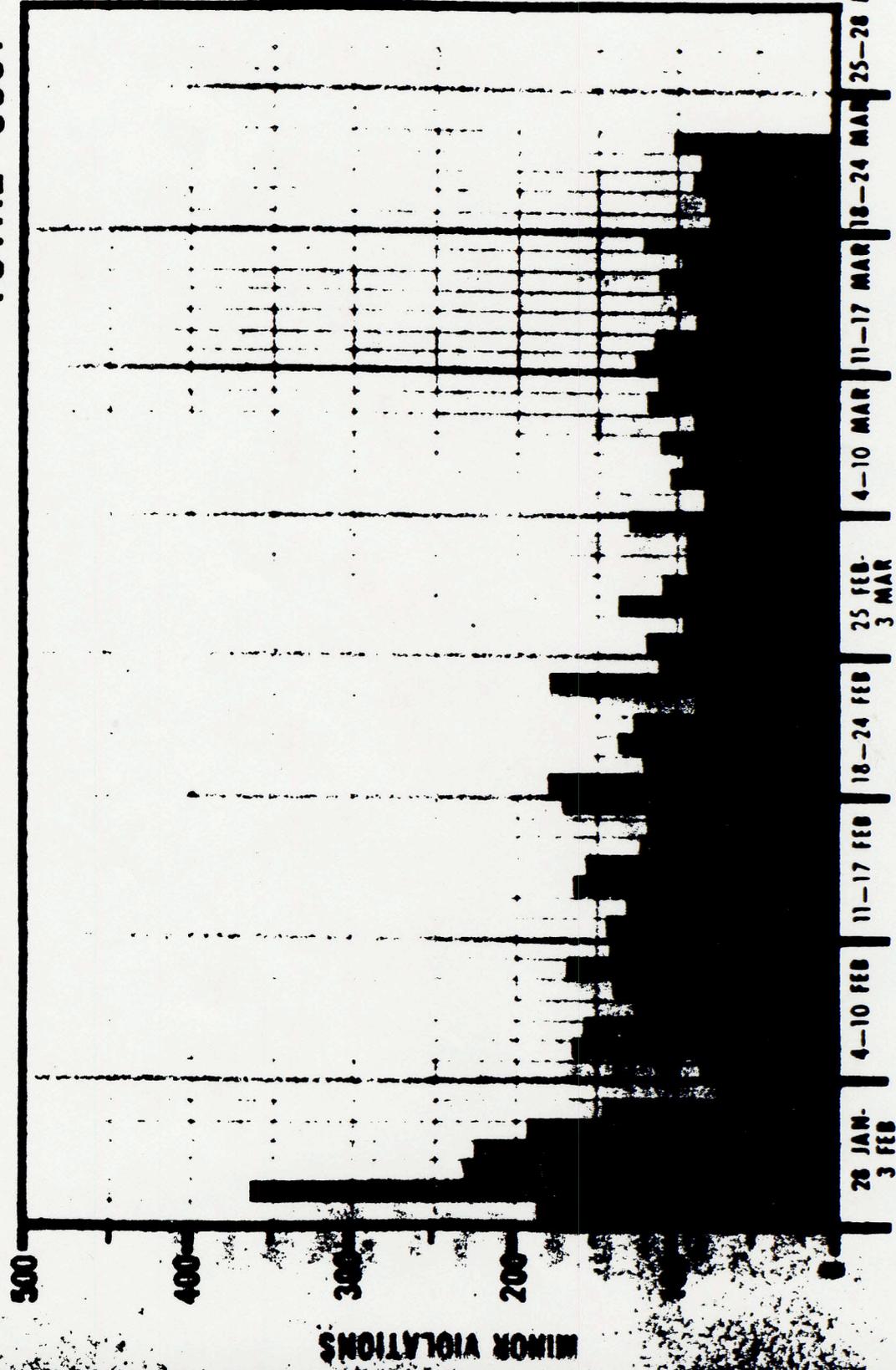
(X) (X + 60)

≡ ATTACKS BY FIRE (ABF) OTHER

SOURCE: OPREP 4 [ZULU DAY 1901 - 1900 EST]

# RVN MINOR CEASE FIRE VIOLATIONS

## TREND TOTAL 6981



(X + 60)

(X)

SOURCE: OPREP 4 (ZULU DAY 1901 - 1900 EST)

# POST CEASE FIRE CASUALTIES (KIA)

## VC/NVA-RVN



VC/NVA
   
 RVN
   
 VC/NVA-RVN

SOURCE: MACV OPREP-4

INDOCHINA SITUATION

23 March 1973

ENEMY FORCES

There have been no major enemy unit deployments detected in Indochina since the last report. Maps will be provided when significant changes occur.

