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TO: DIRNSA, DEPT OF STATE, DIA WASHINGTON DC, DEA,  
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
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DIST: 17 JANUARY 1992

COUNTRY: THAILAND/VIETNAM/CHINA

SUBJ: VIEWS ON U.S. COUNTERNARCOTICS  
ASSISTANCE, POW/MIA MATTERS AND OTHER FOREIGN  
RELATIONS

DOI:

b(1) b(3)

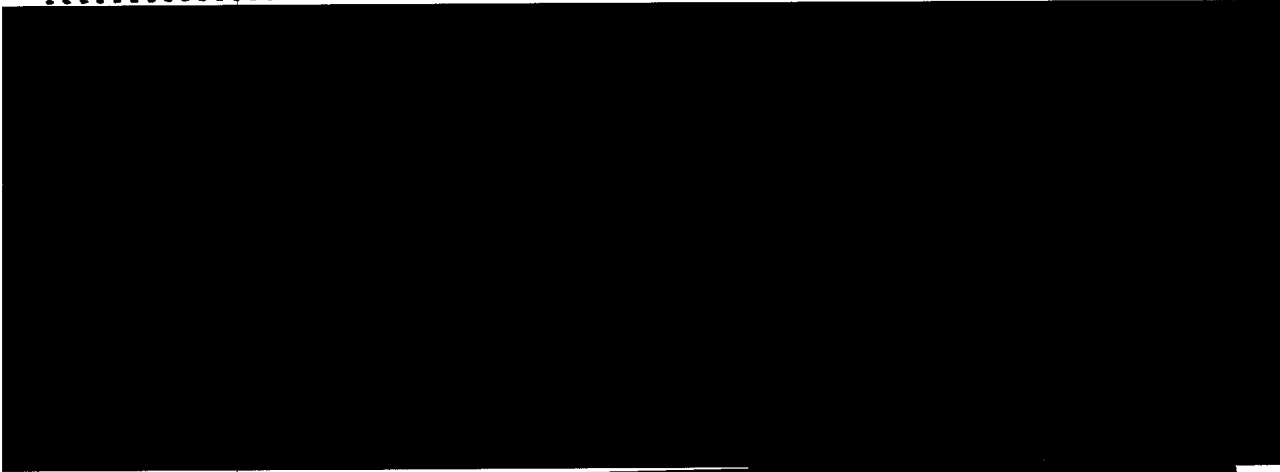
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TEXT: 1. [REDACTED] EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH THE RECENT DECISION BY THE UNITED STATES TO UPGRADE RELATIONS WITH [REDACTED] HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT U.S. OFFICIALS WERE OBSESSED WITH COOPERATION ON PRISONER OF WAR/MISSING IN ACTION (POW/MIA) INVESTIGATIONS AND ON NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION. COMMENT: [REDACTED] PROBABLY WAS AWARE HIS REMARKS WOULD REACH A WIDER AUDIENCE.

[REDACTED] THE UPGRADE OF RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES IS BENEFICIAL TO [REDACTED] BECAUSE, AS THE LAST REMAINING SUPERPOWER, THE UNITED STATES IS THE MOST IMPORTANT COUNTRY IN THE WORLD. [REDACTED] NOTED THAT A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES ENHANCES [REDACTED] STATUS.)

2. THE [REDACTED] SAID [REDACTED] IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PRODUCING NARCOTICS AND THAT [REDACTED] PROFITS FROM THE MANUFACTURE AND SALE OF NARCOTICS, BUT HE NOTED THAT [REDACTED] PRODUCES LESS OPIUM THAN ITS NEIGHBORS [REDACTED] COMMENT: [REDACTED] DID NOT DISCUSS WHICH GOVERNMENT ENTITIES HE BELIEVED WERE INVOLVED WITH PRODUCTION, MANUFACTURE OR SALE OF NARCOTICS.) [REDACTED] IS NOT IMPRESSED BY THE CROP SUBSTITUTION

