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TO OSCAR/VICTOR XRAY

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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

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

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