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~~T O P S E C R E T-DINAR NOFORN~~ SECTION TWO OF THREE.
(AFSSO AFSC FOR DIA GROUP NEACP)

FROM DIAAP-3 3-8-12. DIA ADVANCE INTSUM 185-64.
ITEM 3: SITUATION CALM IN GULF OF TONKIN

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THE GULF OF TONKIN IS QUIET, WITH THE USS MADDOX RESUMING

SURFACE SURVEILLANCE OF NORTH VIETNAMESE WATERS FOLLOWING ITS

ARMED ENCOUNTER WITH NORTH VIETNAMESE PT BOATS.

2

DURING DAYLIGHT HOURS OF 2 AUGUST, THREE NORTH VIETNAMESE

TORPEDO BOATS (PT) FAILED IN THEIR ATTEMPT TO TORPEDO THE USS

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EXPERIENCING TORPEDO ATTACKS AND MACHINE GUN FIRE, AND DAMAGED ONE PT; SHE SUFFERED NO PERSONNEL CASUALTIES OR MATERIAL DAMAGE. AIR SUPPORT FROM THE US CARRIER TICONDEROGA, CONSISTING OF FOUR F8E'S ARMED WITH ZUNI AIR-TO-SURFACE ROCKETS AND 20-MM CANNON, WAS PROVIDED A FEW MINUTES LATER. THE AIRCRAFT ATTACKED AND REPORTED ONE PT DEAD IN THE WATER AND BURNING, WHILE THE OTHER CRAFT FLED TOWARD SHORE WITH MINOR DAMAGE. ONE F8E WAS HIT DURING THE FIRST RUN AND LANDED AT DANANG, REPUBLIC OF VIET-NAM. THE DAMAGE MAY HAVE BEEN DUE TO HIS OWN ZUNI BLAST.

REPORTS INTERCEPTED ON 1 AUGUST INDICATED THAT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE NAVY REACTED TO THE PRESENCE OF MADDOX, THEN OPERATING IN THE VICINITY OF HON ME ISLAND. THE NEXT DAY, DRV NAVAL VESSELS CONTINUED TO KEEP THE MADDOX UNDER CLOSE SURVEILLANCE. AN ATTACK APPEARED TO BE IMMINENT AT 0612Z WHEN AN UNIDENTIFIED SHORE STATION ORDERED ONE OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE CRAFT TO LEAVE AND "TURN BACK TO THE PATH OF THE ENEMY...TO ATTACK." THE MADDOX, ALMOST TWO HOURS LATER, REPORTED IT WAS UNDER GUNFIRE AND TORPEDO ATTACK. A PREVIOUS US PATROL IN THIS AREA IN FEBRUARY-MARCH 1964 WAS TRACKED AND SHADOWED, BUT NO HOSTILE ACTION TAKEN AGAINST THE DESTROYER.

SINCE LAST MARCH, NORTH VIET-NAM HAS BEEN INCREASINGLY SENSITIVE TO THREATS THE INCURSIONS FROM THE SOUTH AND AN EXTENSION OF THE WAR. NORTH VIET-NAM HAS 12 PT MOTOR TORPEDO BOATS (SOVIET P-4 CLASS) USUALLY OPERATING FROM PORT WALLUT TO SECURE A PORTION OF ITS SEACOAST.

THERE HAS BEEN NO PROPAGANDA BLAST AS YET FROM HANOI OR OTHER OBSERVABLE COMMUNIST REACTION TO THE MADDOX INCIDENT. ~~(TOP~~

~~SECRET (LINAR)~~

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