

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

PAGE 0001

MSGNO 201 (PCXX) *03/18/87* *04:08:24.1.2*
 ZCZC 09:07:08Z (PC)
 EMI DTG : 87031803213158
 RTTSZYUW RUEKJCS8770 0770212-SSSS--RUEALGX.
 ZNY SSSSS
 R 180212Z MAR 87
 FM JCS WASHINGTON DC
 INFO RUEADWD/OCSA WASHINGTON DC
 RUEHAAA/CNO WASHINGTON DC
 RUEAHQA/CSAF WASHINGTON DC
 RUEIMCC/CMC CC WASHINGTON DC
 RUEACMC/CMC WASHINGTON DC
 RUEABQA/HQ AFOSI BOLLING AFB DC
 RUEALGX/SAFE
 R 180133Z MAR 87
 FM CIA
 TO RUETIAA/DIRNSA
 RUEHC/DEPT OF STATE//FOR INR
 RUEKJCS/DIA
 RUEATRS/TREASURY DEPT
 RUEADWW/WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

RUEHQA/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI
 RUHMAA/CDRWESTCOM FT SHAFTER HI
 RUHQHQA/COMIPAC HONOLULU HI
 RUHMBRA/CINCPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI
 RUHVAAA/CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI
 RUAJMAB/FOSIF/WESTPAC
 RUHGAAA/COMSEVENTHFLT

BT

EZ1:

~~SECRET~~

EZ2:

SECTION 1 OF 2

CITE

SERIAL

PASS:

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT CLASS ~~SECRET~~

DIST: 17 MARCH 1987

COUNTRY: LAOS

SUBJ: ABSENCE OF AMERICAN PRISONERS OF WAR AND DESCRIPTION
 OF AT THE PHONKHEN REEDUCATION CAMP FROM SEPTEMBER 1975
 TO SEPTEMBER 1976 AND NAKAY REEDUCATION CAMP FROM
 SEPTEMBER 1976 TO JANUARY 1986
 SEPTEMBER 1975 - JANUARY 1986

DOI:

SOURCE:

~~SECRET~~

NW 982007-293

TEXT: 1. ACCORDING TO [REDACTED]

THERE WERE NO AMERICAN PRISONERS OF WAR LOCATED AT PHONKHEN (WE 1738) REEDUCATION CAMP FROM SEPTEMBER 1975 TO ABOUT SEPTEMBER 1976 AND AT THE NAKAY (WE 2554) REEDUCATION CAMP FROM ABOUT SEPTEMBER 1976 TO JANUARY 1986. BOTH CAMPS WERE LOCATED IN KHAMMOUAN PROVINCE, LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC (LPDR).

2. ACCORDING TO [REDACTED] IN SEPTEMBER

1975, ABOUT 50 POLICE PERSONNEL FROM THE RANK OF PRIVATE TO 2ND LIEUTENANT WERE GATHERED AT DONG KASEN, ALSO KNOWN AS (AKA) KHAMDONKMAI (WE 9809) VILLAGE. THEY REMAINED AT KHAMDONKMAI FOR ABOUT 17 DAYS AND WERE THEN RELOCATED BY TRUCK TO PHONKHEN VILLAGE, WHERE THEY WERE HELD IN REEDUCATION FOR ABOUT ONE YEAR. WHEN THE INMATES FIRST ARRIVED AT PHONKHEN THEY HAD TO SLEEP ON THE GROUND UNTIL THEY COULD CLEAR THE FOREST AND CONSTRUCT SHELTERS. THERE WAS NO FENCE AT THE CAMP. THE INMATES WERE GIVEN 800 GRAMS OF RICE PER PERSON PER DAY. FOR THE FIRST FEW MONTHS, EVERY 15 DAYS A WATER BUFFALO WAS SLAUGHTERED, BUT LATER ON THE MEN HAD TO FORAGE FOR ANY MEAT THEY RECEIVED. THE INMATES WERE FORCED TO REPAIR ROUTE EIGHT WHICH HAD BEEN DAMAGED DURING THE WAR. DURING THE FARMING SEASON THEY GREW RICE. DURING THE TIME AT THE PHONKHEN CAMP SEVEN INMATES ATTEMPTED TO ESCAPE. HOWEVER, ALL WERE KILLED AS A RESULT OF THEIR ESCAPE ATTEMPTS. THE INMATES WERE GIVEN PROPAGANDA LECTURES WHILE AT THE CAMP.

