

27 DEC 72

~~SECRET SPOKE~~

CATEGORY = 7

M = 750

MESSAGE = 02149060

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~~SECRET SPOKE~~ FOLLOWUP NR TWO AND FINAL TO CRITIC 1672; DTG, 27/1727Z DEC 72. BTWN 1550Z AND 1623Z, 27 DEC 72, SIX B52 CELLS (EIGHTEEN ACFT) WERE REFLECTED ACTIVE IN AND NEAR THE AREA WHERE COBALT 03(B52) WAS REPORTED DOWN (2105N 10601E) AT APPROX 1600Z. THESE CELLS ENTERED NVN FROM THE GULF OF TONKIN (GOT) ON A NORTHERLY AND NORTHWESTERLY HEADING, PASSING OVER HAIPHONG AREA TO THE VIC OF KEP AFLD BEFORE TURNING AND EXITING NVN TO THE GOT ON A SOUTHEASTERLY AND SOUTHERN HEADING. ONE CELL (TRK 632-IDENT THREE B-52'S) IN PARTICULAR MAY POSS REPRESENT COBALT CELL. THIS CELL WAS REFLECTED ENTERING THE NVN AIRSPACE AT 20-25N 107-10E AT 1554Z PROCEEDING WEST TO 20-58N 106-10E AT 1600Z TURNING NORTHWEST TO 21-08N 106-0E (POSS BAD PSN) AT 1601Z, NORTHEAST TO 21-18N 106-30E AT 1606Z, SOUTH TO 20-35N 106-37E AT 1617Z AND GEN EAST AND SOUTHEAST EXITING NVN OVER GOT AT 20-18N 107-10E AT 1622Z AND CONTINUING SOUTH OVER GOT FROM THIS POINT. AT 1600Z PBS 397 ((MIG-21)) WAS PLACED ON CONDITION ONE ALERT AT KIEN AN, AND BTWN THIS TIME AND 1628Z HANOI BAC MAI AND KIEN AN EXCHANGED VARIOUS GUIDANCE AND INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING THE MIG'S TAKE OFF AND FLIGHT PROFILE FOR AFTER TAKE OFF. AT 1628Z KIEN AN REPORTED THAT THE MIG'S TAKE OFF HAS COMPLETED. COMMENTS, COLLATERAL SOURCE (SECRET) INDICATES THAT COBALT CELL WAS TO ENTER/EXIT NVN AIRSPACE VIA THE GOT. NO MIG'S WERE REFLECTED ACTIVE IN THE AREA OF THE B-52'S DURING THE PERIOD THEY WERE REFLECTED ACTIVE OVER NVN. THE REFLECTING FAC INDICATED NO REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF ACFT IN EACH CELL THROUGHOUT THE ACTY. 000 0323.NNNN

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Approved for release by NSA on 07-18-2014, Transparency Case# 65886

~~SECRET SPOKE~~

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