

Lao Peoples Democratic Republic
Ministry of Interior
Prisons and Seminar Camp System

AUG 1992

1. The Lao Peoples Democratic Republic (LPDR) Ministry of Interior (MOI) was responsible for the administration and management of all labor reform, reeducation, rehabilitation, seminar, prison, interrogation, and temporary detention facilities for various categories of domestic civil and political criminals, including civilian and military LPDR government and communist party officials who committed criminal and political offenses. The MOI was also responsible for the detention and interrogation of non-Lao foreign nationals in special central-level detention and interrogation facilities. These facilities were usually reserved for national-level political, espionage, and national security-related cases. Cases involving ethnic Vietnamese residents of Laos and ethnic Vietnamese resistance group members captured in Laos were turned over to Socialist Republic of Vietnam (SRV) MOI jurisdiction; captured Vietnamese resistance group personnel were transferred to SRV MOI control in Vietnam. Although fragmentary reporting noted that the MOI had picked up various foreign nationals (Australian, British, French, Thai, West German) after 1975 who were eventually released and allowed to leave the country, reporting did not identify or name the facilities in which they were detained in Vientiane City for questioning.

2. Reporting has indicated the LPDR MOI went through several reorganizations since December 1975 under the guidance and direction of the SRV MOI Specialist Group in Vientiane, and that the LPDR MOI was organizationally structured on the model of the SRV MOI. Reference was made in reporting to a Police Interrogation-Investigations Department under the General Department for Peoples Police (GDPP), which, like the SRV MOI's GDPP Police Interrogation-Investigations Department, would have central-level pre-trial detention and interrogation facilities for the interrogation, investigation and future disposition of major civil criminal cases. Since the LPDR MOI's General Department for Counterintelligence (GDCI) is modeled after the SRV MOI's GDCI, it should also have a Security Interrogation-Investigations Department with its own central-level pre-trial interrogation and detention facilities. These facilities would hold domestic anti-regime political (counterreactionary, counterrevolutionary, economic security, resistance, sabotage, espionage, national security) suspects, as well as foreign nationals, for interrogation, investigation and further disposition.

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3. The GDCI's predecessor organization, the Political Security Bloc, had at least two pre-trial detention and interrogation facilities in Vientiane City which appear to fit the profile of central-level GDCI Security Interrogation-Investigations Department facilities. One was known as the That Dam Detention and Interrogation "Center," and the other as the Phonthan Prison. Domestic political cases were held at both facilities, where officers from at least Foreign Counterespionage (Political Security) Department 53 were involved in questioning and investigating political cases with documented or suspected foreign connections. Although no foreign nationals were specifically noted in reporting at these two facilities, one of them may have been involved, for example, in the detention of a West German in 1987. In early September 1987, the Pakse police in Champassak Province arrested a West German female passport holder (not further identified by name) for entering Laos illegally. The woman had papers stating she was a Buddhist nun, who had been ordained in Sri Lanka and was a resident of Ubon Province, Thailand. The Pakse police suspected she was a foreign intelligence agent, and detained and questioned her for 15 days before transferring her on 23 September to the MOI in Vientiane where she was still held as of 28 September 1987; no further information is available.

4. The General Department for People's Police (GDPP) sat on top of a chain of command which was responsible for the MOI prison system. It was headed by General Saisompheng Sengsoulignavong (1981-1990) and his deputies, Lieutenant Colonels Phosai Saipanya (1981-1987), Onsa Vilavong, Sali Phailot, Souban Keophila, and Champa. As of late 1987, Lieutenant Colonel Phosai Saipanya was also in charge of the That Dam Interrogation Center in Vientiane. As of June 1986, the GDPP had about 2,200 personnel. Personnel were assigned to one of at least eight subordinate departments--general staff research, administrative management police, criminal police, traffic and firefighting police, prisons police management (rehabilitation), economic police, security guards police, police interrogation-investigations. The GDPP had two SRV MOI advisory specialists assigned to its main GDPP staff office, as well as two SRV MOI advisory specialists assigned to each department under the GDPP. As of June 1981, the GDPP also had three East German advisory specialists/technicians. Reporting noted that, during the year 1985, 704 persons were arrested for criminal behavior, 154 were sent to prison, 464 were sent to "seminar" camps, 667 civil prisoners were released from prison, 74 prisoners received commuted sentences, and 70 detainees were

released from "seminar" camps.

5. The GDPP Prisons Management (Rehabilitation) Department was headed by Colonel Bounthiem (1981) or Lieutenant Colonel Souban Keophila and his deputy, Major Bounmai Sivin. Two SRV MOI advisory specialists were assigned to the Prisons Management Department. The Department administered all central-level prisons, the reeducation seminar camp system for former Royal Lao Government (RLG) and Royal Lao Armed Forces (FAR) personnel, and provided staff guidance and direction to the prisons management police offices of the Vientiane City Public Security Office (PSO) and all provincial PSO's. Provincial PSO prisons management police offices, as well as subordinate district PSO's, had at least one detention facility. Central facilities included the Sam Khe Prison in Vientiane Province, the That Dam Center in Vientiane City, and the Phonthan Prison in Vientiane City. The Central Sam Khe Prison was French-built at Kilometer Marker-6 (KM-6: TE-5492), was commanded by Than Sounphy (1977-1978), and held about 600 inmates; an unknown number of Thai nationals were held at the Sam Khe Prison during 1977-1978. The Phonthan and That Dam facilities were pre-trial interrogation and detention facilities for criminal and political suspects. The Phonthan and That Dam facilities were associated with the MOI's General Department for Counterintelligence (GDCI). Political counterreactionary, counterrevolutionary, economic security, sabotage, espionage, and national security-related cases were held at these facilities for interrogation, investigation, and further disposition. As of May 1983, the Prisons Management Police Department had 75 headquarters staff personnel; none reportedly had any extensive legal training or background.

6. The Department also had a "rehabilitation" camp complex in Keo Oudom District, Vientiane Province, at the Nam Ngum Dam reservoir (DATA): Thao Island (male detainees only), Nang Island (female detainees only), Setthakit, Nampho and Thong Islands. The island camp complex was built in March 1976. It received its first group of 1,500 inmates on 9 April 1976, who had been picked up in massive arrests in Vientiane. Thao Island, formerly known as Ling (Monkey) Island, held about 800 FAR captains and majors as of May 1976. According to the 18 October 1976 issue of the "New Vientiane" daily, the island "reeducation centers" were for drug addicts and for the rehabilitation of "victims of the old regime." In November 1976, the second phase of mass arrests of undesirables in Vientiane began. Among those arrested were teachers, merchants, and foreign mission employees on CIA spy charges;

about 750 to 1,000 political prisoners were first held at the MOI's Central Sam Khe Prison before being transferred to the island camp complex for rehabilitation. According to the 29 November 1976 issue of the "New Vientiane" daily, about 2,300 persons had undergone reeducation at the island camps (500 women and 1,800 men). The paper noted that 100 men and 100 women had requested to remain on the islands. By December 1976, the camp complex held about 2,000 inmates; 1,500 on Thao Island and 500 on Nang Island. The camps were referred by the LPDR as being "drug rehabilitation" islands; "32-year-old welfare official Sichan Sirivong" acted as deputy chairman of the committee running the islands.

