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MSGNO -- 84 (PCXX) \*02/04/87\* \*22:05:34.2.2\*  
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R 050205Z FEB 87  
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RUEALGX/SAFE  
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FM CIA  
TO RUETIAA/DIRNSA  
RUEHC/DEPT OF STATE//FOR INR  
RUEKJCS/DIA  
RUEATRS/TREASURY DEPT  
RUEADWW/WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM  
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RUHQHQA/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI  
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BT  
EZ1: [REDACTED]  
S E C R E T [REDACTED]  
EZ2:  
SECTION 1 OF 2  
CITE [REDACTED]  
<> SERIAL: <><> [REDACTED]  
PASS: NSA FOR ZKZK OO DLS DE (FOR NSOC).

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
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WARNING: INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE.  
REPORT CLASS ~~S E C R E T~~ [REDACTED]  
DIST: 04 FEBRUARY 1987  
COUNTRY: LAOS  
SUBJ: POW-MIA: ABSENCE OF AMERICAN PRISONERS AT BUT VILLAGE  
REEDUCATION CAMP, SAVANNAKHET PROVINCE, LAOS; LOCATION  
AND MOVEMENT OF REEDUCATION INMATES FROM 1975 TO  
DECEMBER 1986  
DOI: JULY 1975 - 1 DECEMBER 1986

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SOURCE: 

SUMMARY: AS OF 1 DECEMBER 1986, THERE WERE NO AMERICAN PRISONERS BEING HELD AT THE BUT VILLAGE REEDUCATION CAMP, SAVANNAKHET PROVINCE, LPDR. IN JULY 1975 APPROXIMATELY 300 RLG MILITARY AND POLICE OFFICERS WERE HELD IN SAVANNAKHET TOWN FOR ONE MONTH. IN AUGUST, THE PRISONERS WERE RELOCATED TO THE SEPONE REEDUCATION CAMP BY AIRCRAFT. TWELVE SENIOR OFFICERS WERE RELOCATED TO HOUA PHAN PROVINCE. IN APRIL 1977, THE PRISONERS WERE RELOCATED TO THONGLOUANG CAMP BY HELICOPTER. FAMILY MEMBERS WERE ALLOWED TO VISIT THE CAMP, BUT WERE FORCED TO REMAIN AS AN ESCAPE DETERRENT. IN JUNE 1979, THE PRISONERS WERE AGAIN RELOCATED TO VINKO CAMP, ABOUT TWO KILOMETERS WEST OF THE VIETNAM BORDER. THE PRISONERS WERE RELOCATED TO BUT CAMP, 12 KILOMETERS SOUTH OF VINKO, IN FEBRUARY 1982. FAMILY MEMBERS WERE ALLOWED TO RETURN TO THEIR HOME VILLAGES IN 1983 BECAUSE OF A LACK OF SCHOOL AT BUT CAMP.

TEXT: 1. AS OF 1 DECEMBER 1986, THERE WERE NO AMERICAN PRISONERS BEING HELD AT THE BUT (XD 6152) VILLAGE REEDUCATION CAMP, NONG DISTRICT, SAVANNAKHET PROVINCE, LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC (LPDR). ACCORDING TO

NO AMERICAN PRISONERS OR REMAINS HAD BEEN OBSERVED AT THE CAMP.  SAID THAT THE PRISONERS WERE RESTRICTED TO A CONTROLLED AREA OF TWO TO FIVE KILOMETERS AROUND THE CAMP. THE CAMP WAS COMMANDED BY LAO PEOPLE'S ARMY (LPA) FIRST LIEUTENANT ((KHOUANG)) (LNU), WHO ALSO HEADED THE COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGING THE CAMP. OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERS INCLUDED ((VONGSA)) (LNU), ((SAMAN)) (LNU), AND ((SIVAN)) (LNU).

