

# Intelligence Information Cable

STATE/INR NMCC/MC (DIA) CIA/NMCC NIC NSA [REDACTED] NSC/S SDO NIO CRS

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DIST 15 NOVEMBER 1974

COUNTRY LAOS

DOI [REDACTED] NOVEMBER 1974

SUBJECT DECISION AT [REDACTED] NOVEMBER JCIA MEETING TO SEND  
A MIXED TEAM TO MILITARY REGIONS III AND V TO  
STUDY THE PLACEMENT OF DEMARCATION STAKES PRIOR  
TO THE OPENING OF ROUTE 13

SUMMARY: [REDACTED]

APPROVED FOR RELEASE  
DATE: OCT 2001

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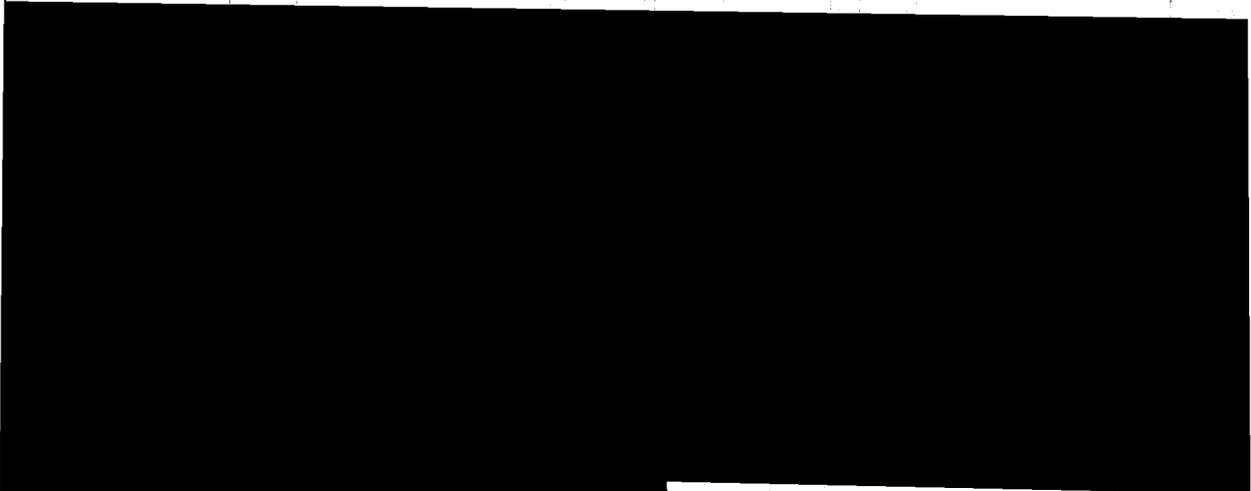
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END SUMMARY.

1. ON  NOVEMBER 1974 THE JOINT COMMISSION TO IMPLEMENT THE AGREEMENT (JCIA) MET. NEITHER VIENTIANE SIDE CHIEF DELEGATE S O U K A N VILAYSAN NOR LAO PATRIOTIC FRONT (LPF) CHIEF DELEGATE S O T H PHETRASAY ATTENDED. LPF REPRESENTATIVE P R A D I T H THIENGTHAM OPENED THE MEETING BY STATING THAT THE RULES AND PROCEDURES CONCERNING THE RETURN OF REFUGEES SHOULD BE DISCUSSED BY THE RESPECTIVE SIDES BEFORE BEING INTRODUCED AS AN AGENDA ITEM AT THE NEXT JCIA MEETING WHEN THE FULL MEMBERSHIP WOULD ATTEND.

