

FORM 7-74

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Intelligence Information Cable

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DIST 23 AUGUST 1974

COUNTRY LAOS

DOI 22 AUGUST 1974

SUBJECT 22 AUGUST 1974 JCIA PLENARY SESSION AT WHICH POW EXCHANGE ISSUE IS HIGHLIGHT

ACQ

SOURCE

[Redacted]

SUMMARY: AT THE 22 AUGUST 1974 PLENARY SESSION OF THE JOINT COMMISSION TO IMPLEMENT THE AGREEMENT, VIENTIANE SIDE CHIEF DELEGATE SOUKAN VILAYSAN AND LAO PATRIOTIC FRONT DEPUTY THE HIGHLIGHT OF WHICH WAS THE MATTER OF PRISONER OF WAR EXCHANGE, TO BEGIN ON 12 SEPTEMBER. PRADITH INDICATED THAT THERE SHOULD BE FOUR GROUPS OF POW'S: THE PAK OU GROUP; THE ROUTE 9 GROUP; THE ROUTE 23 GROUP; AND THE PLAIN OF JARS AND PHON SAVANE GROUP. MULTIPLE EXCHANGES OF POW'S MAY BE MADE

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ON THE PLAIN OF JARS AND IN PHON SAVANE. THE EXCHANGES AT THE OTHER LOCATIONS WILL BE ON A ONE-TIME BASIS ONLY. SOUKAN QUERIED PRADITH AS TO WHETHER THE LISTS SHOULD INCLUDE THE MISSING AND PROPOSED THAT BOTH SIDES BE INFORMED 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF POW EXCHANGES SO THAT PROPER PREPARATIONS MAY BE MADE. PRADITH SAID THAT THE LISTS SHOULD INCLUDE ONLY LIVING POW'S AND THAT THE TWO SIDES CAN LOOK INTO THE MATTER OF THE MISSING AT A LATER DATE. PRADITH COMPLAINED FURTHER OF THE PRESENCE OF THE 12 SOLDIERS AT WATTAY AIRPORT; OF VIENTIANE SIDE TROOPS MOVEMENTS WITHOUT ADVANCE NOTIFICATION TO THE LPF; OF THE PRESENCE OF ARTILLERY, ARMORED TROOPS AND T-28'S. ACCUSING THE VIENTIANE SIDE OF WANTING TO STAGE A COUP D'ETAT; AND OF THE VIENTIANE SIDE'S HAVING TRANSFERRED MILITARY POLICEMEN INTO THE VIENTIANE SIDE JOINT POLICE FORCE CONTINGENT. HE LIKEWISE COMPLAINED THAT QUARTERS FOR THE VIENTIANE SIDE CONTINGENT TO THE PROTECTIVE MILITARY FORCE HAD NOT BEEN COMPLETED; THAT ON 11 AUGUST 1,000 THAIS HAD CROSSED FROM THAILAND TO LAOS WITHOUT NOTIFICATION BY THE VIENTIANE SIDE POLICE TO THE LPF POLICE, ADDING THAT JPF PERSONNEL FROM BOTH SIDES SHOULD SHARE IMMIGRATION DUTY. PRADITH THEN OBJECTED TO IMPLANTING A DEMARCATION POST

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AT BAN ITOU, SAYING THAT A BETTER, MORE SUITABLE LOCATION SHOULD BE FOUND. SOUKAN GAVE REPLIES TO EACH OF THE POINTS RAISED BY PRADITH. END SUMMARY.

