



DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

Developments in Indochina

Approved for Release
Date 22 APR 1997

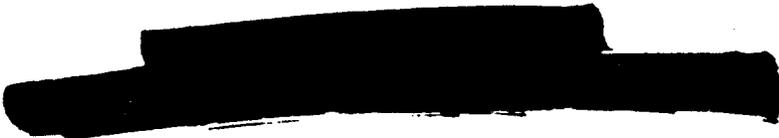
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27 September 1972

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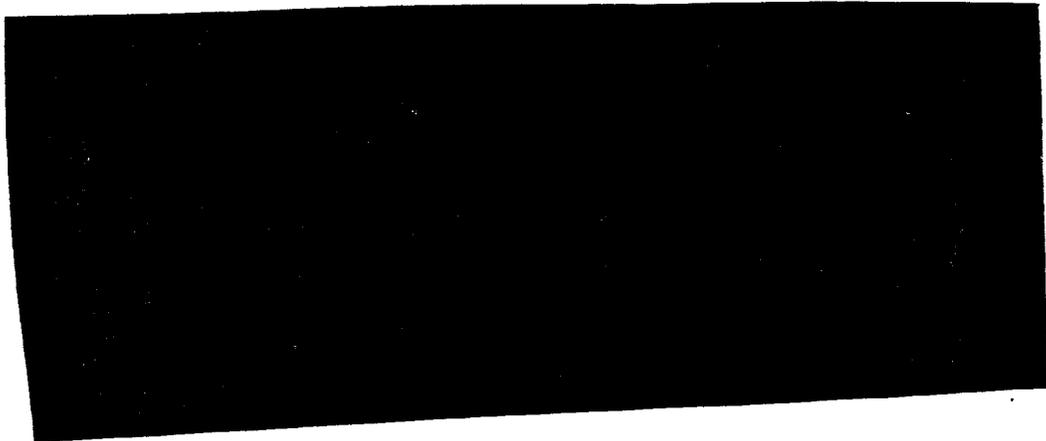
(Information as of 1500)



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INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

Peking has handled Hanoi's release of three American airmen gingerly. There was no official reception when their plane landed in Peking, and the Chinese press has not mentioned the stopover.



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INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

Peking has handled Hanoi's release of three American airmen in a gingerly way. The airmen and their escort party flew to Peking on 26 September aboard a regularly scheduled Chinese flight. There was no official Chinese reception on their arrival in Peking; they were met by a North Vietnamese embassy official and, according to western journalists, hustled past newsmen into waiting buses by Chinese officials. The Chinese press has not mentioned the stopover in Peking and, in fact, has been silent on the entire prisoner-release matter since the initial announcement early this month that Peking repeated without comment.

By maintaining a low profile, Peking has tried to make the best of a bad situation. The Chinese almost certainly would have preferred to stay clear of the prisoner release operation entirely so as to avoid complicating their relationships with both Hanoi and Washington. [REDACTED]

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