CATEGORY = 1 M = 1682

MESSAGE = 0214237

ZCZCC05 5390PRB579 LOG LN NO. 069
00 [redacted] DE
[redacted] #0668 3540825
ZNY MMNSH
ZKZK 00 OIO ZLZ DE
0 190817Z DEC
72 ZYH
FM DIRNSA
TO NSA/UNIFORM WHISKEY NCR NMCC WHITE HOUSE
ZEM
~~S E C R E T SPOKE~~ SECTION FIVE OF ELEVEN 2/00/ NCK/8590-72 SPOT REPORT
SONGBIRD AVN/AVIA,OPER,DAMC/I. 19 DEC 72 NSA/UW(NS)-HCF-VRDE SOUTHWEST TO
19-58N 104-50E OVER LAOS. TRACK 20 (2 SMALL TYPES AT 4,000 METERS) ONLY NOTED
AT 1601 AT 20-45N 104-43E. II. SAM REACTION (FIRST WAVE) FROM 1100Z TO 1459Z,
SIX NVN SAM BATTALIONS WERE NOTED IN REACTION TO U.S. AIR STRIKES IN THE HANOI
AREA. A MINIMUM OF THIRTEEN MISSILES WERE LAUNCHED RESULTING IN THE LOSS OF ONE
B-52 (CHARCOAL 03) AND SEVERE DAMAGE TO ANOTHER (LILAC) WHICH RECOVERED AT
UTAPAO, THAILAND ((1)). TWO OF THE REACTING UNITS ARE SUBORDINATE TO THE 267TH
SAM REGIMENT AND ARE DEPLOYED IN THE GENERAL THANH HOA AREA. ONE OF THE
REACTING UNITS, SUBORDINATE TO THE 264TH SAM REGIMENT IS DEPLOYED IN THE HANOI
AREA. ONE UNIT, POSSIBLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE 272ND SAM REGIMENT, IS DEPLOYED IN
THE HANOI AREA, AND TWO OTHER U/I BATTALIONS ARE DEPLOYED IN THE GENERAL
HAIPHONG AREA. BETWEEN 1328Z AND 1344Z A MESSAGE FROM AN UNIDENTIFIED NVN AIR
OPERATIONS STATION REPORTED THAT $ONE AIRCRAFT WAS BURNING AND FALLING. BURNING
RAPIDLY. DON'T KNOW IF IT WAS ONE OF OURS OR ONE OF HIS.$ POST-LAUNCH
CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN 1334Z AND 1337Z INDICATE THAT BATTALIONS 51 AND 52 OF THE
267TH SAM REGIMENT, POSSIBLY LOCATED IN THE VICINITY OF 19-18N 105-28E OR
20-14N 105-51E (VN550), APPARENTLY LAUNCHED TWO MISSILES EACH AT THE SAME B-52
AT 1317Z. THREE OF THE MISSILES EXPLODED WELL IN PROXIMITY TO THE TARGET. ONE
OF THE MISSILES LAUNCHED BY BATTALION 52 WAS SLOW TO DETONATE AND WENT PAST THE
TARGET PRIOR TO DETONATION. BETWEEN 1537Z AND 1540Z, TWO UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS,
POSSIBLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE 234TH SAM REGIMENT (HANOI AREA), DISCUSSED
PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED $ IN THE MORNING$ FOR REPORTING $THE WEAKNESSES AND
IMPROVEMENTS IN THE BATTLE SITUATION THAT JUST PASSED.$ ONE OF THE SPEAKERS
THEN REPORTED THAT ONE PILOT WAS CAPTURED NEAR AN UNIDENTIFIED UNIT. NEITHER
THE PILOT'S IDENTITY NOR THE TYPE AIRCRAFT SHOT DOWN WAS DISCLOSED. LATER,
BETWEEN 1629Z AND 1640Z, BATTALION 76 OF THE 264TH SAM REGIMENT, DEPLOYED JUST
TO THE WEST OF HANOI, REPORTED THE LAUNCH OF THREE MISSILES AT TWO B-52S. A
TWO- MISSILE SALVO WAS LAUNCHED AT 1254Z AND A SINGLE MISSILE AT 1322Z. THE
ACTUAL DOWNING OF THE INTENDED TARGET(S) WAS NOT DISCLOSED((1)). BETWEEN 1803Z
AND 1833Z, BATTALION 59 OF THE PROBABLE 272ND SAM REGIMENT (UNLOCATED, HANOI
AREA), REPORTED LAUNCHING FOUR MISSILES AT UNIDENTFIED HOSTILE AIRCRAFT, TWO AT
1305Z AND TWO AT 1315Z. THE FIRST TWO MISSILES REPORTEDLY SHOT THE AIRCRAFT
DOWN $IN A BALL OF FLAMES$. IN SUMMING UP THE SECOND LAUNCH, THE SPEAKER
REPORTED THAT AFTER THE FIRST MISSILE DETONATED JAMMING DISAPPEARED AND THE
TARGET WAS OBSERVED TO HAVE BURST INTO A LARGE BALL OF FLAMES. BATTALION 57, OF
ALSO THE PROBABLE 272ND REGIMENT REPORTEDLY OBSERVED THAT TARGET HIT THE GROUND
IN A LARGE BALL OF FLAME IN A LATER MESSAGE, AN UNIDENTIFIED SAM UNIT REPORTED
THAT, $AT 1300Z, WE SHOT DOWN ONE B-52 AT THON KIM ANH (21-13N 105-45E) WHICH
IS NEAR PHU LO (21-12N 105-51E). ACCORDING TO THE PRELIMINARY REPORT, THERE
WERE FIVE PIRATE PILOTS. TWO ARE DEAD AND WE WERE ABLE TO CAPTURE THREE OF

~~SECRET SPOKE~~

(b)(1)
(b)(3)-50 USC 403
(b)(3)-18 USC 798
(b)(3)-P.L. 86-36

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

DOCID: 4131957

~~SECRET SPOKE~~

[redacted] CHARCOAL Ø3 WAS SCHEDULED FOR TIME OVER TARGET (TOT) JUST NORTH OF HANOI [redacted]. BELIEVE THAT ONE OF THE LAUNCHES CONDUCTED BY BATTALION 59 WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE LOSS OF THIS AIRCRAFT AND THE ABOVE MESSAGE IS A PARTIAL REFLECTION OF THE CREW STATUS. 85Ø ØØ668 NNNN

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~~SECRET SPOKE~~