

Intelligence Information Cable

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DIST 13 JANUARY 1971

COUNTRY LAOS/NORTH VIETNAM

DOI 22 - 29 DECEMBER 1970

SUBJECT

1. NORTH VIETNAMESE EMBASSY STATEMENT THAT THE RELEASE OF U.S. POW LIST WAS TO FAVORABLY INFLUENCE U.S. PUBLIC OPINION
2. REFUSAL BY PATHET LAO REPRESENTATION IN VIENTIANE TO ACCEPT LETTERS TO U.S. POWS

1.

2. ON [REDACTED] DECEMBER 1970 [REDACTED] SAID THAT THE 22 DECEMBER 1970 RELEASE OF THE LIST OF U.S. PRISONERS OF WAR (POWS) IN NORTH VIETNAM WAS INTENDED TO INFLUENCE U.S. PUBLIC OPINION IN HANOI'S FAVOR AND WAS NOT A CONCESSION BY THE NORTH VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT.

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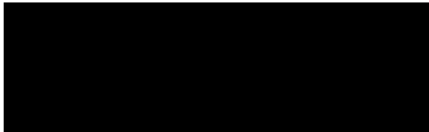
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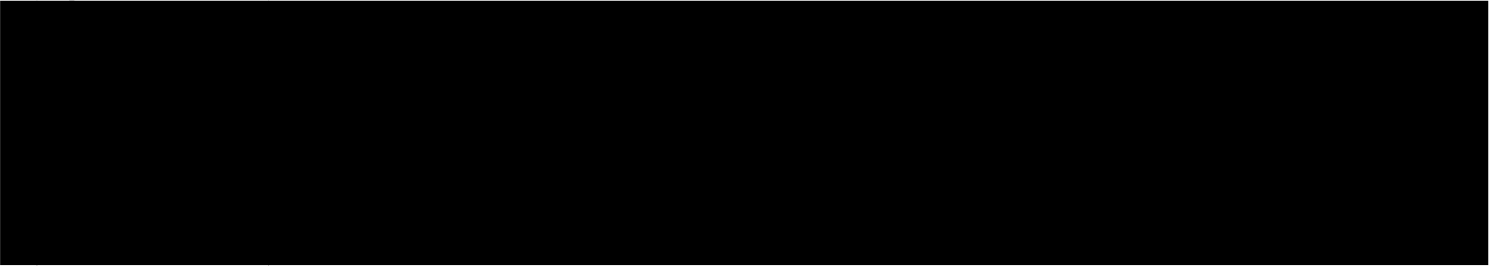
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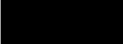

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: FEB 2001



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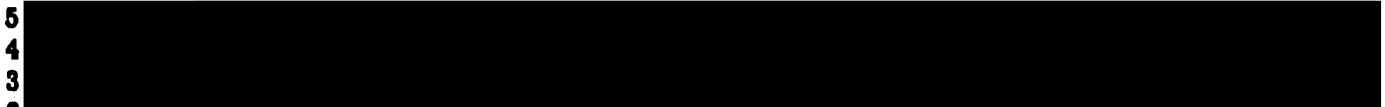


4. STARTING 29 DECEMBER 1970, THE PATHET LAO (PL) REPRESENTATION IN VIENTIANE REFUSED TO ACCEPT FOR FORWARDING LETTERS TO THE U.S. POWS IN LAOS AND NORTH VIETNAM. THE REASONS FOR THE REFUSAL WERE NOT GIVEN. THE UNACCEPTED LETTERS, WHICH AMOUNT TO AROUND 100, WERE CURRENTLY BEING HELD AT THE MINISTRY OF POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS (PTT) PENDING A DECISION BY THE MINISTER OF PTT FOR DISPOSAL. THE LETTERS MOST LIKELY WOULD BE RETURNED TO THE SENDERS.

5.  COMMENT. IN THE PAST YEARS, LETTERS TO U.S. POWS WERE RECEIVED BY THE PTT AND FORWARDED TO THE CENSORSHIP SECTION OF THE LAO POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR DELIVERY TO PL HEADQUARTERS IN VIENTIANE FOR FORWARDING. NEITHER THE PTT NOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT HAD ANY KNOWLEDGE OF HOW THE LETTERS, WHICH RAN AROUND 200 A MONTH, WERE FORWARDED TO THE POWS. HOWEVER, THE LETTERS HAD NEVER BEEN RETURNED NOR REFUSED. 



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