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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

[REDACTED]

8 MAR 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. James D. Rosenthal
Director, Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia
Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs
Department of State

Mr. Frank A. Sieverts
Deputy Coordinator for Prisoner of War and
Missing in Action Matters
Department of State

Bruce L. Heller
Commander, USN (R)
Chief, Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Branch
Resources and Installations Division
Directorate for Intelligence (Research Center)
Defense Intelligence Agency

FROM : William W. Wells
Deputy Director for Operations

SUBJECT : [REDACTED] Possibility of U.S.
Prisoners Being Held by the SRV for Use in
Negotiations on Aid from the U.S. for the SRV

Attached as of possible interest to you is a report
resulting from information obtained [REDACTED] in
[REDACTED] March 1977. We are giving this report no further
dissemination.

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date 1 MAR 1978

[REDACTED]
William W. Wells

Attachment:
Report as Stated
FIR-317/09157-77

[REDACTED]



File to S.H. 112194

[REDACTED]

FIR-317/09157-77

COUNTRY: Vietnam

DOI : [REDACTED] February 1977

SUBJECT: [REDACTED] Possibility of
U.S. Prisoners Being Held by the SRV for Use in
Negotiations on Aid from the U.S. for the SRV

ACQ : [REDACTED]

SOURCE : [REDACTED]

1. In a private conversation [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] February 1977
commented on the visit of a U.S. delegation to Hanoi in mid-March 1977. In response to a statement on the U.S. interest in the U.S. personnel missing in action (MIA's) in Vietnam, [REDACTED] said that Hanoi naturally knows where U.S. pilots shot down over North Vietnam are buried. In response to a statement that the SRV no longer has any Americans still under detention, [REDACTED] said that there are American prisoners of war (POW's), some of whom are members of wealthy families, still in the SRV and they would not be released until U.S. financial aid for the SRV was forthcoming. [REDACTED] Comment: Other than one American civilian who was arrested in Saigon after its fall in 1975, the SRV is not known to have any live American prisoners.)

2. [REDACTED] indicated that the information on MIA's was one trump card the SRV held in the forthcoming negotiations with the U.S. and explained that the SRV, as the victor in the Vietnam war, would take advantage of this situation in negotiating with the U.S. for aid in economic reconstruction. [REDACTED] some wealthy prominent American families had been in direct contact with Hanoi in an effort to acquire information about family members who were MIA's.

However, the SRV had not released such information on the assumption that more could be gained by the SRV economically by awaiting the opening of formal negotiations with the U.S. Government. [REDACTED] Comment: [REDACTED] appeared nervous in making these comments on U.S. POW's and MIA's [REDACTED]

Comment: [REDACTED] did not indicate the basis for the information [REDACTED] on U.S. POW's and MIA's; thus it cannot be determined whether [REDACTED] statements reflect reliable information or unsubstantiated hearsay.)