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0600 07 February - 0600 08 February

12. SECTION III/5. -DRV- DOWNING OF US PLANES

The US imperialists have brazenly sent aircraft to strafe and bomb the Dong Hoi town area and Con Co Island. Four US aircraft were downed.

At 1400 hours on 7 February the US imperialists sent several groups of jet fighters coming from the sea to strafe and bomb the villages around Dong Hoi town, Quang Binh Province for 20 minutes. They brazenly and barbarously strafed the Dong Hoi hospital and the area in front of the Headquarters of the ICC mixed team at Dong Hoi. Later, at 1435 hours, they returned and struck again for 10 minutes.

The US aircraft also strafed and bombed Con Co Island in the northern part of the demilitarised zone. The people's armed forces immediately reacted and appropriately punished this new provocative and aggressive act of the US imperialists. According to initial reports, four US aircraft were downed. (PHLS 59, Hanoi Domestic Service, 7 Feb) (OO)

13. SECTION III/5. -SVN- EXTRACT FROM MACV SITREP 36

There were 22 Viet Cong initiated incidents reported, three of which occurred during the reporting period. No current actions were reported in I CTZ. In II CTZ VC harassed a railroad patrol and seized tools. III CTZ reported harassing fire on a new life hamlet in Binh Long Province. RVNAF ground operations of battalio size or larger increased from 15 to 16 operations continuing. (MACV, Sitrep 36, 061013Z Feb) (O)

14. SECTION III/2. -CHICOM- MILITIA

Communist China is building up its huge militia force of sparetime soldiers to provide an inexhaustible source of replacements for the Army in the event of war, according to the official Weekly Peking Review. Pointing out that modern weapons increased the drain on manpower, an article said "we have to have powerful reserves which can ensure a continuous supply of manpower and materials to meet war needs." The article said it was the Chinese Communist Party's unshakable policy to turn all the people into soldiers.

No precise figures are available here for the strength of the militia, whose members include both men and women. They are in addition to China's regular force, the People's Liberation Army, which is the largest army in the world with an estimated strength of more than 2,500,000. (REUTERS 41, 7 Feb) (U)

15. SECTION III/5. -DRV- EXTRACT FROM TASS HANOI RALLY REPORT

The Soviet people fully support the just struggle of their Vietnamese brothers. We welcome the heroic South Vietnamese people, welcome the glorious Liberation Army and guerrillas of the NFISV--South Vietnam National Liberation Front--who are fighting courageously in difficult conditions to win freedom and independence for their fatherland.

(PHLS 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, Moscow TASS International Service) (OO)

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