



# Intelligence Information Cable

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DIST 6 JULY 1974

COUNTRY LAOS

DOI [REDACTED] JULY 1974

SUBJECT DISCUSSION AT [REDACTED] JULY JCIA PLENARY MEETING OF PAKSE AREA  
CEASE-FIRE POSTS, GIBSON CASE, REPATRIATION REQUEST  
OF NORTH VIETNAMESE POWS, AND OTHER MATTERS

SUMMARY [REDACTED]

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END SUMMARY.

1. LAO PATRIOTIC FRONT (LPF) CHIEF DELEGATE TO THE JOINT COMMISSION TO IMPLEMENT THE AGREEMENT (JCIA) S O T H PHETRASY OPENED THE JULY 1974 JCIA PLENARY SESSION BY PROPOSING THE FOLLOWING POINTS FOR DISCUSSION:

A. A REVIEW OF THE STATUS OF NEUTRALIZATION OF VIENTIANE AND LUANG PRABANG;

B. A REVIEW OF INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN THE CEASE-FIRE MOBILE TEAMS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACCORDS AND PROTOCOL;

C. MISCELLANECUS QUESTIONS, INCLUDING DESIGNATION OF

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THE PREFECT OF VIENTIANE AND THE CASE OF THE AMERICAN CITIZEN ROBERT GIBSON.

2. VIENTIANE SIDE CHIEF DELEGATE SOUKAN VILAYSAN RAISED NO OBJECTIONS BUT COMMENTED THAT THE FIRST POINT IS ALMOST TAKEN CARE OF AND THAT HE WISHED TO ADD TWO OTHER POINTS, NAMELY WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN TROOPS AND EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS-OF-WAR (POWS). SOU THEN ASKED WHEN THE VIENTIANE SIDE TROOPS WOULD BE WITHDRAWN FROM THE TWO CITIES, STATING THAT VIENTIANE SIDE TROOPS ARE ALL OVER VIENTIANE YET THE PROTECTIVE MILITARY FORCE (PMF) UNITS HAVE STILL NOT BEEN FORMED. HE THEN REPEATED HIS REQUEST OF THE PREVIOUS WEEK THAT THE SIGN ON THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE VIENTIANE GARRISON BE REMOVED. HE REPEATED HIS EARLIER REQUEST THAT GUARD DUTIES AT THE MILITARY AIRPORT OF VIENTIANE BE TURNED OVER BY THE LAO ARMED FORCES (LAR) TO THE JOINT POLICE FORCE (JPF). [REDACTED] COMMENT:

[REDACTED] LPF DELEGATES HAVE ALSO INDICATED THAT THE LPF WANT THE JPF TO TAKE OVER GUARD RESPONSIBILITIES AROUND CONTINENTAL AIR SERVICES AND FORMER AIR AMERICA BUILDINGS.)

3. SOU THEN MENTIONED THAT THE POLICE LAUNCHES, TRUCKS

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AND POLICE RADIO BASE STATION HAD NOT YET BEEN RECEIVED. SOUKAN RESPONDED THAT MANY BARRACKS ARE BEING BUILT FOR THE POLICE AND CERTAIN ITEMS ARE BEING BOUGHT ABROAD AND PAID FOR BY THE JAPANESE. THEREFORE, THESE QUESTIONS SHOULD MORE APPROPRIATELY BE DIRECTED TO THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMY AND PLANS. [REDACTED]

COMMENT: THIS WAS DIRECTED TO SOTH IN HIS CAPACITY AS MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND PLANS.) CONCERNING THE POLICE LAUNCHES, SOUKANS SAID THESE ARE BEING BUILT IN THAILAND AND THAT THEY HAVE BEEN CONFISCATED BY THAI CUSTOMS. HOWEVER, THE MATTER IS BEING STRAIGHTENED OUT.

4. VIENTIANE SIDE DELEGATE L O U N SISOUNOL THEN SAID THAT WITH REGARD TO THE QUESTION OF WITHDRAWAL OF FAR TROOPS, THAT WHEN THE CAMP NORTH OF THE CITY WHICH IS BEING BUILT FOR THE VIENTIANE SIDE PMF UNITS IS COMPLETED, THE TROOPS WILL BE SENT THERE. THE VIENTIANE GARRISON HAS ALREADY CEASED ITS ACTIVITIES AND TURNED ITS RESPONSIBILITIES OVER TO THE JPF. THE GARRISON, LOUN SAID, STILL HAS SOME INTERNAL FAR DUTIES WHICH CONCERN MILITARY CEREMONIES AND DISCIPLINE. SOUKAN TOLD SOTH THAT IF HE WANTED TO REQUEST OFFICIALLY THE REMOVAL OF THE VIENTIANE GARRISON SIGN, HE COULD. CONCERNING ELECTRONIC

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EQUIPMENT FOR WATTY AIRPORT, SOUKAN ASKED THAT THE LPF NOT BE TOO IMPATIENT. IN RESPONSES TO SOTH'S QUESTION ABOUT THE MOVEMENT OF FAR TROOPS NORTH OF THE CITY, SOUKAN SAID THEY HAD GONE OUT INTO THE VIENTIANE PLAIN BEYOND THE 15 KILOMETER (KM) LIMIT TO STOP THIEVES IN THE AREA. [REDACTED] COMMENT: LPF TROOPS HAVE BEEN GOING INTO THE COUNTRYSIDE IN THE VIENTIANE PLAIN BEYOND THE 15 KM LIMIT TO PROPAGANDIZE AMONG THE PEASANTS. FAR HAS SENT TROOPS JUST OUTSIDE THE 15 KM LIMIT TO KEEP THE LPF FROM DOING THIS. BOTH SIDES KNOW THIS IS THE CASE, BUT NEITHER SIDE BRINGS IT UP IN THE JCIA.)

