

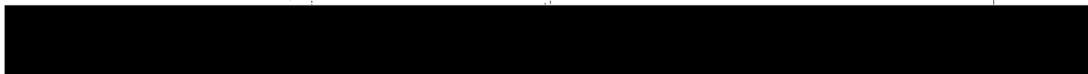


Intelligence Information Cable



STATE/INR NMCC/MC (D:A) CIA/NMCC NIC NSA [REDACTED] NSC/S [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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DIST 25 SEPTEMBER 1974



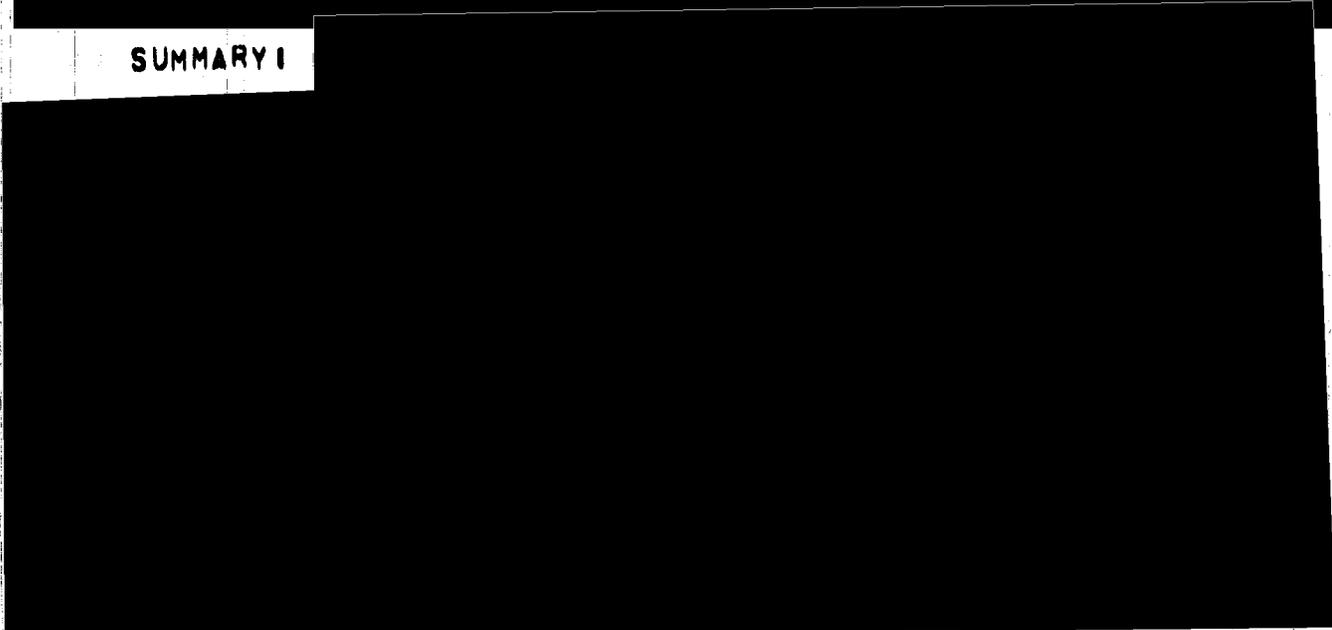
COUNTRY LAOS

DOI [REDACTED] SEPTEMBER 1974

SUBJECT VIENTIANE SIDE JCIA DELEGATION DISCUSSION OF SECOND POW EXCHANGE SCHEDULED FOR 29 SEPTEMBER AND OFFER TO LAOS OF REFUGEE ASSISTANCE FUNDS BY THE UNITED NATIONS



SUMMARY I



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APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: OCT 2001

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(classification)

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END SUMMARY.