1. ON 22 AUGUST 1974 A PLENARY SESSION OF THE JOINT COMMISSION TO IMPLEMENT THE AGREEMENT (JCIA) WAS HELD. VIENTIANE SIDE CHIEF DELEGATE S O U K A N VILAYSAN OPENED THE MEETING BY PRESENTING FIVE QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION: NEUTRALIZATION OF VIENTIANE; THE DEMARCATION POST AT BAN ITOU (XB 1878); DEMARCATION POSTS AT OTHER LOCATIONS; QUARTERS FOR PROTECTIVE MILITARY FORCE (PMF) PERSONNEL; AND MINOR QUESTIONS. LAO PATRIOTIC FRONT (LPF) DEPUTY CHIEF DELEGATE P R A D I T H THIENGTHAM PRESENTED FOUR QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION: PENDING QUESTIONS; EXCHANGES OF PRISONERS OF WAR (POW); DEMARCATION POSTS; AND MINOR QUESTIONS.

2. ON THE MATTER OF POW'S, PRADITH PROPOSED THAT EACH SIDE PREPARE ITS OWN LIST FOR EXCHANGE OF POW'S TO BEGIN ON 12 SEPTEMBER. PRADITH INDICATED THAT THERE SHOULD BE FOUR GROUPS OF POW'S: THE PAK OU GROUP; AND THE ROUTE 23 GROUP, IN THE VICINITY OF BAN ITOU. THE PAK OU EXCHANGE SHOULD BE MADE, ACCORDING

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TO PRADITH, ON A ONE-TIME BASIS, WITH THE SAME APPLYING TO THE ROUTE 9 AND ROUTE 23 EXCHANGES. HOWEVER, MULTIPLE EXCHANGES MAY BE MADE ON THE PLAIN OF JARS AND IN PHON SAVANE. PRADITH EXPLAINED THAT THE MULTIPLE EXCHANGES ON THE PLAIN OF JARS AND IN PHON SAVANE COULD BE MADE IN THE FASHION BECAUSE THE POW'S HAVE BEEN DETAINED IN SEVERAL WIDELY SEPARATED LOCATIONS. HE SPECIFIED THAT LAO POW'S ARE TO BE PASSED THROUGH THE JPF WHILE FOREIGN POW'S ARE TO BE PASSED THROUGH THE INTERNATIONAL CONTROL COMMISSION.

3. SOUKAN REPLIED THAT IF THERE IS NO AGREEMENT ON WHERE THE DEMARCATION POST IS TO BE LOCATED, THE TWO SIDES WOULD HAVE TO SELECT AND AGREE ON ANOTHER LOCATION. ON THE MATTER OF POW LISTS, SOUKAN QUERIED PRADITH AS TO WHETHER THE LISTS SHOULD INCLUDE LIVING PRISONERS AS WELL AS MISSING ONES. SOUKAN PROPOSED THAT BOTH SIDES BE INFORMED 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE.

4. PRADITH SAID THAT THE POW LISTS SHOULD INCLUDE ONLY LIVING POW'S. THE TWO SIDES, HE SAID, CAN LOOK INTO THE MATTER OF THE MISSING ONES AT A LATER DATE.

5. TURNING TO OTHER MATTERS PRADITH COMPLAINED THAT SEVERAL PROVISIONS HAD BEEN SIGNED BUT THAT ONLY A FEW HAD ACTUALLY BEEN

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IMPLEMENTED. PRADITH ASKED WHY THE 12 SOLDIERS ARE STILL BEING KEPT AT THE AIRPORT, ADDING THAT THERE WOULD BE NO PROBLEM IF THE JOINT POLICE FORCE (JPF) WERE ALLOWED TO PERFORM ITS DUTIES AND THAT THE PRESENCE OF THE 12 SOLDIERS IS COUNTER TO PROVISIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN SIGNED. PRADITH FURTHER COMPLAINED THAT THE VIENTIANE SIDE HAD MOVED SOME OF ITS TROOPS FROM PHONE KHENG TO CHINAIMO AND SOME FROM CHINAIMO TO THE AIRPORT. HE SAID THAT SUCH TROOP MOVEMENTS SHOULD HAVE BEEN REPORTED IN ADVANCE. PRADITH OBJECTED TO THE PRESENCE OF ARTILLERY, ARMORED TROOPS AND T-28'S, ACCUSING THE VIENTIANE SIDE OF WANTING TO STAGE A COUP D'ETAT.

