

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
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• ROUTINE
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112135Z

CITE TDCR-314/00-82-67

DIST 11 JANUARY 1967

COUNTRY: LAOS

DDI: 5 SEPTEMBER 1963-7 JANUARY 1967

SUBJECT: DEBRIEFINGS OF THAI NATIONAL IMPRISONED BY PATHET LAO

ADD:

SOURCE:

[REDACTED]

1. (SUMMARY. PHISIT, WHO WAS ABOARD AN AIR AMERICA C-46 SHOT DOWN NEAR BAN NAESONG ON 5 SEPTEMBER 1963, WAS CAPTURED BY THE PL ALONG WITH FOUR OTHER SURVIVING CREW MEMBERS. IN MAY 1964 THEY ESCAPED BUT WERE RECAPTURED FOUR DAYS LATER. AFTER THIS THEY WERE MOVED SEVERAL TIMES BUT MOST OF 1965 WAS SPENT AT BAN TAM. HERE THEY WERE JOINED BY DUANE MARTIN IN SEPTEMBER OF THAT YEAR. IN DECEMBER 1965 THE FIVE C-46 CREW MEMBERS AND MARTIN WERE MOVED TO PHA KAN. IN FEBRUARY 1966 DIETER DENGLER

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APPROVED FOR RELEASE

Date MAY 21

Handwritten initials and stamps, including a circular stamp with the number 64.

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[REDACTED]

ARRIVED AT PHA KAN. THE SEVEN WERE MOVED TO HOUEI HAT IN MARCH AND ESCAPED FROM THERE ON 30 JULY 1966. AFTER THE ESCAPE THEY SEPARATED INTO THREE GROUPS: DENGLER AND MARTIN; DE BRUIN AND TOU; AND PHISIT AND THE TWO PRASITS. AFTER A DISAGREEMENT WITH THE TWO PRASITS OVER THE DIRECTION OF TRAVEL, PHISIT LEFT THEM. THIRTY-SEVEN DAYS LATER HE WAS RECAPTURED BY THE PL, WHO BEAT HIM AND LATER INTERROGATED HIM ON THE ESCAPE AND ON THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE OTHER SIX ESCAPEES. IN SEPTEMBER 1966 GUARDS AT BAN THAPACHON WHERE HE WAS THEN IMPRISONED DESCRIBED HOW MARTIN HAD BEEN KILLED. PHISIT WAS BROUGHT TO BAN NA DENE ON 5 OCTOBER AND WAS RESCUED ON 7 JANUARY 1967.)

2. PHISIT, A THAI KICKER FOR AIR AMERICA, WAS ON AN AIR AMERICA C-46 SHOT DOWN NEAR BAN NASSONG (NA EANG) (XD 2548) ON 5 SEPTEMBER 1963. PHISIT, EUGENE DE BRUIN, PRASIT PRONSUNAN, AND PRASIT THANI, ALSO THAI KICKERS, AND YIK CHIU TOU, RADIO OPERATOR, PARACHUTED FROM THE PLANE AND WERE IMMEDIATELY CAPTURED BY THE PL. THE PILOT AND CO-PILOT WERE KILLED IN THE CRASH.

3. THE FIVE CREW MEMBERS WERE TAKEN IN A CLOSED-IN TRUCK, FIRST TO NUONG PHINE (XD 8927) WHERE THEY WERE KEPT FOR ABOUT 12 HOURS, THEN TO BAN THAKHONG (XD 3146) FOR 79 DAYS, TO BAN

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

MUONG ANSKHAM (XD 2876) ON 23 NOVEMBER FOR 17 DAYS, BACK TO MUONG PHINE FOR 128 DAYS, AND TO BAN LANG KHANG (VE 7841) FOR 98 DAYS. PHISIT AND THE OTHER CREW MEMBERS ESCAPED AT BAN LANG KHANG ON 3 MAY 1964 BUT WERE RECAPTURED ON 7 MAY. THEY WERE TAKEN ON FOOT FROM BAN LANG KHANG TO BAN THAPACHON (VE 8725) IN OCTOBER 1964 AND KEPT THERE FOR 12 DAYS, TO BAN TAM (XD 1395) FOR THREE MONTHS, BACK TO BAN THAPACHON FOR SIX DAYS FOR THEIR FIRST INTERROGATION SINCE THEIR CAPTURE, THEN BACK AGAIN TO BAN TAM, WHERE THEY WERE KEPT UNTIL DECEMBER 1965. [REDACTED] COMMENT: AVAILABLE MAPS GAVE PAN PA TAN AT XD 1395 RATHER THAN BAN TAM.) ON 21 SEPTEMBER 1965 LIEUTENANT DUANE MARTIN WAS BROUGHT TO BAN TAM AFTER BEING CAPTURED IN THE MAHAXAY (VE 2225) AREA.