7. As of 1978, the island camp complex held about 1,200 inmates in what the LPDR called "rehabilitation centers" and "reeducation centers for social evils." As of mid-1985, the island camp complex held about 1,200 inmates. The Thao Island Camp was commanded by MOI Lieutenant Colonel Inthong and his deputies, Major Bouathin and Captain Khamphet; the camp held 125 male inmates. The Nang Island Camp was commanded by a female named Khamtao, and held 300 female inmates. The Setthakit Island Camp held about 30 individuals who had attempted to escape from the Thao and Nang Island Camps. The Nampho Island Camp was the largest; it was a maximum security hard labor camp with about 600 detainees. The Thong Island Camp held several hundred male inmates who had been transferred from the Thao Island Camp. The LPDR claimed the camps only held common civil prisoners, drug addicts, prostitutes, gamblers, "hippies," and juvenile delinquents. The LPDR used the camps as model showcases for visiting foreigners. No foreign nationals were reported in detention on this island camp complex.

8. In October 1983, the MOI completed construction of a new central-level prison for political prisoners at Phonthan Village, Vientiane City; the prison was more commonly known as the Phonthan Prison. The Phonthan Prison was a pre-trial temporary detention facility, where criminal suspects were interrogated and investigated by the GDPP and where political suspects were interrogated and investigated by the GDCI. The Phonthan Prison consisted of two 8 by 40 meter concrete buildings with corrugated metal roofs; each building had ten cells. No foreign nationals have been reported in detention at this prison.

9. The Reeducation or "Seminar" System of the LPDR dates back to June 1975 when Pathet Lao security forces began taking

over power from Royal Lao Government (RLG) authorities. RLG civil officials and FAR officers were placed in political criminal categories and were sent to seminar camps for reeducation. Responsibilities for the seminar camps were shared by the LPDR MOI and by the LPDR Ministry of National Defense (MND). MND seminar camps were believed to be run by the MND Political Staff Department. In 1977, seminar camps were renamed "production units" to avoid international condemnation. In June 1983, all MND seminar camps, also known as "production units" and as "construction battalions," were turned over to the MOI GDPP's Prisons Management (Rehabilitation) Police Department, which delegated authority for their administration to the prisons management police offices of its provincial public security offices (PSO's). Although the LPDR denied the existence of reeducation and seminar camps, a reeducation camp system continued to exist in Laos under the guise of "production" camps. The LPDR currently prefers to use the term "rehabilitation" when referring to detention facilities. Although the total number of detainees is subject to debate, the following information was available on various types of detention facilities in Laos.

10. FAR field and general grade officers and RLG civil officials of equivalent rank were placed in a maximum security detention camp system in Houa Phan Province, near the Vietnamese border. The Houa Phan seminar camp system was initially established in July 1975 with seven camps (Camps 1 through 7). It was the worst camp system in Laos, and was more commonly known as the Vieng Sai or Sop Hao camp system. Detainees were categorized as dangerous and unlikely to be released. About one-third of all inmates reportedly died from malnutrition, starvation or were executed during the period 1975-1986. After the MND turned over control of the camp system to the MOI in July 1983, the camps were operated by the Houa Phan Province PSO, which established a central camp headquarters at Sop Pan Village (VH 2064) under the command of a MOI lieutenant colonel. No foreign nationals were reported in detention in this camp system. Comments on this camp system are as follows:

A. Seminar Camp 1 was also known as the Sop Ka, Na Ka and "Soun Phiseth" (Special) Camp, and as the Sop Hao Prison. Camp 1 was located at Na Ka Neua Village (VH 441737) on the east side of the Nam Mo (Nam Ma) River across from Sop Hao Village (VH 4373) in a valley about 21 kilometers from Vieng Sai District Town. Camp 1 was a secret political prison which held 39 Lao prisoners. Camp 1 was intended by the LPDR to be a

"death camp" with no survivors of reeducation. The camp held the Royal Lao family, 14 generals, and 11 other senior RLG officials. If inmates did not die from malnutrition or dysentery, they were executed. The deceased included: King Sisavang Vatthana (1979); Crown Prince Vongsavonang (1977); Queen Khampoui Vatthana (1981); Crown Prince Sisavang Vatthana; Lieutenant Generals Bounpon Makthephalak; Major General Phasouk Solatsaphak; Brigadier Generals Kan Insixiengmai, Itsala Kataidonsasoulit, Li Litthilusa, Lamngeun Phasavat; Colonels Heng Saithavi, Touby Lyfoung, Khamchan Padid, Lian Pavongviangkham; Luang Prabang Province Governor Chao Souk Bouavong; Lao Ambassador to China Balien Phavongviengkham; Minister of Religious Affairs Soukan Vilaysan; and, Minister of Posts and Telecommunications Touby Li Foung. Camp 1 was closed down in April 1985 after the last two generals (not further identified) were executed on 7 April 1985. No foreign nationals were reported in detention in this camp.

B. Seminar Camp 2 was located at Nouei Nong Tao Village (VH 463704) on the west side of the Nam Mo River near the Houai Vong tributary (VH 4769), and was north of Camp 1. As of August 1986 Camp 2 held about 150 Lao inmates. Of this number, 53 were residents of Vientiane who were not allowed to mix with other inmates. The 53 prisoners from Vientiane were charged with attempts to stage a coup d'etat in 1977; six received life sentences, 13 received 20 year sentences, and 34 received 10 to 15 year sentences. An unknown number of Camp 2 inmates were transferred to Camp 5 in March 1981. No foreign nationals were reported in detention in this camp.

C. Seminar Camp 3 was initially located on the west side of the Nam Mo River near the Houai Vong tributary (VH 4769) at Houei Nong Tao Village (VH 467702). Camp 3 was relocated by late 1980 to Ban Sop Phan (VH 2166) near Ban Loune Village (VH 1868) in Vieng Sai District. Camp 3 was situated on the northern bank of the Nam Pan River, west of its junction with the Nam Hao River, and was about 38 kilometers northeast of Sam Neua City (VH 0157). Route 6 ran along the extreme eastern side of the camp area. In late 1978, Camp 3 held about 330 FAR and police majors and lieutenant colonels from FAR Military Region 1 (MR-1). In 1979, Camp 3 received another 110 FAR MR-1 majors and colonel who had been held in the Phong Saly Province camp system. Camp 3 was commanded by Khamang and his deputy Bounpheng, and had a 50-man guard force. In mid-1983, Camp 3 became a temporary holding camp for others in the Houa Phan seminar camp system who were being considered for release. During the 1983-1985 period, Camp 3 grew to about 300

inmates, plus 800 dependents. As of August 1986, Camp 3 held about 150 inmates who were being considered for release in Vientiane, and was reportedly closed down later (date unknown). No foreign nationals were reported in detention at this camp.

