

FORM 734 JULY 68

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DIST 24 JANUARY 1975

COUNTRY: LAOS

DOI: [redacted] JANUARY 1975

SUBJECT: JCIA PLENARY SESSION OF [redacted] JANUARY 1975, HIGHLIGHTED BY DISCUSSION OF REFUGEES AND MISSING IN ACTION

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SUMMARY.

END SUMMARY.

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APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: JUN 2001

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1. ON [REDACTED] JANUARY 1975 THE PLENARY SESSION OF THE JOINT COMMISSION TO IMPLEMENT THE AGREEMENT (JCIA) WAS HELD AT LAOS PATRIOTIC FRONT (LPF) HEADQUARTERS AT PHONE XAY UNDER THE JOINT CHAIRMANSHIP OF VIENTIANE SIDE CHIEF DELEGATE S O U K A N VILAYSAN AND PLF CHIEF DELEGATE S O T H PHETRASY.

2. SOTH, AS CHIEF OF THE HOST DELEGATION, PROPOSED DISCUSSION OF FIVE TOPICS: THE RETURN OF REFUGEES TO THEIR VILLAGES; THE EIGHT DEMONSTRATION LEADERS FROM THAKHEK, ARRESTED BY THE VIENTIANE SIDE AND BEING HELD IN SAVANNAKHET, WHO, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DECISION OF THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNION (PGNU), ARE TO BE TURNED OVER TO THE JCIA; WITHDRAWAL OF VIENTIANE SIDE TROOPS FROM THE PREFECTURE OF VIENTIANE; DESIGNATION OF HOT POINTS AND THE OPENING OF LINES OF COMMUNICATION FROM BAN HOU EI SAI TO LUANG PRABANG AND FROM PAKSANE TO THAKHEK; AND MISCELLANEOUS QUESTIONS.

3. SOUKAN ALSO PROPOSED DISCUSSION OF FIVE TOPICS: THE EIGHT DEMONSTRATION LEADERS FROM THAKHEK; STUDY OF THE MISSING IN ACTION (MIA) QUESTION; WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN TROOPS FROM LAOS; THE REFUGEE QUESTION; AND THE DESIGNATION OF HOT POINTS AND THE OPENING OF ROADS.

4. AFTER SOME DISCUSSION BOTH SIDES AGREED, AT LPF REQUEST, TO COVER THE REFUGEE QUESTION FIRST, FOLLOWING REPORTS BY BOTH

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SIDES, THE JCIA DECIDED THAT A TEST FLIGHT WOULD BE MADE ON 24 JANUARY TO PHONE SAVANH IN THE LPF ZONE ON THE PLAINE DES JARRES, WITH TWO HELICOPTERS PROVIDED BY THE LAO ARMED FORCES (FAR). ROYAL AID LAO (RAL) OBSERVERS AND POSSIBLY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT WILL GO ALONG TO DETERMINE WHETHER RAL C-46 AND C-47 AIRCRAFT CAN LAND AT PHONE SAVANH AIRFIELD. IT WAS ALSO DECIDED THAT IF NO TECHNICAL PROBLEMS ARISE TO CAUSE DELAYS, THE FIRST RAL FLIGHT TO PHONE SAVANH, WITH REFUGEES ON BOARD, SHOULD TAKE PLACE ON 27 JANUARY. RAL HAS AGREED TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR MOVING THE REFUGEES FROM RESETTLEMENT VILLAGES TO WATTAY AIRPORT, AND FROM WATTAY BY PLANE TO PHONE SAVANH. RAL DOES NOT AGREE, HOWEVER, TO PROVIDE FOOD SUPPLIES FOR THE REFUGEES. THE JCIA WILL STUDY THE QUESTION AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE SUM OF MONEY NEEDED TO THE VIENTIANE OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES. THE JCIA ESTIMATES THAT TWO DAYS' FOOD SUPPLY WILL BE NEEDED FOR RETURN BY AIR AND FIVE DAYS' FOOD SUPPLY FOR RETURN BY LAND.

5. DURING THE DISCUSSION OF HOT POINTS, IT WAS DECIDED THAT ON 28 JANUARY A CEASEFIRE MOBILE TEAM WOULD BE SENT TO PHOU SONG-NANANE (TG 2936). THE TEAM WILL LATER TRAVEL TO THAKHEK, WHILE LOUN SISOUNOL AND PHAO BOUNNAPHOL WERE IN THAKHEK ON

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18 JANUARY, THEY EXAMINED THE AREA AND MADE THE NECESSARY DECISIONS REGARDING THE PLANTING OF THE STAKE. S O M B O U N VONGPHRACHANH AND PHAO WILL STUDY THE MATTER AND PREPARE THE NECESSARY PAPERWORK IN VIENTIANE PRIOR TO THEIR TRAVEL AS A TEAM TO THAKHEK.

