

~~TOP SECRET UMBRA~~

--DEFAULT--

(b) (1)
(b) (3) -18 USC 798
(b) (3) -50 USC 403

35

CATEGORY = 2

M = 149

MESSAGE = 03175731

50 00170317

ZCZCDABH18357H4A997
TO [REDACTED] DE [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] 66 11/16/82 HCV
ZRZR OD HINH ILR IRL DEO
1116477 ZYH

FM [REDACTED] NOVEMBER ALFA ZEX ~~SECRET~~ SAHON ONE OF THE ISHTAR
24 [REDACTED] VCK/R28-65 FOLLOW-UP NOVEMBER ONE AND FINAL TO USA-32 SPOT REPORT
21 [REDACTED] VCK/R45, 060408Z AND USA-57 SPOT REPORT 21 [REDACTED] VCK/R110-65, 060355Z NOVEMBER
1965 AND FOLLOW-UPS THERETO. DRV MIGS DOWN HELICOPTER ON 6 NOVEMBER. AT 0345 ON 6
NOVEMBER, NON-COMINT INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO SILVER DAWN REVEALED THAT
ONABLE U.S. AIRCRAFT WAS DOWNED OVER THE DRV SOMETIME PRIOR TO 0330 ON
THAT DATE. THE EXACT LOCATION OF THE SHOOTDOWN WAS NOT DISCLOSED. HOWEVER, OTHER
AVAILABLE NON-COMINT INFORMATION INDICATES THAT A U.S. A1E FIGHTER WAS SHOT DOWN
AND FIRE AT 19-54N 105-40E (10 NAUTICAL MILES NORTHWEST OF THANH HOA) AT 0342, A
U.S. HELICOPTER REPORTEDLY WAS AT 20-29N 105-27E (MIDWAY BETWEEN PHU LY AND
HOI XUAN) AT 0510. AND A U.S. A1E FIGHTER WAS LATER LISTED AS SHOT AT POSITION
20-30N 105-33E (22 NAUTICAL MILES WEST OF PHU LY). A REVIEW OF ALL AVAILABLE
COMINT INFORMATION REVEALS NO INFORMATION RELATED TO THE SHOOTDOWN PRIOR TO 0330 OR
THE A1E SHOOTDOWN AT 0342; HOWEVER, BEGINNING A AND CONTINUING UNTIL 1254 ON 6
NOVEMBER, [REDACTED] AND DRV AIR WARNING FACILITIES REFLECTED A TOTAL OF AT
LEAST 10 U.S. AIRCRAFT BY PROBABLE DRV MIGS EITHER INTO OR WITHIN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO
THE AREAS IN WHICH THE HELICOPTER AND SECOND A1E WERE DOWNED. ADDITIONALLY,
BETWEEN 0345 AND 0751, AIR WARNING FACILITIES REFLECTED FOUR FLIGHTS CONS OF
POSSIBLY AS MANY AS 9 U.S. AIRCRAFT ACTIVE IN OR PROCEEDING INTO THE AREA OF
THE SHOOTDOWN (AND THE AREA IN WHICH THE MIGS WERE ALSO OPERATING). A REVIEW OF ALL
AVAILABLE DRV TACTICAL VOICE COMMUNICATIONS REVEALS THAT AT LEAST SIX MIGS WERE
ACTIVE WITHIN THE SHOOTDOWN AREA BETWEEN 0351 AND 0546, AND IT IS APPARENT
THAT AT LEAST FIVE OF THESE AIRCRAFT WERE ENGAGED IN VALID GROUND CONTROLLED
INTERCEPTS AGAINST A FLIGHT OF THREE HOSTILE (U.S.) AIRCRAFT PROBABLY ENGAGED IN
SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS IN AN AREA APPROXIMATELY MID-WAY BETWEEN HOA BINH
AND PHU LY B 0350 AND 0500 AND A FLIGHT OF TWO OR THREE HOSTILE AIRCRAFT
OPERATING IN THE SAE AREA DURING THE 0500 HOUR LATTER FLIGHT APPEARS TO HAVE
CONSISTED OF AT LEAST ONE U.S. HELICOPTER WHICH WAS SUBSEQUENTLY SHOT DOWN BY
ONE MIG AT 0535 AT 20-33N 105-38E (15 NAUTICAL MILES WEST OF PHU LY). THE
TIME OF THE SHOOTDOWN AND THE LOCATION COMPARE FAVORABLY WITH THAT REPORTED IN THE
COLLATERAL INFORMATION FOR THE DOWNED HELICOPTER. NO AIR WARNING REFLECTIONS WERE
AVAILABLE WHICH CAN BE CORRELATED WITH THE DOWNING OF THE SECOND A1E AIRCRAFT,
BUT IT IS SIGNIFICANT TO NOTE THAT HOSTILE AIRCRAFT WERE SPORADICALLY REFLECTED
DURING THE PERIOD 0345 TO 0751 OPERATING IN THE GENERAL AREA IT DISAPPEARED.
ONE FLIGHT OF PROBABLE U.S. AIRCRAFT WAS NOTED DEPARTING THE GULF OF TONKIN AND
PING INTO THIS AREA BETWEEN 0729 AND 0751; HOWEVER, THE SLOW SPEED OF THE AIR-
CRAFT SUGGESTS THAT THE AIRCRAFT WERE A HELICOPTER(S). OTHER THAN THE
REFLECTIONS OF THE HELICOPTER SHOOTDOWN, THERE WERE NO INDICATIONS THAT ANY
OTHER AIR ENGAGEMENTS ENSUED OR THAT ANY OTHER U.S. AIRCRAFT WERE DOWNED BY DRV
MIGS. THE FOLLOWING GENERAL RESUME OF THE MORE SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITY NOTED ON 06
NOVEMBER. THE FIRST ATTEMPT TO INTERCEPT U.S. AND RESCUE AIRCRAFT APPARENTLY
OCCURRED BETWEEN 0349 AND 0425 WHEN DRV AIR WARNING FACILITIES REFLECTED THE
AT LEAST FIVE DRV MIGS FLYING FROM THE IMMEDIATE PHUC YEN AREA TOVPAH AREA OVER
THE MOUNTAINS MID-WAY BETWEEN HOA BINH AND PHU LY. THE MIGS BROADLY CIRCLED THIS
AREA AND RETURNED TO THE PHUC YEN AREA AT ABOUT 0420. DURING SAME PERIOD OF

