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## USIS Sitreps. 1972

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USIS

PRIORITY

(DTD 6 JAN 71)

1. A GENERAL UPSURGE IN MILITARY ACTIVITY WAS NOTED IN LAOS WED AND THUR BUT SO FAR NO PATTERN OF A GENERAL OFFENSIVE HAS SHAPED UP IN ANY REGION.
2. THE AREA SOUTHWEST OF THE PLAIN OF JARS IN NORTH CENTRAL LAOS REMAIN THE MOST ACTIVE ONE THE NORTH VIETNAMESE STEPPED UP THEIR SHELLINGS AND GROUND PROBES AGAINST GOVERNMENT POSITIONS SET UP IN THE MOUNTAINS BETWEEN THE PLAIN AND MILITARY BASE OF LONGCHENG. LONG CHENG ITSELF WAS SHELLED WED NIGHT BY HEAVY NORTH VIETNAMESE ARTILLERY ABOUT SEVENTY ~~RENN~~ ROUNDS OF 130 MILLIMETER GUNS IMPACTED IN THE VICINITY OF THE BASE. TUESDAY NIGHT ABOUT NINETY SHELLS OF THE SAME CALIBER WERE REPORTED HITTING HILLS AROUND LONGCHENG.
3. OTHER GOVERNMENT POSITIONS LOCATED BETWEEN LONGCHENG AND THE PLAIN OF JARS REPORTED A NUMBER OF SHELLINGS BY BOTH ARTILLERY AND MORTARS AS WELL AS SEVERAL GROUND PROBES. IN ONE ACTION, THE ATTACKING NORTH VIETNAMESE HAD LEAST TWENTY KILLED AND ABOUT FORTY WOUNDED WHEN THEY TRIED TO STORM A GOVERNMENT MOUNTAIN POSITION.
4. SPORADIC ACTIONS CONTINUED WED SOME SIXTY KILOMETERS WEST OF THE PLAIN OF JARS, IN THE ~~E~~ GENERAL VICINITY OF THE JUNCTION OF THE ROUTES SEVEN AND THIRTEEN AT SALA PHOUKHOUN, A GOVERNMENT UNIT, FORCED TO WITHDRAW FROM POSITIONS ABOUT SEVENTEEN KILOMETERS OF SALA PHOUKHOUN, REPORTED BEING HARASSED BY COMMUNIST MORTARS AND GROUND ATTACKS. GOVERNMENT ~~HERE~~ FORCES ARE CONDUCTING A CLEARING OPERATION ALONG ROUTE THIRTEEN SOUTH OF SALA PHOU KHOUN IN AN AREA WHERE A COMMUNIST SAPPER UNIT DESTROYED A ~~BRIDGE~~ BRIDGE TWO DAYS AGO.
5. A NUMBER OF CLASHES AND SHELLINGS TOOK PLACE IN AN AREA ABOUT FORTY KILOMETERS NORTH OF THE ROYAL CAPITAL OF LUANG PRABANG. GOVERNMENT UNITS THERE LOST ONE POSITION, BUT RETOOK IT SEVERAL HOURS LATER.
6. A FEW SCATTERED CONTACTS WERE REPORTED IN IN SOUTH CENTRAL LAOS, IN THE GENERAL ~~XXXXX~~ VICINITY OF DONG HENE, ABOUT FIFTY KILOMETERS EAST OF SAVANNAKHET, AND IN SOUTHERN LAOS, ON THE WESTERN EDGE OF THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU.

FROM: BARNES.

