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CIB, 22 MARCH

*South Vietnam: There are tentative reports of enemy air-drops in an area of South Vietnam southwest of Pleiku, near the Cambodian border. On the night of 19-20 March, a joint US - South Vietnamese radar station at Pleiku picked up six unidentified aircraft apparently making airdrops in the vicinity of Route 19; the following night the same radar station noted 20 planes, accompanied by four fighters, making drops in the same area. A trained American at the radar site, commenting on this information from Vietnamese sources, stated that in his opinion the radar actually picked up the items alleged. The aircraft are said to have left the area in the direction of Cambodia.

If further information confirms that these flights actually occurred, it would be the first firm evidence of such support of the Viet Cong in South Vietnam by the bloc. South Vietnamese officials apparently accept the validity of these reports and have already requested the introduction of US interceptor aircraft and antiaircraft weapons into South Vietnam. (SECRET NO FURTHER DISSEMINATION) (Map)