

*** Document 9 of 13 for CUST ***

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DE DE 4126A 0850625 ZKZK PP DE P 250624Z
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(b) (3)-50 USC 403
(b) (3)-18 USC 798
(b) (3)-P.L. 86-36

CLASS SECRET SAVIN SECTION ONE OF THREE LAOTIAN XMMENP01-9125038
SERIAL : 24 C09-68

SUBJ 25 MAR 68.
TEXT ENEMY ACTIVITY IN 2 MILITAR REGION INCLUDING ATTACKS ON THA THOM, SALA DENE DINE PASS AND PHOU PHA THI SECTOR DURING THE PERIOD 17TH FEBRUARQ TO 19TH MARCH 1968. XCC I. INTRODUCTION THIS REPORT REVIEWS ENEMY ACTIVITY IN 2 MILITARQ REGION ((2 MR)) INCLUDING THE ATTACK AND OCCUPATION OF THA THOM (()) AND SALA DENE DINE PASS (()) IN SOUTHERN 2 MR ON 21ST AND 25TH FEBRUARE RESPECTIVELY, AND THE SERIES OF ATTACKS IN PHOU PHA THI SECTOR CULMINATING IN THE LOSS OF THE RADAR SITE AT PHA THI ON 10TH MARCH 1968. 2. THE REPORT SHOULD BE READ IP CONJUNCTION WITH 24 C07-68 OF 1 MARCH 1968. THE REPORT IS COMPILED FROM MESSAGES INTERCEPTED OVER RLA COMMUNICATIONS DURING THE PERIOD 17TH FEBRUAR TO 19TH MARCH 1968. II. SUMMARQ ENEMY ACTIVITY IN THA THOM - SALA DENE DINE SECTORS FROM 21ST FEBRUARQ TO 13TH MARCH. 3. THE FALL AND OCCUPATION OF THA THOM (()) BY THREE ENEMY BATTALIONS, ON 21ST FEBRUARQ, AND THE INCREASE OF ENEMY PRESSURE ALONG THE ROUTE LEADING TO AND EVENTUALLY AT SALA DENE DINE PASS (()), WAS REPORTED IN A SERIES OF RLA COMMUNICATIONS DURING THIS PERIOD. 4. LATE ON 21ST FEBRUARQ BY 23 AND ADC TROOPS RETREATED FROM THA THOM TOWARDS SALA DENE DINE. FROM 21ST FEBRUARQ ENEMY MORTAR FIRE AND ONE WEAK BATTALION WERE REPORTEDLY HARRASSING 3RD COMPANY 21BI AT SALA DENE DINE (()) LOCATED 13 KMS SOUTH-EAST OF THA THOM ON ROUTE 4 LEADING TO PAKSANE)). GM17 IN RESPONSE TO THE CRITICAL SITUATION ORDERED A 24 HOURS ALERT AND REDOUBLED VIGILANCE OF BRIDGES AND FERRQ CROSSINGS BY ALL TROOPS ALONG THE ROUTES FROM PAKSANE TO VIENTIANE. 5. THE DETERIORATING SITUATION AT SALA DENE DINE CULMINATED IN ENEMY TROOPS CAPTURING THE POSITION FOLLOWING A STRONG ATTACK LATE ON 25TH FEBRUAR. THIRTY TROOPS 3RD COMPANY 21BI LEFT AT THE POSITION WERE ATTEMPTING TO MEET WITH THE COMMAND POST 21BI WHICH, TWO DAYS LATER WAS REPORTED AT PHOU TINH PIT (()) 6. FROM 22ND FEBRUARQ RLA REINFORCEMENTS WERE MOVED TO THE AREA SOUTH OF SALA DENE DINE AND ON 27TH FEBRUAR 12TH BATTER WITH 105 MM GUNS MOVED TO REINFORCE PAKSANE, AND THEN FURTHER WEST TO MUONG KAO (()). HQ 5 MR ALSO ORDERED TROOPS OF 12 BI TO PROTECT ROUTE 13 BETWEEN BAN THA BOK (()) AND PAKSANE. 7. FROM 23RD TO 29TH FEBRUAR, ENEMY ACTIVITY IN THA THOM - SALA DENE DINE AREAS INCLUDED THE ATTACK AND OCCUPATION OF PHOU MOUNE (()) SITUATED 16 KMS WEST OF SALA DENE DINE)) ON 24TH FEBRUARQ. THE MOVEMENT OF ENEMY FORCES FURTHER SOUTH TO MUONG BO (()) AND A BATTALION SITUATED ALONG THE NAM SANE RIVER TO BAN NGIOU NHAY (())). REPORTS OF RLA REFUGEES FROM MUONG HEUANG (()), MUONG BO (()) AND MUONG KAO (()) ARRIVING AT PAKSANE, CONTINUED FROM 23RD FEBRUARQ. BY 23 TROOPS WERE TO BE TRANSPORTED FROM PAKSANE TO SAM THONG. 8. ON 27TH FEBRUARE, AN RLA UNIT IN THA THOM AREA ADVISED THAT THE SECTOR WAS STILL UNDER HEAVY ARTILLERQ ATTACK. A MESSAGE OF 28TH FEBRUARQ REPORTED THAT ENEMY INTENTIONS IN THE AREA WERE TO MOVE SOUTH ALONG THE NAM SANE VALLEY, SITUATED SOUTH-EAST OF SALA DENE DINE, WEST TOWARD PHOU MOUNE AND MUONG BO, AND SOUTH TOWARD SALA DENE DINE, THE LAST THREE POSITIONS HAVING BEEN ATTACKED WITHIN THE PREVIOUS FOUR DAYS. XHH
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*** Document 8 of 13 for CUST ***