SOUTH VIETNAM

CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS

MILITARY REGION	TOTAL SINCE CEASE-FIRE LEVEL OF ACTION			LAST 24 HOURS* LEVEL OF ACTION		
	SER	MAJ	MIN	SER	MAJ (**)	MIN
MR 1	0	619	2,233	0	5 (3)	23
MR 2	0	139	832	0	1 (1)	10
MR 3	0	174	1,326	0	7 (1)	19
MR 4	0	273	2,658	0	6 (2)	25
	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	0	1,205	7,049	0	19 (7)	77

\* Included in totals.

\*\* Number of major violations which occurred prior to the last 24 hours.

The number of major violations was 19, the same total reported during the previous period. Minor violations totaled 77, a reduction of 52. The largest decrease occurred in MR 4. In MR 4, 24 civilians were killed and 40 injured when a 122-mm rocket struck a Cambodian refugee area located 10 miles northwest of Hong Ngu.

ENEMY INTENTIONS

No change

## SECURITY AND POLITICAL SITUATION

Sensitive sources have provided evidence that the Headquarters, 308th Division, and possibly its three subordinate regiments, have deployed to North Vietnam. If true, this will be the first major combat unit to leave South Vietnam during the post-cease-fire period. Further information will be required to determine whether the division's combat personnel were also withdrawn.

The situation at Tonle Cham remains serious. The communists continue to pressure the outpost through attacks-by-fire, but enemy ground activity appears to have slackened. Additionally, initial reports indicate that a temporary cease-fire has been agreed upon by the opposing forces to allow the evacuation of some 50 wounded at the base. Further details are not known at this time.

## LAOS

### CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS

There were no significant cease-fire violations.

### ENEMY INTENTIONS

No change

## SECURITY AND POLITICAL SITUATION

Despite an almost constant round of talks, the Lao parties have failed to agree on a new cabinet. Pathet Lao obstructionism had already delayed a solution, and the communist negotiators left Vientiane for consultations in Sam Neua yesterday. An agreement is not now expected until next week at the earliest.

Pathet Lao reluctance to comply with the timetable, which they insisted be written into the cease-fire agreement, seems strange. Second thoughts in Hanoi about carrying out the military provisions of the cease-fire, especially the troop withdrawal and international inspection provisions, apparently lie at the heart of the matter. The North Vietnamese almost certainly do not want

their overall logistic network in the Lao Panhandle closely inspected during the dry season while their major logistic effort is under way.

#### CAMBODIA

##### ENEMY INTENTIONS

No change

##### SECURITY AND POLITICAL SITUATION

Southeast of Phnom Penh, the Khmer insurgents have continued their attacks along Route 1, overrunning another government position northwest of Neak Luong. The enemy now occupies two sections of the road in this area. The enemy is expected to mount additional pressure against government positions along the lower Mekong River corridor in an effort to prevent the passage of river convoys from South Vietnam and thus further aggravate the already tense political situation in the capital.

The government continues to tighten its security controls following the bombing of the Palace and the civil disorders last weekend. On 21 March, the National Assembly approved a resolution ratifying the state of emergency declared earlier by President Lon Nol, granting the government increased powers for the next six months. A government spokesman has announced that not more than 20 people have been arrested, but some 100 have been "confined to their homes." Major opposition party leaders, Sirik Matak and In Tam, have not been formally arrested, but the residence of Sirik Matak is under guard and the close associates of both are being harassed; some associates are apparently fleeing Phnom Penh to avoid arrest.

