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DIRECTORATE OF OPERATIONS

# Intelligence Information Cable

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DIST 29 AUGUST 1974

COUNTRY LAOS

DOI [REDACTED] AUGUST 1974

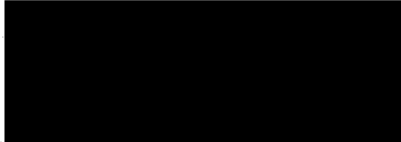
SUBJECT DISCUSSION OF NEW POW EXCHANGE DOCUMENT AT  
 [REDACTED] AUGUST 1974 MEETING OF VIENTIANE SIDE  
 JCIA DELEGATION

SUMMARY I

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APPROVED FOR RELEASE  
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END SUMMARY.

1. ON [REDACTED] AUGUST 1974 THE VIENTIANE SIDE DELEGATION OF THE JOINT COMMISSION TO IMPLEMENT THE AGREEMENT (JCIA) MET TO PREPARE FOR THE 29 AUGUST JCIA PLENARY SESSION. THE MAIN ITEM ON THE AGENDA WAS THE DOCUMENT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PRISONER OF WAR (POW) EXCHANGE DRAWN UP DURING THE PAST WEEK BY LAO PATRIOTIC FRONT (LPF) DELEGATE P R A D I T H THIENGTHAM AND VIENTIANE SIDE DELEGATE L O U N SISOUNL.

[REDACTED] COMMENT: THE POW EXCHANGE WAS AGREED TO AND SIGNED

ON 11 JULY [REDACTED]

THIS NEW POW EXCHANGE DOCUMENT CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

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A. THE POINTS OF POW EXCHANGE ARE TO BE PAK OU (TH 0919) IN THE NORTH, THE PLAIN OF JARS IN THE NORTHEAST, A POINT TO BE FIXED ON ROUTE 9 AND ANOTHER ON ROUTE 23 IN THE SOUTH.

B. THE EXCHANGE AT PAK OU, ROUTE 9 AND ROUTE 23 WILL BE A ONE TIME EXCHANGE. THERE WILL BE MULTIPLE EXCHANGES IN THE PLAIN OF JARS IF NEEDED.

C. THE LISTS OF NAMES OF POWS TO BE EXCHANGED WILL BE PASSED BY EACH SIDE TO THE OTHER SIDE 48 HOURS BEFORE EACH EXCHANGE. AFTER ANY EXCHANGE, IF EITHER SIDE HAS MORE PRISONERS READY TO EXCHANGE, IT MAY CONTINUE TO TURN OVER LISTS OF NAMES.

D. DURING EACH EXCHANGE, THE CHIEF OF THE EXCHANGE FOR EACH SIDE AT EACH EXCHANGE POINT WILL CHECK OFF EACH PRISONER BY NAME AS HE IS TURNED OVER TO THE OTHER SIDE AND THE CHIEF OF THE RECEIVING EXCHANGE TEAM WILL CHECK OFF EACH PRISONER BY NAME AS HE IS RECEIVED. EACH LIST OF LAO PRISONERS FROM EACH SIDE IS TO BE TURNED OVER TO THE JCIA. EACH LIST OF FOREIGN PRISONERS IS TO BE TURNED OVER TO THE JCIA AND THE INTERNATIONAL CONTROL COMMISSION (ICC). ICC

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REPRESENTATIVES ARE TO BE PRESENT FOR EXCHANGES OF FOREIGN PRISONERS, OTHERS CAN BE INVITED TO BE PRESENT. COMMENT: THIS WOULD INCLUDE AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE EXCHANGE OF THE AMERICAN PRISONER EMMET K A Y AND THAI REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE APPROXIMATELY 600 THAI PRISONERS EXPECTED TO BE TURNED OVER. THIS COULD ALSO INCLUDE NORTH VIETNAMESE REPRESENTATIVES, IF THEY CHOSE TO BE PRESENT, FOR THE RETURN OF THE GROUP OF NORTH VIETNAMESE PRISONERS HELD BY THE LAO ARMED FORCES (FAR).)

E. ALL PRISONERS OF ANY NATIONALITY, WHOSE NAMES HAVE BEEN ENTERED ON LISTS EXCHANGED BY THE TWO SIDES, MUST BE EXCHANGED.

F. ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE MADE FOR PROVIDING FOOD AND PROVISIONS.

G. THE DATE OF THE FIRST EXCHANGE IS TO BE 20 DAYS AFTER THE AGREEMENT IS SIGNED. COMMENT: IF THE DOCUMENT IS SIGNED, AS EXPECTED, ON 29 AUGUST, THE FIRST EXCHANGE WILL BE ON 18 SEPTEMBER.)

2. DURING THE MEETING A CALL WAS PUT IN TO LPF DEPUTY CHIEF DELEGATE PRADITH THIENGTHAM TO SAY THAT THE VIENTIANE

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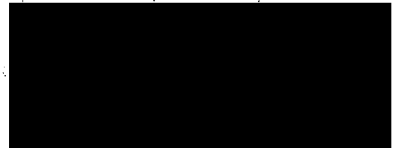
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SIDE HAD MADE SOME MINOR CHANGES IN WORDING OF THE POW EXCHANGE DOCUMENT AND THAT THE VIENTIANE SIDE WOULD BE READY TO SIGN THE DOCUMENT AT THE 29 AUGUST JCIA MEETING. PRADITH SAID IF THE CHANGES WERE ONLY MINOR ONES IN WORDING AND NOT CHANGES IN SUBSTANCE, THE LPF WOULD BE READY TO SIGN THE DOCUMENT ON 29 AUGUST.

