FBIS 26

DRV EMBASSY IN VIENTIANE REFUTES PRESS REPORT

BK0408 10 HANOI VNA IN ENGLISH 0721 GMT 4 MAR 75 BK

(TEXT) HANOI, VNA, MARCH 4--THE EMBASSY OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM IN THE KINGDOM OF LAOS HAS REFUTED A REPORT PRINTED IN THE VIENTIANE PAPER "XAT LAO" ON FEB. 28 WITH THE CLEAR INTENT TO PUT THE BLAME ON THE DRV FOR THE REPORTED "DISAPPEARANCE" OF TWO YOUNG FOREIGNERS, ONE AUSTRALIAN AND THE OTHER AMERICAN, IN A VIENTIANE-HELD AREA.

A COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY THE DRV EMBASSY ON MARCH 1 SAID: "everyone knows that relations between the DRV and Laos have continuously improved. SUCH FALSEHOODS AS THOSE SPREAD BY "XAT LAO" ARE ONLY AIMED AT SABOTAGING FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. THE DRV EMBASSY IN THE KINGDOM OF LAOS FIRMLY REJECTS THESE GROUNDLESS ACCUSATIONS."

4 MAR 0842Z DD/GFE