SD

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

271910 Jan. 72

USIS

AC'S

( P R I O R I T Y )

( DTD JAN 27, 1972 )

1. NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS WEDNESDAY NIGHT CAPTURED SEVERAL LAO GOVERNMENT POSITIONS AROUND THE VILLAGE OF KENG GNAO IN SOUTHERN LAOS. KENG GNAO IS LOCATED ABOUT TWENTY-FIVE KILOMETERS NORTHEAST OF PAKSE, JUST OFF THE WESTERN RIM OF THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU.
2. ATTACKED BY A NUMERICALLY SUPERIOR NORTH VIETNAMESE FORCE SUPPORTED BY HEAVY MORTAR FIRE, LAO TROOPS WITHDREW TO NEW POSITIONS ABOUT SIX KILOMETERS SOUTH OF KING GNAO.
3. IN SOUTH CENTRAL LAOS, GOVERNMENT TROOPS REOCCUPIED THE VILLAGE OF LAO CHAN, ABOUT FIFTY KILOMETERS EAST OF SAVANNAKHET. THE VILLAGE WAS ATTACKED BY NORTH VIETNAMESE UNITS ON TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY, AND A SMALL LAO GARRISON WAS DRIVEN OFF. AFTER ENTERING THE VILLAGE, THE NORTH VIETNAMESE KILLED AT LEAST THREE CIVILIANS, WOUNDED ANOTHER SIX, AND METHODICALLY SET FIRE TO SOME TWO HUNDRED HOUSES. MOST OF THE VILLAGERS FLED INTO THE COUNTRYSIDE.
4. FARTHER NORTH, LAO WARPLANES ATTACKED A NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS CONCENTRATION ABOUT TEN KILOMETERS EAST OF DONG HENE ALONG ROUTE NINE, KILLING AN ESTIMATED FIFTEEN COMMUNIST SOLDIERS.
5. ONLY A FEW LIGHT CONTACTS WERE REPORTED IN THE VICINITY OF LONG CHENG IN NORTH CENTRAL LAOS.
6. FARTHER TO THE NORTHWEST, COMMUNIST TROOPS WERE REPORTED TO HAVE OCCUPIED THE VILLAGE OF PHA NGAM, ABOUT TEN KILOMETERS NORTH OF THE CROSSROADS AT SALA PHOU KHOUN. SALA PHOU KHOUN FELL TO COMMUNIST ATTACKS A WEEK AGO. SINCE THAT TIME THE COMMUNIST HAVE BEEN

OBSERVED MOVING IN A SOUTHERLY DIRECTION TOWARD MUONG KASSY AND VANG VIENG. THE OCCUPATION OF PHA NGAM INDICATES THAT THE COMMUNIST HAVE DECIDED TO EXTEND THEIR CONTROL OF HIGHWAY THIRTEEN ALSO TO THE NORTH, IN THE GENERAL DIRECTION OF LUANG PRABANG, SOME FIFTY KILOMETERS AWAY.

FROM: BARNES.

(PM)

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

040825 FEB'72.

USIS

" PRIORITY "

( DTD 03 FEB 72 )

1. LAO GOVERNMENT FORCES WERE REPORTED THURSDAY FIGHTING COMMUNIST TROOPS SOUTH OF THE TOWN OF MUONG KASSY, ASTRIDE ROUTE THIRTEEN, ABOUT ONE HUNDRED FORTY KILOMETERS NORTH OF VIENTIANE.
2. COMMUNIST TROOPS ATTACK MUONG KASSY EARLY WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON FROM THE NORTHEAST. LAO UNITS WERE GRADUALLY PUSHED OUT OF THEIR POSITIONS AT THE DEPOPULATED VILLAGE AND BY THURSDAY MORNING HAD ESTABLISHED NEW DEFENSE LINES JUST SOUTH OF MUONG KASSY IN FRONT OF THE AIRSTRIP. ACCORDING TO LATEST REPORTS THURSDAY, GOVERNMENT LINES ARE STILL HOLDING AND THE FIGHTING CONTINUES.
3. SOME SEVENTY KILOMETERS NORTHEAST OF MUONG KASSY, NORTH VIETNAMESE GUNNERS BOMBARDED A REFUGEE VILLAGE WITH ABOUT FORTY ROUNDS OF HEAVY MORTAR AND RECOILLESS FIRE, KILLING AT LEAST NINE CIVILIANS AND WOUNDING TWENTY-TWO.
4. ANOTHER LAOTIAN VILLAGE WAS BURNED DOWN BY NORTH VIETNAMESE GUNNERS TUESDAY ABOUT A HUNDRED MILES NORTHEAST OF VIENTIANE. THE NORTH VIETNAMESE FIRED A NUMBER OF RECOILLESS GUN AND ROCKET ROUNDS INTO THE VILLAGE OF BAN THA SI, SETTING IT ON FIRE. GOVERNMENT UNITS IN THE AREA FOUGHT A FEW SHARP SKIRMISHES WITH THE NORTH VIETNAMESE AT ABOUT THE TIME OF THE BOMBARDING.
5. IN SOUTHERN LAOS, THE NORTH VIETNAMESE SHELLED SEVERAL GOVERNMENT POSITIONS ABOUT TWENTY KILOMETERS EAST OF PAKSE WITH 122 MILLIMETER ROCKETS, BUT CAUSED NO DAMAGE AND NO CASUALTIES.

