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TOT: 150159Z MAY 87

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150159Z

TO: DIA WASH DC//VO-PW ATTN G SYDOW.

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92-3027 L

SUBJECT: ALLEGED LOCATION OF TWO POW CAMPS IN VIETNAM

[Redacted]

1. THE INFORMATION IN THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS WAS RECEIVED FROM [Redacted] IT IS SOURCED TO [Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted] WANTED TO EXCHANGE THE POW'S FOR RESETTLEMENT IN THE U.S. IN 1986 he SENT A MESSAGE VIA APPARENTLY ANOTHER REFUGEE SAYING THAT THE POW'S WERE AT THE SAME LOCATIONS AND THAT HE WAS STILL IN CHARGE OF THEM. BECAUSE OF THE INDIRECT SOURCING AND THE POSSIBILITY OF FABRICATION, THIS INFORMATION WILL NOT BE DISSEMINATED FORMALLY BUT IS BEING PASSED FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION.

2. ACCORDING TO [Redacted]

[Redacted] IN EARLY FEBRUARY 1987 A [Redacted]

REPORTED THAT TWO CAMPS IN THE SRV NGHE TINH PROVINCE CONTAINED U.S. POW'S AS OF 1986. THE SECURITY FOR THE CAMPS WAS PROVIDED BY A 170-MAN PAVN UNIT FROM VINH, NGHE TINH PROVINCE, SRV. THE HEAD OF THE SECURITY UNIT WAS PAVN [Redacted]

[Redacted] WILLING TO ASSIST IN THE RESCUE OF THE POW'S.

COMMENT: THE NUMERICAL DESIGNATOR OF THE PAVN UNIT WAS NOT GIVEN.)

3. THE FIRST POW CAMP WAS LOCATED IN SADOI, NGHE TINH PROVINCE, AND CONTAINED 35 AMERICAN POW'S. THE CAMP WAS ACTUALLY A CAVE NOT FAR FROM A DISUSED CATHOLIC CHURCH. THE SECOND CAMP CONTAINED 15 AMERICAN POW'S AND WAS LOCATED IN BINH HOEI, NGHE TINH PROVINCE, ALSO IN A CAVE, WHICH HAD BEEN USED TO HOLD FRENCH POW'S CIRCA 1954. [Redacted] COULD PROVIDE PHOTOGRAPHS AND NAMES OF THE PRISONERS. THE REFUGEE WAS GIVEN A CAMERA AND 10,000 BAHT IN EXPENSES FOR A TRIP OVERLAND ACROSS LAOS TO THE SRV IN ORDER TO [Redacted] OBTAIN PROOF OF THE POW'S EXISTENCE. THE TRIP WAS TO TAKE FROM THREE TO FOUR MONTHS. [Redacted] ONE U.S. DOLLAR EQUALS ABOUT 26 BAHT.) BINH HOEI IS LOCATED CLOSE TO ROUTE 7 ABOUT 350 (SIC) KILOMETERS FROM NONG HET, XIENG KHOUANG PROVINCE, LAOS. SADOI IS ALSO CLOSE TO ROUTE 7 ABOUT 80 KILOMETERS FROM BINH HOEI AND ACROSS THE BORDER FROM NAPE (WFO823), BOLIKHANSAI OR KHAMMOUAN PROVINCE, LAOS. BOTH CAMPS ARE ABOUT A DAY'S WALK FROM THE LAO-VIETNAMESE BORDER.)

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