6. THERE WAS DISCUSSION OF OPENING LINES OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN BAN HOUEI SAI AND LUANG PRABANG. THE LPF DELEGATION SAID THAT LOCAL AUTHORITIES ARE DISCUSSING THE MATTER.

7. THE JCIA DISCUSSED THE DISPOSITION OF THE EIGHT DEMONSTRATORS ARRESTED IN THAKHEK. IT WAS DECIDED THAT THE JCIA SHOULD ACCEPT THEM IN LINE WITH THE PGNU'S REQUEST. IT WAS FURTHER DECIDED, HOWEVER, THAT THE QUESTION SHOULD BE STUDIED BEFORE THE EIGHT ARE MOVED TO VIENTIANE. LOUN AND P R A D I T H THIENGTHAM WILL ACT AS A SUB-COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE QUESTION AND DRAW UP A JOINT COMMUNIQUE. THE LPF DELEGATION WANTS TO DISCUSS AND REVIEW NOT ONLY THE CHARGES MADE AGAINST THE EIGHT BUT ALSO THE CHARGES MADE BY THE EIGHT AGAINST CIVILIAN AND MILITARY OFFICIALS IN THAKHEK. THE VIENTIANE SIDE DELEGATION REFUSED AND AGREED ONLY TO AN INVESTIGATION OF WHETHER OR NOT THE EIGHT HAD COMMITTED WRONGFUL ACTS DURING THE DEMONSTRATION.

8. DURING DISCUSSION OF THE WITHDRAWAL OF VIENTIANE SIDE TROOPS FROM THE PREFECTURE OF VIENTIANE, THE LPF ASKED WHETHER THE LAND FOR

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THE VIENTIANE SIDE PROTECTIVE MILITARY FORCE (PMF) CAMP HAD BEEN PURCHASED. THE VIENTIANE SIDE DELEGATION REPLIED THAT IT HAD NOT AND THAT LOCAL LANDOWNERS HAD BEEN ATTEMPTING TO RAISE THE PRICE OF THEIR LAND. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE VIENTIANE NEUTRALIZATION SUBCOMMITTEE SHOULD REVIEW THE QUESTION WITH THE PREFECTURE OF VIENTIANE, IN CHARGE OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH LOCAL LANDOWNERS.

9. DURING THE DISCUSSION OF THE MIA ISSUE, THE VIENTIANE SIDE DELEGATES POINTED OUT TO THEIR LPF COUNTERPARTS THAT FAR HAD FURNISHED COMPLETE LISTS OF ALL MISSING VIENTIANE SIDE TROOPS AS WELL AS FOREIGN TROOPS LISTED AS MISSING. IT WAS ALSO NOTED THAT THE FOREIGN TROOPS HAD BEEN IDENTIFIED AS TO THE DAY, DATE AND LOCATION OF THE ACTION IN WHICH THEY WERE INVOLVED OR THE AIRCRAFT CRASH SITES. THESE LISTS, THE LPF DELEGATION WAS TOLD, SHOULD BE SUFFICIENT IN ACCOUNTING FOR MANY OF THE MISSING. IF THEY ARE DEAD, THE LPF SHOULD BE ABLE TO PROVIDE BURIAL OR CRASH SITES SO THAT REMAINS MAY BE RECOVERED. THE ISSUE WAS PRESENTED AS BEING OF EXTREME INTEREST, NOT ONLY TO THE FOREIGNERS BUT ALSO TO THE WIDOWS AND CHILDREN OF THE MISSING. THE VIENTIANE SIDE DELEGATION NOTED THAT THE LPF HAD NOT AS YET PROVIDED COMPLETE LISTS OF ALL RELATIVES AND THEIR DISPOSITION, WHEREAS FAR HAS FURNISHED COMPLETE LISTS OF BOTH LPF AND NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY

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PRISONERS AND THEIR STATUS, INDICATING WHETHER THEY HAD RETURNED AS PRISONERS OF WAR, DIED IN CAPTIVITY OR HAD BEEN RELEASED TO JOIN THE VIENTIANE SIDE. [REDACTED] COMMENT: NEITHER SIDE MENTIONED THE MISSING TOURISTS, AMERICAN [REDACTED]

NOR WAS THERE MENTION OF THE RECENT SHOOTING DOWN OF AN AMERICAN HELICOPTER BY THE LPF. GENERAL A T S A P H A N G T H O N G PATTHAMAVONG, VIENTIANE SIDE PMF COMMANDER, DID NOT ATTEND THE MEETING.)

10. ON THE SUBJECT OF THE WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN TROOPS FROM LAOS, A R Y A PHIMMASONE AND PHAO WERE DESIGNATED AS A TWO-MAN

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SUBCOMMITTEE ON QUESTIONS OF MIA'S AND THE WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN TROOPS.

