



Intelligence Information Cable

IN 33755E

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CITE TDCS -314/05243-71

DIST 19 MAY 1971

COUNTRY

LAOS/NORTH VIETNAM

DOI

1965 - JULY 1970

SUBJECT

1. PATHET LAO POLICY TOWARD HANDLING OF FOREIGN

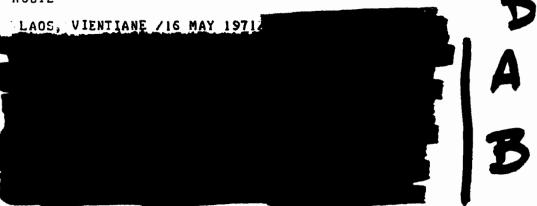
PRISONERS OF WAR

2. POSSIBLE LOCATION OF A PRISONER EXFILTRATION

ROUTE

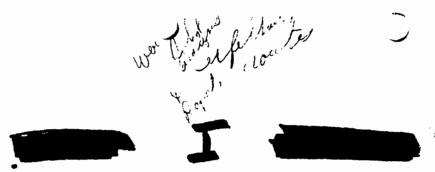
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SOURCE



1. PATHET LAO /PL/ OFFICIAL POLICY TOWARD FOREIGN
PRISONERS OF WAR CAPTURED BY PL FORCES IS TO GIVE THEM GOOD
TREATMENT. THEY ARE TO BE PROVIDED WITH GOOD FOOD AND IN
NO CASE ARE THEY TO BE PHYSICALLY ABUSED. FOLLOWING CAPTURE,





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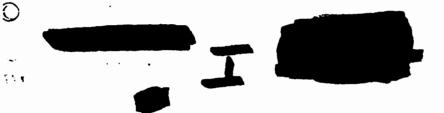
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ALL FOREIGN PRISONERS ARE TO BE MOVED TO THE HEADQUARTERS AT SAM NEUA /VH Ø158/. ADMITTED THAT, ALTHOUGH PL INSTRUCTIONS CALL FOR NO MISTREATMENT OF AMERICAN OR OTHER FOREIGN PRISONERS, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT INDIVIDUAL CAPTORS WOULD NOT ABIDE BY SUCH INSTRUCTIONS. FURTHERMORE, THE FOOD AVAILABLE IN SAM NEUA IS NOT VERY GOOD BY WESTERN STANDARDS, SO IT IS PROBABLE THAT PRISONERS THERE ARE NOT WELL FED.

OF PRISONERS OF WAR FROM AN INSTRUCTION WHICH HE READ IN
1965. TO THE BEST OF HIS KNOWLEDGE, NO CHANGE HAD BEEN
MADE IN THE INSTRUCTION SINCE THAT DATE. HE ASSUMES, BUT
DOES NOT KNOW, THAT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY WOULD ABIDE
BY SIMILAR INSTRUCTIONS. HAD NEVER PERSONALLY SEEN
AMERICAN PRISONERS BEING CAPTURED OR BEING TRANSPORTED ALONG
THE TRAIL. FIELD COMMENT. FOR FIRST-HAND
KNOWLEDGE OF AMERICAN PRISONERS OF WAR SEE (TDCS-314/04967-71)./

AN 85MM ARTILLERY COMPANY WHICH HAD JUST COMPLETED

TRAINING IN NORTH VIETNAM, RETURNED FROM VINH LINH TO THE





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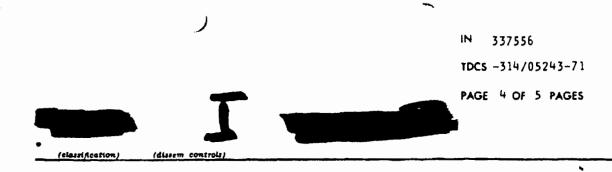
SOUTH LAOS TACTICAL REGION HEADQUARTERS AT THE FOOT OF PHOU /MOUNTAIN/ PHATHONG /UNLOCATED/.

