



# Intelligence Information Cable

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DIST 10 JUNE 1974

COUNTRY: LAOS

DOI:  JUNE 1974

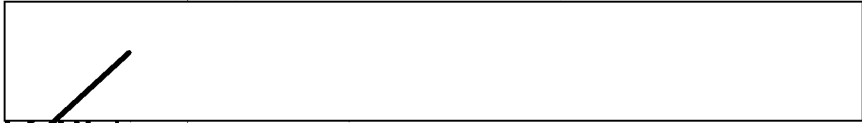
SUBJECT:  STATEMENTS ON THE PRESENCE OF NVA  
TROOPS IN LAOS, THE WITHDRAWAL OF THAI AND U.S.  
MILITARY FROM LAOS, AND PRISONER EXCHANGE

SUMMARY:

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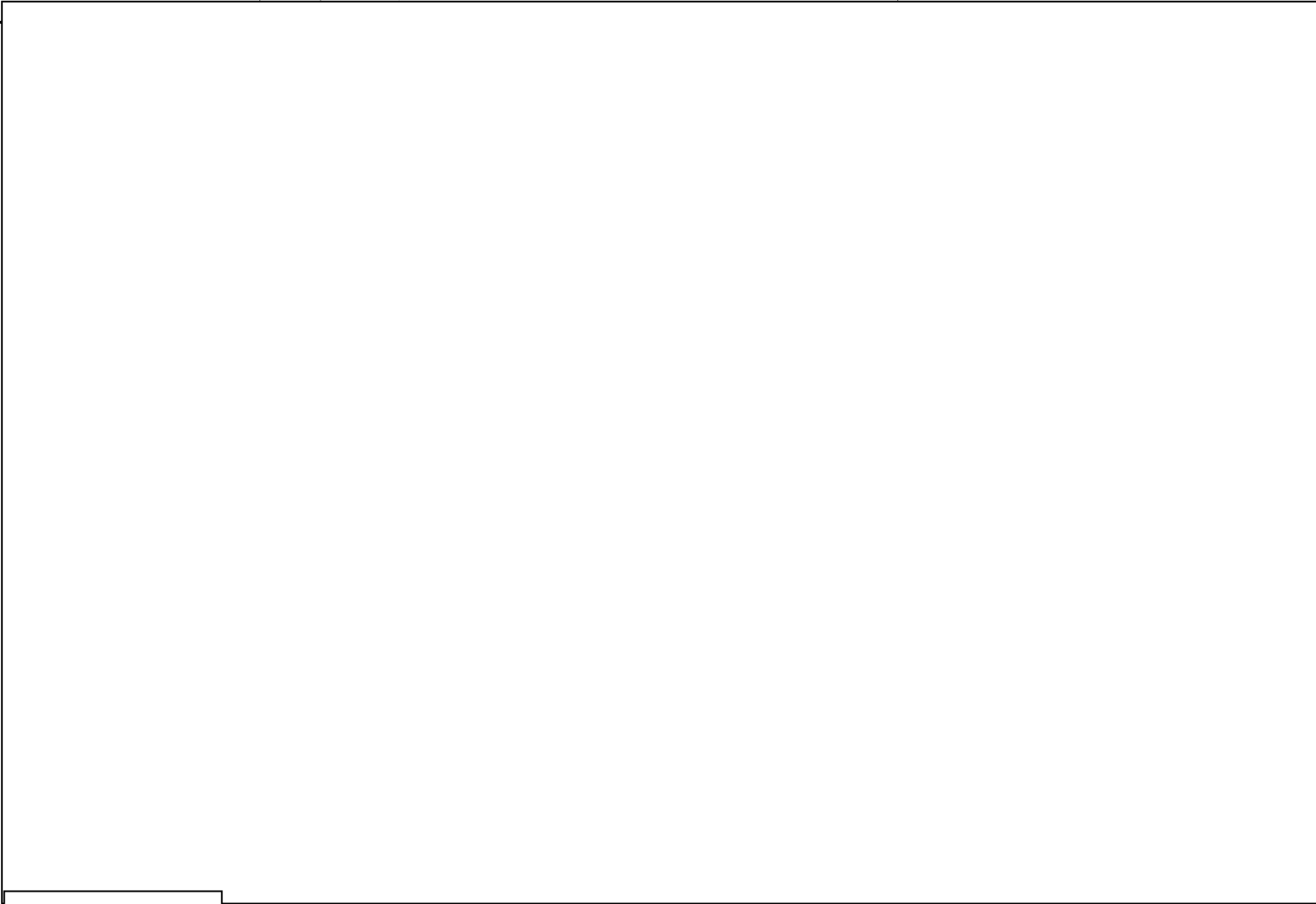
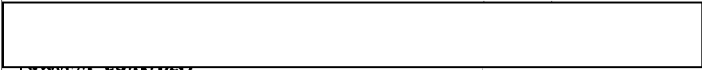
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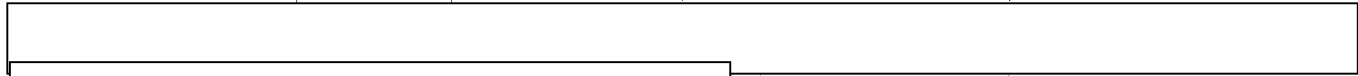
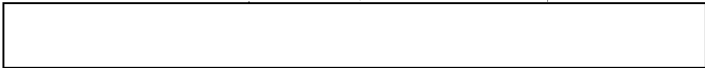
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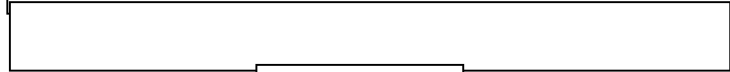

