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(N)

2 June 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT : Preliminary Assessment of BLACK SHIELD  
Mission X001, Flown 31 May 1967

1. <sup>①</sup> No missile complexes other than surface-to-air missile sites were detected in this mission. The mission was about 50 percent cloud covered. No singularly significant items of intelligence were reported in the initial readout. However, detailed analysis is continuing at NPIC. It should be pointed out that although this particular mission was not particularly productive because of weather conditions, it is evident that the system has excellent potential for the collection of intelligence in this area, under favorable weather conditions.

2. Both Hanoi and Haiphong were covered with haze and scattered clouds and only partial coverage was available of North Vietnam's major airfields. <sup>3</sup> A total of 68 surface-to-air missile sites were photographed. Of these 12 were occupied, 30 were unoccupied, 25 were ID only and one was returned to cultivation. No new SAM sites were detected.

3. The photography shows that the North Vietnamese have completed an alternate bridge to the recently bombed bridge over the Canal des Rapides, just north of Hanoi. The North Vietnamese had been working on the piers for the alternate bridge prior to the bombing and the bypass was operational some 20 days after the main bridge was interdicted.

4. Photography of the Yulin Naval Base on southern Hainan Island disclosed 1 destroyer escort, 3 Kronshtadt class patrol craft, 11 Shanghai class fast patrol boats, 11 possible P-4 class motor torpedo boats, and several LSTs. The naval order of battle is not unusual for this South Sea Fleet naval installation.

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Mission Sidelights

5. The mission aircraft was over North Vietnam for approximately nine minutes. The aircraft entered from the Gulf of Tonkin northwestward up the Red River Valley to Lao Cai then turned southwestward over western North Vietnam and exited over the Demilitarized Zone. It was apparently not detected by either North Vietnamese or Chinese radar facilities. Altitude over the DRV was close to 80,000 feet while the mission aircraft descended to about 30,000 feet for aerial refueling. Speed during the photographic runs was approximately 1800 knots or Mach 3.

Prepared By:

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