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Intelligence Information Cable

• ROUTINE
IN 242193

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STATE/INR DIA NMCC/MC (SECDEF) JCRC ARMY NAVY AND CIA/NMCC MKC NSA 300 ONE CTS ~~SECRET~~
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[REDACTED]

THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE

[REDACTED]

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CITE TDCS DB 315/00157-71

DIST 13 JANUARY 1971

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COUNTRY LAOS

DCI AUGUST - 25 DECEMBER 1970

SUBJECT SIGHTING OF U.S. POWS AND POW DETENTION CELLS
NORTH OF CHAVANE IN SARAVANE PROVINCE, LAOS

ACQ LAOS, VIENTIANE (1 NOVEMBER-30 DECEMBER 1970) [REDACTED]

SOURCE SEE BELOW.

1. [REDACTED]

2. TWO AMERICANS WHO HAD BEEN CAPTURED IN SOUTH VIETNAM WERE DETAINED IN A RATTAN CELL FOR 24 DAYS FROM 23 NOVEMBER TO 17 DECEMBER 1970 IN THE CENTER OF A RICE STORAGE SHED IN THE BAN TAMPRIN (YC 137598) AREA, ABOUT 63 KILOMETERS NORTH OF CHAVANE (YB 2197). THE RICE SHED, CONTAINING ABOUT 700

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[REDACTED]

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date 20 AUG 1978

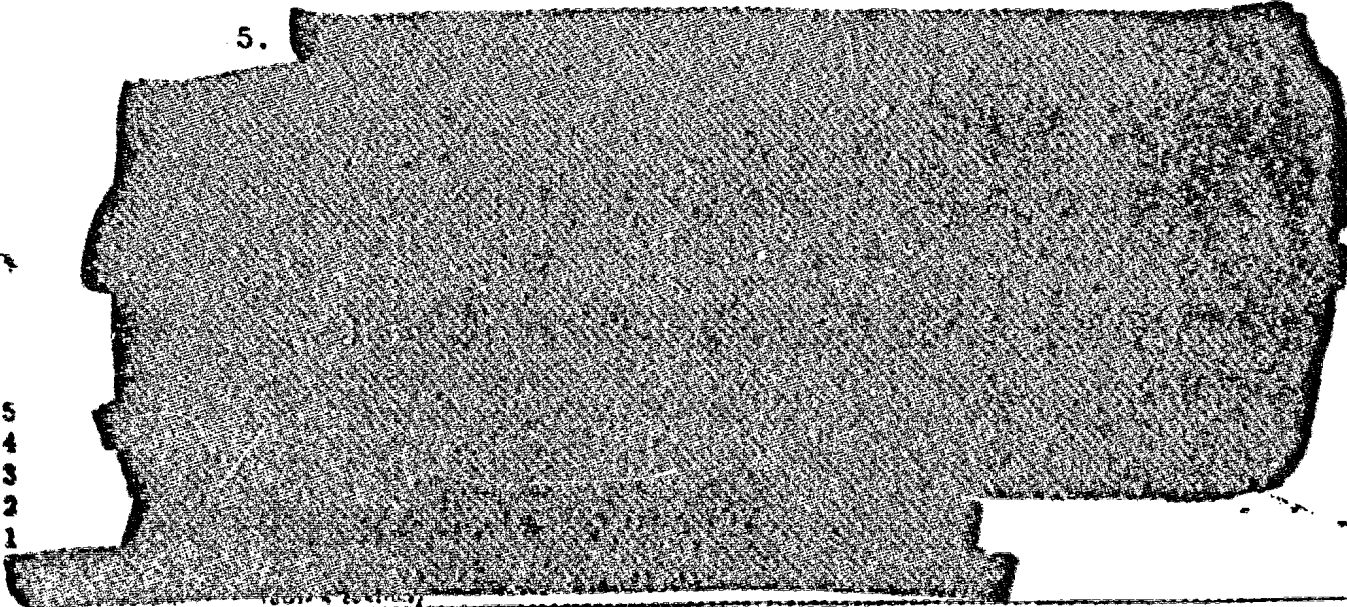


KILOGRAMS OF RICE, WAS ABOUT FIVE METERS LONG, FIVE METERS WIDE AND THREE METERS HIGH. ONE OF THE AMERICANS WAS DESCRIBED AS BEING FAT AND SHORT WITH BLACK HAIR AND A PROMINENT NOSE. THE OTHER AMERICAN WAS THIN , TALL, AND HAD WHITE HAIR.

3. WHILE THE AMERICANS WERE KEPT IN THE PRISON, 70 NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY (NVA) AND ABOUT TWO COMPANIES OF PATHET LAO (PL) TROOPS WERE CAMPED AT YC 136594, ABOUT 200 METERS, SOUTHEAST OF THE PRISON. THE NVA/PL TROOPS DID NOT SET UP A PERMANENT CAMP BUT LIVED SCATTERED ABOUT THE AREA IN GROUPS OF 15 MEN EACH. THEY HAD ONE 60MM MORTAR, ONE B-40 ROCKET LAUNCHER, AND INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS.

4. ON 25 DECEMBER THE SAME PRISON HELD TWO LAO THEUNG PRISONERS WHO WERE GUARDED BY ONE NVA AND ONE PL SOLDIER.

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[REDACTED]

(classification) (dissem controls)

[REDACTED]

6. AS OF AUGUST 1970, A NVA/PL DETENTION CAMP FOR CAPTURED U.S. AND LAO PRISONERS WAS IN THE VICINITY OF BAN TAMPRIN (YC 1419), ABOUT 63 KMS EAST OF SARAVANE. THE CAMP WAS CALLED THE SUPREME COMMAND TRAINING CENTER AND CONTAINED OVER 300 U.S. AND OVER 200 LAO PRISONERS. [REDACTED] COMMENT: THIS INFORMATION WAS PROVIDED BY DISTRICT CHIEF P H E N G OF BAN KENG SIM (XC 4052) DURING A TRAINING COURSE CONDUCTED BY HIM FOR PL CANTON AND VILLAGE CHIEFS. PHENG TOLD ABOUT THE CAMP IN A BOASTFUL MANNER.) [REDACTED] COMMENT: IF SUCH A CAMP DOES EXIST, IT APPEARS THAT THE FIGURES FOR PRISONERS DETAINED WERE GROSSLY EXAGGERATED BY PHENG.)

7. ON 2 AUGUST TWO U.S. PRISONERS AND LAO ARMED FORCES FIRST LIEUTENANT O N E S Y WERE TAKEN THROUGH SARAVANE (XC 5338) UNDER ARMED GUARD ON THEIR WAY TO THE SUPREME COMMAND TRAINING CENTER. ONESY'S STEP-MOTHER, A RESIDENT OF SARAVANE, APPEALED TO DISTRICT CHIEF PHENG TO RELEASE HER STEP-SON. PHENG TOLD HER THAT THIS WAS IMPOSSIBLE AND THAT

[REDACTED]

(classification) (dissem controls)

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[REDACTED]

(classification) (dissem controls)

THE PRISONERS WERE GOING TO THE CENTER FOR TRAINING AND WOULD NOT BE KILLED.

8. [REDACTED] COMMENT: THE INFORMATION ON THE PRISON IN PARAGRAPH 6 AND THE PRISONERS IN PARAGRAPH 7 COULD NOT BE CONFIRMED BY EXTENSIVE CHECKING OF OTHER SOURCES.

9. [REDACTED] DISSEM: STATE ARMY AIR CINCPAC ARPAC PACAF, PACFLT MACV 7TH AF 7/13TH AF 7TH RRFS [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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(classification) (dissem controls)