Ref # 185 + 187 Bolstad
2x A1E's down on 6 Nov but both downed after 0330Z

CH3C down Ref # 186

CORMIER,
[initials]
SINGLETON

(b) (1)
(b) (3) -50 USC 403
(b) (3) -18 USC 798
(b) (3) -P.L. 86-36

~~TOP SECRET UMBRA~~

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Approved for release by
NSA on 05-08-2014,
Transparency Case# 65886

187

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-4953-
0185
0186
0187

DOCID: 4117308 ~~TOP SECRET UMBRA~~ --DEFAULT--

TIME, ONE FLIGHT OF THREE HOSTILE AIRCRAFT, FLYING AT APPROXIMATELY 2000 KNOTS, WAS APPARENTLY INVOLVED IN SEARCH OPERATIONS WITHIN A SQUARE AREA BOUNDED BY COORDINATES 20-50N 105-32E BY 20-50N 105-42E BY 21-05-32E BY 20-40N 105-42E. THE U.S. AIRCRAFT WERE REFLECTED DEPARTING THIS AREA AT 0515 AFD PROCEEDING SOUTH TO A LAST NOTED POSITION SEVEN NAUTICAL MILES NORTHWEST OF HOI XUAN. BEGINNING AT 0351, DRV TACTICAL VOICE TIES REFLECTED AT LEAST FOUR DRV PILOTS ENGAGED IN A GCI ATTEMPT AGAINST FOUR LOW FLYING AIRCRAFT. WHILE IT IS POSSIBLE TO SPECIFICALLY CORRELATE THE AIR WARNING TRACKINGS WITH THE VOICE ACTIVITY, IT APPEARS THE GCI ATTEMPT AGAINST THE U.S. AIRCRAFT ENGAGED IN THE SEARCH OPERATIONS. AIR WARNING TRACKING REVEALED NO MESSAGES OF TRAFFIC FROM THE U.S. AIRCRAFT; HOWEVER, A DISTANCE FROM THE ENEMY TARGET OF 12 KILOMETERS (6.3 NAUTICAL MILES) WAS REFLECTED VOICE COMMUNICATIONS BY THE DRV GCI CONTROLLER AT 0357 AND 0412. THE MIGS SUBSEQUENTLY WERE REFLECTED RETURNING TO HUC YEN AT ABOUT 0418. 9300 HHHH