4. THE FIVE CREW MEMBERS AND MARTIN WERE TAKEN TO PHA KAN (PA KUNG), THREE DAYS' WALK NORTH OF BAN TAM, ARRIVING THERE ON 22 DECEMBER 1965. [REDACTED] COMMENT: STARTING WITH HIS DESCRIPTION OF THIS MOVE, PHISIT, SEEMED TO BE CONFUSED ABOUT DIRECTIONS. HOWEVER, HE WAS ABLE TO IDENTIFY PHA KAN IN A STEREO PICTURE FROM MISSION TH 7817 OF 16 JANUARY 1966. THE VILLAGE IS AT XD 312924 AND THE PRISON IS IN THE JUNGLE ABOUT

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50 METERS SOUTHWEST OF THE EDGE OF THE VILLAGE.) THEY WERE KEPT AT PHA KAN FOR THREE MONTHS. MARTIN AND TOU SUFFERED CONSTANTLY FROM DYSENTERY. BECAUSE MARTIN SPOKE NO LAO, HE WAS THE TARGET OF MOST OF THE GUARDS' ABUSE. THE GUARDS BEAT HIM REPEATEDLY AND ATTEMPTED TO FRIGHTEN HIM WITH NEAR-MISS RIFLE SHOTS. IN LATE FEBRUARY 1966 LIEUTENANT J.G. DIETER DENGLER WAS BROUGHT TO PHA KAN AFTER BEING CAPTURED IN THE NHOMMARATH (WS 1226) AREA ON 2 FEBRUARY 1966.

5. THE FIVE CREW MEMBERS OF THE AIR AMERICA C-46, LATER JOINED BY MARTIN AND DENGLER, WERE ALWAYS ISOLATED FROM OTHER PRISONERS. PHISIT NEVER HEARD OF OR SAW ANY OTHER CAUCASIAN PRISONERS. THROUGHOUT THEIR CAPTIVITY THE CREW MEMBERS WERE GUARDED BY PL, NEVER BY NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY (NVNA), TROOPS.

6. THE FIVE CREW MEMBERS, MARTIN, AND DENGLER WERE TAKEN A HALF DAY'S WALK SOUTH TO HOUEI HAT IN MARCH 1966. [REDACTED]

COMMENT: -HOUEI HAT IS PROBABLY IDENTICAL WITH HOI HET (XD 3289).)

7. ON 30 JULY 1966 THE SEVEN PRISONERS ESCAPED FROM HOUEI HAT. MARTIN AND TOU WERE WEAK AND TOU WAS BARELY ABLE TO MOVE. THE PRISONERS AGREED TO FORM THREE GROUPS: DENGLER

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

AND MARTIN; DE BRUIN AND TOUT AND PHISIT AND THE TWO FRENCHS. DE BRUIN WAS TO TAKE TOUT TO A MOUNTAIN TOP NEAR HOUET HAT AND REMAIN THERE. THE FIRST ESCAPEE TO REACH SAFETY WAS TO INFORM FRIENDLY AUTHORITIES OF DE BRUIN AND TOUT'S LOCATION.

8. THE PRISONERS WERE QUARTERED IN TWO TWO-ROOM BUILDINGS, WITH FOUR PRISONERS IN ONE ROOM OF ONE BUILDING AND THREE PRISONERS IN ONE ROOM OF THE OTHER. THE TWO BUILDINGS WERE ENCLOSED BY A RECTANGULAR BAMBOO FENCE. THERE WERE TWO GUARD SHACKS, A WATCH TOWER, AND A MESS HALL OUTSIDE ONE END OF THE PRISON COMPOUND, AND ONE GUARD SHACK OUTSIDE THE OTHER END. FOR A MONTH PRIOR TO THE ESCAPE THE PRISONERS, WHILE EMPTYING REFUSE NEAR THE FENCE, HAD LOOSENED THREE BAMBOO POSTS AT THE END OF THE COMPOUND WHERE THERE WAS ONE GUARD SHACK. THE ESCAPE BEGAN WHEN TOUT AS LOCKOUT SIGNALLED FROM THE PRISON BUILDING NEAREST THE GUARD MESS HALL THAT ALL NINE GUARDS WERE EATING TOGETHER, AS THEY FREQUENTLY DID.

9. DENGLER, THE FIRST ONE OUT, REMOVED THE THREE BAMBOO POSTS. HE WENT TO THE GUARD SHACK AND TOOK AN M-1 RIFLE AND AMMUNITION. PHISIT, THE SECOND ONE OUT, TOOK AN M-1 RIFLE AND THREE CLIPS OF AMMUNITION FROM THE SHACK. DE BRUIN WAS ARKED

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[REDACTED]

WITH A CLUB. ONE OF THE PRASITS, ARMED WITH AN M-1 RIFLE, JOINED PHISIT. THE TWO MOVED ALONG ONE WALL WHILE DENGLER SWIRTED THE OPPOSITE WALL TOWARD THE END OF THE COMPOUND WHERE THE GUARDS WERE EATING. PHISIT AND PRASIT ATTACKED THE MESS HALL, KILLING TWO GUARDS. THE SEVEN REMAINING PL FLED TOWARD DENGLER, WHO SHOT TWO OF THEM. THE FIVE WHO WERE LEFT SCATTERED INTO THE JUNGLE. SOME OF THEM MAY HAVE BEEN WOUNDED.

