

SECRET

(b)(3)

THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT,

SUBJECT: Alleged Sightings of Live U.S. Prisoners of War
in the Lao People's Democratic Republic

1. On 24 February 1983,

was in the area of Ban (village) Song where several members of the [redacted] were attending a propaganda session. According to an ethnic Lao [redacted] who was present in that village, two Caucasians and six People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) soldiers were at that session. One of the Caucasians was giving a speech in Lao praising the LPDR regime. [redacted] Comment: [redacted] did not explain why he believed that the two Caucasians were U.S. Prisoners of War (POW's).)

2. On 25 February 1983,

[redacted] informed that there were four U.S. POW's being held at the Nadenq Prison in the LPDR. [redacted] member stated that the prison was divided into two sections. One part of the prison was used to confine former Royal Lao Government (RLG) officials and Royal Lao Army (FAR) officers. The other part of the facility was for the four U.S. POW's. One of the Americans was ill with "sciatic disease." Another U.S. POW was allowed to look after him. The two other U.S. POW's were allowed to accompany PAVN soldiers who conducted propaganda operations. 18 PAVN soldiers were guarding the prison.

NND 982011 - 1478

3. [redacted] indicated that his [redacted] was willing to attempt to rescue the four Americans without advance funds for their efforts, and would hold the liberated U.S. POW's until negotiations for a reward were completed. [redacted]
 Comment: [redacted] asked how much money the [redacted] might get for each U.S. POW.)

4. [redacted] claimed to have met with two U.S. POW's during his one and one-half year detention from mid-1981 to January 1983. [redacted] said that the two alleged U.S. POW's were not incarcerated within the prison facility but were held in a nearby cave. [redacted] Comment: The [redacted] was not able to identify either of the two alleged U.S. POW's by name. He stated that one of their "serial number plates" was available at Ban Nondeng (WE2507). The [redacted] cited in Paragraph 2 of this report stated that he would attempt to recover the plate by 1 April 1983.)

NND 982011 - 1479