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18 DEC 91

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TO: DIRNSA, DEPT OF STATE, DIA WASHINGTON DC,  
 WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM, USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI,  
 JICPAC HONOLULU HI.

PASS: THE DIRECTOR, WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM;  
 NSA FOR ZKZK OO ZRL DE (EXCLUSIVE FOR THE DIRECTOR NSA); STATE  
 EXCLUSIVE FOR THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY, INR; DIA EXCLUSIVE FOR  
 THE DIRECTOR DIA AND PASS TO NWS (DIRECTOR ONLY); EXCLUSIVE  
 FOR USCINCPAC; EXCLUSIVE FOR COMMANDER JICPAC.

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 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

DIST: 18 DECEMBER 1991

COUNTRY: VIETNAM/USSR

SUBJ: POW/MIA: VIETNAM GOVERNMENT CONCERNS ABOUT REPORTED  
 SOVIET KGB INTERVIEWS OF U.S. PRISONERS OF WAR

DOI: MID-DECEMBER 1991

TEXT: 1. AS OF MID-DECEMBER  
 1991 THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT IS EXTREMELY CONCERNED ABOUT RECENT  
 PRESS ACCOUNTS REPORTING SOVIET KGB INTERROGATION OF U.S. PRISONERS  
 OF WAR (POW) AFTER 1975. THE PRESS REPORTS INDICATE SOME U.S.  
 PRISONERS WERE FLOWN TO THE SOVIET UNION BETWEEN 1975 AND 1978 TO BE  
 INTERROGATED WHILE OTHERS WERE INTERROGATED IN VIETNAM.

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APPROVED FOR RELEASE  
 DATE: OCT 2001

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2. [REDACTED] THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT IS CONCERNED THAT THE REPORTS WILL UNDERMINE THE CREDIBILITY OF VIETNAMESE ASSERTIONS THAT ALL U.S. SERVICEMEN WERE RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES AT THE END OF THE VIETNAM WAR. HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THE CURRENT INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE IS SUCH THAT KGB ASSERTIONS ARE MORE LIKELY TO BE BELIEVED THAN VIETNAMESE DENIALS.

3. [REDACTED] THERE IS ALSO SOME CONCERN AMONG OFFICIALS OF THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT THAT THE KGB ASSERTIONS COULD CONTAIN SOME ELEMENTS OF TRUTH. UPON HEARING PRESS REPORTS OF THE KGB CLAIMS, VIETNAMESE AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS TRINH XUAN ((LANG)) SENT A MESSAGE TO THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE IN HANOI INQUIRING IF THERE WAS ANY TRUTH TO THE REPORTS. AS OF 12 DECEMBER, THE MINISTRY HAD NOT SPECIFICALLY RESPONDED TO LANG'S QUERY.

[REDACTED] COMMENT: RECENT ARTICLES IN THE PRESS REPORT THAT OLEG D. KALUGIN, ADVISER TO THE CHIEF OF SOVIET INTER-REPUBLIC SECURITY SERVICE VADIM BAKATIN AND FORMER KGB GENERAL, SAID IN AN INTERVIEW FOR AN AUSTRALIAN TELEVISION PROGRAM THAT HE HEADED AN INTERROGATION TEAM IN VIETNAM FROM 1975 TO 1978 THAT QUESTIONED AMERICANS. ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLES, SOVIET AGENTS INTERVIEWED FOR THE PROGRAM CLAIM THAT OTHER AMERICANS WERE FLOWN TO THE SOVIET UNION FOR QUESTIONING BY SOVIET AGENTS AND MAY HAVE BEEN KILLED AFTER BEING RETURNED TO THE VIETNAMESE.)

END OF MESSAGE

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