

OUTGOING MESSAGE

CHANNELS

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PAGE OF PAGES

CLASSIFICATION

~~SECRET~~ MESSAGE HAND

DATE-TIME GROUP

74 0517

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

SOURCE REF:

1		4	7	10
2		5	8	11
3		6	9	12

TO: IMMEDIATE

[REDACTED]

ITEM NO:

[REDACTED]

~~SENSITIVE~~

DATE:

17 MAY 1974

SUBJECT: LAOS--PATHET LAO MPOLICY ON PRISONER EXCHANGE

REF :

[REDACTED]

THE LAO COMMUNISTS APPARENTLY INTEND TO USE SOME OF THE ALLIED PRISONERS THEY HOLD AS BARGAINING CHIPS TO FORCE CHANGES IN US [REDACTED] POLICY TOWARD LAOS. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

THE COMMUNISTS WILL CONTINUE TO HOLD CAPTIVE BEYOND THE JUNE 4 PRISONER EXCHANGE DEADLINE AN UNSPECIFIED NUMBER OF US [REDACTED] PRISONERS, PARTICULARLY THOSE CAPTURED AFTER THE FEBRUARY 1973 CEASE-FIRE AGREEMENT. US CIVILIAN CONTRACT PILOT ENNET KEY IS THE ONLY AMERICAN PRISONER TO FALL WITHIN THE POST-AGREEMENT CATEGORY AND THE ONLY ONE THE

DATE:
ORIG:
UNIT:
EXT:

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: DEC 2002

[REDACTED]

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PAGE OF PAGES 2

CLASSIFICATION **SECRET**

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DATE-TIME GROUP CITE MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

SOURCE REF:

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	2	5	8	11
	3	6	9	12

PATHET LAO HAVE ADMITTED HOLDING. ANOTHER 4 AMERICANS ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN CAPTURED IN LAOS PRIOR TO THE AGREEMENT AND 314 ARE LISTED AS MISSING IN ACTION.

[REDACTED] THE COMMUNISTS PLAN TO LINK THE RELEASE OF THESE PRISONERS TO THE CESSATION OF [REDACTED] TO THE DISBANDING OF [REDACTED] INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATIONS IN THE TWIN CAPITALS OF [REDACTED] AND TO THE DISSOLUTION OF [REDACTED] BASES.

[REDACTED] SUGGESTS THE POSSIBILITY OF A STRONG NORTH VIETNAMESE HAND IN ITS PREPARATION. HEAVY STRESS IS PLACED ON THE CESSATION OF [REDACTED] ALONG THE EASTERN TRAIL NETWORK [REDACTED]

4 MOREOVER, [REDACTED] PERSONNEL CAPTURED AFTER
 3 THE CEASE-FIRE AGREEMENT ARE PROOF OF CONTINUED US AND [REDACTED]
 2 "AGGRESSION" AGAINST LAOS, AND THAT THIS ARGUMENT MIGHT BE USED
 1 TO COUNTER ANTICIPATED ALLIED DEMANDS FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL

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	2	5	8	11
	3	6	9	12

NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS. E-2 IMPDET.H

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NIO MR CHRISTISON}

DATE: **17 MAY 74**

ORIG: []

UNIT: []

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