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REFERENCE: [REDACTED]

ATTACHMENT TO L-4503

21 NOVEMBER 1967

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ENEMY ACTIVITY IN DAK TO/TRI BORDER AREA
SOUTH VIETNAM
1445N 10740E

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1. SIGNIFICANCE:

THIS BRIEFING BOARD DEPICTS SEVEN VC/NVA MILITARY STRONGPOINTS IN THE DAK TO/TRI BORDER AREA OF SOUTH VIETNAM.

2. LOCATION:

THE ENEMY ACTIVITY IS LOCATED IN THE SOUTH VIETNAM/CAMBODIA/LAOS BORDER AREA, 270 MILES NORTH OF SAIGON.

3. BACKGROUND:

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS REPORTED THAT FOUR NORTH VIETNAMESE INFANTRY REGIMENTS OF THE 1ST DIVISION MOVED INTO THE JUNGLES SURROUNDING DAK TO DURING SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 1967. THE 40TH REGIMENT, A HEAVY WEAPONS OUTFIT CARRYING ROCKETS, MORTARS AND PERHAPS 75 MM PACK ARTILLERY, WAS SPLIT BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH FORCES.

FROM HILLTOP OBSERVATION POSTS THE NORTH VIETNAMESE COULD CLEARLY SEE THE DAK TO SPECIAL FORCES CAMP AND AIRSTRIP, THE SMALL TOWN AND DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS, REFUGEE CAMPS AND THE BARRACKS OF SOUTH VIETNAM'S 42ND REGIMENT.

TWO CASUAL CONTACTS ON 03 NOVEMBER 1967 BEGAN THE FIRST ACTIVITY. UNDER THE ENEMY PLAN, ONE REGIMENT WAS TO ATTACK ON 05 NOVEMBER WHILE ANOTHER REGIMENT MOVED INTO BLOCKING POSITIONS ACROSS ROUTE 14. OTHER REGIMENTS WERE IN RESERVE, BUT THE 40TH WAS TO OPEN WITH ROCKETS, MOVE

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INTO MORTAR RANGE AND COVER THE MAIN BATTLE.

THE U.S. 4TH DIVISION MOVED UNITS INTO DAK TO ON 28 OCTOBER 1967. SEVERAL ELEMENTS MADE MAJOR CONTACT LITTLE MORE THAN FOUR MILES SOUTH OF THE DAK TO AIRSTRIP ON 05 NOVEMBER. A BATTALION OF THE U.S. 173RD AIRBORNE BRIGADE CAME UP AGAINST THE NORTH VIETNAMESE 174TH REGIMENT IN A SERIES OF FIGHTS ABOUT SIX MILES FROM THE LAOTIAN BORDER, ACROSS WHICH THE ENEMY HAS ITS MAIN SUPPLY LINES.

BY 11 NOVEMBER THE FIGHTING HAD LAPSED, BUT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE REPEATEDLY MORTARED THE DAK TO AIRSTRIP AND OTHER MILITARY INSTALLATIONS ON 15 NOVEMBER. THERE WAS LIGHT MORTARING OF THE AIRSTRIP ON 16 NOVEMBER.

THE PRESS REPORTS HAVE INDICATED THAT THE COMMUNISTS ARE TRYING TO REINFORCE UNITS IN THE AREA, AND RENEWED FIGHTING IS EXPECTED AT ANY TIME. THE PROXIMITY OF THE BATTLEFIELD TO THE CAMBODIAN AND LAO BORDERS AND THE PRESENCE OF TROOP RESERVES ACROSS THE FRONTIER WOULD MAKE POSSIBLE THE RAPID RESUPPLY AND REINFORCEMENT OF THE VIET CONG AND NVA TROOPS COMMITTED TO THE DAK TO AREA.

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4. MISSION READOUT:

[REDACTED] REVEALS THE FOLLOWING SEVEN VC/NVA MILITARY STRONGPOINTS IN THE DAK TO/TRI BORDER AREA:

1) A STRONGPOINT AT UTM ZB011161 APPROXIMATELY THREE NM SOUTH OF DAK TO. THIS STRONGPOINT IS LOCATED THE CLOSEST TO DAK TO OF THE

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SEVEN STRONGPOINTS. (NOT DEPICTED ON GRAPHIC)

- 2) A STRONGPOINT AT UTM YB885321 CONSISTING OF TWO A/W POSITIONS AND NUMEROUS FOXHOLES.
 - 3) A STRONGPOINT AT UTM YB832342 CONSISTING OF AN A/W POSITION AND NUMEROUS FOXHOLES.
 - 4) A STRONGPOINT AT UTM YB830324, SIX NM FROM THE TRI BORDER AREA, CONSISTING OF NUMEROUS FOXHOLES AND A TRENCH SYSTEM.
 - 5) A STRONGPOINT AT UTM YB838326 CONSISTING OF NUMEROUS FOXHOLES AND POSSIBLY NUMEROUS FIRING BAYS WITH AN INTERCONNECTING TRENCH SYSTEM.
 - 6) A STRONGPOINT AT UTM YB882328 APPROXIMATELY FOUR NM SOUTH OF A U.S. INSTALLATION ON ROUTE 14 AT UTM YB894406. THE STRONGPOINT CONSISTS OF NUMEROUS A/W POSITIONS, FOXHOLES, AND HUTS.
 - 7) A STRONGPOINT AT UTM YB859310 APPROXIMATELY THREE NM NORTH OF A U.S. INSTALLATION LOCATED ON ROUTE 512 AT UTM YB876260. THE STRONGPOINT CONSISTS OF AT LEAST THREE A/W POSITIONS, ONE LONG TRENCH/DITCH, NUMEROUS FOXHOLES ENCIRCLING A HILL, AND PROBABLE STACKED OPEN STORAGE.
- ALSO OBSERVED IS HILL 1338 LOCATED AT UTM YB988152 WITH NO DISCERNIBLE ENEMY ACTIVITY.
- HILLS 889 AND 875 THAT ARE DEPICTED ON THE IO CATER MAP HAVE BEEN RECENTLY INVOLVED IN HEAVY FIGHTING.

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5. REMARKS:

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS REPORTED ON 17 NOVEMBER 1967 THAT THE U.S. 4TH INFANTRY DIVISION SEIZED THE CREST OF HILL 1338 LOCATED FOUR MILES SOUTH OF THE DAK TO AIRSTRIP OVERLOOKING THE ALLIED HOLDINGS. THE LOSS OF HILL 1338, NAMED FOR ITS HEIGHT IN METERS, DEPRIVED THE NORTH VIETNAMESE OF AN EXCELLENT POSITION FOR DEPLOYMENT OF ROCKETS AND ARTILLERY.

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UTM COORDINATES ARE TAKEN FROM AMS SERIES L7014, SHEET 6538 III.

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SOUTH VIETNAM

14-45N 107-40E

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