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DIST 13 JULY 1974

[redacted]

COUNTRY LAOS

DOI [redacted] JULY 1974

SUBJECT DISCUSSION AT [redacted] JULY JCIA MEETING OF
PRISONER-OF-WAR, WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN
TROOPS, POSSIBLE VIOLATIONS OF THE PEACE
AGREEMENT AND OTHER ISSUES

[redacted]

SUMMARY:

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APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: FEB 2001

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
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(classification)

(dissem controls)


END SUMMARY.

1. VIENTIANE SIDE CHIEF DELEGATE S O U K A N
VILAYSAN OPENED THE  JULY MEETING OF THE JOINT COMMISSION
TO IMPLEMENT THE AGREEMENT (JCIA) BY PROPOSING FOUR POINTS
FOR DISCUSSION: CEASE-FIRE MOBILE TEAMS, A REQUEST BY THE
FRENCH MILITARY TRAINING MISSION FOR PERMISSION FOR
PROFICIENCY JUMPS FOR THEIR PARACHUTISTS TO MAINTAIN THEIR
PROFICIENCY, THE WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN TROOPS AND EXCHANGE
OF PRISONERS-OF-WAR (POWS). LAO PATRIOTIC FRONT (LPF)
CHIEF DELEGATE S O T H PHESTRASY HAD NO OBJECTION BUT
WISHED TO ADD THE FACILITATION OF THE NEUTRALIZATION OF
THE TWO CITIES. SOTH SAID WITH REGARD TO NEUTRALIZATION,
WHILE THE VIENTIANE SIDE HAD FORMED ITS PART OF THE
PROTECTIVE MILITARY FORCE (PMF), IT CONSISTS OF 1600 RATHER
THAN 1200 TROOPS IN VIENTIANE. SOTH SAID EITHER THE SIZE

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EDITIONS

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MUST BE CUT BACK TO 1200 OR THE LPF WILL HAVE TO SEND 400 MORE TROOPS FROM SAM NEUA TO MATCH THE VIENTIANE SIDE'S NUMBER. SINCE THE VIENTIANE SIDE TROOPS ARE ALL AROUND THE CITY, THE LPF WANTS TO KNOW HOW MANY DEFENSE OR GUARD TROOPS THERE ARE AT EACH GARRISON IN AND AROUND THE CITY. ALSO, SOTH SAID, THE VIENTIANE SIDE TROOPS IN ACCESS OF THE 1200 FIGURE CANNOT CARRY WEAPONS. HE AGAIN MENTIONED THAT THE 12 ROYAL LAO AIR FORCE GUARDS AT VIENTIANE'S MILITARY AIRPORT MUST BE REPLACED BY JOINT POLICE FORCE (JPF). AT SOUKAN'S REQUEST VIENTIANE SIDE DELEGATE COLONEL L O U N SISOUNOL RESPONDED BY SAYING THAT THE VIENTIANE SIDE'S PMF STRENGTH IN VIENTIANE IS NOW SOMEWHAT OVER 1200 BUT IS LESS THAN 200 OVER. THIS IS A TEMPORARY SITUATION AND THE NUMBER WILL BE REDUCED TO THE 1200 AUTHORIZED.

2. SOTH THEN MENTIONED THE DAY-LONG INCIDENT OF 9 JULY AT THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. [REDACTED] COMMENT: THE INCIDENT INVOLVED ATTEMPTS BY CERTAIN ASSEMBLYMEN TO GET UP A PETITION PROTESTING THE PRESENCE OF NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS IN LAOS.) SOTH ACCUSED THE LAO ARMED FORCES (FAR) OF USING THE EPISODE AS A PRETEXT TO ALERT FAR TROOPS AND

