

TELEGRAM

SUBJECT
Foreign Service of the
United States of America

INCOMING 10 17 PM '66
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MILGP RUESBG/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
USIS RUESDO/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
BRAS-2 RUESGT/AMEMBASSY GUATEMALACITY
RDG RUESJO/AMEMBASSY SANJOSE
FILE RUESKN/AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
RUESLM/AMEMBASSY LIMA
RUESMG/AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
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SUBJ: ADDENDUM TO VIET-NAM WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

FOR THE CHIEF OF MISSION

1. NORTH KOREAN PILOTS IN NORTH VIET-NAM: DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN MCCLOSKEY ON DECEMBER 22 REFERRED TO SAIGON ANNOUNCEMENT AND SAID QUOTE WE HAVE INHPLIGENCE REPORTS CONFIRMING PRESENCE IN NORTH VIET-NAM OF 25 TO 50 NORTH KOREAN PILOTS. WE HAVE NO INDICATION THATPHEY ARE INVOLVED IN COMBAT UNQUOTE.

2. ON BACKGROUND HE SAID WE HAVE HAD INDICATIONS OF THEIR PRESENCE FOR SOME WEEKS AND IT WOULD BE REASONABLE TO EXHECT THAT TRAINING WOSLD BE THEIR ROLE.

3. SPOKESMAN REITERATED ON RECORD EARLIER COUNT OF MIG AIRCRAFT (40-50 MIGS 15 AND 17, AND 15-20 MIGS 21). THEN, ON BACKGROUND, HE DESCRIBED THE MIGS AS HAVING BEEN SUPPLIED BY THE SOVIET UNION. HE ALLOWED FOR THE POSSIBILITY SOME HAD BEEN SUPPLIED BY

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POL 2-5 VIETNAM

12-23-66

THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS. HE SAID HE HAD NO INFORMATION ON WHETHER OR NOT MIG AIRCRAFT HAD BEEN SUPPLIED BY NORTH KOREA; THAT HE COULD NOT ANSWER WHETHER NORTH KOREAN PILOTS ARE FLYING ANY AIRCRAFT.

4. CONTINUING ON BACKGROUND SPOKESMAN SAID QUOTE THERE ARE AN UNDETERMINED NUMBER OF SOVIET MILITARY ADVISERS AND TECHNICIANS, PROBABLY INVOLVED PRINCIPALLY IN THE INSTALLATION AND TRAINING PHASES OF THE MORE SOPHISTICATED ASPECTS OF THE AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM. THEN THERE ARE THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS WE KNOW TO BE THERE. WE HAVE USED A FIGURE OF APPROXIMATELY 40,000. THE PEOPLE ARE ENGAGED PRIMARILY IN CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES, INCLUDE SOME TECHNICIANS. AND WE HAVE SAID BEFORE THEIR NUMBER INCLUDES SOME INTEGRATED SELF-DEFENSE UNITS, POSSIBLY AA BATTERIES. NOW, IT IS POSSIBLE ALSO THAT IN NORTH VIET-NAM THERE ARE SMALL NUMBERS OF TECHNICIANS FROM EAST EUROPEAN COMMUNIST COUNTRIES. BUT I HAVE NO ESTIMATE ON NUMBERS UNQUOTE.

5. ASKED IF THE US REGARDS THIS INTRODUCTION OF NORTH KOREANS INTO NORTH VIET-NAM AS A MATTER OF CONCERN, THE SPOKESMAN REPLIED THAT HE WAS GOING TO LEAVE THE QUESTION WITHOUT SUBSTANTIVE COMMENT, NOTING HE HAD PROVIDED AS MUCH FACTUAL INFORMATION AS HE COULD.
RUSK