D. Seminar Camp 4 was established in September 1975 and held about 520 FAR and police majors to colonels, and civilian grade equivalent inmates, who had been categorized as "progressive" educatees. Until late 1976 the camp was located on the south side (VH 3883) of the Nam Mo River in Xieng Kho District on Route 6 between Muong Hang and Muong Ham Villages. In late 1976, Camp 4 was relocated to a new site at Ban Nam At (former Kok Pho) Village (UIJ 9301) about three kilometers south of Muong Et (Muong Het) Village (UJ 9703) on the west side of the Nam Et (Nam Het) River, about 18 kilometers from Xieng Kho District Town (VJ 1202). In 1977, about 100 colonels and civilian grade equivalents were transferred to Camp 5. In 1978, about 250 inmates were transferred to Camp 6. In 1981, Camps 4 and 6 were moved from their Nam Et River site to the original Camp 4 location (VH 3883) on the south side of the Nam Mo River on Route 6. The two camps were consolidated and called "Sawmill Production" Unit 6. Seminar Camp 4 was officially closed down with the merger. No foreign nationals were reported in detention at this camp.

E. Seminar Camp 5 was initially established in June 1975 on the south side (VH 6311) of the Nam Sam River (VH 5212) across from Sam Tai District Town (VH 6211), and moved permanently in early 1976 to a natural cliff area near Ban Sop Phua Village (VH 8325). Camp 5 was a maximum security facility for "incurable" hardliners, holding about 700 FAR and police colonels, general grade officers, and senior-level civilian ministers and equivalent ranking officials. On 12 October 1977, 26 senior ranking colonels, generals and ministers were transferred from Camp 5 to Camp 1. Camp 5 received an unknown number of incurable "hardliners" from three reeducation camps in adjacent Phong Saly Province in December 1978 when these camps were closed down in fear of Chinese attack. In September 1979, about 25 general grade officers and civilian equivalent grades were accused of plotting to overthrow the LPDR, and reportedly were later executed. By 1982, Camp 5 was known as the Houay Ta-Ngeua Road Construction Unit. As of June 1983, Camp 5 held about 400 inmates who were assigned to hard labor construction gangs in Sam Tai District. Camp 5 was still in existence as of August 1986, and was later reportedly closed down (date unknown). No foreign nationals were reported in

detention at this camp.

F. Seminar Camp 6 was established on 21 July 1975 about five kilometers west of Muong Et (Muong Het) Het Village (UJ 9703) on the south side of the Nam Et (Nam Het) River between Muong Et Village and Na Kham Village (UH 9698) in Xieng Kho District. Route 67 ran through the camp. Camp 6 had the distinction of having been originally used by the Pathet Lao as a prisoner compound as early as 1969. In August 1975, about 600 FAR and police field and general grade officers, and civilian grade equivalents (ministers and province chiefs) were detained at Camp 6, where they were informed that they would not be eligible for release. Later, surviving detainees were categorized as "progressive" educatees. In 1978, Camp 6 received about 250 inmates from Camp 4. Camp 6 then held about 800 inmates, including the FAR Supreme Commander, the FAR G-2 Chief, the FAR Inspector General, and other FAR generals, plus about 200 dependents. Camp 6 was commanded by Colonel Bounlert and had at least a 35-man guard force. In 1981, Camps 4 and 6 were moved from their Nam Et River site to the original Camp 4 location (VH 3883) on the south side of the Nam Mo River between Muang Hom and Muang Hang Villages on Route 6, where the two camps were consolidated and called "Sawmill Production" Unit 6. By June 1982, Camp 6 was known as "Production Unit 6." Inmates were assigned to bridge and road construction and repair, and timber-cutting crews. Camp 6 was still in existence as of March 1987, and was later reportedly closed down (date unknown). No foreign nationals were reported in detention at this camp.

G. Seminar Camp 7 was located in an area (VH 422752) about 1,200 meters north of Camp 1 on the east side of the Nam Mo River across from Sop Hao Township (VH 4373), Vieng Sai District. Camp 7 inmates waited six months to three years for trial which found them guilty and sentenced them to long terms of hard labor. The number of detainees at Camp 7 was 350 to 400 during 1976-1978, 450 to 500 during 1979-1980, 250 to 300 during 1981-1982, 150 to 200 during 1983-1984, and 180 to 250 during 1985-1986. Only a few detainees were released and only a few successfully escaped. Two or three prisoners died daily from starvation, disease or were executed. The dead included Lieutenant General Bounleut Sanichan; Brigadier Generals Noupheet Daoheuang, Atsaphangthong Pathammavong, Bounchan Savatphaiphan, Thongphan Khanoksi, Bounthieng Venvongsot, Chao Sin Saisana, Rattanabanlang Chounlamonti; Colonels Amkha Khanthamisai, Phom Phanthavong, Kavin Keonakon (Police), Khammouk Pengsiaroon (Police); Director of Public Works

Itsara Donsasourith. As of August 1986, Camp 7 held about 250 inmates; inmates included FAR/RLG and LPDR military personnel. Camp 7 may be identical with the Thong Fek Prison which was about 14 kilometers east of Sam Neua and which was a pre-trial sentencing facility. No foreign nationals were reported in detention at this camp.

H. The Pha Deng Camp (VH 2335) was located at Phou Pha Deng about two kilometers east of Viengsai Sai District Town on the road to Nameo (VH 6644). The Pha Deng Camp encompassed a 100 by 200 meter area which was bordered by steep cliffs on one side and a deep valley on the other side. Inmates were kept in caves, and harsh conditions inside the camp led to a number of cases of insanity. As of early 1986, it held about 25 FAR/RLG survivors, who were scheduled for release. Other FAR/RLG inmates had been moved to Seminar Camps 2, 5 or 7. After the last survivors were released in 1986, the Pha Deng Camp was converted into a camp for LPDR personnel. No foreign nationals were reported in detention at this camp.

I. One Vietnamese boat refugee provided hearsay information about a detention camp which held six U.S. POW's (including two blacks) as of April 1982 in a small valley where Thao La La Hamlet was situated in Houa Phan Province.

11. In June 1983, under MOI direction, the Houa Phan Province Camp complex was consolidated into a composite seminar production battalion headquarters at the Sop Phan Camp near Na Luong Village (VH 3866), Muang Poua Canton, Viengsay District. The composite battalion headquarters staff was commanded by MOI Lieutenant Colonel Maisin Misai (Maysing Meesay), and had four guard companies and two special independent platoons. Each guard company was responsible for the security of one camp. Company 1 was unlocated. Company 2 was colocated with the battalion headquarters and guarded about 100 inmates who were involved in constructing agricultural settlements and roads. Company 3 was located at Houay Ngum Village, Muang Hang Canton (VH 3981), Xieng Kho District (VJ 1101), and guarded inmates who were involved in road construction in remote areas near the Vietnamese border. Company 4 was located at Sop Long Village (VH 3192), Muang Hom Canton, Xieng Kho District, and guarded inmates doing road and bridge repair. The 1st Special Platoon was located in the remote Lao Huong mountainous area, and the 2nd Special Platoon was colocated with the Viengsai District Military Headquarters (VH 2949), where inmates constructed and repaired buildings. Prison inmates of the Sop Hao camp system

were assigned to two production groups which worked on a road and bridge construction project at Sop Long Village (VH 0261), an irrigation project at Houei Tao (VH 0461), and on a hospital, school and residential construction project at Lao Houng Village. No foreign nationals were reported in detention at these camp sites.

