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PRIORITY
IN 6793

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TO: [REDACTED]
FROM: [REDACTED]

CLASSIFICATION: [REDACTED]

REF 18 MARCH 1968

COUNTRY: LAOS
DOI: 11 MARCH 1968
SUBJECT: ENEMY ATTACK ON PHOU PNA THI, SITE 85, DURING
EARLY MORNING OF 11 MARCH AND ARRIVAL OF
ENEMY TROOPS AT TACAN SITE

AO: LAOS, VIENTIANE (11 MARCH 1968) FIELD NO: [REDACTED]
SOURCE: [REDACTED]

1. BY 0735 HOURS ON 11 MARCH 1968 ENEMY SOLDIERS
HAD REACHED THE TACAN SITE AT PHOU PNA THI (UM 6663),
AND ABOUT 100 ENEMY SOLDIERS WITH TWO MACHINE GUNS WERE
FIRING DOWN ON THE HELICOPTER PAD. THE DEFENDERS STILL
CONTROLLED THE TRAIL SYSTEMS TO THE SUMMIT (UM 66615);
IT APPEARS, THEREFORE, THAT THE ENEMY SOLDIERS SCALED
THE SHEER ROCK CLIFFS ON THE NORTHWESTERN SIDE OF PHOU
PNA THI. THE OUTPOSTS AROUND PHOU PNA THI WERE STILL

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IN THE MIDS OF THE DEFENDERS. ONE HELICOPTER HAD SUCCESSFULLY
EVACUATED SOME SOLDIERS WHO HAD BEEN WOUNDED AT THE 1800H
MORTAR POSITION AT UN 68463. THE PERSONNEL IN THE
COMMAND BUNKER WERE OUT OF CONTACT WITH TACAB PERSONNEL.

2. AT 0155 HOURS ON 11 MARCH INCOMING ENEMY
MORTARS WERE LANDING ON THE TOP OF PHOU PHA THI,
AND SMALL ARMS FIRE WAS HITTING THE COMMAND BUNKER. THE
DEFENDERS ON THE CREST OF THE MOUNTAIN TOTALLED 203 MEN. THE
COMMAND BUNKER WAS OUT OF CONTACT WITH THE TACAB SITE,
WHICH APPEARED TO BE BURNING.

3. AT 0448 HOURS ON 11 MARCH THE DEFENDERS WERE STILL
BEING SUBJECTED TO HEAVY INCOMING FIRE AND THE SITUATION WAS
SERIOUS. AT 0445 HOURS HEAVY MORTAR FIRE WAS COMING FROM THE
SOUTH. SMALL ARMS FIRE WAS STILL HITTING THE VICINITY OF THE
COMMAND BUNKER.

4. AT 0505 HOURS POST NUMBER ONE WAS RECEIVING HEAVY
WEAPONS FIRE. INTERMITTENT HEAVY ROCKET FIRE WAS HITTING
THE CREST OF PHOU PHA THI FROM THE SOUTH; THIS ROCKET FIRE
WAS EXTREMELY EFFECTIVE. THE DEFENDERS WERE HOLDING, BUT
THE COMMAND BUNKER WAS STILL OUT OF CONTACT WITH THE TACAB

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SITE.

3. AT 0545 HOURS THE INCURRING FIRE CEASED.
4. AT 0620 HOURS SMOKE WAS COMING FROM THE TACAN SITE.
BY 0635 HOURS A PATROL WENT TO ASCERTAIN STATUS OF TACAN
PERSONNEL WAS ENGAGED IN A FIRE FIGHT NEAR THE TACAN SITE.
7. FIELD DISSEM: STATE ARMY AIR USMACV 7TH AIR FORCE
CINCPAC PACFLT PACAF ARPAC

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