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INFORMATION

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June 25, 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. KISSINGER

FROM: John H. Holdridge

SUBJECT: North Vietnamese Exploitation of U. S. POW's

Director of Central Intelligence Helms has sent you a second report on the debriefing of a North Vietnamese rallier concerning the exploitation of U. S. POW's in North Vietnam (Tab A). The major points are as follows:

-- responsibility for the exploitation of U. S. POW's rests with the Ministry of Public Security, but is shared with the Ministry of Defense and the Office of the Prime Minister in order to achieve the broadest and most thorough handling possible.

-- attempts to gain the cooperation of the POW's are emphasized, and various techniques including ideological indoctrination are used to this end.

-- POW's are held in prisons or detention centers with the former assuming responsibility for the more uncooperative cases.

-- the immediate objectives of the exploitation process are to gain all information on U. S. forces, including tactics and methods, personnel and morale, and weaponry.

-- longer range objectives include the preparation of various studies on the U. S., the sharing of information with other Communist countries, and the limited recruitment of POW's.

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-- U. S. POW's captured in South Vietnam are moved to North Vietnam as rapidly as possible.

OSD Review completed

DPMA Review completed

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE  
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

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Comment: CIA points out that the debriefee was never personally involved in the exploitation of POW's but pieced his information together from various sources over a period of years. CIA believes, however, that his information is generally consistent with that obtained from released POW's and other sources, and that it provides the most comprehensive picture of the processing of POW's now available.

There are some questionable aspects to his testimony -- the alleged recruitment of POW's as agents as well as covert contacts between POW's and their next of kin. These were points which the defector had covered earlier and which we have not been able to corroborate. CIA has no evidence to confirm these two points.

*Attachment*



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