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2/Q/VHN/R74-64 ST220 FOR EVALUATION

SUMMARY OF DRV NAVAL RELAECTIONS OF DESOTO PATROL 31 JULY-

11 AUGUST 1964

1. INTRODUCTION:

THIS REPORT SUMMARIZES DRV NAVAL REFLECTIONS OF AND REACTIONS TO THE DESOTO PATROL, U.S.S. MADDOX AND U.S. S. C. TURNER JOY. AS NOTED IN DRV NAVAL COMMUNICATI NS INTERCEPTED AT USN-27 AND USN-27J DURING THE PERIOD 31 JULY - 11 AUGUST

THE U.S.S. MADDOX ARRIVED AT A POINT (ALFA) WEST OF TIGER ISLAND AT 311100Z AND THENCE PROCEEDED NORTH ALONG THE DRV COAST. THE MADDOX CONTINUED ON HER TRACK UNHINDERED BUT CONSTANTLY UNDER TRACKING SURVEILLA CE BY SHORE BASED ELEMENTS AND/OR VISUAL OBSERVATION BY DRV NAVAL ENTITIES UNTIL APPROXIMATELY 020800Z WHEN IN THE VICINITY OF 19-47N/106-31E SHE CAME UNDER TORPEDO ATTACK BY THREE DRV MOTOR TORPEDO BOATS.

APPROXIMATELY THIRTY MINUTES LATER THE U.S. S. MADDOX RETIRED TO THE SOUTHEAST LEAVING ONE MTB SUNK AND TWO BADLY DAMMAGED. ON

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Ø3 AND Ø4 AUGUST THE U.S.S. MADDOX IN COMPANY WITH U.S. S. C. TURNER JOY CONTINUED THE PATROL ALONG A REVISED TRACK. AT Ø41345Z THE TWO SHIPS CAME UNDER ATTACK BY AN UNDETERMINED NUMBER OF ENEMY CRAFT. THE VESSELS AGAIN RETIRED TO THE SOUTH. ON Ø5 AUGUST U.S. NAVAL AIRCRAFT RETALIATED WITH RAIDS AGAINST CERTAIN DRV NAVAL BASES. SUBSEQUENT TO THIS U.S. RETALIATION ONLY SPORADIC REFLECTIONS OF U.S. NAVAL FORCES WERE NOTED.

11. DETAILS.

THE FOLLOWING IS A CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS AS REFLECTED ON DRV NAVAL COMMUNICATIONS DURING THE PERIOD. THE ENTRY OF THE DE SOTO PATROL INTO THE GULF OF TONKIN IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN INITIALLY REFLEKTED IN DRV NAVAL COMMUNICATIONS AT 311920Z WHEN BEN THUY, HEADQUARTERS SOUTHERN FLEET, REPORTED AN "ENEMY SHIP TWENTY NAUTICAL MILES FROM LY HOA (17-38N 1Ø6-3ØE) BEARING Ø5Ø DEGREES." AT Ø11ØØ9Z THE DE SOTO ON A NORTHERLY TRANSIT ALONG THE VIETNAMESE COAST WAS AGAIN REFLECTED WHEN AN UNIDENTIFIED DRV ENTITY REPORTED "AT SEA OFF QUA G BINH THERE IS ENEMY ACTIVITY .. AWAIT ORDERS." HAIPHONG REPORTED THE POSITION OF THE ENEMY AT 1235Z AS NINE POINT THREE MILES FROM HON ME (19-21N 1Ø5-56E) BEARING 148 DEGREES.

DURING THE DE SOTO PATROL'S APPROXIMATE TWO AND A HALF HOUR TRANSIT FROM QUANG BINH TO THE HON ME AREA FOUR DRV VESSELS

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WERE REFLEKTED IN THE AREA A D WERE REPORTEDLY AWARE OF THE ENEMY'S PRESENCE. DURING THIS PERIOD THE SWATOW CLASS PGMS T-377 (EX T-185) AND T-255 (EX T-163) WERE ADJACENT TO HON NGU (18-47-48N 105-45-08E) AND THE SWATOW CLASS PGMS T-142 AND T-146 WERE IN THE IMMEDIATE HON ME AREA.

S THE FIRST INDICATION OF CONTEMPLATED DRV HOSTUWE REACTION TO THE DE SOTO WAS AT 011627Z WHEN SOUTHERN FLEET HEADQUARTERS BEN THUY INFORMED THE T-255 THAT THE DECISION H D BEEN MADE "TO FIGHT TONIGHT." SUBSEQUENTLY, AT 011641Z, PROBABLY HAIPHONG CLEARED COASTAL WATERS OF ALL SHIPPING A D FISHING VESSELS, DIRECTING THEM TO ENTER AN NAP (20-35N 106-17E).

