REFERENCE: 

ATTACHMENT TO L-4819
13 FEBRUARY 1968
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PRE-TET RAIL ACTIVITY
NINH BINH/THANH HOA AREA
NORTH VIETNAM

1. SIGNIFICANCE:

THIS BRIEFING BOARD DEPICTS THE DAY TIME USE OF A PORTION OF THE HANOI/VINH RAILLINE PRIOR TO THE 1968 TET TRUCE.

2. BACKGROUND:

THE USE OF THIS RAILLINE DURING DAYLIGHT HOURS FOR SUPPLY TRAINS IS UNUSUAL DURING NON-TRUCE PERIODS. HOWEVER, DURING THE TWO WEEKS PRECEDING THE 1968 TET TRUCE THE NORTH VIETNAMESE ATTEMPTED TO USE THIS RAILLINE FOR THE DAYTIME TRANSPORT OF SUPPLIES. AT LEAST ONE SUCH ATTEMPT WAS UNSUCCESSFUL.

3. MISSION READOUT:

DAY PHOTOGRAPHY REVEALS A 25X1
LORRY-PULLED SUPPLY TRAIN 30 NM SOUTH OF THANH HOA AT 191910N 1054315E.
THE SUPPLY TRAIN HAS APPARENTLY BEEN SUBJECTED TO AN AIR ATTACK AS THE LORRY IS BURNING. EIGHT SMALL, COVERED FLAT CARS APPEAR UNDAMAGED BY THIS APPARENT AIR STRIKE.

DAY PHOTOGRAPHY REVEALS A 25X1
NORTHBOUND TRAIN BETWEEN THANH HOA AND NINH BINH CONSISTING OF A STEAM LOCOMOTIVE AND APPROXIMATELY TWENTY PIECES OF ROLLING STOCK (AT LEAST TEN OF WHICH ARE BOX CARS, THE REMAINDER ARE PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY SMOKE).

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THE TRAIN IS LOCATED 16 NM NORTH OF THANH HOA AT 200830N 1055250E.

4. REMARKS:


THE DAYTIME SIGHTINGS OF SUPPLY TRAINS PRIOR TO THE 1968 TET TRUCE WERE UNUSUAL AND PROBABLY REPRESENTED A STRONGER AND BOLDER EffORT BY THE NORTH VIETNAMESE TO INCREASE THE FLOW OF MATERIALS BY RAIL.