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~~SECRET~~ 161329Z SEP 68 CITE VIENTIANE 4376

DIRECTOR INFO [redacted]

[redacted]

16 SEP 68 [redacted] *H*

REF: DIRECTOR [redacted]

1. VIENTIANE HAS CONSIDERED TWO METHODS OF DISPOSAL OF SEIZED OPIUM:

- A. BURNING
- B. DUMPING IN RIVER

2. BOTH THE ABOVE PLANS WERE DISCUSSED WITH MR. JACK GREEN, U.S. NARCOTICS BUREAU. AS REGARDS BURNING, GREEN STATED WE WOULD PROBABLY INTOXICATE ALL OF VIENTIANE SHOULD WE ATTEMPT DESTROY 475 LBS OF OPIUM BY LOCAL BURNING. THIS MATTER IS FURTHER COMPLICATED BY LACK OF A SECURE AREA TO ACCOMPLISH SUCH BURNING. A FURTHER RISK ENSUES FROM THE LOCAL SMUGGLERS DISCOVERING THIS OPIUM IN [redacted] HANDS BEFORE DESTRUCTION IS COMPLETED.

3. DUMPING IN THE RIVER DID NOT ENVISAGE BULK DUMPING. OUR PLAN IS TO CUT THE OPIUM BLOCKS INTO 4X4X4 CUBES, ^{RI}LOAD IT INTO A CABOBU AND DUMP IT OVER APPROXIMATELY 50 MILES OF THE MEKONG DOWN RIVER FROM VIENTIANE IN SPARSELY INHABITED AREA. THE MEKONG NOW AVERAGES ONE-HALF MILE WIDTH, 40-60 FEET DEPTH AND FLOWS ABOUT

APPROVED FOR RELEASE DATE: 07-Dec-2009

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PAGE 2 VIENTIANE 4376 ~~SECRET~~

15-20 MPH. WE FEEL THESE CUBES WOULD BE COMPLETELY DISSOLVED
OR ERODED AND THAT LITTLE OR NO CHANCE OF SALVAGE OF ANY
QUANTITIES EXISTS.

4. ADVISE.

~~SECRET~~

BI.

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