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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

28-Jan-1989 12:15 EDT

MEMORANDUM FOR:

CHILDRESS

FROM: VMS MAIL user WHSR  
(WHSR@VAXE@)

SUBJECT:

Received: From VAXE(WHSR) by VAXC with Jnet id 8040  
for CHILDRESS@VAXC; Sat, 28 Jan 89 12:15 EDT  
Date: Sat, 28-JAN-1989 12:14 EST  
From: <WHSR@VAXE>  
To: CHILDRESS@VAXC

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SIT: CHILDRESS

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TO RUETIAA/DIRNSA  
RUEHC/DEPT OF STATE  
RUEKJCS/DIA  
RUEADWW/WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM  
ZEN/CIA OFFICE OF CURRENT OPERATIONS

<SUBJ>  
SUBJ: POW/MIA: PRIVATE FORAY BY AMERICAN AND LAO  
RESISTANCE PERSONNEL FROM THAILAND TO LAOS IN  
SEARCH FOR AMERICANS; REPORTED CROSSING OF A  
SECOND FORAY INVOLVING FOREIGN NATIONALS

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~~SECRET~~ SPECAT NOFORN NOCONTRACT ORCON WNINTEL

CITE  
SERIA

PASS: EXCLUSIVE FOR THE DIRECTOR, WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM;  
NSA FOR ZKZK OO ZRL DE (EXCLUSIVE FOR THE DIRECTOR, NSA);  
STATE EXCLUSIVE FOR THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY, INR; DIA  
EXCLUSIVE FOR THE DIRECTOR, DIA (DIA IS AUTHORIZED TO PASS  
THIS INFORMATION TO THE JOINT CASUALTY RESOLUTION CENTERS IN  
PAGE 2 RUEAIIA 6427 S E C R E T  
BANGKOK AND BARBERS POINT, HAWAII, FOR COMMANDERS ONLY).

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
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WARNING: INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE.  
REPORT CLASS ~~S E C R E T~~--WNINTEL--NOFORN--NOCONTRACT--ORCON  
DIST: 28 JANUARY 1989

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EXCLUSIVE DISSEMINATION TO ADDRESSEES LISTED AT END OF REPORT  
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COUNTRY: LAOS/THAILAND  
SUBJ: POW/MIA: PRIVATE FORAY BY AMERICAN AND LAO  
RESISTANCE PERSONNEL FROM THAILAND TO LAOS IN  
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DOI:

SOURCE:

(b)(3)

TEXT. 1. ACCORDING TO A MEMBER OF THE LAO RESISTANCE, ON THE NIGHT  
OF 25 DECEMBER 1988 A GROUP OF EIGHT LAO RESISTANCE MEMBERS LED BY A  
FORMER ROYAL LAO AIRFORCE OFFICER, COLONEL ((CHIT)) SOULIYASAK,  
CROSSED INTO LAOS ACCOMPANYING AN AMERICAN IDENTIFIED AS MARK A.  
((SMITH)). THE CROSSING WAS ACCOMPLISHED IN TWO BOATS WHICH DEPARTED  
THE AREA OF BAN LAT YA KHA (WC4370), KHEMMARATH DISTRICT, UBON  
RATCHATHANI PROVINCE AT 2330 HOURS. THE GROUP TRANSPORTED SUPPLIES,  
PRIMARILY UNIFORMS AND FOOTWARE, AS WELL AS UNSPECIFIED AMOUNTS OF  
MEDICINE, AMMUNITION AND TWO MILITARY TYPE RADIO SETS. THE GROUP  
REPORTEDLY WAS MET ON THE LAO SIDE OF THE MEKONG RIVER BY A 60-MAN  
LAO RESISTANCE FORCE COMMANDED BY ((PHAN)) NOPHOVIENG. (FIELD  
COMMENT

A 3 APRIL 1988 FORAY INVOLVING SMITH AND A LAO RESISTANCE GROUP  
SMITH, CHIT AND PHAN WERE ALSO REPORTEDLY INVOLVED IN A SIMILAR FORAY  
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WHICH TOOK PLACE BETWEEN THE PERIOD OF SEPTEMBER AND NOVEMBER 1987.)

