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REFERENCE:

ATTACHMENT TO L-4725  
19 JANUARY 1968  
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COPY

RIVER CROSSING ACTIVITY  
RON, NORTH VIETNAM  
1752N 10626E

1. SIGNIFICANCE:

THIS BRIEFING BOARD DEPICTS DAYTIME VEHICULAR ACTIVITY ON THE ROADS AND FACILITIES AVAILABLE FOR CROSSING THE SONG RON (RIVER) DURING THE CHRISTMAS TRUCE, 24-25 DECEMBER 1967.

2. LOCATION:

THE ACTIVITY IS LOCATED IMMEDIATELY WEST OF THE VILLAGE OF RON AND THE INOPERABLE RON HIGHWAY FERRY OVER THE SONG RON [REDACTED] WEST OF ROUTE 1A.

3. BACKGROUND:

GROUND ACTION IN SOUTH VIETNAM WAS LARGELY SUSPENDED AND AIR OPERATIONS OVER NORTH VIETNAM WERE HALTED (EXCEPT FOR RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS) BY A DECEMBER 24-25, 1967 CHRISTMAS TRUCE AGREED TO BY THE ALLIES. THE VIET CONG OBSERVED A THREE-DAY TRUCE THAT STARTED 1 A.M. DECEMBER 24 AND ENDED 1 A.M. DECEMBER 27.

4. COLLATERAL:

NORTH VIETNAM USED THE ALLIED CHRISTMAS TRUCE TO IMPROVE ITS POSITION THROUGH LOGISTIC RESUPPLY OPERATIONS. ADVANTAGE WAS TAKEN OF THE CEASE FIRE TO MOVE LARGE AMOUNTS OF SUPPLIES TO THE SOUTHERN PART OF NORTH VIETNAM, TO LAOS, AND TO SOUTH VIETNAM.

DURING THE TRUCE, NORTH VIETNAMESE LOGISTIC ACTIVITIES WERE MOST EVIDENT

NGA review(s) completed.

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IN THE USE OF TRUCKS TO MOVE SUPPLIES SOUTHWARD. AS MANY AS FIVE HUNDRED AND FIFTY TRUCKS WERE OBSERVED ON ROUTE 1A BETWEEN THANH HOA AND DONG HOI. AN ADDITIONAL TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY TO THREE HUNDRED TRUCKS WERE SIGHTED DURING AND AFTER THE TRUCE. AT LEAST SEVEN HUNDRED AND FIFTY OF THE COMBINED TOTAL WERE HEADING SOUTH IN "BUMPER-TO-BUMPER" TRAFFIC ON THE ROAD BETWEEN THANH HOA AND VINH DURING THE CEASE FIRE. A MILE-LONG, FIFTY-FIVE TRUCK CONVOY WAS SEEN NORTH OF VINH AND APPROXIMATELY ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY TRUCKS WERE SEEN NEAR THE QUANG KHE FERRIES NORTH OF DONG HOI WHERE ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY SAMPANS CARRIED SUPPLIES ACROSS THE SONG GIANG (RIVER).

ASSUMING THAT EACH OF THE SEVEN HUNDRED AND FIFTY TRUCKS OBSERVED TRAVELLING SOUTH DURING AND JUST AFTER THE TRUCE CARRIED THREE TONS OF CARGO, UP TO 2,250 TONS OF MATERIAL WOULD HAVE BEEN MOVED DURING THE PERIOD. IF THE TONNAGE WERE DELIVERED TO SOUTH VIETNAM, IT WOULD BE EQUIVALENT TO APPROXIMATELY A NINETY-DAY SUPPLY OF THE ESTIMATED EXTERNAL REQUIREMENTS PROVIDED BY NORTH VIETNAM TO VIET CONG AND NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY FORCES IN SOUTH VIETNAM.

WATER-BORNE LOGISTIC CRAFT ACTIVITY WAS NOT SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASED DURING THE TRUCE PROBABLY BECAUSE THERE WAS INSUFFICIENT TIME TO EMPLOY THESE CRAFT.

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5. MISSION READOUT:

[REDACTED] REVEALS A BY-PASS ROAD THAT LEAVES THE SOUTH BANK OF THE SONG RON AT UTM XE524765 AND CROSSES THE RIVER APPROXIMATELY 0.5 NM UPSTREAM, WEST OF ROUTE 1A. THIS ROUTE TRAVERSES A FORD BEFORE CROSSING THE TIP OF AN ISLAND AND BISECTING THE MAIN CHANNEL VIA A FERRY CROSSING AT UTM XE516773. UPON REACHING THE NORTH BANK THE ROUTE LINKS UP WITH ANOTHER BY-PASS ROAD.

A SOUTHBOUND CONVOY OF TWENTY-FOUR CANVAS-COVERED CARGO TRUCKS ARE OBSERVED ON ROUTE 1A APPROACHING THE ROUTE 1A BY-PASS (WHICH UTILIZES ROUTE 108) AND MOVING TOWARD THE RIVER CROSSING.

