

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Intelligence Information Cable

PRIORITY
IN 57383

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CITE

DIST 24 FEBRUARY 1968

COUNTRY: LAOS
DOI: 18-23 FEBRUARY 1968 EXCEPT AS STATED
SUBJECT: ENEMY ACTIVITIES IN AREAS EAST OF PHOU PHA THI
AND AROUND SAM NEUA WHICH HAVE A BEARING ON
THE SITUATION AT PHOU PHA THI
ACQ: LAOS, VIENTIANE (24 FEBRUARY 68) FIELD NO.]
SOURCE:]

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1. ON 21 FEBRUARY 1968 FOUR NORTH VIETNAMESE BATTALIONS ARRIVED AT PHOU DEN DIN (UH 7660), WHICH IS JUST OUTSIDE A 12-KILOMETER RADIUS AROUND PHOU PHA THI (UH 6860), SITE 85. SOME OF THE NVA TROOPS TOOK UP POSITIONS AT UH 7764.

2. AT 1740 HOURS ON 22 FEBRUARY A ROAD-WATCH TEAM OPERATING ON ROUTE 6 AT VH 0460 REPORTED 32 TRUCKS WEST. AT 2040 HOURS THE SAME DAY THE TEAM

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REPORTED 27 TRUCKS EAST.

3. AT 1000 HOURS ON 22 FEBRUARY AN AUTO-DÉFENSE DE CHOC PATROL CLASHED WITH AN ENEMY UNIT AT UH 69356B AND KILLED TWO ENEMY SOLDIERS.

4. ON 18 FEBRUARY A NVA BATTALION COMMANDER ARRIVED AT UH 735635 WITH ONE NVA SOLDIER AND FOUR ME0 PATHET LAO. ONE OF THE ME0, WHO INTERPRETED FOR THE NVA COMMANDER, USED A MEGAPHONE TO TELL THE VILLAGERS NOT TO GO NEAR PHOU PHA THI BECAUSE HIS TROOPS INTENDED TO USE BIG GUNS AGAINST IT WHEN THEY ATTACKED.

5. ON 18 FEBRUARY 100 NVA TROOPS WITH ONE 75MM RECOILLESS RIFLE MOVED WEST PAST UH 945585.

6. ON 20 FEBRUARY ONE NVA BATTALION WAS IN POSITION BETWEEN UH 905647 AND UH 915642. TWO NVA COMPANIES WERE AT UH 916618 AND TWO NVA COMPANIES AND A COOPERATIVE STORE WERE AT UH 907644, ABOUT 600 METERS NORTH OF HUA XIENG (UH 9164).

7. ON 20 FEBRUARY ABOUT 300 ENEMY TROOPS MOVED FROM BAN HONG NON (UH 8355) AND PHOU CHIK NOU (UH 8157) TO UH 9659 BECAUSE OF AIR STRIKES ON THEIR POSITION.

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8. ON 20 FEBRUARY 300 CONSCRIPTED COOLIES PASSED SOP HAO (VH 4273) MOVING TOWARD SAM NEUA (VH 0158). THE NORTH VIETNAMESE HAD CONSCRIPTED THESE COOLIES FROM MUONG HET (UH 9701) AND XIENG KHO (VJ 1101) ON 1 FEBRUARY TO CARRY SUPPLIES TO FORCES IN THE PHOU PHA THI AREA.

9. AT 0900 HOURS ON 21 FEBRUARY 400 ROAD WORKERS WERE WORKING ON THE EXTENSION OF ROUTE 602 AT UH 810594. HALF OF THESE LABORERS WERE WORKING EAST TO UH 814595 AND THE OTHERS WERE WORKING WEST TO UH 801591. SHORTLY AFTER 0900 HOURS AIRCRAFT STRUCK AND CUT THE ROAD. ONE HUNDRED TROOPS WERE AT UH 772625.

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