

January 4, 1961

~~TOP SECRET~~Laos

Soviet IL-14 transports flew at least 11, but probably 15 sorties to the Vientiane/Vang Vieng area and one to Sam Neua on 1 January. On the same day one North Vietnamese IL-14 flew two sorties from Hanoi: one to a point near the South Vietnamese border and the other to Dien Bien Phu. [redacted]

[redacted] there was "heavy Soviet air activity" in the Xieng Khouang area on 2 January but this was not reflected in available communications intelligence. On 1 January, Soviet and North Vietnamese transports flew a total of 11 confirmed sorties to Vang Vieng -- instead of 21 as previously reported -- 10 by Soviet IL-14's and one by a North Vietnamese transport. Ten Soviet and four North Vietnamese transports are scheduled to fly into Laos on 3 January. Between 3 December and 1 January, Soviet IL-14s have flown 166 sorties from Hanoi to the Vientiane/Vang Vieng area. The five Soviet MI-4 helicopters probably enroute to Laos remain at Changsha.

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