



Intelligence Information Cable

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DIST 31 JANUARY 1975

COUNTRY LAOS

DOI JANUARY 1975

SUBJECT PLANS OF THE VIENTIANE SIDE JCIA DELEGATION TO DISCUSS WITH ITS LPF COUNTERPARTS THE WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN TROOPS AND MIA'S

1. THE VIENTIANE SIDE HAS DESIGNATED ITS DELEGATE TO THE JOINT COMMISSION TO IMPLEMENT THE AGREEMENT (JCIA) TO MEET WITH HIS LAO PATRIOTIC FRONT (LPF) COUNTERPART FOR DISCUSSIONS ON ISSUES CONCERNING FOREIGN TROOP WITHDRAWAL FROM LAOS AND MISSING-IN-ACTION (MIA) PERSONNEL. THESE DISCUSSIONS ARE TO TAKE PLACE FOLLOWING RETURN TO VIENTIANE FROM LUANG PRABANG AND BAN HOUET SAI. TO PREPARE FOR THESE DISCUSSIONS

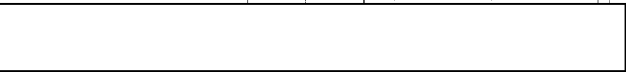

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ON THE MORNING OF JANUARY 1975 MET FIRST WITH VIENTIANE SIDE CHIEF JCIA DELEGATE S O U K A N VILAYSAN


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AND LATER WITH LAO ARMED FORCES  COMMENT: BECAUSE OF THE CONTINUING JCIA INVOLVEMENT IN THE AIRLIFTING OF REFUGEES OF WHOM 11,000 HAVE DECIDED TO RETURN TO THEIR NATIVE VILLAGES IN THE LPF ZONE, NO JCIA PLENARY MEETING WAS HELD ON  JANUARY, SO INSTEAD THE FOREGOING MEETING WAS CONVENED.)

2. WITH REGARD TO THE WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN TROOPS, THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVE IN FUTURE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE LPF WILL BE WITHDRAWAL OF NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY (NVA) TROOPS FROM LAOS.  PROPOSED, AND SOUKAN AND GENERAL BOUNPHONE AGREED, TO THE FOLLOWING PHASED OBJECTIVES:

- A. TO CLEAR AND OPEN ROUTE 13 AND GET NVA TROOPS OUT OF THE AREA AROUND THAKHEK.
- B. TO GET NVA TROOPS TO PULL BACK FROM THOSE AREAS WHERE FAR AND LPF FORCES ARE FACE TO FACE AND THERE IS A DANGER OF CONFRONTATIONS BREAKING INTO ARMED CONFLICT.
- C. TO GET ALL NVA FORCES WITHDRAWN FROM LAOS SO THAT LPF FORCES WILL BE ON THEIR OWN AND WILL NO LONGER BE PRESSURED BY NVA FORCES THUS GIVING DETENTE MORE OF A CHANCE.

3. TO ACHIEVE THESE OBJECTIVES IT WAS AGREED THAT


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[REDACTED] SHOULD DISCUSS THE MATTER PRIVATELY AND CANDIDLY WITH [REDACTED] POINTING OUT THAT BOTH SIDES ARE LAO, BOTH ARE AWARE THAT THE LPF MUST CAMOUFLAGE NVA PRESENCE IN LAOS BUT THAT EVENTUALLY IT WILL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE LPF AS WELL AS THE VIENTIANE SIDE IF THE NVA TROOPS MOVE OUT. IF THESE DISCUSSIONS ARE SUCCESSFUL AND LEAD TO A LIMITED PHASED WITHDRAWAL, THE DISCUSSIONS WILL CONTINUE IN PRIVATE AND THERE WILL BE NO PRESS RELEASES. IF [REDACTED] IS UNCOOPERATIVE, THE VIENTIANE SIDE WILL RELEASE STATEMENTS TO THE PRESS ON THE LACK OF PROGRESS. GENERAL BOUNPHONE AGREED TO MAKE AVAILABLE FAR DATA ON THE LOCATION OF NVA TROOPS AND HAS DIRECTED [REDACTED] TO MEET WITH GENERAL (THAO) LY LIDDHULUJA, FAR G-2, TO ARRANGE THIS. THE INITIAL DATA ON CURRENT LOCATION OF NVA TROOPS WILL BE PASSED ON THE AFTERNOON OF [REDACTED] JANUARY AND CONTINUOUS UPDATES AS THEIR POSITIONS CHANGE WILL BE SUBSEQUENTLY PASSED.