10. THE PRISONERS THEN TOOK MORE ARMS. TOU AND MARTIN TOOK CARBINES BUT LITTLE AMMUNITION. ONE OF THE PRASITS, PHISIT, AND DENGLER TOOK M-1 RIFLES. LATER MARTIN AND DENGLER EXCHANGED WEAPONS. DE BRUIN AND THE OTHER PRASIT TOOK CHINESE COMMUNIST RIFLES, WHICH THEY LATER THREW AWAY IN THE JUNGLE, AND NO AMMUNITION. THE THREE GROUPS MOVED SOUTHEAST. AS PLANNED, DE BRUIN TOOK TOU TO A MOUNTAIN ABOUT ONE KILOMETER SOUTHEAST OF HOUEI NAT.

11. A FEW DAYS AFTER THE ESCAPE PHISIT DISAGREED WITH THE TWO PRASITS ON THE DIRECTION OF TRAVEL AND LEFT THEM. THEY PLANNED TO GO NORTH TO THE SE (RIVER) BANKS PAI AND FLOAT WEST ON A RAFT TO SAFETY. THIRTY-SEVEN DAYS AFTER THE ESCAPE PHISIT, LOST AND NEAR COLLAPSE, WANDERED INTO BAN MUONG ANKHAN. THE PL THERE

[REDACTED]



RECOGNIZED HIM IMMEDIATELY AS AN ESCAPEE FROM HOUEI MAT. THE PL BOUND PHISIT HAND AND FOOT, HUNG HIM BY THE FEET, AND BEAT HIM WITH RIFLE BUTTS, THEN COVERED HIM WITH RED ANTS AND LEFT HIM HANGING BY THE FEET OVERNIGHT.

12. THREE DAYS LATER HE BEGAN THE JOURNEY UNDER GUARD TO BAN NA DENE, ARRIVING THERE ON 5 OCTOBER 1966. HE WAS TAKEN FIRST TO THONG LOUANG (XD 1844) WHERE HE STAYED OVERNIGHT, AND THEN TO BAN HOUEIRANG (XD 2264). DURING ONE OF THE FOUR DAYS HE WAS IN BAN HOUEIRANG HE WAS INTERROGATED ON THE ESCAPE AND ON THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE OTHER SIX ESCAPEES. HE SPENT TWO NIGHTS AT BAN TAN, THEN THE PL TOOK HIM TO BAN THAPACHON, WHERE HE REMAINED ABOUT A MONTH, AND FINALLY TO BAN NA DENE.

13. DURING THE MONTH AT BAN THAPACHON THE GUARDS TOLD PHISIT ABOUT THE DEATH OF MARTIN. ACCORDING TO THE GUARDS, MARTIN AND DENGLER HAD APPROACHED A HUT ON STILTS IN THE JUNGLE IN THE KOUAN SE AREA NORTH OF BAN THAPACHON IN SEARCH OF FOOD. DENGLER, ARMED WITH AN M-1 CARBINE, REMAINED IN THE JUNGLE, WHILE MARTIN, LEAVING HIS RIFLE BEHIND, WALKED UP TO A SMALL BOY IN FRONT OF THE HUT. ALTHOUGH MARTIN, WHO SPOKE NO LAO, GREETED THE BOY WITH THE TRADITIONAL GESTURE OF FRIENDSHIP (HANDS CLASPED



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TOGETHER ARE RAISED TO THE FOREHEADS, THE BOY'S FATHER DID NOT SEE HIM DO SO, AND, BELIEVING THAT MARTIN WAS ABOUT TO HARM THE BOY, THE FATHER SWUNG HIS MACHETE AT MARTIN. MARTIN CAUGHT THE FIRST BLOW ON ONE UPPER ARM. THE SECOND BLOW, WHICH FELL ON THE OTHER UPPER ARM, BROKE MARTIN'S NECK AND HE DIED INSTANTLY. THE BOY SAW DENGLER RUN OFF THROUGH THE JUNGLE.

14. [REDACTED] COMMENT: PHISIT HAD HEARD NOTHING OF THE REST OF THE ESCAPEES.

15. [REDACTED] DISSEM: STATE ARMY AIR USMACV-SAIGON 7TH AIR FORCE-SAIGON AND UDORN CINCPAC PACFLT ARPAC PACAF [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]