Sirik Matak and Gen Sosthene Fernandez, Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces, have recently voiced their dismay at the deteriorating political situation in the capital. In the wake of the government's crackdown, political stability in the country is becoming increasingly uncertain. Although some army officers have expressed concern about the future of the country, there are no signs yet that the military is being seriously affected. The future of Cambodia now rests heavily on the government's

will to reduce debilitating infighting among anticommunist leaders and broaden its political base. This, in turn, would serve to restore public confidence in the government.

#### LOGISTICAL DEVELOPMENTS

There are indications that the North Vietnamese may be preparing the Laos logistic system for year-round operations. <sup>METHOD</sup> the Ban Karai Pass corridor in Laos revealed one completed bridge and another under construction nearby. These bridges will allow trucks to continue crossing during periods of high water.

Also in the Laos Panhandle, <sup>METHOD</sup> eight truck-mounted pontoon bridge sections parked near a heavily used North Vietnamese supply route. Seven additional sections were <sup>MT</sup> at a nearby location. This bridging equipment will increase the flexible and mobile aspects of North Vietnamese stream crossing capability throughout the logistic system. The major benefits of the equipment will be to bring high capacity bridging into remote areas and allow bridging of larger streams.

In South Vietnam, <sup>METHOD S</sup> the North Vietnamese are establishing base areas in the MR 1 highlands. <sup>METHOD</sup> seven new operational storage areas in the A Chau Valley. All these areas have been constructed since 24 February, and consist of both structures and open storage. In addition, 36 trucks were noted supporting logistic activity in the area.

JA 99 B-341



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

March 24, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR NATIONAL  
SECURITY AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: Vietnam Post Cease-Fire Report, 1600 hours,  
March 24, 1973

Transmitted herewith is the Vietnam Post Cease-Fire Report, as of  
1600 hours, Eastern Standard Time, March 24, 1973.

DANIEL J. MURPHY  
RADM, US Navy  
Military Assistant

Enclosure

DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 12356, Sect. 3.4  
NSC F9301187 10/4/93; DOD I-93/54551 10/28/93  
By WKO NARA, Date 1/24/94  
SA 99

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Sec Def Cont Nr. X- 1258

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT  
FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: Vietnam Post Cease-fire Report, 1600 EST, 24 March 1973

Prisoners of War (PW)

- US Prisoners. The PW Subcommittee did not meet today, but, in a special session of the FPJMC Central Commission, the PRG passed the US Delegation a list of 33 prisoners (27 US military, 5 US civilian and one ROK military) and proposed their release at Hanoi's Gia Lam Airfield on Monday, 26 March. As the PRG had appended a letter containing release preconditions to the list of 33 PWs, the US side stated that it accepted the list only on the basis that there were absolutely no conditions attached to the act of acceptance. The US side further specifically noted the PRG letter and said that it would be considered by the US just as any other PRG communications to the FPJMC were handled. The US Delegation then reiterated its position that provision of the plan for the completion of US forces withdrawals from SVN depended upon receipt from the DRV/PRG of lists of all US prisoners, together with specified times and places for their release. No dates for the next releases were agreed to at the session.

The following chart shows the status of returned prisoners as of 0600 EST 24 March:

	<u>Reported for Release</u>	<u>Returned to US Control</u>			<u>At JHRC</u>	<u>Enroute or at CONUS Hospital</u>	<u>Processing Completed</u>
		<u>NVN</u>	<u>SVN</u>	<u>PRC</u>			
<u>Military</u>							
Army	76	0	58	0	0	32	26
Navy	137	114	0	1	0	78	37
Air Force	325	227	2	1	0	124	106
Marine Corps	26	8	13	0	0	18	3
Military Total	<u>564</u>	<u>349</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>252</u>	<u>172</u>
Civilian	24	1	16	0	0	10	7
Total	<u>588</u>	<u>350</u>	<u>89</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>262</u>	<u>179</u>

- Enemy Prisoners. Only 1,000 enemy PWs remain in the GVN PW camps at Bien Hoa (569), Da Nang (58), Qui Nhon (8), Can Tho (16), and Phu Quoc (349). The 94 PWs who had been in regular prisons on criminal charges (such as assaulting fellow prisoners) were transferred to the Bien Hoa PW Camp.

As of 24 March, a total of 25,275 enemy PWs have been released/repatriated (14,492 VC, 10,184 NVA and 599 Regroupees). With an additional 11,000 VC PWs previously released under the "New Life" program, the grand total of returns is now 36,275.

