

INFO: J5-1 J5-1 SACSA-3 SAMAA-1 CJCS-1 ONO/LE
SECDEF-7 ASD/ISA DIA-15 CSA-1
CND-2 CSAF-5 CMC-3 FILE-1 (45X) 46
GENE AGENCY

2-1856

ROUTINE

Intelligence Information Cable

IN 28753
CALL 33337
PAGE 1 OF 2 PAGES

STATE/INR DIA ARMY - NAVY JCS SECDEF NSA NIC XXXXXX EDD

[REDACTED]

THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE.

CITE TDCS DB-315/03170-66

1 10 45 Z

DIST 1 NOVEMBER 1966

COUNTRY NORTH VIETNAM
DOI LATE 1965-LATE OCTOBER 1966
SUBJECT SPECULATION ON PRESENCE OF AMERICAN PRISONERS IN HANOI,
AND DEFENSE MEASURES, RATIONING, AND PUBLIC MORALE IN HANOI

ACQ LAOS, VIENTIANE (30 OCTOBER 1966)

SOURCE

[REDACTED]

1. (SUMMARY.)

IF AMERICAN PRISONERS ARE BEING HELD IN HANOI, THEY ARE PROBABLY
AT A LARGE ESTABLISHMENT IN A POSSIBLE MILITARY HEADQUARTERS AREA (AREA
45) WHICH IS SURROUNDED BY WALLS WHICH ARE LIGHTED ALL NIGHT AND ARE
TOPPED WITH ELECTRIFIED WIRE. JUST AFTER THE 29 JUNE 1966 BOMBINGS OF
OIL DEPOTS OUTSIDE HANOI, A CAPTURED AMERICAN PILOT WAS REPORTEDLY SEEN
BEING TAKEN ALONG A STREET LEADING FROM THIS AREA AND BACK ALONG THE SAME
STREET. AFTER THE BOMBINGS, MIG-17'S MANEUVERED OVER HANOI ALMOST DAILY.

B-4

Aug 255

5 MIG-21'S AND AN ILYUSHIN-14 WITH NORTH VIETNAMESE MARKINGS WERE ALSO APPROVED FOR RELEASE
4 OBSERVED IN SEPTEMBER. SOME SHOPS SHUT AFTER THE BOMBING BUT REOPENED
3
2
1

E6306-09

Encl 54 (S-47, L01/DB-414)

#260

IN 28753

TDCS DB-315/03178-66

PAGE 2 OF 7 PAGES

[REDACTED]

(classification) (dissem controls)

IN AUGUST. THERE WAS NO SHORTAGE OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS FOR FOREIGNERS IN HANOI. IN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER MEAT, RICE, SUGAR, MATCHES, AND SOAP WERE RATIONED. THE SUPPLY OF RICE AND SUGAR WAS SUFFICIENT FOR PEOPLE TO OBTAIN THEIR QUOTAS, BUT IN MID-SEPTEMBER SOME PEOPLE SAID THEY WERE NOT GETTING THEIR QUOTAS OF MEAT. THE PEOPLE WERE CONVINCED THAT HANOI WOULD BE BOMBED, BUT THEY REMAINED CALM. THERE WAS LITTLE POLICE CONTROL OF THE LOCAL POPULATION, AND SOVIET PERSONNEL WERE FREE TO LEAVE HANOI AS THEY WISHED. THE AI MO AREA ACROSS THE RED RIVER FROM HANOI APPEARED TO BE A MILITARY TRAINING AREA, AND ANOTHER RESTRICTED AREA IN THE O YEN PHU SECTION NORTH OF THE HO TRUC BACH LAKE WAS FREQUENTED BY SOVIET PERSONNEL.)

2. IN AN AREA OF HANOI [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THERE WAS A LARGE WALLED-IN ESTABLISHMENT WITH THREE STRANDS OF ELECTRIFIED WIRE WITH NEW LOOKING INSULATORS ON TOP OF THE WALLS. THE WALLS WERE WHITE, FRESHLY PAINTED AND LIGHTED ALL NIGHT. THE ENTRANCE WAS GUARDED BY TWO UNIFORMED VIETNAMESE. THE AREA WAS VERY QUIET. ONCE IN EARLY SEPTEMBER 1966 PEOPLE INSIDE THE WALLS WERE SPEAKING WHAT SEEMED TO BE ENGLISH. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] IF AMERICAN PRISONERS WERE IN HANOI THEY WERE PROBABLY IN THIS LOCATION. [REDACTED] RIGHT AFTER THE 29 JUNE

