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~~SECRET~~ 05105Z MAY 69 CITE VIENTIANE _____

PRIORITY _____ INFO DIRECTOR _____ 5 MAY 69 IN _____

REF _____

1. ALBERT TRANCHIER NOW TRANSFERRED TO POSITION OF CHIEF SECRETARY FOR CHAO VATH NOKHAM RAL GENERAL MANAGER (DIRECTOR GENERAL).

2. TODAY'S MEETING WITH TRANCHIER RESULTED IN ADVANCE INFORMATION THAT NGON SANANIKONE HAS INSTRUCTED CHAO VATH TO DISCUSS TERMINATION DATE WITH AIR ASIA. THIS MEETING SCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY MAY 7, 9 A.M. TRANCHIER ALSO DISCLOSED NGON SANANIKONE FAVORS LAO UNITED AIR LINES TO TAKE OVER THE RAL INTERNATIONAL OPERATION AS RESULT OF UNDER TABLE OFFER. TRANCHIER SAID NGON SANANIKONE DISPLEASED WITH PRESENT MONTHLY TAKE FROM RAL AS THIS AMOUNT, 30,000 TO 60,000 KIP "NOT EVEN ENOUGH FOR CARD MONEY".

3. AS AN INTERIM MEASURE, AWAITING CONCURRENCE OF DIRECTOR FOR DIRECT CONTACT WITH MINISTER SANANIKONE FOR SUGGESTED MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL, COLEMAN REQUESTED TRANCHIER TO ATTEMPT DEFERMENT FORMAL TERMINATION NOTICE FOR AT LEAST TEN DAYS IN

APPROVED FOR
RELEASE DATE:
14-Sep-2009

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PAGE TWO VIENTIANE ~~SECRET~~

ORDER COLEMAN TO PRESENT SITUATION TO AIR ASIA DIRECTORS IN HOPES OF ARRIVING AT SOME POSSIBLE COUNTER PROPOSAL. COLEMAN EXPLAINED THIS WAS STRICTLY OF PERSONAL INTEREST AT THIS TIME AND WOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO BRING THIS MATTER TO THE ATTENTION OF THE DIRECTORS FOR THEIR CONSIDERATION.

4. TRANCHIER, SADHAPETH, BODHIVARN AND VIENG NGEUN SANANIKONE ALL DISPLEASED WITH PROSPECT OF LUA INVOLVEMENT. TRANCHIER ADVISES HE PLANS RESIGNATION END MAY. COLEMAN ATTEMPTING TO PERSUADE TRANCHIER TO REMAIN UNTIL FINAL DECISION OF NGON SANANIKONE IS FIRM.

5. BELIEVE WE CAN EXPECT SOME SUPPORT FROM ALL NAMED PERSONS PARA 4.

6. OF FURTHER INTEREST THERE SEEMS TO BE RELUCTANCE OF RAL MANAGEMENT STAFF TO TAKE INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR FORMAL NOTIFICATION OF CONTRACT TERMINATION WITH AIR ASIA.

7. REQUEST ANSWER EARLIEST DATE POSSIBLE REF A PARA 4 AND SUGGEST BE PREPARED TO PROCEED VIENTIANE UPON CONCURRENCE OF DIRECTOR.

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