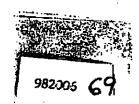
•	14-HHK Document 165-29 Filed 04/19/11 Page 1 of 3 (b) (b)(3)
E GBEIZT #12 9/30/92 A	30 July 1992
MEMORANDUM	
SUBJECT:	Analysis of Surface Markings Near Muang Tan, Laos (C)
REFERENCE:	Senate Select Committee Memo. dated 13 July 1992, Requesting Analysis (2)
and letters in Muang Tan, abo provincial tow (depending on one rice paddy Although a conthese markings provided some determining wh	showed To be ground markings resembling possible numbers In rice paddies 500 meters south of the village of Out 43 kilometers southeast of Xieng Khouang Win, on Highway 42. These markings resembled the orientation) "A5!", "K5!", "i5Y", or "iSY" in Y, and in the other paddy either "07" or "L0". Inclusive assessment of the origin and the intent of Is may never be achieved, recent analysis has additional information that may be useful in mether or not these markings can be attributed to a lcan POW/MIA presence. (5)
 	(\$
3. Our remarkings most terraced rice	eview indicates that the possible likely were associated with the rehabilitation of
rice pa	shows the realignment of the addy containing the possible markings resembling ". The "7/L" marking
actuall	ly resulted from a shadow cast by the rising sun on

SUBJECT: Analysis of Surface Markings Near Muang Tan, Laos (£)

an angular but at the time terraced dike.	disconnected section of shows a completed
dike with the "7/L"-shaped an	ale incorporated into a
lengthier terrace. The "0" (actually resembling a square
with rounded corners) had dis	appeared by
but one side o	f this round-cornered square
nad been incorporated into a	new terrace dike. However,
this shape routinely occurs this region, and may represent	nroughout rice paddies in
employed in the growing, harv	esting, or processing of
rice.	

- Similar analysis of the terraced rice paddy in which the possible "A5!/K5!/i5Y/iSY" marking was previously observed indicated that portions of the possible "5/S", the "!/i" and the "A/K/Y" were also part of an effort to rehabilitate and realign the dike. However, only a portion of the possible markings can readily be attributed to shadow caused by the buildup in height of a section of dike wall. The remainder may result from shadows in depressions—possibly caused by excavation of soil to rebuild the dike.
- shows that much of the roughly 90,000 square meter paddy area containing the possible markings/shadows had been rehabilitated. The repair and rehabilitation of terraced paddies is a routine occurrence in Southeast Asia. This work generally occurs in the dry season, (November through April), after the rice harvest. (6)
- 4. We also reviewed other sources to assess contemporaneous activity in the Xieng Khouang area in 1988.
 - this time regarding either sightings or the lack of sightings of possible American POWs in Xieng Khouang Province. Evidence cited in many of these is inconclusive, and often contradictory.
 - A few Soviet military advisors were involved—at least in the earlier stages—in a long-term effort beginning in



SECRET

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> 1975 to upgrade the Xieng Khouang (aka Thong Hai Hin) Airfield. Some probably were still in the area in 1988.

- The Lao resistance was active in Xieng Khouang Province in 1987-1988, although the small size of the insurgency limited it to hit-and-run attacks against government outposts in the countryside. This may account for some reports of unusual activity.
- In 1986, the US Embassy Vientiane reported on an ongoing ordnance disposal effort by the Mennonite Central Committee. The Mennonites reportedly were given access to Xieng Khouang Province (and the western sections of Savannakhet) beginning in 1977, but we are unaware if this access has produced any significant reporting of a possible POW/MIA presence. (8

Attachments:

Explanation of Graphics Lina Drawing

3.