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ROUTINE

R 072048Z MAR 90

FM CIA/DDO

TO DIA WASHINGTON DC//PW-MIA ATTN COL JOE SCHLATTER

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SUBJECT: AMERICAN POW/MIA LIVING IN LAOS

1. THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS

CONCERN AMERICAN POW/MIA'S IN LAOS. THIS INFORMATION WAS TO BE PASSED TO STONY BEACH AND JCRC.

2. ACCORDING TO DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC (LPDR) MINISTRY OF INTERIOR'S DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS ((SIPHON)) PHALIKHAN ON 25 JANUARY 1990, THERE ARE NO AMERICAN POW/MIA'S LEFT IN LAOS, EXCEPT FOR ONE AMERICAN WHO MARRIED A LAO WOMAN AND RESIDES IN HOUAPHAN PROVINCE. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE LPDR (GOL) TURNED OVER ALL ITS AMERICAN POW/MIA'S TO VIETNAM IN 1982-1983 (SIC) BECAUSE THERE WAS NO PLACE IN LAOS TO DETAIN THEM. SIPHON SAID HE DOES NOT KNOW THE NUMBER OF AMERICANS THE GOL TURNED OVER TO VIETNAM, BUT HE KNOWS THAT THEY ARE BEING DETAINED AT A PLACE THAT IS 420 KILOMETERS AWAY FROM HANOI, ALTHOUGH SIPHON DOES NOT KNOW IN WHICH DIRECTION. (COMMENT: IF THE PLACE IS INDEED 420 KILOMETERS FROM HANOI, IT WOULD HAVE TO BE SOMEWHERE IN WHAT WAS FORMERLY SOUTH VIETNAM. THE LPDR WAS FORMALLY ESTABLISHED IN 1975.)

3. SIPHON SAID HE EXPECTED THE AMERICAN WHO REMAINS IN LAOS IS UNDER LOOSE DETENTION IN ONE OF THE FOUR POLITICAL DETENTION CAMPS OF LAOS IN HOUAPHAN PROVINCE, WHICH INCLUDE:

- A. SOMEWHERE IN XAM NEUA DISTRICT (VH 0158)
- B. THE PHA DENG CAVE PRISON, TWO KILOMETERS EAST OF VIENGXAI DISTRICT (VH 1957)
- C. SOMEWHERE IN XAM TAI DISTRICT (VH 6210)
- D. SOMEWHERE IN XIENG KHO DISTRICT (VH 3990)

4. SIPHON SAID THAT SOMETIME IN SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER 1989, A LAO AGENT (NFI) WHO WORKED FOR AN INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATION IN NAKHON PHANOM, THAILAND, APPROACHED THE LAO WIFE OF THIS AMERICAN PRISONER TWO TIMES AND GAVE HER A PIECE OF PAPER FOR THE AMERICAN TO FILL OUT WITH HIS NAME AND SERIAL NUMBER. THE LAO WIFE TOOK THE PAPER TO HER AMERICAN HUSBAND, BUT BOTH TIMES HE REFUSED TO WRITE ANYTHING DOWN AND TOLD HER TO TELL THE INTELLIGENCE OFFICER THAT HE DID NOT WANT TO MEET OR SPEAK WITH ANYONE.

5.

6. CLASSIFIED BY SIGNER. DECL OADR DRV [] ALL SECRET
BT

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