



November 22, 2021

John Clarke
1629 K Street Suite 300
Washington DC 20006

NARA Case Number: **NW 66318**

Dear Mr. John Clarke:

This is in further response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for access to records in the custody of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). Our office received your request for records on Captain David Lewis Hrdlicka on November 22, 2021.

The Department of the Army declassified one folder totaling 16 pages.

If you are not satisfied with our response to your request, you may administratively appeal by writing to the address below. The Deputy Archivist must receive your appeal within 90 days of the date of this letter. Clearly mark the appeal letter and envelope: "FOIA Appeal" and cite the case number in your appeal letter. You may also submit your appeal to FOIA@nara.gov also addressed to the Deputy Archivist. All correspondence should reference your internal case tracking number NW 66318. Please note that denials under the FOIA of access to national security information accessioned by NARA are made by designated officials of the originating agencies or by NARA under a written delegation of authority. We will coordinate appeals of denials to national security information with the equity holding agencies.

Deputy Archivist of the United States (ND)
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, Maryland 20740-6001

In addition to your right to file an administrative appeal with the Deputy Archivist, you may seek assistance from our FOIA Public Liaison (FPL), Rebecca Calcagno, 8601 Adelphi Road, Room 5500, College Park, MD 20740-6001 or at 301-837-3190. Email: DC.foia.liaison@nara.gov

You may also contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS), the Federal FOIA Ombudsman's office, for assistance. OGIS offers mediation services to help resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies. The contact information for OGIS is:

Office of Government Information Services
National Archives and Records Administration

Did you understand our response to your inquiry? If not, please tell us why so we can improve our responses.

November 22, 2021 Production 000001

8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS
College Park, MD 20740-6001
Email: ogis@nara.gov
<https://www.archives.gov/ogis>
Phone: 202-741-5770 or 1-877-684-6448

We have enclosed copies of this material for your convenience. These records are also available for research use in the research room at the National Archives at College Park.

This concludes the processing of your request. If you have any question about the way we handled your request, or about our FOIA regulations or procedures, please contact David Fort at David.Fort@nara.gov

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David J. Fort". The signature is written in a cursive style.

DAVID FORT
Supervisory Archives Specialist
National Declassification Center

THIS MUST REMAIN TOP DOCUMENT

ARCHIVIST REVIEWED	<i>J.P. Cook</i>
DATE	<i>4 Dec 00</i>
ACCO REVIEWED	
DATE	
COMMENTS	

AC 760679
 DOSSIER NO. AC 760679

As of JUN 19 1973 all material
 (Date)

included in this file conforms with
 DA policies currently in effect.

Re Whitlock JUN 19 1973
 (Signature) (Date Signed)

 (Printed Name) (Grade)

DECLASSIFIED
 Authority NW 66318
 By DF/om NARA, Date 11/22/21

REVIEWED FOR RETENTION CRITERIA
 UP AR 381-10
 REVIEWER *J. Williams* DATE 11-1-20

THIS MUST REMAIN TOP DOCUMENT

IC Form 315
 1 Sep 72

Inspected for Records Repository (IRR)
 reviewed for retention criteria UP
 AR 381-10
 Date 29 Sep 87 *m.g.*

OUTGOING TELEGRAM 1 "epa" ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ STATE

INDICATE: COLLECT
 CHARGE TO

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
CONFIDENTIAL

45
Origin
FE
Info
SS
G
SAH
H
IO
NSC
INR
DOD
SCA
SCS

ACTION: Amembassy VIENTIANE 751

INFO: U.S. Mission GENEVA 2276
Amembassy BANGKOK 2189
Amembassy SAIGON 3645
CINCPAC
CSAF
CNO

07 9
DOWNGRADED AT 12 YEAR INTERVALS
NOT AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED

David J. Hrdlicka

1. Wife and parents have been contacted individually by USAF and have been given text letter allegedly written by Hrdlicka, informed that all efforts would be made contact and obtain release and cautioned that publicity could jeopardize chances.
2. Department asking ARC bring to attention ICRC strong possibility, based on publication of letter by PL, that Hrdlicka alive and held by PL.
3. We plan inform his family that they can address mail and packages for him to us which we will forward to Embassy Vientiane for turnover to Canadian ICC reps and transfer to PL (in same manner as mail for DeBruin).
4. On account Congressional interest offices Senator Mansfield and Congressman McVicker being kept informed information passed to family.