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PROGRAM PROMOTED BY THE UNITED STATES; HE SAID THAT IN THAILAND THE PROGRAM HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL TO SOME EXTENT BECAUSE THE HILLTRIBE PEOPLE WHO ARE INVOLVED IN THE PROGRAM ARE INCAPABLE OF LEARNING ANY MEANS OF SUPPORTING THEMSELVES OTHER THAN AGRICULTURE. HE MAINTAINED THAT, TO THEM, GROWING ANY CROP IS THE SAME THING AS GROWING OPIUM. HE CLAIMED [REDACTED] PEOPLE ARE DIFFERENT, HOWEVER; THEY DO NOT WANT TO SUBSTITUTE OTHER CROPS FOR OPIUM BECAUSE THEY KNOW THEY WILL NOT MAKE AS MUCH MONEY. [REDACTED] COMMENT: THE [REDACTED] SAID HE PERSONALLY DOES NOT HAVE SPECIFIC KNOWLEDGE OF DRUG PROCESSING PLANTS AND THE DETAILS OF PRODUCTION BUT SAID [REDACTED] CERTAINLY RELIES ON NARCOTICS FOR SUBSTANTIAL INCOME.)

3. THE [REDACTED] WAS IMPRESSED BY THE AMOUNT OF MONEY THE UNITED STATES SPENDS YEARLY ON COMBATING DRUG ABUSE WITHIN THE UNITED STATES AND ON ATTEMPTS TO HALT IMPORT OF NARCOTICS INTO THE UNITED STATES. HE EXPRESSED HIS OPINION THAT IT MIGHT BE MORE EFFECTIVE FOR THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO GIVE SOME OF THAT MONEY TO [REDACTED] RATHER THAN TO SPEND IT ITSELF. THE [REDACTED] SAID THAT, WITH A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF MONEY, [REDACTED] COULD DEVELOP ITS OWN RESOURCES. [REDACTED] COMMENT: THE [REDACTED] REFUSED TO STATE POSITIVELY THAT INCREASED U.S. ASSISTANCE TO [REDACTED] WOULD INCLINE THE [REDACTED] TO SUPPRESS NARCOTICS PRODUCTION.)

4. THE [REDACTED] NOTED THAT, [REDACTED] THE UNITED STATES ATTACHES TOO MANY CONDITIONS TO ASSISTANCE. [REDACTED] BELIEVE THAT U.S. OFFICIALS CONCLUDE THAT [REDACTED] SPENDS ITS ASSISTANCE INCORRECTLY OR THAT [REDACTED] PROMOTES PROJECTS WHICH DO NOT ACCORD WITH U.S. VIEWS. FOR EXAMPLE, A GROUP OF KOREAN INVESTORS RECENTLY RECEIVED PERMISSION TO DEVELOP A RURAL AREA [REDACTED] WHILE THOSE NEGOTIATIONS WERE IN PROCESS, THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER COUNTRIES WERE INVOLVED IN A MAJOR SEMINAR ON THE ENVIRONMENT. THE [REDACTED] SAID THAT, AS A DIRECT RESULT OF THE SEMINAR, [REDACTED] DECIDED THAT [REDACTED] SHOULD NOT SELL DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS TO THE KOREANS BECAUSE THE KOREANS GAVE NO ASSURANCES THAT THEIR DEVELOPMENT PLANS WERE ECOLOGICALLY SOUND. [REDACTED] COMMENT: THE [REDACTED] CLAIMED THAT INTERNATIONAL SEMINARS ON NARCOTICS USUALLY FIND [REDACTED] AT FAULT, TOO, [REDACTED]

5. THE [REDACTED] GENERALLY BELIEVE THE

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ALWAYS DICTATES HE NOTED THAT THE AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE THAT IS PRESENTLY GIVING IS "CHICKENFEED" AND IN RETURN EXPECTS TO BE ABLE TO TELL WHAT TO DO. IN ADDITION, EXPECTS TO MOVE QUICKLY ON COOPERATIVE EFFORTS; WOULD PREFER TO BE ALLOWED TO SET ITS OWN TIMETABLE ON POW/MIA AND NARCOTICS INTERDICTION PROGRAMS. THE COMMENTED THAT IS A VERY POOR COUNTRY AND IS "IN NO POSITION TO SAY NO" TO HE ALSO NOTED THAT IS A LANDLOCKED NATION AND THUS TO A LARGE EXTENT AT THE MERCY OF ITS NEIGHBORS.

