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DIRECTORATE OF PLANS

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REPORT NO. CS-311/00350-69

DATE DISTR. 19 January 1969

COUNTRY : Laos

DOI : February-November 1968

SUBJECT : Enemy Prison and Facilities Near Khang Khay and Results of Airstrikes in the Khang Khay-Phong Savan Region of Xieng Khouang Province

ACQ : Laos, Vientiane (14 December 1968)

SOURCE : [REDACTED]

See L-5

Summary. In November 1968, there was an enemy prison west of Khang Khay at UG 1453. In addition, enemy anti-aircraft guns and the power generator for the Khang Khay radio station were at Phou Sani (UG 1554). In the prison, weekly propaganda lectures claimed there would be future attacks on Muong Soui, Paksane, and Thakhek. Several Pathet Lao and North Vietnamese officers and a caucasian, who spoke Chinese as well as English, interrogated [REDACTED] on several subjects including the defenses of Long Tieng and Sam Thong, the security guard of General Vang Pao, and the American and Thai presence in Laos. Airstrikes in the Khang Khay area from February to November killed 33 military policemen and nearly 200 Pathet Lao soldiers. A building possibly housing North Vietnamese representatives in Khang Khay was partially destroyed by airstrikes. End of Summary.

1. As of 17 November a Pathet Lao prison was near the Nam (river) Gnouan in the UG 1453 area west of Khang Khay (UG 1758) in Xieng Khouang Province. The prison consisted

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STATE	DIA	ARMY	NAVY	AIR	NSA	AID	[REDACTED]
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(For Field Distribution see final paragraph)

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of two large houses for prisoners and six smaller houses for the prison staff. There was also a 6 by 15 meter rice storage building in the prison compound. However, the rice was for the soldiers in the area rather than for the prison. The Pathet Lao kept the rice in the prison compound because they did not think airstrikes would be made on the prison.

Comment: The prison near Khang Khay has been reported by other [redacted] who were prisoners there. See (CS-311/07851-68) [redacted] (CS-311/08626-69) and [redacted] (TDCS-314/15692-68) .)

2. Two 12.7MM and one 37MM antiaircraft guns were on a forested mountain top at Phou Sani (UG 154547). These guns had never been hit by airstrikes. [redacted] heard a generator running at Phou Sani daily from 0600 to 0900 hours, 1100 to 1400 hours, and 1800 to 2100 hours. Prison guards told him that the generator supplied the power for the Khang Khay radio station. Comment: These hours are the approximate hours the station broadcasts.)

3. Each Monday from 0700 to 1100 hours all prisoners were assembled to listen to Pathet Lao radio broadcasts. After the broadcasts the prison commander, Lieutenant Kha, elaborated on the broadcasts and gave a propaganda lecture. These lectures always covered the following general material:

A. It was foolish to rally to the Royal Lao Government because the government was corrupt, did nothing for the Lao people, had sold much of Laos to the Americans, and was only a puppet of the Americans. Also, the Pathet Lao will soon occupy all of Laos and those who have rallied to the Royal Lao Government will be punished.

B. Pathet Lao Forces were defeating the Royal Lao Government everywhere in Laos. At Nam Bac five Royal Lao Government regiments were defeated, and at Phou Pha Thi 500 Royal Lao Government soldiers and 20 Americans were killed while a great deal of radar equipment was captured.

C. The Pathet Lao will soon attack and capture Muong Soui.

4. There was a political school 50 meters east of the prison for prisoners to attend prior to their release. The classes consisted of a series of propaganda lectures exhorting prisoners to go forth and work for the revolution. On completion of the school, prisoners were assigned to Pathet Lao labor battalions. Comment: Three other [redacted] who were inmates of the prison, [redacted] were released from the prison and assigned to Pathet Lao engineering units. See [redacted] (CS-311/08626-68) and [redacted] (TDCS-314/15692-68) .)

5. During [redacted] stay at the prison he was interrogated nearly 100 times. Some of his interrogators were Captain Bounsou, chief interrogator at the prison; Lieutenant Khamay, Bounsou's deputy; Master Sergeant Buaphan, prison administrator; Lieutenant Colonel Chaeng, commander of the 6th Pathet Lao Battalion; Major Thiab, deputy commander of Xieng Khouang Military Region; Major Noukhaeo, Pathet Lao liaison officer to the North Vietnamese Army; and several North Vietnamese officers. On one occasion a caucasian interrogated [redacted]. The caucasian was thin, six feet two inches tall and had brown hair, brown eyes, and a fair

complexion. The caucasian spoke Chinese to his Lao interpreter and occasionally spoke directly to [REDACTED] in English. [REDACTED] Comment: [REDACTED] speaks some English and claims to be able to recognize spoken Chinese.)

