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[] BRIEF
WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 1991

U.S./VIETNAM: INCREASED COOPERATION ON THE POW/MIA ISSUE []

(U) YESTERDAY, AFTER TALKS IN BANGKOK WITH U.S. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE RICHARD SOLOMON, VIETNAMESE DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER LE MAI TOLD REPORTERS THAT VIETNAM WOULD COOPERATE FULLY WITH THE U.S. ON RESOLVING ANY POW/MIA ISSUES.

(U) U.S. SECRETARY OF DEFENSE CHENEY, REACTING TO VIETNAM'S RECENT CHANGE IN ATTITUDE ON THE POW/MIA ISSUE, SIGNED AN ORDER YESTERDAY INCREASING THE NUMBER OF POW/MIA INVESTIGATORS FROM 134 TO 222. THE ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL, RANGING FROM FORENSIC EXPERTS TO LINGUISTS, WILL BE ASSIGNED TO THE JOINT CASUALTY RESOLUTION CENTER AND U.S. ARMY IDENTIFICATION LABORATORY IN HAWAII AND TO U.S. DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY OFFICES IN WASHINGTON AND BANGKOK. A PENTAGON SPOKESMAN WAS QUICK TO POINT OUT THAT THIS ACTION HAD BEEN PLANNED FOR MONTHS, AND WAS NOT PROMPTED BY THE RECENT SOUTHEAST ASIAN POW/MIA PHOTOGRAPHS.

SOURCE: [] 302105Z JUL 91
REUTER, BANGKOK, 30 JUL
REUTER, WASHINGTON, 30 JUL

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

memorandum

DATE: 13 April 1992

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: []

SUBJECT: Correction to M/R for 27 March 1992 MEMORANDUM FOR SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO DIRECTOR OF POLICY - INFORMATION MEMORANDUM []

TO: DISTRIBUTION

1. [] Enclosed is a corrected version of the M/R which pertains to our MEMORANDUM FOR SPECIAL ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF POLICY, dated 27 March 1992 (Enclosure). Unfortunately, there was an inadvertent omission on the last page in the copy that was distributed.

2. [] We regret any inconvenience that this has caused.

Encl:
a/s

DISTRIBUTION:

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OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
(REV. 1-80)
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6
5010-114

U.S. Government Printing Office: 1991 - 281782/40080

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M/R: 1. [redacted] Please refer to our 18 and 20 March 1992 memoranda for Special Assistant to Director of Policy and [redacted] dated 25 March, which contain our 27 March projected completion date for certain items requested in the 11 and 18 March Senate Select Committee correspondence. We provide the completed items to [redacted] Liaison to the Central Documentation Office (CDO)) for forwarding to the CDO if in accordance with NSA policy. Again, the majority of the reports being forwarded are already part of our approximately 2,000 reports related to the POW/MIA issue. Any new reports brought to our attention as a result of these queries will be added to our holdings. A summary of the documents being provided follows.

2. [redacted] Item 2b (Soviet, Cuban, Chinese contacts): After reviewing material [redacted] and input provided [redacted] on "all intelligence reports retained in the NSA data base pertaining to Soviet, Cuban, or Chinese contacts with American POWs in Southeast Asia, issued from 1963 to present," we found:

- The only Soviet contacts, and possible contacts, referenced were those of journalists [redacted] reports. Between 1968 and 1972, five named journalists, and one unidentified journalist, claimed to have interviewed, talked with, or seen American prisoners. Another 6 named journalists referred to press conferences with, general comments from, or articles about American prisoners without mentioning they had personally talked to or seen the prisoners.
- Concerning Cuban contacts, one [redacted] report contained details about a Cuban Communist Party member and a journalist who interviewed American POWs in 1965 and another journalist who was asked in 1971 about interviews with Americans. The latter did not specify whether he personally conducted, or would conduct, the interviews.

