

NLJ. 019.017.002/23

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COUNTRY: NORTH VIETNAM
DOI: LATE MAY 1967
SUBJ: BOMB DAMAGE AND PEOPLE'S MORALE IN HANOI AREA

ACQ:

SOURCE:



1. (SUMMARY. POWER IN HANOI WHICH WAS OUT COMPLETELY ON 21 MAY 1967 WAS ALMOST ENTIRELY RESTORED BY NOON THE NEXT DAY. DAMAGE OBSERVED ON 28 MAY INCLUDED A RAILWAY REPAIR FACILITY OUTSIDE OF HANOI, TEMPLES, HOMES, PART OF A SCHOOL AND THREE TRUCKS.)

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2. ON 21 MAY THERE WAS AN ELECTRIC POWER FAILURE THROUGHOUT THE CITY OF HANOI WHICH CONTINUED UNTIL NOON OF 22 MAY. BY THAT TIME MOST OF HANOI HAD BEEN RESUPPLIED WITH POWER. HOWEVER, AT THE FANCHIMU (PHONETIC) HOTEL, POWER WAS NOT AVAILABLE UNTIL LATER THAT DAY. WATER SUPPLY WAS ALWAYS AVAILABLE ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF THE HOTEL, BUT NOT AVAILABLE ON FLOORS ABOVE THE FIRST.

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3. THERE IS PRACTICALLY NO WAY TO DETERMINE THE EXTENT OF CIVILIAN DAMAGE AND CAUSES THEREOF. WHEN AN AIR RAID ALERT IS SOUNDED EVERYONE SEEKS SHELTER TO AVOID JETTISONED FUEL TANKS AND FLAK DEBRIS WHICH FALL IN ABUNDANCE. THE [REDACTED] VISITOR WAS TAKEN ON A TOUR OF THE HANOI AREA ON 28 MAY BY A VIETNAMESE ESCORT AND SHOWN THE FOLLOWING DAMAGE:

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A. A BRIDGE TWO KILOMETERS LONG WHICH CONNECTS HANOI WITH SHARON (PHONETIC, POSSIBLY GIA LAM) HAD BEEN ATTACKED BY AIRCRAFT IN DECEMBER 1966, ACCORDING TO THE ESCORT, BUT WAS NOT HIT. HOWEVER, TEMPLES AND HOMES NEAR THE FOOT OF THE BRIDGE WERE COMPLETELY DEMOLISHED. THE VIETNAMESE

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ESCORT INSISTED THAT LINGERING IN THIS AREA WAS EXTREMELY DANGEROUS BECAUSE THERE WERE NO AIR RAID SHELTERS NEARBY.

B. ALTHOUGH THE VISIT TO SHARON WAS MADE AT NIGHT THERE WAS ENOUGH LIGHT TO SEE THAT A RAILWAY REPAIR SHOP THERE HAD BEEN COMPLETELY DESTROYED.

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C. IN HANOI ITSELF [REDACTED] A TWO STORY CIVILIAN HOUSE [REDACTED] REPORTEDLY HAD BEEN DAMAGED BY ROCKET FIRE FROM AMERICAN AIRCRAFT. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THERE WERE NO CASUALTIES.

D. A DOWNED AMERICAN AIRCRAFT WAS SEEN VERY NEAR THE STREET IN HANOI WHERE ALL THE DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS ARE LOCATED. [REDACTED] PEOPLE WHO WERE IN AIR RAID SHELTERS AT THE TIME OF THE AIRPLANE CRASH WERE NOT INJURED. [REDACTED] THREE TRUCKS NEARBY HAD BEEN DESTROYED WHEN ONE WAS HIT BY THE FALLING PLANE AND THE OTHER TRUCKS CAUGHT ON FIRE. THE TRUCKS WERE STILL IN THE STREET ON 28 MAY.

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E. ONE SECTION OF THE LABOR SCHOOL, A THREE OR FOUR STORY STRUCTURE NEAR UNIFICATION PARK, HAD BEEN DESTROYED.

[REDACTED] A 500 KILOGRAM U.S. BOMB HAD CAUSED THE DAMAGE, [REDACTED] NO ONE WAS INJURED IN THIS INCIDENT BECAUSE THE STUDENTS HAD BEEN EVACUATED EARLIER.

4. [REDACTED] COMMENT. THE AIR STRIKES APPEAR TO HAVE ALMOST NO EFFECT ON THE MORALE OF THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE SINCE THEIR LIVING STANDARD IS SO LOW. THE BOMBINGS MAY CAUSE RESENTMENT OR HATRED BUT THEY CANNOT CAUSE A FURTHER DROP IN LIVING STANDARDS. SOMETIMES THE VIETNAMESE EVEN SEEM TO BE ENJOYING THE WAR. FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN AIR RAID ALERTS ARE SOUNDED IN HANOI, EMPLOYEES OF THE FANCHIMU HOTEL GRAB RIFLES AND RUSH TO THE ROOF OF THE BUILDING, ALL THE WHILE GRINNING AND APPEARING TO BE ENJOYING THEMSELVES IMMENSELY.)

5. [REDACTED] DISSEM: CINCPAC PACFLT PACAF ARPAC STATE ARMATT NAVATT AIRATT USFJ NSAPAC/J COMNAVJ NISOJ 5AF 6499SG 500MIG USARJ DET4/FTD (ALSO SENT SAIGON). GP-1.

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