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Intelligence Information Cable

• ROUTINE
IN 81249

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INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINAL

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DIST 30 MARCH 1968

COUNTRY: LAOS

DOI: 16 AND 17 MARCH 1968

SUBJECT: PROPAGANDA IN VIENTIANE REGARDING THE
ATTACK ON PHOU PHA THI, SITE 85, IN HOUA
PHAN PROVINCE

ACQ: LAOS, VIENTIANE (29 MARCH 1968)

SOURCE:

1. ON 17 MARCH 1968 COLONEL SOTH PHETRASY, THE
NEO LAO HAK SAT REPRESENTATIVE IN VIENTIANE,
COMMENTED THAT DURING THE ACTION AT PHOU PHA THI
THE PRO-LAO DEFENDERS TOOK 800 CASUALTIES AND THAT
AMONG THEM WERE 18 AMERICANS AND MORE THAN 100 THAIS
WHO WERE KILLED. HE ADDED THAT MOST OF THE GOVERNMENT

[REDACTED]

(classification) (dissem controls)

TROOPS AT PHOU PHA THI HAD BEEN MEOS. ONLY 100 OF THE DEFENDERS WERE LAO. (FIELD COMMENT: SOTH'S STATEMENTS WERE GREATLY EXAGGERATED AND HAD NO BASIS IN FACT.

THE ONLY STATEMENT APPROACHING THE TRUTH IS THAT THE MAJORITY OF THE DEFENDERS WERE MEOS. AN ACCOUNT BROADCAST FROM PEKING BY THE NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY INTERNATIONAL SERVICE IN ENGLISH ON 21 MARCH CLAIMED THAT OVER 160 ENEMY TROOPS WERE WIPED OUT IN THE PHOU PHA THI AREA AND THAT AMONG THESE WERE 20 AMERICAN ADVISORS.)

2. ON 16 MARCH A PATHET LAO SOLDIER AT THE NEW LAO HAK SAT INSTALLATION SAID THAT THE PATHET LAO WERE ABLE TO CAPTURE PHOU PHA THI ON 12 MARCH (SIC) IN AN HOUR BECAUSE THEY HAD THE SUPPORT OF PEOPLE WHO REALLY HATED THE AMERICAN IMPERIALISTS. (FIELD COMMENT: THE PATHET LAO DID NOT ADMIT TO THE TRUE IDENTITY OF THE ATTACKING FORCE, WHICH WAS NORTH VIETNAMESE.) THE SAME SOLDIER SAID THAT LAO ARMED FORCES UNITS CANNOT ENTER LIBERATED AREAS, BUT THE PATHET LAO CAN STAY IN VIENTIANE. THE

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(class control) (dissem controls)

PATHEI LAO BELIEVED THAT THEY CAN ALSO CAPTURE VIENTIANE IN LESS THAN ONE HOUR. THERE WOULD BE NO PROBLEM IF THEY HAD THE SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE THEY WERE COUNTING ON. VIENTIANE IS SMALLER THAN DIEN BIEN PHOU, BUT THE PATHEI LAO DID NOT WANT TO SEE BLOODSHED IN VIENTIANE. WHEN TIME CAME THE PATHEI LAO WOULD BE ABLE TO CAPTURE VIENTIANE WITHOUT FIRING A SHOT.

3. [REDACTED] DISSEM: STATE ARMY AIR USAID USIS USMACV 7TH AIR FORCE CINCPAC PACFLT PACAF ARPAC [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]