ANOTHER POINT RAISED

BY PRADITH WAS THE TRANSFER BY THE VIENTIANE SIDE OF MILITARY POLICEMEN TO SERVE IN THE JPF. HE OBJECTED TO THEIR REMAINING UNDER THEIR OLD COMMANDERS, REMARKING THAT THEY SHOULD HAVE BEEN PLACED UNDER THE JPF COMMANDER.

6. SOUKAN REPLIED THAT THE 12 SOLDIERS AT THE AIRPORT CANNOT BE REMOVED UNTIL THE REPLACEMENT FOR AIRPORT COMMISSIONER GENERAL S O U R I T H D. SASORITH IS APPOINTED. SOUKAN SAID THAT THE LPF HAD NOTHING TO FEAR FROM THE 12 SOLDIERS AS THEY

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ARE UNARMED AND THAT THEIR DUTIES CALL ONLY FOR GUARDING REPAIR FACILITIES. SOUKAN'S REPLY REGARDING TROOP MOVEMENTS WAS THAT THE MATTER SHOULD BE DISCUSSED BY THE COMMITTEES RESPONSIBLE FOR THEM. ON THE MATTER OF MILITARY POLICEMEN TRANSFERRED TO THE JPF, SOUKAN SAID THAT THE VIENTIANE SIDE HAD BEEN INFORMED THAT ALL LPF MEMBERS OF THE JPF HAD COME FROM LPF MILITARY FORCES. BECAUSE OF THIS SOUKAN ADDED, THE VIENTIANE SIDE HAD DECIDED TO PUT SOME MILITARY POLICE IN ITS JPF CONTINGENT,

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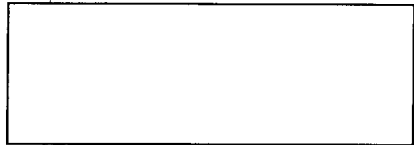
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7. PRADITH COMPLAINED THAT QUARTERS FOR VIENTIANE SIDE PMF PERSONNEL SHOULD HAVE BEEN SELECTED BY NOW BECAUSE THE TIME-LIMIT FOR THE SELECTIONS OF SUCH LOCATIONS HAS EXPIRED. THE QUESTION, SAID PRADITH, COULD BE SOLVED IMMEDIATELY IF LOCATIONS WERE SELECTED. PRADITH ALSO COMPLAINED THAT ON 11 AUGUST 1,000 THAIS HAD CROSSED TO VIENTIANE FROM SICHIANHAI TO HOUA MUONG LANDING AND THAT VIENTIANE SIDE POLICEMEN HAD NOT SO NOTIFIED THE LPF POLICE IN THE JPF. PRADITH SAID THAT LPF PERSONNEL FROM BOTH SIDES SHOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR IMMIGRATION DUTY, AS WELL AS THE ISSUANCE OF IDENTITY CARDS.

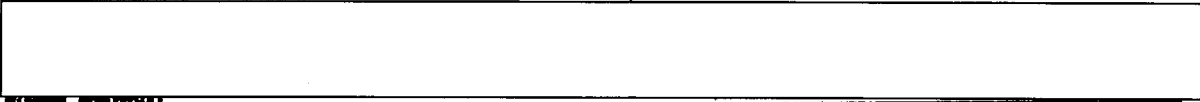
8. SOUKAN REPLIED THAT IF QUARTERS WERE AVAILABLE FOR VIENTIANE PMF PERSONNEL, THEY COULD MOVE INTO THEM AT ONCE. UNTIL QUARTERS ARE COMPLETED, THESE PERSONNEL WILL HAVE TO USE TENTS. SOUKAN OBJECTED TO THE ISSUANCE OF IDENTITY CARDS BY JPF PERSONNEL FROM BOTH SIDES, FEELING THAT SUCH ISSUANCE WOULD BE COUNTER TO PROVISIONS SIGNED. HE ADDED THAT THE AUTHORITIES SHOULD BE INFORMED IF PERSONNEL IN BOTH JPF CONTINGENTS MAY BE AUTHORIZED TO ISSUE IDENTITY CARDS.

