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CITE TDCS 314/06254-67

DIST 1 MAY 1967

COUNTRY: LAOS

DOI: DECEMBER 1966 - 1 FEBRUARY 1967

SUBJECT: LOCATION IN RELATION TO BAN KANG MUONG OF CAVE ON  
HOUEI VONG WHERE AMERICAN PILOTS ARE HELD; VISITS BY  
THE PILOTS TO BAN KANG MUONG

ACO: LAOS, VIENTIANE (1 MAY 1967)

SOURCE: [REDACTED]

COMMENT: [REDACTED] (TDCS 314/06071-67) REPORTED [REDACTED] ATTENDANCE  
AT A CEREMONY HELD ON 1 FEBRUARY 1967 TO WELCOME SOUPHANGVONG  
WHO HAD COME TO VISIT THREE AMERICAN PRISONERS BEING HELD IN A  
CAVE NEAR THE XANG LIT WATERFALL ON THE HOUEI (STREAM) VONG  
SEGEMENT OF THE NAM (RIVER) SIN NORTH OF BAN KANG MUONG.)

APPROVED FOR RELEASE  
Date 1/23

ENCLOSURE 15056142/084H

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(classification)

(dissem. controls)

2. [REDACTED] SAID THAT TO ATTEND THE CEREMONY WHICH TOOK PLACE OUTSIDE THE CAVE WHERE THE PRISONERS WERE BEING HELD HE WALKED NORTH NORTHWEST ON A PATH THROUGH THE RICE FIELD AT VH 361491 TO A WOODED AREA THEN FOLLOWED A PATH THAT PARALLELED THE RIVER. HE WALKED FOR ABOUT 30 MINUTES AND ESTIMATED THE DISTANCE HE COVERED, FROM BAN KANG MUONG TO THE WATERFALL, TO BE ABOUT A KILOMETER. ACCORDING TO [REDACTED] THE CAVE WHERE THE PILOTS ARE KEPT IS ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE STREAM ABOUT TEN METERS SOUTH OF THE FALL. A BAMBOO BRIDGE CONNECTS THE CAVE WITH ANOTHER CAVE ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE RIVER. [REDACTED] COMMENT: [REDACTED] A FORMER TRUCK DRIVER FOR THE PL, SAID A SMALL BAMBOO BRIDGE WITH A CAVE AT EITHER END CROSSED THE RIVER ABOUT 500 METERS NORTH OF THE FALL AND THAT THE PILOTS WERE IMPRISONED IN THE CAVE AT THE WESTERN END. SEE [REDACTED] (CS-311/05019-67) AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY OF 15 APRIL 1967 SHOWS NUMEROUS WHITE WATER AREAS OR SMALL RAPIDS IN THE HOUEI VONG AREA NORTH OF BAN KANG MUONG. THERE IS, HOWEVER, WHAT APPEARS TO BE A TRUE WATERFALL AT VH 366716. A BAMBOO BRIDGE CROSSES THE HOUEI VONG AT VH 366931. THERE ARE TWO CAVES ON OPPOSITE SIDES OF THE STREAM, ONE AT VH 366533 AND THE OTHER AT 370531. CLEARING AND VISIBLE TRAILS INDICATE A HIGHER LEVEL OF ACTIVITY AROUND [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
(classification) (dissem controls)

THE CAVE ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE STREAM.

3. PERIODICALLY THE PILOTS ARE TAKEN TO VISIT BAN KANG MUONG. ACCORDING TO VILLAGERS, THE SERGEANT IN CHARGE OF THE PRISONERS' GUARDS SOMETIMES ENTERTAINED THE PILOTS AT HIS HOME IN BAN KANG MUONG. THE PILOTS WERE BROUGHT TO HIS HOUSE EARLY IN THE MORNING AND TO AVOID BEING EXPOSED TO AIR STRIKES THEY DID NOT RETURN TO KANG LIT UNTIL ABOUT 1700 HOURS. THE SERGEANT HAD IN HIS POSSESSION PERSONAL PHOTOS OF THE THREE PILOTS AND OF THEIR FAMILIES WHICH HE HAD SHOWN TO SOME OF THE VILLAGERS. ON OCCASION THE PILOTS WERE ALLOWED TO WANDER AROUND VAN KANG MUONG UNDER GUARD AND WHEN OFFERED FOOD BY THE VILLAGERS THEY REFUSED IT

[REDACTED] SAW THE THREE PILOTS IN VAN KANG MUONG IN DECEMBER. THEY WERE WALKING IN SINGLE FILE, LED BY THE SERGEANT AND FOLLOWED BY ANOTHER GUARD. THE PILOTS WERE DRESSED IN BLACK SHORT SLEEVED SHIRTS, BLACK TROUSERS AND BLACK PL BOOTS.

4. [REDACTED] DISSEM: STATE ARMY AIR USMACV 7TH AIR FORCE  
CINCPAC PACFLT ARPAC PACAF [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]