

# Intelligence Information Cable

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DIST 18 SEPTEMBER 1974

COUNTRY LAOS

DOI 17 SEPTEMBER 1974

SUBJECT EXCHANGE OF POW LISTS AT 17 SEPTEMBER JCIA MEETING AND DECISION TO HOLD SECOND EXCHANGE ON 29 SEPTEMBER

ACQ

SOURCE

(SUMMARY)

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29/8-462-9

APPROVED FOR RELEASE  
DATE: OCT 2001

  
**SECRET**  
  
~~(classification)~~  
 (END SUMMARY.)

1. THE JOINT COMMISSION TO IMPLEMENT THE AGREEMENT (JCIA) MET ON 17 SEPTEMBER 1974 TO EXCHANGE THE PRISONER OF WAR (POW) LISTS AND TO MAKE FINAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE FIRST POW EXCHANGE ON 19 SEPTEMBER 1974. IT WAS AGREED BY THE JCIA THAT A SECOND EXCHANGE WOULD TAKE PLACE ON 29 SEPTEMBER AND THAT NO MORE THAN 50 NAMES WOULD BE EXCHANGED

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(dissem controls)

THEN.

2. AT THE OPENING OF THE MEETING, VIENTIANE SIDE CHIEF DELEGATE TO THE JCIA S O U K A N VILAYSAN SAID THAT THE INTERNATIONAL CONTROL COMMISSION (ICC) HAD WRITTEN TO THE JCIA CONGRATULATING IT ON PROGRESS MADE AND EXPRESSED ITS WILLINGNESS TO SEND SIX ICC REPRESENTATIVES TO THE PLAIN OF JARS TO OVERSEE THE POW EXCHANGE. SOUKAN ASKED IF THE LAO PATRIOTIC FRONT (LPF) HAD RECEIVED A COPY OF THIS LETTER AND UPON LEARNING THAT THEY HAD NOT PROVIDED THEM WITH ONE.

3. THE TWO SIDES THEN EXCHANGED POW LISTS. THE LPF LIST CONTAINED ONE AMERICAN, EMMET K A Y, 20 LAO AND 150 THAI'S. THE VIENTIANE SIDE LIST CONTAINED 173 NORTH VIETNAMESE AND SEVEN LPF POW'S. [REDACTED] COMMENT: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THE LPF LIST CONTAINS NO NAMES OF FAR PERSONNEL. FAR OFFICIALS BELIEVE THAT THE LIST ARE NAMES OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, POSSIBLE DISTRICT CHIEFS, WHO HAD BEEN CAPTURED BY THE PATHET LAO (PL), BUT DO NOT DISCOUNT THE POSSIBILITY THAT SOME OF THE LAO LISTED ARE IRREGULAR PERSONNEL.)

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(classification)

(dissem controls)

4.

COMMENT:

FAR HAS NOW DECIDED TO RETURN

ALL 173 NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY (NVA) POW'S. OUDONE SAID THAT SOME TIME AGO FAR TALKED TO THE NVA POW'S PRIVATELY AND ASKED SIX TO STAY. RECENTLY FAR TALKED TO THEM AGAIN AND THREE OF THE SIX ASKED TO STAY. IN THE PAST COUPLE OF DAYS FAR TALKED TO THE SIX TOGETHER AND OPENLY IN FRONT OF OTHERS, BUT NONE WANTED TO STAY. THE JCIA NOW DOES NOT INTEND, AS HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN PLANNED, TO ASK THE NVA POW'S AT THE AIRPORT BEFORE TAKE-OFF IN FRONT OF THE ICC IF ANY WISHED TO REMAIN.)

COMMENT: IT WOULD APPEAR THAT FAR HAS DECIDED TO GET RID OF A PROBLEM BY SENDING ALL THE NVA POW'S BACK.)

5. ARRANGEMENTS WERE THEN DISCUSSED FOR THE TURNOVER OF EMMET KAY, IT WAS NOTED THAT A PLANE WOULD BE USED AND THAT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY WAS MAKING ARRANGEMENTS

THE PLANE WAS SCHEDULED TO FLY TO LUANG PRABANG LEAVING VIENTIANE AT 1400 HOURS ON 17 SEPTEMBER AND DEPARTING PHONGSAVAN AT 0800 ON 18 SEPTEMBER.

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DEPENDING ON WEATHER CONDITIONS, THE PLANE SHOULD BE BACK IN VIENTIANE BY 1300 HOURS. ACCORDING TO THE LPF, THE [REDACTED] PLANE WHICH WAS ORIGINALLY GOING TO BE USED DID NOT HAVE ENOUGH GAS. WHEN THE AMERICAN EMBASSY COULD NOT PROVIDE THE RIGHT GAS FOR THE PLANE, IT WAS PROPOSED THAT A [REDACTED] PLANE BE USED. [REDACTED] COMMENT: PRIOR TO THE MEETING [REDACTED] WAS ASKED IF THERE WERE NOT OTHER AMERICAN POW'S SINCE MANY WERE LISTED AS MISSING IN ACTION. [REDACTED] REPLIED THAT THE LPF HAD NO OTHER AMERICANS.)

