

FORM 3001

MFG 12-64

24 MAR 66

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

ROUTINE

Intelligence Information Cable

369

4-176 43

COUNTRY LAOS

TCDS - 314703993-66

DATE OF INFO 12 FEBRUARY 1966

DISTR 24 MARCH 1966

SUBJECT

FRAGMENTARY REPORTS OF IMPRISONED AMERICAN PILOTS IN THE SAM NEUA AREA OF HOUA PHAN PROVINCE

PLACE & DATE ACQ

REF

IN 82-58

SOURCE AND APPRAISAL

1. (SUMMARY: ON 12 FEBRUARY 1966 A VILLAGE DEFENSE CHIEF OF THE AREA NORTHEAST OF SAM NEUA (VN 0150) SAID THAT 10 PILOTS WERE PRISONERS AT BAN NONG KOU, 18 KILOMETERS (KM) EAST OF SAM NEUA. BAN NONG KOU WAS ALSO AN ENEMY HEADQUARTERS. ANOTHER VILLAGE CHIEF, PROBABLY FROM THE AREA SOUTHEAST OF SAM NEUA, REPORTED ON 8 FEBRUARY THAT TWO AMERICAN PILOTS WERE SEEN TRAVELLING IN A VEHICLE WITH SIXTONE BETWEEN NA KAY AND NONG KOU, PROBABLY 18-20 KM SOUTHEAST OF SAM NEUA. VILLAGERS

STATION DA AFMAGC NAVY AIR KS SECDEF MCA MC AND USA CCI ONE OCF OER OO

APPROVED FOR RELEASE

DATE 25 OCT 1970

#24

[REDACTED] IN

IN 82188

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IN THE AREA (THOUGHT THE PILOTS WERE WELL FED BUT THAT THEY WERE USED FOR MECHANICAL AND BOMB DISPOSAL WORK.) [REDACTED]

COMMENT: [REDACTED] (TDCS-314/00699-66) REPORTED THAT FOUR AMERICAN PILOTS WERE BEING HELD IN A CAVE SOUTHEAST OF SAM NEUA AS OF 1 OCTOBER 1955.)

2. A REGULAR INFORMANT RESIDING IN [REDACTED] [REDACTED] IN HOUA PHAN PROVINCE, EIGHT KILOMETERS (KM) NORTH-EAST OF SAM NEUA, TOLD A PATROL FROM A FRIENDLY GUERRILLA UNIT THAT ON 12 FEBRUARY A VILLAGE CIVILIAN DEFENSE CHIEF TOLD HIM PILOTS WERE IMPRISONED AT BAN NONG KOU (VH 1955), 16 KM EAST OF SAM NEUA. THE CHIEF ALSO SAID THAT BAN NONG KOU WAS A HEADQUARTERS AND MANY HIGH-RANKING OFFICERS WORKED

HERE. [REDACTED] COMMENT: [REDACTED] (TDCSDB-315/04026-) [REDACTED] (TDCSDB-315 24216-65) AND [REDACTED] (TDCS-314/00624-66) MENTIONED REPORTS FROM DIFFERENT SOURCES OF ENEMY HEADQUARTERS AT VH 195556, VH 195559 AND IN A CAVE AT THAM SADE (VH 195544), RESPECTIVELY TWO AND THREE KM SOUTH OF BAN NONG KOU.)

3. A REGULAR INFORMANT WHO WAS THE CHIEF OF AN UNSPECIFIED VILLAGE, PROBABLY SOUTHEAST OF SAM NEUA, TOLD A PATROL FROM ANOTHER FRIENDLY GUERRILLA UNIT THAT ON 8 FEBRUARY TWO AMERICAN PILOTS WERE SEEN TRAVELLING IN A VEHICLE WITH (THAO) SITHONE FROM THE DIRECTION OF NA KAY SANG NONG KOUT. [REDACTED] COMMENT: NA KAY WAS PROBABLY BAN KAY TEU (VH 192550), 18 KM SOUTHEAST OF SAM NEUA, AND NONG KOU WAS PROBABLY BAN NONG KOU.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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SITHONE WAS NOT FURTHER IDENTIFIED,
 (DDOS-314/00624-66)
 ALTHOUGH IN [REDACTED] A PATHE' LAO DLFEQ DR SPOKE OF FOUR AMERICAN
 PILOT'S HELD PRISONER IN A CAVE
 CALLED THAM SADET, A SHORT DISTANCE SOUTH OF NA KAY EU AND NONS KOU,
 AND IN AUGUST 1965 GENERAL SITHONE KOMMADAN WORKED IN THIS CAVE ALONG
 WITH OTHER TOP COMMUNIST LEADERS.) THE CHIEF SAID THAT VILLAGERS
 OF THE AREA THOUGH THE PILOT'S APPEARED WELL FED, BUT THAT THEY HAD
 BEEN USED TO REPAIR VEHICLES AND ENGINES, AND HAD BEEN ORDERED
 TO EXAMINE UNEXPLODED BOMBS TO DETERMINE IF THE BOMBS WOULD
 EXPLODE IN THE NEAR FUTURE. IF THE PILOT'S DETERMINED THAT A BOMB
 WOULD EXPLODE, LOCAL AUTHORITIES KEPT VILLAGERS OUT OF THE
 WAY. IF, HOWEVER, THE PILOT'S DETERMINED THAT THE BOMB WOULD NOT
 EXPLODE SOON, THE AUTHORITIES FORCED THEM TO DISARM IT IMMEDIATELY.
 THE CHIEF ALSO SAID HE DID NOT KNOW WHERE THE PILOT'S WERE KEPT.

[REDACTED] DISSEM: STATE ARMY AIR CINCPAC PACAF PACAF APP
 USMAF - SAIGON LIAISON DIVISION - DAIKON AND [REDACTED]

SECRET

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]