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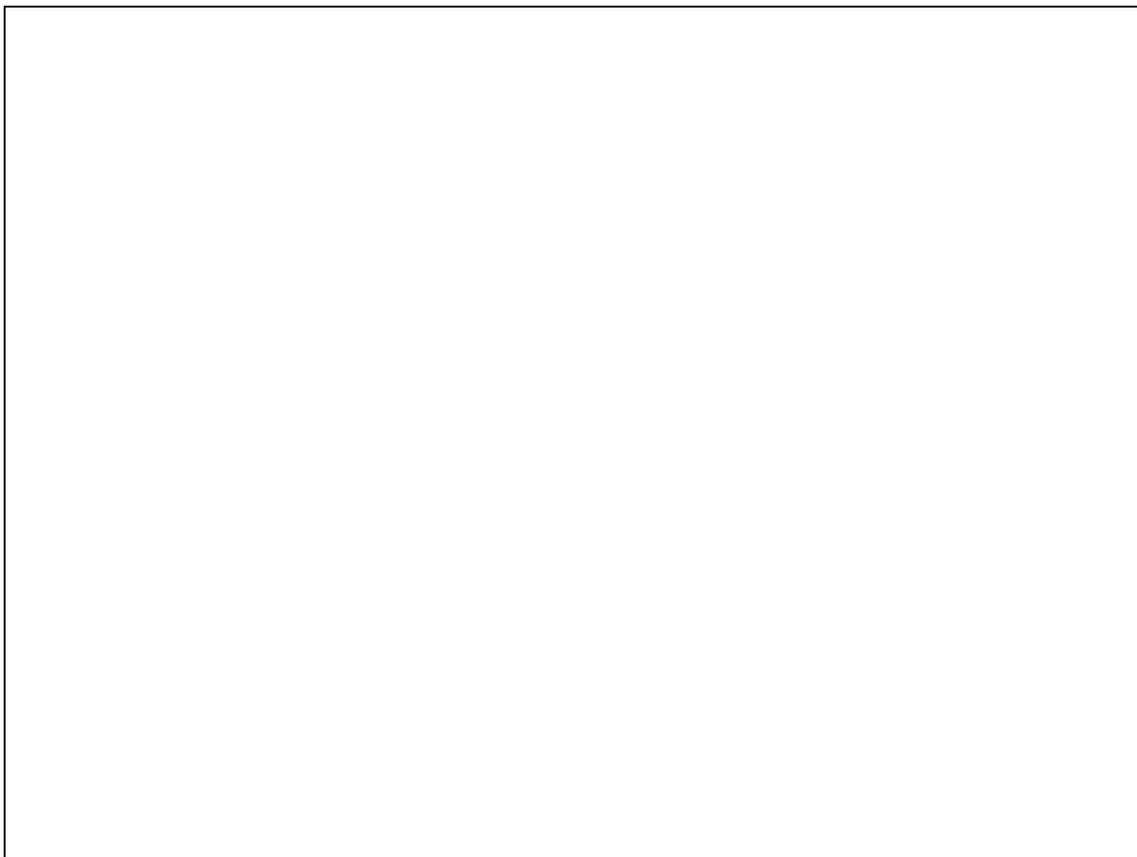
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APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: OCT 2002

EO 12958 6.1(c)>25Yrs



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SC No. 04441/65

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
6 March 1965

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Reported Air Strike Damage to
North Vietnam

1. The first extensive covert report of damage done to DRV installations in the US/South Vietnamese bombing raids of 7, 8, and 11 February is

EO 12958 3.4(b)(1) >25Yrs

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tained [redacted] from a source who allegedly gained his information from contacts in the DRV during the period 20-21 February.

2. The report claims, in summary, that the barracks of North Vietnamese army (PAVN) regiments at Chap Le and in the Vinh Linh area were destroyed, along with regimental and divisional headquarters near Vinh Linh and Dong Hoi respectively. Also destroyed, according to the report, was a naval installation near the DMZ. Personnel losses in the raids allegedly totalled over 250. Supplies and equipment destroyed included food, trucks, and AAA weapons.

