

(b) (3)-P.L. 86-36

~~TOP SECRET UMBRA~~

CATEGORY = 1

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MESSAGE = 02044760

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~~TOP SECRET UMBRA~~ SECTION ONE OF TWO ISHTAR ((AS INDICATED))

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AVN/AVIA-A, OPER-A-V-H, TRNG-A-V, TCOM-A-V, AXX, XNT/OPER-VZ, NORTH

VIETNAMESE AIR SUMMARY FOR 17/1700Z TO 18/7000Z AUGUST 1972

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((ALL TIMES ZULU)) PART ONE, HIGHLIGHTS A. SUMMARY 1. NVN AIR/AIR DEFENSE REACTION TO U.S. AIR STRIKES OVER NVN, 18 AUGUST. 2. NVAF IL-18 FLIES FROM IRKUTSK TO PEICHING. B. DETAILS 1. BETWEEN 1732 ON 17 AUGUST AND 1700 ON 18 AUGUST, NVN AIR SURVEILLANCE FACILITIES WERE NOTED TRACKING A MINIMUM OF 75 HOSTILE AIRCRAFT OVER NVN. THESE AIRCRAFT WERE ACTIVE IN THE AREAS OF VINH, DONG HOI, PHUC YEN, MOC CHAU, YEN BAI, HAIPHONG, THANH HOA, NAM DINH, HANOI, GIAO GIAP, KEP, AND THE DMZ. THE AIRCRAFT WERE ALSO TRACKED DURING THEIR ENTRIES AND EXITS OF NVN AIR OVER LAOS AND THE GULF OF TONKIN. AT 2353, FOUR HOSTILE AIRCRAFT WERE REFLECTED AT 21-15N 107-17E, APPROXIMATELY 20 NAUTICAL MILES FROM THE NVN/PRC BORDER. BETWEEN 2046 AND 2127, THREE HOSTILE AIRCRAFT WERE IDENTIFIED AS B-52'S AND WERE TRACKED IN THE DMZ AREA. AT 1940, UNIDENTIFIED SAM UNITS IN THE HANOI AND HAIPHONG AREAS WERE NOTED IN CONDITION ONE. BETWEEN 2105 AND 2143, TWO UNIDENTIFIED SAM UNITS IN THE NAM DINH AREA WERE NOTED IN CONDITION ONE AND WERE INSTRUCTED TO DESTROY TARGETS. AT 2130, ONE OF THE SITES REPORTED LAUNCHING TWO MISSILES AND DOWNING ONE AIRCRAFT, CAPTURING THE PILOTS ALIVE. BETWEEN 2337 AND 0007, UNIDENTIFIED SAM UNITS IN THE THANH HOA AND NAM DINH AREAS WERE NOTED IN CONDITION ONE AND WERE ORDERED TO DESTROY TARGETS. AT 2352, AN UNIDENTIFIED SAM SITE IN THE THANH HOA AREA REPORTED LAUNCHING AT LEAST ONE MISSILE AT AN UNIDENTIFIED TARGET WITHOUT NOTED RESULTS. ONE MIG-17 PERFORMED A DEFENSIVE PATROL OUT OF GIA LAM IN REACTION TO HOSTILES IN THE NAM DINH AREA. NO ENGAGEMENTS WERE NOTED AND THE MIG RECOVERED AT GIA LAM. 2. BETWEEN 0141 AND 0800, ONE NVAF IL-18/195 WAS REFLECTED GOING FROM IRKUTSK TO PEICHING. FOURTEEN PASSENGERS, BELIEVED TO BE LE DUC THO AND HIS PARTY, AND 500 KILOGRAMS OF UNSPECIFIED CARGO WERE ABOARD. THE AIRCRAFT IS BELIEVED TO BE HEADED FOR HANOI GIA LAM. PART TWO, ROUTINE ACTIVITY A. AIR ACTIVITY 1. STRIP ALERTS BETWEEN 2130 AND 2330, FOUR MIG-21 PILOTS AND TWO MIG-17 PILOTS WERE PLACED ON STRIP ALERT AT HANOI GIA LAM. BETWEEN 2130 AND 2330, THREE MIG-21 PILOTS WERE PLACED ON STRIP ALERT AT PHUC YEN. 2. HANOI GIA LAM FIGHTERS BETWEEN 1735 AND 1808, ONE MIG-17 PILOT PERFORMED A DEFENSIVE PATROL OUT OF HANOI GIA LAM ((SEE HIGHLIGHTS)). BETWEEN 100 AND 1300, SEVEN MIG-21 PILOTS CONDUCTED PRACTICE COMBAT MANEUVERS AND UNIDENTIFIED ACTIVITY. 3. KEP FIGHTERS BETWEEN 0930 AND 1000, FOUR MIG-17 PILOTS PERFORMED AIRFIELD CIRCUITS. XXHH 900 #3551 NNNH

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(b) (1) Approved for release by NSA on 07-09-2014, Transparency Case# 65886

(b) (3)-50 USC 403

(b) (3)-18 USC 798

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