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25 January 1968

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OPS-INT SUMMARY 22-68

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

OPS - INT SUMMARY



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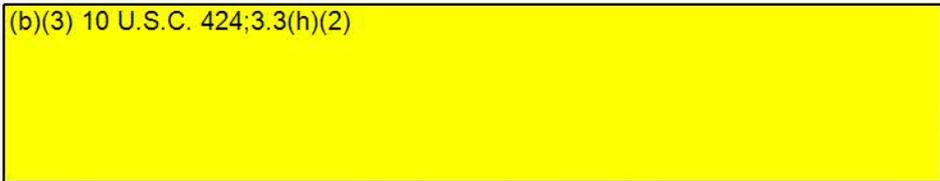
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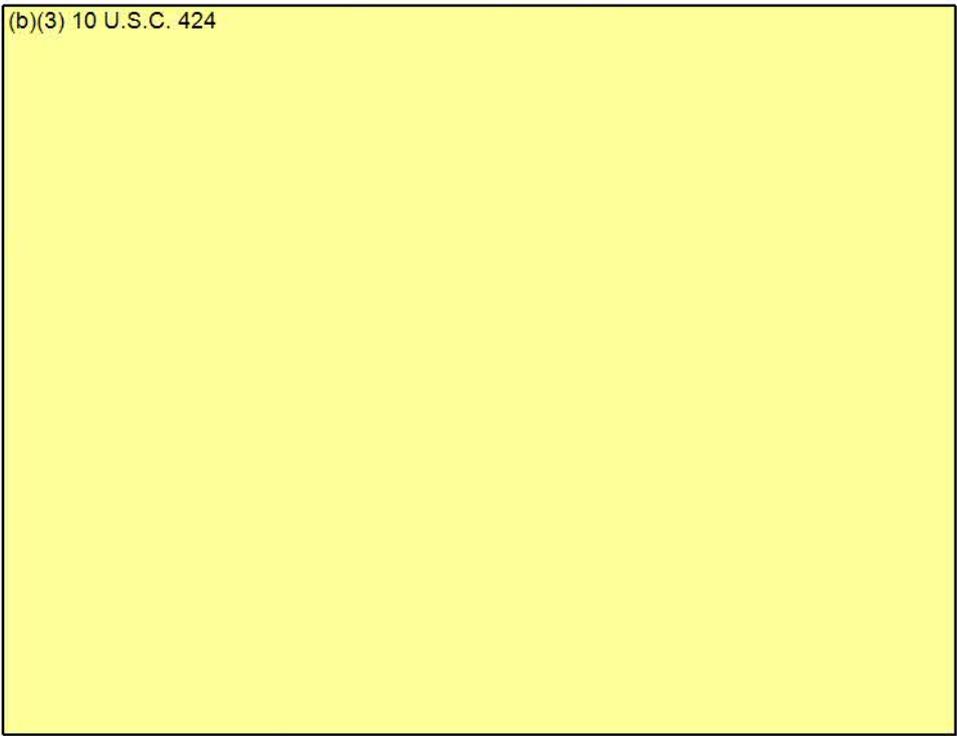
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OPERATIONAL/INTELLIGENCE BRIEFS

SOUTH VIETNAM

GROUND OPERATIONS: 46 bn-size or larger opns in prog: 27 US, 17 ARVN, 2 FW. (S)

1 CTZ: In Opn SCOTLAND, 6 events in vic Khe Sanh reported: On 23 Jan -- A rd of unk cal/type ordnance fell on USMC elms 6 nm NNW Khe Sanh wounding 3 US; resupply helo damaged by en gnd fire 2 nm N of Khe Sanh; 10 en killed by mortar fire 5 nm NW Khe Sanh when forced into open by friendly acft using napalm. On 24 Jan -- Khe Sanh combat base received 200-250 rds arty and mortar fire from 241430-241915 EST. 1 dud identified as 152-mm arty shell. No US cas; friendly arty and air strikes on suspected en psns 5 nm NW Khe Sanh resulted in 29 secondary explosions; outposts and patrols reported extensive en trp movement to E and W of Khe Sanh. (S)

