

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
Intelligence Information Cable

PRIORITY

IN 67343

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GROUP 1  
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CITE

DIST 10 MARCH 1968

COUNTRY: LAOS  
 DOI: 11 MARCH 1968  
 SUBJECT: ENEMY ATTACK ON PHOU PHA THI, SITE 85, DURING  
 EARLY MORNING OF 11 MARCH AND ARRIVAL OF  
 ENEMY TROOPS AT TACAN SITE  
 ACQY: LAOS, VIENTIANE (11 MARCH 1968) FIELD NO  
 SOURCE:

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34 (b)(1)

1. BY 0735 HOURS ON 11 MARCH 1968 ENEMY SOLDIERS HAD REACHED THE TACAN SITE AT PHOU PHA THI (UH 6663), AND ABOUT 100 ENEMY SOLDIERS WITH TWO MACHINE GUNS WERE FIRING DOWN ON THE HELICOPTER PAD. THE DEFENDERS STILL CONTROLLED THE TRAIL SYSTEMS TO THE SUMMIT (UH 664615); IT APPEARS, THEREFORE, THAT THE ENEMY SOLDIERS SCALED THE SHEER ROCK CLIFFS ON THE NORTHWESTERN SIDE OF PHOU PHA THI. THE OUTPOSTS AROUND PHOU PHA THI WERE STILL

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1. IN THE HANDS OF THE DEFENDERS. ONE HELICOPTER HAD SUCCESSFULLY  
EVACUATED SOME SOLDIERS WHO HAD BEEN WOUNDED AT THE 105MM  
HOWITZER POSITION AT UH 668603. THE PERSONNEL IN THE  
COMMAND BUNKER WERE OUT OF CONTACT WITH TACAN PERSONNEL.

2. AT 0355 HOURS ON 11 MARCH INCOMING ENEMY  
MORTARS WERE LANDING ON THE TOP OF PHOU PHA THI,  
AND SMALL ARMS FIRE WAS HITTING THE COMMAND BUNKER. THE  
DEFENDERS ON THE CREST OF THE MOUNTAIN TOTALLED 203 MEN. THE  
COMMAND BUNKER WAS OUT OF CONTACT WITH THE TACAN SITE,  
WHICH APPEARED TO BE BURNING.

3. AT 0440 HOURS ON 11 MARCH THE DEFENDERS WERE STILL  
BEING SUBJECTED TO HEAVY INCOMING FIRE AND THE SITUATION WAS  
SERIOUS. AT 0445 HOURS HEAVY MORTAR FIRE WAS COMING FROM THE  
SOUTH. SMALL ARMS FIRE WAS STILL HITTING THE VICINITY OF THE  
COMMAND BUNKER.

4. AT 0505 HOURS POST NUMBER ONE WAS RECEIVING HEAVY  
WEAPONS FIRE. INTERMITTENT HEAVY ROCKET FIRE WAS HITTING  
THE CREST OF PHOU PHA THI FROM THE SOUTH; THIS ROCKET FIRE  
WAS EXTREMELY EFFECTIVE. THE DEFENDERS WERE HOLDING, BUT  
THE COMMAND BUNKER WAS STILL OUT OF CONTACT WITH THE TACAN

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- 5. AT 0545 HOURS THE INCOMING FIRE CEASED.
  - 6. AT 0620 HOURS SMOKE WAS COMING FROM THE TACAN SITE. BY 0655 HOURS A PATROL SENT TO ASCERTAIN STATUS OF TACAN PERSONNEL WAS ENGAGED IN A FIRE FIGHT NEAR THE TACAN SITE.
  - 7. FIELD DISSEM: STATE ARMY AIR USMACV 7TH AIR FORCE CINCPAC PACFLT PACAF ARPAC
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