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AIMFULL

TO : DITRAJB  
FROM : DIKINHJ  
SUBJECT: Lao article on Borah photo, PW/MIA  
DOCUMENT SENT ON 10/08/91  
REMARKS:

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ENVELOPE

CDSN = LGX364 MCN = 91280/14282 TOR = 912801431  
PTTUZYUW RUEKJCS0780 2801430-UUUU--RUEALGX.  
ZNR UUUUU

HEADER

P 071430Z OCT 91  
FM JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC  
INFO RUEALGX/SAFE  
P 071403Z OCT 91  
FM FBIS BANGKOK TH  
TO RUCWAAA/FBIS RESTON VA  
RAYWBF/ONA CANBERRA AS  
RAYWDA/DIO CANBERRA AS  
RHHMBRA/JICPAC HONOLULU HI//OBU//  
RHMQAAA/13AF CLARK AB RP//IN//  
RUADTBB/CDR1STBN1STSFGA TORII STA JA//SSO//  
RUAJMAB/FOSIF WESTPAC KAMI SEYA JA  
RUCIPGA/HQ AFESC TYNDALL AFB FL//DEHM//  
RUDKMKB/FBIS LONDON UK//BBC//  
RUDMNOP/NAVOPINTCEN SUITLAND MD  
RUDPMAX/FAISA FT BRAGG NC  
RUEACMC/CMC WASH DC//MSPA-1 INTC//  
RUEACNP/COMNAVMILPERSCOM WASH DC//NMPC-12//  
RUEADWD/CSA WASHINGTON DC//DAAG-CAD//  
RUEAHQA/AFIA WASHINGTON DC  
RUEBFGA/VOA WASH DC  
RUEBHAA/STORAGE CENTER FBIS RESTON VA  
RUEHBT/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC//INR/EAP//  
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC//D/PW//  
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC//EAP/VLC//  
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC//INR/SEA//  
RUEKJCS/DEFINTAGENCY WASH DC  
RUEOACC/CDR PSYOPGP FT BRAGG NC//ASOF-POG-SB//  
RUETIAV/MPC FT GEO G MEADE MD  
RUHDBKT/DATT-TLO BANGKOK TH  
RUHDHA/CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI//XP//  
RUHDHA/HQ PACAF IDHS HICKAM AFB HI  
RUHQHQA/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI  
RULWIOC/SAC INTELLIGENCE OPS CNT OFFUTT AFB NE  
RUMTFS/AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE  
RUWSMXI/MAC INTEL CEN SCOTT AFB IL//INO//  
RUYLBAH/DODSPECREP OKINAWA JA  
RUYLSDE/NAVSECGRUACT HANZA JA  
ACCT FBBK-EWDK

BT

CONTROLS

*C-File  
Current Ops/  
Borah File*

Approved for Release  
Date AUG 1994

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WARNING: ATTN BANGKOK AE  
ATTN BANGKOK LOCAL

SERIAL: BK0710140391

BODY

PASS: ATTN POL

COUNTRY: LAOS

SUBJ: SPOKESMAN -- PICTURE OF MIA PILOT ACTUALLY FARMER

SOURCE: VIENTIANE VITTHAYOU HENGSAAT RADIO NETWORK IN LAO 1200 GMT  
7 OCT 91

TEXT:

((TEXT)) SPEAKING TO LAO REPORTERS DURING A NEWS CONFERENCE HELD IN VIENTIANE THIS MORNING ON THE RUMOR, PUBLICIZED BY NEWSPAPERS AND TELEVISION IN THE UNITED STATES AND SOME FOREIGN COUNTRIES IN SEPTEMBER, ABOUT A U.S. PRISONER OF WAR NOW STILL ALIVE IN LAOS, VANHEUANG VONGVICHIT, HEAD OF THE INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, REVEALED THAT A TEAM OF LAO OFFICIALS AND U.S. TECHNICIANS, ON 10 AND 11 SEPTEMBER, WENT TO NONG DISTRICT OF SAVANNAKHET PROVINCE TO INVESTIGATE THE MATTER AND LATER AGREED THAT THE RUMOR WAS GROUNDLESS. THE RUMOR WAS COOKED UP BY A NUMBER OF BAD ELEMENTS WITH A HOPE OF DISRUPTING AND SABOTAGING RELATIONS BETWEEN LAOS AND THE UNITED STATES AND CREATING MISUNDERSTANDING AGAINST THE LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC AMONG THE U.S. PEOPLE AND FAMILIES OF U.S. SOLDIERS LISTED AS MISSING IN LAOS DURING THE WAR.

VANHEUANG VONGVICHIT SAID THAT THE PUBLICATION OF THE RUMOR BY THE U.S. NEWSPAPERS HAD TRIGGERED THE LAO GOVERNMENT TO EXPEDITIOUSLY DISPATCH OFFICIALS TO INVESTIGATE MANY LOCALITIES. THE INVESTIGATION REVEALED THAT THE PERSON IN THE NEWS REPORTS IS A MEMBER OF THE (MANGKON) TRIBE OF THE LAO THEUNG GROUP. HIS NAME IS (ALAO). (ALAO) IN LAO THEUNG LANGUAGE MEANS UNCLE WITH A MUSTACHE. HE LIVES IN (SOUANG TAI) VILLAGE IN NONG DISTRICT. UNCLE (ALAO), ABOUT 66, IS HALF FRENCH. HIS WIFE'S NAME IS KAE. SHE IS 45. THEY HAVE FIVE CHILDREN BUT FOUR SUCCEDED TO DISEASES. NOW, HE NOW HAS ONLY ONE SON, 21. DURING THE INTERROGATION, HE TOLD THE LAO OFFICIALS AND U.S. TECHNICIANS THAT A NUMBER OF PEOPLE TOOK HIS PICTURE WITH HIS PERMISSION BECAUSE HE LOOKS LIKE A EUROPEAN. THEY LATER SENT HIS PICTURE TO THE UNITED STATES WHERE IT WAS CLAIMED TO BE THE PICTURE OF (BORA), A U.S. PILOT MISSING DURING THE WAR IN LAOS. THE PICTURE IS IN FACT UNCLE (ALAO), A LAO FARMER -- SHORT PERSON -- WHO KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT THE MATTER AND HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IT. THIS IS THE FACT ABOUT THE WORLD-RENOWNED RUMOR PUBLISHED IN THE U.S. NEWSPAPERS.

THE HEAD OF THE INFORMATION DEPARTMENT SAID IN CONCLUSION THAT THE LAO GOVERNMENT, PLEDGING TO STRENGTHEN BILATERAL RELATIONS, WHICH HAVE BEEN IMPROVED EVERY PASSING DAY, FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE LAO AND U.S. PEOPLE AND FOR HUMANITARIAN REASONS, HAS SINCE THE END OF THE WAR IN LAOS HANDED OVER 10 U.S. PRISONERS OF WAR TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AND COOPERATED WITH U.S. SIDE IN SEARCHING FOR AND

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RETRIEVING NEARLY (?45) SETS OF REMAINS OF U.S. SERVICEMEN MISSING  
IN LAO TERRITORY. AT PRESENT THE LAO SIDE IS CONTINUING TO  
COOPERATE WITH THE U.S. SIDE IN SEARCHING FOR THE REMAINS OF U.S.  
SOLDIERS MISSING IN LAOS.

ADMIN

(ENDALL) BP530710.011 071200 [REDACTED] 07/1406Z OCT  
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