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HR70-14

APPROVED FOR  
RELEASE DATE:  
13-Sep-2010

(When Filled In)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

MFG. 1-72

CABLE SECRETARIAT CIPHER BY

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*EXP. D/P, CSKE, CSPO, SDO, D/OTG, D/NIC, D/CAS, D/ONE, D/P*

*SAVA, OAC, D/PER, D/EX, D/SAD, D/EE, D/DCS*

*- LINDIS - B.U.O -*

NNNNVV EIA878LAN088  
RR RUEAIIB  
ZNY CCCCC ZOC STATE ZZH  
SUP363R  
010277 MJB555JFA728 (NOT PROCESSED BY ANA)  
RR RUEHC  
DE RUMJFS #0502 0220855  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
R 220845Z JAN 73  
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2088  
INFO RUMJIR/AMEMBASSY SAIGON 8641  
RUMTBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 529  
RUMJNO/AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH 1858  
RUHHQA/CINCPAC

*CM*

35338

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 0502

LINDIS

SUBJEFC FAR EAST PILOTS ASSOCIATION STRIKES AIR AMERICA

1. AT 0930 THIS MORNING FAR EAST PILOTS ASSOCIATION INFORMED AIR AMERICA THAT ITS MEMBERS WOULD GO ON STRIKE MIDNIGHT JANUARY 23-24 LOCAL TIME. COMPANY SO INFORMED ME THIS MORNING AND AT 1230 LOCAL, WITH CHIEF AIR SUPPORT BRANCH OF USAID, I MET WITH CAPTAIN RICHARD STEWART FROM VIENTIANE AND CAPTAIN FOOT FROM UDORN WHO GAVE ME A LETTER OF TODAY'S DATE SIGNED BY E.P. SCHNEIDER, PRESIDENT, FEPA, INFORMING ME THAT DUE TO DEADLOCK ON TWO ISSUES UNDER NEGOTIATION WITH THE COMPANY THE FEPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS BELIEVES "INDUSTRIAL ACTION MAY SOON BE IN ORDER AND NECESSARY TO GET THE NEGOTIATIONS UNDERWAY AGAIN." LETTER CONTINUES "AS A POSSIBILITY NOW EXISTS THAT ALL CUSTOMERS COULD BE DIRECTLY-AFFECTED BY SUCH ACTION, I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THOSE FLIGHTS OF AN EMERGENCY NATURE INVOLVING HUMAN LIFE WILL BE FLOWN." CAPTAIN STEWART SAID THAT STRIKE WAS BEING CALLED AS OF MIDNIGHT TOMORROW NIGHT.

2. I THANKED THE CAPTAINS FOR THEIR NOTIFICATION. I

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EXPRESSED THE PERSONAL HOPE THAT MATTERS COULD BE SATISFACTORILY ARRANGED WITH COMPANY AND SAID THAT I COULD NOT REPEAT NOT TAKE SIDES IN THIS ISSUE. I ADDED HOWEVER THAT IN VIEW OF THE LOCAL MILITARY SITUATION THESE WERE DIFFICULT TIMES AND MY JT WAS TO SEE TO IT THAT ASSISTANCE TO HE RLG CONTINUED. CONVERSATION WAS FRIENDLY AND CAPTAINS PROMISED TO KEEP ME INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS.

3. WE WILL NOT OF COURSE KNOW PRECISELY FOR THE NEXT TWENTY-FOUR HOURS HOW MANY OF THE FLYING PERSONNEL WILL FOLLOW THE STRIKE ORDER. THERE ARE HOWEVER CERTAIN INDICATIONS THAT THE MAJORITY OF FLYING PERSONNEL WILL NOT REPEAT NOT FOLLOW THE STRIKE ORDER.

4. THE STRIKE OF COURSE COULD NOT REPEAT NOT BE WORSE TIMED BUT I BELIEVE WE CAN WEATHER THE STORM. I HAVE BEEN KEEPING SISOUK INFORMED OF THE SITUATION. AS OF THE MOMENT MY PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVE IS NOT ONLY TO KEEP ESSENTIAL MATERIAL FLOWING TO THE TROOPS BUT ALSO AVOID ANY THREAT OF VIOLENCE. I AM RELATIVELY CONFIDENT THAT BOTH OF THESE OBJECTIVES CAN BE ACHIEVED.

GDS. GODLEY

BT

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