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Intelligence Information Cable

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CITE

DIST 9 JULY 1969

COUNTRY NORTH VIETNAM/USSR/POLAND/LAOS
DOI 9 JULY 1969
SUBJECT FRUSTRATIONS OF SOVIET AND POLISH REPRESENTATIVES
IN DISCUSSING THE AMERICAN PRISONER QUESTION WITH
THE NORTH VIETNAMESE AND PATHET LAO

ACQ LAOS, VIENTIANE /9 JULY 69

SOURCE

[Redacted Source Information]

1.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

SAID THAT

BOTH SOVIET AND POLISH REPRESENTATIVES HAD EXPRESSED
DISAPPOINTMENT AND FRUSTRATION IN DISCUSSING THE ISSUE OF
AMERICAN PRISONERS HELD BY THE NORTH VIETNAMESE AND PATHET
LAO FORCES. THE SOVIETS AND POLES SAID THAT REFUSAL TO PROVIDE

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THE IDENTITIES AND PRESENT CONDITION OF AMERICAN PRISONERS CAUSED THE NORTH VIETNAMESE AND PATHET LAO TO LOSE STATURE IN THE EYES OF UNCOMMITTED NATIONS. THE NORTH VIETNAMESE CONCLUDED, HOWEVER, THAT THEIR POLICY REGARDING AMERICAN PRISONERS WAS THEIR OWN AND EFFORTS TO CONVICT THEM TO CHANGE WOULD NOT HAVE ANY EFFECT AT THE PRESENT TIME.

2. [Redacted] SAID THE SOVIETS AND POLES THINK THAT THE TREATMENT OF DOWNED AMERICAN PILOTS IN LAOS IS WELL BELOW THE STANDARD PROVIDED BY THE NORTH VIETNAMESE. HE SAID THAT THE CHIEF OF THE PATHET LAO DELEGATION IN LAOS, SOT PETRASY, HAS COMMENTED THAT THESE PILOTS OFTEN ARE KEPT BY THE UNITS WHICH CAPTURED THEM. SOT SAID THAT MEDICAL TREATMENT IS ADMINISTERED AS WELL AS POSSIBLE TO THE INJURED PILOTS.

3. [Redacted] SAID THE NORTH VIETNAMESE AND PATHET LAO CLAIM THAT AMERICAN PRISONERS WILL BE RELEASED AND TURNED OVER TO AMERICAN AUTHORITIES AT THE END OF HOSTILITIES. HE AND THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR IN LAOS, VIKTOR MININ, DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE AND PATHET LAO WILL USE THE PRISONERS FOR RANSOM OR TO GAIN PROMISES FOR REBUILDING TERRITORY.

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4. [Redacted] DISSEN. STATE ARMY AIR CINCPAC PACFLT ARPAC
PACAF /ALSO SENT [Redacted]
REPORT CLASS ~~S E C R E T~~ [Redacted]

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