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TOT: 092058Z JAN 87~~SECRET~~

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TO: DIRNSA, DEPT OF STATE, DIA, WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM,

SERIAL:

PASS:

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WARNING: INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE.

REPORT CLASS ~~SECRET~~

DIST: 09 JANUARY 1987

EXCLUSIVE DISSEMINATION FOR ADDRESSEES LISTED AT END OF REPORT

COUNTRY: LAOS

SUBJ: POW-MIA: REPORTED RECAPTURE OF ALLEGED LIVE MISSING-
IN-ACTION AMERICAN IN KHAMMOUAN PROVINCE, LAOS BY THE
LAO PEOPLE'S ARMY

DOI: 4 JANUARY 1987

SOURCE:

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TEXT: 1. ON 26 DECEMBER 1986, [REDACTED] CROSSED FROM VEUN PRABAT VILLAGE, THA UTHEN DISTRICT, NAKHON PHANOM PROVINCE, THAILAND INTO LAOS TO ATTEMPT TO VERIFY THE EXISTENCE OF ALLEGED LIVE AMERICAN MISSING-IN-ACTION (MIA) [REDACTED] REPORTEDLY BEING HIDDEN FROM THE LAO AUTHORITIES IN KHAMMOUAN PROVINCE. TRAVELED BY BUS TO MAHAXAI (WE 2125) DISTRICT TOWN. TWO DAYS LATER HE TRAVELED THROUGH PHAKEO (WE 6512) VILLAGE TO PAK PHANANG (WE 7723) VILLAGE WHERE HE ALSO REMAINED FOR TWO DAYS. WHILE AT PHAKEO VILLAGE, [REDACTED] WAS TOLD BY [REDACTED]

WHERE [REDACTED] WAS REPORTEDLY BEING HIDDEN, THAT THE LAO PEOPLE'S ARMY (LPA) HAD RAIDED THE VILLAGE AND RECAPTURED [REDACTED] ON 20 DECEMBER. [REDACTED] CAUTIONED [REDACTED] AGAINST TRAVELING TO NAPANG VILLAGE WHICH WAS STILL QUITE "HOT". PERSUADED [REDACTED] TO ACCOMPANY HIM TO NAPANG VILLAGE BECAUSE [REDACTED] WOULD PROVIDE A REASON FOR TRAVELING THERE. [REDACTED] COMMENT: [REDACTED] WAS NOT AWARE OF THE PURPOSE OF [REDACTED]'S TRIP TO ATTEMPT TO VERIFY THE STORY OF [REDACTED] EXISTENCE. HOWEVER, THE REPORTED LPA RAID ON NAPANG VILLAGE HAS NOT BEEN INDEPENDENTLY VERIFIED.)

2. [REDACTED] AT NAPANG VILLAGE ON 31 DECEMBER. [REDACTED] SAID THAT LPA HAD RAIDED THE VILLAGE WITHOUT THE KNOWLEDGE OR INVOLVEMENT OF THE MILITIA AND THAT [REDACTED], THE VILLAGER WHO HAD HIDDEN [REDACTED] HAD BEEN ARRESTED ALONG WITH [REDACTED] AND THE TWO OF THEM HAD BEEN TAKEN TO AN UNDISCLOSED LOCATION IN BOUALAPHA (WE 8075) DISTRICT. [REDACTED] SAID THAT [REDACTED] ADMITTED TO CARING FOR THE PRISONER TO THE LPA BUT HAD NOT YET INFORMED THEM THAT ANY OTHER NAPANG VILLAGERS WERE INVOLVED. [REDACTED] PROMISED TO FOLLOW THE MATTER AND SAID THAT IF [REDACTED] HAD CONFIDED [REDACTED] EXACT LOCATION TO HIM, HE WOULD HAVE PERSONALLY HELPED [REDACTED] ESCAPE TO THAILAND WHEN THE LPA CAME. [REDACTED] SAID THAT AS FAR AS HE KNEW, [REDACTED] HAD BEEN A "SPECTRE" AIRCRAFT PILOT WHO HAD BEEN CAPTURED IN THE AREA OF SEPONE (XD 3244) AT AN UNKNOWN DATE AND WAS LATER TRANSFERRED TO BOUALAPHA DISTRICT. BOUALAPHA DISTRICT HAD BEEN ATTACKED BY THE RESISTANCE AND OVERRUN. [REDACTED] HAD ESCAPED AND MET [REDACTED] WHO HAD CARED FOR HIM SINCE. [REDACTED] COMMENT: ACCORDING TO [REDACTED] BOUALAPHA HAD BEEN ATTACKED BY THE RESISTANCE IN 1980. [REDACTED] THOUGHT THAT THE ATTACK WAS BY A RESISTANCE FORCE LED BY [REDACTED]. THE LPA MAY HAVE BEEN ALERTED TO [REDACTED] PRESENCE IN THE NAPANG AREA BECAUSE OF [REDACTED] WHO HAD OPENLY TRAVELED TO THAKHEK TOWN TO PURCHASE MEDICINES FOR THE MIA AND HAD USED BAHT THAI CURRENCY. [REDACTED] MAY HAVE BEEN UNDER SURVEILLANCE FOR SOME TIME.)

3. [REDACTED] SAID THAT ANY VILLAGER FROM NAPANG COULD HAVE REPORTED

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[] PRESENCE TO THE LAO AUTHORITIES AND THAT THE AUTHORITIES SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN AWARE OF THE PRISONERS EXISTENCE BUT NOT HIS EXACT LOCATION. SAID THAT HE GAVE [] 1,000 BAHT, BUT WAS NOT ABLE TO LEARN ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM HER ABOUT THE ARREST. [] COMMENT: ABOUT 26 BAHT EQUALS U.S. \$1.00.) LEFT NAPANG VILLAGE ON 1 JANUARY AND RETURNED TO THAILAND ON 4 JANUARY.

DISSEM: FIELD: NONE.

WASHINGTON DISSEM:

TO WHSITRM:

EXCLUSIVE FOR THE DIRECTOR, WHITE HOUSE
SITUATION ROOM

TO STATE:

EXCLUSIVE FOR THE DIRECTOR, INR

TO DIA:

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