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COUNTRY : SOUTH VIETNAM (SVN)
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S U M M A R Y

While conversing with other cadres in his unit, operating in QUANG NAM, QUANG-NGAI and BINH DINH Provinces, Source learned about an air route operating since 1964 which connected HANOI airfields with another in CAMBODIA. Via this route, supplies and weapons were flown to CAMBODIA and then trucked to the border of SVN for dissemination to NVA/VC troops operating in the lower parts of SVN. In April 1967 Source met an old friend of his who told him he was on his way from QUANG NGAI Province, to KONTUM Province and then into LAOS where he was to meet a large truck convoy heading for NVN and back with supplies for NVA/VC soldiers operating in SVN. This truck route was confined to LAOS territory, beginning near KONTUM Province and reaching all the way to NVN. In July 1967, while confined in DA NANG, Source overheard another prisoner talk about helicopters picking up U.S. marines captured by NVA forces during the "DONG HA" battle in QUANG TRI Province in July 1967. These helicopters had been sent by the NVN Government to take the American prisoners back to NVN.

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ATTACHMENTS:

None

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1. In conversations with other cadres in his unit, operating in QUANG NGAI, QUANG NAM and BINH DINH Province, Source learned about a direct air supply route between HANOI and an airfield somewhere in CAMBODIA; this route had been in operation since 1964. In April 1967, he met an old friend, an NVA Sergeant, who was on his way to KONTUM and then LAOS to join a truck convoy to NVN; this convoy was to bring supplies back to SVN. In July 1967, during his confinement at DA NANG, he overheard another prisoner say that earlier that same month, right after a battle in QUANG TRI, helicopters had come to pick up marine prisoners captured by the NVA unit, and taken them to NVN.
2. In the conversations with cadres of his unit, Source was told Senior Captain NGUYEN VAN DY, the Battalion Political Officer, about the air supply route from HANOI to Cambodia. Source had asked why units in the northern regions of SVN lacked adequate supplies of weapons while the NVA/VC troops in the lower parts of SVN were reasonably well equipped. He was then informed that in 1964 an air supply route had been put into effect connecting a field somewhere in Cambodia with those of NVN. From the airfield in Cambodia supplies were then trucked to the SVN border for distribution to NVA/VC troops operating in the southern areas of SVN. He was also informed that the location of this airfield was kept a secret and that even the Battalion Political Officer did not have additional information about this route, the types of aircraft involved or the nationality of the pilots.
3. In April 1967 Source met Senior Sergeant NGUYEN MANH TUONG in MINH LONG District, QUANG NGAI Province. This man had infiltrated SVN with Source's unit, but in 1965 he had been transferred to an Engineering School situated somewhere along the border of QUANG NAM and KONTUM Provinces. His friend was now the Adjutant of the engineering school. He told Source that he was on his way to the border of KONTUM Province and then to LAOS where he would meet a convoy of trucks heading for NVN. At the engineering school personnel from Platoon Leaders up to Company Commanders were instructed on the dismantling of bombs, making of bombs, land mines, torpedos and water mines. NGUYEN MANH TUONG added that he was going to NVN to bring back supplies for this school. He was travelling alone at the time, but once in LAOS he would join up with a truck convoy. When Source asked him about the danger involved in the journey, his friend told him that the convoy would be travelling only at night, at high speed, and that he expected to be in NVN (no definite location given) within ten days. He did not specify the number of trucks involved but said it was a "large" convoy of "MOLOTOVA" trucks, each equipped with an "antiaircraft" gun for defense against enemy aircraft. No comments were made in their conversation about the condition or size of the road, other than the fact that it ran from LAOS, swerved West around the demilitarized zone and then East into NVN. His friend did not say who drove the trucks, or whether the trucks carried anything in them on the way north. Source knew that high level cadres or seriously wounded NVA veterans returning to NVN travelled through LAOS and his friend stated that they used this same road in doing so.
4. During his confinement at DA NANG in July 1967, Source heard one of the other prisoners talk about the battle of "DONG HA" in QUANG TRI Province staged in July 1967 in which American Marines engaged NVA forces. This man (name unknown) said that during the battle his unit (name not mentioned) had captured many U.S. Marines, and that NVN helicopters had landed near the battle scene to pick up these prisoners and take them to NVN. He added that the NVN Government had sent these helicopters, but he did not say anything about the direction they came from or departed.