GP-3

END

RUSK

Drafted by: /SEA:MRosenberg:emh 5-25-66	Tel. Ext. 4406	Telegraphic transmission and classification approved by: FE/SEA - William C. Trueheart
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Clearances:

SCA - Mr. Gookin
FE/VN - Mr. Roberts
~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

S/AH - Mr. Stearns
DOD/ISA - Col. Mobley (subs)
~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

W/ FE - Mr. White

REPRODUCTION FROM THIS COPY IS PROHIBITED UNLESS "UNCLASSIFIED"

CONFIDENTIAL

ACTION: STATE DEPT (ARMY DCSPER)
DISTR: OCOFSA, OSA, OCSORST, ACS, TJAG, CL
DA IN 398791

NOVEMBER 22, 2021 Production 000004

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
NATIONAL MILITARY COMMAND CENTER
MESSAGE CENTER

394477

9 118 03

CALL 53337
FOR NMCC/MC
SERVICE

5 24 12 06Z

IMMEDIATE

940

CS373/24/R2

EHX495

OO RUEKDA

DE RUMJFS 178A 1440635

ZNY SSSSS

O PH260620Z ZFF1 MAY 66

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO RUEKDA/DOD IMMEDIATE

RUEHC/YECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1240

INFO RUMTBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY 849

RUFHGV/US MISSION GENEVA PRIORITY EIGHT

RUMJIR/AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY 600

RUHLHQ/CINCPAC PRIORITY 744

RUMSMA/COMUSMACV PRIORITY

RUECW/CNO PRIORITY

RUEACS/CSAF PRIORITY

STATE GRNC

BT

GP 3

**DOWNGRADED AT 12 YEAR INTERVALS
NOT AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED**

~~SECRET~~ MAY 24

PL EXPLOITATION OF U.S. PILOT

1. THIS SAIGON MAY 23 MONITORED BROADCAST WHICH PROVIDES PASSAGES FROM LETTER ALLEGEDLY WRITTEN BY DOWNED U.S. PILOT TO NLHS CHIEF SOUPHANOUVONG. NAME USED ALMOST CERTAINLY THAT OF DAVID LOUIS HRDLICKA, U.S.

PILOT WHOSE F-105 SHOT DOWN SOUTHEAST OF SAM NEUA ON MAY 18, 1965. NAMES, DATES, AND SERIAL NUMBERS USED IN LETTER CORRESPOND VERY CLOSELY TO THOSE WE CARRY HERE FOR CAPT. HRDLICKA.

2. BASED ON PAST EXPERIENCE PATHET LAO HANDLING OF U.S. PRISONERS, BELIEVE WE CAN BE REASONABLY CERTAIN PUBLICATION OF LETTER CONFIRMS HRDL CKA ALIVE. SINCE CAS REPORTING OVER PAST YEAR HAS OFTEN REFERRED TO QUOTE TWO U.S. PILOTS UNQUOTE HELD IN CAVL SE OF SAM NEUA (SEE FOV 6993 AN) PREVIOUS), THIS MAY MEAN THAT CAPT. CHARLES E. SHELTON WHO SHOT DOWN APRIL 29, 1965, IN ROUGHLY SAME AREA IS ALSO ALIVE.

WE CAN ANTICIPATE QUERIES FROM PRESS RE HRDLICKA AND IF A'KED, WISH PROPOSE FOLLOWING LINE TO ALL AGENCIES CONCERNED: QUOTE PILOT NAMED CAPT. DAVID LOUIS HRDLICRA HAS BEEN MISSING SINCE HIS PLANE SHOT DOWN MAY 18, 1965, WHILE ON RECONNAISSANCE MISSION OVER LAOS. HIS NAME HAS BEEN FURNISHED THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS, WHICH HAS

(MAY 66)

ACT...ASD/PA-9

INFO...CJCS-1 DJS-3 J1-1 J3-8 J4-3 J5-2 SACSA-5 SAMAA-1 SECDEF-7

ASD/ISA-9 ASD/IL-4 ASD/MPR-1 DIA-15 CSA-1 CMC-6 SSDSG-1 FILE-1(79)

RLL/S

DA IN 394477

SECRET

~~SECRET~~
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
NATIONAL MILITARY COMMAND CENTER
MESSAGE CENTER

ATTEMPTED TO DETERMINE HIS WHEREABOUTS AND HIS STATUS. THE SLIGHTLY GARBLED VERSION OF CAPTAIN HRDLICKA'S NAME AND OF HIS SERIAL NUMBER BROADCAST RECENTLY BY RADIO PATHET LAO GIVE GROUNDS FOR HOPE THAT THE CAPTAIN MAY BE ALIVE AND A CAPTIVE OF THE PATHET LAO. UNQUOTE. WE WILL NOT COMMENT FURTHER OTHER THAN TO SAY LETTER CLEARLY INTENDED BY PL FOR PROPAGANDA EXPLOITATION. PLEASE CONFIRM SOONEST.

