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Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

28 August 1985

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Lieutenant General James A. Williams, USA  
Director, Defense Intelligence Agency  
Department of Defense  
Washington, D.C. 20301

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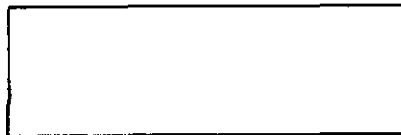
Dear Jim:

In your letter of 12 August 1985, you enquired about the Agency's capability to [redacted] should other credible intelligence sources indicate the possible presence of U.S. POWs. We have queried [redacted] to determine their views and have been advised that operations [redacted] are certainly feasible although they would require the witting cooperation of [redacted]. Similarly, a mission to the Central Highlands of the SRV would be possible [redacted].

It should be borne in mind, however, that in the event the team was discovered, the problems of exfiltration [redacted] would be immense. Overland missions [redacted] would be even more difficult and would almost certainly come to the attention of the Vietnamese authorities. Infiltration of a team [redacted] does not seem practical at this time although it could be attempted if [redacted] the probable high risk of failure were factored in and accepted.

Should a mission [redacted] be considered justified, we would estimate that a minimum of four to six weeks would be necessary for the selection and training of personnel. Depending upon the wishes of [redacted] team members [redacted]

It is difficult to estimate lead time required for an infiltration into Vietnam because much would depend on the precise location of the target.



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As indicated above, existing equities would require that any mission [redacted] be mounted only with the full approval and cooperation of [redacted]. If the Ops Plan appeared feasible, we believe [redacted] would cooperate.

I hope this is helpful and if there is any additional information you require, we would be pleased to assist.

Sincerely,



William J. Casey  
Director of Central Intelligence

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