2. ACCORDING TO THE RESISTANCE MEMBER, THE PURPOSE OF THE FORAY  
WAS TO ACT AS A RESUPPLY MISSION FOR THE RESISTANCE FORCES UNDER  
PHAN, TO ASSESS THE STRENGTH OF THE RESISTANCE FORCES IN THE AREA,  
AND TO CONTINUE TO THE LAO-VIETNAM BORDER AREA ON AN UNSPECIFIED  
POW/MIA MISSION. REPORTEDLY SMITH AND CHIT PLAN TO REMAIN IN LAOS  
FOR A PERIOD OF 100 DAYS. ( COMMENT: ACCORDING TO A SECOND  
MEMBER OF THE LAO RESISTANCE WHO ALSO WAS AWARE OF THE DECEMBER  
CROSSING IT IS BELIEVED THAT AFTER LANDING IN LAOS SMITH AND THE  
SUPPLIES WERE ESCORTED TO PHAN'S OPERATIONAL BASE LOCATED IN THE  
VICINITY OF DONG SITHOUAN (WC5979), SAVANNAKHET PROVINCE. THIS IS  
THE SAME BASE AREA REPORTEDLY USED DURING THE SEPTEMBER 1987 FORAY.)

(b)(3)

(b)(3)

3.

[REDACTED] IN ADDITION TO THE CROSSING MADE BY SMITH AND [REDACTED] (b)(3)  
 CHIT, A SECOND GROUP OF THREE FOREIGNERS WAS ALSO REPORTED TO HAVE  
 CROSSED INTO LAOS ACCOMPANIED BY A LAO RESISTANCE GROUP ON THE NIGHT  
 OF 25 DECEMBER. THE OFFICER IDENTIFIED THE FOREIGNERS BASED ON  
 INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM A KHEMMARATH TOWN HOTEL REGISTRATION FORMS  
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 AS JOHN ((AGOTNES)), A CITIZEN OF NORWAY; MIKAEL (SIC) ((KORLESON)) A  
 CITIZEN OF SWEDEN; AND BLAIR ((ARMSTRONG)), A CANADIAN NATIONAL THE  
 THREE WERE DESCRIBED AS STUDENTS IN THEIR MID-TWENTIES. REPORTEDLY  
 THE CROSSING ALSO OCCURRED IN THE BAN LAT YA KHA AREA APPROXIMATELY  
 ONE HOUR AFTER THE CROSSING REPORTEDLY MADE BY SMITH. (FIELD COMMENT  
 TWO SEPARATE FORAYS CROSSING INTO LAOS ON THE SAME NIGHT USING THE  
 SAME LAUNCH SITE SEEMS UNLIKELY. IT IS MORE LIKELY THAT THE TWO  
 GROUPS WERE ASSOCIATED OR THE OFFICER INCORRECTLY LINKED THE PRESENCE  
 OF THE THREE "STUDENTS" IN KHEMMARATH TOWN WITH THE CROSSING MADE BY  
 SMITH. THERE HAS BEEN NO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO SUPPORT THE  
 REPORT OF THE SECOND CROSSING.)

ACQ [REDACTED]  
 DISSEM: FIELD: EMBASSY AT BANGKOK (AMBASSADOR AND DEFATT ONLY).  
 WASHINGTON DISSEM:

F(b)(1)  
F(b)(3)

TO WHSITRM: EXCLUSIVE FOR THE DIRECTOR, WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM  
 TO STATE: EXCLUSIVE FOR THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY, INR  
 TO DIA: EXCLUSIVE FOR THE DIRECTOR, DIA  
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TO NSA: EXCLUSIVE FOR THE DIRECTOR, NSA  
 WARNING: REPORT CLASS S E C R E T--WARNING NOTICE--INTELLIGENCE  
 SOURCES OR METHODS INVOLVED--NOT RELEASABLE TO FOREIGN NATIONALS--  
 NOT RELEASABLE TO CONTRACTORS/CONSULTANTS-- DISSEMINATION AND  
 EXTRACTION OF INFORMATION CONTROLLED BY ORIGINATOR.

DECL: OADR DRV [REDACTED] BY RECORDED REPORTING OFFICER. ALL PORTIONS  
 CARRY CLASSIFICATION AND CONTROLS OF OVERALL DOCUMENT.  
 BT  
 #6427

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