Approved for Release by NSA on 07-05-2005 pursuant to E.O. 12958, as amended

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POSSIBLE REFLECTION DESOTO PATROL NOTED DRV NAVAL CMMMUNICATIONS

AT 311920Z A BADLY GARBLED MSG FROM BEN THUY TO AN U/I

ENTITY REPORTQ SIGMTING AN ENEMY VESSEL 20 NAUTICAL MILES

FROM LY [redacted]A (17-38N 106-30E) BEARING 050 DEGRXES.

COMMENLVC THIS IS BELIEVED TO BE TE FIRFT REFLECTION IN DRV

COMMUNICATIONS OF THE JULY-AUGUST DESOTO PATROL.

010546Z AUG

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POSSIBLY RELATED, AT 2307Z, A NAVAL HQS AT BEN TRUY, 18:38N 105:40E, PASSED A READABLE MESSAGE TO VESSEL (HULL NR) 377 WHICH STATED QTE ... MILITARY REGION DIRECTIVE; COMRADE HOA GO TO MEET (1 G/U) IN CHARGE OF THE ARTILLERY COMPANY TO DISCUSS DEFINING THE POSITION AND THE STRICT SUR ACE ((4 G G/M)) ARTILLERY UP ON THE SEA CHART IN ORDER TO RETURN (AND) REPORT TO THE MILITARY REGION QNQTE.

COMMENT: DURING THE TIME FRAME OF THIS ACTIVITY THE DESOTO PATROL WAS ORBITING IN THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY OF ILE DU TIGRE. THE APPARENT PLANNED CO-ORDINATION OF NAVAL/ARTILLERY ELEMENTS IS INTERPOLATED AS PREPLANNING ARTILLERY FIRE MISSIONS ON NAUTICAL CHARTS TO SUPPORT DRV NAVAL PATROLS. THE POSSIBILITY THAT THIS ACTIVITY MAY BE A REACTION TO RECENT "ENEMY" INCUSIONS IN DRV WATERS MUST NOT BE DISCOUNTED; HOWEVER. (SEE 2/Q/VHN/R24-64.)

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