4. ON THE MIA ISSUE, SOUKAN GENERAL BOUNPHONE AND [REDACTED] WERE AGREED ON THE FOLLOWING PLAN: [REDACTED] WILL TRY TO GET AN LPF RESPONSE TO THE LISTS OF LAO, THAI AND AMERICAN MIAS WHICH HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED TO THE LPF. SPECIFICALLY,

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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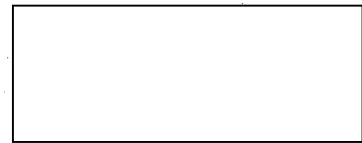
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HE WILL TRY TO DETERMINE WHICH ARE IN LPF CUSTODY, WHICH ARE DEAD AND FINALLY THE NAMES OF THOSE FOR WHOM THE LPF HAVE NO INFORMATION AT ALL. ARMED WITH DATA ON FAR PRISONERS HELD AT KHAMKEUT PRISON AND WORKING ON LPF ROADS, WHICH WAS OBTAINED FROM FAR ESCAPEES FROM KHAMKEUT, [REDACTED] WILL TRY TO GET SPECIFIC INFORMATION ON KHAMKEUT. IF NECESSARY, HE WILL PROPOSE SENDING A JOINT JCIA MOBILE TEAM THERE TO INVESTIGATE.

[REDACTED] COMMENT: IT IS IN THIS PRISON THAT FAR ESCAPEES HAVE REPORTED SEEING THE MISSING AMERICAN [REDACTED] THE MISSING [REDACTED]. IN THE PROCESS OF INQUIRING ABOUT THE FAR PRISONERS, THE STATUS OF THESE TWO WILL BE BROUGHT UP.) AS A MEANS TO APPLY PRESSURE, FAR WILL ENCOURAGE THE WIDOWS AND ORPHANS WHO HAVE CONTACTED THE JCIA OR FAR TO COME EN MASSE TO QUERY THE JCIA VIENTIANE SIDE DELEGATION ABOUT THEIR MISSING HUSBANDS AND FATHERS. THE VIENTIANE SIDE DELEGATION WILL THEN BRING THE WIDOWS AND ORPHANS UP TO DATE ON THE STATE OF TALKS WITH THE LPF AND SEND THEM EN MASSE TO THE LPF DELEGATION. [REDACTED] COMMENT: IT WAS AGREED BY GENERAL BOUNPHONE, SOUKAN AND [REDACTED] THAT CARE MUST BE EXERCISED IN DISCREET ENCOURAGEMENT TO THE WIDOWS

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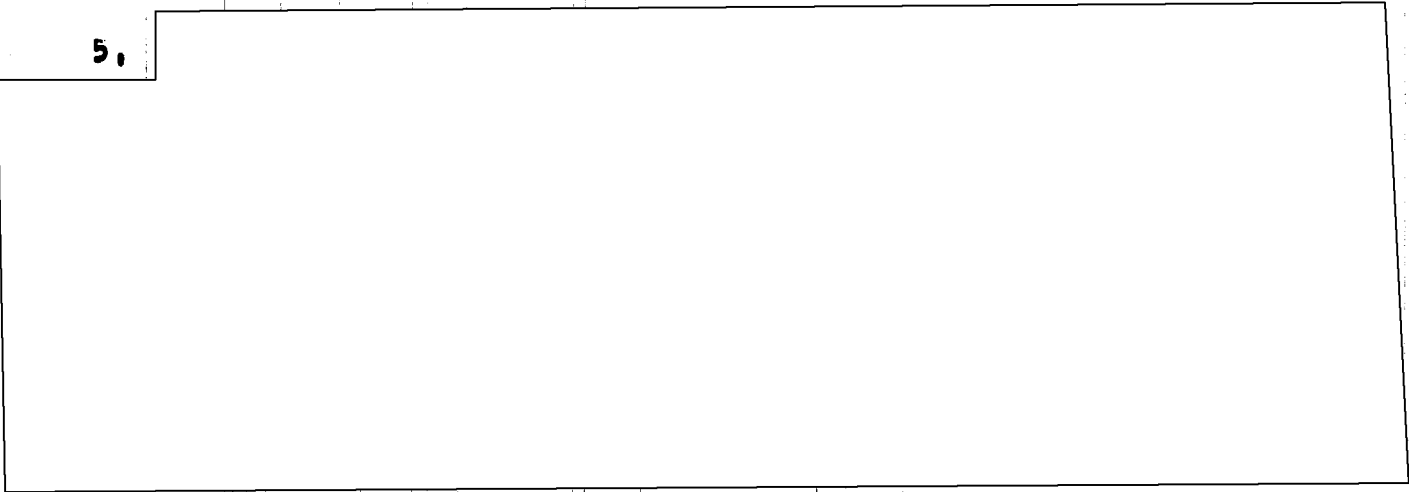
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AND ORPHANS SO THAT THE VIENTIANE SIDE IS NOT CHARGED BY THE LPF WITH FOMENTING A DEMONSTRATION AND VIOLATING THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNION BAN ON DEMONSTRATIONS.) AFTER GETTING INFORMATION ON PRISONERS HELD AND ON FAR SOLDIERS WHO HAVE GONE OVER TO THE LPF SIDE, THE VIENTIANE SIDE HOPES EVENTUALLY TO GET THE NAMES OF THE DEAD AND THE MISSING AND TO BE ABLE TO EXAMINE GRAVES AND CRASH SITES. HOWEVER, THE VIENTIANE SIDE RECOGNIZES THAT THIS WILL BE A LONG, DRAWN-OUT PROCESS.

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