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RV: FOREIGN MINISTRY DENIES EXISTENCE OF POWS

#1206094389 TOKYO KYODO IN ENGLISH 0903 GMT 12 JUN 89

[TEXT] HANOI, JUNE 12 KYODO -- THE VIETNAMESE FOREIGN MINISTRY
ON MONDAY FLATLY DENIED THE RECENT DISCLOSURE BY A FORMER JAPANESE
DETAINEE IN VIETNAM THAT FIVE OR SIX AMERICAN PRISONERS OF WAR
(POWS) WERE STILL IN CAPTIVITY HERE.

THE MINISTRY ALSO SAID IN THE STATEMENT THAT SUCH A STORY WAS A
'FRAME-UP' AND CHARGED 65-YEAR-OLD BUDDHIST MONK IWANOBU YOSHIDA,
WHO IS NOW HOSPITALIZED IN SAPPORO, WITH BETRAYING THEIR TRUST.

YOSHIDA WAS DETAINED AS A POLITICAL PRISONER AFTER THE FALL OF
SOUTH VIETNAM IN 1975 AND SPENT MORE THAN 13 YEARS IN CAPTIVITY. HE
RETURNED TO JAPAN LAST JANUARY.

12 JUN 1844Z RF

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Approved for Release

OCT 1991