On 23 Jan, 26 nm S of Da Nang, elms 2 RF cos and 2 PF plats manning outpost received number 82-mm mortar rds and small-arms fire from en force. US arty and AC-47s sptd. Losses -- PF: 2 KIA, 24 MIA; VC/NVA: 5 KIA, 1 indiv wpn. (S)

In Opn WHEELER/WALLOWA, 30 nm S of Da Nang, USA co found large cache containing 3 US PRC-25 radios, 15 US PRC-10 radios, 7 items US test equip, 1 US PRC-47 radio, 1 F-5 autopilot from US acft, 1 generator, 8 Chinese telephones, 3 Chinese switchboards, 1 Chinese AM transceiver, and 1 Chinese generator. (S)

29 small-unit contacts reported. Losses -- US: 2 KIA, 26 WIA; VC/NVA: 9 KIA, 5 pers det, 3 wpns. (S)

2 CTZ: On 23 Jan, 25 nm NW Qui Nhon, ARVN bn engaged 2 en cos believed elms VC 95th Bn, 2d Regt. Losses -- ARVN: 4 KIA, 3 WIA; VC/NVA: 9 KIA, 6 indiv wpns. (S)

On 22 Jan, 12 nm NW Qui Nhon, 6 ROKA cos made contact with 2 en cos. Contact lasted throughout the day and was broken by en. Contact reestablished on 23 Jan and is continuing. Losses -- ROK: 5 KIA, 14 WIA; VC/NVA: 179 KIA, 9 pers det, 88 indiv and 13 crew-served wpns. (S)

10 small-unit contacts reported. Losses -- ARVN: 3 WIA; VC/NVA: 7 KIA, 5 wpns. (S)

3 CTZ: On 24 Jan, in Opn SAN ANGELO, elms of USA co made contact with en force. Helo gunships, tac air, and arty sptd. En broke contact after 40 mins. Losses -- Friendly: 5 KIA, 13 WIA; VC/NVA: unk. (S)

