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JOINT STAFF INFO SERVICE CENTER +++EXCLUSIVE+++

PRIORITY P 082229Z JUL 89 FM CIA TO DIRNSA DIA

ZYUW RUEAIIA7331 1892235 DEPT OF STATE WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

SECRET SECTION 1 OF 2 CITE

SERIAL

PASS:

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

DIST: 08 JULY 1989

EXCLUSIVE DISSEMINATION TO ADDRESSEES LISTED AT END OF REPORT

COUNTRY: LAOS/THAILAND

SUBJ: POW/MIA: RETURN OF PRIVATE FORAY OF AN AMERICAN AND LAO RESISTANCE PERSONNEL FROM LAOS IN SEARCH OF AMERICANS

DOI: DECEMBER 1988 - 4 JULY 1989

SOURCE:

TEXT: 1. ON 4 JULY 1989, [REDACTED] A FORMER ROYAL LAO AIR FORCE OFFICER, WHO HAD RECENTLY RETURNED FROM A PRIVATE FORAY INTO LAOS DURING THE DEBRIEFING SESSION [REDACTED] STATED HE AND AN AMERICAN NAMED [REDACTED] ACCOMPANIED BY THIRTEEN MEMBERS OF THE LAO RESISTANCE, HAD CROSSED BACK INTO THAILAND ON 21 JUNE IN THE AREA OF BAN LAT YA KHA (WC4370), KHEMMARATH DISTRICT, UBON RATCHATHANI PROVINCE. [REDACTED] COMMENT: SEE [REDACTED] DATED 28 JANUARY 1989, WHICH INITIALLY REPORTED ON THE PRIVATE FORAY OF AN AMERICAN AND LAO RESISTANCE PERSONNEL FROM THAILAND INTO LAOS IN SEARCH OF U.S. PRISONERS OF WAR (POWS).

2. DURING THE DEBRIEFING [REDACTED] SAID THE GROUP CROSSED INTO LAOS ON THE NIGHT OF 25 DECEMBER 1988. ON 26 DECEMBER [REDACTED] ACCOMPANIED BY A LAO RESISTANCE GROUP COMMANDED BY [REDACTED] BIVOUACED IN THE VICINITY OF WC6885. THE FOLLOWING DAY THE GROUP MOVED TO THE AREA OF WC8080 WHERE THEY REMAINED FOR ABOUT ONE WEEK. THE GROUP SUBSEQUENTLY MOVED TO A LOCATION ABOUT FIVE KILOMETERS WEST OF WC8080, WHERE THEY REMAINED FOR ABOUT 30 DAYS. IN MID-FEBRUARY, THE GROUP MOVED TO THE VICINITY OF WC7189 BECAUSE OF A SHORTAGE OF WATER AT THE FORMER CAMPSITE.

3. [REDACTED] SAID THAT IN APRIL THE GROUP HAD PLANNED TO RETURN TO THAILAND BUT [REDACTED] HAD BECOME ILL WITH MALARIA AND WAS UNABLE TO MAKE THE TRIP. BY EARLY MAY, [REDACTED] ILLNESS HAD WORSENERD AND HE WAS UNABLE TO MOVE. [REDACTED] REFUSED TO TAKE INJECTIONS FOR THE MALARIA BECAUSE HE WAS AFRAID OF AN ALLERGIC REACTION. [REDACTED] DID, HOWEVER, TAKE MALARIA TABLETS. [REDACTED] COMMENT: ACCORDING TO A MEMBER OF THE LAO RESISTANCE WHO ACCOMPANIED [REDACTED] ON A SIMILAR FORAY

ACTION DIA/SPEC(10) (1,M) INFO CJCS(5) SEC DEF(1) USDP-(4) USDP:DUSDP(1) USDP-CH(1)

IN SEPTEMBER 1987, [REDACTED] BECAME SERIOUSLY ILL WITH MALARIA AND A STOMACH DISORDER DURING THAT VENTURE. HE EVENTUALLY BECAME TOO SICK TO WALK ON HIS OWN AND HAD TO BE EXFILTRATED BACK INTO THAILAND ON HORSEBACK.)