Withdrawal of US Forces. Except for emergency leaves and other especially-approved departures, US forces withdrawals remain suspended, pending arrangements for Phase IV US prisoner releases.

<u>In-Country 27 January</u>	<u>Reported Withdrawn by 24 March</u>	<u>To Be Withdrawn</u>
23,516	17,247	6,088*

\*Excludes DAO and Embassy Marine Security Guard personnel who will remain in SVN beyond X+60. Also excludes personnel who have departed SVN, but who are carried on strength reports for administrative reasons.

Assistance to the GVN. No new developments since the last report.

Defense Attache Office (DAO). The number of DAO civilian positions either filled or committed by name is now 1,160 of the 1,200 authorized.

Four Party Joint Military Commission (FPJMC). In today's special session, the FPJMC Central Commission reached final agreement re the 11-point agreement on security, movement, and privileges and immunities. Discussion continued on a twelfth point (concerning liaison flights to Hanoi) and additional privileges and immunities matters, but no agreements were reached on these items.

The Ad Hoc Committee on the movements of PRG personnel also met on 24 March. A draft PRG movement plan for the redeployment of PRG personnel from Regions IV, V, VI, and VII to Saigon was tabled. At the suggestion of the RVN, the committee adjourned to meet on-call, pending a decision by the Chiefs of Delegation on the PRG redeployment proposal.

The following is the current status of FPJMC deployments:

	<u>US</u>	<u>RVN</u>	<u>DRV</u>	<u>PRG</u>
Saigon	178	184	267	156
Region I	64	78	0	0
Region II	97	88	0	0
Region III	112	112	129	0
Region IV	76	82	88	44
Region V	102	102	46	5
Region VI	66	77	73	5
Region VII	124	100	120	7
Total	819*	823	723	217

Authorized--Not				
Currently Filled	(6)	(2)	(102)	(608)

\*All delegates present--shortfall is in support personnel.

International Commission of Control and Supervision (ICCS). ICCS PW teams observed the processing and release of VC PW at Quang Tri and Thien Ngon, and the return of RVN PW at Quang Tri, on 24 March.

The following is the current status of ICCS deployments:

	<u>Canada</u>	<u>Hungary</u>	<u>Indonesia</u>	<u>Poland</u>
Saigon	145	142	143	139
Region I	19	14	19	23
Region II	16	15	19	13
Region III	28	27	30	41
Region IV	13	13	13	17
Region V	24	22	28	23
Region VI	12	12	17	15
Region VII	20	15	20	19
Total	277	260	289	290

Authorized--Not				
Currently Filled	(13)	(30)	(1)	(0)

Mine Countermeasures. The Subcommittee on Inland Waterways met on 23 March to discuss the school teaching schedule. No problems were encountered, but the DRV reiterated its desire to complete the mine clearance schooling as soon as possible. Preparations continue for the first class, which is scheduled to begin 26 March.

AMCM units ALFA and BRAVO continued operations in the Haiphong area. A total of 13.6 operational tow hours were flown. AMCM units CHARLIE and DELTA did not fly pending completion of the required ultrasonic testing of the helicopter rotor heads. It is expected that sufficient CH-53s will have completed testing to enable all units to resume sweep operations today.

Cease-fire Violations. Sixteen major and 56 minor violations were reported during the period 230701-240700 EST March. The distribution of major violations by Military Region was: MR 1 - 6; MR 2 - 3; MR 3 - 1; and MR 4 - 6. A total of 35 enemy and 21 friendly personnel were reported killed during the period. A description of selected major violations and charts depicting trends in major and minor violations and casualties are attached.

Intelligence. A DIA summary of the Indochina situation is appended.

### RVN Major Cease-fire Violations

During the period 230701-240700 EST March, 16 major cease-fire violations were reported; the more significant violations are described below:

#### Military Region 1

Six major cease-fire violations were reported in MR 1. The most significant violations are described below:

Between 230100 and 232230 EST, enemy forces fired a total of 160 60mm and 82mm mortar rounds at elements of three ARVN infantry battalions during four separate attacks 14 miles west of Hue. No casualties were reported.

