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..TEXT:

[Text] Following the case of the doctored photos of three missing U.S. soldiers allegedly still living in **Southeast Asia**, which stirred up U.S. public opinion for several months and was finally proved to be a total hoax by the U.S. press and professional photograph analysts themselves-including the chairman of the International Association of Photographers-the U.S. public is now faced with a sensational statement: The VOA and some major newspapers and foreign news agencies reported that on 2 January 1992, Mr. Kalugin, a former KGB official, told the NEW YORK DAILY NEWS that KGB personnel had interrogated three U.S. **POW's** in Hanoi in 1978 and that many Americans might have been detained in Vietnam for a long period, after Vietnam had said that all the **POW's** had been **returned** to the United States.

..TEXT:

Foreign new agencies and VOA have claimed that Kalugin's statement has caused an uproar in U.S. public opinion by resurrecting the story about American **POW's** either living or being detained in Vietnam. The NEW YORK DAILY NEWS reported that the representatives of the U.S. State Department met with the U.S. Senate committee members in the past few days to discuss the clarification of the fate of American **POW's** and **MIA's**. However, as before, this news about American **POW's** in Vietnam has been rejected by broad segments of public opinion inside and outside the United States.

..TEXT:

According to reports from Moscow, on 9 January, during a meeting with large numbers of foreign journalists, Mr. Nechi Porenko, a former KGB employee said officially that he alone and not Kalugin participated personally in a unique interview with U.S. **POW's** and this interview took place in January 1973 and not 1978, when U.S. troops were still in Vietnam.

..TEXT:

TASS remarked that with more than 2,000 U.S. soldiers considered missing in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia, sensational reports on U.S. soldiers allegedly still living in Vietnam and **Southeast Asia** have now and then appeared in the United States and other foreign countries. However, as yet, no one can show evidence of Americans forced to stay in these countries after the ending of U.S. intervention.

..TEXT:

Following the case of the doctored photo of three American soldiers allegedly still living in Vietnam, President Bush himself and U.S. Defense Secretary Cheney in August 1991 had to admit that there was no evidence of **MIA** U.S. soldiers still living in Vietnam and **Southeast Asia**. They also condemned those who are raising false hope for the families of missing U.S. soldiers.

..TEXT:

Following Kalugin's 2 January statement, the German newspaper STADE on 7 January carried an article under the rubric ''Anti-Vietnam Kalugin, a Very Subtle Activity in the United States.'' The article says: For the U.S. ruling circles, which are preparing for the presidential electoral campaign, Vietnam is not only a foreign policy issue, but is also an ever-exploitable domestic policy issue of the United States itself.

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While the U.S. president is at the preparatory stage of the

1992 presidential election campaign, Kalugin has seen that the U.S. authorities are appearing to lean toward the direction of taking another step further in normalizing relations with Vietnam. In order to avoid isolation, while nearly all allied countries have normalized their relations with Vietnam, the press and other mass media have diffused sensational news about the so-called evidence of U.S. **POW's** still living in Vietnam. The FRG STADE concluded that Kalugin has disclosed more sensational news in order to turn Vietnam into a United States domestic policy issue in its presidential elections and to make U.S. authorities postpone the process of normalizing U.S.-Vietnam relations, at least until after the elections. If so, it is however certainly too late, and then the Vietnam cake is divided up for all countries in the world except the United States.

..TEXT:

The Vietnam News Agency was also authorized by our state to issue a statement rejecting this fabrication about U.S. soldiers allegedly still living in Vietnam. It clearly stated: The constant repetition of Kalugin-type statements is a typical act of those who want to exploit the sufferings of the American people to serve their dark, personal, evil schemes. VNA asserted: Following the signing of the Paris agreement in 1973, the Vietnamese Government has handed over to the U.S. Government all the American **POW's** captured during the war.

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