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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Air Activity Around Dien Bien Phu DATE DISTR. 19 April 1954

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BY CABLE

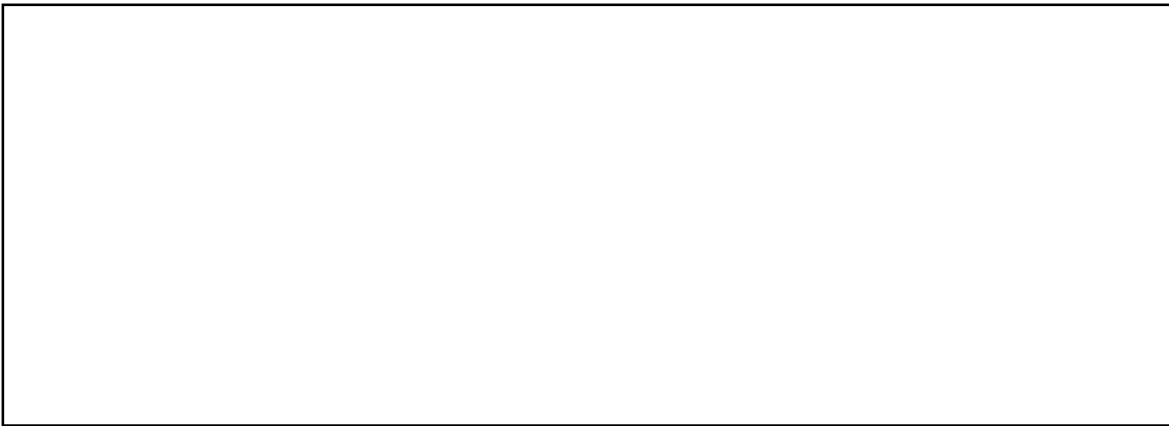
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1. Anti-aircraft fire around Dien Bien Phu comes from Viet Minh mobile units, which have been seen, firing individually. It appears that the units have been assigned a specific sector of the sky to cover. These mobile units are placed around the entire Dien Bien Phu perimeter and are moved nightly. The anti-aircraft fire is not pattern firing.¹
2. Pilots are encountering anti-aircraft fire from 37mm guns firing vertically and accurately from 400 to 8,500 feet. During a night drop, five 37mm guns were observed firing, but it is believed that there is a total of six or eight.² A considerable amount of 50 caliber anti-aircraft fire has been encountered. Thus far, six of the Civil Air Transport (CAT) C119's have been hit.

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STATE	x	ARMY	x	NAVY	x	AIR Ev	x	FBI		AEC				
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(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X"; Field Distribution By "#".)

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5. Haiphong airfield is the best field in North Vietnam and is capable of handling all heavy air equipment. Hanoi airfield is in fair condition and can handle medium air equipment. The effects of sabotage are clearly visible on both fields. However, the security of these fields is better than average. There is one guard per plane and passes must be shown to walk on the parking strip.

[Redacted]

25X1 [Redacted] Comment. [Redacted] the anti-
25X1 aircraft firing is possibly radar-controlled. [Redacted]

25X1 [Redacted]
25X1 2. Washington Comment. Most reports [Redacted] agree that there has
25X1 been fire from 37mm guns. However, estimates of the number of 37mm guns
25X1 available have ranged from 30 to 100. [Redacted]

25X1 [Redacted]

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