12. As of December 1986, Camp 14 was newly established in Houa Phan Province. It was located about one kilometer from Sam Neua District Township (VH 0057), held about 300 inmates, and was operated by the Houa Phan Province PSO as a pre-trial temporary detention facility. The camp was constructed of bamboo and had more than 20 buildings to house inmates and guards. The camp was surrounded by three barbed wire fences, and was divided into light, medium and heavy security areas. Inmates included former RLG officials, and LPDR political prisoners and civil criminals. The camp had a 90-man guard force. As of May 1988, Camp 14 held only civil criminals and LPDR officials on various charges; no RLG inmates were detained there. No foreign nationals were reported in detention at this camp.

13. Phong Saly Province had a seminar camp complex between August 1975 and November 1978, which held about 2,000 RLG/FAR inmates and about an equal number of family dependents in one of five seminar camps. Each camp had a 50-man staff, including a 35-man guard force. By August 1986, only Camp 5 existed in Phong Saly Province with about 150 FAR enlisted and NCO detainees. No foreign nationals were reported in detention in the Phong Saly Province camp system, which had consisted of Seminar Camps 1 through 5.

A. Seminar Camp 1, also known as the Thong Nam Noi and the Muang Khoua Seminar Camp, was established in August 1975 along Route 19 near Sop Kai Village (TJ 3429), about ten kilometers southwest of Muang Khoua District Town. The camp was located on the east side of Route 19 at Kilometer Marker-91 (possibly TJ 5329) along the Pak River. Initial inmates included about 500 RLG police and FAR lieutenants and captains. Inmates were allowed to be accompanied by dependents to discourage escape attempts. In December 1976, 200 inmates were moved to the Pak Nam Noi Camp (TJ 1334) and to Muang Yo Seminar Camp 4. In June 1977, about 200 FAR enlisted and NCO personnel from Camp 2 were moved to Camp 1. In December 1978, all remaining officer inmates (number unknown) were transferred to the Pak Beng Camp (QC 2302) in Oudomsai Province and then to the Pak Xuang Camp (TH 1110) about 25 kilometers northwest of

Luang Prabang Township. From Pak Xuang, they were flown in two C-47 and C-123 aircraft to the Phonsavan Camp (UG 1253) in Xieng Khoang Province, Sepone in Savannakhet Province, and Attopeu Province, where they were placed in southern seminar camps. They were replaced at Camp 1 by 300 FAR enlisted and NCO inmates with dependents from Camp 2. In April 1982, 300 FAR enlisted and NCO inmates with dependents from Camp 4 were transferred to Camp 1. Inmates were used during the 1980-1986 period to build a laterite road (Provincial Route 48) from Nam Noi to Muang Yo Village in Boun Neua District. Camp 1 was closed down sometime in 1986. No foreign nationals were reported in detention at this camp.

B. Seminar Camp 2, also known as the Muang Mai District (TJ 6942) Seminar Camp, was located near the SRV border about 20 kilometers northeast of Muang Khoua District Town on the north side of Route 19 near the Nam Noua River. Camp 2 held about 900 RLG/FAR inmates and dependents. All were FAR and RLG police enlisted and NCO personnel from Louang Namtha, Luang Prabang, and Sayaboury Provinces. Inmates were used on road construction work. In June 1977, about 200 inmates were transferred to Muang Khoua Seminar Camp 1, replacing junior grade officers who were moved to Muang Yo Seminar Camp 4, and about 700 inmates were moved to a new Camp 2 site at Pak Nam Noi (TJ 1334). During 1979, Camp 2 had 300 enlisted and NCO inmates; 300 enlisted and NCO inmates were transferred to Muang Yo Seminar Camp 4. Inmates were used during the 1980-1986 period to build a laterite road (Provincial Route 48) from Nam Noi to Muang Yo. Camp 2 was closed down sometime in 1986. No foreign nationals were reported in detention at this camp.

C. Seminar Camp 3, also known as the Boun Neua Camp, was located about five kilometers south of Boun Neua Township (RD 0198) between Route 49 and the Nam Roun River. Camp 3 initially held 435 inmates (200 from Vientiane and 235 from Luang Prabang Provinces); all were former RLG politicians and national assemblymen; about 45 inmates died at Camp 3. In December 1978, all remaining inmates were transferred to the Houa Phan Province seminar camp system, and Camp 3 was closed. No foreign nationals were reported in detention at this camp.

D. Seminar Camp 4, also known as the Muang Yo Seminar Camp (QD 9580), was located at Kilometer 65, Muang Yo Village, Boun Neua District (RD 0095), and held about 110 FAR MR-1 (Luang Prabang) field grade officers. In December 1976, about 200 FAR junior grade officers were transferred from Camp 1 to

Camp 4. In December 1978, all field grade officers were transferred to the Houa Phan Province seminar camp system. All junior grade officers were gradually transferred to the Pak Beng Camp (QC 2302) in Oudomsai Province and then to the Pak Xuang Camp (TH 1110) about 25 kilometers northwest of Luang Prabang Township. From Pak Xuang, the inmates were flown in two C-47 and C-123 aircraft to Phonsavan (UG 1253) in Xieng Khoang Province, Sepone in Savannakhet Province, and Attopeu Province. They were replaced by about 300 FAR enlisted and NCO inmates from Camp 2. Inmates were used during the 1980-1986 period to build a laterite road (Provincial Route 48) from Nam Noi to Muang Yo. Camp 4 was closed down in 1986. No foreign nationals were reported in detention at this camp.

E. Seminar Camp 5 was located at Bouam Phan Village, Khao Canton (TJ 0535) in Muang Khoua District. As of August 1986, Camp 5 held about 130 inmates from Camps 1 and 4 who had not been released. Inmates were used during the 1980-1986 period inmates to build a laterite road (Provincial Route 48) from Nam Noi to Muang Yo. No foreign nationals were reported in detention at this camp.