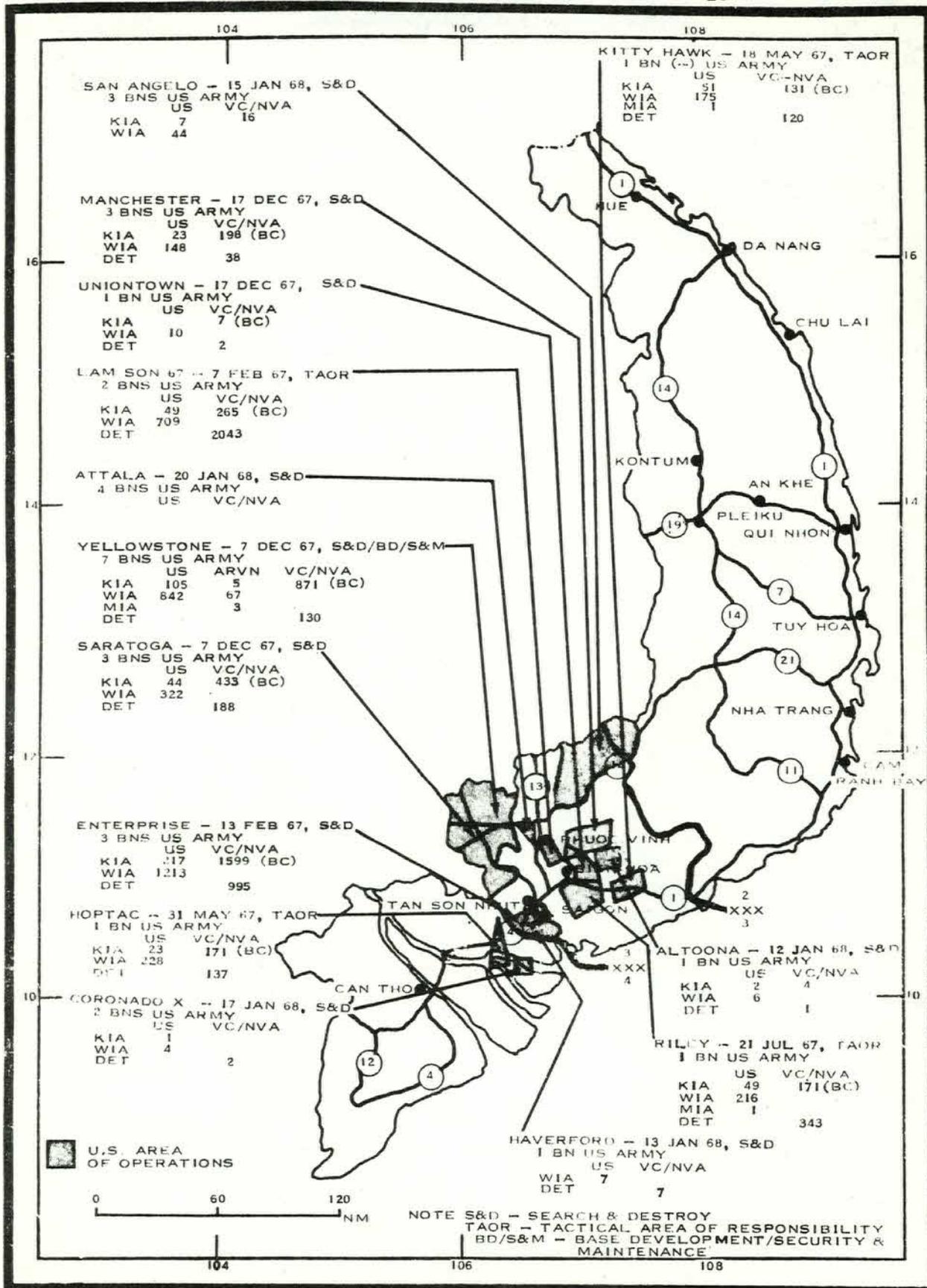
On 23 Jan, 21 nm ESE Loc Ninh, ARVN Ranger bn and 3 PF/RF units in same general area were simultaneously atkd by 4 en cos. Arty, AC-47s, tac air, and mortars sptd. En broke contact after 5 hrs. Losses -- Friendly: 12 KIA (11 PF, 1 VNSF), 13 WIA (12 RF, 1 ARVN); VC/NVA: unk. (S)

On 23 Jan, in Opn SARATOGA, USA co made contact with en force 18 nm NW Saigon. Another USA co reinforced and tac air sptd. En

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WHICH INVOLVE PARTICIPATION BY US FORCES
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broke contact after 1 hr. Losses -- US: 5 KIA, 15 WIA; VC/NVA: unk. (C)

COBURG, 1-bn Aust S&D opn commenced 23 Jan, 24 nm NE Saigon. (C)

USA UH-1D downed by en gnd fire on 24 Jan, 20 nm NW Saigon. 4 crewmembers killed and acft dest. (C)

9 small-unit contacts reported. Losses -- ARVN: 4 KIA, 5 WIA; VC/NVA: 16 KIA, 1 per det, 2 wpns. (C)

4 CTZ: On 23 and 24 Jan, US and VNese Navy patrol craft conducted NGF spt for USSF/CIDG opn on Phu Quoc Is. Losses -- CIDG: 1 KIA, 7 WIA; VC/NVA: 15 KIA, 3 houses and 2 bunkers dest. (C)

DAN CHI 320, ARVN 1-bn opn began 24 Jan 30 nm SW Can Tho. Losses -- ARVN: none; VC/NVA: 23 KIA, 11 pers det, 20.5 tons of rice, 3 POW camps dest, and 1 ARVN officer released. (C)

10 small-unit contacts reported. Losses -- ARVN: 4 KIA, 9 WIA; VC/NVA: 6 KIA, 3 wpns. (C)

ARC LIGHT OPERATIONS 24 JAN: 6 B-52s struck tgt 52 nm WNW Hue containing large ammo stor areas. 12 B-52s struck tgt 58 nm WNW Hue containing elms en regt. 6 B-52s struck tgt 45 nm W of Hue containing hvy trp conc. Above msns in spt Opn NIAGARA. No gnd follow-up sked. (C)