6. IN NORTHWESTERN LAOS, COMMUNIST TROOPS ATTACKED AND OCCUPIED THE TOWN OF PAKLAY, ABOUT ONE HUNDRED THIRTY KMS WEST OF VTE. AFTER FORCING A SMALL GOVERNMENT UNIT OUT OF THE AREA.

7. SEVERAL CLASHES WERE ALSO REPORTED IN AN AREA ABOUT THIRY-FIVE KMS NORTHEAST OF THE ROYAL CAPITAL OF LP, BUT THE OVERALL SITUATION THERE REMAINS BASICALLY UNCHANGED.

(XX)

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

070940 FEB'72.

USIS

" PRIORITY "

( DTD 05 FEB 72 )

1. SMALL UNIT CONTACTS AND SHELLINGS WERE REPORTED SATURDAY FROM VARIOUS REGIONS OF LAOS, BUT THE GENERAL MILITARY SITUATION HAD NOT CHANGED IN THE PAST 24 HOURS.
2. ONE LARGER ACTION TOOK PLACE IN SOUTHERN LAOS, WHERE GOVERNMENT TROOPS FOUGHT A SHARP ENGAGEMENT WITH A NORTH VIETNAMESE BATTALION ABOUT TWENTY KILOMETERS EAST OF THE TOWN OF KHONG SEDONE, NORTH OF PAKSE.
3. FARTHER SOUTH, LAO TROOPS WHICH HAD WITHDRAWN FRIDAY FROM THEIR DEFENSE POSITIONS AT THE WESTERN EDGE OF THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU AFTER A 12 HOUR HEAVY BOMBARDMENT BY NORTH VTE ARTILLERY, MORTARS AND ROCKETS, ARE SAID TO BE REGROUPING SOME DISTANCE TO THE WEST.
4. IN NORTHERN LAOS, GOVERNMENT UNITS ARE REPORTED SETTING UP NEW DEFENSE LINES SEVERAL KILOMETERS SOUTH OF THE HIGHWAY TOWN OF MUONG KASSY, LOST TO THE COMMUNIST FORCES ON THURSDAY. SPORADIC SKIRMISHES CONTINUE IN THE AREA.

FROM: BARNES.

(BX)

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

080930 FEB'72.

USIS

" PRIORITY "

( DTD 07 FEB 72.)

1. NORTHVIETNAMESE TROOPS ESTIMATED AT REGIMENTAL STRENGTH SUNDAY NIGHT ATTACKED THE TOWN OF DONG HENE, ABOUT FIFTY KILOMETERS EAST OF SAVANNAKHET. AFTER SEVERAL HOURS OF FIGHTING, LAO GOVERNMENT TROOPS WITHDREW TO THE WESTERN OUTSKIRTS OF DONG HENE, WHERE THEY SET UP NEW DEFENSE POSITIONS. AT LATEST REPORTS MONDAY, FIGHTING AROUND DONG HENE CONTINUED.

