

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

10 September 1992

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MEMORANDUM

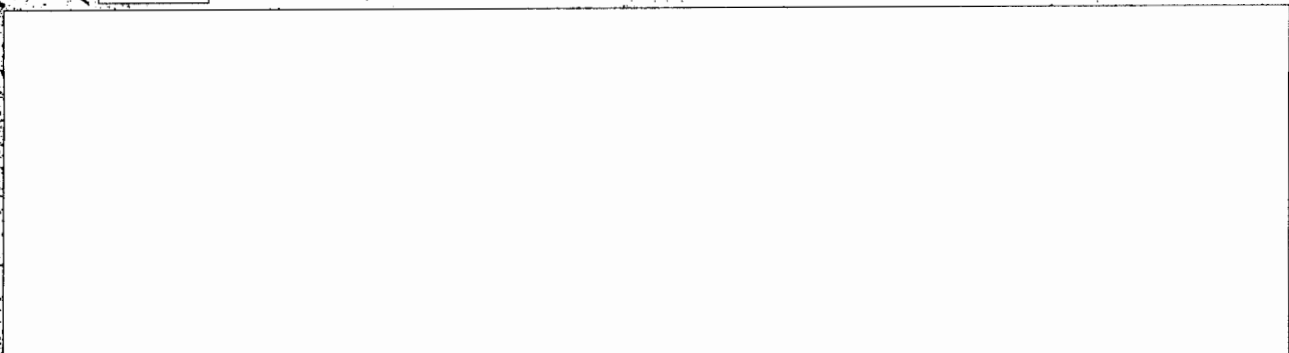
SUBJECT: Analysis of Surface Markings
Near Ban Nampo (S)

REFERENCE: Telephone request from Bob Taylor to OCA, Same
Subject, August 1992 (S)

1. In response to a request from the Senate Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs, analysts from the Office of Imagery Analysis (OIA) have been searching historical film of several regions in Laos to identify any additional surface markings that could possibly have been manmade. [redacted]

[redacted] showed unusual markings--two resembling an arrow and the letter "P", and another that possibly resembles the letter "O" or "e"--on the ground near Ban Nampo, Laos. The possible arrow measures approximately 33 meters by 31 meters and points at an azimuth of 21 degrees. The possible "P" lies just to the east of the arrow and measures approximately 13 meters in length. The possible "O" or "e" is east of the "P" and measures approximately 10 meters across. We are uncertain as to why these markings were made or how, nor do we know how long the markings may have been present. (S) [redacted]

2. The markings are located in a valley along the Houay Xong River on a hillside just west of Route 13 and the hamlet of Ban Nampo at geocoordinates 18-58-49N/102-25-44E, UTM48QTG29280062, in north-central Laos. Ban Nampo is four nautical miles north of Vang Vien, Laos and is not located near any reported POW detention facilities. A search in both directions along the azimuth indicated by the possible arrow failed to turn up any unusual facilities or additional symbols. (S) [redacted]

Warning Notice
Intelligence Sources or
Methods Involved (WNINTEL)Derivative of S by S3514
Declassify: OADR
Derived From: CIPS

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4. We [redacted] to determine the location, orientation, and dimensions of the markings (Attachment 1). We also [redacted]

[redacted]

- The [redacted] shows that the field where the markings appear had been recently cleared of forest. Additionally, three areas had been burned probably to dispose of downed trees and vegetation. Further indications of forest clearing were several dark areas that are probably holes from uprooted trees (Attachment 3).
- [redacted] shows that the area had been slightly expanded and parts of it had been recently burned possibly to dispose of additional downed trees and vegetation. In addition, there are several dark areas remaining that are probably holes from uprooted trees filled with water.
- The light color of the markings made them stand out from the background of darker vegetation and burned areas. Differences in the intensity between the possible arrow and the other markings suggest that the materials used to form them were different. In the case of the possible arrow, the markings appear to have more definition and are slightly elevated when compared with the other markings. It is possible that the arrow was formed by downed trees that were bleached by the sun while the material used to form the other markings may have been light colored dry earth or rocks.
- Alternatively, the arrow could have been formed by three separate trails that converge near a central point. Nearby trails have the same level of intensity (brightness) as the markings.

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- No other markings or symbols were identified in the immediate Ban Nampo area [REDACTED] (S) [REDACTED]

Attachments:

1. Line Drawing
2. [REDACTED]
3. [REDACTED]

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