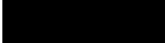
6. SOUKAN THEN MENTIONED A LETTER RECEIVED FROM THE LAO PRESS ASSOCIATION PROTESTING THE DECISION LIMITING PRESS REPRESENTATIVES AND ASKING THE JCIA TO RECONSIDER THE NUMBER OF LAO AND FOREIGN PRESS REPRESENTATIVES TO BE INCLUDED AT THE POW EXCHANGE. THE LPF AGREED TO HAVE THREE ADDITIONAL MINISTRY OF INFORMATION REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: ONE FROM AGENCE LAO PRESS, ONE FROM LAO RADIO AND ONE PHOTOGRAPHER. SOUKAN MENTIONED THAT THERE WERE 43 FOREIGN PRESS REPRESENTATIVES ACCREDITED IN VIENTIANE. HE SUGGESTED THEY ALL BE PERMITTED TO GO SO AS NOT TO DISCRIMINATE; HOWEVER, IF IT WAS NECESSARY

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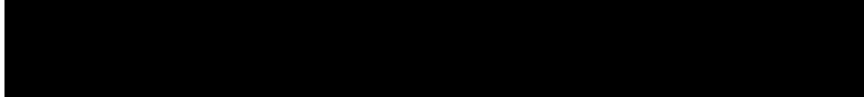
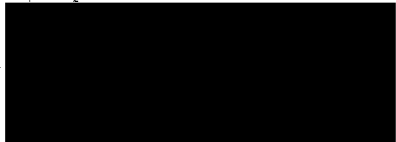
  
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TO LIMIT THOSE ATTENDING, HE URGED THAT THE LIMIT BE INCREASED FROM TEN TO FIFTEEN. FOLLOWING DISCUSSION A TOTAL OF 17 FOREIGN PRESS REPRESENTATIVES WAS AGREED UPON.  COMMENT: REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FOLLOWING FOREIGN PRESS MEDIA HAVE BEEN INVITED TO ATTEND THE POW EXCHANGE: NCNA, AGENCE FRANCE PRESS, REUTERS, UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL, TOKYO NEWS SERVICE, COLUMBIA BROADCASTING SERVICE, AUSTRALIAN BROADCASTING SERVICE, MAINICHI SHIMBUN, NEW YORK TIMES, AMERICAN BROADCASTING COMPANY, BANGKOK DAILY NEWS, PRAVDA, VOICE OF AMERICA, LE MONDE DIPLOMATIQUE, YAMIURI SHIMBUN, MARKBLOCH (GERMAN) AND NORTH VIETNAMESE PRESS.)

  
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7. [REDACTED] COMMENT: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] IN DISCUSSING THE FACT THAT TEN FOREIGN PRESS REPRESENTATIVES WERE BEING SELECTED BY THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION TO GO TO THE POW EXCHANGE, STRESSED THAT ONLY LPF REPRESENTATIVES IN THE MINISTRY HAD THE RIGHT TO MAKE THE SELECTION BECAUSE THE SITE FOR THE EXCHANGE IS IN LPF CONTROLLED AREA.)

8. CONCERNING LAO PRESS REPRESENTATIVES, LPF ACTING CHIEF DELEGATE P R A D I T H THIENGTHAM SAID THAT THE LPF WERE WILLING TO CONSIDER MORE THAN FIVE, SUCH AS REPRESENTATIVES OF LAN XANG KAO NA AND THE YOUNG IDEALS PARTY PAPER, AN A KHOT. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THE LPF CATEGORICALLY REFUSED TO INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES OF XAT LAO OR SIENG SERI SINCE THESE MEDIA DO NOT REPRESENT THE TWO SIDES AND ARE TRYING TO CREATE DISSENSION.

9. IT WAS AGREED THAT THERE WOULD BE FIVE C-123 AIRCRAFT EMPLOYED FOR THE PRISONER EXCHANGE: FOUR TO TRANSPORT THE POW'S AND ONE FOR THE JCIA AND OTHER LAO GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES, THE ICC REPRESENTATIVES AND THE LAO AND FOREIGN PRESS REPRESENTATIVES. IF ALL GOES

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ACCORDING TO SCHEDULE THE OFFICIAL AND PRESS REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD RETURN TO VIENTIANE BY 1600 HOURS 19 SEPTEMBER. THE LAO POW'S WILL BE FLOWN TO THE RECEPTION CENTER AT PHOU KHAO KHOUA. THE THAI POW'S WILL BE FLOWN DIRECTLY TO THAILAND, EXCEPT FOR ONE AIRCRAFT, WITH BOTH THAI'S AND LAO ON BOARD, WHICH WILL LAND FIRST AT PHOU KHAO KHOUA TO OFF-LOAD THE LAO POW'S.