2. THERE ARE NO CIVILIANS IN DONG HENE. THE TOWN WAS ALMOST TOTALLY DESTROYED BY NORTH VIETNAMESE ROCKETS IN MAY OF LAST YEAR.

3. ONLY SPORADIC SKIRMISHES AND SHELLINGS WERE REPORTED FROM OTHER REGIONS OF LAOS.

LAO MILITARY AUTHORITIES WARN, HOWEVER, THAT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE MAY SOON RESUME OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS IN THE AREA OF LONG CHENG, SOUTH WEST OF THE PLAIN OF JARS, AND ALONG ROUTE 13, SOUTH OF MUONG KASSY. THE COMMUNISTS ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SUFFICIENTLY STRONG FORCES IN BOTH AREA FOR FURTHER OFFENSIVE ACTION. IT IS ASSUMED THAT AFTER THE HEAVY FIGHTING OF RECENT WEEKS THEY ARE NOW BRINGING UP SUPPLIES AND REINFORCEMENTS.

FROM: BARNES.

(BX)



USIS

PRICRITY

(DTD FEB 11, 1972)

1. SPORADIC FIGHTING CONTINUED THURSDAY AND FRIDAY IN SEVERAL REGION OF LAOS.
2. NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS ARE REPORTED TO BE APPLYING PRESSURE ON GOVERNMENT FORCES IN THREE WIDELY SEPARATED AREAS: IN SOUTHERN LAOS, GENERALLY EAST OF PAKSE, IN THE SOUTH CENTRAL PART OF THE COUNTRY, AROUND THE TOWN OF DONG HENE, AND ~~THE~~ IN THE NORTH CENTRAL REGION NEAR THE VILLAGE OF BAN THA SI, ABOUT 140 KILOMETERS NORTHERN OF VIENTIANE.
3. IN THE SOUTH, FREQUENT NORTH VIETNAMESE MORTAR SHELLINGS AND GROUND ATTACKS GRADUALLY FORCED SOME FORWARD LAOS UNITS TO RETREAT FROM THE EDGE OF THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU TOWARD THE CROSSROADS AT LAO NGAM, ABOUT 21 KILOMETERS EAST OF PAKSE.
4. IN SOUTH CENTRAL LAOS, NEAR DONG HENE, WHICH HAD FALLEN TO THE NORTH VIETNAMESE AFTER HEAVY FIGHTING SUNDAY NIGHT, GOVERNMENT TROOPS, NOW LOCATED SEVERAL KILOMETERS TO THE WEST, REPORT ALMOST DAILY HARASSING BOMBARDMENT BY 122 MILLIMETER ROCKETS. ONE FORWARD GOVERNMENT POSITION HAD TO BE ABANDONED AFTER RECEIVING INTENSE ROCKET FIRE. THE LAO DEFENDERS RETREATED A FEW KILOMETERS WEST TO NEW DEFENSE LINES.
5. THE FIGHTING AROUND THE VILLAGE OF BAN THA SI IN NORTH CENTRAL LAOS HAS CONTINUED FOR SEVERAL DAYS NOW. THERE TOO, HEAVY NORTH VIETNAMESE MORTAR AND RECOILLESS RIFLE FIRE, FOLLOWED BY GROUND ATTACKS, FORCED LAO TROOPS TO RETREAT TO NEW POSITIONS SEVERAL KILOMETERS TO THE SOUTH OF THE VILLAGE.
6. ONLY SCATTERED SKIRMISHES WERE REPORTED FROM OTHER REGIONS OF LAOS.

FROM: BARNES.

