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Department of State

DU MOPS LIVE SIGHTING  
INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

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ACTION INR-07

AMERICAN WAR PRISONERS ARE STILL BEING DETAINED IN VIETNAM AND HAS DEMANDED HANOI PROVIDE INFORMATION CONCERNING AMERICAN POWS.

INFO J-05 VLG-02 P-01 RA-01 FILE-01 PMU-01 EAP-05  
/016 A1 DT

YOSHIDA SAID HE HAS NO DETAILS ABOUT THE AMERICAN PRISONERS BECAUSE THEY WERE DETAINED IN A SEPARATE BUILDING.

INFO LOG-00 SSO-00 PH-10 EAP-00 PA-02 INRE-00 SP-02  
/021 W

HE SAID HE WAS NOT IN DIRECT VERBAL CONTACT WITH THE AMERICANS BECAUSE HE COULD NOT SPEAK ENGLISH.

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(ENDALL) 0714 [REDACTED] 07/1532Z JUN

O P 071529Z JUN 83

FM FBIS OKINAWA JA

TO AIG 4588

INFO AFOSI DET 4607 KADENA AB JA//CC//

FOSIF WESTPAC KAMI SEYA JA

NO AFESC TYNDALL AFB FL//DEHM//

CMC WASH DC//MSPA-1 INTC//

COMNAVHILPERSCOM WASH DC//NMPC-12//

CSA WASHINGTON DC//DAAG-CAD//

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC//D/PW//

SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC//INR//SEA//

FBIS BANGKOK TH

DATT-TLO BANGKOK TH

SAC INTELLIGENCE OPS CNT OFFUTT AFB NE

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE LAOS

MAC INTEL CEN SCOTT AFB IL//IXO//

ACCT FBGV-EVDK

EOT

Referral:  
CIA  
R

UNCLAS 4A

SERIAL: 0V0706152983

COUNTRY: JAPAN, VIETNAM

SUBJ: JAPANESE SAYS U.S. POW'S DETAINED IN SRV

SOURCE: TOKYO KYODO IN ENGLISH 1449 GMT 7 JUN 83

TEXT:

(TEXT) TOKYO, JUNE 7 KYODO -- A FORMER JAPANESE DETAINEE IN VIETNAM SAID WEDNESDAY FIVE OR SIX AMERICAN PRISONERS OF WAR (POWS) WERE STILL IN CAPTIVITY WHEN HE LEFT THE COUNTRY LAST JANUARY.

IVANOBU YOSHIDA, 65, A BUDDHIST MONK, TOLD KYODO NEWS SERVICE THAT THERE WERE ABOUT 18 AMERICAN POWS WHEN HE WAS FIRST DETAINED IN VIETNAM AS A POLITICAL PRISONER IN 1975.

YOSHIDA, WHO IS NOW HOSPITALIZED IN SAPPORO, SAID THEY WERE BEING FORCED TO ENGAGE IN CONSTRUCTION WORK.

U.S. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS RECEIVED THE SAME INFORMATION IN TOKYO FROM YOSHIDA'S ELDEST DAUGHTER, KEIKO TAKATSUKA, 37.

"THE REPORTS ARE NOT UNBELIEVABLE. THERE IS NO REASON TO DOUBT HER STORY AND HER ATTITUDE," SAID A U.S. OFFICIAL WHO DECLINED TO BE NAMED.

"WE'LL SEND ALL REPORTS AND MATERIALS TO THE U.S. TO BE STUDIED BY EXPERTS. WE WILL NOT ASSESS OR VERIFY THE REPORTS HERE, THOUGH THEY ARE VERY INTERESTING," THE OFFICIAL SAID.

TAKATSUKA QUOTED YOSHIDA AS SAYING HE SPENT THE LAST SEVEN YEARS IN A HANOI PRISON, WHERE THE POWS SPOKE ENGLISH AND CALLED HIM "JAP."

THE FOREIGN DETAINEES WERE CALLED AMERICANS BY VIETNAMESE POLITICAL PRISONERS THERE. ONE OF THEM HELPED YOSHIDA WALK ON DISCOVERING HE HAD LEG TROUBLE, TAKATSUKA SAID.

YOSHIDA, A POLITICIAN TURNED BUDDHIST PRIEST, EMIGRATED TO VIETNAM IN 1966 AND WAS GRANTED CITIZENSHIP BY THE THEN GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH VIETNAM IN 1973. HE 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.

THE VIETNAMESE EMBASSY IN TOKYO REFUTED YOSHIDA'S REMARKS AND SAID THAT AS THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT HAS REPEATEDLY STATED IN THE PAST, THERE ARE NO AMERICAN SOLDIERS LIVING IN THE COUNTRY.

EMBASSY OFFICIALS SAID THEY HAVE NEVER HEARD THAT AMERICAN POWS ARE STILL BEING HELD IN VIETNAM.

THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS INSISTED ON THE POSSIBILITY THAT

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