

Laos Briefing
May 1969

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Table 1

Estimated Monthly Tonnage of Supplies Moved from North Vietnam into the Laotian Panhandle Over Roads and Trails for the 67-68 and 68-69 Dry Seasons a/ b/

	<u>67-68</u>	<u>68-69 c/</u>
November	1,800	3,090
December	3,440	5,770
January	5,500	7,130
February	8,440	9,160
March	8,060	5,390
April	10,830	8,760
Total	<u>38,070</u>	<u>39,300 d/ e/</u>
Monthly (30 days) Average	6,270	6,510
Daily Average	210	220

a/ These estimates are based primarily on reports of roadwatch teams.

b/ Numbers have been rounded to three significant digits.

c/ Various sources indicate the average tonnage carried per truck entering or moving through Laos probably increased from 3.0 to 3.8 tons at about the beginning of the dry season in 1968.

d/ Includes tonnages monitored by roadwatch teams coming into Laos on Route 8 (via Nape Pass) since January 1969, and the new southernmost access Route 1036 for February and March, and an estimate for that route for April based on the March level of traffic.

e/ Because of the probable opening of a POL pipeline in Laos near Route 15 during the first quarter of 1969 the proportion of total tonnage entering southern Laos consisting of goods other than POL probably has increased.

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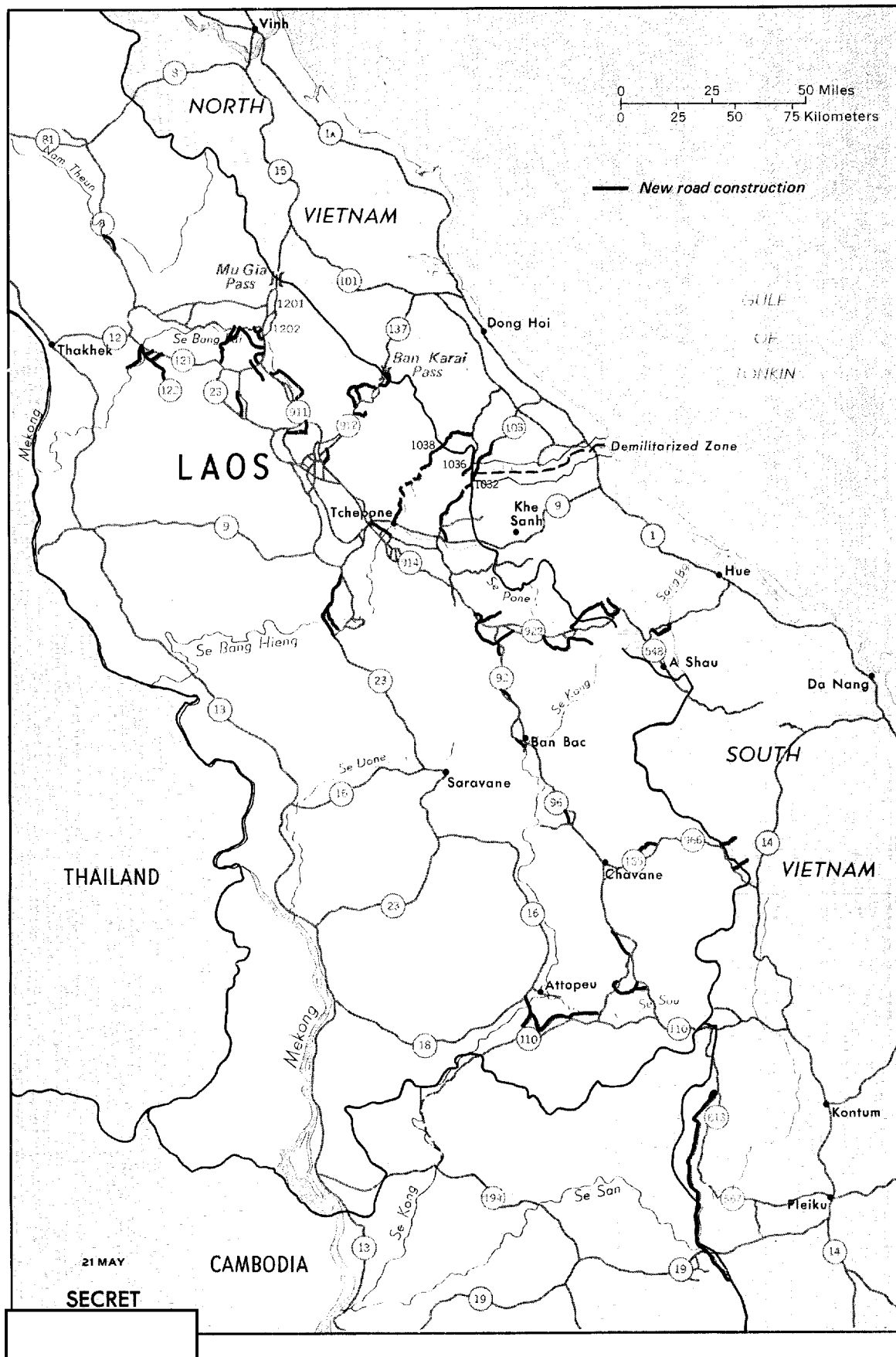
SECRET**Estimates of NVA Infiltration into South Vietnam**

