



# Intelligence Information Cable

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STATE/INR DIA NMCC/MC (SECDEF JCS ARMY NAVY AIR) CIA/NMCC NIC NSA SDO ONI CRS

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT. NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE

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DIST 6 DECEMBER 1971

[Redacted]

COUNTRY LAOS/NORTH VIETNAM

[Redacted]

DOI MID-1971

SUBJECT SIGHTING OF AN AMERICAN POW IN THE MUONG PHINE AREA OF LAOS AND REPORTS OF A POW ESCAPE AND THE CAPTURE OF AN AMERICAN IN THE MUONG PHALANE AREA

ACQ LAOS, VIENTIANE (27 NOVEMBER 1971)

[Redacted]

SOURCE

[Redacted]

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SUMMARY. DURING MID-1971, NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] OBSERVED AN AMERICAN PRISONER IN THE MUONG PHINE AREA (XD 0927). THE AMERICAN APPEARED TO BE IN GOOD PHYSICAL CONDITION AND HAD BLUE EYES AND BROWN HAIR. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] OFFERED THE AMERICAN A PIECE OF MANGO WHICH HE ACCEPTED AND FOR WHICH HE THANKED [REDACTED]. ABOUT ONE WEEK PRIOR TO THE PRISONER SIGHTING, [REDACTED] SPOKE WITH TWO CADRE [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] WHO TOLD HIM THEY HAD OBSERVED TWO AMERICAN PRISONERS MOVING NORTH ON THE COMMO-LIAISON ROUTE. THESE TWO PRISONERS WERE DRESSED IN A SIMILAR MANNER AS THE AMERICAN WHOM [REDACTED] HAD SIGHTED. [REDACTED] ALSO HEARD PRIOR TO THE SIGHTING THAT AN AMERICAN PRISONER HAD ESCAPED FROM HIS GUARDS. A FEW DAYS BEFORE THE PRISONER SIGHTING,

[REDACTED] LEARNED FROM AN ANTI-AIRCRAFT CREW THAT AN

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AMERICAN HAD BEEN CAPTURED IN THE MUONG PHALANE AREA. END SUMMARY.

1. IN MID-1971 NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY (NVA) [redacted]

[redacted] OBSERVED AN AMERICAN PRISONER IN THE AREA OF BAN (VILLAGE) KHAMSA-EE (WD 9840).

[redacted] SAID HE WAS NOT SURE OF THE EXACT MONTH OF THE PRISONER SIGHTING BUT RECALLED THAT IT WAS DURING THE MANGO SEASON AND HE BELIEVED IT OCCURRED IN JUNE OR JULY. THE AMERICAN PRISONER WAS DRESSED IN BLACK PAJAMAS AND WORE HO CHI MINH SANDALS. HIS HANDS WERE LOOSELY TIED, AND HE WAS GUARDED BY SIX ARMED PATHET LAO (PL) SOLDIERS AND ONE NVA LIEUTENANT WHO WAS AN ADVISOR TO THE PL.

[redacted] COMMENT. [redacted] ASSUMED THAT THE NVA ADVISOR WAS ACCOMPANYING THE PL TROOPS GUARDING THE AMERICAN PRISONER IN ORDER TO PREVENT THE PL FROM KILLING OR INJURING HIM. [redacted] SAID THAT NVA POLICY REGARDING CAPTURED AMERICANS IS NOT TO TIE THEIR HANDS OR RESTRAIN THEM IN ANY WAY.)

2. [redacted] APPROACHED THE AMERICAN PRISONER AND OFFERED HIM A PIECE OF MANGO. THE AMERICAN ACCEPTED THE FRUIT AND THANKED [redacted] IN VIETNAMESE. [redacted] OBSERVED THAT THE AMERICAN HAD BLUE EYES AND BROWN HAIR. HE WAS SLIGHTLY OVER SIX

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[Redacted]

FEET TALL AND HAD A SLENDER BUILD. [Redacted] DID NOT OBSERVE ANY NOTICEABLE SCARS OR INJURIES AND SAID THE AMERICAN APPEARED TO BE IN GOOD PHYSICAL CONDITION. THE AMERICAN WAS WEARING NO WATCH OR JEWELRY OF ANY TYPE. THE AMERICAN'S NAME WAS NOT MENTIONED. THE PRISONER WAS CARRYING A NVA RUCKSACK ON HIS BACK AND VILLAGERS LATER TOLD [Redacted] THAT THEY HAD GIVEN THE AMERICAN TWO PINEAPPLES WHICH HE CARRIED IN THE RUCKSACK. [Redacted] OBSERVED THE AMERICAN FOR A FEW MINUTES BEFORE THE PRISONER AND HIS GUARDS LEFT THE AREA IN A NORTHEASTERLY DIRECTION.

