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ACTION NO. 988 DO OC 2 SAVAZ

~~SECRET~~ 201010Z JAN 72 CITE: _____

IMMEDIATE DIRECTOR INFO IMMEDIATE _____

_____ 20 JAN _____

1. _____ PORTER N9445.
2. ~~HISBIM~~ ACFT HIT BY MORTAR FIRE AND DESTROYED.
3. 20/0500Z JAN 72
4. LS-61 (UF 7684).
5. _____ SUPPORT FROM LS-272.
6. PIC CAPT. J.W. RUSSELL AND _____ NO INJURIES.
7. PILOT LANDED AT LS-^{64 JA} ~~WALK~~XIED TO THE PARKING AREA AND SHUT DOWN THE ENGINE. A MORTAR ROUND HIT THE TAIL SECTION OF THE ACFT, THE PILOT AND _____ EVACUATED THE ACFT AND ANOTHER ROUND HIT THE ENGINE SECTION OF THE ACFT. THE PILOT AND _____ STARTED RUNNING AWAY FROM THE ACFT AND ANOTHER MORTAR ROUND LANDED NEAR THEM KNOCKING THEM BOTH DOWN. AT THIS TIME THE PILOT NOTED THAT A MORTAR ROUND HAD HIT THE MIDSECTION OF THE ACFT AND IT HAD EXPLODED. ^{IT} ~~IT~~ WAS ALSO NOTED THAT THERE WERE ENEMY ON THE SITE MOVING TOWARD ~~THEM~~ ^{THEM}. HOWEVER, THEY WERE ABLE TO EVADE THE ENEMY IN THE BRUSH AND REES OFF THE SITE AND WERE SUBSEQUENTLY RESCUED BY _____ HELICOPTERS,

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BELL 205 NR PFG PICKED UP THE PILOT AND H-34 NR. H-15 PICKED UP [] AND ~~TWO~~ ^{FOUR} INDIGENOUS FRIENDLIES WHO WERE ON THE GROUND AT LS-61.

8. PUBLICITY IS NOT BELIEVED TO BE A CONSIDERATION ^{ON} HOWEVER, SECURITY OF THE STRIP AT LS-61 IS A DEFINITE CONSIDERATION IN THAT THIS MAY HAVE BEEN A DELIBERATE TRAP IN HOPE OF CATCHING ^{AN} AMERICAN. THE PILOT FLEW OVER THE POSITION WHERE THE ENEMY CAME FROM PRIOR TO LANDING AND WAS NOT FIRED UPON. FURTHER, THE MORTAR BARRAGE DID NOT START UNTIL AFTER THE PILOT HAD CUT THE ENGINE, INDICATING THE ENEMY DID NOT WANT HIM TO HAVE THE CAPABILITY TO TAKE OFF AGAIN. GP-1

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