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CLASSIFICATION: SECRET, SECTION TWO OF THREE LAOTIAN YMMEN 02-9125038

SERIAL: [redacted] 21 [redacted] 1009-68 [redacted]

SUBJ: [redacted] 25 MAR 68. ENEMY ACTIVITY IN 2 MILITARY REGION INCLUDING ATTACKS

ON THA THOM, SALA DENE DINE PASS AND PHO PHA THI SECTOR DURING THE PERIOD 17TH FEBRUARY TO 19TH MARCH 1968. XCC 9. DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF MARCH THE DEFENCE OF PAKSANE CONTINUED WITH BATTALION COMMAND COMPANY 12 BI MOVING TO THA BOK (([redacted])) ON 2ND MARCH. ONE COMPANY 12 BI MOVING FROM PAKSANE TO MUONG KAO (([redacted])) AND MUONG HUIANG (([redacted])) AND 3RD COMPANY 21 BI AT PHOU TINE PAT (([redacted])).

10. NORTH OF THA THOM DURING EARLY MARCH ENEMY ACTIVITY INCLUDED ATTACKS ON AC ZONE 4/B POSITIONS AT [redacted] AND [redacted] AND THE REPORTED LOCATION OF 24 PATHET LAO ((PL)) BATTALION AND 2 PL BATTALION. ENEMY ACTIVITY IN PHOE PHA THI SECTOR FROM 20TH FEBRUARY TO 19TH MARCH. 11. ON 23RD FEBRUARY A MEETING OF ENEMY MILITARY AND CIVILIAN AUTHORITIES AT [redacted] FORMULATED A SERIES OF ENEMY OBJECTIVES INCLUDING THE RECRUITMENT OF YOUNG MEN IN THE AREA, BLOCKING RLA TROOPS INTO THEIR ZONES OF OCCUPATION AND THE PROVISION OF FOOD AND MATERIALS FOR PL TROOPS BY THE LOCAL POPULATION. 12. THE MOVEMENT OF ENEMY TROOPS INTO PHOU PAH THI SECTOR WAS REPORTED DURING THE LAST WEEK OF FEBRUARY AND INCLUDED A COMBINED PATHER LAO/NORTH VIETNAMESE ((PNV)) [redacted] BATTALION, WHICH MOVED FROM SAM NEUA TO [redacted] ON 24TH FEBRUARY. AIR STRIKES ON FOUR ENEMY POSITIONS EXTENDING WITHIN 5 KMS EAST OF PHOU PHA THI, ONE PN ((PNV)) BATTALION NEAR NHOT PHAT (([redacted])), ONE NV ((NVN)) BATTALION AT [redacted] AND THE MOVEMENT OF PL 14 BATTALION ON 28TH FEBRUARY TO A POSITION 14 KMS NORTH EAST OF PHOU PHA THI. ON 28TH FEBRUARY AIR STRIKES WERE DIRECTED AT ENEMY TROOPS AT PHA HANG (([redacted])) AND PL 705 BATTALION AND PL 615 BATTALION AT [redacted] [redacted] RESPECTIVELY. ON 1ST MARCH PL 613 BATTALION AND PL 585 BATTALION WERE REPORTED AT BAN TALOK (([redacted])).

13. DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF MARCH, ENEMY ATTACKS WERE MADE ON AC ZONE 12/A SITUATED WEST OF PHOU PHA THI AT PHOU CHE (([redacted])) ON 2ND MARCH ON 8TH MARCH AT A POSITION SOUTH-EAST OF PHA THI AT PHA VE (([redacted])) WHERE 31 RLA TROOPS WERE CAPTURED AND ON THE SAME DAY, 9 KMS FURTHER EAST AT [redacted] WHERE AC ZONE 13 POSITION WAS OCCUPIED BY 300 ENEMY TROOPS. 14. ENEMY BATTALIONS WERE REPORTED TO BE MOVING IN TO BEGIN THE SERIES OF ATTACKS IN PHOU PHA THI SECTOR ON 10TH MARCH, AND WERE LOCATED NEAR PHA BONG (([redacted])), PHOU CHE (([redacted])), HELLN HOUEI MA (([redacted])) AND FOUR OTHER POSITIONS IN THE SECTOR. 15. ON 7TH MARCH APPROXIMATELY TWO ENEMY COMPANIES ATTACKED CV274 POSITIONS AT PHOU CHE (([redacted])) SITUATED 24 KMS WEST OF PHOU PHA THI)) AND ALSO THREATENED THE AIRSTRIP, LIMA SITE 185, AT [redacted] ON 10TH MARCH ONE PL BATTALION REPORTEDLY MOVED FROM MUONG KAO (([redacted])) TO A POSITION 2 KMS NORTH OF PHOU CHE AND, LATER THAT DAY, COMMANDER BV 27 ((MAJOR DOUANG TA)) ADVISED THAT CV 274 WAS UNABLE TO HOLD THE POSITION. HOWEVER LT-COL PHANH ((COMMANDER BV 26)) ORDERED THAT PHOU CHE BE MAINTAINED AS A REGROUPING POINT FOR RLA TROOPS WITHDRAWING FROM HOUEI HIN SA (([redacted])).

16. A SECOND HEAVY ENEMY ATTACK AT PHOU CHE OCCURRED ON 13TH MARCH AND CV 274 AND AC ZONE 12/A TROOPS DISPERSED AND COMMUNICATIONS WERE LOST WITH THE POSITION. XHH 700 NNNN

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*** Document 7 of 13 for CUST ***

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CLASS SECRET SAVIN FINAL SECTION OF THREE LAOTIAN XMMENP03F9125038
SERI: 21 C09-68

