

FIP-317/00157-77

COUNTRY: Vietnam

DOI : February 197

SUBJECT:

U.S. Prisoners Being Held by the SRV for Use in Negotiations on Aid from the U.S. for the SRV

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SOURCE :

1. In a private conversation

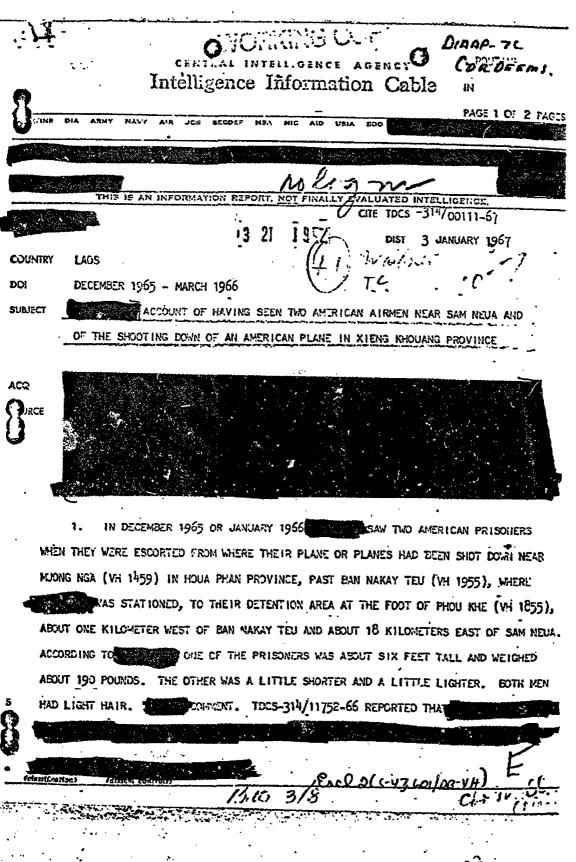
commented on the visit of a U.S. delegation to Hanoi in mid-March 1977. In response to a statement on the U.S. interest in the U.S. personnel missing in action (MIA°s) in Vietnam, said that Hanoi naturally knows where U.S. pilots shot down over North Vietnam are buried. In response to a statement that the SRV no longer has any

Americans still under detention, said that there are American prisoners of war (PON's), some of whom are members of wealthy families, still in the SRV and they would not be released until U.S. financial aid for the SRV was forthcoming. Comment: Other than one American civilian who was arrested in Saigon after its fall in 1975, the SRV is not known to have any live American prisoners.)

indicated that the information on MIA's was one trump card the SRV held in the forthcoming negotiations with the U.S. and explained that the SRV, as the victor in the Vietnam war, would take advantage of this situation in negotiating with the U.S. for aid in economic reconstruction. Some wealthy prominent American families had been in direct contact with Hanoi in an effort to acquire information about family members who were NIA's.

However, the SRV had not released such information on the assumption that more could be gained by the SRV economically by awaiting the opening of formal negotiations with the U.S. Government. Comment: appeared nervous in making these comments on U.S. Pow's and did not indicate the basis on U.S. POW's and MIA's; thus for the information it cannot be determined whether state information or unsubstantiated hearsay.) statements reflect reliable