THREAT TO GIO LINH: (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424 elms of NVA 270 Independent Regt are near coast SE of US Marine base at Gio Linh. Hqs and remaining subordinates are N of Gio Linh in NVN and may be committed to S if maj fighting erupts. Trps near Gio Linh may have assumed part of NVA 803 Regt's opnl area; elms 803d appear to have shifted slightly westward and are now roughly between Con Thien and Gio Linh. (C) Sec. 3.3

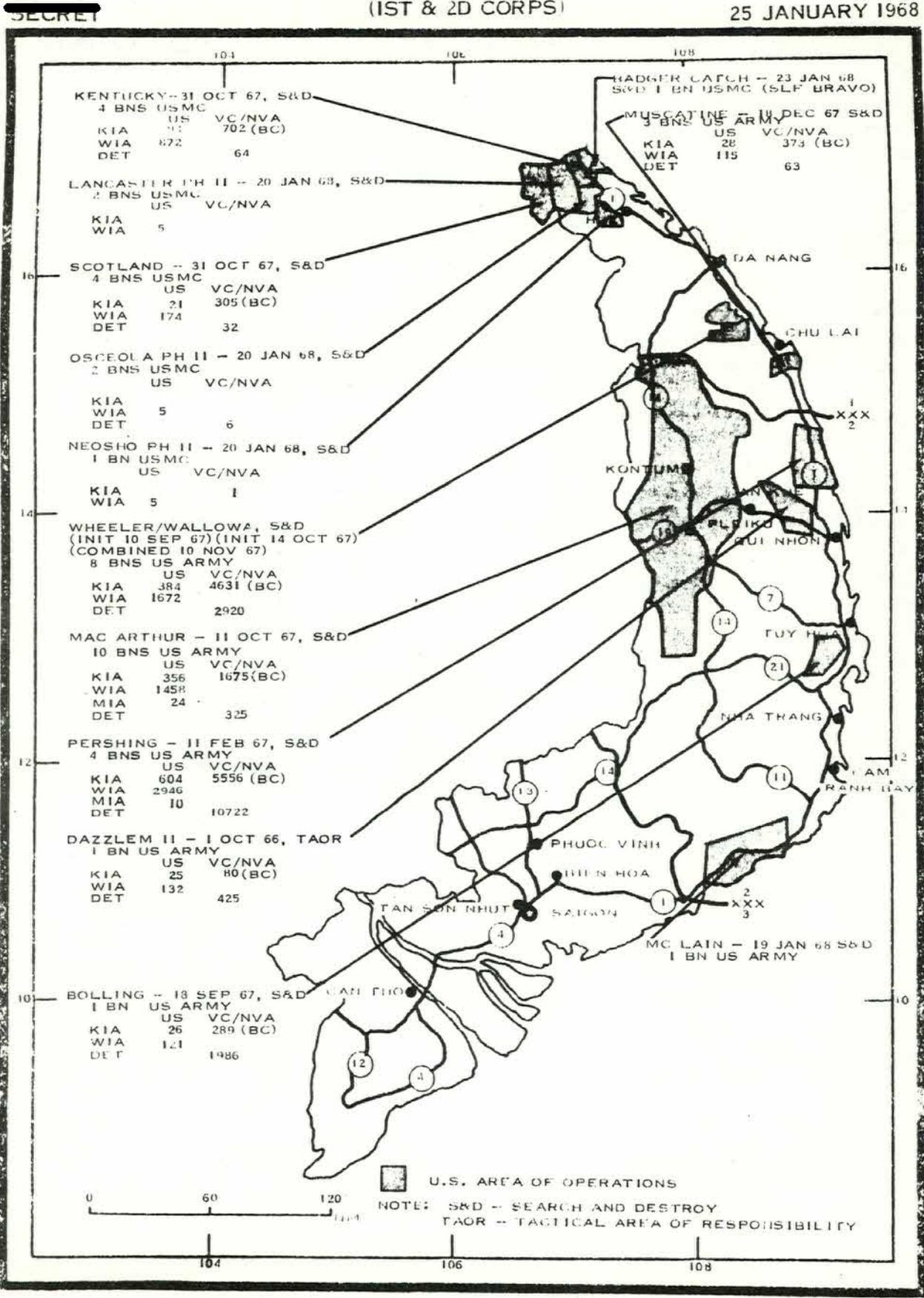
DEFECTOR: Further interrogation of NVA defector indicates that his div, 325C, had been reinforced with 2 AAA bns and that each regt had an AAA co armed with 6 to 9 12.7-mm hvy machine guns. Div's msn is to "overrun Khe Sanh, but not hold it." A simultaneous atk against Con Thien in eastern DMZ by NVA "341 and 308 Divs" will occur when 325C takes action against Khe Sanh. En thus hopes to divide B-52 spt by carrying out 2 widely separated, large-scale atks. Defector added that opn in Con Thien area would be sptd by jets from Hanoi and tanks now in vic of DMZ. Chances that aerial spt will be provided by Hanoi-based acft are slim, but there have been reports that APCs and poss SU-76 self-propelled arty are in general DMZ area. (C) Sec. 3.3

