

~~TOP SECRET~~(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

PAGE 0

MSGNO 61 (PCXX) \*10/28/87\* \*15:05:19.5.7\*  
ZCZC 20:03:50Z (PC)  
EMI DTG : 87102814443639  
RTTSZYUW RUEKJCS7613 3011935-SSSS--RUEALGX.  
ZNY SSSSS  
R 281935Z OCT 87  
FM JCS WASHINGTON DC  
INFO RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC  
RUEALGX/SAFE  
R 281901Z OCT 87  
FM CIA/DDO  
TO DIA//VO-PW//MR GARY SYDOW//  
BT

EZ1:

~~SECRET~~

EZ2:

CITE:

SUBJECT: COMMENT BY LOW-ECHELON SRV OFFICIAL ON POW'S IN  
INDOCHINA

1. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS OBTAINED FROM AN

ARE NOT FORMALLY DISSEMINATING THIS INFORMATION, WHICH IS BEING  
PASSED FOR YOUR INFORMATION.

2. IN LATE SEPTEMBER AND EARLY OCTOBER 1987 A

REMARKED ON THE INEFFECTIVENESS OF PRIVATE U.S.  
EFFORTS TO LOCATE PERSONS KILLED, CAPTURED, OR  
MISSING-IN-ACTION DURING THE VIETNAM WAR, SAYING THAT "THERE  
ARE LESS THAN 1,200 PRISONERS OF WAR" (POW'S). THE FUNCTIONARY  
LATER REMARKED IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION THAT "THE ACTUAL  
NUMBER OF POW'S IN THE SRV IS SMALL COMPARED WITH THOSE IN LAOS  
AND CAMBODIA, BOTH IN KNOWN AND UNKNOWN LOCATIONS." HE  
CONTINUED THAT U.S. POLICY TOWARD LAOS AND CAMBODIA MAKES IT  
IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE AMERICANS TO PURSUE THE MATTER OF POW'S  
EFFECTIVELY AND THAT "THE NUMBER OF POW'S AS ESTIMATED BY THE  
AMERICANS, 1,270, IS HIGHER THAN THE ACTUAL FIGURE." HE  
CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT HE HAD NO IDEA HOW MANY POW'S WERE  
BEING HELD IN LAOS AND CAMBODIA. COMMENT: IT IS  
UNCLEAR WHETHER THE 1,270 FIGURE CITED IS FOR ALL OF INDOCHINA  
OR MERELY THE SRV.)

3.

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IN

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ADDITION, HIS NORMAL HABIT WHEN FACED WITH A QUESTION HE DOES NOT WISH TO ANSWER IS TO IGNORE THE QUESTION. IT IS CLEAR HE CONSIDERS THE SUBJECT OF POW'S TO BE SENSITIVE. HE ALSO APPEARS, HOWEVER, TO BE INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING THE TOPIC AND HAS REMARKED THAT HE WOULD PROVIDE MORE DETAILS WHEN AND IF HE GAINED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. THE WORD THE OFFICIAL USED IN REFERRING TO THE POW'S WAS THE VIETNAMESE WORD "TU BINH," THAT IS "PRISONER OF WAR." WHETHER HE MEANT TO INCLUDE OTHER TYPES OF HOSTAGES OR PRISONERS UNDER THIS TERM IS UNCLEAR.)

4.

BT  
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