

NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC
INTERPRETATION CENTER

**PHOTOGRAPHIC
INTERPRETATION
REPORT**

**CONTINUING COMMUNIST LOGISTICS ACTIVITY
SEPONE AREA
LAOS**

SECRET
NO FOREIGN DISSEM

**NPIC/R-33/70
JUNE 1970**

WARNING

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PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION REPORT

**CONTINUING COMMUNIST LOGISTICS ACTIVITY
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ABSTRACT

This report describes the expansion and improvement of the Communist logistics network in eastern Laos adjacent to the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) between North and South Vietnam. The report, based on photography between late [REDACTED] contains text, a location map, and two photographs.

25X1D

SUMMARY

During the 1969-1970 dry season, the Communists constructed or have under construction at least 85 nautical miles (nm) of new roads in the area of Laos adjacent to the DMZ (Figure 1). This construction and the improved waterborne logistics network on the Se Bang Hieng (river) have significantly increased the Communist logistics capability in this area. A modest extension and improvement of the already existing telecommunications system and storage facilities is observed.

BASIC DESCRIPTION

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Construction of a new 37.8-nm road system across the North Vietnam-Laos border northwest of the DMZ is observed on photography of early [REDACTED]. Two generally parallel roads extend west from North Vietnam Route 1039, cross the border, and converge on the north bank of the Houay Trao (stream). The road divides again on the south bank of the stream and the southern branch extends towards another major segment of road construction which extends west-southwest to Ban Vanglave (village). This southernmost new road segment passes through a previously reported large insurgent encampment which contains only a few remaining structures (Figure 2). Construction continues on the previously reported road extending 9.3 nm south from Ban Vanglave toward the Sepone area.

Completion of a 10.7-nm segment of Route 92A and a 12.2-nm segment of an unnumbered road that parallels Route 92A establishes yet another infiltration corridor between the DMZ and the Sepone area.

The continuing use of the Se Bang Hieng (river), in conjunction with the opening of the Route 92A network (Figure 3), has significantly increased the Communist capability to move supplies through the area.

The construction of a Route 911 bypass, a new loop road just east of Sepone, new road construction east of Route 913, the completion of a Route 1039 bypass, and a 3-nm new road that extends west from Route 1039 at the Vietnam-Laos border raise the total of new roads completed or under construction in this part of Laos to at least 85 nm.

A new 7.2-nm probable telecommunications trace extends northwest from Ban Pakoy (village). The present terminus of this line is only 3 nm east of Line No. 2. A slight realignment of Line No. 3 northeast of Sepone is noted.

One of the more recently observed storage facilities located just north of Sepone has been expanded. An extensive network of roads and trails connects the stacks of supplies and structures that are in the area.