MEMBER OF SAID THAT FOR SECURITY REASONS HIS UNIT HAD BEEN UNABLE TO USE THE NORMAL TANK AND ARMORED VEHICLE TRAIL FROM NORTH VIETNAM AND HAD BEEN DIRECTED TO USE A NARROW, MOUNTAINOUS TRAIL WHICH THE NVA SAID WAS NORMALLY USED FOR THE MOVEMENT OF PRISONERS OF WAR TO SAM NEUA AND TO NORTH VIETNAM, AS WELL AS FOR THE MOVEMENT OF JOURNALISTS FROM NORTH VIETNAM WHO WISHED TO VIEW THE WAR IN SOUTH LAOS OR VISIT THE VIET CONG IN SOUTH VIETNAM.

FIVE SEPARATE TRAIL NETWORKS COLLECTIVELY CONSTITUTE THE H O CHI MINH TRAIL.
FROM WEST TO EAST, THE WESTERNMOST. TRAIL IS USED FOR
TRANSPORATION OF FOOD AND OTHER SUPPLIES, THE NEXT IS
USED FOR MOVEMENT OF TANKS AND OTHER ARMORED VEHICLES,
THE NEXT IS A BICYCLE TRAIL USED PRIMARILY TO TRANSPORT
AMMUNITION AND THE NEXT IS USED FOR THE MOVEMENT OF TROOPS.
THE EASTERNMOST TRAIL APPEARS TO BE THE ONE USED FOR THE
MOVEMENT OF PRISONERS AND CORRESPONDENTS.

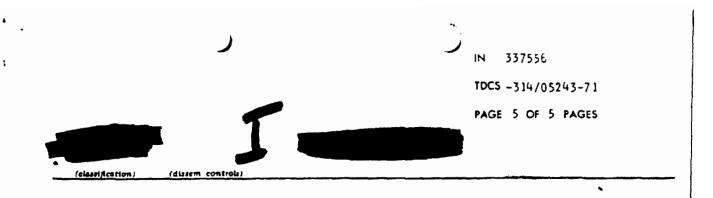






- 5. (FIELD COMMENT. ALTHOUGH ORDER OF BATTLE FILES
 CANNOT SUBSTANTIATE THE EXISTENCE OF FIVE SEPARATE TRAIL
 NETWORKS, HO CHI MINH TRAIL ROUTES GENERALLY ARE PARALLELED
 BY FOOT TRAILS. PRISONERS AND RALLIERS WHO HAVE INFILTRATED
 THROUGH THE SYSTEM GENERALLY REPORTED HEARING TRUCKS BUT NOT
 SEEING THEM, WHICH WOULD SEEM TO PARTIALLY SUPPORT THE
 EXISTENCE OF SEPARATE TRAIL NETWORKS.)
- SAID THAT SHORTLY AFTER RECEIVING THE HE HAD OCCASION TO ABOVE INFORMATION FROM ATTEND A WEDDING IN THE VICINITY OF BAN SOPSOUNG /XD 312750/. 31 KILOMETERS NORTH OF TCHEPONE /XD 3445/. WHEN HE REACHED BAN MUANG-ANGKHAM /XD 196758/ HE WAS DIRECTED TO A TRAIL ABOUT TWO METERS WIDE WHICH GENERALLY PARALLELED THE NAM /STREAM/ SANGI TO BAN SOPSOUNG. BASED ON AAD CONCLUDED THAT THIS WAS A SEGMENT DESCRIPTION. OF THE INFILTRATION TRAIL USED COMPANY. SAID THAT HE COULD NOT BE CERTAIN OF THIS, HOWEVER, ACCORDING-ING TO THE HO CHI MINH TRAIL NETWORKS ARE NOT NORTH-SOUTH TRAILS, BUT CONSTANTLY ZIG-ZAG FROM EAST TO WEST OR IN IN-BETWEEN DIRECTIONS. AT BAN MUANG-ANGKHAM