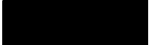
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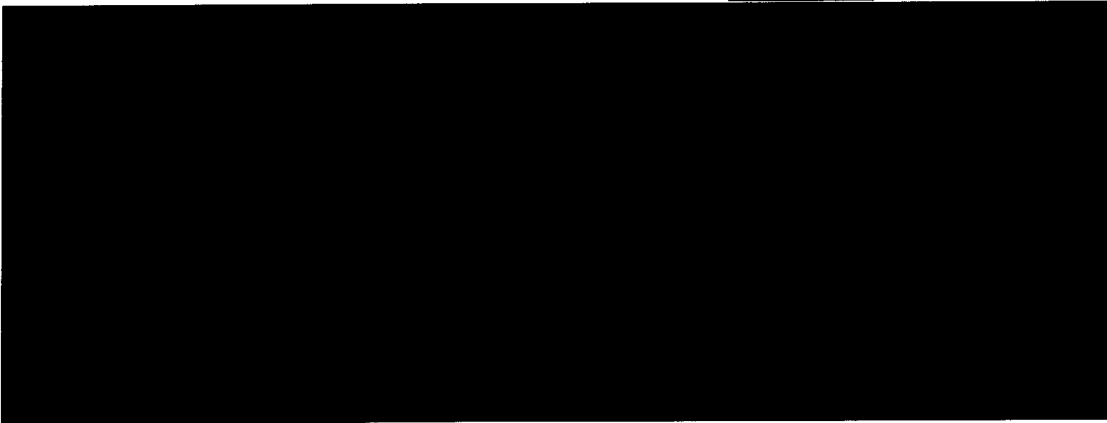
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(dissemination)


HAVING THEM WEAR RED ARM BANDS WITHOUT THE PROPER PMF LETTERING. SOTH SAID THAT THE DEFENSE MINISTRY DOES NOT HAVE THE RIGHT TO SEND ARMED TROOPS IN AND AROUND VIENTIANE BECAUSE THIS AREA IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE JPF AND THE PMF. LOUN REPLIED THAT DEFENSE MINISTER S I S O U K NA CHAMPASSAK DID ORDER THESE TROOPS TO REMAIN IN THEIR CAMPS IN RESPONSE TO THE REQUEST OF PRIME MINISTER S O U V A N N A PHOUMA THAT THE DEFENSE MINISTRY ENSURE THAT FAR TROOPS NOT SIGN THE PETITION. MOREOVER VIENTIANE SIDE PMF COMMANDER GENERAL A T S A P H A N G T H O N G PATHAMMAVONG ORDERED ALL PMF TROOPS UNDER HIS COMMAND TO BE AT THEIR CAMPS IN A STATE OF READINESS WITH THEIR PMF ARM BANDS ON IN CASE, DURING THE COURSE OF THE DAY, THE JPF NEEDED THIER ASSISTANCE. THIS DID NOT HAPPEN AND THE PMF TROOPS THEREFORE DID NOT LEAVE THEIR CAMPS. THUS THE RED ARM BANDS SEEN BY THE LPF WERE OFFICIAL PMF ARM BANDS WORN BY PMF TROOPS AUTHORIZED TO WEAR THEM.  COMMENT:





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 COMMENT: THE ALERT REMAINED IN EFFECT UNTIL THE AFTERNOON OF 12 JULY AT WHICH TIME IT WAS REDUCED TO A FIFTY PERCENT ALERT. ON THE AFTERNOON OF 12 JULY GENERAL K O U P R A S I T H ABHAY FAR DEPUTY COMMANDER IN CHIEF ISSUED ORDERS CANCELLING IT COMPLETELY. HOWEVER, THE ADVENT OF THE WEEKEND AND THE SLOWNESS OF MILITARY DISSEMINATION PROCEDURES HAD PREVENTED THE RECEPTION OF THE ORDER BY THE VARIOUS OPERATING ELEMENTS OF FAR AS OF 1800 HOURS ON 12 JULY.)

3. THE WORK OF THE CEASE-FIRE MOBILE TEAM IN LUANG PRABANG WAS DISCUSSED. THERE ARE SOME DETAILS LEFT FOR LOCAL DECISION BY THE MOBILE TEAM AND THIS HAS LED TO SOME DISAGREEMENTS ON THE SCENE. ON THE THREE STAKE POINTS AGREED TO AT THE 5 JULY PLENARY SESSION, THERE IS SOME DISAGREEMENT OVER THE POINT LOCATED IN THE AREA OF LONG WAI (TH 2000). THE NEW COMPROMISE POINT IS THE NAM KHAN RIVER JUST BEYOND BAN XIENG LOM (TG 110996). FAR TROOPS ARE PRESSING TO HAVE THE LPF TROOPS WITHDRAW ANOTHER ONE OR TWO KILOMETERS (KM) BEYOND THE BANKS OF THE RIVER AND LPF TROOPS ARE REFUSING. IT WAS DECIDED TO LEAVE THIS POINT TO THE MOBILE TEAM TO RESOLVE.  COMMENT:

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THE DISCUSSION IS ACADEMIC, SINCE ONCE THE POINT IS ESTABLISHED, IT WILL BE ONLY 7 OR 8 KM FROM LUANG PRABANG. THE TROOPS OF BOTH SIDES WILL THEN MOVE OUT BEYOND THE 15 KM ZONE LIMIT.) WHEN THESE THREE POINTS ARE STAKED, THE JCIA DECIDED THE MOBILE TEAM WILL MOVE TO BAN HOU I SAI AND THEN TO SAYABGURY. THE MOBILE TEAM AT PAKSE HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO DECIDE REMAINING QUESTIONS ON THE SCENE AND THEN TO MOVE NORTH TO KNONG SEDONE, SAVANNAKHET, AND THAKHEK.

4. THE JCIA DECIDED THAT THE FRENCH MILITARY TRAINING MISSION MAY ALLOW THEIR PARACHUTISTS TO MAKE PROFICIENT TRAINING JUMPS NORTHEAST OF VIENTIANE. HOWEVER, THE TWO

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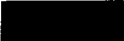
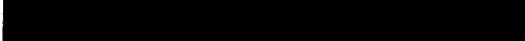

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CHIEFS OF THE VIENTIANE NEUTRALIZATION SUBCOMMITTEE MUST BE GIVEN THE DETAILS ON SCHEDULING AND THE TYPE OF PLANE TO BE USED SO THAT THE FRENCH WILL NOT BE MISTAKEN FOR SOME OTHER FORCE.

5. THE WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN TROOPS WAS DISCUSSED. THE MILITARY SUBCOMMITTEE HAD A DOCUMENT ON WHICH THEY COULD AGREE EXCEPT FOR THE WORDING "AMERICAN AND THAI TROOPS" WHICH THE LPF STILL INSISTED REMAIN AND THE VIENTIANE SIDE INSISTED MUST BE REMOVED. THE PARTICIPANTS COULD NOT AGREE. THIS DOCUMENT WITH ALTERNATE WORDING WAS TO BE SENT TO THE PRIME MINISTER AND CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT NATIONAL POLITICAL COUNCIL PRINCE S O U P H A N O U V O N G FOR A DECISION.  COMMENT: 


SINCE SOUVANNA HELD THE LINE AT THE 11 JULY CABINET MEETING ON THE ISSUE OF THE PHRASEOLOGY OF FOREIGN TROOPS IN LAOS, PRESUMABLY HE WILL TAKE THE SAME POSITION WHEN THIS DOCUMENT IS SENT TO HIM FOR A DECISION.)

THE MEETING THEN TURNED TO POSSIBLE VIOLATIONS OF

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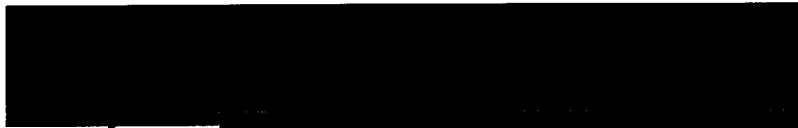
WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN TROOPS AND OF THE CEASE-FIRE AGREEMENT AND STEPS TO BE TAKEN. THE VIENTIANE SIDE URGED CALLING IN THE INTERNATIONAL CONTROL COMMISSION (ICC) OBSERVERS IMMEDIATELY. THE LPF OBJECTED SAYING THERE SHOULD BE PROOF OF VIOLATION FIRST, OTHERWISE THEY WILL BE RUSHING AROUND LAOS CHASING AFTER RUMORS. THE VIENTIANE SIDE MAINTAINED INVESTIGATION MAY WELL BE NECESSARY TO PROVIDE PROOF AND THAT THE ICC SHOULD BE INVOLVED. NO DECISION WAS MADE AND THE MATTER WILL COME UP FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION. SOTH SAID THE TWO CHIEF DELEGATES MUST DISCUSS THE ISSUE AND IF THEY CANNOT AGREE THE ISSUE SHOULD BE DECIDED BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTER AND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER P H O U M I VONGVICHIT.