10. **[REDACTED]** COMMENT: ACCORDING TO PRESS INTERVIEWS SOME OF THE NVA POW'S AT SAM KHE PRISON IN VIENTIANE CLAIMED THEY ARE PLANNING TO EMBARRASS LAO AUTHORITIES DURING THE PRISONER EXCHANGE ON 19 SEPTEMBER. FIRSTLY THEY WILL REFUSE TO WEAR FRESH CLOTHING PROVIDED FOR THE OCCASION AND INSIST ON WEARING TATTERED AND WORN PRISON UNIFORMS. IN ADDITION, THEY WILL CLAIM THAT THEY HAVE BEEN DEPRIVED OF ADEQUATE CLOTHING AND FOOD THROUGHOUT THEIR IMPRISONMENT. WHILE EXUNORATING PRISON AUTHORITIES OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR CONDITION, THEY PLAN TO ACCUSE FAR G-2 OF ALL FORMS OF MISTREATMENT, INCLUDING TORTURE WITH ELECTRODES.)

11. **[REDACTED]**

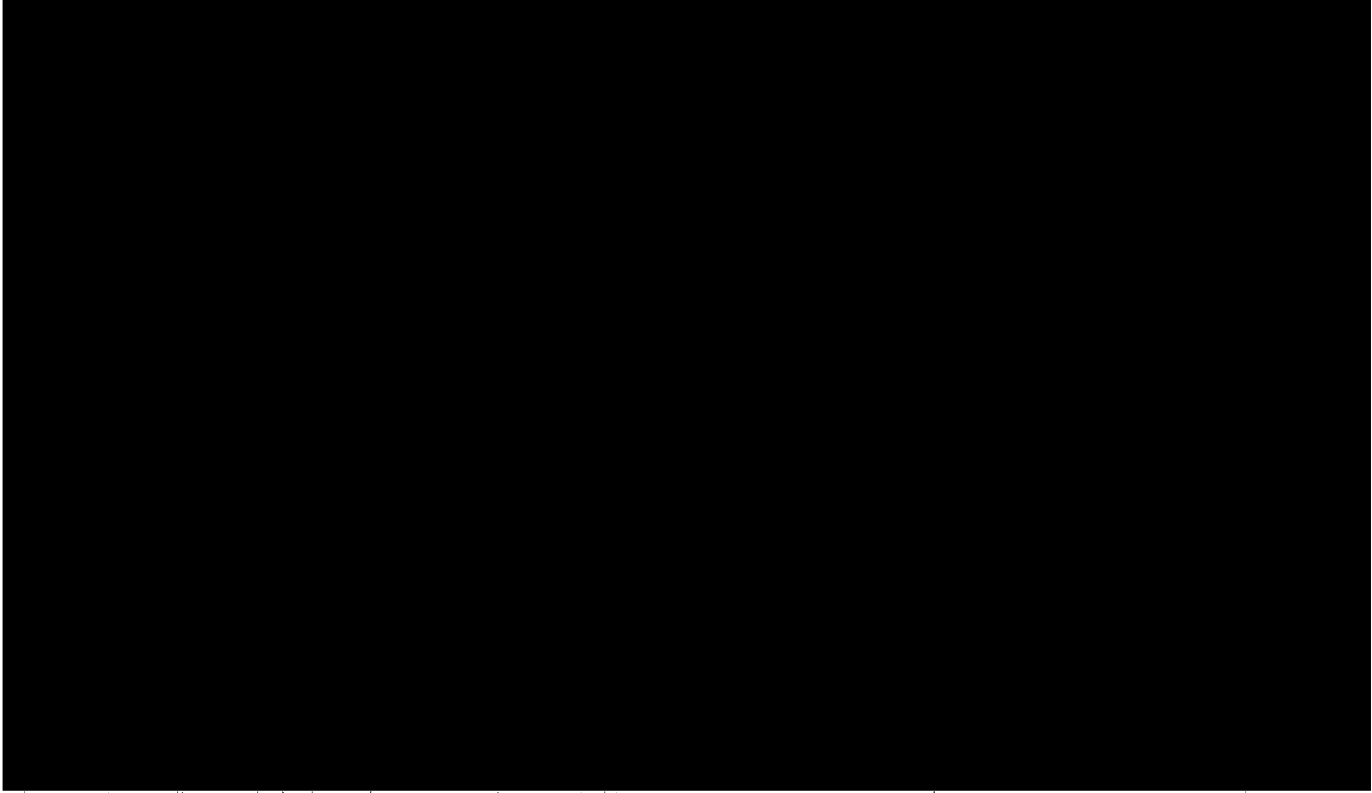
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