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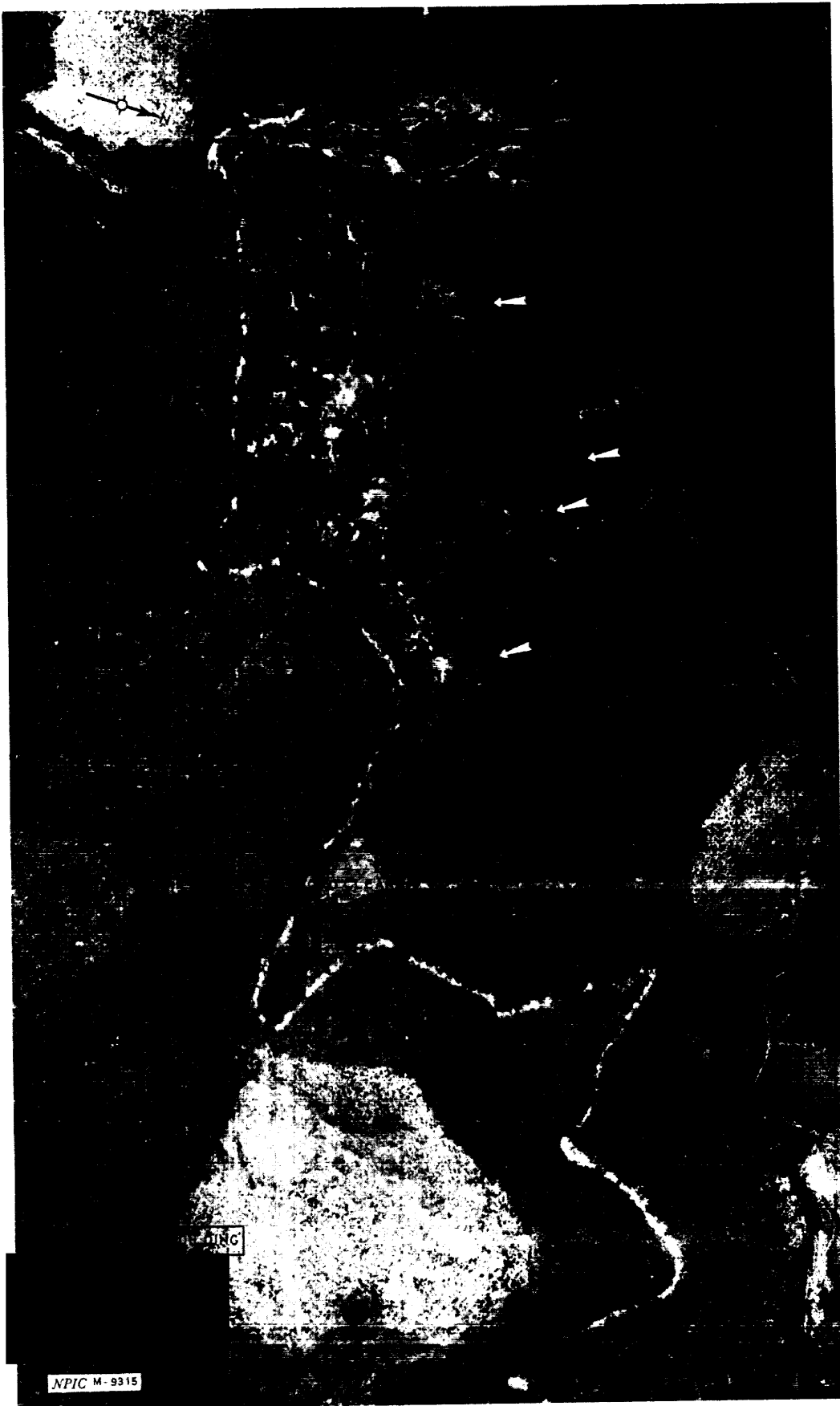


FIGURE 2. NEW ROAD CONSTRUCTION AND INSURGENT CAMP

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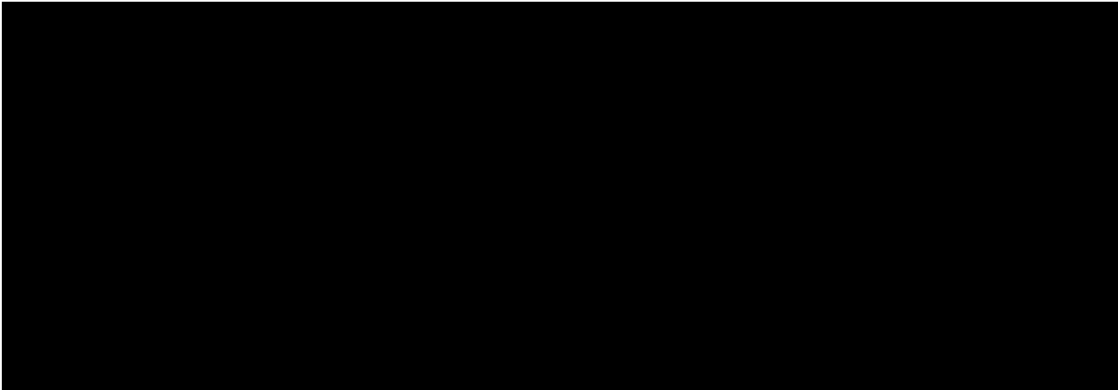
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25X1D FIGURE 3. TRANSSHIPMENT POINT, SE BANG HIENG RIVER

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REFERENCES



MAPS OR CHARTS

AMS Map, Series 1501, Sheets NE 48-11, 12, 15, 16; scale 1:250,000

RELATED DOCUMENTS

NPIC. R-46/69, Insurgent Camps and Storage Areas, Sepone Area, Laos,
May 69 (Confidential)

NPIC. R-17/70, Expansion of Road and Telecommunications Networks, Laos
Panhandle, Mar 70 (Secret No Foreign Dissem)

NPIC. R-32/70, POL Pipeline DMZ Area, North Vietnam and Laos, May 70
(Confidential)

REQUIREMENT

NPIC Project 150066NJ

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