11. SOU TH RAISED THE MATTER OF THE PROLIFERATION OF LEAFLETS ON THE STREETS OF VIENTIANE. HE SAID THAT MANY FACTIONS WERE PRODUCING THESE LEAFLETS, SOME OF WHICH ARE EXTREMELY INSULTING TO INDIVIDUALS, INCLUDING THE PRIME MINISTER AND JOINT NATIONAL POLITICAL COUNCIL CHAIRMAN PRINCE S O U P H A N O U V O N G. BOTH SIDES AGREED TO HAVE THE JOINT POLICE FORCE (JPF) OF BOTH SIDES HANDLE THE MATTER BY ARRESTING ANYONE CAUGHT DISTRIBUTING SLANDEROUS LEAFLETS. PRADITH REMARKED THAT HE HAD PERSONALLY SEEN PERSONS IN FAR JEEPS DISTRIBUTING

LEAFLETS IN THE EARLY-MORNING HOURS. THE JPF SHOULD USE WHATEVER FORCE MAY BE NEEDED. PRADITH ADDED, INCLUDING FIRING AT THE TIRES OF VEHICLES BEING SO USED, TO PUT A STOP TO THE LEAFLETS. THE VIENTIANE SIDE DELEGATION REPLIED THAT HANDLING THE MATTER IN SUCH A WAY WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE INASMUCH AS SOMEONE MIGHT BE ACCIDENTLTY KILLED AND THE POPULACE FRIGHTENED BY GUNFIRE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT. SOUKAN PROMISED TO COOPERATE IN THE EFFORT TO HALT THE LEAFLET DISTRIBUTION, ALSO PROMISING THE FULL COOPERATION OF THE VIENTIANE SIDE JPF IN THE MATTER.

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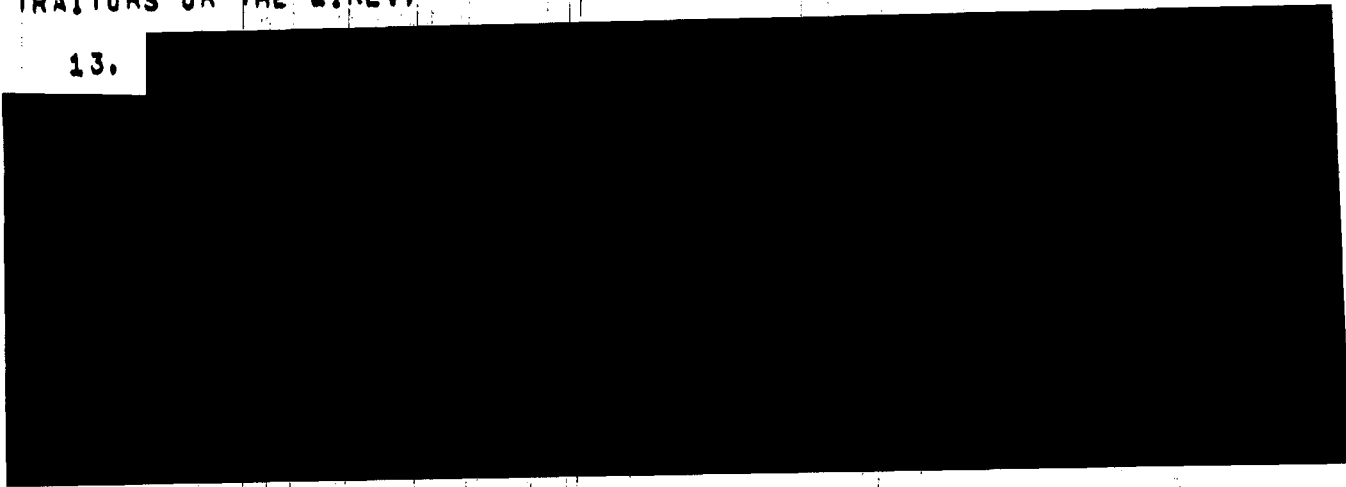


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12. (SOURCE COMMENT: NO MENTION WAS MADE OF LEAFLETS DISTRIBUTED BY THE 21 ORGANIZATIONS, THE LAO STUDENT FEDERATION OR THE LAO FER Y I N OF LABOR, ALL OF WHICH ARE LEFTIST-ORIENTED GROUPS. THE VIENTIANE SIDE JPF WILL INTERPRET THE JCIA DECISION AS ONE DEMANDING STRICT IMPLEMENTATION OF EXISTING LAW. THE JPF MEMBER WILL HAVE TO SEE THE LEAFLET BEING DISTRIBUTED, READ THE LEAFLET TO DETERMINE WHETHER IT IS SLANDEROUS, AND THEN MAKE THE APPROPRIATE ARREST. THE VIEN-TIANE SIDE WILL AVOID TAKING ACTION WHERE THE LEAFLETS ARE GENERAL IN NATURE AND DO NOT IDENTIFY SPECIFIC INDIVIDUALS AS CRIMINALS, TRAITORS OR THE LIKE.)

13.



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