

SECRET-14

ORIG: [redacted]
UNIT: [redacted]
EXT: [redacted]
DATE: 10 January 1972

MESSAGE FORM
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CABLE SECRETARIAT DISSEMINATION

INDEX NO INDEX RETURN TO [redacted] BRANCH FILE RID
 FILE IN CS FILE NO. [redacted]

CONF:

CFE 4 INFO FILE, VR, CFE/CO4, CFE, [redacted], DDS 2, CDD: [redacted]

(classification)

(date and time filed)

(elite)

(pica)

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10 JAN 72 23 30z

CITE DIRECTOR

TO VIENTIANE INFO: [redacted]

[redacted] ADMIN [redacted] [redacted]

- REFS: A. VIENTIANE [redacted]
- B. VIENTIANE [redacted]
- C. DIRECTOR 217477

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH REF A, AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN AT STATE DEPT BEING KEPT INFORMED STATUS SEARCH EFFORTS FOR MISSING C-123 NUMBER 293. IN VIEW PARA 5 REF A, BOTH HQS AND STATE CONCERNED WITH POSSIBLE REPERCUSSIONS SHOULD MRS. TOWNLEY BECOME DISSATISFIED WITH HANDLING THIS CASE. IN VIEW PRESS SPECULATION THAT AIRCRAFT WAS SHOT DOWN BY CHICOMS ALONG CHINA ROAD, IT POSSIBLE MRS. TOWNLEY'S LAWYER OR OTHER REPRESENTATIVES MAY APPROACH WHITE HOUSE WITH REQUEST THAT PRESIDENT NIXON RAISE THIS MATTER WITH CHICOMS DURING HIS VISIT TO CHINA TO DETERMINE WHETHER PLANE WAS SHOT DOWN AND WHETHER CREW KILLED OR TAKEN PRISONER. SUCH APPROACH ALSO COULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY SUFFICIENT PRESS PUBLICITY TO CAUSE SOME EMBARRASSMENT TO ADMINISTRATION ON EVE OF PRESIDENT'S TRIP TO CHINA.

APPROVED FOR RELEASE DATE: 09-Dec-2009

/ CONTINUED /

RELEASING OFFICER

COORDINATING OFFICERS
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SECRET

[redacted]

AUTHENTICATING OFFICER

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ORIG:
UNIT:
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CABLE SECRETARIAT DISSEMINATION

INDEX NO INDEX RETURN TO _____ BRANCH FILE RID

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PAGE TWO

CITE DIRECTOR

TO

7 219435

2. WHILE THERE NO INDICATION THAT MRS. TOWNLEY CONSIDERING SUCH ACTION, AND [] CAREFUL HANDLING OF MATTER SHOULD PRECLUDE IT, REQUEST STATION AND [] BE ALERT TO HER REACTION AND POSSIBLE INTENTIONS. PLS ADVISE WHAT FACTS SHE AND OTHER NEXT OF KIN OR REPRESENTATIVES HAVE BEEN TOLD CONCERNING LOSS OF AIRCRAFT AND SEARCH ATTEMPTS TO LOCATE IT. ADVISE IF NEXT OF KIN OF CREW MEMBERS ADVISED THAT AIRCRAFT CARRYING AMMUNITION MAY HAVE BEEN SHOT DOWN BY CHICOMS, AND THAT SEARCH NOW DISCONTINUED. PLS KEEP US INFORMED THRU [] REPORTING RE REF C, OF FUTURE SEARCH ATTEMPTS AND WHAT IS BEING TOLD NEXT OF KIN, AS WELL AS REACTION OF NEXT OF KIN, AND YOUR EVALUATION OF THEIR PROBABLE COURSE OF ACTION.

/ END OF MESSAGE /

FE/ [] (phone)

SA/DDS: []

DCFE []

DDS/HB: []

DDS: []

[]

[]

C/FE

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COORDINATING OFFICERS

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