SUBJ 25 MAR 68.
TEXT ENEMY ACTIVITY IN 2 MILITAR REGION INCLUDING ATTACKS ON THA THOM, SALA DENE DINE PASS AND PHOU PHA THI SECTOR DURING THE PERIOD 17TH FEBRUARQ TO 19TH MARCH 1968. XCC 17. ON 9TH MARCH ENEMT TROOPS, ACCORDING TO AN ENEMY RADIO REPORT, SUFFERED "470" MEN KILLED FOLLOWING AN RLA/ ATTACK AT PHA BONG ((LIMA SITE 76)). 18. ON 10TH MARCH TWO ENEMY BATTALIONS ATTACKED AND OCCUPIED BAN BANO ((SITUATED 1 KM SOUTH-WEST OF PHOU PHA THI)) AND ANOTHER POSITION AT HOUEI MA (() WAS ALSO HEAVILY ATTACKED ON THE SAME DAY BY 300 ENEMY TROOPS. 19. IN CONJUNCTION WITH THESE ENEMY MOVEMENTS THE OFFENSIVE ON PHOU PHA THI HAD BEGUN EARLY ON 10TH MARCH WHEN IT WAS REPORTED THAT "THERE IS NO TIME TO GO BECAUSE THE ENEMY IS ASCENDING THE HEAD OF THE MOUNTAIN". LT-COL.PHANH ((COMMANDER BV26)) REPORTED THAT 300 ENEMY TROOPS ATTACKED PHOU PHA THI AND THAT A TOTAL OF -10 ENEMY BATTALIONS" WERE DEPLOYED IN THE AREA. THE FINAL ASSAULT AND CAPTURE OF THE RADAR SITE OCCURRED AT 0500 HOURS ON 11TH MARCH. THE SITE WAS DESCRIB: :6 -, ,)*/ 043:./PROPAGANDA FACILITY TO HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED BY AMERICAN SPECIAL FORCES AND WORKED BY U.S. ADVISERS AND LAOTIAN TROOPS, IN ORDER T OGUIDE "RLA AIRCRAFT ATTACKING THE SURROUNDING AREA". RADIO CONTACT WAS LOST AT 1130 HOURS FOLLOWING THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE RLA TROOPS TO JOIN WITH OPERATION HQ PHOU/PHA THI AT THE BASE OF THE MOUNTAIN. 20. H34 ((HELICOPTERS)) WERE REQUESTED TO ASSIST IN EVACUATION OF RLA TROOPS FROM THE "CRITICAL" AREA. ON 13TH MARCH 915 TROOPS WERE AT HOUEI HIN SA (()) AND OPERATION HQ PHOU PHA THI REPORTED THAT THE POSITION WAS LIKELY TO FALL "IN A SHORT TIME". HOWEVER 826 TROOPS AND ALL WEAPONS AND EQUIPMENT HAD STILL NOT BEEN ACCOUNTED FOR. ON 19TH MARCH OPERATION HQ PHOU PHA THI, BS201, BS209, AC ZONE 12/A AND AC ZONE 13 ARRIVED AT MUONG KOUT ((LOCATED 38 KMS SOUTHWEST OF PHOU PHA THI)) AND WERE THEN DEPLOYED ON DEFENSIVE POSITIONS WEST AND SOUTH OF MUONG KOUT. 21. REPORTS OF RLA AND AMERICAN CASUALTIES AT PHOU PHA THI VARIED FROM A RLA MESSAGE THAT TWO TROOPS WERE KILLED AND 37 WOUNDED, OF WHICH 32 WERE LAOTIAN AND 5 AMERICAN, TO A NLHX PRESS/PROPAGANDA FACILITY MESSAGE WHICH REPORTED 167 CASUALTIES AMONG WHICH WERE "ALMOST 20 AMERICAN ADVISORS". 22. ON NIGHT 12TH MARCH AC ZONE/13 AT HOUEI KHAM MOUN LS111, ((LOCATED 9 KMS NORTH OF PHOU PHA THI)) WAS ATTACKED AND OCCUPIED. 23. ON 18TH MARCH 37 PL ENGINEER BATTALION WAS REPORTED TO HAVE MOVED 50 KMS. TO A NEW POSITION NEAR UH7441 LOCATED 24 KMS NORTH EAST OF HOA MUONG (()). 24. ENEMY TROOPS CLAIMED ON 17TH MARCH TO HAVE SHOT DOWN TWO USF 105 JET AIRCRAFT AND ONE U.S. AD 6 AIRCRAFT BY PL AIR DEFENCE UNITS, DURING AN ATTACK ON SAM NEUA. 25. THE LOSS OF BAN HOUEI SA ((SITUATED 12 KMS SOUTH WEST OF MUONG KOUT)) WAS REPORTED ON 19 MARCH. DURING AN OVERFLIGHT BY HELICOPTER THE FOLLOWING DAY, COMMANDER CV 261 ((CAPTAIN KIA TOUVANG)) WAS KILLED WHEN THE HELICOPTER WAS SHOT DOWN, III. DETAILS. FULL DETAILS OF THIS REPORT WILL BE FOUND IN THE HARD COPY EDITION UNDER THE SAME REFERENCE NUMBER. XHH 895 895
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