3.

[Redacted]

THE CADRE TOLD [Redacted]

THAT THEY HAD BEEN MOVING NORTH ON THE INFILTRATION ROUTE AND HAD OBSERVED LARGE NUMBERS OF NVA TROOPS MOVING SOUTH. [Redacted] ASKED THEM IF ANY TROOPS WERE MOVING NORTH AND THEY SAID THEY HAD WALKED BEHIND A SMALL GROUP OF NVA SOLDIERS WHO WERE GUARDING TWO AMERICAN PRISONERS. THE CADRE SAID THAT THE AMERICANS WERE WEARING BLACK PAJAMAS AND WERE BAREFOOT. THEY WERE NOT TIED OR RESTRAINED IN ANY

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MANNER. THE CADRE FOLLOWED THE GROUP FOR A SHORT PERIOD AND THEN PASSED THE GROUP BECAUSE THE BAREFOOT AMERICANS WERE MOVING SLOWER THAN THE CADRE WANTED TO WALK. THE CADRE DID NOT OFFER ANY DESCRIPTIONS OF THE TWO AMERICAN PRISONERS.

4. [Redacted] SAID THAT PRIOR TO HIS SIGHTING OF THE AMERICAN, HE SPOKE WITH SOLDIERS OF THE 5TH NVA VOLUNTEER BATTALION WHO INFORMED HIM THAT AN AMERICAN PRISONER HAD ESCAPED FROM HIS GUARDS SOMEWHERE ON THE COMMO-LIAISON ROUTE AND THEY WERE LOOKING FOR HIM.

5. A FEW DAYS PRIOR TO THE SIGHTING OF THE AMERICAN PRISONER, [Redacted] WAS COLLECTING MANGOES IN THE AREA NEAR HIS HOSPITAL WHEN HE ENGAGED IN A CONVERSATION WITH SOME OF THE MEMBERS OF AN ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUN CREW. THE MEN WERE CONGRATULATING THEMSELVES FOR SHOOTING DOWN AN AMERICAN F-4H JET PLANE. THE GUNNER IN THE CREW, [Redacted]

[Redacted] TOLD [Redacted] THAT THE CREW HAD RECEIVED A MESSAGE INFORMING THEM THAT THEY HAD DESTROYED AN F-4H AIRCRAFT. THE MESSAGE ALSO SAID THAT A HELICOPTER HAD BEEN SHOT DOWN AS IT ATTEMPTED TO RESCUE THE AIRCRAFT CREW. THEY SAID THEY WERE TOLD IT HAD CRASHED ON THE SOUTHWEST SIDE OF PHOU