2. VIENTIANE SIDE DELEGATE DR. K I T H O N G VONGSAY THEN ASKED IF THE LPF HAD A LIST OF ITS PERSONNEL REPORTED

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MISSING IN ACTION (MIA). HE SAID THE VIENTIANE SIDE HAD ALREADY PREPARED ITS LIST. PRADITH RESPONDED THAT THE LPF LIST HAD NOT BEEN SENT FROM SAM NEUA. HOWEVER, PRADITH SAID, IF THE VIENTIANE SIDE HAD ITS LIST, THE LPF WOULD LIKE TO HAVE IT NOW AND ONCE THE LIST FOR THE LPF MIA'S IS RECEIVED FROM SAM NEUA, THE LPF WILL TURN IT OVER TO THE VIENTIANE SIDE. THE VIENTIANE SIDE THEN TURNED OVER ITS LIST. IT WAS THEN NOTED THAT LISTS OF U.S. AND THAI PERSONNEL WILL BE PRESENTED AS SOON AS COMPILED. 

COMMENT: LISTS OF U.S. AND THAI MIA'S HAVE ALREADY BEEN PASSED TO THE LAO ARMED FORCES (LAR).

3. THE PARTICIPANTS THEN TOOK UP THE MATTER OF THE PLACEMENT OF STAKES IN MILITARY REGIONS III AND V WHICH WILL BE REQUIRED PRIOR TO THE OPENING OF ROUTE 13. IT WAS AGREED TO SEND A MIXED TEAM TO PAKSANE ON 18 NOVEMBER TO INITIATE A STUDY ON THE PLACEMENT OF THE STAKE AT PAK KADING. WHEN THE STUDY IS COMPLETED THE TEAM WILL NOTIFY THE JCIA AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE WILL GO TO PAK KADING TO SUPERVISE THE FINAL PLACEMENT OF THE STAKE. THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE WILL THEN ATTEMPT TO DRIVE ALONG ROUTE 13 TO

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THE SOUTH. THEY WILL INSPECT THE ROAD WHILE PROCEEDING TO THAKHEK FOR THE PLACEMENT OF STAKES ALONG THE ROUTE AT BAN HINBOUN AND IN THE THAKHEK AREA.  COMMENT: AVAILABLE EVIDENCE SUGGEST THE LPF IS SERIOUS ABOUT OPENING PART OF ROUTE 13.

 IT APPEARS THAT

ELEMENTS OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY'S 176TH REGIMENT ALONG ROUTE 13 IN KHAMMOUANE PROVINCE ARE MAKING PREPARATIONS TO MOVE, PROBABLY IN PREPARATION FOR THE REOPENING OF ROUTE 13 BETWEEN PAKSANE AND THAKHEK. THESE INDICATORS INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING: HASTY PROGRAMS HAVE BEEN INITIATED TO IMPROVE ROADS TO FACILITATE THE MOVEMENTS OF VEHICLES AND ARTILLERY; THE MOVEMENT OF UNITS HAVE BEEN SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION BY A 20 NOVEMBER DEADLINE; STORAGE DEPOTS ARE TO BE RELOCATED BY 13 NOVEMBER AND ALL CROPS HARVESTED BY THAT DATE; AND PREPARATIONS FOR THE MOVEMENTS ARE BEING UNDERTAKEN IN STRICT SECRECY.)

4. KITHONG STATED THAT BECAUSE THE STUDENTS HAVE PROTESTED THE DELAY IN PLACING A DEMARCATION STAKE AT BAN ITOU, A POST SHOULD BE PLANTED THERE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. PRADITH SAID THE PROBLEM AT BAN ITOU WILL BE REPORTED TO

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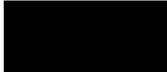
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THE LPF HIERARCHY FOR CONSIDERATION. WHILE AWAITING THE DECISION, THE TROOPS OF BOTH SIDES SHOULD MAINTAIN THEIR POSITIONS. IF CASE THE TROOPS OF EITHER SIDE HAVE ADVANCED TO THE OTHER SIDE, PRADITH SAID, THEY SHOULD GO BACK TO THEIR POSITIONS TO AVOID MISUNDERSTANDING AND POSSIBLE FIGHTING. DR. KITHONG SAID THAT NOT ONLY SHOULD THE PROBLEM AT BAN ITOU BE SOLVED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, BUT DEMARCATION POSTS SHOULD ALSO BE PLANTED IN THE AREA OF HONGSA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BECAUSE THE PEOPLE IN THAT AREA ARE EXPECTING IT. PRADITH AGREED.

