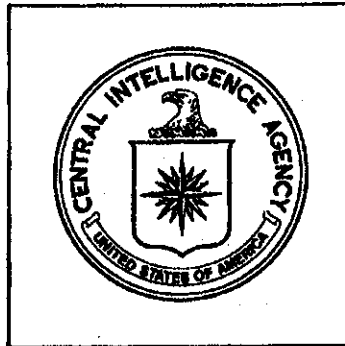


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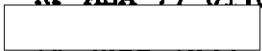


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This publication is prepared for regional specialists in the Washington community by [redacted] Office of Regional and Political Analysis, with occasional contributions from other offices within the Directorate of Intelligence. Comments and queries are welcome. They should be directed to the authors of the individual articles.

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Laos Searching for Remains of US MIAs

The government of Laos is attempting to recover the remains of Americans killed in the war, according to sensitive sources. An army unit in a province bordering on Vietnam was recently ordered to exhume the bodies of Americans interred at an unnamed location and, if possible, to provide identification numbers from the aircraft in which the deceased were found.

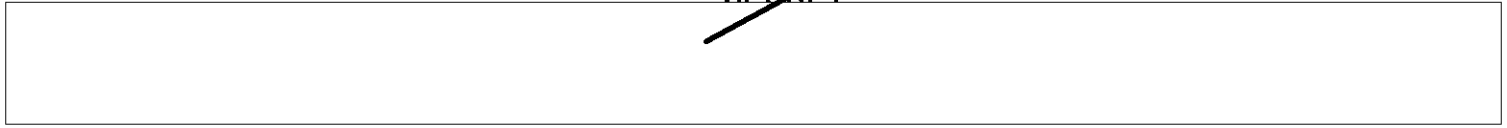
This report supports earlier indications that the Lao government is making a serious effort to obtain information about missing US servicemen. Government officials are also collecting information about Lao losses during the war, including numbers of persons killed and property losses.

The regime no doubt hopes to use the remains of the American servicemen in a bid to obtain US economic assistance. Lao leaders may link the return of remains to reparations, or they may return them as a goodwill gesture, in the hope that American aid will follow. It is possible that the Vietnamese are encouraging the Lao government in this endeavor to complement their own efforts to link the two issues. (~~SECRET~~)



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