4. RELEASE OF LETTER AND USE OF HRDLICKA'S NAME BY PL UNDOUBTEDLY INTENDED TO BE PEGGED ON RECENT PUBLICATION OF LAOS MILITARY AIR CASUALTIES. THIS UNFORTUNATE EXAMPLE OF COMPLICATIONS WE CAN GET INTO BY ONE SIMPLE SLIP IN PUBLIC HANDLING OF AIR OPERATIONS AND CASUALTIES IN LAOS: IN THIS CASE, DISPATCH OF ROUTINE UNCLASSIFIED NEXT OF KIN NOTICE (SEC DEF DTG 262221Z APRIL). THIS SHOULD REMIND US OF NEED TO TIGHTEN UP ALL OUR PROCEDURES TO KEEP QUIET WAR REALLY QUIET.

GP-3. SULLIVAN

BT
NNNN

ADV COPY TO OSD/NMMCC

REF 262221Z IS OUT 9394(ASD/PA)

2 OF 2

J CS-91803

NOTE:: ADV CY SENT TO ACSI AT 241347Z MAY 66
REF NOT IDENTIFIED

ACTION: OSD (ARMY ACSI) 4

DISTR : DCSOPS, CINFO, TAG, DCSPER

DA IN 394477

~~SECRET~~

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
NATIONAL MILITARY COMMAND CENTER
MESSAGE CENTER

412567
26234

CC: HQ of Records Facility
Fort Meade
Baltimore 18, Maryland

CALL 53337
FOR NMCC/MC
SERVICE

AC 790679

608 0419Z

F389/JCS 199/08/R2
OO RUEKDA
DE RUHLKAI 105 TOPWQQ
ZNY SSSSS
O P 080137 JUN 66

READD WH/ST/

FM CINCPACAF
TO RUMSMA/COMUSMACV
RUMSBJ/7AF TAN SON NHUT AB VIETNAM
INFO RUEKDA/OASD/PA WASH DC
RUHLHQ/CINCPAC
RUEDHQA/1127 USAF FLBACTYGP FT BELVOIR VA
LZEN/699SG HICKAM AFB HAWAII
RUMABA/13AF CLARK AB PHIL
RUMJFS/AMEMB VIENTIANE
RUMJIR/AMEMB SAIGON RVN
RUMTBK/AMEMB BANGKOK THAILAND
RUMJMA/DET 4,
699SG MANILA PHIL
RUMBAN/DET 5, 6499SG BANGKOK THAILAND
RUMBDF/DET 5, 6499SG UDORN THAILAND
RUMSBJ/DET 8, 6499SV TAN SON NHUT AB VIETNAM
RUMBAN/COMUSMACTHAI

IMMEDIATE

GP 3
DOWNGRADED AT 12 YEAR INTERVALS
NOT AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED

BT
~~SECRET~~ CS 93377 JUN 66. DELIVER FIRST DUTY HOUR.
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE RELEASE OF CAPT DAVID HRDLICKA BY PATHET LAO (S).
REF A - PACAF SECRET/CS 23750 DTG 050145Y JUN 66.
REF B - SECDEF SECRET/DEF 3178 DTG 280322Z MAY 66.
REF C - CINCPAC SECRET/DTG 190815Z MAY 66.
REF A DOES NOT AFFECT RESPONSIBILITIES OF COLONEL EBY AS SET-
FORTH IN REF B AND C. IT IS EXPECTED EBY WILL ACCOMPANY PARTY
TO MEET HRDLICKA REGARDLESS OF RELEASE LOCATION AND REMAIN WITH
HIM AS PART OF ANY PARTY INCLUDING REMOVAL TO CLARK (AS PER
REF A) AND/OR FURTHER UNTIL RELIEVED. GP-3.
BT

NOTE: REF A (23750) IS DA IN 409348 (5 JUN 66) OSD (ARMY DCSPER)
REF B (3178) IS DA IN 400208 (28 MAY 66) OSD (ARMY CINFO)
REF C (190815Z) IS NOT IDENTIFIED

