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Headline: U.S. Urged To Put 'Early End to MIA Issue'

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 21 Jan 92

FULL TEXT OF ARTICLE:

1. [Station commentary]

2. [Text] Recently, ill-intentioned reports on and a set of photos of American personnel missing in the Vietnam war have again been publicized. Following the said photos of Robertson, an American pilot shot down in Vietnam in 1966, and Air Force Captain Lundy, shot down in Laos in 1971, there have been American press reports on American prisoners who were allegedly sent to Kazakhstan and the statement made by former KGB General Oleg Kalugin saying that KGB personnel questioned a number of U.S. prisoners of war in Vietnam from 1975 to 1978. So what is the truth behind these?

3. First of all we have to confirm that those stories have been perpetrated with ill intention. It is necessary to recall that on 13 January 1992 a spokesman for the U.S. State Department said that the result of an investigation in Kazakhstan from 8-11 January showed that no evidence has been found about the detention of American prisoners of war. Therefore the U.S. State Department held that the investigation had been stopped until new evidence is produced.

4. As for the statement made by former Soviet General Oleg Kalugin, Vietnam has affirmed that this is sheer ill-intentioned fabrication. On 20 January the Vietnam Office for the Search for U.S. Citizens Missing in Action, MIA, sent a note to the U.S. MIA office in Hanoi saying that the results of the investigations show that there was no interrogation of American prisoners of war by KGB personnel after the U.S. troop withdrawal in 1973 and after the end of the war in 1975.

5. The investigation showed that there was only one contact between KGB personnel and an American prisoner of war by the name of Eugene Weaver. Weaver was captured by Vietnam in the city of Hue on 31 January 1968. Upon knowing that Weaver is a Russian-born American, the Soviet side asked to meet him and the request was accepted by Vietnam. In January 1973 the KGB officer Oleg Nechiporenko met Weaver only once because of the latter's refusal of another contact. In March 1973 the Vietnamese side returned Mr Weaver to the U.S. side. This should not be used as a pretext for the fabricated story about personnel interrogating American prisoners of war up to the end of the war.

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6. The American TIME magazine remarked that these ridiculous stories contribute to the MIA industry whose [word indistinct] are profiting through cooked up stories. This shows that some circles in the United States continue their outmoded policy, pretexting the MIA issue to hinder the process of normalizing Vietnam-U.S. relations and sabotaging the friendship between the two peoples.

7. For its part Vietnam considers MIA merely as humanitarian issue and have unilaterally solved the issue without imposing any conditions on the U.S. side. Following the return of all American prisoners of war, the Vietnamese side has handed over to the U.S. side 458 sets of remains and information concerning 59 cases of American personnel whose death was confirmed. Since 1987, joint Vietnamese-U.S. searches have brought about practical results.

8. Therefore the U.S. Government and Congress should stop using the MIA issue for political purposes and an obstruct to the process of normalizing relations between the two countries. What they should do is make the American people understand the truth about the MIA issue and be vigilant of allegations. They should take measures to prevent and punish those who make profit of the sufferings of American families. The best way for the U.S. is to promote the process of normalizing relations and to put an early end to the MIA issue. This will surely meet the aspirations and interest of the peoples of both countries.

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