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~~SECRET SPOKE~~

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~~S E C R E T SPOKE~~ DIRNSA CRITIC FOLLOW-UP ONE AND FINAL TO USA-29 CRITIC 1Ø-72 1814Ø5Z DEC 72 ON 18 DECEMBER BETWEEN 1149Z AND 1624Z NORTH VIETNAMESE AIR DEFENSE FACILITIES REFLECTED A TOTAL OF AT LEAST 129 HOSTILE AIRCRAFT OPERATING OVER NORTH VIETNAM IN THE AREAS OF HANOI, HAIPHONG, YEN BAI, NA SAN AND PHUC YEN. TWO AIRCRAFT IDENTIFIED AS B-52'S WERE REPORTED DAMAGED; ONE WAS REPORTEDLY SHOTDOWN IN THE AREA OF HANOI AND THE OTHER, SEVERELY DAMAGED, RETURNED TO UTAPAO, THAILAND. AT 1338Z, A SPEAKER POSSIBLY ASSOCIATED WITH BATTALION 51, 267TH SAM REGIMENT (NAM DINH AREA) PASSED A PRELIMINARY POST-ENGAGEMENT REPORT, INDICATING THE UNIT HAD LAUNCHED TWO MISSILES AT A B-52 AT 1317Z, PERSONNEL AT BATTALION 51 AND OTHER UNIDENTIFIED $OBSERVERS$ REPORTED THAT BOTH MISSILES HAD $DETONATED WELL.$ NVN AIR SURVEILLANCE FACILITIES ALSO REFLECTED ONE FLIGHT OF THREE B-52S FLYING SOUTHEAST FROM 19-42N 1Ø5-1ØE AT 1317Z TO A FINAL POSITION OVER THE GULF OF TONKIN AT 18-41N 1Ø5-57E AT 1322Z. LATER, AT 1541Z, AN UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER, POSSIBLY ASSOCIATED WITH A HANOI AREA SA-7 UNIT (UNIDENTIFIED) REPORTED THE CAPTURE OF A U.S. PILOT. HOWEVER, NEITHER THE IDENTIFY OF THE PILOT NOR THE TYPE OF HIS AIRCRAFT WERE REVEALED. THERE IS NO EVIDENCE CORRELATING THE MISSILE LAUNCH WITH THE LATER REPORTED PILOT CAPTURE. COLLATERAL SOURCES REPORT THAT ONE B-52 IN LILAC FLIGHT, SUSTAINED SEVERE BATTLE DAMAGE, PROBABLY FROM SURFACE- TO-AIR MISSILES WHILE TURNING OFF TARGET AT 21-Ø9N 1Ø5-51E. THE AIRCRAFT REPORTEDLY RECOVERED SAFELY AT UTAPAO, THAILAND WITH THE PILOT IN VERY SERIOUS CONDITION. COLLATERAL SOURCES ALSO REPORT THE DOWNING OF A B-52 IN THE HANOI AREA. A PRESS RELEASE CARRIED BY RADIO HANOI ALSO REPORTED THAT A B-52 HAD BEEN DOWNED IN THE HANOI AREA. THERE IS NO SIGINT CURRENTLY AVAILABLE ON THE REPORTED B-52 SHOOTDOWN. FURTHER AMPLIFYING DETAILS ASSOCIATED WITH THE 1317Z SA-2 LAUNCHES WILL BE CARRIED IN A SEPARATE SERIES. 48Ø #Ø68Ø NNNN

Approved for release by NSA on 07-16-2014, Transparency Case# 65886

~~SECRET SPOKE~~

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