(b)(3)-P.L. 86-36

~~SECRET SPOKE~~

982023-2-1-3910

1552

1553

CATEGORY = 8

M = 51

MESSAGE = Ø1Ø265Ø6

ZCZCTCE224
ZKZK OO NRL HAH DEN
HD346 ''''?????? OO [redacted] DE
[redacted]98 Ø32Ø4Ø2 ZKZK OO HAH NRL BE O Ø1Ø335Z ZYH
FM [redacted]
TO [redacted] NOVEMBER ALFA MODAIR
ZEM
~~S E C R E T SPOKE~~
XXMM
MENPØ1FT3Ø1Ø2Ø 2/[redacted]/VCA/R28-7Ø, SPOT REPORT FOLLOW-UP NUMBER TWENTY ONE AND FINAL TO USA-32 2/H3/VCA/R114-69, 29Ø84ØZ DEC 69. AVC/AVIA-A/I: ((ALL TIMES ZULU)) RETURN OF VINH BASED MIG-21 TO PYUC YEN.
XXCC

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

IN THE ØØØØ/Ø1ØØ HOURS ON 31 JANUARY, THE SINGLE VINH DEPLOYED MIG-21 RETURNED TO PHUC YEN. AS EARLY AS 2127, 3Ø JANUARY, NVAF AIR OPERATIONS FACILITIES REFLECTED A PRELFIGHT FOR THE MIG-21 TO DEPART VINH DURING THE ØØØØ/Ø1ØØ HOUR, 31 JANUARY. TACTICAL AIR FACILITIES REFLECTED THE MIG DEPARTING VINH PRIOR TO THE Ø1ØØ HOUR, AT WHICH TIME HE WAS NOTED AIRBORNED AND PASSING OVER AN UNIDENTIFIED NAVIGATIONAL POINT ENROUTE TO PHUC YEN. THE FIGHTER PASSED OVER BAI THUONG AT APPROXIMATELY Ø1Ø8 AND WAS SUBSEQUENTLY REFLECTED BY NVAF AIR OPERATIONS FACILITIES AS LANDING AT PHUC YEN AT Ø128. THIS FLIGHT REPRESENTED THE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL MIG AIRCRAFT FROM VINH AIRFIELD. THE FOLLOWING IS A BACKGROUND SUMMARY OF FLIGHT ACTIVITY BY THE MIG-21 PILOTS WHICH WERE INVOLVED IN THE 28 JANUARY SHOOTDOWN OF A U.S. CH3B HELICOPTER SOUTH OF VINH. FOR CLARIFICATION PURPOSES, THE RECOVERED MIG-21 WILL BE REFERRED TO AS $THE LEAD PILOT$ THROUGHOUT AND THE POAST MIG-21 PILOT WILL BE REFERRED TO AS $THE WINGMAN.$ BOTH PILOTS DEPLOYED FROM PHUC YEN TO BAI THUONG ON 28 OCTOBER 69. SINCE THAT TIME, ALMOST ALL TRAINING BY THESE PILOTS, INCLUDING ALL BUT THREE COMBAT SORITES, HAS BEEN CONDUCTED TOGETHER; 25 SORTIES OUT OF A TOTAL OF 38 SORTIES BY THE LEAD PILOT AND 37 BY THE WINGMAN. AT LEAST 87 PERCENT OF ALL FLIGHTS WERE CONDUCTED IN MIG-21PFM'S. BOTH PILOTS PERFORMED ROUND TRIP FLIGHTS TO PHUC YEN AND VINH DURING THIS PERIOD. THE LEAD PILOT MADE THREE TRIPS TO PHUC YEN ON 27 AND 28 NOVEMBER 69 AND 19 JANUARY 7Ø, AND ONE TO VINH ON 13 OCTOBER69. THE WING- MAN MADE T TWO TRIPS TO PHUC YEN ON 29-31 DECEMBER 69 AND 19 JANUARY 7Ø. FOURTEEN COMBAT TRAINING SORITES WERE FLOWN BY THE LEAD PILOT AND THHIRTEEN BY THW WINGMAN. TARGETS FOR THIS ACTIVITY WERE NORMALLY MIG-21'S BUT THREE SORTIES WERE FLOWN BY BOTH PILOTS AGAINST AN LI-2 AND ONE WAS FLOWN AGAINST AN AN-2, AGAIN BY BOTH PILOTS. IN ADDITION BOTH PILOTS ACTED AS TARGETS, THE LEAD PILOT ONCE AND THE WINGMAN TWICE. THE WINGMAN ALSO FLEW A DEFENSIVE PATROL AGAINST A BUMPY ACTION DRONE ON 2Ø JANUARY 7Ø. ALL OTHER SORTIES BY BOTH PILOTS WERE ROUTINE TRAINNING OR UNIDENTIFIED ACTIVITY AND NEITHER PILOT DID ANY NIGHT FLYING AFTER THEIR DEPLOYMENT TO BAI THUONG. DRUING THE SAME PERIOD AND IN CONJUCTION WITH THE ABOVE, TWO OTHER PILOTS AT BAI THUONG PERFORMED FLIGHT ACTIVITY VERY SIMILAR IN TYPE AND NUMBER OF SORTIES. EMPHASIS APPEARED TO BE ON THE TRAINING TO THE ABOVE LEAD PILOT AND WINGMAN WITH TWO OTHER PILOTS POSSIBLY BEING TRINED AS BACK-UP PILOTS. ON 22 JANUARY 7Ø, THW WINGMAN AND ONE OF THE TRAINED BACK-UPP PILOTS DEPLOYED TO VINH. THE NEXT NOTED ACTIVITY WAS THE INTERCEPT AND SHOOTDOWN OF THE HELICOPTER ON 28 JANUARY BY TWO VINH BASED MIG-21'S FLOWN BY THE LEAD PILOT AND THE WINGMAN. THE WINGMAN, PROBABLY FLYING A MIG-21PFM, DID NOT RETRUN FROM THIS MISSION AND IS