~~TOP SECRET UMBRA~~ --DEFAULT--

CATEGORY = 2

M = 148

34

MESSAGE = 01175723

ZCZCDAC882DRA379HC154

DD [redacted] DE

167 11/1608Z NOV
ZKZK AND HAH ILR HRL DEO

111637Z ZYH

FM [redacted]
TO [redacted] NOVEMBER ALFA

ZEM

(b) (3) - P.L. 8

(b) (1)

(b) (3) - 18 USC 79

(b) (3) - 50 USC 40

~~SECRET~~ FINAL SECTION OF TWO ISHTAR 2/ [redacted] VCK/R28-65 FOLLOW-UP NUMBER ONE AND FINAL TO USA-32 SPOT REPORTS VCK/R171-65, 060408Z AND USA-57 SPOT REPORT 2/11/65 VCK/R110-65, 060355Z NOVEMBER 1965 AND FOLLOW-UPS THERETO. DR DOWN U.S. HELICOPTER ON 6 NOVEMBER. BEGINNING AT 0519, A SECOND GCI ATTEMPT AGAINST ANOTHER FLIGHT OF URCAFT WAS MADE BY APPARENTLY THE SAME PILOTS WHICH PERFORMED THE EARLIER ATTEMPT. DRV AIR WARNING FACILITIES REF THE FLIGHT OF FOUR MIGS FROM THE PHUC YEN AREA INTO THE AREA BETWEEN HOA BINH AND PHULY, WHILE DRV AND [redacted] BILLING FACILITIES REFLECTED THE FLIGHT OF TWO AND POSSIBLY THREE U.S. AIRCRAFT (LATER REFLECTIONS INDICATE THIS MAY HAVE CONSISTED OF ONE HELICOPTER) FLYING FROM THE HOI XUAN AREA INTO THIS AREA. VOICE COMMUNICATIONS TO THE MIG PILOTS MADE SEVERAL PASSES AT THE U.S. AIRCRAFT UNDER THE DIRECTION OF A GROUND CONTROLLER, AND AT THE DRV PILOTS WERE INFORMED THAT THEY WERE 3 KILOMETERS (1.6 NAUTICAL MILES) FROM THE TARGET. AIR WARNING TRACKING A MERGER OF THE DRV AND HOSTILE TRACKS AT THIS TIME OVER BINH DONG (20-45N 105-28E), BUT APPARENTLY THE DRV DID NOT SIGHT THE TARGET DUE TO CLOUD CONDITIONS. THE MIG PILOTS CONTINUED TO RECEIVE HEADINGS AND INSTRU FROM THE GROUND CONTROLLER, AND AT 0535 THE TARGET WAS SIGHTED BY ONE OF THE DRV PILOTS. THE GROUND CONTROLLER IMMEDIATELY COMMANDED THE DRV PILOTS TO "SHOOT IT DOWN." AT THIS TIME ONE OF THE DRV PILOTS REPORTED THAT TARGET SPEED WAS SLOW AND THAT IT WAS A "HELICOPTER." AT 0536, ONE OF THE PILOTS (HAVING APPARENTLY MADE A PATH HELICOPTER) EXCLAIMED, "SHOT ALREADY," AND HE WAS INSTRUCTED BY A FELLOW PILOT TO "PULL UP." AT 0539, THE WHO APPARENTLY ACCOMPLISHED THE SHOOTDOWN REPORTED, "I AM REPORTING THAT ((HE)) SHOT DOWN ONE AIRCRAFT AND FOUR BAILOUT." ANOTHER DRV PILOT CONFIRMED, "ONE AIRCRAFT AND FOUR PARACHUTES." SUBSEQUENTLY, VOICE COMMUNICATIONS ATED THE MIGS REJOINING FORMATION AND RETURNING TO PHUC YEN. AIR WARNING TRACKINGS OF THE ACTUAL SHOOT-DOWN THE FLIGHT OF MIGS FLYING EAST SOUTHEAST FROM 20-35N 104TAPE AT 0535 (AT THE APPROXIMATE TIME OF THE TARGET SG) AND THE HELICOPTER FLYING SOUTH FROM 20-38N 105-37E AT 0532 TO A MERGER POINT OF THE TRACKS AT 20-33N 105T 0536 (ABOUT THE TIME THE MIG PILOT REPORTED HE HAD "SHOT ALREADY"). SUBSEQUENTLY, THE HELICOPTER CONTINUED SOUTHERLY DIRECTION TO A LAST NOTED POSITION OF 20-28N 105-38 E (18 NAUTICAL MILES WEST SOUTHWEST OF PHULY). AIRING COMMUNICATIONS REFLECTED THE MIGS RETURNING TO PHUC YEN. DRV AIR WARNING FACILITIES REFLECTED AT LEAST ONE AND POSSIBLY TWO HOSTILE FLIGHTS IN OR NEAR THE SHOOTDOWN AREA BETWEEN 0745; HOWEVER, THE FAUCITY OF TRACKING DATA AND THE LACK OF TACTICAL VOICE REFLECTIONS PRECLUDES DETERMINATION OF WHETHER OR NOT ANY AIR ENGAGEMENT OF INTERCEPT ATTEMPTS OCCURRED. ONE OF THE HOSTILE FLIGHTS WAS SIGNIFICANT IN THAT IT WAS NOTED DEPARTING THE GULF OF TONKIN APPROXIMATELY 10 NAUTICAL MILES NORTHEAST OF THA AT 0708 AND PROCEEDING NORTHWEST ON A ZIG ZAG COURSE TO A LAST NOTED POSITION OF 20-25N 105-30E (9 NAUTICAL MILES WEST OF THE AREA WHERE THE HELICOPTER WAS DOWNED EARLIER). THE COMPUTED GROUND SPEED OF 120 KNOTS FOR THE FLIGHT INDICATIVE OF A HELICOPTER (S). ONE PROBABLE JET FIGHTER, IDENTIFIED AS FRIENDLY (DRV), WAS BRIEFLY REFLECTED PARALLEL TO THE POSSIBLE HELICOPTERS

