

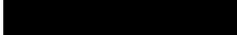


# Intelligence Information Cable



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STATE/INR DIA NMCC/MC (SECDEF JCS ARMY NAVY AIR) CIA/NMCC NIC NSA SDO ONE CRS



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DIST 18 DECEMBER 1970

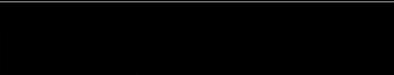
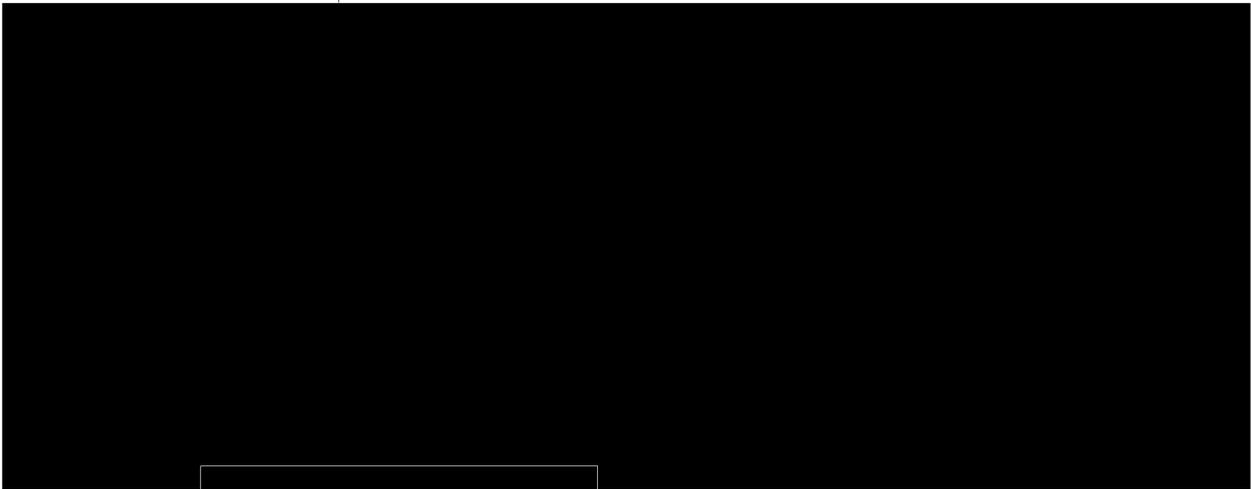
COUNTRY NORTH VIETNAM

DOI EARLY NOVEMBER TO EARLY DECEMBER 1970

SUBJECT REPAIRS TO PAUL DOUMER BRIDGE; COMMENTS

[REDACTED] ON BLOC AID TO NORTH VIETNAM (NVN); COMMENTS [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] ON U.S. COMMANDO RAID ON NVN PRISONER OF WAR CAMP; AND OBSERVATIONS OF PARTY MEETINGS IN HANOI.



1522-389-5



APPROVED FOR RELEASE  
DATE: FEB 2001

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(classification)

(dissem controls)

1. BEGINNING IN EARLY NOVEMBER, MAJOR REPAIR WORK WAS BEING DONE ON THE PAUL DOUMER BRIDGE OVER THE RED RIVER IN HANOI. IT APPEARED THAT ALL DAMAGED AND TWISTED STEEL PARTS OF THE SUPERSTRUCTURE WERE BEING REMOVED ONE BY ONE AND REPLACED. DAMAGED STEEL "I" BEAMS SUPPORTING THE WOODEN PLANKS OF THE ROADWAY WERE BEING REMOVED AND REPLACED. DURING THE LIMITED PERIODS VEHICULAR TRAFFIC WAS ALLOWED TO CROSS THE BRIDGE IT WAS RESTRICTED TO AUTOMOBILIES AND BICYCLES ONLY. TRAINS CROSSING THE BRIDGE LITERALLY INCHED THEIR WAY ALONG.

2. TRAIN TRAFFIC SOUTH FROM HANOI DURING NOVEMBER WAS REDUCED CONSIDERABLY AS COMPARED TO THE LEVEL OBSERVED DURING THE PERVIOUS FOUR MONTHS. [REDACTED] COMMENT: [REDACTED]

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(classification)

  
(dissem controls)

3. IN ADDITION TO THE PONTOON BRIDGE LOCATED BELOW THE DOUMER BRIDGE, A SECOND PONTOON BRIDGE WAS LOCATED UPSTREAM FROM THE DOUMER BRIDGE WITH ITS HANOI BANK TERMINUS LOCATED AT ABOUT WJ875290 AND THE OPPOSITE TERMINUS AT WJ886296. THE HANOI TERMINUS WAS JUST PAST A SIGN ON YEN PHU STREET PROHIBITING THE TRAVEL OF FOREIGNERS FARTHER NORTH.  COMMENT: IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TRUCK TRAFFIC WAS BEING DIVERTED VIA THIS BRIDGE AND THEN UP THE RIVER A SHORT DISTANCE TO ANOTHER STREET WHICH SKIRTS THE WESTERN SIDE OF HANOI, THEREBY AVOIDING DOWNTOWN HANOI AND POSSIBLY ACCOUNTING FOR THE RECENT LIMITED TRUCK TRAFFIC OBSERVER PASSING THROUGH HANOI.) THE TRUCK TRAFFIC ACROSS THE PONTOON BRIDGE LOCATED BELOW THE DOUMER BRIDGE WAS LIMITED WHEN OBSERVED ON AT LEAST FOUR OR FIVE OCCASIONS DURING THE EARLY EVENING IN NOVEMBER AND EARLY DECEMBER. TRAFFIC ACROSS THIS BRIDGE IS ONE-WAY AND MOVES IN ONE DIRECTION FOR ONE HOUR AND IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION FOR THE NEXT HOUR. IT WAS NOTED THAT THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF TRUCKS ACCUMULATING ON THE NORTH SHORE WAS ABOUT 30.  COMMENT: AS THIS IS THE MAIN ROUTE FOR MOTOR TRAFFIC FROM HAIPHONG TO

