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Central Intelligence Agency

Washington, D.C. 20505

31 MAY 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR:

POC, Rear Admiral, USN
Assistant Vice Director for
Collection Management
Defense Intelligence Agency
Department of Defense

ATTENTION:

POC

FROM:

Deputy Director for Operations

SUBJECT:

Debriefing of

The following is a debriefing report of [redacted]
by an ethnic Lao debriefer. The report is unedited.

"5/16/83

"In the middle of 1978 [redacted] has been riding with his friend from Vientiane to Muong Khoua, it took 13 days to arrive there. There were four trucks all together loaded with rice and some of equipment.

"When they passed the first camp, he saw about 30 Pathet Lao soldiers, after crossing a bridge, the second camp, he saw about one Co. of Lao and Vietnamese soldiers mixed together, then the third camp, it was a big camp, only Vietnamese soldiers about one regiment with many heavy weapons, anti-aircraft artillery and tanks.

"In this area [redacted] saw six caucasians tied up with chains from necks to arms and legs then connecting all together, they walked toward a small pond with two Vietnamese guard armed with AK47, expecting to take a bath in that pond. Most of the six caucasians had blonde hair, wore grey uniforms and went bare feet, between 5 to 6 PM that day.

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"He has seen them about minutes at the rear of his truck by turning his head back and his friend told him, 'Do not look at them,' then he has continued looking at them from a mirror's truck on the right hand side, while his truck moved forward. Distance observed about 10 meters from his truck. Also he had heard Pathet Lao soldiers talking together, that they still have 50 Americans POW, they have kept with them, for exchange and negotiation with US government some day in the future, and also several hundred Thai troops. Around that area he saw many, two or three story brick buildings, and his friend told him, 'this was a Muong Khoua' and from there about 15 kms was Vietnamese territory.

"Comment from Lao Community

[] was a good man, good behavior, he can get along with everybody in Lao community, he went to work every day like everyone else. Mostly the Lao community did not believe that [] had seen Americans POW in Lao, only one man said, he believed him 50%, and that [] was a very lucky man to see POW.

[] has changed his name because he would like to come to the USA as soon as possible and more easily, because they gave priority to the THAIDAM (Black Thai) to come to the USA, so that he has to change his name for.

"Now he has moved out from the old address because, he could not get along with his sister (sponsor) for that reason he and his wife lived by themselves.

"In Laos [] was not so good boy, he was a gangster and used to fight with other group of the gangsters in Laos.

"Debriefers Comment

"I did not believe that [] has seen Americans POW by his own eyes or by himself.

"What I felt, that [] has heard from Pathet Lao soldiers talking together, or his friend has heard from Pathet Lao and then told him about this story, or Pathet Lao has pretended to talk about Americans POW in front of them, because they would like to see [] and his friend's reactions, and besides that [] and his friend did not belong to the Lao communist party or Pathet Lao soldiers. Maybe Pathet Lao thought [] was an emissary.

[] has said that Pathet Lao told him, that area was Muong Khoua.

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"I am sure that was Vietnamese territory, because he has seen many two to three story brick buildings (French style) in northern Laos, we did not have that kind of three story building."

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