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DIST 17 DECEMBER 1976

COUNTRY: VIETNAM/THAILAND/JAPAN

DOI: NOVEMBER 1976

SUBJECT: COMMENTS BY A SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM
EMBASSY PRESS OFFICER ON THE AMERICANS MISSING IN
ACTION ISSUE AND ON HIS COUNTRY'S RELATIONS WITH
ASEAN AND JAPAN

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APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: FEB 2001

A SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM (SRV) PRESS OFFICER

COMMENTED ON SOME ASPECTS OF HIS

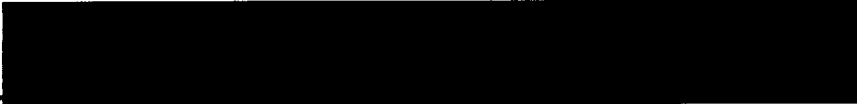
FORM 3007 OBSOLETE PREVIOUS EDITIONS



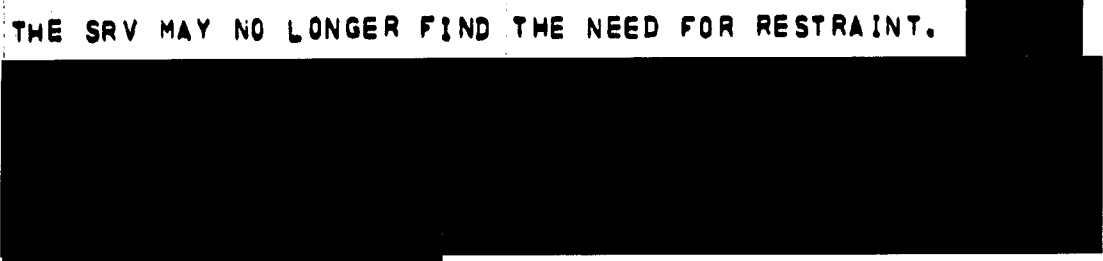
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COUNTRY'S FOREIGN RELATIONS. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE UNITED STATES MUST FULFILL THE TERMS OF ARTICLE 21 OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT TO AID VIETNAM. WHEN ASKED WHETHER THIS ISSUE IS LINKED TO THE LACK OF AN SRV RESPONSE ON THE NAMES OF AMERICANS MISSING IN ACTION (MIA), HE REPLIED THAT THE SRV HAD ALREADY FURNISHED THE NAMES OF THOSE MIA AND HAD NO FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE SUBJECT. HE ADDED THAT AS A SIGN OF GOOD FAITH IN DEALING WITH THE U.S., THE SRV HAS REFRAINED FROM PUBLICIZING THE ATROCITIES THE AMERICANS HAD COMMITTED IN VIETNAM. HOWEVER, IF THE U.S. CONTINUES TO BE INTRANSIGENT ON THE ARTICLE 21 ISSUE, THE SRV MAY NO LONGER FIND THE NEED FOR RESTRAINT.



COMMENT:

AN SRV DIPLOMAT IN PARIS SPECULATED

IN EARLY NOVEMBER THAT THE NUMBER OF MIA COULD NOT BE MORE THAN 700 AND THAT SEARCH AND ACCOUNTING OPERATIONS FOR THE MIA

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WERE CONTINGENT UPON SATISFACTION OF THE SRV DEMAND FOR AID ACCORDING TO ARTICLE 21 OF THE PARIS PEACE ACCORDS OF 1973.

HIGH-LEVEL SRV FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL IN EARLY NOVEMBER ADMITTED THAT THE SRV DOES HAVE A LISTING OF MIA WHICH IT WILL USE AS A BARGAINING CHIP IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE U.S. FOR AID.)

