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7 September 1955

[Redacted box]

Copy No. 99

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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

DOCUMENT NO. 5
NO CHANGE IN CLASS.
 DECLASSIFIED
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S C
NEXT REVIEW DATE: 2010
AUTH: HR 70-2
DATE: 15 JAN 1980 REVIEWER: [Redacted box]

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Office of Current Intelligence

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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State Dept. review completed

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Approved For Release 2004/07/08 : CIA-RDP79T00975A002200050001-1

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**2. VIET MINH COMMUNICATIONS WITH HEADQUARTERS
IN SOUTH VIETNAM DESCRIBED**

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The Viet Minh's headquarters in South Vietnam is located near the southern tip of Vietnam and is provided with money, supplies, and documents from

the north by Chinese junks

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An overland supply route

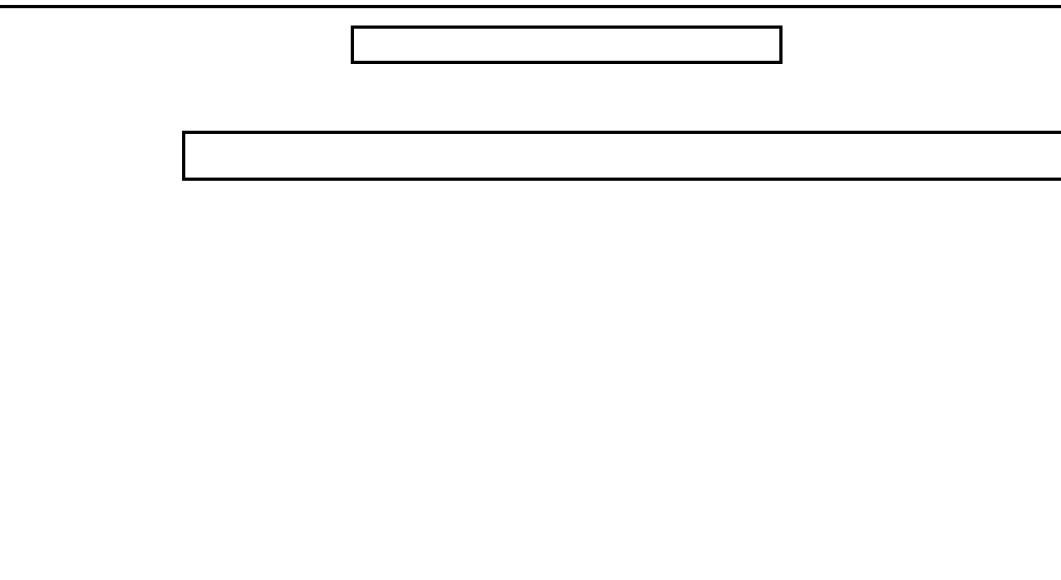
through southern Laos is also used.

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3. IRANIAN ATTITUDE TOWARD MIDDLE EAST DEFENSE PACT

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[REDACTED] Iranian prime minister Ala set forth to Ambassador Chapin on 2 September what appears to be Iran's initial bargaining position with reference to joining the Turkish-Iraqi pact.

Ala asked for American and British guarantees to defend Iran against the USSR. He also said Iran needs more American financial aid because its armed forces take up 60 percent of the country's budget and asked for restoration to Iran of the Persian Gulf island of Bahrein.

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[REDACTED]
The prime minister's exaggeration of his country's arms expenditures and his reiteration of claims to Bahrein indicate that this position is a preliminary one.

The Shah is interested in area defense at the present time, but failure to obtain satisfactory terms for joining the pact would, as Ambassador Chapin suggests, lead Iran to adopt an increasingly neutral position.

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