14. The Xieng Khoang Province seminar camp system detained about 3,000 detainees as of 1986. Each camp had a 50-man staff, including a 35-man guard force. The Nachong Seminar Camp (UG 134 623), also known as Seminar Camp C.157, was established in June or July 1975 and was located near the Napa River; it was a maximum security camp. Seminar Camp 3 (UG 154 628) was located about three kilometers north of the Nachong Camp; it held about 750 inmates (not including dependents); over 200 inmates died in the camp. Beginning in February-March 1979, Seminar Camp 3 inmates were reassigned to Seminar Camps 515, 518 and 523 for production work. Seminar Camp 4 was located at UG 158 638 and detained "incorrigible" prisoners. In 1980, Seminar Camp 4 inmates were relocated to the Ban Hou area (UG 5964) about two kilometers from Route 7 where it had Subcamps 55, 56, 57 and 58. The Longkai Seminar Camp was located near Ban Ban (UG 5070). It had seven subcamps designated C1 through C7 along the Nam Mat River. Seminar Camp 5 was located on the bank of the Napa River, a few kilometers from its junction with the Nam Ha River, with about 600 detainees; 300 had been transferred from the closed down Camp 4. Seminar Camp 6 was unlocated with about 300 detainees. Seminar Camp 5 and Camp 6 inmates were assigned to Construction (Seminar) Battalions 575 and 611, which were involved in the reconstruction of the Thong Hai Hin (UG 0651) Airfield; each battalion had about 300 inmates. The Bansone

Seminar Camp (UG 292 610) was located about three kilometers from Route 7 between Phonsavan and Nong Pet (UG 310640; it held LPDR inmates who had been transferred from Subcamp 58 of the Longkai Seminar Camp. The Nong Het Seminar Camp (UG 944 550) held about 90 former Royal Lao Air Force officers through the rank of captain. No foreign nationals were reported in detention at any of these camps.

A. The Phonsavan Camp (UG 1351) was established in December 1975 near Lee Village (UG 1052) for about 200 Royal Lao Air Force personnel (privates through captain) and their dependents, and was also known as the 702nd Seminar Battalion. Beginning in early 1986, inmates were gradually released. As of February 1987, about 98 inmates of the Houa Phan Province seminar camp complex had been transferred to the Phonsavan Camp, where they were grouped for onward movement to Vientiane for release. No foreign prisoners were reported in detention at this camp.

B. Seminar Camps 515, 518, 523, 575 and 611 have also been reported as Construction Battalions; each had about 150 inmates. Camp 515 was located at deserted Pha Pang Hang Village (TG 6558) along Route 7 in Pek District; most inmates were FAR Military Region 5 (Vientiane) personnel who had been detained at the Vang Vieng Camp. Camp 515 inmates were used for Route 7 road and bridge repair and construction. Camp 515 was commanded by Major Bounli, had four companies composed of inmates, and a 30-man guard force. Inmates who were too old or ill for hard labor were sent to Hat Village (UG 6657) where about 20 inmates raised vegetables and livestock. Captured escapees were sent to the Phonsavan-Longkai Prison (UG 5566). Only prisoners in poor health were released. In early 1986, Camp 515 companies were sent in rotation to help build the Joint Armed Forces School at Paen (TG 9869), Pek District. In August 1986, Camp 515 was relocated to the Paen area, and had about 50 inmates. Camp 575 was located at Ban Nam Khao (UG 1050) near the end of the Thong Hai Hin Airfield; it had 700 inmates including dependent family members as of 1981. The 606th Seminar Battalion was located about four kilometers east of Phonsavan. Camp 611 was located near Xiang Houng (TG 8262), and had about 600 inmates including dependents. The 705th Seminar Battalion was located at Nam Chat (UG 8107), and was involved in the construction of the Lao Armed Forces Officers Academy at Paen Village (TG 9369). No foreign prisoners were reported in detention at any of these camps.

C. As of spring 1987, the 518th Seminar Battalion

with 145 inmates was building a new runway to handle MIG-21 aircraft at the Thong Hai Hin Airfield (UG 1251) under the supervision of 20 Soviet engineers. The 575th and 611th Seminar Battalions, composed of 150 inmates each, were also involved in the construction. Each of the three battalions were augmented by about 100 dependent females. About 1,000 laborers (inmates and dependents) were involved in the construction. Airfield construction also included plans for over 80 permanent buildings, including 42 three-storey buildings. Construction began in January 1985, and was scheduled to be completed in 1988. Two radar stations were built, one at Phou Keng Mountain (UG 0450) and one at Phou Seu Mountain (TG 9938). Another radar station had previously been built in an area near Bam Gnouan (UG 0953). All construction materials and heavy equipment were provided by the Soviets. No foreign nationals were reported in detention at any of these sites.

D. One Lao resistance member, whose reliability was undetermined, provided information about six U.S. POW's being held in a camp in early March 1986 at the DATA near DATA Village (DATA).

15. Vientiane Province had several detention and seminar facilities. The Vang Mieng Seminar Camp was established between February and July 1976, and was located at Vang Mieng Village (TF 136627), and held about 1,000 RLG/FAR detainees in mid-1976. The Ban Thangon Seminar Camp was located about 25 kilometers north of Vientiane City, and held minor political offenders and NCO's who were sentenced to a maximum of three years of imprisonment. The Sammune Muang Fenang Seminar Camp (SF 9772) held FAR company grade officers and NCO's until mid-1979 when the camp was moved to Muang Heuang (UF 6373) in Bolikhamsai Province. As of mid-1984, the Don Pho Seminar Camp was in the area of TF 5055 near the Nam Ngum Dam Reservoir and held FAR NCO's and low level political prisoners. The Thongkheng Seminar Camp was in the area of TF 3439 about 62 kilometers north of Vientiane City. As of mid-1985, seminar laborers were assigned to constructions units at the Basic Joint Operations School at the Dan Mouang Camp (TF 2626), Phon Hong District, and to LPAF Sawmill Enterprise No. 1 at Ban Keun Village (TF 4431), Thoulakhom District. About 120 seminar laborers were assigned to the 582nd Engineering Battalion which was building a Joint Operations School at the Dan Mouang Camp. As of mid-1985, the MND General Logistics Department's Camp Barracks Department used about 350 seminar personnel who were assigned to a transportation company, a brick kiln, two

sawmills, and three construction enterprises. Another 1,000 released seminar inmates were assigned to Production Unit 2, which had four sub-units. Sub-unit 1 fished at the Nam Ngum Dam (TF 4250); Sub-unit 2 bred fish; Sub-unit 3 was tasked with animal husbandry; and Sub-unit 4 cultivated flowers and industrial plants. No foreign nationals were reported in detention at any of these camps.

16. Bolikhamsai Province had an unknown number of detention and seminar camps. In mid-1979, the Vientiane Province Sammune Muang Fenang Camp (SF 9772) moved to Muang Heuang (UF 6373) in Bolikhamsai Province with an unknown number of FAR company grade officer inmates. As of the mid-1980's, about 1,000 released FAR seminar inmates were assigned to Production Unit 1 in Paksane District (UF 5832). Production Unit 1 built roads, bridges, buildings, and cleared wood from the junction of Route 4 at Paksane to Route 401 at Thong Phán Kham (UF 6450). No foreign nationals were reported in detention at any of these camps.

