



A Zone between North and South Vietnam. [REDACTED]

was not able to recontact the Pathet Lao source or obtain further confirmation.

3. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

A  
B  
B  
4. The information which [REDACTED] provided

[REDACTED] in 1976 contained items not in the information provided [REDACTED] in 1974. The new bits of information were as follows:

A a. The 1974 report mentioned [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] that the North Vietnamese were exploiting certain PWs for their technical skills, and that the PWs worked on the Ho Chi Min trail; but the 1974 report did not specify that the PWs cooperated with the North Vietnamese by defusing unexploded ordnance.

b. The 1974 report did not mention that the group of 5 to 10 American PWs were known to be in the vicinity of Sam Neua in early 1975.

c. Nor did the earlier report mention a suspicion the the group of American PWs had been in the vicinity of the Plain of Jars.

d. the 1974 report did not mention dates on which new bits of information were acquired.

e. The 1974 report mentioned "brainwashing", but was not as specific as the 1976 report in stating that the American PWs were cooperating with the North Vietnamese as a result of being pressured until they "broke".

5. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

6. One of the Americans released from Laos, a civilian named Emmet Kay, was captured on 7 May 1973 and on 11 June 1973 moved into the Sam Neua area, where he was held until his release on 18 September 1974. Although Emmet Kay's captivity did not overlap with the period when [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the 8 to 10 Americans were known to

A, B

A

be in the Sam Neua area, i.e., early 1973, Emmet Kay might have learned from the guards or prison personnel if such a large group of American PWs was being held or had been held nearby. At no time during his detainment in the Sam Neua area did he have knowledge or hear of any other U.S. personnel being held in the area.

7. None of the returnees in Operation Homecoming had been forced to perform hard labor, such as road building. If the [REDACTED] report is looked on as a report on Americans performing hard labor, then it is a unique report. On the other hand, if it is viewed in terms of exploitation of technical skills, then it must be considered compatible with many other reports of attempts to exploit PWs. The returnees had seen two American PWs who cooperated with the enemy. There have been unconfirmed reports of collaborators. The North Vietnamese deliberately exploited the skills of the PWs for propaganda. It is not inconceivable that they might have tried to exploit PWs skilled in ordnance. Military pilots, as a rule, did not possess such skills.

8. Although there is no confirmed reporting that correlates directly with the [REDACTED] report, there are reports of varying reliability which might possibly be related. For instance, a series of reports [REDACTED]

A [REDACTED] stated that nine American PWs were held in the vicinity of Mahaxay, a town about 30 miles east of Thakhek in Central Laos, in September 1973. One report said they were taken to Hanoi in September 1973. Another report said nine Americans were still in the area, at a detention camp near a town called Pha Katao, in March 1974. This information did not correlate to any known individual or group of PW/MIAs; the nine Americans captured in Laos and released in Operation Homecoming had all been moved out of Laos to Hanoi well before the end of 1972. This series of reports did not imply that the nine Americans in the Mahaxay area had been defusing ordnance or cooperating in any way with the North Vietnamese. The Mahaxay reports remain unconfirmed in spite of extensive research and follow-up.

A 9. It is highly unlikely that [REDACTED] [REDACTED] could at this time provide enough information, even if they were available for extensive debriefing, to establish positive identification of persons they may have seen working on the Ho Chi Min trail, or to establish conclusively that such persons were Americans and not Europeans, Russians, Cubans or other nationalities. Research at this time would probably produce as little or less than it did in 1974 [REDACTED]

D, A [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]