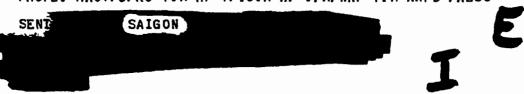
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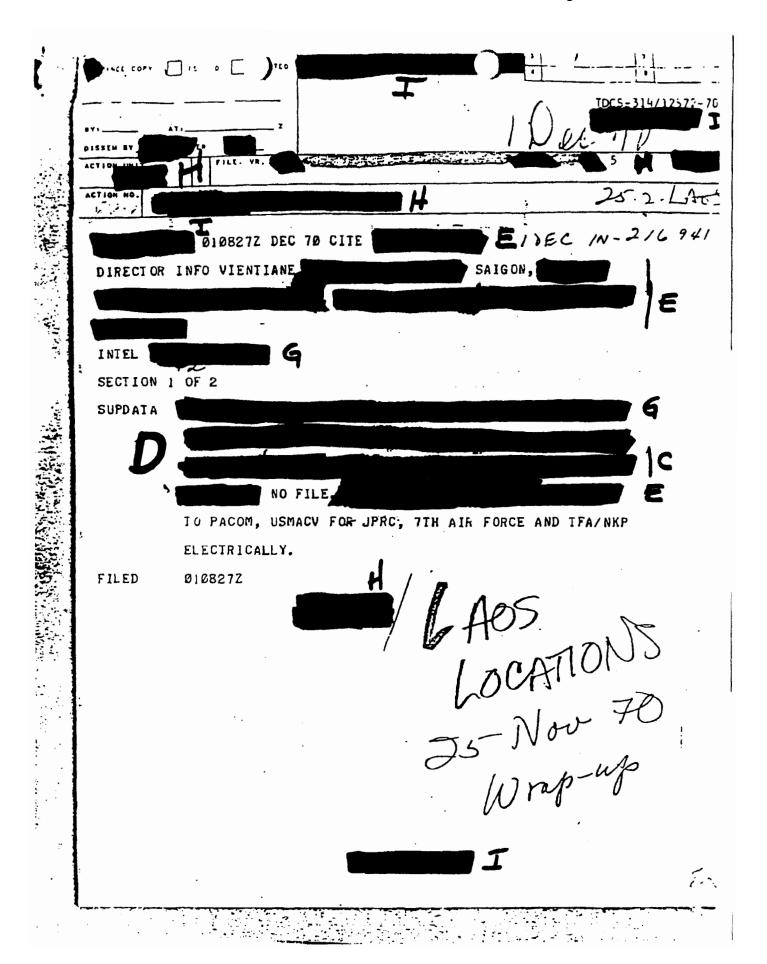
THE TRAIL VEERED TO THE NORTHWEST. AT BAN SOPSOUNG IT TURNED TO THE SOUTH.

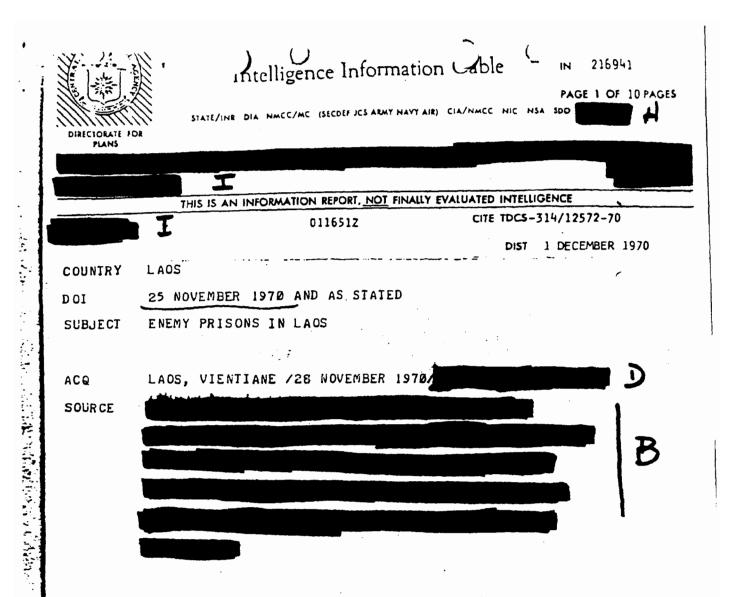
7. FIELD DISSEM. STATE ARMY AIR CINCPAC ARPAC PACAF