1216553

ACTION: OSD (ARMY DCSPER)
DISTR: OCOFSA, OSA, DCSOPS, ACSI, TJAG, CINFO
DA IN 412567

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
NATIONAL MILITARY COMMAND CENTER
MESSAGE CENTER

412527

26270

US Air Force Facility
Fort Detrick
Randolph 18, Maryland

CALL 53337
FOR NMCC/MC
SERVICE

600 0428Z

F370 V JCS 959/07/

EUJ447

PP RUEPJK

ZNY SSSSS ZOV RUEPCM

T OASD/PA WASH DC

CVEA 183

PP RUEPAA

DE RUMBAN 69A 081317

ZNY SSSSS

P 070825Z JUN 66

FM DET 5 6499SPTGP BANGKOK THAILAND

TO RUHL KM/HQ 6499SPT GP HICKAM AFB HAWAII

RUMSBJ/7AF TSN AB RVN

RUHL KM/CINCPACAF

INFO RUEPAA/OASD/PA WASH DC

RUHL HQ/CINCPAC

RUEDHQA/112TH USAF FAG FT BELVOIR VA

RUMBOF/7AF 13AF UDORN AB THAILAND

RUMSMA/COMUSMACV

RUMJFS/AMEMB VIENTIANE

RUABSG/AMEMB SAIGON

RUMSBJ/DET 6 6499SPT GP TSN AB RVN

RUMJMA/DET 4 6499SPT GP MANILA PI

RUMABA/13AF CLARK AB PI

RUMBOF/DET 5 6499SPT GP UDMRN AB THAILAND

BT

~~SECRET~~/DET 5 36666 JUN 66. 6499 FOR CAPT PETIX,
7AF FOR DIPS, CINCPACAF FOR DIOE, CINCPAC FOR J-2, 1127TH FOR AFVIABB
FOR MAJ WESTBROOK, 7AF/13AF OR DI, MACV FOR COL EBY, AMEMB, VIENT
FOR AIRA, D6 6499 FOR CMDR, D4 6499FOR CMDR, 13AF FOR DI, MACTHAI FOR
J-2 SUBJECT: PLANNING FOR POSSIBLE RELEASE CAPT HRDLICKA.
REF: (A) 7AF DIPS 31536 JUN 66.

(B) PACAF CS 23750 JUN 66.

MSG IN FOUR PARTS. PART ONE. DET 5, AMEMB, AND COMUSMACTHAI
CONCUR WITH ADVISABILITY HRDLICKA'S EARLY
REMOVAL TO CLARK SHOULD RETURN TO US CONTROL TAKE PLACE IN THAILAND.
PART TWO. SHOULD RELEASE BE EFFECTED AT VIENTIANE, D5/USAIRA WILL
COORDINATE EVACUATION TO UDORN AB, THAILAND, FOR MEDICAL EXAM THENCE

(JUN 66)

INFO....CJCS-1 DJS-3 J1-1 J3-8 SACSA-5 SECDEF-7 ASD/ISA-9 DIA-15

ASD/PA-1 W/HOUSE-3 CSA-1 CNO-2 CSAF-1 CMC-6 (RF) FILE-1

(64)ML/CL

6

PAGE 1 OF 2

DA IN 412527

~~SECRET~~ November 22, 2021 Production 000008

1216553

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
NATIONAL MILITARY COMMAND CENTER
MESSAGE CENTER

TO CLARK. PRELIMINARY DEBRIEFING WILL BE INITIATED AT EARLIEST FEASIBLE TIME AND CONTINUED INFORMALLY WHILE ENROUTE TO CLARK. SHOULD RETURN BE EFFECTED AT ANY LOCATION IN THAILAND OTHER THAN UDORN AB, ROUTING WILL BE FIRST TO KORAT AB FOR MEDICAL EXAM, THENCE TO CLARK. PART THREE. IN ACCORDANCE WITH AGREEMENT WORKED OUT DURING SMITH/MC CLURE CASE, AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY (BANGKOK) HAS REAFFIRMED WILLINGNESS AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE RAAF AIRLIFT FOR EVACUATION TO THAILAND ANY AMERICAN MILITARY PERSONNEL RECOVERED IN PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA. CANBERRA HAS AUTHORIZED MILITARY ATTACHE BANGKOK TO USE URGENT REQUEST RAAF BUTTERWORTH TO PROCURE ACFT FOR THIS PURPOSE. IN SUCH EVENT, COORDINATION WITH ROYAL THAI GOVERNMENT WILL ENABLE EVACUATION DIRECT TO KORAT AB, THUS BYPASSING BANGKOK NEWSMEN. USAF AIRLIFT SHOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR REMAINDER OF TRIP. PART FOUR. FOR 7AF AND CINCPACAF. SHOULD HRDLICKA BE RETURNED TO U.S. CONTROL IN THAILAND IMMEDIATE AIRLIFT REQUIREMENTS WILL BE GENERATED AS FOLLOWS: (A) IF POINT OF RETURN TO U.S. CONTROL IS OTHER THAN UDORN AB OR DON MUANG AB, NEED WILL EXIST TO EXPEDITE AIRLIFT EITHER UDORN OR BANGKOK DEBRIEFING TEAM TO HRDLICKA LOCATION. SINCE TEAMS NO LARGER THAN FOUR MEN EACH, RECOMMEND TEMPORARY POSITIONING ONE T-39 AT EITHER UDORN OR DON MUANG UNDER CONTROL OF TACC, UDORN THUS ALLOWING USE BY DEP COMDR 7AF/13AF TO FULFILL IN-COUNTRY COMMITMENTS, WHILE AT SAME TIME ENABLING FAST RESPONSE TO BIG ECHO. (C) SINCE DECISION MADE TO EVACUATE TO CLARK, TIME EN-ROUTE SHOULD BE USED TO CONTINUE OR INITIATE PRELIMINARY DEBRIEFING, THEREFORE AIRLIFT AIRCRAFT SHOULD BE ABLE TO ACCOMMODATE RETURNEE PLUS AT LEAST TWO MEMBERS OF DEBRIEFING TEAM AND ANY OTHER (S) CONSIDERED NECESSARY BY HIGHER HQ, E.G. COL EBY. SAME T-39 CAN FULFILL THIS REQUIREMENT PROVIDED NO ADDITIONAL PERSONS DIRECTED TO ACCOMPANY. REQUEST REPLY REF AIRCRAFT/AIRLIFT REQUIREMENT. GP-3

