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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Indochina

DATE DISTR. 17 Aug. 1950

SUBJECT Situation in Viet Minh-held Areas of Tonkin

NO. OF PAGES 1

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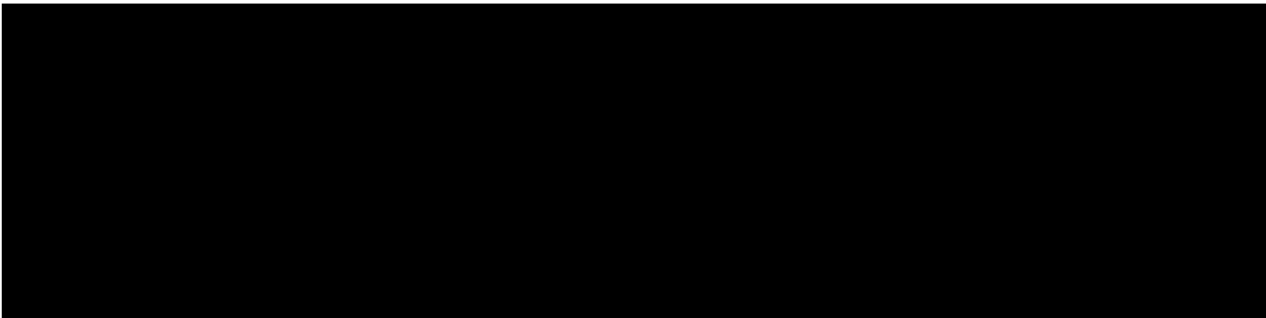
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DATE OF INFO. [REDACTED]

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.



1. The bulk of the Viet Minh armed forces in the Tonkin area remain concentrated in a triangle formed by the Ha Giang, Bac Kan, and Thuyen Quang provinces. In Annam, the Viet Minh is strong in Thanh Hoa, Ha Tinh, and Nghean.
2. There is no evidence of armor-piercing anti-tank rifles or of new type armored equipment at present.* However, the Viet Minh is known to have a few rocket guns which are used mostly against brick wall outposts, and have been occasionally fired on convoys. The French military believe that these guns are of Soviet origin and were delivered through China.
3. The following is unconfirmed information based on rumors current among the local Vietnamese:
 - a. The Viet Minh has received two or three small planes from the Chinese Communists. Since such a small number could have little effect on Viet Minh strength, it is believed the planes were sent for morale purposes only. This rumor is unconfirmed by the French military.
 - b. Small airports are being built in the vicinity of Bac Kan.
 - c. It is believed that estimates of food shortages in certain Viet Minh-held areas of Tonkin have been greatly exaggerated. Food supplies are obtained by the Viet Minh through village raids and tribute, and also through purchases smuggled from Hanoi. The latter is becoming increasingly difficult however.
 - d. The Ho piaster has depreciated considerably in some areas.
 - e. General air activity has increased locally.

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Next Review Date: 2008

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