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TO: DIRNSA, DEPT OF STATE, DIA WASHINGTON DC,
WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM, USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI,
JICPAC HONOLULU HI.

PASS: THE DIRECTOR, WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM;
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

DIST: 29 JUNE 1992

COUNTRY: VIETNAM/RUSSIA

SUBJ: REACTION OF VIETNAMESE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO
RUSSIAN PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT ON AMERICAN PRISONERS
OF WAR IN RUSSIA

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: OCT 2001

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TEXT: 1.

RUSSIAN PRESIDENT BORIS

((YEL'TSIN))'S ANNOUNCEMENT ON 16 JUNE THAT U.S. PRISONERS OF WAR (POW) WERE SENT TO THE FORMER SOVIET UNION AND THAT SOME OF THESE POWS STILL MAY BE ALIVE CONTRADICTS EARLIER JOINT STATEMENTS MADE BY VIETNAM, THE UNITED STATES AND THE FORMER SOVIET UNION ON THE MATTER. YEL'TSIN MADE HIS REMARKS DURING A SUMMIT MEETING WITH THE U.S. PRESIDENT IN WASHINGTON, D.C. THE UNITED STATES TOOK A CAUTIOUS APPROACH, AND ON TWO OCCASIONS DURING THE FOLLOWING WEEK, U.S. OFFICIALS COMMENTED THAT THERE IS NO EVIDENCE TO SUBSTANTIATE YEL'TSIN'S STATEMENT. ADDED THAT IT IS VIETNAM'S UNDERSTANDING THAT THE U.S. IS SENDING A U.S. AMBASSADOR AND MILITARY ADVISERS TO RUSSIA TO INVESTIGATE THE NEW ALLEGATIONS.

2. VIETNAM DID NOT TRANSFER U.S. POWS TO THE FORMER SOVIET UNION, AND VIETNAM WANTS TO DOWNPLAY THE ISSUE TO AVOID TENSIONS BETWEEN THE THREE COUNTRIES. THEREFORE, ON 21 JUNE, THE VIETNAMESE MFA ISSUED GUIDANCE TO ALL VIETNAMESE MISSIONS AND MFA PERSONNEL ASSIGNED ABROAD ON ACCEPTABLE REPLIES TO ANY INQUIRES THAT MAY ARISE ON THE ISSUE. VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS ARE TO EMPHASIZE THAT VIETNAM DID NOT SEND ANY U.S. POWS TO THE FORMER SOVIET UNION DURING OR AFTER THE VIETNAM WAR, AND THEY ARE TO EXPLAIN THAT VIETNAM REJECTS SUCH INFORMATION AS FALSE.

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END OF MESSAGE