5 (MOUNTAIN) VIENG (XD 1426). [Redacted] ASKED IF THE PILOT OF THE  
4  
3 F-4H PLANE WAS CAPTURED WHEN IT CRASHED, AND THE MEN TOLD HIM THAT  
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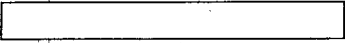
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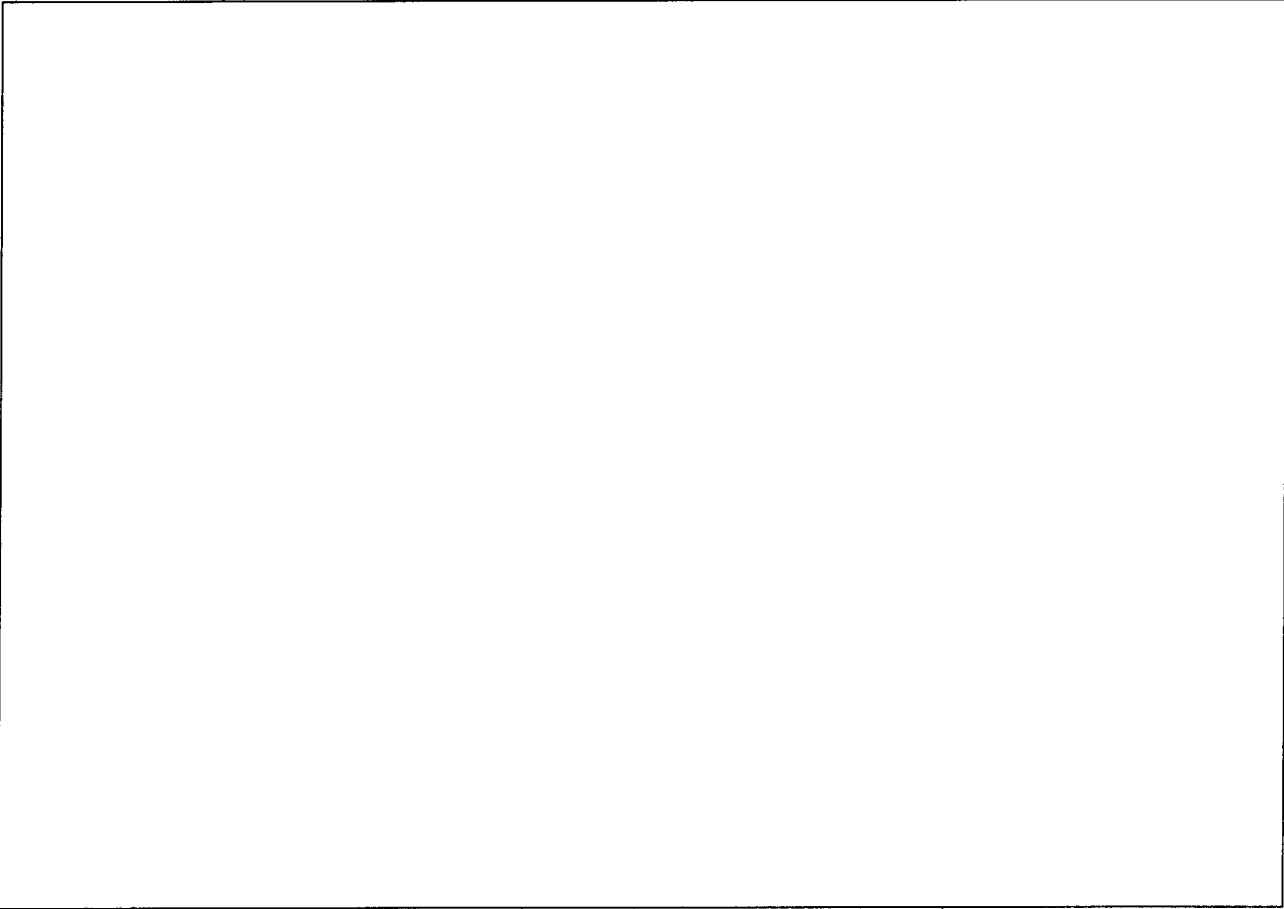
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THEY DID NOT KNOW. THEY SAID, HOWEVER, THAT THEY HAD RECEIVED A CABLE THAT AN AMERICAN WAS RECENTLY CAPTURED IN THE MUONG PHALANE AREA. [REDACTED] COMMENT. [REDACTED] DOES NOT THINK THE AMERICAN HE OBSERVED WAS IN THE PLANE WHICH THE ANTI-AIRCRAFT CREW SHOT DOWN, BECAUSE HE THEN WOULD HAVE BEEN WEARING MILITARY CLOTHING.)

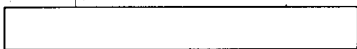
6. [REDACTED] COMMENT.



