

CABLE SECRETARIAT DISSEMINATION CLASSIFIED MESSAGE TOTAL COPIES 15 ROUTING AND/OR INITIALS-SEEN BY

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ACTION UNIT FILE, VR

ACRON NO. 966 ADDED JDS

PRECEDENCE

SECRET 021230Z OCT 69 CITE VIENTIANE 5245

2 Oct 69

PRIORITY DIRECTOR INFO

1. [] HAS ASKED THAT USIS ASSIST MR. HENRY KAMM, NEW YORK TIMES AREA BUREAU CHIEF, IN ARRANGING INTERVIEWS WITH VARIOUS ENTITIES AND GROUPS OF INTEREST TO KAMM WHO IS HERE FOLLOWING UP THE T.D. ALLMAN STORIES ON THE WAR IN LAOS. [] POSITION IS TO BE AS ACCOMMODATING AS POSSIBLE WITH KAMM WITHOUT, OF COURSE, DIVULGING SENSITIVE INFORMATION IN HOPES THAT THE MISSION WILL RECEIVE FAVORABLE PRESS. UPON INSTRUCTION OF [] THE LOCAL USIS PRESS ATTACHE HAS ASKED THE LOCAL [] MANAGER FOR AN INTERVIEW WITH KAMM ON 3 OCT. WE ARE ASKING THE [] MANAGER TO "NOT BE AVAILABLE" UNTIL 5 OCT.

ADDED DISSEM

2. IN THE MEANTIME WE HAVE LEARNED THAT TWO QUESTIONS OF INTEREST TO KAMM ARE: A. PERSONNEL STRENGTHS OF THE [] OPERATION IN LAOS BROKEN DOWN BY NATIONALITY; AND, B. WHETHER OR NOT [] HAULS MILITARY EQUIPMENT.

3. OF COURSE OUR PREFERENCE WOULD BE THAT [] MANAGER NOT GRANT THE INTERVIEW. HOWEVER, SINCE [] HAS ALREADY INDICATED THAT KAMM HAS HIS BLESSING FOR THIS CONTACT

APPROVED FOR RELEASE DATE: 08-Dec-2009

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PAGE 09 VIENTIANE 5245 ~~SECRET~~

WITH [] WE PROBABLY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO DENY THIS INTERVIEW WITHOUT CREATING SOME EMBARRASSMENT. WE PROPOSE THAT IF THE INTERVIEW OCCURS THAT THE [] MANAGER ^{ATE} ~~STG~~ THAT HE IS NOT PERMITTED BY COMPANY REGULATIONS TO DIVULGE PERSONNEL STATISTICS AND TO BRIEF KAMM IN GENERAL TERMS ON [] ROLE IN HAULING RICE, SUPPORTING REFUGEE SITES AND HAULING REFUGEES. HE SHOULD ATTEMPT TO FINESSE THE QUESTION OF HAULING MILITARY CARGO; HOWEVER, IF ASKED HE WILL STATE THAT [] ^T ROLE UNDER CONTRACT TO USAID IS CONFINED TO HAULING RICE AND SUPPORT OF REFUGEES, ETC.

4. REQUEST [] FROM HQS ON THE ABOVE BY 1200 HOURS VIENTIANE TIME 4 OCT.

~~SECRET~~

THAT
THAT
Rec'd 0-00/S
3 OCT 69
11:00