(INSET 1)

SIX CARGO TRUCKS ARE OBSERVED NORTHBOUND ON THE NORTH SIDE OF THE RIVER AND FIVE ADDITIONAL CARGO TRUCKS ARE MOVING SOUTH ON THE BY-PASS (TWO ON THE MID-RIVER ISLAND AWAITING FERRY CROSSING AND THREE APPROACHING THE FORD CROSSING).

(INSET 2)

ONE TRUCK IS SOUTHBOUND ON ROUTE 1A ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE RIVER.

[REDACTED]  
UTM COORDINATES ARE TAKEN FROM AMS SERIES L7014, SHEET 6244 I.

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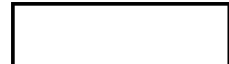
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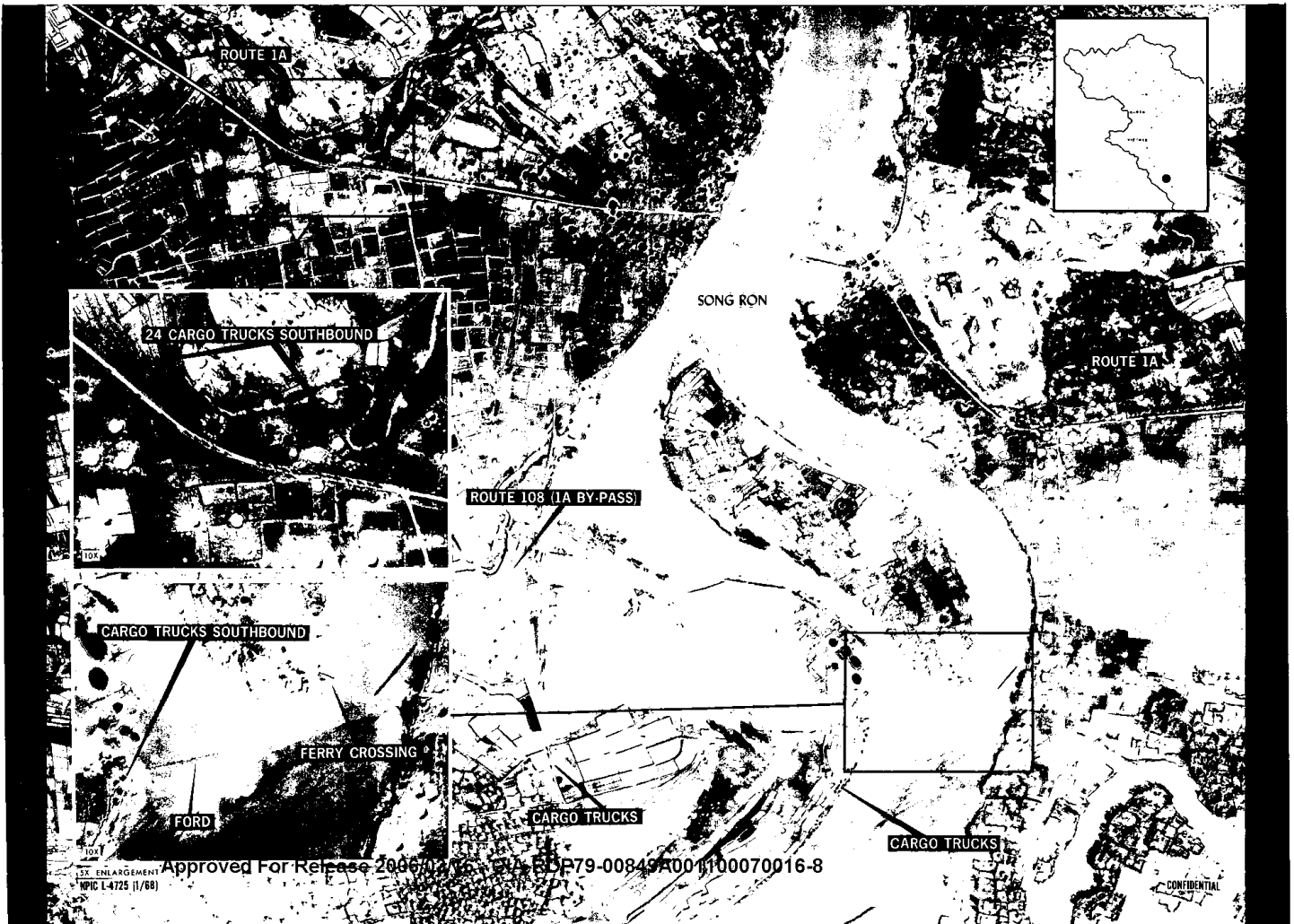
# RIVER CROSSING ACTIVITY

## RON, NORTH VIETNAM

17-52N 106-26E



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ENLARGEMENT  
TOPIC L-4125 (1/68)

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