17. Luong Namtha and Sayaboury Province had an unknown number of detention facilities and no known seminar camps. Several hundred former RLG civil servants and FAR personnel from these two provinces were initially sent to the Pak Beng Seminar Camp (QC 2302), Oudomsai Province, in July-August 1975. The Pak Beng Camp was a temporary holding facility for RLG and FAR personnel. FAR personnel were sent to the Nam Bac Seminar Camp (TH 3582) in Luang Prabang Province before being further transferred to the Phong Saly Province Seminar Camp system. In December 1978, FAR junior grade officers in the Phong Saly Province Seminar Camp system were gradually transferred to the Pak Beng Camp and then to the Pak Xuang Camp (TH 1110) about 25 kilometers northwest of Luang Prabang Township. From Pak Xuang, the inmates were flown in two C-47 and C-123 aircraft to Phonsavan (UG 1253) in Xieng Khoang Province, Sepone in Savannakhet Province, and Attapeu Province. The Oudomsai Province camp (not further identified) was closed in early 1979, and all inmates (mostly FAR MR-1 officers), were transferred to an unknown camp in Xieng Khouang Province. No foreign nationals were reported in detention at these camps.

18. Luang Prabang Province had several detention and seminar camps. Between 1975 and 1985, there were two main seminar camps, two smaller ones, and a jail in Muang Ngoi District Town. All were located along the Nam Ou River or along its tributaries. The two main seminar camps were Hatchesan

(TH 5890) and Nam Bac (TH 3582), which was across the Nam Bak River from Ban Nakhon Village (TH 4680). In 1976, about 500 FAR NCO's were transferred from Luang Prabang Province to the Nakay Seminar Camp in Khammouan Province, and several hundred FAR MR-1 NCO's were held at the Nam Bac Camp (TH 3582). Most NCO's were usually released after two to four years of imprisonment. Comments are available on the following camps:

A. The Ban Hatchan Seminar Camp (TH 5890) was established in August 1975 for RLG civil servants from Luang Prabang, Xieng Khouang and Sayaboury Provinces. The Hatchan Camp was located south of Muang Ngoi District Town in a valley formed by the Phaboun and Phapae Mountains along the Nam Ou River; it was bordered on the south by the Nam Kong River and on the north by the Nam Ngoi River. The Hatchan Camp held about 400 inmates plus 350 dependents. Inmates were usually released after two to four years of imprisonment. The Ban Hatchan Seminar Center was noted in the overt Vientiane press in June 1977, and was closed down in 1980 after remaining inmates were transferred to seminar camps in Xieng Khouang and Attapeu Provinces. No foreign nationals were reported by former inmates in detention at this camp.

B. The Nam Bac Seminar Camp (TH 3582) was established in August 1975 for FAR personnel, and was also known as the Oudomsai (Nam Bac) District Seminar Camp, in Luang Prabang Province. FAR MR-1 officers were initially held at the camp. On 31 November 1975, 110 FAR MR-1 field grade officers were transferred to Phong Saly Province Seminar Camp 4. Lieutenants and captains were also sent Phong Saly Province Seminar Camp 1, and NCO's were sent to Phong Saly Province Seminar Camp 2. The Nam Bac Seminar Center was noted in the overt Vientiane press in June 1977. The Nam Bac Camp held several hundred NCO's and a few officers until it was closed down in 1980 after remaining inmates were transferred to seminar camps in Xieng Khouang and Attapeu Provinces. No foreign nationals were reported by former inmates in detention at this camp. However, one individual, whose reliability was undetermined, provided information about 12 U.S. POW's who were held at the Nam Bac Camp after being captured there during the war years; five U.S. POW's were reportedly moved to the USSR in 1985 and seven were reportedly still kept at the Nam Bac Camp as of mid-1986 with about 30 alleged former Armed Forces of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) POW's.

C. The Ban Hatxao Seminar Camp or Jail (TH 5226 or TH

5477) (2035N/10238E) was located on the bank of the Nam Ngu River, and held about 60 RLG civil servants. In December 1978, Ban Hatxao Camp inmates were moved to the Ban Pakchim Seminar Camp (2026N/10230E) and were gradually released after about four years of imprisonment. The Ban Hatxao Camp held about 200 prisoners as of September 1986. No foreign nationals were reported in detention at this camp.

D. The Ban Namo Camp (TH 0012) held about 200 captured Lao resistance members as of late 1983. No foreign nationals were reported in detention at this camp.

E. Two small seminar camps (Nos. 193 and 196) were respectively located near a bridge over the Nam Bak River near the junction of the Nam Bak and Houei Ngeu Rivers, and at Nanongxung. No foreign nationals were reported in detention at these two camps.

F. A camp for returning Lao refugees was located about 40 kilometers northeast of Luang Prabang Township near the Nam Ai River. Another camp for returning Lao refugees was built in the Ban Gnhok Van area (TH 1808). No foreign nationals were reported in detention at these camps.

G. Another individual, whose reliability was undetermined, provided information about having seen two Caucasians in leg irons, who had been captured before 1972, along the main road about 8.0 kilometers east of Muang Ngoi (TH 5891) in April 1986. This person also provided information (FIR-317/09341-86 of 22 July 1986) about a detention camp at Ban Don Lae (TH 5085) in Muang Ngoi District, which held two male and four female Americans in a cave guarded by eight People's Armed Forces of Vietnam (PAVN) and 14 LPAF personnel; the cave camp was called the Widow's Cave (Tham Mae Mai). Other than this, no foreign nationals were reported in detention at any camp in the province by former inmates.

20. In Khammouan Province, the camp system held about 2,300 RLG and FAR inmates as of July 1985, including about 500 FAR and police officers. In 1975, field grade officers were sent to the Sepone Seminar Camp in Savannakhet Province. About 50 RLG police enlisted and NCO personnel, and second lieutenants were sent to the Phonkhen Seminar Camp (WE 1738) in September 1975, where they were assigned to agricultural and road repair tasks on Route 8. In September 1976, 43 surviving inmates were relocated to the Thoen Douan (Theun Douan) aka

Nakay Seminar Camp (WE 2554), Gnommalat District, where it was also known as the 74th Production Group. About 500 NCO's were transferred from Luang Prabang Province to the Nakay Camp in 1976. As of late 1979, the Nakay Camp held about 2,000 enlisted and officer personnel through captain rank from Khammouan and Savannakhet Provinces. Inmates were assigned to one of six production battalions under the 74th Production Group. Inmates performed hard labor, clearing forests, cultivating rice paddy fields, and repairing roads. Dependents began joining the inmates in 1980. As of mid-1984, inmates at the Na Kai province camp (WE 3060) were used as the labor force for State Forestry Enterprises Nos. 4 and 5. The Mahaxai 75th Production Subgroup (1725N/10512E) had about 400 inmates who performed road construction and repair work on Route 12 between Gnommalat District and Thakhek District Town. The Naden Camp (1729N/10525), also known as the 70th Production Group, was relocated in 1980 to new quarters about 2.5 kilometers east of Ban Naden between Route 12 and the Xe Bang Fai River. About 25 percent of all inmates in the Khammouan Province camp system either died or escaped. As of January 1986, the camp system held about 200 inmates and dependents who were assigned to one of four 50-man companies. Although no foreign nationals were reported by former inmates in detention at any of these camps, Lao resistance members claimed to have information on live U.S. POW's in various areas of Khammouan Province as follows:

A. One Lao resistance member, whose reliability was undetermined, provided information about four U.S. POW's at the Nadeng Prison in Khammouan Province as of February 1983. This same report also noted that the Lao resistance member had obtained information from an escaped inmate who reportedly had met two U.S. POW's at this prison during the period mid-1981 to January 1983.

