

19 May 1970
BM/VTE-70-224

Missing Sump File

Mr. Jerome E. De Bruin
P. O. Box 2413 Station A
Champaign, Illinois 61820

Dear Mr. De Bruin:

This will acknowledge your letter of 9 May regarding your brother Eugene, which was received in Vientiane the 19th.

Although Mr. Rosales is presently not in town, I did talk with him at some length regarding his contact with the North Vietnamese Consul, Mr. Ta Vien the day after it transpired. The discussion was brief and rather one sided and was held at the North Vietnamese Embassy in Vientiane. The Consul took a copy of the data sheet on your brother from Mr. Rosales, and without indicating that he could or would do anything, he told the latter that he would be in touch with him at a later date. The implication was quite strong that Mr. Rosales need not persist in follow-up phone calls and since that time we have heard nothing. I might add that this is not unusual behavior on the part of the North Vietnamese. The fact that they did accept the circular without returning it to Mr. Rosales is considered at least a hopeful sign.

We have no knowledge at the present time regarding the possibility that your brother is being held in Hanoi. The lists of military and civilian persons that have been made public to date have been scrutinized by us and by the U. S. Embassy and there are no suggestions that Eugene may be among them. Shortly after the encounter with the North Vietnamese Consul, we had an opportunity to engage a Filipino foreign correspondent passing through Vientiane on his way to Hanoi in an effort to see if he could not also come up with information about Eugene's whereabouts. On returning from Hanoi this individual advised us that the members of the Politburo with whom he spoke were especially reluctant to discuss the prisoner of war issue in any context with him and that he did not have any positive information. There is a good chance that this same individual may return next month on a second visit to Hanoi which I understand will take him to Sam Neua, the provisional capital of the Pathet Lao and we intend to ask him once again if he will attempt to raise the matter of Eugene's possible whereabouts in Laos. My personal opinion, for whatever that may be worth, is that because they are interested in keeping distinctly separate the spheres of influence between the North Vietnamese and the

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Pathet Lao that Eugene's chances of being held in the Pathet Lao provinces of Laos are much better than in Hanoi. We will hope that one of these attempts will prove fruitful to all of us before long.

I am sorry that I cannot give you more positive information at this time but I wanted you to know that we are continuing to try everything possible to get information about Eugene.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by
JAMES A. CUNNINGHAM JR.
BM/VTE

James A. Cunningham, Jr.
Base Manager

JAC:ada

bcc: SLC
DP ✓
PM
CSY

