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DIRECTORATE OF PLANS

Intelligence Information Cable

ROUTINE
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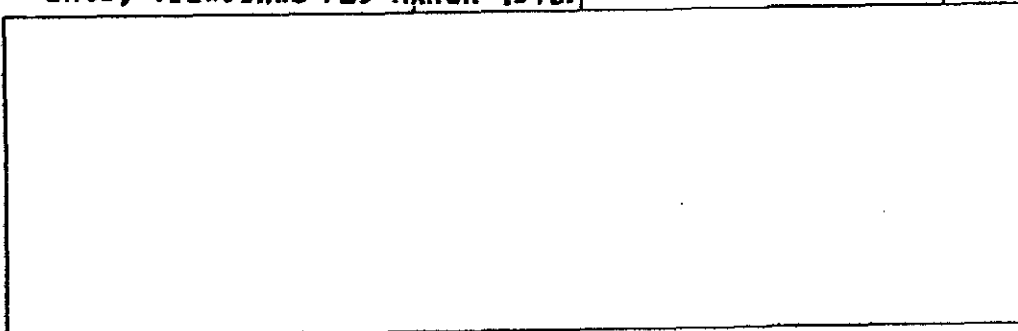
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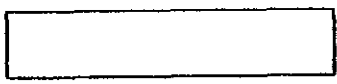
COUNTRY LAOS
DOI 20 MARCH AND AS STATED
SUBJECT ENEMY PRISONS IN LAOS

ACQ LAOS, VIENTIANE /25 MARCH 1970/

SOURCE



1. AS OF 20 MARCH 1970 THERE WERE 38 CONFIRMED ENEMY PRISONS OR PRISONER OF WAR /POW/ CAMPS IN LAOS. AN ESTIMATED 1,000 ENEMY PERSONNEL WERE COMMITTED TO GUARDING, ESCORTING AND PROVIDING SUPPORT FOR POWS. [REDACTED] COMMENT - THESE PERSONNEL WERE REFLECTED AS A PORTION OF COMMAND AND SUPPORT PERSONNEL FOR LAOS, AS REPORTED IN THE COLLATION OF GROUND OBSERVER REPORTS ON DISPOSITION OF ENEMY FORCES IN LAOS AS OF 15 MARCH. SEE [REDACTED]

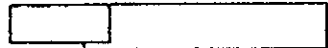


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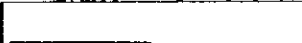


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THE LIMITATIONS OF THE TECHNIQUES USED AS ARRIVING AT THESE FIGURES ARE DISCUSSED IN THE FINAL PARAGRAPH OF THIS REPORT./

2. LIVING CONDITIONS - FORMER POWS HAVE COMPLAINED THAT THEY HAD RECEIVED INHUMANE TREATMENT OR WERE SUBJECTED TO VARIOUS INDIGNITIES, BUT IN GENERAL, BY ASIAN STANDARDS, POWS ARE BELIEVED TO RECEIVE HUMANE TREATMENT. ALTHOUGH FOOD IS REPORTED TO BE MINIMAL, UNCLEAN, UNSEASONED AND LACKING IN PROTEIN, IT IS SUFFICIENT FOR EXISTANCE. MEDICAL TREATMENT IS NORMALLY AVAILABLE IN PRIMITIVE FORM. POW CAMPS USUALLY ARE REPORTED AS CROWDED. DISEASES CAUSED BY UNBALANCED DIET, CROWDED CONDITIONS, AND POOR SANITATION CLAIM A LARGE NUMBER OF POWS.

3. POW CAMPS - POWS ARE CONFINED TO A CAVE OR STOCKADE TYPE STRUCTURE DURING THE NIGHT, BUT NORMALLY ARE PERMITTED TO GO OUTSIDE SOMETIME DURING THE DAY FOR EXERCISE. IN SOME CASES, ALL OR PART OF THE POWS ARE ALLOWED BEYOND THE PRISON CONFINES UNDER LIGHT GUARD TO FORAGE FOR JUNGLE FOODS. PRISON GUARDS USUALLY ARE MADE UP OF PERSONNEL WHO, DUE TO THEIR AGE OR PHYSICAL CONDITION, ARE UNFIT FOR REGULAR MILITARY DUTY. PATHET PAL SOLDIERS NORMALLY MAKE UP ESCORT AND GUARD FORCES. MANY POW CAMPS HAVE FULL OR PART-TIME NORTH VIETNAMESE ADVISORS.



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OCCASIONALLY POWS ARE QUESTIONED BY NORTH VIETNAMESE INTERROGATORS. POW CAMP LOCATIONS ARE CHANGED FREQUENTLY TO PROVIDE BETTER SECURITY.

4. POLITICAL INDOCTRINATION - THE ENEMY MAKES A CONCERTED EFFORT TO INDOCTRINATE POWS TO THE COMMUNIST CAUSE THROUGH LONG PERIODS OF POLITICAL TRAINING. IF AND WHEN A POW SHOWS FAVORABLE PROGRESS, HE IS RELEASED INTO A REAR SERVICE UNIT, OR BECOMES A FARMER OR EVEN A PROPAGANDIST.

5. POLITICAL PRISONERS AND CRIMINALS - THE ENEMY APPEARS TO HAVE LITTLE SYMPATHY FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS AND CRIMINALS FROM THEIR OWN RANKS. THESE PERSONNEL OFTEN ARE CONFINED IN THE SAME CAMP AS POWS, BUT USUALLY ARE SEPARATED AND RECEIVE POORER TREATMENT.

6. AMERICAN POWS - OTHER THAN THE BAN NAKAY NEUA/VH 1956/ PRISON COMPLEX, AMERICAN POWS ARE NOT BELIEVED TO BE PERMANENTLY INCARCERATED IN LAOS. AMERICAN PERSONNEL CAPTURED IN LAOS ARE ESCORTED TO THE BAN NAKAY NEUA PRISON COMPLEX OR INTO NORTH VIETNAM THROUGH EXISTING INFILTRATION ROUTES. AMERICAN POWS ARE BELIEVED TO RECEIVE BETTER TREATMENT THAN INDIGENOUS POWS, BUT OCCASIONALLY ARE DISPLAYED FOR PROPAGANDA PURPOSES.



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AMERICAN POWS IN THE BAN NAKAY NEUA SECTOR ARE REPORTED TO RECEIVE MILK AND BREAD WITH THEIR MEALS.

7. ON 20 MARCH 1970, ENEMY PRISON FACILITIES WERE CONFIRMED BY GROUND SOURCES AT THE LOCATIONS LISTED BELOW. THE MOST RECENT DATE OF CONFIRMATION IS GIVEN FOR EACH FACILITY.

SECTOR/ LOCATION	REMARKS	DATE OF LAST CONFIRMATION
PHONG SALY /TX 0102/ OQ	DISTRICT PRISON FOR CRIMINALS AND POLITICAL PRISONERS APPROXIMATELY 400 PRISONERS ALLEGEDLY WERE RELEASED IN JULY 1968	FEB 70
MUONG SING /QD 2344/	DISTRICT PRISON FOR CRIMINALS AND POLITICAL PRISONERS	DEP 69
NAM THA /QD 5019/	POW CAMP AND A SEPARATE CAMP FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS	AUG 69
QD 6455 /CHINA/	UNIDENTIFIED /U/I/ PRISON COMMENT - THIS AREA APPEARS TO BE INHABITED BY LAO, THERE IS ALSO A LAO HOSPITAL AND STORAGE FACILITY AT THE SAME LOCATION./	AUG 69



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