

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY Intelligence Information Cable

PRIORITY
IN 55192

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GROUP 1
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CONFIDENTIAL

210517Z

CITE

DIST 21 FEBRUARY 1968

COUNTRY: LAOS

DOI: 20 FEBRUARY 1968, EXCEPT AS STATED

SUBJECT: INCREASED ENEMY THREAT TO PHOU PHA THI (SITE 85)
AND MEASURES BEING TAKEN FOR ITS SECURITY

ACQ: LAOS, VIENTIANE (21 FEBRUARY 68) FIELD NO. []

SOURCE: []

(b)(1)
(b)(3)
34 (b)(1)

1. BY LATE ON THE EVENING OF 20 FEBRUARY 1968 AUTO-
DEFENSE DE CHOC (ADC) COMMANDERS INVOLVED IN THE DEFENSE
OF PHOU (MOUNTAIN) PHA THI (UH 6860), SITE 85, CONSIDERED THAT THE
ENEMY HAD ADVANCED TO WITHIN HEAVY MORTAR RANGE OF
PHOU PHA THI FROM THE SOUTH. THE SAME COMMANDERS BELIEVED
THAT THE ENEMY COULD EASILY MOVE ARTILLERY TO PHOU DEN DIN
(UH 7661) UNDER THE COVER OF THE FOG WHICH HAD
PERSISTED DURING THE DAY AND WAS FORECAST FOR THE NEXT

~~C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L~~

~~C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L~~

(Classification) (When removed)

(b)(1)C

(b)(3)

34 (b)(1)

24 HOURS.

2. THE ENEMY OVERRAN MUONG YUT (UH 704563) ON THE MORNING OF 20 FEBRUARY, AND ITS DEFENDERS FELL BACK TO UH 6921 AND THEN RETREATED CLOSER TO THE BASE OF PHOU PHA THI. BY 1600 HOURS 20 FEBRUARY 21 WOUNDED ADC TROOPS WERE AT THE BASE OF PHOU PHA THI. COMMENT: THE ENEMY TOOK MUONG YUT ON 14 FEBRUARY, BUT ADC FORCES WERE ABLE TO REOCCUPY IT ON THE SAME DAY.)

3. AT 1930 HOURS ON 20 FEBRUARY ADC FORCES RECOVERED A MAP OUTLINING AN ATTACK PLAN FOR PHOU PHA THI FROM THE BODY OF AN ENEMY SOLDIER KILLED IN AN AMBUSH ON 18 FEBRUARY. ACCORDING TO THE PLAN TWO REGIMENTS WERE TO BE USED. ONE BATTALION EACH WAS TO ATTACK HOU EI HOK (UH 6561), HOU EI MA (UH 6253), HOU EI MOUN (UH 5664), AND HOU EI KHA MOUN (UH 6868). ONE COMPANY WAS TO ATTACK EACH OF THE MAJOR TRAILS LEADING TO THE TOP OF PHOU PHA THI.

4. THE DEFENDERS OF PHOU PHA THI WERE PREPARING TO COORDINATE EXTENSIVE AIR STRIKES ON TARGETS CLOSE TO PHOU PHA THI. THE FOLLOWING ENEMY TARGETS

~~C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L~~

~~C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L~~

(Classification) (When sensitive)

(b)(7) C

WERE TO BE HIT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE: ENEMY COMPANY AND
 82MM MORTAR (UH 783563), ENEMY STORAGE AREA (UH 735596),
 BIVOUAC AREA (UH 743591), BIVOUAC AREA (UH 793592), NORTH
 VIETNAMESE ARMY PLATOON (UH 727590), AND A MORTAR TEAM
 (UH 732591). NO CIVILIANS WERE IN THE TARGET AREA BECAUSE THEY
 HAD STARTED TO MOVE OUT IN EARLY FEBRUARY WHEN
 ENEMY PRESSURES ON THE AREA INCREASED.

3,4 (b)(3) (b)(1)

5. COMMENT: THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE
 CAPTURED MAP HAS YET TO BE ESTABLISHED, BUT THE
 OPERATIONAL PLAN AS OUTLINED IN THIS MAP IS
 TACTICALLY SOUND. IF THE ENEMY IMPLEMENTS
 THIS PLAN QUICKLY AND IN A COORDINATED MANNER
 UNDER THE PROTECTION OF TWO OR THREE DAYS OF
 SUSTAINED FOG, HE WILL SEVERELY CHALLENGE
 THE ABILITY OF IRREGULAR FORCES TO HOLD SITE 85.

6. FIELD DISSEM: STATE ARMY AIR USMACV 7TH AIR FORCE
 CINCPAC PACFLT PACAF ARPAC
 REPORT CLASS CONFIDENTIAL

~~C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L~~