

~~SECRET SPOKE~~

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TO NSA/UNIFORM WHISKEY NCR NMCC WHITE HOUSE

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~~SECRET~~ SPOKE 2/00/VCA/R61-72 SPOT REPORT ONE U.S. AIRCRAFT, ONE NVAF
MIG-19 POSSIBLY DOWNED IN COMBAT, 2 SEPTEMBER 1972
XXCC

A TOTAL OF EIGHT NORTH VIETNAMESE AIRFORCE (NVAF) AIRCRAFT WERE NOTED IN REACTION TO U.S. AIRCRAFT BETWEEN 0411 AND 0501 ON 2 SEPTEMBER. FOUR NVAF MIG-21'S SCRAMBLED FROM PHUC YEN AIRFIELD AT 0411, ATTEMPTED TO ENGAGE U.S. AIRCRAFT, AND LANDED - TWO AT KEP AIRFIELD AT 0435 AND TWO AT HANOI GIA LAM AIRFIELD AT 0440. TWO OTHER MIG-21'S TOOK OFF FROM KEP AT 0449 AND RECOVERED AT THE SAME AIRFIELD AT 0501 AFTER A POSSIBLE DEFENSIVE PATROL. THE REMAINING TWO AIRCRAFT INVOLVED IN THE REACTIONS WERE PHUC YEN-BASED MIG-19'S, ONE OF WHICH POSSIBLY DOWNED A U.S. AIRCRAFT NORTH OF HANOI AND LANDED AT KEP AT 0456, WHILE THE OTHER MAY HAVE BEEN SHOT DOWN. THE TWO MIG-19'S TOOK OFF FROM PHUC YEN AIRFIELD AT 0431 AND THREE MINUTES LATER WERE ADVISED OF \$HOSTILES\$ TO THE EAST OF THE LEAD PILOT BY THE PHUC YEN CONTROLLER. THIS CONTROLLER ORDERED THE PILOTS TO ARM THEIR WEAPONS AT 0439 WITH \$FOUR F-4'S\$ 40 KILOMETERS AWAY. ONE MINUTE LATER, THE MIG'S HAD CLOSED TO WITHIN 30 KILOMETERS OF THE \$HOSTILES\$, WHICH WERE AT A HEADING OF 25 DEGREES. AFTER BURNERS WERE TURNED ON AT 0441, AND ONE MINUTE LATER, WITH THE MIG'S NEAR 20-32N 105-21E, NORTHWEST OF HANOI, THE WINGMAN BEGAN TO ATTACK. HE WAS INSTRUCTED BY HIS LEAD PILOT TO \$FOLLOW CLOSELY, LOCK ON\$ AND WAS ORDERED TO \$FINISH WORK, BREAK AWAY FAST AND LAND AT KEP\$ BY THE PHUC YEN CONTROLLER AT 0443. THE SAME CONTROLLER THEN INFORMED THE LEAD PILOT THAT \$HOSTILES\$ AIRCRAFT WERE TO THE REAR, AND THE SENIOR GCI CONTROLLER ORDERED HIM TO PURSUE THEM AND THE WINGMAN TO RETURN TO KEP. THE LEAD PILOT WAS NOT HEARD AFTER THIS OR NOTED LANDING, ALTHOUGH THE WINGMAN DID INFORM THE SENIOR GCI CONTROLLER AT 0445 THAT THE LEAD PILOT WAS \$ON THE LEFT\$. THE SENIOR GCI CONTROLLER AGAIN ORDERED THE WINGMAN TO RETURN TO KEP AT 0446, AND, DESPITE THE PRESENCE OF \$HOSTILES\$ AIRCRAFT WITHIN 25 KILOMETERS OF HIS FLIGHT ROUTE, HE LANDED AT KEP AT 0457. COMMENT, COLLATERAL CONFIRMS THE SHOOTDOWN OF ONE NVAF MIG ON 2 SEPTEMBER. SINCE NO MENTION OF THE ACTUAL SHOOTDOWN OF A U.S. AIRCRAFT WAS MADE BY THE MIG PILOTS, ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WILL BE NECESSARY TO DETERMINE IF A SHOOTDOWN OF A U.S. AIRCRAFT DID OCCUR. THE MIG-19 SHOT DOWN IS THE FOURTH MIG-19 DOWNED SINCE THE RESUMPTION OF U.S. BOMBING OF NORTH VIETNAM AND THE FIRST SINCE 2 JUNE. XXXX 0300 00656 UNCL

Approved for release by NSA on 07-14-2014, Transparency Case# 65886

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