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

NSIS

121525 FEB'72

USIS

AC

" PRIORITY "

( DTD 12 FEB'72 )

1. LAO GOVERNMENT FORCES WERE REPORTED ENGAGED SATURDAY IN ACTION AGAINST COMMUNIST TROOPS IN THE GENERAL VICINITY ~~IN~~ OF MUONG KASSY ON ROUTE 13, ABOUT 140 KILOMETERS NORTH OF VIENTIANE.
2. MUONG KASSY FELL TO COMMUNIST ATTACKS ABOUT TEN DAYS AGO AND GOVERNMENT TROOPS RETREATED TO A NEW DEFENSE LINE ABOUT FIFTEEN KILOMETERS TO THE SOUTH. IN THE LAST FEW DAYS GOVERNMENT FORCES STARTED MOVING BACK TOWARD MUONG KASSY ENCOUNTERING ONLY SPORADIC OPPOSITION.
3. IN THE SOUTH, SCATTERED CONTACTS WERE REPORTED NEAR ~~AT~~ THE WESTERN EDGE OF THE ~~BOLOVENS~~ BOLOVENS PLATEAU, ABOUT 25 KILOMETERS EAST OF PAKSE. THE ACTION TOOK PLACE IN THE ~~THE~~ GENERAL VICINITY OF THE VILLAGE OF BAN GNIA ON ROUTE 23.
4. IN SOUTH CENTRAL LAOS, NORTH VIETNAMESE GUNNERS WITH 122 MILLIMETER ROCKETS CONTINUED SPORADIC SHELLINGS OF GOVERNMENT POSITIONS WEST OF DONG HENE.
5. ACCORDING TO REPORTS REACHING VIENTIANE, COMMUNIST TROOPS AMBUSHED A CIVILIAN LOGGING OPERATION ABOUT FORTY KILOMETERS NORTHWEST OF VIENTIANE KILLING FOUR TRUCK DRIVERS AND SEIZING FOUR TRUCKS AND A BULLDOZER. A GOVERNMENT PATROL SENT TO THE RESCUE WAS IN TURN AMBUSHED BY PATHET LAO SOLDIERS AND HAD TO RETREAT AFTER SUFFERING SOME CASUALTIES.

FROM: BARNES.

(BX)

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

150735 Feb. 72

USIS

AC'S

P R I O R I T Y

( DTD FEB 14, 1972 )

1. LAO GOVERNMENT FORCES, WHICH CAPTURED MUONG KASSY SATURDAY AFTERNOON, WERE REPORTED MONDAY TO BE ENGAGED IN CLEARING OPERATIONS IN THE GENERAL VICINITY OF THAT HIGHWAY TOWN, LOCATED ABOUT 140 KILOMETERS NORTH OF VIENTIANE.
2. LAO TROOPS MOVED INTO MUONG KASSY SATURDAY IN THREE COLUMNS FROM THE SOUTH, EAST AND WEST. PATHET LAO AND PRO-COMMUNIST NEUTRALIST UNITS IN THE AREA SPLIT INTO SMALL GROUPS AND SCATTERED INTO THE HILLS, OFFERING ONLY LIGHT RESISTANCE. THE GOVERNMENT ADVANCE WAS SUPPORTED BY ARTILLERY AND TANK FIRE WHICH, ACCORDING TO OBSERVERS, WAS ACCURATE AND WELL SUSTAINED THROUGH OUT THE OPERATION.
3. THE CLEARING OPERATION AROUND MUONG KASSY IS REPORTED TO BE PROGRESSING WELL, AND SOME GOVERNMENT UNITS HAVE MOVED UP SEVERAL KILOMETERS TO THE NORTH ALONG ROUTE 13.
4. NEAR SAM THONG, SOME 60 KILOMETERS TO THE EAST OF MUONG KASSY, GOVERNMENT TROOPS SATURDAY NIGHT AND SUNDAY MORNING FOUGHT A SHARP ENGAGEMENT WITH A PLATOON SIZE NORTH VIETNAMESE UNIT. THE NORTH VIETNAMESE AT FIRST MANAGED ~~VIETNAMESE~~ TO GET A ~~E~~ FOOTHOLD ON THE HILLTOP GOVERNMENT POSITION, BUT WERE DRIVEN OUT EARLY SUNDAY BY A GROUND COUNTER ATTACK SUPPORTED BY ARTILLERY AND LAOTIAN TIAN DIVE-BOMBERS. MORE THAN TWENTY NORTH VIETNAMESE OUT OF AN ATTACKING FORCE OF ABOUT SIXTY WERE KILLED IN THIS ACTION. GOVERNMENT LOSSES WERE TERMED LIGHT.
5. ONLY LIGHT SPORADIC SMALL UNIT CLASHES AND OCCASIONED SHELLINGS WERE REPORTED FROM OTHER AREAS OF LASS. FROM: BARNES.

