CIA CABLE

86836

INFO: J3-1 J5-1 SACSA-4, SECDEF-7 ASD/ISA-5
DIA-15 CSA-1 CNO-8 CSAF-4 CMC-3
ASD/SA-1 FILE-1(51)CAC/LEF

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STATE/INR DIA NMCC/MC (SECDEF JCS ARMY NAVY AI [redacted]

SERVICE IRS AID U.

DIRECTORATE OF PLANS

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[redacted]

011820Z

CITE TDCS-314/09796-69

DIST 1 JULY 1969

COUNTRY LAOS/NORTH VIETNAM

DOI DECEMBER 1968

[redacted]

SUBJECT PATHET LAO TRANSFER OF ALL AMERICAN PRISONERS FROM LAOS TO NORTH VIETNAM

ACQ [redacted]

SOURCE [redacted]

1. IN LATE DECEMBER 1968, 27 AMERICANS HELD PRISONER BY THE PATHET LAO /PL/, AND THREE OTHER PRISONERS BELIEVED TO BE EITHER THAI OR LAO, WERE ASSEMBLED IN BAN HANG LONG L-8 /VH 132629/ IN HOUA PHAN PROVINCE BEFORE BEING SENT TO NORTH VIETNAM. THE 27 AMERICANS REPRESENTED ALL AMERICANS THE PL

L-8 Refuts indicat Mil Installs here as well as prison(s)

DIA Presbty carries 7 PWs in LAOS and 159 AIAS

[redacted]

DIA #150 [redacted] Encl 150 (S-47,601/004H)

Log 1068

9/9/-03 Betts

[redacted]
(classification) (dissem. controls)

HELD CAPTIVE IN LAOS. THE REASON GIVEN FOR SENDING THEM TO NORTH VIETNAM WAS THAT THEY WERE TO BE USED IN PRISONER EXCHANGES BETWEEN THE NORTH VIETNAMESE AND THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENTS.

2. BEFORE THE AMERICAN PRISONERS WERE RELEASED TO NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY /NVA/ PERSONNEL, AN AGREEMENT WAS REACHED BETWEEN THE NORTH VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT AND THE NEO LAO HAK SAT CENTRAL COMMITTEE WHEREBY ALL AMERICANS CAPTURED IN LAOS WOULD BE SENT TO NORTH VIETNAM WHERE THEY WOULD BE USED IN PRISONER EXCHANGES WITH THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT. FOR SEVERAL WEEKS BEFORE THE AMERICAN PRISONERS WERE TURNED OVER TO THE NORTH VIETNAMESE, TEAMS OF NVA AND PL PROPAGANDISTS CIRCULATED THROUGHOUT NORTHEAST LAOS EXPLAINING THE IMPORTANCE OF RELEASING ALL AMERICAN PRISONERS TO THE NVA TO ASSIST THE NORTH VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT IN ITS NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE AND AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS.

3. FIELD DISSEM. STATE ARMY AIR USMACV 7TH AIR FORCE CINCPAC PACFLT PACAF ARPAC [redacted]