5. SOTH SUGGESTED THAT THE JPF WRITE A LETTER TO THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNION (PGNU) CONCERNING EQUIPMENT NEEDS. THIS WAS AGREED TO. SOTH THEN PROPOSED THAT A MILITARY COMMITTEE GOUP GO TO ALL MILITARY CAMPS AND COMPONENTS IN THE VIENTIANE AREA TO COUNT THE NUMBER OF FAR TROOPS IN THE CITY. SOUKAN DID NOT RESPOND. SOTH SAID HE WOULD WRITE A LETTER REQUESTING THE REMOVAL OF THE VIENTIANE GARRISON SIGN.

6. A COMPROMISE AGREEMENT FOR THE CEASE-FIRE POSTS AROUND LUANG PRABANG WAS SIGNED THUS ENABLING THE CEASE FIRE

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MOBILE TEAM THERE TO RETURN TO WORK. A JCIA OBSERVER WILL GO TO LUANG PRABANG ON 8 JULY TO IMPLEMENT THIS MATTER. JCIA DELEGATE COLONEL S O M B O U N VONGPACHAN RETURNED TO VIENTIANE FROM PAKSE TO RESOLVE THE QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE CEASE-FIRE LINE AROUND PAKSE, SPECIFICALLY WHETHER IT SHOULD BE PLACED AT BAN KHINUT, KM 47 OR BAN YTOU (ROUTE 23 AREA) WHERE THE LPF WANTS THE LINE. THE JCIA DECIDED TO LEAVE THE DECISION TO THE TEAM ON THE SCENE. [REDACTED] COMMENT: IF THE MARKER IS PLACED AT BAN KHINUT IT WOULD BE A DISADVANTAGE FOR THE VIENTIANE SIDE BUT ADVANTAGE IF IT IS PLACED AT KM47.) [REDACTED] COMMENT:

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] NO DECISION HAS BEEN MADE CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A POST AT BAN YTOU. SOUTCHAY IS SENDING MEMBERS OF THE MOBILE TEAM TO VIENTIANE TO REPORT TO THE JCIA. [REDACTED]

SAID THAT IF THE PGNU INSISTED ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE POST AT BAN YTOU HE WOULD WITHDRAW HIS FORCES FROM KM45 TO KM32 TO COMPLY WITH THIS DIRECTIVE. SUCH A DIRECTIVE, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] WOULD BE DISADVANTAGEOUS FOR THE VIENTIANE SIDE.)

7. THE TWO SIDES AGREED TO ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR AND PROPOSE B O U N K H O N G PRADICHITH NOW PREFECT OF LUANG PRAO TOLAS PREFECT OF VIENTIANE. IF HE IS NOT AN ACCEPTABLE CANDIDATE TO THE PGNU CABINET, THE JCIA AGREED TO REDISCUSS THE MATTER. IN PRINCIPLE THE JCIA DECIDED THEY SHOULD NOT SELECT CANDIDATES FOR SUCH POSITIONS BUT ONLY APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE SELECTIONS MADE BY THE PGNU.

8. REGARDING THE GIBSON CASE, SOUKAN SAID THE JCIA, ACCORDING TO ARTICLE SIX OF THE PROTOCOL, MUST FOLLOW THE LAW ON SUCH A CASE AND THE LAW IS VERY CLEAR. THE JCIA DOES NOT HAVE THE RIGHT TO HOLD UP A DECISION BEYOND A CERTAIN LENGTH OF TIME. FOLLOWING AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS, IT WAS AGREED THAT THE

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CASE SHOULD BE TURNED OVER TO THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE AND THE COURTS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE LPF WANTED THEIR REPORT TO MENTION ONLY THE AMERICAN WHO KILLED TWO LAOS. THIS WAS NOT AGREED TO BECAUSE, ACCORDING TO THE VIENTIANE DELEGATION, IT WAS CLEAR THE TWO LAO KILLED WERE THIEVES, ATTACKED THE AMERICAN AND THE AMERICAN ACTED IN SELF DEFENSE. THE JCIA FINALLY DECIDED TO WRITE UP BOTH VERSIONS AND SUBMIT THEM TO THE COURT.

9. SOUKAN THEN MENTIONED THE LETTER WRITTEN BY NORTH VIETNAMESE POWS TO THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS REQUESTING REPATRIATION TO NORTH VIETNAM. THIS MATTER HAD BEEN RAISED BY PRIME MINISTER S O U V A N N A PHOUMA DURING THE 3 JULY CABINET SESSION AND THE PRIME MINISTER HAS ASKED THE JCIA TO STUDY THE QUESTION. SINCE THE JCIA DRAFT DOCUMENTS ON EXCHANGE OF POWS AND WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN TROOPS HAVE NOT YET BEEN AGREED UPON, THE MILITARY SUB-COMMITTEE WAS DIRECTED TO STUDY THE NORTH VIETNAMESE POW ISSUE AND TO ALSO ADDRESS ITSELF TO THE QUESTION OF THE DRAFT DOCUMENTS. [REDACTED] COMMENT: DISCUSSION OF A SPECIFIC REQUEST FOR REPATRIATION OF NORTH VIETNAMESE POWS HAS TO BE EMBARRASSING FOR THE LPF.

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THE WORDING IN THE DRAFT DOCUMENTS NOT AGREED UPON CONCERNS REMOVING THE WORDS "AMERICAN AND THAI TROOPS" AS REQUESTED BY THE VIENTIANE SIDE OR ADDING THE WORDS "NORTH VIETNAMESE" IF "AMERICAN AND THAI " ARE LEFT IN.)

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