

**TELEGRAM INFORMATION REPORT**

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

[REDACTED]

COUNTRY LAOS REPORT NO. TDCS -3/561,476

SUBJECT STATUS OF SURVIVORS OF C-46 CRASH AND DATE DISTR. 10 OCTOBER 1963

FATHET LAO PLANS FOR THEM PRECEDENCE PRIORITY

DATE OF INFO. 19-29 SEPTEMBER 1963 REFERENCES IN 36959

PLACE & DATE ACQ. [REDACTED]

APPRAISAL [REDACTED]

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION. SOURCE GRADINGS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

SUMMARY [REDACTED]

1. SUMMARY AND COMMENT: THE FOLLOWING CONCLUSIONS BASED ON ALL AVAILABLE DATA HAVE BEEN REACHED REGARDING THE CRASH OF A C-46 PLANE ON 5 SEPT 63 AND ON THE STATUS OF THE SURVIVORS:

A. ON 5 SEPT 63 AN AIR AMERICA C-46 PLANE ON MISSION TO DROP RICE AND MEAT TO LAO ARMED FORCES TROOPS AT BAN HOUEI SANE PASSED OVER THE HOUEI AKAI (XD 1634) AREA WHERE IT WAS FIRED ON AND HIT BY PATHET LAO (PL)/VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST (VC)

APPROVED FOR RELEASE DATE

[REDACTED]

ARMY/ACSI NAVY AIR JCS SECDEF NSA NIC AID USIA [REDACTED]

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GUN CREWS. THE DAMAGED PLANE TURNED NORTHWEST, LOSING ALTITUDE, AND CRASHED IN A SMALL RICE PADDY AT BAN NA SENG HAY (XD 0139). FIVE OF THE CREW PARACHUTED FROM THE PLANE JUST PRIOR TO THE CRASH, AND ONE CREW MEMBER, APPARENTLY AN AMERICAN DIED IN THE CRASH.

B. THE FIVE SURVIVORS (TWO AMERICANS, TWO THAIS, AND ONE CHINESE) MOVED IN A NORTHWESTERLY DIRECTION FROM WHERE THEY LANDED TO BAN KHAM SAI (XD 9040) WHERE VILLAGERS TOOK THEM INTO CUSTODY AND TURNED THEM OVER TO TWELVE PL WHO HAD RUSHED TO THE CRASH SCENE. THE PL ESCORTED THE SURVIVORS TO MUONG PHINE (XD 0927). ON 7 SEPT TWO OF THE PRISONERS WERE MOVED EASTWARD ALONG ROUTE 9 IN THE DIRECTION OF THA KHONG, NEAR TCHEPONE. ON 19 SEPT THE THREE REMAINING AT MUONG PHINE ALSO WERE MOVED EASTWARD AND JOINED THE OTHER TWO AN UNKNOWN POINT. ALL FIVE WERE MOVED TO THE PL CAMP AT THA KHONG WHERE THEY WERE OBSERVED WALKING UNAIDED AND UNDER ESCORT INTO THE CAMP ON THE NORTH SIDE OF ROUTE 9 AND ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE SE BANG HIENG RIVER AT (XD 299485)

C. PL PROPAGANDA UNITS IMMEDIATELY BEGAN EXULTING IN THE TCHEPONE AREA THAT THE PRISONERS WERE PROOF

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OF THE LIES AND DECEPTION OF CONSERVATIVE LAO LEADERS WHO CLAIMED, ACCORDING TO THE PL, THAT NO AMERICANS ARE HELPING LAOS. THE PL SAID THE AMERICAN PRISONERS ARE PROOF OF UNITED STATES INTERVENTION. THE PL SAID THEY WOULD KEEP THE PRISONERS WELL FED, CLEAN, AND HEALTHY, SO THEY COULD BE TAKEN TO NORTH VIETNAM AND THEN TO THE WORLD COURT. (COMMENT: PROBABLY WORLD COURT SHOULD READ UNITED NATIONS.)

D. THE FIVE PRISONERS REPORTEDLY ARE IN THE CENTER OF THE CAMP WHERE A COVERED HOLE IS USED TO DETAIN PRISONERS. THE CREW MEMBERS WERE BEING FED, BUT WERE LOSING WEIGHT AND WERE QUITE THIN, PROBABLY AS A RESULT OF AN UNACCUSTOMED DIET. THE CAMP IS A BARBED WIRE ENCLOSURE ABOUT 150 TO 200 METERS WHOSE PHYSICAL LAYOUT HAS NOT CHANGED SINCE THE TIME OF FRENCH CONTROL OF THE AREA. THE PL CONTINGENT AT THE CAMP CHANGES FREQUENTLY. NO VILLAGERS ARE ALLOWED IN THE CAMP, AND CONTACT WITH THE PRISONERS IS BELIEVED IMPOSSIBLE.

E. ONE PL COMPANY REMAINED IN THE AREA OF THE CRASH SITE AS LATE AS 29 SEPT. THE PL HAD RECOVERED ABOUT ONE TON OF RICE AND MEAT, PLUS SOME DOCUMENTS FROM THE WRECKAGE.

2. [REDACTED] COMMENT: THE ABOVE CONCLUSIONS ARE BASED ON THE INFORMATION IN PARAS 2-7 BELOW, ON [REDACTED] (TDCS-3/560,051), AND ON [REDACTED] (TDCS-3/561,194).)