5. PRADITH SAID IT WAS UNFORTUNATE THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD NOT YET RECOGNIZED THE JCIA BY APPROVING THE PAPER ON ORGANIZATION SINCE NO BUDGET COULD BE APPROVED. HE ASKED THAT A SPECIAL CREDIT OR FUND BE SET UP FOR THE LPF JCIA EXPENSES SAYING THAT THE VIENTIANE SIDE HAD OTHER PLACES WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT FROM WHICH THEY COULD DRAW FUNDS, BUT THE LPF DID NOT AND THE LPF NEEDS WERE NOW URGENT. THEIR NEEDS FOR PROVISIONS INCLUDED RICE. THEY BROUGHT RICE WITH THEM, PRADITH SAID, BUT IT IS ALMOST ALL GONE. SOON THEY WOULD REQUEST MONIES FOR THE SALARIES OF THEIR POLICE

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AND SOLDIERS PARTICIPATING IN THE JOINT FORCES. PRADITH SAID THE LPF TROOPS AND POLICE PROTECT THE CITY AND THE COALITION GOVERNMENT, THEREFORE THE GOVERNMENT MUST BEGIN TO SUPPORT THE LPF POLICE AND TROOPS FINANCIALLY. 

COMMENT: THE PRESENT UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES HAS BEEN THAT THE JOINT POLICE FORCE (JPF), THE PROTECTIVE MILITARY FORCE (PMF) AND OTHER JCIA OPERATING EXPENSES ARE TO BE BORN BY THE JCIA BUT THAT SALARIES ARE TO BE BORNE BY THE PARENT SERVICE TO WHICH AN INDIVIDUAL SOLDIER OR POLICEMAN REMAINS ADMINISTRATIVELY RESPONSIBLE. THUS VIENTIANE JPF SALARIES ARE BORNE BY THE LAO NATIONAL POLICE OR MILITARY POLICE, VIENTIANE PMF SALARIES BY FAR AND LPF JPF AND PMF

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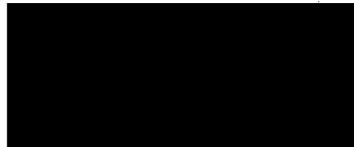
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PRADITH'S CHANGES ARE ADOPTED, THE COALITION GOVERNMENT'S FINANCIAL PICTURE WOULD BE COMPLICATED.) KITHONG SAID THIS IS INDEED DIFFICULT BUT THAT WHEN SOUKAN ATTEMPTED TO RAISE THIS SUBJECT IN THE CABINET, SOTH AND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER P H O U M I VONGVICHIT REMAINED SILENT. KITHONG SUGGESTED THAT SOTH AND PHOUMI BE ASKED TO HELP.

6. THE NEUTRALIZATION OF VIENTIANE AND LUANG PRABANG WAS RAISED. PRADITH COMPLAINED ABOUT FAR MILITARY MOVEMENTS WHICH WERE STILL NOT BEING CLEARED WITH THE LPF, INCLUDING THE TAKE-OFF OF T-28 AIRCRAFT WHICH THE LPF SHOULD HAVE BEEN INFORMED OF 24-48 HOURS IN ADVANCE. VIENTIANE SIDE DELEGATE COLONEL L O U N SISOUNOL BROUGHT UP THE SUBJECT OF A NEWS CENTER WHERE THE TWO SIDES WOULD JOINTLY PARTICIPATE AND SAID THAT IT HAS NOT YET BEEN ESTABLISHED BUT SHOULD BE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO THAT THE TWO SIDES COULD EXCHANGE REPORTS INCLUDING NEWS OF COUP ATTEMPTS.

7. WITH REGARD TO COUP RUMORS, THE PROBLEM OF CONTINUED MOVEMENT OF FAR TROOPS WITHIN VIENTIANE WAS DISCUSSED AND IDENTIFIED AS A PRIME REASON FOR THESE RUMORS. THE SUB-

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COMMITTEE FOR THE NEUTRALIZATION OF VIENTIANE WAS GIVEN  
THE TASK OF STUDYING THE PROBLEM AND COMING UP WITH SOLUTIONS  
TO ELIMINATE IT.

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