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EX 6 Doc 13
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DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

28 JAN 1981

S-9073/PI-7

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

SUBJECT: Current U.S. Prisoner of War Intelligence

1. As you are aware, there are approximately 2,500 Americans unaccounted-for in Southeast Asia. Since 1975, DIA has received approximately 1,000 reports from Indochinese refugees concerning alleged sightings of Americans, crash locations, grave locations, and the handling and disposition of U.S. remains. Of these 1,000 reports, approximately 300 deal with the alleged first hand sighting of U.S. PWs detained in Southeast Asia.
2. Since April 1979, DIA has been investigating information provided by a refugee who alleged the detention of U.S. PWs in Laos. In November 1980, CIA provided information which corroborates the refugee's report. Overhead imagery has verified the existence of a detention facility at the alleged site. At enclosure is a chronological listing with tabs, which support the belief that U.S. PWs may be detained in Laos.
3. On 17 January 1981, DIA requested that CIA attempt to confirm the presence of U.S. PWs in Laos. The details of CIA intentions are contained in the enclosure. As the possibility exists that CIA could confirm these reports, I recommend that you consider preparing a contingency plan in the event this very important undertaking proves successful. To support this effort, I will request that CIA prepare a topographical model of the site and surrounding area.
4. As DIA is also investigating other reports alleging the detention of U.S. PWs in Southeast Asia, it is necessary that DIA (DI) remain the focal point for all intelligence activity relating to this matter. We will continue to obtain imagery of this facility and provide timely information to you concerning the progress of the CIA *MT*.

1 Enclosure
Chronological Listing

Eugene F. Tighe, Jr.
EUGENE F. TIGHE, JR.
Lieutenant General, USAF
Director

Exh. 7-B
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EXIB. 2

CHRONOLOGICAL LISTING

SUBJECT: Nhommarath Detention Facility

1. On 17 April 1979, a Lao refugee wrote a letter to Gen Yang Pao in Montana which contained U.S. PW information. He indicated that 18 U.S. PWs and 25 Lao prisoners were detained in a cave near Muong Nhommarath, Khammouane Province (due east of NKP Thailand). The prisoners were reportedly moved to this location from northern Laos on 10 March 1979.
2. During subsequent DoD interviews (Oct 79 and Feb 80), the refugee reported that the above PWs, and a separate group consisting of two U.S. PWs, one Australian, and one Japanese were held in caves in the vicinity of Kham Keut, approximately 70 kms from Nhommarath. He provided a sketch of the detention area. One month after his initial DoD interview, the refugee reported to a Lao associate the detention of U.S. PWs at Muong Nhommarath.
3. Imagery from July 1979 indicated that a cave entrance is located approximately 500 meters from the location at which the two U.S. PWs, the Japanese and the Australian were reportedly detained. A cave entrance could not be located at the location at which the 18 U.S. PWs were reportedly detained. However, heavy foliage in that area offers the possibility that the cave entrance could exist but was obscured.
4. During September/October 1980, the refugee was re-interviewed and polygraphed. The examiner opined that he was reporting information which he believed to be accurate and that he had not conspired with any person to provide false information. The refugee identified the source of his PW information to be a Lao resistance fighter. Efforts to locate the resistance fighter are ongoing.
5. On 18 November 1980, CIA reported (TAB A) that it had received information concerning the alleged detention of 30 U.S. PWs at Muong Nhommarath. The information was received from a highly reliable Thai source who had received it from an untested Lao subsource. On 21 January 1981, CIA reported that the Lao sub-source advised that U.S. PWs had been moved from Nhommarath to Kontum, Vietnam. Additional information is being sought.
6. Imagery (TAB B) from 10 December 1980 indicates the presence of a detention facility at a location southeast of Muong Nhommarath. Imagery indicates this facility did not exist in April 1978 (TAB C) and was partially completed by September 1979 (TAB D). Further, examination of imagery from 10 and 30 December 1980, and 2 January 1981 reveals that the number "52" has been stamped in the dirt in the row crop area located between the camp inner and outer fencing, in a location not apparently observable from either of the two guard towers (TAB E). Imagery of 30 December 1980 indicates the presence of approximately 25 persons in the inner compound and imagery of 24 January 1981 indicates the presence of nine (9) probable persons, 4 in the inner compound and five in the outer compound (TAB F).

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7. On 17 January 1981, DIA requested that CIA conduct an operation inside Laos in an attempt to verify the presence of U.S. PWs at this facility. CIA has agreed to undertake this operation, and is currently in the planning stage.

METHOD

TAB A - CIA Memorandum dated 18 November 1980
B - 10 December 1980 Imagery
C - April 1978 Imagery
D - September 1979 Imagery
E - Various dated Imagery
F - 24 January 1981 Imagery