Intelligence Information Report

Classified by Recorded Reporting Officer. Exempt from General Decipsification Schedule of E.O. 11652 Exemption Category 55 (1), (1)

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REPORT NO.

DATE DISTR. /3 November 1972

COUNTRY

North Vietnam/USSR

DOI

April 1972

SUBJECT

Soviet Efforts to Gain Access to U.S. POW's in North Vietnam

SOURCE

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The North Vietnamese, despite repeated requests from the Soviets, never provided access to the prisoners. Although the Soviets knew where the POW compounds were located and could even drive past them, they had no access to the compounds or the POW's.

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The usual North Vietnamese response to Soviet requests was that access to the prisoners for questioning was not necessary and that they would tell the Soviets everything about the prisoners. The North Vietnamese expressed bewilderment as to why the Soviets would wish to talk with the prisoners.

The North Vietnamese never provided any information on the prisoners to the Soviets response to specific questions the North Vietnamese answered only in general terms.

4. Soviet press personnel in Hanoi attended press conferences organized by the North Vietnamese to exploit the prisoners. However, the Soviet representatives were not afforded any special rights

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(For Field Distribution see final paragraph)

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to interview the prisoners in conjunction with these press con-

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5.

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6. Field Dissem:

Deputy Ambassador Whitehouse and General Weyand only, Vientiane (for Ambassador Godley only), CINCPAC (exclusive for CINCPAC and POLAD only)

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Communitions suffer

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