

DIA SPECIAL HANDLING REQUIRED

SECRET

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OJCS INFORMATION SERVICE CENTER

COPY NUMBER

10A
UOPW

ROUTINE
R 200512Z AUG 88
FM CIA/ODD
TO DIA//VO-PW/COL JOSEPH SCHLATTER
INFO NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL//DIRECTOR OF ASIAN AFFAIRS/RICHARD CHILDRESS
DEPT OF STATE//CHIEF INR/SEA/PAULA CAUSEY

IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE AMERICANS TO PURSUE THE MATTER OF POW'S EFFECTIVELY AND THAT THE NUMBER OF POW'S AS ESTIMATED BY THE AMERICANS, 1,270, IS HIGHER THAN THE ACTUAL FIGURE. HE CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT HE HAD NO IDEA HOW MANY POW'S WERE BEING HELD IN LAOS AND CAMBODIA. (COMMENT: IT IS UNCLEAR WHETHER THE 1,270 FIGURE IS FOR ALL OF INDOCHINA OR MERELY VIETNAM. THE MOTIVATION FOR THE [REDACTED] TO MAKE SUCH REVELATIONS TO THE CONTACT IS UNCLEAR. IT IS ALSO UNCLEAR WHY OR HOW [REDACTED] WOULD HAVE ACCESS TO SUCH INFORMATION.)

~~SECRET~~

CITE

5. [REDACTED]
6. DECL OADR DRV [REDACTED] BT

SUBJECT: HEARSAY INFORMATION ON VIETNAMESE RETENTION OF POW'S

1 THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS OBTAINED FROM THE DEBRIEFING OF [REDACTED] OF THIS SAME [REDACTED] ALSO PROVIDED INFORMATION THAT WAS DISSEMINATED AS [REDACTED]

2) [REDACTED] DURING AN INFORMAL CONVERSATION IN ABOUT 1986 WITH [REDACTED] AN ASSISTANT CONSULAR OFFICER OF A VIETNAMESE EMBASSY STATED THAT THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT STILL HELD AMERICAN PRISONERS OF WAR (POW) FROM THE INDOCHINA WAR, BUT COULD NOT RETURN THEM BECAUSE THEY HAD BEEN MUTILATED AS THE RESULT OF TORTURE BY THE NORTH VIETNAMESE. HE SAID THAT TO RETURN THESE PRISONERS WOULD BE TOO EMBARRASSING TO THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT. WHEN ASKED WHETHER HE HAD ACTUALLY SEEN THESE PRISONERS, OR IF HE WAS ONLY REPEATING RUMORS, HE STATED THAT HE WOULD NOT MAKE SUCH A COMMENT IF IT WERE NOT TRUE. HIS REMARKS WERE VERY BRIEF, AND MADE IN AN INFORMAL, PERSONAL CONVERSATION. [REDACTED] COMMENT: [REDACTED] STATED THAT HE DID NOT ASK THE CONSULAR ASSISTANT OFFICER ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS SUBJECT, AND THIS OFFICER DID NOT VOLUNTEER ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. [REDACTED] SAID THAT IN THE 10 YEARS HE HAD WORKED FOR [REDACTED] BOTH IN HANOI AND ABROAD [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THIS WAS THE ONLY TIME ANYONE HAD MENTIONED THAT THERE WERE STILL AMERICANS ALIVE IN VIETNAM. [REDACTED] ASKED THE CONSULAR OFFICER HOW HE KNEW THIS INFORMATION, BUT THE LATTER GAVE NO DIRECT REPLY, STATING ONLY THAT HE WOULD NOT HAVE PROVIDED THE INFORMATION IF HE KNEW IT WERE UNTRUE.

COMMENT: [REDACTED] COULD NOT MAKE A JUDGEMENT AS TO THE TRUTH OF THE CONSULAR OFFICERS STATEMENTS, BUT SAID THE LATTER WAS NOT ONE GIVEN TO IDLE STORY-TELLING.)

4. [REDACTED] COMMENT: ACCORDING TO [REDACTED] THE CONSULAR OFFICER MADE SIMILAR ALLEGATIONS ABOUT POW'S IN FALL 1987, WHEN HE TOLD A CASUAL CONTACT, [REDACTED] THAT THERE ARE LESS THAN 1,200 POW'S. HE LATER REMARKED IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION THAT THERE WERE POW'S IN LAOS AND CAMBODIA, BOTH IN KNOWN AND UNKNOWN LOCATIONS. HE CONTINUED THAT U.S. POLICY TOWARD LAOS AND CAMBODIA MAKES IT

ACTION DIA/SPEC(10)

982008-1878

Which was originally sent exclusively to Lt. DIA. 22 Aug 88. I have just received this yet. I don't know why it is in the file.

Cap [REDACTED] did receive this - passed it to [REDACTED] and I really don't know after that, but [REDACTED] in a [REDACTED]