PACFLY MACV/JPRC 7TH AF 7/13TH AF TFA/NKP 7TH RRFS /ALSO









1. AS OF 25 NOVEMBER 1970 GROUND SOURCES CONFIRMED 45
ENEMY PRISONS AND/OR PRISONER OR WAR /POW/ CAMPS OR COMPLEXES IN
LAOS. BASED ON ANALYSIS OF AVAILABLE INFORMATION, AN ESTIMATED
1,000 ENEMY PERSONNEL WERE COMMITTED TO GUARDING AND MAINTAINING
PRISON FACILITIES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. SIX NEW PRISONS
HAVE BEEN CONFIRMED SINCE AUGUST, WHILE THE PRISON FACILITY
PREVIOUSLY CONFIRMED AT MUONG PHINE /XD 0927/ WAS DROPPED



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(classification) (dissem controls)

FROM THIS LISTING DUE TO RECENT GOVERNEMENT OPERATIONS IN THAT SECTOR. PRISONERS PREVIOUSLY HELD IN THE IMMEDIATE MUONG PHINE AREA PROBABLY WERE TRANSFERRED TO OTHER PRISONS.

(TDCS-314/08361-70)

IN AUGUST. THE LIMITATIONS OF THE TECHNIQUES USED IN COMPILING THIS REPORT ARE DISCUSSED IN THE FINAL PARAGRAPH.

- 2. POW CAMPS IN CONTESTED AREAS FREQUENTLY CHANGE THEIR LOCATIONS TO INSURE BETTER SECURITY, ESPECIALLY FOLLOWING SUCCESSFUL PRISONER ESCAPES. THE ENEMY STRESSES POLITICAL INDUCTRINATION OF INDIGENOUS POWS, AND THOSE PRISONERS WHO SHOW FAVORABLE PROGRESS OFTEN ARE INTERGRATED INTO REAR SERVICE UNITS OR OTHER SUPPORT FACILITIES. MANY OF THESE PRISONERS ARE RELEASED TO THEIR HOME VILLAGES IF THEY PROMISE NOT TO SUPPORT THE ROYAL LAO GOVERNMENT /RLG/.
- 3. AMERICAN POWS. UNTIL RECENTLY THE BAN NAKAY NEUA

 /VH 1956/ PRISON COMPLEX WAS THE ONLY PRISON FACILITY IN

 LAOS KNOWN TO CONTAIN AMERICAN POWS. AMERICANS CAPTURED IN

 NORTHERN LAOS WERE ESCORTED TO THIS FACILITY, WHERE THEY WERE

 DETAINED ON A SEMI-PERMANENT BASIS. RECENT REPORTING INDICATES,

 HOWEVER, THAT ALL FOREIGN POWS INCLUDING THE AMERICANS HELD IN

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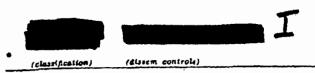
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THIS REGION MAY HAVE BEEN MOVED TO AN UNDISCLOSED LOCATION NORTH OF BAN NAKAY NEUA. AMERICANS CAPTURED IN THE LAO PANHANDLE ARE NOT BELIEVED TO BE PERMANENTLY DETAINED IN LAOS, BUT RATHER ARE ESCORTED THROUGH THE INFILTRATION CORRIDOR TO NORTH VIETNAM. AMERICAN POWS ARE BELIEVED TO RECEIVE BETTER TREATMENT THAN THAT PROVIDED TO THE INDEGENOUS PRISONERS.