BT
NNNN

REF A IS 19418
REF B IS 21884

ADV CY TO NMCC

PAGE 2 OF 2

26270

NOTE: 31536 IS NOT IDENTIFIED
23750 IS DA IN 409348 (5 JUL 66) OSD (ARMY DCSPER)

ACTION: OSD (ARMY DCSPER)

DISTR : OCOFSA, OSA, DCSOPS, ACSI, TJAG, CINFO
DA IN 412527

PAGE 2

~~SECRET~~

November 22, 2021 Production 00009

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~~SECRET~~

CD, USA CI Records Facility
Fort Holabird
Baltimore 18, Maryland

~~SECRET~~
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
NATIONAL MILITARY COMMAND CENTER
MESSAGE CENTER

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D466 V JCS207/-5
EUE341VEA513
PP RUEPDA
DE RUHL KM 1043 1560216
ZNY SSSSS
P R 050145Z

409348

CALL 53337
FOR DMCC/MC
SERVICE

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PP RUMSBJ RUMSMA
DE RUHL KM 1043 1560216
ZNY SSSSS
P R 050145Z JUN 66

FM CINCPACAF
TO RUMSBJ/7AF TSN RVN
INFO RUEPDA/OASD*DA WASHDC
RUHL HQ/CINCPAC
RUEDHQA/1127 USAF FLDACHY GP FT BELVOIR VA
ZEN/6499SG HICKAM AFB HAW
RUMABA/13AF CLARK AB PI
RUMBDFG/AMEMB VIENTIANE
RUMJIR/AMEMB SAIGON RVN
RUMTBK/AMEMB BANGKOK THAI
RUMJMA/DET 4 1499SG MANILA PI
RUMBAN/DET 5 6499SG BANGKOK THAI
RUMBOF/DET 5 6499SG UDORN THAI
RUMSBJ/DET 6 6499SG TSN RVN
RUMSMA/COMUSMACV
RUMBAN/COMUSMACTHAI

~~GP 3~~
**DOWNGRADED AT 12 YEAR INTERVALS
NOT AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED**

BT
~~SECRET~~/CS 23750 JUN 66.

SUBJ: POSSIBLE RELEASE OF CAPT DAVID HRDLICKA BY PATHET LAO. (S).
REFERENCE 7AF SECRET MSG DTG 030808Z JUN 66, CITE DIPS/31536.
IN EVENT HRDLICKA RELEASED THRU SAIGON, DET 6, 6499SG WILL ASSUME
RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROJECT. SHOULD RELEASE OCCUR THRU BANGKOK,
COL ILES DET 5 WILL ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROJECT. THIS HQS
CONCURS IN IMMEDIATE REMOVAL OF SUBJECT FROM SEA AND DESIRES
IMMEDIATE MVMT TO CLARK AB PI. SUBJECT SHOULD BE GIVEN MEDICAL
EXAM AND REST AT CLARK AS REQUIRED AND ACCESS SHOULD BE LIMITED
AND CLOSELY CONTROLLED. ENVISION PARTY WILL BE MET AT CLARK BY
DANIEL A. PETIX, MQ 6499SG, IMPERA-
TIVE ACCESS TO SUBJECT BE EXTREMELY LIMITED, UNTIL SUCH TIME AS
IT IS DETERMINED OTHERWISE BY THIS HQS.

GP-3.
BT

8

NOTE: REF 030808Z IS NOT IDENTIFIED
ACTION: OSD (ARMY DCSPER)
DISTR : OCOFSA, OSA, DCSOPS, ACSI, TJAG
DA IN 409348

~~SECRET~~

CG, USA, CI Records Facility
Fort Holabird
Baltimore 18, Maryland

JOINT MESSAGEFORM

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION
SECRET

TYPE MSG	BOOK	MULTI	SINGLE
		X	

PRECEDENCE

ACTION PRIORITY

INFO

RESERVED FOR COMMUNICATION CENTER

INFO: CJCS-1, DJS-3, J1-1, J3-8, SACSA-5, NMCC-1, SECDEF-7, ASD/ISA-9, ASD/PA-1, DIA-15, CSA-1, CNO-2, CMC-6, FILE 1 (61)KS/DBT/P-3, REF, 23710 NOT IDENTIFIED