2. IN JULY 1975, APPROXIMATELY 300 RLG MILITARY AND POLICE OFFICERS FROM THE RANK OF MAJOR UP, FROM MILITARY REGION (MR) III, WERE HELD AT THE FA NGUM SCHOOL, SAVANNAKHET PROVINCE TOWN, WHERE THEY UNDERWENT A ONE MONTH PRELIMINARY SEMINAR. THE PRISONERS WERE RESTRICTED TO THE SCHOOL COMPOUND. THE PRISONERS RECEIVED POLITICAL LECTURES FROM ((SAISAMON)) (LNU) DURING THE FIRST WEEK AND FROM LIEUTENANT COLONEL ((THONGLEUAN)) (LNU), AN ETHNIC LAO THEUNG, AFTER THE FIRST WEEK. IN AUGUST, MORE THAN 300 PRISONERS WERE RELOCATED TO THE SEPONE (VICINITY OF XD 3343) REEDUCATION CAMP BY C-47 AIRCRAFT. TWELVE SENIOR OFFICERS INCLUDING GENERAL ((NOUPHET)) DAOHEUANG, POLICE COLONEL ((CHANPHENG)) PHETSOMPHOU, POLICE COLONEL ((SISOUVAN)) (LNU), COLONEL ((SOULANG)) (LNU), COLONEL ((KHAMKO)) (LNU), AND LIEUTENANT COLONEL ((SIVISAI)) (LNU) WERE RELOCATED TO VIENGSAI (VH 2949) DISTRICT, HOUA PHAN PROVINCE.

3. MAJORS AND COLONELS WERE HOUSED TOGETHER AT THE SEPONE CAMP. EACH PRISONER RECEIVED 600 GRAMS OF RICE PER DAY AND 600 GRAMS OF SALT PER MONTH. THE PRISONERS RECEIVED MEDICAL TREATMENT FROM INMATE PHYSICIANS. POLITICAL INDOCTRINATION CONTINUED IN THE CAMP AS POLITICAL DOCUMENTS WERE RECEIVED. THE PRISONERS WORKED AS LABORERS, FARMING, AND CONSTRUCTING SCHOOLS, HOUSES, WAREHOUSES AND ROADS.

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LIEUTENANT COLONEL THONGLEUAN TRAVELED WITH THE PRISONERS ASW COMMANDER OF THE CAMP FROM SAVANNAKHET. THE CAMP HAD ABOUT 20 ARMED GUARDS AND THE PRISONERS WERE RESTRICTED TO A TWO KILOMETER RADIUS FROM THE CAMP. THE SEPONE CAMP WAS MOVED IN APRIL 1977 DUE TO THE MANY ESCAPE ATTEMPTS BY THE PRISONERS. [ ] COMMENT: MAJOR ((ONSI)) (LNU), A PHYSICIAN, WAS KILLED AT SEPONE WHILE ATTEMPTING TO ESCAPE. MAJOR ((MOUN)) (LNU), ALSO A PHYSICIAN, WAS KILLED WHEN A LAND MINE EXPLODED WHILE HE WAS FARMING. AS OF DECEMBER 1986, THONGLEUAN WAS REPORTED TO BE IN CHARGE OF ROAD CONSTRUCTION AT XE THAMMOUAK (POSSIBLY WD 9733).)

4. IN APRIL 1977, THE PRISONERS WERE RELOCATED TO THONGLOUANG (XD 1884) CAMP BY HELICOPTER, THE THONGLOUANG CAMP WAS LOCATED ABOUT 20 MINUTES BY AIR FROM SEPONE CAMP. IN JULY 1977 FAMILY MEMBERS OF THE PRISONERS WERE ALLOWED TO VISIT ON A ONE-MONTH TRAVEL PERMIT. AFTER THE FAMILIES ARRIVED, THEY WERE FORCED TO REMAIN AS AN ESCAPE DETERRENT. THE FAMILIES BECAME PART OF THE CAMP. [ ] COMMENT: LIEUTENANT COLONEL (( BOUNKHOUANG)) (LNU), A PHYSICIAN, WAS SHOT TO DEATH WHILE ATTEMPTING TO ESCAPE DURING 1977.)

