

1701

~~SECRET SPOKE~~

CATEGORY = 13

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MESSAGE = #1476448

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XXMM

ENP#3FTB13021 2700 VCJ/R88-71 (AVN, AVS, ALA/HIGH-G-H, MTRL-Y/I, B, Z) DAILY GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF REAR SERVICES SUMMARY NR. 44, 13 FEBRUARY 1971 XXCC THE LOSS OF SEVEN ALLIED AIRCRAFT WAS REPORTED IN MESSAGES OF 9 AND 11 FEBRUARY EMANATING FROM UNIDENTIFIED ENTITIES IN THE BT 32 AREA. SINCE 1700(G) ON 8 FEBRUARY, ONE COMBAT COMPOUND# AT BAN DONG (XD 5139, 16-38N 106-25E) WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SHOOTDOWN OF THESE SEVEN AIRCRAFT. THE 34TH AAA BATTALION OF THE 591ST AAA REGIMENT WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE LOSS OF TWO HU1A HELICOPTERS, AND THE REGIMENT'S 32D AAA BATTALION HAD DESTROYED ONE UNSPECIFIED AIRCRAFT. BT 41'S 75TH ENGINEER BATTALION HAD DOWNED THREE AIRCRAFT AND ANOTHER HU1A WAS SHOTDOWN BY AN INFANTRY TEAM OF BT 41. 4. A 10 FEBRUARY MESSAGE FROM THE 18TH AAA BATTALION REVEALED THAT ITS 3D COMPANY MAY MOVE BACK SOUTH OF SA MU (XD 5852, 16-45N 106-29E) AT KM 35 (UNLOCATED). APPARENTLY THE ENTIRE COMPANY WAS TO BE READY TO MOVE WHENEVER THE ORDERS WERE RECEIVED. AN UNIDENTIFIED PERSONALITY SUC (SWCS) WAS TO INVESTIGATE THIS MOVE AND REPLY TO THE BATTALION. 5. ACCORDING TO AN 11 FEBRUARY MESSAGE FROM THE 282D AAA REGIMENT, A CUMULATIVE TOTAL OF 55 HELICOPTERS HAD BEEN SHOT DOWN BY VARIOUS UNITS BETWEEN 8 AND 10 FEBRUARY. THE MESSAGE INDICATED THAT ARTILLERY UNITS OF ALL TYPES WERE COORDINATING WITH THE INFANTRY, AND THAT 33 HELICOPTERS HAD BEEN DOWNED ON THE 8TH AND 9TH, WHILE AN ADDITIONAL 22 HELICOPTERS WERE DESTROYED ON THE 10TH. MORE THAN 100 AMERICAN AND ARVN# TROOPS WERE REPORTEDLY KILLED. THE UNITS INVOLVED IN THIS ACTIVITY WERE THE 18TH, 24TH, 34TH AND 82D AAA BATTALIONS OF THE 591ST AAA REGIMENT, AND ALL OF THE 37-MM ARTILLERY UNITS OF THE 559TH TRANSPORTATION GROUP. (2/F1/VCJ/T1092-71, 120600Z) C. TRANSPORTATION 1. A 12 FEBRUARY COMMUNIQUE FROM THE POLITICAL OFFICER OF BT 33 EXHORTED THE ACTIVITIES OF VARIOUS VEHICLE UNITS ON THE 5TH NIGHT OF THE GENERAL TRANSPORTATION OFFENSIVE, IN WHICH 85 PERCENT OF THE VEHICLES REACHED THEIR OBJECTIVES. LEADING THE UNITS IN ONE-NIGHT TRIPS WAS THE 61ST TRANSPORTATION BATTALION'S 10TH COMPANY WITH 31 VEHICLES. THE 1ST COMPANY(SIC) OF THE 965TH TRANSPORTATION BATTALION LED IN TWO-NIGHT TRIPS WITH A TOTAL OF 33 VEHICLES COMPLETING ROUND TRIPS. AN UNIDENTIFIED 3D COMPANY LED IN TECHNICAL COEFFICIENTS WITH 86 PERCENT, AND THE 8TH COMPANY -- OF PROBABLY THE 61ST TRANSPORTATION BATTALION -- LED IN THE TONNAGE CATEGORY, HAVING HANDLED SOME 43 TONS. A BULLDOZER WAS REPORTED TO HAVE PRODUCED# 633 METERS WHILE WORKING AT SLOPE 18 (XC 6997, 16-15N 106-35E) THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT. STORAGE AREA (E) 1 WAS CONGRATULATED FOR

