

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DRAFT - December 6, 1968

*cc for your review
JW 12/6/68*

TO : MGDR
FROM : DP via President
SUBJECT : Missing Persons

Reference: PMVTE-68-1270 dated 31 July 1968

- Attachments: 1. POVTE-68-1748 dated 18 October 1968 with IORS attached
2. Letter addressed (in French) addressed to Sot Pethrasi dated October 26, 1968
3. Newspaper Article from Bangkok Post dated November 9, 1968
4. BMVTE-68-232 dated November 21, 1968

The attached attachments indicate the continued efforts by PM-VTE to ~~gain information and attain the release~~ *learn the status* of the missing employees presumed to be held captive by the Pathet Lao.

From the first attachment it appears that the U.S. Embassy, Vientiane in its contacts with the Pathet Lao has given the impression to the latter that all personnel detained were of U.S. military origin.

PM-VTE believes this is a disadvantage from a bargaining point of view and he opines our employees would stand a better chance of being released if a distinction were made between them and U.S. military personnel. This is his intention if and when he manages to arrange a meeting with Mr. Sot Pethrasi, Pathet Lao representative. In this quest he wrote attachment 2 requesting an appointment with Mr. Pethrasi after approval was obtained from embassy officials and BMVTE. PM-VTE received no response to his letter and we understand he either wrote a second letter for an appointment or is pursuing the matter as outlined in attachment 4.

The newspaper article, attachment 3, appears to be in error proclaiming that DeBruin was a British resident of Hong Kong, which we believe is a switch of identities and refers to Yik Chiu To, one of the four men, the other three being Thai, depicted as Americans in the story, that were detained with DeBruin.

APPROVED FOR
RELEASE DATE:
16-Aug-2011

Mr. James Murphy, Political Section, U.S. Embassy, Vientiane, has indicated to PM-VTE that he strongly believes DeBruin to be alive, there is no conclusive proof one way or the other, because of recent propanganda leaflets that have come into his hands containing DeBruin's picture, albeit PM-VTE has not seen them.

Since it appears that we haven't retained a copy of the debriefing interview ~~(attached to PND-DP-67/2182-S dated May 15, 1967, Subject: Draft Letter to Mrs. Y. C. To) held with Pisihdi Indradat after his release in December 1966~~ (attached to PND-DP-67/2182-S dated May 15, 1967, Subject: Draft Letter to Mrs. Y. C. To) held with Pisihdi Indradat after his release ⁱⁿ December 1966, we would appreciate it if you would forward us a copy as the contents may prove helpful in being able to identify the remaining missing employees of the B-150 incident of September 1963.

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We ~~will~~ keep you advised of any future developments.

for Director of Personnel

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cc: PM via BM-VTE: It seems that all your recent efforts have been concentrated on DeBruin. If this is correct we are concerned about the other missing employees, all those set forth in PND-PA-68/2575 dated 18 June 1968, and what is being done to learn their status. As individuals all the missing employees should be treated equally without any special attention being given to one. In this regard the U.S. Embassy could be the root of this concentration of effort because of DeBruin, but as a Company, which you are representing, we feel that our concern and effort should ^{be} directed for all and not just one individual.

Apart from this it appears your efforts are making headway and perhaps with your latest contact positive results will be forthcoming. Let's hope so for all concerned.

B150
P/Files (6)
File (2)

If possible try to obtain a copy of the "propaganda leaflet" containing DeBruin's picture made known to you by James Murphy of the embassy and forward to us