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- Chinese contacts and possible contacts [redacted] in a total of four [redacted] reports. In November 1967, two probable Americans were being held prisoner by Chinese Communist forces responsible for shooting them down. In December 1969, an American [redacted] agent [redacted] was captured and interrogated in northern Laos and in 1974 the possible Chinese-directed Division in Burma requested information on all captured in 1973, including Americans. In these two cases, it was not clear whether Chinese forces had actually captured any Americans.

Details:

SOVIET CONTACTS

1968

[redacted] Aleksey Mikhaylovich Vasilyev, Pravda correspondent in Hanoi, [redacted] Viktor Sharapov in Moscow (Pravda) on 30 July [redacted] meeting with the American pilots...those who are still imprisoned. [redacted] interesting meeting" [redacted] ([redacted] 011353z Aug 68)

[redacted] Mikhail Ilinskiy, Izvesziya man in Hanoi, [redacted] has "seen many American pilot prisoners...receiving good treatment from the Vietnamese." [redacted] 192034Z)

1972

[redacted] Sergey Vladimirovich Bubnov, Tass Correspondent in Hanoi, [redacted] was to meet with them (probably American "flyers") on 12 May. ([redacted] 151401Z May 72)

[redacted] Aleksandr Servin, Pravda correspondent, [redacted] 12 May meeting with "the fliers...the ones who signed that statement about stopping the war and so on." [redacted] ([redacted] 151401Z May 72)

[redacted] Oleg Oleynik, Novosti correspondent, [redacted] a story [redacted] to Pravda, Moscow, entitled "Winged Shield of Vietnam" concerning an interview with Navy pilot LT Joseph Kernan. ([redacted] 062212Z Oct 72)

[redacted] U/I Tass correspondent, Hanoi, [redacted] on 23 December [redacted] he talked with several flyers about a bombing in Hanoi close to where U.S. POW's were being held. ([redacted] 231947Z Dec 72)

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POSSIBLE SOVIET CONTACTS

1969 [] Sergey Nikitich Afonin, Tass Hanoi, []
to a letter received in Moscow (Tass) from The U.S.
National League of Families of American War Prisoners
which demands humanism in the treatment of prisoners,
especially Lt Ayver, Lt Butler, and Stokdeyl (all
phonetic). Moscow "wants to do it along this line, to
ask them (prob the prisoners) what kind of humanism
they displayed when they bombed Vietnam." []
[] 121727Z Sep 69)

1971 [] A.N. Serikov-Serbin, Pravda Hanoi. []
[] an article
he wrote about the four American pilots who were
captured and "shown to us here". []
072307Z Jan 71)

1972 [] Vladimir Kamenev, TDY cameraman for All Union
Radio and TV in Hanoi, taped press conference with
American pilots. [] 171507Z Mar 72)

[] Volodin and Bobrov, Hanoi correspondents,
[] comments of the American pilot
saying it was proposed that he bomb the dikes...the
testimony of the American." [] 111817Z
Jul 72)

[] Volodin and Bobrov, see above, [] 29 June
press conference for downed U.S. pilots. They
dictated statements allegedly made by the downed
flyers: Captain David Brian Grant, Captain William
David Beeckman (phonetic), and Major James Philip
Pagget. [] 071751Z Jul 72)

[] Aleksandr Serbin-Serikov, Pravda, Hanoi, was
to write article on 14 July press conference in
Hanoi for former inmates of Con Son prison
(Americans). He also wrote article on Con Son and on
American defector (not further identified). []
[] 242044Z)

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[] A. N. Serbin, Pravda correspondent, []
[] press conference with U.S. prisoners Lt
Col John Harry Ewell; Lt Col Lewis Henry Bernaskoni;
Lt William Thomas Meyoll; Capt David Jan Drummond; and
Sgt. Edward Leblanc. Per Serbin, all were from
Utapao, the U.S. base in Thailand. []
231947Z Dec 72)

CUBAN CONTACTS

1965 [] Raul Valdez (or Valdes) Vivo, Cuban Communist
Party Central Committee member, and journalist Marta
Rojas Rodriguez visited "liberated areas of South
Vietnam" during 1965 where they interviewed U.S.
prisoners of war held by the Viet Cong.
[] 151853Z Sep 80)