~~SECRET SPOKE~~

Approved for release by NSA on 06-10-2014, Transparency Case# 65886

~~SECRET SPOKE~~

PRESUMED LOST. THE LAST APPEARANCE OF THE LEAD PILOT PRIOR TO THIS ATTACK AND ENGAGEMENT WAS AT BAI THUONG ON 20 JANUARY 70 AND THE DATE AND METHOD OF TRAVEL TO VONH IS PRESENTLY UNKNOWN. THE RETURN FLIGHT OF THE MIG-21 FROM VINH TO PHUC YEN ON 31 JANUARY WAS FLOWN BY THE BACK UP PILOT WHICH FLEW DOWN WITH THE WINGMAN ON 22 JANUARY AND THE REASON FOR THE RECOVERING LEAD PILOT NOT PERFORMING THIS FLIGHT IS UNKNOWN. ADDITIONALLY, THE REASON FOR THE BACK-UP PILOT RETRNING TO PHUC YEN RATHER THAN HIS HOME BASE OF BAI THUONG CANNOT BE ETERMINED. COMMENTS, RE-ANALYSIS OF THE SAM COMMUNICATIONS ON 28 JANUARY PERTAINING TO THE PARACHUTES OF THE F-105 CREW REVEALS THE TERMINOLOGY TO BE $THE PARACHUTES OF THE CREW CAME DOWN$ VICE THE REPORTED STATEMENT THAT THE $PARACHUTES OF THE CREW PERFORMATED/STREAMING DOWN.$ AT THE PRESENT TIME, THERE IS NO PREFLIGHT INFORMATION TO INDICATE FURTHER DEPLOYMENT TO MIG AIRCRAFT TO VINH AIRFIELD; HOWEVER, THE BUILD-UP OF GCI AND SAM FACILITIES IN THAT AREA AND THE FACT THAT VINH AIRFIELD APPEARS FULLY OPERATIONAL INDICATES THE AIRFIELD AND OPERATIONS ARE OF A PERMANENT NATURE. WITH THE EXECPTION OF THE PROLONGED COMMUNICATIONS TESTING AT VINH, THE REACTIVATION OF VINH AIRFIELD CLOSELY PARALLELS THAT OF THE REACTIIVATION OF BAI THUONG IN THE SUMMER OF 1968. THE WITH- DRAWAL OF THE MIG(S) FROM THE FORWARD AREA BASE AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME IS PROBABLY IN FEAR OF RETALIATION BY U.S. FORCES AND DOES PARALLEL THAT OF THE ACTIONS DEMONSTRATED BY THE NVAF FOLLOWING ENGAGEMENTS BY BAI THUONG MIGS AFTER U.S./MIG ENGAGE- MENTS OUT OF BAI THUONG SHORTLY AFTER THE REACTIVATION OF THAT AIRFIELD. THIS IS PARTIALLY SUBSTANTIATED BY SAM COMMUNICATIONS FROM AN UNIDENTIFIED SITE ON 29 JANUARY WHICH REITERATED THE FACT THAT ONE AIRCRAFT HAD BEEN SHOT DOWN ON 28 JANUARY AND CAUTIONED PERSONNEL OF THE FACT THAT $THE ENEMY MIGHT ENTER AND RETALIATE CONTINUALLY$ XXHH 900 NNNN

~~SECRET SPOKE~~