

Doc/SER

~~Secret~~

Brief #145-14

(b) (3)

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: OCT 2001

~~Secret~~

OUTGOING MESSAGE

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EAST ASIA BRIEF 145-74.4

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2. LAOS: US CIVILIAN CONTRACT PILOT EMMET KAY, THE ONLY AMERICAN PRISONER THE PATHET LAO HAVE ADMITTED HOLDING, WAS RELEASED TODAY AFTER MORE THAN 16 MONTHS OF INCARCERATION. HE WAS FLOWN FROM SAM NEUA VIA BRITISH EMBASSY AIRCRAFT TO VIENTIANE, WHERE HE WAS TURNED OVER TO US AUTHORITIES.4

KAY'S RELEASE SETS THE STAGE FOR THE BEGINNING THURSDAY

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OF THE FIRST PHASE OF PRISONER EXCHANGES CALLED FOR BY THE 1973
LAO ACCORDS. THE INITIAL EXCHANGE WILL OCCUR IN COMMUNIST-CONTROLLED
TERRITORY ON THE PLAINE DES JARRES IN NORTH LAOS.4

ACCORDING TO COALITION GOVERNMENT SPOKESMEN, THE NON-COMMUNIST
SIDE WILL HAND OVER SEVEN LAO NATIONALS AND 173 NORTH VIETNAMESE
PRISONERS. FOR THEIR PART, THE PATHET LAO WILL RELEASE 20 LAO
NATIONALS AND 150 THAI VOLUNTEERS.

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