O Ø616Ø4Z ZYH

FM DIRNSA

TO OSCAR/VICTOR XRAY

~~T O P S E C R E T DINAR~~ 3/O/VHM/RØ3-64 ST22Ø

SUMMARY OF DRV NAVAL COMMUNICATION REVEALING PRE-PLANNED ATTACKS ON USS MADDOX:

THIS REPORT IS A SUMMARY OF THOSE DRV NAVAL COMMUNICATIONS DURING THE PERIOD 1-5 AUGUST WHICH DEMONSTRATE IRREFUTABLY THAT DRV NAVAL BOATS DID, IN FACT, ENGAGE IN PREPLANNED COMBAT AGAINST U.S. DESTROYERS PATROLLING IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS. WHILE THE ACTUAL ATTACK TOOK PLACE AT Ø8Ø2Z ON 2 AUGUST, DRV NAVAL COMMUNICATIONS DEMONSTRATED THEIR AGGRESSIVE INTENT AS EARLY AS 1627Z ON 1 AUGUST.

FOLLOWING ARE GISTS, IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER, OF THOSE MESSAGES WHICH SUPPORT THE U.S. POSITION THAT THE GULF OF TONKIN CRISIS WAS INSTIGATED BY THE DRV. TAB 55

1 AUGUST/1627Z: "THE ATTACK FORCE HAS GONE DOWN. (WE ARE) DETERMINED TO FIGHT THE ENEMY TONIGHT WHEN THERE ARE ORDERS TO GUIDE THE ATTACK."

1 AUGUST/1652Z: MESSAGE INDICATED THAT A SURVEY OF THE LACH CHAO ESTUARY HAS BEEN MADE AND "THE SHIPS CAN BE GUIDED IN THERE TO HIDE."

1 AUGUST/1652Z: THIS MESSAGE CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED THAT THE DRV WAS TRACKING U.S. VESSELS WHEN THEY SAID "THERE IS AN ENEMY VESSEL NORTHEAST OF HON ME DIRECTION 16Ø DEGREES, DISTANCE 11 NM.

1 AUGUST/1755Z: MESSAGE INDICATED THAT THREE SHIPS OF FLOTILLA 135 WERE UNDER ORDER TO DEPLOY TO THE ENGAGEMENT AREA. THESE THREE

SHIPS OF FLOTILLA 135 ARE THE SAME SHIPS WHICH MADE THE ATTACK ON 2 AUG.

2 AUGUST/Ø3Ø9Z: MESSAGE URGED A DRV MTB TO MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH A COASTAL OBSERVATION POST IN ORDER TO BE AWARE OF THE CHANGE IN COURSE BY THE "ENEMY" VESSEL.

2 AUGUST/Ø444Z: THE CLEAREST EVIDENCE OF THE ATTACK IS OFFERED IN THIS DIRECT TRANSLATION: "HAVE RECEIVED ORDER AND THE T146 AND T142 HAVE COME DOWN RISING A FAST SPEED AND ARE TO GO PARALLEL TO THE ENEMY AND TO LAUNCH TORPEDOES."

2 AUGUST/Ø7Ø9Z: SHIP T146 WAS TOLD THAT "THE ENEMY IS A LARGE SHIP ... AND IS 15 DEGREES AT A DISTANCE OF 19 NAUTICAL MILES HEADING 27 DEGREES, SPEED 11 NAUTICAL MILES."

2 AUGUST/Ø716Z: AN UNIDENTIFIED SHIP SAID "WE HAVE CONTACTED FLOTILLA 135 AND ARE ON OUR WAY."

2 AUGUST/Ø8Ø2Z: THIS IS THE TIME THE ACTUAL ATTACK COMMENCED.

2 AUGUST/Ø944Z: SHIPS T336, ¢142 AND T146 WERE CONTACTED AND TOLD TO "CONCENTRATE TONIGHT AND MEET COMRADE PHAT."

3 AUGUST/ØØ24Z: A MESSAGE TO SHIP T146 SAID THE SHIPS OF FLOTILLA 135 MUST BE ABLE TO BUILD UP A COMBAT (CAPABILITY) AND THAT THE SHIPS MUST HAVE ORDERS FROM HEADQUARTERS PRIOR TO ANY DEPLOYMENT.

3 AUGUST/Ø545Z: THE FIRST INDICATION OF DRV NAVAL DAMAGES WAS CONTAINED IN A MESSAGE FROM SHIP T333 REPORTING SHIP T339 SUNK AND THAT A HEAVILY DAMAGED T336 WAS IN TOW BY T333.

4 AUGUST/1Ø34Z: INDICATIONS OF DRV ATTEMPTS TO KEEP ACTIVITIES UNDER COVER WERE CLEAR IN A MESSAGE SAYING "YOU CAN'T PUBLICIZE THE SITUATION OF THE BOATS OF FLOTILLA 135 TO THE BACH DANG." THE BACH DANG WAS THE TUG ORIGINALLY DEPLOYED TO TOW IN THE DAMAGED VESSELS.

4 AUGUST/1559Z: INDICATIONS OF DRV INTENTIONS TO PRESS THE ATTACK WERE FOUND IN THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE: "AFTER THE (FLOTILLA) 135 HAD ALREADY STARTED TO REPORT TO YOU, WE SHOT DOWN TWO ENEMY PLANES IN THE BATTLE AREA, AND ONE OTHER PLANE WAS DAMAGED. WE SACRIFICED TWO SHIPS AND ALL THE REST ARE OKAY. THE COMBAT SPIRIT IS VERY HIGH AND WE ARE STARTING OUT ON THE HUNT AND (ARE WAITING TO) RECEIVE ASSIGNMENT." THE REFERENCE TO HAVING SHOT DOWN TWO PLANES MIGHT HAVE BEEN AN ATTEMPT TO BOLSTER THE CONFIDENCE OF DRV NAVAL PERSONNEL.