1. THE VIENTIANE SIDE DELEGATION OF THE JOINT COMMISSION TO IMPLEMENT THE AGREEMENT (JCIA), PRESIDED OVER BY VIENTIANE SIDE CHIEF DELGATE S O U K A N VILAYSAN, MET THE MORNING OF [REDACTED] SEPTEMBER 1974. ATTENDING THE MEETING AT THEIR

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OWN REQUEST WERE DR. O U D O N G SOUVANNAVONG, PRESIDENT OF THE LAO RED CROSS AND L I T H LUNAMMACHAK, SECRETARY OF THE LAO RED CROSS. SOUKAN OPENED THE MEETING STATING THAT DR. OUDONG AND HIS LAO RED CROSS COLLEAGUE HAD COME TO DISCUSS THE REFUGEE QUESTION. SOUKAN SAID THAT LAO ARMED FORCES (FAR) CHIEF OF PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE GENERAL E T A M SINGVONGSA HAS BEEN PUT IN CHARGE OF THIS ACTIVITY; HOWEVER, SOUKAN WISHED TO GET CONFIRMATION FROM THE FAR GENERAL STAFF THAT FAR INTENDS FOR SOUKAN TO SPEND THE MAJOR AMOUNT OF HIS TIME ON THIS MATTER. SOUKAN ALSO SAID THAT HE WANTED VIENTIANE SIDE JCIA DEPUTY CHIEF DELEGATE DR. K I T H O N G VONGSAY TO SPEND TIME ON THIS MATTER AND TO GET TOGETHER WITH DR. OUDONG AND THE LAO RED CROSS.

2. DR. OUDONG THEN EXPLAINED WHY HE HAD CONTACTED SOUKAN. HE SAID THE UNITED NATIONS (UN) DIVISION ON REFUGEE RELIEF AFFAIRS IN GENEVA, HEADED BY MR. N A R A K A N, HAS DECLARED ITS WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE AID FOR REFUGEES IN NORTH VIETNAM, ALGERIA AND LAOS IN RESPONSE TO THE REFUGEES' REQUESTS. THE UN HAS TWELVE MILLION DOLLARS SET ASIDE TO ASSIST REFUGEES IN THESE COUNTRIES. MR. NARAKAN HAD ASKED THE UN REPRESENTATIVE IN VIENTIANE TO SEE THAT LAOS DRAWS UP A

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PROPOSAL FOR AID TO REFUGEES FOR UN CONSIDERATION. A UN REPRESENTATIVE IN THE FIELD OF REFUGEE MATTERS HAS BEEN SENT TO VIENTIANE HAVING ARRIVED HERE ON 23 SEPTEMBER. DR. OUDONG SAID THE LAO RED CROSS WANTED TO BE SURE THAT THE VIENTIANE SIDE WAS PREPARED AND WOULD NOT PERMIT THE LAO PATRIOTIC FRONT (LPF) SIDE TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE ON THE REFUGEE QUESTION. SPECIFICALLY DR. OUDONG WANTED TO BE SURE THAT THE FUNDS FROM THE UN ARE GIVEN TO THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNION FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE WHOLE COUNTRY AND NOT JUST TO THE LPF IN SAM NEUA. DR. OUDONG SAID THE LAO RED CROSS BELIEVES THE REFUGEE RELIEF PROPOSAL SHOULD BE DRAWN UP TO COVER THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

A. REFUGEES NOW RESIDING IN ONE ZONE WHO WANT TO RETURN TO THEIR LANDS IN THE OTHER ZONE.

B. REFUGEES NOW RESIDING IN ONE ZONE WHO WANT TO REMAIN THERE.

 COMMENT: BOTH CATEGORIES WOULD PERTAIN PRIMARILY TO REFUGEES IN THE VIENTIANE SIDE ZONE SINCE IT IS NOT KNOWN HOW MANY REFUGEES IN THE LPF-CONTROLLED ZONE WOULD OPT FOR EITHER CHOICE.)

3. THE PARTICIPANTS THEN DISCUSSED IMMEDIATE OR SHORT TERM AID SUCH AS SEEDS AND CLOTHES AND LONG TERM AID IN THE FORM OF SEEDS FOR PLANTING, WATER BUFFALOES, AND THOSE ITEMS THAT WOULD RENDER THE