5. IN JUNE 1979, THE THONGLOUANG CAMP PRISONERS WERE AGAIN RELOCATED TO VINKO (XD 6058), A LAO THEUNG VILLAGE LOCATED ABOUT TWO

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 INFO RUEADWD/OCSA WASHINGTON DC  
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 FM CIA  
 TO RUETIAA/DIRNSA  
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 RUEKJCS/DIA  
 RUEATRS/TREASURY DEPT  
 RUEADWW/WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM  
 RUHQHQA/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI  
 RUHHHMA/CDRWESTCOM FT SHAFTER HI  
 RUHQHQA/COMIPAC HONOLULU HI  
 RHMBRA/CINCPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI  
 RUHVAAA/CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI  
 RUAJMAB/FOSIF/WESTPAC  
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WARNING: INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE.  
 KILOMETERS WEST OF THE BORDER. THE CAMP HAD BEEN RELOCATED AGAIN DUE  
 TO THE NUMBER OF ESCAPE ATTEMPTS. THE VINKO AREA HAD DIFFICULT LIVING  
 CONDITIONS, A COLD CLIMATE, AND FIREWOOD SUPPLIES LOCATED BETWEEN  
 SEVEN AND EIGHT KILOMETERS AWAY.

6. THE PRISONERS WERE MOVED TO BUT CAMP IN FEBRUARY 1982. BUT  
 CAMP WAS 12 KILOMETERS SOUTH OF VINKO. THE PRISONERS WERE REQUIRED  
 TO WALK TO THE NEW CAMP CARRYING THEIR PERSONAL POSSESSIONS. FAMILY  
 MEMBERS WERE ALLOWED TO RETURN TO THEIR HOME VILLAGES IN 1983 BECAUSE

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OF A LACK OF SCHOOLING AT BUT CAMP. AS OF DECEMBER 1986, ONLY THE FAMILY OF MAJOR ((BOUALONG)) MONDE, CONSISTING OF FIVE OR SIX PERSONS REMAINED AT BUT CAMP.

7. AS OF DECEMBER 1986, THE FOLLOWING PRISONERS REMAINED AT THE BUT REEDUCATION CAMP: LIEUTENANT COLONELS ((KHAMLIEN)) (LNU), ((LDFG)) (SIC) (LNU), A FORMER MR III TRANSPORTATION OFFICER; ((PHOM)) SAVATVILAI, A FORMER MR III G-3; ((LI)) KHONSAVAN, A FORMER FINANCE OFFICER; ((PHOUVONG)) LATSOMBAT, A FORMER FINANCE OFFICER; MAJORS ((POLO)) CHANDANI, A FORMER INFANTRY OFFICER; ((KHAO)) INSIXIENGMAI, A FORMER INFANTRY OFFICER; ((BOUNKAN)) (LNU), A FORMER INFANTRY OFFICER; ((KHAMPHIEU)) KEOBOULIT, A FORMER INFANTRY OFFICER, ((KONGSAVANG)) (LNU), A FORMER INFANTRY OFFICER; ((LAKHONKHAM)) (LNU), A FORMER INFANTRY OFFICER; ((BOUNLOM)) (LNU), A FORMER INFANTRY OFFICER; ((KONGKHAM)) (LNU); ((BOUALAI)) (LNU); ((KHAMPHONG)) (LNU), A FORMER INFANTRY OFFICER; ((DAM)) (LNU), A FORMER INFANTRY OFFICER; ((PHOMMAKOT)) (LNU), A FORMER INFANTRY MAJOR; POLICE MAJOR ((SAVAT)) LASA-AT; AND POLICE SERGEANT ((KHAMSI)) SOUKVEOVAO. COLONEL ((KHAMPHOU)) (LNU), A FORMER GUERRILLA UNIT COMMANDER, WAS ADMITTED TO THE SAVANNAKHET HOSPITAL.

DISSEM: [REDACTED] SENT TO USCINCPAC,  
IPAC, WESTCOM, PACFLT, PACFLT, COMSEVENTHFLT, FOSIF/WESTPAC.  
WARNING: REPORT CLASS SECRET [REDACTED]

DECL: OADR DRV [REDACTED] BY RECORDED REPORTING OFFICER. ALL PORTIONS CARRY CLASSIFICATION AND CONTROLS OF OVERALL DOCUMENT.

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