6. During the interrogations [REDACTED] was questioned on the following subjects:

- A. The Royal Lao Government educational system
- B. The construction of new roads and conditions of existing roads in government controlled areas
- C. The attitudes of the residents and students in Vientiane toward the Pathet Lao and the Royal Lao Government
- D. The taxation policies of the Royal Lao Government and governmental controls over private businesses
- E. The presence of Thai soldiers in Laos and the possibility of training Lao soldiers in Thailand
- F. The possibility of the presence of American soldiers in Laos
- G. The possibility of an [REDACTED] entry into Laos by President Johnson or Vice President Humphrey
- H. The strength and deployment of troops in the Long Tieng and Sam Thong areas
- I. The possibility of villagers in Long Tieng and Sam Thong being armed and the attitude of these villagers toward the military leadership
- J. General Vang Pao: His health and the seriousness of the wounds that he received at Na Khang (Site 36, UH 4110), the strength of his security guard and the number of guards accompanying him at any given time, his standard of living and number of his wives
- K. The possibility of Long Tieng having radar to warn against an air attack.
- L. The total strength of Royal Lao Government Forces in Laos and specifically in Military Region II and any future plans for attacks.
- M. The Royal Lao Governmental structure and the relationship between the civil and military authorities.
- N. The important military and political personalities in Long Tieng and Sam Thong. Major Hang Sao, Lt. Col. Saeng Aroun, and Col. Neng Chue were specifically mentioned by the interrogators.
- O. The location of "Pop" Buell in Long Tieng or Sam Thong and the nature of his work. [REDACTED] Comment: Mr. Edgar Buell, USAID representative in Sam Thong, is known in the Sam Thong-Long Tieng area as "Pop" Buell.)
- P. The import duties on goods brought into Laos.
- Q. The communications network between the different military regions in Laos

R. The market prices in Long Tieng and Sam Thong.

7. [REDACTED] could not answer most of the questions and explained to his captors that a school teacher would not know such information. He gave Long Tieng market prices and said that most civilians in Long Tieng and Sam Thong were armed. His interrogators told [REDACTED] that they already knew the answers to the questions concerning Long Tieng and Sam Thong because there were Pathet Lao intelligence agents in these areas. [REDACTED] was told that if he lied, he would be punished. On one occasion he was led before a mock firing squad where Captain Bounsou fired a pistol over [REDACTED] head. On another occasion, [REDACTED] and four other prisoners who had previously been in Long Tieng and Sam Thong were asked to draw maps showing ammunition storage areas and important buildings in these two areas. The prisoners did as they were told because they feared being shot if the sketches did not match. When the sketches were collected [REDACTED] was told that they were not all the same. However, his only punishment was to spend the next day with no food.

8. During airstrikes against the Khang Khay area, the prisoners were moved to a bunker near the prison where they could usually view the strikes. In May 1968, 10 to 15 jet aircraft struck Khang Khay for 14 consecutive days. Several prisoners were later taken to Khang Khay to help in salvaging damaged supplies. [REDACTED] learned from these prisoners that two ammunition storage buildings, three rice storage buildings, and a military supply warehouse had been damaged or destroyed. On 13 September four Al-E's attacked Phong Savan (UG 1654), and [REDACTED] heard from other prisoners that a military police camp had been hit and that 33 persons had been killed and about 100 had been wounded. There were heavy air strikes on Khang Khay and Phong Savan for 17 consecutive days in November. On 9 November an F105 jet was hit by a 37MM anti-aircraft gun and the pilot successfully bailed out. Eight armored cars and approximately 200 Pathet Lao troops moved out to capture the downed pilot. The pilot, however, was rescued by a helicopter before the Pathet Lao column could reach him, and the column was caught in the open by F-105's covering the rescue operation. All eight vehicles were damaged or destroyed and nearly all of the 200 Pathet Lao soldiers were killed. [REDACTED] Comment: Four soldiers stumbled into the prisoners' bunker in a delirious state and claimed that they were the only survivors of the 200 man column and that all of the vehicles had been destroyed.)

9. Immediately after [REDACTED] was captured he was taken from Muong Ngan to prison by truck. On 9 February, while he was going through Khang Khay, one of the Pathet Lao soldiers pointed to a half-destroyed brick building and said that it was the North Vietnamese Embassy. Several other nearby buildings were completely destroyed. [REDACTED] Comment: The building was incorrectly described by the soldier as an embassy, but it may have been a building used by North Vietnamese representatives in Khang Khay.)

10. Field Dissem: State Army Air USIS USAID USMACV
7th Air Force CINCPAC PACFLT PACAF ARPAC [REDACTED]