7. THE PAPER ON EXCHANGE OF POWS DRAWN UP BY THE JCIA MILITARY SUBCOMMITTEE WAS SIGNED THE AFTERNOON OF [REDACTED] JULY.

[REDACTED] COMMENT: [REDACTED]

8. DR. K I T H O N G VONGSAY LEGAL ADVISOR TO THE PRIME MINISTER WAS INTRODUCED AS THE NEW VIENTIANE SIDE DEPUTY CHIEF DELEGATE REPLACING MINISTER OF JUSTICE K H A M K I N G SOUVANLASY.

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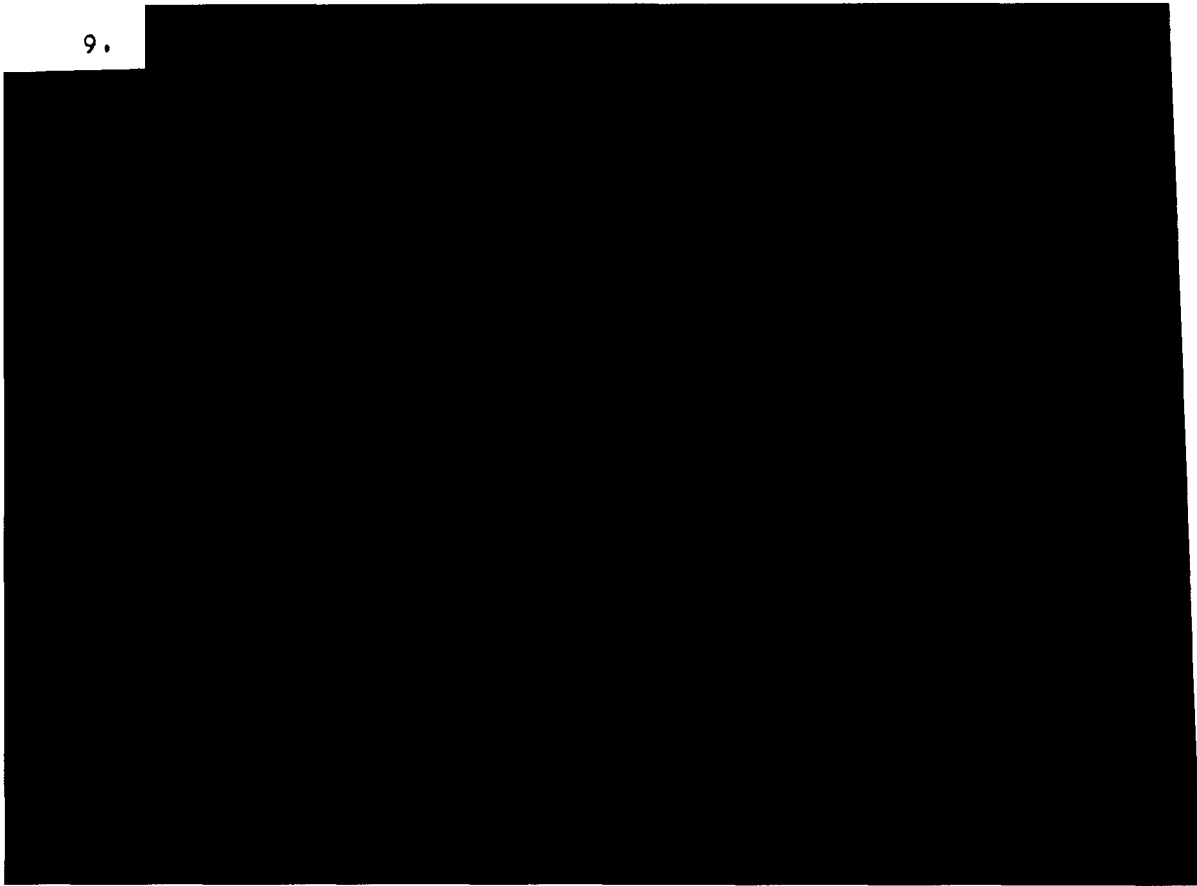
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