1966		100,000
1967		100,000
1968		250,000-300,000
January	23,900	
February	13,300	
March	31,300	
April	25,900	
May	28,500	
June	27,400	
July	27,600	
August	27,800	
September	13,800	
October	8,900	
November	10,000	
December	8,400	
1969 (6 months)		100,000
January	5,800	
February	14,600	
March	14,600	
April	13,500	
Total		<u>550,000-600,000</u>

Average Travel Times

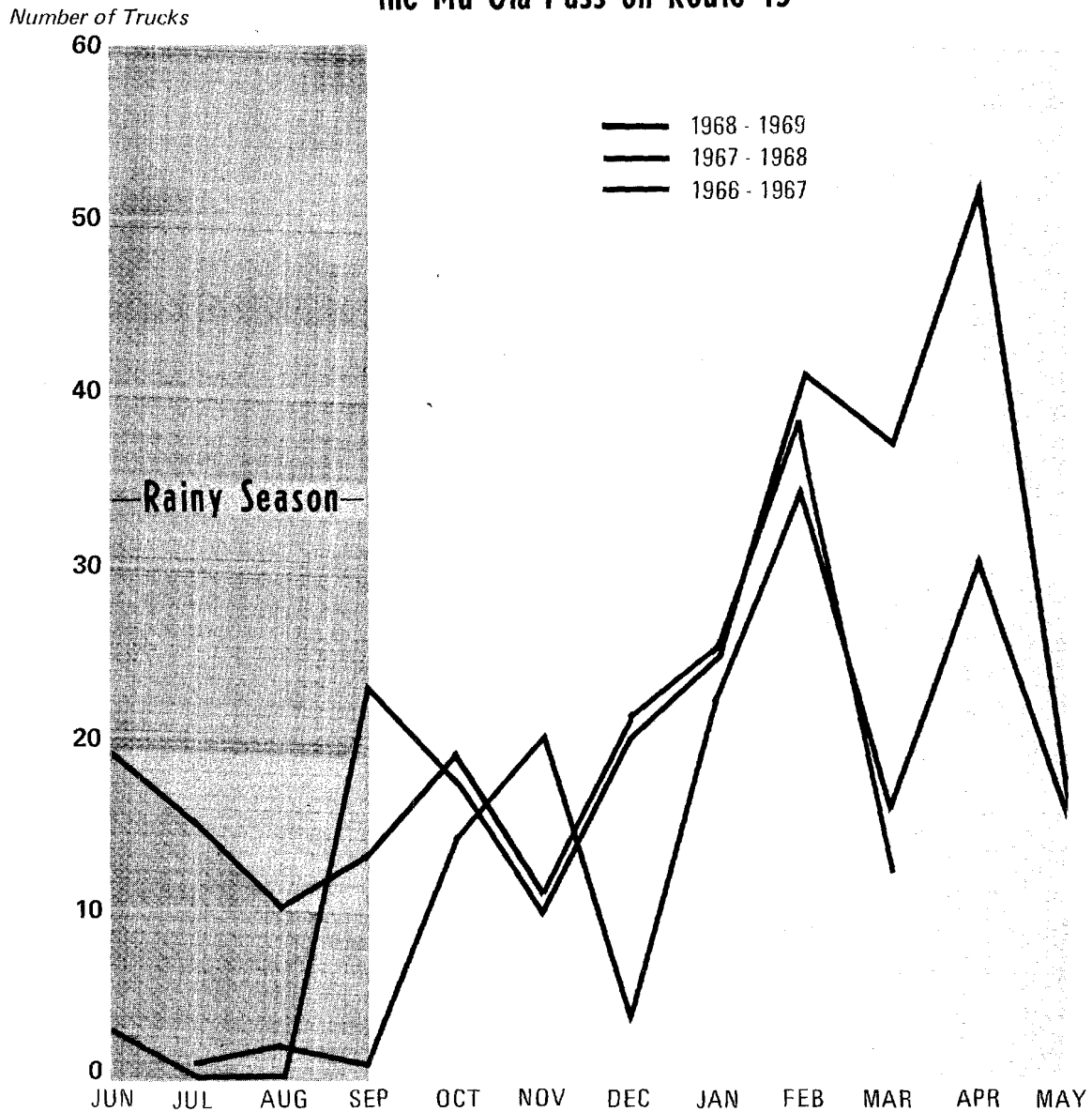
	<u>Days</u>
DMZ/Tri-Thien Hue Front	30-45
Military Region 5 (I and II Corps)	70
B-3 Front (II Corps)	60
COGVN (III Corps)	120

