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SECRET SPOKE

CATEGORY = 7   M = 731

MESSAGE = 02145165

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TO NSA/SIERRA ZINDO
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S E C R E T SPOKE DIRNSA F/U ONE AND FINAL TO USA-29 CRITIC 15-72, 212100Z DEC
72 BETWEEN 1950Z AND 2105Z, 21 DECEMBER 72, NORTH VIETNAMESE AIR SURVEILLANCE
FACILITIES REFLECTED A MINIMUM OF 36 B-52S ACTIVE OVER NVN TERRITORY.
PRELIMINARY COMINT IS AVAILABLE ON ONE B-52 SHOT DOWN BY SAMS. AT 2031Z, AN
UNIDENTIFIED HANOI AREA SAM BATTALION LAUNCHED A MISSILE AT A B-52. AT 2039Z,
ELEMENTS OF THE 264TH SAM REGIMENT, LOCATED JUST SOUTHWEST OF HANOI, WAS
ENGAGED IN TRACKED HOSTILE AIRCRAFT AND PREPARING TO FIRE MISSILES. AT 2042Z,
THREE MISSILES WERE LAUNCHED AT A TARGET REPORTED TO BE 22 KILOMETERS FROM THE
SITE. AT 2246Z TWO ADDITIONAL MISSILES WERE LAUNCHED AND AT 2049Z TWO ADDITONAL
MISSILES WERE LAUNCHED . A FINAL TWO MISSILES WERE REPORTED LAUNCHED BY THE
246TH AT 2052Z AT APPROXIMATELY 2103Z, AN OPERATOR AT ONE OF THE 264TH REGIMENT
SUBORDINATE BATTALIONS REPORTED THAT THEY HAD $DONE WELL,$ AND THAT THE
TARGET'S ALTITUDE WAS DECREASING AND IT WAS PROBABLY GOING DOWN. NVN AIR
SURVEILLANCE FACILITIES POSSIBLY REFLECTED THE FLIGHT OF THE DOWNED AIRCRAFT. A
FLIGHT OF AIRCRAFT, IDENTIFIED AS THREE B-52S, WAS INITIALLY REFLECTED AT
19-28N 105-29E AT 2027Z. THE FLIGHT FLEW GENERALLY NORTHEAST TO 21-28N 104-57E
AT 2044Z. THE B-52S TURNED AND FLEW SOUTHEAST TO 20-48N 106-43E AT 2049Z. THE
FLIGHT WAS LAST NOTED OVER THE GULF OF TONKIN AT 19-45N 107-23E AT 2055Z.
COMMENT, COLLATERAL SOURCES REPORTED THE LOSS OF TWO B-52S TO SAMS WHILE
STRIKING TARGETS IN THE HANOI AREA DURING THE LATE 2000Z HOUR. BEEPER SIGNALS
WERE REPORTEDLY INTERCEPTED FROM THE GULF OF TONKIN AT 2103Z AND 2134Z. FURTHER
AMPLIFIYING DATA WILL BE REPORTED VIA SEPARATE SERIES 390 #0772 NNNN

SECRET SPOKE

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