11G. USAF

26 MAY 1966

398714

USAF COMM CENTER SERVICE

FROM: OSAF

TO: CINCPACAF

INFO: CINCPAC

COMUSMACV
COMUSMACTHAI
13AF CLARK AB PHIL
AMEMBASSY SAIGON VIETNAM
7AF TAN SON NHUT AB VIETNAM
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE LAOS
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK THAILAND
1127 USAF FAG FT BELVOIR

5 / special instructions

DISTRIBUTION

SAF-USA - 3

AFXPDR - 4

AFNIN - 7

GP 4

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS

DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS

SECRET SAF-OI 92209 MAY 1966

FOR INFORMATION OFFICE. Subject: Possible Release of Detainee.

Reference CINCPACAF Confidential DIOE 23710 May 66. This message in Four Parts. Part I. Reference message states possibility exists that release of Capt David L. Hrdlicka FR72541 by Pathet Lao may be imminent and quotes monitored radio broadcast by radio Pathet Lao. Broadcast carried letter allegedly written by Capt Hrdlicka to Prince Souphanouvong requesting release. Referenced message also requested SAF-OI information policy guidance in accordance with AFR 200-27 and PACAF Suppl One AFR 200-27. Part II. DOD and State were queried in Secret message 1240 24 May from US S. Embassy Vientiane which proposed line in answer to query for use by all agencies concerned. State/DOD Secret message 746 24 May concurred

DATE	TIME
26	1030
MONTH	YEAR
May	1966
PAGE NO.	NO. OF PAGES
1	3

TYPED NAME AND TITLE
JOHN M. CONNOLLY, JR.
Major, USAF
Plans & Programs Division
Office of Information
DA IN 398714

PHONE
59667

SIGNATURE
William C. Garland

TYPED (for stamped) NAME AND TITLE
WILLIAM C. GARLAND, Brigadier General, USAF
Deputy Director of Information

November 22, 2021 Production 000011

~~SECRET~~

ABBREVIATED JOINT MESSAGEFORM
and/or CONTINUATION SHEET

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

~~SECRET~~ 6/1/65

PRECEDENCE	RELEASED BY	DRAFTED BY	PHONE
ACTION PRIORITY			6011
INFO			

in following Embassy proposed line in answer to press query. Quote.

Pilot named Capt David Louis Hrdlicka has been missing since his plane shot down May 18, 1965, over Laos. His name has been furnished the International Committee of the Red Cross, which attempted to determine his whereabouts and his status. The slightly garbled version of Captain Hrdlicka's name and of his serial number broadcast recently by Radio Pathet Lao give grounds for hope that the Captain may be alive and a captive of the Pathet Lao. Unquote. State/DOD msg also stated that if further queried on nature of mission spokesmen will reply with standard line, i.e. U.S. has been conducting rescue missions over Laos since May 1964 at request of RLG. Part III. Parents and wife of Captain Hrdlicka were contacted personally 24 May by senior Air Force officers. Officers provided next-of-kin with text of intercepted broadcast and requested that they do not discuss its contents since we do not know what the Communists are planning and any statements affecting their plans might prejudice Capt Hrdlicka's possible release. Parents and wife indicated full cooperation. Part IV. SAF-OI is formulating information policy guidance re Capt Hrdlicka's possible release in coordination with DOD and State. For present, if queried limit response to line contained in Part II this message. No comment will be made on home base of Capt Hrdlicka's aircraft.

92209

DA IN 398714

PAGE 2

CONTROL NO.	TOR/TOD	PAGE NO.	NO. OF PAGES	MESSAGE IDENTIFICATION	INITIAL
		2	3		

REGRADING INSTRUCTIONS

November 22, 2021 Production 000012

Grp IV

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

~~SECRET~~

ABBREVIATED JOINT MESSAGEFORM and/or CONTINUATION SHEET		SECURITY CLASSIFICATION SECRET	
PRECEDENCE	RELEASED BY	DRAFTED BY	PHONE
ACTION PRIORITY			
INFO			

7AF authorized to use approved answer to query with MACV concurrence. Queries to USAF in Thailand will be referred to MACTHAI. Release of additional information is not authorized at this time. Request this headquarters be kept informed of developments.

