

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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**BY CABLE**

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1. French Air Force General De Chaux, Commander of the North Tactical Air Headquarters, has issued a secret directive to members of his command. It states that it is absolutely necessary to insure the best possible protection against flak during the day and night as civilian pilots flying for the French Air Force accept risks but legitimately ask for effective anti-flak action.
2. The following measures are being implemented in De Chaux's command:
  - a. Bombers will make a preliminary attack on known or probable flak emplacements.
  - b. Fighters will circle the drop zone at an altitude of 6,000 to 8,000 feet during dropping.
  - c. B26's will replace fighters if the latter are weathered in as the protection of the transports is very important and everything must be done to insure it.
  - d. Dien Bien Phu defenders will employ artillery and mortar fire to help suppress flak.
3. Dropping conditions are difficult because of flak and bad visibility due to haze. Many drops, especially of 105mm shells, were not recovered and some are in enemy hands. C119 crews have been asked to bring back loads if they are not sure of making a good drop. All crews must announce the nature of their loads as ground control may take more risks with certain ones.
4. Drops will not be made during daylight without using delayed chutes, fighter or B26 protection.

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