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CITE

EO 12958

3.4(b)(1)>25Yrs

DIST 8 JUNE 1967 (C)

COUNTRY NORTH VIETNAM

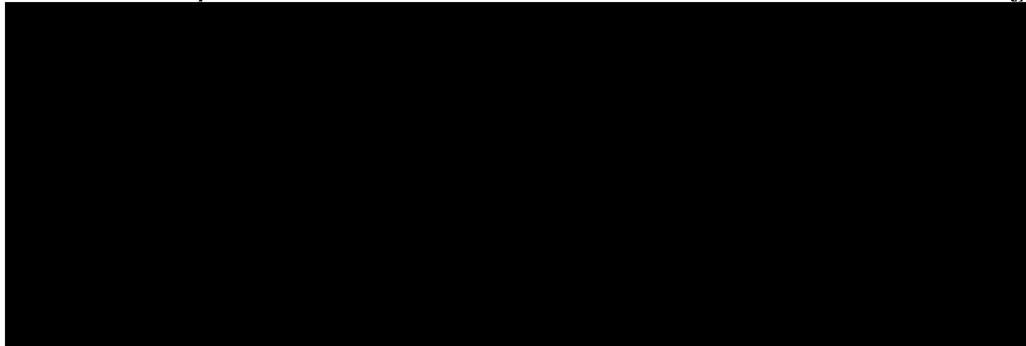
DOI: MARCH 1967

SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON THE EFFECTS OF US AIR STRIKES, MISSILE  
LAUNCHINGS, TRANSPORTATION DIFFICULTIES, AND FOOD  
AND DRUG SHORTAGES IN NORTH VIETNAM

- ~~BATOR~~
- ~~BOWDLER~~
- ~~BUDGET~~
- ~~DAVIS~~
- ~~EDWARDS~~
- ~~HAMILTON~~
- ~~JESSUP~~
- ~~JOHNSON~~
- ~~JONES~~
- ~~KEENE~~ S
- ~~LESTER~~
- ~~MAYERS~~
- ~~TRACY~~
- ~~WRIGHT~~

SOURCE:

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1. A CHINESE [REDACTED] FROM NORTH VIETNAM WHO FLED

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TO CHINA IN MARCH 1967, TOLD [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] THAT WHILE HE WAS STILL LIVING IN HAIPHONG, NEITHER HE  
NOR HIS CIRCLE OF ACQUAINTANCES HAD EVER SEEN THE ACTUAL SHOOT-  
DOWN OF ATTACKING UNITED STATES AIRCRAFT. AS A RESULT, NEITHER  
HE NOR OTHERS BELIEVED THE GOVERNMENT'S STATISTICS ON THE NUMBERS  
OF U.S. AIRCRAFT DOWNED IN THE AIR WAR.

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~~SECRET~~  
(classification) (dissem controls)

2. IN CONNECTION WITH THE AIR STRIKES, [REDACTED]

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(C)

[REDACTED] NORTH VIETNAM'S SURFACE TO AIR MISSILES WERE NOT EFFECTIVE AGAINST ATTACKING AIRCRAFT; IN FACT, THESE MISSILES MANY TIMES WENT AWRY AND CAUSED EXTENSIVE CASUALTIES AMONG THE CIVILIAN POPULATION. IF A MISSILE BEHAVED PROPERLY WHEN LAUNCHED, THE SOUND OF TWO EXPLOSIONS, ONE IMMEDIATELY BEHIND THE OTHER, WAS HEARD. HOWEVER, AND THIS WAS MORE OFTEN THE CASE, IF ONLY ONE EXPLOSION WAS HEARD, THIS MEANT THE MISSILE HAD FAILED TO EXPLODE IN THE AIR AND WAS HURDLING BACK TO EARTH.

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3. [REDACTED] IN LEAVING NORTH VIETNAM IT TOOK HIM FOUR DAYS TO TRAVEL FROM HANOI TO LANG SON, A DISTANCE WHICH HE HAD TO WALK. HE STATED THAT HE WAS LEFT WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT GREAT DAMAGE TO NORTH VIETNAM'S INSTALLATIONS AND COMUNICATIONS HAD BEEN WROUGHT BY THE AMERICANS; PORT FACILITIES, INDUSTRIAL SITES, MILITARY, GOVERNMENT, AND PRIVATE STRUCTURES, BRIDGES, RAIL LINES, WATER WAYS, AND MOTOR ROUTES HAD ALL BEEN HARD HIT.

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4. [REDACTED] THE FOLLOWING PRICES FOR FOOD WERE BEING ASKED IN THE BLACK MARKET IN HAIPHONG: PORK,

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(classification)

(dissem controls)

18 TO 22 DONGS PER KILO, AS COMPARED TO THE OFFICIAL PRICE OF 3.5 DONGS PER KILO WHICH WAS LIMITED TO 200 GRAMS PER PERSON MONTHLY; RICE, 2.5 TO 3 DONGS PER KILO AND BECOMING INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO FIND; AND FRESH VEGETABLES, 4 TO 5 DONGS PER KILO. AS FOR PHARMACEUTICALS, IT WAS DIFFICULT EVEN IN STATE DRUG OUTLETS TO FIND SUCH SIMPLE PREPARATIONS AS THOSE USED TO TREAT HEADACHES, STOMACH DISORDERS, FEVER, AND DIARRHEA.

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