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(classification)

(dissem controls)

HANOI, THIS APPEARED SURPRISINGLY LOW.)



4.

DURING A DISCUSSION OF SOVIET-BLOC AID TO NORTH VIETNAM



REMARKED THAT THE

SIPHONG CEMENT PLANT WAS WORKING AT 50 PERCENT OF ITS CAPACITY. HE DESCRIBED THE VIETNAMESE APPLICATION OF FOREIGN AID AS POOR AND GAVE THE EXAMPLE OF A POULTRY PRODUCTION "COMBINE" PROVIDED BY THE HUNGARIANS. HE SAID THAT AFTER DELIVERY AND ERECTION, THE 11 HUNGARIAN TECHNICIANS DEPARTED AND ONLY AFTER NUMEROUS REQUESTS AND CONSIDERABLE TIME WAS THE HUNGARIAN COMMERCIAL

REPRESENTATIVE PERMITTED TO SEE THE PLANT. WHEN WAS FINALLY ALLOWED TO VISIT THE PLANT IT WAS INOPERABLE AND OUT OF SERVICE.

5.

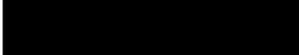


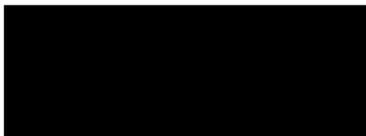
WAS ASKED

HOW IT HAD BEEN POSSIBLE FOR THE U.S. HELICOPTERS USED BY THE AMERICANS IN THE COMMANDO RAID AGAINST THE SON TAY PRISONER OF WAR CAMP TO EVADE THE VIETNAMESE RADAR. EXPLAINED



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(classification)

(dissem controls)

THIS HAD BEEN ACCOMPLISHED BY FLYING THE HELICOPTERS AT A VERY LOW ALTITUDE WHERE THEY HAD BEEN ABLE TO PASS UNDER THE RADAR FIELD.

6.



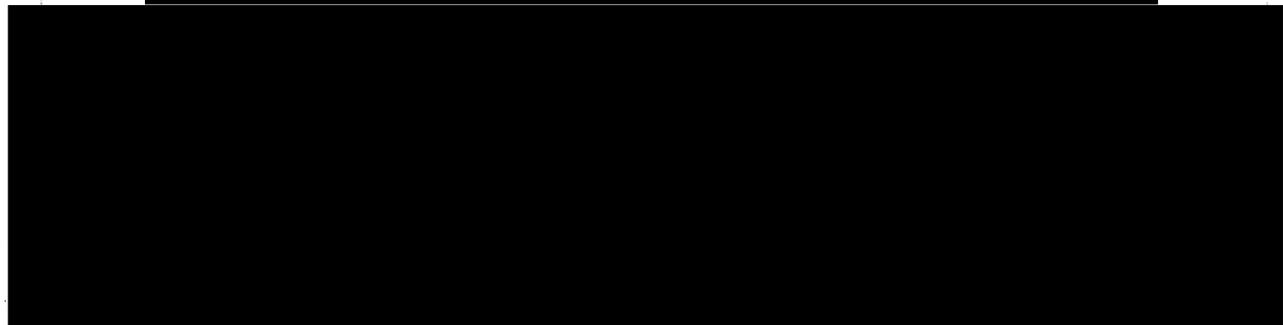
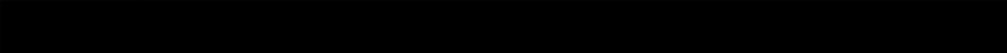
IN THE PAST

SEVERAL MONTHS BETWEEN 2000 AND 2100 HOURS, USUALLY ON FRIDAY AND SATURDAY NIGHTS, A NUMBER OF WHAT APPEARED TO BE LAO DONG PARTY MEETINGS WERE OBSERVED. THE SIZE OF THE GROUPS WAS USUALLY ABOUT 30 AND THE MEETINGS TOOK PLACE IN SMALL HALLS OR CLASSROOMS. USUALLY TWO OR THREE SUCH MEETINGS WERE SEEN

THE NUMBER OF WOMEN SEEN

AT THE MEETINGS WAS SLIGHTLY GREATER THAN THE MEN. A SIGNIFICANT ABSENCE OF YOUNG MEN WAS NOTED, WITH MOST OF THE MALES BEING ABOUT 27 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE. THE AGES OF THE WOMEN APPEARED TO BE EVENLY DISTRIBUTED BETWEEN 18 TO 35. NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN THE FREQUENCY OR SIZE OF THESE MEETINGS WAS NOTED DURING THIS PERIOD.

7.



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