

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE:0006

B) PMSEA (U.S. PERSONNEL MISSING IN SE ASIA) OF JUNE 1995

1. SUMMARY: THIS FOLLOW-UP CABLE CLARIFIES THE LIVE-SIGHTING REPORT OF U.S. POW PHILLIP NEAL BUTLER THAT WAS RELATED BY GENERAL-MAJOR (RET) VIKTOR V. SHARAPOV DURING HIS FEBRUARY 18, 1997 INTERVIEW WITH JCSD-MOSCOW REPRESENTATIVES BOB BISHOP AND CAROL DOCKHAM (REF A). END SUMMARY.

2. ON FEBRUARY 18, 1997, JCSD-MOSCOW REPRESENTATIVES BOB BISHOP AND CAROL DOCKHAM INTERVIEWED GENERAL-MAJOR (RET) VIKTOR VASILYEVICH SHARAPOV, MOSCOW, 24 UDALTSOVA ST., APT 84, 131-1215(H). FROM EARLY 1965-1971, SHARAPOV SERVED AS A PRAVDA CORRESPONDENT IN NORTH VIETNAM. HE CO-AUTHORED SEVERAL BOOKS WHICH DISCUSS THE VIETNAM WAR FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE SOVIETS AND THE NORTH VIETNAMESE. APPROXIMATELY EIGHT U.S. POWS ARE MENTIONED BY NAME IN THESE BOOKS, WHICH ALSO CONTAIN DESCRIPTIONS OF OTHER INCIDENTS OF LOSS OF U.S. AIRCRAFT OR CAPTURE OF U.S. PERSONNEL.

3A. SHARAPOV CLAIMED THAT THE ONLY U.S. POW HE ACTUALLY MET IN PERSON WAS PHILLIP NEAL BUTLER, A RETURNEE (REF B). DURING THE INTERVIEW WITH JCSD-MOSCOW, SHARAPOV COULD NOT RECALL DETAILS OF HIS MEETING WITH BUTLER, AND REFERRED US TO HIS WRITTEN ACCOUNTS.

3B. THE FOLLOWING IS SUMMARIZED FROM NEARLY IDENTICAL ACCOUNTS CONTAINED IN "OTPOR" ("REPULSE") ON PAGES 122-130, AND "VIETNAM, 1965" ON PAGES 138-146. ACCORDING TO THESE ACCOUNTS, SHARAPOV AND HIS COMPANION, ANOTHER SOVIET JOURNALIST, WERE TOLD BY THEIR VIETNAMESE ESCORTS THAT THEY COULD MEET WITH AN AMERICAN PILOT WHOSE A4-C "SKYHAWK" JET HAD BEEN SHOT DOWN AT NIGHT BY ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY FIRE IN THE PROVINCE OF NGE-AN, NOT FAR FROM THE TOWN OF VINH. THE PILOT, PHILLIP NEAL BUTLER, HAD PARACHUTED AND BEEN CAPTURED SOON THEREAFTER. THE EXACT DATE OF BUTLER'S MEETING WITH THE SOVIET JOURNALISTS IS NOT GIVEN; HOWEVER, IT APPARENTLY TOOK PLACE SOON AFTER HIS SHOOTDOWN ON APRIL 20, 1965 (REF B), BECAUSE SHARAPOV REMARKED THAT BUTLER'S SHORT HAIRCUT, WHICH HE HAD RECEIVED AT THE BARBERSHOP ON THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER "MIDWAY," HAD NOT YET GROWN OUT. SHARAPOV WROTE THAT BUTLER IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS A CAPTAIN OF NAVAL AVIATION. (JCSD-MOSCOW COMMENT: COPIES OF "OTPOR" AND "VIETNAM,

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE:0007

1965" ARE BEING FORWARDED TO WASHINGTON FOR FURTHER ANALYSIS.)

4. JOINT COMMISSION SUPPORT DIRECTORATE-MOSCOW
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UNCLASSIFIED

202

203