

0935

~~TOP SECRET UMBRA~~

CATEGORY = 1

M = 40

MESSAGE = 00012559

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

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RR ZH7-DE

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TO OSCAR/UNIFORM TANGO ZEM ~~TOP SECRET UMBRA~~ SECTION SEVEN  
 3/07SIY/R296-67 NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY (SOUTHEAST ASIA) SIGINT SUMMARY ALTHOUGH  
 THERE WERE NO SIGINT REFLECTIONS OF ANY SIGNIFICANT ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY IN  
 THE NAM BAC AREA DURING THE PAST WEEK, ROYAL LAOTIAN ARMY (RLA) HEADQUARTERS  
 ADVISED THAT THE SITUATION THERE IS STILL "CRITICAL". IN EARLY DECEMBER THE RLA  
 ORDERED THE MOVEMENT OF A PARACHUTE BATTALION FROM SOUTH LAOS TO LUANG PRABANG  
 AS A SUPPORT FORCE IN COUNTER-ING AN EXPECTED "NEW" ENEMY OFFENSIVE AT NAM  
 BAC. IN SAYABOURY PROVINCE, IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT THE RLA WOULD LAUNCH AN  
 OPERATION ON 12 DECEMBER TO COUNTER THE INTENSIFIED ENEMY ACTIVITY IN THE  
 HONG SA (19-42N 101-20E, QB 4580) AND XIENG LOM (19-37N 100-49E, PB 9170)  
 REGION. RLA SUPPLY LINES ARE SAID TO BE UNDER THREAT AND ON 7 DECEMBER, A  
 PATHET LAO (PL) COMPANY ATTACKED AN RLA BATTALION AT HONG SA. FAR TO THE NORTH,  
 IN PHONG SALY PROVINCE, A U.S. HELICOPTER WAS SHOT DOWN IN LATE NOVEMBER  
 KILLING THE PILOT, M. BURKE, ACCORDING TO AN 8 DECEMBER DISSIDENT NEUTRALIST  
 (I.E., GEN KHAMMOUANE) MESSAGE. THE FATE OF THE TWO OTHER CREW MEMBERS IS AS  
 YET UNDISCLOSED. MILITARY REGION 2 COMMUNIST ACTIVITY SOUTHWEST OF SAI NEUA  
 CONTINUES TO BE HEAVY. ON 6 DECEMBER, PHA LOUAN (20-02N 103-58E, UH 9216) FELL  
 TO TWO ENEMY BATTALIONS AND A THIRD BATTALION ATTACKED BAN CHONG (20-02N  
 103-55E, UH 8715). TWO DAYS LATER, AN ENEMY BATTALION CAPTURED RLA POSITIONS AT  
 BAN TIO BOUANG (20-04N 103-54E, UH 8519) AND NA LENG (20-05N 103-53E, UH 8420).  
 TO THE NORTH, IT WAS REPORTED ON 8 DECEMBER THAT AN ESTIMATED TWO PAVN  
 BATTALIONS HAD MOVED WEST FROM SAI NEUA TO THE AREA OF UH 6868 (20-31N  
 103-44E). THE ENEMY PROPAGANDIZED THAT THEY INTEND TO ATTACK RLA GUERRILLA  
 FORCES IN THE AREA EITHER DURING DECEMBER OR IN JANUARY 1968. IN OTHER  
 DEVELOPMENTS, AN F-105 REPORTEDLY CRASHED ON 5 DECEMBER NEAR ROUTE 6 AT UH 9234  
 (20-12N 103-58E). THE FATE OF THE PILOT IS UNKNOWN. SOUTH LAOS MILITARY REGION

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265

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3 REPORTS OF ENEMY INTENTIONS TO ATTACK RLA POSITIONS AND A CONTINUING HIGH VOLUME OF ENEMY TRUCK TRAFFIC IN THE TCHEPONE AREA HIGHLIGHTED MR 3 ACTIVITY THIS PAST WEEK. ON 11 DECEMBER TACTICAL COMMAND SOUTH LAOS REPORTED THAT THE ENEMY HAS INCREASED "REQUISITION ACTIVITY" IN THE MAHAXAY AND NHOIARATH AREAS WHICH REPORTEDLY "INDICATES THE PROBABILITY OF SYNCHRONIZED ATTACKS ON THE 35TH, 36TH, 37TH VOLUNTEER BATTALIONS AND THE 18TH MOBILE GROUP (GM)." ANOTHER REPORT DISCLOSED THAT ENEMY TROOPS INTENDED TO LAUNCH ATTACKS ON RLA POSITIONS IN THE SE BANG FAI (RIVER) AND SALA NA DEHG AREAS IN CENTRAL MR 3. REPORTED COMMUNIST TRUCK TRAFFIC INCLUDED THE MOVEMENT ON 5 DECEMBER OF 24 TRUCKS FROM TCHEPONE ALONG ROUTE 9 TO MUONG PHINE (16-30N 106-02E, XD 1029) WHILE 12 TRUCKS RETURNED TO TCHEPONE FROM MUONG PHINE AND ON 8 DECEMBER, 24 MORE TRUCKS REPORTEDLY ALSO TRAVELED ALONG ROUTE 9 TO TCHEPONE FROM BAN DONG (16-37N 106-25E, XD 5238); LOCATED APPROXIMATELY 10 KM WEST OF THE LAOTIAN-SOUTH VIETNAMESE BORDER. IN BOTH INSTANCES THE CARGO WAS UNDISCLOSED. MILITARY REGION 4 HEADQUARTERS MR 4 HAS DESCRIBED THE SITUATION IN THE REGION AS "VERY CRITICAL." THE NEUTRALIST GM 804 COMMAND POST WAS BURNED DURING AN ATTACK LAUNCHED BY ENEMY FORCES ON 11 DECEMBER IN WHICH LAO NGAM (15-28N 106-10E, XC 2610) REPORTEDLY FELL BUT WAS RECAPTURED BY RLA AND NEUTRALIST FORCES ON THE FOLLOWING DAY. IT HAD BEEN REPORTED SEVERAL DAYS EARLIER THAT A LARGE FORCE OF "CHINESE" TROOPS WOULD ARRIVE APPROXIMATELY 17 KM NORTH OF LAO NGAM ON AN UNSPECIFIED DATE. MOREOVER, ACCORDING TO AN RLA REPORT ON 13 DECEMBER, A CONVOY OF 120 TRUCKS (CARGO UNKNOWN) HAS ARRIVED AT XC 9415 (15-30N 106-48E), EAST OF BAN PHONE ON ROUTE 16. (370/SY/R290-67, R291-67, R292-67, R294-67, 21/T3833, 120216Z, 21/T1871, 062330Z, T1907, 100002Z, 21/LSK/T035-67, 111236Z, 21/LSM/T01360-67, 071507Z, T01362-67, 071509Z, T01375-67, 091315Z, FOUR 21/LSM/T-67, IN PREPARATION) 900 NNNN

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