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ACTION NO. 172 DCI, D/DCI, DDP, \_\_\_\_\_ H

~~SECRET~~ 060549Z DEC 71 CITE VIENTIANE \_\_\_\_\_ I

DIRECTOR INFO: \_\_\_\_\_ E

INTEL: \_\_\_\_\_ G

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SUPDATA: \_\_\_\_\_ 3 G

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H COMMENT: WHEN DISSEMED ADD \_\_\_\_\_ H

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APPROVED FOR RELEASE  
DATE: MAY 2002

~~SECRET~~

(1)

DATE 6 DECEMBER 1971  
IN 485170  
PAGE 1 OF 2 PAGES

[REDACTED]

Distribution for BACKGROUND USE ONLY to: SDOXX 13, D/ONE J

J [REDACTED]

COUNTRY LAOS/NORTH VIETNAM  
DOI MID-1971  
SUBJECT SIGHTING OF AN AMERICAN POW IN THE MUONG PHINE AREA  
OF LAOS AND REPORTS OF A POW ESCAPE AND THE CAPTURE  
OF AN AMERICAN IN THE MUONG PHALANE AREA

ACQ LAOS, VIENIANE (27 NOVEMBER 1971) [REDACTED] D

SOURCE [REDACTED] E  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] A  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] B

CORRECTION

- 1. AN INFORMATION REPORT WITH THE ABOVE NUMBER AND HEADINGS

~~SECRET~~

(classification)

(dissem controls)

WAS ISSUED ON 30 NOVEMBER 1971. PARAGRAPH 4 OF THIS REPORT WAS INADVERTENTLY OMITTED AND SHOULD READ AS FOLLOWS:

"4. [REDACTED] SAID THAT PRIOR TO HIS SIGHTING OF THE AMERICAN, **A** HE SPOKE WITH SOLDIERS OF THE 5TH NVA VOLUNTEER BATTALION WHO INFORMED HIM THAT AN AMERICAN PRISONER HAD ESCAPED FROM HIS GUARDS SOMEWHERE ON THE COMMO-LIAISON ROUTE AND THEY WERE LOOKING FOR HIM."

2. FIELD DISSEM: STATE ARMY AIR CINCPAC ARPAC PACAF PACFLT MACV/JPRC 7TH AF 7/13TH AF TFA/NKP 7TH RRFS (ALSO SENT [REDACTED] **E** SAIGON).

REPORT CLASS ~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~

GP-1

~~SECRET~~~~SECRET~~



REF ID: A67890

FILE, VR

REF ID: A67890

~~31,346~~  
COUNT

LAOS/NORTH VIETNAM

DOI

MID-1971

SUBJECT

SIGHTING OF AN AMERICAN POW IN THE MUONG PHINE AREA  
OF LAOS AND REPORTS OF A POW ESCAPE AND THE CAPTURE  
OF AN AMERICAN IN THE MUONG PHALANE AREA

ACQ

LAOS, VIENTIANE (27 NOVEMBER 1971)

SOURCE

[REDACTED]

D

B

A

B

~~SECRET~~

ACTIVITY UNIT

INFO

FILE, VR

SECTION NO

[REDACTED]

B  
B  
R

SUMMARY. DURING MID-1971 NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY (NVA)

[REDACTED] OBSERVED AN AMERICAN PRISONER IN THE MUONG PHINE AREA (XD 0927). THE AMERICAN APPEARED TO BE IN GOOD PHYSICAL CONDITION AND HAD BLUE EYES AND BROWN HAIR. A.

[REDACTED] OFFERED THE AMERICAN A PIECE OF MANGO WHICH HE ACCEPTED AND FOR WHICH HE THANKED [REDACTED] ABOUT ONE WEEK PRIOR TO THE PRISONER SIGHTING, [REDACTED] SPOKE WITH TWO CADRE A.

[REDACTED] WHO TOLD HIM THEY HAD OBSERVED TWO AMERICAN PRISONERS MOVING NORTH ON THE COMMO-LIAISON B.

ROUTE. THESE TWO PRISONERS WERE DRESSED IN A SIMILAR MANNER AS THE AMERICAN WHOM [REDACTED] HAD SIGHTED [REDACTED] ALSO HEARD PRIOR TO THE SIGHTING THAT AN AMERICAN PRISONER HAD A.

~~SECRET~~

510  
PHE, VR

ESCAPED FROM HIS GUARDS. A FEW DAYS BEFORE THE PRISONER  
SIGHTING, [REDACTED] LEARNED FROM AN ANTI-AIRCRAFT CREW THAT  
AN AMERICAN HAD BEEN CAPTURED IN THE MUONG PHALANE AREA. END  
SUMMARY.

