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Read

*date 7/22/91
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C O N F I D E N T I A L

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SECT 60 OF 03576

ACTION

DISTR CJCS DJS SJCS(03) J3(08) J5(02) NMCC SECDEF(07) ASD:ISA(10)
ASD:PA(01) ASD:ISA(01) SECDEF: DIAI
CSA WASH DC
CSAF
CNO WASH DC
CMC DIA(20) MCCC FILE(1)
(053)

TRANSIT/101200Z/101338Z/001;38TOR1301337

ZNY CCCCC ZOC STATE
MJB175JFA170
RR RUEHC RUHQHQA
DE RUMJFS #3576 1301220
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
R 101200Z MAY 73
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 4048
INFO RUMTBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 1273
RUMJIR/AMEMBASSY SAIGON 9141
RUHQHQA/CINCPAC
RUMMRGA/CDR JCRC NKP THAI

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DI-2 (ASMIC)

BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 3576

INFO: 116521 GDS
TAGSI MOPS, PFOR, LA
SUBJECT: SEARCH FOR MIAs IN LAOSI MEETING WITH LPE SECRETARY
GENERAL PHOUMI VONGVICHIT

REF: VIENTIANE 3315

BEGIN SUMMARY: ACCOMPANIED BY PW OFFICER, I MET WITH LPE SEC GEN
PHOUMI VONGVICHIT AND LPE PERMREP SOTH PHETRASY MORNING OF 10
MAY AT LPE HEADQUARTERS. PHOUMI REPORTED HE HAD NOT RECEIVED
REPLY FROM LPE CENTRAL COMMITTEE TO EMBASSY MEMO REQUESTING EARLY
ACTIVITY ON SEARCH FOR MIAs. I RENEWED REQUEST FOR INFORMATION
CONCERNING FATE OF PWS HRDLICKA AND DEBRUIN AND TRANSMITTED
INFORMATION CONCERNING DISAPPEARANCE OF CASI PORTER AIRCRAFT ON
MAY 7, REQUESTING LPE ASSISTANCE IN LOCATING AIRCRAFT, PILOT
AND PASSENGERS. NINETY-MINUTE DISCUSSION WAS CONDUCTED IN

PAGE 1 C O N F I D E N T I A L 00110101

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED by *Haei* DATE *7/26/91*

RELEASE DECLASSIFY
 EXCISE DECLASSIFY in PART
 DENY Non-responsive info.

JTB

FOI, EO or PA exemptions _____ TS authority to:
 CLASSIFY as _____, OADR
 DOWNGRADE TS to S or C, OADR

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CONGENIAL MANNER BUT LPF STANCE WAS HARD AND UNCOMPROMISING;
END SUMMARY.

1, I OPENED DISCUSSION BY SETTING FORTH THREE POINTS REGARDING MIAs IN LAOS, IN CONNECTION WITH OUR DEMARCHE REQUESTING THAT QUESTION OF MIA SEARCH BE DISSOCIATED FROM OTHER ASPECTS OF VIENTIANE AGREEMENT IN ORDER TO PERMIT EARLY ACTIVITY, I REITERATED IMPORTANCE ATTACHED TO THIS SUBJECT BY USG, I INFORMED PHOUMI OF ENCOURAGING PROGRESS BEING MADE BY FPJMT AND CURRENT HUMANITARIAN ACTIVITY UNDERWAY RELATED TO DIC IN DRV, AND COMMENTED THAT I WAS HOPEFUL THAT LAO PARTIES WOULD BE SIMILARLY COOPERATIVE IN SEARCH FOR LAOS MIAs, PHOUMI STATED THAT TEXT OF OUR PROPOSAL HAD BEEN TRANSMITTED TO SAM NEUA LAST WEEK AND HE IS CERTAIN THAT PRINCE SOUPHANOUVONG AND LPF CENTRAL COMMITTEE ARE CURRENTLY STUDYING THE PROPOSAL, IT WAS PHOUMI'S OPINION THAT LPF COULD NOT, FOR REASONS OF SECURITY OF SEARCH TEAMS, PERMIT SEARCH ACTIVITY UNTIL CEASEFIRE BECAME MORE STABILIZED AND ZONES OF CONTROL BETTER DEFINED.

2, WHEN I RENEWED REQUEST FOR SPECIFIC INFORMATION CONCERNING THE FATE OF HRDLICKA AND DEBRUIN, PHOUMI APPEARED TO BE UNAWARE OF DETAILS IN THEIR CASES WHICH WE GAVE TO SOTH ON EARLIER VISIT, SOTH STATED THAT THE INFORMATION HAD BEEN TRANSMITTED TO SAM NEUA, PHOUMI THEN STATED VERY DEFINITELY THAT HE COULD CONFIRM INFORMATION PREVIOUSLY TRANSMITTED TO USG THAT THERE ARE NO ADDITIONAL US PWS BEING HELD BY LPF, WE THEN ASKED FOR DETAILS REGARDING FATE OF HRDLICKA, DEBRUIN, AND OTHER AMERICANS WHO MAY HAVE, AT ONE TIME, BEEN HELD CAPTIVE, PHOUMI REITERATED THAT, TO EXTENT POSSIBLE, THIS INFORMATION IS BEING GATHERED BY CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND WOULD BE TRANSMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROVISIONS OF THE VIENTIANE AGREEMENT, WE URGED THAT, AS HUMANITARIAN GESTURE, INFORMATION GATHERED BY TRANSMITTED AS SOON AS IT IS DEVELOPED, THROUGH ANY CHANNEL LPF DEEMED APPROPRIATE, ICC, ICRC, RLG OR DIRECTLY TO USG, PHOUMI AGREED TO TRANSMIT THIS REQUEST TO SAM NEUA.

3, I HANDED PHOUMI FRENCH-LANGUAGE RESUME OF INFORMATION CONCERNING DISAPPEARANCE ON MAY 7 OF CONTINENTAL AIR SERVICES PORTER AIRCRAFT WITH AMERICAN PILOT AND FOUR LAO PASSENGERS ABOARD, AFTER SHORT EXCHANGE REGARDING WHETHER PORTER MISSION CONSTITUTED A VIOLATION OF AGREEMENT, PHOUMI AGREED TO TRANSMIT INFORMATION TO SAM NEUA AND REQUEST INFORMATION CONCERNING FATE OF AIRCRAFT AND THOSE ABOARD, HE STATED THAT HIS DELEGATION WOULD

PAGE 2

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INFORM ME AS SOON AS ANY INFORMATION IS RECEIVED ON ALL SUBJECTS
DISCUSSED ABOVE;

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH PHOUMI'S MANNER WAS PLEASANT AND CONGENIAL,
HIS ATTITUDE AND MESSAGE WERE UNCOMPROMISING. IT BECOMES
INCREASINGLY APPARENT THAT LPF INTENDS TO USE PROMISE OF EARNEST
MIA SEARCH AS LEVERAGE TO OBTAIN US ASSISTANCE IN ACHIEVING ITS
GOALS IN LAO SETTLEMENT. PHOUMI SUGGESTED REPEATEDLY THAT USG
USE ITS GOOD OFFICES TOWARD THIS END.

DEAN

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PAGE 3

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