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OUT59271

P 300042Z
FM NPIC WASH DC
TO AIG NINE SEVEN SIX
RUEKDA/DIA PRODCEN
RUEKDA/NIC

1966 JUL 30 01 15Z

multi

BT
CONFIDENTIAL

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CITE NPIC 7934.

REF: NPIC 7904, DTG 280202Z, JUL 66

CONTINUING SCAN BY NPIC OF MISSION BLUE SPRINGS 5161 OF 21
JULY 1966 REVEALS THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IN NORTH VIETNAM:

1. THE COMPLETE ALIGNMENT OF THE PREVIOUSLY REPORTED ROAD UNDER CONSTRUCTION (REF) NW OF YEN BAI IS INTERMITTANTLY OBSERVED THROUGH SCATTERED CLOUDS. THE ALIGNMENT AND CONDITION OF THE ROAD IS AS FOLLOWS: THE ROAD EXTENDS SE FROM ROUTE 4 AT 2222N 10414E, A POINT 17 NM SE OF LAO CAI, TO ITS JUNCTION WITH ROUTE 157 AT 2214N 10429E. THE ROAD CONTINUES SE FOLLOWING THE ALIGNMENT OF ROUTE 157 TO 2211N 10434E. FROM ROUTE 157 THE ROAD CONTINUES SE TO 2205N 10440E, THEN SOUTH TO 2203N 10440E AND THEN SE TO ITS JUNCTION WITH ROUTE 13A AT 2144N 10456E, A POINT 4.5 NM NE OF YEN BAI. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED IN REFERENCE, PORTIONS OF THE ROAD APPEAR GRAVELLED AND SERVICEABLE BUT THE MAJOR PORTION OF THE ROAD IS IN LATE STAGES OF GRADING. SEVERAL BRIDGES ARE OBSERVED IN EARLY STAGES OF CONSTRUCTION. THIS NEW ROAD WHEN COMPLETED WILL CONNECT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE CITIES OF LAO CAI (2230N 10358E) AND YEN BAI

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1 AUG 1966

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*seen by DIR-AD/DIR
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SPECIAL ASST
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(2141N 10453E) WHICH DOES NOT HAVE A DIRECT ROAD CONNECTION AT PRESENT.

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2. THE PREVIOUSLY REPORTED PROBABLE TELECOMMUNICATION/ POWER TRACE (REF) IS INTERMITTANTLY OBSERVED FROM 2231N 10401E, A POINT 2 NM ENE OF LAO CAI, GENERALLY SE FOLLOWING THE ALIGNMENT OF ROUTE 4 TO 2222N 10414E. THE TRACE THEN CONTINUES SE FOLLOWING THE GENERAL ALIGNMENT OF THE NEW ROAD UNDER CONSTRUCTION (PARAGRAPH ONE) TO 2214N 10429E; THEN EAST TO 2213N 10430E; THEN SE TO 2211N 10435E WHERE IT JUNCTIONS WITH THE ALIGNMENT OF ROUTE 157. THE TRACE CONTINUES SE GENERALLY FOLLOWING THE ALIGNMENT OF ROUTE 157 TO 2146N 10458E; THEN SW FOLLOWING THE ALIGNMENT OF ROUTE 13A TO ITS VISIBLE TERMINUS AT 2144N 10457E, A POINT 5 NM NE OF YEN BAI.

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3. INTERMITTANT SEGMENTS OF ROAD CONSTRUCTION ARE OBSERVED APPROXIMATELY 25 NM NW OF YEN BAI ON THE WEST BANK OF THE SONG HONG HA (RED RIVER) FROM 2158N 10435E (UTM VK580290) EASTWARD TO 2158N 10434E (UTM VK553293) THEN NW TO ITS PRESENT TERMINUS AT 2201N 10430E (UTM VK494349). THIS ROAD CONSTRUCTION CONSISTS OF SEVERAL SEGMENTS OF INITIAL ROAD CLEARING OPERATIONS AND EARTH MOVING ACTIVITY. THIS COULD BE A NORTHERN EXTENSION OF THE ROAD WHICH PARALLELS THE HA NOI/LAO CAI RAIL LINE NW FROM YEN BA (2141N 10453E) TO TRA HUT AT 2158N 10435E.

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4. A ROAD IN LATE STAGES OF CONSTRUCTION IS OBSERVED EXTENDING FROM ROUTE 604, 1.7 NM SW OF PHONG THU AT 2213N 10320E, TO THE END OF PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETABILITY AT 2227N 10323E. THE ROAD IS NEXT OBSERVED AT 2225N 10326E EXTENDING GENERALLY ESE FOLLOWING THE ALIGNMENT OF ROUTE 132 TO 2219N 10338E; THEN ENE TO 2222N 10348E; THEN SE TO CHA PA AT 2220N 10350E WHERE IT JUNCTIONS WITH THE PREVIOUSLY EXISTING ROUTE 4. NUMEROUS BRIDGES ARE UNDER CONSTRUCTION ALONG THE LENGTH OF THE ROAD, BUT FEW HAVE BEEN COMPLETED. THE MAJOR PORTION OF THE ROAD IS IN LATE STAGES OF GRADING, HOWEVER, SOME SEGMENTS APPEAR COMPLETE AND SERVICEABLE. THIS NEW ROAD WHEN COMPLETE WILL CONNECT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE CITIES OF LAO CAI (2230N 10358E) AND PHONG THO (2231N 10321E) AND WILL PROVIDE A LINK BETWEEN ROUTE 6 IN NORTH VIETNAM AND THE HA NOI - KUNMING RAIL LINE.

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MAP REF: UTM COORDINATES FROM AMS SERIES L701 SHEET 5976 IV, 5977 III
GEOGRAPHIC COORDINATES FROM JOG (G) NF 48-5, NF 48-6 & NF 48-10
GP-1

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-END OF MESSAGE-

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CITE NPIC 7934.