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REFERENCE



ATTACHMENT TO L-4820
13 FEBRUARY 1968
PAGE 1

ROAD REPAIR
ROUTE 15, NORTH VIETNAM


1. SIGNIFICANCE:

THIS BRIEFING BOARD DEPICTS ACTIVE ROAD REPAIR IN PROGRESS ON ROUTE 15 ON 18 JANUARY 1968 AND ON 30 JANUARY 1968 (DURING THE 1968 TET TRUCE PERIOD).


2. LOCATION:

THE ROAD REPAIR ACTIVITY IS WITHIN NINE NM OF THE NORTH VIETNAM/LAOS BORDER ON ROUTE 15.

3. MISSION READOUT:

PHOTOGRAPHY  REVEALS ONE BULLDOZER OPERATING SIX NM NORTH OF THE NORTH VIETNAM/LAOS BORDER AT 174600N 1054640E. THE BULLDOZER IS IN THE PROCESS OF FILLING IN BOMB CRATERS.

25X1

PHOTOGRAPHY  REVEALS A BULLDOZER AND ROAD GANG WORKING ON A RECENTLY CRATERED SECTION OF ROUTE 15 AT 174815N 1054700E, 8.3 NM NORTH OF THE NORTH VIETNAM/LAOS BORDER.

25X1

4. BACKGROUND:

SEVERAL PHOTOGRAPHIC MISSIONS HAVE REVEALED AT LEAST TWO BULLDOZERS ACTIVE ON ROUTE 15 BETWEEN THE NORTH VIETNAM/LAOS BORDER AND THE JUNCTION OF ROUTES 15 AND 101. THEIR APPARENT PURPOSE IS TO MAINTAIN THE ROAD AND FORDS AND TO REPAIR THE CRATERING AND LAND SLIDE DAMAGE RESULTING FROM

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X1 REFERENCE :



ATTACHMENT TO L-4820
13 FEBRUARY 1968
PAGE 2

U.S. AIRSTRIKES.

5. REMARKS :

PHOTOGRAPHY OF ROUTE 15 DURING JANUARY 1968 REVEALED EFFORTS BY THE NORTH VIETNAMESE TO MAINTAIN THIS IMPORTANT LOGISTICS ROUTE WHICH EXTENDS FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH ROUTE 6 JUST WEST OF HOA BINH PASSES WEST OF VINH AND THEN GENERALLY SOUTH-SOUTHWEST THROUGH MU GIA PASS. IT WAS AND STILL IS IMPERATIVE THAT THIS IMPORTANT LINE OF COMMUNICATION REMAIN SERVICEABLE TO FACILITATE THE INCREASE IN TRAFFIC (REFLECTED IN PART BY THE MAJOR LOGISTICS EFFORT PUT FORTH BY THE NORTH VIETNAMESE DURING THE 1967 CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR TRUCE PERIODS) AND TO SUPPORT THE RECENT OFFENSIVE IN SOUTH VIETNAM.

IT WAS ANTICIPATED THAT THE CESSATION OF BOMBING DURING THE 1968 TET TRUCE WOULD ALSO RESULT IN GREATLY INCREASED TRAFFIC ALONG ROUTE 15. HOWEVER, THE U.S. DID NOT STOP BOMBING IN THE AREA SOUTH OF VINH, NORTH VIETNAM, THUS DENYING THE ENEMY THE FREE AND UNRESTRICTED USE OF THIS ROUTE.



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Approved For Release 2008/08/01 : CIA-RDP79-00849A001200020009-0

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