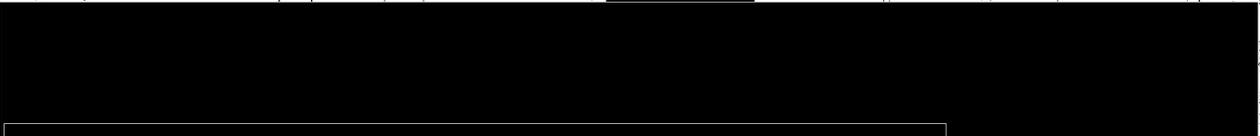
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REFUGEES SELF-SUFFICIENT AFTER THE FIRST HARVEST. THE VILLAGE OF KHOK VAN (TH 1607) LOCATED WITHIN THE 15 KILOMETER (KM) DEFENSIVE PERIMETER OF LUANG PRABANG WAS CITED AS AN AID RECIPIENT. THE LPR IT WAS NOTED HAD OCCUPIED THIS VILLAGE FOR SOME TIME BUT ARE NOW MOVING OUT. THE PARTICIPANTS DISCUSSED THE CONSTRUCTION OF VILLAGE HOUSES AND THE SUBJECT OF DEMOBILIZED VETERANS RETURNING TO THEIR VILLAGES. THE REOPENING AND REPAIR OF CONNECTING ROADS BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES SO THAT REFUGEES COULD TRAVEL OVERLAND AND NOT HAVE TO BE FLOWN WAS ALSO DISCUSSED.  COMMENT: 



 THE RETURN OF REFUGEES TO THEIR OWN VILLAGES AND FREE MOVEMENT OF PEOPLES THROUGHOUT LAOS WOULD BE TAKEN UP SOON BY THE JCIA).

4. THE TWO LAO RED CROSS REPRESENTATIVES THEN LEFT THE MEETING WHICH PROCEEDED TO DISCUSS THE NEXT PRISONER OF WAR (POW) EXCHANGE. SOUKAN SAID THAT THE POW EXCHANGE SHOULD BE COMPLETED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE NEXT POW EXCHANGE HE SAID WOULD BE AT PHONGSAVAN AIRPORT IN THE

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PLAIN OF JARS ON 26 SEPTEMBER THE LISTS OF POW'S WOULD BE EXCHANGED BY THE TWO SIDES ON THE MORNING OF 25 SEPTEMBER.

[REDACTED] COMMENT: THESE DATES WERE SUBSEQUENTLY CHANGED AS FOLLOWS: THE POW EXCHANGE WILL TAKE PLACE ON 29 SEPTEMBER AND THE LISTS WILL BE EXCHANGED ON THE MORNING OF 26 SEPTEMBER WITHOUT A FORMAL MEETING.) FAR WILL PROVIDE CARIBOU AIRCRAFT FOR THE EXCHANGE. THE VIENTIANE SIDE DID NOT KNOW YET HOW MANY WOULD BE INVOLVED IN THE EXCHANGE. THEY HAD TRIED WITHOUT

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SUCCESS TO GET THIS NUMBER FROM THE LPF. FROM DISCUSSION OF THE NUMBER OF AIRCRAFT NEEDED, THE VIENTIANE SIDE DEDUCED THE LPF WOULD TURN OVER BETWEEN 100-120 POWS. [REDACTED] COMMENT: THE LPF GAVE NO INDICATION HOW MANY WOULD BE LAO AND HOW MANY THAI AND GAVE NO INDICATION THAT ANY WOULD BE AMERICAN.) [REDACTED] COMMENT: ON 25 SEPTEMBER FAR DEPUTY COMMANDER IN CHIEF GENERAL K O U P R A S I T H ABHAY SAID THAT REGARDING THE NEXT POW EXCHANGE, HIS STAFF EXPECTED THE LPF TO RETURN SOME 60 TO 70 PRISONERS MOSTLY THAIS. GENERAL KOUPRASITH SAID THAT FAR HAD PLANNED TO MAKE THE MOST OF THE OVERNIGHT VISIT OF THE RECEPTION TEAM AND THAT THE TEAM HAD BEEN WELL PREPARED FOR ITS VISIT. THE TEAM WILL TAKE WITH IT A LARGE NUMBER OF LAO PRODUCTS AND GIFTS FOR USE IN THE ANTICIPATED BANQUET THE NIGHT OF ITS ARRIVAL. KOUPRASITH SAID THIS IS TO COUNTER THE USE OF NORTH VIETNAMESE BEER BY THE PATHET LAO DURING THE LAST EXCHANGE. KOUPRASITH READILY ADMITTED THE TEAM'S PROSELYTING AND GOOD WILL EFFORTS WERE EQUALLY IMPORTANT AS OF THE POW'S).