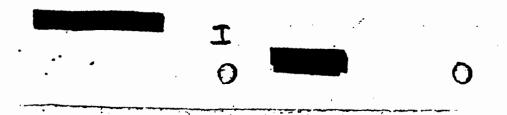
- 4. AS OF 25 NOVEMBER ENEMY PRISON FACILITIES WERE CONFIRMED BY GROUND SOURCES AT THE LOCATIONS LISTED BELOW. DESCRIPTIONS OF THESE FACILITIES ARE BASED UPON THE BEST AVAILABLE INFORMATION. THE MOST RECENT DATE OF CONFIRMATION IS GIVEN FOR EACH FACILITY.
- A. PHONG SALY /IK Ø102/ A LARGE PRISON, SURROUNDED BY
 A BAMBOO FENCE, APPEARS TO BE A PRISON FOR PATHET LAO /PL/
 CRIMINALS AND POLITICAL PRISONERS. ABOUT 400 RLG PRISONERS
 ALLEGEDLY WERE RELEASED IN JULY 1968. /MAY 1970/
- B. MUONG SING /QD 2344/ A DISTRICT PRISON FOR PL CRIMINALS AND POLITICAL PRISONERS. /APR 1970/
- C. NAM THA /QD 5019/ POSSIBLY TWO PRISONS, ONE FOR PL CRIMINALS AND POLITICAL PRISONERS, AND ONE FOR POWS.

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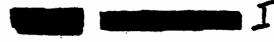
- D. BAN NAM THOUNG /QD 5320/ A SMALL PRISON, POSSIBLY A LOCAL JAIL, CONTAINING 13-20 PRISONERS. PRISONERS ARE ESCORTED TO WORK AT BAN THONG OM /QD 5122/ TO HUSK RICE.
- E. QD 6455 / CHINA/ A UNIDENTIFIED /U/I/ PRISON. /AUG 1969/
 /FIELD COMMENT THIS AREA APPEARS TO BE INHABITED BY LAO
 ETHNIC GROUPS. THERE ALSO IS A LAO HOSPITAL AND STORAGE
 FACILITY AT THE SAME LOCATION./
- F. BOTENE /QD 7744/ A SMALL LOCAL PRISON POSSIBLY
 CONTROLLED BY KHAMMOUANE NEUTRALISTS. A PRISON BUILT BY CHINESE
 FORCES ALSO HAS BEEN REPORTED HERE. /APR 1970/
 - G. NAM NOA /TJ 1034/ A U/I PRISON. /MAY 1969/
 - H. HOUAY CHIK /IJ 6345/ A PRISON REPORTED TO CONTAIN BOUT 70 MILITARY AND CIVIL PRISONERS. /MAR 1970/
 - I. HOUAY KANG /TJ 7451/ A PRISON COMPLEX. SEVERAL UNDRED RLG TROOPS CAPTURED AT NAM BAC /TH 3583/ IN JANUARY 368 WERE INCARCERATED IN THIS COMPLEX. MOST OF THESE RESONNEL HAVE BEEN RELEASED INTO REAR SERVICE UNITS, INTEGRATED TO COMMUNIST TACTICAL UNITS, OR HAVE ESCAPED. /OCT 1969/
 - J. VJ 1101 A U/I PRISON. /FEB 1969/



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K. MUONG SAI /RC 1190/ A PRISON FOR CIVILIANS AS WELL AS POWS AND POLITICAL PRISONERS. /APR 1970/

L. RC 0788 VICINITY /MUONG SAI/ A TWO PRISONS IN THE IMMEDIATE AREA, ONE FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS AND THE OTHER FOR POWS, 100-200 PRISONERS GUARDED BY 40-60 PL. /JUL 1970/

M. NAM BAC /TH 3886 VICINITY/ A POLITICAL INDOCTRINATION CENTER FOR POWS AND POLITICAL PRISONERS. /JUN 1970/

N. MUONG NGOI /TH 5891 VICINITY/ A THREE PRISONS IN THE MUONG NGOI AREA CONTAINING CIVILIANS, POWS AND POLITICAL PRISONERS AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS /SEP 1970/ -