4. IN JUNE [REDACTED] CONDITION WAS IMPROVED BUT THE GROUP HAD RUN OUT OF SUPPLIES AND REQUIRED SUPPORT FROM LOCAL VILLAGERS. THE GROUP MOVED TO A NEW LOCATION AT WC7578. ON 18 JUNE, THE GROUP BROKE CAMP AND BEGAN WITHDRAWING TOWARD THE MEKONG RIVER. THEY REACHED THE RIVER ON 20 JUNE AND CROSSED INTO THAILAND ON 21 JUNE. UPON REACHING THAILAND THE GROUP WAS MET BY TWO VEHICLES DRIVEN BY [REDACTED] SUPPORTERS IN THAILAND. AT THAT POINT [REDACTED] PARTED, WITH [REDACTED] TAKING ONE TRUCK TO MUKDAHAN AND [REDACTED] TAKING THE OTHER TO UBON CITY. [REDACTED] COMMENT: ACCORDING TO A [REDACTED] A MEMBER OF THE LAO RESISTANCE, ON 22 JUNE [REDACTED] TRAVELED TO BANGKOK FROM UBON.)

5. [REDACTED] SAID THAT THE MAIN OBJECTIVE OF THE FORAY WAS TO DETERMINE IF THERE WERE ANY LIVE U.S. POWS IN LAOS. [REDACTED] STATED THAT WHILE IN LAOS [REDACTED] DISPATCHED [REDACTED] TO CHECK OUT THE REPORTED LOCATION OF LIVE POWS. [REDACTED] INDICATED THAT NO LIVE POWS WERE LOCATED BUT THAT [REDACTED] HAD COMMENTED THAT HE EXPECTED THE TASK WOULD BE LONG AND THAT TIME WAS NOT A FACTOR IN THEIR MISSION. [REDACTED] SAID THAT THE GROUP HAD BEEN EQUIPPED WITH A PRC-25 TYPE RADIO, BUT THE RADIO WAS NOT USED DUE TO A SHORTAGE OF BATTERIES. THE GROUP RELIED UPON COURIERS TO MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH SUPPORTERS IN THAILAND.

6. [REDACTED] ADVISED THE [REDACTED] THAT AT NO TIME DURING THE FORAY DID THE GROUP CLASH WITH LAO FORCES. HE STATED THAT CLASHES WERE PURPOSELY AVOIDED BECAUSE THE GROUP HAD A LIMITED SUPPLY OF AMMUNITION. [REDACTED] ALSO STATED THAT [REDACTED] DID NOT RETURN TO THAILAND AT ANY TIME DURING THE FORAY AND THAT THE GROUP WAS NEVER ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH A RESUPPLY MISSION DURING THE SIX MONTHS THEY REMAINED IN LAOS. [REDACTED] CLAIMED HE DID NOT KNOW THE SOURCE OF [REDACTED] OUTSIDE SUPPORT REQUIRED TO FUND THE FORAY. [REDACTED] COMMENT: PREVIOUS REPORTS RECEIVED ABOUT THE FORAY INDICATED THE GROUP HAD CLASHED WITH LAO FORCES ON AT LEAST ONE OCCASION. OTHER REPORTS ALSO INDICATED THAT [REDACTED] HAD RETURNED TO THAILAND DURING ONE BRIEF PERIOD ON A RESUPPLY MISSION. [REDACTED] WAS ALSO REPORTED TO BE APPREHENSIVE ABOUT RETURNING TO THAILAND FOR FEAR HE WOULD BE ARRESTED BY THAI AUTHORITIES FOR HIS PARTICIPATION IN THE UNAUTHORIZED FORAY. IT IS PROBABLE THAT [REDACTED] ELECTED TO CONCEAL SOME OF THE FACTS ABOUT THE EVENTS RELATED TO THE FORAY TO ALLEVIATE OFFICIAL THAI CONCERN OVER THE PRIVATE EXPEDITION INTO LAOS. THERE WAS NO INDICATION THAT THE THAI MILITARY INTEND TO TAKE ANY ACTION AGAINST [REDACTED] TO PREVENT FURTHER FORAYS.)

SECRET FINAL SECTION OF 2 CITE

PASS:

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

ACQ:

DISSEM:

WASHINGTON DISSEM:

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PAGE 1 OF 2 082229Z JUL 89

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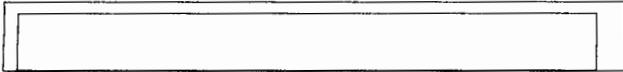
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PAGE 2 OF 2
082229Z JUL 89