

UNCLASSIFIED

TOSEC 571  
STATE 58846  
MAR 15 1611PA '75

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE 3019  
BT  
UNCLAS STATE 58846

TOSEC 571

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO BUDAPEST, JAKARTA,  
TEHRAN, WARSAW, USDEL JEC PARIS, CINCPAC FROM SAIGON 15 MAR.

QUOTE: UNCLAS SAIGON 2931

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: APER, PINS, VS  
SUBJECT: "PRG" COMMENTS ON FATE OF AMERICANS IN BAN ME THUOT  
CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. DURING QUESTION PERIOD AT WEEKLY SAIGON PRESS CONFERENCE  
MARCH 15 "PRG" SPOKESMAN WAS ASKED ABOUT FATE OF AMERICANS  
TRAPPED IN BAN ME THUOT, WHICH "PRG" CLAIMS TO COMPLETELY  
CONTROL. SPOKESMAN REPLIED, "I HAVE NO INFORMATION ABOUT  
THE AMERICANS OR ANY FOREIGN RESIDENTS IN BAN ME THUOT  
PROVINCIAL CAPITAL. BUT I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT ANY FOREIGN  
RESIDENTS IN SOUTH VIETNAM, EVEN INCLUDING HONEST AMERICANS  
(SIC) -- ALL THESE PERSONS ARE GIVEN A POLICY OF ASSURANCE  
AND PROTECTION FROM THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT. OF COURSE,  
WITH REGARD TO AMERICAN MILITARY ADVISERS, THEY WILL BE GIVEN  
SPECIAL TREATMENT BECAUSE THEY ARE IN A SPECIAL CATEGORY."  
UNFORTUNATELY, TAPE REEL CHANGE AT THAT MOMENT OBLITERATED  
OUR VERBATIM RECORDING. UPI CORRESPONDENT WHO ATTENDED PRESS  
CONFERENCE INFORMED US, HOWEVER, THAT SPOKESMAN WENT ON TO SAY  
THAT FOREIGNERS WOULD EVENTUALLY BE RELEASED EXCEPT FOR  
"MILITARY ADVISERS," WHO WERE THERE IN "VIOLATION" OF THE  
PARIS AGREEMENT. ASKED HOW "PRG" WOULD IDENTIFY THESE  
"MILITARY ADVISERS," SPOKESMAN REPLIED THAT THEY HAD THEIR  
WAYS OF KNOWING.

2. AT LATER POINT IN QUESTIONING, SPOKESMAN DENIED ANY ICCS  
TEAM WAS IN BAN ME THUOT AT TIME OF CAPTURE. ASKED SPECI-  
FICALLY ABOUT IRANIANS AND INDONESIANS FROM ICCS KNOWN TO BE  
THERE, SPOKESMAN REPEATED THAT THERE WAS NO ICCS "TEAM"  
THERE, "BUT IF THERE ARE REALLY IRANIAN OR INDONESIAN PEOPLE  
IN BAN ME THUOT, THAT IS ANOTHER QUESTION. THEY WILL RECEIVE  
HUMANE AND KIND TREATMENT FROM THE PRG, AS THOSE ACCORDED  
FOREIGN RESIDENTS IN SOUTH VIETNAM."

LEHMANN UNQUOTE BERSOLL

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