1. IN MID-1971 NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY (NVA) [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] OBSERVED AN AMERICAN PRISONER  
IN THE AREA OF BAOSM (VILLAGE) KHAMSA-EE (WD 9840). [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] SAID HE WAS NOT SURE OF THE EXACT MONTH OF THE PRISONER  
SIGHTING BUT RECALLED THAT IT WAS DURING THE MANGO SEASON AND  
HE BELIEVED IT OCCURRED IN JUNE OR JULY. THE AMERICAN PRISONER  
WAS DRESSED IN BLACK PAJAMAS AND WORE HO CHI MINH SANDALS.  
HIS HANDS WERE LOOSELY TIED AND HE WAS GUARDED BY SIX ARMED  
PATHET LAO (PL) SOLDIERS AND ONE NVA LIEUTENANT WHO WAS AN  
ADVISOR TO THE PLOY [REDACTED] COMMENT: [REDACTED] ASSUMED  
THAT THE NVA ADVISOR WAS ACCOMPANYING THE PL TROOPS GUARDING  
THE AMERICAN PRISONER IN ORDER TO PREVENT THE PL FROM KILLING  
OR INJURING HIM. [REDACTED] SAID THAT NVA POLICY REGARDING  
CAPTURED AMERICANS IS NOT TO TIE THEIR HANDS OR RESTRAIN THEM  
IN ANY WAY.) [REDACTED] FIELD COMMENT: [REDACTED] TESTIMONY CORRESPONDS

~~SECRET~~



~~SECRET~~

73

CLASSIFICATION

VERSION

FILE

FILE, VR

ACTION

[REDACTED]

A, B

[REDACTED] THE CADRE TOLD [REDACTED] THAT THEY HAD BEEN MOVING NORTH ON THE INFILTRATION ROUTE AND HAD OBSERVED LARGE NUMBERS OF NVA TROOPS MOVING SOUTH. [REDACTED] ASKED THEM IF ANY TROOPS WERE MOVING NORTH AND THEY SAID THEY HAD WALKED BEHIND A SMALL GROUP OF NVA SOLDIERS WHO WERE GUARDING TWO AMERICAN PRISONERS. THE CADRE SAID THAT THE AMERICANS WERE WEARING BLACK PAJAMAS AND WERE BAREFOOT. THEY WERE NOT TIED OR RESTRAINED IN ANY MANNER. THE CADRE FOLLOWED THE GROUP FOR A SHORT PERIOD AND THEN PASSED THE GROUP BECAUSE THE BAREFOOT AMERICANS WERE MOVING SLOWER THAN THE CADRE WANTED TO WALK. THE CADRE DID NOT OFFER ANY DESCRIPTIONS OF THE TWO AMERICAN PRISONERS.

A

5. A FEW DAYS PRIOR TO THE SIGHTING OF THE AMERICAN PRISONER, [REDACTED] WAS COLLECTING MANGOES IN THE AREA NEAR HIS HOSPITAL WHEN HE ENGAGED IN A CONVERSATION WITH SOME OF THE MEMBERS OF AN ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUN CREW. THE MEN WERE CONGRATULATING THEMSELVES FOR SHOOTING DOWN AN AMERICAN F-4H JET PLANE. THE GUNNER IN THE CREW [REDACTED]

A

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FILE, VR  
ACTION NO

[REDACTED], TOLD  
[REDACTED] THAT THE CREW HAD RECEIVED A MESSAGE INFORMING THEM THAT  
THEY HAD DESTROYED AN F-4H AIRCRAFT. THE MESSAGE ALSO SAID  
THAT A HELICOPTER HAD BEEN SHOT DOWN AS IT ATTEMPTED TO RESCUE  
THE AIRCRAFT CREW. THEY SAID THEY WERE TOLD IT HAD CRASHED  
ON THE SOUTHWEST SIDE OF PHOU (MOUNTAIN) VIENG (XD 1426).

[REDACTED] ASKED IF THE PILOT OF THE F-4H PLANE WAS CAPTURED WHEN  
IT CRASHED AND THE MEN TOLD HIM THAT THEY DID NOT KNOW. THEY  
SAID, HOWEVER, THAT THEY HAD RECEIVED A CABLE THAT AN AMERICAN  
WAS RECENTLY CAPTURED IN THE MUONG PHALANE AREA.

COMMENT: [REDACTED] DOES NOT THINK THE AMERICAN HE OBSERVED WAS  
IN THE PLANE WHICH THE ANTI-AIRCRAFT CREW SHOT DOWN BECAUSE  
HE THEN WOULD HAVE BEEN WEARING MILITARY CLOTHING.)

6. FIELD COMMENT:

A. THE OFFICIAL CRASH SITE LIST AS OF 1 SEPTEMBER  
1971 INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING PERSONNEL REPORTED DOWNED IN  
THE XD/WD AREA IN 1971. ALL OF THE FOLLOWING WERE REPORTED  
DOWNED PRIOR TO MID-1971 AND IN AREAS OTHER THAN XD 1426:

- (1) LTCOL ROBERT L. STANDERWICK  
AND MAJOR NORBERT ANTHONY G O T N E R, PILOT AND CREWMAN,



[REDACTED]

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FILE, VR

[REDACTED]

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E

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FILE NR

[REDACTED]

B  
A  
B

7. FIELD DISSEM: STATE ARMY AIR CINCPAC ARPAC PACAF  
PACFLT MACV/JPRC 7H AF 7/13TH AF TFA/NKP 7H RRFS (ALSO  
SENT [REDACTED] SAIGON).

REPORT CLASS ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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I

*PORTION CHECKED - BEING SVED -*

~~SECRET~~