5. VIENTIANE SIDE DEPUTY CHIEF DELEGATE KITHONG, DELEGATES S O M B O U N VONGPRACHANH AND S O M P H E T VONGSOUVAN, S A S O N E BILAVARN FROM THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, A MEMBER

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OF THE PROTECTIVE MILITARY FORCE AND MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONTROL COMMISSION (ICC) WILL FLY TO PHONGSAVAN AND STAY OVERNIGHT THERE. OTHER JCIA DELEGATES INCLUDING A R Y A PHIMMASONE, ICC REPRESENTATIVES AND MEMBERS OF THE LAO AND FOREIGN PRESS WILL FLY UP LATER. REPRESENTATIVES OF THE XAT LAO AND SIENG SERI WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO ATTEND. ICC PRESIDENT G E R E K A N WILL BE PERMITTED TO VISIT AND INSPECT THE JARS IN THE PLAIN OF JARS, AN AREA SEVEN KM FROM PHONGSAVAN. GAREKAN HAD WANTED TO DO THIS DURING THE LAST EXCHANGE BUT WAS TOLD IT WAS STILL DANGEROUS BECAUSE OF UNEXPLODED MUNITIONS IN THE AREA.

6. VIENTIANE SIDE PROTECTIVE MILITARY FORCE (PMF) COMMANDER GENERAL A T S A P H A N G T H O N G PATHAMAVONG SAID THAT IN A RECENT CONVERSATION WITH THE LPF PMF COMMANDER, THE LATTER HAD MENTIONED THAT THE LPF STILL WANTED TO BRING TANKS, ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNS AND ARTILLERY INTO THE VIENTIANE NEUTRALIZED ZONE FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE CITY. GENERAL ATSAPHANTHONG SAID HE REMINDED HIS LPF COUNTERPART THAT THE JCIA PAPERS DRAWING UP THE PMF SPECIFICALLY EXCLUDED TANKS AND HEAVY WEAPONS. HE SAID THE VIENTIANE SIDE WAS LIMITED TO 81 MILLIMETER (MM) MORTARS AND THE LPF SIDE TO 82 MM MORTARS.

7. VIENTIANE SIDE DEPUTY COMMANDER OF THE JOINT POLICE FORCE (JPF)

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MENTIONED THAT JPF PATROLS WERE NOW VISITING BARS AND OTHER PLACES IN THE CITY TELLING THE OWNERS IT WAS NO LONGER NECESSARY TO GIVE PROTECTION MONEY TO THE CITY POLICE, THAT THE POLICE WERE NOW MIXED AND THERE WAS NOTHING THE VIENTIANE SIDE COULD DO WITHOUT THE LPF. SPECIFICALLY THEY COULD NO LONGER ARREST OR HARASS AN OWNER, HIS FAMILY OR HIS EMPLOYEES. SOMPHET ALSO RAISED THE LPF JPF COMPLAINTS CONCERNING THE MOTORIZED BOATS FOR THE JPF RIVER POLICE WHICH ARE NOT FUNCTIONING. SOUKAN RESPONDED THAT THE LPF SHOULD HAVE RAISED THIS PROBLEM BEFORE THE BOATS WERE PAID FOR SO THAT THE SELLER WOULD HAVE HAD TO BEAR RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE REPAIRS.

8. COLONEL I M P H A N H, VIENTIANE CHAIRMAN OF THE VIENTIANE NEUTRALIZATION SUB-COMMITTEE, REPORTED ON HIS VISIT TO THE AREA SET ASIDE FOR THE VIENTIANE SIDE PMF TROOPS NORTH OF VIENTIANE. HE SAID THAT FINANCING HAD NOT YET BEEN ARRANGED. IMPHANH MENTIONED A LETTER RECEIVED

ASKING CONCURRENCE FOR FAN REPLACING THE COMPANY OF FAN PROTECTIVE TROOPS IN THE CITY WITH ANOTHER COMPANY FROM VANG VOEN. COMMENT: THIS FAN COMPANY IS HERE TO GUARD THE PRIME MINISTER.

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ACTUALLY THEY ARE BILLETED AND USED ELSEWHERE. SOME ARE AT FAR HEAD-
QUARTERS, SOME IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S HOUSE.) COLONEL IMPHANH SAID
THE LPF DO NOT WANT TO AGREE TO A FRENCH REQUEST FOR A DEMONSTRATION
PARACHUTE JUMP AT WATTAY AIRPORT TO CELEBRATE THE FESTIVAL OF ST.
MICHELE. THIS REQUEST WILL BE STUDIED FURTHER BEFORE REPLYING TO
THE FRENCH.

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