B. Another Lao resistance member, whose reliability was undetermined, provided information about 17 U.S. POW's being held at a detention camp near Phahoi Village (possibly WD 4598), which was about two kilometers southwest of the junction of Routes 122 and 123 (WD 4799) and about 50 kilometers southeast of Mahaxai District Town.

C. This same Lao resistance member had earlier claimed to have information on one U.S. POW who was being protected and guarded by villagers at Napeng Village (WE 7115), Talong Canton (WE 7019), Boualapha

District, in October 1986. The subsource for this Lao resistance member was also debriefed and claimed that one U.S. POW was being held by Napeng villagers as of November-December 1986.

21. In Savannakhet Province, about 3,500 seminar camp inmates (with dependents) from the ranks of sergeant to major were assigned to five road construction and two bridge construction units along Route 9 from Xa Thamouak (WD 9732), Phin District, Savannakhet Province, east to the Vietnamese border, and west to Phalane Canton (WD 6041), Atsaphangthong District, Savannakhet Province. Production work camps were located near Xa Thamouak (WD 9732), Sepone (XD 3244), Senkua Toulouang (XD 1753), Lako (XD 5857), and Ban Buk (XD 6152). In July 1975, all FAR personnel in FAR Military Region 3 (MR-3) were ordered to report for indoctrination training. About 300 FAR MR-3 officers from the ranks of major to colonel were held at the Fa Ngum School (1634N/10445E) in Savannakhet City for a one-month preliminary seminar before being sent in mid-August and September 1975 to the Sepone Seminar Camp by C-47 aircraft. Twelve senior officers, including Brigadier General Noupheut Daoheuang (FAR MR-3 Commander), Police Colonels Chanpheng Phetsomphou and Sisouvan, Colonels Soulang Phetsomphou and Kamko, and Lieutenant Colonel Sivilisai, were transferred to the Houa Phan Province seminar camp complex. On 7 September 1975, 290 majors to colonels were sent to the Sepone Seminar Camp, which held about 1,000 inmates and dependent families. By March 1978, the Sepone Seminar Camp was closed down because of repeated escape attempts. About 190 Sepone Seminar Camp inmates were transferred to the Senkua Tonglouang Seminar Camp (XD 1884) near Ban Senkua (XD 1753), about 30 kilometers northwest of Sepone near the Nambok/Nam Xe Kok River (XD 1854). The Senkua Seminar Camp held about 1,000 inmates and dependent families. Again, because of repeated escape attempts, about 100 surviving inmates of the Senkua Seminar Camp were relocated in April 1979 to the Lako Seminar Camp (XD 5957), also known as the Vinko Camp, about seven kilometers from the Vietnamese border. During February-June 1983, about 30 Lako Seminar Camp inmates were relocated to the Ban Buk (Ban But) Seminar Camp. The Ban Buk Seminar Camp (XD 6152) was located about 10 kilometers south of the Lako Seminar Camp, and was about five kilometers from the Vietnamese border. As of late 1986, there were only 16 inmates and one family left at the Ban Buk Camp. Other inmates either had died, were shot attempting to escape, or had been transferred

to the district jail for disciplinary action. Camp officials never spoke of release, and it appeared that the policy was to let the inmates gradually die off. The Ban Phabang Seminar Camp (1653N/10619E) held about 600 elderly and retired RLG civil servants and FAR personnel with dependents who had been transferred from camps at Ban Kengkhan and Ban Xieng Hom (1647N/10619E); inmates did agriculture and husbandry work. The Ban Dong Seminar Camp (1638N/10625E) initially held about 900 officers through captain rank, and by late 1984 held about 300 surviving inmates. The Ban Dong Camp was located about 22 kilometers east of Sepone District Township along Route 9. The Savannakhet Province Public Security Office (PSO) administered the Kaeng Khan Prison (XK 221530) in Sepone District, which held about 200 inmates in harsh conditions; about 50 inmates were held in solitary confinement on espionage charges. Although no foreign nationals were reported by former inmates in detention at any of these camps, Lao resistance members claimed to have information on live U.S. POW's in various areas of Savannakhet Province as follows:

A. One Lao resistance member, whose reliability was undetermined, provided information about 19 live American POW's at a site near DATA , Muang Angkham' (DATA).

B. Another Lao resistance member (see paragraph 22C below), who was determined to be deliberately fabricating, claimed he had heard from others of seven Americans held in June 1986 at a detention camp in Savannakhet Province about 30 kilometers north of Sepone District Town (XD 3244) and about ten kilometers northeast of Phabang Mountain (XD 4266). Three Americans were held at this camp, while four other Americans had been moved to a camp at Ta-Oy (Ta-Oi) District (XC 6148) in Saravane Province. This person also claimed hearsay information on two Americans being held in a detention camp in Samoi (Samouai) District, Savannakhet Province, about five kilometers from the Vietnamese border in an area with cliffs known as Lako (XD 5857). After found to be deliberately fabricating, this person attempted to change his story with further hearsay information, claiming that American POW's had been held in Sepone District in 1984-1985 and had been moved to either Dakchung in Sekong Province (formerly part of Saravane Province), or Tady in Saravane Province, or Lamam in Saravane Province.

22. The Saravane Province seminar camp system existed between July 1975 and at least 1980. In July 1975, about 900 RLG police and FAR Military Region 4 (MR-4) officers and NCO's were initially concentrated in a temporary seminar camp at the Saravane Town Airfield (XC 5738). All were moved to the Ban Bung Kham Seminar Camp (XC 2238) in August 1975. In September 1979, about 200 officers were flown by C-47 aircraft from Luang Prabang Province to the Pakse Airfield, Champassak Province, where they were then taken by truck and on foot to the Dakchung Seminar Camp (YC 4211 or YC 5010) near the Vietnamese border. As of 1980, all seminar camps in Saravane Province became known as "production" camps. In 1980, the Dakchung Camp was closed down; half of the inmates were sent to Attopeu Province and half were reportedly sent to an unlocated camp in Vietnam. About 2,000 RLG police and FAR MR-4 NCO's had been assigned to agricultural and road repair "production" units in the Thateng (WC 4907) area of Saravane Province and in the Paksong (XB 3278) area of Champassak Province. Saravane Province was later split in two with the eastern half being currently known as Sekong Province. Sekong Province includes the areas of the Dakchung and Thateng camps. Although no foreign nationals were reported by former inmates in detention at any of these camps, Lao resistance members claimed to have information on live U.S. POW's in various areas of Saravane Province as follows:

A. One Lao resistance member, whose reliability was undetermined, provided information about two U.S. POW's at the Dakchung Camp in November 1986.

