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COUNTRY NORTH VIETNAM/LAOS

Content UNCLASSIFIED

9 May 74

DOI DECEMBER 1970

per 058315

date 19 MAY 1977

SUBJECT SIGHTING OF A U.S. PRISONER OF WAR IN SAVANNAKHET PROVINCE, LAOS

ACO
SOURCE

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1. ONE DAY IN DECEMBER 1970, WHILE INFILTRATING SOUTH VIETNAM, I SAW A U.S. PRISONER OF WAR (POW) BEING HELD IN A SMALL THATCHED HUT ON THE A-LO-PHEN (PHONETIC) HIGHLAND AREA OF SAVANNAKHET PROVINCE, LAOS. (COMMENT: I WAS NOT ABLE TO PINPOINT THE LOCATION ON MAPS.) THE HUT WAS USUALLY USED BY INFILTRATORS. I OBSERVED THE POW FROM A DISTANCE OF ABOUT SIX METERS. THE POW WAS A CAUCASIAN, ABOUT 35 OR 36 YEARS OLD, ABOUT 1.75 METERS TALL, WEIGHED ABOUT 75 KILOS, HAD A ROSY COMPLEXION WITH SOME FRECKLES ON HIS CHEEKS, AN OVAL FACE, DARK EYEBROWS, GREY HAIR AND A HIGH, STRAIGHT NOSE. HE WAS WEARING A GREY FLIGHT SUIT AND WAS BAREFOOTED. (COMMENT: I IDENTIFIED PHOTOGRAPHS, 134, VOLUME I, PRECAPTURE PHOTOGRAPHS, "PRISONERS OF WAR AND MISSING IN ACTION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA" AS RESEMBLING THE POW HE SAW.)

2. THE TWO NORTH VIETNAMESE SOLDIERS WHO WERE GUARDING THE POW TOLD I THAT THE POW HAD BEEN FLYING AN OV-10 RECONNAISSANCE PLANE OVER THE CAMBODIAN-LAOTIAN BORDER AREA WHEN HE WAS SHOT DOWN BY A NORTH VIETNAMESE UNIT, ANOTHER MAN WHO WAS ON THE PLANE ESCAPED. THE GUARDS SAID THAT THE POW HAD BEEN CAPTURED RECENTLY AND HAD BEEN BROUGHT TO THE A-LO-PHEN (PHONETIC)

HIGHLAND AREA THREE DAYS EARLIER. THEY SAID THAT THE POW WAS TO BE TAKEN TO HANOI, NORTH VIETNAM, IN A SHORT TIME.

3. COMMENT: JOINT CASUALTY RESOLUTION CENTER (JCRC) EVALUATES THIS REPORT AS FOLLOWS: "INFORMATION IN THIS REPORT DOES NOT CORRELATE WITH INFORMATION IN JCRC RECORDS, THERE IS NO RECORD OF AN OV-10 (OR SIMILAR-LOOKING AIRCRAFT) LOST OVER THE CAMBODIAN-LAOTIAN BORDER IN THE TIME FRAME MENTIONED."

4. FIELD DISSEM: DEFENSE ATTACHE FOR JCRC REPRESENTATIVE IN SAIGON! SENT TO CINCPAC (FOR CINCPAC AND POLAD ONLY) USSAG AND VIENTIANE (FOR JCRC REPRESENTATIVE ONLY).