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MESSAGE = 02726254

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~~TOP SECRET UMBRA~~ SECTION 1 OF 7

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ENP01-0075007 ISHTAR (IN PARAS MARKED) 3/00/457-75 (STY) NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY SOUTHEAST ASIA SIGINT SUMMARY

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THIS REPORT SUMMARIZES DEVELOPMENTS NOTED THROUGHOUT SOUTHEAST ASIA AVAILABLE TO NSA AS OF 7 JANUARY 1975. INFORMATION IN THIS REPORT IS BASED ON SIGINT EXCEPT WHERE INDICATED. SITUATION SUMMARY AN NVA ELEMENT REPORTED THAT A C123 AIRCRAFT HAD BEEN LOST IN SOUTH-CENTRAL SOUTH VIETNAM ON 3 JANUARY; COLLATERAL CORROBORATES THE LOSS OF THE AIRCRAFT. IN BINH DUONG PROVINCE, THE NVA 208TH REGIMENT IS REPORTING LATE DECEMBER ACTIONS AND TOLD TO BE ALERT FOR ARVN SWEEP OPERATIONS. FARTHER SOUTH, PART OF THE 6TH REGIMENT OF THE VC 5TH DIVISION HAS REPORTEDLY MOVED ALTHOUGH MOST ELEMENTS OF THE REGIMENT AND THE DIVISION REMAIN IN TUYEN NHON DISTRICT OF KIEN TUONG PROVINCE. (ISHTAR) IN CAMBODIA, THE COMMUNISTS' CONTINUE THEIR ATTACKS, ESPECIALLY AROUND PHNOM PENH CITY AND SOUTHWARD ALONG THE MEKONG RIVER. FANK FORCES ARE RETURNING THE ATTACKS BUT THE KC STATE THAT THESE ATTACKS ARE INEFFECTUAL. SEVERAL KC BATTALIONS HAVE BEEN WITHDRAWN FROM OTHER BATTLEFIELDS AND SENT TO THE PHNOM PENH AREA BUT THE KC ALSO REPORT THAT THE FANK TOO HAVE SENT ADDITIONAL BATTALIONS TO PHNOM PENH. ~~(SECRET SPOKE ISHTAR)~~

I. SOUTH VIETNAM MILITARY SITUATION 1. MILITARY REGION 1 THE HQ, 812TH REGIMENT, NVA 324B DIVISION HAS BEEN NOTED IN SPORADIC COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE HQ, MILITARY REGION TRI-THIEN SINCE 22 DECEMBER. THE REGIMENTAL HEAD-QUARTERS CONTINUES TO COMMUNICATE WITH ITS DIVISION HEAD-QUARTERS AND THE HIGH COMMAND OF THE ARMED FORCES OF NORTH VIETNAM. THE REASON FOR THE INITIATION OF THESE COMMUNICATIONS IS UNKNOWN. ~~(SECRET SPOKE)~~

2. MILITARY REGION 2 IN A ROUTINE 6 JANUARY SITUATION REPORT COVERING ACTIVITIES IN VARIOUS AREAS OF SOUTH VIETNAM, AN UNIDENTIFIED NVA ELEMENT DISCLOSED A LISTING OF PERSONNEL PROBABLY ON BOARD THE C-123 AIRCRAFT THAT WAS LOST OVER SOUTH VIETNAM ON 3 JANUARY. THE CREW MEMBERS AND PASSENGERS WERE LISTED AS ONE AMERICAN PILOT, THREE CHINESE NATIONALISTS, ONE FILIPINO AND THREE SOUTH VIETNAMESE FROM GVN MR 3. THE CURRENT STATUS, LOCATION OF PERSONNEL AND THE CAUSE OF THE AIRCRAFT LOSS WERE NOT DISCLOSED. ACCORDING TO COLLATERAL, A CHINESE-OWNED C-123 TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT, LEASED BY AIR AMERICA FOR U.S. EMBASSY WORK, WAS LOST OVER SOUTH VIETNAM ON 3 JANUARY. THE PERSONNEL ON BOARD, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF AN ADDITIONAL VIETNAMESE, ARE THE SAME AS THOSE DESCRIBED ABOVE. THE PLANE WAS REPORTEDLY ON ITS WAY TO THE EAST COAST CITY OF NHA TRANG FROM DALAT AND DISAPPEARED IN POOR FLYING WEATHER WHICH IS CURRENTLY LIMITING SEARCH OPERATIONS THERE. (21 0720-75, 061210Z JAN; 22-75, 070827Z JAN) ~~(SECRET SPOKE)~~

3. MILITARY REGION 3 THE HQ, SVNLA REAR SERVICES AUTHORITY (RSA) HAS RECENTLY ESTABLISHED DIRECT COMMUNICATIONS WITH TACTICAL UNITS FOR THE FIRST TIME. THE RSA BEGAN COMMUNICATING WITH THE SUSPECTED HQ, VHC 3RD DIVISION IN

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LATE DECEMBER AND WITH THE FORWARD ELEMENT (CE1753) VC 5TH DIVISION ON 1 JANUARY 1975. PRIOR TO THIS, THE RSA HAD COMMUNICATED ONLY WITH THE HIGH COMMAND OF THE ARMED FORCES OF NORTH VIETNAM AND ITS OWN REAR SERVICES GROUPS. THIS EXPANSION OF COMMUNICATIONS TO THESE TACTICAL UNITS IS PROBABLY INDICATIVE OF INCREASED SVNLA LOGISTICS SUPPORT FOR THEIR TACTICAL ACTIVITY. ~~(ISHTAR)~~ ON 31 DECEMBER, AN ELEMENT OF THE NVA 208TH REGIMENT, VNC 75TH ARTILLERY DIVISION RELAYED INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM CIVILIANS REGARDING THE ATTACK ON THE "BINH DUONG BRIDGE." TWO SPANS WERE DROPPED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE BRIDGE AND THE ARVN SUFFERED FOUR KILLED, WHILE COMMUNIST LOSSES WERE TWO KILLED. COMMUNIST FORCES CAPTURED EIGHT M16'S AND TWO PRC-25 RADIOS. ACCORDING TO COLLATERAL, COMMUNIST SAPPERS DROPPED TWO SPANS OF THE PHU CUONG BRIDGE ((1058N 10639E XT8013)) ON 28 DECEMBER. THE 208TH REGIMENTAL ELEMENT WENT ON TO WARN OF ARVN SHEEP OPERATIONS AND RECONNAISSANCE BEING CONDUCTED BY ARVN RANGERS TO LOCATE COMMUNIST ARTILLERY POSITIONS. UNITS WERE ADVISED TO GO INTO A HIGH STATE OF READINESS. ~~(ISHTAR)~~ ~~(SECRET SPOKE ISHTAR)~~ XGDS-2 XXHH #8285

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