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Daily Average by Month of Southbound Truck Traffic Through the Mu Gia Pass on Route 15



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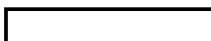
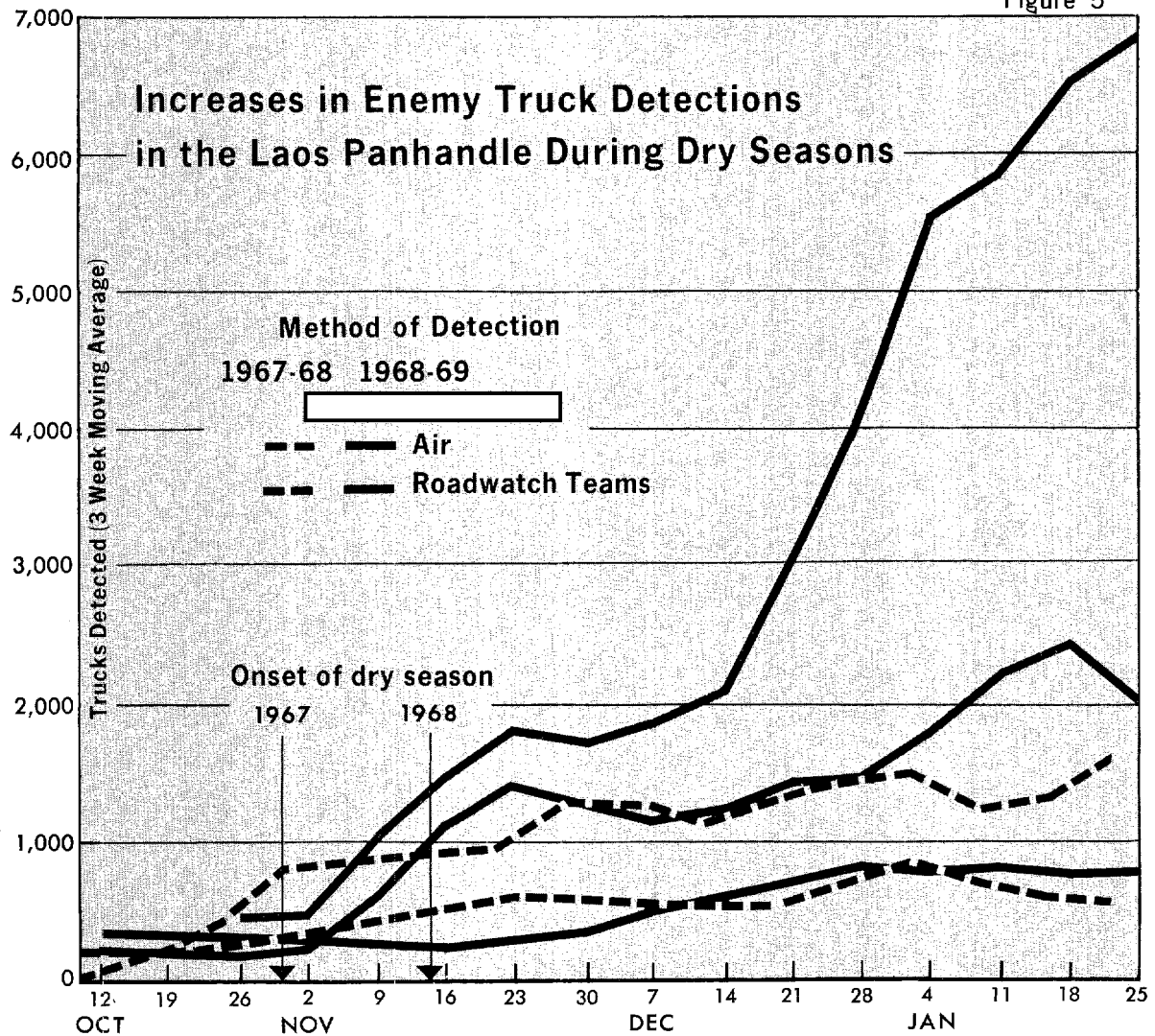