9. ON THE SUBJECT OF PLANTING A DEMARCATION POST AT

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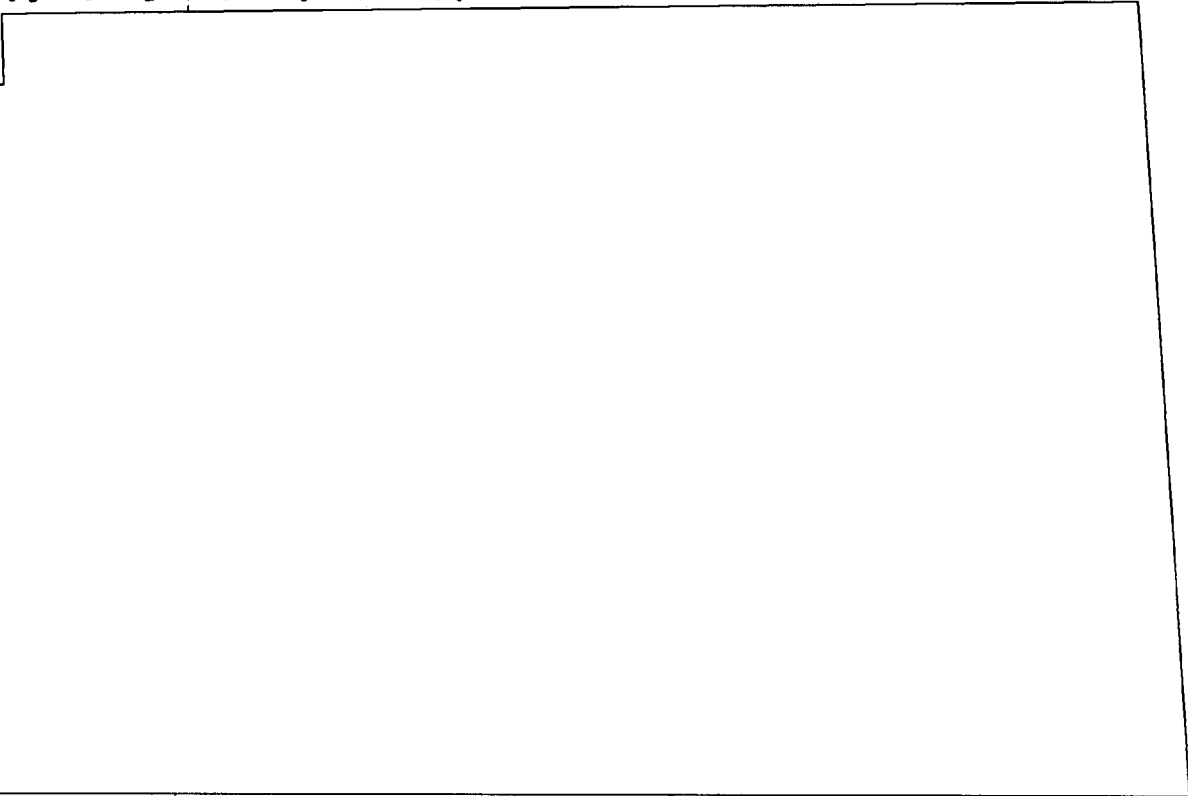
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BAN ITOU, PRADITH SAID THAT THE LPF DID NOT AGREE AND THAT IT SHOULD BE PLANTED IN ANOTHER BETTER, MORE SUITABLE LOCATION.

10. THE VIENTIANE SIDE DELEGATION HAD PLANNED TO REQUEST THE LPF TO GIVE ADVANCE NOTICE OF AIRCRAFT ARRIVALS IN VIENTIANE AND LUANG PRABANG BUT THE QUESTION DID NOT REACH THE DISCUSSION STAGE AT THIS SESSION.

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