Ref yesterday's brief in OIS re COMMAND AND CONTROL, page 2. Last sentence should read, "A NVNese defector from 325C Div who rallied at Khe Sanh Afld claims that Hanoi considers mil effort so important that Ministry of Defense is directing it," vice idea that Defense Minister is personally so doing. (C)

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS IN SOUTH VIETNAM WHICH INVOLVE PARTICIPATION BY US FORCES

(1ST & 2D CORPS)

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NORTH VIETNAM

ROLLING THUNDER OPERATIONS 24 JAN: 110 sorties (76 USN, 23 USAF, 11 USMC) dest/damaged 12/79 trks, 3/5 bridges, 2/43 WBLC, 0/30 RR cars, 0/5 stor areas, 0/4 gun psns, 0/3 radar sites, 0/2 trp concs, 0/2 CD sites, 0/1 AAA site, 0/1 bks and LOCs in opns hampered by adverse weather. (S)

MIG TRAINING OPERATIONS: Hanoi may be planning to conduct MIG opns over southern part of NVN. On 24 Jan, 2 MIG-21s flew round trip from Phuc Yen to Vinh area, 4th such flight S of Thanh Hoa since 30 Dec. Each time MIGs contacted a controller poss associated with Bia Thuong Afld (runway unserviceable, but 7,800 foot earth/concrete taxiway could prob be used for recovery in emergency), S of Thanh Hoa. MIG intercept attempts S of Thanh Hoa have been sporadic. Operating from Phuc Yen with external fuel, MIG-21s could perform gnd atk msns S of DMZ (Today's Intel Summary has graphic displaying MIG-17/21 radius of action). Propaganda value of destroying a B-52 or US spt acft, however, is prob greater than that associate with gnd tgts. (S) Sec. 3.3

AN-2 ARMAMENT: AN-2 light tpt that crashed in Laos on 12 Jan was modified to carry a variety of armament, viz: (1) 20 bomb tubes, poss to dispense 120-mm mortar shells; (2) a centerline bomb pylon, type bombs to be used unk; (3) 16-shot rkt pod under each lower wing, apparently designed to fire Sov 57-mm folding fin aerial rkt. COMINT indicates that 4 to 6 more AN-2s may be similarly equipped; 1 was detected conducting practice bombing over NVN since raid on Laos. (S) Sec. 3.3(b)(1)

RUMANIA/NVN: Rumanian DepMin FonAffairs Macovescu and 2 associates are sked to depart Hanoi for Bucharest on 28 Jan. Still no info re purpose of trip. (S) (b)(3) 10

LAOS

BARREL ROLL/STEEL TIGER OPERATIONS 24 JAN: 397 sorties (361 USAF, 35 USN, 1 USMC) dest/damaged 44/57 trks, 4/7 AAA sites, 1/9 bldgs, 1/8 gun sites, 0/26 stor areas, 0/22 trk pks, 0/17 trp concs, 0/8 mil complexes, 0/4 bridges, 0/3 biv areas, and LOCs. (S)

ARC LIGHT OPERATIONS: At 241130 EST 9 B-52s bombed base area 42 nm W Hue. (S)

(b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424;3.3(h)(2)

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