B. Another Lao resistance member, who was later determined to be deliberately fabricating, claimed to have information about American POW Eugene DeBruin in the Sepone area (DATA) in November 1987.

C. Another Lao resistance member (see paragraph 21B above), who was later determined to be deliberately fabricating, claimed he had heard from others of seven Americans held in June 1986 at a detention camp in Savannakhet Province about 30 kilometers north of Sepone District Town (XD 3244) and about ten kilometers northeast of Phabang Mountain (XD 4266). Three Americans were held at this camp, while four other Americans had been moved to a camp at Ta-Oy (Ta-Oi) District (XC 6148) in Saravane.

Province. After found to be deliberately fabricating, this person attempted to change his story by claiming he had heard from others that American POW's had been held in Sepone District of Savannakhet Province in 1984-1985 and had been moved to either Dakchung in Sekong Province (formerly part of Saravane Province), or Tady in Saravane Province, or Lamam in Saravane Province.

D. Another individual, whose reliability was undetermined, provided hearsay information on sightings of American POW's in Saravane Province, two live Americans at a detention camp in Ta-Oy (Ta-Oi) District (XC 6148) of Saravane Province in 1985, and on six Americans being held in Hue, Vietnam.

23. The Attopeu Province "seminar" system held about 600 inmates as of September 1986 who were detained in the 402nd and 979th "Seminar" Battalions. An unknown number of inmates were detained at the 981st "Seminar" Battalion which is unlocated in Attopeu Province. The camp system was established in June 1975 for the detention of FAR Military Region 4 (MR-4) civilian and military personnel. No foreign nationals were reported in detention in this camp system. Comments are as follows:

A. The 402nd Seminar Battalion was established in June 1975 in Attopeu Province at the Houai Phok Camp (YB 0238) and consisted of four seminar companies in subcamps of about 150 detainees each. In June 1975, about 600 FAR MR-4 Region 4 officers from second lieutenant to colonel rank were concentrated at the Teacher's College at Kilometer 3 (WB 8971) east of Pakse District Town (WB 8671), Champassak Province, for preliminary indoctrination. Upon registration, about 100 majors, lieutenant colonels, and colonels were flown directly to Attopeu (XB 9838) on 27 July 1975; an unknown number of these officers were later transferred to the Houa Phan Province seminar camp system. After completing a one-month course, 400 second lieutents and captains detainees were assigned to "Seminar" Companies 1 through 4. On 15 August 1975, the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Seminar Companies were flown by C-47 aircraft from Pakse to the Attopeu Airport. The 4th Seminar Company of 100 detainees was sent to Samakhsai (Attopeu) District (XB 9837). No foreign nationals were reported in detention at any of these sites.

B. During the first three months in Attopeu Province,

about 10 officers tried to escape; all were captured and executed. The 1st Seminar Company of junior grade officers was located at the base of the Phou Saphong Mountain and the Nam Xe Kong River (XB 9882), Saisettha District; the 2nd Seminar Company of 180 lieutenants and captains was at Houai Phok (YB 0238), Saisettha District; the 3rd Seminar Company of 180 lieutenants and captains was at Ban Bung along the Nam Xe Kong River, Saisettha District. In early 1976, the 3rd Seminar Company was relocated to Ban Hatliang (YB 0636) where it received inmates from the dissolved 4th Seminar Company which had been located at Ban Hom (XB 9824). In 1977, the 1st Seminar Company was relocated across from the Attopeu Province Military Command and the 2nd Seminar Company was relocated to Ban Kengpok. In mid-1977, about 120 inmates from the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Seminar Companies were assigned to a road construction unit which repaired a twelve kilometer section of the road to Ban Fangdeng (YB 0932). The 2nd Seminar Company was located opposite Fangdeng Village at YB 0839, moved in 1977 to Houei Pok Village (YB 0238) to work on Route 16, and worked on an airstrip at XB 9638. The 2nd Seminar Company had 100 inmates plus dependents and was still located near Fangdeng Village in January 1987. No foreign nationals were reported in detention at any camp sites.

C. In September 1979, a group of 600 RLG police and FAR officers, students and air force pilots were moved from camps in northern Laos (Phong Saly, Xieng Khoang, Louang Namtha, Oudomsai) and from the Sam Khe Prison in Vientiane to an unknown location in Sansai District, about 30 kilometers from Attopeu Township near the SRV border. This group was the 979th Seminar Battalion. Chao Chanthalangsy, a younger brother of the Lao King, was killed at the Attopeu Camp in March 1985, and was buried in a cemetery for seminar inmates near the Attopeu Airport (XB 9638). In 1981, the 979th Seminar Battalion with about 300 inmates was relocated to the Dakkoum Camp near the Vietnamese border. Inmates performed hard labor on road and bridge construction crews. No foreign nationals were reported in detention at any of these camp sites.

D. In 1981, the Attopeu Province Seminar Camp system was reorganized. A 160-man production group was formed with inmates from the 979th and 402nd Seminar Battalions. As of 1981, the 402nd Seminar Battalion held about 500 RLG civilian and FAR inmates, and the 979th Seminar Battalion had about 400 inmates. The 1st Company was relocated to the former FAR military headquarters in Attopeu Township where it was known as the "municipal construction unit;" the 2nd Company was

relocated from the Houai Phok Camp (1448N/10653E) to the Ban Hom Camp (XB 9824); and the 3rd Company was relocated from Ban Hat Liang Village (YB 0636) to the Attopeu Airport area where 150 inmates grew crops, cut timber, built housing, and did road construction and repair work. The 4th Company was reformed with inmates from the 979th Seminar Battalion, and was colocated with the 1st Company. As of September 1986, the 402nd Seminar Battalion still held about 300 inmates with no plans for release. No foreign nationals were reported in detention at any camp sites.

E. The Attopeu Province Public Security Office Prison had a 25-man guard force and held about 50 prisoners in three cells. One cell held civil criminals, another held seminarcamp inmates, and the third cell held a mix of civil prisoners and reeducatees. The Attopeu Province Public Security Office also had another prison (YB 6525) in Sansai District near the Tri-border area of Laos-Cambodia-Vietnam. The Sansai District Prison, which also had a 25-man staff, held 26 RLG police and FAR officials and former ethnic Lao local USAID employees under maximum security detention until late 1981 when 24 survivors were transferred to the Attopeu Prison. No foreign nationals were reported in detention in these facilities.

23. In the case of Champassak Province, about 1,000 military and police NCO's from FAR MR-4 were assigned to "production" camps which performed agriculture and road repair work in the Paksong (XB 3278) area, Champassak Province. Otherwise, no permanent seminar camps were reported in this province, because of its immediate proximity to the Thai border. On 4 July 1985, Champassak Province authorities established a camp for returning Lao refugees at Nongsip Village (WB 9685), Baching Chaleunsouk District. MOI Order 1-553 (1 June 1985) stipulated that Lao residents with homes in Champassak, Saravane, Attopeu or Sekong Provinces would be concentrated at this camp. No foreign nationals were reported in detention at these camps.