OFFICE OF
SECURITY

NOTE: REF 23710 IS NOT IDENTIFIED
REF 1240 IS DA IN 394477 (24 MAY 66) OSD (ARMY ACSI)
REF 746 IS DA IN 395649 (25 MAY 66) STATE DEPT (ARMY ACSI)

ACTION: OSD (ARMY ACSI)
DISTR: DCSOPS, CINFO, TAG, DCSPER
DA IN 398714

PAGE 3

JOINT MESSAGEFORM				RESERVED FOR COMMUNICATION CENTER	
SECURITY CLASSIFICATION				INFO... CJC-1 DJS-3 J1-1 J3-8 SACSA-5 NMCC-2	
SECRET				SECDEF-7 ASD/ISA-9 ASD/PA-5 DIA-15 WH-3 ST-1	
TYPE MSG		BOOK	MULTI	SINGLE	CSA-1 CNO-2 CSAF-1 CMC-6 FILE-1(71)ML/M P-3
			X		REF A NOT IDENTIFIED
PRECEDENCE				REF B IS 93184	
ACTION PRIORITY				REF C IS NOT IDENTIFIED	
INFO PRIORITY				REF D IS NOT IDENTIFIED	
				REF E IS 96941	
				280322Z MAY 66	
				DTG	

FROM: SECDEF

TO: CINCPAC

COMUSMACHAI

COMUSMACV **GP 4**

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS

DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS

Info: CINCPACAF

7AF TAN SON NHUT AB VIETNAM

13AF CLARK AB PHIL

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE, LAOS

AMEMBASSY SAIGON VIETNAM

JUSPAO SAIGON

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK THAILAND

6499 SPT GP HICKAM AFB HAWAII

WHITE HOUSE

SECRET **DEF 3178** FROM ASD(PA) May 1966

Subject: Public Affairs Guidance on Possible Release of USAF

Captain David Louis Hrdlicka FR72541 by Pathet Lao (S)

References: A. AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 26 May 66

B. JOINT STATE DEFENSE 746 24 May 66

C. CINCPACAF DIOE 23710 May 66

D. CINCPACAF DIOE 23712 May 66

E. SAF-OI 92209 May 66

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

Distribution:

CSAF

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Col McIntyre

OASD(PA)-5

DIS-1

SA/VN-1

DSR-2

P&P-1

DATE	TIME
27	1930
MONTH	YEAR
May	1966
PAGE NO.	NO. OF PAGES
1	3

DRAFTER	TYPED NAME AND TITLE	PHONE	SIGNATURE
	JOHN M. CONNOLLY, Major, USAF, Plans and Programs Division, Air Force Office of Information	59667	
	DA IN 400208		TYPED (or stamped) NAME AND TITLE
			Arthur Sylvester Assistant Secretary of Defense (PA)

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION	REGARDING INSTRUCTIONS.
SECRET	SECRET

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ABBREVIATED JOINT MESSAGEFORM and/or CONTINUATION SHEET	SECURITY CLASSIFICATION SECRET
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PRECEDENCE	RELEASED BY	DRAFTED BY	PHONE
ACTION			
INFC			

1. (S) Highly possible Pathet Lao will make further public exposure of letter allegedly written by Capt Hrdlicka to Prince Souvanouvong (Refs C and D), then release him as propaganda move. Imperative Capt Hrdlicka not be prejudged and that public affairs re his possible release be handled expeditiously and expertly.

2. (S) Essential that media coverage incident to possible release be held absolute minimum until all facts are ascertained by intelligence debriefing team. All concerned must make every effort to protect integrity of individual and interests of the Armed Forces and the United States. Locations home base Capt Hrdlicka's aircraft and mission on which he was shot down make this matter more highly sensitive from public affairs viewpoint (Refs A and B).

3. (S) If released, detainee will have perishable, high-priority intelligence information vital to national security. He may need medical attention and reassurance as to personal welfare and morale. PACAF intelligence personnel are prepared to act quickly on these matters in accordance with pertinent directives. Public affairs responsibilities must be carried out in full coordination with intelligence. If found Capt Hrdlicka letter is complete hoax and detainee definitely not subject to action under UCMJ but good example of proper resistance to enemy interrogation, expeditious press coverage of his experiences, at proper time and within bounds of security, highly

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CONTROL NO.	TOR/TOD	PAGE NO.	NO. OF PAGES	MESSAGE IDENTIFICATION
		SECRET 2	3	

REGRADING INSTRUCTIONS DA IN 400208	Grp IV	SECURITY CLASSIFICATION SECRET
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PRECEDENCE	RELEASED BY	DRAFTED BY	PHONE
ACTION			
INFO			

desirable. However, if his actions during detention are found to reflect discredit, exposure to media must be restricted to limited statements by public affairs spokesmen pending completion of full investigation.

4. (U) Recommend that experienced senior Air Force information officer be designated as public affairs representative to accompany debriefing team to release point, work closely with overall project officer and act as public affairs spokesman through all phases as incident develops. ^{AF} Suggest Colonel Robert R. Eby, presently assigned to MACV Office of Information, be named to this duty. Colonel Eby has intelligence background and experience in handling public affairs during similar incident.
5. (U) Request OASD(PA) be kept fully informed of actions taken and further developments re Capt Hrdlicka.

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NOTE: REF's A THRU D ARE NOT IDENTIFIED.