Figure 5



Trucks shown without regard to direction of movement or location. Each method of detection includes unavoidable multiplicate counting. Sightings by serial observers are a function of the level of attack and of weather conditions. Weather improves each year in the dry season.

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19 May 1969

ANNEX D TO OER WEEKLY INDICATIONS REPORT

Communist Traffic on Selected Routes in Laos and North Vietnam

The following is a summary of the most important roadwatch information received during this reporting period. An annotated map follows the summary.

SOUTHERN REGION

Roads in the Vicinity of Mu Gia Pass

Reports received from roadwatch teams this week indicate that heavy traffic continued to move through the pass into Laos. However, the only other route in the area that was heavily traveled by trucks was Route 1281. (see map for details).

Route 8

Two teams on Route 8 reported traffic moving over the road during the past week. [REDACTED]

Route 23

Five roadwatch teams positioned along this road reported varied amounts of truck activity during the same time period. The heaviest traffic on the route was reported by teams [REDACTED]

Other Routes

Little or no traffic was reported by other teams located on Route 92 [REDACTED] 96 [REDACTED] 110 [REDACTED] 911 and 962 [REDACTED] during the week from about 9-15 May.

NORTHERN REGION

Ten roadwatch reports were received during the past week which indicate coverage of 17 roads or trails during the week of about 6-12 May by 20 observation teams. Roadwatch teams reported little or no traffic, except as shown on the map or noted below on Routes 4 (Central and Northwest Laos), 31, 32, 46, 321, 322, 32/322. No reports were received from teams on Routes 19, 65, and on the Nam (river) Ou.

Visual Reconnaissance

Pilot reports of 12 May* indicate that Route 19 in the vicinity of the Nam (river) Ou is open and extremely wide - approximately 30 feet. Also noted were several stacks of camouflaged supplies along the side of the road. Route 602, west of Samneua and Route 68/61 south of the Samneua area appear to be open and moderately used.

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Trail Activity

A team on a trail in Luang Prabang Province, about 20 miles southwest of Muong Sai during 7-10 May reported extraordinary personnel movement. On 9 May the team sighted a 225-coolie train guarded by 30 enemy troops heading south.

Weather

Available information for 12-18 May indicates that flying weather in Laos in the vicinity of Route 7 south to the area of Attapeu was generally poor. The area described extends about 50 miles west from the Vietnamese border.

The roadwatch team north of Mu Gia Pass reported heavy rain and fog that prevented their observing the road during parts of two of six days that they reported. Although aerial observers reported that all the major roads in the panhandle were open to truck traffic, they reported that one route segment - the northern half of Route 912 - appeared to be wet and deteriorating.

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