

CABLE SECRETARIAT DISSEMINATION

CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

SECRET

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PERSON/UNIT NOTIFIED HR70-14

SECRET
(When Filled In)

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ACTION UNIT

FE FILE, VR IFAN, DDP, ADDP, FE4, SAVA3 DDSS, DDSI

ACTION NO. 598 SECUR4, FI, CI, CIOPS

~~SECRET~~ 121212Z MAY 72 CITE SAIGON 48779

PRIORITY DIRECTOR

1. STATION HAS NOTED INCREASED ENEMY ANTI-AIRCRAFT ACTIVITIES IN SOUTH VIETNAM AND SPECIFICALLY THE MORE RECENT USE OF SA-7 STRELLA MISSILE, AND POSSIBILITY THAT RECENT CH-47 CRASH NEAR SAIGON MAY HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY ENEMY FIRE (SEE 7TH AIR FORCE MESSAGE 0313012 AND FCS-29684, EVENING SITREP OF 10 MAY).

2. STATION MAKING AVAILABLE TO FIC (FLIGHT INFORMATION CENTER) DAILY MACV INTELLIGENCE BRIEFING AND WEEKLY MACV SUMMARY. IN ADDITION PROVIDING FIC WITH MAJOR CHANGES IN TROOP MOVEMENT AND KNOWN ANTI-AIRCRAFT WEAPON LOCATIONS AS THEY OCCUR.

3. FLIGHTS TO NHA TRANG AND DANANG, AND FROM DANANG TO HUE, FLY OVER OPEN WATER AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. IN-COUNTRY FLIGHTS AVOID KNOWN HOSTILE CONTROLLED AREAS TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE AND FLIGHT ALTITUDE IS SUCH THAT AIRCRAFT BELIEVED TO BE SAFE FROM SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT MACHINE GUN FIRE.

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
 DATE: 11-Dec-2009

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4. THERE ARE, HOWEVER, PROBLEMS AND INHERENT RISKS WE MUST FACE UP TO. INCREASING LEOPARD SPOT PATTERN OF ENEMY LOCAL FORCE ACTIVITY AND FAST MOVEMENTS, EVEN OF NVA MAIN FORCE ELEMENTS IN WESTERN PART OF MR-3, PRECLUDE COMPLETE ASSURANCE THAT WE WILL ALWAYS KNOW WHAT AREAS ENEMY CONTROLLED, EVEN IF ONLY TEMPORARILY. ALSO NHA TRANG-PLEIKU AND PLEIKU-KONTUM FLIGHTS INEVITABLY OVER AREAS WHERE THERE IS STRONG ENEMY ACTIVITY.

5. WE WILL, OF COURSE, FOLLOW CLOSELY THE TACTICAL DEVELOPMENTS AND NOT EXPOSE EITHER AIRCRAFT OR PERSONNEL TO UNDUE RISKS BUT WE MUST SURFACE POSSIBILITY THAT AIRCRAFT MAY BE DAMAGED OR DESTROYED AS RESULT OF FIRE FROM ENEMY WHOSE LOCATION NOT PREVIOUSLY KNOWN. RECENT INCIDENTS INVOLVING COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT IN KONTUM AND PLEIKU AIRPORTS INDICATIVE OF TYPE OF SITUATION WHICH LIKELY CONTINGENCY. GP-1.

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