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~~TOP SECRET UMBRA~~

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~~T O P S E C R E T UMBRA~~ SECTION ONE
XXMM
ENPØ-1-0072361 ~~ISHTAR~~(IN PARAS MARKED) 3/00/[redacted]/R317-72 NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY SOUTHEAST ASIA SIGINT SUMMARY
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THIS REPORT SUMMARIZES DEVELOPMENTS NOTED THROUGHOUT SOUTHEAST ASIA AVAILABLE TO NSA AS OF 16ØØZ, 26 DECEMBER 1972. ALL INFORMATION IN THIS REPORT IS BASED ENTIRELY ON SIGINT EXCEPT WHERE OTHERWISE SPECIFICALLY INDICATED. SITUATION SUMMARY NVA GROUND FORCES IN NORTH VIETNAM REPORT 47 AIRCRAFT SHOT DOWN BETWEEN 17 AND 24 DECEMBER AND SINCE 19 DECEMBER SEVERAL NORTH VIETNAMESE RADAR COMPANIES HAVE INDICATED ECM JAMMING AFFECTING THEIR ABILITY TO EFFECTIVELY TRACK B-52 AIRCRAFT. IN QUANG TRI PROVINCE, THE FORWARD ELEMENT, NVA 325TH DIVISION RESUMED COMMUNICATIONS WITH HANOI FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE LATE JULY. AN ELEMENT OF THE NVA 164TH ARTILLERY REGIMENT REPORTED RESERVE ELEMENTS OF THE 1Ø1ST REGIMENT, NVA 325TH DIVISION AT HA TAY AND TUONG VAN. AN UNIDENTIFIED ELEMENT REPORTED ALLIED ACTIVITY, PARTICULARLY IN THE AREA OF NHU LE. AN NVA RECONNAISSANCE ELEMENT REPORTED NO ALLIED FIRE, AND NOTHING UNUSAL ON 25 DECEMBER. NVA 324B DIVISION ELEMENTS CONTINUE TO RECONNOITER IN THE CAMP EVANS AREA, AND OTHER NVA ELEMENTS RECONNOITERED THE FIRE SUPPORT BASE BASTOGNE AREA. AN ASSOCIATE OF THE HOI AN PROVINCIAL UNIT REFERENCED A SCHEDULED NEW YEARS CEASE-FIRE PERIOD. IN RVN MILITARY REGION 3, NVA 7TH DIVISION ASSOCIATES CONTINUE TO DISCUSS THE TRANSFER OF AMMUNITION. ~~(ISHTAR)~~ AN ASSOCIATE OF THE NVA 335TH INDEPENDENT REGIMENT NEAR BOUAM LONG, NORTHERN LAOS REPORTED THE CAPTURE OF AN AMERICAN PILOT ON 24 DECEMBER AND NVA ARTILLERY CONTINUES TO BE POSITIONED IN THE SOUTHERN PLAINE DES JARRES AND SOUTH OF BAN PHATANG. IN SOUTHERN LAOS, AN RLA AGENT REPORTED THAT PART OF THE COMMUNIST FORCE WHICH CAPTURED THE SE BANG FAI RIVER WAS NOW PLANNING TO ATTACK THAKHEK. CLASHES CONTINUED BETWEEN RLA AND NVA UNITS IN THE SARAVANE AREA AND SOUTH OF PAKSE. ~~(TOP SECRET UMBRA ISHTAR)~~ I. REFLECTIONS OF ALLIED OPERATIONS A. NORTH VIETNAMESE GROUND FORCES MILITARY REGION 4 AN UNIDENTIFIED NVA ENTITY REPORTED ON 24 DECEMBER THAT TWO SHIPS HAD FIRED TOWARD DEO NGANG (XE 5685, 17-57N 1Ø6-28E) FROM AN APPROXIMATE RANGE OF 15,ØØØ METERS. THE REPORT CONTINUED BY DISCUSSING PROBLEMS THAT HAD ARISEN, CAUSING THE BATTALION (NOT FURTHER IDENTIFIED) NOT TO OPEN FIRE. ANOTHER IDENTIFIED NVA ENTITY REPORTED ON 25 DECEMBER THAT NORTH VIETNAM HAD SHOT DOWN 47 AIRCRAFT BETWEEN 17 AND 24 DECEMBER, INCLUDING 17 B-52'S, 5 F-111'S, 19 JET AIRCRAFT AND 2 RECONNAISSANCE AIRCRAFT. THE COMMUNIQUE ALSO INDICATED THAT MANY PILOTS--NEARLY ALL B-52 PILOTS--HAD BEEN CAPTURED OR KILLED, INCLUDING 17 CAPTAINS, MAJORS AND LIEUTENANT COLONELS. (2/00/VCM/T793-72, T792-72; BOTH IN PREPARATION) ~~(SECRET SPOKE)~~ B. NORTH VIETNAMESE AIR/AIR DEFENSE FORCES 1. AIR STRIKES OVER NORTH VIETNAM A MINIMUM OF 71 U.S. AIRCRAFT WERE REFLECTED OVER NORTH VIETNAM BETWEEN

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(b)(3)-50 USC 403
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1212 AND 1401Z ON 24 DECEMBER. NO NORTH VIETNAMESE SAM LAUNCHES OR NVAF MIG REACTIONS WERE NOTED DURING THESE STRIKES. THE 48TH BATTALION 234TH SAM REGIMENT (POSSIBLY AT 21-17N 105-53E) AND THE 84TH BATTALION, 238TH SAM REGIMENT (20-59N 106-18E) WERE NOTED DISCUSSING DIFFICULTIES IN DISTINGUISHING THEIR TARGETS. ~~(SECRET SPOKE)~~ 2. REFLECTIONS OF NORTH VIETNAMESE TRACKING OF B-52 STRIKES SINCE 19 DECEMBER VARIOUS NORTH VIETNAMESE RADAR COMPANIES HAVE INDICATED THAT ECM JAMMING DURING B-52 STRIKES OVER NORTH VIETNAM IS AFFECTING THEIR ABILITIES TO EFFECTIVELY TRACK THESE AIRCRAFT. THE RESULT OF THIS PROBLEM APPEARS TO BE A CONSISTENT REPORTING OF TRACKING 10-15 NM OFF THE ACTUAL ROUTES FLOWN BY THE B-52S. XXHH 900 #3961 NNNN