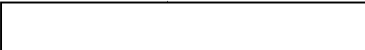
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 END SUMMARY.

1. ON  JUNE 1974,



 SAID THAT WHILE HE WILL  
ACKNOWLEDGE  THE EXISTENCE OF NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY  
(NVA) TROOPS IN LAOS, NEITHER HE NOR OTHER 

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[REDACTED] WOULD EVER ADMIT PUBLICLY OR OFFICIALLY THAT NVA TROOPS ARE PRESENTLY IN LAOS OR HAD BEEN IN LAOS IN THE PAST. HE SAID THAT SINCE THE VIENTIANE SIDE HAS ADMITTED PUBLICLY THAT IT REQUESTED AND OBTAINED FOREIGN MILITARY ASSISTANCE DURING THE WAR, THE WITHDRAWAL OF THESE FORCES WOULD HAVE TO BE HANDLED PUBLICLY AND OFFICIALLY. THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE NVA TROOPS WOULD HAVE TO BE HANDLED IN SECRET. [REDACTED] SAID NEITHER HE [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] WANTS ANY FOREIGN MILITARY IN LAOS, INCLUDING NVA. HE SAID HE DOES NOT WANT A FOREIGN MASTER OF ANY KIND, NOR DOES HE WANT TO BE THE SERVANT OF ANYONE OR "TO HAVE SOMEONE SIT ON HIS HEAD." HE SAID THAT THE NVA WOULD DEPART EVENTUALLY SINCE THE LRF IS NOT SO STUPID AS TO ACCEPT FOREIGN DOMINATION.

2. [REDACTED] SAID THAT FOREIGN MILITARY WITHDRAWAL IS A MAJOR ISSUE IN THE JCIA AND IS STILL UNDER DISCUSSION. HE SAID THAT THE [REDACTED] OFFICIALS HAVE READ IN THE NEWSPAPERS ACCOUNTS OF A RECENT INTERVIEW GIVEN BY MINISTER OF DEFENSE S I S O U K NA CHAMPASSAK SAYING THAT ALL THAI AND U.S. MILITARY PARTICIPATION IN LAOS HAS CEASED AND ALL PERSONNEL HAVE DEPARTED, BUT THIS IS NOT OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION TO THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNION (PGNU). HE SAID THAT AS OF [REDACTED] JUNE S O U K A N VILAYSAN,

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

JCIA CHIEF DELEGATE FOR THE VIENTIANE SIDE, CLAIMS THAT HE HAS NOT RECEIVED ANY OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION THAT THE THAI AND AMERICANS HAVE LEFT. [REDACTED] SAID THAT SINCE THE VIENTIANE SIDE ADMITS THE PRESENCE OF THE THAI AND AMERICAN MILITARY PERSONNEL THE VIENTIANE SIDE MUST SUBMIT TO THE JCIA THE WITHDRAWAL PLAN FOR THESE FOREIGNERS. THE PLAN MUST INCLUDE THE NUMBER OF THAI MILITARY, THE NUMBER OF U.S. CLANDESTINE ARMY PERSONNEL AND THE NUMBER OF OTHER U.S. MILITARY AND PARAMILITARY PERSONNEL IN LAOS. WHEN ALL OF THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED THE JCIA, THE JCIA CAN FOCUS ON DETAILS OF THE WITHDRAWAL. [REDACTED] SAID THE STATEMENTS MADE BY THE VIENTIANE SIDE TO DATE ARE NOT CLEAR ENOUGH FOR THE [REDACTED] TO BELIEVE THAT THE FOREIGN MILITARY PERSONNEL HAVE ACTUALLY LEFT.