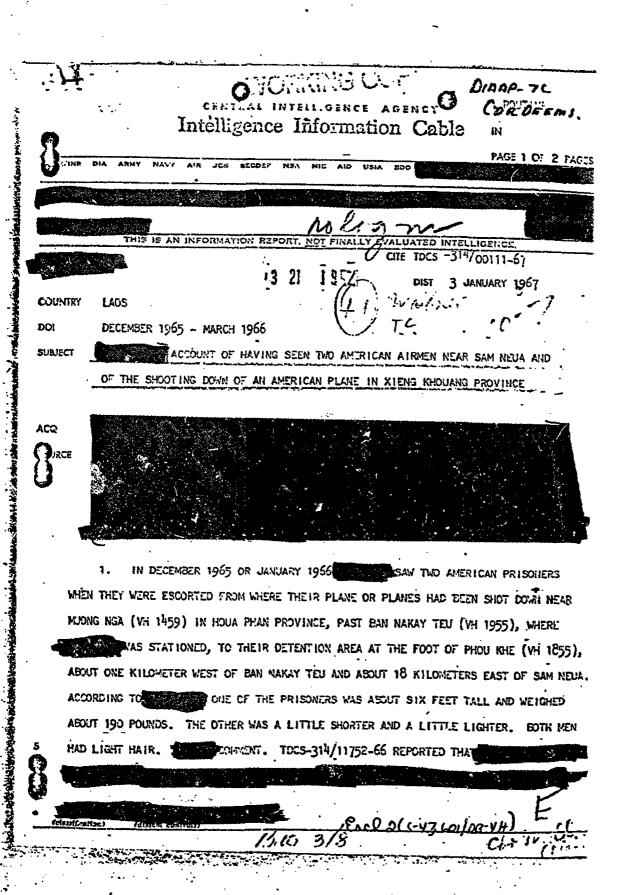
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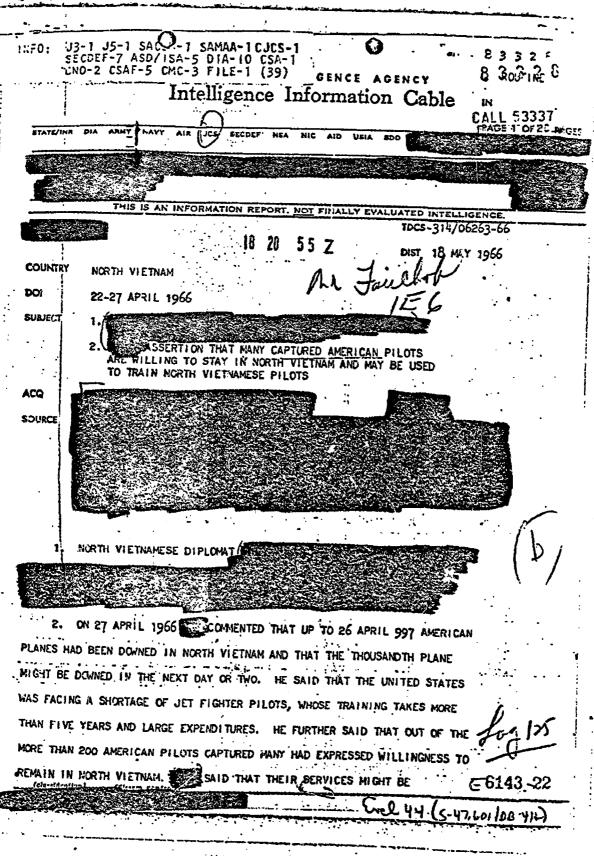
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COMMENT: IN SAID FOUR AMERICAN PILOTS WERE BEING HELD AT THAM SADET, IN EARLY AUGUST. ACCORDING TO (THAO) MA, TOLD THE GROUP THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WAS TO DISCUSS WHAT TO DO WITH THE AMERICAN JET PILOTS HELD AT THAM SADET. MA THEN ASKED THESE OFFICIALS FOR THEIR OPINIONS ON THE MATTER AND, AFTER CONSULTING AMONG THEMSELVES, THEY TOLD MA THROUGH A SPOKESMAN THAT THE PILOTS SHOULD BE SENT TO THE UNITED STATES. THE CANTON CHIEFS BELIEVED THAT RELEASING THE PILOTS WOULD BRING A HALT TO THE AIR RAIDS IN THE AREA. MA LISTENED TO THE IDEAS OF THE CANTON CHIEFS AND MADE NO COMMENT BEFORE DISMISSING THE MEETING. POLD THAT THE PILOTS WERE STILL AT THAM SADET ON I OCTOBER. DISSEM: STATE ARMY AIR USAID CINCPAC PACELT PACAF ARPAC USMAMV-SAIGON 2ND AIR DIVISION-SAIGON



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