

FBIS

SC

FCC

IV. 11 Apr 80

L A O S

I 1

ESCAPEE UPS COUNT OF U.S. PILOTS IN LAOS TO 'SCORES'

Data

[Excerpt] Bangkok, *Da* ---Scores of Americans may be under arrest in a Laotian prison camp near the border with Vietnam, according to a French pilot who escaped from a prison near Vientiane last month. The pilot, *SC* *SD*, who was being expelled from Thailand to France tonight, expressed the conviction that up to 100 Americans might be held, based on a conversation he had with a truck driver who claimed to have seen them.

In an interview today, *SC* said the truck driver, son of his adoptive father, had described the prison camp as being full of "big whites," presumably American pilots captured during Vietnam war-related missions. "The Laotians don't build prison camps for less than 100 people and they don't mix in just anybody. Given the history of U.S. involvement, I believe they were Americans," said *SC*, who claims to have worked for United States intelligence.

The U.S. Embassy in Bangkok was unable to confirm or deny *SC* claims which have varied considerably since he arrived in the Thai border province of Nong Khai after swimming the Mekong 11 days ago.

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ISSUES HOLIDAY OBSERVANCE INSTRUCTIONS

BK111128 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 7 Apr 80 BX

[Apparent text of 7 April instruction issued by Council of Ministers on celebration of Lao traditional New Year]

[Text] To all ministries, ministerial-level committees and provincial and city administrative committees:

The old year will shortly pass and the new year will begin. According to the Lao people's traditions, New Year's Eve will fall on 13 April 1980 at 1246; and New Year's Day will fall on 15 April 1980 at 1736 [lunar calendar].

In the old year, the Lao people of all nationalities have energetically emulated to score achievements to bid farewell to the old year and welcome the forthcoming new year with a spirit of vigor, joy and determination to overcome all obstacles caused by the nation's enemy and natural disasters. This spirit is reflected by the movement to produce food supplies in agricultural cooperatives, build irrigation projects, defend the country, maintain public security and improve education, culture and our living conditions, as clearly stipulated in the seventh resolution of the party Central Committee.

In addition, while our people were recording the above great achievements in preparation for the new year, an atmosphere of revolutionary enthusiasm emerged, an atmosphere of preparations for celebrating the two historic days--the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the LPRP and the 5th anniversary of the establishment of the LPR. Moreover, such an atmosphere emerged at a time when the revolution in Indochina and the world was bringing into full play its offensive and superior position in the struggle against the imperialists and the Beijing reactionary ruling clique, thus favorably affecting the revolution and socialist transformation and construction in our country.

To take advantage of the favorable, rare conditions--namely, the situation of the revolution is now and hence now extremely favorable to the revolution in Laos--and at a time when the Lao people are in festive mood prior to traditionally bidding farewell to the old year and welcoming the new, it is imperative for leading organizations at all levels to strive to mobilize the entire party, army and people to fully realize and fulfill the demands and spirit of the seventh resolution of the party Central Committee, aimed at materializing the

0070

NND 982009 - 1957