PAGE 001 CIA 29 JUN 92 TO: DIRNSA, DEPT OF STATE, DIA WASHINGTON DC, WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM, USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI, JICPAC HONOLULU HI. THE DIRECTOR, WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM; NSA FOR ZKZK OO ZRL DE (EXCLUSIVE FOR THE DIRECTOR NSA); STATE PASS: EXCLUSIVE FOR THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY, INR; DIA EXCLUSIVE FOR THE DIRECTOR DIA AND PASS TO NWS (DIRECTOR ONLY) AND DIA PW/MIA; EXCLUSIVE POR USCINCPAC; EXCLUSIVE FOR COMMANDER JICPAC. CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY 29 JUNE 1992 DIST:

COUNTRY: VIETNAM/RUSSIA

REACTION OF VIETNAMESE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO SUBJ:

RUSSIAN PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT ON AMERICAN PRISONERS

OF WAR IN RUSSIA

**APPROVED FOR RELEASE DATE: OCT 2001** 

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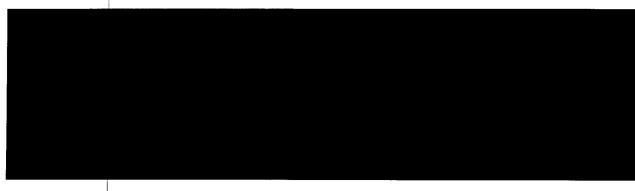
JUN 92

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TEXT: 1.

RUSSIAN PRESIDENT BORIS ((YEL'TSIN))'S ANNOUNCEMENT ON 16 JUNE THAT U.S. PRISONERS OF WAR (POW) WERE SENT TO THE FORMER SOVIET UNION AND THAT SOME OF THESE POWS STILL MAY BE ALIVE CONTRADICTS BARLIER JOINT STATEMENTS MADE BY VIETNAM, THE UNITED STATES AND THE FORMER SOVIET UNION ON THE MATTER. YEL'TSIN MADE HIS REMARKS DURING A SUMMIT MEETING WITH THE U.S. PRESIDENT IN WASHINGTON, D.C. UNITED STATES TOOK A CAUTIOUS APPROACH, AND ON TWO OCCASIONS DURING THE POLLOWING WEEK, U.S. OFFICIALS COMMENTED THAT THERE IS NO EVIDENCE TO SUBSTANTIATE YEL'TSIN'S STATEMENT. THAT IT IS VIETNAM'S UNDERSTANDING THAT THE U.S. IS SENDING A U.S. AMBASSADOR AND MILITARY ADVISERS TO RUSSIA TO INVESTIGATE THE NEW ALLEGATIONS.

VIETNAM DID NOT TRANSFER U.S. POWS TO THE PORMER SOVIET UNION, AND VIETNAM WANTS TO DOWNPLAY THE ISSUE TO AVOID TENSIONS BETWEEN THE THREE COUNTRIES. THEREFORE, ON 21 JUNE, THE VIETNAMESE MFA ISSUED GUIDANCE TO ALL VIETNAMESE MISSIONS AND MFA PERSONNEL ASSIGNED ABROAD ON ACCEPTABLE REPLIES TO ANY INQUIRES THAT MAY ARISE ON THE ISSUE. VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS ARE TO EMPHASIZE THAT VIETNAM DID NOT SEND ANY U.S. POWS TO THE FORMER SOVIET UNION DURING OR AFTER THE VIETNAM WAR, AND THEY ARE TO EXPLAIN THAT VIETNAM REJECTS SUCH INFORMATION AS FALSE.



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