/1/ PHA KAO CAVE /TH 5990/

/2/ PHA PERNG CAVE /TH 6291 VICINITY/

/3/ TH 6591

- C. SAM NEUA /VH B157 VICINITY/ A POLITICAL PRISON FOR LAG. AS OF DECEMBER 1969 ONLY NON-LAG PRISONER REPORTED WAS A THAI POW. /DEC 1969/
- P. BAN NAKAY NEUA /VH 1956/ A PRISON COMPLEX. /NOV 1970/
 /1/ BAN NAKAY NEUA MAJOR ENEMY PRISON. AS MANY
 AS 20 AMERICAN POWS HAVE BEEN REPORTED AT THIS LOCATION.
 UNCONFIRMED REPORTING AS OF 20 OCTOBER INDICATES ALL POWS,

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AMERICANS, THAIS, LAO AND MEO, MAY HAVE BEEN TRANSFERRED TO AN UNKNOWN LOCATION NORTH OF BAN NAKAY NEUA. /OCT 1970/

/2/ HANG LONG /VH 1362/ A PRISON IN CAVE, AMERICAN,
THAI AND LAO PRISONERS. RECENT UNCONFIRMED REPORTING INDICATES
ALL POWS MAY HAVE BEEN TRANSFERRED PRIOR TO MID-AUGUST TO AN
UNKNOWN LOCATION NORTH OF BAN KAKAY NEUA. /NOV 1970/

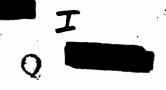
- Q. BAN CHAMUN /UG 7949 VICINITY/ PRISON, POSSIBLY CONTROLLED BY DEUANIST NEUTRALISTS. /FEB 1970/
- R. NAM KIAN /UG 9051/ A LARGE PRISON FACILITY REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN BUILT IN SPIEMBER 1969 BY PRISONERS WHO WERE MOVED FROM KHANG KHAY /UG 1758/. /JAN 1970/
- S. NONG HET /UG 9555/ A LARGE PL PRISON AT ONE TIME

 CONTAINED OVER 300 PROSONERS, MANY OF WHOM WERE TRANSFERRED FROM THE

 PLAINE DES JARRES DURING SEPTEMBER 1969. MANY OF THE

 POWS HELD HERE HAVE BEEN RELEASED INTO LABORER AND COOLIE

 GROUPS. /AUG 1970/
- I. KHAM KEUT /VF 7016 VICINITY/ A PRISON COMPLEX LOCATED IN SEVERAL CAVES IN KHAM KEUT AREA CONTAINS BOTH CIVILIAN PRISONERS AND POWS. /JUN 1970/
 - V. BAN THA VENG /VF 9616/ A PRISON FACILITY, POSSIBLY

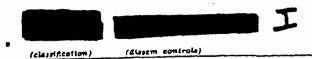


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ASSOCIATED WITH THE BORIKHAM SAI PROVINCIAL HEADQUARTERS.

- V. VF 9926 A PRISON FACILITY, POSSIBLY ASSOCIATED WITH PRISON AT BAN NAPE /WE 0823/. /JUL 1970/
- W. NAM OM /WF Ø429 VICINITY/ A POLITICAL PRISON, 10-20 PRISONERS. /JUL 1970/
- X. BAN NAPE /WF ØB23/ A A PRISON POSSIBLY CONTAINING BOTH CIVILIANS AND POWS. /SEP 1970/
 - Y. MAHAXAY /WE 2224/ A U/I PRISON. /NOV 1969/
- Z. WE 2639 A U/I PRISON GUARDED BY ONE GUERRILLA COMPANY. /JUL 1969/
 - AA. PHA LABO CAVE /WE 4301/ A U/I PRISON. /MAY 1969/
- BB. BAN NADENE/BAN NATHAN KHAMMOUANE PROVINCIAL
 PRISON COMPLEX, CONSISTING OF THREE SEPARATE PRISONS IN KARST
 CAVES OVER 100 LAO, BOTH CIVILIANS AND POWS, ARE BEING
 DETAINED IN THIS COMPLEX. NO AMERICANS OR OTHER FOREIGN
 NATIONALS ARE CURRENTLY BEING HELD, HOWEVER, IN MAY 1965 AND
 MARCH 1968 IWO AMERICAN PILOTS WERE REPORTED PASSING THROUGH
 THE AREA, PROBABLY ON THE WAY TO THE PRISON AT BAN THAPAC
 MONE /WE 8865/. THE THREE PRISONS ARE AT THE FOLLOWING

