

(b) (3)-P.L. 86-36

~~SECRET SPOKE~~

CATEGORY = 4

M = 1133

MESSAGE = 02143750

ZCZC004 2212PRB674 LOG LN NO: 069

77 [REDACTED] DE

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~~SECRET SPOKE~~ DIRNSA FOLLOW-UP NR. ONE AND FINAL TO USA-29 CRITIC 13-72, 20/1330Z DEC 1972; [REDACTED] CRITIC 4-72, 20/1336Z DEC 72. PRELIMINARY COMINT INDICATES NORTH VIETNAMESE SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILE UNITS IN THE HANOI AND HAIPHONG AREA ENGAGED AND SHOT DOWN TWO B-52S AND THE POSSIBLE SHOOTDOWN OF A THIRD UNIDENTIFIED AIRCRAFT IN THE 1300Z HOUR ON 20 DECEMBER 1972. IN A POST-LAUNCH CONVERSATION AT 1331Z, BATTALION 33 OF THE 261ST SAM REGIMENT, LAST IDENTIFIED IN THE VICINITY OF 21-01N 105-59E (VN 014) REPORTED THE LAUNCH OF THREE MISSILES. TWO OF THE MISSILES HIT THE TARGET, WHICH WAS OBSERVED BURNING AND FLYING OUT TO THE SOUTHEAST. THE EXACT LAUNCH TIME WAS NOT DISCLOSED. LATER IN THE 1300Z HOUR, AN UNIDENTIFIED HANOI AREA SAM BATTALION REPORTED LAUNCHING A MISSILE AT A TARGET 10 KILOMETERS AWAY, AND HITTING IT HEAD-ON. AT 1346Z, AN UNIDENTIFIED NVN AIR DEFENSE FACILITY REPORTED THAT A B-52 HAD BEEN DOWNED APPROXIMATELY 28 KILOMETERS WEST SOUTH WEST OF HANOI. LATER, BETWEEN APPROXIMATELY 1400Z, AND 1412Z, THE 264TH SAM REGIMENTAL CONTROLLER AND AT LEAST BALLATION 77, LOCATED JUST SOUTH AND WEST OF HANOI, WERE NOTED DISCUSSING THEIR LAST ENGAGEMENT, DURING WHICH THE REGIMENT REPORTEDLY SHOT DOWN FIVE AIRCRAFT--TWO LARGE TYPE AND THREE SMALL TYPE. THREE DOWNED U.S. CREW MEMBERS WERE REPORTEDLY CAPTURED. AT 1508Z, BATTALION 84 OF THE 238TH SAM REGIMENT, LOCATED IN THE HAIPHONG AREA, REPORTED LAUNCHING TWO MISSILES WHICH DOWNED THE TARGET AIRCRAFT. THE TIME OF LAUNCH, TYPE OF AIRCRAFT AND STATUS OF CREW MEMBERS WAS NOT REVEALED. PRELIMINARY COLLATERAL INFORMATION REPORTED THE SHOOTDOWN OF TWO B-52S OVER NORTH VIETNAM AND SEVERE DAMAGE TO A THIRD. FURTHER AMPLIFYING DATA WILL BE REPORTED IN A SEPARATE SERIES. 500 00706 MINSI

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Approved for release by NSA on 07-16-2014, Transparency Case# 65886

~~SECRET SPOKE~~

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