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...is the name of brother of subject, 39 yrs old. His true name is not clear, but he is 46 (?) yrs old. When in Vietnam, he often cooperated with the police to organize escapes for boat people, then later arrested them in order to confiscate their gold. He did not have the intention to leave on this trip, but he was forced by my older brother. He did not have a choice, so he had to come along. The information that he claims, I suggest an evaluation and careful assessment. This information was given by others who left on the same boat with him.

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in English

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April 12, 82

Received order to contact the leaders of the Royal Lao Revolutionary Army to ask for assistance of food and ammunition at location F, located 35 km North East of Sam Nua Province. We were 6 people in the team to assess food and forestry resources, with tdy papers 20 days issued by the Dept of Forestry in Hanoi, started the trip at 3 AM Dec 4, 82 from Dong Ha, by military vehicle, using route 9 passing Khe Sanh, arriving at Lao Bao at 2:15 o'clock. Here, there were 2 border checkpoints manned by the Lao & Vietnamese police. After finishing border entry procedure, a Lao border guard joined our team to be our interpreter, also to escort us during our mission along the border area. The study/reconnaissance forest area stretched 300 km from Tepechone (Laos) to Dien Bien Phu (Vietnam). Our vehicle arrived in Xieng around 2PM on the same day. Our team stopped outside of the province and began our trip by foot across the Truong Son mountain, along the Ho Chi Minh trail (Highway Route 2A). The jungle was dense and dangerous. Ho Chi Minh trail was repaired, with oil pipeline running parallel, tele communication line to Laos and Cambodia, the B52 craters were all filled, occasionally we saw military convoys with supplies from Vietnam, traveling south.

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April 18, 82

Our group arrived at the highland area Luang Prabang, That Kheo Village, parallel with Nam Dinh, Vietnam. Ho Chi Minh trail no longer connected here. We followed another road, T42 Trail. (according to the interpreter, this trail was built by the Pathet Lao at teh end of 1974, a road wide enough for a medium size truck, very uneven and windy in the middle of mountains and hills. After several days working and crossing the jungle, we arrived to the Northeast region at the Vietnam border, by a large river. On both sides of the river bank, there were huge trees, with very large diameters. This is the downstream jungle (the river was called That Luang). It's a deep river with lots of rocks in the bottom. According to the team leader, across the river around 6 km north, there was a Vietnamese military installation working (special Communist Battallion 320).

April 21, 82

We used lo-o trees to make floats to travel across the river around 11 AM on April 21, 82. It took us more than 4 hours to cross, because the current was strong. Arriving the other side, around 1 AM [?] during the day we set the tents to rest by the river bank. It's summer time, but it was cold because the dense forest covering the area, there was no trail, therefore we

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stood by the mountain top to look West. There was a valley with a row of around 40 huts near a small stream. Toward the southeast side, it appeared to be a small military post, surrounded by trenches and a tall fence made of sharp, pointed wood sticks. Two large huts with wooden walls, in the middle there was another house and a narrow yard. Four large and tall people, with unrecognizable faces, were walking from the middle house to the small hut with two smaller and shorter people.

April 22, 82

SCD 1-3

We left the valley Thao La at 2 AM, traveled back toward Southeast direction to arrive to the Vietnam border at the Ho Chi Minh trail, 9:15 AM. When we went down a slope, we saw 2 people trying to climb up a mountain from a little far away; both were black people, tall and large, carrying something in their back; walking behind them is a small person carrying gun. The Lao soldier/guide told us that they were American prisoners doing their daily labor work. The guide made us turn to a different track to go down the mountain. Before going into a dense forest, I borrow the map of our team leader, wrote quickly the details in a small piece of paper $(7+9+14)-(14+12+4) \times (2+4+16+7) (14+15) \times (20)+4+8+3)-(15+18)?(9)+(2+9+21)$

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planning to open the road following the direction of the compass, in the next several days, the Lao border post soldier was our tour guide? The atmosphere here was so calm.

April 26, 82

We uprooted our tents and headed north upstream along the river, walking for 2 days, we came to a new forest (Samon Forest), with new Samon trees around 3m high. This area has a village of the Lao named Thao La, this forest is around 2.5 km long, mixed with white rocky hill (white Thach Anh rocks). Opening the map, I saw that this area is next to Dien Bien Phu Vietnam, 20 km from Vietnam border. Toward the Northeast direction, leaving this new forest, one would see many old forests next to each other. We had to climb across a mountain, with steep slope (going down to a small valley), behind it is Thao La. According to the Lao guide, "This is a village belonging to a Lao minority tribe specialized in agriculture and raising cotton worms for cloth weaving. Also, there was a prison camp here, which was keeping American prisoners who committed cruelty during the war before 1975 in Laos. This camp just received around 50 Americans, you can't go there because of a prohibition order from our superiors."

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$(16+18) + (14+15+18+?+8)$ 20 deg North
 $(5+?+8+3) \times (14+15+18+?+8)$ 104 deg East
 $(23+4+?+7)-(21+19+9)$ 41 Luang Prabang (E)
 $(21+19+21+3)(23+4+?+8) (20+4+?+8)$ 34 miles border Vietnam.

SCD 1-4