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LOCATIONS /AUG 1970/ A

/I/ BAN NADENE /WE 4334/ A PRISON IN A KARST CAVE,
50-80 PRISONERS. AMERICANS REPORTED PASSING THROUGH IN MAY 1965
AND MARCH 1968. /JUN 1970/

/2/ BAN NATHAN /WE 4032/ A PRISON IN CAVE, 50-90 POWS. NO AMERICANS OR THAIS IN THE AREA. /JUN 1970/

/3/ WE 4232 A PRISON FACILITY RAIDED IN 1967 BY RLG FORCES, REPORTED IN AUGUST 1970 TO BE BACK IN USE. /AUG 1970/

CC. BAN THAPAC MONE /WE 8805/ A POW CAMP IN A KARST

CAVE. AT ONE TIME THIS PRISON HELD 10 FOREIGN POWS

INCLUDING AMERICANS, THAIS AND FILIPINOS. INFORMATION DATED

26 JULY 1969 INDICATED NO AMERICANS WERE THEN BEING HELD AT

THIS LOCATION. A REPORT DATED 25 MAY 1970 INDICATED THE PRISON

MAY HAVE BEEN ABANDONED FOR THREE-FOUR MONTHS. /MAY 1970/

DD. WD 7884 A U/I PRISON IN A CAVE. /MAR 1970/

EE. WD 8188 A PRISON CONTAINING BOTH POLITICAL PRISONERS AND POWS. NO FOREIGN PRISONERS REPORTED. /AUG 1970/

FF. WD 6282 VICINITY - PRISON CONTAINING ABOUT 60 POWS.

GG. WD 8582 A LOCAL PRISON IN A CAVE. /MAR 1969/

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HH. XD 0838 VICINITY - PL PRISON WITH CIVILIAN AND MILITARY PRISONERS REPORTED. /JUL 1970/

II. MUONG ARNG KHAM /XD 1975/ A POLITICAL PRISON POSSIBLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE SOUTH LAOS TACTICAL REGION HEADQUARTERS. /AUG 1970/

- JJ. XD 2179 VICINITY PRISON WITH 30-70 POWS. /SEP 1969/
- KK. BAN ANG KHAM /XD 3047/ A POW CAMP. /AUG 1970/
- LL. XD 3244 A POW CAMP. /JUN 1969/
- MM. XD 3650 A POW CAMP. /FEB 1969/
- NN. XD 3457 A POW CAMP. FOUR AMERICANS ESCORTED THROUGH THE AREA IN JUNE 1968. /JUN 1969/
- OO. MUONG NONG /XD 6010 VICINITY/ A PRISON REPORTED TO CONTAIN EIGHT-TEN AMERICANS DURING APRIL AND MAY 1970. /MAY 1970/
 - PP. XC 1606 A POW CAMP CONTAINING ONLY LAD PRISONERS.

/JUL 1970/

- QQ. XC 7788 A SUSPECTED PRISON. /SEP 1970/
- RR. XB 8405 A POW CAMP. /JUL 1969/
- SS. XB 8832 VICINITY PRISON FACILITY CONTAINING ONLY LAO PRISONERS. /OCT 1970/
 - (5. FIELD COMMENT.

