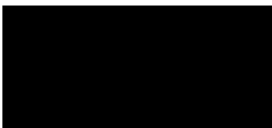


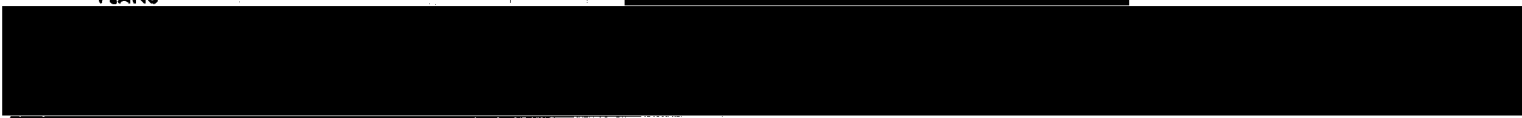


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DIST 3 JUNE 1971

COUNTRY LAOS/NORTH VIETNAM

DOI 15-27 MAY 1971

SUBJECT NVA/PL DETENTION CAMP ESTABLISHED FOR CIVILIAN AND
MILITARY PERSONNEL CAPTURED DURING THE NVA/PL
OFFENSIVE AGAINST PAKSONG



1707-326-6
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APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: FEB 2001

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(classification)

(dissem controls)

SUMMARY.

END OF SUMMARY.

1. IN MID-MAY 1971 THE NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY /NVA/ AND PATHET LAO /PL/ FORCES SET UP A DETENTION CENTER FOR CIVILIAN AND LAO ARMED FORCES /FAR/ PRISONERS CAPTURED DURING THE NVA/PL OFFENSIVES AGAINST PAKSONG /XB 3379/ AND THE SURROUNDING AREA. THE DETENTION CENTER WAS IN A JUNGLE AREA NEAR A COFFEE PLANTATION IN THE VICINITY OF PHOU /MOUNTAIN/ PHIAMAY /XB 4994/, 23 KILOMETERS /KMS/ NORTHEAST OF PAKSONG.

ACCORDING TO CURRENT

ENEMY ORDER OF

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BATTLE /OB/ LISTINGS, THERE HAS BEEN NO PRIOR REPORTING ON A PRISON IN THE PHOU PHIAMAY AREA./

2. EARLY IN THE MORNING OF 16 MAY NVA TROOPS ASSEMBLED 15 MALE VILLAGERS IN BAN PHAKKOUT /XB 216794/, 38 KMS EAST OF PAKSE AND 12 KMS WEST OF PAKSONG, TIED THE VILLAGERS' ARMS TOGETHER AT THE ELBOWS WITH ROPES AND LED THE VILLAGERS TO THE PHOU PHIAMAY DETENTION CENTER. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] TWO NVA SOLDIERS WERE ASSIGNED TO ESCORT THE VILLAGERS TO PHOU PHIAMAY AND THEY ARRIVED THERE ON THE LATE EVENING OF 16 MAY. WHILE ENROUTE TO THE DETENTION CAMP, THE MEN OBSERVED SEVERAL SMALL NVA UNITS ARMED WITH AK-47 RIFLES AND B-40 ROCKET LAUNCHERS. AT ONE POINT THEY OBSERVED WHAT APPEARED TO BE TANK TRACKS MOVING OFF THE TRAIL AND INTO THE JUNGLE.

[REDACTED] COMMENT. A FRIEND [REDACTED] AT THE DETENTION CAMP SAID THAT HE HAD OBSERVED SIX NVA TANKS WHEN HE WAS BEING TAKEN TO THE CAMP ON 16 MAY./