3. IN DISCUSSING OTHER ASPECTS OF FOREIGN MILITARY WITHDRAWAL, [REDACTED] FOCUSED ON AIR AMERICA AND USAID. HE TERMED AIR AMERICA A PARAMILITARY ORGANIZATION AND SAID THAT WHILE THE [REDACTED] KNOWS THAT AIR AMERICA HAS TERMINATED ITS OPERATIONS, NO OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION OF THIS WAS COORDINATED WITH THE JCAI. HE SAID THE JCIA SHOULD BE INFORMED ABOUT HOW MANY PERSONNEL WERE IN AIR AMERICA, WHICH ONES HAVE LEFT AND WHICH HAVE REMAINED IN

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LAOS. HE SAID THAT THE [ ] KNOWS THAT SOME U.S. MILITARY AND AIR AMERICA PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN TRANSFERRED TO USAID. HE THEN DESCRIBED USAID AS THE MILITARY HEADQUARTERS FOR AMERICAN MILITARY OPERATIONS IN LAOS. HE SAID THAT THE EXACT NUMBER OF PERSONNEL WORKING THERE SHOULD BE REPORTED TO THE JCIA. [ ] COMMENT: THE NUMBER OF USAID EMPLOYEES IN LAOS HAS BEEN PUBLISHED IN THE PRESS ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS.) [ ] THEN SAID THAT IF THE SOVIETS AND CHINESE SET UP IN LAOS SIMILAR ORGANIZATIONS TO ADMINISTER FOREIGN ASSISTANCE IN THE FUTURE, IT WOULD ONLY TEND TO RENEW THE CONFLICT. [ ] SAID "WE" DO NOT WANT THEM." [ ] COMMENT: BY "THEM" [ ] MEANT USAID AND ANY FUTURE SOVIET OR CHINESE AID ORGANIZATIONS.)

4. IN DISCUSSING PRISONER (POW) EXCHANGES, [ ] SAID THAT THIS SUBJECT WAS DISCUSSED AT THE LAST JCIA MEETING. HE SAID THE [ ] SIDE IS WAITING FOR AN EXCHANGE OF POW LISTS. WHEN ASKED ABOUT SPECIFIC INDIVIDUALS CAPTURED BY THE PATHET LAO (PL) FORCES, [ ] SAID THAT OF COURSE THE PL HAS MANY PRISONERS, BUT IT IS DIFFICULT TO IDENTIFY ANYONE BY NAME SINCE ALL LAO ARMED FORCES (FAR) POW'S ARE SENT TO PHONG SALLY IN NORTH LAOS. [ ] SAID THAT MOST OF THE FAR POW'S HAVE ALREADY JOINED THE PL; MANY HAVE

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[REDACTED]

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(classification)

BEEN SENT TO CHINA OR THE USSR FOR TRAINING AS ENGINEERS, AND THOSE WHO WANT TO REMAIN IN THE PL ARMY WILL BECOME OFFICERS.

5. [REDACTED] SAID THAT THE [REDACTED] HAS ONLY ONE U.S. POW, A PILOT, WHO [REDACTED] SAID IS BEING WELL CARED FOR. [REDACTED] COMMENT: HE WAS REFERRING TO [REDACTED] EMMET

K A Y.) [REDACTED] SAID WITHOUT ELABORATING THAT MUCH OF THE NEWSPAPER INFORMATION ABOUT KAY IS WRONG. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] ARE IN CHARGE OF DELIVERING LETTERS TO KAY'S WIFE AND THAT IN HIS LAST LETTER KAY TOLD HIS WIFE ABOUT PLAYING VOLLEY BALL WITH HIS PL GUARDS.

6. [REDACTED] SAID THE SUBJECT OF POW'S WILL BE DISCUSSED

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ONLY AFTER ALL THAI TROOPS ARE OFFICIALLY WITHDRAWN. HE ADDED THAT THE EXCHANGE OF POW'S WOULD BE A MAJOR SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION. HE SAID HE IS AWARE THAT THE FAMILIES OF THOSE POW'S ARE WAITING FOR THEM AND FOR THAT REASON THE [ ] WILL INSIST ON AN EFFECTIVE CEASE-FIRE. THE CEASE-FIRE TEAMS SHOULD GO IMMEDIATELY TO THE "HOT SPOTS" TO PREVENT FURTHER CONFRONTATIONS. AS SOON AS THESE TEAMS ARE OPERATING, THE JCIA WILL PROCEED TO OPEN THE ROADS BETWEEN THE TERRITORY OF BOTH SIDES. THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A PRISONER EXCHANGE. [ ] SAID THAT THIS WILL BE DISCUSSED AT THE NEXT JCIA MEETING.

7. ON THE SUBJECT OF ELECTIONS, [ ] SAID THAT THE JOINT NATIONAL POLITICAL COUNCIL (JNPC) HEADED BY PRINCE S O U P H A N O U V O N G IS CURRENTLY PLANNING THE ELECTIONS. HE SAID THAT MOST OF THE VIENTIANE SIDE MEMBERS OF THE JNPC ARE IN AGREEMENT WITH AND ARE COOPERATING WITH THE [ ] SIDE ON THIS MATTER. HOWEVER, [ ] SAID HE DOES NOT KNOW WHEN THE ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD. HE SAID THAT WILL DEPEND ON THE COOPERATION AND UNDERSTANDING OF BOTH SIDES.

8. [ ]

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