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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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There are indications that the French High Command intends to launch an offensive operation aimed at the northern Annam zone (Vinh, Ha Tinh, Dong Hoi area), which is the base for Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV) units now invading Laos.

[ ] Comment.

It is possible that Navarre is allowing certain leaks regarding French "offensive plans" in order to confuse DRV intelligence. If the report is true, the move would be an audacious step in light of the current threat to Dien Bien Phu and northern Laos, and would be a radical switch from current conservative French strategy.

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(b)(3)

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