2. THE SRV OFFICIAL SAID THE SRV WILL DEAL WITH THE U.S., THE SOVIET UNION AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA TO MAINTAIN A BALANCE IN ITS FOREIGN RELATIONS POSTURE. AS FOR THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS, THE SRV IS INTERESTED IN MAINTAINING PEACE WITH ALL MEMBER COUNTRIES AND WILL SEEK TO FIND COMMON GROUNDS WITH EACH FOR MUTUAL BENEFIT. HE CRITICIZED THE NEW THAI GOVERNMENT, HOWEVER, DESCRIBING IT AS A REACTIONARY GROUP WHICH HAD GAINED POWER WITH SUPPORT FROM THE U.S. HE SAID THE SRV STILL

BELIEVES U.S. TROOPS WILL RETURN TO THAILAND.

AND THIS WILL EXACERBATE THAI-SRV RELATIONS. HE DISMISSED AS NONSENSE THE CHARGES BY THAI OFFICIALS THAT THE SRV IS PREPARING TO LAUNCH AN ARMED

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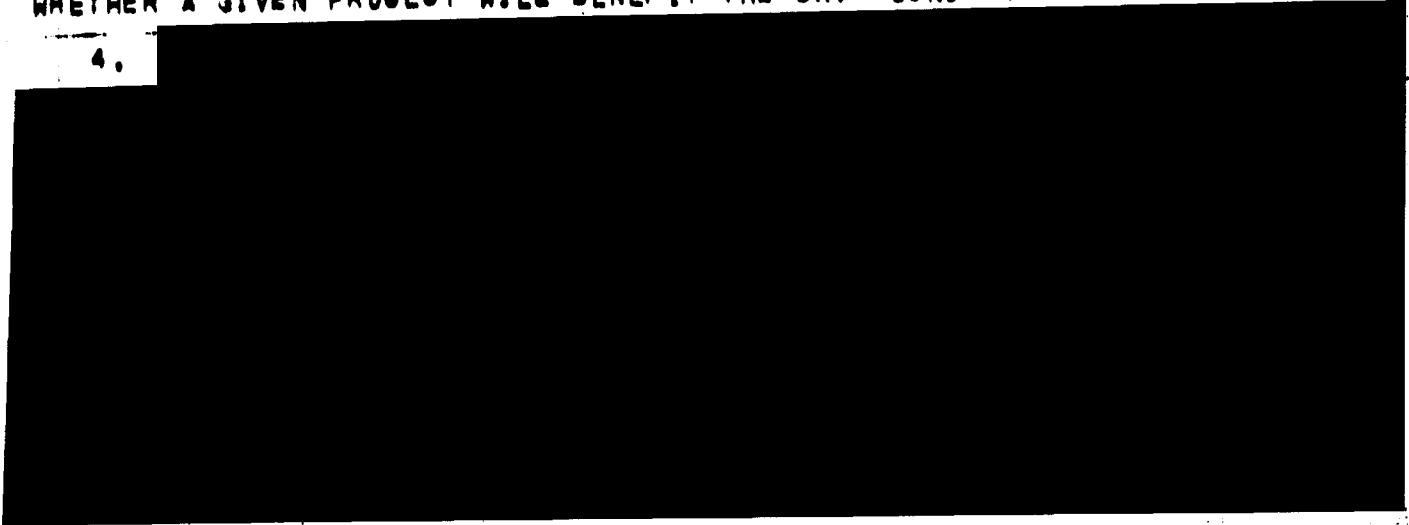


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INVASION AGAINST THAILAND. HOWEVER, HE ADDED THAT A THAI GOVERNMENT IN EXILE IS A FACT AND THE INCREASING STRENGTH OF THE LIBERATION FORCES IN THAILAND IS AN INEVITABLE PROCESS.

3. THE SRV IS INTERESTED IN EXPANDING ITS RELATIONS WITH JAPAN, PARTICULARLY IN THE ECONOMIC SECTOR, AND IN OBTAINING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. THE SRV, IN PRINCIPLE, WILL NOT HONOR THE DEBTS OWED JAPAN BY THE FORMER SAIGON GOVERNMENT. HOWEVER, IT IS WILLING TO RECONSIDER THIS MATTER ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS AND THE CRITERION IS WHETHER A GIVEN PROJECT WILL BENEFIT THE SRV ECONOMY.

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