

~~COMPANY CONFIDENTIAL~~  
MEMORANDUM

(b)(6)

*J. N. 11/29/68*  
TO : Personnel Assistant, TPE  
FROM : Personnel Manager, VTE, via Base Manager, VTE  
SUBJECT : Mr. Eugene DeBruin

DATE: 21 November 1968

REF. No. BMVTE-68-232

On 20 November 1968, at a dinner at ABM Barnhisel's house, one of the guests, General Brothier, Commandant of the French Military Mission in Vientiane, was approached by the undersigned regarding the above subject. I asked the General if he knew Soth Pethrasi, the Pathet Lao representative in Vientiane, and if he (sic) could assist me in obtaining the appointment with Pethrasi that I had requested by letter a few weeks ago in an attempt to determine DeBruin's condition and whereabouts. General Brothier indicated that he would assist me, and added that he would contact the French Military Mission in Hanoi on the subject and inquire of them as to DeBruin's exact status and welfare.

The General indicated that the members of the French Mission in Hanoi travel extensively throughout North Vietnam, coming into contact with numerous people while searching for missing French military or civilian citizens about whose status little or nothing has been heard since the end of hostilities between the French and the Viet Minh in 1954. General Brothier added that he would take the opportunity of asking his counterpart from Hanoi to look for DeBruin and to advise him of the results, during the latter's intended visit to Vientiane next month. I then gave the General DeBruin's full name, the year and area where he was captured, and I intend to follow up with a physical description of the missing man and a copy of his personnel photograph if you will make one available to me. I also indicated to Brothier that if alive, DeBruin might be being held in Sam Neua. He noted that he would have his French associates look in that area as well.

*SENT SIX MORE PHOTOS TO PM VTE 12/3/68  
J. N. 12/3/68*

At one point during our conversation (in French) General Brothier noted that it is much easier for the French to communicate meaningfully with the other side than for Americans. I agree with him, and I am hopeful that we may be able to obtain some results through this new channel. I will keep you advised of any future developments.

[Redacted Signature]

*K. S. WILIAN*

cc: AVP, via Pres  
DSY/TPE  
CSY/VTE  
James Murphy, US Embassy, VTE  
PM/VTE (file)

(Typed by BM/VTE in order to keep subject confidential)

APPROVED FOR RELEASE  
DATE: 12-Aug-2011

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RECEIVED  
29 NOV 1968  
PERSONNEL DIVISION  
TAIPEI