3. ON 27 MAY 45 PRISONERS CAPTURED AT PAKSONG WERE BROUGHT TO THE CAMP. THESE PRISONERS INCLUDED SEVERAL MEN

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FROM THE PAKSONG OPERATION BROTHERHOOD HOSPITAL, SEVERAL FAR PERSONNEL AND LOCAL RESIDENTS OF PAKSONG. DURING 16 MAY, OTHER PRISONERS FROM AREAS SURROUNDING PAKSONG WERE BROUGHT TO THE CAMP. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PRISONERS AT THE CAMP WAS 111, 20 OF WHOM WERE FAR PERSONNEL. THE PRISONERS SLEPT ON THE GROUND WHILE AT THE CAMP AND WERE NOT TIED AT ANY TIME WHILE THERE. THEY WERE GUARDED BY A ROTATING GUARD FORCE OF FOUR PL KHA LAVEN SOLDIERS. THE PRISONERS WERE FED MEALS OF DRIED FISH, RICE AND PAPAYA TWICE DAILY. [REDACTED] COMMENT. BOTH MEN CLAIMED THAT THEIR DIET WAS NOT ADEQUATE. HOWEVER, THEY WERE IN GOOD PHYSICAL CONDITION WHEN THEY ARRIVED IN PAKSE./ NONE OF THE PRISONERS WERE MISTREATED WHILE AT THE DETENTION CAMP.

4. DURING THE FIRST FOUR DAYS AT THE CAMP THE PRISONERS ATTENDED POLITICAL INDOCTRINATION LECTURES WHICH WERE PRESENTED BY AN NVA SOLDIER [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] WAS IN COMMAND [REDACTED] NVA UNIT WHICH REMAINED AT THE CAMP THE ENTIRE TIME THE PRISONERS WERE THERE. [REDACTED] COMMENT. [REDACTED] WAS ARMED WITH A PISTOL, AND [REDACTED] PRESUMED HE WAS AN OFFICER. [REDACTED] COULD

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NOT IDENTIFY ANY NVA OR PL UNITS THAT PARTICIPATED IN THE
PAKSONG ATTACK. [REDACTED] INSTRUCTOR WAS A PL SOLDIER [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] AND HAD SERVED IN THE PL FOR THE PAST 25 YEARS.

5. THE POLITICAL LECTURES DEALT WITH THE PL SYSTEM OF
GOVERNMENT, HISTORY OF THE PL REVOLUTION AND THE PURPOSE OF
PL ORGANIZATION. THE PRISONERS WERE TOLD THAT PAKSONG WAS
CAPTURED IN ORDER TO PERSUADE PRIME MINISTER S O U V A N N A
PHOUMA TO STOP U.S. BOMBINGS IN LAOS. IF THE BOMBING DID NOT
CEASE, THE NVA/PL WOULD CAPTURE PAKSE AS A FURTHER INDUCEMENT
FOR A BOMBING HALT. AFTER THE COMPLETION OF THE FOUR-DAY
POLITICAL INDOCTRINATION, THE PRISONERS WERE LEFT TO THEM-
SELVES WITH ORDERS NOT TO LEAVE THE DETENTION CAMP.

6. ON 26 MAY ALL OF THE PRISONERS, WITH THE EXCEPTION
OF THE FAR PERSONNEL, WERE RELEASED AND TOLD TO RETURN TO
THEIR HOMES. THE FAR SOLDIERS WERE TOLD THAT THEY WOULD BE
RELEASED IN TWO DAYS. THE PRISONERS RESIDING OUTSIDE OF
PAKSONG BUT IN NVA/PL CONTROLLED AREAS WERE INSTRUCTED TO
OBTAIN TRAVEL PASSES FROM THE DISTRICT CHIEF OF PAKSONG
P H U O R OR HIS DEPUTY K A M P H A Y. [REDACTED] COMMENT.

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[REDACTED] DID NOT GO TO PAKSONG BUT INSTEAD WALKED TO BAN PHAKKOUT NOY /UNLOCATED/ AND FROM THERE WALKED TO KM 33, WHERE THEY MET FAR SOLDIERS. THEY DID NOT OBSERVE ANY NVA TROOPS ALONG THEIR ROUTE./ WHILE AT THE DETENTION CAMP, THE PRISONERS WERE INFORMED BY A PL GUARD THAT OTHER PRISONERS CAPTURED DURING THE ATTACK ON PAKSONG HAD BEEN TAKEN TO A PRISON CAMP NEAR BAN LASIA /UNLOCATED/ IN THE LAO NGAM /XC 2610/ AREA. [REDACTED] COMMENT. [REDACTED] MAY POSSIBLY BE REFERRING TO BA DAXIA GNAI AT XC 3506 OR BAN DAXIA NOY AT XC 3303. HOWEVER, OB LISTINGS DO NOT CONFIRM PRISONS IN EITHER THE XC 3506 OR XC 3303 VICINITIES./

7. [REDACTED]

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