#### Military Region 2

Three major cease-fire violations were reported in MR 2. The most significant violation is described below:

At 222325 EST, enemy forces attacked elements of an ARVN infantry battalion three miles south of Bong Son. Twenty-one enemy soldiers were killed, while friendly casualties were two soldiers killed and two wounded.

#### Military Region 3

One major cease-fire violation was reported in MR 3:

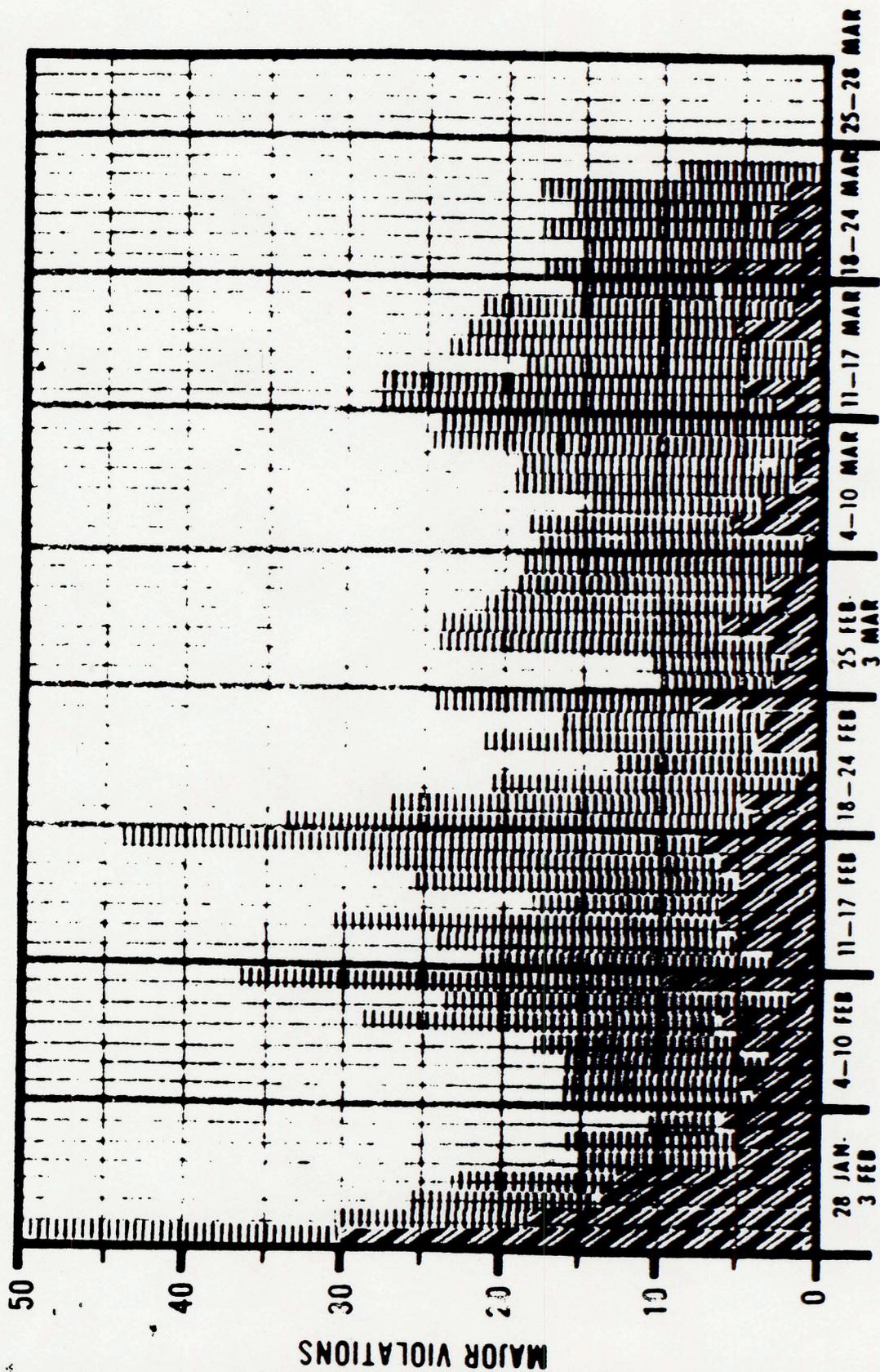
Enemy elements fired one 57mm recoilless rifle round at an ARVN armored personnel carrier at 240140 EST, four miles south of An Loc, killing one friendly soldier and wounding four.

