

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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**BY CABLE**

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.  
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SOURCE: American observer in an excellent position to report on air activities in Indochina (B). Appraisal of Content: 2.

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1. The morale of the Civilian Air Transport (CAT) pilots flying C119's is much improved by better flak suppression. French navy fighters are reported to be doing a particularly fine job.
2. Flak from 37mm or other type explosive shell is rarely encountered now and it is usually encountered at night. There continues to be fairly heavy 50-caliber machine gun fire with occasional hits on aircraft but no excessive damage has occurred thus far.
3. Parachute drops are usually made from an altitude of 1,200 to 1,500 feet above ground although CAT pilots occasionally go down to 400 or 500 feet.
4. General de Castries has twice radioed commendation to the C119 crews for their air support.

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