

WARNING: INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE.  
REPORT CLASS ~~S E C R E T~~

DIST: 28 APRIL 1987

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EXCLUSIVE DISSEMINATION TO ADDRESSEES LISTED AT END OF REPORT  
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COUNTRY: LAOS

SUBJ: POW/MIA: ALLEGED AMERICAN REPORTEDLY BEING CARED FOR  
BY HMONG IN EARLY 1987 AT SALEO VILLAGE, SAVANNAKHET  
PROVINCE, LAOS

DOI: EARLY MARCH 1987  
SOURCE:

----- ADDENDUM -----

1. ON 8 APRIL 1987 A FIELD INFORMATION REPORT WITH THE  
ABOVE HEADING AND NUMBER WAS ISSUED. THE DEBRIEFING OF  
(LNU) ON 14 APRIL REVEALED THAT ON 5 AND 6 APRIL 1987, A LAO  
VILLAGER FROM SAVANNAKHET TOWN, TRAVELED TO SALEO (NCA) VILLAGE,  
SALEO CANTON, SAMOI (XD 9416) DISTRICT, SAVANNAKHET PROVINCE,  
LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC (LPDR), TO ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN

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FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE AMERICAN WHO WAS ALLEGEDLY STAYING NEAR THE VIETNAM BORDER. SALEO VILLAGE CONSISTED OF SIX HOUSES AND APPROXIMATELY 30-40 INHABITANTS. (LNU),

S NEPHEW, ACCOMPAINED ON THE TRIP. CLAIMED TO HAVE PERSONALLY SIGHTED TWO LIVE AMERICANS BEING HELD BY LOCAL HILLTRIBES, BUT SAID THAT HE WAS NOT ALLOWED CLOSER THAN 100 METERS FROM THE AMERICANS. SAID THAT THE HILLTRIBE CARETAKER DEMANDED A PAYMENT OF 500 OF THE "OLD FRENCH SILVER COINS" BEFORE HE WOULD BE ALLOWED TO APPROACH THE AMERICANS.

COMMENT: THE FRENCH COINS ARE VALUED AT 2,800 KIP EACH AND ARE HIGHLY SOUGHT AFTER BECAUSE OF THEIR HIGH SILVER CONTENT. THE COINS ARE AVAILABLE FROM PRIVATE SHOPS IN LAOS. U.S.\$1.00 EQUALS 35 KIP AT THE OFFICIAL RATE OF EXCHANGE AND MORE THAN 400 KIP AT THE CURRENT BLACK MARKET RATE.)

2. SAID THAT THE TWO AMERICANS WERE DRESSED IN

LOCAL VILLAGE COSTUMES. ALSO CLAIMED TO HAVE LEARNED THAT ONE OF THE AMERICANS HAD MARRIED A LOCAL VILLAGER AND HAD TWO SONS, A FIVE-YEAR-OLD AND A THREE-YEAR-OLD. THE AMERICAN HAD REPORTEDLY BEEN KEPT SINCE THE "LAM SON 917 OPERATIONS." COMMENT: THE LAM SON 917 OPERATIONS WERE SUPPRESSION OPERATIONS DESIGNED TO CLOSE THE HO CHI MINH TRAIL DURING THE VIETNAM WAR.)

3. COMMENT: IN HAND DRAWN SKETCHES OF THE AREA MADE BY Y, SALEO VILLAGE APPEARS TO BE IN THE VICINITY OF XD 5570, LOCATED NEAR THE TIGER CAVE (THAM SUA) AND THE HOUAI NAMSE STREAM. THE VILLAGE IS LOCATED ON THE WEST BANK OF THE STREAM AND THE LOCATION WHERE THE AMERICANS WERE ALLEGEDLY BEING KEPT WAS ON THE EAST BANK. IN THE SKETCH MAP INDICATED THAT IT IS ABOUT ONE DAYS WALK FROM SALEO VILLAGE TO SAMOI DISTRICT TOWN AND ANOTHER ONE-HALF DAYS WALK (BASED ON APPARENT DISTANCE ONLY) TO TA-OY, THE LOCATION OF OTHER REPORTED STORIES OF AMERICAN PRISONERS OF WAR. DONG VILLAGE (XD 5138) IS LOCATED ON THE OTHER SIDE OF TA-OY VILLAGE FROM SAMOI TOWN. DONG VILLAGE WAS THE SITE OF AN LPDR REEDUCATION CAMP; HOWEVER, NO RUMORS OF AMERICAN PRISONERS WERE ASSOCIATED WITH THE CAMP.)

DISSEM: NONE.

WASHINGTON DISSEM:

TO WHSITRM: EXCLUSIVE FOR THE DIRECTOR, WHITE HOUSE  
SITUATION ROOM

TO STATE: EXCLUSIVE FOR THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY, INR

~~SECRET~~

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