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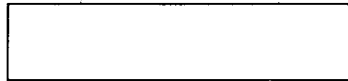
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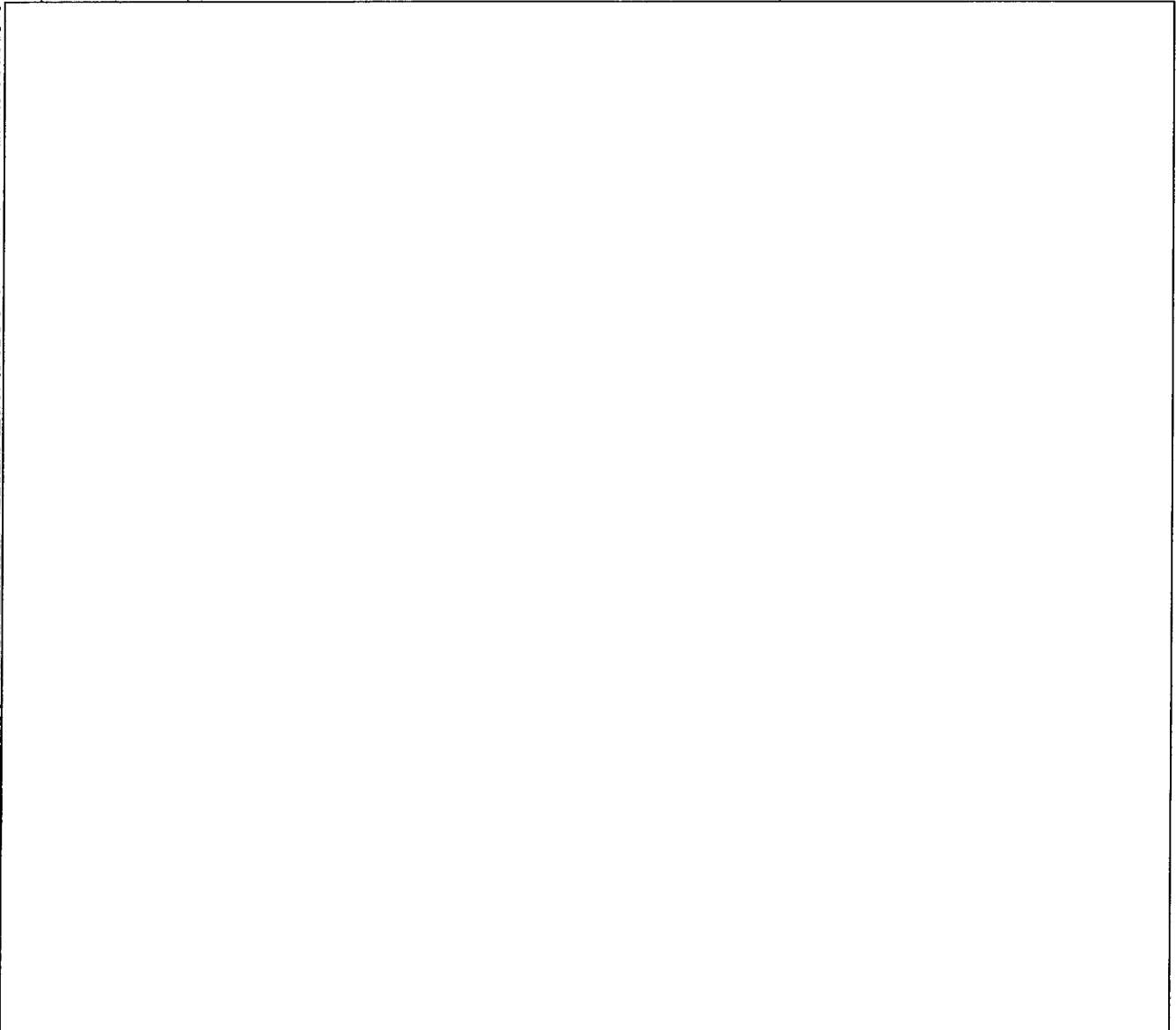
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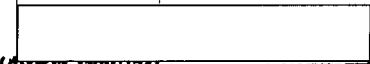
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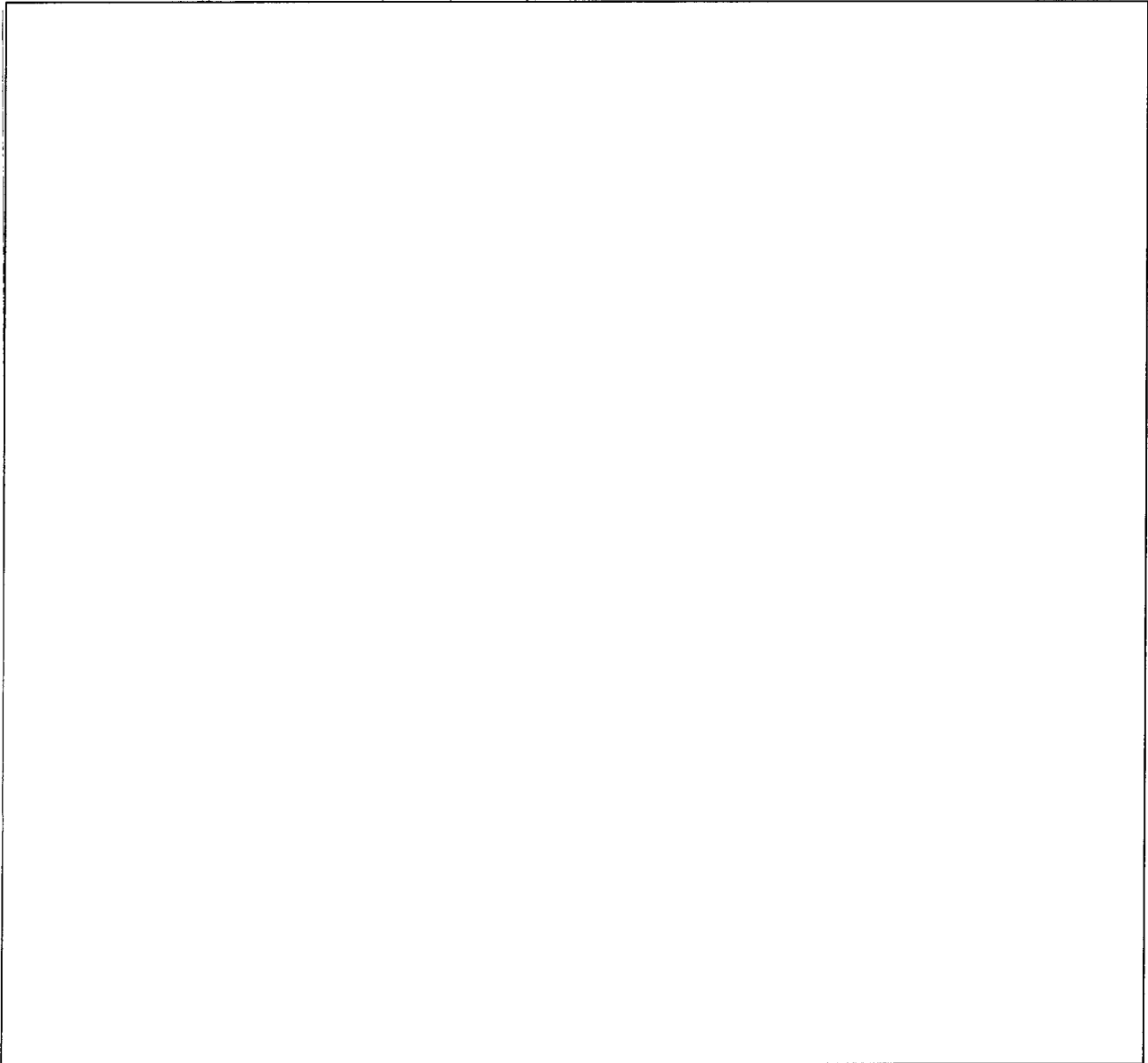
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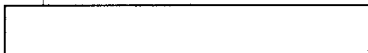


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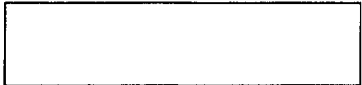
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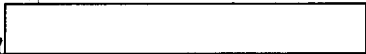


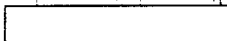
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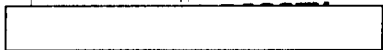
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7. FIELD DISSEM. STATE ARMY AIR CINCPAC ARPAC PACAF  
PACFLT MACV/JPRC 7TH AF 7/13TH AF TFA/NKP 7TH RRFS (ALSO SENT  
 SAIGON).

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