3. THE DELEGATES THEN DISCUSSED THE COVER LETTER WHICH IS TO ACCOMPANY THE LISTS OF PRISONERS HELD BY THE VIENTIANE SIDE SCHEDULED TO BE TURNED OVER DURING THE FIRST EXCHANGE. THE LETTER IS TO BE GIVEN TO THE LPF 48 HOURS BEFORE THE FIRST EXCHANGE. [REDACTED] COMMENT: THE VIENTIANE SIDE HOLDS 173 NORTH VIETNAMESE AND 7 LPF POWS IN THE VIENTIANE AREA AND PLANS TO RETURN THEM IN THE FIRST EXCHANGE. OTHER LPF PRISONERS ARE HELD IN OTHER MILITARY REGIONS. A NUMBER OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE DO NOT WANT TO RETURN TO NORTH VIETNAM. THE VIENTIANE SIDE PLANS TO PERMIT SOME OF THEM TO REMAIN IN LAOS.) THE DELEGATES THEN DISCUSSED HAVING THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS (IRC) TALK TO THE NORTH VIETNAMESE PRISONERS AND ASK EACH IF HE WANTS TO RETURN TO NORTH VIETNAM. MILITARY JCIA DELEGATES COLONEL LOUN SISOUNOL AND COLONEL A R Y A

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PHIMMASONE RECOMMENDED AGAINST THIS ON THE GROUNDS THAT THOSE WHOM THE VIENTIANE SIDE AGREES CAN REMAIN IN LAOS SHOULD NOT BE LISTED AT ALL ON THE LISTS GOING TO THE LPF FOR EXCHANGE AND THEIR NAMES SHOULD NOT BE AVAILABLE TO THE IRC. IT WAS ALSO DECIDED TO LEAVE OUT EXACT NUMBERS IN THE COVER LETTER.

4. VIENTIANE SIDE CHIEF JCIA DELEGATE S O U K A N VILAYSAN MENTIONED THAT HE HAD BEEN ACCUSED BY THE VIENTIANE SIDE OF DISCUSSING AN EXCHANGE OF POWS WITHOUT DISCUSSING THIS BEFOREHAND WITH THE VIENTIANE SIDE. SOUKAN SAID HE HAD KEPT THE PRIME MINISTER INFORMED OF PROGRESS ON THIS AS WELL AS

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OTHER JCIA MATTERS. HE SAID THAT HE NOW KEPT DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER L E U A M INSISIENGMAI INFORMED SINCE HE (LEUAM) IS ALSO LEADER OF THE VIENTIANE SIDE AND THAT HE (SOUKAN) DID NOT FEEL OBLIGED TO KEEP EACH VIENTIANE SIDE MINISTER OR MEMBER INFORMED.

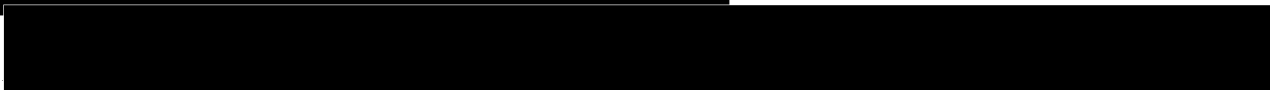
5. THE DELEGATES THEN DISCUSSED A DRAFT LETTER TO THE ICC INFORMING THE LATTER OF THE UPCOMING EXCHANGE OF POWS. THIS LETTER REQUESTS THAT THE ICC HAVE REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT FOR THE EXCHANGE OF FOREIGN PRISONERS AND STATES THAT LISTS OF ALL FOREIGN PRISONERS EXCHANGED WILL BE FURNISHED THE ICC.

6. SOUKAN MENTIONED A LETTER FROM THE JCIA TO THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS ASKING THAT A PORTION OF THE BUILDING NEXT TO THE PASSENGER TERMINAL AT WATTAY AIRPORT BE TURNED OVER TO THE LPF. ON RECEIPT OF THIS LETTER MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS GENERAL S I N G K A P O CHOUNRAMANY IMMEDIATELY ORDERED IT IMPLEMENTED. HOWEVER IT COULD NOT BE TURNED OVER BECAUSE THE 12 FAR SOLDIERS THE LPF HAD BEEN COMPLAINING ABOUT ARE STILL IN THE BUILDING. SOUKAN SAID THAT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FINANCE H O U M P H A N H SAIGNASITH PROTESTED THAT SOUKAN HAD ORDERED THE TURNOVER WITHOUT CONSULTING WITH THE VIENTIANE

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SIDE. SOUKAN POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS WHO HAD ORDERED THE TURNOVER AND THEREFORE THE MINISTER SHOULD HAVE CHECKED WITH HIS SECRETARY OF STATE BEFOREHAND.

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