HAS FEW NATURAL RESOURCES THAT CAN BE EXPLOITED AND THE TO RECOGNIZE THIS FACT WHEN CONDEMNING FOR NARCOTICS PRODUCTION. THE NOTED THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO FIND LESS CONTENTIOUS AREAS OF COOPERATION WITH THROUGH WHICH A SOLID BASIS OF COOPERATION COULD BE ESTABLISHED BEFORE MORE DIFFICULT ISSUES, SUCH AS NARCOTICS AND POW/MIA, ARE ADDRESSED.

6. THE NOTED WITH SATISFACTION THE RECENT VISIT OF TO THAILAND; HAVE EVALUATED THE TRIP AS A COMPLETE SUCCESS. THE VISIT TO THAILAND WAS THE CULMINATION OF A CAREFULLY PLANNED STRATEGY TO ATTRACT THE ATTENTION AND SUPPORT OF THE KING OF THAILAND LEADERS BELIEVE THAT THERE ARE GROUPS BASED IN THAILAND WORKING ACTIVELY TO OVERTHROW THE GOVERNMENT THE MOST POWERFUL OF WHICH IS A GROUP LED BY FORMER THAI PRIME MINISTER ((KHUKRIT)) PRAMOT. THE VISIT OF TO THAILAND AS A GUEST OF THE KING, DURING WHICH WAS SHOWN REPEATEDLY IN THE PRESS ; THE COMPANY OF MEMBERS OF THE THAI ROYAL FAMILY, EFFECTIVELY WON THE PROTECTION OF THE KING OF THAILAND THE KING. THE REASON THAT EVEN KHUKRIT WOULD NOT DARE DEFY IS SYMBOLIC ONLY; ADMITTED, HOWEVER, THAT THIS ACHIEVEMENT IS DOES NOT EXPECT INCREASED AID FROM THAILAND.

DID NOT ANTICIPATE SIGNING ANY AGREEMENTS WITH THAILAND DURING THE VISIT; HIS ONLY OBJECTIVE WAS TO SECURE A REASON TO ISSUE AN INVITATION TO THE KING OF THAILAND TO VISIT IF THE KING DECLINES THE OFFER, LEADERS WOULD BE SATISFIED IF HE SENT CROWN PRINCE ((WACHIRALONGKON)) TO REPRESENT HIM. NEVERTHELESS, DESPITE IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH THAILAND, THE CALLED THAILAND A LESS THAN IDEAL BECAUSE DOES NOT FULLY TRUST THAILAND TO

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LIVE UP TO SECURITY AND OTHER AGREEMENTS. [REDACTED] PRIMARY CONCERN CONTINUES TO BE THE SAFEGUARDING OF [REDACTED] TERRITORY, AND THAILAND REMAINS THE GREATEST THREAT [REDACTED]

7. THE [REDACTED] NOTED THAT [REDACTED] RETAINS A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH VIETNAM, BUT BECAUSE OF CHANGES IN THE WORLD, VIETNAM IS MORE CONCERNED WITH ITS OWN FUTURE THAN IT IS WITH [REDACTED] THE [REDACTED] SEES THIS DEVELOPMENT AS BOTH GOOD AND BAD: VIETNAM EXPECTS LESS FROM [REDACTED] AND INTERFERES LESS IN [REDACTED] INTERNAL MATTERS; BUT IT ALSO MEANS THAT [REDACTED] CAN EXPECT LESS MATERIAL AID FROM VIETNAM. THE [REDACTED] COMMENTED THAT, OVERALL, [REDACTED] IS LESS AFRAID OF VIETNAM NOW. HE DISMISSED BURMA AS A SOURCE OF CONCERN [REDACTED] HE NOTED THAT RELATIONS WITH CHINA HAVE RECENTLY IMPROVED AND IT IS THE INTENTION OF [REDACTED] TO CONTINUE TO PURSUE ENHANCED CONTACTS WITH CHINA.

END OF MESSAGE