

Intelligence Information Cable

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~~SECRET~~

DIST 22 SEPTEMBER 1972

COUNTRY : USSR/NORTH VIETNAM
DOI : 22 SEPTEMBER 1972
SUBJECT : SOVIET PLANS TO HAVE PLANE CARRYING POW'S FROM HANOI
OVERFLY LAOS, AND TO ATTEMPT TO LIMIT ACCESS OF
AMERICAN OFFICIALS IN RANGOON

1. IN ORDER TO PROHIBIT OR LIMIT ACCESS BY AMERICAN OFFICIALS, SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICIALS IN RANGOON STATED ON 22 SEPTEMBER 1972 THAT AEROFLOT FLIGHT SU-542 CARRYING THREE AMERICAN POW'S OUT OF HANOI ON 23 SEPTEMBER WILL OVERFLY VIENTIANE AND MAKE ITS FIRST STOP AT RANGOON. THE NEW ARRIVAL TIME OF THIS FLIGHT IS APPROXIMATELY 1745 HOURS LOCAL TIME (1115 GMT).

2. SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICIALS IN RANGOON HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED NOT TO ACCEPT BOARDING PASSENGERS IN RANGOON WHO DO NOT POSSESS A VALID VISA FOR THE USSR. IT WAS NOT PLANNED TO ISSUE ANY VISA IN RANGOON.

APPROVED FOR REL
DATE: FEB 2001

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3. SINCE THE TRANSIT LOUNGE AT MINGLADON AIRPORT IN RANGOON IS OPEN TO ALL ACCREDITED DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL, SOVIET OFFICIALS ARE NOT CERTAIN THEY CAN PREVENT AMERICAN OFFICIALS FROM ENTERING THE LOUNGE. FOR THIS REASON THESE OFFICIALS HOPE TO CONVINCING THE POW'S TO REMAIN ON THE AIRCRAFT WHILE THE PLANE REFUELS.

4. [REDACTED] COMMENT. NORMALLY A VISA FOR THE USSR IS NOT REQUIRED FOR PASSENGERS WHO EXPECT TO TRANSIT WITHIN 48 HOURS. IN THIS CASE, HOWEVER, SOVIET OFFICIALS APPARENTLY DO NOT PLAN TO OBSERVE THAT RULE.)

5. [REDACTED]