#### Military Region 4

Six major cease-fire violations were reported in MR 4. The most significant violation is described below:

Enemy elements assassinated the Tan Thuan Hamlet Chief at 220810 EST, ten miles north of My Tho.

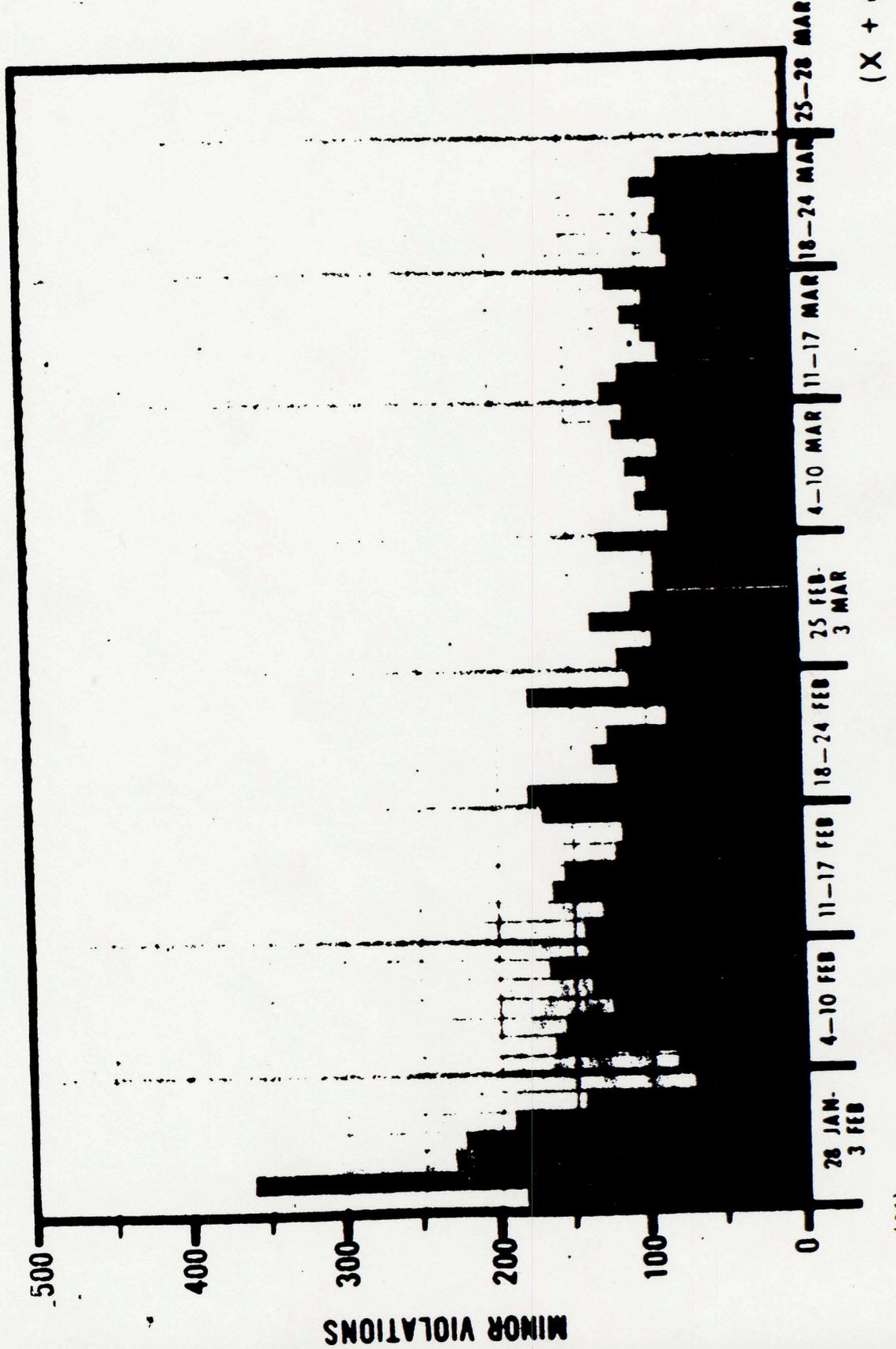
**RVN MAJOR CEASE FIRE VIOLATIONS  
TREND  
TOTAL 1208**