3. We have made a detailed comparison of the specific damage cited in the report with all available post-strike photography of the target areas in CIA hands; the results of this comparison are set forth below. We were unable to ascertain whether many of the exact units cited

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by the report as located in the damaged and destroyed facilities were in fact so located. US information on North Vietnamese military dispositions unfortunately is not sufficiently detailed to permit such verifications. NPIC is currently rechecking its holdings, and the assessments contained herein may be slightly modified as a result.

4. We found, in general, that less than 50 percent of the damage claimed in the report could be confirmed by photography. There are also several evident misstatements of fact in the report: for example, we know from SIGINT that the 325th Division is headquartered at Dong Hoi, not the 304th as claimed in the report.

5. We have no confirmation of the claim in the report that a division-sized unit of the PAVN moved south from Dong Hoi following the 7 and 8 February air strikes and deployed in the area north of the DMZ. Such a movement, however, could easily have taken place without our detection. It is possible that extensive truck movements south from Vinh and Thanh Hoi observed by ICC members on 20 and 21 February were carrying troops to replace PAVN units earlier moved toward the DMZ from Dong Hoi.

6. We believe the statements in the report regarding DRV efforts in the wake of the strikes to disperse civilian and military organs to less vulnerable positions and to heighten civilian attention to defense work, are entirely plausible. Similar DRV activities since the raids have been indicated in other reports.

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Annex: Comparison of Reported Bomb Damage

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Photography

1. Ho Xa (Vinh Linh)

--Four specific buildings in Vinh Linh town destroyed; headquarters of district administrative committee; state trade office, theatre, and hospital.

--Grade school and two-thirds of houses in area destroyed, along with 5 AAA positions.

--Barracks of 270th regiment destroyed.

--In Vinh Linh town, 4 buildings were destroyed, 14 heavily damaged. It is not known what was housed in these buildings. This is a small percentage of the total housing in the area.

--There was no apparent damage to the barracks of the 270th regiment, or to AAA sites in the Vinh Linh area.

2. Chau Thi

--Minh Khai guerrilla regiment headquarters levelled.

--Saw mill collapsed; three-fourths of houses damaged.

--There is no installation at the grid coordinates given by source for Chau Thi. The Vinh Linh barracks area is the only nearby bomb target and it is some 10 miles away.

--We have no record of a "Minh Khai guerrilla unit" as cited in the report.

3. Chap Le

--"Cavalry" regiment barracks demolished.

--5 armored cars, 2 Molotova trucks, 2 GMC trucks, and a jeep burned.

--An ammunition dump burned, along with 15 civilian houses.

--One target area with 25 buildings had four destroyed and 16 damaged. Another area had three destroyed barracks and 9 damaged vehicle revetments.

--The barracks mentioned in the report could have been those shown in the above photography.

--Some vehicles may have been in the damaged revetments.

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Photography

4. Con Co (or Cua Tung)

--Naval base destroyed and two armored boats sunk.

--It is not clear whether the report describes Con Co Island off the DMZ, where a naval facility is located or the coastal town of Cua Tung near the DMZ. Neither site has been the target of an air strike, although the DRV claimed Con Co was strafed in the 7 February attack.

--Con Co Island has been hit by 34A maritime raids. Photography shows slight damage to buildings on the island as a result of the raids.

--There is no evidence of damage at Cua Tung.

5. Dong Hoi

--Headquarters of the 304th Division destroyed.

--Dong Hoi has 15 separate military-associated areas containing 115 barracks and 145 storage/supply buildings.

--Headquarters of the local administrative committee, provincial cooperative office and hospital destroyed.

--Twenty-six of these were destroyed and 19 damaged in the air strikes.

--Four military equipment and ammunition stores destroyed.

--The division headquarters in Dong Hoi is believed to be in one of the areas hit. The 325th Division, however, and not the 304th, is headquartered at Dong Hoi.

--One oil depot burned.

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NORTH VIETNAM