(PM)

BAN HOUET SAI

VIENTIANE

USIS

160735 FEB '72

USIS

PRIORITY

(1)

(DTD FEB 15, 1972)

1. LAO GOVERNMENT TROOPS CONTINUED TO HOLD THE RECAPTURED TOWN OF MUONG KASSY, ONE HUNDRED FORTY KILOMETERS NORTH OF VIENTIANE ON ROUTE THIRTEEN, WHICH LEADS TO LP. TUESDAY THE LAO GARRISON THREW BACK A MINOR COMMUNIST PROBE ON THEIR POSITIONS IN THE VICINITY OF THE TOWN, WHICH WAS RECAPTURED SATURDAY BY GOVERNMENT TROOPS. GOVERNMENT FORCES ARE REPORTED ENGAGED IN MOPPING UP OPERATIONS IN MUONG KASSY VALLEY.
2. A CIVILIAN TAXI WAS REPORTED AMBUSHED MONDAY BY COMMUNIST TROOPS ABOUT TWO KILOMETERS NORTH OF MUONG KASSY. ONE CIVILIAN WAS KILLED, THREE WERE WOUNDED, AND THREE ARE REPORTED MISSING.
3. A GOVERNMENT POSITION LOCATED ABOUT FORTY KILOMETERS NORTHEAST OF LP REPORTED BEING BOMBARDED BY SOME 600 ROUNDS OF NORTH VIETNAMESE GUNS AND MORTARS. THE BOMBARDMENT LASTED ABOUT EIGHT HOURS, BUT CAUSED ONLY LIGHT CASUALTIES AMONG LAO TROOPS.
4. SKIRMISHES AND MINOR EXCHANGES OF FIRE CONTINUED IN THE GENERAL VICINITY OF LONG CHENG AND SAMTHONG. NORTH VIETNAMESE GUNNERS FIRED SIX ROUNDS AT OF HEAVY ARTILLERY AT GOVERNMENT POSITIONS AT PA DOUNG, ABOUT TWENTY KILOMETERS EAST SOUTHEAST OF LONG CHENG, BUT CAUSED NO DAMAGE AND NO CASUALTIES.
5. IN SOUTH CENTRAL LAOS, THE NORTH VIETNAMESE SUNDAY NIGHT FIRED EIGHT 122-MILLIMETER ROCKETS INTO THE GOVERNMENT BASE AT SENO, ABOUT TWENTY KILOMETERS NORTHEAST OF SAVANNAKHET. THE ROCKETS HIT SOME STRUCTURES, BUT CAUSED NO CASUALTIES.

(2)

6. SHARP CLASHES CONTINUED ALONG ROUTE TWENTY THREE, EAST OF PAKSE IN SOUTHERN LAOS. ~~REVI~~  
GOVERNMENT TROOPS UNSUCCESSFULLY ATTACKED NORTH VIETNAMESE BUNKERS NEAR THE VILLAGE  
OF BAN GNIK, ABOUT THIRTY KILOMETERS EAST OF PAKSE. LAO TROOPS WITHDREW WESTWARD AND  
WERE LATER ATTACKED BY NORTH VIETNAMESE FORCES AND HAD TO RETREAT A FEW KILOMETERS  
SOUTH OF THE HIGHWAY.

FROM: BARNES.

SD