4 AUGUST/1911Z: FURTHER CONFIRMATION OF ACTUAL DRV INVOLVEMENT WAS FOUND IN A MESSAGE SAID "KHOAI HAD MET THE ENEMY"

5 AUGUST: MESSAGES OF THIS DATE WERE ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY REFLECTIONS OF U.S. AIR STRIKES AGAINST DRV NAVAL POSITIONS AND BOATS.

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FM DIRNSA

TO OSCAR/VICTOR XRAY

~~T O P S E C R E T DINAR~~ 3/O/VHN/RØ5-64 ST22Ø

GULF OF TONKIN SITUATION REPORT NO. 3

NORTH VIETNAMESE (DRV) NAVAL ACTIVITY REMAINS AT A LOW LEVEL FOLLOWING THE 5 AUGUST U.S. AIR ATTACK ON ITS PT BOAT FACILITIES.

READABLE DRV NAVAL CIPHER MESSAGES INDICATE THAT ACTIVITY AMONG NAVAL UNITS IS LIMITED TO SITUATION REPORTS AND COUNTERMEASURES TAKEN TO REDUCE THE NAVY'S VULNERABILITY TO AIR ATTACK.

THESE MESSAGES, APPARENTLY LIMITED TO UNITS IN THE NORTHERN FLEET, HQ PORT WALLUT, INDICATE THAT THE BULK OF ITS VESSELS REMAIN DISPERSED, CAMOUFLAGED AND PERIODICALLY CHANGE THEIR ANCHORAGE. THERE IS AN ALMOST TOTAL ABSENCE OF COMMUNICATIONS THAT CAN BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE SOUTH FLEET AT BEN THUY.

SITUATION REPORTS MENTION THE TOWING OF DAMAGED VESSELS TO PORT, DESCRIPTION OF BATTLE ACTIVITIES DURING THE AIR RAIDS AND THE PRESENT DISPOSITION OF SHIPS IN THE FLEET.

ON 6 AND 7 AUGUST EXTORTATIONS TO THE FLEET "ORGANIZE FOR VICTORY AND DESTROY THE ENEMY" WERE NOTED. THESE MESSAGES SEEMED TO BE DESIGNED TO SHORE UP THE MORALE OF THE FLEET TO RESIST FURTHER ENEMY ATTACKS.

AIR-GROUND RECOGNITION SIGNALS AND THE MARKINGS OF DRV AIRCRAFT HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO NAVAL UNITS. THIS ACTION FOLLOWS A GARBLED

MESSAGE WHICH INFERS THAT THE DRV SHOT DOWN ONE OF ITS OWN AIRCRAFT ON 5 AUGUST.

OSCAR/VICTOR XRAY
PLUS ALL CVA NSCDETS WESPAC

SC

IMMEDIATE

NONE

2/O/VHN/RØ6-64 ST 22Ø

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GULF OF TONKIN SITUATION REPORT NUMBER 4

DURING 7 AUGUST NORTH VIETNAMESE (DRV) NAVAL COMMUNICATIONS KEPT A SUSPICIOUS WATCH ON THE ACTIVITIES OF U.S. NAVAL VESSELS IN THE GULF OF TONKIN. HAIPHONE, THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE NAVAL FLEETS, HAS REPORTEDLY ORDERED THE MAINTENANCE OF A FIRST DEGREE ALERT AS IT FELT THAT "THE ENEMY WAS PREPARING A NEW CONSPIRACY." AT THE SAME TIME PORT WALLUT WHICH IS THE HQ FOR THE NORTHERN FLEET REPORTED THE MOVEMENT OF THREE ENEMY DESTROYERS AND TWO CRUISERS FOR OVER TWO HOURS. PORT WALLUT ALSO NOTED THAT ENEMY AIRCRAFT HAD VIOLATED AIRSPACE (2/G11/VHN/R45-64).

THE DRV MAY BE PLANNING A NEW "CONSPIRACY" OF ITS OWN, ACCORDING TO A READABLE CIPHER MESSAGE PASSED BETWEEN TWO UNIDENTIFIED NAVAL ENTITIES ON 8 AUGUST. "NO. 44, THE ENEMY IS OBSERVING YOU. GO OUT FROM BAI CHAI HA TU (AS IN TEXT, MEANING UNKNOWN. BAI CHAI PORT IS LOCATED AT 2Ø-57N 1Ø7-Ø5E) (AT) POST 5 (YOU WILL BE) WITHIN THE AREA OF (OUR) NAVAL POWER, THEN FIRE (DONT MOVE) (PARENS IN ORIGINAL TEXT) WHEN THE ENEMY FIRES, THEN ACTIVELY ENGAGE HIM." (2/O/VHN/RØ5-64). ALTHOUGH THE EXACT MEANING OF THIS MESSAGE IS NOT CLEAR, IT COULD BE INTERPRETED AS DRV INTENTIONS TO PROVOKE AN INCIDENT IN DRV TERRITORIAL WATERS. IT CAN ALSO BE VIEWED AS AN ORDER TO ENGAGE U.S. VESSELS ONLY FROM WITHIN DRV WATERS.

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