AT 011755Z THE FIRST MENTION OF THE"135," NOW IDENTIFIED AS THE 135TH MOTOR TORPEDO BOAT FLOTILLA, WAS MADE. THIS UNIT, COMPRISED OF THREE VESSELS SUBSEQUE TLY IDENTIFIED AS MTBS T-333, T-336, T-339, WAS TO ARRIVE AT HON NE (19-54-40N 106-00-40E) PRIOR TO 022000Z ((SIC)). BY 020212Z A FIFTH SWATOW PGM, T-166 APPEARED IN THE IMMEDIATE AREA OF HIN ME. AT 020218Z IT WAS REPORTED THAT THE T-146 MET THE 135TH AT HON NE AND ALL WERE RETURNING, PROBABLY TO HON ME. LATER, COMRADES "TE" AND "HUONG," PROBABLY MTB COMMA DERS, WERE ORDERED "TO GO ABOARD THE T-142 IMMEDIATELY." MENTION OF "609" RADIOTELEPHONE GEAR IN THE SAME MESSAGE INDICATED THAT COMMUNICATION PROCEDURES

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WERE PROBABLY ON THE AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION. IN THE MEANTIME (020429Z) THE T-142 AND T-146 WERE QUERIED IF THEY HAD RECEIVED ORDERS AND REPLIED THAT THEY HAD BEEN ORDERED TO RUN PARALLEL WITH THE ENEMY FOLLOWING THE LAUNCH OF TORPEDOES. IN WHAT WAS PROBABLY THE FIRST REPORT AFTER AN ACTUAL SIGHTING, HON ME REPORTED TO THE T-146 AT 020709Z "ENEMY IS A LARGE SHIP ..PRESENTLY BEARING 125 DEGREES, DISTA CE 19 MILES, COURSE 27 DEGREES,SPEED 11 KNOTS."

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THE U.S.S. MADDOX WAS ATTACKED AT APPROXIMATELY 020800Z IN THE VICINITY OF 19-41N 106-35E. NO REFLEKTION OF THE SPECIFIC ORDERS TO ATTACK WERE NOTED IN COMINT. SUBSEQUENTLY (TOI 021914Z) THE T-142 REPORTED THE FOLLOWING CHAIN OF EVENTS LEABRNG UP TO XAND THROUGH THE ATTACK. AT 020225Z THE T-146 MET THE 135TH NOMTBIBLOTILLA AT HON NE AND AT 020415Z GUIDED THEHM

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HON ME WHER THEY MET THE SWATOW CLASS PGM T-165, AT POSSIBLY 020745Z. AT 020825Z SHE REPORTED SEEING THE 135TH ATTACK THE ENEMY AND AT 020930Z BOTH THE T-142 ANT T-146 RECEIVED ORDERS TO TURN BACK AND CONCENTRATE THEIR FORCES.

BEGINING AT 021430Z AN IMMEDIATE CONCERN AS TO THE CONDITION AND WHEREABOUTS OF THE VESSELS OF THE 135TH FLOTILLA WAS APPARENT. THE T-142 AND T-146 MADE EXTENSIVE SEARCPAS IN JK TEN MILE RADIUS OF 19-41N 106-37E AND FINALLY AT 030031Z TWO VESSELS (T-333, T-336) WERE REPORTEDLY LOCATED (IN A DAMAGED CON--DITION) IN THE VICINITY OF HON NE BY THE T-146. AT 030845Z HAIP-HONG WAS NOTIFIED THATTHE T-339 WAS SUNK.

ALTHOUGH AS YET UNVERIFIED BY INTERCEPT OF A "HEADQUARTERS' CRITIQUE" WHICH HAS IN THE PAST FOLLOWED DRV REACTIONS TO HOSTILE INCURSIONS, IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE ATTACK ON THE USS MADDOX MAY HAVE BEEN PREMATURELY TOUCHED OFF AFTER HAVING BEEN PLANNED