BOMBINGS OF OIL DEPOTS OUTSIDE HANOI A PILOT CAPTURED IN THE ATTACK WAS TAKEN ALONG THE STREET FROM THE 45 AREA TO THE 131 AREA BY A RAILROAD TRACKS AND THEN TO A LOCATION IN THE AREA OF THE INTERNATIONAL

[REDACTED]

(classification) (dissem controls)

IN 28753

TDCS DB-315/03178-66

PAGE 3 OF 7 PAGES

(dissem controls)
CONTROL COMMISSION OFFICE IN THE 170 AREA. HE WAS THEN TAKEN
BACK ALONG THE SAME STREET. [REDACTED] COMMENT. TDCSDB-315/
02978-66 REPORTED THAT [REDACTED]

BELIEVED THE AMERICAN PRISONERS WERE LOCATED IN THE HANOI CITY
JAIL IN A BLOCK BOUNDED BY DAI LO HAI BA TRUNG, HANG BONG, PHO
HOA LO, AND PHO HO QUAN SU, IDENTIFIED AS COORDINATE WJ-884248 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THAT LOCATION AND THE ONE
REPORTED HERE DO NOT APPEAR TO BE IDENTICAL.)

3. AFTER THE 29 JUNE BOMBINGS MIG-17'S FLEW OVER HANOI
DURING DAYLIGHT HOURS ALMOST DAILY. THE PLANES WENT THROUGH
MANEUVERS THERE, DIVING AND BANKING SEVERAL THOUSAND FEET UP.
THEY STAYED UP FOR A SHORT TIME, THEN DISAPPEARED. ONCE IN
SEPTEMBER MIG-21'S FLEW OVER HANOI. ON A SUNDAY IN SEPTEMBER AN
ILYUSHIN-14 WITH NORTH VIETNAMESE MARKINGS LANDED IN THE [REDACTED] AREA.

[REDACTED]
49. RIGHT AFTER THE BOMBINGS THE SHOPS IN THE HO HOAN KIEN
LAKE AREA ([REDACTED]) WERE SHUTTERED UP AND THE AREA DESERTED IN THE
DAYTIME. THE PEOPLE WERE SENT TO WORK IN THE COUNTRYSIDE DURING
THE DAY BUT RETURNED HOME AT NIGHT. AS OF THE END OF AUGUST, HOWEVER,
[REDACTED]

(dissem controls)

IN 28753

TDCS DB-315/03178-66

PAGE 4 OF 7 PAGES

(classification)

(dissem controls)

THE SHOPS HAD REOPENED, AT LEAST FOR SEVERAL HOURS A DAY. THE STATE STORE [REDACTED] NEAR A HOSPITAL WAS OPEN MORNINGS FROM 0600 HOURS TO 0800 HOURS. THERE WERE NO REFUGEE CAMPS IN HANOI NOR EVIDENCE OF SHANTIES OR TEMPORARY REFUGEE HOUSING. NO SCHOOLS WERE OPEN IN HANOI. CHILDREN WHO LIVED IN HANOI ATTENDED SCHOOLS IN THE SURROUNDING COUNTRYSIDE.

5. FACTORIES THROUGHOUT HANOI WORKED A FULL SCHEDULE. THE FACTORY TWO BLOCKS FROM THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR [REDACTED] WHICH SEEMED TO BE A STATIONERY FACTORY, WORKED AROUND THE CLOCK.

6. THERE WAS NO SHORTAGE OF GASOLINE AND OIL SUPPLIES FOR FOREIGNERS IN HANOI AFTER THE 29 JUNE BOMBINGS. THEY COULD BE PURCHASED FREELY AT ONE OF THREE STATE OUTLETS. OIL TANKS WERE BEING REPAIRED IN THE WAREHOUSE AREA ALONG THE RED RIVER [REDACTED] WHEN THE WELDING, SURFACING, AND PAINTING WERE COMPLETED, THE TANKS WERE MOVED OUT FROM THIS AREA BY TRUCK.

7. SINCE JUST BEFORE DECEMBER 1965 EACH PERSON HAD BEEN ALLOWED A RATION OF 300 GRAMS OF MEAT A MONTH. SOME VIETNAMESE SAID IN MID-SEPTEMBER 1966 THAT THEY WERE NOT GETTING THEIR QUOTA. RICE WAS RATIONED BUT WAS IN SUFFICIENT SUPPLY. HOWEVER, WHEAT AND RICE BREAD WERE BEING SUBSTITUTED FOR THE RICE RATION IN CERTAIN AREAS OF HANOI. MATCHES WERE RATIONED AS OF LATE OCTOBER 1966. TWO BOXES PER PERSON WERE ISSUED TO LAST UNTIL THE END OF THE YEAR. THE RATIONING OF SOAP ALSO BEGAN IN LATE

[REDACTED]

IN 28753

TDCSDB-315/03178-66

PAGE 5 OF 7 PAGES

[REDACTED]

OCTOBER, WITH ONE BAR OF SCRUBBING SOAP PER ADULT FOR THREE MONTHS. ONLY CHILDREN UNDER ONE YEAR WERE PERMITTED TOILET SOAP AND THIS WAS RATIONED AT THE SAME RATE. SUGAR WAS RATIONED, BUT PEOPLE WERE ABLE TO GET THEIR QUOTAS.

