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5 JANUARY 1968

COUNTRY LAOS/NORTH VIETNAM

DOI 25 JUNE 1968

SUBJECT TRANSFER OF TWO AMERICAN PILOTS HELD CAPTIVE IN LAOS TO NORTH VIETNAM

ACQ LAOS, VIENTIANE 15 JANUARY 1968/

SOURCE

[REDACTED]

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1. ON 10 JUNE 1968 TWO OF FOUR AMERICAN PILOTS HELD PRISONER IN THAM SUA CAVE AT VH 193564, SOUTH OF BAN NAKAY NEUA /VH 1965/, IN HOUA PHAN PROVINCE, LAOS, WERE SENT TO HANOI, NORTH VIETNAM. PRIOR TO BEING SENT TO HANOI, ONE OF THE AMERICAN PILOTS, DESCRIBED AS AN OLDER MAN, KILLED THREE NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY /NVA/ SOLDIERS WHEN THEY ATTEMPTED TO INTERROGATE HIM. THE ELDER PILOT REFUSED TO ANSWER THE NVA OFFICERS' QUESTIONS AND INSTRUCTED THE OTHER PILOTS

#2

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[REDACTED]
(classification) (dissem controls)

NOT TO COOPERATE AS WELL. THE KILLING OCCURRED WHEN THE NORTH VIETNAMESE ATTEMPTED TO CHAIN THE PILOT TO A DESK--HE OVERTURNED THE DESK ON HIS CAPTORS AND BEAT THREE OF THEM TO DEATH WITH THE CHAIN BEFORE GUARDS OVERPOWERED HIM. FOLLOWING THIS INCIDENT, THE ELDER PILOT AND ONE OF THE YOUNGER PILOTS WERE SENT TO HANOI. THE REASON GIVEN FOR THE TRANSFER WAS THAT THE TWO PILOTS WERE CONSIDERED AS INCORRIGIBLE CASES BY THE PATHET LAO AND NORTH VIETNAMESE. IT IS NOT KNOWN IF THE OTHER AMERICAN PILOTS HAVE BEEN TRANSFERRED TO NORTH VIETNAM FOR SIMILAR REASONS.

2. FIELD DISSEM STATE ARMY AIR USMACV 7TH AIR FORCE CINCPAC PACFLT ARPAC /ALSO SENT [REDACTED] AND SAIGON/

[REDACTED]
GROUP-1