

MEMORANDUM

TO : GMTAC
FROM : Field Executive Office
SUBJECT : Y. C. To

DATE: July 11, 1967

REF. No. K/67-565

Please have the attached letter (PND-DF-67/3362) delivered to Miss Tamura Reiko.

President

Encls.

DRT/aw

B-150 ←

CS. 4A R2

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: 12-Aug-2011

108 Chung Shan Road, North, 2nd Section
Taipei, Taiwan

PND-DP-67/3362

July 11, 1967

Miss Tamura Reiko
2-180 Shibasaki Cho
Tachikawa, Japan

Dear Miss Reiko:

We are writing to provide you certain information which we obtained from Mr. Pisidhi Indradat, one of the aircraft crew members taken captive with Mr. To by the Pathet Lao. Mr. Indradat made his way to freedom early this year when the prison in which he was detained was overrun by friendly forces.

According to Mr. Indradat, on the day of the accident shortly after parachuting from the aircraft which had been crippled by gunfire, he was captured by the Pathet Lao and taken to a village where he met three other crew members who had parachuted to the ground: Eugene DeBruin, Prasit Promsuwan, and Mr. To. The following day they were led to a prison where they found another one of their crew, Prasit Thasee. The five were detained together in various prison camps from 5 September 1963 until 30 July 1966, having all escaped once in on 3 June 1964 only to be recaptured on 6 June 1964.

On 30 July 1966 the five made a second escape in which they split into three groups with Eugene Debruin and Mr. To heading for a nearby mountain where they hoped to signal a friendly aircraft. Mr. Indradat walked by himself for 37 days before being recaptured and imprisoned until his release. He stated he never again saw or heard anything of his fellow crew members after their escape 30 July 1966.

We did not make this information immediately known in order not to jeopardize any of the other crew members who may not have been recaptured and also in the hope of obtaining more encouraging news.

Mr. Indradat made the following statement regarding Mr. To's physical condition while they were in common confinement:

"During the first year of confinement Mr. To experienced no noticeable physical hardships. During the last 2 years he said many times that he had a high fever and he felt weak. I believe he possibly had Malaria at this time. He lost quite a lot of weight and became very skinny. His face turned pale and yellow. Also his eyes turned yellow. When he became sick, he would often shake and feel cold.

(to be continued)

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"Mr. To's stomach never seemed to bother him throughout the confinement. Many times, however, he complained about the toothache. His gums were very sore, several of his lower molars were decayed, and he could not chew his food. On the last day I saw him on 30 July 1966 he was very sick with high fever. On this day his gonads were also swollen very badly. They were both about the size of a large orange and Mr. To found it very difficult to stand, sit, or walk. He also frequently complained of headaches."

Concerning the general mental attitude of the group, Mr. Indradat stated:

"In my opinion we all maintained very good spirits and comradeship during the time of our confinement. We tried to make jokes every day which diverted our thinking from our plight. However, frequently each of us would drift into a depressed state when we thought too much of our loved ones and homeland. We would usually end up crying to ourselves. No one ever gave up the idea of escape."

It is most unfortunate that more encouraging news is not available at present. Should any further information come to light we shall pass it on to you.

Sincerely yours,

David E. Traylor
Director of Personnel