3. IN ABOUT SEPTEMBER 1976, 43 OF THE INMATES FROM PHONKHEN WERE RELOCATED TO THOEN DOUAN, AKA NAKAY, TO BE DETAINED IN THE 74TH SETTLEMENT REEDUCATION CAMP. THE MOVE WAS DUE TO THE FACT THAT PHONKHEN WAS NOT A GOOD AGRICULTURAL AREA. IN LATE 1979, THERE WERE ABOUT SIX REEDUCATION BATTALIONS, NUMBERING APPROXIMATELY 2,000 MEN, WHICH WERE BROUGHT TO THE NAKAY CAMP. THESE MEN WERE FORMER ROYAL LAO ARMY PERSONNEL OF PRIVATE TO 2ND LIEUTENANT RANK FROM KHAMMOUAN AND SAVANNAKHET PROVINCES.

4. THE INMATES WERE PROVIDED WITH RICE AND SALT AND WHEN THEY FIRST ARRIVED WERE ABLE TO OBTAIN MEAT FROM AN ABUNDANT SUPPLY OF CATTLE AND WILD ANIMALS IN THE AREA. HOWEVER, IN ABOUT 1980, THE SLAUGHTER OF CATTLE AND WILD ANIMALS WAS PROHIBITED. POLITICAL INDOCTRINATION CONSISTED MAINLY OF INCITING THE INMATES TO HATE THE "IMPERIALISTS" AND TO ACCEPT THE COMMUNIST DOCTRINE. MEDICAL CARE DEPENDED ON LOCALLY PROCURED HERBAL MEDICINE.

5. THE INMATES WERE FORCED TO PERFORM HARD LABOR, SUCH AS ROAD REPAIR AND CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDINGS AT THE CAMP. THE MOST DIFFICULT LABOR WAS THE PREPARATION OF RICE PADDY FIELDS WHICH CONSISTED OF CUTTING TREES, PREPARING THE SOIL AND CONSTRUCTION OF PADDY DIKES. EVERY DAY EACH INMATE WAS REQUIRED TO FULLY PREPARE A FOUR SQUARE METER AREA OF PADDY FIELD. EACH INMATE'S AREA HAD TO BE FINISHED IN ONE DAY REGARDLESS OF HOW LONG IT REQUIRED.


6. IN ORDER TO PREVENT ESCAPE, EACH INMATE WAS ASSIGNED ANOTHER

SECRET

NW 982007-294

INMATE TO WATCH TO PREVENT HIS ESCAPE. IF AN INMATE ESCAPED, THE MAN WHO WAS ASSIGNED TO WATCH THE ESCAPEE WAS PUNISHED.

7. AS OF JANUARY 1987, THE CAMP WAS ORGANIZED INTO FOUR COMPANIES OF 40-50 PEOPLE EACH, INCLUDING FAMILY MEMBERS. FAMILY MEMBERS HAD BEEN ALLOWED TO VISIT THE INMATES IN 1980. HOWEVER, ONCE FAMILY MEMBERS HAD BEEN TO THE CAMP THEY WERE NOT ALLOWED TO RETURN TO THEIR HOME VILLAGES FOR FEAR THEY THEY WOULD REVEAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE CONDITIONS AT THE CAMP. THERE WAS NO POLICY TO RELEASE THE INMATES SINCE THEY WERE PROVIDING FREE LABOR FOR THE LPDR GOVERNMENT.



NRDD

~~SECRET~~

NW 982007-295