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FOY 8781

DATE: APR 24 1974

CTL NO: ~~SCRC-0633-74~~ 592

REC NO: 088

CY NO: 01 CF 01

PG NO: 01 OF 02

13 DECEMBER 1965



REPORT CLASS SECRET/NO FOREIGN DISSEM/BACKGROUND USE ONLY

FOY 8781  
LAOS

Regraded ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ by authority of [signature] on 11/19/78

13B 27

SUBJECT: PATHET LAO [redacted] ACCOUNT OF HIS WITNESSING THE CAPTURE OF TWO DOWNED AMERICAN PILOTS

DOI: APRIL-JUNE 1965 PADA: LAOS VIENTIANE 6 AND 10 DECEMBER 1965

SOURCE: [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

1.5(c)  
3.4(b)(1)

SC 'S

1.5(c)  
3.4(b)(1)

1. [redacted] PATHET LAO [redacted] SOURCE, WHO WAS STATIONED IN HOUA PHAN (SAM NEUA) PROVINCE UNTIL JUNE 1965, CLAIMED THAT HE HAD WITNESSED THE ARREST OF AN AMERICAN PILOT ON 29 APRIL 1965 SHORTLY AFTER HIS CAPTURE BY THE PATHET LAO. THE FIRST PILOT WORE A COVERALL-TYPE FLIGHT SUIT AND HAD A HELMET WITH A HOSE ATTACHED. (FIELD COMMENT: APPARENTLY THE FIRST PILOT WAS CHARLES SHELTON WHO WAS DOWNED AND CAPTURED ON 29 APRIL 1965.) SC, WHO SAW THE PILOT ONLY SHORTLY AFTER HIS CAPTURE, WROTE THE DATE IN HIS DIARY.

2. ACCORDING TO SC, HE WITNESSED THE CAPTURE OF A SECOND PILOT ON 19 MAY 1965 AND ENTERED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON THE PILOT IN HIS DIARY: NAME: DAVID L. HRDLICKA; BORN 30 DECEMBER 1931; SERVICE NO. 72,541. HRDLICKA WORE A FLIGHT SUIT SIMILAR TO THAT WORN BY THE FIRST PILOT, BUT HAD NO HELMET. SC DID NOT NOTE ANY INJURIES BUT HEARD THAT HRDLICKA COMPLAINED OF A SORE BACK. DID NOT TALK WITH EITHER PILOT.

3. SC SAID THAT THE TWO PILOTS WERE INTERNED SEPARATELY IN CAVES 800 METERS NORTHWEST OF BAN NA KAY TAY, ABOUT 28 KILOMETERS

APPROVED FOR RELEASE  
5/15/98

288 (PT-P) 0079-1-01

342 (PT-P) 0084-0-01



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NORTHEAST OF SAM NEUA. THEY WERE VISITED DAILY BY A MEDIC AND GIVEN LAO FOOD AND RICE IN SUFFICIENT QUANTITIES. A LAO OFFICIAL FROM A RADIO STATION AT BAN BAC, ONE KILOMETER SOUTH OF BAN AN KAY TAY; A VIETNAMESE OFFICER FROM NORTH VIETNAM; AND A LAO OFFICER FROM THE INTELLIGENCE SECTION OF PATHET LAO HEADQUARTERS AT BAN AN KAY NEUA, EAST OF SAM NEUA, INTERROGATED THE TWO AMERICANS. *Source* SAID THAT THE PATHET LAO DID NOT TORTURE THEIR PRISONERS OR USE BRAIN-WASHING TECHNIQUES; ALSO, THE PATHET LAO DID NOT KILL PRISONERS AFTER INTERROGATION AND PROPAGANDA PLAY.

4. WHEN *Source* LEFT HOUA PHAN PROVINCE IN JUNE, HE BELIEVED THE PILOTS WERE STILL BEING HELD IN THE CAVES IN THE BAN NA KAY TAY AREA. HE HAD NO SUBSEQUENT INFORMATION ON THEM.

5. FIELD DISSEM: STATE ARMY AIR USAID CINCPAC PACFLT PACAF ARPAC USMACV-SAIGON 2ND AIR DIVISION-SAIGON ~~██████████~~

1.5(e)  
3.4(b)(1)

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Review on

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