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HAVING UNLOADED THE CARGO QUICKLY. 2. A GENERAL INFORMATION STATEMENT ON ALLIED OPERATIONS IN LAOS WAS THE TOPIC OF A 10 FEBRUARY MESSAGE FROM AN UNIDENTIFIED ENTITY IN THE BT 18 AREA OF NORTH VIETNAM. THE MESSAGE STATED THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE INCURSION WAS TO OCCUPY CENTRAL LAOS AND BLOCK THE TRANSPORTATION OPERATIONS. THE MESSAGE CONCLUDED WITH A STATEMENT TO THE EFFECT THAT THE FEELING AT HIGHER HEADQUARTERS WAS THAT THIS OPERATION WOULD PRESENT A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY TO ANNIHILATE ENEMY FORCES. 3. SUCCESSFUL TRANSPORTATION EFFORTS IN THE BT 32 AREA WERE MENTIONED IN AN 11 FEBRUARY DISPATCH FROM AN UNIDENTIFIED ENTITY IN THAT AREA. VEHICLES OF THE BT WERE REPORTED TO HAVE ACHIEVED 110 PERCENT OF THEIR TRANSPORTATION OBJECTIVES. 4. ACCORDING TO A 10 FEBRUARY MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER OF THE BT 27 FORWARD AREA, FROM KENG LUONG (XD 4739, 16-38N 106-23E) DOWN TO THE TAM LUONG (XD 5528; 16-32N 106-27E) THE ENEMY HAS BLOCKED THE ROAD (PROBABLY ROUTE 92C) TO VEHICLES OF BT 9. 5. THE 16TH AAA BATTALION, BT 32, REPORTED THE MOVEMENT OF 12.7-MM WEAPONS, ACCORDING TO A 10 FEBRUARY MESSAGE, IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE VEHICLES. THE 12.7-MM GUNS OF BOTH THE 1ST COMPANY AND THE BATTALION HEADQUARTERS HAD BEEN ORGANIZED FOR COMBAT WITH TWO WEAPONS AT KM 99.7 (UNLOCATED) AND TWO WEAPONS AT KM 109 (XD 177560, 16-47N 106-06E). THE MESSAGE ALSO REVEALED THAT THE ENEMY HAD STRUCK AN UNDISCLOSED POINT RESULTING IN THE LOSS OF 400 KG OF RICE AND 20 KG OF MEAT, WHILE WEAPONS AND PERSONNEL WERE REPORTED TO BE SAFE. IV. LAOS GENERAL DEVELOPMENTS AN ELEMENT OF THE HQ, 559TH TG WAS LOCATED ON 10 FEBRUARY IN THE NORTH-CENTRAL DMZ, APPROXIMATELY 10 KM NORTHWEST OF FSB FULLER NEAR XD 891693 (16-45N 106-45E). THIS REPRESENTS THE FIRST CONFIRMED LOCATION OF ANY ELEMENT OF THIS HEADQUARTERS SINCE SEPTEMBER 1970, WHEN IT WAS POSITIONED IN AN AREA SOUTH OF DONG HOI, NORTH VIETNAM--AN AREA IN WHICH THE BULK OF THE HEADQUARTERS WAS CONSISTENTLY LOCATED THROUGHOUT THE 1970 RAINY SEASON. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, A MAJOR PORTION OF THE HQ, 559TH TG RETURNED TO LAOS DURING DECEMBER 1970. ADDITIONAL SIGINT WILL BE NEEDED TO FULLY DEFINE THE PRESENT STATUS AND DISPOSITION OF THIS HEADQUARTERS. (2/00/VCI/R66-71, 092209Z; R75-71, 122140Z) XXHH 3040 900 #3040 NNNN

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