POSSIBLE CUBAN CONTACTS

1971 [] Joaquin Crespo Daga, Prensa Latina correspondent
in North Vietnam, []
[] "interviews concerning the Yankee
pilots or the delegation of U.S. students."
[] 151853Z Sep 80)

CHINESE CONTACTS

1967 [] Unidentified Chinese Communist on 1 November
[] two downed crew members (both Captains),
probably American, were being held prisoners. []
[] still have two of the enemy, whom they
can do something with tonight [] ...Shot down
by [] artillery [] 011515Z)

POSSIBLE CHINESE CONTACTS

1969 [] Chinese Communist forces in northern Laos
[] an American "agent" was captured on
14 December and interrogated after "enemy agents were
attacked" by the militia of three Lao villages.
Eighteen parachutes were found, two agents were shot
and killed and one, an American, was captured.
[] 091557Z)

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1973 [] Prisoners of the possible Chinese-directed Div in Burma may have included Americans in 1973. On 6 Jan 74 the possible Chinese-directed Division in Burma

[] regarding the number and type of "criminals" captured in 1973 in these categories: American, spies, and others. []

3. [] In response to Item 1 (those alleged to be alive in Laos and Cambodia after 1973), we conducted a review of [] reports issued between 29 March 1973 and 26 March 1992 to search for references to individuals held, detained, imprisoned, or confined in any way in Laos or Cambodia. []

Details:

Cambodia:

American:

- Jul 73, One American newspaperman apprehended []
- Jul 73, 36 American prisoners located in the area Phnom Sambok Mountain []

Laos:

American:

- May 73, American pilot captured, possibly sent to North Vietnam []
- Feb 73, Pathet Lao and Vietnamese [] impending release of an American in Lao custody []

Unidentified:

- Jul 73, An unidentified prisoner marked for interrogation by Pathet Lao in an area southeast of Thap Thong []
- Jul 73, An unspecified number of unidentified prisoners escaped from jail in the vicinity of Pak Song []

1974 []

Laos:

American:

- Aug 74, Laos prepares to release POW's, including one American []

Unidentified:

- Jan 74, A detail is assigned to escort an unspecified number of "enemy" prisoners. []
- Apr 74, An unidentified prisoner develops an unknown ailment due to confinement in a cave. []

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- Jun 74, escape of four unidentified prisoners of war from an unspecified camp. []
- Jul 74, 300 unidentified prisoners of war scheduled to be moved north from the [] front. []
- Jul 74, North Vietnamese regiment in Laos reports the escape of 6 unidentified prisoners. []
- Sep 74, 6 unidentified prisoners escaped from Pathet Lao guards near Ban Na Kham. []
- Sep 74, Preparations for housing prisoner escorts prior to prisoner exchange, in Xieng Khoang Province. Prisoners held incommunicado. []
- Sep 74, Transportation company of a Vietnamese regiment in Laos has a convoy transporting unidentified POW's. []
- Sep 74, [] southwest of Xieng Khoang [] unidentified POW movement from Ben Sang to Nam Tien. []
- Dec 74, Vietnamese units near Nam Thon report five captives escaped from POW camps at Can Cot and Ban Bo. []

1975 []

Cambodia:

American:

- May 75, 42 Americans captured and taken to Koh Tang. Associated with capture of M/V Mayaguez. Further reports reflect release of the crew. []

Unidentified:

- May 75, Cambodian military units instructed to keep POW's separate from civilian captives. []

Laos:

American:

- Mar 75, In response to U.S. Embassy queries, the Laotian Government states that it has no information on the disappearance of Charles Dean. []

Unidentified:

- Aug 75, North Vietnamese unit in Nam Thon area of central Laos uses trucks to transport unidentified prisoners. []
- Sep 75, Five Battalions of POW's building roads in the Nam Thon area. Identified as 150 former policemen, 150 former junior officers, and 1,350 "Phu Mi" (nfi) soldiers. []

