

AIR AMERICA, INC.

DRAFT - July 11, 1967

Mrs. Suvana Ketsomkiat Promsuwan
471/2 Rajvithi Road
Bangkok, Thailand

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
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Dear Mrs. Promsuwan:

We are writing this letter to advise you of certain information concerning your husband Prasit Promsuwan which information has been obtained from Mr. Pisidhi Indradat, one of the aircraft crew members taken captive with your husband by the Pathet Lao. Mr. Indradat made his way to freedom early this year when the prison in which he was detained was overrun by friendly forces.

According to Mr. Indradat, on the day of the accident, shortly after parachuting from the aircraft which had been crippled by gunfire, he was captured by the Pathet Lao and taken to a village where he met three other crew members: Eugene DeBruin, Y. C. To, and your husband. The following day they were led to a prison where they found another of their crew - Prasit Thane. The five were detained together in various prison camps from 5 September 1963 until 30 July 1966, having all escaped once on 3 June 1964 only to be recaptured on 6 June 1964.

On 30 July 1966 the five made a second escape in which they split into three groups. Your husband paired with Prasit Thane and planned to follow a ^{NEARBY} river to ^{each} the Mekong River. Mr. Indradat walked by himself for 37 days before being recaptured and imprisoned until his release. He stated he never again saw or heard anything of his fellow crew members after their escape 30 July 1966.

We did not make this information immediately known in order not to jeopardize any of the other crew members who may not have been recaptured and also in the hope of obtaining more encouraging news prior to release of the above.

Mr. Indradat made the following statement concerning your husband's physical condition while they were in common confinement:

"Mr. Promsuwan mainly was troubled with dysentery. Near the end of our confinements, prior to the 30 July 1966 escape, he experienced dysentery so acute that he sometimes had bowel movements 15 times in one night. During this time he passed nothing but blood and mucus. He was in such pain, everytime he experienced a bowel movement, he thought he was going to die. After this he lost a lot of weight and became extremely skinny. He also lost two of his front teeth and his gums became very swollen and caused him much pain."

Additionally concerning the general mental attitude of the group Mr. Indradat stated:

"In my opinion we all maintained very good spirits and comradeship during the time of our confinement. We tried to make jokes everyday which diverted our thinking from our plight. However, frequently each of us would drift into a depressed state when we thought too much of our loved ones and homeland. We would usually end up crying to ourselves. No one ever gave up the idea of escape."

(to be continued)

We are sorry that this information is not more encouraging but felt that it should be provided to you in any case. Should further news develop we shall advise you as it becomes available.

Very truly yours,

Richard A. Coleman
Personnel Manager