

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

~~SECRET SPOKE~~

CATEGORY = 2

M = 159

MESSAGE = 02052714

ZCZCC05 2380EXA303 LOG LN NO. 069

PP [REDACTED] DE

[REDACTED] 08401 2412139

ZNY MMNSH

ZKZK PP ZLZ SSD DE

P 282028Z AUG 72

FM DIRNSA

TO: NSA/UNIFORM WHISKEY NCR NMCC WHITE HOUSE

ZEM

~~SECRET SPOKE~~

XXMM

ENP01F0072241 2/00/LSVCA/R44-72 SPOT REPORT FOLLOW-UP NR. 1 AND FINAL

AVN, ALA/AVIA-A/I, SHOOTDOWN OF U.S. AIRCRAFT AND MIG - 21 LOSS - 26 AUGUST 1972

XXCC

SPOT REPORT NR. 1 AND FINAL TO 2/RU/VCA/R546-72, 260325Z AUG 72 (ALL TIMES ZULU) ON 26 AUGUST DURING THE 0300 HOUR, FOUR NORTH VIETNAMESE AIR FORCE (NVAF) PHUC YEN-BASED MIG-21S REACTED TO U.S. AIRCRAFT. THE FIRST FLIGHT OF TWO MIG-21S ENGAGED HOSTILES AND CONDUCTED A SHALLOW PENETRATION OF LAOTIAN AIRSPACE, WHICH RESULTED IN THE SHOOTDOWN OF ONE U.S. AIRCRAFT AND THE LOSS OF ONE MIG-21 DUE TO AIRCRAFT MALFUNCTION. THE OTHER MIG-21 RECOVERED AT PHUC YEN. TWO ADDITIONAL PHUC YEN-BASED MIG-21S REACTED TO \$HOSTILES\$ SOUTH OF HANOI BACH MAI; ONE OF THE MIG-21S RECOVERED AT KEP AND THE OTHER AT KIEN AN. DETAILS, AT 0307, TWO PHUC YEN-BASED MIG-21S WERE INSTRUCTED TO START THEIR ENGINES AND TAKE-OFF. TWO MINUTES LATER THE PILOTS WERE ON AFTERBURNERS AND WERE TOLD TO \$CHECK AND GO TO BUTTON 2 ON THEIR A.R.K.\$ THE LEAD PILOT ACKNOWLEDGED. AT 0312, THE MIGS WERE REFLECTED AT 21-15N 105-43E ON A NORTHWESTERLY HEADING AND WERE INFORMED THAT THE \$HOSTILES\$ WERE TO THEIR LEFT SIDE AT A HEADING OF 40 DEGREES AND A DISTANCE OF 200 KILOMETERS. BOTH MIGS WERE APPROXIMATELY 60 NAUTICAL MILES NORTHWEST OF HANOI BACH MAI AT 0318, WHEN THEY WERE AGAIN WARNED OF \$HOSTILES\$ ON THE LEFT 45 DEGREES AT 120 KILOMETERS. \$THE LEAD PILOT WAS INSTRUCTED TO ASSUME A HEADING OF 190 DEGREES ONE MINUTE LATER. AT 0321, THE MIGS WERE ON A SOUTHERLY HEADING AND WERE TOLD TO DROP THEIR AUXILIARY FUEL TANKS AND THAT THE \$HOSTILES\$ WERE TO THE FRONT AT 20 DEGREES AND 35 KILOMETERS. ONE MINUTE LATER THE LEAD PILOT INFORMED THE CONTROLLER THAT ONE \$HOSTILE\$ AIRCRAFT WAS 90 DEGREES TO THE RIGHT SIDE AND WAS TOLD IF \$YOU HAVE (IT) HELL, ENTER THE ATTACK\$ AND THAT THERE WERE \$TWO AIRCRAFT HERE.\$ AT 0324, THE WINGMAN REPORTED THAT HE \$LOCKED-ON\$ AND THEN REPORTED \$IT IS BURNING, I HAVE SHOT ONE OF THEM DOWN.\$ THE LEAD PILOT THEN INSTRUCTED HIS WINGMAN TO STAY CALM AND TO BREAK AWAY AT A HIGH ALTITUDE. DURING THE TIME OF THE MIG ENGAGEMENT, THE MIGS ENTERED LAOTIAN AIRSPACE AT APPROXIMATELY 20-40N 104-36E, PENETRATING INTO LAOS APPROXIMATELY 15 NAUTICAL MILES AND RETURNING TO NVN AIRSPACE BY 0328, HEADING NORTHEAST TOWARDS HANOI BACH MAI. ONE MINUTE LATER THE LEAD PILOT WAS INSTRUCTED TO RETURN TO PHUC YEN AT A LOW ALTITUDE, AND THE PILOT ACKNOWLEDGED. BETWEEN 0334 AND 0338, THE WINGMAN INDICATED THAT HE HAD PROBLEMS WITH HIS RADIO AND A.R.K. AND WAS INSTRUCTED TO LAND AT HANOI GIA LAM. AT 0343, THE WINGMAN REQUESTED PERMISSION TO \$BAIL OUT,\$ AND IT WAS GRANTED. THE LEAD PILOT RECOVERED AT PHUC YEN AT 0335. TWO ADDITIONAL MIG-21S TOOK OFF FROM PHUC YEN AT 0320. THESE MIGS WERE APPROXIMATELY 28 NAUTICAL MILES FROM HANOI BACH MAI AT 0326 AND WERE TOLD THAT 12 \$HOSTILES\$ WERE TO THE RIGHT SIDE AT A HEADING OF 45 DEGREES AND 210 KILOMETERS. THREE MINUTES LATER, THE LEAD

~~SECRET SPOKE~~

1300

1915

~~SECRET SPOKE~~

PILOT WAS INSTRUCTED TO DROP AUXILIARY FUEL TANKS AND TOLD THAT THE \$HOSTILES\$ WERE TO THE RIGHT, AT 10 DEGREES AND 70 KILOMETERS. THE MIGS CONTINUED TO RECEIVE THE POSITIONS OF THE \$HOSTILES\$ UNTIL 0335 AND ONE MINUTE LATER THE MIGS BEGAN TO ATTACK, BREAKING OFF AT 0338. THE MIGS WERE TOLD TO RETURN TO PHUC YEN ONE MINUTE LATER AND REDUCE THEIR ALTITUDE. AT 0341 THE MIGS WERE INSTRUCTED TO GO TO KEP, BECAUSE OF THE PRESENCE OF \$HOSTILES\$ IN THE HANOI AREA. THE LEAD PILOT LANDED AT KEP AT 0343; HOWEVER, THE WINGMAN APPARENTLY WAS EXPERIENCING DIFFICULTIES AND WAS INSTRUCTED TO LAND AT KIEN AN WHERE HE RECOVERED AT 0350. THE WINGMAN REPORTED THAT HE HAD \$FIRED TWO WEAPONS WHICH EXPLODED BUT DID NOT HIT.\$ COMMENTS, COLLATERAL CONFIRMS THAT ONE F-4 WAS DOWNED AT 20-33N 104-32E. XXHH 800 08401 NNNN

~~SECRET SPOKE~~