8. TRUCK CONVOYS, OFTEN OF 12 OR MORE TRUCKS, PARKED ALONG THE RED RIVER [REDACTED] THE TRUCKS APPEARED TO BE CZECH MANUFACTURE. THE DRIVERS SLEPT IN THE CABS, POSSIBLY AWAITING NIGHTFALL, AS THE SOUND OF TRUCKS MOVING OUT IN THE DIRECTION OF THE LONG BIEN BRIDGE COULD BE HEARD AT NIGHT. THERE WERE MORE TRUCKS IN RECENT WEEKS IN HANOI THAN THERE HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY.

9. THERE WAS VERY LITTLE POLICE CONTROL OF THE POPULATION IN HANOI ITSELF. POLICE AT CHECKPOINTS AT THE BASE OF THE LONG XIEN BRIDGE ON THE HANOI SIDE SEEMED MOST CONCERNED WITH REGULATING TRAFFIC. VIETNAMESE WERE OFTEN NOT CHECKED, AND ONLY THOSE WITH LARGE CARTS WHICH MIGHT IMPEDE TRAFFIC ON THE BRIDGE WERE HELD UP. OTHER CHECKPOINTS WERE AT THE CROSSROADS AT NGA TU SO, AT PHUONG LEAT [REDACTED], AND AT THE CROSSROAD [REDACTED] BETWEEN THA PARK AND THE CEMETERY. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

10. JUDGING FROM CONVERSATIONS WITH VIETNAMESE WORKING FOR FOREIGN DIPLOMATIC ESTABLISHMENTS AND SHOP OWNERS IN THE HO HOAN KIEN LAKE AREA, IT APPEARED THAT THE VIETNAMESE WERE CONVINCED HANOI WOULD BE BOMBED,

[REDACTED]

IN 28753

TDCS DB-315/03178-66

PAGE 6 OF 7 PAGES

(classification) (dissem controls)

[REDACTED]

BUT THEY TOOK THE PROSPECT OF BOMBING CALMLY, AS THEY DID STORIES OF BOMBING IN THE COUNTRYSIDE. THERE WERE MANY SINGLE-PERSON SEMI-CONCRETE BOMB SHELTERS BEING CONSTRUCTED ON THE STREETS ALL OVER HANOI. THEY WERE ABOUT TWO FEET IN DIAMETER AND FIVE FEET HIGH WITH A CONCRETE LID. WHEN FINISHED THEY WERE BURIED IN THE GROUND.

[REDACTED]

WHEN

QUESTIONED, SOME VIETNAMESE APPEARED TO BE UNCLEAR AS TO WHY NORTH VIETNAM WAS FIGHTING. ONE BOURGEOIS VIETNAMESE FUNCTIONARY MADE THE COMMENT IN EARLY 1966 THAT SOLDIERS WHO WENT TO SOUTH VIETNAM NEVER CAME BACK AND WERE NEVER HEARD FROM AGAIN. THERE WERE NO WAR VETERANS OR WOUNDED IN EVIDENCE IN HANOI.

[REDACTED]

WORKED FOR THE FRENCH MISSION AS AN ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER) SAID THAT WHEN HE HAD TAKEN A GROUP OF FRENCH TO HAIPHONG JUST AFTER THE 29 JUNE BOMBINGS HE OBSERVED THAT MANY OF THE BRIDGES HAD BEEN DESTROYED AND PLANKS USED TO CONSTRUCT SINGLE-LANE WOODEN BRIDGES OVER WHICH TRUCKS COULD PASS.

11. THE AI MO AREA ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RED RIVER FROM HANOI APPEARED TO BE USED AS A MILITARY TRAINING AREA. TROOPS WALKED IN GROUPS IN THIS AREA WITH GUNS AND PACKS ON THEIR BACKS. ANOTHER RESTRICTED AREA WAS IN THE O YEN PHU SECTION JUST NORTH OF THE HO TRUC

* BACK LAKE, THIS WAS SURROUNDED BY A WALL AND THERE WAS A SIGN

(classification) (dissem controls)

[REDACTED]

