

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Interview of Hmong Refugee SC

1. Mr. Tom Ashworth, an American citizen, currently residing at ^{DATA}, on numerous occasions contacted DIA/DC-2, PW/MIA Division, concerning PW/MIA information he allegedly received from Hmong refugees. According to Ashworth, a Hmong refugee, SC reported sighting two Caucasian males in the Plaine Des Jarres area of Laos between 1977 and 1979.

2. DC-2 contacted SC to arrange an interview to determine if he had sighted Caucasians in Laos. Between 9-13 August 1983 SC was debriefed and polygraphed in the Washington, D.C. area concerning the sighting of Caucasian males. According to SC, he was captured by the Pathet Lao on May 15, 1975 in the Long Cheng area. After his capture, SC was moved to a seminar camp in the area of Phong Savan, where he was incarcerated until late 1976. SC was transferred to another seminar camp in Nong Het, where he remained until 1977 at which time he was transferred back to the seminar camp in Phong Savan. After participating in seminar classes, it was determined, by the camp officials, that SC had adjusted sufficiently to be released for work details. SC was permitted to travel, on a work detail, from the seminar camp where he was incarcerated to fell trees in an area approximately 10 kilometers west of the camp. Along the route travelled by the work detail, another secure installation, enclosed with barbed wire and guarded by Pathet Lao soldiers was passed. Inside this installation, according to SC was a cave complex consisting of numerous of caves. The caves were large enough inside this installation to accommodate anti-aircraft weapons and trucks. During SC's travel, between August and December 1978, to the work site, he allegedly saw two Caucasian males on three separate occasions, in a prison type environment at this installation SC was told by the Pathet Lao guard captain and the villagers that the two individuals were Americans. The Caucasians wore prisoner type attire, consisting of a one-piece loose fitting garment. No physical description, names or biographic data could be provided by SC thus making it impossible to correlate the sighting to any specific individuals among the 561 unaccounted-for Americans in Laos.

3. SC was polygraphed concerning his PW information. He responded in the affirmative to each of the three relevant questions:

- Did you see two white men in confinement in Laos? Answer: Yes.
- Did you see two white men in confinement in Laos in 1978? Answer: Yes.
- Did someone tell you those white men were Americans? Answer: Yes.

After an analysis of the polygrams collected during the above examination, it was the opinion of the examiners that SC response showed no deception.

ANALYST

SUBJECT: INTERVIEW OF LAO REFUGEE *source*

During 9-13 August 1983, DIA accomplished an interview/polygraph of Lao refugee *SC* concerning U.S. PWs in Laos. *SC* asserted that between August and December 1978 while on a work detail in the Phone Savan area, in the Plaine Des Jarres, on three occasions, he observed two Caucasian males, in a detention environment from a distance of approximately one-hundred yards near a village called Ban Nok. A pathet Lao guard captain and local villagers told *SC* that these Caucasians were Americans. The Caucasians were kept in a cave made into the side of the mountains. *SC* described the caves as large enough to accommodate anti-aircraft weapons and trucks.

SC was polygraphed concerning his PW information and it was the opinion of the examiner that *SC*'s responses to the questions about U.S. PWs show no indications of deception.

DB-5D3 conducted an *method* of the area where the alleged sighting occurred in an effort to confirm the existence and location of the seminar camp and caves. The *method* produced negative results.

U.S. intelligence agencies have collected some *method* reporting concerning seminar camps in the Plaines Des Jarres region, however, to date, we have not been able to corroborate *SC*'s claimed sighting.

FUTURE ACTION: JCRC was tasked to try to locate and interview refugees who can provide further information about seminar camps in the Plaines Des Jarres; and to confirm, if possible, the presence and identity of the two Caucasians described by *SC*.