(X)      ≡ ATTACKS BY FIRE (ABF)      ○ OTHER (X + 60)  
SOURCE: OPREP 4      [ZULU DAY 1901 - 1900 EST]

# RVN MINOR CEASE FIRE VIOLATIONS

TREND TOTAL 7063



(X)

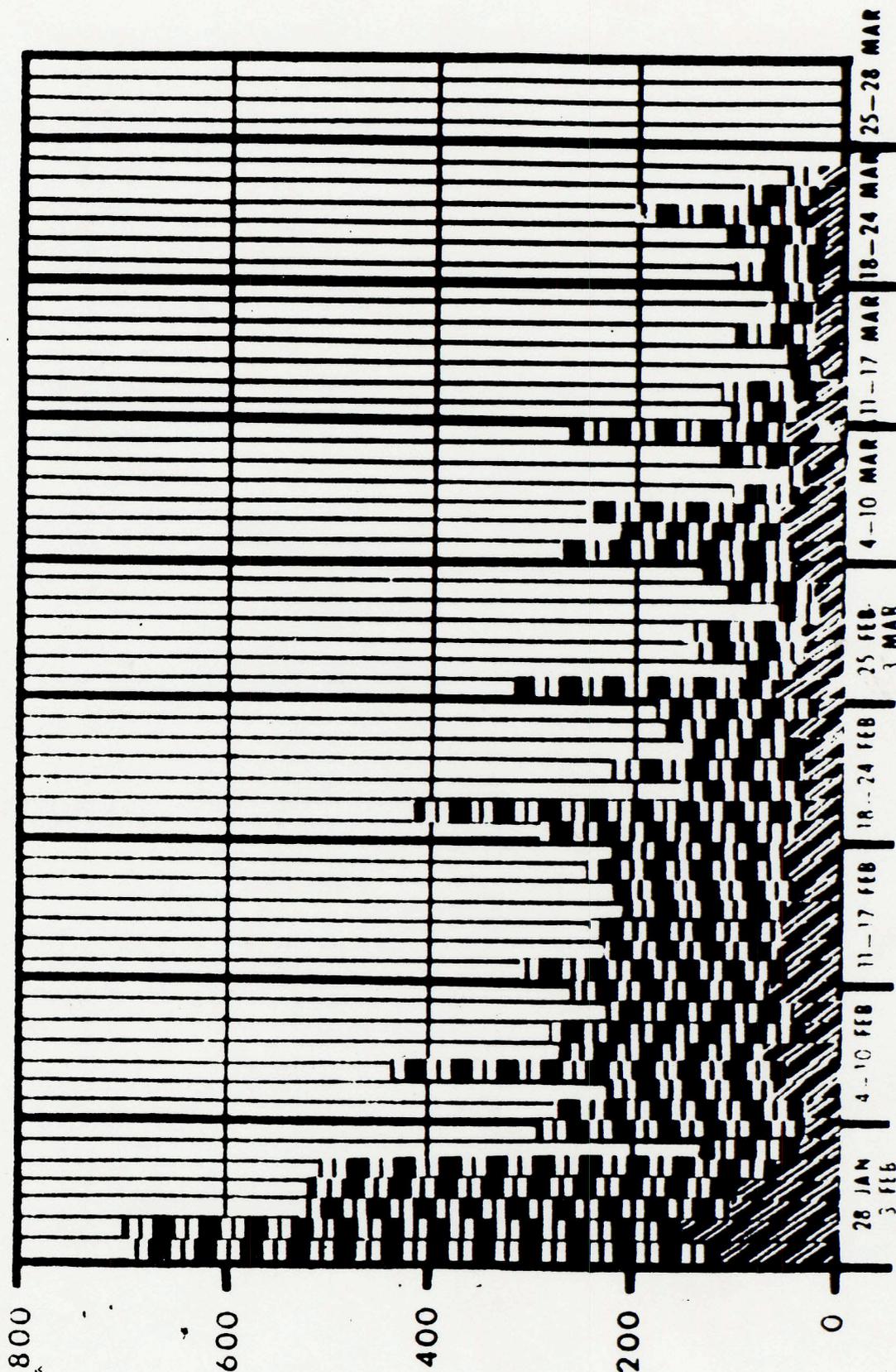
SOURCE: OPREP 4

ZULU DAY 1901 - 1900 EST

(X + 60)

