

LTS - HK57043

TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE

February 11, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT
FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER
SUBJECT: North Vietnamese Raids

The three PTF boats entered target waters at 1:00 p.m. yesterday afternoon and made contact with four North Vietnamese vessels. Results are as follows:

- 1 Haiphong TL-15 class motorized junk sunk
- 1 Large motorized fishing junk sunk
- 1 Large motorized fishing junk damaged
- 1 SL-4 class trawler damaged (this vessel is reported to have escaped destruction by running up the Nguon Nay River at Quang Khe)
- 8 Survivors recovered (3 were WIA) (See inclosure for details on POW handling procedures.)

Initial reports indicate that the coastal defense site near Dong Hoi was not struck due to heavier than expected ammunition expenditures during the patrol.

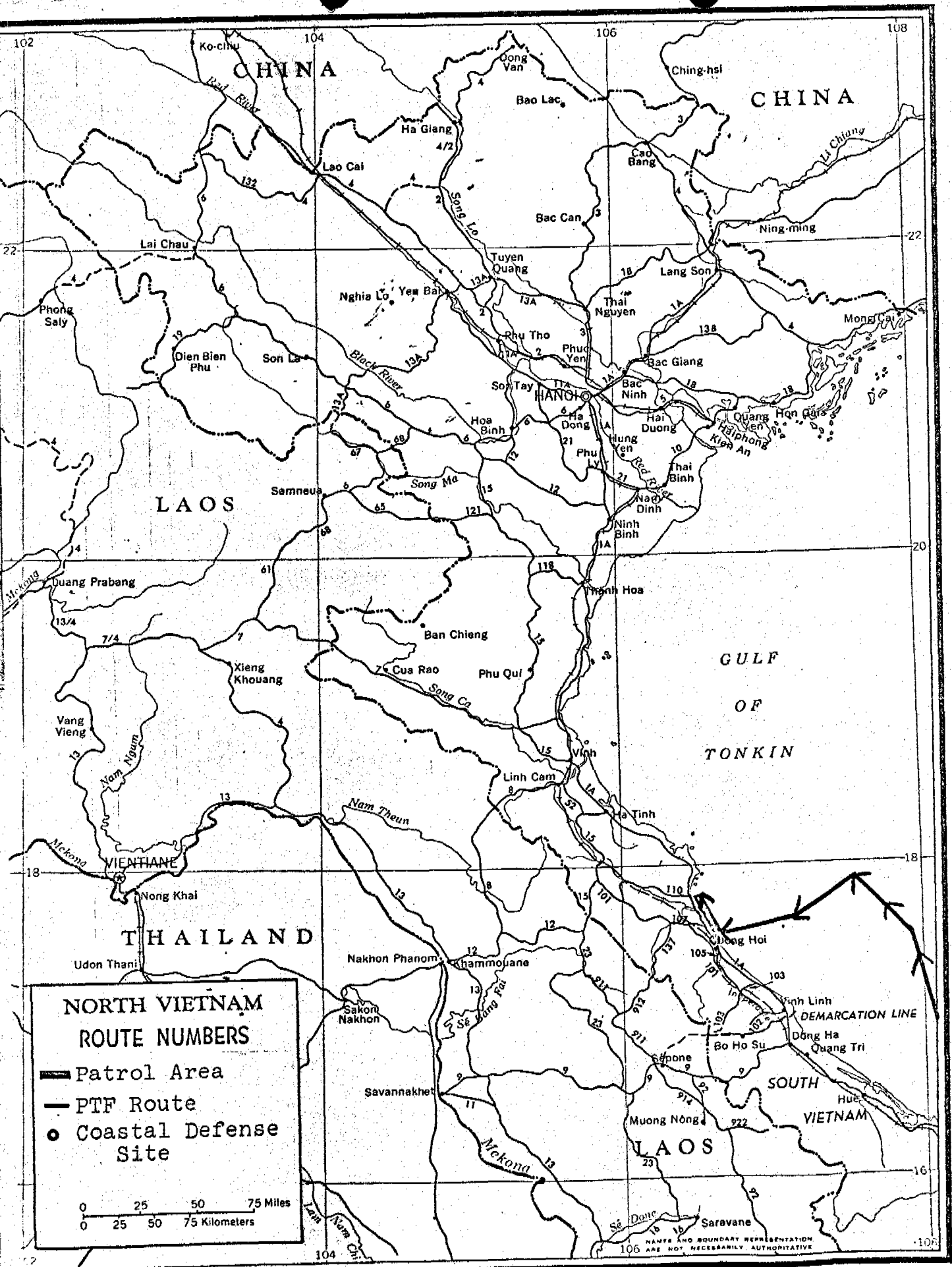
All PTF returned to Danang with no reported casualties or damage at 9:45 p.m. EST (9:45 a.m. Hanoi time).

OSD Review Completed

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

HAK:AMH:lds:2/11/71

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SPRUCE GUM/NEWPORT CASINO

POW HANDLING PROCEDURES

The eight prisoners taken on this mission were recovered as a humanitarian gesture, as opposed to allowing them to die at sea. They will be blindfolded during all periods in which they could possibly determine their location. They will be interned and medically treated by Vietnamese at Camp Black Rock, near Danang. The prisoners will be isolated from US personnel at all times and led to believe that they are still in North Vietnam in the hands of the notional dissident organization, the Sacred Sword Patriot's League (SSPL). Following medical treatment as required, the prisoners will be subjected to intelligence interrogation and some psychological indoctrination conducted by Vietnamese using the northern dialect and purporting to be SSPL cadre. When sufficiently recovered to withstand travel, these prisoners will be returned to the area in which they were captured and released in basket boats, a small craft commonly found in North Vietnamese waters. This release will be in conjunction with authorized SPRUCE GUM or NEWPORT CASINO operations. US deniability of these operations has not been jeopardized by the rescue of these North Vietnamese seamen.

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