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INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

NNNNVV HJA470J71379

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DE RUMJFS 150A 210225Z

Z O 210230Z 28A 70000

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO RUEOCR/SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 2051

INFO RUMJER/AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE 1016

RUMTEK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE 1507

RUHLHQ/CINCPAC IMMEDIATE 1569

RUEKDA/JCS IMMEDIATE

RUMALC/13AF CAB PT IMMEDIATE

RUMSALA/2ND AIR DIV TSN

STATE GRNC

BT

~~SECRET~~ JUNE 21

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DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12958 Sec 3A

RU 91-278

By ~~402~~ NARC Date 1-28-95

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Action

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Info

L I M D I S

OUR MIGHTY MEO REPORT FROM ONE OF THEIR OUTPOSTS IN SAM NEUA THAT THEY HAVE SUCCEEDED IN RECAPTURING ONE OF U.S. PILOTS CAPTURED DURING PAST FEW WEEKS BY PATHET LAO AND HAVE WALKED HIM OUT TO FRIENDLY TERRITORY. WE ARE SENDING A CHOPPER TO THEIR COMMUNIST POST TO PICK HIM UP.

IT IS NOT REPEAT NOT YET CLEAR WHETHER THIS IS WRDLCKA OR SHELDON BUT WE ASSUME IT IS ONE OR THE OTHER. WE WILL FLY HIM DIRECT TO UDORN AND PRESUME OTHER WORD WILL COME THROUGH AIR FORCE CHANNELS.

PAGE TWO RUMJFS 150A ~~SECRET~~

I WOULD LIKE TO STRESS OVERWHELMING IMPORTANCE THAT THIS RESCUE NOT REPEAT NOT BE GIVEN PUBLICITY. I HAVE ALREADY PASSED THIS WORD TO UDORN AND TRUST IT CAN BE PUNCTUATED BY INSTRUCTIONS TO ALL ECHELONS, PARTICULARLY PENTAGON PRESS SERVICES. SAME INJUNCTION SHOULD BE PASSED TO NEXT OF KIN.

THIS OFFICER IS ONLY ONE OF THREE FOR WHICH WE CURRENTLY HAVE MEO RESCUE OPERATIONS IN PROGRESS. THOSE OPERATIONS, AS WELL AS LIVES OF U.S. OFFICERS AND OUR MEO AND LAO FRIENDS, COULD BE COMPROMISED AND JEOPARDIZED BY PUBLIC HULLABALOO ABOUT THIS RESCUE.

WHEN WE HAVE MORE FACTS IN HAND, WE WILL BE IN TOUCH RE BEST METHOD HANDLING THIS MATTER WITH ICRC AND OTHER ENTITIES WHICH NEED TO KNOW ABOUT PILOT'S RECOVERY. PLEASE ADVISE ACTION TAKEN.

GP-3 SULLIVAN.

NOTE: ADVANCE COPY TO SS/O, 6/20/65, 11:08 p.m.

PASSED WHITEHOUSE, 6/20/65, 11:20 p.m.

CIA, 6/20/65, 11:33 p.m.

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~~SECRET~~

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