(b) (1)

(b) (3) - 50 USC 403

(b) (3) - 18 USC 798

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COURSE, BUT AGAIN THE PAUCITY OF AIR WARNING TRACKINGS PRECLUDES DETERMINATION THE
FIGHTER WAS, IN FACT, A DRV FIGHTER OF A U.SJM AIRCRAFT. AT LEAST THREE
ADDITIONAL FLIGHTS OF DRV MIGS NOTED FLYING TO THE SHOOTDOWN AREA BETWEEN 1119
AND 1145, ONE FLIGHT OF AN UNKNOWN NUMBER OF PROBABLE JET F5 PERFORMED A ROUND
ROBIN FLIGHT TO THIS AREA FROM PHUC YEN; BETWEEN 1153 AND 1217, ONE PROBABLE
MIG PERFORMED A FLIGHT; AND BETWEEN 1227 AND 1254, ONE FLIGHT OF AN UNKNOWN
NUMBER OF PROBABLE MIGS WERE BRIEFLY REFLECTED SOUTH FROM PHUC YEN TOWARDS
THIS AREA. COMMENTS: THE FACT THAT THE DRV PILOTS PERFORMED GC1'S AGAINST TH
AIRCRAFT ENGAGED IN SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS AND SUBSEQUENTLY SHOT DOWN ONE
OF THESE AIRCRAFT TENDS TO SHOW AGGRESSIVE ATTITUDE ON THE PART OF THE DRV. THIS
HAS BEEN NOTED IN THE PAST. OF INTEREST IS THAT THE DRV CONTINUED TO FLY INTO
THE AREA OF THE SHOOTDOWN UNTIL AFTER THE HOURS OF DARKNESS HAD SET IN. ALSO
OF INTEREST THAT THE SAME PILOTS WERE APPARENTLY INVOLVED IN BOTH GC1'S REFLECTED
IN VOICE COMMUNICATIONS, BUT THE TYPE CRAFT THEY WERE FLYING IS NOT KNOWN. THE
DRV IS KNOWN TO HAVE A FEW "AI" RADAR EQUIPPED MIG-17'S, BUT THE REFER TO CLOUD
CONDITIONS AND THE DIFFICULTY THE DRV PILOTS HAD SIGHTING THE TARGETS SUGGEST
THAT THEY WERE VIS-~~17-11-12, 194-5#3 5-11-15, 195-7-8, 14-1-4-8-9~~ HHHH
HHNZCZCDRA598KA - RR

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