# POST CEASE FIRE CASUALTIES (KIA)

## VC NVA - RVN



RVN

VC NVA

SOURCE MAC V OPR 11-4

INDOCHINA SITUATION

24 MARCH 1973

ENEMY FORCES

There have been no major enemy unit deployments detected in Indochina since the last report. Maps will be provided when significant changes occur.

SOUTH VIETNAM

CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS

MILITARY REGION	TOTAL SINCE CEASE-FIRE LEVEL OF ACTION			LAST 24 HOURS* LEVEL OF ACTION		
	SER	MAJ	MIN	SER	MAJ(**)	MIN
MR 1	0	625	2,246	0	6 (5)	13
MR 2	0	142	840	0	3 (3)	8
MR 3	0	175	1,331	0	1 (0)	5
MR 4	0	279	2,688	0	6 (3)	30
	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	0	1,221	7,105	0	16 (11)	56

\* Included in totals.

\*\* Number of major violations which occurred prior to the last 24 hours.

The number of major violations reported during the period was 16, three less than the previous period. The number of minor violations decreased from 77 to 56, the lowest total reported during a 24-hour period since the cease-fire. In MR 2, an enemy attack-by-fire and follow-on ground attack, five miles south of Hoai Nhon, resulted in 21 enemy killed.

ENEMY INTENTIONS

No change.

SECURITY AND POLITICAL SITUATION

A local cease-fire was effected at Tonle Cham between 0900 and 1100 today (Saigon time). During this period ARVN helicopters evacuated 26 wounded personnel; the remaining wounded refused evacuations. No enemy activity has been reported in the vicinity of Tonle Cham since the local cease-fire went into effect.

In political developments, President Thieu is reportedly planning to release some 300 political prisoners on 26 March. These include former presidential candidate Truong Dinh Dzu and ex-Lower House deputy Tran Ngoc Chau, jailed for contacts with his brother, a North Vietnamese agent. About 140 Buddhists will also be released as Thieu continues efforts to improve relations with the An Quang Buddhists. Reportedly, Chau will be given the choice of going to North Vietnam or remaining in the south with restrictions, possibly concerning his political activities. The Buddhists will possibly also have political restrictions imposed on them. Additionally, Thieu is planning to ask the Senate to grant pardons and return full citizen's rights to Montagnards who participated in separatist rebellions during the mid-1960s. These actions may help lessen the force of communist demands to release civilian prisoners and will probably gain additional support for President Thieu's administration.

#### LAOS

##### CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS

A small number of minor clashes and attacks-by-fire were reported in the Bouam Long, Dong Hene and Khong Sedone areas.

##### ENEMY INTENTIONS

No change.

##### SECURITY AND POLITICAL SITUATION

There were no significant military developments. Talks in Vientiane between the Lao factions are at a complete standstill pending the return of high-level communist negotiators from Sam Neua.

#### CAMBODIA

##### ENEMY INTENTIONS

No change.

##### SECURITY AND POLITICAL SITUATION

North of the capital, insurgent resistance along Route 5 decreased yesterday and the road was opened by friendly forces. There are no indications, however, that the enemy has withdrawn from the area and further attempts to cut the road or harass convoy traffic are expected.

South of the capital along Route 1, Khmer insurgent attacks-by-fire and ground probes have continued against government positions northwest of Neak Luong. A two-brigade government operation to reopen Route 1 is being organized -- one brigade will move north from positions along the highway just opposite Neak Luong, while the other will push south from the direction of Phnom Penh.

Military activity throughout the rest of the country was characterized by minor attacks-by-fire.

#### LOGISTICAL DEVELOPMENTS

There were no significant logistical developments.