3. ON 19 SEPT 63 A RESIDENT OF THA KHONG (XD 3046) IN THE TCHEPONE AREA, ALERTED BY COMOTION AND PL PROPAGANDA ANNOUNCEMENTS, WENT TO THE ROUTE 9 ENTRANCE TO THE PL THA KHONG CAMP (XD 299465). HE SAW FIVE PRISONERS BEING ESCORTED INTO THE CAMP WHICH IS ON THE NORTH SIDE OF ROUTE NINE AND THE WEST BANK OF THE SE BANG HIENG RIVER. THE PRISONERS WERE WALKING UNAIDED. AN UNSPECIFIED NUMBER OF CAUCASIANS WERE IN THE GROUP, ACCORDING TO PL PROPAGANDA. THE NATIONALITY OF THE OTHER MEMBERS WAS NOT STATED. THE PL AND VILLAGERS IN THE AREA STATED THAT THE PRISONERS WERE FROM AN AMERICAN PLANE SHOT DOWN IN THE VICINITY OF BAN NA SENG MAY (XD 0139) WHICH WAS ON A RICE DROP MISSION TO BAN HOUET SANE (XD 6535).

4. A MERCHANT OF THE THA KHONG AREA TALKED WITH VILLAGER FROM BAN SOP NAM (XD 2946) AND THA KHONG WHO SAID THAT ON 19 SEPT FIVE PRISONERS, INCLUDING AT LEAST TWO AMERICANS, CAME FROM THE DIRECTION OF MUONG PHINE (XD 0947) AND WERE ESCORTED INTO THE PL CAMP AT THA KHONG. ALL OF THE MEN WERE WALKING, BUT THEIR PHYSICAL CONDITION WAS NOT KNOWN. PL

(WHEN FILLED IN)

FORM 101  
1-63

USE PREVIOUS  
EDITION

REF. 2-63

(15-20-63)

CONTINUATION OF TDCS INFORMATION REPORT

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(WHEN FILLED IN)

PROPAGANDA TEAMS IN THE TCHEPONE AREA WERE VERY ACTIVE. THE TEAMS TOLD VILLAGERS THAT THE LAO CONSERVATIVES STATED THAT NO AMERICANS WERE HELPING THEM IN LAOS, BUT THAT THE PLANE CREW PRISONERS WERE PROOF THAT THESE STATEMENTS WERE FALSE. THE PL STATED THAT THE PRISONERS MUST BE KEPT WELL FED AND CLEAN BECAUSE THEY MUST BE ALIVE WHEN THE PL PRESENT THEM TO THE WORLD COURT AS PROOF OF AMERICAN INTERVENTION IN LAOS. [REDACTED] COMMENT: THE PL DID NOT STATE WHEN THE PRISONERS WOULD BE TAKEN BEFORE THE COURT. PROBABLY THE UNITED NATIONS, RATHER THAN WORLD COURT, IS INTENDED. MOST VILLAGERS IN THE AREA PITIED THE PRISONERS, BUT SOME BELIEVED THE PL AND CRITICIZED THE AMERICANS FOR INTERFERING IN LAO AFFAIRS.)

5. ON 29 SEPT A VILLAGER FROM BAN HOUEI KOK KD 2847 STATED THAT ALL FIVE PRISONERS WERE BEING DETAINED IN A HOLE AT THE PL THA KHONG CAMP. ALL WERE VERY THIN. THE PL SAID THEY WOULD TAKE THE PRISONERS TO NORTH VIETNAM, BUT THEY GAVE NO DATE FOR THE MOVE.

6. [REDACTED] COMMENT: THE CAMP WHERE THE PRISONERS ARE DETAINED HAS NOT BEEN CHANGED SINCE THE TIME OF FRENCH CONTROL OVER THE AREA. IT IS A LARGE CAMP SURROUNDED BY

[REDACTED]

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A TEN-STRAND BARBED WIRE FENCE ABOUT SIX FEET HIGH. THERE IS ONLY ONE GATE, LOCATED ON ROUTE 9 ABOUT 75 METERS FROM THE BRIDGE AT XD 3045, WHICH IS LARGE ENOUGH THROUGH WHICH TO DRIVE A LARGE TRUCK. A GUARD HOUSE IS JUST INSIDE THE GATE. NO VILLAGERS ARE ALLOWED INTO THE CAMP, AND THE INFORMANT OF PARA 3 ABOVE DOES NOT BELIEVE IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR A VILLAGER TO SEE OR CONTACT THE PRISONERS WHO PRESUMABLY ARE BEING HELD IN A LARGE, COVERED HOLE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE CAMP WHICH FORMRLY WAS USED TO DETAIN PRISONERS. THE NUMBER OF PL IN THE CAMP CHANGES FREQUENTLY, AND IT IS DIFFICULT TO KNOW WHEN UNITS COME AND GO. INFORMANT DOUBTS THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO RAID THE CAMP AND RESCUE THE PRISONERS. INFORMANT KNOWS OF NO ADDITIONAL SECURITY INITIATED SINCE THE ARRIVAL OF THE PRISONERS, BUT MEASURES ALREADY IN EFFECT SEVERELY LIMITED MOVEMENT IN THE AREA. THE MOST SERIOUS OBSTACLE TO A SUCCESSFUL RAID IS THE DIFFICULTY THAT WOULD BE ENCOUNTERED IN AN ATTEMPT TO GET A RAIDING TEAM INTO THE THA KHONG AREA.)

7. [REDACTED] DISSEM: STATE ARMY AIR USAID C/JNCPAC  
PACFLT PACAF ARPAC.

END OF MESSAGE