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FOR AFTER DARK. AT 020703Z HAIPHONG ORDERED THE T-146 TO

"ORDER THE 135 NOT TO MAKE WAR BY DAY. GO TOWARD SHORE AND

RETURN TO HON ME." SUBSEQUENT INTERCEPT REFLECTED, IN AF ITION

TO T-333, T-336 AND T-539, SIX SWATOW CLASS PGMS (T-142, T-146,

T-165, T-166, T-255 AND T-337) IN THE AREA. ALL OF THESE

XREPORTED THE EAGERNESS OF THEIR CREWS TO MEET THE ENEMY. IN

VIEW OF THE APPARENT INVOLVEMENT OF THE PGMS IN THE 04 AUGUST

ATTACK. THE OVER EAGERNESS OF MTB FLOT 135 MAY HAVE HINDERED

THE DEPLOYMENT OF ZJE PGMS ON 02 AUGUST THEREBY LIMITING THE ROLE

OF THE

LATTER IN THE ATTACK. IT HAS NOT BEEN POSSIBLE TO DETERMINE

IF ANY PGMS WERE SUNK OR DAMAGED DURING THE ATTACK ON THE

MADDOX.

AFTER THE ATTACK, THE U. S. S. MADDOX PULLEFMBACK TO THE

VICINITY OF 17-30N 108E WHERE SHE WAS JOINED BY THE USS C.

TURNER JOY FOR THE CONTINUATION OF THE PATROL.

PROBABLY THE INITIAL REFLECTION OF THE 00 US DESTROYERS

AFTER THEIR RETURN WAS AT 030837Z WHEN A MESSAGE BETWEEN TWO

INIDENTIFIED ENTITIESISEPORTEDS WO ENEMY DESTROYERS BEARING

170 DEGREES. RANGE 25 NAUTICAL MILES, COURSE 0 DEGREES. AT

030958Z THE T-142 REPORTED TWO DESTROYERS 20 NAUTICAL MILES

EAST OF HON ME.THE T-142 WAS THEN ORDERED TO SHADOW THE

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DESTROYERS D AT 031155Z WAS NOTIFIED BY AN UNIDENTIFIED ENTITY THAT THE 030934Z POSITION OF THE TWO DESTROYERS WAS 20 MILES EAST OF HON ME, BEARING 60 DEGREES, HEADING EAST. THE T-142 WAS TO CONTINUE SHADOWING CLOSELY AND TO MAINTAIM CONTINUOUS COMMUNICATIONS WITH HEADQUARTERS AND TO CONTINUE REPORTING POSITION AND GRID.

BY 040102Z AT LEAST ONE OF THE U.S. DESTROYERS WAS REPORTEDLY ABREAST OF MUI CHAO (19-42-30N 105-55E) A D STILL UNDER SUR-VIELLANCE BY THE T-142. THE T-146 WAS A GO IN THE GENERAL AREA BUT WAS AIDING THE TWO MTBS (T-333, T-336) OF THE 135TH FLOTILLA. DUE TO AN ALMOST COMPLETE, CONCURRENT DRV COMMUNICATIONS SILENCE CONCERNING THE 04 AUGUST INCIDENT THE ACTUAL NUMBER AND SPECIFIC UNITS INVOLVED IN THE SECOUND ATTACK ON THE U.S. PATROL CANNOT BE DETERMINED. THE SWAZFW CLASS PGMS T-130, T-132, T-142, T-165 AND PROBABLE SWAIOW T-379 (EX T-187) WERE IN THE IMMEDIAAE AREA DURING THE TIME FRAME OF THE ATTACK. ALTHOUGH UNCONFIRMED, LATER INTERCEPT INDICATES THAT THE MTB T-333, EVEN THOUGH DAMAGED, MAY HAVE ALSO PARTICIPATED.

THE U. S. RETALIATORY ACTION FOLLOWING THE SECOND DRV ATTACK ON THE U.S. DESTROYERS WAS REFLEKTED AT)80800Z WHEN HAIPONG INFORMED THE T-142 AND T-146 THAT "ENEMY AIRCRFT HAVE BOMBARDED

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VINH (18-41-10N 105-40-50E) AND OUR SHIPS AT HON NGU (18-48N 105-47-10E)." THE MESSAGE ALSO ORDERED THE T-142, T-146 AND T-130 TO IMPROVE THEIR CAMOUFLAGE AND TO DISPERSE. TWENTY MINUTES LATER AT 050823Z, COMRADE LAP, BASED AT HON ME, REPORTED TO THE DIRECTORATE THE "THREE JETS WERE IN THE PROCESS OF ATTACKING OUR SHIPS ANE WAS SUNK." THE T-142, T-146 AND T-130 WERE IN THE HON ME AREA AT THIS TIME. SINCE THE ABOVE MESSAGE THERE HAS BEEN NO REFLECTION OF PENNANT T-130 AND ALTHOUGH UNCONFIRMED, THIS MAY HAVE BEEN THE VESSEL REPORTED SUNK BY COMRADE LAP. IT WAS REPORTED AT 051550Z THAT TWO AIRCRAFT WERE SHOT DOWN AND ONE OTHER DAMAGED.