1976 []

Cambodia:

Foreign:

- Apr 76, Cambodian government ordered the release of two foreign newspapermen taken prisoner when they crossed from Thailand into northwest Cambodia. []

Unidentified:

- Apr 76, An unidentified POW killed his guard and escaped. []

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Laos:

Unidentified:

- Jan 76, Laotian unit searching for escaped POW's in the Moung Sai and Muong La areas [] a shortage of weapons. []
- Feb 76, A PRC unit in Laos refuses to loan arms to Laotians searching for escaped prisoners of war. []
- Mar 76, Vietnamese unit in southern Laos killed an unidentified POW during an escape attempt. []
- Dec 76, Vietnamese forces in Laos alerted to possibility of covert "enemy" operations to release POW' in Laos. []

1977 []

Laos:

Unidentified:

- Jan 77, Unspecified number of unidentified prisoners arrived at Pan Sang. []
- Jan 77, Unspecified number of unidentified prisoners sent to Ban Sang. []
- Jul 77, Laotian government authorities in the Pakse region, responding to unspecified "enemy" activity, arrest 17 unidentified persons and execute one of the detainees. []
- Aug 77, Vietnamese units in southern Laos in the Savannakhet region questioning unidentified POW's and forcing confessions. []
- Sep 77, A prisoner escaping from the "labour remoulding camp" at Phon Say was shot at, but not hit, and escaped. []

1978 []

Cambodia:

American:

- Apr 78, One American captured by Cambodian forces in Koh Kong District. []

Laos:

Unidentified:

- Jan 78, Two unidentified prisoners and "their information" ready for transport from Pak Ngum to Vientiane. []

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Laos:

Unidentified:

- Jul 79, Special prisoners to be transferred from northern Laos, from Luang Prabang to Attopeu. []

1980 []

1981 []

1982 []

Laos:

Foreign:

- Jun 82, Laos to transfer an unspecified number of foreign prisoners (nfi) to Attopeu Province. []

1983 []

1984 []

Cambodia:

American:

- Sep 84, PRK forces captured one American near Poipet. []

Laos:

American:

- Apr 84, KPNLF sources at Battambang, Cambodia, report the presence of 26 U.S. POW's in Laos during the 1972 to 1973/74 time frame. Reportedly, the camp was in Laos opposite the Vietnamese provinces of Quang Nam and Quang Ngai. Five of the prisoners had died and the remainder shipped to Hanoi. []

Unidentified:

- Sep 84, 23 unidentified prisoners transferred from the Muong Sepone prison to the Tha Vang center (1553N 10716E). []

1985 []

Laos:

American:

- Mar 85, Laos refuses to release a U.S. person arrested []

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1986 [redacted]

Laos:

American:

- Oct 86, Location of former U.S. POW camp in Savannakhet, Laos. Reportedly, held 50 U.S. POW's but no dates or current camp status provided. [redacted]

Unidentified:

- May 86, Unspecified number of POW's sent from probable Ban Viangkham to probable Muong Fuong and then on to Nong Tha in central Laos. [redacted]

1987 [redacted]

Cambodia:

American:

- May 87, Unidentified American taken prisoner by Cambodian authorities in the Poipet area. [redacted]

Laos:

Unidentified:

- Jun 87, 63 individuals reported in a Lao prison in Pak Lai District. All of the prisoners were identified with the exception of 13, who apparently did not fit the normal categories (nfi). [redacted]

1988 [redacted]

1989 [redacted]

1990 [redacted]

1991 [redacted]

1992 [redacted]

4. [redacted] Regarding the subject request of 18 March (copies of the documents shown to Senate Committee Investigator [redacted] on 9 March), some of the material was not originated by [redacted]. As such, the "Third Agency Rule" should apply, i.e. request originator approval for use of information. The CDO has on-the-spot authority to approve use of Third Agency information. The CDO did so with these documents, and we will continue to advise the CDO when any future documents provided fall under this rule.

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

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