ACTION: OSD (ARMY CINFO)
 DISTR : OCOFSA, OSA, ACSI, DCSOPS
 DA IN 400208

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
INFORMATION SECURITY CLASSIFICATION
CONTROL SYMBOL

394477

91000

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CALL 53337
FOR RHOD/NS
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RUEHC/YECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1240

INFO RUMJFK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY 010

RUFHGV/US MISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 010

RUMJIR/AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY 030

RUHLHQ/CINCPAC PRIORITY 744

RUMSMA/COMUSMACV PRIORITY

RUECW/CNO PRIORITY

RUEACS/CSAF PRIORITY

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BT

GP 3

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~~SECRET~~ MAY 24

PL EXPLOITATION OF U.S. PILOT

1. FRIS SAIGON MAY 23 MONITORED BROADCAST WHICH PROVIDES PARAGRAPHS FROM LETTER ALLEGEDLY WRITTEN BY DOWNED U.S. PILOT TO NEWS CHIEF SOUPHANGVONG. NAME USED ALMOST CERTAINLY THAT OF DAVID LOUIS HRDLICKA, U.S.

PILOT WHOSE F-105 SHOT DOWN SOUTHWEST OF SAIGON ON MAY 18, 1965.

NAMES, DATES, AND SERIAL NUMBERS CITED IN LETTER CORRESPOND VERY CLOSELY TO THOSE WE CARRY HERE FOR CAPT. HRDLICKA.

2. BASED ON PAST EXPERIENCE PATRIET LAO HANDLING OF U.S. PRISONERS, BELIEVE WE CAN BE REASONABLY CERTAIN FULFILLMENT OF LETTER CONFIRMS HRDLICKA ALIVE. SINCE CAS REPORTING OVER PAST YEAR HAS OFTEN REFERRED TO QUOTE TWO U.S. PILOTS UNQUOTE ALL IN ENGLISH OF SAM NEUA (SEE FOV 8993 AND PREVIOUS), THIS MAY MEAN THAT DAVID LOUIS HRDLICKA, U.S. SHOT DOWN APRIL 29, 1965, HIS USUAL CALL SIGN IS ALSO ALIVE.

WE CAN ANTICIPATE QUERIES FROM PRESS RE: SAIGON AND IF A LIAISON WISH PROPOSE FOLLOWING LINE TO ALL AGENCIES CONCERNED: QUOTE PILOT NAMED CAPT. DAVID LOUIS HRDLICKA HAS BEEN MISSING SINCE HIS PLANE SHOT DOWN MAY 18, 1965, WHILE ON RECONNAISSANCE MISSION OVER LAOS. HIS NAME HAS BEEN FURNISHED THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS, WHICH HAS

(MAY 66)

ACT...ASD/PA-9

INFO...CJCS-1 DJS-3 J1-1 J3-3 JA-3 JB-2 SACSA-5 SAMMA-1 SECDEF-7

ASD/ISA-9 ASD/IL-4 ASD/MPR-1 DIA-10 USA-1 CMC-6 SSSSS-1 FILE-1(99)

RLL/S

241626

1 OF 2

November 22, 2021 Production 000017

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~~SECRET~~

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL STAFF
WASHINGTON

~~SECRET~~

ATTEMPTED TO DETERMINE HIS WHEREABOUTS AND HIS STATUS. THE SLIGHTLY GARBLED VERSION OF CAPTAIN HROLICKI'S NAME AND OF HIS SERIAL NUMBER BROADCAST RECENTLY BY RADIO INTERVIEWERS IN LAOS HAS MADE IT APPARENT THAT THE CAPTAIN MAY BE ALIVE AND A PART OF THE 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION. WE WILL NOT COMMENT FURTHER OTHER THAN TO STATE THAT THIS INFORMATION IS BEING FORWARDED BY PL FOR PROPAGANDA EXPLOITATION. (S)

4. RELEASE OF LETTER AND USE OF PHOTOGRAPH OF CAPTAIN HROLICKI INTENDED TO BE PEGGED ON RECENT PUBLIC STATEMENTS CONCERNING CASUALTIES. THIS UNFORTUNATE EXAMPLE OF UNCONSIDERATE COMMENTARY INTO BY ONE SIMPLE SLIP IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS OF WAR OPERATIONS AND CASUALTIES IN LAOS; IN THIS CASE, DISSENTING OPINIONS CONCERNING THE NEXT OF KIN NOTICE (SEC DEF DTG 262221Z APRIL 71) IS BEING HELD RESPONSIBLE OF NEED TO TIGHTEN UP ALL OUR PROCEDURES FOR DISSEMINATING INFORMATION. CP-3. SULLIVAN

BT
NNNN

ADV COPY TO OSD/NMMCC

REF 262221Z IS OUT 9394(ASD/PA)

2 OF 2

J CS-91808

~~SECRET~~