FOLLOWING THE ATTACK, DRV VESSELS WERE ORDERED TO RETURN TO BAI CHAY (20-58-04N 107-03E) AND WERE INFORMED THAT A MINE CORDON IN THE XLI D'ALONG HAD BEEN PREPARED SURROUNDING AN AREA BOUNDED BY CORRDINATES 20-51-20N 107-04E, 20-5$20N 107-04E; 20-51-25N 107-09E, 20-53-25N 107-09E. THE T-142 AND T-146

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WERE NOTIFIED THAT THE TUG "BACH DANG" WOULD DEPART HAIPHONG AT 041800Z. THE TUG WAS TO BE UTILIZED TO TOW THE TWO DAMAGEJP MTBS (T-333, T-336) BACK. HOWEVER, THE BACH DANG WAS SUBSEQUENTLY REPORTED TO BE TOWING THE T-132, PROBABLY DAMAGED IN THE AIR STRIKE ON 05 AUGUAT, TO BAI D'ALONG AND THE T-120 WAS TOWING THE MTBS BACK TO THE SAME AREA, THE T-142 WAS ORDERED TO BAI CHAQ ON 05 AUGUST BUT WAS UNABLE TO COMPLY DUE TO WATER IN THE FUEL OIL. ON 06 AUGUST SHE REPORTED CH
GING OIL. THIS VESSEL HAS BEEN OBSERVED RECENTLY IN HAIPHONG PROBABLY UNDERGOING MINOR ENGINE REPAIR.

FROM 06 THRU 11 AUGUST VERY LITTLE DRV NAVAL ACTIVITY WAS NOTED IN OTHER THAN THE BAI D'ALONG AREA. NUMEROUS POSITION

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REPORTS. A COMPLE E COLOR AND INSIGINA DESCRIPTION OF FRIENDLY AIRCRAFT WAS BROADCAST BY PORT WALLUT POSSIBLY INDICATIONS THAT THE NAVY MISTEXENLY SHOTDOWN ONE OF THEIR OWN PLANES. AT060940Z PORT WALLUT REPORTED THE CAPTURE OF ONE AMERICAN PILOT ATDIQN 09 AUGUST (AT 0257Z) INDICATED THAT THE BODY OF ONE AMERICAN PIOLT HAD BEEN RECOVERED FROM THE WATER AT AN UNDES
CMINED AREA ALONG THE COAST.

THE SO-1 CLASS SUBCHASERS T-225, T-221/ T-229, T-231, ARE KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN ACTIVE DURING THE PERIODS OF ATTACK BUT THEY WERE NOT ISOLATED BY PENNAT NUMBER UNTIL WGL VESSELS HAD RETREATED TO THE BAI D'ALONG. AREA THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT AS A RESULT OF THE RETALIOTORY ATTACKS THE T-225 AND T-231 MAY HAVE BEEN DAMAGED.

THE FOLLOWING VESSELS WERE ISOLATED BY PENNANT DURING THE PERIODYSEQ JULY - 11 AUGUST:

SO-1 CLASS SUBCHASERS

T-225 (T-25) POSSIBLY DAMAGED

T-227 (T-27)

T-229 (T-29)

T-231 (T-31) POSSIBLY DAMAGED

SWATOW CLASS PGMS

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T-120

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T-122

T-124

T- P POSSIBLY SUNK

T-132 POSSIBLY DAMAGED

CLASSIFIED

T-134

T-140

L-142

PROBABLY OTC FOR THE ENTIRE PERI D

CLASSIFIED

T-146

T-165

T-166

T-225 (EX T-163)

CLASSIFIED

T-377 (EX T-185)

T-379 (EX T-187)

MTBS - 135TH FLOTILLA

CLASSIFIED

T-333 DAMAGED

T-336 BRMAGED

T-339 SUNK

TUG BACH DANG

III. TRACKING

THE DE SOTO VESSEL(S) WERE EXTENSIVELY TRACKED BY DRV

DAMP FACILITIES THROUGH AT LEAST THE 4th AUGUST ATTACK

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RADAR FACILITIES THROUGH AT LEAST THE Ø4 AUGUST ATTACK.

A SUMMARY OF THIS TRACKING DATA IS IN PREPARATION AND PENDING COLLATION OF AVAILABLE INFORMATION WILL BE ISSUED IN THE 2/Q/VHN/R SERIESJ

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